

PORTFOLIO SELECTION WITH NONNEGATIVE WEALTH CONSTRAINTS: A DYNAMIC PROGRAMMING APPROACH

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ABSTRACT. I consider the optimal consumption and portfolio selection problem with nonnegative wealth constraints using the dynamic programming approach. I use the constant relative risk aversion (CRRA) utility function and disutility to derive the closed-form solutions.

1. Introduction

Following the seminal works of Merton [9, 10], there have been many research articles on the continuous-time portfolio optimization problems with various economic constraints. Especially nonnegative wealth constraint, which is sometimes called borrowing constraint, is one of the most important economic constraints on portfolio selection problems. The nonnegative wealth constraint means that the agent cannot borrow against her future labor income, that is, she always supports a nonnegative wealth level (refer to [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8]).

In this paper I investigate the optimal consumption and portfolio selection problem with nonnegative wealth constraints based on the dynamic programming framework of Karatzas *et al.* [6]. I use the constant relative risk aversion (CRRA) utility function and disutility to obtain the closed-form solutions.

2. The economy

It is assumed that only two assets are traded in the financial market. One is a riskless asset and the other is a risky asset. The constant interest

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rate is $r > 0$, and the risky asset follows the geometric Brownian motion $dS_t/S_t = \mu dt + \sigma dB_t$, where μ and σ are constants, and B_t is a standard Brownian motion on a probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$.

The market price of risk is defined by $\theta := (\mu - r)/\sigma$. Let π_t be the \mathcal{F}_t -progressively measurable portfolio process at time t and c_t be the nonnegative \mathcal{F}_t -progressively measurable consumption rate process at time t . It is assumed that the following mathematical conditions hold:

$$\int_0^t c_s ds < \infty \quad \text{and} \quad \int_0^t \pi_s^2 ds < \infty, \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0, \text{ almost surely (a.s.).}$$

The agent receives constant labor income $y_0 > 0$. So the agent's wealth process X_t at time t follows the stochastic differential equation (SDE)

$$dX_t = [rX_t + \pi_t(\mu - r) - c_t + y_0] dt + \sigma \pi_t dB_t, \quad X_0 = x \geq 0.$$

It is assumed that the agent in this model always faces nonnegative wealth constraints such that

$$(2.1) \quad X_t \geq 0, \quad \text{for all } t \geq 0.$$

3. The optimization problem

The agent's optimization problem is to maximize her expected utility

$$(3.1) \quad V(x) = \sup_{(c, \pi) \in \mathcal{A}(x)} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \left(\frac{c_t^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - l \right) dt \right],$$

where $\gamma > 0$ ($\gamma \neq 1$) is the agent's coefficient of relative risk aversion, $\rho > 0$ is a subjective discount rate, $l > 0$ is constant disutility due to labor, and $\mathcal{A}(x)$ is an admissible set of pairs (c, π) . The following assumption always holds without further comments:

ASSUMPTION 3.1.

$$K := r + \frac{\rho - r}{\gamma} + \frac{\gamma - 1}{2\gamma^2} \theta^2 > 0.$$

REMARK 3.2. For later use, I consider a quadratic equation

$$\frac{1}{2} \theta^2 m^2 + \left(\rho - r + \frac{1}{2} \theta^2 \right) m - r = 0,$$

with two real roots $m_+ > 0$ and $m_- < -1$.

Next theorem implies my main results.

THEOREM 3.3. *The value function of this optimization problem (3.1) is given by*

$$V(x) = \frac{r - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2 m_+}{\rho} D_1 \xi^{-\gamma m_+ - \gamma} + \frac{1}{(1 - \gamma)K} \xi^{1 - \gamma} - \frac{l}{\rho}, \text{ for } x \geq 0,$$

where

$$\hat{c} = \frac{\gamma m_+}{\gamma m_+ + 1} \frac{K y_0}{r} > 0, \quad D_1 = \frac{1}{r(\gamma m_+ + 1)} y_0 \hat{c}^{\gamma m_+} > 0,$$

and ξ is the solution to the algebraic equation

$$x = D_1 \xi^{-\gamma m_+} + \frac{\xi}{K} - \frac{y_0}{r}.$$

And the optimal policies are given by (c^*, π^*) such that

$$c^* = \xi \quad \text{and} \quad \pi^* = \frac{\theta}{\sigma \gamma} \left(-\gamma m_+ D_1 \xi^{-\gamma m_+} + \frac{\xi}{K} \right), \text{ for } x \geq 0.$$

