

Disasters Implied by Equity Index Options

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University of Glasgow | March 4, 2010



The idea

- Disasters are infrequent \Rightarrow hard to estimate their distribution
- Idea: infer from option prices (market prices of bets on disasters)
- We find:
 - disasters apparent in options data
 - the mechanism generating disasters is more modest than what is assumed based on macro data



Entropy



Entropy

- Hans-Otto Georgii (quoted by Hansen and Sargent):

When Shannon had invented his quantity and consulted von Neumann on what to call it, von Neumann replied: "Call it entropy. It is already in use under that name and, besides, it will give you a great edge in debates because nobody knows what entropy is anyway."



Outline

- Preliminaries: entropy, Alvarez-Jermann bound, cumulants
- **Disasters in macroeconomic data**
- Risk-neutral probabilities
- **Disasters in options data**
- **Compare the implications of the two approaches**
- Extensions and related work



Alvarez-Jermann bound

- Pricing relation

$$E_t \left(m_{t+1} r_{t+1}^j \right) = 1$$

- Entropy: for any $x > 0$

$$L(x) \equiv \log E x - E \log x \geq 0$$

- AJ bound (i.i.d. case)

$$L(m) \geq E (\log r^j - \log r^1)$$



Cumulants

- Cumulant generating function

$$k(s; x) = \log Ee^{sx} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \kappa_j(x) s^j / j!$$

- Cumulants are almost moments

$$\text{mean} = \kappa_1(x)$$

$$\text{variance} = \kappa_2(x)$$

$$\text{skewness} = \kappa_3(x) / \kappa_2^{3/2}(x)$$

$$\text{(excess) kurtosis} = \kappa_4(x) / \kappa_2^2(x)$$

- If x is normal, $\kappa_j(x) = 0$ for $j > 2$



Entropy and cumulants



Entropy and cumulants

- Entropy of pricing kernel

$$L(m) = \log Ee^{\log m} - E\log m = k(1, \log m) - \kappa_1(\log m)$$



Entropy and cumulants

- Entropy of pricing kernel

$$L(m) = \log Ee^{\log m} - E \log m = k(1, \log m) - \kappa_1(\log m)$$

- Zin's "never a dull moment" conjecture

$$L(m) = \underbrace{\kappa_2(\log m)/2!}_{(\log)\text{normal term}} + \underbrace{\kappa_3(\log m)/3! + \kappa_4(\log m)/4! + \dots}_{\text{high-order cumulants (incl disasters)}}$$



Alvarez-Jerman bound vs. Hansen-Jagannathan bound

- Entropy: for $x > 0$

$$L(x) \equiv \log Ex - E \log x \geq 0$$

- AJ bound

$$L(m) \geq E (\log r^j - \log r^1)$$

- HJ: for $x > 0$

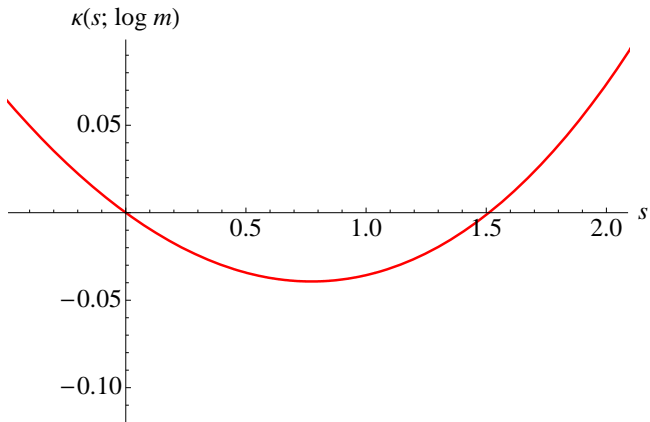
$$HJ(x) \equiv \frac{\sigma(x)}{Ex} \geq 0$$

- HJ bound

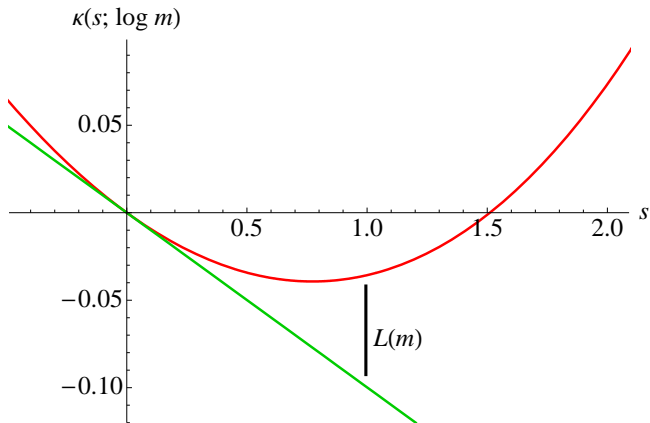
$$HJ(m) \geq \frac{Er^j - r^1}{\sigma(r^j - r^1)}$$



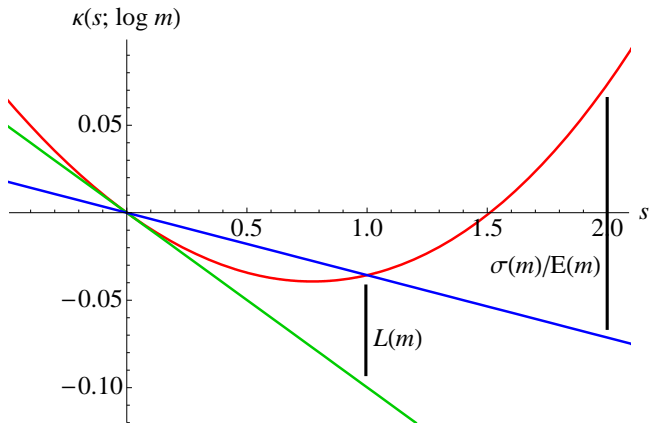
Alvarez-Jermann bound vs. Hansen-Jagannathan bound



