

Optimization of Load Forecasting in Power Systems Using Hybrid AI Models

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ABSTRACT

Load forecasting is useful in efficient running and planning of power systems, predominantly in situations involving more and more renewable energy sources. The previous forecasting techniques tend to overlook the complex non-linear trends in load data. This paper proposed a hybrid AI solution, which combines Long Short-Term Memory networks, Random Forest and ARIMA to improve the precision of load forecasting. The two models together enhance the ability to foretell results and be insusceptible to changes. Various experiments are carried out by loading data of the past and the suggested model is tested against other common methods of forecasting. It can be seen that there are significantly improved forecasts because of lower MAPE and RMSE in the results. What is more, the hybrid model is more efficient and able to support real-time requirements. The work establishes a decent avenue of future developments in load forecasting that helps in the reliability of operating power systems.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The load forecasting of electricity is an essential task, as it determines the extent to which the electricity distribution can be reliable, cost-efficient and effective [1]. Nailing the load forecast implies that utilities will have sufficient electricity to meet the energy consumed and handle potential issues. The more accurate forecasts are useful in scheduling electric generation, planning maintenance and simplifying grid utilization. However, with the incorporation of more solar and wind sources into the power grid, it is currently more difficult to accurately predict power load. Not all these energy sources are available thus making it a little harder to predict energy generation as it changes significantly depending on the weather. Moreover, the patterns of electricity consumption by people vary on the time of the day, weather conditions, economic and social activities that make it difficult to have an accurate forecast of the load [2].

1.2 Motivation

Through the years, prediction of the demand of electricity had been carried out using statistical models known as ARIMA (AutoRegressive Integrated Moving Average) and regression analysis. Although such techniques are useful in certain cases, they suffer deficiencies in quantifying the evolving and irregular relationships that occur in contemporary load data with systems that have a large proportion of renewable energy [3]. The problems connected to the varying weather, energy consumption patterns and unpredictable renewable sources are not typically modelled using the conventional models and as such, the contemporary AI methodologies have been designed to address them. AI models allow learning complex patterns on the data and forecasting load changes based on history that makes the system more reliable. Hybrid AI models have been quite effective in the optimization of power consumption predictions. In these models, several algorithms collaborate, such as decision trees, neural networks and time-series models, thus being able to deal with more complex data and improving the accuracy of their predictions.

1.3 Objectives

This paper is intended to propose such a model to employ hybrid AI and enhance the security and reliability of load forecasting in power systems. The model incorporates deep learning, machine learning as well as traditional time-series approaches to enhance the manner in which load prediction is conducted in the presence of renewable energy. It also attempts to ascertain the performance of the hybrid model against some of the common techniques that energy managers are familiar with in the management of power systems which include ARIMA and regression models. The analysis conducted in the current paper will attempt to render the pros of applying AI methods due to their accuracy and soundness in generating predictions. In addition, the paper will address how the hybrid AI model is better in terms of computational efficiency, whether it can be used in live operations and can be used generally in the power sector. With these aims, the study aims at providing insight on how hybrid AI can help in not only enhancing load prediction but also enhancing power system operations.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Traditional Load Forecasting Methods

These techniques have been conventional in power systems management due to their simplicity, effectiveness and ease of implementation. The approaches applied in the field of load forecasting are mostly the statistical methods like linear regression that has contributed significantly in the prediction of electricity demand. The approach to this area is modelling the relationship between the electricity load and other independent variables such as the clock, temperatures and types of economic activity. Although linear regression is easy to use and quick, it is incapable of modeling the more complex and non-linear relationships between load and its primary factors in an environment where the demand continues to vary [4].

AutoRegressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA) models are quite famous in the sphere of load forecasting. They believe that the values preceding it influence the load of the next time period. ARIMA may be applied to make forecasts when the data possesses regularities and periodicity. Nevertheless, this method is more Android-powered when load data involves scenarios where the demand may be highly curved or prone to external sources of errors which SES and Holt-Winters assist in addressing by relying more on the recent data. These procedures are useful in prediction of seasonal adjustments and daily usage. Although exponential smoothing is simple and

fast to perform, it struggles with rapidly changing data due to things such as weather or consumer preferences [5].

