Why the CAPM persists…

- The CAPM, notwithstanding its many critics and limitations, has survived as the default model for risk in equity valuation and corporate finance. The alternative models that have been presented as better models (APM, Multifactor model..) have made inroads in performance evaluation but not in prospective analysis because:
  - The alternative models (which are richer) do a much better job than the CAPM in explaining past return, but their effectiveness drops off when it comes to estimating expected future returns (because the models tend to shift and change).
  - The alternative models are more complicated and require more information than the CAPM.
  - For most companies, the expected returns you get with the the alternative models is not different enough to be worth the extra trouble of estimating four additional betas.

Application Test: Who is the marginal investor in your firm?

- You can get information on insider and institutional holdings in your firm from:
  - http://finance.yahoo.com/
  - Enter your company's symbol and choose profile.
- Looking at the breakdown of stockholders in your firm, consider whether the marginal investor is
  - An institutional investor
  - An individual investor
  - An insider

FROM RISK & RETURN MODELS TO HURDLE RATES: ESTIMATION CHALLENGES

"The price of purity is purists…"

Anonymous

Inputs required to use the CAPM -

- The capital asset pricing model yields the following expected return:
  - Expected Return = Riskfree Rate+ Beta * (Expected Return on the Market Portfolio - Riskfree Rate)
- To use the model we need three inputs:
  a. The current risk-free rate
  b. The expected market risk premium, the premium expected for investing in risky assets, i.e. the market portfolio, over the riskless asset.
  c. The beta of the asset being analyzed.

The Riskfree Rate and Time Horizon

- On a riskfree asset, the actual return is equal to the expected return. Therefore, there is no variance around the expected return.
- For an investment to be riskfree, i.e., to have an actual return be equal to the expected return, two conditions have to be met –
  - There has to be no default risk, which generally implies that the security has to be issued by the government. Note, however, that not all governments can be viewed as default free.
  - There can be no uncertainty about reinvestment rates, which implies that it is a zero coupon security with the same maturity as the cash flow being analyzed.

