

Explore cryptocurrency trading strategies : From Factor Models and XGBoost to Generative AI

Team Members

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10 Cryptocurrency Classification Framework

Market Share

Representing 75% -85% of the market share

Filtering logic

Liquidity and reliability

Mitigate manipulation risks

Non-Turing
complete architecture



Store of Value
BTC, LTC

Turing-complete
crypto commodities



Smart Contracts
ETH, SOL, TRX

Pegged to off-chain
assets (USD)



Fiat Stablecoins
USDT, USDC



Settlement
XRP



Exchange
BNB



Meme
DOGE

Alliance chain
institutional B2B focus

Hybrid asset
(CeFi + DeFi)

Emotional drive
meme premium

Multi-Dimensional Factor System

Price



- **Closing Price (PRC):**
Intraday info clearing equilibrium.
- **Maximum daily price (MAXDPRC):** Impacts expectations & liquidity.

Size Trading Activity



- **Market Cap (MCAP):**
Linked to size premium.
- **Price Volume (PRCVOL):**
Reflects market depth.
- **Standard Deviation of Price Volume (STDPRCVOL):**
Liquidity uncertainty.

Momentum



Short-frequency
momentum over 1, 5, 10, 20-day windows to capture trend persistence in high-volatility crypto.

Sentiment



Crypto Fear&Greed Index:
A behavioral indicator quantifying irrational fluctuations driven by noise trading.

Data Sources & Benchmark Index

Primary Data Source

Provider: CoinMarketCap

- **Rationale:** The most widely recognized and authoritative platform globally for tracking dynamic cryptocurrency market information.
- **Scope:** Includes comprehensive data on historical pricing, market capitalization, and granular trading volumes.

Accessed at:

<https://coinmarketcap.com>



Benchmark Selection

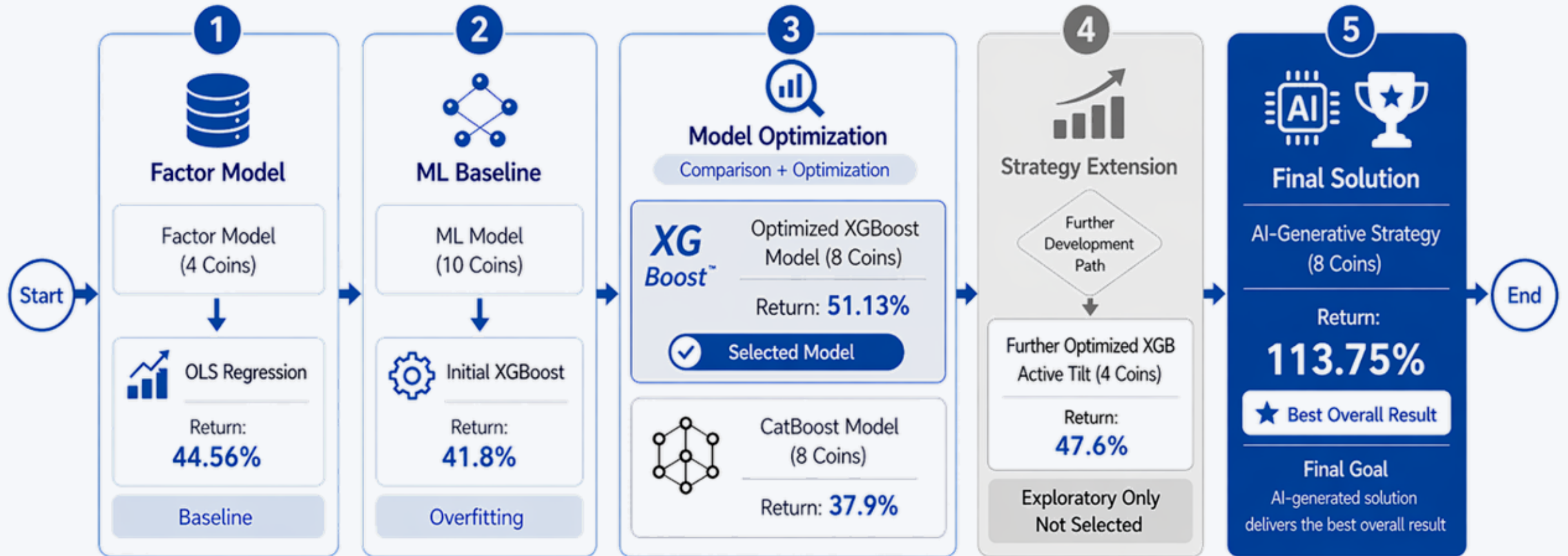
S&P Cryptocurrency Top 30 Equal Weight Index

