

Probabilistic Wind Power Forecasting

S. Gomez¹ A. Lenzi¹ C. Dent¹

¹School of Mathematics, University of Edinburgh

2025-09-02

Table of contents I

1 Wind energy resource assessment

2 Data sources

3 Model framework

4 Results

Wind energy resource assessment

Wind energy integration

Climate change requires us to integrate renewable sources to the energy system.
Wind energy can account for up to 68.3% of total generation in the UK.

- Supply cannot be controlled
- We want to predict wind energy and quantify its uncertainty
- Use this information to meet energy demand optimally

Objective

Objective

Generate renewable energy predictions along with their associated uncertainty for regions of interest in the short term. In addition to the point estimate, we aim to produce energy scenarios whose behaviour closely resembles observed data.

Behaviour

Let $P(s)_t$ denote the normalised wind energy output at point s and time t .

- Leverage spatio-temporal properties

$$\text{Cov}(P(a)_t, P(b)_t)$$

$$\text{Cov}(P(s)_t, P(s)_{t+h})$$

- Smoothness and variability

$$\Delta P(s)_t = P(s)_{t+1} - P(s)_t, \quad \text{Var}(P(s)_t)$$

- Physical constraints: installed capacity

$$0 < P(s)_t < P(s)_t^{\max}$$

Data sources

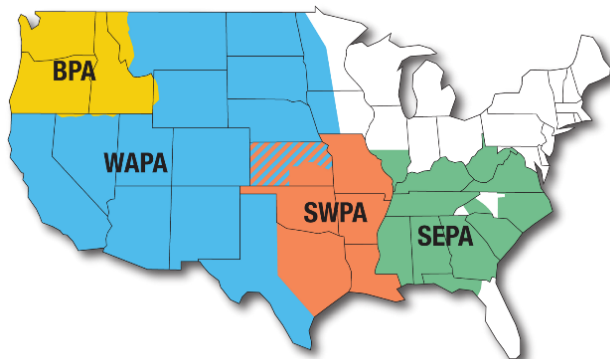
Data

Mix of spatio-temporal data sources:

- Gridded weather data: wind speed $w(s)_t$
- Historical generation and forecast \tilde{p}_t, \tilde{f}_t in MW
- Wind farm capacity c_t
- Normalised wind power $p_t = \tilde{p}_t / c_t$

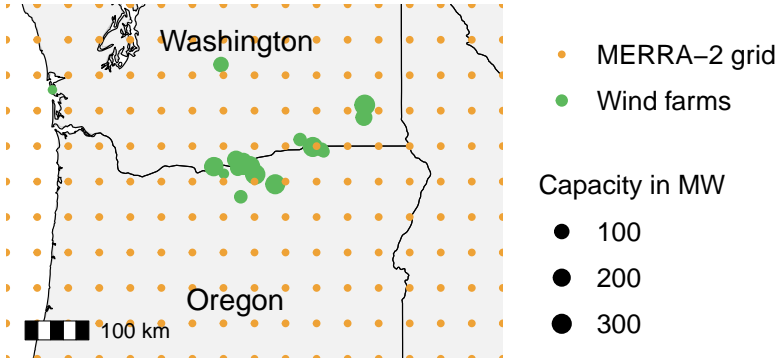
Bonneville Power Administration US

Figure 1: US power administration coverage

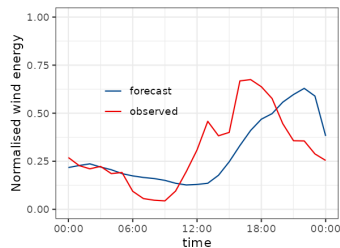


Gridded data and wind farms locations

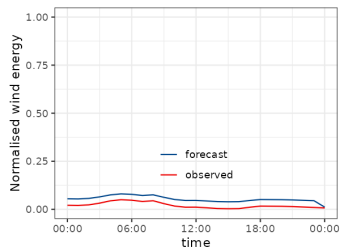
Figure 2: Locations of the 21 wind farms



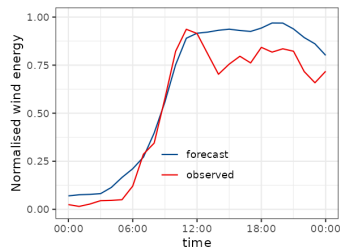
Wind power time series



(a) 2013-08-29



(b) 2013-10-13



(c) 2013-11-02

Figure 3: 24h forecasts for three days.

