

6. Complements

1. CAPM.

All of this is highly relevant to Mathematical Finance. Finance was an art rather than a science before the 1952 PhD thesis of Harry MARKOWITZ (1927-; Nobel Prize 1990). Markowitz gave us two insights that have become so much part of the ambient culture that it is difficult to realise that they have not always been there. These are:

(i). *Think of risk and return together, not separately.* Now return corresponds to mean (= mean rate of return), risk corresponds to variance – hence *mean-variance* analysis (hence also the *efficient frontier*, etc. – one seeks to maximise return for a given level of risk, or minimise risk for a given return rate).

(ii). *Diversify* (don't 'put all your eggs in one basket'). Hold a *balanced portfolio* – a range of risky assets, with lots of *negative correlation* – so that when things change, one's losses on some assets will tend to be offset by gains on others.

Markowitz's work led on to the *Capital Asset Pricing Model* (CAPM – "cap-emm") of the 1960s (Jack TREYNOR in 1961/62, William SHARPE (1934-; Nobel Prize 1990), John LINTNER (1965), Jan MOSSIN (1966)), the first phase of the development of Mathematical Finance. The second phase was triggered by the *Black-Scholes formula* of 1973 and its follow-up by Merton (Fischer BLACK (1938-95); Myron SCHOLLES (1941-; Nobel Prize 1997); Robert C. MERTON (1944-; Nobel Prize 1997)).

As a result of Markowitz's work, the vector-matrix parameter (μ, Σ) is accepted as an essential part of any model in mathematical finance. As a result of CAPM, *regression* methods (Ch. IV) are an essential part of any portfolio management programme. The x -axis is used to represent the return for the *market* (or a *portfolio*) as a whole, the y -axis for the return for a particular *asset* – whence phrases such as 'the quest for high beta'.

2. Elliptical distributions.

The normal density is a multiple of $\exp\{-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)^2/\sigma^2\}$. In higher dimensions, we shall see (Ch. III) that this is replaced by $\exp\{-\frac{1}{2}(x-\mu)^T\Sigma^{-1}(x-\mu)\}$. Now the matrices Σ , Σ^{-1} are *positive definite (PD)* (III.1), so the contours

$$(x - \mu)^T \Sigma^{-1} (x - \mu) = \text{const.}$$

are *ellipsoids*. So the normal distribution is called *elliptical* (or *elliptically contoured*). It is extremely useful, but suffers from various deficiencies in practice, e.g.:

(i) It is *symmetric*. Many financial data sets show asymmetry, or *skew*. This is partly (or even largely) a reflection of the asymmetry between profit and loss. Windfall profits are pleasant; ‘windfall losses’ are dangerous, indeed potentially fatal (to the firm – they can lead to bankruptcy). On an individual, or psychological, level: most people get more pain from a given loss than they get pleasure from the same amount of profit. One can actually see skew present, in such things as the ‘volatility smirk’ (VI.2.3 D9).

2. It has extremely thin tails. Most financial data sets have tails that are *much fatter* than the ultra-thin normal tails. Take, for example, asset returns (= profit or loss, scaled by the initial asset price) over a period, the *return period*. Their statistical properties vary dramatically with the return period. Bear in mind that the net profit/loss over a period is the sum of those over shorter periods.

(i) for *long* return periods (monthly, say – the Rule of Thumb is that 16 trading days suffice), the CLT applies, and asset returns are approximately *normal* (‘aggregational Gaussianity’) – log-density a parabola (so density decays like the exponential of a square);

(ii) for *intermediate* return periods (daily, say), a commonly used model is the *generalised hyperbolic (GH)* – log-density a hyperbola, with linear asymptotes, so density decays like the exponential of a linear function);

(iii) for *high-frequency* returns (‘tick data’, say – every few seconds), for reasons related to universality in Physics, the density typically decays like a power (as with the Student t distribution – recall that $t(n)$, the Student- t with n degrees of freedom (df), has $t(n) \rightarrow \Phi = N(0, 1)$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (Problems 1 Q4).

