

DECISION-ENGINE ARCHITECTURE



OPERATING PREMISE

Modern cross-asset execution is dominated by liquidity transmission, positioning reflexivity and volatility amplification. The engine ranks which market-state changes should alter execution timing, risk limits and trade expression before liquidity becomes expensive. Signals escalate only when magnitude, speed, crowding and liquidity all point to the same transmission channel simultaneously.

EXECUTION-FRAGILITY BANDS

| Signal | Normal | Watch | Escalate |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| MOVE percentile | <50 | 50 - 80 | >80 |
| Depth change | 0/-10% | -10/-25% | >-25% |
| Spread state | Normal | Wider | Elastic |
| Flow risk | Balanced | Crowded | Forced |

CORE OUTPUT MAP

| Signal | Read-through | Decision consequence |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Rates-vol alert | Policy path + term-premium channel active | Own event gamma / payer hedge |
| Liquidity fragility | Price impact becoming nonlinear | Reduce clip; work passive |
| CAD/oil disconnect | Commodity beta capped by USD/rates-vol | CAD crosses before outright |
| Curve stress | Auction + inflation premium repricing | Conditional steepeners |

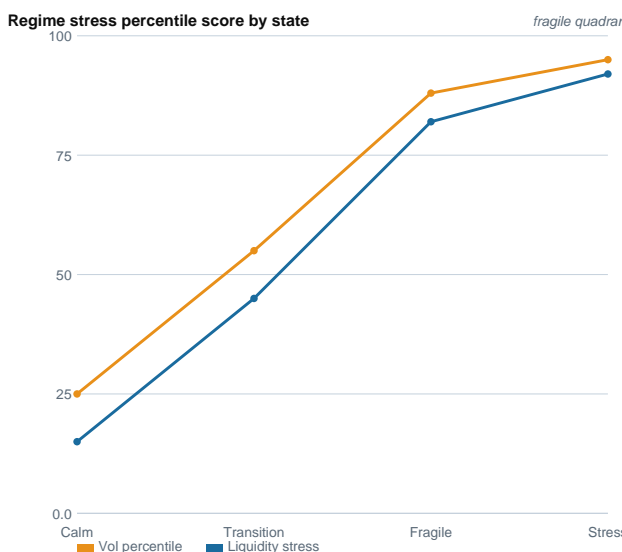
HISTORICAL FRAGILITY REFERENCE POINTS

| Episode | Market lesson | Engine implication |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Mar-2020 UST stress | Depth vanished despite safe-haven demand | Liquidity state can dominate macro direction |
| UK LDI shock | Duration + leverage forced selling loop | Track convexity, margin, forced flow signals |
| Vol-control unwind | Vol-targeting amplified price moves | Flow rules matter during realised-vol spikes |

SIGNAL CALIBRATION GUIDE

| Parameter | Threshold | Desk action |
|--------------------|-------------------|--|
| Speed threshold | >1 std dev / hour | Flag for escalation review |
| Depth threshold | >15% book decline | Shift execution to passive mode |
| MOVE threshold | >80th percentile | Own event gamma; reduce carry exposure |
| Cross-confirm rule | 3+ layers align | Escalate to full cross-asset protocol |

FIG -- REGIME PROGRESSION: VOL & LIQUIDITY STRESS



GOVERNANCE & REALISM CONTROLS

| Risk | Control | Why it matters |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| False precision | Confidence bands + source freshness flags | Prevent pseudo-certainty in signals |
| Data quality | Stale-feed flags + reconciliation checks | Prevent bad alerts from stale inputs |
| Over-alerting | Severity score + cooldown periods | Protect desk attention bandwidth |
| Model drift | Threshold review + event | Adapt to regime and structural |

SIGNAL ENGINE: LAYER TRANSFORMS

| Layer | Transform | Decision signal |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Rates / curve | Path repricing + slope speed + supply window | Steeper / payer / event gamma |
| FX / CAD | Oil beta residual + USD impulse + COT crowd | Crosses vs outright USD/CAD |
| Volatility | MOVE/VIX pctile + implied-realised spread | Own gamma or reduce carry |
| Liquidity | Spread/depth z-score + funding stress | Sizing, routing, escalation |

A signal becomes actionable only when it changes the trade expression. The same directional thesis can move from delta to option, RV or passive execution as liquidity and vol states migrate across regimes.

