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## ASYMPTOTIC ANALYSIS OF LONG-TERM INVESTMENT WITH TWO ILLIQUID AND CORRELATED ASSETS

XINFU CHEN\* MIN DAI<sup>◊</sup> WEI JIANG<sup>†</sup> CONG QIN<sup>‡</sup>

**ABSTRACT.** We consider a long-term portfolio choice problem with two illiquid and correlated assets, which is associated with an eigenvalue problem in the form of a variational inequality. The eigenvalue and the free boundaries implied by the variational inequality correspond to the portfolio's optimal long-term growth rate and the optimal trading strategy, respectively. After proving the existence and uniqueness of viscosity solutions for the eigenvalue problem, we perform an asymptotic expansion in terms of small correlations and obtain semi-analytical approximations of the free boundaries and the optimal growth rate. Our leading order expansion implies that the free boundaries are orthogonal to each other at four corners and have  $C^1$  regularity. We propose an efficient numerical algorithm based on the expansion, which proves to be accurate even for large correlations and transaction costs. Moreover, following the approximate trading strategy, the resulting growth rate is very close to the optimal one.

*Keywords:* Transaction costs, Asymptotic expansion, Multiple assets, Correlation

*AMS Classification:* 91G10, 93E20, 41A60

### 1. Introduction

Merton (1969, 1971) pioneers in continuous time portfolio selection problems. Magill and Constantinides (1976) introduce transaction costs to Merton's model and show that a no-transaction region exists. In this paper, we consider a long-term investment problem for a constant absolute risk aversion (CARA) investor who faces proportional transaction costs and has access to two *correlated* risky assets as well as a riskfree asset. If the risky assets are uncorrelated, Liu (2004) shows that the problem can be reduced, by virtue of the separability of the CARA utility function, to the single risky asset case, which leads to the separability of the optimal investment strategy, i.e., keeping the dollar amount invested in each risky asset between two constant levels. Graphically, the no-transaction region is a rectangle in the two risky assets plane for the uncorrelated case; see the blue dashed lines in Figure 1. However, the separability loses effect when risky assets are correlated. We aim to employ asymptotic analysis to investigate how the correlation of two risky assets affects the optimal trading strategy and the portfolio's long-term growth rate.

In the presence of proportional transaction costs, the long-term investment problem is associated with an eigenvalue problem in the form of a variational inequality with gradient

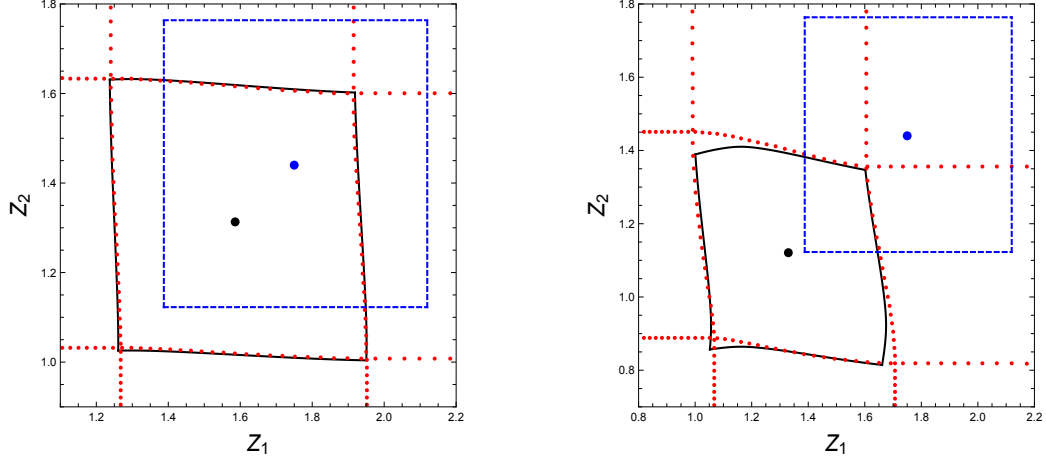
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\*Department of Mathematics, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics.

<sup>◊</sup>Department of Applied Mathematics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University ([mindai@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:mindai@polyu.edu.hk)). Dai acknowledges support from the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) [Grant No. 12071333], the Hong Kong Polytechnic University [Grant Nos P0039114 and P0042456], and the Singapore Ministry of Education [Grant Nos R-146-000-243/306/311-114 and R-703-000-032-112].

<sup>†</sup>Department of Industrial Engineering and Decision Analytics, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology ([weijiang@ust.hk](mailto:weijiang@ust.hk)). Jiang acknowledges support from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology [Grant No. R9219] and the Hong Kong Research Grants Council [Grant No. 26211120].

<sup>‡</sup>Center for Financial Engineering, Soochow University ([congqin@suda.edu.cn](mailto:congqin@suda.edu.cn)). Qin acknowledges support from NSFC 11901416, NSF of Jiangsu BK20190812, and NSF for Universities in Jiangsu Province 19KJD100005.



**Figure 1. No-Transaction Regions with Different Correlations (Left:  $\rho = 0.1$ , Right:  $\rho = 0.3$ ).** In each plot, the thick black (resp. blue) dot is the Merton's strategy in the absence of transaction costs but with a non-zero (resp. zero) correlation; The blue dashed rectangle is the uncorrelated case (i.e.,  $\rho = 0$ ) but with transaction costs; The red dotted lines are numerical solution in the presence of both correlation and transaction costs; The black solid lines are the asymptotic expansion solution in the presence of both correlation and transaction costs. Other parameters are summarized in Table 2.

constraints, where the eigenvalue represents the long-term excess growth rate (i.e., the long-term growth rate minus the riskfree rate), and the free boundaries implied by the variational inequality correspond to the optimal trading strategy. Due to the lack of analytical solutions, we provide theoretical proof for the existence and uniqueness of viscosity solutions to the variational inequality and study the resulting free boundaries using asymptotic analysis.<sup>1</sup> To characterize the optimal trading strategy, one needs to locate the free boundaries. Despite numerical methods (e.g., the finite difference method) can be used, a large amount of computation is required to accurately identify the free boundaries as they are associated with the gradient of the corresponding value function. Besides, when transaction costs are tiny, one needs to develop special numerical methods to obtain stable solutions. For example, using asymptotic analysis, [Possamai et al. \(2015\)](#) rescale their portfolio optimization problem with small transaction costs and numerically solve the limiting equation obtained. In contrast, our asymptotic expansion relies on a limiting equation that permits a semi-analytical solution, efficiently approximating the optimal trading strategy. The asymptotic expansion also allows us to quickly obtain a reference of the long-term excess growth rate. Numerical experiments reveal that following the approximate trading strategy, the resulting growth rate is very close to the optimal one. Moreover, our asymptotic analysis may be extended to more advanced models, such as stochastic volatility and stochastic return models, for which a joint expansion in correlations and transaction costs is needed due to the absence of analytical solutions even with a single risky asset. An extension to more than two risky assets is possible, but one needs to select appropriate small parameters for expansions since a correlation matrix is involved. Furthermore, our expansion provides theoretical support for some interesting numerical observations. For example, our leading order expansion suggests that even in the correlated case, the free boundaries are *orthogonal* to each other at four corners, consistent with our numerical results (see Figure 1). This orthogonality

<sup>1</sup> It remains open to prove the regularity of the free boundaries, which is indispensable to construct an optimal strategy through a Skorokhod problem (see, e.g., the proof of Proposition 5.2 in [Dai et al. \(2010\)](#)).

implies that the optimal trading boundaries should have  $C^1$  regularity, which sheds light on the future study on the regularity of the trading boundaries.

**Related Literature.** This paper adds to a large body of literature on portfolio selection with transaction costs. Since the seminal work of [Magill and Constantinides \(1976\)](#), Merton’s model with transaction costs has been extensively studied along different lines, e.g., theoretical characterization of the no-transaction region ([Davis and Norman \(1990\)](#), [Shreve and Soner \(1994\)](#), [Liu and Loewenstein \(2002\)](#), [Dai and Yi \(2009\)](#), [Dai et al. \(2009\)](#), [Chen and Dai \(2013\)](#)), the effect of transaction costs on liquidity premium ([Constantinides \(1986\)](#), [Jang et al. \(2007\)](#)), utility indifference pricing ([Davis et al. \(1993\)](#), [Constantinides and Zariphopoulou \(2001\)](#)), martingale approach ([Cvitanic and Karatzas \(1996\)](#)), shadow prices ([Kallsen and Muhle-Karbe \(2010\)](#)), numerical solutions ([Genotte and Jung \(1994\)](#), [Muthuraman \(2006\)](#), [Muthuraman and Kumar \(2006\)](#), [Dai and Zhong \(2010\)](#)), risk-sensitive asset management ([Bielecki and Pliska \(2000\)](#), [Bielecki et al. \(2004\)](#)), and asymptotic analysis.

This paper is closely related to the extensive literature on asymptotic analysis with small transaction costs that has gained a lot of attention since the early important contributions by [Shreve and Soner \(1994\)](#), [Atkinson and Wilmott \(1995\)](#), [Whalley and Wilmott \(1997\)](#), and [Janeček and Shreve \(2004\)](#). Recently, in a general market setting, [Kallsen and Muhle-Karbe \(2017\)](#) formally derive leading-order optimal trading policies. [Melnyk et al. \(2020\)](#) show that the leading order for small transaction costs is the same for agents with additive utilities and agents with recursive utilities. For a general utility, [Soner and Touzi \(2013\)](#), [Possamaï et al. \(2015\)](#), and [Altarovici et al. \(2015\)](#) apply homogenization and the viscosity solution technique to get rigorous expansions in multi-asset case with either proportional transaction costs or fixed transaction costs; see the recent survey in [Muhle-Karbe et al. \(2017\)](#) and the references therein. [Melnyk and Seifried \(2018\)](#) consider a long-term investment problem in an incomplete market for both proportional transaction costs and Morton-Pliska costs. In contrast to this strand of literature, we conduct asymptotic analysis with small correlations instead of small transaction costs.

There is very little literature on asymptotic analysis with small correlations. To the best of our knowledge, [Atkinson and Ingpochai \(2006\)](#) may be the only one in which a perturbation method is used to examine a multiple-asset portfolio optimization problem with small correlations and small proportional transaction costs. The differences between theirs and our paper lie in two aspects: (a) They consider a life-time investment and consumption problem for a constant relative risk aversion (CRRA) investor. In contrast, we consider a long-term investment for a CARA investor and need to solve an eigenvalue problem as a result. (b) Their expansion relies on small correlations and small transaction costs, while our expansion relies on small correlations only. Thus, our expansion works even with large transaction costs; see Figure 3.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we set up our model as an ergodic control problem and provide a heuristic derivation of its associated HJB equation as an eigenvalue problem. Section 3 presents our main theoretical results, including the existence and uniqueness of viscosity solutions to the eigenvalue problem and an asymptotic expansion with small correlations. In Section 4, we conduct an extensive numerical analysis to demonstrate our expansion and investigate the impact of correlation and transaction costs on the optimal trading strategy. The proofs of Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 are presented in Section 5 and Section 6, respectively. Some basic properties in the one risky-asset case and a joint expansion in small correlations and transaction costs are relegated to Appendix.

## 2. Problem Formulation

### 2.1. Model Setup

We consider a financial market consisting of a risk-free asset with a constant interest rate  $r \geq 0$  and two *correlated* risky assets. The price dynamics of the  $i$ -th risky asset ( $i = 1, 2$ ) is assumed to follow a geometric Brownian motion, i.e.,

$$dP_t^i/P_t^i = \alpha_i dt + \sigma_i dW_t^i,$$

where  $\alpha_i \in \mathbb{R}$  and  $\sigma_i > 0$  are the constant expected return rate and volatility of the  $i$ -th risky asset, respectively, and  $W^1$  and  $W^2$  are two standard Brownian motions with a constant correlation coefficient  $\rho \in (-1, 1)$ . We further assume that trading in the risk-free asset incurs no transaction costs, while there are proportional transaction costs for trading the risky assets. To be more precise, let  $L_t^i$  and  $M_t^i$  be respectively the cumulative purchase and sales (in dollars) of the  $i$ -th risky asset. Then, during a time period  $[t, t + dt)$ , a transfer of money from the bank account to the  $i$ -th risky asset incurs purchasing costs  $\lambda_i dL_t^i$ . Similarly, there are selling costs  $\mu_i dM_t^i$  during the time period  $[t, t + dt)$ . Here  $\lambda_i \geq 0$  and  $\mu_i \in [0, 1)$  are the constant proportions of transaction costs for purchasing and selling the  $i$ -th risky asset, respectively. Therefore, given an initial allocation  $(x, y) = (x, y_1, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}^3$  in risk-free and risky assets and a trading strategy  $(L, M) = (\{L^1, L^2\}, \{M^1, M^2\})$ , the dollar amounts in the risk-free asset and the two risky assets, denoted by  $X_t$ ,  $Y_t^1$ , and  $Y_t^2$ , respectively, evolve according to

$$\begin{cases} dX_t = rX_t dt - \sum_{i=1}^2 (1 + \lambda_i) dL_t^i + \sum_{i=1}^2 (1 - \mu_i) dM_t^i, & X_{0-} = x, \\ dY_t^i = Y_t^i (\alpha_i dt + \sigma_i dW_t^i) + dL_t^i - dM_t^i, & Y_{0-}^i = y_i \text{ for } i = 1, 2. \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

Following [Guasoni and Muhle-Karbe \(2015\)](#), we consider a CARA utility investor (i.e.,  $-e^{-\nu z}$  for  $z \in \mathbb{R}$  with the absolute risk aversion  $\nu > 0$ ), who maximizes the long-term certainty equivalent annuity<sup>2</sup>

$$\sup_{(L, M) \in \mathcal{C}(x, y)} \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} -\frac{1}{T} \ln \mathbb{E}^{x, y} \left[ \exp \left( -\nu \left\{ X_T + \ell(Y_T) - (x + y \cdot \mathbf{1}) e^{rT} \right\} \right) \right] \quad (2.2)$$

subject to (2.1), where  $\mathbf{1} = (1, 1)$ ,  $\ell(y)$  is the liquidated wealth, namely,

$$\ell(y) = \sum_{i=1}^2 \ell_i(y_i), \quad \ell_i(y_i) = \begin{cases} (1 - \mu_i) y_i & \text{if } y_i \geq 0, \\ (1 + \lambda_i) y_i & \text{if } y_i < 0, \end{cases} \quad (2.3)$$

and  $\mathcal{C}(x, y)$  is the set of all admissible controls such that the above system of stochastic differential equations (2.1) has a unique strong solution with the initial state  $(X_{0-}, Y_{0-}) = (x, y)$  and that  $\mathbb{E} \int_0^T |Y_t e^{-r\nu(X_t + Y_t)}|^2 dt < \infty$  for all  $T > 0$  to rule out doubling strategies. This is an ergodic control problem.

Unless otherwise claimed, we always consider the transaction cost case, i.e.,  $\mu^i + \lambda^i > 0$ , and assume  $\alpha_i > r$ .<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The formulation is similar to that given in Definition 2.2 of [Guasoni and Muhle-Karbe \(2015\)](#). As noted in [Guasoni and Muhle-Karbe \(2015\)](#), for  $r > 0$ , the risky investment part grows linearly with the horizon  $T$ , while the risk-free part grows exponentially at the risk-free rate. Hence, the long-term certainty equivalent annuity defined in (2.2) can be interpreted as the linear growth part contributed by the risky investment; see the subsequent discussion for the special case without transaction costs, i.e., the classic [Merton \(1969\)](#) problem.

<sup>3</sup> When  $\alpha_i = r$ , the investor will never invest in risky asset  $i$ .

