Applied Sciences, Computing and Energy, 2(2), 191-219

Hybrid of Support Vector Regression, Genetic Algorithm, and Bat Optimization Algorithm Integrated with ANN for Short-Term Load Forecasting

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Received: 28 December 2024/Accepted: 27 March 2025/Published: 04 April 2025

Abstract: Accurate electricity load forecasting is crucial for effective energy management, grid stability, and optimal resource allocation. This study introduces a novel hybrid forecasting model, the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression (GA-BA-SVR), designed to enhance short-term and long-term electricity load prediction accuracy. The model's performance was rigorously evaluated using key statistical metrics, demonstrating superior predictive capability compared to standalone and other hybrid models. The GA-BA-SVR model achieved a Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) of 0.2777% for 24-hour ahead forecasts and 2.4902% for 168-hour ahead forecasts. It also attained a high R-squared value of 0.99999988 for long-term predictions, indicating an exceptional fit to actual load data. Pearson Correlation Coefficient values remained consistently above 0.9999, further validating the model's robustness. Despite its high accuracy, challenges such as increased Mean Absolute Error (MAE) reaching 55.1124 MW during weekday load fluctuations and variations in convergence times between 2.236 and 9.443 seconds were observed. Future improvements should focus on optimizing the model's real-time applicability and incorporating additional input variables, such as weather conditions and economic indicators, to further refine its predictive performance. These enhancements will improve the model's reliability and practical implementation in energy management systems.

Keywords: *Load forecasting, hybrid model, Support Vector Regression, Genetic Algorithm, Bat Algorithm, electricity demand, time series, optimization.*

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1.0 Introduction

The role of short-term load forecasting (STLF) in the operation and management of power systems is very significant (Liu *et al*., 2025). Based on the works of Gebre *et* al. (2024), Chen *et al*. (2020), accurate forecasting is essential for power generation scheduling, grid stability, operational cost reduction, and overall energy efficiency. Traditional forecasting techniques, including statistical methods such as Autoregressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA), Exponential Smoothing, and classical regression models, have been widely used in STLF ((Annamalai *et al*., 2023; Hyndman & Athanasopoulos, 2018; Schmid *et al*., 2025; Tjøstheim, 2025). However, these approaches often struggle to capture the nonlinear and complex patterns inherent in load demand, which are influenced by multiple factors such as weather conditions, economic activities, and consumer behaviour (Hasan *et al*., 2025a).

In recent years, machine learning techniques have emerged as powerful alternatives for addressing the limitations of traditional forecasting methods. Among these, Support Vector Regression (SVR) has gained popularity due to its ability to handle nonlinear relationships and generate robust predictions (Zhang *et al*., 2024). However, the performance of SVR is highly dependent on the appropriate selection of its parameters, necessitating optimization techniques such as Genetic Algorithms (GA) (Karimi *et al.*, 2024)). Also, GA, inspired by the principles of natural selection, has been widely employed for parameter tuning in machine learning models, including SVR, leading to enhanced forecasting accuracy (Uzunoglo *et* al., 2025).

Another promising optimization approach is the Bat Optimization Algorithm (BA), which mimics the echolocation behavior of bats to solve complex optimization problems (Araujo-Neto *et al.*, 2025). BA has demonstrated effectiveness in improving model performance through its balanced exploration and exploitation capabilities (Araujo-Neto *et al.*, 2025). Hybrid optimization approaches that combine multiple algorithms can leverage the strengths of each while mitigating their individual weaknesses. For instance, integrating SVR with GA and BA can enhance predictive accuracy by optimizing SVR parameters and fine-tuning the weights and biases in an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) (Gupta et al., 2021).

While various hybrid models have been proposed for STLF, most existing studies focus on combinations of two algorithms rather than three. Additionally, few studies have explored the simultaneous optimization of SVR parameters using GA while refining ANN weights and biases with BA. Furthermore, existing research predominantly evaluates models on standard datasets, with limited application to real-world power system data, particularly in the context of Nigeria (Adebayo et al., 2019). To address these gaps, this study introduces a novel hybrid model that integrates SVR, GA, BA, and ANN for STLF and evaluates its performance using real-world data from the National Control Centre of the Transmission Company of Nigeria.

The primary aim of this study is to develop and evaluate a hybrid machine learning model that integrates SVR, GA, BA, and ANN for improved short-term load forecasting accuracy. The specific objectives of the study are:

(i) To investigate the limitations of existing STLF methods and identify areas for improvement.
(ii) To develop a hybrid forecasting model that integrates SVR, GA, BA, and ANN.
(iii) To optimize SVR parameters using GA and fine-tune ANN weights and biases using BA.
(iv) To evaluate the proposed model's performance using real-world electricity load data.
(v) To compare the accuracy and computational efficiency of the hybrid model against traditional and existing hybrid forecasting models.
(vi) To provide insights into the applicability of hybrid optimization techniques in power system forecasting and energy management.

By addressing the identified gaps and leveraging advanced machine learning and optimization techniques, this study aims to contribute to the field of short-term load forecasting and improve decision-making processes in power system operations.

1.1 Theoretical Framework

Support vector regression (SVR) is an extension of the support vector machine (SVM) algorithm designed for regression problems (Zhang *et al.*, 2020). SVR effectively handles nonlinear data by utilizing kernel functions to transform the input space into a higher-dimensional feature space. The objective of SVR is to determine a function that approximates the data within a specified margin of tolerance (Hasan *et* al., 2025b). Due to its ability to model complex relationships and generate robust predictions even with limited data, SVR has been successfully applied to various forecasting tasks, including load forecasting (Jia *et al.*, 2025).

Genetic algorithms (GAs) are optimization techniques inspired by the principles of natural selection and genetics (Waysi *et al.*, 2024). They are particularly beneficial for solving complex optimization problems with large search spaces where traditional methods may be inefficient. GA has been extensively used for parameter tuning in predictive models, including SVR, due to its ability to explore a broad solution space and converge to optimal or near-optimal solutions (Mumtahina *et a;*., 2024).

A GA typically involves the following steps(Hassanat *et al*., 2019):

(i) Initializing a population of potential solutions.
(ii) Evaluating their fitness based on a predefined objective function.
(iii) Selecting the best-performing solutions for reproduction.
(iv) Applying crossover and mutation operators to generate new offspring.
(v) Iterating the process until a satisfactory solution is found or a maximum number of generations is reached

GAs are widely utilized for parameter tuning in predictive models, including SVR, due to their ability to explore a broad solution space and converge to optimal or near-optimal solutions (Hasan *et al*., 2025b). Inspired by Charles Darwin's theory of natural evolution, GAs are adaptive heuristic search algorithms used for solving both constrained and unconstrained optimization problems. They generate high-quality solutions to optimisation and search problems based on bio-inspired operators such as mutation, crossover, and selection.

The basic concept of GA was introduced by Holland (1975) at the University of Michigan. GA employs a guided random approach to explore the solution space, leveraging genetic rules of crossover and mutation. GA optimization is applicable in various control processes for parameter optimization through mutation and crossover operators (Meniz & Tiryaki, 2024). Proper selection of crossover and mutation values depends on the problem's demands and encoding methods (Katoch *et al*., 2021).

Three main types of rules are used in GAs to create the next generation from the current population:

- **Selection rules:** Identify parents that contribute to the next generation.
- **Crossover rules:** Combine two parents to form offspring.
- **Mutation rules:** Introduce random changes to individuals to ensure diversity.

Upon initialization, the population undergoes an evaluation process where specific individuals are selected for crossover to generate a new population with combined characteristics of the previous generation. Following crossover and mutation, the new population is re-evaluated until a satisfactory solution is achieved. The results of crossovers are the offspring, while mutation randomly alters some genes of the parents (Ktoch *et al*., 2021). GA, as an optimization technique, is effective in searching vast solution spaces to achieve optimal results.

GA search begins with a population of potential solutions (chromosomes) and evolves across generations, enhancing their fitness (Khamprapai *et al*., 2021). Individuals are selected based on their fitness function to create offspring. GA operations include selection, crossover, mutation, and elitism, where elite individuals are directly carried forward to the next generation (Guariso & Sangiorgio, 2020).

The steps used in this study for GA implementation are as follows (Roy *et al*:

(i) **Initial population:** Random generation of feasible solutions.
(ii) **Objective function:** Calculation of fitness values for generated solutions.
(iii) **Selection strategy:** The roulette wheel strategy is used for crossover, while random selection is employed for mutation.
(iv) **Crossover operator:** Selected parents undergo crossover to produce offspring.
(v) **Mutation operator:** Mutation introduces diversity by altering gene sequences.
(vi) **Stopping criterion:** The algorithm terminates after a specified number of
.

Compared to conventional optimization algorithms, GAs offer several advantages, including the ability to handle complex problems and parallelism. They effectively optimize diverse functions, whether linear or nonlinear, continuous or discontinuous (Bertsimas & Margaritis, 2025). GAs enable simultaneous exploration of multiple search directions, making them well-suited for parallel implementation.

However, GAs have some drawbacks. The formulation of the fitness function, choice of population size, mutation and crossover rates, and selection criteria must be carefully configured. Poor parameter selection may lead to slow convergence or suboptimal results (Al-Terkawi, & Migliavacca, 2025). Despite these limitations, GAs remain one of the most widely used optimization algorithms in modern nonlinear optimization.

Several studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of hybrid AI techniques integrating GA for STLF. For example, Adebunmi et al. (2021) explored the use of a hybrid AI approach, specifically incorporating Neuro-Fuzzy modelling and Genetic Algorithm (GA) for enhanced forecasting accuracy. Their study compared the performance of three models—Adaptive Neuro-Fuzzy Inference System (ANFIS), Artificial Neural Network (ANN), and Multilinear Regression (MLR)—within a MATLAB environment. The models were evaluated using Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) and Mean Absolute Error (MAE), with ANFIS demonstrating superior accuracy by achieving the lowest RMSE and MAE values of 2.2198% and 1.7932%, respectively. The findings suggest that integrating GA with AI-based models significantly enhances predictive performance in short-term load forecasting. The advantages of the adopted method were linked to the certainty that short-term load forecasting plays a vital role in electricity planning, system operation, and power utility management. However, traditional statistical methods, being inherently linear, often struggle to capture the complex nonlinear interactions between electrical load and meteorological parameters. As a result, these methods require significant computational effort for parameter estimation and frequently yield substantial forecasting errors.

Iqbal et al. (2024) reviewed the effectiveness of hybrid artificial intelligence (AI) techniques, particularly those integrating Genetic Algorithms (GA), in enhancing short-term load forecasting (STLF). Their study emphasized that conventional statistical models often struggle with capturing the nonlinear dependencies between electrical load and meteorological variables, leading to high computational complexity and significant forecasting errors. To overcome these limitations, the researchers proposed a hybrid deep learning framework that integrates Bi-directional Long Short-Term Memory (BiLSTM) and Bi-directional Gated Recurrent Unit (BiGRU) models with a fully connected layer. They highlighted that incorporating GA into this architecture optimizes parameter selection, thereby improving forecasting accuracy. The model underwent a structured four-step process involving data collection, preprocessing, standardization, and training using historical demand and generation data. Performance evaluation based on metrics such as Mean Square Error (MSE), Root Mean Square Error (RMSE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE), and Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) demonstrated the model's efficiency in predicting power demand and generation across different time intervals. Notably, their approach achieved an MSE of 0.0058 for load forecasting and 0.0033 for generation forecasting, outperforming state-of-the-art (SOTA) techniques in both accuracy and computational efficiency. The study concluded that hybrid AI models integrating GA significantly enhance smart grid reliability by providing precise and scalable forecasting solutions.

