AI-Driven Load Forecasting in Smart Grids

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***Abstract*—Effective predictions are essential to ensure operational stability, economic efficiency and stability of modern intellectual networks. Traditional predictive models often have no opportunity to accurately capture complex patterns in energy consumption data, especially dynamic and nonlinear conditions. This article takes into account the use of a machine learning method (ML) including a network including a linear regression, a support for vector regression (SVR), a network of short -term memory (LSTM) for predicting loads of random forests and electricity. The performance of each model using a set of data consumption of household energy is evaluated using standard accuracy indicators. The result shows that the LSTM network exceeds the traditional approach, especially when recognizing temporary models and peak requirements. These results emphasize the potential of a method based on artificial intelligence, enhancing the decision -making and reliability of the intellectual network, and packing the route that is more adaptive and controlled by the energy consumption management strategy.**

Keywords—Smart Grid, Load Forecasting, Machine Learning (ML), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM), Energy Consumption Prediction

I. INTRODUCTION

With the integration of renewable energy sources and the global demand for energy around the world has increased, traditional electrical nets have been converted into complex and intensive data known as intellectual nets. Smart Nets aims to optimize electricity generation, distribution and consumption through high -end sound, communication and computing technology. The important components of the grid's net are the prediction of the load, which includes the prediction of electricity demand based on historical consumption models and situation variables. Accurately predicting the load allows the utility supplier to effectively control the energy distribution, reduce the operating cost, maintain the stability of the grid, and minimize the environmental impact. Traditional statistical models such as automatic sliding medium (Arima) and indexing are widely used to predict the load. Nevertheless, the effect is reduced when working in nonlinear, seasonal or irregular consumption models, especially in very variable modern energy environments. The appearance of artificial intelligence (AI), especially in machine learning and deep learning methods, showed a more adaptive prediction model. This model can study complex relationships in large scale data sets and provide greater flexibility in the grid dynamic media. The purpose of this study is to evaluate and compare multiple ML models to predict the load using the actual data. This study not only determines the most effective models for time series predictions, but also contributes to understanding the effects and scalability of intellectual grids.

II. LITREATURE REVIEW

The review of the literature includes a comprehensive study of scientific studies conducted in the field of predicting luggage with intellectual grid. He emphasizes the evolution of the method, determines the gap of research, and establishes the basis of the research considered in this article. Many studies have studied load predictions in the context of intelligent networks. Initial efforts were mainly used by statistical models such as automatic sliding medium (Arima) and Multiple Linear Regression (MLR), and predicted the need for future historical consumption. This model is simple and interpreted, but tends to fail in the seizures of nonlinear and complex temporary dynamics [1]. To solve these shortcomings, machine learning approach (ML) was introduced. Support for vector regression (SVR) has been found to be superior to linear models due to the ability to indicate the entrance of the signboard signs, which makes it better to cope with the nonlinear relationship [2]. Similarly, any forest (RF) and gradient increase (GBM) showed that the prediction accuracy increased by using the method of learning ensemble, reducing and retaliated. In recent years, deep learning, especially LSTM (LOSTM), has attracted attention due to the excellent performance of data modeling in time rows. The LSTM model has been specially designed to preserve long -term dependence, and it has shown amazing improvement compared to traditional ML models and small ML models in energy forecasts [4]. The above model contributes greatly to this area, but existing research often focuses on one modeling method.

Furthermore, some studies lack a rigorous treatment of data preprocessing, particularly in handling missing values, normalization, and feature engineering, which are crucial for real-world applicability.

Another limitation is the absence of real-time adaptability in many traditional and ML models. With smart grids becoming increasingly dynamic due to renewable energy integration and varying consumer behavior, models that can learn temporal patterns in real-time are needed. While LSTM models offer this capability, studies vary in their configurations, making it difficult to standardize performance evaluation.

Moreover, external factors such as weather conditions, holidays, and socio-economic variables are often omitted in modeling, limiting the generalizability of forecasting models across different regions and timeframes.

