CDO models: Opening the black box Large homogeneous pool model

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Structured credit research

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Putting the theory to work

Infinite, homogeneous portfolio

- In the first part of our series we release the Large Homogenous Pool Model in the standard version as well as a version using the Gauss-Hermite Integration technique
- This publication has been structured as a user guide to be used in conjunction with the excel-based model. Whilst we do briefly touch upon the main theoretical concepts, we do not go into detailed explanations and proofs, as this information has been widely discussed and is readily available. Instead, we focus on how to implement the theory and apply the models
- Given the simplified assumptions behind this model, it is not a pricing tool for CDO tranches but instead is the first step to allow the user to appreciate the impact of key parameters such as correlation, recovery and spread on the value of a specific tranche
- Additionally, as the pool is considered to have an infinite and identical number of obligors, aspects such as idiosyncratic risk are not specifically treated. We will relax and analyse these points in the upcoming models

Large Homogeneous Pool Model:

https://research.dresdnerkleinwort.com/document/FILE.pdf?REF=241839

Large Homogeneous Pool Model with Gauss-Hermite Integration:

https://research.dresdnerkleinwort.com/document/FILE.pdf?REF=241841



Model components at a glance...

Deal Parameters

Discount Rate (%)	5.00%
Coupon payment frequency (p.a.)	4
Average Recovery (%)	40.00%
Index Spread (bps)	100.00
Hazard Rate ~ Clean spread	166.67
Cumulative Default Probability	8.17%
Total Portfolio Notional	1,000,000
Value Date	04-Sep-08
Maturity Date	20-Sep-13
Next Coupon Date	20-Sep-08
Horizon (as a year fraction)	5.1167
Maturity in months	60
Correlation	20%

Key Model Outputs

	Upfront	Running Spread (bps)	DV01
0% - 3%	58.25%	500.0	2.27
3% - 6%		957.3	3.72
6% - 9%		428.8	4.17
9% - 12%		208.4	4.34
12% - 22%		55.6	4.45
22% - 100%		0.7	4.39
Index		100.0	4.30



Numerical Integration

100.00%

100.00%

Factor	-0.1	0.0	0.1							
Integral	0.0396953	0.0398942	0.0396953							
Portfolio default distribution, conditional on facto										
1	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%							
2	0.23%	0.20%	0.17%							
20	6.209%	5.620%	5.077%							
21	6.579%	5.963%	5.393%							
Tranche I	oss, conditio	nal on factor								
1	0.46%	0.38%	0.31%							
2	4.59%	3.92%	3.34%							

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

100.00%

Portfolio default rate distribution



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The main model inputs

Spreadsheet screenshot



Underlying assumptions

- Key portfolio assumption: In the large homogeneous pool framework, the CDO collateral pool is assumed to be infinite in size and homogeneous. Homogeneity implies that the index is equivalent to a single name CDS with identical spread and recovery
- In addition, without loss of generality, we assume flat CDS spreads and a flat interest rate curve for discounting
- In line with market practices, we use quarterly CDS coupon payments. The model provides the flexibility to price contracts with maturities up to 60 months, which is generally equivalent to 21 coupons payments. The first payment is with respect of the part quarter to the first fixed coupon date



The defining relationship between spreads and default probabilities

Fee leg, contingent leg and risky annuity

- The fair spread of a CDS contract is calculated by equating the present value of the expected future coupons payments (fee leg) with the present value of the expected loss payable following an event of default (contingent leg)
- The key formula:



Where:
S = CDS spread
R = Recovery rate
Coupon payments, at times $t = 1$ to T
i = risk - free discount rate (p.a.)
Δ_t = time period between coupon periods
SP_t = Survival probability up to period $t = e^{-\lambda t}$
$SP_t - SP_{t-1} =$ Marginal default probability

The risky annuity (PV01) can also be calculated using this relationship and can then be used as an estimate of the contract's risky duration (DV01)

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} e^{-it} \Delta_t SP_t + \sum_{t=1}^{T} e^{-it} \frac{\Delta_t}{2} (SP_t - SP_{t-1}) = PV01 \approx DV01$$

The CDS Index spread is calculated in a similar manner as for a single CDS. When assuming a homogeneous pool, the index spread and recovery is the same as that of the underlying. For a heterogeneous pool, the index spread is calculated as the DV01-weighted average spread of the portfolio, and the index recovery as the average recovery of the pool



