

A Data-driven Forecasting Model for an Aggregator of Electric Vehicles via Inverse Optimization

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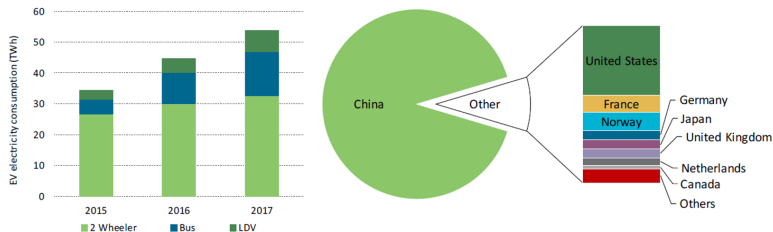


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Motivation

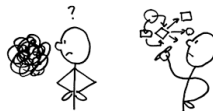
- Growing electrification of the road transport: Greener cities and transport system
- Estimated global electricity demand from EVs was around 54 TWh in 2017



Source: International Energy Agency.

Motivation

- Electromobility will impact on the power system operation and planning
- Aggregators play a key role to manage a fleet of EVs and suitable tools are still to be developed



Context and Challenges

Within a market-based context, the aggregator agents face several challenges:

- Forecast** How can they **forecast** the EV-fleet power in the short-term?
- Bidding** How to come up with a **bidding** curve to participate in the electricity market?
- Data** How can they make use of past **data** about electricity prices and driving patterns?

Forecasting Model

- We want to forecast the EV-fleet (aggregate) power p_t .
Past observations: driving patterns, prices λ'_{t-l} or p'_{t-l} , $\forall l = 1, 2, \dots$
- We maximize the aggregate welfare of the EV fleet

Forecasting model

$$\max_{p_b} \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} p_b (m_b - \lambda)$$

subject to:

$$\underline{P} \leq \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} p_b \leq \overline{P} \implies (\underline{\beta}, \overline{\beta})$$

$$0 \leq p_b \leq \overline{E}_b, \forall b \in \mathcal{B}^c \implies (\underline{\phi}_b^c, \overline{\phi}_b^c)$$

$$\underline{E}_b \leq p_b \leq 0, \forall b \in \mathcal{B}^d \implies (\underline{\phi}_b^d, \overline{\phi}_b^d)$$

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Forecasting model

Parameters to be estimated in pink \Rightarrow Inverse optimization

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subject to:

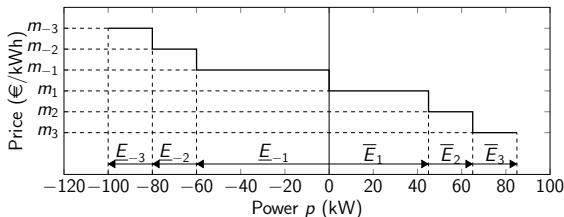
$$\underline{P} \leq \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} p_b \leq \overline{P} \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\underline{\beta}, \overline{\beta})$$

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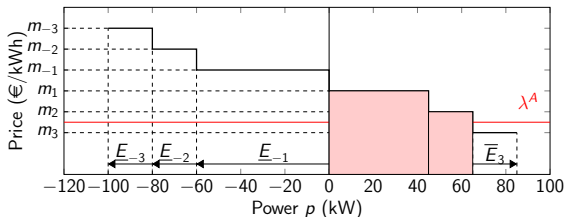
Forecasting Model

Let us assume a three-block stepwise offer (bid) price function of the EVs aggregator:



Forecasting Model

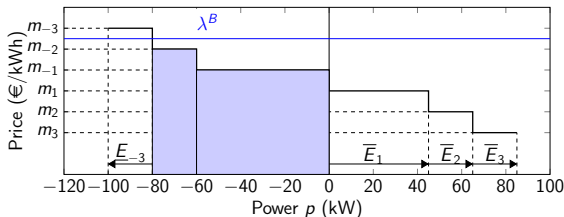
Let us assume a three-block stepwise offer (bid) price function of the EVs aggregator:



