#### Market Models for Inflation Derivatives

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## Stylized facts

- Inflation-indexed (II) bonds have been issued since the 80's, but it is only in the very last years that these bonds, and inflation-indexed derivatives in general, have become quite popular.
- Inflation is defined as the percentage increment of a reference index, the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is a basket of goods and services.
- Denoting by I(t) the CPI's value at time t, the inflation rate over the time interval [t, T] is therefore:

$$i(t,T):=\frac{I(T)}{I(t)}-1.$$

 In theory, but also in practice, inflation can become negative.



## Stylized facts

# US CPI Monthly closing values from Nov-00 to Oct-08.

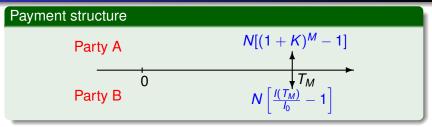


## Stylized facts

- Banks and governments are used to issue inflation-linked bonds, where an inflation-indexed floor is offered in conjunction with the "pure" bond.
- To grant positive coupons, the inflation rate (plus a spread) is floored at zero.
- Accordingly, floors with zero or negative strikes are traded in the inflation market.
- Besides caps and floors, other popular derivatives are inflation-indexed swaps.
- Two are the main inflation-indexed swaps traded in the market:
  - the zero coupon (ZC) swap
  - the year-on-year (YY) swap



## Zero-coupon inflation-indexed swaps



In a ZCIIS, at time  $T_M = M$  years, Party B pays Party A the fixed amount  $N[(1 + K)^M - 1]$ .

where K and N are, respectively, the contract fixed rate and the contract nominal value.

Party A pays Party B, at the final time  $T_M$ , the floating amount

$$N\left[\frac{I(T_M)}{I_0}-1\right]$$
.

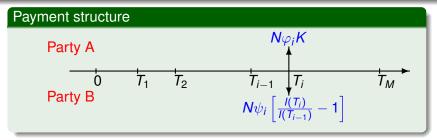


## Zero-coupon inflation-indexed swaps

## Market quotes of USD ZC swaps as of December 2nd, 2008

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## Year-on-year inflation-indexed swaps

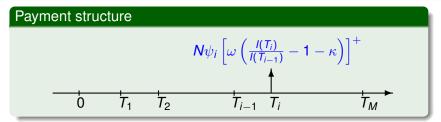


In a YYIIS, at each time  $T_i$ , Party B pays Party A the fixed amount  $N\varphi_iK$ , while Party A pays Party B the (floating) amount

$$N\psi_i\left[\frac{I(T_i)}{I(T_{i-1})}-1\right],$$

where  $\varphi_i$  and  $\psi_i$  are, respectively, the fixed- and floating-leg year fractions for the interval  $[T_{i-1}, T_i]$ ,  $T_0 := 0$  and N is again the swap nominal value.

## Inflation-Indexed Caps and Floors



II caps (floors) are strips of II caplets (floorlets). At each time  $T_i$ , up to the contract maturity  $T_M$ , the payoff is

$$N\psi_i \left[\omega \left(\frac{I(T_i)}{I(T_{i-1})}-1-\kappa\right)\right]^+,$$

where  $\kappa$  is the strike,  $\psi_i$  is the year fraction for the interval  $[T_{i-1}, T_i]$ , N is the nominal value, and  $\omega = 1$  for a caplet and  $\omega = -1$  for a floorlet.

## Inflation-Indexed Caps and Floors

#### USD market quotes: caps

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  US CPI
                                             Premium in BP upfront, USD 20m notional
 CPURNSA
                                             Price for trade with inflation swap delta
  USD Cap
                  Strike 2.0%
                                            Strike 2.5%
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Japan 81 3 3201 8900
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## Inflation-Indexed Caps and Floors

#### USD market quotes: floors

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 US CPI
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 USD Floor
                Strike -1.0%
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## Some general considerations

- Similarly to interest rates, inflation is not a tradable asset.
- The no-arbitrage requirements to impose on its dynamics may be not so straightforward, as they depend on
  - The nature of the modeled rate.
  - The reference probability measure.
- Contrary to (nominal) interest rates, which are forward looking, future inflation rates may refer to time intervals whose initial point is in the past.
- Historically, researchers preferred to model the dynamics of the CPI, obtaining inflation rates as percentage increments of the CPI's values at the relevant times.
- Two are the main approaches followed by practitioners:
  - Models based on the foreign-currency analogy.
  - Market models.



