

## RM-CVaR: Regularized Multiple $\beta$ -CVaR Portfolio

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### Abstract

The problem of finding the optimal portfolio for investors is called the portfolio optimization problem. Such problem mainly concerns the expectation and variability of return (i.e., mean and variance). Although the variance would be the most fundamental risk measure to be minimized, it has several drawbacks. Conditional Value-at-Risk (CVaR) is a relatively new risk measure that addresses some of the shortcomings of well-known variance-related risk measures, and because of its computational efficiencies, it has gained popularity. CVaR is defined as the expected value of the loss that occurs beyond a certain probability level ( $\beta$ ). However, portfolio optimization problems that use CVaR as a risk measure are formulated with a single  $\beta$  and may output significantly different portfolios depending on how the  $\beta$  is selected. We confirm even small changes in  $\beta$  can result in huge changes in the whole portfolio structure. In order to improve this problem, we propose RM-CVaR: Regularized Multiple  $\beta$ -CVaR Portfolio. We perform experiments on well-known benchmarks to evaluate the proposed portfolio. Compared with various portfolios, RM-CVaR demonstrates a superior performance of having both higher risk-adjusted returns and lower maximum drawdown.

### 1 Introduction

The problem of finding the optimal portfolio for investors is called the portfolio optimization problem. Such problem mainly concerns the expectation and variability of return (i.e., mean and variance [Markowitz, 1952]). Although the variance would be the most fundamental risk measure to be minimized, it has several drawbacks. Controlling the variance leads to low deviation from the expected return with regard to both the downside and the upside. Hence, quantile-based risk measures, such as the Value-at-Risk (VaR) measure, which manages and controls the risk in terms of percentiles of the loss distribution, have been suggested. Instead of contemplating both the upside and downside of the expected return, the VaR measure considers only the downside of the expected return as the risk and represents the predicted maximum loss

with a specified confidence level (e.g., 95%). The VaR measure has already been incorporated into several regulatory requirements, such as the Basel Accord II. Hence, it plays a particularly important role in risk analysis. However, the VaR measure, if studied in the framework of coherent risk measures [Artzner *et al.*, 1999], lacks subadditivity, and, therefore, convexity in the case of general loss distributions (although it may be subadditive for special classes of the latter, e.g., normal distributions). This drawback entails both inconsistencies with the well-accepted principle of diversification, i.e., diversification reduces risk. For example, VaR output of two different investment portfolios may be greater than the sum of the individual VaR outputs. Also, the VaR measure is non-convex and non-smooth. It also has multiple local minimums, while the ideal is the global minimum [McNeil *et al.*, 2005]. Besides, both variance and VaR ignore the magnitude of extreme or rare losses by their definition.

The Conditional Value-at-Risk (CVaR) measure addresses the abovementioned shortcomings of variance and VaR. This method is a relatively new risk measure, which has gained popularity. CVaR is defined as the expected value of the loss that occurs beyond a certain probability level ( $\beta$ ). [Pflug, 2000] proved that the CVaR measure is a coherent risk measure which exhibits subadditivity and convexity. Additionally, [Rockafellar *et al.*, 2000] showed that the minimization of CVaR results in a tractable optimization problem. For example, when the loss is defined as the minus return, and a finite number of historical observations of returns are used in estimating CVaR, its minimization can be presented as a linear program and solved efficiently.

However, portfolio optimization problems that use CVaR as a risk measure are formulated with a single  $\beta$  and are able to output significantly different portfolios depending on how the  $\beta$  is selected. We evaluated how the portfolio changes as the  $\beta$  level changes with well-known benchmarks. This is similar to the “error maximization” that [Michaud, 1989] pointed out in the case of the mean-variance portfolio. [Ardia *et al.*, 2017; Nakagawa *et al.*, 2018] empirically showed that the minimum variance portfolio weights are highly sensitive to the inputs. We confirmed that even small changes in  $\beta$  can result in huge changes in the whole portfolio structure.

On the other hand, several studies have either ignored transaction costs or only subtracted ad hoc transaction costs afterward [Shen *et al.*, 2014]. When buying and selling assets

on the markets, the investors incur payments of commissions and other costs, such as globally defined transaction costs that are charged by the brokers or the financial institutions serving as intermediaries. Transaction costs represent the most important feature to consider when selecting a real portfolio, given that they diminish net returns and reduce the amount of capital available for future investments [Mansini *et al.*, 2015].

