Optimal investment with transient price impact

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Abstract
We introduce a price impact model which accounts for finite market depth, tightness and resilience. Its coupled bid- and ask-price dynamics induce convex liquidity costs. We provide existence of an optimal solution to the classical problem of maximizing expected utility from terminal liquidation wealth at a finite planning horizon. In the specific case when market uncertainty is generated by an arithmetic Brownian motion with drift and the investor exhibits constant absolute risk aversion, we show that the resulting singular optimal stochastic control problem readily reduces to a deterministic optimal tracking problem of the optimal frictionless constant Merton portfolio in the presence of convex costs. Rather than studying the associated Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellmann PDE, we exploit convex analytic and calculus of variations techniques allowing us to construct the solution explicitly and to describe the free boundaries of the action- and non-action regions in the underlying state space. As expected, it is optimal to trade towards the frictionless Merton position, taking into account the initial bid-ask spread as well as the optimal liquidation of the accrued position when approaching terminal time. It turns out that this leads to a surprisingly rich phenomenology of possible trajectories for the optimal share holdings.

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1 Introduction

The classical Merton problem [23], [22] of maximizing expected utility from terminal wealth by dynamically trading a risky asset in a financial market has by now been intensively studied and well understood in models with market frictions like transaction costs. We refer to the recent survey by Muhle-Karbe et al. [25] for an overview. In contrast, less is known about utility maximization problems in illiquid market models where the friction is induced by price impact: The investor trades at bid- and ask-prices which are adversely affected by the volume or speed of her current and past trades. Within these models, the vast majority of the existing literature is primarily concerned with the problem of optimally executing exogenously given orders; cf., e.g., the surveys by Gökgay et al. [14] and Gatheral and Schied [13]. However, regarding more complex optimization problems such as optimal portfolio choice, explicit characterizations of optimal strategies seem to have been elusive so far. This is notably the case for optimal investment problems on a finite time horizon in the presence of a bid-ask spread and price impact that, rather than being purely temporary or fully permanent, is transient in the sense that the impact of the investors current and past trades on execution prices does not vanish instantaneously but persists and decays over time at some finite resilience rate.

Most of the currently available work on optimal portfolio choice problems in illiquid financial markets focuses on models with purely temporary price impact, i.e., infinite resilience, zero bid-ask spread, and restricts to long-term investors as, e.g., in Guasoni and Weber [18], [16], [17] with constant relative risk aversion, in Forde et al. [10] with constant absolut risk aversion or in Gårleanu and Pedersen [11], [12] with mean-variance preferences. In the latter papers, the authors also take into account finite resilience. For investors having a finite planning horizon but still solely facing temporary price impact, asymptotic results have been obtained by Moreau et al. [24] and in a more general setup in Cayé et al. [5]; cf. also Chandra and Papanicolaou [7] for a pertubation analysis. The results from [24] are also used as a building block to describe asymptotically optimal trading strategies under highly resilient price impact in Kallsen and Muhle-Karbe [20], or in Ekren and Muhle-Karbe [9] in the setting of [11]. In all the above cited papers, trading strategies are confined to be absolutely continuous.

In the present paper, we propose a price impact model which goes beyond the block-shaped limit order book model of Obizhaeva and Wang [26]
by allowing for both selling and buying stock. Specifically, our model determines bid- and ask-prices via a coupled system of controlled diffusions, giving us the possibility to specify market depth, tightness and resilience: the three dimensions of liquidity identified in the seminal work by Kyle [21]. The coupled bid- and ask-price dynamics induce convex liquidity costs on the trading strategies which are allowed to be singular and comprise non-infinitesimal block trades as in [26]. In fact, our model is closely related to the one proposed in Roch and Soner [28] which is an extension of the illiquid market model approach introduced by Çetin et al. [6] in the sense that it additionally takes into account finite resilience and a bid-ask spread. In contrast, our model captures recovery of the bid- and ask-prices by a reversion to each other rather than towards some auxiliary reference price process. Moreover, our illiquidity parameters, i.e., market depth and resilience, are constant in order to preserve tractability.

We provide existence of an optimal solution to the corresponding classical problem of maximizing expected utility from terminal liquidation wealth at some finite planning horizon. In its simplest version, our price impact model is an illiquid variant of a Bachelier model with convex liquidity costs which are levied on the agent’s trading activity. For an investor who exhibits constant absolute risk aversion, it turns out that the resulting singular optimal stochastic control problem readily reduces to a deterministic optimal tracking problem of the optimal frictionless buy-and-hold Merton portfolio in the presence of convex costs. Instead of the more common dynamic programming methods which lead to the challenge of solving a three-dimensional free boundary problem induced by a Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman partial differential equation, we exploit a convex analytic approach. Deriving first order conditions in terms of the (infinite dimensional) subgradients of the convex cost functional allows us to construct explicitly the solution to the singular control problem by calculus of variations. As a consequence, we are able to describe analytically the free boundaries of the buying-, selling and a no-trading region in the underlying three-dimensional state space for the optimally controlled dynamics of the spread and the risky asset holdings with respect to the remaining time to maturity.

Our explicit results make transparent how the optimal strategy has to comprise several aspects. As already expected by the work in Guasoni and Weber [18], [16], [17], Forde et al. [10], and Gårleman and Pedersen [11], [12], it is indeed optimal to trade towards the optimal frictionless portfolio while taking into account the initial bid-ask spread as well as the available
time horizon. Specifically, since liquidation is costly in the present setup, the optimizer also has to take care of optimally unwinding his accrued position when approaching terminal time. It turns out that already in this elementary illiquid Bachelier model the interaction of market tightness, finite resilience, desired position targeting and optimal liquidation at a finite time horizon permits a surprisingly rich phenomenology of possible trajectories for the optimal share holdings. In this regard, our optimization problem is substantially different from the infinite horizon and zero spread frameworks considered in the papers cited above. Our findings also complement and extend the explicit results on the optimal order execution problem as studied in Obizhaeva and Wang [26] in a similar Bachelier-type setting.

The paper most closely related to ours is Soner and Vukelja [30]. Therein, the authors adopt the model from Roch and Soner [28] without bid-ask spread in a Black-Scholes framework with constant resilience and stochastic market depth proportional to the risky asset price. Using the dynamic programming principle and the notion of viscosity solutions, the problem of maximizing expected utility from terminal liquidation wealth for CRRA investors with finite planning horizon is studied. Compared to our results, their more general framework comes at the cost that a characterization of the optimal strategy is only possible numerically via a discrete-time approximation scheme.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we introduce a price impact model. Section 3 outlines the problem of maximizing expected utility from terminal liquidation wealth in our model and provides existence of an optimal solution in a general setup. In the specific case when market uncertainty is generated by an arithmetic Brownian motion with drift and the investor exhibits constant absolute risk aversion, we show that the optimal singular stochastic control problem has a deterministic solution which we construct explicitly. This is presented in Section 4. Technical proofs are deferred to Section 5.

2 A price impact model

We fix a filtered probability space \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{P})\) satisfying the usual conditions of right continuity and completeness and consider an investor whose trades in a risky asset affect its market prices in an adverse manner. For our specification of her price impact, we propose a variant of the block-shaped limit order book model introduced by Obizhaeva and Wang [26]. Specifi-
ally, the investor’s trading strategy is described by a pair \( X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow) \) of predictable, nondecreasing, right-continuous processes where \( X^\uparrow = (X^\uparrow_t)_{t \geq 0} \) and \( X^\downarrow = (X^\downarrow_t)_{t \geq 0} \) denote, respectively, the cumulative purchases and sales of the risky asset until time \( t \geq 0 \). We set \( X^\uparrow_0 \triangleq X^\downarrow_0 \triangleq 0 \). Trading takes place via market orders in an idealized block-shaped limit order book at the best bid- and ask-prices \( B^X \) and \( A^X \). Their dynamics are specified as the solution to the following coupled system of controlled diffusions

\[
\begin{align*}
dA^X_t &= dP_t + \eta dX^\uparrow_t - \frac{1}{2} \kappa (A^X_{t-} - B^X_{t-}) dt, \\
 dB^X_t &= dP_t - \eta dX^\downarrow_t + \frac{1}{2} \kappa (A^X_{t-} - B^X_{t-}) dt
\end{align*}
\]

(1)

with given parameters \( \eta > 0 \), \( \kappa > 0 \), \( A^X_0 \triangleq A_0 > 0 \) and \( B^X_0 \triangleq B_0 > 0 \). The interpretation of the bid- and ask-price dynamics in (1) is the following: Both processes \( A^X \) and \( B^X \) are driven by some common exogenous fundamental random shock \( dP_t \) modeled by a continuous semimartingale \( (P_t)_{t \geq 0} \) with initial value \( P_0 \triangleq (A_0 + B_0)/2 \). The process \( (P_t)_{t \geq 0} \) can also be regarded as the unaffected price process. Due to finite market depth \( 1/\eta \in (0, \infty) \) which can be interpreted as the height of a block-shaped limit order book, a buy order \( dX^\uparrow_t \) incurs an impact and increases the best ask-price \( A^X \) by the amount \( \eta dX^\uparrow_t \) whereas the best bid-price \( B^X \) is not directly affected. After completion of each buy trade, ask- and bid-prices revert to each other at some resilience rate \( \kappa > 0 \). The effects of sell orders \( dX^\downarrow_t \) on the best bid-price \( B^X \) in (1) are analogous. Note that price impact is transient and does not vanish instantaneously but persists and decays over time at a finite exponential rate \( \kappa \). We will assume for simplicity that both illiquidity parameters, i.e., the instantaneous price impact factor \( \eta \) as well as the resilience rate \( \kappa \), are constant. According to the bid- and ask-price dynamics in (1), the controlled evolution of the bid-ask spread \( \zeta^X_t \triangleq A^X_t - B^X_t \) is described by

\[
d\zeta^X_t = \eta (dX^\uparrow_t + dX^\downarrow_t) - \kappa \zeta^X_t dt \quad (t \geq 0)
\]

(2)

with initial value \( \zeta^X_0 \triangleq \zeta_0 \geq 0 \) and right-continuous solution

\[
\zeta^X_t = e^{-\kappa(t-s)} \left( \zeta^X_s + \eta \int_{[s,t]} e^{\kappa(u-s)} (dX^\uparrow_u + dX^\downarrow_u) \right) \quad (0 \leq s \leq t).
\]

(3)

Let us now derive the investor’s wealth dynamics corresponding to a trading strategy \( X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow) \). First, we associate to \( X \) the self-financing portfolio
process \((\xi_t^X, \varphi_t^X)_{t \geq 0}\) with some given initial values \((\xi_{0-}^X, \varphi_{0-}^X) \in \mathbb{R}^2\) where \(\xi_t^X\) denotes the amount of cash and \(\varphi_t^X \triangleq \varphi_{0-}^X + X_t^+ - X_t^-\) the number of shares of the risky asset held at time \(t \geq 0\). Assuming zero interest rates, the self-financing condition dictates that the cash balance \(\xi_t^X\) changes only due to trading activity \(X\), i.e., we postulate that

\[
d\xi_t^X = -\left(A_t^X + \frac{\eta}{2} \Delta X_t^+\right) dX_t^+ + \left(B_t^X - \frac{\eta}{2} \Delta X_t^-\right) dX_t^- \quad (t \geq 0)
\]

with \(\Delta X_t^{\uparrow, \downarrow} \triangleq X_t^{\uparrow, \downarrow} - X_{t-}^{\uparrow, \downarrow}\), respectively. Observe that the effective execution price to, e.g., buy a not necessarily infinitesimal quantity of \(dX_t^\uparrow\) shares at time \(t\) is given by \(A_t^X + \eta \Delta X_t^+ / 2\) where \(\eta \Delta X_t^+ / 2\) accounts for the impact a non-infinitesimal order incurs; cf., e.g., also Alfonsi et al. [1] or Predoiu et al. [27]. Analogous considerations apply for sell orders. The investor’s total wealth at any time is now expressed in terms of the liquidation value of her current portfolio. That is, we define the investor’s liquidation wealth process \((V_t(X))_{t \geq 0}\) associated to her portfolio process \((\xi^X, \varphi^X)\) with trading strategy \(X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow)\) and initial endowment \((\xi_{0-}^X, \varphi_{0-}^X) \in \mathbb{R}^2\) as

\[
V_t(X) \triangleq \xi_t^X + \frac{1}{2} (A_t^X + B_t^X) \varphi_t^X - \left(\frac{1}{2} \xi_t^X |\varphi_t^X| + \frac{\eta}{2} (\varphi_t^X)^2\right) \quad (t \geq 0). \tag{4}
\]

We set the initial value to \(V_{0-}(X) \triangleq \xi_{0-}^X + \varphi_{0-}^X (A_0 + B_0) / 2 - (\zeta_0 |\varphi_{0-}^X| + \eta (\varphi_{0-}^X)^2) / 2\). Note that the liquidation value \(V_t(X)\) in (4) decomposes into two parts: The first part represents the portfolio’s book value \(\xi_t^X + \varphi_t^X (A_t^X + B_t^X) / 2\), where the value of the position \(\varphi_t^X\) in the risky asset is measured in terms of the mid-quote price \((A_t^X + B_t^X) / 2\). The second part \(\xi_t^X |\varphi_t^X| / 2 + \eta (\varphi_t^X)^2 / 2\) accounts for the corresponding liquidation costs which are incurred by the bid-ask spread \(\zeta_t^X\) as well as the instantaneous price impact \(\eta\) when unwinding in one single block trade the \(\varphi_t^X\) shares. Following lemma shows that the dynamics of the liquidation wealth process \((V_t(X))_{t \geq 0}\) in (4) conveniently separate into the common frictionless wealth and a nonnegative, convex cost functional.

**Lemma 2.1.** The liquidation wealth process \((V_t(X))_{t \geq 0}\) of a strategy \(X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow)\) defined in (4) allows for the decomposition

\[
V_t(X) = V_{0-}(X) + L_{0-}(X) + \int_0^t \varphi_s^X dP_s - L_t(X) \quad (t \geq 0) \tag{5}
\]
where \((L_t(X))_{t \geq 0}\) denotes the liquidity costs defined as

\[
L_t(X) \triangleq \frac{1}{4\eta} \left( \eta |\varphi_t^X| + (\zeta_t^X - e^{-\kappa t}\zeta_0) \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} |\varphi_t^X| e^{-\kappa t}\zeta_0 + \frac{\eta}{4}(\varphi_{0-}^X)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} e^{-\kappa s}\zeta_0 (dX_s^\uparrow + dX_s^\downarrow) + \frac{\kappa}{2\eta} \int_0^t (\zeta_s^X - e^{-\kappa s}\zeta_0)^2 ds
\]

(6)

with initial value \(L_{0-}(X) \triangleq \zeta_0 |\varphi_{0-}^X|/2 + \eta(\varphi_{0-}^X)^2/2\). In particular, for all \(t \geq 0\) the functional \(L_t(X)\) is convex in \(X\) and satisfies

\[
L_t(X) \geq \frac{\eta}{4} e^{-2\kappa t} (X_t^\uparrow + X_t^\downarrow)^2 + \frac{\kappa \eta}{2} \int_0^t e^{-2\kappa s} (X_s^\uparrow + X_s^\downarrow)^2 ds \geq 0.
\]

(7)

Observe that the quantity \(V_{0-}(X) + L_{0-}(X) = \xi_{0-}^X + \varphi_{0-}^X P_{0-}\) in (5) represents by definition the initial wealth’s book value or initial frictionless wealth of strategy \(X\) with initial endowment \((\xi_{0-}^X, \varphi_{0-}^X)\).

**Remark 2.2.**

1. Compared to other price impact models which are used in the literature in the context of optimal portfolio choice, our price impact in (1) depends on the trading volume of the investor in the spirit of Obizhaeva and Wang [26] and not on the trading rate as, e.g., in Gârleanu and Pedersen [11], [12] or Forde et al. [10]. These papers adopt purely temporary price impact as proposed by Almgren and Chriss [2]. In Guasoni and Weber [18], [16], [17] temporary price impact is not only induced by the trading rate but also depends on the investor’s total wealth. Our model captures transient price impact which decays only gradually over time. As a consequence, trading strategies are no longer restricted to be absolutely continuous but also comprise non-infinitesimal block trades. In fact, our modeling approach is similar to the one proposed in Roch and Soner [28] where the authors allow for more general stochastic dynamics for the market depth and the resilience rate. Another difference is that our bid- and ask-prices in (1) revert to each other and not to some reference price as in [28].

2. Recall that proportional transaction costs as considered, e.g., in Davis and Norman [8], are linear in the risky asset holdings. Temporary price impact which is linear in the trading rate of absolutely continuous strategies as considered in Gârleanu and Pedersen [11], [12] or Guasoni and Weber [18], [17] induces quadratic liquidity costs on the latter. The

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authors in Forde et al. [10], Guasoni and Weber [16] and Cayé et al. [5] allow for nonlinear price impact which introduces a dependence of the incurred trading costs on a fractional power of the turnover rates. In our model above, price impact in (1) is still linear in the trading strategy $X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow)$ but the induced liquidity costs in (6) are convex in $X$ rather than purely quadratic because of the emergence of the absolute value function.

### 3 Optimal investment problem

We consider an investor who aims to trade optimally in the price impact model introduced in Section 2. The investor’s preferences are described by a utility function $u : \mathbb{R} \to \mathbb{R}$ in $C^1(\mathbb{R})$ which is strictly concave, increasing and bounded from above. She wants to maximize expected utility from her terminal liquidation wealth $V_T(X)$ at some finite planning horizon $T > 0$ as defined in (4) by following a trading strategy $X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow)$ with given initial endowment $\xi_0^X \triangleq \xi_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ in cash and $\varphi_0^X \triangleq \varphi_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ shares of the risky asset. Her corresponding initial wealth and the associated liquidation costs are denoted by $V_0 \triangleq V_0(X)$ and $L_0 \triangleq L_0(X)$ for some given initial bid-ask spread $\zeta_0^X = \zeta_0 \geq 0$. In other words, in view of Lemma 2.1, the agent’s aim is to solve the optimization problem

$$\mathbb{E} u(V_T(X)) = \mathbb{E} u \left( V_0 + L_0 + \int_0^T \varphi_t^X \, dP_t - L_T(X) \right) \to \max_{X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow) \in \mathcal{X}}$$

over all admissible trading policies

$$\mathcal{X} \triangleq \left\{ (X_t)_{t \geq 0} = (X^\uparrow_t, X^\downarrow_t)_{t \geq 0} : X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow \text{ right-continuous,} \right. \left. \text{predictable, nondecreasing processes with } X^\uparrow_{0-} \triangleq X^\downarrow_{0-} \triangleq 0 \right\}.$$  

The main tool which allows us to provide existence of an optimal strategy to the maximization problem in (8) is given by the following convex compactness result for processes of finite variation.

**Lemma 3.1** (Guasoni [15], Lemma 3.4). Consider a sequence of strategies $(X^n)_{n \geq 1} \subset \mathcal{X}$ such that $\text{conv}(\{X^\uparrow_t + X^\downarrow_t : n \geq 1\})$ is bounded in
Then there exists a strategy \( X \in \mathcal{X} \) and a sequence \((\tilde{X}^n)_{n \geq 1} \subset \mathcal{X}\) of cofinal convex combinations, i.e., \( \tilde{X}^n \in \text{conv}(X^n, X^{n+1}, \ldots) \) for all \( n \geq 1 \), converging to \( X \) weakly on \([0,T]\):

\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} \tilde{X}_t^{\uparrow,n}(\omega) = X_t^{\uparrow}(\omega) \quad \text{for all } t \in \{\Delta X_t^{\uparrow}(\omega) = 0\} \cup \{T\}, \omega \in \Omega. \tag{9}
\]

Another important ingredient is provided by the continuity of the liquidation wealth \( V_T(X) \) in \( X \in \mathcal{X} \) given in (5).

