Trader Behavior Insights Based on Market Sentiment

1. Objective

This project aims to analyze how trader behavior on a crypto trading platform varies with overall market sentiment, using historical trading data from Hyperliquid and a Bitcoin market sentiment index.

The key goal is to uncover:

- How sentiment (Fear, Greed, etc.) affects profitability, trade volume, risk-taking, and buy/sell decisions
- If meaningful patterns exist that can help in building smarter and more adaptive trading strategies

2. Data Sources & Cleaning

A. Datasets Used:

- Market Sentiment Dataset: Daily market mood (Fear, Greed, Neutral, etc.)
- Hyperliquid Trader Data: Historical trades with features like account, coin, price, size, side, timestamp, and closed PnL

B. Data Cleaning Steps:

- Converted Timestamp IST in trade data and Date in sentiment data to datetime.date format
- Merged both datasets using the date_only field
- Removed null values and rows with invalid or zero timestamps
- Parsed numerical columns like Closed PnL and Size USD to proper formats

3. Key Analyses Performed

A. Profitability by Market Sentiment

- Calculated average Closed PnL per sentiment
- Highest average profits occurred during Greed and Extreme Greed
- Extreme Fear and Fear showed lower or negative average PnL

B. Trade Volume (Size USD) by Sentiment

- Columns was highest in Greed and Extreme Greed
- Indicates traders trade larger sizes when the market is bullish

C. Buy vs Sell Behavior by Sentiment

- BUY trades dominated during Greed phases
- SELL trades slightly more common during Fear
- Suggests psychological bias (buying in bull markets, selling in bear markets)

D. High-Risk Trade Analysis

- Defined trades above \$10,000 as high-risk
- Found that Extreme Fear had the highest % of high-risk trades, suggesting panic-driven aggressive behavior

E. Top Performing Traders

- Identified top 10 trader accounts based on total PnL
- These accounts were profitable across multiple sentiments, suggesting robust trading strategies

4. Visuals Generated

- Boxplot: Closed PnL vs Market Sentiment
- **Fig. 13 Bar Chart**: Volume by Sentiment
- High-Risk Trade % by Sentiment
- **Time-based** PnL trend (weekly)
- **Mark** Top Trader Bar Chart

All charts are saved in /outputs/ folder and included in GitHub

5. Insights Summary

- Risk-taking increases in Extreme Fear
- Neutral periods show less volume and lower win rates
- Profitable traders maintain consistency across all sentiment phases

6. Conclusion

This analysis proves that market sentiment significantly impacts trader behavior.

Key takeaways:

- Traders trade bigger and more profitably during optimistic phases
- Fear leads to lower profits and higher risk, often emotionally driven
- Understanding sentiment-driven behavior can help improve strategy design, especially in volatile markets

The findings from this analysis can support the development of sentiment-aware trading bots, risk management models, and better strategy backtesting.