Package: profoc (via r-universe)

October 26, 2026

Type Package

Title Probabilistic Forecast Combination Using CRPS Learning

Version 1.3.4

Date 2026-01-23

Description Combine probabilistic forecasts using CRPS learning algorithms proposed in Berrisch, Ziel (2021) <doi:10.48550/arXiv.2102.00968> <doi:10.1016/j.jeconom.2021.11.008>. The package implements multiple online learning algorithms like Bernstein online aggregation; see Wintenberger (2014) <doi:10.48550/arXiv.1404.1356>. Quantile regression is also implemented for comparison purposes. Model parameters can be tuned automatically with respect to the loss of the forecast combination. Methods like predict(), update(), plot() and print() are available for convenience. This package utilizes the optim C++ library for numeric optimization <https://github.com/kthohr/optim>.

License GPL (>= 3)

Encoding UTF-8

Depends R (>= 4.3.0)

Imports Rcpp (>= 1.0.5), Matrix, abind, methods, lifecycle, generics, tibble, ggplot2

LinkingTo Rcpp, RcppArmadillo (>= 0.10.7.5.0), RcppProgress, splines2 (>= 0.4.4), rcpptimer (>= 1.2.0)

URL https://profoc.berrisch.biz, https://github.com/BerriJ/profoc

BugReports https://github.com/BerriJ/profoc/issues

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Language en-US

Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0), gamlss.dist, knitr, rmarkdown, dplyr, rcpptimer (>= 1.2.0),

Config/testthat/edition 3

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Jonathan Berrisch [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4944-9074>), Florian Ziel [aut]
(ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2974-2660>)

Maintainer Jonathan Berrisch <Jonathan@Berrisch.biz>

Repository https://cran.r-universe.dev

Date/Publication 2026-01-23 09:50:02 UTC

RemoteUrl https://github.com/cran/profoc

RemoteRef HEAD

RemoteSha 2f19f34a8e3e228f0987a1303631962d790f4a04

Contents

profoc-package . . . 3
autoplot.batch . . . 4
autoplot.online . . . 4
batch . . . 5
conline . . . 8
init_experts_list . . . 8
make_basis_mats . . . 9
make_hat_mats . . . 10
make_knots . . . 11
online . . . 11
oracle . . . 15
penalty . . . 17
plot.batch . . . 18
plot.online . . . 18
post_process_model . . . 19
predict.online . . . 19
print.batch . . . 20
print.online . . . 20
splines2_basis . . . 21
summary.online . . . 22
tidy.online.experts_loss . . . 22
tidy.online.forecaster_loss . . . 23
tidy.online.predictions . . . 23
tidy.online.weights . . . 24
update.online . . . 24

Index **25**

profoc-package *Package Info*

Description

Use multiple online-aggregation algorithms to combine probabilistic forecasts using CRPS Learning as described in Berrisch, Ziel: "CRPS Learning", 2021. The primary function of this package is called `online`.

doi:10.1016/j.jeconom.2021.11.008

Details

Index of help topics:


```
autoplot.batch          Autoplot method for batch models
autoplot.online         Autoplot method for online models
batch                   Probabilistic Forecast Combination - Batch
conline                 Create an conline Object from the conline C++
                        Class
init_experts_list       Create experts list to be used in conline class
make_basis_mats         Create a List of Basis Matrices
make_hat_mats           Create a List of Hat Matrices
make_knots              Create a vector of knots for splines
online                  Probabilistic Forecast Combination - Online
oracle                  Probabilistic Forecast Combination - Oracle
penalty                 B-Spline penalty
plot.batch              Plot method for batch models
plot.online             Plot method for online models
post_process_model      Post Process Data from conline Class
predict.online          Predict method for online models
print.batch             Print method for batch models
print.online            Print method for online models
profoc-package          Package Info
splines2_basis          Create B-Spline basis
summary.online          Summary method for online models
tidy.online.experts_loss
                        Tidy the Experts' losses of an Online object
tidy.online.forecaster_loss
                        Tidy the Experts' losses of an Online object
tidy.online.predictions
                        Tidy the Predictions of an Online object
tidy.online.weights     Tidy the Weights of an Online object
update.online           Update method for online models
```


Author(s)

