

# Probabilistic electricity price forecasting (EPF) ... and related topics

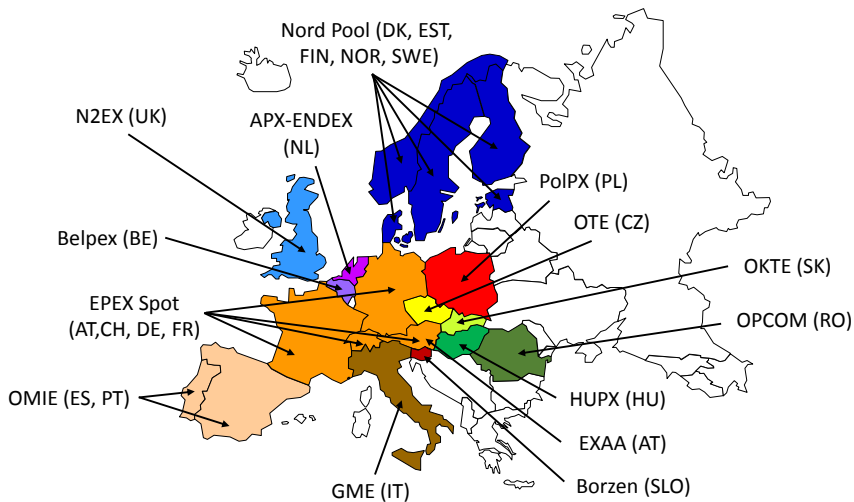


Rafał Weron\*

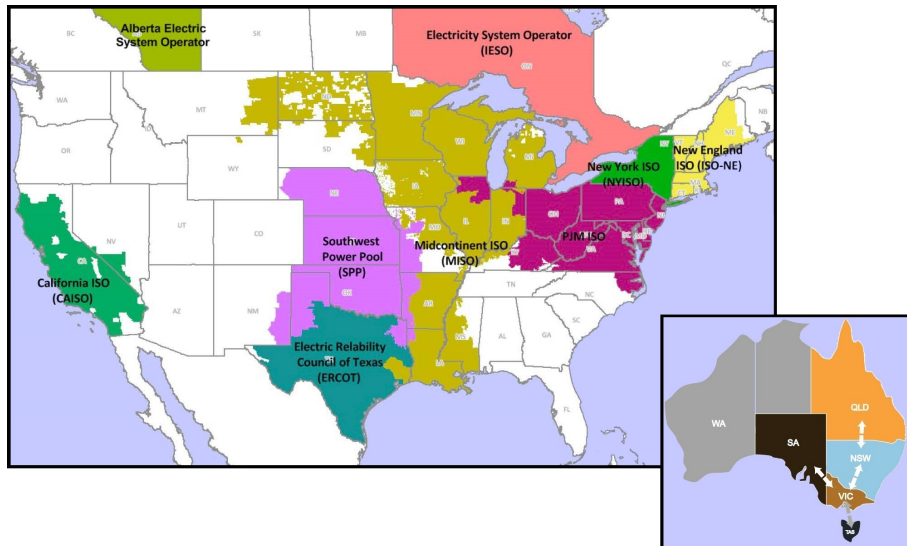
Department of Operations Research  
Wrocław University of Science and Technology (PWr), Poland  
<http://www.ioz.pwr.wroc.pl/pracownicy/weron/>

\* Based on work with Jakub Nowotarski (PWr & BNY Mellon), Grzegorz Marcjasz (PWr) and Bartosz Uniejewski (PWr)

