

Machine Learning Optimization

KAI RU

Keio university

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 Nested Clustered simulated value, Convex Optimization simulated value, Nested Clustered with MCOS simulated value and Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS in this paper by optimizing 92 stocks in US market.

But disappointly we find that these Machine learning optimization methods were not able to reach the high performance as Mean Variance optimization and Black Litterman optimization as they do.

Mean Variance optimization and Black Litterman optimization are still the powerful and main ways to improve portfolio performance.

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 all 6 models. 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. As reference to highest Return and sharpe ratio, we introduce Black Litterman model as maximum future return model after three months comparing these to the performance of other portfolios.

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

```
Out[1]: datetime.timedelta(days=3562)
```

```
In [2]: import datetime
datetime.datetime(2020, 6, 16)-datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 18)
```

```
Out[2]: datetime.timedelta(days=90)
```

```
In [3]: 3562/(52*7)
```

```
Out[3]: 9.785714285714286
```

```
In [4]: 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 [5]: #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 [6]: yield_list
```

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

```
In [8]: S
```

```
Out[8]: 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 [9]: risk_free=S
```

```
In [10]: risk_free
```

```
Out[10]: 0.07223607162892498
```

```
In [11]: risk_free_annual=risk_free/9.785714285714286
```

```
In [12]: risk_free_annual
```

```
Out[12]: 0.007381788341641968
```

Risk-free interest rate for simulation period

```
In [13]: 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 [14]: #Downloading bond price  
rate_free_simulation=Wk_Bank_Discount_Rate_8["8 Wk Bank Discount Rate"][0]/100  
rate_free_simulation
```

```
Out[14]: 0.0003
```

