



# Structural Modeling of Annual Hourly Load Considered Coupled Dynamics

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## Background

- Mid-term Load Forecasting (MTLF) is critical for power system maintenance, fuel planning, and electricity procurement.
- Forecasting requirements transition from monthly forecast to **annual hourly forecast**, and generate realistic 8760-hours scenarios.
- Auto-regressive methods fail at long horizons; traditional conditional modeling methods overlook structural evolution and complex holidays.

## Challenges and Contribution

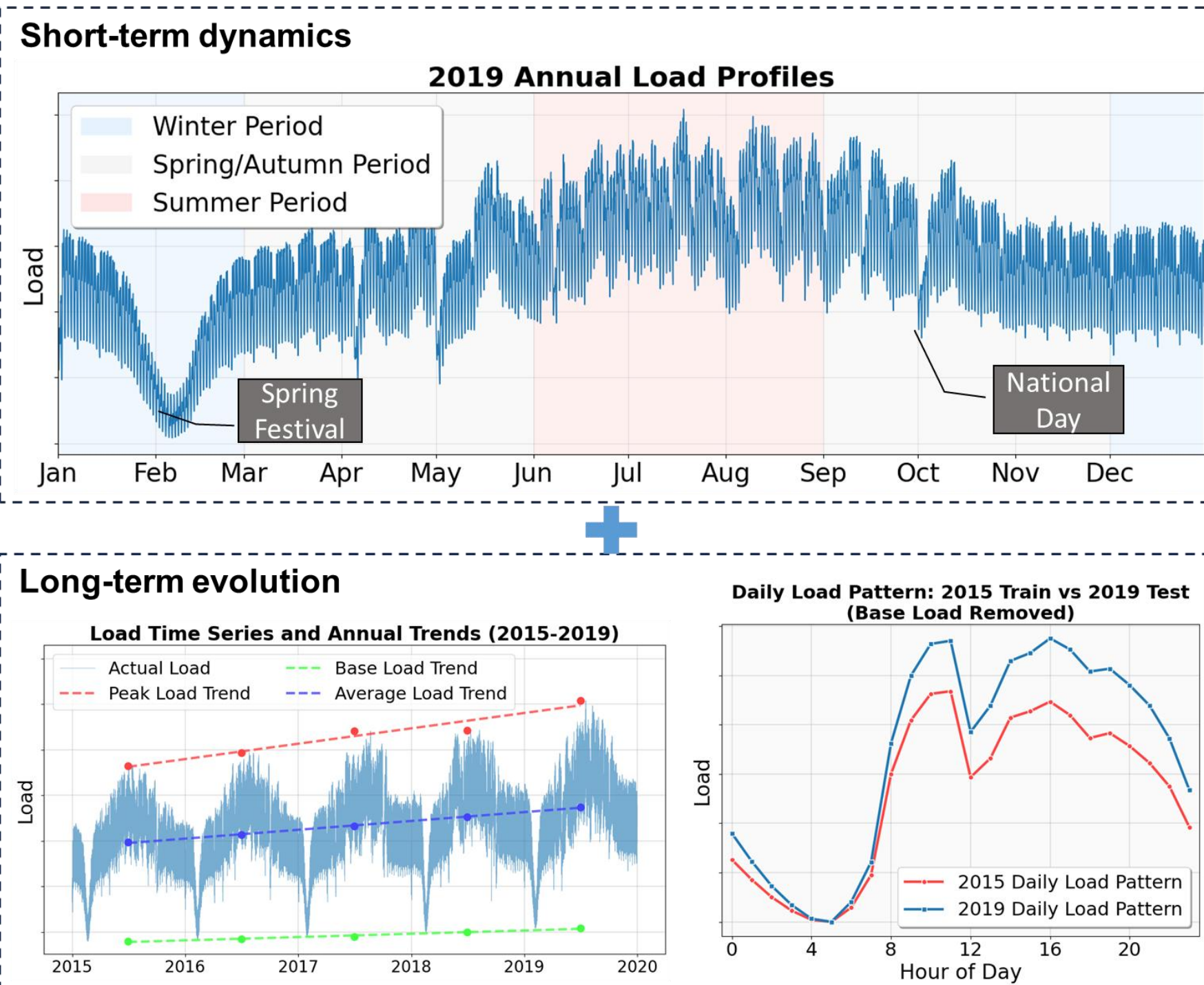


Fig. 1. Illustration of annual hourly load modeling challenges

### Challenges

- Complex Dynamics: **Short-term patterns** coupled with **long-term year-over-year evolution**.
- China's Unique Holidays: Lunar Calendar shifts and "Time-off in-lieu" system (weekend adjustments make load patterns irregular).
- Structural Uncertainty: Need to quantify annual hourly load uncertainties and build **long-term temporal dependencies** to generate realistic scenarios.

### Our Contribution

- Propose a novel structural GAM, explicitly model the **coupled dynamics and long-term structural evolution** of load profile.
- Propose a robust pattern-based holiday modeling approach within the GAM.
- Scenario Generation: A two-stage method (Mixture Distribution + Decoupled Residuals) for **probabilistically consistent and realistic 8760-load scenarios**.