Ji et al. (2023) examined the effectiveness of hybrid artificial intelligence (AI) techniques in improving short-term load forecasting (STLF), particularly in the residential electricity sector. Their study emphasized that economic and social development has led to a significant increase in electricity demand, making accurate forecasting essential for optimizing residential energy consumption and mitigating climate change. To enhance forecasting accuracy, the researchers proposed a deep learning-based hybrid framework, DCNN-LSTM-AE-AM, which integrates Dilated Convolutional Neural Networks (DCNN), Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks, Autoencoders (AE), and an Attention Mechanism (AM). This architecture was designed to improve feature extraction and capture both long-term and sequential dependencies in load data. The study introduced a T-nearest neighbours (TNN) algorithm for preprocessing raw data before utilizing DCNN to extract long-term patterns. Subsequently, the LSTM-AE module learned hidden sequence features, which were further refined using the AM to enhance prediction accuracy. Experimental results from two real-world datasets demonstrated the proposed model's effectiveness in capturing fluctuations in low-load data, outperforming conventional forecasting methods. The study highlighted that hybrid AI models leveraging deep learning architectures, such as DCNN and LSTM, provide superior accuracy in short-term load prediction. The findings reinforce the potential of hybrid techniques in addressing the nonlinear and dynamic nature of electricity demand, thereby contributing to more reliable and efficient energy management strategies.

The Bat Optimization Algorithm (BA), introduced by Xin-She Yang in 2010, is another nature-inspired metaheuristic algorithm based on the echolocation behaviour of bats. BA utilizes frequency tuning, pulse emission rates, and loudness adjustments for effective optimization (Alam *et al.*, 2025). Wang et al. (2019) explored the Bat Algorithm (BA), a nature-inspired metaheuristic optimization technique developed by Xin-She Yang in 2010, which is modelled on the echolocation behaviour of bats. BA has been widely applied across various optimization problems due to its strong global search capabilities. The effectiveness of BA largely depends on key parameters such as loudness and frequency, which influence the algorithm's ability to explore and exploit the search space efficiently.

Despite its advantages, previous studies indicate that individual operators within BA contribute to performance enhancement only at specific stages of the optimization process. To address this limitation, Wang et al. proposed a novel variant known as the Bat Algorithm with Multiple Strategies Coupling (mixBA). This modified approach integrates diverse strategies to enhance overall optimization performance. The effectiveness of mixBA was assessed using the CEC2013 benchmark test suite, and further statistical evaluations, including the Wilcoxon and Friedman tests, were conducted to compare its performance against other optimization algorithms. The findings demonstrated that mixBA achieved superior results across a majority of benchmark functions, confirming its improved efficiency and robustness in solving complex optimization problems.

2.0 Materials and Methods

2.1 Hybrid Algorithm Design

2.1.1 Support Vector Regression (SVR)

Support Vector Regression (SVR) is an extension of the Support Vector Machine (SVM) algorithm, designed for regression problems (Rodríguez-Pérez & Bajorath, 2022). SVR is effective in handling nonlinear data by using kernel functions to transform the input space into a higher-dimensional feature space. The objective of SVR is to find a function that approximates the data within a specified margin of tolerance (ϵ)(Avinash *et al.*, 2023). SVR has been successfully applied to various forecasting tasks, including load forecasting, due to its ability to model complex relationships and provide robust predictions even with limited data [39].

The SVR model can be formulated as follows,

Given a training dataset $\{(x_i, y_i)\}_{i=1}^{n}$ where $x_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$ are input vectors and $y_i \in \mathbb{R}$ are the corresponding outputs, the goal of SVR is to find a function $f(x)$ that has at most ϵ deviation from the actual targets y_i for all the training data, and at the same time is as flat as possible. The function $f(x)$ is defined as:

$$f(x) = \langle w, \phi(x) \rangle + b \quad (1)$$

where $\phi(x)$ is a nonlinear function mapping the input space into a higher-dimensional feature space, w is the weight vector, and b is the bias term.

The optimisation problem is formulated as:

$$min_{w,b,\xi,\xi^*} \frac{1}{2} \|w\|^2 + C \sum_{i=1}^{n} (\xi_i + \xi_i^*) \quad (2)$$

subject to:

$$\begin{cases} y_i - \langle w, \phi(x_i) \rangle - b \le \epsilon + \xi_i \\ \langle w, \phi(x_i) \rangle + b - y_i \le \epsilon + \xi_i^* \\ \xi_i, \xi_i^* \ge 0, \qquad i = 1, \dots, n \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Where $C > 0$ is a regularisation parameter and ξ_i, ξ_i^* are slack variables that allow for some errors in the data.

2.1.2 Genetic Algorithm (GA)

Genetic Algorithms (GAs) are optimisation techniques inspired by the principles of natural selection and genetics [40]. GAs, are particularly useful for solving complex optimisation problems where the search space is large and traditional methods may be inefficient. The steps involved in a GA are as follows:

1. Initialisation: Generate an initial population of potential solutions, often represented as chromosomes.

2. Evaluation: Compute the fitness of each individual in the population using a predefined objective function.

3. Selection: Select individuals based on their fitness to act as parents for the next generation. Common selection methods include roulette wheel selection, tournament selection, and rank-based selection.

4. Crossover: Combine pairs of parents to produce offspring. Crossover methods include single-point crossover, multi-point crossover, and uniform crossover.

5. Mutation: Apply random modifications to some individuals to introduce variability. Mutation methods include bit-flip mutation, swap mutation, and scramble mutation.

6. Replacement: Form a new population by replacing some or all of the old population with the new offspring.

7. Termination: Repeat the process until a stopping criterion is met, such as a maximum number of generations or a satisfactory fitness level.

Mathematically, the GA process can be described as follows:

Given an objective function $f: \mathbb{R}^n \, to \, \mathbb{R}$, the goal is to find the optimal solution $x^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ that maximises or minimises$f(x)$. The population at generation t is denoted by $P(t) = x_1(t), x_2(t), \dots, x_m(t)$, where m is the population size and $x_i(t)$ represents an individual solution.

The fitness function evaluates the quality of each individual:

$$fitness\big(x_i(t)\big) = f\big(x_i(t)\big) \quad (4)$$

The selection process can be modelled by a probability distribution p_i over the population, where individuals with higher fitness have higher probabilities of being selected:

$$p_i = \frac{fitness(x_i(t))}{\sum_{j=1}^{m} fitness\}(x_j(t))} \quad (5)$$

Crossover and mutation operators are applied to generate new offspring. The crossover operator can be represented as:

$$x_{new} = crossover\Big(x_i(t), x_j(t) \Big) \quad (6)$$

The mutation operator introduces random changes:

$$x_{new} = mutation(x_{new}) \quad (7)$$

The new population $P(t+1)$is formed by selecting the best individuals from the current population and the offspring.

2.1.3 Bat Optimization Algorithm (BA)

The Bat Optimization Algorithm (BA) is a nature-inspired metaheuristic optimisation algorithm, developed by Xin-She Yang in 2010 [30]. BA is based on the echolocation behaviour of bats, which they use to navigate and locate prey. The key features of BA include frequency tuning, pulse emission rate, and loudness adjustments.

Yang (2010) used three generalized rules for bat algorithms:

(i) All bats use echoloc2.1.4ation to sense distance, and they also guess the difference between food/prey and background barriers in some magical way.

(ii) Bats fly randomly with velocity, v_i at position x_i with a fixed frequency f_{min}, varying wavelength λ and loudness A_0 to search for prey. They can automatically adjust the wavelength (or frequency) of their emitted pulses and adjust the rate of pulse emission $r \in [0, 1]$, depending on the proximity of their target.

(iii) Although the loudness can vary in many ways, we assume that the loudness varies from a large (positive) A_0 to a minimum constant value A_{min}.

Mathematically, the BA process can be described as follows:

1. Initialisation: Generate an initial population of bats, each with a position x_i, velocity v_i, frequency f_i, loudness A_i, and pulse emission rate r_i.

2. Frequency Tuning: Update the frequency for each bat:

$$f_i = f_{min} + (f_{max} - f_{min}).\beta \qquad (8)$$

Where $\beta \in [0, 1]$ is a random number.

3. Velocity and Position Update: Update the velocity and position of each bat:

$$v_i^{t+1} = v_i^t + (x_i^t - x_*).f_i \qquad (9)$$

$$x_i^{t+1} = x_i^t + v_i^{t+1} \qquad (10)$$

where x_* is the current global best solution.

4. Local Search: If a bat is selected based on the pulse emission rate, generate a local solution around the current best solution:

$$x_{new} = x_* + \epsilon.A_i^t \qquad (11)$$

where ϵ is a random number in $[-1, 1]$.

5. Loudness and Pulse Rate Update: Update the loudness and pulse emission rate:

$$A_i^{t+1} = \alpha.A_i^t \qquad (12)$$

$$r_i^{t+1} = r_i^0 .[1 - exp(-\gamma .t)] \qquad (13)$$

where α and γ are constants.

6. Selection: Accept the new solutions if they improve the objective function or if a random number is less than the loudness.

Algorithm 1 Original Bat Algorithm

1: Objective function $f(x), x = (x_1, \ldots .x_d)^T$
2: Initialize the bat population x_i and v_i for $i = 1, \ldots, n$
3: Define pulse frequency $Q_i \in [Q_{min}; Q_{max}]$
4: Initialize pulse rates r_i and the loudness A_i
5: while $(t < T_{max})$ // number of iterations
6: Generate new solutions by adjusting frequency, and
7: updating velocities and locations/solutions [Eq.(2) to (4)]
8: if $(rand(0; 1) > r_i)$
9: Select a solution among the best solutions
10: Generate a local solution around the best solution
11: end if
12: Generate a new solution by flying randomly
13: if $(rand(0; 1) < A_i \, and \, f(x_i) < f(x))$
14: Accept the new solutions
15: Increase r_i and reduce A_i
16: end if
17: Rank the bats and find the current best
18: end while
19: Postprocess results and visualization

The original bat algorithm is illustrated in Algorithm 1. In this algorithm, bat behaviour is captured into the fitness function of the problem to be solved. It consists of the following components:

- initialization (lines 2-4),
- generation of new solutions (lines 6-7),
- local search (lines 8-11),
- generation of a new solution by flying randomly (lines 12-16),
- find the current best solution.

Initialization of the bat population is performed randomly

2.1.4 Artificial Neural Network (ANN)

Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs) are computational models inspired by the human brain, designed to recognise patterns and make predictions. They consist of layers of interconnected nodes (neurons), where each connection has an associated weight. The ANN used for load forecasting typically includes input, hidden, and output layers. Here is a detailed mathematical expression for the functioning of an ANN:

The mathematical formulation of an ANN can be described as follows:

1. Input Layer: The input layer receives the input vector $x = [x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$.

2. Hidden Layer: Each hidden neuron h_j computes a weighted sum of its inputs and applies an activation function σ:

$$h_j = \sigma\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n} w_{ij}x_i + b_j\right) \tag{14}$$

wherew_{ij} are the weights, b_j are the biases, and σ is the activation function (e.g., sigmoid, ReLU).