(3) Download the selected stocks as Training Datasets

```
In [15]: 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 [16]: `data.head()`

Out[16]:

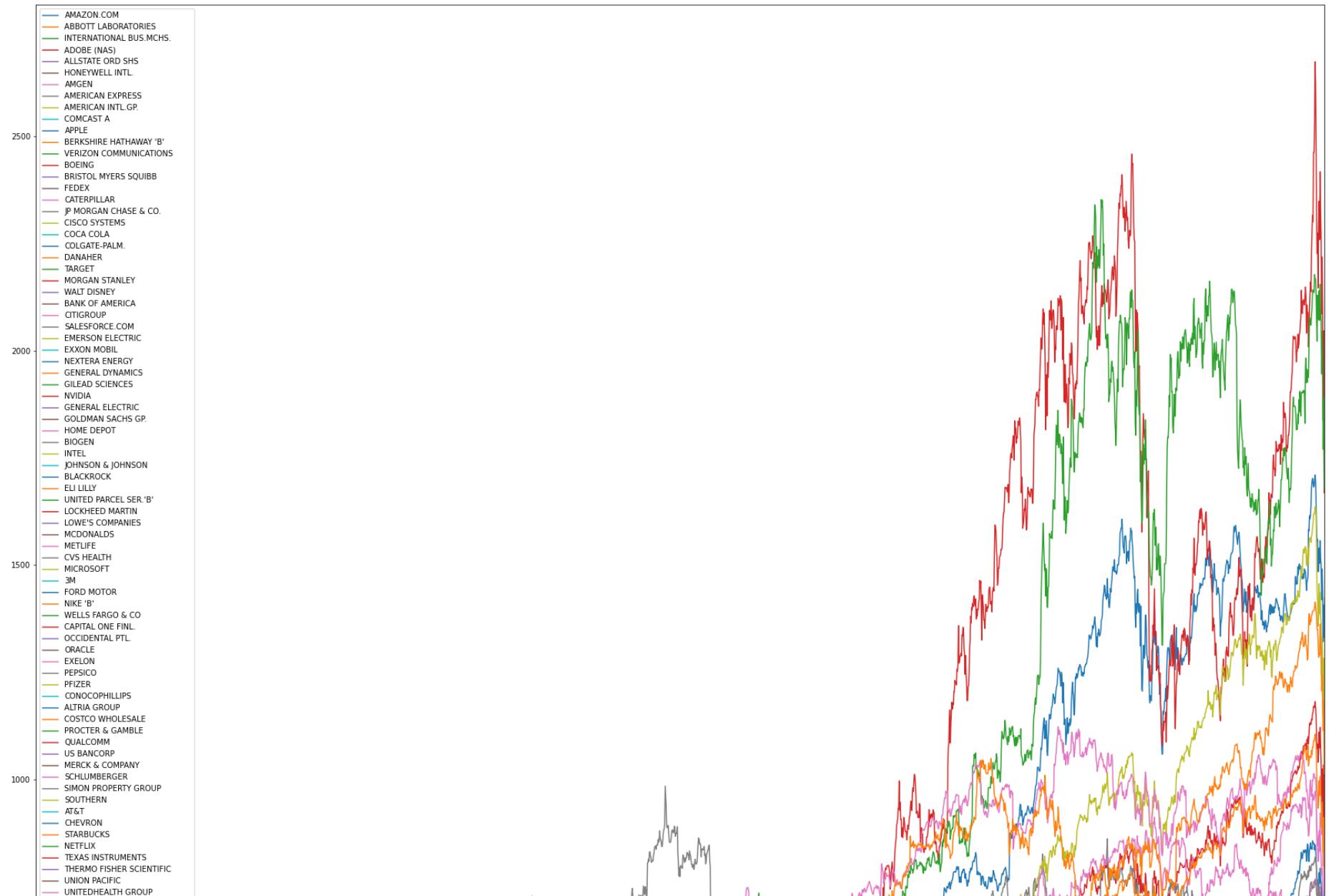
	AMAZON.COM	ABBOTT LABORATORIES	INTERNATIONAL BUS.MCHS.	ADOB (NAS)	ALLSTATE ORD SHS	HONEYWELL INTL.	AMGEN	AMERICAN EXPRESS	AMERICAN INTL.GP.	COMCAST A	...	ACCE CL
