Itron

Two Stage Ensemble Smoothing for Intraday Load Forecasts in the Presence of Distributed Solar PV Generation

Distinguished Webinar Series in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security April 10th, 2023

Dr. Frank Monforte | Director, Forecasting Solutions Frank.monforte@itron.com





2023 ITRON CONFIDENTIAL PROPRIETARY

Abstract

- » With growing penetration of distributed (e.g., rooftop) solar PV systems what power grid operators measure as demand for power is masked by offsetting unmetered solar PV generation. The inherent volatility of cloud movement is translating into volatile demand measurements.
- » Forecast models that rely on real-time measurement of demand (aka, load) are experiencing increased forecast instability due to the inherent volatility of cloud movement.
- » This presentation illustrates the challenges of forecasting loads under increasing levels of distributed solar PV generation. We will discuss:
 - how loads are measured,
 - the impact solar PV generation has on measured loads,
 - how the industry forecasts solar PV generation, and
 - why traditional load forecast models lead to forecast instability.
- » We then introduce a framework for developing a stable sequence of load forecasts.

WHAT A LONG STRANGE TRIP IT'S BEEN....





EVOLUTION OF OPERATIONAL LOAD FORECASTING



WHAT DOES AN OPERATIONAL FORECAST MODEL LOOK LIKE?

MetrixND - Demo.ndm File Edit Insert View Tools Window Help A Cascade of Models Each Fit for Purpose

