Course Outline

Credit Risk

Spring 2009 – B40.3305 30 Thu 6:00-9:00PM

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Department of Finance  
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Aims and Objectives

Fuelled in part by burgeoning growth in the credit derivatives market in late 90’s, the market in credit expanded dramatically for 10 years till 2Q 2007. These increased activity levels led to a much greater research focus on credit and one of the features of this work has been the high degree of complementarity between the research carried out by academics and by practitioners, for example, the investment banks and rating agencies.

As you know, the credit derivatives market has been at the heart of the ongoing sub-prime crisis, having contributed substantially to it by affecting lender incentives once loans were securitized, allowing banks to “game” regulatory capital requirements, and creating opacity due to their over-the-counter (rather than centralized or exchange-based) trading infrastructure. While the market for credit derivatives suffers at the current moment, its underlying rationale in terms of risk transfer from banking sector to rest of the economy remains robust. This market will perhaps never be as large as it was in 2Q 2007, but it will certainly continue to play a major role in the financial intermediation sector going forward, once the crisis abates.

The objective of the course is to provide an introduction as well as an in-depth understanding of issues in credit risk, its modelling and analysis of credit related instruments such as default-prone debt of credit derivatives. The objective is also to provide an understanding of how and why these products played such a critical role in the ongoing crisis. As with any derivatives model, the idea is to learn it well so that one knows when not to use it! Hence, the objective is to provide a balance between developing, on one hand, a sound conceptual framework and, on the other, market understanding and insight, especially with respect to liquidity effects that are often so important in markets from a practitioner’s standpoint. We regard both as essential to the informed practitioner and academic.
Topics Covered
The topics covered in the course will include:

- Historical default experience
- Structural models of credit risk (Merton, Leland, Collin-Dufresne et. al.)
- Applications of structural models of credit risk to default prediction and hedging; the KMV model
- Historical recovery experience
- Introduction to single-name credit derivatives
- Default-intensity models (Iben-Litterman, Duffie-Singleton, etc.)
- Application of default intensity models to:
  - Credit default swaps (single-name corporate and sovereign)
  - Credit spread options
- Historical experience on correlated defaults
- Correlation modelling and applications
- Basket default products: index tranches and CDOs
- Institutional features and liquidity issues relevant to credit derivatives
- Credit Crisis 2007-08 and implications for the credit derivatives market

Format and Teaching Methods
The classes will include discussions around empirical facts about credit, lectures on models and their applications, some cases and guest speakers on market developments (time permitting).

The class will be held on Thursdays from 6:00pm to 9:00pm.
Reading Materials

There are two quite recent and very good books that deal with the analysis of credit risk. While neither of them covers all the material we plan to discuss in the class, the following one has a very good treatment of the two main modelling frameworks (the structural and intensity approaches) and we suggest that you may wish to buy it:


The other book, also excellent, is:


Additional recommended reading materials (especially for a brief summary of credit risk modelling):

Chacko, Sjoman, Motohashi and Dessain (2006): *Credit Derivatives – A Primer on Credit Risk, Modeling, and Instruments*, [Chacko et. Al]


*The Lehman Brothers Guide to Exotic Credit Derivatives*, Lehman Brothers and Risk Waters Group, 2003. [RISK]

Binder

The final paper of this outline contains a list of the items that are included in the binder. Any remaining handouts, exercises, cases etc. will be either distributed in class or put on the Blackboard (or both).

Assignments and Assessment

The grade for the course will be based on a total of six pieces of written work (three assignments and three cases due in the weeks given below, a Mid-term Exam (in-class in Week 6 of the course) and an in-class Final Exam (in-class in Week 11 of the course). The assignments, which may sometimes require extensive numerical computations, should be completed in groups of THREE. You should email Farhang (the course teaching assistant) with the composition of your group by 5pm on Thursday 19 February. All assignments must be handed in, in hard copy, at the beginning of the class in the week they are due.