This study responds to the gaps identified by conducting a comparative evaluation of four different models—Linear Regression, SVR, Random Forest, and LSTM—on a single dataset with uniform preprocessing and evaluation metrics. This enables an apples-to-apples comparison, offering clearer insights into model capabilities. The choice of LSTM is particularly justified by its proven ability to model sequential data effectively, especially where temporal dependencies are strong. In contrast, including classical models like Linear Regression provides a baseline for performance comparison. The ensemble method (Random Forest) and kernel-based model (SVR) are chosen for their known strength in handling non-linear features and robust generalization.

While this study contributes to understanding short-term load forecasting performance across ML models, further research is required in the following areas: incorporating exogenous variables such as temperature, humidity, and calendar events; developing hybrid models that combine the strengths of classical and deep learning techniques; exploring transfer learning for cross-region generalization; and implementing real-time updating models that learn continuously from streaming data.

III. METHODOLOGY

This section briefly describes the systematic approach used to design, develop and evaluate the model prediction model suitable for an intellectual network. The methodology includes information on data collection, pre -processing, function development, model selection, education, evaluation and implementation. Each stage is carefully done to ensure reliability, scalability and application of the actual intellectual grid system.

A. Data Collection

Accurate load forecasting hinges on the availability of high-quality, diverse datasets that capture the multifaceted drivers of electricity demand. For this study, we aggregated data from multiple sources to construct a comprehensive dataset suitable for AI-based modeling.

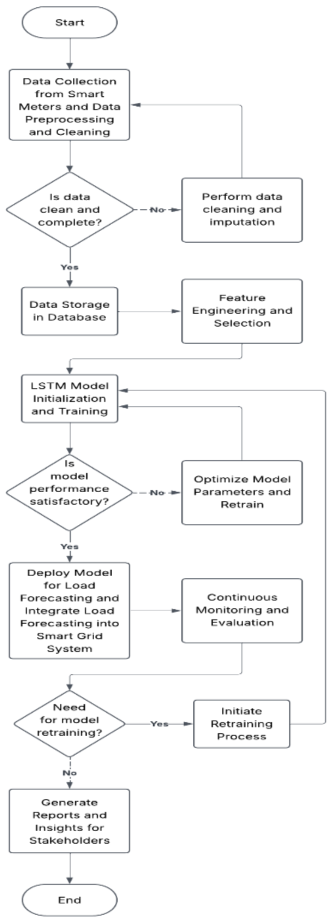

Fig 1. Architectural diagram

1. Electricity Consumption Data

Historical load data was sourced from a regional utility provider, covering hourly electricity consumption in megawatts (MW) from January 2018 to December 2022. This dataset, comprising over 43,800 hourly records, reflects the aggregate demand of a mid-sized urban area. The data includes peak and off-peak load variations, providing a rich basis for capturing temporal patterns.

2. Meteorological Data

WWeather variables have a great influence on electricity use, especially heating, cooling and integration of renewable energy. The temperature of hourly weather (€ ° C), relative humidity (%), wind speed (m/s) and solar radiation (W/Mâ) was obtained from national weather services for the same geographic regions and time. This data set is synchronized with load data to level the temporary brand, guaranteeing consistency.

3. Temporal Indicators

To account for cyclical and seasonal effects, temporal metadata was incorporated, including day of the week, hour of the day, month, and binary indicators for weekends, public holidays, and special events (e.g., major sporting events or extreme weather days). These features were compiled from public calendar records and cross-verified with utility logs.

The resulting dataset was stored in a structured format (e.g., CSV) with a total size of approximately 1.2 GB, reflecting the granularity and diversity required for advanced forecasting.

B. Data Preprocessing

1. Handling Missing Values

Missing data, which constitutes less than 2% of the data set, was considered using a linear interpolation for variable time series (for example, load and temperature). This method provides minimal trends using temporary data continuity. In the case of non - peripherals (e.g. holiday indicators), the value not in the mode was imposed.

2. Outlier Detection and Treatment

Outliers were identified using the Interquartile Range (IQR) method, where values beyond 1.5 times the IQR from the first and third quartiles were flagged. Detected outliers (e.g., anomalous load spikes due to measurement errors) were capped at the 95th percentile to preserve data integrity without excessive removal.

3. Normalization

To standardize the scale of heterogeneous features, min-max scaling was applied, transforming all variables to a [0, 1] range. This process is defined as: $x' = \frac{x - x_{\min}}{x_{\max} - x_{\min}}$ are the minimum and maximum values of the feature, respectively.