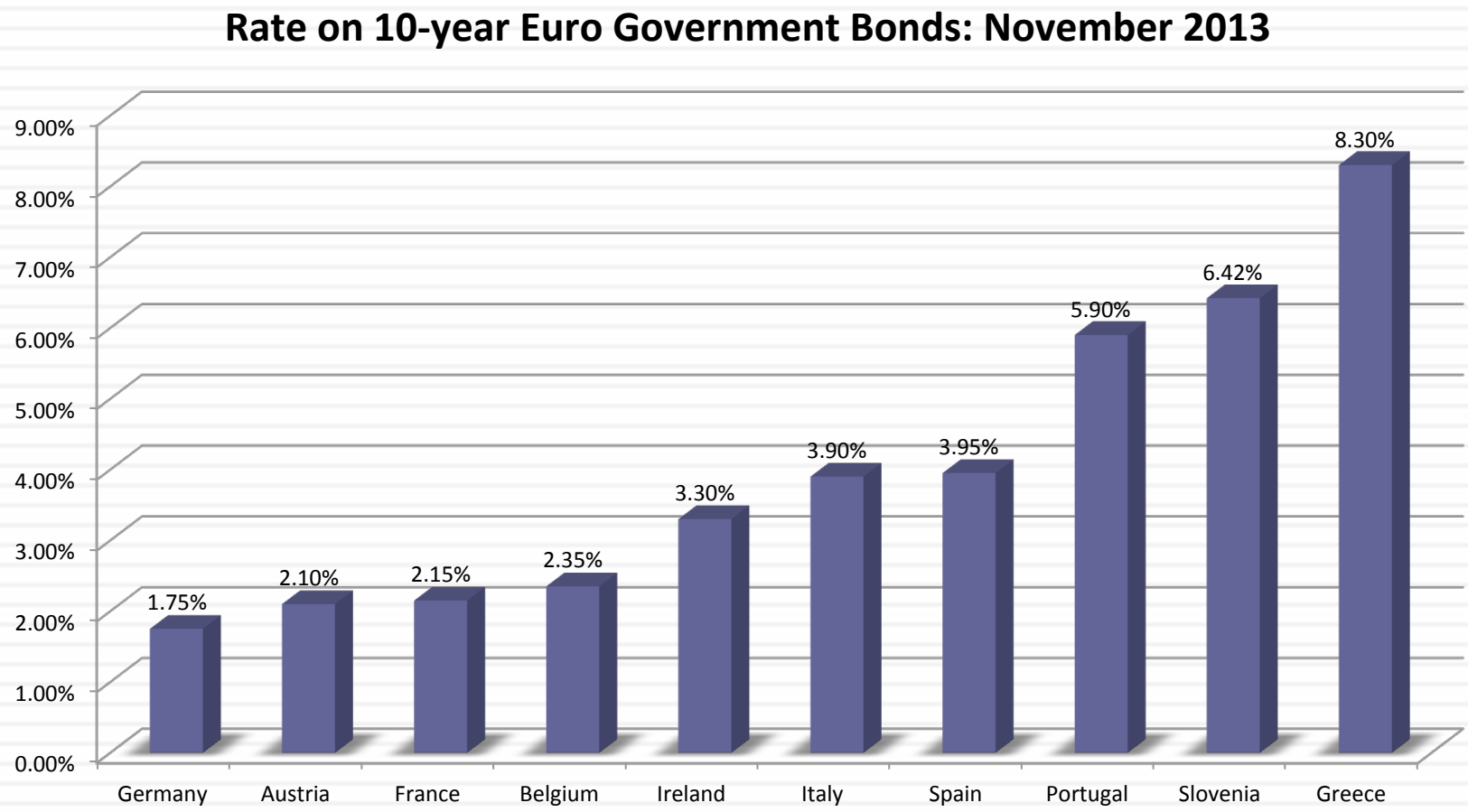
Riskfree Rate in Practice

- The riskfree rate is the rate on a zero coupon default-free bond matching the time horizon of the cash flow being analyzed.
- Theoretically, this translates into using different riskfree rates for each cash flow - the 1 year zero coupon rate for the cash flow in year 1, the 2-year zero coupon rate for the cash flow in year 2 ...
- Practically speaking, if there is substantial uncertainty about expected cash flows, the present value effect of using time varying riskfree rates is small enough that it may not be worth it.

