

Recurrent Neural Net Trading For Financial Markets

Recurrent Neural Nets | Long-Short Term Memory NNs | XGBoost

Authors

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Overview

This document summarises the data wrangling/ exploration processes, the performance indicators used and Risk Management done by the team. An instruction on how to run the model and understanding each part of the code in the model is also provided.

Data Wrangling/Exploration

We used a Jupyter notebook to visualise the EURUSD dataset and to do data exploration.

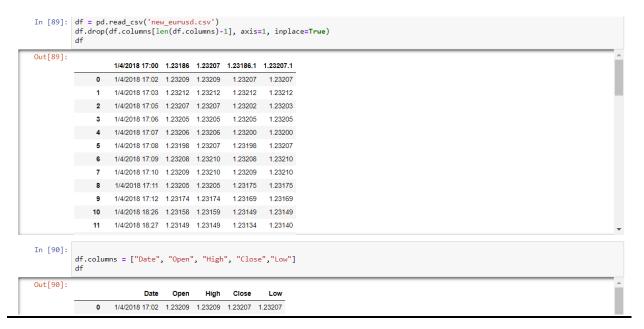


Figure 1:EURUSD Dataset

Here, we first converted the data into proper data frames as part of data cleaning.



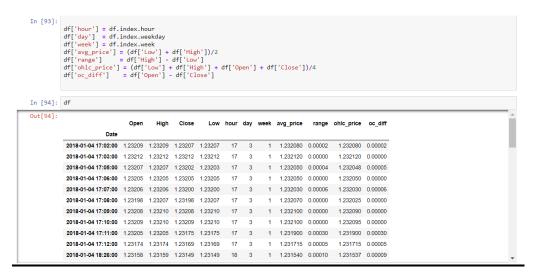


Figure 2::EURUSD Dataset

Next, we created the columns for hour, day, week and range as attributes so that we can build technical indicators from these attributes later.

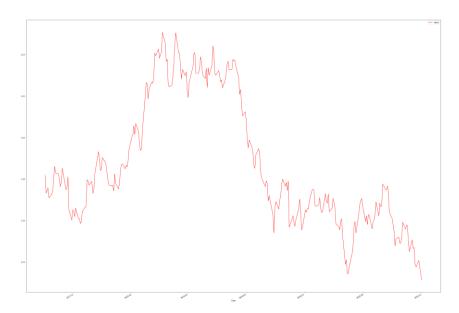


Figure 3: EURUSD price trend over 1 year period

We also plotted the price against time to understand the trend and volatility better. In general, the EUR is weakening against the USD. We can also see that there is high volatility between the two currencies.



Feature	Formula	Description
Average Price	(High + Low) / 2	Average price for the day
Range	High - Low	The trading range for the day
Open-High- Low-Close Price	(Open + High + Low + Close) / 4	Average of the OHLC price for the day
Open Close Price Difference	Open - Close	Difference between the open and close price for the day.
5-day Simple Moving Average of Close Price (SMA)	Sum(Close Price of past 5 days) / 5	Mean of the close price of the past 5 days
Relative Strength Index (RSI)	RSI(Close price,14 days)	RSI oscillates between zero and 100. RSI is considered overbought when above 70 and oversold when below 30. (Investopedia, n.d.)
Stop and Reverse (SAR	SAR(High,Low,acceleration =0.2, maximum=0.2)	SAR is a method to find potential reversals in the market price direction.
Average Directional Index (ADX)	ADX(High,Low,Close,14 days)	ADX is an indicator of trend strength in a series of prices of a financial instrument
Average True Range (ATR)	ATR(High,Low,Close,14)	ATR reflects the volatility of a price in absolute price levels.



