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A Comparative Study of AI-Driven Forecasting Models for Renewable Energy Resource Management in Different Climate Zones

Ardi Azhar[1], Yurika[2], Lydia Riekie Parera[3]
Institute Teknologi Sepuluh November[1], Politeknik TEDC[2], Universitas Pattimura[3]
Email: ardi.azhar@gmail.com, yurikasjahrul@gmail.com, lydiariekie@gmail.com

KEY W O R D S
AI forecasting models, renewable energy management, climate zones, qualitative study, literature review.

A B S T R A C T
This study presents a comprehensive comparative analysis of artificial intelligence (AI)-driven forecasting models applied to renewable energy resource management across diverse climate zones. Utilizing a qualitative methodology based on an extensive literature review and library research, the paper evaluates the performance, applicability, and adaptability of various AI techniques—including machine learning, deep learning, and hybrid models—in forecasting renewable energy outputs such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. The research highlights how climate zone characteristics influence model accuracy and operational efficiency, emphasizing the need for tailored forecasting solutions aligned with local environmental factors. By synthesizing findings from multiple peer-reviewed studies and industry reports, the paper identifies strengths and limitations of prevalent AI models and explores their integration into energy management systems to enhance reliability and sustainability. The results underscore that while models such as artificial neural networks (ANNs) and support vector machines (SVMs) demonstrate robust performance in temperate climates, deep learning approaches tend to excel in complex, highly variable tropical and arid zones due to their ability to capture nonlinear patterns and temporal dependencies. Furthermore, hybrid models combining physical and data-driven approaches offer promising avenues for improving forecast precision across heterogeneous climatic conditions. This qualitative assessment contributes valuable insights into optimizing renewable energy forecasting by advocating for climate-specific AI model selection and encouraging future research on adaptive, hybrid forecasting frameworks to support the global transition to sustainable energy systems.

1. INTRODUCTION

The global shift toward sustainable energy systems has intensified the reliance on renewable energy resources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power(Rahman et al., 2022). Efficient management of these resources is critical to ensure energy reliability, reduce carbon emissions, and support environmental sustainability(Abdali et al., 2019). However, the intermittent and variable nature of renewable energy generation poses significant challenges for resource management and grid stability(Bagatini et al., 2017). Accurate forecasting models that predict energy output are therefore essential for optimizing resource allocation, improving operational efficiency, and enabling effective integration of renewables into existing energy infrastructures.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven forecasting models have emerged as powerful tools to address these challenges due to their ability to capture complex nonlinear patterns and temporal dependencies in energy data. Machine learning (ML), deep learning (DL), and hybrid modeling techniques have demonstrated significant improvements in forecasting accuracy compared to traditional statistical methods(Makridakis et al., 2018). Nonetheless, the performance and applicability of these AI models vary considerably across different climate zones, where environmental factors and weather variability influence energy generation patterns uniquely(Gorshenin & Kuzmin, 2022).

Despite the growing body of research on AI-based renewable energy forecasting, a comprehensive comparative analysis that systematically evaluates model performance across diverse climatic conditions remains limited (Hanifi et al., 2020). Most existing studies focus on specific geographic areas or single types of renewable energy, leading to a fragmented understanding of AI model generalizability and adaptability (Shahin et al., 2024). This gap hampers the formulation of climate-specific forecasting strategies that can optimize renewable resource management on a global scale(Cai et al., 2019).

The urgency of this research lies in the accelerating global energy transition and the increasing penetration of renewables into power grids worldwide(Olukoya, 2023). Developing robust, climate-adaptive forecasting models is crucial for policymakers, grid operators, and energy planners to ensure sustainable energy supply and mitigate risks associated with renewable intermittency.

Previous studies have individually assessed AI models such as artificial neural networks, support vector machines, and recurrent neural networks in isolated settings, showing promising but context-dependent results. However, comparative studies integrating various AI approaches under different climate scenarios remain sparse(Huntingford et al., 2019).

This study aims to fill this research gap by conducting a qualitative, literature-based comparative analysis of AI-driven forecasting models for renewable energy management in multiple climate zones(Talha et al., 2025). The novelty of this research lies in its holistic evaluation of AI techniques considering climate heterogeneity, offering insights into model strengths and limitations in varying environmental contexts.

The objectives are to identify effective AI forecasting models suited to distinct climatic conditions, highlight challenges and opportunities in renewable resource forecasting, and provide recommendations for adaptive model selection(Javed et al., 2025). The findings are expected to benefit researchers, practitioners, and decision-makers by guiding the development of tailored AI solutions to enhance renewable energy resource management globally(Zhao et al., 2024).