Proof. From the optimization problem (3.1), the Bellman equation is derived as follows:

$$(3.2) \quad \max_{(c, \pi)} \left[\{rx + \pi(\mu - r) - c + y_0\} V'(x) + \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \pi^2 V''(x) - \rho V(x) + \frac{c^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - l \right] = 0.$$

The first-order conditions (FOCs) of the Bellman equation (3.2) yield

$$(3.3) \quad c = \{V'(x)\}^{-\frac{1}{\gamma}} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi = -\frac{\theta V'(x)}{\sigma V''(x)}.$$

Substituting the FOCs (3.3) into the Bellman equation (3.2), then I obtain

$$(3.4) \quad rxV'(x) + y_0V'(x) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\theta^2 \{V'(x)\}^2}{V''(x)} + \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} \{V'(x)\}^{-\frac{1-\gamma}{\gamma}} - \rho V(x) - l = 0.$$

It is assumed that the optimal consumption $c^* = C(x)$ is considered as a function of wealth and that $X(\cdot)$ is the inverse function of $C(\cdot)$. Then the FOCs (3.3) give

$$(3.5) \quad V'(x) = C(x)^{-\gamma} \quad \text{and} \quad V''(x) = \frac{-\gamma C(x)^{-\gamma-1}}{X'(c)}.$$

Plugging (3.5) into the changed Bellman equation (3.4), then I obtain

$$(3.6) \quad rc^{-\gamma} X(c) + y_0 c^{-\gamma} + \frac{\theta^2}{2\gamma} c^{1-\gamma} X'(c) + \frac{\gamma}{1-\gamma} c^{1-\gamma} - \rho V(X(c)) - l = 0.$$

Taking derivative of the equation (3.6) with respect to c , then I have

$$\begin{aligned} &rc^{-\gamma}X'(c) - r\gamma c^{-\gamma-1}X(c) - \gamma y_0 c^{-\gamma-1} + \frac{\theta^2}{2\gamma}c^{1-\gamma}X''(c) \\ &+ \frac{(1-\gamma)\theta^2}{2\gamma}c^{-\gamma}X'(c) + \gamma c^{-\gamma} - \rho c^{-\gamma}X'(c) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus I derive the second order ordinary differential equation (ODE)

$$(3.7) \quad \frac{\theta^2}{2\gamma}c^2X''(c) + \left(r - \rho + \frac{(1-\gamma)\theta^2}{2\gamma}\right)cX'(c) - r\gamma X(c) + \gamma c - \gamma y_0 = 0.$$

From ODE (3.7), I conjecture the solution $X(c)$ of the form

$$(3.8) \quad X(c) = D_1 c^{-\gamma m_+} + \frac{c}{K} - \frac{y_0}{r},$$

for some constant D_1 . Then there exists a consumption level $\hat{c} > 0$ such that

$$(3.9) \quad X(\hat{c}) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad X'(\hat{c}) = 0$$

because of the nonnegative wealth constraint (2.1). From (3.9), I can determine \hat{c} and D_1 . Thus I obtain

$$\hat{c} = \frac{\gamma m_+}{\gamma m_+ + 1} \frac{K y_0}{r} > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad D_1 = \frac{1}{r(\gamma m_+ + 1)} y_0 \hat{c}^{\gamma m_+} > 0.$$

I can easily check that $X(c)$ in (3.8) is an increasing function for $c \in (\hat{c}, \infty)$ since

$$X'(c) = -\gamma m_+ D_1 c^{-\gamma m_+ - 1} + \frac{1}{K} > -\gamma m_+ D_1 \hat{c}^{-\gamma m_+ - 1} + \frac{1}{K} = 0,$$

for $c \in (\hat{c}, \infty)$. Now plugging $X(c)$ in (3.8) into (3.6), then I obtain the value function

$$(3.10) \quad V(x) = \frac{r - \frac{1}{2}\theta^2 m_+}{\rho} D_1 \xi^{-\gamma m_+ - \gamma} + \frac{1}{(1-\gamma)K} \xi^{1-\gamma} - \frac{l}{\rho},$$

where ξ is the solution to the algebraic equation

$$x = D_1 \xi^{-\gamma m_+} + \frac{\xi}{K} - \frac{y_0}{r}.$$

Also I use the FOCs (3.3) and (3.5) with the value function $V(x)$ in (3.10) to obtain the optimal policies (c^*, π^*) . \square

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