

# INDiC: Improved Non-Intrusive load monitoring using load Division and Calibration

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**Abstract**—The residential sector contributes significantly to overall energy consumption in most parts of the world. This is a growing concern as energy resources are limited and increased energy demands negatively impacts the environment [1]. Providing detailed feedback in the form of appliance level consumption to building occupants improves awareness and paves the way for reduction in electricity consumption. Non-intrusive appliance load monitoring (NIALM) is the process of disaggregating the overall home electricity usage measured at the meter level into constituent appliances with minimum in-home intrusion. In this paper we present Improved Non-Intrusive load monitoring using Division and Calibration (INDiC) which provides preprocessing steps to simplify NIALM by dividing the appliances across multiple instrumented points (meters/phases) and calibrating appliance power. The technique is presented in the Combinatorial Optimization (CO) framework and evaluated on the popular REDD dataset. Empirical results suggest significant improvement both in computation time and accuracy by using INDiC.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Buildings account for significant proportion of overall energy use in both the developing (e.g. 47% of total energy in India [2]) and the developed (e.g. 41% and 45% in US and UK respectively) countries. Modest improvements in building energy use can result in significant aggregate impact at the national scale. While several automation and management systems have been proposed for improving the operational efficiency of building systems, such systems typically lack the ability to provide detailed consumption information (e.g. appliance level consumption). Prior work [3] has shown that better feedback systems, enabling appliance level consumption, that provide insights about occupant's energy usage information further encourages energy saving behavior resulting in 5-15% savings in electricity usage.

Measuring each appliance's consumption separately, for providing such a feedback, is both prohibitively expensive and difficult to manage. Alternatively, prior research has proposed Non Intrusive Appliance Load Monitoring (NIALM) that involves disaggregating the aggregated electricity consumption obtained at the meter level into individual appliance consumption. Several modeling and inference approaches have been proposed (e.g. Factorial Hidden Markov Model [4], Combinatorial Optimization [5]) in the past to address NIALM with varied level of accuracy. NIALM work typically assumes that all the loads are assigned to the same meter. However, many practical scenarios (e.g. use of 2-phase supply in many homes in USA and 3-phase supply for many homes in India) involve load division across different phases coming at the

home level. Automated assignment of different loads in a home to each phase followed by NIALM application on each phase separately can reduce the overall modeling and inference complexity.

Further, the measurements, both at the meter level and at the appliance level, are often taken with different equipments (Current Transformers, in-line measurements, ICs<sup>1</sup>) each with their own accuracy levels. Calibrating these diverse measurements will be beneficial for NIALM modeling and inference. Grid conditions such as voltage fluctuations further motivate calibration. Motivated by these practical scenarios, we propose INDiC- Improved NIALM using load Division and Calibration. Specific research contributions of our work are:

- Novel approach named INDiC that involves two simple pre-processing steps - Load division (i.e. automated assignment of different loads in a home to each of the separate mains) and calibration (accounting for varied measurement accuracy across different equipments), that can be applied in a generic manner across several proposed NIALM modeling and inference approaches to further improve their accuracy.
- Extensive empirical validation, using publicly available REDD [6] dataset, establishing the effectiveness of INDiC as a preprocessing step, specifically for Combinatorial Optimization based NIALM.
- Release of open source implementation of the proposed work<sup>2</sup> for comparative analysis with other NIALM approaches as an IPython notebook<sup>3</sup>.

We believe that this is the first extensive release of a generic NIALM code base that can be used across many of the publicly available datasets and with several existing NIALM modeling and inference approaches. **We would like to bring to notice that we use the words appliance(s) and load(s) interchangeably throughout this paper.**

## II. RELATED WORK

Non-intrusive appliance load monitoring was first studied by Hart [5] in the early 1990s by examining signatures in aggregated load to indicate activities of appliances. The problem has been well studied in recent years ([7], [1], [8]) and

