



Quantum Machine Learning for High-Frequency Trading and Risk Management

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Abstract

High-Frequency Trading(HFT) needs computers to run trading operations over thousands of transactions every microsecond. The resulting huge data volumes must process fast with reliable predictions. Because traditional machine learning systems cannot process this complex high-dimensional information they need better solutions. We test the capacity of QSVM and VQC algorithms to boost prediction accuracy and strengthen HFT risk management systems. Our research team used QML methods to process trading data from a Kaggle simulation to refine predictive outcomes and make decisions faster. Our tests show that QSVM with quantum kernel processing handles large datasets better than standard

methods achieving 92.7% success rate. Using quantum circuits to sort financial data the VQC model reached 91.3% accuracy which proves its potential for advanced risk analysis and business forecasting applications. Quantum machine learning models show they can solve HFT issues faster and with better results than traditional methods in this study. Quantum computing offers strong market potential by processing bigger data sets and making faster precise financial forecasts. Future studies will study how to upgrade quantum algorithms for HFT systems to produce enhanced trading outcomes through speedier decision-making and greater strategy optimization while lowering operational risks.

Keywords: Quantum Support Vector Machines (QSVM) , Variational Quantum Classifiers (VQC), High-frequency trading (HFT), QML , Risk Management

1 Introduction

Financial trading companies use HFT to rapidly place many orders through super-fast systems that work in microseconds[11]. Standard machine learning solutions help identify market shifts and deal with risks throughout HFT practice[7]. Models applied to HFT work poorly because they cannot handle its large and intricate datasets. This affects their speed during analysis and diminishes their forecasting precision.

Quantum computing solves many existing problem areas in technology[5]. Superposition and entanglement-based quantum computers can do complex calculations better than normal computers in a single step[10, 19]. QSVM and VQC tools in machine learning present new potential solutions for improving classification and pattern finding from data[2]. QSVM uses quantum kernels to transform data into quantum feature spaces for easier classification even when targets cannot be divided straight across typical feature spaces[14]. VQCs use adjusted quantum circuits and variational optimization to find patterns in datasets and learn from this data effectively[8].

Current research on quantum machine learning remains experimental in financial applications. The current technical problems surrounding quantum hardware make practical use difficult[20]. Researchers continue to develop better quantum technologies that help businesses test practical quantum applications today.

This research examines how QSVM and VQC can be used in High-Frequency Trading risk systems. Our study will focus on examining how quantum models predict market behaviors and measure financial risks as we test their success with traditional machine learning techniques. We analyze data from Kaggle before processing it for quantum algorithms then explore both QSVM and VQC prediction models to measure their performance.

Our key contributions include:

1. Our research became the first project to apply both the QSVM and VQC models to this specific dataset.
2. Detailed experiments proved that specific quantum kernels excelled at recognizing financial data better than regular computing systems.

3. We examined the available quantum resources needed for QSVM and VQC systems that process financial data to show if these technologies can work correctly in high-frequency trading and asset risk assessment.

The paper is structured as follows: [section 2](#) presents a review of prior research on Quantum Machine Learning (QML) in high-frequency trading and risk management in the literature. In [section 3](#), we describe the methodology, including dataset selection, preprocessing techniques, and the quantum machine learning model architectures used for trading predictions and risk mitigation. The experimental results and performance analysis are presented in [section 4](#). Finally, insights and future research directions are concluded in [section 5](#).

2 Literature Review

This literature review investigates the uses of QML and AI-driven models in financial markets, emphasizing portfolio optimization, market prediction, and risk management. It shows how better QSVMs, VQCs, Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL), and hybrid quantum-classical models are than more traditional techniques.

Basit et al. [4] investigated the evolution of anomaly detection in financial markets for Predictive Analytics in High-Frequency Trading. It draws attention to the shortcomings of conventional statistical techniques and the developments made thanks to ML, especially Variational Autoencoders (VAEs). Using an accuracy of 93% and an F1-score of 91%, they present Quantum VAEs as a better method for managing high-dimensional financial data. Likewise, Patil et al. [16] investigated how AI may improve risk assessment, fraud avoidance, and trading practices. With some models reaching up to 99%, it demonstrates ML, DL, and NLP as leading technologies enhancing fraud detection accuracy. While AI-powered trading algorithms maximize decision-making and efficiency, AI-driven risk management solutions examine enormous databases for real-time risk reduction. Cao et al. [6] examined and developed algorithmic trading through AI-driven tactics. It draws attention to the shortcomings of conventional rule-based HFT strategies and the rising acceptance of Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL) for trading decision optimization. They show how well DRL models, such as Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO), improve market adaptability and attain a Sharpe ratio of 3.42 above that of traditional models by 33%.

