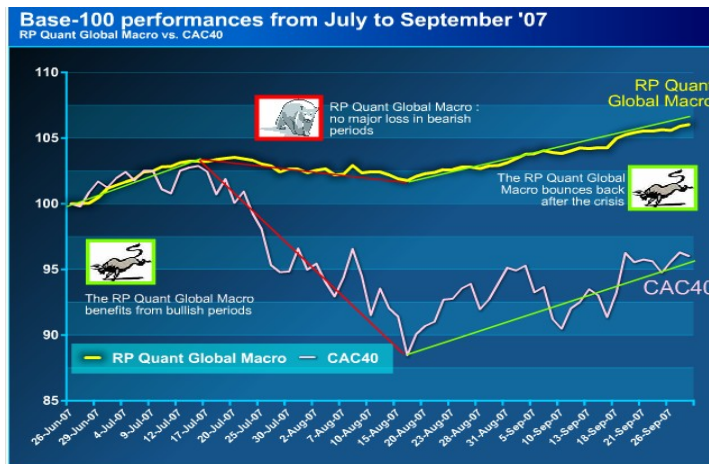


## UTS QFRC Occasional Lecture

*October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008*



# Convex Optimization in Quantitative Finance



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<http://www.raisepartner.com>

## Outline

- ✓ Introduction : Optimization in Quant Finance
- ✓ Convexity : from Local to Global
- ✓ Convexity : Stability Analysis
- ✓ Duality for practitioners and convex relaxations of non-convex optimization problems

## Optimization in Quantitative Finance

Quantitative teams solve every day optimization problems:

- Optimal Portfolio Construction
- Optimal Calibration/Filtering problems

What kind of certificates/insurance can bring convexity?

What is a reasonable approach when convexity is not there a priori?

## Portfolio Optimization

Let  $[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N]^T \in \mathbb{R}^N$  be the N-vector of portfolio weights,

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} R: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x \rightarrow R(x) \end{array} \right.$  a convex risk function

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} p: \mathbb{R}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ x \rightarrow p(x) \end{array} \right.$  a concave performance function,

$\Delta \subset \mathbb{R}^N$  a polyhedral subset of  $\mathbb{R}^N$ , a target performance level  $\bar{p}$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Inf } R(x) \\ x \in \mathbb{R}^N \\ p(x) \geq \bar{p} \\ x \in \mathbb{R}^N \end{array} \right.$$

## Quadratic Portfolio Optimization

$R(x) := x^T \Gamma x$  with  $\Gamma \in S_N^+$  (the cone of positive semidefinite symmetric matrices)

$$p(x) = \rho^T x \text{ where } \rho \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

$$\Delta = \{ y \in \mathbb{R}^N : l_i \leq y_i \leq u_i, i = 1, \dots, N \}$$

NB:  $\rho$  and  $\Gamma$  might be partially related to first and second order statistical estimators of  $(r_1, \dots, r_N)^T = r$  the N-random variables associated with the returns of the N assets

## Convex Risk Function : CVaR

Rockafellar R.T. and S. Uryasev (2000): Optimization of Conditional Value-at-Risk. *The Journal of Risk*. Vol. 2, No. 3, 2000, 21-41

The  $\beta$ -CVaR amounts to minimize over  $\theta := (x, s) \in \mathbb{R}^{N+1}$  :

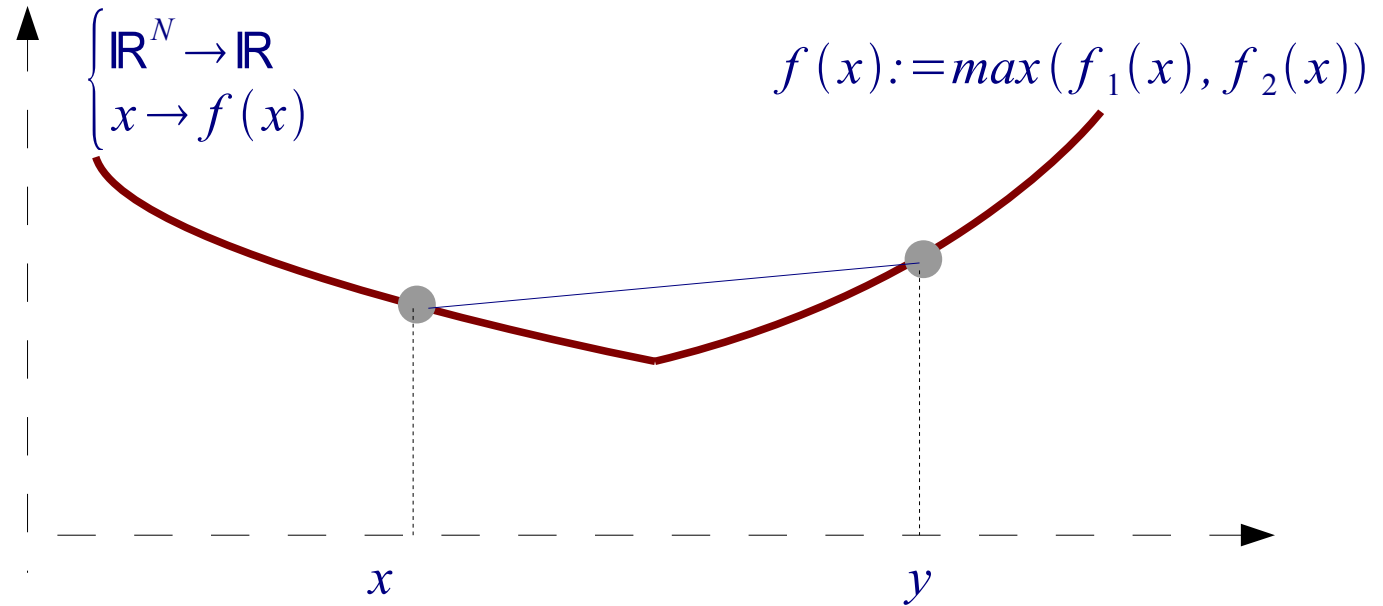
$$F(\theta) = R_{\beta}(x, s) = -s + (1 - \beta)^{-1} \int_{r \in \mathbb{R}^N} [-r^T x + s]^+ p(r) \mathrm{d}r$$

where:  $[t]^+ = \max(t, 0)$  and for a fixed portfolio  $x$ , variable  $s$  can be seen as a « strike » corresponding to a « Put Option » on the fund ex-ante daily returns  $r^T x$

