



A Sickening Sentiment: Stock Market Investing in a Pandemic

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Research Question

Our research question was to evaluate how a machine learning model could predict stocks prices through a black swan event like the coronavirus. We wanted to see how a model would work through something that is typically not “modelable”

What are Black Swan Events?



The **black swan theory** or **theory of black swan events** is a metaphor that describes an event that comes as a surprise, has a major effect, and is often inappropriately rationalised after the fact with the benefit of hindsight. The term is based on an ancient saying that presumed black swans did not exist – a saying that became reinterpreted to teach a different lesson after the first European encounter with them. (Source: Wikipedia)

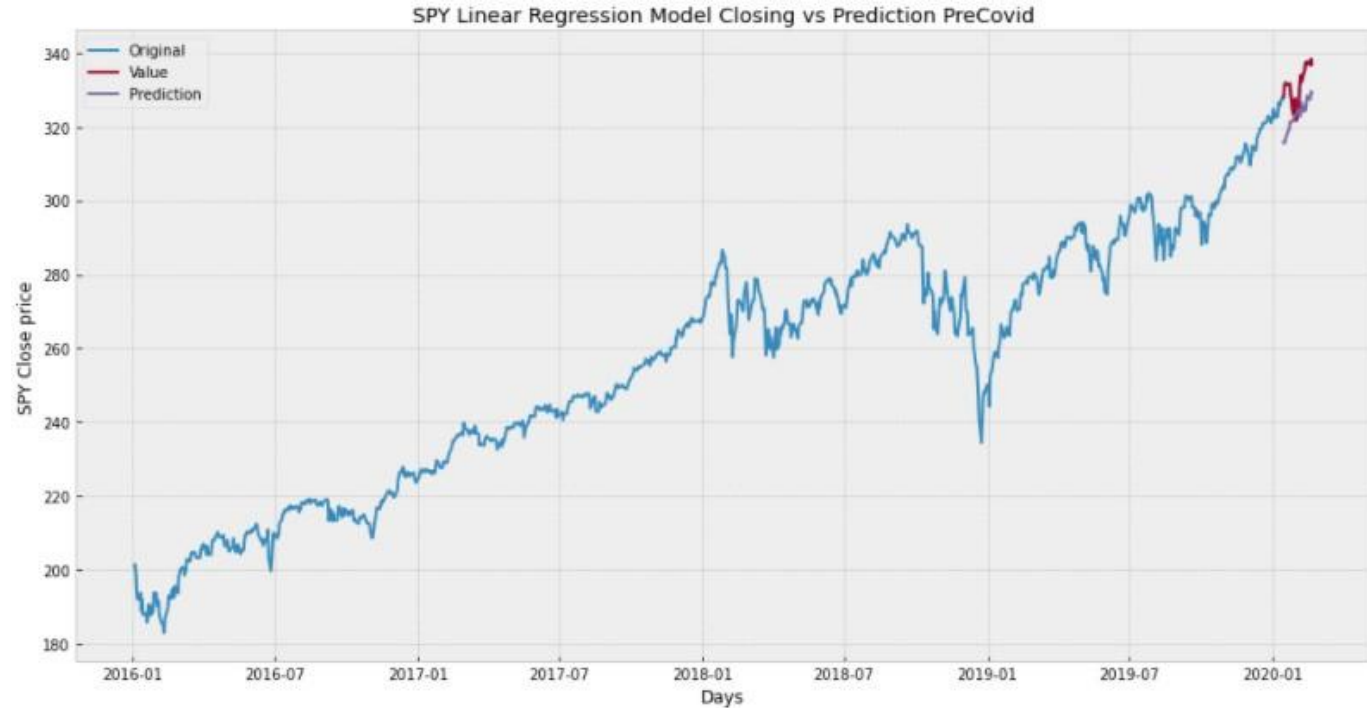
Stocks selected

- Carnival Cruise Lines (CCL)
- Delta Airlines (DAL)
- Paypal (PYPL)
- ETSY (ETSY)

Stock name	5 year return ending 12/31/20	4 year return ending 12/31/19	2020 return	Sentiment Analysis Compound Mean
Carnival (CCL)	-14.55%	5.67%	-56.89%	0.13 = Positive
Delta(DAL)	-2.69%	5.96%	-30.77%	-0.05 = Negative
Paypal (PYPL)	45.27%	31.48%	116.51%	0.13 = Positive
Etsy (ETSY)	84.78%	52.18%	301.60%	0.32 = Positive
S&P 500 ETF (SPY)	15.11%	14.31%	18.37%	-0.01 = Neutral