Name												
2010-06-16	126.900	23.3447		130.35	32.4400	30.22	40.6987	55.22	42.34	31.7271	9.195	...
2010-06-17	125.890	23.2682		130.98	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	...

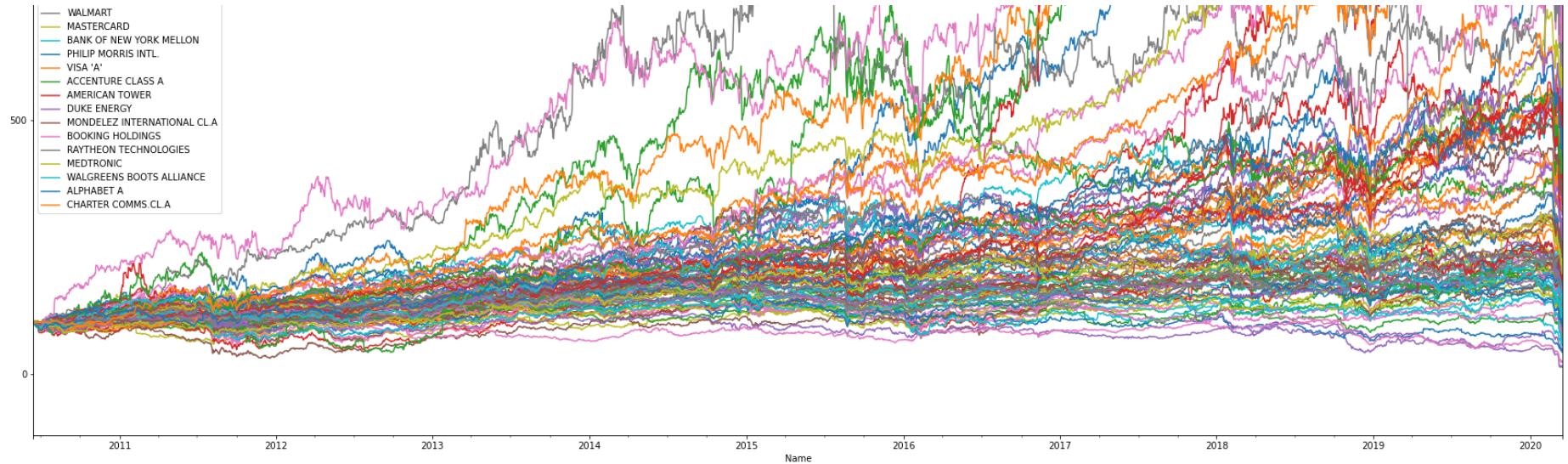
5 rows × 92 columns

(4) Plot time series transition and rate of return

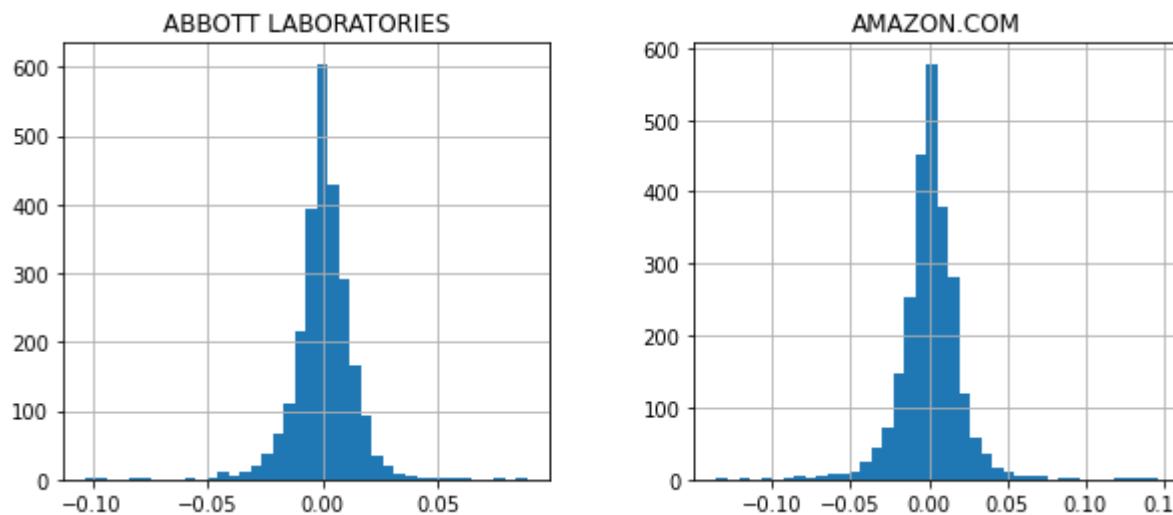
In []:

