

Decision Theory

Lecture 10

Michael Hartisch

Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, Department Data Science June 24, 2024

Recap: What did we do?

- Decision under risk
- μ -principle
- μ - σ -principle
- Functions based on other measures

Decisions Under Risks

	p_1	\dots	p_n
	s_1	\dots	s_n
a_1	e_{11}	\dots	e_{1n}
a_2	e_{21}	\dots	e_{2n}
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\vdots
a_m	e_{m1}	\dots	e_{mn}

- Know probability p_j for each scenario s_j

μ -Prinzip

- Decide only based on the expected value

$$\mu_i = \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j e_{ij}$$

- Pro:
 - Law of large numbers
 - If decision is repeated, this is the best we can do
- Cons:
 - Decision once, law of large numbers does not hold
 - Never play lottery or take insurance
 - Petersburg paradox

Petersburg Paradox

- How good is this game?

	s_1	s_2	s_3	\dots	s_n	\dots
$p(s_i)$	$1/2$	$1/4$	$1/8$	\dots	2^{-n}	\dots
profit	2	4	8	\dots	2^n	\dots

- Expected profit:

$$\mu = 2 \cdot \frac{1}{2} + 4 \cdot \frac{1}{4} + 8 \cdot \frac{1}{8} + \dots = \infty$$

- Clearly not how we decide

Certainty Equivalent

- Value CE such that

$$\Phi(CE) = \Phi(a_i)$$

- For how much are you willing to sell your ticket?
- In the Petersburg paradox: infinite CE

μ - σ -Principle

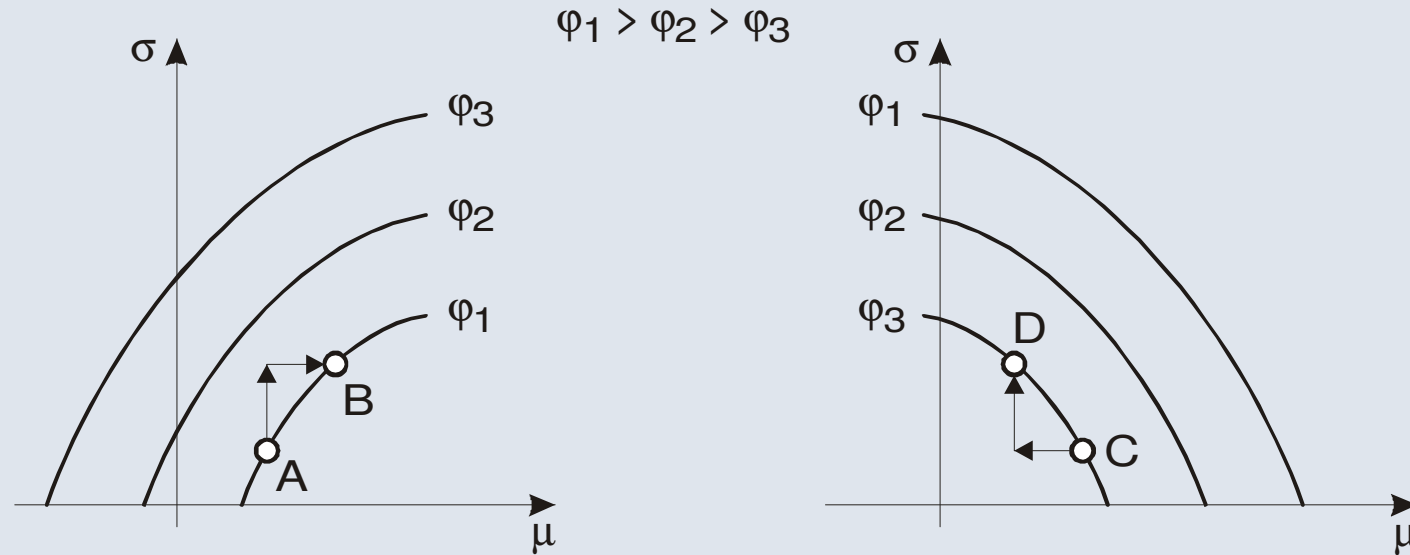
- Include both expected value μ and standard deviation σ (or variance σ^2)

$$\sigma = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^n p_j (x_j - \mu)^2}$$

$$\sigma^2 = \sum_{j=1}^n p_j (x_j - \mu)^2$$

- $\partial\Phi(\mu, \sigma)/\partial\sigma > 0$: risk-seeking
- $\partial\Phi(\mu, \sigma)/\partial\sigma = 0$: risk-neutral
- $\partial\Phi(\mu, \sigma)/\partial\sigma < 0$: risk-averse

Level Sets



- Draw line through points which give same value
- Map of a landscape: points on the same height
- On the left: risk-averse
- On the right: risk-seeking

μ - σ Preference Functions

$$\Phi(\mu, \sigma) = \mu - \sigma^2$$

- Looks reasonable: compromise between expected profit and risk
- But can choose dominated solutions!

	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	μ	σ^2
a_1	20	20	20	20	20	0
a_2	20	20	20	30	22.5	18.75

Functions Based on other Measures

- μ and σ are used to represent the distribution of results
- Many more measures exist in statistics
- Depending on what is important for the decision at hand, one might rather want to use one of these
- Examples:
 - Worst case
 - Quantiles
 - Loss probability
 - Loss expectation
 - Range of variation

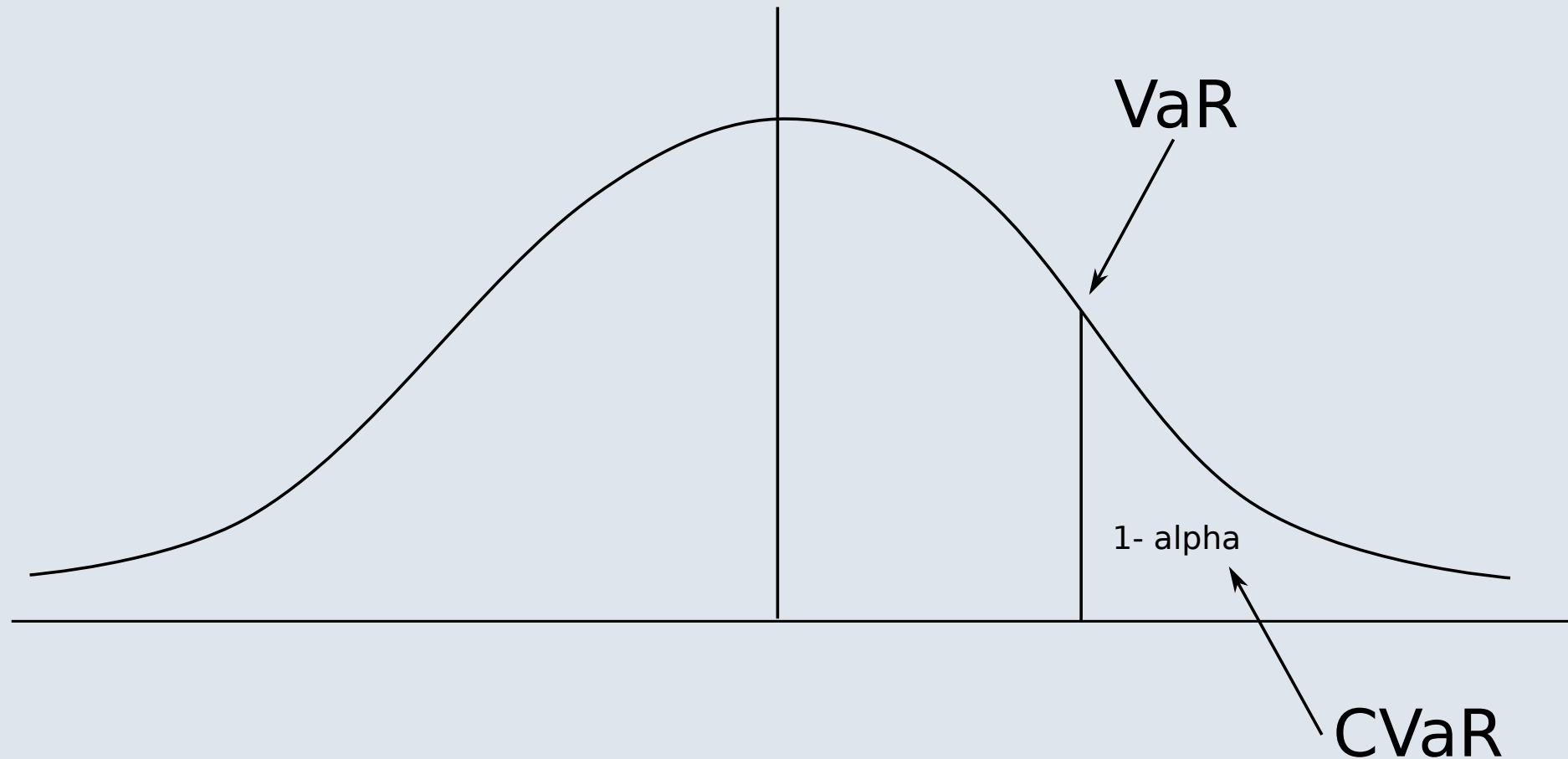
Today

- CVaR
- Application example: portfolio planning
- Bernoulli principle

Conditional Value at Risk

- Extensively studied (also for portfolio): conditional value at risk (CVaR)
- also referred to as “expected shortfall”
- estimates risk of an investment; focus on less profitable outcomes (conservative measure)
- Value at risk VaR_α (Minimization):
 - What is the value x such that the probability of being less than or equal to x is α ? (Quantile)
- Conditional value at risk $CVaR_\alpha$ (Minimization):
 - What is the expected value of all outcomes greater than VaR_α ?

