

Package ‘rMIDAS2’

March 12, 2026

Title Multiple Imputation with 'MIDAS2' Denoising Autoencoders

Version 0.1.1

Description Fits 'MIDAS' denoising autoencoder models for multiple imputation of missing data, generates multiply-imputed datasets, computes imputation means, and runs Rubin's rules regression analysis. Wraps the 'MIDAS2' 'Python' engine via a local 'FastAPI' server over 'HTTP', so no 'reticulate' dependency is needed at runtime. Methods are described in Lall and Robinson (2022) <doi:10.1017/pan.2020.49> and Lall and Robinson (2023) <doi:10.18637/jss.v107.i09>.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL <https://github.com/MIDASverse/MIDAS2>

BugReports <https://github.com/MIDASverse/MIDAS2/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

SystemRequirements Python (>= 3.9) with the 'midasverse-midas-api' package

Imports curl, httr2 (>= 1.0.0), processx (>= 3.8.0), rlang (>= 1.1.0)

Suggests arrow, jsonlite, reticulate, testthat (>= 3.0.0), knitr, rmarkdown

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Thomas Robinson [aut, cre],
Ranjit Lall [aut]

Maintainer Thomas Robinson <t.robinson7@lse.ac.uk>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-03-12 08:30:08 UTC

Contents

combine	2
ensure_server	3
imp_mean	4
install_backend	4
midas	5
midas_fit	6
midas_transform	8
overimpute	9
start_server	9
stop_server	10
uninstall_backend	11
update_backend	11
Index	13

combine	<i>Combine results using Rubin's rules</i>
---------	--

Description

Runs a GLM across all stored imputations and combines the results using Rubin's combination rules for multiple imputation inference.

Usage

```
combine(
  model_id,
  y,
  ind_vars = NULL,
  dof_adjust = TRUE,
  incl_constant = TRUE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

model_id	A character model ID, or a fitted model object (list with a \$model_id element) as returned by <code>midas_fit()</code> or <code>midas()</code> .
y	Character. Name of the outcome variable.
ind_vars	Character vector of independent variable names, or NULL for all non-outcome columns.
dof_adjust	Logical. Apply Barnard-Rubin degrees-of-freedom adjustment (default TRUE).
incl_constant	Logical. Include an intercept (default TRUE).
...	Arguments forwarded to <code>ensure_server()</code> .

Value

A data frame with columns term, estimate, std.error, statistic, df, and p.value.

Examples

```
## Not run:
df <- data.frame(Y = rnorm(200), X1 = rnorm(200), X2 = rnorm(200))
df$X1[sample(200, 40)] <- NA
fit <- midas_fit(df, epochs = 10L)
midas_transform(fit, m = 10)
results <- combine(fit, y = "Y")
results

## End(Not run)
```

ensure_server	<i>Ensure the server is running</i>
---------------	-------------------------------------

Description

Starts the server if it is not already running. Called internally by every client function so users never have to manage the server manually.

Usage

```
ensure_server(...)
```

Arguments

... Arguments forwarded to [start_server\(\)](#).

Value

Invisibly returns the base URL of the running server.

Examples

```
## Not run:
ensure_server()

## End(Not run)
```

imp_mean	<i>Compute mean imputation</i>
----------	--------------------------------

Description

Calculates the element-wise mean across all stored imputations for a model.

Usage

```
imp_mean(model_id, ...)
```

Arguments

model_id	A character model ID, or a fitted model object (list with a \$model_id element) as returned by <code>midas_fit()</code> or <code>midas()</code> .
...	Arguments forwarded to <code>ensure_server()</code> .

Value

A data frame with the mean imputed values.

Examples

```
## Not run:
df <- data.frame(X1 = rnorm(200), X2 = rnorm(200))
df$X1[sample(200, 40)] <- NA
fit <- midas_fit(df, epochs = 10L)
midas_transform(fit, m = 10)
mean_df <- imp_mean(fit)

## End(Not run)
```

install_backend	<i>Install the MIDAS2 Python backend</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Creates an isolated Python environment and installs the `midasverse-midas-api` package (which pulls in `midasverse-midas` as a dependency).

Usage

```
install_backend(
  method = c("pip", "conda", "uv"),
  envname = "midas2_env",
  package = "midasverse-midas-api"
)
```

Arguments

method	Character. One of "pip", "conda", or "uv".
envname	Character. Name of the virtual environment to create (default "midas2_env").
package	Character. Package specifier to install (default "midasverse-midas-api").

Details

This is the **only** function in the package that uses reticulate, and only for environment creation. It is never used at runtime.

Value

No return value, called for side effects.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
install_backend()  
install_backend(method = "conda")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

midas

Multiple imputation (all-in-one)

Description

Convenience function that fits a MIDAS model and generates imputations in a single call. Equivalent to calling `midas_fit()` followed by `midas_transform()`.

Usage