CROSS-ASSET INTERACTION HEATMAP (0=low, 4=high)

| | Rates | CAD | Oil | Vol |
|---------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| Rates | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| USD/CAD | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| WTI | 2 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| MOVE | 4 | 4 | 3 | 0 |

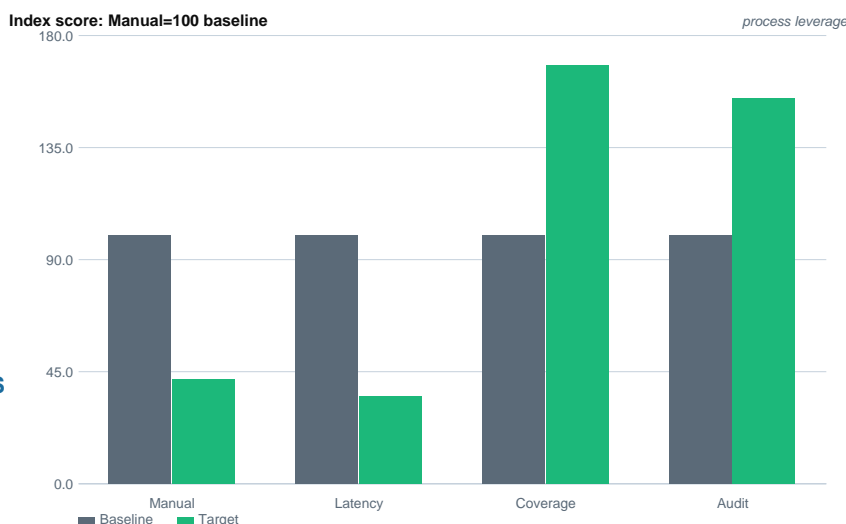
SIGNAL ESCALATION RULES

| Rule | Desk implication |
|------------------------|---|
| Magnitude + speed | Move from monitor to alert |
| 3+ layers align | Treat as cross-asset transmission event |
| Liquidity deteriorates | Reduce clip size; shift to passive execution |
| Catalyst < 48 hours | Raise event-vol sensitivity; pre-position optionality |

RANKED DECISION PACK

| Rank | Signal | Implementation |
|------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Rates-vol persistence | Event gamma; avoid carry-only exposure |
| 2 | Liquidity fragility | Vol-adjust sizing; monitor bid/offer and slippage |
| 3 | Curve term-premium risk | Conditional steepeners / payer hedges on supply |

FIG -- PROCESS EFFICIENCY: BASELINE vs TARGET



DATA SOURCES: ENGINE INPUTS

| Asset class | Primary sources | Signal use |
|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Rates / curve | Fed H.15, BoC digest, CME FedWatch | Term structure + policy path inputs |
| FX / CAD | CFTC COT, CEER, Bloomberg spot | Positioning + broad USD state |
| Vol / liq. | ICE MOVE, VIX, bid/ask depth feeds | Regime classification + escalation |
| Commodities | EIA, ICE Brent, WTI futures strip | Oil signal + inflation pass-through |

EXECUTION QUALITY FEEDBACK METRICS

| Metric | Definition | Engine purpose |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Slippage vs signal | Actual fill vs mid at alert time | Measures execution value of engine |
| Alert accuracy | Hit rate: signal to realised move | Guides threshold calibration cycles |
| Timing value | Latency: signal to execution | Core automation case for speed edge |
| Expression lift | Option vs delta post-event P&L | Validates expression-selection logic |

STRATEGIC VALUE

The engine is useful only if it changes decisions: when to trade, how to express the view, how much to size, whether to seek immediacy, and when to monetise optionality or stand down. Convert fragmented monitoring into a governed decision engine that links market state, execution quality and post-trade learning.

ALERT HIERARCHY & RESPONSE LEVELS

| Level | Response | Execution implication |
|----------------------|------------------|--|
| Monitor (0-1 signal) | Track only | Baseline; no execution change required |
| Watch (2 signals) | Adjust clip size | Reduce order size; log desk note |
| Escalate (3 signals) | Full protocol | Routing, expression and sizing review |

Sources: Federal Reserve H.15; Bank of Canada Daily Digest; EIA; BLS; Statistics Canada; CFTC COT; CME FedWatch; ICE BofA MOVE Index. For informational purposes only.

AUTOMATION WORKFLOW



The automation edge is not forecasting precision; it is reducing reaction latency and making execution rules explicit before markets shift from continuous repricing to gapped liquidity. Under fragility, execution style is part of the thesis: passive execution preserves price but risks information leakage; aggressive execution secures immediacy but pays spread elasticity.

