

# Indices of Acceptability as Performance Measures

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# Outline

- Operationally defining Acceptability of Random Cash Flows
- New Examples of Acceptability Indices
  - MINVAR, MAXVAR, MINMAXVAR, MAXMINVAR
- Applications in the Options Domain
- Construction of Required Sharpe Ratios for Hedge Funds
- Pricing Contracts written on Daily Returns
- Pricing Gap Risk
- Pricing CFO contracts

# Making Acceptability Operational

- The idea of Pricing and Hedging to acceptability was proposed in Carr, Geman and Madan (JFE 2001).
- The first part of that paper explored the analogy with efficient markets redefined as the absence of no acceptable opportunities and related this to the existence of a pricing operator in the convex hull of the measures defining acceptability.
- The second part considered incomplete markets more fully and explored the generalization of super and sub replication to determining ask and bid prices by hedging to acceptability.
- The primary personal dissatisfaction with this work was the absence of an operational definition of acceptability cones capable of producing real prices and hedges for real contracts.

# Operational Acceptability

- Consider the task of evaluating trading opportunities and or strategies.
- We agree that an arbitrage is an excellent trade but one that is not likely to be found.
  - There is an extensive literature testing market efficiency understood to be the absence of arbitrage.
  - As this is broadly equivalent to the existence of a pricing kernel or a linear pricing rule, the tests often focus on actually testing for the validity of a particular asset pricing model.

- Another interesting result of Jacod and Shiryaev (1998) describes no arbitrage as zero lying in the interior of the set of possible price moves.
  - \* Hence no arbitrage is just the acceptance of a positive probability of a loss.
- We accept the absence of arbitrage in this sense though the pricing kernel may be hard to find.

# Measuring Efficiency

- As we accept market efficiency in the sense of no arbitrage, we ask what is the level of market efficiency?
- From this perspective, we view the absence of arbitrage as a zero level of efficiency.
- In a really efficient economy one should not be able to come anywhere near an arbitrage.
- This led us to axiomatize the degree of trade acceptability with a positive expectation being a zero level of acceptability while an arbitrage was an infinitely acceptable trade.

# Axiomatizing Acceptability Levels

- We work on  $L^\infty(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, P)$  a general probability space. We define an acceptability index  $\alpha$  to be a map from  $L^\infty$  to the extended positive reals  $[0, \infty]$ , with  $\alpha(X)$  being the level of acceptability of the random variable  $X \in L^\infty$ .
- The set of trades with cash flows  $X$  acceptable at level  $x$  is given by

$$\mathcal{A}_x = \{X \mid \alpha(X) \geq x\}.$$

# Convexity

- We require that  $\mathcal{A}_x$  be a convex set for all  $x$  and hence that

$$\alpha(X) \geq x, \alpha(Y) \geq x$$

then for  $\lambda, 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$

$$\alpha(\lambda X + (1 - \lambda)Y) \geq x.$$

- This property was already adopted for acceptability in Artzner, Delbaen, Eber and Heath (1999) and Carr, Geman, Madan (2001) and we merely adopt it for all the acceptability levels  $x$ .



# Monotonicity

- Domination increases acceptability and we require  
if  $X \leq Y$ , then  $\alpha(X) \leq \alpha(Y)$
- This property is shared with classical utility theory and preference orderings in economic theory generally.

# Scale Invariance

- Our interest is in determining the direction of trades and not their scale.
- The scale may be determined by other considerations like market impact, liquidity or depth.
  - Classical theory in our view mistakenly assumes that one may trade at an arbitrary level with no market impact and then uses concavity to determine the optimal trade level.
  - We link our acceptability indices to more traditional performance measures like the Sharpe ratio or the Gain-Loss ratio that are scale invariant.
- Hence we impose that

$$\alpha(\lambda X) = \alpha(X), \text{ for } \lambda > 0.$$

# Fatou Property

- This is a continuity or closure property and is a relatively technical condition.
- For  $X_n$  with  $|X_n| \leq 1$ , and  $\alpha(X_n) \geq x$  with  $X_n$  converging to  $X$  in probability we require the  $\alpha(X) \geq x$ .

# Coherent Acceptability Indices

- The four properties on Convexity, Monotonicity, Scale Invariance and the Fatou property define the class of coherent acceptability indices.
- We introduce some other properties that help in formulating operational models of acceptability.
- The first additional property enables us to access the results of Kusuoka (2001) who characterized all law invariant risk measures and hence indirectly law invariant cones of acceptability.

# Law Invariance

- We require that the index of acceptability depend on just the probability law of the random variable.
- Hence we require that  
if  $X \stackrel{law}{=} Y$  then  $\alpha(X) = \alpha(Y)$ .
- This property is shared with traditional performance measures like the Sharpe ratio or the Gain Loss ratio.
- Its main purpose is as a vehicle to concrete examples of acceptability cones.