Alvarez-Jermann bound vs. Hansen-Jagannathan bound



Alvarez-Jermann bound vs. Hansen-Jagannathan bound



Disasters based on macro fundamentals



Macro disasters: Model

- Consumption growth iid

$$\log g_{t+1} = w_{t+1} + z_{t+1}$$

$$w_{t+1} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

$$z_{t+1}|j \sim \mathcal{N}(j\theta, j\delta^2)$$

$$j \geq 0 \text{ has probability } e^{-\omega} \omega^j / j!$$

- Parameter values
 - Match mean and variance of log consumption growth
 - Average number of disasters ($\omega = 0.01$), mean ($\theta = -0.3$) and variance ($\delta^2 = 0.15^2$)
 - Similar to Barro, Nakamura, Steinsson, and Ursua (2009)



Macro disasters: Deviations from normality

- Pricing kernel

$$\log m_{t+1} = \log \beta - \alpha \log g_{t+1}$$

$$L(m) = \log E e^{\log m} - E \log m = k(-\alpha; \log g) + \alpha \kappa_1(\log g)$$



Macro disasters: Deviations from normality

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- Yaron's "bazooka"

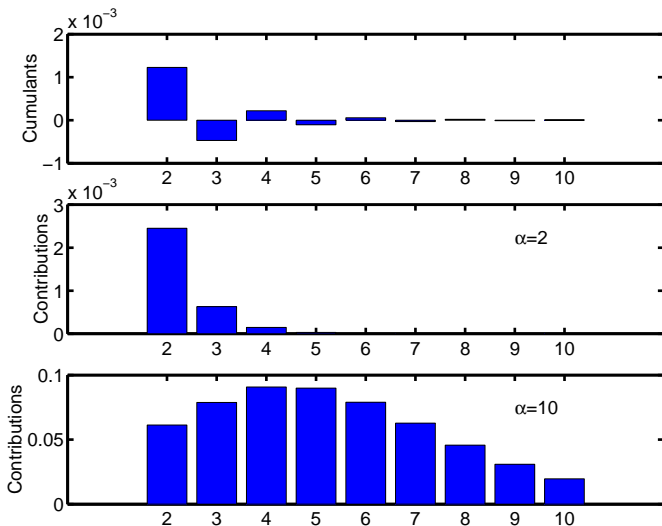
$$\kappa_j(\log m)/j! = \kappa_j(\log g)(-\alpha)^j/j!$$

- The contribution of higher-order cumulants peaks at $j = \alpha$

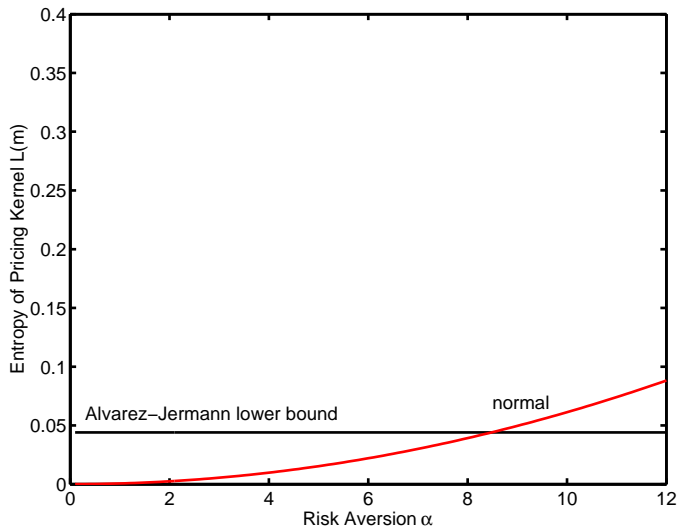
$$\frac{\alpha^j}{j!} = \frac{\alpha}{1} \cdot \frac{\alpha}{2} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{\alpha}{j-1} \cdot \frac{\alpha}{j}$$



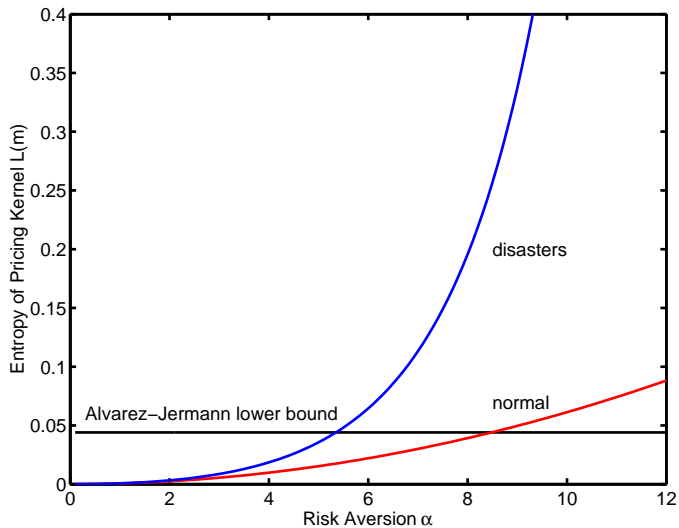
Macro disasters: Cumulants



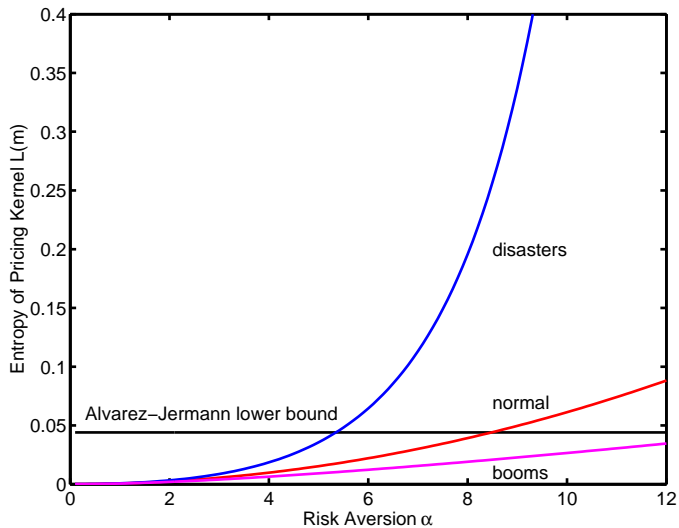
Macro disasters: Entropy



Macro disasters: Entropy



Macro disasters: Entropy



Macro-finance and risk-neutral pricing



Macro-finance and risk-neutral pricing

- Pricing relation

$$q^1 E_t^* \left(r_{t+1}^j \right) = 1,$$

- where q^1 is a price of a one-period riskless bond
- Translating between preferences and risk-neutral probabilities

$$\begin{aligned} p(x)m(x) &= q^1 p^*(x) \\ p^*(x) &= p(x)m(x)/q^1 \end{aligned}$$