CVaR



CVaR

- What is the expected value of the $1 - \alpha$ worst outcomes?
- Minimize:

p	0.3	0.4	0.3
a_1	4	6	8

- CVaR for $\alpha = 0$:
 - Expected value of all outcomes

CVaR

- What is the expected value of the $1 - \alpha$ worst outcomes?
- Minimize:

p	0.3	0.4	0.3
a_1	4	6	8

- CVaR for $\alpha = 0$:
 - Expected value of all outcomes
- CVaR for $\alpha = 0.2$:
 - 30% outcome 8
 - 40% outcome 6
 - 10% outcome 4
 - CVaR is 6.5

CVaR

- What is the expected value of the $1 - \alpha$ worst outcomes?
- Minimize:

p	0.3	0.4	0.3
a_1	4	6	8

- CVaR for $\alpha = 0$:
 - Expected value of all outcomes
- CVaR for $\alpha = 0.5$:
 - 30% outcome 8
 - 20% outcome 6
 - CVaR is 7.2

CVaR

- What is the expected value of the $1 - \alpha$ worst outcomes?
- Minimize:

p	0.3	0.4	0.3
a_1	4	6	8

- CVaR for $\alpha = 0$:
 - Expected value of all outcomes
- CVaR for $\alpha = 0.8$:
 - 20% outcome 8
 - CVaR is 8
 - For α close to 1, CVaR is equal to worst case

CVaR

- What happens if everything is equally probable?

p	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25
a_1	1	2	3	4

- CVaR for $\alpha = 1/4$ is the average of the 3 worst outcomes
- CVaR for $\alpha = 2/4$ is the average of the 2 worst outcomes
- CVaR for $\alpha = 3/4$ is the average of the 1 worst outcome

Connection to OWA

- Reminder: OWA with weights $(1/2, 1/2, 0, 0)$ gives

$$\frac{1}{2}(\text{largest outcome}) + \frac{1}{2}(\text{second-largest outcome})$$

- Therefore: for n scenarios (all equal probability), the following is equivalent
 - OWA with $w = (1/k, 1/k, \dots, 1/k, 0, 0, \dots, 0)$ (the first k terms are $1/k$)
 - CVaR with $\alpha = (n - k)/n$

Example

	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
p	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.15	0.05
a_1	10	15	18	20	23

$$CVaR_{0.1} =$$

$$CVaR_{0.5} =$$

$$CVaR_{0.9} =$$

Example

	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
p	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.15	0.05
a_1	10	15	18	20	23

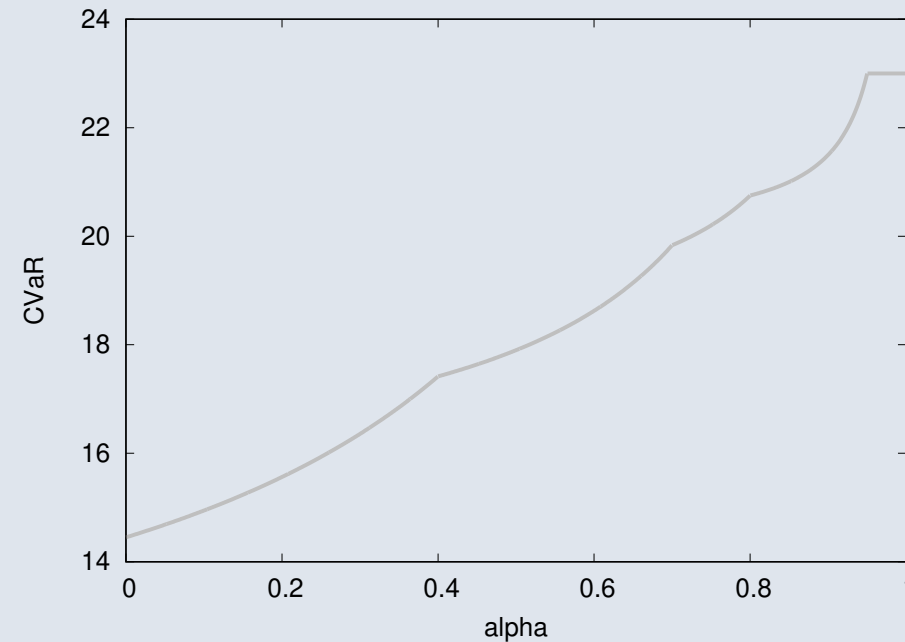
$$\begin{aligned} CVaR_{0.1} &= (0.05 \cdot 23 + 0.15 \cdot 20 + 0.1 \cdot 18 + 0.3 \cdot 15 + 0.3 \cdot 10) / 0.9 \\ &= 14.9 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CVaR_{0.5} &= (0.05 \cdot 23 + 0.15 \cdot 20 + 0.1 \cdot 18 + 0.2 \cdot 15) / 0.5 \\ &= 17.9 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} CVaR_{0.9} &= (0.05 \cdot 23 + 0.05 \cdot 20) / 0.1 \\ &= 21.5 \end{aligned}$$

Example

	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
p	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.15	0.05
a_1	10	15	18	20	23



Application of $\mu - \sigma$: Portfolio Theory

- Aim to find the optimal composition of our stock portfolio
- Portfolio return $e_j, j = 1, \dots, n$ possible environmental states

$$\begin{aligned}\mu &= \sum_{j \in [n]} e_j p_j \\ \sigma^2 &= \sum_{j \in [n]} (e_j - \mu)^2 \cdot p_j \\ &= \sum_{j \in [n]} e_j^2 p_j - 2\mu \sum_{j \in [n]} e_j p_j + \mu^2 \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j \\ &= \sum_{j \in [n]} e_j^2 p_j - \mu^2\end{aligned}$$

Portfolio Example

- Let's assume there are two stocks
- Return in scenario j is e_{1j}, e_{2j}
- We hold shares x_1 and x_2
- $e_j = e_{1j}x_1 + e_{2j}x_2$
- $\mu = \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j e_j = \mu_1 x_1 + \mu_2 x_2$

Portfolio Example

- Investor wants to invest 100,000 EUR for exactly one year
- Achieve maximum return
- Applies μ - σ principle
- Decides only between stock 1 and 2
- Beginning of year 0
- Determines the annual returns of the last 5 years

Portfolio Example

Stock	Year				
	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1
	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
1	15	5	-5	25	10
2	-10	50	10	30	20

- The investor considers all five development possibilities equally likely, $p_j = 0.2$
- $\mu_1 = 10, \sigma_1 = 10$
- $\mu_2 = 20, \sigma_2 = 20$

Portfolio Example

- The investor perceives the risk of a_2 as too high
- He considers two alternatives:
 - a_1 : Invest entirely in Stock 1
 - a_2 : Invest 90,000 EUR in stock 1 and 10,000 EUR in stock 2

Portfolio Example

- a_1 evidently has $\mu_{a_1} = 10$, $\sigma_{a_1} = 10$
- For a_2 :

	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
a_2	12.5	9.5	-3.5	25.5	11.0

- $\mu_{a_2} = 11$ and $\sigma_{a_2} = 9.2$
- The mixture is better in terms of expected value and standard deviation

Portfolio Example

- The expected value $e_j = e_{1j}x_1 + e_{2j}x_2$ is linear
- Therefore, the new expected value is a combination of the old ones,

$$\mu_1 = 10, \mu_2 = 20, \mu_{a_2} = 0.9 \cdot 10 + 0.1 \cdot 20 = 11$$

- This does not apply to standard deviation:

$$\sigma_1 = 10, \sigma_2 = 20, \sigma_{a_2} = 9.2$$

- We use a riskier stock to reduce risk!

Correlation

- Why is this so?
- Need correlation ρ
- Determines how two random variables respond similarly to changes in the environment
 - $\rho = 1$: Same
 - $\rho = -1$: Opposite
 - $\rho = 0$: Independent
- Formula:

$$\rho_{12} = \frac{cov_{12}}{\sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2}$$

with cov_{12} as the covariance between variables 1 and 2:

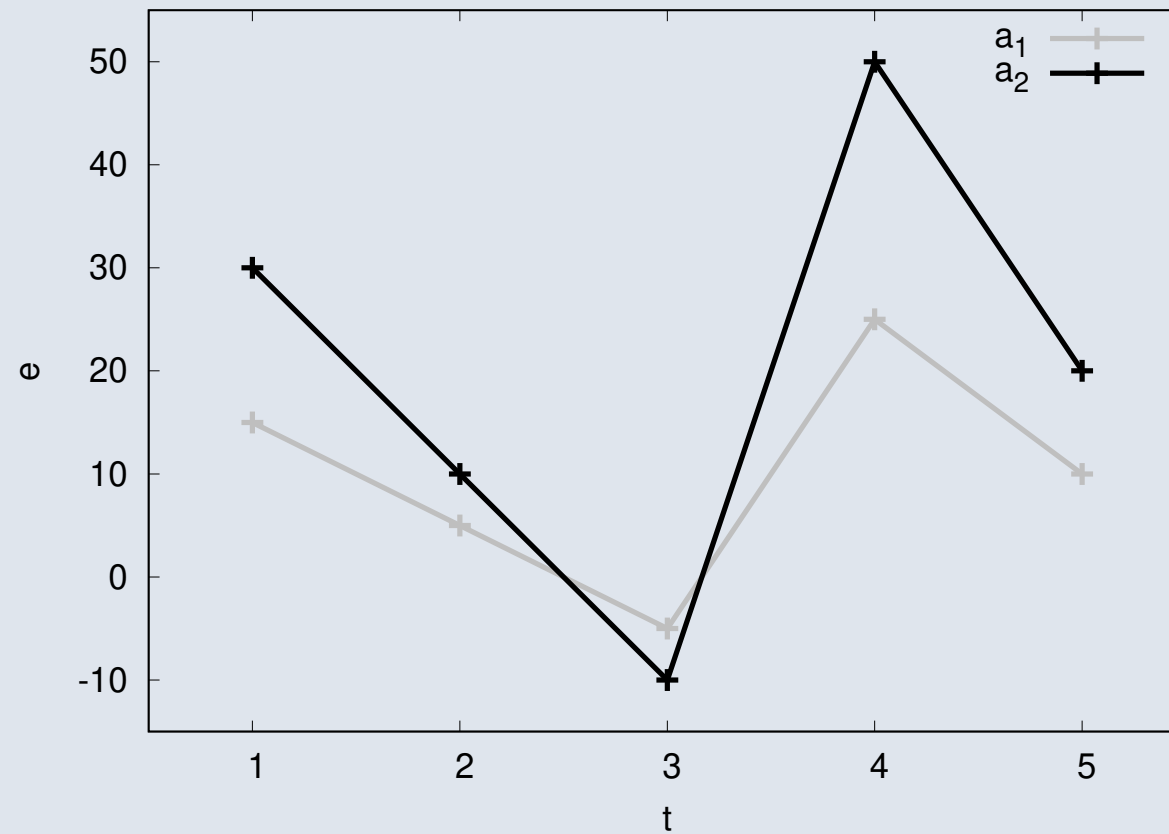
$$cov_{12} = \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j (e_{1j} - \mu_1) \cdot (e_{2j} - \mu_2)$$