```
midas(  
  data,  
  m = 5L,  
  hidden_layers = c(256L, 128L, 64L),  
  dropout_prob = 0.5,  
  epochs = 75L,  
  batch_size = 64L,  
  lr = 0.001,  
  corrupt_rate = 0.8,  
  num_adj = 1,  
  cat_adj = 1,  
  bin_adj = 1,  
  pos_adj = 1,  
  omit_first = FALSE,  
  seed = 89L,  
  ...  
)
```

Arguments

data	A data frame (may contain NA for missing values).
m	Integer. Number of imputations (default 5).
hidden_layers	Integer vector of hidden layer sizes (default c(256, 128, 64)).
dropout_prob	Numeric. Dropout probability (default 0.5).
epochs	Integer. Number of training epochs (default 75).
batch_size	Integer. Mini-batch size (default 64).
lr	Numeric. Learning rate (default 0.001).
corrupt_rate	Numeric. Corruption rate for denoising (default 0.8).
num_adj	Numeric. Loss multiplier for numeric columns (default 1).
cat_adj	Numeric. Loss multiplier for categorical columns (default 1).
bin_adj	Numeric. Loss multiplier for binary columns (default 1).
pos_adj	Numeric. Loss multiplier for positive columns (default 1).
omit_first	Logical. Omit first column from encoder input (default FALSE).
seed	Integer. Random seed (default 89).
...	Arguments forwarded to <code>ensure_server()</code> .

Value

A list with `model_id` and `imputations` (a list of data frames).

Examples

```
## Not run:
df <- data.frame(X1 = rnorm(200), X2 = rnorm(200))
df$X1[sample(200, 40)] <- NA
result <- midas(df, m = 5, epochs = 10)
head(result$imputations[[1]])

## End(Not run)
```

midas_fit

Fit a MIDAS model

Description

Sends data to the server and fits a MIDAS denoising autoencoder.

Usage

```
midas_fit(
  data,
  hidden_layers = c(256L, 128L, 64L),
  dropout_prob = 0.5,
  epochs = 75L,
  batch_size = 64L,
  lr = 0.001,
  corrupt_rate = 0.8,
  num_adj = 1,
  cat_adj = 1,
  bin_adj = 1,
  pos_adj = 1,
  omit_first = FALSE,
  seed = 89L,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>data</code>	A data frame (may contain NA for missing values).
<code>hidden_layers</code>	Integer vector of hidden layer sizes (default <code>c(256, 128, 64)</code>).
<code>dropout_prob</code>	Numeric. Dropout probability (default 0.5).
<code>epochs</code>	Integer. Number of training epochs (default 75).
<code>batch_size</code>	Integer. Mini-batch size (default 64).
<code>lr</code>	Numeric. Learning rate (default 0.001).
<code>corrupt_rate</code>	Numeric. Corruption rate for denoising (default 0.8).
<code>num_adj</code>	Numeric. Loss multiplier for numeric columns (default 1).
<code>cat_adj</code>	Numeric. Loss multiplier for categorical columns (default 1).
<code>bin_adj</code>	Numeric. Loss multiplier for binary columns (default 1).
<code>pos_adj</code>	Numeric. Loss multiplier for positive columns (default 1).
<code>omit_first</code>	Logical. Omit first column from encoder input (default FALSE).
<code>seed</code>	Integer. Random seed (default 89).
<code>...</code>	Arguments forwarded to <code>ensure_server()</code> .

Value

A list with `model_id`, `n_rows`, `n_cols`, `col_types`.

Examples

```
## Not run:
df <- data.frame(X1 = rnorm(200), X2 = rnorm(200), X3 = rnorm(200))
df$X2[sample(200, 40)] <- NA
fit <- midas_fit(df, epochs = 10L)
```

```
fit$model_id  
## End(Not run)
```

midas_transform	<i>Generate multiple imputations</i>
-----------------	--------------------------------------

Description

Generates m imputed datasets from a fitted MIDAS model.

Usage

```
midas_transform(model_id, m = 5L, ...)
```

Arguments

model_id	A character model ID, or a fitted model object (list with a <code>\$model_id</code> element) as returned by <code>midas_fit()</code> or <code>midas()</code> .
m	Integer. Number of imputations (default 5).
...	Arguments forwarded to <code>ensure_server()</code> .