In order to address these problems, in this paper, we propose the RM-CVaR: Regularized Multiple  $\beta$ -CVaR portfolio to bridge the gap between risk minimization and cost reduction. To control transaction cost, we imposed the  $L1$ -regularization term as stated in [DeMiguel *et al.*, 2009; Shen *et al.*, 2014]. We were able to prove that the RM-CVaR Portfolio optimization problem is written as a linear programming problem like the single  $\beta$ -CVaR portfolio. We also performed experiments to evaluate the proposed portfolio. Compared with other portfolios, the RM-CVaR portfolio demonstrates a superior performance in terms of having higher risk-adjusted returns and lower maximum drawdown.

## 2 Related Work

Because of these regularization and sparsity-inducing properties, there has been recent substantial interest in  $L1$ -regularization in statistics and optimization, beginning with [Tibshirani, 1996]. Our approach is similar in spirit to that of [Zou and Yuan, 2008], given that our approach estimates the simultaneously approximating multiple conditional quantiles.

The more conventional regularization models have been investigated for the Markowitz's portfolio optimization problem by [DeMiguel *et al.*, 2009; Fan *et al.*, 2012; Shen *et al.*, 2014]. They demonstrated superior portfolio performances when various types of norm regularities are combined. Analogously, [Gotoh and Takeda, 2011] considered  $L1$  and  $L2$ -norms for the mean-CVaR problem. Our paper extends this literature to multiple CVaR.

It is not hard to see that there is a connection between the portfolio optimization (risk minimization) and the optimization in machine learning [Gotoh *et al.*, 2014]. Both methods estimate models that would achieve good out-of-sample performance.

[Shen *et al.*, 2015; Shen and Wang, 2016] proposed to employ the bandit learning framework to attack portfolio problems. [Shen *et al.*, 2015] presented a bandit algorithm for conducting online portfolio choices by effectually exploiting correlations among multiple arms. [Shen and Wang, 2016] proposed an online algorithm that leverages Thompson sampling into the sequential decision-making process for portfolio blending. Also, [Shen and Wang, 2017; Shen *et al.*, 2019] applied a subset resampling algorithm into the mean-variance portfolio and the Kelly growth optimal portfolio to obtain promising results. Through resampling subsets of the original large datasets, [Shen and Wang, 2017; Shen *et al.*, 2019] constructed the associated subset portfolios with more accurately estimated parameters without requiring additional data. However, these studies did not take transaction costs or turnover into account.

Interactions from portfolio optimization to machine learning include [Gotoh and Takeda, 2005; Takeda and Sugiyama,

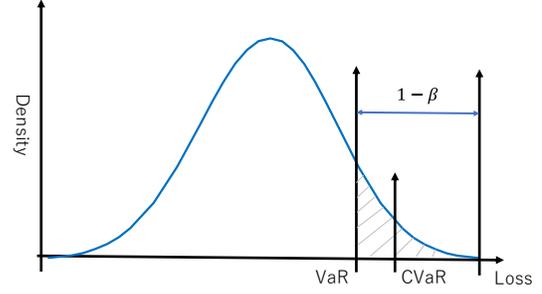


Figure 1: Illustration of VaR and CVaR.

2008]. [Gotoh and Takeda, 2005] were the first to point out the common mathematical structure employed both in the class of machine learning methods, known as  $\nu$ -support vector machines ( $\nu$ -SVMs), and in the CVaR minimization. However, [Takeda and Sugiyama, 2008] were the first to point out that the model of [Gotoh and Takeda, 2005] is equivalent to the machine learning methods called  $E\nu$ -SVC.

Applying our method to machine learning algorithms is an important future task.

## 3 Preliminary

In this section, we define VaR and CVaR. After which, we formulate a portfolio optimization problem using both of them.

Let  $r_i$  be the return of stock  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq n$ ) and  $w_i$  be the portfolio weight for stock  $i$ .  $w_i$  is the portfolio weight for stock  $i$ . Here,  $r_i$  is a random variable and follows the continuous probability density function  $p(r)$ .

