Price Behavior (2)

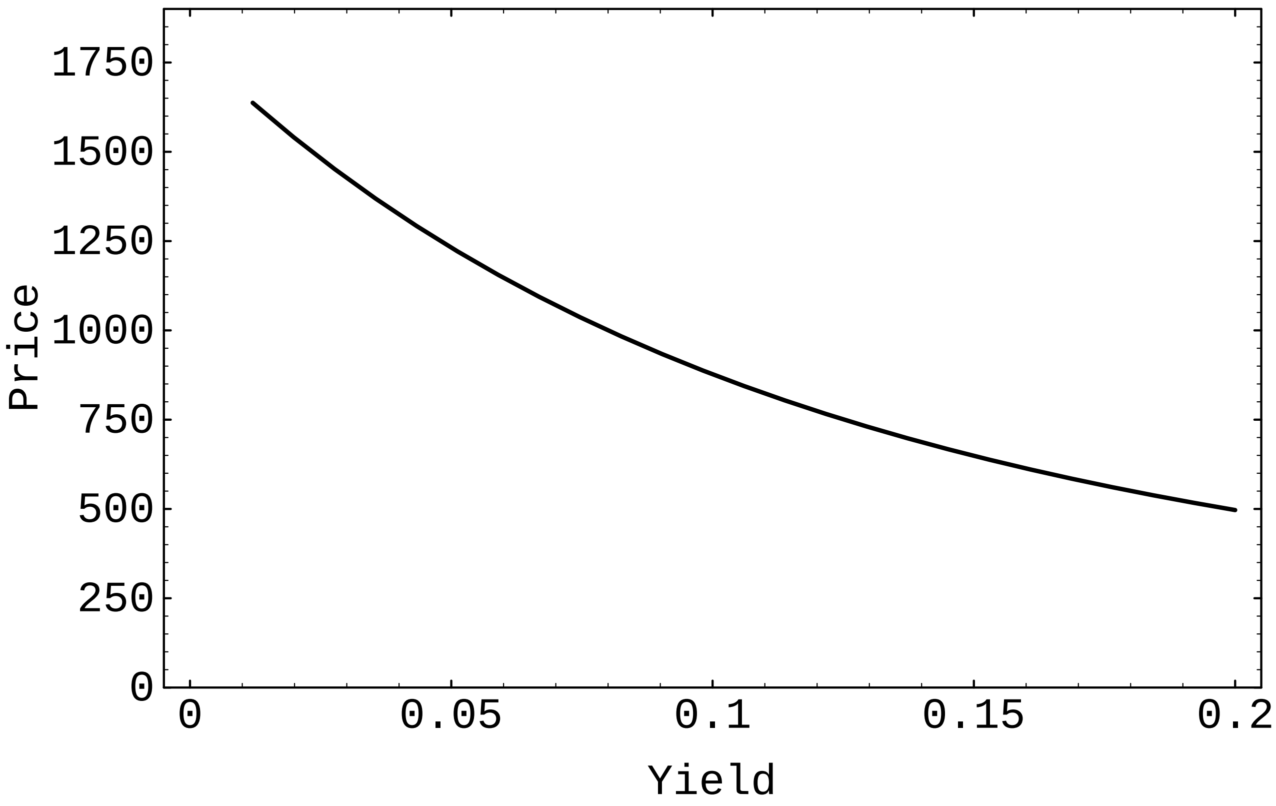
- A level-coupon bond sells
  - at a premium (above its par value) when its coupon rate is above the market interest rate;
  - at par (at its par value) when its coupon rate is equal to the market interest rate;
  - at a discount (below its par value) when its coupon rate is below the market interest rate.

Yield (%)	Price (% of par)
7.5	113.37
8.0	108.65
8.5	104.19
9.0	100.00
9.5	96.04
10.0	92.31
10.5	88.79

Terminology

- Bonds selling at par are called par bonds.
- Bonds selling at a premium are called premium bonds.
- Bonds selling at a discount are called discount bonds.

Price Behavior (3): Convexity



Day Count Conventions: Actual/Actual

- The first "actual" refers to the actual number of days in a month.
- The second refers to the actual number of days in a coupon period.
- The number of days between June 17, 1992, and October 1, 1992, is 106.
  - 13 days in June, 31 days in July, 31 days in August, 30 days in September, and 1 day in October.