Principal	PCA =	PCA is a method that brings
Component	PCA(n_components=1)	together a measure of how each
Analysis		variable is associated with one
		another, the directions in which the
		data are dispersed as well as the
		relative importance of these
		different directions.
Intraday	% change _i = (closePrice _i -	The relative change in the price
Percentage	openPricei) / openPricei	within the current day
Change		
Interday	% change _i = (closePrice _i -	The relative change in the price
Percentage	closePrice _{i-1}) / (closePrice _{i-}	between dayi and dayi-1
Change	1)	

Figure 4: Feature Engineering

In addition to open, high, low, close price, attributes were constructed from the available data to build the features that comprise the training set. A diverse range of features such as seasonality features, lagged values and technical indicators were explored in the construction of the models to improve the classification capability of the model.



```
df['hour'] = df.index.hour
df['day'] = df.index.weekday
df['week'] = df.index.week
df['week'] = df.index.week
df['avg_price'] = (df['Low'] + df['High'])/2
df['range'] = df['High'] - df['Low']
df['ohlc_price'] = (df['Low'] + df['High'] + df['Open'] + df['Close'])/4
df['oc_diff'] = df['Open'] - df['Close']
#df['RSI'] = ta.RSI(np.array(df['Close']), timeperiod=14)
df['SMA'] = df['Close'].rolling(window=5).mean()
df['percentage_change'] = (df['Close'] - df['Open']) / df['Open'] # Percentage change in price for the day
df['cp_change'] = (df['Close'] - df['Close'].shift(1)) / (
df['Close'].shift(1)) # Change in closing price from the previous day
## to get RSI value
delta = df["Close"].diff()
window = 15
up_days = delta.copy()
 up_days[delta<=0]=0.0
 down_days = abs(delta.copy())
 down_days[delta>0]=0.0
 RS_up = up_days.rolling(window).mean()
 RS_down = down_days.rolling(window).mean()
 rsi= 100-100/(1+RS_up/RS_down)
 df['RSI'] = rsi
ATR1 = abs (df['High'] - df['Low'])

ATR2 = abs (df['High'] -
df['Close'].shift())

ATR3 = abs (df['Low'] - df['Close'].shift())

ATR = pd.DataFrame(ATR1)

ATD['ATD['] - ATD]
ATR['ATR2'] = ATR2
ATR['ATR3'] = ATR3
 ATR = ATR.max(axis=1)
 ATR = ATR.rolling(14).mean()
df['ATR'] = ATR
```

Figure 5: Feature Engineering in Code



Feature Selection

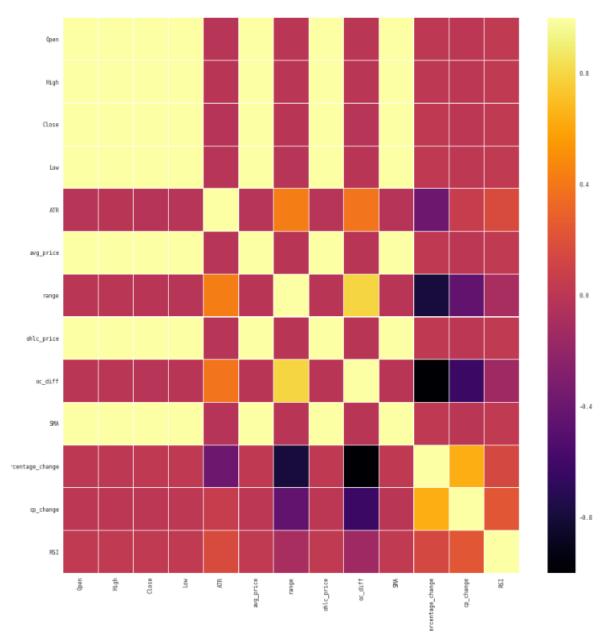
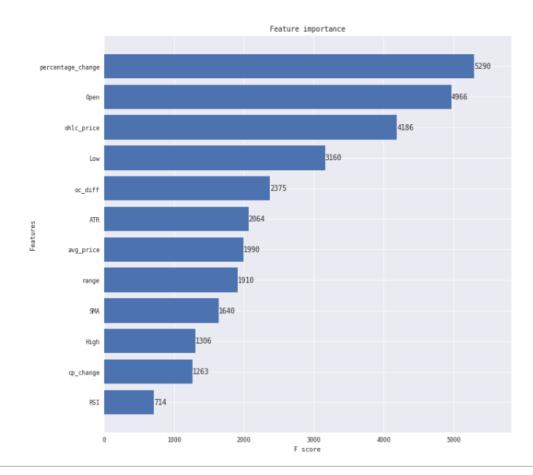