## 2.2. The HJB Equation Associated with the Ergodic Control Problem

The ergodic control problem (2.2) is associated with the following HJB equation:

$$\min \{ \theta - \mathcal{A}[u], \mathcal{B}[u], \mathcal{S}[u] \} = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2, \quad (2.4)$$

where the differential operators  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$ , and  $\mathcal{S}$  are defined, respectively, as

$$\mathcal{A}[u] = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j [u_{z_i z_j} - u_{z_i} u_{z_j}] + \sum_{i=1}^2 (\alpha_i - r) z_i u_{z_i}, \quad (2.5)$$

$$\mathcal{B}[u] = \min \{ 1 + \lambda_1 - u_{z_1}, 1 + \lambda_2 - u_{z_2} \}, \quad (2.6)$$

$$\mathcal{S}[u] = \min \{ -1 + \mu_1 + u_{z_1}, -1 + \mu_2 + u_{z_2} \}, \quad (2.7)$$

and

$$\Sigma = (\sigma_{ij})_{2 \times 2} = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 & \rho \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \\ \rho \sigma_1 \sigma_2 & \sigma_2^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.8)$$

Let us heuristically derive (2.4). Following [Chen and Dai \(2013\)](#) and [Guasoni and Muhle-Karbe \(2015\)](#), we begin with the following finite horizon problem

$$V(x, y, t; T) = \sup_{(L, M) \in \mathcal{C}_t(x, y)} \mathbb{E}_t^{x, y} \left[ -\exp \left( -\nu [X_T + \ell(Y_T)] \right) \right] \quad (2.9)$$

subject to dynamics (2.1) with the initial value that  $(X_{t-}, Y_{t-}) = (x, y) \in \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^2$ . Here  $\mathcal{C}_t(x, y)$  denotes all admissible strategies starting from the position  $(x, y)$  at time  $t$ , and  $\mathbb{E}_t^{x, y}$  is an expectation operator conditional on  $(X_{t-}, Y_{t-}) = (x, y)$ .

By dynamic programming principle,  $V$  solves the following HJB equation

$$\min_{i \in \{1, 2\}} \min \{ -V_t - \mathcal{L}V, (1 + \lambda_i)V_x - V_{y_i}, -(1 - \mu_i)V_x + V_{y_i} \} = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, T] \quad (2.10)$$

with the terminal condition  $V(x, y, T) = -e^{-\nu(x + \ell(y))}$ , where the linear operator  $\mathcal{L}$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{L}V = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \sigma_{ij} y_i y_j V_{y_i y_j} + \sum_i \alpha_i y_i V_{y_i} + r x V_x.$$

Motivated by [Merton \(1969\)](#), we introduce the following transformation

$$V(x, y, t; T) = -e^{-\nu e^{r(T-t)} x - \theta(T-t) - u(z, t; T)}, \quad (2.11)$$

where  $z = \nu e^{r(T-t)} y$  is the wealth invested in the risky assets adjusted by both risk-free rate and risk aversion, and  $\theta$  is chosen such that  $\lim_{T-t \rightarrow \infty} u_t(z, t; T) = 0$ . By a straightforward calculation and sending  $T - t$  to infinity, we then obtain (2.4).

Problem (2.4) is an eigenvalue problem with the variational inequality form, where  $\theta$  is the eigenvalue, and  $u$  is the eigenfunction that characterizes the optimal policy. To establish a rigorous linkage between the eigenvalue problem (2.4) and the ergodic control problem (2.2), one needs to prove either a verification theorem or a dynamic programming principle. [Guasoni and Muhle-Karbe \(2015\)](#) prove the verification theorem for the single risky asset case (or the case of multiple uncorrelated risky assets) for which an analytical solution is available. For the correlated risky assets case, due to the absence of an analytical solution, the proof of the verification theorem requires a certain regularity of the solution to (2.4), which we leave for future study.

Let us give a financial interpretation of  $\theta$ . In the absence of transaction costs, problem (2.9) has the following explicit solution, whose value function is denoted by  $\bar{V}$ :

$$\bar{V}(x, y, t; T) = -\exp\left(-\nu(x + y \cdot \mathbf{1})e^{r(T-t)} - \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \mathbf{r})^{tr}\Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r})(T-t)\right),$$

and the corresponding optimal allocation in risky assets is given by

$$\frac{\Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r})}{\nu e^{r(T-t)}},$$

where  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \alpha_2)^{tr}$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = (r, r)^{tr}$ ,  $\Sigma$  is as given by (2.8), and  $M^{tr}$  stands for the transpose of a matrix  $M$ . By removing the exponential growth term  $\nu(x + y \cdot \mathbf{1})e^{r(T-t)}$ , the long-term certainty equivalent annuity contributed by risky investment is given by

$$\bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \mathbf{r})^{tr}\Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r}). \quad (2.12)$$

We call

$$\bar{\pi} = \Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r}) \quad (2.13)$$

the Merton's strategy (deflated by risk aversion and interest rate) for the long-term problem (2.2). Interestingly, one can easily check<sup>4</sup> that  $\bar{\theta}$  is nothing but the portfolio's long-term excess growth rate (i.e., the long-term growth rate nets of interest rate)<sup>5</sup>, i.e.,

$$\bar{\theta} = \sup_{\pi} \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T} \mathbb{E}[\ln(X_T + Y_T)] - r.$$

Hence, we may also interpret  $\theta$  in (2.4) as the long-term excess growth rate in the presence of proportional transaction costs.

### 3. Main Results

First, we prove the existence and uniqueness of viscosity solutions to the eigenvalue problem (2.4) and characterize the resulting optimal trading strategy.

**Theorem 1.** *Let  $\ell(\cdot)$  and  $\bar{\theta}$  be defined in (2.3) and (2.12), respectively. Then the followings hold:*

- (i) *Problem (2.4) has a unique viscosity solution  $(\theta, u)$  with the growth condition  $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} u(z)/\ell(z) = 1$ . Moreover,  $0 \leq \theta \leq \bar{\theta}$ ,  $u$  is concave, and  $z_i u_{z_i} \in C(\mathbb{R})$ .*
- (ii) *Define the no-trading region  $\mathbf{N}_i$ , buy region  $\mathbf{B}_i$ , and sell region  $\mathbf{S}_i$  for risky asset  $i$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{N}_i &= \{(z_1, z_2) \mid 1 - \mu_i < u_{z_i} < 1 + \lambda_i\}, \\ \mathbf{B}_i &= \{(z_1, z_2) \mid u_{z_i} = 1 + \lambda_i\}, \quad \mathbf{S}_i = \{(z_1, z_2) \mid u_{z_i} = 1 - \mu_i\}, \end{aligned}$$

and denote

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{BB} &= \mathbf{B}_1 \cap \mathbf{B}_2, \quad \mathbf{BN} = \mathbf{B}_1 \cap \mathbf{N}_2, \quad \mathbf{BS} = \mathbf{B}_1 \cap \mathbf{S}_2, \\ \mathbf{NB} &= \mathbf{N}_1 \cap \mathbf{B}_2, \quad \mathbf{NN} = \mathbf{N}_1 \cap \mathbf{N}_2, \quad \mathbf{NS} = \mathbf{N}_1 \cap \mathbf{S}_2, \\ \mathbf{SB} &= \mathbf{S}_1 \cap \mathbf{B}_2, \quad \mathbf{SN} = \mathbf{S}_1 \cap \mathbf{N}_2, \quad \mathbf{SS} = \mathbf{S}_1 \cap \mathbf{S}_2. \end{aligned}$$

<sup>4</sup> See, e.g., Melnyk and Seifried (2018).

<sup>5</sup> It is worth pointing out that this coincidence between  $\bar{\theta}$  and the long-term excess growth rate holds for the exponential utility and usually fails for a general utility function. In addition, the formulation of long-term growth rate implies a no-bankruptcy assumption that  $X_T + Y_T > 0$ , which is not required in (2.2).

Then there are bounded functions  $l_i^\pm : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  and intervals  $[b_i^\pm, s_i^\pm]$  satisfying

$$\begin{aligned} (b_1^+, l_2^+(b_1^+)) &= (l_1^-(s_2^-), s_2^-), & (l_1^+(s_2^+), s_2^+) &= (s_1^+, l_2^+(s_1^+)), \\ (l_1^-(b_2^-), b_2^-) &= (b_1^-, l_2^-(b_1^-)), & (s_1^-, l_2(s_1^-)) &= (l_1^+(b_2^+), b_2^+), \end{aligned}$$

such that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{SS} &= [s_1^+, \infty) \times [s_2^+, \infty), & \mathbf{SN} &= \{(z_1, z_2) \mid z_2 \in (b_2^+, s_2^+), z_1 \geq l_1^+(z_2)\}, \\ \mathbf{SB} &= [s_1^-, \infty) \times (-\infty, b_2^+], & \mathbf{NB} &= \{(z_1, z_2) \mid z_1 \in (b_1^-, s_1^-), z_2 \leq l_2^-(z_1)\}, \\ \mathbf{BB} &= (-\infty, b_1^-] \times (-\infty, b_2^-], & \mathbf{BN} &= \{(z_1, z_2) \mid z_2 \in (b_2^-, s_2^-), z_1 \leq l_1^-(z_2)\}, \\ \mathbf{BS} &= (-\infty, b_1^+] \times [s_2^-, \infty), & \mathbf{NS} &= \{(z_1, z_2) \mid z_1 \in (b_1^+, s_1^+), z_2 \geq l_2^+(z_1)\}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.1)$$

and

$$\mathbf{NN} = \{(z_1, z_2) \mid l_1^-(z_2) < z_1 < l_1^+(z_2), l_2^-(z_1) < z_2 < l_2^+(z_1)\}. \quad (3.2)$$

Moreover, the boundary of each corner region  $\mathbf{SS}$ ,  $\mathbf{SB}$ ,  $\mathbf{BS}$ , and  $\mathbf{BB}$  consists of one vertical and one horizontal half-line, whereas the boundary of each of  $\mathbf{SN}$ ,  $\mathbf{NS}$ ,  $\mathbf{BN}$ , and  $\mathbf{NB}$  consists of two parallel either vertical or horizontal half-lines and a curve in between connecting the endpoints of the two half-lines.

The proof of Theorem 1 is deferred to Section 5. The uniqueness follows from a comparison principle (i.e., Lemma 5.1), whose proof is inspired by Hynd (2012) and Possamaï et al. (2015), and one of the key steps is to introduce a suitable transformation such that the gradient constraint in (2.4) is transferred to a new one restricted in a closed and convex set including the origin. Regarding the existence, we consider an auxiliary problem (5.11), as is commonly used in ergodic control (see, e.g., Borkar (2006)). It is worth pointing out that to prove the existence, the existing literature (e.g., Hynd (2012); Possamaï et al. (2015)) typically adopts the standard Perron's argument by explicitly constructing appropriate sub and super solutions of problem (5.11). In contrast, we use the method introduced in Chen and Dai (2013) by first considering a related investment and consumption problem with a finite horizon and then sending the horizon to infinity. An advantage of this method is that many nice properties such as the concavity of the value function for the finite horizon problem are retained for the infinite horizon problem. Using the concavity and the growth condition, we can directly apply the argument in Chen and Dai (2013) to characterize the trading and no-transaction regions.

**Remark 3.1.** Note that if  $(\theta, u)$  is a solution of (2.4), then  $(\theta, u + C)$  is also a solution of (2.4) for any constant  $C$ . However, this non-uniqueness of eigenfunctions has no impact on the eigenvalue. Therefore, the uniqueness of problem (2.4) means that all such eigenfunctions are considered identical.

Part (ii) of the above theorem indicates that the optimal trading policy is determined by the boundary of the no-transaction region, as depicted in Figure 1. In this paper, we shall further derive an asymptotic expansion with a small correlation  $\rho$  for the boundary of the no-transaction region as well as for the long-term excess growth rate  $\theta$ .

To obtain the asymptotic expansion in an explicit form, we introduce the following new variables  $\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2)$  and function  $U(\xi)$ :

$$\xi_i = \ln |z_i|, \quad U(\xi) = e^{-u(z) - \sum_i \beta_i \xi_i},$$

where

$$\beta = (\beta_1, \beta_2) = \Sigma^{-1}(\mathbf{r} - \alpha + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_d) \quad (3.3)$$



with  $\sigma_d = (\sigma_{11}, \sigma_{22})^{tr}$ .

Thanks to Theorem 1, the variational inequality (2.4) for  $(\theta, u)$  can be transformed into the following free-boundary problem for  $(\Theta, U)$  coupled with the unknown no-transaction region  $\mathbf{NT}_\xi$ , which is characterized by the unknown optimal trading boundaries  $\Gamma_{ij}$ , such that

$$\begin{cases} -\sigma_1^2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_1} - \sigma_2^2 U_{\xi_2 \xi_2} = \Theta U + 2\rho\sigma_1\sigma_2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_2} & \text{in } \mathbf{NT}_\xi, \\ U_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}, \\ U_{\xi_i \xi_i} + [k_{ij}z_i - (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)^2]U = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}, \end{cases} \quad (3.4)$$

where  $k_{ij}$  are defined as

$$k_{i1} = 1 + \lambda_i, \quad k_{i2} = 1 - \mu_i. \quad (3.5)$$

In addition,  $\theta$  and  $\Theta$  are related by the equation

$$\theta = \frac{1}{2}\Theta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \sigma_{ij} \beta_i \beta_j. \quad (3.6)$$

And  $\mathbf{NT}_\xi$  has a similar structure of  $\mathbf{NT}$  stated in (3.2), i.e.,

$$\mathbf{NT}_\xi = \{(\xi_1, \xi_2) \mid l_{11}(\xi_2) < \xi_1 < l_{12}(\xi_2), l_{21}(\xi_1) < \xi_2 < l_{22}(\xi_1)\}.$$

where  $l_{ij}$  is the transform of  $l_i^\pm$  in terms of the new variable  $\xi$ .

So, based on the above notations and transformation, we seek the following formal asymptotic expansions in terms of small correlation  $\rho$  for (i) the long-term excess growth rate  $\Theta$ , (ii) the optimal trading boundaries  $l_{ij}$ , and (iii) the eigenfunction  $U$ :

$$\Theta = \Theta^0 + \rho \hat{\Theta} + O(\rho^2), \quad (3.7)$$

$$l_{ij}(\check{\xi}_i) = b_{ij} + \rho \hat{l}_{ij}(\check{\xi}_i) + O(\rho^2), \quad \text{with } \check{\xi}_1 := \xi_2, \check{\xi}_2 := \xi_1, \quad (3.8)$$

$$U(\xi_1, \xi_2) = U^0(\xi_1, \xi_2) + \rho \hat{U}(\xi_1, \xi_2) + O(\rho^2), \quad (3.9)$$

where  $\{\Theta^0, \hat{\Theta}, b_{ij}\}$  and  $\{\hat{l}_{ij}, U^0, \hat{U}\}$  are respectively constants and functions given explicitly by the following theorem.