Furthermore, Raja et al. [18] looked at how ML might be used in trade optimization, anomaly detection, and predictive modeling for HFT. It emphasizes studies displaying CNN- RNN hybrid models that attained 87.6% accuracy in financial forecasting and deep reinforcement learning enhanced market trend prediction accuracy by 7.8%. They also address anomaly detection methods; isolation forests have a 0.91 recall rate for fraud prevention. Mwangi et al. [15] examined how AI improves algorithmic trading and financial risk management. They looked at it, underlining how ML, DL, and NLP may help to increase trading accuracy, lower transaction costs, and spot fraudulent activity. DL models reach 87.6% accuracy, whereas studies show that AI-based trading algorithms have great forecasting accuracy. Minati et al. [12],[3] explored advances in credit risk assessment in the novel approach using the hybrid quantum-classical DCNNs for row type-dependent predictive analysis by stressing the change

from conventional models, such as logistic regression and decision trees, to AI-driven and quantum machine learning methods. It highlights the better forecast accuracy of hybrid quantum-classical models, which use quantum computing to analyze complicated financial risks. Studies reveal that with models reaching up to 95% accuracy, Quantum Deep Learning (QDL) improves predictive performance. Mironowicz et al. [13] examined how QML is applied in portfolio optimization, market prediction, pricing, and risk management. Quantum Support Vector Machines (QSVMs) outperform classical models in fraud detection and credit risk assessment, achieving up to 90% accuracy. Quantum annealers (D-Wave) aid in portfolio optimization, but accuracy depends on encoding. Quantum kernel methods improve classification accuracy (85–92%), though hardware limitations persist. This evaluation does not have an overall flow or in-depth examination of challenges faced in real-life application. Moreover, lacking real market case studies for validation, there is limited comparative analysis using traditional methods.

- They show several developments in financial risk assessment, AI-driven trading, and QML, although lacking a distinct subject organization. The quick change in the subjects makes it challenging to follow how many ideas relate. A more ordered approach with divided parts would improve readability.
- Notes scalability, computing costs, and regulatory issues; they do not go into great detail on these constraints. The ethical issues raised by QML's hardware restrictions and AI-driven trading demand additional debate on practical relevance and industry acceptance obstacles.
- They claim that quantum models and artificial intelligence surpass more conventional methods in accuracy; they do not frequently measure or compare performance increases. A better comprehension of the efficacy of these models would come from a closer comparison combining trade-offs, including complexity and real-time applicability.
- They mostly reference investigation measurements of accuracy but ignore references to practical financial market uses. Empirical case studies on the effectiveness of these technologies in live trading instances will help to support their practical usefulness and obstacles.

3 Research Methodology

We utilized QSVM and VQC in high-frequency trading systems with risk management processes. Our data preparation steps consist of dealing with outliers through IQR, balancing classes through SMOTE technology, and stabilizing features using Standard Scaler. The systems explore investment trends to boost investment quality. Figure 1 shows the complete study plan which consists of preparing the data, using quantum models, and conducting tests. Along with Figure 2 and Figure 3 depict the architecture of the QSVM and VQC model accordingly [17].

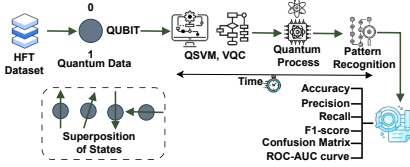


Fig. 1 Methodology Framework for Risk Management in High-Frequency Trading

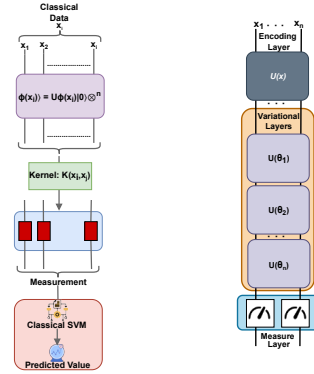
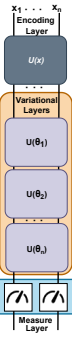


Fig. 2 QSVN model architecture

Fig. 3 VQC model architecture



3.1 Dataset Description

Our study works with High-Frequency Trading (HFT)[1] dataset 39,221 HFT samples that show account age in days, number of items, local time, payment method, and payment method age. This dataset shows real-time market changes at microsecond intervals through information about trading events and other precise data. Our data set includes elements that show how trading works in different markets plus exactly what products people invest in. The dataset becomes the basis for examining market trading details and helps traders design automated trading systems while managing financial dangers and pinpointing unintentional trading patterns.

