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Article

Learning-Based Non-Intrusive Electric Load Monitoring for Smart Energy Management

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Abstract: The state-of-the-art smart city has been calling for an economic but efficient energy management over large-scale network, especially for the electric power system. It is a critical issue to monitor, analyze and control electric loads of all users in system. In this paper, we employ the popular computer vision techniques of AI to design a non-intrusive load monitoring method for smart electric energy management. First of all, we utilize both signal transforms (including wavelet transform and discrete Fourier transform) and Gramian Angular Field (GAF) methods to map one-dimensional current signals onto two-dimensional color feature images. Second, we propose to recognize all electric loads from color feature images using a deep neural network with multi-scale feature extraction and attention mechanism. Third, we design our method as a cloud-based, non-intrusive monitoring of all users, thereby saving energy cost during electric power system control. Experimental results on both public and our private datasets have demonstrated our method achieves superior performances than its peers, and thus supports efficient energy management over large-scale Internet of Things.

Keywords: smart city, smart electric energy management, electric load monitoring, load recognition algorithm, computer vision

1. Introduction

The past decades have witnessed a booming of urban populations with ever-increased municipal facilities to serve all citizens. An effective solution to manage these facilities is smart city with Internet of Things (IoT), which is mostly benefitted from the recent development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) [1–3]. To support the smart city, an economic but efficient electric power management system is indispensable [4].

A cloud-end administrator monitors electricity consumptions of all users and loads, presents analyses of all electricity usages, and provides advices to users or directly manages electricity usage of all loads. As a result, the overall electricity consumptions are saved to support sustainable developments of cities and environments.

An efficient electric power management system is dependent on its electric load monitoring module [5–7], which can be realized by intrusive or non-intrusive approaches. Compared with Intrusive Load Monitoring (ILM), Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring (NILM) has more advantages (see Section II for details). In the design of NILM, Load Recognition Algorithm (LRA) plays an essential role and thus attracts attention from researchers. Despite of these great efforts, there still exists a need to further improve the accuracy of LRA. Generally, load recognition may lead to inaccurate results when using inappropriate feature extraction and neural networks, or false recognising loads under masking effect – features of low power load are usually hard to be identified under high power loads.

To address these issues, we present a NILM method based on current feature visualization and a Deep Load Recognition Network (DLRN), as shown in Figure 1. The NILM method enables precise load recognition in smart homes, facilitating more effective energy management.

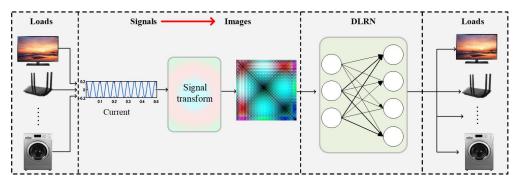


Figure 1. Non-intrusive load monitoring with feature visualization.

In summary, our contributions are summarized as follows:

- 1. We propose a current feature visualization method based on signal transforms and Gramian Angular Field (GAF). By this operation, the feature differences between loads are highlighted to make ease of vision-based recognition.
- 2. We propose a DLRN based on multi-scale feature extraction and attention mechanism. This design aims to further enhance the recognition accuracies and generalization abilities of our method, especially at low power conditions.
- 3. Our NILM approach demonstrates its high efficiency in both public and our private datasets. To examine the generalization ability of proposed approach, we introduce a new dataset with 12 types of electric loads with powers from 24W to 1800W. Experimental results in this dataset as well as the public PLAID dataset validate our design.

The rest of paper is organized as follows. Section II reviews the related work on load monitoring. Sections III presents our contributions in current feature visualization and load recognition based on deep neural networks. Comprehensive experiments and analyses are presented in Section IV. Finally, Section V concludes this paper.

