

# Asset Management & Sustainable Finance

## Final Examination

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**Remark 1** *The final examination is composed of 2 exercises. Please write entirely your answers<sup>1</sup>. Precise the different concepts and the different statistics you use. Define the optimization program associated to each portfolio. Provide also one Python program by exercise.*

- *Concerning risk decomposition<sup>2</sup>, present the results as follows:*

Asset	$x_i$	$\mathcal{MR}_i$	$\mathcal{RC}_i$	$\mathcal{RC}_i^*$
1				
2				
$\vdots$				
$n$				
$\mathcal{R}(x)$				✓

- *The report is a zipped file, whose filename is yourname.zip if you do the project alone or yourname1-yourname2.zip if you do the project in groups of two.*
- *The zipped file is composed of three files:*
  1. *The pdf document that contains the answers to the two exercises and a cover sheet with your names;*
  2. *The Python program of each exercise with an explicit filename, e.g. `exercise1.py`.*
- *The project seems to be very long. However, once you have understood how to solve a mean-variance optimization problem with a QP solver, you can duplicate your code for many questions. For instance, Question 2.(c) is a duplication of Question 2.(b), same thing with Questions 3.(a), 3.(b) and 3.(c). Questions 2.(a)–2.(g) is also a variant of Question 2.(b) by changing a little bit the QP objective function and adding an inequality constraint.*

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<sup>1</sup>Read carefully the questions and answer to all the elements of the questions. For instance, when I say “Find the portfolio  $x$  and compute its volatility  $\sigma(x)$ ”, you have to give the numeric values of  $x$  and  $\sigma(x)$ . If you only give the numeric value of  $\sigma(x)$ , the answer is false because I don’t know what the weights of the portfolio are.

<sup>2</sup> $x_i$  is the weight (or the exposure) of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  asset in the portfolio,  $\mathcal{MR}_i$  is the marginal risk,  $\mathcal{RC}_i$  is the nominal risk contribution,  $\mathcal{RC}_i^*$  is the relative risk contribution and  $\mathcal{R}(x)$  is the risk measure of the portfolio.

# 1 Portfolio optimization and risk budgeting

We consider an investment universe of  $n = 6$  stocks. We assume that the expected returns  $\mu_i$  are equal to 5%, 5%, 6%, 4%, 7% and 3%, whereas the volatilities  $\sigma_i$  are equal to 20%, 22%, 25%, 18%, 35% and 10%. The correlation matrix is equal to:

$$\mathbb{C} = (\rho_{i,j}) = \begin{pmatrix} 100\% & & & & & \\ 50\% & 100\% & & & & \\ 30\% & 30\% & 100\% & & & \\ 60\% & 60\% & 60\% & 100\% & & \\ 40\% & 30\% & 70\% & 30\% & 100\% & \\ 20\% & 20\% & 15\% & 25\% & 15\% & 100\% \end{pmatrix}$$

The risk free return is set to 1%.

1. (a) Compute the covariance matrix  $\Sigma$  of stock returns.  
 (b) Compute the Sharpe ratio of each asset.
2. We consider long/short MVO portfolios such that  $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1$ .  
 (a) Give the QP formulation of the mean-variance optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} x^* &= \arg \min \frac{1}{2} x^\top \Sigma x - \gamma x^\top \mu \\ \text{s.t. } &\begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1 \\ -10 \leq x_i \leq 10 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