Lemma 3.2. Let \( T > 0 \) and let \((X^n)_{n \geq 1} \subset \mathcal{X}\) be a sequence of strategies with the same initial endowment \((\xi^X_0, \varphi^X_0) = (\xi_0, \varphi_0)\) such that \( X^n \to X \in \mathcal{X} \) weakly on \([0,T]\) on all of \( \Omega \). Then it holds that

\[
\lim_{n \to \infty} V_T(X^n) = V_T(X) \quad \text{pointwise for all } \omega \in \Omega.
\]

As a consequence, due to convexity of the liquidity cost functional \( L_T(X) \) in \( X \in \mathcal{X} \) by virtue of Lemma 2.1, we obtain the following existence and uniqueness result for the optimization problem in (8).

Theorem 3.3. There exists a unique strategy \( \hat{X} = (\hat{X}^{\uparrow}, \hat{X}^{\downarrow}) \in \mathcal{X} \) such that

\[
\mathbb{E}u(V_T(X)) \geq \mathbb{E}u(V_T(X)) \quad \text{for all strategies } X = (X^{\uparrow}, X^{\downarrow}) \in \mathcal{X}.
\]

Proof. Consider a maximizing sequence \((X^n)_{n \geq 1} \subset \mathcal{X}\) such that

\[
u^* \triangleq \sup_{X \in \mathcal{X}} \mathbb{E}u(V_T(X)) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{E}u(V_T(X^n)) \in (-\infty, u(\infty)).
\]

We can assume without loss of generality that the sequence \((X^n)_{n \geq 1}\) belongs to the level-set \(\mathcal{L}_0 := \{X \in \mathcal{X} : \mathbb{E}u(V_T(X)) \geq \mathbb{E}u(V_T(0)) = u(V_0 + L_0)\}\). Moreover, due to Lemma 5.1 below, it holds that \(\text{conv}\{X^n_T^{\uparrow} + X^n_T^{\downarrow} : X \in \mathcal{L}_0\} \) is \(L^0(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})\)-bounded. Hence, by virtue of the compactness result in Lemma 3.1, there exists a strategy \( \hat{X} \in \mathcal{X} \) and a sequence \((\tilde{X}^n)_{n \geq 1} \subset \mathcal{X}\) of convex combinations \(\tilde{X}^n \in \text{conv}(X^n, X^{n+1}, \ldots)\) such that a.s. \(\tilde{X}^n \to \hat{X}\) weakly on \([0,T]\) for \( n \to \infty \). We claim that \( \hat{X} \) is the optimal solution to problem (8). Indeed, since the liquidity costs are convex, \((\tilde{X}^n)_{n \geq 1}\) is again a maximizing sequence. Specifically, given a finite number of strictly positive weights \((\lambda^m_n)_{m \geq n}\) of \(\tilde{X}^n\), we have

\[
u(V_T(\tilde{X}^n)) \geq \sum_{m \geq n} \lambda^m_n \nu(V_T(X^m))
\]

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where we also used monotonicity and concavity of $u$. Taking expectations and passing to the limit in the above inequality yields $\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{E} u(V_T(\tilde{X}^n)) \geq u^*$. Moreover, by continuity of the liquidation wealth provided in Lemma 3.2 and Fatou’s Lemma we obtain

$$u^* \geq \mathbb{E} u(V_T(\hat{X})) \geq \mathbb{E} \limsup_{n \to \infty} u(V_T(\tilde{X}^n)) \geq \limsup_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{E} u(V_T(\tilde{X}^n)) \geq u^*.$$ 

Uniqueness of the optimizer $\hat{X}$ follows from strict concavity of the utility function $u$ and again convexity of the liquidity costs. 

4 Illiquid Bachelier model with exponential utility

Let us investigate the utility maximization problem from terminal liquidation wealth as formulated in (8) in the specific case when market uncertainty $dP_t$ in our price impact model (1) is generated by a Brownian motion with drift $\mu > 0$ and volatility $\sigma > 0$. That is, we assume that the unaffected price process $(P_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is given by

$$P_0 = \frac{1}{2} (A_0 + B_0), \quad dP_t = \mu dt + \sigma dW_t \quad (t \geq 0) \quad (10)$$

where $(W_t)_{t \geq 0}$ denotes a standard Brownian motion on the given filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{P})$. In addition, we assume that the investor’s preferences are prescribed by an exponential utility function

$$u(x) = -e^{-\alpha x} \quad (x \in \mathbb{R})$$

with constant absolute risk aversion parameter $\alpha > 0$. In this setup, the optimization problem in (8) becomes

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ -\exp \left\{ -\alpha \left( \mu \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dt + \sigma \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dW_t - L_T(X) \right) \right\} \right] \to \max_{X \in \mathcal{X}}. \quad (11)$$

Note that for exponential utility, the optimal strategy in (11) does not depend on the investor’s initial frictionless wealth $V_0 + L_0$. By virtue of Theorem 3.3, there exists a unique optimal solution to the maximization problem in (11) for any time horizon $T > 0$, initial position $\varphi_0 \in \mathbb{R}$ in the risky asset and any initial bid-ask spread $\zeta_0 \geq 0$. 

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Remark 4.1 (Frictionless case). It is well known in the literature that in the frictionless case with \( \eta = \zeta_0 = 0 \), i.e., \( A^X = B^X = P \) in (1) and \( L_T(X) = 0 \) in (6) for any \( X \in \mathcal{X}^* \), the optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^0 = (\hat{X}^{0,\uparrow}, \hat{X}^{0,\downarrow}) \) to problem (11) (with initial position \( \varphi_0 = 0 \)) is simply a deterministic buy-and-hold-strategy given by
\[
\begin{align*}
d\hat{X}^{0,\uparrow}_t &= \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \delta_0(dt) \quad \text{and} \quad d\hat{X}^{0,\downarrow}_t = \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \delta_T(dt) \quad \text{on } [0,T].
\end{align*}
\]
Here, \( \delta_0 \) and \( \delta_T \) denote the Dirac measure in 0 and \( T \), respectively. Put differently, the optimal frictionless share holdings \( \varphi^0 \) in the risky asset are constant and given by the so-called Merton portfolio

\[
\varphi^0_t \triangleq \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \quad (0 \leq t \leq T)
\]

which is acquired at time 0 and unwound at time \( T \) with, respectively, an initial and a final block trade.

When taking into account illiquidity frictions as in our setup, that is, price impact induced by finite market depth as well as market tightness imposed by the bid-ask spread, it is intuitively sensible to expect the following: Instead of directly implementing the desired frictionless Merton position in (12), the optimal frictional portfolio for problem (11) will gradually trade towards the latter. In fact, in the presence of price impact \( \eta > 0 \), it turns out that problem (11) readily translates into a deterministic optimal tracking problem of the frictionless optimal portfolio position \( \varphi^0 \).

**Proposition 4.2.** For given time horizon \( T > 0 \), initial position \( \varphi_0 \in \mathbb{R} \) and initial spread \( \zeta_0 \geq 0 \), the optimal investment strategy of the maximization problem in (11) is deterministic and coincides with the minimizer of the convex cost functional

\[
J_T(X) \triangleq L_T(X) + \frac{\alpha \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^T \left( \varphi^X_t - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right)^2 dt \to \min_{X \in \mathcal{X}^d} X \in \mathcal{X}^d
\]

with \( \mathcal{X}^d \triangleq \{ X \in \mathcal{X}^* : X = (X^{\uparrow}, X^{\downarrow}) \text{ deterministic} \} \).

**Proof.** We give an argument similar to Schied et al. [29], but extend it to also cover unbounded strategies. For notational convenience, let us define the cost functional

\[
\tilde{J}_T(X) \triangleq L_T(X) - \mu \int_0^T \varphi^X_t dt + \frac{\alpha \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^T (\varphi^X_t)^2 dt = J_T(X) - \frac{\mu^2}{2\alpha \sigma^2} T.
\]
for all $X \in \mathcal{X}$ and let us set $\tilde{J}_T^* \triangleq \inf_{X \in \mathcal{X}} \tilde{J}_T(X)$. Next, let $X \in \mathcal{X}$ be such that $\mathbb{E}u(V_T) > -\infty$. We will argue below that for such $X$ the density

$$
\frac{d\mathbb{P}^X}{d\mathbb{P}} \triangleq \mathcal{E} \left( -\alpha \sigma \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dW_t \right)_T
= \exp \left( -\alpha \sigma \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dW_t - \frac{\alpha^2 \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^T (\varphi_t^X)^2 dt \right)
$$

induces a probability measure on $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}_T)$. Then we can write

$$
\mathbb{E}[u(V_T(X))] = \mathbb{E} \left[ -\exp \left( -\alpha \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dP_t + \alpha L_T(X) \right) \right]
= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^X} \left[ -\exp \left( \alpha L_T(X) - \alpha \mu \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dt + \frac{\alpha^2 \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^T (\varphi_t^X)^2 dt \right) \right]
= \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{P}^X} \left[ -e^{\alpha \tilde{J}_T(X)} \right] \leq -e^{\alpha \tilde{J}_T^*},
$$

with equality holding true for the unique deterministic minimizer $X \in \mathcal{X}^d$ of $\tilde{J}_T$. Thus, the maximizer of the right-hand side in (15) over all admissible strategies $\mathcal{X}$ which corresponds to our original problem in (11) is actually given by the deterministic strategy attaining the value $\tilde{J}_T^*$.

It remains to verify that (14) indeed defines a probability measure $\mathbb{P}^X$ for $X \in \mathcal{X}$ with $\mathbb{E}u(V_T(X)) > -\infty$, i.e., such that

$$
\mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \alpha (L_T(X) - \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dP_t) \right) \right] < \infty.
$$

This will be accomplished by verifying Kazamaki’s criterion for the process $M \triangleq -\alpha \int_0^T \varphi_t^X \sigma dW_t$. To this end, observe first that we can assume without loss of generality that $\varphi_0 = \varphi_T = 0$ and so, with $\|X\|_T \triangleq X_T^+ + X_T^-$ and $P_T^* \triangleq \sup_{t \in [0,T]} |P_t|$, we can use (7) to estimate

$$
L_T(X) - \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dP_t = L_T(X) + \int_0^T P_t d\varphi_t^X
\geq c \|X\|^2_T - P_T^* \|X\|_T \geq \frac{c}{2} \|X\|_T^2 \text{ on } \{P_T^* \leq c \|X\|_T/2\}
$$
for \( c \triangleq \eta e^{-2\kappa T}/4 \). With (16) and the fact that \( P^*_T \in L^2(\mathbb{P}) \) it thus follows that \( \|X\|_T \in L^2(\mathbb{P}) \) which guarantees uniform integrability of \( M \). Moreover, we have

\[
\mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \frac{1}{2} M_T \right) \right] = \mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \frac{\alpha}{2} (L_T(X) - \int_0^T \phi_t X dt) \right) \exp \left( -\frac{\alpha}{2} (L_T(X) - \int_0^T \phi_t X dt) \right) \right] \\
\leq \mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( \alpha (L_T(X) - \int_0^T \phi_t X dt) \right) \right]^{1/2} \cdot \mathbb{E} \left[ \exp \left( -\alpha (L_T(X) - \int_0^T \phi_t X dt) \right) \right]^{1/2} < \infty,
\]

which is finite because of (16) and (7). It follows that \( M \) indeed satisfies Kazamaki’s criterion. \( \Box \)

**Remark 4.3.**

1. For deterministic strategies \( X \in \mathcal{X}^d \) the liquidation wealth \( V_T(X) \) in (5) in the present illiquid Bachelier model is normally distributed. Hence, the maximization problem in (11) and thus the minimization problem in (13) is equivalent to the problem of maximizing a mean-variance criterion given by

\[
\mathbb{E}[V_T(X)] - \frac{\alpha}{2} \text{var}(V_T(X)) = V_0 + L_0 + \mu \int_0^T \phi_t X dt - L_T(X) - \frac{\alpha \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^T (\phi_t X)^2 dt,
\]

cf. also the discussion in Schied et al. [29].

2. The minimization problem in (13) can be regarded as a deterministic optimal tracking problem of the frictionless Merton portfolio \( \varphi^0 \equiv \mu/(\alpha \sigma^2) \) in the presence of trading costs measured by \( L_T(\cdot) \). That is, the optimal strategy \( \hat{X} \) seeks to minimize both the squared deviation of its share holdings \( \phi_t X \) from the preferred constant position \( \varphi^0 \) of (12) as well as the incurred liquidity costs \( L_T(\hat{X}) \) which are levied on its trading activity \( \hat{X} = (\hat{X}^\uparrow, \hat{X}^\downarrow) \) due to market tightness and finite market depth. In addition, liquidation is costly in the current setup. Therefore,
besides trading towards $\varphi^0$, the optimizer also has to take into account unwinding the accrued position in the risky asset in an optimal manner when approaching terminal time $T$.

3. The deterministic optimal tracking problem in (13) is similar to the stochastic tracking problem studied in Bank et al. [4] (cf. also Bank and Voß [3] for a more general framework). Therein, the authors investigate the problem of minimizing the $L^2(\mathbb{P} \otimes dt)$-distance of a portfolio process $\varphi^X$ from a given predictable stochastic target process $(\xi_t)_{0\leq t\leq T}$ in the presence of temporary price impact as in Almgren and Chriss [2]. This means that investment strategies $\varphi^X$ are restricted to be absolutely continuous and quadratic costs are levied on the respective trading rates $\dot{\varphi}^X$. The process $(\xi_t)_{0\leq t\leq T}$ represents, e.g., an optimal investment or hedging strategy adopted from a frictionless setting. In the current setup in (13), liquidity costs $L_T(\cdot)$ are induced by market tightness and transient price impact à la Obizhaeva and Wang [26] and strategies are allowed to be singular.

4.1 First order optimality conditions

Since the objective functional $J_T(\cdot)$ of the minimization problem in Proposition 4.2 is convex, tools from convex analysis and calculus of variations can be employed to derive a characterization of the optimal solution in terms of sufficient first order conditions. Specifically, let us note that the convex functional $J_T(\cdot)$ is supported on $\mathcal{X}^d$ by the infinite-dimensional buy- and sell-subgradients defined as

$$
e\nabla^T_t J_T(X) \triangleq \int_t^T \left( \kappa e^{-\kappa(u-t)} \zeta^X_u + \alpha \sigma^2 \left( \varphi^X_u - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right) \right) du$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta^X_T + \eta |\varphi^X_T| \right) e^{-\kappa(T-t)} + \frac{\eta}{2} \varphi^X_T + \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}_c(\varphi^X_T) \zeta^X_T \quad (0 \leq t \leq T)$$ (17)
and

\[ e^{\nabla^\uparrow}_t J_T(X) \triangleq \int_t^T \left( \kappa e^{-\kappa(u-t)} \zeta_u^X + \alpha\sigma^2 \left( \frac{\mu}{\alpha\sigma^2} - \varphi_u^X \right) \right) du + \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta_t^X + \eta |\varphi_T^X| \right) e^{-\kappa(T-t)} \]

\[ - \frac{\eta}{2} \varphi_T^X - \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}_\varrho(\varphi_T^X) \zeta_T^X \quad (0 \leq t \leq T) \]

in the sense of Lemma 4.5 below.

**Remark 4.4.** The map \( x \mapsto \text{sign}_\varrho(x) \) appearing in the definition of the buy-and sell-subgradients in (17) and (18) represents the subgradient of the absolute value function \( x \mapsto |x| \) (cf. proof of Lemma 4.5 in Section 5) and therefore allows for an arbitrary value \( \varrho(0) \triangleq \varrho \in [-1, 1] \) when \( \varphi_T^X = 0 \). In this case the subgradients are actually set-valued. The dependence on the value \( \varrho \) is indicated by the left-hand superscript in the operator symbols \( e^{\nabla^\uparrow}_t \) and \( e^{\nabla^\downarrow}_t \). To alleviate notation, we will simply write \( \nabla^\uparrow, \nabla^\downarrow \) and \( \text{sign}(\cdot) \) most of the time unless a specification of the value \( \varrho \) becomes necessary.

**Lemma 4.5.** For any two strategies \( X, Y \in \mathcal{X}_d \) with the same initial position \( \varphi_{0-}^Y = \varphi_{0-}^X \) and initial spread \( \zeta_0 \geq 0 \) and for any \( \varrho \in [-1, 1] \), we have

\[ J_T(Y) - J_T(X) \geq \int_{[0,T]} e^{\nabla^\uparrow}_t J_T(X)(dY^\uparrow_t - dX^\uparrow_t) + \int_{[0,T]} e^{\nabla^\downarrow}_t J_T(X)(dY^\downarrow_t - dX^\downarrow_t) \]

with \( e^{\nabla^\uparrow}_t J_T(X) \) and \( e^{\nabla^\downarrow}_t J_T(X) \) as defined in (17) and (18), respectively.

For any nondecreasing, right-continuous process \( Z \) with \( Z_{0-} \triangleq 0 \), let us further define the set

\[ \{dZ > 0\} \triangleq \{t \in [0,T] : Z_{t-} < Z_u \text{ for all } u > t\} \]

and observe that for any continuous \( G = (G_t)_{0 \leq t \leq T} \) we have

\[ \int_0^T G_t dZ_t = \int_{\{dZ > 0\}} G_t dZ_t. \]

Having at hand the subgradients in (17) and (18), we can now formulate sufficient first order optimality conditions for the minimization problem stated in Proposition 4.2.
**Proposition 4.6** (First order conditions). The strategy \( \hat{X} = (\hat{X}^\uparrow, \hat{X}^\downarrow) \) in \( \mathcal{X}^d \) solves the optimization problem in (13) if the following conditions hold true:

(i) \( \nabla_{t}^\uparrow J_T(\hat{X}) \geq 0 \) for all \( t \in [0, T] \) with ‘\( = \)' on the set \( \{d\hat{X}^\uparrow > 0\} \),

(ii) \( \nabla_{t}^\downarrow J_T(\hat{X}) \geq 0 \) for all \( t \in [0, T] \) with ‘\( = \)' on the set \( \{d\hat{X}^\downarrow > 0\} \).

In case \( \varphi_Y = 0 \), the conditions in (i) and (ii) are meant to hold for \( \varrho \nabla_{t}^\uparrow \) and \( \varrho \nabla_{t}^\downarrow \) with some \( \varrho \in [-1, 1] \).

**Proof.** Assume that \( \hat{X} = (\hat{X}^\uparrow, \hat{X}^\downarrow) \) satisfies conditions (i) and (ii) (for some suitable \( \varrho \in [-1, 1] \) in case \( \varphi_Y = 0 \)) and let \( Y \in \mathcal{X}^d \) be an arbitrary competing strategy with the same initial endowment \( \varphi_{Y0} = \varphi_{X0} \). Then, by virtue of Lemma 4.5 above, it holds that

\[
J_T(Y) - J_T(\hat{X}) \geq \int_{[0, T]} \varrho \nabla_{t}^\uparrow J_T(\hat{X}) dY_t^\uparrow + \int_{[0, T]} \varrho \nabla_{t}^\downarrow J_T(\hat{X}) dY_t^\downarrow
- \int_{[0, T]} \varrho \nabla_{t}^\uparrow J_T(\hat{X}) d\hat{X}_t^\uparrow - \int_{[0, T]} \varrho \nabla_{t}^\downarrow J_T(\hat{X}) d\hat{X}_t^\downarrow.
\]

By our assumptions (i) and (ii) the right-hand side is nonnegative which implies \( J_T(Y) \geq J_T(\hat{X}) \).

