

# Active Collaborative Sensing for Energy Breakdown

**Yiling Jia<sup>1</sup>, Nipun Batra<sup>2</sup>, Hongning Wang<sup>1</sup>, Kamin Whitehouse<sup>1</sup>**

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# Worldwide Energy Consumption: Buildings

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- The buildings sector, which includes residential and commercial structures, accounts for almost **21%** of the world's delivered energy consumption in 2015.  
(International Energy Outlook 2017)
- About **20%** of the energy could be avoided with efficiency improvements<sup>[1]</sup>.

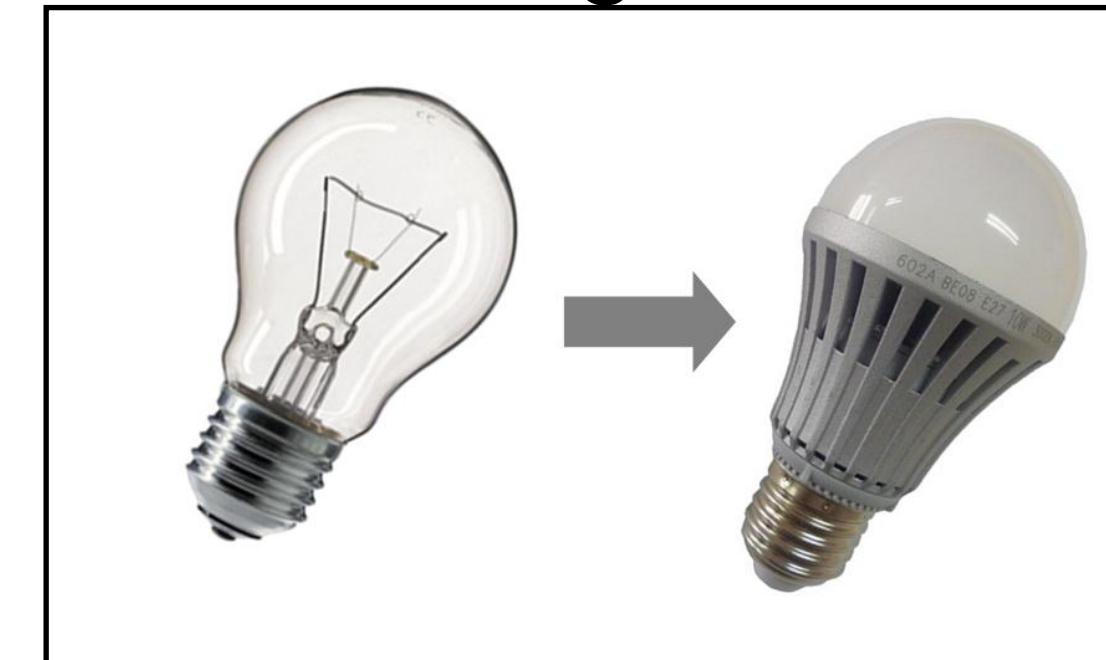
# Worldwide Energy Consumption: Buildings

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Constructing efficient buildings



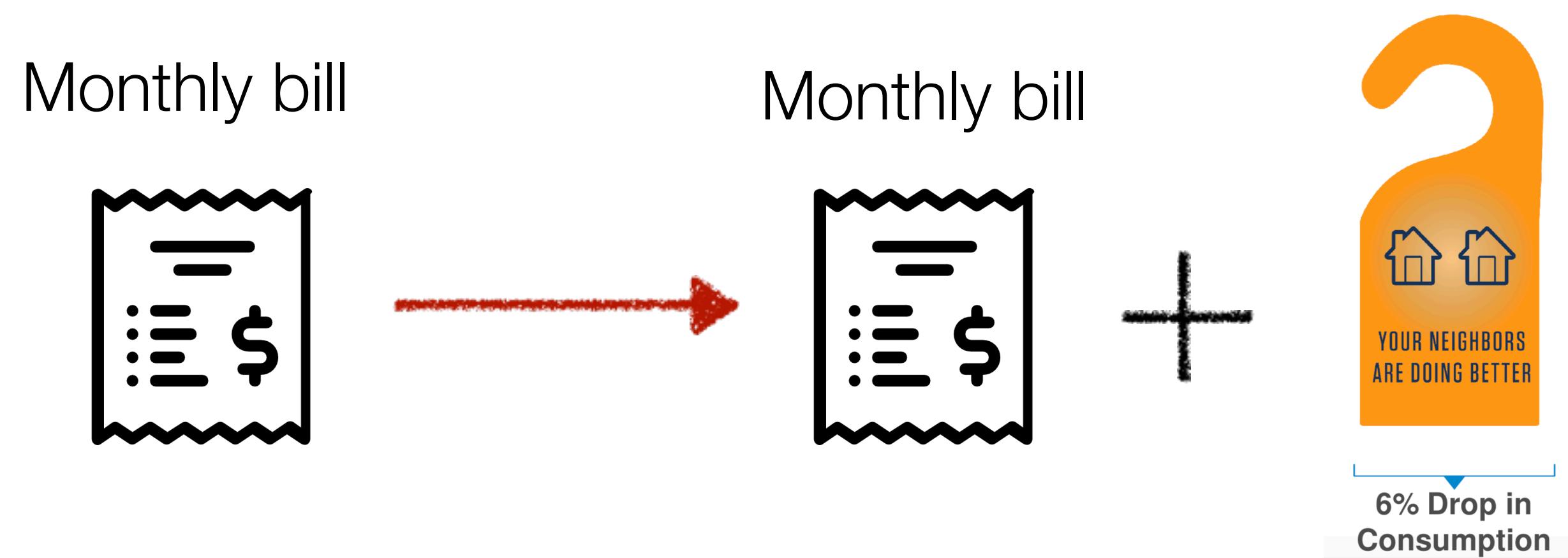
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**High Cost**  
**The return is unclear before installation.**

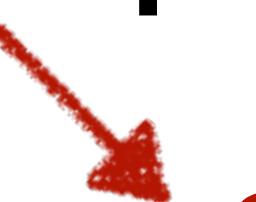
# Improve Building Energy Efficiency

- Behavioral and operational efficiency.
  - Provide the more detailed energy feedback to customers.