## Methodology

### Structural GAM for Annual Hourly Load Modeling

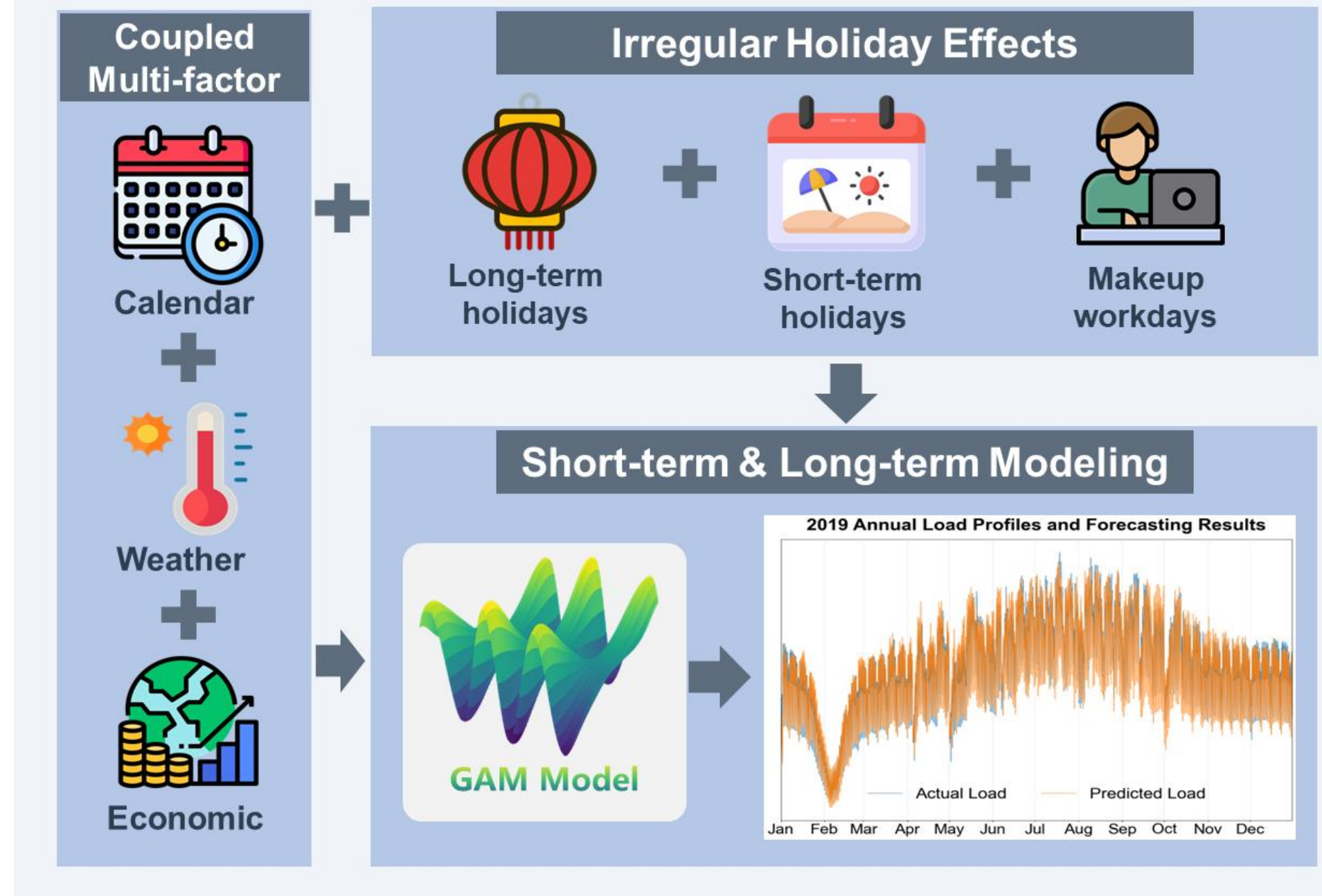


Fig. 2. GAM for annual load modeling

$$l_t = \beta + f_{cal} + f_{wea} + f_{holi} + f_{eco} + \epsilon_t$$

### Calendar

$$f_{cal,t} = s(\text{HoD}_t) + w_{\text{HoW},t} \cdot (\text{HoW}_t) + s(\text{HoY}_t) + te(\text{HoD}_t, \text{HoW}_t) + te(\text{HoD}_t, \text{HoY}_t) + te(\text{HoW}_t, \text{HoY}_t)$$

main cyclical patterns  
cyclical patterns interactions  
long-term evolution

### Weather

$$f_{wea,t} = m_{T,t} \cdot te(T_t, \text{HoD}_t) + te(T_t, \text{HoW}_t) + te(T_t, \text{HoY}_t)$$

evolving daily effect  
weekly temperature effect  
seasonal temperature effect

### Economic

$$f_{eco,t} = \beta_{\text{GDP}} \cdot \text{GDP}_t, \text{ where } \beta_{\text{GDP}} \geq 0$$

### Holidays

$$f_{holi,t} = f_{3\text{-days},t} + f_{\text{SF},t} + f_{\text{ND},t} + f_{\text{TOIL},t}$$

Long-term holidays

$$f_{\text{SF},t} = m_{h,t} \cdot s(\text{SF}_t) + te(\text{HoD}_t, \text{SF}_t)$$

$$f_{\text{ND},t} = m_{h,t} \cdot s(\text{ND}_t) + te(\text{HoD}_t, \text{ND}_t)$$

$$f_{3\text{-days}}(t) = \sum_{\text{type}=1}^7 m_{h,t} \cdot s(h_{\text{type},t})$$

$$f_{\text{TOIL},t} = s(M_{6,t}) + s(M_{7,t})$$

- Structural GAM: Explicitly decomposes load into **Calendar, Weather, Economy, and Holiday** components.

- Decomposition Strategy: Using smooths  $s(\cdot)$  and tensor product smooths  $te(\cdot)$  to capture non-linear interactions; Explicitly modeling year-over-year changes in patterns.

