BOPTEST Tutorial #1

An Introduction to BOPTEST Software for Test Case Development and Interaction

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Based on a tutorial delivered to IBPSA Project 1 Expert Meeting Work Package 1.2 in Rome, Italy on August 31, 2019.

Updated: January 10, 2022

Introduction

The Building Optimization Test Framework (BOPTEST) is developed to enable the fair comparison and benchmarking of advanced control strategies in buildings. The framework is composed of three main parts:

- 1. Test Cases
- 2. Key Performance Indicators
- 3. Software Runtime Environment

Test Cases are complete building emulators. They not only include detailed physical models of buildings and their systems, but also all boundary condition data necessary to test a controller for the building. This includes weather, schedules, energy and fuel prices, occupant comfort definitions, and documentation. A test case is ultimately represented by a Functional Mockup Unit (FMU), known as the test case FMU. A repository of test cases of various building and system types is available at https://github.com/ibpsa/project1-boptest/tree/master/testcases.

Key Performance Indicators (KPI) are metrics to evaluate controller performance. A set of core KPIs have been identified and defined by the IBPSA Project WP1.2 team, which get calculated for every tested controller for each test case.

The Software Runtime Environment is designed to create a controlled testing environment that is efficiently deployed. It makes use of Docker containerization to create a well-defined simulation environment which contains Python modules to manage simulation of the test case FMU, deliver boundary condition forecasts, store results, calculate KPIs, and deliver information about the test case. This functionality is accessed by a user through a RESTful HTTP API.

The purpose of this tutorial is to provide a basic introduction of the BOPTEST framework and associated software components to potential test case developers and controller testers. Therefore, the tutorial is split into three main parts: I) Software Requirements, II) Test Case Development and III) Test Case Interaction.

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¹ D. Blum, J. Arroyo, S. Huang, J. Drgona, F. Jorissen, H.T. Walnum, Y. Chen, K. Benne, D. Vrabie, M. Wetter, and L. Helsen. (2021). "Building optimization testing framework (BOPTEST) for simulation-based benchmarking of control strategies in buildings." *Journal of Building Performance Simulation*, 14(5), 586-610.

Part I: Software Requirements

The following is a list of software needed for this tutorial. Note that iltems 1 and 2 are only needed for test case development, and not for test case interaction or controller testing.

- 1. Modelica Buildings Library (7.0.0)
- 2. Dymola (2020x or 2021)
- 3. Python (≥2.7)
- 4. Docker
- 5. BOPTEST Repository Software
- 6. Cygwin (for Windows only)

Please follow the steps below to obtain links for downloading and installing the proper versions.

- A. Download the Modelica Buildings Library Version 7.0.0 from https://simulationresearch.lbl.gov/modelica/downloads/archive/modelica-buildings.html. Extract the zip file to a directory location of your choice.
- B. Install Dymola from https://www.3ds.com/products-gervices/catia/products/dymola/. A demo version will suffice for this tutorial.
- C. Install Python (≥2.7) from https://www.python.org/downloads/ and the "pandas" package via pip.
- D. Install Docker by following the instructions for your system:

Windows:

https://docs.docker.com/docker-for-windows/install/

Ubuntu or Other Linux (see side panel at link):

https://docs.docker.com/install/linux/docker-ce/ubuntu/

MacOS:

https://docs.docker.com/docker-for-mac/install/

Be sure to test your Docker installation by opening a terminal and running a test example container stored in an image on the Docker Hub (For Windows, try PowerShell. For Linux and MacOS, you may need to add sudo permission):

\$ docker run hello-world

If you are using Windows and getting a permission error, you may have to add yourself to the "docker-users" group in computer management. See here for more information and how to resolve:

https://icij.gitbook.io/datashare/faq/you-are-not-allowed-to-use-docker-you-must-be-in-the-docker-users-group-.-what-should-i-do

Additional information for Windows users can be found at a knowledge base established here: https://github.com/ibpsa/project1-boptest/issues/142.

E. Download the BOPTEST Repository Software from https://github.com/ibpsa/project1-boptest. Extract the zip file to a directory location of your choice and add the root directory for the repository to your PYTHONPATH environmental variable.

Note: All path references throughout the tutorial will be made with reference to the root directory for this repository!