- **Advantage:** Effectively reduces the severe market capitalization concentration typically dominated by BTC and ETH.
- **Outcome:** Allows for a scientifically balanced and accurate measurement of active excess returns generated by the strategies.

Accessed at:

<https://www.spglobal.com/spdji/en/indices/digital-assets/sp-cryptocurrency-top-30-equal-weight-index/#overview>

Research Framework & Technical Roadmap



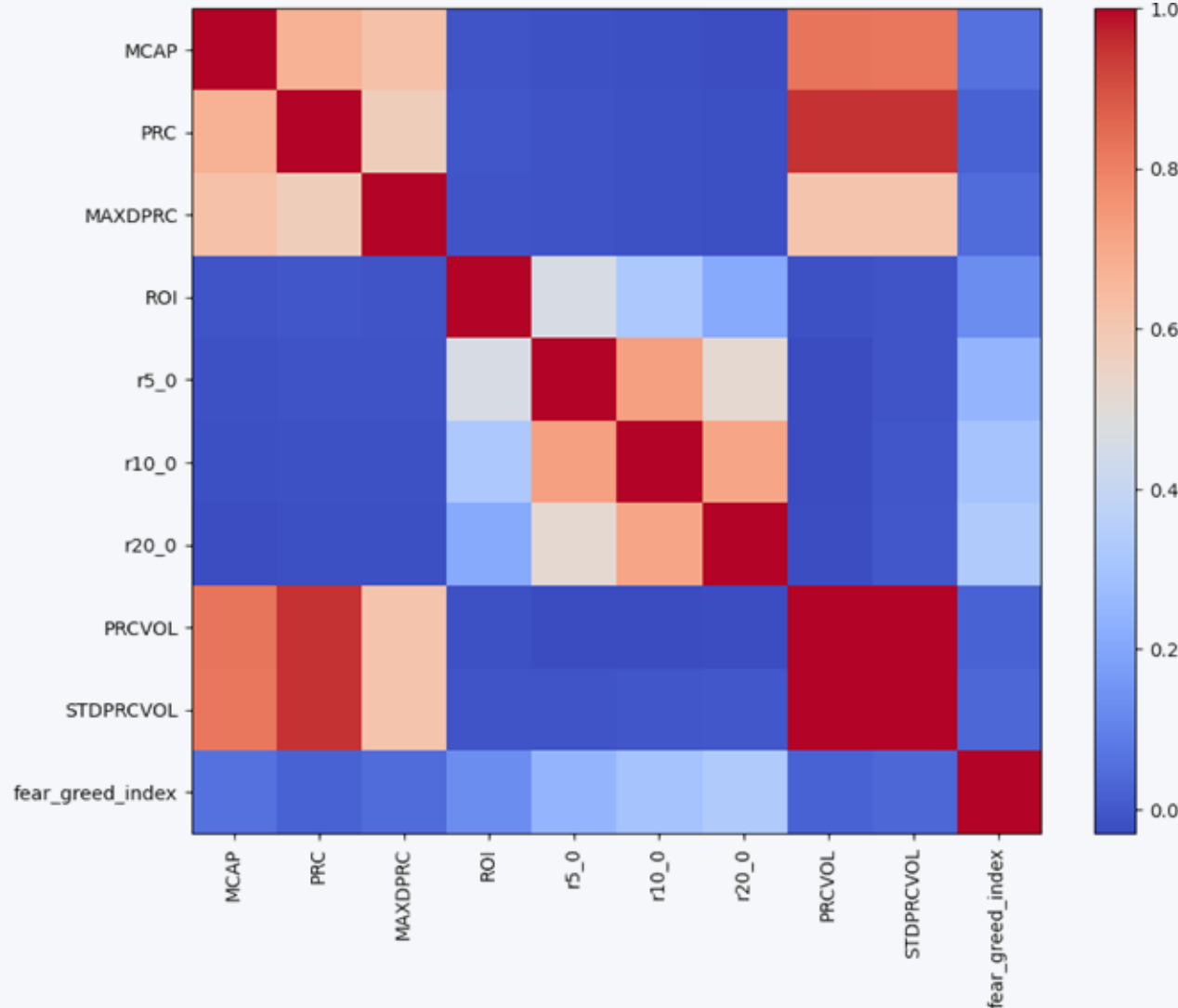
Note: Return refers to cumulative out-of-sample backtest return.