- If $\lambda = \lambda^A$, then the aggregator will consume power and the accepted blocks will be $\{1, 2\}$

Forecasting Model

Let us assume a three-block stepwise offer (bid) price function of the EVs aggregator:



- If $\lambda = \lambda^B$, then the aggregator will produce power and the accepted blocks will be $\{-1, -2\}$

Accounting for Past Information

We use kernel regression to estimate power bounds \underline{P}_t and \overline{P}_t , and marginal utility $m_{b,t}$:

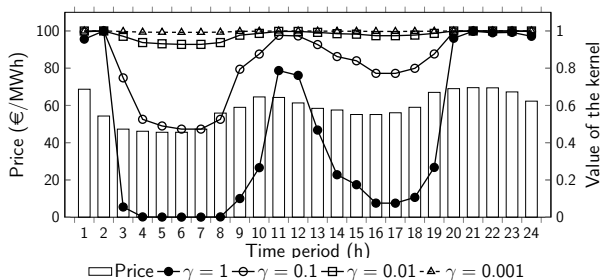
$$\left. \begin{aligned} \underline{P}_t &= \underline{\mu} + \sum_{\tau \in \Omega^{tr}} \underline{\alpha}_{\tau} K_{t,\tau}, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T} \\ \overline{P}_t &= \overline{\mu} + \sum_{\tau \in \Omega^{tr}} \overline{\alpha}_{\tau} K_{t,\tau}, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T} \\ m_{b,t} &= \nu_b + \sum_{\tau \in \Omega^{tr}} \rho_{\tau} K_{t,\tau}, \quad \forall t \in \mathcal{T} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{Kernel regression functions}$$

$K_{t,\tau}$ is a **kernel function** on two feature vectors at time periods t and τ
similarity measure!

Example of a Kernel

Gaussian kernel: $K_{t,\tau} = K(\mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_\tau) = e^{-\gamma \|\mathbf{z}_t - \mathbf{z}_\tau\|_2^2}$, $\forall t \in \mathcal{T}, \tau \in \Omega^{tr}$

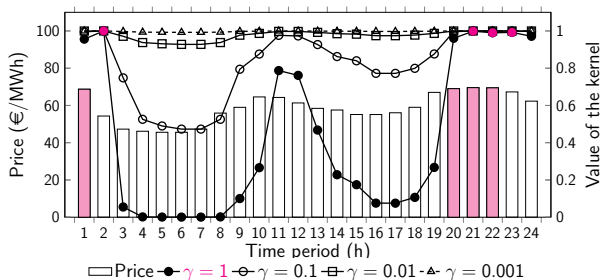
Let us assume that $\mathbf{z}_t = \lambda_{t-1}$ and that $\mathbf{z}_{\tau=2} = \lambda_1$



Example of a Kernel

Gaussian kernel: $K_{t,\tau} = K(\mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_\tau) = e^{-\gamma \|\mathbf{z}_t - \mathbf{z}_\tau\|_2^2}$, $\forall t \in \mathcal{T}, \tau \in \Omega^{tr}$

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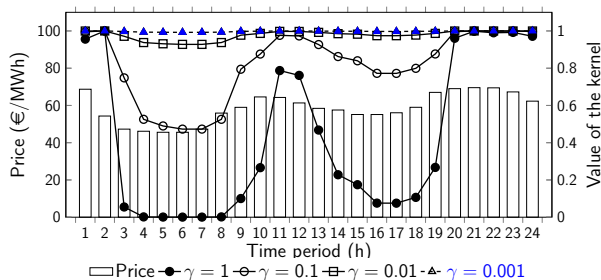


High values of γ (low variance) lead to kernel values equal to 1 just when the regressors are very close to each other

Example of a Kernel

Gaussian kernel: $K_{t,\tau} = K(\mathbf{z}_t, \mathbf{z}_\tau) = e^{-\gamma \|\mathbf{z}_t - \mathbf{z}_\tau\|_2^2}$, $\forall t \in \mathcal{T}, \tau \in \Omega^{tr}$

