

Mathematical Modeling and Consulting



Sponsor

Jabre Capital

Progress Report

Portfolio Optimization based on PCA analysis

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Abstract

The stock market is a financial game of winners and losers. Using the multivariate statistical methods of principal component analysis (PCA), we aim to find out the problems of Jabre Capital Partners stock investment portfolio and choice. Since the unsystematic risk is a risk that can be avoided and the market does not compensate for taking such risks, our work focuses on the evaluation of the unsystematic risk of Jabre Capital Partners.

We divided our work into two stages: first is to analyze the diversification and unsystematic risk of the 21 stocks that company held for entire year, second is to analyze the stock portfolio changes from quarter to quarter in order to observe the diversification improved or not. Since PCA can find structure in the covariance or correlation matrix and uses this structure to locate low-dimensional subspaces containing most of the variation in the data, we can tell whether the stock portfolio is diversified or not, that is whether the unsystematic risk is low or not.

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Contents

Abstract	2
Acknowledgments	3
1 Introduction	6
2 Technical Background	7
3 Problem Statement	8
4 Analysis	9
5 Results	10
6 Conclusion	12
A Glossary	13
B Abbreviations	14
REFERENCES	
Selected Bibliography Including Cited Works	15

List of Figures

3.1	Jabre Capital’s Portfolio Selection in 2011	8
5.1	Optional caption for list of figures	10
5.2	PCA analysis result	11

Chapter 1

Introduction

Jabre Capital Partners is an alternative asset management platform founded in 2006. The Group offers a diversified range of investment management services and products, including Cayman-based collective investment schemes, UCITS IV regulated strategies, and individually managed accounts, to a broad network of institutional and high net worth clients. In addition, the Group provides discretionary investment management and advisory services to private clients.

As of December 31st 2010, Jabre Capital had portfolio value of \$4,133,365,000. A year later, the portfolio value was only \$793,966,000. In one year, the hedge fund's value was down by around 80%, which made it among the 10 worst hedge funds 2011.

Chapter 2

Technical Background

The stock market is a financial game of winners and losers. Is there a method to predict the stock market? Using the multivariate statistical methods of principal component analysis (PCA), we aim to find out the problem of Jabre Capital Partners stock investment portfolio and choice.

Diversifiable risk (also known as unsystematic risk) represents the portion of an assets risk that is associated with random causes that can be eliminated through diversification. While the non-diversifiable risk (also known as systematic risk) is the relevant portion of an assets risk attributable to market factors that affect all firms such as war, inflation, international incidents, and political events. In the other word systematic risk is beyond the control of investors and cannot be mitigated to a large extent. In contrast to this, the unsystematic risk can be mitigated through portfolio diversification. Since the unsystematic risk is a risk that can be avoided and the market does not compensate for taking such risks, our work focuses on the evaluation of the unsystematic risk of Jabre Capital Partners.

Principal component analysis (PCA) is a mathematical procedure that uses an orthogonal transformation to convert a set of observations of possibly correlated variables into a set of values of linearly uncorrelated variables called principal components. Using PCA, we will combine related factor, which is weekly return performance of the stocks, into a smaller number of key components largely responsible for the variations observed. Since PCA can find structure in the covariance or correlation matrix and uses this structure to locate low-dimensional subspaces containing most of the variation in the data, we can tell whether the stock portfolio is diversified or not, that is whether the unsystematic risk is low or not.

Chapter 3

Problem Statement

According to a talk with the company fund manager, Philippe Jabre, it was known that the company implemented a conservative investment strategy in year 2011 in order to reduce unsystematic risk by improving the portfolio diversification. This strategy has been confirmed by Figure 1 which implies that the fund manager had changed the stock portfolio from quarter to quarter. However, this change did not prevent the portfolio value and investment return from skyfalling. In addition, due to the low portfolio value and the low return of investment, the company was limited to invest in a large numbers of stocks to increase diversification which deteriorated the situation even more.



