

# Backtesting Report: Pairs Trading Algorithm

Kushal

Mandhana

June 18, 2025

## Abstract

This report presents the backtesting results of a pairs trading algorithm using intraday data from Yahoo Finance. The strategy's methodology, performance metrics, and analysis are detailed for both long-term and short-term pairs with 15-minute intervals. Machine learning (Logistic Regression) was utilized for backtesting the short-term strategy.

## Introduction

### Objective

The objective of this report is to evaluate the performance of a pairs trading algorithm using intraday data from Yahoo Finance for both long-term and short-term pairs.

### Methodology

- **Data Collection:** Intraday adjusted closing prices for selected stocks were obtained from Yahoo Finance.
  - **Long-term Pairs:** Historical intraday data for ADBE and AMZN from 2013 to 2023 with 15-minute intervals.
  - **Short-term Pairs:** Recent intraday data for AMD and ORCL over the past month with 15-minute intervals.
- **Pair Selection:**
  - Cointegration tests were performed on the intraday data to identify pairs with statistically significant relationships.
  - Pairs were selected based on a significance level ( $p\text{-value} < 0.05$ ).
- **Trading Strategy Implementation:**
  - Calculate the Ratio of Adjusted Prices (RV) for each selected pair.
  - Use z-score thresholds to determine buy and sell signals for the pairs.
  - Implement trade execution rules based on z-score signals to capture mean

reversion opportunities.

- **Backtesting Approach:**

- Backtest the trading signals for both long-term and short-term pairs to evaluate their effectiveness.
- Calculate performance metrics such as cumulative return, accuracy of trade signals, and risk-adjusted returns (Sharpe ratio).
- **Machine Learning Application:**
  - Utilized Logistic Regression for backtesting the short-term pairs trading strategy.
  - Mean accuracy of the logistic regression model: 0.9013.

## Pairs Trading Strategy Overview

### Description

The pairs trading strategy involved the following steps:

- **Long-term Pairs:**
  - Pair Selection: Cointegration test to identify pairs (ADBE and AMZN) with statistically significant relationships based on intraday data.
  - Ratio Calculation: Calculate the Ratio of Adjusted Prices (RV) for ADBE and AMZN.
  - Profit from backtesting (2013-2023 data): \$2665.81.
- **Short-term Pairs:**
  - Pair Selection: Cointegration test to identify pairs (AMD and ORCL) with statistically significant relationships based on intraday data.
  - Ratio Calculation: Calculate the Ratio of Adjusted Prices (RV) for AMD and ORCL.
  - Mean Accuracy of Logistic Regression Model: 0.9013.
  - Profit from backtesting (last month): \$89.72.
- Mean Reversion Strategy: Use z-score thresholds to determine buy and sell signals for both long-term and short-term pairs.
- Trade Execution: Execute trades based on z-score signals, buying one stock and selling the other to profit from mean reversion.

## Data Used

### Data Source

Yahoo Finance for intraday adjusted closing prices of selected stocks.

## Time Periods

- **Long-term Pairs:** Historical intraday data from 2013 to 2023 with 15-minute intervals (ADBE and AMZN).
- **Short-term Pairs:** Recent intraday data over the past month with 15-minute intervals (AMD and ORCL).

## Performance Metrics

### Key Metrics

The following key metrics were used to evaluate the performance of the pairs trading strategy:

- Mean Accuracy: Accuracy of predicted buy/sell signals compared to actual market movements.
- Cumulative Return: Total return generated by the strategy over the respective timeframe.
- Sharpe Ratio: Measure of risk-adjusted returns.
- Signal Effectiveness: Accuracy in identifying profitable trading opportunities based on z-score thresholds.

## Results Analysis

### Cointegration Test Results

- Cointegration test results for selected pairs (brief summary of findings for both long-term and short-term pairs).

### Trading Signals and Backtesting Results

- Visual representation of intraday price movements for selected pairs.
- Charts showing RV, z-score, and trade signals for both long-term and short-term pairs.
- Backtested results including cumulative return, Sharpe ratio, and trade effectiveness.
- Profit generated from backtesting:
  - Long-term pairs (ADBE and AMZN): \$2665.81.
  - Short-term pairs (AMD and ORCL): \$89.72.

