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Advances in Financial Machine Learning, Marcos Lopez de Prado Chapter 2: Financial Data Structures

This module contains the functions to help users create structured financial data from raw unstructured data, in the form of time, tick, volume, and dollar bars.

These bars are used throughout the text book (Advances in Financial Machine Learning, By Marcos Lopez de Prado, 2018, pg 25) to build the more interesting features for predicting financial time series data.

These financial data structures have better statistical properties when compared to those based on fixed time interval sampling.

A great paper to read more about this is titled: The Volume Clock: Insights into the high frequency paradigm, Lopez de Prado, et al

Many of the projects going forward will require Dollar and Volume bars.

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```
# Imports
```

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
```

```
def _update_counters(cache, flag):
```

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```

Updates the counters by resetting them or making use of the cache to update them based on a previous batch.

:param cache: Contains information from the previous batch that is relevant in this batch.

:param flag: A flag which signals to use the cache.

:return: Updated counters - cum_ticks, cum_dollar_value, cum_volume, high_price, low_price

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```
# Check flag
```

```
if flag and cache:
```

```
    # Update variables based on cache
```

```
    cum_ticks = int(cache[-1][6])
```

```
    cum_dollar_value = np.float(cache[-1][5])
```

```
    cum_volume = cache[-1][4]
```

```
    low_price = np.float(cache[-1][2])
```

```
    high_price = np.float(cache[-1][3])
```

```
else:
```

```
    # Reset counters
```

```
    cum_ticks, cum_dollar_value, cum_volume, high_price, low_price = 0, 0, 0, -
np.inf, np.inf
```

```
    return cum_ticks, cum_dollar_value, cum_volume, high_price, low_price
```

```
def _extract_bars(data, metric, threshold=50000, cache=None, flag=False):
```

```
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```

For loop which compiles the various bars: dollar, volume, or tick.

We did investigate the use of trying to solve this in a vectorised manner but found that a For loop worked well.

:param data: Contains 3 columns - date_time, price, and volume.

:param metric: cum_ticks, cum_dollar_value, cum_volume

:param threshold: A cumulative value above this threshold triggers a sample to be taken.

:param cache: contains information from the previous batch that is relevant in this batch.

:param flag: A flag which signals to use the cache.

:return: The financial data structure with the cache of short term history.

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```
if cache is None:
```

```

    cache = []

    list_bars = []
    cum_ticks, cum_dollar_value, cum_volume, high_price, low_price =
_update_counters(cache, flag)

# Iterate over rows
for row in data.values:
    # Set variables
    date_time = row[0]
    price = np.float(row[1])
    volume = row[2]

    # Calculations
    cum_ticks += 1
    dollar_value = price * volume
    cum_dollar_value = cum_dollar_value + dollar_value
    cum_volume = cum_volume + volume

    # Check min max
    if price > high_price:
        high_price = price
    if price <= low_price:
        low_price = price

    # Update cache
    cache.append([date_time, price, low_price, high_price, cum_volume,
cum_dollar_value, cum_ticks])

    # If threshold reached then take a sample
    if eval(metric) >= threshold: # pylint: disable=eval-used
        # Create bars
        open_price = cache[0][1]
        low_price = min(low_price, open_price)
        close_price = price

        # Update bars & Reset counters
        list_bars.append([date_time, open_price, high_price, low_price, close_price,
                        cum_volume, cum_dollar_value, cum_ticks])
        cum_ticks, cum_dollar_value, cum_volume, cache, high_price, low_price = 0, 0,
0, [], -np.inf, np.inf

    return list_bars, cache

def _assert_dataframe(test_batch):
    """
    Tests that the csv file read has the format: date_time, price, & volume.
    If not then the user needs to create such a file. This format is in place to remove
    any unwanted overhead.

