marcus evans conferences

Quantitative Equity Methodology and Analysis

Capture risk and market prices to the highest degree of accuracy through excellence in quantitative techniques

Event Date: 30 Nov-2 Dec 2011
Location: NH Harrington Hall Hotel, UK

Distribution risk in structured equity derivatives: integrating the price information with easy-to-understand indicators

Marcello Minenna

Syllabus

- Shapes and patterns of probability distributions for different financial products
- The variable value of the information embedded in the price
- Significance Tests
- Unlocking the information contained in the probability density function
  - Proposal 1
  - Proposal 2
  - Proposal 3
- Conclusions

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Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

The analysis of implied probability distributions requires the estimate of all the relevant risk factors connected with the financial structure of each product

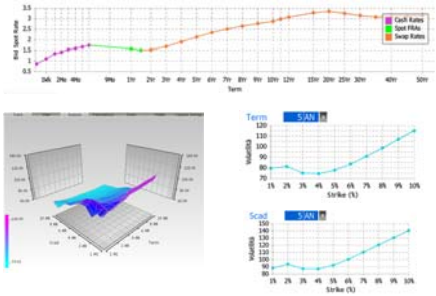
DEFAULTABLE BOND	LOW-RISK BOND	VPPI PRODUCT	INDEX-LINKED CERTIFICATE
Interest Rate Volatility Significant exposure to credit risk	Interest Rate Volatility Limited exposure to credit risk	Interest Rate Volatility Limited exposure to Market risk	Interest Rate Volatility Significant exposure to Market risk

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

DEFAULTABLE BOND

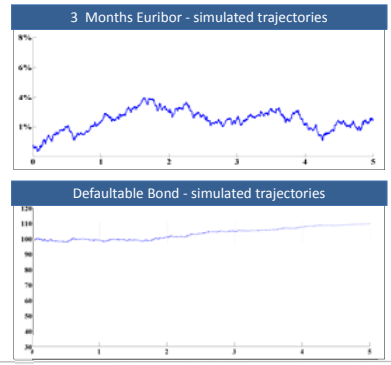
Markets data are used to estimate the relevant risk factors connected with the financial structure of the product

Interest Rate Volatility
Significant exposure to credit risk



Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

DEFAULTABLE BOND



Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

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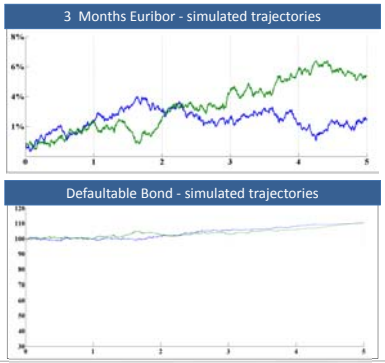

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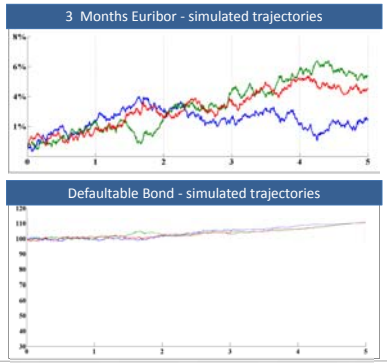

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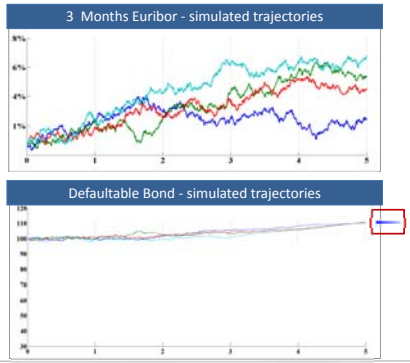

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

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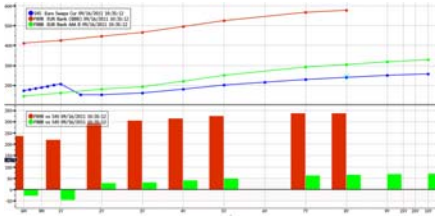


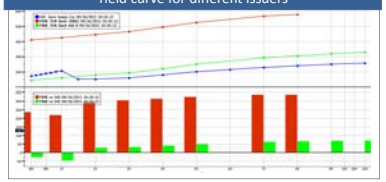
Interest Rate Volatility

Significant exposure to credit risk

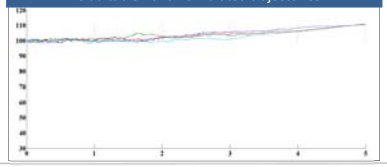
Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

DEFAULTABLE BOND

Yield curve for different issuers



Defaultable Bond - simulated trajectories



Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

DEFAULTABLE BOND

Yield curve for different issuers

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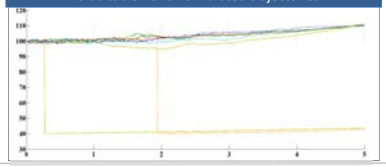

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

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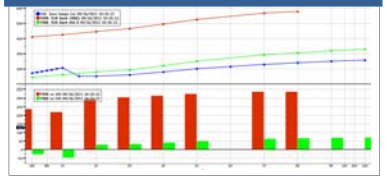

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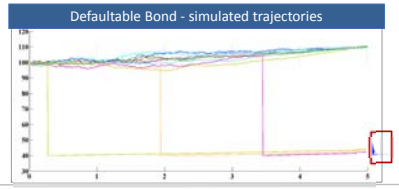
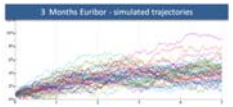
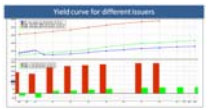


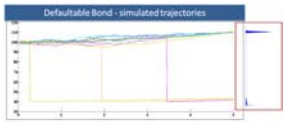
Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

DEFAULTABLE BOND

The risk factors define the product values over time and at expiry date







Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

DEFAULTABLE BOND

The final values of the product provide the probability distribution of the potential returns (so-called *pricing* at maturity)...