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## Convex Functions



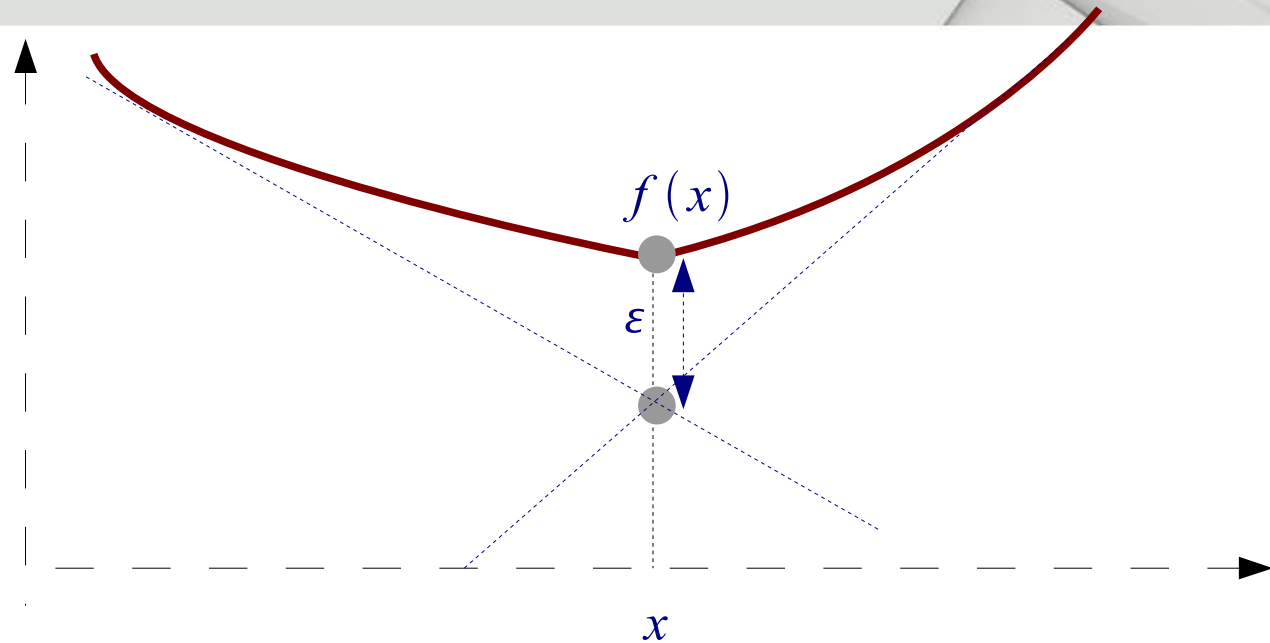
$$\forall (x; y) \in \mathbb{R}^N \times \mathbb{R}^N, \alpha \in [0; 1]$$

$$f(\alpha x + (1 - \alpha)y) \leq \alpha f(x) + (1 - \alpha)f(y)$$



Everything derives from this simple property!

## $\varepsilon$ - Subdifferential : beyond first order analysis

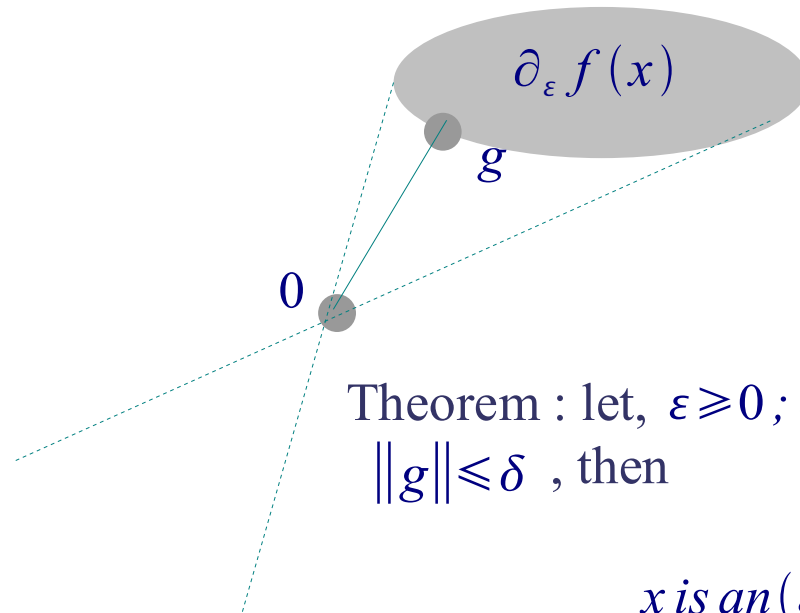


$$\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+,$$

$$\partial_\varepsilon f(x) := \{s \in \mathbb{R}^N : f(y) - f(x) \geq \langle s, y - x \rangle - \varepsilon, \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^N\}$$

## $\varepsilon$ - Subdifferential : Distance to the Moon

Theorem :  $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}^N, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+, \partial_\varepsilon f(x)$  is a compact convex set



Theorem : let,  $\varepsilon \geq 0; \delta \geq 0$ , and  $g \in \partial_\varepsilon f(x)$  such that  $\|g\| \leq \delta$ , then

*$x$  is an  $(\varepsilon, \delta)$  minimal point of  $f$*

$$f(y) \geq f(x) - \varepsilon - \delta \|y - x\|, \forall y \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

## Support function and $\varepsilon$ - derivation

Support Function:  $\forall d \in \mathbb{R}^N, \varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}_+,$