```
In [17]: import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
%matplotlib inline
(data / data.iloc[0] * 100).plot(figsize=(30, 30))
plt.savefig('stat_01.png')
```





```
In [18]: 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 [19]: 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[19]: (0.08756070549588718, 0.11886679211421806, 0.5683732545837418)

```
In [20]: #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[20]: (0.24812788179446066, 0.1642919591019082, 1.3885517163560992)

```
In [21]: #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 [22]: 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(2020, 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 [23]: Mean_variance_return=np.sum(np.array(EF.weights)*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency='BQW'))*np.array(expected_returns.cov_historical_return(data2, frequency='BQW'))*np.array(EF.weights))
Mean_variance_return
```

Out[23]: 1.0519865995939481

In []:

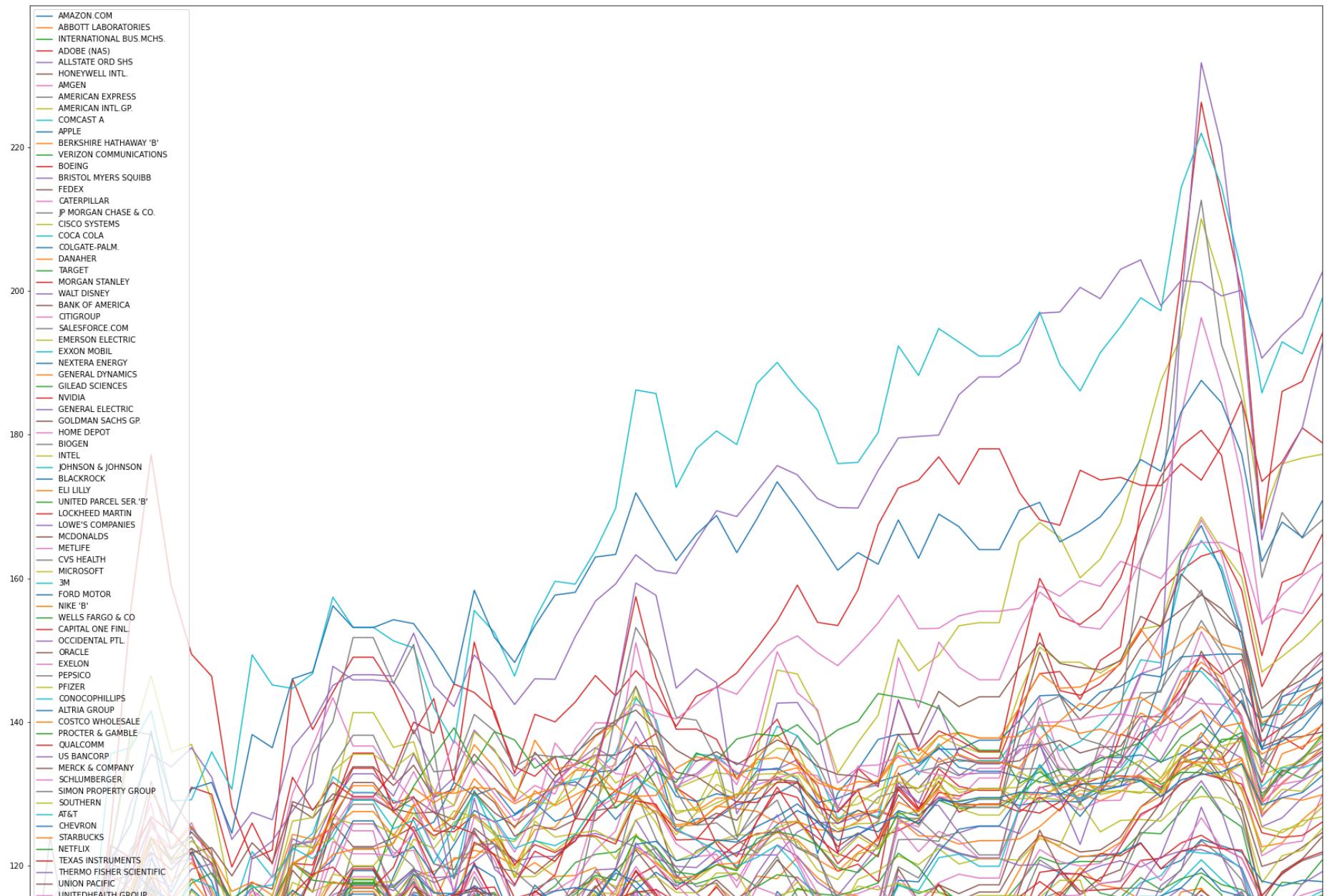
(4) Volatility of the mean variance model portfolio

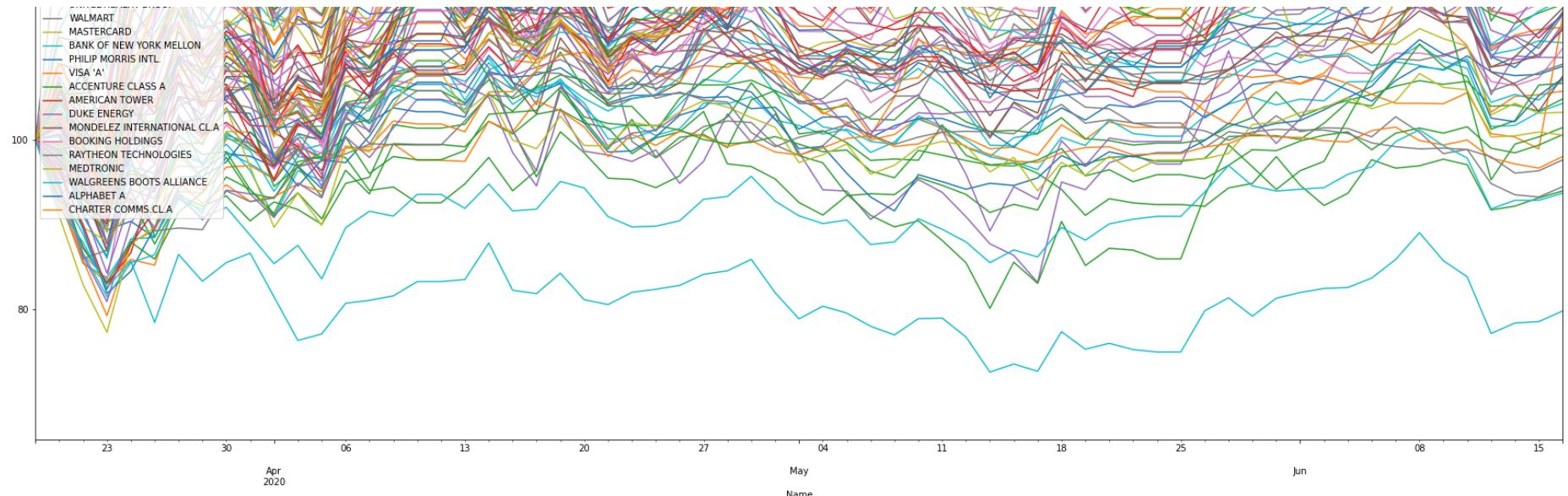
```
In [24]: from pypfopt import objective_functions  
Mean_variance_Volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(EF.weights, risk_models.sample_cov(data)))  
Mean_variance_Volatility  
  