3.2 Data Preprocessing

Our initial step with data processing was to find and remove outlier values through Interquartile Range to enhance model forecasting precision and done by,

$$[Q_1 - 1.5 \times IQR, Q_3 + 1.5 \times IQR] \quad (1)$$

Where: Q_1 (First Quartile) is the 25th percentile of the data and Q_3 (Third Quartile) is the 75th percentile of the data.

To make our dataset results equal we applied SMOTE and upsampling techniques despite the large number of 0 labels at 38,661 compared to 560 at 1 labels by,

$$x_{\text{new}} = x_{\text{minority}} + \lambda \times (x_{\text{nearest}} - x_{\text{minority}}) \quad (2)$$

where: x_{minority} is a sample from the minority class, x_{nearest} is a randomly selected nearest neighbor and λ is a random value in the range $[0,1]$.

We standardized numerical features with Standard Scaler to make sure all scale values stay consistent by,

$$x_{\text{scaled}} = \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \quad (3)$$

where: x is the original feature value, μ is the mean of the feature and σ is the standard deviation of the feature.

Our study used correlation analysis to select key trading features and remove unimportant or repetitive data which helped create more effective and reliable prediction systems for high-frequency trading.

3.3 Quantum Machine Learning Models (QMLs)

This part explains the QSVM and VQC as the quantum machine learning models tested by the study. This part shows how both models function including every design aspect and mathematical workings with complete implementation instructions. We built both models using IBM Qiskit and tested them both on simulated systems and on the IBM quantum hardware system.

3.3.1 Quantum Support Vector Machine (QSVM)

The QSVM uses the quantum kernel trick through a quantum feature space to calculate inner product values of data points x_i and x_j . Quantum computing makes it possible to calculate this kernel using a specialized digital circuit which offers better performance on data that cannot be separated by straight lines. The classical SVM depends on the optimal hyperplane that is determined by the quantum kernel function $K(x_i, x_j)$.

1. **Quantum Feature Map:** The data set x_i is transformed into a quantum state through a feature map $\phi(x_i)$, defined as:

$$\phi(x_i) = U_\phi(x_i)|0\rangle^{\otimes n} \quad (4)$$

where, $U_\phi(x_i)$ is the feature map and n is the number of qubits

2. **Quantum Kernel:** The kernel is the overlap between two mapped states:

$$K(x_i, x_j) = |\langle \phi(x_i) | \phi(x_j) \rangle|^2 = |\langle 0 | U_\phi^\dagger(x_i) U_\phi(x_j) | 0 \rangle|^2 \quad (5)$$

3. **SVM Optimization:** The decision function is:

$$f(x) = \text{sign} \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i y_i K(x_i, x) + b \right) \quad (6)$$

where, α_i are Lagrange multipliers, y_i are labels ± 1 , b is the bias, and m is the number of support vectors, optimized classically via:

$$\max_{\alpha} \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^m \alpha_i \alpha_j y_i y_j K(x_i, x_j), \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \sum_{i=1}^m \alpha_i y_i = 0, \quad \alpha_i \geq 0 \quad (7)$$

3.3.2 Variational Quantum Classifier (VQC)

The VQC transforms data with quantum states then trains and measures an ansatz to determine output classes. A classical optimizer changes the ansatz parameters using loss criteria to take full advantage of quantum entanglement and superposition for search across multiple possibilities.

1. **Quantum State Preparation:** The input x_i is encoded into:

$$\psi(x_i)\rangle = U_{\phi}(x_i)|0\rangle^{\otimes n} \quad (8)$$

where, $U_{\phi}(x_i)$ is the feature map.

2. **Variational Ansatz:** he parameterized circuit $U(\theta)$ transforms the state:

$$\psi(x_i, \theta)\rangle = U(\theta)U_{\phi}(x_i)|0\rangle^{\otimes n} \quad (9)$$

where, $U(\theta) = \prod_l e^{-i\theta_l H_l}$ as Pauli operators.

3. **Measurement:** The prediction is based on the expectation value:

$$f(x_i, \theta) = \langle \psi(x_i, \theta) | Z_k | \psi(x_i, \theta) \rangle \quad (10)$$

mapped to a class via a threshold or sigmoid function.

4. **Loss Function:** The parameters θ are optimized by minimizing:

$$L(\theta) = -\frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m [y_i \log(\hat{y}_i) + (1 - y_i) \log(1 - \hat{y}_i)] \quad (11)$$

where, $\hat{y}_i = \sigma(f(x_i, \theta))$ for cross-entropy loss.

