
pycast Documentation

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PYCAST.COMMON

`class pycast.common.profileme._ProfileDecorator (filelocation)`
Bases: object

Decorator class that build a wrapper around any function.

Warning The decorator does not take recursive calls into account!

`__call__ (func)`
Returns a wrapped version of the called function.

Parameters `func` (*Function*) – Function that should be wrapped.

Returns Returns a wrapped version of the called function.

Return type Function

`__init__ (filelocation)`
Initializes the ProfileMe decorator.

Parameters

- **func** (*Function*) – Function that will be profiles.
- **filelocation** (*String*) – Location for the profiling results.

`pycast.common.profileme.profileMe`
alias of `_ProfileDecorator`

`pycast.common.helper.linear_interpolation (first, last, steps)`
Interpolates all missing values using linear interpolation.

Parameters

- **first** (*Numeric*) – Start value for the interpolation.
- **last** (*Numeric*) – End Value for the interpolation
- **steps** (*Integer*) – Number of missing values that have to be calculated.

Returns Returns a list of floats containing only the missing values.

Return type List

TIMESERIES

class `pycast.common.timeseries.TimeSeries` (*isNormalized=False, isSorted=False*)
Bases: `object`

A `TimeSeries` instance stores all relevant data for a real world time series.

Warning `TimeSeries` instances are NOT threadsafe.

__add__ (*otherTimeSeries*)

Creates a new `TimeSeries` instance containing the data of `self` and `otherTimeSeries`.

Parameters `otherTimeSeries` (*TimeSeries*) – `TimeSeries` instance that will be merged with `self`.

Returns Returns a new `TimeSeries` instance containing the data entries of `self` and `otherTimeSeries`.

Return type `TimeSeries`

__eq__ (*otherTimeSeries*)

Returns if `self` and the other `TimeSeries` are equal.

TimeSeries are equal to each other if:

- they contain the same number of entries
- each data entry in one `TimeSeries` is also member of the other one.

Parameters `otherTimeSeries` (*TimeSeries*) – `TimeSeries` instance that is compared with `self`.

Returns `True` if the `TimeSeries` objects are equal, `False` otherwise.

Return type `Boolean`

__getitem__ (*index*)

Returns the item stored at the `TimeSeries` `index`-th position.

Parameters `index` (*Integer*) – Position of the element that should be returned. Starts at 0

Returns Returns a list containing `[timestamp, data]` lists.

Return type `List`

Raise Raises an `IndexError` if the `index` is out of range.

__init__ (*isNormalized=False, isSorted=False*)

Initializes the `TimeSeries`.

Parameters

- **isNormalized** (*Boolean*) – Within a normalized TimeSeries, all data points have the same temporal distance to each other. When this is `True`, the memory consumption of the TimeSeries might be reduced. Also algorithms will probably run faster on normalized TimeSeries. This should only be set to `True`, if the TimeSeries is really normalized! TimeSeries normalization can be forced by executing `TimeSeries.normalize()`.
- **isSorted** (*Boolean*) – If all data points added to the time series are added in their ascending temporal order, this should set to `True`.

`__iter__()`

Returns an iterator that can be used to iterate over the data stored within the TimeSeries.

Returns Returns an iterator for the TimeSeries.

Return type Iterator

`__len__()`

Returns the number of data entries stored in the TimeSeries.

Returns Returns an Integer representing the number on data entries stored within the TimeSeries.

Return type Integer

`__setitem__(index, value)`

Sets the item at the index-th position of the TimeSeries.

Parameters

- **index** (*Integer*) – Index of the element that should be set.
- **value** (*List*) – A list of the form [timestamp, data]

Raise Raises an `IndexError` if the index is out of range.

`__str__()`

Returns a string representation of the TimeSeries.

Returns

Returns a string representing the TimeSeries in the format:

“TimeSeries([timestamp, data], [timestamp, data], [timestamp, data])”.

Return type String

`add_entry(timestamp, data, format=None)`

Adds a new data entry to the TimeSeries.

Parameters

- **timestamp** – Time stamp of the data. This has either to be a float representing the UNIX epochs or a string containing a timestamp in the given format.
- **data** (*Numeric*) – Actual data value.
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the given timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp into UNIX epochs, if set. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

`apply(method)`

Applies the given ForecastingAlgorithm or SmoothingMethod from the `pystac.methods` module to the TimeSeries.

