

# Using deep learning to simulate demand response profiles from consumers

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Joint work with Ricardo Bessa

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# Introduction

As electricity is **hard to store**, balance between production and demand must be maintained at any time.

## Current solution:

Forecast demand and adapt production accordingly

- As renewable energies are subject to weather conditions, production becomes harder to adjust
- New communication tools (smart meters) will provide access to data and instantaneous communication

## Prospective solution:

Send incentive signals, like electricity tariff variations, to **manage electricity demand**



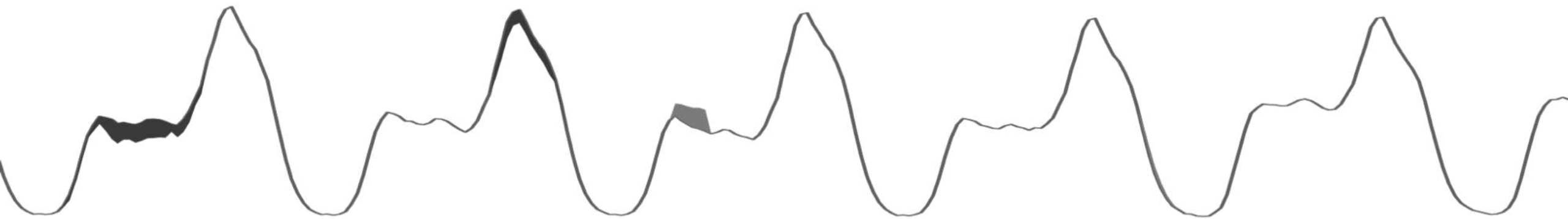
This presentation follows the article *Simulating Tariff Impact in Electrical Energy Consumption Profiles with Conditional Variational Autoencoders*, Margaux Brégère and Ricardo J. Bessa , IEEE Access, 2020

# Reinforcement Learning for Demand Side Management

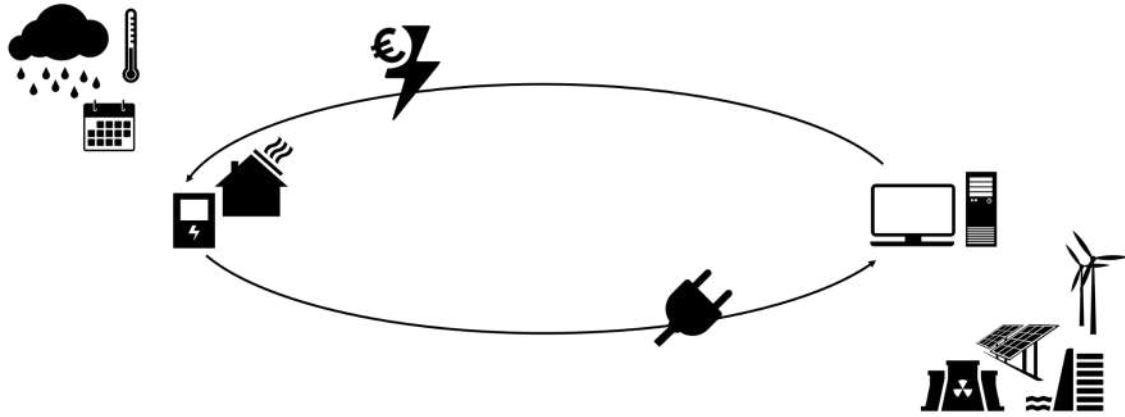
How to develop automatic solutions to dynamically chose incentive signals?

Learn from clients behaviors & Optimize tariffs sending  
Exploration - Exploitation  
trade-off

Adapt contextual-bandit (in my PhD) or any reinforcement learning theory to demand side management by offering price incentives



# How to test Reinforcement Learning Algorithms?



The experiments will rely on a **real data set**, in which different tariffs were sent to the customers according to some policy.

