

Recent advances in electricity price forecasting: A 2024 perspective

Rafał Weron*

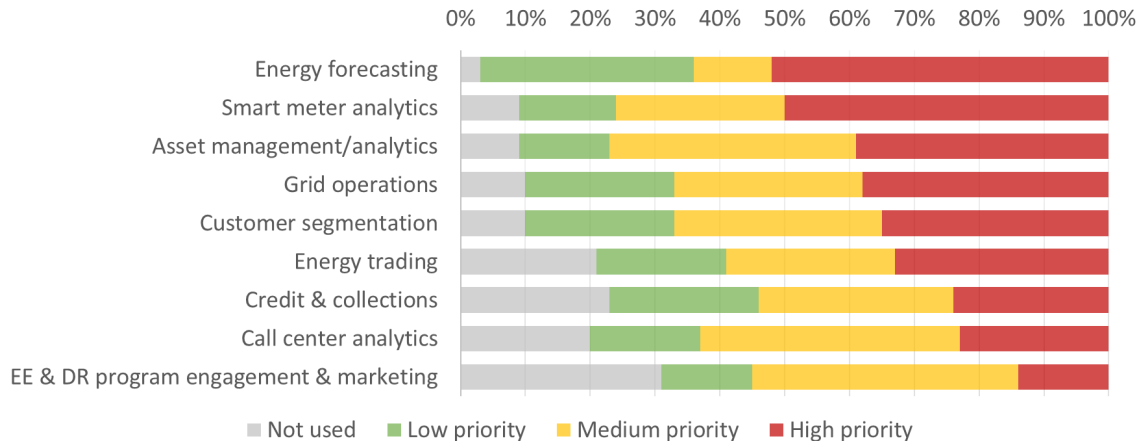
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<https://p.wz.pwr.edu.pl/~weron.rafal>



* Based on joint work with A.Lipiecki, K.Maciejowska, W.Nitka, T.Serafin, B.Uniejewski (Wrocław Tech), C.Challu, K.Olivares (Carnegie Mellon), A.Jędrzejewski (U.Cergy-Pontoise), F.Ziel (U.Duisburg-Essen), K.Hubicka (UBS), C.Kath (RWE), J.Lago (Amazon), G.Marcjasz (Alpiq), M.Narajewski (Statkraft), J.Nasiadka (Nokia), J.Nowotarski (BNY Mellon)

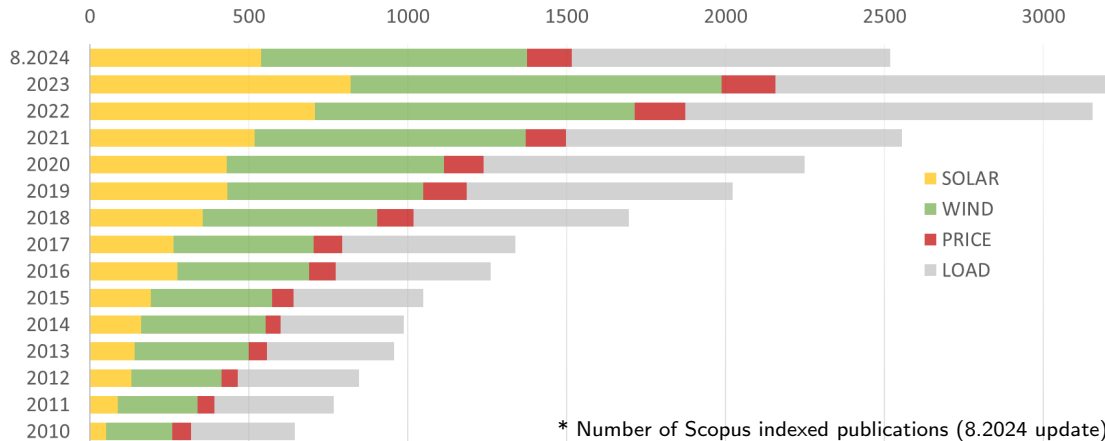
Energy forecasting is a top priority for utilities

(SAS, 2017, White Paper; responses from 136 utilities from 24 countries)



Energy (load, price, wind & solar) forecasting*

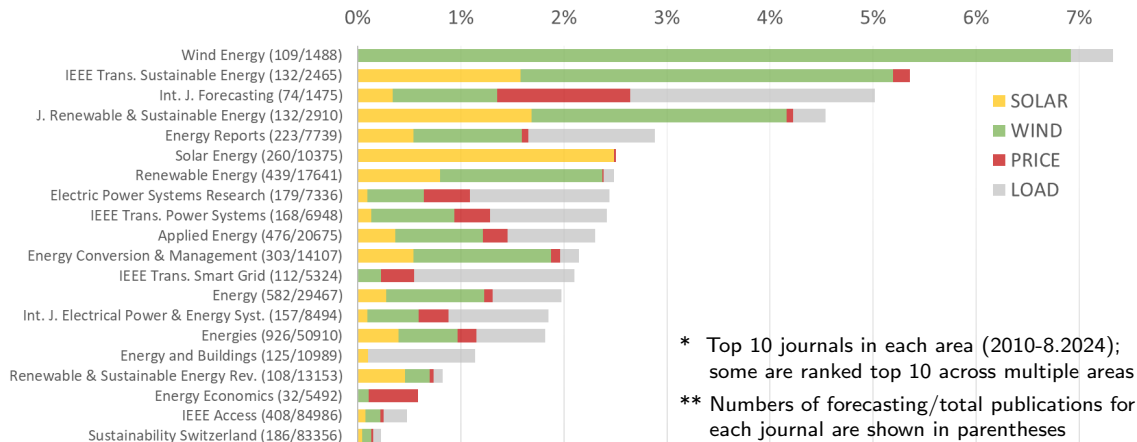
(Hong, Pinson, Wang, Weron, Yang & Zareipour, 2020, IEEE OAJPE)



* Number of Scopus indexed publications (8.2024 update)

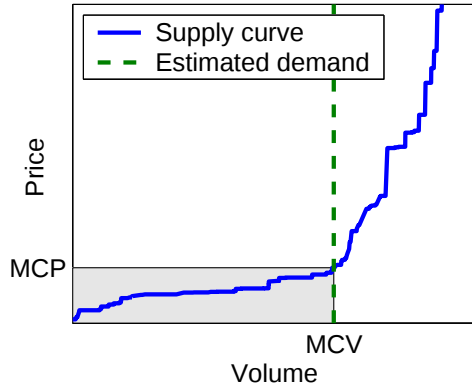
Percentage of energy forecasting publications*

(Hong, Pinson, Wang, Weron, Yang & Zareipour, 2020, IEEE OAJPE)