Possible Outcomes

Pricing at maturity

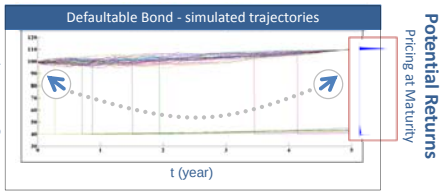
Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

DEFAULTABLE BOND

... the "*fair value*" of the product at the issue date is obtained, like in the *best practice* of the pricing procedures of intermediaries, by evaluating the expected discounted value of this distribution.

Fair Price

Pricing at subscription time



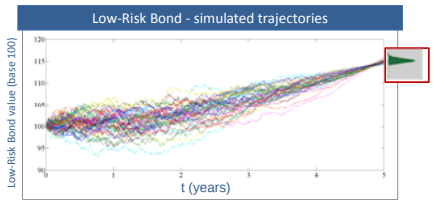
Potential Returns

Pricing at Maturity

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

LOW-RISK BOND

Limited exposure to credit risk corresponds to a lower (or zero) number of trajectories incurring in a *default event*.



Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

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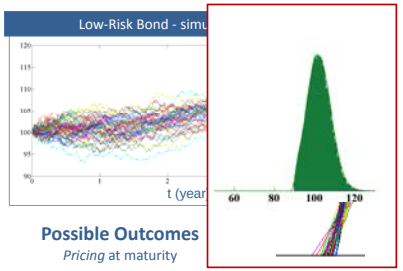


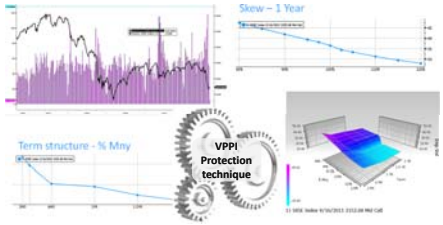
Possible Outcomes

Pricing at maturity

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

VPPI PRODUCT

Markets data are used to estimate the relevant risk factors connected with the financial structure of the product



Interest Rate Volatility

Limited exposure to Market risk

VPPI technique is aimed at protecting the initial value of the financial investment over a specified time horizon and obtaining possible gains by limited exposure to the equity markets.

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

VPPI PRODUCT

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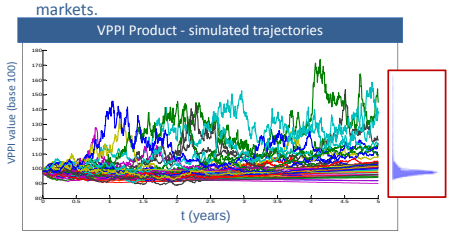

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

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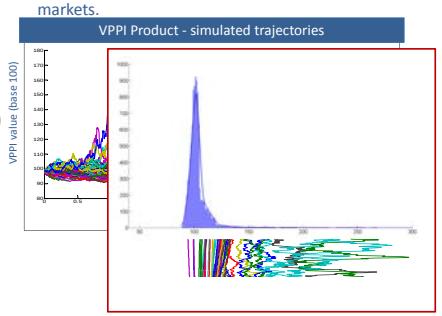
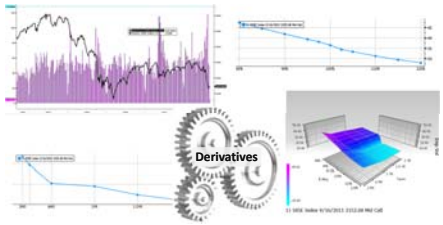


Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

INDEX LINKED CERTIFICATE

Markets data are used to estimate the relevant risk factors connected with the financial structure of the product



Significant exposure to Market risk

The index-linked certificate is characterised by a complex financial engineering that makes intensive use of different derivatives components. These derivatives link the performances of the product to the variability of an equity index.

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

INDEX LINKED CERTIFICATE

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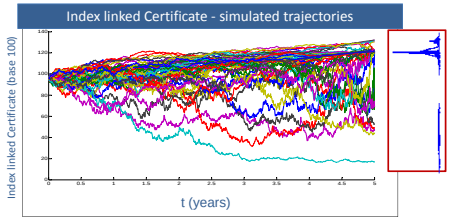

Shapes and patterns of probability distributions

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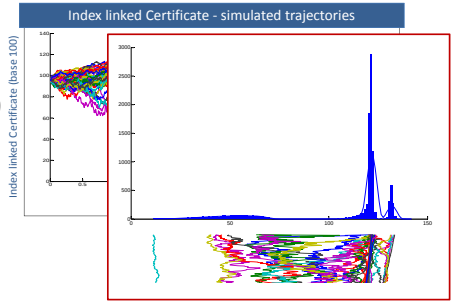
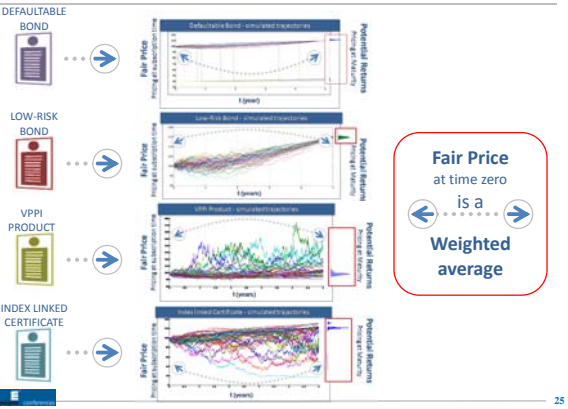


