CS971: AI for Finance Assignment 2

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11-04-2025

Project Background

Asset Selection

The initial assets were gathered using the S&P 500 index, a stock market index that tracks the performance of 500 of the largest trading companies in the United States. In addition to having an extensive collection of assets, this index represents a wide range of sectors including but not limited to technology, healthcare and finance. This serves as a solid foundation for selecting a significant asset for the project.

```
assets <- tq_index("SP500") # Load 500 assets from S&P head(assets) # Display the 500 assets
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 8
     symbol company
                          identifier sedol weight sector shares_held local_currency
                                                               <dbl> <chr>
##
     <chr>
           <chr>
                          <chr>
                                     <chr> <dbl> <chr>
## 1 AAPL
            APPLE INC
                          037833100 2046~ 0.0644 -
                                                           186857121 USD
## 2 MSFT
           MICROSOFT CO~ 594918104 2588~ 0.0626 -
                                                            92470198 USD
## 3 NVDA
           NVIDIA CORP
                          67066G104 2379~ 0.0604 -
                                                           304627187 USD
## 4 AMZN
            AMAZON.COM I~ 023135106
                                     2000~ 0.0389 -
                                                           117322921 USD
## 5 META
            META PLATFOR~ 30303M102 B7TL~ 0.0277 -
                                                            27239796 USD
## 6 BRK-B BERKSHIRE HA~ 084670702 2073~ 0.0206 -
                                                            22799710 USD
```

Furthermore, the daily returns for each asset are retrieved to calculate the Sharpe ratio.

```
load_daily_returns <- function(asset_symbols, startDate, endDate) {
    removed_assets <- c()

assets_train <- lapply(asset_symbols, function(sym) {
        tryCatch(
        dailyReturn(getSymbols(sym, from = startDate, to = endDate, auto.assign = FALSE)),

        error = function(e) {
            removed_assets <<- append(removed_assets, sym)
            cat("\nSkipping asset:", sym, "\n")
        }
        )
    })
    asset_symbols <- setdiff(asset_symbols, removed_assets)</pre>
```

```
df <- setNames(do.call(merge, c(assets_train, all = T)), asset_symbols)
df <- na.omit(df)
df <- df[, colSums(is.na(df)) < nrow(df)]
return(df)
}</pre>
```

The start and end date for the period to be used to make next-day predictions has been set to two months. This is so that enough data is present to reflect vital patterns to make predictions, however, not a long enough time period whereby the large quantity of historic data will negatively skew results.

```
asset_symbols <- assets$symbol
startDate <- "2024-08-01"; endDate <- "2024-12-31"
df <- load_daily_returns(asset_symbols, startDate, endDate)

## Warning: Failed to open
## 'https://query2.finance.yahoo.com/v8/finance/chart/-?period1=1722470400&period2=1735603200&interval=
## The requested URL returned error: 404

##
## Skipping asset: -

calc_sharpe_ratio <- function(returns, rf_rate) {
    mean_return <- mean(returns)
    risk <- sd(returns)
    sharpe_ratio <- ((mean_return - rf_rate) / risk) * sqrt(252)
    return(sharpe_ratio)
}</pre>
```

The performance of all 500 assets is evaluated and compared to one another based on their Sharpe ratios. The Sharpe ratio serves as a valuable tool for measuring investment prospects for a specific asset as it enables the comparison of the expected return for the level of risk being taken (risk-adjusted return). In this case, a risk-free rate is dynamically retrieved and used within the Sharpe ratio calculation for each asset.

$$S_a = \frac{E[R_a - R_b]}{\sigma_a}$$

 $Where: S_a = {\rm Sharpe} \ {\rm Ratio} \ E = {\rm Expected} \ {\rm Return}$

 $R_a =$ Asset Return $R_b =$ Risk Free Rate $\sigma_a =$ Asset Risk

```
rf_rate <- as.numeric(last(getSymbols("DGS3MO", src = "FRED", auto.assign = FALSE)))/100 /252
best_res <- calc_sharpe_ratio(df[, 1], rf_rate)
best_asset <- NULL
for (col in colnames(df)) {
   curr_sharpe <- calc_sharpe_ratio(df[, col], rf_rate)
   if (curr_sharpe > best_res) {
      best_res <- curr_sharpe
      best_asset <- col
   }
}</pre>
```

