

**Short sales allowed, risk free asset exists  
Single index model - Ranking stocks**

The calculation of optimal portfolios is simplified by using the single index model to rank securities based on the excess return to beta ratio defined as follows:

$$\text{Excess return to beta} = \frac{\bar{R}_i - R_f}{\beta_i}.$$

After stocks are ranked using the above ratio the optimum portfolio (point of tangency) consists of investing in all stocks: Those for which the excess return to beta is greater than the cut-off point  $C^*$  will be held long. Those for which the excess return to beta is smaller than the cut-off point  $C^*$  will be held short. This cut-off rate is computed as follows:

$$C^* = \frac{\sigma_m^2 \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{(\bar{R}_j - R_f)\beta_j}{\sigma_{\epsilon j}^2}}{1 + \sigma_m^2 \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{\beta_j^2}{\sigma_{\epsilon j}^2}}.$$

where

- $\bar{R}_j$  Expected return on stock  $j$ .
- $R_f$  Return on a riskless asset.
- $\beta_j$  Change in the rate of return of stock  $j$  associated with a 1% change in the market return.
- $\sigma_m^2$  Variance in the market index .
- $\sigma_{\epsilon j}^2$  Variance of the error term. Also known as unsystematic risk.

The cut-off point is computed using all the stocks because short sales are allowed (some will be held long, some will be held short)

$$\text{if } \frac{\bar{R}_i - R_f}{\beta_i} > C^* \text{ then } z_i > 0 \Rightarrow x_i > 0.$$

To find the proportion of funds invested in each of these stocks we use:

$$z_i = \frac{\beta_i}{\sigma_{\epsilon i}^2} \left( \frac{\bar{R}_i - R_f}{\beta_i} - C^* \right)$$

Therefore  $x_i = \frac{z_i}{\sum_{i=1}^N z_i}$ , where  $N$  is equal to the number of stocks consisting the optimum portfolio (all stocks). Below an example with 16 stocks is presented. Monthly returns on the stocks listed below were selected from January 1980 to February 2001. Using the single index model we estimate the mean return of each stock. The results of the simple regressions for each stock against the market index (DJIA) are summarized in the next table. Also for these data the expected return of the market index is  $\bar{R}_m = 0.01082$  and its variance is  $\sigma_m^2 = 0.00192$ . Assume  $R_f = 0.005$

Stock $i$	$\hat{\alpha}_i$	$\hat{\beta}_i$	$\bar{R}_i$	$\sigma_{\epsilon i}^2$	$\frac{\bar{R}_i - R_f}{\hat{\beta}_i}$
Consolidated Edison	0.01226	0.22198	0.01466	0.00297	0.04352
Merck & Co.	0.01065	0.79296	0.01923	0.00365	0.01794
Coca Cola Co.	0.01045	0.77550	0.01884	0.00337	0.01785
Johnson & Johnson	0.00855	0.84097	0.01765	0.00331	0.01504
Pepsi	0.00773	0.80803	0.01647	0.00354	0.01419
Texaco	0.00637	0.57284	0.01257	0.00396	0.01322
General Electric	0.00735	1.09940	0.01925	0.00174	0.01296
Ford Motor	0.00717	1.12085	0.01930	0.00509	0.01276
Procter & Gamble	0.00523	0.75287	0.01338	0.00316	0.01113
Citigroup	0.00502	1.33139	0.01943	0.00555	0.01084
MN Mining & Man. Co.	0.00382	0.88206	0.01336	0.00189	0.00948
Exxon Mobil	0.00387	0.63036	0.01069	0.00163	0.00903
Alcoa Inc.	0.00177	1.21786	0.01494	0.00505	0.00816
Boeing Co.	0.00087	1.09064	0.01267	0.00524	0.00703
Ibm	-0.00036	0.95736	0.01000	0.00437	0.00522
Xerox Corp.	-0.00857	1.10821	0.00342	0.00876	-0.00142

Using the previous table we compute the entries in the next table. The last column contains the  $C_i$ 's.

