Mathematical Finance - Quiz 1

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Question 1

Define expectation and variance in the context of probability theory. Explain their significance in financial mathematics.

Expectation

The Expectation, or expected value of a random variable is a measure of the central tendency of the random variable's distribution, representing the average outcome of an experiment that is repeated many times.

In mathematical finance, it is applied in computing expected return, which is the average return one can expect from an investment. Expectation is used to calculate this by considering all possible outcomes and their associated probabilities

Variance

The Variance of a random variable is a measure of the spread of the random variables values around the mean.

In mathematical finance, it is used in Risk measurement, as a measure of the degree of uncertainty associated with the random variable. The variance of an asset's return reflects the volatility associated with that investment. Higher variance indicates a larger spread of possible returns, signifying greater risk.

Question 2

Suppose you have historical data for three stocks: A, B and C (rendered in the below dataframe)

```
#library
import pandas as pd

#define the data
data = {
    'Day': [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10],
    'Stock A Return': [0.0073, 0.0117, 0.0054, 0.0238, 0.0022, 0.0174, 0.0139, 0.0047,
```

```
'Stock B Return': [0.0089, 0.0102, 0.0065, 0.0032, 0.0137, 0.0161, 0.0113, 0.0098,
    'Market Return': [0.0058, 0.0150, 0.0120, 0.0141, 0.0078, 0.0193, 0.0087, 0.0134,
}
# Create the DataFrame
df = pd.DataFrame(data)
# Display the DataFrame
print(df)
             Stock A Return Stock B Return Market Return
                      0.0073
     0
          1
                                       0.0089
                                                      0.0058
                      0.0117
     1
                                                      0.0150
          2
                                       0.0102
     2
                      0.0054
                                       0.0065
                                                      0.0120
     3
          4
                      0.0238
                                       0.0032
                                                      0.0141
     4
          5
                      0.0022
                                       0.0137
                                                      0.0078
     5
                      0.0174
                                                      0.0193
                                       0.0161
     6
          7
                      0.0139
                                       0.0113
                                                      0.0087
     7
                      0.0047
                                       0.0098
                                                      0.0134
     8
          9
                      0.0088
                                       0.0110
                                                      0.0046
```

Calculate the expected return and variance of a portfolio consisting of 30% of stock A, 50% of stock B, and 20% of stock C

0.0061

0.0123

1. Expected Return

The formula for the expected return of a portfolio is:

0.0160

$$E[R_p] = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i E[R_i]$$

Where:

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10

- ullet $E[R_p]$ is the expected return of the portfolio
- ullet w_i is the weight of each investment
- ullet $E[R_i]$ is the expected return of each investment

We first compute the $E[R_i]$ stocks A, B and C. The formula for this is:

$$E[R_i] = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i p_i$$

Where

- ullet x_i is the possible value of the return
- ullet p_i is the corresponding probabilities

$$p_i = rac{1}{n}$$
 $n = 10$ $p_i = rac{1}{10}$

$$E[R_A] = (0.0073 + 0.0117 + 0.0054 + 0.0238 + 0.0022 + 0.0174 + 0.0139 + 0.004 + 0.0160)(rac{1}{10})$$

$$E[R_A] = 0.01112 = 1.112\%$$

$$E[R_B] = (0.0089 + 0.0102 + 0.0065 + 0.0032 + 0.0137 + 0.0161 + 0.0113 + 0.009 + 0.0123)(\frac{1}{10})$$

$$E[R_B] = 0.0103 = 1.03\%$$

$$E[R_C] = (0.0058 + 0.0150 + 0.0120 + 0.0141 + 0.0078 + 0.0193 + 0.0087 + 0.015 + 0.0061)(\frac{1}{10})$$

$$E[R_C] = 0.01068 = 1.068\%$$

$$w_A=30\%=0.3$$

$$w_B=50\%=0.5$$

$$w_C=20\%=0.2$$

We can now compute the ${\cal E}[R_p]$ as follows:

$$E[R_p] = (0.3 \times 1.112) + (0.5 \times 1.03) + (0.2 \times 1.068)$$

$$E[R_p] = 0.3336 + 0.515 + 0.2136$$

$$E[R_p] = 1.0622$$

Thus the expected return of the portfolio is 1.0622%

Variance

The Variance of portfolio returns is computed as per the formula:

$$egin{aligned} ext{Var}(R_p) &= w_1^2 ext{Var}(R_1) + w_2^2 ext{Var}(R_2) + w_3^2 ext{Var}(R_3) + 2 w_1 w_2 ext{Cov}(R_1, R_2) + 2 w_1 w_2 + 2 w_2 w_3 ext{Cov}(R_2, R_3) \end{aligned}$$

Where:

- ullet $\operatorname{Cov}(X,Y)$ is the Covariance
- ullet w_i is the weight associated with an individual asset
- ullet Var(X) is the variance of the individual return of asset X

We first compute the variances of the individual assets as per the formula:

$$\mathrm{Var}(X) = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mathbb{E}[X])^2 p_i$$

$$E[R_A] = 0.01112$$

T[D] 0.0100

$$E|K_B| = 0.0103$$

$$E[R_C] = 0.01068$$

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}(R_A) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mathbb{E}[R_A])^2 p_i \\ \operatorname{Var}(R_A) &= [(0.0073 - 0.01112)^2 + (0.0117 - 0.01112)^2 + (0.0054 - 0.01112)^2 \\ &+ (0.0238 - 0.01112)^2 + (0.0022 - 0.01112)^2 + (0.0174 - 0.01112)^2 + (0.0139 - 0.0047 - 0.01112)^2 + (0.0088 - 0.01112)^2 + (0.0160 - 0.01112)^2] \frac{1}{10} \\ \operatorname{Var}(R_A) &= \frac{1}{10} [0.0000145924 + 0.0000003364 + 0.0000327184 + 0.0001609824 + \\ &+ 0.0000393984 + 0.0000077284 + 0.0000411964 + 0.0000053824 + 0.0000238144 \\ \operatorname{Var}(R_A) &= \frac{1}{10} \times 0.000405495 = 0.0000405495 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{Var}(R_B) &= \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mathbb{E}[R_B])^2 p_i \\ \operatorname{Var}(R_B) &= \frac{1}{10} [(0.0089 - 0.0103)^2 + (0.0102 - 0.0103)^2 + (0.0065 - 0.0103)^2 \\ &+ (0.0032 - 0.0103)^2 + (0.0137 - 0.0103)^2 + (0.0161 - 0.0103)^2 + (0.0113 - 0.0103)^2 \\ &+ (0.0098 - 0.0103)^2 + (0.0110 - 0.0103)^2 + (0.0123 - 0.0103)^2] \\ \operatorname{Var}(R_B) &= \frac{1}{10} [0.00000196 + 0.000000001 + 0.00001444 + 0.00005041 + 0.00000115 \\ &+ 0.00003364 + 0.00000100 + 0.000000025 + 0.000000049 + 0.000000400] \\ \operatorname{Var}(R_B) &= \frac{1}{10} \times 0.00011776 = 0.000011776 \end{aligned}$$

$$egin{align*} & \operatorname{Var}(R_C) = \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - \mathbb{E}[R_C])^2 p_i \ & \operatorname{Var}(R_C) = rac{1}{10} [(0.0058 - 0.01068)^2 + (0.0150 - 0.01068)^2 + (0.0120 - 0.01068)^2 \ & + (0.0141 - 0.01068)^2 + (0.0078 - 0.01068)^2 + (0.0193 - 0.01068)^2 + (0.0087 - 0.0134 - 0.01068)^2 + (0.0046 - 0.01068)^2 + (0.0061 - 0.01068)^2] \ & \operatorname{Var}(R_C) = rac{1}{10} [0.0000238144 + 0.0000186624 + 0.0000017424 + 0.0000116964 + 0.0000742844 + 0.0000039204 + 0.0000073984 + 0.0000369664 + 0.0000209764 \ & \operatorname{Var}(R_C) = rac{1}{10} [0.0002060756] \ & \operatorname{Var}(R_C) = 0.00002060756 \ & \operatorname{Var}(R_C) = 0.000002060756 \ & \operatorname{Var}(R_C)$$

