# Credit Scoring

## Introduction

* Banks have lots of data about customers
* Banks also have lots of data about customer performance
* It is now the aim of credit scoring to analyze both sources of data into more detail and come up with a statistically based decision model which allows to score future credit applications and decide which ones to accept or reject.
* A key assumption which is made when building a credit scoring model is that the future resembles the past.
* To summarize the goal of credit scoring is to estimate whether an applicant will successfully repay the loan based on applicant characteristics such as age, income, employment status, time at address, etc
* Credit bureaus are data pooling organizations that gather default information from various financial institutions information such as delinquency history. Bureau checks and bureau scores can be very useful for credit scoring.
* There are two main approaches to assessing credit risk: the judgmental approach and the statistical approach.
  + The judgmental approach is a qualitative expert based approach whereby based on business experience and common sense the credit expert or credit committee, which is a group of credit experts, will make a decision about the credit risk.
  + Usually this is done based upon inspecting the five C's of the applicant and loan. The five C's being the character of the applicant, the capital of the loan, whether there was any collateral provided yes or no, the payment capacity of the applicants, and the conditions of the loan.
  + The statistical approach is based upon statistically analyzing historical data to find the optimal multivariate relationship between a customer's characteristics and the binary good/bad target variable.
  + It is less subjective than the judgmental approach since it is not tied to a particular credit expert's background knowledge and experience.
* Note that both approaches assume that the future will resemble the past

## Retail Credit Scoring

### Application Scoring

* The purpose of application scoring is to come up with a credit score which reflects upon the default risk of a customer at the moment of loan application
* In order to build an application scorecard one first needs to define a concept of default.
  + in the earlier days of credit scoring: a customer was more than three months of payment arrears.
  + Basel capital Accords: 90 days in payment arrears
  + In the United States in retail credit for residential mortgages, the default definition is 180 days
  + For qualifying revolving exposures, it's also 180 days and for other retail exposures, it's 120 days.
* application variables
  + date of birth or age, gender, income marital status, years living at current address, employment status etc.
  + can be complemented by bureau variables obtained from credit bureaus which are external to the bank.
* Credit bureau
  + an organization that assembles and aggregates credit information from various financial institutions or banks.
  + It can collect both positive or negative credit information, depending upon the country in which it operates.
  + two sources of information.
    - raw bureau data
    - total amounts of credit that a customer has outstanding, whether the customer has already been late with some payments at other financial institutions (yes or no), number of credit checks that have been made for a particular customer at other financial institutions, etc.
    - Using this raw bureau data credit bureaus can now build bureau credit scores.
    - These bureau scores can then be sold to interested counterparties and used into their application scoring models.
  + In the US, you have very popular bureaus like Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. which each cover their own geographical region.
  + All three provide a FICO score which ranges between 300 to 850 with higher scores reflecting better credit quality.
  + In Australia, there is BayCorp advantage,
  + Germany has the Schufa,
  + Netherlands BKR,
  + Belgium CKP.
  + Dun and Bradstreet is a popular credit bureau targeting the mid corp and small and medium-sized enterprise market.
* application scorecard
  + Each category has points assigned to it.
  + The more points the higher the credit quality.
  + points represent the total credit quality of the customer.
  + This now needs to be compared against the cutoff, the minimum required criticality set by the bank.
* decisions that need to be made during the scorecard development process.
  + how do we select the characteristics age, known customer and salary?
  + Why don't we include other ones like employment status, number of years living at current address, etc?
  + Why do we categorize age into four categories?
  + How do we decide upon the points assigned to each category?
  + Why do we set the cutoff at 500?
* When building an application scorecard, you are actually taking two snapshots of customer behavior.
  + The first snapshot is taken at loan origination where you will gather both the application and credit bureau data.
  + The second snapshot is taken at some later point during the loan at which the default behavior will be determined.
  + Empirical analysis has shown that the majority of customers default in the first 18 months.
  + Hence, many firms take the second snapshot 18 months after the loan origination to see where our customers defaulted or not.
* Finally note that application scoring aims at ranking customers in terms of their default risk.
  + Hence application scores can take on any value and no calibrated probabilities of default bounded between zero and one are needed for application scoring.

