

A REPORT
ON
**STOCK PORTFOLIO CREATION USING MOVING
AVERAGE CROSSOVER AND MEAN VARIANCE
OPTIMISATION BASED ON TIME SERIES DATA**

BY

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Saksham Verma (2021A7PS2414P)

AT

WILLIAM O'NEIL INDIA

A Practice School-I Station of

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, PILANI
(June, 2023)



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Prepared in partial fulfillment of the

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AT

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Abstract:

This report aims to provide an overview of my learning experiences as part of the Practice School - I programme at William O'Neil India. It outlines the knowledge gained about technical indicators used in algorithmic trading strategies.

The study analyzes a 10-year time series data set of 25 stock prices in CSV format, utilizing Backtrader and CVXOPT. The objective is to construct an efficient portfolio that maximizes returns and minimizes risks. Moving average crossover identifies buy/sell signals, while mean variance optimization optimizes asset allocation based on expected returns and risks.



Signature of Students

Signature of PS Faculty

Date: June 28, 2023

Date:

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Introduction

This report presents an analysis of stock portfolio creation using moving average crossover and mean variance optimization techniques based on time series data. The study utilizes a dataset consisting of 25 stock prices over a period of 10 years, provided in a CSV format. The analysis involves employing two key tools: Backtrader, a popular open-source trading framework, and CVXOPT, a library for convex optimization.

The objective of this study is to construct an efficient stock portfolio that maximizes returns while minimizing risks. To achieve this, we explore the application of moving average crossover and mean variance optimization methods. Moving average crossover is a commonly used technical analysis technique that helps identify potential buy or sell signals by comparing short-term and long-term moving averages. Mean variance optimization, on the other hand, is a mathematical approach that aims to find the optimal asset allocation by considering the trade-off between expected returns and risks.

Throughout this report, we delve into the implementation of these techniques using the provided time series data. We analyze the historical stock prices and employ backtesting strategies using Backtrader to evaluate the performance of different portfolio compositions. Additionally, we utilize CVXOPT to optimize the allocation of assets within the portfolio based on mean variance optimization principles.

The findings of this report provide insights into the effectiveness of moving average crossover and mean variance optimization methods in constructing a robust and efficient stock portfolio. The analysis takes into account both historical performance and risk factors, offering valuable information for investors seeking to make informed decisions.

Concepts used in the project

1. **Moving Average Crossover:** Moving average crossover is a popular technical analysis technique used in financial markets to generate trading signals. It involves comparing different moving averages of price data, such as a shorter-term and longer-term moving average. When the shorter-term moving average crosses above the longer-term moving average, it indicates a potential buy signal, while a crossover below suggests a potential sell signal. This approach helps traders confirm trends, determine entry and exit points, and manage risk by smoothing out price fluctuations and capturing underlying market trends.
2. **Mean Variance Optimisation:** Mean variance optimization is a widely used technique in finance for constructing efficient investment portfolios. By analyzing the covariance matrix of asset returns, it helps investors find the optimal allocation of assets that maximizes expected returns for a given level of risk or minimizes risk for a given level of expected returns. This technique allows for diversification across assets with different risk-return characteristics, aiding in the management of portfolio risk and potential enhancement of returns. The expected return of the portfolio is calculated as the weighted sum of the expected returns of individual assets. The portfolio variance is determined by considering the covariance between assets and their respective weights. MVO involves solving an optimization problem with constraints on the sum of weights and a target expected return. CVXOPT, a python library, is used to achieve this via code and assign optimized weights to the stocks.
3. **Backtrader:** Backtrader is a trading framework that facilitates the development and backtesting of trading strategies. It provides a comprehensive set of tools and functionalities for implementing and evaluating trading ideas using historical market data. With Backtrader, traders can define their trading rules and indicators, simulate trades, and assess the performance of their strategies based on historical data. It supports various asset classes and trading instruments, making it versatile for different markets. Backtrader also offers features like portfolio management, risk assessment, and performance analysis, allowing traders to gain insights into the profitability and risk profile of their strategies.

