

Trading Strategy with Time Series and Reinforcement Learning

Rutgers University, MSMF

Shao-Wen Lai

Introduction

With the trend of neural network, more and more people want to use deep learning with big data to predict the stock market. However, even if the accuracy of their model is good, those meaningless weights, ratios, and other combinations of numbers in neural networks cannot help to understand the market. And models come from meaningless combinations can stand for long term and represent the market. Therefore, I want to use combination of different linear regression model to simulate the neural networks. And take some useful skills in machine learning for time series to improve my model to predict the stock prices.

Literature Review

Forecasting Time Series by SOFNN with Reinforcement Learning

--by Takashi Kuremoto, Masanao Obayashi, and Kunikazu Kobayashi

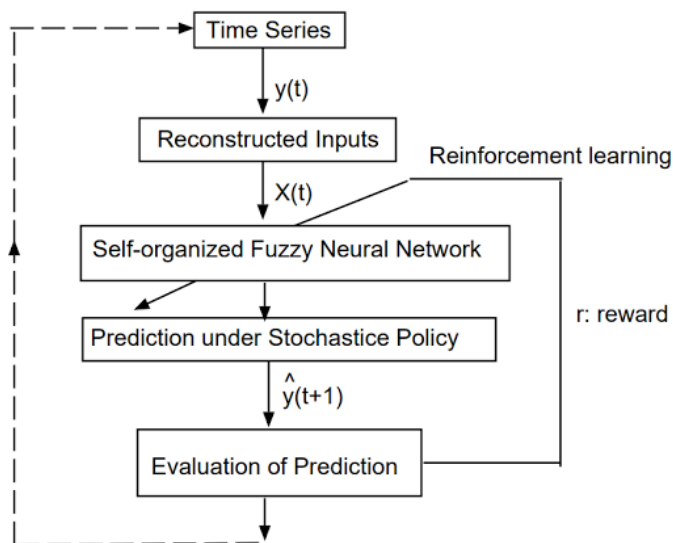


Fig. 1. Flow chart of training and forecasting.

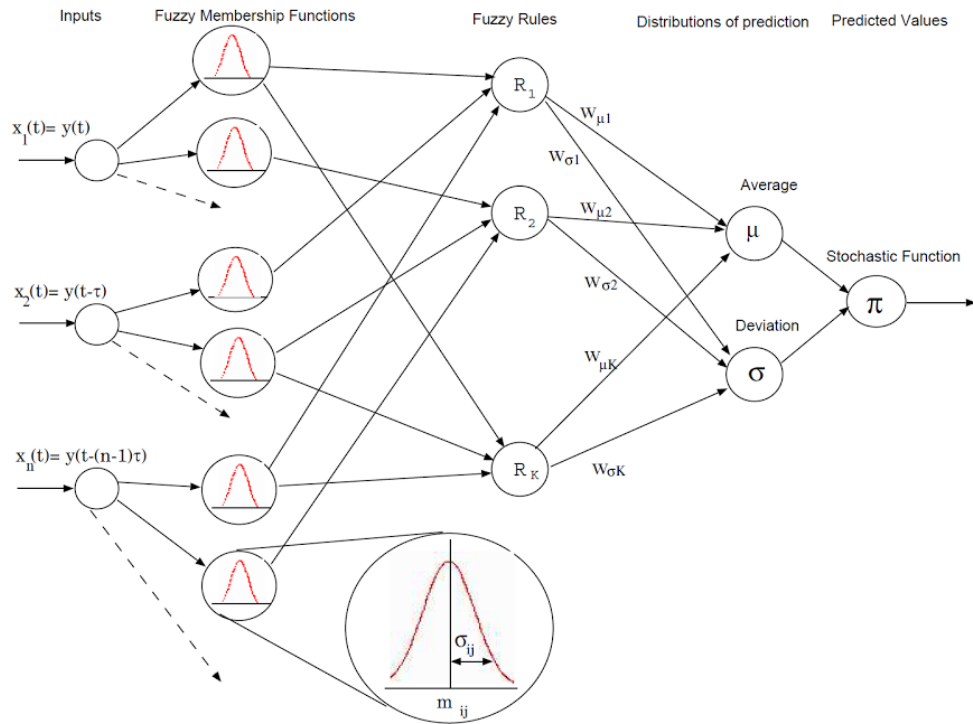
In this paper, it only uses stock prices

$$X(t) = (x_1(t), x_2(t), \dots, x_n(t)) = (y(t), y(t - \tau), \dots, y(t - (n - 1)\tau))$$