2. Related Works

As pointed out in Section I, there are two types of methods of load monitoring: ILM and NILM. In ILM [8,9], each electric load is monitored by a separate sensor and the information acquired from all sensors can be centrally processed by cloud-end. While in NILM [6,7,10], only one monitor is required for each family or cell. It captures electric signals (such as voltage, current, and so on) at the commercial power input and transimits them to cloud server in which workload information of all loads are interpreted with algorithms. These differences can be shown in Figure 2. Apparently, the NILM is preferrable in smart city infrastructure for its simple design, energy-efficient and low setup/maintenance cost.

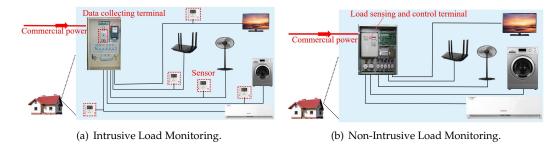


Figure 2. Intrusive and non-intrusive load monitoring in electricity grid.

In the NILM design of Figure 2b, only one terminal is deployed at the access point of family/cell. It sees the electrical loads in room within a black box. How to design an effective LRA model to recognize or interpret these loads is thus critical.

Traditional LRA methodologies compared the feature of an unknown load with those of known loads in dictionary. They made judgments through a metric set consisting of matching degree [11], similarity degree [12], Hellinger distance [13], etc. The performance of LRA was also benefited from the development of machine learning, resulting in recognition methods with K-means clustering [14] and fuzzy C-means [15]. However, these methods basically utilized single feature without consideration on subtle differences between similar signals. Therefore, the problem of recognition confusion was not well addressed.

Researchers considered to introduce more types of signal features to improve the accuracy of LRA. [16] proposed a load recognition model with a feature combination of transient waveform and power change value during load switching. Kang *et al.* [17] employed fast Fourier transform to extract the amplitude and phase of odd harmonics of the current, and then used them as key features for recognition. To improve the recognition accuracies of loads, [18] constructed a hybrid feature set by the parameters of active power, reactive power and harmonic amplitude.

In the past decade, deep learning has demonstrated its strengths in AI-driven tasks, such as computer vision, natural language processing, human-computer interaction, and IoT. These successes also inspired the researchers to introduce deep neural networks in LRA. [19] designed a sequence-to-sequence Long-Short-Term Memory (LSTM) network for load recognition. The authors in [20] designed a capsule-network-based LRA, in which Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) extracted latent features from a set of non-overlapping energy measurement data segments. [21] proposed a dual-stream neural network to extract features from current signals. [22] proposed to extract features with Siamese neural networks and then used them in load recognition. These works have revealed the strong feature extraction abilities of neural networks with promising performance in load recognition.

To further promote the LRA accuracy, researchers also attempted to visualize the features of voltage or current and then employed image-alike processing techniques in load recognition. Owing the advantage of recent booming of computer vision technologies, more accurate and robust LRA methods were developed. [23] presented an image-classification-based LRA, where the image was obtained with voltage-current (V-I) trajectory. [24] provided a CNN-based LRA with weighted pixel V-I trajectory map as features. Liu *et al.* employed color-coded V-I trajectory map as the input of their AlexNet-based load recognition model [25]. In [26], the V-I trajectory and amplitudes of current and voltage were mapped as a color image, which provided richer feature information to CNN-based load recognition. Wenninger *et al.* [27] mapped a cycle of V-I trajectories as a threshold-free recursive graphs, and subsequently designed a Spatial Pyramid Pooling (SPP) convolutional neural network for load recognition.

Our proposed method is also an image-based recognition approach that maps current features and employs image-alike recognition. Compared with its peers, we design a more effective feature mapping framework and a more reliable deep neural network for load recognition. Experimental results validate its design.

3. Proposed Method

3.1. Motivation and Our Framework

It is clear that the choice of input signal has a significant impact on the performance of load recognition. Most traditional approaches [26,28,29] directly input signals such as voltage, current and V-I trajectory diagram into a feature extraction network and carry out the subsequent load recognition accordingly. However, studies [30–32] have shown that there are a large amount of noise with a great negative impact on current and voltage signals. It will lead to a decrease in the accuracy of subsequent recognition algorithm, which also leaves room for performance improvement. In other words, preprocessing the signal before entering the recognition network is expected to improve the performance of recognition algorithm.