Example

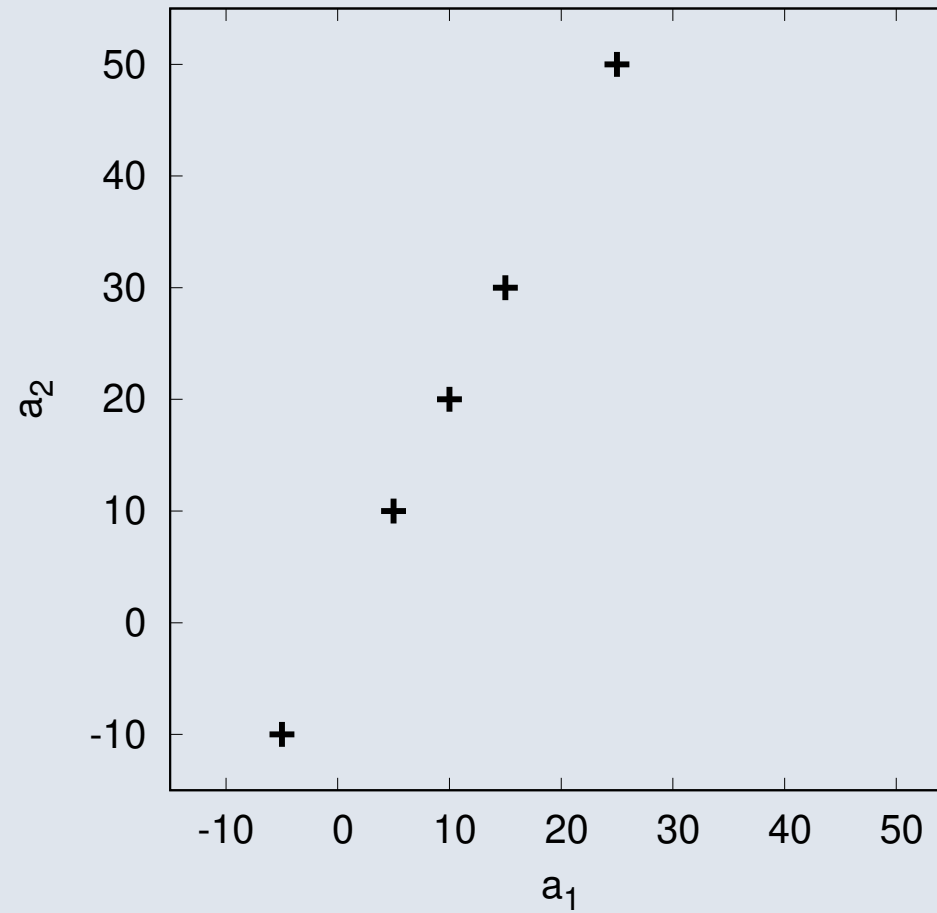
	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
1	15	5	-5	25	10
2	30	10	-10	50	20

- $\mu_1 = 10, \sigma_1 = 10$
- $\mu_2 = 20, \sigma_2 = 20$
- $cov_{12} = \frac{1}{5}(50 + 50 + 450 + 450 + 0) = 200$
- $\rho_{12} = cov_{12} / \sigma_1 \sigma_2 = 200 / (10 \cdot 20) = 1$
- Stock 1 and 2 are 100% positively correlated

Example



Example

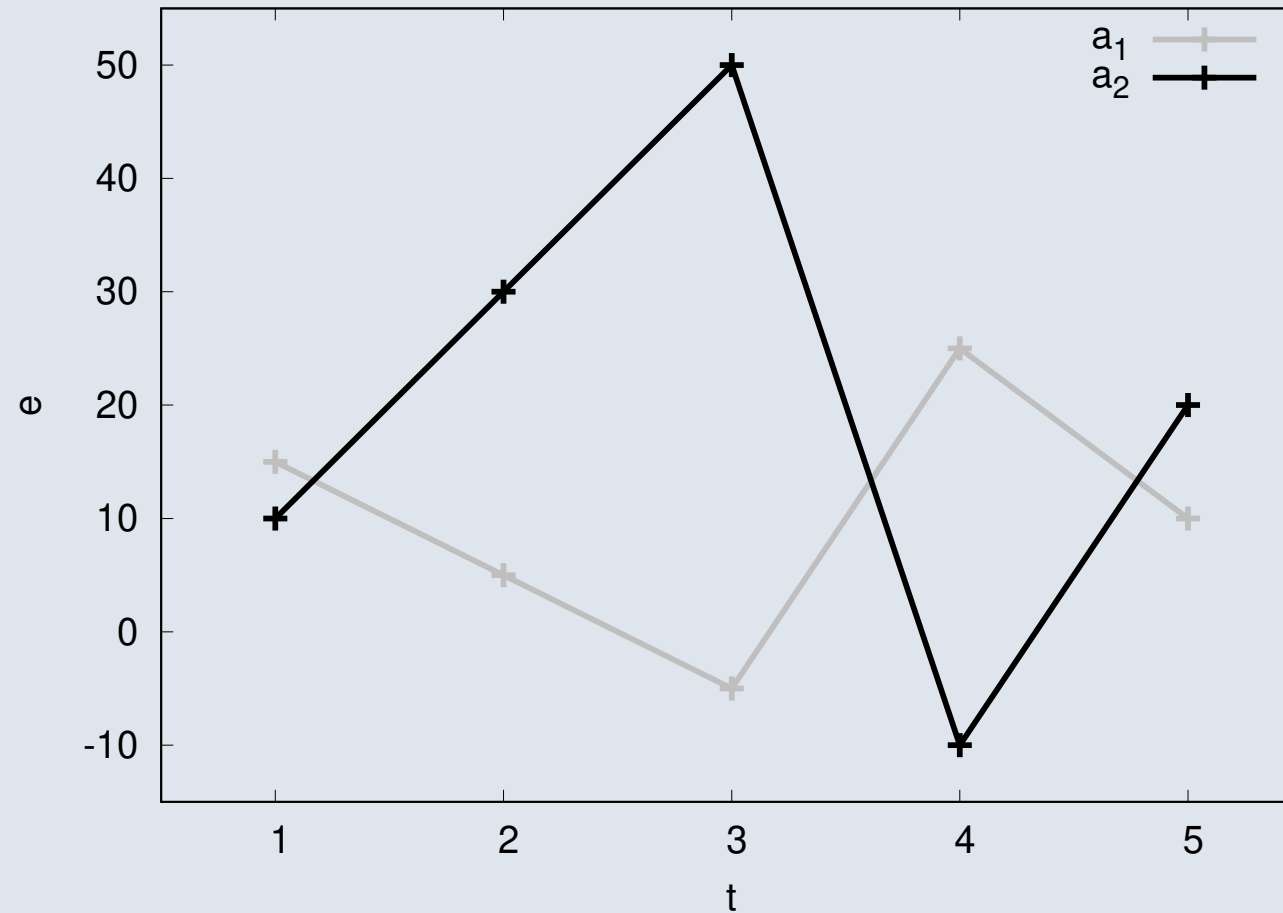


Example

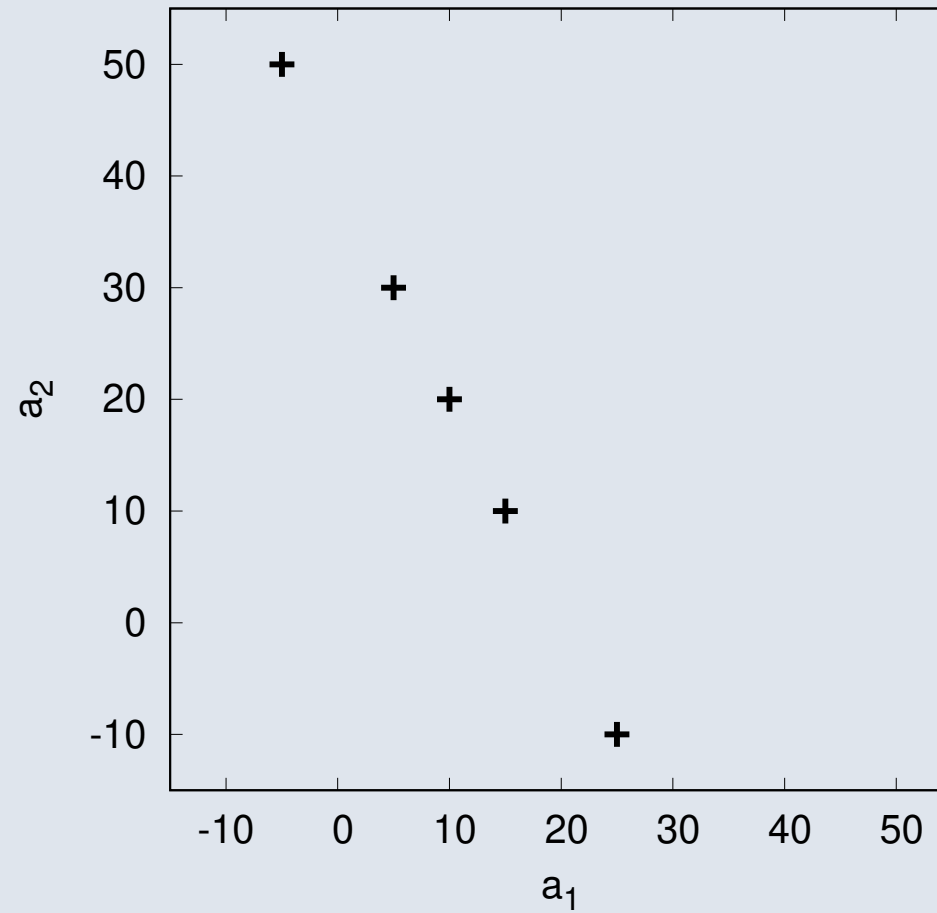
	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
1	15	5	-5	25	10
2	10	30	50	-10	20