$$f'_\varepsilon(x, d) := \sigma_{\partial_\varepsilon f(x)}(d)$$

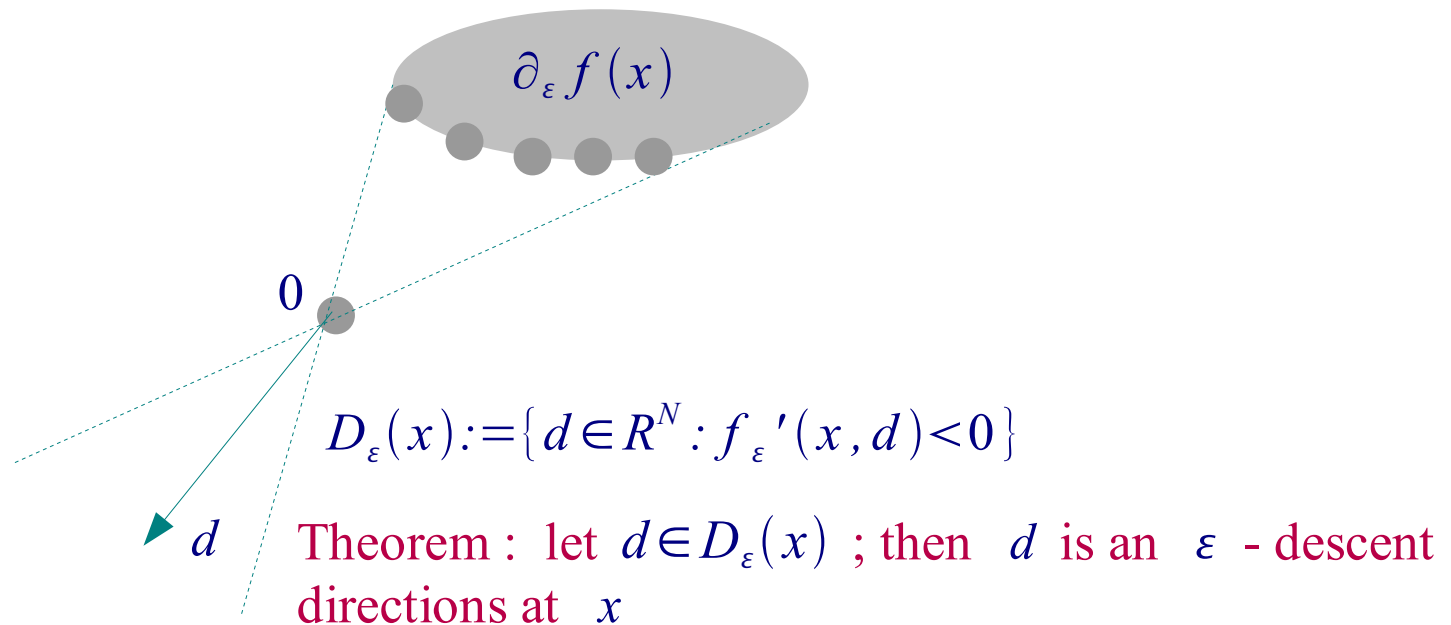
$$:= \max_{s \in \partial_\varepsilon f(x)} d^T s$$

$\varepsilon$  - Derivation theorem:

$$f'_\varepsilon(x, d) = \inf_{t > 0} \frac{f(x + td) - f(x) + \varepsilon}{t}$$

*Proof:* use Fenchel conjugacy Hiriart-Urruty Lemaréchal  
 XI - Theorem 2.1.1

## From Local to Global : Visible side of the Moon



*Proof:* there exist  $t_\varepsilon > 0$  such that

$$\frac{f(x + t_\varepsilon d) - f(x) + \varepsilon}{t_\varepsilon} < 0 \quad \text{and hence} \quad f(x + t_\varepsilon d) < f(x) - \varepsilon$$

## Eigenvalue Optimization in Quant Finance

F. Oustry, *A second order bundle method to minimize the maximum eigenvalue function*, Mathematical Programming, Volume 89, Number 1, 2000

Let  $S_N$  be the set of  $N \times N$  symmetric matrices and  
 $S_N \ni X \rightarrow f(X) := \lambda_{\max}(X) \in \mathbb{R}$  the maximum eigenvalue function and define the *spectrahedron* (Nemirovski)

$$S_N^1 := \{S \in S_N^+, \text{Trace}(S) = 1\}$$

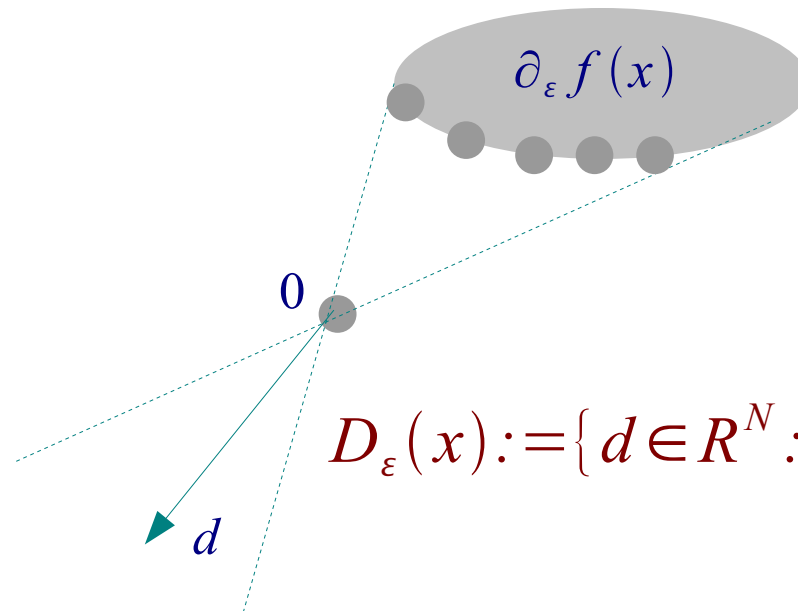
Ky Fan (1949) has shown that not only  $f$  is a convex function but it is also the *support function* of  $S_N^1$

$$f(X) = \sigma_{S_N^1}(X) = \max\{\langle S, X \rangle_F : S \in S_N^1\}$$

## EO : Approximate subdifferential

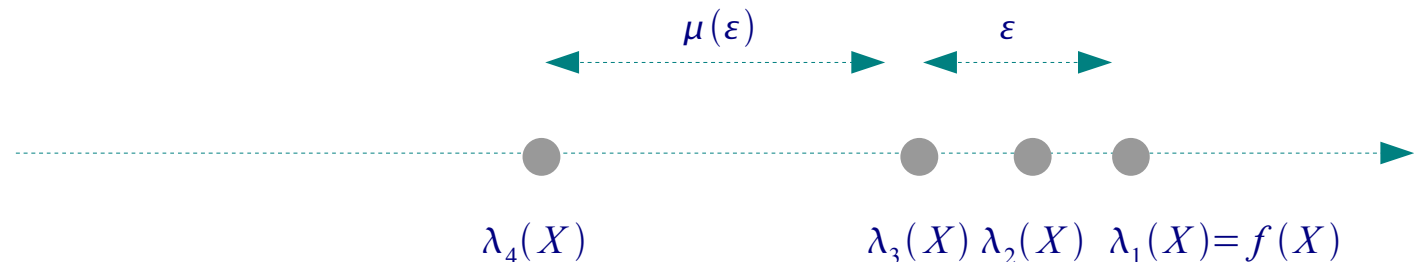
*Theorem :*  $\forall X \in S_N, \varepsilon \geq 0$ , we have