Code

The code implements a backtesting framework for a mean-variance portfolio optimization strategy. It preprocesses stock price data and selects stocks based on the condition that the closing price is greater than the 200-day simple moving average (SMA). It defines a strategy class (MyStrategy) with methods for filtering stocks, performing mean-variance optimization, and executing buy/sell orders. The next method is called for each trading bar, updating the current month and executing orders if the closing price exceeds the 200-day SMA. The code also sets up the backtesting environment and includes functionalities for plotting results and generating performance reports using the quantstats library.

```
import backtrader as bt
import backtrader.analyzers as btanalyzers
import matplotlib
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import yfinance as yf
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from cvxopt import matrix, solvers
from datetime import datetime
import quantstats as qstats
%matplotlib inline
```

These lines import the required libraries and modules for the code, including Backtrader for backtesting, Pandas for data manipulation, NumPy for numerical operations, Matplotlib for plotting, CVXOPT for optimization, datetime for working with dates, and QuantStats for performance analysis.

```
df = pd.read_csv('prices.csv')
df['date'] = pd.to_datetime(df['date'], format='%Y-%m-%d')
```

These lines read a CSV file named 'prices.csv' into a Pandas DataFrame and convert the 'date' column to a datetime format.

```
stock_start_date = df['date'].min()
```

```
stock_end_date = df['date'].max()
```

These lines find the minimum and maximum dates in the 'date' column of the DataFrame and assign them to variables `stock_start_date` and `stock_end_date`, respectively.

```
starting_dict = {}
tickers = df['ticker'].unique()
dates = pd.date_range(start=stock_start_date,
end=stock_end_date, freq='D')
index = pd.MultiIndex.from_product([tickers, dates],
names=['ticker', 'date'])
dummy_df = pd.DataFrame(index=index).reset_index()
```

These lines create an empty dictionary `starting_dict` to hold the starting dates for all stocks. They also create a `dummy_df` DataFrame that contains all combinations of tickers and dates, using the MultiIndex to set the ticker and date as index levels.

```
for ticker in tickers:
    starting_dict[ticker] = df[df['ticker'] ==
ticker]['date'].min()

for ticker in tickers:
    starting_dict[ticker] = starting_dict[ticker] +
pd.Timedelta(days=200)
```

These lines populate the `starting_dict` dictionary with the starting date of each stock. The first loop finds the minimum date for each ticker in the original DataFrame and assigns it to the corresponding key in the dictionary. The second loop adds 200 days to each starting date.

```
merged_df = pd.merge(dummy_df, df, on=['ticker', 'date'],
how='left')
merged_df[['close', 'open', 'high', 'low']] =
merged_df.groupby('ticker')[['close', 'open', 'high',
'low']].fillna(method='bfill')
```

```
df = merged_df
```

These lines merge the `dummy_df` DataFrame with the original DataFrame (`df`) on the 'ticker' and 'date' columns, filling missing values in the 'close', 'open', 'high', and 'low' columns with the next available value within each group of 'ticker'. The resulting DataFrame is then assigned back to `df`.

```
df['date'] = pd.to_datetime(df['date'], format='%Y-%m-%d')
df = df.set_index('date')
```

These lines convert the 'date' column of the DataFrame to a datetime object (which is redundant since it was already converted earlier), and then set the 'date' column as the index of the DataFrame.

```
class MyStrategy(bt.Strategy):
    params = (
        ('sma_period', 200),
        ('lookback_period', 500),
        ('rebalance_day', 1),
        ('max_weight', 0.95),
        ('days', 5)
    )
```

This line defines the `MyStrategy` class, which is derived from the `bt.Strategy` class in the Backtrader library. The `params` tuple defines the default parameter values for the strategy. Each parameter represents a specific aspect of the strategy and can be customized when creating an instance of the strategy.

```
def __init__(self):
    self.first_trading_day = False
    self.current_month = None
    self.prev_month = None
    self.has_position = False
    self.start_date = starting_dict
    self.sma_200 = [bt.ind.SMA(data,
period=self.params.sma_period) for data in self.datas]
    self.selected_stocks = []
```

```

self.selected_data = []
self.rebalance_dates = set() # Store rebalance dates
self.weights = np.zeros(len(self.datas))