Parameters **method** (*BaseMethod*) – Method that should be used with the TimeSeries. For more information about the methods take a look into their corresponding documentation.

classmethod `convert_epoch_to_timestamp(timestamp, format)`

Converts the given float representing UNIX-epochs into an actual timestamp.

Parameters

- **timestamp** (*Float*) – Timestamp as UNIX-epochs.
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the given timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp from UNIX epochs. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns the timestamp as defined in format.

Return type String

classmethod `convert_timestamp_to_epoch(timestamp, format)`

Converts the given timestamp into a float representing UNIX-epochs.

Parameters

- **timestamp** (*String*) – Timestamp in the defined format.
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the given timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp into UNIX epochs. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns an float, representing the UNIX-epochs for the given timestamp.

Return type Float

classmethod `from_json(json, format=None)`

Creates a new TimeSeries instance from the given json string.

Parameters

- **json** (*String*) – JSON string, containing the time series data. This should be a string created by `TimeSeries.to_json()`.
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the given timestamps. This is used to convert the timestamps into UNIX epochs, if set. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns a TimeSeries instance containing the data.

Return type TimeSeries

Warning This is probably an unsafe version! Only use it with JSON strings created by `TimeSeries.to_json()`. All assumptions regarding normalization and sort order will be ignored and set to default.

classmethod `from_twodim_list(datalist, format=None)`

Creates a new TimeSeries instance from the data stored inside a two dimensional list.

Parameters

- **datalist** (*List*) – List containing multiple iterables with at least two values. The first item will always be used as timestamp in the predefined format, the second represents the value. All other items in those sublists will be ignored.
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the given timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp into UNIX epochs, if necessary. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns a TimeSeries instance containing the data from datalist.

Return type TimeSeries

initialize_from_sql_cursor (*sqlcursor*, *format=None*)

Initializes the TimeSeries's data from the given SQL cursor.

Parameters

- **sqlcursor** (*SQLCursor*) – Cursor that was holds the SQL result for any given “SELECT timestamp, value, ... FROM ...” SQL query. Only the first two attributes of the SQL result will be used.
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the given timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp into UNIX epochs, if set. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns the number of entries added to the TimeSeries.

Return type Integer

is_normalized ()

Returns if the TimeSeries is normalized.

Returns Returns `True` if the TimeSeries is normalized, `False` otherwise.

Return type Boolean

is_sorted ()

Returns if the TimeSeries is sorted.

Returns Returns `True` if the TimeSeries is sorted ascending, `False` in all other cases.

Return type Boolean

normalize (*normalizationLevel='minute'*, *fusionMethod='average'*, *interpolationMethod='linear'*)

Normalizes the TimeSeries data points.

If this function is called, the TimeSeries gets ordered ascending automatically. The new timestamps will represent the center of each time bucket. Within a normalized TimeSeries, the temporal distance between two consecutive data points is constant.

Parameters

- **normalizationLevel** (*String*) – Level of normalization that has to be applied. The available normalization levels are defined in `timeseries.NormalizationLevels`.
- **fusionMethod** (*String*) – Normalization method that has to be used if multiple data entries exist within the same normalization bucket. The available methods are defined in `timeseries.FusionMethods`.
- **interpolationMethod** (*String*) – Interpolation method that is used if a data entry at a specific time is missing. The available interpolation methods are defined in `timeseries.InterpolationMethods`.

Raise Raises a `ValueError` if a `normalizationLevel`, `fusionMethod` or `interpolationMethod` have an unknown value.

sort_timeseries (*ascending=True*)

Sorts the data points within the TimeSeries according to their occurrence inline.

Parameters **ascending** (*Boolean*) – Determines if the TimeSeries will be ordered ascending or decending. If this is set to decending once, the ordered parameter defined in `TimeSeries.__init__()` will be set to `False` FOREVER.

Returns Returns `self` for convenience.

Return type TimeSeries

sorted_timeseries (*ascending=True*)

Returns a sorted copy of the TimeSeries, preserving the original one.

