

Machine Learning Optimization

1

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ABSTRACT: Convex optimization like Mean Variance Optimization solutions tend to be unstable, to the point of entirely offsetting the benefits of optimization. For example, in the context of financial applications, it is known that portfolios optimized in-sample often underperform the naïve (equal weights) allocation out-of-sample. This instability can be traced back to two sources: (i) noise in the input variables; and (ii) signal structure that magnifies the estimation errors in the input variables. A first innovation of this paper is to introduce the nested clustered optimization algorithm (NCO), a method that tackles both sources of instability.

Over the past 60 years, various approaches have been developed to address these two sources of instability. These approaches are flawed in the sense that different methods may be appropriate for different input variables, and it is unrealistic to expect that one method will dominate all the rest under all circumstances. Accordingly, a second innovation of this paper is to introduce MCOS, a Monte Carlo approach that estimates the allocation error produced by various optimization methods on a particular set of input variables. The result is a precise determination of what method is most robust to a particular case. Thus, rather than relying always on one

particular approach, MCOS allows users to apply opportunistically whatever optimization method is best suited in a particular setting.

We will compare all two traditional methods of optimization, Black Litterman as maximum returns of a portfolio and Mean Variance Optimization with Machine Learning Optimization in this paper by optimizing 20 stocks in US market.

1. The goal: Build a portfolio from the US stock market, simulate a three-month short-term investment, and evaluate the actual return by comparing the two models, the mean variance model, Black Litterman model and Machine Learning model. We use SP100 dataset which contain 92 stocks without missing data. The training period will be from June 16, 2010 to March 17, 2020. The simulation period is from March 18, 2020 to June 16, 2020. Set the brand to 20.

(1) As external information, it is first necessary to know the risk-free interest rate and market price. Measured using the 52 Week Treasury Bill as a risk-free interest rate.

```
In [7]: #Simulation period
import datetime
datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 17)-datetime.datetime(2010, 6, 16)
```

```
Out[7]: datetime.timedelta(days=3562)
```

```
In [8]: import datetime
datetime.datetime(2020, 6, 16)-datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 18)
```

```
Out[8]: datetime.timedelta(days=90)
```

```
In [12]: 3562/(52*7)
```

```
Out[12]: 9.785714285714286
```

```
In [15]: import quandl
quandl.ApiConfig.api_key = 'DxKMsVF36hXo5BAMpeDK'
Wk_Bank_Discount_Rate_52=quandl.get("USTREASURY/BILLRATES",
                                     start_date=datetime.datetime(2010, 6, 16),
                                     end_date=datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 17))
```

```
In [22]: #Downloading bond price
yield_list=[]
for i in range(10):
    yield_list.append(Wk_Bank_Discount_Rate_52[datetime.datetime(2010, 6, 16)+datetime.timedelta(days=364*i):]\n        ["52 Wk Bank Discount Rate"][[0]])
```

```
In [23]: yield_list
```

```
Out[23]: [0.28, 0.18, 0.17, 0.13, 0.1, 0.26, 0.58, 1.14, 2.24, 1.99]
```

```
In [ ]:
```

Simulation period Yield from October 1, 2012 to September 12, 2019 $S = (1 + S_0) \times (1 + S_1) \times (1 + S_2) \times (1 + S_3) \times (1 + S_4) \times (1 + S_5) \times (1 + S_6) \times (1 + S_7) \times (1 + S_8) \times (1 + S_9) - 1$

```
In [28]: S=(1+yield_list[0]/100)*(1+yield_list[1]/100)*(1+yield_list[2]/100)*\n(1+yield_list[3]/100)*(1+yield_list[4]/100)*(1+yield_list[5]/100)*(1+yield_list[6]/100)\n*(1+yield_list[7]/100)*(1+yield_list[8]/100)*(1+yield_list[9]*(3562/((52*7)*10))/100)-1
```

```
In [29]: S
```

```
Out[29]: 0.07223607162892498
```

```
In [ ]:
```

If you invest \$1 in the bond on June 16, 2010, you will have an asset of 1.072 on March 17, 2020. This is defined as a safe asset, and the interest rate of this safe asset is a risk-free interest rate.

```
In [30]: risk_free=S
```

```
In [31]: risk_free
```

```
Out[31]: 0.07223607162892498
```

```
In [32]: risk_free_annual=risk_free/9.785714285714286
```

```
In [33]: risk_free_annual
```

```
Out[33]: 0.007381788341641968
```

Risk-free interest rate for simulation period

```
In [36]: import quandl
quandl.ApiConfig.api_key = 'DxKMsvF36hXo5BAMpeDK'
Wk_Bank_Discount_Rate_8=quandl.get("USTREASURY/BILLRATES",
                                     start_date=datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 18),
                                     end_date=datetime.datetime(2020, 6, 16))
```

```
In [45]: #Downloading bond price
rate_free_simulation=Wk_Bank_Discount_Rate_8["8 Wk Bank Discount Rate"][0]/100
rate_free_simulation
```

```
Out[45]: 0.0003
```