- $\mu_1 = 10, \sigma_1 = 10$
- $\mu_2 = 20, \sigma_2 = 20$
- $\text{COV}_{12} = -200$
- $\rho_{12} = \text{COV}_{12} / \sigma_1 \sigma_2 = -200 / (10 \cdot 20) = -1$
- Stock 1 and 2 are 100% negatively correlated

Example



Example

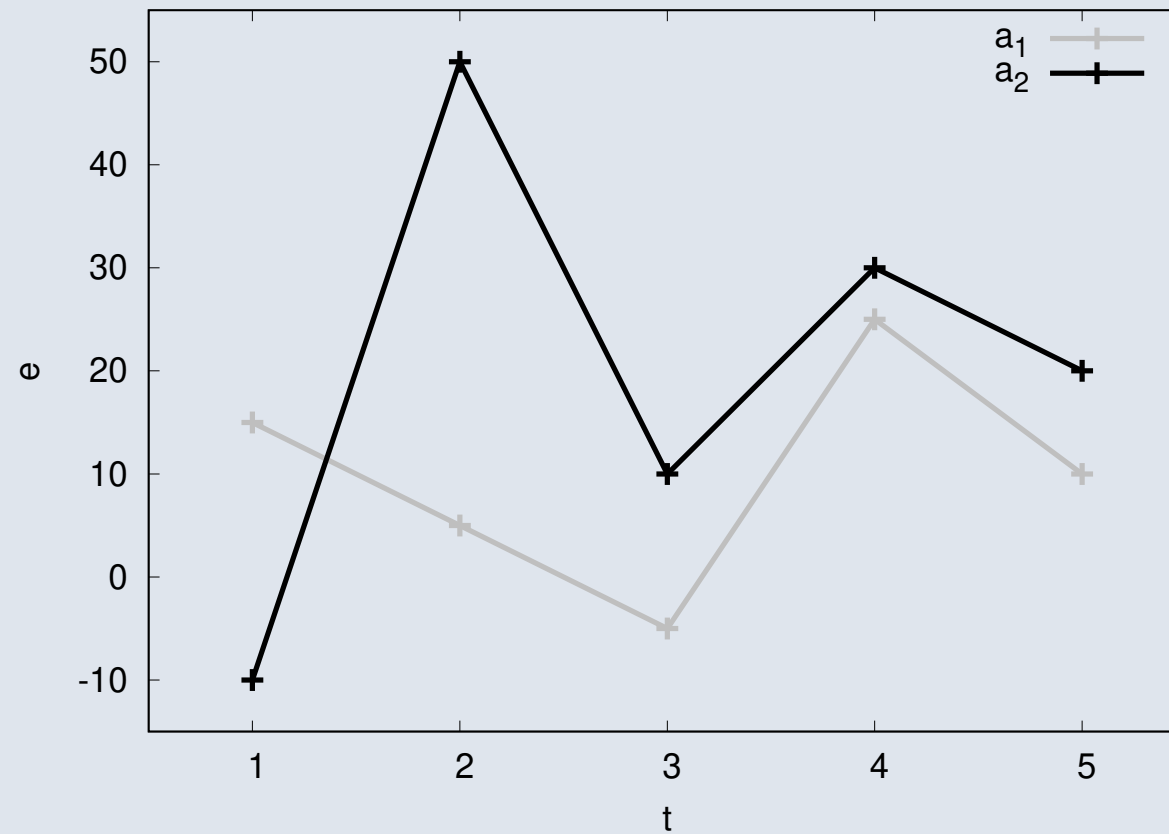


Example

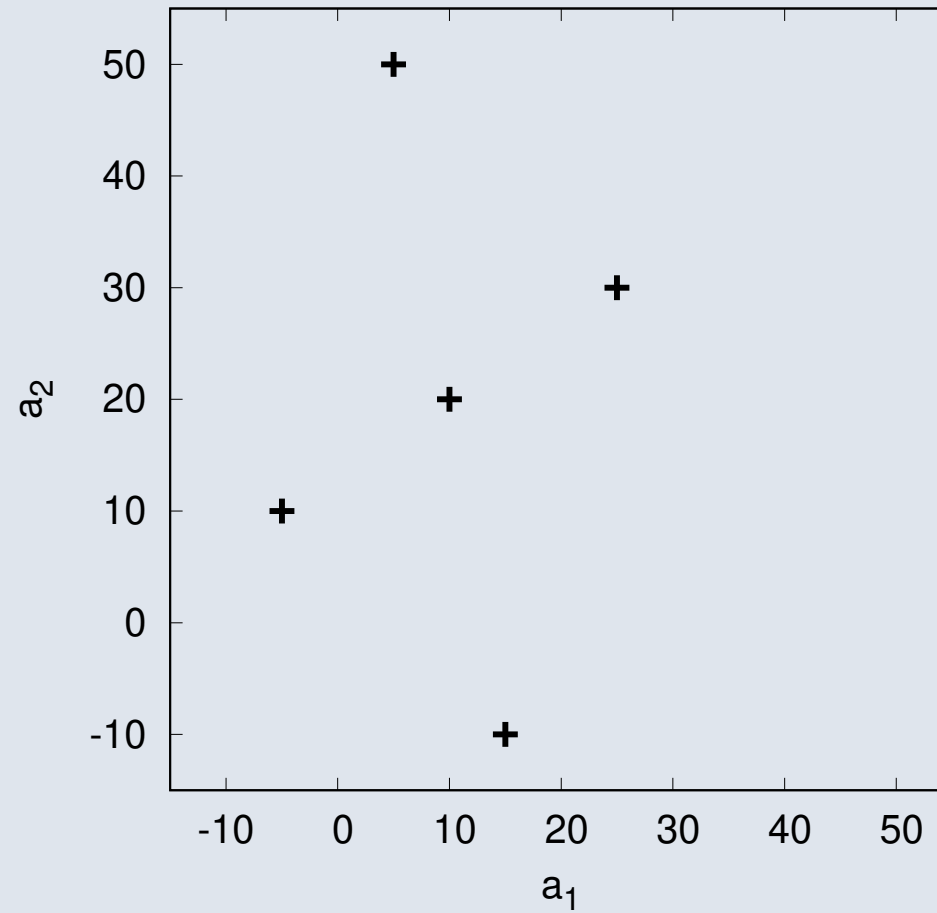
	s_1	s_2	s_3	s_4	s_5
1	15	5	-5	25	10
2	-10	50	10	30	20

- $\mu_1 = 10, \sigma_1 = 10$
- $\mu_2 = 20, \sigma_2 = 20$
- $\text{cov}_{12} = 0$
- $\rho_{12} = \text{cov}_{12} / \sigma_1 \sigma_2 = 0 / (10 \cdot 20) = 0$
- Stocks 1 and 2 are not correlated

Example



Example



Correlation

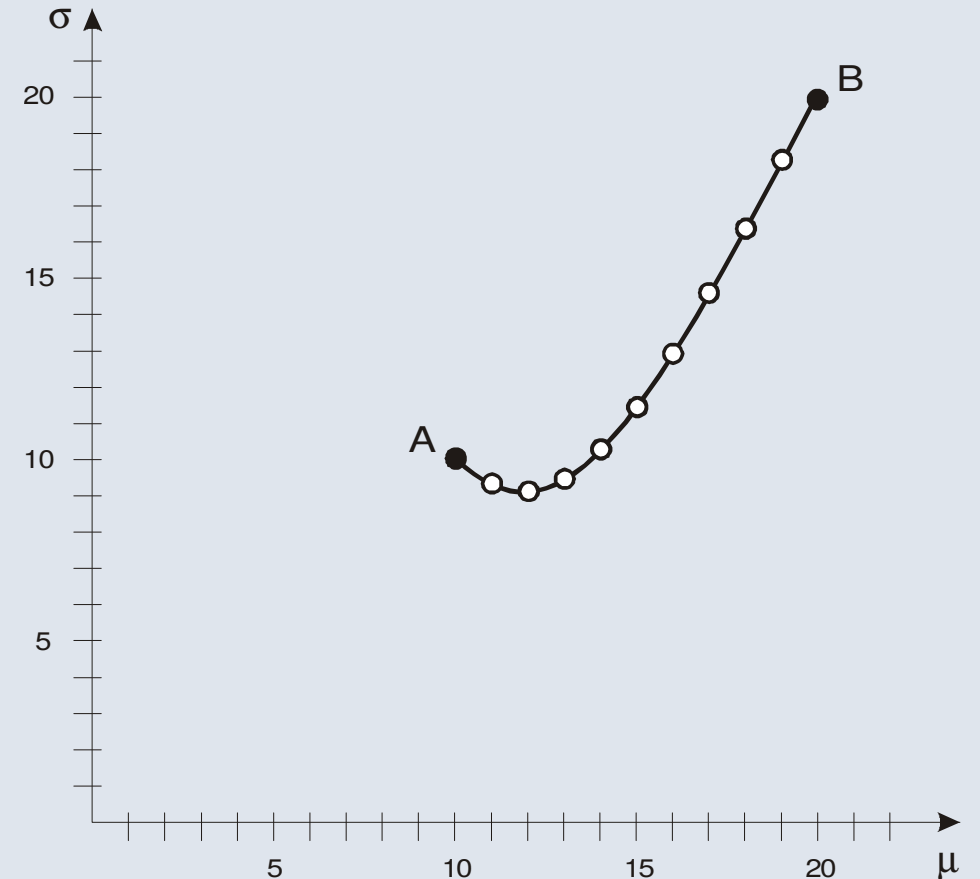
- Depending on the proportions x_1 and x_2 , the variance of the portfolio is given by:

$$\sigma^2 = x_1^2 \sigma_1^2 + x_2^2 \sigma_2^2 + 2x_1 x_2 \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \rho_{12}$$

