Robust Portfolio Selection Problems Including Uncertainty Factors

Takashi Hasuike and Hiroaki Ishii

Abstract—**This paper considers robust mean-variance portfolio selection problems including uncertainty sets and fuzzy factors. Since these problems are not well-defined problems due to fuzzy factors, it is hard to solve them directly. Therefore, introducing chance constraints, fuzzy goals and possibility measures, the proposed models are transformed into the deterministic equivalent problems. Furthermore, since it is difficult to solve them analytically and efficiently due to nonlinear programming problems, the solution method is constructed introducing a parameter and doing the equivalent transformations.**

Index Terms—**Portfolio selection problem, Robust optimization, Fuzzy optimization, Nonlinear programming**

I. Introduction

In recent investment markets, not only big companies and institutional investors but also individual investors called Day-Traders invest in stock, currency, property, etc.. Therefore, the role of investment theory becomes more and more important. Of course, it is easy to decide the most suitable financial assets allocation if decision makers can receive reliable information with respect to future returns a priori. However, there exist many cases that uncertainty from social conditions has a great influence on the future returns. In the real market, there are random factors derived from statistical analysis of historical data and ambiguous factors such as the psychological aspect of investors and lack of received efficient information. Under such uncertainty situations, they need to consider how to reduce a risk, and it becomes important whether they receive the greatest future profit.

Such a finance assets selection problem is generally called a portfolio selection problem, and various studies have been done till now. As for the research history on mathematical approach, Markowitz [24] has proposed mean-variance model and it has been central to research activity in the real financial field and numerous researchers have contributed to the development of modern portfolio theory (for instance, Luenberger [23], Steinbach [28]). On the other hand, many researchers have proposed models of portfolio selection problems which extended Markowitz model; Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) (Sharpe [27], Lintner [21], Mossin [25]), mean-absolute-deviation model (Konno [19], Konno, et al. [20]), semi-variance model (Bawa [1]), safety-first model (Elton [6]), Value at Risk and conditional Value at Risk model (Rockfellar [26]), etc..

In such previous researches, expected future return and variance of each asset are assumed to be known, and in this case, the mean-variance model is equivalent to a quadratic convex programming problem. Therefore, its optimal portfolio is analytically obtained. However, decision makers may receive a lot of information and data in current market. Then, it is almost impossible to estimate strict market parameters such as expected future return and variance, and to determine their random distribution. These distributions may be statistically determined as a confidence interval involving some error. Therefore, using these statistical distributions, it is more important to considering that decision makers optimize the problem in the worst case; i.e. robust optimization problem.

Recently, the robust optimization problem becomes a more active area of research, and there exists various studies (For example, [2, 3, 7, 10, 13]). Particularly, with respect to portfolio selection problems, there are some studies of robust portfolio selection problems determining optimal investment strategy using the robust approach (For example, [8, 22]). The expected return and variance of each asset are mainly estimated from historical data and occur according to random distributions derived from the statistical analysis. However, considering efficient or inefficient received information, the institution of expert decision maker and the existence of other random distribution, we need to consider that statistical distribution considering these conditions includes some ambiguity and is involved some flexibility. In this paper, we propose extensional models of robust portfolio selection problems including fuzzy factors.

Until now, there are some basic researches under various uncertainty conditions with respect to portfolio selection problems (Bilbao-Terol [4], Carlsson [5], Guo [9], Huang [11, 12], Inuiguchi [14, 15], Katagiri [17, 18], Tanaka [29, 30], Watada [31]). However, there are few models considering both uncertainty sets and ambiguity, simultaneously. Furthermore, there are no researches which are analytically extended and solved these types of portfolio selection problems. Since our proposal models are not well-defined problems, in this paper, we transform main problems into the deterministic equivalent problems and construct the analytical solution method of fuzzy robust portfolio selection problem as well as propose formulation of this model.

This paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we introduce basic mean-variance portfolio selection problems minimizing the total variance and the total future return, respectively, and we formulate their robust models

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(Advance online publication: 21 August 2008)

introducing the uncertainty sets. In Section 3, introducing fuzzy numbers to uncertainty sets of expected return and variance, we propose fuzzy extension models of robust mean-variance portfolio selection problems and construct the analytical solution method. Finally, in Section 4, we conclude this paper and discuss future research problems.