$$\partial_\varepsilon f(x) = \{S \in S_N^+, \text{Trace}(S) = 1 : \langle S, X \rangle_F \geq f(X) - \varepsilon\}$$



$$D_\varepsilon(x) := \{d \in R^N : f_\varepsilon'(x, d) < 0\}?$$

## EO : Approximate subdifferential



Let  $r_\epsilon$  be the number of eigenvalues of  $X$  non smaller than  $f(X) - \epsilon$  and  $Q_\epsilon$  an  $N \times r_\epsilon$  matrix whose columns form an orthonormal basis of the sum of the  $r_\epsilon$  first eigenspaces. Then a « good » a good approximation of  $\partial_\epsilon f(X)$  is:  $\exists \mu(\epsilon) > 0$

$$\partial_{\mu(\epsilon)} f(X) \subset \delta_\epsilon f(X) := Q_\epsilon S_{r_\epsilon}^1 Q_\epsilon^T \subset \partial_\epsilon f(X)$$

$$f_{\mu(\epsilon)}'(X; \cdot) \leq \sigma_{\delta_\epsilon f(X)}(\cdot) \leq f_\epsilon'(X; \cdot)$$

## EO : Random Matrices

L. Laloux, P. Cizeau, J-P. Bouchaud and M. Potters, Noise Dressing of Financial Correlation Matrices. *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 83, 1467 - 1470 , 1999.

Random Matrix theory<sup>8,10</sup>. We will note  $\rho_C(\lambda)$  the density of eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{C}$ , defined as:

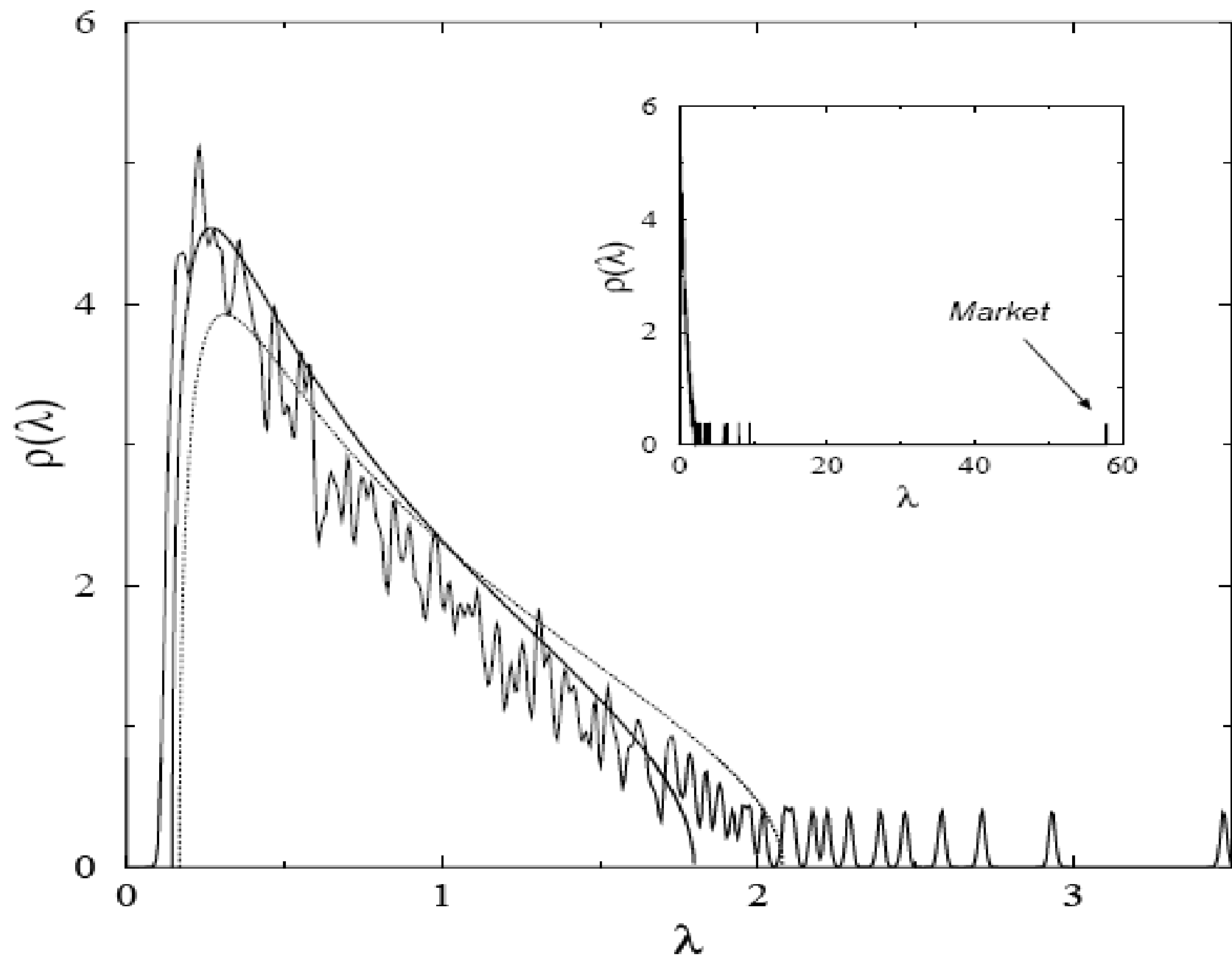
$$\rho_C(\lambda) = \frac{1}{N} \frac{dn(\lambda)}{d\lambda}, \quad (0.2)$$

where  $n(\lambda)$  is the number of eigenvalues of  $\mathbf{C}$  less than  $\lambda$ .

