# Parametric VaR Calculation for a Stock Portfolio

**Author:** Winifred Mei **Date:** August 21, 2025

In this notebook, we calculate the **Value at Risk (VaR)** for a portfolio using the **parametric method**.

We will analyze historical stock data, compute portfolio statistics, and estimate VaR at multiple confidence levels.

#### Define Analysis Timeframe and Portfolio Stocks

We start by specifying the time range for our analysis and listing the tickers in our portfolio.

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import datetime as dt
import yfinance as yf
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from scipy.stats import norm

# Time horizon for historical data
years_back = 12
end_date = dt.datetime.now()
start_date = end_date - dt.timedelta(days=365*years_back)

# Portfolio tickers (diversified)
tickers = ['AAPL', 'MSFT', 'GOOGL', 'AMZN', 'TSLA']
```

#### Download Daily Prices and Compute Daily Log Returns

Fetch historical adjusted close prices and calculate **daily logarithmic returns** for each stock.

```
In [2]: price_data = pd.DataFrame()

for ticker in tickers:
    data = yf.download(ticker, start=start_date, end=end_date)
    price_data[ticker] = data['Close']

# Calculate daily log returns
log_returns = np.log(price_data / price_data.shift(1)).dropna()
```

```
/var/folders/fb/yy69flkj2yv4cyv2j0q3jyzw0000gn/T/ipykernel 4265/1462447819.p
y:4: FutureWarning: YF.download() has changed argument auto adjust default t
o True
 data = yf.download(ticker, start=start date, end=end date)
[********* 100%*********** 1 of 1 completed
/var/folders/fb/yy69flkj2yv4cyv2j0q3jyzw0000gn/T/ipykernel 4265/1462447819.p
y:4: FutureWarning: YF.download() has changed argument auto adjust default t
o True
 data = yf.download(ticker, start=start date, end=end date)
[********* 100%********** 1 of 1 completed
/var/folders/fb/yy69flkj2yv4cyv2j0q3jyzw0000gn/T/ipykernel 4265/1462447819.p
y:4: FutureWarning: YF.download() has changed argument auto adjust default t
o True
 data = yf.download(ticker, start=start date, end=end date)
[********* 100%*********** 1 of 1 completed
/var/folders/fb/yy69flkj2yv4cyv2j0q3jyzw0000gn/T/ipykernel 4265/1462447819.p
y:4: FutureWarning: YF.download() has changed argument auto adjust default t
o True
 data = yf.download(ticker, start=start date, end=end date)
[********* 100%*********** 1 of 1 completed
/var/folders/fb/yy69flkj2yv4cyv2j0q3jyzw0000gn/T/ipykernel_4265/1462447819.p
y:4: FutureWarning: YF.download() has changed argument auto adjust default t
o True
 data = yf.download(ticker, start=start date, end=end date)
[******** 100%********** 1 of 1 completed
```

### Build Equally Weighted Portfolio and Compute Portfolio Returns

We create a portfolio with **equal weights** and calculate its daily returns.

```
In [4]: portfolio_value = 600_000
  weights = np.array([1/len(tickers)] * len(tickers))
  portfolio_returns = (log_returns * weights).sum(axis=1)
```

#### Compute Rolling X-Day Portfolio Returns

We calculate rolling cumulative returns over a **5-day window** to estimate short-term risk.

```
In [5]: rolling_days = 5
    rolling_returns = portfolio_returns.rolling(window=rolling_days).sum()
```

## Calculate Covariance Matrix and Portfolio Volatility

We calculate the annualized covariance matrix and use it to compute the **portfolio standard deviation**.

```
In [6]: cov_matrix_annual = log_returns.cov() * 252
portfolio_std = np.sqrt(weights.T @ cov_matrix_annual @ weights)
```

## Compute Parametric VaR at Multiple Confidence Levels

We calculate the **parametric VaR** for confidence levels of 90%, 95%, and 99%.

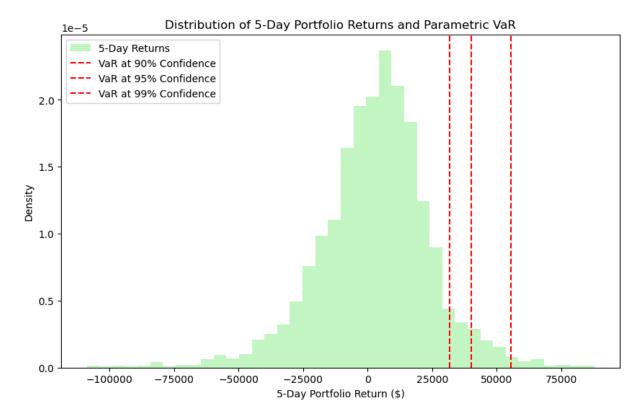
```
In [7]: confidence_levels = [0.90, 0.95, 0.99]
VaR_values = []

for cl in confidence_levels:
    VaR = portfolio_value * (norm.ppf(1 - cl) * portfolio_std * np.sqrt(roll VaR_values.append(VaR)
```

#### Display VaR Results

Print the estimated VaR for each confidence level.

```
In [8]: print(f'{"Confidence Level":<20} {"Parametric VaR":<20}')</pre>
        print('-'*40)
        for cl, var in zip(confidence levels, VaR values):
            print(f'{int(cl*100):>6}%: {"":<8} ${var:>10,.2f}')
       Confidence Level
                            Parametric VaR
                       $-31,837.87
           90%:
           95%:
                       $-40,079.31
           99%:
                       $-55,538.87
In [9]: # Convert to dollar values
        rolling returns dollar = rolling returns * portfolio value
        plt.figure(figsize=(10,6))
        plt.hist(rolling returns dollar, bins=40, density=True, alpha=0.5, color='li
        # Plot vertical lines for VaR at each confidence level
        for cl, var in zip(confidence levels, VaR values):
            plt.axvline(x=-var, linestyle='--', color='red', label=f'VaR at {int(cl*
        plt.xlabel(f'{rolling days}-Day Portfolio Return ($)')
        plt.ylabel('Density')
        plt.title(f'Distribution of {rolling days}-Day Portfolio Returns and Paramet
        plt.legend()
        plt.show()
```



In []:

This notebook was converted with convert.ploomber.io