F. For Windows users only, install Cygwin from http://www.cygwin.com/.

Note: Make sure to include the "make" command when installing Cygwin (this one is not installed by default), and also to add "C:\cygwin64\bin" to your path environmental variable. Notice that the previous absolute path could vary depending on your choice of Cygwin version and installation folder.

Part II: Test Case Development

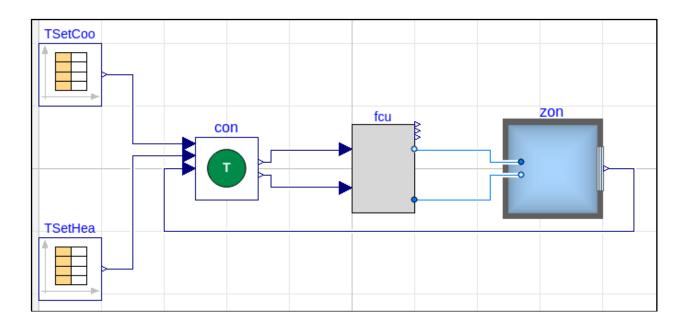
This part will step through the process of creating the test case FMU. It begins with an already-developed Modelica model of a simple single zone building defined by the BESTEST Case 900 envelope with heating and cooling provided by a fan coil unit. There are four main steps in this part:

- 1. Develop and document the test case building model. We will use Dymola as the development environment.
- 2. Add and configure signal exchange blocks to define inputs and outputs for interacting with an external controller to be tested, and variables needed for KPI calculations.
- 3. Create boundary condition data to include with the building model.
- 4. Compile the test case FMU.

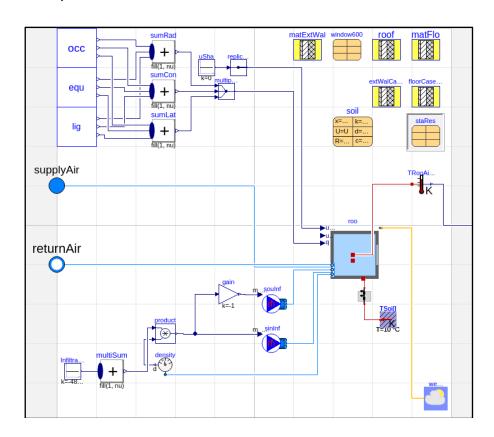
1. Develop and Document Test Case Building Model

For this tutorial, this step is already completed. However, let's take some time to get familiar with the building design and model.

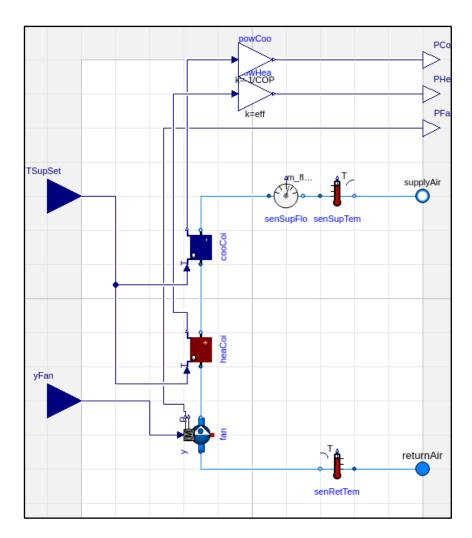
- A. First, copy the folder docs/tutorials/tutorial1_developer to testcases/tutorial1_developer.
- B. In Dymola, load the Modelica Buildings Library and the test case model at testcases/tutorial1 developer/models/BESTESTAir/package.mo.
- C. Open the model BESTESTAir.TestCase using Dymola. Notice the zone envelope model (named "zon"), fan coil unit model ("fcu"), controller ("con"), and zone temperature setpoint schedules for heating and cooling ("TSetHea" and "TSetCoo").



D. Open the model BESTESTAir.Testcase.zon (right-click on "zon" and select "Open Class in New Tab" in the drop-down menu) to investigate the zone heat balance implementation, materials and construction definitions, internal load models, infiltration model, weather reader, and supply and return air ports.