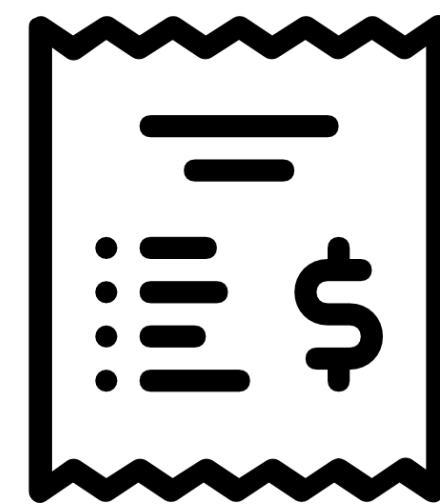
# Improve Building Energy Efficiency

- Behavioral and operational efficiency.
  - Provide the more detailed energy feedback to customers.
  - **Energy Breakdown: provide per-appliance energy readings.**

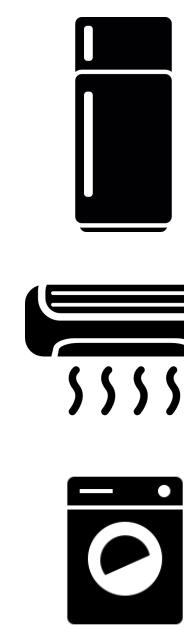
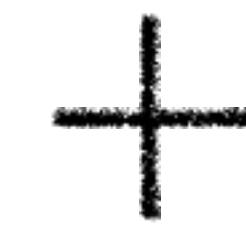
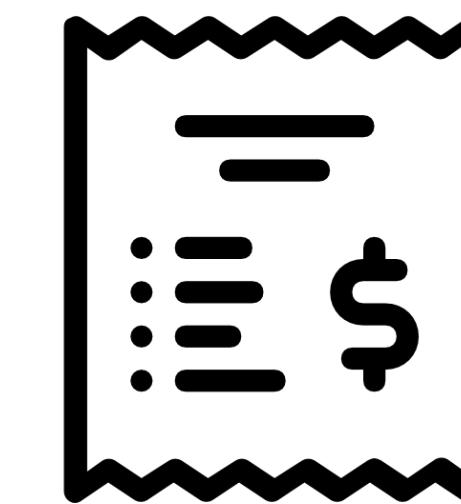


**Save up to 15% energy<sup>[2]</sup>**

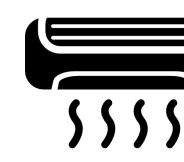
Total energy consumption  
e.g., monthly bills



Total energy consumption + Appliance energy consumption



1.5 kWh



6.3 kWh

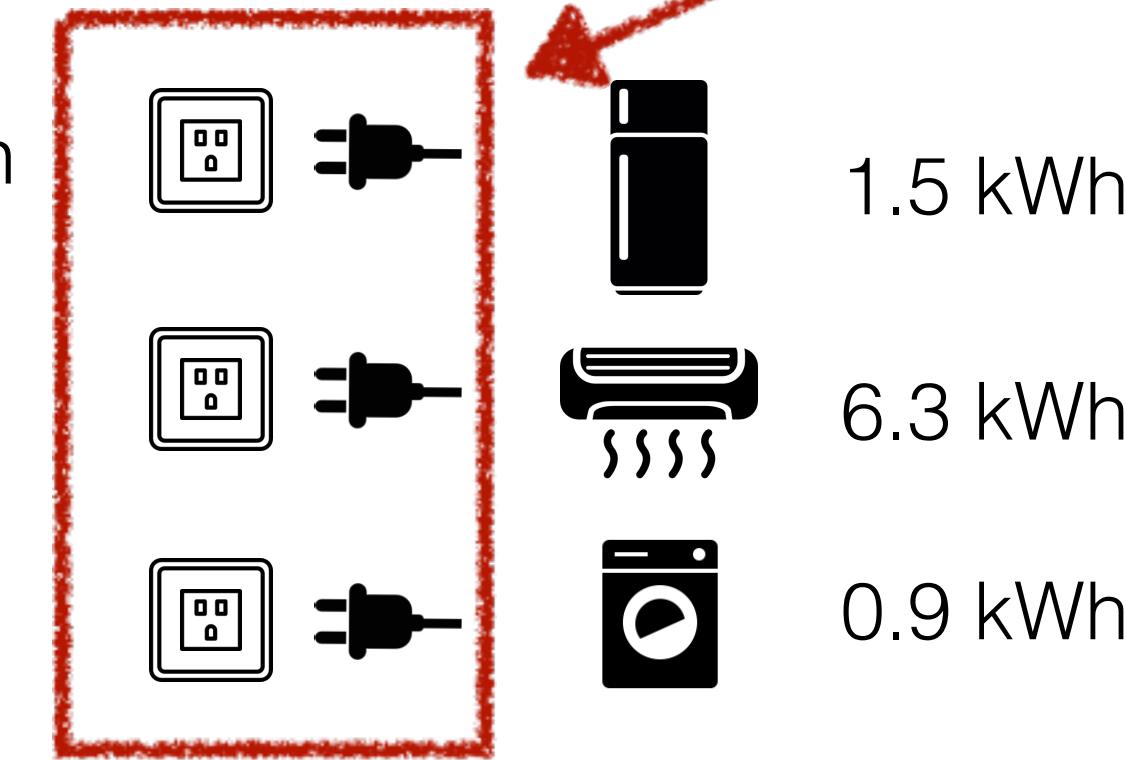
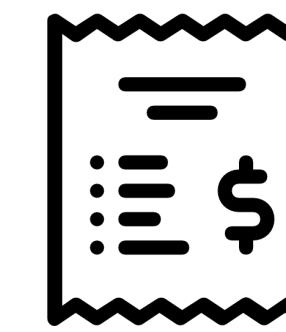


0.9 kWh

# Related Work

- Direct Sensing System<sup>[3, 4]</sup>
- Instrument every appliance in each home.