Figure 6: Correlation Matrix of Features

Here, we run a Pearson correlation plot for all the features to determine which features are correlated and important in our prediction. From the colour coding, we can see that features such as Simple Moving Average and the Open, High, Low prices has a high correlation with the 'Close' price.





```
import xgboost as xgb
xgb_params = {
    'eta': 0.05,
    'max_depth': 10,
    'subsample': 1.0,
    'colsample_bytree': 0.7,
    'objective': 'reg:linear',
    'eval_metric': 'rmse',
    'silent': 1
}
dtrain = xgb.DMatrix(trainX, trainY, feature_names=trainX.columns.values)
model = xgb.train(dict(xgb_params, silent=0), dtrain, num_boost_round=100)
remain_num = 99
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,10))
xgb.plot_importance(model, max_num_features=remain_num, height=0.8, ax=ax)
plt.show()
```

Figure 7: F-Score of Features

The F-score is calculated as the number of times a variable is selected for splitting, weighted by the squared improvement to the model as a result of each split, and averaged over all trees.



```
[54]: # Add PCA as a feature instead of for reducing the dimensionality. This improves the accuracy a bit.
from sklearn.decomposition import PCA

dataset = df.copy().values.astype('float32')
pca_features = df.columns.tolist()

pca = PCA(n_components=1)
df['pca'] = pca.fit_transform(dataset)
```

Figure 8: Principal Component Analysis

Principal Component Analysis was conducted to reduce dimensionality and improve the accuracy of the model.

Figure 9: Data Preprocessing(Scaling/Reshaping)

For our data preprocessing, we did some scaling and reshaping on our dataset to fit into our LSTM model. A rolling window of 10 days is set up for our features and the labels will be the actual closing price on the 11th day.

```
X, y = np.array(dataX), np.array(dataY)
y = y[:, target_index]

train_size = int(len(X) * 0.95)  # Test-Train split, 98% train and 5% test
trainX = X[:train_size]
trainY = y[:train_size]
testX = X[train_size:]
testY = y[train_size:]
```

Figure 10: Test Train Split(Time Series Split)

The dataset is split into 95% train and 5% for testing.



Performance Measurements/Indicators

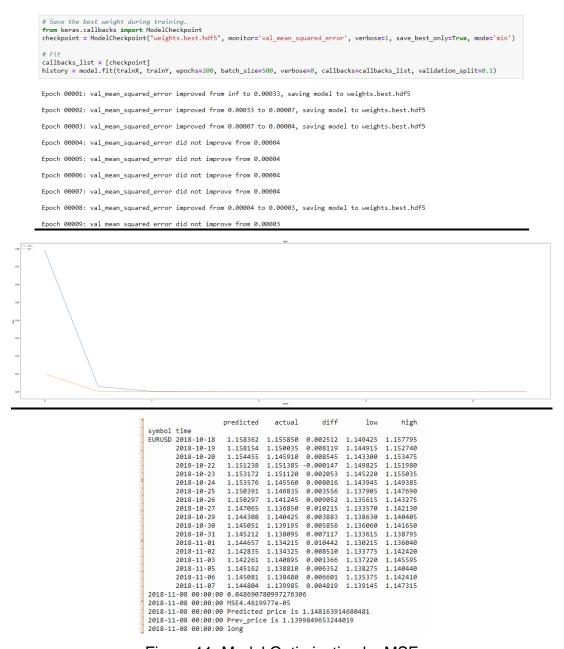


Figure 11: Model Optimization by MSE

Since our model predicts price, the team has decided to use the mean squared error (MSE) as a metric to evaluate the accuracy of the model. It is calculated by taking the average of the square of the difference between the predicted price and actual price. Since values closer to zero are better, we want to minimise the MSE.