Model Design

- 1 From basic factor regression to machine learning model (XGBoost)
- 2 Continuous comparison and iterative optimization
- 3 Ultimately achieving the highest return (**113.75%**)

Exploratory Data Characteristics & Analysis



High Collinearity Cluster

- Size & Trading activity : 0.82
- Price & Trading activity: 0.95
- Momentum: **short-term trend persistence**

OLS coefficient estimates are unstable.

Independent Signal

- CFGI & Price: 0.02
- CFGI & Size: 0.06
- CFGI & Trading activity: 0.03
- CFGI & Momentum: 0.3

Sentiment provides unique predictive value.

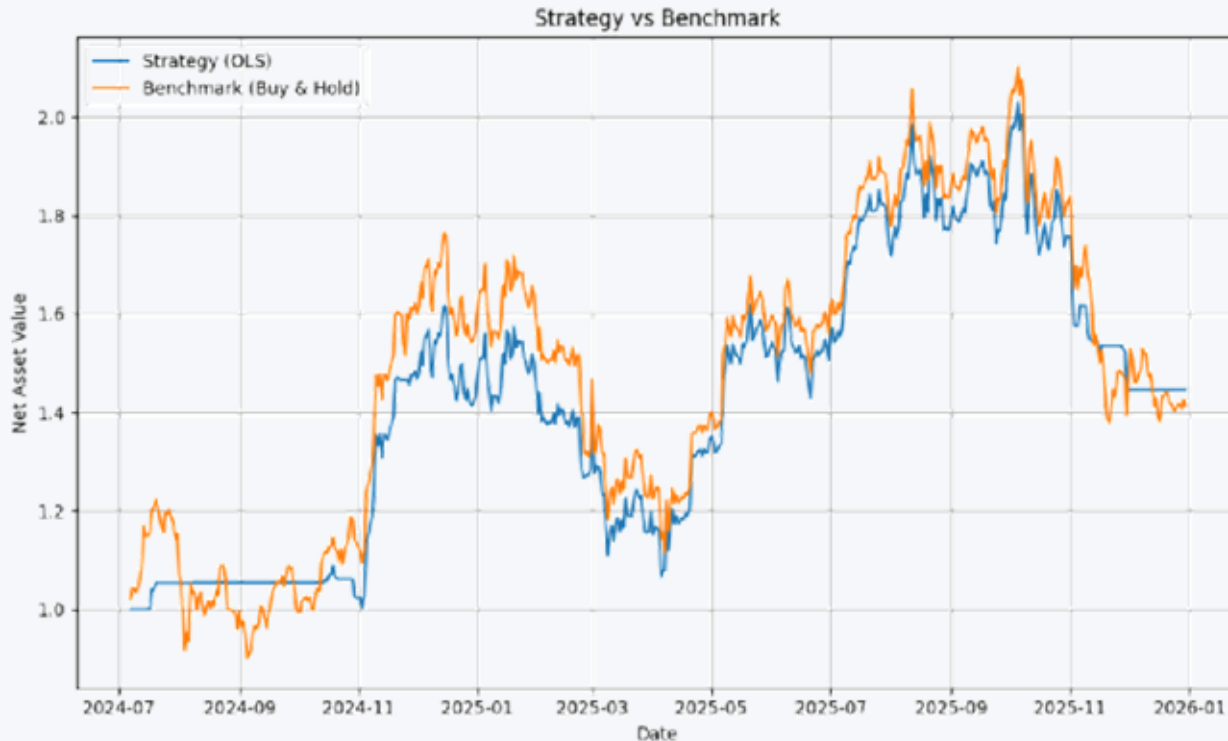
Non-Normal Returns

- Daily returns exhibit **leptokurtic** (Kurtosis 6.13) and **fat-tailed** distributions

Confirm the limitations of OLS

OLS Benchmark Model: Linear Relationship Capture

Performance of strategy back testing based on OLS



0.020

R^2 (Variation Explained)

2.256 (0.004)

F (Prob F)



Core factor I: MCAP Factor

coef=-0.1911 (P=0.007): Strong "small-cap effect" identified: Lower market cap assets outperform.