Macro-finance and risk-neutral pricing: Examples

- Normal log consumption growth
 - If $\log g \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ (true distribution)
 - Then risk-neutral distribution also lognormal with
 $\mu^* = \mu - \alpha\sigma^2, \sigma^* = \sigma$
- Poisson log consumption growth
 - If disasters have probability ω and distribution $\mathcal{N}(\theta, \delta^2)$
 - Then risk-neutral distribution has same form with
 $\omega^* = \omega \exp(-\alpha\theta + (\alpha\delta)^2/2), \theta^* = \theta - \alpha\delta^2, \delta^* = \delta$



Macro-finance and risk-neutral pricing

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- Entropy

$$L(m) = L(p^*/p) = -E \log(p^*/p)$$



Disasters in options



Disasters in options

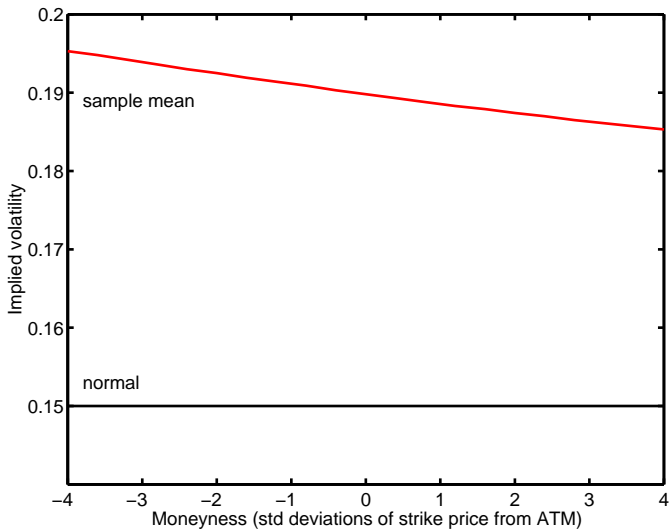
- Put option (bet on low returns)

$$q_t^p = q^1 E_t^*(b - r_{t+1}^e)^+$$

- Estimate p^* by varying strike price b (cross section) (Breedon and Litzenberger, 1978)
- Black-Scholes-Merton benchmark
 - Quote prices as implied volatilities [high price \Leftrightarrow high vol]
 - Horizontal line if (log)normal
 - “Skew” suggests disasters



Disasters in options: Data vs normal benchmark



Disasters in options: Merton model

- Equity returns iid

$$\log r_{t+1}^e - \log r^1 = w_{t+1} + z_{t+1}$$

$$w_{t+1} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$$

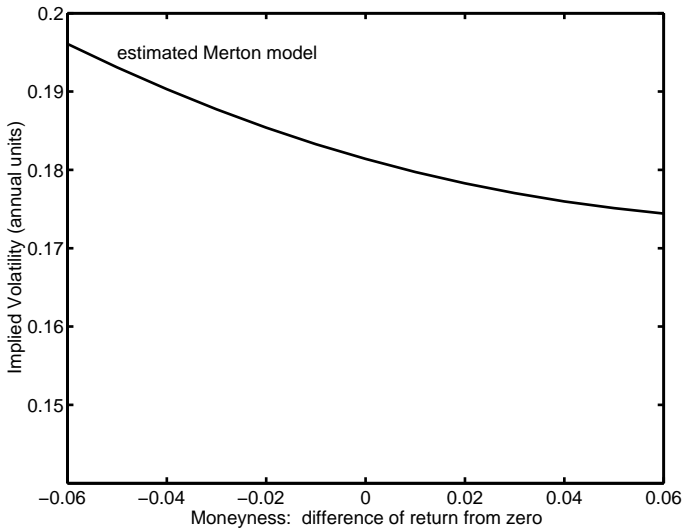
$$z_{t+1}|j \sim \mathcal{N}(j\theta, j\delta^2)$$

$$j \geq 0 \text{ has probability } e^{-\omega} \omega^j / j!$$

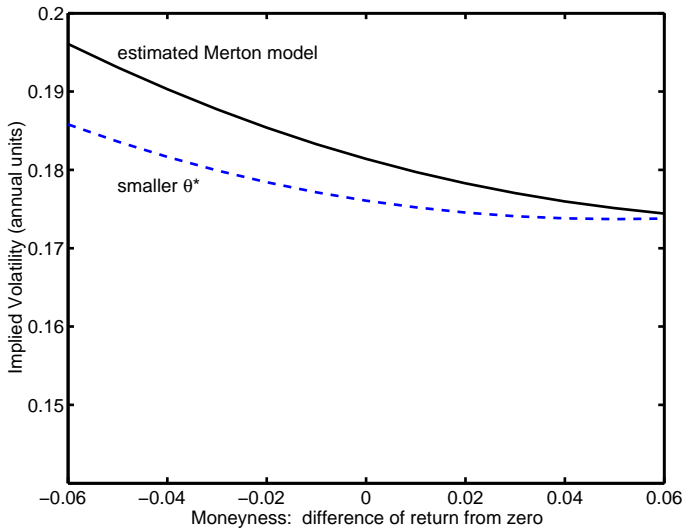
- Risk-neutral distribution: the same with *s
- Parameter values
 - Choose risk-neutral parameters to match option prices
 - Average number of disasters: $\omega = \omega^* = 1.5$,
mean: $\theta = -0.03$, $\theta^* = -0.05$,
variance: $\delta^2 = 0.04^2$, $\delta^{*2} = 0.10^2$
 - Calibration is based on Broadie, Chernov, and Johannes (2007)