```

In the `__init__` method, several attributes are initialized.

```

def filter_stocks(self):
    self.selected_data = []
    for i, d in enumerate(self.datas):
        if pd.Timestamp(d.datetime.date(0)) >
self.start_date[d._name]:
            if self.datas[i].close[0] > self.sma_200[i][0]:
                self.selected_data.append(d._name)
            elif self.datas[i].close[0] < self.sma_200[i][0]:
                pass

    self.selected_stocks = [d for d in self.datas if d._name in
self.selected_data]

    if len(self.selected_stocks) > 0:
        self.get_returns(self.selected_stocks)
    for stock in self.selected_stocks:
        first_day_of_month =
stock.datetime.date().replace(day=1)
        self.rebalance_dates.add(first_day_of_month)

```

The `filter_stocks` method in the `MyStrategy` class filters stocks based on specific conditions. It iterates over each data feed, checks if the current bar's date is greater than the start date for that data feed, and compares the current closing price with the corresponding SMA value. If the closing price is greater, the data feed is added to the selected stocks list (`self.selected_stocks`), and the first day of each month for the selected stocks is added to the set of rebalance dates (`self.rebalance_dates`).

```

def mean_variance_optimization(self, returns):
    n = returns.shape[1]
    Sigma = np.cov(returns.T)
    if Sigma.shape == ():

```

```

Sigma = np.array([[Sigma]])
P = matrix(Sigma)
q = matrix(np.zeros((n, 1)))
G = matrix(-np.eye(n))
h = matrix(np.zeros((n, 1)))
A = matrix(np.ones((1, n)))
b = matrix(np.array([1.]))
solvers.options['show_progress'] = False
sol = solvers.qp(P, q, G, h, A, b)
return np.array(sol['x']).flatten()

```

The `mean_variance_optimization` method takes a matrix of returns as input and performs mean-variance optimization to find the optimal weights for the selected stocks. It calculates the covariance matrix (Sigma) of the returns and constructs matrices (P, q, G, h, A, b) required for the quadratic programming problem. The `solvers.qp` function from the `cvxopt` library is used to solve the optimization problem, and the resulting weights are returned.

```

def get_returns(self, selected_stocks):
    if len(self.datas[0]) < self.params.lookback_period:
        self.weights = np.zeros(len(self.selected_data))
        return

    n_portfolios = len(self.selected_data)
    if n_portfolios == 0:
        return
    if n_portfolios == 1:
        self.weights = [1]
        return

    prices = np.zeros((self.params.lookback_period,
len(selected_stocks)))
    returns = np.zeros((self.params.lookback_period,
len(selected_stocks)))

    for i, d in enumerate(selected_stocks):
        prices[:, i] =

```

```

d.close.get(size=self.params.lookback_period)
    returns[1:, i] = np.diff(prices[:, i]) / prices[:-1, i]

    self.weights = self.mean_variance_optimization(returns)

    self.place_order(selected_stocks)

```

The `get_returns` method in the `MyStrategy` class calculates the returns for the selected stocks. It first checks if the lookback period is greater than the length of the first data feed. If not, it initializes arrays to store prices and returns for the selected stocks. It then iterates over the selected stocks, retrieves their closing prices over the lookback period, and calculates the corresponding returns. The method calls the `mean_variance_optimization` method with the calculated returns and assigns the resulting weights to `self.weights`. Finally, it calls the `place_order` method with the selected stocks as an argument.

```

def place_order(self, selected_stocks):
    weights = np.array(self.weights) * self.params.max_weight

    # Selling the stocks not selected
    for i, d in enumerate(self.datas):
        if d not in selected_stocks:
            self.close(data=d)
    for i, d in enumerate(selected_stocks):
        self.order_target_percent(data=d, target=weights[i])
    self.weights -= weights

```

The `place_order` method in the `MyStrategy` class executes buy and sell orders for the selected stocks. It calculates the target weights by multiplying the normalized weights with the maximum allowed weight. It sells stocks that are not selected by calling `self.close(data=d)` for each non-selected data feed. Then, it buys the selected stocks by calling `self.order_target_percent(data=d, target=weights[i])` with the corresponding target weight. It handles phased buying of stocks due to an upper limit on the weights by subtracting the applied weights from `self.weights`.

```

def residual_buy(self):
    weights = np.array(self.weights) * self.params.max_weight

