

University of California, Los Angeles  
Department of Statistics

Statistics C183/C283

Instructor: Nicolas Christou

Exam 1  
04 May 2009

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem 1 (20 points)**

Answer the following questions:

- a. Suppose the average beta for a group of stocks for the years 2004-08 (this is the historical period with the subscript 1) is  $\bar{\beta}_1 = 1.0$  and their variance is  $\sigma_{\bar{\beta}_1}^2 = 0.25$ . The estimate of beta of stock  $A$  obtained from the regression of the returns of stock  $A$  on the market for the same period is  $\hat{\beta}_A = 1.183$  and its variance is  $\sigma_{\hat{\beta}_A}^2 = 0.22$ . What is your best forecast of beta for stock  $A$  using the Vasicek's technique?
- b. You are given that the variance of the return of the market is  $\sigma_m^2 = 0.2091$  and the covariance between the returns of stock  $A$  and the market is  $\sigma_{Am} = 0.2474$ . Find the beta of stock  $A$ .
- c. Portfolios  $A$  and  $B$  were constructed using the single index model. The beta of portfolio  $A$  is  $\beta_{PA} = 0.9$  while the beta of portfolio  $B$  is  $\beta_{PB} = 1.2$ . If the variance of the returns of the market is  $\sigma_m^2 = 0.30$  find the covariance between portfolio  $A$  and portfolio  $B$ .
- d. Assume that the single index model holds. The characteristics of two stocks  $A$  and  $B$  are the following:
- | Stock | $\alpha$ | $\beta$ | $\sigma_\epsilon^2$ |
|-------|----------|---------|---------------------|
| $A$   | -0.0022  | 1.06    | 0.01                |
| $B$   | 0.0084   | 0.81    | 0.05                |
- If  $\sigma_m^2 = 0.002$  find the correlation coefficient between stocks  $A$  and  $B$ .

Answer the following questions:

a. Suppose stocks  $A$  and  $B$  are chemical stocks and stocks  $C$  and  $D$  are utility stocks. Let  $I_C$  and  $I_U$  the indexes for the chemical and utility stocks respectively, and let  $R_m$  the market index with variance  $\sigma_m^2$ . The following regression models hold:

$$R_D = \alpha_D + \beta_D I_U + \epsilon_D$$

$$I_U = \gamma_U + b_U R_m + \delta_U$$

1. Write down the covariance between stocks  $A$  and  $B$ .

2. Write down the covariance between stocks  $A$  and  $C$ .

$$\bar{\rho} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.4073 & 0.0403 & 0.0722 \\ 0.0403 & 0.4633 & 0.1275 \\ 0.0722 & 0.1275 & 0.0960 \end{pmatrix}$$

1. Suppose the first stock in the first industry has  $\sigma_1 = 0.15$  and the last stock in the third industry has  $\sigma = 0.05$ . Compute the covariance between these two stocks.

2. Suppose short sales are allowed. Using the multi group model the optimum portfolio (point of tangency) can be found by solving  $\Phi = \mathbf{A}^{-1}\mathbf{C}$ . Once we obtained the elements of the vector  $\Phi$  we can compute the  $z_i$ 's and from there the  $x_i$ 's. Write down the elements of the matrix  $\mathbf{A}$  and the vector  $\mathbf{C}$ .

**Problem 3 (20 points)**

Suppose that the single index model holds,  $R_f = 0.002$ ,  $\sigma_m^2 = 0.002548013$ , and  $\bar{R}_m = 0.003602158$ . Using the single index model we obtain the following variance covariance matrix for three stocks 1, 2, and 3.

```
> var_covar
      [,1]      [,2]      [,3]
[1,] 0.013422089 0.005415671 0.002142743
[2,] 0.005415671 0.024634485 0.002914967
[3,] 0.002142743 0.002914967 0.010748691
```

Also, the mean returns of the three stocks are:

```
> R_bar
R1 0.005274547
R2 0.001527333
R3 0.010364922
```

