# Project Assignment Task C1 – Report

# Task C1

# **Summaries of Environment Setup**

The initial version of the stock prediction tool (v0.1) was originally distributed as a Python script rather than a notebook format, so I migrated the code into a Jupyter Notebook and made several adaptations to streamline future development and usage. For both v0.1 and the current P1 workflow, essential dependencies are handled using commands such as "!pip install", ensuring that all required packages are available in the working environment. This installation approach is standard practice in Jupyter-based workflows, whether running in cloud-hosted platforms like Google Colab or on a local notebook server with environments such as Anaconda or virtualenv.

# Requirements

#### Platforms & Interfaces

#### **Virtual Environment**

• Jupyter Notebook (VS Code with Jupyter extension)

#### Dependencies (v1)

- numpy
- matplotlib
- mplfinance
- pandas
- scikit-learn
- vfinance
- tensorflow/keras

# Dependencies (p1)

- numpy
- matplotlib
- mplfinance
- pandas
- scikit-learn
- yahoo finance
- tensorflow/keras

#### Installation

# **Installation Steps**

- 1. Download and Install Required Tools
  - Steps to obtain Anaconda or set up Google Colab.
- 2. Create New Environment
  - Step-by-step for isolating project requirements.
- 3. Install Jupyter Notebook & Dependencies
  - Use conda or pip commands to install Jupyter and all libraries.
  - Example: !pip install <package>
  - Example: conda install jupyterlab

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# **Understanding of the Initial Codebase**

#### v1 Codebase

The "v1" script is primarily centered on stock price prediction using historical market data. It focuses on predicting the future closing prices of a selected stock ticker by employing a Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) neural network, a type of recurrent neural network well-suited for time series data like stock prices. The script showcases a typical machine learning pipeline that includes data loading, preprocessing, visualization, model construction, training, and forecasting, with an emphasis on forecasting the price movements of financial assets.

For data loading and preprocessing, the script fetches historical stock price data, which includes columns such as Open, High, Low, Close, and Volume, typically sourced through yfinance. It cleans and processes the data by ensuring the correct format and renaming

columns if necessary (e.g., using adjusted close prices). The Close prices are then scaled using MinMaxScaler to normalize the range of values for effective LSTM training. The script also creates sequences from the scaled data by sliding a fixed-size window over it to generate the inputs (X) and expected outputs (y) for the model. This sequence generation captures temporal dependencies essential for predicting future prices.

Visualization is employed through candlestick charts and line plots of high and low prices to provide intuitive market insights. After preprocessing, the LSTM model is built with layers including two recurrent layers and dropout regularization to reduce overfitting. Following training, it predicts stock prices for a defined forecast horizon (e.g., next 10 days), and the script plots actual versus predicted future prices. Additionally, the model's historical data and predictions can be saved as CSV files for further analysis or use. Overall, the script integrates exploratory visualization, rigorous data transformation, and modern deep learning techniques to forecast stock market trends.

# p1 Codebase

The "p1" script is a comprehensive stock price prediction model developed specifically for Amazon (ticker: AMZN) that uses historical stock price data as input. It processes decades of price data from the late 1990s to 2025, with rich features including open, high, low, close, adjusted close, and volume. The model focuses on predicting adjusted closing prices 15 days ahead, alongside calculating hypothetical buy and sell profits to measure potential trading profitability. It integrates advanced LSTM (Long Short-Term Memory) neural networks to capture temporal dependencies in stock prices and provides detailed output like predicted prices and profits for trading signals, which show the financial gains from buying or selling based on the model's forecast.

In comparison, the v1 script (shown in the "v0.1\_edited.ipynb") is a more general-purpose implementation designed to work on different stocks, exemplified here with Commonwealth Bank Australia (ticker: CBA.AX). It uses a streamlined LSTM model architecture with two LSTM layers followed by dropout and dense layers, leveraging recent years' stock data (2020-2023) with standard preprocessing like normalization and sequence generation for training and testing. The v1 model includes additional functionalities such as candlestick plotting, high-low price plotting, error metrics (RMSE, MAE) reporting, and options to save predictions and historical data to CSV. The architecture is simpler and focused mainly on close price prediction with an added feature of forecasting 10 days into the future. The innovative difference in "p1" lies in its

extended forecast horizon (15 days) with profit calculations embedded directly into the dataset and a potentially larger historical scope compared to the v1's shorter-term predictive focus and more general modular design for retraining on arbitrary stocks.

