

Question

Answer

The covariance matrix σ_i , must be positive definite as assets cannot have arbitrary covariances. For example, it is evidently impossible to have 3 risky assets where all the covariances are -1 as 3 assets cannot all move independently in opposite directions to each other.

Now consider the portfolio $\Pi = \lambda_1 S_1 + \lambda_2 S_2 + \lambda_3 S_3$ where the λ_i sum to 1 (but need not be between 0 and 1).

We have

$$\bar{R}_\Pi = \frac{1}{100}(10\lambda_1 + 12\lambda_2 + 15\lambda_3)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_\Pi^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \sum_{j=1}^3 \sigma_{ij} \lambda_i \lambda_j \\ &= \frac{1}{100^2}(9\lambda_1^2 + 25\lambda_2^2 + 100\lambda_3^2 + 12\lambda_1\lambda_2 - 12\lambda_1\lambda_3 + 20\lambda_2\lambda_3)\end{aligned}$$

An investment consisting of Π and cash along the straight line joining $(0.06, 0)$ to $(\bar{R}_\Pi, \sigma_\Pi)$ in the Risk/Reward diagram. This line has slope

$$\theta = \frac{\bar{R}_\Pi - 0.06}{\sigma_\Pi}$$

$$\theta = \frac{\bar{R}_\Pi - 0.06}{\sigma_\Pi} = \frac{(10\lambda_1 + 12\lambda_2 + 15\lambda_3) - 6(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3)}{(9\lambda_1^2 + 25\lambda_2^2 + 100\lambda_3^2 + 12\lambda_1\lambda_2 - 12\lambda_1\lambda_3 + 20\lambda_2\lambda_3)^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

Let $A = \text{the bottom} \Rightarrow \theta = \frac{4\lambda_1 + 6\lambda_2 + 9\lambda_3}{A}$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \lambda_1} = \frac{4}{A} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{4\lambda_1 + 6\lambda_2 + 9\lambda_3}{A^3} \right) (18\lambda_1 + 12\lambda_2 - 12\lambda_3) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \lambda_2} = \frac{6}{A} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{4\lambda_1 + 6\lambda_2 + 9\lambda_3}{A^3} \right) (50\lambda_2 + 12\lambda_1 + 20\lambda_3) = 0$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta}{\partial \lambda_3} = \frac{9}{A} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{4\lambda_1 + 6\lambda_2 + 9\lambda_3}{A^3} \right) (20\lambda_2 - 12\lambda_1 + 20\lambda_3) = 0$$

Now multiply through by $2A$, put $\alpha = (4\lambda_1 + 6\lambda_2 + 9\lambda_3)/A^2$ and we get (justified by the usual argument)

$$\begin{aligned}18\lambda_1 + 12\lambda_2 - 12\lambda_3 &= 8/\alpha \\ 50\lambda_2 + 12\lambda_1 + 20\lambda_3 &= 12/\alpha \\ 200\lambda_3 - 12\lambda_1 + 20\lambda_2 &= 18/\alpha\end{aligned}$$

now put $u = \alpha\lambda_1$, $v = \alpha\lambda_2$, $w = \alpha\lambda_3$

$$18u + 12v - 12w = 8 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 12u + 8v - 8w = 16/3$$

$$12u + 50v + 20w = 12 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 70v + 220w = 30$$

$$-12u + 20v + 200w = 18 \quad \Rightarrow \quad 28v + 192w = 70/3$$

\Rightarrow finally

$$u = \frac{251}{546}, \quad v = \frac{47}{546}, \quad w = \frac{17}{156}$$

$$u + v + w = \frac{55}{84} = \alpha(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3) = \alpha$$

$$\Rightarrow \lambda_1 = \frac{502}{715}, \quad \lambda_2 = \frac{94}{715}, \quad \lambda_3 = \frac{119}{715} \quad (\Rightarrow \text{no short selling.})$$

$$\Rightarrow \bar{R}_{\Pi} = 11.095\%$$

$$\sigma_{\Pi} = 2.790$$

$$\theta = \frac{\bar{R}_{\Pi} - 6/100}{\sigma_{\Pi}} \sim 1.8265$$