We denote  $r = (r_1, \dots, r_n)^\top$  and  $w = (w_1, \dots, w_n)^\top$ .  $L(w, r)$  refers to loss function, e.g.,  $L(w, r) = -w^\top r$ . The probability that the loss function is less than  $\alpha$  is

$$\Phi(w, \alpha) = \int_{L(w, r) \leq \alpha} p(r) dr \quad (1)$$

When  $w$  is fixed,  $\Phi(w, \alpha)$ , as a function of  $\alpha$ , is non-decreasing and is continuous from the right, but is generally non-continuous from the left. For simplicity, we assumed that  $\Phi(w, \alpha)$  is a continuous function with respect to  $\alpha$ . Thereafter, VaR and CVaR were defined as follows (Figure 1).

**Definition 3.1.**

$$VaR(w|\beta) := \alpha_\beta(w) = \min(\alpha : \Phi(w, \alpha) > \beta) \quad (2)$$

**Definition 3.2.**

$$\begin{aligned} CVaR(w|\beta) &:= \phi(w|\beta) \\ &= (1 - \beta)^{-1} \int_{L(w, r) \geq \alpha_\beta(w)} L(w, r) p(r) dr \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

It is difficult to directly optimize the foregoing CVaR because the integration interval depends on VaR. Therefore, to calculate  $\phi_\beta(w)$ , we also defined  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  as

**Definition 3.3.**

$$F(w, \alpha|\beta) := \alpha + (1 - \beta)^{-1} \int_{R^n} [L(w, r) - \alpha]^+ p(r) dr \quad (4)$$

where  $[t]^+ := \max(t, 0)$ .

After which, the following relationship holds between  $\phi(w|\beta)$  and  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *For an arbitrarily fixed  $w$ ,  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  is convex and continuously differentiable as a function of  $\alpha$ .  $\phi(w|\beta)$  is given by minimizing  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  with respect to  $\alpha$ .*

$$\min_{\alpha} F(w, \alpha|\beta) = \phi(w|\beta) \quad (5)$$

In this formula, the set consisting of the values of  $\alpha$  for which the minimum is attained, i.e.,

$$A_{\beta} = \arg \min_{\alpha} F(w, \alpha|\beta) \quad (6)$$

is a non-empty closed bounded interval.

*Proof.* Proof is given in [Rockafellar et al., 2000].  $\square$

CVaR is defined using the value of VaR, however, it is possible to obtain the CVaR value without obtaining VaR, according to this lemma. If  $X$  is a constraint that the portfolio must satisfy, the following lemma holds for the formulation of a portfolio optimization problem using CVaR as the risk measure.

**Lemma 3.2.** *Minimizing the CVaR overall  $w \in X$  is equivalent to minimizing  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  overall  $(w, \alpha) \in X \times R$ , in the sense that*

$$\min_{w \in X} \phi(w|\beta) = \min_{(w, \alpha) \in X \times R} \min_{\alpha} F(w, \alpha|\beta). \quad (7)$$

Furthermore, if  $f(w, r)$  is convex with respect to  $w$ , then  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  is convex with respect to  $(w, \alpha)$ , and  $\phi(w|\beta)$  is convex with respect to  $w$ . If  $X$  is a convex set, the minimization problem of  $\phi(w|\beta)$  on  $w \in X$  can be formulated as a convex programming problem.

*Proof.* Proof is given in [Rockafellar et al., 2000].  $\square$

We approximated the function  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  by sampling a random variable  $r$  from the density function  $p(r)$ . When  $r[1], r[2], \dots, r[q]$  are obtained through sampling or simple historical data, the function  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  is approximated as follows.

$$F(w, \alpha|\beta) = \alpha + (q(1 - \beta))^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^q [-w^{\top} r_k - \alpha]^+ \quad (8)$$

Finally, we formulated the portfolio optimization problem with CVaR as a linear programming problem, as shown below.

$$\min_{w, \alpha, u_1, \dots, u_q} \alpha + (q(1 - \beta))^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^q u_k \quad (9)$$

$$s.t. u_k \geq -w^{\top} r[k] - \alpha \quad (k = 1, \dots, q) \quad (10)$$

$$u_k \geq 0 \quad (k = 1, \dots, q) \quad (11)$$

$$1^{\top} w = 1 \quad (12)$$

$$w_j \geq 0 \quad (j = 1, \dots, n) \quad (13)$$

Here,  $1^{\top} w = 1$  indicates the sum of all the portfolio weights, which is always equal to one. The  $1$  (left side) denotes a column vector with ones. In addition,  $w_j \geq 0$  indicates that investors take a long position of the  $j$ -th asset.