### Two-Stage Load Scenario Modeling

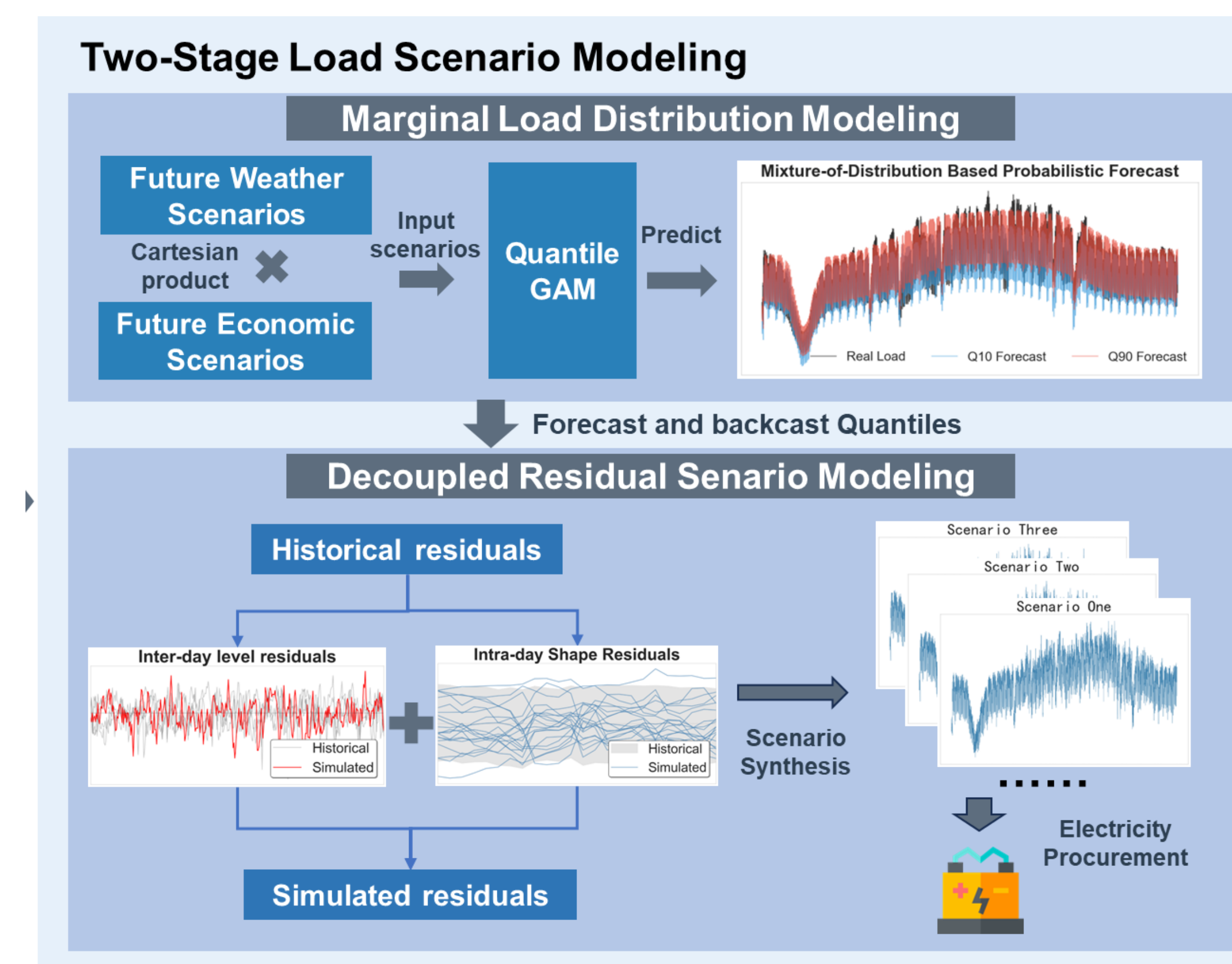


Fig. 3. The sketch of end-to-end modeling.

- Mixture-of-distributions probabilistic forecasting: simultaneously considered **the input uncertainty and load inherent randomness**.
- Scenario generation: 8760-hour scenario generation need to build long-term temporal dependencies; we generate realistic scenarios using a decoupled residual modeling strategy.

## Case study

### Experiment results

Part A: input actual weather and GDP data					
Metric	MLR	Prophet	MLP	LGBM	Proposed
Overall MAPE	7.65	8.88	5.17	5.74	<b>3.97</b>
Spring Festival	27.42	25.95	8.21	6.86	<b>5.63</b>
National Day	12.09	13.30	7.87	7.79	<b>5.86</b>
3-Day Holidays	11.78	12.05	11.20	9.82	<b>5.54</b>
Normal Days	4.69	6.34	4.25	5.24	<b>3.59</b>