**Remark 4.7.** In view of Lemma 4.5, the quantities \( \varrho \nabla_{t}^\uparrow J_T(X) \) and \( \varrho \nabla_{t}^\downarrow J_T(X) \) in (17) and (18) can be regarded as (lower bounds for) the marginal costs which are incurred by an additional infinitesimal buy order and sell order at time \( t \), respectively, otherwise following strategy \( X \). Hence, an optimal strategy \( \hat{X} \) which satisfies the first order conditions in Proposition 4.6 acts so as to keep these additional marginal costs from intervention always nonnegative and only intervenes, i.e., buys or sells the risky asset, when the corresponding marginal costs \( \varrho \nabla_{t}^\uparrow J_T(\hat{X}) \) or \( \varrho \nabla_{t}^\downarrow J_T(\hat{X}) \) vanish. In this regard, observe that, loosely speaking, the subgradients in (17) and (18) at time \( t \) can be interpreted as assessing for the future period \( [t, T] \) the trade-off between deviating from the target \( \mu/(\alpha \sigma^2) \), the incurred spread \( \zeta^X \) as well as the magnitude of the final position \( \varphi_T^X \).

Due to market tightness, it is intuitively sensible to expect that an optimal strategy satisfying the first order conditions in Proposition 4.6 will never purchase and sell the risky asset at the same time. In fact, this holds true in our setting and is a direct consequence of the structure of the subgradients.
Lemma 4.8. For any strategy \( X \in \mathcal{X} \), \( X \neq (0,0) \), we have
\[
\{ \nabla^\uparrow J_T(X) = 0 \} \subset \{ \nabla^\downarrow J_T(X) > 0 \} \quad \text{and} \quad \{ \nabla^\downarrow J_T(X) = 0 \} \subset \{ \nabla^\uparrow J_T(X) > 0 \}.
\]

Remark 4.9 (Dynamic programming principle). Note that for any strategy \( X = (X^\uparrow, X^\downarrow) \in \mathcal{X} \) the subgradients of our functional \( J_T(\cdot) \) in (17) and (18) at time \( t \in [0,T] \) only depend on the values \( \varphi_{t-}^X, X_{t-}^\uparrow, X_{t-}^\downarrow, \zeta_{t-}^X \), the remaining time to maturity \( T-t \) and the future evolution of the strategy \( (X_u)_{t \leq u \leq T} \). This property together with the uniqueness of the optimal solution to problem (13) implies that the dynamic programming principle (or so-called Bellman optimality) holds true in our setting. Specifically, let \( \hat{X} \in \mathcal{X} \) denote the unique optimal strategy for problem (13) with time horizon \( T > 0 \), initial position \( \varphi_{0-}^\hat{X} = \varphi \in \mathbb{R} \) and initial spread \( \zeta_{0-}^\hat{X} = \zeta \geq 0 \) which satisfies the first order conditions in Proposition 4.6. From now on, we will use the notation \( \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = (\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}^\uparrow, \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}^\downarrow) \) to emphasize the dependence of the optimal control on the problem data \((T, \zeta, \varphi)\). Then for any \( 0 \leq t < T \) we have that the strategy
\[
\hat{X}_{t+s}^{T-t,\zeta_{t-}^\hat{X},\varphi_{t-}^\hat{X}} \triangleq \hat{X}_{t+s}^{T,\zeta,\varphi} - \hat{X}_{t-}^{T,\zeta,\varphi} \quad (0 \leq s \leq T-t)
\]
is optimal for problem (13) with problem data \((T-t, \zeta_{t-}^\hat{X}, \varphi_{t-}^\hat{X})\), i.e., time horizon \( T-t > 0 \), initial spread \( \zeta_{t-}^\hat{X} \geq 0 \) and initial position \( \varphi_{t-}^\hat{X} \in \mathbb{R} \).

Indeed, observe that
\[
\nabla_{t+s}^{\uparrow,\downarrow} J_T(\hat{X}_{t+s}^{T-t,\zeta_{t-}^\hat{X},\varphi_{t-}^\hat{X}}) = \nabla_{t+s}^{\uparrow,\downarrow} J_T(\hat{X}_{t-}^{T,\zeta,\varphi}) \quad (0 \leq s \leq T-t)
\]
holds true which implies that \( \hat{X}_{t+s}^{T-t,\zeta_{t-}^\hat{X},\varphi_{t-}^\hat{X}} \) satisfies the first order conditions in Proposition 4.6 and is thus optimal.

4.2 The state space

We want to solve the optimization problem formulated in (13) for any given problem data \((T, \zeta_0, \varphi_0)\), i.e., for any time horizon \( T \), initial spread \( \zeta_0 \) and initial position \( \varphi_0 \) in the risky asset. For this purpose, let us introduce the three-dimensional state space
\[
\mathcal{S} \triangleq \{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) : \tau \geq 0, \zeta \geq 0, \varphi \in \mathbb{R} \} \subset \mathbb{R}^3 \quad (20)
\]
with time to maturity \( \tau \), spread \( \zeta \) and number of shares \( \varphi \). For any triplet or problem data \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi)\) in the state space \( \mathcal{S} \) we want to identify the corresponding unique optimal strategy \( \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \) with \( \varphi_{0-}^{\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \varphi \) and \( \zeta_{0-}^{\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \zeta \).
which minimizes the functional $J_\tau(\cdot)$ in (13) for time horizon $\tau$ (cf. Remark 4.11 below for our convention in the special case $\tau = 0$). More precisely, we want to describe the evolution of the optimally controlled system $(\tau - t, \zeta_t^{\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}, \varphi_t^{\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}})_{0 \leq t \leq \tau}$ in the state space $\mathcal{S}$. Intuitively, the first order optimality conditions formulated in Proposition 4.6 suggest a separation of the state space $\mathcal{S}$ into two action regions – a buying- and a selling-region – as well as a non-action or waiting-region for the optimizer $\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}$. Loosely speaking, depending on whether the optimally controlled triplet $(\tau - t, \zeta_t^{\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}, \varphi_t^{\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}})$ at time $t \in [0, \tau]$ is located in the buying-, selling- or waiting-region, the corresponding optimal strategy $\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}$ buys, sells or does not do anything, respectively, at this time instant $t$. In fact, Proposition 4.6, Lemma 4.8 as well as Remark 4.9 motivate the following definition of the buying-, selling- and waiting-region.

**Definition 4.10** (Buying-, selling-, waiting-region).

1. We define the **buying-region** as

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \triangleq \left\{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \text{the optimal strategy } \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \in \mathcal{X}^d \text{ satisfies} \right. \\
\left. e\nabla_0^\top J_{\tau}(\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = 0 \text{ for some } \varrho \right. \\
\left. \text{and } \hat{X}_{0,\tau,\zeta,\varphi}^\top > 0 \right\} \quad (21)$$

and the boundary of the buying-region as

$$\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \triangleq \left\{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \text{the optimal strategy } \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \in \mathcal{X}^d \text{ satisfies} \right. \\
\left. e\nabla_0^\top J_{\tau}(\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = 0 \text{ for some } \varrho \right. \\
\left. \text{and } \hat{X}_{0,\tau,\zeta,\varphi}^\top = 0 \right\} \quad (22)$$

2. We define the **selling-region** as

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} \triangleq \left\{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \text{the optimal strategy } \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \in \mathcal{X}^d \text{ satisfies} \right. \\
\left. e\nabla_0^\top J_{\tau}(\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = 0 \text{ for some } \varrho \right. \\
\left. \text{and } \hat{X}_{0,\tau,\zeta,\varphi}^\top > 0 \right\} \quad (23)$$
and the boundary of the selling-region as
\[ \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} \triangleq \left\{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \text{the optimal strategy } \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} \in \mathcal{X}^d \text{ satisfies} \right\} \]
\vspace{2mm}
\[ e \nabla_0^\uparrow J_\tau(\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) = 0 \text{ for some } \varrho \]
\[ \text{and } \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_0 = \phi \right\} . \]

3. We define the waiting-region as
\[ \mathcal{R}_{\text{wait}} \triangleq \mathcal{S} \setminus (\mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \cup \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}) \tag{25} \]
where \( \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy/sell}} \triangleq \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy/sell}} \cup \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy/sell}} \), respectively.

Remark 4.11.
1. Lemma 4.8 implies \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \cap \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} = \emptyset \). Moreover, it will become clear in Theorem 4.12 that these boundaries coincide with the topological ones.

2. By definition in (20) problem data or triplets \((0, \zeta, \varphi)\) with \( \tau = 0 \) also belong to the state space \( \mathcal{S} \). Hence, we have to find a convention for how to specify the associated optimal strategies \( \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 \) with \( \varphi \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 = \varphi \) and \( \zeta \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 = \zeta \). In view of the subgradients in (17) and (18) we have
\[ e \nabla_0^{\uparrow \downarrow} J_0(\hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}) = \frac{1}{2} (\eta |\varphi| + \zeta) \pm \frac{\eta}{2} \varphi \pm \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}_\varrho(\varphi) \zeta. \]

Thus, in case \( \varphi > 0 \) it holds that \( \nabla_0^{\uparrow} J_0(\hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}) > 0 \) and \( \nabla_0^{\downarrow} J_0(\hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}) = 0 \). Therefore, we stipulate that the associated optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 \) is given by \( \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 \uparrow \triangleq 0 \) and \( \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 \downarrow \triangleq \varphi > 0 \), i.e., it unwinds with a single block sell order the position \( \varphi \). Analogously, in case \( \varphi < 0 \) we have \( \nabla_0^{\uparrow} J_0(\hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}) = 0 \) and \( \nabla_0^{\downarrow} J_0(\hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}) > 0 \) and thus we set \( \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 \downarrow \triangleq 0 \) as well as \( \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, \varphi}_0 \uparrow = -\varphi > 0 \), i.e., the optimal strategy clears out its short position by executing a single block buy order. In case \( \varphi = 0 \), we have
\[ e \nabla_0^{\uparrow \downarrow} J_0(\hat{X}^{0, \zeta, 0}) = \frac{1}{2} \zeta \pm \frac{1}{2} \varrho \zeta \geq 0 \]
for all \( \varrho \in [-1, 1] \). We make the convention that the associated optimal strategy is simply defined as \( \hat{X}^{0, \zeta, 0} \triangleq (0, 0) \).

3. Note that our convention in 2.) together with the dynamic programming principle from Remark 4.9 entails that any optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} \) with a final position \( \varphi \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\tau \neq 0 \) in the risky asset in fact unwinds its remaining shares with a single block order.
4.3 Main result

Our main result is an explicit description of the buying- and selling-region $\mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$ and $\mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ in the state space $\mathcal{S}$ defined in Definition 4.10. Specifically, it turns out that the free boundaries $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$ and $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ can be described analytically as the graph of two free boundary functions $(\tau, \zeta) \mapsto \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)$ and $(\tau, \zeta) \mapsto \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)$ defined on the time-to-maturity and spread domain $[0, +\infty)^2$. All the results in this section will be proved in Section 5.

**Theorem 4.12.** For the two functions

\[ \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \] (26)

defined in (66) and (90) – (94) below, we have

\[ \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} = \{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \varphi > \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \}, \]
(27)

\[ \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} = \{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \} \] (28)

as well as

\[ \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} = \{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \varphi < \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \}, \]
(29)

\[ \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} = \{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \}. \] (30)

In particular, it holds that

\[ \mathcal{R}_{\text{wait}} = \{ (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < \varphi < \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \}, \]
(31)

\[ \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{wait}} = \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \cup \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}. \] (32)

In fact, the behaviour of optimal strategies with initial problem data $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi)$ in $\mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$, $\mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$, or $\mathcal{R}_{\text{wait}}$ can be readily deduced from the definition of the buying-, selling- and waiting-region in (21), (23) and (25), together with the dynamic programming principle from Remark 4.9.

**Remark 4.13.**

1. For each problem data $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$, i.e., $\varphi > \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)$ in view of (27) in Theorem 4.12, it follows from the definition of $\mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ and $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ in (23) and (24) that the optimal strategy $\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}$ will actually “jump” with an initial impulse block sell order of size $\hat{x}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow} = x_{\downarrow} > 0$ satisfying the equation

\[ \varphi - x_{\downarrow} = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta + \eta x_{\downarrow}) \] (33)
to the triplet \((\tau, \zeta + \eta x, \varphi - x)\) which belongs to \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}\) by virtue of (28). Thereafter, it coincides with the corresponding optimal strategy \(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta + \eta x, \varphi - x}\) which does satisfy \(\hat{X}_{0, \tau, \zeta + \eta x, \varphi - x} = 0\) in line with the definition of \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}\) in (24); cf. proof of Theorem 4.12 below. Similarly, for each problem data \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}, i.e., \varphi < \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)\) in view of (29) in Theorem 4.12, the optimal strategy \(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}\) will “jump” with an initial impulse block buy order of size \(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = x > 0\) satisfying the equation
\[
\varphi + x = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta + \eta x)
\]
to the triplet \((\tau, \zeta + \eta x, \varphi + x)\) in \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}\) by virtue of (30) and then will coincide with the corresponding optimal strategy \(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta + \eta x, \varphi + x}\). Again it will hold that \(\hat{X}_{0, \tau, \zeta + \eta x, \varphi + x} = 0\) in line with the definition of \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}\) in (22).

2. For any problem data \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{wait}}, i.e., \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < \varphi < \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)\) in view of (31) in Theorem 4.12, the optimal strategy \(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}\) will remain inactive until the first time \(t \in (0, \tau]\) that either
\[
\varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t})
\]
or
\[
\varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t})
\]
holds true. That is, the triplet \((\tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t}, \varphi)\) belongs to \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}\) or \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}\) due to (28) and (30), respectively. On the remaining time interval \([\tau - t, \tau]\) the optimal strategy then coincides with the corresponding optimal strategy \(\hat{X}_{\tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t}, \varphi}\). Note that \(\hat{X}_{0, \tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t}, \varphi} = \hat{X}_{0, \tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t}, \varphi} = 0\) will hold true due to the definition of the boundaries in (24) and (22), respectively. For the case where neither (35) nor (36) allows for a solution \(t \in (0, \tau]\), it will be optimal to remain inactive all along \([0, \tau]\).
Recall from our convention in Remark 4.11, 2.) that any non-zero final position in the risky asset will be unwound with a single block trade.

As a consequence of Remark 4.13, it suffices to characterize all optimal strategies \(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}, \hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi})\) with initial problem data \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi)\) which belong to the boundaries \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}\) or \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}\). The next two corollaries summarize how these strategies can be computed explicitly.
Corollary 4.14 (Selling boundary). Let $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$. Then we have \( \{d\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow} > 0\} = [0, \tau] \). The optimal share holdings $\varphi^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}$ and spread dynamics $\zeta^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}$ satisfy

$$
\varphi_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - t, \zeta_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}) \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau).$$

(37)

In particular, $\varphi^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}$ solves the second order ODE

$$
\ddot{\varphi}_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \beta^2 \left( \varphi_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right)
$$

(38)
on on $(0, \tau)$ with initial conditions

$$
\varphi_0^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \varphi, \quad \dot{\varphi}_0^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \beta \left( c_-(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) - c_+(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \right),
$$

(39)

where $\beta \triangleq \kappa \lambda / \sqrt{\lambda^2 + \kappa \eta}$ and $c_\pm(\tau, \zeta, \varphi)$ are given as in (82).

Remark 4.15. Note that in case $\zeta = \mu = 0$, the optimal strategy described in Remark 4.13 1.) together with Corollary 4.14 and the convention from Remark 4.11 2.) coincides for any $\varphi > 0$ with the optimal liquidation strategy computed in Obizhaeva and Wang [26], Proposition 4.

For the buying boundary, the description of optimal strategies becomes a bit more involved as one has to distinguish three cases depending on the size of the initial spread:

Corollary 4.16 (Buying boundary). Let $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$ and let $\bar{\zeta}$, $\bar{\varphi}$, $\hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}$ be given as in (69), (72), (78), respectively, as well as $\tau_{\text{buy}}$, $\tau_{\text{wait}}$ as defined in Lemmas 5.6 and 5.7.

1. If $\zeta > \hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, 2\mu / \kappa, 0, 0)$, then we have $\{d\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow} > 0\} = [0, \tau]$. The optimal share holdings $\varphi^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}$ and spread dynamics $\zeta^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}$ satisfy

$$
\varphi_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t, \zeta_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}) \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau).
$$

(40)

In other words, $\varphi^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}}$ solves the second order ODE

$$
\ddot{\varphi}_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \beta^2 \left( \varphi_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right)
$$

(41)
on on $(0, \tau)$ with initial conditions

$$
\varphi_0^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \varphi, \quad \dot{\varphi}_0^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \beta \left( c_-(\tau, -\zeta, \varphi) - c_+(\tau, -\zeta, \varphi) \right).
$$

(42)
2. If $0 < \zeta(\tau) \leq \hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, 2\mu/\kappa, 0, 0)$, then we have $\{d\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi \uparrow} > 0\} = [0, \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)]$ with $\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \in (0, \tau]$. The optimal share holdings $\varphi^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}}$ and spread dynamics $\zeta^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}}$ satisfy

\[ \varphi_t^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}} = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t, \zeta^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}}) \ (0 \leq t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)). \] (43)

In this case, the ODE dynamics in (41) are satisfied by $\varphi^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}}$ on $(0, \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))$ with terminal conditions

\begin{align*}
\varphi_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)}^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}} &= \bar{\varphi}(\tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)), \\
\zeta_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)}^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}} &= \hat{\zeta}(\tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))\beta^2/\lambda^2 + \left(\bar{\varphi}(\tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)) - \mu/\lambda^2\right)\beta^2/\kappa. \tag{44}
\end{align*}

3. If $0 \leq \zeta \leq \bar{\zeta}(\tau)$, then $\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi \uparrow} \equiv 0$ on $[0, \tau]$.

Moreover, in both cases 2.) and 3.), if

\[ \tau_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) > 0, \] (45)

then it holds that

\[ \left(\tau_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \varphi_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}^{\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}}\right) \in \partial R_{\text{sell}}. \tag{46} \]

**Remark 4.17.** Notice that except for a possible initial and final singular block trade (recall Remarks 4.11, 2.) and 4.13), share holdings $\varphi^{\hat{X}}$ of optimal strategies turn out to be absolutely continuous. This is in line with the optimal execution strategies computed in Obizhaeva and Wang [26]. During these periods of steadily buying or selling, the dynamics of the optimal share holdings are prescribed by the same second order ODE in (38) and (41). In fact, satisfying the ODE with the corresponding boundary conditions forces, respectively, the buy-subgradient or sell-subgradient to vanish which is in line with the first order optimality conditions in Proposition 4.6. Also note that while the optimal strategy is continuously buying- or selling, the optimally controlled triplet evolves along the boundary of the buying- or selling-region in the state space $S$; cf. (37), (40), and (43) together with Theorem 4.12.
4.4 Illustration

Let us illustrate with a numerical example the separation of the three-dimensional state space \( S \) into a buying-, waiting- and selling-region as characterized in Theorem 4.12 along with trajectories of optimal strategies as described in Corollaries 4.14 and 4.16 together with Remark 4.13. All explicit representations of the free boundaries \( \partial R_{\text{buy}} \) and \( \partial R_{\text{sell}} \) as well as of the illustrated optimal strategies \( \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\phi} = (\hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\phi,\uparrow}, \hat{X}_{\tau,\zeta,\phi,\downarrow}) \) can be found in Section 5.3. As for the model parameters, we simply choose

\[
\kappa = 1, \quad \eta = 2, \quad \mu = 10, \quad \sigma = 1, \quad \alpha = 1.
\]

Figure 1: The three-dimensional state space \( S \) with time to maturity \( \tau \), spread \( \zeta \) and number of shares \( \phi \). The blue plane represents the constant optimal frictionless Merton position at level \( \phi^0 = \mu / (\alpha \sigma^2) = 10 \), henceforth referred to as Merton plane. The upper red surface is the free boundary of the buying-region \( \partial R_{\text{buy}} \) colored in green and the boundary of the selling-region \( \partial R_{\text{sell}} \) is colored in red.

