

Article

Not peer-reviewed version

Robust Entropy Portfolio Optimization in Crypto Markets

Florentin Serban * and Silvia Dedu

Posted Date: 4 June 2025

doi: 10.20944/preprints202506.0213.v1

Keywords: portfolio optimization; second-order Tsallis entropy; liquidity-aware models; risk and return trade-off; cryptocurrency investment; robust diversification



Preprints.org is a free multidisciplinary platform providing preprint service that is dedicated to making early versions of research outputs permanently available and citable. Preprints posted at Preprints.org appear in Web of Science, Crossref, Google Scholar, Scilit, Europe PMC.

Copyright: This open access article is published under a Creative Commons CC BY 4.0 license, which permit the free download, distribution, and reuse, provided that the author and preprint are cited in any reuse.

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions, and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions, or products referred to in the content.

Article

Robust Entropy Portfolio Optimization in Crypto Markets

Florentin Şerban * and Silvia Dedu

Department of Applied Mathematics, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

* Correspondence: florentin.serban@csie.ase.ro

Abstract: Traditional portfolio optimization models primarily address two key dimensions: risk and return. This paper extends the classical Markowitz framework by integrating a third critical factor liquidity—captured via second-order Tsallis entropy. We introduce a novel mean-variance-entropy model that flexibly assigns weights to return and entropy, enabling diversified asset allocations tailored to investor preferences. Entropy is interpreted not only as a statistical measure of diversification but also as a structural proxy for portfolio liquidity, acting as a soft constraint that mitigates overconcentration in volatile assets. Analytical portfolio solutions are derived using a Lagrangian formulation, offering interpretable allocations in both two- and three-asset scenarios. The model is empirically validated on a cryptocurrency dataset comprising Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), and Solana (SOL) over the January–March 2025 period. Results indicate that entropy-driven diversification enhances portfolio balance and robustness, even with limited historical data. In contrast to traditional models, the proposed approach facilitates explicit trade-offs between expected return and stability, offering practical advantages in fast-moving and uncertainty-prone financial environments. This study contributes to the literature by presenting a robust, entropy-based optimization framework for liquidity-sensitive portfolio construction, with direct applicability to crypto asset management.

Keywords: portfolio optimization; second-order Tsallis entropy; liquidity-aware models; risk and return trade-off; cryptocurrency investment; robust diversification

MSC: 91B28; 94A17

1. Introduction

The financial market is a complex and dynamic system in which investors must navigate uncertainty and make trade-offs between return and risk. The portfolio selection problem arises when an investor seeks to allocate their wealth among various assets in a manner that aligns with their specific preferences and investment objectives. The foundational methodology for portfolio optimization was introduced in the seminal work of Markowitz [1], whose theory remains well-documented and widely applied [2–4]. Markowitz's framework focuses on constructing portfolios composed of risky assets, using historical data such as asset returns, variances, and correlations. By analyzing expected returns and covariances derived from historical data, the model provides an optimal strategy for combining assets into an efficient portfolio. The goal is to maximize expected return for a given level of risk or, conversely, to minimize risk for a given return level.

Over time, numerous extensions have been introduced to enhance the original risk quantification framework proposed by Markowitz. Konno and Yamazaki [5] advocated for the use of absolute deviation in place of variance, while Speranza [6] advanced the concept of semi-absolute deviation to better capture asymmetrical return distributions. Semi-variance also gained traction as an alternative risk measure, as illustrated in the contributions of King and Jensen [7], King [8], and Markowitz et al. [9]. Hamza and Janssen [2] addressed the limitations of normally distributed returns by proposing a linear programming formulation based on asymmetric risk functions, suitable for

large-scale portfolio optimization. In addition, they tackled practical frictions such as transaction costs through separable programming techniques. Yoshimoto [10] complemented this direction by introducing a nonlinear programming model that integrates transaction costs directly into the optimization process. While these approaches increase model realism, they often come at the cost of heightened computational complexity and reduced tractability for standard solvers. Another line of inquiry has focused on enhancing the interpretability and structural soundness of portfolio models by reconsidering the fundamental assumptions about risk itself. While variance-based measures remain dominant in traditional models, their limitations in capturing asymmetries, tail events, and dynamic correlations have been well documented. In particular, such models may overlook the structural dependencies within asset classes or fail to reflect investor preferences that deviate from mean–variance—rationality. This has led researchers to explore more flexible and theoretically grounded alternatives that can account for both uncertainty and diversification in a more comprehensive manner.