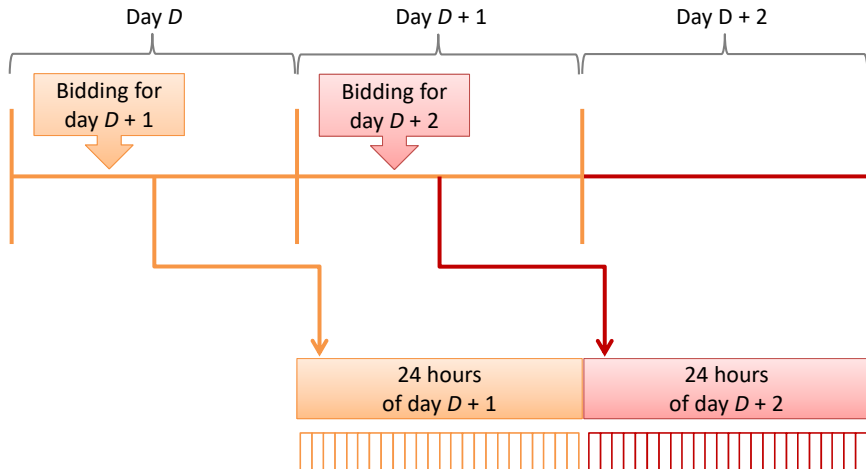
# Markets for electricity in Europe



# ... in North America and Australia

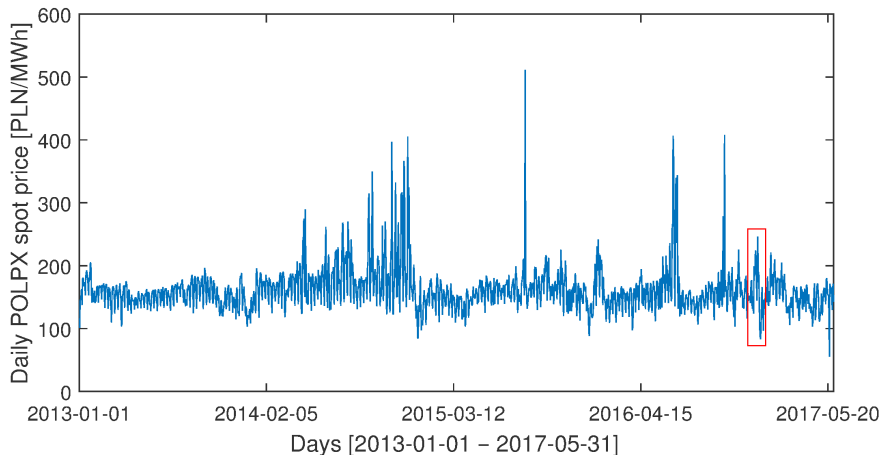


# The day-ahead market

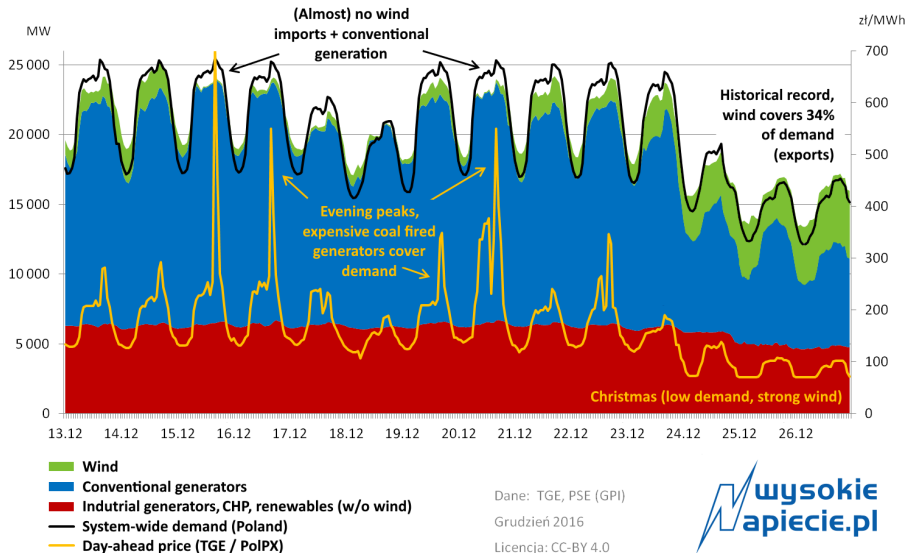


# Electricity price time series

Seasonality, mean-reversion and price spikes



# A closeup on two weeks in December 2016



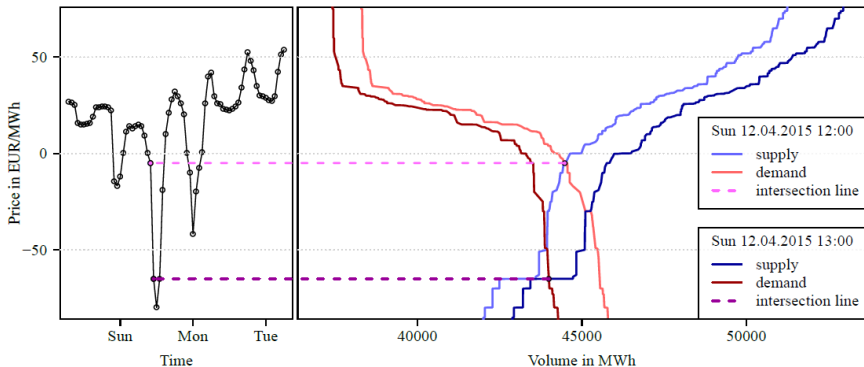
Dane: TGE, PSE (GPI)

Grudzień 2016

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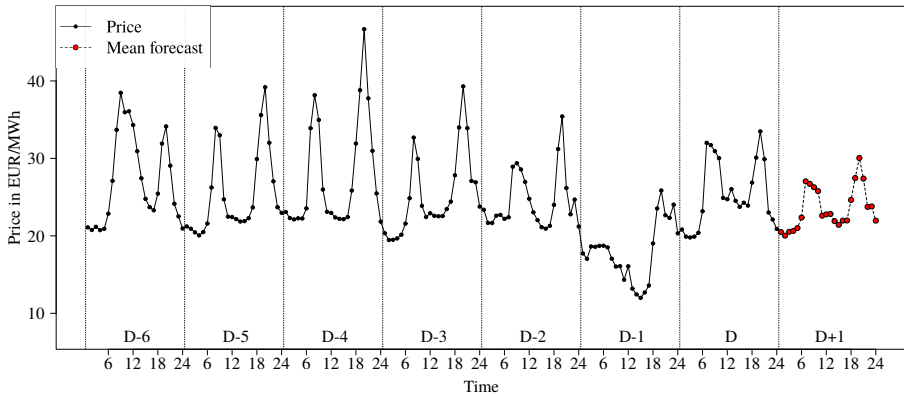


# Supply and demand, renewables and negative prices



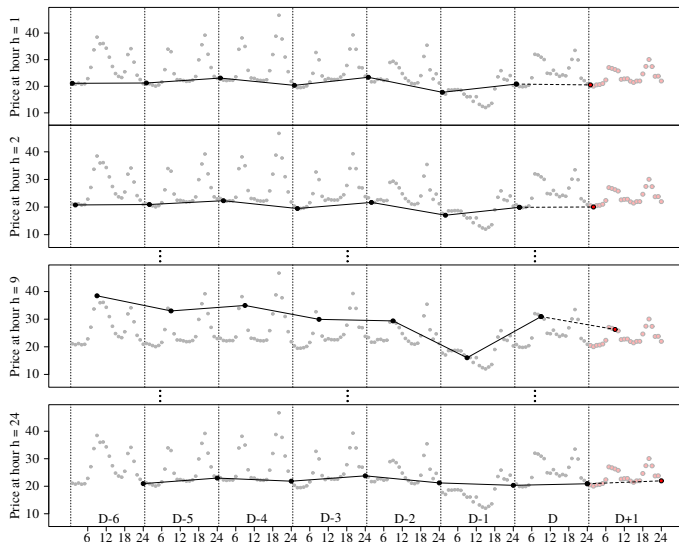
Source: Ziel & Steinert (2016)

## Day-ahead point forecasting: Univariate ...





# ... or multivariate?

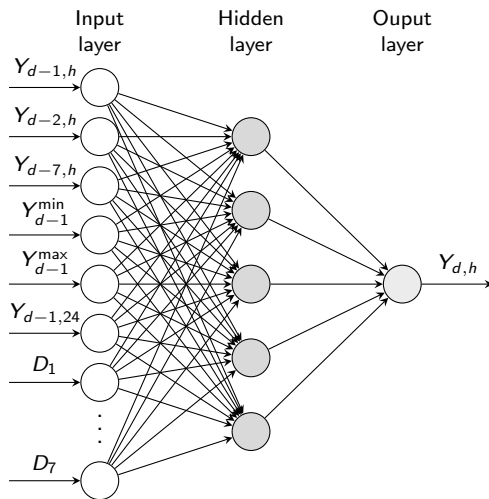


# Day-ahead point forecasting: Regression ...

Electricity price for day  $d$  and hour  $h$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 Y_{d,h} = & \beta_{h,1} + \underbrace{\beta_{h,2} Y_{d-1,h} + \beta_{h,3} Y_{d-2,h} + \beta_{h,4} Y_{d-7,h}}_{\text{autoregressive terms}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\beta_{h,5} Y_{d-1}^{\min} + \beta_{h,6} Y_{d-1}^{\max}}_{\text{non-linear effects}} + \underbrace{\beta_{h,7} Y_{d-1,24}}_{\text{end-of-day effect}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\sum_{j=1}^7 \beta_{h,j+7} D_j}_{\text{weekday dummies}} + \varepsilon_{d,h},
 \end{aligned}$$

# ... or neural nets?







# First read on electricity price forecasting (EPF)

R.Hyndman: "this paper alone is responsible for 0.7 of the current  $IF_{2Y}=2.642$ " ;-)