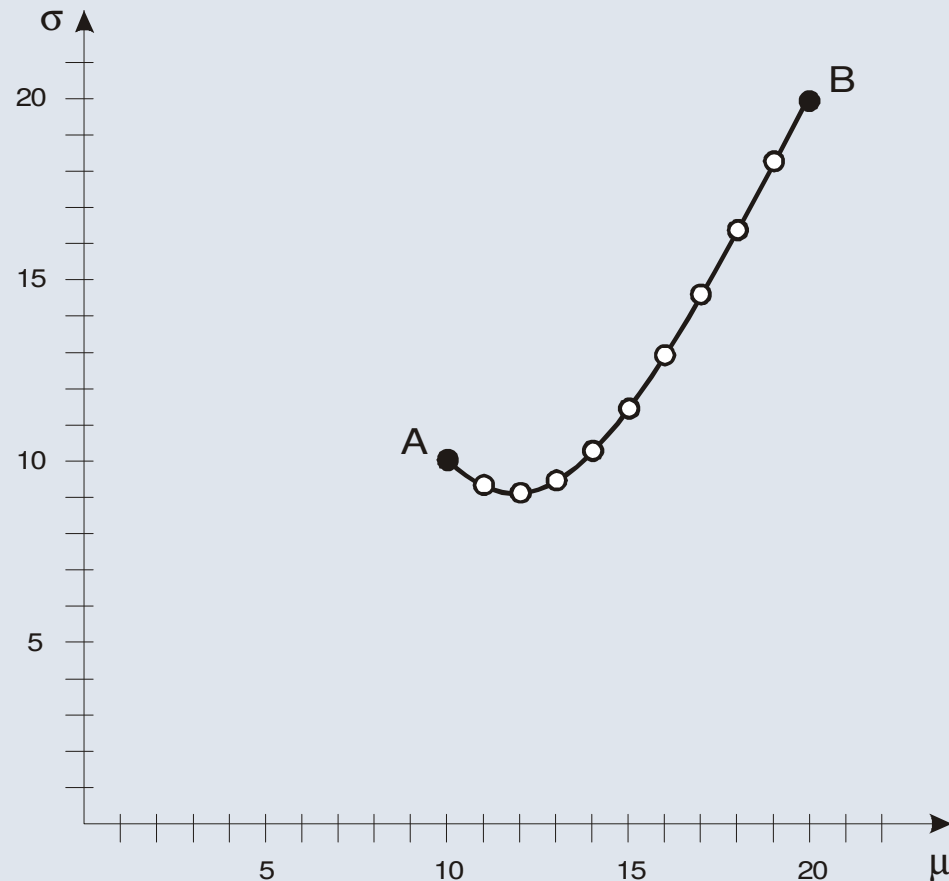
- In special cases:
 - $\rho = 1 \rightarrow \sigma^2 = (x_1 \sigma_1 + x_2 \sigma_2)^2$
 - ▶ Standard deviation is linear in x_1, x_2 (similar to expected value)
 - $\rho = -1 \rightarrow \sigma^2 = (x_1 \sigma_1 - x_2 \sigma_2)^2$
 - ▶ We can reduce variance by combining appropriately
 - ▶ Also known as "Hedging"
 - $\rho = 0 \rightarrow \sigma^2 = x_1^2 \sigma_1^2 + x_2^2 \sigma_2^2$
 - ▶ Reduction in variance is also possible here

Correlation

- We only need to set x_1 , and x_2 is then defined as $1 - x_1$
- Consider all combinations for $x_1 = 1$ (A) to $x_1 = 0$ (B)
- Plot μ and σ in a diagram for each combination (portfolio line)



Correlation



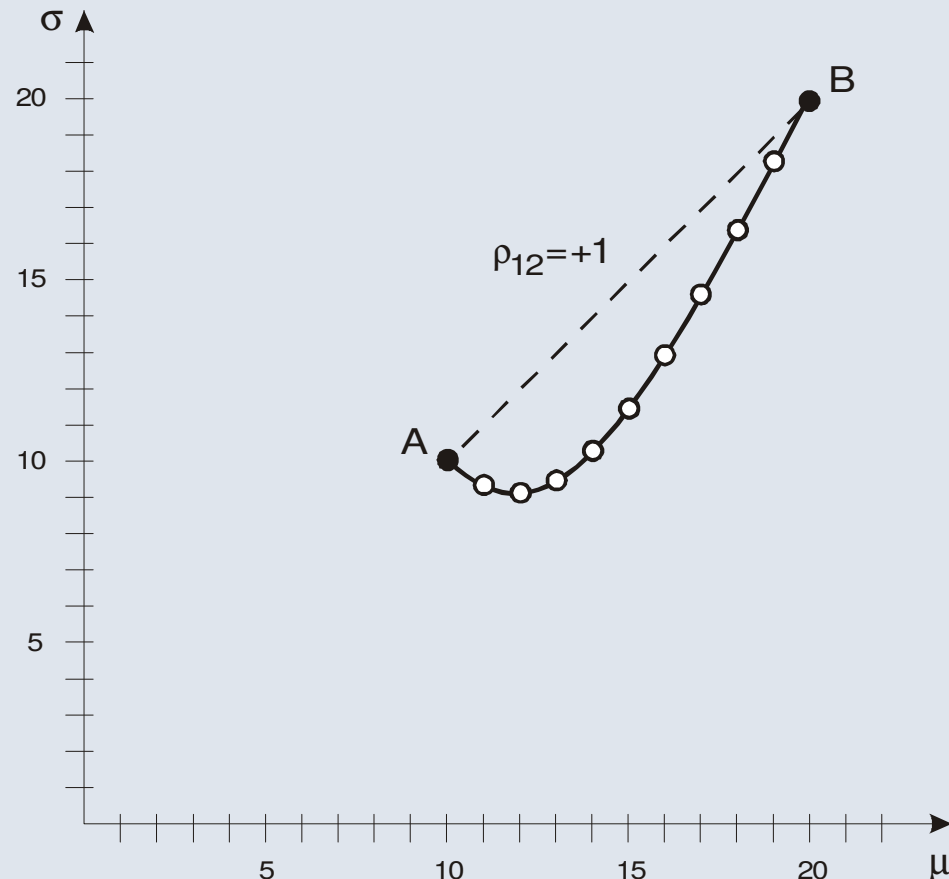
- μ - σ diagram:

- Suppose we have $\rho = 1$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= X_1\sigma_1 + X_2\sigma_2 \\ &= \sigma_2 + (\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)X_1\end{aligned}$$

- We can only increase expected value if we increase standard deviation equally
- Linear relationship

Correlation

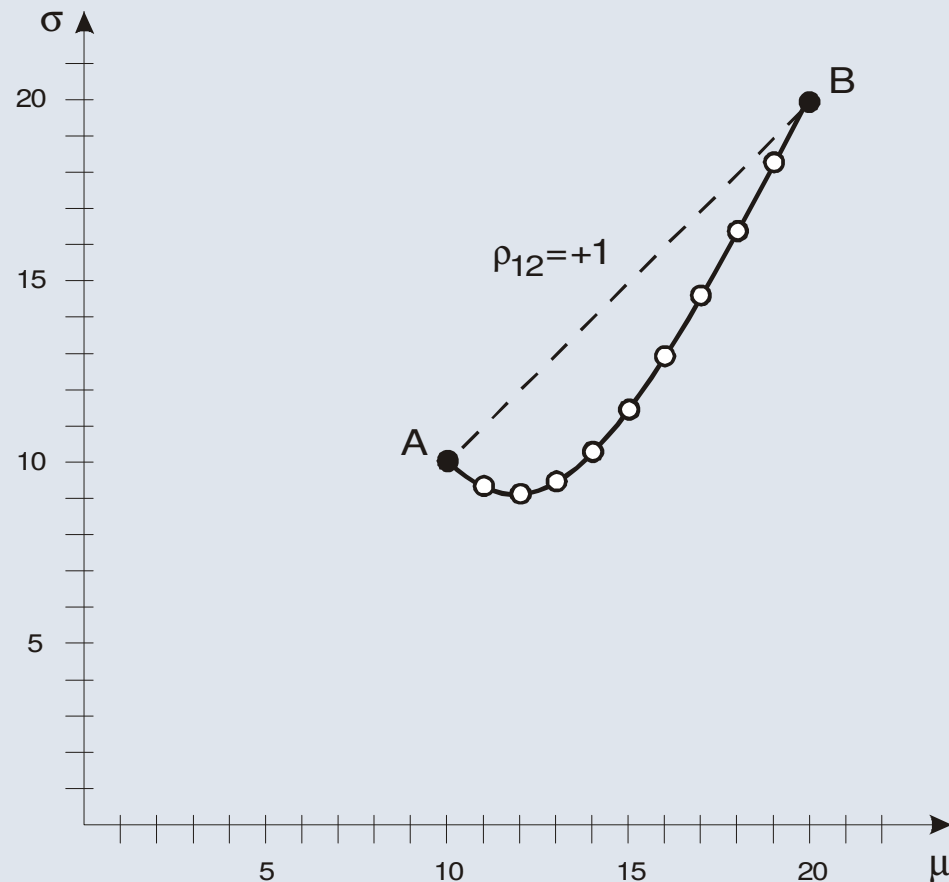


- μ - σ diagram:
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Correlation