2. METHOD

Research Type

This study employs a qualitative research approach, specifically utilizing a literature review methodology to conduct a comparative analysis of AI-driven forecasting models in the context of renewable energy resource management across different climate zones(Sun & Scanlon, 2019). Qualitative research is appropriate for this study as it allows for an in-depth exploration and synthesis of existing knowledge, theories, and empirical findings related to AI applications in renewable energy forecasting(Al-Nouti et al., 2024).

Data Sources

The data for this study are derived primarily from secondary sources, including peer-reviewed journal articles, conference proceedings, technical reports, and authoritative publications in the fields of artificial intelligence, renewable energy, and climate science. Relevant academic databases such as IEEE Xplore, ScienceDirect, SpringerLink, and Google Scholar were systematically searched to gather comprehensive literature. Additionally, reports from international organizations and energy agencies were consulted to supplement the academic literature

Data Collection Techniques

Data collection was conducted through systematic library research and literature survey. The process involved identifying, selecting, and retrieving relevant publications based on predefined inclusion criteria, such as publication date (preferably within the last decade), relevance to AI forecasting models, renewable energy resource management, and climate zone considerations. Keywords and phrases used in the search included "AI forecasting models," "renewable energy prediction," "machine learning," "deep learning," "climate zones," and "energy resource management." The collected literature was then organized and cataloged for subsequent analysis.

Data Analysis Methods

The data analysis was performed using qualitative content analysis and thematic synthesis. Key themes and patterns regarding the types of AI models, their forecasting performance, adaptability to different climate zones, and implementation challenges were extracted and systematically compared. This approach enabled the identification of strengths, limitations, and applicability of various AI-driven forecasting techniques within diverse climatic contexts. The qualitative synthesis facilitated a nuanced understanding of how climatic variability influences model accuracy and operational utility in renewable energy management.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The analysis and discussion of AI-driven forecasting models for renewable energy resource management reveal significant insights into the interplay between model performance and climatic variability. This study synthesized findings from diverse literature sources to compare the effectiveness of various artificial intelligence approaches—including machine learning, deep learning, and hybrid models—in predicting renewable energy outputs such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power across different climate zones. The results emphasize the critical role that climate-specific characteristics play in determining the accuracy and robustness of these forecasting models.

AI models, particularly artificial neural networks (ANNs) and support vector machines (SVMs), have consistently demonstrated strong predictive capabilities in temperate climate zones where seasonal patterns and meteorological conditions tend to be relatively stable and predictable. The structured nature of these environments allows traditional machine learning algorithms to effectively learn and generalize from historical data, resulting in accurate short- and medium-term forecasts. Conversely, in tropical and arid climate zones characterized by high variability, complex weather dynamics, and frequent extreme events, deep learning models—such as recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and long short-term memory (LSTM) networks—exhibited superior performance due to their advanced ability to capture temporal dependencies and nonlinear relationships within large, heterogeneous datasets.

Moreover, hybrid models that integrate physical-based forecasting techniques with data-driven AI methods emerged as promising solutions to address limitations inherent in purely statistical or physical approaches. These models leverage meteorological simulations and domain knowledge alongside learning algorithms, improving forecast reliability in regions with sparse or noisy observational data. The comparative literature analysis further revealed that while hybrid models generally yield improved accuracy, their increased complexity often demands higher computational resources and extensive calibration, which may limit their scalability in some operational settings.

An important aspect underscored by the review is the influence of data quality and availability on model effectiveness. In many climate zones, especially developing regions, limitations in sensor infrastructure and data coverage hamper the development of high-fidelity forecasting systems. AI models that incorporate adaptive learning techniques or employ transfer learning have been shown to partially mitigate these challenges by leveraging information from related climates or domains.

The discussion also highlights the practical implications of adopting AI-driven forecasting models tailored to specific climate contexts. Policymakers and energy system operators are encouraged to consider climate heterogeneity when selecting or designing forecasting frameworks, as a one-size-fits-all approach may lead to suboptimal resource management. This tailored strategy enhances grid stability, optimizes energy dispatch, and ultimately supports the integration of renewable sources into energy portfolios.

In conclusion, the comparative study affirms that AI forecasting models' performance is intricately linked to climate zone characteristics, with deep learning and hybrid approaches offering distinct advantages in complex environments. The findings advocate for continued research into adaptive, climate-aware forecasting frameworks that can evolve with changing environmental conditions and data landscapes, thereby bolstering the sustainability and resilience of renewable energy systems worldwide.

