



## Integrated risk measurement and representation for non-equity products: how to frame material risks over the time horizon of the investment

Marcello Minenna – Head of Quantitative Analysis Unit, ConsoB



## Syllabus

### Preliminaries

#### Three-pillars approach:

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar: unbundling and performance scenarios

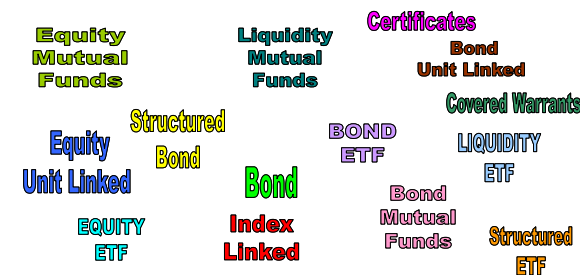
2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar: the degree of risk

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar: recommended investment time horizon



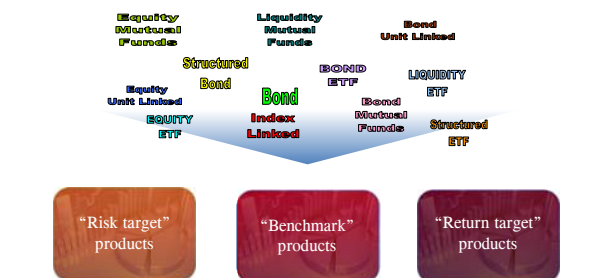
### Preliminaries

Non-equity Investment products: definition



### Preliminaries

Non-equity Investment products should be classified according to their financial characteristics and not by “labels” that are assigned by the issuer and/or by the European regulatory framework.



### Preliminaries



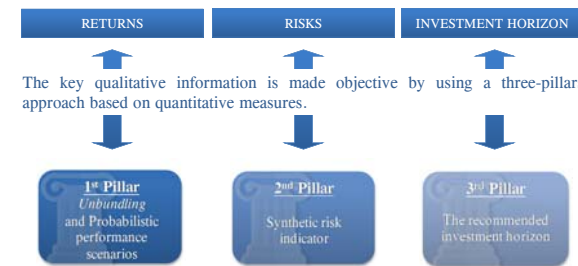
The transparency on the risk profile of non-equity investment products is based on three synthetic indicators (three pillars) – defined through the development of specific quantitative methods – in order to allow investors to take informed investment decisions.

Traditional narrative description of all possible risks associated with a predefined “label”

Synthetic indicators robust, objective and backward verifiable

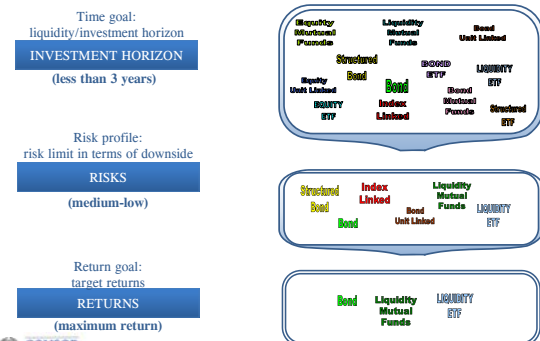


### Preliminaries



### Preliminaries

Investor decisions as a sequential filtering problem:



## Syllabus

### Preliminaries

#### Three-pillars approach:

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar: unbundling and performance scenarios

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar: the degree of risk

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar: recommended investment time horizon



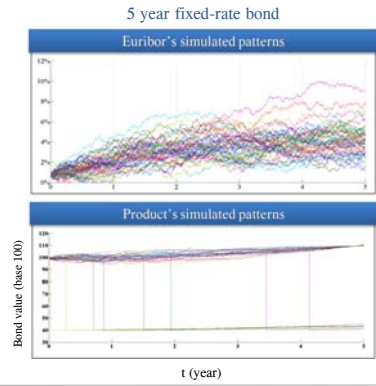
### 1<sup>st</sup> Pillar



In “return target” products (e.g. corporate bonds) the connection between the pricing at time zero and the pricing at maturity is evident, as the probability table is a necessary step to obtain the unbundling of the price of the product at time 0.

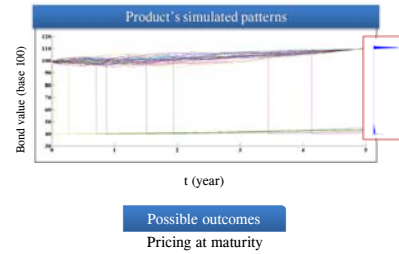


1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
and Probabilistic  
performance  
scenarios



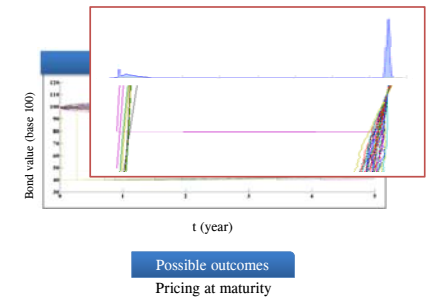
1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
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scenarios

The final values of the bond at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> year provide the probability distribution of potential returns (so-called *pricing at maturity*).



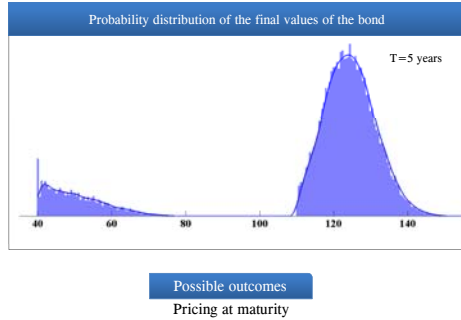
1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
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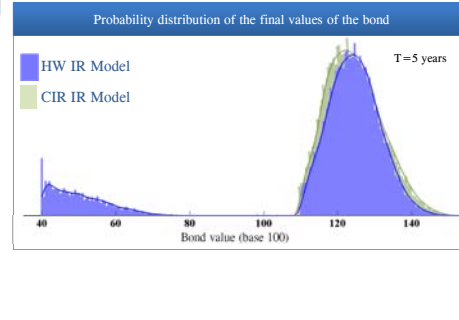
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Unfolding  
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scenarios

The informative content of the entire probability distribution is very complex to handle for the average retail investor.



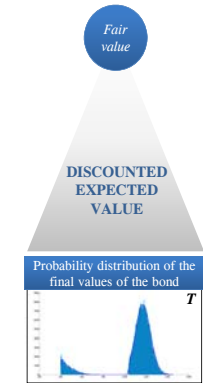
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The shape of the probability distribution of potential returns is obviously dependent from the model's assumption.



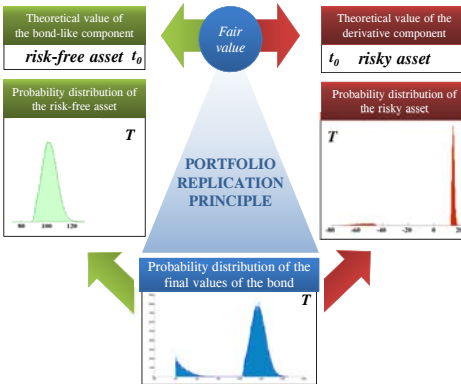
1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
and Probabilistic  
performance  
scenarios

STANDARD  
SOLUTION



1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
and Probabilistic  
performance  
scenarios

CONSOB  
REGULATION



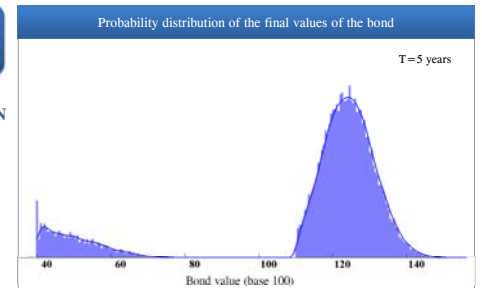
1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
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scenarios

