Using machine learning algorithms to analyze energy consumption data and optimize management processes at smart enterprises

Iryna Bashynska[1*[0000-0002-4143-9277]] and Yevheniia Khaustova[3[0000-0003-1436-6137]]

[1] AGH University of Krakow, Krakow, Poland
[2] Odessa National Polytechnic University, Odesa, Ukraine
[3] Kyiv National University of Technologies and Design, Kyiv, Ukraine
bashynska@agh.edu.pl

Abstract. The article explores the transformative potential of machine learning (ML) algorithms in optimizing energy management within smart enterprises. Amidst growing global energy demands and the pressing need for sustainability, ML emerges as a crucial technology for enhancing operational efficiency and reducing environmental impact. Through comprehensive literature review and practical case studies, the article delves into the application of ML across various sectors, including manufacturing, retail, and data centers, illustrating its capacity to analyze complex energy consumption data, predict future needs, and optimize resource use. Key themes include the integration of ML with existing energy management systems, the advantages and challenges of deploying ML algorithms, and the potential for ML to revolutionize traditional energy management practices. Case studies from leading corporations such as Toyota, Walmart, Google, and Siemens demonstrate tangible benefits, such as predictive maintenance, HVAC optimization, and substantial energy savings, highlighting ML's role in advancing corporate sustainability goals. The article underscores the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration, data quality, and continuous algorithm refinement in realizing ML's full potential in energy management. Looking forward, it outlines prospects for broader adoption, advanced predictive analytics, autonomous systems, and enhanced sustainability efforts. In summary, this exploration of ML in energy management showcases the technology's significant promise for smart enterprises seeking to navigate the complexities of modern energy use, offering a roadmap toward more sustainable, efficient, and intelligent energy management solutions.

Keywords: algorithm, machine learning, energy consumption, enterprise management systems, smart enterprises.

1 Introduction

In the contemporary world, energy serves as the lifeblood of global economies, powering industries, cities, and virtually every facet of daily life [1; 2]. Yet, as our dependence on energy burgeons, so too does the strain on our planet's finite resources. This burgeoning demand poses a twofold challenge: ensuring a stable energy supply to meet the ever-increasing needs of a growing global population, while simultaneously mitigating environmental impacts in an era of climate change. The burgeoning demands of the global economy have significantly amplified energy consumption, casting a spotlight on the paramount importance of optimizing energy utilization [3; 4]. In this era, where sustainability and efficiency have become global imperatives, the quest for innovative solutions is more pressing than ever.

Amidst this quest, machine learning stands out as a beacon of hope. It offers a promising avenue to transform energy management practices within enterprises, making them not only more efficient but also sustainable [5; 6]. This technological evolution comes at a critical juncture, bridging the gap between the increasing energy demands and the urgent need to curb environmental impact.

By integrating machine learning, businesses embark on a path of intelligent energy use, leveraging predictive analytics and automation to navigate the complexities of modern energy management [7]. This approach not only mitigates their environmental footprint but also optimizes operational costs, presenting a compelling case for its widespread adoption. As the climate crisis looms larger, the imperative to adopt such advanced technologies becomes undeniable, positioning machine learning as an essential tool in the global effort to achieve sustainable energy consumption.

The study endeavors to unravel the potential of machine learning in revolutionizing how enterprises manage their energy consumption. By harnessing predictive analytics and intelligent automation, businesses can achieve a dual objective: mitigating their environmental footprint while optimizing operational costs. As the world grapples with the looming climate crisis, the adoption of machine learning in energy management not only aligns with ecological stewardship but also signifies a strategic maneuver to stay ahead in an increasingly resource-constrained landscape.

2 Literature Review

The advent of smart technologies and machine learning (ML) has paved the way for revolutionary approaches in managing energy consumption within both public infrastructures and private enterprises. This literature review delves into recent advancements in this domain, focusing on two primary areas: applications within the public sector and implications for enterprises.

Machine Learning in the Public Sphere.