Maintainer: Jonathan Berrisch mailto:Jonathan@Berrisch.biz

Co-Author: Florian Ziel

References

Berrisch, Ziel: "CRPS Learning", 2021
doi:10.1016/j.jeconom.2021.11.008
doi:10.48550/arXiv.2102.00968

See Also

Source Code: https://github.com/BerriJ/profoc
BugReports: https://github.com/BerriJ/profoc/issues

`autoplot.batch` *Autoplot method for batch models*

Description

Plots the most recent weights in each quantile using ggplot2.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'batch'
autoplot(object, ...)
```

Arguments

`object`	Object of class inheriting from 'batch'
`...`	further arguments are ignored

`autoplot.online` *Autoplot method for online models*

Description

Plots the most recent weights in each quantile using ggplot2.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online'
autoplot(object, ...)
```

Arguments

`object`	Object of class inheriting from 'online'
`...`	further arguments are ignored

batch *Probabilistic Forecast Combination - Batch*

Description

Returns predictions and weights calculated by sequential numeric optimization. The optimization is done stepwise, always calculating a one-step-ahead forecast.

[Experimental]

Usage

```
batch(
  y,
  experts,
  tau = 1:dim(experts)[2]/(dim(experts)[2] + 1),
  affine = FALSE,
  positive = FALSE,
  intercept = FALSE,
  debias = TRUE,
  lead_time = 0,
  initial_window = 30,
  rolling_window = initial_window,
  loss_function = "quantile",
  loss_parameter = 1,
  qw_crps = FALSE,
 b_smooth = list(knots = length(tau), mu = 0.5, sigma = 1, nonc = 0, tailweight = 1, deg
    = 1, periodic = FALSE),
 p_smooth = list(knots = length(tau), mu = 0.5, sigma = 1, nonc = 0, tailweight = 1, deg
    = 1, ndiff = 1.5, lambda = -Inf, periodic = FALSE),
  forget = 0,
  soft_threshold = -Inf,
  hard_threshold = -Inf,
  fixed_share = 0,
  parametergrid_max_combinations = 100,
  parametergrid = NULL,
  forget_past_performance = 0,
  allow_quantile_crossing = FALSE,
  trace = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

y	A numeric matrix of realizations. In probabilistic settings a matrix of dimension Tx1, in multivariate settings a TxD matrix. In the latter case, each slice of the expert's array gets evaluated using the corresponding column of the y matrix.
experts	An array of predictions with dimension (Observations, Quantiles, Experts).

tau	A numeric vector of probabilities.
affine	Defines whether weights are summing to 1 or not. Defaults to FALSE.
positive	Defines if a positivity constraint is applied to the weights. Defaults to FALSE.
intercept	Determines if an intercept is added, defaults to FALSE. If true, a new first expert is added, always predicting 1.
debias	Defines whether the intercepts weight is constrained or not. If TRUE (the default), the intercept weight is unconstrained. Only affects the results if affine and or positive is set to TRUE. If FALSE, the intercept is treated as an expert.
lead_time	offset for expert forecasts. Defaults to 0, which means that experts forecast t+1 at t. Setting this to h means experts predictions refer to t+1+h at time t. The weight updates delay accordingly.
initial_window	Defines the size of the initial estimation window.
rolling_window	Defines the size of the rolling window. Defaults to the value of initial_window. Set it to the number of observations to receive an expanding window.
loss_function	Either "quantile", "expectile" or "percentage".
loss_parameter	Optional parameter scaling the power of the loss function.
qw_crps	Decides whether the sum of quantile scores (FALSE) or the quantile weighted CRPS (TRUE) should be minimized. Defaults to FALSE. Which corresponds to Berrisch & Ziel (2021)
b_smooth	A named list determining how the B-Spline matrices for probabilistic smoothing are created. Default corresponds to no probabilistic smoothing. See details.
p_smooth	A named list determining how the hat matrices for probabilistic P-Spline smoothing are created. Default corresponds to no smoothing. See details.
