Chapter 1
Portfolio Optimization and Asset Allocation
With Metaheuristics: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Portfolio optimization stands to be an issue of finding an optimal allocation of wealth to place within the obtainable assets. Markowitz stated the problem to be structured as dual-objective mean-risk optimization, pointing the best trade-off solutions within a portfolio between risks which is measured by variance and mean. Thus the major intention was nothing else than hunting for optimum distribution of wealth over a specific amount of assets by diminishing risk and maximizing returns of a portfolio. Value-at-risk, expected shortfall, and semi-variance measures prove to be complex for measuring risk, for maximization of skewness, liquidity, dividends by added objective functions, cardinality constraints, quantity constraints, minimum transaction lots, class constraints in real-world constraints all of which are incorporated in modern portfolio selection models, furnish numerous optimization challenges. The emerging portfolio optimization issue turns out to be extremely tough to be handled with exact approaches because it exhibits nonlinearities, discontinuities

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INTRODUCTION

Portfolio optimization or asset allocation is found to be of immense importance within classical investigation issues within financial philosophy along with operations research. Managing funds and their optimum allocation by selecting an optimal portfolio is an all-time problem been faced by the financial organizations like Banks, insurance companies, and fund management organizations. Markowitz (1952) is the pioneer in this research domain propounding the mean-variance portfolio model established over quadratic optimization issue based on linear restraints. Numerous theoretical progresses been tried for developing Markowitz model and resolving it, alluding to mathematical modeling techniques. Researches done by Nishimura (1990), Figueroa-Lopez (2005) and Bolshakova et al., (2009) furnish elaborate information on these advances. The model still experienced efficiency in its applicability to real life scenarios. Actually, the progress been done to this model with the usage of transaction costs, complex constraints and by the usage of alternative objective function creates more complexities to the model thereby making it much more computationally improbable. Thus by the usage of numerous classical optimization techniques for solving similar pattern of issues some mathematical conditions can be executed. If any objective function and restraints are indicated by a linear function of conclusion variables then, linear programming proves to be feasible in that case. Further, applicability of non-linear programming can be done in the case of nonlinear objective function and constraints. To a matter of regret these classical methods become outmoded in any situation experienced which usually involve single or additional complications. Viz. the objective function can become non-homogeneous, or is impossible to be expressed analytically in terms of the specifications, or else the issues may desire further cogitation of dual or numerous conflicting purposes which in turn is defined as multi-objective optimization procedure.

The evolution of an advanced category of optimization techniques, named as Metaheuristics, imprint a tremendous revolution in the terrain of optimization. The approaches are pertinent in every category of combinatorial issues, and even proving
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