International Journal of Forecasting 30 (2014) 1030–1081



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Forecasting

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/ijforecast](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ijforecast)



## Review

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

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## ARTICLE INFO

### Keywords:

Electricity price forecasting  
Day-ahead market  
Seasonality  
Autoregression  
Neural network  
Factor model  
Forecast combination  
Probabilistic forecast

## ABSTRACT

A variety of methods and ideas have been tried for electricity price the last 15 years, with varying degrees of success. This review article complexity of available solutions, their strengths and weaknesses, and threats that the forecasting tools offer or that may be encountered so. In particular, it postulates the need for objective comparative (i) the same datasets, (ii) the same robust error evaluation procedure testing of the significance of one model's outperformance of another



# Agenda

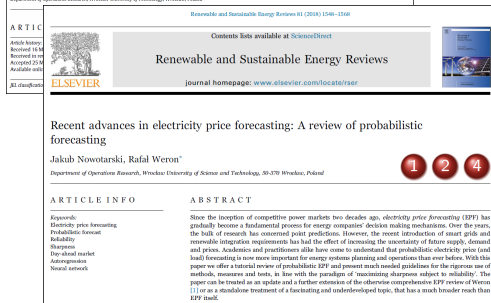
- 1 Beyond point forecasts  
⇒ probabilistic forecasts
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  - Point forecasts
  - Probabilistic forecasts
- 3 Seasonal components & short-term forecasting
  - SCAR framework
  - Case study
- 4 New trends in energy forecasting



On the importance of the long-term seasonal component in day-ahead electricity price forecasting

Jakub Nowotarski, Rafal Weron\*

Department of Operations Research, Wrocław University of Technology, Wrocław, Poland



Recent advances in electricity price forecasting: A review of probabilistic forecasting

Jakub Nowotarski, Rafal Weron\*

Department of Operations Research, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, 50-370 Wrocław, Poland

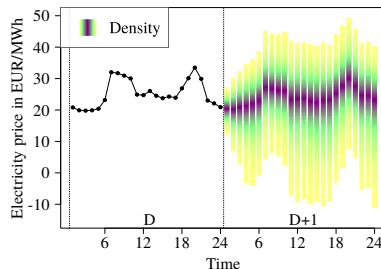
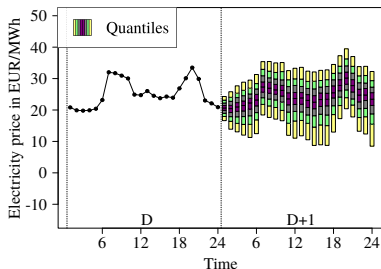
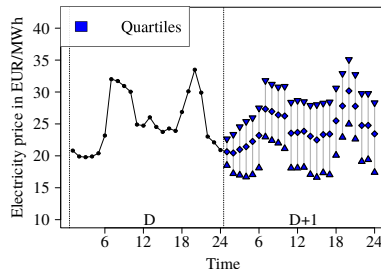
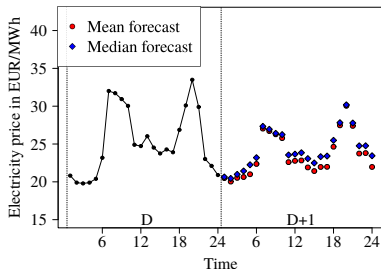
## ARTICLE INFO

**Keywords:**  
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Probabilistic forecast  
Reliability  
Sharpness  
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Neural network

## ABSTRACT

Since the inception of competitive power markets two decades ago, electricity price forecasting (EPF) has gradually become a fundamental process for energy companies' decision making mechanisms. Over the years, the bulk of research has concerned point predictions. However, the recent introduction of smart grids and renewable integration requirements has had the effect of increasing the uncertainty of future supply, demand and prices. Academics and practitioners alike have come to understand that probabilistic electricity price (and load) forecasting is now more important for energy systems planning and operations than ever before. With this paper we offer a tutorial review of probabilistic EPF and present much needed guidelines for the rigorous use of methods, measures and tests, in line with the paradigm of "maximizing sharpness subject to reliability". The paper can be treated as an update and a further extension of the otherwise comprehensive EPF review of Weron [1] or as a standalone treatment of a fascinating and underdeveloped topic, that has a much broader reach than EPF itself.

# A new hype: Point $\rightarrow$ probabilistic forecasting





# A (very) recent review of probabilistic forecasting

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 81 (2018) 1548–1568



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

## Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/rser](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/rser)



## Recent advances in electricity price forecasting: A review of probabilistic forecasting

Jakub Nowotarski, Rafał Weron\*

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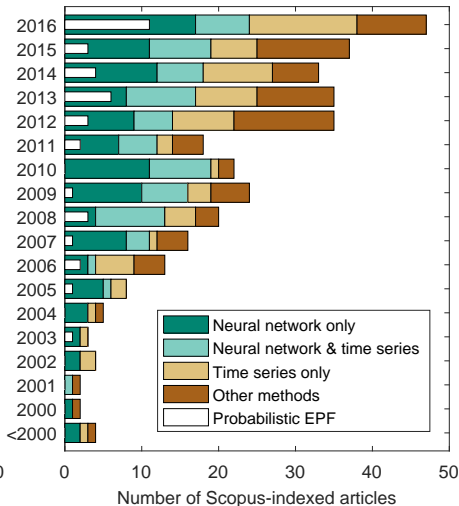
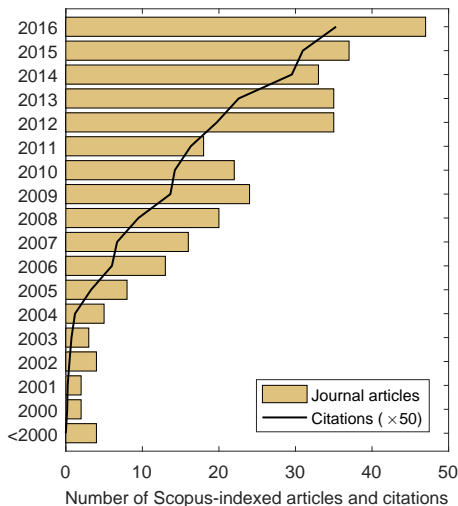
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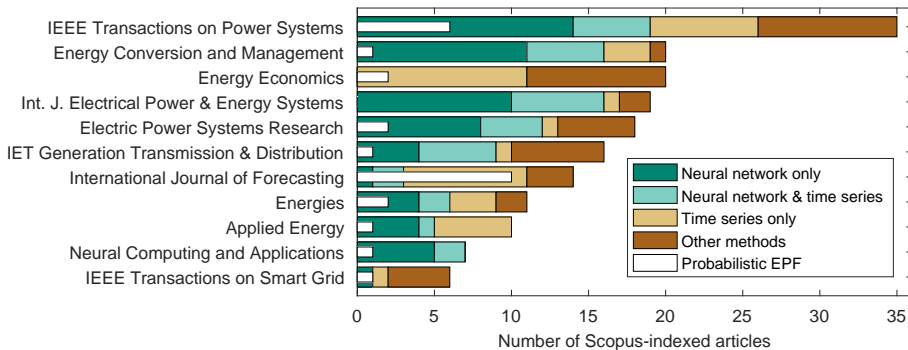
### ABSTRACT