The public sector's embrace of ML for energy efficiency is exemplified in smart city initiatives [8; 9; 10; 11]. A study by Mahapatra et al. [12] introduces Home Energy Management as a Service (HEMaaS), employing a neural network-based Q-learning algorithm to optimize residential energy use. This approach aligns with findings from Ohalete et al. [13], who underscore the role of AI in identifying energy consumption patterns and uncovering efficiency opportunities, marking a significant evolution from traditional analysis methods to AI-driven techniques. Additionally, Alghamdi et al. [14] highlight the use of ML in smart cities for energy consumption prediction, emphasizing the role of IoT data in enhancing monitoring and management capabilities. Research indicates that smart city initiatives, integrating IoT (Internet of Things) sensors and ML analytics, significantly improve energy management across urban infrastructures. For instance, machine learning approaches for smart city energy management have demonstrated potential in optimizing energy distribution, reducing waste, and forecasting energy demand with high accuracy. These technologies enable cities to implement dynamic energy pricing, improve grid reliability, and promote renewable energy sources, thereby fostering a more sustainable urban environment.

Applications in Enterprises. In the context of enterprises, ML algorithms are instrumental in analyzing vast amounts of energy consumption data to identify inefficiencies and optimize operations [15; 16; 17; 18]. Studies have explored how businesses, especially those with substantial energy demands like manufacturing plants and data centers, can leverage ML for predictive maintenance, real-time energy monitoring, and automation of energy-saving measures. By employing algorithms capable of pattern recognition and anomaly detection, enterprises can not only achieve significant cost reductions but also enhance their carbon footprint. Moreover, the integration of ML with building management systems has been shown to facilitate the dynamic adjustment of energy use in response to varying operational needs and external conditions, such as weather changes. In the enterprise sector, ML algorithms play a crucial role in analyzing energy data to identify inefficiencies and optimize operations. Akram et al. [19] propose an Intelligent Energy Management System (IEMS) for smart cities, leveraging ML to efficiently minimize energy consumption. This is complemented by insights from Farzaneh et al. [20], who explore AI's potential in smart buildings, emphasizing improved control, reliability, and automation for enhanced energy efficiency. Such applications demonstrate ML's capacity to transform enterprise energy management through advanced analytics and predictive modeling.

Cross-sectoral Synergies and Challenges. The literature [21; 22; 23] underscores the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration between public entities and private enterprises in advancing energy optimization goals. By sharing data and insights, these sectors can develop more comprehensive models that accurately reflect energy consumption patterns and efficiency opportunities [24; 25]. However, challenges such as data privacy, interoperability among different technologies, and the need for robust cybersecurity measures are recurrent themes. Hou & Wang [26] provide a bibliometric analysis that highlights the growing application of big data and AI in the energy field, suggesting a trend towards leveraging these technologies for renewable energy and energy-efficient renovations. This points to a broader scope for cross-sectoral collaboration in harnessing AI for sustainable energy management. Addressing these challenges is critical to fully realizing the potential of ML in enhancing energy management processes.

The application of machine learning algorithms in analyzing energy consumption data presents vast opportunities for both the public sector and enterprises to achieve greater energy efficiency and sustainability. As the technology continues to evolve, ongoing research and collaboration across sectors will be key to overcoming existing barriers and unlocking the full potential of smart energy management solutions.

In conclusion, the utilization of machine learning algorithms and artificial intelligence in the analysis of energy consumption data represents a pivotal shift towards more efficient and sustainable energy management practices. Across the public sector and within enterprises, the capacity to harness these technologies is not just an operational advantage but a strategic imperative for addressing the complex challenges of modern energy demands. The advancements detailed in this review underscore a transformative journey from conventional methods to sophisticated, AI-driven analytics, capable of realizing substantial improvements in energy efficiency, cost reduction, and environmental sustainability.

As we navigate the intricacies of integrating these technologies, the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration becomes increasingly evident. The synergies between public initiatives and private enterprise endeavors are crucial for the development of holistic models that can accurately predict, monitor, and optimize energy use. Nonetheless, the path forward is fraught with challenges—data privacy, technological interoperability, and cybersecurity remain significant hurdles that necessitate concerted efforts to overcome.

The evolving landscape of machine learning and AI in energy management calls for continuous research, innovation, and dialogue among stakeholders. By embracing these advancements, societies can not only achieve remarkable efficiencies but also make strides towards the larger goal of sustainable development. The journey ahead will require adaptive strategies, robust frameworks, and an unwavering commitment to technological and collaborative progress, ensuring that the potential of smart energy management solutions is fully realized for the benefit of all.

3 Fundamentals of Machine Learning in Energy Management

At the core of machine learning's integration into energy management are its diverse algorithms and models, each tailored to decode the complexities of energy consumption patterns. These tools range from regression models, which predict future energy needs based on historical data, to neural networks, capable of identifying intricate patterns within vast datasets. Clustering algorithms further enhance this arsenal by segmenting data into meaningful groups, facilitating targeted energy-saving measures.