Objective

Project goal

Leverage historical point forecasts and additional data sources to produce probabilistic forecasting.

- Uncertainty quantification (UQ) around wind power point forecasts.
- Integrate extra information: weather, time, constraints, etc.
- Obtain short-term probabilistic scenarios
- Match behaviour of the wind energy process

Model framework

Model framework

- Bayesian modelling estimated using Integrated Nested Laplace Approximation (INLA)
- Beta distribution: wind power $P_t \in (0, 1)$
- Power ramp effect
- Autoregressive components: AR(p)
- Nonlinear effects
- Regime switching

Hierarchical Bayesian Model

Normalised Power with Beta likelihood model (NPB):

$$\begin{aligned} P_t &\sim \text{Beta}(\mu_t \phi, \phi(1 - \mu_t)), \\ E[P_t | \mathbf{x}_t] &= \mu_t = g^{-1}(\eta_t + \beta \Delta \eta_t), \\ \eta_t &= \alpha + s_f(f_t) + s_w(w_t) + s_m(m_t) + s_h(h_t) + u_t, \\ u_t &= \rho_1 u_{t-1} + \rho_2 u_{t-2} + \epsilon_t, \quad \epsilon_t \sim N(0, \tau_u^{-1}), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where g is the logit function, $\Delta^2 s_k \sim N(0, \tau_k)$,
i.e. a random walk of order 2.

P_t : Normalised power at t

μ_t : expected wind power

ϕ : dispersion

η_t : linear predictor

β : power ramp sens.

w_t : wind speed

f_t : day-ahead power forecast

α : Intercept

s_f : forecast regime correction

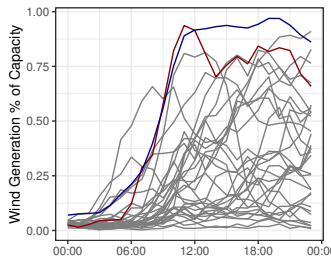
s_w : wind regime correction

s_m, s_h : month, hour effects

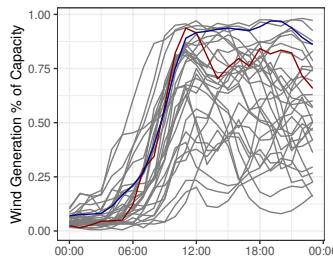
u_t : autocorrelation term

Results

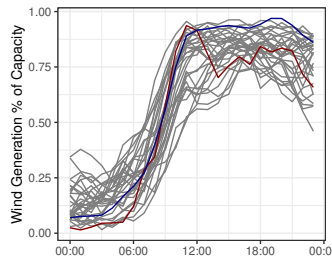
Posterior samples



(a) Base model



(b) + power ramp (PR)



(c) + regime switch (RS)

Figure 4: Posterior samples on 2013-11-02.

Scoring

Comparing NPB model vs. the Nonparametric density estimation method of Staid et. al.(2017).

Table 1: Model Scoring

Model	CRPS	Energy	Variogram		
			$p = 0.5$	$p = 1$	$p = 2$
NPB	0.064	0.387	0.455	0.318	0.122
PR-NPB	0.052	0.315	0.345	0.234	0.085
RS-PR-NPB	0.045	0.274	0.313	0.208	0.081
Nonparametric	0.045	0.288	0.368	0.226	0.086

Power Ramp behaviour

Method represents better the distribution of large ramp events, but it is not as smooth as the data in the low end.

