



## A REVIEW ON DEEP LEARNING BASED LOAD DEMAND FORECASTING TECHNIQUES FOR SMART GRID

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**Abstract:** Electrical load forecasting plays a major role in planning an advanced power system such as smart grid. This context gives an overview on what is load forecasting, classification and requirement. On what external variables the load forecasting will depend and how the forecasting was already achieved in earlier days by using some conventional techniques like regression methods which also includes the history of load forecasting techniques. Load forecasting is a very complex process and it can be achieved by using AI (Artificial Intelligence) techniques. By using this AI methods very high degree of accuracy can be attained. This review gives a brief about the ANN (Artificial Neural Network) and the drawbacks faced by this method. Some deep learning techniques were introduced to overcome the drawbacks of ANN. Even by designing a complex system a lot of challenges need to be overcome for achieving an accurate result in load forecasting.

### 1. Introduction

Load forecasting is a central and integral process in the planning and operation of electric utilities. It involves the accurate prediction of both the magnitudes and geographical locations of electric load over the different periods (usually hours) of the planning horizon. The basic quantity of interest in load forecasting is typically the hourly total system load. However, according to Gross and Galiana (1987), load forecasting is also concerned with the prediction of hourly, daily, weekly and monthly values of the system load, peak system load and the system energy. Srinivasan and Lee (1995) classified load forecasting in terms of the planning horizon's duration: up to 1 day for short-term load forecasting (STLF), 1

day to 1 year for medium-term load forecasting (MTLF), and 1±10 years for long-term load forecasting (LTLF). Accurate load forecasting holds a great saving potential for electric utility corporations. According to Bunn and Farmer (1985), these savings are realised when load forecasting is used to control operations and decisions such as dispatch, unit commitment, fuel allocation and transmission line network analysis. The accuracy of load forecasts has a significant effect on power system operations, as economy of operations and control of power systems may be quite sensitive to forecasting errors. Haida and Muto (1994) observed that both positive and negative forecasting errors resulted in increased operating costs.



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a fundamental theme of future technology research and development. In many nations, smart grids are being developed to be an intelligent layer to improve power distribution, control, and generation [1]. The smart grids are being established with intelligent devices and sensors to computerize and improve various applications' productivity, including metering distribution. Machine learning, deep learning, and swarm intelligence are the common mechanisms of AI that are broadly used in smart grids for different purposes. Machine learning is being used for analysing big data in the smart grid and for security aspects of the Internet of Things (IoT) in the smart grid [6]. In smart grids, different electrical power utilization data are aggregated in centralized cloud servers or cloud storage. Due to this large amount of data, the computation time for deep learning is high.

## 2. Load Demand Forecasting

Electrical load forecasting plays a vital role in order to achieve the concept of next generation power system such as smart grid, efficient energy management and better power system planning. As a result, high forecast accuracy is required for multiple time horizons that are associated with regulation, dispatching, scheduling and unit commitment of power grid.

Load forecasting is future load prediction, which plays a very important role in the energy management system and better planning for the power system. In the

preceding years, a large number of researches have been published on accurate short term load forecasting (STLF) due to its impact on the reliable operation of power systems and economy. It ensures the reliable operation of power system that leads to uninterrupted power supply to the consumer [1]. The operations of power system, for example scheduling, maintenance, adjustment of tariff rates and contract evaluation can be conveniently carried out by accurate load forecast. Energy policy making decision can be carried out based on accurate load forecast. Several decisions of power management system can be carried out on the basis of accurate load forecasting such as power system operation, maintenance and planning. Effective planning of power systems can save millions of dollars, which plays a significant role in the economic growth of a country. There is a strong impact of weather variables on load demands such as temperature, relative humidity, dew point, dry bulb temperature, wind speed, cloud cover and the human body index. The multiple loads consumed by individuals also creates enormous impact on load forecasting. However, in order to achieve the higher forecast results, there is need to accommodate all factors affecting on load demand as forecast model inputs such as; historical load and respective weather data. In this modern era of technology, an accurate load forecast plays a vital role to implement the

concept of smart grids and smart buildings.