Shapes and patterns of probability distributions



Fair Price at time zero is a **Weighted average**

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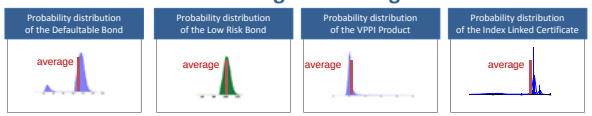
The variable value of the information embedded in the price: Intuition

DEFAULTABLE BOND | LOW-RISK BOND | VPPI PRODUCT | INDEX LINKED CERTIFICATE

Fair Price at time zero is a **weighted average**

first moment of the probability distribution at expiry date is also a **weighted average**



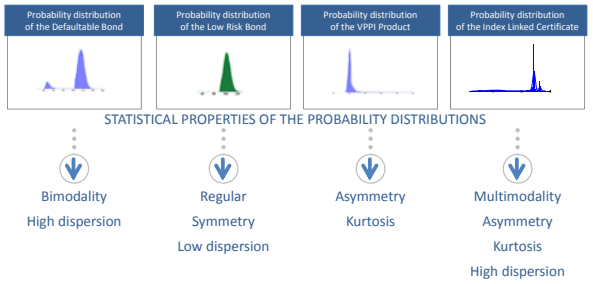
The variable value of the information embedded in the price: Intuition

Working Hypothesis: **The calculated fair price is the same for completely different financial structures**

The variable value of the information embedded in the price: Intuition

Question: **How much information about the original probability distribution the price will convey in each case analyzed?**

The variable value of the information embedded in the price: Intuition



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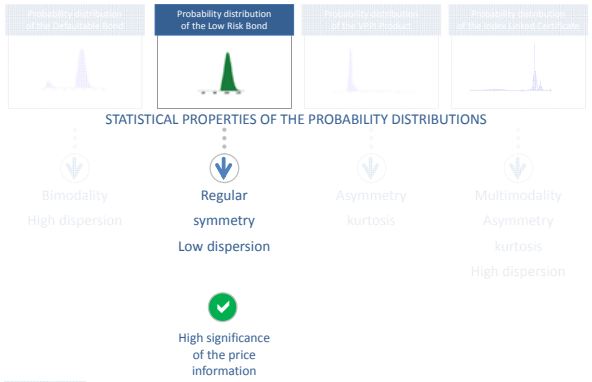

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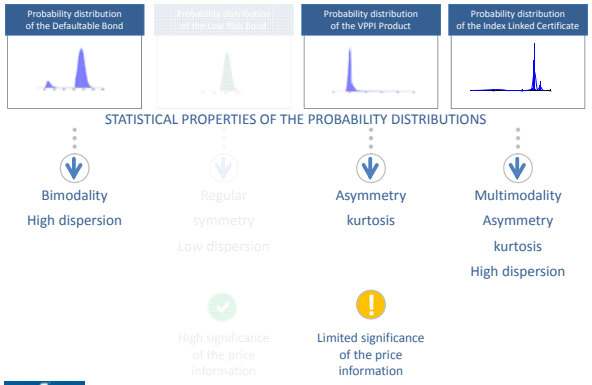

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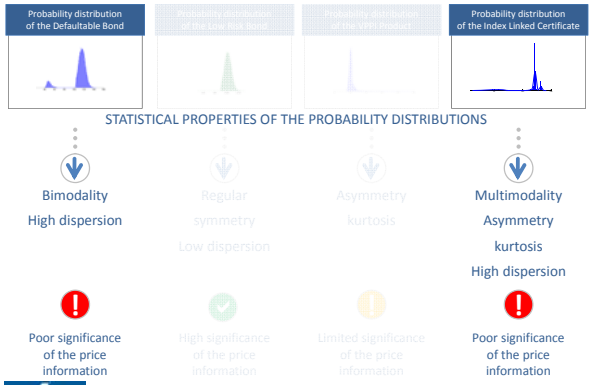

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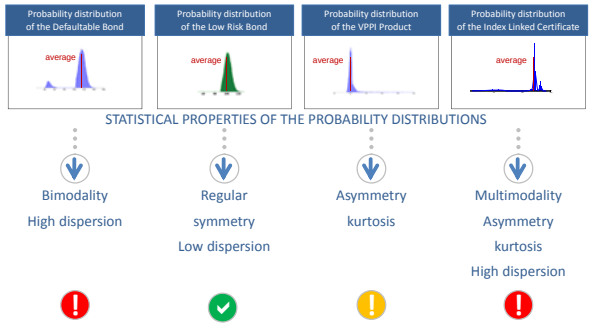

The price and the corresponding average at expiry date – in presence of IRREGULAR distributions – qualify a partial and misleading information

Syllabus

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Significance tests

Significance of the price information

As a weighted average, the price is strictly connected with the first moment of the probability distribution

As the literature suggests, in presence of multimodality and irregular shapes for the probability distributions, the number of moments necessary to properly describe the probability distribution increases drammatically.

See:
(1) Shohat, Tamarkin, 1943 - American Mathematical Survey
(2) Szego, 1959 - American Mathematical Society
(3) Totik, 2000 – Journal of Analytical Mathematics
(4) Gavriliadis, Athanassoulis, 2009 – Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics

Significance tests

Significance of the price information

Mathematical Basis to test the significance of the price information

In fact, having defined the following quantities:

$(\mu_1, \mu_2, \ldots, \mu_{2k})$ Vector of 2k moments for the probability distribution f(x)

$$P_k(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{H_{2k} H_{2k-2}}} D_k(x)$$ **Christoffel Basis Polynomials**

where

$$D_k(x) = \det \begin{bmatrix} \mu_0 & \mu_1 & \cdots & \mu_k \\ \cdots & \cdots & & \cdots \\ \mu_{k-1} & \mu_k & \cdots & \mu_{2k-1} \\ 1 & x & \cdots & x^k \end{bmatrix} \qquad H_{2k} = \begin{vmatrix} \mu_0 & \cdots & \mu_k \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \mu_k & \cdots & \mu_{2k} \end{vmatrix}$$

$$H_{-2} = H_0 = 1$$

Significance tests

Significance of the price information

Mathematical Basis to test the significance of the price information

It's possible then to define the **Christoffel function** in the form below:

$$\lambda_k(x) = \left[\sum_{n=0}^{k} |P_n(x)|^2 \right]^{-1}$$

Provided that a closed interval [a,b] for the probability density support can be identified and that in the interval [a,b] the function f(x) is bounded, the following limit condition holds:

$$\lim_{k \to \infty} k \lambda_k(x) = \pi \sqrt{(x-a)(b-x)} \cdot f(x)$$

Significance tests

Significance of the price information

Mathematical Basis to test the significance of the price information

For k finite, the limit condition implies that the probability function f(x) can be approximated by the following functional:

$$f(x) \approx f_{AP,k}(x) = \frac{k}{c_0 \pi \sqrt{(x-a)(b-x)}} \lambda_k(x)$$ Gavriliadis, Athanassoulis, 2009 – Journal of Computational and Applied Mathematics

with $x \in [a,b]$. c_0 is a normalizing factor.

Significance tests

Significance of the price information

Mathematical Basis to test the significance of the price information

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with $x \in [a,b]$. c_0 is a normalizing factor.

It' s then immediate to apply the approximating formula for different values of k in order to test the accuracy of the approximation for the probability distributions corresponding to our different financial products

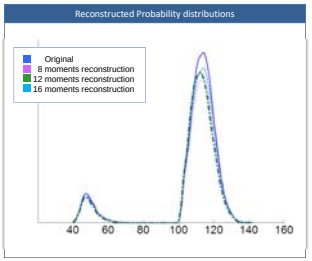
Significance tests

Bimodality

High dispersion

Significance test of the price information

DEFAULTABLE BOND



At least 16 moments are needed in order to obtain a satisfactory approximation of the original distribution. The information content of the first moment seems very limited.

Significance tests

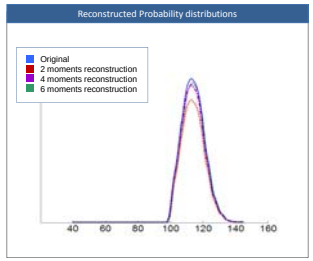
Regular

symmetry

Low dispersion

Significance test of the price information

LOW-RISK BOND



Only 4 moments are sufficient in order to describe properly the original distribution. The information content of the first moment can be considered adequate.

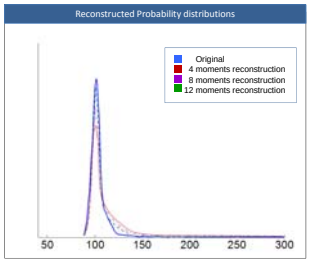
Significance tests

Asymmetry

kurtosis

Significance test of the price information

VPPI PRODUCT



12 moments describe correctly the pattern of the original distribution. The information content of the first moment needs to be integrated.

Significance tests

Multimodality

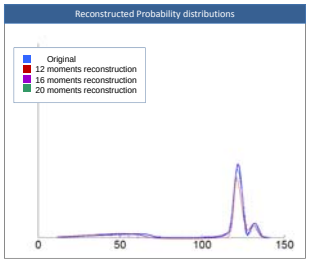
Asymmetry

kurtosis

High dispersion

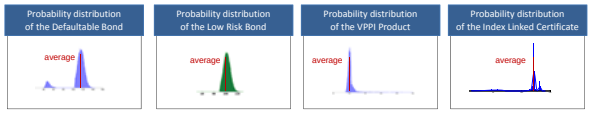
Significance test of the price information

INDEX LINKED CERTIFICATE



At least 20 moments are needed in order to obtain a satisfactory approximation of the original distribution. The information content of the first moment seems very limited.

Significance tests

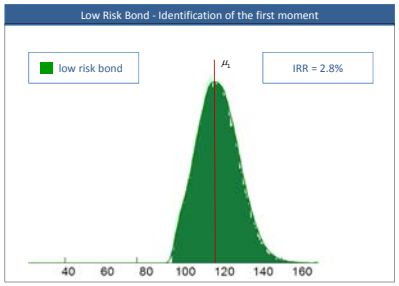


STATISTICAL PROPERTIES OF THE PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS

Bimodality	Regular	Asymmetry	Multimodality
High dispersion	symmetry	kurtosis	Asymmetry
	Low dispersion		kurtosis
			High dispersion
16 moments needed	4 moments needed	12 moments needed	20 moments needed

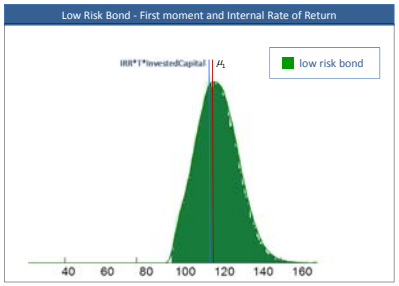
From a pure statistical point of view, a proper reconstruction of the original distribution needs at least 4 moments even for the most regular one

Significance tests: a step beyond – the investor point of view



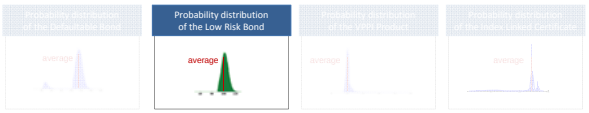
IRR ⟷ First moment of the probability distribution

Significance tests



IRR = 2.8% $\mu_1 \approx$ IRR*T*InvestedCapital = 114

Significance tests



STATISTICAL PROPERTIES OF THE PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS

Bimodality
High dispersion

Regular
symmetry
Low dispersion

Asymmetry
kurtosis

Multimodality
Asymmetry
kurtosis
High dispersion

16 moments needed

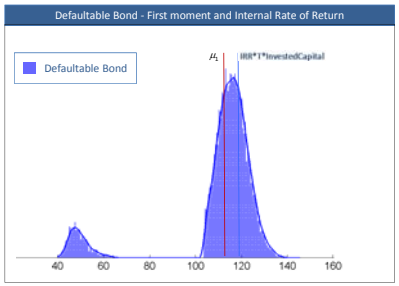
Price ≈ Average ≈ IRR

12 moments needed

16 moments needed

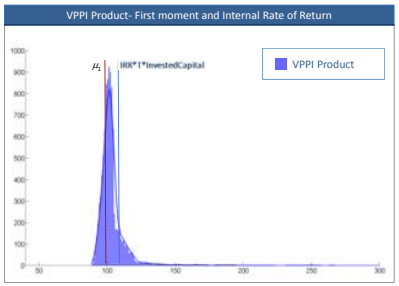
Even if 4 moments are needed for a proper reconstruction of the probability distribution, the average and its related measures (IRR and price), convey sufficient information for the investor decision process

Significance tests



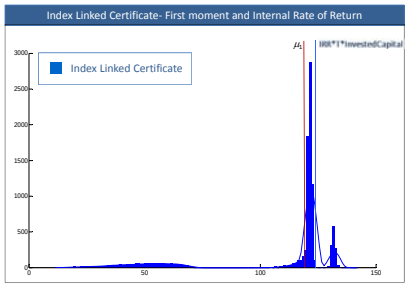
IRR = 3.85% $\mu_1 \neq$ IRR*T*InvestedCapital = 119.25

Significance tests



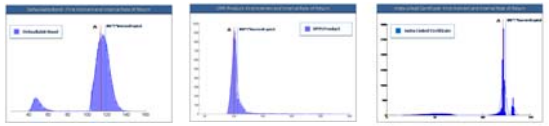
IRR = 2.53% $\mu_1 \neq$ IRR*T*InvestedCapital = 112.65

Significance tests



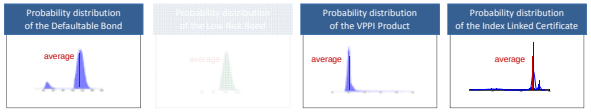
IRR = 5.91% $\mu_1 \neq$ IRR*T*InvestedCapital = 129.55

Significance tests



For more complex financial structures, the average progressively looses its connection with the internal rate of return of the investment, so reducing its usefulness as an effective tool for the decision process

Significance tests



STATISTICAL PROPERTIES OF THE PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS

Bimodality
High dispersion

Regular
symmetry
Low dispersion

Asymmetry
kurtosis

Multimodality
Asymmetry
kurtosis
High dispersion

Price Average IRR

Price ≈ Average ≈ IRR

Price Average IRR

Price Average IRR

The price and the corresponding average and IRR at expiry date – in presence of IRREGULAR distributions – need to be complemented with additional information related to the shape of the probability distribution

Syllabus

- Shapes and patterns of probability distributions for different financial products
- The variable value of the information embedded in the price
- Significance Tests
- Unlocking the information contained in the probability density function
  - Proposal 1
  - Proposal 2
  - Proposal 3
- Conclusions

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: model risk

COMPLEX PRODUCT

The additional information to be supplemented must

- be easy to understand for the average investor
- capture efficiently all the main statistical characteristics of the probability distribution of the product

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: model risk

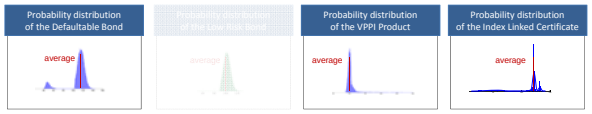
COMPLEX PRODUCT

The additional information to be supplemented must

- be easy to understand for the average investor
- capture efficiently all the main statistical characteristics of the probability distribution of the product

Proposal 1: Convey to the average investor the entire probability distribution

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: model risk



MODELLING CHOICES FOR THE SELECTED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS

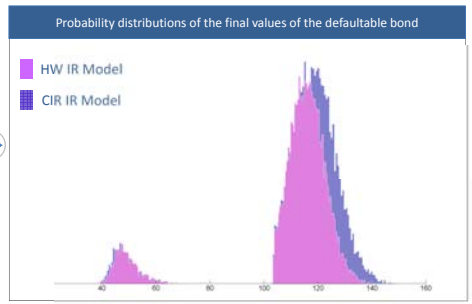
- 2 Factor Short Interest Rate Hull-White Model
  - Short Interest Rate Cox Ingersoll Ross Model
- Heston Stochastic Volatility Model for the Equity component
  - Barndorff Nielsen Normal Inverse Gaussian Model for the Equity component
- Merton Jump Diffusion Model for the Equity component
  - Variance Gamma Model for the Equity component

The shape of the probability distribution of the potential returns is obviously dependent on the modelling assumptions.