Considering the excellent results of frequency domain analysis (e.g., wavelet transform, discrete Fourier transform) signal processing, we introduce them into the preprocessing in our method. Firstly, we decompose the current signal into approximation and detail coefficients by wavelet transform. The approximation coefficient represents envelope information of the current signal, which can be used as the main information to distinguish the load; the detail coefficient represents texture information of the current signal, which can distinguish the details of different loads and consequently improve the accuracy of load recognition. Secondly, we use harmonic information of coefficients for load recognition to reduce the impact of noise on recognition accuracy. Our experiments have shown that harmonics are generated during the operation of power equipment, and the harmonics generated by different types of power equipment are different (see below for validation experiments).

Inspired by the avove analysis, we propose a NILM method, as shown in Figure 3. First of all, we employ wavelet transform and Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) to decompose the current signal into three feature sequence: (i) approximation coefficient sequence with envelope feature of the current signal; (ii) detail coefficient sequence with texture feature of the current signal; (iii) harmonic ratio sequence with harmonic feature of the current signal. After that, we utilize the GAF method to convert the above three sequences into gray-scale images, and further set them as R, G, B channels of a color image. By this operation, the differences between loads are highlighted to make ease of load recognition. Finally, we propose a DLRN based on multi-scale features and visual attention mechanism. These steps will be elaborated as follows.

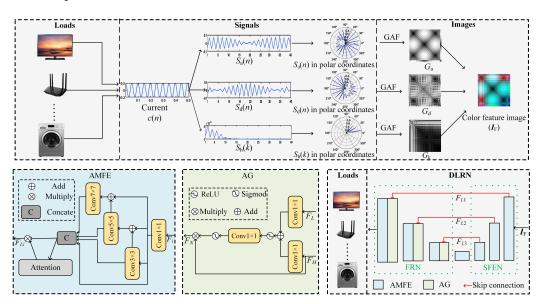


Figure 3. Flowchart of our proposed current feature visualization method and a DLRN.

3.2. Proposed Current Feature Visualization

In a NILM system, the terminal at commercial power input is able to capture the voltage and current signals. Between them, the voltage keeps almost intact while the current fluctuates with the electric usage on loads. Therefore, we select the current signal as the input of our load recognition model. To visualize the current signal as a two-dimensional image, we first extract its features and then convert them into gray-scale images, which are further set as channels of the visualized color image.

Denote the current signal by c(n) with a length N. It can be expanded into wavelet series as [33]:

$$c(n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{k} W_{\varphi}(j_0, k) \cdot \varphi_{j_0, k}(n) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{i=j_0}^{\infty} \sum_{k} W_{\psi}(j, k) \cdot \psi_{j, k}(n),$$

$$(1)$$

where j represents wavelet decomposition scale that determines the length of wavelet coefficient, k. $\varphi_{j_0,k}(n)$ and $\psi_{j,k}(n)$ represent the scaling and wavelet functions, respectively. $W_{\varphi}(j_0,k)$ and $W_{\psi}(j,k)$ are approximation coefficient and detail coefficient, respectively. For ease of presentation, we denote them as $S_a(n)$ and $S_d(n)$, n=0,1,2,...,N-1. They are calculated as [34]:

$$S_{a}(n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{n} c(n) \cdot \varphi_{j_0,k}(n). \tag{2}$$

$$S_{\mathbf{d}}(n) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \sum_{n} c(n) \cdot \psi_{j,k}(n), j > j_0.$$

$$\tag{3}$$

According to [35], $S_a(n)$ and $S_d(n)$ represent the envelope feature and texture feature of the current signal, respectively. This paper uses them as two features that will be visualized and recognized.