Let us assume that $\mathbf{z}_t = \lambda_{t-1}$ and that $\mathbf{z}_{\tau=2} = \lambda_1$



Low values of γ (high variance) lead to kernel values equal to 1 even when the regressors are very different from each other

Two-step Estimation Procedure

- Then, how do we estimate $\Phi = \{\underline{E}_{b,t}, \overline{E}_{b,t}, m_{b,t}, \underline{P}_t, \overline{P}_t\}$ and the corresponding coefficient estimates $\underline{\mu}, \underline{\alpha}_t, \overline{\mu}, \overline{\alpha}_t, \nu_b, \rho_t$?
- Inverse optimization methodology: two convex programs!

Feasibility problem

What?

Power bounds $\underline{P}_t, \overline{P}_t$ and $\underline{\mu}, \underline{\alpha}_t, \overline{\mu}, \overline{\alpha}_t$

Why?

Feasibility

How?

Shaping the power bounds based on observed EV-fleet power values

Optimality problem

What?

Marginal utility $m_{b,t}$ and ν_b, ρ_t

Why?

Optimality

How?

Minimizing the duality gap of the forecasting problem

Feasibility Problem

The feasibility problem is formulated as:

$$\min_{\Xi^{fp}} \sum_{t \in \Omega^{tr}} H \left(\bar{\xi}_t^- + \underline{\xi}_t^- \right) + \sum_{t \in \Omega^{tr}} (1 - H) \left(\bar{\xi}_t^+ + \underline{\xi}_t^+ \right)$$

subject to:

$$\bar{P}_t - p'_t = \bar{\xi}_t^+ - \bar{\xi}_t^-, \quad \forall t \in \Omega^{tr}$$

$$p'_t - \underline{P}_t = \underline{\xi}_t^+ - \underline{\xi}_t^-, \quad \forall t \in \Omega^{tr}$$

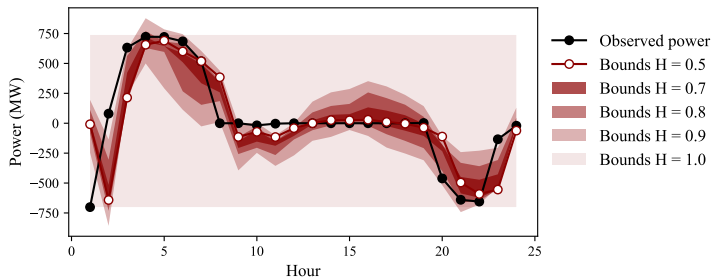
$$\bar{P}_t \geq \underline{P}_t, \quad \forall t \in \Omega^{tr}$$

Kernel regression functions (Gaussian - γ)

$$\bar{\xi}_t^+, \underline{\xi}_t^+, \bar{\xi}_t^-, \underline{\xi}_t^- \geq 0, \quad \forall t \in \Omega^{tr},$$

Feasibility Problem

Graphical explanation of the feasibility problem:



Parameter $H \in [0, 1)$ controls the width of the power bounds and thus the price-responsiveness of the EV fleet

Optimality Problem

Let us recall the forecasting problem and its dual counterpart:

Primal problem

$$\max_{\Xi^P} \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} p_b (m_b - \lambda)$$

subject to:

$$\underline{P} \leq \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}} p_b \leq \bar{P}$$

$$0 \leq p_b \leq \bar{E}_b, \forall b \in \mathcal{B}^c$$

$$\underline{E}_b \leq p_b \leq 0, \forall b \in \mathcal{B}^d$$

where $\Xi^P = \{p_b\}$

Dual problem

$$\min_{\Xi^D} \hat{\bar{P}}\bar{\beta} - \hat{\underline{P}}\underline{\beta} + \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}^c} \hat{\bar{E}}_b \bar{\phi}_b^c - \sum_{b \in \mathcal{B}^d} \hat{\underline{E}}_b \underline{\phi}_b^d$$

subject to:

$$-\underline{\phi}_b^c + \bar{\phi}_b^c - \underline{\beta} + \bar{\beta} = m_b - \lambda, \forall b \in \mathcal{B}^c$$

