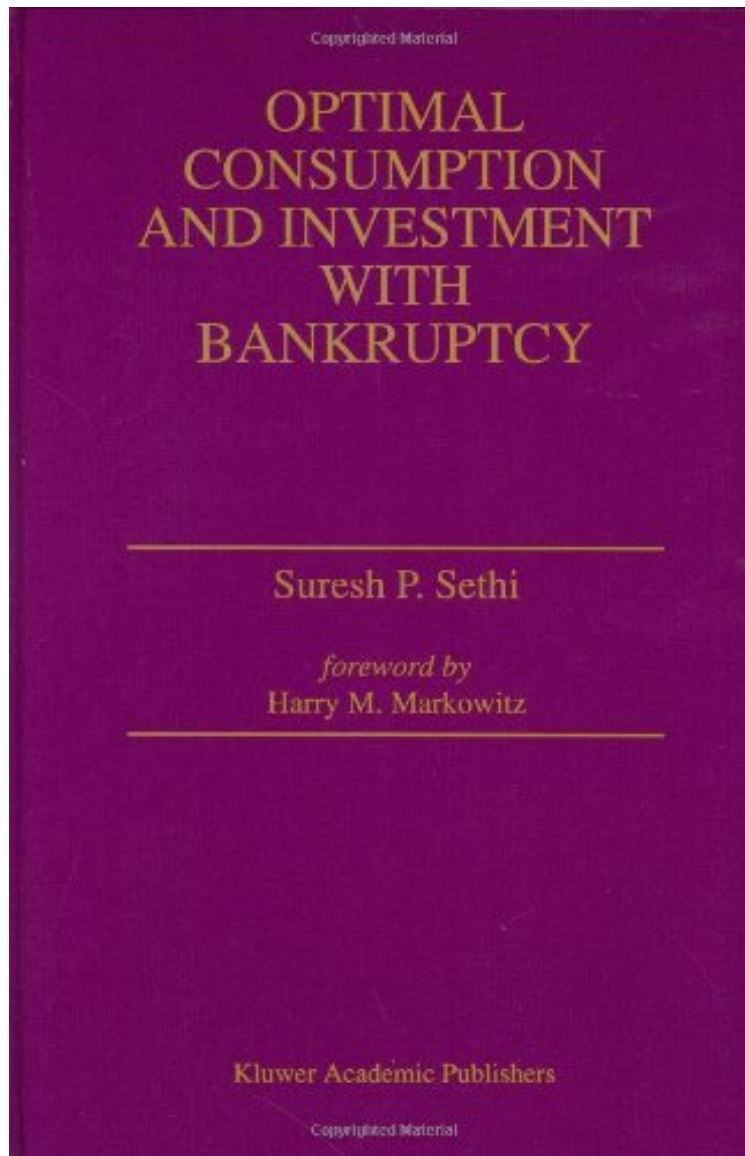


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Optimal Consumption and Investment with Bankruptcy

Suresh P. Sethi

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Suresh P. Sethi : Optimal Consumption and Investment with Bankruptcy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Optimal Consumption and Investment with Bankruptcy:

This book presents papers on continuous-time consumption; investment models by Suresh Sethi and various co-authors. Sir Isaac Newton said that he saw so far because he stood on the shoulders of gishy; ants. Giants upon whose shoulders Professor Sethi and colleagues stand are Robert Merton, particularly Merton's (1969, 1971, 1973) seminal

papers, and Paul Samuelson, particularly Samuelson (1969). Karatzas, Lehoczky, Sethi and Shreve (1986), henceforth KLSS, reexamine the model proposed by Merton. KLSS use methods of modern mathematical analysis, taking care to prove the existence of integrals, check the existence and (where appropriate) the uniqueness of solutions to equations, etc. KLSS find that under some conditions Merton's solution is correct; under others, it is not. In particular, Merton's solution for a HARA utility-of-consumption is correct for some parameter values and not for others. The problem with Merton's solution is that it sometimes violates the constraints against negative wealth and negative consumption stated in Merton (1969) and presumably applicable in Merton (1971 and 1973). This not only affects the solution at the zero-wealth, zero-consumption boundaries, but elsewhere as well. Problems with Merton's solution are analyzed in Sethi and Taksar (1992), reproduced here as Chapter 3.