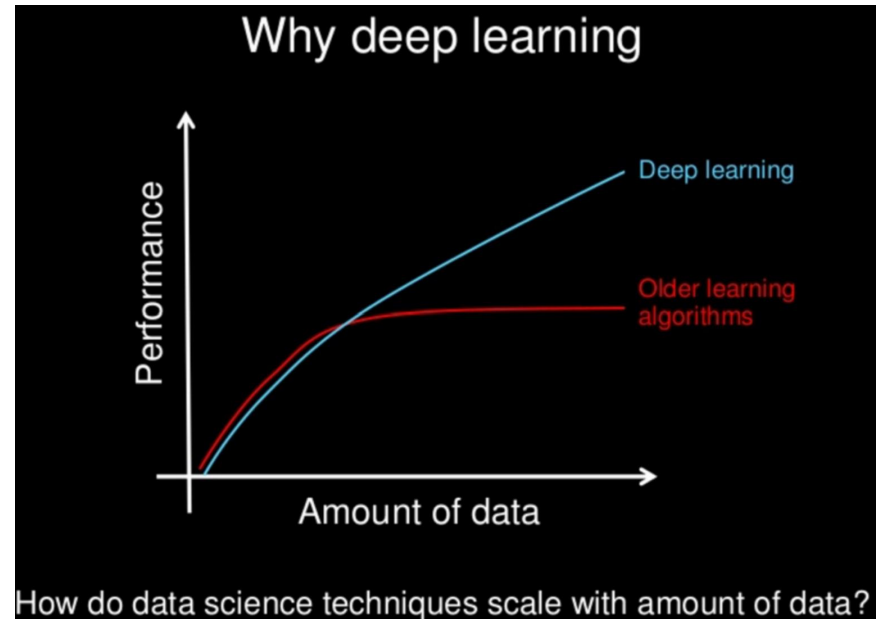
Linear regression

- Simple model
- Tends to overfit
- Not recommended



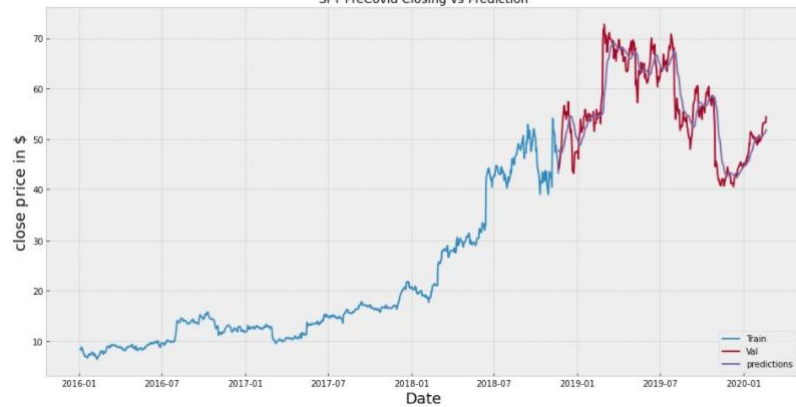
Deep Learning - LSTM

- Model learns over time with new information
- Model “forgets” less relevant information
- Provides better predictions versus linear regression

