Trading Programs

How the Finance industry has become so complex that today’s products are similar to programs

The University of Texas at Austin
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TechAtBloomberg.com
Overview

- Data Volume / Throughput
- Data Representation
- Computation
Bloomberg – What is it?

- Founded in 1981
- 325,000+ subscribers
- Customers in 170 countries
- Over 19,000 employees in 192 locations
Bloomberg Tech - By the Numbers

• More than 5,000 software engineers (and growing)

• 100+ engineers and data scientists devoted to machine learning

• One of the largest private networks in the world

• 100B+ tick messages per day, with a peak of more than 10 million messages/second

• 2M news stories ingested / published each day from 125K+ sources (that's >500 news stories ingested/second)

• More than a billion messages (emails and IB chats) processed each day
Data Volume / Throughput

- Real-time Volume
- Storage
- Live Analytics
Data Volume / Throughput

A tick is a message that describes a market data event

Examples:

[TRADE] 57 IBM Stocks just traded for $155.2 each

[BID] Buying 32 Apple Stocks at $111.9 each

[ASK] Selling 7 Google 06/2015 $535.00 Call options at $28.8
Data Representation

- Modeling exotic derivatives and smart contracts
- Allowing clients to ‘script’ financial instruments
- Automatically generating UI
What Is An Exotic Derivative?

HK& Auto-Callable Snowball Notes
Linked to a Basket of Hong Kong Stocks due 2009

Issued by Allegro Investment Corporation S.A.
Pursuant to its €10,000,000,000 Retail Secured Note Programme

Offer Period: From 9:00 a.m. on 26 July 2004 to 5:00 p.m. on 13 August 2004.
Issue Price: 100 per cent. of the principal amount
Fixing Date: Expected to be 16 August 2004, on which date the issue size of the Notes and the Barrier Level in respect of each Share will be determined.
Issue Date: Expected to be 20 August 2004 (which is four Business Days following the Fixing Date), and will not be later than 13 September 2004.
Maturity Date: Expected to be 20 August 2009 (which is five years following the Issue Date)

The Notes will be issued by the Issuer and all payments to be made by the Issuer under the Notes will only be made from the proceeds of a swap agreement (the “Swap Agreement”) with Citigroup Global Markets Limited (the “Swap Counterparty”).

Prospective purchasers of the Notes should ensure that they understand the nature of the Notes and should carefully study the matters set out in the sections headed “Risk Factors” in this Issue Prospectus and in the Programme Prospectus before they invest in the Notes.

You should contact one of the Distributors listed below during the Offer Period to invest in the Notes. Investments in the Notes may only be made through the Distributors, whose contact telephone numbers are listed on the following page. In order to invest in Notes through a Distributor you must already have, or you must open, a bank account and an investment account with that Distributor in the same currency as your Notes. No application form is being issued for the Notes. No Notes are available from the Issuer or the Arranger directly.

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Arranger
CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS LIMITED

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Portuguese Train Company Was Run Over by a Snowball

May 2, 2014 by Matt Levine on Bloomberg View

https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2014-05-02/portuguese-train-company-was-run-over-by-a-snowball

Train, snow, but not Portugal.
Portuguese Train Company Was Run Over by a Snowball

There is no giant Snowball in Portugal

... however ...

It's a complex derivative bond:

BANK → Give Fixed Rate → You

BANK ← Give Rate(x,y,z) ← You
Portuguese Train Company Was Run Over by a Snowball

- *Metro do Porto*: state-backed rail operator
- State company has a massive impact on the country’s economy
- This is real life. It affects people.
Portuguese Train Company *Was Run Over* by a Snowball

- Bad outcomes **DO** happen
- How could we prevent that?
What is a Snowball?

• Or more precisely: \textit{Give Rate} \((x,y,z)\)

• Let's look at the variables:
  
  • \textbf{EURIBOR 6 month:} The rate at which banks lend themselves EUR for 6 month periods. This can be used to represent interest rate and the value is updated daily.
  