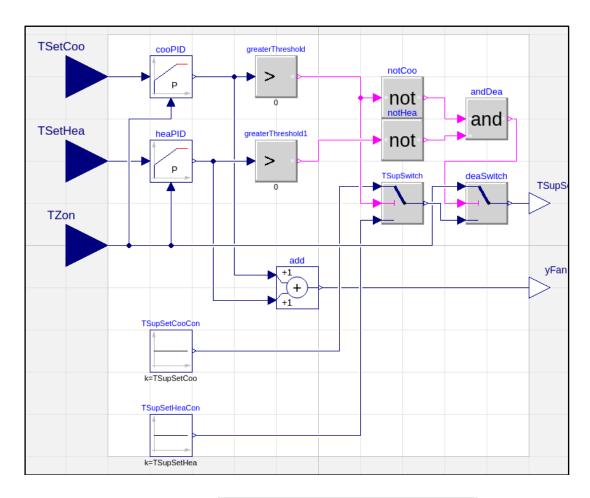


E. Open the model BESTESTAir.Testcase.fcu to investigate the models for supply fan ("fan"), heating coil ("heaCoi"), cooling coil ("cooCoi"), and supply and return air ports. For this fan coil unit model, cooling electrical power is calculated using the thermal load on the cooling coil, and a constant COP (defined in the "powCoo" model). Likewise, heating thermal power is calculated using the thermal load on the heating coil and a constant efficiency (defined in the "powHea" model). Fan electrical power is calculated using fan performance curves specified in the fan model.

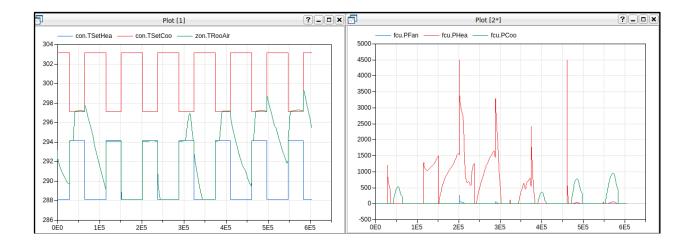


F. Open the model BESTESTAir.Testcase.con to investigate the logic used to control the fan speed and supply air temperature setpoint. In this controller model, the fan speed is controlled by proportional-only feedback controllers ("cooPID" and "heaPID") using zone temperature setpoints for heating and cooling and the measured zone air temperature. If the zone is

in heating mode, the heating supply air temperature setpoint is used. If the zone is in cooling mode, the cooling supply air temperature setpoint is used. If the zone is in deadband (neither heating nor cooling), the supply air temperature setpoint is set to the zone air temperature to indicate no heating and cooling required.



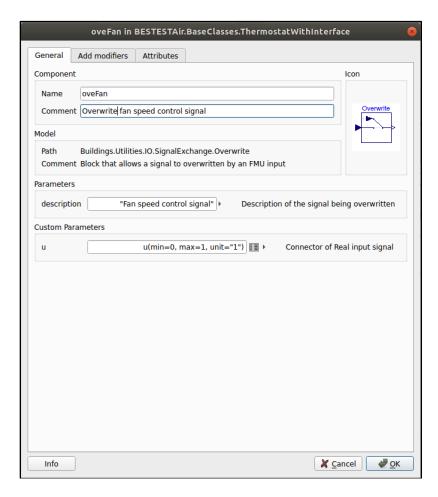
- G. Double-click the models BESTESTAir.Testcase.TSetCoo and BESTESTAir.Testcase.TSetHea to investigate the heating and cooling setpoint schedules for the zone air temperature.
- H. Simulate the model (not possible with Demo version) and notice the behavior of the FCU and controller to provide heating and cooling to the zone in order to maintain the zone temperature setpoints. To retrieve the figure below, go to the "Simulation" tab in the Dymola GUI, click "Commands" and select "TestCase.mos".

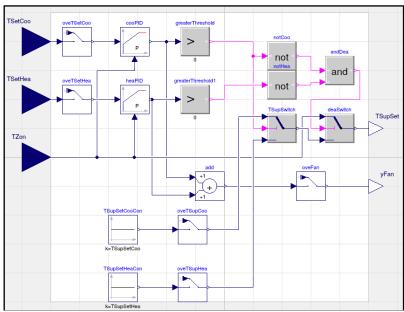


2. Add and Configure Signal Exchange Blocks

The previous Modelica model is stand-alone which does not have an interface to interact with an external controller to be tested. Therefore, in this step, we will modify the Modelica model to add the interface using "SignalExchange" blocks defined in Modelica Buildings Library. The blocks help identify model control signals that can be overwritten by an external controller, model measurements that can be read by an external controller, and model measurements that are needed for BOPTEST to calculate KPIs. For user's convenience, a complete, modified model with signal exchange blocks added is provided in the model BESTESTAir.TestCase Ideal.