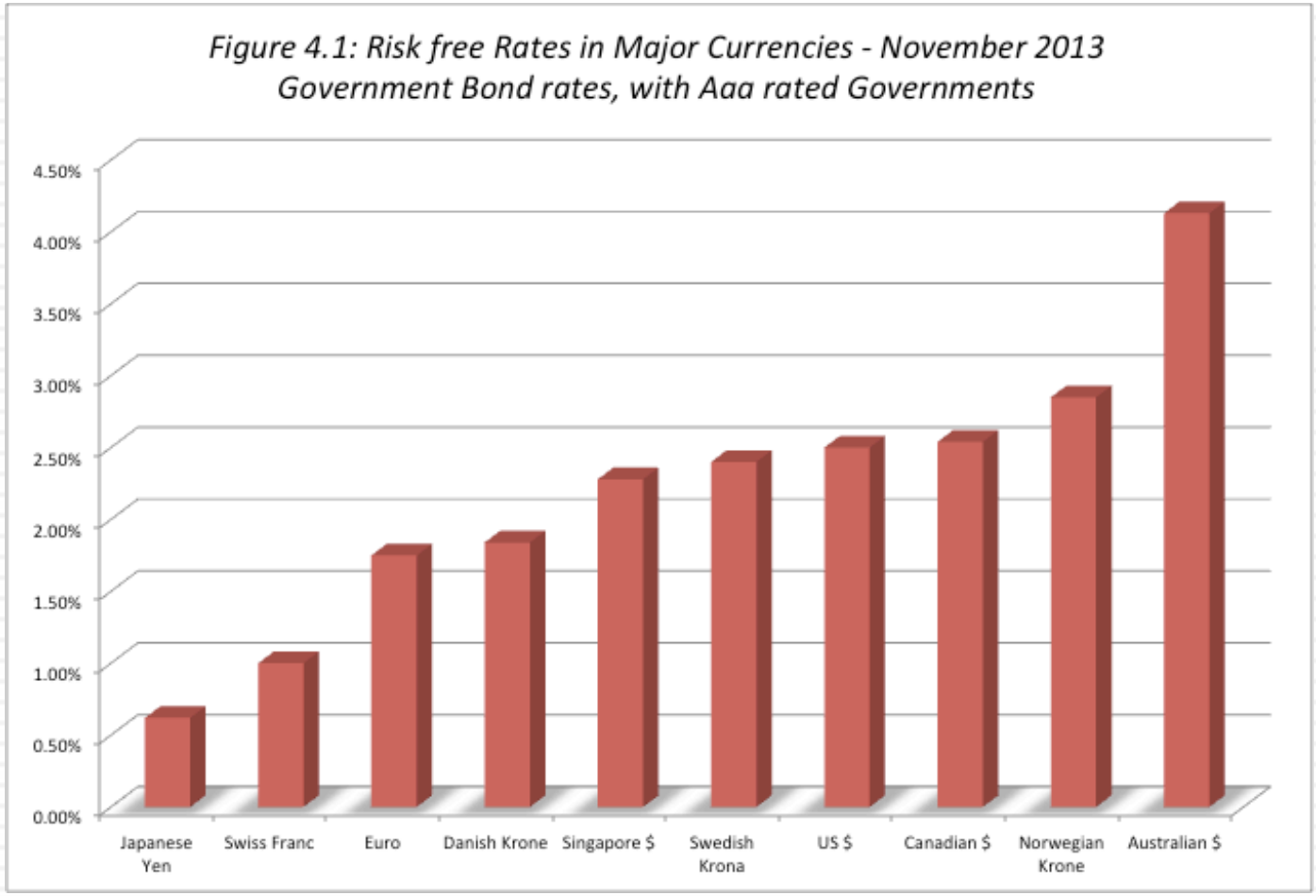
The Bottom Line on Riskfree Rates

- If the government is default-free, using a long term government rate (even on a coupon bond) as the risk free rate on all of the cash flows in a long term analysis will yield a close approximation of the true value. For short term analysis, it is entirely appropriate to use a short term government security rate as the riskfree rate.
- The riskfree rate that you use in an analysis should be in the same currency that your cashflows are estimated in.
  - In other words, if your cashflows are in U.S. dollars, your riskfree rate has to be in U.S. dollars as well.
  - If your cash flows are in Euros, your riskfree rate should be a Euro riskfree rate.
- The conventional practice of estimating riskfree rates is to use the government bond rate, with the government being the one that is in control of issuing that currency. **In November 2013**, for instance, the rate on a ten-year US treasury bond (2.75%) is used as the risk free rate in US dollars.

What is the Euro riskfree rate? An exercise in November 2013



When the government is default free: Risk free rates – in November 2013



What if there is no default-free entity? Risk free rates in November 2013

- Adjust the local currency government borrowing rate for default risk to get a riskless local currency rate.
  - In November 2013, the Indian government rupee bond rate was 8.82%. the local currency rating from Moody's was Baa3 and the default spread for a Baa3 rated country bond was 2.25%.

  Riskfree rate in Rupees = 8.82% - 2.25% = 6.57%
  - In November 2013, the Chinese Renmimbi government bond rate was 4.30% and the local currency rating was Aa3, with a default spread of 0.8%.

  Riskfree rate in Chinese Renmimbi = 4.30% - 0.8% = 3.5%
- Do the analysis in an alternate currency, where getting the riskfree rate is easier. With Vale in 2013, we could chose to do the analysis in US dollars (rather than estimate a riskfree rate in R$). The riskfree rate is then the US treasury bond rate.
- Do your analysis in real terms, in which case the riskfree rate has to be a real riskfree rate. The inflation-indexed treasury rate is a measure of a real riskfree rate.