Stock $i$	$\frac{\bar{R}_i - R_f}{\beta_i}$	$\frac{(\bar{R}_i - R_f)\beta_i}{\sigma_{\epsilon i}^2}$	$\sum_{j=1}^i \frac{(\bar{R}_j - R_f)\beta_j}{\sigma_{\epsilon j}^2}$	$\frac{\beta_i^2}{\sigma_{\epsilon i}^2}$	$\sum_{j=1}^i \frac{\beta_j^2}{\sigma_{\epsilon j}^2}$	$C^*$
Consolidated Edison	0.04352	0.72225	0.72225	16.597	16.597	
Merck & Co.	0.01794	3.09081	3.81306	172.270	188.867	
Coca Cola Co.	0.01785	3.18560	6.99866	178.457	367.324	
Johnson & Johnson	0.01504	3.21456	10.21323	213.665	580.988	
Pepsi	0.01419	2.61795	12.83117	184.439	765.427	
Texaco	0.01322	1.09543	13.92660	82.865	848.292	
General Electric	0.01296	9.00346	22.93006	694.644	1542.936	
Ford Motor	0.01276	3.14906	26.07912	246.818	1789.754	
Procter & Gamble	0.01113	1.99621	28.07533	179.371	1969.125	
Citigroup	0.01084	3.46146	31.53679	319.387	2288.513	
MN Mining & Man. Co.	0.00948	3.90113	35.43792	411.656	2700.169	
Exxon Mobil	0.00903	2.20096	37.63888	243.775	2943.944	
Alcoa Inc.	0.00816	2.39780	40.03667	293.700	3237.644	
Boeing Co.	0.00703	1.59642	41.63309	227.003	3464.647	
Ibm	0.00522	1.09563	42.72872	209.734	3674.381	
Xerox Corp.	-0.00142	-0.19927	42.52945	140.197	3814.578	0.00981

We find from the previous table that  $C^* = 0.00981$ . Therefore the first 10 ranked stocks will be held long and the last 6 ranked stocks will be held short. First we need to find the  $z_i$ 's as follows: We first find the values of  $z_i$ 's:

$$z_1 = \frac{\beta_1}{\sigma_{\epsilon 1}^2} \left( \frac{\bar{R}_1 - R_f}{\beta_1} - C^* \right) = \frac{0.22198}{0.00297} (0.04352 - 0.00981) = 2.520.$$

Similarly  $z_2 = 1.766$ ,  $z_3 = 1.850$ ,  $z_4 = 1.329$ ,  $z_5 = 1.000$ ,  $z_6 = 0.493$ ,  $z_7 = 1.990$ , and  $z_8 = 0.650$ ,  $z_9 = 0.314$ ,  $z_{10} = 0.247$ ,  $z_{11} = -0.154$ ,  $z_{12} = -0.302$ ,  $z_{13} = -0.398$ ,  $z_{14} = -0.579$ ,  $z_{15} = -1.006$ ,  $z_{16} = -1.421$ . The sum of the  $z_i$ 's is  $\sum_{i=1}^{16} z_i = 8.301$ .

Therefore  $x_1 = \frac{2.520}{8.301} = 0.30$ ,  $x_2 = \frac{1.766}{8.301} = 0.21$ , and similarly,  $x_3 = 0.22$ ,  $x_4 = 0.16$ ,  $x_5 = 0.12$ ,  $x_6 = 0.06$ ,  $x_7 = 0.24$ ,  $x_8 = 0.08$ ,  $x_9 = 0.04$ ,  $x_{10} = 0.03$ ,  $x_{11} = -0.02$ ,  $x_{12} = -0.04$ ,  $x_{13} = -0.05$ ,  $x_{14} = -0.07$ ,  $x_{15} = -0.12$  and  $x_{16} = -0.17$ .

The composition of the optimum portfolio (point of tangency) consists of  
30% Consolidated Edison, 21% Merck, 22% Coca Cola, 16% Johnson & Johnson,  
12% Pepsi, 6% Texaco, 24% General Electric, 8% Ford Motor,  
4% Procter & Gamble, 3% Citigroup, -2% MN Mining & Man. Co., -4% Exxon Mobil,  
-5% Alcoa Inc., -7% Boeing Co., -12% Ibm, -17% Xerox Corp.