- (b) Using the  $\gamma$ -problem, find the optimal solution<sup>3</sup>  $x^*(\gamma)$  when the coefficient  $\gamma$  is equal to 0, 0.10, 0.20, 0.50 and 1.00. For each optimized portfolio, compute its expected return  $\mu(x^*(\gamma))$ , its volatility  $\sigma(x^*(\gamma))$  and its Sharpe ratio  $\text{SR}(x^*(\gamma) | r)$ .
  - (c) Draw the efficient frontier by considering granular values<sup>4</sup> of  $\gamma$ .
  - (d) Using a bisection algorithm, calculate the MVO portfolio if we target an ex-ante volatility of 10% and 12%. Give the corresponding values  $\gamma$  of the QP problem. For each optimized portfolio, compute its expected return  $\mu(x^*(\gamma))$ , its volatility  $\sigma(x^*(\gamma))$  and its Sharpe ratio  $\text{SR}(x^*(\gamma) | r)$ .
  - (e) Find the tangency portfolio<sup>5</sup>. Compute its expected return  $\mu(x^*(\gamma))$ , its volatility  $\sigma(x^*(\gamma))$  and its Sharpe ratio  $\text{SR}(x^*(\gamma) | r)$ .
3. We consider long-only MVO portfolios such that  $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1$  and  $0 \leq x_i \leq 1$ .  
 (a) Using the  $\gamma$ -problem, find the optimal solution<sup>6</sup>  $x^*(\gamma)$  when the coefficient  $\gamma$  is equal to 0, 0.10, 0.20, 0.50 and 1.00. For each optimized portfolio, compute its expected return  $\mu(x^*(\gamma))$ , its volatility  $\sigma(x^*(\gamma))$  and its Sharpe ratio  $\text{SR}(x^*(\gamma) | r)$ .  
 (b) Compare the efficient frontier by considering granular values of  $\gamma$  with the long/short efficient frontier obtained in Question 2.(c). Comment on these results.  
 (c) Using a bisection algorithm, calculate the MVO portfolio if we target an ex-ante volatility of 10% and 12%. Give the corresponding values of  $\gamma$  of the QP problem. For each optimized portfolio, compute its expected return  $\mu(x^*(\gamma))$ , its volatility  $\sigma(x^*(\gamma))$  and its Sharpe ratio  $\text{SR}(x^*(\gamma) | r)$ .

<sup>3</sup>You have to give the composition of each optimized portfolios.

<sup>4</sup>For instance, you can consider that  $\gamma = -0.5, -0.4, \dots, -0.1, 0, 0.05, 0.10, \dots, 0.95, 1, 2, \dots, 10$ .

<sup>5</sup>You can compute it using the analytical solution or using the numerical brute force method.

<sup>6</sup>You have to give the composition of each optimized portfolios.

- (d) Find the long-only tangency portfolio  $x_{\text{MSR}}^*$ . Compute its expected return  $\mu(x_{\text{MSR}}^*)$ , its volatility  $\sigma(x_{\text{MSR}}^*)$  and its Sharpe ratio  $\text{SR}(x_{\text{MSR}}^* | r)$ .
- (e) Compute the beta coefficient  $\beta_i$  of each asset with respect to the long-only tangency portfolio  $x_{\text{MSR}}^*$ . Deduce the implied expected return  $\mu_i$  that is priced in by the market<sup>7</sup>, and the corresponding alpha coefficient  $\alpha_i$  of each asset.

4. We consider risk-budgeting portfolios.

- (a) Give the risk decomposition of the long-only tangency portfolio  $x_{\text{MSR}}^*$  (MSR).
- (b) Give the risk decomposition of the equally-weighted portfolio (EW).
- (c) Give the risk decomposition of the long-only minimum variance portfolio (MV).
- (d) Give the risk decomposition of the long-only most diversified portfolio (MDP).
- (e) Give the risk decomposition of the equal risk contribution portfolio (ERC).
- (f) Compute the beta  $\beta(x | b)$  of the portfolios MSR, EW, MV, MDP and ERC with respect to the benchmark  $b$  when  $b$  is the long-only tangency portfolio  $x_{\text{MSR}}^*$ . Same question when  $b$  is the EW portfolio. Comment on these results.