## 4 RM-CVaR: Regularized Multiple $\beta$ -CVaR Portfolio

In this section, we propose a model that takes into account the multiple CVaR values. The purpose of the formulation is to minimize the margin between multiple  $\beta$  levels of CVaR.

$C_{\beta_k}$  is the value of CVaR obtained by solving Eq. (9)-(13). Then, we minimized  $C$ , considering that  $C_{\beta_k}$  is a main problem of this research.

**Problem 1.**

$$\min_{(w, C) \in X \times R} C \quad (14)$$

$$s.t. \phi(w|\beta_k) \leq C + C_{\beta_k} \quad (k = 1, \dots, K) \quad (15)$$

$F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  is the function similar to the foregoing lemma 3.1

$$\phi(w|\beta) = \min_{\alpha} F(w, \alpha|\beta) \quad (16)$$

Using Eq. (16), Problem 1 can be written as follows.

**Problem 2.**

$$\min_{(w, C) \in X \times R} C \quad (17)$$

$$s.t. \min_{\alpha_k} F(w, \alpha_k|\beta_k) \leq C + C_{\beta_k} \quad (k = 1, \dots, K) \quad (18)$$

$\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K)^{\top}$ . Thereafter, we considered the following Problem 3.

**Problem 3.**

$$\min_{(w, C, \alpha) \in X \times R \times R^m} C \quad (19)$$

$$s.t. F(w, \alpha_k|\beta_k) \leq C + C_{\beta_k} \quad (k = 1, \dots, K) \quad (20)$$

Here, the following lemma holds between Problem 2 and 3.

**Lemma 4.1.** (1) If  $(w^*, C^*)$  is the optimal value for Eq. (2), then  $(w^*, C^*, \alpha^*)$  is the optimal value of Eq. (3). (2) If  $(w^{**}, C^{**}, \alpha^{**})$  is the optimal value for Eq. (3), then  $(w^{**}, C^{**})$  is the optimal value for Eq. (2).

*Proof.* We assumed that  $(w^*, C^*)$  is the optimal value for Problem 2. Given that  $(w^*, C^*)$  is a feasible solution of Problem 2,  $\min_{\alpha_k} F(w^*, \alpha_k|\beta_k) \leq C^* + C_{\beta_k}$  holds. We defined  $\alpha^* = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_K)^{\top}$  as  $\alpha_k^* := \operatorname{argmin}_{\alpha_k} F(w^*, \alpha_k|\beta_k)$ . Then,  $(w^*, C^*, \alpha^*)$  became a feasible solution of Problem 3 since  $F(w^*, \alpha_k^*|\beta_k) \leq C^* + C_{\beta_k}$  holds. If  $(w^*, C^*, \alpha^*)$  is not the optimal solution of Problem 3, there exists a feasible solution  $(\hat{w}, \hat{C}, \hat{\alpha})$  satisfying  $\hat{C} < C^*$ . Then,  $\min_{\alpha_k} F(\hat{w}, \hat{\alpha}_k|\beta_k) \leq \hat{C} + C_{\beta_k} (k = 1, \dots, K)$  holds. Therefore  $(\hat{w}, \hat{C})$  is a feasible solution of Problem 2, thereby contradicting that  $C^*$  is the optimal solution of Problem 2. We assumed that  $(w^{**}, C^{**}, \alpha^{**})$  is the optimal value for Problem 3. Then, because  $(w^{**}, C^{**}, \alpha^{**})$  is a feasible solution of Problem 3,  $F(w^{**}, \alpha_i^{**}|\beta_i) \leq C^{**} + C_{\beta_i} (i = 1, \dots, m)$  holds.  $(w^{**}, C^{**})$  is a feasible solution for Problem 2 given that  $\min_{\alpha_i} F(w^{**}, \alpha_i|\beta_i) \geq F(w^{**}, \alpha_i^{**}|\beta_i) \leq$