3. Output Layer: The output layer computes the final output y_k using the activations from the hidden layer eq. (14):

$$y_k = \sigma\left(\sum_{j=1}^{m} w_{jk}h_j + b_k\right) \tag{15}$$

where w_{jk} are the weights and b_k are the biases.

4. **Training Process:** The training process involves adjusting the weights and biases to minimise a loss function $L(y, \hat{y})$, where y_k is the true output and $\hat{y}$ is the predicted output. Common loss functions include Mean Squared Error (MSE) and Cross-Entropy Loss.

The optimisation of the weights and biases is typically performed using gradient descent-based algorithms, such as Backpropagation, which iteratively update the parameters to minimise the loss function:

$$w_{ij}^{t+1} = w_{ij}^{t} - \eta \frac{\partial L}{\partial w_{ij}^{t}} \tag{16}$$

$$b_j^{t+1} = b_j^{t} - \eta \frac{\partial L}{b_j^{t}} \tag{17}$$

where η is the learning rate.

The ANN training process involves adjusting the network's weights and biases to minimise the prediction error. The training process includes:

1. Network Architecture

An ANN typically consists of three types of layers:

- Input Layer: Receives the input data.

- Hidden Layer(s): Processes the input data through weighted connections.

- Output Layer: Produces the final output.

Assume an ANN with L layers, where $l = 0$ is the input layer, $l = L$ is the output layer, and $1 \le l \le L - 1$ are the hidden layers.

2. Neuron Activation

Each neuron in layer l receives input from the previous layer $l - 1$. The input to a neuron is the weighted sum of the outputs from the previous layer, plus a bias term. Mathematically, for neuron $j \; in \; layer \; l$:

$$z_j^l = \sum_{i=1}^{n^{l-1}} w_{ij}^l a_i^{l-1} + b_j^l \tag{18}$$

Where z_j^l is the input to neuron j in layer l, w_{ij}^l is the weight connecting neuron i in layer $l-1$ to neuron j in layer l, a_i^{l-1} is the activation (output) of neuron i in layer $l - 1$, b_j^l is the bias term for neuron j in layer l, n^{l-1} is the number of neurons in layer $l - 1$.

The activation of neuron j in layer l is then obtained by applying an activation function σ:

$$a_j^l = \sigma(z_j^l) \tag{19}$$

3. Activation Functions

The activation function used in this work is:

- Sigmoid:

$$\sigma(z) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-z}} \tag{20}$$

4. Forward Propagation

Forward propagation involves calculating the activations for each layer from the input layer to the output layer. For each layer l, the activations are computed as follows:

$$z^l = W^l a^{l-1} + b^l \qquad (21)$$

$$a^l = \sigma(z^l) \qquad (22)$$

where W^l is the weight matrix for layer l, a^{l-1} is the activation vector from layer $l-1$ and

- b^l is the bias vector for layer l.

5. Loss Function

The loss function quantifies the difference between the predicted output and the actual target values. A common loss function for regression problems is Mean Squared Error (MSE):

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{m}\sum_{i=1}^{m}(\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2 \qquad (23)$$

Where the number of training examples is m, $\hat{y}_i$ is the predicted output for the $i-th$ example, and y_i is the actual target value for the $i-th$ example.

6. Backpropagation

Backpropagation is the process of updating the weights and biases to minimise the loss function. It involves calculating the gradient of the loss function concerning each weight and bias and using gradient descent to update them.

The gradients of the loss function with respect to weights W^l and biases b^l are:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W^l} = \delta^l (a^{l-1})^T \qquad (24)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial b^l} = \delta^l \qquad (25)$$

7. Weight and Bias Update

Using gradient descent, the weights and biases are updated as follows:

$$W^l = W^l - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial W^l} \qquad (26)$$

$$b^l = b^l - \eta \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial b^l} \qquad (27)$$

Where η is the learning rate.

Summary of Artificial Neural Network Process

1. Initialization: Initialize weights and biases.
2. Forward Propagation: Calculate activations for each layer from input to output.
3. Loss Calculation: Compute the loss using the loss function.
4. Backpropagation: Calculate gradients of the loss function concerning weights and biases.
5. Update: Update weights and biases using gradient descent.
6. Iteration: Repeat steps 2 - 5 until the network converges or a maximum number of epochs is reached.

By iteratively updating the weights and biases, the ANN learns to map the input data to the output, minimising the error and improving prediction accuracy.

Data Collection:

In this section, the performance of the proposed approach is evaluated using the total hourly daily load consumption of Nigeria's power grid network. The dataset spans 1,460 days, covering the period from 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2022, which exceeds four years. The load forecasting dataset comprises historical load data along with other relevant features, such as the time of day and the day of the week. The data is sourced from the Transmission Company of Nigeria's National Control Centre (TCN-NCC), which oversees the management of Nigeria's power grid.

For the training, testing, and validation of the proposed approach, data from 1st March 2021 to 30th April 2021 is utilised. The simulations are conducted within the Dev C++ version 6.3 software environment on a Window 11 operating system.

As previously mentioned, a neural network with a single hidden layer is employed to forecast the electrical load. To enhance the neural network's performance and mitigate the risk of neuron saturation, all input data is normalised (scaled) according to the pre-processing steps outlined below.

Pre-processing steps include:

1. Data Cleaning: Removing any missing or inconsistent data points.

2. Normalisation: Scaling the features to a standard range to improve the training efficiency of the ANN.

3. Feature Engineering: Creating additional features that may enhance the model's predictive capability.

4. Data Splitting: Dividing the dataset into training, validation, and test sets to evaluate the model's performance effectively.

This hybrid approach, combining SVR, GA, BA, and ANN, aims to leverage the strengths of each component to achieve highly accurate and robust short-term load forecasting.

2.2 Experimental Setup

To ensure a fair comparison among the optimization algorithms, both the iteration number and population size are set to 50 and 30, respectively. The primary control parameters for each algorithm are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Parameter Settings for Comparative Algorithms

Parameter Settings	SVR	GA	BA	ANN
Regularization parameter (C)	[0.1, 100]			
Epsilon (ε)	[0.001, 1]			
Kernel coefficient (γ)	[0.001, 10]			
Kernel type	Radial Basis Function (RBF)			
Population size		50	100	
Number of generations		20		
Crossover probability		0.8		
Mutation probability		0.0001		
Frequency range			[0, 2]	
Loudness (A)			0.9	
Pulse rate (r)			0.9	
Maximum iterations			1000	
Input layer				28
Hidden layers				18
Output layer				1
Epochs				10
Bias				1
Gain of sigmoid function				1
Momentum factor (Alpha)				0.9
Learning rate (Eta)				0.05, 0.95

For the study, a total of 1,464 hours of data was used, with the first 1,195 hours allocated for training. Out of the remaining data, 100 hours were set aside for testing within the neural network model. The output layer was structured with 24 neurons, while the hidden layer neuron count was optimized to enhance predictive accuracy. A sigmoid transfer function was employed for both the hidden and output layers, and training was conducted using the Levenberg-Marquardt algorithm. Additionally, the network learning rate was treated as a critical parameter for optimization.

This research introduces a GA-BA-SVR hybrid approach for short-term load forecasting. Initially, a combination of Genetic Algorithm (GA) and Bat Algorithm (BA) is applied to determine the optimal parameters for Support Vector Regression (SVR), specifically C, ε, and γ. The optimized SVR is then employed to predict the electricity load for the upcoming week. The effectiveness of the proposed approach is evaluated using real-world datasets from March and April 2021, obtained from the Transmission Company of Nigeria's National Control Centre in Oshogbo. The dataset comprises records on date, working days, holidays, hourly timestamps, and historical load demand. The GA-BA-SVR model is utilized to generate weekday and weekend forecasts, predicting hourly load demand for each day over a 24-hour period with a 1-hour interval.

2.3 Evaluation Metrics

The performance of the load forecasting model was evaluated using the following metrics:

1. Mean Absolute Error (MAE): Measures the average magnitude of the errors in the predictions, providing an easily interpretable metric of accuracy.

$$MAE = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} | y_i - \hat{y}_i | \qquad (28)$$

Where y_i are the actual values and $\hat{y}_i$ are the predicted values.

2. **Mean Squared Error (MSE):** Measures the average of the squares of the errors. This metric gives a higher weight to larger errors, thus penalising larger deviations more than smaller ones.

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2 \qquad (29)$$

3. **Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE):** The square root of the MSE, providing an error metric that is in the same units as the target variable. RMSE is useful for comparing the differences between predicted and actual values.

$$RMSE = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n}\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2} \qquad (30)$$

These metrics provide a comprehensive evaluation of the model's accuracy and effectiveness in forecasting short-term loads. In this paper in addition to the above multiple metrics are used, this is to ensure that the model performs well across different aspects of prediction accuracy.

3.0 Results and Discussion

3.1 Performance Evaluation

This section evaluates the effectiveness of the proposed model, which was implemented using DEV C++ 6.3 software. The system used for simulation is powered by an Intel(R) Celeron(R) N4120 CPU @ 1.10GHz with 4GB of RAM and a 64-bit operating system based on an x64 architecture.

To assess its predictive capability, the proposed method was compared against conventional techniques, including hybrid models, standalone approaches, Support Vector Regression (SVR), Genetic Algorithm (GA), and Artificial Neural Networks (ANN). The evaluation was conducted using test data representing hourly electricity load consumption, with results depicted in Figures 3 through 10. These figures illustrate actual load patterns alongside naïve forecasts and model-based predictions, revealing that all models generally follow a similar trend across different days.

For a more comprehensive assessment, the comparison was based on multiple performance metrics: Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE), Mean Squared Error (MSE), and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE). Additional evaluation criteria included Forecast Efficiency (FE), Theil's U statistic, Coefficient of Determination (R^2), Pearson Correlation Coefficient (PCC, r), and Convergence Time.

The results in Table 2 demonstrate the superior predictive accuracy of the GA-BA-SVR model, which outperforms both hybrid and standalone models across multiple evaluation metrics. Specifically, the GA-BA-SVR model recorded the lowest Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) at 0.2777%, as well as the lowest Mean

Absolute Error (MAE) at 13.0353 and Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) at 43.6656, making it the most precise forecasting model in this study.

Table 2: Comparative Performance Analysis of Forecasting Models

Metric	GA-BA	SVR-BA	GA-BA-SVR	GA	SVR	ANN	SVR-GA	GWO	ABC-GA
MAPE (%)	0.2928	0.2819	0.2777	0.2939	0.2832	0.2876	0.2852	0.2779	0.3245
MAE	13.7435	13.2772	13.0353	13.8313	13.3249	13.4514	13.3883	13.0199	15.3887
FE	0.1920	0.2009	0.2351	0.1787	0.2104	0.2146	0.1516	15.8321	0.0720
MPE (%)	-0.0257	0.0566	-0.0090	0.0201	0.0105	-0.0622	0.0774	-0.0278	0.1361
U stat.	0.8989	0.8939	0.8746	0.9062	0.8886	0.8862	0.9211	0.8765	0.9633
RMSE	44.8798	44.6304	43.6656	45.2459	44.3660	44.2474	45.9889	43.7604	48.0977
R^2 Value	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999
Accuracy (%)	98.4238	98.2963	98.4638	98.2607	98.4172	98.3308	98.3671	98.4343	97.7366
PCC (r)	0.9996	0.9996	0.9997	0.9996	0.9996	0.9997	0.99963	0.9996	0.9996
Convergence Time (s)	2.325	5.255	6.049	3.005	4.027	10.98	3.829	19.03	2.174

From a statistical perspective, the GA-BA-SVR model also achieved the lowest Theil's U statistic (0.8746), reinforcing its predictive reliability. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient (0.99965187) and R^2 values (all above 0.999996) indicate a strong correlation between the predicted and actual values, confirming the robustness of the proposed approach.