CONSOB  
REGULATION

	Theoretical value of the bond-like component <i>risk-free asset</i> $t_0$		Theoretical value of the derivative component $t_0$ <i>risky asset</i>
A	Theoretical value of the bond-like component	...	
B	Theoretical value of the derivative component	...	
C = A + B	<i>Fair value</i>		...
D	Explicit costs	...	
E	Implicit costs	...	
F = C + D + E	Issue price		100

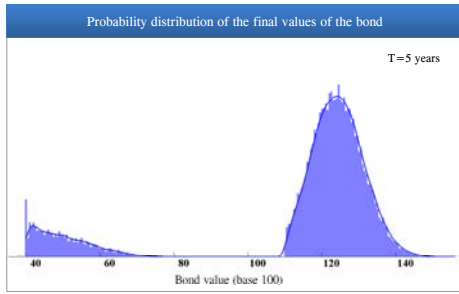
1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
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performance  
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CONSOB  
REGULATION



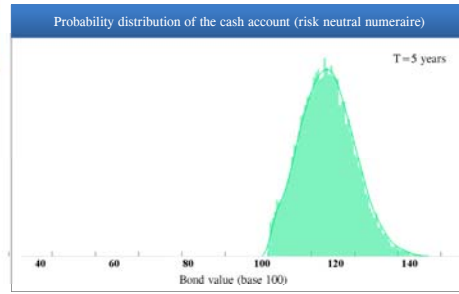
It's interesting to explore a different representation of the information contained in the probability distribution which could be useful for the average investor

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
and Probabilistic  
performance  
scenarios  
**CONSOB  
REGULATION**



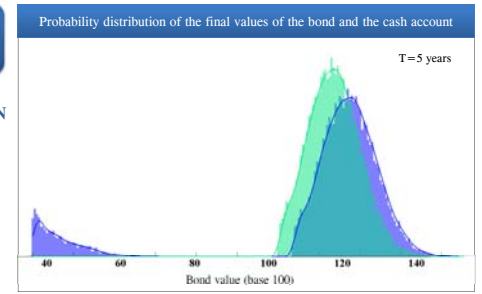
In order to provide the investor with a representation fair, easy to understand and resilient to the model's risk, a simple rescaling with respect to the risk-neutral measure numeraire is presented

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
and Probabilistic  
performance  
scenarios  
**CONSOB  
REGULATION**



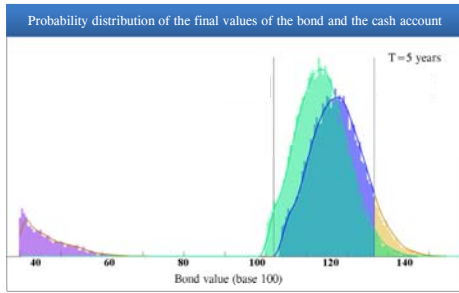
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REGULATION**



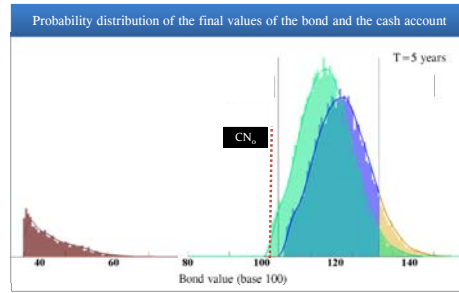
The superimposition of the product's probability distribution with the cash account naturally defines three different events which are effectively meaningful for the investor.

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
and Probabilistic  
performance  
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REGULATION**



The performance is 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

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
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The performance is negative  
The performance is positive and 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

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scenarios  
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REGULATION**

SCENARIOS	PROBABILITY	MEDIAN VALUES
The performance is <u>negative</u>	%	€
The performance is <u>positive but lower</u> than the risk-free asset	%	€
The performance is <u>positive and in line</u> with the risk-free asset	%	€
The performance is <u>positive and higher</u> than the risk-free asset	%	€

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
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Connection between the pricing at time zero and the pricing at the end of recommended investment horizon

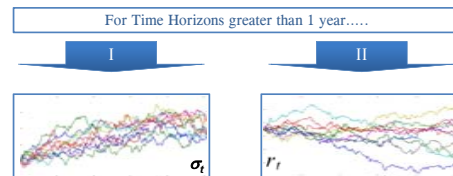
Time Zero		End of the recommended investment horizon	
Financial investment table		Table of probabilistic performance scenarios	
A	Theoretical value of the bond-like component	The performance is <u>positive</u>	% €
B	Theoretical value of the derivative component	The performance is <u>positive but lower</u> than the risk-free asset	% €
C = A + B	Fair value	The performance is <u>positive and in line</u> with the risk-free asset	% €
D	Explicit costs	The performance is <u>positive and higher</u> than the risk-free asset	% €
E	Implicit costs		
F = C + D + E	base price		

1:1 Relationship

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
Unfolding  
and Probabilistic  
performance  
scenarios

Model Risk Assessment

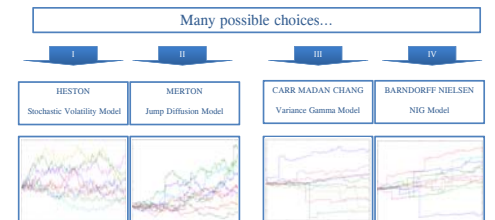
The recommended time horizon has a significant influence on the choice of the model



1<sup>st</sup> Pillar  
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Model Risk Assessment

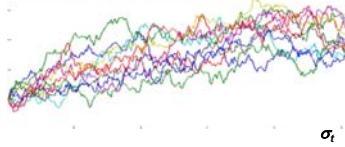
The recommended time horizon has a significant influence on the choice of the model





2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

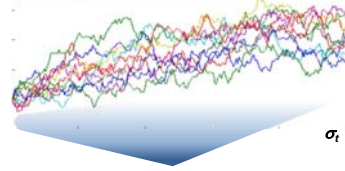
Volatility of the product's simulated returns



Volatility is the most immediate risk measure and it has a one-to-one relationship with whatever loss measure (VaR, ES, etc.)

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

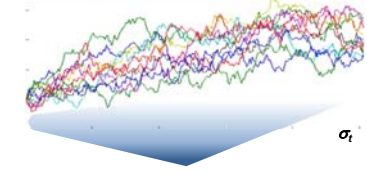
Volatility of the product's simulated returns



DEGREE OF RISK

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Volatility of the product's simulated returns



DEGREE OF RISK

MEASUREMENT: product's positioning inside a grid of  $n$  volatility intervals

REPRESENTATION: mapping of any volatility interval into a corresponding qualitative risk class

Risk Classes	Volatility Intervals	
	$\sigma_{i, min}$	$\sigma_{i, max}$
low	$\sigma_{1, min}$	$\sigma_{1, max}$
medium-low	$\sigma_{2, min}$	$\sigma_{2, max}$
medium	$\sigma_{3, min}$	$\sigma_{3, max}$
medium-high	$\sigma_{4, min}$	$\sigma_{4, max}$
high	$\sigma_{5, min}$	$\sigma_{5, max}$
very high	$\sigma_{6, min}$	$\sigma_{6, max}$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

MEASUREMENT: product's positioning inside a grid of  $n$  volatility intervals  
REPRESENTATION: mapping of any volatility interval into a corresponding qualitative risk class

Looking for the number of intervals (so-called " $n$ -tuple of risk classes") allowing the best compromise between investors' comprehension and detail of the information conveyed

Hypothesis  
NUMBER OF INTERVALS SPANNED:  
**5, 6 or 7**

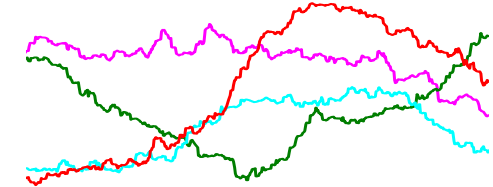
2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Hypothesis  
NUMBER OF INTERVALS SPANNED:

- 5 risk classes
  - Low
  - Medium-Low
  - Medium
  - Medium-High
  - High
- 6 risk classes
  - Low
  - Medium-Low
  - Medium
  - Medium-High
  - High
  - Very High
- 7 risk classes
  - Very Low
  - Low
  - Medium-Low
  - Medium
  - Medium-High
  - High
  - Very High