2.1 Algorithms and Models. Before delving into the specific algorithms and models pivotal to machine learning in energy management, it's crucial to understand their role. These technologies serve as the backbone of machine learning applications, enabling the extraction of valuable insights from energy consumption data. By applying these sophisticated tools, businesses can decipher complex patterns, predict future trends, and make data-driven decisions that enhance energy efficiency. Let's explore some of the most influential algorithms and models in this domain:

1) Regression Models [27; 28]. These models are not only foundational for their predictive capabilities but also for their adaptability to incorporate renewable energy sources into the energy mix. Recent studies have explored the use of advanced regression techniques, like Ridge and Lasso regression, to more accurately forecast energy demand while accounting for the variability introduced by solar and wind energy production. This level of precision supports better grid

management and energy distribution planning, highlighting the model's evolving sophistication in addressing today's energy challenges.

2) Neural Networks [29; 30]. The latest advancements in neural network architectures, particularly convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and recurrent neural networks (RNNs), have pushed the boundaries of what's possible in energy consumption pattern recognition. These models are increasingly used in real-time energy management systems to predict short-term energy needs with high accuracy, catering to the dynamic demands of smart grids and smart buildings. Their ability to process sequential data makes them ideal for analyzing time-series energy data, thus enabling more responsive and adaptive energy management strategies.
3) Clustering Algorithms [31; 32]. Beyond basic clustering techniques, recent innovations have introduced more nuanced approaches to understanding energy usage patterns. For example, the use of hierarchical clustering combined with principal component analysis (PCA) allows for the detection of subtler, more complex consumption patterns across different scales of operation. This approach not only identifies energy-saving opportunities but also assists in benchmarking performance against similar enterprises or industry standards. By leveraging these sophisticated clustering methods, businesses can implement more targeted and effective energy optimization initiatives, contributing to overall sustainability goals.

2.2 Advantages and Challenges. As we explore the application of machine learning in energy management, it's imperative to weigh its benefits against the inherent challenges (see Fig. 1). This dual perspective not only illuminates the path to optimization and sustainability but also underscores the practical considerations that must be addressed to harness the full potential of these technologies. Let's delve into the advantages and challenges of deploying machine learning algorithms in the realm of energy management, providing a balanced view of its impact on enterprises striving for efficiency and environmental stewardship.

The application of machine learning in energy management embodies a promising avenue towards achieving enhanced energy efficiency and a sustainable operational model. The benefits, ranging from the precise prediction of energy demands to the identification of inefficiencies and the optimization of energy consumption patterns, highlight the transformative potential of ML technologies. These advancements facilitate not only significant cost reductions but also contribute to the overarching goal of environmental sustainability by minimizing waste and optimizing the use of renewable resources. However, the journey toward realizing these benefits is interspersed with notable challenges. The technical complexities of developing and implementing ML algorithms, the necessity for high-quality, comprehensive datasets, and the imperative for ongoing model refinement underscore the intricacies involved in leveraging ML for energy management. Furthermore, operational hurdles, including the integration of ML insights into existing energy management systems, the upskilling of personnel to proficiently use advanced analytics, and the assurance of data privacy and security, present additional layers of complexity.

In summary, while the application of machine learning in energy management offers a pathway to more sustainable and efficient energy usage, it also necessitates overcoming significant technical and operational challenges. Enterprises that successfully navigate these obstacles can unlock considerable benefits, leading the way towards a more sustainable and efficient future.