Interestingly, if  $\mathbf{M}$  is a  $T \times N$  random matrix,  $\rho_C(\lambda)$  is self-averaging and exactly known in the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $T \rightarrow \infty$  and  $Q = T/N \geq 1$  fixed<sup>8,9</sup>, and reads:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho_C(\lambda) &= \frac{Q}{2\pi\sigma^2} \frac{\sqrt{(\lambda_{max} - \lambda)(\lambda - \lambda_{min})}}{\lambda}, \\ \lambda_{min}^{max} &= \sigma^2(1 + 1/Q \pm 2\sqrt{1/Q}), \end{aligned} \quad (0.3)$$

with  $\lambda \in [\lambda_{min}, \lambda_{max}]$ , and where  $\sigma^2$  is equal to the variance of the elements of  $\mathbf{M}$ <sup>9</sup>, equal to 1 with our normalisation. In the limit  $Q = 1$  the normalised eigenvalue



## EO : Covariance Matrices Filtering

Let  $\bar{C}$  be a target symmetric matrix, we want to find  $C \in S_N$  such that:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Min } \|C - \bar{C}\|^2 \\ C - \sigma^2 I_N \in S_N^+ \\ C_{ii} = \sigma_i^2, i = 1; \dots, N \end{array} \right. \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Min } \|C - \bar{C}\|^2 \\ \lambda_{\max}(\sigma^2 I_N - C) \leq 0 \\ C_{ii} = \sigma_i^2, i = 1; \dots, N \end{array} \right.$$

## CVaR : subdifferential

$$\underline{F(\theta) = \mathbf{E}\{f(\theta)\} = \int_{\Omega} f(\theta, \omega) P(d\omega)}$$

where  $f(\theta)$  is a measurable random function (whose realization is denoted by  $f(\theta, \omega)$  as in the above integral) defined on a probability space  $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$ . Let the domain of  $f$  be a convex open set  $D \subset \mathbb{R}^m$  and suppose that, for every  $\theta \in D$ ,  $\mathbf{E}\{|f(\theta)|\} < \infty$ . We now give sufficient conditions for directional differentiability of  $F$  at a point  $\theta_0 \in D$  (cf. [10]).

Assumption 2.1. There exists a positive-valued random variable  $K = K(\omega)$  such that  $\mathbf{E}\{K\}$  is finite and

$$|f(\theta_1, \omega) - f(\theta_2, \omega)| \leq K(\omega) \|\theta_1 - \theta_2\| \quad (2.2)$$

for almost all  $\omega \in \Omega$  and for all  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in D$ .

Assumption 2.2. With probability one (w.p.1) the function  $f(\theta)$  is directionally differentiable at  $\theta_0$ .

## CVaR : subdifferential

Suppose now that, in addition to the assumptions of Proposition 2.1, the function  $f$  is subdifferentiable at the point  $\theta_0$  w.p.1. Of course, in the convex case, this subdifferentiability follows from convexity of  $f$ . Then formula (2.3) implies that  $F'(\theta, d)$  is convex in  $d$  and hence  $F$  is also subdifferentiable at  $\theta_0$ . Moreover

$$\partial F(\theta_0) = \mathbf{E}\{\partial f(\theta_0)\} = \int_{\Omega} \partial f(\theta_0, \omega) P(d\omega) \quad (2.4)$$

Shapiro, A. and Wardi, Y., *Nondifferentiability of the Steady-State Function in Discrete Event Dynamic Systems*, IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control, vol. 39, pp. 1707-1711, 1994.

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## The U-Lagrangian of a convex function

Lemaréchal, F. Oustry, and C. Sagastizábal, *The U-Lagrangian of a convex function*, Trans. Amer. Math. Soc., vol. 352, no. 2, pp. 711-729, 2000

### Definition 2.1.

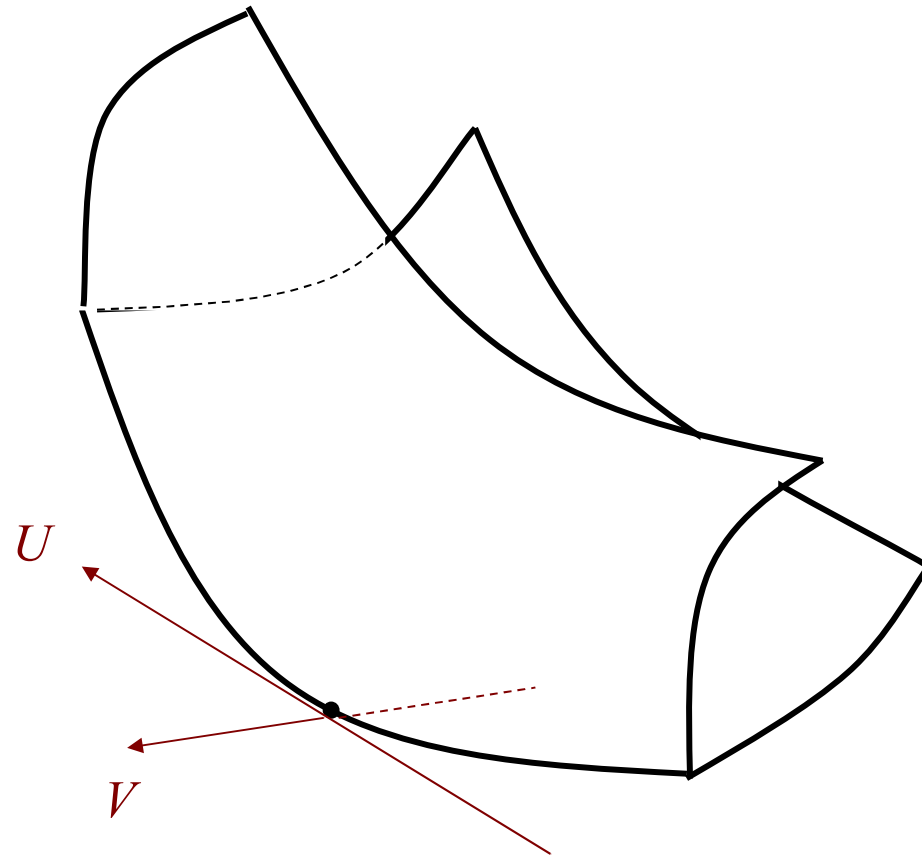
- (i) Define  $\mathcal{U}_1$  as the subspace where  $f'(\bar{p}; \cdot)$  is linear and take  $\mathcal{V}_1 := \mathcal{U}_1^\perp$ . Because  $f'(\bar{p}; \cdot)$  is sublinear, we have

$$\mathcal{U}_1 := \{d \in \mathbb{R}^n : f'(\bar{p}; d) = -f'(\bar{p}; -d)\};$$

if necessary, see for instance Proposition V.1.1.6 in [11]. In other words,  $\mathcal{U}_1$  is the subspace where  $f(\bar{p} + \cdot)$  appears to be “differentiable” at 0. Note that this definition of  $\mathcal{U}_1$  does not rely on a particular scalar product.