The selection of a risk measure plays a crucial role in shaping portfolio structure. Wang and Liu [11] highlighted that risk measures directly influence allocation outcomes. One particularly promising alternative to variance is entropy. Shannon [12] introduced a foundational concept of entropy in the context of information theory, which was later extended by Yager [13] using the maximum entropy principle. Wang and Parkan [14] developed the minimax disparity model, which minimizes the largest discrepancy in asset weights through a linear entropy-based approach. Philippatos and Wilson [15] were the first to apply Shannon entropy to portfolio theory, treating it as a diversification metric. They argued that entropy is more flexible than variance, as it can handle nonmetric data and does not rely on symmetric probability distributions. Simonelli [16] further demonstrated the superior performance of entropy over variance and deviation-based metrics. Zhou et al. [17] provided an extensive review of entropy's applications in finance, affirming its rising influence. Empirical studies, such as those by Jiang et al. [18] and Zheng et al. [4], have implemented Shannon entropy in portfolio models to replace variance, including use cases like electricity purchasing portfolios.

In addition, robust optimization frameworks have emerged to address parameter estimation errors in expected returns and covariances. These methods are designed to improve portfolio resilience under uncertainty. Simultaneously, behavioral finance approaches such as Prospect Theory and Behavioral Mean–Variance Optimization have been integrated to account for psychological biases and investor preferences [19, 20].

Recent advancements in portfolio optimization have embraced increasingly sophisticated frameworks that integrate fuzzy logic, robust modeling, and multi-criteria decision-making principles. Liu and Li [21] proposed a novel fuzzy multi-objective programming approach based on Pareto optimality, which offers a powerful method for navigating trade-offs in environments characterized by ambiguity and incomplete information. In parallel, entropy-based models have evolved toward scalable implementations in large-scale financial systems. He and Jiang [22] introduced a maximum entropy formulation designed to improve stability and computational tractability, while Ke and Zhang [23] explored the integration of entropy measures into classical mean–variance models, highlighting the synergy between information theory and traditional financial paradigms.

Beyond methodological advances, theoretical developments in risk modeling have contributed to the refinement of portfolio frameworks. Sheraz and Dedu [24] present stochastic models of fattail returns and risk modeling for Bitcoin, laying the groundwork for more rigorous treatment of risk under uncertainty. Complementing these efforts, Lutgens and Schotman [25] emphasized robust portfolio optimization with multiple expert perspectives, acknowledging the need to account for heterogeneous beliefs in volatile markets. Yu and Lee [26] addressed portfolio rebalancing through multi-criteria programming, enabling the incorporation of diverse investor objectives and practical constraints. These perspectives converge within the broader field of multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA), as reviewed by Zopounidis and Doumpos [27], which offers a flexible and unifying

framework for integrating behavioral preferences, structural constraints, and informational entropy into a cohesive portfolio optimization strategy. This interdisciplinary evolution reinforces the relevance of entropy-based models in modern finance, particularly when robustness, diversification, and decision flexibility are of paramount importance.

Motivated by these developments, the present paper proposes an entropy-based portfolio optimization model that maximizes second-order Tsallis entropy, with flexible weightings reflecting investor preferences toward return and diversification. As an empirical validation, we apply the model to optimize a cryptocurrency portfolio composed of two or three assets during the period January–March 2025. The cryptocurrency market was selected as the empirical testing ground offering a challenging yet insightful testbed due to its high volatility, dynamic liquidity, and the urgent need for robust diversification tools.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows: Section 2 introduces the mean–variance–second order entropy model for portfolio optimization. Section 3 presents and discusses the computational results. Section 4 concludes the paper.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Mean — Second Order Tssalis Entropy — Variance Model to Porfolio Optimization

In this section, we introduce a portfolio optimization model based on three core components: expected return, variance, and second-order Tsallis entropy. The model aims to maximize a weighted combination of return and entropy, subject to a variance-based risk constraint. The use of second-order Tsallis entropy enhances diversification by penalizing concentration in portfolio weights, and implicitly supports liquidity-aware asset allocation. This formulation offers a tractable yet robust framework suitable for volatile markets such as cryptocurrencies.