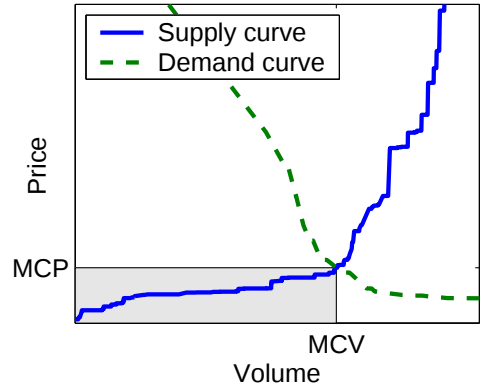


Power pool vs. power exchange

Power pool: one-sided auction

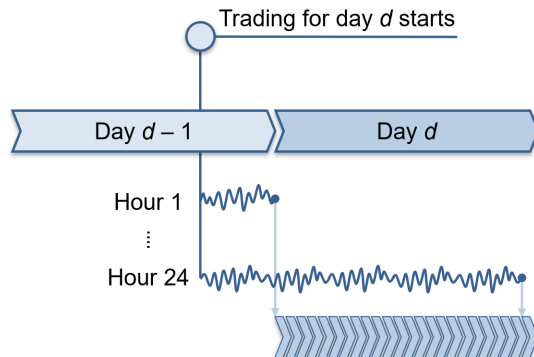
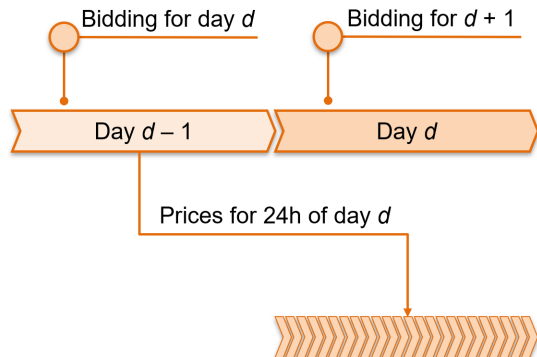


Power exchange: two-sided auction



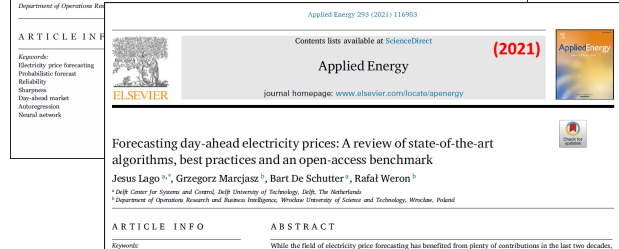
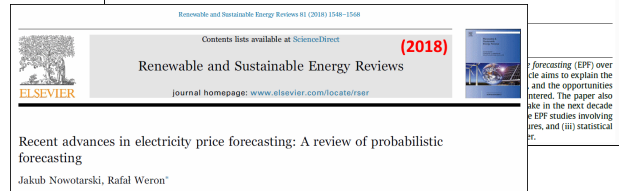
Day-ahead ($> 90\%$ of papers) vs. intraday markets

Auction vs. continuous trading



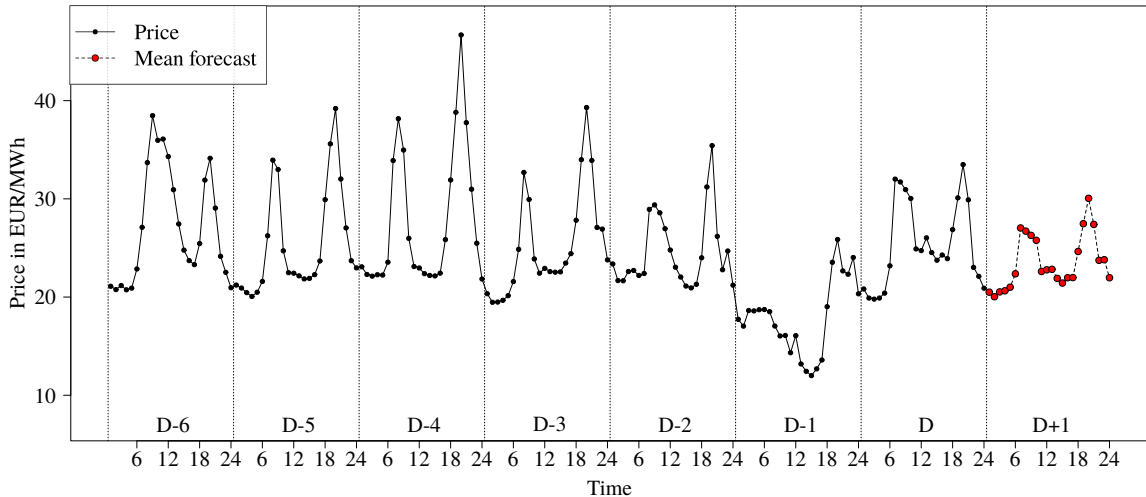
Agenda

- 1 Intro
- 2 Model evolution
 - Models and frameworks
 - Regularization
 - Going deep
- 3 Beyond point forecasts
 - Probabilistic
 - Path (trajectory, ensemble)
- 4 Financial evaluation
 - Euros not errors

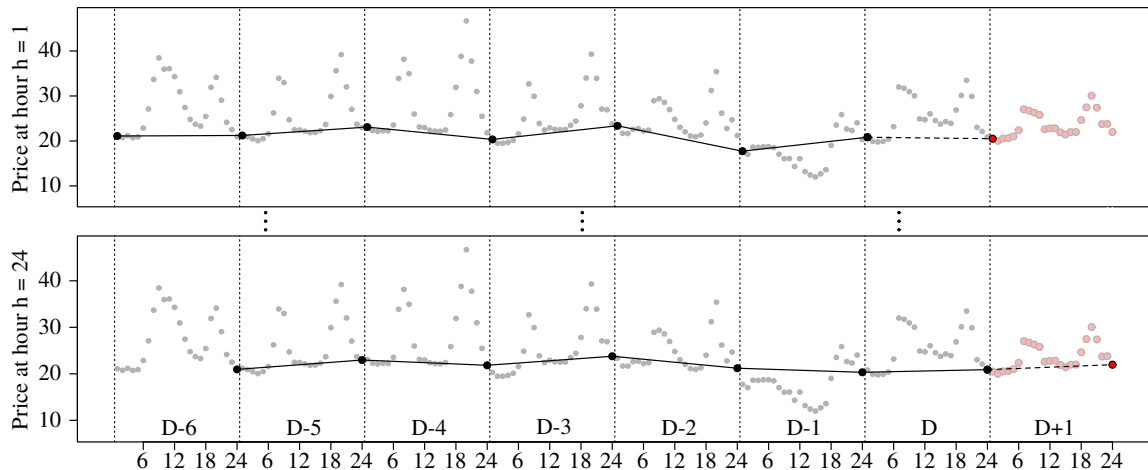


Day-ahead point forecasting: Univariate ...

