

Research Article

An Adaptive Control Combination Forecasting Method for Time Series Data

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According to the individual forecasting methods, an adaptive control combination forecasting (ACCF) method with adaptive weighting coefficients was proposed for short-term prediction of the time series data. The US population dataset, the American electric power dataset, and the vibration signal dataset in a hydraulic test rig were separately tested by using ACCF method, and then, the accuracy analysis of ACCF method was carried out in the study. The results showed that, in contrast to individual methods or combination methods, the proposed ACCF method was adaptive to adopt one or some of prediction methods and showed satisfactory forecasting results due to flexible adaptability and a high accuracy. It was also concluded that the higher the noise ratio of the tested datasets, the lower the prediction accuracy of the ACCF method; the ACCF method demonstrated a better prediction trend with good volatility and following quality under noisy data, as compared with other methods.

1. Introduction

A time series is a set of statistics and usually collected at regular intervals. Time series data occur naturally in many application areas, such as economics, medicine, weather data, ocean engineering, finance, and engineering control. Time series data are obtained by the sensors, and they refer to the large, diverse datasets of information that cannot be easily processed by using standard computers. Based on the past performance, time series forecasting is an analysis used to forecast future value, which is still a challenging research topic nowadays [1–3].

The three common methods for time series forecasting included physical, statistical, and artificial intelligence. In physical methods, effective forecasting results rely on physical information [4, 5], but it was not proficient in dealing with short-term series with complex calculation process. Statistical models, including Period-Sequential Index (PSI) [6], moving average (MA) [7], autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) [8], exponential smoothing [9], Kalman filter [10], and grey forecasting [11],

effectively tackled linear features but gave larger error for a fluctuant, seasonal one [12], noise, or instability [13]. Artificial intelligence models, subsuming BP neural network (BP-NET) [14, 15], support vector machines (SVM) [16], fuzzy logic models [17], and least square support vector machine (LSSVM) [18], have exhibited significant advantages in dealing with nonlinear problems. These artificial intelligence models offered higher forecasting accuracy than physical or statistical models, but their prediction was mostly relying on training datasets, and they are easy to get stuck or suffer from overfitting in the local optima [19, 20].

Because of the inherent disadvantages of each model, nowadays, the effective information of multiple models has been used to predict time series, and weight problem of combination model is becoming the research focus. Weights could be allocated to the various forecasts produced by individual models, so as to achieve a combined forecast [21, 22]. For example, Clark et al. [23] derived mean square error-minimizing weights for combining the restricted and unrestricted forecasts and assigned more weights on the

restricted model and less weights on the unrestricted model. However, Clark's method supported the conventional wisdom that simple averages were hard to beat and applied only to averaging to nested models. Hao et al. [24] introduced entropy weight method into the combination prediction model. Xie et al. [25] combined linear regression prediction model and grey model to get a various weight combination model. The two methods have better forecasting accuracy in only Dam's settlement or landslip, but weights were assigned to all participating single models, and forecast accuracy in other time series cases was unwarrantable or unknown. Gao et al. [26] established five kinds of combination forecasting models, including suboptimal weight, optimal weight, grey comprehensive correlation degree weight, entropy weight, and neural network. In Gao's study, the weighted constraint criterion was given particular attention; nevertheless, negative weight of single item prediction model might occur in the combination model. Song and Fu [27] have also found out that some models failed to combine the advantages of single models, such as the combination of the autoregressive integrated moving average model and neural network model, or the combination of neural network and other forecasting models.

In my opinion, the main problem of the above combination methods is that the statistical distribution information of the forecasting errors with the historical time is not paid more attention or is ignored, leading to unreasonable weight distribution and even negative weights. Therefore, existing combined forecast models were still lacking the predicted reliability, particularly under a condition of noise. In the study, weighting coefficient for each model was adaptively determined based on their own statistical forecasting performance for historical data. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 contains the methodology of combination forecasting method. Section 3 contains the steps of computation. Section 4 contains the results and discussion of short-term prediction cases. Section 5 contains the conclusions.

2. Methodology

2.1. The Forecasting Methods

2.1.1. Individual Methods

(1) Period-Sequential Index Method

The Period-Sequential Index (PSI) method [6] had been studied by the author in the previous work. The PSI model introduced the period index (PI) and sequential index (SI) to describe the dataset structure information in vertical and horizontal dimensions, respectively. Figure 1 shows the schematic diagram of the PSI algorithm. H_{-2} , H_{-1} denote reference historical periods, i.e., the year before last year and last year. H_0 represents the forecasting period. The period for H_{-2} , H_{-1} and H_0 is uniform, defined as T . When time t_i is upcoming, the forecasting value at time of t_i based on PSI method is mainly dependent

on the PI and the SI. The PSI method is described as follows:

$$Y_1(t_i) = \alpha PI(t_i) \cdot K_0 + (1 - \alpha) SI(t_{i-1}) \cdot y(t_{i-1}), \quad (1)$$

where t_i (independent variable) is a forecasting time, $Y_1(t_i)$ (dependent variable) is a forecasting value at time of t_i , K_0 is the reference coefficient for period index, $y(t_{i-1})$ is the observed value at historical time of t_{i-1} , α is the optimized weighing factor of PSI method, $PI(t_i)$ is the forecasting period index (dependent variable) at time of t_i and $SI(t_{i-1})$ is the forecasting sequential index (dependent variable) at time of t_{i-1} .

$$\begin{aligned} PI(t_i) &= 0.5 \cdot \frac{y(t_i - 2T)}{K_{-2}} + 0.5 \cdot \frac{y(t_i - T)}{K_{-1}}, \\ SI(t_{i-1}) &= 0.5 \cdot \frac{y(t_i - 2T)}{y(t_{i-1} - 2T)} + 0.5 \cdot \frac{y(t_i - T)}{y(t_{i-1} - T)}, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where $y(t_i - 2T)$ and $y(t_i - T)$ describe the reference historical data at time of $t_i - 2T$ and $t_i - T$, respectively. K_{-2} and K_{-1} are reference functions of period index. A standard period average is originally set to be a reference function of period index, where it is defined as a constant. The more detailed derivation can be found in Ref. [6].

(2) Exponential Smoothing Method

The Exponential Smoothing (ES) method [9] is often used in practice to forecast time series. Suppose that the observed values for time series are $y(t_1), y(t_2), \dots, y(t_{i-1})$ at time of t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{i-1} , respectively. For ES method, the forecast value at time of t_i is dependent on the observed value at time of t_{i-1} and the forecasting value at time of t_{i-1} . The ES method is defined as

$$Y_2(t_i) = \beta y(t_{i-1}) + (1 - \beta) Y_2(t_{i-1}), \quad (3)$$

where $Y_2(t_i)$ and $Y_2(t_{i-1})$ represent the forecasting values at time of t_i and t_{i-1} by using ES method, $y(t_{i-1})$ is the observed value at historical time of t_{i-1} , and β is the smoothing parameter, which can be adjusted between 0 and 1. Higher β will produce a forecast, which is more responsive to recent changes in the data, whilst also being less robust to any errors that could occur.

(3) Moving Average Method

The moving average (MA) method [7] is simple and widely used, and it performs well in forecasting competitions against more sophisticated approaches. A simple Moving Average is a common average of the previous n data points in time series data, and each point in the time series data is equally weighted. The MA method can be described as follows:

$$Y_3(t_i) = \frac{y(t_{i-1}) + y(t_{i-2}) + \dots + y(t_{i-n})}{n}, \quad (4)$$

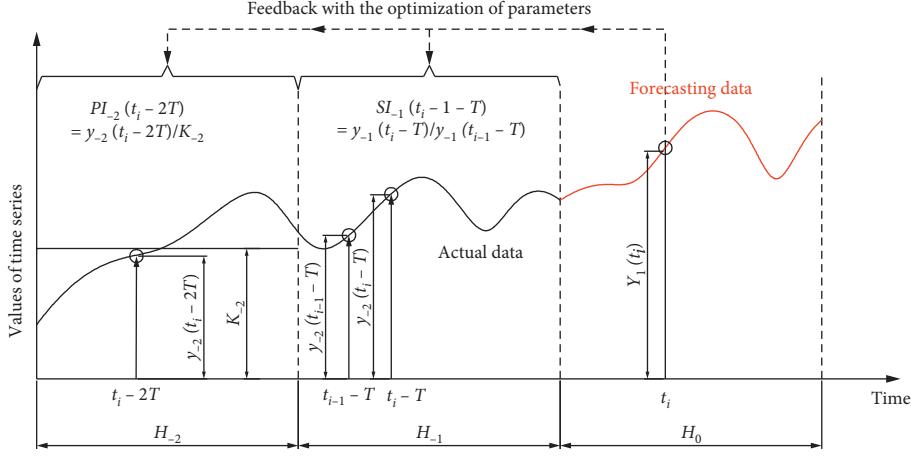


FIGURE 1: The schematic diagram of the PSI algorithm.

where $Y_3(t_i)$ represents the forecasting values at time of t_i by using MA method, n is the number of data points used in the calculation, and $y(t_{i-n})$ is the observed data point value at time of t_{i-n} .