Another feature used in this paper is harmonic content which refers to the percentage of the k-th order harmonic component in the total harmonic components. As the k-th order harmonic component of the current signal can be obtained by DFT [36]:

$$r(k) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} c(n) \cdot e^{-j\frac{2\pi k}{N}n},$$
(4)

the harmonic content (denoted by $S_{\rm h}(k)$) is formulated as:

$$S_{\rm h}(k) = \frac{r(k)}{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{N} r(i)}.$$
 (5)

The harmonic contents of loads vary subject to electrical components and circuit systems. To verify the above assumption, we explored the harmonic contents of different types of loads: resistive, pump-driven, motor-driven and switching-powered. The results are shown in Figure 4 where the left part shows the current waves while the right part shows their corresponding harmonic contents. From this figure, the resistive loads (e.g., electric kettle, hair dryer) heat with resistors and barely have harmonic components. The pump-driven loads (e.g., washing machine, refrigerator) works mainly with fundamental wave, but with more 3rd, 5th and 7th harmonic components. The motor-driven loads (e.g., electric fan) are similar to pump-driven loads. They have 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th harmonic components that are lower than fundamental wave. The switching-powered loads (e.g., TV, computer) adjust output voltages with high-frequency switches. They generate rich high-order harmonic components, such as 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th and 13th harmonic components, which are comparable with fundamental wave. Obviously, the harmonic content, i.e., $S_h(k)$, is an effective feature to identify different types of loads.

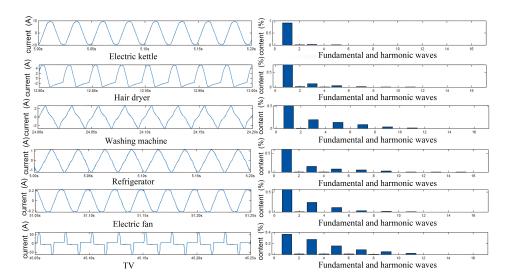


Figure 4. Current signals and harmonic contents of typical loads.

We then map all extracted features of $S_a(n)$, $S_d(n)$ and $S_h(k)$ into grayscale images with GAF method. Take $S_a(n)$ for example. Firstly, $S_a(n)$, n = 0, 1, 2, ..., N - 1 are transferred from Cartesian coordinate system to polar coordinate system:

$$\begin{cases} \varphi(n) = \operatorname{arctg}[S_{a}(n)] \\ r(n) = \sqrt{S_{a}^{2}(n) + n^{2}} \end{cases}$$
 (6)

Then, an $n \times n$ Gramian matrix G_a is obtained in which

$$G_{\mathbf{a}}(i,j) = \sin(\varphi(i-1) - \varphi(j-1)). \tag{7}$$

Similarly, we also obtain the Gramian matrixes of $S_d(n)$ and $S_h(k)$, respectively denoted by G_d and G_h . We use the following equations to map these Gramian matrixes to the R, G and B channels of a color image:

$$\begin{cases}
R = |G_a| \times 255 \\
G = |G_d| \times 255 \\
B = |G_h| \times 255
\end{cases}$$
(8)

$$I_{\mathsf{F}} = [R \quad G \quad B]. \tag{9}$$

The flowchart of our proposed current feature visualization can be summarized on the top of Figure 3. The fused color image, I_F , with a resolution of 40×40 , has its unique texture information and chroma components. It includes low-frequency envelope features, high-frequency texture details and all harmonic ratios. Compared with the original one-dimensional current signal, it visualized and highlighted all hidden features whilst keeping timestamp of the original signal. As a result, we are allowed to use CNN methods to recognize all loads with a high accuracy.