**Alternative policies** cannot be tested on historical data (only the electricity demand associated with tariffs sent was observed)

Motivation: a **data generator** for an ex-ante assessment of Demand Respond policies

# Two approaches

## A (semi)-parametric approach:

$$Y_t = f(x_t) + noise$$

- Interpretable
- Illustrate the theory (simulated data follows the model assumed in the theory)

## A black-box approach based on conditional variational auto-encoders

- Completely data-driven
- Test the algorithm robustness (simulated data imitates real data)

# Data set description and preprocessing

“Smart Meter Energy Consumption Data in London Households”  
Public dataset - UK Power Network

Individual electricity demand at half-an-hour intervals throughout 2013 of  
~1 000 clients subjected to **Dynamic Time of Use energy prices**

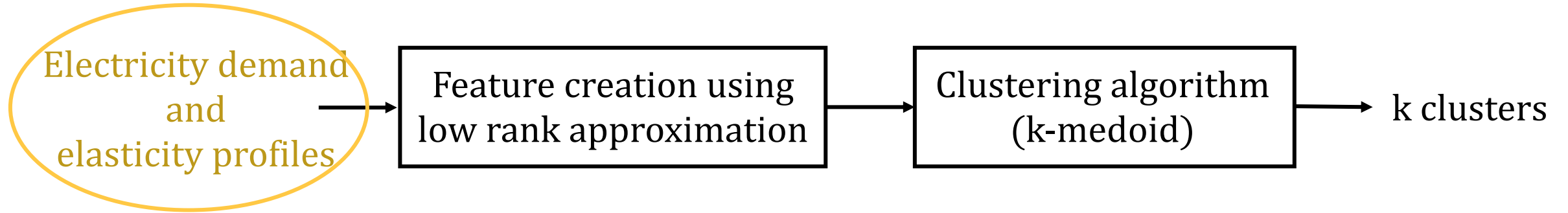
Three tariffs: High (67.20 p/kWh), Low (3.99 p/kWh), or Normal (11.76 p/kWh), announced day-ahead via the smart meter or text message.

# Data set description and preprocessing

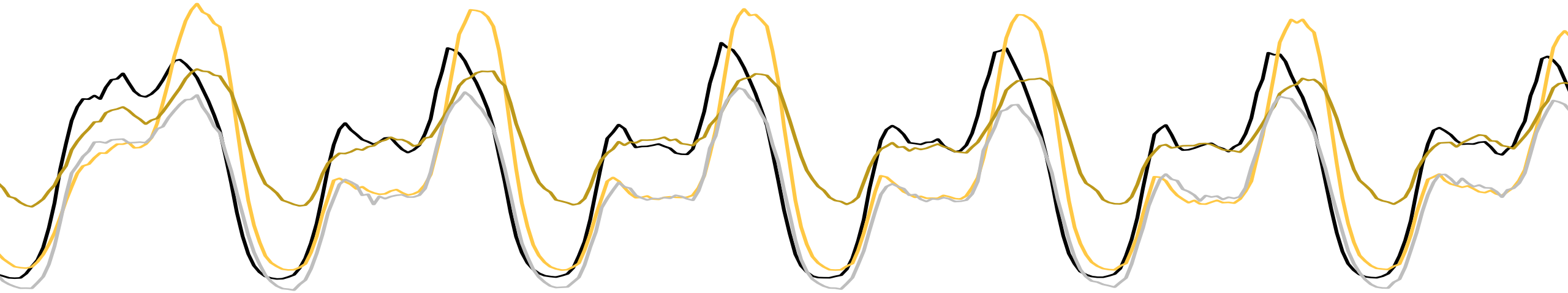
- Households with more than 95% of data available are kept
- Missing values filled by linear interpolation
- Half-hourly data points of air temperature in London obtained from hourly public observations are added and calendar variables are computed

Variable	Notation
Daily energy consumption profile at half-hourly intervals	$Y_t^1, \dots, Y_t^{48}$
Daily electricity price profile at half-hourly intervals	$p_t^1, \dots, p_t^{48}$
Daily London air temperature profile at half-hourly intervals	$\tau_t^1, \dots, \tau_t^{48}$
Smooth temperature Computed from past temperatures	$\bar{\tau}_t$
Type-of-day 1 from Monday to Friday, 0 for weekends	$w_t$
Position-inside-the-year Linear value between 0 (January, 1.) and 1 (December, 31.)	$\pi_t$