## 2.1 Classification of Load Demand Forecasting

Load forecasting is divided into three categories by most of researchers but some of them divided it into four categories [2]. Normally Load forecasting can be divided in three categories on the basis time interval.

1. Long term load forecast (1 year to 10 year ahead).
2. Medium term load forecast (1 month to 1 year ahead).
3. Short term load forecast (1 h to 1 day or 1 week ahead).

Long term load forecast is used for the long-term power system planning according to the future energy demand and energy policy of the state. Medium term load forecast is being used for the efficient operation and maintenance of the power system.

Literature shows that, mainly efforts are concentrated on short term load forecasting in preceding years. It is due to the importance of short-term load forecasting and it also play a vital role in optimum unit commitment, control of spinning reserve, evaluation of sales/purchase contracts between various companies.

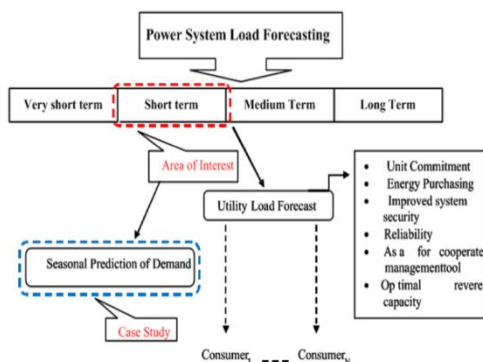


Fig. 1 Classification of Power system Load Forecasting

## 2.2 Short Term Load forecasting and its importance

Literature review shows that, a large number of researches have been published on short term load forecasting for different load scenarios. Fig.1 illustrates that, the type of Load forecast and its application of short-term load forecast for reliable and efficient energy management system. Fig.1 also depicts that, seasonal load forecast scenario as STL case studies to analyze the performance of forecast model and utility perception for multiple consumers. The major objectives of accurate STL are given below:

1. Generation scheduling of power system.
2. Secure and reliable operation of power plants.
3. Economic dispatch and reliability.

## 2.3 Different Load forecasting techniques that are present in the market

Different types of techniques for load forecasting are available. But not all them will give accurate results and used in the market. Some of the methods are best for the theoretical calculations and some are good for practical implementation.

1. Multiple regression
2. Exponential smoothing
3. Iterative reweighted least-squares
4. Adaptive load forecasting
5. Stochastic time series

6. ARMAX models based on genetic algorithms
7. Fuzzy logic
8. Neural networks
9. Knowledge-based expert systems.

There are number of forecasting methods are present in theory but the above mentioned are the main forecasting domain methods that are present in the market. Among all the above-mentioned forecasting techniques a lot of them having a great difficulty in many accepts like lacking accuracy, having very high computational time, requires very high processing power, very difficult to find the relationship between the non-liner time variables.

#### 2.4 The major functionalities of Load forecasting

The major functions and requirements for operation planning in each period are presented in Table 1. The aim of short-term load forecasts is to predict future electricity demands based, usually, on historical data and predicted weatherconditions [4,5]. The short-term load forecast is required for unit commitment, energy transfer scheduling and load dispatch. With the emergence of load management

strategies, the short-term forecast is playing a broader role in utility operations. The development of an accurate, fast and robust short term load forecasting methodology is of importance to both the electric utility and its customers, thus introducing higher accuracy requirements. So far, a wide variety of STELF methods have been used .Traditionally, STELF techniques use conventional smoothing techniques, regression methods and statistical analysis. The statistical models used for STELF include peak load models and load shape models. The load shape models rely on time series analysis techniques. The autoregressive moving average model is among the most popular of the dynamic load shape models. Although these techniques and models are reliable, they are unable to adapt to unusual weather conditions and varied holiday activities, which form a highly non-linear relationship with the daily load. Hence, their load predictions in the presence of such events are not as satisfactory as desired, and consequently, more sophisticated means must be employed in order to map the correlation accurately between all the variables.