Part B: input forecast weather and GDP data					
Metric	MLR	Prophet	MLP	LGBM	Proposed
Overall MAPE	8.37	8.88	6.84	6.27	<b>5.20</b>
Spring Festival	27.10	25.95	10.57	7.15	<b>6.52</b>
National Day	13.18	13.30	10.62	9.58	<b>8.76</b>
3-Day Holidays	11.92	12.05	11.66	9.67	<b>7.15</b>
Normal Days	5.57	6.34	5.90	5.81	<b>4.78</b>

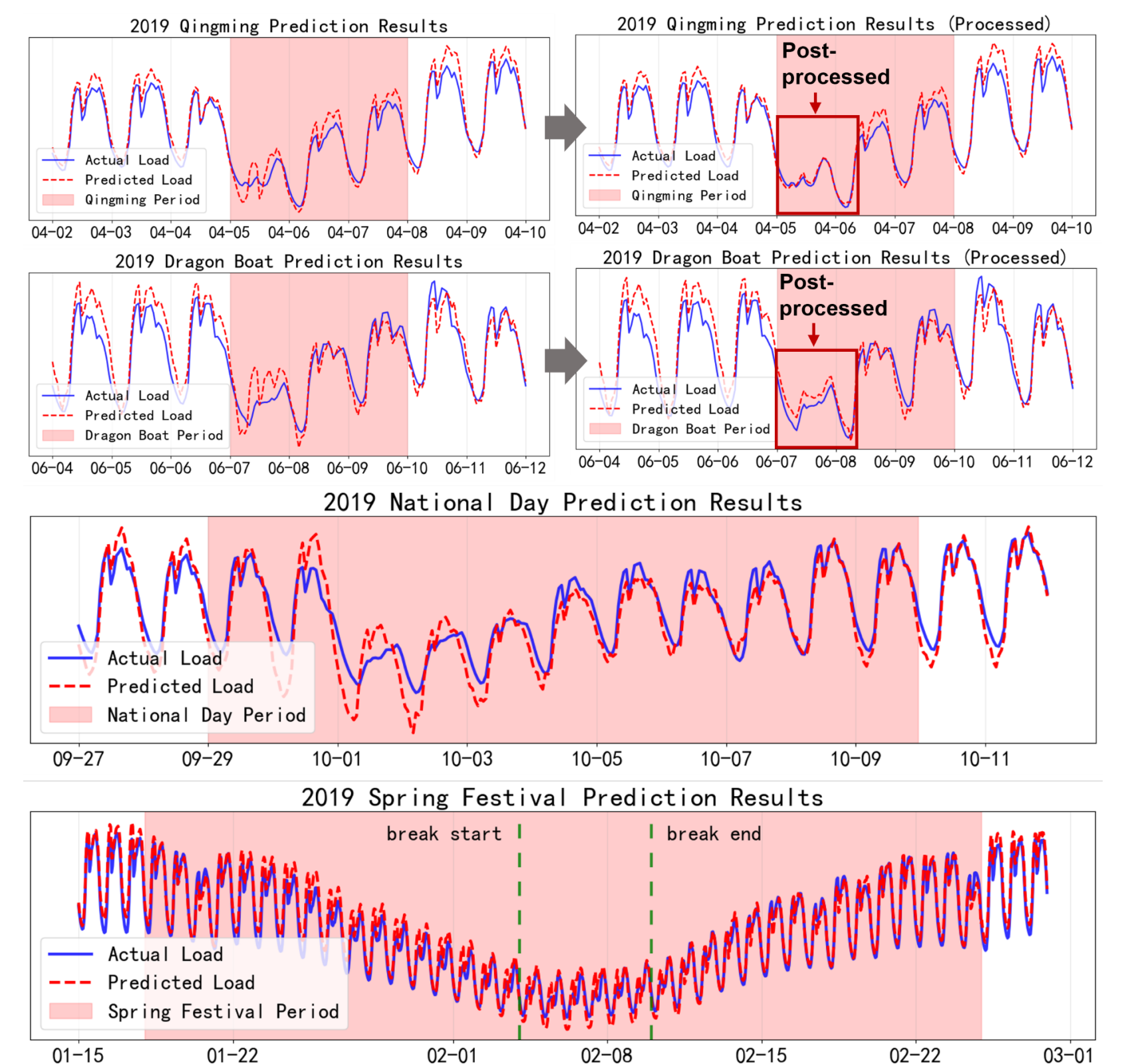


Fig.4. Holidays load forecasting results.