<sup>1</sup>Example IC for power measurement is Maxim 78M6612

<sup>2</sup>Add link to website

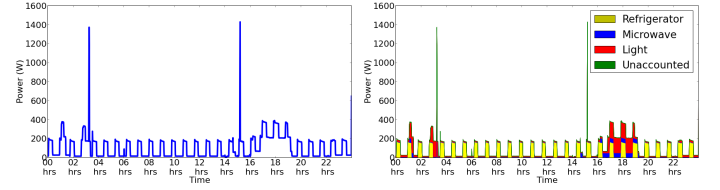
<sup>3</sup><http://www.ipython.org>

NIALM systems can broadly be divided into two categories based on whether supervised or unsupervised disaggregation methods are used. Supervised learning techniques include optimization-based methods such as integer programming [9] and genetic algorithms [10]. These approaches are compute intensive and appliances with similar or overlapping load signatures are difficult to discern. Other machine learning techniques (such as Artificial Neural Network (ANNs) [11] and Hidden Markov Models (HMM) [12]), have also been shown to work well for the task. Variants of HMMs such as factorial hidden Markov models (FHMMs) [4], additive FHMMs [13], conditional factorial hidden semi-Markov models [14] and difference HMMs [15] have been studied. In factorial HMMs several models evolve independently and in parallel and the observed output is some joint function of all the hidden states; additive HMMs allow emission of a single real-valued (unobserved) output from each HMM and the output is the sum of these HMMs. In difference HMMs [15] each appliance's load is modeled using a graphical model and it is disaggregated from the aggregate power – this process is repeated iteratively until all appliances for which general models are available are disaggregated. It is therefore possible to infer the probability that a change in aggregated power was generated by two consecutive states of an appliance. The applicability of these sophisticated techniques are generally hindered by the difficulty of inference from models with a large number of HMMs. Rahayu et. al. [16] propose a discriminative model for energy disaggregation that predicts the most likely appliance state configuration from aggregated load using nonparametric classification algorithms. They posit that “subset sum” type techniques are not very effective since a large portion of the home energy is not monitored directly. In this paper, we put forward a simple idea – the aggregated load can be further split up by information on mains and knowing which appliance is assigned to which main. This would make the task of disaggregation inherently easier by solving a simpler optimization problem and most of the above sophisticated machine learning based modeling approaches can still be applied to the task<sup>4</sup>.

Several datasets have been made publicly available for benchmarking energy disaggregation algorithms including REDD [6], Blued [17], Pecan [18] and Smart\* [19]. Our empirical analysis is on the REDD data primarily because this is the most popular data set for evaluating state-of-the-art NIALM approaches.

### III. NIALM

A typical NIALM setup involves measuring the power mains with smart meters and individual appliances with appliance meters for ground truth. The NIALM problem in the supervised setting is formulated as predicting the power sequence for  $n^{th}$  appliance,  $y^n$ , given the measured power sequence for each appliance  $\theta^n$  (measured via appliance meters) and the total aggregate power sequence  $x$  (measured via smart meters). Table I summarizes the terminologies and functions used in INDiC([6], [15], [5]). Figure 1 shows the process of disaggregation applied to a house mains, whereby the consumption patterns of 3 appliances: refrigerator, lighting



(a) Aggregate home power measured by smart meter (b) Aggregate home power disaggregated into 3 appliances: refrigerator, lighting and microwave. Some power is unaccounted as complete information about all appliances is not available.

Fig. 1: Disaggregating a home's electrical mains

and microwave can be seen. It must be highlighted that it is improbable to instrument all the appliances in a home, thus, there will be some unaccounted power, which can also be seen in the figure. We now explain the Combinatorial Optimization framework initially proposed by Hart [5] for solving NIALM.

