



How to Invest Like a Venture Capitalist

The investment schedule in independent projects
can make a huge difference

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I'm not a VC, why should I care about it?

- Many forms of repetitive investments follow the rules of chained low probability events: R&D, start-ups, playing lottery. Other applications may encompass series of unlikely events as economic crisis or consecutive failure of multiple defense layers.
- By controlling the investment schedule the investor is able to maximize gains maintaining an acceptable risk level or better understand the risk associated with the desired profit.
- In this study we'll assume completely independent events sharing the source of funding.

Simulation Conditions

- The overall initial investment is an arbitrarily chosen value of \$10.
- There are 10 projects available to invest in.
- All investments have the same profitability probability with an uniform distribution of 10% (on average one out of ten projects is profitable all others lose the entire investment).
- The profit of a successful project is equal to the product between the investment and an arbitrary chosen value of 10 (each \$1 invested generates \$10).

How to Do It

- Common methods use simulations; measuring the effect of 0.00000001% probability events requires billions of samples and the evaluation of risk involves tedious stochastic integrals.
- Since each project could have only two outcomes (Success / Fail) ten projects will generate 1024 possible combinations.
- With a discrete number of possibilities we'll analyze outcomes individually and compute probabilities using Lebesgue integrals (simple conditional sums for empirical distributions).
- This method could be used for any distribution including empirical ones while being intrinsically stable, more accurate, and orders of magnitude faster than traditional simulations.

Schedule 1

Investment Terms

- Invest same amount in each project (\$1 per project).

Profits

- Maximum profit of \$100 (all projects are profitable) with 0.00000001% probability.
- Minimum profit of \$0 (no project is profitable) with 34.9% probability.
- Average profit is \$10, equal to the initial investment.

Table 1. Most profitable project - Schedule 1

Project Number	Schedule	Investment per Project	Cash available
1	1	\$1.00	\$19.00
2	1	\$1.00	\$28.00
3	1	\$1.00	\$37.00
4	1	\$1.00	\$46.00
5	1	\$1.00	\$55.00
6	1	\$1.00	\$64.00
7	1	\$1.00	\$73.00
8	1	\$1.00	\$82.00
9	1	\$1.00	\$91.00
10	1	\$1.00	\$100.00

Schedule 2

Investment Terms

- Invest in each project 10% of all cash available at the time of investment.

Profits

- Maximum profit of \$6,131 (all projects are profitable) with 0.00000001% probability.
- Minimum profit of \$3.49 (no project is profitable) with 34.9% probability.
- Average profit is \$10, equal to the initial investment.

Table 2. Most profitable project - Schedule 2

Project Number	Schedule	Investment per Project	Cash available
1	1	\$1.00	\$19.00
2	1	\$1.90	\$36.10
3	1	\$3.61	\$68.59
4	1	\$6.86	\$130.32
5	1	\$13.03	\$247.61
6	1	\$24.76	\$470.46
7	1	\$47.05	\$893.87
8	1	\$89.39	\$1698.36
9	1	\$169.84	\$3226.88
10	1	\$322.69	\$6,131

Schedule 3

Investment Terms

- Invest in each project a part of the available cash decreasing with the rate given by Schedule (increasingly conservative).

Profits

- Maximum profit of \$17,361,688 (all projects are profitable) with 0.00000001% probability.
- Minimum profit of \$0.00 (no project is profitable) with 34.9% probability.
- Average profit is \$10, equal to the initial investment.

Table 3. Most profitable project - Schedule 3

Project Number	Schedule	Investment per Project	Cash available
1	10	\$1.00	\$19.00
2	9	\$17.10	\$172.90
3	8	\$138.32	\$1417.78
4	7	\$992.45	\$10349.79
5	6	\$6209.88	\$66238.68
6	5	\$33119.34	\$364312.75
7	4	\$145725.10	\$1675838.64
8	3	\$502751.59	\$6200602.98
9	2	\$1240120.60	\$17361688.36
10	1	\$1736168.84	\$17,361,688

Schedule 4

Investment Terms

- Invest in each project a part of the available cash increasing with the rate given by Schedule (increasingly optimistic).