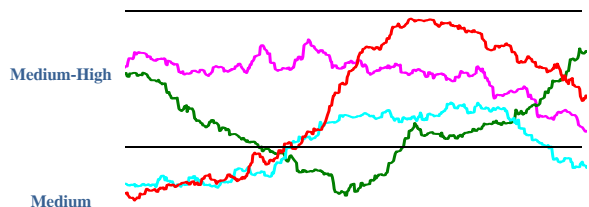
2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

"Risk target" products  
"Benchmark" products  
"Return target" products  
Products with the same risk budget must have the same degree of risk



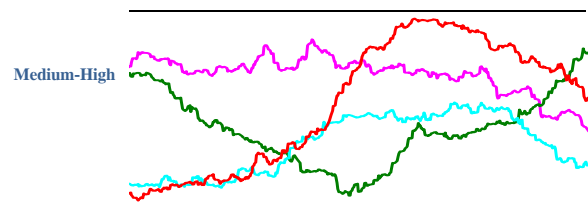
2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Volatility intervals have to be suitably calibrated in order to avoid wrong risk representations



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Volatility intervals have to be suitably calibrated in order to avoid wrong risk representations



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Volatility intervals have to be suitably calibrated in order to avoid wrong risk representations

Moreover, the optimal set of volatility intervals has to be consistent with the principle:

+ RISK + LOSSES



VOLATILITY INTERVALS MUST HAVE AN INCREASING WIDTH



### How to define a suitable volatility grid

Minimizing the chance for an asset manager of overcoming not intentionally his risk budget, i.e. the volatility interval (so-called “*management failure*”)



### How to define a suitable volatility grid

Minimizing the chance for an asset manager of overcoming not intentionally his risk budget, i.e. the volatility interval (so-called “*management failure*”)

The optimal set of volatility intervals for a given  $n$ -tuple of risk classes requires to solve a stochastic NLP problem (i.e. minimize the chance of a “*management failure*”)



### How to define a suitable volatility grid

In order to analyze the *management failures*, (i.e.: to specify and solve the SNLP problem)....

#### 1<sup>st</sup> INTUITION

it has to be studied the behavior of an automatic asset manager that has a specific risk budget, identified by a given volatility interval



### How to define a suitable volatility grid

In order to analyze the *management failures*, (i.e.: to specify and solve the SNLP problem)....

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

volatility prediction intervals have to be determined, in order to measure the ability of the automatic asset manager to remain within his risk budget



### How to define a suitable volatility grid

In order to analyze the *management failures*, (i.e.: to specify and solve the SNLP problem)....

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> INTUITION

the optimal set of volatility intervals must allow a similar number of “*management failures*” to any automatic asset managers (despite his belonging to different risk classes)

#### NO INCENTIVE TO CHOOSE A SPECIFIC CLASS



### The stochastic non linear programming problem

optimal set of volatility intervals

Let  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  be the number of volatility intervals (so-called “ $n$ -tuple of risk classes”)

Then, the optimization problem is twofold:

- find the optimal number of intervals:  $n^*$
- for  $n = n^*$  minimize the *management failures* as defined below:

$$\min_{\sigma_1 < \sigma_2 < \dots < \sigma_n} \left( \max_{i=1, \dots, n} mf_i \right)$$

$$s.t. \quad mf_i - mf_{i-1} = 0$$



### The stochastic non linear programming problem

optimal set of volatility intervals

1<sup>st</sup> INTUITION    2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION    3<sup>rd</sup> INTUITION

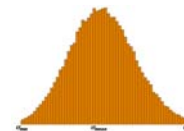


### Automatic Asset Manager

Hypothesis:

1<sup>st</sup> INTUITION

Stochastic volatility model where the automatic asset manager is “mean-reverting”:



The automatic asset manager:

- has no systematic preference for upwards or downwards deviations from the mean → symmetric distribution for the volatility
- in order to minimize the migration risk, keeps the product volatility far from the bounds of the interval → probability decay over the tails

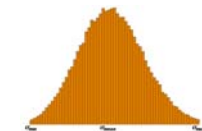


### Automatic Asset Manager

Hypothesis:

1<sup>st</sup> INTUITION

Stochastic volatility model where the automatic asset manager is “mean-reverting”:



A proper definition of the parameters for the following pair of SDEs:

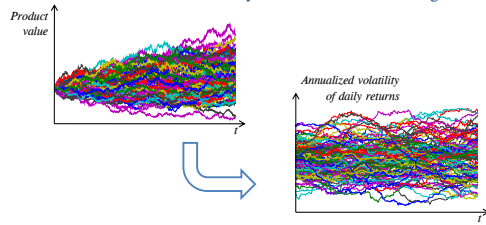
$$dS_t = rS_t dt + \sigma_t S_t dW_t^{(1)}$$

$$d\sigma_t^2 = \kappa(\theta - \sigma_t^2) dt + \nu_t dW_t^{(2)}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
1<sup>st</sup> INTUITION

### Automatic Asset Manager

Simulation of the trajectories of the volatility realized by the automatic asset manager



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

### Management Failures

#### Volatility Prediction Intervals

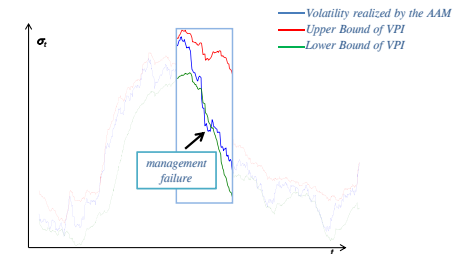
**Definition 1**  
An  $\alpha$ -confident volatility prediction interval is defined by the pair  $[\sigma_{min}, \sigma_{max}]$  s.t.:  
$$P(\sigma_{t,min} \leq \sigma_t^{AM} \leq \sigma_{t,max}) = \alpha$$
  
where  $\sigma_t^{AM}$  is the annualized daily returns volatility realized by the automatic asset manager at day  $t$  based on the last 252 product's daily returns.

**Definition 2**  
A "management failure" is said to occur at day  $t$  if either  $\sigma_t^{AM} > \sigma_{t,max}$  or  $\sigma_t^{AM} < \sigma_{t,min}$ .

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

### Management Failures

#### Volatility Prediction Intervals



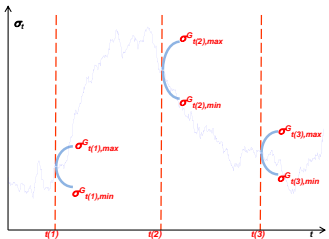
2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

### Management Failures

#### Volatility Prediction Intervals

Hypothesis:

Adaptive GARCH diffusive models to measure the ability of the automatic asset manager to remain within his risk budget



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

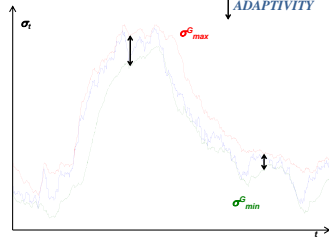
### Management Failures

#### Volatility Prediction Intervals

ADAPTIVITY

Hypothesis:

Adaptive GARCH diffusive models to measure the ability of the automatic asset manager to remain within his risk budget



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

### Management Failures

#### Diffusive GARCH Implementation

from the M-GARCH(1,1)

$$\begin{cases} X_k - X_{k-1} = \gamma \cdot (\eta - X_{k-1}) + \sigma_k \tilde{Z}_k \\ \text{and} \\ \ln \sigma_{k+1}^2 - \ln \sigma_k^2 = \beta_0^2 + (\beta_1^2 - 1) \ln \sigma_k^2 + \beta_1^2 \ln Z_k^2 \\ \text{or, equivalently} \\ \ln \sigma_{k+1}^2 - \ln \sigma_k^2 = \beta_0^2 + (\beta_1^2 - 1) \ln \sigma_k^2 + 2\beta_1^2 \ln |Z_k| \end{cases}$$