$$-\underline{\phi}_b^d + \bar{\phi}_b^d - \underline{\beta} + \bar{\beta} = m_b - \lambda, \forall b \in \mathcal{B}^d$$

$$\underline{\beta}, \bar{\beta}, \underline{\phi}_b^c, \bar{\phi}_b^c, \underline{\phi}_b^d, \bar{\phi}_b^d \geq 0$$

where $\Xi^D = \{\underline{\beta}, \bar{\beta}, \underline{\phi}_b^c, \bar{\phi}_b^c, \underline{\phi}_b^d, \bar{\phi}_b^d\}$

Optimality Problem

Then, the optimality problem can be formulated as:

$$\min_{\Xi^{op}} \sum_{t \in \Omega^{tr}} \epsilon_t$$

subject to:

Dual objective function – ϵ_t = Primal objective function, $\forall t \in \Omega^{tr}$

Dual feasibility constraints

$$m_{b,t} = \nu_b + \sum_{\tau \in \Omega^{tr}} \rho_{\tau} K_{t,\tau}, \quad \forall t \in \Omega^{tr}$$

$$\nu_b \geq \nu_{b+1}, \quad \forall b \in \mathcal{B} \setminus \{b = N_B\}$$

Computation of Hyper-parameters

- We have presented all the *tools* needed to forecast the EV-fleet power
- Feasibility and optimality problems rely on the knowledge of hyper-parameters: H, γ
- Grid search technique by using training and validation sets

Comparison Methodologies

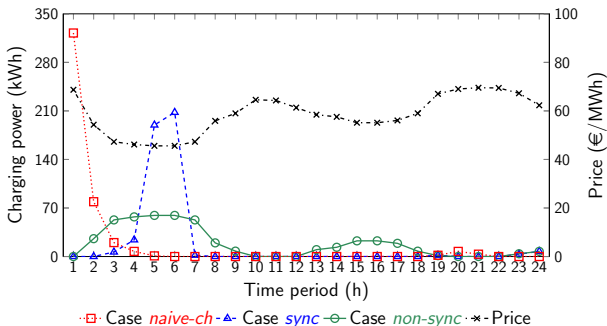
Acronym	Methodology
kio	Kernel-based inverse optimization approach
<i>svr</i>	Support vector regression
<i>krr</i>	Kernel-ridge regression
<i>lio</i>	Inverse optimization approach with linear kernels
<i>h-naive</i> , <i>d-naive</i> , <i>w-naive</i>	Persistence models

Data

- No real-life data \implies Simulation of the EV-fleet behavior
- Residential aggregator with 100 EVs
- Synthetic database for a pool of EVs
 - Availability profiles ($\varsigma_{v,t}$) and energy required for transportation: National Household Travel Survey 2017
 - Electricity prices λ_t : ENTSO-e Transparency platform

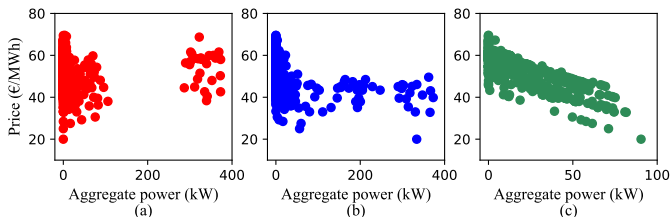
Cases: Without V2G Capabilities

- *naive-ch*: EVs satisfy their energy needs with a naive charging $\neq f(\lambda)$
- *sync*: Charging is highly synchronized $= f(\lambda)$
- *non-sync*: Charging synchronization is avoided $= f(\lambda)$



Cases

- Power versus price relationship



- Explanatory variables per case:

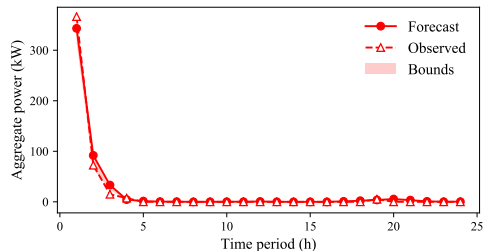
- naive-ch*: p_{t-l} and $\sum_v s_{v,t-l}$, $\forall l = 1...6$, and 5 categorical variables
- sync* and *non-sync*: λ_{t-l} and p_{t-l} , $\forall l = 1...6$

