

# Recent trends and advances in electricity price forecasting (EPF)

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<http://www.ioz.pwr.wroc.pl/pracownicy/weron/>

# Agenda

- 1 Beyond point forecasts  
⇒ probabilistic forecasts
- 2 Combining forecasts
  - Point forecasts
  - Probabilistic forecasts
- 3 Variable selection and shrinkage
  - LASSO
  - Elastic nets
- 4 Guidelines for evaluating forecasts

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Review

Electricity price forecasting: A review of the state-of-the-art with a look into the future

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1 2 4

CrossMark

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ARTICLE INFO


ABSTRACT

Keywords:  
Electricity price forecasting  
Day-ahead market  
Seasonality  
Autoregression

A variety of methods and ideas have been tried for electricity price forecasting (EPF) over the last 15 years, with varying degrees of success. This review article aims to explain the complexity of available solutions, their strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities and threats that the forecasting tools offer or that may be encountered. The paper also

next decade  
files involving  
(iii) STATISTICAL

 **energies** *Energies* 2016, 9, 621; doi:10.3390/en9080621 

Article 

**Automated Variable Selection and Shrinkage for Day-Ahead Electricity Price Forecasting**

Rafal Uniejewski, Jakub Nowotarski and Rafal Weron \*

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\* Correspondence: rafal.weron@pwr.edu.pl; Tel.: +48-71-320-4525

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**Abstract:** In day-ahead electricity price forecasting (EPF) variable selection is a crucial issue. Conducting an empirical study involving state-of-the-art parsimonious expert models as benchmarks, datasets from three major power markets and five classes of automated selection and shrinkage procedures (single-step elimination, stepwise regression, ridge regression, lasso and elastic nets), we show that using the latter two classes can bring significant accuracy gains compared to commonly-used EPF models. In particular, one of the elastic nets, a class that has not been considered in EPF before, stands out as the best performing model overall.

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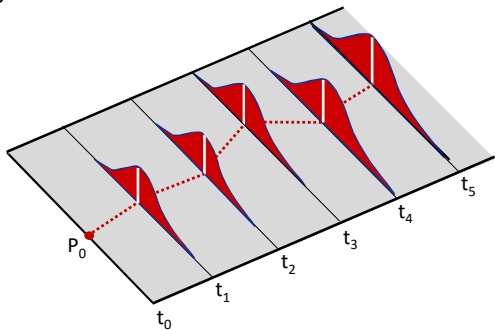
# Beyond point forecasts

- Variability of supply and demand has become a challenge to the utility industry in the smart grid era (Hong & Fan, 2016, IJF)
- Resulting extreme variability of electricity prices
  - In the day-ahead market
  - Even more so in the intraday market
- Probabilistic (interval, density) forecasting has a lot to offer (Nowotarski & Weron, 2016, RePEc)
  - Useful in practice for risk management and decision-making
- GEFCom2012 (point)  $\Rightarrow$  GEFCom2014 (probabilistic forecasts)

# Probabilistic (interval, density) forecasting

(Gneiting & Katzfuss, 2014, Annu.Rev.Stat.Appl.)

- Improved assessment of future uncertainty
- Ability to plan different strategies for the range of possible outcomes
- Possibility of more thorough forecast comparisons



# Global Energy Forecasting Competition 2014

(Hong, Pinson, Fan et al., 2016, IJF)

**GEFCOM  
2014**

Load Forecasting

**GEFCOM  
2014**

Price Forecasting

**GEFCOM  
2014**

Wind Forecasting

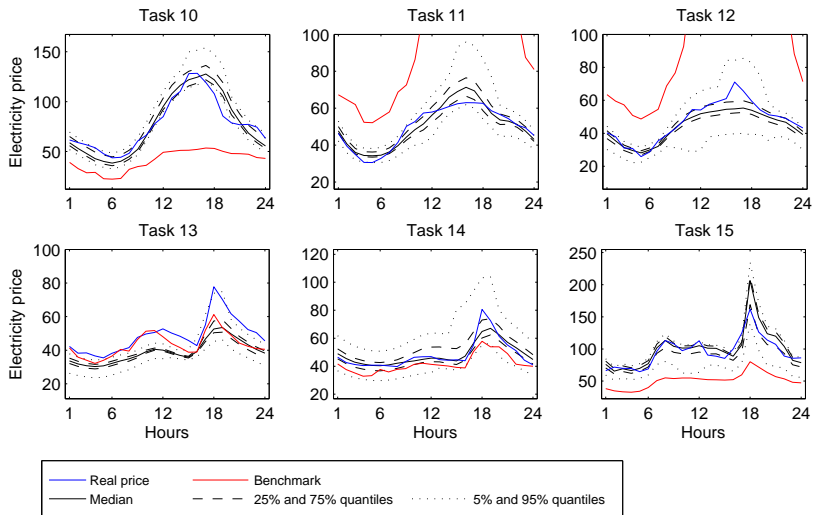
**GEFCOM  
2014**

Solar Forecasting



- Incremental data sets released on weekly basis
- Price Track:
  - 287 contestants
  - Submit 99 quantiles for 24h load periods of the next day

# Price Track



# Price Track: Top winning teams

(1st and) 2nd place for QRA!

