

Recent advances in electricity price forecasting: A 2018 perspective



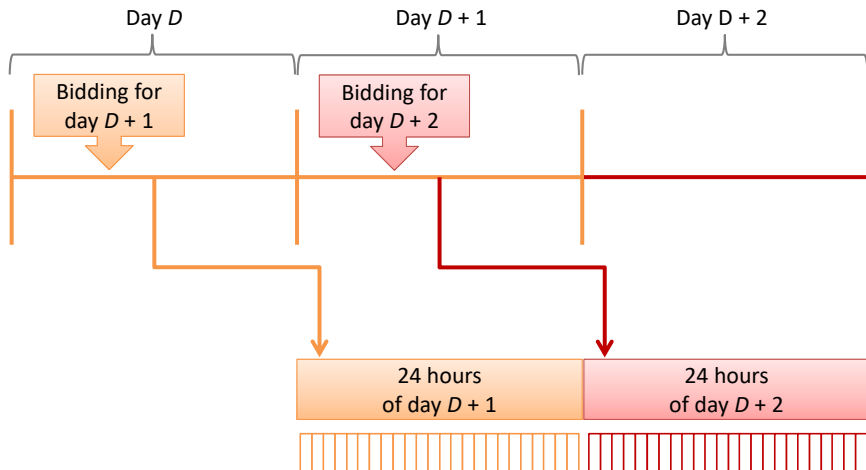
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Wrocław University of Science and Technology (PWr), Poland
<http://kbo.pwr.edu.pl/en/staff/rafal-weron/>

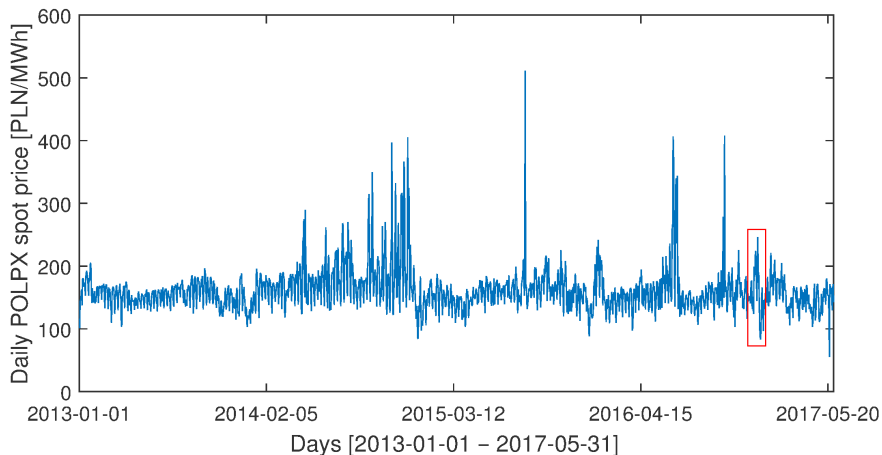
*Based on work with K.Hubicka, K.Maciejowska, G.Marcjasz, T.Serafin, B.Uniejewski (PWr)
J.Nowotarski (BNY Mellon), F.Ziel (Essen)

The workhorse of European power trading

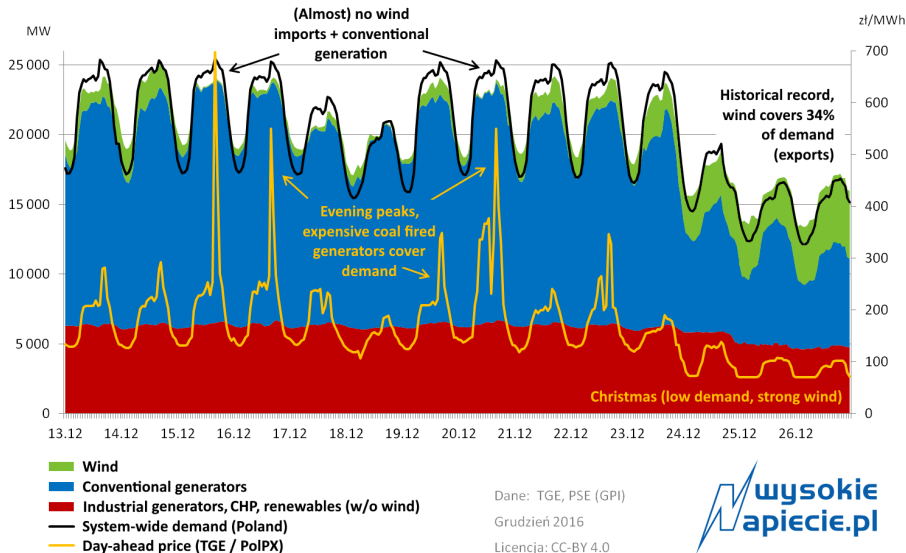
The day-ahead market (ca. 93% of papers)