- We assume 6 energy blocks

- Training Ω^{tr} , validation Ω^v , test Ω^{test} sets: 672, 168, 168 h

Results for the *naive-ch* Case

<i>kio</i>	<i>lio</i>
$H^* = 0.64$	$H^* = 0.91$
$\gamma^* = 0.1$	

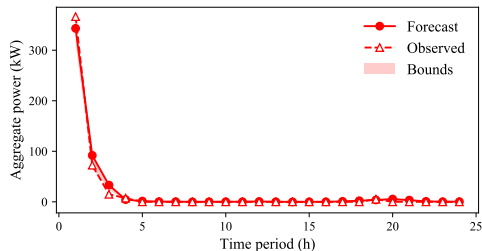


- Low value of H :
 - Bounds are almost coincident
 - No dependence on the price
 - Power directly explained by estimating the bounds
- *kio* reduces the RMSE by 4.4% and 17.3% compared to *krr* and *svr*

Results for the *naive-ch* Case

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Model	RMSE	MAE
<i>kio</i>	8.6	3.7
<i>krr</i>	9.0	3.5
<i>svr</i>	10.4	5.7
<i>lio</i>	16.8	6.4
<i>h-naive</i>	90.3	29.3
<i>d-naive</i>	13.2	4.8
<i>w-naive</i>	10.8	4.6

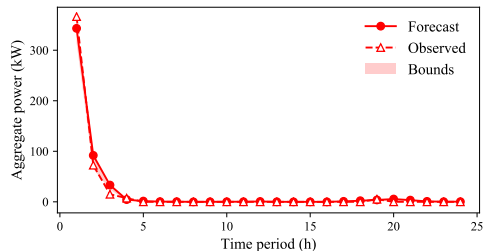


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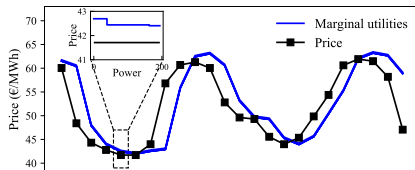
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Results for the *sync* Case

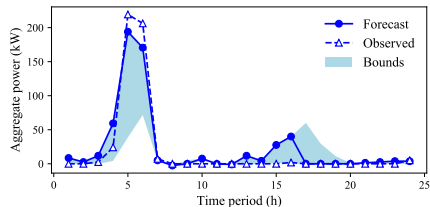
<i>kio</i>	<i>lio</i>
$H^* = 0.82$	$H^* = 0.89$
$\gamma^* = 0.1$	

Model	RMSE	MAE
<i>kio</i>	35.2	13.3
<i>krr</i>	35.5	15.7
<i>svr</i>	41.7	14.7
<i>lio</i>	59.3	23.0
<i>h-naïve</i>	72.7	25.3
<i>d-naïve</i>	64.8	22.3
<i>w-naïve</i>	49.1	15.7

- High value of H :
 - Bounds are wider and shape the forecast
 - Power is sensitive to the price



(a)



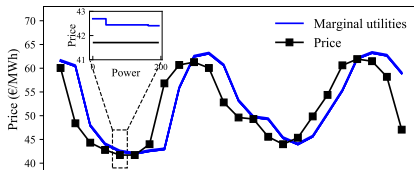
(b)

- H values for *kio* and *lio* are quite similar
- kio* outperforms *lio*: 40.6% ↓ and 42.2% ↓
- kio* outperforms *w-naïve*: 28.3% ↓ and 15.3% ↓
- kio* performance is comparable to other machine-learning techniques