- 1 Pierre Gaillard, Yannig Goude, Raphaël Nedellec (EDF R&D, F)
- 2 Katarzyna Maciejowska, Jakub Nowotarski (Wrocław UT, PL)
- 3 Grzegorz Dudek (Częstochowa UT, PL)
- 4 Zico Kolter, Romain Juban, Henrik Ohlsson, Mehdi Maasoumy (C3 Energy, USA)
- 5 Frank Lemke (KnowledgeMiner Software, D)



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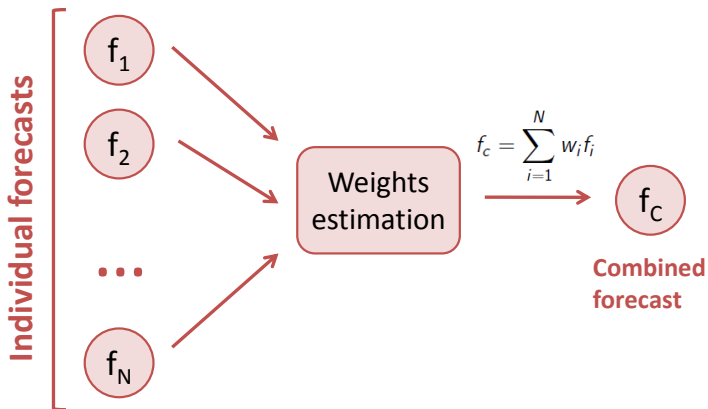
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# Point forecast averaging: The idea



- Dates back to the 1960s and the works of Bates, Crane, Crotty & Granger
- 'AI world': *committee machines, ensemble averaging, expert aggregation*

# Interval forecast averaging

- For point forecasts:  $f_c = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i f_i$   
(e.g. a linear regression model)
- For interval forecasts the above formula does not hold
- A linear combination of  $q$ -th quantiles is **not** the  $q$ -th quantile of a linear combination of random variables

$$x_c^q \neq \sum_{i=1}^N w_i x_i^q$$

⇒ Need for development of new approaches

# Quantile Regression Averaging (QRA) defined

Comput Stat (2015) 30:791–803  
DOI 10.1007/s00180-014-0523-0



ORIGINAL PAPER



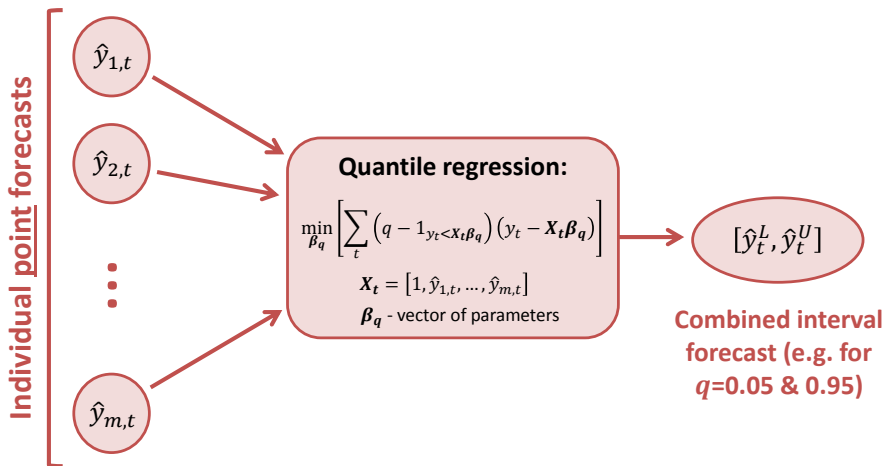
## Computing electricity spot price prediction intervals using quantile regression and forecast averaging