(Ziel & Weron, 2018, ENEECO)



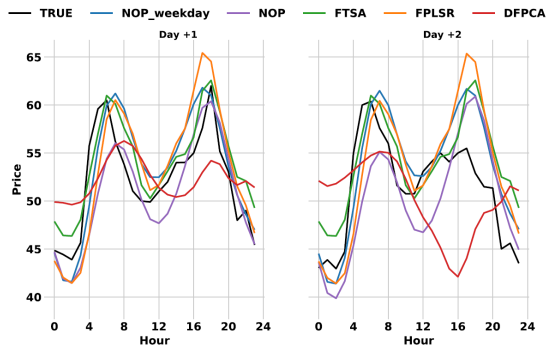
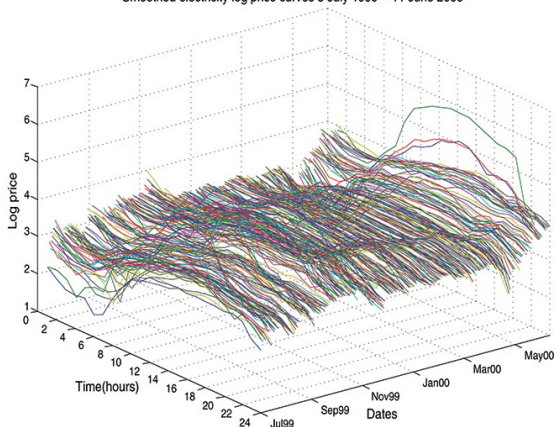
... multivariate ...



... functional (data analysis) ...

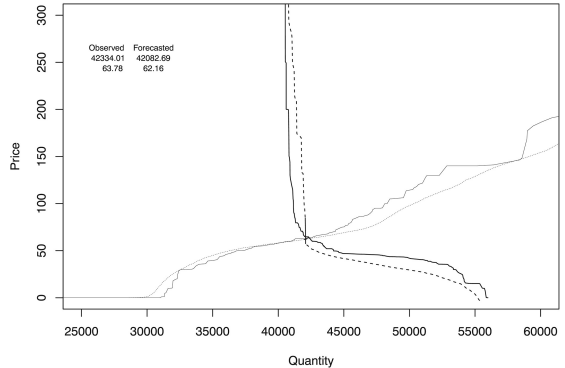
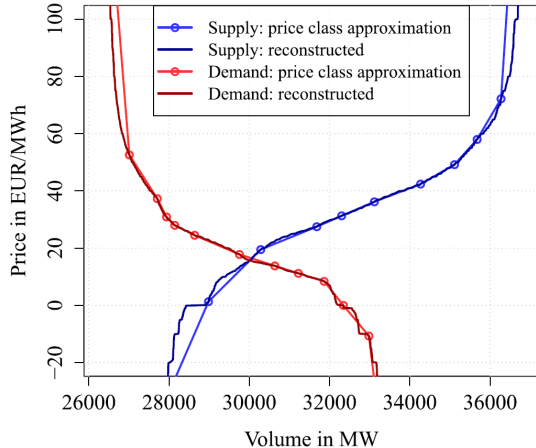
(Chen & Li, 2017, JBES; Chen et al., 2019, Ann.Appl.Stat; Wang & Cao, 2023, Environmetrics)

Smoothed electricity log price curves 5 July 1999—11 June 2000



... or supply & demand curves?

(Ziel & Steinert, 2016, ENEECO; Shah & Lisi, 2020, J.Forecasting)



Which modeling framework?

(Jędrzejewski, Lago, Marcjasz & Weron, 2022, IEEE-PEM)

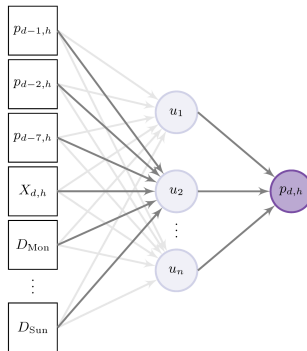
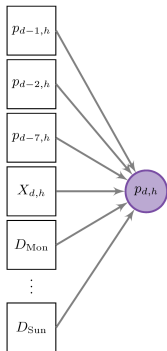
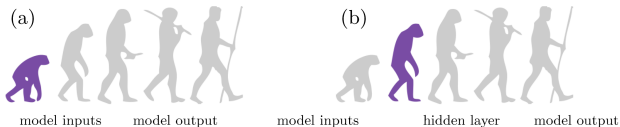
A simple autoregressive structure with exogenous variables (ARX):

$$\begin{aligned}
 p_{d,h} = & \underbrace{\beta_1 p_{d-1,h} + \beta_2 p_{d-2,h} + \beta_3 p_{d-7,h}}_{\text{autoregressive effects}} + \underbrace{\beta_4 X_{d,h}^{(1)} + \beta_5 X_{d,h}^{(2)}}_{\text{exogenous variables}} \\
 & + \underbrace{\beta_6 D_{Sat} + \beta_7 D_{Sun} + \beta_8 D_{Mon}}_{\text{weekday dummies}} + \varepsilon_{d,h},
 \end{aligned}$$

e.g., load (demand) and renewable generation day-ahead forecasts

Which modeling framework?

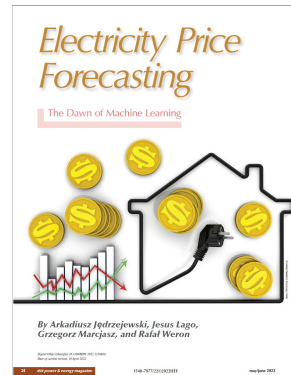
(Jędrzejewski, Lago, Marcjasz & Weron, 2022, IEEE-PEM)



Early EPF models:

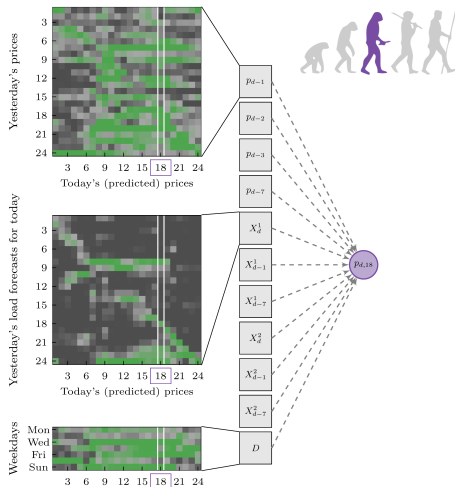
(a) linear regression

(b) single-output shallow neural network



LASSO-Estimated AR (LEAR)

(Uniejewski et al., 2016; Ziel, 2016; Ziel & Weron, 2018; Jędrzejewski et al., 2022; Uniejewski, 2024)