We also conducted a simple grid search to achieve the best hyperparameters for constructing our model. During training, every epoch is being checked for its mean squared error(MSE) and the epoch with the lowest MSE will be saved as a checkpoint. This information served as a metric to tune the hyperparameters of the LSTM.

```
self.model = Sequential() # Setting up of LSTM Model
self.model.add(LSTM(20, input_shape=(X.shape[1], X.shape[2]), return_
self.model.add(LSTM(10, return_sequences=True))
self.model.add(Dropout(0.2))
self.model.add(LSTM(10, return_sequences=False))
self.model.add(
    Dense(1, kernel_initializer='he_normal', activation='relu'))

self.model.compile(
    loss='mean_squared_error',
    optimizer='adam',
    metrics=['mae', 'mse'])

self.model.fit(
    trainX, trainY, epochs=300, verbose=0)
```

Figure 12: Model Configuration

To prevent overfitting, the team only added two LSTM layers with appropriate dropout rates. The dimension of the input is kept high as well but less than the number of features, which is a good standard practice to prevent overfitting the data.

Did you consider ensemble models to allow voting?

Unfortunately, the team did not consider ensemble models to allow voting due to limitations of QuantConnect. Since we were on a free account, our run time was limited to 10 minutes and the RAM allocated is also limited to 512MB. The entire process of training and testing our LSTM model took up most of our available RAM.



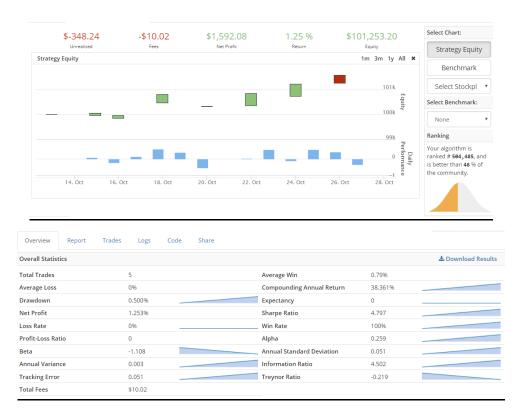


Figure 13: Model Results

However, we did consider the use of other machine learning model as well. Mainly the Support Vector Machine and the Logistic Regression. The other model's results can be found in the appendix and the code is attached in the folder as well for reference.

We measured the performance of each model on its percentage return and net profit. Overall statistics of each model such as the Average Win Percentage, Compounding Annual Return, Sharpe Ratio and Loss rate were used as well. Sharpe ratio is a measure of excess portfolio return over the risk-free rate relative to its standard deviation. It shows how much additional return an investor earns by taking additional risk.

We chose the best model the LSTM as it had successfully managed to make a return of 1.25% with a net profit of \$1,592 in the two weeks time period. It also has a positive average win of 0.79% with a compounding annual return of 38.4%. The Sharpe ratio is also high at 4.797 which suggests a high positive return per unit of deviation in our currency pair.



```
: # Baby the model a bit
# Load the weight that worked the best
model.load_weights("weights.best.hdf5")

# Train again with decaying learning rate
from keras.callbacks import LearningRateScheduler
import keras.backend as K

def scheduler(epoch):
    if epoch%2==0 and epoch!=0:
        lr = K.get_value(model.optimizer.lr)
        K.set_value(model.optimizer.lr, lr*.9)
        print("lr changed to {}".format(lr*.9))
    return K.get_value(model.optimizer.lr)
lr_decay = LearningRateScheduler(scheduler)

callbacks_list = [checkpoint, lr_decay]
history = model.fit(trainX, trainY, epochs=int(epoch/3), batch_size=500, verbose=0, callbacks_callbacks_list, validation_split=0.
```

Figure 14: Retraining model via callback

In our Jupyter notebook, the Checkback function in keras is used to save the optimal weights used to checkpoint the weights of the model. As a result, the weights of the model are only saved and updated whenever there is an decrease in the MSE of the model.

In our actual model, the model is retrained every time it enters a position. This is done in the rebalance function which is called every six hours. Since market conditions rarely stay the same, it is important to consistently retrain our model to ensure that it recognises the current trend so as to make an accurate prediction.