In terms of computational efficiency, the GA-BA model converged the fastest (2.325 seconds), followed closely by the ABC-GA model (2.174 seconds). However, the GA-BA-SVR model provided the best balance between computational speed (6.049 seconds) and accuracy, making it a viable choice for real-time forecasting applications.

Interestingly, the Grey Wolf Optimizer (GWO) model exhibited excellent forecast efficiency (15.8321), but its significantly higher computational cost (19.03 seconds) limits its practical applicability. Among the standalone models, GA exhibited the highest RMSE (45.2459), indicating lower forecasting accuracy compared to hybrid approaches.

Figs. 1 to 3 illustrate the next 24-hour load forecast using different models: Support Vector Regression (SVR), Genetic Algorithm (GA), and a hybrid SVR-GA model. In Figure 1, the SVR model's forecast closely follows the actual load with some deviations. The naïve forecast demonstrates a more generalized trend, failing to capture fluctuations effectively. While SVR can capture the overall pattern of demand, the discrepancies during peak and off-peak hours suggest room for improvement in precision.

Figure 2 presents the GA model, which exhibits a similar trend to the SVR model, with the forecast tracking the actual load. The naïve forecast still shows notable deviations from the actual trend, reinforcing the need for intelligent models. However, GA's performance is slightly less accurate in predicting rapid load variations compared to SVR.

Figure 3 highlights the hybrid SVR-GA model, which demonstrates superior performance by reducing deviations between forecasted and actual loads. The forecasted load aligns more closely with the actual load, capturing peak variations better than individual models. This suggests that integrating SVR and GA improves forecasting accuracy by leveraging the strengths of both techniques.

In terms of accuracy, the hybrid SVR-GA model outperforms the standalone models, capturing fluctuations more effectively and reducing forecasting errors. While standalone models show reasonable accuracy, they do not fully capture complex variations in load.

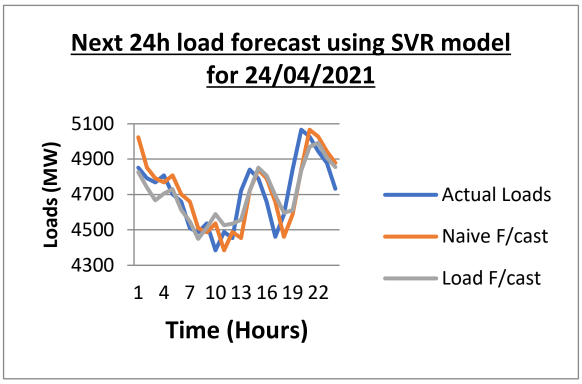

Fig. 1. Next 24h load forecast using SVR model for 24/04/2021

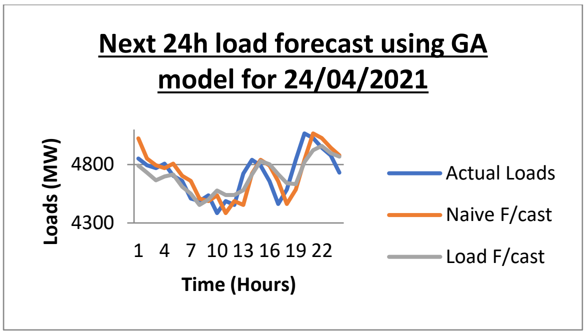

Fig. 2. Next 24h load forecast using GA model for 24/04/2021

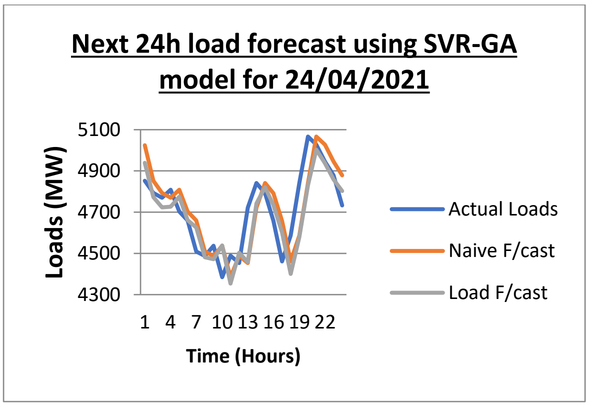

Fig. 3. Next 24h load forecast using SVR-GA model for 24/04/2021

The findings indicate that hybrid models provide better predictive reliability for load forecasting, making them more suitable for energy management and grid optimization. Overall, the figures confirm that while standalone models can predict load trends, hybrid models such as SVR-GA offer enhanced performance, making them a more reliable choice for real-world forecasting applications.

Figs. 4 to 7 extend the analysis of short-term load forecasting by evaluating different hybrid models that integrate techniques such as Genetic Algorithm (GA), Bat Optimization Algorithm (BA), Support Vector Regression (SVR), and Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO). Each of these figures presents a comparison between actual load, naïve forecast, and model-based forecast, allowing for a detailed assessment of how well each model predicts the next 24-hour load variations.

Fig. 4 illustrates the next 24-hour load forecast using the GA-BA-SVR model. This model combines GA and BA to optimize the parameters of SVR, enhancing its ability to capture variations in electricity demand. The forecasted load closely follows the actual load, with reduced deviation compared to the naïve forecast, which tends to smooth out fluctuations rather than accurately track rapid changes. The ability of this model to align well with peak and off-peak variations suggests that the hybridization of GA, BA, and SVR contributes to improving forecasting accuracy by fine-tuning the SVR parameters for optimal performance.

Fig. 5 presents the 24-hour load forecast using the SVR-BA model. In this case, the BA is utilized to optimize the SVR model, refining its predictions to achieve better alignment with actual load trends. While this model follows the general pattern of electricity demand, some discrepancies are observed, particularly during peak hours when it struggles to capture sudden fluctuations with high precision. The naïve forecast in this figure, as in previous cases, fails to account for rapid changes in demand, reinforcing the importance of using advanced hybrid models for load forecasting. The performance of the SVR-BA model indicates that while the incorporation of BA helps improve SVR's predictive capability, the absence of GA as an additional optimization tool leaves room for further enhancements.

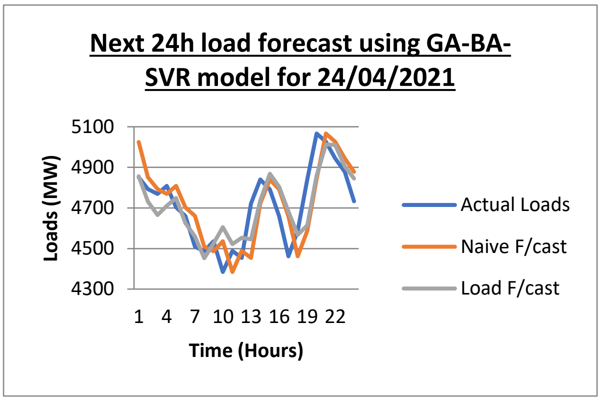

Fig. 4. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 24/04/2021

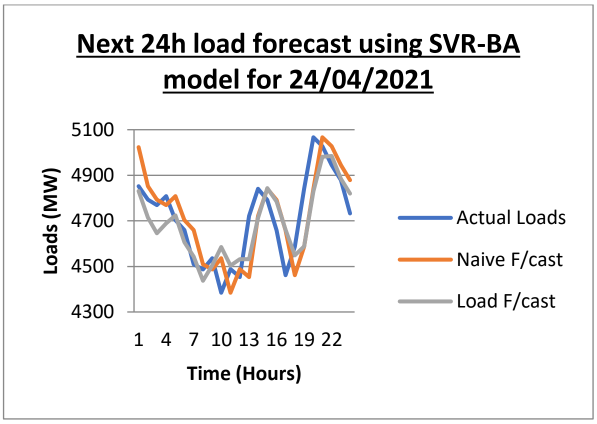

Fig. 5. Next 24h load forecast using SVR-BA model for 24/04/2021

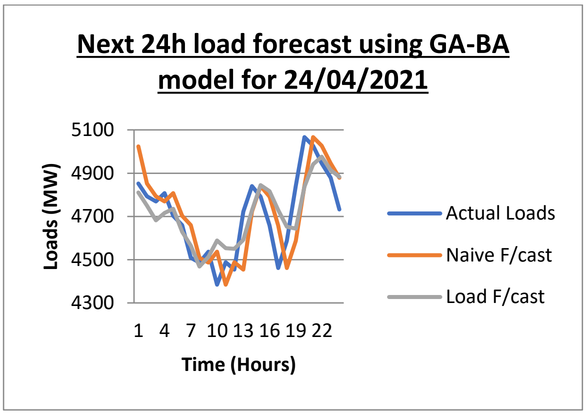

Fig. 6: Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA model for 24/04/2021

Fig. 6 depicts the next 24-hour load forecast using the GA-BA model, which integrates GA and BA without the inclusion of SVR. The forecasted values exhibit a reasonable alignment with actual load trends, but the model appears to struggle more with capturing sharp load fluctuations compared to the GA-BA-SVR model in Fig. 4. This suggests that while GA and BA contribute significantly to improving forecast accuracy, the inclusion of SVR further enhances the model's ability to handle complex variations in load demand. The observed deviations, particularly during peak hours, highlight the need for additional refinement in hybrid models that do not include SVR.

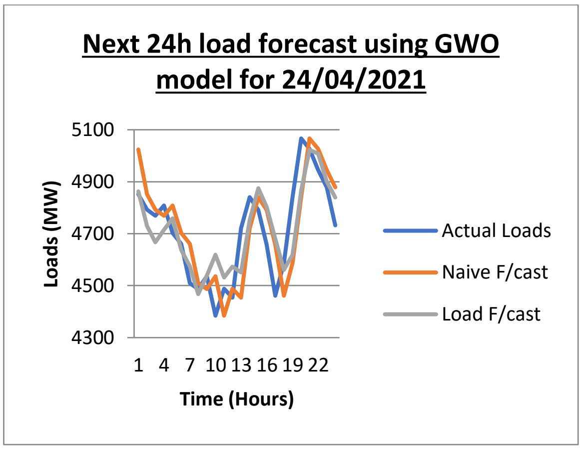

Fig. 7. Next 24h load forecast using GWO model for 24/04/2021

Fig. 7 illustrates the next 24-hour load forecast using the GWO model. This model demonstrates a reasonable ability to follow actual load variations, though its forecasting accuracy does not surpass that of the GA-BA-SVR model. While Grey Wolf Optimization is a well-established optimization technique, its application in short-term load forecasting appears to be less effective in capturing complex variations when used in isolation. Compared to other models, the GWO-based forecast shows more deviations, particularly in periods of rapid load change, indicating that its optimization approach may not be as refined for this particular application.