TABLE I: Terminologies and Functions

Symbol	Meaning
$t \in 1, \dots, T$	Time slice
$n \in 1, \dots, N$	Appliance number
$\theta^n = \{\theta_1^n, \dots, \theta_T^n\}$	Measured power sequence for $n^{th}$ appliance
$\theta^{M1} = \{\theta_1^{M1}, \dots, \theta_T^{M1}\}$	Measured power sequence for Mains 1
$\theta^{M2} = \{\theta_1^{M2}, \dots, \theta_T^{M2}\}$	Measured power sequence for Mains 2
$x = \{x_1, \dots, x_T\} = \theta^{M1} + \theta^{M2}$	Measured aggregate power sequence
$e = \{e_1, \dots, e_T\}$	Aggregate noise power sequence
$p$	Number of electrical mains in a home
$N_i$ where $i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$	Number of loads in $i^{th}$ mains
$y^n = \{y_1^n, \dots, y_T^n\}$	Predicted power sequence for $n^{th}$ appliance
$k \in 1, \dots, K$	Appliance power state eg. Stove has 2 states: On and Off
$z^n = \{z_1^n, \dots, z_T^n\}$	Appliance state sequence for $n^{th}$ appliance, $z_i^n \in [1, \dots, K]$
$z_{t,k}^n \in 0, 1$	Whether $n^{th}$ appliance is in $k^{th}$ state at time $t$
$\mu^n = \{\mu_1^n, \dots, \mu_K^n\}$	Power draw by $n^{th}$ appliance in $k^{th}$ state
$\theta_{k^1, k^2}^n$	Measured power sequence when $n^{th}$ appliance transitions from $k^1$ to $k^2$ state
$Mapping[n] \in M_i$ where $i \in 1, 2$	Mapping of $n^{th}$ appliance to $i^{th}$ Mains
$s_t$	Value of a timeseries $s$ at time $t$
$Event(s, threshold)$	An event in timeseries $s$ occurs when $ s_t - s_{t-1}  > threshold$ An event has an associated time $t$ and magnitude $ s_t - s_{t-1} $
$Downsample(s, filter, resolution)$	Function to downsample a timeseries $s$ to a <i>resolution</i> according to specified <i>filter</i>
$Timeseries\_sync([s^1, \dots, s^n], method)$	Function to ensure that $n$ timeseries start and end at same times and handling missing data using specified <i>method</i>
$Sort([s^1, \dots, s^n], parameter, order)$	Function to sort $n$ timeseries according to <i>parameter</i> in specified <i>order</i>
$Event\_Detection(s, threshold)$	Function returning magnitude and times of $Events(s, threshold)$ in timeseries $s$
$Cluster(s, K, clustering\_algorithm)$	Function to divide timeseries $s$ into $K$ clusters based on <i>clustering\_algorithm</i>

<sup>4</sup>The use of combinatorial optimization is only for the purpose of illustration and there is clearly no requirement to adhere to this modeling technique alone.

**Combinatorial Optimization (CO):** At a given time an appliance can only be in a single state which can be mathematically

written as:  $\sum_{k=1}^{K} z_{t,k}^n = 1$ . The power consumption by  $n^{th}$  appliance in  $k^{th}$  state at time  $t$  is given by:  $\hat{\theta}_{t,k}^n = \sum_{k=1}^K z_{t,k}^n \mu_k^n$ . The overall power consumption of all appliances at a given time  $t$  is given by:  $\hat{x}_t = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{t,k}^n \mu_k^n$ . The error in power signal (unaccounted power) after the load assignment explained above is given by:  $e_t = |x_t - \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{t,k}^n \mu_k^n|$ .

Combinatorial optimization tries to find the optimal combination of appliances in different states which will minimize this error term, by the following state assignment scheme:

$$z_t = \underset{z_t}{\operatorname{argmin}} |x_t - \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{k=1}^K z_{t,k}^n \mu_k^n|$$

The corresponding predicted power draw by  $n^{th}$  appliance is given by:  $y^n = \{\mu_{z_1^n}^n, \dots, \mu_{z_T^n}^n\}$

This optimization problem resembles subset sum problem [20] and is NP-complete. The state space size of this optimization function is  $K^N$ , which means it is exponential in the number of appliances.