Risk Management

How did your model take action?



```
pred_data = np.array([dataset[-10:]]) # Prepare data for prediction
output = self.model.predict(pred_data)
output = y.scaler.inverse_transform(output)
predictions2 = pd.Dataframe()
predictions2 = pd.Dataframe()
predictions2 = pd.Dataframe()
predictions2 = predictions2.astype(float)
output = predictions2.astype(float)
output = predictions2.astype(float)
output = predictions2['predicted'][0] # Get predicted value
self.Debug("Predicted price is " + str(output))
prev_price = predictions['actual'][-1] # Get previous day's value
self.Debug("Prev_price is " + str(prev_price))
# Buy/Sell Execution conditions
if output > prev_price and self.currency not in self.long_list and self.currency not in self.Setfoldings(self.currency)
self.Debug("long")
if output < prev_price and self.currency not in self.long_list and self.currency not in self.Setfoldings(self.currency, -1)
self.Setfoldings(self.currency, -1)
self.Setfoldings(self.currency)
self.Debug("short")</pre>
```

Figure 15: Prediction and Buy/Sell Conditions

After training and optimizing our model, we use the model to predict the next day's closing price.

```
self.Schedule.On(
self.DateRules.Every(DayOfWeek.Monday, DayOfWeek.Tuesday, # Schedule function to enter a position
DayOfWeek.Wednesday, DayOfWeek.Thursday,
DayOfWeek.Friday),
self.TimeRules.Every(TimeSpan.FromMinutes(360)),
Action(self.Rebalance))

self.Schedule.On( # Schedule function to exit a position
self.DateRules.Every(TimeSpan.FromMinutes(10)),
Action(self.Rebalance2))

Action(self.Rebalance2))
```

Figure 16: Schedule Functions

Two schedule functions are set up to perform trades every day. The first schedule function will be for entering a position. It will be executed every weekday at an interval of six hours to check whether the price is favourable to enter a trade.

The second schedule function is for exiting a trade and will be executed on every trading day of the forex market at an interval of 10 minutes. This ensures that we do not miss the best opportunity to exit the market once the price falls into our Stop Loss-Take Profit range.

For the buy/sell conditions, if the predicted price is higher than yesterday's close price,



we will take a long position, if the predicted price is going to be lower we take a short position. The holdings for the currency pair is set to its respective value and the symbol is added to its respective position list for tracking.

Risk-reward ratio

The decision to buy and sell currency pair is determined by the Average True Range, an indicator that reflects the volatility of the currency pair based on previous days data. The team has decided to go for a conservative risk-reward ratio of 1:1 for our trade in light of the volatility seen in recent weeks as shown in Figure 3. If we had chosen a larger risk/reward ratio such as 1:3 or 1:5, while our losses will remain the same, it can result in fewer trades as the threshold is too high. On the contrary, it can also mean that the model will miss out on smaller profits to accumulate assets.

Below, we show how we incorporated our risk-reward ratio into the model in the form of creating the ATR indicator and in the Stop Loss-Take-Profit conditions.

```
def OnData(self, data):
    if self.IsWarmingUp:
        return

df1 = self.hist_data  # Calculate and update new atr everyday
    df1 = df1[['open', 'high', 'low', 'close']]
    self.atr = ta.ATR(df1['high'], df1['low'], df1['close'], timeperiod=14)
    self.Debug("atr" + str(self.atr[-1]))
```

Figure 17: ATR Calculation

ATRs are better than using a fixed percentage because they change based on the characteristics of the stock being traded, recognizing that volatility varies across issues and market conditions. It is more reflective of the volatility of the asset and maximises the potential profit to be gain. Here, we chose to use the ATR of the past 14 days.



Figure 18: Exit Conditions

The Rebalance2 function looks at the current market price and decides based on the Stop Loss-Take Profit (SL-TP) conditions to exit the market.

The ATR indicator as described above is used to determine our stop loss and profit margin and is computed and updated here again.

If we are in a Long position: Our stop-loss threshold is when the current price falls below the price we bought the currency pair at minus the ATR range of the currency pair. For take profit, we would sell the currency pair when the current price is higher than the price we bought at by one time of the ATR of the currency pair. The ratio of the ATR is determined by trial and error to maximise profit.

On the other hand, if we are in a short position, our stop loss threshold is when the current price of the currency pair rises above the price we bought at by the ATR value. For take profit, when the current price falls below the price we bought at by one time of the ATR value, we would then buy the currency pair. Hence, giving us a risk-reward ratio of 1:1.