Figure 1 shows the three-dimensional state space \( S \) with time to maturity \( \tau \), spread \( \zeta \) and number of shares \( \phi \). The blue plane represents the constant optimal frictionless Merton position at level \( \phi^0 = \mu / (\alpha \sigma^2) = 10 \), henceforth referred to as Merton plane. The upper red surface is the free
boundary of the selling region $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ as characterized in Theorem 4.12, i.e.,

$$\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} = \{(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)\}$$

with $\phi_{\text{sell}}$ defined in (66). The lower green surface depicts the free boundary of the buying region $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$, that is,

$$\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} = \{(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} : \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)\}$$

with $\phi_{\text{buy}}$ defined in (90) – (94). Observe that $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$ actually decomposes into seven parts (cf. Section 5.3.1 for more details). As expected by the formulation of the optimization problem in Proposition 4.2 as an optimal trading problem towards the constant Merton portfolio, one can observe in Figure 1 that the green boundary of the buying region $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$ is always below the Merton plane. Moreover, at least for large maturities $\tau$ and large initial spread values $\zeta$, the red boundary of the selling region $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ is above the Merton position. However, notice that it falls below the latter for small maturities and small spread values $\zeta$. That is, even though the position in the risky asset is below the target portfolio $\varphi^0$, the short time horizon forces the optimizer to start liquidating the share holdings right away. Recall from Remark 4.3 2.) that this results from the fact that liquidation is costly. Hence, the optimal control also has to take into account unwinding the accrued position when terminal time comes close. The same interpretation also applies for the “plateau” of the buying boundary $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$ at level $\varphi = 0$ for small maturities and small spread values. In other words, starting with a short position in the risky asset and facing a short time horizon, it is optimal to simply clear out the short position even before the time horizon is reached. Mathematically, the presence of this plateau is due to the dependence of the subgradients in (17) and (18) on $\varrho \in [-1, 1]$ in case where the optimal terminal position $\varphi^X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}$ is equal to zero (again cf. Section 5.3.1 for the details).

Figure 2 depicts the evolutions of some optimal share holdings $\varphi^X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}$ for different problem data $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S}$ as functions in time to maturity $\tau - t$ with $0 \leq t \leq \tau$. The corresponding spread dynamics $\zeta^X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}$ are presented in Figure 3. The trajectories of the associated optimally controlled state processes $(\tau - t, \zeta^X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}, \varphi^X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi})_{0 \leq t \leq \tau}$ embedded in the three-dimensional state space $\mathcal{S}$ are illustrated in Figure 4.

The red policy is similar to the optimal liquidation strategies computed in Obizhaeva and Wang [26] for a risk-averse investor, though with a non-zero
Figure 2: Evolution of optimal share holdings for different initial problem data $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{I}$ as functions in time to maturity $\tau - t$ with $0 \leq t \leq \tau$. The dots represent the initial position in the risky asset. By our convention from Remark 4.11, 2.), all strategies unwind non-zero positions in the end with an impulse trade. The grey line depicts the Merton position $\varphi^0 = 10$.

but small initial spread (recall Remark 4.15). Observe that the trajectory starts in the selling region $\mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ with an initial position in the risky asset above the Merton portfolio. Thus, as described in Remark 4.13 1.), the policy jumps with an initial block sell order to the boundary of the selling region $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ and then continues steadily trading towards the Merton level $\varphi^0$ by selling the risky asset as described in Corollary 4.14. In particular, note that the strategy steadily sells until maturity even after reaching the targeted Merton level $\varphi^0 = 10$. As characterized in (37) (recall also Remark 4.17), the optimally controlled trajectory evolves along the boundary $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$. At the end, following our convention from Remark 4.11 2.), the remaining shares are liquidated with a single block sell order. Similarly to the red policy, the orange policy also has an initial position above Merton but it comes along with a large initial spread. As a consequence, the corresponding problem data $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi)$ belongs to the waiting region $\mathcal{R}_{\text{wait}}$. In this case it is optimal to exploit the resilience effect first and to be inactive until the value of the spread is sufficiently small so that it becomes optimal to trade towards $\varphi^0$. This happens when the trajectory hits the boundary of
Figure 3: Evolution of the corresponding spread dynamics of the optimal share holdings from Figure 2, again as functions in time to maturity $\tau - t$ with $0 \leq t \leq \tau$. The dots represent the initial and final spread values. Periods where the optimal strategy is inactive are indicated by dashed lines.

the selling region $\partial R_{\text{sell}}$ as described in Remark 4.13 2.). The blue policy is an optimal strategy which decomposes into a waiting-, buying-, waiting- and selling part. The initial share holdings are below the desired Merton position but similar to the orange policy the initial spread value is too large to intervene immediately. Again the optimal strategy is inactive until the spread is sufficiently small so that it becomes optimal to trade towards $\varphi^0$ and to buy shares according to the description in Corollary 4.16 2.), once the trajectory hits the boundary of the buying region $\partial R_{\text{buy}}$. Note that the optimizer is exploiting the resilience effect also while it is purchasing the risky asset since the value of the spread continues to decrease; see Figure 3. Thereafter, when the position in the risky asset is close enough to Merton $\varphi^0$ with respect to the remaining time, the optimizer becomes inactive again. During this waiting period the spread continues to decay until the trajectory hits the boundary of the selling region $\partial R_{\text{sell}}$ as characterized in (46). The optimal control then starts to continuously unwind its accrued position until terminal time. The black policy is of buy-and-hold type with initial and final block trades, remarkably similar to the frictionless optimizer. This is due to the fact that the time horizon is very small together with a small initial spread.
Figure 4: Evolution of optimally controlled state processes embedded in the three-dimensional state space $\mathcal{S}$ corresponding to the optimal share holdings from Figure 2 with spread dynamics depicted in Figure 3. Dashed lines indicate waiting parts of the strategies and the big dots represent the corresponding initial and final triplets.

which makes it optimal to execute a single initial block buy order from $\mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ to $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$ towards the Merton position $\varphi^0$ but without reaching it. Thereafter, the optimizer follows the characterization in Corollary 4.16 3.) where (46) does not occur. The pink policy does not trade at all and unwinds at the end. The brown policy starts with a short position in the risky asset. Again, since time horizon is relatively short, it merely clears out its short position in the risky asset as described in Corollary 4.16 2.) even before the end and then remains at level $\varphi = 0$ until the time horizon is reached. Similarly for the magenta policy but instead with a single initial block buy order. The dark green policy continuously liquidates an initial short position until the end and correspond to the case described in Corollary 4.16 1.).

To sum up, the numerical example illustrates how the optimal strategies which maximize expected utility from terminal liquidation wealth in our illiquid Bachelier model exhibit for different time horizons $\tau$, initial spread values $\zeta$ and initial endowments $\varphi$ a rich phenomenology of possible trajectories.
5 Proofs

5.1 Proofs for Sections 2 and 3

We start with the computation of the dynamics of the liquidation wealth process $(V_t(X))_{t \geq 0}$ defined in (4) and the associated liquidity costs $(L_t(X))_{t \geq 0}$ stated in Lemma 2.1.

**Proof of Lemma 2.1.** To alleviate the notation, let us introduce the mid-quote price process $M_t^X \triangleq (A_t^X + B_t^X)/2$ for all $t \geq 0$ with initial value $M_0^X \triangleq (A_0 + B_0)/2 = P_0$. Applying integration by parts in (4) as in, e.g., Jacod and Shiryaev [19], Definition I.4.45, yields

$$dV_t(X) = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta_t^X + \eta \Delta X^u_t \right) dX^+_t - \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta_t^- + \eta \Delta X^d_t \right) dX^-_t + \varphi_t^X dM_t^X$$

$$- \eta \varphi_t^- d\varphi_t^X - \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta_t^- d|\varphi_t^-| + |\varphi_t^-| d\zeta_t^- + d||\varphi_t^-|, \zeta_t^- \right),$$

(47)

where we used the fact that $[\varphi^X, M^X] = \eta [\varphi^X, \varphi^X]/2$ by virtue of [19], Theorem I.4.52. Moreover, note that Proposition I.4.49 a) in [19] implies $[|\varphi^X|, \zeta^X]_t = \int_{[0,t]} \Delta \zeta^X_s d|\varphi^X_s|$ for all $t \geq 0$, because $|\varphi^X|$ is predictable and $\zeta^X$ is of finite variation. Inserting this, the spread dynamics (2) as well as the dynamics of the mid-quote $dM_t^X = dP_t + \frac{\eta}{2} dX^+_t - \frac{\eta}{2} dX^-_t$ in (47) above yields

$$dV_t(X) = \varphi_t^X dP_t - \frac{1}{2} \zeta_t^X d|\varphi_t^X| + \frac{1}{2} \kappa |\varphi_t^-| \zeta_t^- dt$$

$$- \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta_t^- + \eta \Delta X^u_t + \eta |\varphi_t^-| + \eta |\varphi_t^-| \right) dX^+_t$$

$$- \frac{1}{2} \left( \zeta_t^- + \eta \Delta X^d_t - \eta |\varphi_t^-| + \eta |\varphi_t^-| \right) dX^-_t \quad (t \geq 0).$$

(48)

This motivates to define the liquidation cost functional $L_t(X)$ as

$$L_t(X) \triangleq L_0(X) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} \zeta_s^X d|\varphi_s^X| - \frac{1}{2} \kappa \int_{[0,t]} |\varphi_s^-| \zeta_s^- ds$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} \left( \zeta_s^- + \eta \Delta X^u_s + \eta |\varphi_s^-| \right) dX^+_s$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} \left( \zeta_s^- - \eta |\varphi_s^-| \right) dX^-_s \quad (t \geq 0)$$

(49)
with \( L_{0-}(X) \triangleq \zeta_0|\varphi_0^X|/2 + \eta(\varphi_0^X)^2/2 \). Using once more the spread dynamics in (2) we can write 
\[-\frac{\sigma}{2}|\varphi_t^X|\zeta_t^- dt = \frac{1}{2}|\varphi_t^X|d\zeta_t^- - \frac{\eta}{2}|\varphi_t^X|(dX_t^+ + dX_t^-) \]. Inserting this expression in (49) gives us 
\[
L_t(X) = L_{0-}(X) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} (\zeta_s^- + \eta \Delta X_s^+) dX_s^+ \\
+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} (\zeta_s^+ + \eta \Delta X_s^-) dX_s^- + \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} \zeta_s^X d|\varphi_s^X| \\
+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} |\varphi_s^X| d\zeta_s^- + \frac{1}{2} \eta \int_{[0,t]} \varphi_s^X d\varphi_s^X \quad (t \geq 0). 
\] (50)

Again, integration by parts as in [19], Definition I.4.45, allows us to write 
\[
\frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} |\varphi_s^X| d\zeta_s^- = \frac{1}{2} |\varphi_t^X| \zeta_t^- - \frac{1}{2} |\varphi_0^-^X| \zeta_0^- - \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} \zeta_s^- d|\varphi_s^X|, 
\] (51)
\[
\frac{1}{2} \eta \int_{[0,t]} \varphi_s^X d\varphi_s^X = \frac{1}{2} \eta \left( (\varphi_t^X)^2 - (\varphi_0^-^X)^2 - [\varphi^X, \varphi^X]_t \right). 
\] (52)

Plugging back (51) and (52) into (50), using the definition of \( L_{0-}(X) \) as well as the fact that \([X_{t^\uparrow}, X_{t^\downarrow}]_t = \int_{[0,t]} \Delta X_{s^\uparrow} X_{s^\downarrow} dX_{s^\uparrow} X_{s^\downarrow} \) for all \( t \geq 0 \) (cf. Proposition I.4.49 a) in [19]) finally yields 
\[
L_t(X) = \frac{1}{2} |\varphi_t^X| \zeta_t^- + \frac{\eta}{4} (\varphi_t^X)^2 + (\varphi_0^-^X)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0,t]} \zeta_s^- (dX_s^+ + dX_s^-) \\
+ \frac{\eta}{4} ([X_{t^\uparrow}, X_{t^\downarrow}]_t + [X_{t^\uparrow}, X_{t^\downarrow}]_t + 2[X_{t^\uparrow}, X_{t^\downarrow}]_t) \quad (t \geq 0). 
\] (53)

Next, by using the explicit representation of the spread \( \zeta^X \) in (3) and introducing the process \( Y_t \triangleq \int_{[0,t]} e^{ks}(dX_s^+ + dX_s^-) \) for all \( t \geq 0 \) we obtain 
\[
\int_{[0,t]} \zeta_s^X (dX_s^+ + dX_s^-) = \int_{[0,t]} e^{-ks} \zeta_0 (dX_s^+ + dX_s^-) + \frac{\eta}{2} e^{-2ks} Y_t^2 \\
+ \kappa \eta \int_0^t e^{-2ks} Y_s^2 ds - \frac{\eta}{2} \int_{[0,t]} e^{-2ks} d[Y_s, Y_s]. 
\] (54)

Once more due to [19], Proposition I.4.49, observe that we have 
\[
d[Y_s, Y_s] = e^{2ks} \left( d[X_{t^\uparrow}, X_{t^\downarrow}]_s + d[X_{t^\uparrow}, X_{t^\downarrow}]_s + 2d[X_{t^\uparrow}, X_{t^\downarrow}]_s \right). 
\] (55)
In addition, it holds that $e^{-\kappa t}Y_t = (\zeta_t^X - e^{-\kappa t}\zeta_0)/\eta$ for all $t \geq 0$. Thus, using this representation as well as (55) in (54), and plugging the resulting term back into (53) yields the desired form of the liquidity cost functional in (6). Finally, one can easily observe that the functional $L_t(X)$ in (6) is convex in $X$ for each $t \geq 0$. Moreover, using the lower estimate $\zeta_t^X - e^{-\kappa t}\zeta_0 \geq \eta e^{-\kappa t}(X_t^+ + X_t^-)$ for all $t \geq 0$, we obtain the lower bound of $L_t(X)$ as claimed in (7). \hfill \Box

In order to apply Lemma 3.1 in our setting in the proof of Theorem 3.3, we need the following lemma.

Lemma 5.1. For the level-set $\mathcal{L}_0 \triangleq \{X \in \mathcal{S} : \mathbb{E}u(V_T(X)) \geq \mathbb{E}u(V_T(0))\}$, conv(\{X_T^+ + X_T^- : X \in \mathcal{L}_0\}) is $L^0(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$-bounded.

Proof. First, observe that due to convexity of the liquidity cost functional $L_T(X)$ in $X \in \mathcal{S}$ by virtue of Lemma 2.1 as well as concavity and monotonicity of the utility function $u$, the level-set $\mathcal{L}_0$ is a convex set. As a consequence, it holds that conv(\{X_T^+ + X_T^- : X \in \mathcal{L}_0\}) = \{X_T^+ + X_T^- : X \in \mathcal{L}_0\}.

Next, note that for any $X \in \mathcal{S}$ the liquidation wealth $V_T(X)$ as given in (5) can be bounded from above by

$$V_T(X) = V_{0-}(X) + L_{0-}(X) + \int_0^T \varphi_t^X dP_t - L_T(X)$$

$$\leq \xi_{0-}^X + 2(\varphi_{0-}^X + X_T^+ + X_T^-)P_T^* - c(X_T^+ + X_T^-)^2$$

$$= \xi_{0-}^X + \frac{1}{c}(P_T^*)^2 - \left(\sqrt{c}(X_T^+ + X_T^-) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}}P_T^*\right)^2 + 2\varphi_{0-}^X P_T^*$$

(56)

with $P_T^* \triangleq \max_{0 \leq s \leq T} |P_s|$, where we used integration by parts, the fact that the semimartingale $(P_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is continuous and the lower bound $L_T(X) \geq c(X_T^+ + X_T^-)^2$ from Lemma 2.1 for some constant $c > 0$. Henceforth, to alleviate the presentation, let us assume without loss of generality that $\xi_{0-}^X = \varphi_{0-}^X = 0$ as well as $u(0) = 0$. Due to the upper bound in (56), we obtain for all $X \in \mathcal{L}_0$ the estimate

$$\mathbb{E}[u(V_T(0))] \leq \mathbb{E}\left[u\left(\frac{1}{c}(P_T^*)^2 - \left(\sqrt{c}(X_T^+ + X_T^-) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}}P_T^*\right)^2\right)\right].$$

Hence, together with the fact that $u$ is bounded from above, it must hold for the negative part that

$$\sup_{X \in \mathcal{L}_0} \mathbb{E}\left[u\left(\frac{1}{c}(P_T^*)^2 - \left(\sqrt{c}(X_T^+ + X_T^-) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}}P_T^*\right)^2\right)^-\right] < \infty.$$
Moreover, since \( u \in C^1(\mathbb{R}) \) is strictly concave and increasing which yields \( u(z) \leq u(0) + u'(0)z = u(0)z \) and thus \( u(z)^- \geq u'(0)(-z)^+ \) for all \( z \in \mathbb{R} \), we obtain

\[
\sup_{X \in \mathcal{L}_0} \mathbb{E} \left[ \left( \sqrt{c}(X^+_T + X^-_T) - \frac{1}{\sqrt{c}} P^\tau_T \right)^2 - \frac{1}{c} (P^\tau_T)^2 \right] < \infty. \tag{57}
\]

Finally, observe that the \( L^1(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) \)-boundedness in (57) implies that the set \( \{ X^+_T + X^-_T : X \in \mathcal{L}_0 \} \) is bounded in \( L^0(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P}) \).

The last ingredient for the proof of Theorem 3.3 is the continuity of the liquidation wealth \( V_T(X) \) in \( X \).

**Proof of Lemma 3.2.** We fix \( \omega \in \Omega \). By weak convergence of \( X^n \) to \( X \) on \([0, T]\), we obtain that \( \zeta_t^{X^n}(\omega) \to \zeta_t^X(\omega) \) for \( t = T \) and all \( t \in [0, T] \) such that \( \Delta X^+_t(\omega) = \Delta X^-_t(\omega) = 0 \); cf. the representation of the spread in (3). In particular, it holds that \( \zeta_t^{X^n}(\omega) \to \zeta_t^X(\omega) \) \( dt \)-a.e. on \([0, T]\) because the number of jumps of \( X^+_t(\omega) \), \( X^-_t(\omega) \) is countable. At the time \( \zeta_s^{X^n}(\omega) \) is uniformly bounded in \( n \) and \( s \) since so is \( X_s^n(\omega) \). Thus, by dominated convergence, we get for any \( \omega \in \Omega \) that \( \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^T (\zeta_s^{X^n}(\omega) - e^{-\kappa_s} \Omega_0)^2 ds = \int_0^T (\zeta_s^X(\omega) - e^{-\kappa_s} \Omega_0)^2 ds \). Moreover, we obviously have that \( \varphi_T^{X^n}(\omega) \to \varphi_T^X(\omega) \). Hence, referring to the representation of the liquidity costs \( L_T(X^n) \) in (6), we can conclude that \( \lim_{n \to \infty} L_T(X^n(\omega)) = L_T(X(\omega)) \). Next, concerning the stochastic integral of \( \varphi^{X^n} \) with respect to the continuous semimartingale \( P \) in the liquidation wealth \( V_T(X^n) \) in (5), we obtain, after applying integration by parts, the expression

\[
\int_0^T \varphi_t^X dP_t = \varphi_T^X P_T - \varphi_0^X P_0 - \int_{[0, T]} P_s(dX^+_s - dX^-_s)
\]

\[
= \lim_{n \to \infty} \left( \varphi_T^{X^n} P_T - \varphi_0^{X^n} P_0 - \int_{[0, T]} P_s(dX^+_s - dX^-_s) \right)
\]

\[
= \lim_{n \to \infty} \int_0^T \varphi_t^{X^n} dP_t \quad \text{for all } \omega \in \Omega,
\]

where we again used weak convergence of \( X^n(\omega) \) \( \overset{w}{\to} \) \( X(\omega) \) on \([0, T]\) for all \( \omega \in \Omega \) and the continuity of \( P \). In summary, we obtain \( \lim_{n \to \infty} V_T(X^n) = V_T(X) \) pointwise for all \( \omega \in \Omega \) as desired. \( \square \)
5.2 Proofs of Lemma 4.5 and Lemma 4.8

Next, let us compute the infinite-dimensional subgradients in (17) and (18) of the convex cost functional $J_T(\cdot)$ on $\mathcal{X}^d$ given in (13).