Day Count Conventions: 30/360

- Each month has 30 days and each year 360 days.
- The number of days between June 17, 1992, and October 1, 1992, is 104.
  - 13 days in June, 30 days in July, 30 days in August, 30 days in September, and 1 day in October.
- In general, the number of days from date $D_1 \equiv (y_1, m_1, d_1)$ to date $D_2 \equiv (y_2, m_2, d_2)$ is

$$360 \times (y_2 - y_1) + 30 \times (m_2 - m_1) + (d_2 - d_1).$$

- Complications: 31, Feb 28, and Feb 29.

Full Price (Dirty Price, Invoice Price)

- In reality, the settlement date may fall on any day between two coupon payment dates.
- Let

$$\omega \equiv \frac{\begin{array}{c}\text{number of days between the settlement}\\ \text{and the next coupon payment date}\end{array}}{\text{number of days in the coupon period}}. \tag{5}$$

- The price is now calculated by

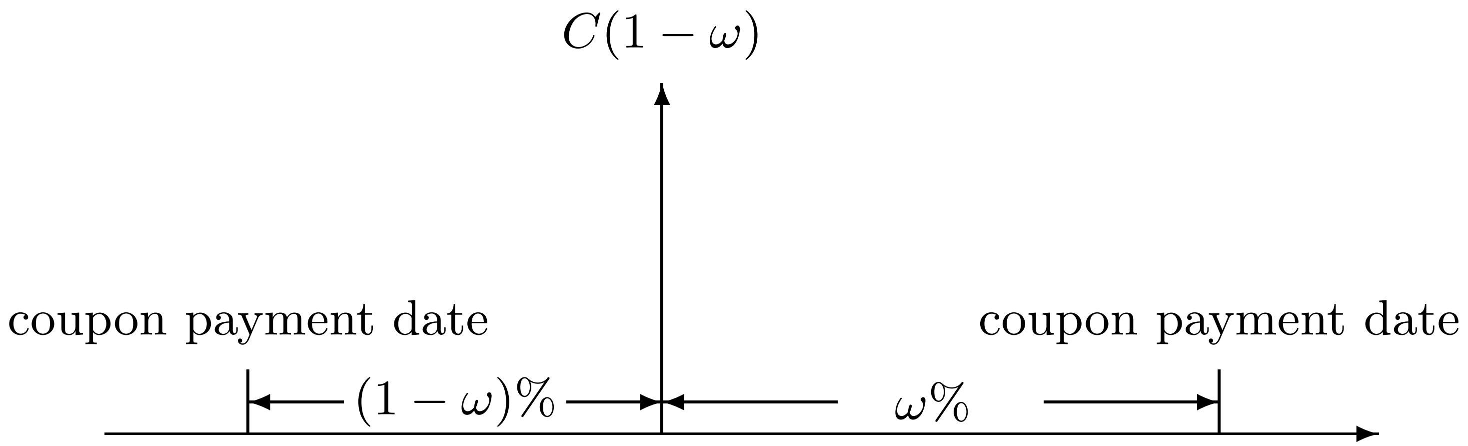
$$\text{PV} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} \frac{C}{\left(1+\frac{r}{m}\right)^{\omega+i}} + \frac{F}{\left(1+\frac{r}{m}\right)^{\omega+n-1}}. \tag{6}$$

Accrued Interest

- The buyer pays the quoted price plus the accrued interest — the invoice price:

$$C \times \frac{\begin{array}{c}\textsf{number of days from the last}\\ \textsf{coupon payment to the settlement date}\end{array}}{\textsf{number of days in the coupon period}} = C \times (1 - \omega).$$

- The yield to maturity is the r satisfying Eq. (6) when P is the invoice price.
- The quoted price in the U.S./U.K. does not include the accrued interest; it is called the clean price or flat price.



$C(1-\omega)$
coupon payment date
coupon payment date
$(1-\omega)\%$
$\omega\%$

Example ("30/360")

- A bond with a 10% coupon rate and paying interest semiannually, with clean price 111.2891.
- The maturity date is March 1, 1995, and the settlement date is July 1, 1993.
- There are 60 days between July 1, 1993, and the next coupon date, September 1, 1993.

Example ("30/360") (concluded)

- The accrued interest is $(10/2) \times \frac{180-60}{180} = 3.3333$ per \$100 of par value.
- The yield to maturity is 3%.
- This can be verified by Eq. (6) on p. 67 with
  - $\omega = 60/180$,
  - $m = 2$,
  - $C = 5$,
  - PV$= 111.2891 + 3.3333$,
  - $r = 0.03$.