II. Formulation of Robust mean variance optimization problems

In this section, we consider basic portfolio selection problems and their robust models. First of all, we set the parameters in portfolio selection problems. We set the expected return of total future profit $E(\boldsymbol{r})$ and the total variance $\mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{r})$ as follows:

$$E(\boldsymbol{r}) = \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi, \quad \mathbf{Var}(\boldsymbol{r}) = \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \tag{1}$$

where each notation means as follows:

$\boldsymbol{r}$: Future return vector assumed to be a random variable

$\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}$: Mean value vector of random variable $\boldsymbol{r}$

$\mathbf{V}$: Variance-covariance matrix of random variable $\boldsymbol{r}$

ϕ : Portfolio with respect to each asset $j, \ (j = 1, 2, ..., n)$

From these notations, a mean-variance model Markowitz has proposed is formulated as the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Minimize} \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi \geq f, \\ &\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where f is a target value of total future return. In this problem, introducing a parameter ν, problem (2) is equivalently transformed into the following problem introducing the target value of total variance ν:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Minimize} \quad \nu \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \leq \nu, \\ &\qquad \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi \geq f, \\ &\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

In the case that we obtain the strict value of parameters $\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}$ and $\mathbf{V}$, problem (3) is equivalent to a quadratic programming problem and we find an optimal portfolio using standard convex programming approaches. Furthermore, while problem (3) considers minimizing the total variance, the case maximizing the total future return is formulated as the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Maximize} \quad f \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi \geq f, \\ &\qquad \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \leq \nu, \\ &\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{4}$$

This problem is also a quadratic programming problem and so we obtain an optimal portfolio.

However, in real world, it is hard to receive all information and data with respect to future returns and determine the distributions of their random variables. Therefore, in this paper, we consider that parameters $\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}$ and $\mathbf{V}$ have uncertainty and each parameter is included in an uncertainty set. In the case that we consider these uncertainty sets, problems (3) and (4) are not quadratic programming problems. Therefore, we need to construct the solution procedure to solve them. In this paper, we formulate the robust portfolio selection problem Men-tal and Nemirovski [2] have proposed. We formulate the robust portfolio selection problem minimizing the total variance as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Minimize} \quad \nu \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \max_{\{\mathbf{V} \in S\}} \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \leq \nu, \\ &\qquad \min_{\{\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} \in M\}} \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi \geq f, \\ &\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

where $M \subset R^n$ and $S \subset R^{n \times n}$ are uncertainty sets. In a way similar to problem (5), we formulate the robust portfolio selection problem maximizing the total future return as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Maximize} \quad f \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \min_{\{\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} \in M\}} \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi \geq f, \\ &\qquad \max_{\{\mathbf{V} \in S\}} \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \leq \nu, \\ &\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

In these problems, they are not well-defined problems without defining uncertainty sets. Therefore, we first assume the uncertainty set of mean value $\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}$ to be the following ellipsoidal set:

$$M = \left\{ \bar{\boldsymbol{r}} \,\middle|\, (\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0)^t \, \mathbf{G} (\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0) \leq 1 \right\} \tag{7}$$

where $\mathbf{G} \in R^{n \times n}$ is a symmetric positive definite matrix. In this case, the left part of constraint $\min_{\{\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} \in M\}} \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi \geq f$ is transformed into the following form by introducing parameters $\hat{\boldsymbol{r}}$ and $\boldsymbol{z}$:

$$\inf_{\mu \in M} \boldsymbol{r}^t \phi = \inf_{\left\| \mathbf{G}^{\frac{1}{2}} \hat{\boldsymbol{r}} \right\| \leq 1} (\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 + \hat{\boldsymbol{r}})^t \phi = \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0^t \phi + \inf_{\|\boldsymbol{z}\| \leq 1} \boldsymbol{z}^t \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \tag{8}$$

where $\left\| \mathbf{G}^{\frac{1}{2}} \hat{\boldsymbol{r}} \right\| = \sqrt{\hat{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \mathbf{G} \hat{\boldsymbol{r}}}$ and $\|\boldsymbol{z}\| = \sqrt{\boldsymbol{z}^t \boldsymbol{z}}$. Therefore, by solving $\inf_{\|\boldsymbol{z}\| \leq 1} \boldsymbol{z}^t \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi$ with respect to $\boldsymbol{z}$, we easily obtain the following optimal solution:

$$\mathbf{z}^* = -\frac{\mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi}{\left\| \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \right\|} \tag{9}$$

