

PORTFOLIO CHOICE VIA QUANTILES

Xue Dong He, Xun Yu Zhou

First published: 22 September 2010

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9965.2010.00432.x>

Accessibility issue? [Request accessibility update.](#)

✉ Address correspondence to Xun Yu Zhou, Mathematical Institute and Nomura Centre for Mathematical Finance, and Oxford–Man Institute of Quantitative Finance, The University of Oxford, 24–29 St Giles, Oxford OX1 3LB, UK, and Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong; e-mail: zhouxy@maths.ox.ac.uk.

This work was presented at the 2008 Special Semester on Stochastics with Emphasis on Finance in Linz, Austria, the 2009 Midlands Probability Theory Seminars in Warwick, the 2009 Workshop on Optimal Stopping and Singular Stochastic Control Problems in Finance in Singapore, the 2010 Workshop on Foundations of Mathematical Finance at the Fields Institute, Toronto, and at seminars at Columbia, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Oxford, Oslo, Swedish Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Vienna Institute of Finance, and Yale. We are grateful to the participants at these events, in particular to Nicole El Karoui, Paul Embrechts, Hanqing Jin, Dilip Madan, Jan Obloj, Walter Schachermayer, and Thaleia Zariphopoulou, for their comments. We thank Chris Rogers for making us aware of Dybvig's work in a discussion not directly related to this paper. Zhou acknowledges financial support from Nomura Centre for Mathematical Finance and a start-up fund of the University of Oxford, and both He and Zhou acknowledge research grants from the Oxford–Man Institute of Quantitative Finance.



PDF

Abstract

A portfolio choice model in continuous time is formulated for both complete and incomplete markets, where the quantile function of the terminal cash flow, instead of the cash flow itself, is taken as the decision variable. This formulation covers a wide body of existing and new models with law-invariant preference measures, including expected utility maximization, mean–variance, goal reaching, Yaari's dual model, Lopes' SP/A model, behavioral model under prospect theory, as well as those explicitly involving VaR and CVaR in objectives and/or constraints. A solution scheme to this quantile model is proposed. and then demonstrated by solving analytically the goal-reaching

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

Berkelaar, A., R. Kouwenberg, and T. Post (2004): Optimal Portfolio Choice under Loss Aversion, *Rev. Econ. Stat.* 86(4), 973–987.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Browne, S. (1999): Reaching Goals by a Deadline: Digital Options and Continuous-time Active Portfolio Management, *Adv. Appl. Probab.* 31(2), 551–577.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Browne, S. (2000): Risk-constrained Dynamic Active Portfolio Management, *Manage. Sci.* 46(9), 1188–1199.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Carlier, G., and R.-A. Dana (2006): Law Invariant Concave Utility Functions and Optimization Problems with Monotonicity and Comonotonicity Constraints, *Stat. Decis.* 24, 127–152.

[Google Scholar](#)

Cherny, A., and D. B. Madan (2009): New Measures for Performance Evaluation, *Rev. Financ. Stud.* 22(7), 2371–2406.

[Google Scholar](#)

Cvitanović, J., and I. Karatzas (1992): Convex Duality in Constrained Portfolio Optimization, *Ann. Appl. Probab.* 2(4), 767–818.

[Google Scholar](#)

Das, S. R., H. Markowitz, J. Scheid, and M. Statman (2010): Portfolio Optimization with Mental Accounts, *J. Financ. Quantit. Anal.* 45(2), 311–344.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

Dybvig, P. H. (1988): Distributional Analysis of Portfolio Choice, *J. Business* 61(3), 369–398.

[Web of Science®](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Föllmer, H., and D. Kramkov (1997): Optional Decompositions under Constraints, *Probab. Theory Relat.Fields* 109(1), 1–25.

[Web of Science®](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Föllmer, H., and P. Leukert (1999): Quantile Hedging, *Finance Stochas.* 3, 251–273.

[Google Scholar](#)

Föllmer, H., and A. Schied (2004): *Stochastic Finance: An Introduction in Discrete Time*, 2nd edn. Berlin : Walter de Gruyter.

[Google Scholar](#)

Goll, T., and L. Rüschendorf (2001): Minimax and Minimal Distance Martingale Measures and Their Relationship to Portfolio Optimization, *Finance Stochas.* 5(4), 557–581.

[Google Scholar](#)

Grigor'ev, P. V., and Y. S. Kan (2004): Optimal Control of the Investment Portfolio with Respect to the Quantile Criterion, *Autom. Remote Control* 65(2), 319–336.

[Web of Science®](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Hamada, M., M. Sherris, and J. Van Der Hoek (2006): Dynamic Portfolio Allocation, the Dual Theory of Choice and Probability Distortion Functions, *ASTIN Bull.* 36(1), 187–217.