Price Behavior (2) Revisited

- Before: A bond selling at par if the yield to maturity equals the coupon rate.
- But it assumed that the settlement date is on a coupon payment date.
- Now suppose the settlement date for a bond selling at par (i.e., the *quoted price* is equal to the par value) falls between two coupon payment dates.
- Then its yield to maturity is less than the coupon rate.
  - The short reason: Exponential growth is replaced by linear growth, hence "overpaying" the coupon.

Bond Price Volatility

“Well, Beethoven, what is this?”
— Attributed to Prince Anton Esterházy

Price Volatility

- Volatility measures how bond prices respond to interest rate changes.
- It is key to the risk management of interest-rate-sensitive securities.
- Assume level-coupon bonds throughout.

Price Volatility (concluded)

- What is the sensitivity of the percentage price change to changes in interest rates?
- Define price volatility by

$$-\frac{\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}}{P}.$$

Price Volatility of Bonds

- The price volatility of a coupon bond is

$$-\frac{(C/y)\,n - \left(C/y^2\right)\left((1+y)^{n+1} - (1+y)\right) - nF}{(C/y)\left((1+y)^{n+1} - (1+y)\right) + F(1+y)}.$$

  - F is the par value.
  - C is the coupon payment per period.

- For bonds without embedded options,

$$-\frac{\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}}{P} > 0.$$

Macaulay Duration

- The Macaulay duration (MD) is a weighted average of the times to an asset's cash flows.
- The weights are the cash flows' PVs divided by the asset's price.
- Formally,

$$\text{MD} \equiv \frac{1}{P} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{iC_i}{(1+y)^i}.$$

- The Macaulay duration, in periods, is equal to

$$\text{MD} = -(1+y)\,\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}\,\frac{1}{P}. \tag{7}$$

MD of Bonds

- The MD of a coupon bond is

$$\text{MD} = \frac{1}{P} \left[\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{iC}{(1+y)^i} + \frac{nF}{(1+y)^n} \right]. \tag{8}$$

- It can be simplified to

$$\text{MD} = \frac{c(1+y)\,[\,(1+y)^n - 1\,] + ny(y-c)}{cy\,[\,(1+y)^n - 1\,] + y^2},$$

  where c is the period coupon rate.

- The MD of a zero-coupon bond equals its term to maturity n.

- The MD of a coupon bond is less than its maturity.

Finesse

- Equations (7) on p. 78 and (8) on p. 79 hold only if the coupon C, the par value F, and the maturity n are all independent of the yield y.
  - That is, if the cash flow is independent of yields.
- To see this point, suppose the market yield declines.
- The MD will be lengthened.
- But for securities whose maturity actually decreases as a result, the MD may actually decrease.

How Not To Think about MD

- The MD has its origin in measuring the length of time a bond investment is outstanding.
- But you use it that way at your peril.
- The MD should be seen mainly as measuring price volatility.
- Many, if not most, duration-related terminology cannot be comprehended otherwise.

Conversion

- For the MD to be year-based, modify Eq. (8) on p. 79 to
$$\frac{1}{P}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{n}\frac{i}{k}\,\frac{C}{\left(1+\frac{y}{k}\right)^{i}}+\frac{n}{k}\,\frac{F}{\left(1+\frac{y}{k}\right)^{n}}\right],$$
where y is the *annual* yield and k is the compounding frequency per annum.

- Equation (7) on p. 78 also becomes
$$\text{MD}=-\left(1+\frac{y}{k}\right)\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}\,\frac{1}{P}.$$

- By definition, MD (in years) $= \dfrac{\text{MD (in periods)}}{k}$.

Modified Duration

- Modified duration is defined as

$$\text{modified duration} \equiv -\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}\frac{1}{P} = \frac{\text{MD}}{(1+y)}. \tag{9}$$

- By Taylor expansion,

$$\text{percent price change} \approx -\text{modified duration} \times \text{yield change}.$$

Example

- Consider a bond whose modified duration is 11.54 with a yield of 10%.
- If the yield increases instantaneously from 10% to 10.1%, the approximate percentage price change will be

$$-11.54 \times 0.001 = -0.01154 = -1.154\%.$$

Modified Duration of a Portfolio

- The modified duration of a portfolio equals

$$\sum_i \omega_i D_i.$$

  - D_i is the modified duration of the ith asset.
  - ω_i is the market value of that asset expressed as a percentage of the market value of the portfolio.

Effective Duration

- Yield changes may alter the cash flow or the cash flow may be so complex that simple formulas are unavailable.
- We need a general numerical formula for volatility.
- The effective duration is defined as

$$\frac{P_- - P_+}{P_0 (y_+ - y_-)}.$$

  - P_- is the price if the yield is decreased by Δy.
  - P_+ is the price if the yield is increased by Δy.
  - P_0 is the initial price, y is the initial yield.
  - Δy is small.