The weights attached to each of these components are (HW = Homework):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Due Week</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lucent Technologies (HW)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>KBC (A) Case</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Single Name Credit Derivatives (HW)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sovereign CDS Case</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Basket Products (HW)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Structured Credit Index Products (Case)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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## Summary Outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overview of credit market and trends: Historical default experience, corporate finance issues (liquidity, strategic, technical defaults), abstraction from corporate finance issues. Structural models I: Merton’s model and extensions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Structural models I: Merton’s model and extensions, continued.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Assignment 1 Due – Lucent</strong> Structural models II: Leland’s model and Moody’s KMV Approach</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Case 1 Due: Structural model application – KBC(A)</strong> Historical recovery or loss-given-default experience Introduction to single-name credit derivatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Intensity modelling I: Litterman and Iben’s reduced-form model</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Mid-Term Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Assignment 2 Due – Single-name credit derivatives</strong> Historical experience on correlation of defaults Correlation: Products and modelling I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Case 2 Due: Sovereign CDS – The case of Argentina’s Default</strong> Correlation: Products and modelling I continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Assignment 3 Due – Basket products</strong> Correlation: Products and modelling II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Case 3 Due: Structured Credit Index products</strong> Correlation: Products and modelling II continued Implied correlation and liquidity effects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Final exam will be held in-class</strong> Relationship between equity, bond and credit derivative markets and Insider trading issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 February</td>
<td><strong>Structural models I</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Preparation | 1. Chacko, Sjoman, Motohashi and Dessain (2006): *Credit Derivatives – A Primer on Credit Risk, Modeling, and Instruments* (Chapter 2)  
2. RISK, Credit Derivative Products (up to Page 30).  
3. Lando, Ch. 2, Corporate liabilities as Contingent Claims (Pages 7-17 very thoroughly and then read the rest skipping the equations if you can’t follow them). |
| Topics | Overview of credit market and trends: Historical default experience, corporate finance issues (liquidity, strategic, technical defaults), abstraction from corporate finance issues |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Structural models I, continued</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td><strong>Preparation</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1. Lando, Ch. 2, Corporate liabilities as Contingent Claims (Pages 7-17 very thoroughly and then read the rest skipping the equations if you can’t follow them).  
| Topics | Equity as call; risky debt as riskless debt minus put; Merton; discussion of limitations of Merton; Exogenous default boundaries; first hitting time values. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Structural models II</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26 February</td>
<td><strong>Moody’s KMV Approach</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Preparation | 1. Lando Ch. 3, “Endogenous Default Boundaries and Optimal Capital Structure”.  
| Topics | Leland type models; predictions of Leland model; Measuring asset volatilities; KMV. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Case: KBC(A)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 March</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to reduced-form models</strong></td>
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</table>
| Topics | Application of structural models  
Historical recovery or loss-given-default experience  
Relationship between spreads and expected loss |

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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>In-class Mid-Term Exam</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td><strong>Intensity modelling I</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preparation

Topics
Litterman and Iben’s reduced-form model

Week 6
In-class Mid-Term Exam

26 March
Intensity modelling I continued
Intensity modelling II

Preparation
1. Lando, Ch. 8, “Credit Default Swaps, CDOs and Related Products” (up to Section 8.5, inclusive)

Topics
Pricing of single-name credit derivatives

Week 7
Default Correlation I

2 April

Preparation
DS, Ch. 10, “Correlated Defaults”.

Topics
Other reduced-form models; Sovereign credit derivatives

Week 8
Default Correlation I continued

9 April
Case: Sovereign CDS – The case of Argentina’s Default

Preparation
Lando, Ch. 9, pp. 213-223 and skim the rest of the chapter.

Topics
Historical experience on correlation of defaults, Introduction to correlation products, Introduction to correlation modelling

Week 9
Default Correlation II

16 April

Preparation
1. RISK, Credit Derivative Products (up to Page 30).
2. RISK, Credit Derivatives Modelling (Pages 31-52).

Topics
Correlation modelling to price index products, Relationship between equity, bond and credit derivative markets, Implied correlation and liquidity effects

Week 10
Case: Structured Credit Index Products
Default Correlation II continued

23 April

Preparation

Topics
Institutional framework for credit derivatives

Week 11
Final Exam (in-class)

30 April
Information and liquidity issues

Preparation
All material covered in the course
**Topics**

All topics covered in the course

**Preparation**


**Topics**

Lessons from the sub-prime crisis
List of Materials Included in Binder.

1. Course Outline
2. Acharya, Viral, “Illustrations on the use of Bloomberg for applications to Options and Futures, Fixed Income and Credit Risk electives”
3. “Bloomberg tutorial for Credit Derivatives -- Credit Default Swap”.
5. The Lehman Brothers Guide to Exotic Credit Derivatives, Lehman Brothers and Risk Waters Group, 2003. [RISK]
6. Chacko, Sjoman, Motohashi and Dessain (2006), Credit Derivatives – A Primer on Credit Risk, Modelling, and Instruments (Chapter 2).
23. Peter Madigan and Nick Sawyer, “All Fall Down”, Credit, October 2008 Supplement.