$\tilde{Z}_k$  and  $Z_k$  are i.i.d. N(0,1)

Weak Convergence Theorem of Discrete Markov Chains to Diffusions

$$dX_t = q(\mu - X_t)dt + \sigma_t dW_t$$

$$d \ln \sigma_t^2 = (\beta_0 + 2\beta_1 E(\ln |Z_t|) + (\beta_1 - 1) \ln \sigma_t^2) dt + 2|\beta_1| \sqrt{\text{Var}(\ln |Z_t|)} dW_t^*$$

$Z_t \sim N(0,1)$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

### Management Failures

#### Diffusive GARCH Implementation

distributional properties of the S.D.E. of the M-GARCH(1,1)

$$d \ln \sigma_t^2 = [\beta_0 + 2\beta_1 E(\ln |Z_t|) + (\beta_1 - 1) \ln \sigma_t^2] dt + 2|\beta_1| \sqrt{\text{Var}(\ln |Z_t|)} dW_t^*$$

O.U. process

$$\ln \sigma_t^2 \sim N \left( \frac{(\ln \sigma_0^2 + \frac{\beta_0 + 2\beta_1 E(\ln |Z_t|)}{(\beta_1 - 1)}) e^{(\beta_1 - 1)(t-s)} - \frac{\beta_0 + 2\beta_1 E(\ln |Z_t|)}{(\beta_1 - 1)}}{\sqrt{\frac{2|\beta_1| \sqrt{\text{Var}(\ln |Z_t|)}}{2(\beta_1 - 1)} (e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)t} - e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)s})}} \right)$$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

### Management Failures

#### Diffusive GARCH Implementation

matching of the first two conditional moments

the discrete process becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \sigma_k^2 - \ln \sigma_{k-1}^2 = & \frac{[\beta_0 + 2\beta_1 E(\ln |Z_{k-1}|)](e^{(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1)}{\beta_1 - 1} \\ & - 2|\beta_1| \sqrt{\frac{e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1}{2(\beta_1 - 1)}} E(\ln |Z_{k-1}|) + \\ & + (e^{(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1) \ln \sigma_{k-1}^2 + \\ & + 2|\beta_1| \sqrt{\frac{e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1}{2(\beta_1 - 1)}} \ln |Z_{k-1}| \end{aligned}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator  
2<sup>nd</sup> INTUITION

### Management Failures

#### Diffusive GARCH Implementation

maximum likelihood estimation

the likelihood function

$$L(w; \beta) = \prod_{k=2}^K \left[ \frac{1}{|\beta_1| \sqrt{2\pi}} \sqrt{\frac{2(\beta_1 - 1)}{e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1}} \cdot e^{\left(\frac{\beta_1 - 1}{2\beta_1} \sqrt{\frac{2(\beta_1 - 1)}{e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1}} w_k\right)} \cdot e^{-\left(\frac{1}{2\beta_1} \sqrt{\frac{2(\beta_1 - 1)}{e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1}} w_k\right)^2} \right]$$

where:

$$\beta := (\beta_0, \beta_1)$$

$$w_k := \ln \sigma_k^2 - \ln \sigma_{k-1}^2 - \frac{[\beta_0 + 2\beta_1 E(\ln |Z_{k-1}|)](e^{(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1)}{\beta_1 - 1} - 2|\beta_1| \sqrt{\frac{e^{2(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1}{2(\beta_1 - 1)}} E(\ln |Z_{k-1}|) + (e^{(\beta_1 - 1)} - 1) \ln \sigma_{k-1}^2$$

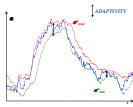
$K$  := number of observations of annualized daily volatility used to estimate the parameters

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Management Failures  
Diffusive GARCH Implementation

maximum likelihood estimation  
REMARK

Adaptivity of Diffusive GARCH allows to work with poorer filtrations:

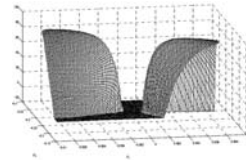


K reasonably small (around 60)

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Management Failures  
Diffusive GARCH Implementation

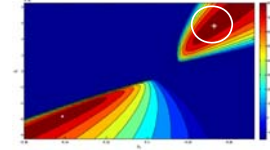
maximum likelihood estimation  
shape of the log-likelihood function



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Management Failures  
Diffusive GARCH Implementation

maximum likelihood estimation  
 $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$  estimates



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Management Failures  
Diffusive GARCH Implementation

the estimated parameters enter in the bounds of the volatility prediction interval

$$\sigma_{t,\min}^G = e^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{[\alpha\beta_1(\sqrt{V} + \ln(\alpha\beta_1))]^2 (\alpha^{2\beta_1 - 1} - 1)}{2(\beta_1 - 1)} + \left( \ln \sigma_{t-1}^G + \frac{\alpha\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 \ln(\alpha\beta_1)}{(\beta_1 - 1)} \right) (\beta_1 - 1) - \frac{\alpha\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 \ln(\alpha\beta_1)}{(\beta_1 - 1)}}$$

$$\sigma_{t,\max}^G = e^{-\frac{\alpha}{2}} \sqrt{\frac{[\alpha\beta_1(\sqrt{V} + \ln(\alpha\beta_1))]^2 (\alpha^{2\beta_1 - 1} - 1)}{2(\beta_1 - 1)} + \left( \ln \sigma_{t-1}^G + \frac{\alpha\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 \ln(\alpha\beta_1)}{(\beta_1 - 1)} \right) (\beta_1 - 1) + \frac{\alpha\beta_1 \beta_2 \beta_3 \ln(\alpha\beta_1)}{(\beta_1 - 1)}}$$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Management Failures  
Diffusive GARCH Implementation

the  $\alpha$ -confident volatility prediction interval becomes:

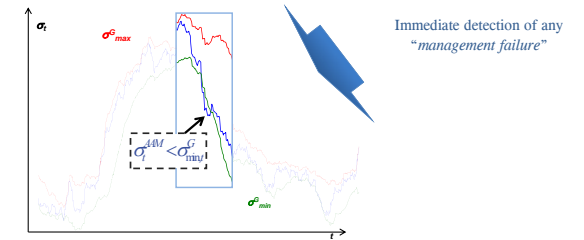
$$[\sigma_{t,\min}^G, \sigma_{t,\max}^G]$$

i.e.:

$$\Pr(\sigma_{t,\min}^G \leq \sigma_t^{AM} \leq \sigma_{t,\max}^G) = \alpha$$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

Management Failures  
Diffusive GARCH Implementation



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

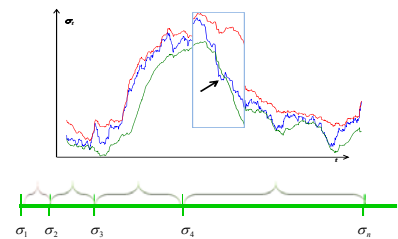
NO INCENTIVE TO CHOOSE A SPECIFIC CLASS

3<sup>rd</sup> INTUITION  $mf_1 = mf_2 = mf_3 = mf_4 = \dots = mf_n$

Management Failures

Volatility Prediction Intervals

suitable volatility grid



2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

The stochastic non linear programming problem  
Solution to step 1

The higher is  $n$  the smaller will be the average width of the volatility intervals and the lower is the average number of the management failures

$$n^* = 7$$

2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar  
Synthetic risk indicator

The stochastic non linear programming problem  
Solution to step 2

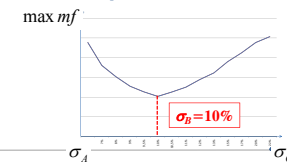
LEMMA (for two consecutive intervals)

Let  $\sigma_A$  and  $\sigma_C$  be two known volatilities with  $\sigma_A < \sigma_C$ . Then, the value of  $\sigma_B$  s.t.:

$$\min_{\sigma_B} \left( \max \{ mf_{(\sigma_A, \sigma_B)}, mf_{(\sigma_B, \sigma_C)} \} \right)$$

is:  $\sigma_B = \sqrt{\sigma_A \sigma_C}$  or, equivalently:  $\frac{\sigma_B}{\sigma_A} = \frac{\sigma_C}{\sigma_B} = m$

where  $m$  is called "multiplier".