(4) Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average Method

Autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) [8] is one of the most popular statistical linear models for forecasting time series data. It is a combination of autoregression AR(p) (an additive linear function of p past observations), moving average MA(q) (q random errors), and d which is an integer making a series to be stationary. The general form of the forecast equation for ARIMA (p, q, d) model can be written as follows:

$$Y_4(t_i) = c + \sum_{j=1}^p \varphi_j y(t_{i-j}) + \sum_{k=1}^q \theta_k \varepsilon(t_{i-k}) + \varepsilon(t_i), \quad (5)$$

where $Y_4(t_i)$ is a forecasting value at time of t_i by using ARIMA method, c is the constant representing the intercept, φ_j and $y(t_{i-j})$ are the parameters and regressors for AR part of the model, respectively, θ_k and $\varepsilon(t_{i-k})$ are the parameters and regressors of the MA part of the model, respectively, and $\varepsilon(t_i)$ is the white noise at time t_i .

(5) BP Neural Network Method

BP neural network (BP-NET) method [14, 15] can realize self-learning and memory functions of machine. Figure 2 gives the simple structure of BP-NET. It can be

seen that BP-NET is composed of input layer, output layer, and hidden layer. Using this three-layer structure, BP can simulate any complex nonlinear relationship through nonlinear elements. The basic calculation principle is divided into three steps: forward calculation (calculate the output of each node in turn based on the input); error backpropagation (calculate the gradient of each node according to the loss function); weight update. Because this method has excellent data processing and relationship building capabilities, it has been widely used in forecasting.

(6) Grey Forecasting Method

Grey forecasting method (GM) [11] indicates one variable and one-order grey forecasting model. This grey differential equation is formed by an original time series $y(t_i)$ using accumulated generating operation (AGO) technique. It is denoted as follows:

$$Y_6(t_i) = \left[y(t_1) - \left(\frac{b}{a} \right) \right] e^{-a(i-1)} (1 - e^a), \quad (6)$$

where $Y_6(t_i)$ is a forecasting value at time of t_i by using GM method, a is a developing coefficient, and b is a control variable. a and b are denoted as

$$[a \ b]^T = (B^T B)^{-1} B^T C, \quad (7)$$

where

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^2 y(t_k) + y(t_1) \right) & -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^3 y(t_k) + \sum_{k=1}^2 y(t_k) \right) & \cdots & -\frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{i-1} y(t_k) + \sum_{k=1}^{i-2} y(t_k) \right) \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{bmatrix}^T, \quad (8)$$

$$C = [y(t_2) \ y(t_3) \ \cdots \ y(t_{i-1})]^T.$$

2.1.2. Combination Forecasting Methods. Because it is too risky to rely on the forecasts produced by an individual method, the combination forecasting method was widely used in the study. There is one historical piece of data $y(t_1), y(t_2), \dots, y(t_m)$ occurring at the corresponding time t_1, t_2, \dots, t_m . For the same forecasting problem at time of t_i , n kinds of single forecasting model can give forecasts: $Y_1(t_i), Y_2(t_i), \dots, Y_n(t_i)$. The forecasting value of the j -th model ($j=1, 2, \dots, n$) and the corresponding weight coefficient are $Y_j(t_i)$ and w_j respectively, at time t_i . The linear combination is generally calculated according to [28]

$$\begin{aligned} F(t_i) &= \sum_{j=1}^n w_j Y_j(t_i) \text{ and} \\ \sum_{j=1}^n w_j &= 1. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Considering the actual situation and the calculation complexity, three common weight methods [27], including inverse variance (IV) method, mean square error inverse (MSEI) method, and simple weighted average (SWA) method, were used to compute weight coefficients in the study. The methods are based on the sum of squared errors.

The weight coefficients of the IV method were computed in equation (10). In a case of the larger sum of squared errors in a single method, this method is assigned a smaller weight. On the contrary, a larger weight is assigned to the smaller squared errors in a single model.

$$w_j = \frac{e_j^{-1}}{\sum_{j=1}^n e_j^{-1}}, \quad (10)$$

where n indicates the number of single models, and e_j is the j -th single model.

$$e_j = \sum_{k=1}^{i-1} (y(t_k) - Y_j(t_k))^2 \text{ and } j = 1, 2, \dots, n. \quad (11)$$

Similarly, the weight coefficients of the MSEI method were computed as follows:

$$w_j = \frac{e_j^{-0.5}}{\sum_{j=1}^n e_j^{-0.5}}. \quad (12)$$

For the SWA method, the sum of squared errors of each model was ranked by a descending ranking order. Then, a new array of j_r ($=1, 2, \dots, n$) could be defined and represent a ranking order of single model. This meant that one individual model with a higher value of j_r would have a lower forecasting error. The weight coefficients of the SWA method were further given in equation (13). It is seen that the weight coefficient is larger in a condition of higher j_r in order to minimize the sum of squared errors.

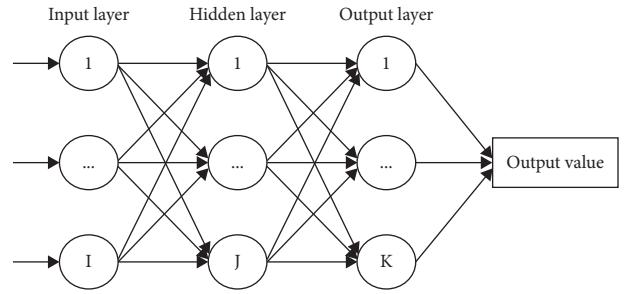


FIGURE 2: The simple structure of BP-NET.

$$w_j = \frac{j_r}{\sum_{j_r=1}^n j_r} = \frac{2j_r}{n(n+1)}. \quad (13)$$

2.2. The Adaptive Control Combination Forecasting Method. In the following work, one total tested data set occurred at time $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{N-1}, t_N$, and is defined as

$$y(t_1), y(t_2), \dots, y(t_{i-1}), y(t_i), (t_{i+1}), \dots, y(t_{N-1}), y(t_N).$$

This total tested data set is a time series based on an equal interval of time (dt) and a fixed time period (T). For example, while dt is month, day, hour, minute, or second, the corresponding T of the tested data are year, month, day, and minute, respectively. Now, the time t_i ($3T < t_i \leq t_N$) is assumed to be upcoming, so the tested data set during three time periods ($3T$) before t_i and $y(t_i)$ is extracted from the total tested data set. It is defined that the extracted tested data set contains $s + 1$ ($s = 3T/dt$) data in number and is given in detail as follows: $y(t_{i-s}), y(t_{i-s-1}), y(t_{i-s-2}), \dots, y(t_{i-2}), y(t_{i-1})$, and $y(t_i)$. Using this extracted tested data set, each individual method can give forecasts at time of t_i based on that mentioned in Section 2.1.1 and get the modeling data set: $Y_1(t_i), Y_2(t_i), \dots, Y_{n-1}(t_i), Y_n(t_i)$.

Similarly, as the forecasting time t_i moves back to $t_i, t_{i-1}, t_{i-2}, \dots, t_{i-s-2}, t_{i-s-1}$, and t_{i-s} in sequence, the all extracted tested datasets can be generated, and they are listed in Table 1.

Using each individual method, corresponding forecasts at time of $t_i, t_{i-1}, t_{i-2}, \dots, t_{i-s-1}$, and t_{i-s} , are defined as the first modeling datasets, which are listed in Table 2.