Core factor II: Fear & Greed

coef=0.0002 (P=0.018): Sentiment-driven pricing: Periods of high greed correlate with higher returns.

+3.18% / 0.81

Excess Return/Sharpe Ratio

vs. 0.72 (Benchmark)

53.42%

forecast accuracy

vs. 50% (Random)

core findings

The OLS linear model is difficult to fit the highly nonlinear and dynamically changing return characteristics of the cryptocurrency market, thus having limited model explanatory power and low prediction accuracy.

XGBoost Baseline: The Overfitting Lesson

Confusion Matrix (Test Set)

True Positive

1238

False Positive

1224

Accuracy

50.32%

False Negative

1440

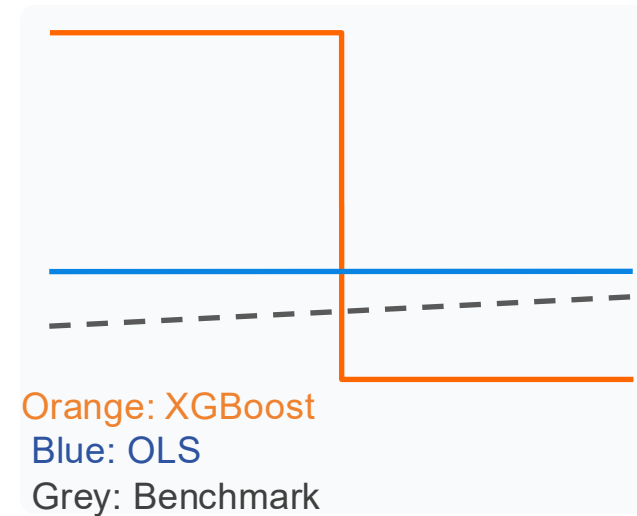
True Negative

1436

ROC AUC

0.5001

Strategy Returns Comparison



Total Return:

XGBoost 41.82%

OLS 44.56%

Max Drawdown:

XGBoost -46.52%

OLS -34.04%

Root Cause Analysis



Overly Complex Model

$n_{\text{estimators}} = 5000$ (excessive depth)



Noise Over Signal

Model memorized high-frequency market noise



Logical flaw in Asset Pool design

Including both USDT and USDC stablecoins



Covering up the truth

offer NO predictable excess returns but instead interferes with signal learning.

XGBoost Optimization: Systematic Reconstruction

⚙️ Four-Dimension Optimization

- 1 **Asset Purification**
Remove USDT/USDC low-volatility assets
- 2 **Time-Series Validation**
60/10/30 split, validation prevents leakage
- 3 **Dynamic Thresholding**
Optimize accuracy, F1, recall, precision
- 4 **Benchmark Restructuring**
S&P Crypto Top 30 as external benchmark

✔️ Key Parameters

max_depth
3

n_estimators
300

learning_rate
0.03

colsample_bytree
0.8

📈 Optimized Performance

Benchmark Comparison:

Metric	Optimized XGBoost	Benchmark S&P
Annualized Volatility	0.6090	0.7168
Sharpe Ratio	0.5468	-0.2333
Max Drawdown	-0.4652	-0.6652

Total Return
53.13%

Annualized Return
33.31%

Sharpe Ratio
0.55

Win Rate
51.94%

XGBoost vs CatBoost: Model Validation

XGBoost Model vs Factor Model vs Benchmark



CatBoost Model vs Factor Model vs Benchmark



Model Comparison

- **CatBoost model underperforms during high-volatility market periods.**
- **XGBoost sustains a steady upward trajectory throughout market fluctuations.**
- **XGBoost proves more robust for dynamic crypto market conditions, both in practice and academic consensus.**

Further Optimized XGBoost: 4 Coins Active-Tilt

👤 Strategy Design

Four-coin active tilt on **BTC, ETH, BNB, SOL** with market-cap base + XGBoost signals.