Since the inception of competitive power markets two decades ago, *electricity price forecasting* (EPF) has gradually become a fundamental process for energy companies' decision making mechanisms. Over the years, the bulk of research has concerned point predictions. However, the recent introduction of smart grids and renewable integration requirements has had the effect of increasing the uncertainty of future supply, demand and prices. Academics and practitioners alike have come to understand that probabilistic electricity price (and load) forecasting is now more important for energy systems planning and operations than ever before. With this paper we offer a tutorial review of probabilistic EPF and present much needed guidelines for the rigorous use of methods, measures and tests, in line with the paradigm of 'maximizing sharpness subject to reliability'. The paper can be treated as an update and a further extension of the otherwise comprehensive EPF review of Weron [1] or as a standalone treatment of a fascinating and underdeveloped topic, that has a much broader reach than EPF itself.

# How popular is probabilistic EPF: Papers, cites



# How popular is probabilistic EPF: Journals



# GEFCom2014

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

**GEFCom  
2014**

Load Forecasting

**GEFCom  
2014**

Price Forecasting

**GEFCom  
2014**

Wind Forecasting

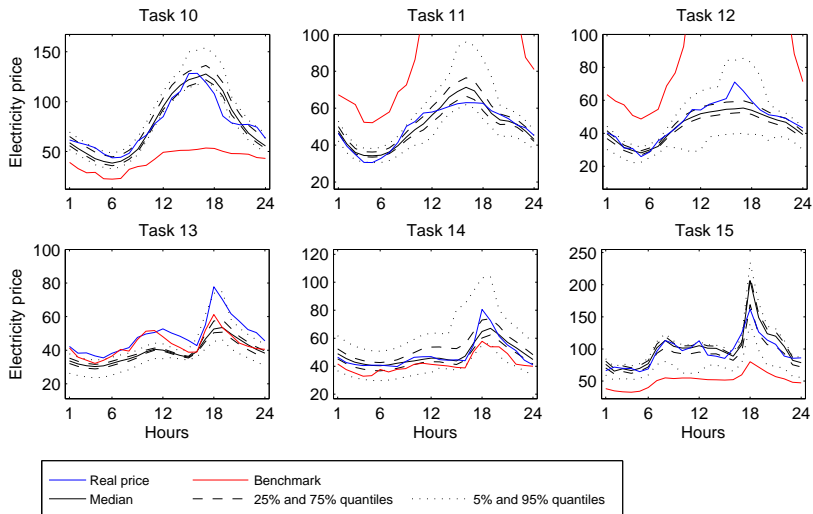
**GEFCom  
2014**

Solar Forecasting



- Incremental data sets released on weekly basis
- Price Track:
  - 287 contestants
  - Submit 99 quantiles (=percentiles) for 24h of the next day

# Price Track



# Price Track: Top winning teams

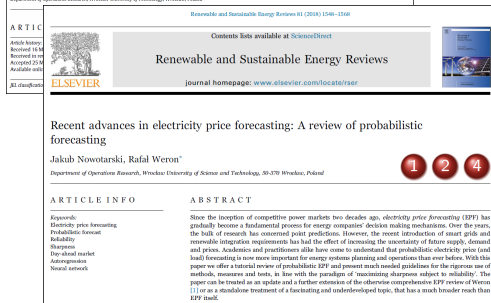
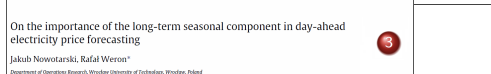
(1st and) 2nd place for QRA!

- 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)

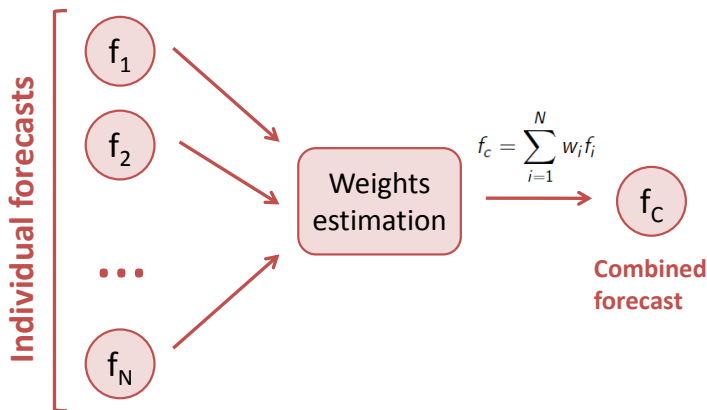


# Agenda

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# Point forecast averaging: The idea

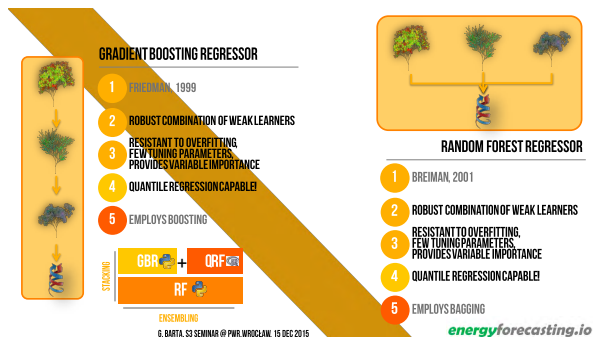


- Dates back to the 1960s and the works of Bates, Crane, Crotty & Granger



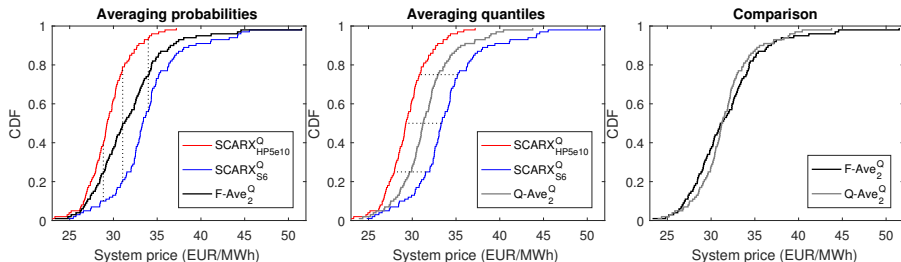
# In the 'AI world' ...

- *Committee machines, ensemble averaging, expert aggregation*
- Weron (2014): Forecast combinations and committee machines seem to *evolve independently*, with researchers from both groups not being aware of the parallel developments !



