



In many data applications, you want to identify patterns, labels or classes based on available data. In this assignment we will focus on discovering patterns in your past stock behavior.

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To each trading day  $i$  you will assign a "trading" label "+" or "-". depending whether the corresponding daily return for that day  $r_i \geq 0$  or  $r_i < 0$ . We will call these "true" labels and we compute these for all days in all 5 years.

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We will use years 1,2 and 3 as training years and we will use years 4 and 5 as testing years. For each day in years 4 and 5 we will predict a label based on some patterns that we observe in training years. We will call these "predicted" labels. We know the "true" labels for years 4 and 5 and we compute "predicted" labels for years 4 and 5. Therefore, we can analyze how good are our predictions for all labels, "+" labels only and "-" labels only in years 4 and 5.

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**Question 1:** You have a csv table of daily returns for your stock and for S&P-500 ("spy" ticker).

1. For each file, read them into a pandas frame and add a

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column 'Date'. In that column, for each day (row)  $i$  with daily return  $r_i \geq 0$  you assign a " + " label ("up day"). For each day with daily return  $r_i < 0$  you assign a " - " ("down day"). You do this for every day for all 5 years between 2015 and 2019.



For example, if your initial dataframe were

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Date	...	Return
1/2/2015	...	0.015
1/3/2015	...	-0.01
1/6/2015	...	0.02
...	...	...
12/30/2019	...	0
12/31/2019	...	-0.03

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Table 1: Initial data

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you will add an additional column "True Label" and have data as shown in Table 2.

Your daily "true labels" sequence is +, -, +, ..., +, -.

- take years 1,2 and 3. Let  $L$  be the number of trading days. Assuming 250 trading days per year,  $L$  will contain about 750 days. Let  $L^-$  be all trading days with - labels and let  $L^+$  be all trading days with + labels. Assuming that



		Return	True Label
	...	0.015	+
	...	-0.01	-
	...	0.02	+
	...	...	...
	...	...	...
12/30/2019	...	0	+
12/31/2019	...	-0.03	-

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Table 2: Adding True Labels

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all days are independent of each other and that the ratio of "up" and "down" days remains the same in the future, compute the default probability  $p^*$  that the next day is a "up" day.

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3. take years 1, 2 and 3. What is the probability that after seeing  $k$  consecutive "down days", the next day is an "up day"? For example, if  $k = 3$ , what is the probability of seeing "−, −, −, +" as opposed to seeing "−, −, −, −". Compute this for  $k = 1, 2, 3$ .

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4. take years 1, 2 and 3. What is the probability that after seeing  $k$  consecutive "up days", the next day is still an "up day"? For example, if  $k = 3$ , what is the probability of seeing "+, +, +, +" as opposed to seeing "+, +, +, −"? Compute this for  $k = 1, 2, 3$ .

**Predicting** We will now describe a procedure to predict labels in years 4 and 5 from "true" labels in training years 1, 2, and 3.




For each day  $d$  in years 4 and 5, we look at the pattern of last  $W$  true labels (including this day  $d$ ). By looking at the frequency of this pattern and true label for the next day in the training set, we will predict label for day  $d + 1$ . Here  $W$  is the **hyperparameter** that we will choose based on our prediction accuracy.

Suppose  $W = 3$ . You look at a particular day  $d$  and suppose that the sequence of last  $W$  labels is  $s = "-, +, -"$ . We want to predict the label for next day  $d + 1$ . To do this, we count the number of sequences of length  $W + 1$  in the training set where the first  $W$  labels coincide with  $s$ . In other words, we count the number  $N^-(s)$  of sequences " $s, -$ " and the number of sequences  $N^+(s)$  of sequences " $s, +$ ". If  $N^+(s) \geq N^-(s)$  then the next day is assigned " $+$ ". If  $N^+(s) < N^-(s)$  then the next day is assigned " $-$ ". In the unlikely event that  $N^+(s) = N^-(s) = 0$  we will assign a label based on default probability  $p^*$  that we computed in the previous question.

### Question 2:

1. for  $W = 2, 3, 4$ , compute predicted labels for each day in year 4 and 5 based on true labels in years 1, 2 and 3 only. Perform this for your ticker and for "spy".

2. for each  compute the accuracy - what percentage of the (both positive and negative) have you predicted correctly the last two years.
3. which  $W$  gave you the highest accuracy for your stock and which  $W^*$  value gave you the highest accuracy for S&P-500?

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**Question 3.** One of the most powerful methods to (potentially) improve predictions is to combine predictions by some "averaging". This is called *ensemble learning*. Let us consider

the following procedure: for every day  $d$ , you have 3 predicted labels: for  $W = 2, 3$  and  $4$ . Let us compute an "ensemble" label for day  $d$  by taking the majority of your labels for that day. For example, if your predicted labels were "-", "-", and "+", then we would take "-" as ensemble label for day  $d$  (the majority of three labels is "-"). If, on the other hand, your predicted labels were "-", "+", and "+" then we would take "+" as ensemble label for day  $d$  (the majority of predicted labels is "+"). Compute such ensemble labels and answer the following:

1. compute ensemble labels for year 4 and 5 for both your stock and S&P-500.
2. for both S&P-500 and your ticker, what percentage of labels in year 4 and 5 do you compute correctly by using ensemble?

3. did you increase accuracy on predicting "—" labels by using ensemble models with  $W = 2, 3, 4$ ?
4. did you increase accuracy on predicting "+" labels by using ensemble models with  $W = 2, 3, 4$ ?



**Question 4:** For  $W = 2, 3, 4$  and ensemble, compute the following (both for your ticks and "noys") statistics based on years 4 and 5:

1. TP - true positives (your predicted label is + and true label is +)
2. FP - false positives (your predicted label is + but true label is -)
3. TN - true negatives (your predicted label is - and true label is -)
4. FN - false negatives (your predicted label is - but true label is +)
5.  $TPR = TP / (TP + FN)$  - true positive rate. This is the fraction of positive labels that your predicted correctly. This is also called sensitivity, recall or hit rate.
6.  $TNR = TN / (TN + FP)$  - true negative rate. This is the fraction of negative labels that your predicted correctly. This is also called specificity or selectivity.

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7. summarize results in the table as shown below:



W	target	FP	TN	FN	accuracy	TPR	TNR
2	S&P-500						
3	S&P-500						
4	S&P-500						
ensemble	S&P-500						
2	your stock						
3	your stock						
4	your stock						
ensemble	your stock						

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Table 3: Prediction Results for  $W = 1, 2, 3$  and ensemble

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8. discuss your findings

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**Question 5.** At the beginning of year 4 you start with \$100 dollars and trade for 2 years based on predicted labels.

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1. take your stock. Plot the growth of your amount for 2 years if you trade based on best  $W^*$  and on ensemble. On the same graph, plot the growth of your portfolio for "buy-and-hold" strategy
2. examine your chart. Any patterns? (e.g any differences in year 4 and year 5)