Portfolio Optimization

Introduction

When an investor chooses to invest money in different assets or stocks of companies, they create a portfolio of the stocks. These stocks earn returns over time making the investment profitable. The returns are based on the market movement, economic factors, company performance and various other factors which influence the value of stocks and investors take risk when they are investing in a company's stock.

There are many models that try to exploit the risk-return relationship such that investors make most of their money. This project focuses on Modern Portfolio Theory and Capital Asset Pricing Model, which are two popular empirical models that establish a relationship between risky assets and expected returns enabling an investor to create an optimal portfolio.

This project contains python code that creates a sample optimal portfolio based on 20 diversified stocks and explores different concepts like Sharpe ratio, tangency portfolio and efficient portfolio derived from the two models stated above. The code also contains statistical elements like correlation, covariance and their role in determining the optimal portfolio.

Source of Data

The prices of the 20 stocks have been taken from <u>Yahoo Finance</u> for the time-period of 1st January 2019 to 31st December 2020. The risk-free rate has been considered as 0.02 based on 13 week treasury bill sourced from the <u>government website</u>.



1. Mean of the individual stock returns.

The reason for calculating the mean for individual stocks is the data is from past 2 years and mean provides the aggregated value of all the prices of each stock.

```
#7 monthly returns for individual companies
ind_er = df.resample('M').last().pct_change().mean()
ind_er
Symbols
GOOGL
        0.021881
WMT
        0.020528
LUV
       -0.002873
CCF
        0.003673
TSLA
        0.139801
BABA
        0.018007
GLD
        0.016537
PFF
        0.002254
        0.025350
NIO
        0.152727
WTM
        0.006940
BIO
        0.040787
FCX
        0.050233
VIRT
        0.006219
CNC
        0.011314
DIS
        0.027666
AAPL
        0.057004
NRC
        0.010107
ALL
        0.013785
ETSY
        0.072267
dtype: float64
```

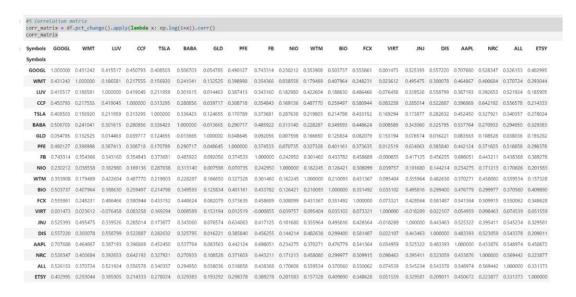
2. Standard Deviation of each stock

The standard deviation in this scenario is representation of volatility in the stocks.

```
[16]: #12 Volatility is given by the annual standard deviation. We multiply by 250 because there are 250 trading days/year.
      ann_sd = df.pct_change().apply(lambda x: np.log(1+x)).std().apply(lambda x: x*np.sqrt(250))
      ann_sd
[16]: Symbols
      GOOGL
              0.318924
      WMT
              0.241640
      LUV
              0.469920
      CCF
              0.527314
      TSLA
              0.721281
      BABA
              0.361893
      GLD
              0.160236
      PFE
              0.285506
      FB
              0.378130
      NIO
              0.988628
      WTM
              0.307639
              0.357210
      BIO
      FCX
              0.585664
      VIRT
              0.390418
      ZNZ
              0.242504
      DIS
              0.376916
      AAPL
              0.377517
      NRC
              0.484141
              0.326238
      ALL
      ETSY
              0.611939
      dtype: float64
```

3. Correlation matrix

MPT is based on zero correlation between the stocks. Zero correlation implies that there is no influence or interference from one stock to another. A well-diversified portfolio is comprised of stocks which are not correlated to each other.



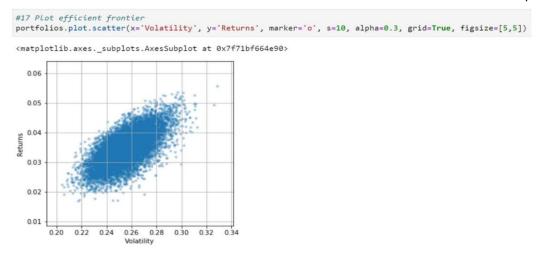
4. Covariance matrix

Covariance depicts a directional relationship between assets. MPT uses covariance to assets and reduce the overall portfolio risk. A negative covariance ensures that change in price of one stock does not impact the price of other stock.



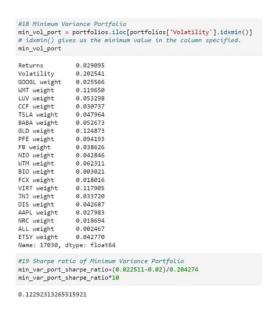
5. Efficient Frontier

This frontier is all possible combinations of highest expected returns at every level of risk. It helps the investors understand the returns associated with each risk and caters to all kind of risk profiles.



6. Minimum Variance Portfolio

This portfolio is the combination highest returns at lowest level of risk. It is usually located at the bottom of the efficient frontier. The below code gives the weights of 20 stocks which will make a minimum variance portfolio. The Sharpe ratio of this portfolio is 0.12.