Instructions On Running Model

```
import numpy as np

from keras.models import Sequential
from keras.layers import Dense, LSTM, Dropout, Bidirectional
from sklearn.preprocessing import MinMaxScaler
from sklearn.decomposition import PCA
from sklearn.metrics import mean_squared_error
import pandas as pd
import talib as ta
```

Figure 19: Importing Libraries

Firstly, we needed to import the necessary libraries required to run the model. As we are using neural networks, we would need to import the relevant keras libraries.

The sklearn library is used for data preprocessing and feature engineering. On top of that, we used an external library, Talib, to perform technical analysis of the data.

Figure 20: Initialise Model

We initialise our model by setting the conditions for backtesting as well as when it goes live. We have set the start and end date of our backtest to be from 15th October to 26th October. This is because we want to simulate the actual trading time period which is around two weeks. We also want to evaluate the performance of our model in the most recent market conditions.

The initial capital is set to one hundred thousand USD and we add the currency pair of our choice the EURUSD as well as a brokerage to model the trading fees.



Self.history is used to retrieve price data from the past 365 days to train our LSTM model. A long and short list is also initialised to track our current positions. We then initialised the keras sequential model and the average true range (our Stop-Loss Take Profit) indicator.

Figure 21: Rebalance Function

In the first Rebalance function for entering a position, we engineered some of the features to be used in our dataset. This includes the daily Open, High, Low, Close price and also the Average Price(avg_price), Range, Open-High-Low-Close Price (ohlc-price), Open-Close Difference(oc-diff), the intraday percentage change (percentage change) in the opening and closing price and interday percentage change in close price as well as a Simple Moving Average (SMA) of 5 days. Principal component analysis is also done on the features. For a full explanation of the features, kindly refer to the main report attached.

Figure 22: Data Preprocessing(Scaling/Reshaping)



For our data preprocessing, we did some scaling and reshaping on our dataset to fit into our LSTM model. A rolling window of 10 days is set up for our features and the labels will be the actual closing price on the 11th day.

```
X, y = np.array(dataX), np.array(dataY)
y = y[:, target_index]

train_size = int(len(X) * 0.95) # Test-Train split, 98% train and 5% test
trainX = X[:train_size]
trainY = y[:train_size]
testX = X[train_size:]
testY = y[train_size:]
```

Figure 23: Test Train Split(Time Series Split)

The dataset is split into 95% train and 5% for testing.

```
self.model = Sequential()  # Setting up of LSTM Model
self.model.add(LSTM(20, input_shape=(X.shape[1], X.shape[2]), return_sequences=True))
self.model.add(LSTM(10, return_sequences=True))
self.model.add(LSTM(10, return_sequences=False))
self.model.add(LSTM(10, return_sequences=False))
self.model.add(Dense(1, kernel_initializer='he_normal', activation='relu'))
self.model.compile(
    loss='mean_squared_error',
    optimizer='adam',
    metrics=['mae', 'mse'])
self.model.fit(
    trainX, trainY, epochs=300, verbose=0)
```

Figure 24: Model Configuration

Next, we added layers and dropout to our LSTM model. These are the optimal hyperparameters after some trial and error.

The model is compiled with our loss function being mean squared error (MSE) and optimizer 'adam'.