Jakub Nowotarski · Rafał Weron

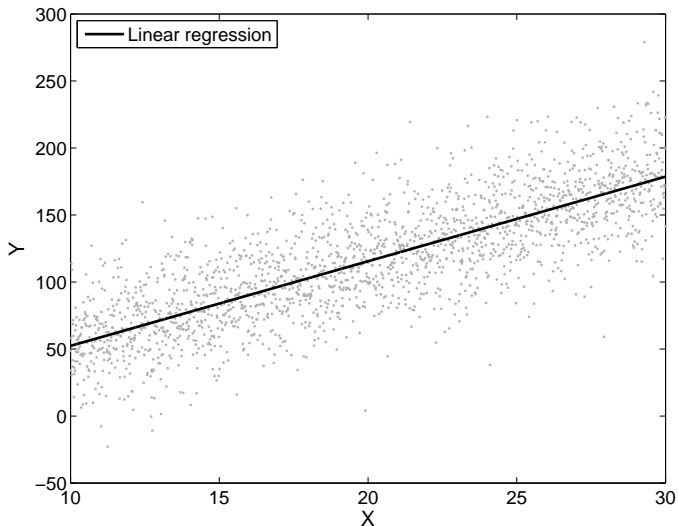
Received: 31 December 2013 / Accepted: 6 August 2014 / Published online: 19 August 2014  
© The Author(s) 2014. This article is published with open access at Springerlink.com

**Abstract** We examine possible accuracy gains from forecast averaging in the context of interval forecasts of electricity spot prices. First, we test whether constructing empirical prediction intervals (PI) from combined electricity spot price forecasts leads to better forecasts than those obtained from individual methods. Next, we propose a new method for constructing PI—Quantile Regression Averaging (QRA)—which utilizes the concept of quantile regression and a pool of point forecasts of individual (i.e. not combined) models. While the empirical PI from combined forecasts do not provide significant gains, the QRA-based PI are found to be more accurate than those of the best individual model—the smoothed nonparametric autoregressive model.

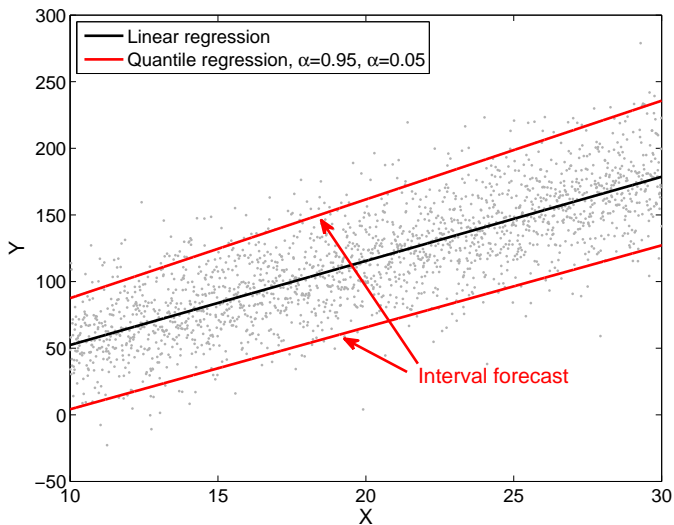
# Quantile Regression Averaging: The idea



# Quantile regression



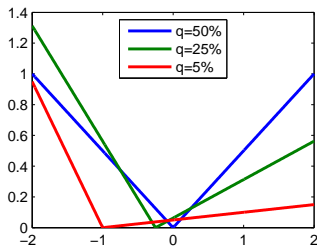
# Quantile regression



# How does the score function look like?

For vector  $\mathbf{X}_t = [1, \hat{y}_{1,t}, \dots, \hat{y}_{m,t}]$  of point forecasts, i.e. explanatory variables, weights  $\beta_q$  are estimated by minimizing:

$$\min_{\beta_q} \left[ \sum_{\{t: y_t \geq \mathbf{X}_t \beta_q\}} q |y_t - \mathbf{X}_t \beta_q| + \sum_{\{t: y_t < \mathbf{X}_t \beta_q\}} (1 - q) |y_t - \mathbf{X}_t \beta_q| \right]$$



# Case study

978-1-4799-6095-8/14/\$31.00 ©2014 IEEE

## Merging quantile regression with forecast averaging to obtain more accurate interval forecasts of Nord Pool spot prices

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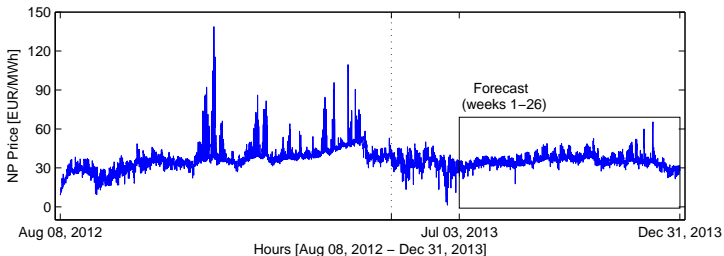
*Abstract*—We evaluate a recently proposed method for constructing prediction intervals, which utilizes the concept of quantile regression (QR) and a pool of point forecasts of different time series models. We find that in terms of interval forecasting of Nord Pool day-ahead prices the new QR-based approach significantly outperforms prediction intervals obtained from standard, as well as, semi-parametric autoregressive time series models.

tions we are interested in PI, i.e. intervals which contain the true values of future observations with specified probability, not in confidence intervals.