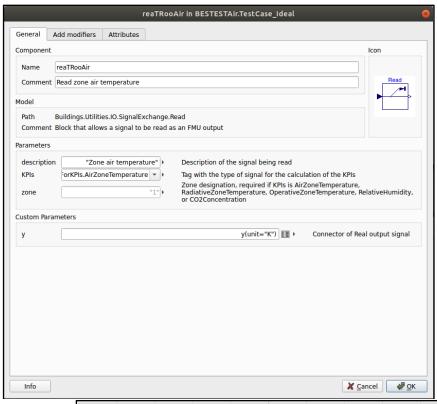
A. Use Buildings.Utilities.IO.SignalExchange.Overwrite to implement and configure signal exchange blocks for each control signal we'd like to be able to overwrite with an external controller. Configuration is done through editing the parameters of the block and defining min, max, and unit attributes to the block input, variable u (can use the "Add modifiers" tab for this). An example is shown below for con.yFan, where the overwrite block added is oveFan. Then, repeat this step for the variables in the table below.

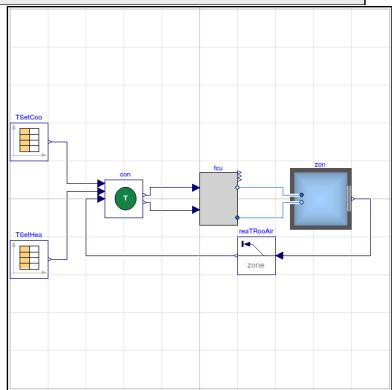


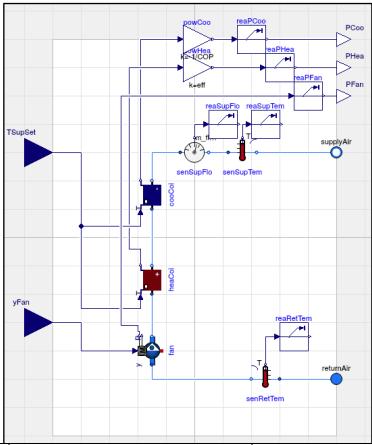


Variable	Description	Min	Max	Unit
con.yFan	Fan speed control signal	0	1	"1"
con.TSupSwitch.ul	Supply air temperature setpoint for cooling	273.15+12	273.15+18	"K"
con.TSupSwitch.u3	Supply air temperature setpoint for heating	273.15+30	273.15+40	"K"
con.TSetCoo	Zone temperature setpoint for cooling	273.15+23	273.15+30	"K"
con.TSetHea	Zone temperature setpoint for heating	273.15+15	273.15+23	"K"

B. Use Buildings.Utilities.IO.SignalExchange.Read to implement and configure signal exchange blocks for each measurement signal we'd like to be able to read with an external controller. Configuration is done through editing the parameters of the block and defining unit attributes to the block output, variable y. One of these parameters can be used to identify the measurement as being needed for KPI calculation. An example is shown below for zon.TRooAir. Then, repeat this step for the variables in the table below. Note that specification of KPIs that require zone specifiers will require specification of a parameter called "zone" with a string value. Leaving as "1" is ok.







Variable	Description	КРІ	Unit
zon.TRooAir	Zone air temperature	Air Zone Temperature	"K"
fcu.PCoo	Cooling electrical power consumption	Electric Power From Grid	"W"
fcu.PHea	Heating gas power consumption	Thermal Power From Natural Gas	"W"
fcu.PFan	Supply fan electrical power consumption	Electric Power From Grid	"W"
fcu.senSupFlo.m_flow	Supply air mass flowrate	None	"kg/s"
fcu.senSupTem.T	Supply air temperature	None	"K"
fcu.senRetTem.T	Return air temperature	None	"K"

3. Create Boundary Condition Data

This step will create CSV files that represent the necessary boundary condition data to run the test case and calculate KPIs, such as weather, internal load schedules, energy and fuel prices, and occupant comfort ranges. A Python module has been created to help with this process, data/data_generator.py. However, the CSV files can be created in any way if more customization is needed, likely for more complex test cases, as long as their column names adhere to the naming conventions defined by Section 4.6 of the BOPTEST Design Requirements and Guide (located in docs/DesReqGui), they are saved in the appropriate Resources directory, and they accurately represent the intended test case

A. Create the directory

testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/Resources, which is used to store the boundary condition data. In this tutorial, the folder was already created for convenience.