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: model risk

DEFAULTABLE BOND

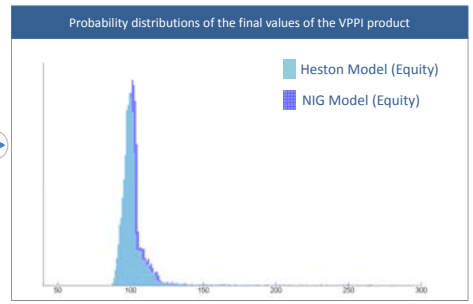
MODELLING CHOICES FOR THE SELECTED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS



Unlocking the information in the probability density function: model risk

VPPI PRODUCT

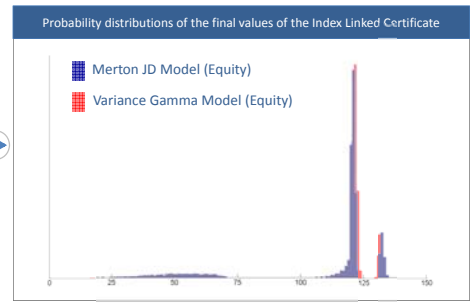
MODELLING CHOICES FOR THE SELECTED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS



Unlocking the information in the probability density function: model risk

INDEX LINKED CERTIFICATE

MODELLING CHOICES FOR THE SELECTED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS



Unlocking the information in the probability density function: model risk

COMPLEX PRODUCT

The additional information to be supplemented must

- ~~be easy to understand for the average investor~~ — the probability distribution is an abstract object not easy to handle by the average investors
- ~~capture efficiently all the main statistical characteristics of the probability distribution of the product~~ — the shape of the probability distribution is dependent on the modelling assumptions

Proposal 1: Convey to the average investor the entire probability distribution

Syllabus

- Shapes and patterns of probability distributions for different financial products
- The variable value of the information embedded in the price
- Significance Tests
- Unlocking the information contained in the probability density function
  - Proposal 1
  - Proposal 2
  - Proposal 3
- Conclusions

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

COMPLEX PRODUCT

The additional information to be supplemented must

- be easy to understand for the average investor
- capture efficiently all the main statistical characteristics of the probability distribution of the product

Proposal 2: Unbundling the information content of the price

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

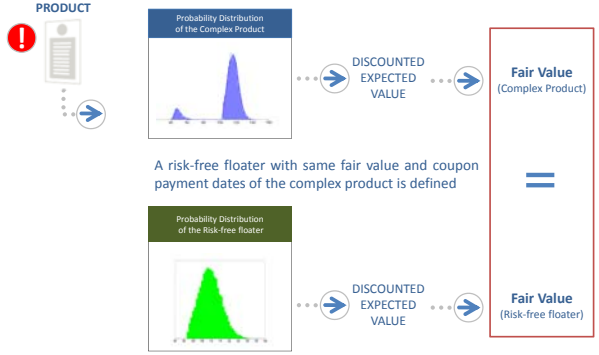
COMPLEX PRODUCT

Unbundling the information content of the price

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

COMPLEX PRODUCT

Unbundling the information content of the price

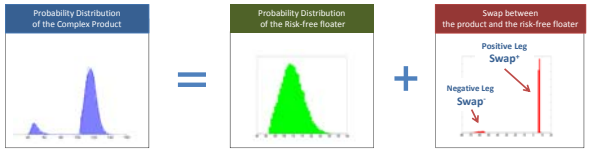


Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

COMPLEX PRODUCT

Unbundling the information content of the price

Any non-elementary return-target product can be replicated by a portfolio composed of the associated risk-free floater and of a zero-value swap which transforms the cash flow structure of the risk-free security into the cash flow structure of the product itself, ie, denoting by $\{swap_t\}_{t\in[0,T]}$ the value process of the swap

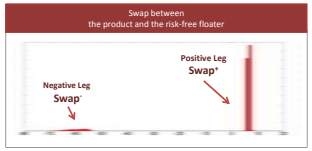


Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

COMPLEX PRODUCT

Unbundling the information content of the price

Fair Value
(Swap = 0)



$|FV(Swap^-)| = |FV(Swap^+)|$

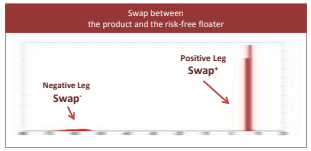
Theoretical value of the Risky component

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

COMPLEX PRODUCT

Unbundling the information content of the price

Fair Value
(Swap = 0)



$|FV(Swap^-)| = |FV(Swap^+)|$

Theoretical value of the Risky component

C	*Fair value*
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component
A=C-B	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

Financial investment table (*Price Unbundling*)

DEFAULTABLE BOND

A	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component	91.3
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component	5
C = A + B	*Fair value*	96.3
D	Costs	3.7
E = C + D	Issue price	100

VPPI PRODUCT

A	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component	90.1
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component	6.4
C = A + B	*Fair value*	96.5
D	Costs	3.5
E = C + D	Issue price	100

INDEX LINKED CERTIFICATE

A	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component	86.2
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component	9.9
C = A + B	*Fair value*	96.1
D	Costs	3.9
E = C + D	Issue price	100

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the unbundling table

COMPLEX PRODUCT

The additional information to be supplemented must

✓ be easy to understand for the average investor

✗ capture efficiently all the main statistical characteristics of the probability distribution of the product

the unbundling represented by using a table is first level tool useful to appreciate the impact of the costs and the riskiness of the product

The unbundling exploits only the information contained in the first order moment of the probability distribution

Proposal 2: Unbundling the information content of the price

Syllabus

- Shapes and patterns of probability distributions for different financial products
- The variable value of the information embedded in the price
- Significance Tests
- Unlocking the information contained in the probability density function
  - Proposal 1
  - Proposal 2
  - Proposal 3
- Conclusions

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

COMPLEX PRODUCT

The additional information to be supplemented must

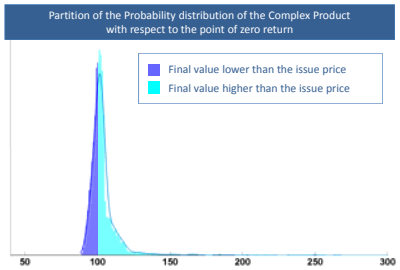
be easy to understand for the average investor

capture efficiently all the main statistical characteristics of the probability distribution of the product

Proposal 3: Perform a reduction in granularity by implementing a partition of the probability distribution

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

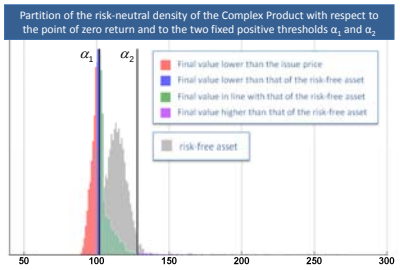
COMPLEX PRODUCT



The assessment of the probability of recovering at least the amount paid for the product is of great significance for the investor.