Proof of Lemma 4.5. Let us define the deviation functional

$$D_T(X) \triangleq \frac{\alpha \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^T \left( \varphi_t^X - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right)^2 dt$$

(58)

on $\mathcal{X}^d$. Then the convex cost functional $J_T(\cdot)$ in (13) can be written as $J_T(X) = L_T(X) + D_T(X)$. We will proceed in three steps.

Step 1: Let us start with the computation of the subgradients of the liquidity cost functional $L_T(\cdot)$ given in (6). Observe that for any $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}^d$ with $\varphi_0^Y = \varphi_0^X$ and any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$ we obtain

$$L_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - L_T(X) = \frac{\kappa}{\eta} \int_0^T (\zeta_t^X - e^{-\kappa t} \zeta_0) (\zeta_t^Y - \zeta_t^X) dt$$

$$+ \frac{\eta}{4} \varepsilon |\varepsilon \varphi_t^Y + (1 - \varepsilon) \varphi_t^X|^2 - |\varphi_t^X|^2 + \frac{\varepsilon}{2} \frac{\eta}{\varepsilon} |\varepsilon \varphi_t^Y + (1 - \varepsilon) \varphi_t^X| - |\varphi_t^X|$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \left( \varphi_t^Y - \varphi_t^X \right) \left( |\varepsilon \varphi_t^Y + (1 - \varepsilon) \varphi_t^X| + \frac{1}{\eta} (\zeta_t^X - e^{-\kappa t} \zeta_0) \right)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0, T]} e^{-\kappa t} \zeta_0 (dy_t^Y + dy_t^X - dx_t^Y - dx_t^X)$$

$$+ \varepsilon \left( \frac{1}{4\eta} (\zeta_t^Y - \zeta_t^X)^2 + \frac{\kappa}{2\eta} \int_0^T (\zeta_t^Y - \zeta_t^X)^2 dt \right).$$

(59)

Note that we have the lower bound $|\varepsilon \varphi_t^Y + (1 - \varepsilon) \varphi_t^X|^2 - |\varphi_t^X|^2 \geq 2\varepsilon \varphi_t^X (\varphi_t^Y - \varphi_t^X)$ and $|\varepsilon \varphi_t^Y + (1 - \varepsilon) \varphi_t^X| - |\varphi_t^X| \geq \varepsilon \text{sign}_\varphi (\varphi_t^X) (\varphi_t^Y - \varphi_t^X)$, where we denote by $x \mapsto \text{sign}_\varphi(x)$ the subgradient of the function $x \mapsto |x|$ with $\text{sign}_\varphi(0) = \varphi \in [-1, 1]$; cf. Remark 4.4. Plugging back these lower bounds into (59) and passing to the limit $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$ yields

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{L_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - L_T(X)}{\varepsilon} \geq \frac{\kappa}{\eta} \int_0^T (\zeta_t^X - e^{-\kappa t} \zeta_0) (\zeta_t^Y - \zeta_t^X) dt$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \left( \eta \varphi_t^X + \text{sign}_\varphi (\varphi_t^X) \zeta_t^X \right) (\varphi_t^Y - \varphi_t^X) + \frac{1}{2} (|\varphi_t^X| + \frac{1}{\eta} (\zeta_t^X - e^{-\kappa t} \zeta_0)$$

$$\cdot (\zeta_t^Y - \zeta_t^X) + \frac{1}{2} \int_{[0, T]} \zeta_0 e^{-\kappa t} (dy_t^Y - dx_t^Y + dy_t^X - dx_t^X).$$
Next, let us express every term in (60) as an integral with respect to either $Y \uparrow - X \uparrow$ or $Y \downarrow - X \downarrow$. Using (3) for the spreads $\zeta^Y$ and $\zeta^X$ as well as Fubini’s Theorem, we can rewrite the first term in (60) as

$$ \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} L_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - L_T(X) \geq \int_{[0,T]} e^{\nabla^\uparrow_L T(X)}(dY^\uparrow_s - dX^\uparrow_s) + \int_{[0,T]} e^{\nabla^\downarrow_L T(X)}(dY^\downarrow_s - dX^\downarrow_s),$$

where we set

$$ e^{\nabla^\uparrow_L T(X)} \triangleq \kappa \int_{[0,T]} e^{-\kappa(t-s)} \zeta^X_t dt \pm \frac{\eta}{2} \varphi_T^X \pm \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}(\varphi_T^X) \zeta^X_T \quad (0 \leq s \leq T).$$

**Step 2:** Let us now compute the subgradients of the deviation functional $D_T(\cdot)$ defined in (58). Again, for any $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}^d$ with $\varphi^-_Y = \varphi^-_X$ and any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1]$ we obtain

$$ D_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - D_T(X) = \alpha \sigma^2 \int_0^T (\varphi^X_t - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2}) (\varphi^Y_t - \varphi^X_t) dt + \varepsilon \frac{\alpha \sigma^2}{2} \int_0^T (\varphi^Y_t - \varphi^X_t)^2 dt $$
and hence, together with Fubini’s Theorem, we arrive at
\[
\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{D_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - D_T(X)}{\varepsilon} = \alpha \sigma^2 \int_{[0,T]} \left( \int_s^T \left( \varphi_t^X - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right) dt \right) (dY_s^\uparrow - dX_s^\uparrow) \\
+ \alpha \sigma^2 \int_{[0,T]} \left( \int_s^T \left( \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} - \varphi_t^X \right) dt \right) (dY_s^\downarrow - dX_s^\downarrow).
\]

Consequently, we can write
\[
\lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \frac{D_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - D_T(X)}{\varepsilon} = \int_{[0,T]} \nabla_s^\uparrow D_T(X) (dY_s^\uparrow - dX_s^\uparrow) + \int_{[0,T]} \nabla_s^\downarrow D_T(X) (dY_s^\downarrow - dX_s^\downarrow),
\]
where we set
\[
\nabla_s^\uparrow D_T(X) \triangleq \pm \alpha \sigma^2 \int_s^T \left( \varphi_t^X - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right) dt \quad (0 \leq s \leq T).
\]

**Step 3:** Finally, for the convex cost functional \(J_T(\cdot)\) we obtain for any \(X,Y \in \mathcal{X}^d\) with \(\varphi_{0-}^Y = \varphi_{0-}^X\) and any \(\varepsilon \in (0,1]\) the lower bound
\[
J_T(Y) - J_T(X) \geq \frac{J_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - J_T(X)}{\varepsilon} = \frac{L_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - L_T(X)}{\varepsilon} + \frac{D_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - D_T(X)}{\varepsilon}.
\]

Passing to the limit \(\varepsilon \downarrow 0\) yields together with (61) and (62)
\[
\frac{J_T(\varepsilon Y + (1 - \varepsilon)X) - J_T(X)}{\varepsilon} \geq \int_{[0,T]} (\varepsilon \nabla_s^\uparrow L_T(X) + \nabla_s^\downarrow D_T(X)) (dY_s^\uparrow - dX_s^\uparrow) \\
+ \int_{[0,T]} (\varepsilon \nabla_s^\downarrow L_T(X) + \nabla_s^\uparrow D_T(X)) (dY_s^\downarrow - dX_s^\downarrow),
\]

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where we note that $\theta^t J^T(X) = \theta^t L^T(X) + \theta^t D^T(X)$ for all $s \in [0, T]$ as desired.

**Proof of Lemma 4.8.** For a strategy $X = (X^+ , X^-) \in \mathcal{R}^d$, $X \neq (0, 0)$, let $t \in [0, T]$ be such that $\nabla^t J^T(X) = 0$. Using the definition of $\nabla^t J^T(X)$ in (17) this amounts to the identity

$$-rac{\eta}{2} \frac{\phi}{X} - \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}(\phi_X) \zeta_X^t = \int_t^T \left( \kappa e^{-\kappa(u-t)} \zeta_u^X + \alpha \sigma^2 \left( \phi_u^X - \frac{\mu}{\alpha \sigma^2} \right) \right) du + \frac{1}{2} \left( \eta |\phi_X^t| + \zeta_X^t \right) e^{-\kappa(T-t)}.$$

Plugging this in the definition of $\nabla^t J^T(X)$ in (18) yields

$$\nabla^t J^T(X) = 2 \int_t^T \kappa e^{-\kappa(u-t)} \zeta_u^X du + \left( \eta |\phi_X^t| + \zeta_X^t \right) e^{-\kappa(T-t)} > 0$$

because $X \neq (0, 0)$. The same reasoning applies when the roles of $\uparrow$ and $\downarrow$ are interchanged.

## 5.3 Proofs of Section 4.3

In this section we prove our main Theorem 4.12 together with Corollaries 4.14 and 4.16. We start with introducing the two key objects, that is, the free boundary functions $\phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)$ and $\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)$ on the domain $[0, +\infty)^2$.

### 5.3.1 The free boundary functions

Introducing the function $\phi_{\text{sell}}$ is straightforward. Recall that $\lambda = \sqrt{\alpha \sigma}$ and $\beta = \kappa \lambda / \sqrt{\lambda^2 + \kappa \eta}$. We set

$$\gamma_{\pm} \triangleq \lambda \pm \sqrt{\kappa \eta + \lambda^2}$$

and denote

$$C(\tau) \triangleq \frac{e^{-\beta \tau} \gamma_- + e^{\beta \tau} \gamma_+}{e^{-\beta \tau} \gamma_-^2 + e^{\beta \tau} \gamma_+^2}, \quad D(\tau) \triangleq 1 - \frac{2 \kappa \eta}{e^{-\beta \tau} \gamma_-^2 + e^{\beta \tau} \gamma_+^2} \quad (\tau \geq 0).$$

On the domain $[0, +\infty)^2$, the free boundary function $(\tau, \zeta) \mapsto \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)$ will then be defined as

$$\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \frac{\mu}{\lambda^2} D(\tau) + \frac{\kappa}{\lambda} C(\tau) \quad (\tau \geq 0, \zeta \geq 0).$$

Let us note the following property which can be easily checked:
Lemma 5.2. We have $\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) > 0$ for all $\tau \geq 0$, $\zeta \geq 0$, since $1 > D(\tau) > 0$ and $C(\tau) > 0$ for all $\tau \geq 0$. \qed

Remark 5.3. By a slight abuse of the definition of the function $\phi_{\text{sell}}$ in (66) which is only confined to the positive half-plane $[0, +\infty)^2$, we will also use for $\zeta > 0$ the notation $\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta)$ with the obvious meaning $\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta) \triangleq \mu D(\tau)/\lambda^2 - \zeta\kappa C(\tau)/\lambda$.

In contrast to $\phi_{\text{sell}}$ in (66), introducing the free boundary function $(\tau, \zeta) \mapsto \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)$ on the domain $[0, +\infty)^2$ is much more intricate and necessitates several auxiliary constants and functions. First, let $\bar{\theta} > 0$ denote the unique strictly positive solution to the equation

$$e^{\kappa \bar{\theta}}(2 - \kappa \bar{\theta}) + 2 + \kappa \bar{\theta} = 0 \quad (67)$$

and let $\bar{\theta} \in (0, \bar{\theta})$ denote the unique solution to the equation

$$e^{\kappa \theta}(\kappa \theta - 1) = 1. \quad (68)$$

Next, we introduce the mapping $\tau \mapsto (\zeta(\tau), \varphi(\tau))$ for all $\tau \geq 0$ via

$$\zeta(\tau) \triangleq \begin{cases} s_1(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}), & \tau > \bar{\theta}, \\
 s_2(\tau), & \theta < \tau \leq \bar{\theta}, \\
 2\mu/\kappa, & 0 \leq \tau \leq \theta, \end{cases} \quad (69)$$

with

$$s_1(\tau, \theta) \triangleq \frac{\mu(1 - D(\tau))e^{\kappa \theta}}{\lambda \kappa C(\tau) + \frac{\kappa \theta}{2}(1 + e^{-\kappa \theta})^2 - \lambda^2(1 + e^{-\kappa \theta})} \quad (\tau \geq 0, \theta > 0), \quad (70)$$

$$s_2(\tau) \triangleq \frac{\mu \eta e^{-\kappa \theta} + 1 + e^{-\kappa \tau}}{\lambda \kappa C(\tau) + \frac{\kappa \theta}{2}(1 + e^{-\kappa \theta})^2 - \lambda^2(1 + e^{-\kappa \theta})} \quad (\theta \leq \tau \leq \bar{\theta}), \quad (71)$$

and

$$\varphi(\tau) \triangleq \begin{cases} \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \zeta(\tau)e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}), & \tau > \bar{\theta}, \\
 \phi_2(\tau, \zeta(\tau)), & \theta < \tau \leq \bar{\theta}, \\
 0, & 0 \leq \tau \leq \theta, \end{cases} \quad (72)$$

where

$$\phi_2(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \frac{\mu \tau - \frac{1}{2}\zeta(1 + e^{-\kappa \tau})}{\lambda^2 \tau + \frac{\kappa \theta}{2}(1 + e^{-\kappa \theta})} \quad (\tau \geq 0, \zeta \geq 0). \quad (73)$$
We further set
\[ s_3(\tau) \triangleq \frac{2\mu \tau}{1 + e^{-\kappa \tau}} \quad (0 \leq \tau \leq \theta). \] (74)
Let us mention that since \( \bar{\theta} \) satisfies (67) it holds in (70) that
\[ s_1(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}) = \mu (1 - D(\tau - \bar{\theta})) e^{\kappa \bar{\theta}} \frac{\lambda \kappa C}{2} (\tau - \bar{\theta}) \frac{1 - e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}}{\lambda^2} \] (75)
Moreover, direct computations reveal that
\[ \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \zeta(\tau))e^{\kappa \bar{\theta}} = \frac{\mu}{\lambda^2} - \frac{\kappa}{2} \zeta(\tau) \frac{1 - e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}}{\lambda^2} \quad (\tau > \bar{\theta}). \] (76)
as well as
\[ \phi_2(\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(\tau)) = \frac{\mu \kappa \tau - \mu (1 + e^{-\kappa \tau})}{\kappa \lambda^2 \tau + \frac{\kappa \eta}{2} (1 + e^{-\kappa \tau})^2 - \lambda^2 (1 + e^{-\kappa \tau})} \quad (\theta < \tau \leq \bar{\theta}). \] (77)
It will turn out that \( \tau \mapsto (\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(\tau), \phi(\tau)) \) specifies a curve which is embedded in the free boundary \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \) in the state space \( \mathcal{S} \). The next lemma collects some useful properties concerning the maps \( s_1, s_2, s_3 \) introduced in (70), (71), (74), respectively, as well as this curve. We also refer to the graphical illustration in Figure 5 below in this context.

**Lemma 5.4.**

1. We have \( s_3(0) = 0 \) and \( s_3(\bar{\theta}) = 2\mu / \kappa \). Moreover, on the interval \( (0, \bar{\theta}) \), the map \( \tau \mapsto s_3(\tau) \) is strictly increasing. In particular, it holds that \( s_3(\tau) < 2\mu / \kappa \) on \( (0, \bar{\theta}) \).

2. We have \( s_1(0, \bar{\theta}) = 0 \) and \( s_2(\bar{\theta}) = 2\mu / \kappa \) as well as \( s_1(0, \bar{\theta}) = s_2(\bar{\theta}) \). Moreover, on the interval \( (\bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}) \), the map \( \tau \mapsto s_1(0, \tau) \) is strictly increasing and the map \( \tau \mapsto s_2(\tau) \) is strictly decreasing. In particular, it holds that \( s_1(0, \tau) < s_2(\tau) \) on \( (\bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}) \).

3. The map \( \tau \mapsto \tilde{\zeta}(\tau), \tau \geq 0 \), is continuous, flat on \( [0, \bar{\theta}) \), and strictly decreasing on \( [\bar{\theta}, +\infty) \) with \( \lim_{\tau \uparrow +\infty} \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) = 0 \). In particular, we have \( 2\mu / \kappa \geq \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) > 0 \) for all \( \tau \geq 0 \).

4. The map \( \tau \mapsto \tilde{\phi}(\tau), \tau \geq 0 \), is continuous, flat on \( [0, \bar{\theta}) \), and strictly increasing on \( [\bar{\theta}, +\infty) \) with \( \lim_{\tau \uparrow +\infty} \tilde{\phi}(\tau) = \mu / \lambda^2 \). In particular, we have \( 0 \leq \tilde{\phi}(\tau) < \mu / \lambda^2 \) for all \( \tau \geq 0 \).
Proof. The claims follow from the fact that \( \theta \) and \( \bar{\theta} \) satisfy equation (68) and (67), respectively, as well as simple differentiation of the mappings with respect to \( \tau \) (recall also the representations of \( \bar{\varphi}(\cdot) \) in (76) and (77)). Finally, observe that \( \lim_{\tau \uparrow \infty} \bar{\zeta}(\tau) = 0 \) can be deduced from (75) as well as \( \lim_{\tau \uparrow \infty} \varphi(\tau) = \mu/\lambda^2 \) from (76).

Next, let us introduce for all \( \tau \geq 0, \zeta, \varphi \in \mathbb{R} \) and \( 0 \leq \theta \leq \tau \) the mappings

\[
\hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \theta) \triangleq \zeta \eta \beta \left( \frac{e^{-\beta(\tau-\theta)}}{\kappa + \beta} + \frac{e^{\beta(\tau-\theta)}}{\kappa - \beta} \right) - \frac{\eta \beta}{\kappa} \left( \varphi - \frac{\mu}{\lambda^2} \right) \sinh (\beta(\tau - \theta)),
\]

(78)

\[
\hat{\varphi}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \theta) \triangleq \left( \varphi - \frac{\mu}{\lambda^2} \right) \cosh(\beta(\tau - \theta)) - \frac{\beta}{\kappa} \sinh(\beta(\tau - \theta)) \left( \varphi - \frac{\mu}{\lambda^2} + \frac{\kappa}{\lambda^2} \zeta \right) + \frac{\mu}{\lambda^2},
\]

(79)

as well as

\[
\hat{\zeta}_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \theta) \triangleq \zeta e^{-\kappa \theta} + \eta e^{-\kappa \theta} \left( \frac{\beta}{\kappa + \beta} c_+(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) e^{(\kappa + \beta) \theta} - 1 \right)
\]

\[
+ \frac{\beta}{\beta - \kappa} c_-(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) e^{-(\beta - \kappa) \theta} - 1),
\]

(80)

\[
\hat{\varphi}_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \theta) \triangleq - c_+(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) e^{\beta \theta} - c_-(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) e^{-\beta \theta} + \frac{\mu}{\lambda^2},
\]

(81)

where

\[
c_\pm(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \triangleq \frac{\kappa}{\lambda^2 \sqrt{\kappa \eta + \lambda^2 \gamma_+^2}} \sqrt{\kappa \eta + \lambda^2 \gamma_+^2} (\eta \mu - \lambda^2 (\zeta + \eta \varphi)) + \eta \mu \gamma_\pm.
\]

(82)

In fact, simple computations reveal the identities

\[
\hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \tau) = \zeta \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\varphi}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \tau) = \varphi
\]

(83)

for all \( (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} \) as well as

\[
\hat{\zeta}_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta), 0) = \zeta \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\varphi}_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta), 0) = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)
\]

(84)

for all \( \tau \geq 0 \) and \( \zeta \in \mathbb{R} \). Moreover, the following lemma can be easily verified by elementary calculus which we omit for the sake of brevity.
Lemma 5.5 (Monotonicity properties).
1. For any $\theta \geq 0$, the function $\tau \mapsto \check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(\theta), \check{\varphi}(\theta), \theta)$, $\tau \geq \theta$, is continuous and strictly increasing with $\check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\theta, \check{\zeta}(\theta), \check{\varphi}(\theta), \theta) = \check{\zeta}(\theta)$. Moreover, for any two $0 \leq \theta_1 < \theta_2$, the functions do not intersect on $[\theta_2, +\infty)$.
2. For any $\tau \geq 0$, the function $z \mapsto \check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(\tau - z), \check{\varphi}(\tau - z), \tau - z)$, $0 \leq z \leq \tau$, is continuous and strictly increasing.
3. For any $\theta \geq 0$, the function $\tau \mapsto \check{\varphi}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(\theta), \check{\varphi}(\theta), \theta)$, $\tau \geq \theta$, is continuous and strictly decreasing with $\check{\varphi}^{\text{buy}}(\theta, \check{\zeta}(\theta), \check{\varphi}(\theta), \theta) = \check{\varphi}(\theta)$.
4. For any $\tau \geq 0$, $\zeta \geq 0$, the function $t \mapsto \check{\varphi}^{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \phi^{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta), t)$ on $[0, \tau]$ is continuous and strictly decreasing with $\check{\varphi}^{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \phi^{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta), 0) = \phi^{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)$.
5. For any $\tau \geq 0$, $\zeta > 0$, the function $t \mapsto \check{\varphi}^{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta, \phi^{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta), t)$ on $[0, \tau]$ is continuous and strictly increasing with $\check{\varphi}^{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta, \phi^{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta), 0) = \phi^{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta)$.