B. Copy the weather file used for the test case into the new Resources directory. The weather file is located in the Modelica Buildings Library at Buildings/Resources/weatherdata/DRYCOLD.mos. In this tutorial, the weather file is already copied there for convenience.

C. Save the Python script below to

testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/generate_data.py. The script generates the data using the BOPTEST data/data_generator.py module at an interval of 15 minutes. Note that the function arguments are based on the building model we explored earlier. We will use this module to create the following test case data:

- a. Weather
- b. Energy and fuel prices
- c. Energy and fuel emission factors
- d. Occupancy
- e. Internal heat gains
- f. Thermal comfort setpoint ranges
- g. IAQ upper limit for CO₂ ppm

from data.data_generator import Data_Generator import os

```
# Set the location of the Resource directory relative to this file location
file dir = os.path.dirname(os.path.realpath( file ))
resources dir = os.path.join(file dir, 'Resources')
# Create data generator object with time interval to 15 minutes
gen = Data Generator(resources dir, period=900)
# Generate weather data from .mos in Resources folder with default values
gen.generate weather()
# Generate prices data with default values
gen.generate_prices()
# Generate emission factors data with default values
gen.generate emissions()
# Generate occupancy data for our case
gen.generate_occupancy(2,
           start_day_time = '08:00:00',
           end_day_time = '18:00:00')
# Generate internal gains data for our case
gen.generate_internalGains(start_day_time = '08:00:00',
              end_day_time = '18:00:00',
              RadOcc = 10.325*48,
              RadUnocc = 0.85*48,
             ConOcc = 7.71667*48,
             ConUnocc = 0.65*48,
             LatOcc = 1.875*48,
             LatUnocc = 0*48)
# Generates comfort range data for our case
gen.generate_setpoints(start_day_time = '08:00:00',
           end_day_time = '18:00:00',
           THeaOcc = 21+273.15,
           THeaUnocc = 15+273.15,
           TCooOcc = 24+273.15,
           TCooUnocc = 30+273.15)
```

The function <code>gen.generate_weather()</code> requires the compilation and simulation of a boundary condition model, specifically the model from the IBPSA Modelica library

IBPSA.BoundaryConditions.WeatherData.ReaderTMY3. We will use a Docker image that has been developed with JModelica.org installed on

it to run the generate data.py script.

D. First, we must build the Docker image we will use to generate the test case data. To do this, change the working directory to testing/. Then, use the following command:

```
$ make build jm image
```

This may take a minute or two. Check that the image built successfully by the command:

```
$ docker images
```

There should be a listed image called jm.

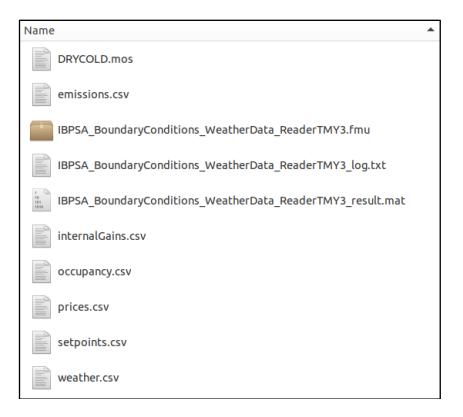
E. Now, to generate the data, change the working directory to testing/ and use the following command:

```
$ make generate testcase data TESTCASE=tutorial1 developer
```

Note: that if an error occurred during generation of the test case data, before making any fixes and trying the above command again, run the following command:

```
$ docker stop jm
```

F. After running this command successfully, there should be nine new files within testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/Resources. The six which we wish to keep are emissions.csv, prices.csv, occupancy.csv, weather.csv, ingernalGains.csv, and setpoints.csv. Each csv file should have a time column to define the emulation time in seconds at 15 minute (900 second) intervals and the appropriate column header names according to the naming conventions defined by Section 4.6 of the BOPTEST Design Requirements and Guide (located in docs/DesReqGui). If no errors occurred, it is safe to delete the .fmu, .txt, and .mat files that were created.