Three paths to estimating sovereign default spreads

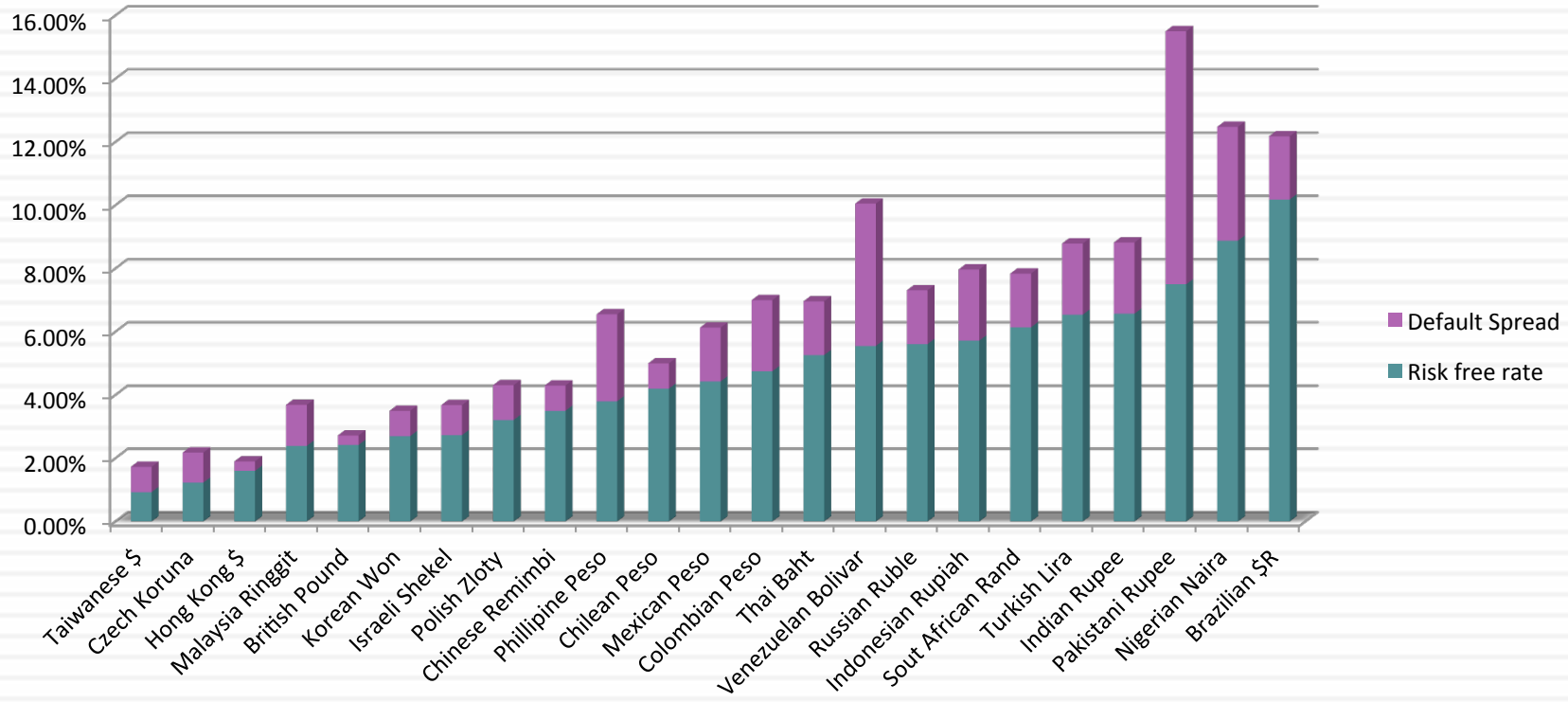
- Sovereign dollar or euro denominated bonds: The difference between the interest rate on a sovereign US $ bond, issued by the country, and the US treasury bond rate can be used as the default spread. For example, in November 2013, the 10-year Brazil US $ bond, denominated in US dollars had a yield of 4.25% and the US 10-year T.Bond rate traded at 2.75%.