# Combining probabilistic forecasts is more tricky

- **Gneiting & Ranjan (2013)**: a linearly combined probabilistic forecast is more dispersed than the least dispersed of the component distributions
  - Helps if the component distributions tend to be underdispersed
- **Lichtendahl et al. (2013)**: averaging quantiles is better (sharper)



# Alternative: Quantile Regression Averaging (QRA)

(Submitted on 31.12.2013, 21:26 ;-)

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



CrossMark

ORIGINAL PAPER



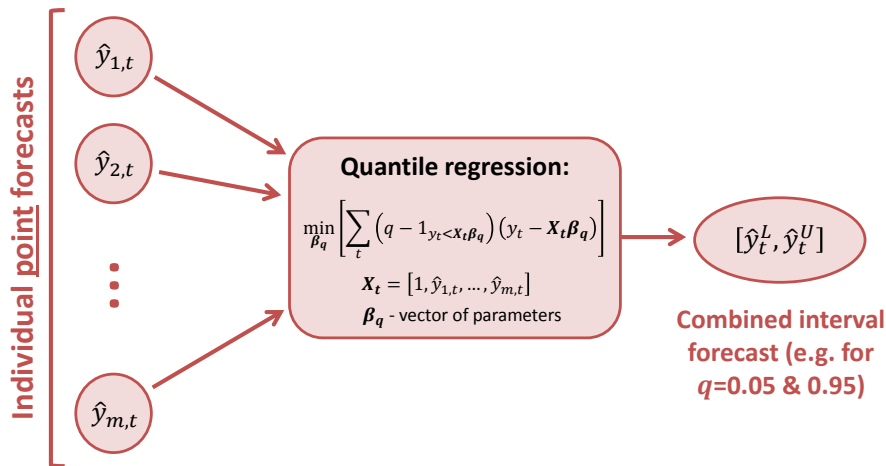
## Computing electricity spot price prediction intervals using quantile regression and forecast averaging

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

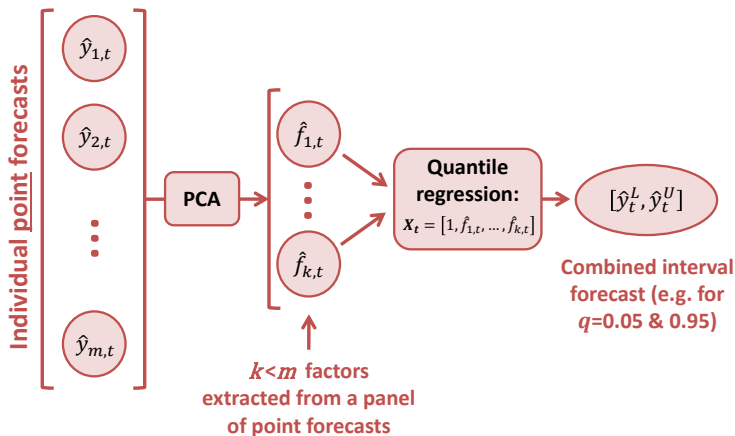
**Abstract** We examine possible accuracy gains from forecast averaging in the context of interval forecasts of electricity spot prices. First, we test whether constructing empirical prediction intervals (PI) from combined electricity spot price forecasts leads to better forecasts than those obtained 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

# Quantile Regression Averaging: The idea



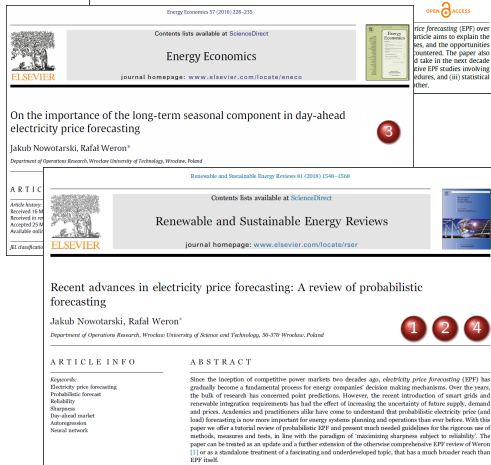
# FQRA: When the number of predictors is large

(Maciejowska, Nowotarski & Weron, 2016, IJF)



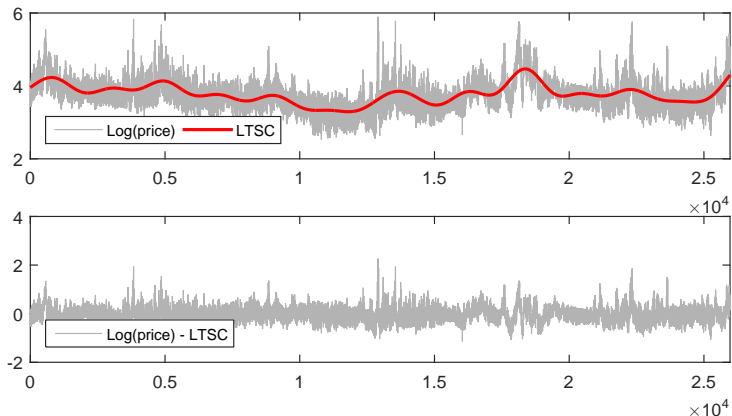
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# LTSC and short-term price forecasting

- Can the long-term trend-seasonal component (LTSC) impact short-term (day-ahead) electricity price forecasts?



# LTSC and short-term price forecasting cont.

Energy Economics 57 (2016) 228–235



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Energy Economics

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/eneco](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/eneco)

## On the importance of the long-term seasonal component in day-ahead electricity price forecasting



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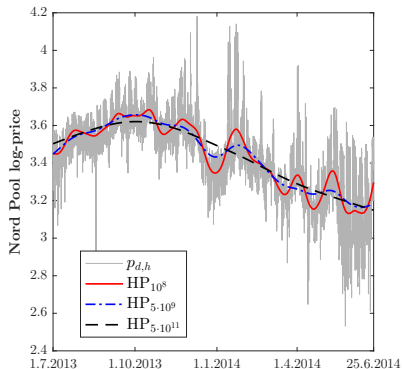
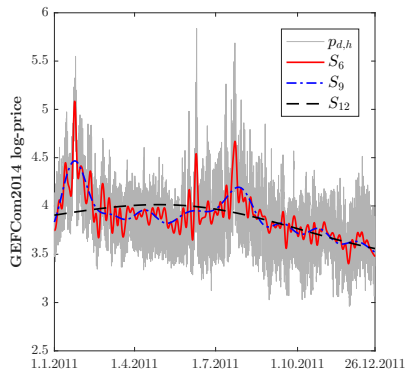
JEL classification:

### ABSTRACT

In day-ahead *electricity price forecasting* (EPF) the daily and weekly seasonalities are always taken into account, but the long-term seasonal component (LTSC) is believed to add unnecessary complexity to the already parameter-rich models and is generally ignored. Conducting an extensive empirical study involving state-of-the-art time series models we show that (i) decomposing a series of electricity prices into a LTSC and a stochastic component, (ii) modeling them independently and (iii) combining their forecasts can bring – contrary to a common belief – an accuracy gain compared to an approach in which a given time series model is calibrated to the prices themselves.



