
Adaptive Methods for Short-Term Electricity Load Forecasting During COVID-19 Lockdowns in France

from GAM to aggregation of experts, are we still interpretable?

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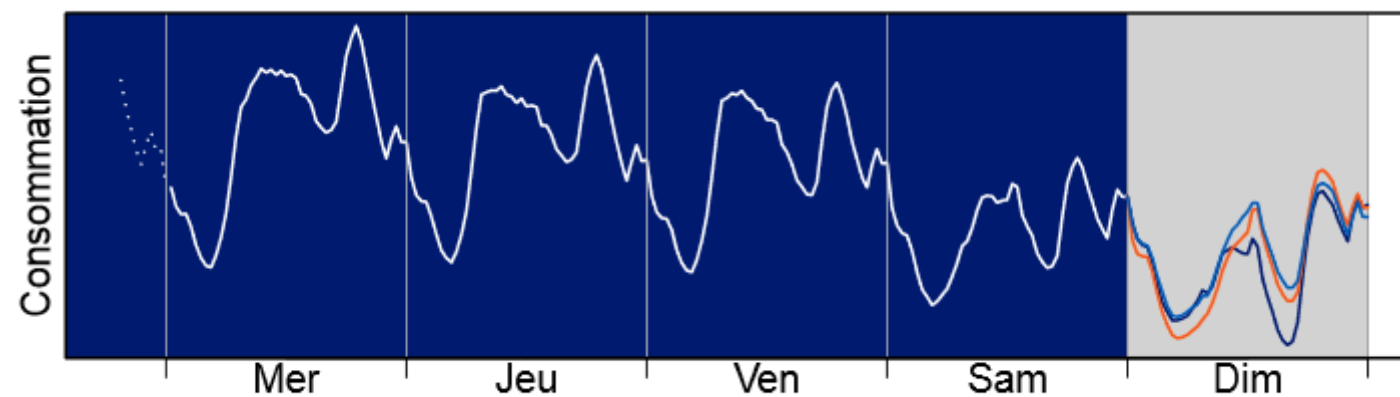
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Load forecasting is crucial for electrical power system operations

- **Generation**: optimising production planning
- **Trading**: buy and sell electricity on the markets
- **Grid management**: transmission, distribution





COVID-19 pandemic is impacting our social and economical life

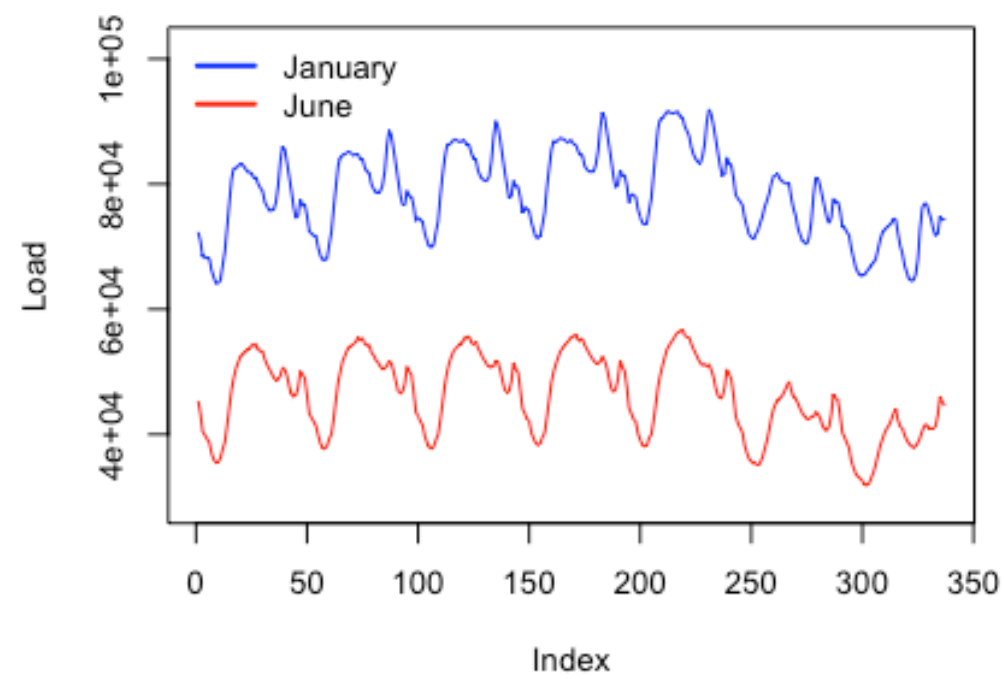
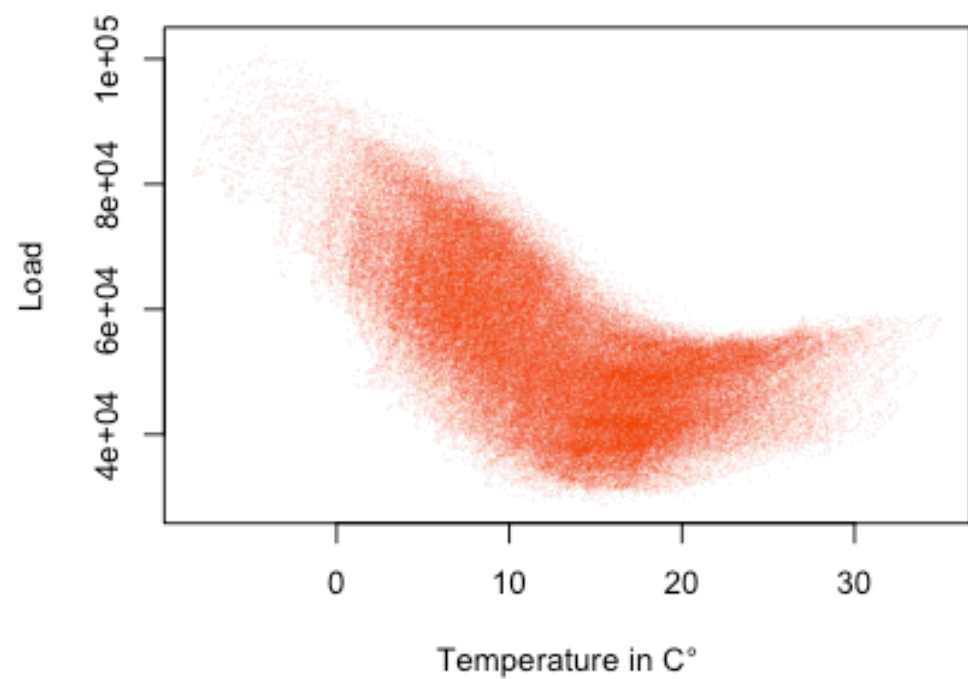
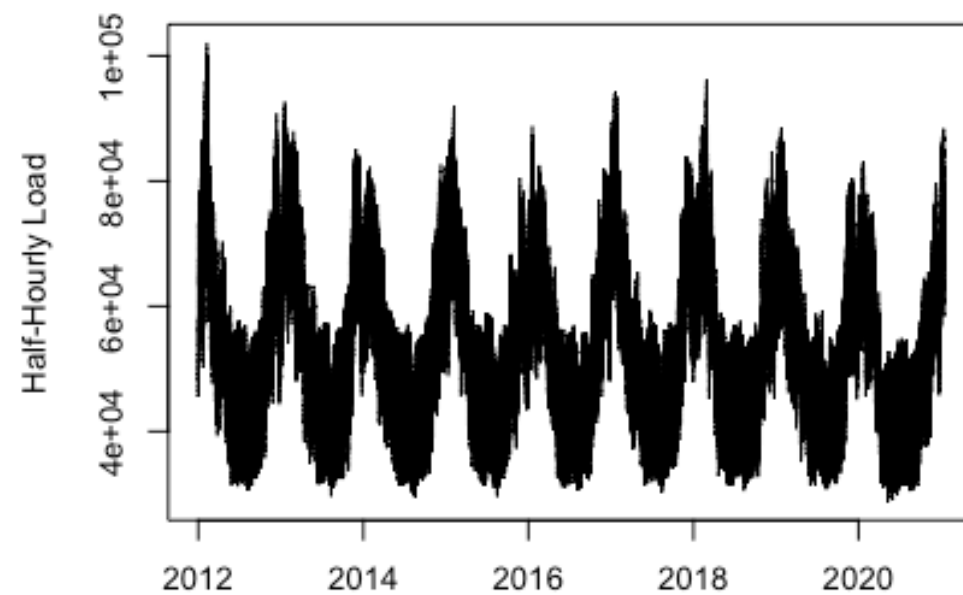
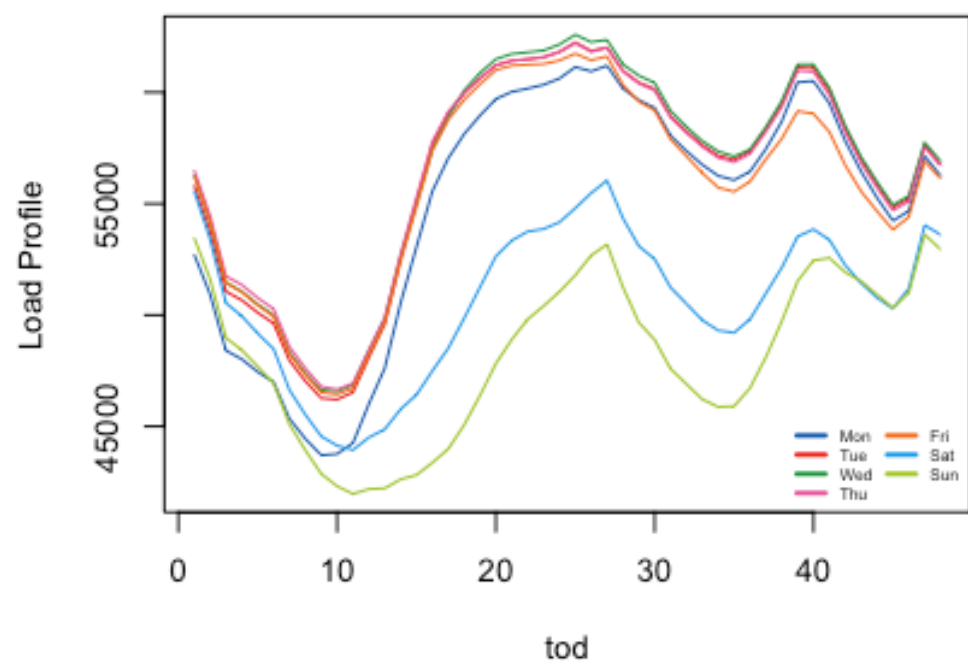


Electricity production and consumption are of course affected

We will present and discuss:

- **Problems:** how does it impact electricity load in the world, in France in particular?
- **Model design:** how the forecasting model could be adapted to maintain good forecasting performances during (and after...) that period, what we did at EDF and other related works? Adaptativity vs interpretability?
- **Data:** what kind of data could be used to improve forecasts?

Electricity Data

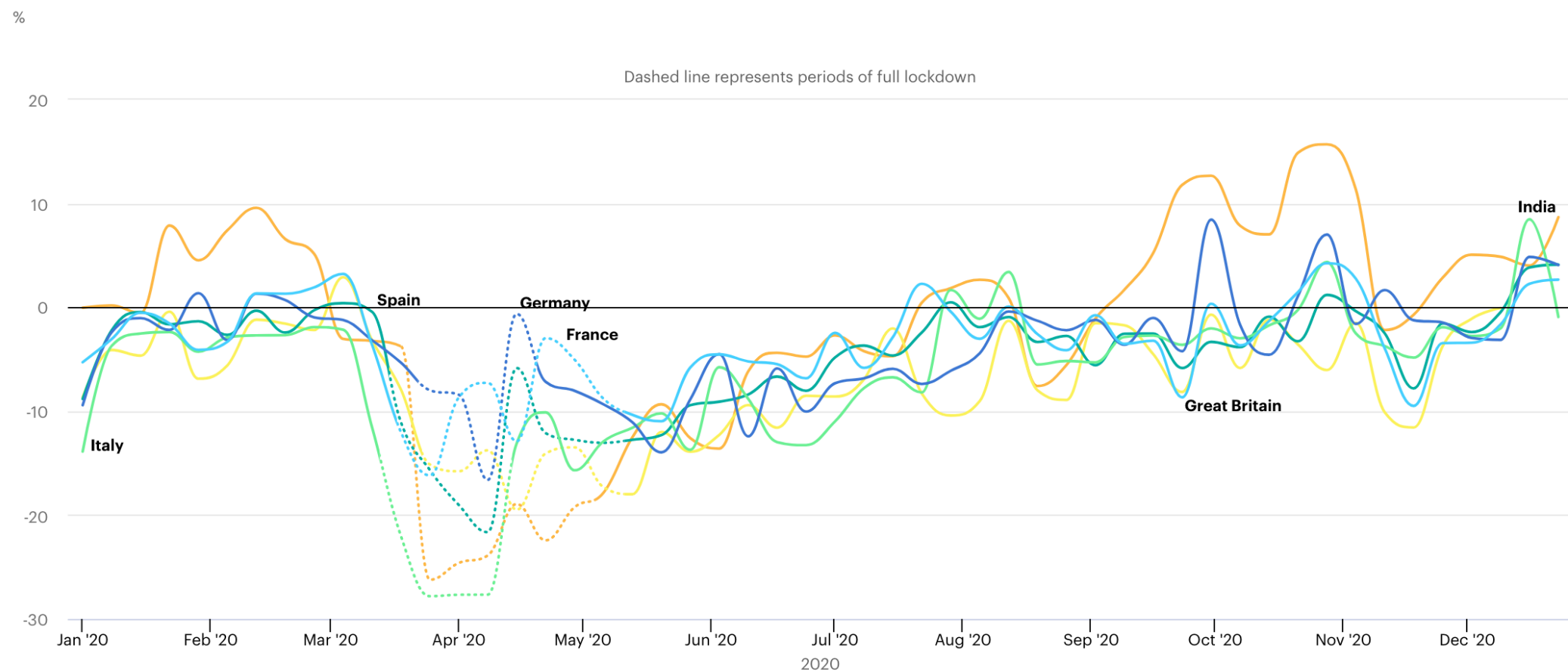


Impact on electricity consumption in the world?

Electricity demand dropped quickly with confinement measures.

It steadily recovered as measures were gradually softened; it was still 10% below 2019 levels in EU countries in June.

In the last week of July, electricity demand was 5% below 2019 levels in EU countries except Italy. In India, recovery seems faster.