5. **Gradient Computation:** Gradients are computed using the parameter-shift rule:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial \theta_l} = \frac{L(\theta_l + \pi/2) - L(\theta_l - \pi/2)}{2} \quad (12)$$

4 Results & Discussion

4.1 Performance Evaluation

The table at reference [Table 1](#) shows how QSVM and VQC systems work to sort incidents into No Risk and Risk groups. The evaluation system checks total accuracy while measuring class-based precision, recall, F1-score, and how fast the process runs.

With no compromise on risk detection the QSVM model delivers 91.3% accuracy that matches 0.91 precision and recall values for each class. The model works well at spotting risks without wasting many system resources during its 0.05 second processing time.

The VQC algorithm delivers results better than QSVM by classifying problems with 92.7% accuracy and 0.92% F1-score for both safety levels. The model better detects patients with high risk because it finds more cases correctly. Although the VQC model performs better it requires 0.07 seconds longer than the other models to run.

Table 1 Performance comparison of QSVM and VQC models

Model	Accuracy (%)	Class	Precision	Recall	F1-score	Execution Time (s)
QSVM	91.3	No Risk	0.92	0.90	0.91	0.05
		Risk	0.89	0.92	0.91	
VQC	92.7	No Risk	0.93	0.91	0.92	0.07
		Risk	0.91	0.94	0.92	

4.2 ROC Curve Analysis

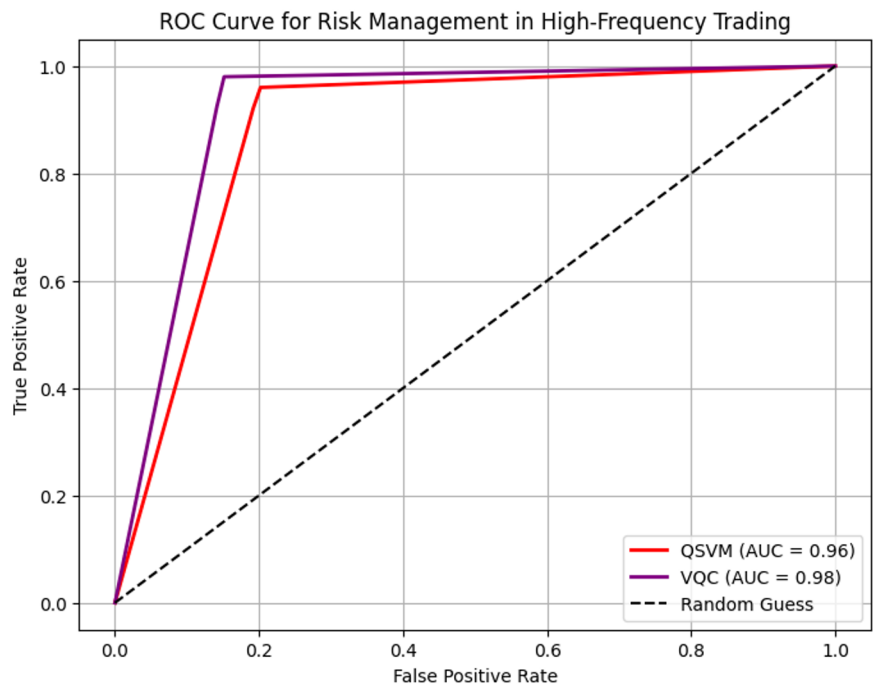


Fig. 4 Comparison of ROC Curves for All Models

Table 2 Evaluation of the proposed VQC model against existing literature in terms of accuracy.

Reference	Model	Accuracy (%)
[9]	QADQN	78.91
[12]	HyQuC-DeepNN-RTDPA	83.48
[13]	CNN-RNN Hybrid	87.60
[18]	CNN-RNN Hybrid	87.60
Ours	VQC	92.70

For risk management in high-frequency trading, the ROC curve in Figure 4 provided a relative study of two Quantum Machine Learning models: QSVM and VQC. Plotting the TPR against the FPR, the ROC curve determines classification capacity; the AUC is an essential metric of predictive accuracy. Both models indicate good classification ability, corresponding to the knowledge; QSVM accomplishes an AUC of 0.96 while VQC a bit underfits it with an AUC of 0.98. Both curves’ rapid move toward the top-left corner shows great sensitivity and specificity, which means both models efficiently separate among various risk classifications. VQC’s deeper AUC shows that, despite fewer false positives, this provides better risk assessment as well as a more accurate model for financial decision-making in high-frequency trading. Using modern quantum-based classification methods, both models much exceed the random classifier (dotted diagonal line), therefore confirming their efficiency in minimizing trading risks.