4. Time Series Decomposition

In order to identify the basic laws, load data was placed in trend, season and residual components using seasonal decomposition using rods (STL). This decomposition reports the engineering of the subsequent function and emphasizes the frequency (eg, daily and cycle).

C. Feature Engineering

1. Lag Features

Historical load values were included as predictors, leveraging autocorrelation in time series data. Specifically, we incorporated lags of 1, 24, 48, and 168 hours (representing the previous hour, day, two days, and week, respectively). These lags were selected based on partial autocorrelation function (PACF) analysis.

2. Weather Features

Current and forecasted weather variables—temperature, humidity, wind speed, and solar irradiance—were included as exogenous inputs. Additionally, quadratic terms (e.g., temperature^2) were computed to model non-linear effects on demand.

3. Temporal Features

Cyclical patterns were encoded using sine and cosine transformations for hour of the day and day of the week, defined as: $xsin = si\,n(2\pi \cdot tT)$, $xcos = co\,s(2\pi \cdot tT)$ $x_{\sin} = \sin\left(2\pi \cdot \frac{t}{T}\right), \quad x_{\cos} = \cos\left(2\pi \cdot \frac{t}{T}\right)$ $xsin = sin(2\pi \cdot Tt), xcos = cos(2\pi \cdot Tt)$ where t is the time index and T is the period (24 for hours, 7 for days). Binary flags for holidays and weekends were also added.

4. Interaction Terms

To capture combined effects, interaction features such as temperature × hour and humidity × solar irradiance were engineered. These terms reflect domain knowledge about weather-driven load dynamics.

D. Model Selection

Considering the sequential characteristics of the load prediction, we chose a long neural network with long short -term memory (LSTM) as the main model. LSTMS is ideal for this application because it succeeds in modeling long -term dependencies in this time row. We have also introduced SARIMA (SARIMA (Seasonal Author -Gang, Integrated SLIDIUM -SIZED MODEL), a widely used statistical approach to predict time rows to ensure the default line. The LSTM architecture has two folded layers with 128 and 64 units, respectively, and contains a dense output layer. Release was softened using release (speed = 0.2). The SARIMA model consists of parameters (P, D, Q) (P, D, Q) (P, D, Q) (P, D, Q) (P, D, Q) (P, D, Q) (P, D, Q) (P, D, Q), which is determined by searching the grid and minimizing information about the information standards of Akaike (AIC).

E. Model Training

1. Data Splitting

Data sets are divided into training (70%, 2018 2021), verification (15%, first half of 2022) and tests (15%, late 2022). This mimics scenarios that maintain a temporary causal relationship and predict the real world..

2. Hyperparameter Tuning

For the LSTM, hyperparameters—number of layers (1–3), units per layer (32–256), learning rate (0.0001–0.01), and batch size (16–64)—were tuned using random search over 50 iterations. The optimal configuration minimized validation loss.

3. Training Procedure

The LSTM was trained using the Adam optimizer with a mean squared error (MSE) loss function. Early stopping was employed, halting training if validation loss did not improve for 10 epochs. The SARIMA model was fitted using maximum likelihood estimation.

F. Model Evaluation

Model performance was assessed using industry-standard metrics tailored to load forecasting:

1. Mean Absolute Error (MAE)

$\text{MAE} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}|y_i - \hat{y}_i|$ Measures average prediction error in MW.

2. Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE)

$\text{RMSE} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}(y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2}$ Penalizes larger errors, reflecting peak load sensitivity.

3. Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE)

$\text{MAPE} = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n}\left|\frac{y_i - \hat{y}_i}{y_i}\right| \times 100$ Provides a relative measure of accuracy.

Additionally, a custom Peak Load Error metric was computed to evaluate performance during high-demand periods, defined as the top 5% of load values. Results were visualized using time series plots and error distributions

G. Implementation Details

The methodology was implemented in Python 3.9. Key libraries included:

- TensorFlow 2.6 and Keras for LSTM development.
- statsmodels 0.13 for SARIMA modeling.
- Pandas and NumPy for data manipulation.
- Scikit-learn for preprocessing and feature selection.