Once all assets have been compared, the best-performing asset is selected to be used to make next-day predictions in alignment with a comprehensive trading rule. All relevant data is then retrieved, this includes opening, high, low and closing prices.

```
best_asset_data <- getSymbols(best_asset, from = startDate, to = endDate, auto.assign = FALSE)
```

Data Preprocessing

```
rsi = TTR::RSI(Cl(best_asset_data), n = 14)
ema_short = TTR::EMA(Cl(best_asset_data), n = 12)
ema_long = TTR::EMA(Cl(best_asset_data), n = 26)
macd = ema_short - ema_long
volume_ma = TTR::SMA(Vo(best_asset_data), n = 20)
best_asset_data$RSI = rsi
best asset data$MACD = macd
best_asset_data$Volume_MA = volume_ma
best_asset_data = na.omit(best_asset_data)
data <- data.frame(best_asset_data[,1], best_asset_data[,2], best_asset_data[,3], best_asset_data[,4],
min_max_normalize <- function(x) {</pre>
  (x - min(x)) / (max(x) - min(x))
data_scaled <- as.data.frame(lapply(data, min_max_normalize))</pre>
train_test_split <- function(asset, seq_length, target_feature, test_size = 0.2) {</pre>
  asset_matrix <- as.matrix(asset)</pre>
 num seq <- nrow(asset matrix) - seq length + 1</pre>
 num_features <- ncol(asset_matrix)</pre>
  seq_data <- array(dim = c(num_seq, seq_length, num_features))</pre>
  for (index in 1:(nrow(asset_matrix) - seq_length +1)) {
    seq_data[index, , ] <- asset_matrix[index:(index + seq_length - 1), ]</pre>
  test_set_size <- round(test_size * nrow(seq_data))</pre>
  train_set_size <- nrow(seq_data) - test_set_size</pre>
  x_train <- seq_data[1:train_set_size, 1:(seq_length - 1), , drop = FALSE]</pre>
  y_train <- seq_data[1:train_set_size, seq_length, target_feature, drop = FALSE]</pre>
 x_test <- seq_data[(train_set_size + 1):nrow(seq_data), 1:(seq_length - 1), , drop = FALSE]</pre>
  y_test <- seq_data[(train_set_size + 1):nrow(seq_data), seq_length, target_feature, drop = FALSE]</pre>
 return(list(x_train = x_train,
              y_train = y_train,
              x_{test} = x_{test}
              y_test = y_test))
}
```

```
seq_length <- 8</pre>
open <- paste(best_asset, "Open", sep = ".")</pre>
high <- paste(best_asset, "High", sep = ".")
low <- paste(best_asset, "Low", sep = ".")</pre>
close <- paste(best asset, "Close", sep = ".")</pre>
rsi = "RSI"
macd = "MACD"
volume_ma = "Volume_MA"
features <- data_scaled[, c(open, high, low, close, rsi, macd, volume_ma)]</pre>
split_data <- train_test_split(features, seq_length, ncol(features))</pre>
x_train <- split_data$x_train</pre>
y_train <- split_data$y_train</pre>
x_test <- split_data$x_test</pre>
y_test <- split_data$y_test</pre>
# For hyperparameter tuning, we split part of x_train/y_train to act as a validation set
# For example, we use 80% for training and 20% for validation
split_validation <- function(x, y, valid_prop = 0.2) {</pre>
 total \leftarrow dim(x)[1]
  valid_size <- round(valid_prop * total)</pre>
  train_size <- total - valid_size</pre>
  # Subset x without dropping dimensions
  x_train_tune <- x[1:train_size, , , drop = FALSE]</pre>
  x_val <- x[(train_size + 1):total, , , drop = FALSE]</pre>
  # Force y to be a matrix to ensure two dimensions
  y <- as.matrix(y)</pre>
  y_train_tune <- y[1:train_size, , drop = FALSE]</pre>
  y_val <- y[(train_size + 1):total, , drop = FALSE]</pre>
  return(list(
   x_train_tune = x_train_tune,
    y_train_tune = y_train_tune,
    x_val = x_val,
    y_val = y_val
  ))
}
# Split the training data for tuning
split_data <- split_validation(x_train, y_train, valid_prop = 0.2)</pre>
x_train_tune <- split_data$x_train_tune</pre>
y_train_tune <- split_data$y_train_tune</pre>
x_val <- split_data$x_val</pre>
y_val <- split_data$y_val</pre>
```