Position Sizing

Top-K=2 selection, market-cap weighting

Rebalancing

Periodic rebalancing, individual weight caps

Theoretical Basis

Active Portfolio Management (Grinold & Kahn, 2000)

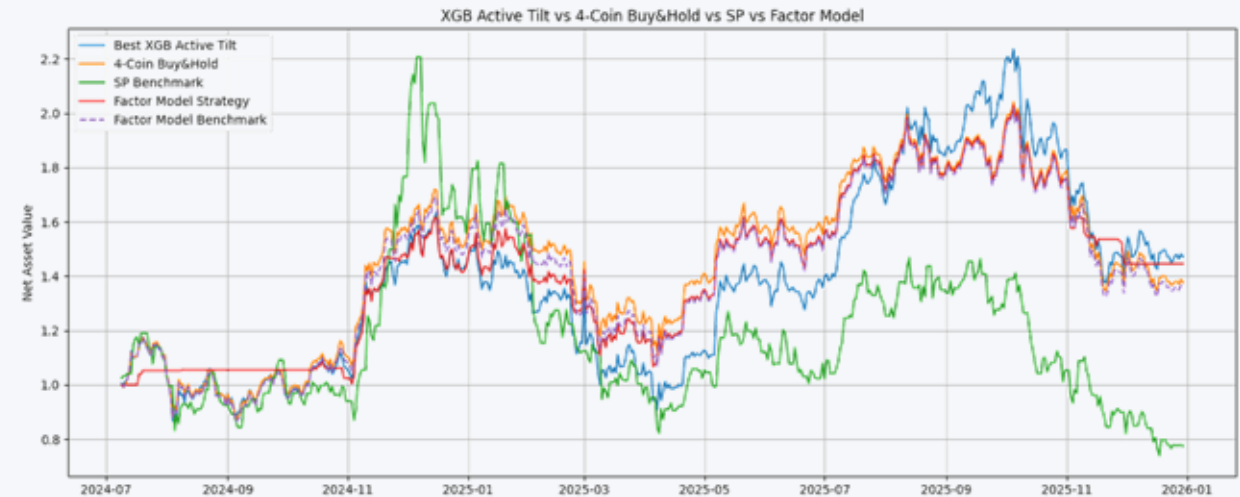
💡 Attribution Analysis

⊗ Limitation 1

Restricted asset pool limits cross-sectional differentiation

⊗ Limitation 2

Complex rules weaken signal transmission efficiency



⚠️ Performance Results

Total Return

47.21%

vs. Factor Model 44.56%

Annualized Return

29.93%

Higher absolute return

Sharpe Ratio

0.53

vs. Factor Model 0.69

Max Drawdown

-44.45%

Worse than benchmark

Critical Finding

Higher absolute returns but lower risk-adjusted returns — complexity harmed efficiency

AI-Generated Solution: The Power of Minimalist Execution

🔑 Core Philosophy

Strip redundant constraints, adopt **intuitive equal-weight long-only rule**.