3.3. Proposed DLRN

3.3.1. Overview of the Network

To recognize load from I_F , a critical issue is how to effectively extract both global and local features and avoid the influence of noise. To this end, we designed a deep feature extraction neural network (*i.e.*, DLRN), which is illustrated on the bottom of Figure 3. DLRN consists primarily of Shallow Feature Extraction Network (SFEN), intermediate layer module, Feature Recombination Network (FRN), and skip connections. SFEN employs continuous attention-based multi-scale feature dense extraction

modules (denoted by AMFEs) to extract various feature information from the I_F . The intermediate layer AMEF further processes the output of SFEN to capture important load features. To preserve shallow features, the output of each AMEF (denoted as F_{Li}) is fed into FRN through skip connections.

$$F_{Li} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{M}(\mathbf{I}_{\mathrm{F}}) & i = 1\\ \mathbf{M}(F_{L(i-1)}) & i = 2,3' \end{cases}$$
 (10)

where F_{Li} represents the output of the i-th layer's AMFE, and M() represents AMFE. In FRN, Atention Gates (AGs) and AMEFs make progress on between shallow and crucial load features. Ultimately, the output from FRN is subjected to average global pooling, fully connected layer, and a softmax function for precise load recognition.

3.3.2. AMFE

In order to effectively extract features about envelope information, texture details, and all harmonic ratios in load images, we have designed AMFE in both SFEN and FRN, which is depicted in Figure 3. First, it utilizes a 1×1 convolution to extract coarse-grain features and further divides them into four feature sub-sets with the same space size. Second, it employs four different convolution kernels to extract features from different sub-sets:

$$b_{i} = \begin{cases} a_{i} & i = 1\\ m_{i}(b_{i-1} + a_{i}) & 2 \le i \le 4 \end{cases}$$
 (11)

where $m_2()$, $m_3()$ and $m_4()$ are 3×3 , 5×5 and 7×7 convolutions, respectively. Third, it concatenates all inputs b_i , $i\in[1,4]$ and uses a 1×1 convolution to fuse all features from different scales. Finally, it employs attention mechanism to adaptively allocate weights to multi-scale features. Attention mechanism allows the network to adaptively adjust the importance of each channel. By weighting operations on the feature maps, attention mechanism highlights important features and depresses the other features, thus it degrades the impacts of non-relevant features in load recognition.

By using AMFE, the proposed network deeply exploits the image features at different scales that benefit the feature extraction ability of our model.

3.3.3. Attention Gate

During the process of the FRN, low-level load features will be replaced by high level load features. To address this issue, we introduce an AG before each addition operation to better recombination high-level and low-level features. Figure 3 shows the network structure of AG, which incorporates both low-level and high-level features for load recognition. In this structure, the low-level feature from skip connection (F_L) serves as a gate control signal, while high-level feature (F_H) acts as a input signal. To combine these two signals, both two signals are separately convoluted by 1×1 and added into a new signal. Then, the new signal is activated by ReLU function, convoluted by 1×1 and filtered by a Sigmoid function to obtain a weight matrix. Finally, the feature F_H is multiplied element-wise with the weight matrix obtained earlier, resulting in a new feature F_N that integrates both low-level and high-level features for load recognition. The features are passed through the AG network, which can be represented by:

$$\alpha_t = \varphi_1 \Big(f^{1 \times 1} \Big(\varphi_2 \Big(f^{1 \times 1}(F_L) + f^{1 \times 1}(F_H) \Big) \Big) \Big), \tag{12}$$

$$F_N = F_H * \alpha_t, \tag{13}$$

where $f^{1\times 1}()$ denotes a convolution of 1×1 , φ_1 represents Sigmod function, φ_2 represents ReLU function, and α_t is the weight matrix of the AG network.

By incorporating the AG network, the model selectively enhances important low-level features while preserving the information from high-level features.

3.4. The Overall Algorithm for the Proposed NILM

In summary, the steps of proposed NILM method are as follows.

- Step 1. Obtain the current signal c(n).
- Step 2. Calculate the three feature sequences, approximation coefficient $S_a(n)$, detail coefficient $S_d(n)$ and harmonic content $S_h(k)$, with Eqs. (2), (3) and (5).
- Step 3. Use the GAF method, as shown in Eqs. (6)-(9) to convert these feature sequences into a color image I_F .
 - Step 4. Identify the electric load with the image I_F , and the proposed DLRN in Figure 3.