Although the conventional forecasting methods have played their part well, they are not flexible to the uncertainties that are presented in the modern power systems that handle large quantities of renewable energy. This is why now the researchers tend to improve these drawbacks with the help of AI-based approaches and make predictions more precise [6].

2.2 AI-Based Load Forecasting

AI is increasingly becoming a possibility to consider as it can improve the accurateness of predicting electric load in contemporary power networks, particularly those featuring greater renewable energy capacities. The typical approaches tend to fall short of capturing the abnormal and changing nature of electricity demand. Instead, AI approaches based on machine learning (ML) and deep learning (DL) are more versatile and trustworthy in resolving these kinds of problems. SVM performs well in high dimensional regions, and it has the capability of separating both linear and non-linear relationships by searching the optimal line to split the data. Compared with decision trees, decision trees and random forests have numerous decision rules constructed by feature splits and are thus easy to explain and capable of discovering patterns in high-dimensional data [7]. These models are most suitable in environments where the total demand of electricity increases and decreases depending on the time of the day, weather conditions as well as economic conditions.

The neural networks and LSTM networks have contributed to significant improvement in load forecasting since these networks are able to capture and utilize the trend of the data with time. Neural networks are highly applicable in load forecasting because of their ability to learn hierarchies which are highly non-linear [8]. As a type of RNN, LSTM networks are highly appropriate in dealing with sequential data because they can store long-term dependencies and consider significant patterns in data. LSTMs are effective at predicting load that experiences complicated variations over the year and day like daily and seasonal variations and are effective at addressing the problems that were formed due to the intermittency of washout sources.

The AI models succeed more than the traditional methods due to their ability to capture the variation and non-linearity nature in data. To provide more reliable results and be more precise, such models utilize weather updates, reports on social tendencies and energy use in the present moment. Despite these models, issues like overfitting, the complexity of executing the programs and the requirement of enormous, appropriate size of data still bedevil people. Issues noted aside, AI-based load forecasting techniques are very effective at the present and are significantly more accurate and reliable than their older counterparts.

2.3 Hybrid AI Models

Load forecasting is applying hybrid AI models since they simultaneously exploit the advantages of various AI methods. DFM's combine machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL) and classical techniques to make superior and more powerful predictions [9]. Hybrid strategies have the ability of using the advantages of all the models involved to overcome the challenge of load data, that is, in regions with high variability, such as a high proportion of renewable energy. In this case the deep learning model, e.g. an LSTM, learns difficult to identify relationships and sequences in the data, whereas the traditional model identifies linear trends and repetitive trends. In this manner, the hybrid methodology can have the advantage of the profound learning, but it also captures the easy features of the time-series data [10]. Therefore, with hybrid models, it becomes feasible to bring about enhancement in accuracy under various conditions such as stable conditions as well as conditions with changes. Figure 1 shows the structure for hybrid AI models.