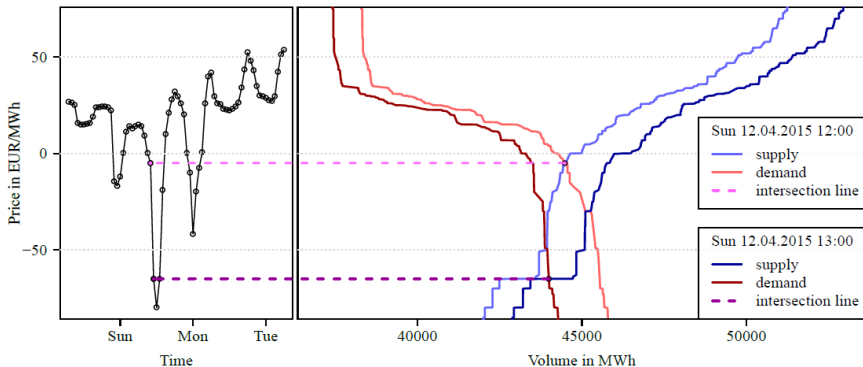
Seasonality, mean-reversion and price spikes



A closeup on two weeks in December 2016

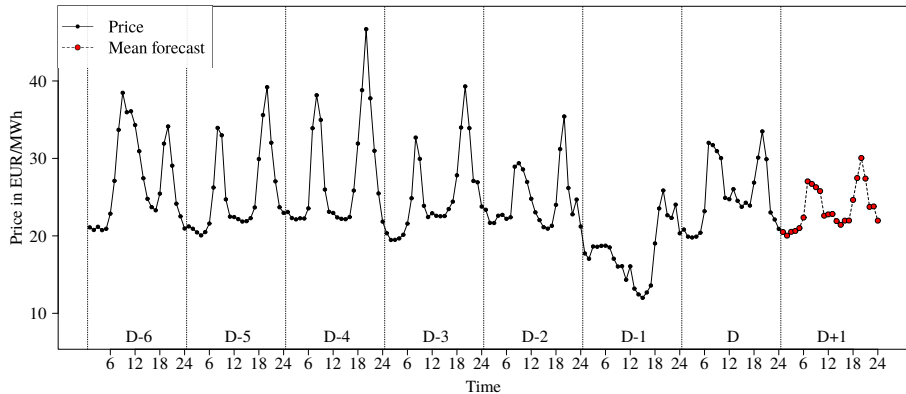


Supply and demand, renewables and negative prices

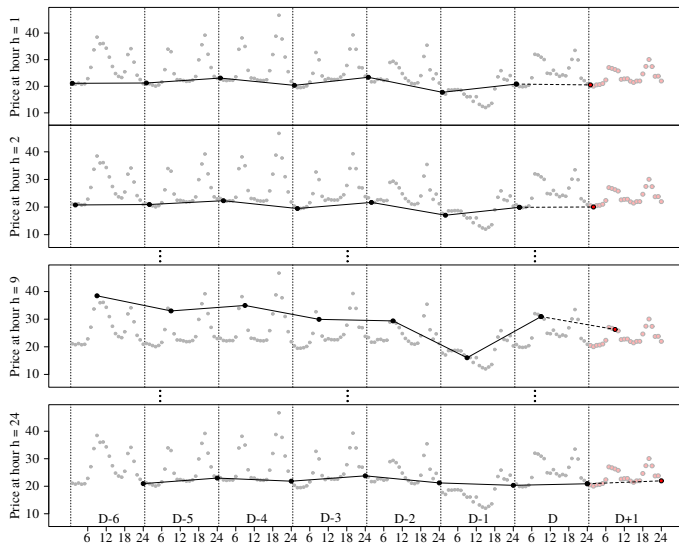


Source: Ziel & Steinert (2016, ENEECO)

Day-ahead point forecasting: Univariate ...



... or multivariate?

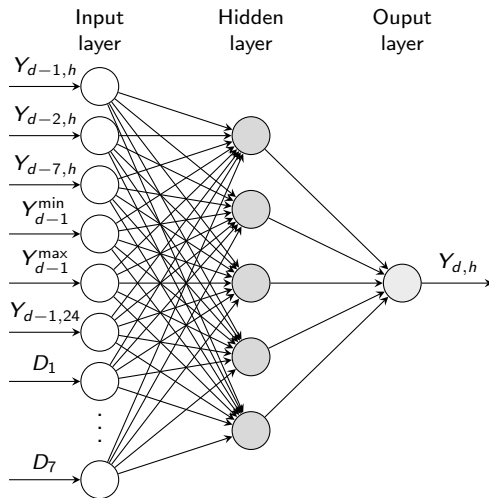


Day-ahead point forecasting: Regression ...