Using this optimal solution $\boldsymbol{z}^*$, the expression (8) is transformed into the following form:

$$\inf_{\boldsymbol{r} \in M} \boldsymbol{r}^t \phi = \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0^t \phi - \left\| \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \right\| \tag{10}$$

In a way similar to mean value $\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}$, we consider the uncertainty set of variance $\mathbf{V}$ as follows:

$$S = \left\{ \mathbf{V} \,\middle|\, \mathbf{V} \succ 0, \, \mathbf{V}^L \leq \mathbf{V} \leq \mathbf{V}^U \right\} \tag{11}$$

where $\mathbf{V}^L$ and $\mathbf{V}^U$ are symmetric positive definite matrixes. Note that, since $\mathbf{V}$ is restricted to be symmetric, the inequalities $\mathbf{V}^L \leq \mathbf{V} \leq \mathbf{V}^U$ can be represented with $n(n+1)$ componentwise inequalities, say for the upper triangle portions of these symmetric matrices. In other words, $\mathbf{V}^L \le \mathbf{V}$ is a short-hand notation for $\sigma_{ij}^L \le \sigma_{ij}$, $1 \le i \le j \le n$, and similar for $\mathbf{V} \le \mathbf{V}^U$. Therefore, the constraint $\max_{\{\mathbf{V}\in S\}} \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \le \nu$ is transformed into

$$\max_{\{\mathbf{V}\in S\}} \phi^t \mathbf{V} \phi \le \nu \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U \phi \le \nu,$$

and main problem is equivalently transformed into the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Minimize} && \nu \\ &\text{subject to} && \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U \phi \le \nu, \\ &&& \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0^t \phi - \left\| \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \right\| \ge f, \\ &&& \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

Then, the problem (12) is also equivalently transformed into the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Maximize} && f \\ &\text{subject to} && \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0^t \phi - \left\| \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \right\| \ge f, \\ &&& \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U \phi \le \nu, \\ &&& \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

These problems are convex programming problems, and so we obtain each optimal solution using the convex programming approach.

III. Fuzzy extension of Robust mean variance optimization problems

In Section 2, we consider that each parameter in the ellipsoidal set is fixed value. However, in real world, there exist various types of efficient and inefficient information, and each investor has an institution with respect to the current market. These factors include ambiguity and so we need to consider a robust portfolio selection problem including ambiguity. In this paper, we assume the $\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0$ to include ambiguity and to be a fuzzy number. Therefore, uncertainty set (7) is redefined into the following form:

$$M = \left\{ \bar{\boldsymbol{r}} : \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 \right)^t \mathbf{G} \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 \right) \le 1 \right\} \tag{14}$$

Then, in this paper, the fuzzy number $\tilde{\boldsymbol{r}}_0$ is assumed to be a following L-shape fuzzy number:

$$\mu_{\tilde{r}_{0j}}(\omega) = \begin{cases} L\left(\dfrac{\omega - \bar{r}_{0j}}{\alpha_j} \right) & \left(\bar{r}_{0j} - \alpha_j \le \omega \le \bar{r}_{0j} + \alpha_j \right) \\ 0 & \left(\omega \le \bar{r}_{0j} - \alpha_j,\ \bar{r}_{0j} + \alpha_j \le \omega \right) \end{cases} \tag{15}$$

In this paper, we assume the following inequality with respect to each asset:

$$\bar{\mu}_{0j} - L^*(h) \alpha_j \ge 0 \tag{16}$$

The uncertainty set $\tilde{U} = \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 \right)^t \mathbf{G} \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \tilde{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 \right)$ includes fuzzy numbers vector $\tilde{\boldsymbol{r}}_0$ and so $\tilde{U}$ is a fuzzy numbers. Therefore, the membership function of $\tilde{U}$ is as follows:

$$\mu_{\tilde{U}}(\omega) = \sup_{\gamma_{0j}} \left\{ \min_{1 \le j \le n} \mu_{\tilde{r}_{0j}}(\gamma_{0j}) \middle| \omega = \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \boldsymbol{\gamma}_0 \right)^t \mathbf{G} \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \boldsymbol{\gamma}_0 \right) \right\} \tag{17}$$

