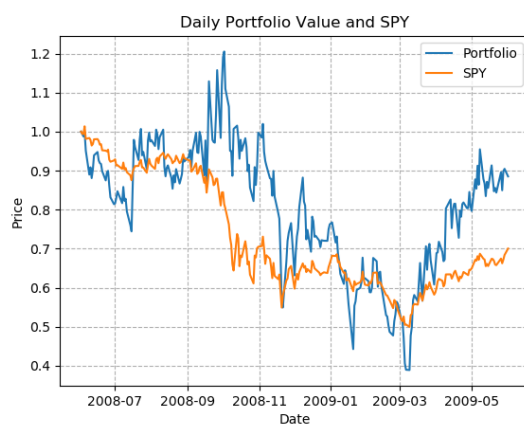


# Project 2: Optimize Something

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**Figure 1**—From June 1st 2008 to June 1st 2009, an optimized portfolio composed of IBM, US Steel, SPDR Gold Trust, and JP Morgan outperformed SPDR SP 500 ETF (SPY) amidst what would later be known in the US as the "Great Recession."