Effective Duration (concluded)

- One can compute the effective duration of just about any financial instrument.
- Duration of a security can be longer than its maturity or negative!
- Neither makes sense under the maturity interpretation.
- An alternative is to use

$$\frac{P_0 - P_+}{P_0 \, \Delta y}.$$

  - More economical but less accurate.

The Practices

- Duration is usually expressed in percentage terms—call it $D_\%$—for quick mental calculation.
- The percentage price change expressed in percentage terms is approximated by

$$-D_\% \times \Delta r$$

  when the yield increases instantaneously by $\Delta r\%$.

  - Price will drop by 20% if $D_\% = 10$ and $\Delta r = 2$ because $10 \times 2 = 20$.
- In fact, $D_\%$ equals modified duration as originally defined (prove it!).

Hedging

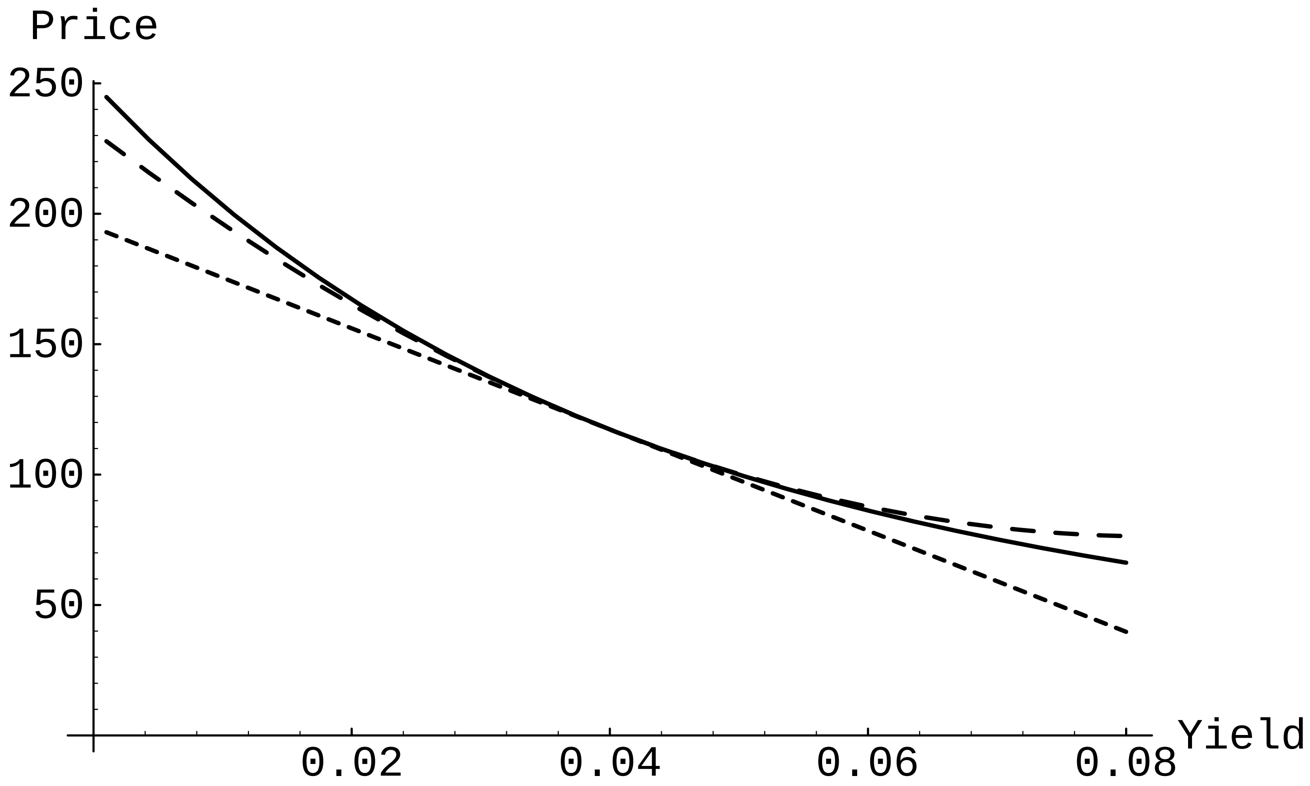
- Hedging offsets the price fluctuations of the position to be hedged by the hedging instrument in the opposite direction, leaving the total wealth unchanged.
- Define dollar duration as
$$\text{modified duration} \times \text{price } (\% \text{ of par}) = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial y}.$$
- The approximate dollar price change per \$100 of par value is
$$\text{price change} \approx -\text{dollar duration} \times \text{yield change}.$$

Convexity

- Convexity is defined as

$$\textsf{convexity} \text{ (in periods)} \equiv \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial y^2}\,\frac{1}{P}.$$

- The convexity of a coupon bond is positive (prove it!).
- For a bond with positive convexity, the price rises more for a rate decline than it falls for a rate increase of equal magnitude (see plot next page).
- Hence, between two bonds with the same duration, the one with a higher convexity is more valuable.