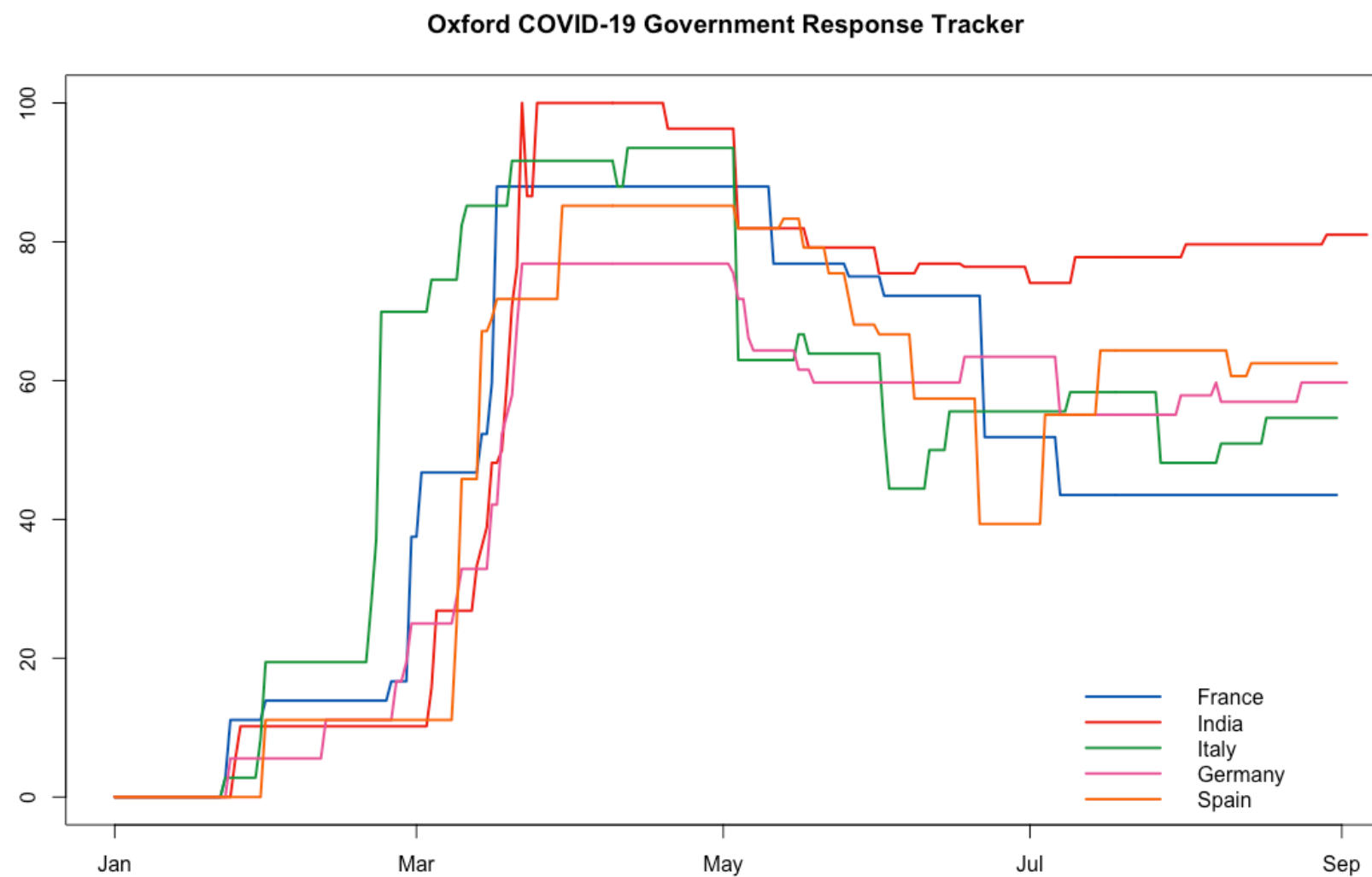
IEA. All Rights Reserved

● France ● Germany ● Italy ● Spain ● Great Britain ● India

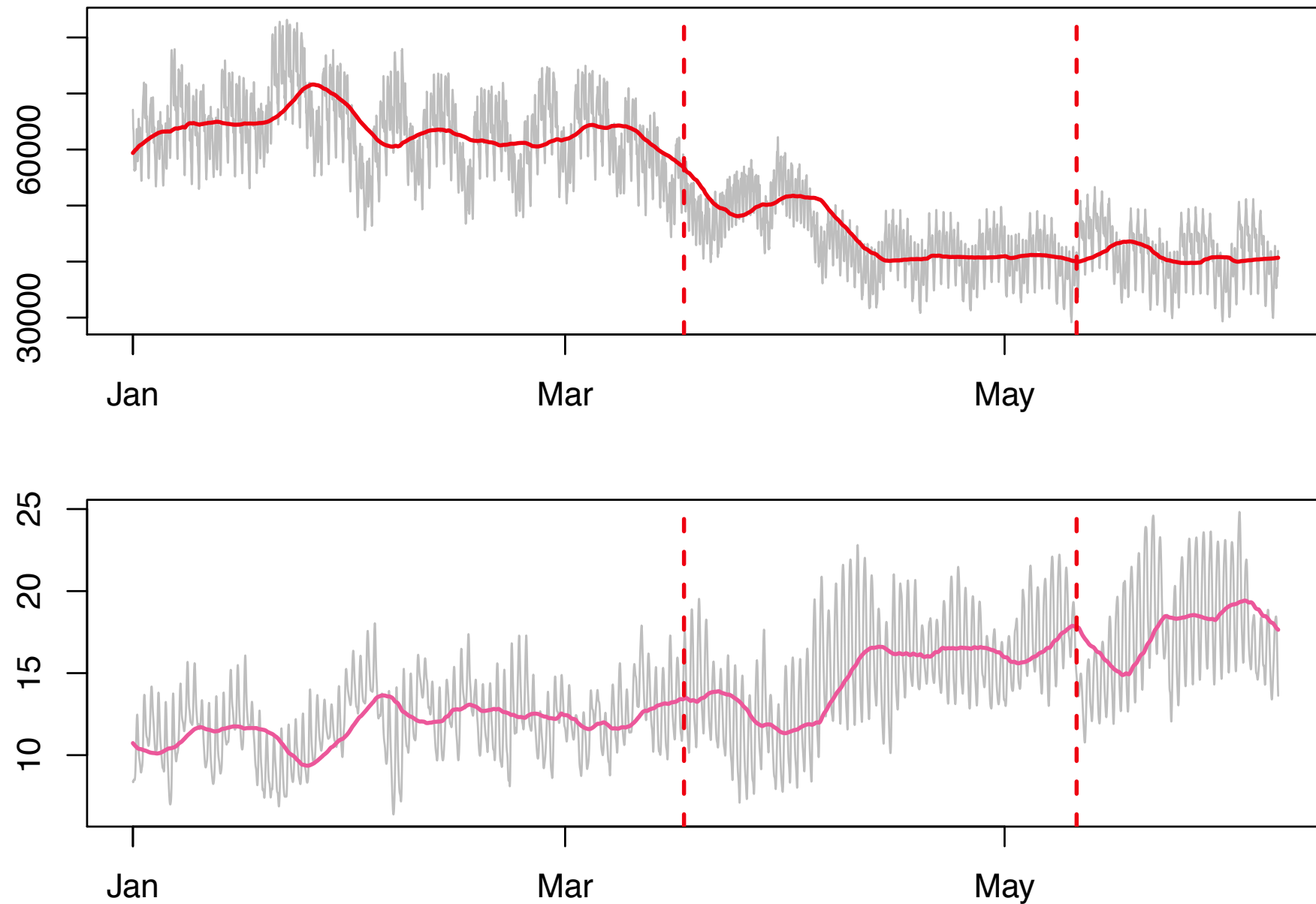
IEA, Year-on-year change in weekly electricity demand, weather corrected, in selected countries, January-December 2020, IEA, Paris <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/year-on-year-change-in-weekly-electricity-demand-weather-corrected-in-selected-countries-january-december-2020>

Government responses of different intensities

	First lockdown measures (day 0)	Lockdown strengthened	Lockdown softened
France	March 14	March 17 (day 3)	May 11 (day 55)
Germany	March 15	March 22 (day 7)	April 20 (day 36) and May 4 (day 50)
Italy	March 4	March 13 (day 9)	April 14 (day 41) and May 4 (day 61)
Spain	March 9	March 15 (day 6)	May 11 (day 55)
UK	March 19	March 23 (day 4)	May 11 in England (day 55)
India	March 18	March 25 (day 7)	May 4 (day 47)

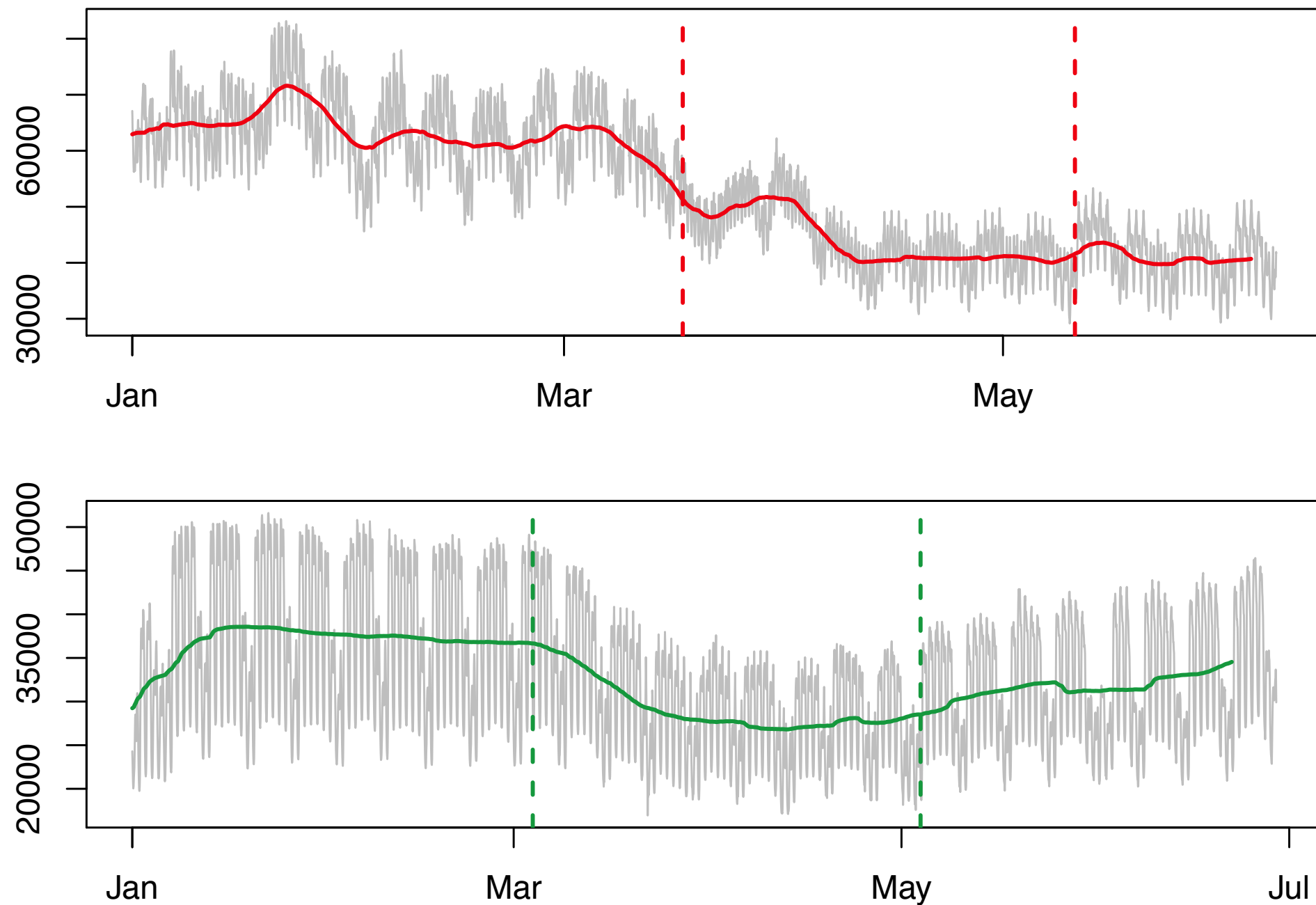


How does it impact electricity load in France?

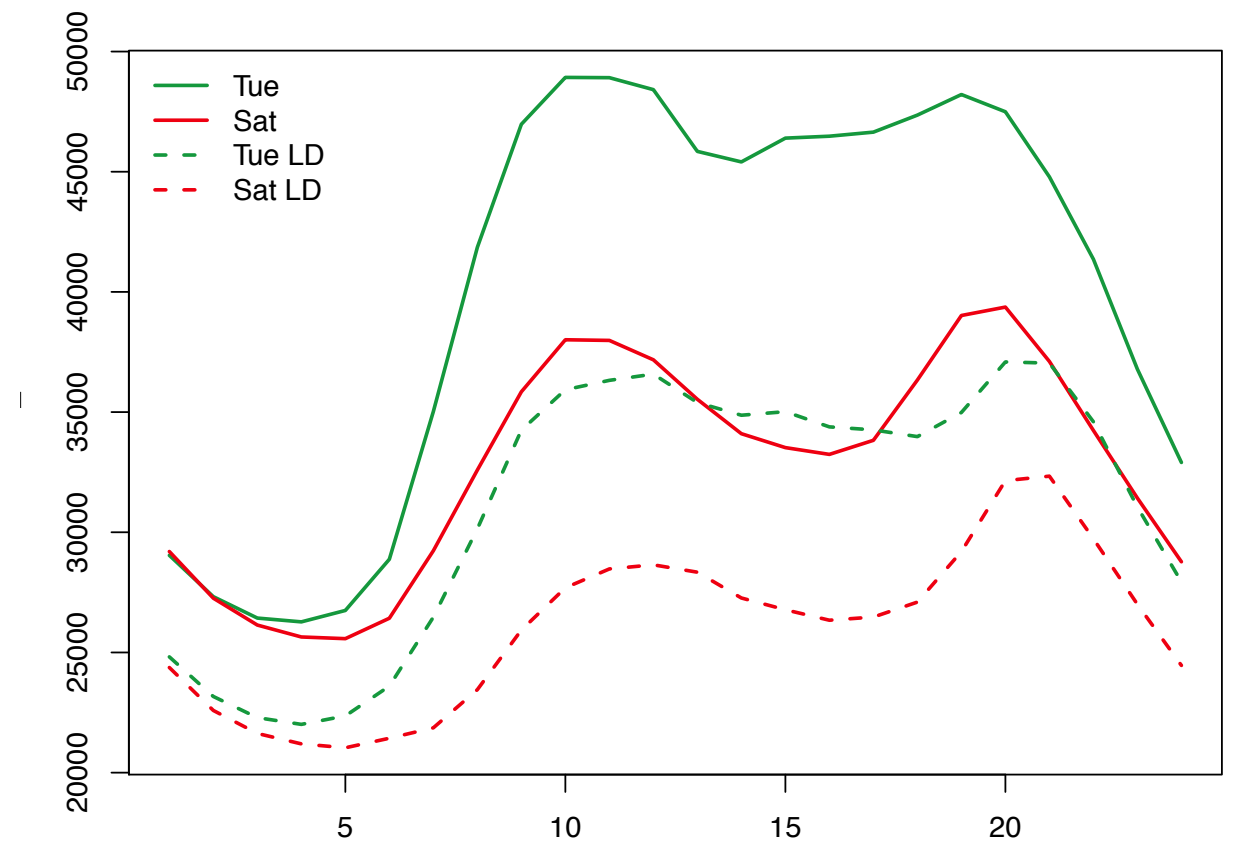
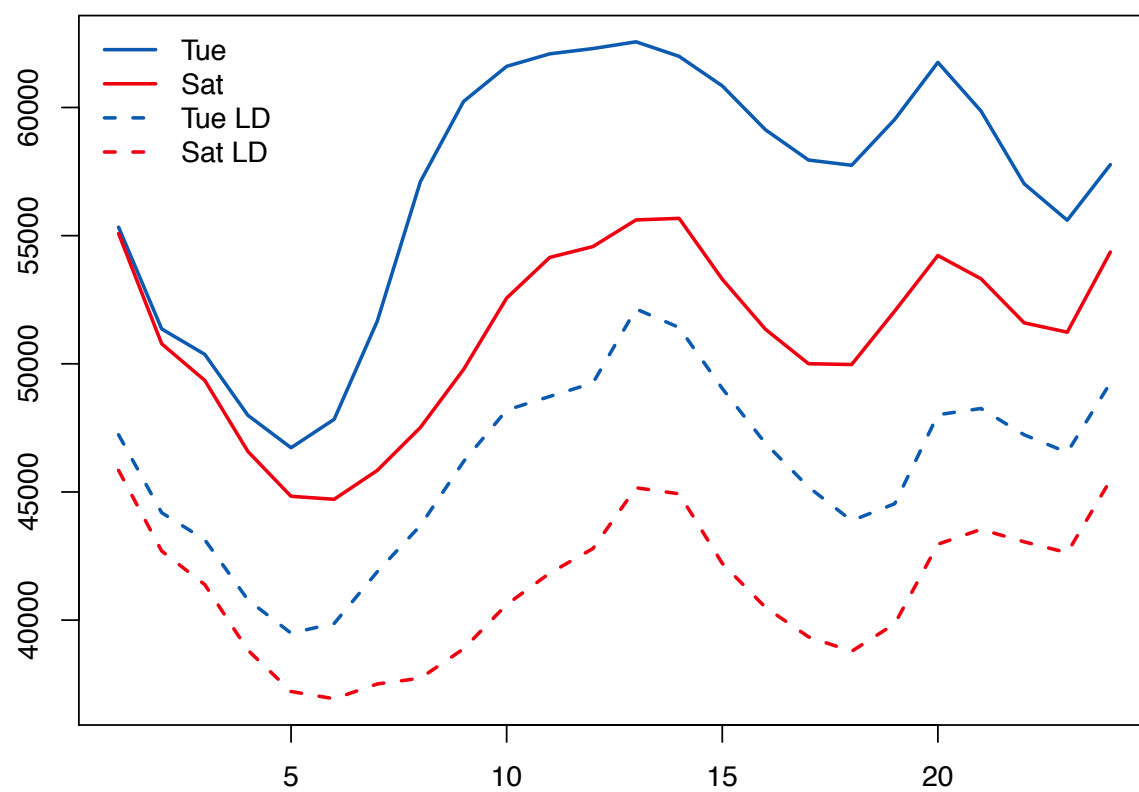


Half-Hourly french electricity load consumption (top) and temperature.