forget	Adds an exponential forgetting to the optimization. Past observations will get less influence on the optimization. Defaults to 0, which corresponds to no forgetting.
soft_threshold	If specified, the following soft threshold will be applied to the weights: w = sgn(w)*max(abs(w)-t,0) where t is the soft_threshold parameter. Defaults to -inf, which means that no threshold will be applied. If all expert weights are thresholded to 0, a weight of 1 will be assigned to the expert with the highest weights prior to thresholding. Thus soft_threshold = 1 leads to the 'follow the leader' strategy if method is set to "ewa".
hard_threshold	If specified, the following hard thresholding will be applied to the weights: w = w*(abs(w)>t) where t is the threshold_hard parameter. Defaults to -inf, which means that no threshold will be applied. If all expert weights are thresholded to 0, a weight of 1 will be assigned to the expert with the highest weight prior to thresholding. Thus hard_threshold = 1 leads to the 'follow the leader' strategy if method is set to "ewa".
fixed_share	Amount of fixed share to be added to the weights. Defaults to 0. 1 leads to uniform weights.
parametergrid_max_combinations	Integer specifying the maximum number of parameter combinations that should be considered. If the number of possible combinations exceeds this threshold, the maximum allowed number is randomly sampled. Defaults to 100.

parametergrid
: User supplied grid of parameters. Can be used if not all combinations of the input vectors should be considered. Must be a matrix with 13 columns (online) or 12 columns batch with the following order: basis_knot_distance, basis_knot_distance_power, basis_deg, forget_regret, soft_threshold, hard_threshold, fixed_share, p_smooth_lambda, p_smooth_knot_distance, p_smooth_knot_distance_power, p_smooth_deg, p_smooth_ndiff, gamma.

forget_past_performance
: Share of past performance not to be considered, resp. to be forgotten in every iteration of the algorithm when selecting the best parameter combination. Defaults to 0.

allow_quantile_crossing
: Shall quantile crossing be allowed? Defaults to false, which means that predictions are sorted in ascending order.

trace
: Print a progress bar to the console? Defaults to TRUE.

Details

batch selects various parameters automatically based on the past loss. For this, the parameters smoothing parameters (see below) can be specified as numeric vectors containing values to consider.

This package offers two options for smoothing (Basis Smoothing and P-Splines). Parameters `b_smooth` and `p_smooth` take named lists to create the corresponding basis and hat matrices. The arguments are: `knots` which determines the number of knots to be created, `mu`, `sigma`, `sigma`, `nonc`, `tailweight` correspond to to parameters of the beta distribution, which defines how the knots are #distributed (see `?make_knots` for details) the defaults will create an equidistant knot sequence, `deg` sets the degree of the spline function and also influences how many outer knots will be used and `periodic` which determines whether the spline basis will be periodic. It's possible to provide vectors of values for each of these parameters. In that case, all parameter combinations will be used to create the respective matrices and all candidates will be considered during online-learning. In addition to the inputs mentioned before `p_smooth` requires `ndiff` which determines the degree of differentiation applied to the basis-matrix (can take any value between and including 1 and 2), `lambda` which determines the degree of penalization applied to the smoothing, higher values will give smoother weight functions. As for the other parameters, it is possible to provide multiple values.

Value

Returns weights and corresponding predictions. It is possible to impose a convexity constraint to the weights by setting affine and positive to TRUE.

Examples