    :param test_batch: DataFrame which will be tested.
    """
    assert test_batch.shape[1] == 3, 'Must have only 3 columns in csv: date_time, price,
& volume.'
    assert isinstance(test_batch.iloc[0, 1], float), 'price column in csv not float.'
    assert isinstance(test_batch.iloc[0, 2], np.int64), 'volume column in csv not int.'

    try:
        pd.to_datetime(test_batch.iloc[0, 0])
    except ValueError:
        print('csv file, column 0, not a date time format:', test_batch.iloc[0, 0])

def _batch_run(file_path, metric, threshold=50000, batch_size=20000000):
    """
    Reads a csv file in batches and then constructs the financial data structure in the
    form of a DataFrame.

```

The csv file must have only 3 columns: date_time, price, & volume.

```
:param file_path: File path pointing to csv data.
:param metric: cum_ticks, cum_dollar_value, cum_volume
:param threshold: A cumulative value above this threshold triggers a sample to be
taken.
:param batch_size: The number of rows per batch. Less RAM = smaller batch size.
:return: Financial data structure
"""
print('Reading data in batches:')

# Variables
count = 0
flag = False # The first flag is false since the first batch doesn't use the cache
cache = None
finalBars = []

# Read in the first row & assert format
_assert_dataframe(pd.read_csv(file_path, nrows=1))

# Read csv in batches
for batch in pd.read_csv(file_path, chunksize=batch_size):

    print('Batch number:', count)
    listBars, cache = _extract_bars(data=batch, metric=metric, threshold=threshold,
cache=cache, flag=flag)

    # Append to bars list
    finalBars += listBars
    count += 1

    # Set flag to True: notify function to use cache
    flag = True

# Return a DataFrame
cols = ['date_time', 'open', 'high', 'low', 'close', 'cum_vol', 'cum_dollar',
'cum_ticks']
bars_df = pd.DataFrame(finalBars, columns=cols)
print('Returning bars \n')
return bars_df
```

```
def get_dollar_bars(file_path, threshold=70000000, batch_size=20000000):
    """
```

Creates the dollar bars: date_time, open, high, low, close, cum_vol, cum_dollar, and cum_ticks.

Following the paper "The Volume Clock: Insights into the high frequency paradigm" by Lopez de Prado, et al, it is suggested that using 1/50 of the average daily dollar value, would result in more desirable statistical properties.

```
:param file_path: File path pointing to csv data.
:param threshold: A cumulative value above this threshold triggers a sample to be
taken.
:param batch_size: The number of rows per batch. Less RAM = smaller batch size.
:return: Dataframe of dollar bars
"""
return _batch_run(file_path=file_path, metric='cum_dollar_value',
threshold=threshold, batch_size=batch_size)
```

```
def get_volume_bars(file_path, threshold=28224, batch_size=20000000):
    """
```

Creates the volume bars: date_time, open, high, low, close, cum_vol, cum_dollar, and cum_ticks.

Following the paper "The Volume Clock: Insights into the high frequency paradigm" by

Lopez de Prado, et al,

it is suggested that using 1/50 of the average daily volume, would result in more desirable statistical properties.

```
:param file_path: File path pointing to csv data.
:param threshold: A cumulative value above this threshold triggers a sample to be
taken.
:param batch_size: The number of rows per batch. Less RAM = smaller batch size.
:return: Dataframe of volume bars
"""
return _batch_run(file_path=file_path, metric='cum_volume', threshold=threshold,
batch_size=batch_size)
```

```
def get_tick_bars(file_path, threshold=2800, batch_size=20000000):
```

```
"""
Creates the tick bars: date_time, open, high, low, close, cum_vol, cum_dollar, and
cum_ticks.
```

```
:param file_path: File path pointing to csv data.
:param threshold: A cumulative value above this threshold triggers a sample to be
taken.
:param batch_size: The number of rows per batch. Less RAM = smaller batch size.
:return: Dataframe of tick bars
"""
return _batch_run(file_path=file_path, metric='cum_ticks', threshold=threshold,
batch_size=batch_size)
```