Optimising LSTM Parameters

The LSTM parameters are optimised using two techniques: grid search and genetic algorithms. This was done to compare the results from utilising traditional versus evolutionary approaches and conclude the pros and cons of each. Furthermore, the optimised parameters identified from this process are used by the LSTM to make predictions in conjunction with the proposed trading rule.

```
# Define a tuning function that trains the LSTM and returns the mean squared error on the validation se
tune_lstm <- function(learningrate, hidden_dim, num_layers, numepochs, batch_size) {</pre>
  model <- trainr(</pre>
    Y = y_train_tune,
    X = x_train_tune,
    learningrate = learningrate,
    hidden_dim = hidden_dim,
    num_layers = num_layers,
    numepochs = numepochs,
    network_type = "lstm",
    seq_to_seq_unsync = TRUE,
    batch_size = batch_size
  # Generate predictions on the validation set
  predictions <- predictr(model, x_val)</pre>
  mse <- mean((predictions - y_val)^2, na.rm = TRUE)</pre>
  return(mse)
```

Grid Search

Grid search is a traditional approach to identifying optimal hyperparameter values for machine learning models. In this approach, the key hyperparameters to be tested are listed inside a vector, which the algorithm then systematically iterates over each combination and records the result. In this case, the mean squared error (MSE) is used on validation data to determine the current performance.

```
# Set up grid search parameters (you can adjust or expand the grid as needed)
lr_vals <- c(0.001, 0.005, 0.01)
hd_vals <- c(8, 16, 32, 64, 128)
nl_vals <- c(1, 2, 3)
ne_vals <- c(50, 100, 150, 200)
bs_vals <- c(8, 16, 32, 64)

# Initialize a data frame to store results
results <- data.frame(
    learningrate = numeric(0),
    hidden_dim = numeric(0),
    num_layers = numeric(0),
    numepochs = numeric(0),
    batch_size = numeric(0),
    mse = numeric(0))
)</pre>
```

```
# Grid search
run_grid_search <- function(lr_vals, hd_vals, nl_vals, ne_vals, bs_vals){</pre>
```

```
for (lr in lr_vals) {
    for (hd in hd_vals) {
      for (nl in nl_vals) {
        for (ne in ne_vals) {
          for (bs in bs_vals) {
            current_mse <- tune_lstm(learningrate = lr,</pre>
                                      hidden_dim = hd,
                                      num layers = nl,
                                       numepochs = ne,
                                       batch size = bs)
            results <<- rbind(results, data.frame(</pre>
              learningrate = lr,
              hidden_dim = hd,
              num_layers = nl,
              numepochs = ne,
              batch_size = bs,
              mse = current_mse
            ))
            #cat("Tested: lr=", lr, ", hd=", hd, ", nl=", nl, ", ne=", ne, ", bs=", bs,
                  "-> MSE=", current_mse, "\n")
        }
     }
    }
  }
}
#run_grid_search(lr_vals, hd_vals, nl_vals, ne_vals, bs_vals)
#best_params_GS <- results[which.min(results$mse), ]</pre>
```