Total energy consumption

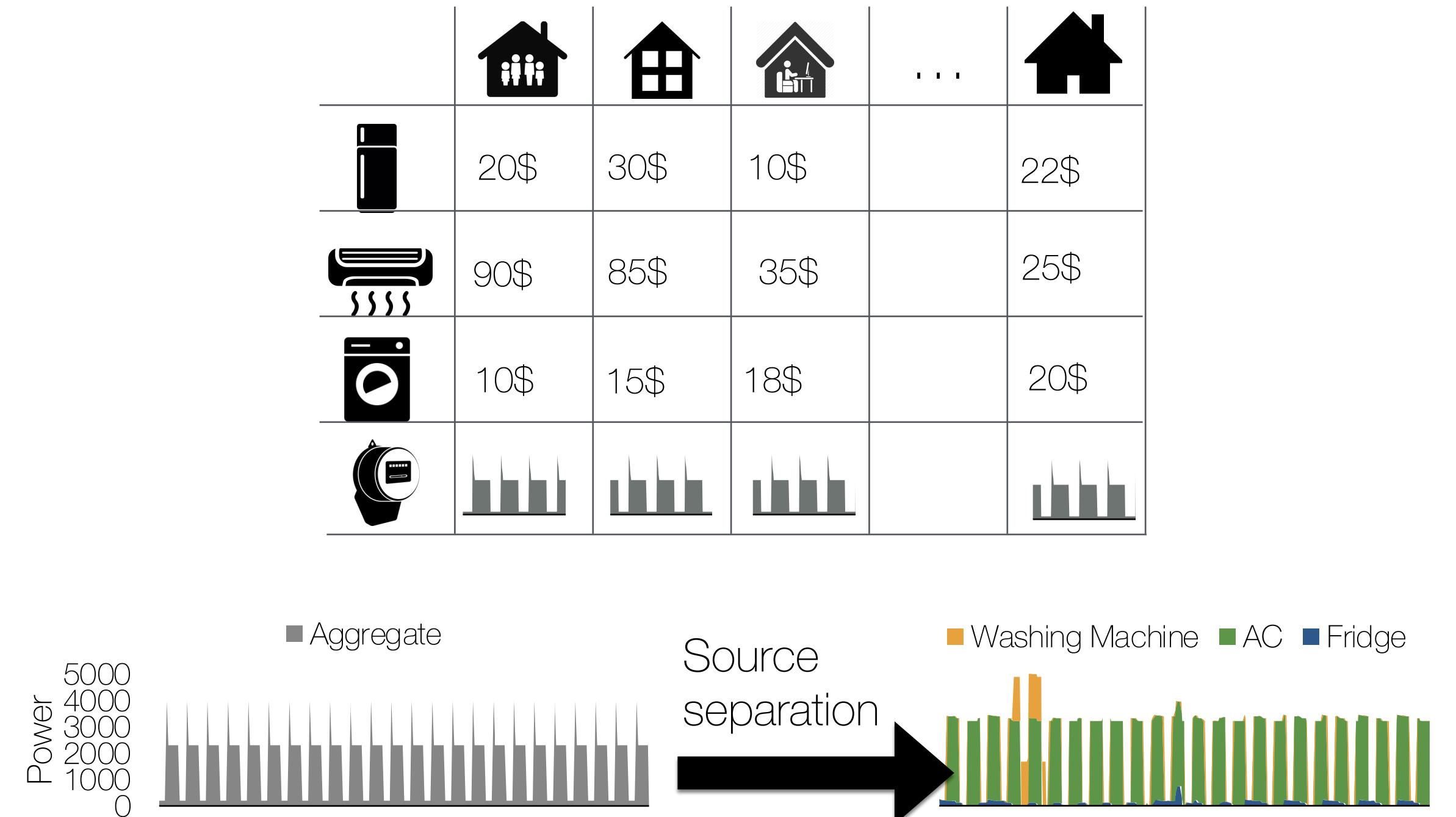


Plug load monitor

**Expensive  
Resource consuming  
Poor Scalability**

# Related Work

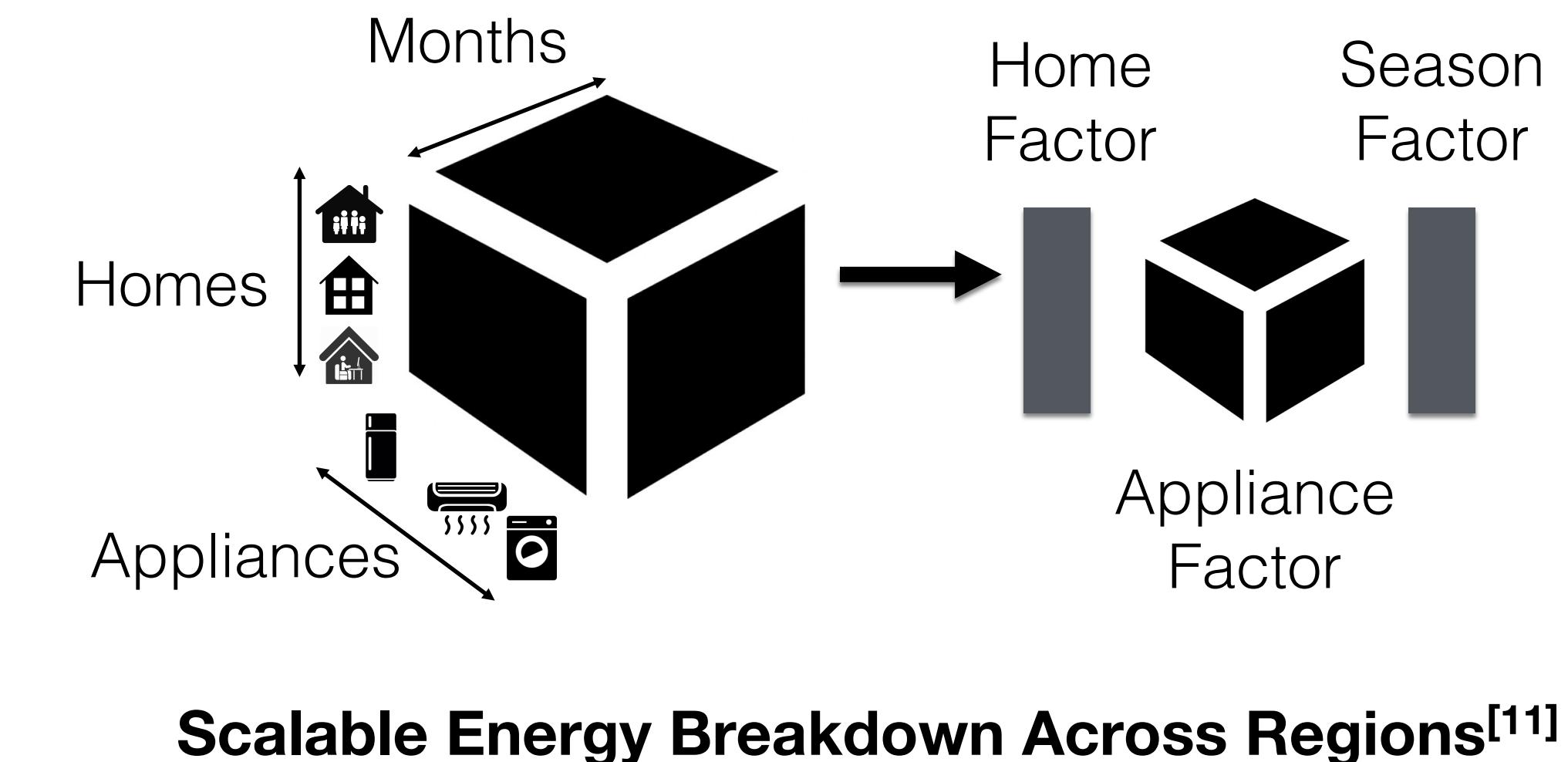
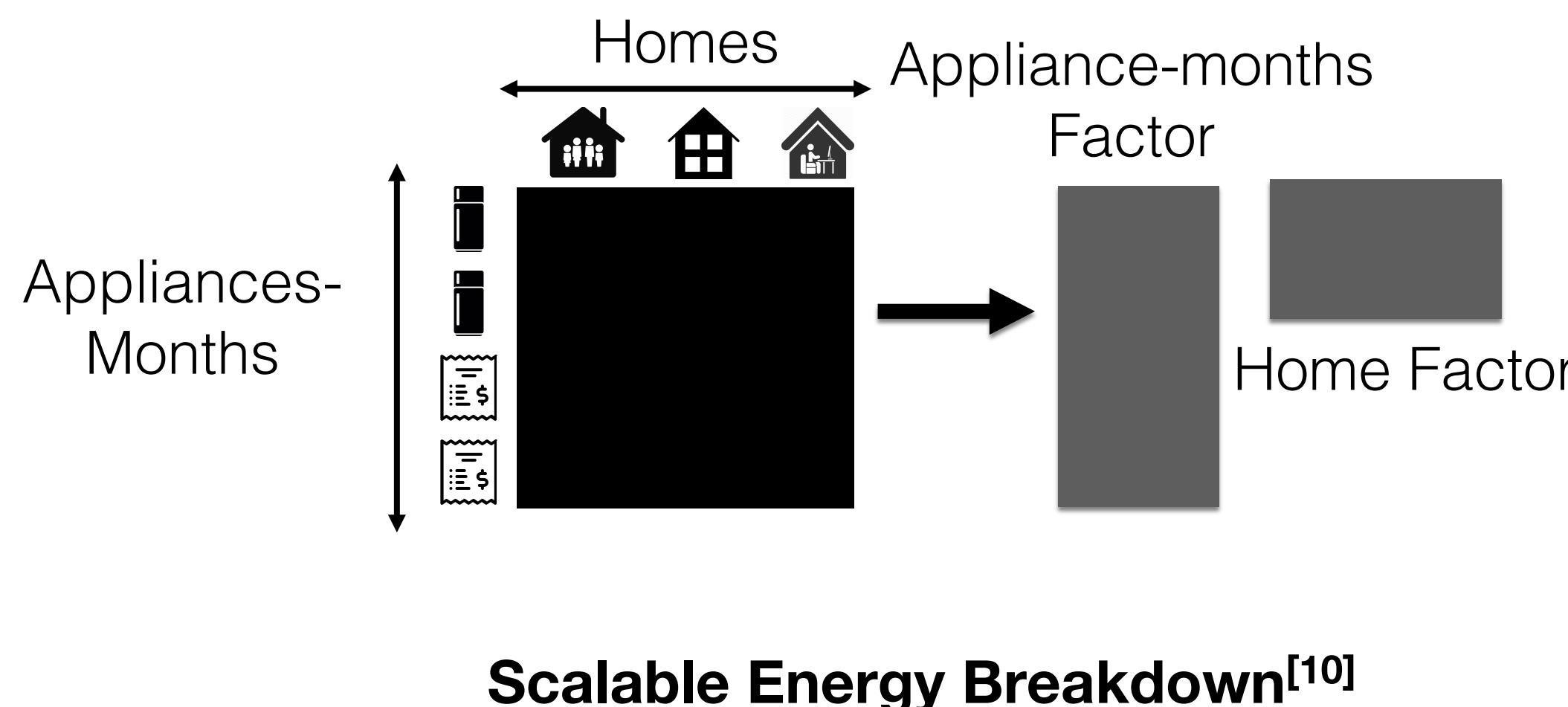
- Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring (NILM)
- One smart sensor for each home.
- Algorithms: Steady/transit state analysis<sup>[5]</sup>, FHMM<sup>[6, 7]</sup>, Neural Network<sup>[8, 9]</sup>