And use a simple neural network with kernel functions

$$\mu(X(t), \omega_{\mu k}) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k \omega_{\mu k}}{\sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k}$$

$$\sigma(X(t), \omega_{\sigma k}) = \frac{\sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k \omega_{\sigma k}}{\sum_{k=1}^K \lambda_k}$$



The creative skills are in later steps.

After getting predictions from this model, it takes the errors as time series of rewards and change the weights in every time t , according to the reward in time t . Since this is the kernel function, so it is needed to use derivatives to know how much weight should be changed to modify the error, that is add or minus these rewards. And in the process of computing rewards and modifying the error, the weight would be improved to make the prediction more accurate.

Methodology

There are 4 steps

And in to get the results, just follow read.me in the file.

1)

Use linear regression on stock prices of the past 50 days for predicting the stock price of next week (the 5th day from now). Since linear regression must be a good fit for the stock prices in the period which we trained, it has to be applied on following days for testing(I choose test_days=40 in OLS_TS for testing)

And then, without loss generality, I can choose the stocks which is suitable for using linear regression to predict stock prices. Now, the stocks in portfolio has been selected.

2)

On rolling windows, construct weekly returns data and Sharpe Ratio with the stock prices, interest rates, variances in the period. Again use linear regression on past 50 days weekly returns (or Shape Ratio) to predict the weekly returns(or Shape Ratio) of the 5th day from now. Then, the predicted returns and Sharpe Ratios are transformed to predicted stock prices, using their formula and stock price each day. Now there are 3 predicted stock prices got from different way.

3)

Using gradient descent from the initial weight (1/3, 1/3, 1/3) for the 3 predicted stock prices to fit the true stock prices. Since it is a linear combination, it is convenient to get the gradient.

$$S_{i,pred} - S_{i,true} = F(weight_i) = weight_i \times [3 \text{ predicted stock prices}] - S_{i,true}$$
$$\nabla F(weight_i) = [3 \text{ predicted stock prices}]$$

$$weight_{i+1} = weight_i - \text{sign}(S_{i,pred} - S_{i,true}) \times \alpha \times \nabla F(weight_i)$$

α is the learning rate, and it should be tried to get the best one.

In the process, $weight_{i+1}$ is modified from $weight_i$ in the direction of making $S_{i,pred}$ closed $S_{i,true}$. This way works without loss of generality.

4)

Finally, the last step is optimization.

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{w_A} w'_A \alpha - \frac{\lambda}{2} w'_A \Sigma w_A \\ \Rightarrow & \min_{w_A} -w'_A \alpha + \frac{\lambda}{2} w'_A \Sigma w_A \end{aligned}$$

$$-0.3 \leq w'_A \beta \leq 0.3$$

With

$$-w_B \leq w_A \leq 1 - w_B$$

$$w'_A 1 = 0$$

The first term is to make activate investment can get more access return by the alpha predicted in the model. The latter term is to ensure active risk would not be too high when we pursue higher access return. So the lambda here should be tried with different value to a get suitable vale for the portfolio and the model. These constraints are to limit the beta, and make sure there is no short and beta bet.

β can be computed by returns of stocks in portfolio with the benchmark returns (calculate by the stocks' returns with market capital weighted).

Data

Same as the paper inspired me, I only use the stock prices to predict stock prices and alpha. In the first step, I get the stock prices of Top 200 stocks in NASDAQ in the period 31/12/2008 to 31/12/2016. And all the stock prices are retrieved from Yahoo Finance with the API in MATLAB.