Value

A list of m data frames, each with imputed values.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
df <- data.frame(X1 = rnorm(200), X2 = rnorm(200))  
df$X1[sample(200, 40)] <- NA  
fit <- midas_fit(df, epochs = 10L)  
imps <- midas_transform(fit, m = 10)  
head(imps[[1]])  
  
## End(Not run)
```

overimpute	<i>Overimputation diagnostic</i>
------------	----------------------------------

Description

Masks a fraction of observed values, re-imputes them, and computes RMSE to assess imputation quality.

Usage

```
overimpute(model_id, mask_frac = 0.1, m = 5L, seed = NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

model_id	A character model ID, or a fitted model object (list with a \$model_id element) as returned by <code>midas_fit()</code> or <code>midas()</code> .
mask_frac	Numeric. Fraction of observed values to mask (default 0.1).
m	Integer. Number of imputations for the diagnostic (default 5).
seed	Integer or NULL. Random seed.
...	Arguments forwarded to <code>ensure_server()</code> .

Value

A list with `rmse` (named numeric vector) and `mean_rmse`.

Examples

```
## Not run:
df <- data.frame(X1 = rnorm(200), X2 = rnorm(200))
df$X1[sample(200, 40)] <- NA
fit <- midas_fit(df, epochs = 10L)
diag <- overimpute(fit, mask_frac = 0.1)
diag$mean_rmse

## End(Not run)
```

start_server	<i>Start the MIDAS2 API server</i>
--------------	------------------------------------

Description

Launches python `-m midas2_api` as a background process and waits for the `/health` endpoint to respond.

Usage

```
start_server(python = "python3", port = NULL, venv = NULL, max_wait = 120L)
```

Arguments

python	Path to the Python interpreter (default "python3").
port	Port to bind to. If NULL, a free port is chosen automatically.
venv	Path to a Python virtual environment. If supplied, the interpreter is taken from <venv>/bin/python (or <venv>/Scripts/python.exe on Windows).
max_wait	Maximum number of 0.5-second polling attempts (default 120, i.e. 60 seconds). The first launch may be slower due to Python import caching.

Value

Invisibly returns the port number.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
start_server()  
start_server(venv = "~/.virtualenvs/midas2_env")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

stop_server

Stop the MIDAS2 API server

Description

Kills the background Python process and clears the internal state.

Usage

```
stop_server()
```

Value

No return value, called for side effects.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
stop_server()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

uninstall_backend	<i>Uninstall the MIDAS2 Python backend</i>
-------------------	--

Description

Stops the running server (if any), removes the Python environment created by `install_backend()`, and clears the saved configuration.

Usage

```
uninstall_backend(method = c("pip", "conda", "uv"), envname = "midas2_env")
```

Arguments

method	Character. One of "pip", "conda", or "uv". Must match the method used during installation.
envname	Character. Name of the virtual environment to remove (default "midas2_env").

Value

No return value, called for side effects.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
uninstall_backend()  
uninstall_backend(method = "conda")  
  
## End(Not run)
```

update_backend	<i>Update the MIDAS2 Python backend</i>
----------------	---

Description

Upgrades the `midaverse-midas-api` package (and its dependencies) in the existing Python environment. Stops the running server first so that the new version is loaded on next use.

Usage

```
update_backend(  
  method = c("pip", "conda", "uv"),  
  envname = "midas2_env",  
  package = "midaverse-midas-api"  
)
```

Arguments

method	Character. One of "pip", "conda", or "uv". Must match the method used during installation.
envname	Character. Name of the virtual environment (default "midas2_env").
package	Character. Package specifier to upgrade (default "midasverse-midas-api").

Value

No return value, called for side effects.

Examples

```
## Not run:  
update_backend()  
  
## End(Not run)
```

Index

combine, [2](#)

ensure_server, [3](#)
ensure_server(), [2](#), [4](#), [6–9](#)

imp_mean, [4](#)
install_backend, [4](#)
install_backend(), [11](#)

midas, [5](#)
midas(), [2](#), [4](#), [8](#), [9](#)
midas_fit, [6](#)
midas_fit(), [2](#), [4](#), [5](#), [8](#), [9](#)
midas_transform, [8](#)
midas_transform(), [5](#)

overimpute, [9](#)

start_server, [9](#)
start_server(), [3](#)
stop_server, [10](#)

uninstall_backend, [11](#)
update_backend, [11](#)