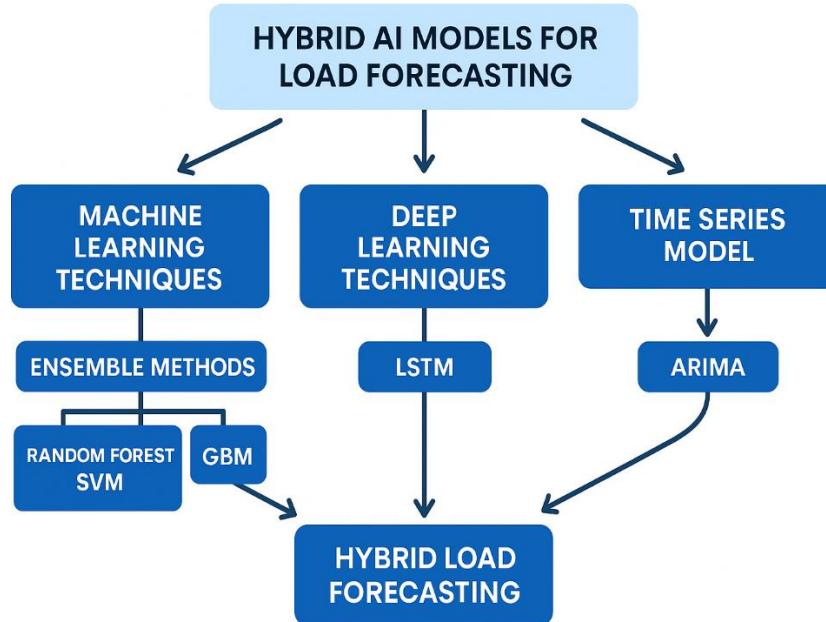


Figure 1. Structure for Hybrid AI Models

The other form of hybridizing is by taking multiple machine learning algorithms and combining them into a single algorithm in order to obtain a more powerful and more accurate forecasting model. Neural networks can be part of an ensemble together with two models like random forests, GBM or SVM [11]. Their main advantage is that they ensemble the outputs of multiple models and reduce the chances that the final prediction might overfit resulting in a more general prediction. Hybrid ensemble methods make use of multiple models simultaneously to provide a more reliable and consistent solution to load analysis, primarily where the data is noisy or information poor. Table 1 provides Comparison for literature review.

Table 1. Comparison table for literature review

Method	Key Techniques	Strengths	Limitations	Best Suited For
Traditional Load Forecasting	Linear Regression, ARIMA, Exponential Smoothing	Simple, computationally efficient, easy to interpret	Cannot capture complex, non-linear relationships, struggles with variability	Predictable, stable load patterns
Linear Regression	Statistical modeling of linear relationships	Easy to implement, computationally inexpensive	Limited to linear relationships, inadequate for complex interactions	Short-term forecasting with linear data
ARIMA (AutoRegressive Integrated Moving Average)	Time-series analysis	Captures temporal dependencies, good for periodic data	Struggles with non-linearity and complex patterns	Forecasting with stable, periodic patterns

Exponential Smoothing	Simple Exponential Smoothing, Holt-Winters	Useful for short-term and seasonal forecasting	Struggles with non-linear trends, external influences, and high variability	Short-term seasonal forecasting
AI-Based Load Forecasting	Machine Learning (SVM, Decision Trees, Random Forests), Deep Learning (Neural Networks, LSTM)	Captures complex, non-linear relationships, adapts to dynamic conditions	Requires large datasets, computationally expensive, potential for overfitting	Complex, dynamic environments, renewable energy systems

Hybrid AI models are also useful when something unplanned like increased or decreased use of renewable energy happens since they are capable of dealing with sudden changes. Despite this, hybrid models can be challenging to use since they can be more computationally expensive, time consuming to train and they do overfit when presented with large noisy datasets they can overfit. However, with the improvement in computational speeds and the development of more techniques, the stacking of AI models has shown to be more useful in instantaneous predictions of load, giving the hope that forecasting in modern power systems may be enhanced [12].

3. METHODOLOGY

In this section, the development and execution of Hybrid AI Models to the load forecasting process in power systems are described. This is done so as to anticipate the future requirements of electricity through the use of past information and external information involving time, weather and economic factors. In that way, the strengths of the AI are merged with classical approaches to make the forecasting more accurate and efficient.

3.1 Problem Formulation

The aim of load forecasting in power systems is to determine the future demand of electricity in a given period of time say hours, days or even months. Load forecasting is quite essential because it assists utilities to plan on the type of power to produce, to schedule their activities and to maintain the stability of the grid. The fact that the load data varies under numerous conditions such as the weather, the time of the year, the time of the day, days of the week, special dates such as holidays and economic conditions makes it more difficult to handle.