The stochastic non linear programming problem

COROLLARY (for two consecutive intervals)

Let  $[\sigma_1, \sigma_2]$  and  $[\sigma_3, \sigma_4]$  be two volatility intervals having the same multiplier  $m$ , i.e.:

$$m = \frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} = \frac{\sigma_4}{\sigma_3}$$

then, the two intervals have the same number of "management failures", i.e.:

$$mf_1 = mf_2$$

where  $mf_i, i=1,2$  is the total number of management failures occurred to the automatic asset manager of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  volatility interval, that is the realized number of breaches of the diffusive GARCH-based volatility prediction intervals



The stochastic non linear programming problem

Generalizing for  $n$  consecutive intervals:



The lemma and the corollary can be applied iteratively leading to:

$$\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} = \frac{\sigma_3}{\sigma_2} = \frac{\sigma_4}{\sigma_3} = \frac{\sigma_5}{\sigma_4} \dots = \frac{\sigma_{n-1}}{\sigma_{n-2}} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\sigma_{n-1}}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_2}{\sigma_1} = \frac{\sigma_3}{\sigma_2} = \frac{\sigma_4}{\sigma_3} = \dots = \frac{\sigma_n}{\sigma_{n-1}} = m$$



The stochastic non linear programming problem



the  $1^{\text{st}}$  and the  $n^{\text{th}}$  interval cannot respect the multiplier

the  $1^{\text{st}}$  and the  $n^{\text{th}}$  interval must be chosen looking at exogenous information



The stochastic non linear programming problem

ASSUMPTION

25% AS THE LOWER BOUND OF THE LAST VOLATILITY INTERVAL



...corresponding to a percentage loss of about 50% of the invested capital over a 1-year time horizon



The stochastic non linear programming problem

ASSUMPTION

0.25% AS THE UPPER BOUND OF THE FIRST VOLATILITY INTERVAL



...corresponding to typical results of monetary markets instruments



The stochastic non linear programming problem

the optimization problem becomes:

given  $n^*=7$ :

$$\min_{\sigma_2 < \sigma_3 < \dots < \sigma_7} \left( \max_{i=2, \dots, 6} mf_i \right)$$

$$s.t. mf_{i+1} - mf_i = 0$$

$$with: \sigma_2 = 0.25\% \quad \sigma_7 = 25\%$$



Suitable volatility grid

OUTPUT

Risk Classes	Volatility Intervals	
	$\sigma_{min}$	$\sigma_{max}$
Very Low	0.01%	0.24%
Low	0.25%	0.59%
Medium-Low	0.6%	1.59%
Medium	1.60%	3.99%
Medium-High	4.00%	9.99%
High	10.00%	24.99%
Very High	25.00%	>25.00%

$$m^* = 2.5$$



Suitable volatility grid

REMARK

The optimal set of volatility intervals is consistent with the principle:

+ RISK + LOSSES

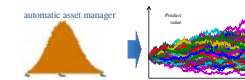


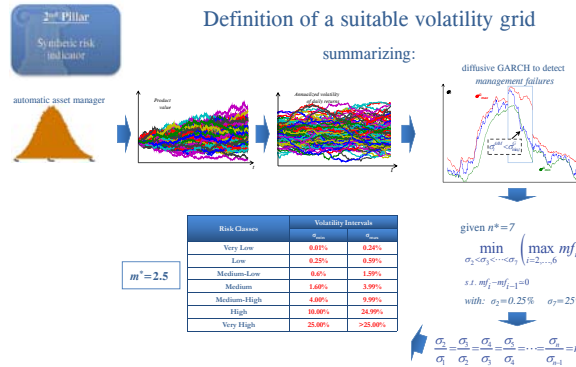
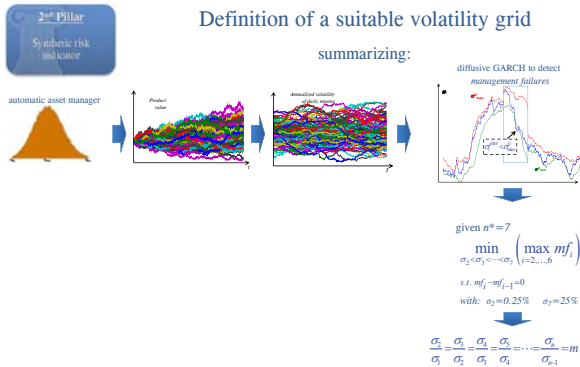
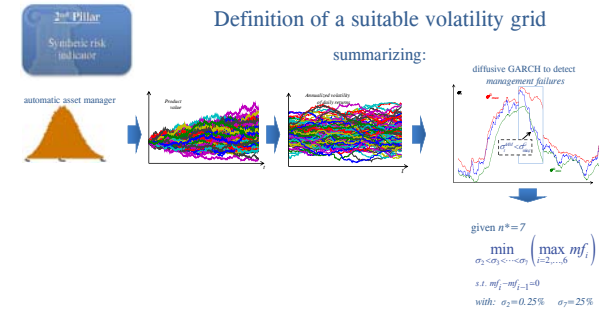
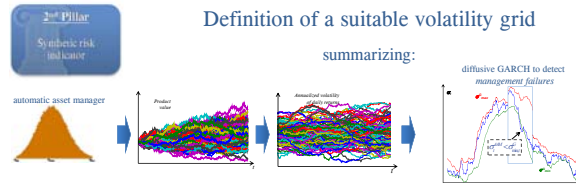
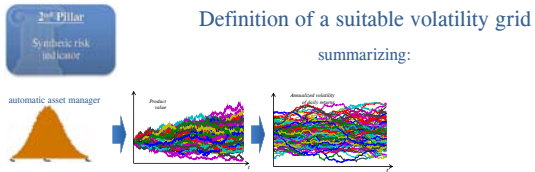
VOLATILITY INTERVALS HAVE AN INCREASING WIDTH



Definition of a suitable volatility grid

summarizing:





## Syllabus

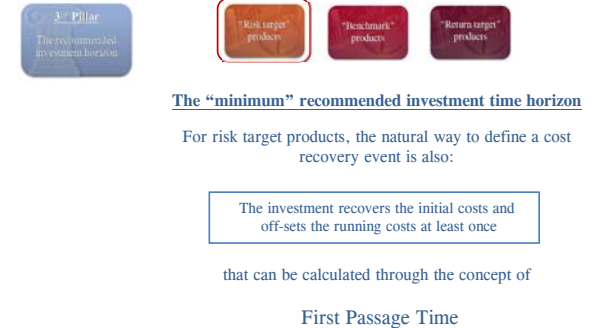
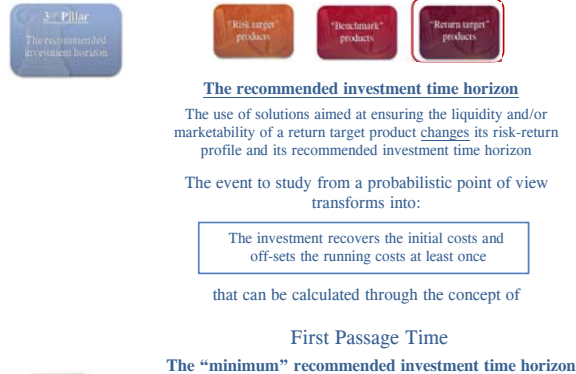
### Preliminaries

### Three-pillars approach:

1<sup>st</sup> Pillar: unbundling and performance scenarios

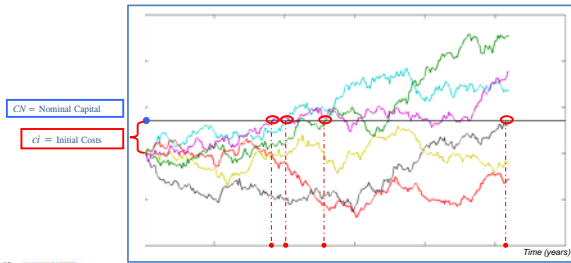
2<sup>nd</sup> Pillar: the degree of risk

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar: recommended investment time horizon



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

**First Passage Time:**  
First time (expressed in years) such that the value of the Invested Capital (CI) recovers the initial costs and off-sets the running costs.