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:68: UserWarning: The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues.  
    "The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues."  
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:87: UserWarning: Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.  
    warnings.warn("Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.")  
  
Out[24]: 0.35910159674413744
```

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





```
In [26]: expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)
```

```
Out[26]: AMAZON.COM           1.474173
ABBOTT LABORATORIES        0.622480
INTERNATIONAL BUS.MCHS.    0.877332
ADOBE (NAS)                1.418301
ALLSTATE ORD SHS          1.203221
...
RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES      1.773565
MEDTRONIC                  1.128008
WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE   -0.719528
ALPHABET A                 1.198206
CHARTER COMMS.CL.A         1.389884
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, exactly same as the actual returns above.

```
In [27]: from pypfopt.black_litterman import BlackLittermanModel
S = risk_models.sample_cov(data)

viewdict = expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)
```

```
In [28]: 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 [29]: rets
```

```
Out[29]: AMAZON.COM           1.296466
ABBOTT LABORATORIES          0.666634
INTERNATIONAL BUS.MCHS.      0.882104
ADOBE (NAS)                  1.392694
ALLSTATE ORD SHS            1.046298
...
RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES        1.365558
MEDTRONIC                     1.007168
WALGREENS BOOTS ALLIANCE     0.047450
ALPHABET A                   1.187153
CHARTER COMMS.CL.A          1.130299
Length: 92, dtype: float64
```

```
In [ ]:
```

(5) Introduce SP500 as market price

```
In [35]: import pandas_datareader as pdr
SP500 = pdr.get_data_yahoo('^GSPC',
                           start=datetime.datetime(2010, 6, 16),
                           end=datetime.datetime(2020, 3, 17))
```

```
In [36]: market_prices=SP500[ "Close" ]
```

```
In [ ]:
```

(6) Black – Litterman model simulation

```
In [37]: 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 [38]: bl.portfolio_performance(verbose=True)
```

Expected annual return: 916.7%
Annual volatility: 65.2%
Sharpe Ratio: 14.02

```
Out[38]: (9.167022079824166, 0.6524967972126954, 14.018493452991613)
```

```
In [39]: Black_Litterman_weights=weights
```

```
In [40]: sum(weights.values())
```

```
Out[40]: 0.9999899999999999
```

```
In [ ]:
```

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

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

r_i = Return of individual stock

w_i = weight of individual stock

R = average revenue of the portfolio

```
In [41]: BL_return=np.sum(np.array(bl.weights)*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)))
```

```
In [42]: BL_return
```

```
Out[42]: 17.201422658274968
```

(8) Portfolio volatility

```
In [43]: from pypfopt import objective_functions
Black_Litterman_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(bl.weights, risk_models.sample_cov(da
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:68: UserWarning: The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues.
"The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues."
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:87: UserWarning: Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.
warnings.warn("Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.")
```

```
In [44]: Black_Litterman_volatility
```

```
Out[44]: 3.229451062880144
```

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

(2)Optimization of NCO & CVO

```
In [46]: 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 [48]: nco_weights= w_nco/sum(w_nco)
```

(3)Return of NCO method

```
In [49]: NCO_return=np.sum((w_nco/sum(w_nco)).flatten()*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency='monthly')))
```

```
In [50]: NCO_return
```

```
Out[50]: -0.7761409559780591
```