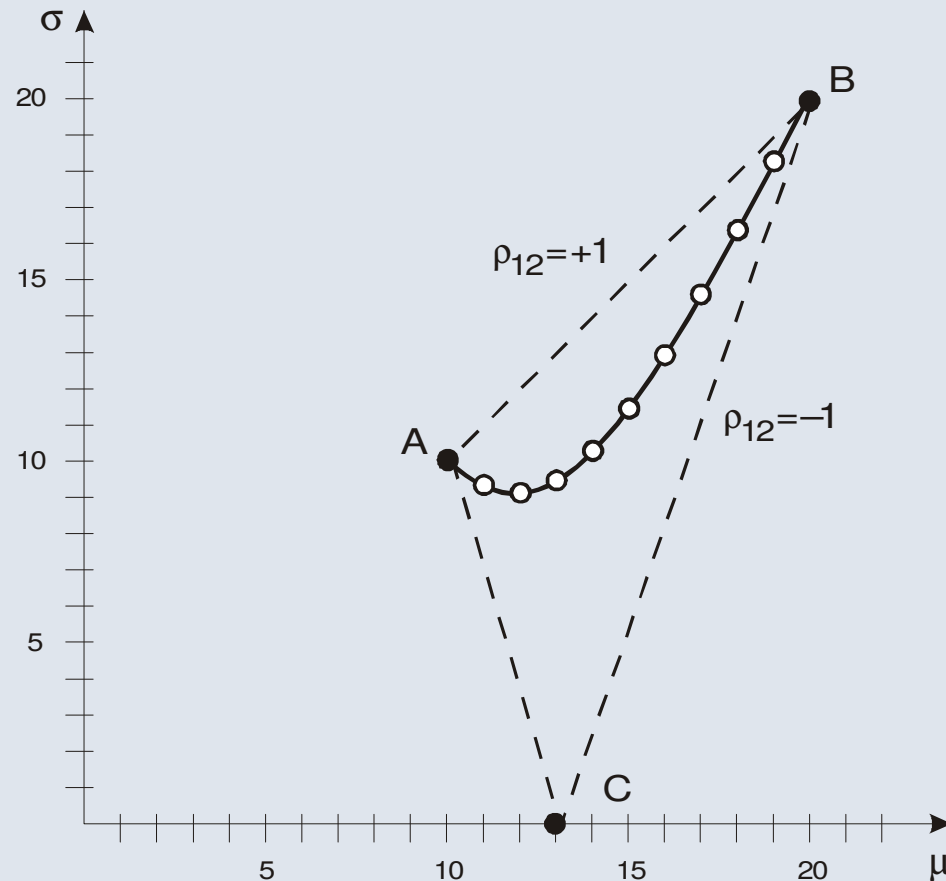
- μ - σ diagram:

- Suppose we have $\rho = -1$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= |x_1\sigma_1 - x_2\sigma_2| \\ &= |(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)x_1 - \sigma_2|\end{aligned}$$

- For $x_1 = \sigma_2/(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)$, we get $\sigma = 0$

Correlation



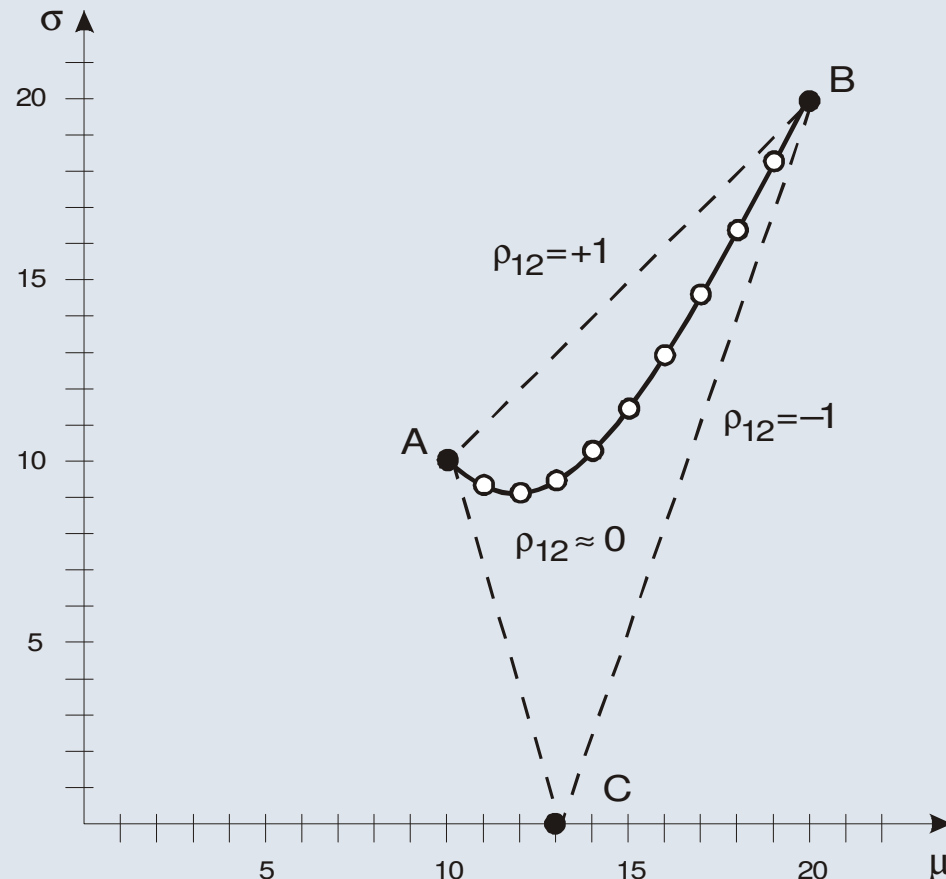
- μ - σ diagram:

- Suppose we have $\rho = -1$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= |x_1\sigma_1 - x_2\sigma_2| \\ &= |(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)x_1 - \sigma_2|\end{aligned}$$

- For $x_1 = \sigma_2/(\sigma_1 + \sigma_2)$, we get $\sigma = 0$

Correlation



- μ - σ diagram:
- Suppose ρ is between -1 and +1
- Get a curve in triangle ABC
- For ρ close to -1: convex, close to C
- For ρ close to +1: steep, close to line AB

Example

- We continue to have Stock 1 with $\mu_1 = 10$ and $\sigma_1 = 10$ as an option
- Also, there are government bonds with a one-year maturity
- Guaranteed to have no variance
- $\mu_0 = 6$ and $\sigma_0 = 0$
- Proportions x_0 and x_1
- Expected value?

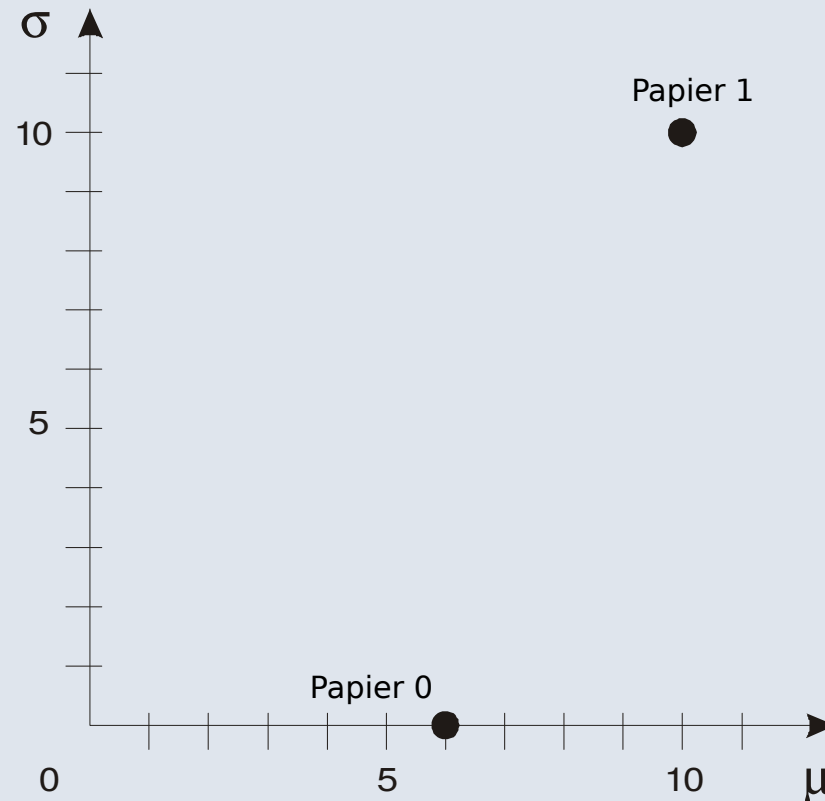
$$\mu = 6x_0 + 10x_1$$

- Variance?

$$\sigma^2 = \sigma_0^2 x_0^2 + \sigma_1^2 x_1^2 + 2x_0 x_1 \sigma_0 \sigma_1 \rho_{12} = \sigma_1^2 x_1^2 = 100x_1^2$$

Portfolio Line

- What does the portfolio line look like?

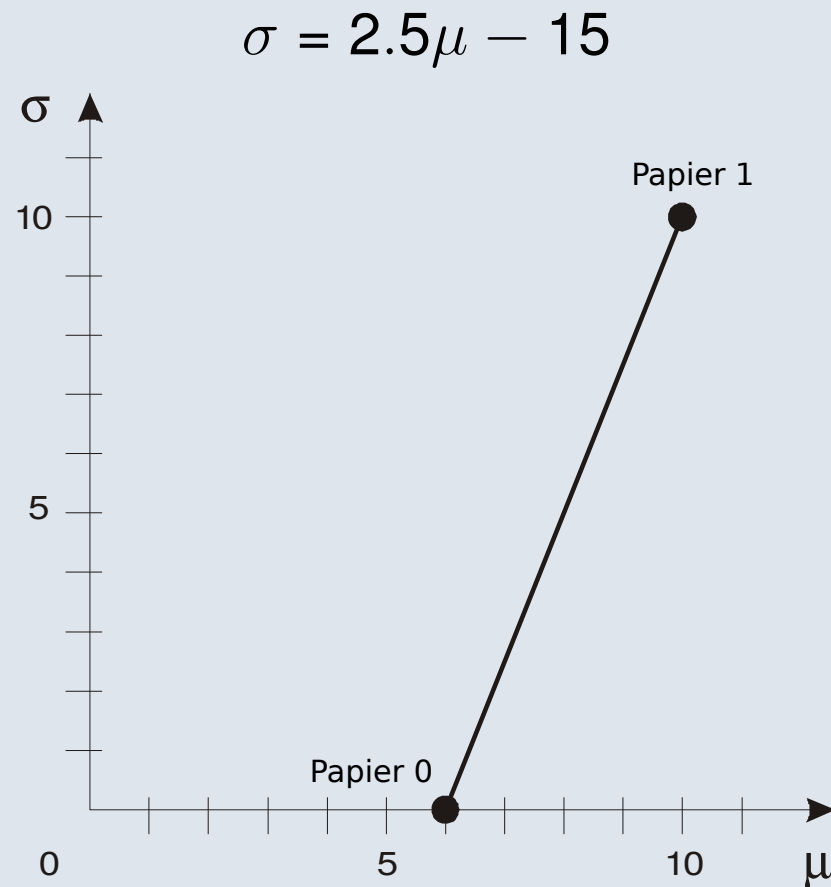


Portfolio Line

- $x_0 + x_1 = 1$
- $\mu = \mu_0 x_0 + \mu_1 x_1 = \mu_0(1 - x_1) + \mu_1 x_1 = (\mu_1 - \mu_0)x_1 + \mu_0$
- $x_1 = \frac{\mu - \mu_0}{\mu_1 - \mu_0}$
- $\sigma = \sigma_1 x_1 = \sigma_1 \cdot \frac{\mu - \mu_0}{\mu_1 - \mu_0} = \frac{\sigma_1}{\mu_1 - \mu_0} \mu - \frac{\mu_0 \sigma_1}{\mu_1 - \mu_0}$
- With $\mu_0 = 6$, $\mu_1 = 10$, and $\sigma_1 = 10$, we have:

$$\sigma = 2.5\mu - 15$$

Visualization



Portfolio Optimization

- Which portfolio is the best?
- Must know the preference function $\Phi(\mu, \sigma)$
- Substitution: function in (x_1, x_2) , then only x_1
- Take the derivative with respect to x_1 and set it equal to zero