# Clustering of households



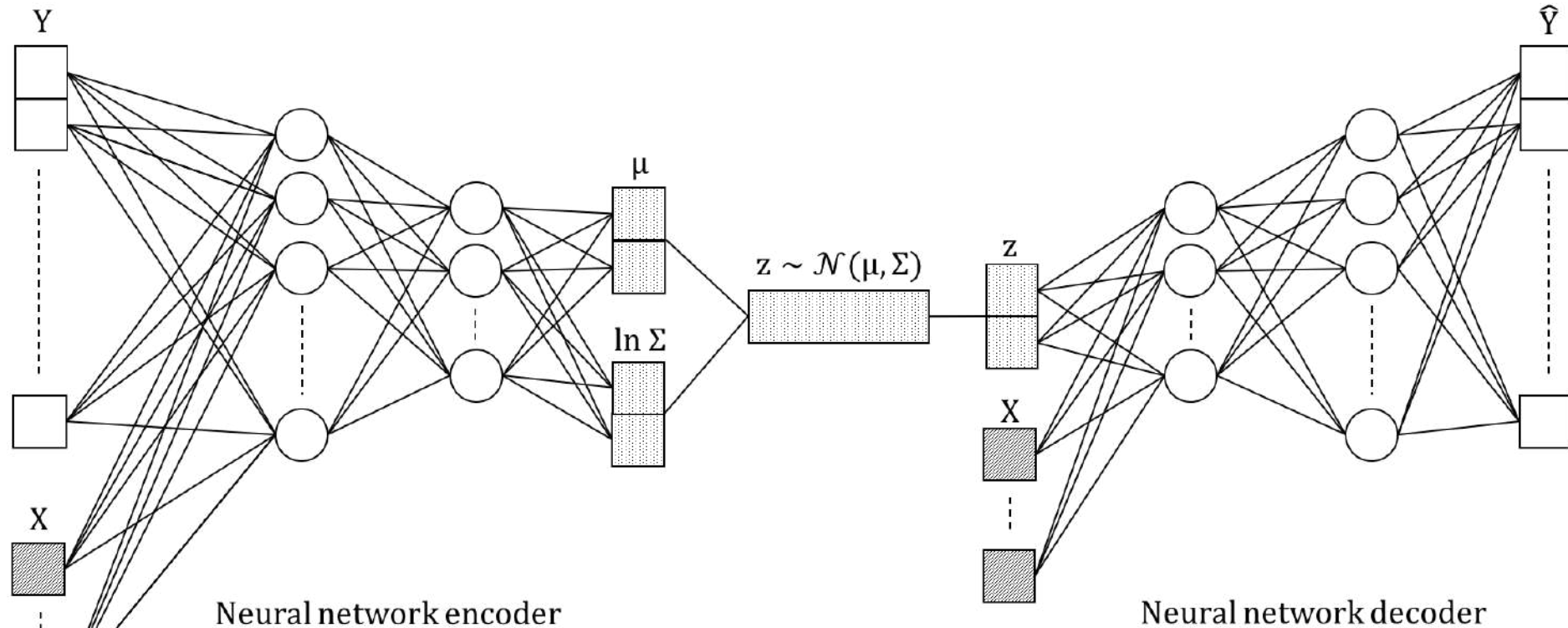
Estimated with causality inference [1]



[1] K. Ganesan, J. T. Saraiva, and R. J. Bessa, *On the use of causality inference in designing tariffs to implement more effective behavioral demand response programs*, 2019



# Energy consumption profile generation with Conditional Variational AutoEncoder (CVAE)[2]



$$L_{CVAE}(\eta) = \frac{1}{T_0} \sum_{t=1}^{T_0} \|Y_t - \hat{Y}_t\|^2 + \eta \frac{1}{T_0} \sum_{t=1}^{T_0} D_{KL}(\mathcal{N}(\mu(Y_t), \Sigma(Y_t)) \parallel \mathcal{N}(0, I_d))$$

# Energy consumption profile generation with Conditional Variational AutoEncoder (CVAE)

## Hyper-parameters:

- Number of hidden layers
- Number of neurons
- Activation function of neurons
- ...