The defining relationship between spreads and default probabilities

Spreadsheet screenshot

					S _t =	= e ^{-λt}		
Pay date information Δ_t e ^{-it}		Index calcul	ation usi	ng the index	spread			
Time Period	d (t) Pay Date	Day Count	Discount Factor	Cum. Defaults	Survivals	Marg. Defaults		
1	20-Sep-08	0.044	99.78%	0.07%	99.93%	0.07%		
2	20-Dec-08	0.253	98.52%	0.49%	99.51%	0.42%	Coupon Leg	
3	20-Mar-09	0.250	97.30%	0.91%	99.09%	0.41%	4.30	
4	20-Jun-09	0.256	96.07%	1.33%	98.67%	0.42%	Accrual on default	
5	20-Sep-09	0.256	94.85%	1.75%	98.25%	0.42%	0.009	
							Fee leg ≈DV01	Contingent Leg
18	20-Dec-12	0.253	80.43%	7.00%	93.00%	0.39%	4.31	4.3081%
19	20-Mar-13	0.250	79.43%	7.39%	92.61%	0.39%		
20	20-Jun-13	0.256	78.42%	7.78%	92.22%	0.39%	Runnir	ng Spread
21	20-Sep-13	0.256	77.43%	1 8.17%	91.83%	0.39%		000%

Using the previously defined relationship between spreads and survival (default) probabilities, the cumulative default probabilities can be iteratively calculated from market observed spreads

In our model, without loss of generality, we assume flat CDS spreads, and hence given spread S and recovery R, the cumulative default probability, to any time t, is simply:

 $PD_t = 1 - e^{-\frac{S}{1-R}t} = 1 - e^{-\lambda t}$

Alternatively, the formula can also be applied to a set of cumulative default probabilities, and the running spread can then be calculated as

 $S = \frac{Contigent \ Leg}{Fee \ Leg}$

When pricing CDO tranches, this is the eventual aim. For each coupon pay date, once the distribution has been obtained, the survival probabilities for each tranche can be calculated and the same relationship can be applied to obtain the tranche spread.



Moving to a CDS portfolio: correlation is key



Portfolio loss distributions for different levels of correlation

- ▶ The portfolio's expected portfolio loss (EL) is not influenced by the level of correlation
- However, the correlation between the underlying obligors drives the shape of the portfolio's loss distribution and hence the risk allocation between the tranches
- Therefore, for single tranches correlation is an important parameter when determining the tranche EL and spread. When correlation is high there is a higher probability of zero losses, however the probability of large losses impacting the senior tranches also increases



The one factor model approach

Asset values are correlated via a common factor

- Correlation between the portfolio constituents means that the default probability of one asset is dependent on the other assets in the portfolio
- Such dependent probabilities increase the mathematical complexity and therefore, rather than directly specifying correlation between the assets, correlation is more efficiently introduced via a factor model where the correlation between each firm and a common macroeconomic factor is modelled
- Each asset (firm) is then correlated with this common market factor. Therefore, given a particular realisation of the market factor, the individual asset default probabilities are then independent, and hence more easily handled
- > A one factor model is commonly used, where the value of the an asset is modelled assuming a linear relationship with the market factor

$$V_{n}(t) = \sqrt{\rho_{n}} M(t) + \sqrt{1 - \rho_{n}} \varepsilon_{n}(t)$$

- > The common factor M determines the systematic risk and can be interpreted as the state of the economy
- > The idiosyncratic factor ε_n can be understood as a firm specific risk component
- > Both M and all ε_n are assumed to follow independent standard normal distributions ($\Phi \sim (0,1)$) and therefore the firm value V_n is also a standard normal
- The asset correlation parameter ρ determines the extent to which the firm value depends on the common and the idiosyncratic risk factors. For simplicity, we assume the correlation with the common market factor is identical for all assets:

$$\rho_n = \rho \quad \forall n$$



The one factor model approach

Independent conditional default probabilities

Using the simplest Merton framework, a default occurs if a firm's value falls below a certain default barrier

$$PD_n(t) = P[V_i(t) \le K_i(t)]$$

- The joint default behaviour of two firms is hence modelled based on asset values, and the input parameter is therefore the asset value correlation and NOT the default correlation
- Based on market observed CDS spreads the default probability to time t can be calculated (as before), and the default barrier for each asset can then be backed out. As we are assuming a homogeneous pool, for all assets the CDS spread and hence the default probabilities and default barrier are identical and calculated as:

$$K(t) = \Phi^{-1}(PD(t))$$

Finally, the cumulative probability of default conditional on a given realisation of the common factor *M* is given by

$$PD(t|m) = \Phi\left(\frac{K(t) - \sqrt{\rho m}}{\sqrt{1 - \rho}}\right) \longrightarrow PD(t) = \sum_{\forall m} PD(t|m)P(M = m)$$