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $\beta_i$  and  $k_{ij}$  for  $i, j = 1, 2$  be defined by (3.3) and (3.5), respectively. Then the formal asymptotic expansions proposed in (3.7)–(3.9) have the following explicit forms:*

(i) *Regarding the zeroth-order terms,*

$$\Theta^0 = \sigma_1^2 \Theta_1 + \sigma_2^2 \Theta_2, \quad (3.10)$$

$$b_{ij} = \ln \left| \frac{\gamma_{ij} - \beta_i}{k_{ij}} \right|, \quad (3.11)$$

$$U^0(\xi_1, \xi_2) = U_1(\xi_1)U_2(\xi_2), \quad (3.12)$$

where  $\gamma_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{(-1)^j}{2} \sqrt{1 - 4\beta_i - 4\Theta_i}$ ,

$$U_i(\xi_i) = \cos \left( \sqrt{\Theta_i}(\xi_i - b_{i1}) + \operatorname{arccot} \frac{\sqrt{\Theta_i}}{\gamma_{i1}} \right), \quad (3.13)$$

and  $\Theta_i \in (-\beta_i^2, 1/4 - \beta_i)$  is a solution of

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \frac{1 + \lambda_i}{1 - \mu_i} &= \ln \frac{1 - 2\beta_i - \sqrt{1 - 4\beta_i - 4\Theta_i}}{1 - 2\beta_i + \sqrt{1 - 4\beta_i - 4\Theta_i}} \\ &+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Theta_i}} \left( \operatorname{arccot} \frac{2\sqrt{\Theta_i}}{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4\beta_i - 4\Theta_i}} - \operatorname{arccot} \frac{2\sqrt{\Theta_i}}{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4\beta_i - 4\Theta_i}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$



(ii) Regarding the leading order terms,

$$\hat{\Theta} = \frac{-2\sigma_1\sigma_2 \int_{b_{11}}^{b_{12}} \int_{b_{21}}^{b_{22}} U_1 U_2 U_1' U_2' d\xi_1 d\xi_2}{\int_{b_{11}}^{b_{12}} \int_{b_{21}}^{b_{22}} U_1^2 U_2^2 d\xi_1 d\xi_2}, \quad (3.15)$$

$$\hat{l}_{1j}(\xi_2) = \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi_{2q}(\xi_2)}{U_2(\xi_2)} \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} c_{pq} \Theta_{1p} \frac{\psi_{1p}(b_{1j})}{H_{1j}}, \quad \hat{l}'_{1j}(b_{2j}) = 0, \quad (3.16)$$

$$\hat{l}_{2j}(\xi_1) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi_{1p}(\xi_1)}{U_1(\xi_1)} \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} c_{pq} \Theta_{2q} \frac{\psi_{2q}(b_{2j})}{H_{2j}}, \quad \hat{l}'_{2j}(b_{1j}) = 0, \quad (3.17)$$

$$\hat{U}(\xi_1, \xi_2) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} c_{pq} \psi_{1p}(\xi_1) \psi_{2q}(\xi_2), \quad (3.18)$$

where  $H_{ij} = [\gamma_{ij} - \beta_i][1 - 2\gamma_{ij}]U_i(b_{ij})$ ,  $c_{00} = 0$ ,

$$c_{pq} = \frac{2\sigma_1\sigma_2 \int_{b_{11}}^{b_{12}} U_1'(\xi_1) \psi_{1p}(\xi_1) d\xi_1 \int_{b_{21}}^{b_{22}} U_2'(\xi_2) \psi_{2q}(\xi_2) d\xi_2}{\sigma_1^2 \Theta_{1p} + \sigma_2^2 \Theta_{2q}} \quad \text{for } (p, q) \neq (0, 0), \quad (3.19)$$

$\Theta_{ip}$  is the root of the algebraic equation

$$\sqrt{\Theta_i + \Theta_{ip}}(b_{i2} - b_{i1}) = p\pi + \operatorname{arccot} \frac{\sqrt{\Theta_i + \Theta_{ip}}}{\gamma_{i2}} - \operatorname{arccot} \frac{\sqrt{\Theta_i + \Theta_{ip}}}{\gamma_{i1}}, \quad (3.20)$$

and  $\psi_{ip}$  is given explicitly by

$$\psi_{ip}(\xi_i) = \cos \left( \sqrt{\Theta_i + \Theta_{ip}}(\xi_i - b_{i1}) + \operatorname{arccot} \frac{\sqrt{\Theta_i + \Theta_{ip}}}{\gamma_{i1}} \right). \quad (3.21)$$

**Remark 3.2.** (i) Here we use the convention that if  $\Theta < 0$ , then  $\sqrt{\Theta} = \mathbf{i}\sqrt{-\Theta}$ . Also,

$$\cos(\mathbf{i}x) = \cosh(x), \quad \cot(\mathbf{i}x) = -\mathbf{i} \coth x, \quad \operatorname{arccot}(-\mathbf{i} \coth x) = \mathbf{i}x \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{R}.$$

(ii) From Theorem 1, the boundary of each corner region **SS**, **SB**, **BS**, and **BB** consists of one vertical and one horizontal half-line. Thus, the fact that  $\hat{l}'_{ij}(b_{ij}) = 0$  implies that the sell and buy boundaries of each asset are  $C^1$  according to the leading order expansion. Graphically, the four trading boundaries are perpendicular to each other at every corner; see Figure 1.

(iii) In fact,  $\{\Theta_{ip}, \psi_{ip}\}_{p=0}^{\infty}$  are all eigenpairs of the following eigenvalue problem

$$\begin{cases} -\psi_{ip}'' - \Theta_i \psi_{ip} = \Theta_{ip} \psi_{ip} & \text{in } [b_{i1}, b_{i2}], \\ \psi_{ip}'(b_{ij}) + \gamma_{ij} \psi_{ip}(b_{ij}) = 0, & j = 1, 2, \\ \int_{b_{i1}}^{b_{i2}} \psi_{ip}^2(x) dx = 1. \end{cases} \quad (3.22)$$

(iv) Note that our expansions in Theorem 2, which do not rely on the assumption of small transaction costs, are power series of trigonometric functions. We highlight that the complex power series expressions cannot be simplified as a joint expansion in small transaction costs and correlations; see Proposition 1 in Appendix B. The reason is that any expansion involving small correlations must be related to the eigenvalue problem (3.22), whose solution is power series of trigonometric functions.

(v) One can use the closed-form asymptotic expansions to construct a trading policy, which is expected to be optimal at the leading order for small correlations. This “leading-order optimality” may be established using stochastic control arguments or convex duality; see, e.g., Possamaï et al. (2015).

Due to the heavy use of notations, we summarize the most important notations in Table 1 for comparison and later reference:

**Table 1. Key Notations**

	Long-Term Excess Growth Rate	Optimal Trading Boundaries	Eigenfunction
For Merton	$\bar{\theta}$	$\bar{\pi}$	NA
For the original variables $z$	$\theta$	$l_i^\pm$	$u$
For the new variables $\xi$	$\Theta$	$l_{ij}$	$U$
For the zeros order terms	$\Theta^0$	$b_{ij}$	$U^0$
For the leading order terms	$\hat{\Theta}$	$\hat{l}_{ij}$	$\hat{U}$

Before giving the proof of the main results, we apply our formal asymptotic expansions and conduct an extensive numerical analysis.

## 4. Numerical Analysis

To test our asymptotic expansion, we first introduce the following finite difference method (FDM) to obtain a benchmark solution since a closed-form solution is absent.

### 4.1. Finite Difference Method

We use the penalty method presented in Dai and Zhong (2010) to solve the variational inequality (2.4) with an implicit finite difference scheme.<sup>6</sup> More precisely, we first consider the following approximation problem with a linear operator  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ :

$$\min \left\{ \tilde{\theta} - \tilde{\mathcal{L}}\tilde{u} - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2[\tilde{u}_{\xi_1}^{(n)}]^2 - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^2[\tilde{u}_{\xi_2}^{(n)}]^2 - \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2\tilde{u}_{\xi_1}^{(n)}\tilde{u}_{\xi_2}^{(n)}, \tilde{\mathcal{B}}[\tilde{u}], \tilde{\mathcal{S}}[\tilde{u}] \right\} = 0,$$

where  $\xi_i = \ln |z_i|$ ,  $(\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{u})$  is the unknown pair, and  $(\tilde{\theta}^{(n)}, \tilde{u}^{(n)})$  is the (last)  $n$ -th iteration solution pair. Operators  $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}$ ,  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}$ , and  $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$  are defined, respectively, by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\mathcal{L}}\tilde{u} &= \frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2\tilde{u}_{\xi_1\xi_1} + \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2\tilde{u}_{\xi_1\xi_2} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^2\tilde{u}_{\xi_2\xi_2} + \left(\alpha_1 - r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2 - \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2\tilde{u}_{\xi_2}^{(n)} - \sigma_1^2\tilde{u}_{\xi_1}^{(n)}\right)\tilde{u}_{\xi_1} \\ &\quad + \left(\alpha_2 - r - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^2 - \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2\tilde{u}_{\xi_1}^{(n)} - \sigma_2^2\tilde{u}_{\xi_2}^{(n)}\right)\tilde{u}_{\xi_2}, \\ \tilde{\mathcal{B}}[\tilde{u}] &= \min \left\{ (1 + \lambda_1)z_1 - \tilde{u}_{\xi_1}, (1 + \lambda_2)z_2 - \tilde{u}_{\xi_2} \right\}, \\ \tilde{\mathcal{S}}[\tilde{u}] &= \min \left\{ -(1 - \mu_1)z_1 + \tilde{u}_{\xi_1}, -(1 - \mu_2)z_2 + \tilde{u}_{\xi_2} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Note that, as mentioned in Remark 3.1, the eigenfunction  $u$  of the problem (2.4) is not unique. So, we will impose an artificial condition later.

Next, for a given parameter set, we restrict attention to a suitable bounded domain  $D_\xi = (\xi_1, \bar{\xi}_1) \times (\xi_2, \bar{\xi}_2) \subset \mathbb{R}^2$  such that  $D_\xi$  contains the no-transaction region  $\mathbf{NT}_\xi$ . The numerical algorithm can be described as follows:

<sup>6</sup> Different from the policy iteration method used in Possamaï et al. (2015) and Altarovici et al. (2017), we first linearize the differential operator  $\mathcal{A}$  in the variational inequality (2.4) by the Newton method, and then apply the non-smooth Newton method to handle the penalty approximation to the variational inequality.

Step 1. Given  $n$ -th iteration result  $(\tilde{\theta}^{(n)}, \tilde{u}^{(n)})$  with an initial guess (e.g.,  $(\tilde{\theta}^{(0)}, \tilde{u}^{(0)}) = (\bar{\theta}, \ell)$ ), solve the following linear problem for  $(\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{u})$  in the domain  $D_\xi$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = & \tilde{\theta} - \tilde{\mathcal{L}}\tilde{u} - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_1^2[\tilde{u}_{\xi_1}^{(n)}]^2 - \frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^2[\tilde{u}_{\xi_2}^{(n)}]^2 - \rho\sigma_1\sigma_2\tilde{u}_{\xi_1}^{(n)}\tilde{u}_{\xi_2}^{(n)} \\ & + P \times \sum_{i=1}^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{(1+\lambda_i)z_i - \tilde{u}_{\xi_i}^{(n)} < 0\}} \left( (1+\lambda_i)z_i - \tilde{u}_{\xi_i} \right) \\ & + P \times \sum_{i=1}^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{\tilde{u}_{\xi_i}^{(n)} - (1-\mu_i)z_i < 0\}} \left( \tilde{u}_{\xi_i} - (1-\mu_i)z_i \right), \end{aligned}$$

coupled with boundary conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{u}_{\xi_1}(\underline{\xi}_1, \xi_2) &= (1+\lambda_1)\underline{z}_1, & \tilde{u}_{\xi_2}(\xi_1, \underline{\xi}_2) &= (1+\lambda_2)\underline{z}_2, \\ \tilde{u}_{\xi_1}(\bar{\xi}_1, \xi_2) &= (1-\mu_1)\bar{z}_1, & \tilde{u}_{\xi_2}(\xi_1, \bar{\xi}_2) &= (1-\mu_2)\bar{z}_2 \end{aligned}$$

and an additional condition  $u(\underline{\xi}_1, \underline{\xi}_2) = 1$  that ensures the uniqueness of the eigenfunction. Here  $\mathbf{1}_{\{\cdot\}}$  is an indicator function, and  $P$  is a big positive constant (e.g.,  $P = 10^5$ ) that is known as the penalty parameter.

Step 2. Calculate the relative error

$$RE = \frac{\|(\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{u}) - (\tilde{\theta}^{(n)}, \tilde{u}^{(n)})\|}{\|(\tilde{\theta}^{(n)}, \tilde{u}^{(n)})\|}.$$

If the relative error  $RE < \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is a given small constant (e.g.,  $\epsilon = 10^{-12}$ ), then set  $(\theta, u) = (\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{u})$  and stop; Otherwise set  $(\tilde{\theta}^{(n+1)}, \tilde{u}^{(n+1)}) = (\tilde{\theta}, \tilde{u})$  and go to step 1.

In our numerical experiment, we regard the solution with the mesh size of  $800 \times 800$  as the benchmark; see the dotted line in Figure 1. The basic parameter values are summarized in Table 2. That is, the interest rate is 3% per year. For risky asset one, the expected return rate is 10% and the volatility is 20%. For risky asset two, the expected return rate and volatility are 12% and 25%, respectively. Finally, the proportion of transaction cost of each risky asset is set to be 1% for both selling and buying. This computation is relatively costly, and it takes about 15 minutes to get a solution by a laptop with CPU 2.5GHz Dual-Core Intel Core i7.

**Table 2.** Basic Parameters

	Risk-free Rate	Risky Asset One				Risky Asset Two			
Notation	$r$	$\alpha_1$	$\sigma_1$	$\lambda_1$	$\mu_1$	$\alpha_2$	$\sigma_2$	$\lambda_2$	$\mu_2$
Value (%)	3	10	20	1	1	12	25	1	1

## 4.2. Asymptotic Method

Thanks to Theorem 2, one can directly apply the expansion. Note that in our formal expansion, the leading order terms are expressed in a series form. By a rule of thumb, we take the first 10 terms in our numerical algorithm, which is described below:

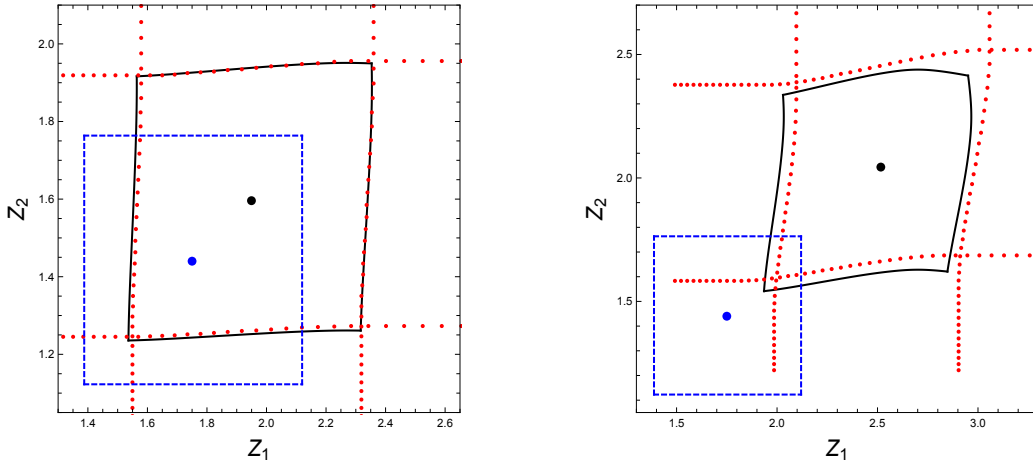
Step 1. Solve the algebraic equation (3.14) to obtain  $\Theta_i$ ;

Step 2. Use  $\Theta_i$  to get  $b_{ij}$  and  $U_i$  from (3.11) and (3.13), respectively;

Step 3. Solve for  $\hat{\Theta}$  by the integration formula (3.15);

- Step 4.* For  $p = 1, 2, \dots, 10$ , solve the algebraic equation (3.20) to obtain  $\Theta_{ip}$ , and then calculate eigenfunction  $\psi_{ip}$  by (3.21);
- Step 5.* For  $p, q = 0, 1, 2, \dots, 10$ , solve for coefficients  $c_{pq}$ , trading boundaries  $\hat{l}_{ij}$ , and eigenfunction  $\hat{U}$  by (3.19), (3.16), (3.17), and (3.18), respectively;
- Step 6.* Calculate the long-term growth rate  $\Theta = \sigma_1^2 \Theta_1 + \sigma_2^2 \Theta_2 + \rho \hat{\Theta}$  and the optimal trading boundary  $l_{ij} = b_{ij} + \rho \hat{l}_{ij}$ ;
- Step 7.* Finally, calculate the long-term excess growth rate by (3.6), i.e.,  $\theta = \frac{1}{2} \Theta + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \sigma_{ij} \beta_i \beta_j$ , and the optimal trading boundary  $l_i^\pm$  is derived from  $l_{ij}$  by a change of variable  $\xi_i = \ln |z_i|$ .