Then, the uncertainty set (14) is transformed into the following form in the case introducing the h-cut:

$$M_h = \left\{ \bar{\boldsymbol{r}} \middle| \mu_{\tilde{V}}(\omega) \ge h \right\} \tag{18}$$

Furthermore, taking account of the vagueness of human judgment and flexibility for the execution of a plan, we give a fuzzy goal to the target probability as the fuzzy set characterized by a membership function. In this subsection, we consider the fuzzy goal of probability $\mu_{\tilde{G}}(f)$ which is represented by,

$$\mu_{\tilde{G}}(f) = \begin{cases} 0 & f \le f_0 \\ g_F(f) & f_0 \le f \le f_1 \\ 1 & f_1 \le f \end{cases} \tag{19}$$

where $g_F(f)$ is a strictly increasing continuous function. Then, using a concept of possibility measure, we introduce the degree of possibility as follows:

$$\prod_{\tilde{F}} \left(\tilde{G} \right) = \sup_f \min \left\{ \mu_{\tilde{U}}(f),\ \mu_{\tilde{G}}(f) \right\} \tag{20}$$

In this possibility measure, in the case that we consider $\mu_{\tilde{U}}(f) \ge h$, we obtain the following transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu_{\tilde{U}}(\omega) \ge h \\ \Leftrightarrow\ & \sup_{\gamma_{0j}} \left\{ \min_{1 \le j \le n} \mu_{\tilde{r}_{0j}}(\gamma_{0j}) \middle| \omega = \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \boldsymbol{\gamma}_0 \right)^t \mathbf{G} \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \boldsymbol{\gamma}_0 \right) \le 1 \right\} \ge \alpha \\ \Leftrightarrow\ & \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \mathbf{G} \bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - 2 \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \mathbf{G} \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right) \\ & + \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right)^t \mathbf{G} \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right) \le 1 \\ \Leftrightarrow\ & \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right) \right)^t \mathbf{G} \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} - \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right) \right) \le 1 \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

where $L^*(x)$ is a pseudo inverse function of $L(\omega)$. Using this inequality, the expression (8) is transformed into the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} \inf_{\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} \in M} \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi &= \inf_{\left\| \mathbf{G}^{\frac{1}{2}} \hat{\boldsymbol{r}} \right\| \le 1} \left(\left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right) + \hat{\boldsymbol{r}} \right)^t \phi \\ &= \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right)^t \phi + \inf_{\|z\| \le 1} z^t \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Then, $\inf_{\|z\| \le 1} z^t \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi$ in expression (22) is equal to that in expression (8), and from the optimal value of (9), this expression is equal to the following form:

$$\inf_{\bar{\boldsymbol{r}} \in M} \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \phi = \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right)^t \phi - \left\| \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \right\| \tag{23}$$

Consequently, in the case that we consider the possibility measure constraint $\prod_{\tilde{F}} \left(\tilde{G} \right) \ge h$, this constraint is transformed into the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}&\prod\nolimits_{\tilde{F}}\left(\tilde{G}\right)\geq h\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\sup_f \min\left\{\mu_{\tilde{F}}\left(f\right),\ \mu_{\tilde{G}}\left(f\right)\right\}\geq h\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\mu_{\tilde{F}}\left(f\right)\geq h,\ \mu_{\tilde{G}}\left(f\right)\geq h\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\sup\left\{\min_{\mu\in M}\boldsymbol{r}^t\boldsymbol{\phi}\geq f\right\}\geq h,\ f\geq g_F^{-1}\left(h\right)\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\left(\overline{\boldsymbol{r}}_0-L^*\left(h\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t\boldsymbol{\phi}-\left\|\mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\boldsymbol{\phi}\right\|\geq f,\ f\geq g_F^{-1}\left(h\right)\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\left(\overline{\boldsymbol{r}}_0-L^*\left(h\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t\boldsymbol{\phi}-\left\|\mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\boldsymbol{\phi}\right\|\geq g_F^{-1}\left(h\right)\end{aligned}\tag{24}$$