In fact, the first modeling datasets are n forecasting datasets corresponding to every individual forecasting model, respectively. Then, the mean absolute percentage errors (MAPE) [29, 30] are computed to obtain the datasets $MAPE_1, MAPE_2, \dots$, and $MAPE_n$, given in equation (14). The mean values and the standard deviations for $MAPE_1, MAPE_2, \dots$, and $MAPE_n$ can be further given in equation (14). They are defined as the second modeling datasets, which are listed in Table 3.

$$\left\{
\begin{array}{l}
\text{MAPE}_1(t_j) = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{k=j-s}^{j-1} \left| \frac{y(t_k) - Y_1(t_k)}{y(t_k)} \right| \times 100\% \text{ for } j = 2s+1, 2s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\text{MAPE}_2(t_j) = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{k=j-s}^{j-1} \left| \frac{y(t_k) - Y_2(t_k)}{y(t_k)} \right| \times 100\% \text{ for } j = 2s+1, 2s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\cdots \\
\\
\text{MAPE}_n(t_j) = \frac{1}{s} \sum_{k=j-s}^{j-1} \left| \frac{y(t_k) - Y_n(t_k)}{y(t_k)} \right| \times 100\% \text{ for } j = 2s+1, 2s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\overline{\text{MAPE}}_1(t_j) = \frac{1}{s} \cdot \sum_{k=j-s}^{j-1} \text{MAPE}_1(t_k) \text{ for } j = 3s+1, 3s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\overline{\text{MAPE}}_2(t_j) = \frac{1}{s} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \text{MAPE}_2(t_k) \text{ for } j = 3s+1, 3s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\cdots \\
\\
\overline{\text{MAPE}}_n(t_j) = \frac{1}{s} \cdot \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \text{MAPE}_n(t_k) \text{ for } j = 3s+1, 3s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\sigma_1(t_j) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{s} \cdot \sum_{k=j-s}^{j-1} (\text{MAPE}_1(t_k) - \overline{\text{MAPE}}_1(t_j))^2} \text{ for } j = 3s+1, 3s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\sigma_2(t_j) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{s} \cdot \sum_{k=j-s}^{j-1} (\text{MAPE}_2(t_k) - \overline{\text{MAPE}}_2(t_j))^2} \text{ for } j = 3s+1, 3s+2, \dots, N, \\
\\
\cdots \\
\\
\sigma_n(t_j) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{s} \cdot \sum_{k=j-s}^{j-1} (\text{MAPE}_n(t_k) - \overline{\text{MAPE}}_n(t_j))^2} \text{ for } j = 3s+1, 3s+2, \dots, N.
\end{array}
\right. \tag{14}$$

Based on the previous preparation work of equation (14), our present work is to produce a forecast $F(t_i)$ for the upcoming time t_i ($3s < i \leq N$). Consequently, an adaptive

control combination forecasting (ACCF) method is given in equation (14).

$$F(t_i) = w_1(t_i) \cdot Y_1(t_i) + w_2(t_i) \cdot Y_2(t_i) + \dots + w_{n-1}(t_i) \cdot Y_{n-1}(t_i) + w_n(t_i) \cdot Y_n(t_i), \tag{15}$$

where w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{n-1} , and w_n are the weighting coefficients, which are dependent variables with the change of the upcoming time t_i . Based on the performance-based

approach [31], an adaptive weight for each model is determined based on their own forecasting performance and can be defined as follows:

TABLE 1: The all extracted tested datasets.

Number	Extracted tested datasets
1	$y(t_{i-s}), y(t_{i-s-1}), y(t_{i-s-2}), \dots, y(t_{i-2}), y(t_{i-1}),$ and $y(t_i)$.
2	$y(t_{i-s-1}), y(t_{i-s}), y(t_{i-s+1}), \dots, y(t_{i-3}), y(t_{i-2}),$ and $y(t_{i-1})$.
3	$y(t_{i-s-2}), y(t_{i-s-1}), y(t_{i-s}), \dots, y(t_{i-4}), y(t_{i-3}),$ and $y(t_{i-2})$.
.....
$s+1$	$y(t_{i-2s}), y(t_{i-2s+1}), y(t_{i-2s+2}), \dots, y(t_{i-s-2}), y(t_{i-s-1}),$ and $y(t_{i-s})$.

TABLE 2: The first modeling datasets.

Number	n forecasting datasets
1	$Y_1(t_i), Y_1(t_{i-1}), Y_1(t_{i-2}), \dots, Y_1(t_{i-s-1}), Y_1(t_{i-s})$.
2	$Y_2(t_i), Y_2(t_{i-1}), Y_2(t_{i-2}), \dots, Y_2(t_{i-s-1}), Y_2(t_{i-s})$.
.....
N	$Y_n(t_i), Y_n(t_{i-1}), Y_n(t_{i-2}), \dots, Y_n(t_{i-s-1}), Y_n(t_{i-s})$.

TABLE 3: The second modeling datasets.

Number	Error datasets
1	$\overline{\text{MAPE}}_1, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_2, \dots, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_{n-1}, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_n$.
2	$\overline{\text{MAPE}}_1, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_2, \dots, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_{n-1}, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_n$.
3	$\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \dots, \sigma_{n-1}, \sigma_n$

$$w_j(t_i) = \frac{k_j(\overline{\text{MAPE}}_j(t_i))^{-1}}{\sum_{i=1}^n k_j(\overline{\text{MAPE}}_i(t_i))^{-1}} \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n, \quad (16)$$

where k_j is either 0 or 1, and it is computed as follows:

$$k_j = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \overline{\text{MAPE}}_j - 3\sigma_j > \overline{\text{MAPE}}_m + 3\sigma_m, \\ 1 & \text{if } \overline{\text{MAPE}}_j - 3\sigma_j \leq \overline{\text{MAPE}}_m + 3\sigma_m, \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

$$\overline{\text{MAPE}}_m = \min\{\overline{\text{MAPE}}_1, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_2, \dots, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_n\}.$$

In the equations (16) and (17), there are the third modeling datasets, shown in Table 4.

Clearly, using this ACCF approach, models producing smaller values of $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_j (j=1, 2, \dots, n)$ will be assigned larger weights in comparison to models with higher ones. The smallest mean value and the corresponding standard

TABLE 4: The third modeling datasets.

Number	Datasets for solving weights
1	$w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{n-1}, w_n$.
2	$k_1, k_2, \dots, k_{n-1}, k_n$.
3	$\overline{\text{MAPE}}_1 - 3\sigma_1, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_2 - 3\sigma_2, \dots, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_{n-1} - 3\sigma_{n-1}, \overline{\text{MAPE}}_n - 3\sigma_n$.

deviation are defined as $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_m$ and σ_m , respectively. Thus, the smallest MAPE range is defined between $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_m - 3\sigma_m$ and $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_m + 3\sigma_m$. When statistical arrays range from $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_j - 3\sigma_j$ to $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_j + 3\sigma_j$ produced by models that overlap partially or fully with the smallest MAPE range (from $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_m - 3\sigma_m$ to $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_m + 3\sigma_m$), where k_j is 1; otherwise, k_j is 0.

In the ACCF model, the modeling datasets, including $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_j$, σ_j , w_j and k_j ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$) must be corrected on every upcoming time t_i according to the solution of equations (14), (16), and (17). Finally, key parameters w_j are finally taken into equation (15) to make a prediction on time t_i . Because w_{jj} in equation (16) must be updated and revised on every upcoming time t_i so as to ensure prediction accuracy with high robustness, the new developed model is propitious to short-term prediction. In the condition of long-term prediction, however, this new model cannot update the value of the weights in time and may be result in a large percentage forecast error.

