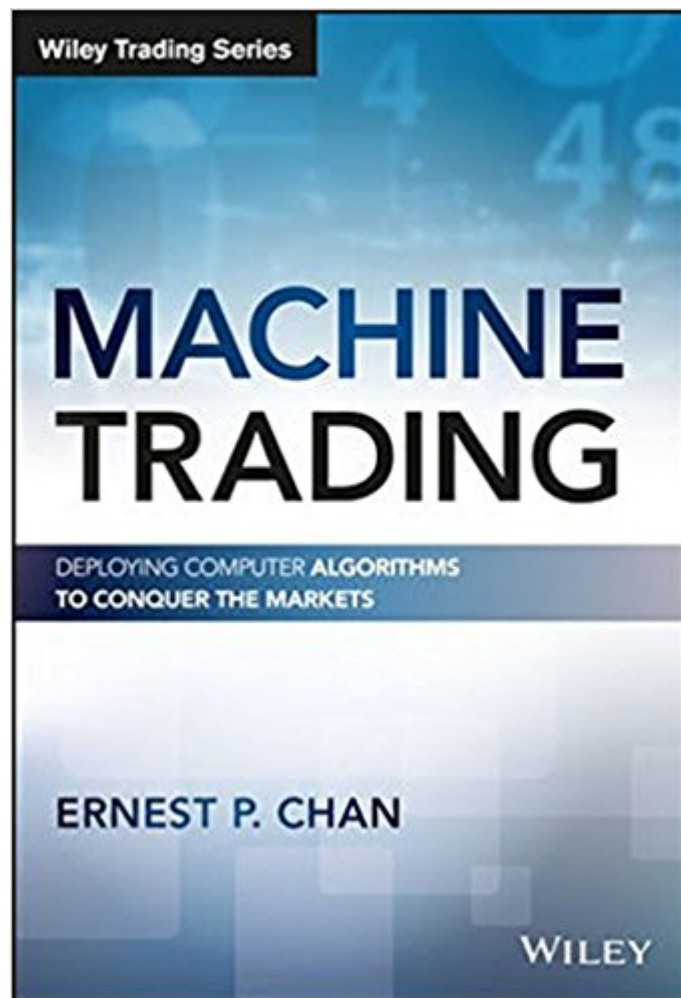




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Machine Trading: Deploying Computer Algorithms To Conquer The Markets (Wiley Trading)



Synopsis

Dive into algo trading with step-by-step tutorials and expert insight Machine Trading is a practical guide to building your algorithmic trading business. Written by a recognized trader with major institution expertise, this book provides step-by-step instruction on quantitative trading and the latest technologies available even outside the Wall Street sphere. You'll discover the latest platforms that are becoming increasingly easy to use, gain access to new markets, and learn new quantitative strategies that are applicable to stocks, options, futures, currencies, and even bitcoins. The companion website provides downloadable software codes, and you'll learn to design your own proprietary tools using MATLAB. The author's experiences provide deep insight into both the business and human side of systematic trading and money management, and his evolution from proprietary trader to fund manager contains valuable lessons for investors at any level. Algorithmic trading is booming, and the theories, tools, technologies, and the markets themselves are evolving at a rapid pace. This book gets you up to speed, and walks you through the process of developing your own proprietary trading operation using the latest tools. Utilize the newer, easier algorithmic trading platforms Access markets previously unavailable to systematic traders Adopt new strategies for a variety of instruments Gain expert perspective into the human side of trading The strength of algorithmic trading is its versatility. It can be used in any strategy, including market-making, inter-market spreading, arbitrage, or pure speculation; decision-making and implementation can be augmented at any stage, or may operate completely automatically. Traders looking to step up their strategy need look no further than Machine Trading for clear instruction and expert solutions.

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Customer Reviews

Following up on his widely popular algorithmic trading guides, *Quantitative Trading and Algorithmic Trading*, this third installment is written for quant traders and investors ready for more advanced examinations and techniques. *Machine Trading* is your accessible companion for the state-of-the-art of algo-trading in today's complex markets. Don't worry if you lack trading and finance experience; if you've worked in a quantitative field, such as computer science, engineering, or physics, this step-by-step resource makes the transition into algorithmic trading seamless. It starts out with a comprehensive look at the latest backtesting and trading platforms, the best-rated and most cost-effective vendors; data, and the easiest way to optimize allocations in different assets and strategies. Acquire a firm grasp on options and volatility strategies; factor models, and why they can be useful to short-term traders; and the intricacies of intraday and high-frequency trading, including market microstructure, dark pools, order flow, and backtesting intraday strategies with tick data. There are no canned solutions inside; each prototype trading strategy provides a rock solid foundation for you to customize. Hone your skillset on topics such as: Using factor models for long-term returns and short-term trades, including using option prices as factors Real-world trading with time series techniques, including ARIMA, VAR, and State Space Models with hidden variables Cutting-edge techniques to reduce overfitting in artificial intelligence and machine learning strategies Every chapter includes hands-on exercises walking you through the critical modifications to make on your own to gain control of the strategies and discover their potential. From stocks to futures and options, foreign exchange, and bitcoins, *Machine Trading* is your one-stop training ground for finding algo-trading solutions.