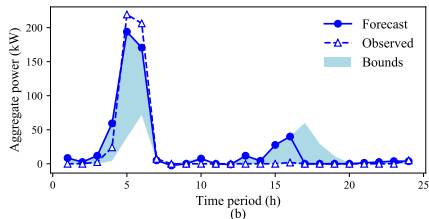
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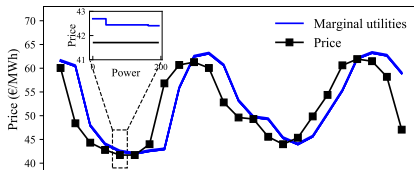


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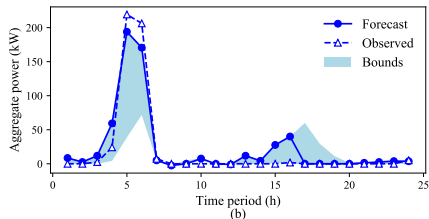
Results for the *sync* Case

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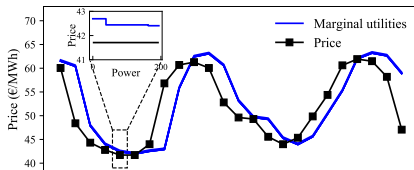


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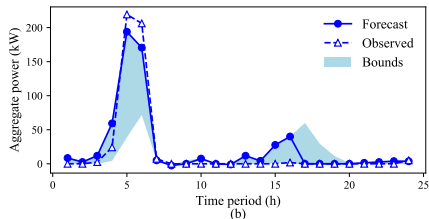
Results for the *sync* Case

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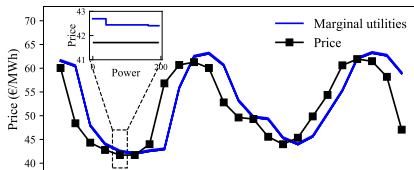


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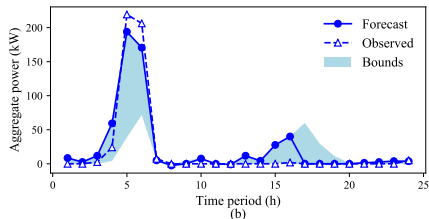
Results for the *sync* Case

kio	lio
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Model	RMSE	MAE
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<i>krr</i>	35.5	15.7
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(a)



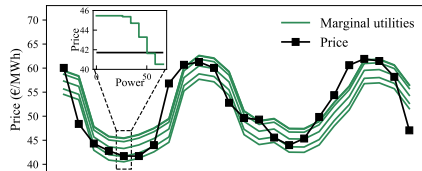
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Results for the *non-sync* Case

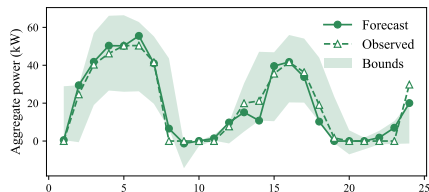
<i>kio</i>	<i>lio</i>
$H^* = 0.94$	$H^* = 0.94$
$\gamma^* = 0.01$	

Model	RMSE	MAE
<i>kio</i>	5.5	3.8
<i>krr</i>	7.4	5.2
<i>svr</i>	7.6	5.0
<i>lio</i>	5.9	3.9
<i>h-naive</i>	11.3	7.1
<i>d-naive</i>	17.3	13.3
<i>w-naive</i>	13.0	9.1

- Higher value of H :
 - Wider bounds than for the *sync* case
 - Power is sensitive to the price
 - Wider range of marginal utilities



(a)



(b)

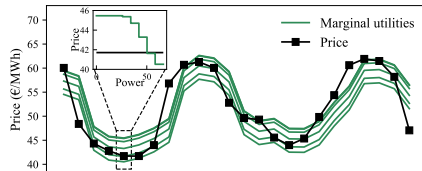
- H values for *kio* and *lio* are quite similar
- kio* and *lio* give rise to the least errors
- kio* outperforms *h-naive*, *krr*, *svr*: 51.3% ↓, 25.7% ↓, 27.6% ↓

