

Probability in

# OPTIMIZATION MODELS

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## Portfolio and returns

Portfolio : A collection of assets in which investment is made

We will consider a portfolio with  $n$ -assets.

Total Return  $R$ :

$$R = \frac{X_1}{X_0} = \frac{\text{Amount received}}{\text{Amount Invested.}}$$

Practically important: Relative Return

$$r = \frac{X_1 - X_0}{X_0}$$

So

$$R = 1 + r$$

Acts like short term rate of interest.

Further

$$X_1 = X_0(1 + r)$$

- In our market model short-selling is allowed.

Investment in asset  $i$  initially

$$X_{0i} = w_i X_0$$

Weights (Decision variable)

Relative return on asset  $i$

$$r_i = \frac{X_{1i} - X_{0i}}{X_{0i}}$$

→ A random variable for each asset  $i$

So for the portfolio, has a return random vector

$$\vec{r} = (r_1, \dots, r_n)^T$$

Relative return  $r$  of the portfolio

$$r = \frac{X_1 - X_0}{X_0}$$

$$= \frac{1}{X_0} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n X_{1i} - \sum_{i=1}^n X_{0i} \right)$$

$$= \frac{1}{X_0} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (1+r_i) X_{0i} - \sum_{i=1}^n X_{0i} \right)$$

$$r = \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i r_i = \langle \omega, \vec{r} \rangle$$

→ random variable too.

$$E(r) = \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i E(r_i)$$

→ You can safely assume that they follow  $N(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2)$

$$\text{Var}(r) = E(r - E(r))^2$$

$$= E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i r_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i E(r_i)\right)^2$$

If  $E(r_i) = \bar{r}_i$ , then

$$\text{Var}(r) = E\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i (r_i - \bar{r}_i)\right)^2$$

$$= \sum_{i,j} \omega_i \omega_j E(r_i - \bar{r}_i)(r_j - \bar{r}_j)$$

$$= \sum_{i,j} \omega_i \omega_j \sigma_{ij} \quad [\sigma_{ij} = \text{Cov}(r_i, r_j)]$$

$$\boxed{\sigma_{ii} = \sigma_i^2 = \text{Var}(r_i)}$$

Markowitz viewed  $\text{Var}(r)$  as a measure of risk.

The Markowitz Portfolio model (Mean-variance model)

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize } \text{Var}(r) \\ &E(r) = \rho \\ &\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Markowitz  
got the Nobel  
memorial prize  
in Econ. (1990).

Level of return desired

This is a parametric stochastic optimization problem.

$$\text{Var}(r) = \langle \omega, \Sigma \omega \rangle \quad \text{where}$$

$$\Sigma = [\sigma_{ij}]_{n \times n}$$

is the variance-covariance matrix. This is a symmetric and positive semi-definite matrix.

• Key assumptions for solving the model

A)  $\Sigma$  is positive definite

B) All  $r_i$ 's don't have the same value.

An optimization detour

The Markowitz problem has a solution and that satisfies a KKT condition / Lagrange multiplier rule.

That is as follows. There exists scalars  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ , such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{ij} \omega_j - \lambda \bar{r}_i - \mu = 0, \quad i=1, 2, \dots, n$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i \bar{r}_i = p$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \omega_i = 1$$

(For the Econ Folks)

Let us write  $\bar{r} = (\bar{r}_1, \bar{r}_2, \dots, \bar{r}_n)$ ; then the problem is stated as

$$\begin{array}{l} \min \frac{1}{2} \langle \omega, \Sigma \omega \rangle \\ \text{Subject to} \\ \langle \omega, \bar{r} \rangle = \rho \\ \langle e, \omega \rangle = 1 \end{array}$$

where  $e = (1, 1, \dots, 1)^T$

Based on assumptions A) and B) we shall solve it.

By A),  $\Sigma$  is positive definite. Hence  $\Sigma^{-1}$  exists.