# Related Work

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- Collaborative Sensing<sup>[10, 11, 12]</sup>
  - No additional hardware installation in test homes.
  - Intuition:
    - Common design and construction patterns for homes create a repeating structure in energy data.



# Related Work

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				...			
Jan		20\$	30\$	10\$		22\$	
...		...	...	...		...	
Dec		25\$	35\$	15\$		25\$	
		180\$	—	250\$		310\$	200\$
		...	...	...		...	250\$
		350\$	380\$	280\$		480\$	250\$
		—	—	—		—	350\$

# Related Work

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Latent factor  
for months

	K1	K2
Jan	10	20
Dec	30	40
Jan	130	12020
Dec	120	110

Latent factor  
for homes

	...	
1	...	2
2	...	3

# Related Work

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## Limitation of Collaborative sensing

- Assume the existence of relevant training data, i.e., appliance-level energy readings from some fully instrumented homes.

**Few buildings in the world have instrumented with sub-meters.**

**High cost of sub-meters instrumentation.**

				...			
	?	30\$			?		
	90\$		?		?		
	10\$	?	18\$		20\$		
		3	2		2		3
							2

# Related Work

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## Limitation of Collaborative sensing

- Assume the existence of relevant training data, i.e., appliance-level energy readings from some fully instrumented homes.

**Few buildings in the world have instrumented with sub-meters.**

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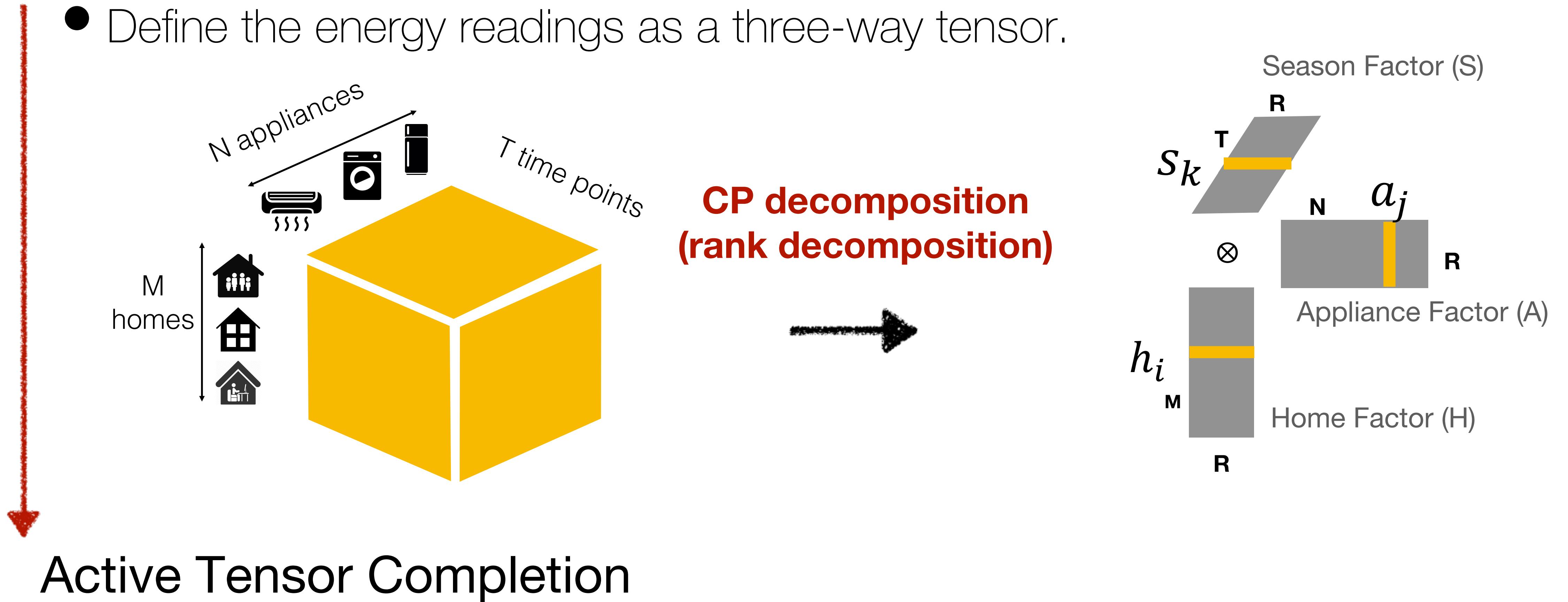
Can we *minimize the deployment cost* by selectively deploying sensors to a subset of homes and appliances while *maximizing the reconstruction accuracy* of sub-metered readings in non-instrumented homes?

