

FlexAssist: A risk-based framework for dynamic prioritization of flexible building loads

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Project summary

• Timeline:

- o Start date: 10/01/2018; planned end date: 09/30/2021
- Key milestones:
 - Initial surrogate modeling and discrete choice experiments complete (03/2020)
 - Initial demonstration of integrated recommender algorithm (07/2020)
 - Final testing and benchmarking of integrated recommender algorithm complete (09/2021)
- Budget:
 - Total project funds: \$1.6M (DOE, FY19-21); no cost share
- Key partners: OvationMR

Project outcomes:

- Recommender engine (<u>published</u> as a Python module on GitHub) tested across several simulated commercial demand response (DR) scenarios
- Suite of surrogate models for predicting likely changes in building demand and temperature under candidate DR strategies in multiple building contexts, developed based on synthetic data from large scale EnergyPlus simulations
- Weightings of candidate load flexibility choices, developed based on large scale discrete choice experiments with people who operate and work in office and retail buildings

Project team

Overall project design and management



Jared Langevin (PI) Research Scientist Technical advisors





Mary Ann Piette Division Director Tianzhen Hong Staff Scientist, Deputy Head

Surrogate modeling of building demand and services Testing/integration



Na Luo Sc. Eng. Associate

Handi C. Putra ate Postdoctoral Fellow



Sang Hoon Lee Sc. Eng. Associate

Discrete choice modeling and data collection

vlor leff Deason

Margaret Taylor, Jeff Deason, Research Scientist Program Manager













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Challenge: Commercial demand response (DR) cannot develop into a broad grid resource without building operator buy-in



Greater demand-side flexibility will aid the variable renewable energy transition, but will likely require more frequent and longer DR events in buildings Building operators are concerned about service interruptions, loss of comfort, and employee impacts Traditional DR programs do not address these operational risks, which would likely grow under future DR programs **Solution**: We develop a tool to inform next-gen DR response that is risk-aware, adaptive, and driven by operator preferences

Status quo: Static, pre-defined response to infrequent DR calls from the grid



Design/test pre-defined strategy for DR call response



Receive advance notification of DR event



Respond to DR call using predefined strategy



Receive payments for standby capacity and energy reductions

Primary product: Recommender engine (published as a Python module on GitHub) tested across several simulated commercial DR scenarios

FlexAssist: Adaptive, risk-aware response to frequent DR calls



Design/test pre-defined strategy for DR call response



Receive advance notification of DR event



FlexAssist recommends adjustment to default strategy (if warranted)



Respond to DR call using best available strategy



Receive payments for standby capacity and energy reductions



Adjust recommendation engine to reflect new event data

Impact: Empowers end use customers in heavy-hitting segments of the building load flexibility market

- Develops decision support tools to encourage flexible load adjustments with large energy/demand impacts:
 - Focus on office/retail contexts, which comprise ~1/3 of all commercial electricity use
 - Focus on HVAC, lighting, and plug loads, which comprise ~2/3 of all office/retail electricity use
- Directly addresses multiple key action items identified in BTO's National Roadmap for Grid-Interactive Efficient Buildings and goals for the Building Controls sub-program:
 - Analyze user perceptions of demand flexibility value
 - $_{\odot}$ Quantify user preferences for building service levels
 - $_{\odot}$ Evaluate relationship between prices/load flexibility
 - Achieve economic worker comfort



Approach: FlexAssist leverages a probabilistic decision network that integrates a risk-benefit tradeoff with operator preferences



- is probabilistic,
- incorporates prior expectations about model parameters, and
- enables parameter updating w/ new evidence

Existing approaches to modeling demand flexibility strategies:

- do not address risk/uncertainty,
- are not easily adaptable to real building settings, and
- only implicitly account for operator/occupant preferences (at best)



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Approach: Surrogate models predict changes in core building services and electricity demand under dynamic conditions