Set

$$\begin{array}{ll} \alpha = \langle e, \Sigma^{-1} e \rangle & \beta = \langle e, \Sigma^{-1} \bar{r} \rangle \\ \gamma = \langle \bar{r}, \Sigma^{-1} \bar{r} \rangle & \delta = \alpha \gamma - \beta^2 \end{array}$$

The Lagrangian

$$L(\omega, \lambda, \mu) = \frac{1}{2} \langle \omega, \Sigma \omega \rangle - \lambda (\langle \bar{r}, \omega \rangle - \rho) - \mu (\langle e, \omega \rangle - 1).$$

The KKT conditions again

$$\sum \omega - \lambda \bar{r} - \mu e = 0$$

Thus

$$\boxed{\omega = \sum^{-1} (\lambda \bar{r} + \mu e)}$$

We need to find  $\lambda$  and  $\mu$ .

$$\langle \bar{r}, \omega \rangle = \rho$$

$$\langle \bar{r}, \sum^{-1} (\lambda \bar{r} + \mu e) \rangle = \rho$$

$$\lambda \langle \bar{r}, \sum^{-1} \bar{r} \rangle + \mu \langle \bar{r}, \sum^{-1} e \rangle = \rho$$

$$\boxed{\lambda \gamma + \mu \beta = \rho}$$

Now

$$\langle e, \omega \rangle = 1$$

$$\langle e, \sum^{-1} (\lambda \bar{r} + \mu e) \rangle = 1$$

$$\lambda \langle e, \sum^{-1} \bar{r} \rangle + \mu \langle e, \sum^{-1} e \rangle = 1$$

$$\boxed{\lambda \beta + \mu \alpha = 1}$$

Thus

$$\mu = \frac{\gamma - \beta p}{\delta} \quad \& \quad \lambda = \frac{\alpha p - \beta}{\delta}$$

That solves it completely and gives

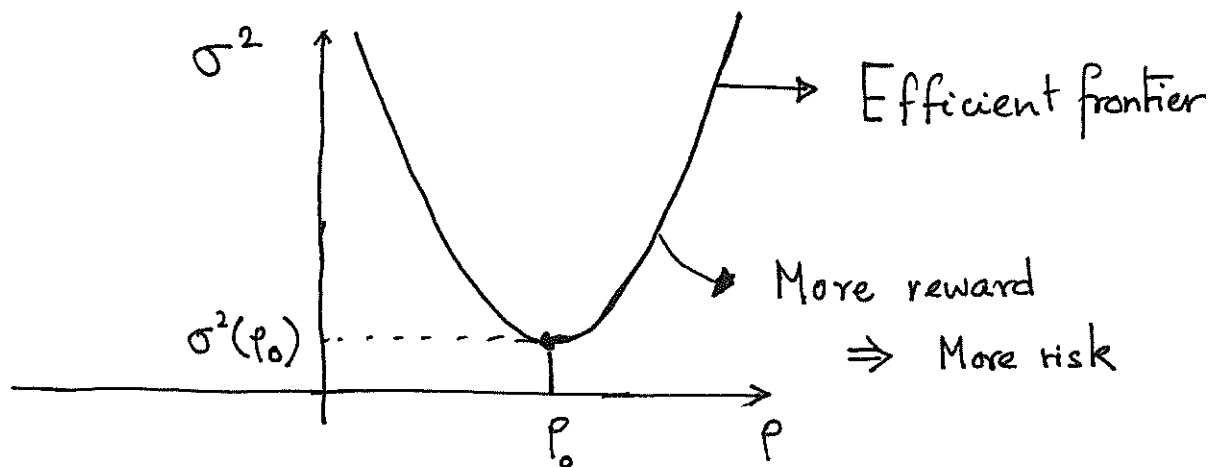
$$\sigma^2(p) = \langle \omega, \sum \omega \rangle$$

by convexity, as  $\omega$  satisfies KKT, it is the optimal.

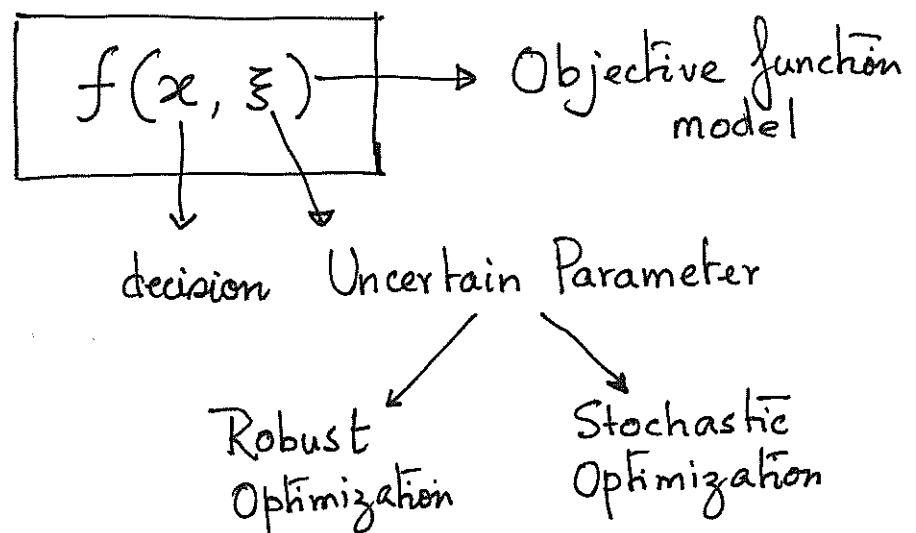
$$\Rightarrow \sigma^2(p) = \frac{\alpha p^2 - 2p\beta + \gamma}{\delta}$$

