

1. First of all, let us short notation in terms of $r_L := r_{low}$ and $r_H := r_{high}$. In order to check concavity of the objective function, consider its SOC:

$$-\gamma p (w_0(1+r^f + \alpha(r_L - r^f)))^{-(1+\gamma)} (r_L - r^f)^2 + -\gamma(1-p) (w_0(1+r^f + \alpha(r_H - r^f)))^{-(1+\gamma)} (r_H - r^f)^2$$

Obviously its sign is ambiguous. Therefore, even though the (two) inequality constraints are (weakly) concave and no equality constraints arise, the first "convexity-condition" is not satisfied generally. That is, KTK-conditions are just necessary (as usual) but not sufficient for an optimum.

2. a)

FOC:

$$p (w_0(1+r^f + \alpha(r_L - r^f)))^{-\gamma} (r_L - r^f) + (1-p) (w_0(1+r^f + \alpha(r_H - r^f)))^{-\gamma} (r_H - r^f) = 0 \quad (1)$$

Assume the opposite, i.e., that the optimal portfolio share α^* (the value of α for which the equation above holds) depends on initial wealth w_0 . Denote this maximizer contingent on w_0 by $\alpha(w_0)$. As the optimal portfolio share responds on w_0 , the first order derivative of the LHS of (1) (setting $\alpha = \alpha(w_0)$) with respect to wealth should be equal zero. Namely, the total differentiation of the FOC w.r.t. α and w_0 :

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\mathbb{E}u(w_1)}{d\alpha dw_0} = & -\gamma w_0^{-(1+\gamma)} p (1+r^f + \alpha(r_L - r^f))^{-\gamma} (r_L - r^f) + w_0^{-\gamma} p \alpha'(w_0) (r_L - r^f)^2 \\ & -\gamma w_0^{-(1+\gamma)} (1-p) (1+r^f + \alpha(r_H - r^f))^{-\gamma} (r_H - r^f) + w_0^{-\gamma} p \alpha'(w_0) (r_H - r^f)^2 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, this equality can be rearranged as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} & w_0^{-\gamma} p \alpha'(w_0) (r_L - r^f)^2 + w_0^{-\gamma} p \alpha'(w_0) (r_H - r^f)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{\gamma} w_0^{-(1+\gamma)} p (1+r^f + \alpha(r_L - r^f))^{-\gamma} (r_L - r^f) + \frac{1}{\gamma} w_0^{-(1+\gamma)} (1-p) (1+r^f + \alpha(r_H - r^f))^{-\gamma} (r_H - r^f) \end{aligned}$$

and now, the RHS of this equality corresponds to the FOC multiplied by γw_0^{-1} which has to be still equal zero. Thus, dividing the equality by the LHS (except $\alpha'(w_0)$) yields

$$\alpha'(w_0) = \frac{0}{w_0^{-\gamma} p (r_L - r^f)^2 + w_0^{-\gamma} p (r_H - r^f)^2} = 0$$

which contradicts that the optimal portfolio share depends on w_0 .

Alternatively, notice that the initial objective (which we aim to maximize) can be divided by w_0^ϕ and thus, wealth cancels out. Clearly, the optimal portfolio shares for the old resp. the new problem, will coincide.

b) The associated FOC becomes:

$$p(1+r^f + \alpha(r_L - r^f))^{\phi-1} (r_L - r^f) + (1-p)(1+r^f + \alpha(r_H - r^f))^{\phi-1} (r_H - r^f) = 0 \quad (2)$$

using $(r_L - r^f) = -(r_H - r^f) = -0.1$ and rearranging we obtain

$$p^{\frac{1}{\phi-1}} (1+r^f + \alpha(-0.1)) = (1-p)^{\frac{1}{\phi-1}} (1+r^f + \alpha 0.1) \quad (3)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \alpha = 10(1+r^f) \frac{p^{\frac{1}{\phi-1}} - (1-p)^{\frac{1}{\phi-1}}}{p^{\frac{1}{\phi-1}} + (1-p)^{\frac{1}{\phi-1}}} = 2.73308... \quad (4)$$

evaluated at $p = 0.1$, $r^f = 0.02$ and $\phi = -3$.

3. a) Intuitively , $\alpha \geq 0$ prevents the case where the household supplies the portfolio and $\alpha \leq 1$ rules out that the household borrows money in order to invest more in the portfolio.