## Three other properties

- Three other properties we note are
  - Second Order Monotonicity, whereby we require that if  $Y$  second order stochastically dominates  $X$  then  $\alpha(X) \leq \alpha(Y)$ .

- Arbitrage Consistency, or  $X \geq 0$  if and only if  $\alpha(X) = \infty$ .
  - \* Acceptability indices depart from traditional preference orderings here as we are effectively converting the entire positive orthant to a bliss point at infinity and we do not rank two positive cash flows from an acceptability perspective.
  - \* As noted at the start, we do not expect to find zero cost cash flows in the positive orthant so why bother ranking them.

– Expectation Consistency, if  $E[X] < 0$ , then  $\alpha(X) = 0$ ; and  $E[X] > 0$  then  $\alpha(X) > 0$ .



# Characterization Result

- A map  $\alpha : L^\infty \rightarrow [0, \infty]$  is a coherent acceptability index if and only if there exists a collection  $(\mathcal{D}_x)_{x \in \mathbb{R}_+}$  of subsets of probability measures absolutely continuous with respect to  $P$  such that  $\mathcal{D}_x \subseteq \mathcal{D}_y$  for  $x \leq y$  and

$$\alpha(X) = \inf \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}_+ \mid \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{D}_x} E^Q[X] < 0 \right\}$$

where  $\inf \emptyset = \infty$ .

- Alternatively  $\alpha(X)$  is the largest  $x$  such that  $X \in \mathcal{A}_x$ .

- The determining sets associated with an index of acceptability are the maximal collections supporting an index of acceptability and these are uniquely identified.
- Arbitrage consistency requires that the  $\cup_x \mathcal{D}_x$  coincides with the set of all measures absolutely continuous with respect to  $P$ .
- For expectation consistency  $\mathcal{D}_0 = \{P\}$ .

## Performance Measures : Early Examples

- The Sharpe Ratio defined by

$$SR = \frac{E[X]}{\sigma(X)}, \text{ if } E[X] \geq 0$$

0 otherwise

is scale invariant, law invariant, and expectation consistent and has the Fatou property.

- It is well known not to satisfy the monotonicity property and is not arbitrage consistent.

- The Gain-Loss ratio defined as

$$GLR(X) = \frac{E[X^+]}{E[X^-]} - 1, \text{ if } E[X] > 0$$

*0 otherwise*

- This measure is law and scale invariant, arbitrage and expectation consistent, it is monotonic and has the Fatou property. It is a coherent acceptability index.
- It also satisfies convexity and second order monotonicity.

- A dissatisfaction with this measure is the absence of a unique identification of the extreme measures attaining the infimum of  $E^Q[X]$  for  $Q \in \mathcal{D}_x$ .
- The density of the extreme measure for  $\mathcal{D}_x$  has the form

$$c(1 + x\mathbf{1}_{X \leq b})$$

- Another disadvantage is that the extreme measure does not exaggerate large losses relative to small ones and treats them uniformly.

- The Tilt Coefficient is defined as the largest negative exponential tilt such that the tilted expectation is positive or  
$$TC(X) = \inf \{ \lambda \in \mathbb{R}_+ | E[Xe^{-\lambda X}] < 0 \} .$$
- This measure is monotone, law invariant and has the Fatou property.
- It is not convex or scale invariant and is therefore not a coherent acceptability index.
- It also fails second order monotonicity.

# The Law Invariant Measures

- An important building block of law invariant cones of acceptability is *TVAR* the measure for tail value at risk. It is defined as  $-u^\lambda(X)$  where

$$u^\lambda(X) = \inf_{Q \in \mathcal{D}_\lambda} E^Q[X]$$

$$\mathcal{D}_\lambda = \left\{ Q \ll P \mid \frac{dQ}{dP} \leq \frac{1}{\lambda} \right\}.$$

- For  $X$  with a continuous distribution the infimum is attained at

$$\frac{dQ^*}{dP} = \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathbf{1}_{X \leq q^\lambda(X)}$$

where  $q^\lambda(X)$  is the  $\lambda$  – *quantile* of  $X$ .

- An acceptability index based on tail value at risk is defined by

$$AIT(X) = \frac{1}{\inf \{ \lambda \in (0, 1] \mid u^\lambda(X) \geq 0 \}} - 1$$

- We have here a coherent acceptability index that is arbitrage and expectation consistent and the extreme measures are identified.
- We do ignore gains completely and treat all losses uniformly.