In a way similar to mean value $\overline{\boldsymbol{r}}$, we consider the uncertainty set of variance $\mathbf{V}$ as follows:

$$S=\left\{\mathbf{V}\middle|\mathbf{V}\succ 0,\ \tilde{\mathbf{V}}^L\leq\mathbf{V}\leq\tilde{\mathbf{V}}^U\right\}\tag{25}$$

In this paper, we assume this uncertainty set as the following form introducing a L-shape fuzzy number with respect to the each component of $\mathbf{V}$.

$$S=\left\{\mathbf{V}=\left(\tilde{\sigma}_{ij}\right)\middle|\begin{array}{l}\mu_{\tilde{\sigma}_{ij}}\left(\omega\right)=L\left(\dfrac{\sigma_{ij}-\omega}{\beta_{ij}}\right),\ \left(\sigma_{ij}-\beta_{ij}\leq\omega\leq\sigma_{ij}+\beta_{ij}\right)\\ \sigma_{ij}=\sigma_{ji},\ \beta_{ij}=\beta_{ji}\end{array}\right\}\tag{26}$$

Then, we consider the fuzzy goal of total variance $\mu_{\tilde{G}}\left(\nu\right)$ which is represented by,

$$\mu_{\tilde{G}}\left(\nu\right)=\begin{cases}1 & \nu\leq\nu_L\\ g_V\left(\nu\right) & \nu_L\leq\nu\leq\nu_U\\ 0 & \nu_U\leq\nu\end{cases}\tag{27}$$

where $g_V\left(\nu\right)$ is a strictly decreasing continuous function. Then, using a concept of possibility measure, we introduce the degree of possibility as follows:

$$\prod\nolimits_{\tilde{V}}\left(\tilde{G}\right)=\sup_{\nu}\min\left\{\mu_{\tilde{V}}\left(\nu\right),\ \mu_{\tilde{G}}\left(\nu\right)\right\}\tag{28}$$

With respect to this possibility measure, in a way similar to the transformation (24), $\prod_{\tilde{V}}\left(\tilde{G}\right)\geq h$ is transformed into the following inequality:

$$\begin{aligned}&\prod\nolimits_{\tilde{V}}\left(\tilde{G}\right)\geq h\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\sup_{\nu}\min\left\{\mu_{\tilde{V}}\left(\nu\right),\ \mu_{\tilde{G}}\left(\nu\right)\right\}\geq h\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\mu_{\tilde{V}}\left(\nu\right)\geq h,\ \mu_{\tilde{G}}\left(\nu\right)\geq h\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\mathrm{Pos}\left\{\max\nolimits_{\{\mathbf{V}\in S\}}\boldsymbol{\phi}^t\mathbf{V}\boldsymbol{\phi}\geq\nu\right\}\geq h,\ \nu\leq g_V^{-1}\left(h\right)\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\boldsymbol{\phi}^t\mathbf{V}_{(h)}^U\boldsymbol{\phi}\leq\nu,\ \nu\leq g_V^{-1}\left(h\right)\\ \Leftrightarrow\quad&\boldsymbol{\phi}^t\mathbf{V}_{(h)}^U\boldsymbol{\phi}\leq g_V^{-1}\left(h\right)\end{aligned}\tag{29}$$

where $\mathbf{V}_{(h)}^U$ is assumed to be a symmetric positive definite matrix whose each component becomes $\sigma_{ij}+L^*\left(h\right)\beta_{ij}$. Then, we propose the fuzzy robust portfolio selection problem as the following possibility maximization model:

$$\begin{aligned}&\text{Maximize}\quad h\\ &\text{subject to}\quad \prod\nolimits_{\tilde{V}}\left(\tilde{G}\right)\geq h,\ \prod\nolimits_{\tilde{F}}\left(\tilde{G}\right)\geq h,\\ &\qquad\qquad\ \mathbf{1}^t\boldsymbol{\phi}=1\end{aligned}\tag{30}$$

