

Internship Task Report

Task Title:

Analysis of Trading Behavior vs Market Sentiment (Fear vs Greed)

Objective:

The goal of this internship task was to analyze how traders' behaviours — including **profitability, risk exposure, trade volume, and leverage usage** — align or diverge from the overall **market sentiment**, typically represented by the **Fear and Greed Index**.

The ultimate objective was to uncover **hidden trading patterns, risk tendencies, and strategic insights** that could help in designing smarter trading strategies under varying emotional market conditions.

Steps Followed to Solve the Task:

1. Data Collection & Understanding

- Datasets used:
 - `trades_cleaned.csv` — individual trade-level data (PnL, size, leverage, etc.)
 - `merged_data.csv` — aggregated daily metrics including profitability and sentiment classification.
 - `fear_greed_index.csv` & `fear_greed_encoded.csv` — market sentiment data (Fear vs Greed scores).
 - `historical_data.csv` — supplementary reference data for leverage and position tracking.
- Understood structure, size, and data types of all CSVs before merging.

2. Data Preprocessing

- Converted date/time columns into standard datetime format for all datasets.
- Cleaned and standardized fields for **PnL, Volume, and Leverage**.
- Merged datasets based on the date field to align trading activity with market sentiment.

3. Feature Engineering

- Created new indicators such as:
 - **Profitability Metrics:** Total and mean Closed PnL.
 - **Trading Volume:** Total and mean traded amount per sentiment state.
 - **Average Leverage:** Estimated trader risk-taking tendency.
 - **Sentiment Classification:** Fear, Neutral, and Greed states.

4. Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)

- Computed **summary statistics** of trading performance under each sentiment.
- Analyzed **win rate** — percentage of profitable trades under each sentiment.
- Visualized **PnL vs Sentiment** and **Leverage vs Sentiment** using output plots:
 - `pnl_fear_vs_greed_with_points.png`
 - `avg_leverage_fear_greed.png`
- Correlation analysis between **Fear-Greed score** and **Closed PnL** to assess market mood impact on performance.

5. Key Insights

- During **Greed phases**, trading volume and leverage tended to increase, indicating higher risk appetite.
- **Fear phases** showed reduced leverage and conservative trading behavior.
- Profitability sometimes diverged from sentiment — showing traders often overextend during high greed.
- Moderate fear periods occasionally delivered better risk-adjusted returns.
- Identified patterns suggesting **contrarian opportunities** during extreme greed or fear zones.

6. Interpretation

- Market sentiment influences trading volume and leverage, but not always profitability.
- Overconfidence in greed phases and over-caution in fear phases can both hurt long-term performance.
- Maintaining consistent position sizing and leverage discipline across sentiments yields more stable returns.

Conclusion:

This analysis revealed that **emotional market states (Fear vs Greed)** significantly influence trader behavior.

While volume and leverage increase in greed conditions, profitability does not always follow suit — highlighting the importance of **data-driven and sentiment-aware trading strategies**.

The results suggest that traders and algorithmic systems could benefit from integrating **sentiment signals** to modulate risk exposure, improve entry timing, and reduce behavioral biases.