Price
250
200
150
100
50
0.02
0.04
0.06
0.08
Yield

Convexity (concluded)

- Convexity measured in periods and convexity measured in years are related by

$$\textsf{convexity (in years)} = \frac{\textsf{convexity (in periods)}}{k^2}$$

when there are k periods per annum.

Use of Convexity

- The approximation $\Delta P/P \approx -\,\textsf{duration} \times \textsf{yield change}$ works for small yield changes.
- To improve upon it for larger yield changes, use

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\Delta P}{P} &\approx \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}\,\frac{1}{P}\,\Delta y + \frac{1}{2}\,\frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial y^2}\,\frac{1}{P}\,(\Delta y)^2 \\
&= -\textsf{duration} \times \Delta y + \frac{1}{2} \times \textsf{convexity} \times (\Delta y)^2.
\end{aligned}$$

- Recall the figure on p. 91.

The Practices

- Convexity is usually expressed in percentage terms—call it $C_{\%}$—for quick mental calculation.
- The percentage price change expressed in percentage terms is approximated by $-D_{\%} \times \Delta r + C_{\%} \times (\Delta r)^2/2$ when the yield increases instantaneously by $\Delta r\%$.
  - Price will drop by 17% if $D_{\%} = 10$, $C_{\%} = 1.5$, and $\Delta r = 2$ because
$$-10 \times 2 + \frac{1}{2} \times 1.5 \times 2^2 = -17.$$
- In fact, $C_{\%}$ equals convexity divided by 100 (prove it!).

Effective Convexity

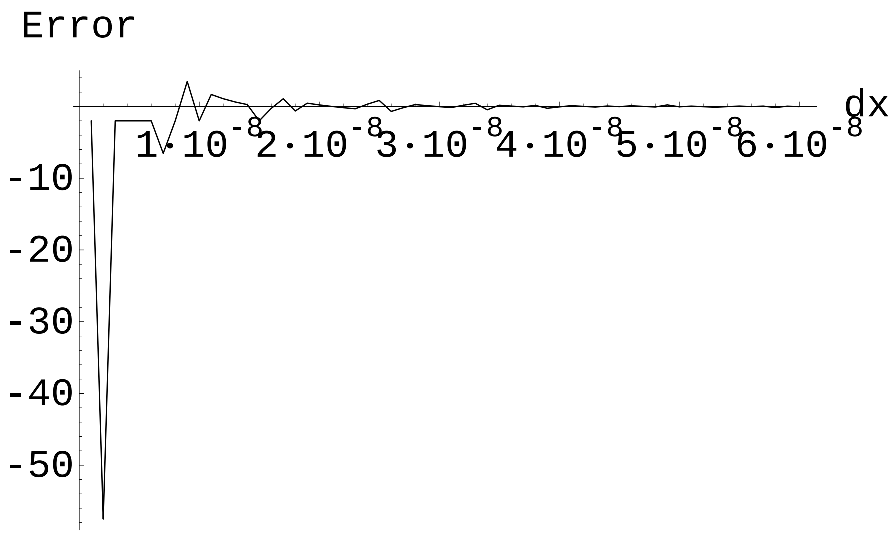
- The effective convexity is defined as

$$\frac{P_+ + P_- - 2P_0}{P_0\,(0.5 \times (y_+ - y_-))^2},$$

  - P_- is the price if the yield is decreased by Δy.
  - P_+ is the price if the yield is increased by Δy.
  - P_0 is the initial price, y is the initial yield.
  - Δy is small.
- Effective convexity is most relevant when a bond's cash flow is interest rate sensitive.
- Numerically, choosing the right Δy is a delicate matter.