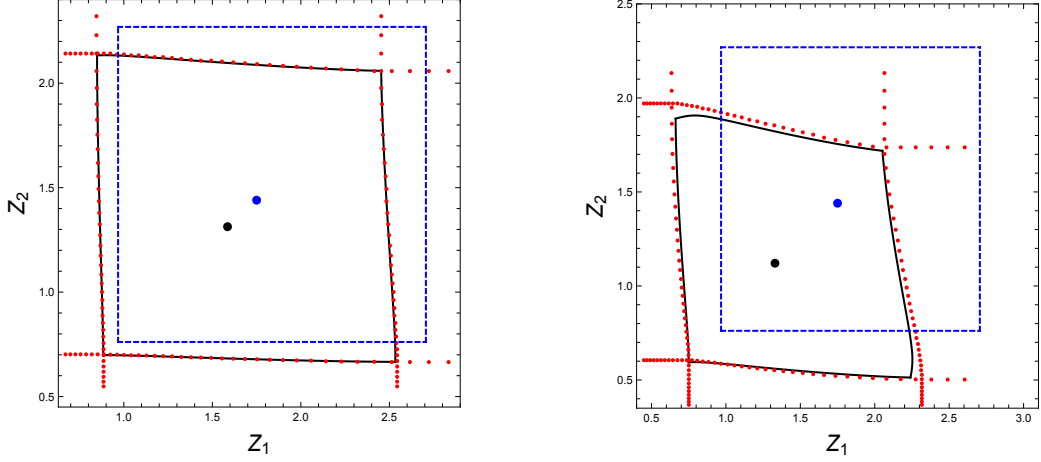
### 4.3. Optimal Trading Boundaries



**Figure 2. No-Transaction Regions with Different Correlations (Left:  $\rho = -0.1$ , Right:  $\rho = -0.3$ ).** In each plot, the thick black (resp. blue) dot is the Merton's strategy in the absence of transaction costs but with a non-zero (resp. zero) correlation; The blue dashed rectangle is the uncorrelated case (i.e.,  $\rho = 0$ ) but with transaction costs; The red dotted lines and the black solid lines correspond to the benchmark and the asymptotic expansion, respectively, in the presence of both correlation and transaction costs. Other parameters are given in Table 2.

Let us consider the optimal trading boundaries. Figures 1, 2, and 3 illustrate some numerical experiments on optimal trading boundaries. More specifically, in each plot, the thick black (resp. blue) dot is the Merton's strategy in the absence of transaction costs but with a non-zero (resp. zero) correlation; The blue dashed rectangle is the uncorrelated case (i.e.,  $\rho = 0$ ) but with transaction costs; The dotted and solid lines are the optimal trading boundaries obtained by the FDM and the asymptotic expansion, respectively, in the presence of both correlation and transaction costs. Default parameters are summarized in Table 2. As you can see, for  $|\rho| = 0.1$  (see left panels in both Figures 1 and 2), our asymptotic expansion has an impressive accuracy compared with the benchmark result by FDM. For an even larger correlation  $|\rho| = 0.3$  (see right panels in both Figure 1 and 2), our asymptotic expansion also provides a good approximation.

Moreover, since our expansion is for a small correlation  $\rho$  and does not rely on the assumption of small transaction costs, they should work equally well for different levels of transaction costs provided that the correlation is relatively small. Figure 3 compares our expansion (black solid lines) with the FDM (red dotted lines) for a large transaction cost level (i.e.,  $\mu_i = \lambda_i = 10\%$  for  $i = 1, 2$ ). The left panel shows that, as with small transaction costs, our expansion performs



**Figure 3. No-Transaction Regions for Large Transaction Costs** ( $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 10\%$ , **Left:**  $\rho = 0.1$ , **Right:**  $\rho = 0.3$ ). In each plot, the thick black (resp. blue) dot is the Merton's strategy in the absence of transaction costs but with a non-zero (resp. zero) correlation; The blue dashed rectangle is the uncorrelated case ( i.e.,  $\rho = 0$ ) but with transaction costs; The red dotted lines and black solid lines correspond to the benchmark and our expansion, respectively, in the presence of both correlation and transaction costs. Other parameters are summarized in Table 2.

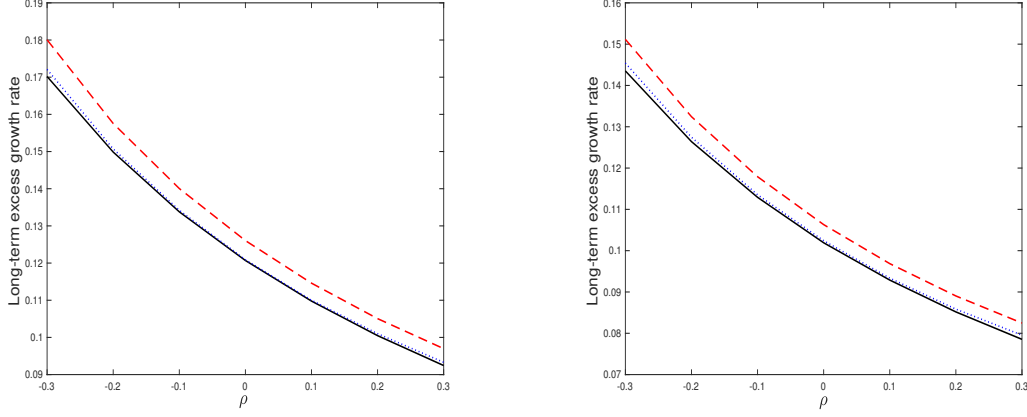
impressively well when the correlation level is 0.1. Even for a much larger correlation, say 0.3, the right panel of Figure 3 indicates that our expansion still provides a good approximation. More interestingly, by comparing the right panels in Figures 1 and 3, we find that facing a large correlation, the trading boundaries (black solid lines) with a large transaction cost match the benchmark (red dotted lines) better than the case with a small transaction cost. This suggests that our asymptotic expansion method can be potentially applied to investments with very illiquid assets such as housing, art products, and so on.

Next, we turn to the impact of correlation on the optimal trading boundaries. Compared to the uncorrelated case, the no-transaction region is no longer a rectangle but a quadrangle with curved boundaries being orthogonal to each other at four corners. In the presence of correlation, the two risky assets have a substitution effect for each other, which leads the rectangle to be a quadrangle. However, the boundaries are perpendicular to each other at the corner, as verified by the fact that  $\hat{l}'_{ij}(b_{ij}) = 0$  for the leading order expansion. From Theorem 1, the boundary of each corner region **SS**, **SB**, **BS**, and **BB** consists of one vertical and one horizontal half-line. Thus, this orthogonal property at four corners implies that the sell and buy boundaries of each asset are  $C^1$  for the leading order expansion.

Figures 1 and 2 further show two interesting features: (a) The no-transaction regions shift along the 45-degree line in the two-asset plane upward and downward for negative correlations and positive correlations, respectively. (b) The slopes of optimal boundaries tend to be positive (negative) for negative (positive) correlations. These can be interpreted from the diversification effect. Indeed, a more negative correlation implies a bigger diversification benefit, thus, investors should invest more in risky assets. This leads to the shift of the no-transaction region upward along the 45-degree line in the two-asset plane. Meanwhile, when the holdings in one risky asset increase, investors should allocate a larger position in the other risky asset for hedging purposes since they are negatively correlated. Hence, the slopes of optimal boundaries are positive in the case of negative correlation. Similar results can be obtained in the case of positive correlation.

Finally, correlations seem to have no notable impact on the width of the no-transaction region that is significantly affected by transaction costs.

#### 4.4. Long-Term Excess Growth Rate



**Figure 4. Long-Term Excess Growth Rates.** In each plot, the red dashed, blue dotted, and black solid lines represent the long-term excess growth rates obtained by Merton's solution (i.e.,  $\bar{\theta}$ ), the FDM (i.e.,  $\theta_f$ ), and our expansion (i.e.,  $\theta_a$ ), respectively. *Left Panel:* Basic parameter values are summarized in Table 2. *Right Panel:* Empirical parameter values from Flavin and Yamashita (2002) for housing and stock markets. That is, the risk-free rate  $r = 1\%$ ; for the relatively liquid risky asset (stock):  $\alpha_1 = 8\%$ ,  $\sigma_1 = 24\%$ ,  $\lambda_1 = \mu_1 = 0.1\%$ ; for the illiquid risky asset (house)  $\alpha_2 = 6\%$ ,  $\sigma_2 = 14\%$ ,  $\lambda_2 = \mu_2 = 3\%$ .

In this subsection, we investigate the eigenvalue  $\theta$ , which stands for the portfolio's optimal long-term excess growth rate.

First, to measure the accuracy of our expansion, one way is to simply compare the long-term excess growth rates obtained by the FDM and by our asymptotic expansion, which are denoted by  $\theta_f$  and  $\theta_a$ , respectively. Figure 4 gives such a direct comparison. In each plot, the red dashed, blue dotted, and black solid lines represent the long-term excess growth rates obtained by Merton's solution (i.e.,  $\bar{\theta}$ ), the FDM (i.e.,  $\theta_f$ ), and our expansion (i.e.,  $\theta_a$ ), respectively. The left panel shows the results with our basic parameter values in Table 2, while the right panel presents the results for the parameter values reported in Flavin and Yamashita (2002) studying the housing and stock markets.

For both two sets of parameter values, we can see that the long-term excess growth rates obtained by our expansion (black solid line) and by the FDM (blue dotted line) are pretty close even for a large correlation  $|\rho| = 0.3$ .<sup>7</sup> Of course, all these long-term excess growth rates are bounded from above by that in Merton's economy (red dashed line). In addition, there is an interesting observation that the long-term excess growth rate obtained by our expansion is always less than that obtained by the FDM, which implies that the second order term in our expansion (i.e., the term  $O(\rho^2)$ ) may contribute positively to the long-term investment. The difference tends to be large as the magnitude of correlation increases but in a non-symmetric way. That is, for the same magnitude of correlation, the difference with a positive correlation is less than that with a negative correlation. This suggests that our expansion performs better in the case of a positive correlation. Moreover, as the correlation increases from negative to

<sup>7</sup> In fact, we find that the difference is typically less than 0.3% for  $|\rho| \leq 0.3$ .

positive, the long-term excess growth rate is monotonically decreasing for both cases with and without transaction costs. This is because the effect of diversification becomes stronger as the correlation tends to be  $-1$ .

**Table 3. Comparison of Long-Term Excess Growth Rates.** The row with zero transaction costs (i.e.,  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0\%$ ) displays the long-term excess growth rates of Merton's solution (i.e.,  $\bar{\theta}$ ) for different correlations. For other transaction costs ranging from 0.1% to 10%, each has three rows of data: The upper and middle rows collect the long-term excess growth rates calculated by the benchmark FDM (i.e.,  $\theta_f$ ) and our expansion (i.e.,  $\theta_a$ ), respectively. The lower row shows the implied growth rates that are associated with implementing the trading strategy from our expansion (i.e.,  $\tilde{\theta}_a$ ). Other parameter values are documented in Table 2.

Costs $\lambda_i = \mu_i$	Correlation $\rho$							
	-0.3	-0.2	-0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.3	
0%	18.01%	15.76%	14.01%	12.61%	11.46%	10.51%	9.70%	$\bar{\theta}$
0.1%	17.94%	15.70%	13.96%	12.56%	11.43%	10.47%	9.68%	$\theta_f$
	17.66%	15.53%	13.85%	12.48%	11.34%	10.37%	9.53%	$\theta_a$
	17.86%	15.64%	13.91%	12.52%	11.39%	10.44%	9.64%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$
0.2%	17.83%	15.60%	13.87%	12.50%	11.36%	10.42%	9.62%	$\theta_f$
	17.55%	15.44%	13.77%	12.42%	11.28%	10.32%	9.48%	$\theta_a$
	17.76%	15.55%	13.83%	12.46%	11.33%	10.39%	9.58%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$
0.3%	17.73%	15.52%	13.80%	12.43%	11.30%	10.36%	9.57%	$\theta_f$
	17.46%	15.37%	13.71%	12.36%	11.23%	10.27%	9.44%	$\theta_a$
	17.67%	15.47%	13.77%	12.40%	11.28%	10.34%	9.55%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$
0.4%	17.64%	15.44%	13.73%	12.37%	11.25%	10.32%	9.53%	$\theta_f$
	17.38%	15.30%	13.65%	12.31%	11.19%	10.23%	9.41%	$\theta_a$
	17.59%	15.40%	13.70%	12.34%	11.23%	10.30%	9.51%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$
0.5%	17.56%	15.37%	13.67%	12.32%	11.20%	10.28%	9.49%	$\theta_f$
	17.31%	15.24%	13.60%	12.26%	11.15%	10.20%	9.37%	$\theta_a$
	17.51%	15.34%	13.64%	12.29%	11.18%	10.26%	9.47%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$
1%	17.26%	15.12%	13.45%	12.12%	11.03%	10.12%	9.35%	$\theta_f$
	17.02%	14.99%	13.38%	12.07%	10.98%	10.05%	9.24%	$\theta_a$
	17.23%	15.09%	13.44%	12.11%	11.02%	10.11%	9.33%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$
5%	15.89%	13.94%	12.43%	11.23%	10.24%	9.41%	8.71%	$\theta_f$
	15.68%	13.83%	12.37%	11.19%	10.20%	9.36%	8.63%	$\theta_a$
	15.87%	13.92%	12.41%	11.21%	10.23%	9.40%	8.69%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$
10%	14.92%	13.10%	11.70%	10.57%	9.65%	8.88%	8.23%	$\theta_f$
	14.70%	12.99%	11.63%	10.53%	9.61%	8.84%	8.17%	$\theta_a$
	14.89%	13.08%	11.68%	10.56%	9.64%	8.87%	8.21%	$\tilde{\theta}_a$

We now implement the trading boundaries obtained by the expansion to calculate the implied long-term excess growth rate, denoted by  $\tilde{\theta}_a$ , which can be obtained by solving the equation in the no-transaction region with the trading condition on the *known* boundaries from the expansion. That is,  $(\tilde{\theta}_a, \tilde{u})$  solves the following eigenvalue problem

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{\theta}_a - \mathcal{A}[\tilde{u}] = 0 & \text{in } \widetilde{\mathbf{N}\mathbf{T}_a}, \\ \tilde{u}_{z_i} = 1 + \lambda_i & \text{on } \tilde{l}_i^- \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \\ \tilde{u}_{z_i} = 1 - \mu_i & \text{on } \tilde{l}_i^+ \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$



where the operator  $\mathcal{A}$  is defined in (2.5),  $\tilde{l}_i^\pm$  are optimal trading boundaries obtained from the expansion, and the approximated no-transaction region is given by

$$\widetilde{\mathbf{NT}}_a = \{(z_1, z_2) \mid \tilde{l}_1^-(z_2) < z_1 < \tilde{l}_1^+(z_2), \tilde{l}_2^-(z_1) < z_2 < \tilde{l}_2^+(z_1)\}.$$

One can use a finite difference scheme to numerically solve (4.1).