- As discussed earlier, for a given realisation of the common factor *m* these probabilities are independent, and as we assume a homogeneous pool, they are also identical for all assets
- At portfolio level, the assumption in the case of a large homogenous pool (i.e. an infinite number of assets) at the same time gives the proportion of the portfolio defaulting by time *t* conditional on *m*



The one factor model in Excel

Spreadsheet screenshot



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Default treatment for indices vs. tranches (don't forget the recovery)

Losses to equity, recovery to super senior

- For a single name CDS, a default event results in the payment of the loss amount from the protection seller to the protection buyer and the contract is then cancelled
- At an index level, each obligor has a fixed notional exposure. If one of the portfolio names defaults, the resulting loss is similarly paid for by the protection buyer
- However, the index contract is not cancelled. Instead the index notional is reduced by the defaulting name's notional and future coupons are then based on this adjusted value
- When dealing with tranches, to ensure no arbitrage, the sum of the tranche notionals should always be equal to the index notional. Therefore, following a default the sum of the tranche notionals should also decrease by the defaulting name's notional
- However, as the equity tranche is the first loss piece, the recovered amount is not reduced from the equity. Instead, losses are passed through from the equity tranche up the capital structure and recovery from the most senior tranche downwards
- From our experience, we find that the recovery waterfall generally tends to be ignored BUT it is an important element of the model and should always be included

Default treatment for a CDS index



Default treatment for an CDS tranches





Allocating portfolio losses and recoveries to tranches

Starting with the conditional default probability, portfolio losses are allocated to tranches

- For the infinite case, the conditional default probabilities (for each time period t and market factor m) also tell us the proportion of the portfolio that has defaulted
- This default adjusted by the recovery gives us the portfolio loss, which is then allocated sequentially starting from the equity tranche. The resulting recovery is allocated from the super senior tranche
- If portfolio losses exceed a tranche's attachment point, then the tranche will suffer a loss. The tranche is fully wiped out if the portfolio loss exceeds its detachment point. In addition, because of the leverage inherent in tranches, tranche losses are a multiple of its width
- ▶ Therefore for an equity tranche with width 3%, a 1% portfolio loss will result in 33.33% (=1% / 3%) loss for the equity tranche
- Bearing this relationship in mind, given a portfolio loss of L_{Index}, the calculation of the loss associated with any tranche is straightforward:

$$L_{Tranche} = \frac{\min\left[\max(0, L_{Index} - Attachment), Tranche Width\right]}{Tranche Width}$$

Similarly, portfolio recovery is allocated based on the tranche width and its detachment point. Only when recoveries exceed a tranche's detachment point, the tranche notional will be reduced by any excess recovery:

$$R_{Tranche} = \frac{\min\left[\max(0, R_{Index} - (1 - Detachment)), Tranche Width\right]}{Tranche Width}$$



Allocating portfolio losses and recoveries to tranches

Spreadsheet screenshot

Common factor (m) Integral -0.3 -0.2 -0.1 0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.0381388 0.039104 0.039695 0.039695 0.039695 0.039695 0.039104 0.038139 Time Period Portfolio default distribution, conditional on factor (m) 1 0.033% 0.028% 0.023% 0.019% 0.016% 0.013% 0.011% 2 0.312% 0.268% 0.230% 0.196% 0.167% 0.142% 1.121% 3 0.637% 0.552% 0.478% 0.413% 0.356% 0.306% 0.263% 19 7.101% 6.447% 5.841% 5.280% 4.763% 4.287% 3.851% 20 7.529% 6.845% 6.209% 5.620% 5.077% 4.576% 4.115% 21 7.958% 7.243% 6.579% 3.93% 3.34% 2.241% 2.241% 21 7.35% 1.065% 0.46% 0.38% 0.31% 0.26% 2.25% 0.00%										
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			3.64%		3.00%	2.71%	2.44%			
4.08% 3.71% 3.37% 3.06% 2.77% 2.50% 2.25%										
			4.08%	3.71%	3.37%	3.06%	2.77%	2.50%	2.25%	

As shown before, the conditional default probabilities are calculated as:

Shown, here for t=3, m=0.3

$$PD(t = 3|m = 0.3) = \Phi\left(\frac{-2.362 - \sqrt{\rho}0.3}{\sqrt{1 - \rho}}\right)$$