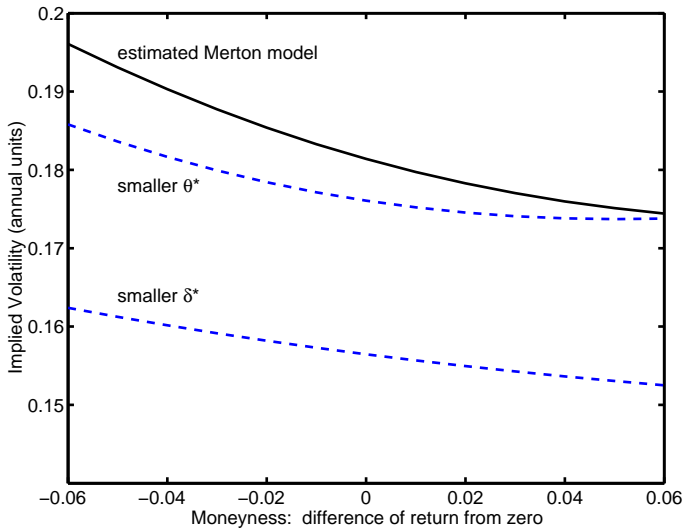
Calibrating option parameters



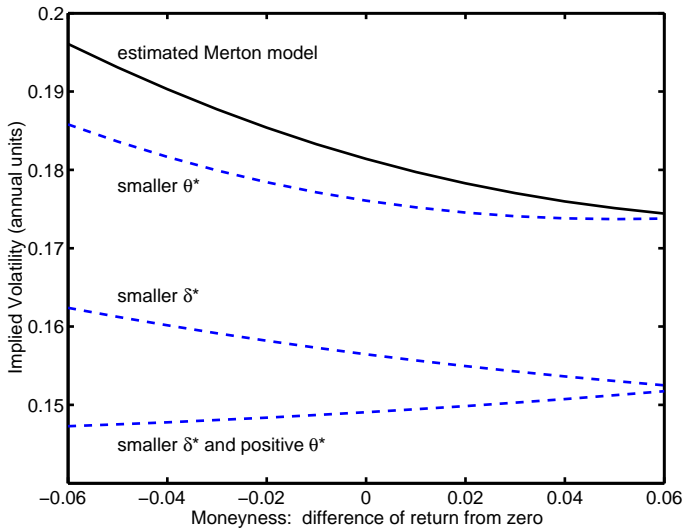
Calibrating option parameters



Calibrating option parameters



Calibrating option parameters



Comparing macro- and option-based models

- Entropy and cumulants of pricing kernel
 - Result: option-based entropy is large
- Consumption growth implied by option prices
 - Option-based p^* + power utility $\Rightarrow p$
 - Result: more modest skewness and kurtosis, tail probabilities
- Option prices implied by consumption growth
 - Macro-based p + power utility $\Rightarrow p^*$
 - Compute option prices
 - Result: steeper volatility smile
- Risk aversion implied by options
 - Result: Risk aversion declines with increase in returns



Comparing models: components of entropy

Model	Entropy	Variance/2	High-Order Cumulants	
			Odd	Even
Macro ($\alpha = 5.38$)	0.0449	0.0177 39%	0.0173 39%	0.0099 22%
Options	0.7647	0.4699 61%	0.1130 15%	0.1819 24%



Comparing models: components of entropy

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Macro ($\alpha = 5.38$)	0.0449	0.0177	0.0173	0.0099
		39%	39%	22%
Options	0.7647	0.4699	0.1130	0.1819
		61%	15%	24%



Comparing models: one more step

- “Levered equity”
 - Claim to c^λ
 - Log return $\log r^e = \lambda \log g + \text{constant}$
- Calibrate λ to match volatility of returns

$$\lambda = \frac{0.15}{\text{vol}(\log r^e)} / \frac{0.035}{\text{vol}(\log g)} = 4.3$$



Comparing models: consumption implied by options



Comparing models: consumption implied by options

	Calibration	Implied
α	5.38	10.07
ω	0.0100	1.3864
θ	-0.3000	-0.0060
δ	0.1500	0.0229



Comparing models: consumption implied by options

	Calibration	Implied	
α	5.38	10.07	
ω	0.0100	1.3864	
θ	-0.3000	-0.0060	
δ	0.1500	0.0229	
Skew	-11.02	-0.31	- 0.35
Excess Kurt	145.06	0.87	1.10



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Excess Kurt	145.06	0.87	1.10
Tail prob (≤ -3 st dev)	0.0090	0.0086	Great Depression

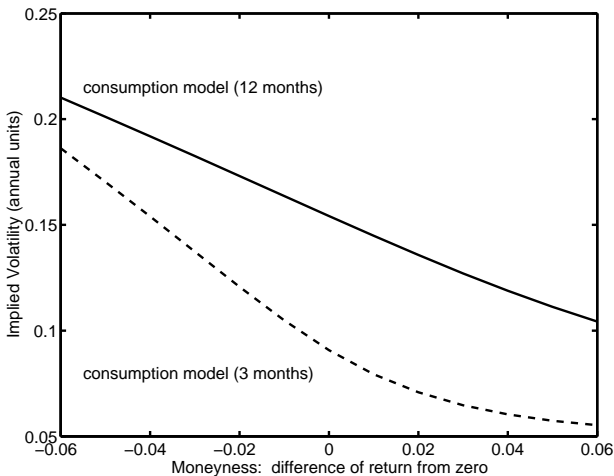


Comparing models: consumption implied by options

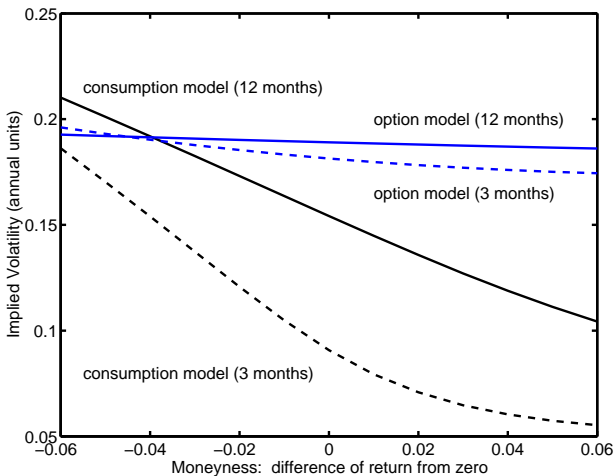
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Excess Kurt	145.06	0.87	1.10
Tail prob (≤ -3 st dev)	0.0090	0.0086	Great Depression
Tail prob (≤ -5 st dev)	0.0079	0.0002	



Comparing models: options implied by macro model



Comparing models: options implied by macro model



Comparing models: risk aversion

- In option model, implicit risk aversion accounts for
 - Equity premium
 - Prices of options (high entropy)
- Form differs from power utility
 - Not constant
 - Parameters imply greater aversion to adverse risks