– 🗆 🗙

▲ A Neural Ne	twork Model: DailyEnergyNew 📃 🗉 💌	👥 Regression Model: Load1200_HA		Regression Model: Load1200_DA	
normhlau		1 6r 🖬		📧 er 📖	
nergyNewNoLag					
noonPeakNew Y Variable	View Node: << 1 >> Type: Linear V	Y Variable:	XVariables:	Y Variable:	XVariables:
wTroughNew		Load lot1200	Calendar.NYDay	Load Intl 200	☑ Daytype Vars January
ngPeakNew	XVariables:	6080.1111200	Calendar Jan2	L080.1111200	☑ DaytypeVars.February
°	Energy TimeTrend		Calendar.FWJan		DavtypeVars.March
0030_HA	SchoolHoliday.SchoolHoliday		DLSay DLSay		DavfypeVars April
0100_HA	Calendar AusDay		C Energy.TimeTrend		☑ DavfvpeVars.Mav
0130_HA	Calendar Good Fri		Carefray.EndShift		DaytypeVars June
0200_HA	Calendar EasterSat		WeightedAvgHDD 1 HB11		R DavtyneVars July
0230_HA	Calendar EasterSun		WeightedAvgHDD 2 HB11		Daytyne Vars August
J300_HA	Calendar EasterMon		WeightedAvgHDDVars WkEnd HDD1 Hr11		R DavtyneVars Sentember
J330_HA	Calendar Anzac Day		WeightedAvgHDDVars.WkEnd_HDD2_Hr11		2 Daytype (distocption both
J400_HA	Calendar Labour Day		BWeightedAvgRollingHDD HD11		Daytype (dis.eecode)
J430_HA	Calendar Ducase RDay		Bit/sights d/usHDD/crs M/End, DalHDD, Hd1		Daytype vars. November
	Calendar Adelaida Ova		BWeightedavgADDVals.wkEnd_KollADD_ATT		B Daytype vars. Mon
000 HA	Calendar Marcup		BWoinktodAvgCDD_1.RK11		B Day type vals. Tue
0630_HA	Coloridat XMas		Bit/(sights d/us/CDD)/are)/d/End_CDD1_Us11		B Day ype vals. Wed
0700 HA	Calendar Amas		WeighteidaurgCDDVars.WKEnd_CDD1_Hr11 BW/sighteidaurgCDDVars.WKEnd_CDD1_Hr11		B Daytypevars. Inu
0730 HA	Calendar, ProcDay		WivergnieuAvgCDDVars.WKEnd_CDD2_Hr11		B Daysype vars. Fit
0800 HA	Calondar.WKAttXMas		WeightedavgRollingCDD.HTTT		B Daytype vars. Sat
830_HA	Calendar IN Pere		WeightedAvgCDDVars.wkEnd_KollCDD_Hr11		SchoolHoliday SchoolHoliday
00_HA	Calendar.NY Day		DailyPredicted.EnergyPredicted		Calendar Aus Day
)_HA	Calendar Janz		DailyPredicted.EnergyPredictedWkEnd		Calendar.GoodFri
A	Calendar.FWJan		DailyPredicted AfternoonPeakPredicted		Calendar.EasterSat
	SunTimes.HLight		DailyPredicted.AfternoonPeakPredictedWkEnd		Calendar.EasterSun
	Energy.EndShift		DailyPredicted.MorningPeakPredicted		Calendar.EasterMon
A	WeightedAvgDailyWthr.DailyEnergyPrecip5mm		DailyPredicted.MorningPeakPredictedWkEnd		Calendar AnzacDay
	DaytypeVars January		DailyPredicted.MiddayTroughPredicted		Calendar LabourDay
	DaytypeVars.February		DailyPredicted.MiddayTroughPredictedWkEnd		Calendar.QueensBDay
	DaytypeVars.March		PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenColdWkDay		Calendar AdelaideCup
	DaytypeVars April		PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenColdWkEnd		Calendar.WkBefXMas
	☑ DaytypeVars.May		PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenCoolWkDay		Calendar XMasEve
	☑ Daytype Vars June		PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgB1MSolarGenCoolWkEnd		ld Calendar.XMas
	☑ DaytypeVars.July		PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenNeutralWkDay		Calendar.ProcDay
	☑ DaytypeVars August		PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenNeutralWkEnd		Calendar.WkAftXMas
	DaytypeVars.September	Estimation	PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenWarmWkDay	Estimation	Calendar.NYEve
Estimation	5/9/2017 🛛 Daytype Vars. October	Beging 5/9/2017	PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenWarmWkEnd	Beging 5/9/2017	Calendar.NYDay
begins	☑ DaytypeVars.November	Dogina	PvAdjEnergy.MidAvgBTMSolarGenHotWkDay	Degina	Calendar Jan2
Estimation	8/7/2020 DaytypeVars.Mon	Estimation 9/7/2020	Tea PyAgenergy Miday BTMSolarGenHotWkEnd	Estimation 9/7/2020	☑ Calendar.FWJan
Ends	DaytypeVars Tue	Ends	I Load.Int1130	Ends	DLSay.DLSay
Forecast		Enrecast	☑ Load.Int1100	Enrecast	Energy.TimeTrend
Ends	8/8/2020	Ends 8/8/2020	☑ Load.Int1030	Ends 8/8/2020	Energy EndShift
	✓ Linear Node Intercept		PandemicVars Pantek		WeightedAvgHDD_1.HR11
	OADOH	01000	PandemicVars PanWkEnd	0.000	WeightedAvgHDD 2.HB11
	Copy Node Paste Node Clear Node	GARCH	PandemicVars Pan HDD1 Hr11	GARCH	WeightedAvoHDDVars WkEnd HDD1 Hr11
			PandemicVars.Pan HDD2 Hr11		WeightedAvgHDDVars.WkEnd HDD2 Hr11
ARM	A Errors 7 A # of Nodes 5 # of Trials	ARMA Errors	PandemicVars WkEnd Pan HDD1 Hr11	ARMA Errors	WeightedAvaBollingHDD HB11
			PandemicVars WkEnd Pan HDD2 Hr11		WeightedAvaHDDVars WkEpd_BollHDD_Hr11
P 0	Seed Tolerance Max Iter	PU v QU v	V	PU v QU v	WeightedAvgCDD 1 HB11
	▲ OTrain 1 0.0001 100				
SP 0		SP V V SQ V V	Vinclude Intercent Look Estimate	SP U V SQ U V	V Include Intercent
	Learn 2 0.0001 100		Lock Estimate		Estimate
	Estimate	Estimation Variables		Estimation Variables	
		Wgt: Test	Bad:	Wgt: Test:	Bad:
	Test Rod Rod		Energy Bad		Energy Bad
Wgt:	lest: Bad.bad		Linergy. Dau		Lineigy.bau
×					

Itron

KEY CHALLENGES

Our Role is to Help the Power Industry Overcome these Challenges

- » COVID-19 impacts the mix of residential/non-residential HVAC equipment
- » Climate Change is manifesting as extreme weather events
 - As more of these event occur <u>utilization</u> of HVAC equipment is evolving
- » Strategic Adoption of Grid-Connected Renewable Generation
 - Recent focus and R&D is on forecasting grid-connected resources
 - Limited focus on distributed generation forecasting
- » Deep penetration of Distributed solar PV generation & EV charging push the technical limits of the Low Voltage Grid
 - Creating a need for greater geospatial forecast detail



We used to Measured Power Consumption



Now we Measure Net Load Masking Consumption



The Operational Forecasting Problem is Evolving



with EV Charging

- Before we forecast Consumption that was well understood. Accuracy depends on weather forecast performance.
- Spinning reserves at minimum levels given certainty of demand.