Strongly convex

$\alpha > 0, \delta > 0$ . Thus we have the following



## General Structure of a Stochastic Optimization





## The Robust formulation

Let  $U$  be the uncertainty set. Then consider the worse case scenario

$$\max_{\xi \in U} f(x, \xi)$$

Robust problem:

$$\min_{x \in X} \max_{\xi \in U} f(x, \xi)$$

→ Linked to bilevel programming

## The stochastic formulation

$(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) \rightarrow$  given probability space

and  $\xi: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  be a random vector.

$\mathbb{R}^m$  equipped with Borel  $\sigma$ -algebra

$$\min_{x \in X} E_{\mathbb{P}} [f(x, \xi)]$$

Because  $\xi$  depends on  $\omega$ , we can write

$$f(x, \xi) = F(x, \omega)$$

Thus

$$\min_{x \in X} E_{\mathbb{P}} [f(x, F(x, \omega))]$$

Note that

$$E_P [f(x, \xi)] = \int_{\Omega} f(x, \xi) dP$$

We will define the expectation functional

$$\phi : x \longmapsto E_P [f(x, \xi)]$$

$$\phi(x) = E_P [f(x, \xi)]$$

Let us try to learn a bit more about the expectation functional.

#### A) Finite Distributions

A random vector  $\xi$  is finitely distributed if  $\xi$  takes finite number of values. Let  $\xi : \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ . Let  $\hat{U} \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$  be the set containing the values of  $\xi$ . Support of  $\xi$ , call  $\text{Supp } \xi = \{p_{\xi} > 0, \xi \in \hat{U}\}$

The distribution function

$$F(\eta) = \sum_{\xi \leq \eta} p_{\xi} \quad \forall \eta \in \mathbb{R}^n \left[ \sum_{\xi \in \hat{U}} p_{\xi} = 1 \right]$$

$$\phi(x) = E_P [f(x, \xi)] = \sum_{\xi \in \hat{U}} f(x, \xi) p_{\xi}$$

### B) Discrete Distribution

The random vector has ~~a~~ countable number of values, i.e.

$$\hat{U} = \{ \xi_1, \xi_2, \xi_3 \dots \xi_n \dots \}$$

$\therefore$  Here

$$E_p[f(x, \xi)] = \sum_{\xi \in \hat{U}} p_{\xi} f(x, \xi)$$

of course  $\sum_{\xi \in \hat{U}} p_{\xi} = 1.$

Key issue here

$$\sum_{\xi \in \hat{U}} p_{\xi} f(x, \xi)$$

need not be finite  
(ie need not converge)

Key assumption

$$\boxed{\infty - \infty = \infty}$$

$$E_p[f(x, \xi)] = E_p[\max\{f(x, \xi), 0\}] - E_p[\max\{-f(x, \xi), 0\}]$$

### c) Continuous Case

$$E_p[f(x, \xi)] = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \max\{f(x, \xi), 0\} p(\xi) d\xi - \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \max\{-f(x, \xi), 0\} p(\xi) d\xi$$

probability distribution density of!

## Convexity, Continuity and Differentiability

- $f(x, \xi)$  is integrable for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$
  - $f(x, \xi)$  is convex for all  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^m$
- $\left. \vphantom{\begin{matrix} \bullet \\ \bullet \end{matrix}} \right\} \underline{\underline{\text{given}}}$

Then  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{R}}$  is well-defined and convex.