Approximate $d^2 f(x)^2/dx^2$ at $x = 1$, Where $f(x) = x^2$

The difference of $((1 + \Delta x)^2 + (1 - \Delta x)^2 - 2)/(\Delta x)^2$ and 2:



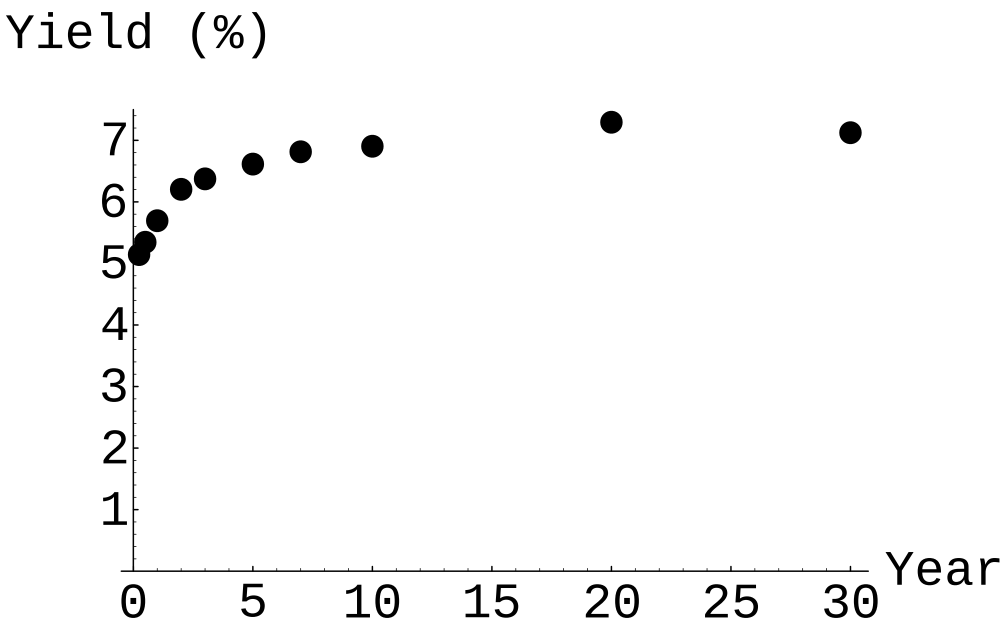
Term Structure of Interest Rates

Why is it that the interest of money is lower,
when money is plentiful?
— Samuel Johnson (1709–1784)

If you have money, don't lend it at interest.
Rather, give [it] to someone
from whom you won't get it back.
— Thomas Gospel 95

Term Structure of Interest Rates

- Concerned with how interest rates change with maturity.
- The set of yields to maturity for bonds forms the term structure.
  - The bonds must be of equal quality.
  - They differ solely in their terms to maturity.
- The term structure is fundamental to the valuation of fixed-income securities.


Yield (%)
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
Year

Term Structure of Interest Rates (concluded)

- Term structure often refers exclusively to the yields of zero-coupon bonds.
- A yield curve plots yields to maturity against maturity.
- A par yield curve is constructed from bonds trading near par.

Four Typical Shapes

- A normal yield curve is upward sloping.
- An inverted yield curve is downward sloping.
- A flat yield curve is flat.
- A humped yield curve is upward sloping at first but then turns downward sloping.

Spot Rates

- The i-period spot rate $S(i)$ is the yield to maturity of an i-period zero-coupon bond.
- The PV of one dollar i periods from now is
$$[\,1+S(i)\,]^{-i}.$$
- The one-period spot rate is called the short rate.
- A spot rate curve is a plot of spot rates against maturity.

Problems with the PV Formula

- In the bond price formula,

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{C}{(1+y)^i} + \frac{F}{(1+y)^n},$$

  every cash flow is discounted at the same yield y.

- Consider two riskless bonds with different yields to maturity because of their different cash flow streams.

- The yield-to-maturity methodology discounts their contemporaneous cash flows with different rates.

- But shouldn't they be discounted at the same rate?

Spot Rate Discount Methodology

- A cash flow $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_n$ is equivalent to a package of zero-coupon bonds with the ith bond paying C_i dollars at time i.
- So a level-coupon bond has the price

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{C}{[\,1 + S(i)\,]^i} + \frac{F}{[\,1 + S(n)\,]^n}. \qquad (10)$$

- This pricing method incorporates information from the term structure.
- Discount each cash flow at the corresponding spot rate.

Discount Factors

- In general, any riskless security having a cash flow $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_n$ should have a market price of

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^{n} C_i d(i).$$

  - Above, $d(i) \equiv [\,1 + S(i)\,]^{-i}$, $i = 1, 2, \ldots, n$, are called discount factors.
  - $d(i)$ is the PV of one dollar i periods from now.

- The discount factors are often interpolated to form a continuous function called the discount function.