4. Create JSON Files

We need to create three json files that provide additional information about the test case to the BOPTEST framework. They are the <code>config.json</code>, <code>days.json</code>, and <code>library_versions.json</code> each described in more detail below.

A. Create the file testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/config.json as shown below. The config.json file holds default configuration parameters for when we deploy and use the test case in the next section.

```
"name"
             : "tutorial1 developer",
"area"
            : 48.0,
"start time" : 0.0,
"warmup period": 0.0,
"step"
           : 3600.0,
"horizon"
             : 86400.0,
"interval"
            : 3600.0,
"scenario"
            : {"electricity_price":"constant",
               "time_period":null}
}
```

B. Create the file testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/days.json as shown below. The days.json file specifies reference days during the year to define specific time period scenarios for tests, which can be set by the user during interaction with BOPTEST. A python module has been prepared in BOPTEST which defines time periods related to peak, typical, and mixed heating and cooling periods, located at data/find_days.py. This module can be used with annual simulation data from the test case in .csv format that contains system heating and cooling loads. For convenience in this tutorial, this data has been provided in testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/heating_cooling.csv. Finally, a script has been provided in this tutorial at testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/find_days.py that uses the BOPTEST algorithm and test case simulation data to create the days.json. This script is also shown below. This script can be run from the directory testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/ using the command:

```
$ python find days.py
```

```
{
"peak_heat_day": 341,
"peak_cool_day": 289,
"typical_heat_day": 92,
```

```
"typical_cool_day": 135,

"mix_day": 48
}
```

```
from data.find_days import find_days import json

days = find_days(heat='fcu.heaCoi.Q_flow', cool='fcu.cooCoi.Q_flow', data='heating_cooling.csv')

with open('days.json', 'w') as f:
    json.dump(days, f)
```

c. Create the file

testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/library_versions.json as shown below. The library_versions.json file specifies which version (specifically, Git commit) of dependent Modelica libraries to use when compiling the model into the test case FMU.

```
{
"BUILDINGS_COMMIT": "v7.0.0"
}
```

5. Compile Test Case FMU

This final step will compile the building model with signal exchange blocks, the boundary condition data, the <code>config.json</code>, and the <code>days.json</code> into our test case FMU, which will be ready for us to use for controller testing! Since the runtime environment Docker container has a Linux-based OS (Ubuntu), the test case FMU needs to be compiled with binaries suitable for simulation in Linux environments. Therefore, a Docker image and process has been developed for Windows users to be able to compile the test case FMU. Linux/MacOS users can also use this same process with Docker, or compile the test case FMU in a native environment. Such compilation in a native environment without Docker requires the BOPTEST <code>parsing/parser.py</code> module and the JModelica.org open source Modelica compiler to be installed, though these will not be detailed in this

tutorial.

D. Create a Python module as below and save it as

testcases/tutorial1 developer/models/compile fmu.py.

```
from parsing import parser

def compile_fmu():

"'Compile the fmu.

Returns
-----
fmupath: str
Path to compiled fmu.

"'

# DEFINE MODEL
mopath = 'BESTESTAir/package.mo'
modelpath = 'BESTESTAir.TestCase_ideal'

# COMPILE FMU
fmupath = parser.export_fmu(modelpath, [mopath])

return fmupath

if __name__ == "__main__":
fmupath = compile_fmu()
```

E. To compile the test case FMU, make sure the working directory is testing/ and use the following command:

```
$ make compile_testcase_model TESTCASE=tutorial1_developer
```

Once complete, there should be a new file

testcases/tutorial1_developer/models/wrapped.fmu, which is the test case FMU.