**Active sensor deployment for energy breakdown**

# Problem Statement

## Active Sensor Deployment for Energy Breakdown

- Define the energy readings as a three-way tensor.



# Special Properties of Energy Breakdown

- **Time-series data**

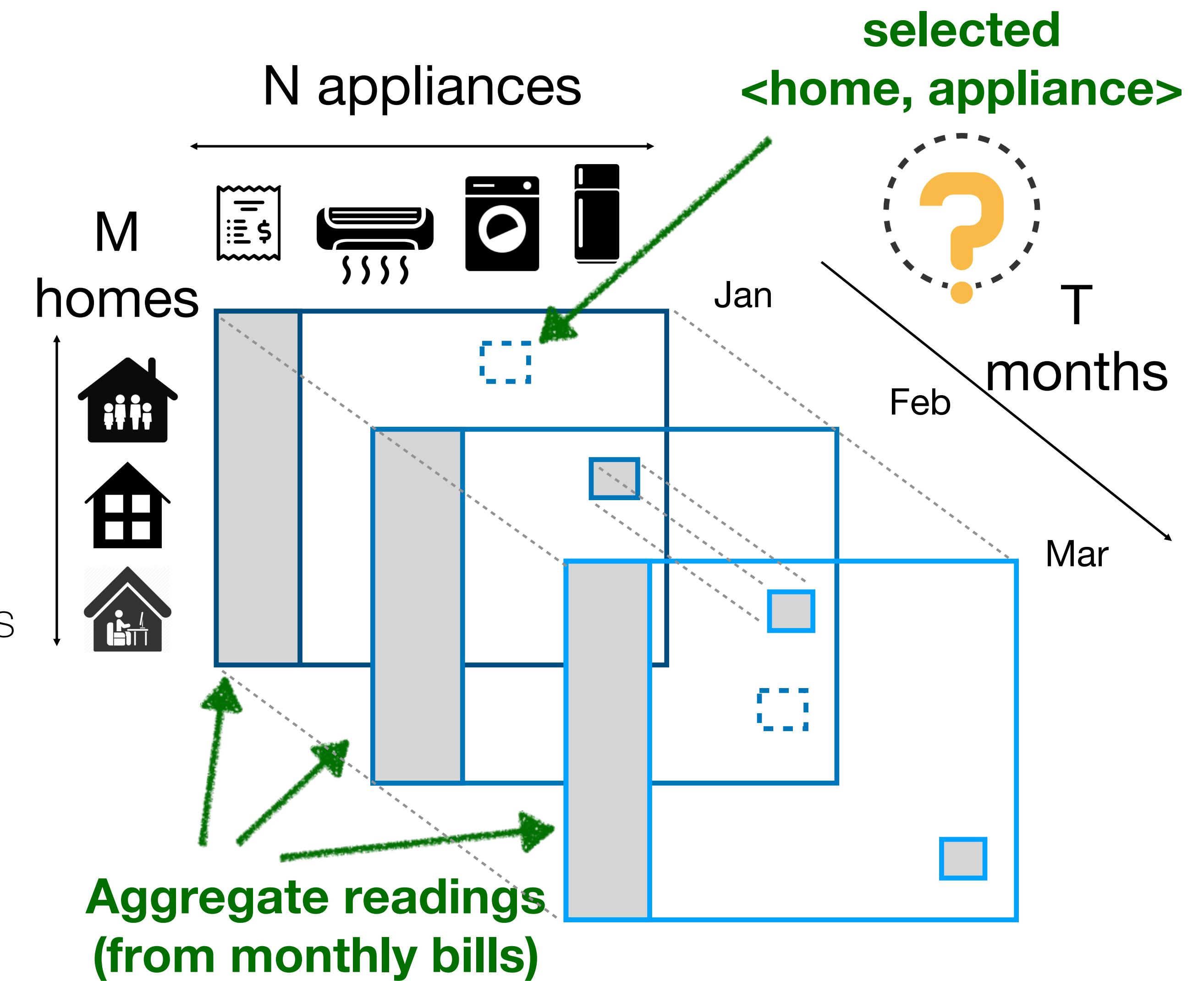
- Energy data will be updated in every sampling cycle.

- **Combinatorial decision**

- Select the <home, appliance> pairs.

- **Sensor Installation**

- Once the sensor is installed, the readings will always be available thereafter.
- Dilemma: balance the choice of instrumentation that focuses on the current reconstruction accuracy, and the accuracy for future predictions.



# Active Selection

Uncertainty based active selection.

Select the one will reduce the reconstruction uncertainty the most rapidly.  
*Where does the uncertainty come from?*

The observed energy readings are noisy.

- Hardware.
- Energy consumption in wire transition.
- Sub-meter readings.

For home i, appliance j, and month k

$$e_{ijk}^{obs} = e_{ijk}^* + \text{noise}$$

**ground truth decomposition**

$$e_{ijk}^* = \langle h_i^*, a_j^*, s_k^* \rangle$$

**True energy reading approximate decomposition**

$$e_{ijk}^{obs} \approx \langle \hat{h}_i, \hat{a}_j, \hat{s}_k \rangle$$



?

**Uncertainty in parameter estimation**

$$\|h_i^* - \hat{h}_i\| \neq 0$$

$$\|a_j^* - \hat{a}_j\| \neq 0$$

$$\|s_k^* - \hat{s}_k\| \neq 0$$

?