```
## Not run:
T <- 50 # Observations
N <- 2 # Experts
P <- 9 # Quantiles
prob_grid <- 1:P / (P + 1)

y <- rnorm(n = T) # Realized
experts <- array(dim = c(T, P, N)) # Predictions
```

```
for (t in 1:T) {
    experts[t, , 1] <- qnorm(prob_grid, mean = -1, sd = 1)
    experts[t, , 2] <- qnorm(prob_grid, mean = 3, sd = sqrt(4))
}

model <- batch(
    y = matrix(y),
    experts = experts,
    p_smooth = list(lambda = 10)
)

print(model)
plot(model)
autoplot(model)

## End(Not run)
```

`conline` *Create an conline Object from the conline C++ Class*

Description

Allows for the creation of a Online Object in *C++* from *R* using the *C++* conline class.

Value

A `conline` object from the *C++* conline Class.

Examples

```
conline_obj <- new(conline)
```

`init_experts_list` *Create experts list to be used in conline class*

Description

This function works in conjunction with the conline class. It takes a matrix of experts and a matrix of outcomes and returns a list of experts which fulfills all properties that are needed for passing it to the an instance of conline.

Usage

```
init_experts_list(experts, y, output_with_names = FALSE)
```

Arguments

experts	array of predictions with dimension T x D x P x K (Observations x Variables x Quantiles x Experts) or T x D x K or T x P x K.
y	A matrix of outcomes with dimension T x D.
output_with_names	Defaults to FALSE. If TRUE, the function returns a list with the experts list, the names of the variables (dnames) and the names of the experts (enames).

---

make_basis_mats *Create a List of Basis Matrices*

Description

This function creates a list of basis matrices and the corresponding parameters. It is used in `online()` to create the basis matrices for basis smoothing.

Usage

```
make_basis_mats(
  x,
  n = length(x),
  mu = 0.5,
  sigma = 1,
  nonc = 0,
  tailw = 1,
  deg = 1,
  periodic = FALSE,
  idx = NULL,
  params = NULL
)
```

Arguments

x	The predictor variable
n	Number of knots
mu	Beta distribution location parameter
sigma	Beta distribution scale parameter
nonc	Beta distribution noncentrality parameter
tailw	Tailweight
deg	Degree of splines
periodic	Create periodic basis
idx	`make_basis_mats()` will create a grid containing all combinations of the parameters. If idx is set, this grid will be subsetted to the rows specified by idx.
params	Instead of the arguments above, a grid (data.frame or named matrix) of parameters can be passed directly.

`make_hat_mats` *Create a List of Hat Matrices*

Description

This function creates a list of hat matrices and the corresponding parameters. It is used in `online()` to create the hat matrices for penalized smoothing.

Usage

```
make_hat_mats(
  x,
  n = length(x),
  mu = 0.5,
  sigma = 1,
  nonc = 0,
  tailw = 1,
  deg = 1,
  ndiff = 1.5,
  lambda = -Inf,
  periodic = FALSE,
  idx = NULL,
  params = NULL
)
```

Arguments

`x`	The predictor variable
`n`	Number of knots
`mu`	Beta distribution location parameter
`sigma`	Beta distribution scale parameter
`nonc`	Beta distribution noncentrality parameter
`tailw`	Tailweight
`deg`	Degree of splines
`ndiff`	Sets the degree of the differencing matrix for creating the penalty
`lambda`	Penalty parameter (higher values lead to higher penalty)
`periodic`	Create periodic penalty
`idx`	`make_hat_mats()` will create a grid containing all combinations of the parameters. If idx is set, this grid will be subsetted to the rows specified by idx.
`params`	Instead of the arguments above, a grid (data.frame or named matrix) of parameters can be passed directly.

make_knots *Create a vector of knots for splines*

Description

This function creates a knot vector for splines. The knots are distributed according to a beta distribution. The first input defines the number of inner knots. The total number of knots is `n + 2 * order`.

Usage

```
make_knots(n, mu = 0.5, sig = 1, nonc = 0, tailw = 1, deg = 1)
```

Arguments

`n`	Number of knots
`mu`	Beta distribution location parameter
`sig`	Beta distribution scale parameter
`nonc`	Beta distribution noncentrality parameter
`tailw`	Tailweight
`deg`	Degree of splines

online *Probabilistic Forecast Combination - Online*

Description

Returns predictions and weights calculated by online-learning algorithms using CRPS Learning.

[Stable]

Usage

```
online(
  y,
  experts,
  tau,
  lead_time = 0,
  loss_function = "quantile",
  loss_parameter = 1,
  loss_gradient = TRUE,
  method = "bewa",
 b_smooth_pr = list(knots = P, mu = 0.5, sigma = 1, nonc = 0, tailweight = 1, deg = 1,
    periodic = FALSE),
 p_smooth_pr = list(knots = P, mu = 0.5, sigma = 1, nonc = 0, tailweight = 1, deg = 1,
```