### Behavioral Scoring

* Behavioural scoring is another statistical credit scoring approach whereby we're going to look at our existing credit customers.
* That recent information could be my checking account behavior summarized by the average of my checking account balance, the maximum or minimum there off, or the trends during the previous 12 months.
* Other interesting information could be delinquency information like if I already incurred payment delays, etc Also changes in job status or home address could be considered.
* Behavioral scoring models are typically constructed using a 24 month timeframe.
* 12 months are taken to measure and quantify all the information which will be used as predictors and a subsequent 12 months to determine the default status.
* Behavioral scoring is dynamic since it summarises the behavior into various dynamic variables such as average checking account balance, maximum checking account balance, trend in checking account balance, etc
* Behavioral scorecards have different types of usage.
  + First, they can be used for debt provisioning and profit scoring.
    - As such they will prove to be a very important and valuable input for Basel capital calculation as we will discuss later.
    - Behavioral scores can also be used to authorize accounts to go in excess of their credit limit.
  + Behavioral scores can also be used to do cross selling of other products.
    - selling insurance products to a customer having a good behavioral score on his or her mortgage.
  + Finally they can be used for proactive debt collection.
* Behavioral scoring data sets typically have a few hundred of variables to consider.
* Just as with application scoring the aim of behavioral scoring is to provide a score which is as explained earlier for application scores a relative credit assessment allowing to rank our customers from low risk to high risk in terms of their default likelihood

## Corporate Credit Scoring

### Prediction Approach

* Assumes:
  + historical data is available about firms and their bankruptcy status
  + This data can then be analyzed by statistical techniques to predict corporate bankruptcy.
  + Usually accounting information such as balance sheet and financial statement ratios and stock price behavior if the firm is publicly listed.
* Altman's z model for manufacturing firms
  + built in the late 60s using a statistical technique called discriminant analysis.
  + Separate versions exist for public and private industrial companies.
  + the z-score is a linear combination of five accounting ratios:
    - working capital divided by total assets,
    - retained earnings divided by total assets,
    - earnings before interest in taxes divided by total assets,
    - market or book value of equity divided by total liabilities,
    - net sales divided by total assets.
  + A higher z-score reflects a more healthy firm and thus lower bankruptcy risk
    - Public industrial: gt 3, good. Lt 1.8, bad
    - Private industrial: gt 2.6 good. Lt 1.1 bad.
  + Extensions of the original z-score model have been provided for privately held and non manufacturing firms.
  + The z-score can be used by a bank as its internal bankruptcy prediction model. It can also be used to benchmark other bankruptcy prediction models.

### Expert-based Approach

* in the absence of data the expert based approach is also used in corporate credit risk modeling.
* builds a scorecard in a qualitative way using the business experience intuition and common sense of one or more credit experts.
* Expert based scorecards are often written down as a set of if-then business rules.
* Although they might seem inferior to statistical based scorecards at first sight they are still quite commonly used in the industry for specific corporate portfolios where no historical data is available.

### Agency Rating Approach

* agency ratings approach is an approach that can be adopted if none of these is available.
* Rating agencies are interesting partners to collaborate with in this case since they provide credit ratings for almost any type of corporate exposure.
* These ratings typically vary from AAA which represents excellent credit quality to AA, A and up to D which represents the default status.
* The ratings also come with default rates measured across different time horizons such as one, two, three or even five years.
* Banks can then purchase these credit ratings to score their corporate exposures.
* The most popular rating agencies are
  + Moody's Investors Service
  + Standard & Poor's
  + Fitch.
* ratings for
  + companies (both private and public),
  + countries and governments (sovereign ratings),
  + local authorities
  + banks.
* Retail exposures are typically not covered by the rating agencies.
* The methodology behind the rating assignment is obviously not disclosed but it is based upon a combination of both quantitative and qualitative modeling

### Shadow Ratings Approach

* starts from a set of ratings for a particular set of corporate obligors.
* next step: information will be collected which might have an influence on the rating.
  + accounting ratios
  + firm characteristics
  + stock price behavior
* then: use all this information as predictors in a statistical regression model to predict the ratings.
* Advantages
  + one obtains a white box understandable model which clearly indicates how the various characteristics of an obligor contribute to the rating.
  + gives clear advice to corporates on how to improve their rating furthermore in the long term
  + allows the bank to become independent from the rating agency since the internal statistical model can now be used to rate any obligor given its characteristics
* summarize: the shadow' ratings approach aims at building a statistical model mimicking the external ratings provided by a rating agency

## Quiz

## Discussion

In the US, three popular credit bureaus are Experian, Equifax and TransUnion that each cover their own geographical region. All three provide a FICO credit score which ranges between 300 to 850, with higher scores reflecting better credit quality.

Find out which five data sources are used to calculate FICO scores.

1. payment history (35%)
2. amounts owed (30%)
3. length of credit history (15%)
4. new credit (10%)
5. credit mix (10%)

Besides banks, what other businesses make use of FICO scores in the US?

Lenders, either installment lenders or branded card companies certainly do. Employers might?