After the first filter, these are 46 stocks have been selected. And for testing and improve accuracy, some data of the beginning and the end has to be abandoned. For example, I give 100 days data in step3. Because the learning rate is small, and the initial data is given intuitively, the weights need some time to converge to the better values.

	mean	STD	min	max
MSFT	31.71487	11.09298	15.44419	59.26732
AMZN	305.4595	182.4409	73.6	844.36
NVDA	18.76827	11.26848	7.787691	71.77251
TXN	35.09213	13.54153	13.74392	69.43372
MDLZ	27.43853	9.495235	11.94942	45.32643
ADI	39.13249	12.48692	15.26203	64.49027
LRCX	51.38313	18.19862	22.52643	100.489
AAL	20.90747	15.3581	1.973181	54.31586
MCHP	33.969	10.1513	14.45877	61.34662
WLTW	97.02566	18.17544	57.48243	130.7977
MYL	33.71855	15.57392	12.1	76.06
SBAC	70.66005	32.48693	22.2	128.01
MXIM	24.18294	7.231275	9.839958	39.69069
MELI	90.22229	34.47454	19.72838	190.562
ACGL	46.5328	17.38918	18.38667	83.15
HAS	44.32045	17.60829	17.67942	84.22901
SNPS	34.68753	10.44979	18.2	60.56
AMD	4.893758	2.247129	1.62	10.16
RYAAY	44.36844	20.56426	19.17966	87.64
ASML	60.21291	32.3938	13.61188	111.3574
SHY	81.86581	1.447705	77.79339	84.29572
JBHT	57.35327	19.57358	23.37973	89.43139
TTWO	19.02788	9.508263	7.52	46.34
CDNS	13.69034	5.647197	4.59	26.25
QVCB	18.41137	6.915321	3.878069	31.4
VRSN	46.73896	20.21598	15.22528	93.12
EXPD	40.00323	5.904301	26.64289	51.55796
TRMB	23.28326	6.970922	9.25	39.96
GRMN	32.46389	9.11254	13.50025	52.49079
CGNX	12.40318	6.765853	2.896751	27.17946
MRVL	12.58512	2.813313	6.506254	20.21112
SGEN	28.0673	12.97981	8.19	57.25
UHAL	176.0112	118.3107	28.44403	431.4254
IONS	25.58668	18.61745	6.47	77.08
SBNY	83.73813	39.52471	24.98	160.73
NDSN	56.19683	19.72497	16.01019	100.9993
ERIE	61.70572	19.29414	24.47529	102.006

LAMR	36.10596	13.22581	12.16004	65.10173
COHR	54.67894	19.18976	17.25146	113.37
ICLR	39.27683	20.16632	14.83	85.04
LECO	45.11188	16.57304	14.32194	70.75474
ESLT	52.43271	18.56687	26.12317	100.5177
PBCT	11.60999	1.940888	7.960409	15.56285
FIZZ	18.39187	11.8753	5.997961	60.09102
OZRK	21.61082	13.24042	4.352711	53.0877
CBSH	32.88676	7.381951	18.64336	49.79721

Totally 46 stocks in 1892 days.

And after the last abandon, and transformation. It becomes 46 stocks in 358 weeks.

Empirical session

The key point of my alpha model is the skill to combine different predicted prices to get a better prediction. And take the advantage of the change from prices to different ratio to make prices data can be used in many ways.

Before the combination, mean $l^1 - error$ of predicted returns of by prices, returns and Sharpe ratio are 0.0432 0.0313 0.0320

After the combination it decrease to 0.277

After abandon of first 100 days, it decrease to 0.268

Another strength of my model is that I replace R-square value with my new

R-square_pred. Since the in the 8 years of the period I chosed, the stock price increased a lot. Almost all average prices of past 50 days are much lower than the price of 5 days after. So, it is trivial that using today's price to predict the 5 days later

is much better. And using today's price multiplied by average weekly return is even

better. Hence, in my first step I use $Rsquare_{pre} = 1 - \frac{SS_{res}}{SS_{pre}}$

$$SS_{pre} = \sum (Y_i - S_{i, today} \times \mu_{5daysreturn})^2$$

And I select the stock by using $Rsquare_{pre_test} > 0.05$ in the test data.