$C^{**} + C_{\beta_i}$  ( $i = 1, \dots, m$ ) holds. if  $(w^{**}, C^{**})$  is not the optimal solution of Problem 2, there exists a feasible solution  $(\hat{w}, \hat{C})$  satisfying  $\hat{C} < C^{**}$ . We defined  $\hat{\alpha} = (\hat{\alpha}_1, \dots, \hat{\alpha}_m)^\top$  as  $\hat{\alpha}_i := \arg \min_{\alpha_i} F_{\beta_i}(\hat{w}, \alpha_i)$ . Then,  $(\hat{w}, \hat{C}, \hat{\alpha})$  became a feasible solution of Problem 3, thereby contradicting that  $C^{**}$  is the optimal solution of Problem 3.  $\square$

According to the lemma 4.1, Problem 1 and 3 are equivalent. When  $r[1], \dots, r[Q]$  are obtained through sampling, the function  $F(w, \alpha|\beta)$  is approximated as follows.

$$F(w, \alpha|\beta) \simeq \alpha + \frac{1}{Q(1-\beta)} \sum_{q=1}^Q [-w^\top r[q] - \alpha]^+ \quad (21)$$

Finally, we derived the Regularized Multiple  $\beta$ -CVaR Portfolio, where the objectives are minimizing multiple CVaR values and controlling the portfolio turnover. The changes of the turnover during each rebalancing period are directly related to transaction costs, market impacts, and taxes. Controlling the portfolio turnover is realized through imposing the  $L1$ -regularization term as

$$\|w - w^-\|_1 = \sum_{i=1}^n |w_i - w_i^-| \quad (22)$$

where  $w_i^-$  denotes the portfolio weight before rebalancing.

Based on the foregoing, the Regularized Multiple  $\beta$ -CVaR Portfolio optimization problem can be formulated as follows:

**Problem 4.**

$$\min_{(w, C, \alpha) \in X \times R \times R^K} C + \lambda \|w - w^-\|_1 \quad (23)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \tilde{F}(w, \alpha_k | \beta_k) \leq C + C_{\beta_k} \quad (k = 1, \dots, K) \quad (24)$$

We can easily prove that Problem is a linear programming problem similar to the usual CVaR minimization problem.

**Theorem 4.1.** *The Regularized Multiple  $\beta$  CVaR Portfolio optimization problem is equivalent to the following linear programming problem.*

$$\begin{aligned} & \min_{C, w, \alpha, t, u} C + \sum_{i=1}^n u_i \\ & \text{subject to } u_i \geq \lambda (w_i - w_i^-) \\ & u_i \geq -\lambda (w_i - w_i^-) \\ & t_{qk} \geq 0 \\ & t_{qk} \geq -w^\top r[q] - \alpha_k \\ & \alpha_k + \frac{1}{Q(1-\beta_k)} \sum_{q=1}^Q t_{qk} \leq C + C_{\beta_k} \\ & 1^\top w = 1 \\ & w_i \geq 0 \quad (i = 1, \dots, n) \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Using a standard approach in optimization, we replaced each absolute value term  $\lambda \|w - w^-\|_1$  with *softmax*. Thereafter, the objective and constraints all became linear.  $\square$

## 5 Experiment

In this section, we report the results of our empirical studies with well-known benchmarks. First, we evaluated how the portfolio changes as the  $\beta$  level changes. Depending on how  $\beta$  is chosen, a completely different portfolio may be constructed. Next, we compared the out-of-sample performance among several portfolio strategy, including our proposed portfolio strategy.

### 5.1 Dataset

In the experiments, we used well-known academic benchmarks called Fama and French (FF) datasets [Fama and French, 1992] to ensure the reproducibility of the experiment. This FF dataset is public and is readily available to anyone. The FF datasets have been recognized as standard datasets and heavily adopted in finance research because of their extensive coverage of asset classes and very long historical data series. We used the FF25 dataset and the FF48 dataset. For example, the FF25 dataset includes 25 portfolios formed on the basis of size and book-to-market ratio; while the FF48 dataset contains monthly returns of 48 portfolios representing different industrial sectors. We used both datasets as monthly data from January 1989 to December 2018.