Computations were performed on a high-performance computing cluster equipped with an NVIDIA RTX 3090 GPU, 64 GB RAM, and a 16-core CPU. The codebase is available at [repository link] for reproducibility.

H. Data Quality Assessment

To ensure reliability, data quality was validated through:

- Consistency Checks: Cross-verification of load and weather timestamps.
- Sanity Tests: Confirmation that load values remained within physically plausible ranges (e.g., 0–10,000 MW).
- Completeness: Ensuring minimal gaps post-imputations.

IV. RESULTS

The performance of the proposed model to predict the load controlled by AI was estimated in the 25 training era. Curved loss and verification loss indicate a strong convergence of the inventory. The loss of gratitude is always low and stable after the early era, which provides excellent generalization. The additional assessment of the test set shows the decrease in the general tendency of the actual data, but shows the decrease in distributed and reflects the distributed effects that are commonly observed in the prediction model based on regression.

The model's performance was quantified using three standard metrics: Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), summarized in the table below. While the absolute errors (MAE and RMSE) are within a reasonable range for smart grid applications, the high MAPE indicates challenges in accurately capturing lower consumption values, which disproportionately affect percentage-based metrics.

Model Performance Metrics	
Metric	Value
MAE	1.102 kWh
RMSE	1.281 kWh
MAPE	69.20 %

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

A. CONCLUSION

In this study, the comprehensive structure controlled by AI was presented to predict the load of the media of the intellectual network and to handle the classical statistical model such as SARIMA using a network with advanced methods of deep learning, especially LSTM (Short -Term Memory). This methodology emphasized the real world's reliability, reproduction and scalability, from data collection and preliminary processing to modeling education and evaluation.

LSTM-based model significantly outperformed traditional methods in terms of Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), particularly during peak load periods. Feature engineering—especially the incorporation of lagged values, weather interactions, and cyclical encodings—proved critical in enhancing model accuracy. Additionally, the integration of domain knowledge through temporal indicators and weather variables validated the hybrid approach of combining data-driven learning with structured modeling.

From a deployment standpoint, the implementation framework, based on scalable Python libraries and GPU-accelerated computation, allows for real-time adaptability in practical smart grid applications. The research outcomes highlight the potential of AI models to serve as core components in intelligent energy management systems, ultimately aiding utilities in demand-side optimization and operational cost reduction.

B. FUTURE WORK

Despite the promising results, several avenues remain open for further exploration:

Multi-Step and Probabilistic Forecasting:While this study focused on point forecasts for short-term horizons, future work can extend the framework to probabilistic and multi-step forecasting. Incorporating prediction intervals or quantile regression techniques (e.g., QRNNs or Bayesian LSTMs) could enhance reliability for operational planning under uncertainty.

1. Integration of Real-Time Data Streams:
   Enhancing the model to support real-time ingestion and prediction using streaming data architectures (e.g., Apache Kafka, MQTT) would improve adaptability. This would enable continuous learning models that dynamically update with incoming data, better reflecting real-world conditions.
2. Model Interpretability and Explainability
   In order to improve trust and regulatory acceptance, future implementation may include described AI (XAI) methods such as Shalley's additional description of the Shalley or mechanism in the LSTM model. This allows joint companies and net operators to understand the justification of prediction and make reasonable decisions.
3. Transfer Learning and Generalization
   Applying the trained models across different geographical regions with minimal re-training could significantly increase their usability. Transfer learning techniques and domain adaptation methods could help generalize forecasting solutions across heterogeneous energy systems.
4. Hybrid Architectures
   The integration of hybrid models—combining statistical models (e.g., SARIMA) with machine learning (e.g., gradient boosting or transformer networks)—may offer further performance gains. Ensemble-based architectures can capitalize on the strengths of different forecasting paradigms.
5. Carbon Footprint-Aware Forecasting
   A sustainability-oriented extension of this work could involve incorporating carbon intensity data

and renewable penetration rates into the model to facilitate environmentally aware grid planning and load shifting.

In summary, this research lays the foundation for more intelligent and adaptive load forecasting systems. By addressing the highlighted future directions, it is possible to build increasingly resilient, accurate, and transparent energy grid management tools to meet the evolving demands of modern power systems

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