- 12 years of Guangdong load dataset.
- Consistently outperforms all, reducing the overall MAPE to **3.97% (ideal) and 5.20% (realistic)**.
- Holiday components are effectively captured

### Model Interpretability Analysis

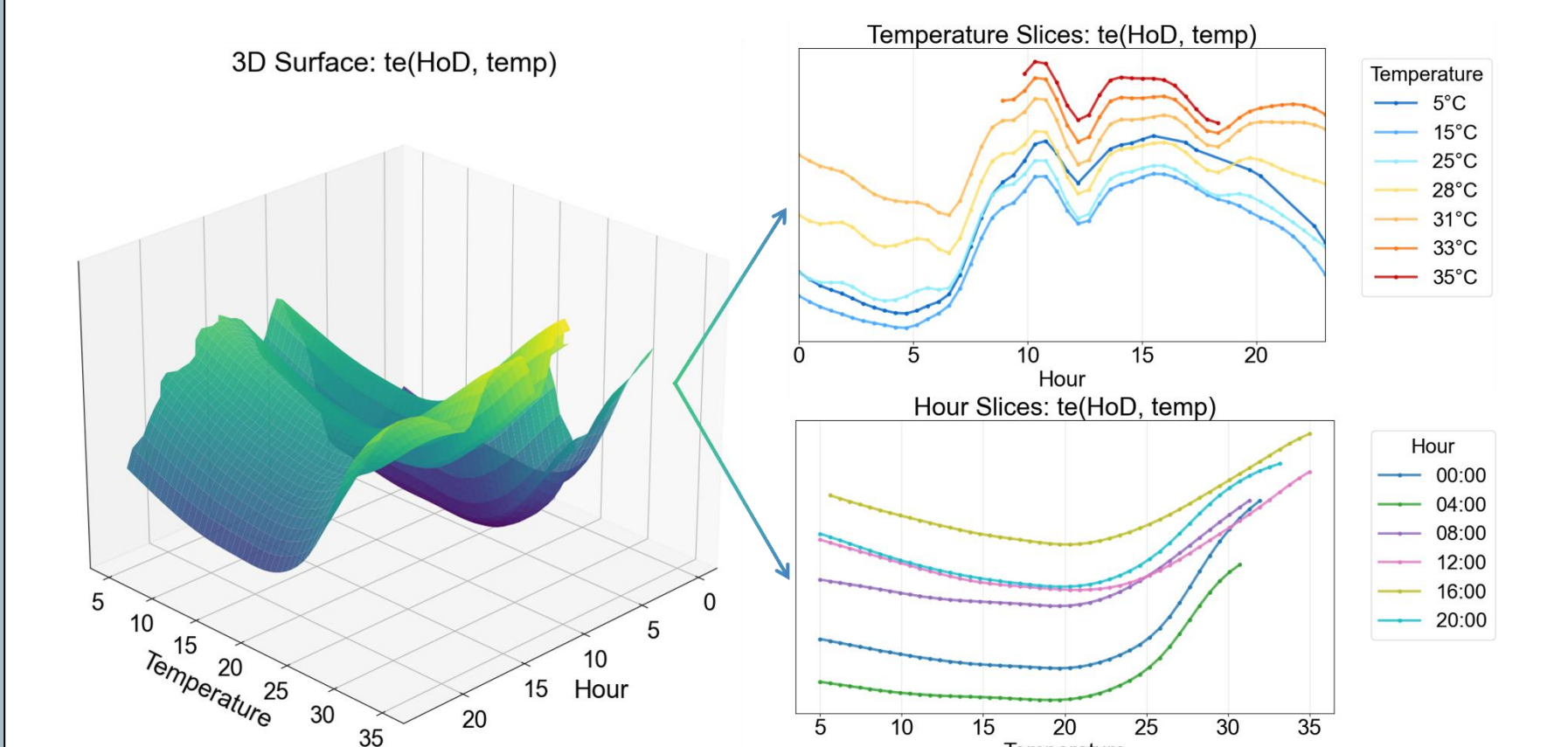


Fig.5. Temp. hours interaction term.