2.3. Evaluation Index. The MAPE during time period (T) is further measured to evaluate the obtained results. Because there are $s/3$ data in number every time period, the error MAPE_k ($k = 1, 2, \dots, (N-3s)/(s/3)$) during the k th time period can be calculated by equation (17). For total tested data set, the number of predicting time periods is equal to $(N-3s)/(s/3)$, and calculation equations of total error indicators MAPE_{all} are given in the below formula (18). To verify the superiority of the ACCF approach, statistical count lower than MAPE_{all} (defined Count) and percentage of Count in the sum (defined Per) are also calculated by equation (18) for this new array MAPE_k .

$$\begin{aligned} \text{MAPE}_k &= \frac{1}{(s/3)} \cdot \sum_{i=3s+(k-1)s/3+1}^{3s+k(s/3)} \left| \frac{y(t_i) - F(t_i)}{y(t_i)} \right| \cdot 100\%, \\ \text{MAPE}_{\text{all}} &= \frac{1}{(N-3s)/(s/3)} \cdot \sum_{k=1}^{(N-3s)/(s/3)} \text{MAPE}_k, \\ \text{Count} &= \text{count}\{\text{MAPE}_k < \text{MAPE}_{\text{all}}\}, \\ \text{Per} &= \frac{\text{Count}}{(N-3s)/(s/3)} \cdot 100\%, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where $y(t_i)$ is the measured value at time of t_i ; $F(t_i)$ is the predicting value at time of t_i .

After obtaining the predicting error of MAPE_{all} , the forecasting accuracy (FA_{all}) can be calculated by using equation (19). Thus, the forecasting accuracy of the model will be better when the FA is approaching 100%.

$$FA_{\text{all}} = 100\% - \text{MAPE}_{\text{all}}. \quad (19)$$

3. Steps of Computation

In the study, six individual forecasting methods, including PSI, ES, MA, ARIMA, GM, and BP-NET, are used to construct ACCF method described in Section 2.2. The flow chart of the proposed ACCF model for short-term prediction is summarized in Figure 3. It gives a rolling forecast process, and the detailed steps are as follows:

Step 1: The total tested data set ($y(t_1), y(t_2), \dots, y(t_{i-1})$) is initialized at time of t_{i-1} .

Step 2: The all tested datasets in Table 1 are extracted from total tested data set.

Step 3: By solving equations (1) and (3)–(6), ..., the first modeling datasets in Table 2 are predicted by using each individual model, such as PSI method, ES method, ARIMA method, MA method, GM method, and BP-NET method.

Step 4: Equation (14) is solved, and the second modeling datasets in Table 3 are got;

Step 5: Equations (16) and (17) are solved, and the third modeling datasets in Table 4 are further obtained;

Step 6: Using $Y_1(t_i), Y_2(t_i), \dots, Y_6(t_i)$ (in Table 2) and w_1, w_2, \dots, w_6 (in Table 4), equation (15) is calculated to give a new combination forecast $F(t_i)$ at time step of t_i .

Step 7: If the time steps of the stop condition ($t_i \geq t_N$) are satisfied, the search stops, as well as output parameters of MAPE_{all} , Count, Per, and FA_{all} by solving equations (18) and (19); Otherwise, the time step is added, new generated data $y(t_i)$ is added into the total tested data set, and then the procedure returns to step 2.

4. Results and Discussion

Table 5 shows three groups of tested time series datasets. As shown in Table 5, the first dataset (named USP), with total samples of 492, is US population between January 1979 and December 2019, which is from the US Census Bureau hosted by the Federal Reserve Economic Database (FRED) [32]. FRED has a data platform found US population data and updated population information of every month. The second dataset (named AEP), with total samples of 3432, is the American hourly electric power consumption data between March 13, 0:00, and August 2, 23:00, in 2018, which comes from PJM's website and is in megawatts (MW) [33]. PJM is a regional transmission organization (RTO) in the United States, and part of the Eastern Interconnection grid operating an electric

transmission system. The third dataset (named VS) was experimentally obtained with a hydraulic test rig. This test rig consists of a primary working, a test system, and a secondary cooling-filtration circuit, which are connected via the oil tank [34, 35]. The system cyclically repeats constant load cycles (duration 60 seconds). The test system is equipped with several sensors measuring process values such as vibration, with standard industrial 20 mA current loop interfaces connected to a data acquisition system. In the study, these vibration signals in hydraulic test rig with a sampling frequency of 1 Hz during 8580 seconds [34] were measured and used as the third dataset.

By using the developed ACCF method, a comparison analysis between the real value and the forecasting value was implemented and showed a direct observation of the prediction, so as to evaluate the confidence of the ACCF method.

4.1. Periodic Recognition and Prediction on USP Dataset. The USP datasets were used as a tested dataset to show periodic detection and prediction results. In order to calculate second modeling datasets ($\overline{\text{MAPE}_1}, \overline{\text{MAPE}_2}, \overline{\text{MAPE}_3}, \overline{\text{MAPE}_4}, \overline{\text{MAPE}_5}, \overline{\text{MAPE}_6}$ produced by six individual models, respectively) in equation (14), monthly population data of USP during contiguous 36 months are in turn trained to forecast the population data during next month. Figure 4 shows evolution of the mean values of MAPE with year when predicting by using the PSI, ES, ARIMA, MA, BP-NET, and GM methods. It can be seen that the ARIMA method gives a much better prediction accuracy.

Based on the ACCF method, the weighting coefficients can be given by solving equations (16) and (17): $w_1 = 0$ for PSI, $w_2 = 0$ for ES, $w_3 = 1$ for ARIMA, $w_4 = 0$ for MA, $w_5 = 0$ for BP-NET and $w_6 = 0$ for GM. It also shows that the ACCF method can adaptively seek the prediction methods with much higher accuracy and abandon other prediction methods with poor accuracy. Then, the USP dataset from January 1988 to December 2019 is circularly predicted by solving equation (15), as shown in Figure 5. It demonstrates a good prediction trend with good volatility and following quality by using the ACCF method.

4.2. Periodic Recognition and Prediction on AEP Dataset. The AEP datasets were used as a tested data set to show periodic detection and prediction results. Figure 6 shows evolution of the mean values of MAPE with time when predicting by using the PSI, ES, ARIMA, MA, BP-NET, and GM methods. By solving equations (16) and (17), the weighting coefficients of models at different forecasting times are shown in Table 6. It can be seen that the sum of six weight coefficients is always equal to 1; w_4, w_6 and most of w_2 are equal to zero; the values of w_5 are always less than those of w_1 and w_3 . Thus, because of the worst performance of MA method and GM method, their weights are not assigned. But PSI method and ARIMA method play more important role than other individual methods in the prediction of AEP dataset. Then, the AEP dataset from