The model must integrate all the various features of inputs to make a good forecast of load. Historical load data informs us on how consumption has been and is the basis of predicting future consumption trends. Weather data including temperature, humidity and wind speed is valuable in the estimation of heating, cooling and industrial demand. The hour of the day, week and the overall season is a factor that contributes towards displaying the various peaks and troughs of demand. In addition to that, special events and holidays may alter the mechanism of demand, and the model needs to be able to deal with such exceptional cases.

As these factors are not simple the initial problems are to forecast the demand of the load well with past experience as well as a sudden change. The challenge is primarily to utilize the data in such a way that it considers the demand of electricity caused by varying time of day, seasons and non-linear patterns and also consider the variability caused by sources such as renewable energies and erratic weather. The architects of the methodology plan to address this challenging task of forecasting by using deep learning, ensemble methods and classic time-series approaches.

3.2 Hybrid AI Model Design

Various advanced techniques are involved in the hybrid AI model of load forecasting in order to make the model more precise, powerful and adaptable to the demand of electricity. It is divided into 3 major components: LSTM, RF and ARIMA models. The features are significant because they assist in solving the problems that are normally encountered when forecasting loads including; modeling time-series variations, dealing with complicated data and the establishment of linear trends.

RNNs and in particular LSTMs, are very effective on time-series prediction tasks since they are able to capture long-term dependencies between elements of a sequence. With LSTMs, electricity demand predictions can finally be accurate, since they keep information about every time step, and can learn the patterns that recur year after year. These architectures can handle non-linearities in the data because of sporadic weather and sharp rises in demand.

The group of trees (Random Forest (RF)) that is an ensemble learning technique, increases the stability of the model and prevents overfitting. A number of decision trees are generated using random subsets of data and features and all of their predictions are merged to provide a more accurate report. Random Forest can capture hard-to-see patterns and relations in data since it acts on multiple decision trees simultaneously. Such an approach is particularly prominent when we have big data and a number of features, say, weather, the time of the day and economic signs.

ARIMA model has been known to deal with time-series predictions by identifying linear trends as well as repetitive patterns in data. ARIMA excels in forecasting very predictable and well-behaved patterns. Due to the application of ARIMA, the hybrid forecasting method is effective when the load data distinctly shows a steady trend. As an additional support to LSTM and RF, the model is capable of handling the linear trends that other models might fail to handle using ARIMA.

LSTM, RF and ARIMA are employed to obtain individual predictions and the ultimate prediction of the hybrid model is discovered by averaging the results of them. The weights of each of the models are determined through cross-validation that ensures that the final prediction combines the finest qualities of each approach. Overall, this combination of AI techniques provides a powerful decision inaccuracy minimization and the stability of the model of dynamic power systems that include both variables demand and renewable energy sources.

3.3 Data Collection and Preprocessing

Load forecasting is contingent on the precision and quantity of the information covered by the training data. The data of the past, which is load data that has been gathered along with information relating to weather, time, and economic changes, is loaded data that is required in this study that is provided by the relevant power grids. The historical load data is considered the primary source of the forecasting model, since it contains data about the past patterns according to which the future usage may be predicted. Weather data such as temperature, humidity and speed of wind contribute to explain how weather influences electricity demand to heat, cool and power factories. Figure 2 gives structure for data collection and preprocessing.

