

The challenge is a monthly sales forecast based on real data from a Siemens business unit in Germany

Challenge overview

Sales forecast on monthly basis

Business area

- Selected product groups of one Business Unit of our Smart Infrastructure Division
- Focus on biggest country of business unit (Germany)

Data

- Sales data from October 2018 to April 2022
- Important macro-economical indices

Evaluation:

- Quantitative evaluation of score (Metric: RMSE) via separated test set (May 2022 to February 2023 – 10 months)
- Submission until April 10 via Moodle and email

Why is Al-driven sales forecast so important?



Manual forecasting is highly resource intensive – many "person-days" per month



Manual forecasting is biased through aggregated "judgement" of multiple stakeholders



Information scattered over many data sources ever-changing base-lines



"Opportunity Cost" of poor forecasting is significant – on working capital &/or customer satisfaction

Businesses and Services of Siemens AG

Industrial businesses

Digital Industries



Mobility

Siemens Healthineers¹









Other businesses

Portfolio Companies

Siemens Advanta





Siemens Financial Services



Siemens Real Estate

Services



Global Business Services



¹ Publicly listed subsidiary of Siemens; Siemens' share in Siemens Healthineers: 75%

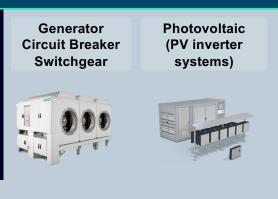
Smart power distribution from medium-voltage to low-voltage

Medium-voltage Components, Systems & Solutions



Automation, Protection & Communication for high- and medium-voltage Systems







Low-voltage Systems



Services

Data provided consists of daily sales data from Siemens product groups and key market indices



Sales data

- Daily sales data per GCK (product groups) in EUR
 - Training set (daily): 'Sales data.csv'
 - Test set (monthly): 'Test Set Template.csv'



Macro economical data

- Important macro-economic indices for Siemens in its most important countries: 'Market data.xlsx'
- This includes for example:
 - Production Index Machinery & Electricals
 - Shipments Index Machinery & Electricals
 - · Price of Base Metals
 - Price of Energy
 - Price of Metals & Minerals
 - Price of Natural gas index
 - · Price of Crude oil, average
 - Price of Copper
 - Producer Prices

Dataset available on Moodle

Datasets available on Moodle

The test set should be sent by April 10th and the results will be determined quantitatively by SAC



Submission of results

- Deadline
 - Submission until 23h59 April 10, 2024
- Test set submitted also to Siemens Advanta Consulting
 - Mail addresses: hande.karatay@siemens.com and edward.graf@siemens.com
 - Subject: NOVA/SAC Group Name (e.g., NOVA/SAC, Group A)
 - Format: Please use the CSV 'Test Set Template' including three columns (Year Month, Mapped_GCK, Sales EUR



Evaluation of results

- Quantitative evaluation of results by SAC
 - Score on test set via RMSE
- Qualitative evaluation of results, presentation and code by NOVA IMS



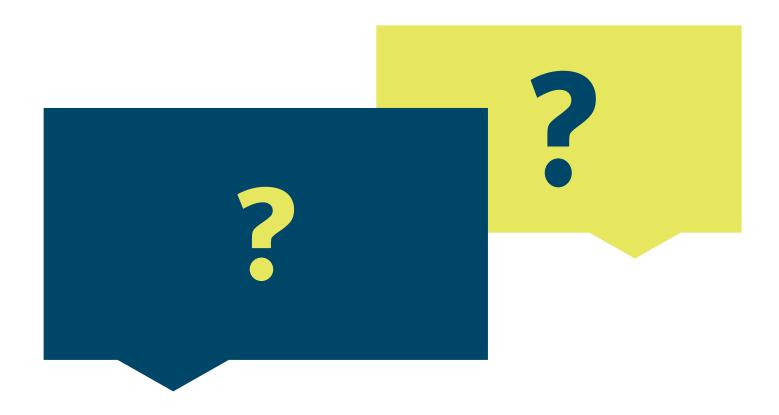
The reasons for Data Science projects to fail are manifold – the CRISP-DM framework is one lever to mitigate the risk of failure

Data preparation: Business/data understanding: Conduct feature engineering (macro-Conduct workshops/interviews with economic factors, vacations, etc.) business experts to identify sales drivers Some features must be predicted or Hypotheses-based approach neglected Understanding missing data and data Different features for different time quality horizons **Evaluation Modeling** Strategically define validation set Iteratively develop ML model Model explainability gets increasingly (Benchmark, Feature selection, Model selection, Tuning, Training) important Interpret feature importance (global or Create models as standardized as local) and revaluate hypotheses possible Sometimes a few meaningful features No free lunch, but certain models are better than a huge dataset usually outperform

Source: Siemens Advanta Consulting

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It is time for your questions!



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