

FX Modeling: HW 1

Due on Sept 9, 2015

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Problem 1

Question:

Describe the four factors that contribute to the bid and ask prices a market maker will show to a client during voice trading?

Solution

- (1) Inter-dealer market. The market makers will consider how hard for them to hedge their risk.
- (2) Current risk position. The risk profile matters. If the market makers are taking high risk, they would prefer to quote a bid ask price to decrease their risk exposure.
- (3) Market views. For sure the market view of the market maker matters. For example, if the market maker thinks the market will be going up, it would increase their bid so to increase their odds to buy from others and increase the ask so to decrease their odds to be bought by others.
- (4) Client behavior. Based on some historical data, market makers can have a basic idea whether the client is inclined to buy or sell.

Problem 2

Question:

Why has the daily turnover in the FX market increased so much in the past fifteen years? Give some statistics.

Solution

According to the Bank for International Settlements, the preliminary global results from the 2013 Triennial Central Bank Survey of Foreign Exchange and OTC Derivatives Markets Activity show that trading in foreign exchange markets averaged \$ 5.3 trillion per day in April 2013. This is up from \$ 4.0 trillion in April 2010 and \$ 3.3 trillion in April 2007. Foreign exchange swaps were the most actively traded instruments in April 2013, at \$2.2 trillion per day, followed by spot trading at \$2.0 trillion. According to the Bank for International Settlements, as of April 2010, average daily turnover in global foreign exchange markets is estimated at \$3.98 trillion, a growth of approximately 20% over the \$3.21 trillion daily volume as of April 2007. Some firms specializing on foreign exchange market had put the average daily turnover in excess of US\$4 trillion.

Turnover means the number of shares traded for a period as a percentage of the total shares in a portfolio or of an exchange.

The reason is during the past two decades, computing power and price discovery algorithm are becoming much more powerful. People can trade as fast as they want, people can discover arbitrage opportunities much faster. So, there are more and more trades happening out there.

Problem 3

Question:

Describe the OTC market structure and the different roles involved in executing a trade. Describe the steps involved in executing a trade for voice trading and then for electronic trading.

Solution

OTC market structure:

- (1) Clients. Individuals or firms who are not dealers want to trade FX
- (2) Salespeople. Humans who talk to human clients on the phone (or over chat channels like Bloomberg) and take client requests for trades.
- (3) Trader. Humans who talk to human salespeople in response to a client trade request
- (4) Inter-dealer market for traders to trade with each other.

Voice trading steps:

Clients' traders call salespersons to say what they want to trade. Salespersons ask the traders. Traders looked at their risk profile, market condition, and inter-dealer market, and consider the clients historical behavior and then yell back the quote to salespersons. The sales quotes them back to the client traders. The clients then go to other deals to repeat this process to get different quotes and get the quotes as best as they can.

Electronic trading steps:

Client requests a price from multiple dealers simultaneously through an app, who know who the client is when they quote. Client sees prices from many dealers at once, by name, and can click to deal with whomever they like

Problem 4

Question:

Today is October 27th, 2015. Tomorrow (October 28th) is a good business day for all three currencies. October 29th is a JPY currency settlement holiday. October 30th (a Friday) is a USD settlement holiday and November 2nd (a Monday) is a EUR settlement holiday. November 3rd is a good business day for all three currencies.

The EURUSD mid-market spot rate is 1.1300 (the price of a EUR in USD) and the USDJPY mid-market spot rate is 120.00 (the price of a USD in JPY). The USD interest rate is 0.25%, the EUR interest rate is 0.50%, and the JPY interest rate is 0.10%.

What are the spot dates for EURUSD, for USDJPY, and for EURJPY? What is the EURJPY mid-market spot rate implied from the triangle arbitrage?

Solution

Spot dates:

$$EURUSD_{10/29/2015} \quad (1)$$

$$USDJPY_{10/31/2015} \quad (2)$$

$$EURJPY_{10/30/2015} \quad (3)$$

$$F_{EURUSD_{10/30}} = S_{EURUSD_{10/29}} * e^{(r_{USD} - r_{EUR})t} = 1.13 * e^{(0.0025 - 0.0050)/252} = 1.129989 \quad (4)$$

$$F_{USDJPY_{10/30}} = S_{USDJPY_{10/31}} * e^{(r_{JPY} - r_{USD})t} = 120 * e^{(0.0010 - 0.0025)/(-252)} = 120.007 \quad (5)$$

$$S_{EURJPY_{10/30}} = F_{EURUSD_{10/30}} * F_{USDJPY_{10/30}} = 135.5995 \quad (6)$$

Problem 5

Question:

Same market as Question 4. Assume zero bid/ask spread in interest rates. Take the bid/ask for EURUSD as 1.1299/1.1301, and the bid/ask for USDJPY as 119.99/120.01. What is the bid/ask for EURJPY implied from the triangle arbitrage?

Solution

Similar logic as problem 4.

Bid price:

$$F_{EURUSD_{10/30}} = S_{EURUSD_{10/29}} * e^{(r_{USD} - r_{EUR})t} = 1.1299 * e^{(0.0025 - 0.0050)/252} = 1.129889 \quad (7)$$

$$F_{USDJPY_{10/30}} = S_{USDJPY_{10/31}} * e^{(r_{JPY} - r_{USD})t} = 119.99 * e^{(0.0010 - 0.0025)/(-252)} = 119.9907 \quad (8)$$

$$S_{EURJPY_{10/30}} = F_{EURUSD_{10/30}} * F_{USDJPY_{10/30}} = 135.5762 \quad (9)$$

Ask price

$$F_{EURUSD_{10/30}} = S_{EURUSD_{10/29}} * e^{(r_{USD} - r_{EUR})t} = 1.1301 * e^{(0.0025 - 0.0050)/252} = 1.130089 \quad (10)$$

$$F_{USDJPY_{10/30}} = S_{USDJPY_{10/31}} * e^{(r_{JPY} - r_{USD})t} = 120.01 * e^{(0.0010 - 0.0025)/(-252)} = 120.0107 \quad (11)$$

$$S_{EURJPY_{10/30}} = F_{EURUSD_{10/30}} * F_{USDJPY_{10/30}} = 135.6228 \quad (12)$$

Problem 6

Question:

Programming assignments. Monte Carlo simulation for electronic hedging. See assignment document for details.

Solution

Please find out the attached code file for the model implementation.

Some statistics:

Num paths: 10000 Time steps: 500

When hedge target is 0 SR is 0.0892168130455

When hedge target is 3 SR is 0.180370614172

Num paths: 30000 Time steps: 500

When hedge target is 0 SR is 0.088537876052

When hedge target is 3 SR is 0.180955628021

Num paths: 50000 Time steps: 500

When hedge target is 0 SR is 0.0888661799433

When hedge target is 3 SR is 0.180605456638

Num paths: 70000 Time steps: 500

When hedge target is 0 SR is 0.0887936478036

When hedge target is 3 SR is 0.180458538164

We can see that the Sharp ratio have converged to the third decimal place which I think should be enough to demonstrate the problem.

From the 4 experiments above, we can see when we set the hedge target equal to the delta limit, we will have a larger sharp ratio which make sense due to the model specification. There would be two main difference between this two parameter set up. First, if you choose to hedge the whole position to be zero, you need to pay more spread to the inter-dealer, while the inter-dealer spread is wider than the client spread. Second, someone might say that if I don't hedge it to be zero, the market maker will have some risk exposure to the spot rate then they might lose money. However, this statement doesn't hold in our model specification. Because we are assuming the spot rate dynamics is a Brownian Motion, which, is a martingale. So, it means, ON AVERAGE, the risk exposure does not affect your pnl.