Table 2: Percentage of hourly ramp events falling within threshold

Model	Power ramp threshold				
	$\leq 1\%$	$\leq 2\%$	$\leq 5\%$	$\leq 10\%$	$\leq 20\%$
Actuals	36.1	51.6	76.7	93.2	99.3
RS-PR-NPB	27.4	47.5	77.3	93.3	99.6
Nonparametric	37.5	54.2	83.5	98.1	99.9

Conclusions

- Method extends point estimates to probabilistic forecasts
- Framework contemplates
 - Capacity constraints
 - Autoregressive properties
 - Power ramp behaviour

Next steps

- Spatial disaggregation
- Extreme behaviour matching
- Extension to solar energy

Thanks!

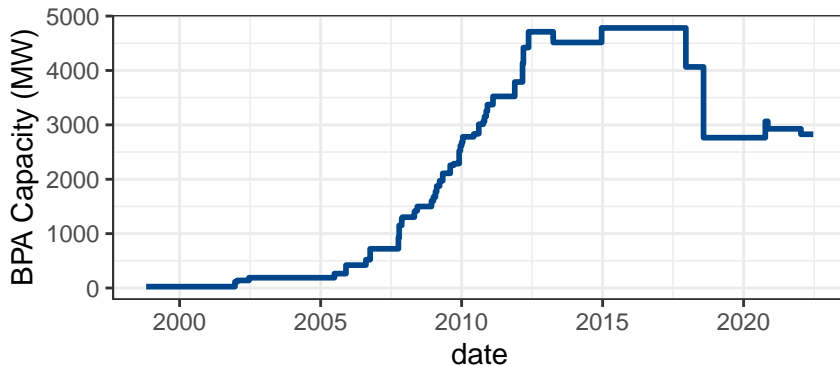
References

- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). 2024. “Wind Generation and Load Data.” <https://transmission.bpa.gov/Business/Operations/Wind/default.aspx>.
- Gómez-Rubio, Virgilio. 2020. *Bayesian Inference with INLA*. Chapman; Hall/CRC.
- Rue, Håvard, Sara Martino, and Nicholas Chopin. 2009. “Approximate Bayesian Inference for Latent Gaussian Models Using Integrated Nested Laplace Approximations (with Discussion).” *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B* 71: 319–92.
- Staid, Andrea, Jean-Paul Watson, Roger J.-B. Wets, and David L. Woodruff. 2017. “Generating Short-Term Probabilistic Wind Power Scenarios via Nonparametric Forecast Error Density Estimators.” *Wind Energy* 20 (12): 1911–25.
- Woodruff, David L., Julio Deride, Andrea Staid, Jean-Paul Watson, Gerrit Slevogt, and César Silva-Monroy. 2018. “Constructing Probabilistic Scenarios for Wide-Area Solar Power Generation.” *Solar Energy* 160 (January): 153–67.

Appendix

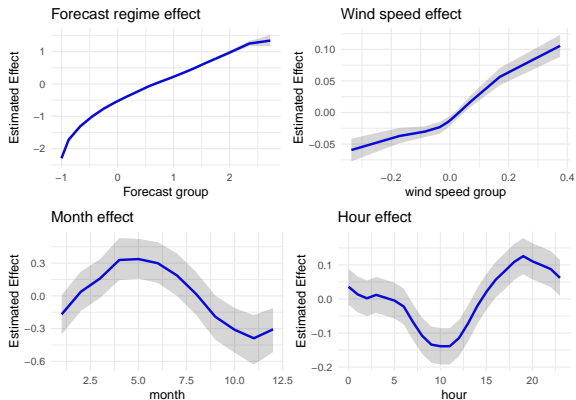
BPA capacity through time

Figure 5: Installed capacity through time



Inference on model terms

Figure 6: Estimated effects from the model



Posterior density of hyper parameters

Figure 7: Hyperparameters of the model