## Discussion

Find out which of the following variables can be used for application scoring in your country of residence:

* ~~Age~~
* ~~Gender~~
* Income
* ~~Marital status~~
* Employment status

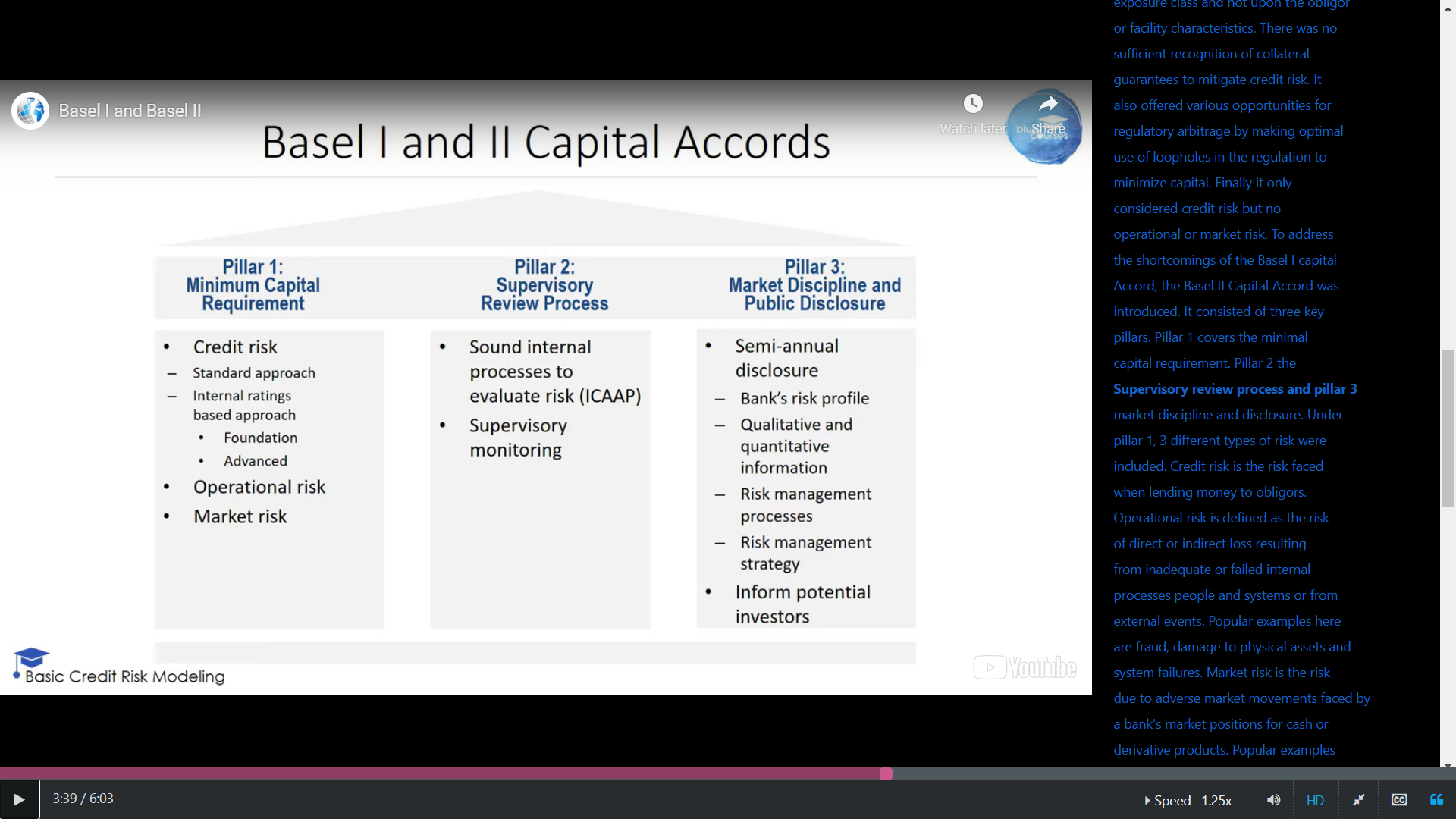
# Basel Accords / IFRS 9 / CECL

## Regulatory vs Economic Capital

* Bank cash and flow sources
  + Liability / equity
    - savings depositors who buy savings products from the bank.
      * savings accounts
      * term accounts
      * pension funds
    - shareholders or investors.
      * They buy shares which gives them an ownership relationship with the bank.
      * If the firm makes profit then part of it can be paid back to the shareholders as dividends.
  + Assets
    - the money obtained by making various investments.
      * Lending
      * various market securities such as bonds, stocks options, etc
* Note that these investments always have a risk associated with them.
  + Given the societal impact of banks in any economic system they need to be well protected against the risks they are exposed to.
  + the risks which banks take on their asset size should be compensated by appropriate liabilities.
  + To safeguard their savings depositors these people should be guaranteed to always get their savings money back whenever they wanted.
* Hence a bank should forsee enough shareholder capital as a buffer against losses.
  + a well capitalized bank has a sufficient amount of equity to protect itself against its various risks.
  + there should be a direct relationship between risk and equity.
* Usually this relationship is quantified in two steps.
  + First the amount of risk on the asset side is quantified into a specific number.
  + This number is then plugged into some kind of formula which precisely calculates the corresponding equity and thus capital buffer required.
* There are two views on finding both this risk number and the formula to be used.
  + The first view is a regulatory view whereby a regulation such as Basel I, Basel II and Basel III have been introduced to precisely define how to calculate the risk number and what formula to use.
    - Regulatory capital is then the amount of capital a bank should have according to a regulation.
  + Banks can use their own risk modeling methodologies to come up with a risk number and use their own formula to calculate the buffer capital.
* economic capital: the amount of capital a bank has based on internal modeling strategy and policy.
* actual capital: the amount of capital a bank actually holds.
* types of capital
  + Tier 1 capital typically consists of common stock, preferred stock and retained earnings.
  + Tier 2 capital is of somewhat less quality and is made up of subordinated loans, revaluation reserves, undisclosed reserves and general provisions.
  + The Basel I capital accord also included tier 3 capital which consisted out of short-term support subordinated debt but as we will discuss later this has been abandoned in the more recent Basel III capital afterwards.

## Basel I and II Capital Accords

* The Basel Accords <- Basel Committee on Banking Supervision, founded in 1974 by the Board of Governors of the G10 central banks
  + counts 27 members
  + meet approximately every three months at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS)in Basel Switzerland