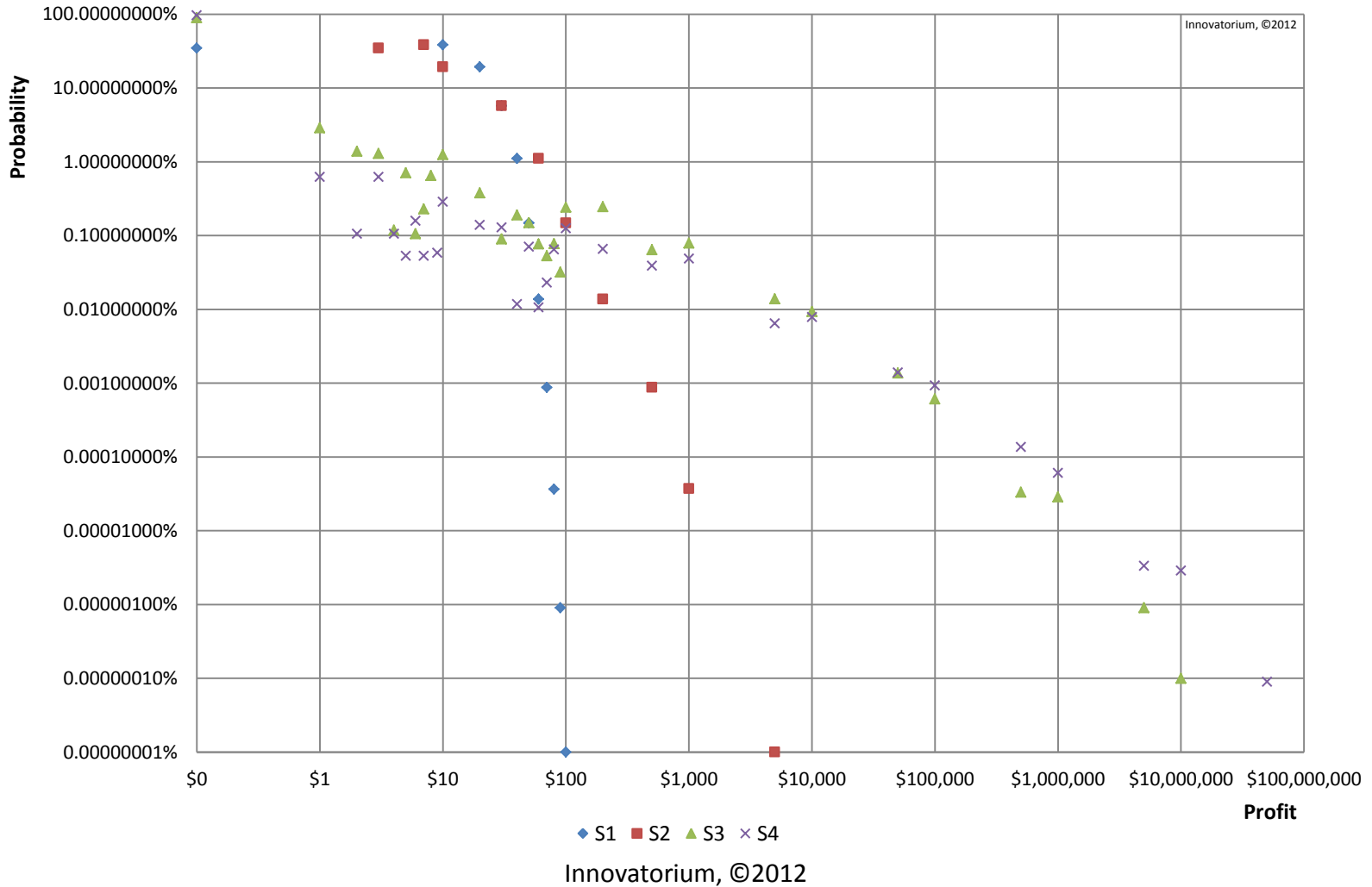
Profits

- Maximum profit of \$173,616,884 (all projects are profitable) with 0.00000001% probability.
- Minimum profit of \$0.004 (no project is profitable) with 34.9% probability.
- Average profit is \$10, equal to the initial investment.

Table 3. Most profitable project - Schedule 4

Project Number	Schedule	Investment per Project	Cash available
1	1	\$1.00	\$19.00
2	2	\$3.80	\$53.20
3	3	\$15.96	\$196.84
4	4	\$78.74	\$905.46
5	5	\$452.73	\$4980.05
6	6	\$2988.03	\$31872.33
7	7	\$22310.63	\$232668.03
8	8	\$186134.42	\$1907877.84
9	9	\$1717090.06	\$17361688.36
10	10	\$17361688.36	\$173,616,884

Distribution of Profits



Conclusions

- By properly selecting the investment schedule an investor can match the potential gain with a personally acceptable risk level
- The four proposed schedules generate exponentially growing gains with similarly high risks.

Profit under	S1	S2	S3	S4
\$10	34.87%	73.61%	97.04%	98.37%
\$100	65.13%	26.23%	2.31%	0.74%
\$1,000	0.00%	0.16%	0.63%	0.28%
Maximum Profit	\$100	\$6,131	\$17,361,688	\$173,616,884

- Computation of discrete events with very low probability using point calculation and Lebesgue integrals is intrinsically stable, more accurate, and orders of magnitude faster than simulations based on stochastic integrals.

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