(3) Download the selected stocks as Training Datasets

```
In [73]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
data=pd.read_excel("S&P 100 constituents Aktienkurse-work.xlsx",encoding="SHIFT-JIS",header=3)
data=data.drop(labels=0)
data=data.reset_index(drop= True)
data.index=data["Name"]
data=data.drop(["Name"],axis=1)
data=data.dropna(axis=1)
symbols = data.columns
df = data[symbols]
df=df.astype("float")
data=df[datetime.datetime(2010, 6, 16):datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 17)]
```

```
In [74]: data.head()
```

Out[74]:

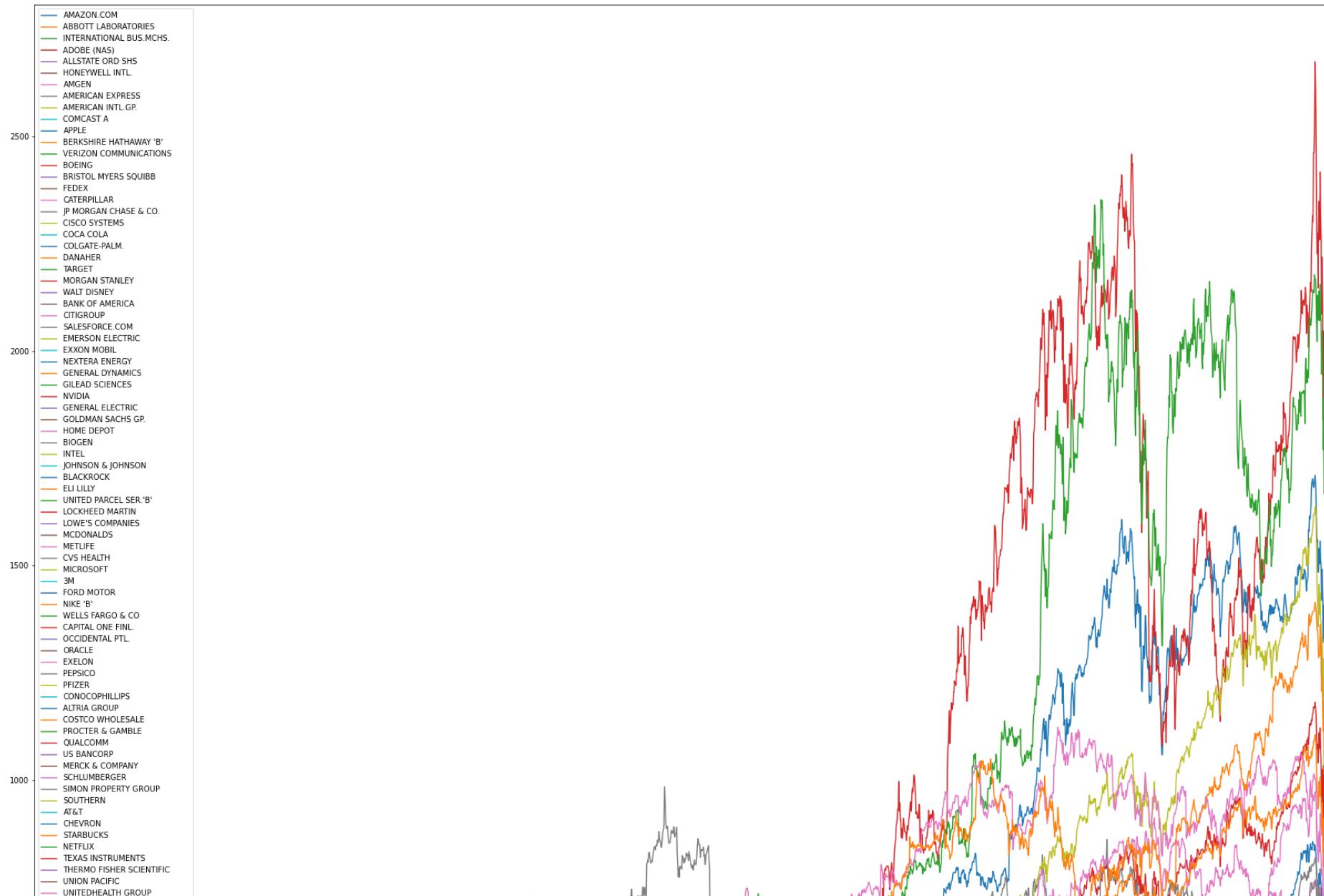
	AMAZON.COM	ABBOTT LABORATORIES	INTERNATIONAL BUS.MCHS.	ADOB(E (NAS)	ALLSTATE ORD SHS	HONEYWELL INTL.	AMGEN	AMERICAN EXPRESS	AMERICAN INTL.GP.	COMCAST A	...	ACCEI CL
Name												
2010-06-16	126.900	23.3447		130.35	32.4400	30.22	40.6987	55.22	42.34	31.7271	9.195	...
2010-06-17	125.890	23.2682		130.98	33.1200	30.06	40.6034	55.44	42.06	31.6433	9.290	...
2010-06-18	125.830	23.3351		130.15	33.5200	30.54	40.8605	55.20	42.03	31.7606	9.255	...
2010-06-21	122.550	23.1103		130.65	33.1300	30.27	40.8700	56.52	42.60	32.4727	9.175	...
2010-06-22	122.307	22.9619		129.30	32.7625	30.55	40.1750	56.12	41.94	32.0622	9.120	...