Tsallis Entropy
$$H(x) = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i \frac{x_i^{\kappa-1}}{\alpha}, \alpha \neq 0$$
: where $x = (x_1, x_2, ..., x_n)$ (For $\alpha = 1$ in Tsallis entropy we obtain the informational entropy introduced by O.0nicescu, given by $E(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2$.)

Second order Tsallis entropoy (Tsallis with $\alpha = 1$): $H(x) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2 = 1 - E(x)$

1. For a given portfolio, this kind of entropy measures the correlation degree of the assets from the portfolio:

$$(\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2 = (\sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i)^2 - \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j = 1 - \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j, \ H(x) = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2 = \sum_{j \neq i} x_i x_j)$$

2. A lower entropy implies greater concentration (lower diversification), whereas a higher entropy reflects greater diversification, which may contribute positively to portfolio liquidity

Optimization Problem Formulation

An optimization problem of portfolio is based on the model presented in Ke and Zhang [23], where we accord weightings, that depend on the importance given by the investor, to the return and the entropy (diversification can be useful to liquidity):

$$\max \left(a \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i \bar{r}_i - b \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i^2\right)$$

$$\left\{ \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} x_i \left(r_{it} - \bar{r}_i\right)^2 = \sigma_0^2, \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n} x_i = 1 \right. \text{ where } x = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) \text{ ; } m \text{ is the number of time units; } \bar{r}_i \text{ is average return of asset } i; r_{it} \text{ is average return of asset } i; r_{it} \text{ is average return of asset } i; r_{it} \text{ is average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } t; \qquad \bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} r_{it}; \sigma_0^2 \text{ is } i \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i; r_{it} \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i; r_{it} \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i; r_{it} \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i; r_{it} \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } t; \qquad \bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} r_{it}; \sigma_0^2 \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } t; \qquad \bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} r_{it}; \sigma_0^2 \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } t; \qquad \bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} r_{it}; \sigma_0^2 \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } t; \qquad \bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} r_{it}; \sigma_0^2 \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } t; \qquad \bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} r_{it}; \sigma_0^2 \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } t; \qquad \bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} r_{it}; \sigma_0^2 \text{ is } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ at the period } i \text{ average return of asset } i \text{ average return of as$$

average return of asset i; r_{it} is average return of asset i at the period t; $\bar{r}_i = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{t=1}^m r_{it}$; σ_0^2 is the level of the risk and is assumed of investor; a, b > 0

Solving the portfolio optimization problem

Using the Lagrange multiplier method, we obtain:

$$\varphi(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n, \gamma, \lambda) = a \sum_{i=1}^n x_i \bar{r}_i - b \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + \gamma (\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{t=1}^m x_i (r_{it} - \bar{r}_i)^2 - \sigma_0^2) + \lambda (\sum_{i=1}^n x_i - 1)$$

$$\frac{\delta \varphi}{\delta x_i} = a\bar{r}_i - 2bx_i + \gamma \sum_{t=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_i)^2 + \lambda = 0, i = \overline{1, n}$$
 (1)

Assembly of n relations we have

$$a \sum_{i=1}^{n} \bar{r}_{i} - 2b + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2} + n\lambda = 0$$
We obtain $\lambda = \frac{2b}{n} - \frac{a}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \bar{r}_{i} - \frac{\gamma}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{i=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2}$