Here  $\bar{\mathbb{R}} = \mathbb{R} \cup \{+\infty\}$ .

$$\phi(x) = E_p[f(x, \xi)]$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} & \phi(\lambda y + (1-\lambda)x) \\ &= E_p[f(\lambda y + (1-\lambda)x, \xi)] \quad (\lambda \in [0, 1]) \end{aligned}$$

By convexity

$$\begin{aligned} f(\lambda y + (1-\lambda)x, \xi) &\leq \lambda f(y, \xi) + (1-\lambda)f(x, \xi) \\ E_p[f(\lambda y + (1-\lambda)x, \xi)] &\leq E[\lambda f(y, \xi) + (1-\lambda)f(x, \xi)] \\ &= \lambda E[f(y, \xi)] + (1-\lambda)E[f(x, \xi)] \end{aligned}$$

Voila : We are done!!

# Continuity  
# Differentiability

## # Continuity of the Expectation Functional

Let  $f(\cdot, \xi)$  is continuous at  $x_0$  for each  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

Assume that  $f(\cdot, \xi(\omega))$  is measurable for every  $x$  in a neighborhood of  $x_0$ . There exists a measurable function

$G: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  such that  $E_P[G] < +\infty$  and

$$|f(x, \xi(\omega))| \leq G(\omega), \quad P\text{-a.e.}$$

for any  $x$  in a neighborhood of  $x_0$ , then the expectation functional is also continuous at  $x = x_0$ .

Proof: Consider  $x^k \rightarrow x_0$ , by continuity,

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} f(x_k, \xi(\omega)) = f(x_0, \xi(\omega))$$

Now by the Dominated Convergence Theorem

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} f(x_k, \xi(\omega)) dP = \int_{\Omega} f(x_0, \xi(\omega)) dP$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \phi(x_k) = \phi(x_0)$$

Note

$$\phi(x_k) = E_P[f(x_k, \xi)] = \int_{\Omega} f(x_k, \xi(\omega)) dP.$$

Hence the result.

## Computing differentials / Rather Subdifferentials

Will focus on the case when  $f(\cdot, \xi)$  is convex.

Can we compute  $\partial\phi(x)$ . The subdifferential of the expectation functional

Basics: Set-Valued Maps

$S: \mathbb{R}^m \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^n$  is a set-valued map

$$\boxed{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^m \longmapsto S(\xi) \subset \mathbb{R}^n}$$

$$\text{dom } S = \{\xi \in \mathbb{R}^m : S(\xi) \neq \emptyset\}$$

If  $\forall \xi$ ,  $S(\xi)$  is a convex set, then  $S$  is convex-valued  
and if  $S(\xi)$  is a compact set, then  $S$  is compact-valued

$$\boxed{S(\xi) = \partial_x f(\bar{x}, \xi)}$$

→ Subdifferential

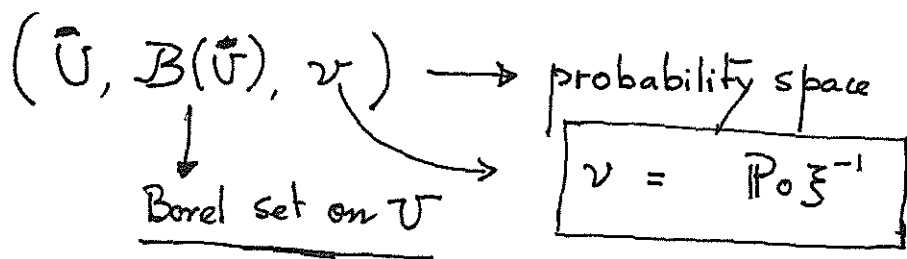
↙  
Convex  
valued

↓

↘  
Compact  
valued

Random Sets: The key notion to define a random set is the notion of "measurable multifunction"

Let  $\xi: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ , and let  $\xi(\Omega) = U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$



For any open set  $O$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  consider

$$S^{-1}(O) = \{ \xi \in \bar{U} : S(\xi) \cap O \neq \emptyset \}$$

If for any open set  $O \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $S^{-1}(O) \in \mathcal{B}(\bar{U})$ , then  $S$  is called "measurable".

The set  $S(\xi)$  is called a random set if  $S$  is measurable.