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

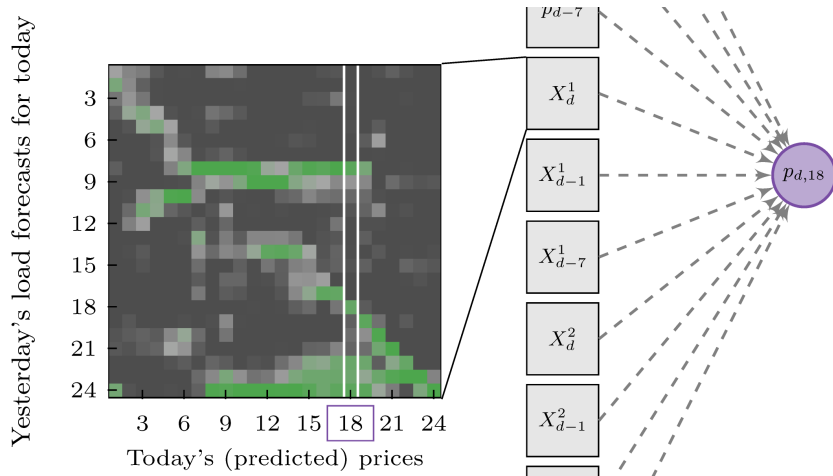
$$\hat{\beta} = \underset{\beta_j}{\operatorname{argmin}} \left\{ \text{RSS} + \lambda \sum_{j=1}^n |\beta_j| \right\}$$

Note: Whole 24-hourly vectors are inputs,
not only values for the target hour $h = 18$

Uniejewski (2024, **ORD**) compares 10 **penalties**
and finds that only Elastic Net and LQ
consistently outperform LASSO

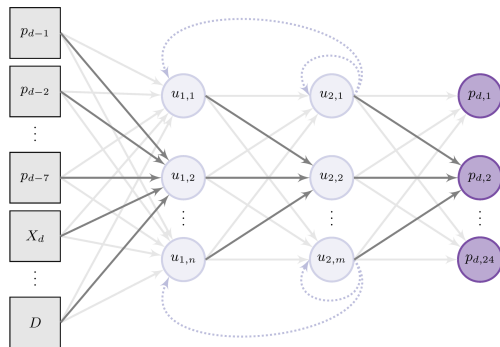
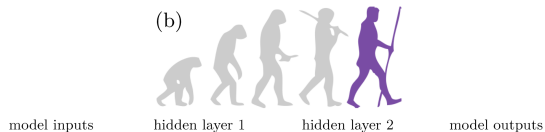
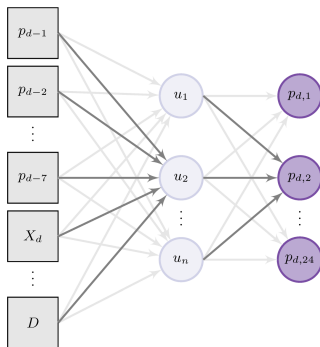
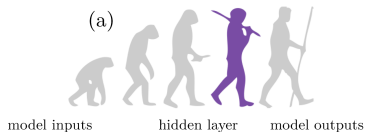
LASSO-Estimated AR (LEAR)

(Uniejewski et al., 2016; Ziel, 2016; Ziel & Weron, 2018; Jędrzejewski et al., 2022; Uniejewski, 2024)



Multi-output shallow and deep neural networks (DNNs)

(Lago et al., 2021, APEN; Jędrzejewski et al., 2022, IEEE-PEM)



What about performance?



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(2021)



Forecasting day-ahead electricity prices: A review of state-of-the-art algorithms, best practices and an open-access benchmark

Jesus Lago^{a,*}, Grzegorz Marcjasz^b, Bart De Schutter^a, Rafał Weron^b

^a Delft Center for Systems and Control, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

^b Department of Operations Research and Business Intelligence, Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Wrocław, Poland

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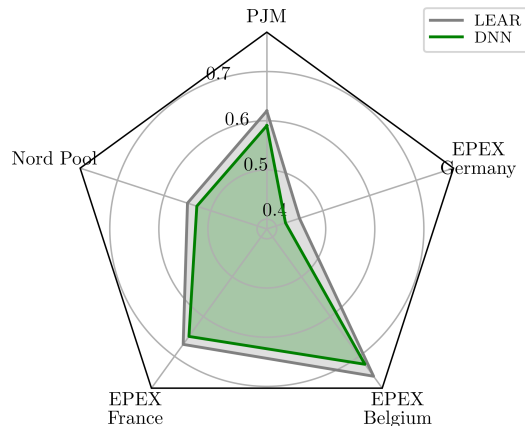
Keywords:

Electricity price forecasting
Regression model
Deep learning
Open-access benchmark
Forecast evaluation
Best practices

ABSTRACT

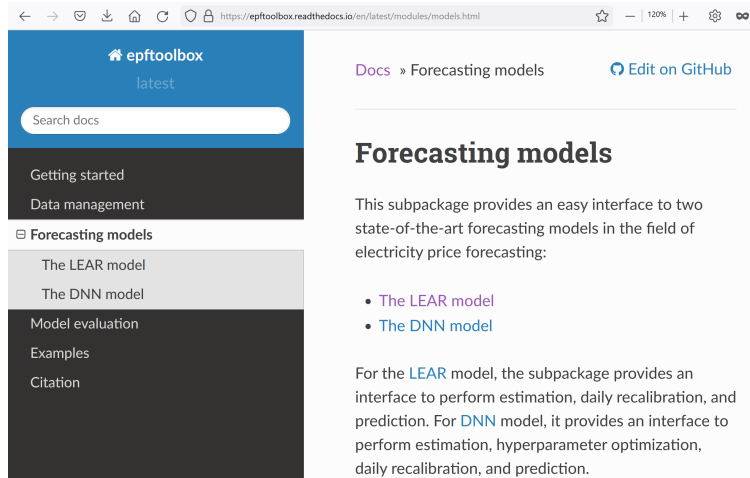
While the field of electricity price forecasting has benefited from plenty of it arguably lacks a rigorous approach to evaluating new predictive algorithm using unique, not publicly available datasets and across too short and 1 The proposed new methods are rarely benchmarked against well established models, the accuracy metrics are sometimes inadequate and testing the significance performance is seldom conducted. Consequently, it is not clear which method best practices when forecasting electricity prices. In this paper, we tackle of-the-art statistical and deep learning methods across multiple years and set of best practices. In addition, we make available the considered data: models, and a specifically designed python toolbox, so that new algorithm future studies.

rMAE (relative to a naive forecast)



epftoolbox: LEAR and DNN Python codes

(Lago et al., 2021, APEN)



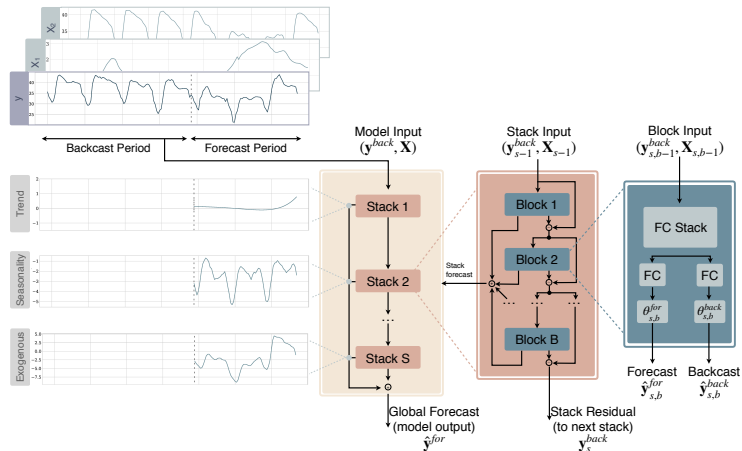
The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'epftoolbox' documentation. The page title is 'Forecasting models' and it includes a link to 'Edit on GitHub'. The left sidebar contains a search bar and a navigation menu with items: 'Getting started', 'Data management', 'Forecasting models' (selected), 'The LEAR model', 'The DNN model', 'Model evaluation', 'Examples', and 'Citation'. The main content area is titled 'Forecasting models' and contains a paragraph: 'This subpackage provides an easy interface to two state-of-the-art forecasting models in the field of electricity price forecasting:'. Below this, there is a bulleted list: '• The LEAR model' and '• The DNN model'. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a paragraph: 'For the LEAR model, the subpackage provides an interface to perform estimation, daily recalibration, and prediction. For DNN model, it provides an interface to perform estimation, hyperparameter optimization, daily recalibration, and prediction.'