The table below show the ranking of the stocks based on the excess return to beta ratio:

```
> table1
      stock      Ratio      col1      col2      col3      col4      col5
[1,]      3 0.0124333171 0.58650977 0.5865098 47.17243 47.17243 0.001334083
[2,]      1 0.0026197367 0.43353212 1.0200419 165.48690 ?????????? ????????????
[3,]      2 -0.0002779702 -0.04654724 0.9734946 167.45407 380.11340 0.001260063
```

- Find the two missing values in the `table1` above.
- The last column in `table1` are the  $C_i$ 's. What is the value of  $C^*$  when short sales are allowed, and when short sales are not allowed?
- When short sales are allowed the composition of the optimum portfolio is:

```
> short_sales_composition
      stock      x_short
[1,]      3 0.9648372
[2,]      1 0.2217000
[3,]      2 -0.1865372
```

This portfolio has  $\bar{R}_G = 0.01088493$  and  $\sigma_G = 0.1046062$ . Write the expression that computes these two numbers. No calculations!

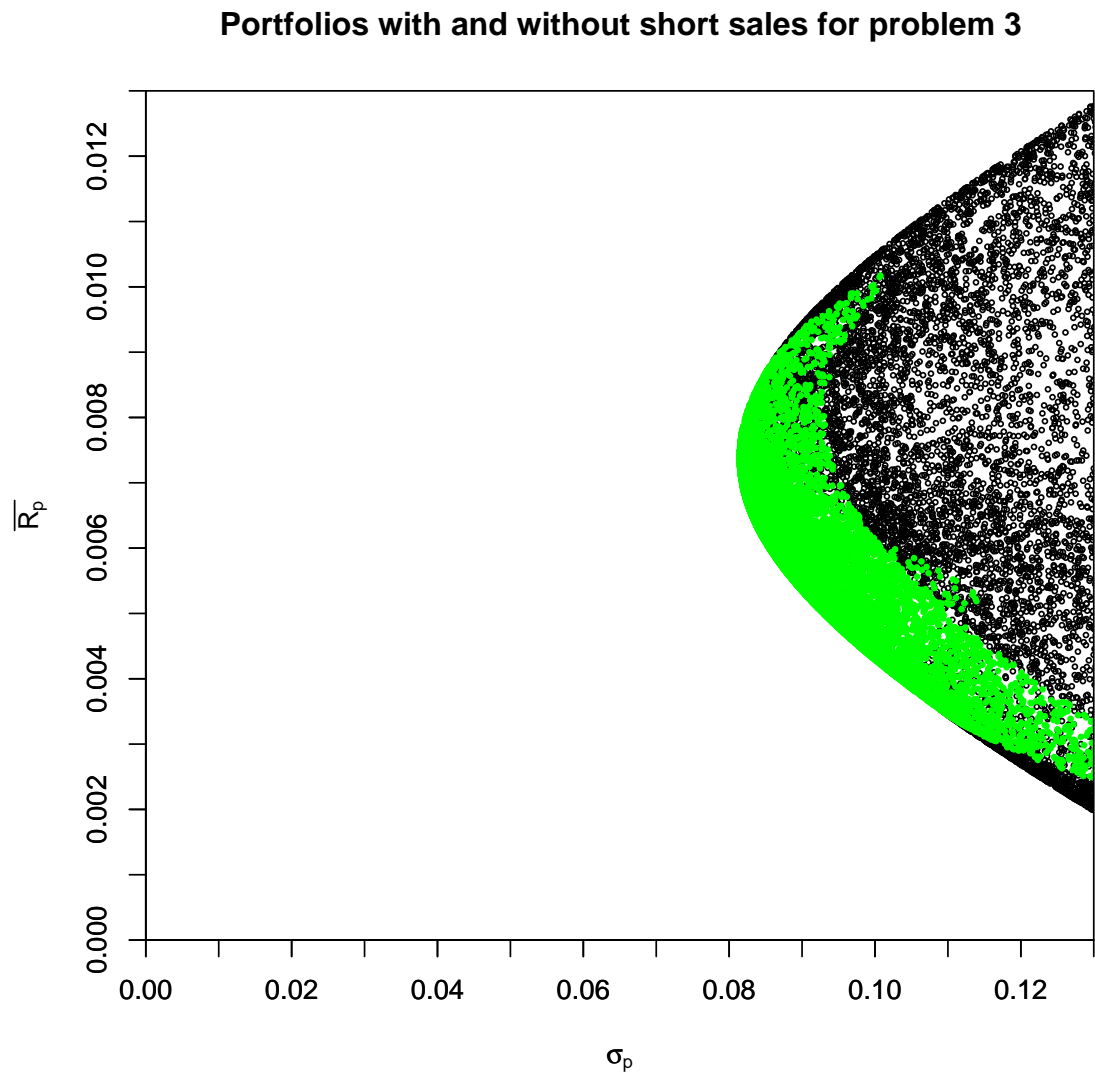
- d. When short sales are not allowed the values of the  $z_i$ 's are:

```
> no_short_sales
      stock z_no_short
[1,]      3 0.7535748
[2,]      1 0.1236640
```