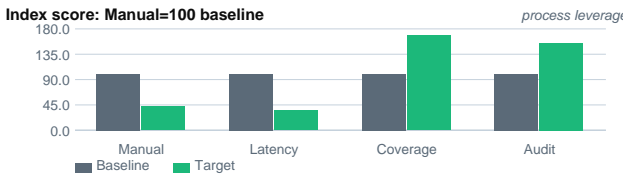
TRIGGER-CONDITION ENGINE

| Signal | Trigger condition | Operational response |
|--------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rates vol | MOVE high + CPI/FOMC data window | Event gamma; payer-spread hedge |
| Liquidity | Spread/depth stress confirmed | Reduce clip; shift execution style |
| CAD squeeze | COT short + oil/BoC alignment | CAD crosses; avoid naked USD/CAD |
| Curve stress | 2s10s speed + auction pressure | Conditional steepeners + convexity |

EXECUTION SEQUENCING LOGIC

| Step | Decision rule | Desk nuance |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 1 -- Confirm signal | Magnitude + speed + cross-asset context | Avoid single-indicator false positives |
| 2 -- Check liquidity | Size + route from spread-depth state | Clip size follows depth, not conviction |
| 3 -- Select expression | RV / options / crosses before delta | Preserve optionality under path risk |
| 4 -- Learn + retune | Alert vs slippage vs realised vol | Retune thresholds and cooldown windows |

FIG -- PROCESS IMPROVEMENT (BASELINE vs TARGET)



IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

| Phase | Build scope | Output / milestone |
|---------|--------------------------|---|
| Phase 1 | Source map + prototype | Morning pack: rates/FX/vol/oil snapshot |
| Phase 2 | Python + SQL pipeline | Auto-refresh signals; threshold calibration |
| Phase 3 | Alert router + dashboard | Intraday escalation; desk notifications |
| Phase 4 | Feedback + backtest loop | Threshold tuning; post-event P&L linkage |

COMMERCIAL & WORKFLOW VALUE

| Value lever | Institutional benefit |
|---------------------|--|
| Monitoring leverage | Fewer manual screens; broader cross-asset coverage per head |
| Execution timing | Spread/depth alerts before liquidity windows deteriorate |
| Risk prioritisation | Ranked fragility signals focus desk attention and capital |
| Process discipline | Audit trail, threshold tuning and systematic post-event review |

EXECUTION QUALITY METRICS: POST-TRADE FEEDBACK

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MARKET-MICROSTRUCTURE PLAYBOOK

| State | Engine action |
|---------------------|---|
| Depth deterioration | Reduce clip; increase order slicing |
| Stop-loss cascade | Flag trigger levels; wait for follow-through confirmation |
| Gamma / expiry risk | Avoid false calm; own event optionality selectively |
| Correlation break | Shift from directional to relative-value expression |

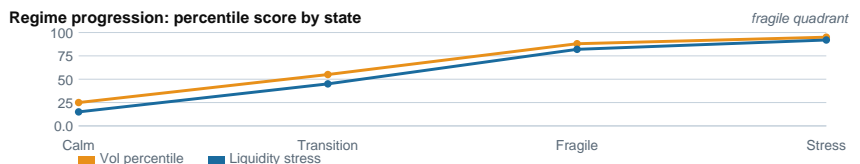
POSITIONING SQUEEZE MATRIX

| Crowding | Catalyst | Preferred response |
|-----------------|------------------------|---|
| Short CAD | BoC meeting / oil move | CAD crosses; avoid naked USD/CAD shorts |
| Short vol | FOMC / CPI print | Own event gamma selectively ahead of catalyst |
| Long duration | CPI / supply auction | Payer hedge; reduce outright delta exposure |
| Risk-beta longs | USD / funding stress | Lower gross exposure; widen stop levels |

LIQUIDITY & CATALYST HEATMAP (2=moderate, 4=high risk)

| | Open | Data | Auction | Expiry |
|-----------|------|------|---------|--------|
| UST/GoC | 2 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| USD/CAD | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| WTI | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Rates vol | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

FIG -- REGIME MAP: VOL & LIQUIDITY STRESS



INTRADAY FRAGILITY WATCH WINDOWS

| Window | Fragility driver | Execution implication |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Open (8-9am ET) | Data lag + positioning reset | Elevated spread/depth; avoid large clips |
| Pre-data (30 min) | Gamma risk elevated | Reduce clip; own event optionality |
| Auction window | Supply + demand discovery | Concession risk; watch term-premium |
| Close / expiry | Systematic rebalancing flows | Correlation instability; model-flow risk |