**Table 1: Different Parameters in Load Forecasting**

| Forecast Problem  | Short Term        | Medium term       | Long term       |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Time horizon      | 1/4–24 h          | 1 day - few weeks | Few months-year |
| Forecasting value | Load curves       | Load Curves       | Energy required |
| Accuracy          | Exact load curves | Error<< Capacity  | Exact enrgy     |

| Time Step | 1/4–1 h           | 1 h              | 1h                 |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Operation | Economic dispatch | Unit commitment  | Reserve planning   |
| Planning  | Unit Commitment   | Reserve planning | Capacity expansion |

Apart from the above parameters there are different variations are present in differentiating the Load Forecasting Types.

### 2.4 Co-relation analysis between weather variables and load data

There is strong correlation between weather variables and load demand [3]. Generally, load demand of power is increases in summer season due to raise in temperature and lower in winter season. So, weather variable must be included as forecast model input in order to achieve acceptable forecast accuracy. The human perception study shows that the dew point in the range of 40 F to 60 F is suitable for humans. The load demand is low within this range of dew point.

### 3. Integrations of Deep Learning in Load Forecasting

The utility industry has invested widely in smart grid (SG) over the past decade. They considered it the future electrical grid while the information and electricity are delivered in two-way flow. SG has many Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications such as Artificial Neural Network (ANN), Machine Learning (ML) and Deep Learning (DL). Recently, DL has been a hot topic for AI applications in many fields such as time series load forecasting. The common algorithms of DL in the literature applied to load forecasting problems in the SG and power

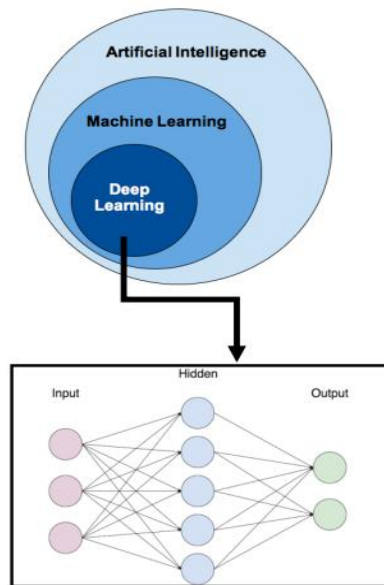
systems. The main intention of this chapter is to explore the different applications of DL that are used in the power systems and smart grid load forecasting.

Deep learning (DL) is a type of machine learning that has deeper inner hidden layers cascaded into the network. Its goal is to make machines like computers think and understand as human thinks by mimicking the grid of the human brain connection.

### 3.1 Importance of Deep Learning in Load forecasting

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a fundamental theme of future technology research and development. In many nations, smart grids are being developed to be an intelligent layer to improve power distribution, control, and generation [6]. The smart grids are being established with intelligent devices and sensors to computerize and improve various applications productivity, including metering distribution. The machine learning-based smart meter system contributes effectively to the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) area for detecting daily living activities. Machine learning has been used with smart meters for improving end-user load modelling machine learning [7]. AI also combined with edge computing and edge analytics in smart power meters. At present, the smart grid, smart home, and smart meter success depend on AI

and communication security. Machine learning, deep learning, and swarm intelligence are the common mechanisms of AI that are broadly used in smart grids for different purposes. Machine learning is being used for analyzing big data in the smart grid and for security aspects of the Internet of Things (IoT) in the smart grid [8]. Deep learning is a family of machine learning based on artificial neural networks (ANN) that are used in the smart grid for predicting load forecasting, price forecasting, solar forecasting, power quality, and other purposes.



**Fig. 2** Deep Learning process contains Artificial Neural Network (ANN) mechanism

ANN mainly use the layered structure as shown above which mainly consists of input, output, and Hidden layers corresponding to precise weights.