4. Experiments and Simulations

To examine the performance of our method, we compare it with the state-of-the-art methods on popular datasets. We also present the ablation studies to validate the effectiveness of our network design. In addition, we discuss the use of the proposed method of NILM in smart cities.

4.1. Datasets

We compare all methods in a publicly available dataset, Plug Load Appliance Identification Dataset (PLAID) [37], with electric usage data of 11 types of loads. To increase the data samples for training, we also design a load sensing terminal and capture electric usage of 12 types of popular loads. The powers of these loads range from 24W to 1800W, which are representative to test the LRAs under similar electric loads or masking effect of loads.

4.2. The Performance of Our Method

The tested results of our method are summarized in Table I, including results on both PLAID and our datasets. For each dataset, we split it into a 70:30 ratio for training and testing. From the table, our method achieves a promisingly high accuracy of 98.26% on our dataset with an F1 score of 0.9819. It also achieves an accuracy of 97.71% and an F1 score of 0.9743 on the PLAID dataset. These results have fully demonstrated the efficiency of our load recognition model.

 Database
 Accuracy
 Precision
 Recall
 F1

 Ours
 0.9826
 0.9818
 0.9821
 0.9819

 PLAID
 0.9771
 0.9779
 0.9707
 0.9743

Table 1. Performance of our method

To analyze the recognition accuracies of different types of loads, we present the confusion matrixes on testing sets in Figure 5. From Figure 5, all resistive loads, *e.g.*, electric kettle (1800W) and hair dryer (1200W), can be well recognized with a high accuracy of 98.20%. This fact is mainly attributed to their distinct features of high powers and low harmonic contents. As discussed in Section III, pump-driven loads have similar feature distributions to those of motor-driven loads. In these categories, our model successively identifies washing machine, electric fan, air conditioner and vacuum cleaner with a low probability of incorrect recognition or confusion. switching-powered loads have high harmonic contents, but also with low powers that might be covered by high-power loads. From Figure 5, our method is well capable of addressing this issue. Its recognition accuracies of notebook, TV and router exceed 96.88% even when high-power loads (*e.g.*, electric kettle, air conditioner) are working at full powers.

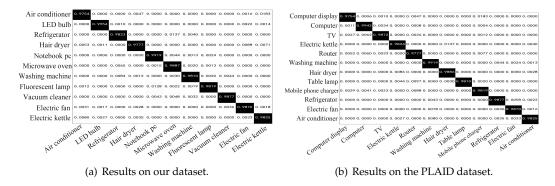


Figure 5. Confusion matrixes of our method.

4.3. Comparison with Popular Methods

To examine the superiority of our proposed method, we compare it with references [24–26] under the same conditions. The evaluation results on PLAID dataset are shown in Table II. From the table, our method surpasses all compared algorithms on PLAID with an average accuracy of 97.71%. This fact validates the effectiveness of our method in electric load recognition. It is thus capable of identifying all types of loads after a fine training in a large-scale electricity management system for smart city.

 Method
 Network
 Accuracy(%)

 De's [24]
 CNN
 91.74

 Liu's [25]
 AlexNet
 95.40

 Ding's [26]
 CNN
 96.63

 Ours
 DLRN
 97.71

Table 2. Comparison results on the PLAID dataset

In addition, both the two stages of our model, current feature visualization and deep load recognition, contribute to the final performance. With our current feature visualization and Ding's CNN model, the hybrid method also achieves an accuracy of 96.91% that outperforms Ding's method. By using both current feature visualization and deep load recognition, our method outperforms Ding's by 1.08%. This fact also validates our design.

4.4. Ablation Study

We also perform ablation experiments to examine the design of our DLRN. Experiments are run on both PLAID and our dataset.

1) The Effectiveness of Our Features Extraction: In our method, we employ approximation coefficient, detail coefficient and harmonic ratio as the three features for load recognition, as shown on the top of Figure 3. To validate the effectiveness of these features, we implemented an experiment in which we input the features used in tradtional methods [26,28,29] to our network and then compared its performance with our method. The results are shown in Table III. From this table, our features extraction method achieves apparently higher accuracy compared to the traditional method.