  • \textbf{Previous Rate:} The rate at date \(t\) depends on rate at \(t-1\)

![Diagram showing the process of giving fixed rates](image)
What is a Snowball?

\[
\text{let } \text{coupon_rate}(t) = \max(0, \text{coupon_rate}(t-1) + \text{spread}(t))
\]

\[
\text{let } \text{spread}(t) =
\begin{align*}
&\text{if } \text{EURIBOR} > 6\% \text{ then } 2 \times (\text{EURIBOR} - 6\%) \\
&\text{else if } \text{EURIBOR} < 2\% \text{ then } 2 \times (2\% - \text{EURIBOR}) \\
&\text{else } -0.5\%
\end{align*}
\]
What is a Snowball?

let coupon_rate(t) = max(0, coupon_rate(t-1) + spread(t))

let spread(t) =
    if EURIBOR > 6% then 2 * (EURIBOR - 6%)
    else if EURIBOR < 2% then 2 * (2% - EURIBOR)
    else -0.5%
What is a Snowball?

let coupon_rate(t) = max(0, coupon_rate(t-1) + spread(t))

let spread(t) =
  if EURIBOR > 6% then 2 * (EURIBOR - 6%)
  else if EURIBOR < 2% then 2 * (2% - EURIBOR)
  else -0.5%
Why did they buy it?

This is the history of EURIBOR before they bought the contract.

This is what happened to EURIBOR after they bought the contract.
Where are they now?

**Coupon Rate: 40.6% !!!!**

- They actually stopped paying... there is a lawsuit

- What they lacked was the right tools to fully understand the impact of the trade
Preemptive Payoff Analysis
Contract Representation

- **Object Oriented/Imperative Approach**
  - 1 class for business representation
  - 1 class for UI
  - 1 class for Pricing (QFD)
  - 1 class for database layer
  - Lifecycle, model integration … needs to be implemented every time
Contract Representation

• **Functional Approach**
  - Algebraic representation of contract
    - 30 combinators are enough to build any financial contracts
  - Business representation + Pricing representation
  - Single OCaml type to define contract inputs
  - UI representation + Database layer
What is OCaml?

Functional language: functions are values

(* Name functions *)
let my_fun_function = fun x -> x + 1

(* Use functions as arguments *)
let my_funnier_function f x =
  let y = x * 2 in
  f y

(* Return functions as values *)
let the_funiest_function f =
  fun x -> my_funnier_function f x
OCaml Type System: Tuples

(* Product type (i.e. Tuples) *)

type t = float * string

let a = (3.14, "thon")

(* Tuples of Tuples *)

type t = float * (string * int)

let a = (1., ("for all, all for", 1))
OCaml Type System: Records

(* Records: Named tuples or structures *)

```ocaml
type a_thing = {
  quantity : float ;
  of_what : string ;
}

let a = {
  quantity = 3.14;
  of_what = "thon"
}
```
OCaml Type System: Unions

(* Unions without parameters *)

```ocaml
type t =
  | Nothing
  | Something
```

(* With parameters *)

```ocaml
type t =
  | Nothing
  | Something of a_thing
```

```ocaml
type t =
  | Nothing
  | Something of a_thing * string
```
Floating Point Algebra (definition)

- OCaml is very well suited to represent and manipulate algebras
- Here is the representation of floating point algebra

```ocaml
type exp =
|  Constant of float
|  Plus of exp * exp
|  Minus of exp * exp
|  Multiply of exp * exp
|  Divide of exp * exp
|  Var of string

(* Expression for: (Y + 1) * 3 *)
let _ = Multiply (Plus (Var "Y", Constant 1.), Constant 3.) in
```

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Floating Point Algebra: Simplifying Expressions

```ocaml
let rec simplify env a =
  match a with
  | Plus (l, r) ->
    (match (simplify env l), (simplify env r) with
      | Float 0., r, -> r
      | l, Float 0. -> l
      | Float l, Float r -> Float (l +. r)
      | l, r, -> Plus (l, r))
  | Minus (l, r) ->
    ...
```
Floating Point Algebra: Simplifying Expressions