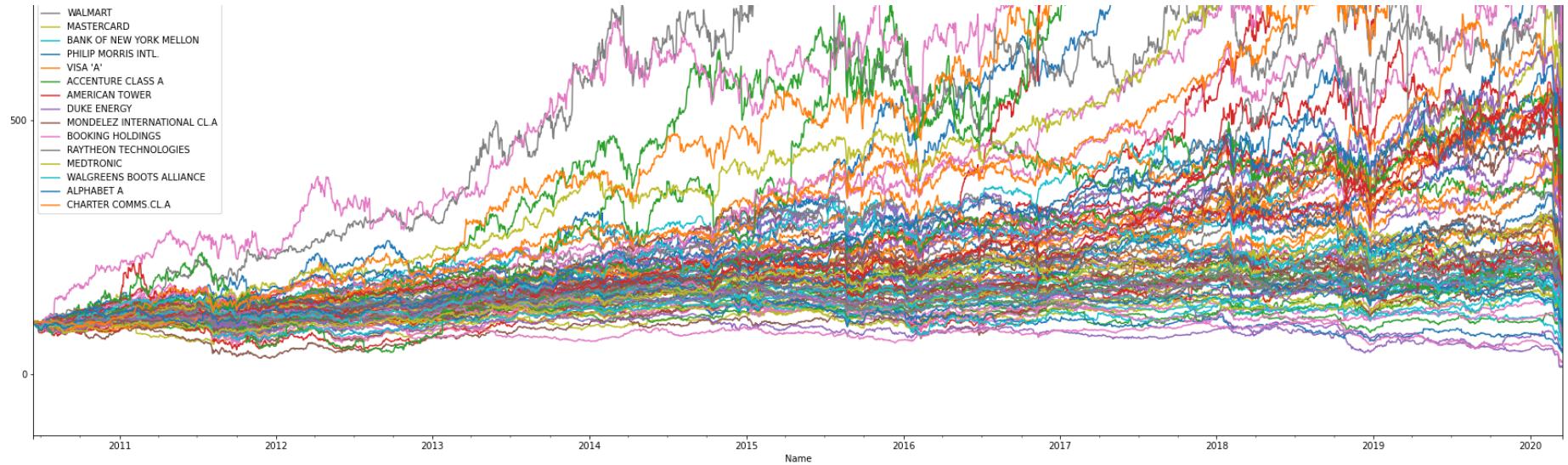
5 rows × 92 columns

(4) Plot time series transition and rate of return

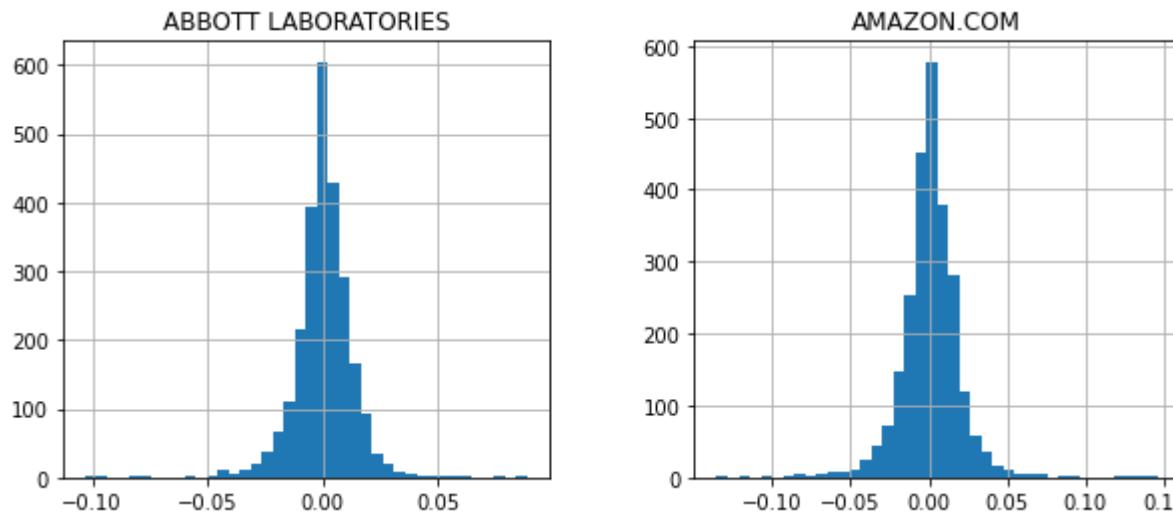
In []:

```
In [75]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
%matplotlib inline  
(data / data.iloc[0] * 100).plot(figsize=(30, 30))  
plt.savefig('stat_01.png')
```





```
In [76]: noa = len(symbols)
data = data[symbols]
rets = np.log(data / data.shift(1))
rets[symbols[:2]].hist(bins=40, figsize=(10, 4))
plt.savefig('stat_2.png')
```