- (ii) Define  $\mathcal{V}_2$  as the subspace parallel to the affine hull of  $\partial f(\bar{p})$  and take  $\mathcal{U}_2 := \mathcal{V}_2^\perp$ . In other words,  $\mathcal{V}_2 := \text{lin}(\partial f(\bar{p}) - \bar{g})$  for an arbitrary  $\bar{g} \in \partial f(\bar{p})$ , and  $d \in \mathcal{U}_2$  means  $\langle \bar{g} + v, d \rangle = \langle \bar{g}, d \rangle$  for all  $v \in \mathcal{V}_2$ .
- (iii) Define  $\mathcal{U}_3$  and  $\mathcal{V}_3$  respectively as the normal and tangent cones to  $\partial f(\bar{p})$  at an arbitrary  $g^\circ$  in the relative interior of  $\partial f(\bar{p})$ . It is known (see for example Proposition 2.2 in [14]) that the property  $g^\circ \in \text{ri } \partial f(\bar{p})$  is equivalent to these cones being subspaces. □

## The U-Lagrangian of a convex function



## The U-Lagrangian of a convex function

**3.1. Definition and basic properties.** Following the above introduction, we define the function  $L_{\mathcal{U}}$  as follows:

$$\mathcal{U} \ni u \mapsto L_{\mathcal{U}}(u) := \inf_{v \in \mathcal{V}} \{f(\bar{p} + u \oplus v) - \langle \bar{g}_{\mathcal{V}}, v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}}\}. \quad (3.1)$$

Associated with (3.1) we have the set of minimizers

$$W(u) := \operatorname{Argmin}_{v \in \mathcal{V}} \{f(\bar{p} + u \oplus v) - \langle \bar{g}_{\mathcal{V}}, v \rangle_{\mathcal{V}}\}. \quad (3.2)$$

It will be seen below that an important question is whether  $W(u)$  is nonempty.

*In particular,  $L_{\mathcal{U}}$  is differentiable at 0, with  $\nabla L_{\mathcal{U}}(0) = \bar{g}_{\mathcal{U}}$ .*

## Second Order Expansion and Stability

**Theorem 3.9.** Take  $\bar{g} \in \text{ri} \partial f(\bar{p})$  and let the  $\mathcal{U}$ -Hessian  $\mathbb{H}_{\mathcal{U}} f(\bar{p})$  exist. For  $u \in \mathcal{U}$  and  $h \in u \oplus W(u)$ , there holds

$$f(\bar{p} + h) = f(\bar{p}) + \langle \bar{g}, h \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbb{H}_{\mathcal{U}} f(\bar{p}) u, u \rangle_{\mathcal{U}} + o(\|h\|^2). \quad (3.10)$$

Assume now that  $f$  depends on uncertainties  $\theta$ ,  
 $f = f(p, \theta)$ , with  $0 \in \text{ri} \partial f(\bar{p}, 0)$  and  $H_{\mathcal{U}} f(\bar{p}, 0)$   
 exists and is positive semidefinite. We also assume that  
 $\theta \rightarrow f(p, \theta)$  is continuously differentiable.

Then in a neighborhood of  $\theta = 0$ , the optimal solution  
 $p(\theta)$  is locally Lipschitz continuous.

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## Lagrangian Duality

Consider first an optimization problem put in the form

$$\inf f(x), \quad x \in \mathcal{X}, \quad g_j(x) = 0, \quad j = 1, \dots, m. \quad (1)$$

We introduce the *Lagrangian*, a function of the primal variable  $x$  and of the *dual variable* – or *multipliers* –  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$ :

$$\mathcal{X} \times \mathbb{R}^m \ni (x, u) \mapsto L(x, u) := f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m u_j g_j(x) = f(x) + u^\top g(x), \quad (2)$$

if  $g \in \mathbb{R}^m$  denotes the vector of constraint-values. The *dual function* is then a function of  $u$  alone, defined by

$$\mathbb{R}^m \ni u \mapsto \theta(u) := \inf_{x \in \mathcal{X}} L(x, u), \quad (3)$$

and the *dual problem* is

$$\sup \theta(u), \quad u \in \mathbb{R}^m. \quad (4)$$

If some of the constraints in (1) are inequalities  $g_j(x) \leq 0$ , then the corresponding dual variables have a sign-constraint:  $u_j \geq 0$ . The dual function is always concave and upper semi-continuous, *independently* of the data  $\mathcal{X}$ ,  $f$  and  $g$ .

## Semidefinite Duality

A convenient scalar product on our constraint-space  $\mathcal{S}_n$  is the ordinary dot-product in  $\mathbb{R}^{n^2}$ :

$$(\mathcal{S}_n \times \mathcal{S}_n) \ni (X, U) \mapsto \langle X, U \rangle := \text{tr} XU = \sum_{i,j=1}^n X_{ij}U_{ij},$$

also called the trace-product. The reason it is so convenient is the following relation: for all  $X \in \mathcal{S}_n$  and  $u \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,

$$[\sum_{i,j=1}^n X_{ij}u_iu_j] = u^\top Xu = \langle X, uu^\top \rangle, \quad (11)$$

which can be checked in a straightforward way (note:  $(uu^\top)_{ij} = u_iu_j$ ); it will be used continually.

## Semidefinite Duality

$$\inf f(x) := b^\top x, \quad x \in \mathcal{X} := \mathbb{R}^m, \quad g(x) := A_0 + \sum_{j=1}^m x_j A_j \succcurlyeq 0, \quad (13)$$

where  $b \in \mathbb{R}^m$  is given, as well as each  $A_j$  in  $\mathcal{S}_n$ . Writing the Lagrangian dual (10) of this conic problem is an easy exercise:

- Form the Lagrangian at  $(x, U) \in \mathbb{R}^m \times K^\circ = \mathbb{R}^m \times \mathcal{S}_n^-$

$$L(x, U) = b^\top x + \langle g(x), U \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^m (b_j + \langle A_j, U \rangle) x_j + \langle A_0, U \rangle, \quad (14)$$

- Calculate the dual function: for  $U \succcurlyeq 0$ ,

$$\theta(U) = \begin{cases} \langle A_0, U \rangle & \text{if } b_j + \langle A_j, U \rangle = 0 \text{ for } j = 1, \dots, m, \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## Dualizing a quadratic program

Let be given  $m + 1$  quadratic functions defined on  $\mathbb{R}^n$ :

$$q_j(x) := x^\top Q_j x + b_j^\top x + c_j, \quad j = 0, \dots, m,$$

where the  $Q_j$ 's lie in  $\mathcal{S}_n$ , the  $b_j$ 's in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  and the  $c_j$ 's in  $\mathbb{R}$ ; we assume  $c_0 = 0$ . With these data, consider the quadratic problem

$$\begin{cases} \inf q_0(x), & x \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ q_j(x) = 0, & j = 1, \dots, m. \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