## Conditional variables

- Temperatures resumed in 3 variables (with PCA)
- Position-inside-the-year
- 2 x 48 binary variables to encode Low and High tariffs

# Energy consumption profile generation with generalized additive models (GAM)[3]

$$\begin{bmatrix} Y_t^1 \\ \vdots \\ Y_t^{48} \end{bmatrix} = \underbrace{\begin{bmatrix} f^1(\tau_t^1, \bar{\tau}_t, w_t, \pi_t, p^1) \\ \vdots \\ f^{48}(\tau_t^{48}, \bar{\tau}_t, w_t, \pi_t, p^{48}) \end{bmatrix}}_{\text{Estimated with generalized additive models}} + \underbrace{\left( \sigma^1(p^1), \dots, \sigma^{48}(p^{48}) \right)^T}_{\substack{\text{A variance per tariff and} \\ \text{per half-hour}}}_{\text{Estimated with causality inference [1]}} E_t,$$

$$\text{where } E_t \sim \mathcal{N} \left( \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \underbrace{\Sigma}_{\text{Models correlations between half-hours}} \right)$$

Models correlations between half-hours

# Results: experiment design

	Training Set (75% data)	Testing Set (25% data)
Households clustering	✓	
CVAE model training	✓	
CVAE hyper-parameters calibration		✓
Semi-parametric model training	✓	
Numerical experiments		✓

For each cluster:

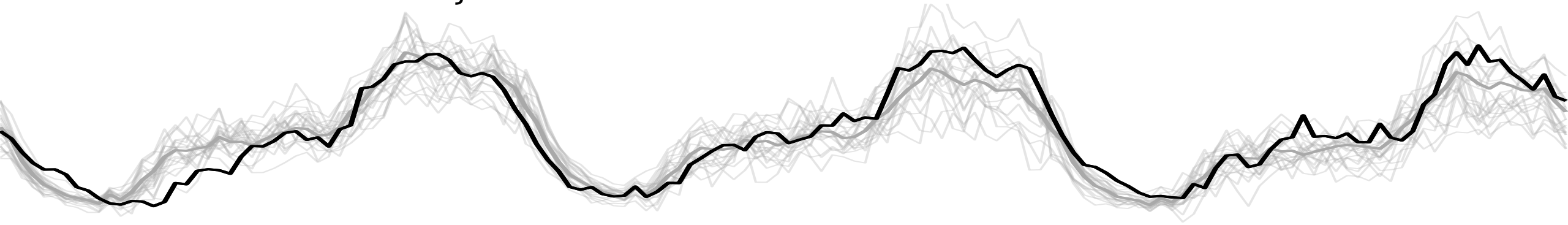
- A GAM-based generator
- A CVAE-based generator

# Electricity demand generated for tariff signals send in original data

- **Semi-parametric approach**

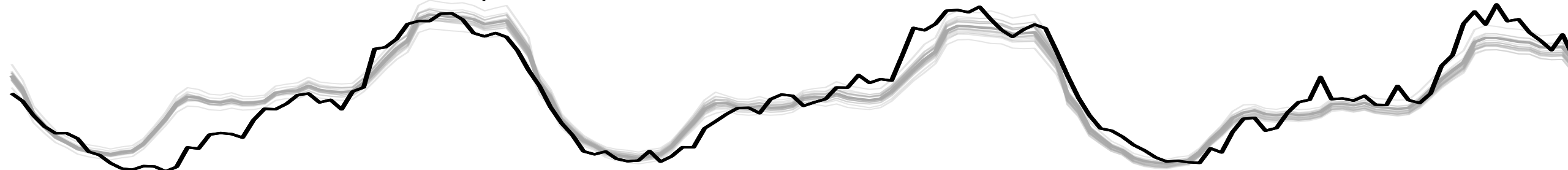
- + Good estimation in expectation
- Non-coherent trajectories