Experiment yourself:



Interpretable NNs: NBEATSx

(Olivares, Challu, Marcjasz, Weron & Dubrawski, 2023, IJF)



Experiment yourself:



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International Journal of Forecasting 30 (2014) 1030–1081

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

Jakub Nowotarski, Rafał Weron*

Department of Operations Research

forecasting (EPF) over the last decade aims to explain the underlying factors and the opportunities offered. The paper also looks at the next decade of EPF studies involving (i) machine learning, (ii) time series, and (iii) statistical methods.

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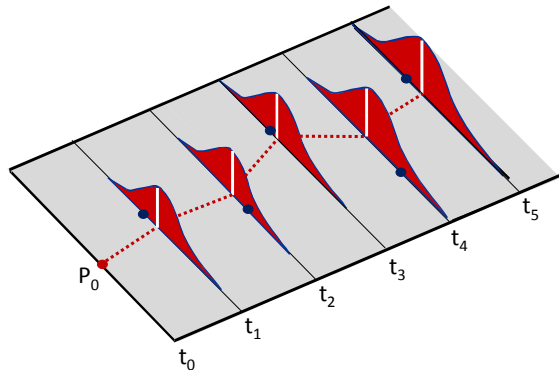
Keywords:

ABSTRACT

While the field of electricity price forecasting has benefited from plenty of contributions in the last two decades,

Probabilistic (interval, density) forecasting

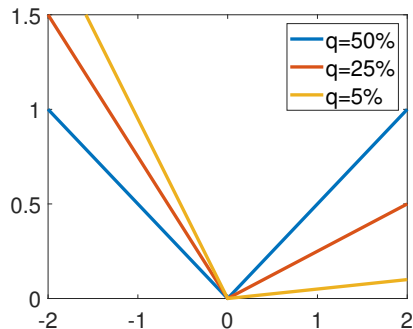
- We cannot observe the true underlying distribution
 $\Rightarrow$ we cannot compare the *predictive distribution* $\hat{F}_{Y_t}$ with the actual one F_{Y_t}
... only with past observations $Y_\tau, \tau < t$
- Gneiting et al. (2007a, 2007b, 2014):
*'maximize **sharpness**
subject to **reliability**'*
- An $x\%$ prediction interval (PI) is **reliable** if it includes $x\%$ of the observations



Sharpness and the pinball score (or loss)

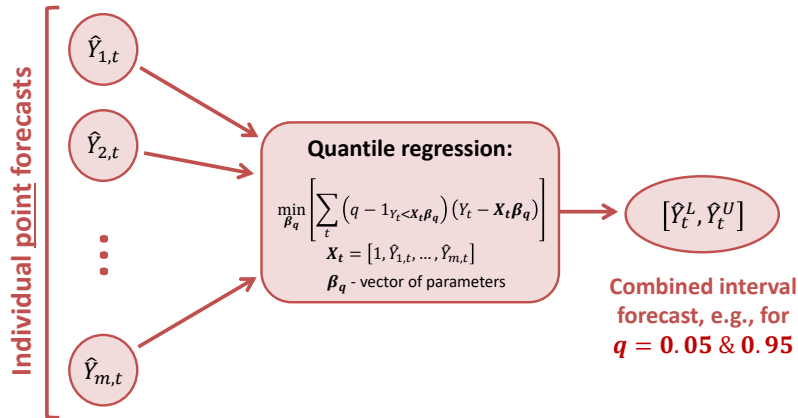
$$\text{PS}(\hat{Y}_t^q, Y_t, q) = \begin{cases} (1-q)(\hat{Y}_t^q - Y_t) & \text{for } Y_t < \hat{Y}_t^q \\ q(Y_t - \hat{Y}_t^q) & \text{for } Y_t \geq \hat{Y}_t^q \end{cases}$$

- $\hat{Y}_t^q$ is the forecast of the q -th quantile
- Y_t is the actual observation
- Also known as the **quantile score** or the **linlin/bilinear/newsboy loss**
- For an aggregate PS (**APS**) average:
 - across all t in the test period
 - across all quantiles $\rightarrow$ **CRPS**



Quantile Regression Averaging (QRA): The idea

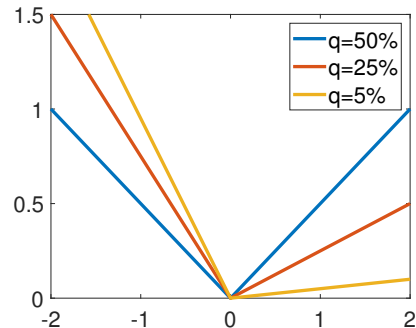
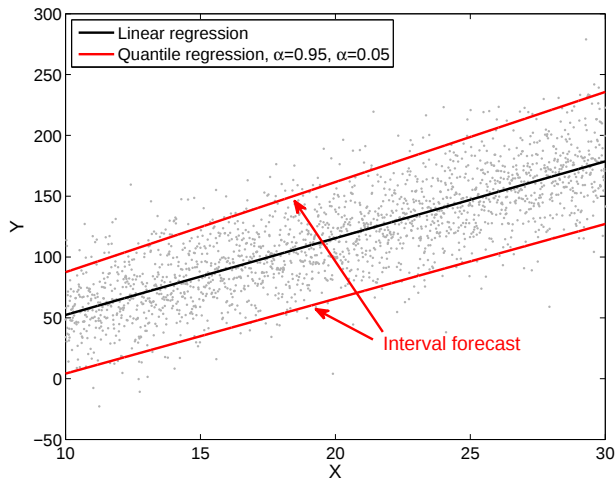
(Nowotarski & Weron, 2015, COST)



Averaging dates back to the 1960s and the works of Bates, Crane, Crotty & Granger