(4)Return of CVO method

```
In [51]: CVO_return=np.sum((w_cvo/sum(w_cvo)).flatten()*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency='monthly')))
```

```
In [52]: CVO_return
```

```
Out[52]: -0.2991931858821824
```

(5)Variance of NCO method

```
In [53]: NCO_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance((w_nco/sum(w_nco)).flatten(), risk_models.sample_covariance(w_nco)))
```

```
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:68: UserWarning: The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues.
```

```
    "The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues."
```

```
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:87: UserWarning: Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.
```

```
    warnings.warn("Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.")
```

```
In [54]: NCO_volatility
```

```
Out[54]: 1.259301777743934
```

(6)Variance of CVO method

```
In [55]: CVO_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance((w_cvo/sum(w_cvo)).flatten(), risk_models.sample_cov))
In [56]: CVO_volatility
Out[56]: 1.8350347974530214
```

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

```
In [57]: # Compare the NCO solutions to the CVO ones using MCOS
# Parameters are: 10 simulations, 2545 observations in a simulation
# goal of maximum sharpe ratio, using LW shrinkage

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

(8)Summary the returns of each simulation

(9)Return of MCOS

```
In [58]: weight_nco_mclos=(w_nco_mclos.values/sum(w_nco_mclos.values.flatten())).flatten()

In [59]: sum(weight_nco_mclos)
Out[59]: 0.9999999999999989

In [60]: nco_mclos_return=sum(weight_nco_mclos*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)))

In [61]: nco_mclos_return
Out[61]: 0.30155990163316443
```

```
In [62]: weight_cvo_mcoss=(w_cvo_mcoss.values/sum(w_cvo_mcoss.values.flatten())).flatten()
```

```
In [63]: sum(weight_cvo_mcoss)
```

```
Out[63]: 0.9999999999999993
```

```
In [64]: cvo_mcoss_return=sum(weight_cvo_mcoss*np.array(expected_returns.mean_historical_return(data2, frequency=252)))
```

```
In [65]: cvo_mcoss_return
```

```
Out[65]: -0.2647478392582443
```

(10)Volatility of MCOS

```
In [66]: nco_mcoss_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(weight_nco_mcoss, risk_models.sample_cov(data2)))
```

```
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:68: UserWarning: The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues.
```

```
"The covariance matrix is non positive semidefinite. Amending eigenvalues."
```

```
/usr/local/anaconda3/lib/python3.7/site-packages/pypfopt/risk_models.py:87: UserWarning: Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.
```

```
warnings.warn("Could not fix matrix. Please try a different risk model.")
```

```
In [67]: nco_mcoss_volatility
```

```
Out[67]: 0.8718917566496112
```

```
In [68]: cvo_mcoss_volatility=np.sqrt(objective_functions.portfolio_variance(weight_cvo_mcoss, risk_models.sample_cov(data2)))
```