**Uncertainty in energy estimation**

$$e_{ijk}^* = \langle h_i^*, a_j^*, s_k^* \rangle$$

$$e_{ijk} = \langle \hat{h}_i, \hat{a}_j, \hat{s}_k \rangle$$

$$\|e_{ijk}^* - e_{ijk}\| \neq 0$$

# Uncertainty Quantification

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**How to quantify the uncertainty in parameter estimation ?**

$$e_{ijk}^{obs} = e_{ijk}^* + \eta_{ijk} \quad \eta_{ijk} \sim N(0, \delta^2)$$

Latent factor:  $h, a, s$

- In the tensor factorization, the objective function is:

$$L = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=1}^t \sum_{i,j} (e_{ijk}^{obs} - \langle h_i, a_j, s_k \rangle)^2 + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^M h_i^T h_i + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} \sum_{j=1}^N a_j^T a_j + \frac{\lambda_3}{2} \sum_{k=1}^t s_k^T s_k$$

- Parameter Estimation: Alternating Least Square (ALS)

**Home factor**  $h_i = A_{i,t}^{-1} b_{i,t}$   $A_{i,t} = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^t (a_{n,t} \circ s_{l,t}) (a_{n,t} \circ s_{l,t})^T + \lambda_1 I_{i,t} = \sum_{n=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^t e_{inl} (a_{n,t} \circ s_{l,t})$

# Uncertainty Quantification

---

**How to quantify the uncertainty in parameter estimation?**

**It can be proved that, with probability at least  $1 - \delta$  (Lemma 1 in paper)**

$$\|\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^t - \mathbf{h}_i^*\|_{\mathbf{A}_i^t} \leq \sqrt{r \ln \frac{\lambda_1 r + |\Omega_t| Q^2 R^2}{\lambda_1 \cdot r \cdot \delta}} + \sqrt{\lambda_1} P + \frac{2PQ^2R^2}{\sqrt{\lambda_1}} (G_2 + G_3)$$

$$G_1 = \frac{f_1(1 - f_1^{|\Omega_t|})}{1 - f_1} \quad f_1 = q_1 + \epsilon_1$$

# Uncertainty Quantification

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$$\|\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^t - \mathbf{h}_i^*\|_{\mathbf{A}_i^t} \leq \alpha_{h_i}^t \quad \|\hat{\mathbf{a}}_j^t - \mathbf{a}_j^*\|_{\mathbf{C}_j^t} \leq \alpha_{a_j}^t \quad \|\hat{\mathbf{s}}_k^t - \mathbf{s}_k^*\|_{\mathbf{E}_k^t} \leq \alpha_{s_k}^t$$

**How the uncertainty in parameter estimation contributes to the uncertainty in energy estimation?**

**Uncertainty of home factor, and appliance factor estimation.**

$$|\hat{\mathbf{e}}_{ijk} - \mathbf{e}_{ijk}^*| \leq \alpha_{h_i}^t \|\hat{\mathbf{a}}_j^t \circ \hat{\mathbf{s}}_k^t\|_{(\mathbf{A}_i^t)^{-1}} + \alpha_{a_j}^t \|\hat{\mathbf{h}}_i^t \circ \hat{\mathbf{s}}_k^t\|_{(\mathbf{C}_j^t)^{-1}} + const$$

Upper bound of parameter estimation error

# Uncertainty Quantification

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*Uncertainty(home<sub>i</sub>, appliance<sub>j</sub>, month<sub>k</sub>)*

# Leverage Time Information

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- **Sensor Installation**

- Dilemma: balance the choice of instrumentation that focuses on the current reconstruction accuracy, and the accuracy for future predictions.

**Could we prepare for the future?**

Integrate temporal information to retrospect the history and foresee the future

$$(x, y) = \operatorname{argmax}_{x \in [M], y \in [N]} \sum_{k=t-p}^{t+p} \rho_{k,t} \cdot \text{Uncertainty}(i, j, k)$$

Weight function to control the contribution

# Evaluation: Theoretical analysis

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Prediction Error with data selected by our proposed method, ActSense,  $E_A(t)$

Prediction Error with any other data,  $E_O(t)$

It can be proved that,

$$UB(E_A(t)) \leq UB(E_O(t))$$

**Upper bound of the error** 

# Empirical Evaluation: Setup

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## Datasets

- Dataport: the largest public residential home energy dataset.
  - Austin, 2014 (53), 2015 (93), 2016 (73), 2017 (44).
  - Aggregate, HVAC, Fridge, Washing Machine, Dishwasher, Furnace, Microwave.
- Evaluation Metric
  - Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) for appliance a.  $RMSE(a) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_i \sum_k (e_{ijk}^{obs} - \hat{e}_{ijk})^2}{M \times T}}$
  - Mean RMSE for each model.  $MeanRMSE = \frac{\sum_a RMSE(a)}{N}$

# Empirical Evaluation: Baselines

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- **Random Selection**

- Perform CP decomposition with ALS
- Select L <home, appliance> pairs **uniformly random from the candidates.**

- **Query By Committee (QBC)**<sup>[13, 14]</sup>:

- Perform CP decomposition with ALS.
- QBC quantifies the prediction uncertainty **based on the level of disagreement among a committee of trained models.**
- We perform CP decomposition with different rank to form the committee.  
Uncertainty is computed by the variance across the estimate of the committee members.

- **Variational Bayesian - Variance (VBV)**<sup>[15, 16]</sup>

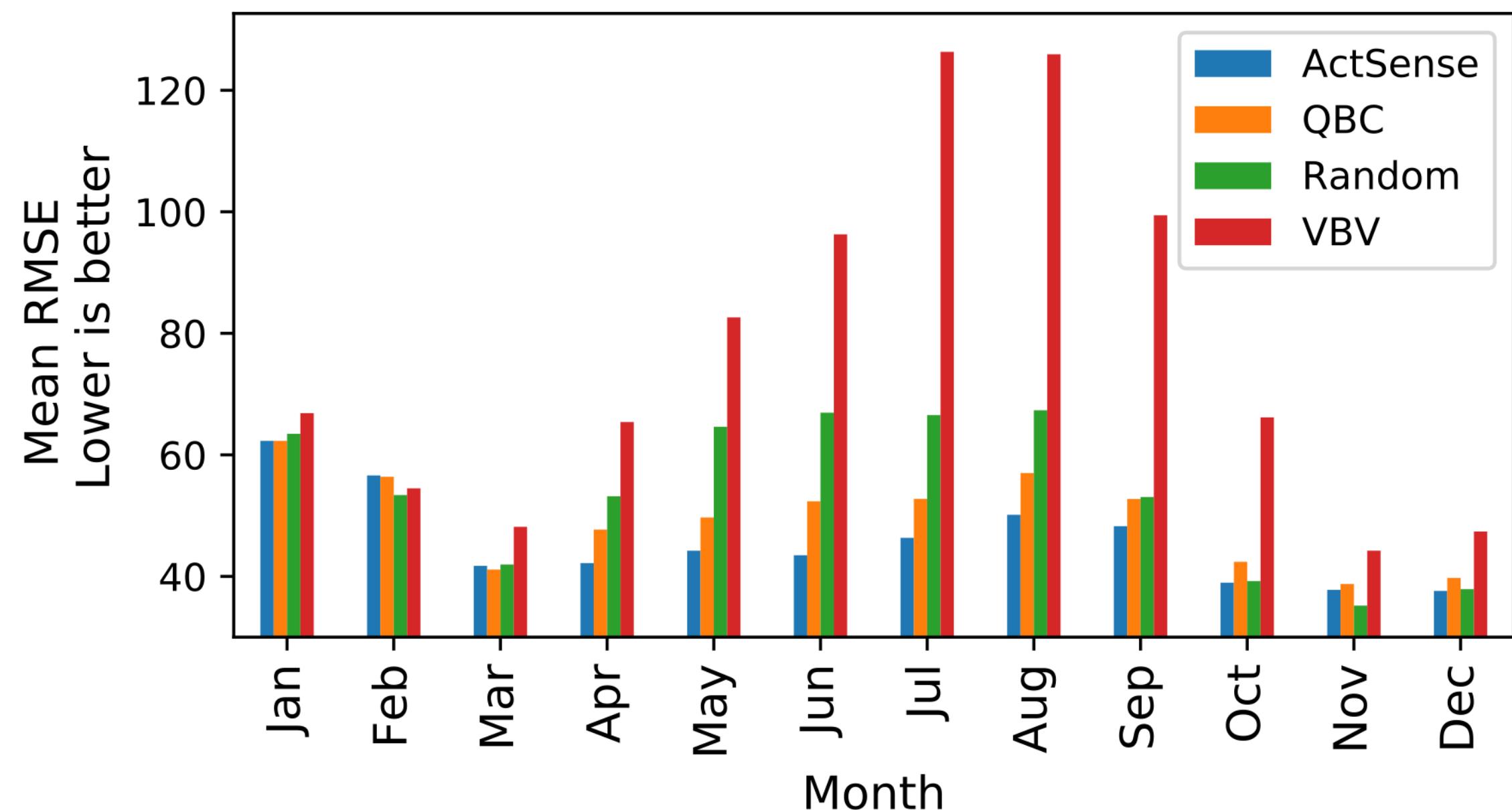
- Perform CP decomposition with Variational Bayesian Inference.
- Select the pairs **based on the variance of each estimation.**