From a practical point of view, PI provide additional information on price forecasts. High volatility and uncertainty of electricity price forecasts may frequently deviate from the true price levels. In fact, possible errors in point predictions



# QRA at work



- Nord Pool hourly prices (2012-2013)
  - **Seven** months for calibration of individual models
  - **Four** weeks for calibration of quantile regression
  - **26** weeks for evaluation of interval forecasts
- **Six** individual point forecasting models
  - AR, TAR, SNAR, MRJD, NAR, FM

# Evaluation of forecasts

- 50% and 90% two-sided day-ahead prediction intervals
- Two benchmark models: AR and SNAR
- Christoffersen's (1998, IER) test for unconditional and conditional coverage

- The focus on the sequence:  $I_t = \begin{cases} 1 & y_t \in [\hat{y}_t^L, \hat{y}_t^U] \\ 0 & y_t \notin [\hat{y}_t^L, \hat{y}_t^U] \end{cases}$

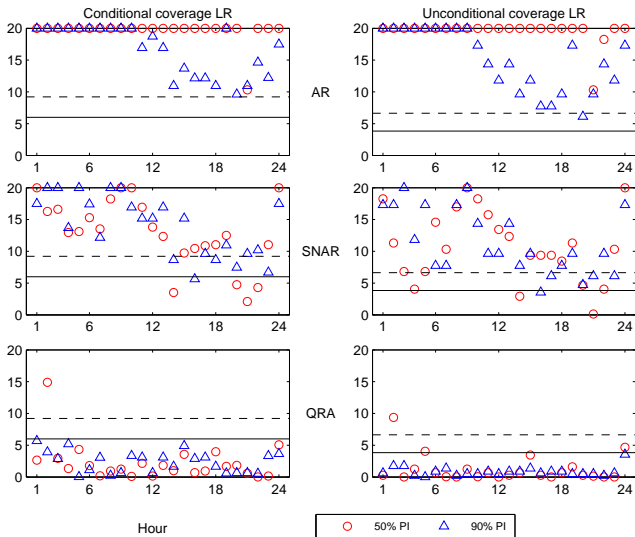
- Conditional Coverage test  
(UC + independence)  
Asymptotically  $\chi^2(2)$

- Unconditional Coverage test  
Asymptotically  $\chi^2(1)$

# Results: Unconditional coverage

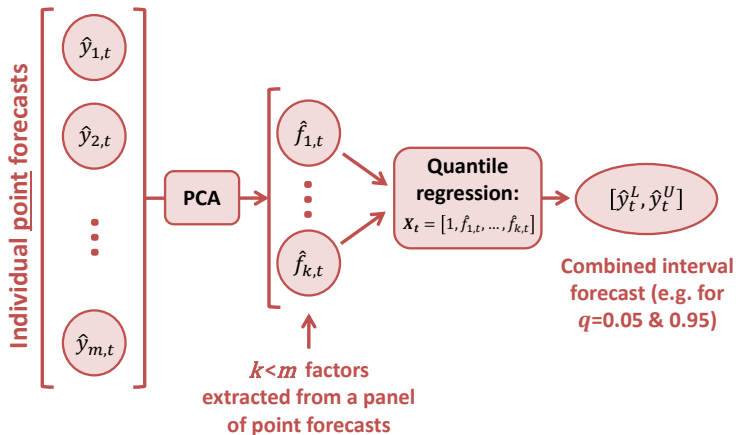
PI	AR	SNAR	<b>QRA</b>
<i>Unconditional coverage</i>			
50%	77.50	61.93	<b>49.77</b>
90%	97.53	96.41	<b>89.33</b>
<i>Mean width (STD of interval width)</i>			
50%	4.55 (1.34)	2.76 (0.61)	<b>2.23 (0.81)</b>
90%	11.14 (3.31)	9.33 (2.45)	<b>6.78 (2.20)</b>

# Results: Christoffersen's test



# FQRA: When the number of predictors is large

(Maciejowska, Nowotarski & Weron, 2016, IJF)



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# Automated variable selection

Consider a general regression:

$$\hat{y}_i = \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j x_{i,j} + \varepsilon_i$$

How to select predictors  $x_{i,j}$ ? How to estimate  $\beta_j$ 's?