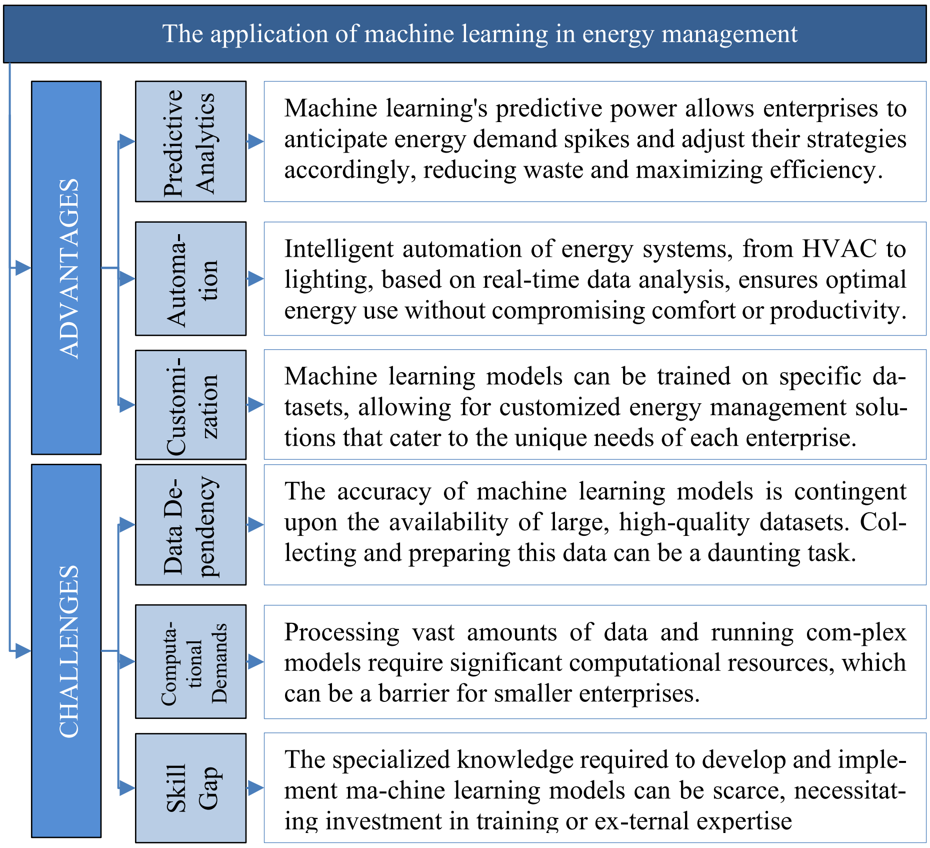

Fig. 1. Machine Learning in Energy Management: A Diagrammatic Overview of Advantages and Challenges.

Despite these challenges, the potential of machine learning to transform energy management is undeniable. By navigating these hurdles, enterprises can unlock a future of more sustainable, efficient, and intelligent energy use.

4 Analyzing Energy Consumption Data

In the realm of energy management, the process of collecting and processing energy consumption data stands as the bedrock upon which machine learning applications are built. This critical initial step involves gathering data from an array of sources such as smart meters, sensors embedded within facilities, and comprehensive energy management systems. The collected data, which spans across various levels of granularity from minute-by-minute fluctuations to broader monthly or yearly summaries, forms the raw material for subsequent analysis.

Once collected, this data undergoes a rigorous cleaning process to ensure its quality and reliability. This phase is crucial as raw energy data is often marred by inaccuracies, gaps, and extraneous information. Cleaning the data involves filtering out anomalies, filling missing values, and eliminating outliers that could potentially distort the analysis. Following the cleaning process, normalization comes into play to adjust the disparate pieces of data to a common scale. This step is pivotal for ensuring that comparisons and aggregations across different datasets are both meaningful and accurate.

With the data now clean and normalized, the next step involves feature engineering, where raw data is transformed into a format that better represents the underlying energy consumption patterns. This could include the extraction of time-related attributes, such as the time of day or season, which are often critical for understanding energy usage patterns. Through this transformation, the data is prepared for deeper analysis. Diving into the analysis, machine learning models begin to reveal intricate patterns and dependencies within the energy data that may not be immediately obvious. For example, the models can unearth diurnal and seasonal trends in energy usage or identify how external temperatures influence energy consumption. Moreover, the analysis can pinpoint dependencies between energy consumption and various factors, including occupancy rates or the efficiency of machinery.

Understanding these correlations is fundamental for developing models that can predict future energy needs with high accuracy.

The insights garnered from this data are invaluable for optimizing energy usage. They enable businesses to identify inefficiencies and devise strategies to address them. For instance, recognizing peak consumption times could lead to the implementation of demand response strategies, while insights into the relationship between energy use and external temperatures might inform adjustments to heating and cooling systems to optimize energy use. Additionally, anomaly detection models can forecast potential equipment failures before they occur by identifying deviations from normal consumption patterns, ensuring that systems operate at peak efficiency and conserving energy in the process. Through meticulous collection, cleaning, normalization, and analysis, energy consumption data transformed by machine learning opens up myriad opportunities for businesses to enhance their energy efficiency.