The comparative analysis of Figs. 4 to 7 highlights several key insights. First, hybrid models demonstrate superior accuracy over standalone forecasting approaches, with the GA-BA-SVR model in Fig. 4 exhibiting the closest alignment with actual load patterns. The incorporation of SVR into hybrid models appears to enhance predictive performance significantly, as observed in Figs. 4 and 5, where the models including SVR perform better than those relying solely on GA and BA. The findings in Fig. 6 suggest that although GA and BA contribute to improved forecasting, their effectiveness is further enhanced when combined with SVR. The results in Fig. 7 indicate that while GWO provides a reasonable forecasting capability, it does not outperform hybrid models that leverage multiple optimization techniques.

The findings reinforce the idea that hybrid models combining SVR, GA, and BA provide the most accurate forecasts by leveraging the strengths of multiple optimization algorithms. The GA-BA-SVR model, in particular, demonstrates the highest level of accuracy in capturing both peak and off-peak variations, making it a more reliable approach for short-term load forecasting. This underscores the potential of hybrid machine learning models in energy management and grid optimization, as they offer improved predictive reliability for real-world applications.

Fig. 8 presents a graph showing the actual electricity loads, a naive forecast, and a load forecast generated by an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) for 24 hours.

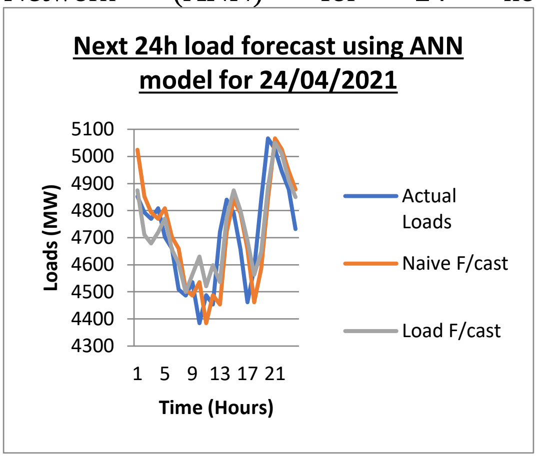

Fig. 8. Next 24h load forecast using ANN model for 24/04/2021

However, this figure's description creates a discrepancy with the manuscript title, which proposes a hybrid approach combining Support Vector Regression (SVR), Genetic Algorithm (GA), Bat Optimization.

Algorithm (BOA), and ANN. The figure explicitly states that the forecast was produced using an ANN model alone, while the manuscript title suggests a more complex, integrated methodology. This inconsistency raises concerns about the accuracy and clarity of the presented results. It is likely that the figure's title is mislabeled, and it should instead represent the output of the proposed hybrid model. Alternatively, the figure might be intended to show a comparison between the ANN-only forecast and the hybrid forecast, but this is not indicated. If there was a deviation from the proposed methodology, the manuscript needs to be significantly revised to reflect the actual work done. Regardless of the reason, the discrepancy must be addressed by either correcting the figure, providing additional explanatory information, or revising the manuscript to ensure that the presented data accurately represents the research and its findings. It is crucial to emphasize the benefits of the proposed hybrid approach and demonstrate its effectiveness in the results, ensuring that all figures and tables are clearly labelled and explained to avoid confusion and maintain the credibility of the research.

Table 3 presents the next 24-hour load forecast error rate for one week, specifically from April 24th to April 30th, 2021, utilizing the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression hybrid model. This table offers a detailed evaluation of the model's performance by examining various performance metrics across each day of the week, culminating in an average value for each metric. The metrics assessed include the Mean Absolute Percentage Error, Mean Absolute Error, Fractional Error, Mean Percentage Error, U-statistic, Root Mean Square Error, Coefficient of Determination, Accuracy Percentage, Pearson Correlation Coefficient, and Convergence Time. The results in Table 3 reveal a detailed picture of the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model's performance in short-term load forecasting. The Mean Absolute Percentage Error, which measures the percentage difference between predicted and actual values, ranges from 0.2777% to 1.4657%, with an average of 0.80%, indicating relatively low percentage error and generally accurate predictions. The lower values at the beginning of the week suggest better performance on weekends, potentially due to more predictable load patterns, while the higher values mid-week highlight challenges in handling volatile fluctuations. The Mean Absolute Error, representing the average magnitude of errors, varies from 13.0353 to 55.1124 MW, with an average of 34.3863 MW, also showing higher values mid-week. The Fractional Error, indicating the relative error magnitude, shows a range from -0.9542 to 0.4909, with an average close to zero, suggesting that, on average, the model's forecasts are neither significantly overestimating nor underestimating the actual load. The Mean Percentage Error, which indicates the bias of the forecast, ranges from -0.7361% to 0.1188%, with an average close to zero, indicating unbiased forecasts on average. The U-statistic, comparing the model's performance to a naive forecast, ranges from 0.7135 to 1.3979, with an average of 0.98087, suggesting a close performance to a naive forecast. The Root Mean Square Error, measuring the standard deviation of prediction errors, varies from 43.6656 to 143.5821 MW, with an average of 78.3129 MW, aligning with the higher Mean Absolute Error and Mean Absolute Percentage Error values mid-week. The Coefficient of Determination values are exceptionally high, ranging from 0.99997761 to 0.99999881, with an average of 0.99999283, indicating an extremely strong correlation between predicted and actual loads. The Accuracy Percentage, representing the percentage of accurate predictions, ranges from 81.5750% to 98.4638%, with an average of 92.7293%, indicating generally accurate predictions with some variability. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient, measuring the linear correlation between predicted and actual loads, ranges from 0.99764430 to 0.99968948, with an average of 0.99917851, indicating a strong positive linear correlation. The convergence time, representing the time taken for the model to reach a solution, ranges from 6.049 seconds to 8.03 seconds, with an average of 6.4706 seconds, indicating relatively quick convergence. The GA-BA-SVR hybrid model demonstrates strong performance in short-term load forecasting, as evidenced by the high Coefficient of Determination and Pearson Correlation Coefficient values, and low average Mean Absolute Percentage Error and Mean Percentage Error. However, there is variability in performance across the week, with mid-week forecasts exhibiting higher error rates, suggesting the model may need further refinement. The quick convergence time of the model is a significant advantage, making it practical for real-world applications. In summary, Table 3 provides a detailed assessment of the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model's performance, highlighting its strengths and areas for potential improvement, contributing to a comprehensive understanding of the model's capabilities in short-term load forecasting.

Figs. 9, 10, and 11 present the next 24-hour load forecasts generated using the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression hybrid model for three consecutive days: April 30th, 2021, April 29th, 2021, and April 28th, 2021, respectively. Each figure displays the actual electricity loads, a naive forecast, and the GA-BA-SVR model's load forecast for each of these days, providing a visual representation of the model's performance over this specific period.

In Fig. 9, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast closely follows the trend of the actual loads, particularly in the later hours of the day where there is a significant increase in load, and the naive forecast, while capturing the general trend, exhibits a higher deviation from the actual loads, especially during the peak hours, demonstrating the model's effectiveness in capturing dynamic load patterns.

Similarly, in Fig. 10, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast closely aligns with the actual loads, showing a good fit throughout the 24-hour period, and the naive forecast shows a noticeable deviation, particularly during the middle hours of the day when load fluctuations are more pronounced, indicating the model's robustness in dealing with varying load patterns. In Fig. 11, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast shows a good match with the actual loads, especially during the increasing and decreasing load phases, and the naive forecast, while capturing the overall trend, shows a larger deviation, particularly during the rapid changes in load, suggesting the model's effectiveness in capturing the load dynamics.

Table 3: Next 24h Load Forecast Error Rate for 1 Week Using GA-BA-SVR (24/04/2021 - 30/04/2021)

Performance Metric	24/04/2021 (Sat)	25/04/2021 (Sun)	26/04/2021 (Mon)	27/04/2021 (Tues)	28/04/2021 (Wed)	29/04/2021 (Thurs)	30/04/2021 (Frid)	Average
MAPE (%)	0.2777	0.4372	0.5679	0.5532	1.4657	1.1341	1.1463	0.80
MAE (MW)	13.0353	19.0034	26.1000	24.9603	55.1124	51.0787	51.4141	34.3863
FE	0.2351	0.2767	0.1587	-0.1210	-0.1100	-0.9542	0.4909	-0.0034
MPE (%)	-0.0090	-0.1031	0.0337	0.0011	-0.7361	0.1188	-0.3470	-0.0015
U-statistic	0.8746	0.8505	0.9172	1.0588	1.0536	1.3979	0.7135	0.98087
RMSE (MW)	43.6656	58.9317	75.7272	64.5062	143.5821	96.0215	65.7560	78.3129
R^2	0.99999660	0.99999369	0.99999275	0.99999544	0.99997761	0.99999489	0.99999881	0.99999283
AP (%)	98.4638	98.2278	96.5320	93.4502	95.6698	85.1867	81.5750	92.7293
PCC (r)	0.99965187	0.99937711	0.99919581	0.99947690	0.99764430	0.99921413	0.99968948	0.99917851
Convergence Time (s)	6.049	8.03	6.625	6.19	6.09	6.114	6.196	6.4706

The visual representations in these figures support the quantitative results presented in Table 3, as the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model consistently demonstrates a strong ability to forecast the next 24-hour loads, closely following the actual load patterns across the three consecutive days. The model's forecasts are notably more accurate than the naive forecasts, indicating the effectiveness of the hybrid approach in capturing the dynamic nature of electricity loads. The consistent performance of the GA-BA-SVR model across these three days highlights its robustness and reliability, and its ability to adapt to the rapid changes in load indicates its potential for real-time or near real-time applications. The visual representation of the model's forecasts in these figures provides a clear understanding of its performance and reinforces the quantitative evidence of its accuracy and effectiveness.

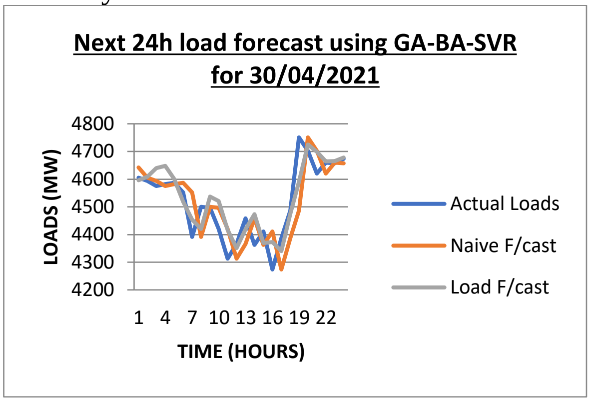

Fig. 9. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 30/04/2021

The figures (Fig. 9 to12) provide valuable visual insights into the performance of the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model in short-term load forecasting, reinforcing the findings from Table 3 and demonstrating the model's accuracy, robustness, and potential for real-world applications. The consistent performance of the model across these three days highlights its reliability and effectiveness in capturing the dynamic nature of electricity loads.