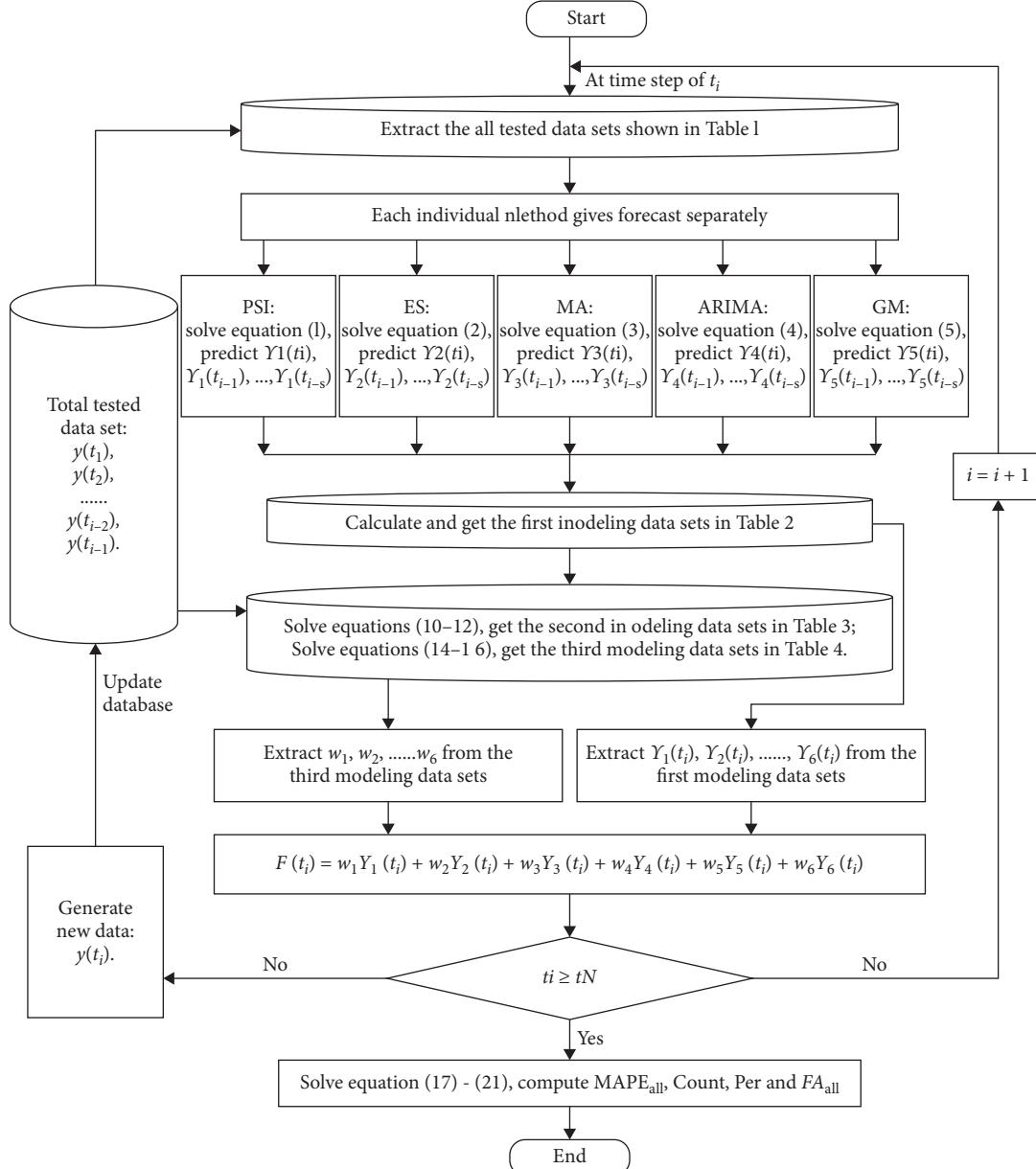


FIGURE 3: The flow chart of the ACCF method for short-term prediction.

TABLE 5: Time series datasets used in the experiments.

Dataset name	Time for historical data	Total samples/time interval/time period
U.S. population (USP) dataset [32]	January 1979–December 2019	492/month/year
American electric power (AEP) dataset [33]	March 13, 2018 0:00–August 2, 2018 23:00	3,432/hour/day
Vibration signal (VS) dataset [34] in a hydraulic test rig	0 minute 0 second–142 minutes 59 seconds	8,580/second/minute

March 22, 0:00, to August 2, 23:00, in 2018 performed a rolling prediction by solving equation (15), as shown in Figure 7. It demonstrates that the ACCF method shows a better prediction trend with good volatility and following quality.

4.3. Periodic Recognition and Prediction on VS Dataset. The VS datasets were used as a tested dataset to show periodic detection and prediction results. Figure 8 shows evolution of the mean values of MAPE with time when predicting by using the PSI, ES, ARIMA, MA, BP-NET, and

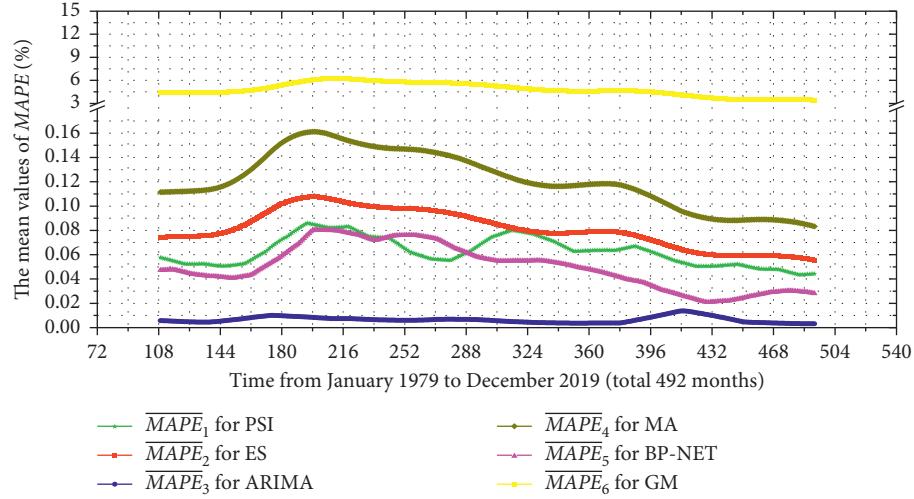


FIGURE 4: Evolution of the MAPE mean values with time on USP dataset.

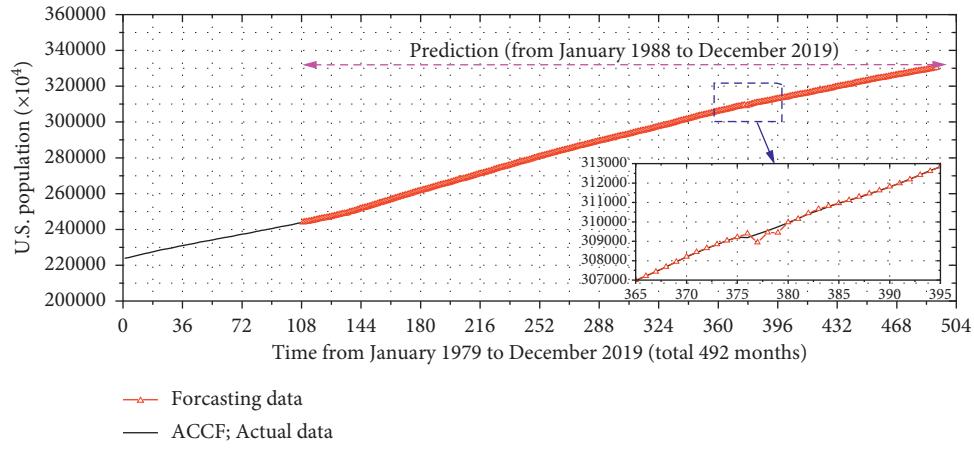


FIGURE 5: Time series pattern and prediction on USP dataset.

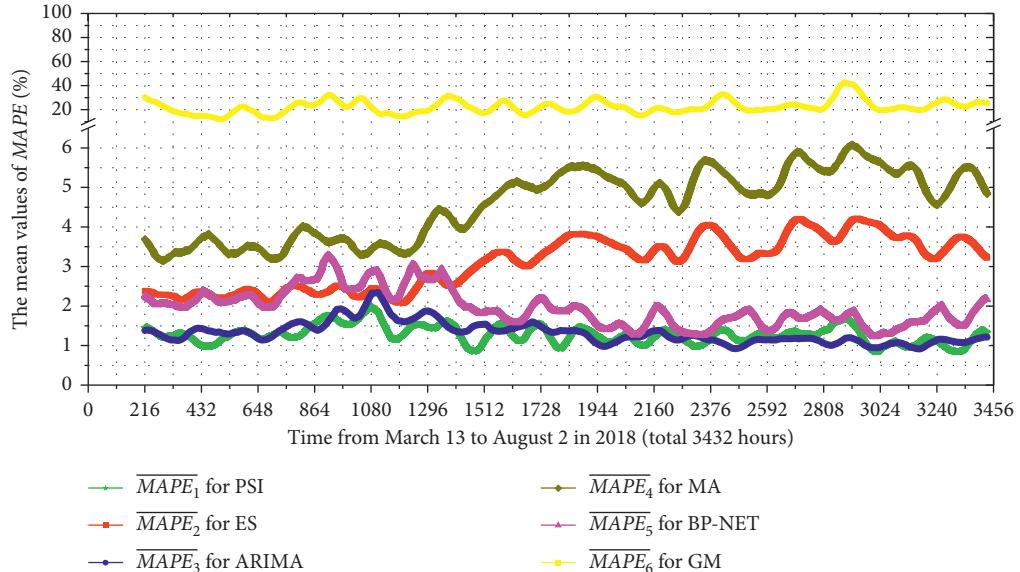
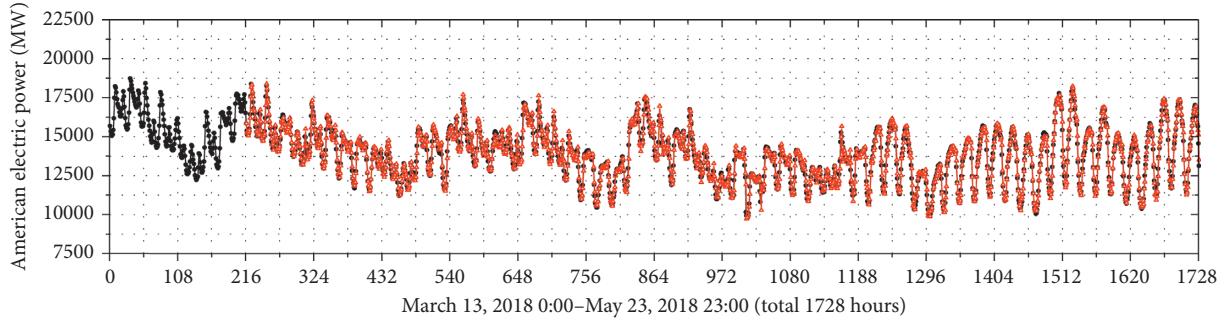