5. We consider again Question 2, but we now impose a leverage constraint:

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i| \leq \mathcal{L}^+$$

where  $\mathcal{L}^+$  is the maximum leverage. The mean-variance optimization problem is then:

$$\begin{aligned} x^* &= \arg \min \frac{1}{2} x^\top \Sigma x - \gamma x^\top \mu \\ \text{s.t.} & \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1 \\ \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i| \leq \mathcal{L}^+ \\ -10 \leq x_i \leq 10 \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

(a) We consider the following parameterization:

$$x_i = x_i^+ - x_i^-$$

where  $x_i^+ \geq 0$  and  $x_i^- \geq 0$  are respectively the positive and negative parts of the weight of asset  $i$ . The matrix form is then:

$$\begin{cases} x = x^+ - x^- \\ x^+ \geq \mathbf{0}_n \\ x^- \geq \mathbf{0}_n \end{cases}$$

- i. What is the expression of the leverage ratio  $\mathcal{L}(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n |x_i|$  with respect to  $x^+$  and  $x^-$ .
- ii. What is the expression of the expected return  $\mu(x) = x^\top \mu$  with respect to  $x^+$  and  $x^-$ .
- iii. What is the expression of the variance  $\sigma^2(x) = x^\top \Sigma x$  with respect to  $x^+$  and  $x^-$ .
- iv. We consider the canonical quadratic programming problem:

$$\begin{aligned} X^* &= \arg \min \frac{1}{2} X^\top Q X - X^\top R \\ \text{s.t.} & \begin{cases} AX = B \\ CX \leq D \\ X^- \leq X \leq X^+ \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

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<sup>7</sup>We assume that the market portfolio is the long-only tangency portfolio  $x_{\text{MSR}}^*$ .

By considering the following definition:

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} x^+ \\ x^- \end{pmatrix}$$

Cast the MVO problem (1) with the leverage constraint into an augmented QP problem (2), meaning that you must give the corresponding formulation of the matrices  $Q$ ,  $R$ ,  $A$ ,  $B$ ,  $C$ ,  $D$ ,  $X^-$  and  $X^+$ .

- (b) We consider that the coefficient  $\gamma$  is respectively equal to 0, 0.10, 0.20, 0.50 and 1.00. Solve the augmented QP problem by considering that the maximum leverage value is equal to  $\mathcal{L}^+ = 10$  and give the optimal portfolio for each value of  $\gamma$ . You must obtain the same solutions as those found in Question 2.(b). Why do we obtain the long/short optimized portfolios?
- (c) Same question when the maximum leverage value is set to  $\mathcal{L}^+ = 1$ . In this case, you must obtain the same solutions as those found in Question 3.(a). Why do we obtain the optimized long-only portfolios?
- (d) Find the optimal portfolios when the coefficient  $\gamma$  is respectively equal to 0, 0.10, 0.20, 0.50 and 1.00 and the maximum leverage value is set to  $\mathcal{L}^+ = 1.5$ .



- (b) Write the optimization problem if the objective function is to minimize the tracking error risk under the constraint of carbon intensity.
- (c) Give the QP formulation of the optimization problem.
- (d)  $\mathcal{R}$  is equal to 20%. Find the optimal portfolio if we target scopes 1 + 2. What is the value of the tracking error volatility?
- (e) Same question if  $\mathcal{R}$  is equal to 30%, 50%, and 70%.
- (f) We target scopes 1 + 2 + 3. Find the optimal portfolio if  $\mathcal{R}$  is equal to 20%, 30%, 50% and 70%. Give the value of the tracking error volatility for each optimized portfolio.
- (g) Comment on the results obtained in Questions 2.(d), 2.(e) and 2.(f).
3. We would like to manage a **bond portfolio** with respect to the previous investment universe and reduce the **weighted average carbon intensity** of the benchmark by the rate  $\mathcal{R}$  (scopes 1+2+3). In the table below, we report the modified duration  $MD_i$  and the duration times spread  $DTS_i$  of each corporate bond  $i$ :