Comparing models: risk aversion computation

- Math

$$\text{RA} = -\frac{\partial \log m}{\partial \log g} = -\frac{\partial \log(p^*/p)}{\partial \log r^e} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial \log r^e}{\partial \log g}}_{\lambda}$$



Comparing models: risk aversion computation

- Math

$$\text{RA} = -\frac{\partial \log m}{\partial \log g} = -\frac{\partial \log(p^*/p)}{\partial \log r^e} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial \log r^e}{\partial \log g}}_{\lambda}$$

- Example: $\log r^e \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ and $\mathcal{N}(\mu^*, \sigma^{*2})$

$$\text{RA} = [(\sigma^2/\sigma^{*2} - 1) \log r^e + \mu - (\sigma^2/\sigma^{*2})\mu^*] / \sigma^2 \cdot \lambda$$



Comparing models: risk aversion computation

- Math

$$\text{RA} = -\frac{\partial \log m}{\partial \log g} = -\frac{\partial \log(p^*/p)}{\partial \log r^e} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\partial \log r^e}{\partial \log g}}_{\lambda}$$

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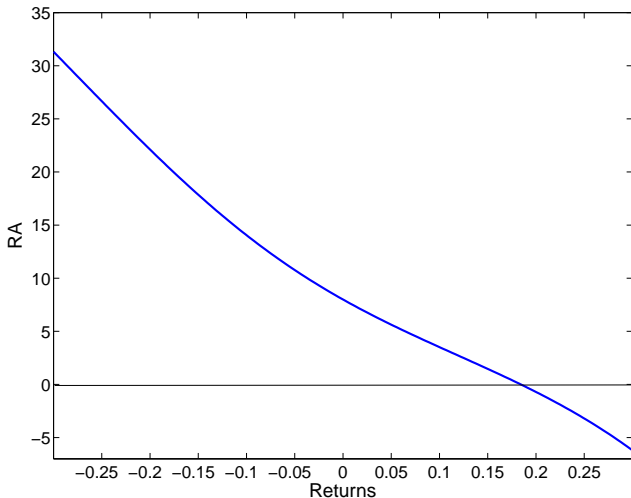
$$\text{RA} = [(\sigma^2/\sigma^{*2} - 1) \log r^e + \mu - (\sigma^2/\sigma^{*2})\mu^*] / \sigma^2 \cdot \lambda$$

- Interpretation

- If $\sigma = \sigma^*$, RA is constant
- If $\sigma < \sigma^*$, RA decreases with $\log r^e$



Comparing models: risk aversion variation



Bottom line

- Barro (2006), Longstaff and Piazzesi (2004), and Rietz (1988)
 - Disasters account for equity premium
 - Evident in macro data
- We look at options
 - Disasters evident in option prices
 - More modest than in macro data
 - Suggest high average risk aversion, greater aversion to bad outcomes
 - Imply higher entropy than equity premium



Open questions

- Consumption and dividends
 - Examples: Bansal and Yaron (2004), Gabaix (2009) , Longstaff and Piazzesi (2004)
- Source of apparent risk aversion
 - Exotic preferences
 - Heterogeneous agents
 - Examples: Alvarez, Atkeson, and Kehoe (2009); Bates (2008); Chan and Kogan (2002); Lustig and Van Nieuwerburgh (2005)
- Time dependence
 - Short rate, predictable returns, stochastic volatility
 - Examples: Drechsler and Yaron (2008), Wachter (2008)



Consumption and Dividends

- So, far they were perfectly correlated:

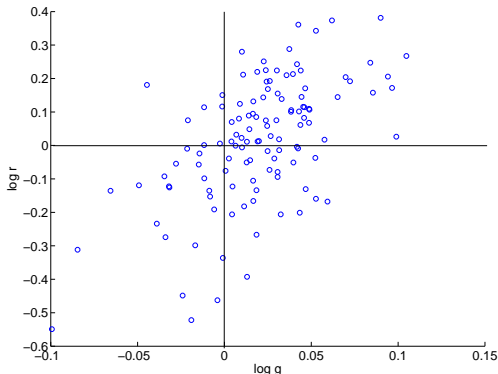
$$\log g^d = \lambda \log g \Rightarrow \log r^e = \lambda \log g + \text{constant}$$

- Can we relax this and is it important?

$$\log r^e = \lambda \log g + \text{constant} + \text{noise}$$



Returns and consumption growth



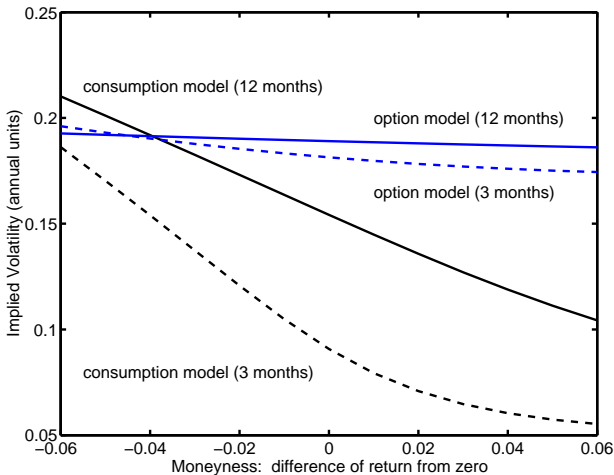
- OLS (using Shiller's data)

$$\log r^e = 3 \cdot \log g + \text{constant} + \text{noise}$$

- What is the nature of the noise term?