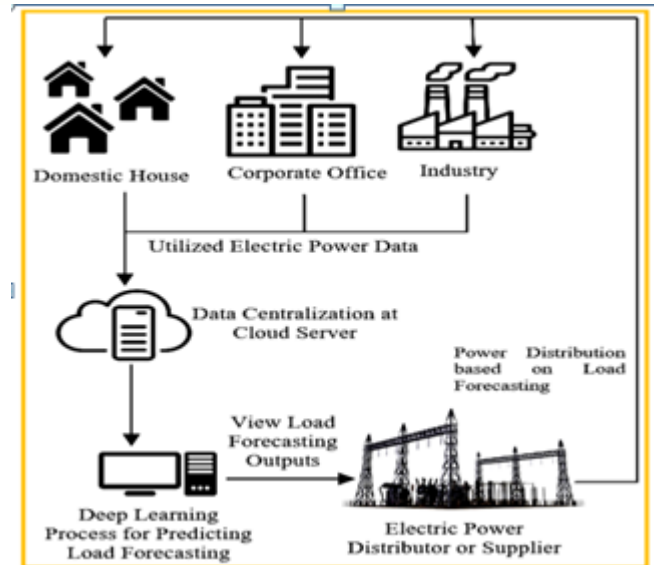
### 3.2 Different Deep Learning Techniques in Load forecasting

Load forecasting is an essential outcome of a smart grid system. It predicts the short-term, medium-term,

and long-term demand for electrical power to the users. Deep learning is widely used for load forecasting in smart grids [9]. Although a subset of machine learning, deep learning is more useful than other traditional machine learning algorithms. It also facilitates the use of other machine learning algorithms in conjunction with ANN for better results. For that reason, it is well known that it provides precise accuracy. Various techniques have been combined with ANN for smart grids, including Decision Tree, Random Forrest, Support Vector Machine, K-nearest Neighbor (KNN), and other machine learning algorithms, obtaining better outcomes for power management, load forecasting, and other purposes. Electrical power distribution companies will be particularly benefited from smart grids by determining better power distribution among the consumers or clients (home, industry, and corporate office). Currently, different electrical power utilization data are aggregated centrally. Deep learning performs load forecasting from this huge data, and hence the power distributors can predict the demand for electrical power distribution and provide power to different consumers accordingly. The process is shown in Figure 2 In smart grids, different electrical power utilization data are aggregated in centralized cloud servers or cloud storage. Due to this large amount of data, the computation time for deep learning is high [10]. Therefore, various machine learning techniques are being applied to deep learning to

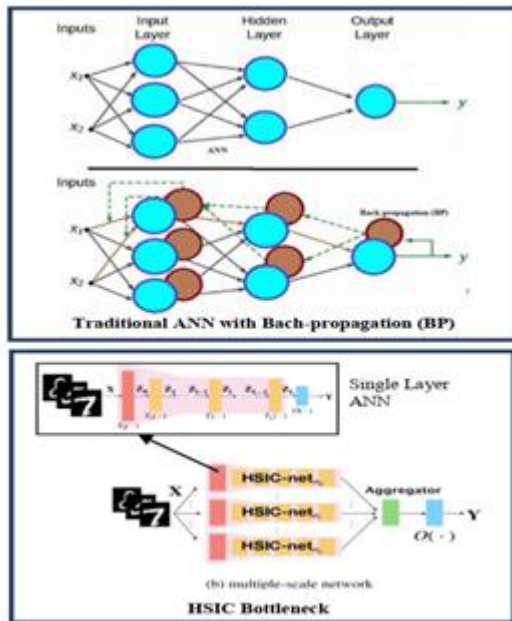
enhance computation time and efficiency. Distributed Machine Learning (DML) is one technique that is already being used to enhance computation time, so Distributed Deep Learning (DDL), a subset of DML, may also be applied to reduce the data being processed and may obtain useful and valid outputs compared to deep central learning. Smart grids are large-scale network systems consisting of physical power and an information network. When considering distributed storage and distribute power distribution control.

Distributed Smart Grid (DSG) appears to be a reasonable alternative to investigate in such systems. Distributed Artificial Intelligence or Decentralized Artificial Intelligence (DAI) can thus be employed in smart grids for obtaining effectual output.