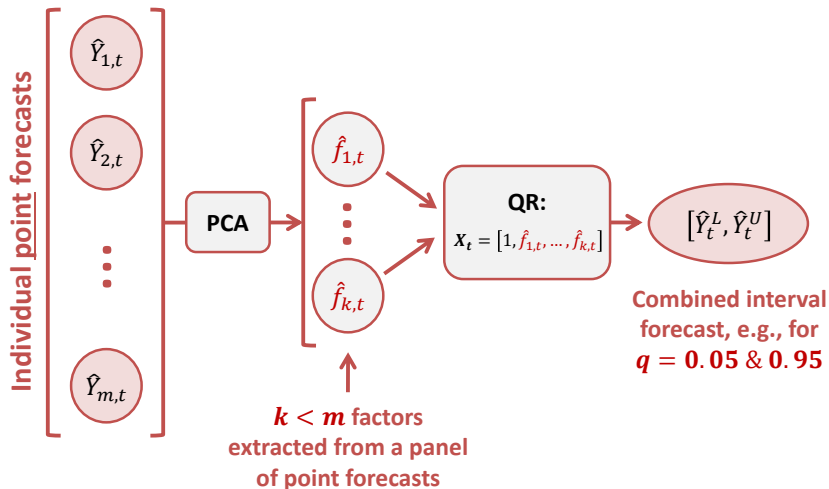
'AI world':
committee machines,
ensemble averaging,
expert aggregation

Quantile regression



Factor QRA (FQRA): When the number of predictors is large

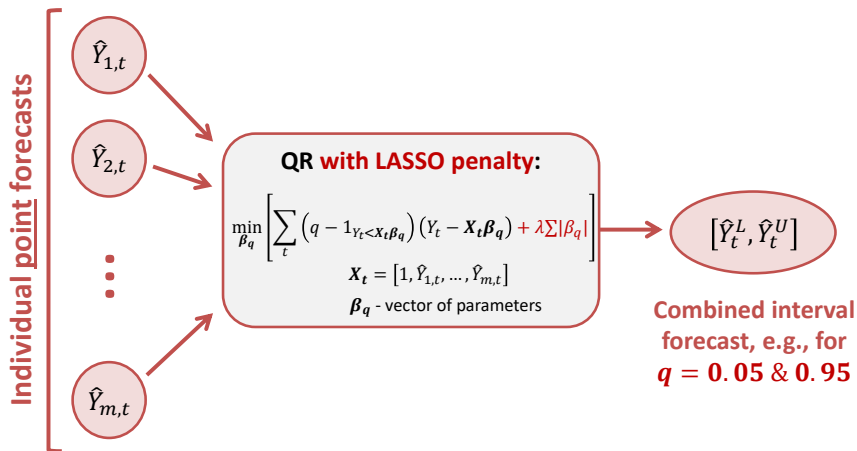
(Maciejowska, Nowotarski & Weron, 2016, IJF)



LASSO QRA (LQRA): When the number of predictors is large

(Uniejewski & Weron, 2021, ENEECO)

~ 5% improvement over QRA



QR(A) is not the only postprocessing approach

(Nowotarski & Weron, 2018, RSER; Lipiecki & Weron, 2024, WP)

- $N(0, \hat{\sigma}(\varepsilon_{d,h}))$ -distributed innovations, where $\varepsilon_{d,h}$ are point prediction errors
- Historical simulation, i.e., empirical CDF of $\varepsilon_{d,h}$
- Conformal Prediction (CP), i.e., empirical CDF of $|\varepsilon_{d,h}|$
 - Proposed by Gammernan et al. (1998, Conf), Shafer & Vovk (2008, JMLR), and by Kath & Ziel (2021, IJF) for EPF
- Isotonic Distributional Regression (IDR) – a non-parametric technique for the estimation of conditional distributions under order restrictions
 - Proposed by Henzi, Ziegel & Gneiting (2021, JRSSB) for weather forecasting, and by Lipiecki, Uniejewski & Weron (2024, ENEECO) for EPF

Julia package for postprocessing point predictions

(Lipiecki & Weron, 2024, WP + GitHub)



Offers implementations of CP, IDR, QR(A) and $N(0, \hat{\sigma}(\varepsilon_{d,h}))$, and their combinations

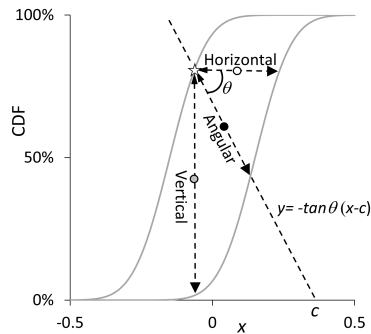
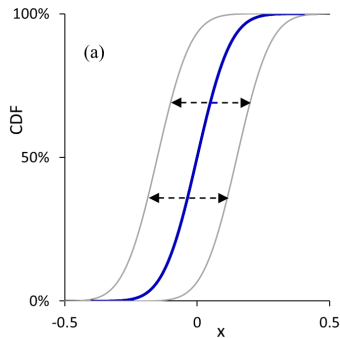
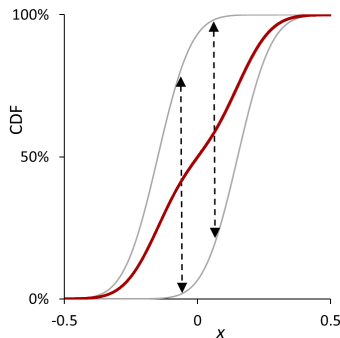
Experiment yourself:



Combining probabilistic forecasts is tricky ...

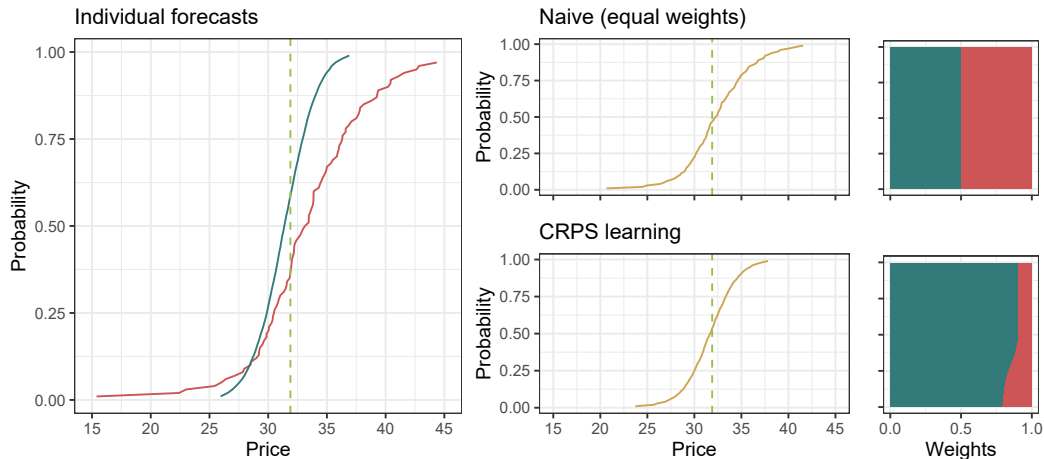
(Lichtendahl et al., 2013, Mgnt Sci; Uniejewski et al., 2019, ENEECO; Taylor & Meng, 2023, arXiv)

Vertical (over probabilities), **horizontal** (quantiles $\rightarrow$ sharper CDF) ... or at any angle



... can use unequal weights (here: CRPS learning) ...