Comparison with Italy

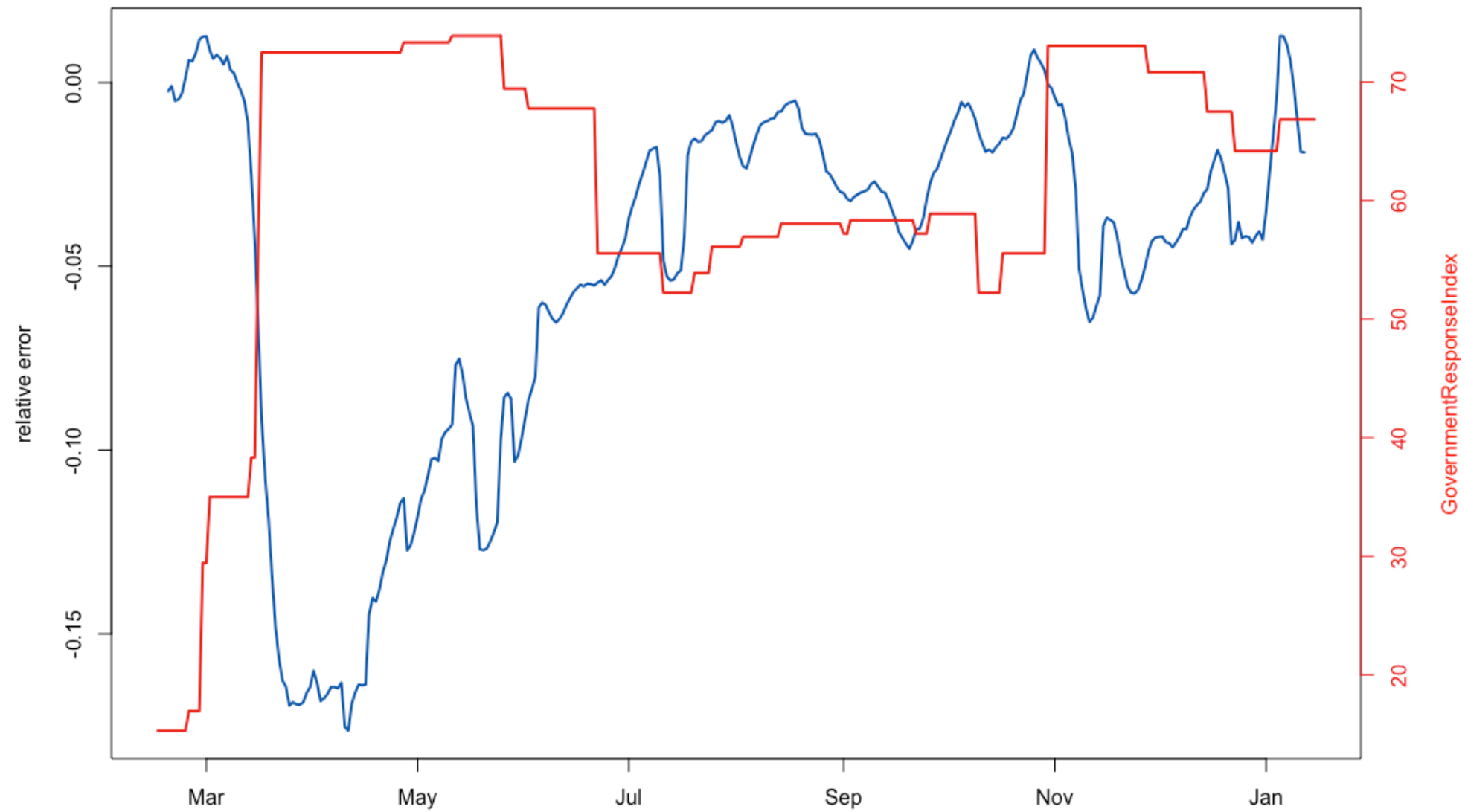


French and Italian electricity load (in MW) at resp. half-hourly and hourly resolution in 2020. Dashed lines are the starting and ending date of the lockdown



French and Italian electricity Tuesday and Saturday load profiles before and during the lockdown (Dashed lines)

Government responses of different intensities evolving with time:

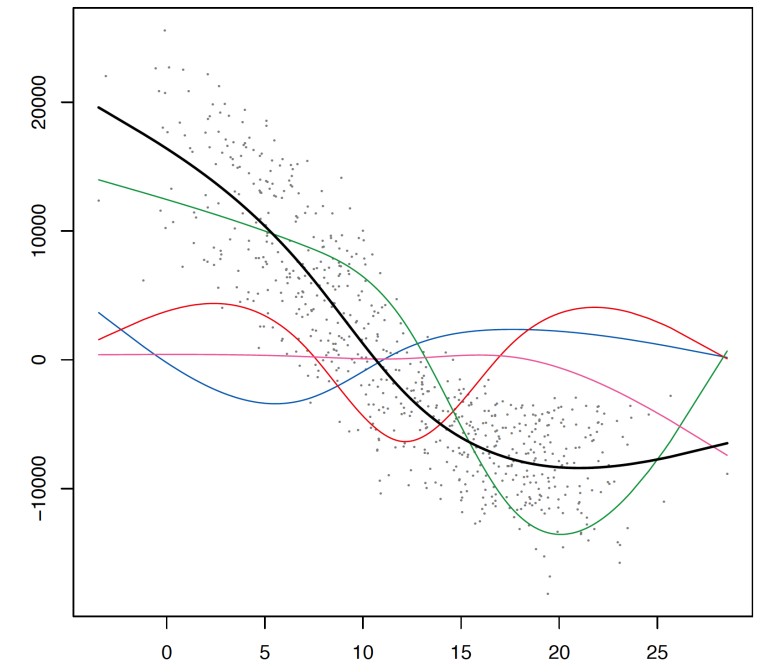


Algorithms and models

Our forecasting model

We model the electricity consumption with GAM, a sum of linear and smooth additive effects (see Hastie & Tibshirani (1990) and Wood (2017))

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_t = & \sum_{i=1}^7 \sum_{j=0}^1 \alpha_{i,j} \mathbb{1}_{\text{DayType}_t=i} \mathbb{1}_{\text{DLS}_t=j} \\
 & + \sum_{i=1}^7 \beta_i \text{Load1D}_t \mathbb{1}_{\text{DayType}_t=i} + \gamma \text{Load1W}_t \\
 & + f_1(t) + f_2(\text{ToY}_t) + f_3(t, \text{Temp}_t) + f_4(\text{Temp95}_t) \\
 & + f_5(\text{Temp99}_t) + f_6(\text{TempMin99}_t, \text{TempMax99}_t) + \varepsilon_t,
 \end{aligned}$$



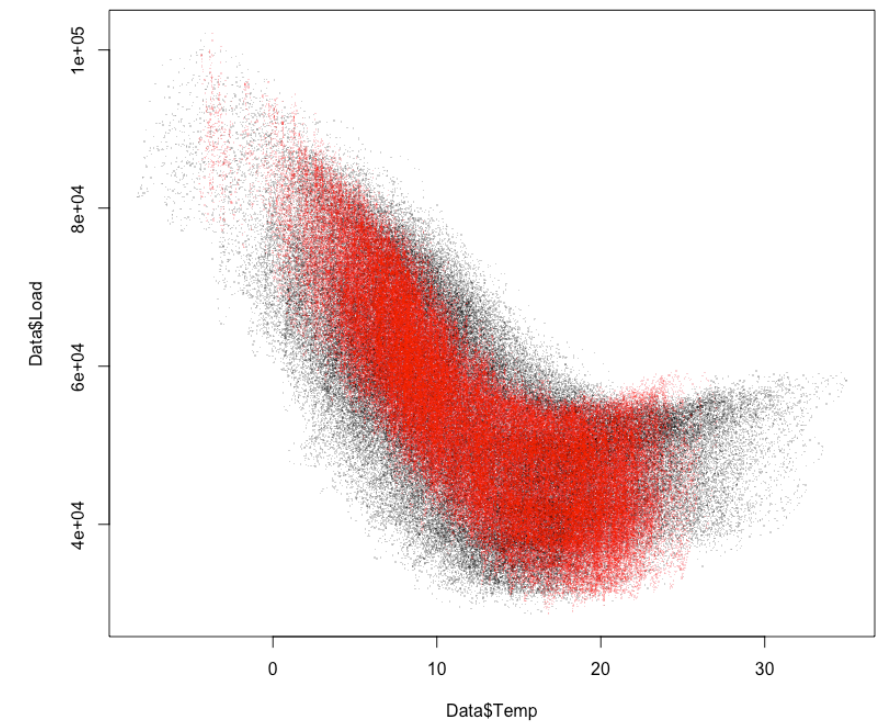
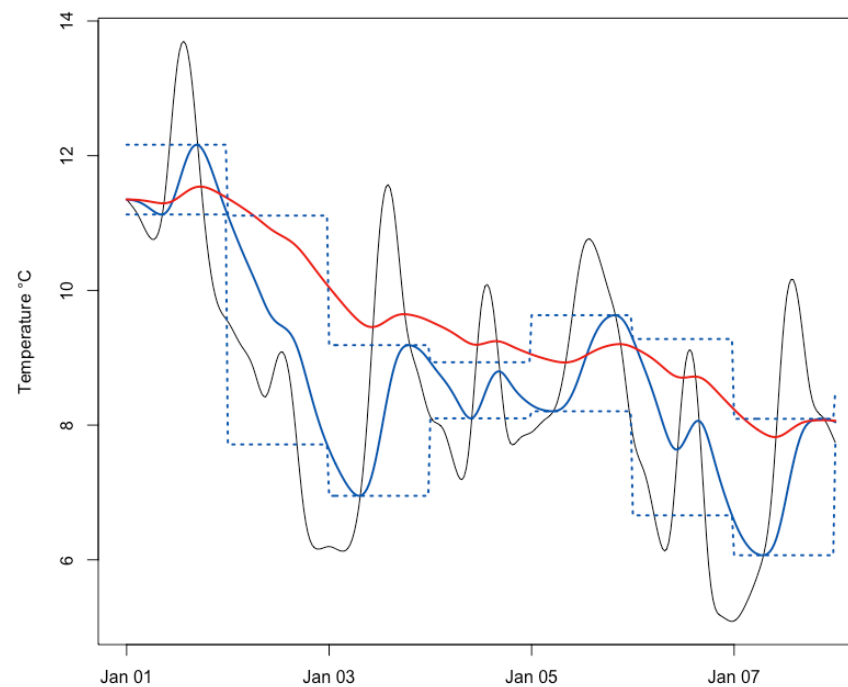
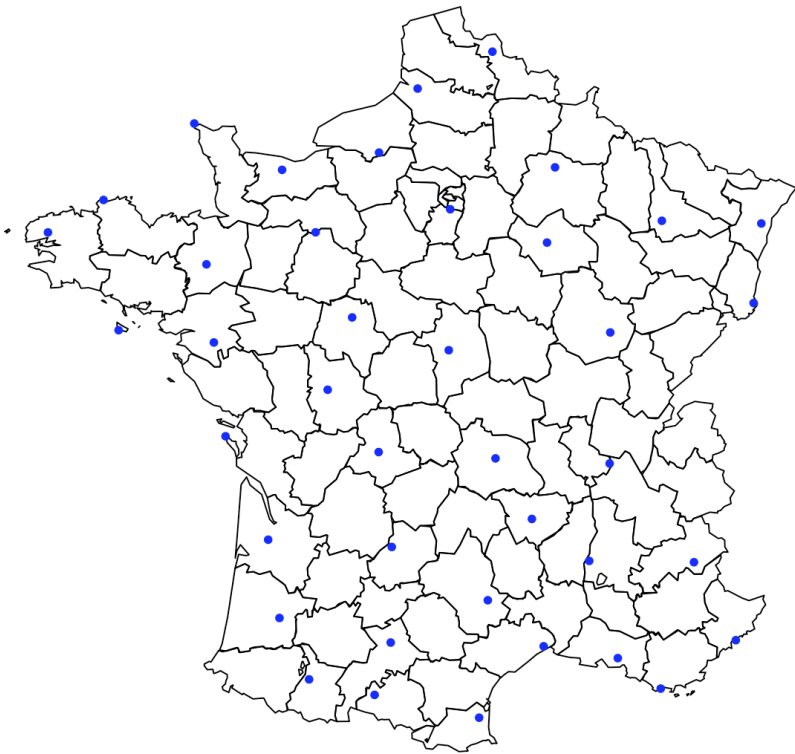
Each effect is obtained by penalised spline regression, minimising a GCV criteria to calibrate the amount of smoothness:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (y_i - \beta_0 \mathbf{X}_i^0 - \sum_{q=1}^p f_q(x_i))^2 + \sum_{q=1}^p \lambda_q \int ||f_q''(x)||^2 dx$$

$$f_j(x_j) = \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_{ji} b_{ji}(x_j).$$

Covariate description:

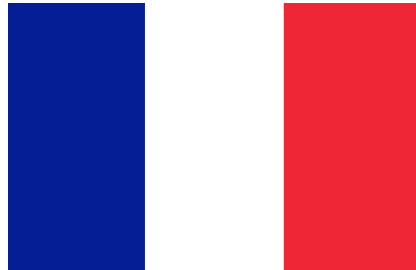
- y_t is the electricity load for day t .
- DayType_t is the electricity load for day t .
- DLS_t is the electricity load for day t .
- Load1D_t is the electricity load for day t .
- ToY_t is the time of year whose value grows linearly from 0 on the *1st of January 0h00* to 1 on the *31st of December 23h30*.
- Temp_t is the national average temperature.
- Temp95_t and Temp99_t are exponentially smoothed temperatures of factor 0.95 and 0.99.
- TempMin95_t and TempMax95_t are daily min and max of the smoothed temperatures



Our forecasting models

French model

Implemented in R (mgcv package)