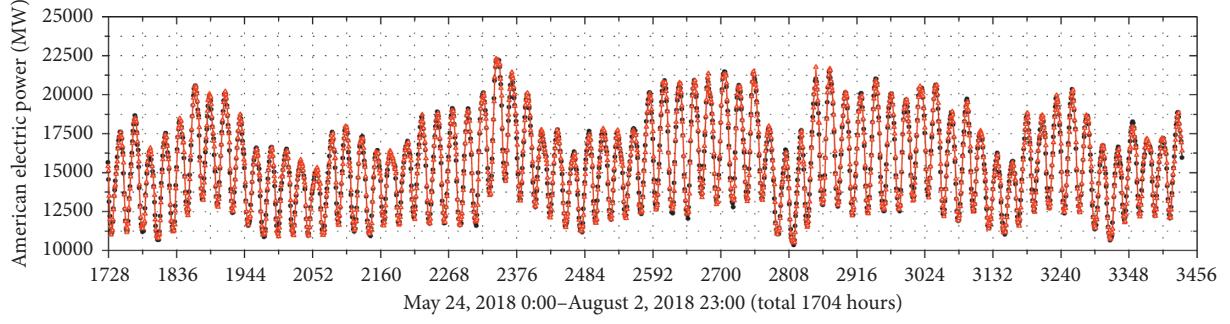
FIGURE 6: Evolution of the MAPE mean values with time on AEP dataset.

TABLE 6: The weighting coefficients of models at different forecasting time on AEP dataset.

Forecasting time/seconds	PSI weight w_1	ES weight w_2	ARIMA weight w_3	MA weight w_4	BP-NET weight w_5	GM weight w_6
217	0.4878	0.0000	0.5122	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
432	0.5859	0.0000	0.4141	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
648	0.3875	0.0000	0.3929	0.0000	0.2196	0.0000
864	0.4762	0.0000	0.5238	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1080	0.2967	0.2414	0.2566	0.0000	0.2052	0.0000
1296	0.4296	0.0000	0.3370	0.0000	0.2334	0.0000
1512	0.5832	0.0000	0.4168	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
1728	0.3642	0.0000	0.3795	0.0000	0.2563	0.0000
1944	0.3324	0.0000	0.3977	0.0000	0.2699	0.0000
2160	0.3998	0.0000	0.3525	0.0000	0.2477	0.0000
2376	0.3449	0.0000	0.3589	0.0000	0.2962	0.0000
2592	0.3369	0.0000	0.3623	0.0000	0.3008	0.0000
2808	0.4346	0.0000	0.5654	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
3024	0.3791	0.0000	0.3557	0.0000	0.2652	0.0000
3240	0.3900	0.0000	0.3844	0.0000	0.2257	0.0000
3432	0.4782	0.0000	0.5218	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 7: Time series pattern and prediction on AEP dataset. (a) Forecasts from the 216th hour to the 1728th hour. (b) Forecasts from the 1729th hour to the 3432th hour.

GM methods. Based on the ACCF method, the weighting coefficients by each base model can be computed by solving equations (16) and (17). Table 7 shows the weighting coefficients of models at different forecasting times. It can be seen that the sum of six weight coefficients is equal to 1,

which is similar to the result in Section 4.2, but only w_4 and w_6 are equal to zero. PSI method, ES method, ARIMA method, and BP-NET method all play important role in the prediction of VS dataset. Then, the VS dataset from the 541th second to the 8580th second is further predicted by using the

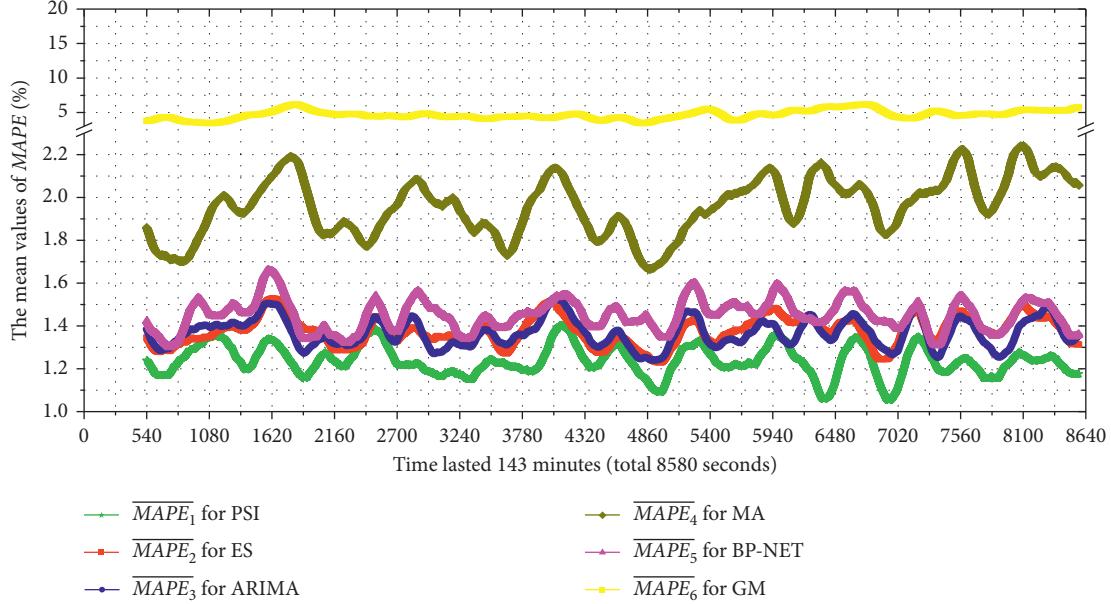


FIGURE 8: Evolution of the MAPE mean values with time on VS dataset.

TABLE 7: The weighting coefficients of models at different forecasting time on VS dataset.

Forecasting time/seconds	PSI weight w_1	ES weight w_2	ARIMA weight w_3	MA weight w_4	BP-NET weight w_5	GM weight w_6
541	0.2713	0.2498	0.2428	0.0000	0.2361	0.0000
1080	0.2575	0.2571	0.2482	0.0000	0.2372	0.0000
1620	0.5295	0.0000	0.4705	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
2160	0.2621	0.2517	0.2463	0.0000	0.2400	0.0000
2700	0.2682	0.2467	0.2465	0.0000	0.2386	0.0000
3240	0.2744	0.2431	0.2451	0.0000	0.2374	0.0000
3780	0.3634	0.3163	0.3203	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
4320	0.2710	0.2498	0.2454	0.0000	0.2338	0.0000
4860	0.3547	0.3216	0.3238	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
5400	0.2635	0.2520	0.2544	0.0000	0.2301	0.0000
5940	0.2683	0.2441	0.2565	0.0000	0.2310	0.0000
6480	0.3760	0.3081	0.3159	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
7020	0.3700	0.3112	0.3188	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
7560	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
8100	0.5281	0.0000	0.4719	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
8580	1.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

ACCF method, as shown in Figure 9. Thus, once again, the ACCF method demonstrates a better prediction trend with good volatility and following quality.