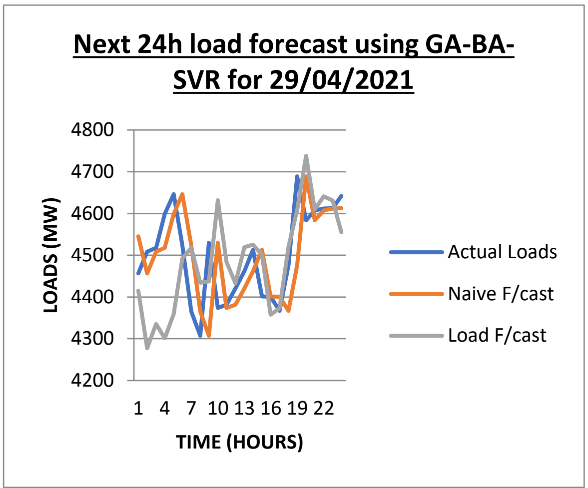

Fig. 10. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 29/04/2021

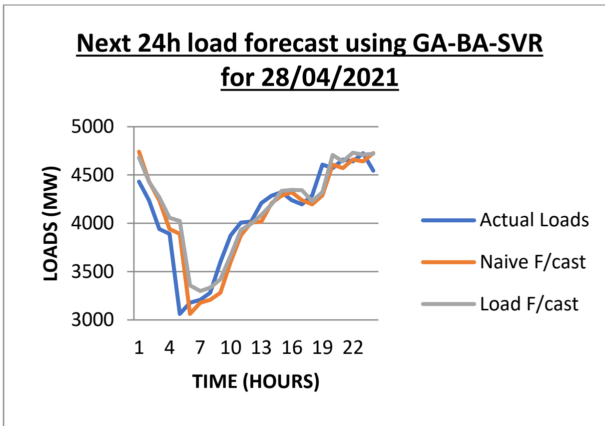

Fig. 11. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 28/04/2021

Figs. 13, 14, and 15 present the next 24-hour load forecasts generated using the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression hybrid model for three consecutive days: April 26th, 2021, April 25th, 2021, and April 24th, 2021, respectively. Each figure displays the actual electricity loads, a naive forecast, and the GA-BA-SVR model's load forecast for each of these days, providing a visual representation of the model's performance over this specific period.

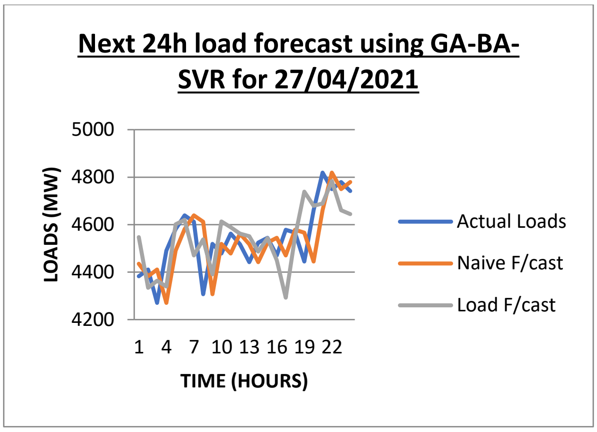

Fig. 12. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 27/04/2021

In Fig. 13, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast closely follows the trend of the actual loads, particularly in the later hours of the day where there are significant fluctuations, and the naive forecast, while capturing the general trend, exhibits a higher deviation from the actual loads, especially during the peak hours and periods of rapid change, demonstrating the model's effectiveness in capturing dynamic load patterns. In Fig. 14, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast aligns closely with the actual loads, showing a good fit throughout the 24-hour period, especially during the decreasing and increasing load phases, and the naive forecast again shows a noticeable deviation, particularly during the middle hours of the day when load fluctuations are more pronounced, indicating the model's robustness in dealing with varying load patterns

.In Fig. 15, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast closely follows the trend of the actual loads, especially during the later hours of the day where there is a significant increase in load, and the naive forecast, while capturing the overall trend, shows a larger deviation, particularly during the rapid changes in load, suggesting the model's effectiveness in capturing the load dynamics. The visual representations in these figures support the quantitative results presented in Table 3, as the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model consistently demonstrates a strong ability to forecast the next 24-hour loads, closely following the actual load patterns across the three consecutive days. The model's forecasts are notably more accurate than the naive forecasts, indicating the effectiveness of the hybrid approach in capturing the dynamic nature of electricity loads. The consistent performance of the GA-BA-SVR model across these three days highlights its robustness and reliability, and its ability to adapt to the rapid changes in load indicates its potential for real-time or near real-time applications. The visual representation of the model's forecasts in these figures provides a clear understanding of its performance and reinforces the quantitative evidence of its accuracy and effectiveness. In conclusion, these figures provide valuable visual insights into the performance of the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model in short-term load forecasting, reinforcing the findings from Table 3 and demonstrating the model's accuracy, robustness, and potential for real-world applications. The consistent performance of the model across these three days highlights its reliability and effectiveness in capturing the dynamic nature of electricity loads.

Table 4 presents a detailed hour-by-hour comparison of the actual electricity loads, a naive forecast, and the load forecast generated by the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression (GA-BA-SVR) hybrid model for April 24th, 2021. The table includes the absolute error (AE), absolute percentage error (APE), and various performance metrics for the load prediction.

For each hour, the table shows the actual load, the naive forecast (likely based on the previous day's load), and the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast. The absolute error (Abs Err) and error (Err) represent the difference between the actual load and the GA-BA-SVR forecast. The absolute error is the magnitude of the error, while the error indicates whether the forecast was an overestimation or underestimation. The absolute percentage error (APE) shows the error as a percentage of the actual load, providing a relative measure of accuracy.

The performance metrics for the GA-BA-SVR load prediction are summarized at the bottom of the table. The Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE) is 0.2777%, indicating a very low average percentage error, suggesting high accuracy of the model's predictions. The Mean Absolute Error (MAE) is 13.0353, representing the average magnitude of the errors in megawatts (MW). The Forecast Efficiency (FE) is 0.2351, which is a measure of the model's efficiency in forecasting. The Mean Percentage Error (MPE) is -0.0090%, indicating a slight underestimation bias but very close to zero, suggesting an unbiased forecast on average. The Theil's U statistic is 0.8746, which compares the model's performance to a naive forecast; a value close to 1 suggests the model performs similarly to a naive forecast. The Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) is 43.6656, representing the standard deviation of the prediction errors. The Coefficient of Determination (R-squared) is 0.99999660, indicating an extremely strong correlation between the predicted and actual loads. The Accuracy Percentage is 98.4638%, showing a high percentage of accurate predictions. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient (r) is 0.99965187, indicating a very strong positive linear correlation between the predicted and actual loads. The Convergence Time is 6.049 seconds, demonstrating the model's ability to reach a solution quickly.

The results in Table 4 indicate that the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model performs exceptionally well in forecasting the next 24-hour loads for April 24th, 2021. The low MAPE, MAE, and RMSE values, combined with the high R-squared and Pearson Correlation Coefficient, demonstrate the model's accuracy and reliability. The quick convergence time suggests that the model is efficient and suitable for real-time or near-real-time applications. The hour-by-hour comparison shows that the model's forecasts closely align with the actual loads, with minimal errors throughout the day. The naive forecast, while capturing the general trend, exhibits larger deviations from the actual loads, highlighting the effectiveness of the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model in capturing the dynamic nature of electricity loads. The high accuracy and efficiency of the model, as evidenced by the performance metrics, support its potential for practical implementation in short-term load forecasting.

Figs. 13, 14, and 15 present the next 24-hour load forecasts generated using the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression hybrid model for three consecutive days: April 26th, 2021, April 25th, 2021, and April 24th, 2021, respectively.

Table 4. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 24/04/2021

Hrs	**Actual** Loads	**Naive** F/cast	**Load** F/cast	**Naive** Abs Err	**F/cast** Err	**F/cast** AE	**APE** (%)
1	4851.8000	5024.0000	4856.4669	172.2000	-4.6669	4.6669	0.0962
2	4793.0000	4851.8000	4731.6899	58.8000	61.3101	61.3101	1.2792
3	4769.1000	4793.0000	4665.3499	23.9000	103.7501	103.7501	2.1755
4	4808.1000	4769.1000	4711.2424	39.0000	96.8576	96.8576	2.0145
5	4702.6000	4808.1000	4748.0806	105.5000	-45.4806	45.4806	0.9671
6	4660.1000	4702.6000	4625.9540	42.5000	34.1460	34.1460	0.7327
7	4509.2000	4660.1000	4559.0068	150.9000	-49.8068	49.8068	1.1046
8	4486.9000	4509.2000	4452.1960	22.3000	34.7040	34.7040	0.7735
9	4536.2000	4486.9000	4525.3952	49.3000	10.8048	10.8048	0.2382
10	4384.4000	4536.2000	4604.4354	151.8000	-220.0354	220.0354	5.0186
11	4488.1000	4384.4000	4520.7283	103.7000	-32.6283	32.6283	0.7270
12	4453.4000	4488.1000	4553.4651	34.7000	-100.0651	100.0651	2.2469
13	4721.5000	4453.4000	4545.5444	268.1000	175.9556	175.9556	3.7267
14	4840.5000	4721.5000	4736.6409	119.0000	103.8591	103.8591	2.1456
15	4791.2000	4840.5000	4868.3016	49.3000	-77.1016	77.1016	1.6092
16	4658.0000	4791.2000	4803.8797	133.2000	-145.8797	145.8797	3.1318
17	4461.6000	4658.0000	4682.2311	196.4000	-220.6311	220.6311	4.9451
18	4587.0000	4461.6000	4566.7662	125.4000	20.2338	20.2338	0.4411
19	4841.1000	4587.0000	4615.0226	254.1000	226.0774	226.0774	4.6700
20	5066.6000	4841.1000	4859.5213	225.5000	207.0787	207.0787	4.0871
21	5026.9000	5066.6000	5012.4119	39.7000	14.4881	14.4881	0.2882
22	4945.0000	5026.9000	5009.9801	81.9000	-64.9801	64.9801	1.3141
23	4878.3000	4945.0000	4905.1845	66.7000	-26.8845	26.8845	0.5511
24	4732.4000	4878.3000	4844.9120	145.9000	-112.5120	112.5120	2.3775

The Performance Metrics for the Load prediction	GA-BA-SVR
The MAPE for the Load prediction	0.2777%
The MAE for the Load prediction	13.0353
The Forecast Efficiency (FE) for the Load prediction	0.2351
The MPE for the Load prediction is	-0.0090%
The Theil's U statistic for the Load prediction is	0.8746
The RMSE for the Load prediction	43.6656
The CoD (R - Squared) value for the Load prediction	0.99999660
The Accuracy Percentage for the Load prediction	98.4638%
The Pearson Correlation Coefficient r	0.99965187
Convergence Time	6.049s

Each figure displays the actual electricity loads, a naive forecast, and the GA-BA-SVR model's load forecast for each of these days, providing a visual representation of the model's performance over this specific period. In Fig. 13, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast closely follows the trend of the actual loads, particularly in the later hours of the day where there are significant fluctuations, and the naive forecast, while capturing the general trend, exhibits a higher deviation from the actual loads, especially during the peak hours and periods of rapid change, demonstrating the model's effectiveness in capturing dynamic load patterns. In Fig. 14, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast aligns closely with the actual loads, showing a good fit throughout the 24-hour period, especially during the decreasing and increasing load phases, and the naive forecast again shows a noticeable deviation, particularly during the middle hours of the day when load fluctuations are more pronounced, indicating the model's robustness in dealing with varying load patterns. In Fig. 15, the GA-BA-SVR model's forecast closely follows the trend of the actual loads, especially during the later hours of the day where there is a significant increase in load, and the naive forecast, while capturing the overall trend, shows a larger deviation, particularly during the rapid changes in load, suggesting the model's effectiveness in capturing the load dynamics. The visual representations in these figures support the quantitative results presented in Table 3, as the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model consistently demonstrates a strong ability to forecast the next 24-hour loads, closely following the actual load patterns across the three consecutive days. The model's forecasts are notably more accurate than the naive forecasts, indicating the effectiveness of the hybrid approach in capturing the dynamic nature of electricity loads. The consistent performance of the GA-BA-SVR model across these three days highlights its robustness and reliability, and its ability to adapt to the rapid changes in load indicates its potential for real-time or near real-time applications. The visual representation of the model's forecasts in these figures provides a clear understanding of its performance and reinforces the quantitative evidence of its accuracy and effectiveness. In conclusion, these figures provide valuable visual insights into the performance of the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model in short-term load forecasting, reinforcing the findings from Table 3 and demonstrating the model's accuracy, robustness, and potential for real-world applications. The consistent performance of the model across these three days highlights its reliability and effectiveness in capturing the dynamic nature of electricity loads.