The expectation of a random set or a measurable multifunction

$$E_{\mathbb{P}}[S(\xi)] = \left\{ E_{\mathbb{P}}(\nu(\xi)) : \nu : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \nu(\xi) \in S(\xi) \right. \\ \left. \forall \xi \in \bar{U}, \text{ and } \nu(\xi) \text{ integrable} \right\}$$

If  $f : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  be smooth at  $\bar{x}$ ,

If for any  $\xi \in \bar{U}$  define  $S(\xi) = \{ \nabla_x f(\bar{x}, \xi) \}$

Then

$$E[S(\xi)] = \left\{ E_{\mathbb{P}} \{ \nabla_x f(\bar{x}, \xi) \} \right\}$$

Note  $E[\nu(\xi)]$  depends on the probability distribution of  $\xi$

$$E[\nu(\xi)] = \int_{\Omega} \nu \circ \xi(\omega) d\mathbb{P} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^m} \nu(\xi) d\nu$$

$\nu : \bar{U} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  denotes the random variable, in the second expression

Given a random vector  $\xi: \Omega \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$ , we define for the case where  $f(\cdot, \xi)$  is convex for any  $\xi \in \mathbb{R}^m$ , the subdifferential of the expectation functional  $\phi$  is given as

$$\partial \phi(x) = \mathbb{E}_p[\partial_x f(x, \xi)].$$

Is this a random set

Example (Computing the subdifferential of expectation functional)

Source: (Royset and Wets : An Optimization Primer)

Beware of this word

$$f: \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{with } f(x, \xi) = \max \{x - \xi, 0\}.$$

$f(\cdot, \xi)$  is a non-smooth convex function.

Let  $\xi$  be a random variable with  $\mathcal{U} = \{-1, 0, 2\}$ .

The probability masses are

$$p_{-1} = 0.2, \quad p_0 = 0.5, \quad p_2 = 0.3$$

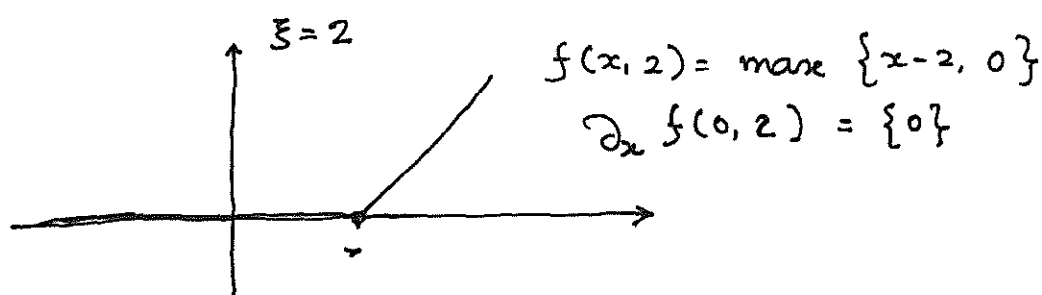
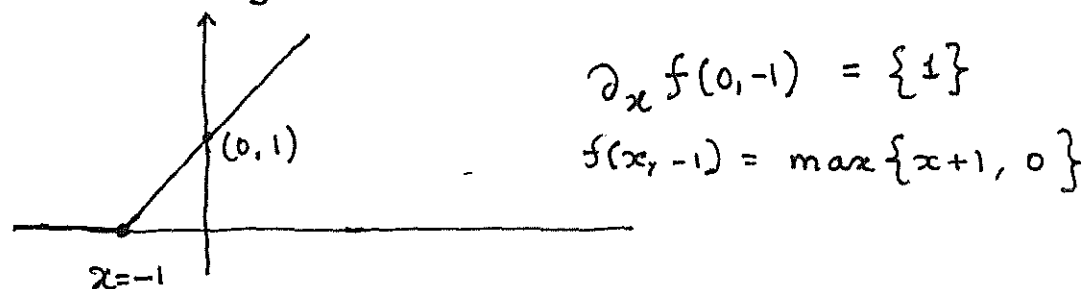
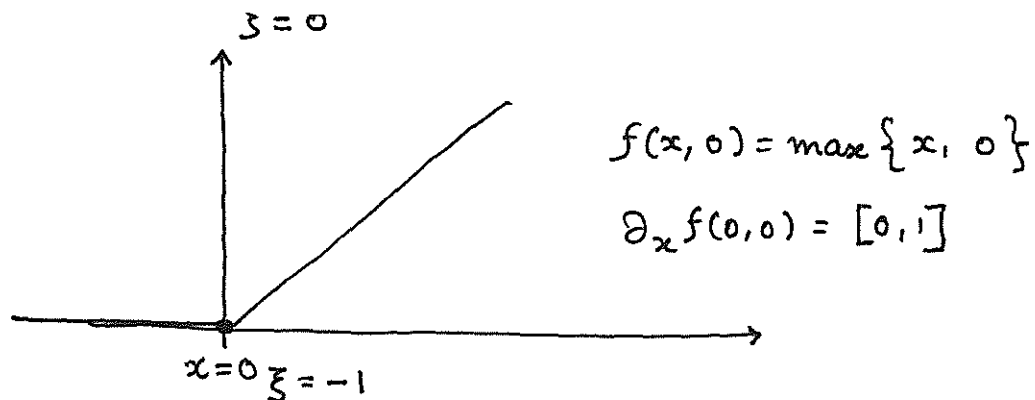
$$\mathbb{E}_p[f(x, \xi)] = \phi(x) = p_{-1} f(x, -1) + p_0 f(x, 0) + p_2 f(x, 2)$$