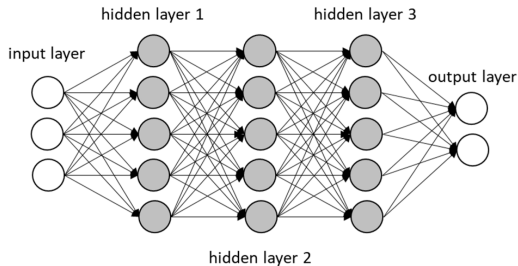
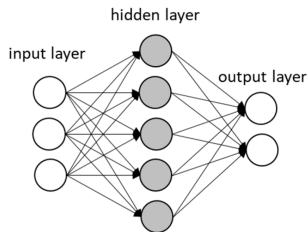
Electricity price for day d and hour h :

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

... neural nets ...



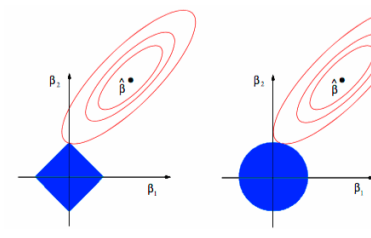
... or deep neural nets (DNN)?



(Uniejewski et al., 2016, Energies; Ziel & Weron, 2018, ENEECO)

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

$$\hat{\beta} = \underset{\beta_j}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ RSS + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n |\beta_j|^q \right\}$$



Blue areas – constraint regions, e.g., $|\beta_1| + |\beta_2| \leq t$

Red ellipses – contours of the LS error function

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

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journal homepage: 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

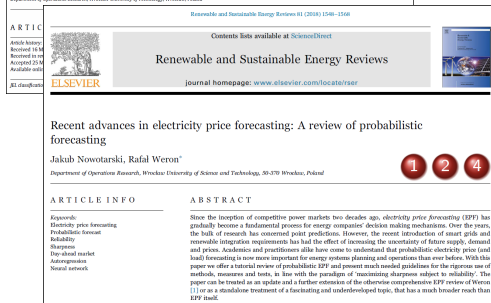
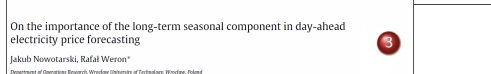
ABSTRACT

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



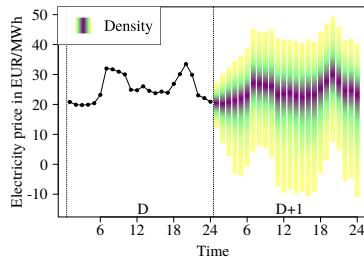
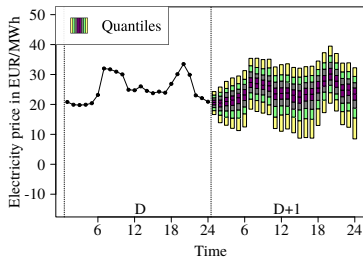
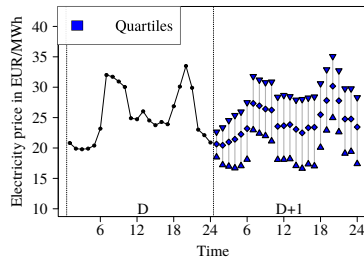
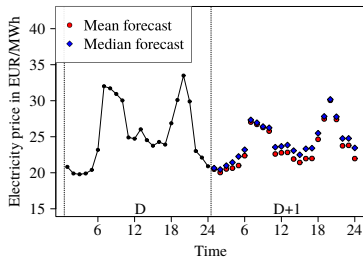
Agenda

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



A new hype: Point $\rightarrow$ probabilistic forecasting

(ca. 7% of EPF papers)



(Very) recent reviews of probabilistic EPF



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(2018)

Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rser



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



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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Electricity price forecasting
Probabilistic forecast
Reliability
Sharpness
Day-ahead market
Autoregression
Neural network



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Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/rser



Probabilistic mid- and long-term electricity price forecasting

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Electricity prices

ABSTRACT

The liberalization of electricity markets and the development of renewable energy sources has led to new challenges for decision makers. These challenges are accompanied by an increasing uncertainty about future

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

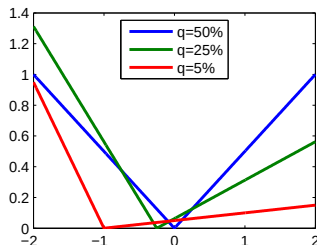


- Incremental data sets released on weekly basis
- Price Track:
 - 287 contestants
 - Submit 99 quantiles (=percentiles) for 24h of the next day
- Evaluation based on the Pinball Score ('discrete' CRPS)

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
- For an aggregate score average:
 - across all hours in the test period
 - across different quantiles



Price Track: Top winning teams

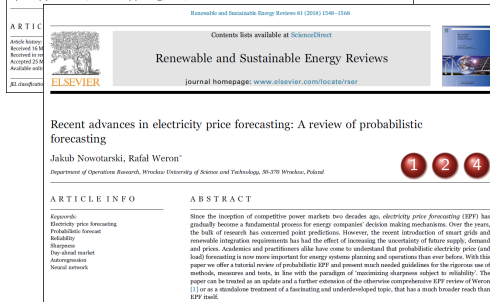
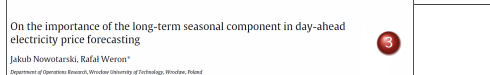
(1st and) 2nd place for QRA!