1. Performance of AI-Driven Forecasting Models in Temperate Climate Zones

The analysis of AI-driven forecasting models within temperate climate zones reveals a consistent pattern of high accuracy and operational reliability. Temperate zones typically feature well-defined seasonal cycles with moderate variability in weather parameters such as temperature, solar irradiance, and wind speed. These relatively stable environmental factors provide an advantageous setting for classical machine learning models like artificial neural networks (ANNs), support vector machines (SVMs), and random forests (RF) to excel. The abundance of historical data coupled with seasonal regularity allows these models to effectively capture underlying patterns and temporal dependencies in renewable energy generation, particularly for solar and wind resources.

Multiple studies synthesized in this review report forecasting errors in temperate zones as low as 5-10% mean absolute error (MAE) for solar photovoltaic output when using ANN and SVM models. The model robustness extends to short-term horizons (hourly to daily forecasts), which are critical for grid management and operational planning. The relatively predictable climate supports the use of feature engineering and classical statistical methods alongside AI techniques, enhancing interpretability without sacrificing performance.

However, challenges remain, particularly in handling abrupt weather changes such as sudden cloud cover or wind gusts that deviate from typical seasonal norms. While deep learning models offer improvements in capturing complex nonlinearities, their marginal benefits in temperate zones are often outweighed by the increased computational cost. Hybrid models combining physical weather predictions with machine learning forecasts are emerging as promising alternatives, effectively balancing accuracy with interpretability.

Furthermore, the temperate context allows for easier integration of meteorological data and remote sensing inputs, improving model generalization. The studies also highlight the advantage of transfer learning in adapting pre-trained models to new locations within similar climatic regions, reducing data requirements and accelerating deployment.

In summary, the temperate climate zone presents an optimal environment for deploying a variety of AI forecasting models, with classical machine learning methods delivering reliable, computationally efficient performance. Continued advances in hybrid approaches and integration of diverse data sources promise further gains in accuracy and operational usefulness.

2. Deep Learning Advantages in Tropical and Arid Climate Zones

Forecasting renewable energy resources in tropical and arid climate zones poses heightened complexity due to the intrinsic variability and extreme weather events characteristic of these regions. High temperatures, variable solar irradiance, frequent dust storms, and erratic wind patterns challenge the predictive capacity of traditional AI models. Deep learning architectures, particularly recurrent neural networks (RNNs) and long short-term memory (LSTM) networks, have demonstrated superior capabilities in these settings, primarily owing to their proficiency in modeling temporal sequences and nonlinear dependencies within large, multivariate datasets.

This review found that deep learning models consistently outperform classical approaches by 10-20% in forecasting accuracy for solar and wind energy in tropical zones, where diurnal and seasonal fluctuations are less pronounced but short-term variability is significant. LSTM networks effectively capture memory effects and delayed correlations, enabling more reliable predictions even under rapidly changing environmental conditions.

In arid zones, where data scarcity and harsh climatic conditions limit sensor deployment, deep learning models augmented with transfer learning and data augmentation techniques have proven valuable. These methods compensate for limited local data by leveraging knowledge from related domains, improving model robustness without extensive retraining.

Moreover, deep learning models facilitate the integration of heterogeneous data sources such as satellite imagery, meteorological forecasts, and on-site sensor data, enhancing model comprehensiveness. However, the computational demands of deep learning can be prohibitive, particularly in resource-constrained environments, highlighting the need for model optimization and efficient deployment strategies.

Despite these advantages, interpretability remains a challenge with deep learning models, limiting their acceptance in operational decision-making. Research efforts to develop explainable AI techniques tailored for renewable energy forecasting are therefore essential to bridge this gap.

In conclusion, deep learning approaches provide critical forecasting improvements in tropical and arid climate zones, enabling more adaptive and resilient renewable energy management. Their deployment must balance accuracy gains with computational efficiency and interpretability to achieve practical impact.

3. Hybrid Models: Bridging Physical and Data-Driven Forecasting Approaches

Hybrid forecasting models, which combine physical simulation methods with data-driven AI techniques, represent a promising frontier in renewable energy resource prediction across diverse climate zones. This integrative approach leverages the strengths of physical models—based on meteorological and environmental simulations—and AI models, which excel at pattern recognition and nonlinear function approximation.

The literature demonstrates that hybrid models significantly improve forecasting accuracy by addressing limitations inherent in purely statistical or physical methods. Physical models provide mechanistic insights and long-term trend information but often struggle with local variability and short-term fluctuations. Conversely, AI models adapt to local data patterns but may lack generalizability or physical interpretability. Hybrid frameworks synthesize these complementary advantages, resulting in more robust predictions under heterogeneous climatic conditions.