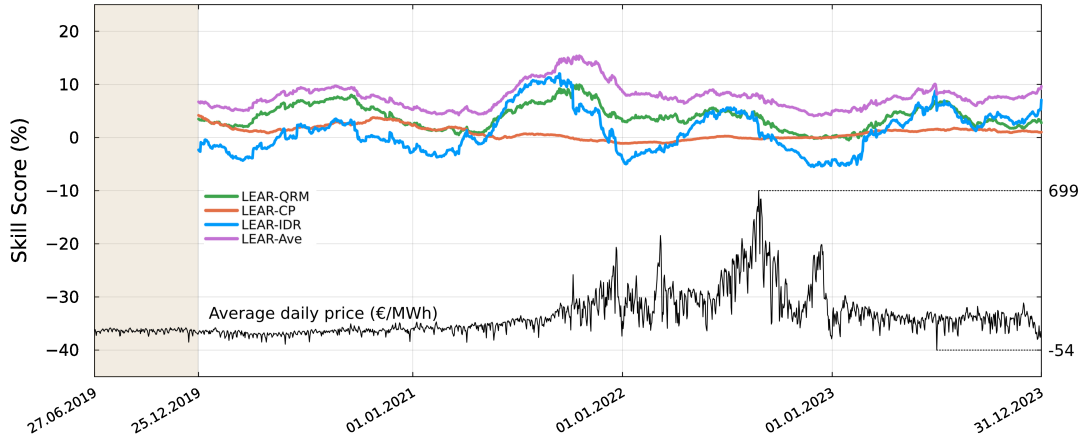
(Berrisch & Ziel, 2023, JEconometrics; Nitka & Weron, 2023, ORD)



... but can be beneficial

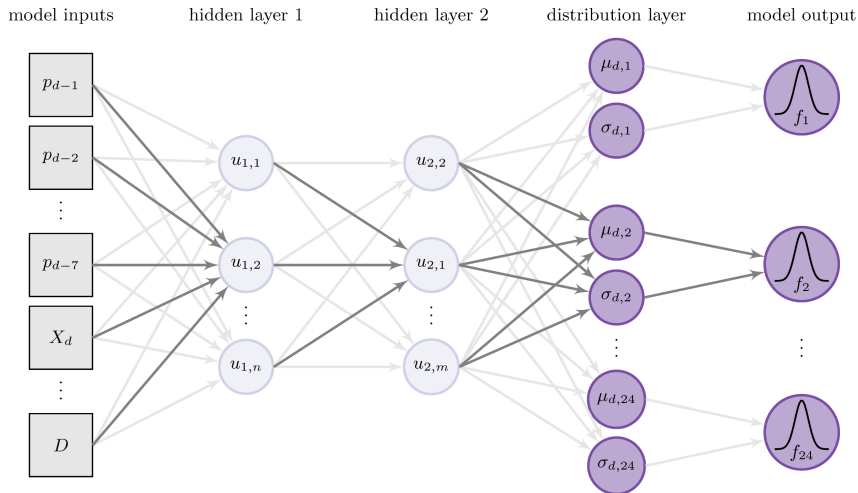
(Lipiecki, Uniejewski & Weron, 2024, ENEECO; illustrated here using EPEX-DE data)

Skill score: % difference wrt the CRPS of $N(0, \hat{\sigma}(\varepsilon_{d,h}))$ innovations; $\varepsilon_{d,h}$ – prediction errors of the LEAR model



Distributional Deep Neural Nets (DDNN)

(Jędrzejewski et al., 2022, IEEE-PEM; Marcjasz, Narajewski, Weron & Ziel, 2023, ENEECO)



DDNNs can perform very well ...

(Marcjasz, Narajewski, Weron & Ziel, 2023, ENEECO)

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Distributional neural networks for electricity price forecasting

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ARTICLE INFO

JEL classification:

C44
C45
C46
C22
C53
Q47

Keywords:

Distributional neural network
Probabilistic forecasting

ABSTRACT

We present a novel approach to probabilistic electricity price forecasting which utilizes distributional neural networks. The model structure is based on a deep neural network containing a so-called probability layer, i.e., the outputs of the network are parameters of the normal or Johnson's SU distribution. To validate our approach, we conduct a comprehensive forecasting study complemented by a realistic trading simulation with day-ahead electricity prices in the German market. The proposed distributional deep neural network outperforms state-of-the-art benchmarks by over 7% in terms of the continuous ranked probability score and by 8% in terms of the per-transaction profits. The obtained results not only emphasize the importance of higher moments when modeling volatile electricity prices, but also – given that probabilistic forecasting is the essence of risk management – provide important implications for managing portfolios in the power sector.

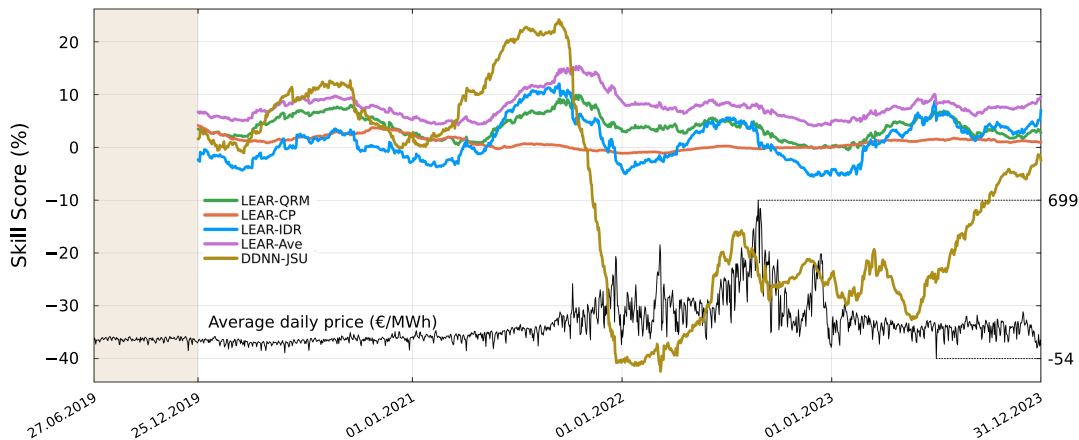
Experiment yourself:



... but can fail miserably during volatile periods

(Lipiecki, Uniejewski & Weron, 2024, ENEECO; illustrated here using EPEX-DE data)

Skill score: % difference wrt the CRPS of $N(0, \hat{\sigma}(\varepsilon_{d,h}))$ innovations; $\varepsilon_{d,h}$ – prediction errors of the LEAR model