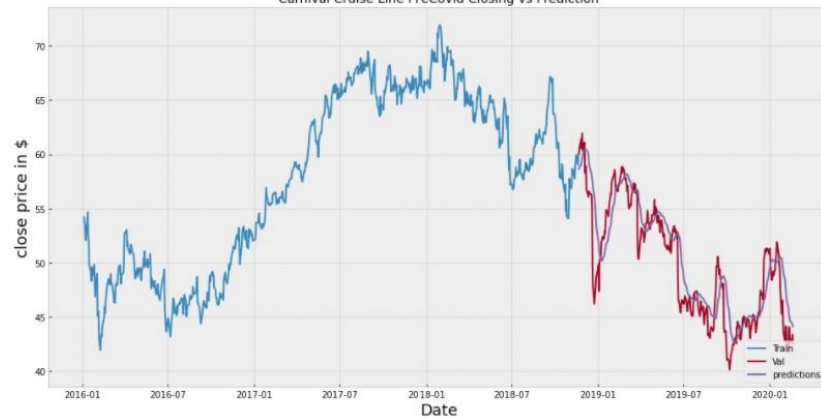


LSTM Models Precovid

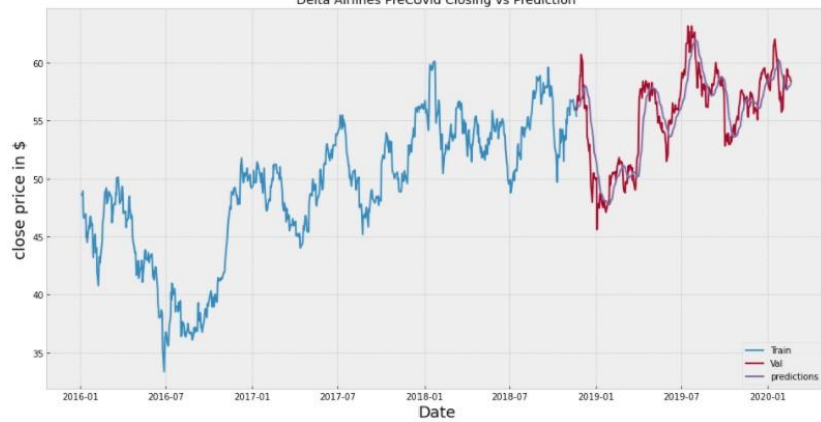
SPY PreCovid Closing vs Prediction



Carnival Cruise Line PreCovid Closing vs Prediction



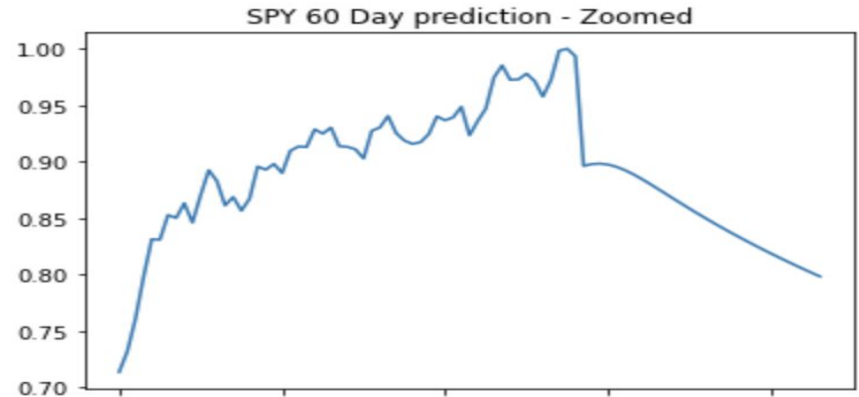
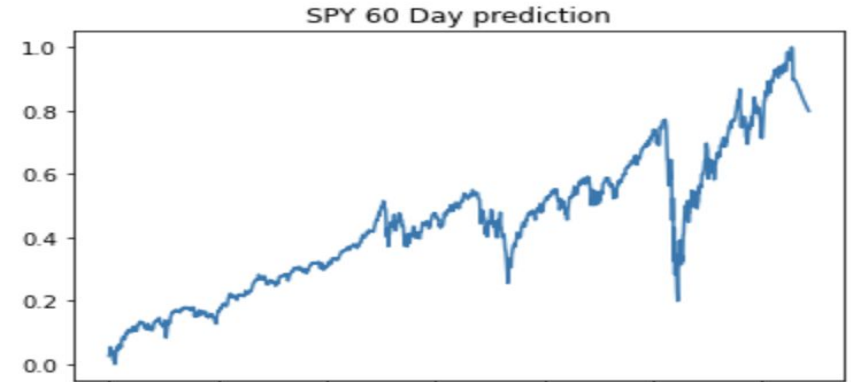
Delta Airlines PreCovid Closing vs Prediction