- 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)

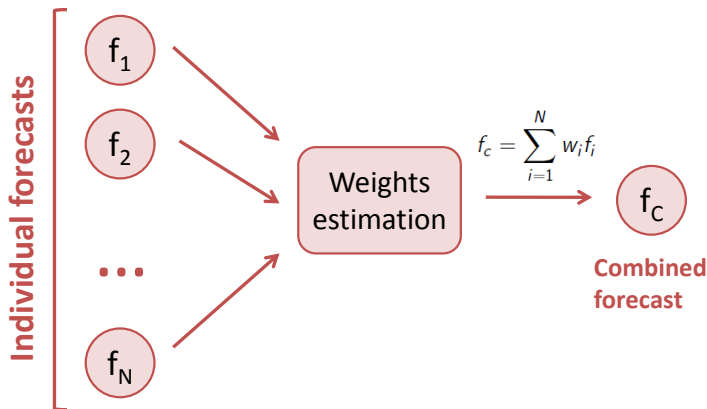


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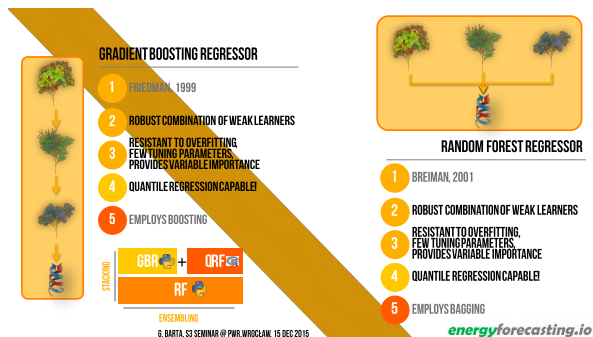
Point forecast averaging: The idea



- 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 !



Quantile Regression Averaging (QRA)

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



CrossMark

ORIGINAL PAPER



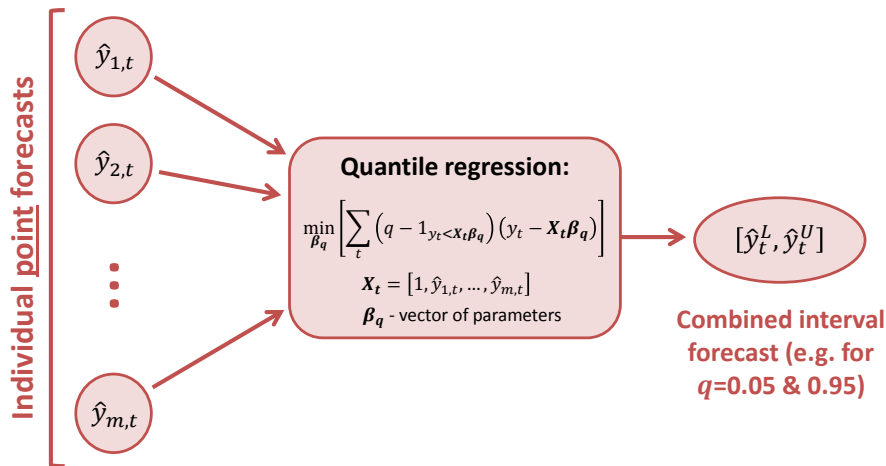
Computing electricity spot price prediction intervals using quantile regression and forecast averaging

Jakub Nowotarski · Rafał Weron

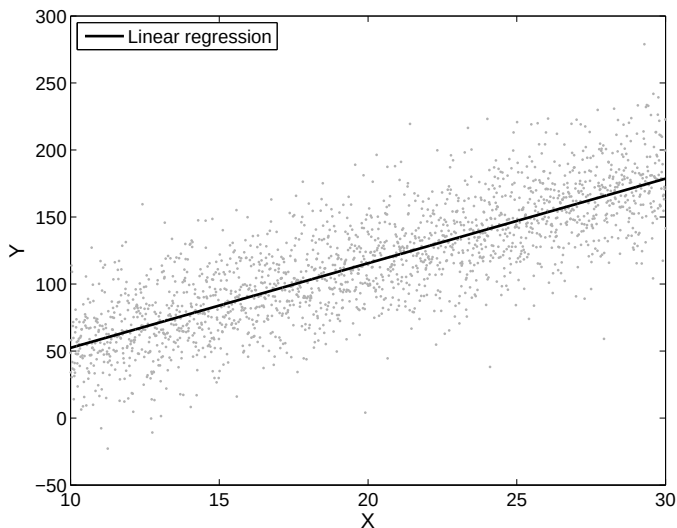
Received: 31 December 2013 / Accepted: 6 August 2014 / Published online: 19 August 2014
© The Author(s) 2014. This article is published with open access at Springerlink.com