* Basel I capital accord (1988)
  + Aim: minimum regulatory capital requirements in order to ensure that banks are able at all times to return depositors funds.
  + predominantly focused on credit risk
    - Cooke Ratio — named for Peter Cooke of the Bank of England: the ratio of commitments (assets weighed by the risk of default) to total assets. Also known as the solvency ratio, Basel ratio, and capital ratio, it was first established by the Basel Commission in its 1988 accord.
    - Cook ratio which is the ratio of the available buffer capital and the risk-weighted assets.
  + It put a lower limit on this ratio of 8%.
    - In other words the capital should be bigger than 8% of the risk weighted assets.
    - capital both tier 1 and tier 2
  + introduced fixed risk weights depending upon the exposure class.
    - cash exposures: risk weight was 0%
    - mortgages: 50%
    - other commercial exposures:100%
  + drawbacks
    - the solvency of the debtor was not properly taken into account since the risk weights only dependend upon the exposure class and not upon the obligor or facility characteristics.
    - There was no sufficient recognition of collateral guarantees to mitigate credit risk.
    - It also offered various opportunities for regulatory arbitrage by making optimal use of loopholes in the regulation to minimize capital.
    - Finally it only considered credit risk but no operational or market risk.
* Basel II
  + To address the shortcomings of the Basel I
  + It consisted of three key pillars.
    - Pillar 1 covers the minimal capital requirement.
    - Pillar 2 the Supervisory review process and
    - pillar 3 market discipline and disclosure.
  + Pillar 1
    - 3 different types of risk were included
      * Credit risk is the risk faced when lending money to obligors.
      * Operational risk is defined as the risk of direct or indirect loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes people and systems or from external events.
        + Popular examples here are fraud, damage to physical assets and system failures.
      * Market risk is the risk due to adverse market movements faced by a bank's market positions for cash or derivative products.
        + Popular examples here are equity risk, currency risk, commodity risk and interest rate risk.
    - credit risk
      * The standard approach
      * the foundation internal ratings based approach
      * the advanced internal ratings based approach
    - All quantitative models built under pillar 1 will need to be reviewed by overseeing supervisors.
  + Pillar 2
    - the introduction of sound processes to evaluate risk
      * the internal capital adequacy assessment process (ICAAP)
      * the Supervisory monitoring.
    - once all quantitative risk models have been approved they can be disclosed to the market.
  + Pillar 3
    - bank will typically semi-annually disclose its risk profile
    - provide qualitative and quantitative information about its risk management processes and strategies to the market.
    - The objective here is to inform the investors and convince them that the bank has a sound and solid risk management strategy which hopefully will result into a favorable rating for the bank such that the bank can attract funds at cheap rates.