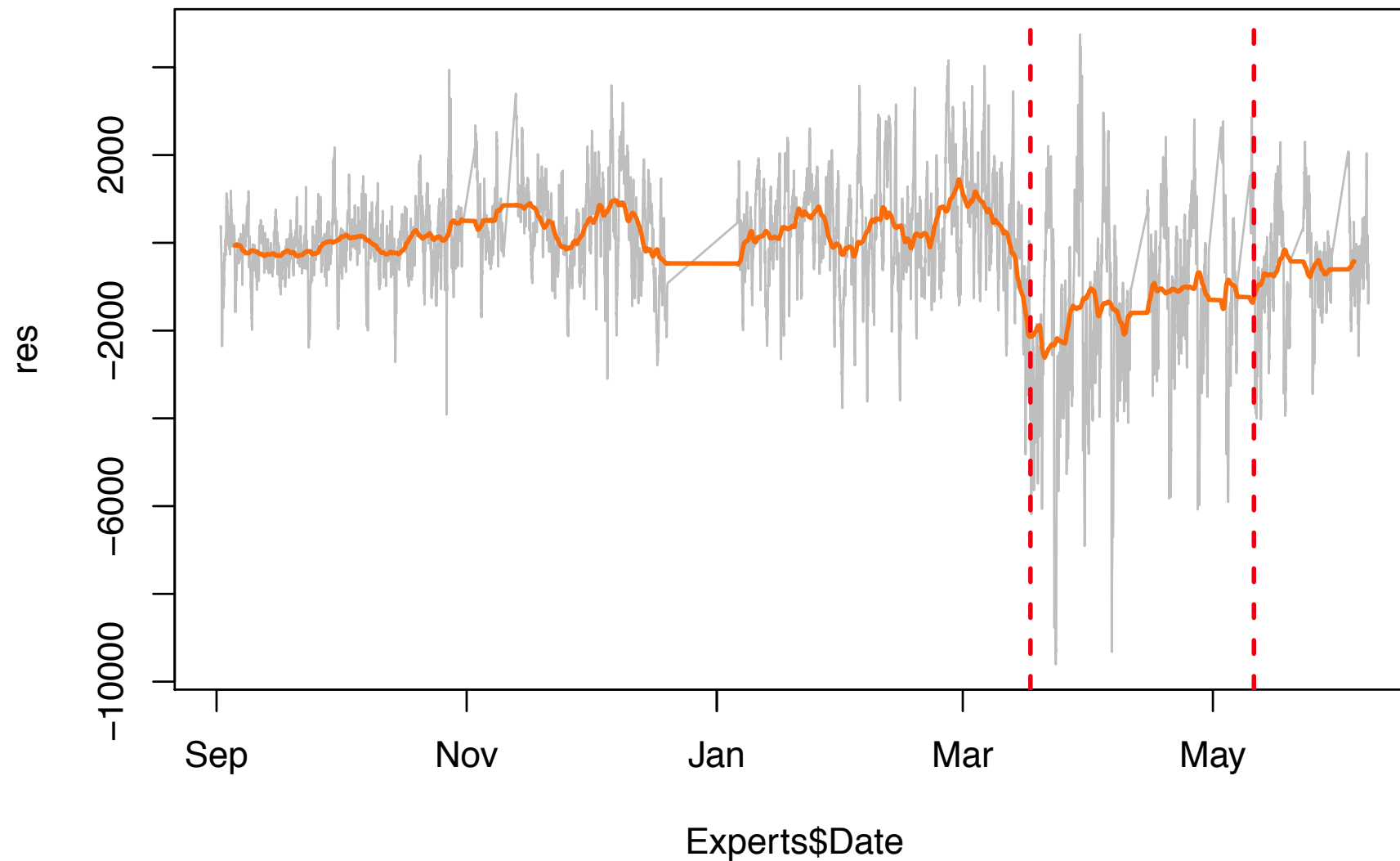
```
gam_france <- Load ~ s(DateN, k=3) + DayType:DLS + s(ToY, k = 20, bs = 'cc') +  
s(DateN,Temp, k=c(3,5)) + s(Temp_s95, k=5) + s(Temp_s99, k=5) + s(Temp_s99_min,  
Temp_s99_max) + Load.48:DayType +Load.336
```

Italian model



```
gam_france <- Load ~ s(DateN, k=3) + DayType:DLS + s(ToY, k = 20, bs = 'cc', by=DayType)  
+ s(Temp_s95,k=5) +s(Temp_s99,k=5) + Load.24:DayType +Load.168
```

Of course achieve bad performances after the lockdown



MAPE increases from
1.4% to 3.8%

Online update

- We model the electricity consumption as a sum of time varying additive effects:

$$\mathbb{E}[y_t] = f_t(\mathbf{x}_t)$$

- For stability reasons and a good reactivity to changes we restricted to this special case:

$$\mathbb{E}[y_t] = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t^\top f(\mathbf{x}_t) \quad f(\mathbf{x}_t) = (1, \bar{f}_1(x_{t,1}), \dots, \bar{f}_d(x_{t,d}))^\top$$

- And the time varying coefficients are estimated solving an iterative least square problem with a forgetting factor

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} e^{-\mu(t-s)} \left(y_s - \boldsymbol{\theta}^\top f(\mathbf{x}_s) \right)^2$$

► Ba, A., Sinn, M., Goude, Y., & Pompey, P. (2012).

Online update

$$y_t = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t^\top f(\mathbf{x}_t) + \varepsilon_t ,$$

$$\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t + \boldsymbol{\eta}_t ,$$

(ε_t) and $(\boldsymbol{\eta}_t)$ are gaussian white noises
variance / covariance σ^2 and Q

Algorithm 1: Kalman Filter

Initialization: the prior $\boldsymbol{\theta}_1 \sim \mathcal{N}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_1, P_1)$ where $P_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ is positive definite and $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_1 \in \mathbb{R}^d$.

Recursion: at each time step $t = 1, 2, \dots$

1) Prediction:

$$\mathbb{E}[y_t \mid (\mathbf{x}_s, y_s)_{s < t}, \mathbf{x}_t] = \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t^\top f(\mathbf{x}_t) ,$$

$$\text{Var}[y_t \mid (\mathbf{x}_s, y_s)_{s < t}, \mathbf{x}_t] = \sigma^2 + f(\mathbf{x}_t)^\top P_t f(\mathbf{x}_t) .$$

2) Estimation:

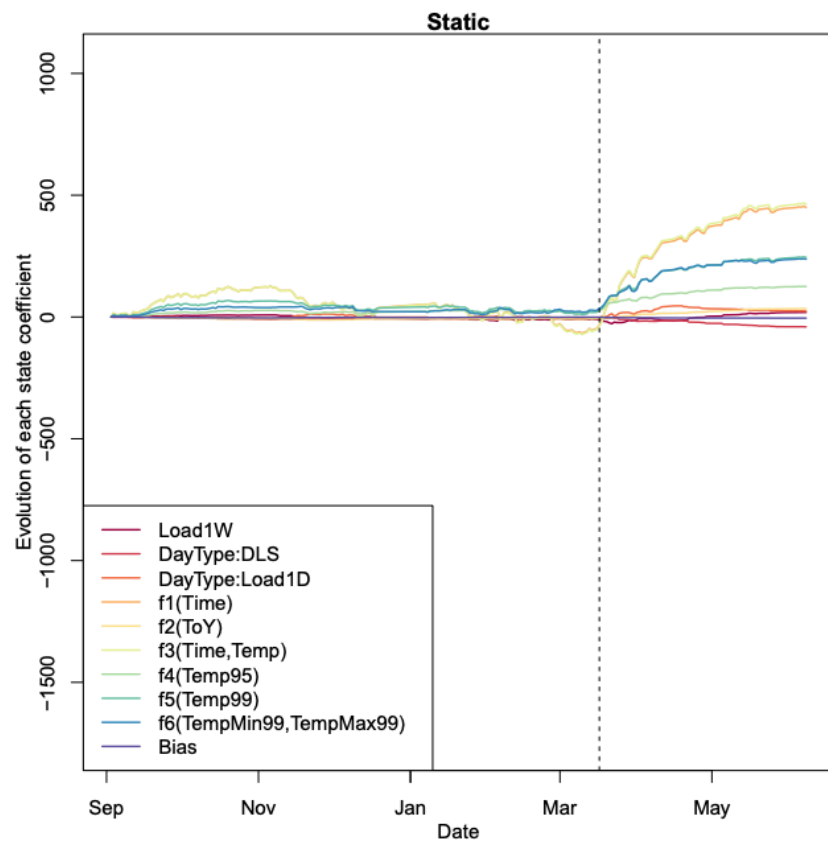
$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_{t+1} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t + \frac{P_t f(\mathbf{x}_t)}{f(\mathbf{x}_t)^\top P_t f(\mathbf{x}_t) + \sigma^2} (y_t - \hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t^\top f(\mathbf{x}_t)) ,$$

$$P_{t+1} = P_t - \frac{P_t f(\mathbf{x}_t) f(\mathbf{x}_t)^\top P_t}{f(\mathbf{x}_t)^\top P_t f(\mathbf{x}_t) + \sigma^2} + Q .$$

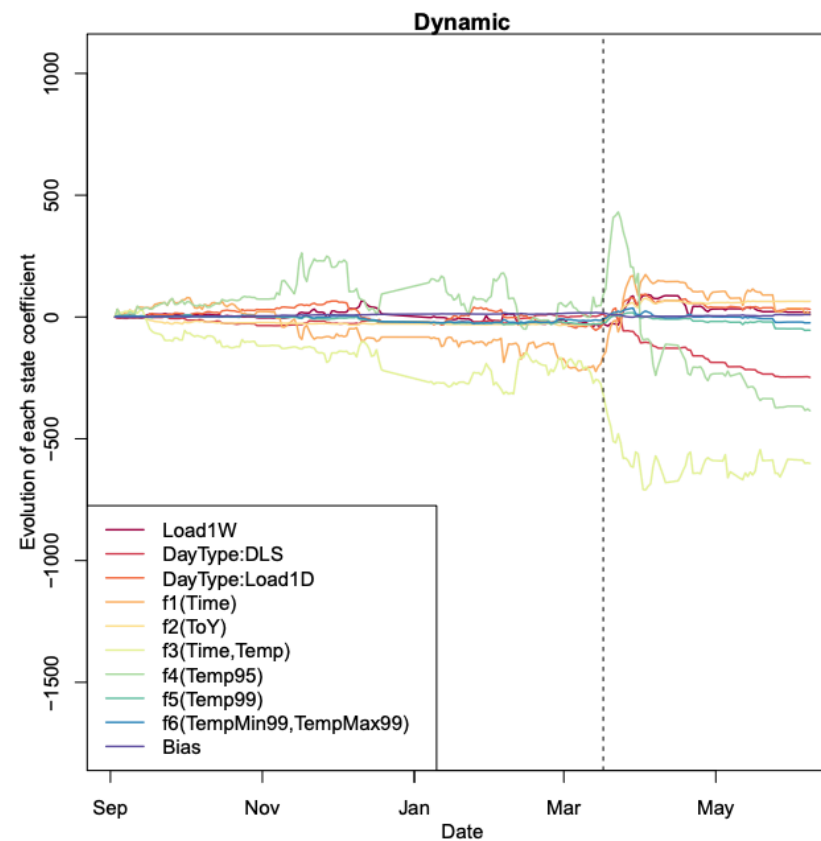
Q diagonal

- set to 0: **Kalman Static** $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{t+1} = \boldsymbol{\theta}_t$ $\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}}_t = \arg \min_{\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^d} \left(\sum_{s=1}^{t-1} (y_s - \boldsymbol{\theta}^\top f(\mathbf{x}_s))^2 + \|\boldsymbol{\theta}\|^2 \right)$
- estimated using a greedy algorithm: **Kalman Dynamic**
- increasing Q at the beginning of the lockdown **Kalman Dynamic Break**

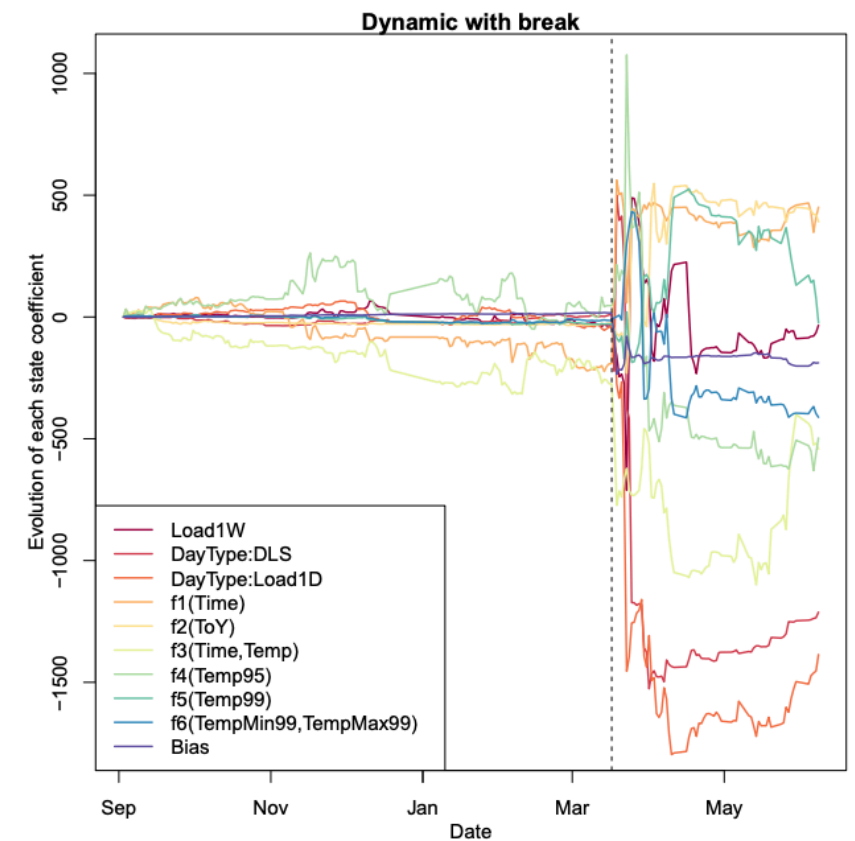
Evolution of state coefficients in function of time for the different Kalman configuration



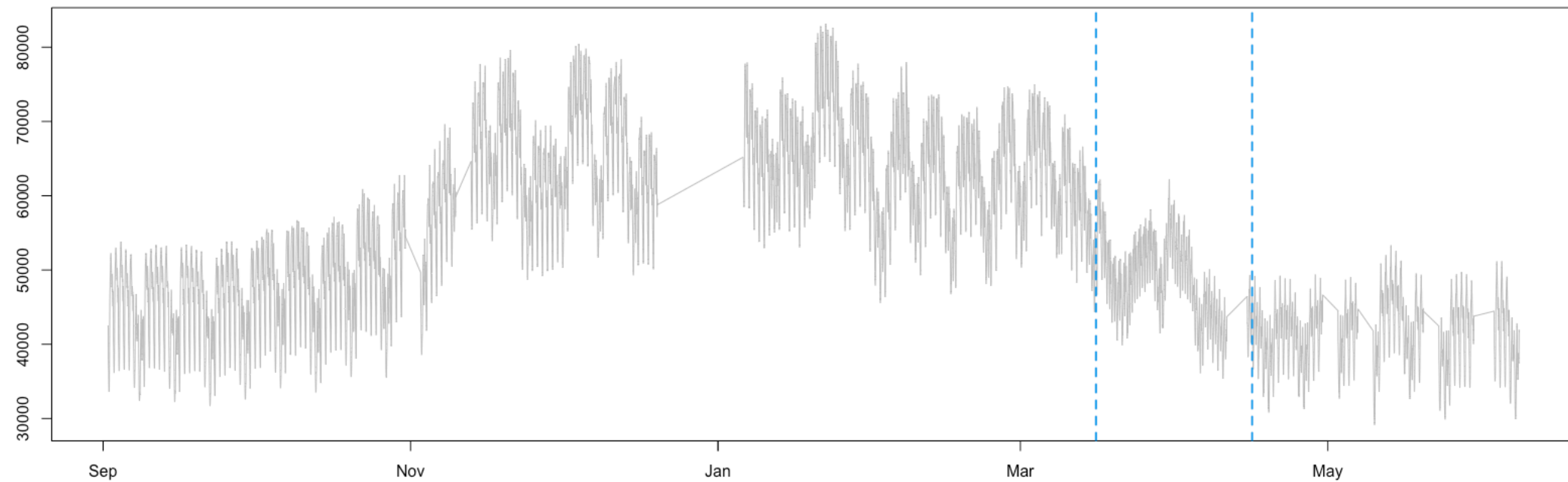
(a) Static



(b) Dynamic



(c) Dynamic with break



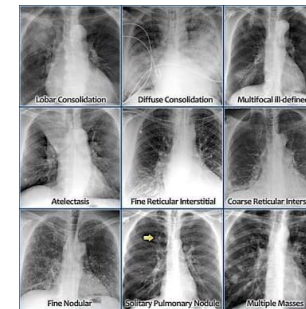
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Transfer Learning

Transfer learning (or learning-to-learn, knowledge transfer, multi-task learning) is a branch of machine learning that aims at reusing knowledge from one source task (usually with a lot of data) on another target one (with few data).

