





# AI-assisted decision support for operational planning in distribution systems



https://aisopproject.com

Masters Thesis presentation:

Low voltage load forecasting using ensemble Methods
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FH Zentralschweiz





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## AISOP goal is an **AI-assisted decision support system** for distribution grids with high penetration of DERs (TRL 2 – Concept to TRL 6 – Prototype)



Data access and ingestion

May 2022







### **Grid situational awareness**

### **Decision support solutions**

May 2025 | 3 years

### WP5 – Virtual test-beds











## Tools for situational awareness – Data co-pilot concept

**User interface** to various data sources, enabling DSOs to perform analytics workflows.

- Detection of anomalies and trends: monitor the grid and identify potential issues that may not be immediately apparent from raw data alone.
- Grid simulation: forecasts and scenarios of grid conditions to plan against grid overloading.
- **Risk estimation**: analysing historical data and future scenarios to quantify risk of operating in states with too high or too low voltage or load, summarises the state of operation and gives input to the design of dynamic tariffs.

Physical Layer
Smart Meters
Weather
LV and MV Grids
HV Grid
Users
Production
A







A DATA CO-PILOT FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES TO SUPPORT GRID SITUATIONAL AWARENESS presented at AI for Energy Utilities track at AI and Machine Learning conference AMLD EPFL 2024 (https://zenodo.org/records/11639570)



### Tools for situational awareness – Analytics workflows using only data and AI models

### • Load Forecasting on generic smart • Anomaly detection on data recorded by GridEye sensor. meter data.



Comparison of dummy, naïve (e.g., average of past data), and DL forecast for P and Q of load 4 over a period of one month. The DL model is a pretrained Text-to-Text transformer, T5 architecture with 8M parameters, used as a zero-shot inference tool, without fine tuning. For both models the input is data of the three previous days. The DL forecast has a mean RMSE lower that the naïve forecast, its standard deviation is significantly larger. Both the naïve and the DL forecast can be easily improved, and more extensive comparisons will be performed.



points are highlighted and mapped to the original time series, where the distortion in the voltage is observed.



"A framework for data-driven decision support for operational planning in active distribution networks" presented at CIRED 2024 Vienna Workshop (https://virtual.oxfordabstracts.com/#/event/public/4945/submission/359)



## Architecture of virtual demonstrator: AISOP federated data assimilation for Situational Awareness

### Parser

- Accesses data and converts it to AISOP data models.
- Establishes Single Source of Truth (SSoT) then feeds data to other modules.

### **Data space**

- Federates the access to data.
- Identity provider manages dynamic attributes and certificates of data providers and data consumers.





Proposed architecture of AISOP WP5 Virtual Demonstrator: data space is implemented as a pre-configured Minimum Viable Data Space (International Data Spaces Association)

## Forecasting plays an important role for grid situation awareness

### **1. Nowadays forecasts are readily** available

- More and more data accessible.
- Open-source tools.
- Many forecast providers, lower costs.

### **2.** How to select the best forecasts becomes more relevant

- In theory combinations of forecasts (ensembles) will yield better results.
- For some use cases better forecasts are not necessarily those with lower average error metrics.





### Mean vs Max Values for Different Models







## Open data from Centralschweizerischen Kraftwerke AG (CKW AG)

- id: The consumer's anonymized smart meter ID.
- timestamp: 15 minutes timestamps in UTC format.
- value\_kwh: the energy consumption per 15 minute timestamp.
- The data was preprocessed and saved in a compact format for every ID.



Column name	Description	Data type
id	the anonymized ID	text
timestamp	the UTC time at the start of a 15-minute time window to which the consumption refers	ISO-8601 timestamp
value_kwh	the consumption in kWh in the time window	float

CKW dataset description



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- A CKW ID selected which could be a small business or a household.
- It has smaller values at night and higher values within the day.
- The time series plot shows an example date (Last Tuesday of March) and their average within years 2021, 2022, 2023 where the pattern is similar.















- By creating the histogram of all the values included in the dataset for years 2021-2023, one can observe non negative values.
- The histogram of the data shows right skewness.
- The most of the observations are in the range of 0.05-0.2 kWh and fewer in the range of 0.4-0.7 kWh.
- The shape of the histogram is expected, as smart meter data, in some cases it follows a lognormal distribution (Haben et al., 2023).





### Histogram of Value (kWh)



- ACF of the data shows a strong seasonal effect for lag 96 which is the daily seasonality.
- PACF shows higher peaks on lags 672 and its multiples which is the weekly seasonality.