Using the relationship (1) we get

$$2bx_{i} = a\bar{r}_{i} + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2} + \frac{2b}{n} - \frac{a}{n} - \frac{\gamma}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2}, \text{ or}$$

$$x_{i} = \frac{a}{2b} (\bar{r}_{i} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \bar{r}_{i}}{n}) + \frac{\gamma}{2b} (\sum_{t=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} \sum_{t=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2}}{n}) + \frac{1}{n}, i = \overline{1, n};$$

where the multiplier γ verify relation:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} \left(\frac{a}{2b} \left(\bar{r}_{i} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \bar{r}_{i}}{n}\right) + \frac{\gamma}{2b} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{t=1}^{m} (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2}}{n}\right) + \frac{1}{n} \right) (r_{it} - \bar{r}_{i})^{2} = \sigma_{0}^{2}$$

2.2. Case Studies

Given the high volatility, evolving correlation structures, and regime-switching behavior inherent to digital asset markets, cryptocurrencies represent a fertile ground for testing advanced portfolio optimization models. Unlike traditional financial assets, cryptocurrencies are characterized by frequent price swings, low historical depth, and rapidly changing liquidity patterns, all of which challenge conventional assumptions of stationarity and normality. These features create an environment where diversification, structural robustness, and adaptive decision-making become essential. Moreover, the decentralized nature of crypto markets introduces idiosyncratic risks and asymmetries that amplify the need for entropy-based approaches capable of managing uncertainty and concentration effects.

Entropy, in this context, serves not only as a statistical measure but also as a strategic stabilizer in markets where investor sentiment and momentum can dominate fundamentals. By capturing allocation uniformity and penalizing overexposure, second-order entropy allows for more balanced configurations that may mitigate downside risk in turbulent scenarios. To illustrate the practical implications of this framework, we apply our model to two empirical portfolio settings: a two-asset portfolio composed of Bitcoin and Ethereum, followed by a three-asset configuration that includes Solana.

In both scenarios, the optimization is performed over a sample period spanning January to March 2025, using daily return data. The model parameters are calibrated to reflect a moderate investor profile, with equal weighting given to expected return and entropy (i.e., a = b). Risk tolerance is set via an upper bound on variance, consistent across both configurations to ensure comparability. We selected a three-month period (January–March 2025) to capture recent market conditions marked by high volatility and shifting liquidity patterns, providing a relevant and challenging environment to evaluate the robustness of the proposed model

The two-asset case (n = 2) provides a simplified environment for analytical tractability, offering intuitive insight into how entropy modifies the allocation strategy relative to classical mean–variance solutions. This setup serves as a benchmark, highlighting the tendency of the entropy term to shift weight away from high-return but volatile assets in favor of improved balance. In contrast, the three-asset case (n = 3) introduces an additional degree of freedom and demonstrates how the model scales with portfolio size, accommodating additional correlation effects and diversification pathways.

Case n=2: Portfolio Optimization with Two Cryptocurrencies

In this section, we consider a simple two-asset portfolio composed of Bitcoin (BTC) and Ethereum (ETH), observed over the period 18 January 2025 – 21 March 2025. The purpose of this case study is to demonstrate the implementation of the mean–second-order entropy model described previously.

We choose the investor preference weights a = 0.75 for expected return and b = 0.25 for entropy, and we obtain the model:

```
\begin{array}{l} \text{max } 0.75 \; (x_1 \cdot 0.0565 + x_2 \cdot 0.0133) - 0.25 (x_1^2 + x_2^2) \\ & \left\{ x_1 \cdot 0.033 + x_2 \cdot 0.775 = 0.1 \right. \\ & \left. x_1 + x_2 = 1 \right. \\ \text{Using the formulas presented above we obtain} \\ & x_1 = 1.5 \; (0.0565 - 0.0698/2) + \gamma/0.5 \quad (0.033 - 0.8/2) + 0.5 = 0.53 - 0.74 \gamma \\ & x_2 = 1.5 \; (0.0133 - 0.0698/2) + \gamma/0.5 \quad (0.77 - 0.8/2) + 0.5 = 0.47 + 0.74 \gamma \\ \text{where the multiplier } \gamma \text{ verify relations :} \\ & \left\{ x_1 \cdot 0.033 + x_2 \cdot 0.775 = 0.1 \right. \\ & \left. x_1 + x_2 = 1 \right. \\ \text{or } (0.53 - 0.74 \gamma) \cdot 0.033 + (0.47 + 0.74 \gamma) \cdot 0.775 = 0.1 \end{array}
```