**Load division:** In the US, homes have 2 electrical mains corresponding to different phases. Many Asian countries have multiple meters per home. Different loads are electrically connected to different mains/meters. Since an NIALM deployment requires monitoring different electrical mains/meters, we leverage the load division to perform disaggregation. Assuming that a home has  $p$  mains/meters, out of a total of  $N$  loads in the home we assign  $N_i$  loads to  $i^{th}$  mains where  $Mapping[n]$  indicates the mapping of an appliance to a mains. After load assignment to different mains, the state space size for  $i^{th}$  mains is given by  $K^{N_i}$ . This leads to an exponential reduction in state space. As a practical example, if a home has two mains and 20 loads with 10 loads across each of the two mains, state space size before load division is given by  $2^{20}$  and after load division is  $2^{10}$ .

CO formulation for  $i^{th}$  mains after load division is given by the following optimization function:

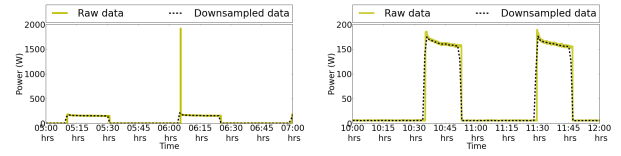
$$z_t = \underset{z_t}{\operatorname{argmin}} |\theta^{M_i} - \sum_{n=1}^{N_i} \sum_{k=1}^K z_{t,k}^n \mu_k^n| \text{ where } i \in \{1, \dots, p\}$$

The corresponding predicted appliance power sequence for appliances belonging to  $i^{th}$  mains is given by:  $y^n = \{\mu_{z_1^n}^n, \dots, \mu_{z_T^n}^n\}$ . The above optimization is subject to the following constraints – (a) the sum of number of loads assigned to different mains must be equal to the total number of loads.

This is given by:  $\sum_{i=1}^p N_i = N$  (b) at a given time, an appliance

can only be in a single state which is given by:  $\sum_{k=1}^K z_{t,k}^n = 1$ .

(c) an appliance can belong to one and only one mains. Thus,  $Mapping[n]$  is a one to one function. (d) the sum of power of appliance assigned to  $i^{th}$  mains is always lesser than or equal to the power of the corresponding mains, which is given by  $e_t$  term for  $i^{th}$  mains to be non negative.



(a) When the compressor of refrigerator is turned on it consumes a very high starting power for a few seconds. This figure shows how these starting peak power can be filtered by downsampling to a suitable resolution (b) Due to voltage fluctuations and oscillations the power consumed by an appliance can vary. This figure shows how these fluctuations can be reduced by downsampling to a suitable resolution

Fig. 2: Effect of downsampling appliance data

#### IV. INDiC NIALM

In this section we describe our algorithm- Improved NIALM using load Division and Calibration (INDiC). INDiC provides preprocessing procedures which can simplify NIALM. These procedures can broadly be classified as data cleaning (time series synchronization, downsampling and calibration) and problem division into subproblems (assigning loads to mains). INDiC can be used with any modeling technique described in Section II. Here, we present INDiC-CO (INDiC using Combinatorial optimization as modeling approach). CO proposed by Hart [5] is the simplest NIALM approach and by preprocessing using INDiC its shortcomings can be overcome. The various steps of INDiC-CO NIALM shown in Algorithm 1 are described below.

**Time series synchronization:** Mains power and appliance power data are measured using different hardware<sup>5</sup>. It is highly likely that some hardware malfunctions during the data collection process. In this step we ensure that the mains power and appliance power time series start and end at the same time. Further missing data is handled using techniques such as forward filling (padding)<sup>6</sup>.

**Downsampling:** While performing CO it is desired that transients and fluctuations in the power signal are filtered [5]. The transients occur due to the high starting current of the appliance, whereas the fluctuations are a consequence of minor voltage fluctuations and oscillatory nature of appliances. Figure 2a and Figure 2b show how starting current and voltage fluctuations can be filtered by down sampling. Filters such as mean/median can be used to down sample a time series to a time window, where the value assigned to a time window is the mean/median of values occurring during that time window in the original series.