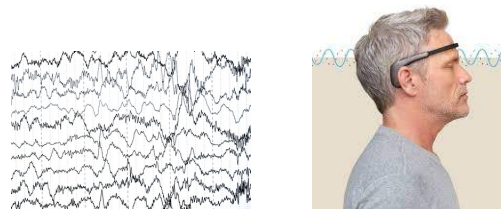


ImageNet



Chestx-ray8

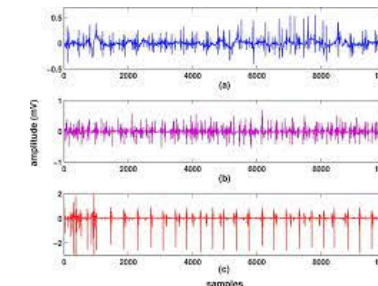
Source



EEG



EMG



Target



Book corpus data

Label	Sentence	Source
*	The more books I ask to whom he will give, the more he reads.	Culicover and Jackendoff (1999)
✓	I said that my father, he was tight as a hoot-owl.	Ross (1967)
✓	The jeweller inscribed the ring with the name.	Levin (1993)
*	many evidence was provided.	Kim and Sells (2008)
✓	They can sing.	Kim and Sells (2008)
✓	The men would have been all working.	Baltin (1982)
*	Who do you think that will question Seamus first?	Carnie (2013)
*	Usually, any lion is majestic.	Dayal (1998)
✓	The gardener planted roses in the garden.	Miller (2002)
✓	I wrote Blair a letter, but I tore it up before I sent it.	Rappaport Hovav and Levin (2008)

Labeled data

- Pan, S. J., & Yang, Q. (2009)
- Bird, J. J., Kobylarz, J., Faria, D. R., Ekárt, A., & Ribeiro, E. P. (2020)
- Radford, A., Narasimhan, K., Salimans, T., & Sutskever, I. (2018)
- Raghu, M., Zhang, C., Kleinberg, J., & Bengio, S. (2019).

Fine-tuning of GAM

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^d f_j(x_{t,j}) + \varepsilon_t$$

$$f_j(x) = \sum_{k=1}^{m_j} \beta_{j,k} B_{j,k}(x)$$

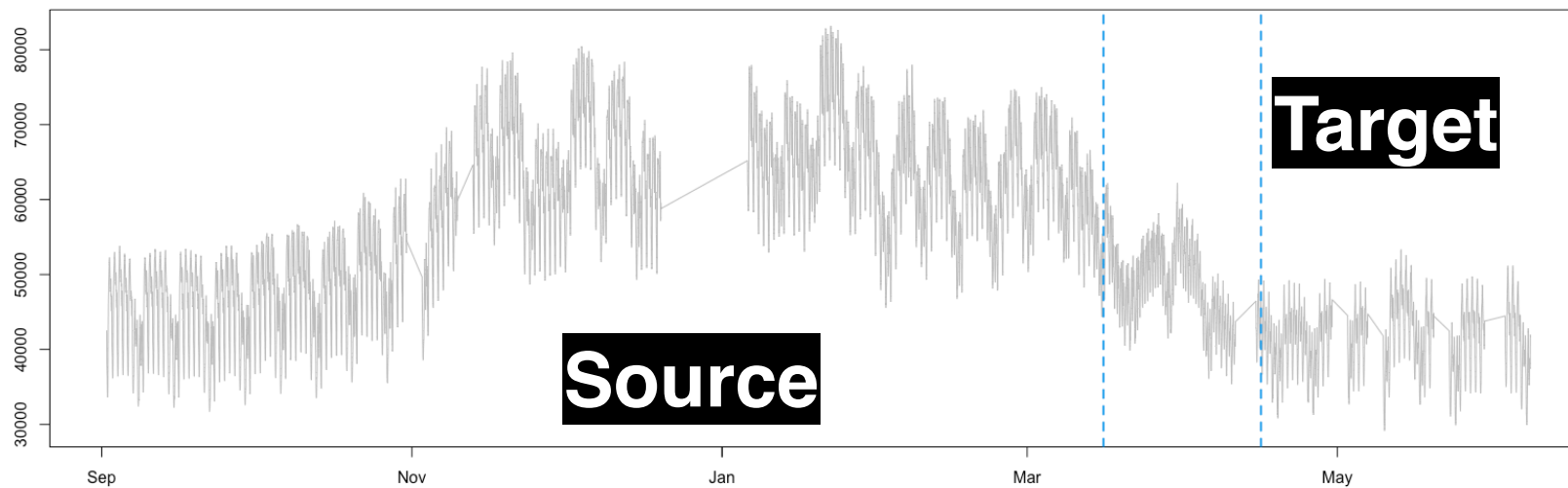
$$\mathcal{L}_t(\beta) = \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \left(y_s - \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{k=1}^{m_j} \beta_{j,k} B_{j,k}(x_{s,j}) \right)^2$$

Algorithm 2: Transfer learning at time step t : GAM fine-tuned

Inputs: Step size α , number of iterations K , French source parameters $\hat{\beta}_S^{FR}$

- Initialize $\hat{\beta}_t \leftarrow \hat{\beta}_S^{FR}$.
 - Repeat K times:
 $\hat{\beta}_t \leftarrow \hat{\beta}_t - \alpha \nabla \mathcal{L}_{t-1}^{FR}(\hat{\beta}_t)$.
 - Predict $\hat{y}_t = \hat{\beta}_t^\top B(x_t)$.
-

for each time step we perform K iterations of batch gradient descent with fixed step size



Transfer Learning from Italian data

Italy was the first country to be massively affected by the COVID 19 in Europe.

The Italian government decreed a total lockdown 7 days before the French one.

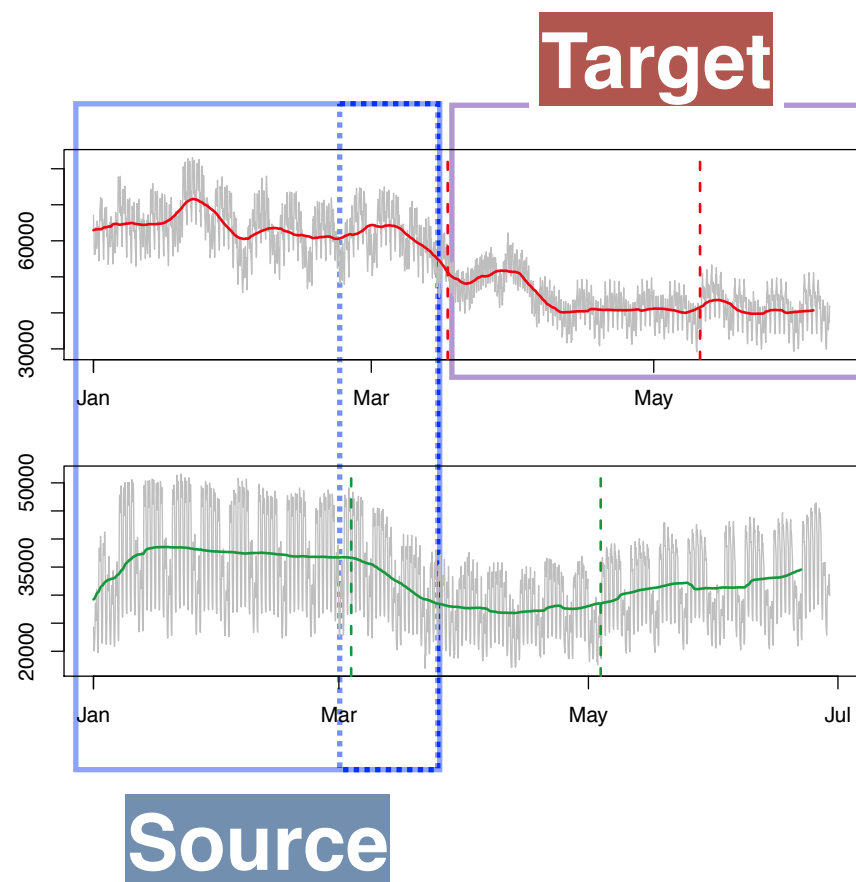
The idea is to use this one week head-start to adjust our GAM model for France accordingly to the changes observed in Italy.

We fit a similar GAM on Italian Data, we suppose the variation before/during the lockdown is similar in Italy and France:

Let $\hat{\delta}_t$ be the adjustment done on the Italian GAM coefficients when fine-tuned version on the beginning of march (before the 15th) and ρ a scaling factor between France and Italian data.

$$\tilde{\beta}_t = \hat{\beta}_S^{FR} + \rho \hat{\delta}_t$$

$$\hat{\rho} = \sum_t y_t^{FR} / \sum_t y_t^{IT}$$



Algorithm 3: Transfer learning at time step t : GAM- δ

- Initialize $\hat{\beta}_t^{IT} \leftarrow \hat{\beta}_S^{IT}$.
 - Repeat K times:
 $\hat{\beta}_t^{IT} \leftarrow \hat{\beta}_t^{IT} - \alpha \nabla \mathcal{L}_{t-1}^{IT}(\hat{\beta}_t^{IT})$.
 - Set $\hat{\delta}_t = \hat{\beta}_t^{IT} - \hat{\beta}_S^{IT}$, $\tilde{\beta}_t = \hat{\beta}_S^{FR} + \rho \hat{\delta}_t$.
 - Predict $\hat{y}_t = \tilde{\beta}_t^\top B(x_t)$.
-

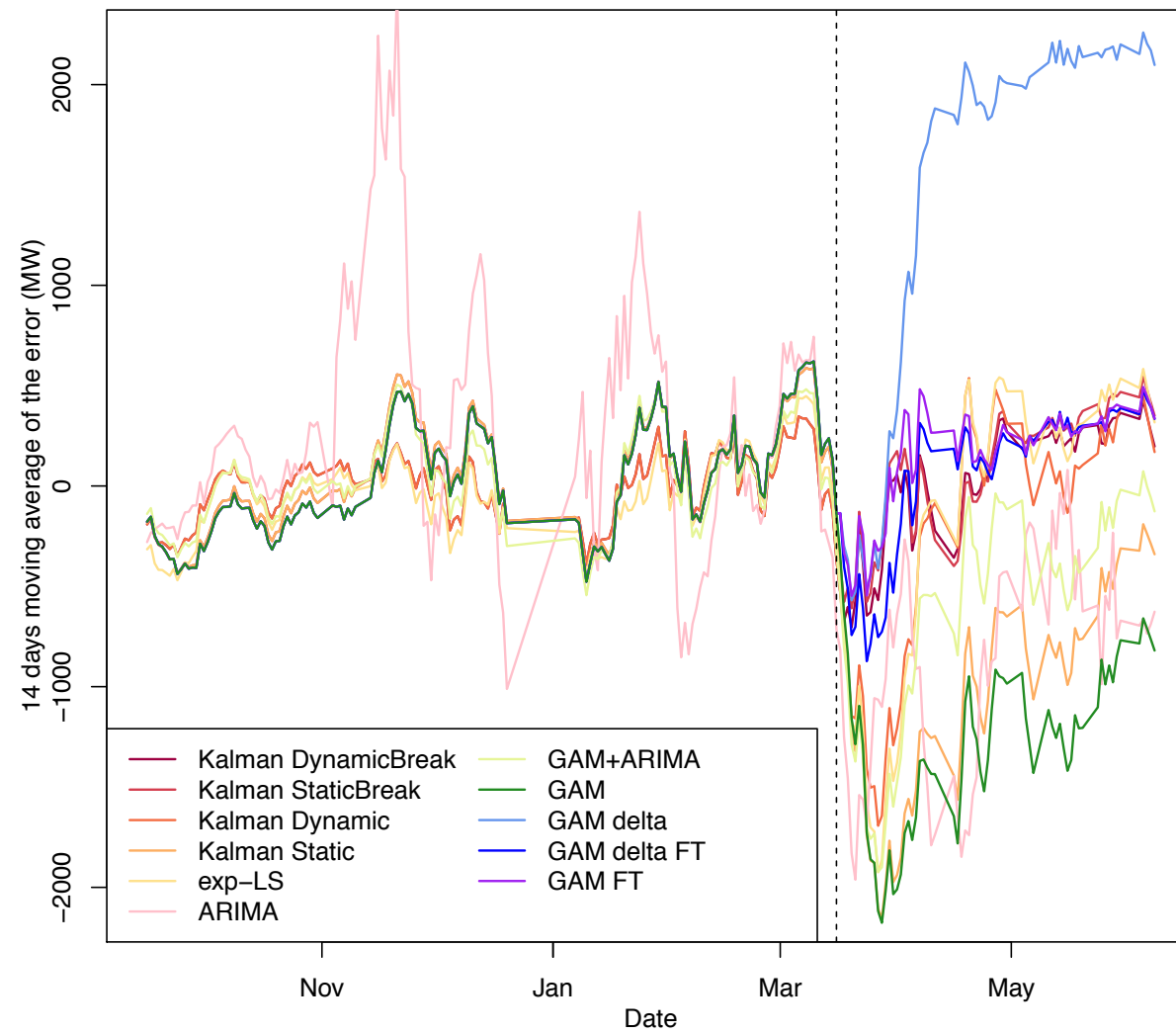
Transfer Learning from Italian data+fine-tuning

The advantage of GAM- δ is that it can be applied to reduce the prediction error starting at the very first day of lockdown.

One can afterwards combine this procedure with fine-tuning on the eventually available French data.

Algorithm 4: Transfer learning at time step t : GAM- δ fine-tuned

- Do fine-tuning on Italian data: $\tilde{\beta}_t = \hat{\beta}_S^{FR} + \rho \hat{\delta}_t$.
 - Repeat K times:
$$\tilde{\beta}_t \leftarrow \tilde{\beta}_t - \alpha \nabla \mathcal{L}_{t-1}^{FR}(\tilde{\beta}_t).$$
 - Predict $\hat{y}_t = \tilde{\beta}_t^\top B(x_t)$.
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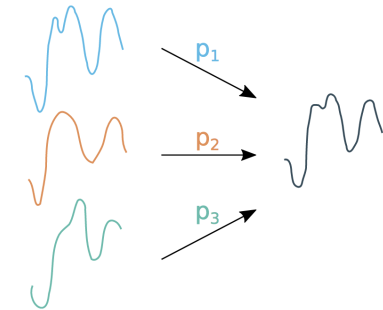


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Kalman DynamicBreak	-	2.73 %, 1902 MW	1.62 %, 854 MW
Fine-tuned	-	2.78 %, 1917 MW	1.80 %, 938 MW
GAM δ	-	4.11 %, 2364 MW	6.09 %, 2713 MW
GAM δ - Fine-tuned	-	2.81%, 1912 MW	1.72 %, 905 MW

Online expert aggregation

- We sequentially observe a bounded sequence of observations y_1, \dots, y_T
- We forecast it step by step and have access at each time t to a set of **experts**, $x_{1,t}, \dots, x_{K,t}$ this experts could be any ML/physical model, human forecasts...
- We then build an aggregation forecast :

$$\hat{y}_t = \sum_{j=1}^K p_{j,t} x_{j,t}$$



- Evaluation of the performances of the individual forecasts and the aggregation is measured with any convex loss e.g. $l_t(x) = (y_t - x)^2$
- The experts and the aggregation are then updated

Online expert aggregation

- To fix the mind let's consider the EWA algorithm (Exponentially Weighted Aggregation)
- It depends on a single parameter (learning rate) η and the weights are updated this way:

$$p_{k,t} = \frac{\exp(-\eta \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} (y_s - x_{k,s})^2)}{\sum_{k=1}^K \exp(-\eta \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} (y_s - x_{k,s})^2)}$$

► Vovk, V. G. (1990)

► Warmuth & Littlestone (1994)

- Oracle bounds of this form can then be obtained (loss in $[0, B]$)

$$\sum_{t=1}^T (y_t - \hat{y}_t)^2 - \min_k \sum_{t=1}^T (y_t - x_{k,t})^2 \leq \frac{\log(K)}{\eta} + \eta \frac{B^2}{8} T \leq B \sqrt{\frac{T \log(K)}{2}}$$

$$\eta = \frac{1}{B} \sqrt{\frac{8 \log(K)}{T}}$$

- A priori information can be added by using sleeping experts: activation or not of an expert at time t

► Wintenberger(2017)

► Gaillard, Stoltz & Van Erven (2014)

► Devaine, M., Gaillard, P., Goude, Y., & Stoltz, G. (2013)

How to choose the experts?

