Deep Reinforcement Learning: A Portfolio Management Approach

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Outline

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The Paper

- In the paper "A Deep Reinforcement Learning Framework for the Financial Portfolio Management Problem", Zhengyao Jiang, Dixing Xu, Jinjun Liang present a financial-model-free Reinforcement Learning framework to provide a deep machine learning solution to the portfolio management problem.
- This is done on the context of cryptocurrencies markets using an Ensemble of Identical Independent Evaluators topology.

Our approach - Main Idea

 Our approach follows the lines of the above mentioned paper but we try to apply it in the context of traditional asset classes.

Due to data constraints we also consider intraday trading



Data

- Intraday data(preferably tick by tick) of main asset classes indexes
- Liquidity requirements
- Still up to consideration due to data availability

Data Preprocessing

- We follow the same preprocessing as the main paper.
- For each stock, the input is a raw time series of the prices (High, Low, Open, Close) for a given period of time which is prespecified.
- The output is a matrix of 4 rows and n (number of available data points) columns.
- Columns correspond to:
 - 1 Close(t-1)/Open(t-1)
 - Open(t-1) High(t-1) Might (t-1)
 - 3 Low(t-1)/Open(t-1)
 - Open(t)/Open(t-1)

$$X_t = [\ (\frac{Close(t-n-1)}{Open(t-n-1)}|...|\frac{Close(t-1)}{Open(t-1)}),\ (\frac{HiPrice(t-n-1)}{Open(t-n-1)}|...|\frac{HiPrice(t-1)}{Open(t-1)}),\ (\frac{LoPrice(t-n-1)}{Open(t-n-1)}|...|\frac{LoPrice(t-n-1)}{Open(t-1)}),\ (\frac{Open(t-n-1)}{Open(t-1)}),\ (\frac{Open(t-n-1)}{Open(t-n-1)}|...|\frac{Open(t-n-1)}{Open(t-1)}) \]$$

Reinforcement Learning Setting

- The state at time t is the input matrix and the previous portfolio weights (at time t-1)
- The action is the vector of investment weight (at time t).
- The reward function is defined such as it is the agent's return minus
 a baseline's return (baseline is an eqully weighted agent invest in
 all the possible stocks in the same way) minus a term estimating the
 transaction costs minus a proportion of the maximum weight
 difference between the weights at time t-1 and at time t

$$r_{t} = \sum w'_{i} y_{i} - \frac{1}{m} \sum y_{i} - \alpha TC - \beta \max |w_{t} - w_{t-1}|$$

Reinforcement Learning Method

- policy gradient
- the policy function is modelled by a neural network which takes as input the preprocessed data and the previous weights and outputs the new set of weights

Reference

- https://arxiv.org/abs/1706.10059
- https://github.com/ZhengyaoJiang/PGPortfolio
- https://github.com/selimamrouni/Deep-Portfolio-Management-Reinforcement-Learning