**Assigning Loads to Mains<sup>7</sup>:** This step aims to identify the mapping ( $Mapping[n]$ ) between appliances and mains. Since an appliance can belong to a single mains,  $Mapping[n]$  is a one-to-one function from an appliance  $n$  to a mains. Patterns corresponding to appliances having higher peak power are generally easier to extract from main signal, thus we sort the appliance in decreasing order of peak power. Starting from the appliance having highest peak load we compare its power at all times with the power of a mains. If at any time the power of the appliance is greater than the power of a mains, we can

<sup>5</sup>In REDD [6] TED meters(<http://goo.gl/CEu2y>) are used to measure mains and Power House Dynamics(<http://goo.gl/9VQba>) to measure appliance circuits

<sup>6</sup><http://goo.gl/FfR6o>

<sup>7</sup>While our approach is fine tuned for two Mains it can be easily extended to support further load division

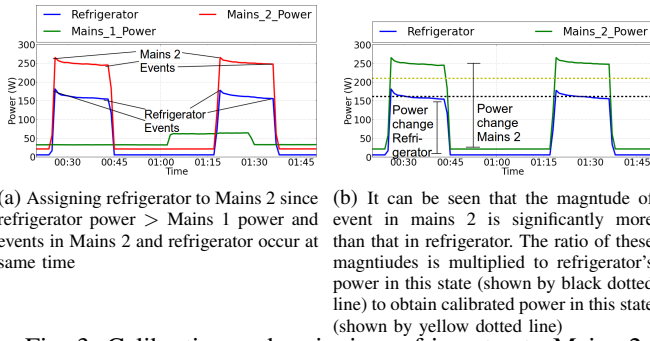


Fig. 3: Calibrating and assigning refrigerator to Mains 2

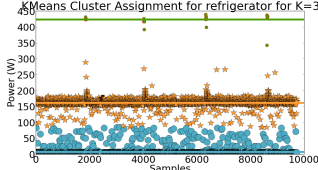


Fig. 4: Clustering refrigerator power consumption into three states. The lowest power state(blue) corresponds to compressor being off. In intermediate state(yellow) the compressor is on. In the third state(green) defrosting is being done.

assign the appliance to the other mains. However, if we are not able to assign an appliance to mains this way, we find the times when *Events* occur in the appliance power series. This should be a subset of times of *Events* occurring in one of the mains to which this appliance is assigned. The threshold used to find events should be suitably chosen to ensure that minor voltage fluctuations are not counted as events. After an appliance has been assigned to a mains, its power sequence is subtracted from the corresponding mains to simplify mains assignment for remaining appliances. Figure 3a shows how refrigerator is assigned to mains 2 since during this time interval its power is more than that of mains 1. Also, one may verify it by observing that the events in mains 2 and refrigerator power series occur at same time.

**Clustering:** Prior knowledge and appliance circuitry [21] are used to identify the number of states associated with an appliance. For instance, a refrigerator is a compressor based appliance and exhibits three states in increasing order of power demand (compressor Off, compressor On, defrost mode). Corresponding cluster assignment is shown in Figure 4. We use state of the art clustering techniques to cluster appliances' power draw using prior knowledge about number of appliance states.

**Appliance Power Calibration:** Power measured by appliance level meters may need calibration due to the following reasons:

- Different hardware report different measurement for

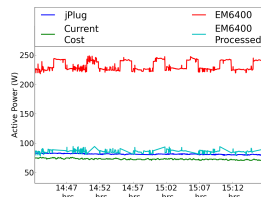


Fig. 5: Need for calibration. There is a difference in about 10 W in measurements reported by jPlug and Current Cost. jPlug gives comparable results to whole home smart meter EM6400.

same appliance [22]. We measured our refrigerator power with 3 different hardware: i) jPlug<sup>8</sup>; ii) Current Cost CT<sup>9</sup>; iii) EM6400 smart meter<sup>10</sup>. While the first two are appliance level monitors, EM6400 being a smart meter is more accurate. The difference in power measurement by these 3 hardware is shown in Figure 5.