## The two main approaches

#### The Foreign-Currency Analogy (FCA)

- There are two economies: the nominal ad the real ones;
- The CPI can be viewed as the exchange rate between them;
- Pricing an inflation-indexed contract is equivalent to pricing a multi-currency interest rate derivative.

#### Market Models

- One models the evolution of suitable market quantities under some reference measure;
- Two main objectives:
  - To model more realistic interest and inflation rates;
  - To derive simpler formulas for plain vanilla instruments.

## The Jarrow and Yildirim (JY) (2003) model

- Using the FCA, Jarrow and Yildirim assume that (instantaneous) nominal and real rates evolve according to correlated one-factor Hull-White models.
- The (nominal) risk-neutral dynamics of nominal and real rates and the CPI are, respectively,

$$dn(t) = [\vartheta_n(t) - a_n n(t)] dt + \sigma_n dW_n(t)$$

$$dr(t) = [\vartheta_r(t) - \rho_{r,l}\sigma_l\sigma_r - a_r r(t)] dt + \sigma_r dW_r(t)$$

$$dI(t) = I(t)[n(t) - r(t)] dt + \sigma_l I(t) dW_l(t)$$

where  $W_n$ ,  $W_r$ ,  $W_l$  are correlated Brownian motions.

- Knowing the risk-neutral dynamics, we can price any inflation-indexed derivative (and interest rate hybrid).
- In particular, we can derive closed-form formulas for YYII swaps and caps.

### The market model of forward CPIs

- Kazziha (1999), Belgrade, Benhamou and Koehler (2004) and Mercurio (2005) choose to model the evolution of the forward CPIs.
- Kazziha (1999) defines the  $T_i$ -forward CPI at time t,  $\mathcal{I}_i(t)$ , as the fixed amount X to be exchanged at time  $T_i$  for the CPI  $I(T_i)$ , so that the swap has zero value at time t.
- Using no-arbitrage pricing theory, we have:

$$\mathcal{I}_i(t) = E^{\mathcal{T}_i} \big[ I(\mathcal{T}_i) | \mathcal{F}_t \big]$$

• The value at time zero of a  $T_i$ -forward CPI can be immediately obtained from the market quote  $K(T_i)$ . In fact

$$\mathcal{I}_i(0) = I(0)(1 + K(T_i))^i$$



## Consistency with the foreign-currency analogy

- The previous definition of forward CPI is consistent with the FCA.
- In the FCA, the CPI is equivalent to an exchange rate, so it makes sense to define the T<sub>i</sub>-forward CPI as

$$\mathcal{I}_i^{\text{FCA}}(t) := I(t) \frac{P_r(t, T_i)}{P_n(t, T_i)}$$

where we denote by  $P_r(t, T_i)$  and  $P_n(t, T_i)$  the real and nominal discount factors for maturity  $T_i$ , respectively.

- Since  $I(t)P_r(t, T_i)$  is a tradable asset in the nominal economy, when we divide it by  $P_n(t, T_i)$  we get a martingale under the nominal  $T_i$ -forward measure.
- Therefore, since  $P_r(T_i, T_i) = P_n(T_i, T_i) = 1$ ,

$$\mathcal{I}_i^{\mathsf{FCA}}(t) = E^{\mathcal{T}_i} \big[ \mathcal{I}_i^{\mathsf{FCA}}(\mathcal{T}_i) | \mathcal{F}_t \big] = E^{\mathcal{T}_i} \big[ I(\mathcal{T}_i) | \mathcal{F}_t \big] = \mathcal{I}_i(t)$$

## The lognormal market model (LMM) for forward CPIs

 In the LMM one assumes that, under the T<sub>i</sub>-forward measure Q<sup>T<sub>i</sub></sup>,

$$d\mathcal{I}_i(t) = \sigma_{I,i}(t)\mathcal{I}_i(t) dZ_i^I(t)$$

- An analogous evolution is assumed to hold for  $\mathcal{I}_{i-1}$  under  $Q^{T_{i-1}}$ .
- Using classic drift-freezing techniques, we obtain:

$$E^{T_i}\left\{\frac{\mathcal{I}_i(T_{i-1})}{\mathcal{I}_{i-1}(T_{i-1})}\big|\mathcal{F}_t\right\} = \frac{\mathcal{I}_i(t)}{\mathcal{I}_{i-1}(t)}e^{D_i(t)}$$

where  $D_i$  is a deterministic function.

- As a consequence, we can price in closed form:
  - YYII swaps.
  - YYII caplets (with a Black-Scholes type formula).