Autocorrelation Function of the data

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## MSTL decomposition

- As the data has multiple seasonal components, MSTL decomposition (Dettling, 2020),can be applied to look at the patterns.
- By the decomposition one can observe the original data as well as the trend and different seasonal components.
- By plotting the decomposed data of two weeks, one can observe the daily seasonal pattern but also the weekly patterns in which the data has similar peaks.





MSLT applied and plotted on year 2022. Example of plotting the first 2 weeks of 2022.



## Model evaluation: Benchmark model- Seasonal Moving Average

- The result is that the total RMSE is 0.093 kwh.
- The model seems to be able to follow the pattern.
- The mean of the residuals is 0.0008 which is very close to zero.
- When the forecast captures most of the patterns and trends, the histogram of the residuals usually follows a normal distribution, which seems to be the case.







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## Model evaluation: Feed forward neural network with 2 week input and 4 hidden layers

- The time series plot behaviour seems quite good while the forecasted values peaks seem to be able to follow the actual values.
- The variation of the peaks is similar to the one of the actual values.
- The trend is behaving similarly as well.







## Model evaluation: Convolutional neural network with 2 week input and 3 hidden layers

• The behaviour of the plots is similar to those of the Feed Forward Neural Networks.







### Model evaluation: Gradient Boosted trees of depth 1

• The forecasts follow the trend of the actual data well with a smaller variation of the peaks.





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### Model evaluation: Generalised Additive Model

• This behaviour can be explained by looking at the time series, in which the trend is captured by the model, but the variation is smaller compared to the actual time series.







### Model evaluation: Simple and weighted averaging ensembles

- All the ensembles have a similar behaviour by the graph assessment, those considered the best behaving is the weighted averaging ensembles while their metrics are better in comparison to the simple averaging ensembles.
- More specifically, the one behaving the best is the weighted averaging ensemble, with base fused models the CNN and the GAM.







### How well do ensemble models perform compared to a gradient boosted tree?

	RMSE	Mean	St. Dev	RMSE max	Mean of	St. Dev of	ACF value
	total	RMSE per	RMSE per	per	the	the	at lag 96
		window	window	window	residuals	residuals	
GBRT-tuned	0.085651	0.084091	0.016273	0.198767	0.001130	0.085600	0.135333
Averaging ensemble (FFNN x GAM)	0.076829	0.075464	0.014417	0.175076	0.00267	0.076800	0.157896
Weighted averaging ensemble (FFNN x GAM)	0.075083	0.073731	0.014183	0.171696	0.00251	0.075000	0.163759
Averaging ensemble (CNN x GAM)	0.076173	0.074753	0.014641	0.175761	0.00371	0.076100	0.154973
Weighted averaging ensemble (CNN x GAM)	0.074625	0.073229	0.014369	0.172422	0.00341	0.074500	0.159783



### • As of all the RMSE values, the ensembles seem to behave better in comparison to the GBRT (~0.01 kWh)



### How well do ensemble models perform compared to a gradient boosted tree?

- The behaviour of both ensembles and GBT seems to be good when plotting time series plots.
- It seems that the variation of the peaks is higher in the ensembles compared to the GBT.
- As the trend is well followed by the GBT and the ensembles, it is difficult to compare which case behaves better.
- Therefore, by the metrics assessment, it seems that ensembles are overall slightly better compared to the GBT.





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## Do the models built on one smart meter data, perform well on data from another smart meter?





Seasonal Moving Average Feed Forward Neural Network Convolutional Neural Network Gradient Boosted Trees × Generalised Additive Model Simple Averaging Ensemble (FFNN x GAM) Weighted Averaging Ensemble (FFNN x GAM) V Simple Averaging Ensemble (CNN x GAM) Weighted Averaging Ensemble (CNN x GAM)

## Conclusion

- costs, data and model management and monitoring become relevant.
- neural networks.
- models using open smart meter data.
- Results reported in the Master thesis work, such as

  - model management and monitoring.
- of larger values of load and their timing.



• Forecasts are becoming easier and easier to produce, however, in order to maximize value of forecasts versus

• In AISOP we have experimented with several univariate time series forecasting methods from basic baseline methods that rely on simple averaging of load profiles to advanced methodologies that rely on pre-trained deep

• In this context, the Master thesis work presented explored the performance of ensembles of simple neural network

1. quantification of errors from different methods, can be used as a baseline for further model development; and 2. usage of multiple forecast performance metrics to compare different forecasts can be further developed for

• Moreover, the relevance of building forecast models aimed at different use cases, by taking care that the right performance metrics are applied to obtain forecasts with the desired characteristics, was highlighted in various discussions with stake holders of AISOP project: load forecasts for grid congestion need to deliver good predictions