Using information in options to model noise



Consumption and Dividends

- Add noise:

$$\begin{aligned}\log g^d &= \lambda \log g + w_t^d \Rightarrow \log r^e = \lambda \log g + \text{constant} + w_t^d \\ w_t^d &\sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^{d2})\end{aligned}$$

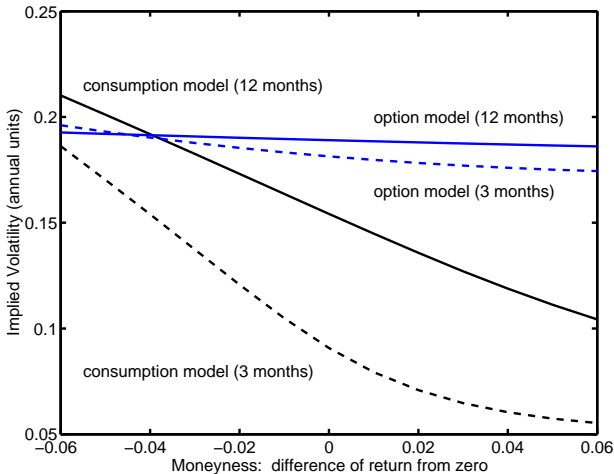
- Calibration

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= 3 \\ \sigma^d &= \sqrt{0.15^2 - (3 \cdot 0.035)^2} = 0.1071\end{aligned}$$

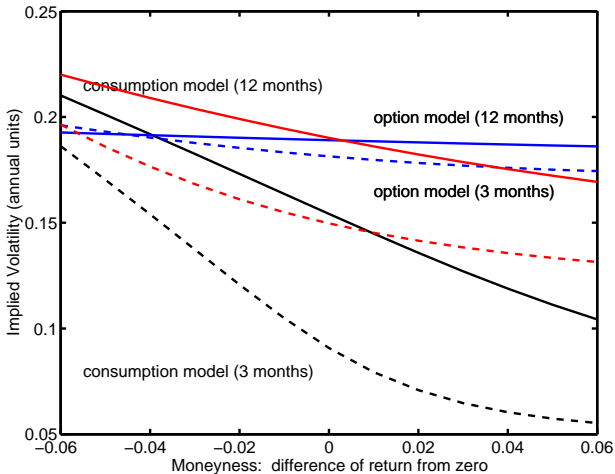
- As a result, $\alpha = 5.79$ (instead of 5.38)



Implied volatilities revisited



Implied volatilities revisited



Comparing models: consumption implied by options

	Calibration	Implied	Implied (w. noise)
α	5.38	10.07	11.92
ω	0.0100	1.3864	1.3481
θ	-0.3000	-0.0060	-0.0035
δ	0.1500	0.0229	0.0320



Comparing models: consumption implied by options

	Calibration	Implied	Implied (w. noise)
α	5.38	10.07	11.92
ω	0.0100	1.3864	1.3481
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- Initial conclusions are robust to imperfect correlation between consumption and dividends
- Returns and consumption seem to share a common jump component



Open questions

- Consumption and dividends
 - Examples: Bansal and Yaron (2004), Gabaix (2009) , Longstaff and Piazzesi (2004)



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Sources of Entropy in Dynamic Representative Agent Models

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Understanding dynamic models

- Are dynamic features important for the disaster story?
- More generally, how does one discern critical features of modern dynamic models?
 - The size of equity premium is no longer an overidentifying restriction



Market-adjusted excess returns

Asset Class	Value	Momentum
US stocks	4.3%	6.1%
UK stocks	2.7%	10.8%
Euro stocks	4.2%	10.9%
Jpn stocks	11.3%	4.2%
FX	4.9%	2.7%
Bonds	0.3%	0.3%
Commodities	6.4%	8.8%

- Annualized alphas relative to the MSCI world equity index in excess of the US Treasury Bill rate
- Source: Asness, Moskowitz, and Pedersen (2009)



Understanding dynamic models

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Understanding dynamic models

- Are dynamic features important for the disaster story?
- More generally, how does one discern critical features of modern dynamic models?
 - The size of equity premium is no longer an overidentifying restriction
 - The models are built up from different state variables
 - Which pieces are most important quantitatively?
- We start by thinking about how risk is priced in these models
 - What is the source of the evident high entropy in the data?
 - We use ACE to characterize this



AJ bound, non-i.i.d. case

- AJ bound

$$L(m) \geq E(\log r^j - \log r^1) + \underbrace{L(q^1)}_{\text{non-i.i.d. piece}}$$



AJ bound, non-i.i.d. case

- AJ bound

$$L(m) \geq E(\log r^j - \log r^1) + \underbrace{L(q^1)}_{\text{non-i.i.d. piece}}$$

- Conditional entropy:

$$L_t(m_{t+1}) = \log E_t m_{t+1} - E_t \log m_{t+1}$$

- Average conditional entropy (ACE)

$$\begin{aligned} L(m) &= EL_t(m_{t+1}) + L(E_t(m_{t+1})) = EL_t(m_{t+1}) + L(q^1) \\ EL_t(m_{t+1}) &\geq E(\log r^j - \log r^1) \end{aligned}$$



Advantages of average conditional entropy (ACE)

- Transparent lower bound: expected excess return (in logs)
- Alternatively, ACE measures the highest risk premium in the economy
- Conditional entropy is easy to compute; to compute ACE evaluate conditional entropy at steady-state values
- ACE is comparable across different models with different state variables, preferences, etc.



Key models

- **External habit**
- **Recursive preferences**
- Heterogeneous preferences
-



A change in notation

- α is replaced by $1 - \alpha$
- Example: CRRA preferences; $RA = 5$
- Old $\alpha = 5$
- New $\alpha = -4$



External habit

- Equations (Abel/Campbell-Cochrane/Chan-Kogan/Heaton)

$$U_t = \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} \beta^j u(c_{t+j}, x_{t+j}),$$
$$u(c_t, x_t) = (f(c_t, x_t)^\alpha - 1) / \alpha.$$

- Habit is a function of past consumption: $x_t = h(c^{t-1})$,
e.g., Abel: $x_t = c_{t-1}$.
- Dependence on habit
 - Abel: $f(c_t, x_t) = c_t / x_t$
 - Campbell-Cochrane: $f(c_t, x_t) = c_t - x_t$
- Pricing kernel:

$$m_{t+1} = \beta \frac{u_c(c_{t+1}, x_{t+1})}{u_c(c_t, x_t)} = \beta \left(\frac{f(c_{t+1}, x_{t+1})}{f(c_t, x_t)} \right)^{\alpha-1} \left(\frac{f_c(c_{t+1}, x_{t+1})}{f_c(c_t, x_t)} \right)$$



Example 1:

Abel (1990) + Chan and Kogan (2002)

- Preferences: $f(c_t, x_t) = c_t/x_t$
- Chan and Kogan have extended the habit formulation:

$$\log x_{t+1} = (1 - \phi) \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \phi^i \log c_{t-i} = \phi \log x_t + (1 - \phi) \log c_t$$