Genetic Algorithm

A genetic algorithm is an evolutionary process that mimics natural selection and genetics. This algorithm has been used to identify optimal hyperparameters within specified ranges (lower and upper). This implementation has a maximum of 100 iterations and will stop executing if the fitness does not improve after 20 iterations. The fitness is determined using the fitness function which evaluates performance against the MSE value.

```
fitness_function <- function(params) {
  learningrate <- params[1]
  hidden_dim <- round(params[2])
  num_layers <- round(params[3])
  numepochs <- round(params[4])
  batch_size <- round(params[5])

mse <- tune_lstm(
  learningrate = learningrate,
  hidden_dim = hidden_dim,
  num_layers = num_layers,
  numepochs = numepochs,
  batch_size = batch_size
)</pre>
```

```
return(-mse)
}

run_ga <- function(){
    ga_result <- ga(
        type = "real-valued",
        fitness = fitness_function,
        lower = c(0.0001, 8, 1, 50, 8),
        upper = c(0.01, 128, 3, 200, 64),
        popSize = 20,
        maxiter = 100,
        run = 20
)

    return(ga_result)
}

#ga_result <- run_ga()
#best_params_GA <- ga_result@solution</pre>
```

Optimisation Comparisons

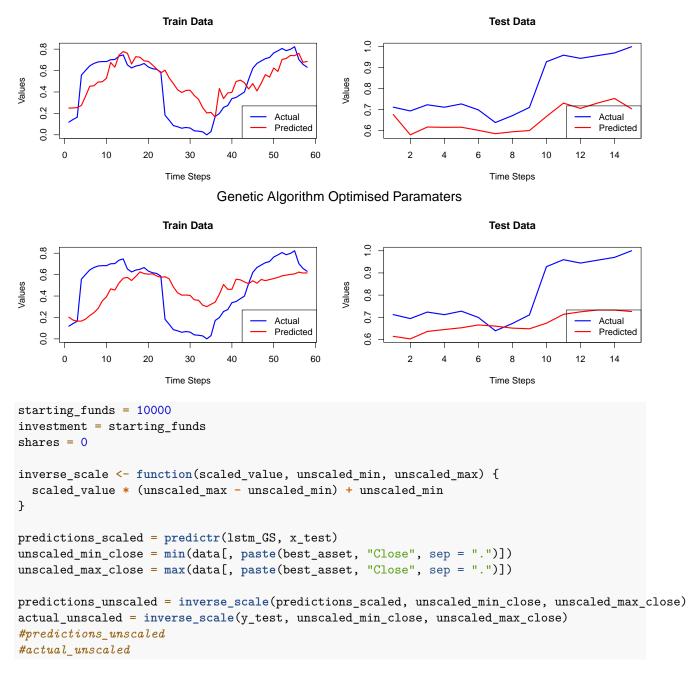
Through experimenting with both of the above approaches key benefits and downfalls of each have been identified. First, Grid search is strictly limited to searching the specified hyperparameters whereas the GA solution can navigate the search space more effectively only being restricted to lower and upper bounds. Furthermore, both algorithms are computationally expensive, although, genetic algorithms have an edge as they can effectively terminate execution if the performance has not improved over a specified number of iterations, whereas grid search must evaluate all combinations. Finally, this difference between the two approaches is what sets them apart as a GA can get stuck in a local maximum and never converge to the optimal solution, on the other hand, grid search will evaluate all provided combinations guaranteeing the most optimal from the provided is found. Overall, both methods gain a similar performance using MSE.