```

```

for i, d in enumerate(self.selected_stocks):
    current_value = self.broker.get_value([d])
    additional_value = weights[i] * self.broker.get_value()
    target_value = current_value + additional_value
    self.order_target_value(data=d, target=target_value)
self.weights -= weights

```

The `residual_buy` method in the `MyStrategy` class executes residual buy orders for the selected stocks. It calculates the target weights by multiplying the weights with the maximum allowed weight. Then, for each selected stock, it calculates the current value and additional value to be invested. The target value is obtained by adding the current value and additional value. Finally, it executes the buy orders using `self.order_target_value(data=d, target=target_value)` and subtracts the applied weights from `self.weights`.

```

def next(self):
    self.current_month = self.data.datetime.date().month
    if self.prev_month is None or self.current_month != self.prev_month:
        self.first_trading_day = True
    else:
        self.first_trading_day = False
    if self.first_trading_day:
        self.timer = self.params.days
        self.filter_stocks()

    if self.timer > 0 and self.first_trading_day == False:
        self.residual_buy()
        self.timer -= 1
    self.prev_month = self.current_month

```

The `next` method in the `MyStrategy` class is called for each new trading bar. It updates the current month based on the date of the current bar and determines if it's the first trading day of the month. It initializes a timer and calls the `filter_stocks` method if it's the first trading day. On subsequent trading days, if the timer is greater than 0, it executes the `residual_buy` method. The `prev_month` is updated with the `current_month` for future comparisons.

```
def stop(self):
    for i, d in enumerate(self.datas):
        self.close(data=d)
```

The stop method is called when the backtest is stopped or finished. It iterates over all data feeds (self.datas) and executes a close order for each one using self.close(data=d). This ensures that any remaining positions are closed before ending the backtest.

```
cerebro = bt.Cerebro()
cerebro.addstrategy(MyStrategy)
```

These lines create a Cerebro instance, which is the main object used to run the backtest. The strategy class MyStrategy is added to the Cerebro instance using the addstrategy method.

```
for ticker in df['ticker'].unique():
    stock_df = df[df['ticker'] == ticker]
    datafeed = bt.feeds.PandasData(dataname=stock_df, ...)
    cerebro.adddata(datafeed, name=ticker)
```

These lines loop over each unique ticker in the 'ticker' column of the DataFrame. For each ticker, a new DataFrame stock_df is created containing rows with only that ticker. Then, a PandasData data feed is created using the stock_df and added to the Cerebro instance with a name equal to the ticker.

```
cerebro.broker.setcash(100000.00)
cerebro.broker.setcommission(commission=0.001)
cerebro.addanalyzer(bt.analyzers.PyFolio, _name='pyfolio')
```

These lines set the initial cash amount for the broker, set the commission for trades, and add the PyFolio analyzer to the Cerebro instance. The PyFolio analyzer is used to generate performance statistics and plots using the pyfolio library.

```
strategy_run = cerebro.run()
print('Final Portfolio Value:', cerebro.broker.getvalue())
```



```
cerebro.plot(volume=False, iplot=False)
```

These lines run the backtest by calling the run method on the Cerebro instance, which executes the strategy. The result is stored in the strategy_run variable. The final portfolio value is printed, and the backtest plot is generated using the plot method of the Cerebro instance.

```
pyfolio_analyzer =
strategy_run[0].analyzers.getbyname('pyfolio')
returns, positions, transactions, gross_lev =
pyfolio_analyzer.get_pf_items()
returns_df = pd.DataFrame(returns)
returns_df.index = returns_df.index.tz_convert(None)
qs.reports.html(returns_df['return'], output='report.html')
qs.plots.snapshot(returns_df['return'], title='Strategy
Performance')
```

