

Stochastic Dominance Class Problem

By James R. Garven

Finance 4335

February 13, 2024

Consider two risky prospects, X_1 and X_2 , with payoffs given by:

$$X_{1,s} = \begin{cases} \$1 & \text{with probability } 50\% \\ \$9 & \text{with probability } 50\% \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad X_{2,s} = \begin{cases} \$4 & \text{with probability } 99\% \\ \$81 & \text{with probability } 1\% \end{cases}$$

Assume that your initial wealth (W_0) is \$0, and your utility $U(W) = \sqrt{W}$.

A. Does one investment first order stochastically dominate the other? Explain why or why not.

B. Compare these investments once again. Does one investment second order stochastically dominate the other? Explain why or why not.

C. Calculate your expected utility ($E(U(W))$) for both investments.

D. Which investment should you choose? Explain why.