Observation  
Simulations



- **Black-box approach**

- + Coherent trajectories
- Bad estimation in expectation

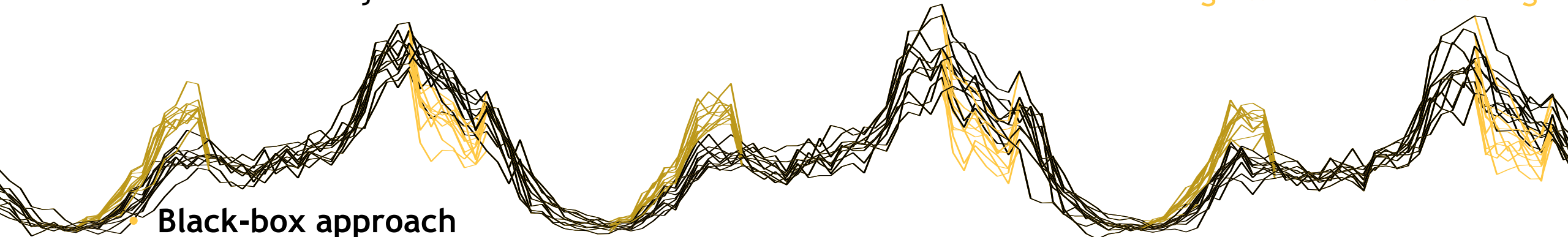


# Electricity demand generated for different tariff signals

- **Semi-parametric approach**

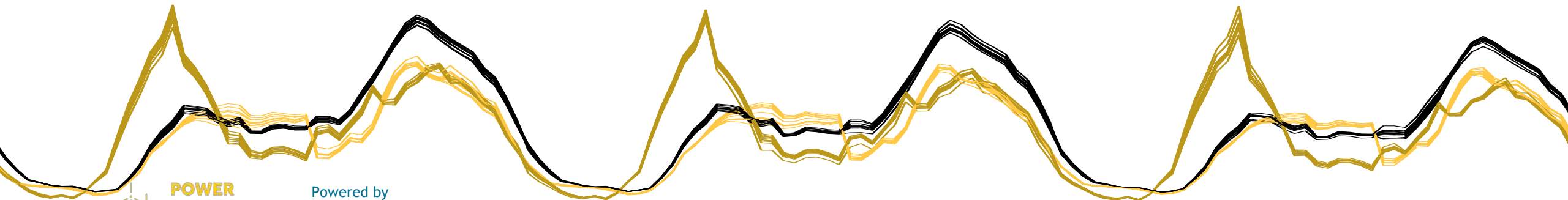
- + Interpretable (but captures tariff effect only for the half-hours affected)
- How to adjust variance and **model the noise?**

Normal tariff for all day  
**Low tariff in the morning**  
**High tariff in the evening**