- Single-step elimination of insignificant predictors
  - In EPF: Gianfreda & Grossi (2012)
- Stepwise regression
  - Forward stepwise selection
  - Backward stepwise elimination
  - In EPF: Karakatsani & Bunn (2008), Misiorek (2008), Bessec et al. (2016), Keles et al. (2016)

# What is shrinkage (regularization)?

- Minimize the residual sum of squares (RSS) + a penalty function of the betas:

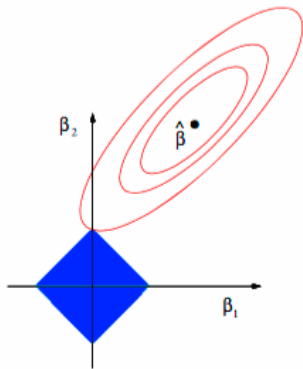
$$\hat{\beta} = \underset{\beta_j}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^N \left( y_i - \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j x_{i,j} \right)^2}_{\text{RSS}} + \lambda \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^n |\beta_j|^q}_{\text{penalty}} \right\}$$

- Ridge regression ( $q = 2$ )
  - Introduced by: Hoerl & Kennard (1970, Technometrics)
  - In EPF: Barnes & Balda (2013)
- Least Absolute Shrinkage & Selection Operator (LASSO;  $q = 1$ )
  - Introduced by: Tibshirani (1996, JRSSB)
  - In EPF: Ludwig et al. (2015), Ziel et al. (2015), Gaillard et al. (2016), Ziel (2016), Ziel and Weron (2016)

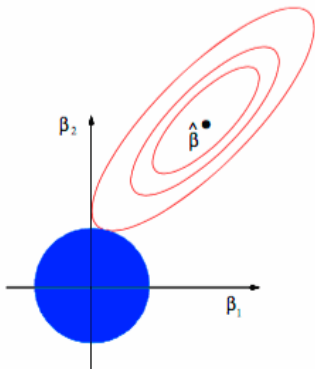


# How does it work?

Lasso



Ridge regression



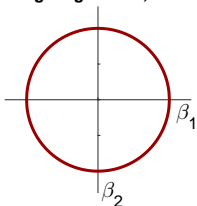
Blue areas – constraint regions, i.e.,  $|\beta_1| + |\beta_2| \leq t$  and  $\beta_1^2 + \beta_2^2 \leq t$   
 Red ellipses – contours of the least squares error function

# Elastic net

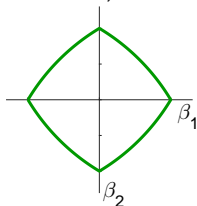
- RSS penalized by a mixed **quadratic** and **linear** shrinkage factor

$$\hat{\beta}^{EN} = \operatorname{argmin}_{\beta_j} \left\{ \text{RSS} + \lambda \left( \frac{1-\alpha}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j^2 + \alpha \sum_{j=1}^n |\beta_j| \right) \right\}$$

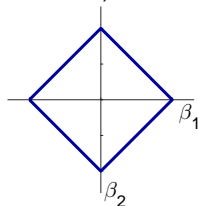
Ridge regression,  $\alpha=0$



Elastic net,  $\alpha=0.75$

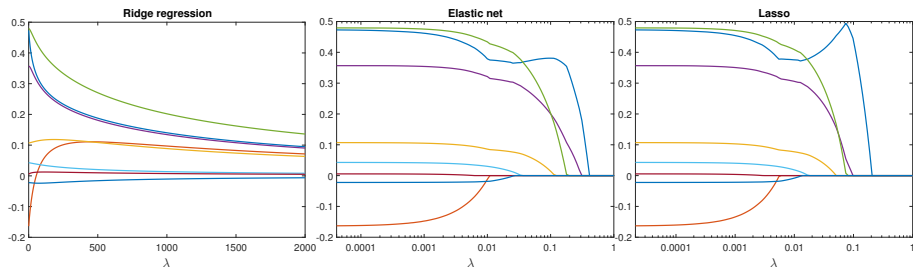


Lasso,  $\alpha=1$



- Introduced by: Zou & Hastie (2015, JRSSB)
- In EPF: Uniejewski, Nowotarski & Weron (2016, Energies)

# How $\hat{\beta}$ 's change when $\lambda$ increases?



- *Left:* Ridge regression with  $\lambda \in (0, 2000)$ , linear scale
- *Center:* Elastic net with  $\alpha = 0.5$  and  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , log-scale
- *Right:* Lasso with  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ , log-scale

# Results: WMAE errors

(Uniejewski et al., 2016, Energies)