LSTM

```
#train_lstm <- function(params){</pre>
  model <- trainr(</pre>
#
     Y = y_train,
#
     X = x_train,
#
     learningrate = as.numeric(params[1]),
#
     hidden_dim = as.numeric(round(params[2])),
#
     num_layers = as.numeric(round(params[3])),
#
     numepochs = as.numeric(round(params[4])),
#
     bactch size = as.numeric(round(params[5])),
#
     network_type = "lstm",
#
     activation = "tanh",
#
     seq\_to\_seq\_unsync = T
#
#
  return(model)
#}
```

```
lstm_GS <- readRDS("lstm_GS.rds")
lstm_GA <- readRDS("lstm_GA.rds")</pre>
```

Grid Search Optimised Paramaters

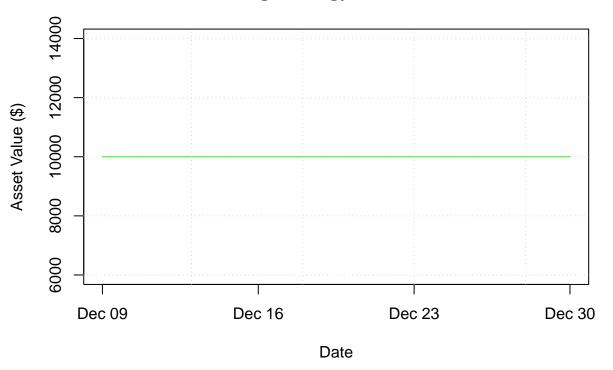


```
trading_rule = data.frame(
  Date = index(tail(best_asset_data, nrow(y_test))),
  actual_price = rep(NA, nrow(y_test)),
  predicted_price = rep(NA, nrow(y_test)),
  action = character(nrow(y_test)),
  asset_value = numeric(nrow(y_test)),
  shares_held = numeric(nrow(y_test))
```

```
trading_rule$asset_value[1] = investment
trading_rule$shares_held[1] = shares
trading_rule$actual_price = actual_unscaled
trading_rule$predicted_price = predictions_unscaled
threshold buy = 0.05
threshold_sell = -0.05
for(i in 1:nrow(trading_rule)){
  if(i>1){
    investment = trading_rule$asset_value[i-1]
    shares = trading_rule$shares_held[i-1]
  current_price = trading_rule$actual_price[i]
  predicted_price = trading_rule$predicted_price[i]
  action = "HOLD"
  if(!is.na(predicted_price) && !is.na(current_price)){
    predicted_change_percentage = (predicted_price - current_price) / current_price
    if (predicted_change_percentage > threshold_buy && investment > 0) {
      action = "BUY"
      buy_quantity = floor(investment / current_price)
      shares = shares + buy_quantity
      investment = investment - (buy_quantity * current_price)
   } else if (predicted_change_percentage < threshold_sell && shares > 0) {
      action = "SELL"
      sell_value = shares * current_price
      investment = investment + sell_value
      shares = 0
   }
  }
  trading_rule$action[i] = action
  trading_rule$asset_value[i] = investment + (shares * current_price)
  trading_rule$shares_held[i] = shares
trading_rule = data.frame(
 Date = index(tail(best_asset_data, nrow(y_test))),
  actual_price = rep(NA, nrow(y_test)),
 predicted_price = rep(NA, nrow(y_test)),
 action = character(nrow(y test)),
 asset_value = numeric(nrow(y_test)),
  shares_held = numeric(nrow(y_test))
)
trading_rule$asset_value[1] = investment
trading_rule$shares_held[1] = shares
trading_rule$actual_price = actual_unscaled
trading_rule$predicted_price = predictions_unscaled
```

```
threshold_buy = 0.01
threshold_sell = -0.01
next_day_action = character(nrow(trading_rule))
next day action[1] = "HOLD"
for(i in 1:(nrow(trading_rule) - 1)){
  current_price = trading_rule$actual_price[i]
  predicted_price = trading_rule$predicted_price[i]
  action = "HOLD"
  if(!is.na(predicted_price) && !is.na(current_price)){
    predicted_change_percentage = (predicted_price - current_price) / current_price
    if(predicted_change_percentage > threshold_buy){
      action = "BUY"
    } else if(predicted_change_percentage < threshold_sell){</pre>
      action = "SELL"
    } else if(predicted_change_percentage < threshold_buy && predicted_change_percentage > threshold_se
      action = "HOLD"
  }
  next_day_action[i + 1] = action
for(i in 1:nrow(trading_rule)){
  if(i > 1){
    investment = trading_rule$asset_value[i-1]
    shares = trading_rule$shares_held[i-1]
  }
  trade_action = next_day_action[i]
  current_price = trading_rule$actual_price[i]
  if(trade_action == "BUY" && investment > 0){
    buy_quantity = floor(investment / current_price)
    shares = shares + buy_quantity
    investment = investment - (buy_quantity * current_price)
  } else if(trade_action == "SELL" && shares > 0){
    sell_value = shares * current_price
    investment = investment + sell_value
    shares = 0
  }
  trading_rule$action[i] = trade_action
  trading_rule$asset_value[i] = investment + (shares * current_price)
  trading_rule$shares_held[i] = shares
final_asset_value = tail(trading_rule$asset_value, 1)
initial_investment = starting_funds
profit_loss = final_asset_value - initial_investment
roi = (profit_loss / initial_investment) * 100
```