(* Summing any expression with 0 is equal to the expression *)
| Float 0., r   -> r
| l , Float 0.  -> l

(* Summing 2 constant expression equals a constant expression whose value is sum of the 2 constants *)
| Float l , Float r -> Float (l +. r)
type cash = {
    payment_date : date;
    amount : float;
    currency : string;
}

(* Cashflow of $100 on 2020-01-01 *)
let _ = cash 2020-01-01 100. USD
Algebra for contract: Combining

define contract as
  | Cash of cash
  | Give of contract
  | And of contract * contract
  | Or of contract * contract

(* Creating a snowball! *)
define snowball as
  And (
    (Cash ...),
    (Give (Cash ...))
  )
Applications

Traverse the symbolic expression to derive other representations

max

(-)

IBM

150.

0.0
Applications (1)

- Lifecycle Handling
  - **Cashflow Reporting:** For back-office purposes, one must be able to report all the cashflows defined by a financial contract

```
Receive:
100 \times \max(0, \min(1, \text{IBM US Equity}(2014-07-02) / 156.23 - 1))
```

Applications (2)

- Pricing
  - Using the Monte Carlo technique, the contract can be priced. The algebra structure is used to generate C code.

```c
for i in [1..20000]
    random_i = Random_Number_X::generate
    path_i = Model_Y::generatePath (random_i)
    cashflow_i = Contract_Y::calculateCashflow (path_i)
end

price = average (present_value (cashflow_i))
```
Applications (2)

- Pricing
  - Using the Monte Carlo technique, the contract can be priced. The algebra structure is used to generate C code.
  - Example of `Contract_Y::calculateCashflow`

```c
static void calculate_cashflows(matrix path) {
    cash_flow(100., 0);
    cash_flow((100. * fmax(0., ((path[0][0] / 180) - 1.))), 1);
    return;
}
```
UI Representation of Contract

Problem: 100s of Template/Entry screens
Every week we have business requests
UI Representation of Contract

UI generation using type reflection

- Leveraging both the OCaml expressive type system and type reflection
- The UI is automatically generated
UI Representation of Contract

From OCaml to Type to the Terminal

```
16 type parameters = {
17        notional : float ;
18        ticker   : string +  [autocomplete="Equity^1788633"];} ;
19 }
```
UI Representation of Contract

```python
15 type direction = | Buy | Sell
16
17 type parameters = {
18   notional : float ;
19   ticker : string + [autocomplete="Equity^1788633"];]
20   direction : direction ;
21   use_intra_day: bool ;
22 }
```

Notional
Ticker
Direction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>100.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBM US Equity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use intra day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
type equity_input = {
  ticker : string + [autocomplete="Equity^1788633"];
}

type unit_t = | Month | Year

type ir_input = {
  length : int + [init = "3" ];
  tenor : unit_t + [init = "Month" ];
  currency : currency;
}

type asset = | Equity of equity_input | Interest_Rate of ir_input

type direction = | Buy | Sell

type parameters = {
  notional : float ;
  asset : asset ;
  direction : direction ;
  use_intra_day: bool ;
}
Impact of OCaml in the tech stack

Instrument 1

Instrument 2

Instrument N

UI

PRICING
Impact of OCaml in the tech stack

- Instrument 1
- Instrument 2
- Instrument N

UI

PRICING

Preemptive Analysis
Lifecycle Information
More on Functional Programming (OCaml)

- **Strong typing**
  - It really does help development

- **More rigorous type system**
  - So many errors and bugs are due to the inability of a type system to accurately represent data
  - Only the minimum amount of invariant-checking code should be needed

- **Type inference**
  - Concise syntax
More on Functional Programming (OCaml)

• Large toolset to create domain specific languages easily
  o BLAN is an example