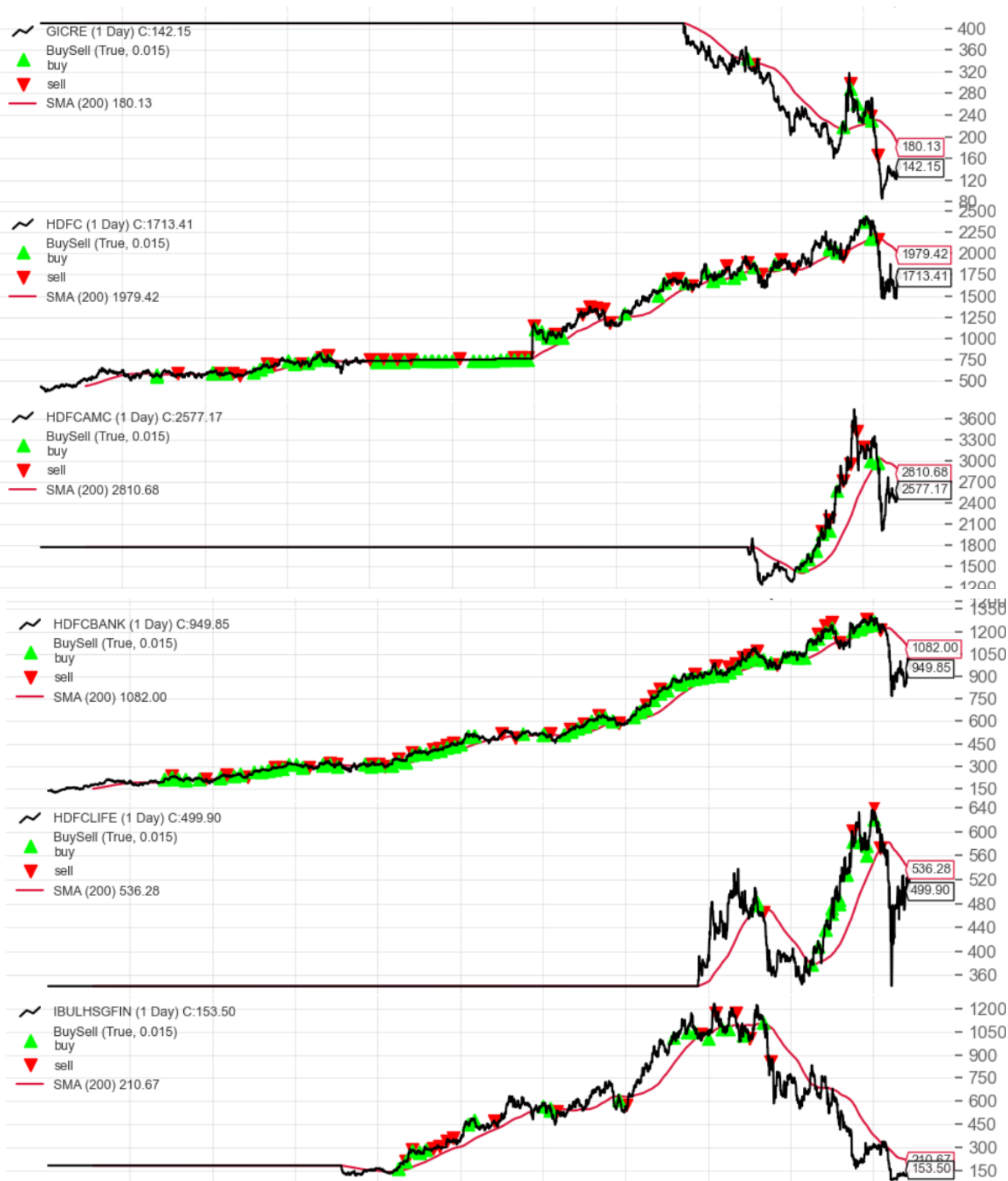
These lines retrieve the pyfolio analyzer from the first strategy run, extract the returns, positions, transactions, and gross leverage from the analyzer. The returns are converted to a DataFrame and the index is reformatted. Then, the quantstats library is used to generate an HTML performance report and plot the strategy performance snapshot.