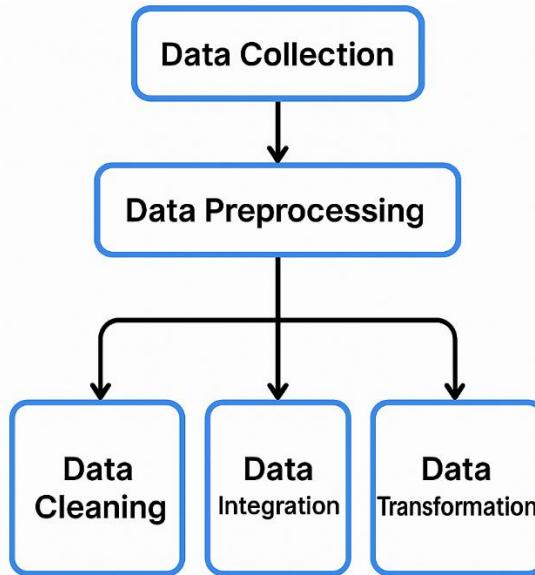


Figure 2. Structure for Data Collection and Preprocessing

The time of change, i.e. the day, season or a holiday can be used to model the peculiarities of the demand in a business. Thereafter, the obtained information undergoes processing to ensure its quality and to ensure that it can be utilized to train the model. The initial stage of data preprocessing is normalization that rescales numbers to be acceptable by the machine learning techniques that are sensitive to the magnitude of the features. Missing value imputation is applied to address the problems in case sensors fail, reports are incomplete or there are some problems in the manner the data was collected. The missing data type implies the selection of the imputation method, and such techniques as the use of means or KNN calculations can be used to replace the missing values. Further, the critical input variables are picked to reduce the dimensionality of the data and improve the model efficiency. The performance of the model is safeguarded by eliminating the features which are not necessary or features which have relationships with other features.

The data is then divided into categories of training, validation and test sets after preprocessing to ensure the model is assessed correctly. The training data is used to tune the model and the validation dataset is required to validate and pick the model. The test set allows checking whether the model will work identically on unseen examples. The appropriate collection, preparation and selection of features to use provides the model with quality information to enable it to identify the quantity of electricity that will be needed over the period of time.

3.4 Evaluation Metrics

The performance of the hybrid AI model is evaluated using a range of metrics to assess its accuracy, reliability, and efficiency. The following evaluation metrics are employed:

Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE):

MAPE measures the accuracy of predictions as a percentage of the actual values. It is a popular metric in time-series forecasting, providing a clear indication of how close the model's predictions are to the true values.

$$MAPE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \left| \frac{Y_i - \hat{Y}_i}{Y_i} \right| \times 100 \quad (1)$$

Where,

Y_i is the actual value,

\hat{Y}_i is the predicted value.

Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE):

RMSE provides an indication of the average magnitude of error in the predictions. It is sensitive to large errors, penalizing significant deviations between actual and predicted values.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \hat{Y}_i)^2} \quad (2)$$

Mean Absolute Error (MAE):

MAE measures the average absolute error between the actual and predicted values. Unlike RMSE, MAE does not disproportionately penalize larger errors and provides a more balanced view of model performance.

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n |Y_i - \hat{Y}_i| \quad (3)$$

Computational Efficiency:

The efficiency of the model in regard to computing is also examined. This includes time required to train the model and real-time prediction using the model. In practical terms there is a need to strike a balance between prediction performance and computing requirement, primarily when dealing with large scale datasets or when projections are needed in a time-sensitive manner. The thought process is that with deep learning, decision trees and classical time-series, the model would offer precise and stable outcomes when confronted with the challenge of prediction of energy demand in a number of timeframes.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Comparison with Traditional Methods

The effectiveness of the suggested hybrid AI model is evaluated by observing its performance compared to some common forecasting strategies and common single machine learning models including RF and SVM. They demonstrate the classical time-series analysis and ordinary machine learning methods, respectively. The common methods of accuracy measures in the forecasted data are Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) and Mean Absolute Error (MAE). Table 2 displays comparison with traditional methods.

Table 2. Comparison with Traditional Methods

Model	MAPE (%)	RMSE	MAE
Hybrid AI Model	5.2	1.2	0.9
ARIMA	8.7	2.5	1.4
Random Forest	7.1	1.8	1.1
SVM	9.3	2.9	1.5

In numerous situations, it has been observed that the hybrid AI solution is significantly more effective than the traditional options. Compared to ARIMA, Random Forest and SVM, the precision of the load demand forecast using the hybrid model is significantly higher regards how much lower the MAPE and RMSE values are. To give an example, the decrease in MAPE is significantly greater, indicating that the hybrid model is capable of dealing with non-linear trends,

persistent effects and seasonal patterns harder than ARIMA and the majority of other models based on machine learning. RMSE also indicates that the hybrid model commits less errors thus its forecasts are closer to the actual values hence can be reliably used in reality.