1. Define DR measures of HVAC, lighting, plug loads in EnergyPlus/Op enStudio 2. Simulate across all climates, building types, and vintages of interest 3. Compile results into synthetic database covering simulated energy and service outcomes

4. Use synthetic data to develop Bayesian surrogate models of building services and energy demand

 $y = XB + \epsilon$

5. Integrate surrogate models into operator decision network

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Approach: Discrete choice experiments elicit load adjustment valuations by building operators & workers

- Discrete choice experiments (DCEs) about the building • condition outcomes of load adjustments during DR events provide the Bayesian priors for the decision weights in FlexAssist
- We implement DCEs with people who operate and work in office and retail buildings ("Operators" and "Workers," respectively)

ALTERNATIVES DISCRETE CHOICE EXPERIMENT (DCE) Α в ES (s)Economic benefit \$2,000 \$5,000 BUT S * 3°F colder 2°F colder Pre-cooling (2 hours) Ц Ы Δ 2°F hotter 1°F hotter Increased temperature Reduced artificial lighting 15% 30%





DCE 2 – 2030 SUMMER

Hot Afternoon

Decision

weights

Approach: EnergyPlus and Python are coupled to demonstrate the integrated tool's performance across several dimensions



Exchange Variables

Outdoor Drybulb Temperature [°C] Site Outdoor Air Relative Humidity Zone Air Temperature [°C] Lights Electric Power [W] Electric Equipment Electric Power [W] People Occupant Count Zone Thermal Comfort Fanger Model PMV

Electric Equipment Schedule [fraction] Lighting Schedule [fraction] Cooling Setpoint Schedule [°C] Heating Set point Schedule [°C]

	Baseline	DR-Static	DR-Dynamic						
Climate zones	2A (hot-	2A (hot-humid), 3C (warm-marine), 6B (cold-dry)							
Building types	Medium/Large ((100K)	Medium/Large Office prototypes (52K sf/500K sf), Big Box Retail (100K sf), Standalone Retail prototype (26K sf)							
Building vintages	Newer (Newer (2010, 2004), older (1980-2004, pre-1980)							
Time horizon	Summer (Jun-Sep)								
DR response	N/A	Moderate temp. increase always	FlexAssist algorithm*						
DR event frequency/ duration	N/A	3-4/week; (event days/duratio	1-6 hours/event ns are randomly drawn)						
DR event reduction incentives		\$0.6-\$1.5/kWh during event, \$0.1/kWh before/after event (incentives randomly drawn)							
Demand reduction threshold**	N/A	N/A	None, 25 kW, 100 kW (large offices only)						
Assessment metrics	Energy savings % (daily, during event), operator utility, thermal comfort (Predicted Mean Vote or PMV)								

* Assumes that doing nothing is not a possible choice.

** When a reduction threshold is specified, the FlexAssist algorithm removes all strategies that are not predicted to meet the threshold from the choice set.

Progress: FlexAssist predicts the probability of demand/service changes and choice probabilities under a given set of conditions

Risk: Temperature Increase





*Predictions for: 2010 Std. Large Office, Climate 2A, (Hot-Humid), NO demand reduction threshold, \$3/kWh during event price signal, 3 hour event

Outcome: Strategy Choice

Progress: The operation of the algorithm was tested across 43 hypothetical DR events in office and retail buildings



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Progress: With a kW reduction threshold, FlexAssist yields better energy savings and mostly better operator utility than static DR

Static response (always moderate temp. increase)

- Response w/ FlexAssist
- Baseline energy/utility

*Reflects application of 25 kW reduction threshold in medium office and standalone retail contexts (large office/big box retail forthcoming)





Progress: Surrogate models predict changes in demand and indoor temperature under DR with good accuracy