As an assumption this new TimeSeries is not ordered anymore if a new value is added.

Parameters **ascending** (*Boolean*) – Determines if the TimeSeries will be ordered ascending or descending.

Returns Returns a new TimeSeries instance sorted in the requested order.

Return type TimeSeries

to_gnuplot_datafile (*datafilepath, format=None*)

Dumps the TimeSeries into a gnuplot compatible data file.

Parameters

- **datafilepath** (*String*) – Path used to create the file. If that file already exists, it will be overwritten!
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp from UNIX epochs, if set. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns `True` if the data could be written, `False` otherwise.

Return type Boolean

to_json (*format=None*)

Returns a JSON representation of the TimeSeries data.

Parameters **format** (*String*) – Format of the given timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp into UNIX epochs, if set. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns a basestring, containing the JSON representation of the current data stored within the TimeSeries.

Return type String

to_twodim_list (*format=None*)

Serializes the TimeSeries data into a two dimensional list of [timestamp, value] pairs.

Parameters **format** (*String*) – Format of the timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp from UNIX epochs, if set. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

Returns Returns a two dimensional list containing [timestamp, value] pairs.

Return type List

BASE METHODS

```
class pycast.methods.basemethod.BaseMethod(requiredParameters=[], hasToBeSorted=True,  
                                             hasToBeNormalized=True)
```

Bases: object

Baseclass for all smoothing and forecasting methods.

```
__init__(requiredParameters=[], hasToBeSorted=True, hasToBeNormalized=True)  
    Initializes the BaseMethod.
```

Parameters

- **requiredParameters** (*List*) – List of parameter names that have to be defined.
- **hasToBeSorted** (*Boolean*) – Defines if the TimeSeries has to be sorted or not.
- **hasToBeNormalized** (*Boolean*) – Defines if the TimeSeries has to be normalized or not.

```
__get_parameter_intervals()  
    Returns the intervals for the methods parameter.
```

Only parameters with defined intervals can be used for optimization!

Returns

Returns a dictionary containing the parameter intervals, using the parameter name as key, while the value has the following format: [minValue, maxValue, minIntervalClosed, maxIntervalClosed]

- **minValue** Minimal value for the parameter
- **maxValue** Maximal value for the parameter
- **minIntervalClosed** *True*, if *minValue* represents a valid value for the parameter. *False* otherwise.
- **maxIntervalClosed**: *True*, if *maxValue* represents a valid value for the parameter. *False* otherwise.

Return type Dictionary

```
__get_value_error_message_for_invalid_parameter(parameter)  
    Returns the ValueError message for the given parameter.
```

Parameters *parameter* (*String*) – Name of the parameter the message has to be created for.

Returns Returns a string containing the message.

Return type String

`_in_valid_interval` (*parameter*, *value*)

Returns if the parameter is within its valid interval.

Parameters

- **parameter** (*String*) – Name of the parameter that has to be checked.
- **value** (*Numeric*) – Value of the parameter.

Returns Returns `True` if the value for the given parameter is valid, `False` otherwise.

Return type `Boolean`

`can_be_executed` ()

Returns if the method can already be executed.

Returns Returns `True` if all required parameters were already set, `False` otherwise.

Return type `Boolean`

`execute` (*timeSeries*)

Executes the `BaseMethod` on a given `TimeSeries` object.

Parameters **timeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – `TimeSeries` object that fulfills all requirements (normalization, `sortOrder`).

Returns Returns a `TimeSeries` object containing the smoothed/forecasted values.

Return type `TimeSeries`

Raise Raises a `NotImplementedError` if the child class does not overwrite this function.

`get_interval` (*parameter*)

Returns the interval for a given parameter.

Parameters **parameter** (*String*) – Name of the parameter.

Returns

Returns a list containing with `[minValue, maxValue, minIntervalClosed, maxIntervalClosed]`. If no interval definitions for the given parameter exist, `None` is returned.

- **minValue** Minimal value for the parameter
- **maxValue** Maximal value for the parameter
- **minIntervalClosed** `True`, if `minValue` represents a valid value for the parameter. `False` otherwise.
- **maxIntervalClosed** `True`, if `maxValue` represents a valid value for the parameter. `False` otherwise.