Extracting Spot Rates from Yield Curve

- Start with the short rate $S(1)$.
  - Note that short-term Treasuries are zero-coupon bonds.
- Compute $S(2)$ from the two-period coupon bond price P by solving

$$P = \frac{C}{1 + S(1)} + \frac{C + 100}{[\,1 + S(2)\,]^2}.$$

Extracting Spot Rates from Yield Curve (concluded)

- Inductively, we are given the market price P of the n-period coupon bond and $S(1), S(2), \ldots, S(n-1)$.
- Then $S(n)$ can be computed from Eq. (10) on p. 105, repeated below,

$$P = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{C}{[\,1 + S(i)\,]^i} + \frac{F}{[\,1 + S(n)\,]^n}.$$

- The running time is $O(n)$ (see text).
- The procedure is called bootstrapping.

Some Problems

- Treasuries of the same maturity might be selling at different yields (the multiple cash flow problem).
- Some maturities might be missing from the data points (the incompleteness problem).
- Treasuries might not be of the same quality.
- Interpolation and fitting techniques are needed in practice to create a smooth spot rate curve.
  - But, any economic justifications?

Yield Spread

- Consider a *risky* bond with the cash flow $C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_n$ and selling for P.
- Were this bond riskless, it would fetch

$$P^* = \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{C_t}{[\, 1 + S(t) \,]^t}.$$

- Since riskiness must be compensated, $P < P^*$.
- Yield spread is the difference between the IRR of the risky bond and that of a riskless bond with comparable maturity.

Static Spread

- The static spread is the amount s by which the spot rate curve has to shift in parallel to price the risky bond:

$$P = \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{C_t}{[\,1 + s + S(t)\,]^t}.$$

- Unlike the yield spread, the static spread incorporates information from the term structure.

Of Spot Rate Curve and Yield Curve

- y_k: yield to maturity for the k-period coupon bond.
- $S(k) \geq y_k$ if $y_1 < y_2 < \cdots$ (yield curve is normal).
- $S(k) \leq y_k$ if $y_1 > y_2 > \cdots$ (yield curve is inverted).
- $S(k) \geq y_k$ if $S(1) < S(2) < \cdots$ (spot rate curve is normal).
- $S(k) \leq y_k$ if $S(1) > S(2) > \cdots$ (spot rate curve is inverted).
- If the yield curve is flat, the spot rate curve coincides with the yield curve.

Shapes

- The spot rate curve often has the same shape as the yield curve.
  - If the spot rate curve is inverted (normal, resp.), then the yield curve is inverted (normal, resp.).
- But this is only a trend not a mathematical truth.[a]

[a]See a counterexample in the text.

Forward Rates

- The yield curve contains information regarding future interest rates currently "expected" by the market.
- Invest \$1 for j periods to end up with $[\,1 + S(j)\,]^j$ dollars at time j.
  - The maturity strategy.
- Invest \$1 in bonds for i periods and at time i invest the proceeds in bonds for another $j - i$ periods where $j > i$.
- Will have $[\,1 + S(i)\,]^i [\,1 + S(i, j)\,]^{j-i}$ dollars at time j.
  - $S(i, j)$: $(j - i)$-period spot rate i periods from now.
  - The rollover strategy.

Forward Rates (concluded)