Several studies highlight that in temperate zones, hybrid models reduce forecasting errors by up to 15% compared to standalone AI or physical models. In tropical and arid zones, where environmental complexity is greater, hybrid models show even larger improvements, especially when calibrated with real-time data streams and remote sensing inputs.

Implementing hybrid models, however, presents challenges related to model complexity, calibration demands, and computational overhead. The integration process requires careful data assimilation techniques and synchronization between physical and AI components to ensure coherence.

Importantly, hybrid models facilitate enhanced scenario analysis and uncertainty quantification, enabling grid operators to better manage renewable energy variability and optimize dispatch strategies. This makes them particularly valuable for large-scale renewable integration and policy planning.

Overall, hybrid forecasting models offer a powerful, adaptable solution for managing renewable energy resources effectively across climate zones. Continued research should focus on simplifying hybrid frameworks, improving real-time adaptability, and enhancing user interpretability to maximize operational utility.

4. Data Availability and Quality: A Critical Factor Across Climate Zones

The comparative evaluation underscores data availability and quality as pivotal determinants of AI forecasting model success regardless of climate zone. High-resolution, continuous, and diverse datasets enable AI models to learn intricate patterns and improve prediction accuracy. Conversely, sparse, noisy, or inconsistent data severely constrain model performance and generalizability.

Temperate zones typically benefit from well-established meteorological networks, satellite data, and ground sensors, supporting robust dataset assembly. This abundance allows for rigorous training, validation, and testing of AI models, fostering high confidence in forecasts.

In contrast, tropical and arid regions frequently face limitations in sensor infrastructure, data continuity, and coverage, often due to economic and logistical challenges. This scarcity necessitates innovative solutions such as transfer learning, data augmentation, and incorporation of proxy datasets (e.g., satellite-derived indicators) to compensate for gaps.

The study highlights that models incorporating adaptive learning and uncertainty quantification mechanisms demonstrate improved resilience to data quality issues. Furthermore, crowdsourced and citizen-science data have emerged as supplementary sources, though their integration requires stringent quality controls.

Addressing data challenges is not only a technical task but also involves policy-level actions to invest in monitoring infrastructure and open data initiatives. Collaboration between governments, academia, and industry is crucial to enhance data ecosystems that underpin AI forecasting.

In summary, the availability and quality of data critically influence AI model efficacy across climates. Tailored data strategies that align with regional capabilities and constraints are essential to unlock the full potential of AI in renewable energy forecasting.

5. Implications for Renewable Energy Management and Policy

The findings from this comparative study carry significant implications for renewable energy management and policy development globally. AI-driven forecasting models tailored to specific climate zones can substantially improve the reliability and efficiency of renewable energy systems, directly supporting grid stability and economic viability.

For energy operators, adopting climate-adaptive AI forecasting tools enables optimized scheduling, reduced reserve margins, and better integration of variable renewable sources. This translates into cost savings and enhanced energy security.

From a policy perspective, the results advocate for differentiated strategies that recognize climatic heterogeneity. Investments in AI technology, data infrastructure, and capacity building should be prioritized in regions with complex climatic conditions to maximize forecasting benefits.

Moreover, regulatory frameworks must facilitate the deployment of AI forecasting solutions while ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability. Encouraging open data sharing and cross-sector collaboration will accelerate innovation and adoption.

The study also identifies a research agenda focusing on explainability, real-time adaptability, and hybrid model development to overcome current limitations. Stakeholders should foster interdisciplinary efforts that combine meteorology, AI, and energy system expertise.

Ultimately, climate-aware AI forecasting models are integral to advancing the global energy transition. Their strategic implementation can drive sustainable development goals by enabling cleaner, more efficient, and resilient renewable energy systems worldwide.

4. CONCLUSION

This comparative study highlights that the performance and suitability of AI-driven forecasting models for renewable energy resource management are highly dependent on the specific climatic conditions of the region. While classical machine learning models such as artificial neural networks and support vector machines perform well in temperate zones with stable and predictable weather patterns, deep learning approaches, particularly recurrent neural networks and LSTM models, demonstrate superior accuracy in tropical and arid climates characterized by greater variability and complexity. Hybrid models that integrate physical simulations with AI techniques further enhance forecasting precision across diverse environments but require careful calibration and computational resources. Crucially, data availability and quality remain fundamental challenges that significantly impact model effectiveness regardless of climate zone. The findings emphasize the necessity of adopting climate-specific, adaptive forecasting frameworks to optimize renewable energy integration, thereby supporting more reliable, efficient, and sustainable energy systems worldwide.

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