Given a recovery of 40%, a portfolio default of 0.263% translates into a portfolio loss of 0.158% and portfolio recovery of 0.105%



losses exceed 3%, and the next tranche then gets affected





Tranche pricing

From conditional to unconditional tranche loss and recovery

- For each CDO tranche we now have two matrices showing, for each time period t and market factor m, the conditional cumulative tranche loss and tranche recovery
- To find the unconditional cumulative loss and recovery for each time period, we simply multiply the conditional value by the probability that the market factor equals *m*. (Similar to step 5 on page 9)

Spreadsheet screenshot

Unconditional cumulative loss by time
$$t$$

 $TL_{Eq}(t) = \sum_{\forall m} L_{TrancheEq}(t|m)P(M=m)$

Calculated by multiplying the row of conditional tranche loss by time t=1 with P(M=m)

Unconditional cumulative recovery by time t

$$TR_{SS}(t) = \sum_{\forall m} R_{TrancheSS}(t|m) P(M=m)$$

Calculated by multiplying the row of conditional tranche recovery by time t=1 with P(M=m)

marginal loss and marginal recovery for that period

			<u>Equity</u>				<u>S</u>	uper Senior		
Time	Notional		Marg.	Cum.	1	Notional		Marg.	Cum.	Cum.
period	(End Period)	Marg. Loss	Recoveries	Recoveries	Cu <u>m. L</u> oss	 (End Period)	Marg. Loss	Recoveries	Recoveries	Loss
1	98.52%	1.48%	0.00%	0.00%	(1.48%)	 99.96%	0.00%	0.04%	0.04% 2	×0.00 ک
2	90.40%	8.12%	0.00%	0.00%	9.60%	 99.75%	0.00%	0.22%	0.25%	0.00%
20	22.35%	1.67%	0.00%	0.00%	77.65%	 95.98%	0.01%	0.20%	3.99%	0.03%
21	20.84%	(1.50%)	0.00%	0.00%	79.16%	 95.77%	0.01%	0.20%	4.19%	0.04%
		23				4				

Similar calculation for marginal recovery



Tranche pricing: equivalent to pricing single name CDS

Spreadsheet screenshot





Gauss-Hermite integration

How to speed up the calculations

- In the first spreadsheet, the common factor M is modelled between -5 to +5 in steps of 0.1(see page 9) and assumed to follow a standard normal distribution
- Whilst this is a common approach for calculating a normal integral it is not the most efficient as it leads to 101 integration steps. Although not relevant at this stage, as we move to the later, more numerically intensive models, these large number of steps will have a significant impact on the calculation speed
- We therefore introduce the faster Gauss-Hermite technique in the second model. The model is set up identical to the first, with the only exception being the fewer (30) integration steps
- The Gauss-Hermite is a numerical method for approximating an integral using a limited number of points and is commonly used in practice for faster processing:

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-x^2} \left[e^{x^2} f(x) dx \right] \approx \sum_{k=1}^{N} w(x_k) e^{x_k^2} f(x_k)$$

- > x_k is the random variable, which in our case is the common market factor M.
- > $f(x_k)$ is therefore a standard normal density function
- $\gg w(x_k)e^{x_k^2}$ is the weight given to each market factor (equivalent to the 0.1 integration step for the first model)
- The values used for the market factor and the correspondent weights depend exclusively on the number of points used for the integration, in our case 30

Gauss-Hermite integration

Spreadsheet screenshot



Disclosure appendix

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Issuer	Definition
Overweight	We expect the issuer to outperform sector peers over a 6-months horizon and would suggest holding more of the issuer's instruments than the market would hold on average. The recommendation reflects our weighted view on all of an issuer's instruments and fundamentals compared to sector peers
Marketweight	We expect the issuer to perform in line with sector peers over a 6-months horizon and would suggest holding an amount of the issuer's instruments in line with what the market would hold on average. The recommendation reflects our weighted view on all of an issuer's instruments and fundamentals compared to sector peers
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We started tracking our trading recommendation history in compliance with the requirements of the Market Abuse Directive on 8 April 2005.

Distribution of Dresdner Kleinwort credit research recommendations as at 30 Jun 2008

		All covered companies Companies where		
			provided invo	estment banking service
Overweight	15	29%	9	60%
Marketweight	22	43%	7	32%
Underweight	14	27%	8	57%
Total	51		24	

Source: Dresdner Kleinwort Research



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