### 5.2 Experimental Settings

In our empirical studies, the tested portfolio models have the following meanings:

- "1/N" stands for equally-weighted (1/N) portfolio [DeMiguel *et al.*, 2007].
- "MV" stands for minimum-variance portfolio. We used the latest 10 years (120 months) to compute for the covariance matrix.
- "DRP" stands for the doubly regularized minimum-variance portfolio [Shen *et al.*, 2014]. We used the latest 10 years (120 months) to compute for the covariance matrix. We set combinations of two coefficients for regularization terms to  $\lambda_1 = \{0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.05\}$  and  $\lambda_2 = \{0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.05\}$ .
- "EGO" stands for the Kelly growth optimal portfolio with ensemble learning [Shen *et al.*, 2019]. We set  $n_1$  (number of resamples) = 50,  $n_2$  (size of each resample) =  $5\tau$ ,  $\tau$  (number of periods of return data) = 120,  $n_3$  (number of resampled subsets) = 50,  $n_4$  (size of each subset) =  $n^{0.7}$ , where  $n$  is number of assets.
- "CVaR" stands for minimum CVaR portfolio with  $\beta$ . We implemented five patterns of  $\beta = \{0.95, 0.96, 0.97, 0.98, 0.99\}$ . We used the latest 10 years (120 months) to calculate each model.
- "ACVaR" stands for the average portfolio calculated by the average of minimum CVaR portfolio of different  $\beta = \{0.95, 0.96, 0.97, 0.98, 0.99\}$  at each time point.
- "RM-CVaR" stands for our proposed portfolio. We set  $K = 5$  ( $k = 1, \dots, K$ ) as five patterns of  $\beta_k = \{0.95, 0.96, 0.97, 0.98, 0.99\}$  to calculate  $C_{\beta_k}$ . We also set  $Q$  (number of sampling periods of return data) as  $\{10$

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**Algorithm 1** RM-CVaR Portfolio
 

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**Input:**  $K$  probability levels  $\beta_k \in (0, 1)$  ( $k = 1, \dots, K$ ),  
a coefficient of the regularization term  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}^+$  and  
a sample size  $Q \in \mathbb{Z}^+$   
a return matrix  $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times T_{\text{all}}}$

**Output:** a weight matrix  $W \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times T}$

- 1: **for**  $t = T_{\text{all}} - T + 1, \dots, T_{\text{all}}$  **do**
  - 2:    $R \leftarrow Y[1 : t]$
  - 3:   Resample  $Q$  samples from  $R$
  - 4:   Solve the linear programming introduced in Theorem 4.1
  - 5:   Contain the solution  $w^*$  to  $W[t]$
  - 6: **end for**
  - 7: **return**  $W$
- 

years (120 months), 7 years (84 months)}. For the coefficient of the regularization term, we implemented four patterns of  $\lambda = \{0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.05\}$ . We likewise implemented  $\lambda = 0$  to compare with the best RM-CVaR. The RM-CVaR portfolio presented in Algorithm 1 was straightforward in terms of implementation.

We used the first-half period, i.e., from January 1989 to December 2003, as the in-sample period in terms of deciding the hyper-parameters of each model. After that, we used the second half-period, i.e., from January 2004 to December 2018, as the out-of-sample period. Each portfolio was updated by sliding one-month-ahead.

### 5.3 Performance Measures

In the first experiment, we defined the weight difference of two minimum CVaR portfolios, which have  $\beta_i$  and  $\beta_j$ , as the following:

$$\text{Diff} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \|w_t^{\beta_i} - w_t^{\beta_j}\|_1 \quad (25)$$

We set  $\beta_i$  and  $\beta_j$  as  $\{0.96, 0.95\}$ ,  $\{0.97, 0.96\}$ ,  $\{0.98, 0.97\}$ , and  $\{0.99, 0.98\}$ . A large Diff indicates that the two portfolios are different. This measure is similar to turnover, as defined below.

Next, we compared the out-of-sample performance of the portfolios. In evaluating the portfolio strategy, we used the following measures that are widely used in the field of finance [Brandt, 2010].