Full model: fARX, fAR

$$\widehat{p}_{d,h} = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{24} (\beta_{h,i} p_{d-1,i} + \beta_{h,j+24} p_{d-2,i} + \beta_{h,j+48} p_{d-3,i})}_{\text{72 hourly prices from the three previous days}} + \underbrace{\beta_{h,73} p_{d-7,h}}_{\text{week before}}$$

$$+ \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^3 (\beta_{h,j+73} p_{d-j}^{\min} + \beta_{h,j+76} p_{d-j}^{\max} + \beta_{h,j+79} p_{d-j}^{\text{avg}})}_{\text{minimum, maximum \& average price of the three previous days}}$$

$$+ \underbrace{\beta_{h,83} z_{d,h} + \beta_{h,84} z_{d-1,h} + \beta_{h,85} z_{d-7,h} + \beta_{h,86} y_{d,h}}_{\text{exogenous variables}}$$

$$+ \underbrace{\sum_{k=1}^7 \beta_{h,86+k} D_k + \sum_{k=1}^7 \beta_{h,93+k} D_k z_{d,h} + \sum_{k=1}^7 \beta_{h,100+k} D_k p_{d-1,h}}_{\text{weekly seasonality}}$$

$$+ \varepsilon_{d,h}$$

	ARX-type			AR-type		AR - ARX
	GEFCom	Nord Pool		GEFCom	N2EX (UK)	GEFCom
Naive	14.708 (0.975)	11.141 (0.778)	Naive	14.708 (0.975)	9.767 (0.310)	0.000
Expert benchmarks						
ARX1	11.069 (0.639)	9.739 (0.614)	AR1	11.183 (0.701)	8.384 (0.253)	0.114
ARX1h	11.072 (0.639)	9.693 (0.616)	AR1h	11.181 (0.704)	8.389 (0.253)	0.109
ARX1hm	10.976 (0.617)	8.673 (0.516)	AR1hm	11.062 (0.657)	8.229 (0.247)	0.086
mARX1	11.102 (0.621)	9.482 (0.601)	mAR1	11.320 (0.696)	8.258 (0.253)	0.218
mARX1h	11.105 (0.622)	9.461 (0.602)	mAR1h	11.322 (0.699)	8.270 (0.254)	0.218
mARX1hm	10.974 (0.598)	8.461 (0.518)	mAR1hm	11.168 (0.644)	8.098 (0.246)	0.195
ARX2	10.742 (0.575)	8.878 (0.546)	AR2	11.331 (0.700)	8.290 (0.253)	0.589
ARX2h	10.739 (0.575)	8.826 (0.546)	AR2h	11.333 (0.704)	8.288 (0.253)	0.594
ARX2hm	10.625 (0.565)	8.206 (0.485)	AR2hm	11.070 (0.656)	8.237 (0.249)	0.444
Full ARX model						
fARX	10.911 (0.507)	10.131 (0.708)	fAR	12.279 (0.602)	9.724 (0.334)	1.368
Selection and shrinkage methods						
ssARX	10.669 (0.577)	8.861 (0.537)	ssAR	12.061 (0.644)	9.344 (0.270)	1.393
ssARX1	9.894 (0.548)	8.409 (0.507)	ssAR1	11.343 (0.641)	8.395 (0.261)	1.449
fsARX	9.876 (0.502)	8.130 (0.502)	fsAR	11.193 (0.592)	8.563 (0.272)	1.317
bsARX	10.449 (0.502)	9.421 (0.599)	bsAR	11.968 (0.582)	9.252 (0.301)	1.519
RidgeX	9.777 (0.544)	8.972 (0.479)	Ridge	10.775 (0.653)	8.237 (0.260)	0.998
LassoX	9.476 (0.516)	8.419 (0.503)	Lasso	10.722 (0.609)	8.125 (0.253)	1.246
EN75X	9.475 (0.517)	8.056 (0.489)	EN75	10.708 (0.610)	8.124 (0.253)	1.233
EN50X	9.473 (0.518)	8.287 (0.496)	EN50	10.688 (0.611)	8.121 (0.253)	1.215
EN25X	9.474 (0.522)	8.529 (0.503)	EN25	10.650 (0.613)	8.113 (0.253)	1.176



# Variable significance across hours cont.

(Ziel & Weron, 2016, RePEc)