The associated Lagrangian (2) of §2.1 with  $\mathcal{X} := \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $f := q_0$  and  $g_j := q_j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, m$  is then

$$L(x, u) = x^\top Q(u)x + b(u)^\top x + c(u), \quad (22)$$

where  $Q(u) := Q_0 + \sum_{j=1}^m u_j Q_j$ ,  $b(u) := b_0 + \sum_{j=1}^m u_j b_j$  and  $c(u) = \sum_{j=1}^m u_j c_j = c^\top u$ . Just as in §2.1, we denote by

$$\mathbb{R}^m \ni u \mapsto \theta(u) := \inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^n} L(x, u) \quad (23)$$

## The Dual of a Quadratic Program is SDP!!

### Proposition 4.1

$$\theta(u) = \begin{cases} c(u) - \frac{1}{4}b(u)^\top Q(u)^\dagger b(u) & \text{if } Q(u) \succcurlyeq 0 \text{ and } b(u) \in \mathcal{R}(Q(u)), \\ -\infty & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Just apply Lemma 3.6 and its extension Lemma 3.7. □

Then Schur's Lemma enables a "PD-representation" of the epigraph of the dual function (23) (terminology appearing in [15, § 6.4.3]), and thereby an SDP-formulation of the dual problem:

**Corollary 4.2** *The dual of (21), (22) is equivalent to the SDP problem with variables  $u \in \mathbb{R}^m$  and  $r \in \mathbb{R}$ :*

$$\begin{cases} \sup r, \\ \begin{bmatrix} c(u) - r & \frac{1}{2}b(u)^\top \\ \frac{1}{2}b(u) & Q(u) \end{bmatrix} \succcurlyeq 0. \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

## Bidualization and lifting procedure

**Theorem 4.4** *The dual of (24), i.e., the bidual of (21), is*

$$(SDP) \quad \begin{cases} \inf \langle Q_0, X \rangle + b_0^\top x, & X \in \mathcal{S}_n, x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ \langle Q_j, X \rangle + b_j^\top x + c_j = 0, & j = 1, \dots, m, \\ \begin{bmatrix} 1 & x^\top \\ x & X \end{bmatrix} \succcurlyeq 0. \end{cases}$$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$$\begin{cases} \inf \langle Q_0, X \rangle + b_0^\top x, & X \in \mathcal{S}_n, x \in \mathbb{R}^n, \\ \langle Q_j, X \rangle + b_j^\top x + c_j = 0, & j = 1, \dots, m; \\ X \succcurlyeq xx^\top. \end{cases}$$

## Portfolio Optimization with third order constraint

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min_{\omega} \omega^T \Gamma \omega \\ s.t. \\ \sum_{i,j,k} \omega_i \omega_j \omega_k H_{ijk} \geq h \\ \rho^T \omega \geq \ell \\ \omega \in \Delta \end{array} \right. \Leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min_{\omega} \omega^T \Gamma \omega \\ s.t. \\ \left\langle \sum_k \omega_k H_{[k]}, W \right\rangle \geq h \\ \rho^T \omega \geq \ell \\ \omega \in \Delta \\ W = \omega \omega^T \end{array} \right.$$

where  $H_{[k]}$  is the  $N \times N$  matrix whose  $i, j$  element is  $H_{ijk}$

<sup>1</sup> E. Jondeau and M. Rockinger, Optimal Portfolio Allocation Under Higher Moments, Working Paper N. 108, December 2002 (Revised: January 2004). Available at <http://www.banque-france.fr/gb/publications/ner/1-108.htm>

<sup>1</sup> C.R. Harvey, M. Liechty, J. Liechty and P. Müller. Portfolio Selection with Higher Moments. (December 13, 2004). Available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=634141>

## Second Lifting Procedure

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \min_{\omega} \langle \Gamma, W \rangle \\ s.t. \\ \langle H, Z \rangle \geq h \\ Z \succeq (W, \omega) \otimes (W, \omega)^* \\ \rho^T \omega \geq \ell \\ \omega \in \Delta \\ W \succeq \omega \omega^T \end{array} \right.$$

where  $Z_{ijk}$  is the  $N \times N \times N$  third order portfolio tensor

<sup>1</sup> J. B. Lasserre, Global Optimization with Polynomials and the Problem of Moments, *SIAM Journal on Optimization*, Vol. 11, No. 3, pp. 796–817, 2001.