- Relative (log) consumption

$$\log s_t \equiv \log(c_t/x_t) = \phi \log s_{t-1} + \log g_t$$

- Pricing kernel:

$$\begin{aligned} \log m_{t+1} &= \log \beta + (\alpha - 1) \log g_{t+1} - \alpha \log(x_{t+1}/x_t) \\ &= \log \beta + (\alpha - 1) \log g_{t+1} - \alpha(1 - \phi) \log s_t \end{aligned}$$



ACE: Abel-Chan-Kogan

- Pricing kernel:

$$\log m_{t+1} = \log \beta + (\alpha - 1) \log g_{t+1} - \alpha(1 - \phi) \log s_t$$

- Conditional entropy: $L_t(m_{t+1}) = \log E_t e^{\log m_{t+1}} - E_t \log m_{t+1}$

$$\log E_t e^{\log m_{t+1}} = \log \beta + k(\alpha - 1; \log g) - \alpha(1 - \phi) \log s_t (= -\log r^1)$$

$$E_t \log m_{t+1} = \log \beta + (\alpha - 1) \kappa_1(\log g) - \alpha(1 - \phi) \log s_t$$

$$L_t(m_{t+1}) = k(\alpha - 1; \log g) - (\alpha - 1) \kappa_1(\log g)$$

- ACE: $EL_t(m_{t+1}) = k(\alpha - 1; \log g) - (\alpha - 1) \kappa_1(\log g)$



ACE: Abel-Chan-Kogan

- Pricing kernel:

$$\log m_{t+1} = \log \beta + (\alpha - 1) \log g_{t+1} - \alpha(1 - \phi) \log s_t$$

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- ACE: $EL_t(m_{t+1}) = k(\alpha - 1; \log g) - (\alpha - 1) \kappa_1(\log g)$
- It is exactly the same as in the CRRA case



Example 2: Campbell and Cochrane (1999)

- Preferences: $f(c_t, x_t) = c_t - x_t$
- Campbell and Cochrane specify (log) surplus consumption ratio directly:

$$\log s_t = \log[(c_t - x_t)/c_t]$$

$$\log s_t = \phi(\log s_{t-1} - \log \bar{s}) + \lambda(\log s_{t-1})(\log g_t - \kappa_1(\log g)).$$



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- Compare to relative (log) consumption in Chan and Kogan

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- Pricing kernel:

$$\begin{aligned}\log m_{t+1} &= \log \beta + (\alpha - 1) \log g_{t+1} + (\alpha - 1) \log(s_{t+1}/s_t) \\ &= \log \beta - (\alpha - 1) \lambda (\log s_t) \kappa_1(\log g) \\ &\quad + (\alpha - 1) (1 + \lambda (\log s_t)) \log g_{t+1} \\ &\quad + (\alpha - 1) (\phi - 1) (\log s_t - \log \bar{s})\end{aligned}$$



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- Conditional entropy:

$$\begin{aligned}L_t(m_{t+1}) &= k((\alpha - 1) (1 + \lambda (\log s_t))); \log g) \\ &\quad - (\alpha - 1) (1 + \lambda (\log s_t)) \kappa_1 (\log g)\end{aligned}$$



Additional assumptions

- To compute ACE, we have to specify λ and $\log g$
- Conditional volatility of the consumption surplus ratio

$$\lambda(\log s_t) = \frac{1}{\sigma} \sqrt{\frac{1 - \phi - b/(1 - \alpha)}{1 - \alpha}} \sqrt{1 - 2(\log s_t - \log \bar{s})} - 1$$

- In discrete time, there is an upper bound on $\log s_t$ to ensure positivity of λ
- In continuous time, this bound never binds so we will ignore it
- In Campbell and Cochrane, $b = 0$ to ensure a constant $\log r^1$
- Consumption growth is i.i.d.
 - Case 1. $\log g_{t+1} = w_{t+1}$, $w_{t+1} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$
 - Case 2. $\log g_{t+1} = w_{t+1} - z_{t+1}$, $z_{t+1}|j \sim \text{Gamma}(j, \theta^{-1})$, $\bar{j} = \omega$



ACE: Campbell and Cochrane, Case 1

- Conditional entropy:

$$L_t(m_{t+1}) = ((\alpha - 1)(\phi - 1) - b)/2 + b(\log s_t - \log \bar{s})$$

- ACE: $EL_t(m_{t+1}) = ((\alpha - 1)(\phi - 1) - b)/2$



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- All authors use $\alpha = -1$
- ACE for different calibrations (quarterly)



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 $EL_t(m_{t+1}) = 0.0300$ (0.120 annual)



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 $EL_t(m_{t+1}) = 0.0245$ (0.098 annual)
 - Verdelhan (2009): $\phi = 0.99$, $b = -0.011$;
 $EL_t(m_{t+1}) = 0.0155$ (0.062 annual)



ACE: Campbell and Cochrane, Case 2

- Conditional entropy:

$$\begin{aligned}L_t(m_{t+1}) &= (\alpha - 1)(1 + \lambda(\log s_t))\omega\theta \\ &+ ((1 + (\alpha - 1)(1 + \lambda(\log s_t))\theta)^{-1} - 1)\omega \\ &+ ((\alpha - 1)(\phi - 1) - b)/2 + b(\log s_t - \log \bar{s})\end{aligned}$$

- ACE: use log-linearization around $\log \bar{s}$

$$\begin{aligned}EL_t(m_{t+1}) &= \omega d^2 / (1 + d) + ((\alpha - 1)(\phi - 1) - b) / 2 \\ d &= \frac{\theta}{\sigma} \sqrt{(\alpha - 1)(\phi - 1) - b}\end{aligned}$$



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- Calibration as above + vol of $\log g$ + jump parameters:

- $\sigma^2 = (0.035)^2/4 - \omega\theta^2$
- BNSU: $\omega = 0.01/4$, $\theta = 0.15$
- BCM: $\omega = 1.3864/4$, $\theta = 0.0229$



ACE: Campbell and Cochrane, Case 2

Calibration	ACE	ACE (case 1)	ACE jumps
CC + BNSU	0.0341	0.0300	0.0041
W + BNSU	0.0281	0.0245	0.0036
V + BNSU	0.0181	0.0155	0.0026
CC + BCM	0.0883	0.0300	0.0583
W + BCM	0.0737	0.0245	0.0492
V + BCM	0.0487	0.0155	0.0332



Time dependence via external habit

- No time-dependence in consumption growth
- Nevertheless: habit with varying volatility may have a substantial impact on the entropy of the pricing kernel
- Could be relevant for option prices (Du, 2008)