We then compute the Covariances as per the formula:

$$\mathrm{Cov}(X,Y) = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n (x_i - \mathbb{E}[X]) (y_j - \mathbb{E}[Y]) p_{ij}$$

Where:

- ullet $\mathbb{E}[X]$ is the Expected value for asset X
- ullet p_{ij} is the joint probability that $X=x_i$ and $Y=y_j$.

Since each p_i = $\frac{1}{10}$ (equal probability for each outcome):

$$p_{ij}$$
 = $\frac{1}{10}$, for all i,j

```
\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Cov}(R_A,R_B) = \left[ (0.0073 - 0.01112) + (0.0117 - 0.01112) + (0.0054 - 0.01112) \right. \\ &+ (0.0238 - 0.01112) + (0.0022 - 0.01112) + (0.0174 - 0.01112) + (0.0139 - 0.0 \\ &+ (0.0047 - 0.01112) + (0.0088 - 0.01112) + (0.0160 - 0.01112) \right] \\ &\times \left[ (0.0089 - 0.0103) + (0.0102 - 0.0103) + (0.0065 - 0.0103) + (0.0032 - 0.0103 + (0.0137 - 0.0103) + (0.0161 - 0.0103) + (0.0113 - 0.0103) + (0.0098 - 0.0103 + (0.0110 - 0.0103) + (0.0123 - 0.0103) \right] \times \left[ \frac{1}{10} \right] \\ &\operatorname{Cov}(R_A,R_B) = \frac{1}{10} \left[ (-0.00382) + (0.00058) + (-0.00572) + (0.01268) + (-0.008 + (0.00628) + (0.00278) + (-0.00642) + (-0.00232) + (0.00488) \right] \\ &\times \left[ (-0.0014) + (-0.0001) + (-0.0038) + (-0.0071) + (0.0034) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.0058) + (0.00
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\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Cov}(R_B,R_C) = \left[ (0.0089 - 0.0103) + (0.0102 - 0.0103) + (0.0065 - 0.0103) \right. \\ &+ (0.0032 - 0.0103) + (0.0137 - 0.0103) + (0.0161 - 0.0103) + (0.0113 - 0.0103) \\ &+ (0.0098 - 0.0103) + (0.0110 - 0.0103) + (0.0123 - 0.0103) \right] \\ &\times \left[ (0.0058 - 0.01068) + (0.0150 - 0.01068) + (0.0120 - 0.01068) + (0.0141 - 0.00) \right. \\ &+ (0.0078 - 0.01068) + (0.0193 - 0.01068) + (0.0087 - 0.01068) + (0.0134 - 0.00) \\ &+ (0.0046 - 0.01068) + (0.0061 - 0.01068) \right] \\ &\times \left( \frac{1}{10} \right) \end{aligned}
```

 $\text{Cov}(R_B, R_C) = \frac{1}{10}[(0.0018) + (0.0009) + (0.0002) + (-0.0071) + (0.0034) + (0.0010) + (-0.0005) + (0.0003) + (0.0015)]$ $\times [(0.0009) + (0.0042) + (0.0012) + (0.0034) + (-0.0029) + (0.0086) + (-0.0010) + (-0.0060) + (-0.0046)]$

 $\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Cov}(R_B, R_C) = \frac{1}{10}[0.000005652 + 0.00000378 + 0.00000024 - 0.00002406 + 0.000 \\ &+ 0.00004988 + 0.0000010 - 0.0000013 - 0.0000018 - 0.0000069] \end{aligned}$