4.4. Accuracy Analysis of ACCF Method

4.4.1. Comparison with Other Forecasting Models. Based on each prediction model, $MAPE_k$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots, (N-3s)/(s/3)$), $MAPE_{all}$, Count, and Per are calculated by equation (18). Then, the statistical test of $MAPE_k$ is shown in Table 8 on USP dataset, in Table 9 on AEP dataset, and in Table 10 on VS dataset. Max value of $MAPE_k$, standard deviation of $MAPE_k$ can also be got and listed in Tables 8–10. It can be seen from Tables 8 and 9 that $MAPE_{all}$, max value of $MAPE_k$ and standard deviation of

$MAPE_k$ are smaller by ACCF method, as compared to those by other methods. Meanwhile, greater values of Count and Per can be got by ACCF method than other methods. Furthermore, in Table 10, max value and standard deviation of $MAPE_k$ by ACCF method are slightly greater than that of IV method and MSEI method, but ACCF method has the smaller value of $MAPE_{all}$ and the greater values of Count and Per over all methods. A possible reason is that statistical distribution law of historical forecasting errors was delved deeper by using ACCF method, and weighting coefficient for each model was modified more reasonably, leading to smaller $MAPE_{all}$ as well as greater statistical Count. Therefore, the ACCF method has the highest incidence of delivering the best predictions over all compared forecasting methods on USP dataset, AEP dataset, and VS dataset.

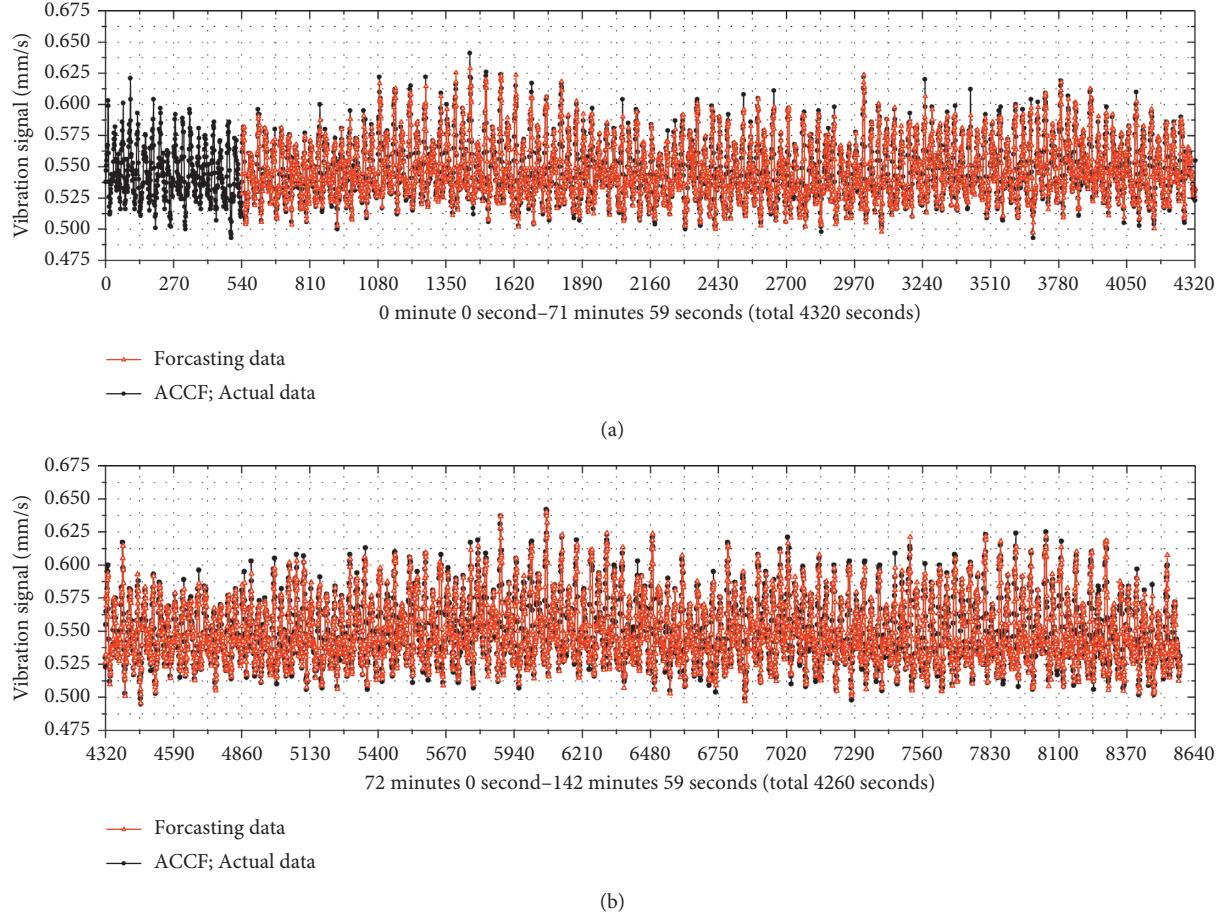


FIGURE 9: Time series pattern and prediction on VS dataset. (a) Forecasts from the 541th second to the 4320th second. (b) Forecasts from the 4321th second to the 8580th second.

TABLE 8: Statistical test of $MAPE_k$ ($k = 1, 2, \dots, 32$) on USP dataset.

Models	Max value of $MAPE_k$ (%)	Standard deviation of $MAPE_k$ (%)	$MAPE_{all}$ (%)	Count { $MAPE_k < 0.006$ }	Per (=Count/32) (%)
PSI	0.112	0.022	0.061	0	0
ES	0.112	0.019	0.079	0	0
ARIMA	0.033	0.006	0.006	21	66
MA	0.168	0.028	0.119	0	0
BP-NET	0.126	0.026	0.048	0	0
GM	6.437	1.013	4.688	0	0
IV	0.033	0.007	0.007	19	59
MSEI	0.054	0.011	0.021	0	0
SWA	1.003	0.158	0.726	0	0
ACCF	0.033	0.006	0.006	22	69

Table 11 presents a more visual view of prediction accuracy of each prediction model. It can be noticed that most of FA_{all} values for individual methods are all more than 95%, and the four combination forecasting methods have higher FA_{all} values of more than 97%. Obviously, the combination forecasting effect is most desirable and superior to the individual methods. It is interesting to know that the ACCF method is observed to be the best for the prediction of the USP AEP and VS datasets, due to higher forecasting

accuracy. When judging by the FA_{all} values of the four combination methods, ACCF method and IV method are superior to MSEI method and SWA method. In general, the developed ACCF algorithm is adaptive to adopt one (for USP) or some (for AEP and VS) among individual prediction methods, achieving satisfactory accuracy ($FA_{all} > 98.8\%$) in time series prediction, and it is suitable to the prediction of three datasets used in this study due to higher values of FA_{all} .

TABLE 9: Statistical test of MAPE_k ($k = 1, 2, \dots, 134$) on AEP dataset.

Models	Max value of MAPE_k (%)	Standard deviation of MAPE_k (%)	MAPE_{all} (%)	Count { $\text{MAPE}_k < 1.094$ }	Per (=Count/134) (%)
PSI	2.390	0.401	1.270	46	34
ES	4.519	0.697	3.127	0	0
ARIMA	3.018	0.358	1.314	35	26
MA	6.416	0.937	4.617	0	0
BP-NET	4.589	0.689	1.959	10	7
GM	66.269	10.719	22.116	0	0
IV	2.891	0.319	1.141	67	50
MSEI	3.130	0.392	1.406	24	18
SWA	9.842	1.464	2.892	0	0
ACCF	2.270	0.279	1.094	76	57

TABLE 10: Statistical test of MAPE_k ($k = 1, 2, \dots, 134$) on VS dataset.

Models	Max value of MAPE_k (%)	Standard deviation of MAPE_k (%)	MAPE_{all} (%)	Count { $\text{MAPE}_k < 1.189$ }	Per (=Count/134) (%)
PSI	1.669	0.140	1.237	50	37
ES	1.746	0.139	1.376	12	9
ARIMA	1.933	0.169	1.367	22	16
MA	2.574	0.209	1.964	0	0
BP-NET	1.913	0.169	1.454	7	5
GM	8.304	1.013	4.705	0	0
IV	1.593	0.136	1.220	56	42
MSEI	1.571	0.129	1.274	35	26
SWA	1.953	0.161	1.266	44	33
ACCF	1.618	0.138	1.189	68	51

TABLE 11: Accuracy indicators of each prediction model.