```
    ndiff = 1.5, lambda = -Inf, periodic = FALSE),
  b_smooth_mv = list(knots = D, mu = 0.5, sigma = 1, nonc = 0, tailweight = 1, deg = 1,
    periodic = FALSE),
  p_smooth_mv = list(knots = D, mu = 0.5, sigma = 1, nonc = 0, tailweight = 1, deg = 1,
    ndiff = 1.5, lambda = -Inf, periodic = FALSE),
  forget_regret = 0,
  soft_threshold = -Inf,
  hard_threshold = -Inf,
  fixed_share = 0,
  gamma = 1,
  parametergrid_max_combinations = 100,
  parametergrids = list(general = NULL, b_smooth_pr = NULL, p_smooth_pr = NULL,
    b_smooth_mv = NULL, p_smooth_mv = NULL),
  forget_past_performance = 0,
  save_past_performance = FALSE,
  save_predictions_grid = FALSE,
  allow_quantile_crossing = FALSE,
  init = NULL,
  loss = NULL,
  regret = NULL,
  trace = TRUE,
  get_timings = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

y	A numeric matrix of realizations. In probabilistic settings a matrix of dimension Tx1, in multivariate settings a TxD matrix. In the latter case, each slice of the expert's array gets evaluated using the corresponding column of the y matrix.
experts	An array of predictions with dimension T x D x P x K (Observations x Variables x Quantiles x Experts) or T x D x K or T x P x K.
tau	A numeric vector of probabilities.
lead_time	offset for expert forecasts. Defaults to 0, which means that experts forecast t+1 at t. Setting this to h means experts predictions refer to t+1+h at time t. The weight updates delay accordingly.
loss_function	Either "quantile", "expectile" or "percentage".
loss_parameter	Optional parameter scaling the power of the loss function.
loss_gradient	Determines if a linearized version of the loss is used.
method	One of "boa", "bewa", "ml_poly" or "ewa". Where "bewa" refers to a mixture of boa and ewa, including the second order refinement of boa, but updating weights with the simple exponential weighting.
b_smooth_pr	A named list determining how the B-Spline matrices for probabilistic smoothing are created. Default corresponds to no probabilistic smoothing. See details.
p_smooth_pr	A named list determining how the hat matrices for probabilistic P-Spline smoothing are created. Default corresponds to no smoothing. See details.

`b_smooth_mv` A named list determining how the B-Spline matrices for multivariate smoothing are created. Default corresponds to no probabilistic smoothing. See details.

`p_smooth_mv` A named list determining how the hat matrices for probabilistic P-Spline smoothing are created. Default corresponds to no smoothing. See details.

`forget_regret` Share of past regret not to be considered, resp. to be forgotten in every iteration of the algorithm. Defaults to 0.

`soft_threshold` If specified, the following soft threshold will be applied to the weights: w = sgn(w)*max(abs(w)-t,0) where t is the soft_threshold parameter. Defaults to -inf, which means that no threshold will be applied. If all expert weights are thresholded to 0, a weight of 1 will be assigned to the expert with the highest weights prior to thresholding. Thus soft_threshold = 1 leads to the 'follow the leader' strategy if method is set to "ewa".

`hard_threshold` If specified, the following hard thresholding will be applied to the weights: w = w*(abs(w)>t) where t is the threshold_hard parameter. Defaults to -inf, which means that no threshold will be applied. If all expert weights are thresholded to 0, a weight of 1 will be assigned to the expert with the highest weight prior to thresholding. Thus hard_threshold = 1 leads to the 'follow the leader' strategy if method is set to "ewa".

`fixed_share` Amount of fixed share to be added to the weights. Defaults to 0. 1 leads to uniform weights.

`gamma` Scaling parameter for the learning rate.

`parametergrid_max_combinations`
Integer specifying the maximum number of parameter combinations that should be considered. If the number of possible combinations exceeds this threshold, the maximum allowed number is randomly sampled. Defaults to 100.

`parametergrids` User supplied grids of parameters. Can be used if not all combinations of the input vectors should be considered. Must be a named list of five matrices. The matrices in list must be named as: "general", "b_smooth_pr", "b_smooth_mv", "p_smooth_pr", "p_smooth_mv". The "general" matrix must contain 11 named columns: "forget_regret", "soft_threshold", "hard_threshold", "fixed_share", "basis_pr_idx", "basis_mv_idx", "hat_pr_idx", "hat_mv_idx", "gamma", "loss_share", "regret_share". The matrices determining the basis smoothing (b_smooth_pr, b_smooth_mv) must contain the following named columns: n, mu, sigma, nonc, tailw, deg, periodic. In addition to the columns of the basis smoothing matrices, the matrices determining the penalized smoothing (p_smooth_pr, p_smooth_mv) must contain the following columns: diff, lambda. The *_idx columns in the general matrix determine which row of the corresponding smoothing matrix is used.

