

Risk & Return: Part I "Portfolio Risk & Return Measure"

Page

1

Portfolio = a combination (set) of assets based on different weights (or allocation of wealth or Capital)

The expected return of a portfolio ($E(R_p)$) is simply a weighted sum value of individual assets' expected returns.

$$E(R_p) = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i E(R_i) ; \bar{R}_p = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \bar{R}_i$$

However, $\sigma_p^2 \neq \sum_{i=1}^N w_i \sigma_{pi}^2$ ← The risk measure (σ^2) for a pfl is much more complicated.

Now, let's consider that the variance is the Expected Value of Deviation Squar
 $\sigma_x^2 = E(x - E(x))^2$

For convenient purpose, Let $\bar{X} = E(x)$.

$$\sigma_x^2 = E(x - \bar{x})^2 = E(x^2) - [E(x)]^2$$

Suppose we have a portfolio that contains only two risky assets 1 & 2, respectively. Then

$$(1) \quad \bar{R}_p = w_1 \bar{R}_1 + w_2 \bar{R}_2 = \sum_{i=1}^2 w_i \bar{R}_i ; \text{ where } w_1 + w_2 = 1$$

$$(2) \quad \begin{aligned} \sigma_p^2 &= E(R_p - \bar{R}_p)^2 \\ &= E[(w_1 R_1 + w_2 R_2) - (w_1 \bar{R}_1 + w_2 \bar{R}_2)]^2 \\ &= E[w_1 (R_1 - \bar{R}_1) + w_2 (R_2 - \bar{R}_2)]^2 \end{aligned}$$

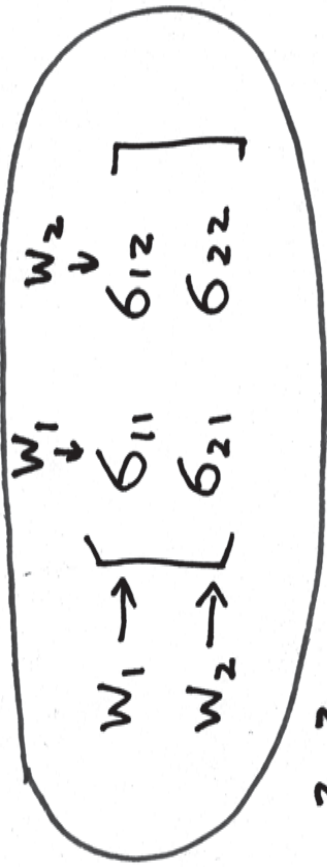
$$\text{Note: } (x+y)^2 = x^2 + y^2 + 2xy$$

" Portfolio Risk & Return Measure "

$$\begin{aligned}
 \sigma_p^2 &= E [w_1 (R_1 - \bar{R}_1) + w_2 (R_2 - \bar{R}_2)]^2 \\
 &= E [w_1^2 (R_1 - \bar{R}_1)^2 + w_2^2 (R_2 - \bar{R}_2)^2 + 2 w_1 w_2 (R_1 - \bar{R}_1)(R_2 - \bar{R}_2)] \\
 &= w_1^2 E (R_1 - \bar{R}_1)^2 + w_2^2 E (R_2 - \bar{R}_2)^2 + 2 w_1 w_2 E \underbrace{[(R_1 - \bar{R}_1)(R_2 - \bar{R}_2)]}_{\text{Covariance}} \\
 &= w_1^2 \sigma_1^2 + w_2^2 \sigma_2^2 + 2 w_1 w_2 \sigma_{12}
 \end{aligned}$$

Note:
 $\sigma_{12} = \sigma_{21}$

$$= [w_1 w_1 \sigma_{11}] + [w_2 w_2 \sigma_{22}] + [w_1 w_2 \sigma_{12} + w_2 w_1 \sigma_{21}]$$



← Variance - Covariance

$$= \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 w_i w_j \sigma_{ij}$$
 ← Weighted Sum of all pairs of variances and covariances among assets' returns.

In general, $\sigma_p^2 =$

$$\begin{matrix} w_1 \rightarrow & w_2 \rightarrow & & & w_N \rightarrow \\ \left[\begin{matrix} \sigma_{11} & \dots & \dots & \dots & \sigma_{1N} \\ \sigma_{21} & \sigma_{22} & \dots & \dots & \sigma_{2N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \sigma_{N1} & \sigma_{N2} & \dots & \dots & \sigma_{NN} \end{matrix} \right] \end{matrix}$$

where $\sum_{i=1}^N w_i = 1$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N w_i w_j \sigma_{ij}$$

$$= \sum_{i=1}^N w_i^2 \sigma_i^2 + \sum_{i \neq j, i, j=1}^N w_i w_j \sigma_{ij}$$

(See Page 215 of the Text.)

Diversification

$$\sigma_p^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N w_i^2 \sigma_i^2 + \sum_{i,j=1; i \neq j}^N w_i w_j \sigma_{ij}$$

Let $\bar{\sigma}^2 =$ the average of σ_i^2 ; $\overline{\text{Cov}} =$ the average of σ_{ij}

$w_i = w_j = \frac{1}{N}$ (\leftarrow equally weighted)

We have

$$\sigma_p^2 = \frac{\bar{\sigma}^2}{N} + \frac{N(N-1)}{N} \overline{\text{Cov}}$$

When $N \rightarrow \infty$ (very large)

$$\sigma_p^2 \approx 0 + 1 \overline{\text{Cov}} = \overline{\text{Cov}} \leftarrow \text{Risk}$$

Reducing as $N \uparrow$

Covariance & Correlation

$$\sigma_{ij} = \sigma_i \cdot \sigma_j \rho_{ij} \Leftrightarrow \rho_{ij} = \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{\sigma_i \sigma_j}$$

$$\sigma_p^2 = \sum_i^N \sum_j^N w_i w_j \sigma_{ij} = \sum_i^N \sum_j^N w_i w_j \sigma_i \sigma_j \rho_{ij}$$

if all assets have the same variance (σ^2) and the same correlation (ρ) among assets in the ^{equally weighted} portfolio, then

$$\sigma_p^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{N} + \frac{N-1}{N} \sigma^2 \rho ;$$

So, if N is large and Correlation of assets approach zero,

then $\sigma_p^2 \sim \sigma^2$