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

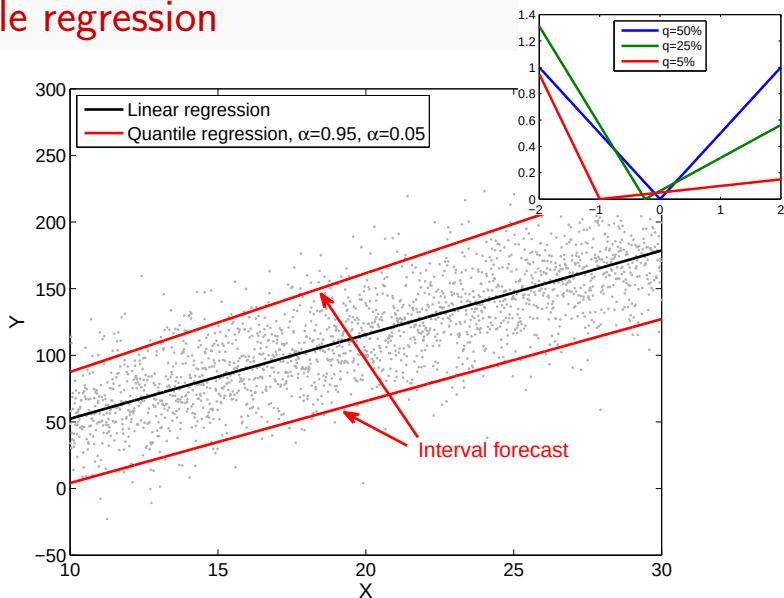
Quantile Regression Averaging: The idea



Quantile regression

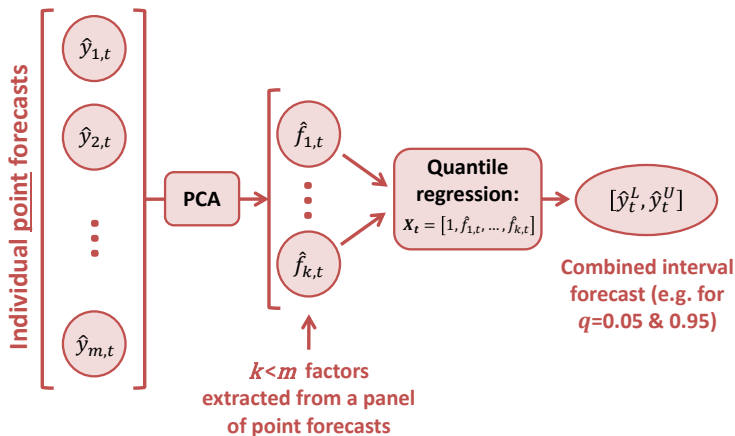


Quantile regression



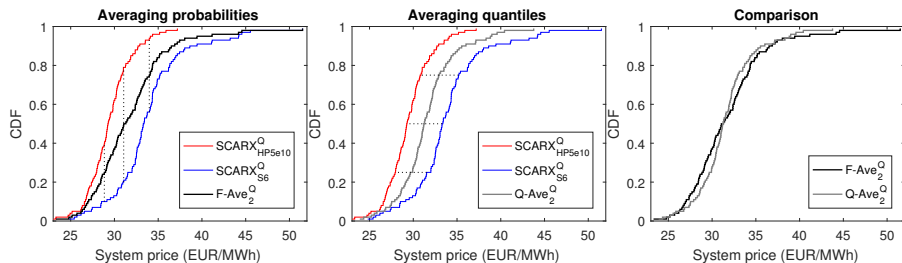
FQRA: When the number of predictors is large

(Maciejowska, Nowotarski & Weron, 2016, IJF)



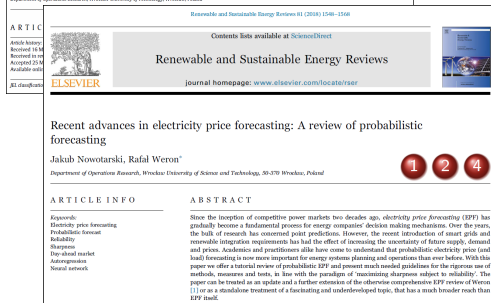
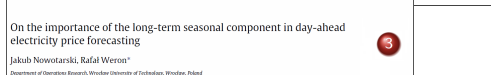
Combining probabilistic forecasts is more tricky

- **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 (always 'sharper' = 'more concentrated')



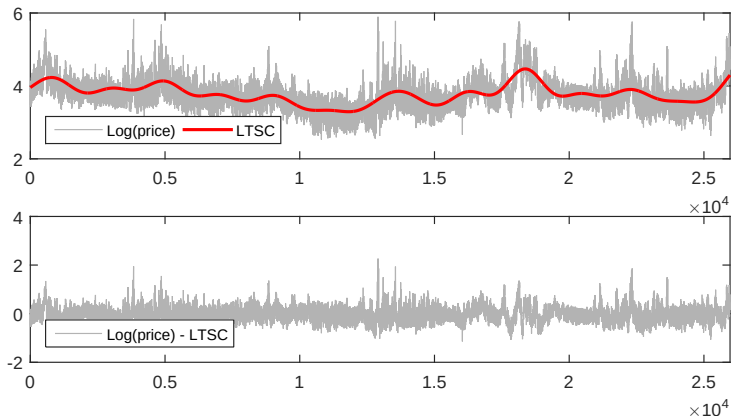
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LTSC and short-term price forecasting

- 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



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Energy Economics

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



Jakub Nowotarski, Rafał Weron*

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

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

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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.