`forget_past_performance`
Share of past performance not to be considered, resp. to be forgotten in every iteration of the algorithm when selecting the best parameter combination. Defaults to 0.

`save_past_performance`
Whether or not the past performance w.r.t to the considered parameter grid should be reported or not. Defaults to `FALSE` to save memory. Setting it to `TRUE` can be memory intensive depending on the data and the considered grid.

`save_predictions_grid`
: Whether or not all predictions w.r.t to the considered parameter grid should be reported or not. Defaults to `FALSE`. Setting it to `TRUE` can be memory intensive depending on the data and the considered grid.

`allow_quantile_crossing`
: Shall quantile crossing be allowed? Defaults to false, which means that predictions are sorted in ascending order.

`init`
: A named list containing "init_weights": Array of dimension DxPxK used as starting weights. "R0" a matrix of dimension PxK or 1xK used as starting regret.

`loss`
: User specified loss array. Can also be a list with elements "loss_array" and "share", share mixes the provided loss with the loss calculated by profoc. 1 means, only the provided loss will be used. share can also be vector of shares to consider.

`regret`
: User specified regret array. If specific, the regret will not be calculated by profoc. Can also be a list with elements "regret_array" and "share", share mixes the provided regret with the regret calculated by profoc. 1 means, only the provided regret will be used. share can also be vector of shares to consider.

`trace`
: Print a progress bar to the console? Defaults to TRUE.

`get_timings`
: Whether or not to return timings. Defaults to `FALSE`. If set to true a dataframe `times` will be written to your global environment.

Details

online selects various parameters automatically based on the past loss. For this, lambda, forget, fixed_share, gamma, and the smoothing parameters (see below) can be specified as numeric vectors containing values to consider.

This package offers two options for smoothing (Basis Smoothing and P-Splines). Both options can be used to smooth the weights over dimension D (covariates) or P (quantiles) or both. Parameters `b_smooth_pr` and `b_smooth_mv` take named lists to create the corresponding basis matrices. The arguments are: `knots` which determines the number of knots to be created, `mu`, `sigma`, `sigma`, `nonc`, `tailweight` correspond to to parameters of the beta distribution, which defines how the knots are #distributed (see `?make_knots` for details) the defaults will create an equidistant knot sequence, `deg` sets the degree of the spline function and also influences how many outer knots will be used and `periodic` which determines whether the spline basis will be periodic. It's possible to provide vectors of values for each of these parameters. In that case, all parameter combinations will be used to create the respective matrices and all candidates will be considered during online-learning. Parameters `p_smooth_pr` and `p_smooth_mv` determine the hat-matrix creation for P-Spline smoothing. In addition to the inputs mentioned before, they require to provide `ndiff` which determines the degree of differentiation applied to the basis-matrix (can take any value between and including 1 and 2), `lambda` which determines the degree of penalization applied to the smoothing, higher values will give smoother weight functions. As for the other parameters, it is possible to provide multiple values.

Value

Returns weights and corresponding predictions.

Examples

```
## Not run:
T <- 50 # Observations
N <- 2 # Experts
P <- 9 # Quantiles
prob_grid <- 1:P / (P + 1)

y <- rnorm(n = T) # Realized
experts <- array(dim = c(T, P, N)) # Predictions
for (t in 1:T) {
  experts[t, , 1] <- qnorm(prob_grid, mean = -1, sd = 1)
  experts[t, , 2] <- qnorm(prob_grid, mean = 3, sd = sqrt(4))
}

model <- online(
  y = matrix(y),
  experts = experts,
  tau = prob_grid,
  p_smooth_pr = list(lambda = 10)
)

print(model)
plot(model)

new_y <- matrix(rnorm(1)) # Realized
new_experts <- experts[T, , , drop = FALSE]

# Update will update the models weights etc if you provide new realizations
model <- update(model, new_y = new_y, new_experts = new_experts)

# Predict will expand `model$predictions` by default
model <- predict(model, new_experts = new_experts, update_model = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

`oracle` *Probabilistic Forecast Combination - Oracle*

Description

Returns predictions and weights calculated by numeric optimization. The optimization is done in hindsight. This means all observations are used.

Usage