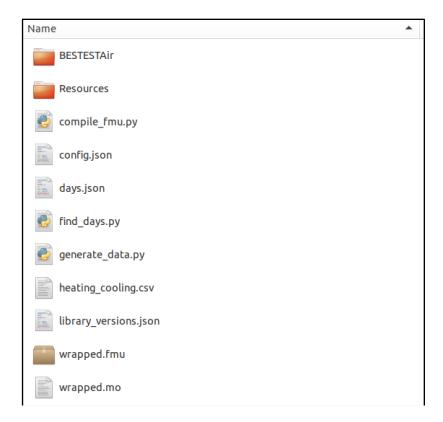
Note: that if an error occurred during compilation of the test case, before making any fixes and trying the above command again, run the following command:

```
$ docker stop jm
```

F. The final step in creating the test case is to add documentation. Create a directory testcases/tutorial1_developer/doc to hold any documentation. We will hold off on creating content to fill to this directory for this tutorial, however, create the directory nonetheless.

Documentation should follow the requirements and template provided in Section 4.8 of the BOPTEST Design Requirements and Guide (located in docs/DesReqGui). Also look at testcases/bestest_air/doc for an example.

The final test case directory testcases/tutorial1_developer/models, including the test case FMU (wrapped.fmu), that will be needed for deployment in the next section look like (it is ok if there are extra files from FMU compilation):



Part III: Test Case Interaction

This part will step through how to deploy the software run-time environment with the test case, explore the ways in which we can interact with the test case using the HTTP RESTful API, and perform a simple example controller comparison test.

1. Deploy Test Case

This step will use Docker to deploy the test case we have just created.

A. First, we need to build a test case Docker image for our run-time environment using our test case directory. Change the working directory to the root of the BOPTEST repository and use the following command:

```
$ make build TESTCASE=tutorial1 developer
```

Confirm the test case image was built successfully by using the following command and seeing that there is an image called boptest tutorial1 developer listed:

```
$ docker images
```

B. Then, deploy the test case Docker container using this image with the following command from the root of the BOPTEST repository:

```
$ make run TESTCASE=tutorial1_developer
```

The test case is successfully running if you see the following message in your terminal window:

```
* Serving Flask app "restapi" (lazy loading)

* Environment: production
WARNING: This is a development server. Do not use it in a production deployment.
Use a production WSGI server instead.

* Debug mode: off

* Running on http://0.0.0.0:5000/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)
```

C. At this point, the test case is waiting for more instructions by listening to the localhost: 5000 port for HTTP RESTful API commands.

2. Using the HTTP RESTful API

The HTTP RESTful API commands for the test case are displayed in the Figure below. Let's create a Python script to demonstrate some interactions with our test case. We will use the requests package for this. In general, the test case can be utilized by any software that can send HTTP requests, we are only using a script written in Python here as an example.

Interaction	Request
Advance simulation with control input and receive measurements.	POST advance with json data "{ <input_name>:}"</input_name>
Initialize simulation to a start time using a warmup period in seconds.	<pre>PUT initialize with arguments start_time=<value> , warmup_time=<value></value></value></pre>
Receive communication step in seconds.	GET step
Set communication step in seconds.	PUT step with argument step= <value></value>
Receive sensor signal point names (y) and metadata.	GET measurements
Receive control signal point names (u) and metadata.	GET inputs
Receive test result data for the given point name between the start and final time in seconds.	<pre>PUT results with arguments point_name=<string> , start_time=<value> , final_time=<value></value></value></string></pre>
Receive test KPIs.	GET kpi
Receive test case name.	GET name
Receive boundary condition forecast from current communication step.	GET forecast
Receive boundary condition forecast parameters in seconds.	GET forecast_parameters
Set boundary condition forecast parameters in seconds.	<pre>PUT forecast_parameters with arguments horizon= <value> , interval=<value></value></value></pre>
Receive current test scenario.	GET scenario
Set test scenario. Setting the argument time_period performs an initialization with predefined start time and warmup period and will only simulate for predefined duration.	PUT scenario with optional arguments electricity_price= <string>, time_period=<string>. See README in /testcases for options and test case documentation for details.</string></string>
Receive BOPTEST version.	GET version