Return type `List`

`get_parameter` (*name*)

Returns a forecasting parameter.

Parameters **name** (*String*) – Name of the parameter.

Returns Returns the value stored in parameter.

Return type `Numeric`

Raise Raises a `KeyError` if the parameter is not defined.

`get_required_parameters` ()

Returns a list with the names of all required parameters.

Returns Returns a list with the names of all required parameters.

Return type List

has_to_be_normalized()

Returns if the TimeSeries has to be normalized or not.

Returns Returns `True` if the TimeSeries has to be normalized, `False` otherwise.

Return type Boolean

has_to_be_sorted()

Returns if the TimeSeries has to be sorted or not.

Returns Returns `True` if the TimeSeries has to be sorted, `False` otherwise.

Return type Boolean

set_parameter(name, value)

Sets a parameter for the BaseMethod.

Parameters

- **name** (*String*) – Name of the parameter that has to be checked.
- **value** (*Numeric*) – Value of the parameter.

_interval_definitions = {False: ['(', ')'], True: ['[', ']']}

```
class pystac.methods.basemethod.BaseForecastingMethod(requiredParameters=[],
                                                         valuesToForecast=1,
                                                         hasToBeSorted=True,
                                                         hasToBeNormalized=True)
```

Bases: `pystac.methods.basemethod.BaseMethod`

Basemethod for all forecasting methods.

__init__(requiredParameters=[], valuesToForecast=1, hasToBeSorted=True, hasToBeNormalized=True)

Initializes the BaseForecastingMethod.

Parameters

- **requiredParameters** (*List*) – List of parameter names that have to be defined.
- **valuesToForecast** (*Integer*) – Number of entries that will be forecasted. This can be changed by using `forecast_until()`.
- **hasToBeSorted** (*Boolean*) – Defines if the TimeSeries has to be sorted or not.
- **hasToBeNormalized** (*Boolean*) – Defines if the TimeSeries has to be normalized or not.

Raise Raises a `ValueError` when `valuesToForecast` is smaller than zero.

_calculate_values_to_forecast(timeSeries)

Calculates the number of values, that need to be forecasted to match the goal set in `forecast_until`.

This sets the parameter “`valuesToForecast`” and should be called at the beginning of the `BaseMethod.execute()` implementation.

Parameters **timeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – Should be a sorted and normalized TimeSeries instance.

Raise Raises a `ValueError` if the TimeSeries is either not normalized or sorted.

forecast_until(timestamp, format=None)

Sets the forecasting goal (timestamp wise).

This function enables the automatic determination of `valuesToForecast`.

Parameters

- **timestamp** – timestamp containing the end date of the forecast.
- **format** (*String*) – Format of the timestamp. This is used to convert the timestamp from UNIX epochs, if necessary. For valid examples take a look into the `time.strptime()` documentation.

get_optimizable_parameters ()

Returns a list with optimizable parameters.

All required parameters of a forecasting method with defined intervals can be used for optimization.

Returns Returns a list with optimizable parameter names.

Return type List

Todo Should we return all parameter names from the `self._parameterIntervals` instead?

set_parameter (*name*, *value*)

Sets a parameter for the BaseForecastingMethod.

Parameters

- **name** (*String*) – Name of the parameter.
- **value** (*Numeric*) – Value of the parameter.

SMOOTHING METHODS

```
class pycast.methods.simplemovingaverage.SimpleMovingAverage (windowsize=5)  
    Bases: pycast.methods.basemethod.BaseMethod
```

Implements the simple moving average.

The SMA algorithm will calculate the average value at time t based on the datapoints between $[t - \text{floor}(\text{windowsize} / 2), t + \text{floor}(\text{windowsize} / 2)]$.

Explanation: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moving_average

```
__init__ (windowsize=5)
```

Initializes the SimpleMovingAverage.

Parameters **windowsize** (*Integer*) – Size of the SimpleMovingAverages window.

Raise Raises a `ValueError` if windowsize is an even or not larger than zero.

```
execute (timeSeries)
```

Creates a new `TimeSeries` containing the SMA values for the predefined windowsize.

Parameters **timeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – The `TimeSeries` used to calculate the simple moving average values.