Results for the *non-sync* Case

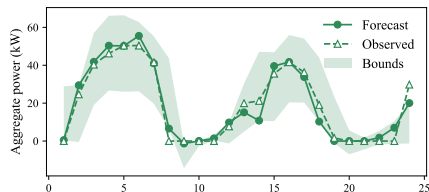
<i>kio</i>	<i>lio</i>
$H^* = 0.94$	$H^* = 0.94$
$\gamma^* = 0.01$	

Model	RMSE	MAE
<i>kio</i>	5.5	3.8
<i>krr</i>	7.4	5.2
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<i>d-naive</i>	17.3	13.3
<i>w-naive</i>	13.0	9.1

- Higher value of H :
 - Wider bounds than for the *sync* case
 - Power is sensitive to the price
 - Wider range of marginal utilities



(a)



(b)

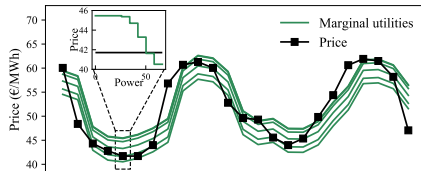
- H values for *kio* and *lio* are quite similar
- kio* and *lio* give rise to the least errors
- kio* outperforms *h-naive*, *krr*, *svr*: 51.3% ↓, 25.7% ↓, 27.6% ↓

Results for the *non-sync* Case

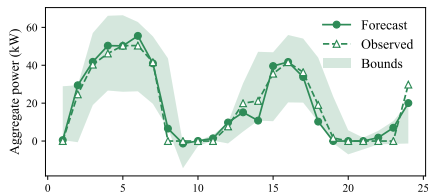
<i>kio</i>	<i>lio</i>
$H^* = 0.94$	$H^* = 0.94$
$\gamma^* = 0.01$	

Model	RMSE	MAE
<i>kio</i>	5.5	3.8
<i>krr</i>	7.4	5.2
<i>svr</i>	7.6	5.0
<i>lio</i>	5.9	3.9
<i>h-naive</i>	11.3	7.1
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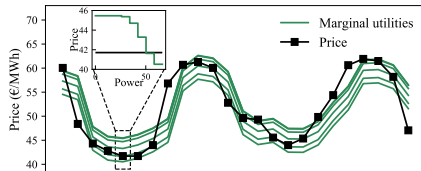
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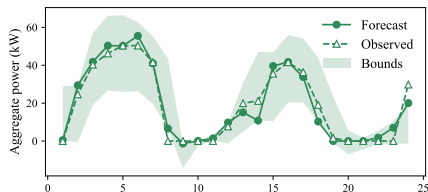
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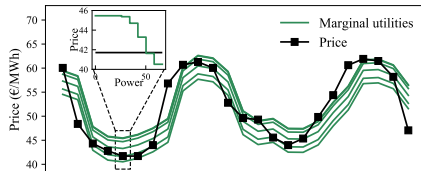
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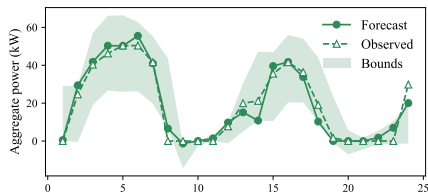
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To wrap up...

- Data-driven two-step forecasting approach
 - Inverse optimization
 - kernel regression
- Unlike other techniques
 - Forecasting
 - Bidding
- It achieves a similar or better performance than other techniques
- Adjectives that best describe our model
 - Versatile
 - Interpretable

Results with V2G Capabilities

- *sync* case:
 - *kio* outperforms better than *lio*
 - Similar performance of *kio* and other machine-learning techniques
- *non-sync* case:
 - *kio* predicts better than the rest of methods

Model	<i>sync</i>		<i>non-sync</i>	
	RMSE	MAE	RMSE	MAE
<i>kio</i>	148.6	94.3	33.5	20.9
<i>krr</i>	146.9	108.4	35.2	23.6
<i>svr</i>	147.1	92.4	35.6	22.4
<i>lio</i>	172.1	120.0	36.2	23.7
<i>h-naive</i>	235.4	142.2	49.5	30.0
<i>d-naive</i>	261.8	162.5	71.1	50.2
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