Table 3 provides a comparison of the long-term excess growth rates obtained by the three different methods with different levels of correlations and transaction costs. The row with zero transaction costs (i.e.,  $\lambda_i = \mu_i = 0\%$ ) displays the long-term excess growth rates of Merton's solution (i.e.,  $\bar{\theta}$ ) for different correlations. For other transaction cost levels ranging from 0.1% to 10%, each has three rows of data in a group: The upper and middle rows collect the long-term excess growth rates calculated by the benchmark FDM (i.e.,  $\theta_f$ ) and our expansion (i.e.,  $\theta_a$ ), respectively. The lower row shows the implied growth rates that are associated with implementing the trading strategy from our expansion (i.e.,  $\tilde{\theta}_a$ ). Other parameter values are given in Table 2. As one can see, for each fixed pair of correlation and transaction costs, both  $\tilde{\theta}_a$  and  $\theta_a$  are less than the benchmark  $\theta_f$ , but the former is closer to the benchmark than the latter. Overall, the absolute error is less than 0.3%. For each fixed transaction cost level (each row in Table 3), consistent with the observation in Figure 4, negative correlation increases the diversification effect and thus leads to a higher long-term excess growth rate. Meanwhile, for each fixed correlation level (i.e., each column in Table 3), as transaction costs decrease, the spread of long-term excess growth rates calculated by  $\theta_a - \theta_f$  or  $\tilde{\theta}_a - \theta_f$  tends to increase. However, this is by no means to say that our expansion is less accurate for small transaction costs. In fact, a small transaction cost leads to a small no-transaction region. As a result, the penalty method, which relies on the equation in the no-transaction region, becomes less stable. In particular, we find that both the solvency domain and the penalty constant must be carefully chosen to guarantee the convergence of the numerical scheme. By contrast, transaction costs have no impact on our expansion due to its closed-form.

## 5. Proof of Theorem 1

To prove Theorem 1, we begin with the uniqueness of the eigenvalue problem (2.4). For later use, we define the following closed convex subset of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  and corresponding support function

$$E := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^2 : -\lambda_i \leq z_i \leq \mu_i, i = 1, 2\}, \quad \ell_E(z) = \sup_{x \in E} x \cdot z \quad \text{for } z \in \mathbb{R}^2. \quad (5.1)$$

### 5.1. Uniqueness

The uniqueness follows immediately from the following comparison principle.

**Lemma 5.1** (Comparison Principle). *Suppose that  $u_1$  is a viscosity subsolution of (2.4) with eigenvalue  $\theta_1$  and that  $u_2$  is a viscosity supersolution of (2.4) with eigenvalue  $\theta_2$ . Assume further that*

$$\limsup_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_1(z)}{\ell(z)} \leq 1 \leq \liminf_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{u_2(z)}{\ell(z)}.$$

*Then, we have  $\theta_1 \leq \theta_2$ .*

*Proof.* First, let  $C$  be a positive constant to be specified later, and define

$$\tilde{\theta}_1 = -\theta_2 + C, \quad \tilde{u}_1(z) = -u_2(z) + z_1 + z_2, \quad (5.2)$$

$$\tilde{\theta}_2 = -\theta_1 + C, \quad \tilde{u}_2(z) = -u_1(z) + z_1 + z_2. \quad (5.3)$$

Since  $u_1$  (resp.  $u_2$ ) is a viscosity subsolution (resp. supersolution) of (5.2) associated with the eigenvalue  $\theta_1$  (resp.  $\theta_2$ ), one can easily check that  $\tilde{u}_1$  (resp.  $\tilde{u}_2$ ) is a viscosity subsolution (resp. supersolution) of the following eigen problem associated with the eigenvalue  $\tilde{\theta}_1$  (resp.  $\tilde{\theta}_2$ ):

$$\max \left\{ \tilde{\theta} - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\Sigma_z D^2 \tilde{u}] - g(D\tilde{u}) - f(z), \tilde{\mathcal{B}}[\tilde{u}], \tilde{\mathcal{S}}[\tilde{u}] \right\} = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2, \quad (5.4)$$

where  $\text{Tr}[\cdot]$  is the trace operator,

$$\Sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_1^2 z_1^2 & \rho \sigma_1 \sigma_2 z_1 z_2 \\ \rho \sigma_1 \sigma_2 z_1 z_2 & \sigma_2^2 z_2^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (5.5)$$

$$g(D\tilde{u}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^2 \sum_j^2 \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j [\tilde{u}_{z_i} \tilde{u}_{z_j} - \tilde{u}_{z_i} - \tilde{u}_{z_j}] + \sum_i^2 (\alpha_i - r) z_i \tilde{u}_{z_i}, \quad (5.6)$$

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i^2 \sum_j^2 \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j - \sum_i^2 (\alpha_i - r) z_i + C, \quad (5.7)$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{B}}[\tilde{u}] = \max\{\tilde{u}_{z_1} - \mu_1, \tilde{u}_{z_2} - \mu_2\}, \quad (5.8)$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{S}}[\tilde{u}] = \max\{-\tilde{u}_{z_1} - \lambda_1, -\tilde{u}_{z_2} - \lambda_2\}. \quad (5.9)$$

In addition, from the growth condition for  $u_1$  and  $u_2$ , we have the following growth condition for  $\tilde{u}_1$  and  $\tilde{u}_2$ :

$$\limsup_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{u}_1(z)}{\ell_E(z)} \leq 1 \leq \liminf_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\tilde{u}_2(z)}{\ell_E(z)}.$$

We choose  $C$  sufficiently large such that the convex function  $f$  is non-negative. Next, we will apply a similar argument as in the proof of Theorem 3.1 in [Possamai et al. \(2015\)](#) to obtain a comparison principle for problem (5.2) with the above growth condition, i.e.,  $\tilde{\theta}_1 \leq \tilde{\theta}_2$ .

From the definition of the function  $\ell_E(\cdot)$  in (2.3), there exist  $L, L' > 0$  such that

$$L'|z| \leq \ell_E(z) \leq L|z|. \quad (5.10)$$

Next, fix some  $\eta > 0$ ,  $0 < \tau < 1$ , and define, by de-doubling variables technique,

$$\bar{u}(x, z) := \tau \tilde{u}_1(x) - \tilde{u}_2(z) - \frac{1}{2\eta} |x - z|^2 \quad \text{for } (x, z) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}^2.$$

Since  $\tilde{u}_1$  is a viscosity subsolution of (2.4), we have  $D\tilde{u}_1 \in E$  in the viscosity solution sense. Then, for  $z \neq 0$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{u}(x, z) &= \tau \left( \tilde{u}_1(x) - \tilde{u}_1(z) \right) + \left( \tau \tilde{u}_1(z) - \tilde{u}_2(z) \right) - \frac{1}{2\eta} |x - z|^2 \\ &\leq \left( \tau \tilde{u}_1(z) - \tilde{u}_2(z) \right) + \tau L |x - z| - \frac{1}{2\eta} |x - z|^2 \\ &= \ell_E(x) \left( \tau \frac{\tilde{u}_1(z)}{\ell_E(x)} - \frac{\tilde{u}_2(z)}{\ell_E(z)} \right) + \tau L |x - z| - \frac{1}{2\eta} |x - z|^2. \end{aligned}$$

By the growth conditions on  $u_1$  and  $u_2$  and condition (5.10), this implies that

$$\lim_{|(x,z)| \rightarrow \infty} \bar{u}(x, z) = -\infty.$$

Then,  $\bar{u}(x, z)$  has a global maximizer  $(x^{\tau, \eta}, z^{\tau, \eta})$ . So, by the Crandall-Ishii Lemma (see Theorem 3.2 in [Crandall et al. \(1992\)](#)), we deduce that for any  $\eta > 0$ , there exist symmetric positive matrices  $X$  and  $Y$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \left( \frac{1}{\eta}(x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta}), X \right) &\in \bar{J}^{2,+}(\tau u_1)(x^{\tau, \eta}), \\ \left( \frac{1}{\eta}(x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta}), Y \right) &\in \bar{J}^{2,-}(u_2)(z^{\tau, \eta}), \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{pmatrix} X & 0 \\ 0 & -Y \end{pmatrix} \leq A + \eta A^2, \quad \text{with } A = \frac{1}{\eta} \begin{pmatrix} I_2 & -I_2 \\ -I_2 & I_2 \end{pmatrix},$$

which implies that  $X \leq Y$ .

Since  $\tilde{u}_1$  is a viscosity subsolution, we have  $D\tilde{u}_1 \in E$  in viscosity solution sense. Thus,

$$-\lambda_i \leq \frac{1}{\tau\eta}(x_i^{\tau, \eta} - z_i^{\tau, \eta}) \leq \mu_i, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2,$$

which in turn implies, by using  $\tau \in (0, 1)$ , that

$$-\lambda_i < \frac{1}{\eta}(x_i^{\tau, \eta} - z_i^{\tau, \eta}) < \mu_i, \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2.$$

Thanks to the above strictly inequality and the fact that  $\tilde{u}_1$  (resp.  $\tilde{u}_2$ ) is a viscosity subsolution (resp. supersolution) of (2.4), we immediately have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\theta}_1 - \frac{1}{2\tau} \text{Tr}(\Sigma_z X) - g\left(\frac{1}{\tau\eta}(x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta})\right) - f(x^{\tau, \eta}) &\leq 0, \\ \tilde{\theta}_2 - \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\Sigma_z Y) - g\left(\frac{1}{\eta}(x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta})\right) - f(z^{\tau, \eta}) &\geq 0. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$\begin{aligned} \tau\tilde{\theta}_1 - \tilde{\theta}_2 &\leq \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\Sigma_z(X - Y)) + \tau g\left(\frac{x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta}}{\tau\eta}\right) - g\left(\frac{x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta}}{\eta}\right) + \tau f(x^{\tau, \eta}) - f(z^{\tau, \eta}) \\ &\leq \tau g\left(\frac{x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta}}{\tau\eta}\right) - g\left(\frac{x^{\tau, \eta} - z^{\tau, \eta}}{\eta}\right) + f(x^{\tau, \eta}) - f(z^{\tau, \eta}). \end{aligned}$$

By standard techniques from the theory of viscosity solutions, we then construct a  $z^\tau \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and a sequence  $(\eta_n)_{n \geq 0}$  converging to zero such that  $(x^{\tau, \eta_n}, z^{\tau, \eta_n}) \rightarrow (z^\tau, z^\tau)$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Passing to the limit in the above inequality and using the fact  $g(0) = 0$ , we have  $\tau\tilde{\theta}_1 - \tilde{\theta}_2 \leq 0$ , leading to  $\tilde{\theta}_1 \leq \tilde{\theta}_2$  due the arbitrariness of  $\tau \in (0, 1)$ .

Finally,  $\theta_1 \leq \theta_2$  follows immediately from the definition of  $\tilde{\theta}_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$ .  $\square$

## 5.2. Existence

Now let us turn to the existence of a solution of problem (2.4). Motivated by the method used in ergodic control (see, e.g., [Borkar \(2006\)](#); [Hynd \(2012\)](#); [Possamai et al. \(2015\)](#)), we consider the following auxiliary problem, for any  $\delta > 0$ ,

$$\min \{ \delta u_\delta - \mathcal{A}[u_\delta], \mathcal{B}[u_\delta], \mathcal{S}[u_\delta] \} = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2, \quad (5.11)$$

where  $u_\delta$  is the unknown, and operators  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$ , and  $\mathcal{S}$  are the same as in the problem (2.4).

**Lemma 5.2.** *Problem (5.11) has a unique viscosity solution with the growth condition  $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} u_\delta(z)/\ell(z) = 1$ . Moreover,*

- (i)  $u_\delta$  is Lipschitz continuous and concave;

(ii) The following estimate holds:

$$0 \leq u_\delta(\cdot) - \ell(\cdot) \leq \frac{\bar{\theta}_\delta}{\delta}, \quad (5.12)$$

where  $\bar{\theta}_\delta$  is given in (2.12) with  $\alpha_i - r$  replaced by  $\alpha_i - r - \delta$ .

*Proof.* The uniqueness can be obtained from a comparison principle similar to Lemma 5.1, whose proof is therefore omitted.

To prove the existence, one can follow the existing literature (e.g., Hynd (2012) and Possamaï et al. (2015)) by using Perron's argument to construct appropriate sub and super solutions for problem (5.11). Alternatively, we will use the method introduced in Chen and Dai (2013) by first considering a related investment and consumption problem with finite horizon  $T < \infty$ . Then, the solution of (5.11) is obtained as the limit of the solution for the finite horizon problem when  $T$  goes to infinity.

To be more precise, consider the following investment and consumption problem with finite horizon  $T$ :

$$\sup_{(L, M, C) \in \mathcal{C}_c(x, y)} \mathbb{E}_t^{x, y} \left[ - \int_t^T \kappa e^{-\nu C_s} ds - e^{-\nu(X_T + \ell(Y_T))} \right],$$

where  $\kappa > 0$  is a weight of consumption rate  $C_t$ ,  $\mathcal{C}_c(x, y)$  is the set of all admissible strategies, and  $X_t$  and  $Y_t$  satisfy dynamics (2.1) with  $r$  and  $\alpha_i$  being replaced by  $\delta$  and  $\alpha_i - r$ , respectively. Let  $\Phi(x, y, t)$  denote the value function associated with the above investment-consumption problem. Then,  $\Phi$  solves the following HJB equation:

$$\begin{cases} \min_{i \in \{1, 2\}} \min \{ -\Phi_t - \mathcal{L}\Phi, (1 + \lambda_i)\Phi_x - \Phi_{y_i}, -(1 - \mu_i)\Phi_x + \Phi_{y_i} \} = 0 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3 \times [0, T) \\ \Phi(x, y, T) = -e^{-\nu(x + \ell(y))} \end{cases} \quad (5.13)$$

where the differential operator  $\mathcal{L}$  is given by

$$\mathcal{L}\Phi = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{ij} \sigma_{ij} y_i y_j \Phi_{y_i y_j} + \sum_i (\alpha_i - r) y_i \Phi_{y_i} + \delta x \Phi_x + \kappa \max_{c \in \mathbb{R}} \{ -e^{-\nu c} - c \Phi_x \}.$$

By Theorem 2.1 in Chen and Dai (2013), there exists a function  $\psi(z, t)$  such that

$$\Phi(x, y, t) = -e^{-\nu \xi(\tau)x + \delta b(\tau) - \ln \xi(\tau) - \psi(z, \tau)},$$

where  $\tau = T - t$ ,  $z = \nu \xi(\tau)y$ , and  $\xi$  and  $b$  are defined by

$$\xi(\tau) = \frac{\delta e^{\delta \tau}}{\delta + \kappa e^{\delta \tau} - \kappa}, \quad b(\tau) = \frac{\kappa(e^{\delta \tau} - 1 - \delta \tau) + \delta^2 \tau}{\delta(\delta + \kappa e^{\delta \tau} - \kappa)},$$

respectively. Moreover, the following estimate holds

$$0 \leq \psi(z, \tau) - \ell(z) \leq \bar{\theta}_\delta b(\tau). \quad (5.14)$$

By sending  $T \rightarrow \infty$  (i.e.,  $\tau \rightarrow \infty$ ), thanks to Theorem 2.2 in Chen and Dai (2013), there exist a function  $u_\delta(z)$  and a constant  $M$  such that

$$|\psi_\tau(z, \tau)| + |\psi(z, \tau) - u_\delta(z)| \leq M(1 + \delta \tau)e^{-\delta \tau}.$$

In addition,  $u_\delta$  is a Lipschitz continuous concave viscosity solution of problem (5.11). Finally, the key estimate (5.12) is derived from the estimate (5.14) and  $\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} b(\tau) = 1/\delta$ .

□

*Proof of Theorem 1 (i).* It remains to prove the existence.