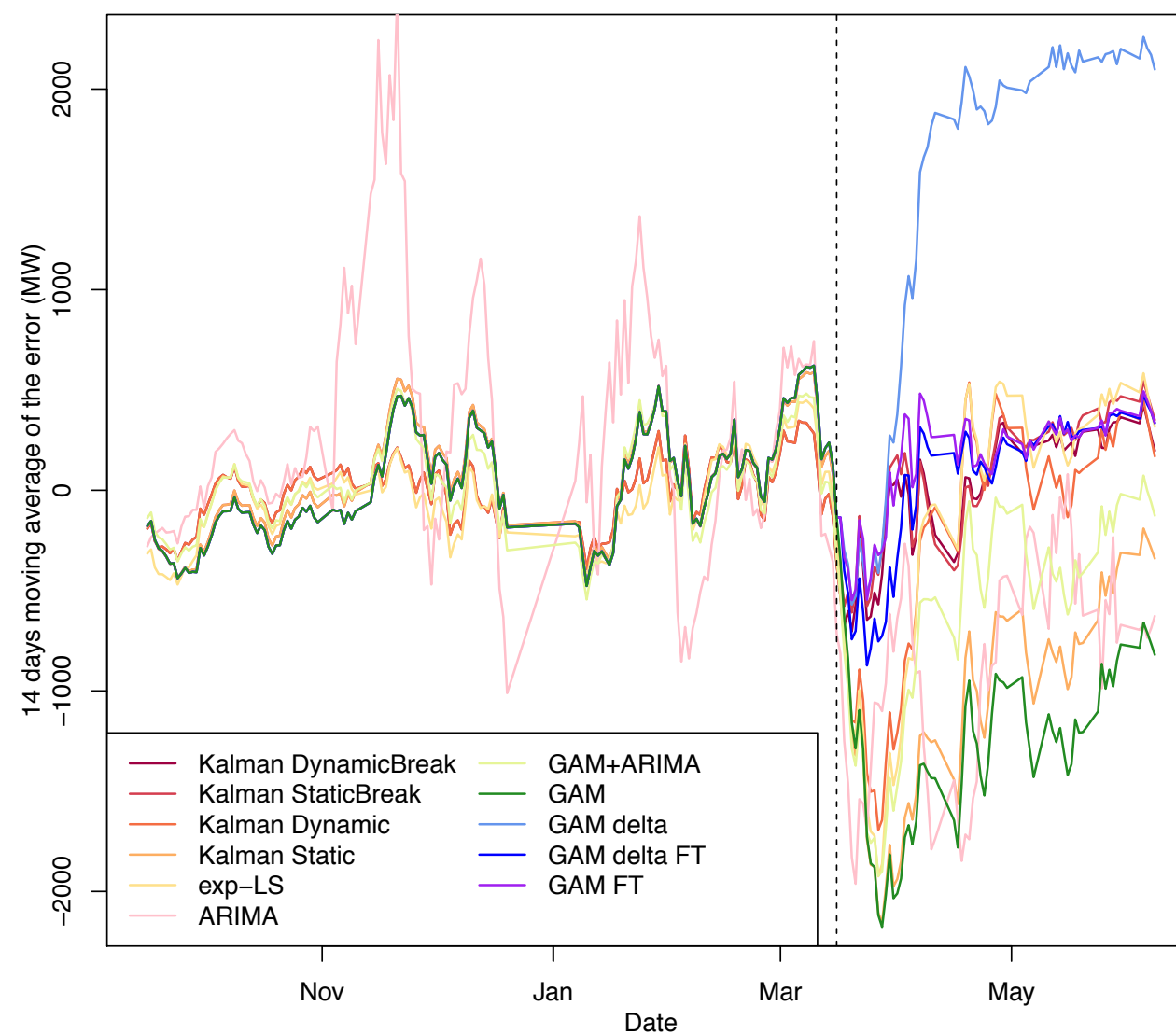
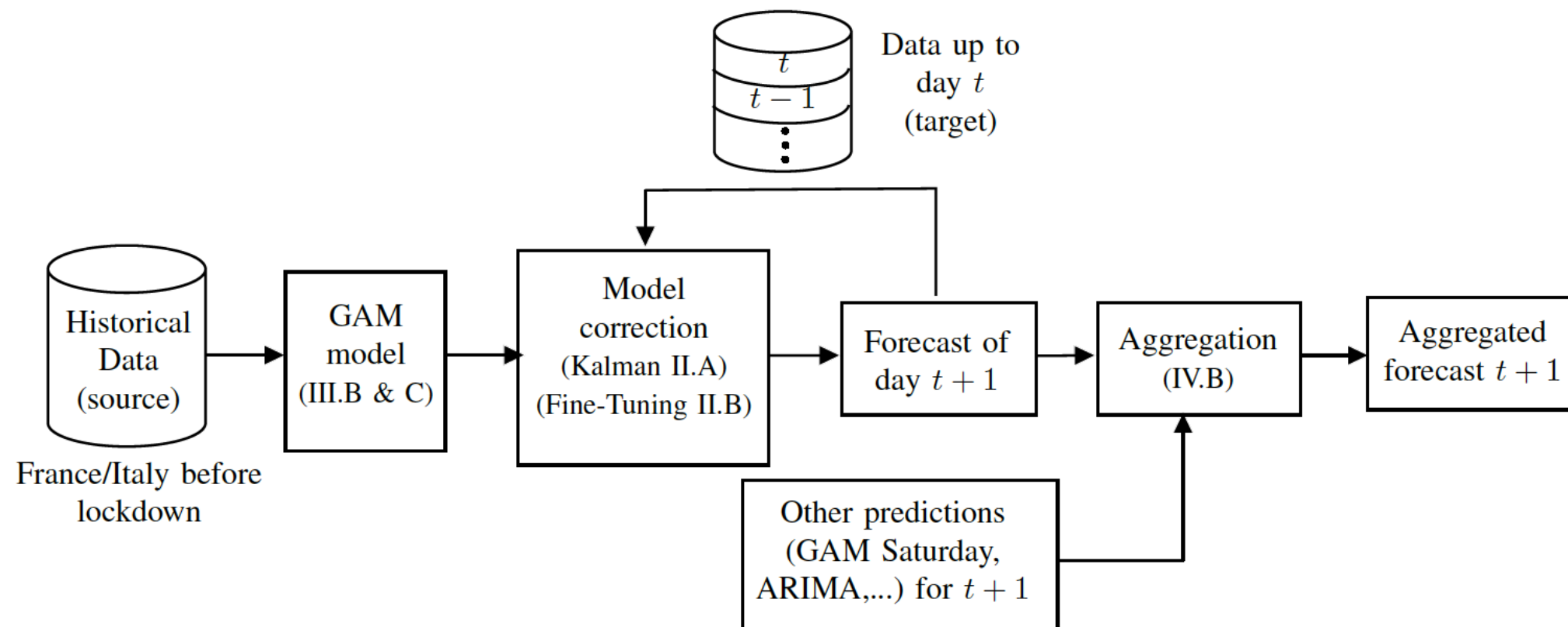
Trade-off between **diversity among the experts** / **performance of each expert**

In practice diversity can be obtained by different ways:

- **DATA:** using different data sets, manipulating data distribution (bagging, boosting...), feature set manipulation (RF), spatial/temporal resolution, time subsets.
- **METHODS:** linear models, additive models, non-parametric models, functional data regression, time series, RF, boosting,... Among a single method playing with parameters/objective functions.

Here we consider:

- DATA: french data, Italian data, time split according to different lockdown periods
- METHODS: GAM, ARIMA, Kalman (different Q), transfer, an « expert » correction of GAM: *GAM saturday*

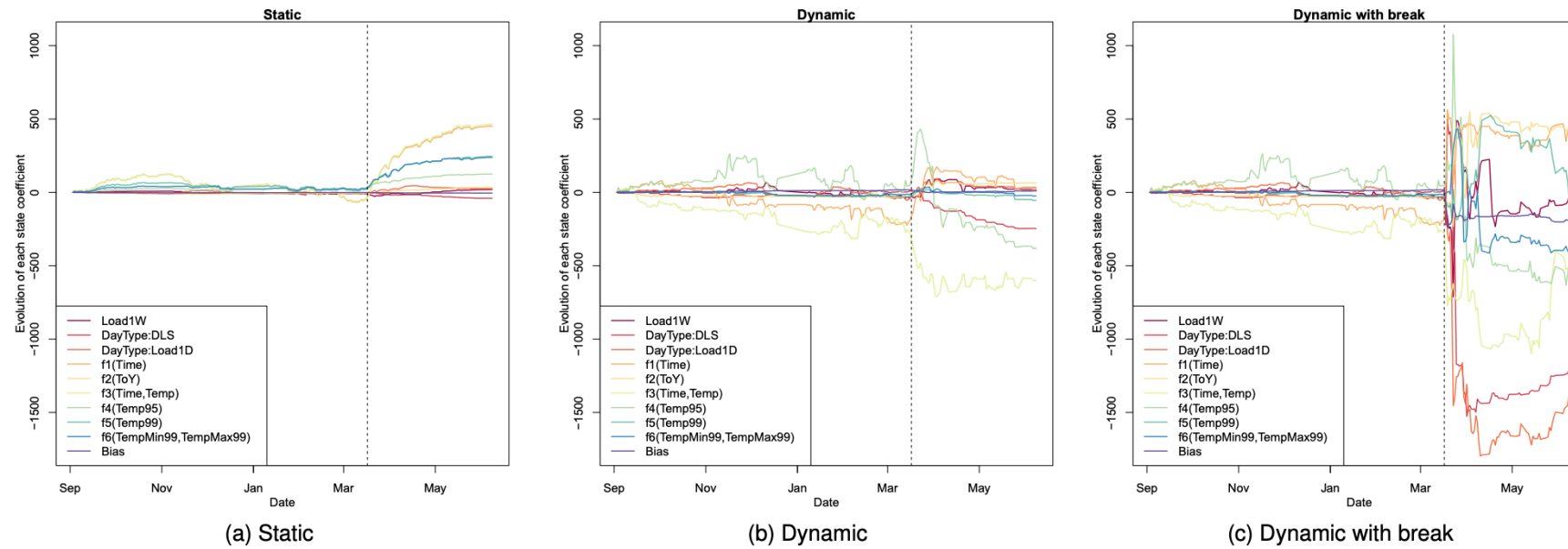


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Fine-tuned	-	2.78 %, 1917 MW	1.80 %, 938 MW
GAM δ	-	4.11 %, 2364 MW	6.09 %, 2713 MW
GAM δ - Fine-tuned	-	2.81%, 1912 MW	1.72 %, 905 MW
GAM Saturday	8.33 %, 6425 MW	6.09 %, 3970 MW	8.40 %, 4616 MW
Aggregation without GAM Saturday	1.28 %, 1005 MW	3.01 %, 2014 MW	1.44 %, 745 MW
Aggregation with GAM Saturday	1.28 %, 1005 MW	2.54 %, 1636 MW	1.49 %, 766 MW

significant improvement (Diebold-Mariano test) between exp-LS and kalman/ fine-tuning approaches
also for aggregation over kalman/ fine-tuning approaches

Interpretability

- GAM and adaptive GAMS are interpretable by design but can suffer from identifiability issues, specially locally in time



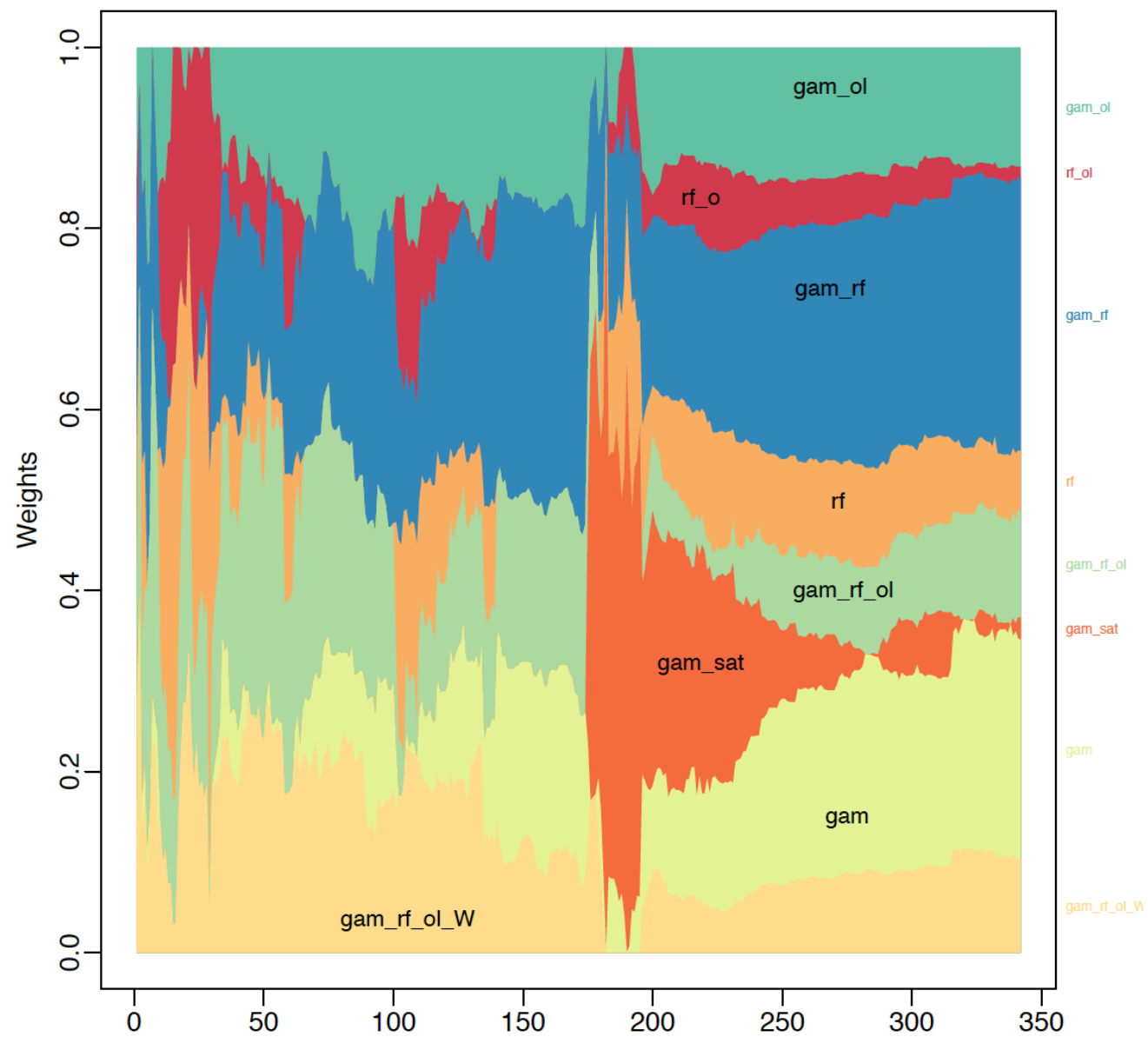
- Aggregation of experts can be seen as a forecasting (semi) blackbox that can be interpreted
 - using the time varying weights and the associated contribution to the forecasts