	h	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
$\beta_{h,1}$	785	308	1328	1149	809	832	1834	2024	1233	810	594	836	630	727	1278	1038	1133	780	503	1163	1340	603	1035	1034		
$\beta_{h,2}$	1030	1010	1169	662	3780	282	3555	1885	9044	1114	741	632	576	329	275	3606	287	425	238	177	254	1352	460	426	233	
$\beta_{h,3}$	1885	1035	1442	882	440	343	4102	1183	2230	316	1097	641	813	635	342	611	635	236	110	675	575	81	575	575	736	
$\beta_{h,4}$	789	1445	2845	3240	1832	846	1064	565	687	640	767	596	1736	1339	1620	1237	1126	1113	1126	806	666	224	608	1276	1799	
$\beta_{h,5}$	522	938	1131	1771	2845	801	601	649	128	429	844	114	1212	1210	809	743	693	636	228	625	145	161	683	1083		
$\beta_{h,6}$	500	284	1473	879	366	1745	3432	3406	1833	842	586	810	211	812	440	718	937	1849	2118	258	2135	1243	131			
$\beta_{h,7}$	620	140	622	609	969	1602	4135	665	9779	2113	1474	802	475	779	744	763	806	1132	2744	2032	3749	1139	1141			
$\beta_{h,8}$	676	722	906	716	729	5684	1823	4849	4579	2362	160	409	686	543	441	585	372	1126	779	449	648	1221	1033			
$\beta_{h,9}$	832	749	832	1034	753	473	2302	838	1979	4809	2643	162	1311	844	383	381	1657	241	246	62	719	575	392	365		
$\beta_{h,10}$	376	469	446	222	240	387	626	1027	1337	1497	528	1842	264	193	830	682	385	495	809	569	242	114				
$\beta_{h,11}$	1035	1038	278	493	616	389	633	1080	452	1154	2335	2539	1421	1018	749	439	477	379	879	833	1838	1070	923	534		
$\beta_{h,12}$	857	1446	1044	665	148	621	238	131	145	3448	1323	2035	2349	1765	3086	384	462	1078	1443	1449	6483	1379	1636	796		
$\beta_{h,13}$	908	328	448	308	468	514	664	328	548	1818	2423	2131	3014	4015	1038	1582	1157	1117	1258	985	1005	1124				
$\beta_{h,14}$	241	248	1384	536	423	256	531	507	820	840	1039	1532	1169	2021	920	1020	1030	1048	1069	1069	1069	1069				
$\beta_{h,15}$	121	137	244	125	138	256	406	361	756	745	806	1809	1016	4675	4151	2616	2335	1642	1140	722	140	1267	607			
$\beta_{h,16}$	135	101	122	124	878	146	146	541	1037	1936	2354	2334	1221	4139	509	7488	4431	1842	874	534	734	835	1232			
$\beta_{h,17}$	517	409	254	347	588	553	180	529	912	1489	1857	5149	5677	1440	2529	1101	9445	589	1686	586	107	361	331			
$\beta_{h,18}$	228	438	784	889	1179	1165	1435	1045	1412	8606	1454	1297	909	1354	300	1139	1310	326	646	3926	467	825	823	1024		
$\beta_{h,19}$	692	1318	1538	1771	1447	1403	815	632	636	714	4336	477	570	599	444	598	836	669	2272	625	1057	1844	1086	486		
$\beta_{h,20}$	196	505	1147	1517	1510	1836	1656	951	943	419	1490	346	562	568	669	627	625	1057	1844	1086	486					
$\beta_{h,21}$	1097	1242	1317	817	837	871	421	636	530	355	483	1039	379	839	851	819	1438	1543	414	1058	204	641	235			
$\beta_{h,22}$	146	448	438	1169	2832	1017	3645	2810	1069	869	389	228	373	846	1744	2242	2730	3614	3335	2164	1646	235	1174	547		
$\beta_{h,23}$	588	610	1316	2037	2241	2024	1732	1144	1534	1114	426	334	789	1002	1128	1043	1436	1292	1011	701	431	376				
$\beta_{h,24}$	1716	876	541	2559	2991	499	412	461	166	341	517	576	367	453	510	489	229	276	871	511	519	436				
$\beta_{h,25}$	813	641	646	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	649	
$\beta_{h,26}$	1120	846	718	1154	1578	1729	2436	418	818	387	582	219	428	586	739	1239	1533	1431	1238	1689	1451	1033	238	1074		
$\beta_{h,27}$	1827	215	447	821	926	801	831	737	607	516	1115	940	790	625	836	485	238	344	237	683	1237	683	123	194		
$\beta_{h,28}$	1072	753	823	1239	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	1233	
$\beta_{h,29}$	881	772	1022	929	651	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	946	
$\beta_{h,30}$	486	317	486	615	649	530	231	439	748	136	142	228	239	182	286	334	418	328	479	599	779	516	242	47		
$\beta_{h,31}$	313	167	379	318	340	420	1076	403	611	039	645	087	250	212	316	327	467	309	444	118	386	042				
$\beta_{h,32}$	585	225	228	113	238	646	647	1189	1329	1469	249	473	584	738	611	607	1283	1264	1160	922	473	113	136	226		
$\beta_{h,33}$	879	154	952	191	617	637	637	146	126	141	606	089	645	143	111	184	336	722	147	605	106	130				
$\beta_{h,34}$	327	329	523	442	516	832	422	298	170	216	133	054	029	046	800	231	446	162	134	136	408	130				
$\beta_{h,35}$	1038	819	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	
$\beta_{h,36}$	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	
$\beta_{h,37}$	239	673	441	614	634	854	339	609	1066	117	179	237	248	288	340	523	191	115	1021	1182	1021	1182	1021	1182	1021	
$\beta_{h,38}$	144	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	617	
$\beta_{h,39}$	240	685	689	246	513	621	621	146	399	1013	522	327	512	319	831	1771	1282	682	657	623	914	634	834	646		
$\beta_{h,40}$	252	107	1008	1048	446	500	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	621	
$\beta_{h,41}$	750	147	557	706	993	629	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	628	
$\beta_{h,42}$	418	246	80	1149	1337	1230	917	1500	637	628	528	423	484	581	488	370	347	260	745	235	1234					
$\beta_{h,43}$	725	1275	1047	177	1635	740	342	1539	730	885	465	837	546	1230	340	803	966	638	555	1846	1802	431	572			
$\beta_{h,44}$	623	493	809	806	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446	728	446
$\beta_{h,45}$	498	1533	287	3039	310	2019	210	642	606	355	2231	310	438	533	520	740	1126	930	697	507	2331	744				
$\beta_{h,46}$	754	758	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	1128	