2. mean variance model

(1) Model optimization

```
In [77]: from pypfopt.efficient_frontier import EfficientFrontier
from pypfopt import risk_models
from pypfopt import expected_returns

mu = expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data)
S = risk_models.sample_cov(data,frequency=252)

#mean variance model optimization
EF_min = EfficientFrontier(mu, S)

EF_min.min_volatility()
#portfolio performance
EF_min.portfolio_performance(verbose=True)
```

Expected annual return: 8.8%
 Annual volatility: 11.9%
 Sharpe Ratio: 0.57

Out[77]: (0.08756070549588718, 0.11886679211421806, 0.5683732545837418)

```
In [78]: #CAPM optimization
#Enter non-risky asset
EF = EfficientFrontier(mu, S)
weights = EF.max_sharpe(risk_free_rate=risk_free_annual)
#Portfolio ratio
EF.portfolio_performance(verbose=True)
```

Expected annual return: 24.8%
 Annual volatility: 16.4%
 Sharpe Ratio: 1.39

Out[78]: (0.24812788179446066, 0.1642919591019082, 1.3885517163560992)

```
In [90]: #Weights in each stock
EF_clean_weights=EF.clean_weights()
```

In []:

(2) Download the data of each stock from March 18, 2020 to June 16, 2020 will be collected for simulation.

```
In [80]: import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
data2=pd.read_excel("S&P 100 constituents Aktienkurse-work.xlsx",encoding="SHIFT-JIS",header=3)
data2=data2.drop(labels=0)
data2=data2.reset_index(drop=True)
data2.index=data2["Name"]
data2=data2.drop(["Name"],axis=1)
data2=data2.dropna(axis=1)
symbols2 = data2.columns
df2 = data2[symbols]
df2=df2.astype("float")
data2=df2[datetime.datetime(2010, 3, 18):datetime.datetime(2020, 6, 16)]
```

(3) If managed from March 18, 2020 to June 16, 2020, the average return of the portfolio will be

$$R = w_1r_1 + w_2r_2 + \dots + w_n r_n$$

ri = Return of individual stock

wi = weight of individual stock

R = average revenue of the portfolio

```
In [86]: Mean_variance_return=np.sum(np.array(EF.weights)*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency='BM'))*np.array(expected_returns.cov_historical_return(data2, frequency='BM'))*np.array(EF.weights))
Mean_variance_return
```

Out[86]: 0.2644077214185799

In []:

(4) Volatility of the mean variance model portfolio

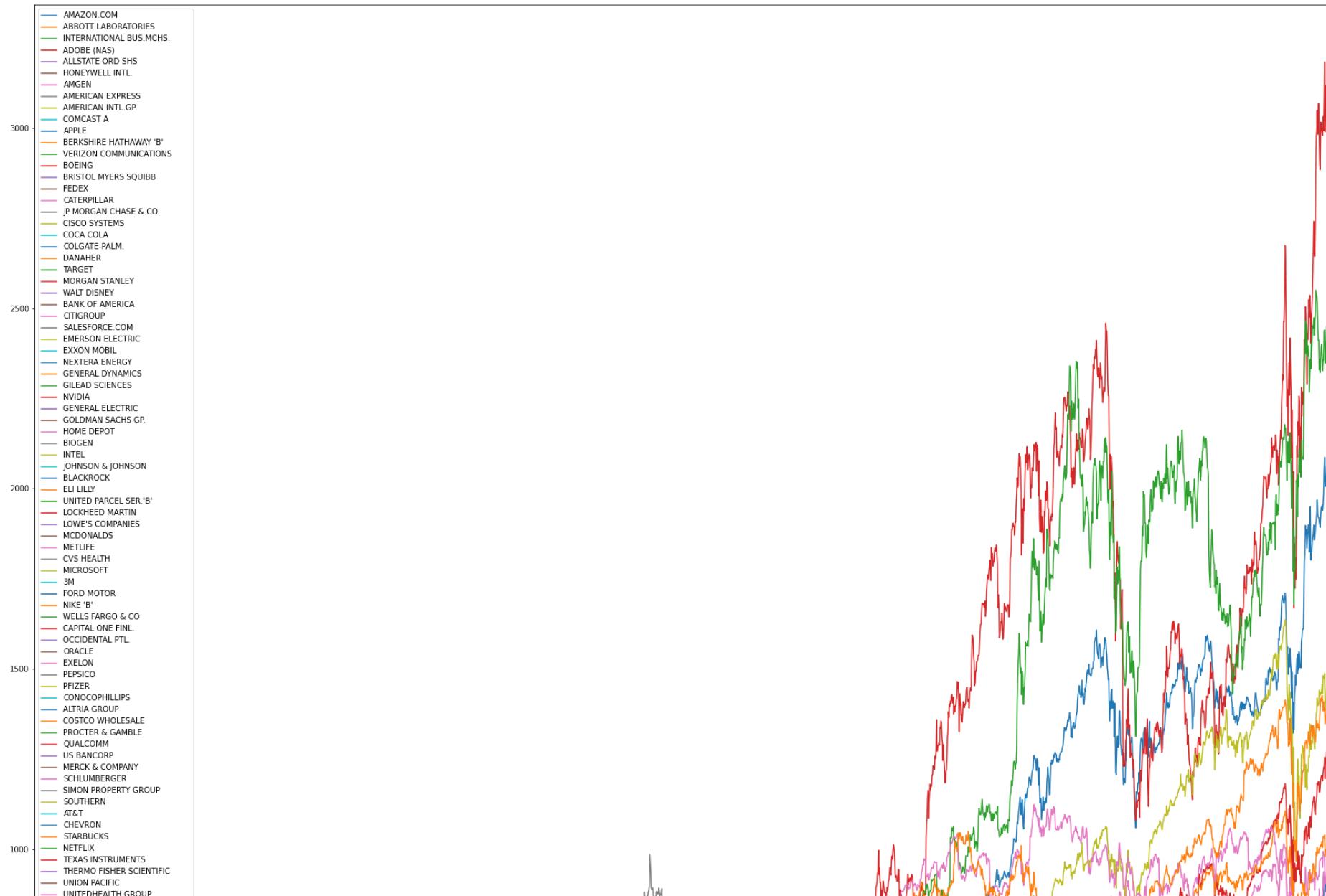
```
In [83]: from pypfopt import objective_functions  
Mean_variance_Volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(EF.weights, risk_models.sample_cov(data)))  
Mean_variance_Volatility
```