$$\hat{y}_t = \sum_{j=1}^K p_{j,t} x_{j,t}$$

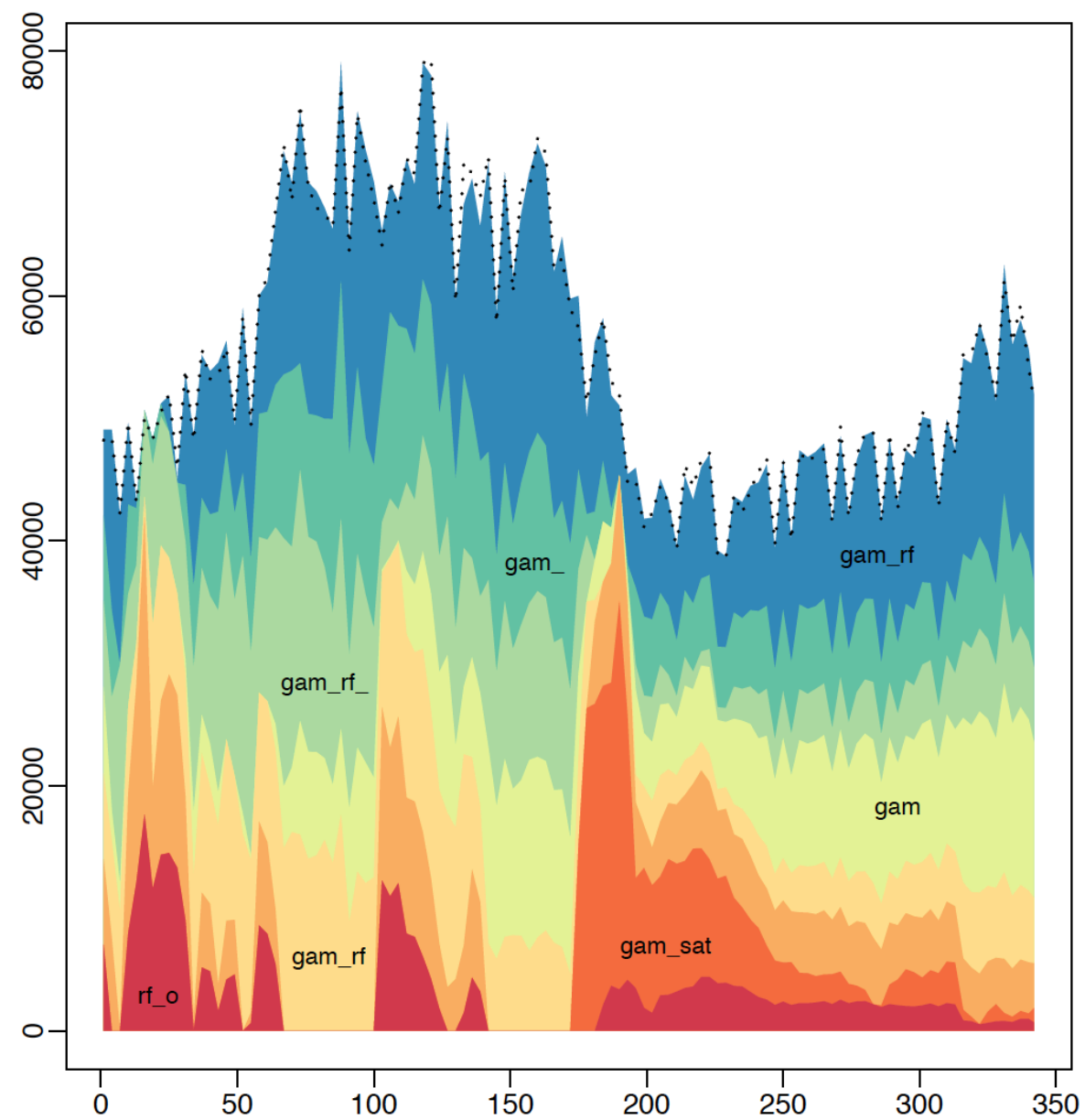
- see it as a time varying blackbox and use marginal and/or ALE plots to interpretative it

Opera outputs

Weights associated with the experts

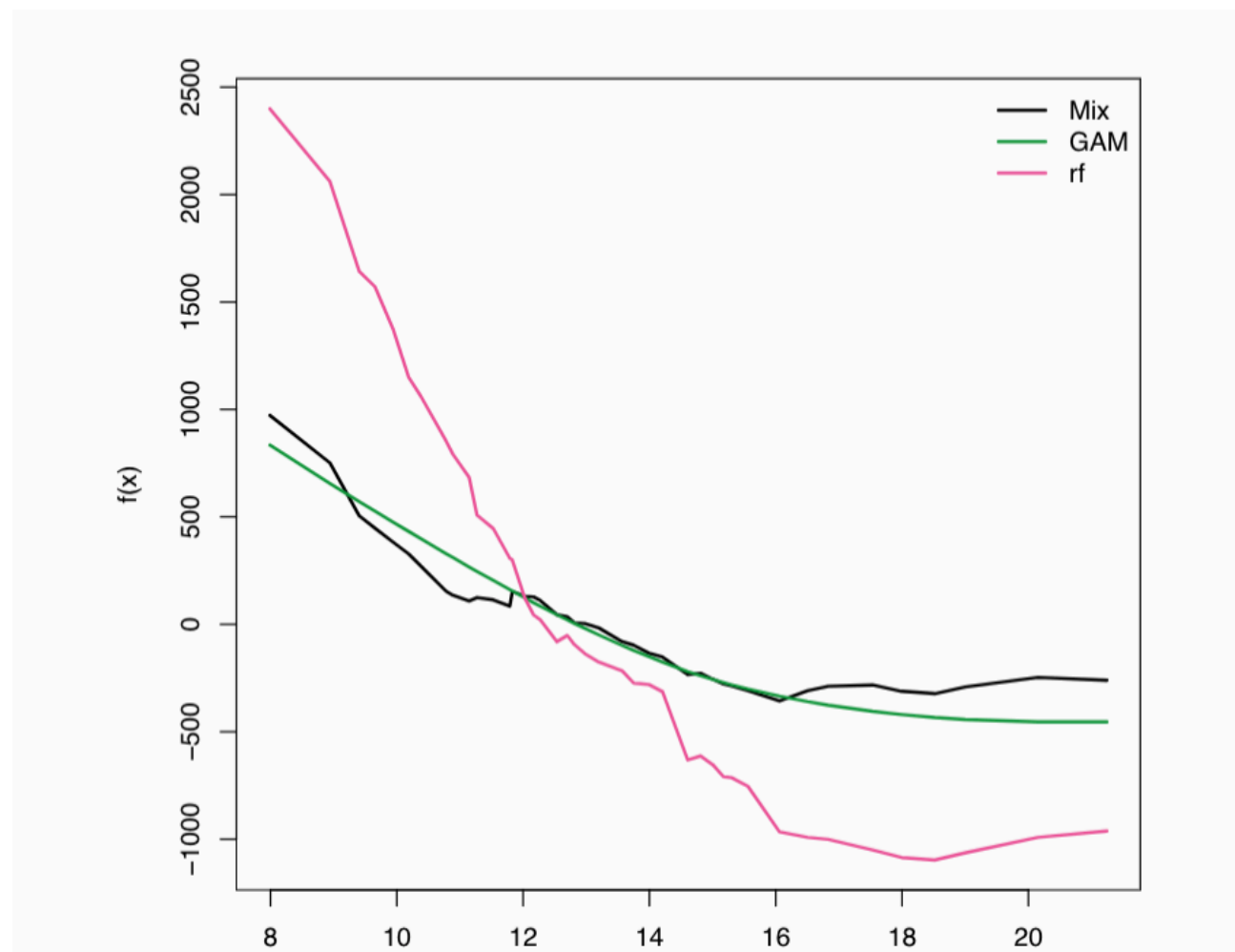


Contribution of each expert to prediction

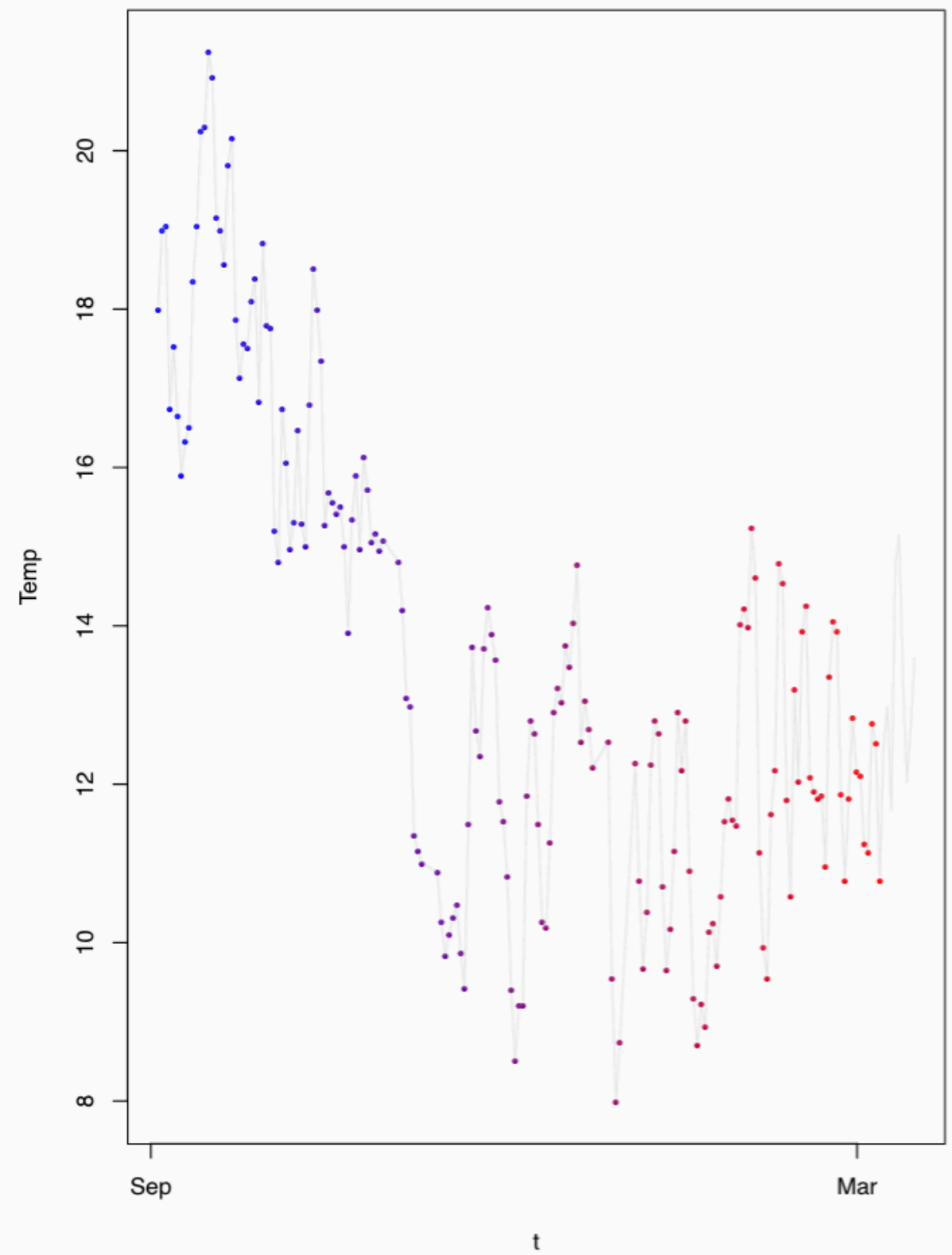
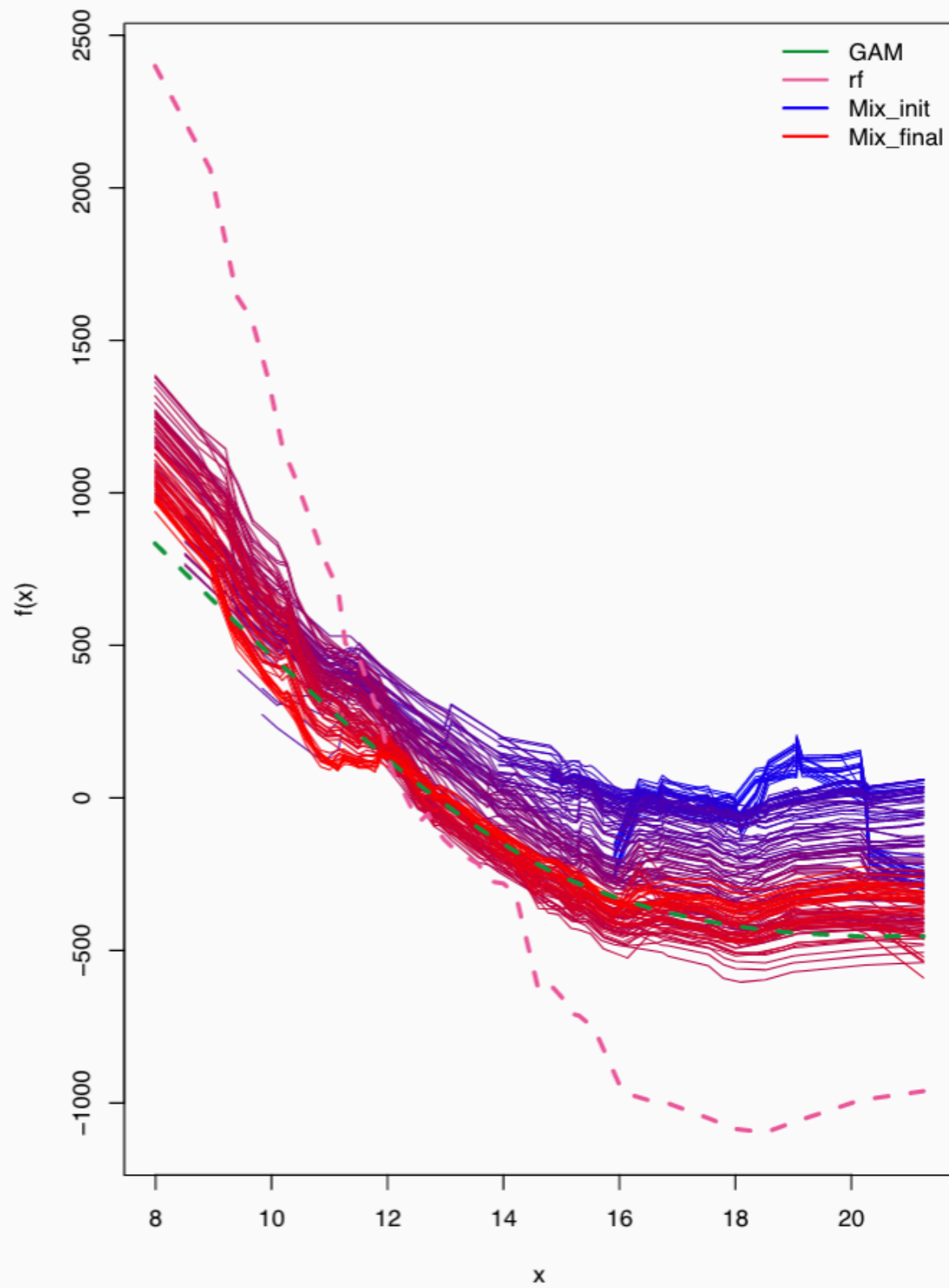


ALE plot Apley, D. W. and J. Zhu (2016) and adaptive ALE plots, exemple of a simple aggregation of 2 models (RF + GAM):

```
eq1_gam <- Load ~ s(DateN, k=3) + WeekDays:DLS + s(toy, k=20, bs='cc') +  
  ti(DateN, Temp, k=c(3,5)) + s(Temp_s95, k=5) +  
  s(Temp_s99, k=5) + s(Temp_s99_min, Temp_s99_max) + Load.48:WeekDays + Load.336  
  
eq_rf <- Load ~ DateN + WeekDays + DLS + toy + Temp+ Temp_s95 + Temp_s99 +  
  Temp_s99_min + Temp_s99_max + Load.48 + Load.336
```