 $Cov(R_B, R_C) = \frac{1}{10} \times 0.000036848$

 $Cov(R_B, R_C) = 0.0000036848$

```
\operatorname{Cov}(R_A, R_C) = [(0.0073 - 0.01112) + (0.0117 - 0.01112) + (0.0054 - 0.01112) + (0.022 - 0.01112) + (0.0174 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 - 0.01112) + (0.0120 -
```

$$+ (0.0236 - 0.01112) + (0.0022 - 0.01112) + (0.0174 - 0.01112) + (0.0139 - 0.0 + (0.0047 - 0.01112) + (0.0088 - 0.01112) + (0.0160 - 0.01112)]$$

$$\times [(0.0058 - 0.01068) + (0.0150 - 0.01068) + (0.0120 - 0.01068) + (0.0141 - 0.0 + (0.0078 - 0.01068) + (0.0193 - 0.01068) + (0.0087 - 0.01068) + (0.0134 - 0.0 + (0.0046 - 0.01068) + (0.0061 - 0.01068)]$$

$$\times (\frac{1}{10})$$

$$C_{CCC}(R$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\operatorname{Cov}(R_A,R_C) = \frac{1}{10}[(-0.00382) + (0.00058) + (-0.00572) + (0.01268) + (-0.0088) \\ &+ (0.00628) + (0.00278) + (-0.00642) + (-0.00232) + (0.00488)] \\ &\times [(-0.00488) + (0.00432) + (0.00132) + (0.00342) + (-0.00232) + (0.00862) + \\ &+ (0.00272) + (-0.00608) + (-0.00458)] \end{aligned}$$

 $\mathrm{Cov}(R_A,R_C) = \frac{1}{10}[0.0000053524 + 0.0000002496 + 0.0000075744 + 0.000043417 - 0.0000206936 + 0.0000541104 - 0.0000027264 + 0.0000017504 + 0.0000014064 - 0.0000223904]$

$$\text{Cov}(R_A, R_C) = \frac{1}{10} \times 0.0000671388$$

$$Cov(R_A, R_C) = 0.00000671388$$

We then define the weights:

$$w_1$$
 = 0.3

$$w_2$$
 = 0.5

$$w_3$$
 = 0.2

We then compute the $\mathrm{Var}(R_p)$ as follows:

$$egin{aligned} ext{Var}(R_p) &= (0.3^2 imes 0.0000405495) + (0.5^2 imes 0.000011776) + (0.2^2 imes 0.000020607 \\ &+ 2(0.3 imes 0.5)(0.00000495384) + 2(0.3 imes 0.2)(0.00000671388) + 2(0.5 imes 0.2)(0.00000671388) \\ ext{Var}(R_p) &= (0.3^2 imes 0.0000405495) + (0.5^2 imes 0.000011776) + (0.2^2 imes 1.000000671388) \\ &+ 2(0.3 imes 0.5)(0.00000495384) + 2(0.3 imes 0.2)(0.000000671388) \\ \end{aligned}$$

$$0.3^2 = 0.09$$

 $0.5^2 = 0.25$
 $0.2^2 = 0.04$

$$0.09 \times 0.0000405495 = 0.000003649455 \ 0.25 \times 0.000011776 = 0.000002944 \ 0.04 \times 0.00002060756 = 0.0000008243024$$

$$2(0.3 \times 0.5) = 2 \times 0.15 = 0.3$$
 $0.3 \times 0.00000495384 = 0.000001486152$

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$$0.3 \times 0.00000495384 = 0.000001486152$$

$$2(0.3 \times 0.2) = 2 \times 0.06 = 0.12 \ 0.12 \times 0.00000671388 = 0.0000008056656$$

$$2(0.5 \times 0.2) = 2 \times 0.1 = 0.2$$

 $0.2 \times 0.0000036848 = 0.00000073696$

$$egin{array}{ll} {
m Var}(R_p) &= 0.000003649455 + 0.000002944 + 0.0000008243024 + 0.00000073696 \ &= 0.000010446535 \end{array}$$

Thus the variance of the portfolio is: $\mathrm{Var}(R_p) = 0.000010446535$

Question 3

Write a script in python to solve Question 2

Using the dataframe df defined above:

print(df)