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

The probability of the event:

The investment recovers the initial costs and off-sets the running costs at least once

given a confidence level  $\alpha$ , uniquely identifies a time  $T^*$  on the cumulative distribution function of the first passage times, i.e.:

$$T^* = \left\{ T \in \mathfrak{R}^+ : P[t^* \leq T] = \alpha \right\}$$

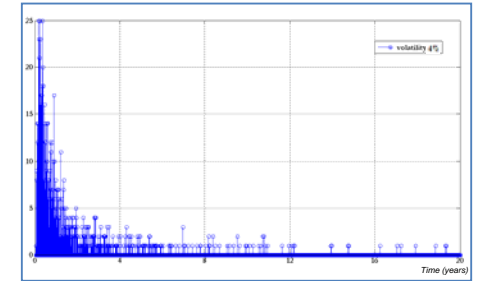
where

$$t^* = \inf \left\{ t \in \mathfrak{R}^+ : CI_t > CN \right\}$$

is the first passage time

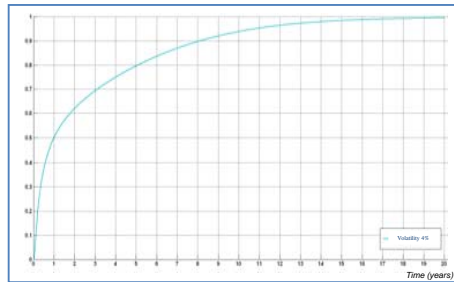
3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

1. Calculation of the probability distribution of the first passage times:



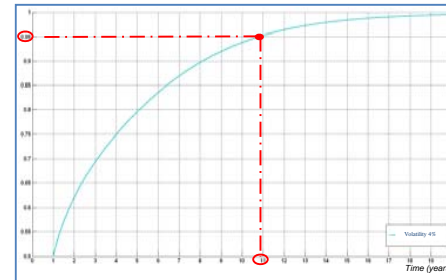
3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

2. Derivation of the cumulative distribution function of the first passage times:



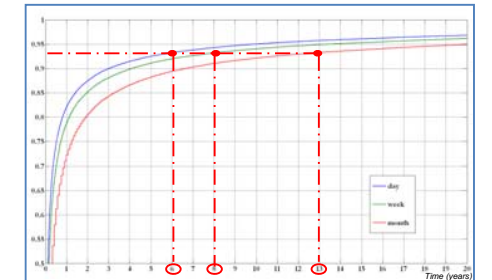
3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

3. The confidence level  $\alpha$  uniquely identifies  $T^*$  on the cumulative distribution function of the first passage times:



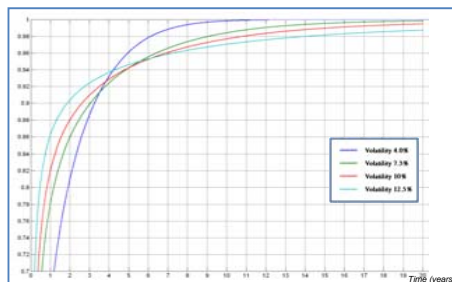
3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

3. The discretization step is relevant in the determination of the cumulative probability function, conditioning the identification of the time horizon, given a fixed level of confidence:



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

When many probability distribution functions are considered, letting varying volatilities and costs, the problem of correctly identifying a set of minimum thresholds arises:



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Anyway, the recommended minimum investment time horizon...

$$T^* = \left\{ T \in \mathfrak{R}^+ : P[t^* \leq T] = \alpha \right\}$$

... Must be coherent with the principle

+ VOLATILITY + TIME HORIZON

The correct way to solve the problem is to set up an operative procedure to select properly each threshold according to the above principle

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

First passage times for the break-even barrier are monitored at infinitesimal time intervals:

$dt \rightarrow 0$

$$T^* = \left\{ T \in \mathfrak{R}^+ : P[t^* \leq T] = \alpha \right\}$$

$$P[t^* \leq T] = N \left( d_2 \left( \frac{CI_0}{CN} \right) \right) + \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2(r-cr)}{\sigma^2} - 1} \cdot N \left( -d_2 \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \right)$$

$$d_2(x) = \frac{\log x + \left( r - cr - \frac{1}{2} \sigma^2 \right) T}{\sigma \sqrt{T}}$$

$$N(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{z^2}{2}} dz$$

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

Asymptotic properties:  $T \rightarrow \infty$

$cr$  : recurrent costs as a fixed %

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} P[l^* \leq T] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (\bar{r} - cr) \geq \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \\ \left(\frac{CN}{CI_0}\right)^{\frac{2(\bar{r}-cr)}{\sigma^2}-1} & \text{if } (\bar{r} - cr) < \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \end{cases}$$

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

Under our assumptions:

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} P[l^* \leq T] = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } (\bar{r} - cr) \geq \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \\ \left(\frac{CN}{CI_0}\right)^{\frac{2(\bar{r}-cr)}{\sigma^2}-1} & \text{if } (\bar{r} - cr) < \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2 \end{cases}$$

For a given level of costs, it is possible to analytically derive the connection between volatility and time horizon

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$T \rightarrow \infty, dt \rightarrow 0$

FIRST ORDER SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{(\bar{r} - cr)}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2(\bar{r}-cr)}{\sigma^2}-1} \right]$$

FIRST ORDER ASYMPTOTIC CONDITION

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{(\bar{r} - cr)}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2(\bar{r}-cr)}{\sigma^2}-1} \right]$$

- $(\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$
- $(\bar{r} - cr) \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$

The existence of two alternative states of nature requires to verify whether both of them make sense in financial terms under the risk-neutral measure.

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{\bar{r}}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2\bar{r}}{\sigma^2}-1} \right]$$

- $\bar{r} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$
- $\bar{r} \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$

Being running costs a specific feature of any financial product they would interfere with the task of identifying which of the two conditions has a sound financial meaning. Therefore, they will be temporarily neglected.

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{\bar{r}}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2\bar{r}}{\sigma^2}-1} \right]$$

- $\bar{r} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$
- ~~$\bar{r} \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$~~

Since it is safe to assume a positive interest rate  $r$  in financial markets, only condition 1. correctly captures the connection between volatility and time horizon.

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{\bar{r}}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2\bar{r}}{\sigma^2}-1} \right]$$

- $\bar{r} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$
- ~~$\bar{r} \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$~~

As  $T \rightarrow \infty$  condition 1. implies that the cumulative distribution function P is a strictly decreasing function of the volatility, i.e.:

$$\forall \sigma_1, \sigma_2 \in \mathfrak{R}^+, \sigma_1 > \sigma_2 \Rightarrow P(\sigma_1) < P(\sigma_2)$$

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{\bar{r}}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2\bar{r}}{\sigma^2}-1} \right]$$

- $\bar{r} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$
- ~~$\bar{r} \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$~~

In other words, for a given a confidence level, as the volatility grows, the recommended investment time horizon increases as well:

+VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{\bar{r}}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2\bar{r}}{\sigma^2}-1} \right]$$

- $\bar{r} > 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$
- $\bar{r} \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$

$$\exists T^* \in [0, \infty[ : \frac{dP}{d\sigma} = 0$$

Furthermore, condition 1. alone is sufficient to guarantee a minimum time  $T^*$  beyond which the following strong condition holds:

+VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$T \rightarrow \infty, dt \rightarrow 0$$

$$\frac{dP}{d\sigma} = \left[ -4 \frac{(\bar{r} - cr)}{\sigma^3} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2(\bar{r} - cr)}{\sigma^2} - 1} \right]$$

$1. (\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$

$\exists T^* \in [0, \infty[ : \frac{dP}{d\sigma} = 0$

$cr > 0$

$2. (\bar{r} - cr) \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$

Generalizing...