Figure 3.1: Jabre Capital's Portfolio Selection in 2011

First, Mr. Jabre did not truly grab the essence of the diversification of the stock. Diversification is aimed to decrease the unsystematic risk of a portfolio by introducing diversified stocks. However, investing in a large number of different stocks cannot guarantee the diversification of the portfolio. In addition, if the stocks performances are positively related to each other, the portfolio risk can be increased rather than decreased.

Second, apart from the stock number and diversification from a general aspect, the company has problem in stock selection in different industries as well. For example, the stocks in bank industry tend to be positively correlated to each other since they usually depend on the monetary policy. As a result, we can decrease the stock number held in bank industry since they have limited diversification and a specific stock can explain a certain pattern of stock performance. However, it is different in IT industry since the stocks performances have less correlation to each other. Based on this reason, we need to maximize the diversification of the stock holdings in this industry. As a result, the selection of the stocks in different industries has great impact on the investment performance.

Chapter 4

Analysis

In order to analyze these problems, we categorize the risk into systematic risk and unsystematic risk. The systematic risk does not depend on individual companies and industry. Thus, it is independent (exogenous). The unsystematic risk depends on the financial position of the individual company, the industry the company is in, and so on. Thus, it is dependent (endogenous).

After we went through the stock holdings of the company from Yahoo Finance, it has been known that the company invested 418 stocks throughout year 2011 in total. Since this is a huge database, we then divided our work into two stages: first is to analyze the diversification and unsystematic risk of the 21 stocks that company held for entire year, second is to analyze the stock portfolio changes from quarter to quarter in order to observe the diversification improved or not.

Chapter 5

Results

```
[1] 12.13010053  1.74525479  1.37552811  0.92864613  0.84215313  0.57205350
[7]  0.51705529  0.46615511  0.40400355  0.37596636  0.34386097  0.29725966
[13]  0.20593959  0.16113721  0.13836054  0.12433864  0.09973491  0.09002862
[19]  0.08035446  0.05844796  0.04362094
```

(a) Eigenvalue of the correlation matrix

```
      [,1]      [,2]      [,3]      [,4]      [,5]
[1,]  0.25739222 -0.083824295  6.390649e-02 -0.154887827 -0.128907784
[2,]  0.25055818 -0.108192799  6.193188e-02 -0.113600233 -0.050284747
[3,] -0.23831702 -0.091323953 -2.720312e-01  0.024958456 -0.044034840
[4,]  0.12365464 -0.417137160 -2.430918e-01  0.216325051  0.519129132
[5,]  0.23716171 -0.019078344  3.670934e-02  0.022325359  0.086798150
[6,]  0.24403207  0.152268310 -3.020318e-02 -0.088783741  0.115286247
[7,]  0.22182294 -0.113967138  3.257406e-01 -0.206622730 -0.223010313
[8,]  0.20019255  0.036948384 -4.368381e-02 -0.535502483  0.122149801
[9,]  0.24757623 -0.240507413  1.482732e-01  0.149099024 -0.170244469
[10,]  0.22495868  0.068066899 -6.243494e-05  0.195610655  0.331875512
[11,]  0.23268546  0.062753159 -1.023223e-01 -0.006421951  0.039770147
[12,]  0.23493060 -0.129124013  2.766632e-01 -0.031794646 -0.004861505
[13,]  0.26405292 -0.075636027 -5.080867e-03  0.047840801 -0.116978062
[14,]  0.07923047 -0.290577602 -6.155392e-01  0.025434950 -0.433212948
[15,]  0.22367753 -0.066410025 -2.064976e-01  0.027247613 -0.345560003
[16,]  0.10604025  0.402520360  1.355602e-01  0.611034259 -0.294184024
[17,]  0.23925801  0.070918512 -9.360436e-02  0.247110674  0.247376234
[18,] -0.26274959 -0.004808317 -6.574092e-02 -0.080790712  0.051853502
[19,]  0.16487304  0.465054742 -1.987298e-01 -0.217797236  0.028110742
[20,]  0.25238148 -0.062053213 -1.723540e-01  0.115273474  0.095726441
[21,] -0.13464920 -0.442905156  3.427802e-01  0.104627237 -0.045391925
```