# Wavelet and HP-filter based LTSCs



- **Wavelet filters** ( $-S_J$ ):  $S_5, S_6, \dots, S_{14}$ , ranging from 'daily' smoothing ( $S_5 \rightarrow 2^5$  hours) up to 'biannual' ( $S_{14} \rightarrow 2^{14}$  hours)
- **HP-filters** ( $-HP_\lambda$ ): with  $\lambda = 10^8, 5 \cdot 10^8, 10^9, \dots, 5 \cdot 10^{11}$

# The **ARX** model

For the log-price, i.e.,  $p_{d,h} = \log(P_{d,h})$ , the model is given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_{d,h} = & \underbrace{\beta_{h,1}p_{d-1,h} + \beta_{h,2}p_{d-2,h} + \beta_{h,3}p_{d-7,h}}_{\text{autoregressive effects}} + \underbrace{\beta_{h,4}p_{d-1,\min}}_{\text{non-linear effect}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\beta_{h,5}z_t}_{\text{load forecast}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^3 \beta_{h,i+5}D_i}_{\text{Mon, Sat, Sun dummies}} + \varepsilon_{d,h}
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

- $p_{d-1,\min}$  is yesterday's minimum hourly price
- $z_t$  is the logarithm of system load/consumption
- Dummy variables  $D_1$ ,  $D_2$  and  $D_3$  refer to Monday, Saturday and Sunday, respectively

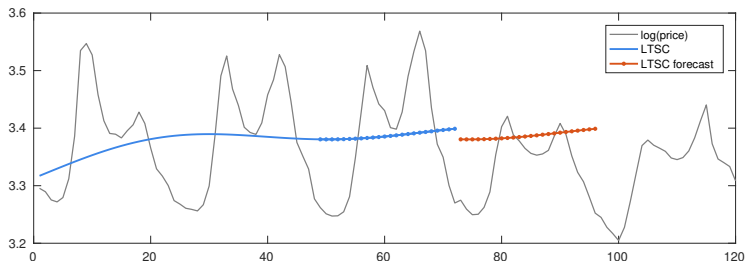
# The SCAR modeling framework

(Nowotarski & Weron, 2016, ENEECO; Uniejewski, Marcjasz & Weron, 2017, WP)

The *Seasonal Component AutoRegressive* (SCAR) modeling framework consists of the following steps:

- ➊ (a) Decompose the log-price in the calibration window into the LTSC  $T_{d,h}$  and the stochastic component  $q_{d,h}$ 
  - (b) Decompose the exogenous series in the calibration window using the same type of LTSC as for prices
- ➋ Calibrate the **ARX** model to  $q_t$  and compute forecasts for the 24 hours of the next day (24 separate series)

# The SCAR modeling framework cont.



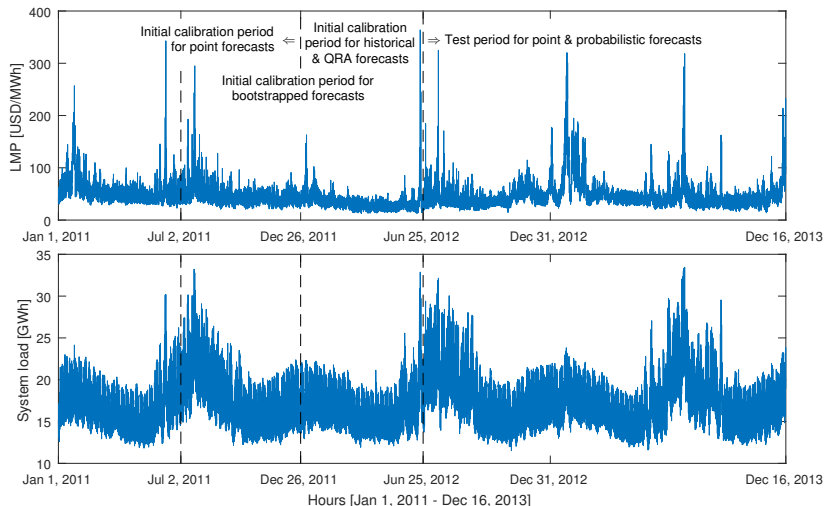
- ③ Add stochastic component forecasts  $\hat{q}_{d+1,h}$  to persistent forecasts  $\hat{T}_{d+1,h}$  of the LTSC to yield log-price forecasts  $\hat{p}_{d+1,h}$
- ④ Convert them into price forecasts of the **SCARX** model, i.e.,  $\hat{P}_{d+1,h} = \exp(\hat{p}_{d+1,h})$

# Three methods of constructing PIs

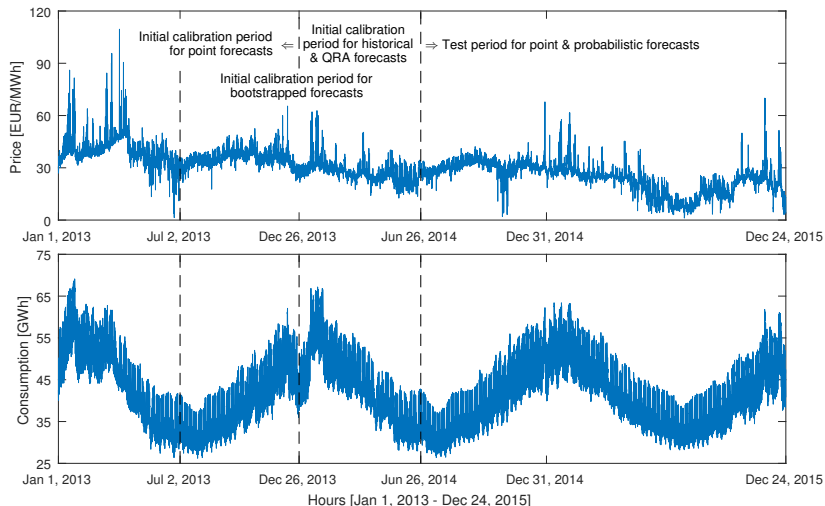
- ➊ **Historical simulation (H)**, which consists of computing sample quantiles of the empirical distribution of  $\varepsilon_{d,h}$ 's
- ➋ **Bootstrapping (B)**, which first generates pseudo-prices recursively using sampled normalized residuals, then computes desired quantiles of the bootstrapped prices
  - Takes into account not only historical forecast errors but also parameter uncertainty
- ➌ **Quantile Regression Averaging (Q)**