Portfolio Optimization

- Which portfolio is the best?
- Must know the preference function $\Phi(\mu, \sigma)$
- Substitution: function in (x_1, x_2) , then only x_1
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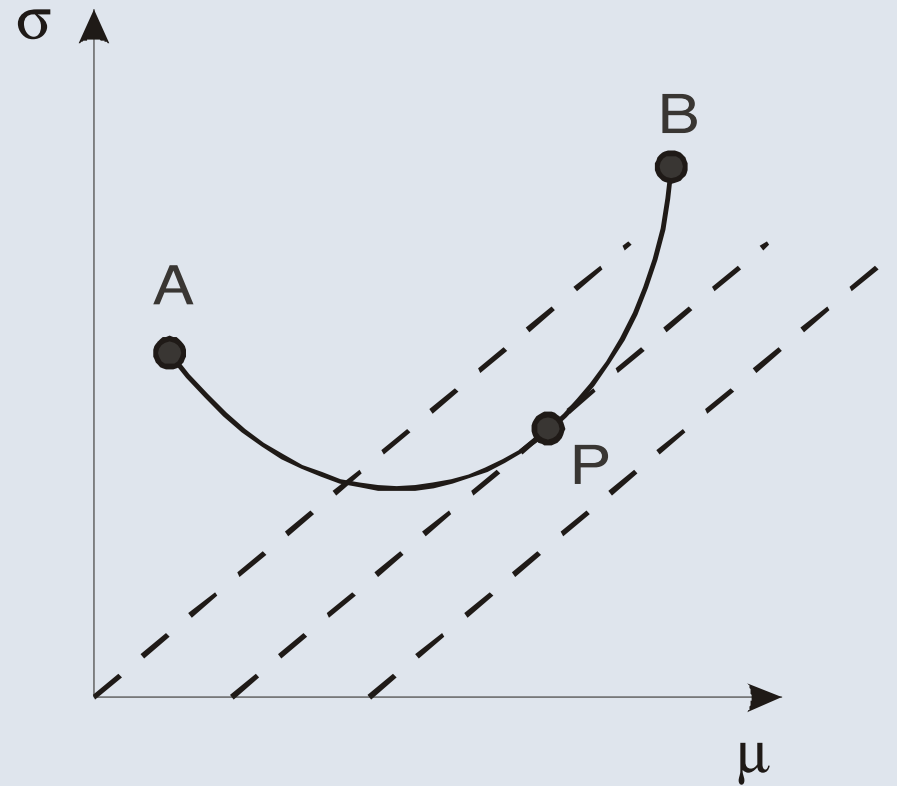
In the Example

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(\mu, \sigma) &= \mu - \alpha\sigma^2 = (\mu_1 - \mu_0)x_1 + \mu_0 - \alpha\sigma_1^2 x_1^2 \\ \Phi'(x_1) &= \mu_1 - \mu_0 - 2\alpha\sigma_1^2 x_1 \\ \Phi'(x_1) = 0 &\Leftrightarrow x_1 = \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_0}{2\alpha\sigma_1^2}\end{aligned}$$

Portfolio Optimization

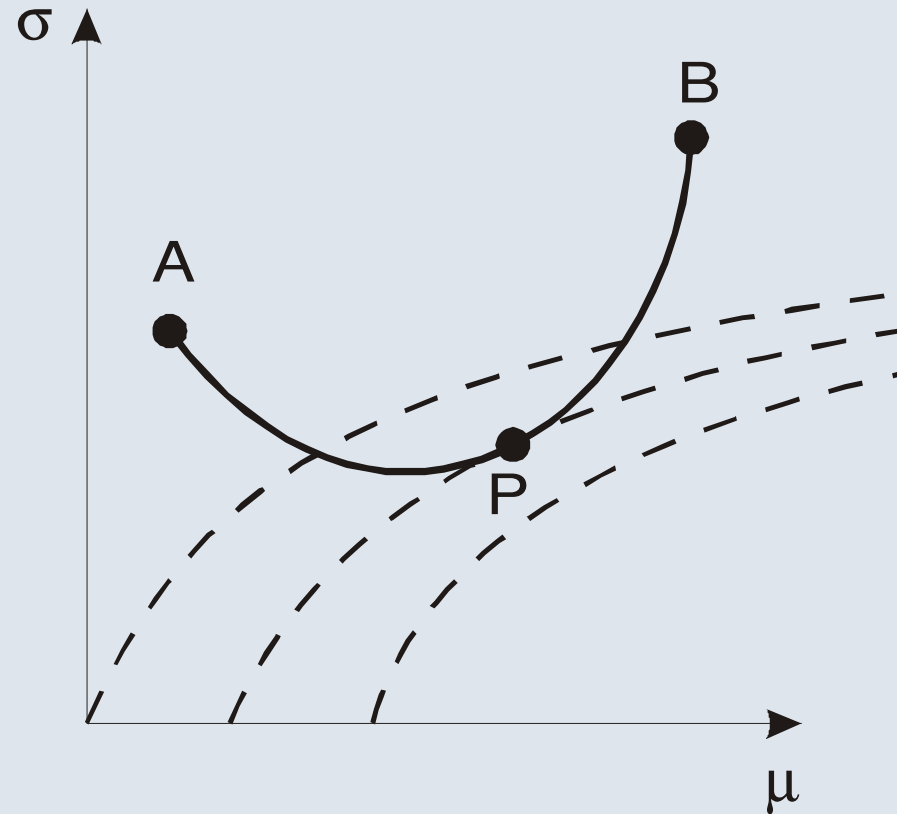
- Can also use a portfolio line
- $\Phi(\mu, \sigma) = \mu - \alpha\sigma, \alpha > 0$: linear level curves
- $\Phi(\mu, \sigma) = \mu - \alpha\sigma^2, \alpha > 0$: concave level curves
- Find the intersection point of the highest level curve with the portfolio line

Case $\Phi(\mu, \sigma) = \mu - \alpha\sigma$ (Linear Level Curves)



- The best portfolio is at point P

Case $\Phi(\mu, \sigma) = \mu - \alpha\sigma^2$ (Concave Level Curves)



- The best portfolio is at point P

Relationship

- Smaller α :
 - We are more risk-friendly
 - Level curves are steeper
 - Intersection point is further to the right
- Larger α :
 - We are more risk-averse
 - Level curves are flatter
 - Intersection point is further to the left
- With more risk, we can achieve portfolios with a better expected value

Bernoulli Principle – What is it about?

(Daniel) Bernoulli, 1738:

- Evaluation of gambling games
- Not the expected value of the win
- "Moral expectation" = expected value of utility
- Utility not linear in the win



Bernoulli Principle

1. Use utility function $u_{ij} = u(e_{ij})$
2. Preference $\Phi(a_i)$ is the expected value of the utility values
3. "Risk-Utility Function"

Objective Function

$$\max_{i \in [m]} \Phi(a_i) \text{ with } \Phi(a_i) = \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j u(e_{ij})$$

Example

Choose an alternative. Decision matrix:

p	0.1	0.5	0.4
a_1	0	9	36
a_2	49	25	4

- $\Phi(a_1) = 0 \cdot 0.1 + 3 \cdot 0.5 + 6 \cdot 0.4 = 3.9$
- $\Phi(a_2) = 7 \cdot 0.1 + 5 \cdot 0.5 + 2 \cdot 0.4 = 4.0$

Assume utility is $u(e) = \sqrt{e}$. Utility matrix:

p	0.1	0.5	0.4
a_1	0	3	6
a_2	7	5	2

St. Petersburg Paradox

- Utility function circumvents paradox
- For example, for $u(x) = \log_2 x$:

	s_1	s_2	s_3	\dots	s_n
$p(s_i)$	$1/2$	$1/4$	$1/8$	\dots	2^{-n}
Win	2	4	8	\dots	2^n
Utility	1	2	3	\dots	n

- How is the game assessed?

$$\Phi = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} p_i u(e_i) = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} 2^{-i} i = 2$$

Properties

- Assume replacing $u(e)$ with a positive-linear transformation

$$\hat{u}(e) = \alpha + \beta \cdot u(e), \quad \beta > 0$$

- Preference functions:

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi(a_i) &= \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j u(e_{ij}) \\ \hat{\Phi}(a_i) &= \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j \hat{u}(e_{ij}) = \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j (\alpha + \beta u(e_{ij})) \\ &= \alpha \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j + \beta \sum_{j \in [n]} p_j u(e_{ij}) = \alpha + \beta \Phi(a_i)\end{aligned}$$

- $\hat{\Phi}$ is a positive-linear transformation of Φ

Properties

- Preference functions can be positively linearly transformed without changing the decision
- Arbitrariness of the zero point and unit of measurement
- Sign of Φ is not an indicator of whether the result is pleasant or unpleasant

Determination of Φ

- Comparison between hypothetical choices of:
 - Certain income
 - Simple chance

Simple Chance

- Exactly two possible outcomes e' and e''
- Probabilities p' and $p'' = 1 - p'$
- Abbreviated as $(e'; p'; e'')$
- e' is the favorable outcome
- p' : Probability of success