	Rsquare	Rsquare_pre	Rsquare_pre_test
AAPL	0.992848	0.031169	-0.02576
GOOGL	0.993108	0.086919	-0.1774
GOOG	0.992807	0.084755	-0.08607
MSFT	0.991104	0.067887	0.093632
AMZN	0.994047	0.06509	0.0789
CMCSA	0.996491	0.063019	-0.65975
INTC	0.986752	0.030827	-0.03758
CSCO	0.976564	0.044465	-0.03031
AMGN	0.993981	0.064292	-0.34806
CELG	0.993334	0.086183	-0.0471
GILD	0.994615	0.046365	0.019906
NVDA	0.991686	0.072687	0.17811
PCLN	0.992953	0.074306	-0.02981
WBA	0.993363	0.039559	-0.01408
TXN	0.993432	0.034132	0.108755
NFLX	0.988364	0.061427	-0.12356
SBUX	0.996749	0.095269	-0.42755
ADBE	0.993705	0.069811	0.031918
QCOM	0.977778	0.042438	-0.15759
COST	0.99646	0.03722	-0.28984
BIIB	0.991518	0.051294	0.046831
BIDU	0.983039	0.068395	-0.03968
MDLZ	0.993469	0.051723	0.125206
AMOV	0.955066	0.046487	-0.11441
AABA	0.990179	0.062111	-0.10673
QQQ	0.996009	0.088988	-0.02268
TMUS	0.983478	0.048015	-0.0705
ATVI	0.993699	0.036459	-0.01852

AMAT	0.98556	0.020525	-0.04448
FOX	0.992109	0.040883	-0.1958
ADP	0.996037	0.036934	-0.48977
CSX	0.984883	0.053686	-0.40202
REGN	0.994244	0.102085	-0.13653
CME	0.990951	0.034324	-0.37914
CTSH	0.988302	0.057891	-0.11845
EBAY	0.988072	0.044534	-0.42937
MAR	0.993097	0.051681	-0.05227
VRTX	0.978364	0.045601	-1.10333
ISRG	0.980591	0.043522	0.028364
MU	0.987481	0.061528	0.006591
EA	0.993969	0.052751	0.001372
ESRX	0.983745	0.022002	-0.21705
INTU	0.993722	0.04973	-0.55092
EQIX	0.994984	0.045126	0.002388
ALXN	0.990767	0.059624	-0.00686
FOXA	0.992834	0.050142	-0.27004
MNST	0.994402	0.04598	-0.04695
ILMN	0.98933	0.048493	-0.06713
ADI	0.989226	0.038151	0.116945
LRCX	0.986681	0.033343	0.08284
LBTYA	0.990673	0.075401	-0.02039
LBTYK	0.991603	0.077526	-0.10901
FISV	0.997629	0.097564	-0.46375
ADSK	0.978938	0.075666	-0.13147
INCY	0.990048	0.145062	0.001173
WDC	0.988272	0.052718	-0.12169
DISH	0.992216	0.042854	-0.89279
SIRI	0.994128	0.073984	0.021005
PCAR	0.979668	0.035953	-0.06744
ROST	0.996073	0.058772	0.007701
CTRP	0.980763	0.056305	-0.00311
CERN	0.992351	0.036027	-0.79534
AMTD	0.987949	0.036286	-0.12279
AAL	0.991298	0.078706	0.251116
EXPE	0.989215	0.065566	-0.09079
PAYX	0.994441	0.047816	-0.54195