- Fluctuation in voltage causes power to fluctuate as well [5]
- Missing meta data, whether real or apparent power is being measured at appliance level

In comparison to appliance data, mains data is usually measured using better precision hardware. Thus, we keep mains data as a reference and calibrate appliance data against it. In the clustering step, value of appliance power at each time is associated with corresponding cluster state ( $k \in \{1, \dots, K\}$ ). Since in Off state ( $k=1$ ) appliance power consumption is almost zero, it does not require any calibration. We find out *Event* times when appliance transitions from a lower state( $k$ ) to a higher state( $k + 1$ ). During these times, we find the ratio of the magnitude of power change occurring in the assigned mains and the appliance. This ratio serves as a corrective multiplicative factor for a particular state of an appliance. Cluster centroids obtained in the previous step are multiplied by this factor to obtain calibrated cluster centroids. This process is shown in Figure 3b where it is found that before calibration refrigerator power in state 2 was 162 W, after calibration with mains 2, it is found to be 210 W, where the calibration factor was found to be 1.3)

**Combinatorial optimization:** Combinatorial optimization is now performed separately for both mains as per the description in Section III.

## V. EVALUATION

We use Reference Energy Disaggregation Data Set (REDD) [6] for validating our algorithms based on metrics such as Mean normalized error (MNE) and RMS error (RE) proposed in previous work.

### A. Dataset

REDD contains power data for mains (2 phases) as well as appliances from 6 homes in Boston area collected in the summer of 2011. The data is made available as raw, high frequency (sampled at 15 KHz) and low frequency (Mains at 1 Hz, appliances at 0.3 Hz). Considering the practical implications of residential smart meter installation, we believe that low frequency data represents the most realistic scenario and thus we use this data for analysis.

### B. Evaluation Metric

We use the following metrics which have been used in prior work [15], [6]:

<sup>8</sup>Give its URL after seeking permission from RS

<sup>9</sup><http://www.currentcost.net/transmitterspec.html>

<sup>10</sup><http://goo.gl/Oi98q>



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**Algorithm 1: INDiC-CO**

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**Input:**  $x, \theta^n, \theta^{M_1}, \theta^{M_2}$   
**Output:**  $y^n, \mu_k^n$

**Time series synchronization**

1  $\theta^1, \dots, \theta^n, \theta^{M_1}, \theta^{M_2} \leftarrow$   
   *Timeseries\_sync*( $[\theta^1, \dots, \theta^n, \theta^{M_1}, \theta^{M_2}], \text{forward fill}$ )

**Downsampling**

2 **for**  $n \in 1, N$  **do**  
    $\theta^n \leftarrow \text{Downsample}(\theta^n, \text{filter}, \text{resolution})$   
3  $\theta^{M_1} \leftarrow \text{Downsample}(\theta^{M_1}, \text{filter}, \text{resolution})$   
4  $\theta^{M_2} \leftarrow \text{Downsample}(\theta^{M_2}, \text{filter}, \text{resolution})$   
5  $j \leftarrow \text{Sort}([\theta^1, \dots, \theta^n], \text{peak power})$

**Appliance to Mains mapping**

6 **for** Appliance  $n \in j$  **do**  
7     **if**  $\theta_t^n > \theta_t^{M_1}$  for any  $t \in 1, T$  **then**  
    $\text{Mapping}[n] = M_2$   
8     **else if**  $\theta_t^n > \theta_t^{M_2}$  for any  $t \in 1, T$  **then**  
    $\text{Mapping}[n] = M_1$   
9     **else**  
10         **if** *Event\_Detection*( $\theta^n, \text{threshold}$ ).*Times*  $\subset$   
           *Event\_Detection*( $\theta^{M_1}, \text{threshold}$ ).*Times*  
           **then**  
            $\text{Mapping}[n] = M_1$   
11         **else**  
            $\text{Mapping}[n] = M_2$   
12      $\theta^{\text{Mapping}[n]} \leftarrow \theta^{\text{Mapping}[n]} - \theta^n$

**Divide data into train and test set**

**Clustering on train set**

13 **for**  $n \in 1, N$  **do**  
14      $\mu_k^n \leftarrow$   
       *Cluster*( $\theta^n, K, \text{clustering\_algorithm}$ ) for  $k \in$   
        $1, K$