Winter 2019-2020 T° effects

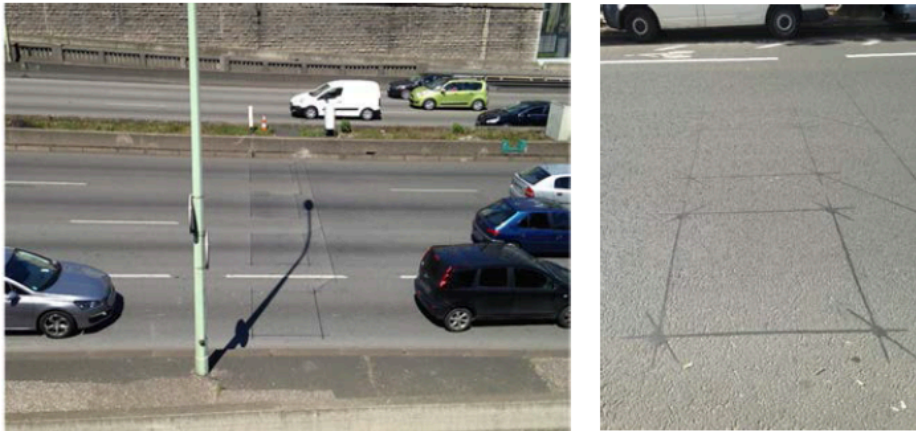


Time evolution of winter 2019-2020 T° effects

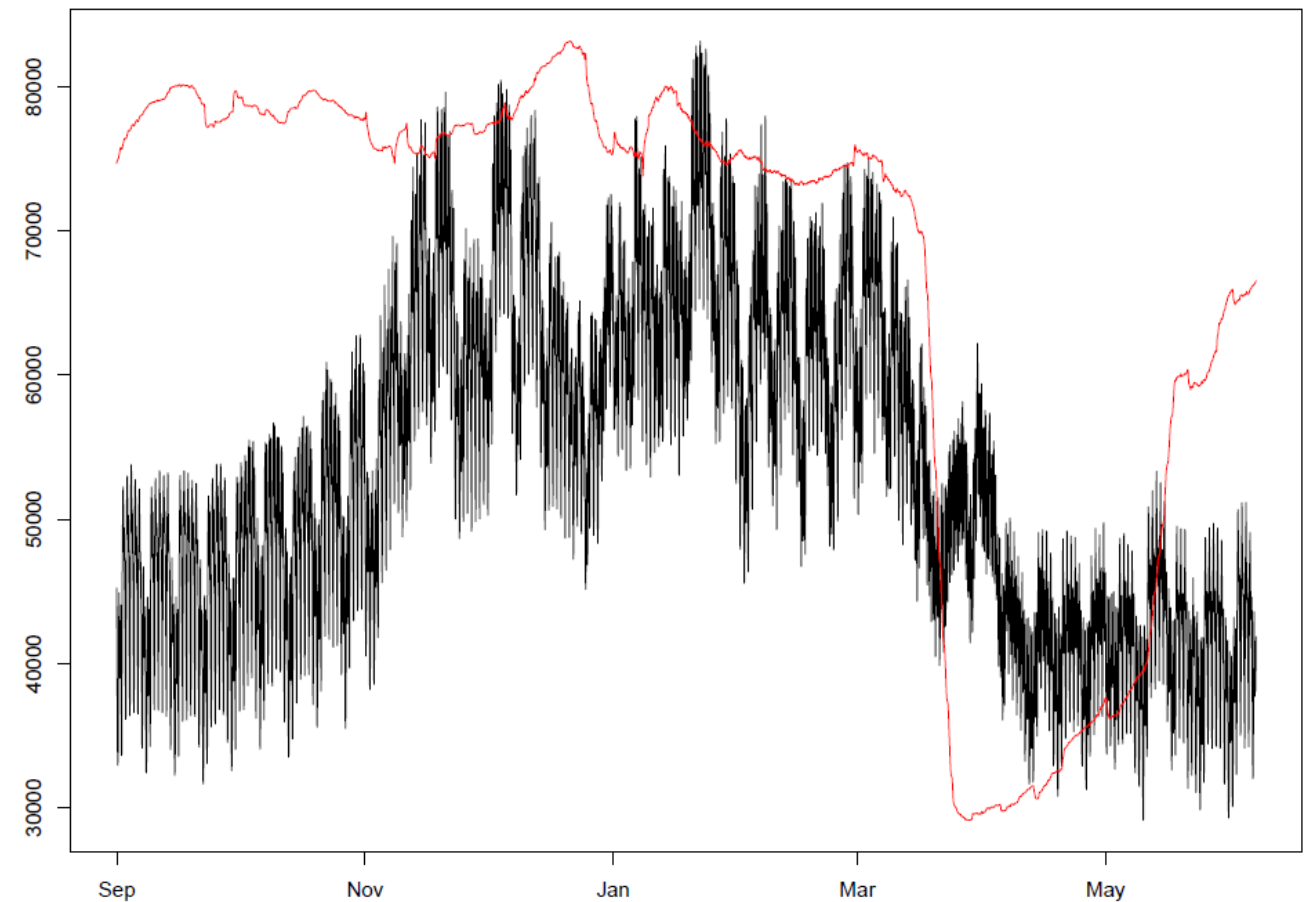
Complementary Data
Ongoing work

Mobility Data

Traffic Data: <https://dataviz.cerema.fr/trafic-routier/>



- Occupancy rate
- Traffic flow



GAM with smoothed traffic data improves by 1% (online update) error during lockdown after lockdown the effect of traffic is not consistent.

See also the work of Chen, Y., Yang, W., & Zhang, B. (2020) using mobility data from location app:

<https://www.google.com/covid19/mobility/>

<https://www.apple.com/covid19/mobility>

► Charansonney, L. (2018)

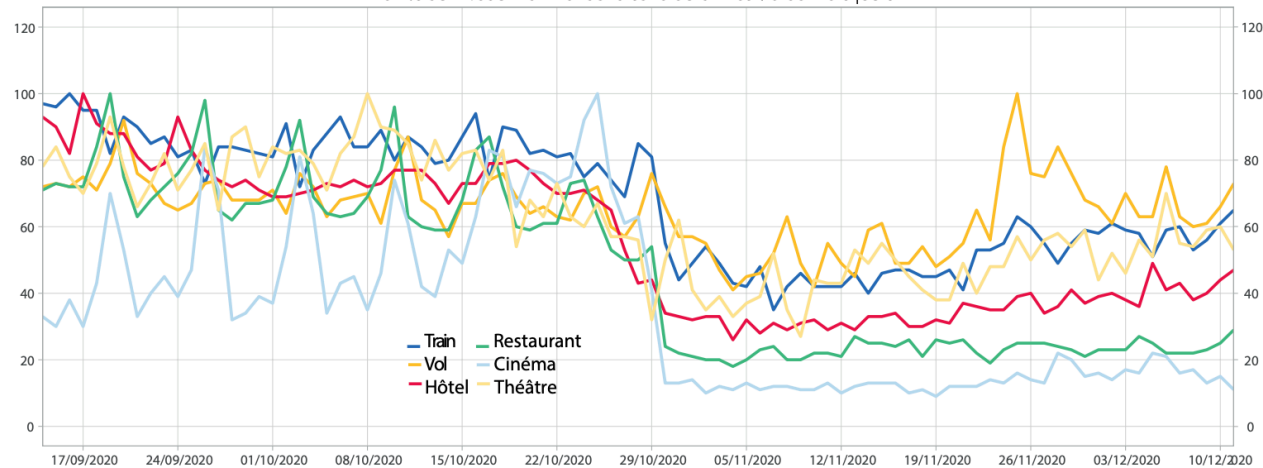
► Chen, Y., Yang, W., & Zhang, B. (2020)

High frequency activity data

High frequency activity data is currently used by INSEE in his « note de conjoncture » to measure socio-economical impact of the COVID in France:

- traffic data
- google mobility data
- google trend (keywords: Train, Vol, Hôtel, Restaurant, Cinéma, Théâtre...)
- electricity load data

4 - Fréquence de recherche de mots-clés sur internet
en % du niveau maximal de la série durant les 90 derniers jours

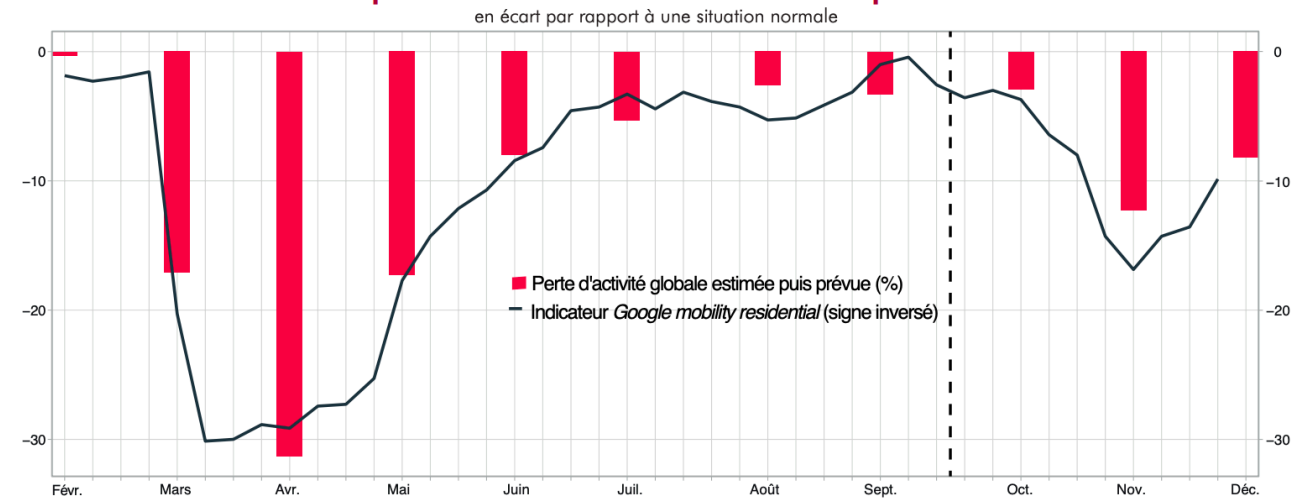


Lecture : le 11 décembre, la fréquence des requêtes du terme « vol » sur Google s'élevait à 73 % de son niveau maximal depuis mi-septembre, niveau atteint le 25 novembre.

Note : pour chaque série, l'indice est fixé à 100 au maximum de fréquence observé durant les 90 derniers jours.

Sources : Google Trends. Calculs Insee

3 - Indicateur de temps total hebdomadaire passé chez soi et pertes d'activité mensuelle estimées et prévues
en écart par rapport à une situation normale



Lecture : durant la première semaine de décembre, le temps passé chez soi a été supérieur de 10 % par rapport à une situation normale.

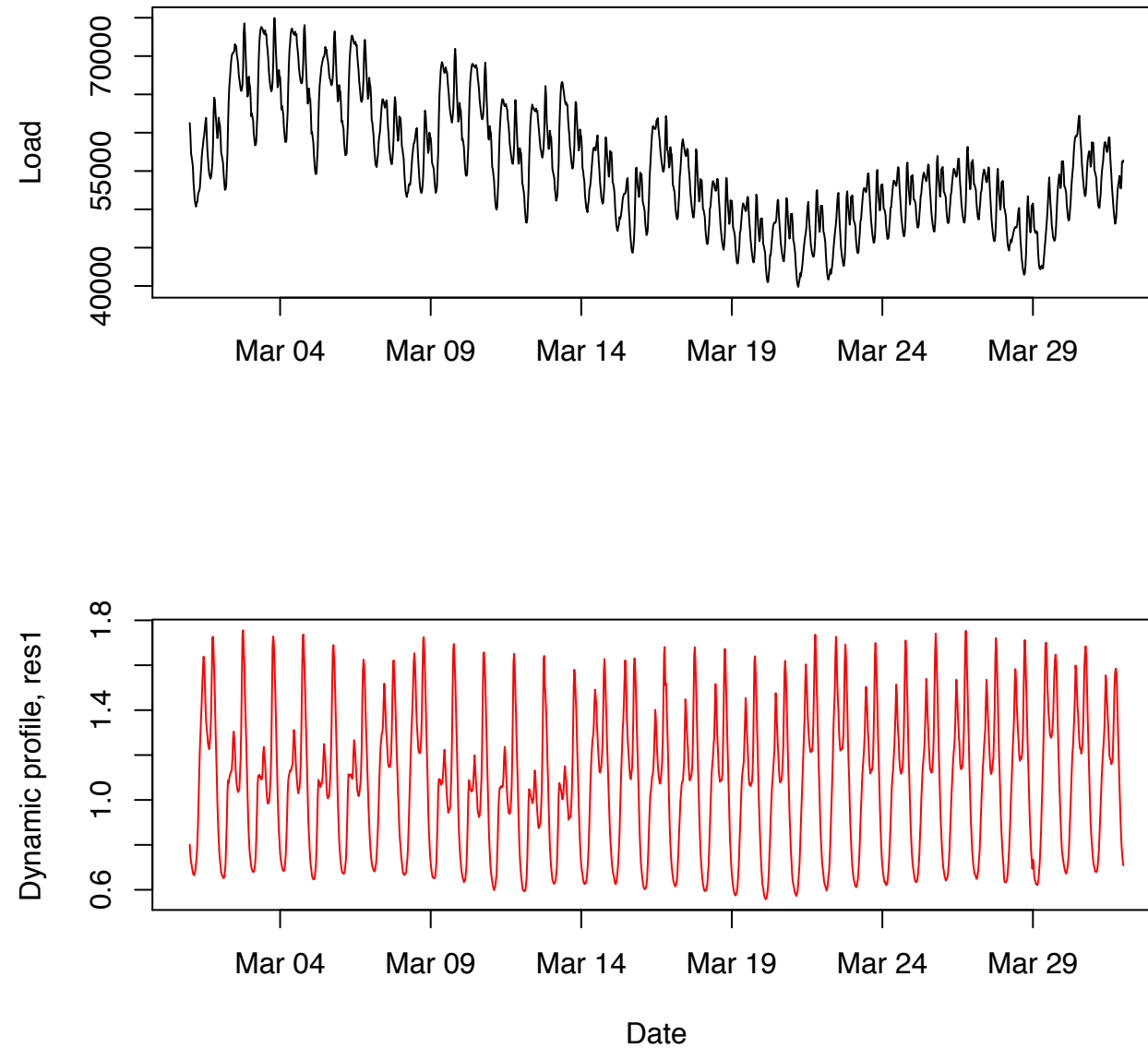
Note : les données de l'indicateur sont actuellement disponibles jusqu'au 6 décembre. Les valeurs hebdomadaires sont la moyenne des valeurs quotidiennes de l'indicateur.

Source : Google Maps Mobility

Dynamic Panel from Smart Meters

Data published by Enedis (French DSO) since June 2018

<https://www.enedis.fr/coefficients-des-profil>



Conclusions / Perspectives

We exhibit the consequences of the lockdown on electricity time series forecasting in France

- Sudden change in level and shape of electricity load.
- Similarities in Italy/France, time shifted

Related statistical methods/pbs:

- Online update: Kalman, aggregation of experts
- Transfer learning

Open problems/perspectives

- Enrich with new data from mobility, local/panel data, socio-economic data
- Spatio-temporal models to reflect local impact of the pandemic (regional level)
- Kalman and transfer learning with more black box models: RF, deep learning (see IEEE post-covid competition win)
- VIKING: Variational Bayesian Tracking to automatize the Kalman updates
- Other data: 1st place at IEEE competition <https://ieee-dataport.org/competitions/day-ahead-electricity-demand-forecasting-post-covid-paradigm> with similar methods

Open problems/perspectives regarding Interpretability

- Error propagation among the different times updates (lag effects, kalman, aggregation)

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