One can handle these cases together by using a semi-parametric model. The parametric part is (μ, Σ) ; the non-parametric part is a function – the *density generator* – $g(\cdot)$ governing the shape of the density, in particular its tail behaviour (in the normal case $g(\cdot) = c \cdot \exp\{-\frac{1}{2}\cdot\}$). This combination gives a *semi-parametric* model. It has the pleasant (and unusual) feature that ignorance of one part of the model imposes no penalty on the efficiency with which one can estimate the other part. For details, see e.g. [BFK].

3. Groups and invariance.

In many statistical problems, we have the action of some group naturally occurring as part of the setting of the problem. For instance, in any

statistical study of global warming, our data will consist of measurements of temperature – but, temperature lacks a natural measure of location or of scale. Accordingly, our methods should accommodate this by behaving sensibly under *change of location and scale*. On the line, change of location and scale is effected by a non-singular linear transformation $x \mapsto ax + b$, $a \neq 0$. In higher dimensions, this leads to the *affine group*, of non-singular linear transformations $x \mapsto Ax + b$ (A an invertible matrix, b a vector). In financial applications, (A, b) will typically be (Σ, μ) , where Σ is the covariance matrix and μ is the mean return vector of our portfolio of risky assets. Other relevant groups include the Euclidean motion group, the set of all linear transformations $x \mapsto Ox + b$, where O is an orthogonal matrix. The Euclidean motion group corresponds to the freedom to change from one set of axes to another in Euclidean space when representing rigid bodies; the affine group captures the sense in which an ellipsoid (say) in one coordinate system will be an ellipsoid in any (and similarly for hyperboloids, etc.)

A *location estimator* should not depend on our choice of origin – should be *invariant* under changes of location; similarly for *scale estimator* under changes of scale. In the context of CAPM, where we carry (μ, Σ) as a parameter, our estimators should transform appropriately under the action of the affine group. For the relevant theory here, see e.g.

Morris L. EATON, *Group invariance: Applications in statistics*, IMS, 1989.

4. *Exponential families*

A family $\{f(x, \theta)\}$ of densities with parameter θ forms an *exponential family* if f has the form

$$f(x, \theta) = c(\theta)h(x) \exp\{R(\theta).T(x)\}$$

for scalar functions c, h and vector functions R, T . One may check that all the standard examples encountered above are of this form (except the Cauchy location family). It turns out that these are the families for which estimation of parameters works well. We return to them later, in connection with generalised linear models in Regression, and in Bayesian methods (VII.7.4). For a monograph treatment, see e.g.

Lawrence D. BROWN, *Fundamentals of statistical exponential families; with applications in statistical decision theory*. IMS Lecture Notes 9, 1986.

II. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

1. Formulation

The essence of the scientific method is to formulate theories, and test them experimentally. Thus a typical scientific experiment will *test* some theoretical prediction, or *hypothesis*.

We can never *prove* that a scientific theory, or hypothesis, is *true*. To take an extreme case, look at Newton's Laws of Motion (Sir Isaac NEWTON (1642-1727); *Principia*, 1687). This was the mathematics that made possible the Scientific Revolution, and Newton's Laws were regarded as unchallengeable for more than two centuries. But in the 20th century, Quantum Mechanics showed that Newton's Laws are approximate only – useful in the macroscopic case, but inadequate at the atomic or subatomic level.

With this in mind, we should treat established theory with respect, and not replace it lightly (or textbooks would become too ephemeral!), but not regard it as sacrosanct: scientific theory is provisional, and evolving. This is part of the great strength of the scientific method.

It is customary, and convenient, to represent the existing theory by a *null hypothesis*, H_0 , and to test it against a candidate new theory, an *alternative hypothesis*, H_1 .

A hypothesis is *simple* if it completely specifies the parameter(s); e.g.,

$$H_0 : \quad \theta = \theta_0,$$

composite otherwise, e.g.

$$H_0 : \quad \theta > \theta_0.$$

As above, there is an *asymmetry* between H_0 and H_1 : H_0 is the '*default option*'. We will discard H_0 in favour of H_1 only if the data gives us convincing evidence to do so.

Legal analogy.