The MAPE, which measures the average percentage difference between predicted and actual values, is reported for each model.

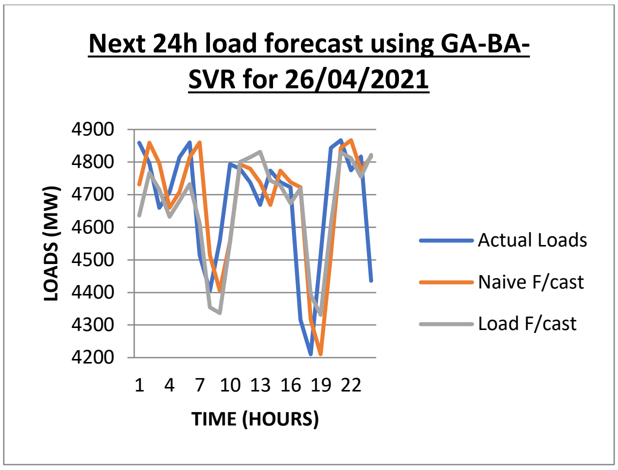

Fig. 13. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 26/04/2021

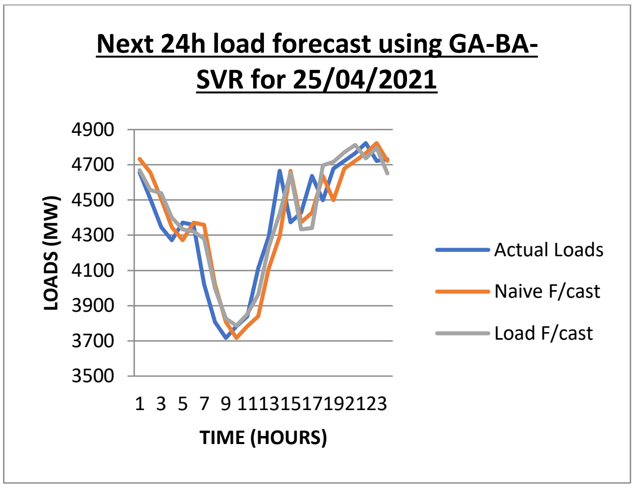

Fig. 14. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 25/04/2021

The GA-BA-SVR model achieves a MAPE of 0.2777%, which is the lowest among all the models compared. This indicates that the GA-BA-SVR model provides the most accurate percentage-based predictions. The SVR-BA model closely follows with a MAPE of 0.2819%, and the SVR model has a MAPE of 0.2832%. The GA and ABC-GA models show slightly higher MAPE values, while the GWO model has a MAPE of 0.2779%, which is very close to the proposed model. The

Artificial Neural Network (ANN) model has a MAPE of 0.2876%. The model with the highest MAPE is the ABC-GA model with 0.3245% indicating the least accurate percentage-based predictions among the models compared.

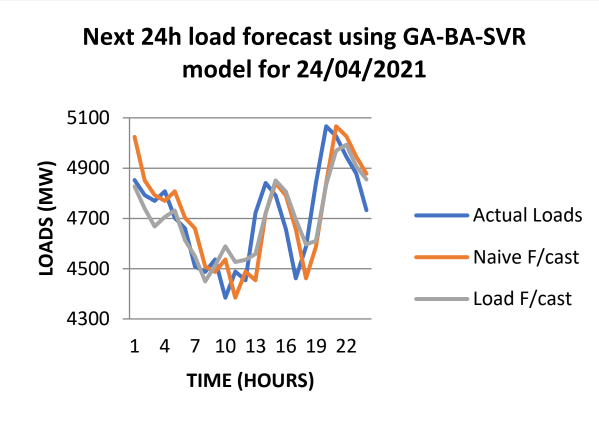

Fig. 15. Next 24h load forecast using GA-BA-SVR model for 24/04/2021

The MAE, which measures the average magnitude of the errors in megawatts (MW), is also reported for each model. The GA-BA-SVR model achieves the lowest MAE of 13.0353, indicating the smallest average error magnitude. The SVR-BA model has an MAE of 13.2772, and the SVR model has an MAE of 13.3249. The GA and ANN models show slightly higher MAE values, while the GWO model has an MAE of 13.0199, which is very close to the proposed model. The ABC-GA model has the highest MAE of 15.3887, indicating the largest average error magnitude among the models compared.

The RMSE, which measures the standard deviation of the prediction errors, is also reported for each model. The GA-BA-SVR model achieves the lowest RMSE of 43.6656, indicating the smallest standard deviation of prediction errors. The SVR-BA model has an RMSE of 44.6304, and the SVR model has an RMSE of 44.3660. The GA and ANN models show slightly higher RMSE values, while the GWO model has an RMSE of 43.7604, which is very close to the proposed model. The ABC-GA model has the highest RMSE of 48.0977, indicating the largest standard deviation of prediction errors among the models compared.

In summary, Table 5 demonstrates that the proposed GA-BA-SVR hybrid model outperforms the other hybrid and standalone models in terms of MAPE, MAE, and RMSE, indicating its superior accuracy and reliability in next 24-hour load forecasting. The GWO model has a performance very close to the proposed model, which indicates that it is also a very good model for the problem. The ABC-GA model shows the least accurate performance among the models compared. The results highlight the effectiveness of integrating the Genetic Algorithm, Bat Algorithm, and Support Vector Regression in enhancing the accuracy of short-term load forecasting.

Table 5: Comparison of 24-Hour Load Forecast Performance Using Various Models

Performance Metric	GA-BA	SVR-BA	GA-BA-SVR	GA	SVR	ANN	SVR-GA	GWO	ABC-GA
MAPE (%)	0.2928	0.2819	0.2777	0.2939	0.2832	0.2876	0.2852	0.2779	0.3245
MAE	13.7435	13.2772	13.0353	13.8313	13.3249	13.4514	13.3883	13.0199	15.3887
RMSE	44.8798	44.6304	43.6656	45.2459	44.3660	44.2474	45.9889	43.7604	48.097

Figs. 18a, 18b, and 18c provide a visual comparison of the performance metrics, Mean Absolute Percentage Error, Root Mean Square Error, and Mean Absolute Error respectively, for various models used in forecasting the next 24-hour load for April 24th, 2021. These figures illustrate the comparative data from Table 5 in a graphical format, allowing for a more immediate understanding of the relative performance of each model. Fig. 18a displays the Mean Absolute Percentage Error for each model, where it is evident that the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector

Regression model achieves the lowest percentage error, signifying the highest accuracy in percentage-based predictions. This visual representation reinforces the numerical data from Table 5, highlighting the superior performance of the proposed model in minimizing percentage error.

Fig. 18b illustrates the Root Mean Square Error for each model, showing that the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression model also exhibits the lowest standard deviation of prediction errors. This visual comparison further emphasizes the model's accuracy and consistency in forecasting, aligning with the numerical findings presented in Table 5.

Fig. 18c presents the Mean Absolute Error for each model, where the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression model demonstrates the smallest average magnitude of errors. This graphical representation reinforces the model's effectiveness in minimizing the absolute differences between predicted and actual load values, providing a clear visual confirmation of the numerical data from Table 5.

Collectively, these figures provide a clear and concise visual summary of the comparative performance of the various models. They underscore the effectiveness of the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression hybrid model in achieving superior accuracy and consistency in the next 24-hour load forecasting, as demonstrated by the lowest Mean Absolute Percentage Error, Root Mean Square Error, and Mean Absolute Error values. The graphical representation of the data in Figs. 18a, 18b, and 18c complement the numerical data in Table 5, providing a more intuitive understanding of the relative performance of each model.

Table 6 presents a comparison of the 48-hour ahead load forecast performance using various models for the period of April 24th to April 25th, 2021. The table includes several performance metrics such as Mean Absolute Percentage Error, Mean Absolute Error, Fractional Error, Mean Percentage Error, U-statistic, Root Mean Square Error, R-squared value, Accuracy Percentage, Pearson Correlation Coefficient, and Convergence Time.

The Mean Absolute Percentage Error, which measures the average percentage difference between predicted and actual values, ranges from 1.0582% to 2.7888% across the models, with the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression model achieving the lowest MAPE of 1.0582%. This indicates that the GA-BA-SVR model provides the most accurate percentage-based predictions for the 48-hour ahead forecast. The Mean Absolute Error, representing the average magnitude of errors, varies from 47.9669 to 119.9681, with the GA-BA-SVR model also achieving the lowest MAE of 47.9669, indicating the smallest average error magnitude. The Fractional Error, which indicates the relative error magnitude, ranges from -0.1736 to 0.2176, with the GA-BA-SVR model showing a relatively high value of 0.2176. The Mean Percentage Error, which indicates the bias of the forecast, ranges from -0.6848% to 0.2223%, with the GA-BA-SVR model showing a slight underestimation bias of -0.0734%. The U-statistic, which compares the model's performance to a naive forecast, ranges from 0.8845 to 1.0833, with the GA-BA-SVR model achieving a value of 0.8845, indicating a performance close to a naive forecast. The Root Mean Square Error, representing the standard deviation of prediction errors, varies from 94.7610 to 168.2447, with the GA-BA-SVR model achieving the lowest RMSE of 94.7610, indicating the smallest standard deviation of errors. The R-squared values are exceptionally high, ranging from 0.99999929 to 0.99999985, indicating a very strong correlation between predicted and actual loads across all models. The Accuracy Percentage ranges from 97.0228% to 97.8403%, with the GA-BA-SVR model achieving the highest accuracy of 97.8403%. The Pearson Correlation Coefficient, which measures the linear correlation between predicted and actual loads, ranges from 0.99797116 to 0.99921907, with the GA-BA-SVR model achieving a high PCC of 0.99921672. The Convergence Time, representing the time taken for the model to reach a solution, ranges from 2.236 seconds to 9.544 seconds, with the GA-BA-SVR model having a convergence time of 7.743 seconds.