This not only leads to significant cost savings but also contributes to broader environmental sustainability efforts, marking a crucial step forward in the journey towards more intelligent and responsible energy management. Based on the discussion of energy consumption data analysis, a practical methodology can be proposed to help businesses effectively apply machine learning to optimize energy management.

This methodology can be broken down into several key steps (see Fig. 1).

Building upon the foundational steps outlined in the analysis of energy consumption data, a practical methodology emerges for businesses aiming to harness machine learning for energy management optimization.

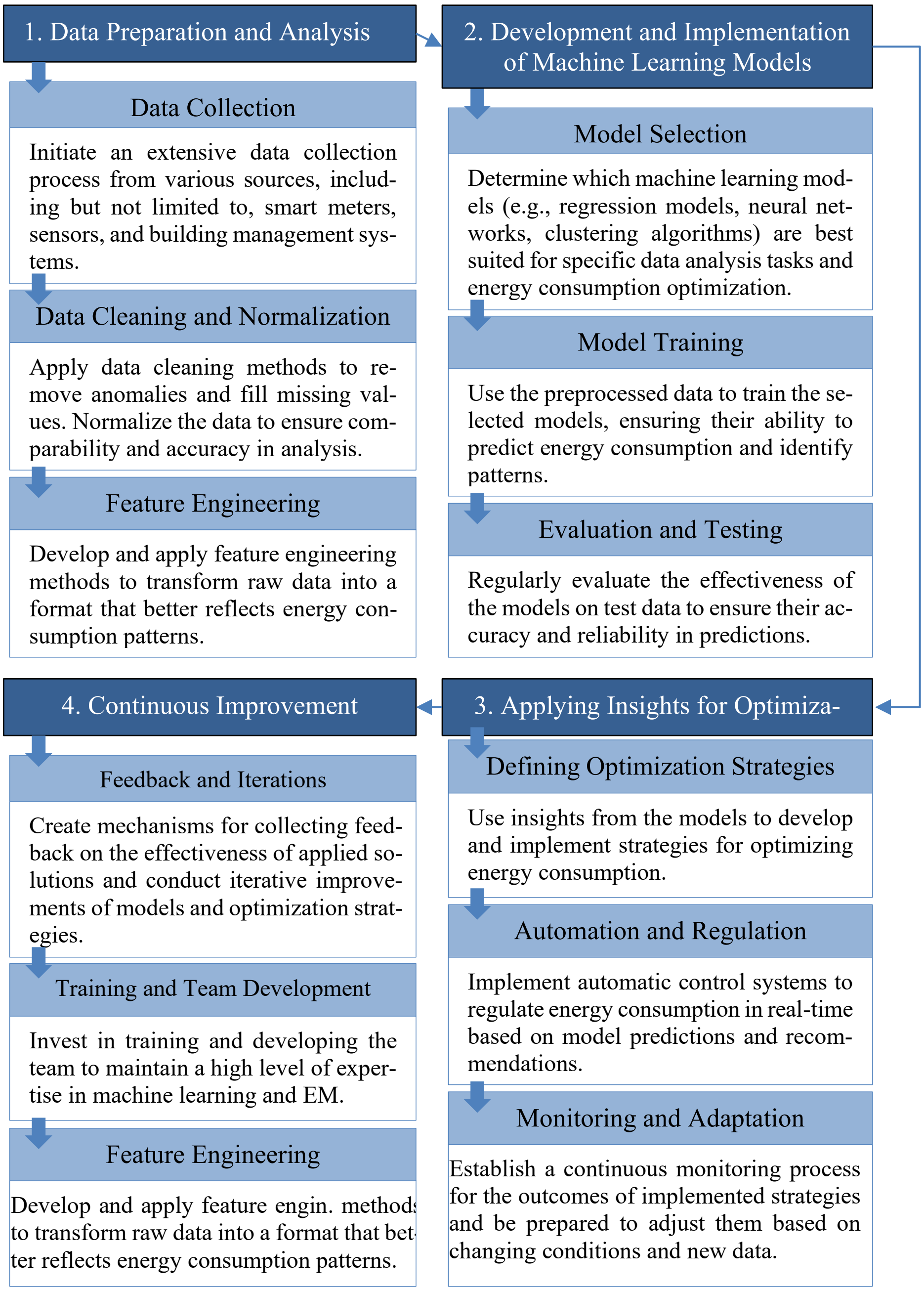

Fig. 2. Methodology to apply machine learning in optimizing energy management.

