

# Terminal Constraint vs. Risk Minimalization

Stochastic discrete optimal control problems  
with terminal state constraints

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
  - Problem formulation
- 2 Terminal Constraints
  - Constraints formulation
  - Expected value constraint
  - Probabilistic constraint
  - Problem with Penalization
- 3 Numerical Results
  - Numerical scheme
  - Feasible states
  - Results and Notes

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# Optimal Fund Selection Problem

- Assume investor wants to divide capital between two funds
  - **risk-free fund** (bonds) – interest rate  $r_i$  known in advance
  - **risky fund** (stocks, indices) – return  $z_i$  is random, distribution is known, returns are independent
- Time horizon: long term, e.g.,  $k = 40$  years
- Possibility to **rebalance** every year based on current value
- **Investor's objective**: risk minimization
- Motivation: long-term investment, pension savings

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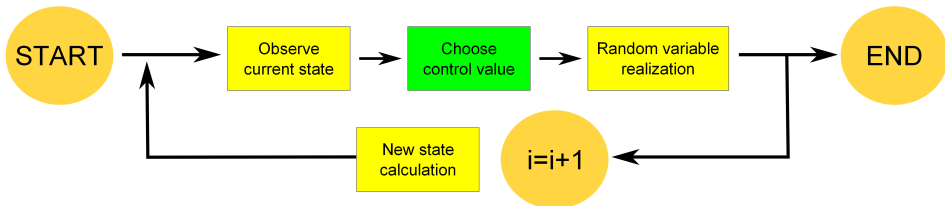


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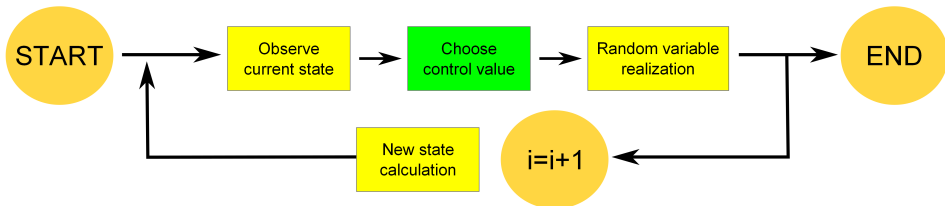
# Introduction to Stochastic Optimal Control

- We use **discrete stochastic optimal control** to solve problem
- There is **object** managed during several periods
- New state of the object follows difference equation
- We have to choose **control value** to maximize objective



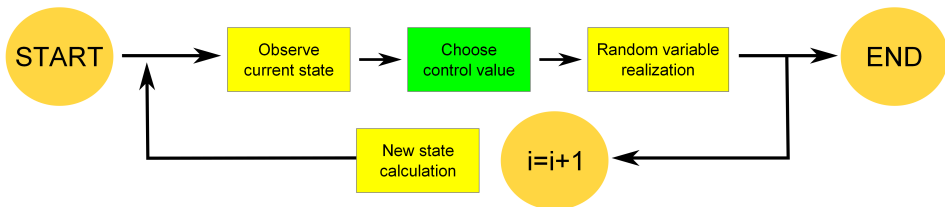
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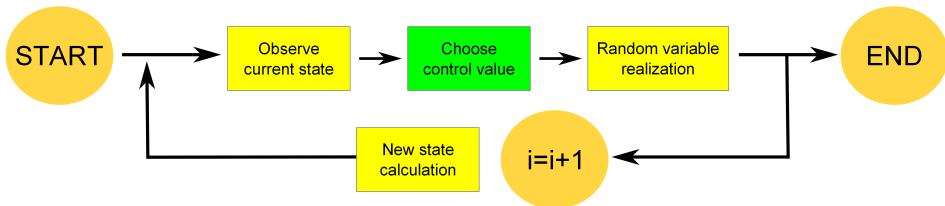
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$i$  – time period,  $i = 0, \dots, k-1$ ,

$x_i$  – capital at the beginning of year  $i$ ,  $x_0$  start capital,

$u_i$  – share in risky fund in year  $i$ ,  $u_i \in \mathbb{U}_i \equiv [0, 1]$

$r_i$  – known risk-free fund return in year  $i$ ,

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- Solution is **optimal strategy** – set of feedback functions

$$\mathcal{V} = \{v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{k-1}\}$$

- Optimal control  $u_i \equiv v_i(x_i)$  is based on current state  $x_i \in \mathbb{X}_i$ , it fulfils  $v_i(x_i) \in \mathbb{U}_i$  for all  $i, x_i$