As it will turn out below, for a given problem data $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi)$ belonging to $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}$ or $\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}$, the optimal share holdings $\varphi^{\check{X}, \check{\tau}, \check{\zeta}, \varphi}$ as well as the optimally controlled spread dynamics $\check{X}^{\check{\tau}, \check{\zeta}, \varphi}$ of the optimal policy $\check{X}$ will be given in terms of the mappings introduced in (78) to (81). Two further important ingredients are provided by the following two lemmas.

Lemma 5.6 (Buying duration). For a given pair $(\tau, \zeta) \in [0, +\infty)^2$ such that $\check{\zeta}(\tau) \leq \zeta \leq \check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(0), \check{\varphi}(0), 0)$, we define $\tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)$ as the unique solution in $[0, \tau]$ to the equation

$$\zeta = \check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(\tau - \tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)), \check{\varphi}(\tau - \tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)), \tau - \tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)).$$

(85)

In particular, it holds that

$$\tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(\theta), \check{\varphi}(\theta), \theta)) = \tau - \theta \quad (0 \leq \theta \leq \tau)$$

(86)

which implies $\tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(0), \check{\varphi}(0), 0)) = \tau$ and $\tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(\tau)) = 0$. We further set

$$\tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \begin{cases} \tau & \text{for } \zeta > \check{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \check{\zeta}(0), \check{\varphi}(0), 0), \\ 0 & \text{for } 0 \leq \zeta < \check{\zeta}(\tau), \end{cases}$$

(87)

so that $\tau^{\text{buy}}(\cdot, \cdot)$ is defined for all $(\tau, \zeta) \in [0, \infty)^2$ with values in $[0, \tau]$.  

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Proof. For any \( \tau \geq 0 \) consider the mapping \( z \mapsto F_\tau(z) \triangleq \tilde{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(\tau - z), \varphi(\tau - z), \tau - z) \) with \( z \in [0, \tau] \). Then, \( F_\tau(0) = \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) \) due to \((83)\) as well as \( F_\tau(\tau) = \tilde{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(0), \varphi(0), 0) \). Moreover, it follows from Lemma 5.5 2.) that \( F_\tau(z) \) is continuous and strictly increasing on \([0, \tau]\). Consequently, for any \( \zeta \leq \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) \leq \tilde{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(0), \varphi(0), 0) \) there exists a unique \( \tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq z^* \in [0, \tau] \) such that \( \zeta = F_\tau(z^*) \). \hfill \Box

Lemma 5.7 (Waiting duration). For a given pair \((\tau, \zeta) \in [0, \infty)^2\) such that either \( \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \) and \( 0 \leq \zeta \leq \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) \), or \( \bar{\theta} \leq \tau < \bar{\theta} \) and \( 0 \leq \zeta \leq s_1(0, \tau) \), we define \( \tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \) as the unique solution in \((0, \tau]\) to the equation

\[
\zeta = s_1(\tau - \tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)).
\] (88)

In particular, in case \( \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \) we have \( \tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(\tau)) = \bar{\theta} \) and in case \( \bar{\theta} \leq \tau < \bar{\theta} \) we have \( \tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, s_1(0, \tau)) = \tau \). We further set

\[
\tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \begin{cases} 
\bar{\theta} & \text{for } \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \text{ and } \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) \leq \zeta \leq \tilde{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(\bar{\theta}), \varphi(\bar{\theta}), \bar{\theta}), \\
\tau - \tau^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) & \text{in all remaining cases},
\end{cases}
\] (89)

so that \( \tau^{\text{wait}}(\cdot, \cdot) \) is defined for all \((\tau, \zeta) \in [0, \infty)^2\) with values in \([0, \tau]\).

Proof. Consider for any \( \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \) arbitrary but fixed the continuous function \( z \mapsto G_\tau(z) \triangleq s_1(\tau - z, z) \) with \( z \in [0, \min\{\tau, \bar{\theta}\}] \). An elementary computation shows that \( G_\tau(z) \) is strictly increasing on \([0, \min\{\tau, \bar{\theta}\}] \) with \( G_\tau(0) = s_1(\tau, 0) < 0 \). Moreover, in case \( \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \) it holds that \( G_\tau(\bar{\theta}) = \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) \) due to the definition in \((69)\), and in case \( \bar{\theta} \leq \tau < \bar{\theta} \) it holds that \( G_\tau(\tau) = s_1(0, \tau) \). Consequently, when \( \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \) equation \((88)\) admits for every \( 0 \leq \zeta \leq \tilde{\zeta}(\tau) \) a unique solution \( \tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \in (0, \bar{\theta}] \). Similarly, when \( \bar{\theta} \leq \tau < \bar{\theta} \) equation \((88)\) admits for every \( 0 \leq \zeta \leq s_1(0, \tau) \) a unique solution \( \tau^{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \in (0, \tau] \). \hfill \Box

We are now ready to introduce the second free boundary function \((\tau, \zeta) \mapsto \phi^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)\) on the domain \([0, +\infty)^2\). For given \( \tau \geq 0, \zeta \geq 0 \), we distinguish the following cases:

1. For \( \zeta > \tilde{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \tilde{\zeta}(0), \varphi(0), 0) = \tilde{\zeta}^{\text{buy}}(\tau, 2\mu/\kappa, 0, 0) \) we set

\[
\phi^{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \phi^{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta)
\] (90)

with \( \phi^{\text{sell}} \) as given in \((66)\) together with Remark 5.3.
2. For \( \zeta > \zeta(buy, \tau, 0) \) we set

\[
\phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \chi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta - \tau(buy, \tau, \zeta)), \phi(\tau - \tau(buy, \tau, \zeta)), \tau - \tau(buy, \tau, \zeta))
\]

with \( \chi_{buy} \) and \( \tau(buy, \tau, \zeta) \) as defined in (79) and (85), respectively.

3. If \( 0 \leq \zeta \leq \bar{\zeta}(\tau) \) and

(a) if, in addition, \( \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \), we set

\[
\phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \phi_{sell}(\tau - \tau(wait, \tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau(wait, \tau, \zeta)})
\]

with \( \tau(wait, \tau, \zeta) \) as defined in (88);

(b) if, in addition, \( \theta \leq \tau < \bar{\theta} \), we set

\[
\phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \begin{cases} 
\phi_2(\tau, \zeta) & \text{if } \zeta > s_1(0, \tau), \\
\phi_{sell}(\tau - \tau(wait, \tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau(wait, \tau, \zeta)}) & \text{if } 0 \leq \zeta \leq s_1(0, \tau),
\end{cases}
\]

with \( \phi_2 \) given in (73) and \( \tau(wait, \tau, \zeta) \) defined in (88);

(c) if, in addition, \( 0 \leq \tau < \theta \), we set

\[
\phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta) \triangleq \begin{cases} 
0 & \text{if } \zeta > s_3(\tau), \\
\phi_2(\tau, \zeta) & \text{if } 0 \leq \zeta \leq s_3(\tau),
\end{cases}
\]

with \( \phi_2 \) and \( s_3 \) given in (73) and (74), respectively.

Notice that together with the properties of the functions \( s_1, s_2, s_3 \) collected in Lemma 5.4 1.) and 2.), the above cases from (90) to (94) fully determine a map \( (\tau, \zeta) \mapsto \phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta) \) on the domain \([0, +\infty)^2\); cf. Figure 5 for the corresponding partition of the \((\tau, \zeta)\)-half-plane.

**Lemma 5.8.** The map \( (\tau, \zeta) \mapsto \phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta) \) defined from (90) to (94) is continuous on \([0, +\infty)^2\). In particular, we have \( \phi_{buy}(\tau, \bar{\zeta}(\tau)) = \bar{\varphi}(\tau) \) for all \( \tau \geq 0 \).
Figure 5: An illustration of the mappings $s_1(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta})$ on $[\bar{\theta}, +\infty)$, $s_1(0, \tau)$ and $s_2(\tau)$ on $[\bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}]$, $s_3(\tau)$ on $[0, \bar{\theta}]$ as well as $\hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\theta), \varphi(\theta), \bar{\theta})$ on $[\bar{\theta}, +\infty)$ and $\hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\theta), \varphi(\theta), \bar{\theta})$ on $[\bar{\theta}, +\infty)$ in the $(\tau, \zeta)$-half-plane as functions in $\tau$; cf. also Lemma 5.4 and Lemma 5.5. The thick green curve depicts the map $\tau \mapsto \hat{\zeta}(\tau)$ for $\tau \geq 0$; cf. the definition in (69).

**Proof.** Appealing to the continuity of the functions $\phi_{\text{sell}}$, $\varphi_{\text{buy}}$, and $\phi_2$, we merely need to check continuity of $\phi_{\text{buy}}$ along the boundaries of the partition of $[0, +\infty)^2$ described by $s_1, s_2, s_3$. First, observe in (93) with $\zeta = s_1(0, \tau)$ that $\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, s_1(0, \tau)) = \tau$ due to Lemma 5.7 and thus $\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \tau, s_1(0, \tau)e^{-\kappa \tau}) = \phi_2(\tau, s_1(0, \tau))$ holds true by continuity of $\varphi(\tau)$ in (72) as argued in Lemma 5.4 4.). In (94), if $\zeta = s_3(\tau)$, we have $\phi_2(\tau, s_3(\tau)) = 0$ by definition of $\phi_2$ in (73) and $s_3$ in (74). Next, let $\zeta = \hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(0), \varphi(0), 0)$ in (91). Since $\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(0), \varphi(0), 0)) = \tau$ due to Lemma 5.6, a simple computation shows that $\hat{\varphi}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(0), \varphi(0), 0) = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\hat{\zeta}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(0), \varphi(0), 0))$, cf. (90). For $\zeta = \hat{\zeta}(\tau)$ and $\tau \geq \bar{\theta}$ we have $\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau)) = \bar{\theta}$ and $\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau)) = 0$ by virtue of Lemmas 5.7 and 5.6. Consequently, in (92) it holds that

$$\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \hat{\zeta}(\tau)e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}) = \varphi(\tau) = \hat{\varphi}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau), \varphi(\tau), \tau)$$

by definition of $\varphi$ in (72) and property (83). Similarly, for $\zeta = \hat{\zeta}(\tau)$ and $\tau < \bar{\theta}$ we obtain once more due to $\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau)) = 0$ the identities $\phi_2(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau)) = \varphi(\tau) = \hat{\varphi}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau), \varphi(\tau), \tau)$ and $0 = \varphi(\tau) = \hat{\varphi}_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau), \varphi(\tau), \tau)$ (again by definition in (72) and property (83)). In particular, note that $\phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \hat{\zeta}(\tau)) = \varphi(\tau)$ for all $\tau \geq 0$ in (91).
5.3.2 Proof of Theorem 4.12 and Corollaries 4.14 and 4.16

We are now ready to prove our main Theorem 4.12 together with Corollaries 4.14 and 4.16. The outline of our reasoning is as follows: First, we show that

\[
\{(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in S : \varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)\} \subset \partial R_{\text{sell}}, \tag{95}
\]

\[
\{(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in S : \varphi > \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)\} \subset R_{\text{sell}}, \tag{96}
\]

\[
\{(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in S : \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = \varphi\} \subset \partial R_{\text{buy}}, \tag{97}
\]

\[
\{(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in S : \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) > \varphi\} \subset R_{\text{buy}} \tag{98}
\]

hold true. Then we prove the inequality in (26), i.e., \(\phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) > \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)\) on \([0, +\infty)^2\) and argue that

\[
\{(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in S : \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < \varphi < \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)\} \subset R_{\text{wait}}. \tag{99}
\]

In fact, since for all \((\tau, \zeta) \in [0, +\infty)^2\) the two surfaces \((\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))\) and \((\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta))\) separate the state space \(\mathcal{I}\) into three disjoint regions, we can then readily deduce that equality must hold in all relations from (95) to (99) and that \(\partial R_{\text{wait}} = \partial R_{\text{buy}} \cup \partial R_{\text{sell}}\) as claimed in Theorem 4.12.

**Step 1:** We start with the boundary of the selling region \(\partial R_{\text{sell}}\) and the claim in (95). Showing that this relation holds true comes along with the verification of the claims in Corollary 4.14 which describe the corresponding optimal strategies for triplets in \(\partial R_{\text{sell}}\). Therefore, let \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{I}\) such that \(\varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)\) with \(\phi_{\text{sell}}\) as introduced in (66). We have to argue that \((\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta))\) belongs to \(\partial R_{\text{sell}}\) as defined in (24). To justify this, we claim that the corresponding optimal strategy \(\hat{X}_{t=0}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\hat{X}_{t=0}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \uparrow}, \hat{X}_{t=0}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow}) \in \mathcal{X}^d\) associated to the problem data \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi) = (\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta))\) is given by

\[
\hat{X}_{t=0}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \uparrow} \equiv \varphi, \quad \hat{X}_{t=0}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow} = \varphi - \hat{\varphi}_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, t) \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau) \tag{100}
\]

with \(\hat{\varphi}_{\text{sell}}\) as defined in (81). First, observe that (100) immediately yields \(\hat{X}_{t=0}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow} = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) - \hat{\varphi}_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta), 0) = 0\) due to (84). Moreover, it follows from Lemma 5.5 4.) that \(\hat{X}_{t=1}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow}\) in (100) is strictly increasing and thus \(\{d\hat{X}_{t=1}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow} > 0\} = [0, \tau]\). Obviously, the corresponding share holdings of strategy \(\hat{X}_{t}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}\) are given by

\[
\varphi_{t}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, t) \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau). \tag{101}
\]
Inserting (100) into the spread dynamics in (3) yields, after some elementary computations, the representation

$$
\zeta^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}(t) = \hat{\zeta}_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, t) \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau)
$$

(102)

with \( \hat{\zeta}_{\text{sell}} \) as defined in (80). In particular, the identities in (84) imply \( \varphi^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \) and \( \zeta^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \zeta \) as desired. Given the explicit expression of the share holdings in (101), it can be easily checked that the second order ODE in (38) with initial conditions (39) is satisfied. Moreover, using the representation of the corresponding controlled spread dynamics in (102), a straightforward computation shows that the desired relation in (37) also holds true. As a consequence, appealing to Lemma 5.2, we can deduce that the final position in the risky asset is strictly positive, i.e., \( \varphi^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}(\tau, \zeta) > 0 \). Concerning the claimed optimality of the strategy \( \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = (\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}, \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}, \tau, \zeta) \) in (100) a simple but tedious computation (which we omit for the sake of brevity) yields that \( \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \) satisfies \( \nabla^\tau_{\tau} J_\tau(\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = 0 \) for all \( t \in [0, \tau] \). Note that the subgradient does not depend on \( \varphi \) here. Consequently, by virtue of the first order optimality conditions in Proposition 4.6 together with Lemma 4.8, we obtain that \( \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \) in (100) is optimal. In particular, since \( \nabla^\tau_{\tau} J_\tau(\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = 0 \) and \( \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = 0 \), we can conclude that \((\tau, \zeta, \phi) = (\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta))\) belongs to \( \partial R_{\text{sell}} \) as defined in (24) with Corollary 4.14 holding true for these triplets.

**Step 2:** Let us continue with the claim in (96) concerning the selling-region \( R_{\text{sell}} \). We argue that for any \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} \) with \( \varphi > \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) \) the corresponding optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = (\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}, \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}, \tau, \zeta) \in \mathcal{X}^d \) is given by

$$
\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = x^\perp + \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau),
$$

(103)

where \( x^\perp \) is defined as

$$
x^\perp \triangleq \frac{\varphi - \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta)}{1 + \eta \zeta C(\tau)} = \frac{\varphi - \eta D(\tau) - \zeta \zeta C(\tau)}{1 + \eta \zeta C(\tau)} > 0.
$$

(104)

Indeed, note that (104) implies \( \varphi - x^\perp = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta + \eta x^\perp) \) and thus we have \((\tau, \zeta + \eta x^\perp, \varphi - x^\perp) \in \partial R_{\text{sell}} \) due to Step 1 with corresponding optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = (\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}, \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) \in \mathcal{X}^d \) as described in (100) above. Recall that this implies \( \hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} + \eta x^\perp, \varphi - x^\perp = 0 \). Hence, by construction in (103), it holds that \( \{d\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} > 0\} = [0, \tau] \). Moreover, appealing to the definition of the subgradients in (17) and (18), we have

$$
e \nabla^\tau_{\tau} J_\tau(\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = \hat{e} \nabla^\tau_{\tau} J_\tau(\hat{X}^\tau_{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau)
$$
because \( \varphi^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = \varphi^T_{\tau, \zeta + \eta \varphi, \varphi - \varphi} \) and \( \zeta^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = \zeta^T_{\tau, \zeta + \eta \varphi, \varphi - \varphi} \) for all \( t \in [0, \tau] \). But this allows us to deduce that the strategy in (103) is optimal by virtue of the first order optimality conditions in Proposition 4.6 and the fact that these are satisfied by the strategy \( \bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta + \eta \varphi, \varphi - \varphi} \) as shown in Step 1. Specifically, we have \( \nabla_t^\dagger J_\tau(\bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) > 0 \) and \( \nabla_t^\dagger J_\tau(\bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) = 0 \) for all \( t \in [0, \tau] \) (observe that the subgradients do not depend on \( \varrho \) here as in Step 1). Together with \( \bar{X}_0^{T, \zeta, \varphi, \dagger} = x^\dagger > 0 \) in (103) we obtain that \( (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \) belongs to \( \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} \) as defined in (23).

Step 3: Now, we address the boundary of the buying region \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \) and the claim in (97). Therefore, let \( (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S} \) be such that \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \) holds true with \( \phi_{\text{buy}} \) as introduced in (90) to (94). Since the definition of \( \phi_{\text{buy}} \) rests upon a partition of the domain \([0, +\infty)^2\), we have to consider each of these cases separately; cf. also Figure 5. We will verify this together with the claims in Corollary 4.16 1.), 2.), and 3.), respectively, which describe the corresponding optimal strategies.