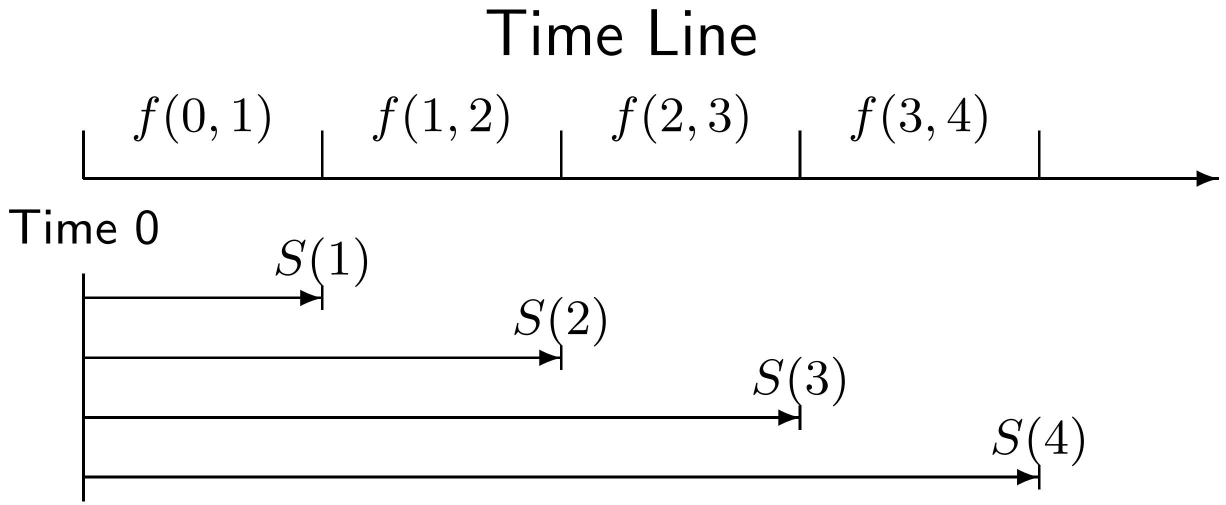
- When $S(i,j)$ equals

$$f(i,j) \equiv \left[\frac{(1+S(j))^j}{(1+S(i))^i}\right]^{1/(j-i)} - 1, \tag{11}$$

  we will end up with $[\,1+S(j)\,]^j$ dollars again.

- By definition, $f(0,j) = S(j)$.

- $f(i,j)$ is called the (implied) forward rates.
  - More precisely, the $(j-i)$-period forward rate i periods from now.



Time Line
$f(0,1)$
$f(1,2)$
$f(2,3)$
$f(3,4)$
Time 0
$S(1)$
$S(2)$
$S(3)$
$S(4)$

Forward Rates and Future Spot Rates

- We did not assume any a priori relation between $f(i, j)$ and future spot rate $S(i, j)$.
  - This is the subject of the term structure theories.
- We merely looked for the future spot rate that, *if realized*, will equate two investment strategies.
- $f(i, i+1)$ are instantaneous forward rates or one-period forward rates.

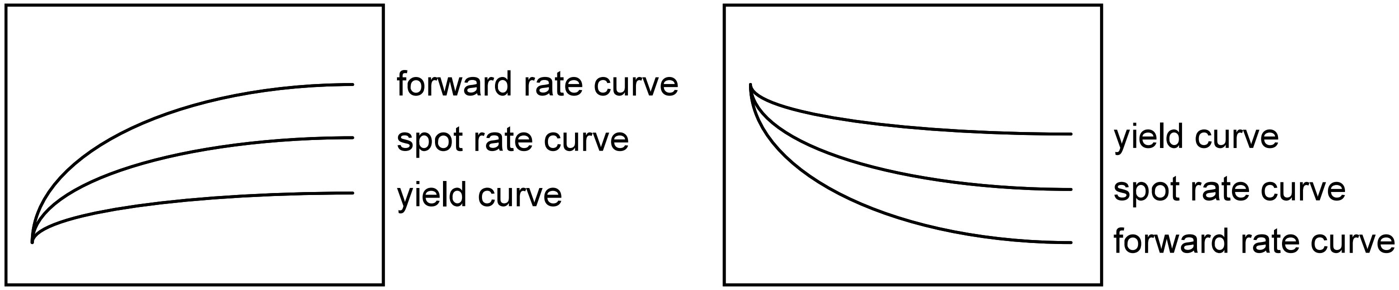
Spot Rates and Forward Rates

- When the spot rate curve is normal, the forward rate dominates the spot rates,

$$f(i, j) > S(j) > \cdots > S(i).$$

- When the spot rate curve is inverted, the forward rate is dominated by the spot rates,

$$f(i, j) < S(j) < \cdots < S(i).$$


forward rate curve
spot rate curve
yield curve
yield curve
spot rate curve
forward rate curve

(a) (b)

Forward Rates $\equiv$ Spot Rates $\equiv$ Yield Curve

- The FV of \$1 at time n can be derived in two ways.
- Buy n-period zero-coupon bonds and receive

$$[\,1 + S(n)\,]^n.$$

- Buy one-period zero-coupon bonds today and a series of such bonds at the forward rates as they mature.
- The FV is

$$[\,1 + S(1)\,][\,1 + f(1,2)\,]\cdots[\,1 + f(n-1,n)\,].$$

Forward Rates $\equiv$ Spot Rates $\equiv$ Yield Curves (concluded)

- Since they are identical,

$$S(n) = \{[\,1 + S(1)\,][\,1 + f(1,2)\,] \cdots [\,1 + f(n-1,n)\,]\}^{1/n} - 1. \tag{12}$$

- Hence, the forward rates, specifically the one-period forward rates, determine the spot rate curve.
- Other equivalencies can be derived similarly, such as

$$f(T, T+1) = \frac{d(T)}{d(T+1)} - 1.$$