# Empirical Evaluation

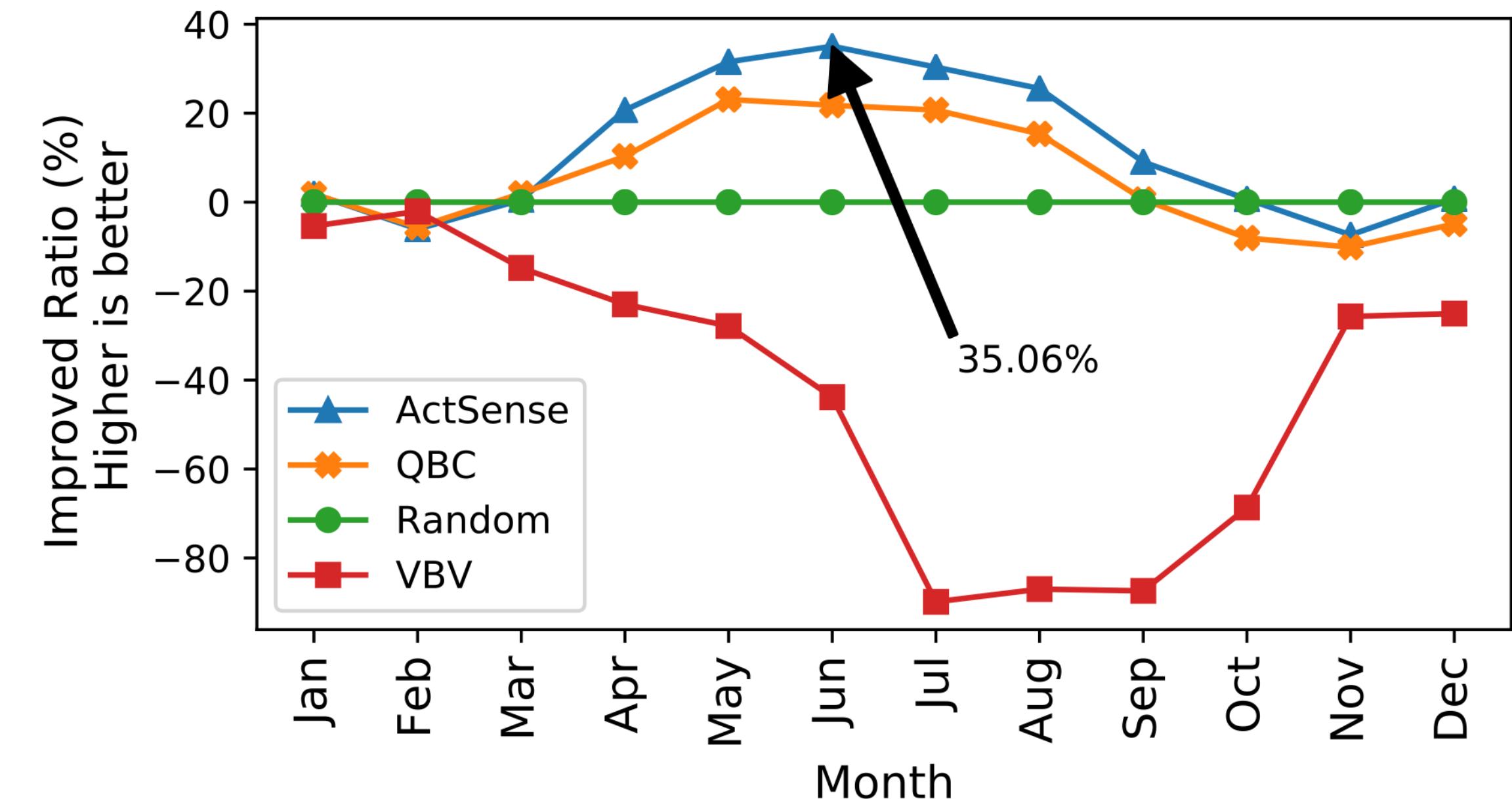
## Quality of Energy Breakdown, Austin, 2015.

Select 5 pairs at each month.

At the end of the year, 10.75% <home, appliance> pairs are instrumented.