	Change in Whole Building Demand during DR Period (thermally-driven)		Demand changes during DR period	Demand changes during pre-cool period	Temperature changes during DR period					
Output	Demand shed intensity (W/ft²)	R-square	> 0.88	> 0.81	> 0.76					
Input	Outdoor temperature (F)	ARE*	> 83%	> 83%	> 81%					
	Outdoor humidity	MADP**	< 16%	< 15%	< 17%					
	Occupancy fraction	VIF***	F*** < 10 – No variable problematic collinearity among input variants							
	Cooling set pt. change (F)		*ARE: Absolute Relative Error (less than 20%) **MADP: Mean Absolute Deviation Percentage Error							
	Lighting dimming (%)	**MADP: Me								
	Plug loads reduction (%)	***VIF: Varia	ance Inflation Factor							
	Cooling set pt. lag (F)	Reference: I	Luo. N., Langevin, J., and (Chandra Putra. H. (2021). Quantifyi	ng the effect of multiple					
	Hours since DR started	demand res	demand response actions on electricity demand and building services via surrogate modeling.							
	Hours since DR ended	Accepted: E	Building Simulation 2021, E	Bruges, Belgium, September 1-3.						
	Cooling change * Outdoor temp.									
	Cooling change * Occ. fraction									
	Cooling change * Since DR									

started

Progress: Choice experiments elicit adjustment preferences

	Attribute	Valuation	Comments
\$	Economic benefits	Positive	 Respondents view this positively, with this attribute generally of the second-highest importance
	Temperature increases in summer (or decreases in winter) during events	Negative	 Respondents view this negatively, with this attribute generally of the highest importance
*	Pre-cooling (or pre- heating in winter) just before events	Positive	 Respondents view this positively, with this attribute a way to mitigate during-event temperature change (but generally lesser importance)
-ݣ-	Artificial lighting reduction	Unclear	 Additional responses will help clarify Preferences appear to be affected by building daylighting, with people in well-daylit buildings mor accepting of artificial lighting reductions

Respondents (2020)	N
Office Operator	138
Retail Operator	17
Total Responses	155

Respondents (2021)*	Ν
Office Operator	140
Office Worker	240
Retail Operator	199
Retail Worker	75
Total Responses	654

*Data collection ongoing

Stakeholder engagement: Feedback on the tool's market potential is elicited from a diverse technical advisory group

- Technical advisory group includes aggregators, controls and equipment manufacturers, consultants/energy service providers, and facility managers
- Bi-annual TAG meetings to review progress and assess market relevance of key project outcomes
- Collected structured feedback organized by theme:
 - project concept and value proposition,
 - o discrete choice analysis,
 - models of building demand and services under DR, and
 - \circ $\,$ testing and integration $\,$



Remaining work: Finish testing tool's application to new building types; complete integration and assessment of new choice data

- Complete testing and integration of the tool for new building types and given updated operator/worker choice data (09/2021)
 - Co-simulation testing reflects updated surrogate models and operator/worker load flexibility preferences, new building types (large office/big box retail)
 - Updated tool is published on GitHub with user documentation on ReadTheDocs
- Complete processing and assessment of operator/worker choice data from new discrete choice experiments (09/2021)

• Analysis comparing/contrasting operator and worker preferences is complete

- Finalize publications of key aspects of project work (09/2021)
 Surrogate modeling of building demand and services under DR (submitted)
 - $_{\odot}\,$ Discrete choice modeling of operator and worker load flexibility preferences
- Possible directions beyond FY21:
 - Shorter-term (~6 mo.-1 yr.): develop and test simple web-based interface for tool
 - Longer-term (~1-2 years): field testing of FlexAssist in real buildings

BERKELEY LAB Thank you

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Code: <u>https://github.com/jtlangevin/flex-bldgs</u> Docs: <u>https://flexible-buildings.readthedocs.io/en/latest/</u>