Issuer	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
$MD_i$ (in year)	3.56	7.48	6.54	10.23	2.40	2.30	9.12	7.96
$DTS_i$ (in bps)	103	155	75	796	89	45	320	245
Sector	$\mathcal{S}_1$	$\mathcal{S}_2$	$\mathcal{S}_1$	$\mathcal{S}_1$	$\mathcal{S}_2$	$\mathcal{S}_1$	$\mathcal{S}_2$	$\mathcal{S}_2$

We define the MD and DTS metrics of portfolio  $x$  as follows:

$$MD(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \cdot MD_i$$

and:

$$DTS(x) = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \cdot DTS_i$$

The tracking error risk (or active risk) can be calculated using three functions. For the active share risk, we have:

$$\sigma_{AS}(x | b) = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - b_i)^2}$$

We also consider the MD-based tracking error risk:

$$\sigma_{MD}(x | b) = \sqrt{\left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_1} (x_i - b_i) MD_i\right)^2 + \left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_2} (x_i - b_i) MD_i\right)^2}$$

and the DTS-based tracking error risk:

$$\sigma_{DTS}(x | b) = \sqrt{\left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_1} (x_i - b_i) DTS_i\right)^2 + \left(\sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}_2} (x_i - b_i) DTS_i\right)^2}$$

We note  $\mathcal{R}_{AS}(x | b) = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{AS}^2(x | b)$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_{MD}(x | b) = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{MD}^2(x | b)$  and  $\mathcal{R}_{DTS}(x | b) = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{DTS}^2(x | b)$ . Finally, we define a synthetic risk measure as a combination of AS, MD and DTS active risks:

$$\mathcal{R}(x | b) = \varphi_{AS}\mathcal{R}_{AS}(x | b) + \varphi_{MD}\mathcal{R}_{MD}(x | b) + \varphi_{DTS}\mathcal{R}_{DTS}(x | b)$$

where  $\varphi_{AS} \geq 0$ ,  $\varphi_{MD} \geq 0$  and  $\varphi_{DTS} \geq 0$  indicate the weight of each risk. In what follows, we use the following numerical values:  $\varphi_{AS} = 100$ ,  $\varphi_{MD} = 25$  and  $\varphi_{DTS} = 1$ . The reduction rate  $\mathcal{R}$  of the weighted average carbon intensity is set to 50% for scopes 1, 2 and 3.

- (a) Compute the modified duration  $\text{MD}(b)$  and the duration times spread  $\text{DTS}(b)$  of the benchmark.
- (b) Let  $x$  be the equally-weighted portfolio. Compute<sup>9</sup>  $\text{MD}(x)$ ,  $\text{DTS}(x)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{AS}}(x | b)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{MD}}(x | b)$  and  $\sigma_{\text{DTS}}(x | b)$ .
- (c) Solve the following optimization problem<sup>10</sup>:

$$x^* = \arg \min \mathcal{R}_{\text{AS}}(x | b)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1 \\ \text{MD}(x) = \text{MD}(b) \\ \text{DTS}(x) = \text{DTS}(b) \\ \mathcal{CI}(x) \leq (1 - \mathcal{R}) \mathcal{CI}(b) \\ 0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

Compute  $\text{MD}(x^*)$ ,  $\text{DTS}(x^*)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{AS}}(x^* | b)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{MD}}(x^* | b)$  and  $\sigma_{\text{DTS}}(x^* | b)$ .

- (d) Solve the following optimization problem:

$$x^* = \arg \min \varphi_{\text{AS}} \mathcal{R}_{\text{AS}}(x | b) + \varphi_{\text{MD}} \mathcal{R}_{\text{MD}}(x | b)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1 \\ \text{DTS}(x) = \text{DTS}(b) \\ \mathcal{CI}(x) \leq (1 - \mathcal{R}) \mathcal{CI}(b) \\ 0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

Compute  $\text{MD}(x^*)$ ,  $\text{DTS}(x^*)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{AS}}(x^* | b)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{MD}}(x^* | b)$  and  $\sigma_{\text{DTS}}(x^* | b)$ .