  Default spread = 4.25% - 2.75% = 1.50%

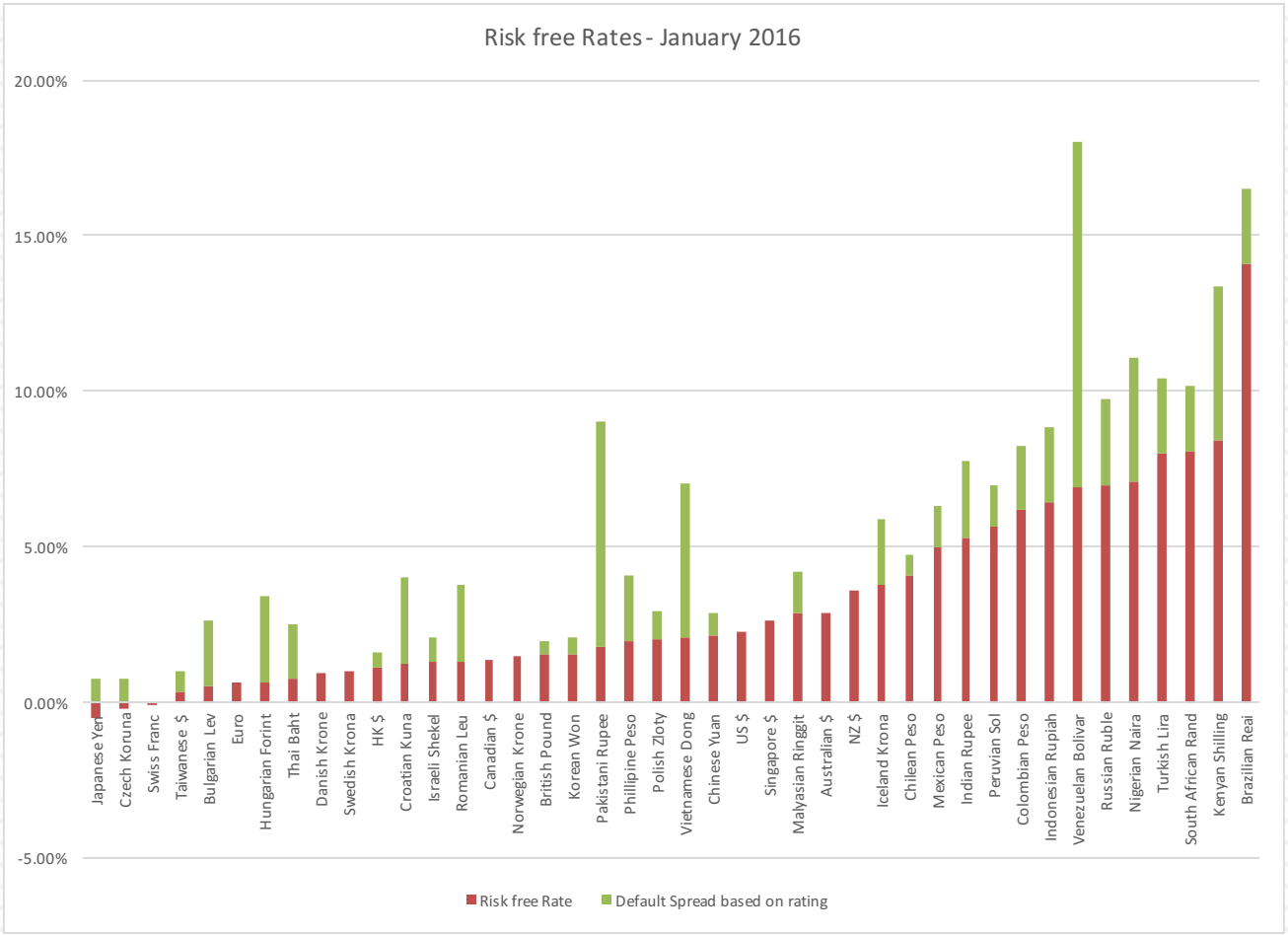
- CDS spreads: Obtain the default spreads for sovereigns in the CDS market. The CDS spread for Brazil in November 2013 was 2.50%.
- Average spread: If you know the sovereign rating for a country, you can estimate the default spread based on the rating. In November 2013, Brazil's rating was Baa2, yielding a default spread of 2%.

