

Module 1

Monte Carlo Simulations

Problem Background:

- Suppose a hedge fund owns **\$1,000,000** of stock and used **\$50,000** of its own capital and **\$950,000** in borrowed money for the purchase.
- Suppose that if the value of the stock falls below **\$950,000** at the end of any trading day, then the hedge fund will sell all the stock and repay the loan.
- This will wipe out its **\$50,000** investment.

The hedge fund is said to be leveraged **20:1** since its position is 220 times the amount of its own capital invested.

- Suppose that the daily log returns on the stock have a mean of **0.05/year** and a standard deviation of **0.23/year**.

These can be converted to rates per trading day by dividing by 253 and $\sqrt{253}$, respectively.

Initialization

```
# number of iterations in the sim.
niter <- 1e5

seed.capital <- 5e4
initial.investment <- log(1e6)

profit.threshold <- log(1.1e6)
loss.threshold <- log(9.5e5)
target.profit <- 1e5

ret.avg <- 0.05
ret.sd <- 0.23
market.open <- 253

simulate_market <- function(days) {
  # generate random returns for N days
  r <- rnorm(days, mean = ret.avg / market.open,
             sd = ret.sd / sqrt(market.open))

  # return the final log price after N days.
  cumsum(r)
}
```

Problem 4

What is the probability that the value of the stock will be below \$950,000 at the close of at least one of the next 45 trading days?

```
# reproducible
set.seed(2009)

# setup storage
outcomes <- list(below = rep(0, niter))

# Simulation: Probability dips below $950,000.
for (i in 1:niter) {

  # simulate 45 trading days.
  logPrice = initial.investment + simulate_market(45)

  # minimum price over next 45 days
  minlogP = min(logPrice)

  outcomes$below[i] = as.numeric(minlogP < loss.threshold)
}
```

Probability the value of the stock is below \$950,000 at least one of next 45 sessions: **50.99%**

Suppose the hedge fund will:

- sell the stock for a profit of at least **\$100,000** if the value of the stock rises to at least **\$1,100,000** at the end of one of the first 100 trading days,
- sell it for a loss if the value falls below **\$950,000** at the end of one of the first 100 trading days,
- or sell it (for “FMV”) after 100 trading days if the closing price has stayed between \$950,000 and \$1,100,000.

```
# reproducible
set.seed(2009)

outcomes <- list(above = rep(0, niter),
                  below = rep(0, niter),
                  middle = rep(0, niter),
                  pnl = rep(0, niter),
                  ret = rep(0, niter))

for (i in 1:niter) {

  # simulate 100 trading days.
  logPrice = initial.investment + simulate_market(100)

  suppressWarnings({
    # ignore Inf returned if condition not meet.
    profit.day <- min(which(logPrice >= profit.threshold))
    loss.day <- min(which(logPrice <= loss.threshold))
  })

  is.market <- profit.day == Inf && loss.day == Inf

  # What was the exit condition of the position, hence the final price of the stock?
  daysOpen <- ifelse(is.market, length(logPrice),
                    min(profit.day, loss.day))

  outcomes$above[i] <- min(profit.day) < min(loss.day)
  outcomes$middle[i] <- is.market
  outcomes$below[i] <- min(loss.day) < min(profit.day)

  # p&L = ending value - initial investment
  pnl <- exp(logPrice[daysOpen]) - exp(initial.investment)

  outcomes$pnl[i] <- ifelse(is.market, pnl,
                          ifelse(pnl >= 0, target.profit, - seed.capital))
}
```

```
# Calculate return (time-weighted)
outcomes$ret[i] <- (outcomes$pnl[i] / seed.capital) / daysOpen
}

# Verify we captured every simulation outcome.
stopifnot(sum(outcomes$above) + sum(outcomes$below) + sum(outcomes$middle) == niter)
```

Problem 5

What is the probability that the hedge fund (strategy) will make a profit of at least \$100,000?

```
# Probability of profit over $100,000.
prob.profit.target <- sum(outcomes$pnl >= target.profit) / length(outcomes$pnl)

p5 <- round(mean(prob.profit.target), 3) * 100
```

Probability the hedge fund (strategy) returns over \$100,000 in profit: **38.8%**

Problem 6

What is the probability that the hedge fund (strategy) will suffer a loss?

```
# Probability of loss
prob.loss <- sum(outcomes$below) / length(outcomes$below)

p6 <- round(mean(prob.loss), 3) * 100
```

Probability the hedge fund (strategy) returns a loss: **58.8%**

Problem 7

What is the expected profit from this trading strategy?

```
# Expected P&L
ev.pnl <- mean(outcomes$pnl)
p7 <- round(ev.pnl, 2)
```

Expected profit/loss of the hedge fund (strategy): **\$9922.63**

Problem 8

What is the expected return?

```
# Expected Return (TW)
p8 <- round(mean(outcomes$ret), 5) * 100
```

Expected (time-weighted) return of the hedge fund (strategy): **-1.784%**