



# Interest Rate Swap Valuation Practical Guide

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Swap

## Summary

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## Interest Rate Swap Introduction

- ◆ An interest rate swap is an agreement between two parties to exchange future interest rate payments over a set period of time.
- ◆ An interest rate swap consists of a series of payment periods, called swaplets.
- ◆ Vanilla Interest Rate Swaps involve the exchange of a fixed interest rate for a floating rate, or vice versa.
- ◆ There are two legs associated with each party: a fixed leg and a floating leg.
- ◆ Swaps are OTC derivatives that bear counterparty credit risk.

## The Use of Interest Rate Swap

- ◆ Swaps are the most popular OTC derivatives that are generally used to manage exposure to fluctuations in interest rates.
- ◆ Swaps can also be used to obtain a marginally lower interest rate. Thus they are often utilized by a firm that can borrow money easily at one type of interest rate but prefers a different type.
- ◆ Swaps allow investors to adjust interest rate exposure and offset interest rate risk.
- ◆ Speculators use swaps to speculate on the movement of interest rates.
- ◆ More and more swaps are cleared through central counterparties (CCPs) nowadays.

## Swap or Swaplet Payoff

- ◆ From the fixed rate payer perspective, the payoff of a swap or swaplet at payment date T is given by

$$Payoff_{payer} = N\tau(F - R)$$

where

- ◆ N- the notional;
  - ◆  $\tau$  – accrual period in years (e.g., a 3 month period  $\approx 3/12 = 0.25$  years)
  - ◆ R – the fixed rate in simply compounding.
  - ◆ F – the realized floating rate in simply compounding
- ◆ From the fixed rate receiver perspective, the payoff of a swap or swaplet at payment date T is given by

$$Payoff_{receiver} = N\tau(R - F)$$

# Swap

## Valuation

- ◆ The present value of a fixed rate leg is given by

$$PV_{fixed}(t) = RN \sum_{i=1}^n \tau_i D_i$$

where  $t$  is the valuation date and  $D_i = D(t, T_i)$  is the discount factor.

- ◆ The present value of a floating leg is given by

$$PV_{float}(t) = N \sum_{i=1}^n (F_i + s) \tau_i D_i$$

where  $F_i = \left( \frac{D_{i-1}}{D_i} - 1 \right) / \tau_i$  is the forward rate and  $s$  is the floating spread.

- ◆ The present value of an interest rate swap can expressed as

- ◆ From the fixed rate receiver perspective,  $PV = PV_{fixed} - PV_{float}$

- ◆ From the fixed rate payer perspective,  $PV = PV_{float} - PV_{fixed}$

## Practical Notes

- ◆ First of all, you need to generate accurate cash flows for each leg. The cash flow generation is based on the start time, end time and payment frequency of the leg, plus calendar (holidays), business convention (e.g., modified following, following, etc.) and whether sticky month end.
- ◆ We assume that accrual periods are the same as reset periods and payment dates are the same as accrual end dates in the above formulas for brevity. But in fact, they are different due to different market conventions. For example, index periods can overlap each other but swap cash flows are not allowed to overlap.
- ◆ The accrual period is calculated according to the start date and end date of a cash flow plus day count convention

## Practical Notes (Cont)

- ◆ The forward rate should be computed based on the reset period (index reset date, index start date, index end date) that are determined by index definition, such as index tenor and convention. it is simply compounded.
- ◆ Sometimes there is a floating spread added on the top of the floating rate in the floating leg.
- ◆ The formula above doesn't contain the last live reset cash flow whose reset date is less than valuation date but payment date is greater than valuation date. The reset value is

$$PV_{reset} = r_0 N \tau_0 D_0$$

where  $r_0$  is the reset rate.



## Practical Notes (Cont)

- ◆ The present value of the reset cash flow should be added into the present value of the floating leg.
- ◆ Some dealers take bid-offer spreads into account. In this case, one should use the bid curve constructed from bid quotes for forwarding and the offer curve built from offer quotes for discounting.

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## A Real World Example

Leg 1 Specification		Leg 2 Specification	
Currency	USD	Currency	USD
Day Count	dcAct360	Day Count	dcAct360
Leg Type	Fixed	Leg Type	Float
Notional	5000000	Notional	5000000
Pay Receive	Receive	Pay Receive	Pay
Payment Frequency	1M	Payment Frequency	1M
Start Date	7/1/2015	Start Date	7/1/2015
End Date	3/1/2023	End Date	3/1/2023
Fixed Rate	0.0455	Spread	0
		<b>Index Specification</b>	
		Index Type	LIBOR
		Index Tenor	1M
		Index Day Count	dcAct360



# Thanks!



You can find more details at  
<http://www.finpricing.com/lib/lrSwap.html>