$$\phi(x) = 0.2 f(x, -1) + 0.5 f(x, 0) + 0.3 f(x, 2).$$

We will compute  $\mathbb{E}[\partial_x f(x, \xi)]$ . We will consider the specific case of  $x = 0$ . Then

$$f(0, -1) = 1, \quad f(0, 0) = 0, \quad f(0, 2) = 0$$





We have to find  $v(\xi) \in \partial_x f(0, \xi)$

$$v(-1) \in \partial_x f(0, -1) = \{1\}, \quad v(0) \in \partial_x f(0, 0) = [0, 1]$$

$$v(2) \in \partial_x f(0, 2) = \{0\}$$

$$\Rightarrow E[v(\xi)] = 0.2 v(-1) + 0.5 v(0) + 0.3 v(2) \\ \in [0.2, 0.7] = E[\partial_x f(0, \xi)]$$

$$\partial \phi(0) = [0.2, 0.7].$$

Theoretical justification for

$$\partial \phi(x) = E_P[\partial_x f(x, \xi)].$$

- $S : \mathbb{R}^m \rightrightarrows \mathbb{R}^n$  be a measurable multi-function

Then if  $S$  is convex-valued then  $E_P[S(\xi)]$  is a convex set.

Proof: Let  $\xi \in U = \text{Range } \xi$  and let  $s^0, s^1 \in E_P[S(\xi)]$   
 $\exists v^0 \text{ \& } v^1 : \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  with  $v^0, v^1$  integrable  
 $v^0(\xi) \text{ \& } v^1(\xi) \in S(\xi) \quad \forall \xi \in U$ , such that

$$s^0 = E_P[v^0(\xi)]$$

$$s^1 = E_P[v^1(\xi)]$$

Now as  $S$  is convex-valued; then for any  $\lambda \in [0, 1]$

$$v^\lambda(\xi) = (1-\lambda)v^0(\xi) + \lambda v^1(\xi) \in S(\xi), \quad \forall \xi$$

$v^\lambda$  is integrable as

$$E_P[v^\lambda] = E_P[v^\lambda(\xi)] = (1-\lambda)E_P[v^0(\xi)] + \lambda E_P[v^1(\xi)] < \infty$$

Further

$$E_P[v^\lambda(\xi)] = (1-\lambda)s^0 + \lambda s^1$$

$$\text{Since } E_P[v^\lambda(\xi)] \in E_P[S(\xi)]$$

$$\text{Thus } (1-\lambda)s^0 + \lambda s^1 \in E_P[S(\xi)]$$

Voila!! We are done!!

• Let  $\xi$  be a random vector and  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ .

If  $f(x, \xi)$  is integrable for all  $x$  and  $f(\xi, \cdot)$

$f(\cdot, \xi)$  is convex for all  $\xi \in U$ , then  $\partial_x f(x, \xi)$  is a random set for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n$ . Further

$$\partial \Phi(x) = E_{\mathbb{P}} [\partial_x f(x, \xi)]$$

If  $x^*$  be a minimizer of  $\Phi$  over  $\mathbb{R}^n$ , then

$$0 \in \partial \Phi(x^*)$$

$\Rightarrow \exists v: \mathbb{R}^m \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $v$  is integrable and

$$v(\xi) \in \partial_x f(x^*, \xi), \forall \xi \in U.$$

The converse also holds

End of Part-1

Part-II: Basic models of stochastic optimization  
and  
measures of risk