#### Modified v1

The modified v1 introduces several improvements:

- 1. Visualization Enhancements:
  - Actual vs. Predicted prices plotted with clear legends.
  - Future predictions displayed as dashed orange lines for interpretability.
  - Intuitive chart with titles, labels, and legends.
- 2. Predictions for Future Dates:
  - Model now predicts stock prices for 10 upcoming days.
- These predictions are displayed on the same graph with historical and test predictions.
- 3. Evaluation Metrics:
- Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) and Mean Absolute Error (MAE) are calculated and displayed.
- 4. Export to CSV:
  - Historical stock data is exported to '<COMPANY> historical.csv'.
  - Model predictions are exported to '<COMPANY> predictions.csv'.

#### **Output & Analysis**

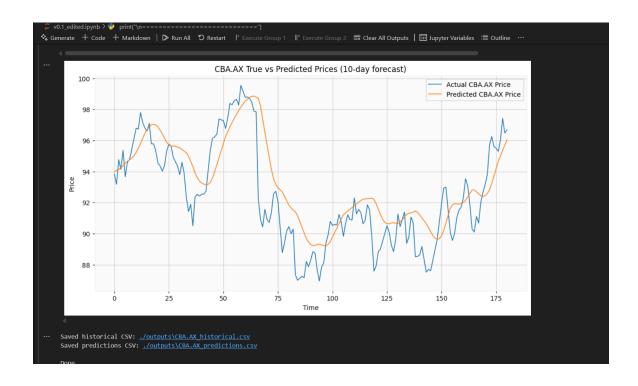
# **Training Process**

The model training process involves preparing historical stock price data, specifically the "Close" prices, which are scaled using MinMaxScaler to normalize values between 0 and 1. The dataset is then split into training and testing sets, typically reserving 20% of the data for testing. The input data is organized into sequences with a specified time step, usually 60 days, where each sequence includes the previous 60 days' scaled prices as features and the next day's price as the target. This sequence preparation allows the model to learn temporal dependencies effectively. The model architecture is a sequential LSTM network composed of two stacked LSTM layers with 50 units each,

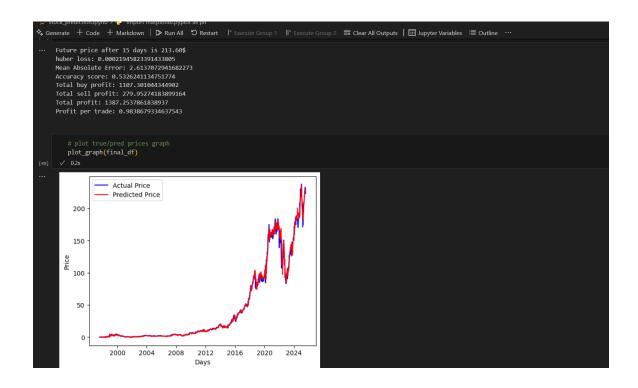
interspersed with dropout layers at 20% to mitigate overfitting. Finally, dense layers reduce output dimensions to a single predicted price. The model is compiled with the Adam optimizer and trained using mean squared error loss.

Training is conducted over multiple epochs where the model learns to minimize the prediction error on the training set. Epochs represent how many times the model sees the entire training data, typically adjusted to achieve good convergence without overfitting. Once trained, the model predicts future prices for the test data, and an additional prediction is conducted for an extended forecast horizon (e.g., 10 days ahead) using a sliding window approach where the predicted recent values are fed back as inputs to forecast further ahead. The results are evaluated using typical regression metrics such as mean squared and mean absolute errors, then visualized with plots comparing actual and predicted prices, along with candlestick charts for detailed price movement. The relevant data, including historical prices and predictions, is saved in CSV format for further analysis or validation. This workflow is implemented consistently for both the initial (v1) and later (p1) code versions, reflecting a systematic approach in handling stock price forecasting with LSTM networks.