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# Stochastic Optimal Control – Problem Formulation

- **Optimal Fund Selection Problem:** Risk minimization

$$\min E \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} c_i \text{CVaRD}_{\alpha}(x_{i+1} | x_i) \right]$$

$$x_{i+1} = x_i \left[ 1 + u_i z_i + (1 - u_i) r_i \right], \quad i = 0, \dots, k-1, \quad (1)$$

$$x_0 = a > 0,$$

$$u_i = v_i(x_i) \in \mathbb{U}_i = [0, 1], \quad i = 0, \dots, k-1,$$

$$z_i \sim \mathbb{Z}_i, \quad i = 0, \dots, k-1.$$



# Unconstrained Problem Solution

- What would be the solution of problem (1)?
- It is unconstrained problem of risk minimization  $CVaRD_\alpha$ , expected return is not considered
- Certainty is **always better** than any risk
- Simple solution:  $u_i \equiv 0$  (capital goes to risk-free fund)
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# How To Formulate Terminal Constraint

## 1 Robust Constraint $x_k \geq \mu$

- it needs to be fulfilled in **any case**, even extremal
- certainty in all cases might be very expensive or impossible
- not very suitable for stochastic program

## 2 Expected Value Constraint $E[x_k | x_{k-1}] \geq \mu$

- fulfilled in **average** case, outliers ignored
- this condition respects that  $x_k$  is random variable

## 3 Probabilistic Constraint $P[x_k \geq \mu] \geq \beta$ ,

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# Dynamic Programming Equation

- Problems with terminal constraints can be solved using **dynamic programming equation**
- Problem: some strategies  $v_i(x_i) \in \mathbb{U}_i$  are **not feasible**
- We need to define **set of feasible control values**  $W_i(x_i)$  for each time period  $i$  and each state  $x_i$
- Then we can find a solution using dynamic program:

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_j(x) &= \max_{v_j(x) \in W_j(x)} E_j \left[ f_j^0(x, v_j(x), z_j) + V_{j+1}(f_j(x, v_j(x), z_j)) \right] \\
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- Now we focus on expected value constraint in a form:

$$E[x_k | x_{k-1}] \geq \mu, \quad \text{for all } x_{k-1} \in X_{k-1}$$

- Based on *Brunovský et al. 2012*, we can derive following sets of feasible control values for  $i = 0, \dots, k-1$ :

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# Alternative formulation for Expected Value Constraint

- We derived alternative formulation for set of feasible control values
- For  $i < k - 1$ , we use relaxed condition for  $E_{z_i}$  (instead of "for all"  $z_i^s \sim \mathbb{Z}_i$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} W_i(x) &= \{u_i \in U_i \mid \mathbf{E}_{z_i} f_i(x, v_i(x), z_i) \in X_{i+1}\}, \\ W_{k-1}(x) &= \{u_{k-1} \in \mathbb{U}_{k-1} \mid \mathbf{E}_{k-1} f_{k-1}(x, u_{k-1}, z_{k-1}) \geq \mu\}, \\ X_i &= \{x \in \mathbb{X}_i \mid W_i(x) \neq \emptyset\} \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

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# Probabilistic Constraint

- First we solve special problem suggested by *Doyen 2010* – maximization the probability  $P[x_k \geq \mu]$ , using dynamic program

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{P}_k(x) &= \Phi(x), \\ \mathcal{P}_i(x) &= \max_{u_i \in \mathbb{U}_i} E_i \left[ \mathcal{P}_{i+1}(f_i(x, u_i, z_i)) \right],\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where} \quad \Phi(x_k) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x_k \geq \mu, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- This leads to feasible sets:

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# Problem with Penalization (1)

- We also discussed alternative solution – move constraint into objective function

$$\min E \left[ \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} CVaRD_{\alpha}(x_{i+1} | x_i) + \delta \cdot \Lambda(x_k) \right] \quad (5)$$

where first term is former objective function and a second one represents **penalization**, with  $\Lambda(x_k)$  as penalization function and  $\delta$  its weight.