**Note:** All require that one-day ahead point prediction errors are available in the calibration window for probabilistic forecasts

# Datasets: GEFCom 2014

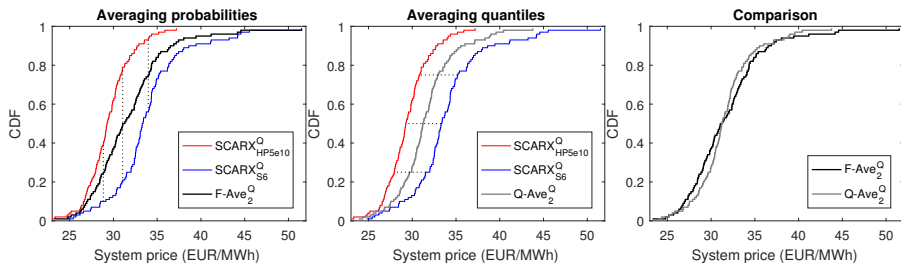


# Datasets: Nord Pool



# Combining probabilistic forecasts

- **Average probability forecast:**  $\mathbf{F-Ave}_n^* \equiv \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{F}_i(x)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  a vertical average of predictive distributions
- **Average quantile forecast:**  $\mathbf{Q-Ave}_n^* \equiv \hat{Q}^{-1}(x)$   
 with  $\hat{Q}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \hat{Q}_i(x)$  and quantile forecast  $\hat{Q}_i(x) = \hat{F}_i^{-1}(x)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  a horizontal average
- $*$  = **H**, **B** or **Q** denotes the method of constructing PIs



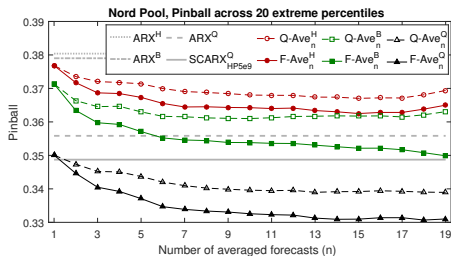
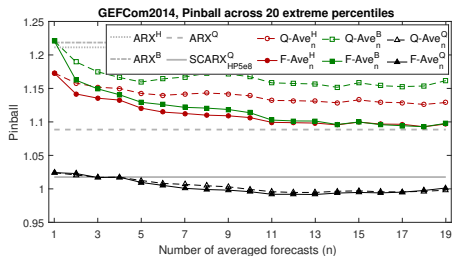
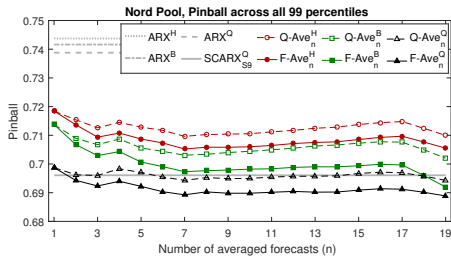
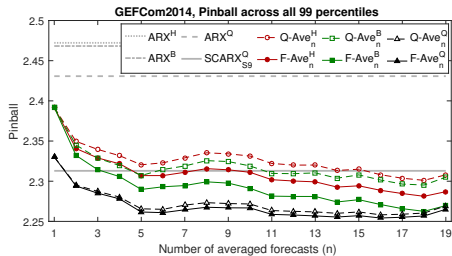


# Sharpness and the pinball loss

$$\text{Pinball}(\hat{Q}_{P_t}(q), P_t, q) = \begin{cases} (1 - q)(\hat{Q}_{P_t}(q) - P_t), & \text{for } P_t < \hat{Q}_{P_t}(q), \\ q(P_t - \hat{Q}_{P_t}(q)), & \text{for } P_t \geq \hat{Q}_{P_t}(q), \end{cases}$$

- $\hat{Q}_{P_t}(q)$  is the price forecast at the  $q$ -th quantile
- $P_t$  is the actually observed price
- To provide an aggregate score we average:
  - across all hours in the test period
  - across different quantiles (all 99 or extreme 20 percentiles)

# How many models should we average?



# Diebold-Mariano (DM) tests

Define the 'multivariate' loss differential series in the  $\|\cdot\|_1$ -norm as:

$$\Delta_{X,Y,d} = \|\pi_{X,d}\|_1 - \|\pi_{Y,d}\|_1$$

where

- $\pi_{X,d} = (\pi_{X,d,1}, \dots, \pi_{X,d,24})'$  is the vector of pinball scores for model  $X$  and day  $d$
- $\|\pi_{X,d}\|_1 = \sum_{h=1}^{24} |\pi_{X,d,h}|$  is the average across the 24 hours

As in the standard DM test, we assume that the loss differential series is covariance stationary

# Diebold-Mariano (DM) tests cont.

For each model pair we compute two one-sided DM tests:

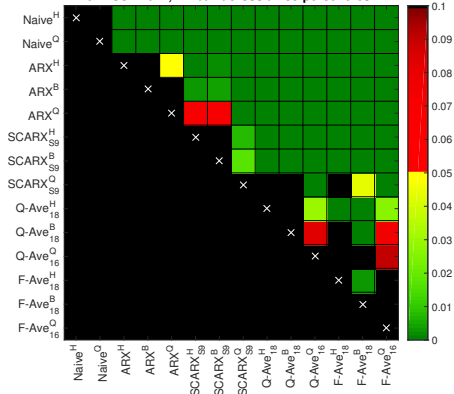
- ①  $H_0 : E(\Delta_{X,Y,d}) \leq 0 \Rightarrow \text{X yields better forecasts}$
- ②  $H_0^R : E(\Delta_{X,Y,d}) \geq 0 \Rightarrow \text{Y yields better forecasts}$

We present results for 14 selected models:

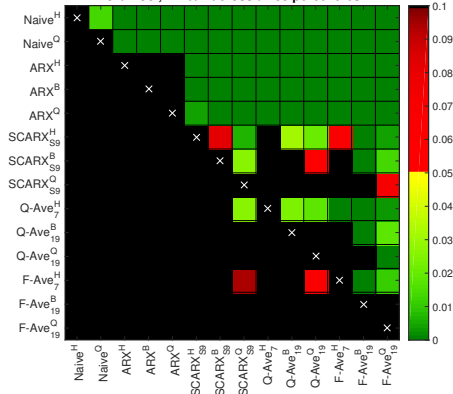
- Both naive benchmarks – **Naive<sup>H</sup>**, **Naive<sup>Q</sup>**
- All three ARX benchmarks – **ARX<sup>H</sup>**, **ARX<sup>B</sup>**, **ARX<sup>Q</sup>**
- The best *ex-post*
  - **SCARX<sub>\*</sub><sup>H</sup>**, **SCARX<sub>\*</sub><sup>B</sup>** and **SCARX<sub>\*</sub><sup>Q</sup>** models
  - **Q-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>H</sup>**, **Q-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>B</sup>** and **Q-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>Q</sup>** average quantile forecasts
  - **F-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>H</sup>**, **F-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>B</sup>** and **F-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>Q</sup>** average probability forecasts