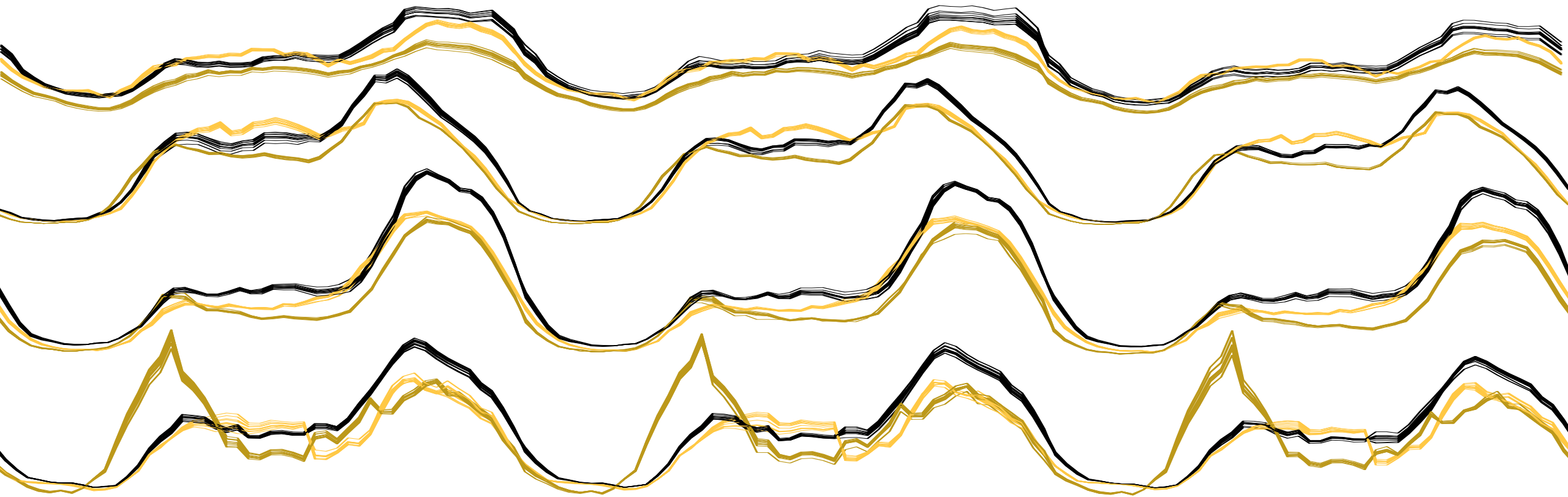


- **Black-box approach**

- + **Rebound effect** (provides daily consumption samples)
- Lack of variability and limited **generalization capacity**



# Results



Generated samples differ from a cluster to another

- clustering approach divides correctly the households according to their responsiveness to a tariff profile.

Many thanks  
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And thank you all for your attention !

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# Results: evaluation of the generated densities

Metrics:  $F$  is the generated density and  $y$  the real data

- Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): evaluates the quality of the expectation of the distribution

$$RMSE(F, y) = \|\mathbb{E}[Y] - y\|, \quad Y \sim F$$

- Energy Score [4]: does not detect correctly correlations between the components of the multivariate distribution

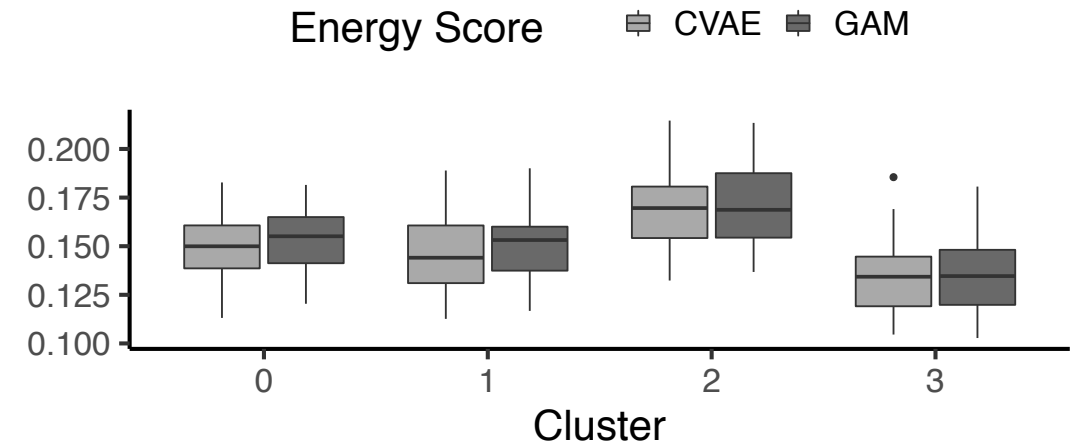
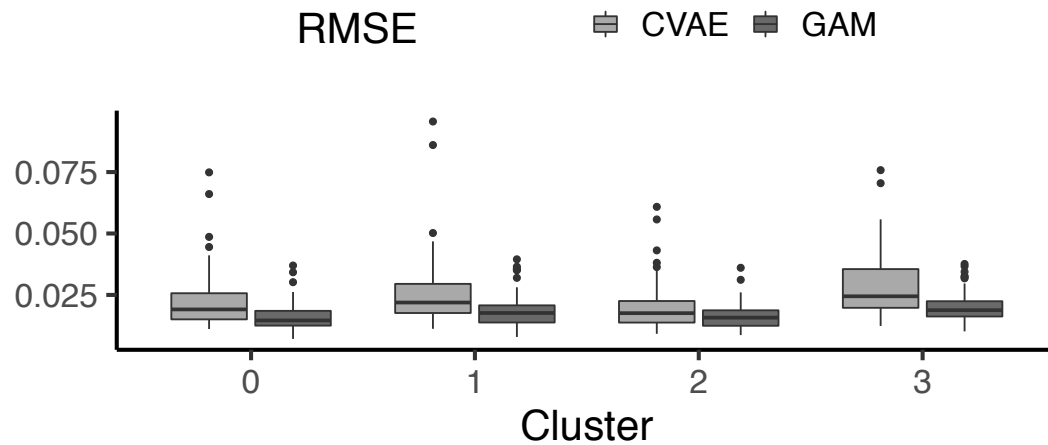
$$E(F, y) = \mathbb{E}[\|Y - y\|] - \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}[\|Y - Y'\|], \quad Y \text{ and } Y' \text{ independent and } \sim F$$