```
oracle(y, experts, tau, affine = FALSE,
positive = FALSE, intercept = FALSE, debias = TRUE,
loss_function = "quantile", loss_parameter = 1, forget = 0)
```

Arguments

y	A numeric matrix of realizations. In probabilistic settings a matrix of dimension Tx1, in multivariate settings a TxD matrix. In the latter case, each slice of the expert's array gets evaluated using the corresponding column of the y matrix.
experts	An array of predictions with dimension (Observations, Quantiles, Experts).
tau	A numeric vector of probabilities.
affine	Defines whether weights are summing to 1 or not. Defaults to FALSE.
positive	Defines if a positivity constraint is applied to the weights. Defaults to FALSE.
intercept	Determines if an intercept is added, defaults to FALSE. If true, a new first expert is added, always predicting 1.
debias	Defines whether the intercepts weight is constrained or not. If TRUE (the default), the intercept weight is unconstrained. Only affects the results if affine and or positive is set to TRUE. If FALSE, the intercept is treated as an expert.
loss_function	Either "quantile", "expectile" or "percentage".
loss_parameter	Optional parameter scaling the power of the loss function.
forget	Adds an exponential forgetting to the optimization. Past observations will get less influence on the optimization. Defaults to 0, which corresponds to no forgetting.

Value

Returns weights and corresponding predictions. It is possible to calculate the best convex combination of weights by setting affine and positive to TRUE.

Examples

```
## Not run:
T <- 50 # Observations
N <- 2 # Experts
P <- 9 # Quantiles
prob_grid <- 1:P / (P + 1)

y <- rnorm(n = T) # Realized
experts <- array(dim = c(T, P, N)) # Predictions
for (t in 1:T) {
    experts[t, , 1] <- qnorm(prob_grid, mean = -1, sd = 1)
    experts[t, , 2] <- qnorm(prob_grid, mean = 3, sd = sqrt(4))
}

model <- oracle(
    y = matrix(y),
    experts = experts
)

## End(Not run)
```

`penalty` *B-Spline penalty*

Description

This function calculates the B-Spline basis penalty. It follows the procedure outlined in the paper by Zheyuan Li, Jiguo Cao, 2022 "General P-Splines for Non-Uniform B-Splines" doi:10.48550/arXiv.2201.06808. For equidistant knots it coincides with the usual penalty based on the identitiy. For non-equidistant knots it is a weighted penalty with respect to the knot distances. In addition to the above, we added the possibility to calculate periodic penalties which are based on the periodic differencing matrices.

Usage

```
penalty(knots, order, periodic = FALSE, max_diff = 999L)
```

Arguments

`knots`	Vector of knots.
`order`	Order of the Basis (degree + 1).
`periodic`	Whether the penalties should be periodic or not.
`max_diff`	Maximum difference order to calculate.

Value

Returns a list of (order - 1) penalty matrices.

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Equidistant knots with order 2
knots <- 1:10

P <- penalty(knots, order = 2)

print(P[[1]]) # First differences

# Non equidistant knots
knots <- c(0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4)

P <- penalty(knots, order = 4)

print(P[[1]]) # First differences
print(P[[2]]) # Second differences
print(P[[3]]) # Third differences

# Periodic penalty for equidistant knots
oder <- 4
```

```
deg <- order - 1
knots <- 1:15

penalty(knots, order = order, periodic = TRUE)[[1]]
penalty(knots, order = order, periodic = TRUE)[[2]]
penalty(knots, order = order, periodic = TRUE)[[3]]

## End(Not run)
```

`plot.batch` *Plot method for batch models*

Description

Plots the most recent weights in each quantile.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'batch'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

`x`	Object of class inheriting from 'batch'
`...`	further arguments are ignored

`plot.online` *Plot method for online models*

Description

Plots the most recent weights in each quantile.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online'
plot(x, ...)
```

Arguments

`x`	Object of class inheriting from 'online'
`...`	further arguments are ignored

post_process_model *Post Process Data from conline Class*

Description

This function works in conjunction with the conline class. After the main learning task, it takes the output of the conline class and returns an object suitable for, visualization, further, and deployment. analysis.

Usage