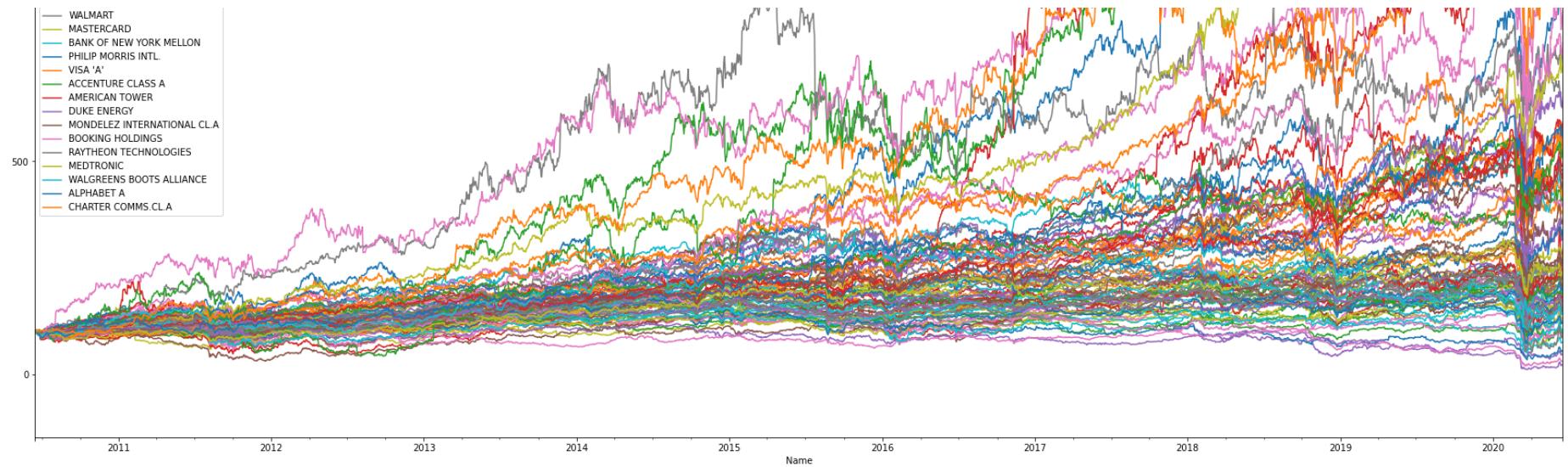
```
Out[83]: 0.1721004625256966
```

3. Black – Litterman model

(1) For the maxmize the Return of portfolio, calculate the actual return of each stock from March 18, 2020 to June 16, 2020

```
In [88]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
(data2 / data2.iloc[0] * 100).plot(figsize=(30, 30))
plt.savefig('stat_02.png')
```





```
In [89]: expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)
```

```
Out[89]: AMAZON.COM           0.339698
ABBOTT LABORATORIES        0.152135
INTERNATIONAL BUS.MCHS.    0.020373
ADOBE (NAS)                0.289583
ALLSTATE ORD SHS          0.139550
...
RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES      0.079359
MEDTRONIC                  0.110709
WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE   0.072114
ALPHABET A                 0.200967
CHARTER COMMS.CL.A         0.291872
Length: 92, dtype: float64
```