- Now forecast energy imbalances leading to forecast instability
- Higher spinning reserves to cover the uncertainty resulting in higher system operating costs in order of magnitude of millions dollars.





Load Masking Leads to Measurement & Forecast Instability



Autoregressive Terms and Forecast Instability



What to do with Solar PV Generation?

 $L_{d,i}^{SCADA} = F(X_{d,i}\beta_i) + G(SolaPVGen_{d,i}\alpha_i) + L(L_{d,i-j}^{SCADA}\delta_{i-j}) + e_{d,i}$

Direct Modelling Approach

- » Distributed solar PV generation is not metered
 - Engineering-based estimates driven by GHI
- » Direct Modelling provides statistically-adjusted solar PV generation values
- » To make it work the autoregressive terms need solar PV generation interactions to free up the slopes
- » Getting the specification right is THE challenge



What to do with Solar PV Generation?

 $L_{d,i}^{SCADA} + SolarPVGen_{d,i} = F(X_{d,i}\beta_i) + L([L_{d,i}^{SCADA} + SolarPVGen_{d,i}]\alpha_i) + e_{d,i}$

Reconstituted Load Approach

- » Assumes solar PV generation estimates are <u>correct</u> & the impact is 1.0 KW of solar PV generation lowers loads by 1.0 KW
- » The autoregressive process is relatively stable with Reconstituted loads
- » <u>Getting the specification right is THE challenge</u>



Evolving from Direct Modelling to Reconstituted Loads

Dealing with Uncertain Solar PV generation estimates



Easy Days To Predict GHI





- » There are two major approaches to GHI estimation and forecasting
 - Numerical Weather Prediction Models use mathematical models to predict cloud cover movement. These forecasts are then translated to forecasts of GHI which drive solar PV generation estimates.
 - BEST for Forecast Horizons of 4 Hours +
 - Satellite Image Decomposition provide estimates of cloud cover over 1km x 1km squares. Mathematical models then infer the GHI values.
 - BEST for Forecast Horizons up to 4 Hours

Evolving from Direct Modelling to Reconstituted Loads

Dealing with Uncertain Solar PV generation estimates

 $VAR(L_{d,i}^{SCADA} + SolarPVGen_{d,i})$ is Greater on Cloudy Days than Clear Sky or Dark Sky Days



- » Few utilities collect in real-time the population of solar PV generation. As a result, we reconstitute with an <u>estimate</u> of rooftop solar PV generation.
 - On cloudy to partially cloudy days solar PV generation estimates are at their highest levels adding volatility to the reconstituted loads.
 - E.g., Net Load measurement goes down but estimated Solar PV generation goes down compounding the swing in Reconstituted loads
 - Defeats the purpose of using Reconstituted Loads

Two Stage Ensemble Smoothing

- How can we save the Reconstituted Approach?
- Observation: Aggregate changes in Consumption oscillate at a slower frequency than Solar PV Generation
 - The field of Signal Processing suggests a range of smoothing algorithms that will filter out unwanted high frequency oscillations of "noisy solar PV generation estimates" leaving a relative smooth reconstituted load series
- ➢ But …
 - Wide smoothing windows while cutting through the noise of solar PV generation risk *smoothing* through key turning points in underlying consumption of power
 - Narrow smoothing windows maintain key changes in consumption, but also the volatility of solar PV generation
- How do we balance removing the noise from the solar PV while maintaining key features of consumption?

Savitzky-Golay Smoothing Filters

Centered Moving Average using Polynomial Weights



- » SG Smoothing is useful for load forecasting because the polynomial weights preserve the curvature of the load data.
 - A straight centered-moving average would produce a relatively flat result.
- » But which Smoothing Window Should be Used to Smooth Reconstituted Load?