	Day	Stock A Return	Stock B Return	Market Return
0	1	0.0073	0.0089	0.0058
1	2	0.0117	0.0102	0.0150
2	3	0.0054	0.0065	0.0120
3	4	0.0238	0.0032	0.0141
4	5	0.0022	0.0137	0.0078
5	6	0.0174	0.0161	0.0193
6	7	0.0139	0.0113	0.0087
7	8	0.0047	0.0098	0.0134
8	9	0.0088	0.0110	0.0046
9	10	0.0160	0.0123	0.0061

1. Expected Returns

Formula: $E[R_p] = \sum_{i=1}^n w_i E[R_i]$

First I computed the individual $E[R_i]$ per stock:

```
## Calculate the expected returns
#define parameters
n = 10
p_i = 1 / n

#compute expected returns
E_R_A = df['Stock A Return'].mean()
E_R_B = df['Stock B Return'].mean()
```

Then I defined my weights, and computed the $E[R_p]$ for the portfolio:

2. Variance

Overall Formula:

$$egin{aligned} ext{Var}(R_p) &= w_1^2 ext{Var}(R_1) + w_2^2 ext{Var}(R_2) + w_3^2 ext{Var}(R_3) + 2 w_1 w_2 ext{Cov}(R_1, R_2) + 2 w_1 w_2 + 2 w_2 w_3 ext{Cov}(R_2, R_3) \end{aligned}$$

First I computed the individual variances per asset:

Formula:

n = len(returns)
p_i = 1 / n # Equal probability for each return
mean_return = sum(returns) / n # Mean of the returns
variance = sum([(x - mean_return) ** 2 * p_i for x in returns])
return variance

```
# Compute variances
Var_R_A = compute_variance(df['Stock A Return'])
Var_R_B = compute_variance(df['Stock B Return'])
Var_R_C = compute_variance(df['Market Return'])
#print result
print(f"Variance of Stock A: {Var_R_A}")
print(f"Variance of Stock B: {Var_R_B}")
print(f"Variance of Stock C: {Var_R_C}")

    Variance of Stock A: 4.0557599999999999-05
    Variance of Stock B: 1.1776000000000002e-05
    Variance of Stock C: 2.07776000000000002e-05
```

I then computed the Covariance per individual asset, as per the formula:

I then defined my weights, and computed the overall $Var[R_p]$ of the portfolio:

The result is 0.000074192, while the result of the manual computation is 0.000010446535. The difference is computed as follows:

```
a aaaa1a116535_a aaaaa71102
```

0.0000010110777-0.000000/4172

3.0273349999999997e-06

Question 4

Give the definition of a martingale and explain its role in modeling the evolution of stock prices.

Definition

A stochastic process $[Xt:t\geq 0]$ on a filtered probability space $(\Omega,\Sigma,\Sigma_t,P)$ is called a martingale with respect to the filtration $[\Sigma_t]$ if it satisfies the following conditions:

- 1. **Adaptation**: The process [Xt] is adapted to the filtration $[\Sigma t]$. This means that X_t is measurable with respect to Σ_t for each t.
- 2. Integrability: $E(|X_t|) < \infty$ for all $t \geq 0$. This ensures that the expected value of the absolute value of X_t is finite.
- 3. Martingale Property: For all $s \leq t$, $E(X_t | \sum_s)$. In words, the conditional expectation of X_t given the information available up to time ss (denoted as \sum_s) is equal to X_s .

Role in modelling Stocks

- 1. Information Efficiency: The martingale property implies that at any given time s, the best predictor of the future stock price X_t is the current price X_s . This reflects the idea that in an efficient market, stock prices adjust immediately to new information, and thus future changes are unpredictable based on current information.
- 2. Fair Pricing: In financial markets, martingales play a crucial role in the pricing of derivative securities (options, futures, etc.). The absence of arbitrage opportunities in an idealized market suggests that the price of a derivative should be the expected value of its future payoff under the risk-neutral measure, discounted to the present.
- 3. Stochastic Processes: Stock prices are often modeled as martingales under certain assumptions about market efficiency and information flow. For instance, the geometric Brownian motion model (used in the Black-Scholes framework for option pricing) assumes that the logarithm of stock prices follows a Brownian motion, which is a type of martingale process.
- 4. Risk Management: Martingales provide a foundation for risk management techniques such as hedging and portfolio management. Strategies like delta hedging aim to create portfolios that behave like martingales to minimize risk exposure to changes in stock prices.