# V1



#### P1



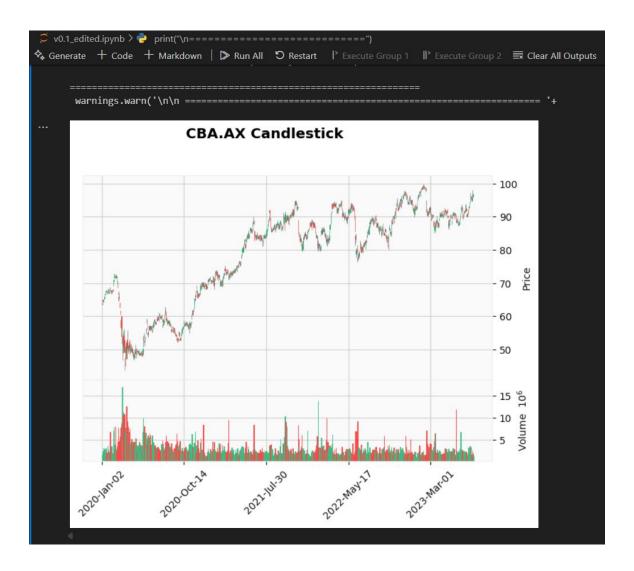
# **Graphical Outputs**

Historical Data Visualization

Historical data visualization in stock analysis involves plotting price and volume data over time to observe trends, volatility, and trading activity. Common plots include:

- Price plots such as candlestick charts, which show open, high, low, and close prices to reveal trading patterns and market sentiment.
- Line plots of high and low prices highlighting price ranges over a period.
- Volume plots showing the number of shares traded, useful for identifying the strength of price movements.

These visualizations help traders and analysts understand market behavior, identify entry and exit points, and assess stock performance historically. The code you provided uses mplfinance and matplotlib to plot candlestick charts, high/low price lines, and volume in conjunction with price data for comprehensive historical data visualization.

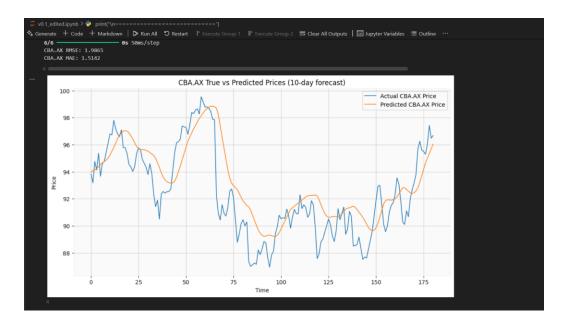




#### • Model Predictive Performance

The model's predictive performance was evaluated with a Root Mean Squared Error and a Mean Absolute Error, indicating the prediction accuracy of the stock price forecast.

A plot was created to visually compare the actual versus predicted prices for a 10-day forecast period, providing a clear illustration of the model's effectiveness in capturing price trends. This visualization helps assess how closely the predicted prices matched the real market prices over that timeframe.



Future Predictions / Forecast
 Visualize forecasts for upcoming days.



# **Exported/Generated Files**

During the analysis, the following CSV data files were saved:

- A CSV file containing the historical stock prices for the analyzed company (ticker symbol given as COMPANY), saved as "{ticker} historical.csv"
- A CSV file containing the predicted stock prices for the test dataset period, saved as "{ticker} predictions.csv"

These files include detailed price data and prediction outputs used in the stock price forecasting process. The saving paths depend on the configured save directory, which can be either a local folder or a Google Drive folder if enabled.

This allows for external review and further use of both historical data and forecasted future price values generated by the model during analysis.

#### **Issues & Debugging**

During this assignment, I encountered challenges primarily related to installing the required Python libraries, such as mplfinance and yfinance, due to version mismatches and compatibility errors. Additionally, I faced issues with fetching stock data for certain ticker symbols using yfinance, where sometimes no data was returned or columns were misnamed, requiring data cleaning and renaming for consistent processing. I overcame these problems by carefully managing package versions, ensuring proper installation, and adding checks and cleanup steps in the data fetching code to handle missing or inconsistent data gracefully. These solutions allowed the assignment to progress smoothly and the models to train and predict successfully.