NTES	0.992342	0.053741	0.003165
MCHP	0.987122	0.038213	0.253752
WLTW	0.98068	0.04141	0.082254
SYMC	0.972511	0.012087	0.046488
TROW	0.98444	0.052428	-0.0813
NTRS	0.978803	0.052276	-0.09007
DLTR	0.993523	0.054593	-0.0851
SWKS	0.992157	0.080512	-0.21899
FITB	0.983832	0.06382	-0.21493
CHKP	0.990839	0.071304	-0.19129
PFF	0.995403	0.094342	-0.00396
ORLY	0.997285	0.083177	-0.23946
MYL	0.987611	0.049349	0.15953
SBAC	0.994962	0.110562	0.228102
IBKR	0.991305	0.053692	-0.19985
DVY	0.996797	0.064561	-0.27537
XLNX	0.985447	0.028673	-0.08004
BMRN	0.989596	0.088508	-0.38069
VIA	0.987874	0.03765	-0.12257
KLAC	0.990633	0.030668	-0.15979
WYNN	0.985355	0.093016	-0.2087
ALGN	0.991659	0.051469	-0.43524
CTAS	0.99714	0.067857	-0.83333
CA	0.982389	0.042217	-0.19365
HBAN	0.985598	0.054782	-0.01395
ULTA	0.993769	0.044421	-0.06309
IDXX	0.991314	0.032938	-0.09768
XRAY	0.986387	0.077334	-0.54294
HSIC	0.995856	0.045355	-0.35848
MXIM	0.98558	0.046111	0.135659
MELI	0.978378	0.044912	0.155126
ACGL	0.996842	0.045438	0.106829
FAST	0.986071	0.04716	-0.08191
VOD	0.987324	0.042615	-0.95134
SHPG	0.989659	0.046033	-0.05394
NDAQ	0.995337	0.057388	-0.67204
CINF	0.996783	0.036486	-0.58786
EMB	0.993425	0.02898	-0.03019

HAS	0.993224	0.055435	0.251353
SNPS	0.992756	0.047696	0.086186
CSJ	0.997793	0.087166	-0.44934
CTXS	0.959488	0.04394	-0.24918
AMD	0.969835	0.054995	0.182114
RYAAY	0.992496	0.049318	0.103462
ASML	0.993883	0.069681	0.17573
ETFC	0.970142	0.082532	-0.35319
ANSS	0.988728	0.051008	-0.6924
SHY	0.995733	0.090376	0.060801
SNI	0.984778	0.066878	-0.02583
JBHT	0.992165	0.041901	0.179651
LKQ	0.991277	0.03019	-0.52515
MBB	0.997171	0.04249	-0.1107
NTAP	0.96094	0.028617	-0.29334
HOLX	0.987611	0.034769	-0.16589
TTWO	0.99188	0.056006	0.149261
CDNS	0.993318	0.087912	0.220636
QVCB	0.988666	0.088475	0.23212
QVCA	0.98962	0.054038	-0.17787
VRSN	0.9935	0.054283	0.234905
EXPD	0.952285	0.038167	0.056152
CHRW	0.952613	0.045286	-0.01592
TRMB	0.97811	0.054565	0.165838
GRMN	0.979681	0.020631	0.190363
IBB	0.994485	0.076935	0.02038
VIAB	0.989447	0.043132	-0.18541
IPGP	0.983254	0.045469	0.034794
CGNX	0.992027	0.054722	0.112165
STX	0.988741	0.055904	-0.02886
IAC	0.989704	0.037273	0.022849
DOX	0.994474	0.080163	-0.42336
JAZZ	0.993574	0.148738	-0.0549
SCZ	0.987473	0.046898	-0.0505
DISCB	0.973473	0.224398	-0.26464
CSGP	0.993352	0.04167	-0.11681
SIVB	0.987525	0.053139	-0.10244
SEIC	0.992641	0.076856	-0.64952

