



Unit 01

210.95

# **Term Structure of Interest Rates**

1.4



# **Overview**

- Theories of the Term Structure
  - The Expectation Hypothesis
  - Liquidity Preference
- Interpreting the Term Structure
- Forward Rates and Contracts



## Theories of Term Structure

- The Expectations Hypothesis Theory
  - Observed long-term rate is a function of today's short-term rate and expected future short-term rates
  - $f_n = E(r_n)$  and liquidity premiums are zero (pure expectations)



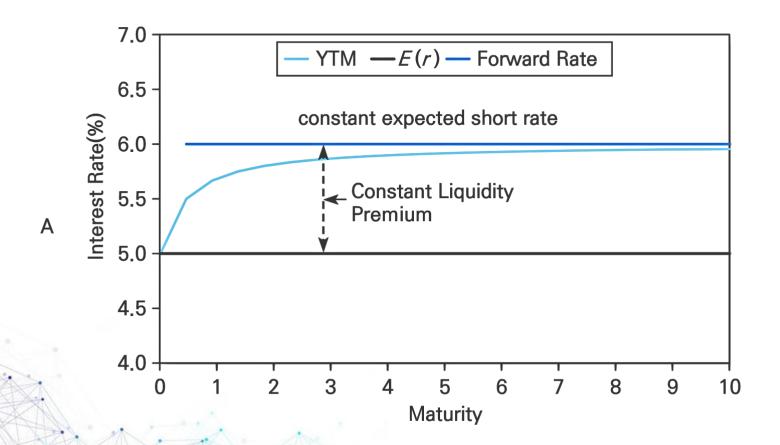
## Theories of Term Structure

- Liquidity Preference Theory
  - Long-term bonds are more risky  $\rightarrow f_n > E(r_n)$
  - The excess of  $f_n$  over  $E(r_n)$  is the liquidity premium
  - The yield curve has an upward bias built into the long-term rates because of the liquidity premium



## Yield Curve Examples

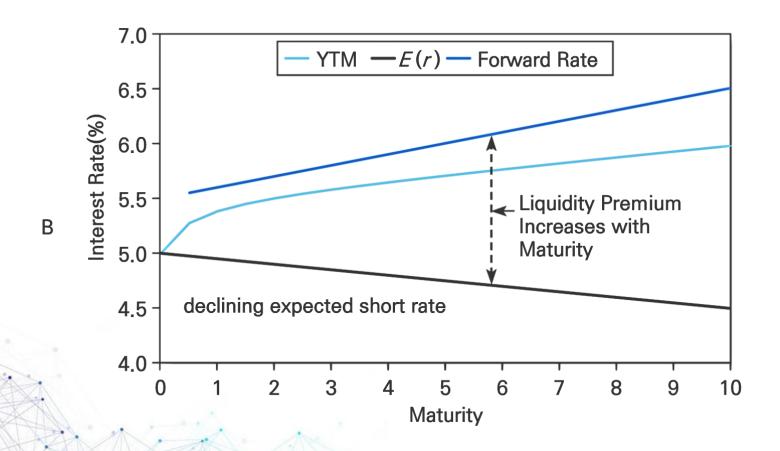
constant expected short rate constant liquidity premium





## Yield Curve Examples

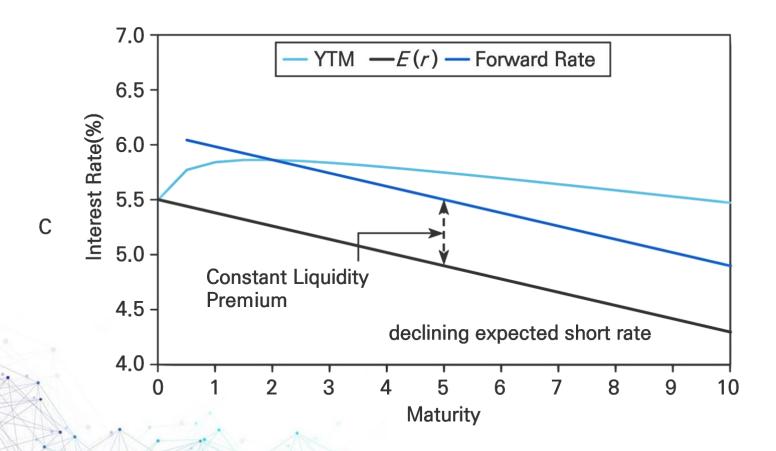
 decreasing expected short rate, increasing liquidity premium