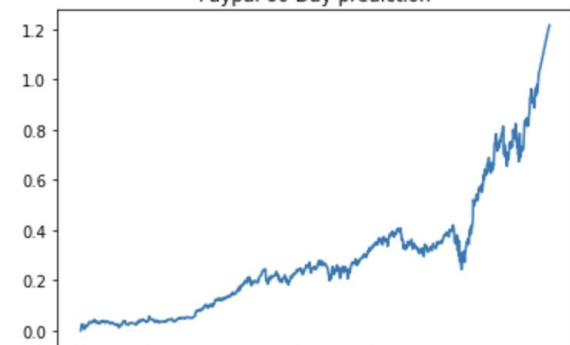
PayPal PreCovid Closing vs Prediction



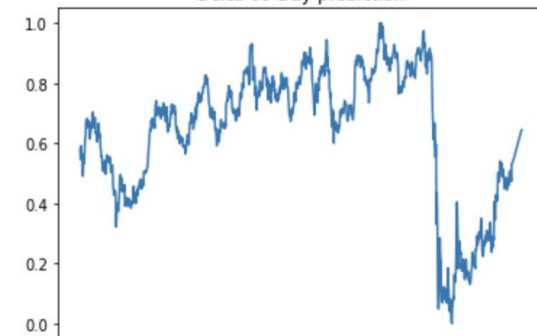
The Black Swan Event



Paypal 60 Day prediction



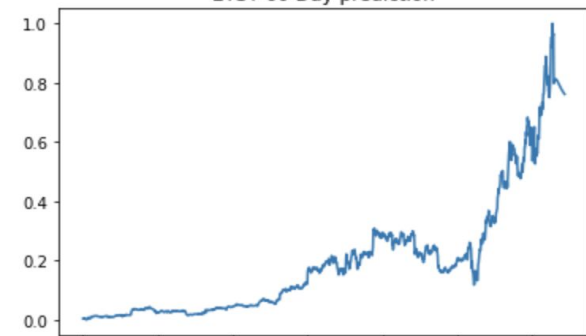
Delta 60 Day prediction



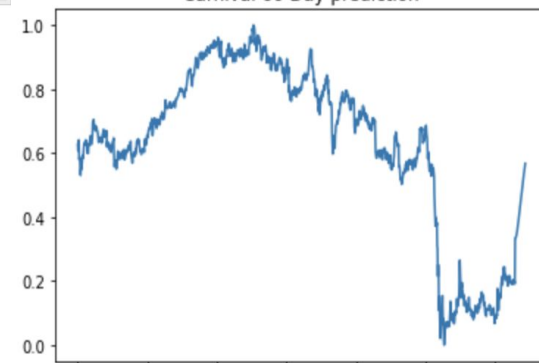
PAYPAL Covid



ETSY 60 Day prediction



Carnival 60 Day prediction



Carnival Cruise Lines Word Cloud

Articles = 1,238

Stop Words:

Ship
UK

N-Grams:

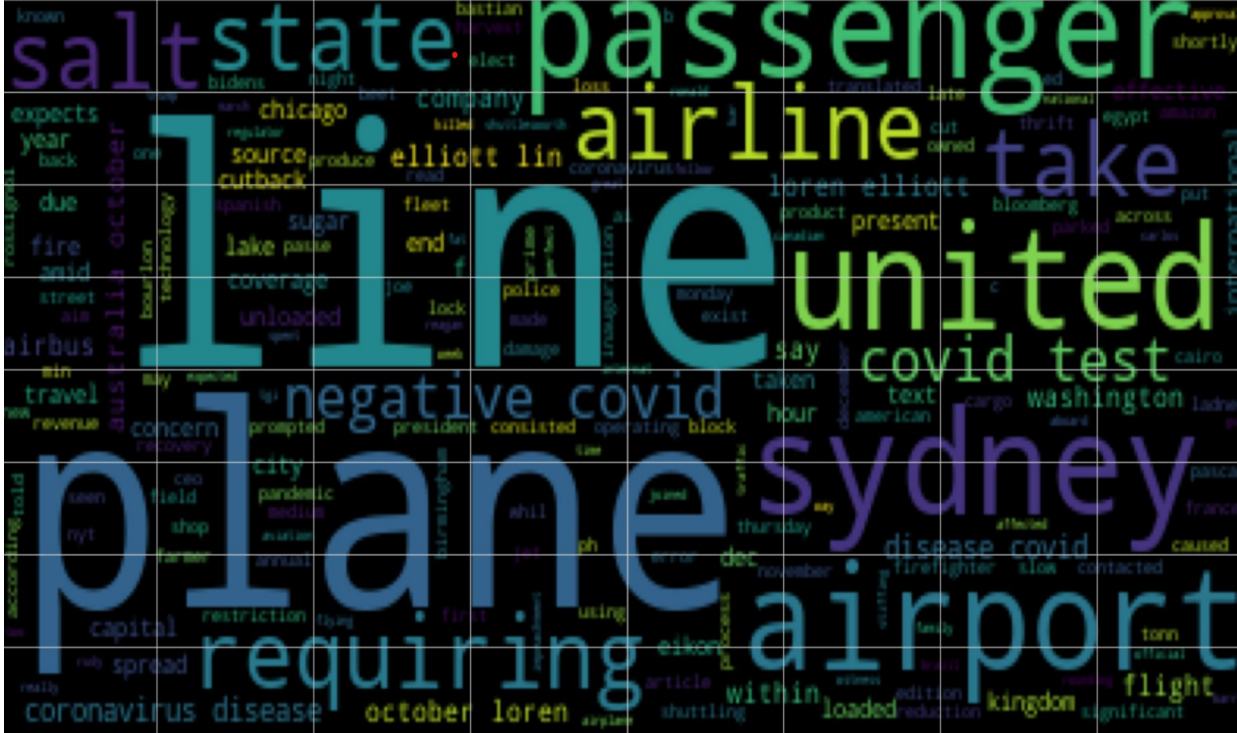
Net, loss
Loss, billions
Italian, shipbuilder
State, controlled

