

Factor Based Dirichlet Portfolios

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Outline

- Motivation for the problem
- Problem Setting

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- Summary

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- Second is the online portfolio growth theory stream initiated by Kelly and Cover
- Online portfolio growth theory to obtain long term bounds on investment algorithms in a multi-period setting - an explicit optimization step may or may not be involved
- Our goal is to use techniques from operations research and industrial engineering to attempt to improve the state of the art in the latter

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 - Example, if q is 0.5, you have no edge and you don't invest!
 - Note that this is the first attempt to obtain results to maximize long term growth rate which is $\frac{1}{N} \log \frac{V_N}{V_0}$, where V_N is value of the portfolio after N rounds

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- Where b^0 is chosen strictly inside the boundary of the simplex. We can see the update step is a multiplicative update to move the portfolio vector along the gradient of the log return function shown above.
- Cover shows that in the limit $b' \rightarrow b^*$ which must exist as it is the result of the maximization of a concave function over the simplex

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- Define total wealth that is re-invested repeatedly as $S_n(b) = \prod_{i=1}^n b^t x_i$
- The best possible re-balanced portfolio is that Cover sets up as a benchmark is $S_n^* = \max_b S_n(b)$

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- Consider a weighted allocation that rewards the managers who do well and proportionally penalizes the ones that do poorly, and integrate over the simplex, a weighted portfolio: $\frac{\int bS(b)db}{\int S(b)db}$

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$$b_{k+1} = \frac{\int_{\Delta} b S_k(b) db}{\int_{\Delta} S_k(b) db} \quad (2)$$

where

$$S_k(b) = \prod_{i=1}^k b^t x_i \quad (3)$$

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- They show that we can construct parallel histories, one for each discrete variable and deploy the universal portfolio from that history
- For a uniform and Dirichlet($1/2, 1/2, 1/2 \dots 1/2$) distribution on the simplex of portfolios, the authors show that the above portfolio is 'universal' - i.e. the growth achieved by this portfolio is asymptotically the same as the best state-constant rebalanced portfolio.

Online Portfolio Growth Theory - Solving approximations to the Cover Formulation

- In Helmbold, Schapire, Singer, Warmuth(1996) authors use a utility function that serves to trade off a performance measure and a distance measure. $F(W^{t+1}) = \eta \log(W^{t+1} x^t) - d(W^{t+1}, W_t)$

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- An approximation of the optimization objective function along with a full invested constraint leads to a recursive update algorithm that uses an exponential update to the weight vector.
- In various empirical tests, the algorithm achieves better out of sample performance than Cover's portfolio and some other benchmarks

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- In one such work the authors in Borodin, El-Yaniv, Gogan(2003) show that a forecast step that uses mean-reversion can be used to get better portfolios. The authors calculate a transfer(asset i to asset j) which depends upon the following factors:

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 - Non zero only if asset i has performed better than asset j in window W
 - The strength of the transfer between i and j is proportion to the positive correlation between asset i and j in a lead lag setup (effectively asset i leads asset j in window W)
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- The above work is an example where a heuristic is demonstrated to better than prior technique, including Cover's universal portfolio

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 - 1 Follow the winner type approaches (universal portfolios(1994), exponential gradient(Helmbold et al. 1996))
 - 2 Follow the loser approaches (antiCor(Borodin et al. 2003), robust median reversion(Hyung et al. 2013), regularized mean reversion(Li et al. 2015))
 - 3 Pattern Matching (Find returns that match current returns and forecast - Gyorfi et al. 2007)
 - 4 Meta Algorithms (Das and Bannerjee(2011) - which combine other algorithms and perform an online gradient or online newton method update)

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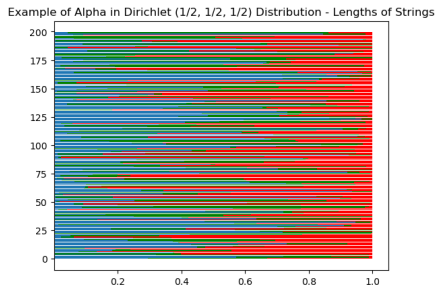


Figure 1: Dirichlet $(1/2, 1/2, 1/2)$

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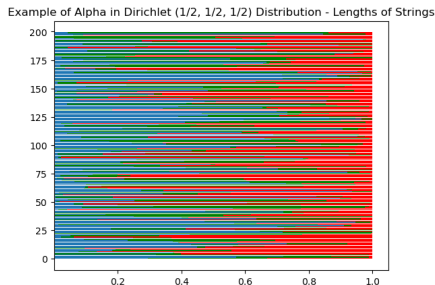


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- We can see a uniform weight given to the three variables

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Example of Alpha in Dirichlet (10, 100, 200) Distribution - Lengths of Strings

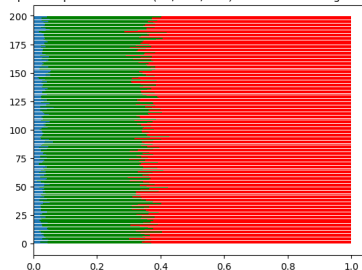


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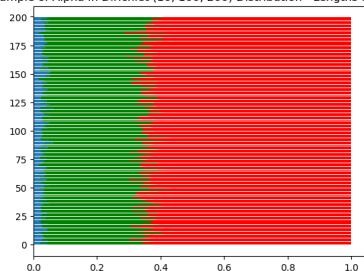