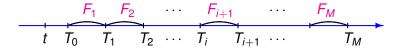
### What model should one use?

- The JY model and the LMM for forward CPIs are almost equivalent:
  - Forward CPIs are lognormally distributed.
  - One can derive explicit formulas for YYII swaps and options (both on YY and ZC rates).
  - One can calibrate exactly only one strike for each maturity.
- What are the desiderata for a good inflation model?
  - Can price in closed form:
    - The YY convexity adjustment, and hence YYII swaps.
    - YYII caplets:  $\left[\frac{I(T_i)}{I(T_{i-1})} 1 \kappa\right]^+$ .
    - ZC options:  $\left[\frac{I(T_M)}{I_0} 1 \kappa\right]^+$ .
  - Can well accommodate market quotes.



### Market models for forward inflation rates

- An inflation market model is not necessarily based on forward CPIs.
- For instance, in the main market model for interest rates, one models the joint evolution of consecutive forward LIBOR rates:



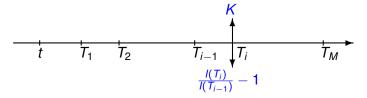
where  $T_0, T_1, \dots, T_M$  is a given time structure.

 We may follow a similar approach in modeling inflation and jointly model consecutive forward inflation rates.



#### Market models for forward inflation rates

• To this end, let us define the time-t forward inflation rate for the future interval  $[T_{i-1}, T_i]$  as the rate K that, at time t, gives zero value to the swaplet where, at time  $T_i$ , K is exchanged for  $I(T_i)/I(T_{i-1}) - 1$ :



We get:

$$K = \mathcal{Y}_i(t) := E^{T_i} \left\{ \frac{I(T_i)}{I(T_{i-1})} - 1 \middle| \mathcal{F}_t \right\}$$



## A market model for the forward inflation rates $\mathcal{Y}_i(t)$

• A market model for consecutive inflation rates  $\mathcal{Y}_1(t), \mathcal{Y}_2(t), \ldots$  is defined by specifying their (instantaneous) covariance structure:

$$d\mathcal{Y}_i(t) = \varsigma_i(t) dZ_i(t)$$
, under  $Q^{T_i}$   
 $\rho_{i,j}dt = dZ_i(t)dZ_j(t)$ 

- To derive joint dynamics under a common measure, we use the change-of-measure technique and remember that each  $\mathcal{Y}_i(t)$  is a martingale under the corresponding  $Q^{T_i}$ .
- The pricing of caplets is straightforward (if we smartly choose the volatility coefficient  $\varsigma_i$ ), since

$$E_t^{T_i}\left\{\left[\frac{I(T_i)}{I(T_{i-1})}-1-\kappa\right]^+\right\}=E_t^{T_i}\left\{\left[\mathcal{Y}_i(T_i)-\kappa\right]^+\right\}$$



# A market model for the forward inflation rates $\mathcal{Y}_i(t)$

• A popular choice is to assume that  $\mathcal{Y}_i(t)$  follows a Gaussian SABR model:

$$d\mathcal{Y}_i(t) = V_i(t) dZ_i(t)$$
$$V_i(t) = \epsilon_i V_i(t) dW_i(t)$$

where 
$$V_i(0) = \alpha_i$$
 and  $dZ_i(t)dW_i(t) = \rho_i dt$ .

- As is well known, this model leads to a closed-form formula that is extremely easy to implement.
- The calibration to market data is fast and accurate.
- However, the model needs in input the value  $\mathcal{Y}_i(0)$ , which may be not provided by the market, unless we trivially assume a zero convexity correction.



## A market model for the forward inflation rates $\mathcal{Y}_i(t)$

 One may also define a forward inflation rate as the corresponding forward CPI ratio minus one:

$$Y_i(t) := \frac{\mathcal{I}_i(t)}{\mathcal{I}_{i-1}(t)} - 1, \quad t \le T_{i-1}$$

- Extending the definition of  $Y_i$  after  $T_{i-1}$ , we have that  $Y_i(t) = \mathcal{Y}_i(t)$  for any  $t \ge T_{i-1}$ .
- The difference between the two rates is the following:
  - Y<sub>i</sub>(t) is known as soon as the corresponding ZCIIS rates are known;
  - \mathcal{Y}\_i(t) is known as soon as the corresponding YYIIS rates are known;
- From a mathematical point of view, another difference is that  $\mathcal{Y}_i(t)$  is a martingale under the  $T_i$ -forward measure, whereas  $Y_i(t)$  is not.