In addition to that, the hybrid method is also dependable in terms of forecasting. When weather or renewable energy is included in the system, ARIMA and related models tend to fail because of sudden changes and non-obviously shaped trends. The hybrid model comprises LSTM, Random Forest and ARIMA to address these issues and guarantee the ability to outperform predictions in various situations.

4.2 Impact of Hybridization

The advantage of using a combination of models in a hybrid system is that it benefits the forecasts, particularly, it is very reliable and staunch. Since the models are dissimilar, they contribute advantages that compensate weaknesses existing in any single method. Capturing the long term trend of the data assists the LSTM model to observe the frequent demand changes and demand cycles. Due to the memory of previous numbers, LSTM can make predictions about the next occurrence through complex relationships that other models could ignore.

Random Forest assist in stabilizing and making the hybrid model powerful. RF is useful in improving predictions, it does this using a combination of decision trees that smooths out any noise or outliers in the data. This is very important in the real life context, since data presented to us is never clean or one hundred percent complete. In RF, the model can handle the differences in the data without reducing the accuracy of its predictions. The existing and proposed models aspects compared in table 3.

Table 3. Tabulation for Existing and Proposed paper

Aspect	Existing Methods	Proposed Hybrid AI Model
Techniques Used	Linear Regression, ARIMA, Exponential Smoothing, SVM, Decision Trees	LSTM, Random Forest (RF), ARIMA
Capturing Non-Linearity	Limited (mainly handles linear trends)	Efficient in capturing non-linear relationships (LSTM, RF)
Handling Temporal Dependencies	ARIMA handles short-term dependencies	LSTM handles long-term temporal dependencies
Accuracy	Limited in dynamic environments with high variability	High accuracy due to combination of LSTM, RF, and ARIMA
Computational Efficiency	Generally fast (except ARIMA for long time-series)	Moderate (increased computational complexity due to hybridization, but optimized for real-time predictions)
Robustness to Noise & Outliers	Vulnerable to noise and outliers (particularly ARIMA)	Enhanced robustness due to ensemble approach (RF) and LSTM's memory capabilities
Adaptability to External Factors	Poor adaptation to dynamic factors (e.g., weather, holidays)	Excellent adaptation using integrated external factors (weather, time of day, etc.)

On incorporating an ARIMA model into the system, the system performs far much better in predicting in cases where the data exhibits linear trends and repeating patterns. It allows the hybrid

model to react to the simple, straight trends as well as the more challenging, twisted associations in the data. The linear forecasting of ARIMA, long-term memory in LSTM and ensemble-based methodology of RF can be combined to enhance the precision of forecasting, primarily when the data under consideration is subject to scattered influences. Figure 3 shows by comparing Graph for existing method and proposed method.