Returns `TimeSeries` object containing the smooth moving average.

Return type `TimeSeries`

Note This implementation aims to support independent for loop execution.

FORECASTING METHODS

`class pycast.methods.exponentialsmoothing.ExponentialSmoothing (smoothingFactor=0.1, valuesToForecast=1)`

Bases: `pycast.methods.basemethod.BaseForecastingMethod`

Implements an exponential smoothing algorithm.

Explanation: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4iODLa9hYw>

`__init__ (smoothingFactor=0.1, valuesToForecast=1)`

Initializes the ExponentialSmoothing.

Parameters

- **smoothingFactor** (*Float*) – Defines the alpha for the ExponentialSmoothing. Valid values are in (0.0, 1.0).
- **valuesToForecast** (*Integer*) – Number of values that should be forecasted.

Raise Raises a `ValueError` when smoothingFactor has an invalid value.

`__get_parameter_intervals ()`

Returns the intervals for the methods parameter.

Only parameters with defined intervals can be used for optimization!

Returns

Returns a dictionary containing the parameter intervals, using the parameter name as key, while the value has the following format: [minValue, max_value, minIntervalClosed, maxIntervalClosed]

minValue: Minimal value for the parameter
max_value: Maximal value for the parameter
minIntervalClosed: True, if minValue represents a valid value for the parameter.

False otherwise.

maxIntervalClosed: True, if max_value represents a valid value for the parameter.

False otherwise.

Return type Dictionary

`execute (timeSeries)`

Creates a new TimeSeries containing the smoothed and forecasted values.

Returns TimeSeries object containing the smoothed TimeSeries, including the forecasted values.

Return type TimeSeries

Note The first normalized value is chosen as the starting point.

```
class pystac.methods.exponentialsmoothing.HoltMethod(smoothingFactor=0.1,
                                                    trendSmoothingFactor=0.5,
                                                    valuesToForecast=1)
```

Bases: `pystac.methods.basemethod.BaseForecastingMethod`

Implements the Holt algorithm.

Explanation: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exponential_smoothing#Double_exponential_smoothing

```
__init__(smoothingFactor=0.1, trendSmoothingFactor=0.5, valuesToForecast=1)
```

Initializes the HoltMethod.

Parameters

- **smoothingFactor** (*Float*) – Defines the alpha for the ExponentialSmoothing. Valid values are in (0.0, 1.0).
- **trendSmoothingFactor** (*Float*) – Defines the beta for the HoltMethod. Valid values are in (0.0, 1.0).
- **valuesToForecast** (*Integer*) – Defines the number of forecasted values that will be part of the result.

Raise Raises a `ValueError` when `smoothingFactor` or `trendSmoothingFactor` has an invalid value.

```
_get_parameter_intervals()
```

Returns the intervals for the methods parameter.

Only parameters with defined intervals can be used for optimization!

Returns

Returns a dictionary containing the parameter intervals, using the parameter name as key, while the value has the following format: [minValue, maxValue, minIntervalClosed, maxIntervalClosed]

minValue: Minimal value for the parameter
maxValue: Maximal value for the parameter
minIntervalClosed: True, if minValue represents a valid value for the parameter.

False otherwise.

maxIntervalClosed: True, if max value represents a valid value for the parameter.

False otherwise.

Return type Dictionary

```
execute(timeSeries)
```

Creates a new TimeSeries containing the smoothed values.

Returns TimeSeries object containing the smoothed TimeSeries, including the forecasted values.

Return type TimeSeries

Note The first normalized value is chosen as the starting point.

ERROR MEASURES

`class pycast.errors.baseerrormeasure.BaseErrorMeasure (minimalErrorCalculationPercentage=60)`
 Bases: object

Baseclass for all error measures.

`__init__ (minimalErrorCalculationPercentage=60)`
 Initializes the error measure.

Parameters `minimalErrorCalculationPercentage` (*Integer*) – The number of entries in an original TimeSeries that have to have corresponding partners in the calculated TimeSeries. Corresponding partners have the same time stamp. Valid values are in [0.0, 100.0].

Raise Raises a `ValueError` if `minimalErrorCalculationPercentage` is not in [0.0, 100.0].