## A market model for the forward inflation rates $Y_i(t)$

- Introducing a market model for consecutive inflation rates  $Y_1(t), Y_2(t),...$  is less straightforward.
- In fact, since  $Y_i(t)$  is a not martingale under the  $T_i$ -forward measure, the no-arbitrage conditions to impose on the rates dynamics are not so obvious as in the previous case.
- However, given that  $Y_i$  is defined by a (shifted) forward CPI ratio, we can model  $Y_1(t), Y_2(t), \ldots$  by suitably modeling  $\mathcal{I}_1(t), \mathcal{I}_2(t), \ldots$
- For instance, the LMM of forward CPIs

$$d\mathcal{I}_k(t) = \sigma_{l,k}\mathcal{I}_k(t) dZ_k^l(t), \quad k = i - 1, 1$$

leads to the following dynamics

$$dY_i(t) = [1 + Y_i(t)] \Big[ c_i(t) dt + \sigma_{I,i} dZ_i^I(t) - \sigma_{I,i-1} d\bar{Z}_{i-1}^I(t) \Big]$$

## A market model for the forward inflation rates $Y_i(t)$

- Our idea is to suitably model forward CPIs so as to imply as simple as possible dynamics for the forward CPI ratios Y<sub>i</sub>.
- In fact, we start from some dynamics for the forward CPI ratios Y<sub>i</sub> and derive the forward CPI model that implies them by using the relation:

$$\mathcal{I}_{M}(T_{M}) = I_{0} \prod_{j=1}^{M} \left[ 1 + Y_{j}(T_{j}) \right]$$

 An obvious choice to start with is to assume a shifted-lognormal volatility for the forward CPI ratios Y<sub>i</sub>:

$$dY_i(t) = \cdots dt + [1 + Y_i(t)]\sigma_i \mathbf{1}_{\{t \leq T_j\}} dZ_i(t),$$

which leads to the Black formula for a shifted-lognormal process.

 Let us assume that each \( \mathcal{I}\_i(t) \) evolves, under the corresponding forward measure \( Q^{T\_i} \), according to

$$d\mathcal{I}_i(t) = \mathcal{I}_i(t) \sum_{l=\beta(t)}^i \sigma_l dZ_l^i(t)$$

where  $dZ_h^i(t)dZ_k^i(t) = \rho_{h,k}dt$ , and  $\beta(t)$  is the index of the first time  $T_j$  that is strictly larger than t.

• After a measure change for  $\mathcal{I}_{i-1}(t)$ , Ito's lemma leads to:

$$dY_i(t) = (1 + Y_i(t)) \left[ \sum_{l=\beta(t)}^{i-1} \sigma_l \left( \rho_{i,l}^{F,Y} \frac{\sigma_{F,i} \tau_i F_i(t)}{1 + \tau_i F_i(t)} - \sigma_i \rho_{i,l} \right) dt + \sigma_i dZ_i^i(t) \right]$$

where  $\sigma_{F,i}$  is the (assumed constant) volatility of  $F_i(t)$  and  $\rho_{i,l}^{F,Y}$  is the (instantaneous) correlation between  $F_i$  and  $Y_l$ .

• Freezing  $F_i(t)$  at its time-0 value  $F_i(0)$ , we have that  $\bar{Y}(t) := 1 + Y_i(t)$  evolves according to the geometric Brownian motion:

$$d\bar{Y}_i(t) = \bar{Y}_i(t) \left[ \sum_{l=\beta(t)}^{i-1} \sigma_l \left( \rho_{i,l}^{F,Y} \frac{\sigma_{F,i} \tau_i F_i(0)}{1 + \tau_i F_i(0)} - \sigma_i \rho_{i,l} \right) dt + \sigma_i dZ_i^i(t) \right]$$

• Denoting by  $\gamma(t)$  the drift of  $\overline{Y}(t)$ , the YYIIS and IICpl prices can be obtained as in the LMM for forward CPIs:

$$\mathcal{Y}_{i}(t) = E_{t}^{T_{i}} \left\{ \bar{Y}_{i}(T_{i}) \right\} - 1 = \bar{Y}_{i}(t) e^{\int_{0}^{t} \gamma(u) du} - 1$$

$$E_{t}^{T_{i}} \left\{ \left[ Y_{i}(T_{i}) - \kappa \right]^{+} \right\} = \mathsf{BI} \left( 1 + \mathcal{Y}_{i}(t), 1 + \kappa, \sigma_{i}, T_{i} - t \right)$$

• The calibration to a given strike  $\kappa$  is almost automatic (provided we know  $\mathcal{Y}_i(0)$ ).