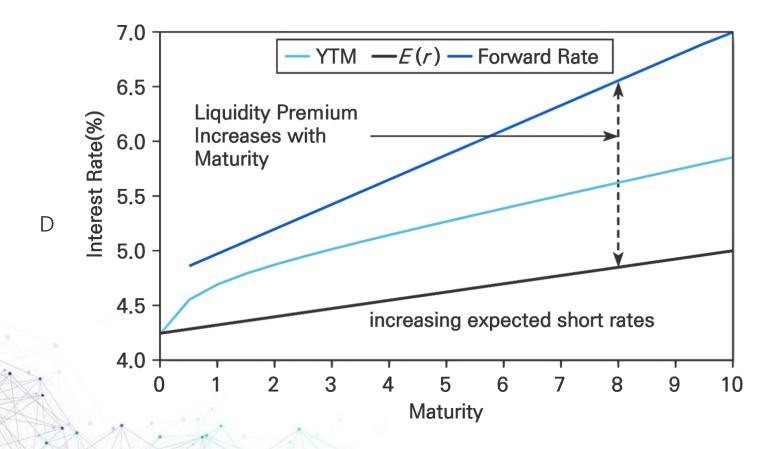
## Yield Curve Examples

 declining expected short rate, constant liquidity premium





- Yield Curve Examples
  - increasing expected short rate,
     increasing liquidity premium





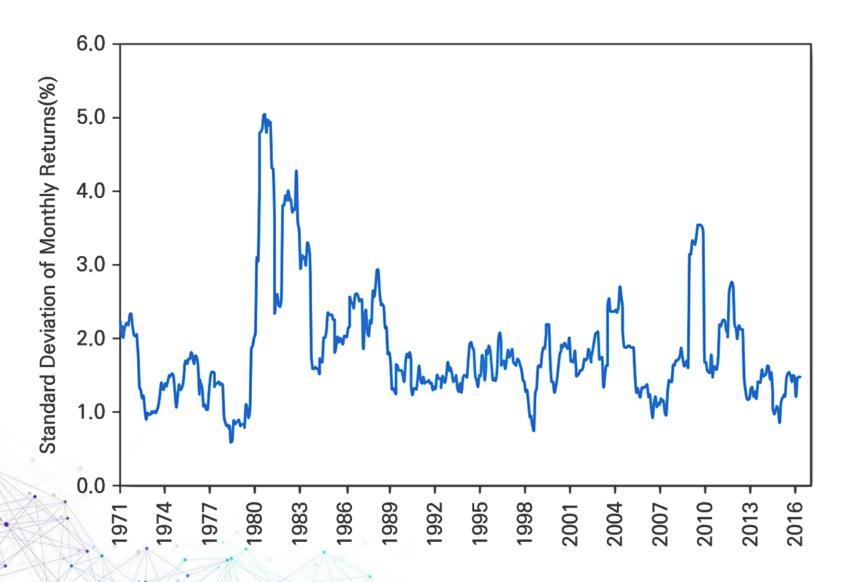
- Interpreting the Term Structure
  - The yield curve reflects expectations of future interest rates
  - The forecasts are clouded by liquidity premiums
  - An upward sloping curve could indicate:
    - Rates are expected to rise and/or
    - Investors require liquidity premiums to hold long term bonds



- Interpreting the Term Structure
  - The yield curve is a good predictor of the business cycle
    - Long term rates tend to rise in anticipation of economic expansion
    - Inverted yield curve may indicate that interest rates are expected to fall and signal a recession