The portfolio return at time  $t$  is defined as

$$R_t = \sum_{i=1}^n r_{it} w_{it-1} \quad (26)$$

where  $r_{it}$  is the return of  $i$  asset at time  $t$ ,  $w_{it-1}$  is the weight of  $i$  asset in the portfolio at time  $t - 1$ , and  $n$  is the number of assets. We evaluated the portfolio strategy using its annualized return (AR), the risk as the standard deviation of return (RISK), and the risk/return (R/R) (return divided by risk) as the portfolio strategy. R/R is a risk-adjusted return measure

$\beta$	{96,95}	{97,96}	{98,97}	{99,98}	Avg
FF25	42.66%	43.72%	48.77%	57.61%	48.19%
FF48	23.95%	36.13%	25.20%	72.28%	39.39%
Avg	33.31%	39.93%	36.99%	64.95%	43.79%

Table 1: The weight difference of two minimum CVaR portfolios in the out-of-sample period.

for a portfolio strategy.

$$\text{AR} = \prod_{t=1}^T (1 + R_t)^{12/T} - 1 \quad (27)$$

$$\text{RISK} = \sqrt{\frac{12}{T-1} \times (R_t - \mu)^2} \quad (28)$$

$$\text{R/R} = \text{AR/RISK} \quad (29)$$

Here,  $\mu = (1/T) \sum_{t=1}^T R_t$  is the average return of the portfolio.

We also evaluated the maximum drawdown (MaxDD), which is another widely used risk measure [Magdon-Ismail and Atiya, 2004; Shen and Wang, 2017], for the portfolio strategy. In particular, MaxDD is defined as the largest drop from an extremum:

$$\text{MaxDD} = \min_{k \in [1, T]} \left( 0, \frac{W_k}{\max_{j \in [1, k]} W_j} - 1 \right) \quad (30)$$

$$W_k = \prod_{l=1}^k (1 + R_l). \quad (31)$$

where  $W_k$  is the cumulative return of the portfolio until time  $k$ .

The turnover (TO) indicates the volumes of rebalancing. Since a high TO inevitably generates high explicit and implicit trading costs, the portfolio return is reduced. The foregoing has been recognized as an important performance metric. The one-way annualized turnover is calculated as an average absolute value of the rebalancing trades over all the trading periods:

$$\text{TO} = \frac{12}{2(T-1)} \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \|w_t - w_{t-1}^-\|_1 \quad (32)$$

where  $T - 1$  indicates the total number of the rebalancing periods and  $w_{t-1}^-$  is the re-normalized portfolio weight vector before rebalance.

$$w_{t-1}^- = \frac{w_{t-1} \otimes (1 + r_t)}{1 + w_{t-1}^\top r_t} \quad (33)$$

where  $r_t$  is the return vector of the assets at time  $t$ ,  $w_{t-1}$  is the weight vector at time  $t - 1$ , and the operator  $\otimes$  denotes the Hadamard product.

### 5.4 Experimental Results

Table 1 shows the weight difference of two minimum CVaR portfolios in the out-of-sample period. Only 1% difference in the  $\beta$  level changes the portfolio weight on average by 48%

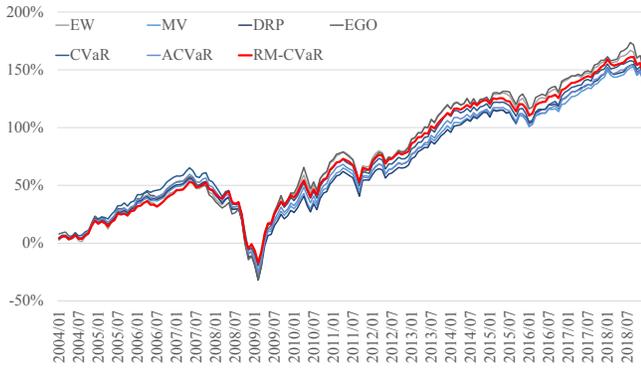


Figure 2: The cumulative return in the out-of-sample period for FF25 datasets.

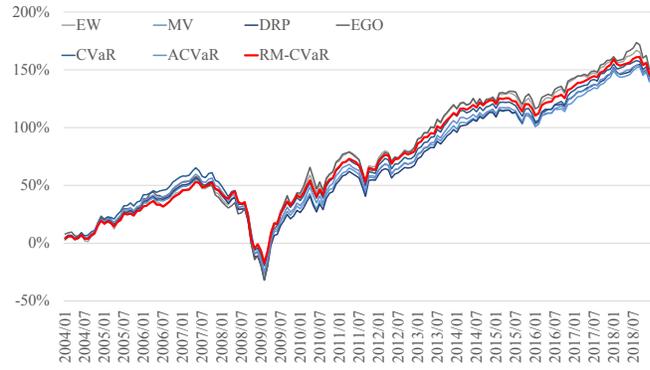


Figure 3: The cumulative return in the out-of-sample period for FF48 datasets.