# $p$ -values of the DM test across 99 percentiles

GEFCom2014, Pinball across all 99 percentiles

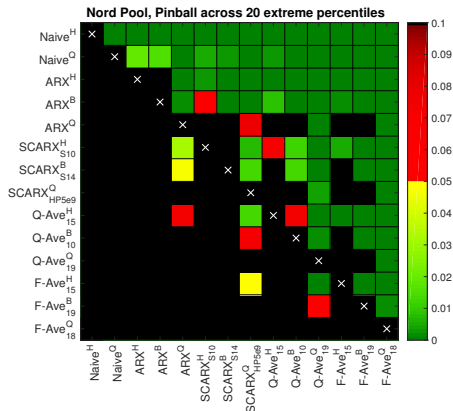
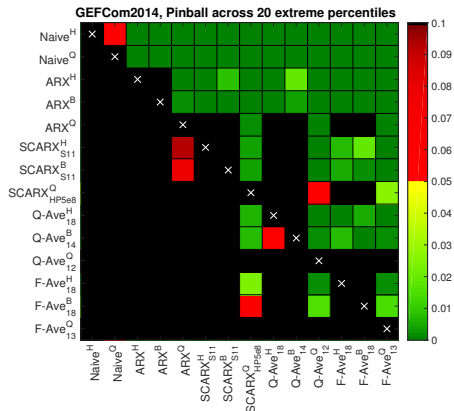


Nord Pool, Pinball across all 99 percentiles



We use a heat map to indicate the range of the  $p$ -values – the closer they are to zero ( $\rightarrow$  **dark green**) the more significant is the difference between the forecasts of a model on the X-axis (better) and the forecasts of a model on the Y-axis (worse)

# $p$ -values of the DM test across 20 percentiles



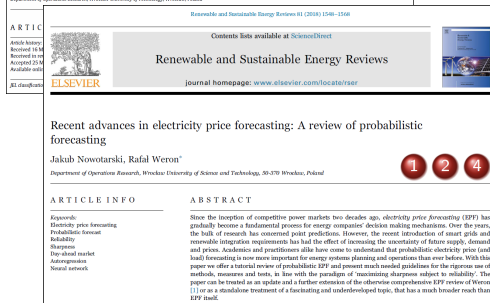
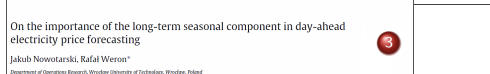
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# Main findings

- ‘Probabilistic’ **SCARX** models (nearly always) significantly outperform the **Naive** and **ARX** benchmarks
  - **SCARX<sup>Q</sup>** models (nearly always) significantly outperform **SCARX<sup>H</sup>** and **SCARX<sup>B</sup>**
- Both averaging schemes generally significantly outperform the benchmarks and the non-combined **SCARX** models
- Averaging over probabilities (**F-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>\*</sup>**) generally yields better probabilistic EPFs than averaging over quantiles (**Q-Ave<sub>n</sub><sup>\*</sup>**)
  - In contrast to typically encountered economic forecasting problems (Lichtendahl et al., 2013)

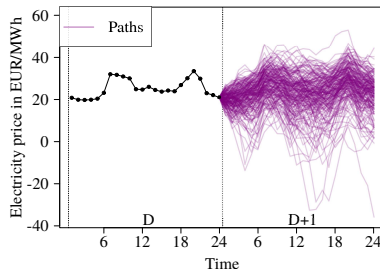
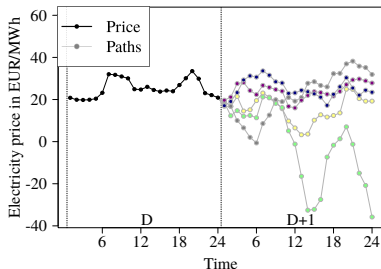
# Agenda

- 1 Beyond point forecasts  
⇒ probabilistic forecasts
- 2 Combining forecasts
  - Point forecasts
  - Probabilistic forecasts
- 3 Seasonal components  
& short-term forecasting
  - SCAR framework
  - Case study
- 4 New trends in energy forecasting



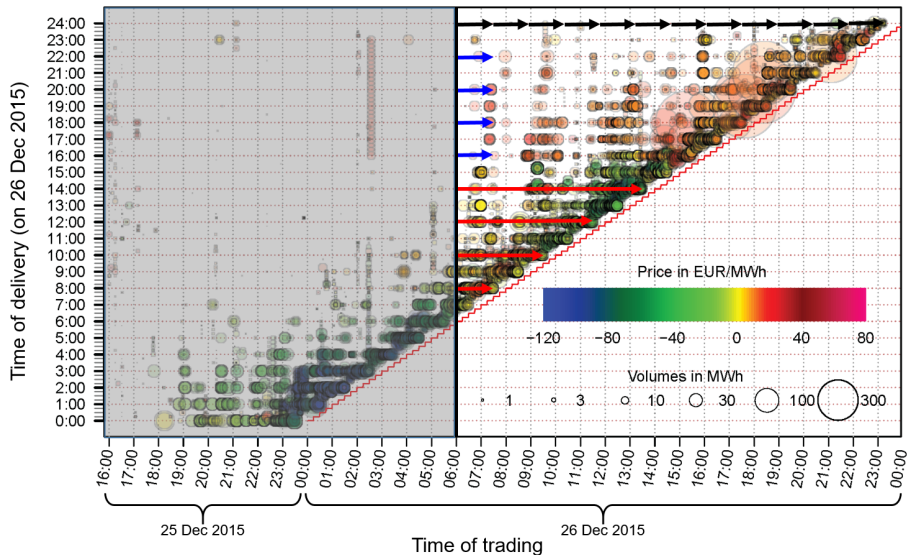


# Point $\rightarrow$ probabilistic $\rightarrow$ path forecasting



- Relatively novel in EPF (but not in weather forecasting)
- Operational decisions often depend on prices for multiple hours in a row (e.g., ramping costs of power plants)
- Regulatory incentives: in Germany a wind park can receive less subsidies if the electricity price is negative for 6 hours in a row

# Intraday forecasting



# A new book on EPF ... forthcoming in 2018

*Rafał Weron, Florian Ziel*



## ***Forecasting Electricity Prices: A Guide to Robust Modeling***

Chap. 1: The Art of Forecasting

Chap. 2: Markets for Electricity

Chap. 3: Forecasting for Beginners

Chap. 4: Forecasting for Intermediates

Chap. 5: Evaluating Models and Forecasts

Chap. 6: Forecasting for Experts