This problem is equivalently transformed into the following problem using the transformations of possibility constraints (24) and (29):

$$\begin{aligned}&\text{Maximize}\quad h\\ &\text{subject to}\quad \left(\overline{\boldsymbol{r}}_0-L^*\left(h\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t\boldsymbol{\phi}-\left\|\mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\boldsymbol{\phi}\right\|\geq g_F^{-1}\left(h\right),\\ &\qquad\qquad\ \boldsymbol{\phi}^t\mathbf{V}_{(h)}^U\boldsymbol{\phi}\leq g_V^{-1}\left(h\right),\\ &\qquad\qquad\ \mathbf{1}^t\boldsymbol{\phi}=1\end{aligned}\tag{31}$$

It should be noted here that problem (31) is a nonconvex programming problem and it is not solved by the linear programming techniques or convex programming techniques. However, since a decision variable h is fixed, this problem is equivalent to the problem to find the feasible solution ϕ_h involving the following set:

$$\phi_h\in S=\left\{\boldsymbol{\phi}\middle|\begin{array}{l}\left(\overline{\boldsymbol{r}}_0-L^*\left(h\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t\boldsymbol{\phi}-\left\|\mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\boldsymbol{\phi}\right\|\geq g_F^{-1}\left(h\right),\\ \boldsymbol{\phi}^t\mathbf{V}_{(h)}^U\boldsymbol{\phi}\leq g_V^{-1}\left(h\right),\\ \mathbf{1}^t\boldsymbol{\phi}=1\end{array}\right\}\tag{32}$$

Consequently, we construct the following solution method to a robust portfolio selection problem including fuzzy numbers.

Solution method 1

STEP1: Elicit the membership function of a fuzzy goal with respect to the total expected return and variance.

STEP2: Set $h\leftarrow 1$ and solve problem (33). If feasible solution $\phi_h\in S$ exists, then terminate. In this case, the obtained current solution is an optimal solution of main problem.

STEP3: Set $h\leftarrow 0$ and solve problem (33). If feasible solution $\phi_h\in S$ does not exist, then terminate. In this case, there is no feasible solution and it is necessary to reset a fuzzy goal with respect to the total expected return and variance.

STEP4: Set $U_h\leftarrow 1$ and $L_h\leftarrow 0$.

STEP5: Set $h\leftarrow\dfrac{U_h+L_h}{2}$

STEP6: Solve problem (32). If a feasible solution exists, then set $U_h\leftarrow h$ and return to Step 5. If not, then set $L_h\leftarrow h$ and return to Step 5.

It may be surely possible that we find a feasible solution of problem (32) for each value of parameter h, but it is no easy to find the feasible solution because this feasible region is convex. Therefore, in order to find feasible solution ϕ_h and optimal solution ϕ^* more efficiently and analytically, we transform problem (31) into the equivalent deterministic problem.

$$\begin{aligned}&\text{Minimize} \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \left(\bar{\mathbf{r}}_0 - L^*\left(\bar{h}\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t \phi - \left\|\mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\phi\right\| \geq g_F^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right), \\ &\qquad\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1\end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

With respect to the relation between problems (31) and (33), we obtain the following theorem based on the studies [17, 18].

Theorem 1

Let the optimal value of problem (31) be h^*. Furthermore let the optimal solution of problem (33) be $\phi_{\bar{h}}$ and its optimal value be $\phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi$. Then the following relationship holds.

$$\begin{aligned} h^* > \bar{h} \quad &\Leftrightarrow \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi < g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right) \\ h^* = \bar{h} \quad &\Leftrightarrow \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi = g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right) \\ h^* < \bar{h} \quad &\Leftrightarrow \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi > g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right) \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

Subsequently, as an approximate function for $\left\|\mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}}\phi\right\| = \sqrt{\phi^t \mathbf{G}^{-1} \phi}$, we introduce the following mean absolute deviation:

$$\begin{aligned} W\left(\phi\right) &= E\left|\sum_{j=1}^n r_j^{(g)}\phi_j - \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{r}_j^{(g)}\phi_j\right| \\ &= \sum_{t=1}^T p_t \left|\sum_{j=1}^n \left(r_{tj}^{(g)} - \bar{r}_j^{(g)}\right)\phi_j\right| \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

where $\mathbf{r}_t^{(g)} = \left\{r_{t1}^{(g)}, r_{t2}^{(g)}, ..., r_{tn}^{(g)}\right\}, \ \left(t = 1, 2, ..., T\right)$ is a discrete distribution to random variable $\boldsymbol{r}$ based on the uncertainty set (7), and $\bar{r}_j^{(g)}$ is the arithmetic mean. Then, p_t is each occurrence probability of $\mathbf{r}_t^{(g)}$. Subsequently, in the case that $\mathbf{G}^{-1}$ is a variance-covariance matrix derived from a normal distribution, it was shown that $\phi^t \mathbf{G}^{-1} \phi = \frac{\pi}{2}\left\{W\left(\phi\right)\right\}^2$ by the previous study [19]. Therefore, absolute deviation $W\left(\phi\right)$ is considered to be an approximate function.