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- So the α parameter can be abstracted as a 'belief' of the portfolio manager

Our Work: Dirichlet Factor Portfolios

- Lot of literature on factors that drive equity returns, most famous being the Fama French three-factor model(1992) who modify the CAPM model to add two more factors to explain cross section of equity returns: $R = r + \beta(R_M - r_f) + \beta_{SMB}SMB + \beta_{HML}HML + \epsilon$

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Algorithm 1 Calculating portfolio weights for size based dirichlet portfolio

1: **while** $t \neq T$ **do**

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Algorithm 2 Calculating portfolio weights for size based dirichlet portfolio

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Require: Evaluate performance of calculated weight vector

- 6: $p_{t+1} = w_t X_{t+1}$
 - 7: $t \leftarrow t + 1$
 - 8: **end while**
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- 1: **while** $t \neq T$ **do**
- 2: $\alpha_{jt} \leftarrow 1/p_{jt} \forall j \in 1..M$
- 3: $\alpha_{jt} \leftarrow \frac{\alpha_{jt}}{\min(\alpha_{jt})} \forall j \in 1..M$
- 4: $\alpha_{jt} \leftarrow \max(1, \log \alpha_{jt}) \forall j \in 1..M$

Require: Simulate N-Managers dirichlet portfolios from α_t

Require: Calculate Universal Portfolios from factor biased managers

- 5: $w_{jt} \leftarrow \frac{\int(Sb db)}{\int(Sdb)}$

Require: Evaluate performance of calculated weight vector

- 6: $p_{t+1} = w_t X_{t+1}$
 - 7: $t \leftarrow t + 1$
 - 8: **end while**
-

This can be varied appropriately for any factor, technical or fundamental

Cover's Portfolio vs Factor Dirichlet Portfolios - NASDAQ

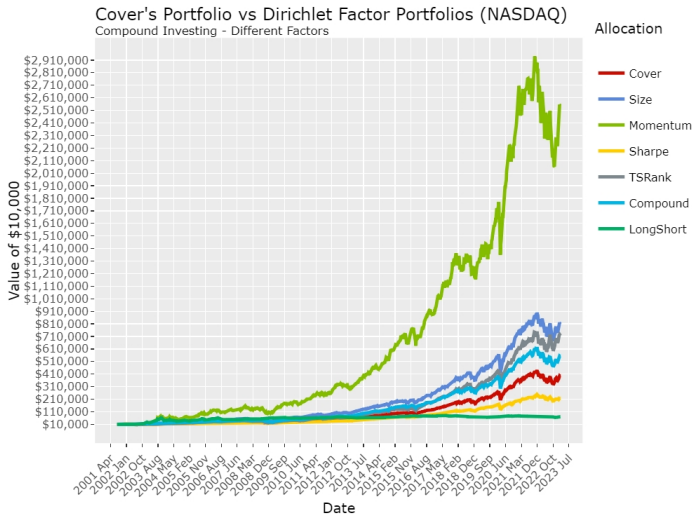


Figure 3: Different Factors Using NASDAQ Constituents

Cover's Portfolio vs Factor Dirichlet Portfolios - FTSE

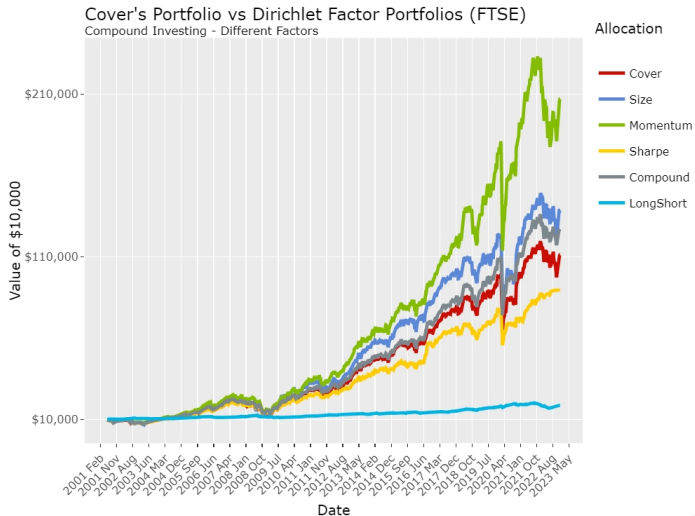


Figure 4: Different Factors Using FTSE Constituents

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- Online portfolio optimization is a rich area of research where there is around 70 years of literature
- We are attempting to combine economic insight and the work of information theorists to offer a practical heuristic that is easy to compute and implement
- This technique is flexible in that it can be used to combine different views into compound portfolios

Summary II

- Our reward for last year!

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- Our reward for last year!

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Avinash Bhardwaj, Manjesh K. Hanawal, Purushottam Parthasarathy

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Figure 5: Bhardwaj, Avinash, Manjesh K. Hanawal, and Purushottam Parthasarathy. "Almost Exact Risk Budgeting with Return Forecasts for Portfolio Allocation." Operations Research Letters (2023).