**Fig 3 Load forecasting in Smart Grid Systems.[11]**

DML is normally used in decentralized and distributed systems such as IoT and wireless communication [11]. DDL has become common in computing the training processes of multiple devices by using ANN and other machine learning algorithms [5]. Therefore, DDL has potential applications in future smart grids for reducing ANN computation time and decreasing huge data centralization dependency. At the same time, IoT is a very essential network mechanism in the smart grid system. Cloud of Things is a cloud layer of IoT used for monitoring, managing, and analysing data and information provided by using a cloud server. A deep learning-based CoT model has been implemented to identify the traffic in a heterogeneous network. Therefore, DDL may be integrated with CoT for better performance in a smart grid.



**Fig 4 HSIC Bottleneck**

**implementation in the ANN [11]**

Typically, Back-Propagation (BP) method is used in deep learning processes to find results with good accuracy. BP has some disadvantages such as weight transport, update locking, vanishing gradients, and exploding gradients. In smart grids, BP takes additional computation time on top of that caused by huge

centralized data aggregates [6]. So, it would be beneficial to reduce the computation times for load forecasting in the smart grid. Due to the disadvantages of BP, non-BP based works have been proposed for load forecasting. In other application areas, alternative approaches to BP are also being investigated [12][13]. The BP process with traditional ANN has been illustrated in Figure 4.

### 3.4 Different ANN Techniques in Deep learning Based Load Forecasting

ANN is the primary and fundamental portion of deep learning. For developing any deep learning process, researchers or developers need to integrate different kinds of machine learning algorithms with ANN structure. Table 2 demonstrates different types of ANN that have been used in proposed load forecasting systems, along with their characteristics.

**Table 2: Different types of ANN in Load Forecasting**

| ANN Type                   | Characteristics  |
|----------------------------|--|
| FFNN                       | ANN without BP   |
| BPNN                       | Combination of Multi-layer Perceptron (MPL) based FFNN with BP |
| DNN                        | ANN with multiple hidden layers                                |
| Distributed Neural Network | DDL based ANN where multiple parts of an ANN are distributed   |
| RNN                        | Relationship between nodes like a graph                        |

Feed-forward Neural Network (FFNN) is the basic concept of ANN, FFNN is a forward propagation technique without

BP. FFNN has been used with Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm. BPNN is a version of FFNN where BP





is connected to a Multi-layer Perceptron (MLP) based FFNN. A low and medium voltage smart grid is an important matter for predicting accurate load forecasting. BPNN is broadly used in low voltage grids load shedding, and PV (Photovoltaic) generation. FFNN and BPNN based hybrid ANN have been proposed for predicting MTLF and STLF in low voltage smart grid. BPNN with fuzzy logic has also been proposed for the medium voltage at self-optimized STLF. Deep Neural Network (DNN) is a mechanism built upon FFNN where there are multiple hidden layers. Iterative ResBlocks (IRB) based DNN has been developed for individual residential loads. BP algorithm has been utilized with DNN. From the review, most have combined different types of ANN (hybrid ANN) for solving various complex issues in load forecasting. A recent review study of load forecasting has been indicated the vital parts of deep learning models with single and hybrid models. Single layer Perceptron (SLP), which has no hidden layer, as used for increasing SLTF speed in a hybrid SLP with Recurrent Neural Network (RNN), Encoder-Decoder Architecture. RNN is a directed graph-oriented ANN and hybrid RNN is broadly used in various load forecasting processes for data cleaning, big data, computational time, high dimensional data and other purposes. LSTM are techniques built

upon RNN. LSTM was the most used ANN approach in load forecasting, demonstrating better performance in different complex situations such as low and high-frequency components, probabilistic load forecasting, PV generation, CCHP (Combined Cooling, Heating, and Power) system, Hybrid energy system etc. A combination of three ANNs, namely LSTM, BPNN, and DQN (Deep Q-Network), have been used for establishing a similar day selection based STLF model. WNN (Wavelet Neural Network) with BPNN has been used in MTLF to determine the reduction of the unavoidable stochastic part. Neuro-fuzzy is a fuzzy logic-based ANN technique and has been applied to RNN, LSTM, ELM (Extreme Learning Machine) in STLF, and other ANNs for improving some issues in load forecasting. Table 3.1 presents various other types of ANN, RNN (Reinforced neural network), which have been applied for the various load forecasting model.

