

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Master's of Computing (General-Track)



**Alpha Tree Search and Machine Learning
Approaches to Optimising Real Estate
Portfolios**

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ABSTRACT

An internal project about applying genetic algorithm to search for optimal alphas. State the major contribution:

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project report is my original work and it has been written by me in its entirety. I have duly acknowledged all the sources of information which have been used in this report.

This report has also not been submitted for any degree in any university previously.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The saying goes that once a profitable trading strategy has been discovered and traded on by enough people, its profits will be eroded away and it will cease to be profitable. Traders and investors appear to be playing a never-ending game of "Hide-and-Seek" in search of profitable trading formulas. Due to the increasingly dynamic nature of the financial markets, traditional financial time-series forecasting models which are static in nature are becoming less effective than machine learning models in picking the best investments (Sheth & Shah, 2023).

1.1 Problem Definition

Optimising Real Estate Portfolios

1.2 Motivations

1.3 Major Contribution and Creativity

I. Background

CHAPTER 2

FINANCIAL TERMINOLOGY AND CONCEPTS

2.1 Key Terms

2.1.1 Stock

2.1.2 Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs)

2.1.3 Portfolio

2.2 Evaluating Investments with Data

2.2.1 Technical Analysis with Price Volume Data

2.2.1.1 Profits and Loss (PnL)

2.2.1.2 Risk and Volatility

2.2.1.3 Sharpe Ratio

2.2.2 Fundamental Analysis with Financial Statements

2.2.2.1 Income Statement

2.2.2.2 Balance Sheet

2.2.2.3 Cash Flow Statement

2.2.3 Alpha Formulas

2.2.4 Other Methods of Analyses

CHAPTER 3

LITERATURE REVIEW OF PORTFOLIO OPTIMISATION TECHNIQUES

3.1 Optimal Portfolio Theory

3.2 Traditional Time-Series Analysis

3.3 Machine Learning Techniques

3.4 Comparison of Techniques

3.4.1 Scope

3.4.2 Profitability

3.4.3 Predictive Accuracy

II. Innovation

CHAPTER 4

DATASETS

4.1 Extended Fundamental Data Features

4.2 Feature Selection with Decision Trees

CHAPTER 5

METHODOLOGY

5.1 Machine Learning for REITs Portfolio Optimisation

5.1.1 MLR / NN / LSTM Predictions with Extended Features

5.1.2 Trade Execution Logic

5.1.3 Performance Evaluation

5.2 Genetic Algorithm Search for Outperforming Alphas

5.2.1 Alpha Tree

5.2.2 Application of Genetic Algorithms to Alpha Trees

5.2.2.1 Objective Function

5.2.2.2 Selection

5.2.2.3 Crossover

5.2.2.4 Mutation

5.2.3 Portfolio Allocation Using Alpha

5.2.4 Performance Evaluation

III. Experiments

CHAPTER 6

POST-PROCESSED FINANCIAL DATASETS

CHAPTER 7

MACHINE LEARNING RESULTS

7.1 Evaluating Stock Price Predictions

7.1.1 Multiple Linear Regression (MLR)

7.1.2 Neural Networks (NN)

7.1.3 Long-Short Term Memory (LSTM)

7.2 Trade Execution Results with Different Parameters

7.3 Overall Evaluation of Performances

CHAPTER 8

ALPHA TREE SEARCH RESULTS

8.1 Alphas Generated

8.1.1 Initial Set

8.1.2 Intermediate Alphas

8.1.3 Best Performing Alphas

8.2 Portfolio Allocation Results with Best Performing Alphas

8.3 Overall Evaluation of Performance

CHAPTER 9

CONCLUSION

9.1 Benchmarking Against Index Funds

9.2 Comparing Results with Literature Review

9.3 Key Findings

9.4 Major Contribution and Creativity

9.5 Future Work

9.5.1 More Operators and Features for Alphas



Figure 9.1: The Universe

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