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

COMPLEX PRODUCT



It is appropriate to explore further partitions of the macro-event "the final value of the investment is higher than the issue price" by performing a direct comparison with the final values of the risk-free asset.

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

COMPLEX PRODUCT

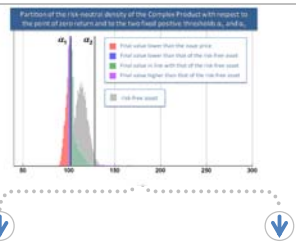


Table of the probabilistic performance scenarios

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	…	…
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	…	…
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	…	…
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	…	…

MEAN VALUES

$$E^*(S_T \mid S_T < 100) = \frac{1}{P(S_T < 100)} \int_{-\infty}^{100} x f_{S_T}(x)\,dx$$

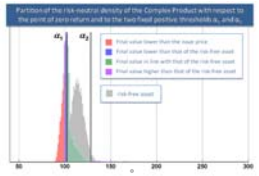
$$E^*(S_T \mid 100 \leq S_T < \alpha_1) = \frac{1}{P(100 \leq S_T < \alpha_1)} \int_{100}^{\alpha_1} x f_{S_T}(x)\,dx$$

$$E^*(S_T \mid \alpha_1 \leq S_T < \alpha_2) = \frac{1}{P(\alpha_1 \leq S_T < \alpha_2)} \int_{\alpha_1}^{\alpha_2} x f_{S_T}(x)\,dx$$

$$E^*(S_T \mid S_T \geq \alpha_2) = \frac{1}{P(S_T \geq \alpha_2)} \int_{\alpha_2}^{+\infty} x f_{S_T}(x)\,dx$$

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

COMPLEX PRODUCT

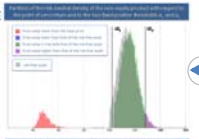


Benefits of this solution:

1. The reduction in granularity of the events determined by the partition involves only a very limited loss of information and the table, built by coupling for each scenario its risk-neutral probability and the associated mean value, is very easy to read;

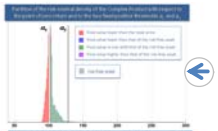
Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

DEFAULTABLE BOND



SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	9.5%	49.3
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	87.4%	115.6
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	3.1%	131.1

VPPI PRODUCT



SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	36.9%	96.9
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	18.5%	101
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	39.9%	107.1
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	4.7%	195.5

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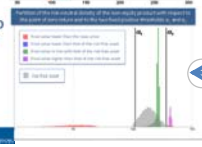
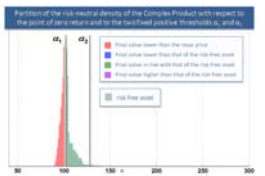


SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	18.9%	49.1
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	68.9%	120.9
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	12.2%	131.6

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

COMPLEX PRODUCT



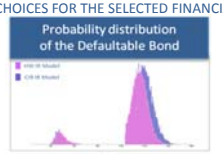
Benefits of this solution:

1. The reduction in granularity of the events determined by the partition involves only a very limited loss of information; The table, built by coupling for each scenario its risk-neutral probability and the associated mean value, is very easy to read;
2. The model risk arising from the different proprietary models of the issuers has a limited impact.

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

DEFAULTABLE BOND

MODELLING CHOICES FOR THE SELECTED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS



Difference less than 2%

HW IR MODEL

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	9.5%	49.3
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	87.4%	115.6
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	3.1%	131.1

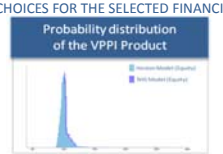
CIR IR MODEL

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	8.3%	49.9
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	86.8%	117.9
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	4.9%	135.4

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

VPPI PRODUCT

MODELLING CHOICES FOR THE SELECTED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS



Difference less than 2%

HESTON MODEL

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	38.9%	95.5
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	18.9%	100.2
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	38.4%	106.3
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	3.8%	182.5

NIG MODEL

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	36.9%	96.9
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	18.5%	101
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	39.9%	107.1
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	4.7%	195.5

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

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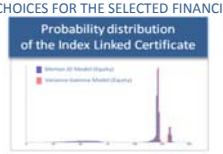
MODELLING CHOICES FOR THE SELECTED FINANCIAL PRODUCTS



Difference less than 4%

MERTON JD MODEL

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	18.9%	48.2
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	65.8%	117.6
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	15.3%	132.7

VARIANCE GAMMA MODEL

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	18.9%	49.1
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	68.9%	120.9
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	12.2%	131.6

Unlocking the information in the probability density function: the superimposition technique

COMPLEX PRODUCT

The additional information to be supplemented must

✓ be easy to understand for the average investor

the partition should be done by choosing events that have a strong financial meaning for the investor

✓ capture efficiently all the main statistical characteristics of the probability distribution of the product

the reduction in granularity mitigates in a significant way the model risk

Proposal 3: **Perform a reduction in granularity by implementing a partition of the probability distribution**

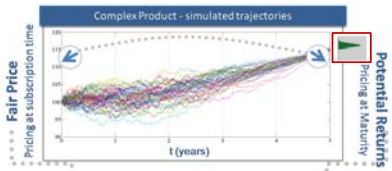
Syllabus

- Shapes and patterns of probability distributions for different financial products
- The variable value of the information embedded in the price
- Significance Tests
- Unlocking the information contained in the probability density function
  - Proposal 1
  - Proposal 2
  - Proposal 3
- Conclusions