### 3.5 Updated Load Forecasting techniques only used for Short Term Load forecasting

The below mentioned table 3 gives an over view on different developing models corresponding to short term load forecasting, main focus area of the corresponding model and its major contribution.

**Table 3: Different Forecasting models and their contributions**

| S.No. | Year | Developed Model | Focus Area | Major Contribution |
|-------|------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
|-------|------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|



|    |      |   |  |  |
|----|------|---|--|--|
| 1. | 2020 | Reinforcement Learning based similar day selection model in STLF algorithm      | 1) Similar day selection                                     | Establishes a similar day selection based STLF model by using the reinforcement learning on the BPNN for Korea and other Northern States |
| 2. | 2020 | Multi-layer ANN and GOA based load forecasting                                  | 1) Different hours and different days<br>2) Weather factors  | The model can be used to forecast loads at the daily and hourly over a month using GOA and Multi-layer ANN.                              |
| 3. | 2020 | Advance BP based load forecasting   | 1) Load shedding<br>2) Cost saving                           | Predicts advance BP based load forecasting on to reduce the load shedding, power loss and cost generation.                               |
| 4. | 2020 | Fuzzy ARTMAP ANN and SSA based load forecasting process in disaggregated levels | 1) Disaggregated levels<br>2) Cost saving (Computation cost) | Combining Fuzzy logic, ARTMAP and SSA in disaggregated levels of load forecasting for reducing computational cost and data requirements. |

|    |      |   |  |  |
|----|------|---|--|--|
| 5. | 2019 | Bayesian Regularization and LevenbergMarquardt based ANN for VSTLF and STLF | 1) Time horizon<br>2) Single building load forecasting             | Integrating the ANN with Bayesian Regularization and Levenberg Marquardt for the single district buildings' load Forecasting |
| 6. | 2019 | Terminal coding and fusion ANN based day-ahead load forecasting             | 1)Classification of similar load forecasting.<br>2) Day-ahead load | Classifying samegroup load forecasting and aggregating the load with various scales.   |

### 3.6 Different research works and contributions in Load Forecasting

For load forecasting, different researches focused on different issues. Of these issues, much of the research has been devoted to improving the speed and accuracy of load forecasting, and so, as can be seen from Table 3.3 training and computational time, learning error and feature extraction have received a large share of the attention from researchers in smart grids. Others have focused on improving accuracy by adding data that are expected to be correlated with power consumption. Datasets used for load forecasting included smart meter electric data, power loss data, temperature, weather, etc., depending on different power grid requirements. For example, the weather has an impact on power usage by consumers an important part of the smart grid used meteorological data (temperature and humidity) Geographical, cultural, and income variances in different places. Where it means that solutions for one area may not work for another area of the world, so load forecasting methods need to be reviewed for every locality.

**Table 4: Major Utilization and different Problems faced by the corresponding Load Forecasting Types**

| Forecasting Type | Major Reason of Utilization  | Technical Problem Facing  |
|------------------|--|---|
| VSTLF            | 1) Load demand of residential buildings<br>2) PV generation and PV penetration<br>3) Single building load forecasting<br>4) Bus load forecasting | 1) Over-fitting issue<br>2) Big data<br>3) High training and computational Time<br>4) Feature extraction and selection related issue<br>5) Data requirement or limited data |