Case 1 (part I in Fig. 5): First, let \( \zeta \geq \tilde{\zeta}^\text{buy}(\tau, \bar{\zeta}(0), \bar{\varphi}(0), 0) \). In this case, we have \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta) \) in view of (90). In order to show that \( (\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)) \) belongs to \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \) as defined in (22), we claim that the corresponding optimal strategy \( \bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \dagger}, \bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \dagger}) \in \mathcal{X}^d \) is given by

\[
\bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \dagger} = \varphi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta, \varphi, t) - \varphi, \quad \bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \dagger} = 0 \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau),
\]

with associated share holdings and spread dynamics \( \varphi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta, \varphi, t) \) and \( \zeta_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta, \varphi, t) \), respectively, for all \( t \in [0, \tau] \). In fact, very similar computations as in Step 1 above allow us to verify that the strategy \( \bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} \) in (105) is optimal and that all assertions stated in Corollary 4.16 1.) hold true for the triplet \( (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \). As in Step 1, an elementary but lengthy computation reveals that \( \nabla_t^\dagger J_\tau(\bar{X}^T_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) = 0 \) for all \( t \in [0, \tau] \). Note that the subgradient does not depend on \( \varrho \) here because \( \varphi_T^{|\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = \phi_{\text{sell}}(0, -\zeta_T^{|\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) < 0 \) based on (40) and the fact that \( \zeta_T^{|\tau, \zeta, \varphi} > 2\mu/\kappa \). Since \( \bar{X}_0^{T, \zeta, \varphi, \dagger} = 0 \) in (105) due to (84), we can conclude that \( (\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau, -\zeta)) \) belongs to \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \) as defined in (22).

Case 2: Next, let us consider the case \( \zeta(\tau) < \zeta < \tilde{\zeta}^\text{buy}(\tau, \bar{\zeta}(0), \bar{\varphi}(0), 0) \) and let \( \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \in (0, \tau) \) as defined in Lemma 5.6, equation (85). To ease notation, we set

\[
\tau^* \triangleq \tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \quad \zeta^* \triangleq \tilde{\zeta}(\tau^*), \quad \varphi^* \triangleq \varphi(\tau^*).
\]

(106)
In view of the definition of \(\phi_{\text{buy}}\) in (91) we thus have
\[
\varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = \varphi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*). \tag{107}
\]
To show that \((\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))\) belongs to \(\partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}\) as defined in (22), we will explicitly state the corresponding optimal strategy \(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\uparrow, \hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\downarrow)\) in \(\mathcal{R}^d\). This will be carried out by distinguishing further sub-cases with respect to the initial data \(\tau\) and \(\zeta\) (cf. Figure 5).

Case 2.1 (part II.1 in Fig. 5): If \(\tau > \bar{\theta}\) and \(s_1(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}) = \bar{\zeta}(\tau) < \zeta < \zeta_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \bar{\xi}(\bar{\theta}), \bar{\varphi}(\bar{\theta}), \bar{\zeta}(\bar{\theta})), \) it follows from Lemma 5.5 1.) and 2.) that \(\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < \tau - \bar{\theta}\) and thus \(\tau^* > \bar{\theta}\). This implies \(\varphi^* > 0\) due to Lemma 5.4 4.). We claim that the corresponding optimal strategy is given as follows: The cumulative purchases of the risky asset are
\[
\hat{X}_{t, \tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\uparrow = \begin{cases} \varphi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*) - \varphi & \text{if } 0 \leq t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \\ \varphi^* - \varphi & \text{if } \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < t \leq \tau, \end{cases} \tag{108}
\]
with \(\varphi_{\text{buy}}\) as defined in (79). Observe that \(\hat{X}_{0, \tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\uparrow = 0\) due to assumption (107) as well as \(\{d\hat{X}_{t, \tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\uparrow > 0\} = [0, \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))\) by virtue of Lemma 5.5 3.). In particular, \(\varphi^* > \varphi = \varphi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*)\). The cumulative sells of the risky asset are
\[
\hat{X}_{t, \tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\downarrow = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0 \leq t < \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}, \\ \hat{X}_{t - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) - \bar{\theta}, \tau^*, \zeta^*, \varphi^*}^\downarrow & \text{if } \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta} \leq t \leq \tau. \end{cases} \tag{109}
\]
Notice that
\[
(\tau^* - \bar{\theta}, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}, \varphi^*) \in \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} \tag{110}
\]
due to Step 1 because \(\varphi^* = \bar{\varphi}(\tau^*) = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau^* - \bar{\theta}, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}})\) by the definition of \(\bar{\varphi}\) in (72) and the fact that \(\tau^* > \bar{\theta}\). In other words, \(\hat{X}_{t - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) - \bar{\theta}, \tau^*, \zeta^*, \varphi^*}^\downarrow = \varphi^* - \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau^* - \bar{\theta}, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}, \varphi^*, \cdot)\) denotes the optimal cumulative sells on \([0, \tau^* - \bar{\theta}]\) as given in (100) in Step 1 for the triplet \((\tau^* - \bar{\theta}, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}, \varphi^*) \in \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}\). In particular, it holds that \(\{dX_{t, \tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\downarrow > 0\} = [\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}, \tau]\). The associated share holdings and spread dynamics of strategy \(X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\uparrow, \hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\downarrow)\) prescribed in (108) and (109) can be easily computed and are given by
\[
\varphi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*), \quad 0 \leq t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \\
\varphi^*, \quad \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}, \\
\varphi_{\text{sell}}(\tau^* - \bar{\theta}, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}, \varphi^*), \quad t - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) - \bar{\theta}, \quad \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta} < t \leq \tau, \tag{111}
\]
and

\[
\xi^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}(t) = \begin{cases} 
\zeta^{\text{buy}}(t - \tau, \zeta, \varphi, \tau^*), & 0 \leq t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \\
\zeta^{\text{sell}}(t - \bar{\theta}, \zeta, \varphi, \tau^*), & \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}, \\
\zeta^{\text{wait}}(t - \bar{\theta}, \zeta), & \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta} < t \leq \tau.
\end{cases}
\] (112)

Observe that \(\varphi^{\text{buy}}(\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta, \varphi, \tau^*) = \zeta^*, \varphi^{\text{sell}}(\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}, \zeta, \varphi, \tau^*) = \zeta^* \) by virtue of (83), (84). Hence, recalling (110), it holds that

\[
(\tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) - \bar{\theta}, \xi^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \tau^*) = \zeta^{\text{buy}}(\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}, \zeta, \varphi, \tau^*) \in \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}}.
\] (113)

In other words, referring to (45) and (46) in Corollary 4.16, we have \(\tau_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) = \tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = \tau^* - \bar{\theta} > 0\) with \(\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) = \bar{\theta}\) (see also the definition in (89)). Next, it can be easily checked that the second order ODE in (41) with desired terminal conditions (44) is satisfied by \(\varphi^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}\) on \((0, \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))\) as stated in (111). Moreover, the relation in (43) also holds true. Indeed, for all \(t \in [0, \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)]\) it holds that \(\zeta^{\text{buy}}(\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)) = \zeta^{\text{buy}}(\tau-t, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*) \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}\(\tau-t, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*) = \tau - \tau^* \) due to Lemma 5.5 1.) and (86), respectively. Thus, by the definition of \(\phi_{\text{buy}}\) in (91) we obtain \(\phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau-t, \zeta^{\text{buy}}(\tau-t, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*)) = \varphi_{\text{buy}}(\tau-t, \zeta^*(\tau^*), \varphi(\tau^*), \tau^*) = \varphi^{\text{buy}}(\tau-t, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*) = \varphi^{\text{buy}}(\tau-t, \zeta^*, \varphi^*, \tau^*)\) as desired. It is left to argue that the strategy \(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}\) specified in (108) and (109) satisfies the first order optimality conditions in Proposition 4.6 and is thus optimal. Due to the dynamic programming principle from Remark 4.9 this can be done via a backward reasoning in time. First of all, optimality of the strategy on the time interval \([\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}, \tau]\) follows by construction of \(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}\) from (113) and Step 1. Next, we have to check the sell- and buy-subgradients on \([\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}]\). Observe that, again by construction of \(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}\) on this interval and due to the fact that

\[
\nabla^\dagger_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = \nabla^\dagger_{\tau^* - \bar{\theta}} J_{\tau^* - \bar{\theta}}(\hat{X}^{\tau^* - \bar{\theta}, \zeta^* \epsilon^{-\bar{\theta}, \varphi^*}) = 0,
\] (114)

we obtain with Lemma 5.9 1.) for all \(t \in [\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) + \bar{\theta}]\) the ex-
Let us next consider one of the two cases

\[ \phi(\theta, \zeta, \tau, \varphi) \]

where either

\[ \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \text{ and } \zeta \text{ buy (\tau, \bar{\zeta}, \bar{\varphi}(\bar{\theta}, \bar{\varphi}(\bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}), \bar{\varphi}(\bar{\theta}, \bar{\varphi}(\bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}))) \leq \zeta < \zeta \text{ buy (\tau, \bar{\zeta}(\bar{\theta}), \bar{\varphi}(\bar{\theta})), \bar{\theta}) \text{ or} \]

\[ \theta < \tau < \bar{\theta} \text{ and } s_2(\tau) \leq \zeta < \zeta \text{ buy (\tau, \bar{\zeta}(\bar{\theta}), \bar{\varphi}(\bar{\theta})), \bar{\theta}). \]

Recall that we are still given \( \tau^*, \zeta^*, \varphi^* \) from (106) as well as the identity in (107). Notice, though, that \( \tau^* \in [\bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}] \) in view of Lemma 5.5 1.) and 2.). In each of both considered cases, we claim that the optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\tau, \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\zeta) \) is given
as follows: The cumulative purchases of the risky asset are still prescribed as in (108) above with \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow} = 0 \) and \( \{d\hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow} > 0\} = [0, \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)) \). In contrast, the cumulative sells of the risky asset are now given by \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow} \equiv 0 \) on \([0, \tau] \). As a consequence, compared to (111) and (112), the corresponding induced share holdings and spread dynamics simplify to

\[
\varphi_{t}^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \begin{cases} 
\varphi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi^{*}), & 0 \leq t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \\
\varphi^{*}, & \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < t \leq \tau,
\end{cases}
\]

and

\[
\zeta_{t}^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \begin{cases} 
\zeta_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta, \varphi^{*}), & 0 \leq t \leq \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \\
\zeta^{*} e^{-\kappa(t-\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))}, & \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) < t \leq \tau.
\end{cases}
\]

Notice that \( \varphi_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)}^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \varphi^{*} = \tilde{\varphi}(\tau^{*}) > 0 \) (cf. Lemma 5.4 4.) and \( \zeta_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)}^{\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}} = \zeta^{*} \) by virtue of (83). Moreover, following the definition in (89), we have \( \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) = \tau - \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) > 0 \) in the current setting. Hence, \( \tau_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) = 0 \) in (45) in Corollary 4.16 which is in line with the fact that \( \hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow} \equiv 0 \) on \([0, \tau] \). All other assertions in Corollary 4.16 2.) can be easily checked as in Step 2.1. Next, very similar arguments as in Step 2.1 above allow us to verify via the first order conditions in Proposition 4.6 that the strategy \( \hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = (\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow}, 0) \) with \( \hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow} \) given in (108) is optimal. First, we check the sell- and buy-subgradients on \([\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau] \). Due to the construction of \( \hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \), we can again refer to Lemma 5.9 1.) (which is applicable here in light of our convention in Remark 4.11 1.) and obtain for all \( t \in [\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau] \) the expressions

\[
\nabla_{t}^{\downarrow} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = \nabla_{t_{\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)}}^{\downarrow} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}^{*})
\]

\[
= \nabla_{0}^{\downarrow} J_{\tau-t}(\hat{X}^{\tau-t,\zeta^{*}e^{-\kappa(t-\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta))},\varphi^{*}}) = g^{\downarrow}(\tau - t; 0, \zeta^{*} e^{-\kappa \tau^{*}}, \varphi^{*})
\]

\[
= \pm(\lambda^{2} \varphi^{*} - \mu)(\tau - t) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta^{*} e^{-\kappa \tau^{*}}(e^{\kappa(\tau - t)} \pm 1) + \frac{\eta}{2} \varphi^{*}(e^{\kappa(\tau - t)} \pm 1)
\]

with \( \nabla_{t}^{\downarrow} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = \nabla_{0}^{\downarrow} J_{0}(\hat{X}^{0,\zeta^{*}e^{-\kappa \tau^{*}},\varphi^{*}}) = g^{\downarrow}(0; 0, \zeta^{*} e^{-\kappa \tau^{*}}, \varphi^{*}) = 0 \). Using the monotonicity properties from Lemma 5.4 3.) and 4.), it holds that

\[
\varphi^{*} \leq \tilde{\varphi}(\bar{\theta}) = \phi_{\text{sell}}(0, \bar{\zeta}(\bar{\theta}) e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}) = \frac{2\mu + \kappa \bar{\zeta}(\bar{\theta}) e^{-\kappa \bar{\theta}}}{2\lambda^{2} + \kappa \eta} < \frac{2\mu + \kappa \zeta^{*} e^{-\kappa \tau^{*}}}{2\lambda^{2} + \kappa \eta},
\]

which implies \( \frac{\partial}{\partial t} g^{\downarrow}(\tau - t; 0, \zeta^{*} e^{-\kappa \tau^{*}}, \varphi^{*}) < 0 \) and hence \( \nabla_{t}^{\downarrow} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) > 0 \) for \( t \in [\tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau] \). Concerning the buy-subgradient, we have \( \nabla_{t}^{\downarrow} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi}) = \)}
Consider next one of the two cases where \( \phi^* = \phi(\tau^*) \) as in \((77)\) and \( \zeta^* = \zeta(\tau^*) = s_2(\tau^*) \) as in \((71)\), one can verify that \( g^*(\tau^*; 0, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*}, \phi^*) \neq 0 \) as well as \( \frac{\partial}{\partial g} g^*(\theta; 0, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*}, \phi^*) \big|_{\theta = \tau^*} = 0 \). But this implies \( \nabla_t J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{\tau}, \zeta, \phi) > 0 \) for all \( t \in (\tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta), \bar{\tau}) \) because \( t \mapsto g^*(\tau^* - t; 0, \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*}, \phi^*) \) is strictly convex on \([0, \tau^*)\). To complete the verification of optimality of strategy \( \bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi} \), one sees as in Step 2.1 that \( \nabla_t J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{X}^\tau, \zeta, \phi) = 0 \) for all \( t \in [0, \tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta)] \). Hence, we can conclude that \( (\tau, \zeta, \phi) = (\tau, \zeta, \phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta)) \) belongs to \( \partial R_{buy} \) as defined in \((22)\).

Case 2.3 (part II.3 in Fig. 5): Consider next one of the two cases where either \( \theta \leq \tau < \bar{\theta} \) and \( \bar{\zeta}^{buy}(\tau, \zeta(\theta), \zeta(\theta), \theta) \leq \zeta < \bar{\zeta}^{buy}(\tau, \zeta(0), \zeta(0), 0) \), or \( 0 < \tau < \bar{\theta} \) and \( 2\mu / \kappa \leq \zeta < \bar{\zeta}^{buy}(\tau, \zeta(0), \zeta(0), 0) \). Due to Lemma 5.5 1.) and 2.), we now have \( \tau^* = \tau - \tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta) \in (\bar{\theta}, \bar{\tau}) \) which implies \( \zeta^* = \zeta(\tau^*) = 2\mu / \kappa \) and \( \phi^* = \phi(\tau^*) = 0 \) in \((106)\) (recall the definitions in \((69)\) and \((72)\)). In each of these cases, we claim that the optimal strategy \( \bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi} = (\bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}, \bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}) \) is prescribed as in Case 2.2 with controlled dynamics \((116)\) and \((117)\). As a consequence, all assertions in Corollary 4.16 2.) still hold true in the current setting and we again have \( \tau_{sell}(\tau, \zeta) = 0 \) in \((45)\). Optimality can once more be verified via the first order conditions in Proposition 4.6 with similar arguments as in Steps 2.1 and 2.2. Notice, though, that \( \zeta^* \) needs to be checked with a proper choice of subgradients depending on \( \phi \). Therefore, we set \( \varrho^* \equiv e^{\kappa \tau^*} (\kappa \tau^* - 1) \). Observe that \( \varrho^* \in (-1, 1] \) since \( \tau^* \in (0, \bar{\theta}] \) (recall that \( \bar{\theta} \) satisfies \((68)\)). Then, it follows by construction of \( \bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi} \) and Lemma 5.9 2.) that the buy- and sell-subgradients on \([\tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta), \tau]\) are given by

\[
e^* \nabla_t J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}) = e^* \nabla_t J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}) = e^* \nabla_t J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}) = h^*(\tau - t; \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*}, \varrho^*) \]

\[
\bar{\tau} \mu (\tau - t) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*} (e^{\kappa (\tau - t)} \pm \varrho^*). \]

Obviously, \( e^* \nabla_t J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}) \geq 0 \) on \([\tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta), \tau]\). Moreover, it holds that \( e^* \nabla_{\tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta)} J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}) = h^*(\tau; \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*}, \varrho^*) = 0 \) and \( \frac{\partial}{\partial \varrho} h^*(\tau; \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*}, \varrho^*) \big|_{\varrho = \tau^*} = 0 \), which implies \( e^* \nabla_t J_{\tau, \zeta, \phi} (\bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi}) > 0 \) on \((\tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta), \tau]\) due to strict convexity of the mapping \( t \mapsto h^*(\tau - t; \zeta^* e^{-\kappa \tau^*}, \varrho^*) \) on \([\tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta), \tau]\). Concerning the interval \([0, \tau_{buy}(\tau, \zeta)]\), one can check as in Step 2.1 and 2.2 that the buy-gradient vanishes. Hence, \( \bar{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \phi} \) is optimal and we can conclude that \( (\tau, \zeta, \phi) = (\tau, \zeta, \phi_{buy}(\tau, \zeta)) \) belongs to \( \partial R_{buy} \) as defined in \((22)\).
Case 3: In order to finalize Step 3 concerning the boundary of the buying region \( \partial R_{\text{buy}} \) and the claim in (97), we have to address the case \( 0 \leq \zeta \leq \check{\zeta}(\tau) \). This will be proved together with the assertion in Corollary 4.16 3).

Regarding the definition of \( \phi_{\text{buy}} \) in (92), (93), and (94), we have to carry out once more a refined analysis.