(* * * Example Simple Vanilla Option * * *)

```ocaml
let underlying = market("IBM US Equity") in
let strike_value = 1.1 in
let pay_currency = "USD" in
let notional = 100. in

let strike_date = 2018-08-27 in
let maturity_date = 2019-08-27 in
let payment_date = 2019-08-30 in

let initial_spot = fix(strike_date, underlying) in
let final_spot = fix(maturity_date, underlying) in

flow(payment_date, pay_currency,
     max (notional * ((final_spot/initial_spot) - strike_value), 0.0))
```
More on Functional Programming (OCaml)

- Can be used to transpile
  - BuckleScript: OCaml -> JS compiler
    (https://github.com/BuckleScript/bucklescript)
**Computation**

- Advanced quant models
- Computationally intensive calculations
- Memory footprint
Derivatives / Finance Challenges

• Derivative trade is an "Over The Counter" trade
  o No price available on exchange for that specific trade
  o However some 'similar' contracts are being priced on exchanges

• Market Value?
  o Finance Industry relies on mathematics to compute the market value
  o The underlying dynamic is modeled with Stochastic Differential Equation
  o Most famous: Black Scholes
Derivatives / Finance Challenges

- Computations
  - [1973] Black Scholes
  - [1997] Libor Market Models

\[
\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - rV = 0
\]
Derivatives / Finance Challenges

- Computations
  - [1973] Black Scholes
  - [1997] Libor Market Models

\[
\frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - rV = 0
\]

\[
dL_j(t) = \sigma_j(t) L_j(t) dW^{Q_{T_{j+1}}}(t).
\]

\[
dL_j(t) = \begin{cases} 
L_j(t)\sigma_j(t)dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) - L_j(t) \sum_{k=j}^{p-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_j(t)\sigma_k(t)\rho_{jk} dt & j < p \\
L_j(t)\sigma_j(t)dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) & j = p \\
L_j(t)\sigma_j(t)dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) + L_j(t) \sum_{k=p}^{j-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_j(t)\sigma_k(t)\rho_{jk} dt & j > p 
\end{cases}
\]

\[
dW^{Q_{T_j}}(t) = \begin{cases} 
dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) - \sum_{k=j}^{p-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_k(t) dt & j < p \\
dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) & j = p \\
dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) + \sum_{k=p}^{j-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_k(t) dt & j > p 
\end{cases}
\]
Derivatives / Finance Challenges

- Computations
  - [1973] Black Scholes
  - [1997] Libor Market Models

\[ \frac{\partial V}{\partial t} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 S^2 \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial S^2} + rS \frac{\partial V}{\partial S} - rV = 0 \]

\[ dL_j(t) = \sigma_j(t)L_j(t)dW^{Q_{T_j+1}}(t). \]

\[ dL_j(t) = \begin{cases} 
L_j(t)\sigma_j(t)dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) - L_j(t) \sum_{k=j}^{p-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_j(t)\sigma_k(t)\rho_{jk}dt & j < p \\
L_j(t)\sigma_j(t)dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) & j = p \\
L_j(t)\sigma_j(t)dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) + L_j(t) \sum_{k=p}^{j-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_j(t)\sigma_k(t)\rho_{jk}dt & j > p 
\end{cases} \]

\[ dW^{Q_{T_j}}(t) = \begin{cases} 
dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) - \sum_{k=j}^{p-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_k(t)dt & j < p \\
dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) & j = p \\
dW^{Q_{T_p}}(t) + \sum_{k=p}^{j-1} \frac{\delta L_k(t)}{1+\delta L_k(t)} \sigma_k(t)dt & j > p 
\end{cases} \]
Derivatives / Finance Challenges

- Computations
  - [1973] Black Scholes
  - [1997] Libor Market Models
Derivatives / Finance Challenges

- Data Volume / Throughput
- Data Representation
- Computation
We are hiring!

https://www.bloomberg.com/careers

Questions?

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