Execution Logic

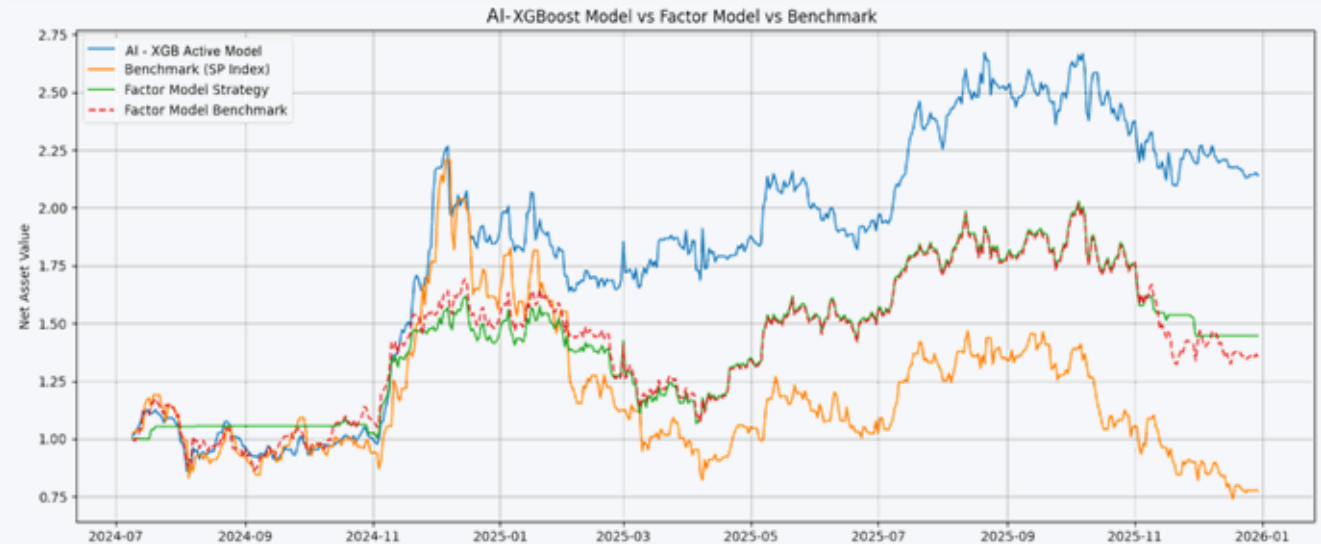
Equal-weight longs in predicted appreciating coins, no position if no signal.

AI Integration

Auto-identifies and standardizes prediction dataframes.

🔑 Why It Works

- ✓ **Signal purity:**
Direct mapping from predictions to positions
- ✓ **No dilution:**
Complex rules removed
- ✓ **Efficiency focus:**
Better transmission, not more complexity



🏆 Breakthrough Performance

Total Return
1.1375

Annualized Return
66.95%

Max Drawdown
- 27.74%

Sharpe Ratio
1.3774
Highest in study

↑ Risk-Adjusted Excellence

Improvement from enhanced risk-adjusted performance , not higher risk.

Core Findings & Full Model Comparison

🔑 Three Core Findings

1 Signal Transmission Efficiency

Efficient signal-to-position mapping matters more than prediction accuracy alone.

2 Anti-Overfitting Defense

In high-noise markets, shallow tree ensembles with regularization provide stronger generalization.

3 Minimalist Execution

Removing redundant constraints allows model signals to be translated into positions more directly.

No	Metric	Factor Model	XGBoost	Optimized XGBoost	XGB Active Tilt	AI-Generative XGBoost	SP Benchmark
1	Total Return	0.445623	0.41818	0.531282	0.472085	1.137529	-0.237577
2	Annualized Return	0.283471	0.26692	0.333068	0.299334	0.66949	-0.167239
3	Annualized Volatility	0.410473	0.606644	0.609071	0.563691	0.48607	0.716828
4	Sharpe Ratio	0.690596	0.439995	0.546846	0.531025	1.377352	-0.233304
5	Max Drawdown	-0.340351	-0.46517	-0.46517	-0.444493	-0.277372	-0.665195
6	Win Rate	0.374768	0.517625	0.519409	0.54731	0.486137	0.349353

★ Overarching Conclusion:

In machine-learning-driven quantitative trading, greater complexity does not guarantee superiority.

Sustainable outperformance comes **from removing redundant constraints** and **adopting a minimalist execution framework**.

Investment Proposal: \$1M Allocation Strategy



Conservative Investor ("Barbell" Approach)

Daily Allocation:

- Hold 50% of the \$1 million in USDC/USDT (stablecoin reserve).
- Invest the remaining 50% equally among core coins predicted to rise by the Generative AI.

Key Strategy Benefit:

Uses the stablecoin reserve to effectively dilute overall drawdown risk.



Aggressive Investor (Generative-AI XGBoost Strategy)

Daily Allocation:

- Invest 100% of funds equally among core coins predicted to rise by the Generative-AI Strategy.
- Hold the entire \$1 million in cash if there are no positive signals.

Key Strategy Benefit:

Maximizes gains by executing pure predictive signals protecting capital during market downturns.

Thank you for listening !

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