We have $0.55\gamma + 0.38 = 0.1$ or $\gamma = -0.51$ and substituting back, the optimal portfolio allocation becomes: $x_1 = 0.9074$ and $x_2 = 0.0926$. This result indicates that, under the given preferences and market conditions, the optimal portfolio heavily favors Bitcoin (BTC), allocating approximately 90.74% of the capital to BTC and only 9.26% to ETH.

Case n=3 Portfolio Optimization with Three Cryptocurrencies

In this section, we consider a portfolio composed of three major cryptocurrencies: Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), and Solana (SOL), observed over the period 18 January 2025 – 21 March 2025. We apply the mean–second-order Tsallis entropy model as described in the previous sections

We are going to use the mean - second order entropy model.

```
We choice a = 0.75 and b = 0.25 and we obtain the model: \max 0.75 \; (x_1 \cdot 0.0565 + x_2 \cdot 0.0133 + x_3 \cdot 0.0755) - 0.25 \; (x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2) \\ \left\{ \begin{aligned} x_1 \cdot 0.033 \; + \; x_2 \cdot 0.775 \; + \; x_3 \cdot 0.105 \; = \; 0.1 \\ x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \; = \; 1 \end{aligned} \right.
```

Using the formulas presented above we obtain

```
x_1 = 1.5 \ (0.0565 - 0.048) + \gamma/0.5 \ \ (0.033 - 0.3) + 0.33 = 0.35 - 0.55\gamma x_2 = 1.5 \ (0.0133 - 0.048) + \gamma/0.5 \ \ (0.77 - 0.3) + 0.33 = 0.28 + 0.94\gamma x_3 = 1.5 \ \ (0.0755 - 0.048) + \gamma/0.5 \ \ (0.105 - 0.3) + 0.33 = 0.37 - 0.39\gamma where the multiplier \gamma verify relations : x_1 \cdot 0.033 + x_2 \cdot 0.775 + x_3 \cdot 0.105 = 0.1 or (0.35 - 0.55\gamma) \cdot 0.033 + (0.28 + 0.94\gamma) \cdot 0.775 + (0.37 - 0.39\gamma) \cdot 0.105 = 0.1. We have 0.67\gamma + 0.26 = 0.1 i.e \gamma = -0.24 We obtain x_1 = 0.462, x_2 = 0.0344 and x_3 = 0.5036
```

These numerical applications offer valuable insights into the model's allocation dynamics, setting the stage for a deeper analysis of performance and diversification outcomes in Section 3. By comparing distinct portfolio structures under varying dimensionality, the results highlight how entropy interacts with return and variance to shape asset weights. The contrast between concentrated and diversified allocations allows us to assess the extent to which second-order Tsallis entropy serves as an effective mechanism for controlling risk exposure while preserving responsiveness to expected returns. The following section explores these aspects in detail, drawing empirical conclusions from both two- and three-asset configurations.

3. Results and Discussions

The empirical implementation of the mean–second-order entropy–variance optimization model was carried out on two different portfolio configurations involving major cryptocurrencies. The objective was to evaluate how the entropy component influences the allocation structure and risk-return balance under increasing asset dimensionality.

In the first case (n = 2), involving Bitcoin (BTC) and Ethereum (ETH), the results indicate a highly concentrated portfolio. Approximately 90.74% of the capital was allocated to BTC and only 9.26% to ETH. This behavior can be attributed to BTC's superior return-to-risk ratio during the observation

period. However, the low entropy value in this case suggests a poor diversification level, which may result in higher liquidity risk or vulnerability to idiosyncratic shocks.