Conclusions

Since there's a close one-to-one relationship between the two tables, the two sets of information can be easily coupled in an easy-to-read sheet

COMPLEX PRODUCT



Financial investment table (*Price Unbundling*)

A	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component	
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component	
C = A + B	*Fair value*	
D	Costs	
E = C + D	Issue price	

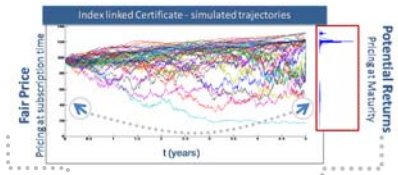
Table of the probabilistic performance scenarios

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	…	…
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	…	…
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	…	…
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	…	…

Conclusions

Since there's a close one-to-one relationship between the two tables, the two sets of information can be easily coupled in an easy-to-read sheet

DEFAULTABLE BOND



Financial investment table (*Price Unbundling*)

A	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component	91.3
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component	5
C = A + B	*Fair value*	96.3
D	Costs	3.7
E = C + D	Issue price	100

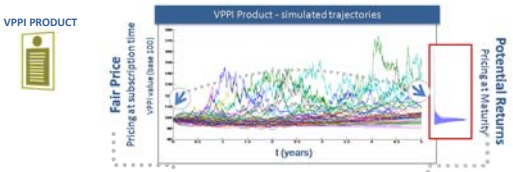
Table of the probabilistic performance scenarios

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	9.5%	49.3
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	87.4%	115.6
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	3.1%	131.1

Conclusions

Since there's a close one-to-one relationship between the two tables, the two sets of information can be easily coupled in an easy-to-read sheet

VPPI PRODUCT



Financial investment table (*Price Unbundling*)

A	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component	90.1
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component	6.4
C = A + B	*Fair value*	96.5
D	Costs	3.5
E = C + D	Issue price	100

Table of the probabilistic performance scenarios

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	36.9%	96.9
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	18.5%	101
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	39.9%	107.1
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	4.7%	195.5

Conclusions

Since there's a close one-to-one relationship between the two tables, the two sets of information can be easily coupled in an easy-to-read sheet

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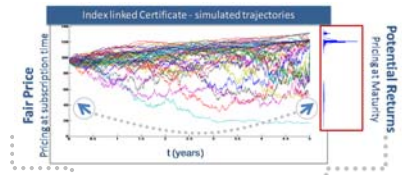

Financial investment table (*Price Unbundling*)

A	Theoretical value of the Risk-Free component	86.2
B	Theoretical value of the Risky component	9.9
C = A + B	*Fair value*	96.1
D	Costs	3.9
E = C + D	Issue price	100

Table of the probabilistic performance scenarios

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEAN VALUES
The performance is negative	18.9%	49.1
The performance is positive but lower than the risk-free asset	0.0%	-
The performance is positive and in line with the risk-free asset	68.9%	120.9
The performance is positive and higher than the risk-free asset	12.2%	131.6

Testimonials

"This book fills the gap that exists between the risk management tools available to industry insiders, and those available to investors. It is a welcome contribution that will be helpful to anyone who needs to assess the risk of non-equity products."
Jaksa Cvitanic, Professor of Mathematical Finance, Caltech

"Rigor and clarity characterize this methodology to assess the risk of every non-equity product. Well established stochastic techniques are applied in an original way to convey the key information on the time horizon, the degree of risk, the costs and potential returns of the investment and therefore to match the investor's preferences in terms of liquidity attitude, risk taking, desired returns and acceptable losses."
Prof. Svetlozar Rachev, Department of Statistics and Applied Probability, University of California at Santa Barbara

"I warmly welcome the publication of this book which describes a probabilistic framework for risk evaluation. The specific aim is that of providing financial institutions and regulators with tools and techniques for an objective and clear representation of key investor information. This shall help in orientating buyers through the difficult path of non-equity products selection."
Prof. Francesco Corielli, Department of Finance, Bocconi University

"This book constitutes an excellent collection of quantitative methods to the measurement and representation of the risks of non-equity products that comes from a simple but also winning intuition: the information needs of retail investors are not really different from those of financial institutions since they both want the upside gain by trying to contain the downside risk."
Prof. Hélyette Geman, School of Business, Economics and Informatics, Birkbeck, University of London

"This important book establishes a benchmark for a future financial regulation based on quantitative techniques. At the same time it casts a serious challenge to the financial industry on the need of quantitative disclosure, that will be the future of the financial system worldwide. Hope the challenge will be accepted."
Prof. Umberto Cherubini, Department of Mathematical Economics, University of Bologna

"This book contains a valid quantitative methodology to shed light on the risks embedded in any non-equity product. By answering the key questions of any investor about the potential performances, the risk rating and the optimal holding time of the product, the three "pillars" of the book are the best candidates to definitely remove the informative lack that worldwide regulators have recognized in the existing rules on risks disclosure. The adoption of these "pillars" would be the ideal completion of the regulatory reform undertaken by the European Authorities regarding the revision of the information contents for Packaged Retail Investment Products. Should the quantitative framework set forth in this work become the reference to update the regulatory framework on transparency, an authentic reversal of the traditional approaches to risks transparency would be realized with effective benefits for investors' comprehension and for allowing them to pick the product that best fits their needs."
Prof. Riccardo Cesari, Professor of Mathematical Methods for Economic and Financial Sciences, University of Bologna

"This innovative book sheds a light on the dark path of the financial risks intrinsic to non-equity financial products, which are often underestimated, or even poorly understood, by investors seeking higher returns. Mathematical finance techniques are here applied in an original and unconventional manner for the purpose of effectively disclosing these risks and properly assessing their impact on investments' returns."
Fabio Mercurio, Head of Quant Business Managers at Bloomberg LP and adjunct professor at NYU