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Averages of Forecasts: Some Empirical Results

Makridakis, Spyros

Informs

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Title:	AVERAGES OF FORECASTS: SOME EMPIRICAL RESULTS
Year:	09/1983
Author:	Makridakis, Spyros
Abstract:	An alternative to using a single forecasting method is to average the forecasts obtained from several methods. In this paper we investigate empirically the impact of the number and choice of forecasting methods on the accuracy of simple averages. It is concluded that the forecasting accuracy improves, and that the variability of accuracy among different combinations decreases, as the number of methods in the average increases. Thus, combining forecasts seems to be a reasonable practical alternative when, as is often the case, a "true" model of the data-generating process or a single "best" forecasting method cannot be or is not, for whatever reasons, identified,