

#### Gefördert durch:

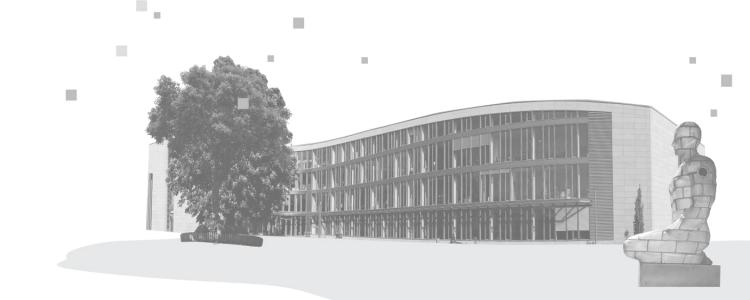


# Time Series Forecasting

## 2.4 Combining models

Mario Tormo Romero

Design IT. Create Knowledge.



#### What we'll cover in this video

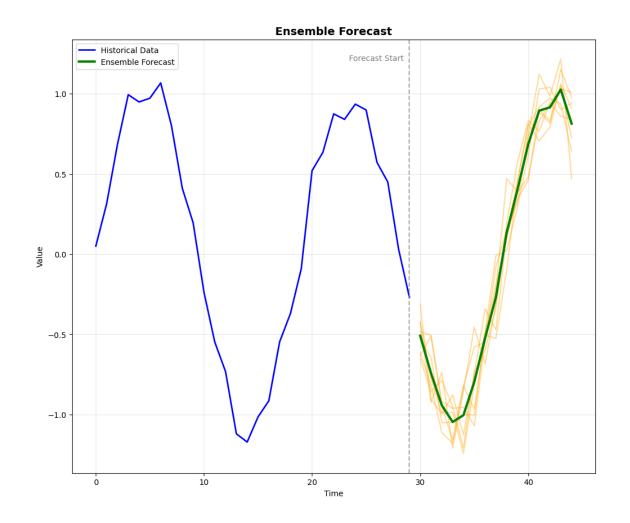


- Why and when to combine models
- Simple ensembles: mean & median
- Optimizing model weights with heuristics
- Optimal weighted ensembles
- Advanced techniques: stacking & blending

# Why and when to combine models



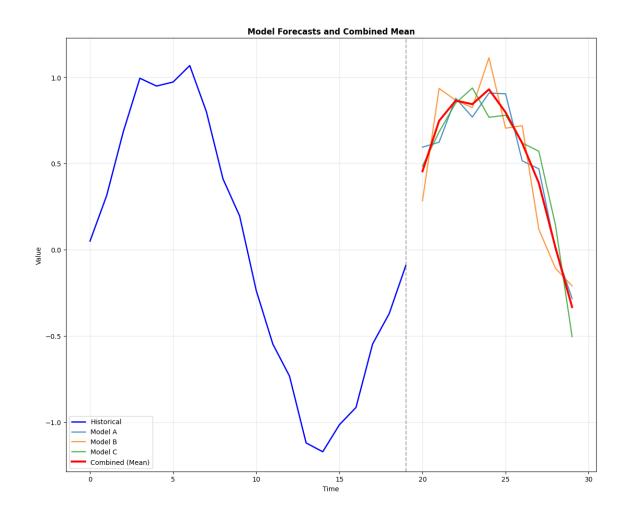
- No single model is best for every dataset or time period
- Combining models can reduce variance and bias
- Helps capture different patterns missed by individual models
- Increases robustness to changes in data
- Often improves forecast accuracy in realworld settings



#### Simple Ensemble Methods



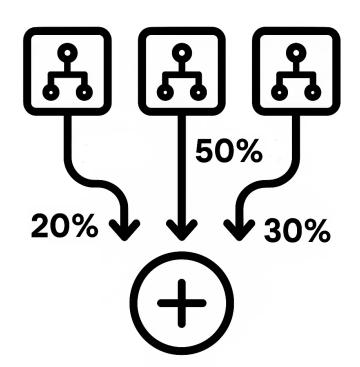
- Mean: Average predictions from all models
- Median: Use the middle prediction for robustness against outliers
- Easy to implement, no tuning required
- Often outperforms single models by reducing variance



## Heuristic Optimization for Ensemble Weights



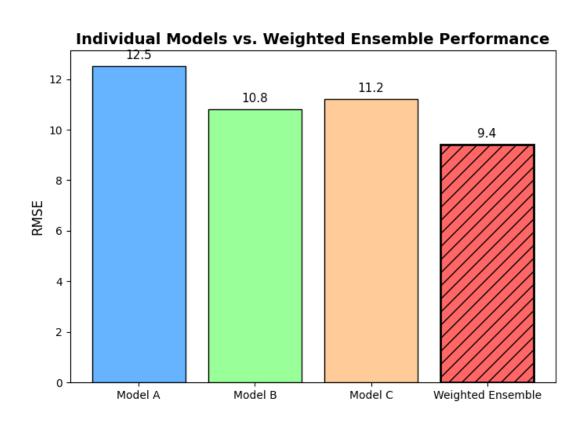
- Goal: Assign better weights to each model's forecast
- Stochastic hill climbing: Iteratively adjust weights for improvement
- Simulated annealing: Explore broadly to avoid local optima
- Useful for small-to-medium sets of models



#### Optimal Weighted Ensemble



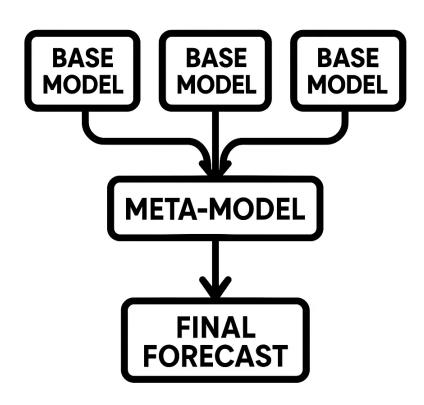
- Finds mathematically optimal weights for each model
- Often solved using constrained optimization (e.g., non-negative weights summing to 1)
- Requires historical forecast errors for each model
- Produces a balanced combination that minimizes overall error



## Stacking and Blending



- Stacking: Train a meta-model on predictions from base models
- Blending: Similar to stacking, but often uses a simple holdout set instead of crossvalidation
- Can capture complex relationships between model outputs
- Widely used in machine learning competitions for top performance



#### What we've learnt



- No single model is perfect; combining improves accuracy and robustness
- Simple ensembles like mean and median are easy and effective starting points
- Heuristic and mathematical weighting can boost performance further
- Advanced methods like stacking and blending capture complex relationships
- Choose combination methods based on your data, goals, and resources