Find the composition of the optimum portfolio and compute its expected return and standard deviation.

- e. On the previous page you see the plot of the expected return against the standard deviation of many portfolios of these three stocks when short sales are allowed and when short sales are not allowed. Indicate the position of the optimum portfolio on this graph when short sales are allowed and when short sales are not allowed.
- f. Consider the case when short sales are not allowed. Suppose a new portfolio is constructed as follows: 70% in the optimum portfolio and 30% in the risk free asset. Find the expected return and standard deviation of this new portfolio and place it on the graph on the previous page.

Plot for problem 3:



**Problem 4 (20 points)**

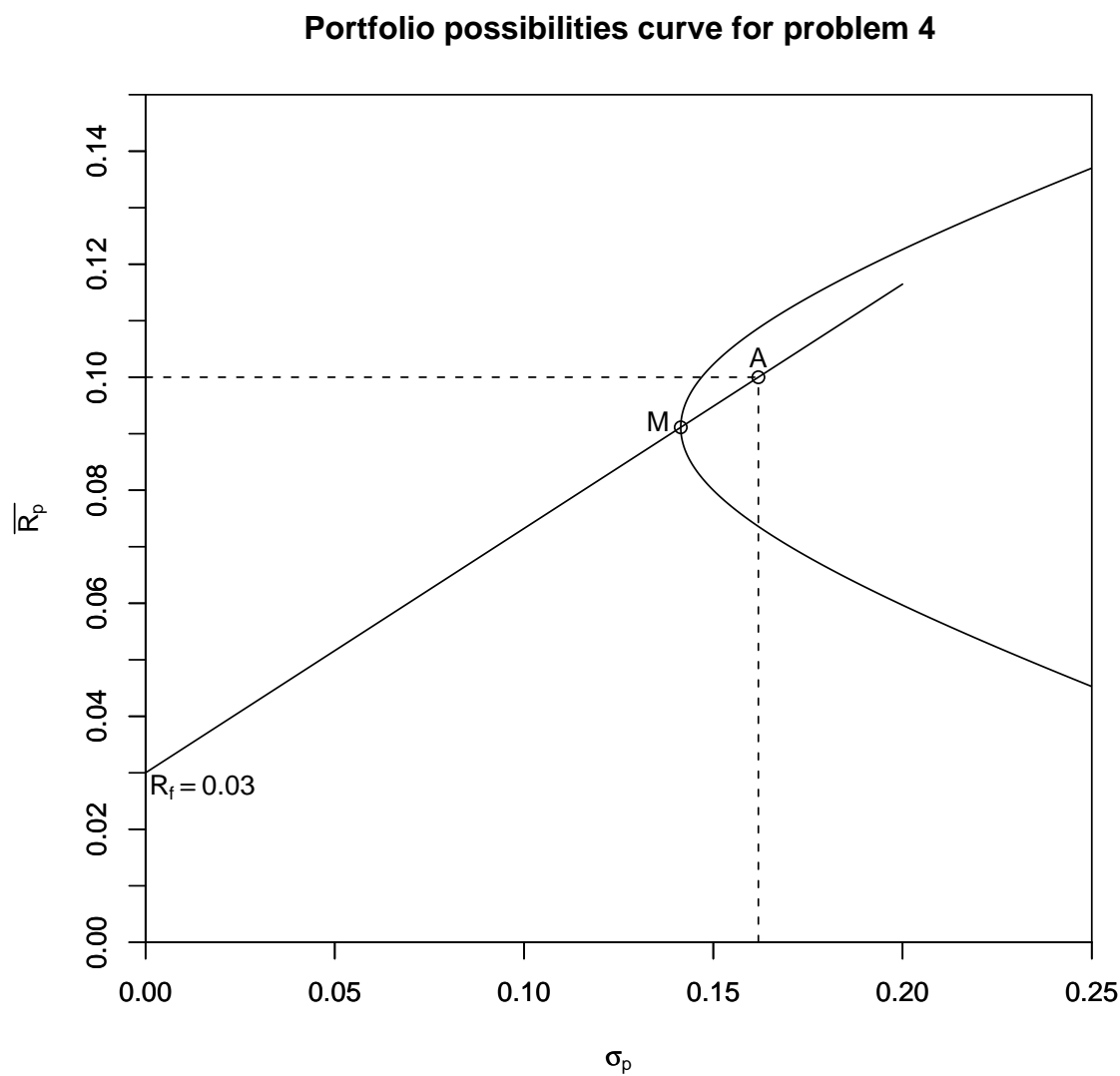
You are constructing a portfolio from three assets. The first two assets are stocks 1 and 2. The third asset is the risk free T-bill which has return 3%. The characteristics of the two stocks are as follows:

Stock	$\bar{R}$	$\sigma$
1	0.15	0.30
2	0.08	0.15

The correlation coefficient between stocks 1 and 2 is  $\rho_{12} = 0.15$ .

- Find the composition of the minimum risk portfolio (point  $M$  on the graph on the previous page).
- Suppose you want to form a portfolio by combining the two stocks and the risk free asset that will give you expected return of 10% (point  $A$  on the graph). Find the composition of portfolio  $A$  in stock 1, stock 2, and the risk free asset. Note: For your convenience you are given that  $\bar{R}_M = 0.09113636$ .
- Calculate the standard deviation of portfolio  $A$ . Note: For your convenience you are given that  $\sigma_M = 0.1414013$ .
- Suppose you still want a return of 10% but you are only allowed to combine the two stocks. Find the composition of this portfolio and show it on the graph.

Plot for problem 4:



**Problem 5 (20 points)**

Using the constant correlation model we completed the table below on 6 stocks. Assume  $R_f = 0.001$  and average correlation  $\rho = 0.2530345$ .

```
> table1
      Rbar      Rbar_Rf      sigma      Ratio      col1      col2      col3
R4 0.015036250 0.014036250 0.1181161 0.118834339 0.2530345 0.1188343 0.03006919
R3 0.010364922 0.009364922 0.1029387 0.090975688 0.2019374 0.2098100 0.04236849
R5 0.009990582 0.008990582 0.1360799 0.066068411 0.1680099 ?????????? ??????????
R1 0.005274547 0.004274547 0.1152052 0.037103779 0.1438429 0.3129822 0.04502026
R6 0.003806880 0.002806880 0.1385122 0.020264496 0.1257541 0.3332467 0.04190712
R2 0.001527333 0.000527333 0.1560782 0.003378646 0.1117065 0.3366254 0.03760324
```

- Find the two missing numbers in the table above.
- Find the cut-off point  $C^*$  if short sales are not allowed.
- Find the cut-off point  $C^*$  if short sales are allowed.
- Write down the expression in matrix form that computes the variance of the portfolio when short sales are allowed. No calculations.
- You are given a new stock with  $\bar{R} = 0.005$ , and  $\sigma = 0.15$ . Will anything change when short sales are allowed and when short sales are not allowed in terms of the portfolio allocation. Briefly explain your answer without doing all the calculations.