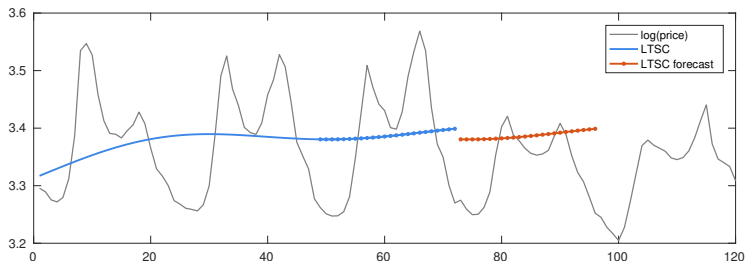
The SCAR modeling framework

(Nowotarski & Weron, 2016, ENEECO; Uniejewski et al., 2018, ENEECO)

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

- 1 (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
- 2 Calibrate the **ARX** model to q_t and compute forecasts for the 24 hours of the next day (24 separate series)

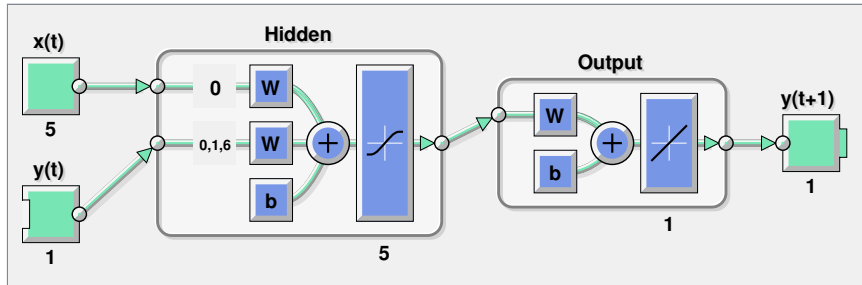
The SCAR modeling framework cont.



- 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., $\hat{P}_{d+1,h} = \exp(\hat{p}_{d+1,h})$

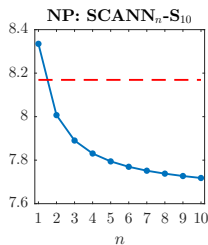
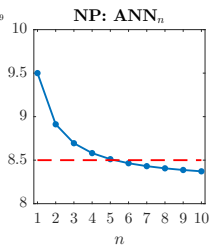
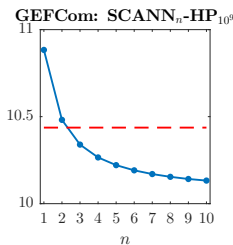
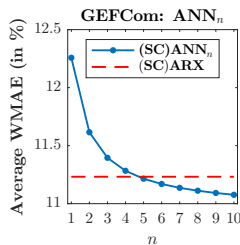
The SCANN modeling framework

(Marcjasz, Uniejewski & Weron, 2018, IJF)



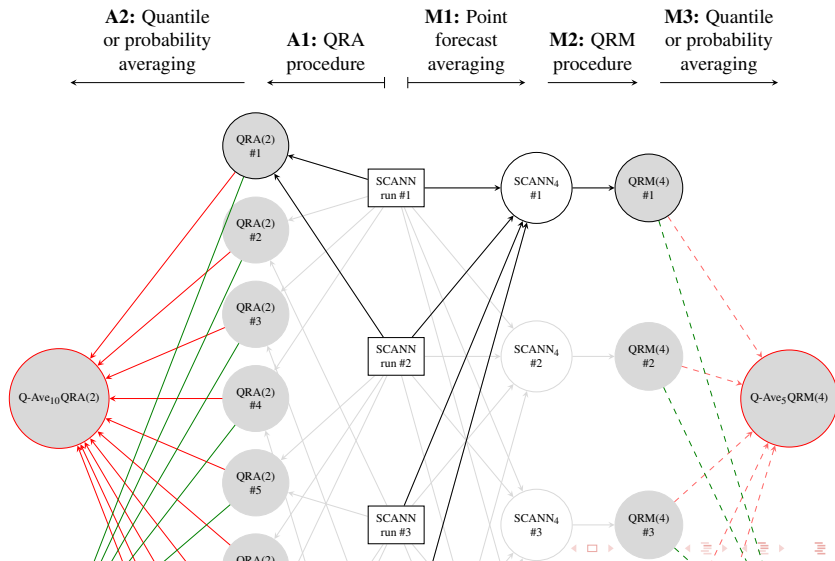
- One hidden layer with 5 neurons and sigmoid activation functions
- NARX inputs identical as in the **ARX** model
- Trained using Matlab's `trainlm` function, utilizing the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm for supervised learning

Sample gains from using committee machines



- Forecast errors roughly scale as a power-law function of the number of networks in a committee machine
- We should use as large committee machines as we can ...
- ... or use a more efficient training algorithm → FANN library, see [Marcjasz, Uniejewski & Weron \(2018, WP\)](#)

Combining point or probabilistic forecasts?