`_calculate (startingPercentage, endPercentage)`
 This is the error calculation function that gets called by `BaseErrorMeasure.get_error()`.

Both parameters will be correct at this time.

Parameters

- **startingPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the start of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, where the error calculation should be started. 25.0 for example means that the first 25% of all calculated errors will be ignored.
- **endPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the end of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, after which all error values will be ignored. 90.0 for example means that the last 10% of all local errors will be ignored.

Returns Returns a float representing the error.

Return type Float

Raise Raises a `NotImplementedError` if the child class does not overwrite this method.

`_get_error_values (startingPercentage, endPercentage)`
 Gets the defined subset of `self._errorValues`.

Both parameters will be correct at this time.

Parameters

- **startingPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the start of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, where the error calculation should be started. 25.0 for example means that the first 25% of all calculated errors will be ignored.

- **endPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the end of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, after which all error values will be ignored. 90.0 for example means that the last 10% of all local errors will be ignored.

Returns Returns a list with the defined error values.

Return type List

get_error (*startingPercentage=0.0, endPercentage=100.0*)

Calculates the error for the given interval (*startingPercentage*, *endPercentage*) between the TimeSeries given during `BaseErrorMeasure.initialize()`.

Parameters

- **startingPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the start of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, where the error calculation should be started. 25.0 for example means that the first 25% of all calculated errors will be ignored.
- **endPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the end of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, after which all error values will be ignored. 90.0 for example means that the last 10% of all local errors will be ignored.

Returns Returns a float representing the error.

Return type Float

Raise Raises a `ValueError` in one of the following cases:

- *startingPercentage* not in [0.0, 100.0]
- *endPercentage* not in [0.0, 100.0]
- *endPercentage* < *startingPercentage*

Raise Raises a `StandardError` if `BaseErrorMeasure.initialize()` was not successful before.

initialize (*originalTimeSeries, calculatedTimeSeries*)

Initializes the ErrorMeasure.

During initialization, all `BaseErrorMeasure.local_errors()` are calculated.

Parameters

- **originalTimeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – TimeSeries containing the original data.
- **calculatedTimeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – TimeSeries containing calculated data. Calculated data is smoothed or forecasted data.

Returns Return `True` if the error could be calculated, `False` otherwise based on the `minimalErrorCalculationPercentage`.

Return type Boolean

local_error (*originalValue, calculatedValue*)

Calculates the error between the two given values.

Parameters

- **originalValue** (*Numeric*) – Value of the original data.
- **calculatedValue** (*Numeric*) – Value of the calculated TimeSeries that corresponds to originalValue.

Returns Returns the error measure of the two given values.

Return type Numeric

Raise Raises a `NotImplementedError` if the child class does not overwrite this method.

class `pycast.errors.meansquarederror.MeanSquaredError` (*minimalErrorCalculationPercentage=60*)
 Bases: `pycast.errors.baseerrormeasure.BaseErrorMeasure`

Implements the mean squared error measure.

Explanation: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mean_squared_error

`_calculate` (*startingPercentage, endPercentage*)

This is the error calculation function that gets called by `BaseErrorMeasure.get_error()`.

Both parameters will be correct at this time.

Parameters

- **`startingPercentage`** (*Float*) – Defines the start of the interval. This has to be a value in `[0.0, 100.0]`. It represents the value, where the error calculation should be started. 25.0 for example means that the first 25% of all calculated errors will be ignored.
- **`endPercentage`** (*Float*) – Defines the end of the interval. This has to be a value in `[0.0, 100.0]`. It represents the value, after which all error values will be ignored. 90.0 for example means that the last 10% of all local errors will be ignored.

Returns Returns a float representing the error.

Return type Float

Raise Raises a `NotImplementedError` if the child class does not overwrite this method.

`local_error` (*originalValue, calculatedValue*)

Calculates the error between the two given values.

Parameters

- **`originalValue`** (*Numeric*) – Value of the original data.
- **`calculatedValue`** (*Numeric*) – Value of the calculated TimeSeries that corresponds to originalValue.

Returns Returns the error measure of the two given values.