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$T \rightarrow \infty, dt \rightarrow 0$$

$$\frac{d^2P}{d\sigma^2} = \frac{4}{\sigma^4} (\bar{r} - cr) \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right)^{\frac{2(\bar{r} - cr)}{\sigma^2} - 1} \cdot \left[ 1 + \frac{4(\bar{r} - cr)}{\sigma^2} \ln \left( \frac{CN}{CI_0} \right) \right]$$

$(\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d^2P}{d\sigma^2} > 0$

➔

SECOND ORDER ASYMPTOTIC CONDITION

Second Order Sensitivity Analysis

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

Connection between probability, volatility and costs

$$T \rightarrow \infty, dt \rightarrow 0$$

$1. \begin{cases} (\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0 \\ (\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d^2P}{d\sigma^2} > 0 \end{cases}$

$\exists T^* \in [0, \infty[ : \frac{dP}{d\sigma} = 0$

$2. (\bar{r} - cr) \leq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} \geq 0$

Summarizing the results of the asymptotic analysis in continuous time:

- As  $T \rightarrow \infty$ , for a given a confidence level, more volatility implies a larger recommended investment time horizon
- It is always possible to find a minimum and finite time  $T^*$ , beyond which the strong condition +VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON holds

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

$T \rightarrow \infty$   
 $dt \rightarrow 0$   
 $P(\infty, \sigma)$   
 $(\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dP}{d\sigma} < 0$   
 $(\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d^2P}{d\sigma^2} > 0$

➔

General Framework:  
 $T$  finite  
 $dt \rightarrow 0$   
 $P(T, \sigma)$   
 $(\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Rightarrow \lim_{\sigma \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\partial P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma} < 0$   
 $(\bar{r} - cr) > 0 \Rightarrow \lim_{\sigma \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2} > 0$

In order to determine effectively the investment time horizon, it is necessary to abandon the asymptotic environment and to shift the analysis of condition 1. in a finite time framework.

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

FIRST ORDER SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS  $\frac{\partial P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma}$

At a finite time T, the sufficient condition of the first order that allows to state the core relationship

+ volatility + time horizon

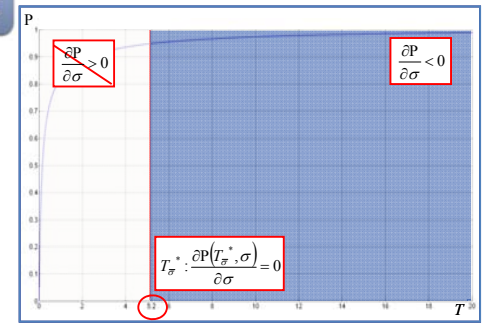
is then specified in the following form:

$\frac{\partial P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma} > 0$  if  $0 \leq T < T_\sigma^*$

$\frac{\partial P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma} \leq 0$  if  $T \geq T_\sigma^*$

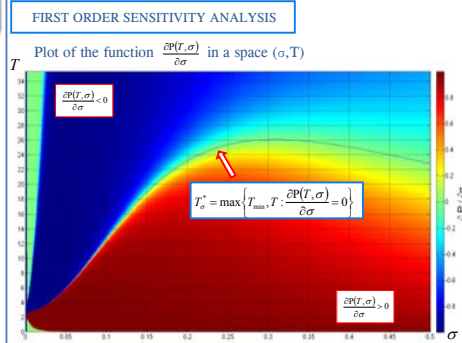
3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

SECOND ORDER SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS  $\frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2}$

Given the monotonicity condition of the probability distribution with respect to volatility, i.e.:

$\forall \sigma_i, \sigma_j \in \mathcal{R}^+, \sigma_j > \sigma_i \Rightarrow P(\infty, \sigma_j) < P(\infty, \sigma_i)$

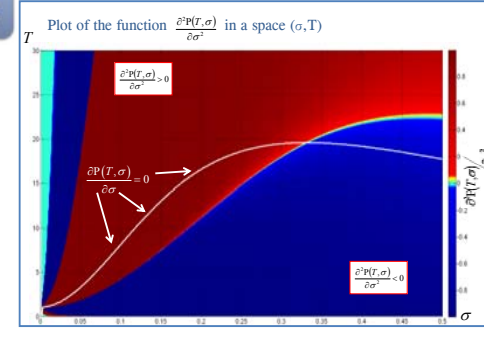
In order to fulfill this condition, it's necessary to restrict the analysis in the region where the probability function is strictly increasing, i.e.:

$\frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2} > 0 \Rightarrow T_\sigma^*$  increasing

$\frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2} < 0 \Rightarrow T_\sigma^*$  decreasing

3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON



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The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

SECOND ORDER SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

$$\frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2}$$

Having defined the maximum time in the form:

$$\begin{cases} \sigma \in \mathfrak{H}^+ \\ T_{\max} \in T_{\sigma}^* \end{cases} : \frac{\partial^2 P(T_{\max}, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2} = 0$$

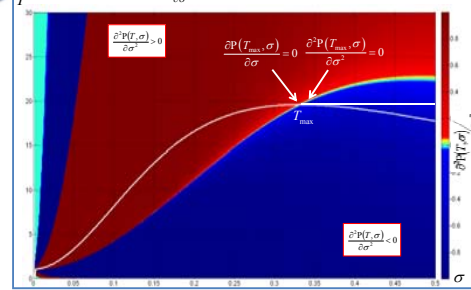
The sufficient condition of the 2<sup>o</sup> order is specified as:

$$T_{\sigma}^* = \begin{cases} T_{\sigma}^* \text{ if } \frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2} \Big|_{T=T_{\sigma}^*} \geq 0 \\ T_{\max} \text{ if } \frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2} \Big|_{T=T_{\sigma}^*} < 0 \end{cases}$$

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The recommended investment horizon

DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

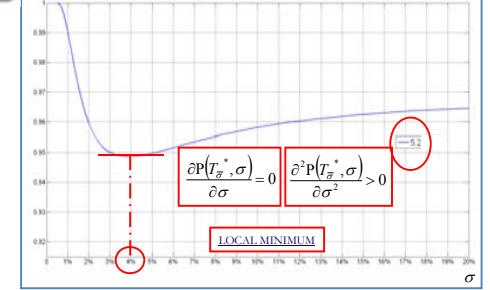
Plot of the function  $\frac{\partial^2 P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma^2}$  in a space  $(\sigma, T)$



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DETERMINATION OF THE INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

P In synthesis, at a finite time T:



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+ VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
to determine a sequence of consistent time horizons

*STRONG CONVERGENCE LEMMA for times:*

Given a sequence of financial products  $F_j$  with volatility  $\sigma_j$  and recalling the first order sufficient condition:

$$T_{\sigma}^* = \max \left\{ T_{\min}, T : \frac{\partial P(T, \sigma)}{\partial \sigma} = 0 \right\}, \quad \forall \sigma \in \mathfrak{H}^+$$

the first order sufficient condition can be specified for the class of products  $F_j$  in the following form:

$$T_{\sigma_j}^{\varepsilon_j} : P(T_{\sigma_j}^{\varepsilon_j}, \sigma_{j+1}) = P(T_{\sigma_j}^{\varepsilon_j}, \sigma_j)$$

It therefore holds the following strong convergence relation with respect to times:

$$\lim_{\sigma_{j+1} \rightarrow \sigma_j} T_{\sigma_j}^{\varepsilon_j} = T_{\sigma_j}^*$$

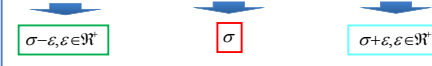
where  $\varepsilon_j = (\sigma_{j+1} - \sigma_j) > 0$ .