## Basel III

* Introduced because of the 2008 credit crisis
* standards took effect between January 2013 and January 2019
* builds further upon the Basel II Accord but tries to further strengthen global capital standards
  + a bigger focus on tangible equity capital since this is the component with the greatest loss absorbing capacity
  + reduced the reliance on models developed internally by the bank and ratings obtained from external rating agencies
  + It also put a greater focus on stress testing for systemically important banks
* It puts a greater focus on tier 1 capital consisting of shares and retained earnings by abolishing the tier 3 capital introduced in Basel II as it was deemed of insufficient quality to absorb losses
* It introduced a risk insensitive leverage ratio as a backstop to address model risk
* includes some facilities to deal with procyclicality whereby due to a too cyclical nature of capital economic downturns are further amplified
* introduced a liquidity coverage and net stable funding ratio to satisfy liquidity requirements

The tier 1 capital ratio was 4% of the risk-weighted assets in the Basel II capital Accord. It was increased to 6% in Basel 3 to be implemented by 2015.

The common tier 1 capital ratio whereby common tier 1 consists of common equity, which is common stock and retained earnings but no preferred stock, was 2% of the risk weighted assets in Basel II and 4.5 percent of the risk weighted assets in Basel 3 which had to be implemented by 2015.

A new capital conservation buffer was introduced which was set to 2.5 percent of the risk weighted assets to be covered by common equity by 2019.

Also a counter-cyclical capital buffer was added ranging between 0 to 2.5 percent of the risk weighted assets which had to be implemented by 2019.

As already mentioned a non-risk based leverage ratio was introduced which should be at least 3 percent of the assets and covered by tier 1 capital.

Very important to note here is that we look at the assets and not risk weighted assets as with the previous ratios. The assets also include off-balance sheet exposures and derivatives. The idea here is to add this ratio as a supplementary safety on top of the risk-based ratios in Basel II. The total capital ratio is the sum of the tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 capital ratio. In Basel III, the capital ratio then becomes the sum of the tier 1 capital ratios, the capital conservation buffer, the counter-cyclical capital buffer and if relevant an additional capital ratio for systemically important banks.

## Basel IV

Basel IV is the informal name for a set of proposed banking reforms building on the international banking accords known as Basel I, Basel II, and Basel III. It is also referred to as Basel 3.1. It is scheduled to begin implementation on Jan. 1, 2023

It started from the following observation of a G20 report published in 2014: the studies confirmed that there are material variances in bank's regulatory capital ratios that arise from factors other than differences in the riskiness of bank's portfolios. These variances undermine confidence in capital ratios.

The accords aim to strengthen the international banking system by standardizing rules from country to country, including those relating to risk.

## Basel Approaches to Model Credit Risk

### Standardized Approach

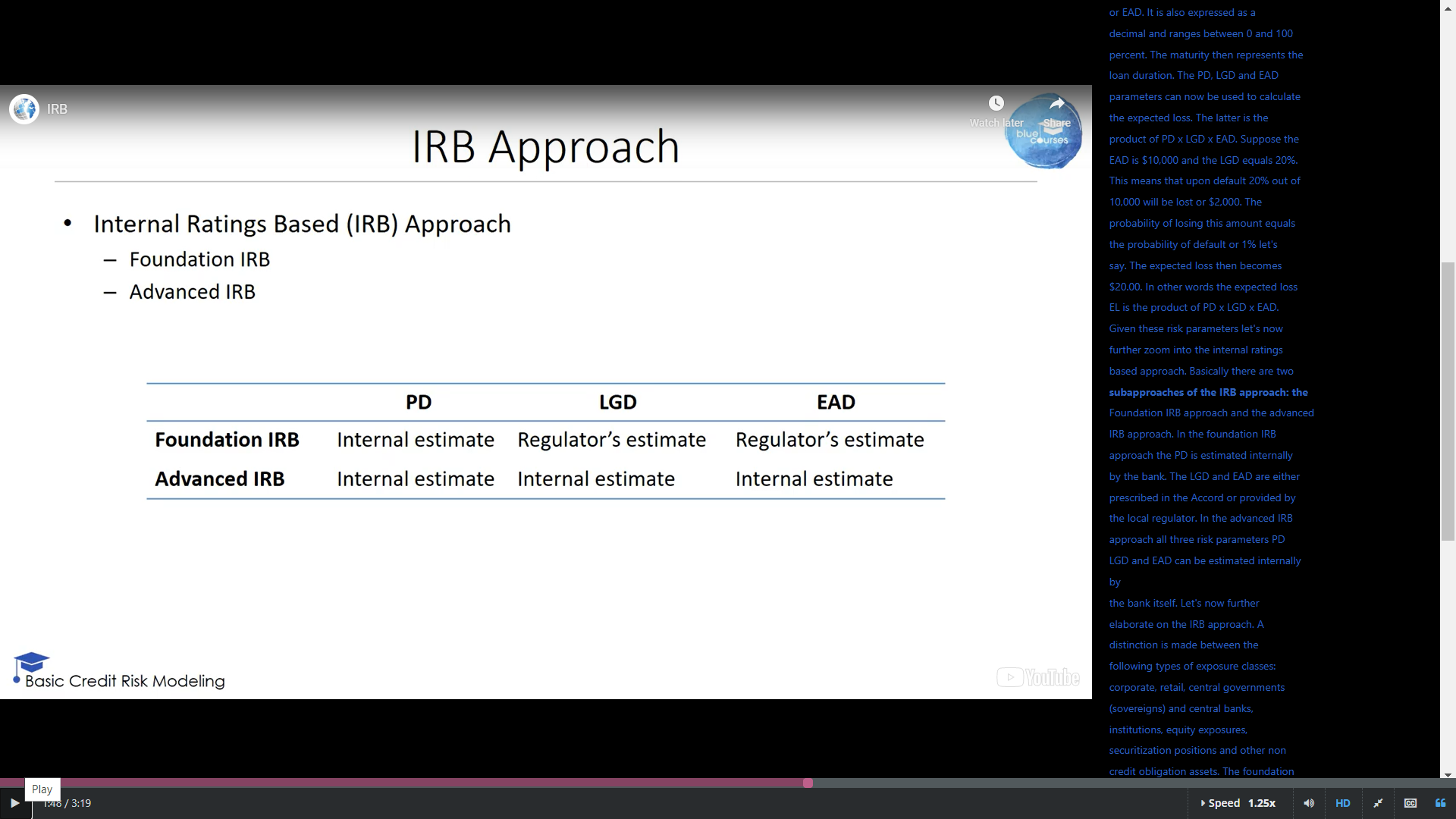
Let's first discuss the standardized approach for non retail exposures. This approach relies on external credit assessment institutions or ECAIs to provide credit ratings.