(3) Setting critic reviews for each brand

Referring to the above figures and data supposed that I could correctly predict the future returns after three months, by exactly same as the actual returns above.

```
In [91]: from pypfopt.black_litterman import BlackLittermanModel  
S = risk_models.sample_cov(data)  
  
viewdict = expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)
```

```
In [92]: bl = BlackLittermanModel(S, absolute_views=viewdict)  
rets = bl.bl_returns()
```

```
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/black_litterman.py:252: UserWarning: Running Black-Litterman with no prior.  
warnings.warn("Running Black-Litterman with no prior.")
```

(4) Calculate the return of each brand

```
In [93]: rets
```

```
Out[93]: AMAZON.COM           0.269284  
ABBOTT LABORATORIES         0.144312  
INTERNATIONAL BUS.MCHS.     0.075999  
ADOBE (NAS)                 0.249544  
ALLSTATE ORD SHS           0.105785  
...  
RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES       0.108264  
MEDTRONIC                   0.128790  
WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE    0.100092  
ALPHABET A                  0.197564  
CHARTER COMMS.CL.A         0.198858  
Length: 92, dtype: float64
```

```
In [ ]:
```

(5) Introduce SP500 as market price

```
In [96]: import pandas_datareader as pdr
SP500 = pdr.get_data_yahoo('^GSPC',
                           start=datetime.datetime(2010, 6, 16),
                           end=datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 17))

/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pandas_datareader/compat/_init__.py:7: FutureWarning: pandas.util.testing is deprecated. Use the functions in the public API at pandas.testing instead.
from pandas.util.testing import assert_frame_equal
```

```
In [97]: market_prices=SP500["Close"]
```

```
In [ ]:
```

(6) Black – Litterman model simulation

```
In [98]: from pypfopt import black_litterman

delta = black_litterman.market_implied_risk_aversion(market_prices,risk_free_rate=risk_free_annual)

ef = EfficientFrontier(rets, S)

bl.bl_weights(delta)
weights = bl.clean_weights()
```

```
In [99]: bl.portfolio_performance(verbose=True)
```

Expected annual return: 40.1%
 Annual volatility: 24.9%
 Sharpe Ratio: 1.53

```
Out[99]: (0.40112581180385554, 0.24902182924328256, 1.5304915756261417)
```

```
In [102]: Black_Litterman_weights=weights
```

```
In [103]: sum(weights.values())
```

```
Out[103]: 1.00008
```

In []:

(7) If managed from March 18, 2020 to June 16, 2020, the average return of the portfolio will be

$$R = w_1 r_1 + w_2 r_2 + \dots + w_n r_n$$

ri = Return of individual stock

wi = weight of individual stock

R = average revenue of the portfolio

```
In [104]: BL_return=np.sum(np.array(bl.weights)*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)))
```

```
In [105]: BL_return
```

```
Out[105]: 0.6924012851036944
```

(8) Portfolio volatility

```
In [106]: from pypfopt import objective_functions
Black_Litterman_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(bl.weights, risk_models.sample_cov(da
```

```
In [107]: Black_Litterman_volatility
```

```
Out[107]: 0.27385893426963687
```

4. Machine Learning Optimization, Nested Clustered Optimization algorithm(NCO), Convex Optimization Solution(CVO) and Monte Carlo approach(MCOS)

(1)Calculate the Return of Data

```
In [108]: data_return=data.pct_change().fillna(0)
```

(2)Optimization of NCO & CVO

```
In [126]: import pandas as pd
from mlfinlab.portfolio_optimization import NCO
max_num_clusters = 91

# Import dataframe of returns for assets in a portfolio

# Calculate empirical covariance of assets
assets_cov = np.array(data_return.cov())

# Calculate empirical means of assets
assets_mean = np.array(data_return.mean()).reshape(-1, 1)

# Class that contains needed functions
nco = NCO()

# Find optimal weights using the NCO algorithm
w_nco = nco.allocate_nco(assets_cov, assets_mean,max_num_clusters)

# Find optimal weights using the CVO algorithm
w_cvo = nco.allocate_cvo(assets_cov, assets_mean)
```

```
In [ ]:
```

```
In [132]: nco_weights= w_nco/sum(w_nco)
```

(3)Return of NCO method

```
In [133]: NCO_return=np.sum((w_nco/sum(w_nco)).flatten()*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency)))
```

```
In [134]: NCO_return
```

```
Out[134]: 0.9242727684129627
```

(4)Return of CVO method

```
In [135]: CVO_return=np.sum((w_cvo/sum(w_cvo)).flatten()*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency)))
```

```
In [136]: CVO_return
```

```
Out[136]: 1.3304571405130425
```

(5)Variance of NCO method

```
In [137]: NCO_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance((w_nco/sum(w_nco)).flatten(), risk_models.sample_covariances))
```

```
In [138]: NCO_volatility
```

```
Out[138]: 0.37340185335231696
```

(6)Variance of CVO method

```
In [139]: CVO_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance((w_cvo/sum(w_cvo)).flatten(), risk_models.sample_covariances))
```

```
In [140]: CVO_volatility
```

```
Out[140]: 0.5079393517914165
```

