



Anyone Can Do Quant: Slickorps Ventures Examines the Disappearance of Trading Barriers



Slickorps Ventures highlights a deep change this week: the barriers to quantitative and AI trading are systematically falling. In the past, quant trading depended on access to data, computing power, trading interfaces, and complex research frameworks—these requirements naturally formed entry barriers. Today, zero-commission trading, fractional share trading, and publicly accessible AI trading frameworks are simultaneously lowering these thresholds. Research shows that fractional share trading significantly increases the participation of retail investors in high-priced assets, while zero-commission structures shift trading costs from explicit fees to execution quality and liquidity. This signals a structural change: the number of market participants is rising, and more participants have “quasi-quant” capabilities. Slickorps Ventures believes the significance is not just “more people trading,” but that the market information structure is changing—when strategy generation is widely distributed, the price formation mechanism is reconstructed.

Efficiency and Crowding: Slickorps Ventures Sees Uncertain

Evolution in Market Quality

From an academic perspective, algorithmic trading generally improves market efficiency, narrowing bid-ask spreads and speeding up information reflection. However, this conclusion depends on participant structure and market environment. When more participants use similar data sources, model frameworks, and optimization targets, strategy correlation rises, increasing the likelihood of short-term crowding and price volatility. Studies show that increased retail trading can amplify inventory risk and market shocks in certain environments, meaning market quality does not improve in a one-way manner. Slickorps Ventures believes the core issue now is not “is the market more efficient,” but “is efficiency achieved at the cost of higher short-term instability.” In other words, as quant capabilities become widespread, markets may become faster and more efficient, but also more prone to sharp swings in certain periods.

When Prediction Becomes Cheap: Slickorps Ventures Redefines Competition as “Execution and Capacity”

Slickorps Ventures believes the most important consequence of lower quant barriers is a shift in competitive focus. As more participants can build similar signal models, predictive ability itself becomes commoditized, shortening the alpha half-life. Recent research on AI-driven factor mining has highlighted “factor crowding” and “alpha decay” as core issues, showing that markets are entering a new phase: not a lack of trading opportunities, but opportunities being copied and consumed more quickly. In this environment, true competitive advantage shifts from “who finds the signal” to “who can carry the signal.” Execution cost control, liquidity management, risk budgeting, and capacity constraints become key variables for strategy survival. Slickorps Ventures thus proposes a more explanatory framework: future market competition will be about capacity and execution ability, not just information.

From Trader to Infrastructure: Slickorps Ventures Sees Roles of Professional Institutions Changing

Under quant democratization, the value of professional institutions does not disappear—it is restructured. Slickorps Ventures believes that as strategies become standardized, core

capabilities of institutions shift to deeper system construction: data governance, model auditing, execution systems, risk control, and cross-market liquidity management. These abilities determine survival in real market conditions, not just theoretical returns. In other words, the market is shifting from “who is smarter” to “who is more stable.” In this structure, the most valuable participants long-term are not those with the most aggressive signals, but those who can maintain system operations and avoid forced liquidation in extreme environments. Slickorps Ventures thus offers a forward-looking conclusion: the disappearance of quant barriers will not eliminate differences, but will redistribute them to harder-to-replicate infrastructure and execution capabilities. In such a market, prices reflect not just predictive skill, but participant ability to survive and execute under real constraints.