Hypothesis test \leftrightarrow Criminal trial

Null hypothesis $H_0 \leftrightarrow$ accused

H_0 accepted till shown untenable \leftrightarrow accused innocent until proved guilty

Accept (= do not reject) $H_0 \leftrightarrow$ not guilty verdict

Reject H_0 (for H_1) \leftrightarrow guilty verdict

Data \leftrightarrow evidence

Statistician \leftrightarrow jury

Significance level $\alpha \leftrightarrow$ probability of convicting an innocent person.

Significance level.

The above introduces this important term. Statistical data (like legal evidence) is random (if we re-sampled, we would get different data!) So we can never conclude *with certainty* anything from data – including that H_0 is false. But we cannot go from this to saying that we can never reject H_0 – or scientific progress would halt, being frozen at the current level. We strike a sensible balance by choosing some small probability, α , of rejecting a valid null hypothesis, and working with that. We call α the *significance level*. Common choices are $\alpha = 0.05$, or 5%, for ordinary work, and $\alpha = 0.01$, or 1%, for accurate work. But note that the choice of α is down to *you*, the statistician, so is subjective. We like to think of Science as an objective activity! So the whole framework of Hypothesis Testing is open to question – indeed, it is explicitly rejected by *Bayesian* statisticians (see Ch. VII below). (But then, the concept of a criminal trial is explicitly rejected in some forms of political thinking, such as Anarchism.)

There are two types of error in Hypothesis Testing, called *Type I error* – *false rejection* (rejecting H_0 wrongly, probability α – cf. convicting an innocent person), and *Type II error* – *false acceptance* (accepting H_0 when it is false, probability β , say – cf. acquitting a guilty person). The usual procedure is to fix α , and then try to minimise β for this α .

Usually, we decide on a suitable *test statistic*, $T = T(\mathbf{X})$, and *reject* H_0 if the data \mathbf{X} falls in the *critical region* (or *rejection region*), R say, where T falls in some set S . Then abbreviating P_{θ_i} to P_i :

$$\alpha = P_0(\mathbf{X} \in R), \quad \beta = P_1(\mathbf{X} \notin R).$$

We often look at

$$1 - \beta = P_1(\mathbf{X} \in R),$$

the probability that the test correctly picks up that H_0 is false. We can think of this as the *sensitivity* of the test; the technical term used is the *power* of

the test. This depends on θ (grossly wrong hypotheses are easier to reject than marginally wrong ones!);

$$\theta \mapsto 1 - \beta(\theta)$$

is called the *power function* of the test.

Usually, we fix the significance level α and the sample size n , and then seek to choose the rejection region R so as to maximise the power $1 - \beta$ [minimise the prob. β of Type II error, false acceptance].

The *Likelihood Principle (LP)* says that all that matters is the likelihood L , which is

$$L_0 := L(\mathbf{X}; \theta_0) \text{ if } H_0 \text{ is true;}$$

$$L_1 := L(\mathbf{X}; \theta_1) \text{ if } H_1 \text{ is true.}$$

The idea of maximum likelihood estimation is that the data supports θ if $L(\mathbf{X}; \theta)$ is large. This suggests that a good test statistic for H_0 v. H_1 would be the *likelihood ratio (LR)*

$$\lambda := L_0/L_1 = L(\mathbf{X}; \theta_0)/L(\mathbf{X}; \theta_1),$$

rejecting H_0 for H_1 if λ is *too small* – that is, using the critical region

$$R := \{\mathbf{X} : \lambda(\mathbf{X}) \leq c\},$$

where c is chosen so that

$$\alpha = P_0(\mathbf{X} \in R).$$

In the density case, such a region does exist. In the discrete case, it may not: the probability may ‘jump over’ the level α if one more point is included. One can allow for this by randomisation (including the ‘extra point’ with some probability so as to get α right) but we ignore this, and deal with the density case – the important case in practice.

2. The Neyman-Pearson Lemma

The simple suggestion above is in fact best possible. This is due to J. NEYMAN (1894-1981) and E. S. PEARSON (1895-1980) in 1933.