- Variogram [5]

[4] T. Gneiting and A. E. Raftery, *Strictly proper scoring rules, prediction, and estimation*, 2007

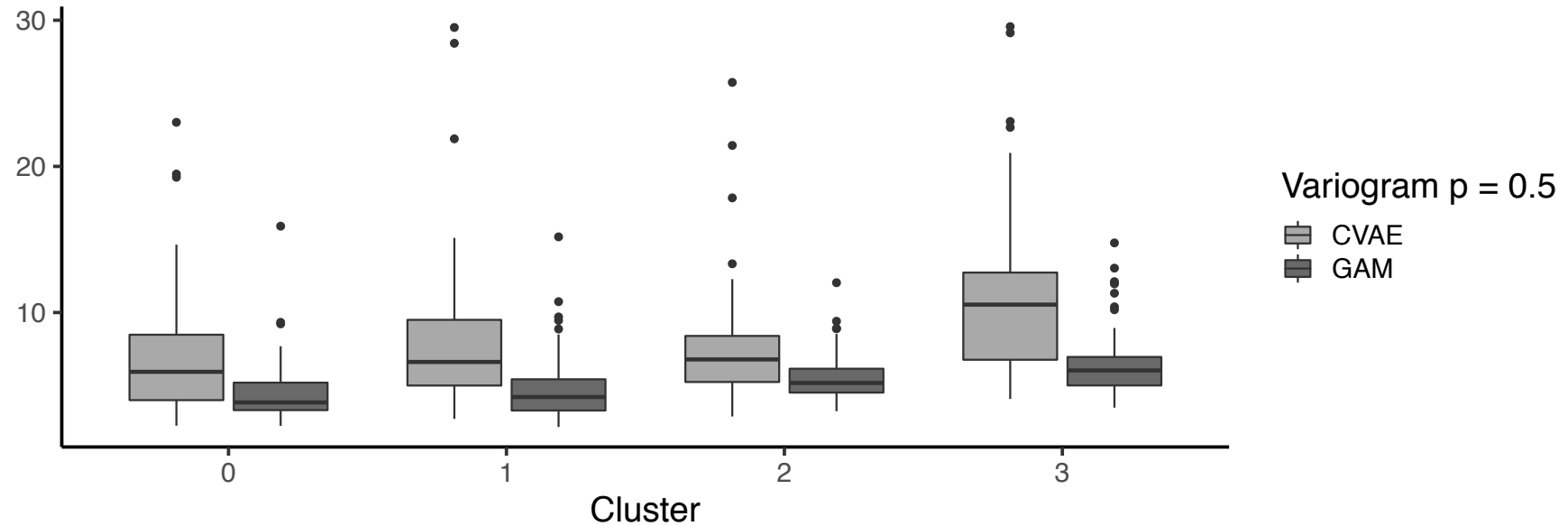
[5] M. Scheuerer and T. M. Hamill, *Variogram-based proper scoring rules for probabilistic forecasts of multivariate quantities*, 2015

# Numerical results



- GAM better than CVAE for generating the average value (RMSE)
  - Energy Score: slightly lower for the black box approach
- Method that consists in adding a noise term to a forecast in expectation have some limits whereas CVAEs seem to catch correctly the distributions

# Numerical results



- If average value incorrect, variogram scores increase
  - Too low or too high variance increases variogram
- Difficult to discriminate significantly both generators