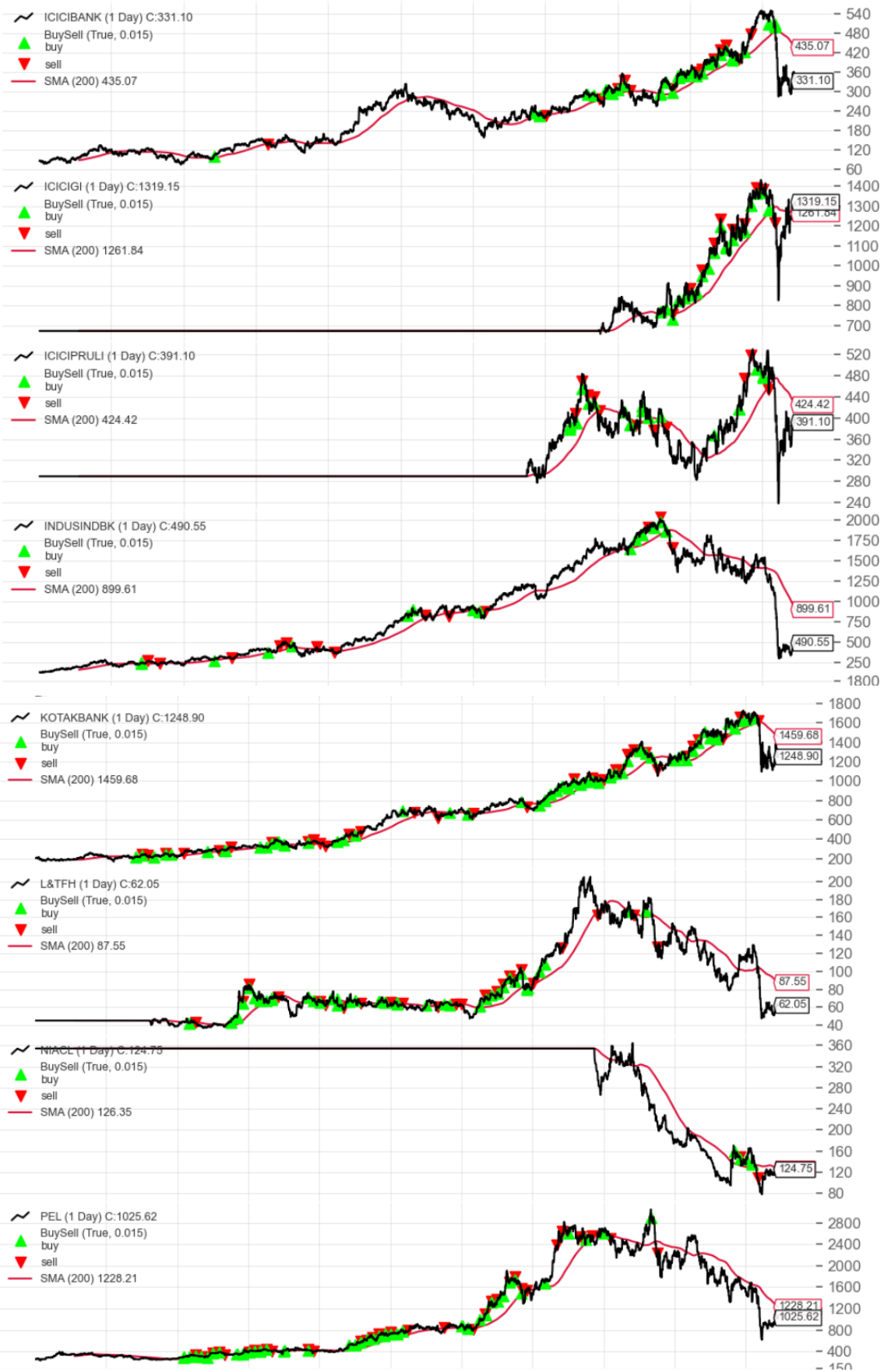
Results

On running the code, we get a Final Portfolio Value of **475036.28** which is about **375% return** on our initial investment.

Below is the visualization of our portfolio along with the 25 original stocks, where green triangles indicate a buy signal and red triangles indicate a sell signal.