- The model is capable to **quantify the impact of specific drivers**. Enable deeper understanding of load patterns

### Load Scenario generation and application

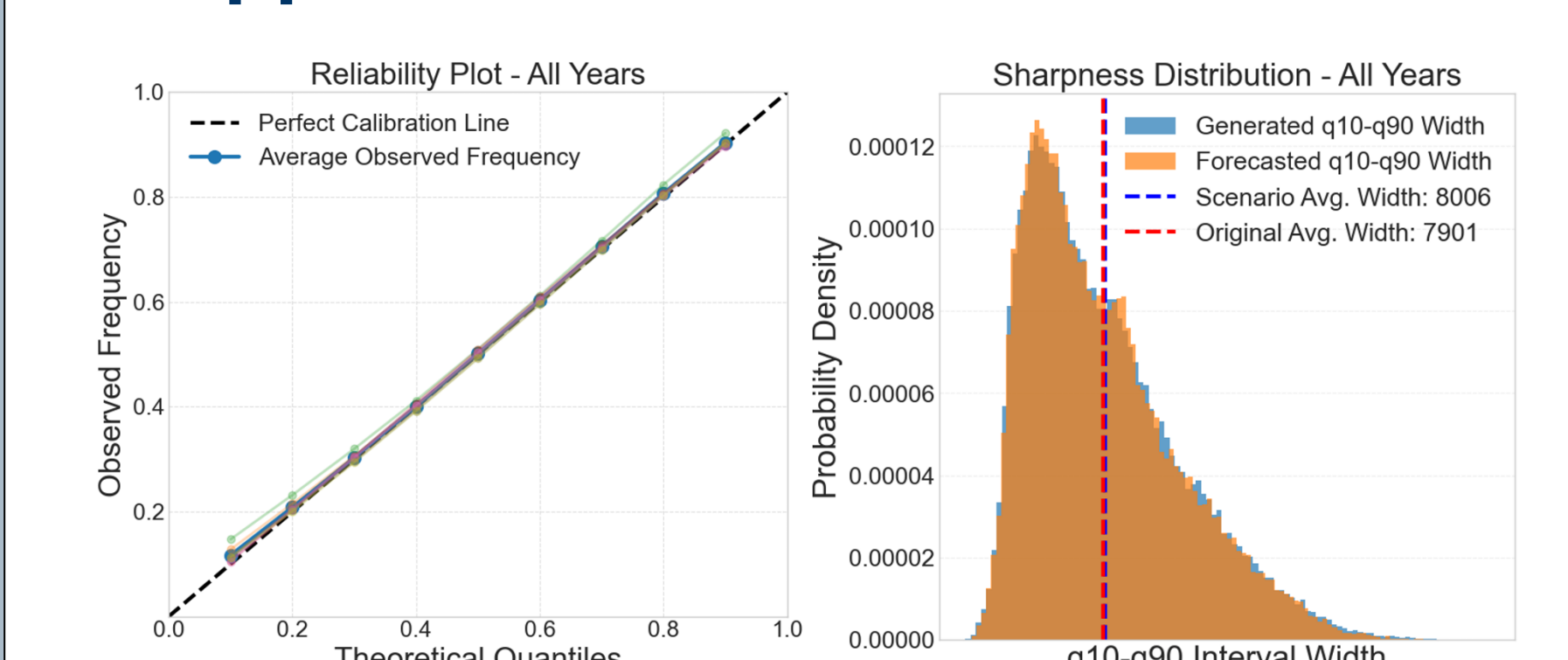


Fig.6. Reliability and sharpness diagram of the generated scenarios.

- Applied to electricity procurement, the generated scenarios enable better risk management. This strategy achieving annual savings of over **43 million CNY** compared to naive methods.