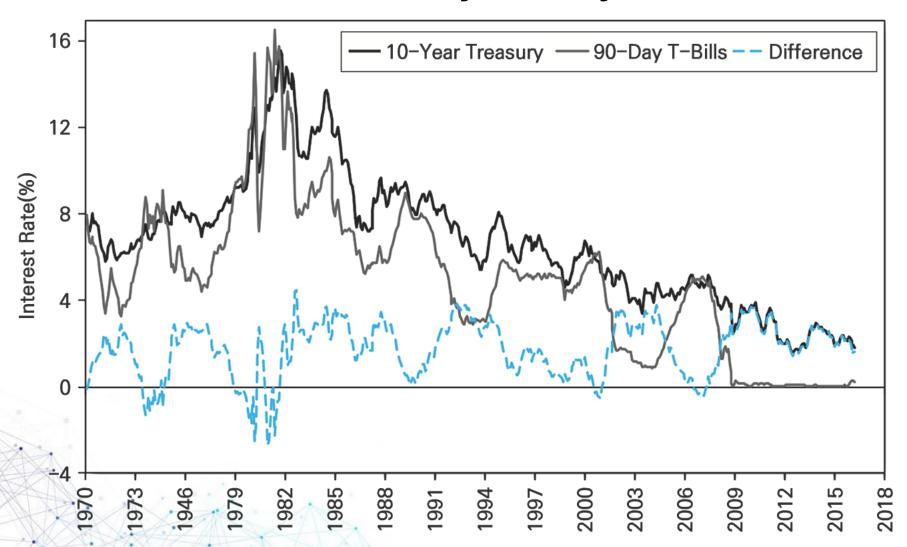
## Price Volatility of Long-Term T-Bonds





## Term Spread

• Yield on 10-Year vs. 90-Day Treasury Securities

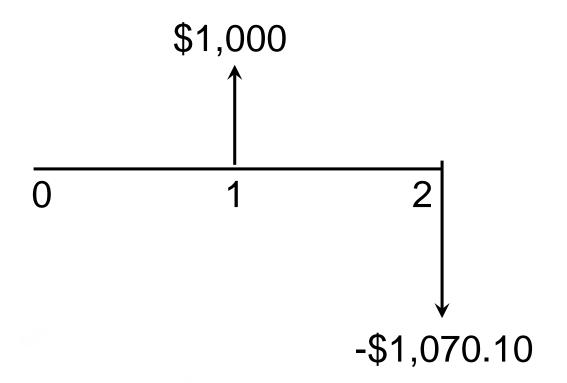




- Forward Rates as Forward Contracts
  - In general, forward rates will not equal the eventually realized short rate
    - Still an important consideration when trying to make decisions
      - Locking in loan rates

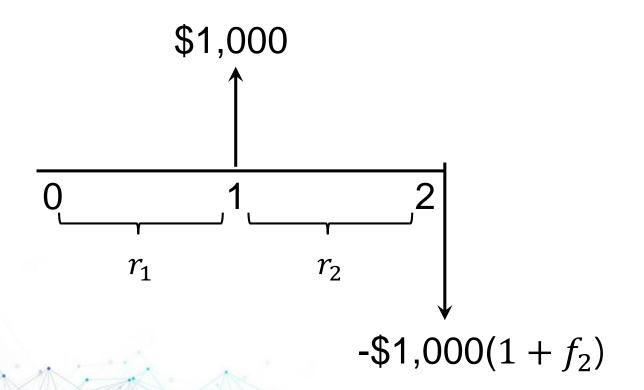


- Engineering a Synthetic Forward Loan
  - A: Forward Rate = 7.01%





- Engineering a Synthetic Forward Loan
  - B: For a General Forward Rate. The short rates in the two periods are  $r_1$  (which is observable today) and  $r_2$  (which is not). The rate that can be locked in for a one-period-ahead loan is  $f_2$





#### Exercise Problem 1

Suppose that a 1-year zero-coupon bond with face value \$100 currently sells at \$94.34, while a 2-year zero sells at \$84.99. You are considering the purchase of a 2-year-maturity bond making annual coupon payments. The face value of the bond is \$100, and the coupon rate is 12% per year.

- a. What is the yield to maturity of the 2-year zero?
- b. What is the yield to maturity of the 2-year coupon bond?
- c. What is the forward rate for the second year?
- d. According to the expectations hypothesis, what are (i) the expected price
  of the coupon bond at the end of the first year and (ii) the expected
  holding-period return on the coupon bond over the first year?
- e. Will the expected rate of return be higher or lower if you accept the liquidity preference hypothesis?



#### Exercise Problem 2

Suppose that the prices of zero-coupon bonds with various maturities are given in the following table. The face value of each bond is \$1,000.

Maturitiy (years)	Price of Bond
1	\$925.93
2	\$853.39
3	\$782.92
4	\$715.00
5	\$650.00

- a. Calculate the forward rate of interest for each year.
- b. How could you construct a 1-year forward loan beginning in year 3? Confirm that the rate on that loan equals the forward rate.
- c. Repeat part (b) for a 1-year forward loan beginning in year 4.