Popular examples of ECAIs ar Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch.

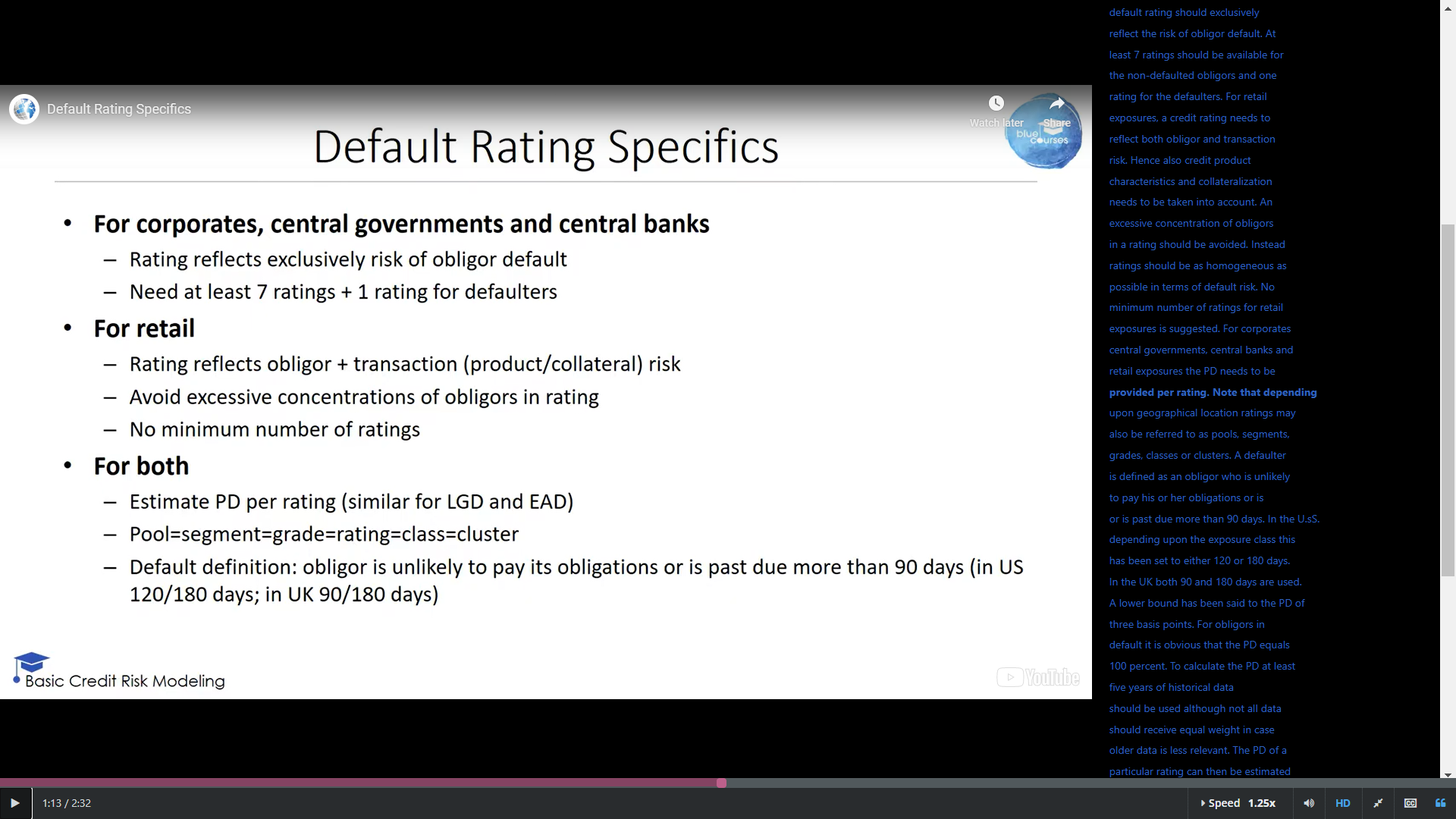
Risk weights are provided for sovereigns, banks, corporates and other exposures. The capital itself is then calculated using the formula capital equals eight percent of the risk weighted assets. Capital = RWA \* 8%.