Models	Accuracy indicators on USP dataset		Accuracy indicators on AEP dataset		Accuracy indicators on VS dataset	
		FA_{all} (%)		FA_{all} (%)		FA_{all} (%)
PSI	99.939		98.730		98.763	
ES	99.921		96.873		98.624	
ARIMA	99.994		98.686		98.633	
MA	99.881		95.383		98.036	
BP-NET	99.952		98.041		98.546	
GM	95.312		77.884		95.295	
IV	99.993		98.859		98.780	
MSEI	99.979		98.594		98.726	
SWA	99.274		97.108		98.734	
ACCF	99.994		98.906		98.811	

4.4.2. Impact of Noise Ratio. In order to test robustness of the ACCF algorithm, the noisy data were further added to the AEP data set and the VS data set. The ratio of the standard deviation (STD) of added noise to the STD of original dataset is in a range from 0.00 to 0.50 in the study. The prediction accuracy of the ACCF method under noisy data was computed and compared with that of other forecasting methods, as shown in Tables 12 and 13.

As can be observed from Tables 12 and 13, when the proportion of noisy data increases, the FA_{all} value of each algorithm decreases in all cases. Considering the different natural periodicity of each time series dataset, comparison

methods can obtain different accuracy on different datasets. The FA_{all} values of forecasting methods are between 76.257% and 98.184% for the AEP dataset and are in a range of 94.856%–98.770% for the VS dataset. In addition, for AEP dataset or VS dataset with noise ratio of 0.00, the ACCF method is superior to other methods, and the IV method is in the second place. With the increasing noise ratios, however, the ACCF method almost keeps the highest FA_{all} value in two cases against other comparison algorithms (including not only individual methods, but also combination methods). For example, as the noise ratio changes from 0.0 to 0.5, the FA_{all} of IV method decreases from

TABLE 12: Prediction accuracy of comparison algorithms on AEP dataset.

Models	FA _{all} (%) under different STD									
	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50
PSI	98.073	97.252	96.324	95.348	94.381	93.466	92.587	91.716	90.824	89.881
ES	96.725	96.346	95.792	95.115	94.370	93.603	92.827	92.050	91.278	90.517
ARIMA	97.853	96.997	96.126	95.244	94.358	93.475	92.603	91.753	90.933	90.154
MA	95.304	95.047	94.632	94.080	93.409	92.642	91.816	90.967	90.135	89.357
BP-NET	96.986	95.825	94.608	93.386	92.209	91.118	90.106	89.156	88.252	87.377
GM	77.871	77.785	77.649	77.489	77.332	77.192	77.047	76.865	76.612	76.257
IV	98.120	97.344	96.542	95.724	94.900	94.080	93.266	92.461	91.666	90.882
MSEI	97.905	97.164	96.386	95.583	94.771	93.960	93.155	92.359	91.573	90.801
SWA	97.048	96.689	96.110	95.390	94.610	93.835	93.078	92.336	91.608	90.892
ACCF	98.184	97.399	96.576	95.741	94.918	94.127	93.354	92.581	91.788	90.955
Max values	98.184	97.399	96.576	95.741	94.918	94.127	93.354	92.581	91.788	90.955

TABLE 13: Prediction accuracy of comparison algorithms on VS dataset.

Models	FA _{all} (%) under different STD									
	0.05	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.50
PSI	98.725	98.637	98.510	98.354	98.180	97.996	97.805	97.609	97.409	97.205
ES	98.600	98.521	98.402	98.255	98.095	97.933	97.768	97.599	97.425	97.245
ARIMA	98.596	98.506	98.377	98.223	98.055	97.886	97.716	97.542	97.365	97.181
MA	98.022	97.963	97.867	97.746	97.609	97.464	97.312	97.151	96.977	96.789
BP-NET	98.503	98.418	98.301	98.161	98.005	97.841	97.671	97.495	97.316	97.132
GM	95.290	95.281	95.267	95.242	95.203	95.149	95.082	95.008	94.931	94.856
IV	98.742	98.663	98.552	98.416	98.266	98.108	97.945	97.779	97.611	97.443
MSEI	98.693	98.619	98.513	98.382	98.236	98.081	97.921	97.757	97.590	97.423
SWA	98.702	98.632	98.530	98.405	98.263	98.111	97.932	97.758	97.521	97.414
ACCF	98.770	98.686	98.570	98.431	98.276	98.115	97.949	97.782	97.616	97.452
Max values	98.770	98.686	98.570	98.431	98.276	98.115	97.949	97.782	97.616	97.452

98.120% to 90.882% for AEP dataset, and from 98.742% to 97.443% for VS dataset, while the FA_{all} of ACCF method decreases only from 98.184% to 90.955% for AEP dataset, and from 98.770% to 97.452% for VS dataset. This might be due to the high stochasticity of the tested data set under high noise ratio, and thus the comparison models could not capture the actual trend of historical forecasting errors. Especially for IV, MSEI, and SWA models, the statistical distribution information of the forecasting errors with the historical time is not considered, so they show lower robustness than developed ACCF model. On the contrary, because the statistical forecasting errors are used to correct weights in real time, the robustness of ACCF method is better than other comparison methods for noisy data.

Therefore, it is concluded that the proposed ACCF algorithm obtains higher prediction accuracy on time series datasets and is more robust to noisy data than other individual methods, as well as combination methods.

5. Conclusions

- (i) According to the individual forecasting methods, such as PSI, ES, ARIMA, MA, and BP-NET methods, an ACCF method with adaptive weighting coefficients is proposed for short-term prediction of the time-series data.

(ii) The combination forecasting methods are most desirable and superior to the individual methods. In contrast to other forecasting methods, the proposed ACCF method is adaptive to adopt one or some of prediction methods and shows satisfactory forecasting quality due to its flexible adaptability and high forecasting accuracy. The ACCF method is extremely suitable for short-term prediction of time series datasets.

(iii) The higher the noise ratio of the tested datasets, the lower the prediction accuracy of the ACCF method. But the proposed ACCF methods can still achieve significant advantages compared with other forecasting methods in terms of forecasting accuracy. The ACCF method demonstrates a better prediction trend with good volatility and following quality.

Abbreviations

<i>dt</i> :	Equal interval of time
<i>e_j</i> :	The sum of squared errors of <i>j</i> -th single model
<i>FA</i> :	Forecasting accuracy
<i>k_j</i> :	Either 0 or 1 (<i>j</i> = 1, 2, ..., <i>n</i>)
<i>K₀</i> :	Correction coefficient for period index
MAPE:	Mean absolute percentage error

MAPE_1 :	New historical arrays given in equation (14) by PSI method
MAPE_2 :	New historical arrays given in equation (14) by ES method
MAPE_3 :	New historical arrays given in equation (14) by ARIMA method
MAPE_4 :	New historical arrays given in equation (14) by MA method
MAPE_5 :	New historical arrays given in equation (14) by BP-NET method
MAPE_6 :	New historical arrays given in equation (14) by GM method
N :	Number of forecasting methods
$\text{PI}(t_i)$:	Period index at time of t_i
$\text{SI}(t_i)$:	Sequential index at time of t_i
t_i :	Time ($t_i = t_1, t_2, \dots, t_N$)
T :	Fixed time period
$y(t_i)$:	Observed value at time of t_i
$Y_1(t_i)$:	Forecasting value at time of t_i by PSI method
$Y_2(t_i)$:	Forecasting value at time of t_i by ES method
$Y_3(t_i)$:	Forecasting value at time of t_i by ARIMA method
$Y_4(t_i)$:	Forecasting value at time of t_i by MA method
$Y_5(t_i)$:	Forecasting value at time of t_i by BP-NET method
$Y_6(t_i)$:	Forecasting value at time of t_i by GM method
w_j :	Weighting coefficients by ACCF method ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$)
$\overline{\text{MAPE}}_j$:	Mean values for historical arrays MAPE_j ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$)
$\overline{\text{MAPE}}_m$:	The smallest values in $\overline{\text{MAPE}}_j$ ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$)
σ_j :	Standard deviations for historical arrays MAPE_j ($j = 1, 2, \dots, n$)
σ_m :	Standard deviations for historical arrays MAPE_m
$F(t_i)$:	Forecasting value at time of t_i by ACCF method
A :	Optimized weighing factor of PSI method
β :	Smoothing parameter.

Data Availability

The data presented in this study are available upon request from the corresponding author.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Authors' Contributions

Conceptualization was performed by H. J., D. F.; formal analysis was performed by H.J. , D. F.; investigation was performed by H. J., D. F.; original draft was written by H. J., X. Z.; reviewing and editing were performed by H. J., D. F.

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