Using this mean absolute deviation, problem (33) is approximately transformed into the following problem;

$$\begin{aligned}&\text{Minimize} \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \left(\bar{\mathbf{r}}_0 - L^*\left(\bar{h}\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t \phi - \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}\left\{W\left(\phi\right)\right\}^2} \geq g_F^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right), \\ &\qquad\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1\end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned}&\text{Minimize} \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \left(\bar{\mathbf{r}}_0 - L^*\left(\bar{h}\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t \phi - \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} W\left(\phi\right) \geq g_F^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right), \\ &\qquad\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1\end{aligned} \tag{37}$$

Furthermore, by introducing the parameter ξ_t, problem (37) is equivalently transformed into the following problem;

$$\begin{aligned}&\text{Minimize} \quad \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi \\ &\text{subject to} \quad \left(\bar{\mathbf{r}}_0 - L^*\left(\bar{h}\right)\boldsymbol{\alpha}\right)^t \phi - \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} \sum_{t=1}^T p_t \xi_t \geq g_F^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right), \\ &\qquad\qquad \xi_t - \sum_{j=1}^n \left(r_{tj}^{(g)} - \bar{r}_j^{(g)}\right)\phi_j \geq 0, \\ &\qquad\qquad \xi_t - \sum_{j=1}^n \left(r_{tj}^{(g)} - \bar{r}_j^{(g)}\right)\phi_j \geq 0, \ \left(t = 1, 2, ..., T\right) \\ &\qquad\qquad \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1\end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

Problem (38) is also a basic quadratic programming problem. Therefore, we obtain an optimal portfolio more efficiently than problem (31). Consequently, using a bisection algorithm with respect to h, we construct the following solution method.

Solution method 2

STEP0: Set a discrete distribution $\boldsymbol{r}_t^{(g)}, \ \left(t = 1, 2, ..., T\right)$ to random variable $\boldsymbol{r}$ and the occurrence probability p_t.

STEP1: Elicit the membership function of a fuzzy goal with respect to the total expected return and variance.

STEP2: Set $h \leftarrow 1$ and solve problem (38). If the optimal value $\phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi < g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right)$, then terminate. In this case, the obtained current solution is an optimal solution of main problem.

STEP3: Set $h \leftarrow 0$ and solve problem (38). If the optimal value $\phi^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi > g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right)$, then terminate. In this case, there is no feasible solution and it is necessary to reset a fuzzy goal with respect to the total expected return and variance.

STEP4: Set $U_h \leftarrow 1$ and $L_h \leftarrow 0$.

STEP5: Set $h \leftarrow \frac{U_h + L_h}{2}$

STEP6: Solve problem (38) and calculate the optimal objective value $\phi_k^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi_k$ of problem (38). If $\phi_k^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi_k > g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right)$, then set $U_h \leftarrow h$ and return to Step 5. If $\phi_k^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi_k < g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right)$, then set $L_h \leftarrow h$ and return to Step 5. If $\phi_k^t \mathbf{V}^U_{(\bar{h})} \phi_k = g_V^{-1}\left(\bar{h}\right)$, then terminate the algorithm. In this case, $\phi^*\left(h\right)$ is equal to an optimal solution of main problem.

IV. NUMERICAL EXAMPLE

In this section, in order to illustrate the applicability of our proposal models, we consider a numerical example. The example of Table 1 shows how results are brought for solving the proposed approach in robust mean-variance portfolio selection problems. In this numerical example, we assume nine financial assets, and each expected return is a normal distribution with fuzzy numbers in the mean value. A general normal distribution is included in ellipsoidal sets. In this numerical example, all fuzzy numbers are assumed to be symmetric triangle fuzzy numbers $\langle \bar{r}_j, \alpha \rangle$ where $\bar{r}_j$ is a center value and α is a spread.