|      |   |  |
|------|---|--|
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5) Thermal unit generation</li> <li>6) Classification of similar load forecasting</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6) High dimensional data related, problem</li> <li>7) Noisy data</li> <li>8) Data proliferation problem</li> </ul>  |
| STLF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Day-ahead load forecasting</li> <li>2) Hourly load forecasting</li> <li>3) Cost saving</li> <li>4) Similar day load forecasting</li> <li>5) PV generation and PV penetration</li> <li>6) Wind generation</li> <li>7) Load demand of residential buildings</li> <li>8) Load demand of different hours and on different days</li> <li>9) Individual residential electric load</li> <li>10) Single building load forecasting</li> <li>11) Peak load</li> <li>12) Load demand of different hours and different days</li> <li>13) Load shedding</li> <li>14) Probabilistic load forecasting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) High training and computational Time</li> <li>2) Variance of load forecasting</li> <li>3) Data requirement or limited data</li> <li>4) Data and feature redundancy</li> <li>5) High computational cost</li> <li>6) Data discrimination</li> <li>7) Low and high frequency components related issues</li> <li>8) Time dependencies</li> <li>9) Learning error and system accuracy</li> <li>10) Big data</li> <li>11) Over-fitting issue</li> <li>12) Large time series</li> <li>13) Non-environment friendly smart grid issue,</li> <li>14) Unknown and identical distribution</li> <li>15) Unnecessary hidden neurons</li> <li>16) High dimensional data related Issue</li> <li>17) Single and multiple time scale sequences</li> <li>18) Highly volatile Period</li> <li>19) Feature extraction and selection related issue</li> <li>20) Noisy data</li> <li>21) Data clustering related issue</li> <li>22) Data proliferation problem</li> </ul> |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Load demand of different hours and different days</li> <li>2) Load demand of residential buildings</li> <li>3) Individual residential electric load</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Over-fitting issue</li> <li>2) Learning error and system accuracy</li> <li>3) Big data</li> <li>4) High training and computational time</li> </ul>   |

|      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| MTLF | 4) Peak load<br>5) Maximum power load identification<br>6) PV generation and PV penetration<br>7) Probabilistic load forecasting | 5) Large timeseries<br>6) Single and multiple time scale sequences<br>7) Feature extraction and selection related issue |
|------|--|---|

The above given Table 4 is about the major reasons of Utilizations of different Load forecasting types and different technical problems were Faced during the developing, building and implementing of the techniques.

#### 4. Conclusions

In present days, VSTLF, STLF, MTLF, and LTLF approaches are very important to estimate power suppliers required electrical load power demand. Among all the above approaches, STLF was widely concerned for reducing day-ahead and hourly ahead load forecasting related problems for many researchers and industrial applications. A very few of the researchers were interested in LTLF and VSTLF. After this STLF, many of the researchers was concerned about MTLF. Deep learning from a smart grid was greatly studied to the need of forecasting, and there are many ANN techniques and models in the market and in the industry.

Maximum researchers used the BP process at load forecasting is to obtain better accuracy, but it takes additional computational time. The load forecasting processtakes muchtime because there is a huge data aggregate at the cloudserver in the smart grid system. On the other hand, the BPprocess takes more additional processing time. For thatreason, few

groups of researchers had developed the non-BPbased hybrid ANN. Very huge training time or computational time is the majorissue in load forecasting because the cloud server containsenormous data. Alongside computational time, learning error,big data, limited data, etc., are becoming a concern in theforecasting process. For reducing Big data related issue indemand forecasting, researchers have tried to developedlimited data based load forecasting with highaccuracy whereno need for massive data.After reviewing thecurrent challenges and positive aspects of the HSICbottleneck, we have realized that the Distributed NeuralNetwork-based DDL process becomes essential for reducingthe challenges. However,many current load forecasting proposals may suffer fromdata centralization, training time, and computational timeissues. Therefore,a DDL model for load forecasting may be proposed thatcould solve some of these issues. It is expected that thefindings of this survey and the proposed model will be ofbenefit to researchers, policymakers, in thisfield.

#### 4.1 Future Research Scope

Althoughmany have focused on deep learning for load forecasting insmart grids, few have tried to apply distributed computingusing DML and



DDL. Therefore, the reduction of data aggregation dependency is a barely-explored scope for possible research scopes in load forecasting to reduce computational time and learning error. Such work would be extremely beneficial as there are not many works on mitigation of data centralization and computation load on central servers, problems which decentralization and distribution can help resolve. Some works have tried to demonstrate a reduction in training and computation time using limited database load forecasting [14] but the use of DML and DDL is still open for study.

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