## Conclusion

## Appendix

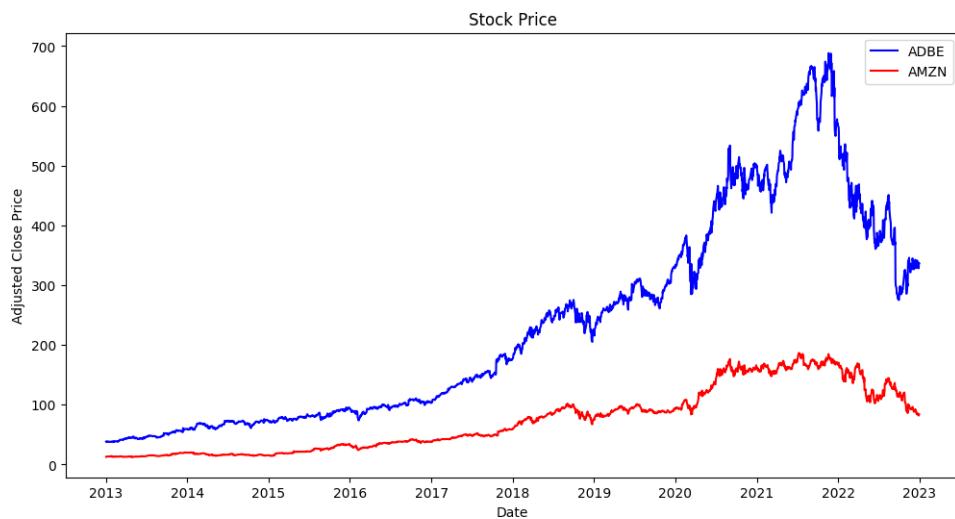


Figure 1: Amazon and Adobe Co-integration



Figure 2: Mean Reversion

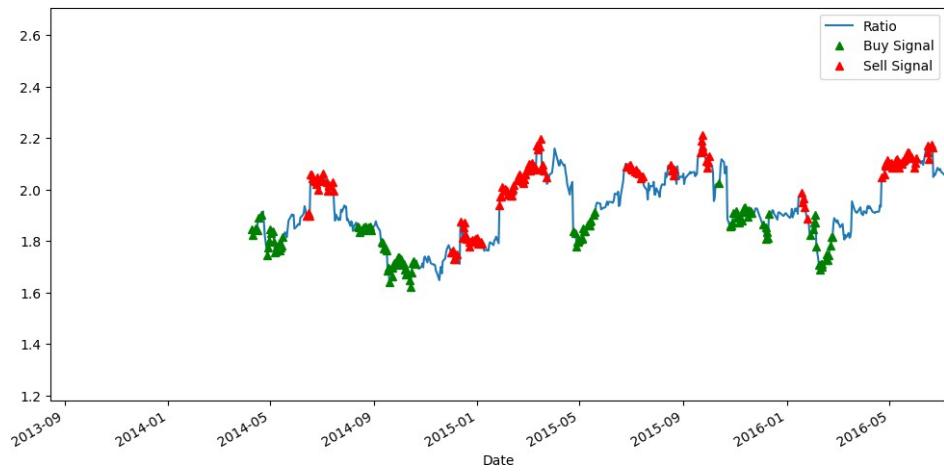


Figure 3: Buy and Sell Signals Generated

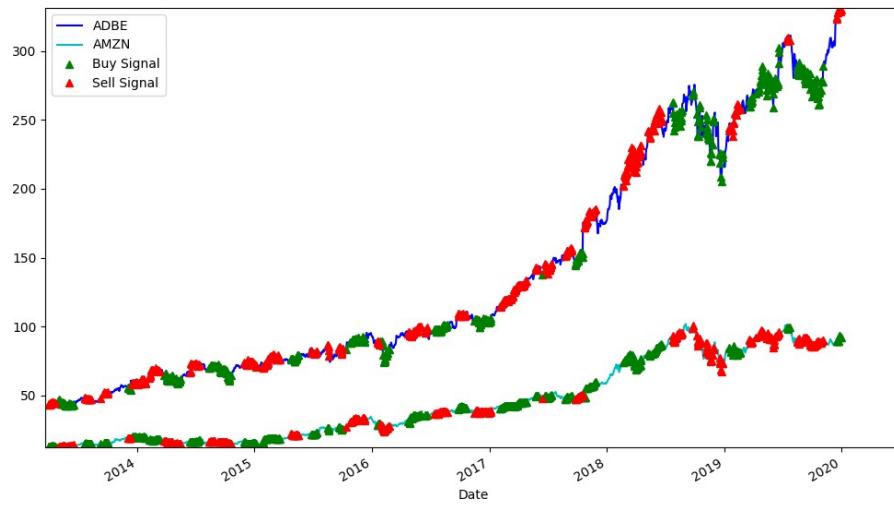


Figure 4: Long and Short for Individual Stocks

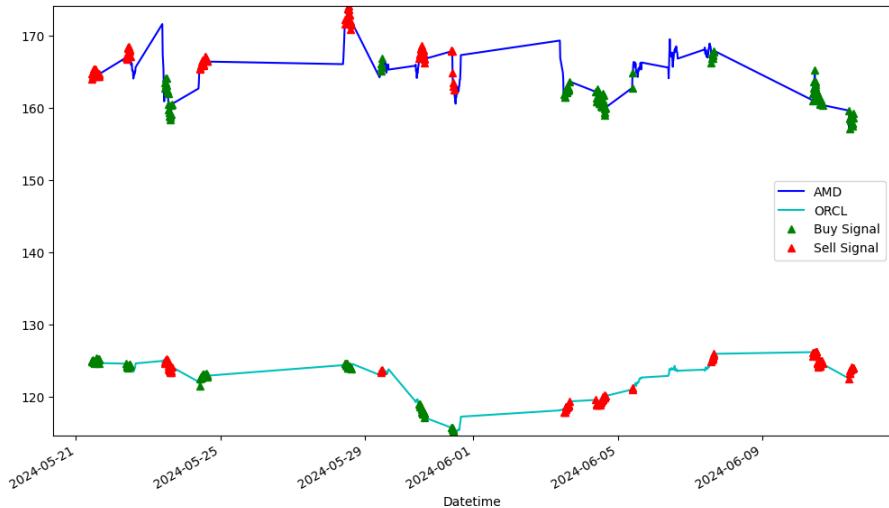


Figure 5: Short Term Identified Stocks