**Calibration on train set**

15 **for**  $n \in 1, N$  **do**  
16     **for**  $k \in 2, K$  **do**  
17          $\mu_k^n \leftarrow$   
            $\frac{\mu_k^n * \text{Event\_Detection}(\theta_{k-1,k}^{\text{Mapping}[n]}, \text{threshold}).\text{Magnitude}}{\text{Event\_Detection}(\theta_{k-1,k}^n, \text{threshold}).\text{Magnitude}}$

**Combinatorial optimization on test set**

18 Solve combinatorial optimization as described in  
   Section III  
19 **return**  $y^n, \mu_k^n$

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by:

$$MNE(n) = \frac{|\sum_{t=1}^T \theta_t^n - \sum_{t=1}^T y_t^n|}{\sum_{t=1}^T \theta_t^n} \quad (1)$$

The above metric will give a 0% MNE for cases such as follows:  $y^n = [0, 10, 0, 10]$  and  $\theta^n = [10, 0, 10, 0]$ , which can be misleading. Thus, we propose a modified Mean Normalized Error metric further referred as MNE which is sensitive to such cases.

$$MNE(n) = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^T |\theta_t^n - y_t^n|}{\sum_{t=1}^T \theta_t^n} \quad (2)$$

Since it is a known fact that  $|\sum a - \sum b| \leq \sum |a - b|$  where  $a$  and  $b$  are vectors containing floating point numbers, our results may appear to be worse if the original definition of MNE were used.

**RMS Error (RE Watts):** RMS error in power assignment to an appliance  $n$  per time slice  $t$  given by:

$$RE(n) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T (\theta_t^n - y_t^n)^2} \quad (3)$$

Both these quantities represent error, the lesser they are the better is the prediction.

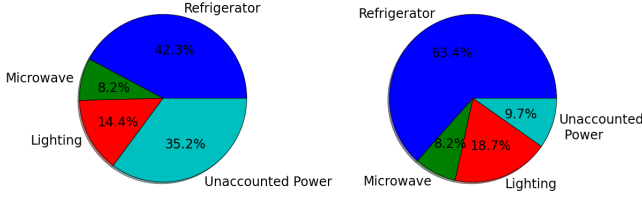
### C. Empirical Analysis

We performed empirical analysis on REDD dataset Home 2, which consists of 11 channels (including 2 mains and 9 appliances)<sup>11</sup>. We believe that the same analysis can be easily repeated across multiple homes. Timeseries synchronization was applied since the appliance level data collection begun about 6 hours after mains data collection. Moreover, there were small intervals of missing data, which we filled using forward filling. Two appliances - washer dryer and disposal were ignored from further analysis since washer dryer had a peak power consumption of 8 W (which means it was Off throughout) and the contribution of disposal to overall power was less than 0.1 %. We downsampled this time synchronized data to one minute resolution using mean filter. 1 minute is a sufficient resolution to get rid of startup transients and voltage fluctuations. Event detection as explained in section IV is an important part of INDiC. A threshold of 30 W was chosen for event detection as that shall ensure that there are no false events (occurring due to minor power fluctuations). As per the Appliance to Mains step in INDiC-CO algorithm described earlier we assigned loads to the two different mains. Table II shows the assignment of loads to different mains. Further this table also shows the learnt power states of these appliance via KMeans++<sup>12</sup> [23] clustering. Refrigerator and lighting showed significant difference in power states post calibration. Based on prior experience and appliance circuitry [21], we believe that

**Mean Normalized Error (MNE):** Normalized error in the energy assigned to an appliance  $n$  over time period  $T$ , given

<sup>11</sup>Highest accuracy has been reported for this Home in previous work [6].

<sup>12</sup>We have used DBScan, SOM, EM, Mini Batch KMeans and Hierarchical clustering algorithms also, but found KMeans++ to be most scalable.



(a) Without applying calibration, more than one-thirds of total power in mains 2 is unaccounted. This can significantly reduce accuracy when any NIALM model is applied (b) After applying calibration, unaccounted power reduces to less than 10% of mains 2 power. The contribution of refrigerator and lighting to overall mains 2 power increases.