	h	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
$\beta_{h,1}$	57.99</																								

# Agenda

- 1 Beyond point forecasts  
⇒ probabilistic forecasts
- 2 Combining forecasts
  - Point forecasts
  - Probabilistic forecasts
- 3 Variable selection and shrinkage
  - LASSO
  - Elastic nets
- 4 Guidelines for evaluating forecasts

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Review

**Electricity price forecasting: A review of the state-of-the-art with a look into the future**

Rafal Weron  
*Institute of Organization and Management, Wrocław University of Technology, Wrocław, Poland*

1 2 4

ARTICLE INFO

**ABSTRACT**

**Keywords:**  
Electricity price forecasting  
Day-ahead market  
Seasonality  
Autoregression

A variety of methods and ideas have been tried for electricity price forecasting (EPF) over the last 15 years, with varying degrees of success. This review article aims to explain the complexity of available solutions, their strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities and threats that the forecasting tools offer or that may be encountered. The paper also

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Article

**Automated Variable Selection and Shrinkage for Day-Ahead Electricity Price Forecasting**

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**Abstract:** In day-ahead electricity price forecasting (EPF) variable selection is a crucial issue. Conducting an empirical study involving state-of-the-art parsimonious expert models as benchmarks, datasets from three major power markets and five classes of automated selection and shrinkage procedures (single-step elimination, stepwise regression, ridge regression, lasso and elastic nets), we show that using the latter two classes can bring significant accuracy gains compared to commonly-used EPF models. In particular, one of the elastic nets, a class that has not been considered in EPF before, stands out as the best performing model overall.

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# Maximizing *sharpness* subject to *reliability*

(Gneiting & Katzfuss, 2014; Nowotarski & Weron, 2016)

- *Reliability* refers to statistical consistency (x% PI covers x% of obs.)
- *Sharpness* refers to how tightly the PI covers the observations

Interval forecasts		Density forecasts	
Statistics	Tests	Statistics	Tests
<i>Reliability / calibration / unbiasedness</i>			
Unconditional coverage [46, 74]	Kupiec [74]	Probability Integral Transform (PIT) [14, 75]	Visual 'tests' [14, 16] <i>Tests for uniformity</i> [76, 77]
Conditional coverage [46] (CC = UC + Independence)	Christoffersen [46] ( <i>Lagged</i> [78]) <i>Ljung-Box Christoffersen</i> [79] <i>Duration-based tests</i> [80, 81] <i>Dynamic Quantile (DQ)</i> [82] <i>VQR</i> [83]	Berkowitz CC statistic [48]	Berkowitz [48]
<i>Sharpness (and reliability)</i>			
Pinball loss [84, 85] Winkler (interval) score [86]	Diebold-Mariano [87, 88] <i>Model confidence set</i> [89] <i>Forecast encompassing</i> [90]	Continuous Ranked Probability Score (CRPS) [15, 91] <i>Logarithmic score</i> [92]	Diebold-Mariano [87, 88] <i>Model confidence set</i> [89] <i>Forecast encompassing</i> [90]



# Take-home messages

- 1 Beyond point forecasts  
⇒ probabilistic forecasts
- 2 Combining forecasts
  - Point forecasts
  - Probabilistic forecasts
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- 4 Guidelines for evaluating forecasts

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Article

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