Table 3. Effectiveness of the features employed in our method

	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1
Traditional features	0.9273	0.9282	0.9273	0.9259
Ours	0.9826	0.9818	0.9821	0.9819

2) The Effectiveness of Multi-scale Feature Extraction: Our deep network utilizes multi-scale convolution kernels 1×1 , 3×3 , 5×5 , 7×7 , as shown in network part of Figure 3. To validate its effectiveness, we compare it with identical kernel settings, *e.g.*, 1×1 , 3×3 , 5×5 or 7×7 , with results summarized in Table IV. All settings are retrained for fair comparison. From the table, our multi-scale feature extraction design is superior to all other settings. Therefore, our deep model can well extract all critical information from the visualized current and thus is more suitable for load recognition.

Table 4. Performance evaluation with different kernels

Kernel	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1
1×1	0.85100	0.85611	0.85076	0.85342
3×3	0.92458	0.92573	0.92184	0.92378
5×5	0.95333	0.95576	0.94941	0.95257
7×7	0.95497	0.95720	0.95393	0.95566
Ours	0.98465	0.98681	0.98114	0.98396

3) The Effectiveness of AG: The AGs are utilized to add multi-scale features after skip connections. From Table V, our method achieves inferior performance without these AGs. Therefore, both multi-scale feature extraction and attention mechanism contribute to the final recognition performance.

Table 5. Performance evaluation w/ and w/o AGs

	Parameters	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1
w/ AG	1264014	0.98465	0.98681	0.98114	0.98396
w/o AG	1247515	0.97497	0.97481	0.97235	0.97357

4.5. Discussion on Practical Use

A practical AI-driven load management system can be implemented with the proposed load recognition method, as shown in Figure 6. This system is designed as a joint Terminal-Network-Cloud infrastructure for smart cities.

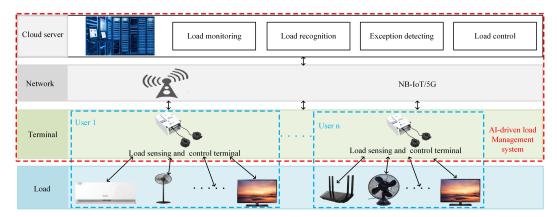


Figure 6. An application paradigm of our method.

At the terminal-end, a load sensing and control terminal is in charge of managing all loads in a family or cell. It collects load information (*e.g.*, the current signal) and sends it to a cloud server for further analysis. It also receives and executes all commands from the cloud server to control loads for energy saving. The network is utilized to transmit all data and commands, which can be based on technologies like Narrow Band IoT (NB-IoT) or 5G.

At the cloud-end, a cloud-based service platform is responsible for load recognition, monitoring, and control. It analyzes the electricity consumption of all loads and provides suggestions for smart control of switches. By controlling the loads, unnecessary (e.g., lighting under daylight) or dangerous (e.g., abnormal use in factory) usage of electricity can be avoided. The cloud-based service platform runs the proposed NILM method only when necessary, so computational cost is not a critical issue. The experiments also demonstrate that the NILM approach can run on a laptop, as the proposed deep model processes a 40×40 color image only.

In summary, the joint Terminal-Network-Cloud infrastructure enables efficient electricity management over large-scale IoT in smart cities, allowing for load monitoring, analysis, and control for each family or cell. The proposed NILM approach can be deployed in the smart electricity management system of smart cities.

5. Conclusion

This paper proposes a NILM method based on current feature visualization and deep recognition network. It first converts current signals into color images with a combination of signal transform and GAF method. Then, it utilizes multi-scale feature extraction and attention mechanism to design a deep recognition network. Experimental results demonstrate its efficiency in both public and our own datasets, as well as its performance superiority compared with its peers. The proposed method can be embedded into the load monitoring and management system to control the electric usage and save energy in smart city.

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