Agenda

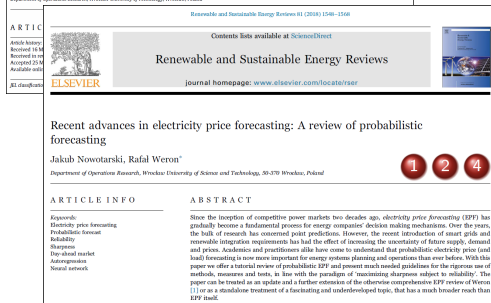
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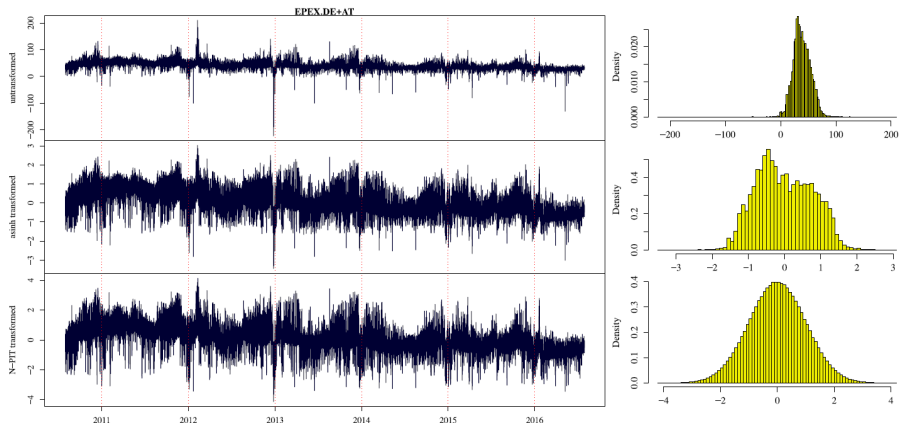
Keywords:
Electricity price forecasting
Probabilistic forecast
Reliability
Sharpness
Day-ahead market
Autoregression
Neural network

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 led 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.

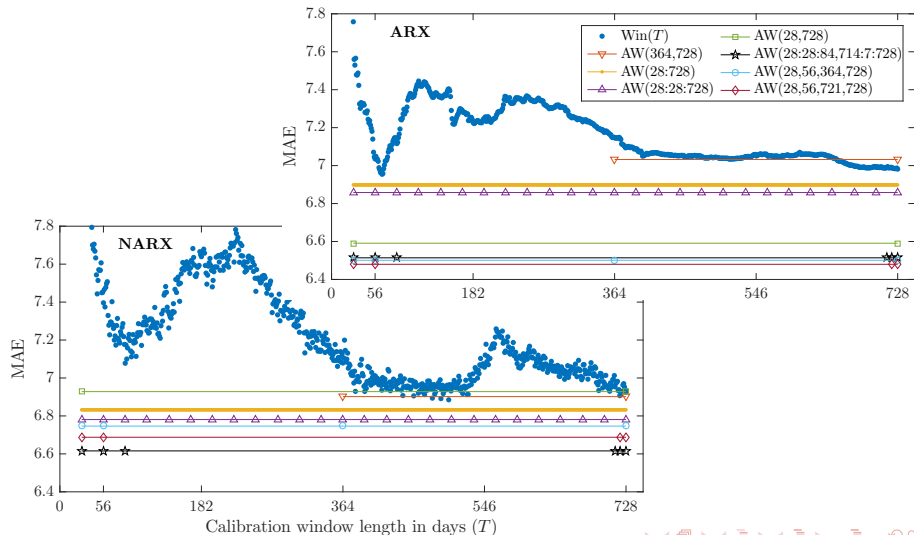
Variance stabilizing transformations (VSTs)

(Uniejewski, Weron & Ziel, 2018, IEEE-TPWRS)



Averaging across calibration windows

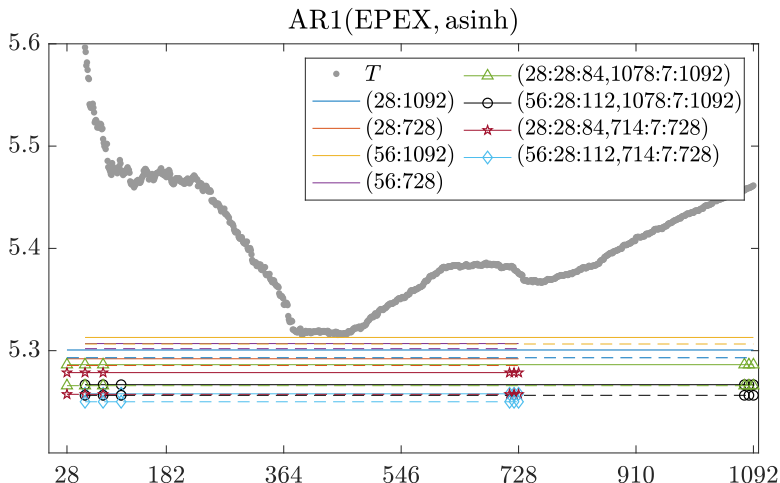
(Hubicka, Marcjasz & Weron, 2018, IEEE-TSE)