- (e) Solve the following optimization problem:

$$x^* = \arg \min \varphi_{\text{AS}} \mathcal{R}_{\text{AS}}(x | b) + \varphi_{\text{MD}} \mathcal{R}_{\text{MD}}(x | b) + \varphi_{\text{DTS}} \mathcal{R}_{\text{DTS}}(x | b)$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1 \\ \mathcal{CI}(x) \leq (1 - \mathcal{R}) \mathcal{CI}(b) \\ 0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \end{cases}$$

Compute  $\text{MD}(x^*)$ ,  $\text{DTS}(x^*)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{AS}}(x^* | b)$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{MD}}(x^* | b)$  and  $\sigma_{\text{DTS}}(x^* | b)$ .

- (f) Comment on the results obtained in Question 3.(c), 3.(d) and 3.(e).

**Remark 2** You can choose to answer or not the optional question 4, which is given in the next page.

<sup>9</sup>Precise the corresponding unit (years, bps or %) for each metric.

<sup>10</sup>You can use any numerical nonlinear solvers in Questions 3.(c), 3.(d) and 3.(e), not necessarily a QP solver.

## Optional Question

We note  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_n)$  the portfolio and  $b = (b_1, \dots, b_n)$  the benchmark. Let  $m = (m_1, \dots, m_n)$  be the vector of metrics. We remind the following properties:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - b_i)^2 \cdot m_i &= (x - b)^\top M_1 (x - b) \\ \left( \sum_{i=1}^n (x_i - b_i) \cdot m_i \right)^2 &= (x - b)^\top M_2 (x - b) \end{aligned}$$

where  $M_1 = \text{diag}(m_1, \dots, m_n)$  and  $M_2 = mm^\top$ . We also notice that we can always write a partial sum as a total sum:

$$\sum_{i \in \Omega} y_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{1}\{i \in \Omega\} \cdot y_i = \mathbf{e}_\Omega^\top y = y^\top \mathbf{e}_\Omega$$

where  $\mathbf{e}_\Omega$  is a  $n \times 1$  vector such that:

$$\mathbf{e}_{\Omega,i} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i \in \Omega \\ 0 & \text{if } i \notin \Omega \end{cases}$$

4. Write each function  $\mathcal{R}_{AS}(x | b)$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_{MD}(x | b)$ ,  $\mathcal{R}_{DTS}(x | b)$  in a quadratic form:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{Metric}}(x | b) = \frac{1}{2} x^\top Q_{\text{Metric}} x - x^\top R_{\text{Metric}} + c_{\text{Metric}}$$

where  $c_{\text{Metric}}$  is a constant that does not depend on  $x$ . We note  $(Q_{AS}, R_{AS}, c_{AS})$ ,  $(Q_{MD}, R_{MD}, c_{MD})$ , and  $(Q_{DTS}, R_{DTS}, c_{DTS})$  the corresponding solutions. Give then the QP form:

$$\begin{aligned} x^* &= \frac{1}{2} x^\top Q x - x^\top R \\ \text{s.t. } &\begin{cases} Ax = B \\ Cx \leq D \\ \mathbf{0}_n \leq x \leq \mathbf{1}_n \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

of the optimization problem:

$$\begin{aligned} x^* &= \arg \min \varphi_{AS} \mathcal{R}_{AS}(x | b) + \varphi_{MD} \mathcal{R}_{MD}(x | b) + \varphi_{DTS} \mathcal{R}_{DTS}(x | b) \\ \text{s.t. } &\begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1 \\ \mathcal{CI}(x) \leq (1 - \mathcal{R}) \mathcal{CI}(b) \\ 0 \leq x_i \leq 1 \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$