IEP	0.985284	0.050976	-0.38102
FLEX	0.981081	0.028366	-0.26156
MRVL	0.949665	0.025207	0.215464
ZION	0.955882	0.034816	-0.07539
OTEX	0.989916	0.039267	-0.04158
LULU	0.980509	0.048018	-0.67754
ODFL	0.995204	0.051019	-0.00328
TLT	0.988744	0.038158	0.02068
EWBC	0.990439	0.055412	-0.04675
GT	0.982702	0.037714	-0.03098
STLD	0.965623	0.035049	0.006991
ALKS	0.983971	0.08544	0.005214
DISCA	0.987047	0.038986	-0.05012
AKAM	0.976214	0.035776	-0.36222
EXEL	0.947228	0.049352	0.020648
JKHY	0.997581	0.060259	-0.87936
TSCO	0.994369	0.061535	-0.51658
IEI	0.995017	0.040836	0.041935
ACWI	0.988206	0.060217	-0.03818
SGEN	0.979449	0.045703	0.104105
IEF	0.993653	0.032643	0.041261
UHAL	0.996326	0.058442	0.095587
DISCK	0.987554	0.049211	0.000993
CPRT	0.990918	0.027426	0.043096
AGNC	0.989722	0.071827	-0.04613
FFIV	0.963921	0.024038	-0.01014
ALNY	0.983221	0.083232	-0.11856
QGEN	0.957274	0.027963	0.021485
CIU	0.998056	0.043389	-0.02976
PPC	0.990953	0.09445	-0.03181
IONS	0.980693	0.036735	0.083538
MIDD	0.994574	0.060497	-0.73885
ON	0.929552	0.030984	0.012784
ABMD	0.99228	0.064175	-0.10005
ARCC	0.991862	0.066967	-0.00499
MKTX	0.996975	0.061188	-1.54888
SBNY	0.994287	0.083636	0.216527
NDSN	0.988161	0.067638	0.278976

DXCM	0.993037	0.062953	-0.60558
PTC	0.985985	0.066489	0.017047
JBLU	0.991788	0.070681	-0.12466
ERIE	0.993786	0.054961	0.138226
LAMR	0.990111	0.066167	0.09653
COHR	0.983564	0.047608	0.123062
OLED	0.960953	0.042918	-0.14333
SRCL	0.986246	0.029547	-0.31518
ICLR	0.992023	0.047759	0.105326
LOGI	0.974826	0.023847	-0.05617
SHV	0.986574	0.176708	-0.00213
RGLD	0.945459	0.042518	-0.17375
LECO	0.99078	0.056235	0.053474
ESLT	0.990827	0.049522	0.185215
PBCT	0.977587	0.067022	0.168452
VEON	0.97339	0.043087	-0.25614
MSCC	0.978873	0.032969	-0.03106
FIZZ	0.992082	0.062387	0.201807
OZRK	0.994848	0.085994	0.108636
CBSH	0.986977	0.069297	0.149388
	0.986825	0.056395	-0.11697

The last row is the mean of these 3 scores. The mean of $\text{Rsquare}_{\text{pre_test}}$ is negative, but we can still find 46 stocks with $\text{Rsquare}_{\text{pre_test}} > 0.05$ closed to the mean of $\text{Rsquare}_{\text{pre}} = 0.056$. Selecting the stocks suitable for linear regression is important for continuing to work on more linear method.

Although it is not a very good prediction, it has been proved that it is better than using average return to predict on the test data. Hence, the linear regression works in the stocks of my portfolio.

Interestingly, in step2, it is found that using regression on returns and Sharpe ration can get better prediction (showed by $l^1 - \text{error}$ before), although I choose them by the performance of regression on prices. It proves my selection of stocks is right.

Final Results

$$TE = 0.0289$$

$$IR = 1.9068$$

$$IC = 0.2644$$

The result is surprising. The return of the portfolio is really high, and it can earn much more if there is no constraint of Tracking Error. When I knew that the

l^1 - error of return is about 0.027, I don't think is really good because if the prediction of a stock return is 1% this week, it may be negative with not low possibility. However, in the process of optimization of the portfolio. It can distribute more weights in 1 to 5 stocks of 46 stocks, and distribute negative weights in others. That makes my portfolio can get excess return even if my alpha model doesn't has really high winning rate.

Summary

For time series model, if I continue working on linear model, I should not add data other than stock prices. Since the coefficient of them would be much different than parameter made from prices. It probably needs other ratios, multiplication, and even kernel functions to deal with them. My step3 may not still work.

Therefore, I would try to add more ratios made from stock prices to get more predicted prices. For example, $\frac{R_{i,t} - R_{M,t}}{\sigma_i}$ may be good, since it is a modified Sharpe ratio and may be more related to alpha. Afterwards, in step3, there are more prediction, and more parameters in weights to control. I believe it would get better results.

Appendix