(7)Optimization of MCOS(Parameters are: 1 simulations, 2545 observations in a simulation)

```
In [195]: # Compare the NCO solutions to the CVO ones using MCOS
# Parameters are: 10 simulations, 100 observations in a simulation
# goal of minimum variance, no LW shrinkage

w_cvo_mclos, w_nco_mclos = nco.allocate_mclos(assets_mean, assets_cov, 2545, 1, 0.01, True, False)

# Find the errors in estimations of NCO and CVO in simulations
err_cvo_mclos, err_nco_mclos = nco.estim_errors_mclos(w_cvo, w_nco, assets_mean, assets_cov, True)
```

(8)Summary the returns of each simulation

(9)Average return of all simulations

```
In [249]: sum(w_nco_mclos.values.flatten())
```

```
Out[249]: 1.0
```

```
In [212]: nco_mclos_return=sum(w_nco_mclos.values.flatten())*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency='annual'))
```

```
In [213]: nco_mclos_return
```

```
Out[213]: 0.08060854634392559
```

```
In [250]: sum(w_cvo_mclos.values.flatten())
```

```
Out[250]: 0.9999999999999999
```

```
In [219]: cvo_mclos_return=sum(w_cvo_mclos.values.flatten())*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency='annual'))
```

```
In [220]: cvo_mclos_return
```

```
Out[220]: 0.06915398356015329
```

(10)Average volatility of all simulations

```
In [228]: nco_mclos_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(w_nco_mclos.values.flatten(), risk_models.sampled))
```

```
In [229]: nco_mclos_volatility
```

```
Out[229]: 0.12619025497039493
```

```
In [230]: cvo_mclos_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(w_cvo_mclos.values.flatten(), risk_models.sampled))
```

```
In [231]: cvo_mclos_volatility
```

```
Out[231]: 0.12881443082025584
```

4, Portfolio comparison

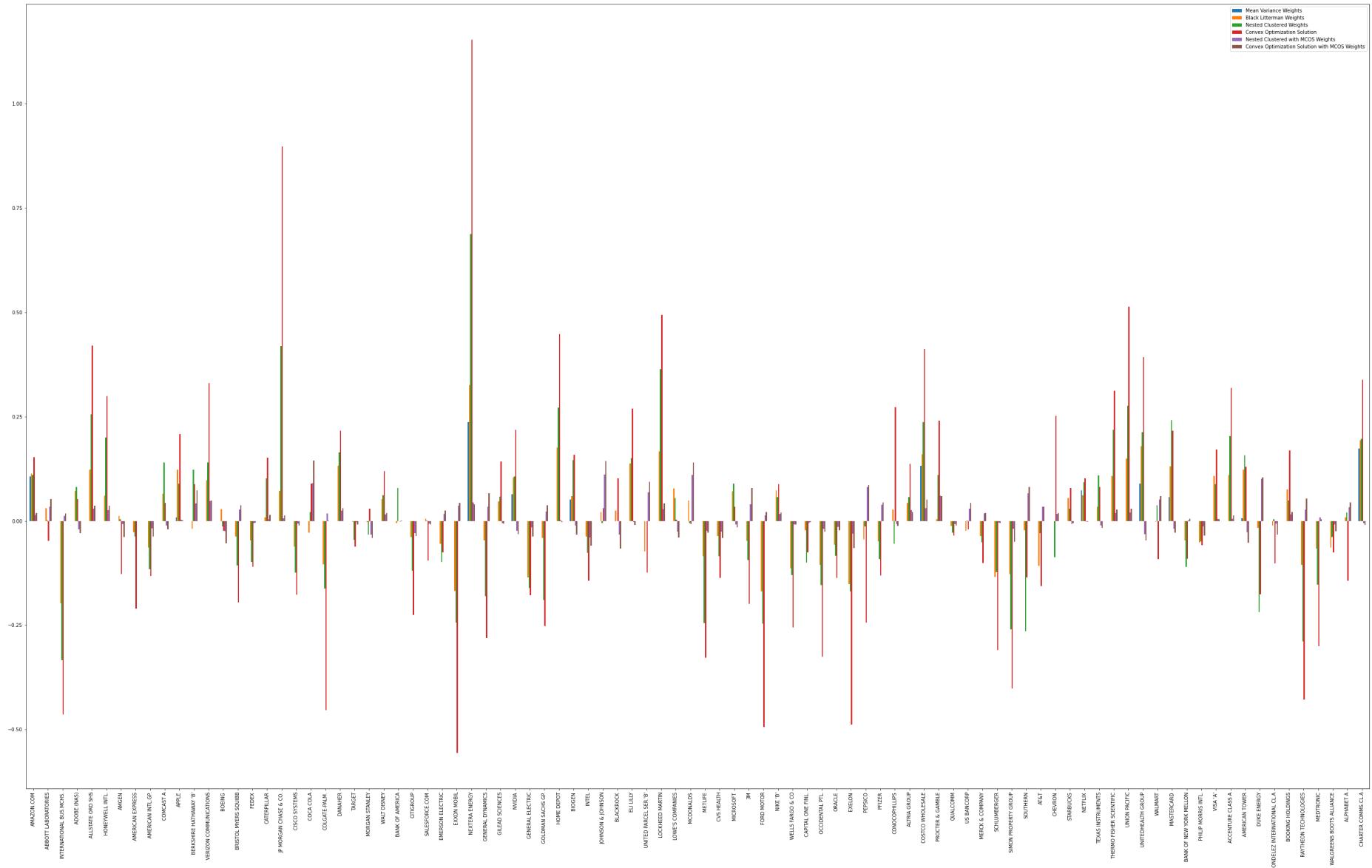
(1) Portfolio weight comparison

```
In [248]: sum(w_nco_mclos.values.flatten())
```

```
Out[248]: 1.0
```

```
In [241]: df = pd.DataFrame([EF.weights.reshape(92),np.array(list(bl.weights)).reshape(92),(w_nco/sum(w_nco)).reshape(92),
                           (w_cvo/sum(w_cvo)).reshape(92),w_nco_mcos.values.flatten(),w_cvo_mcos.values.flatten()],
                           columns=data.columns,
                           index=[ 'Mean Variance Weights','Black Litterman Weights','Nested Clustered Weights','Convex Optimization Solution'],
                           'Nested Clustered with MCOS Weights','Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS Weights'])
df.T.plot(kind='bar',figsize=(50, 30))
```

```
Out[241]: <matplotlib.axes._subplots.AxesSubplot at 0x7fe5a7043810>
```