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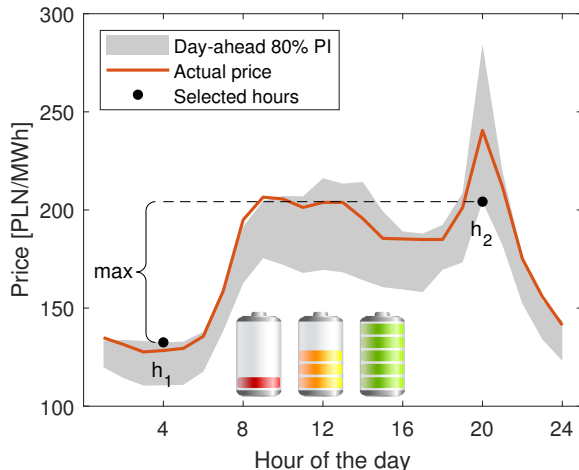
Keywords:

ABSTRACT

While the field of electricity price forecasting has benefited from plenty of contributions in the last two decades,

Quantile-based trading strategies

(Uniejewski & Weron, 2021, ENEECO)



Simultaneously bid day-ahead:

- buy 1 MW for $\hat{P}_{d,h_1}^{1-\alpha}$ at hour h_1
- sell 0.8 MW at $\hat{P}_{d,h_2}^{\alpha}$ at hour h_2

← With $\alpha = 10\%$ the spread is maximized for $\hat{P}_{d,4}^{90\%} = 133$ and $\hat{P}_{d,20}^{10\%} = 204$ PLN/MWh

- If bid(s) not accepted, settle in the balancing market

Are quantile-based trading strategies more profitable?

(Uniejewski & Weron, 2021, ENEECO)



Strategy		Profit			
<i>Naive (4am–12pm)</i>		33 065.29			
<i>Point forecasts-based</i>		33 722.39			
<i>Quantile-based</i>	1-99%	5-95%	10-90%	20-80%	25-75%
Q-Ave	41 317.92	43 328.89	43 432.31	43 289.09	43 033.88
F-Ave	39 848.26	43 369.44	44 052.04	44 088.11	43 130.34
QRM	41 163.29	43 054.28	43 124.12	43 731.54	42 240.25
LQRA(77)	42 360.05	44 135.49	44 713.52	44 684.40	43 624.65
LQRA(BIC)	42 886.10	43 993.23	44 502.81	45 396.21	42 741.57
LQRA(CV)	41 693.80	43 971.88	44 238.45	45 073.19	43 103.88

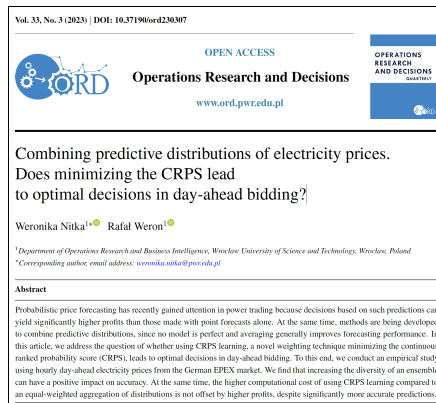
Does CRPS learning lead to higher trading profits?

(Nitka & Weron, 2023, ORD)

% change in the CRPS and profits per trade when using CRPS learning (instead of naive averaging)

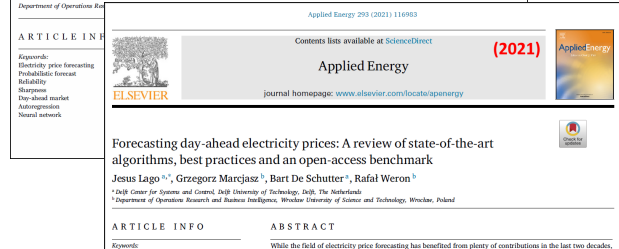
	CRPS	Profits/trade (EUR/MWh)		
		50% PI	70% PI	90% PI
Ensemble #1	0.0%	-1.1%	-0.8%	-3.6%
Ensemble #2	-0.1%	-0.6%	-0.8%	-2.5%
Ensemble #3	-0.7%	-1.7%	-1.5%	-6.3%
Ensemble #4	-0.4%	-2.1%	-1.4%	-2.8%
Ensemble #5	0.2%	-0.5%	-0.1%	-5.0%
Ensemble #6	-0.8%	-0.4%	-1.0%	-4.3%

- CRPS learning yields **lower** CRPS → **good**
- CRPS learning yields **lower** profits → **bad**



Agenda

- 1 Intro
- 2 Model evolution
 - Models and frameworks
 - Regularization
 - Going deep
- 3 Beyond point forecasts
 - Probabilistic
 - Path (trajectory, ensemble)
- 4 Financial evaluation
 - Euros not errors



Articles & working papers on <https://p.wz.pwr.edu.pl/~weron.rafal/Publ>

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K. Maciejowska, B. Uniejewski, R. Weron (2023) *Forecasting electricity prices*, in "Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance", Oxford University Press, DOI: [10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.667](https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.667). Working paper version available from arXiv: <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2204.11735>



A. Jędrzejewski, J. Lago, G. Marcjasz, R. Weron (2022) *Electricity price forecasting: The dawn of machine learning*, IEEE Power & Energy Magazine 20(3), 24-31 (doi: [10.1109/MPE.2022.3150809](https://doi.org/10.1109/MPE.2022.3150809)). Working paper version available from arXiv: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2204.00883>



 **Highly Cited Paper** J. Lago, G. Marcjasz, B. De Schutter, R. Weron (2021) *Forecasting day-ahead electricity prices: A review of state-of-the-art algorithms, best practices and an open-access benchmark*, Applied Energy 293, 116983 ([doi: 10.1016/j.apenergy.2021.116983](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apenergy.2021.116983))
 **Open Access**
 The **epftoolbox** including Python codes for the two benchmark models (LEAR, DNN) and datasets is available from [GitHub](#)

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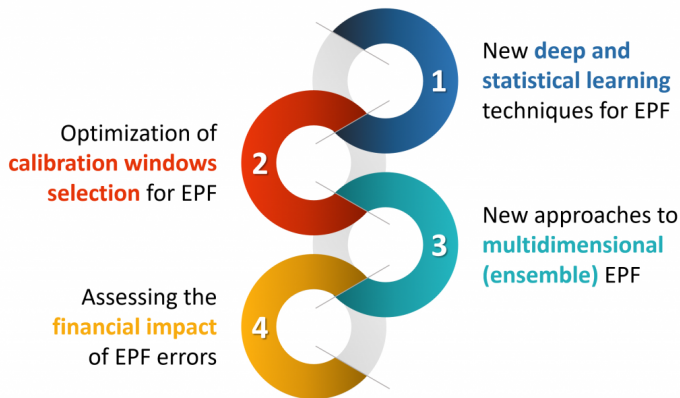
See yourself:



CrossFIT (2019-2025)

Crossing Frontiers in electricity price forecasting

(<https://kbo.pwr.edu.pl/en/research/research-projects/ncn-2018-30-a-hs4-00444>)



PRIORITY (2023-2026)

PRobabilistic mid- and long-term price fOREcasting In electriciTY markets

(<https://kbo.pwr.edu.pl/en/research/research-projects/dfg-ncn-2021-43-i-hs4-02578-2>)