TABLE 1 SAMPLE DATA OF EXPETED RETURNS AND VARIANCES

Asset	Expected return	Fuzzy number	SD
R1	N(r_1, 0.03)	<0.07,0.02>	0.238
R2	N(r_2, 0.02)	<0.06,0.03>	0.125
R3	N(r_3, 0.03)	<0.15,0.05>	0.301
R4	N(r_4, 0.05)	<0.17,0.08>	0.318
R5	N(r_5, 0.08)	<0.20,0.06>	0.368
R6	N(r_6, 0.01)	<0.05,0.01>	0.209
R7	N(r_7, 0.07)	<0.13,0.03>	0.175
R8	N(r_8, 0.02)	<0.12,0.05>	0.286
R9	N(r_9, 0.05)	<0.12,0.02>	0.290

Then, we consider the following three problems; problem P1 is a basic mean-variance model based on Markowitz model, problem P2 is a robust portfolio selection problem introduced in Section 2 not including fuzzy numbers, and problem P3 is our proposed model including fuzzy numbers in the robust portfolio problem:

(Problem P1)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize} \quad & \boldsymbol{\phi}^t \mathbf{V} \boldsymbol{\phi} \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}^t \boldsymbol{\phi} \geq 0.06, \\ & \mathbf{1}^t \boldsymbol{\phi} = 1 \end{aligned}$$

(Problem P2)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize} \quad & \phi^t \mathbf{V}^U \phi \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0^t \phi - \left\| \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \right\| \geq 0.06, \\ & \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned}$$

(Problem P3)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Maximize} \quad & h \\ \text{subject to} \quad & \left(\bar{\boldsymbol{r}}_0 - L^*(h) \boldsymbol{\alpha} \right)^t \phi - \left\| \mathbf{G}^{-\frac{1}{2}} \phi \right\| \geq g_F^{-1}(h), \\ & \phi^t \mathbf{V}_{(h)}^U \phi \leq g_V^{-1}(h), \\ & \mathbf{1}^t \phi = 1 \end{aligned}$$

where each fuzzy goal is as follows;

$$\mu_{\tilde{G}}(f) = \begin{cases} 0 & f \leq 0.5 \\ \dfrac{f - 0.5}{0.2} & 0.5 \leq f \leq 0.7 \\ 1 & 0.7 \leq f \end{cases}$$

$$\mu_{\tilde{G}}(\nu) = \begin{cases} 1 & \nu \leq 0.01 \\ \dfrac{0.03 - \nu}{0.02} & 0.01 \leq \nu \leq 0.03 \\ 0 & 0.03 \leq \nu \end{cases}$$

For solving each problem, we obtain the following optimal solutions in Table 2.

TABLE 2 OPTIMAL SOLUTIONS TO THREE PROBLEMS

Return s	Problem P1	Problem P2	Problem P3
R1	0.093	0.063	0.039
R2	0.338	0.080	0.021
R3	0.058	0.179	0.235
R4	0.052	0.142	0.177
R5	0.039	0.113	0.141
R6	0.121	0.064	-0.034
R7	0.172	0.089	0.088
R8	0.064	0.177	0.231
R9	0.063	0.093	0.102

From Table 2, we find that our proposed model tends to be selected financial assets with higher return such as R3, R4 and R5 than the other models P1 and P2. Then, with respect to R8 and R9 which have much similar properties, R8 with the higher fuzzy spread α tends to be selected than R9 with the higher variance.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have proposed extension models of robust portfolio selection problems considering uncertainty conditions. Since these problems are not well-defined problems due to fuzzy numbers, we have introduced the chance constraints and transformed them into the deterministic equivalent problems. Furthermore, to solve them analytically, we have constructed the efficient solution method by using the mean-absolute deviation. Our proposed models include the basic robust portfolio selection problems and so we may apply our models to the more flexible and complex portfolio selection problems in real investment markets than the previous models.

As the future studies, we need to consider not only mean-variance portfolio selection problem but also other portfolio selection models. Then, we are now attacking the cases that optimal solutions are restricted to be integers and multi-period portfolio selection problem.

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