First, similar to the proof of Lemma 5.1, letting  $C$  be a sufficiently large constant and defining  $\tilde{u}_\delta(z) = -u_\delta + z_1 + z_2$ , we obtain the following problem for  $\tilde{u}_\delta$ :

$$\max \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\Sigma_z D^2 \tilde{u}_\delta] - g(D\tilde{u}_\delta) - f(z), \tilde{\mathcal{B}}[\tilde{u}_\delta], \tilde{\mathcal{S}}[\tilde{u}_\delta] \right\} = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{R}^2, \quad (5.15)$$

where  $\Sigma_z$ ,  $g(\cdot)$ ,  $f(\cdot)$ ,  $\tilde{\mathcal{B}}[\cdot]$ , and  $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}[\cdot]$  are given by (5.5)-(5.9), respectively. Then, we can apply the same argument as in the proofs of Lemma 5.2 and Corollary 5.2 in Possamaï et al. (2015) to obtain that the set  $\{z \in \mathbb{R}^2 : D\tilde{u}_\delta(z) \in \text{int}(E)\}$  is open and bounded independently of  $0 < \delta < 1$ , where  $E$  is given by (5.1). This is equivalent to that the set  $\mathcal{N}_\delta := \{z \in \mathbb{R}^2 : \mathcal{B}[u_\delta(z)] > 0, \mathcal{S}[u_\delta(z)] > 0\}$  is also open and bounded independent of  $0 < \delta < 1$ . In other words, the no-trading region is open and bounded independent of  $\delta$ .

Now, with the boundedness of the set  $\mathcal{N}_\delta$ , the Lipschitz continuity of  $u_\delta$ , and the estimate (5.12) (from Lemma 5.2), we can use the arguments of Section 4.2 in Hynd (2012) to obtain the following convergence: There exists a sequence  $\delta_k > 0$  tending to 0 such that as  $k \rightarrow \infty$

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_k u_{\delta_k}(z_{\delta_k}) &= \theta \in \mathbb{R}, \\ u_{\delta_k} - u_{\delta_k}(z_{\delta_k}) &\longrightarrow u \in C(\mathbb{R}^2) \quad \text{locally uniformly,} \end{aligned}$$

where  $z_{\delta_k} \in \mathcal{N}_{\delta_k}$  is a global minimizer of  $\tilde{u}_{\delta_k}$  for problem (5.15). To see this, note that, in problem (5.15),  $f(\cdot)$  is convex and the gradient constraints of  $\tilde{u}_\delta$  contain the origin, so one can choose  $z_\delta \in \mathcal{N}_\delta$ , which is a global minimizer of  $\tilde{u}_\delta$ . Then  $\delta u_\delta(z_\delta)$  is bounded independently of  $\delta$  since the set  $\mathcal{N}_\delta$  is bounded independent of  $\delta$  and  $0 \leq \delta u_\delta(z) \leq \delta \ell(z) + \bar{\theta}$  from the estimate (5.12), where  $\bar{\theta}$  is Merton's solution given by (2.12). Hence, we can choose a subsequence  $\delta_k$  such that  $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \delta_k u_{\delta_k}(z_{\delta_k}) = \theta$ .<sup>8</sup> The locally uniform convergence of  $u_{\delta_k} - u_{\delta_k}(z_{\delta_k})$  follows from the Lipschitz continuity of  $u_\delta$ .

Next, the assertion that  $u$  is a concave viscosity solution of (2.4) associated with the eigenvalue  $\theta$ , follows directly from the definition of viscosity solutions by passing to the limit under local uniform convergence. In addition, the uniqueness comes directly from the comparison principle.

Note that  $\bar{\theta}_\delta \rightarrow \bar{\theta}$  as  $\delta \searrow 0$ , thus (5.12) implies that  $0 \leq \theta \leq \bar{\theta}$ . Finally, the regularity result  $z_i u_{z_i} \in C(\mathbb{R}^2)$  follows from Theorem 2.3 in Chen and Dai (2013). This completes the proof of Theorem 1 (i).  $\square$

### 5.3. No-Transaction Region

Our existence proof suggests that  $u$  is Lipschitz concave and satisfies the growth condition. This allows us to follow a similar argument as in Chen and Dai (2013) to prove the rest part of Theorem 1.

*Proof of Theorem 1 (ii).* Let us first decompose the operator  $\mathcal{A}[u]$  as  $\mathcal{A}[u] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}[\Sigma_z D^2 u] - f(z)$ , where  $\Sigma_z$  is defined in (5.5), and

$$f(z) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \sigma_{ij} (z_i u_{z_i} - \bar{\pi}_i) (z_j u_{z_j} - \bar{\pi}_j) + \theta - \bar{\theta}$$

<sup>8</sup> In fact,  $\delta_k u_{\delta_k}(z) \rightarrow \theta$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . To see this,  $\delta_k u_{\delta_k}(z) = \delta_k [u_{\delta_k}(z) - u_{\delta_k}(z_{\delta_k})] + \delta_k u_{\delta_k}(z_{\delta_k}) = \delta_k u_{\delta_k}(z_{\delta_k}) + O(\delta_k)$  due to the Lipschitz continuity of  $u_{\delta_k}$  and the boundedness of  $z_{\delta_k}$ .

with  $(\bar{\pi}_1, \bar{\pi}_2)$  and  $\bar{\theta}$  being respectively the Merton's optimal portfolio allocation and long-term excess return rate given in (2.13) and (2.12), i.e.,

$$(\bar{\pi}_1, \bar{\pi}_2) = \Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r}), \quad \bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \mathbf{r})^T \Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r}).$$

Since  $z_i u_{z_i}$  is continuous from Theorem 1 (i),  $f$  is continuous.

In addition, as  $u$  is Lipschitz concave and satisfies the growth condition  $\lim_{|z| \rightarrow \infty} u(z)/\ell(z) = 1$ , we can apply the same argument as in the proof of Theorem 2.4 in Chen and Dai (2013) to infer that there are bounded functions  $l_i^\pm : \mathbb{R} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$  and intervals  $[b_i^\pm, s_i^\pm]$  for  $i = 1, 2$  such that the characterizations in (3.1) and (3.2) hold.  $\square$

## 6. Proof of Theorem 2

In this section, we prove Theorem 2. We begin with the derivation of the formal expansion.

For convenience, we recall the problem (3.4) for  $U$

$$\begin{cases} -\sigma_1^2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_1} - \sigma_2^2 U_{\xi_2 \xi_2} = \Theta U + 2\rho\sigma_1\sigma_2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_2} & \text{in } \mathbf{NT}_\xi, \\ U_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}, \\ U_{\xi_i \xi_i} + [k_{ij}z_i - (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)^2]U = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij} \end{cases}$$

where  $k_{ij}$  are defined in (3.5), and  $\Theta := 2\theta - \sum_{ij} \sigma_{ij} \beta_i \beta_j$  is a constant being part of the unknown,  $\mathbf{NT}_\xi$  and  $\Gamma_{ij}$  are the unknown no-transaction region and free boundary under new variables having the shape described in (3.1) and (3.2).

Here we remark that the first boundary condition in (3.4) is derived from  $u_{z_i} = k_{ij}$  on  $\Gamma_{ij}$ . The second boundary condition in (3.4) is derived from  $u_{z_i z_i} = 0$  and the following calculation on  $\Gamma_{ij}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = -z_i^2 u_{z_i z_i} &= -z_i (z_i u_{z_i})_{z_i} + z_i u_i = \frac{U_{\xi_i \xi_i}}{U} - \frac{U_{\xi_i}^2}{U^2} - \frac{U_{\xi_i}}{U} - \beta_i \\ &= \frac{U_{\xi_i \xi_i} - [\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i]^2 U + k_{ij}z_i U}{U}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $(z_i)_{\xi_i} = z_i$ , the second boundary condition in (3.4) can also be written as

$$[U_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + z_i k_{ij})U]_{\xi_i} = 0 \quad \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}. \quad (6.1)$$

### 6.1. The Formal Expansion for Small $\rho$

Now we seek expansions in the form of (3.7)-(3.9). First, in  $\mathbf{NT}_\xi$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= -\sigma_1^2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^0 - \sigma_2^2 U_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^0 - \Theta^0 U^0 \\ &\quad + \rho \left\{ -\sigma_1^2 \hat{U}_{\xi_1 \xi_1} - \sigma_2^2 \hat{U}_{\xi_2 \xi_2} - \Theta^0 \hat{U} - \hat{\Theta} U^0 - 2\sigma_1\sigma_2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_2}^0 \right\} + O(\rho^2). \end{aligned}$$

Second, the first set of boundary conditions gives the following:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= U_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U \Big|_{\xi_i = b_{ij} + \rho \hat{l}_{ij} + O(\rho^2)} \\ &= [U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0] \Big|_{\xi_i = b_{ij}} \\ &\quad + \rho \left\{ \hat{l}_{ij} [U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0]_{\xi_i} + [\hat{U}_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)\zeta] \right\} \Big|_{\xi_i = b_{ij}} + O(\rho^2) \end{aligned}$$

by using the boundary condition for  $U^0$  and the identity (6.1).

Third, the second set of boundary conditions can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
0 &= [U_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U]_{\xi_i} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}+\rho\hat{l}_{ij}+o(\rho^2)} \\
&= [U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0]_{\xi_i} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \\
&\quad + \rho \left\{ \hat{l}_{ij}[U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0]_{\xi_i} + [\hat{U}_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)\hat{U}]_{\xi_i} \right\} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} + O(\rho^2).
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, for the *zeroth-order*  $\{\Theta^0, b_{ij}, U^0\}$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} -\sigma_1^2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^0 - \sigma_2^2 U_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^0 = \Theta^0 U^0 & \text{in } \mathbf{NT}_\xi^0 = (b_{11}, b_{12}) \times (b_{21}, b_{22}), \\ U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0 = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}^0 = \partial \mathbf{NT}_\xi^0 \cap \{\xi_i = b_{ij}\}, \\ [U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0]_{\xi_i} = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}^0. \end{cases} \quad (6.2)$$

And, for the *leading order*  $\{\hat{\Theta}, \hat{l}_{ij}, \hat{U}\}$ , we have

$$\begin{cases} -\sigma_1^2 \hat{U}_{\xi_1 \xi_1} - \sigma_2^2 \hat{U}_{\xi_2 \xi_2} - \Theta^0 \hat{U} = \hat{\Theta} U^0 + 2\sigma_1 \sigma_2 U_{\xi_1 \xi_2}^0 & \text{in } \mathbf{NT}_\xi^0, \\ \hat{U}_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)\hat{U} = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}^0, \end{cases} \quad (6.3)$$

and

$$\hat{l}_{ij}(\check{\xi}_i) = - \frac{[\hat{U}_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)\hat{U}]_{\xi_i}}{[U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0]_{\xi_i}} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \quad \text{where } \check{\xi}_1 := \xi_2, \check{\xi}_2 := \xi_1. \quad (6.4)$$

## 6.2. The Zeroth Order

Note that the zeroth-order is equivalent to the case  $\rho = 0$ . The unique solution  $U = U^0$  of (6.2) can be obtained by separation of variables:

$$U^0(\xi) = U_1(\xi_1)U_2(\xi_2), \quad \Theta^0 = \sigma_1^2 \Theta_1 + \sigma_2^2 \Theta_2,$$

where  $\{U_i, \Theta_i\}$ , together with  $\{b_{i1}, b_{i2}\}$ , is the solution to the one-dimensional problem in terms of the new variables  $(\xi_1, \xi_2)$ .<sup>9</sup>

To simplify exposition, in the rest of this subsection, let us denote by

$$\{U, \Theta, b_1, b_2, k_1, k_2, \beta, \xi\} = \{U_i, \Theta_i, b_{i1}, b_{i2}, k_{i1}, k_{i2}, \beta_i, \xi_i\} \quad \text{for either } i = 1 \text{ or } 2,$$

and

$$\gamma_j = \beta + k_j a_j \quad \text{for } j = 1, 2.$$

Then the one-dimensional problem is to find  $(U, \Theta, b_1, b_2, a_1, a_2)$  such that  $b_1 \leq b_2$  and that

$$\begin{cases} -U'' = \Theta U & \text{in } (b_1, b_2), \\ U' + \gamma_j U = 0 & \text{at } b_j = \ln |a_j|, \quad j = 1, 2, \\ U'' + [k_j a_j - (\beta + k_j a_j)^2]U = 0 & \text{at } b_j, \quad j = 1, 2, \end{cases} \quad (6.5)$$

This is equivalent to finding  $(U, \Theta, b_1, b_2)$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}
&-U''(\xi) = \Theta U(\xi), \quad U(\xi) \neq 0 \quad \forall \xi \in [b_1, b_2], \\
&b_j = \ln \frac{|\gamma_j - \beta|}{k_j}, \quad U'(b_j) + \gamma_j U(b_j) = 0, \quad \gamma_j^2 - \gamma_j + \Theta + \beta = 0, \quad j = 1, 2.
\end{aligned}$$

<sup>9</sup> In Appendix A, we present some basic properties for the above one-dimensional eigenvalue problem. We will use one of the properties in subsequent analysis. It is also worth pointing out that in the one-dimensional case, [Guasoni and Muhle-Karbe \(2015\)](#) conduct an asymptotic analysis through shadow price.



This implies that  $a_j, b_j, \gamma_j$  are determined by  $\Theta \leq 1/4 - \beta$ . From (A.2) in Appendix A and the requirement  $\ln|a_1| = b_1 \leq b_2 = \ln|a_2|$ , we must have that either  $a_2 < a_1 < 0$  or  $0 < a_1 < a_2$ , leading to the choice

$$\gamma_1 = \frac{1 - \sqrt{1 - 4\beta - 4\Theta}}{2}, \quad \gamma_2 = \frac{1 + \sqrt{1 - 4\beta - 4\Theta}}{2},$$

$$a_j = \frac{\gamma_j - \beta}{k_j} = \frac{1 - 2\beta + (-1)^j \sqrt{1 - 4\beta - 4\Theta}}{2k_j} = \frac{m}{k_j} + (-1)^j \frac{\sqrt{1 - 4\beta - 4\Theta}}{2k_j},$$

where  $m = 1/2 - \beta$ . Again, since either  $a_2 < a_1 < 0$  or  $0 < a_1 < a_2$ , a straightforward calculation shows that  $\Theta \geq -\beta^2$ . So, this implies that  $\Theta \in (-\beta^2, 1/4 - \beta)$ .

Next, note that

$$b_j = \ln \frac{|\gamma_j - \beta|}{k_j} = \ln \left| \frac{1 - 2\beta + (-1)^j \sqrt{1 - 4\beta - 4\Theta}}{2k_j} \right|.$$

This gives

$$b_2 - b_1 = A + \ln \left| \frac{1 - 2\beta + \sqrt{1 - 4\beta - 4\Theta}}{1 - 2\beta - \sqrt{1 - 4\beta - 4\Theta}} \right|, \quad (6.6)$$

where

$$A = \ln \frac{k_1}{k_2} = \ln \frac{1 + \lambda}{1 - \mu}.$$

Suppose  $\Theta \neq 0$ . Up to a constant multiple, the solution is given by

$$U(\xi) = \cos \left( \sqrt{\Theta} [\xi - b_1] + \operatorname{arccot} \frac{\sqrt{\Theta}}{\gamma_1} \right),$$

where the boundary condition  $U'(b_2) + \gamma_2 U(b_2) = 0$  gives

$$b_2 - b_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Theta}} \left( \operatorname{arccot} \frac{\sqrt{\Theta}}{\gamma_2} - \operatorname{arccot} \frac{\sqrt{\Theta}}{\gamma_1} \right).$$

Here we use the convention that if  $\Theta < 0$ , then  $\sqrt{\Theta} = \mathbf{i}\sqrt{-\Theta}$ . Also, for  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ ,

$$\cos(\mathbf{i}x) = \cosh(x), \quad \cot(\mathbf{i}x) = -\mathbf{i} \coth x, \quad \operatorname{arccot}(-\mathbf{i} \coth x) = \mathbf{i}x.$$

In view of (6.6), for  $A > 0$  and  $\beta \neq 1/2$ , we obtain a solution if and only if  $\Theta \in (-\beta^2, 1/4 - \beta)$  is a solution of (3.14).