- We used e.g. constant penalization

$$\Lambda_1(x) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } x \geq \mu \\ 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

## Problem with Penalization (2)

- Penalization is **effective way** to solve problem with terminal constraint
- Advantage: all states and all controls are considered feasible (in contrast with terminal condition)
- It this case we search for **reasonable compromise solution** to fulfill both objectives (risk minimization and terminal value maximization)
- This reflects that problem (1) is a trade-off between risk minimization and terminal value maximization, thus we consider solution as a trade-off as well

## Problem with Penalization (2)

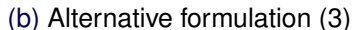
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# Numerical scheme and Parameters

- We use **discrete numerical scheme** based on dynamic programming equation
- Feasible control values are calculated before optimization
- We use following parameters:
  - Number of periods  $k = 40$  years,
  - Starting value  $x_0 = 100$ ,
  - Requested terminal value  $\mu = 300$ ,
  - Risk-free rate –  $r_f = 2\%$  annually,
  - Risk fund random return – discrete approximation of normal distribution with expected value  $\bar{z}_t = 6\%$ , variance  $\sigma = 0.1$

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Axes: horizontal – amount of capital (state  $x_i$ ), vertical – time period  $i$



# Compare Feasible States – Notes

- Each expected value formulation have its disadvantages
- **Former formulation**: too many infeasible states, e.g.  
 $x_0 = 100$  should be feasible intuitively, but in fact it is not
- **Alternative formulation**: bigger set of feasible states (good),  
but chance of getting into infeasible state during process
- In both cases, there are many states that are infeasible:  
if we reach such point, we need to reconsider terminal  
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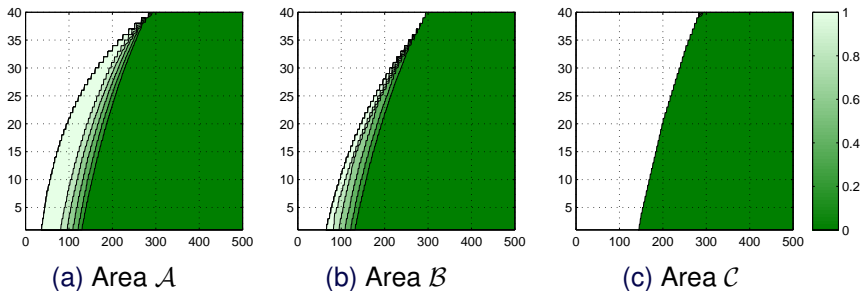
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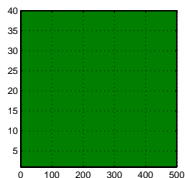
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$\mathcal{A}$  – expected value alternative formulation (3),

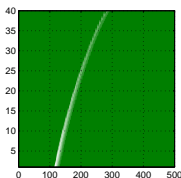
$\mathcal{B}$  – min. probability area with  $\beta = 90\%$ ,

 $\mathcal{C}$  – expected value former formulation (2)

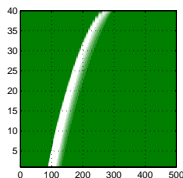
# Results with Penalization



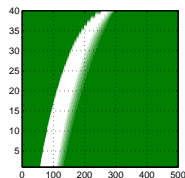
(a)  $\delta = 0$



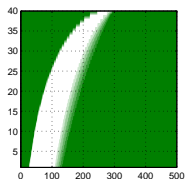
(b)  $\delta = 100$



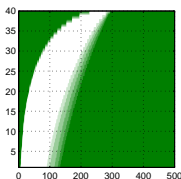
(c)  $\delta = 250$



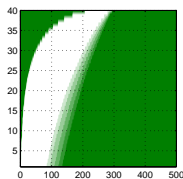
(d)  $\delta = 500$



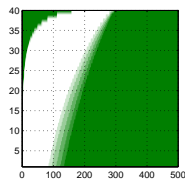
(e)  $\delta = 1\,000$



(f)  $\delta = 10\,000$



(g)  $\delta = 10^6$



(h)  $\delta = 10^{20}$

Figure: Risk minimization with penalization – different weight  $\delta$

# Numerical Results – Notes

## ● Results with Terminal Constraint

- Solution more or less the same, only area shape is different, like cropped
- It is possible to fall down from feasible area
- Outside feasible area, we don't know what control value shall be used

## ● Results with Penalization

- Changing weight  $\delta$  changes the solution
- One can choose proper weight that represents his preference regarding terminal condition

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# Summary

- We discussed two main questions:
  - ① **How to formulate terminal constraints** in stochastic discrete optimal control problems
  - ② **How to solve such problems** using dynamic programming equation
- We showed **some disadvantages** of particular constraints:
  - Possibility to reach infeasible state
  - Problem of infeasible starting point
- We also presented effective alternative way of solution using **penalization term** in objective function

**Thank you for your attention! :)**

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