The second case (n = 3), which introduced Solana (SOL) as an additional asset, generated a significantly different allocation structure. The model yielded a much more balanced distribution: 46.2% to BTC, 50.36% to SOL, and 3.44% to ETH. While BTC maintained a strong position due to its performance, SOL gained a substantial share because of its high expected return relative to risk. Meanwhile, ETH received a minimal allocation, reflecting its less favorable volatility-adjusted return profile.

The numerical results corresponding to both scenarios (n = 2 and n = 3) are summarized in Table 1, which presents the expected returns, variances, and optimal portfolio weights for each asset.

Asset	μ (Return)	σ² (Variance)	x _i (Weight)
Bitcoin (BTC)	0.0565	0.033	0.9074
Ethereum (ETH)	0.0133	0.775	0.0926
Bitcoin (BTC)	0.0565	0.033	0.462
Ethereum (ETH)	0.0133	0.775	0.0344
Solana (SOL)	0.0755	0.105	0.5036

Figure 1 illustrates the final portfolio allocations in both scenarios. The increase in entropy, clearly visible in the transition from Case 1 to Case 2, confirms the model's ability to promote diversification as more viable assets are included

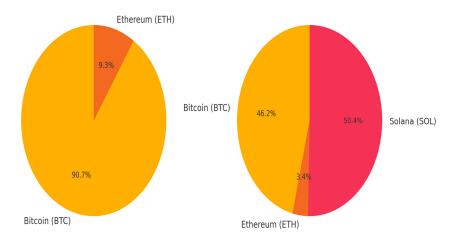


Figure 1. Portfolio Allocation Comparison – Case n = 2 vs. Case n = 3.

This comparative outcome illustrates how entropy acts as more than a passive term in the objective function. It serves as a structural force that modulates the optimizer's tendency to overweight high-return assets at the expense of robustness. In effect, entropy introduces a "soft constraint" on concentration, guiding the portfolio toward a configuration that balances return, risk, and liquidity potential.

From a practical standpoint, this mechanism may be especially valuable in crypto-asset environments, where correlations between coins can shift rapidly and price movements are often nonlinear and asymmetric. Entropy serves here not only as a statistical measure, but also as a strategic hedge against overexposure and poor adaptability. This highlights the versatility of entropy-based

models in accommodating evolving market dynamics while preserving a structure consistent with investor goals

Additionally, this approach holds potential for institutional applications, such as crypto index construction or risk-managed digital asset funds. Its ability to integrate return optimization with structural diversification may help mitigate tail risk in volatile markets, a concern often voiced by fund managers and regulators alike.

Limitations

While the proposed mean–second-order entropy–variance model offers a valuable contribution to portfolio optimization—particularly in the context of cryptocurrency markets—it is not without limitations.

First, the model relies on historical return and covariance estimates, which may not always be reliable in highly volatile and non-stationary environments such as digital asset markets. Entropy, while useful as a diversification metric, does not capture tail risk or extreme events, which are frequent in crypto ecosystems.

Second, the optimization procedure, although computationally feasible in small- and medium-scale cases, may face scalability issues as the asset universe expands significantly. Moreover, the use of second-order entropy assumes symmetric information distribution across portfolio components, which may not always reflect real-world behavior in emerging or illiquid assets.

Third, the model assumes investor preferences are static and encoded via fixed weights (a, b), which may oversimplify real behavioral dynamics or strategic shifts in portfolio goals over time.

Future research could address these limitations by:

- Incorporating dynamic, forward-looking estimators for return and volatility using machine learning or regime-switching models;
- Extending the entropy component to higher-order measures or adaptive entropy estimators that reflect changing market structures;
- Embedding behavioral preferences and adaptive risk-aversion mechanisms into the objective function;
- Exploring integration with decentralized finance (DeFi) instruments, NFT-backed assets, or hybrid portfolios combining digital and traditional securities;
- Testing the model over longer time horizons or across multiple regimes to assess robustness under varying market conditions.

By tackling these aspects, the entropy-based portfolio optimization framework can be further refined and extended toward practical deployment in real-world investment strategies, especially within the rapidly evolving domain of digital finance.