7. Optimal Portfolio

This portfolio has the maximum returns at any given level of risk. It is also referred to as tangency portfolio. This portfolio will have the highest Sharpe ratio. This ratio is the calculated by subtracting risk free return from excess expected returns of the portfolio and divide the result by standard deviation of the portfolio with excess returns. Sharpe ratio of optimal portfolio is 1.13. Below code shows the weights of the 20 stocks at which this tangency/optimal portfolio is formed.

```
#21 Optimal Portfolio
rf = 0.02 # risk free ratio
optimal_risky_port = portfolios.iloc[((portfolios['Returns']-rf)/portfolios['Volatility']).idxmax()]
optimal_risky_port
                       0.059579
0.308588
Volatility
GOOGL weight
                       0.039746
GOOGL weight

WMT weight

LUV weight

CCF weight

TSLA weight

BABA weight
                       0.006135
0.008442
                       0.008565
                       0.150797
0.094864
GLD weight
PFE weight
                       0.013188
FB weight
                       0.047532
NIO weight
WTM weight
BIO weight
                       0.089721
                       0.007745
                       0.038022
FCX weight
VIRT weight
                       9.919845
                       0.009014
JNJ weight
DIS weight
AAPL weight
                       0.070840
                       0.117561
NRC weight
                       0.019179
ALL weight
ETSY weight
                       0.051935
                       0.115604
Name: 11657, dtype: float64
#22 Tangency portfolio of the optimal risky asset tangency_portfolio_sharpe_ratio=(0.050658-0.02)/0.269230
tangency_portfolio_sharpe_ratio*10
1.138728967797051
```

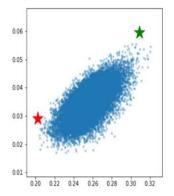
8. Capital Allocation Line

This line represents all possible portfolio combinations with risky and risk-free assets. The line shows the returns investor may earn at the assumed level of risk. This line intersects with the efficient frontier at Tangency portfolio.

In this project we have chosen a risk averse investor at A = 3. The below code is the capital allocation line for the given 20 stocks. The blue dot on CAL is the investor's optimal portfolio for risk aversion level A=3

```
#23 Plotting optimal portfolio
plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 5))
plt.scatter(portfolios['Volatility'], portfolios['Returns'],marker='o', s=10, alpha=0.3)
plt.scatter(min_vol_port[1], min_vol_port[0], color='r', marker='*', s=500)
plt.scatter(optimal_risky_port[1], optimal_risky_port[0], color='g', marker='*', s=500)

<matplotlib.collections.PathCollection at 0x7f152b189d50>
```

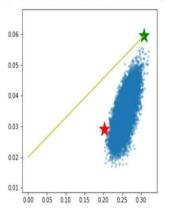


```
#26
data2 = {'utility':utility, 'cal_y':cal_y, 'cal_x':cal_x}
cal = pd.DataFrame(data2)
cal.head()
```

		utility	cai_y	Cal_X
	0	0.020000	0.020000	0.000000
	1	0.021687	0.022083	0.016241
	2	0.022584	0.024166	0.032483
	3	0.022688	0.026249	0.048724
	4	0.022002	0.028332	0.064966

```
#27
plt.subplots(figsize=(5, 5))
plt.scatter(portfolios['Volatility'], portfolios['Returns'],marker='o', s=10, alpha=0.3)
plt.scatter(min_vol_port[1], min_vol_port[0], color='r', marker='*', s=500)
plt.scatter(optimal_risky_port[1], optimal_risky_port[0], color='g', marker='*', s=500)
plt.plot(cal_x, cal_y, color='y')
```

[<matplotlib.lines.Line2D at 0x7f152b071d90>]



Conclusion

A portfolio's Sharpe ratio with value more than 1 is a good investment. Our selection of stocks has resulted in a portfolio with 1.13 Sharpe ratio.

A good portfolio is a sign of diversified portfolio. There is a relatively higher correlation between tech companies such as Google, Apple and Facebook. On the other hand, there is a lower correlation between different industries. For example, between Google and SPDR Gold Trust or between Google and Virtual Financial. This shows that benefits of diversification came from portfolios composed of stocks from different industries. In another words, diversification is spreading risk across different types of investments to reduce the consequences of a wrong forecast. This observation matches with the general expectations of investors.

This portfolio is ideal for risk averse, risk neutral and risk lover. The below plots from the code indicate investors at risk aversion level of A=3, A=0 and A=-3 have favorable portfolios on the capital allocation line. According to our code, we have observed that both investors at A=0 and A=-3 will choose same portfolio with higher returns. For A=-3 the higher returns come by taking higher risks.

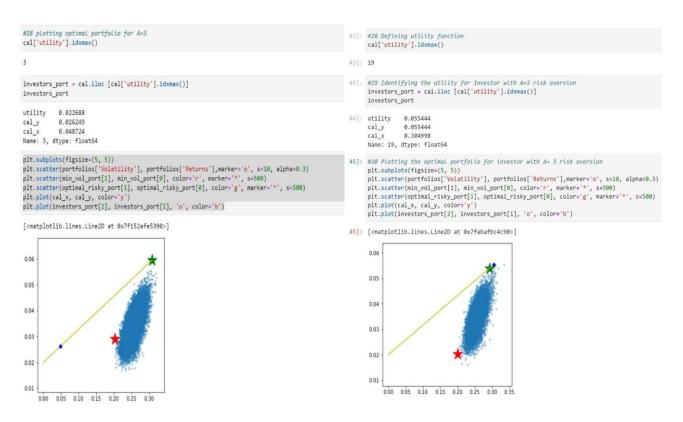


Figure 1 Left Plot A= 3 & Right Plot A = 0, A= -3