(b) Eigenvector of the correlation matrix(some columns are excluded due to limited space)

Figure 5.1: Engenvalue and eigenvector of the correlation matrix

Until now, we've finished the PCA analysis of the 21 stocks Jabre Capital held for the entire year. We conducted the PCA analysis in the following steps:

1. We downloaded historical prices of the 21 stocks in year 2011 from Yahoo Finance,
2. We developed weekly return spreadsheet based on the formula as shown below:

$$R = \frac{P_n - P_{n-1}}{P_{n-1}} \quad (5.1)$$

R – Weekly Return

P_n – Adjusted closing price of nth week in year 2011

3. We standardized the return matrix using R and got the standardized return matrix(51*21),
4. We calculated the correlation matrix,
5. We linearized the correlation matrix into independent eigenvectors and corresponding eigenvalues as shown above, and the plot accordingly.

Because the space is limited, we don't provide the complete eigenvector matrix here. We don't provide the standardized matrix and correlation matrix, either. This information will be provided upon request.

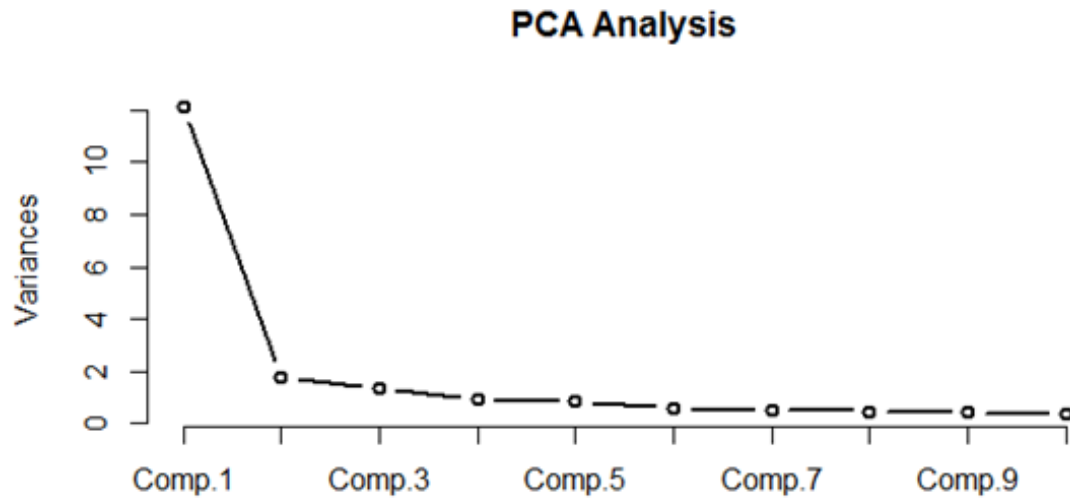


Figure 5.2: PCA analysis result

Chapter 6

Conclusion

The PCA analysis result shows that the first three eigenvectors can explain appoxiamately 72.62% of the variance of the portforlio. So we believe that the correlation among the 21 stocks is relatively high and the portforlio is not well diversified. In this case, the portfolio is more risky than the other well diversified portfolios.

In the future work, we will mainly look into if adding back stocks according to quarterly holdings will improve the result or not. If the diversification situation worsens after adding stocks back, we will help Jabre Capital to eliminate unnecessary stocks.

Appendix A

Glossary

Principal Component Analysis. A mathematical procedure that uses an orthogonal transformation to convert a set of observations of possibly correlated variables into a set of values of linearly uncorrelated variables called principal components.

Systematic Risk. The portion of an assets risk that is associated with random causes that can be eliminated through diversification.

Unsystematic Risk. The portion of an assets risk attributable to market factors that affect all firms such as war, inflation, international incidents, and political events.

Adjusted Closing Price. A stock's closing price on any given day of trading that has been amended to include any distributions and corporate actions that occurred at any time prior to the next day's open. The adjusted closing price is often used when examining historical returns or performing a detailed analysis on historical returns.

Appendix B

Abbreviations

PCA. Principal Component Analysis

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