Compound Score:

0.13 = Positive



Delta Airlines Word Cloud



Articles = 4,674

Stop Words:

Delta
Air
Photo
European

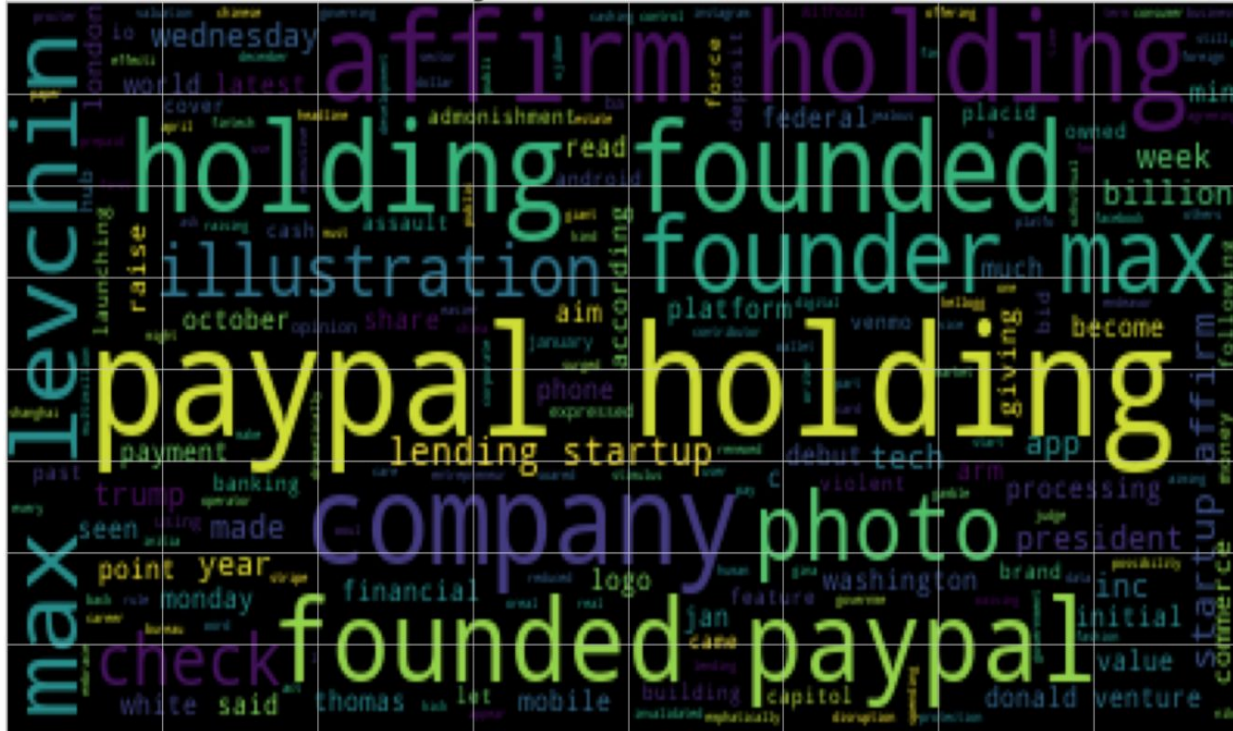
N-Grams:

Negative, covid
Covid, test
Coronavirus, disease
Line, airbus

Compound Score:

-0.05 = Negative

Paypal Word Cloud



Articles = 5,599

Stop Words:

CHAR
amp

N-Grams:

Paypal, holding
Affirm, holding
Holding, founded
Founded, paypal
Founder, max

Compound Score:

0.13 = Positive

ETSY Word Cloud

Articles = 872

Co
inc

Creative, fabrica
Apple, smart
Smart, case
Keep, warm
Stefan, founder

0.32 = Positive

S&P 500 Word Cloud



Articles = 9,939

Stop Words:

Reuters
Live
File

N-Grams:

New, york
Blog, stock
Stock, market
Market, click

Compound Score:

-0.01 = Neutral

Challenges

- Availability of data from News API
- Selecting appropriate models
- No reliable benchmark for comparison
- Overfitting Model



Conclusions

- Linear Regression v. LSTM Model Accuracy
- Continuing Volatility in Observed Stocks (Next 60 Days)
- Very difficult to foresee and account for Black Swan events
- Trade - Off between Large amount of historical data v. Small amount of historical data