Representing the methodology as an algorithm, we could structure it as follows to highlight its procedural and iterative nature (see Fig. 1).

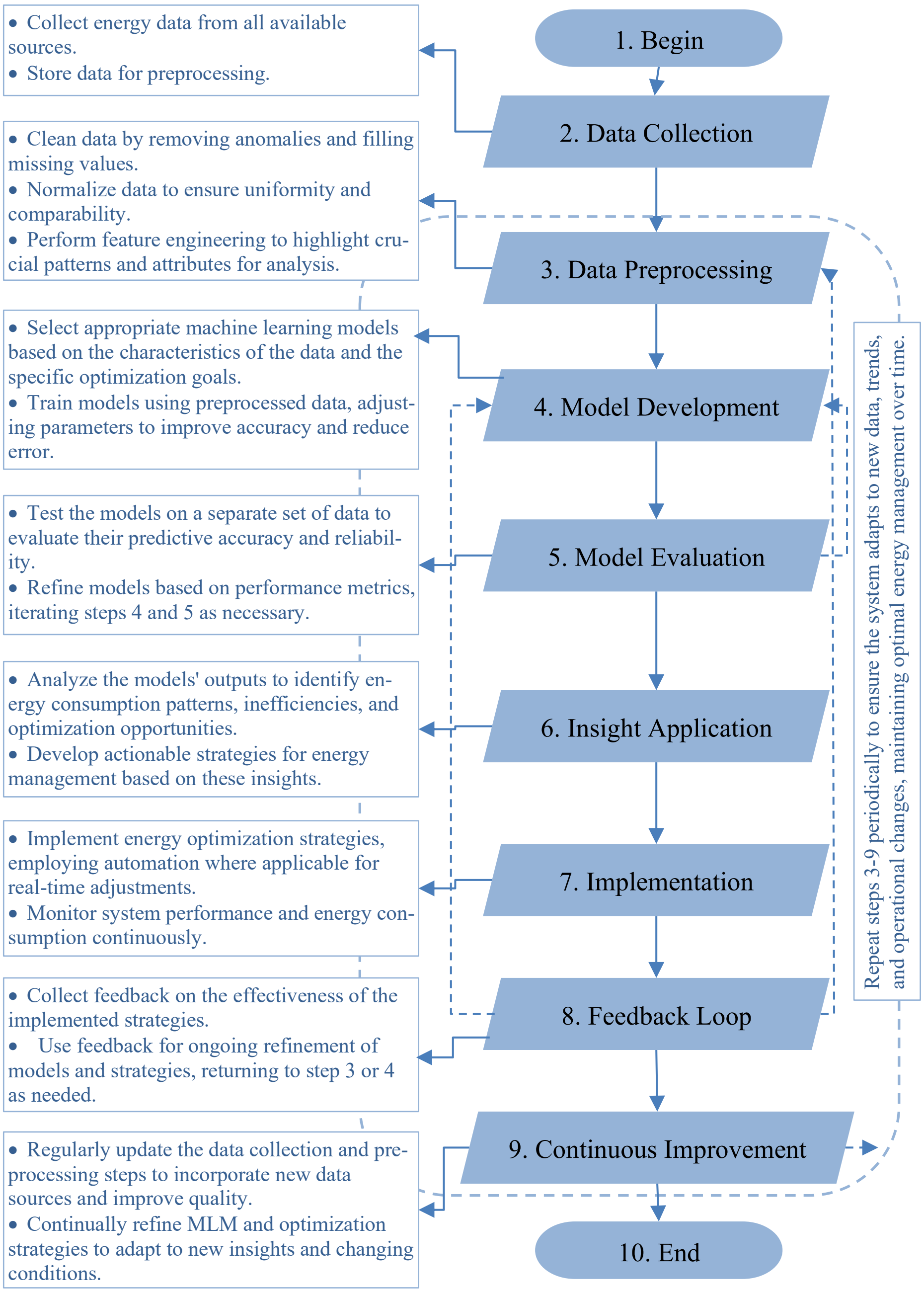

Fig. 3. Algorithm for Applying Machine Learning in Energy Management.

This algorithmic approach underscores the systematic process enterprises can follow to apply machine learning in energy management effectively.