4. Conclusions

This study proposed an enhanced portfolio optimization framework that integrates secondorder Tsallis entropy with classical mean-variance modeling, addressing the growing need for diversification and liquidity-aware allocation in dynamic financial markets. By treating entropy as a structural proxy for both diversification and liquidity, the model enables investors to systematically manage concentration risk while maintaining analytical tractability.

The empirical analysis focused on the cryptocurrency market, using a recent three-month period (January–March 2025) to reflect the latest volatility and market conditions. The assets selected—Bitcoin (BTC), Ethereum (ETH), and Solana (SOL)—are among the most liquid and widely traded cryptocurrencies, ensuring that our case studies reflect realistic and implementable portfolio scenarios. In the two-asset configuration (BTC and ETH), the model allocated capital predominantly to the asset with superior risk-adjusted returns, resulting in a relatively concentrated structure. However, in the three-asset portfolio (BTC, ETH, SOL), the inclusion of a third liquid asset enabled greater diversification. Here, entropy played a pivotal role in balancing allocations, facilitating a more uniform portfolio that adhered to the risk constraint while accommodating a new high-performing

component. These results validate the role of entropy as an implicit diversification mechanism capable of mitigating overexposure, particularly in markets where volatility, correlation shifts, and non-normal return distributions challenge traditional models. Furthermore, the model retained its computational efficiency, yielding closed-form or semi-analytical solutions for small portfolios and scalable numerical results for larger systems.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that entropy-driven models hold strong potential for robust portfolio construction in emerging financial sectors such as crypto asset management. This framework not only aligns with modern risk management principles but also offers practical utility for investors seeking to balance return maximization with structural resilience.

Future research directions may include the integration of time-varying entropy estimators, adaptive rebalancing strategies, or hybrid models combining entropy with behavioral factors and predictive analytics. Such advancements could further increase the robustness and responsiveness of portfolio strategies in complex and rapidly evolving financial environments.

By bridging theoretical insights with practical demands, the proposed model contributes meaningfully to the literature on robust portfolio optimization and opens new avenues for institutional adoption in liquidity-sensitive investment contexts.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, Florentin Şerban and Silvia Dedu; methodology, Florentin Şerban and Silvia Dedu; validation, Florentin Şerban; formal analysis, Florentin Şerban and Silvia Dedu; investigation, Florentin Şerban; resources, Florentin Şerban and Silvia Dedu; data curation, Silvia Dedu; writing—original draft preparation, Florentin Şerban and Silvia Dedu; writing—review and editing, Florentin Şerban and Silvia Dedu; visualization, Florentin Şerban and Silvia Dedu; supervision, Florentin Şerban. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: This research received no external funding.

Institutional Review Board Statement: Not applicable.

Informed Consent Statement: Not applicable.

Data Availability Statement: Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

References

- 1. Markowitz, H. (1952). Portfolio selection. The Journal of Finance, 7, 77–91.
- 2. Hamza, F.; Janssen, J. (1996). Linear approach for solving large-scale portfolio optimization problems in a lognormal market. *Proceedings of the 6th AFIR*, Nuremberg, Germany.
- 3. Markowitz, H. (1991). Foundations of portfolio optimizations. The Journal of Finance, 2, 469-471.
- 4. Zheng, Y.; Zhou, M.; Li, G. (2009). Information entropy-based fuzzy optimization model of electricity purchasing portfolio. *IEEE Power & Energy Society General Meeting (PES '09)*, 1–6.
- 5. Konno, H.; Yamazaki, H. (1991). A mean absolute deviation portfolio optimization model and its applications to Tokyo stock market. *Management Science*, **37**, 519–531.
- 6. Speranza, M. G. (1993). Linear programming models for portfolio optimization. *Finance*, **14**, 107–123. https://iris.unibs.it/handle/11379/4732
- 7. King, A. J.; Jensen, D. L. (1992). Linear-quadratic efficient frontiers for portfolio optimization model. *Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis*, **8**, 195–207.
- 8. King, A. J. (1993). Asymmetric risk measures and tracking models for portfolio optimization under uncertainty. *Annals of Operations Research*, **45**, 165–178.
- 9. Markowitz, H.; Todd, P.; Xu, G.; Yamane, Y. (1993). Computation of mean–semi-variance efficient sets by the critical line algorithm. *Annals of Operations Research*, **45**, 307–318.
- 10. Yoshimoto, A. (1996). The mean-variance approach to portfolio optimization subject to transaction costs. *Journal of the Operations Research Society of Japan*, **39**(1), 99–117.
- 11. Wang, X.; Liu, Y. (2021). A novel approach for determining OWA operator weights based on maximum entropy and linear programming. *Information Sciences*, **580**, 620–635.