Recursive preferences: traditional version

- Equations (Kreps-Porteus/Epstein-Zin/Weil)

$$U_t = [(1 - \beta)c_t^\rho + \beta\mu_t(U_{t+1})^\rho]^{1/\rho}$$

$$\mu_t(U_{t+1}) = (E_t U_{t+1}^\alpha)^{1/\alpha}$$

$$IES = 1/(1 - \rho)$$

$$CRRA = 1 - \alpha$$

$$\alpha = \rho \Rightarrow \text{additive preferences}$$



Recursive preferences: pricing kernel

- Scale problem by c_t ($u_t = U_t/c_t$, $g_{t+1} = c_{t+1}/c_t$)

$$u_t = [(1 - \beta) + \beta \mu_t (g_{t+1} u_{t+1})^\rho]^{1/\rho}$$

- Pricing kernel (mrs)

$$\begin{aligned} m_{t+1} &= \beta \left(\frac{c_{t+1}}{c_t} \right)^{\rho-1} \left(\frac{U_{t+1}}{\mu_t(U_{t+1})} \right)^{\alpha-\rho} \\ &= \beta g_{t+1}^{\rho-1} \left(\frac{g_{t+1} u_{t+1}}{\mu_t(g_{t+1} u_{t+1})} \right)^{\alpha-\rho} \end{aligned}$$



Loglinear approximation

- Loglinear approximation

$$\begin{aligned}\log u_t &= \rho^{-1} \log [(1 - \beta) + \beta \mu_t (g_{t+1} u_{t+1})^\rho] \\ &= \rho^{-1} \log \left[(1 - \beta) + \beta e^{\rho \log \mu_t (g_{t+1} u_{t+1})} \right] \\ &\approx b_0 + b_1 \log \mu_t (g_{t+1} u_{t+1}).\end{aligned}$$

- Exact if $\rho = 0$: $b_0 = 0$, $b_1 = \beta$
- Solve by guess and verify



Example 1: Bansal-Yaron

- Consumption growth

$$\begin{aligned}\log g_t &= g + \gamma(L)v_{t-1}^{1/2}w_{1t} \\ v_t &= v + v(L)w_{2t} \\ (w_{1t}, w_{2t}) &\sim \text{NID}(0, I)\end{aligned}$$

- Guess value function

$$\log u_t = u + \omega_g(L)v_{t-1}^{1/2}w_{1t} + \omega_v(L)w_{2t}$$

- Solution includes

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_{g0} + \gamma_0 &= \gamma(b_1) \equiv \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} b_1^i \gamma_i \\ \omega_{v0} &= b_1(\alpha/2)\gamma(b_1)^2 v(b_1)\end{aligned}$$



ACE: Bansal-Yaron

- Pricing kernel

$$\begin{aligned}\log m_{t+1} &= \log \beta + (\rho - 1)g - (\alpha - \rho)(\alpha/2)\omega_{v0}^2 \\ &\quad + (\rho - 1)[\gamma(L)/L] + v_{t-1}^{1/2} w_{1t} - (\alpha - \rho)(\alpha/2)\gamma(b_1)^2 v_t \\ &\quad + [(\rho - 1)\gamma_0 + (\alpha - \rho)\gamma(b_1)]v_t^{1/2} w_{1t+1} \\ &\quad + (\alpha - \rho)\omega_{v0}^2 w_{2t+1}\end{aligned}$$

- Conditional entropy

$$L_t(m_{t+1}) = [(\rho - 1)\gamma_0 + (\alpha - \rho)\gamma(b_1)]^2 v_t / 2 + (\alpha - \rho)^2 \omega_{v0}^2 / 2$$

- ACE (Bansal, Kiku, Yaron, 2007; monthly)

$$0.0218 = 0.0065 + 0.0153$$

$$0.0026 = 0.0026 + 0.0000 \text{ if } \rho = \alpha$$



Example 2: Wachter

- Consumption growth

$$\begin{aligned}\log g_t &= g + \sigma w_{1t} + z_t \\ \lambda_t &= (1 - \phi)\lambda + \phi\lambda_{t-1} + \sigma_\lambda w_{2t} \\ (w_{1t}, w_{2t}) &\sim \text{NID}(0, I) \\ z_t | j &\sim \mathcal{N}(j\theta, j\delta^2) \\ j &\geq 0 \text{ has jump intensity } \lambda_{t-1}\end{aligned}$$

- Guess value function

$$\log u_t = u + \omega_\lambda \lambda_t$$

- Solution includes

$$\omega_\lambda = (1 - b_1\phi)^{-1} b_1 \left[e^{\alpha\theta + (\alpha\delta)^2/2} - 1 \right] / \alpha$$



ACE: Wachter

- Pricing kernel

$$\begin{aligned}\log m_{t+1} &= \log \beta + (\rho - 1)x - (\alpha - \rho)(\alpha/2)[\sigma^2 + (\omega_\lambda \sigma_\lambda)^2] \\ &\quad - \lambda_t (e^{\alpha\theta + (\alpha\delta)^2/2} - 1)/\alpha \\ &\quad + (\alpha - 1)(\sigma w_{1t+1} + z_{t+1}) + (\alpha - \rho)(\omega_\lambda \sigma_\lambda)w_{2t+1}\end{aligned}$$

- Conditional entropy (monthly)

$$\begin{aligned}L_t(m_{t+1}) &= (\alpha - 1)^2 \sigma^2 / 2 + (\alpha - \rho)^2 (\omega_\lambda \sigma_\lambda)^2 / 2 \\ &\quad + \lambda_t \left\{ [e^{(\alpha-1)\theta + (\alpha-1)^2 \delta^2 / 2} - 1] - (\alpha - 1)\theta \right\}\end{aligned}$$

- ACE (monthly)

$$0.0100 = 0.0001 + 0.0087 + 0.0012$$

$$0.0013 = 0.0001 + 0.0000 + 0.0012 \text{ if } \rho = \alpha$$



Time dependence via recursive preferences

- Little time-dependence in pricing kernel
- Nevertheless: interaction of (modest) dynamics in consumption growth and recursive preferences can have a substantial impact on the entropy of the pricing kernel
- Not clear it's relevant to option prices, but it's a route to magnify the impact of disasters on excess returns