This methodology is a structured approach that encapsulates the process from data collection to the application of insights for operational improvements and sustainability. By applying this methodology, enterprises will not only be able to optimize their energy consumption but also make a significant contribution to enhancing the overall efficiency and sustainability of their operations.

5 Application in Smart Enterprises

The integration of machine learning in energy management has demonstrated significant benefits across a wide range of industries, proving its versatility and efficiency in optimizing energy usage. These applications not only showcase the practicality of ML technologies but also hint at the future of sustainable enterprise operations. Further, the ability of ML-based systems to seamlessly integrate with existing management frameworks amplifies their value, creating cohesive ecosystems that enhance operational efficiency and sustainability.

4.1 Practical Cases. In the *manufacturing sector*, a notable application involves predictive maintenance and energy demand forecasting. By analyzing historical machine operation data, ML algorithms can predict potential equipment failures and schedule maintenance proactively, thus avoiding unexpected downtime and energy wastage. Additionally, these algorithms forecast energy demand based on production schedules, optimizing energy consumption and reducing costs.

Toyota Motor Corporation implemented machine learning and predictive analytics to enhance its energy management and reduce carbon footprint. By analyzing data from its manufacturing processes, Toyota was able to predict energy demand more accurately, optimize machinery usage, and schedule maintenance more effectively. This not only led to a reduction in energy consumption but also minimized downtime and increased production efficiency.

The *retail industry* benefits from ML through HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) and lighting optimization. Retailers use ML models to analyze customer traffic patterns and external weather conditions, adjusting in-store environments accordingly. This not only ensures customer comfort but also significantly cuts energy costs, contributing to both economic and environmental goals.

Walmart has been leveraging machine learning to optimize energy consumption across its stores worldwide. By using ML algorithms to analyze factors such as outside temperature, time of day, and customer traffic, Walmart automatically adjusts its heating, cooling, and lighting systems in real time. This approach has resulted in significant energy savings and has contributed to Walmart's commitment to reduce its environmental impact.

In *data centers*, which are notorious for their high energy consumption, ML algorithms optimize cooling systems by analyzing server loads, ambient temperatures, and cooling unit efficiencies. This optimization significantly reduces energy consumption without compromising the performance or lifespan of the hardware.

Google has applied machine learning to improve the cooling efficiency of its data centers, reducing energy usage by up to 40%. The system uses historical data to predict the optimal configurations for its cooling systems and adjusts them in real-time. This has not only saved energy but also increased the safety and reliability of the data centers by reducing the risk of overheating.

4.2 Integration with Other Systems. The efficacy of machine learning (ML) in the realm of energy management is significantly bolstered by its capability to seamlessly integrate with existing enterprise management systems (EMS). This harmonious fusion facilitates the automated enactment of energy optimization strategies, directly informed by ML-derived insights. Such an integration elevates operational efficiency across various facets of enterprise operations, marking a pivotal advancement in how businesses manage and conserve energy.

A key aspect of this integration is data harmonization, where ML systems adeptly aggregate data from a myriad array of sources within the EMS, including but not limited to IoT sensors and smart meters. This amalgamation of data is essential, laying the groundwork for the generation of precise and actionable insights. Furthermore, the dynamic adaptation feature of ML integration stands out, empowering enterprises to adjust their operations in real time. Whether responding to fluctuations in production demand, variations in occupancy levels, or sudden changes in weather conditions, adjustments to energy consumption are executed with unmatched immediacy, showcasing the responsive prowess of ML-empowered systems.

Moreover, ML significantly enhances the decision-support capabilities of existing management systems. Through the provision of predictive insights and tailored recommendations, ML enables managers to make well-informed decisions concerning energy utilization, potential cost reductions, and the pursuit of sustainability objectives. This not only optimizes energy consumption but also aligns with broader corporate goals of environmental responsibility and cost-efficiency.

Lastly, the scalability and flexibility inherent in ML integration with EMS cannot be overstated. Such solutions are designed to evolve alongside the enterprise, accommodating growth and changes without necessitating comprehensive overhauls of the system. This adaptability ensures that businesses can continue to enjoy the benefits of continuous optimization, making ML an invaluable ally in the quest for efficient and sustainable energy management. This synthesis of ML with traditional management systems illustrates a forward-thinking approach to energy conservation, one that promises to redefine industry standards and propel enterprises towards a more sustainable future..