# Creating Positive Aymmetry

**Base-100 performances from July to September '07**

RP Quant Global Macro vs. CAC40



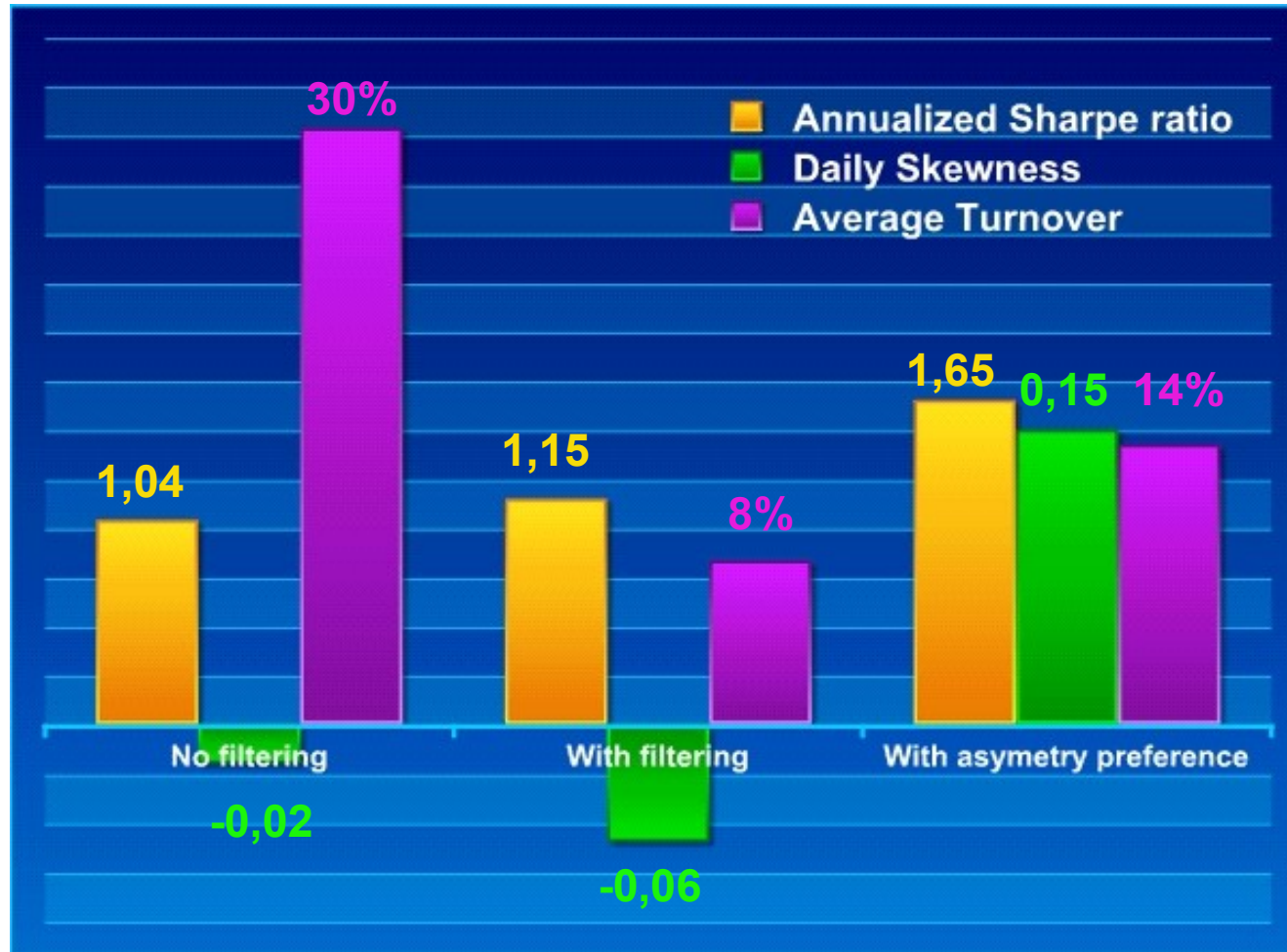
## Diversified (GM) Investment Universe



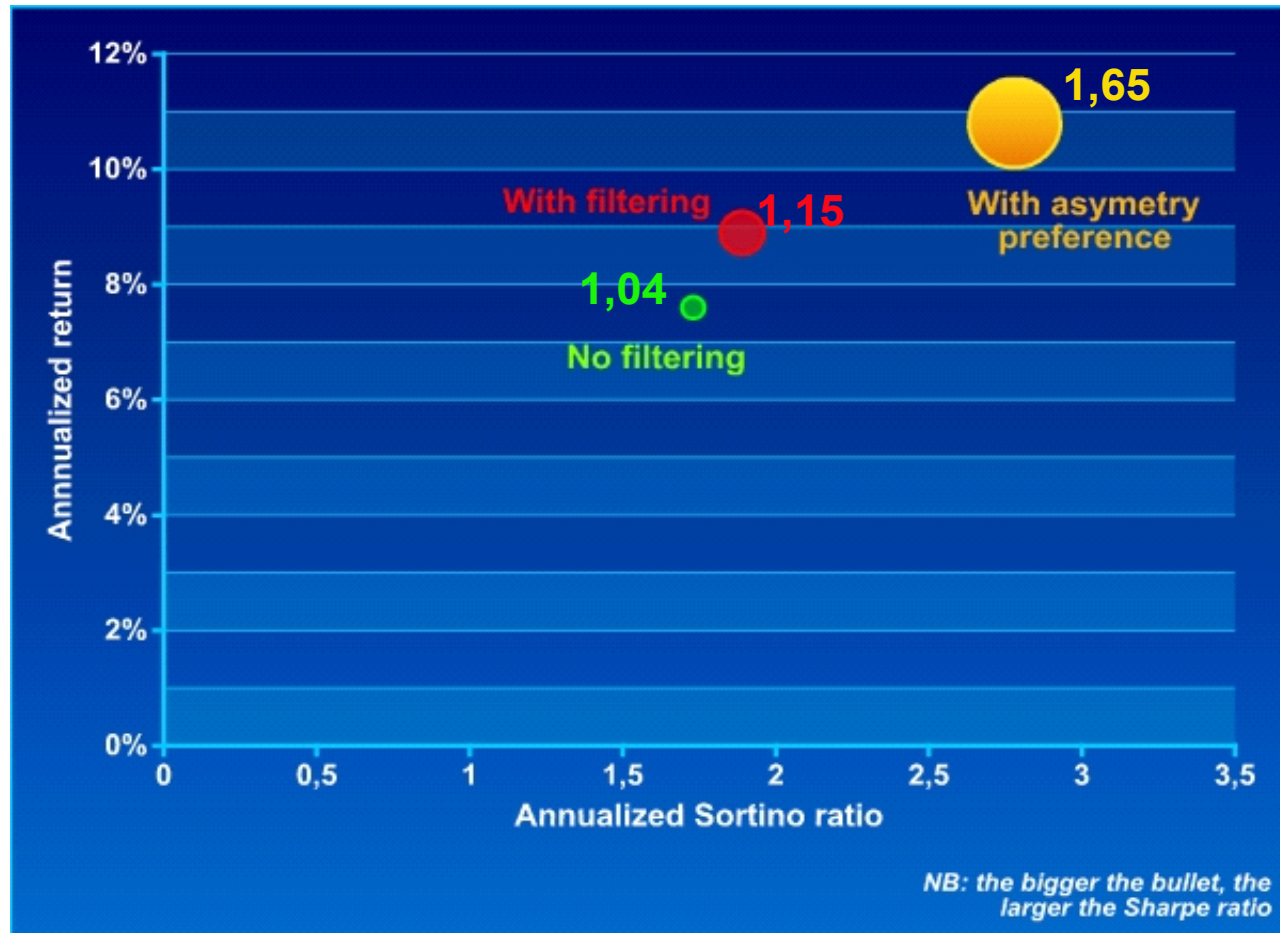
## From “Plain Markowitz” to “Exotic Convex Optimization”

- **Plain Markowitz**
  - Performance model : « trend following »
  - Risk model : empirical covariance matrix
  - Allocation model : Minimize Volatility s.t. Perf constraint
- **Filtered Markowitz**
  - Performance model : « trend following »
  - Risk model : filtered covariance matrix
  - Allocation model : Minimize Volatility s.t. Perf constraint
- **Exotic Convex Optimization**
  - Performance model : « trend following »
  - Risk Model : Filtered covariance matrix + Higher moments/CVaR ...
  - Allocation model : Minimize Volatility s.t. Perf constraint & Asymmetry preferences (third order moment, CVaR constraints, ...)

## Preference for positive asymmetry in practice



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## To go further: a real life example

Evolution of the Quetzal Fund versus Dow Jones and S&P