©2023 ITRON CONFIDENTIAL PROPRIETARY

Itron

25	Normalized S	Savistky-Gola	ay Smoothing	Weights						
25			Normalized Savistky-Golay Smoothing Weights							
23	21	17	13	9	5					
252										
-253										
-138	171									
-33	-1/1									
62	-76	24								
147	9	-21								
222	84	-6	1022							
287	149	7	-11							
322	204	18	0							
387	249	27	9	-21						
422	284	34	16	14						
447	309	39	21	39	-3					
462	324	42	24	54	12					
467	329	43	25	59	17					
462	324	42	24	54	12					
447	309	39	21	39	-3					
422	284	34	16	14						
387	249	27	9	-21						
322	204	18	0							
287	149	7	-11							
222	84	-6								
147	9	-21								
62	-76									
-33	-171									
-138										
-253										
5125	2050	222	142	221	25					
	-253 -138 -33 62 147 222 287 322 387 422 447 462 447 462 447 462 447 422 387 322 287 322 287 322 147 62 -33 -138 -253	-253 -138 -33 -171 62 -76 147 9 222 84 287 149 322 204 387 249 462 324 467 329 462 324 467 329 462 224 387 249 322 204 287 149 322 204 287 149 322 204 287 149 222 84 147 9 62 -76 -33 -171 -138 -253 5135 3059	-253 -138 -33 -171 62 -76 147 9 -21 222 84 -6 287 149 7 322 204 18 387 249 27 422 284 34 447 309 39 462 324 42 467 329 43 462 324 42 467 329 43 462 324 42 467 329 43 387 249 27 322 204 18 287 149 7 322 204 18 287 149 7 222 84 -6 147 9 -21 62 -76 -33 -138 -253 -253	-253 -138 -33 -171 62 -76 147 9 -21 222 84 -6 287 149 7 -11 322 204 18 0 387 249 27 9 422 284 34 16 447 309 39 21 462 324 42 24 467 329 43 25 462 324 42 24 467 329 43 25 462 324 42 24 447 309 39 21 422 284 34 16 387 249 27 9 322 204 18 0 287 149 7 -11 222 84 -6 -447 147 9 -21 62 -76 -33 -171 -138 -	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$					

Step One. Smooth the Solar PV Estimates/Forecasts

- Apply an ensemble of smoothers (e.g., different SG Smoothing Windows) to the raw solar PV estimates
- Create a weighted average solar PV estimate by weighting the alternative smoothed solar PV estimates
- Each smoother is assigned a weight which depends on the volatility of the raw solar PV generation data



Step One. Smooth the Solar PV Estimates/Forecasts

$$\varphi_{d}^{j} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{I} \nabla^{2} \left(\widehat{PV}_{d,i}^{j} \right)}{\sum_{i=1}^{I} \nabla^{2} \left(ClearSky_{d,i} \right)}$$

- The second order derivatives of the smoothed solar PV generation are used to form the weights
- The second order derivatives of a clear sky day are used as a normalization factor
- Narrow windows are preferred on Clear Sky days
- Wider windows are preferred on Partially Cloudy days



Step Two. Smooth the Reconstituted Load Data

- The same ensemble of smoothers are applied to the raw reconstituted load
- In this step, the smoothing weights from Step 1 are applied to create a weighted average reconstituted load series
- In effect, we use the volatility of the solar PV data to drive the size of the smoothing window for the reconstituted load time series



A Step Toward Forecast Stability



A SPRING DAY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA – A REALITY COMING SOON TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

 Operational forecasting is growing in complexity as we transition to 100% renewable generation

 Solving the operational forecasting problem is a small, but critical piece to ensuring a quick & successful transition



SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER

» I used to work on



You can only imagine the evolution of tools you will experience in your careers

- » Despite massive computing power & the promised miracle of machine learning the most important tools in my arsenal are EXCEL, the Internet, and a thirst to learn new mathematical approaches to solve problems.
 - Excel to code up an algorithm or technique to visualize & understand how it works
 - · The Internet because most of what we do is based on the brilliance of those who came before us
 - Learn from other disciplines
 - Constrained and Unconstrained Optimization, Signal Processing, Econometrics, Decision Trees, etc.
 - The more tools you have the better carpenter you will be
- » Finally, what makes an accurate forecast is not the machine learning technique, but rather the hard part of correctly specifying the set of explanatory variables (features) included in the model.
 - Like John Henry, I have yet to find a "machine" learning algorithm that beats a well specified model built with 99% hard thinking and 1% inspiration.
 - It is easy to let computers do stuff. It is hard to know if the stuff was the right stuff.
 - Beware Correlation is not Causation



Prof. George Dantzig



Prof. Clive Granger



John Henry

THANK YOU I HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE TRIP....