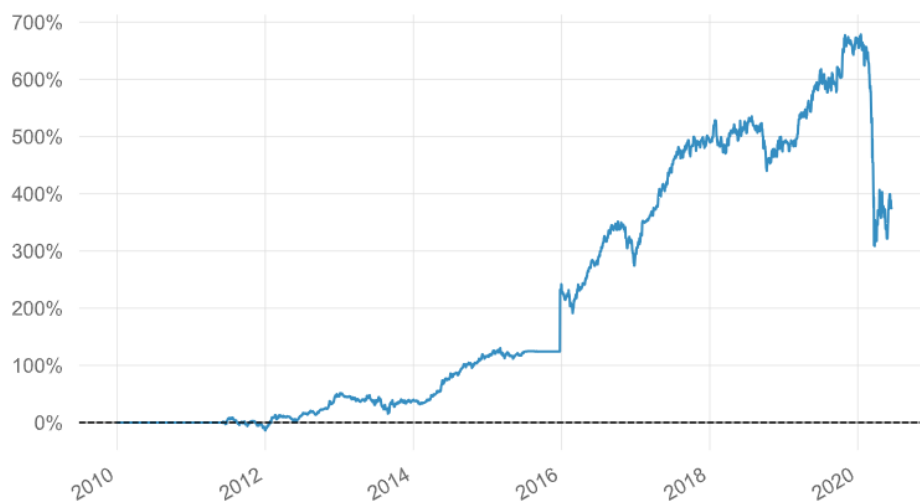






Below is the analysis of the strategy generated by QuantStats:

Cumulative Returns



Monthly Returns (%)

2010	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2011	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.98	-0.69	-5.83	-1.45	5.22	-8.03	-8.80
2012	20.20	5.16	2.44	-1.46	-4.27	7.63	2.17	-0.30	5.69	1.90	9.56	6.72
2013	-0.10	-2.14	-0.58	-1.36	3.20	-3.47	-8.39	-2.50	2.73	9.72	-2.10	1.91
2014	-4.26	1.64	8.70	3.40	11.81	4.58	4.23	5.22	4.62	-0.08	3.07	2.69
2015	4.42	0.74	-4.86	-0.47	2.26	1.15	0.86	-0.19	-0.19	0.10	-0.02	52.43
2016	-4.71	-7.84	12.31	4.41	9.17	1.25	9.42	3.57	-0.91	2.08	-4.71	-6.90
2017	7.94	6.28	4.28	5.96	3.38	6.17	5.63	-0.55	0.65	0.84	0.46	0.29
2018	6.13	-5.96	1.04	3.22	2.00	-3.43	3.46	-1.67	-5.54	-3.68	2.81	1.87
2019	-0.41	-0.33	9.87	1.77	4.56	4.96	-3.24	0.84	2.76	7.63	-1.69	0.41
2020	-0.84	-9.51	-35.86	14.56	-6.12	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

Metric	Strategy
Risk-Free Rate	0.0%
Time in Market	61.0%
Max Drawdown	-47.55%
Longest DD Days	475
Volatility (ann.)	19.2%
Calmar	0.34
Skew	15.66
Kurtosis	673.92

EOY Returns**Worst 10 Drawdowns**

Year	Return	Cumulative	Started	Recovered	Drawdown	Days
2010	0.0%%	0.0%	2020-01-17	2020-06-15	-47.55%	150
2011	-13.9%%	-13.79%	2013-01-05	2014-04-25	-23.71%	475
2012	53.89%%	68.62%	2011-07-26	2012-02-03	-20.52%	192
2013	-1.62%%	-4.06%	2016-10-06	2017-02-04	-17.05%	121
2014	44.89%%	55.19%	2018-07-28	2019-03-20	-15.04%	235
2015	54.93%%	57.91%	2016-01-01	2016-04-13	-14.81%	103
2016	15.93%%	15.75%	2012-03-15	2012-06-29	-10.58%	106
2017	40.94%%	49.45%	2018-01-30	2018-07-12	-9.25%	163
2018	0.43%%	-0.62%	2015-03-06	2015-12-25	-8.14%	294
2019	26.93%%	29.76%	2012-02-22	2012-03-14	-6.62%	21
2020	-41.17%%	-37.7%				

It is evident from these charts that the portfolio performance declined sharply during the COVID-19 period, however the optimisation of weights has ensured that this is the best performing portfolio according to the risk-reward ratio.