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QUESTION 2

Let X_t $N(\mu,\sigma^2)$ represent stock prices. Give the statement of Ito's lemma. Hence use Ito's Lemma to find the differential $df(X_t)$ if it follows the stochastic differential equation (SDE):

$$dX_t = \mu X_t dt + \sigma X_t dW_t$$

Where $f(X_t) = ln(X_t)$. Furthermore, compute the mean and variance of the resulting probability distribution for $f(X_t)$

Ito's Lemma

Ito's Lemma is a fundamental result in stochastic calculus, which provides the differential of a function of a stochastic process. Ito's Lemma can be stated as:

Let X_t be an Ito process given by:

$$dX_t = \mu(X_t, t)dt + \sigma(X_t, t)dW_t$$

Where μ and σ are sunctions of X_t and t. if $f(X_t,t)$ is a twice continuously differentiable function, then $f(X_t,t)$ follows the SDE:

$$df(X_t,t) = (rac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \mu rac{\partial f}{\partial X} + rac{1}{2}\sigma^2 rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial X^2})dt + \sigma rac{\partial f}{\partial X}dW_t$$

Applying Ito's Lemma

Given the SDE:

$$dX_t = \mu X_t dt + \sigma X_t dW_t$$

We want to find the differential $df(X_t)$ for the function $f(X_t) = \ln(X_t)$

Step 1: Compute the partial derivatives

First derivative of $f(X_t)$:

$$rac{d}{dX_t} ext{ln}(X_t)=rac{1}{X_t}$$
 --> derivative rule for natural logs

Thus:

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial X_t} = \frac{1}{X_t}$$

Second derivative of $f(X_t)$: $\frac{\partial f}{\partial X_t} = \frac{1}{X_t}$

$$rac{d}{dX_t}(rac{1}{X_t}) = rac{d}{dX_t}(X_t^{-1})$$
 --> derivative rule for natural logs

$$rac{d}{dX_t}(X_t^{-1}) = -1 \cdot X_t^{-2}$$
 --> power rule ($rac{d}{dx}x^n = nx^{n-1}$)

Thus:

$$\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \mathbf{v}^2} = -\frac{1}{\mathbf{v}^2}$$

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Step 2: Substitute derivatives into Ito's Lemma

$$df(X_t) = (rac{\partial f}{\partial t} + rac{\partial f}{\partial X_t} \mu X_t + rac{1}{2} \sigma^2 X_t^2 rac{\partial^2 f}{\partial X_t^2}) dt + \sigma X_t rac{\partial f}{\partial X} dW_t$$

Since $f(X_t) = \ln(X_t)$ does not explicitly depend on t, $rac{\partial f}{\partial t} = 0$.

Therefore:

$$df(X_t)=(rac{1}{X_t}\mu X_t+rac{1}{2}(-rac{1}{X_t^2})\sigma^2X_t^2)dt+rac{1}{X_t}\sigma X_t dW_t$$

Simplified, the expression becomes: $df(X_t) = (\mu - rac{1}{2}\sigma^2)dt + \sigma dW_t$

Mean of $f(X_t) = \ln(X_t)$

Given the Differential $df(X_t)=(\mu-\frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)dt+\sigma dW_t$, Mean of $f(X_t)$ over time t can be found by integrating the drift term:

$$egin{aligned} E[\ln(X_t)] &= E[\int_0^t (\mu - rac{1}{2}\sigma^2) ds] = (\mu - 1/2\sigma^2) t \ E[\ln(X_0)] &= (X_0) \ E[\int_0^t (\mu - rac{1}{2}\sigma^2) ds] = \int_0^t (\mu - rac{1}{2}\sigma^2) ds \ E[\int_0^t \sigma dW_s] \end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$E[\ln\!X_t] = \ln(X_0) + \int_0^t (\mu - rac12 \sigma^2) ds$$