- Modeling forward inflation rates  $Y_i(t)$  has the following advantages:
  - Almost automatic calibration to a given strike.
  - Possibility of assuming an exogenous correlation structure for forward inflation rates (in the market model for forward CPIs this correlation is endogenous).
- However, we still have the problem of calibrating cap smiles.
- This issue can be addressed by introducing stochastic volatility:

$$d\mathcal{I}_i(t) = \mathcal{I}_i(t) \sum_{j=\beta(t)}^i V_j(t) dZ_j^i(t)$$

where  $V_j$ , j = 1, ..., M, are stochastic processes.



One can assume Heston's dynamics:

$$dV_i(t) = k[\theta - V_i(t)]dt + \nu_i \sqrt{V_i(t)}dW_i^i(t)$$

or SABR dynamics:

$$dV_i(t) = \nu_i V_i(t) dW_i^i(t)$$

In both cases one gets:

$$\frac{d\bar{Y}_i(t)}{\bar{Y}_i(t)} = \sum_{l=\beta(t)}^{i-1} V_l(t) \left( \rho_{i,l}^{F,Y} \frac{\sigma_{F,i} \tau_i F_i(0)}{1 + \tau_i F_i(0)} - V_i(t) \rho_{i,l} \right) dt + V_i(t) dZ_i^i(t)$$

Freezing the drift at its time-0 value, we can write

$$d\bar{Y}_i(t) = \bar{Y}_i(t) [D_i(t) dt + V_i(t) dW_i^i(t)]$$



 To derive an explicit option price (especially in the SABR case), we notice that

$$\bar{Y}_i(T_i) = \tilde{Y}_i(T_i),$$

where the process  $\tilde{Y}_i$  is defined by

$$d\tilde{Y}_i(t) = \tilde{Y}_i(t)V_i(t) dZ_i^i(t), \quad \tilde{Y}_i(0) = \bar{Y}_i(0) e^{\int_0^{T_i} D_i(t) dt}$$

Therefore, setting  $K := 1 + \kappa$ , we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \textbf{IICplt}(t, T_{i-1}, T_i, K, \omega) &= P(t, T_i) E^{T_i} \Big\{ \left[ \omega Y_i(T_i) - \omega \kappa \right]^+ \middle| \mathcal{F}_t \Big\} \\ &= P(t, T_i) E^{T_i} \Big\{ \left[ \omega \bar{Y}_i(T_i) - \omega K \right]^+ \middle| \mathcal{F}_t \Big\} \\ &= P(t, T_i) E^{T_i} \Big\{ \left[ \omega \tilde{Y}_i(T_i) - \omega K \right]^+ \middle| \mathcal{F}_t \Big\}, \end{aligned}$$

 Assuming, for instance, SABR dynamics for the volatility, the caplet price can be valued by

$$\mathbf{IICplt}(t, T_{i-1}, T_i, K, \omega) = \omega P(t, T_i) \big[ \tilde{Y}_i(t) \Phi(\omega d_+) - K \Phi(\omega d_-) \big]$$

where  $\rho_i$  is the instantaneous correlation between  $\tilde{Y}_i$  and  $V_i$ ,

$$d_{\pm} = \frac{\ln \frac{Y_i(t)}{K} \pm \frac{1}{2}\sigma^2(K)(T_i - t)}{\sigma(K)\sqrt{T_i - t}}$$

$$\sigma(K) = \alpha_i \frac{z}{x(z)} \left\{ 1 + \left[ \frac{\rho_i \nu_i \alpha_i}{4} + \nu_i^2 \frac{2 - 3\rho_i^2}{24} \right] (T_i - t) \right\}$$

$$z := \frac{\nu_i}{\alpha_i} \ln \left( \frac{\tilde{Y}_i(t)}{K} \right), \quad x(z) := \ln \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{1 - 2\rho_i z + z^2} + z - \rho_i}{1 - \rho_i} \right\}.$$

#### Conclusions

- We have started by analyzing stylized facts of the inflation market.
- We have described the foreign currency analogy and shown how to price under a lognormal market model.
- We have finally introduced two possible definitions of forward inflation rates and considered the associated market models.
- The definition based on the CPI ratio, though less natural, turns out to be more effective.
- In fact, we can derive closed form formulas for YY caps and, with similar approximation techniques also for ZC options (in the SABR case).
- This is the first model in the financial literature that incorporates YY and ZC rates in a single consistent framework.