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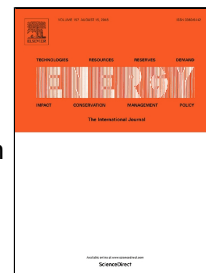
Has China's coal consumption already peaked? A demand-side analysis based on hybrid prediction models

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**Has China's coal consumption already peaked? A demand-side analysis based on  
hybrid prediction models**

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**Abstract:** To deal simultaneously with the environmental problems caused by the current high-intensity exploitation and extensive use of coal resources, it is necessary to perform a scientific prediction of the trend and, especially, the peak of China's coal demand. Based on the historical data on coal consumption and four primary factors (economic growth, energy structure, investment, and industrial structure) during the period of 1981–2015, this study established a hybrid model for coal demand prediction, using particle swarm optimization and cointegration methods. According to the prediction results combined with the actual

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