```
post_process_model(model_instance, names)
```

Arguments

model_instance	An instance of conline.
names	A named list with dimnames of y and experts.

predict.online *Predict method for online models*

Description

Calculates predictions based on new expert advice. This does not update weights. If new observations are available use update instead. The latter updates and weights and computes predictions.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online'
predict(object, new_experts, update_model = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

object	Object of class inheriting from 'online'
new_experts	new expert predictions
update_model	Defines whether the model object should be updated or not. If TRUE, new forecaster and expert predictions are appended onto the respective object items. Defaults to TRUE.
...	further arguments are ignored

Value

predict.online produces an updated model object.

print.batch *Print method for batch models*

Description

Prints the average loss of all and the forecast combination.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'batch'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	Object of class inheriting from 'batch'
...	further arguments are ignored

print.online *Print method for online models*

Description

Prints the average loss of all experts and the forecast combination.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	Object of class inheriting from 'online'
...	further arguments are ignored

splines2_basis *Create B-Spline basis*

Description

This function creates a B-Spline matrix.

Usage

```
splines2_basis(x, knots, deg, periodic = FALSE, intercept = TRUE)
```

Arguments

x	Vector of values.
knots	Vector of knots.
deg	Degree of the Spline functions.
periodic	Whether the basis should be periodic or not.
intercept	Whether the firs column should be kept.

Value

Returns a matrix of B-Spline basis functions.

Examples

```
n <- 9
deg <- 3
mu <- 0.35
x <- 0:1000 / 1000

knots <- make_knots(n, mu = mu, deg = deg)

B <- splines2_basis(x, knots, deg)
ts.plot(B, col = 1:dim(B)[2])

# Periodic Case
B <- splines2_basis(x, knots, deg, periodic = TRUE)
ts.plot(B, col = 1:dim(B)[2])
```

summary.online *Summary method for online models*

Description

Calculates parameters chosen during optimization and aggregates losses.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	Object of class inheriting from 'online'
...	further arguments are ignored

tidy.online.experts_loss *Tidy the Experts' losses of an Online object*

Description

tidy will transform the experts_loss array of an online object into a tibble that is better suited for plotting and analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online.experts_loss'
tidy(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	The experts_loss of an online object.
...	Not currently used.

Value

A tibble with columns t d p k and w corresponding to the time, marginals, probabilities, and experts_loss of the online-learning computation.

tidy.online.forecaster_loss

Tidy the Experts' losses of an Online object

Description

tidy will transform the 'forecaster_loss" array of an online object into a tibble that is better suited for plotting and analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online.forecaster_loss'
tidy(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	The forecaster_loss of an online object.
...	Not currently used.

Value

A tibble with columns t d p k and w corresponding to the time, marginals, probabilities, and forecaster_loss of the online-learning computation.

tidy.online.predictions

Tidy the Predictions of an Online object

Description

tidy will transform the predictions array of an online object into a tibble that is better suited for plotting and analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online.predictions'
tidy(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	The predictions of an online object.
...	Not currently used.

Value

A tibble with columns t d p k and w corresponding to the time, marginals, probabilities, and predictions of the online-learning computation.

tidy.online.weights *Tidy the Weights of an Online object*

Description

tidy will transform the weights array of an online object into a tibble that is better suited for plotting and analysis.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online.weights'
tidy(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	The weights of an online object.
...	Not currently used.

Value

A tibble with columns t d p k and w corresponding to the time, marginals, probabilities, experts, and weights of the online-learning computation.

update.online *Update method for online models*

Description

Continues learning using new observations and new expert advice.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'online'
update(object, new_y, new_experts = NULL, trace = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

object	Object of class inheriting from 'online'
new_y	new observations
new_experts	new expert predictions. This must be left unspecified
trace	If a progress bar shall be shown. Defaults to FALSE if the model already contains the expert predictions corresponding to new_y.
...	further arguments are ignored

Value

update.online produces an updated model object.

Index

∗ **package**
profoc-package, 3

autoplot.batch, 4
autoplot.online, 4

batch, 5

conline, 8

init_experts_list, 8

make_basis_mats, 9
make_hat_mats, 10
make_knots, 11

online, 11
oracle, 15

penalty, 17
plot.batch, 18
plot.online, 18
post_process_model, 19
predict.online, 19
print.batch, 20
print.online, 20
profoc-package, 3

splines2_basis, 21
summary.online, 22

tidy.online.experts_loss, 22
tidy.online.forecaster_loss, 23
tidy.online.predictions, 23
tidy.online.weights, 24

update.online, 24