Risk free rates in currencies: Sovereigns with default risk in November 2013

Figure 4.2: Risk free rates in Currencies where Governments not Aaa rated



Risk free Rates in January 2016



Aswath Damodaran

Measurement of the risk premium

- The risk premium is the premium that investors demand for investing in an average risk investment, relative to the riskfree rate.
- As a general proposition, this premium should be
  - greater than zero
  - increase with the risk aversion of the investors in that market
  - increase with the riskiness of the "average" risk investment

What is your risk premium?

- Assume that stocks are the only risky assets and that you are offered two investment options:
  - a riskless investment (say a Government Security), on which you can make 3%
  - a mutual fund of all stocks, on which the returns are uncertain
- How much of an expected return would you demand to shift your money from the riskless asset to the mutual fund?
  a. Less than 3%
  b. Between 3% - 5%
  c. Between 5% - 7%
  d. Between 7% -9%
  e. Between 9%- 11%
  f. More than 11%

Risk Aversion and Risk Premiums

- If this were the entire market, the risk premium would be a weighted average of the risk premiums demanded by each and every investor.
- The weights will be determined by the wealth that each investor brings to the market. Thus, Warren Buffett's risk aversion counts more towards determining the "equilibrium" premium than yours' and mine.
- As investors become more risk averse, you would expect the "equilibrium" premium to increase.

Risk Premiums do change..

- Go back to the previous example. Assume now that you are making the same choice but that you are making it in the aftermath of a stock market crash (it has dropped 25% in the last month). Would you change your answer?
  a. I would demand a larger premium
  b. I would demand a smaller premium
  c. I would demand the same premium

Estimating Risk Premiums in Practice

- Survey investors on their desired risk premiums and use the average premium from these surveys.
- Assume that the actual premium delivered over long time periods is equal to the expected premium - i.e., use historical data
- Estimate the implied premium in today's asset prices.

The Survey Approach

- Surveying all investors in a market place is impractical.
- However, you can survey a few individuals and use these results. In practice, this translates into surveys of the following:

Group Surveyed	*Survey done by*	*Estimated ERP*	*Notes*
Individual Investors	Securities Industries Association	8.3% (2004)	One year premium
Institutional Investors	Merrill Lynch	4.8% (2013)	Monrthly updates
CFOs	Campbell Harvey & Graham	4.48% (2012)	5-8% response rate
Analysts	Pablo Fernandez	5.0% (2011)	Lowest standard deviation
Academics	Pablo Fernandez	5.7% (2011)	Higher for emerging markets

- The limitations of this approach are:
  - There are no constraints on reasonability (the survey could produce negative risk premiums or risk premiums of 50%)
  - The survey results are more reflective of the past than the future.
  - They tend to be short term; even the longest surveys do not go beyond one year.

The Historical Premium Approach

- This is the default approach used by most to arrive at the premium to use in the model
- In most cases, this approach does the following
  - Defines a time period for the estimation (1928-Present, last 50 years...)
  - Calculates average returns on a stock index during the period
  - Calculates average returns on a riskless security over the period
  - Calculates the difference between the two averages and uses it as a premium looking forward.
- The limitations of this approach are:
  - it assumes that the risk aversion of investors has not changed in a systematic way across time. (The risk aversion may change from year to year, but it reverts back to historical averages)
  - it assumes that the riskiness of the "risky" portfolio (stock index) has not changed in a systematic way across time.

ERP: A Historical Snapshot

	Arithmetic Average		*Geometric Average*	
	Stocks - T. Bills	Stocks - T. Bonds	Stocks - T. Bills	Stocks - T. Bonds
1928-2015	7.92%	6.18%	6.05%	4.54%
Std Error	*2.15%*	*2.29%*		
1966-2015	6.05%	3.89%	4.69%	2.90%
Std Error	*2.42%*	*2.74%*		
2006-2015	7.87%	3.88%	6.11%	2.53%
Std Error	*6.06%*	*8.66%*		

Historical premium for the US

- If you are going to use a historical risk premium, make it
  - Long term (because of the standard error)
  - Consistent with your risk free rate
  - A "compounded" average
- No matter which estimate you use, recognize that it is backward looking, is noisy and may reflect selection bias.