Case 3.1 (part III.1 in Fig. 5): Let either \( \tau \geq \bar{\theta} \) and \( 0 \leq \zeta \leq \check{\zeta}(\tau) = s_1(\tau - \bar{\theta}, \bar{\theta}) \), or \( \bar{\theta} < \tau \leq \bar{\theta} \) and \( 0 \leq \zeta < s_1(0, \tau) \). In view of the definitions in (92) and (93), we have

\[
\varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}) > 0 \tag{120}
\]

with \( \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \in (0, \tau) \) as defined in (88). In particular, recall that this implies \( \zeta = s_1(\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)) \). In both cases, we claim that the optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \uparrow}, \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow}) \) is given by

\[
\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \uparrow}_t = 0 \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau),
\]

\[
\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi, \downarrow}_t = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } 0 \leq t < \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \\ \hat{X}^{\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \varphi, \downarrow} & \text{if } \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \leq t \leq \tau. \end{cases} \tag{121}
\]

Note that (120) immediately yields

\[
(\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \varphi) \in \partial R_{\text{sell}} \tag{122}
\]

due to Step 1. That is, \( \hat{X}^{\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \varphi, \downarrow} \) denotes the optimal cumulative sells on \([0, \tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)]\) as given in (100) for the triplet in (122). Hence, the associated share holdings and spread dynamics for strategy \( \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} \) are given by

\[
\hat{\varphi}_t^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = \begin{cases} \varphi, & 0 \leq t < \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \\ \varphi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}), & \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \leq t \leq \tau, \end{cases} \tag{123}
\]

and

\[
\hat{\zeta}_t^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = \begin{cases} \zeta e^{-\kappa t}, & 0 \leq t < \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \\ \zeta_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}), & \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) \leq t \leq \tau. \end{cases} \tag{124}
\]
Observe that (120) also implies \( \varphi_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)} = \varphi \) and \( \zeta_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)} = \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)} \) by virtue of (83), (84). Moreover, due to the definition of \( \tau_{\text{buy}} \) in (87), we have \( \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = 0 \) in the current setup. Thus, referring to (45) and (46) in Corollary 4.16, we obtain \( \tau_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) = \tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) > 0 \), which is in line with (122), (123) and (124) above. Next, optimality of strategy \( \hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} \) on \([\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau]\) follows by Step 1. Moreover, since \( \nabla_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}^\dagger J_{\tau}(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) = 0 \), we obtain analogously to (115) for the sell- and buy-subgradients on \([0, \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)]\) the expressions

\[
\nabla_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) = g_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}(\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) - t; \tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \varphi) \\
= \pm(\lambda^2 \varphi - \mu)(\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) - t) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}(e^{\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) - t} \pm 1) \\
+ \frac{1}{\kappa}(e^{-\kappa(\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) - t)} \pm 1)(-\lambda^2 \varphi + \mu + \frac{1}{2} \kappa \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}).
\]

In fact, by similar convexity arguments as in Step 2.1 we have \( \nabla_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) > 0 \) on the interval \([0, \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)]\) as well as \( \nabla_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)} J_{\tau}(\hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) < 0 \) on \((0, \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)]\). Indeed, since \( \zeta = \varsigma_{1}(\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)) \) and \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \varphi) = 0 \) and \( \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} g_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\theta)}(\theta; \tau - \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta), \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)}, \varphi) \theta_{\tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta)} < 0 \). Consequently, by virtue of the first order conditions in Proposition 4.6, it follows that \( \hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} \) is optimal. In particular, we can conclude that \( (\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \) with \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \) given in (120) belongs to \( \partial \mathcal{B}_{\text{buy}} \) as defined in (22) with Corollary 4.16 3.) holding true for these triplets.

Case 3.2 (part III.2 in Fig. 5): In case \( \theta \leq \tau < \theta \) and \( s_{1}(0, \tau) < \zeta \leq \bar{\zeta}(\tau) = s_{2}(\tau) \), or \( 0 \leq \tau < \theta \) and \( 0 \leq \zeta < s_{3}(\tau) \), we now have

\[
\varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = \varphi(\tau, \zeta) = \frac{\mu \tau - \frac{1}{2} \zeta(1 + e^{-\kappa \tau})}{\lambda^2 \tau + \frac{1}{2} \eta(1 + e^{-\kappa \tau})} > 0
\]

(125)
due to the definitions in (93), (94), (73) and the monotonicity properties of \( \varphi_{2} \). In both above cases, we claim that the optimal strategy \( \hat{X}_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} \) is given by \( X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\dagger = X_{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}^\ddagger = 0 \) for all \( \tau \in [0, \tau] \). Hence, the corresponding dynamics for the share holdings and the spread simplify to \( \varphi_{t}^\dagger = \varphi \) and \( \zeta_{t}^\dagger = \zeta e^{-\kappa t}, t \in [0, \tau] \). Notice that \( \tau_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = 0 \) and \( \tau_{\text{wait}}(\tau, \zeta) = \tau \) due to the definitions in (87) and (89) which yields \( \tau_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) = 0 \) in (45). Concerning the proof of optimality via Proposition 4.6, we obtain for the
Finally, in case 0

Corollary 4.16 3.) holding true for these triplets.

\( \phi \)

with

\( \nabla \)

By utilizing the identity in (125) and similar convexity arguments as in Step 2.2, it holds that \( \nabla_t^+J_\tau(X^\tau,\zeta,\varphi) > 0 \) on \([0, \tau]\) as well as \( \nabla_t^+J_\tau(X^\tau,\zeta,\varphi) > 0 \) on \((0, \tau)\) with \( \nabla_0^+J_\tau(X^\tau,\zeta,\varphi) = 0 \). Therefore, we can conclude that \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi)\) with \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \) given in (125) belongs to \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \) as defined in (22) with Corollary 4.16 3.) holding true for these triplets.

Case 3.3 (part III.3 in Fig. 5): Finally, in case \( 0 < \tau < \theta \) and \( s_3(\tau) \leq \zeta \leq \hat{\zeta}(\tau) = 2\mu/\kappa \), we have \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) = 0 \) due to (94). As in Case 3.2 above, we claim that the optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^\tau,\zeta,\varphi \) is again given by \( \hat{X}_t^\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow = X_t^\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow = 0 \) for all \( t \in [0, \tau] \) with \( \tau_{\text{sell}}(\tau, \zeta) = 0 \) in (45). Optimality can be checked via Proposition 4.6 similar to Step 2.3 above. Indeed, since \( \varphi^\tau = \varphi = 0 \), we set \( \varrho^* \triangleq e^{\kappa\tau}(2\mu/\zeta - 1) \). Notice that \( \varrho^* \in [-1, 1] \) in the current setup. Next, analog to (119), we obtain for the buy- and sell-subgradients on \([0, \tau]\) the representations

\[ \varrho^* \nabla_t^+J_\tau(X^\tau,\zeta,\varphi) = h_t^+(\tau - t; \zeta e^{-\kappa\tau}, \varrho^*) = \tau\mu(\tau - t) + \frac{1}{2}\zeta e^{-\kappa\tau}(e^{\kappa(t-t)} \pm \varrho^*) \]

Obviously, it holds that \( \varrho^* \nabla_t^+J_\tau(X^\tau,\zeta,0) \geq 0 \) on \([0, \tau]\). Moreover, we have \( \varrho^* \nabla_0^+J_\tau(X^\tau,\zeta,0) = h_0^+(\tau; \zeta e^{-\kappa\tau}, \varrho^*) = 0 \) and \( \frac{d}{dt}h_t^+(\tau - t; \zeta e^{-\kappa\tau}, \varrho^*) > 0 \). But this implies \( \varrho^* \nabla_t^+J_\tau(X^\tau,\zeta,\varphi) > 0 \) on \((0, \tau]\). As a consequence, we obtain that \( \hat{X}^\tau,\zeta,\varphi \) is optimal and that \( (\tau, \zeta, \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta)) = (\tau, \zeta, 0) \) belongs to \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \) as defined in (22) with Corollary 4.16 3.) holding true for these triplets. This finishes Step 3 and the proof of the claim in (97).

Step 4: Concerning the claim in (98) for the buying-region \( \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \), the reasoning follows along the same lines as in Step 2 for the selling-region \( \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} \). That is, for any \((\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{F} \) with \( \varphi < \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta) \) the corresponding optimal strategy \( \hat{X}^\tau,\zeta,\varphi = (\hat{X}^\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow, \hat{X}^\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow) \in \mathcal{X}^d \) is in fact given by

\[ \hat{X}_t^\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow = x^\uparrow + \hat{X}_t^\tau,\zeta,\eta x^\uparrow,\varphi + x^\uparrow, \quad \hat{X}_t^\tau,\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow = \hat{X}_t^\tau,\zeta,\eta x^\uparrow,\varphi + x^\uparrow \quad \text{(126)} \]

for all \( t \in [0, \tau] \), where \( x^\uparrow > 0 \) denotes the unique solution to the equation

\[ \varphi + x^\uparrow = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau, \zeta + \eta x^\uparrow). \quad \text{(127)} \]

Notice that (127) implies \((\tau, \zeta + \eta x^\uparrow, \varphi + x^\uparrow) \in \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \) by virtue of Step 3. Therefore, \( \hat{X}^\tau,\zeta,\eta x^\uparrow,\varphi + x^\uparrow \) denotes the corresponding optimal strategy as prescribed in one of the different cases presented in Step 3 above. Optimality
of the strategy in (126) then follows as in Step 2 by virtue of the first order optimality conditions in Proposition 4.6 and the fact that they are satisfied by \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = x^\dagger > 0 \) which implies that \((\tau,\zeta,\varphi)\) belongs to \(\mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}}\) as defined in (21).

**Step 5:** We now argue that inequality (26) holds true, i.e., \( \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau,\zeta) > \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau,\zeta) \) on \([0,\infty)^2\). Observe that this actually follows from the fact that \( \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau,\zeta) > 0 \) on \([0,\infty)^2\) (recall Lemma 5.2) but, e.g., \( \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau,\zeta(\cdot)) = 0 \) for all \( \tau \in [0,\theta] \) together with (95) and (97) as well as \( \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{buy}} \cap \partial \mathcal{R}_{\text{sell}} = \emptyset \) (cf. Lemma 4.8).

**Step 6:** It is left to prove (99). We will only sketch the argument. For this, let \((\tau,\zeta,\varphi) \in \mathcal{P}\) be such that \( \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau,\zeta) < \varphi < \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau,\zeta) \). It is easy to observe that the continuous mapping \( t \mapsto \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t}) \) is decreasing on \([0,\tau]\). In addition, one can also check that the continuous mapping \( t \mapsto \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t}) \) is increasing for those \( t \in [0,\tau]\) such that \( \zeta e^{-\kappa t} \geq \zeta(\tau - t) \), that is, when \( \phi_{\text{buy}} \) is either given as in (90) or (91). Otherwise, if \( \zeta < \zeta(\tau) \), it holds that the mapping \( t \mapsto \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t, \zeta e^{-\kappa t}) \) is non-increasing on \([0,\tau]\). This is the case when \( \phi_{\text{buy}} \) is given as in (92), (93) or (94). Now, the following cases can arise.

**Case 6.1:** Let \( \zeta \geq \zeta(\tau) \). In case there exists a smallest \( t^* \in [0,\tau]\) such that either \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - t^*, \zeta e^{-\kappa t^*}) \) or \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t^*, \zeta e^{-\kappa t^*}) \) holds true, we claim that the corresponding optimal strategy satisfies \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = 0 \) on \([0,t^*]\) and is then given by \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = 0 \) on \([t^*,\tau]\) as characterized in Step 1 or 3 above (i.e., Corollary 4.14 or Corollary 4.16). Otherwise, we obtain that \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = 0 \) on \([0,\tau]\). Indeed, by exploiting similar convexity arguments as above one can deduce that \( \nabla_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \nabla_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} > 0 \) on \([0,t^*]\) and \([0,\tau]\), respectively. This implies optimality of \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} \) via the dynamic programming principle from Remark 4.9 and the first order conditions from Proposition 4.6. Moreover, if \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{buy}}(\tau - t^*, \zeta e^{-\kappa t^*}) \) it must necessarily hold that \( \zeta e^{-\kappa t^*} \geq \zeta(\tau - t^*) \) (i.e., \( \phi_{\text{buy}} \) is either given by (90) or (91)) due to the monotonicity properties of \( \phi_{\text{buy}} \) mentioned above.

**Case 6.2:** Let \( \zeta < \zeta(\tau) \). If \( \varphi > \phi_{\text{sell}}(0, \zeta e^{-\kappa \tau}) \), there exists a smallest \( t^* \in [0,\tau]\) such that \( \varphi = \phi_{\text{sell}}(\tau - t^*, \zeta e^{-\kappa t^*}) \) holds true. Analogously to Case 6.1, one can verify that the corresponding optimal strategy satisfies \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = 0 \) on \([0,t^*]\) and is then given by \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = 0 \) on \([t^*,\tau]\) as characterized in Step 1. Otherwise, we have \( \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = \hat{X}_{t}^{\tau,\zeta,\varphi} = 0 \) on \([0,\tau]\).
In both, Case 6.1 and Case 6.2, we obtain that $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{R}_{\text{wait}}$ as defined in (25). This finishes the proof of Theorem 4.12, Corollary 4.14 and 4.16. \qed

The following lemma summarizes some simple results which are used in the proofs of Theorem 4.12 and Corollary 4.16.

**Lemma 5.9.** Let $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S}$, $\tau \geq 0$, $\zeta > 0$, with corresponding optimal strategy $\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi} = (\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\uparrow, \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\downarrow) \in \mathcal{X}^d$. For any $\theta > 0$ consider the problem data $(\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S}$ and the strategy

$$X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}_t \triangleq \hat{X}^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}_t (t) \quad (0 \leq t \leq \tau + \theta)$$

in $\mathcal{X}^d$ such that $\varphi_{X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}_0} = \varphi$, $\zeta_{X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}_0} = \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}$.

1. Assume that $\varrho \nabla_{\downarrow} \hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_0 \begin{pmatrix} \tau \\ \zeta \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix} = 0$. Then we have

$$g^{\uparrow, \downarrow}(\theta; \tau, \zeta, \varphi) \triangleq e \nabla_{\downarrow} J_{\tau} (\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}) = \mp \mu(\varphi^{X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}_0} + \zeta^{X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}_0})$$

\begin{equation}
= \pm (\alpha \sigma^2 \varphi - \mu) \theta + \frac{1}{2} \zeta (e^{\kappa \theta} \pm 1) + \frac{1}{2} \eta |\varphi^{X^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\uparrow}| (e^{-\kappa (\tau + \theta)} \pm e^{-\kappa \tau}) + \frac{1}{2} \eta (e^{-\kappa \theta} \pm 1) \int_{[0, \tau]} e^{-\kappa u} (d\hat{X}^{X^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\uparrow}_u + d\hat{X}^{X^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}_\downarrow}_u).
\end{equation}

The maps $\theta \mapsto g^{\uparrow, \downarrow}(\theta; \tau, \zeta, \varphi)$ are continuous and strictly convex on $(0, +\infty)$.

2. Assume that $\tau = \varphi = 0$. Then we have

$$h^{\uparrow, \downarrow}(\theta; \zeta, \varrho) \triangleq e \nabla_{\downarrow} J_{\theta} (X^{\theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, 0}) = \mp \mu \theta + \frac{1}{2} \zeta (e^{\kappa \theta} \pm \varrho).$$

\begin{equation}
= \mp \mu(\varphi^{X^{\theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, 0}} + \zeta^{X^{\theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, 0}})
\end{equation}

The maps $\theta \mapsto h^{\uparrow, \downarrow}(\theta; \zeta, \varrho)$ are continuous and strictly convex on $(0, +\infty)$.

**Proof. 1.** We only compute the mapping $\theta \mapsto g^{\uparrow}(\theta; \tau, \zeta, \varphi)$ in (129). The computation of $g^{\downarrow}$ is very similar and thus omitted. Hence, let $(\tau, \zeta, \varphi) \in \mathcal{S}$ with associated optimal strategy $\hat{X}^{\tau, \zeta, \varphi}$. We have to compute the buy-subgradient of strategy $X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}$ in (128) at 0, i.e., $\nabla_{\uparrow} J_{\tau + \theta} (X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}) = g^{\uparrow}(\theta; \tau, \zeta, \varphi)$. For notational convenience, we will henceforth write $X$ for the strategy $X^{\tau + \theta, \zeta e^{\kappa \theta}, \varphi}$ and denote by $\varphi^X$, $\zeta^X$ the corresponding stock holdings.
and spread dynamics on \([0, \tau + \theta]\). By definition of the buy-subgradient in (17) we obtain

\[
e^{\mathbf{v}} \nabla_0^+ J_{\tau + \theta}(X) = \int_0^{\tau + \theta} \kappa e^{-\kappa t} \zeta_t X \, dt + \int_0^{\tau + \theta} (\alpha \sigma^2 \varphi_t - \mu) \, dt
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2}(\eta|\varphi^X_{\tau + \theta}| + \zeta^X_{\tau + \theta}) e^{-\kappa(t + \theta)} + \frac{\eta}{2} \varphi^X_{\tau + \theta} + 
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}_\varphi(\varphi^X_{\tau + \theta}) \zeta^X_{\tau + \theta}.
\]

(131)

In addition, it holds that \(0 = e^{\mathbf{v}} \nabla_0^+ J_{\tau}(\hat{X}^\tau \zeta^X) = e^{\mathbf{v}} \nabla_0^+ J_{\tau + \theta}(X)\) which gives us the identity

\[
\int_0^{\tau + \theta} (\alpha \sigma^2 \varphi_t X - \mu) \, dt = \int_0^{\tau + \theta} \kappa e^{-\kappa(t - \theta)} \zeta_t X \, dt + \frac{1}{2}(\eta|\varphi^X_{\tau + \theta}| + \zeta^X_{\tau + \theta}) e^{-\kappa \tau}
\]

\[
- \frac{\eta}{2} \varphi^X_{\tau + \theta} - \frac{1}{2} \text{sign}_\varphi(\varphi^X_{\tau + \theta}) \zeta^X_{\tau + \theta}.
\]

(132)

Inserting (132) back into (131) and using the fact that \(\zeta^X_t = \zeta e^{\kappa(t - \theta)}\) on \([0, \theta]\) yields

\[
e^{\mathbf{v}} \nabla_0^+ J_{\tau + \theta}(X) = \kappa(1 + e^{\kappa \theta}) \int_0^{\tau + \theta} \zeta_t X e^{-\kappa t} \, dt
\]

\[
- \frac{1}{2} \zeta(e^{-\kappa \theta} - e^{\kappa \theta}) + \theta(\alpha \sigma^2 \varphi - \mu)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \eta|\varphi^X_{\tau + \theta}|(e^{-\kappa \tau} + e^{-\kappa(\tau + \theta)}) + \frac{1}{2} \zeta^X_{\tau + \theta}(e^{-\kappa \tau} + e^{-\kappa(\tau + \theta)}).
\]

(133)

Next, applying the spread dynamics

\[
\zeta^X_t = \zeta e^{-\kappa(t - \theta)} + e^{-\kappa(t - \theta)} \int_{[\theta, t]} \eta e^{\kappa(t - \theta)} (dX^\uparrow_s + dX^\downarrow_s) \quad (\theta \leq t \leq \tau + \theta)
\]

(134)

and Fubini’s Theorem, we finally obtain in (133) the representation

\[
g^\dagger(\theta; \tau, \zeta, \varphi) = (\alpha \sigma^2 \varphi - \mu) \theta + \frac{1}{2} \zeta(e^{\kappa \theta} + 1) + \frac{1}{2} \eta|\varphi^X_{\tau + \theta}|(e^{-\kappa(\tau + \theta)} + e^{-\kappa \tau})
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} \eta(1 + e^{-\kappa \theta}) \int_{[\theta, \tau + \theta]} e^{\kappa(\theta - u)} (dX^\uparrow_u + dX^\downarrow_u).
\]

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Observing that $\varphi_{\tau+\theta}^X = \varphi_{\tau}^{\hat{X}_{\tau},\zeta,\varphi}$ and
\[
\int_{[\theta,\tau+\theta]} e^{\kappa(\theta-u)}(dX^\uparrow_u + dX^\downarrow_u) = \int_{[0,\tau]} e^{-\kappa u}(d\hat{X}^\uparrow_{u},\zeta,\varphi,\uparrow + d\hat{X}^\downarrow_{u},\zeta,\varphi,\downarrow)
\]
yields the desired result in (129). Obviously, the map $g^\uparrow$ is continuous in $\theta$. Moreover, it can be easily verified that the second derivate of $g^\uparrow$ with respect to $\theta$ is strictly positive which implies that $\theta \mapsto g^\uparrow(\theta;\tau,\zeta,\varphi)$ is strictly convex.

2.) Let $(0,\zeta,0) \in \mathcal{S}$ with associated optimal strategy $\hat{X}^{0,\zeta,0} = (0,0)$ (recall also Remark 4.11, 2.)). Using the definition in (17) and (18), the buy- and sell-subgradient of strategy $X^{0,\zeta,e^\kappa 0} = (0,0)$ on $[0,\theta]$ in (128) can be readily computed as claimed in (130). Strict convexity of the mappings $h^{\uparrow,\downarrow}$ follows as in 1.).

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