Fig. 6: Mains 2 Break down by load

St- ate	# of usage events	1	2	3
1	5070	4259	213	598
2	4810	40	2158	2612
3	200	0	0	200

(a) Confusion matrix for refrigerator after applying CO based NIALM. State 2 is predicted to be in state 3 more than in state 2

St- ate	# of usage events	1	2	3
1	5070	4457	513	100
2	4810	193	4368	349
3	200	4	10	186

(b) Confusion matrix for refrigerator after applying INDiC-CO based NIALM. There are more instances along the diagonal signifying improvement in prediction. State 2 shows significant improvements.

Fig. 7: Confusion Matrices for refrigerator disaggregation. [m,n] in the matrix represents appliance's  $m^{th}$  state to be predicted as  $n^{th}$  state. Grey cells along the diagonal show true positive.

since only these two appliances needed calibration, it may be a case that the appliance level monitor measured real power instead of apparent power. These two loads constitute a major chunk of mains 2 power. Figure 6 shows the reduction in unassigned power due to calibrating these two appliances.

To show the significance of load division and calibration as a preprocessing step to NIALM algorithm, we considered 4 possible cases: i) no calibration, no load division; ii) no calibration, load division; iii) calibration, no load division; iv) calibration, load division (INDiC). The results after applying INDiC-CO are presented in Table III. For the overall dataset, it can be seen that MNE reduces from 187% to 39%, RE reduces from 478 W to 168 W, after applying INDiC-CO. All appliances show reduction in MNE and RE after applying INDiC-CO. However, there is significant improvement in correctly predicting refrigerator and lighting. Figure 7 shows the confusion matrix for refrigerator prediction using CO (without and with INDiC). It can be seen that after applying INDiC out of the 4810 instances of refrigerator in state 2, 4368 are correctly identified. Before applying INDiC only 2158 instances were correctly identified.

## VI. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper we present INDiC, which consists of novel preprocessing steps to reduce the complexity of NIALM by dividing the loads across mains and calibrating appliance power with corresponding mains. We have shown how NIALM problem can be subdivided into number of mains in the home. Further, we showed the need to calibrate appliance power data. INDiC was applied as a preprocessing step on data from a real

TABLE II: Mains assignment and appliance states power. Lighting and refrigerator power shows change after calibration

Appliance	Mains	States Power (W)					
		Pre calibration			Post calibration		
Refrigerator	2	7	162	423	7	210	423 <sup>a</sup>
Microwave	2	10	832	1730	10	832	1730
Lighting	2	9	96	156	9	110	178
Dishwasher	1	0	256	1195	0	256	1195
Stove	1	0	374	-	0	374	-
Kitchen	1	5	727	-	5	727	-
Kitchen 2	1	1	204	1032	1	204	1032

<sup>a</sup>There were not enough instances of refrigerator in state 3 to calibrate it

TABLE III: MNE and RE for CO based NIALM with and without INDiC. Results for INDiC-CO are highlighted in grey

Appliance	Without calibration				With calibration			
	Without load division		With load division		Without load division		With load division	
	R.E. Watts	M.N.E. %	R.E. Watts	M.N.E. %	R.E. Watts	M.N.E. %	R.E. Watts	M.N.E. %
Refrigerator	136	109	71	32	130	95	59	21
Microwave	102	98	97	110	104	97	96	109
Lighting	51	164	48	195	44	83	38	60
Dishwasher	406	2947	63	100	377	2517	63	100
Stove	77	1191	36	281	75	1118	36	281
Kitchen	64	182	58	168	69	196	58	168
Kitchen 2	95	267	91	117	92	230	91	117
Overall	478	187	161	58	450	157	168	39

home from REDD dataset and we showed the improvements in disaggregation accuracy as per reduction in MNE and RE.

In the future we intend to apply INDiC as a preprocessing step to other classes of NIALM approaches. We plan to look into additional features such as correlation between multiple appliance usage, taking time of day into account. We also intend to apply INDiC on other datasets, especially the ones from developing countries where loads are significantly different from the ones used in developed countries.

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