Theorem (Neyman-Pearson Lemma). To test a simple null hypothesis $H_0 : \theta = \theta_0$ against a simple alternative hypothesis $H_1 : \theta = \theta_1$ at significance level α , a critical region of the form

$$R := \{\mathbf{X} : \lambda \leq c\} = \{\mathbf{X} : L(\mathbf{X}; \theta_0)/L(\mathbf{X}; \theta_1) \leq c\}, \quad \alpha = P_0(\lambda \leq c)$$

is best possible (most powerful): the $\beta = \beta(R)$ for this R is as small as possible for given α and n .

Proof. If S is any other critical region with the same significance level (or ‘size’) α , we need to show $\beta(S) \geq \beta(R)$, i.e.

$$\int_{S^c} f(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1) d\mathbf{x} \geq \int_{R^c} f(\mathbf{x}; \theta_1) d\mathbf{x} : \quad \int_{S^c} f(\theta_1) \geq \int_{R^c} f(\theta_1),$$

or as densities integrate to 1,

$$\int_S f(\theta_1) \leq \int_R f(\theta_1). \quad (*)$$

But

$$\begin{aligned} \int_R f(\theta_1) - \int_S f(\theta_1) &= \int_{R \cap S} f(\theta_1) + \int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_1) - \int_{R \cap S} f(\theta_1) - \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_1) \\ &= \int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_1) - \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_1). \end{aligned}$$

Now

$$\lambda = L_0/L_1 \leq c \quad (\mathbf{X} \in R), \quad > c \quad (\mathbf{X} \notin R),$$

or reverting from ” L ” to ” f ” notation,

$$f(\theta_1) \geq c^{-1} f(\theta_0) \quad \text{in } R, \quad < c^{-1} f(\theta_0) \quad \text{in } R^c.$$

As $R \setminus S \subset R$, this gives

$$\int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_1) \geq c^{-1} \int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_0).$$

Similarly,

$$\int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_1) \leq c^{-1} \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_0), \quad - \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_1) \geq -c^{-1} \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_0).$$

Add:

$$\int_R f(\theta_1) - \int_S f(\theta_1) = \int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_1) - \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_1) \geq c^{-1} \left[\int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_0) - \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_0) \right]. \quad (a)$$

But both R and S have size (θ_0 -probability) α :

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &= \int_R f(\theta_0) = \int_{R \cap S} f(\theta_0) + \int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_0), \\ \alpha &= \int_S f(\theta_0) = \int_{R \cap S} f(\theta_0) + \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_0).\end{aligned}$$

Subtract:

$$\int_{R \setminus S} f(\theta_0) = \int_{S \setminus R} f(\theta_0).$$

This says that the RHS of (a) is 0. Now (a) gives (*). //

Note. The Neyman-Pearson Lemma (NP) is fine as far as it goes – simple v. simple. But most realistic hypothesis testing situations are more complicated. Fortunately, NP extends to some important cases of simple v. composite; see below. We turn to composite v. composite later, using likelihood ratio tests (LR).

Sufficiency. If T is sufficient for θ ,

$$L(\mathbf{X}; \theta) = g(T(\mathbf{X}; \theta)h(\mathbf{X}),$$

by Fisher-Neyman. Dividing,

$$\lambda := L(\theta_0)/L(\theta_1) = g(T(\mathbf{X}; \theta_0)/g(T(\mathbf{X}; \theta_1)$$

is a function of T only. So if we have a sufficient statistic T , we lose nothing by restricting to test statistics which are functions of T .

Example.

1. *Normal means*, $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, σ known.

To test $H_0 : \mu = \mu_0$ v. $H_1 : \mu = \mu_1$, where $\mu_1 < \mu_0$. It turns out that the NP critical region is of the form ‘reject if \bar{X} is too small’. (This is intuitive, as $\mu_1 < \mu_0$.) How small is too small? Because the significance level α involves probabilities under H_0 , the critical region is the *same* for *all* μ_1 , provided only that $\mu_1 < \mu_0$ (if instead $\mu_1 > \mu_0$, the critical region is ‘reject if \bar{X} is too big’). That is, the NP test is most powerful, *uniformly* in μ_1 for all $\mu_1 < \mu_0$. We call the critical region *uniformly most powerful (UMP)* for the *simple* null hypothesis $H_0: \mu = \mu_0$ v. the *composite* alternative hypothesis $H_1 : \mu < \mu_0$. Similarly for $H_1 : \mu > \mu_0$.