The model is then fitted with the training data.



```
pred = self.model.predict(testX)  # Predict on test data
pred = y_scaler.inverse_transform(pred)
close = y_scaler.inverse_transform(
predictions = predictions.astype(Float)
predictions['diff'] = predictions['predicted'] - predictions[
    'actual'] # Calculate difference between predicted and actual value
p = df[-pred.shape[0]:].copy()
p = df[-pred.shape[v]:].copv()
predictions:index = p.index
predictions = predictions.astype(float)
predictions = predictions.merge(
   p[['low', 'high']], right_index=True,
   left_index=True) # Add in high low price to see whether predicted value falls between this range
self.Debug(predictions)
trainscore = mean_squared_error(close, pred)
self.Debug('MSE' + str(trainscore))
                                  predicted actual diff
                                                                          low.
                                                                                          high
           symbol time
           2018-10-19 1.158154 1.150035 0.008119 1.144915 1.152740 2018-10-20 1.154455 1.145910 0.008545 1.143300 1.153475
                    2018-10-22
                                   1.151238 1.151385 -0.000147
                                                                        1.149825 1.151980
                    2018-10-23
                                   1.153172 1.151120 0.002053
                                                                        1.145220
                                                                                     1.155035
                    2018-10-24
                                    1.153576 1.145560
                                                            0.008016
                   2018-10-25
                                   1.150391 1.146835
1.150297 1.141245
                                                            0.003556
                                                                        1.137905
                                                                                     1.147690
                   2018-10-26
                                                            0.009052
                                                                        1.135615
                                                                                     1.143275
                                                            0.010215
                                               1.136850
                    2018-10-29
                                   1.144308 1.140425 0.003883
                                                                        1.138630
                                                                                     1.140405
                                   1.145051 1.139195
                                                            0.005856
                                                                        1.136060
                    2018-10-30
                                                                                     1.141650
                                    1.145212
                    2018-10-31
                                               1.138095
                                                            0.007117
                                                                         1.133615
                                                                        1.130215 1.136040
1.133775 1.142420
                    2018-11-01
                                   1.144657 1.134215 0.010442
                                   1.142835 1.134325
                    2018-11-02
                                                            0.008510
                    2018-11-03
                                    1.142261
                                               1.140895
                                                            0.001366
                                                                        1.137220
                                  1.145162 1.138810 0.006352 1.138275 1.140440 1.145081 1.138480 0.006601 1.135375 1.142410
                    2018-11-05
                    2018-11-06
                    2018-11-07
                                    1.144804 1.139985 0.004819
                                                                        1.139145 1.147315
           2018-11-08 00:00:00 0.048690780997276306
           2018-11-08 00:00:00 MSE4.4619977e-05
           2018-11-08 00:00:00 Predicted price is 1.148163914680481
           2018-11-08 00:00:00 Prev_price is 1.1399849653244019
           2018-11-08 00:00:00 long
```

Figure 25: Presentation of Training Results(Logs)

Here we convert the training results into a table for future evaluation.

The table can be accessed in the logs and we can use this information to optimise our model. Our aim is to minimize the difference in the actual and predicted price.

Conclusion

This report has covered the instructions to run the model, data wrangling and exploration processes and the performance indicators used to improve and evaluate our model. Detailed explanation and methodology of the model can be found in the main report.



Appendix

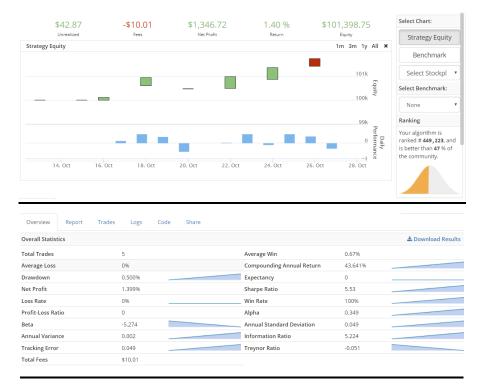
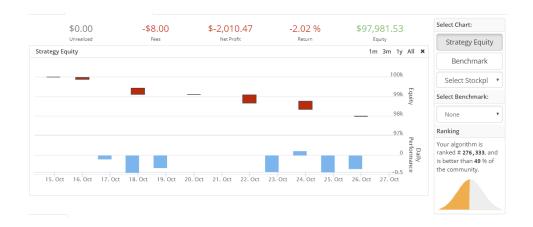


Figure 22: SVM results





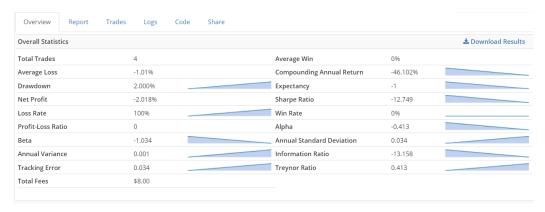


Figure 5: Backtest for Logistic Regression