Return type Float

OPTIMIZATION METHODS

```
class pycast.optimization.baseoptimizationmethod.BaseOptimizationMethod(errorMeasureClass,  
                                                                           precision=-1)
```

Bases: object

Baseclass for all optimization methods.

```
__init__(errorMeasureClass, precision=-1)
```

Initializes the optimization method.

Parameters

- **errorMeasureClass** (*BaseErrorMeasure*) – Error measure class from `pycast.errors`
- **precision** (*Integer*) – Defines the accuracy for parameter tuning in $10^{\text{precision}}$. This parameter has to be an integer in $[-7, 0]$.

Raise Raises a `TypeError` if `errorMeasureClass` is not a valid class. Valid classes are derived from `pycast.errors.BaseErrorMeasure`.

Raise Raises a `ValueError` if `precision` is not in $[-7, 0]$.

```
optimize(timeSeries, forecastingMethods=[ ])
```

Runs the optimization on the given `TimeSeries`.

Parameters

- **timeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – `TimeSeries` instance that requires an optimized forecast.
- **forecastingMethods** (*List*) – List of `forecastingMethods` that will be used for optimization.

Returns Returns the optimized forecasting method with the smallest error.

Return type (`BaseForecastingMethod`, `Dictionary`)

Raise Raises a `ValueError` `ValueError` if no `forecastingMethods` is empty.

```
class pycast.optimization.gridsearch.GridSearch(errorMeasureClass, precision=-1)
```

Bases: `pycast.optimization.baseoptimizationmethod.BaseOptimizationMethod`

Implements the grid search method for parameter optimization.

`GridSearch` is the brute force method.

```
_generate_next_parameter_value(parameter, forecastingMethod)
```

Generator for a specific parameter of the given forecasting method.

Parameters

- **parameter** (*String*) – Name of the parameter the generator is used for.

- **forecastingMethod** (*BaseForecastingMethod*) – Instance of a *ForecastingMethod*.

Returns Creates a generator used to iterate over possible parameters.

Return type Generator Function

optimization_loop (*timeSeries*, *forecastingMethod*, *remainingParameters*, *currentParameterValues*={})

The optimization loop.

This function is called recursively, until all parameter values were evaluated.

Parameters

- **timeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – *TimeSeries* instance that requires an optimized forecast.
- **forecastingMethod** (*BaseForecastingMethod*) – *ForecastingMethod* that is used to optimize the parameters.
- **remainingParameters** (*list*) – List containing all parameters with their corresponding values that still need to be evaluated. When this list is empty, the most inner optimization loop is reached.
- **currentParameterValues** (*Dictionary*) – The currently evaluated forecast parameter combination.

Returns Returns a list containing a *BaseErrorMeasure* instance as defined in *BaseOptimizationMethod.__init__()* and the *forecastingMethods* parameter.

Return type List

optimize (*timeSeries*, *forecastingMethods*=[], *startingPercentage*=0.0, *endPercentage*=100.0)

Runs the optimization of the given *TimeSeries*.

Parameters

- **timeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – *TimeSeries* instance that requires an optimized forecast.
- **forecastingMethods** (*List*) – List of *forecastingMethods* that will be used for optimization.
- **startingPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the start of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, where the error calculation should be started. 25.0 for example means that the first 25% of all calculated errors will be ignored.
- **endPercentage** (*Float*) – Defines the end of the interval. This has to be a value in [0.0, 100.0]. It represents the value, after which all error values will be ignored. 90.0 for example means that the last 10% of all local errors will be ignored.

Returns Returns the optimized forecasting method with the smallest error.

Return type *BaseForecastingMethod*, *Dictionary*

Raise Raises a *ValueError* if no *forecastingMethods* is empty.

optimize_forecasting_method (*timeSeries*, *forecastingMethod*)

Optimizes the parameters for the given *timeSeries* and *forecastingMethod*.

Parameters

- **timeSeries** (*TimeSeries*) – *TimeSeries* instance, containing the original data.
- **forecastingMethod** (*BaseForecastingMethod*) – *ForecastingMethod* that is used to optimize the parameters.

Returns Returns a tuple containing only the smallest *BaseErrorMeasure* instance as defined in *BaseOptimizationMethod.__init__()* and the *forecastingMethods* parameter.

Return type Tuple

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