(2) Analysis

Weights have been newly calculated for the Black Litterman model as maximum return of portfolio compare to other portfolios of optimization.

(3) Comparison of simulated portfolios average return and volatility

```
In [253]: risk_free_3months=rate_free_simulation
```

```
In [258]: df2 = pd.DataFrame([[Mean_variance_return,BL_return,NCO_return,CVO_return,\n    nco_mcoss_return,cvo_mcoss_return],\\\n    [Mean_variance_Volatility,\n    Black_Litterman_volatility\n    ,NCO_volatility,CVO_volatility,nco_mcoss_volatility,cvo_mcoss_volatility],\\\n    [(Mean_variance_return-risk_free_3months)/Mean_variance_Volatility,\n    (BL_return-risk_free_3months)/Black_Litterman_volatility\\\n    ,(NCO_return-risk_free_3months)/NCO_volatility,(CVO_return-risk_free_3months)/CVO_volatility\\\n    (nco_mcoss_return-risk_free_3months)/nco_mcoss_volatility,(cvo_mcoss_return-risk_free_3months)\n    ]],columns=[ "Mean Variance simulated value","Black Litterman simulated value", 'Nested Clust\n    'Nested Clustered with MCOS simulated value','Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS s
```

```
df2
```

Out[258]:

	Mean Variance simulated value	Black Litterman simulated value	Nested Clustered simulated value	Convex Optimization simulated value	Nested Clustered with MCOS simulated value	Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS simulated value
Return	0.264408	0.692401	0.924273	1.330457	0.080609	0.069154
Volatility	0.172100	0.273859	0.373402	0.507939	0.126190	0.128814
Portfolio Sharpe Ratio	1.534614	2.527218	2.474473	2.618732	0.636408	0.534521

5, conclusion

We are comparing 6 models, the mean variance model ,the Black Litterman model, Nested Clustered simulated value, Convex Optimization simulated value, Nested Clustered with MCOS simulated value and Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS simulated value from March 18, 2020 to June 16, 2020,We improved Black Litterman model as maximum return of portfolio compare to other portfolios of optimization.

The average return of Black Litterman simulated value is much higher than the annual return of Mean Variance expected value.

Surprisingly the Convex Optimization Solution resulted in highest Return and Sharpe Ratio even larger than the Black Litterman in maximum performance which weighted in real return.

Compared to Nested Clustered optimization, Convex Optimization Solution is preferred.

The Return and Sharpe Ratio of Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS and Nested Clustered with MCOS resulted in relatively low Volatility than others which means using this method can successfully control the risk.

6, reference list

translated by David G. Ruenberger, Hiroshi Konno, Kenichi Suzuki, Norio Bibiki,
"Introduction to Financial Engineering: Second Edition," Nihon Keizai Shimbun
(2015)

Takahiro Komatsu "Optimal Investment Strategy" Asakura Shoten (2018)

PyPortfolioOpt, <https://pyportfolioopt.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>
[\(https://pyportfolioopt.readthedocs.io/en/latest/\)](https://pyportfolioopt.readthedocs.io/en/latest/)

Machine Learning Financial Laboratory (mlfinlab)
<https://mlfinlab.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html>
[\(https://mlfinlab.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html\)](https://mlfinlab.readthedocs.io/en/latest/index.html)

A ROBUST ESTIMATOR OF THE EFFICIENT FRONTIER

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3469961
[\(https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3469961\)](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3469961)

López de Prado Machine Learning for Asset Managers

López de Prado Advances in Financial Machine Learning

In []: