

A credit risk model with a switching barrier and asymmetric information

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Workshop Mathematik in Forschung und Lehre, Waschleithe, September 12–14, 2017

Mathematical modeling of credit risk

Structural approach:

- ▶ Default is triggered when the firm's assets fall to some threshold
- ▶ Default barrier can be imposed exogenously or endogenously
- ▶ Bond investors know the model inputs and parameters
- ▶ Problem: no short-term default risk

Reduced-form approach:

- ▶ Default event is exogenously given
- ▶ Stochastic structure of default is characterized by an intensity (conditional default rate)
- ▶ Short spread is directly given by the default rate
- ▶ Problem: economic interpretation

Links between structural and reduced-form approaches

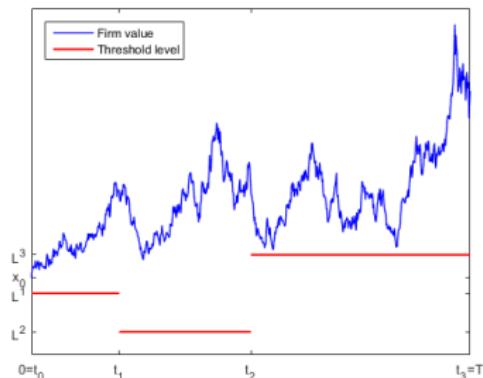
Methods to introduce short-term default risk in a structural model:

- ▶ Default barrier is a **random** variable, e.g.
LANDO (1998) , GIESECKE & GOLDBERG (2008),
HILLAIRET & JIAO (2012)

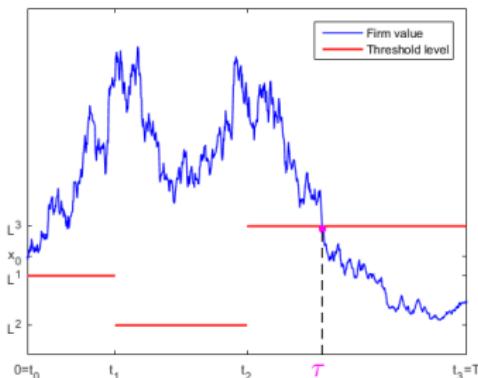
- ▶ Firm's assets process is **partially observed** by investors, e.g.
DUFFIE & LANDO (2001), LAKNER & LIANG (2008),
JEANBLANC & VALCHEV (2005)

Model framework

No Default



Default



Notation

X total value of the firm's assets

L threshold level which triggers default

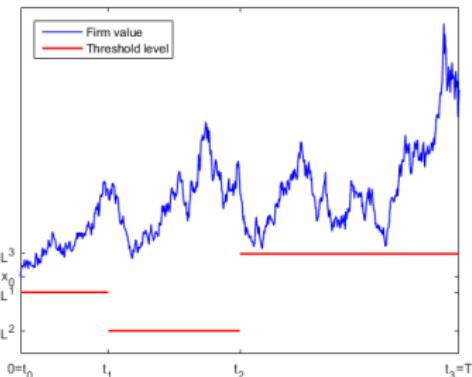
τ (random) time of default

T finite time horizon

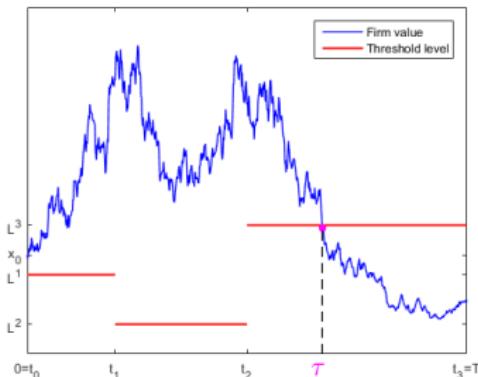
Default occurs when the firm's assets X fall to the default threshold (barrier) L for the first time.

Model framework

No Default



Default



Probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{A}, \mathbb{P})$

Filtration $\mathbb{F} = (\mathcal{F}_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ generated by X

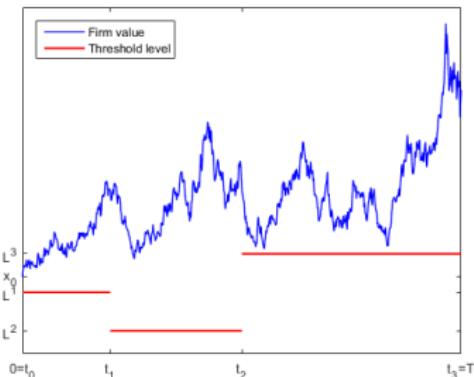
Asset process $dX_t = X_t(\mu dt + \sigma dB_t)$, $X_0 = x_0$

where $(B_t)_{t \in [0, T]}$ is a \mathbb{F} -Brownian motion,

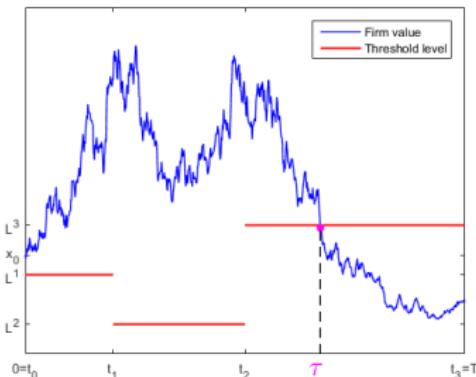
$\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma > 0$. We denote $m := \mu - \sigma^2/2$.

Model framework

No Default



Default

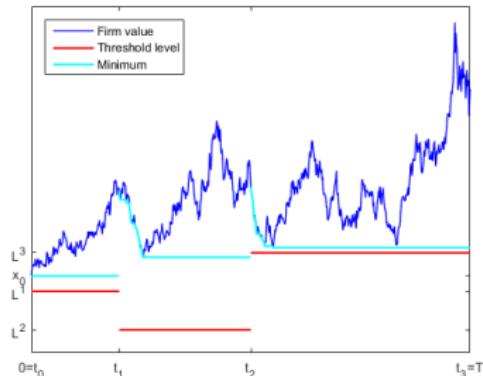


Default barrier $L_t = \sum_{i=1}^n L^i \mathbf{1}_{[t_{i-1}, t_i)}$

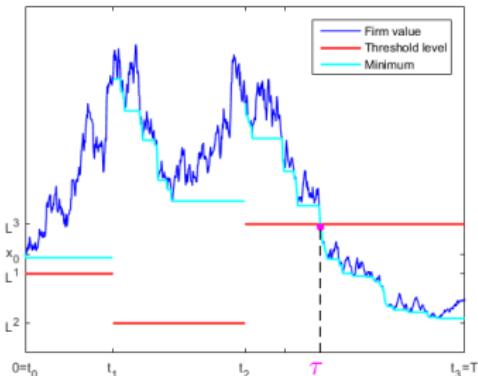
where L^i is a \mathcal{A} -measurable random variable
and t_i , $i = 0, \dots, n$, are deterministic time points
such that $0 = t_0 < t_1 < \dots < t_{n-1} < t_n = T$.
 $\mathbf{L} = (L^1, \dots, L^n)$ are independent of \mathcal{F}_T .

Model framework

No Default



Default



Default time

$$\tau = \inf\{t: X_t \leq L_t\}$$

Running minimum

$$M_t = \inf\{X_s: s < t\}$$

$$M_{[t,s)} = \inf\{X_u: t \leq u < s\}$$

Information structure

Manager's information: $\mathbb{G}^M = (\mathcal{G}_t^M)_{t \in [0, T]}$

Progressive enlargement of \mathbb{F} by the default threshold process L

$$\mathcal{G}_t^M = \mathcal{F}_t \vee \sigma(L_s, s \leq t),$$

cf. BLANCHET-SCALLIET, HILLAIRET & JIAO (2016)

Information structure

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cf. BLANCHET-SCALLIET, HILLAIRET & JIAO (2016)

S-Investor's information: $\mathbb{G}^S = (\mathcal{G}_t^S)_{t \in [0, T]}$

The firm's assets are perfectly observed by a **standard** investor:
Progressive enlargement of \mathbb{F} by the random time τ

$$\mathcal{G}_t^S = \mathcal{F}_t \vee \sigma(H_s, s \leq t),$$

where H is the default indicator process defined by $H_t = \mathbf{1}_{\{t \geq \tau\}}$.

Information structure

D-Investor's information: $\mathbb{G}^D = (\mathcal{G}_t^D)_{t \in [0, T]}$

The firm's assets are only observed at **discrete** time points
 $0 = T_0 < T_1, \dots, T_N < T$:

Progressive enlargement of \mathbb{F}^D by the random time τ

$$G_t^D = \mathcal{F}_t^D \vee \sigma(H_s, s \leq t),$$

where $\mathbb{F}^D = (\mathcal{F}_t^D)_{t \in [0, T]}$ is a sub-filtration of \mathbb{F} given by

$$\mathcal{F}_t^D = \begin{cases} \mathcal{F}_0, & \text{if } t < T_1 \\ \sigma(X_{T_1}, \dots, X_{T_i}) & \text{if } T_i \leq t < T_{i+1} \end{cases}$$

S-Investor's information: pricing defaultable claims

A default-contingent claim is characterized by a pair (C, T) , where

- ▶ T denotes the maturity date and
- ▶ C is a \mathcal{F}_T -measurable random variable.

The value of a defaultable claim (C, T) for an S-Investor with progressive information flow \mathbb{G}^S is given by

$$\begin{aligned} V_t &= \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left[\frac{R_t}{R_T} C \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > T\}} | \mathcal{G}_t^S \right] \\ &= \frac{\mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}}}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left[\frac{R_t}{R_T} C \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > T\}} | \mathcal{F}_t \right]. \end{aligned}$$

where R denotes the \mathbb{F} -adapted discount factor process.

Example: $C = 1$, $R_t = 1$ (risk-free interest rate $r = 0$)

$$V_t = \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^S) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)}$$

S-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^S) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)}$$

For $t \in [t_0, t_1)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t) &= \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_{t_1}, L^2 < M_{[t_1, T)} | \mathcal{F}_t) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_t, L^1 < M_{[t, t_1)}, L^2 < M_{[t_1, T)} | \mathcal{F}_t)\end{aligned}$$

S-Investor's information: survival probability

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For $t \in [t_0, t_1]$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t) &= \int_0^1 \int_0^\infty \int_0^1 F(\min(M_t, uX_t); wvX_t) f_{M_{T-t_1}}(w) \\ &\quad f_{M_{t_1-t}, X_{t_1-t}}(u, v) dw dv du \end{aligned}$$

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where

- ▶ $F(\ell_1; \ell_2)$ - joint distribution function of $\mathbf{L} = (L^1, L^2)$

S-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$,

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where

- $f_{M_t, X_t}(u, v)$ - joint density function of (M_t, X_t)

$$f_{M_t, X_t}(u, v) = \frac{2v^{m/\sigma^2-1} \ln(v/u^2)}{\sigma^3 \sqrt{2\pi} t^{3/2} u} e^{-\frac{m^2 t}{2\sigma^2}} e^{-\frac{\ln^2(v/u^2)}{2\sigma^2 t}},$$

for $u \in (0, 1]$ and $u \leq v$

S-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^S) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)}$$

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where

- $f_{M_t}(w)$ - density function of M_t

$$\begin{aligned} f_{M_t}(w) &= \frac{1}{\sigma w \sqrt{t}} \varphi \left(\frac{mt - \frac{\ln w}{\sigma}}{\sqrt{t}} \right) + \frac{e^{2m \frac{\ln w}{\sigma}}}{\sigma w \sqrt{t}} \varphi \left(\frac{mt + \frac{\ln w}{\sigma}}{\sqrt{t}} \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{2m}{w\sigma} e^{2m \frac{\ln w}{\sigma}} \Phi \left(\frac{mt + \frac{\ln w}{\sigma}}{\sqrt{t}} \right); \end{aligned}$$

S-Investor's information: survival probability

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and

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t) = \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_t | \mathcal{F}_t) = F_{L^1}(M_t),$$

where $F_{L^1}(x)$ denotes the distribution function of L^1 .

S-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$,

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^S) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)}$$

For $t \in [t_1, T)$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t) &= \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_{t_1}, L^2 < M_{[t_1, T)} | \mathcal{F}_t) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_{t_1}, L^2 < M_{[t_1, t)}, L^2 < M_{[t, T)} | \mathcal{F}_t) \\ &= \int_0^1 F(M_{t_1}; \min(M_{[t_1, T)}, w X_t)) f_{M_{T-t}}(w) dw\end{aligned}$$

S-Investor's information: survival probability

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and

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t) = \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_{t_1}, L^2 < M_{[t_1, t)} | \mathcal{F}_t) = F(M_{t_1}; M_{[t_1, t)}).$$

D-Investor's information: pricing defaultable claims

The value of a default-contingent claim (C, T) for an D-Investor with information flow \mathbb{G}^D is given by

$$\begin{aligned} V_t^D &= \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left[\frac{R_t}{R_T} C \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > T\}} | \mathcal{G}_t^D \right] \\ &= \frac{\mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}}}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)} \mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left[\frac{R_t}{R_T} C \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > T\}} | \mathcal{F}_t^D \right]. \end{aligned}$$

where R denotes the \mathbb{F} -adapted discount factor process.

Example: $C = 1, R_t = 1$ (risk-free interest rate $r = 0$)

$$V_t^D = \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}$$

D-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$, then $\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}$.

For $t \in [t_0, t_1]$, $t \in [T_i, T_{i+1})$ and $t_1 =: T_j \geq T_{i+1}$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D) &= \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_{t_1}, L^2 < M_{[t_1, T)} | \mathcal{F}_t^D) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(L^1 < M_t, L^1 < M_{[t, t_1)}, L^2 < M_{[t_1, T)} | \mathcal{F}_t^D)\end{aligned}$$

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D-Investor's information: survival probability

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where

$$\mathbb{P}(M_{T_i} > \ell_1 | X_{T_1}, \dots, X_{T_i}) = \prod_{j=1}^i K_j(\ell_1), \quad \ell_1 < \min \{X_{T_1}, \dots, X_{T_i}\}$$

and

$$K_j(\ell_1) = \left(1 - \exp \left(\frac{-2}{(T_j - T_{j-1})\sigma^2} \log\left(\frac{\ell_1}{X_{T_{j-1}}}\right) \log\left(\frac{\ell_1}{X_{T_j}}\right) \right) \right)$$

D-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$, then $\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}$.

For $t \in [t_0, t_1]$, $t \in [T_i, T_{i+1})$ and $t_1 =: T_j \geq T_{i+1}$ we have

$$\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D) = \int_0^\infty \Psi \left(\frac{\ell_1}{X_{T_i}}, t - T_i \right) \mathbb{P}(M_{T_i} > \ell_1 | X_{T_1}, \dots, X_{T_i}) f_{L_1}(\ell_1) d\ell_1,$$

where $f_{L_1}(\ell_1)$ denotes the density function of L^1 ;

D-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$, then $\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}$.

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where for $z < 1$ and $t > 0$

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(z, t) &= \mathbb{P}(M_t > z) \\ &= \Phi \left(\frac{mt - \frac{\log(z)}{\sigma}}{\sqrt{t}} \right) - e^{\frac{2m\log(z)}{\sigma}} \Phi \left(\frac{mt + \frac{\log(z)}{\sigma}}{\sqrt{t}} \right), \end{aligned}$$

$\Psi(z, t) = 0$ for $t \geq 0$, $z \geq 1$ and $\Psi(z, 0) = 1$ for $z < 1$.

D-Investor's information: survival probability

Let $n = 2$ and $x_0 = 1$, then $\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}$.

For $t \in [t_1, T)$, $t \in [T_i, T_{i+1})$ and $t_1 =: T_j \geq T_i$ we have

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D) &= \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty \mathbb{P}(M_{T_j} > \ell_1, M_{[T_j, T_i]} > \ell_2 | X_{T_1}, \dots, X_{T_i}) \\ &\quad \Psi\left(\frac{\ell_2}{X_{T_i}}, T - T_i\right) f(\ell_1; \ell_2) d\ell_2 d\ell_1,\end{aligned}$$

where for $\ell_1 < \min\{X_{T_1}, \dots, X_{T_i}\}$ and $\ell_2 < \min\{X_{T_j}, \dots, X_{T_i}\}$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(M_{T_j} > \ell_1, M_{[T_j, T_i]} > \ell_2 | X_{T_1}, \dots, X_{T_i}) &= K_1(\ell_1) \cdot \dots \cdot K_j(\ell_1) \cdot \\ &\quad K_{j+1}(\ell_2) \cdot \dots \cdot K_i(\ell_2),\end{aligned}$$

where

$$K_i(\ell) = \left(1 - \exp\left(\frac{-2}{(T_i - T_{i-1})\sigma^2} \log\left(\frac{\ell}{X_{T_{i-1}}}\right) \log\left(\frac{\ell}{X_{T_i}}\right)\right)\right).$$

Numerical results

Parameters

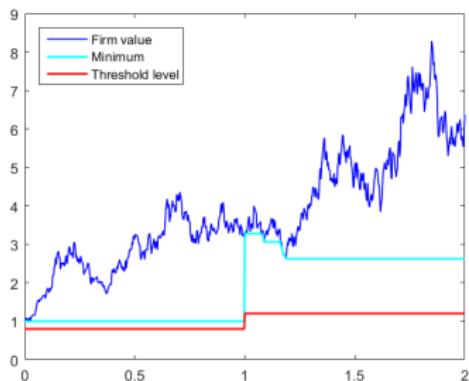
- ▶ Two time periods: $0 = t_0 < t_1 = 1 < t_2 = 2 = T$;
- ▶ Asset process: $\mu = 0.05$, $\sigma = 0.8$ and $x_0 = 1$;
- ▶ Default barrier: L^1 and L^2 are independent exponentially distributed with $\lambda_1 = 1.5$ and $\lambda_2 = 1$.

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

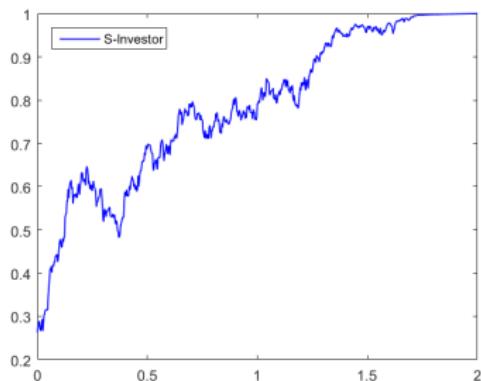
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned}V_t &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^S) \\&= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)}\end{aligned}$$

Figure: No default during $[0,2]$, $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



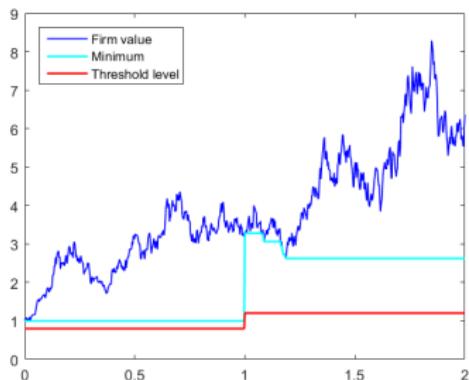
(b) Bond price

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

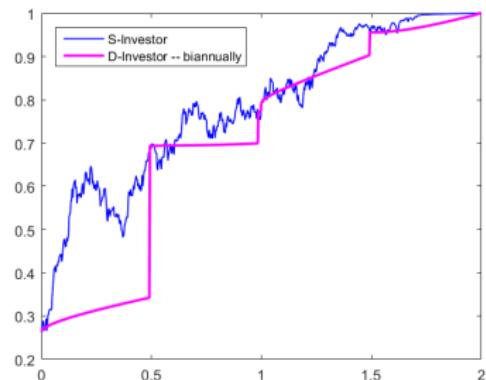
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned} V_t^D &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) \\ &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)} \end{aligned}$$

Figure: No default during $[0,2]$, $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



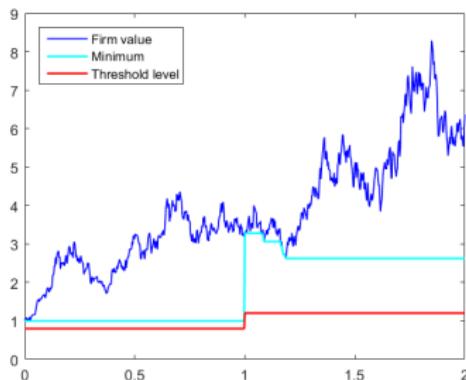
(b) Bond price

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

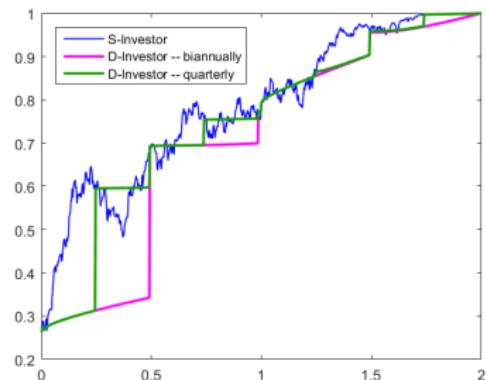
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned} V_t^D &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) \\ &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)} \end{aligned}$$

Figure: No default during $[0,2]$, $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



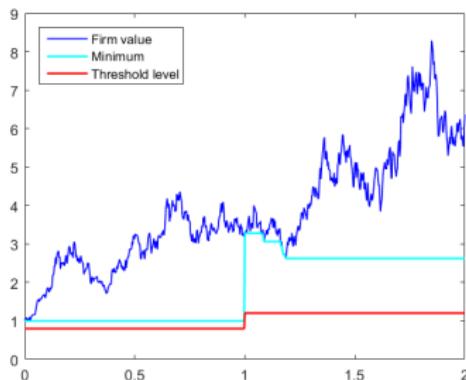
(b) Bond price

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

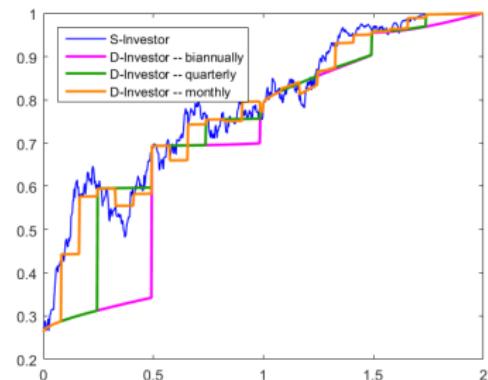
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned} V_t^D &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) \\ &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)} \end{aligned}$$

Figure: No default during $[0,2]$, $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



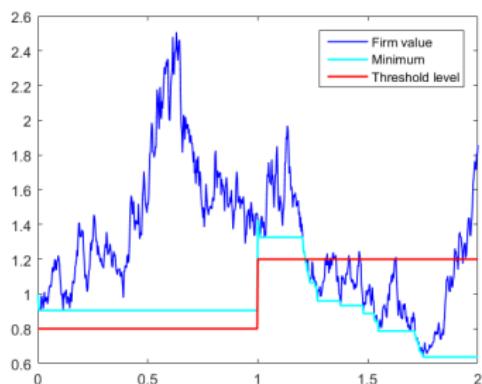
(b) Bond price

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

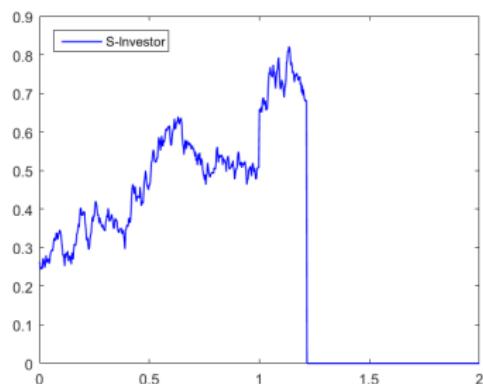
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned}V_t &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^S) \\&= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)}\end{aligned}$$

Figure: Default during [1,2], $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



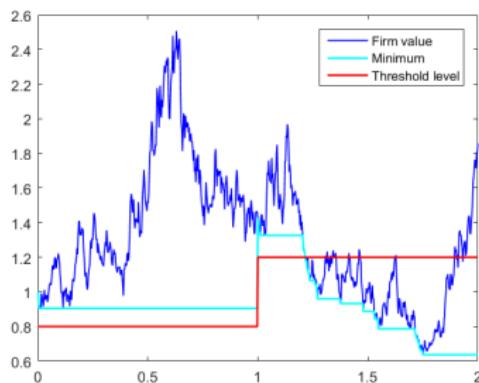
(b) Bond price

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

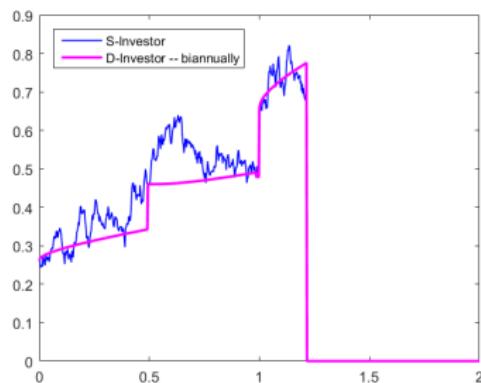
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned} V_t^D &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) \\ &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)} \end{aligned}$$

Figure: Default during [1,2], $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



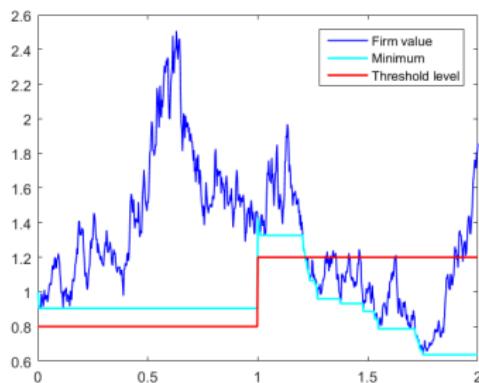
(b) Bond price

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

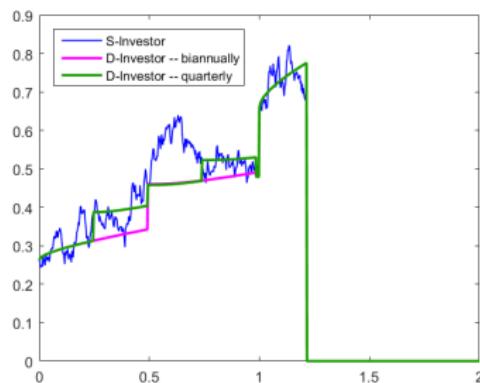
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned} V_t^D &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) \\ &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)} \end{aligned}$$

Figure: Default during [1,2], $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



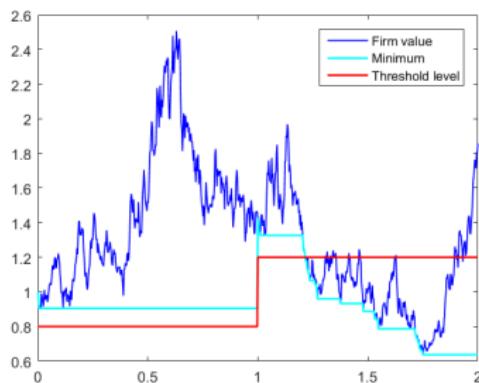
(b) Bond price

Value process of a defaultable bond with zero recovery

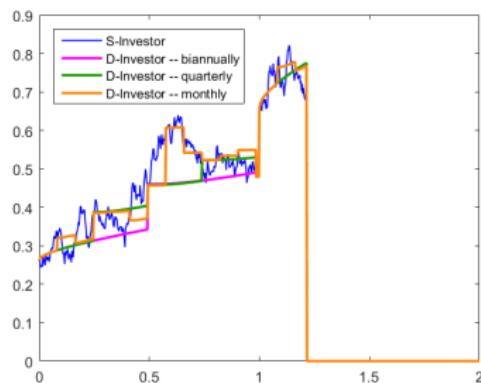
Discount factor process: $R_t = e^{rt}$, $r = 0.01$

$$\begin{aligned} V_t^D &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{G}_t^D) \\ &= e^{-r(T-t)} \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} \frac{\mathbb{P}(\tau > T | \mathcal{F}_t^D)}{\mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t^D)} \end{aligned}$$

Figure: Default during [1,2], $L^1 = 0.8$, $L^2 = 1.2$



(a) Firm value



(b) Bond price

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