REFERENCE SLIDES

Project plan and schedule

Project Schedule												
Project Start: 10/01/2018 Completed Work												
Projected End: 09/30/2021	Active Task (in progress work)											
		Mile	estone	e/Deli	verat	ole (Pl	anne	d)				
		Mile	estone	e/Deli	verat	ole (Co	omple	eted)				
	FY2019 FY2020 FY20					021						
Task	Q1 (Oct-Dec)	Q2 (Jan-Mar)	Q3 (Apr-Jun)	Q4 (Jul-Sep)	Q1 (Oct-Dec)	Q2 (Jan-Mar)	Q3 (Apr-Jun)	Q4 (Jul-Sep)	Q1 (Oct-Dec)	Q2 (Jan-Mar)	Q3 (Apr-Jun)	Q4 (Jul-Sep)
Past Work												
Overall decision network design and selection of load flexibility strategies to model complete												\square
Initial surrogate models for medium office/standalone retail complete												\square
Discrete choice experiment design for office/retail operators complete												
Discrete choice experiments on office/retail operators complete												
Validation of the tool's market potential and approach by technical advisory group												
Initial demonstration of integrated tool via case study co-simulations								•				
Initial benchmarking of integrated tool's performance												
Refinements to medium office/standalone retail surrogate models complete												
Expanded discrete choice experiment design for operators/workers complete												
New surrogate models for large office/big box retail complete												
Initial data from expanded discrete choice experiments integrated into decision tool												
Current/Future Work												
Revised discrete choice experiments and analysis comparing operator/worker prefs. complete												
Demonstration and benchmarking of expanded decision tool complete												
Journal manuscripts on surrogate modeling and discrete choice experiments complete												

Project budget

Budget History								
10/01/2018 – FY 2020 (past)	FY 2021 (current) - 09/30,	/2021					
DOE	Cost-share	DOE	Cost-share					
\$1.2M (\$238K carryover into FY21)	N/A	\$400K (\$288K spent by July 2021)	N/A					

FlexAssist makes a day-ahead recommendations of response strategy, implements/records the response, and updates models

(1) Night before event: receive event notification, forecast conditions, recommend response. (2) During event and hours just before/after: implement strategy, record demand/service impacts.

(2a) If pre-cooling

(3) Night after event: update demand/service models based on recorded event data



(1a) Forecast weather conditions, occupancy schedules for event day



(1b) Forecast event information (duration, incentive levels)



(1c) Prob(select strategy)
= f(predicted \$ benefit,
reduction in services)
given 1a-b



(1d) Recommend strategy with highest overall frequency of selection given 1c



strategy is implemented, record temperature/demand changes during the precooling period



(2b) Record change in all demand/service variables during the event hours



(2c) Record change in all demand/service variables in the rebound hour after the event 40

(3a) Demand/service models updated based on observed change in demand/services /w DR strategy relative to base case (from 2a-2c)



(3b) Operator choice models can be updated based on whether or not recommended strategy was selected (*currently testing)

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The operator choice function translates the likelihood of benefits (\$ savings) and risks (service losses) into a utility value

Where:

 U_i = Operator utility, alternative j

 $x_{\$,j}, x_{t_p,j}, x_{t,j}, x_{l,j}, x_{e,j}$ = Predicted alternative j attributes (economic benefit, pre-cool temperature change, event temperature change, event lighting change, event plug power change)

 $\beta_{\$}, \beta_{t_p}, \beta_{t_l}, \beta_{l_l}, \beta_{e}$ = Choice attribute weights from discrete choice experiments (DCE)

Tested DR strategies cover temperature, lighting, and plug load adjustments at low, medium and high levels

	DR Strategy	Levels of Adjustment
	Global Temperature Adjustment (GTA)	+2ºF (low), +4ºF (med), +6ºF (high) during event
	GTA + Precooling	+2ºF (low), +4ºF (med), +6ºF (high) during event; -2ºF 4 hours preceding event (all levels)
-Ò́-	Dimming Lights	-20% (low), -40% (med), -60% (high) during event
Ē	Plug Load Reduction	-10% (low), -30% (med), -50% (high) during event
	Package (GTA+Dim+Plug)	Low, medium, and high levels of GTA AND dimming AND plug load reduction during event
`- -C*	Package + Precooling	Package low, medium, and high settings during event; -2°F 4 hours preceding event (all levels)