To sum up, we have the following lemma:

**Lemma 6.1.** *Problem (6.2) has a unique solution  $\{\Theta^0, b_{ij}, U^0\}$  having the forms of (3.10), (3.11), and (3.12) stated in Theorem 2.*

In addition, based on this separability, the expression for  $\hat{l}_{ij}$  in (6.4) can be simplified as follows. First of all, since  $(z_i)_{\xi_i} = z_i$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & [\hat{U}_{\xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)\hat{U}]_{\xi_i} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \\ &= \hat{U}_{\xi_i \xi_i} + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)\hat{U}_{\xi_i} + k_{ij}z_i \hat{U} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \\ &= \hat{U}_{\xi_i \xi_i} + (-[\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i]^2 + k_{ij}z_i) \hat{U} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \\ &= [\hat{U}_{\xi_i \xi_i} + \Theta_i \hat{U}] \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the fact that  $\gamma_{ij} = \beta_i + k_{ij}z_i$  is the roots of  $-\gamma^2 + \gamma - \beta_i = \Theta_i$ . Next, using  $U^0 = U_1(\xi_1)U_2(\xi_2)$  and  $(U_i^0)_{\xi_i \xi_i} = -\Theta_i U_i^0$  we have

$$\begin{aligned}
& [U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0]_{\xi_i \xi_i} \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \\
&= U_{\xi_i \xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U_{\xi_i \xi_i}^0 + k_{ij}z_i[2U_{\xi_i}^0 + U^0] \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \\
&= -\Theta_i[U_{\xi_i}^0 + (\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)U^0] + k_{ij}z_i[1 - 2(\beta_i + k_{ij}z_i)]U^0 \Big|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}} \\
&= [\gamma_{ij} - \beta_i][1 - 2\gamma_{ij}]U_1U_2|_{\xi_i=b_{ij}}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence, the second set of boundary conditions can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}
\hat{l}_{1j}(\xi_2) &= -\frac{\hat{U}_{\xi_1 \xi_1}(b_{1j}, \xi_2) + \Theta_1 \hat{U}(b_{1j}, \xi_2)}{H_{1j} U_2(\xi_2)} \quad \forall \xi_2 \in [b_{21}, b_{22}], \\
\hat{l}_{2j}(\xi_1) &= -\frac{\hat{U}_{\xi_2 \xi_2}(\xi_1, b_{2j}) + \Theta_2 \hat{U}(\xi_1, b_{2j})}{H_{2j} U_1(\xi_1)} \quad \forall \xi_1 \in [b_{11}, b_{12}],
\end{aligned}$$

where  $H_{ij}$  are positive constants given by

$$H_{ij} = (\gamma_{ij} - \beta_i)(1 - 2\gamma_{ij})U_i(b_{ij}), \quad \text{for } i, j = 1, 2.$$

### 6.3. The Leading Order

In this subsection, we consider the problem (6.3) and (6.4) regarding the leading order terms  $\hat{\Theta}$ ,  $\hat{l}_{ij}$ , and  $\hat{U}$ . We have the following result.

**Lemma 6.2.** *The problem (6.3) and (6.4) has a unique solution  $\{\hat{\Theta}, \hat{l}_{ij}, \hat{U}\}$  having forms (3.15), (3.16), (3.17), and (3.18).*

*Proof.* Recall that the first variation  $\hat{U}$  is the solution of the elliptic equation

$$\begin{cases} -\sigma_1^2 \hat{U}_{\xi_1 \xi_1} - \sigma_2^2 \hat{U}_{\xi_2 \xi_2} - \Theta^0 \hat{U} = \hat{\Theta} U_1 U_2 + 2\sigma_1 \sigma_2 U_1' U_2' & \text{in } \mathbf{NT}_\xi^0. \\ \hat{U}_{\xi_i} + \gamma_{ij} \hat{U} = 0 & \text{on } \Gamma_{ij}^0, \end{cases} \quad (6.7)$$

where  $\gamma_{ij} = \beta_i + k_{ij}z_i$ .

To solve the above linear partial differential equation, we first note that the differential operator  $\mathbf{L}$  defined below

$$\mathbf{L} := -\sigma_1^2 \partial_{\xi_1 \xi_1} - \sigma_2^2 \partial_{\xi_2 \xi_2} - \Theta^0 \mathbf{I}$$

is a self-adjoint elliptic operator. In addition,  $U^0 := U_1 U_2$  is a solution of the homogeneous equation, i.e.,  $U^0$  is the principal eigenfunction with a zero principal eigenvalue of the corresponding self-adjoint elliptic operator  $\mathbf{L}$  associated with the mixed boundary conditions. The solvability condition gives the constant

$$\hat{\Theta} = \frac{-2\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \int_{\mathbf{NT}_\xi^0} U_1 U_2 U_1' U_2' d\xi}{\int_{\mathbf{NT}_\xi^0} U_1^2 U_2^2 d\xi}.$$

Since the solution of the original problem is unique up to a constant multiple, we can fix the multiple by requiring  $\hat{U} \perp U^0$ , i.e.,

$$c_{00} := \frac{\int_{\mathbf{NT}_\xi^0} \hat{U} U_1 U_2 d\xi}{\sqrt{\int_{\mathbf{NT}_\xi^0} U_1^2 U_2^2 d\xi}} = 0.$$

The solution of (6.7) can be obtained by Fourier series. For this, denote by  $\{\Theta_{ip}, \psi_{ip}\}_{p=0}^{\infty}$  for  $i = 1, 2$  all the eigenpairs of the eigenvalue problem (3.22) in Remark 3.2, i.e.,

$$\begin{cases} -\psi_{ip}'' - \Theta_i \psi_{ip} = \Theta_{ip} \psi_{ip} & \text{in } [b_{i1}, b_{i2}], \\ \psi_{ip}'(b_{ij}) + \gamma_{ij} \psi_{ip}(b_{ij}) = 0, & j = 1, 2. \\ \int_{b_{i1}}^{b_{i2}} \psi_{ip}^2(x) dx = 1. \end{cases}$$

In fact,  $\{\Theta_{ip}, \psi_{ip}\}_{p=0}^{\infty}$  has an explicit form, where  $\Theta_{ip}$  is the root of the algebraic equation (3.20), and  $\psi_{ip}$  is given explicitly by (3.21).

Now, having  $\{\Theta_{ip}, \psi_{ip}\}_{p=0}^{\infty}$  at hand, solutions of the eigenvalue problem

$$\mathbf{L}\tilde{\psi} = \tilde{\theta}\tilde{\psi} \quad \text{with} \quad \tilde{\psi}_{\xi_i} + \gamma_{ij}\tilde{\psi} = 0,$$

are

$$\tilde{\theta}_{pq} := \sigma_1^2 \Theta_{1p} + \sigma_2^2 \Theta_{2q}, \quad \tilde{\psi}_{pq} := \psi_{1p} \psi_{2q}, \quad \text{for } p, q = 0, 1, \dots.$$

Note that  $\psi_{i0} = U_i / \|U_i\|_{L^2}$  and that  $\Theta_{i0} = 0$ . The solution of (6.7) thus can be written as

$$\hat{U}(\xi_1, \xi_2) = \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} c_{pq} \psi_{1p}(\xi_1) \psi_{2q}(\xi_2),$$

A further calculation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{l}_{1j}(\xi_2) &= -\frac{\hat{U}_{\xi_1 \xi_1}(b_{1j}, \xi_2) + \Theta_1 \hat{U}(b_{1j}, \xi_2)}{H_{1j} U_2(\xi_2)} \\ &= \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi_{2q}(\xi_2)}{U_2(\xi_2)} \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} c_{pq} \Theta_{1p} \frac{\psi_{1p}(b_{1j})}{H_{1j}} \end{aligned}$$

for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $\xi_2 \in [b_{21}, b_{22}]$ . Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{l}_{2j}(\xi_1) &= -\frac{\hat{U}_{\xi_2 \xi_2}(\xi_1, b_{2j}) + \Theta_2 \hat{U}(\xi_1, b_{2j})}{H_{2j} U_1(\xi_1)} \\ &= \sum_{p=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi_{1p}(\xi_1)}{U_1(\xi_1)} \sum_{q=1}^{\infty} c_{pq} \Theta_{2q} \frac{\psi_{2q}(b_{2j})}{H_{2j}} \end{aligned}$$

for  $j = 1, 2$  and  $\xi_1 \in [b_{11}, b_{12}]$ . Note that at the corner point,

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{l}'_{1j}(\xi_2)|_{\xi_2=b_{2j}} &= \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} \frac{\psi'_{2q} U_2 - \psi_{2q} U'_2}{U_2^2} \Big|_{\xi_2=b_{2j}} \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} c_{pq} \Theta_{1p} \frac{\psi_{1p}(b_{1j})}{H_{1j}} \\ &= \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} \frac{[\psi'_{2q} + \gamma_{2j} \psi_{2q}] U_2 - \psi_{2q} [U'_2 + \gamma_{2j} U_2]}{U_2^2} \Big|_{\xi_2=b_{2j}} \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} c_{pq} \Theta_{1p} \frac{\psi_{1p}(b_{1j})}{H_{1j}} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly,  $\hat{l}'_{2j}(b_{1j}) = 0$ . This completes the proof of the lemma.  $\square$

*Proof of Theorem 2.* Theorem 2 follows immediately from Lemmas 6.1 and 6.2.  $\square$

## Appendix A. Basic Properties in the One-Dimensional Case of Problem (2.4)

The one-dimensional infinite horizon problem of (2.4) is to find an interval  $[a_1, a_2] \subset \mathbb{R}$ , an (eigenvalue)  $\tilde{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}$ , and a function  $u \in C(\mathbb{R}) \cap C^2(\mathbb{R} \setminus \{0\})$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{\theta} - z^2 u'' + (zu')^2 - 2mzu' = 0 & \forall z \in [a_1, a_2], \\ k_2 \leq u'(z) \leq k_1 & \forall z \in (a_1, a_2), \\ u'(z) - k_1 = 0 \leq \tilde{\theta} + (zk_1)^2 - 2mk_1 z, & \forall z < a_1, \\ u'(z) - k_2 = 0 \leq \tilde{\theta} + (zk_2)^2 - 2mk_2 z & \forall z > a_2 \end{cases} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where

$$m = \frac{\alpha - r}{\sigma^2}, \quad k_1 = 1 + \lambda \in [1, \infty), \quad k_2 = 1 - \mu \in (0, 1].$$

The original eigenvalue  $\theta$  relates  $\tilde{\theta}$  by  $\theta = \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \tilde{\theta}$ .

Notice first the following basic facts:

- (1) If  $u$  is a solution, then for any constant  $C$ ,  $u + C$  is also a solution. Hence, we normalize it by assuming

$$u(0) = 0.$$

- (2) There are two trivial cases:

- (i)  $\lambda = 0 = \mu$ : then up to an additive constant, the solution is given by

$$u(z) = z \quad \forall z \in \mathbb{R}, \quad a_1 = a_2 = m, \quad \tilde{\theta} = m^2.$$

- (ii)  $m = 0$ : Then up to an additive constant, the solution is given by

$$a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = 0, \quad \tilde{\theta} = 0, \quad u(z) = \begin{cases} (1 - \mu)z & \text{if } z \geq 0, \\ (1 + \lambda)z & \text{if } z < 0. \end{cases}$$

- (3) If  $0 \in [a_1, a_2]$ , then we must have  $\tilde{\theta} = 0$  or equivalently  $\theta = 0$ . From  $zu'' = zu'^2 - 2mu'$  in  $(a_1, a_2) \setminus \{0\}$  and  $k_2 \leq u' \leq k_1$  we conclude first that  $a_1 = a_2 = 0$  and then  $m = 0$ . Hence, we must have  $m \neq 0$  and  $0 \notin [a_1, a_2]$ . Moreover, since  $\theta \geq 0$ ,  $u$  is concave, and  $u' \geq k_2 > 0$ , the equation  $\tilde{\theta} - z^2 u'' + (zu')^2 - 2mzu' = 0$  implies that  $mz > 0$  for  $z \in [a_1, a_2]$ . Thus, we have

$$m > 0 \implies a_2 > a_1 > 0, \quad \text{and} \quad m < 0 \implies a_1 < a_2 < 0. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

- (4) The differential equation at  $a_i$  and the differential inequality imply that  $a_i^2 u''(a_i) \geq 0$ . On the other hand,  $u'(a_1) = k_1$  is a global maximum and  $u'(a_2) = k_2$  is a global minimum of  $u'$ , so  $a_i^2 u''(a_i) = 0$ .

## Appendix B. A Joint Expansion in Small Correlation and Transaction Cost

In this appendix, we seek a joint expansion with respect to small transaction costs and small correlation. Without loss of generality, we assume that

$$\lambda_i = \mu_i = \epsilon \ll 1, \quad \text{and} \quad |\rho| \ll 1. \quad (\text{B.1})$$

And we introduce the following scaling variable

$$\xi_i = \frac{z_i - m_i}{\epsilon^{1/3}}, \quad (\text{B.2})$$

where  $m = (m_1, m_2) = \Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r})$  is the Merton's strategy. For simplicity, we use the following notations

$$\check{z}_1 = z_2, \check{z}_2 = z_1. \quad (\text{B.3})$$

Then, we have:

**Proposition 1** (Joint Expansion). *For the eigenvalue problem (2.4)-(2.8), we have the following formal asymptotic expansions for  $\{\theta, u(\cdot, \cdot)\}$ :*

$$\theta = \bar{\theta} - \epsilon^{2/3}(\theta_{1,0} + \rho \theta_{1,1}) + o(\epsilon^{2/3} + \rho), \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$u(z_1, z_2) = z_1 + z_2 + \epsilon^{4/3}(U_{1,0}(\xi_1, \xi_2) + \rho U_{1,1}(\xi_1, \xi_2)) + o(\epsilon^{4/3} + \rho), \quad (\text{B.5})$$

and for the optimal trading boundaries  $\{l_1^\pm(\cdot), l_2^\pm(\cdot)\}$ :

$$l_i^\mp(\check{z}_i) = l_{ij}(\check{z}_i) = m_i + \epsilon^{1/3}(l_{ij}^0 + \rho \hat{l}_{ij}(\xi_i)) + o(\epsilon^{1/3} + \rho) \quad \text{for } i, j = 1, 2. \quad (\text{B.6})$$

Moreover, the quantities and functions in the above expansions have explicit expressions:

(a) Regarding the eigenvalue,

$$\bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{2}(\alpha - \mathbf{r})^T \Sigma^{-1}(\alpha - \mathbf{r}), \quad \theta_{1,0} = \sigma_1^2 l_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 l_2^2, \quad \theta_{1,1} = 0, \quad \text{with } l_i = \left(\frac{3m_i^2}{2}\right)^{1/3}. \quad (\text{B.7})$$

(b) Regarding the eigenfunction,

$$U_{1,0}(\xi_1, \xi_2) = \frac{1}{m_1^2} \left( \frac{\xi_1^4}{12} - \frac{l_1^2}{2} \xi_1^2 \right) + \frac{1}{m_2^2} \left( \frac{\xi_2^4}{12} - \frac{l_2^2}{2} \xi_2^2 \right), \quad (\text{B.8})$$

$$U_{1,1}(\xi_1, \xi_2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{-2\sigma_1\sigma_2 a_{1n} a_{2k}}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{1n})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{2k})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{1n} \xi_1) \sin(\Lambda_{2k} \xi_2). \quad (\text{B.9})$$

where

$$\Lambda_{ik} = \frac{2k+1}{2l_i} \pi, \quad a_{ik} = \frac{8l_i^2 (-1)^k}{(2k+1)^2 \pi^2} \quad \text{for } k = 0, 1, 2, \dots. \quad (\text{B.10})$$