A. Create a new file from the code below in the root of the BOPTEST repository called api_example.py. Then, run the code and analyze the output. Try running the simulation for longer and/or plotting the results.

```
import requests
import pprint
pp = pprint.PrettyPrinter(indent=4)

# Set URL for testcase
url = 'http://127.0.0.1:5000'
```

```
# DEMONSTRATE API FOR GETTING TEST CASE INFORMATION
pp.pprint('\nTEST CASE INFORMATION\n----')
# Get the test case name
name = requests.get('{0}/name'.format(url)).json()
print('\nName is:http://0.0.0.0:5000/')
pp.pprint(name)
# Inputs available
inputs = requests.get('{0}/inputs'.format(url)).json()
print('\nControl Inputs are:')
pp.pprint(inputs)
# Measurements available
measurements = requests.get('{0}/measurements'.format(url)).json()
print('\nMeasurements are:')
pp.pprint(measurements)
# Default simulation step
step_def = requests.get('{0}/step'.format(url)).json()
print('\nDefault Simulation Step is:\t{0}'.format(step def))
# DEMONSTRATE API FOR SIMULATING TEST CASE
# Set simulation step
print('\nSetting simulation step to 3600.')
res = requests.put('{0}/step'.format(url), data={'step':3600})
# Advance simulation
print('\nAdvancing emulator one step...')
y = requests.post('{0}/advance'.format(url), data={}).json()
print('\nMeasurements at next step are:')
pp.pprint(y)
# Get a forecast of boundary conditions
print('\nAdvancing emulator one step...')
w = requests.get('{0}/forecast'.format(url)).json()
print('Forecast is:')
pp.pprint(w)
# DEMONSTRATE API FOR VIEWING RESULTS
# Get simulation results for the point TrooAir y
data = requests.put('{0}/results'.format(url), data={'point_name':'reaTRooAir_y',
'start time':0, 'final time':7200}).json()
print('\nSimulation results are:')
pp.pprint(data)
# Report KPIs
kpi = requests.get('{0}/kpi'.format(url)).json()
print('\nKPIs are:')
pp.pprint(kpi)
# Reset test case to beginning
print('\nResetting test case to beginning.')
res = requests.put('{0}/initialize'.format(url), data={'start_time':0, 'warmup period':0})
print(res)
```

3. Example Controller Test

Let's now edit the api_example.py script developed in the previous section to simulate the model for 1 day (24 steps of 3600 seconds) and implement control signals to overwrite those within the model. We will implement new zone heating and cooling setpoint temperatures that are constant and make a

narrower deadband range. Save the Python code below to a file named control example.py and run it.

Feel free to edit control signals or parameters to explore how the KPIs and results change. Try implementing a feedback controller using the measurements that are taken at each timestep. Remember that stability may require the use of a smaller control time step.

```
import requests
import pprint
pp = pprint.PrettyPrinter(indent=4)
# Set URL for testcase
url = 'http://127.0.0.1:5000'
# DEMONSTRATE API FOR GETTING TEST CASE INFORMATION
# -----
pp.pprint('\nTEST CASE INFORMATION\n-----')
# Get the test case name
name = requests.get('{0}/name'.format(url)).json()
print('\nName is:')
pp.pprint(name)
# Inputs available
inputs = requests.get('{0}/inputs'.format(url)).json()
print('\nControl Inputs are:')
pp.pprint(inputs)
# Measurements available
measurements = requests.get('{0}/measurements'.format(url)).json()
print('\nMeasurements are:')
pp.pprint(measurements)
# Default simulation step
step def = requests.get('{0}/step'.format(url)).json()
print('\nDefault Simulation Step is:\t{0}'.format(step_def))
# DEMONSTRATE API FOR SIMULATING TEST CASE
# Set simulation step
print('\nSetting simulation step to 3600.')
res = requests.put('{0}/step'.format(url), data={'step':3600})
print(res)
# Advance simulation in loop for test
for i in range(24):
   u = {'con oveTSetHea u':273.15+22, # Set zone heating setpoint to 22 C
         'con oveTSetHea activate':1, # Activate overwrite of zone heating setpoint
         'con oveTSetCoo u':273.15+23, # Set zone cooling setpoint to 23 C
         'con_oveTSetCoo_activate':1 # Activate overwrite of zone cooling setpoint
   print('\nAdvancing emulator one step with control data...')
    y = requests.post('{0}/advance'.format(url), data=u).json()
   print('\nMeasurements at next step are:')
    pp.pprint(y)
    # Get a forecast of boundary conditions
   print('\nAdvancing emulator one step...')
    w = requests.get('{0}/forecast'.format(url)).json()
   print('Forecast is:')
   pp.pprint(w)
```