```
In [69]: cvo_mcoss_volatility
```

```
Out[69]: 1.613718646471248
```

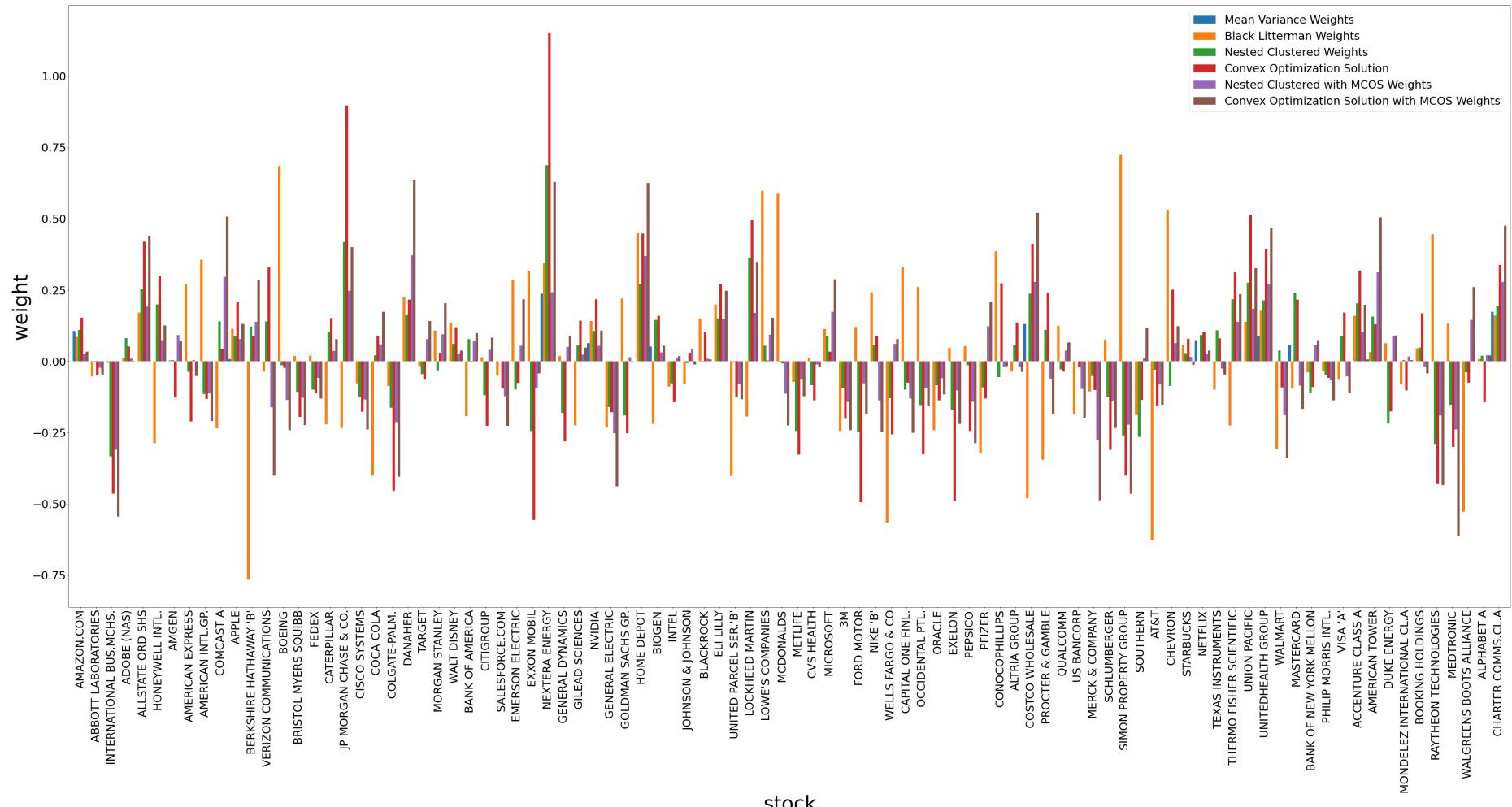
4, Portfolio comparison

(1) Portfolio weight comparison

In []:

```
In [74]: 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),weight_nco_mcoss,weight_cvo_mcoss],
                        columns=data.columns,
                        index=[ 'Mean Variance Weights','Black Litterman Weights','Nested Clustered Weights','Convex Optimal Solution',
                               'Nested Clustered with MCOS Weights','Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS Weights'])
plot=df.T.plot(kind='bar',figsize=(70, 30),legend=True, fontsize=30, width=1)
plot.legend(loc=1,fontsize=30)
plot.set_xlabel('stock',fontdict={'fontsize':54})
plot.set_ylabel('weight',fontdict={'fontsize':54})
```

Out[74]: Text(0, 0.5, 'weight')



(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 [75]: risk_free_3months=rate_free_simulation
```

```
In [76]: 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 Clustered with MCOS simulated value','Convex Optimization Solution with MCOS simulated value'])\n\ndf2
```

Out[76]:

	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	1.051987	17.201423	-0.776141	-0.299193	0.301560	-0.264748
Volatility	0.359102	3.229451	1.259302	1.835035	0.871892	1.613719
Portfolio Sharpe Ratio	2.928660	5.326330	-0.616565	-0.163208	0.345524	-0.164247

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 other models.

Disappointly the new Machine learning optimization Nested Clustered simulated value and Convex Optimization simulated value resulted in lower Return and Sharpe Ratio than the Black Litterman in maximum performance and Mean Variance optimization though its convergence are stable.

This paper supposed that Mean Variance optimization and Black Litterman optimization are still the normal ways to improve portfolio optimization.

Nested Clustered with MCOS simulated value is the model that only have a positive return though its convergence is not stable if by several times of simulations.

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