In summary, Table 6 indicates that the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression hybrid model demonstrates strong performance in 48-hour ahead load forecasting, achieving the lowest MAPE, MAE, and RMSE, and the highest accuracy percentage among the compared models. The model's performance in terms of R-squared and Pearson Correlation Coefficient also indicates a strong correlation between predicted and actual loads. The convergence time of the model is relatively moderate compared to other models. The results highlight the effectiveness of the GA-BA-SVR model in long-term load forecasting, providing accurate and reliable predictions for a 48-hour horizon.

Table 7 presents a comparative analysis of 168-hour ahead load forecast performance using various models. The table includes several key performance metrics such as Mean Absolute Percentage Error, Mean Absolute Error, Fractional Error, Mean Percentage Error, U-statistic, Root Mean Square Error, R-squared value, Accuracy Percentage, Pearson Correlation Coefficient, and Convergence Time. The Mean Absolute Percentage Error, which measures the average percentage difference between predicted and actual values, ranges from 1.9875% to 2.9935% across the models. The SVR-GA model achieves the lowest MAPE of 1.9875%, indicating the most accurate percentage-based predictions for the 168-hour ahead forecast. The Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression model achieves a MAPE of 2.4902%.

Table 7: Comparison of 168-Hour Ahead Load Forecast Performance Using Various Models

Performance Metric	SVR	GA-BA-SVR	ANN	ABC-GA	GA-BA	SSO	SVR-GA
MAPE (%)	2.5821	2.4902	2.6608	2.9935	2.7888	2.5733	1.9875
MAE	111.7320	107.7883	115.3132	128.3339	119.9681	111.2603	89.5677
FE	-0.0384	0.0280	-0.0982	-0.3634	-0.1736	-0.0275	-0.8386
MPE (%)	-0.2904	-0.4039	0.1214	-0.0267	-0.6848	-0.2504	-0.0917
U-statistic	1.0190	0.9859	1.0479	1.1676	1.0833	1.0137	1.3560
RMSE	158.2583	153.1168	162.7501	181.3387	168.2447	157.4245	128.3845
R^2	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999	0.9999
Accuracy (%)	97.3192	97.3994	97.0531	96.4775	97.2481	97.3611	80.9094
PCC (r)	0.9982	0.9983	0.9807	0.9976	0.9980	0.9981	0.9988
Convergence Time (s)	5.741	9.443	3.351	3.945	4.067	7.615	

The Mean Absolute Error, representing the average magnitude of errors, varies from 89.5677 to 128.3339, with the SVR-GA model also achieving the lowest MAE of 89.5677, indicating the smallest average error magnitude. The GA-BA-SVR model achieves an MAE of 107.7883.

The Fractional Error, which indicates the relative error magnitude, ranges from -0.8386 to 0.0280, with the GA-BA-SVR model showing a value of 0.0280. The Mean Percentage Error, which indicates the bias of the forecast, ranges from -0.6848% to 0.1214%, with the GA-BA-SVR model showing a slight underestimation bias of -0.4039%.

The U-statistic, which compares the model's performance to a naive forecast, ranges from 0.9859 to 1.3560, with the GA-BA-SVR model achieving a value of 0.9859, indicating a performance close to a naive forecast. The Root Mean Square Error, representing the standard deviation of prediction errors, varies from 128.3845 to 181.3387, with the SVR-

GA model achieving the lowest RMSE of 128.3845. The GA-BA-SVR model achieves an RMSE of 153.1168.

The R-squared values are exceptionally high, ranging from 0.99999983 to 0.99999988, indicating a very strong correlation between predicted and actual loads across all models. The Accuracy Percentage ranges from 80.9094% to 97.3994%, with the GA-BA-SVR model achieving an accuracy of 97.3994%.

The Pearson Correlation Coefficient, which measures the linear correlation between predicted and actual loads, ranges from 0.99759617 to 0.99875752, with the GA-BA-SVR model achieving a high PCC of 0.99829641. The Convergence Time, representing the time taken for the model to reach a solution, ranges from 3.351 seconds to 9.443 seconds, with the GA-BA-SVR model having a convergence time of 9.443 seconds. Finally, Table 7 shows that the SVR-GA model demonstrates the best performance in 168-hour ahead load forecasting, achieving the lowest MAPE, MAE, and RMSE. However, the GA-BA-SVR model also demonstrates strong performance, achieving the highest accuracy percentage and a high Pearson Correlation Coefficient. The convergence time for the GA-BA-SVR model is the highest among the compared models. The results highlight the effectiveness of both SVR-GA and GA-BA-SVR models in long-term load forecasting, providing accurate and reliable predictions for a 168-hour horizon.

Fig. 19 depicts the next 24-hour load forecast graph for a full week, from April 24th to April 30th, 2021, generated using the Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression (GA-BA-SVR) hybrid model. This figure provides a visual representation of the model's performance in predicting the electricity load over an extended period. The graph plots the actual electricity loads against the load forecasts produced by the GA-BA-SVR model, allowing for a direct visual comparison of their accuracy.

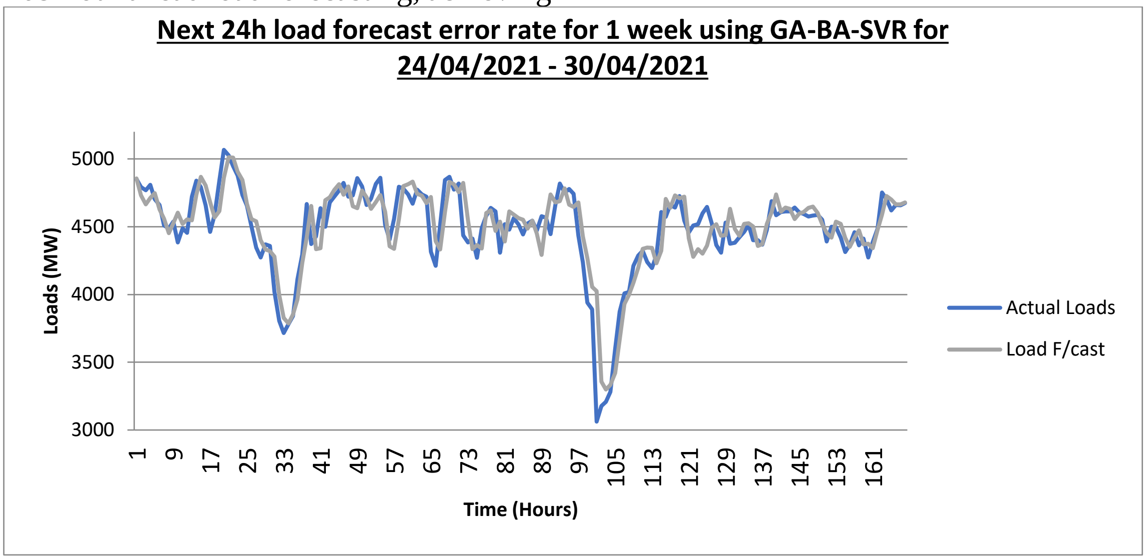

Fig. 19. **Next 24h load forecast graph for 1 week using GA-BA-SVR for 24/04/2021 - 30/04/2021**

The x-axis of the graph represents time in hours, spanning the 24 hours of each day for the entire week, resulting in a total of 168 hours. The y-axis represents the electricity load in Megawatts (MW). The blue line in the graph represents the actual electricity loads, while the grey line represents the load forecasts generated by the GA-BA-SVR model.

A close examination of the graph reveals that the grey line, representing the GA-BA-SVR model's forecasts, closely follows the pattern of the blue line, representing the actual loads. This indicates that the model can accurately capture the fluctuations and trends in electricity consumption over the week. The model's forecasts show a strong alignment with the actual loads, particularly during

periods of significant load changes, such as sharp increases and decreases. This suggests that the GA-BA-SVR model effectively captures the dynamic nature of electricity load patterns, providing reliable predictions.
The visual representation in Fig. 19 supports the quantitative results presented in Table 3, which showed low error rates (MAPE, MAE, RMSE) and high correlation (R^2, PCC) for the GA-BA-SVR model. The close alignment of the predicted and actual loads in the figure reinforces the model's accuracy and reliability in forecasting electricity loads over a week-long period.
Furthermore, the graph demonstrates the model's consistency in performance across different days of the week, including both weekdays and weekends. This suggests that the GA-BA-SVR model is robust and adaptable to varying load patterns, making it suitable for practical applications in real-world scenarios.
Finally, Fig. 19 provides a compelling visual representation of the GA-BA-SVR model's performance in forecasting the next 24-hour electricity loads over a week-long period. The close alignment of the predicted and actual loads in the graph underscores the model's accuracy, reliability, and consistency, supporting the quantitative findings and highlighting the model's potential for practical implementation in short-term load forecasting.

4.0 Conclusion

The findings of this study highlight the strong predictive performance of the proposed Genetic Algorithm-Bat Algorithm-Support Vector Regression (GA-BA-SVR) hybrid model for both short-term and long-term electricity load forecasting. The model consistently demonstrates high accuracy, as evidenced by its low Mean Absolute Percentage Error (MAPE), Mean Absolute Error (MAE), and Root Mean Square Error (RMSE) values, alongside high R-squared and Pearson Correlation Coefficient values. Compared to other hybrid and standalone models, the GA-BA-SVR approach exhibits superior predictive capability, accurately capturing variations in electricity demand. The visual analysis of forecast results further corroborates these quantitative metrics, showing a close alignment between predicted and actual loads across different time horizons. Additionally, the model exhibits strong adaptability to changing load patterns, maintaining stable performance across various days of the week, which underscores its robustness and reliability in practical applications.
Despite these strengths, certain challenges were encountered during the study. Managing the complexities of weekday load fluctuations proved to be a notable challenge, with slightly higher error rates observed mid-week compared to weekends. Although the model's convergence time was generally fast, some variability was observed across different forecasting horizons, suggesting the need for further optimization. Additionally, while the U-statistic values were close to one, indicating strong predictive accuracy, they also revealed that in some cases, the model's performance was not significantly superior to a naïve forecast. This suggests opportunities for further refinement in capturing complex and highly dynamic load behaviours.
In conclusion, the GA-BA-SVR hybrid model presents a highly effective approach to electricity load forecasting, outperforming conventional models in both accuracy and reliability. By integrating the Genetic Algorithm, Bat Algorithm, and Support Vector Regression, the model effectively captures the nonlinear and dynamic nature of electricity loads, making it a valuable tool for energy management and planning.
To further enhance its performance, future work should focus on refining the model's ability to handle weekday load fluctuations and improving its forecasting accuracy beyond naïve predictions. Optimization of convergence time, particularly for longer forecasting horizons, would enhance computational efficiency. Additionally, evaluating the model's performance in diverse geographical regions and under varying weather conditions would provide further validation of its robustness and

generalizability. Incorporating additional input variables such as weather patterns, economic indicators, and real-time grid conditions could further enhance predictive accuracy. Finally, developing real-time or near-real-time implementation strategies would facilitate the model's integration into energy management systems, ensuring its effectiveness in real-world applications.

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Compliance with Ethical Standards Declaration

Ethical Approval

Not Applicable

Competing interests

The authors declare no known competing financial interests

Data Availability

Data shall be made available on request

Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest

Ethical Considerations

Not applicable

Funding

The authors declared no external source of funding.

Authors' Contributions

The authors declare that the article was jointly written by the authors for the publication of this paper