Further Work:

We were expected to make a few modifications in the code such as changing the lookback period, changing the rebalance frequency, optimising the moving average parameter to check the effect of these changes on the portfolio returns. This was our project for the first month

For the second month, we have been given a new project in which we have to work on fixed income securities and yield curve inversion to generate signals in QQQ, S&P 500 funds and equity, commodities and currencies to generate an optimal portfolio using backtrader. This project is slightly more challenging and will require us to go through research papers on the topic.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this project allowed us to gain practical knowledge and skills in various aspects of stock portfolio creation and analysis. We learned how to use moving average crossover as a tool for identifying stocks with positive momentum. Additionally, we became familiar with mean variance optimization and its application in constructing optimal portfolios. By working with the Backtrader library, we gained hands-on experience in backtesting strategies and executing trades based on predefined rules. The project also introduced us to other important libraries such as Pandas, NumPy, and Matplotlib for data manipulation and visualization. Finally, we learned how to analyze portfolio performance using PyFolio and QuantStats, enabling us to evaluate key metrics and make informed investment decisions. Overall, this project provided us with valuable insights and enhanced our skills in technical analysis, portfolio optimization, backtesting, data manipulation, and performance analysis in the context of stock portfolio creation.

Glossary

Moving Average Crossover: A technical analysis technique that involves plotting two moving averages of different time periods on a price chart. The crossover of these moving averages is used as a signal to identify changes in trend direction.

Mean Variance Optimization (MVO): A mathematical framework used to construct an optimal portfolio by considering the trade-off between expected returns and portfolio risk. MVO aims to find the allocation of assets that maximizes expected returns for a given level of risk or minimizes risk for a given level of expected returns.

Backtrader: An open-source Python framework for backtesting trading strategies. It provides a flexible and efficient environment for simulating and evaluating the performance of trading strategies on historical data.

Pandas: A popular Python library for data manipulation and analysis. It provides data structures and functions to efficiently handle structured data, including time series data, which is commonly used in financial analysis.

NumPy: A fundamental Python library for numerical computing. It provides a powerful array data structure and a wide range of mathematical functions, making it useful for various calculations and operations in quantitative finance.

Matplotlib: A data visualization library in Python. It provides a wide range of functions for creating various types of plots and charts, allowing for the

graphical representation of financial data and analysis results.

PyFolio: A Python library that integrates with the Backtrader framework to provide portfolio performance analysis and evaluation. It offers tools for risk and return analysis, position tracking, and generating performance reports.

QuantStats: A Python library for quantitative financial analysis. It provides a comprehensive set of functions and metrics for analyzing and evaluating the performance of investment strategies, including measures of risk, return, and portfolio optimization.

CSV (Comma-Separated Values): A file format used for storing tabular data, where each value is separated by a comma. CSV files are commonly used for importing and exporting data in various applications, including financial data analysis.

Portfolio Optimization: The process of constructing an investment portfolio that aims to achieve the best possible trade-off between risk and return. It involves selecting an appropriate mix of assets based on their historical performance, correlations, and other relevant factors to maximize the portfolio's expected returns while minimizing its risk.

Time Series Data: Data that is collected and recorded over a sequence of equally spaced time intervals. In the context of this project, time series data refers to historical stock prices and other related information recorded at regular intervals over a specific period.

Commission: A fee charged by a brokerage or financial institution for executing trades on behalf of investors. It is typically calculated as a percentage of the trade value and represents a transaction cost incurred when buying or selling assets.

Performance Analysis: The evaluation and assessment of the performance of an investment strategy or portfolio. It involves analyzing various metrics and indicators, such as returns, risk measures, drawdowns, and other performance statistics, to gauge the effectiveness and profitability of the strategy or portfolio.

Portfolio Value: The total value of an investment portfolio, including the combined value of all assets held within the portfolio. It represents the net worth of the portfolio and is calculated by multiplying the number of shares or units held for each asset by their respective prices and summing the values.

Rebalance: The process of adjusting the composition of a portfolio by buying or

selling assets to maintain a desired target allocation. Rebalancing is typically performed periodically to ensure that the portfolio remains aligned with the investment objectives and desired risk-return profile.

Strategy Performance: The assessment of how well a trading strategy or investment approach has performed over a given period. It involves analyzing key performance metrics, such as returns, risk-adjusted returns, volatility, Sharpe ratio, and other