Mean RMSE performance across months



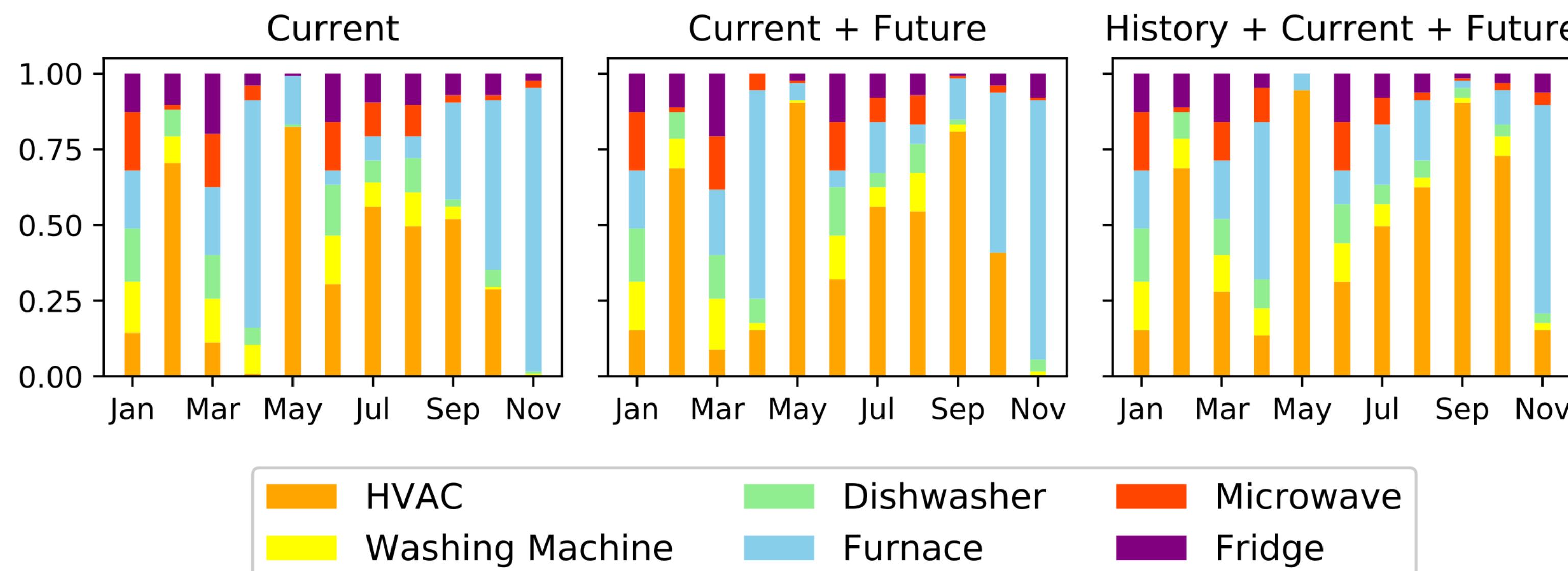
Relative Improvement compared with random method

# Empirical Evaluation

## Integrate temporal information

Table 2. Relative Improvement comparing to Random with different uncertainty estimation.

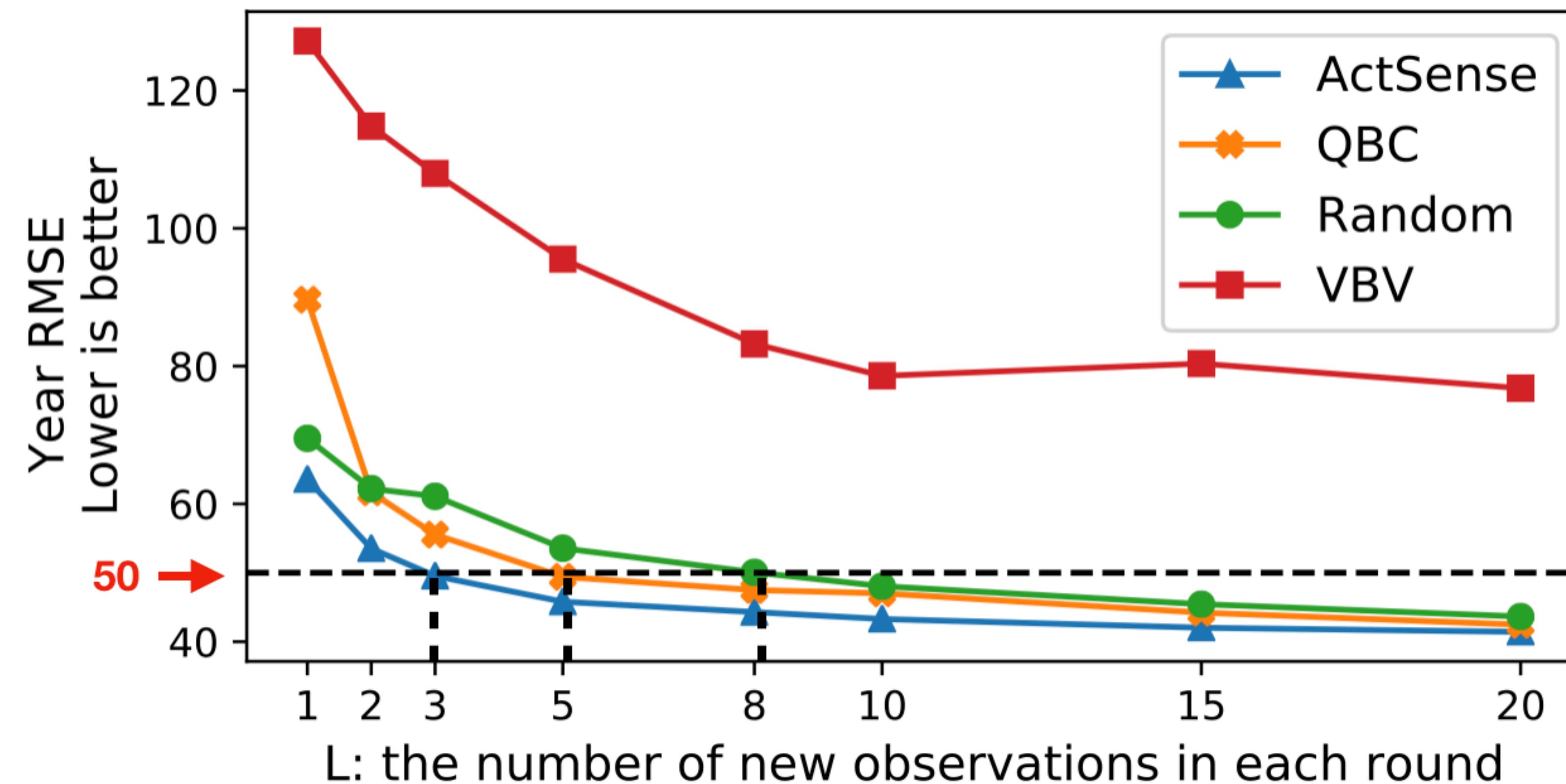
Uncertainty Estimation	Maximum	Mean
Current	34.38%	11.48%
Current + Future	34.89%	11.82%
History + Current + Future	35.06%	11.88%



# Empirical Evaluation

## Budget size, Austin, 2015.

$$\text{Year RMSE} = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^{12} \text{Mean RMSE}(t)}{12}$$



# Summary

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- Proposed an active collaborative sensing algorithm to actively deploy sensors for energy breakdown.
  - ◆ Utilize the uncertainty from the parameter estimation process to select the candidates.
  - ◆ Integrate the temporal information to retrospect the history and foresee the future.
- Provided rigorous theoretical analysis of the uncertainty reduction of the proposed algorithm.
  
- Future work
  - ◆ Active selection with budget constraint.
  - ◆ Active selection for transfer learning across regions.

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# Acknowledge

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- Thank the NSF grant CNS-1646501, IIS-1553568, IIS-1718216.

# Thanks!

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# Q & A

GitHub: <https://github.com/yilingjia/ActSense>