

Project Summary

In this project, I perform the Upper Confidence Bound RL Algorithm to optimally pick one equity from each listed S&P 500 sector. Initialize a certain amount of money (initialized by parameter "start_money") into each sector. Then, on each trading day, the model will allocate all of its money in each sector to a single equity picked out by the UCB algorithm. While the money initialized to each sector at the beginning of the process is the same, it will not stay that way as each individual sector realizes varying returns. This dynamic distribution of funds to multiple sectors ensures portfolio diversification and risk mitigation, as multiple stocks across multiple sectors will always be invested in to reduce unsystematic risk, but the worse performing sectors have less money to invest. At the beginning of the next trading day, the position on each equity is sold, and the returns from each individual stock are reinvested in the stock picked by the algorithm for the next day. The UCB algorithm picks the optimal stock by the following formula:

For each day t and sector s :

$$stock_{t,s} = \operatorname{argmax}_i(\hat{\mu}_i + UCB_i)$$

$$\text{Where } UCB_i = \begin{cases} \sqrt{\frac{\alpha \ln(t)}{2N_t(i)}} & \text{if } N_t(i) > 0 \\ 1 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

and $\hat{\mu}_i$ is the sample mean of the return of each stock, α is a hyperparameter responsible for exploration (higher α leads to greater exploration), and $N_t(i)$ represents the number of times equity i has been selected to be invested in by time t .

The percent returns of each sector are aggregated to demonstrate a total annualized return.

This specific backtest returns 14.4% annually, and is tested over the period of 2010-01-01 through 2019-12-31. It is one of many backtests conducted in this project by the club.

Prepare Data

```
In [ ]: ## imports
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import yfinance
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from matplotlib.ticker import PercentFormatter
from sec import constants, stock, lookups, processor
```

```
In [ ]: # Get SP500 tickers
        ## This is a library created by the GTSF Investments Committee, can be found on the committee GitHub
        sp500 = lookups.get_sp500_tickers()
```

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In [ ]: #Download data from Yfinance
        all_data = pd.DataFrame()
        for ticker in sp500:
            data = yfinance.download(ticker, interval = '1d', period='15y')
            if ticker == sp500[0]:
                all_data.index = data.index
            ## Drop all stocks that were not in S&P before 2010 (beginning of this backtest)
            if len(data.index) < 3774:
                continue
            all_data[ticker] = data.iloc[:, 0].values
```

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In [ ]: # Get data in 2010s
        all_data.index = pd.to_datetime(all_data.index)
        all_data = all_data[(all_data.index.year > 2009) & (all_data.index.year < 2020)]
        #Reset data index - useful for UCB time steps
        all_data.index = range(len(all_data.index))
```

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In [ ]: #Change columns from $ return to pct return
        for col in all_data.columns:
            all_data[col] = all_data[col].pct_change()

        #Drop first row (no pct return)
        all_data = all_data.drop(0, axis=0)
```

```
In [ ]: #Scrape data containing ticker sectors
        wiki = pd.read_html('https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_S%26P_500_companies')[0]
        wiki = wiki.set_index('Symbol')
```

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In [ ]: #combine data sources
        sectors = {sector: [] for sector in wiki['GICS Sector'].value_counts().index}
        for ticker in all_data.columns:
            try:
                sector = wiki.loc[ticker, 'GICS Sector']
                sectors[sector].append(ticker)
            except KeyError:
                continue

        sector_dfs = {sector: all_data[sectors[sector]] for sector in sectors.keys()}
```

Implement Algorithm

```

In [ ]: def get_UCB_arm(Q: np.array, N: np.array, t: int, alpha: float) -> int:
        '''Calculates the decision at time t.
        Q: Array of sample means.
        N: Array containing number of times each arm has been pulled.
        t: Current Time Step.
        alpha: Value of hyperparameter alpha of UCB algorithm. Higher alpha -> more exploration.
        Return: Index of stock to invest in on day t '''

        #Calculate exploration bonuses
        for arm in range(len(Q)):
            if N[arm] == 0:
                explo_bonus = 1
            else:
                explo_bonus = np.sqrt(-0.5*alpha*np.log(t)/N[arm])
        # Choose argmax(sample mean + explo bonus)
        arm_vals = [Q[num] + explo_bonus for num in range(len(Q))]
        return np.argmax(arm_vals)

def UCB(alpha:float, sector_name: str, start_money: float, time_horizon = len(all_data.index)) -> float:
    ''' Implements UCB Algorithm.
    alpha: Value of hyperparameter alpha of UCB algorithm. Higher alpha -> more exploration.
    sector_name: Name of sector to implement algorithm on.
    start_money: Amount of money to invest in each sector.
    time_horizon: If you only want to implement the algo up to a certain time t.
    Return: Total money returned over duration of investment period '''

    ## Initializations
    sector_data = sector_dfs[sector_name]
    num_stocks_in_sector = len(sector_data.columns)
    N = np.zeros(num_stocks_in_sector)
    Q = np.ones(num_stocks_in_sector)
    starting_money = start_money*np.ones(num_stocks_in_sector)

    ## Get sector index to adjust money allocated to sector
    sector_index = sector_data.keys().index(sector_name)

    for t in range(1, time_horizon):
        arm = get_UCB_arm(Q, N, alpha, t)

        #Increment by 1 if arm pulled
        N[arm] += 1

        # Get reward
        reward = sector_data.iloc[t, arm]

        #Re-invest all sector money, calculate next day money

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#Subtract money if negative return
if reward < 0:
    start_money[sector_index] = start_money[sector_index]*(1-abs(reward))
    #Do nothing if 0 pct change
elif reward - 1 == 0:
    start_money[sector_index] = start_money[sector_index]
    #calculate new money if positive chng
else:
    start_money[sector_index] = start_money[sector_index]*(reward + 1)

# Update sample mean of the pulled arm based on reward
Q[arm] = (1-1/N[arm])*Q[arm] + reward/N[arm]

return start_money

```

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In [ ]: #Calculate cumulative return
money = []
starting_money = 1000
for sector, df in list(sector_dfs.items()):
    port_val = UCB(1, sector, starting_money)
    money.append(port_val)
pnl = (sum(money) - starting_money*11)
print(f'Cumulative Return: {(pnl)/(11*starting_money)}%')
print('-----')
print(f'Annualized Return: {(pnl)/(11*starting_money*10)}%')

```

Cumulative Return: 143.553248647227%

Annualized Return: 14.355324864722702%

Visualize Returns

```

In [ ]: ## Run algorithm for al time horizons < T (10 years)
money_by_time = []
for t in range(1, len(all_data.index), 14):
    money = []
    for sector, df in list(sector_dfs.items()):
        pnl = UCB(0.01, sector, starting_money, time_horizon=t)
        money.append(pnl)
    money_by_time.append(20*sum(money)/(11*starting_money))

```

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In [ ]: # Plot results
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
plt.plot(list(range(1, len(all_data.index), 14)), money_by_time)

```

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plt.title('UCB Trading Strategy % Return vs. Trading Days')
plt.xlabel('Trading Days')
plt.ylabel('Portfolio Value')
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(PercentFormatter())
plt.show()
```

