

The risk sensitive control policy is

$$\min_{\mu_{0:T-1}} \mathcal{L}_\theta, \theta \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\text{where } \mathcal{L}_\theta = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\theta} \log(\mathbb{E}(\exp(\theta C_{0:T}))) & \text{if } \theta \neq 0 \\ \mathbb{E}(C_{0:T}) & \text{if } \theta = 0 \end{cases}$$

Assume  $\theta \neq 0$  then  $\mathcal{L}_\theta = \frac{1}{\theta} \log(\mathbb{E}(\exp(\theta C_{0:T})))$ . The Maclaurin series in  $\theta$  of  $\exp(a\theta)$  is

$$\exp(a\theta) = 1 + a\theta + \frac{a^2\theta^2}{2} + \dots$$

The Maclaurin series in  $x$  of  $\log(1+x)$  is

$$\log(1+x) = x - \frac{1}{2}x^2 + \frac{1}{3}x^3 - \dots$$

Substituting the Maclaurin series for  $\exp(a\theta)$  into  $\mathcal{L}_\theta$  gives

$$\mathcal{L}_\theta = \frac{1}{\theta} \log\left(\mathbb{E}\left(1 + \theta C_{0:T} + \frac{(\theta C_{0:T})^2}{2} + \dots\right)\right)$$

Using linearity of expectation,

$$\mathcal{L}_\theta = \frac{1}{\theta} \log\left(1 + (\theta \mathbb{E}C_{0:T} + \frac{\theta^2}{2} \mathbb{E}(C_{0:T})^2 + \dots)\right)$$

Defining  $x = (\theta \mathbb{E}C_{0:T} + \frac{\theta^2}{2} \mathbb{E}(C_{0:T})^2 + \dots)$ , the Maclaurin series for  $\log(1+x)$  can be used

$$\mathcal{L}_\theta = \frac{1}{\theta} \left( (\theta \mathbb{E}C_{0:T} + \frac{\theta^2}{2} \mathbb{E}(C_{0:T})^2 + \dots) - \frac{1}{2} (\theta \mathbb{E}C_{0:T})^2 + \text{H.O.T} + \text{H.O.T} + \text{H.O.T} \right)$$

Therefore, using the first two leading terms  $\mathcal{L}_\theta$  can be approximated by

$$\mathcal{L}_\theta \approx \mathbb{E}C_{0:T} + \frac{1}{2} (\mathbb{E}(C_{0:T}^2) - (\mathbb{E}C_{0:T})^2) \theta$$

Noticing that  $\text{Var}(C_{0:T}) = \mathbb{E}(C_{0:T}^2) - (\mathbb{E}C_{0:T})^2$

$$\mathcal{L}_\theta \approx \mathbb{E}C_{0:T} + \frac{1}{2} \text{Var}(C_{0:T}) \theta$$

It is now obvious that

$$\begin{cases} \theta > 0 & \text{means that } \text{Var}(C_{0:T}) \text{ is penalized (risk averse)} \\ \theta < 0 & \text{means that } \text{Var}(C_{0:T}) \text{ is rewarded (risk seeking)} \end{cases}$$

In solving this I referenced <https://laurentlessard.com/teaching/me7247/lectures/lecture>