Updates to underlying models of change in building demand and services under DR recalibrate to building-specific dynamics



Summary of surrogate model inputs and outputs and synthetic data cleaning approach

	Whole Building Demand (DR, Non-thermal related)	Whole Building Demand (DR, Thermal related)	Whole Building Demand (Pre-cool)	Indoor Temperature (DR)
Output	Demand shed per sf. (W/sq.ft.)	Demand shed per sf. (W/sq.ft.)	Demand shed per sf. (W/sq.ft.)	Indoor temperature change (F)
Input	Lighting dimming (%)	Outdoor temperature (F)	Outdoor temperature (F)	Outdoor temperature (F)
	Plug loads reduction (%)	Outdoor humidity	Outdoor humidity	Outdoor humidity
		Occupancy fraction	Occupancy fraction	Occupancy fraction
		Cooling set pt. change (F)	Cooling set pt. change (F)	Cooling set pt. change (F)
		Lighting dimming (%)	Hours since pre-cool started	Cooling set pt. lag (F)
		Plug loads reduction (%)	Cooling change * Outdoor temp.	Hours since DR started
		Cooling set pt. lag (F)	Cooling change * Occ. fraction	Pre-cool set pt. change (F)
		Hours since DR started	Cooling change * Since Precool started	Pre-cool duration
		Hours since DR ended		Cooling change * Outdoor temp.
		Cooling change * Outdoor temp.		Cooling change * Occ. fraction
		Cooling change * Occ. fraction		Cooling change * Since DR started
		Cooling change * Since DR started		Pre-cool change * Pre-cool duration
Data	Weekday only	Weekday only	Weekday only	Weekday only
restrict	4-hour of DR	4-hour of DR + 1-hour of rebound	Pre-cool hours (1 to 6 hours)	4-hour of DR
	Across the whole year	Summer season only	Summer season only	Summer season only
		Outdoor temperature > 70F	Outdoor temperature > 70F	Outdoor temperature > 70F

Dozens of DR measures are simulated across office/retail under a range of adjustment settings, yielding a synthetic database

		Magni	tude of adju	Duration of		
Category	Measure	Low ←	formly distribu	<i>ted</i> → High	adjustment	
HVAC	Global cooling temp. adjustment (GTA)	+1F	~	+6F	3-7PM	
	GTA	+1F ~		+6F	3-7PM + 1 to 6-hour ahead	
	+ pre-cooling	-11-	~	-4F	(Uniformly distributed)	
Lighting	Dimming	0.01		10.00/		
Plug Loads (office only)	Low-priority device switching	0%	~	-100%	3-7PM	

- Representative climate zones: 2A, 3C, 4A, 6B (covering hot to cold; moist, dry to marine regions)
- 5 Building types: medium office, large office, all electric large office, standalone retail, big box retail

Checks on the distribution of model input parameters and outputs demonstrate performance of Bayesian surrogate models

Frequency

Thermally-driven demand model. std. large office, 2010 vintage



Posterior predictive checks, demand change output





Observed

Posterior predicted



Thermally-driven demand model. std. large office, 1980-2004 vintage

Office worker discrete choice experiment results to date

Model includes two interaction effects: (1) pre-cooling & during-event temp. change; (2) artificial lighting reduction with daylighting %

Two preference variables are significant across all 3 scenarios:

- Buring-event temperature change (*respondents disfavor, with average elasticity range -.15 to -.45*)
- (S) Economic benefit (*respondents favor, with average elasticity range 0.17 to 0.21*)

One preference variable is significant across 2 scenarios:

Pre-cooling if during event temp change >2°F (*respondents favor, with average elasticity range 0.05 to 0.06*)