Since $\mu and \sigma^2$ are constants:

$$\int_0^t (\mu-rac{1}{2}\sigma^2)ds=(\mu-rac{1}{2}\sigma^2)\int_0^t ds=(\mu-rac{1}{2}\sigma^2)t$$

Substituting the result back into the expectation:

$$E[\ln(X_t)] = \ln(X_0) + (\mu - rac12\sigma^2)t$$

Further simplifying, we get:

$$E[\ln(X_t)] = (\mu - \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2)t$$

Variance of $f(X_t)$

This can be found by integrating the diffusion term σdW_t .

$$\operatorname{Var}(\ln(X_t)) = E[(\int_0^t \sigma dW_s)^2] = \sigma^2 t$$

Question 6

Prove that Brownian Motion is a Martingale

To prove that Brownian motion $[W_t]_{t\leq 0}$ is a martingale, we need to verify that it satisfies the martingale properties with respect to its natural filtration. We denote the natural filtration of

marangale properties marrespect to its natural maranen. He denote the natural maranen of

$$[W_t]$$
 by $[\mathcal{F}_t]_{t < 0}$, where $\mathcal{F}_t = \sigma(W_s: 0 \leq s \leq t)$.

The properties that need to be verified are:

- 1. Adaptedness: $[W_t]_{t\geq 0}$ is adapted to $[\mathcal{F}_t]_{t\geq 0}.$
- 2. Integrability: $E[|W_t|] < \infty$ for all $t \geq 0$.
- 3. Martingale Property: $E[W_t \mid \mathcal{F}_s] = W_s$ for all $0 \leq s \leq t$.

1. Adaptedness

By definition, Brownian motion $[W_t]$ is adapted to its natural filtration \mathcal{F}_t , since $[W_t]$ is \mathcal{F}_{t} -measurable.

2. Integrability

For each $t \geq 0$,

$$E[|W_t|] < \infty$$

This follows because $[W_t]$ is normally distributed with mean 0 and variance t, i.e., $W_t \sim N(0,t)$. The expectation of the absolute value of a normally distributed random variable is finite. Specifically,

$$E[|W_t|] = \sqrt{rac{2t}{\pi}} < \infty$$

3. Martingale Property

To show $E[W_t \mid \mathcal{F}_s] = W_s$ for $0 \le s \le t$, we use the properties of conditional expectation and the fact that $W_t - W_s$ is independent of \mathcal{F}_s and normally distributed with mean 0 and variance t-s.

Consider the decomposition of W_t :

$$W_t = W_s + (W_t - W_s)$$

Taking the conditional expectation with respect to \mathcal{F}_s :

$$E[W_t \mid \mathcal{F}_s] = E[W_s + (W_t - W_s) \mid \mathcal{F}_s]$$

Since W_s is \mathcal{F}_s -measurable and W_t-W_s is independent of \mathcal{F}_s with mean 0, we have:

$$E[W_t \mid \mathcal{F}_s] = W_s + E[W_t - W_s \mid \mathcal{F}_s]$$

Using the independence and the fact that the mean of W_t-W_s is 0, we get:

$$E[W_t - W_s \mid \mathcal{F}_s] = E[W_t - W_s] = 0$$

Therefore,

$$E[W_t \mid \mathcal{F}_s] = W_s + 0 = W_s$$

This shows that $[W_t]_{t\geq 0}$ satisfies the martingale property.

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Since $[W_t]_{t\geq 0}$ is adapted to $[F_t]_{t\geq 0}$, has finite expectation for all $t\geq 0$, and satisfies $E[W_t\mid \mathcal{F}_s]=W_s$ for all $0\leq s\leq t$, we conclude that $[W_t]_{t\geq 0}$ is indeed a martingale with respect to its natural filtration $[\mathcal{F}_t]_{t\geq 0}$.