[Web of Science®](#) [Google Scholar](#)

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

[Manage Preferences](#)

[Accept All](#)

[Reject Non-Essential](#)

Harrison, J. M., and S. R. Pliska (1983): A Stochastic Calculus Model of Continuous Trading: Complete Markets, *Stochas. Processes Appl.* 15(3), 313–316.

[Google Scholar](#) 

He, X. D., and X. Y. Zhou (2008): SP/A Model in Continuous Time, Working Paper, University of Oxford .

[Google Scholar](#) 

Jacka, S. D. (1992): A Martingale Representation Result and an Application to Incomplete Financial Markets, *Math. Finance* 2(4), 239–250.

[Google Scholar](#) 

Jin, H., and X. Y. Zhou (2008): Behavioral Portfolio Selection in Continuous Time, *Math. Finance* 18, 385–426. Erratum, to appear in *Math. Finance*, 2010.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Kahneman, D., and A. Tversky (1979): Prospect Theory: An Analysis of Decision under Risk, *Econometrica* 47, 263–291.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 


Karatzas, I., and S. E. Shreve (1998): *Methods of Mathematical Finance*, Springer.

[Google Scholar](#) 

Kataoka, S., (1963): On a Stochastic Programming Model, *Econometrica* 31, 181–196.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Kramkov, D., and W. Schachermaver (1999): The Asymptotic Elasticity of Utility Functions and Optimal

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#) 

Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

Lopes, L. L. (1987): Between Hope and Fear: The Psychology of Risk, *Adv. Exp. Social Psychol.* **20**, 255–295.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Lopes, L. L., and G. C. Oden (1999): The Role of Aspiration Level in Risk Choice: A Comparison of Cumulative Prospect Theory and sp/a Theory, *J. Math. Psychol.* **43**(2), 286–313.

[CAS](#) | [PubMed](#) | [Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Machina, M. J. (1982): “Expected Utility” Analysis without the Independence Axiom, *Econometrica* **50**(2), 277–322.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Merton, R. C. (1969): Lifetime Portfolio Selection under Uncertainty: The Continuous-time Case, *Rev. Econ. Stat.* **51**(3), 247–257.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Merton, R. C. (1971): Optimum Consumption and Portfolio Rules in a Continuous-time Model, *J. Econ. Theory* **3**, 373–413.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Pliska, S. R. (1986): A Stochastic Calculus Model of Continuous Trading: Optimal Portfolios, *Math. Operat. Res.* **11**(2), 371–382.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Quiggin, J. (1982): A Theory of Anticipated Utility, *J. Econ. Behav. Organizat.* **3**, 323–343.

[Web of Science®](#) | [Google Scholar](#)

Rothschild, M., and J. E. Stiglitz (1970): Increasing Risk: I. A Definition, *J. Econ. Theory* **2**(3), 225–243.

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)

Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

Schachermayer, W., M. Sirbu, and E. Taflin (2009): In Which Financial Markets Do Mutual Fund Theorems Hold True?, *Finance Stochas.* 13(1), 49–77.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Schied, A. (2004): On the Neyman-Pearson Problem for Law-invariant Risk Measures and Robust Utility Functionals, *Ann. Appl. Probab.* 14, 1398–1423.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Schmeidler, D. (1989): Subjective Probability and Expected Utility without Additivity, *Econometrica* 57(3), 571–587.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Spivak, G., and J. Cvitanić: Maximizing the Probability of a Perfect Hedge, *Ann. Appl. Probab.* 9(4), 1303–1328.

[Google Scholar](#) 

Thaler, R. (1980): Towards a Positive Theory of Consumer Choice, *J. Econ. Behav. Organizat.* 1, 39–60.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Tversky, A., and D. Kahneman (1992): Advances in Prospect Theory: Cumulative Representation of Uncertainty, *J. Risk Uncertainty* 5, 297–323.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Yaari, M. E. (1987): The Dual Theory of Choice under Risk, *Econometrica* 55(1), 95–115.

[Web of Science®](#)  | [Google Scholar](#) 

Citing Literature



This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)



Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential

Terms of Use

About Cookies

Manage Cookies

Accessibility

Wiley Research DE&I Statement and Publishing Policies

HELP & SUPPORT

Contact Us

Training and Support

DMCA & Reporting Piracy

Sitemap

OPPORTUNITIES

Subscription Agents

Advertisers & Corporate Partners

CONNECT WITH WILEY

The Wiley Network

Wiley Press Room

Copyright © 1999-2026 John Wiley & Sons, Inc or related companies. All rights reserved, including rights for text and data mining and training of artificial intelligence technologies or similar technologies.

WILEY

This website utilizes technologies such as cookies to enable essential site functionality, as well as for analytics, personalization, and targeted advertising. You may change your settings at any time or accept the default settings. You may close this banner to continue with only essential cookies. [Privacy Policy](#)



Manage Preferences

Accept All

Reject Non-Essential