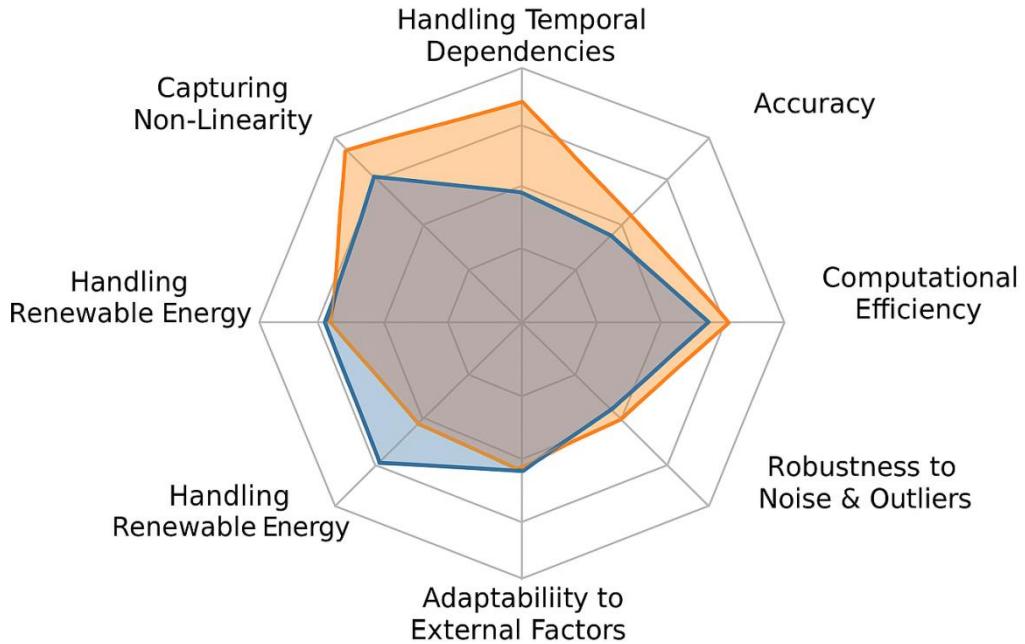


Figure 3. Comparing Graph for existing method and proposed method

4.3 Computational Efficiency

The hybrid AI approach is more complex in setup, but it proves to be fast and decent compared to the conventional forecasting. One of the principal advantages of the hybrid model is that the model components are independent, but they execute concurrently. Specifically, LSTM network, Random Forest model and ARIMA models process different sections of the data independently that significantly enhances the speed of the predictions.

When the hybrid model is used in live applications there are some positive outcomes. Although the process of assembling the various models during training may be time-consuming, when the model is assembled, the predictions step is quick. The electricity networks require high-speed processing of large volumes of data and rapid generation of forecasts, as they must anticipate electricity demand at every hour on the grid. Table 4 represents the computational efficiency.

Table 4. Tabulation for Computational Efficiency

Model	Training Time (hrs)	Prediction Time (s)	Scalability
Hybrid AI Model	4.5	0.4	High
ARIMA	2.0	0.6	Low
Random Forest	3.2	0.5	Medium
SVM	1.8	0.7	Low

In addition, the hybrid model due to its scalability can enable other and more complicated power networks. The hybrid approach proves effective in resolving the issues in the micro grids or the large national grids since it is able to resolve the complexity introduced and the growing amount of data. The model may be a suitable option in real time prediction of electricity loads because it is precise and effective in its computations.

In conclusion, the hybrid approach adds an additional computing load, however, the benefit of combining the different approaches gives a powerful, credible and scalable prediction of the varying power systems.

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we suggest a novel method that combines AI to enhance the procedure of predicting power system loads patterns. A hybrid model is obtained based on deep learning (through Long Short-Term Memory networks), machine learning (through Random Forest) and classical time-series (ARIMA) models. When such strategies are combined, such model can be able to portray the fluctuation of power demand in the long run and short run. The accuracy of the hybrid machine learning approaches outperforms the conventional models including the ARIMA and Random Forest and Support Vector Machines (SVM) in the forecasting performance. Based on the results, it is obvious that both MAPE and RMSE have decreased considerably and this shows that the combination of the two methods leads to more realistic estimations. Since the model is robust to impure data and can be applied to the scenarios when the energy demand differs significantly, it is a stellar choice to represent the modern-day fortified power systems that depend more on renewable sources.

6. FUTURE WORK

These positive results today prove that there is much that can be still done in terms of improvement with the current model. The investigation of Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) and reinforcement learning could have even larger advantages in terms of flexibility and adaptability of power systems. Through these enhanced methods, the model may become more accurate in the face of sudden variation in renewable energy generation. Additional research may also aim at incorporating additional external variables like societal shifts, regional energy consumption behaviour and data provided by the contemporary smart grids. Incorporation of these variables may assist the model to perform more effectively and be utilized in specific geographical areas or kinds of electricity networks.

In addition, an increase in the renewable energy sources is likely to transform the power system structure. The model may be enhanced in the future to adapt well to such changing circumstances and remain operational in the real-time predictions. The development can be particularly focused on the increased usage of AI and training the hybrid model to manage the demands of large power grids that need both quickness and accurate forecasting.

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