Example

- Lottery:
 - 99% lose
 - 1% win 1000 euros
- $e' = 1000, p' = 0.01$
- $e'' = 0, p'' = 0.99$
- Notation: (1000;0.01;0)

Utility Elicitation – First Step

- All possible outcomes e_{ij} should lie in the range $[e'', e']$
- Assign arbitrary utilities $1 = u' = u(e') > u'' = u(e'') = 0$

Example

- All outcomes lie in the range between 0 and 100
- Define:
 - $e' = 100, u' = u(100) = 1$
 - $e'' = 0, u'' = u(0) = 0$

Utility Elicitation – Second Step

- Decision maker is faced with the choice between
 - A certain alternative with outcome \bar{e}
 - A simple chance $(e'; p'; e'')$

Example

- Let's assume choosing $\bar{e} = 25$
- Compare between:
 - Certain outcome of 25
 - Simple chance $(100; p'; 0)$

Utility Elicitation – Third Step

- p' is determined so that both alternatives are considered equally good
- Critical value: $p^*(\bar{e})$

Example

- p' close to 1: $(100; p'; 0)$ better than $\bar{e} = 25$
- p' close to 0: $(100; p'; 0)$ worse than $\bar{e} = 25$
- By iterative questioning, $p^*(25)$ is determined
- Let's assume $p^*(25) = 0.5$

Utility Elicitation – Fourth Step

- \bar{e} is as good as $(e'; p^*(\bar{e}); e'')$

- Therefore,

$$u(\bar{e}) = p^*(\bar{e})u(e') + (1 - p^*(\bar{e}))u(e'')$$

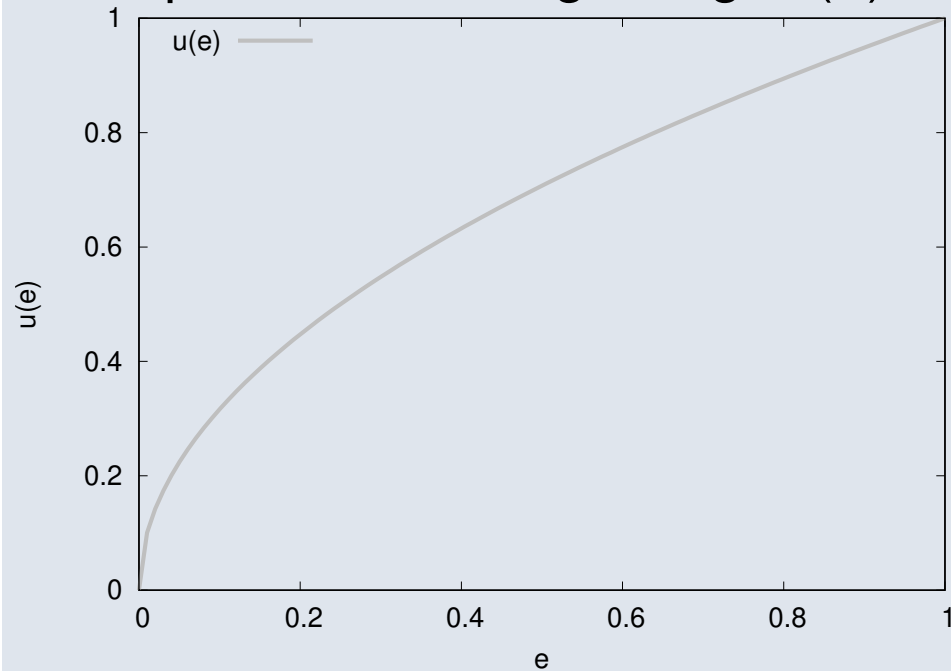
- Through normalization: $u(\bar{e}) = p^*(\bar{e})$

Example

$$u(25) = 0.5u(100) + (1 - 0.5)u(0) = 0.5 \cdot 1 = 0.5$$

Course of the Risk-Utility Function

Example from the beginning: $u(e) = \sqrt{e}$



- Larger outcome yields greater utility: $\frac{du}{de} > 0$
- What about the curvature?
 - $\frac{d^2u}{de^2} < 0$: concave increasing
 - $\frac{d^2u}{de^2} > 0$: convex increasing
 - $\frac{d^2u}{de^2} = 0$: linear increasing

Course of the Risk-Utility Function

- Concave course:
 - Certainty equivalent less than expected value
 - Risk-averse
- Convex course:
 - Certainty equivalent greater than expected value
 - Risk-seeking
- Linear course:
 - Certainty equivalent equal to expected value
 - Risk-neutral

Quiz

Question 1

	s_1	s_2
1	8	-2
2	-4	1

What combination (x_1, x_2) yields a portfolio with the minimum variance?

Question 2

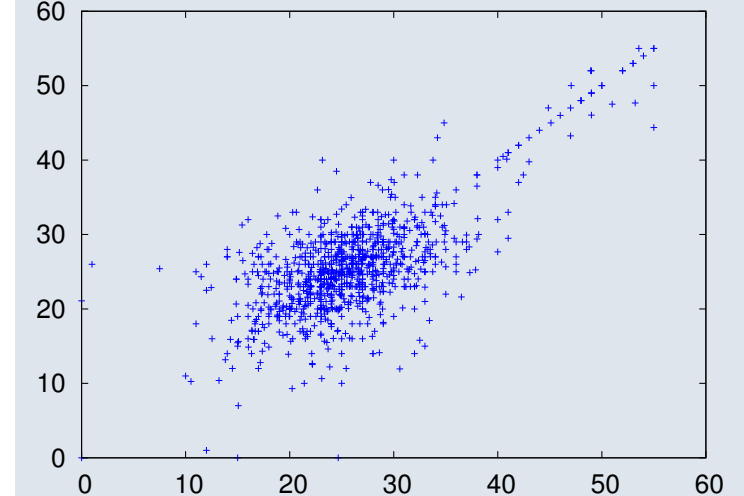
Let u be a linear utility function with $u(8) = 0$ and $u(18) = 1$. What is the expected utility?

p	0.2	0.6	0.2
a_1	18	10	8

1. $\Phi(a_1) = 0.20$
2. $\Phi(a_1) = 0.32$
3. $\Phi(a_1) = 0.41$

Question 3

Which one is true?



1. positive correlation
2. no correlation
3. negative correlation

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Question 1

	s_1	s_2
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Solution

For $x_1 = 1/3$ and $x_2 = 2/3$, all values are zero \rightarrow variance is zero.

Question 2

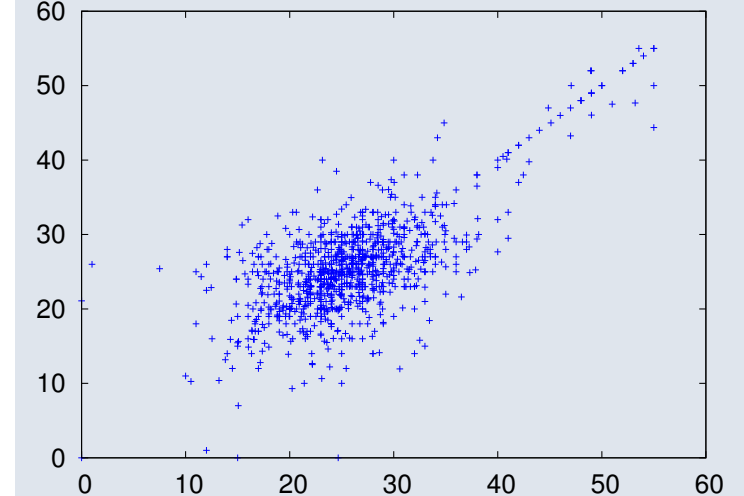
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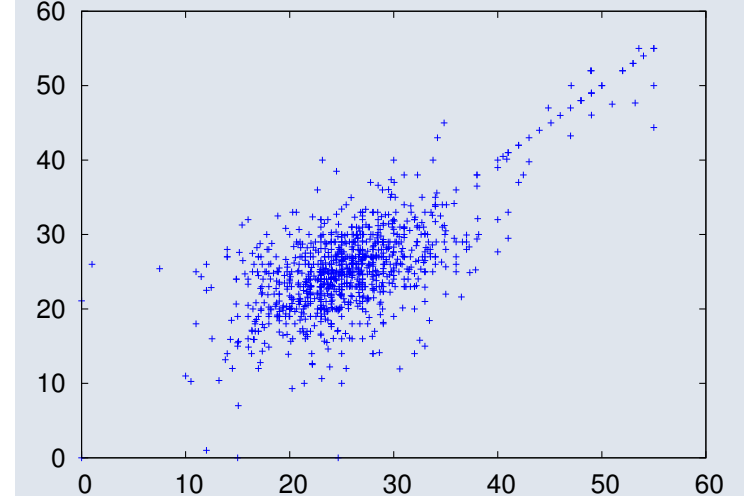
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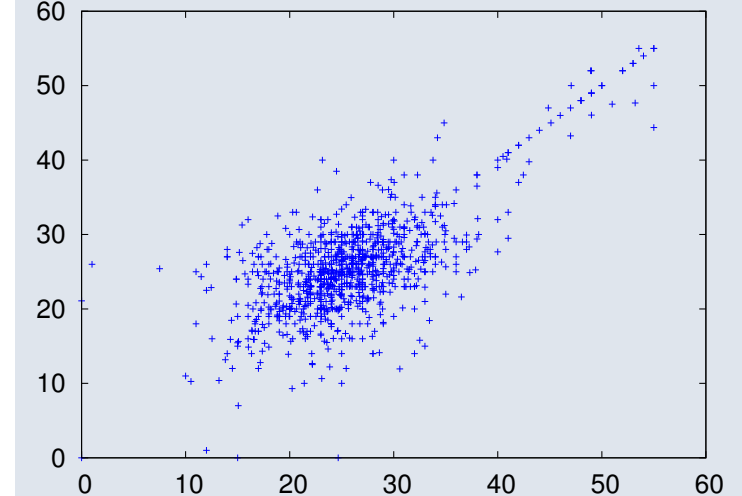
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