Praise for *Machine Trading* "It is easy to make simple ideas complex. It is far more difficult to make complex ideas seem simple. In this book, Ernie has done exactly that. I cannot think of any trader who would not benefit from reading *Machine Trading*." Euan Sinclair, Partner, Talton Capital Management; author, *Volatility Trading* "As with his first two books, Ernie delves into the practical matters of automated trading in *Machine Trading*. He carefully explains everything from where to find quality data, to which platforms to consider, to timely and topical strategies. In the years since his last book, automation of the investment industry has accelerated, due in large part to the recent Cambrian Explosion in financial technology (FinTech). Ernie has long been teaching the hard-to-find methods of automated trading; now he is also a guide to the dizzying array of new companies,

technologies, and services for automated trading. Machine Trading takes you deeper into the field with new concepts, while still delivering Ernie's signature explanation of the concrete steps of pursuing your own passion for automated trading."#151;John Fawcett, CEO and Founder, Quantopian "Dr. Chan has written another accessible and information-packed book for the quant-minded trader. The book starts with a clear discussion of factor models, advanced time series analysis, and Kalman filters, all of which lead into a detailed description of machine learning and artificial intelligence techniques applied to volatility trading, market microstructure, and even Bitcoins. His focus on finance in a MATLAB context is refreshing and opens the algorithmic trading domain to a whole generation of engineers and quantitative practitioners not familiar with finance but involved in numerate fields like self-driving cars and proteomics. I highly recommend it."#151;Dr. Taha Jaffer, President, OXOBEXO Inc.; formerly Principal at The Carlyle Group

I felt that the book had lots of interesting potential and ideas, however, the execution left a lot to be desired. A few more specific comments--If you plan on replicating any of the scripts, be prepared to purchase Matlab and several libraries, if you do not already have a license. The author says on many occasions that Matlab is better and faster than R. I don't really agree, but nevertheless, the additional investment might be worthwhile if the code was clearly presented and edited.

Unfortunately, much of the code was not even runnable in its current state. There were referenced functions with no comments on how to source them (I later found many in the utilities folder). There were several data files that were sourced and not included in the site link. There are files with intraday 1 min data on the order of 26 million sample points, that take a long time to run, assuming they don't suffer from other issues. Having a lot of coding experience, I felt that I was troubleshooting much of the code and trying to get around many of the idiosyncrasies in order to get scripts to run. I don't think it is really oriented towards complete novices as advertised. There were a few interesting code illustrations, if you wanted a starting point to investigate ideas using Matlab, but I felt that they were hastily thrown together and unorganized, without much thought towards verifying them. Much of the concepts were unorganized and inconsistent. Some examples had in sample results, others, in sample and out of sample for a few years, without really clearly illustrating the importance of using several folds for validation over long periods. Yes, there were some explanations of cross-validation, but it would have been better illustrated towards applying it in the code examples with many more years of data (even if the data was not available for free, a nice table of results would have been very useful for each of the experiments). Aside from the code, I didn't really get the sense that the ideas presented were able to really simplify the more complex

concepts much. I felt that if you already had background in much of the subject matter (e.g. time series, financial engineering, machine learning), some of the ideas were accessible, by having prior exposure to them. But I think there are better, clearer texts, that help the novice understand many of the concepts, and do not really see a novice picking up those concepts here. All that being said, I do get the sense that the author understood a lot of the concepts that he discussed, I just feel that he could have presented the material in a much clearer and organized manner, and put more effort into editing prior to release. Again, I felt that lots of the ideas explored were interesting and ambitious, but would prefer to see less concepts explained, with more exposition and clarity. Also, the code could use a lot of editing and clear explanations of where data is and is not available, along with where it can be accessed for specific script examples. The book did seem like more of a collection of thinking out loud and collecting and sharing of interesting research (a blog extension), than an introductory text on machine trading, targeted towards novices. Also, even though I think the code could use a lot of work, you'd be hard pressed to find similar concepts and code shared in other texts. Don't expect to find the holy grail within, but if you already have some experience in the topics I mentioned, it might give you some quantitative ideas to explore.

Machine Trading had a ton of useful information for me. The first chapter looked at data sources for back-testing trading strategies. There was information about which are the best sites to get data from, which have good APIs, and the costs of these services. It was easy to see that the author had worked with lots of different types of data and vendors. The next few chapters look at analysis using MATLAB as the programming language. The code snippets are well described and fairly easy to understand or translate to another language. Another chapter which I enjoyed was the one on Artificial Intelligence. Actual techniques were shown in a simple manner and the techniques progressed from simple to more complicated. A good point was made how you want to try the simplest machine learning techniques first, before trying more advanced one. It was shown how neural networks generally do not perform that well on financial data. There was an example given showing that a neural network with only layer performed better than networks with too many layers. Later there is a detailed section about how orders work in the stock market, and how closing prices are often "consolidated". The consolidated closing (and opening) prices can cause trouble for back-testing strategies. Explanations were clear about potential pitfalls of using different types of market or limit orders. Another surprise was a chapter on bitcoin which had possible trading strategies on the crypto-currency. One of the advantages of bitcoin for analysis is that the order book is open and each trade specifies whether it was a buy or sell. The book wraps up with a

discussion about maintaining a career in trading. I was impressed with the content, the explanations, and details that went into this book.

Read 5 pages and am returning it. There are a lot of fake reviews for Chan's books I believe. One would assume he is writing for people who want to learn, but this is not expository at all. Just Chan talking in free association style about things off the top of his head, explaining nothing. He mentions the Sharp ratio and never explains what it is. Reads like a blog more than like a textbook. This is truly abysmal. I am sure the five star reviews are not real. Check out the reviews for his other books. The good thing about a bad book on is that reviewers will tell you what the good books are. This is true for his first book, especially the coursera course by Tucker Balch of Ga Tech: Computational Investing 1, and Balch tells of two excellent books used for the course. I'd like to find a college textbook on machine trading.

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