retail exposures are only discriminated in terms of mortgage or non mortgage. a more detailed categorization is highly desirable here. Ideally, every obligor should have his or her own risk profile whereby not only default risk is considered but also loss and exposure risk as measured by LGD (Loss Given Default) and EAD (Exposure at Default).

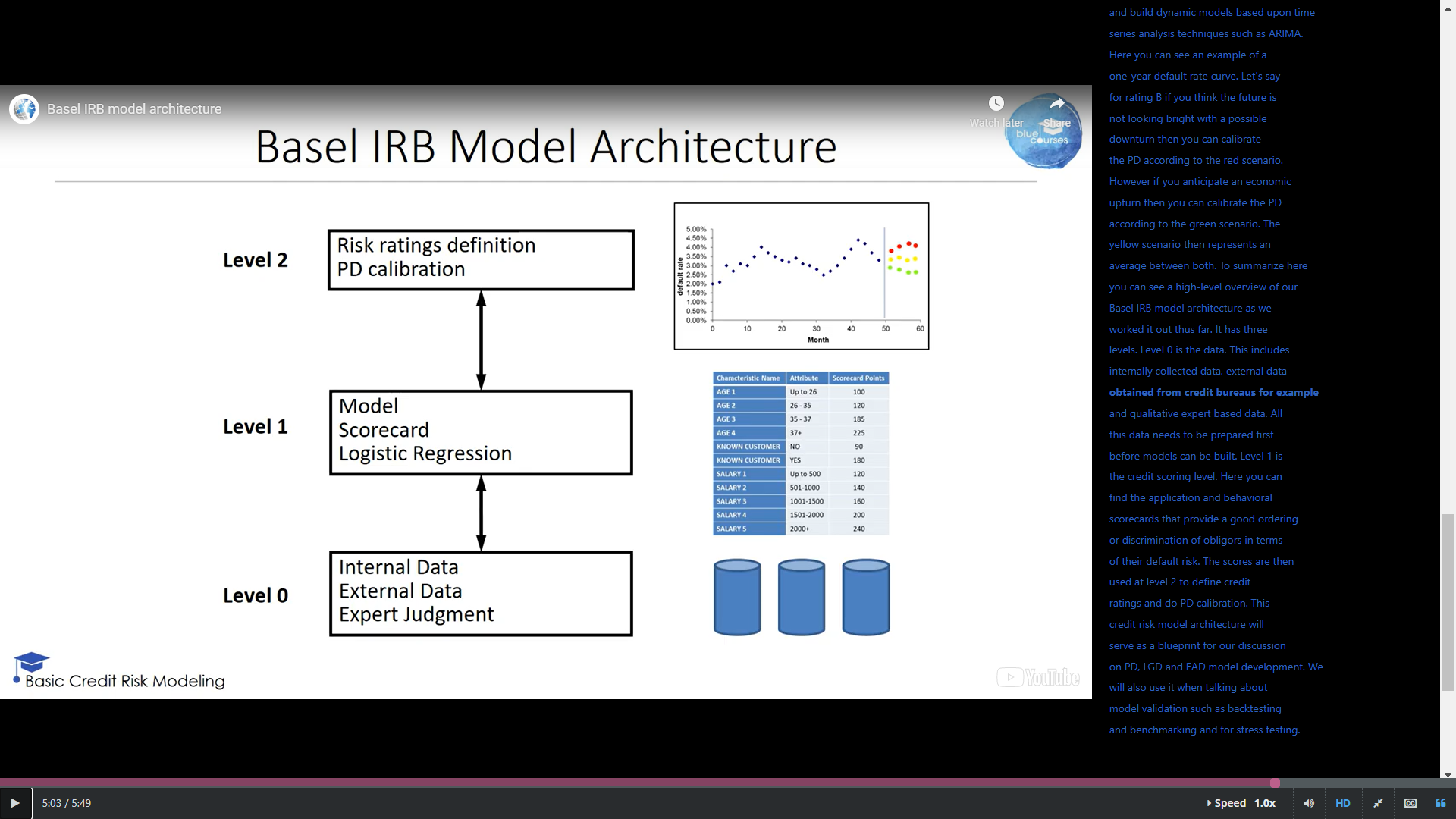
### IRB Approach



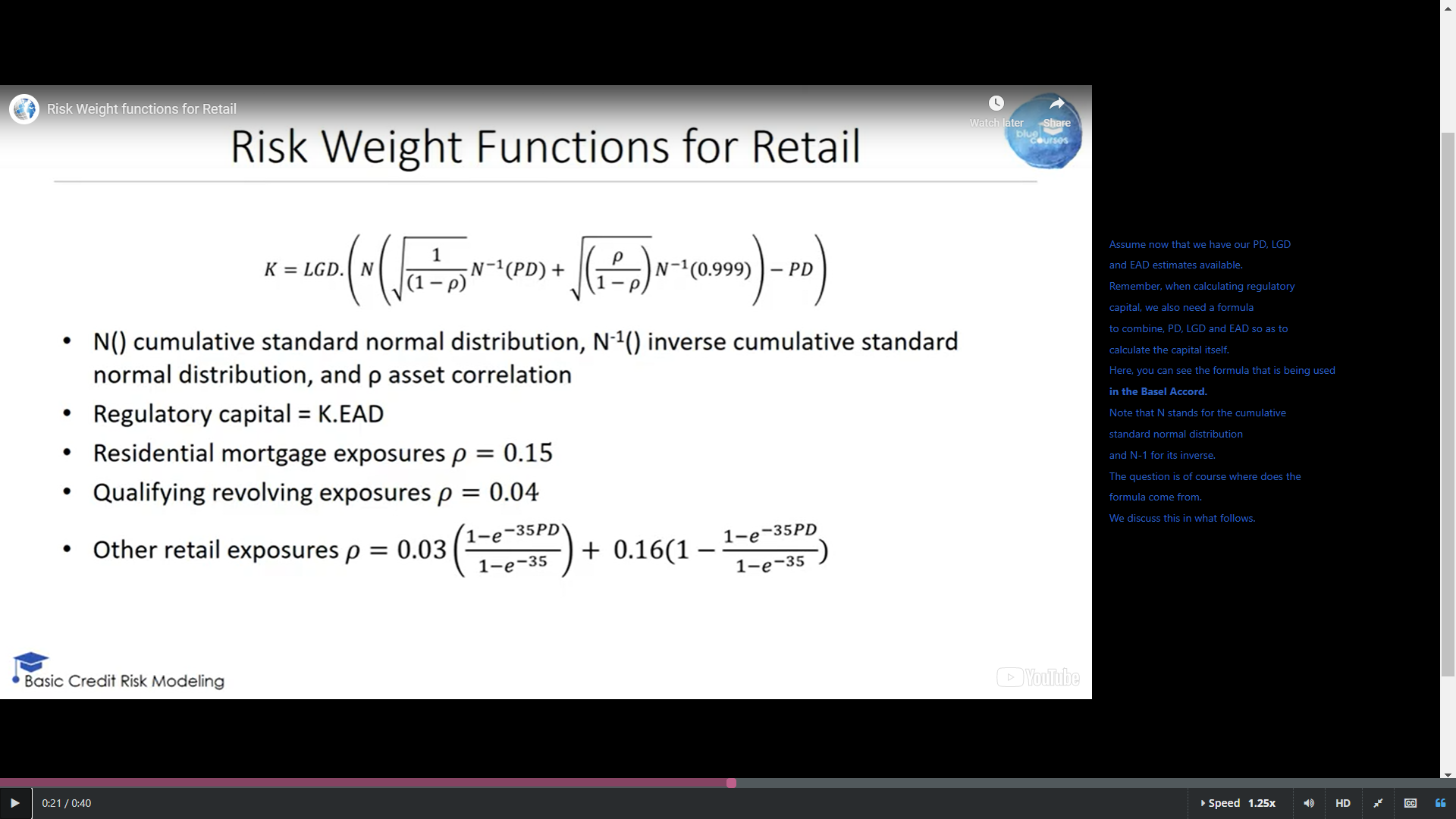
### Default Rating Specifics



Basel IRB Model Architecture



Risk Weight Functions for Retail



Merton Model

Risk Weight Functions

IFRS 9

Credit Risk Model Lifecycle

Quiz

Discussion