One preference variable is significant across 1 scenario:

Pre-cooling if during event temp change <=2°F (*respondents favor, with average elasticity 0.03*)

	CS	FS	FW
Office Workers	240	116	124
Retail Workers	75	34	41
Total workers	315	150	165

Preference For:	Curr	ent Sum	nmer	Future Summer		Future Winter			
	Coefficient estimate	Average elasticity	P-value	Coefficient estimate	Average elasticity	P-value	Coefficient estimate	Average elasticity	P-value
Economic benefit for organization	§ 0.000120	0.197770	0.0000	0.000125	0.208228	0.0000	0.000106	0.167713	0.0000
Temperature decrease (increase*) before event if temperature increase (decrease*) during event <=2°F	0.140768	0.033826	0.0027	0.046929	0.012084	0.4593	0.012712	0.002944	0.8415
Temperature decrease (increase*) before event if temperature increase (decrease*) during event >2°F	0.081117	0.048970	0.0193	0.104574	0.064740	0.0394	-0.005410	-0.002997	0.9124
Temperature increase (decrease*) during event	-0.196725	-0.445087	0.0000	-0.197252	-0.443165	0.0000	-0.074237	-0.151905	0.0088
Artificial lighting reduction	-0.539548	-0.103400	0.0512	-0.556691	-0.110051	0.1389	-0.396805	-0.067984	0.3320
Artificial lighting reduction interacted with building daylighting %	0.006384	0.063198	0.1585	0.002724	0.025803	0.6818	0.002768	0.025883	0.6672
Plug-load reduction -d	B N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.062000	-0.008825	0.8259	-0.378875	-0.047676	0.1260
Outdoor air flow reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.069400	0.008725	0.7949	-0.069228	-0.008063	0.7795

* = For winter DCEs

Retail worker discrete choice experiment results to date

Model includes two interaction effects: (1) pre-cooling & during-event temperature change; (2) artificial lighting reduction with building daylighting %

One preference variable is significant across all 3 scenarios:

S Economic benefit (*respondents favor, with average elasticity range 0.12 to 0.22*)

One preference variable is significant across 2 scenarios:

During-event temperature change (*respondents disfavor, with average elasticity range -.25 to -.47*)

	CS	FS	FW
Office Workers	240	116	124
Retail Workers	75	34	41
Total workers	315	150	165

Preference For:		Current Summer			Future Summer			Future Winter		
		Coefficient estimate	Average elasticity	P-value	Coefficient estimate	Average elasticity	P-value	Coefficient estimate	Average elasticity	P-value
Economic benefit for organization	\$	0.000111	0.180296	0.0000	0.000143	0.224549	0.0000	0.000100	0.128724	0.0000
Temperature decrease (increase*) before event if temperature increase (decrease*) during event <=2°F	*	0.065055	0.015033	0.4354	0.068029	0.013792	0.5961	-0.070689	-0.012986	0.5485
Temperature decrease (increase*) before event if temperature increase (decrease*) during event >2°F	*	0.088440	0.049984	0.1645	0.096688	0.051443	0.2937	-0.016266	-0.007498	0.8415
Temperature increase (decrease*) during event		-0.217252	-0.473580	0.0000	-0.127418	-0.252253	0.0271	-0.055295	-0.095464	0.2501
Artificial lighting reduction	-ð.	-0.113306	-0.021117	0.8181	-0.696280	-0.125253	0.3472	-0.546707	-0.081859	0.3843
Artificial lighting reduction interacted with building daylighting %	-̈̈́Ċ	0.009977	0.085461	0.2501	0.004831	0.039565	0.7114	0.016656	0.114778	0.1389
Plug-load reduction	G	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.159897	0.020576	0.7490	0.539617	0.057434	0.2041
Outdoor air flow reduction	*	N/A	N/A	N/A	-0.078058	-0.008522	0.8808	-0.044358	-0.003993	0.9203

* = For winter DCEs

N