# termstrc: A Package for Term Structure and Credit Spread Estimation with R

Robert Ferstl, Josef Hayden

January 2007

# Basic principles of bond pricing

- coupon bond which matures in n years
- investor gets cashflows  $c_t$  at the times t = 1, ... n ( $c_n$  includes the redemption payment)
- clean price  $p_c$  is quoted on the market
- seller also receives accrued interest for holding the bond over the period since the last coupon payment

$$a = \frac{\mathrm{number\ of\ days\ since\ last\ coupon}}{\mathrm{number\ of\ days\ in\ current\ coupon\ period}} C$$

- investor has to pay the **dirty price**  $p_d$
- bond pricing equation with continuous compounding

$$p_c + a = \sum_{t=1}^n c_t e^{-s_t m_t}$$

# Basic principles of bond pricing

yield to maturity

$$p_c + a = \sum_{t=1}^n c_t e^{-ym_t}$$

- equivalent formulation of the bond price equation uses the **discount factors**  $d_t = \delta(m_t) = e^{-s_t m_t}$
- continuous discount function  $\delta(\cdot)$  is formed by interpolation of the discount factors

$$p_c + a = \sum_{t=1}^n c_t \delta(m_t)$$

• implied *j*-period **forward rate** 

$$f_{t|j} = \frac{js_j - ts_t}{j - t}$$

## Term structure and credit spread estimation

- estimate zero-coupon yield curves and credit spread curves from market data
- usual way for calculation of credit spread curves

$$cs_j(\boldsymbol{m}) = s_j(\boldsymbol{m}, \boldsymbol{b}) - s_{ref}(\boldsymbol{m}, \boldsymbol{b})$$

 $cs_j(\mathbf{m})$  credit-spread between country j and reference country ref  $s_j(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{b})$  spot-rate curve of country j with maturity vector  $\mathbf{m}$  spot-rate curve of the reference country

# Nelson and Siegel (1987) approach

#### Instantaneous forward rates

$$f(m, \boldsymbol{b}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1}) + \beta_2 \frac{m}{\tau_1} \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1})$$

### Spot rates

$$s(m, \mathbf{b}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{1 - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1})}{\frac{m}{\tau_1}} + \beta_2 \left( \frac{1 - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1})}{\frac{m}{\tau_1}} - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1}) \right)$$

# Svensson (1994) Approach

 Svensson (1994) extended the functional form by two additional parameters which allows for a second hump-shape

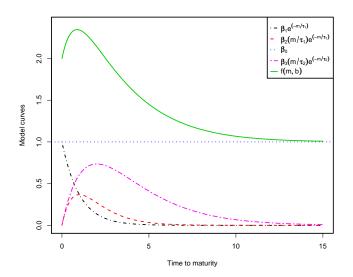
#### Instantaneous forward rates

$$f(m, \mathbf{b}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1}) + \beta_2 \frac{m}{\tau_1} \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1}) + \beta_3 \frac{m}{\tau_2} \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_2})$$

## Spot rates

$$s(m, \mathbf{b}) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{1 - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1})}{\frac{m}{\tau_1}} + \beta_2 \left( \frac{1 - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1})}{\frac{m}{\tau_1}} - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_1}) \right) + \beta_3 \left( \frac{1 - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_2})}{\frac{m}{\tau_2}} - \exp(-\frac{m}{\tau_2}) \right)$$

## Decomposition of the Svensson forward rate function



# Term structure estimation procedure Notation I

## Maturity matrix M

$$\boldsymbol{M}_{[n\times m]}=\{m_{ij}\}$$

#### Cashflow matrix C

$$\boldsymbol{C}_{[n\times m]}=\{c_{ij}\}$$

#### Discount factor matrix D

$$\boldsymbol{D}_{[n \times m]} = \{d_{ij}\}; \qquad d_{ij} = e^{-m_{ij}s(m_{ij},\boldsymbol{b})}$$

## Clean price vector $p^c$

$$\boldsymbol{p}_{[1\times m]}^c = \{p_j^c\}$$

# Term structure estimation procedure Notation II

#### Accrued interest vector a

$$\boldsymbol{a}_{[1\times m]}=\{a_j\}$$

#### Cashflow matrix C

$$\boldsymbol{C}_{[n\times m]}=\{c_{ij}\}$$

### Dirty price vector $p^d$

$$\mathbf{p}_{[1 \times m]}^d = \{p_j^d\}$$
 $\mathbf{p}^d = \mathbf{p}^c + \mathbf{a}$ 

## Weights vector w

$$\mathbf{w}_{[1\times m]} = \{w_j\}; \qquad w_j = \frac{\frac{1}{D_j}}{\sum_{i=1}^m \frac{1}{D_i}}$$

# Term structure estimation procedure Objective function

Minimization of the weighted pricing or yield errors

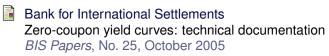
### Objective function

$$\boldsymbol{b}_{opt} = \min_{b} \left( \left( \boldsymbol{\iota}_{[1 \times n]} \left[ \boldsymbol{C} \cdot \boldsymbol{D} \right] - \boldsymbol{p}^{d} \right)^{2} w \boldsymbol{\iota}_{[m \times 1]} \right)$$

• The parameter vector is subject to constraints  $(\beta_0 > 0, \tau_1 > 0, \tau_2 > 0)$ 

# Examples

## References I



David Bolder, David Streliski Yield Curve Modelling at the Bank of Canada Bank of Canada, Technical Report, No. 84, 1999

Alois Geyer, Richard Mader
Estimation of the Term Structure of Interest Rates - A Parametric Approach

OeNB, Working Paper, No. 37, 1999

## References II

- Rainer Jankowitsch, Stefan Pichler
  Parsimonious Estimation of Credit Spreads
  The Journal of Fixed Income, 14(3):49–63, 2004
- Charles R. Nelson, Andrew F. Siegel Parsimonious Modeling of Yield Curves

  The Journal of Business, 60(4):473–489, 1987
- Lars E.O. Svensson
  Estimating and Interpreting Forward Interest Rates:
  Sweden 1992 -1994
  National Bureau of Economic Research,
  Technical Report, No. 4871, 1994