Siemens Building Technologies integrates machine learning with building management systems to optimize energy use in commercial buildings. By analyzing data from sensors and systems throughout a building, Siemens' ML algorithms can predict energy demand and adjust systems like HVAC and lighting automatically. This integration results in buildings that not only consume less energy but also provide a more comfortable environment for occupants.

This symbiosis between ML and traditional EMS underscores a transformative shift in how enterprises approach energy management. Through practical applications and strategic integration, businesses are not only able to achieve substantial energy savings but also pave the way for a more sustainable and efficient future.

6 Conclusion and Prospects

In this article, we've embarked on a comprehensive exploration of how machine learning algorithms can revolutionize energy management within smart enterprises, spanning a variety of industries. The integration of ML into energy management processes stands as a beacon of innovation, promising to significantly enhance operational efficiency and sustainability. Through the analysis of energy consumption data, ML enables the identification of intricate patterns and dependencies, which, when acted upon, can lead to substantial energy optimizations. We delved into practical cases, such as Toyota's predictive maintenance and Walmart's HVAC optimization, to showcase the tangible benefits of ML applications in real-world settings. Moreover, the potential for ML systems to integrate with existing enterprise management frameworks was discussed, highlighting the seamless synergy between traditional and innovative technologies to foster more efficient and sustainable operations.

The exploration of machine learning applications in energy management across various industries reveals a promising horizon for enhancing operational efficiency and advancing sustainability goals. Through the strategic collection, analysis, and application of data, ML empowers enterprises to uncover and capitalize on opportunities for energy optimization like never before. The practical cases of Toyota, Walmart, Google, and Siemens illustrate not only the feasibility but also the tangible benefits of integrating ML into energy management strategies. These include substantial reductions in energy consumption, cost savings, and contributions to environmental stewardship.

The current landscape of ML in energy management reflects a burgeoning acknowledgment of its value, with an uptick in adoption across sectors signaling a shift towards more data-driven and intelligent energy use strategies. Looking to the future, the potential for ML in this arena is vast, with prospects including broader adoption across industries, advancements in predictive analytics, the development of autonomous energy management systems, and an enhanced focus on sustainability. Such innovations promise not only to refine how enterprises manage their energy consumption but also to contribute significantly to global environmental sustainability efforts.

Currently, the application of ML in energy management is characterized by a growing recognition of its potential benefits, coupled with an increasing adoption rate across sectors. The integration of ML with existing enterprise management systems has shown that technology can augment human decision-making with predictive insights, leading to more informed and effective energy usage strategies.

Future Directions. Looking ahead, the trajectory for ML in energy management points towards several exciting prospects:

Broader Adoption and Integration: As more industries recognize the benefits of ML, its adoption is expected to spread, encompassing a wider range of sectors and operations. Integration with IoT and smart devices will further enhance real-time data collection and analysis, enabling more dynamic and precise energy management.

Advanced Predictive Analytics: Future developments in ML algorithms will offer even greater predictive accuracy, allowing for more nuanced and forward-looking energy management strategies. This will be particularly impactful in harnessing renewable energy sources, where predicting availability and optimizing usage becomes crucial.

Autonomous Systems: The evolution of ML could lead to fully autonomous energy management systems capable of making real-time adjustments without human intervention. These systems would optimize energy consumption continuously, adapting to changes in demand, supply, and external conditions.

Enhanced Sustainability: As ML helps to reduce energy waste and improve efficiency, its role in promoting environmental sustainability will become increasingly prominent. Enterprises will not only benefit from reduced operational costs but also contribute to the global effort to combat climate change.

In conclusion, the intersection of machine learning and energy management epitomizes the transformative impact of technology on traditional industries. As we continue to harness the power of ML, the pathway to more efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable energy use becomes increasingly clear. This journey, illuminated by the successes of early adopters and the ongoing innovations in ML technology, paves the way for a future where smart energy management is not just an aspiration but a reality for enterprises worldwide. The evolution of ML in energy management is a testament to the potential of technology to foster a more sustainable and efficient world, marking a pivotal chapter in the quest for energy optimization and environmental stewardship.

The application of machine learning in energy management stands as a testament to the transformative power of technology. By harnessing ML, enterprises can not only achieve substantial efficiencies and cost savings but also play a vital role in the sustainable stewardship of our planet's resources. As we move forward, the continued innovation and adoption of ML in this field promise to open new avenues for optimization, sustainability, and resilience in the face of global energy challenges.

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