(c) Regarding the optimal boundaries,

$$l_{ij}^0 = (-1)^j l_i, \quad (\text{B.11})$$

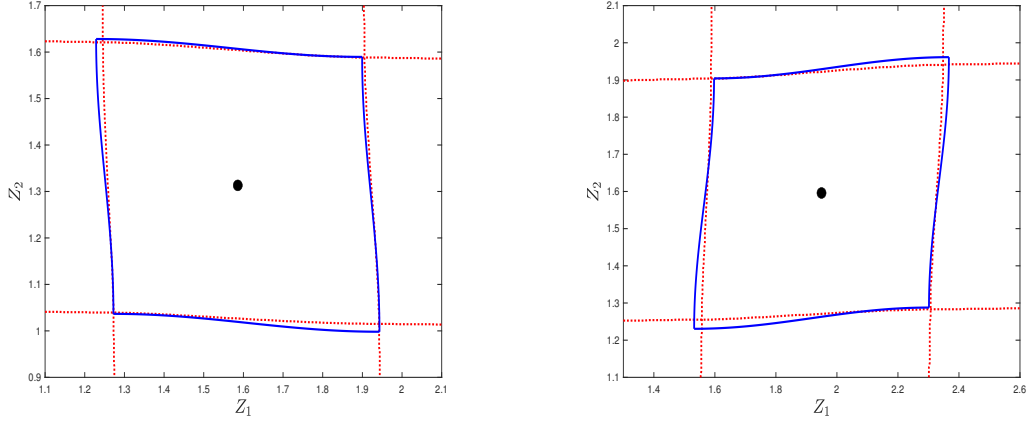
$$\hat{l}_{1j}(\xi_2) = -\frac{m_1^2}{l_1} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 a_{1n} a_{2k} \Lambda_{1n}^2 (-1)^n}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{1n})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{2k})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{1n} \xi_2), \quad (\text{B.12})$$

$$\hat{l}_{2j}(\xi_1) = -\frac{m_2^2}{l_2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 a_{1n} a_{2k} \Lambda_{2k}^2 (-1)^k}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{1n})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{2k})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{2k} \xi_1). \quad (\text{B.13})$$

Before proceeding to the proof, let us verify our joint expansions. To this, we use the default parameter values reported in Table 2 for our numerical experiments. Figure 5 plots the optimal trading boundaries obtained by FDM as well as our joint expansions with both small transaction costs ( $\epsilon = 1\%$  for both panels) and correlation ( $\rho = 0.1$  for the left panel, and  $\rho = -0.1$  for the right panel). To generate these figures, we only use the first term in the power series for simplicity, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} U_{1,1}(\xi_1, \xi_2) &= \frac{-2\sigma_1\sigma_2 a_{10} a_{20}}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{10})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{20})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{10} \xi_1) \sin(\Lambda_{20} \xi_2), \\ \hat{l}_{1j}(\xi_2) &= -\frac{m_1^2}{l_1} \frac{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 a_{10} a_{20} \Lambda_{10}^2}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{10})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{20})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{10} \xi_2), \\ \hat{l}_{2j}(\xi_1) &= -\frac{m_2^2}{l_2} \frac{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 a_{10} a_{20} \Lambda_{20}^2}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{10})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{20})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{20} \xi_1). \end{aligned}$$

As can be seen, our expansion performs quite well.



**Figure 5. Joint Expansion for the No-Transaction Regions (Left:  $\epsilon = 1\%$ ,  $\rho = 0.1$ , Right:  $\epsilon = 1\%$ ,  $\rho = -0.1$ ).** In each plot, the thick black dot is the Merton's strategy in the absence of transaction costs but with a non-zero correlation; The red dotted lines and the blue solid lines correspond to the benchmark (FDM) and the asymptotic expansion, respectively, in the presence of both correlation and transaction costs. Other parameters are given in Table 2.

Now we turn to the proof of Proposition 1.

*Proof.* We divide the proof into four steps as follows.

**Step 1: Expansion with respect to  $\epsilon$ .**

Write

$$u(z_1, z_2) = z_1 + z_2 + \epsilon^{4/3} \omega(\xi_1, \xi_2) + h.o.t ,$$

where  $\xi_i$  is defined in (B.2), and *h.o.t* stands for *higher order terms*. Then,

$$u_{z_i}(z_1, z_2) = 1 \mp \epsilon \omega_{\xi_i}(\xi_1, \xi_2) + h.o.t .$$

In addition, a direct calculation shows that

$$\begin{aligned} \theta - \mathcal{A}[u] &= \theta - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{j=1}^2 \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j [u_{z_i z_j} - u_{z_i} u_{z_j}] - \sum_{i=1}^2 (\alpha_i - r) z_i u_{z_i} \\ &= \theta - \frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j \left\{ -1 + \epsilon^{2/3} \omega_{\xi_i \xi_j} + h.o.t \right\} - \sum (\alpha_i - r) (1 + \epsilon \omega_{\xi_i}) z_i \\ &= \theta + \frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j - \sum (\alpha_i - r) z_i - \frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j \epsilon^{2/3} \omega_{\xi_i \xi_j} + h.o.t . \end{aligned}$$

Recall that  $\bar{\theta}$  and  $m_i$  given respectively by (2.12) and (2.13) are Merton's optimal excess return and optimal strategy, which satisfy

$$\bar{\theta} = \max_y \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} y_i y_j + \sum (\alpha_i - r) y_i \right] = -\frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} m_i m_j + \sum (\alpha_i - r) m_i .$$

Then by using  $\bar{\theta}$  and  $m_i$ , we further derive that

$$\begin{aligned} \theta - \mathcal{A}[u] &= \theta - \bar{\theta} + \frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} (z_i - m_i)(z_j - m_j) - \frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} z_i z_j \epsilon^{2/3} \omega_{\xi_i \xi_j} + h.o.t \\ &= \theta - \bar{\theta} + \frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} \epsilon^{2/3} [\xi_i \xi_j - m_i m_j \omega_{\xi_i \xi_j}] + h.o.t . \end{aligned}$$

Set

$$\theta = \bar{\theta} - \epsilon^{2/3} \theta_1 + h.o.t ,$$

which gives

$$\theta - \mathcal{A}[u] = -\epsilon^{2/3} \left\{ \theta_1 + \frac{1}{2} \sum \sigma_{ij} (\omega_{\xi_i \xi_j} m_i m_j - \xi_i \xi_j) + h.o.t \right\}.$$

By sending  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ , we obtain the linearized problem:

$$\begin{cases} \sum \sigma_{ij} m_i m_j \omega_{\xi_i \xi_j} = \sum \sigma_{ij} \xi_i \xi_j - \theta_1 & \text{in } \mathcal{D} \\ \omega_{\xi_1}(\ell^\pm(\xi_2), \xi_2) = \mp 1, \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}(\ell^\pm(\xi_2), \xi_2) = 0 \\ \omega_{\xi_2}(\xi_1, h^\pm(\xi_1)) = \mp 1, \omega_{\xi_2 \xi_2}(\xi_1, h^\pm(\xi_1)) = 0 \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.14})$$

where

$$\mathcal{D} = \{(\xi_1, \xi_2) \mid \ell^-(\xi_2) < \xi_1 < \ell^+(\xi_2), h^-(\xi_1) < \xi_2 < h^+(\xi_1)\}. \quad (\text{B.15})$$

Next, regarding to the small correlation  $\rho$ , we further seek the following expansions

$$\begin{aligned} \theta_1 &= \theta_0 + \rho \theta_1 + h.o.t \\ \omega(\xi_1, \xi_2) &= \omega^0(\xi_1, \xi_2) + \rho \omega^1(\xi_1, \xi_2) + h.o.t \\ \ell^\pm(\xi_2) &= \pm \ell_0 + \rho \ell_1^\pm(\xi_2) + h.o.t \\ h^\pm(\xi_1) &= \pm h_0 + \rho h_1^\pm(\xi_1) + h.o.t \end{aligned}$$

To this, we are going to discuss two cases: the zeroth order, and the leading order.

### Step 2: Zeroth order in $\rho$ .

By plugging the above formal expansions into the equation (B.14), we obtain the equation for the zeroth order terms:

$$(\sigma_1 m_1)^2 \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^0 + (\sigma_2 m_2)^2 \omega_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^0 = \sigma_1^2 \xi_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 \xi_2^2 - \theta_0 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D} = (-\ell_0, \ell_0) \times (-h_0, h_0).$$

The solution is given by

$$\omega^0(\xi_1, \xi_2) = \frac{1}{m_1^2} \left( \frac{\xi_1^4}{12} - \frac{\ell_0^2}{2} \xi_1^2 \right) + \frac{1}{m_2^2} \left( \frac{\xi_2^4}{12} - \frac{h_0^2}{2} \xi_2^2 \right),$$

where

$$\ell_0 = \left( \frac{3m_1^2}{2} \right)^{1/3}, \quad h_0 = \left( \frac{3m_2^2}{2} \right)^{1/3}.$$

Therefore, we have

$$(\sigma_1 m_1)^2 \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^0 + (\sigma_2 m_2)^2 \omega_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^0 = \sigma_1^2 \xi_1^2 + \sigma_2^2 \xi_2^2 - \sigma_1^2 \ell_0^2 - \sigma_2^2 h_0^2,$$

which implies that

$$\theta_0 = \sigma_1^2 \ell_0^2 + \sigma_2^2 h_0^2.$$

### Step 3: Leading order in $\rho$ .

For the leading order terms, we have the following linearized problem

$$(\sigma_1 m_1)^2 \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^1 + (\sigma_2 m_2)^2 \omega_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^1 = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \xi_1 \xi_2 - \theta_1 \quad \text{in } \mathcal{D} = (-\ell_0, \ell_0) \times (-h_0, h_0).$$

Notice that

$$\begin{aligned} \mp 1 &= \omega_{\xi_1}(\pm \ell_0 + \rho \ell_1^\pm(\xi_2), \xi_2) = \omega_{\xi_1}^0(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2) + \rho \ell_1^\pm(\xi_2) \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^0 + \rho \omega_{\xi_1}^1(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2) \\ &\implies \omega_{\xi_1}^1(\pm \ell_0, \xi_1) = 0. \\ 0 &= \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}(\ell_0 + \rho \ell_1^\pm(\xi_2), \xi_2) = \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^0(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2) + \rho \ell_1^\pm(\xi_2) \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1 \xi_1}^0 + \rho \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^1(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2). \\ &\implies \ell_1^\pm(\xi_2) = -\frac{\omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^1(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2)}{\omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1 \xi_1}^0(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2)} = \mp \frac{m_1^2}{2\ell} \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^1(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2). \end{aligned}$$



Here,  $\omega^1$  is the solution of

$$\begin{cases} (\sigma_1 m_1)^2 \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^1 + (\sigma_2 m_2)^2 \omega_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^1 = \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \xi_1 \xi_2 & \text{in } \mathcal{D} = (-\ell_0, \ell_0) \times (-h_0, h_0) \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial \vec{n}} \omega^1 = 0 & \text{on } \partial \mathcal{D} \end{cases} \quad (\text{B.16})$$

Note that  $0 = \int_{\mathcal{D}} (\sigma_1 \sigma_2 \xi_1 \xi_2 - \theta_1)$ , which implies that  $\theta_1 = 0$ .

After we solve  $\omega^1$ , we can compute the free boundary as follows

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_1^\pm(\xi_2) &= \mp \frac{m_1^2}{2\ell_0} \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^1(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2), \\ h_1^\pm(\xi_1) &= \mp \frac{m_2^2}{2h_0} \omega_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^1(\xi_1, \pm h_0). \end{aligned}$$

#### Step 4: Solution of $\omega^1$ .

We aim to solve the problem (B.16). To this, consider the eigenvalue problem:

$$\begin{cases} a^2 \varphi'' = -\Lambda \varphi & \text{in } (-\ell, \ell) \\ \varphi'(\pm \ell) = 0. \end{cases}$$

We can verify that

$$\varphi(x) = \cos \frac{\sqrt{\Lambda}}{a} (x + \ell)$$

where  $\Lambda$  satisfies

$$\sin \frac{\sqrt{\Lambda}}{a} 2\ell = 0 \Rightarrow \Lambda = \left( \frac{k\pi}{2\ell} a \right)^2, \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

Therefore, the associated eigenfunction is

$$\varphi_k(x) = \cos \frac{1}{a} \cdot \frac{ka\pi}{2\ell} (x + \ell) = \cos \left( \frac{k\pi x}{2\ell} + \frac{k\pi}{2} \right).$$

Note that when  $k$  is even,  $\varphi$  is even, and when  $k$  is odd,  $\varphi$  is odd.

Consider the expansion

$$x = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \tilde{a}_k \cos \left( \frac{k\pi x}{2\ell} + \frac{k\pi}{2} \right) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \tilde{a}_{2n+1} (-1)^n \sin \frac{(2n+1)\pi x}{2\ell},$$

where the second equality follows from  $\tilde{a}_k = \int_{-\ell}^{\ell} x \varphi_k(x) dx = 0$  when  $k$  is even. Denote by  $a_n = (-1)^n \tilde{a}_{2n+1}$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} a_n &= 2 \int_0^{\ell} x \sin \frac{(2n+1)\pi x}{2\ell} dx \\ &= 2 \left\{ -\frac{2\ell}{(2n+1)\pi} x \cos \frac{(2n+1)\pi x}{2\ell} + \left( \frac{2\ell}{(2n+1)\pi} \right)^2 \sin \frac{(2n+1)\pi x}{2\ell} \right\} \Big|_0^{\ell} \\ &= 2 \left( \frac{2\ell}{(2n+1)\pi} \right)^2 \sin \frac{(2n+1)\pi}{2} = \frac{8\ell^2 (-1)^n}{(2n+1)^2 \pi^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $\xi_1$  and  $\xi_2$  respectively have the following expansions

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{1n} \sin(\Lambda_{1n} \xi_1), \quad \text{with } \Lambda_{1n} = \frac{2n+1}{2\ell_0} \pi, \quad a_{1n} = \frac{8\ell_0^2 (-1)^n}{(2n+1)^2 \pi^2}, \\ \xi_2 &= \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_{2k} \sin(\Lambda_{2k} \xi_2), \quad \text{with } \Lambda_{2k} = \frac{2k+1}{2h_0} \pi, \quad a_{2k} = \frac{8h_0^2 (-1)^k}{(2k+1)^2 \pi^2}, \end{aligned}$$

and  $\omega^1$  is given by

$$\omega^1(\xi_1, \xi_2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{-2\sigma_1 \sigma_2 a_{1n} a_{2k}}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{1n})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{2k})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{1n} \xi_1) \sin(\Lambda_{2k} \xi_2).$$

Thus,

$$\ell_1^\pm(\xi_2) = \mp \frac{m_1^2}{2\ell_0} \omega_{\xi_1 \xi_1}^1(\pm \ell_0, \xi_2) = -\frac{m_1^2}{\ell_0} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 a_{1n} a_{2k} \Lambda_{1n}^2 (-1)^n}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{1n})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{2k})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{2k} \xi_2) ,$$

$$h_1^\pm(\xi_1) = \mp \frac{m_2^2}{2h_0} \omega_{\xi_2 \xi_2}^1(\xi_1, \pm h_0) = -\frac{m_2^2}{h_0} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_1 \sigma_2 a_{1n} a_{2k} \Lambda_{2k}^2 (-1)^k}{(\sigma_1 m_1 \Lambda_{1n})^2 + (\sigma_2 m_2 \Lambda_{2k})^2} \sin(\Lambda_{1n} \xi_1) .$$

Finally, setting  $U_{1,0} = \omega^0$ ,  $U_{1,1} = \omega^1$ ,  $l_1 = \ell_0$ ,  $l_2 = h_0$ ,  $\hat{l}_{1j} = \ell_1^\mp$ , and  $\hat{l}_{2j} = h_1^\mp$  we obtain the required expansions in explicit forms.  $\square$

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