Trading Strategy Performance



```
## Date actual_price predicted_price action asset_value shares_held
## 1 2024-12-09 67.39554 65.56744 HOLD 10000 0
```

```
## 2 2024-12-10
                     66.45506
                                     60.53978
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
## 3 2024-12-11
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           0
                     67.98600
                                     62.46756
## 4 2024-12-12
                     67.37810
                                     62.39038
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           0
## 5 2024-12-13
                                     62.42299
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           0
                     68.19372
## 6 2024-12-16
                     66.72497
                                     61.65355
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           0
## 7 2024-12-17
                                                                           0
                     63.58379
                                     60.81940
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
## 8 2024-12-18
                     65.29941
                                     61.28926
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
## 9 2024-12-19
                     67.32994
                                     61.59530
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           0
## 10 2024-12-20
                    78.64948
                                     65.08866
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           Λ
                                                                           0
## 11 2024-12-23
                     80.28217
                                     68.39465
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
## 12 2024-12-24
                     79.49410
                                     67.09094
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           0
                                                                           0
## 13 2024-12-26
                                                SELL
                     80.17125
                                     68.40655
                                                           10000
## 14 2024-12-27
                     80.83242
                                     69.55044
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
                                                                           0
## 15 2024-12-30
                     82.38000
                                     66.99707
                                                SELL
                                                           10000
```

```
#Revised Dual-Indicator Trading Strategy
threshold_buy <- 0.005
                                # Predicted change > 0.5%
threshold sell <- -0.005
                                # Predicted change < -0.5%
                                # For a BUY, require RSI < 70
oversold threshold <- 70
overbought_threshold <- 30</pre>
                                # For a SELL, require RSI > 30
# Reinitialize simulation variables
investment dual <- 10000
shares_dual <- 0
# Build the trading log for the dual-indicator strategy
trading_rule_dual <- data.frame(</pre>
  Date = index(tail(best_asset_data, nrow(y_test))),
  actual_price = as.numeric(actual_unscaled),
  predicted_price = as.numeric(predictions_unscaled),
  RSI = as.numeric(tail(best_asset_data$RSI, nrow(y_test))),
  action = character(nrow(y_test)),
  asset_value = numeric(nrow(y_test)),
  shares_held = numeric(nrow(y_test))
trading_rule_dual$asset_value[1] <- investment_dual</pre>
trading_rule_dual$shares_held[1] <- shares_dual</pre>
# Simulation loop with debug prints for the first few iterations
for (i in 1:nrow(trading_rule_dual)) {
  if (i > 1) {
    investment_dual <- trading_rule_dual$asset_value[i - 1]</pre>
    shares_dual <- trading_rule_dual$shares_held[i - 1]</pre>
  }
  current_price <- trading_rule_dual$actual_price[i]</pre>
  predicted_price <- trading_rule_dual$predicted_price[i]</pre>
  current_rsi <- trading_rule_dual$RSI[i]</pre>
  action <- "HOLD"
  if (!is.na(predicted_price) && !is.na(current_price) && !is.na(current_rsi)) {
    predicted_change_percentage <- (predicted_price - current_price) / current_price</pre>
    if (predicted_change_percentage > threshold_buy && current_rsi < oversold_threshold && investment_d
```

```
action <- "BUY"
      buy_quantity <- floor(investment_dual / current_price)</pre>
      shares_dual <- shares_dual + buy_quantity</pre>
      investment_dual <- investment_dual - (buy_quantity * current_price)</pre>
    } else if (predicted_change_percentage < threshold_sell && current_rsi > overbought_threshold && sh
      action <- "SELL"