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The recommended investment horizon

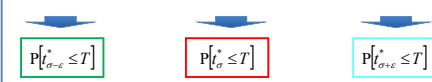
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FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
to determine a sequence of consistent time horizons

In order to have an intuitive explanation of the lemma, let's consider the following volatility levels:



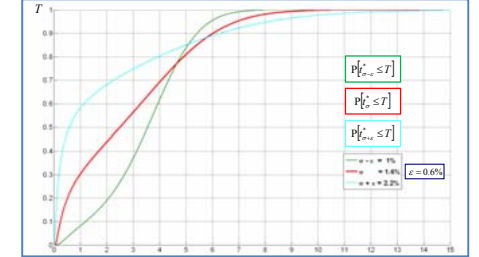
and the respective probability distribution functions, i.e.:



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The recommended investment horizon

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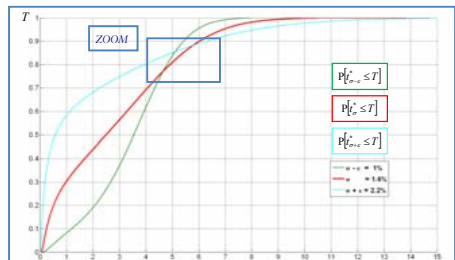
FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
to determine a sequence of consistent time horizons



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

+ VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

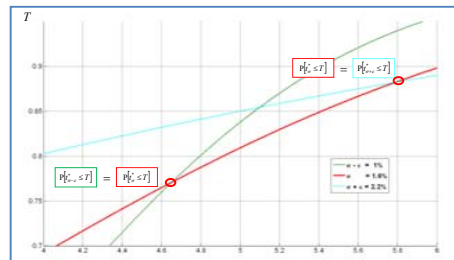
FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
to determine a sequence of consistent time horizons



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

+ VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

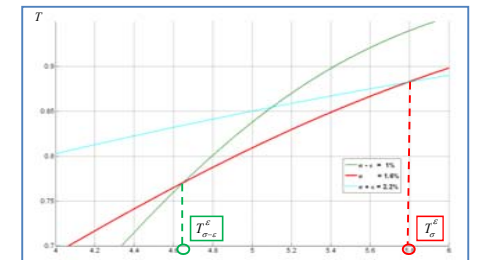
FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
to determine a sequence of consistent time horizons



3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

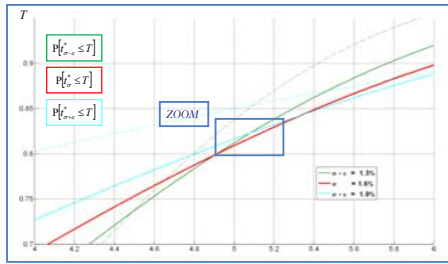
+ VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON

FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
to determine a sequence of consistent time horizons



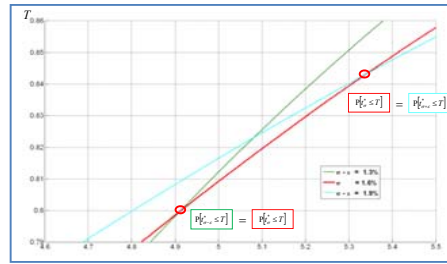
3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

+ VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON  
FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
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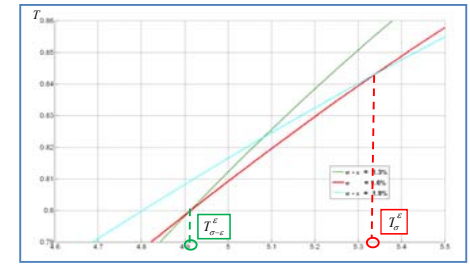
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FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
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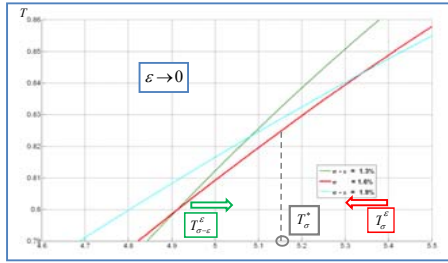
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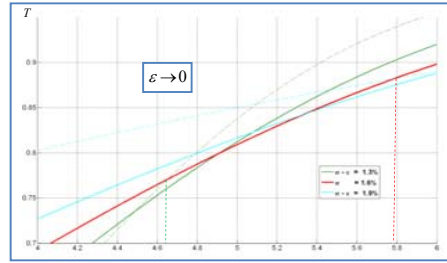
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The recommended investment horizon

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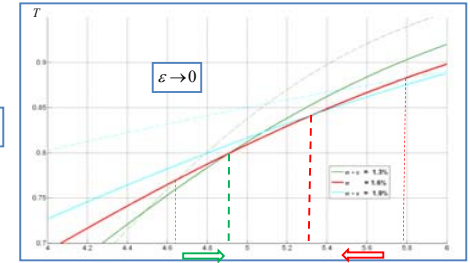
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The recommended investment horizon

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FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
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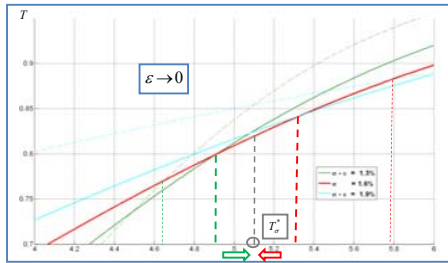
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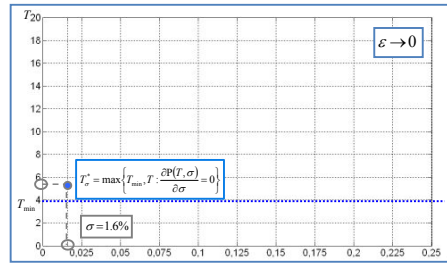
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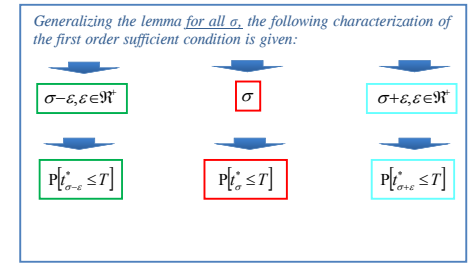
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3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

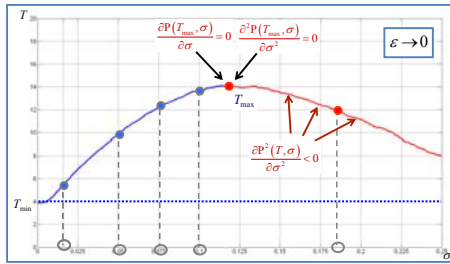
+ VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON  
FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
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3<sup>rd</sup> Pillar  
The recommended investment horizon

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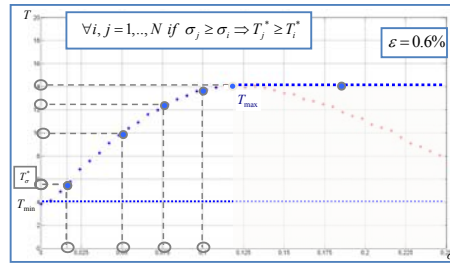
The time is characterized on the curve of minimum times...



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+ VOLATILITY + RECOMMENDED INVESTMENT TIME HORIZON  
SECOND ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
to determine a sequence of consistent time horizons

Weak monotonicity condition of times w.r.t. volatility



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FIRST ORDER SUFFICIENT CONDITION  
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Formally, for any sequence of products with volatility  $\sigma_j$ , defined in a given class of costs  $(c_i, cr)$ :

Strong convergence lemma for times  
First order sufficient condition

Weak monotonicity condition of times w.r.t. volatility  
Second order sufficient condition

$$\forall j = 1, \dots, N, \sigma_{j+1} > \sigma_j, \\ T'_{j+1} = \max \{ T'_j, T \in [T_{min}, T_{max}] : P[\sigma_{j+1} \leq T] = P[\sigma_j \leq T] = \alpha'_{j+1} \}$$

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## Integrated risk measurement and representation for non-equity products: how to frame material risks over the time horizon of the investment

Marcello Minenna – Head of Quantitative Analysis Unit, Consob