FF25	EW	MV	DRP	EGO	ACVaR	CVaR					RM-CVaR	
						95	96	97	98	99	$\lambda = 0$	Best $\lambda$
AR [%]	8.27	8.45	8.48	8.58	8.48	8.46	8.36	8.35	8.73	8.42	<b>9.03</b>	8.95
RISK [%]	18.13	15.24	15.67	18.71	15.62	16.15	15.42	15.54	15.64	15.74	16.23	<b>15.11</b>
R/R	0.46	0.55	0.54	0.46	0.54	0.52	0.54	0.54	0.56	0.53	0.56	<b>0.59</b>
MaxDD [%]	-57.63	-58.14	-61.21	-61.76	-59.44	-57.75	-56.75	-60.81	-59.54	-62.21	-54.14	<b>-52.81</b>
TO [%]	16.95	31.10	<b>8.75</b>	71.52	22.19	17.46	19.99	24.97	21.52	29.98	1000.98	33.57

FF48	EW	MV	DRP	EGO	ACVaR	CVaR					RM-CVaR	
						95	96	97	98	99	$\lambda = 0$	Best $\lambda$
AR [%]	8.14	8.99	9.09	11.11	11.83	11.68	10.79	11.54	11.96	12.92	15.75	<b>17.29</b>
RISK [%]	19.27	<b>11.77</b>	11.77	20.61	12.53	12.27	11.87	12.42	13.47	14.49	16.46	15.61
R/R	0.42	0.76	0.77	0.54	0.94	0.95	0.91	0.93	0.89	0.89	0.96	<b>1.11</b>
MaxDD [%]	-59.81	-50.84	-50.25	-57.39	-47.22	-46.98	-45.21	-45.36	-48.23	-50.38	-35.29	<b>-34.93</b>
TO [%]	36.73	27.48	<b>17.15</b>	75.80	37.04	41.31	38.87	35.37	41.57	38.36	960.03	750.48

Table 2: The performance of each portfolio in out-of-sample period for FF25 dataset (upper panel) and FF48 dataset (lower panel).

in FF25 and 39% in FF48. We confirmed that the CVaR portfolio weights are highly sensitive to the  $\beta$  levels.

Table 2 reports the overall performance measures of RM-CVaR, our proposed portfolio, and the 10 compared portfolios introduced in Section 5.2. Among the comparisons of the various portfolios, the best performance is highlighted in bold. In both datasets, the proposed RM-CVaR with  $\lambda$  achieved the highest R/R and the lowest MaxDD. Unsurprisingly, RM-CVaR differed from ACVaR, which is the simple average of five CVaR portfolios. RM-CVaR likewise exceeded the individual  $\beta$  levels of CVaR in terms of R/R and MaxDD. In the FF25 datasets, RM-CVaR without  $\lambda$  outperformed all the compared portfolios in terms of AR but it had the worst TO. After introducing the regularization term  $\lambda$ , the TO was considerably suppressed, while RISK, R/R, and MaxDD remained as the best values. In the FF48 datasets, RM-CVaR with  $\lambda$  had the best AR, R/R, and MaxDD, but its TO was very high. This is because the  $\lambda$  selected in this experiment was unable to sufficiently suppress TO.

Furthermore, in order to compare the trend and dynamics of each of the portfolio returns, Figures 2 and 3 show the cumulative return over the out-of-sample periods for the FF25 and FF48 datasets. Although there is not much difference in the FF25 dataset, RM-CVaR apparently outperformed the others with the visible margins in the FF48 datasets in most

of the time periods. Therefore, we were able to confirm that RM-CVaR avoids a large drawdown.

## 6 Conclusion

Our study makes the following contributions:

- We propose RM-CVaR: Regularized Multiple  $\beta$ -CVaR Portfolio. We were able to prove that the optimization problem is written as a linear programming.
- We demonstrated that the CVaR portfolio dramatically changes depending on the  $\beta$  level.
- RM-CVaR exhibited a superior performance in terms of having both higher risk-adjusted returns and lower maximum drawdown.

Our future work shall include incorporating the subsampling method such as that in [Shen and Wang, 2017; Shen *et al.*, 2019].

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