- 12. Shannon, C. E. (1948). A mathematical theory of communication. *Bell System Technical Journal*, **27**, 379–423.
- 13. Yager, R. R. (1995). Measures of entropy and fuzziness related to aggregation operators. *Information Sciences*, **82**, 147–166.
- 14. Wang, Z.; Parkan, C. (2005). A minimax disparity model for portfolio selection. *European Journal of Operational Research*, **163**(1), 115–131.
- 15. Philippatos, G. C.; Wilson, C. J. (1972). Entropy, market risk, and the selection of efficient portfolios. *Applied Economics*, **4**, 209–220.
- 16. Simonelli, M. R. (2005). Indeterminacy in portfolio selection. *European Journal of Operational Research*, **163**, 170–176.
- 17. Zhou, R. X.; Cai, R.; Tong, G. Q. (2013). Applications of entropy in finance: A review. *Entropy*, **15**, 4909–4931. https://www.mdpi.com/1099-4300/15/11/4909
- 18. Jiang, Y.; He, S.; Li, X. (2008). A maximum entropy model for large-scale portfolio optimization. *International Conference on Risk Management & Engineering Management (ICRMEM '08)*, 610–615.
- 19. Dedu, S.; Şerban, F.; Tudorache, A. (2014). Quantitative risk management techniques using interval analysis, with applications to finance and insurance. *Journal of Applied Quantitative Methods*, **9**, 1–15.
- Dedu S., Fulga C. (2011). Value-at-Risk estimation comparative approach with applications to optimization problems. Economic Computation and Economic Cybernetics Studies and Research, 45(4), 5–20.
- 21. Liu, P.; Li, X. (2023). A novel approach to fuzzy multi-objective programming with Pareto optimality. *Fuzzy Sets and Systems*, **467**, 45–60.
- 22. He, X.; Jiang, H. (2020). A Maximum Entropy Model for Large-Scale Portfolio Optimization. *Proceedings of the 2020 International Conference on Financial Engineering*, 45–52.
- 23. Ke, J.; Zhang, C. (2008). Study on the optimization of portfolio based on entropy theory and mean-variance model. *IEEE International Conference on Service Operations and Logistics, and Informatics* (SOLI 2008), 2668–2672. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/240643459
- 24. Sheraz M., Dedu S. (2020). Bitcoin Cash: Stochastic models of fat-tail returns and risk modeling. *Economic Computation and Economic Cybernetics Studies and Research*, **54**(3), 43–58
- 25. Lutgens, F.; Schotman, P. (2010). Robust portfolio optimisation with multiple experts. *Review of Finance*, **14**, 343–383. https://academic.oup.com/rof/article/14/2/343/1569756
- 26. Yu, J. R.; Lee, W. Y. (2011). Portfolio rebalancing model using multiple criteria. *European Journal of Operational Research*, **209**, 166–175.
- Zopounidis, C.; Doumpos, M. (2020). Multi-criteria decision aid in financial decision making: Methodologies and literature review. *Journal of Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis*, 27(1–2), 1–24. https://doi.org/10.1002/mcda.1685

Disclaimer/Publisher's Note: The statements, opinions and data contained in all publications are solely those of the individual author(s) and contributor(s) and not of MDPI and/or the editor(s). MDPI and/or the editor(s) disclaim responsibility for any injury to people or property resulting from any ideas, methods, instructions or products referred to in the content.