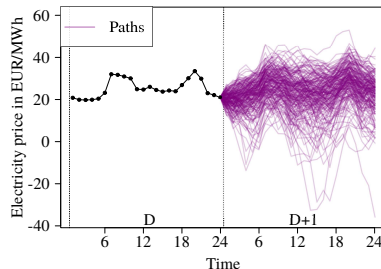
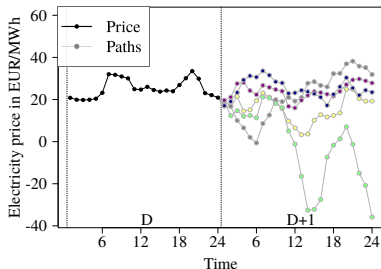
Past performance-weighted averaging

(Marcjasz, Serafin & Weron, 2018, Energies)

'—' AW, '- -' WAW

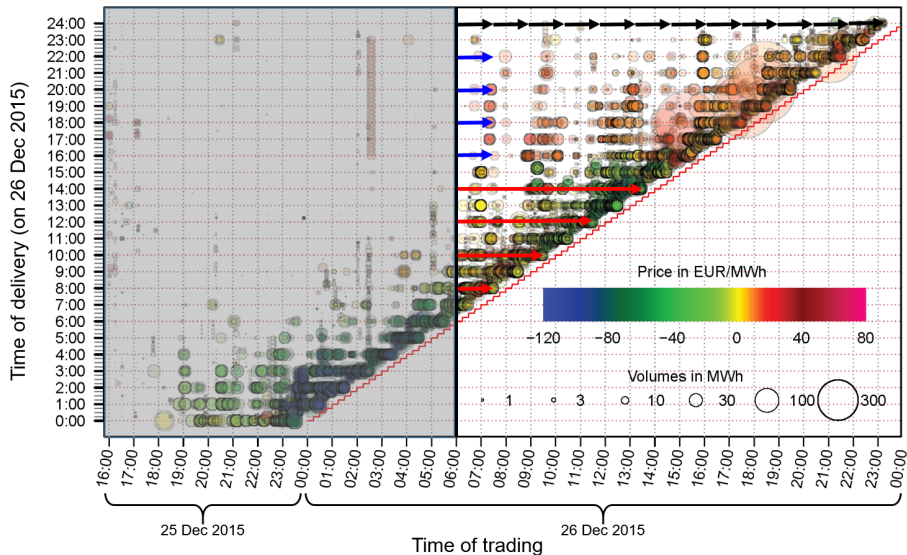


Not yet a hype: Probabilistic $\rightarrow$ path forecasting



- 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

INREC 2018 hype: Intraday forecasting



Forecast evaluation

- Point forecasts: MAE, RMSE, MAPE → Mean Absolute Scaled Error (MASE; Hyndman & Koehler, 2006, IJF)
- Prediction intervals:

Interval forecasts Statistics	Tests
<i>Reliability/calibration/unbiasedness</i>	
Unconditional coverage [46,77]	Kupiec [77]
Conditional coverage [46] (CC = UC + Independence)	Christoffersen [46] (<i>Lagged</i> [81]) <i>Ljung-Box</i> <i>Christoffersen</i> [82] <i>Duration-based tests</i> [83,84] <i>Dynamic Quantile (DQ)</i> [85] <i>VQR</i> [86]
<i>Sharpness (and reliability)</i>	
Pinball loss [87,88] Winkler (interval) score [89]	Diebold-Mariano [90,91] <i>Model confidence set</i> [92] <i>Forecast encompassing</i> [93]

Forecast evaluation cont.

- Distributional forecasts:

Density forecasts Statistics	Tests
Probability Integral Transform (PIT) [15,78] Berkowitz CC statistic [48]	Visual 'tests' [15,17] <i>Tests for uniformity</i> [79,80] Berkowitz [48]
Continuous Ranked Probability Score (CRPS) [16,94] <i>Logarithmic score</i> [95]	Diebold-Mariano [90,91] <i>Model confidence set</i> [92] <i>Forecast encompassing</i> [93]

- Path (multivariate) forecasts: Energy score (Gneiting & Raftery, 2007), variogram-based scores (Scheuerer & Hamill, 2015)
- Predictive ability: unconditional (Diebold & Mariano, 1995), conditional (Giacomini & White, 2006)

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