      sell_value <- shares_dual * current_price</pre>
      investment_dual <- investment_dual + sell_value</pre>
      shares_dual <- 0
    }
  }
  trading_rule_dual$action[i] <- action</pre>
  trading_rule_dual $asset_value[i] <- investment_dual + (shares_dual * current_price)
  trading_rule_dual$shares_held[i] <- shares_dual</pre>
}
# Calculate final performance metrics
final_asset_value <- tail(trading_rule_dual$asset_value, 1)</pre>
profit_loss <- final_asset_value - 10000</pre>
roi <- (profit_loss / 10000) * 100
# Print results
cat("\nFinal Asset Value: $", round(final_asset_value, 2), "\n")
##
## Final Asset Value: $ 10000
cat("Profit/Loss: $", round(profit_loss, 2), "\n")
## Profit/Loss: $ 0
cat("Return on Investment (ROI):", round(roi, 2), "%\n")
## Return on Investment (ROI): 0 %
# Print the full table
print(trading_rule_dual)
            Date actual_price predicted_price
                                                     RSI action asset_value
##
## 1 2024-12-09
                      67.39554
                                                           HOLD
                                                                       10000
                                      65.56744 69.07233
## 2 2024-12-10
                     66.45506
                                      60.53978 65.25666
                                                           HOLD
                                                                       10000
## 3 2024-12-11
                     67.98600
                                      62.46756 67.26606
                                                           HOLD
                                                                       10000
## 4 2024-12-12
                     67.37810
                                      62.39038 68.11199
                                                           HOLD
                                                                       10000
## 5 2024-12-13
                                      62.42299 71.42037
                                                           HOLD
                                                                      10000
                     68.19372
## 6 2024-12-16
                     66.72497
                                      61.65355 70.54158
                                                           HOLD
                                                                      10000
## 7 2024-12-17
                     63.58379
                                      60.81940 66.78071
                                                           HOLD
                                                                      10000
## 8 2024-12-18
                     65.29941
                                      61.28926 59.54137
                                                           HOLD
                                                                       10000
                                      61.59530 63.53262
## 9 2024-12-19
                     67.32994
                                                           HOLD
                                                                      10000
## 10 2024-12-20
                     78.64948
                                      65.08866 70.81358 HOLD
                                                                      10000
## 11 2024-12-23
                                      68.39465 70.95150 HOLD
                     80.28217
                                                                      10000
```

```
## 12 2024-12-24
                                       67.09094 72.63272
                                                                         10000
                      79.49410
                                                             HOLD
## 13 2024-12-26
                      80.17125
                                       68.40655 71.99547
                                                            HOLD
                                                                         10000
                      80.83242
## 14 2024-12-27
                                       69.55044 64.25471
                                                            HOLD
                                                                         10000
## 15 2024-12-30
                      82.38000
                                       66.99707 59.94499
                                                            HOLD
                                                                         10000
##
      shares_held
## 1
## 2
                 0
## 3
                 0
## 4
                 0
## 5
                 0
## 6
                 0
## 7
## 8
                 0
## 9
## 10
                 0
## 11
## 12
                 0
## 13
                 0
## 14
## 15
```

Dual-Indicator Strategy Performance