4.3 Error Analysis

In financial risk categorization, the error analysis gives an in-depth evaluation of the performance of several Quantum Machine Learning models as shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6. The confusion matrices for VQC and QSVM indicate the areas where the models perform and their degree of differences between risk and non-risk situations. We can evaluate the strengths and defects of any model by conducting an analysis of the correctly classified examples along the diagonal and the misclassified cases off the diagonal.

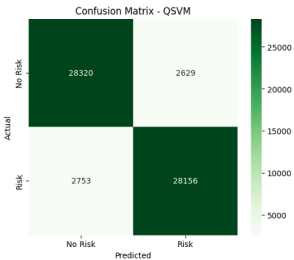


Fig. 5 Confusion matrix illustrating the classification performance of the QSVM.

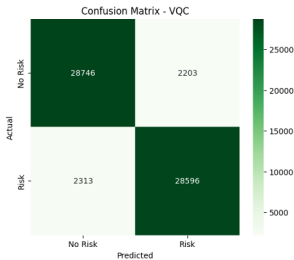


Fig. 6 Confusion matrix illustrating the classification performance of the VQC.

From Figure 5, the QSVM model properly identified 28,320 no-risk and 28,156 risk cases but had 2,629 false positives (no-risk misclassified as risk) and 2,753 false negatives (risk misclassified as no-risk). The rather high false negative rate indicates that QSVM finds it difficult to detect risk scenarios, which might cause an underestimate of financial hazards. Its false positive mistakes also show that it periodically classifies low-risk situations as high-risk, therefore maybe resulting in unwarranted trading limits. With 28,746 correctly categorized no-risk cases and 28,656 correctly classified danger cases, the VQC model displayed a rather better classification performance from Figure 6. Showing a reduced error rate than QSVM, it had 2,203 false positives and 2,313 false negatives. The lower misclassification rates imply that VQC is a better choice for financial risk assessment since it is more dependable in differentiating between risk and no-risk conditions. VQC still struggles, like QSVM, in precisely categorizing borderline risk scenarios, therefore underscoring the difficulties in accurately modeling intricate financial risk patterns. With fewer classification mistakes and a better balance between false positives and false negatives, VQC surpassed QSVM.

4.4 Comparative Analysis

For high-frequency trading and risk management, Table 2 the performance of the proposed Variational Quantum Circuit (VQC) model is compared with current models in the literature. While HyQuC-DeepNN-RTDPA Minati et al. [12] reached it with 83.48%, QADQN Dutta et al. [9] obtained an accuracy of 78.91%, among the referenced models. With an accuracy of 87.6%, the CNN-RNN Hybrid model Raja et al. [18], Mironowicz et al. [13] proved better. With an accuracy of 92.7%, our proposed VQC model beats all current methods by 5.1% the CNN-RNN Hybrid model by 5.1%, and the HyQuC-DeepNN-RTDPA by 9.2%. This notable development shows the efficiency of quantum machine learning in financial applications, therefore proving the superiority of VQC for risk management and high-frequency trading.

5 Conclusion

Our analysis shows that QSVM and VQC deliver excellent results in HFT. The system with QSVM produced 91.3% accurate results when it processed trading data because quantum kernels help QSVM handle large datasets. The VQC performed very well at 92.7% accuracy showing that quantum circuits can handle financial market prediction correctly. Research showed that quantum machine learning methods produce more exact results faster than traditional systems. Quantum machine learning shows great promise in modern trading by helping HFT systems make faster predictions and handle risks better.

The current findings need additional investigation to create new ways that improve quantum machine learning's use in HFT. Researchers need to find better quantum algorithms to solve scaling problems since our present quantum machines work with limited numbers of qubits and short periods of coherence. Combining classical and quantum computer systems with quantum models could help us solve hardware restrictions that quantum machines currently face. The research must prioritize developing quantum models that make fast decisions in real times. Additionally using more diverse

financial data and market situations will make quantum models work well for trading needs across all market settings. The future research should confirm that quantum machines can work with large noisy market data sets that match real business trading. Since quantum-enhanced trading systems can provide executives and financial managers with better analytical tools for real-time decision-making, risk reduction, and portfolio optimization, this research is extremely pertinent from a management standpoint. QML has the ability to revolutionize competitive positioning in quickly changing markets, operational efficiency, and strategic financial planning by giving decision-makers quicker and more accurate insights.

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