# Weighted Value at Risk

- Tail Value at Risk leads us to weighted value at risk by integrating with respect to a measure on the quantile levels. Let  $\mu$  be a measure on  $(0, 1]$  and define

$$u^\mu(X) = \int_{(0,1]} u^\lambda(X) \mu(d\lambda)$$

- To define an acceptability index we are going to have to find a sequence of measures  $\mu_x$  indexed by the level of acceptability and it is not clear how to go about doing this.
- There is however an alternative equivalent characterization of weighted value at risk defined by relating the measure  $\mu$  to a concave distribution function on the unit interval  $\Psi^\mu$  defined by

$$\Psi^\mu(y) = \int_0^y dz \int_z^1 \frac{1}{\lambda} \mu(d\lambda)$$

- We may then establish that

$$u^\mu(X) = \int_{\mathbb{R}} y d\Psi^\mu(F_X(y))$$

or the expectation of  $X$  under the concave distortion of the distribution function of  $X$  from  $F_X$  to  $\Psi^\mu(F_X)$ .

- It is hard to visualize a sequence of measures  $\mu^x$  but relatively easy to formulate a sequence of concave distortions  $\Psi^x$  from which the measures may be extracted by

$$\mu(dy) = -y\Psi''(dy).$$

- We may define the index of acceptability as the largest level  $x$  such that expectations under concave distortions  $\Psi^x$  are positive or

$$AIW(X) = \inf \left\{ x \in \mathbb{R}_+ \mid \int_{\mathbb{R}} y d\Psi^x(F_X(y)) < 0 \right\}$$

where  $\inf \emptyset = \infty$ .

- The extreme measures are identified as

$$\frac{dQ^*}{dP} = \Psi'(F_X(x))$$

- We also have a characterization of the sets  $\mathcal{D}_x$  in terms of the conjugate dual of  $\Psi$ .

# The Determining System

- Define by  $\Phi_x(y)$  the conjugate dual of  $\Psi_x^+(z) = \lim_{\varepsilon \downarrow 0} \Psi_{x+\varepsilon}(z)$  by

$$\Phi_x(y) = \sup_{z \in [0,1]} (\Psi_x^+(z) - yz)$$

- The determining system of densities  $\mathcal{D}_x$  are given by all densities  $Z$  for which

$$E [(Z - y)^+] \leq \Phi_x(y), \quad y \in \mathbb{R}_+.$$

# Characterization for Law Invariant Indices

- For a coherent acceptability index  $\alpha$ , the following conditions are equivalent
  - $\alpha$  is law invariant.
  - $\alpha$  is monotone and second order monotone.
  - $\alpha$  is dilatation monotone, i.e. for any  $X \in L^\infty$ , and  $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{F}$ ,
$$\alpha(E[X|\mathcal{G}]) \geq \alpha(X).$$
  - the determining system of  $\alpha$  is law invariant, i.e. for any  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+$ , and any density  $Z \stackrel{law}{=} Z'$  then if  $Z \in \mathcal{D}_x$ , it is also the case that  $Z' \in \mathcal{D}_x$ .
  - there exists a family  $(\alpha^\gamma)_{\gamma \in \Gamma}$  of AIW indices such that

$$\alpha(X) = \inf_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \alpha^\gamma(X)$$

## Remark on Law Invariant Result

- This result relies on the characterization by Kusuoka (2001) of all law invariant monetary utilities (negative risk measures) as the infimum of a collection of weighted value at risk measures, specifically there exists a set of measures  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $[0, 1]$  with elements  $\mu$  such that

$$u(X) = \inf_{\mu \in \mathcal{M}} u^\mu(X).$$

- This result was an important step forward in the operationalization of acceptability cones.

# The New Acceptability Cones: MINVAR

- The first family of concave distortions we considered was

$$\Psi^x(y) = 1 - (1 - y)^x$$

- It is simple to observe that  $X$  is acceptable under this distortion just if the expectation of the minimum of  $x$  independent draws from the distribution of  $X$  is still just positive.
- Hence we refer to this measure as *MINVAR* as it is based on the expectation of minima.

- The extreme measure in this case is  $\frac{dQ^*}{dP} = (x + 1) (1 - F_X(X))^x$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}_+$
- A potential drawback is that large losses have a maximum weight of  $(x + 1)$  in the densities of the determining system  $\mathcal{D}_x$ .
- Asymptotically large gains receive a weight of zero.



# MAXVAR

- The next concave distortion is based on the maxima of independent draws and is defined by

$$\Psi^x(y) = y^{\frac{1}{1+x}}$$

- Here we take expectations from a distribution  $G$  such that the law of the maxima of  $x$  independent draws from this distribution matches the distribution of  $X$ .
- The extreme measure now is
$$\frac{dQ^*}{dP} = \frac{1}{1+x} (F_X(X))^{-\frac{x}{x+1}}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}_+$$
- Large losses now receive unbounded large weights in the determining system, but large gains have a minimum weight of  $(x+1)^{-1}$ .

# MAXMINVAR and MINMAXVAR

- We combine the two distortions in two ways to define MAXMINVAR by

$$\Psi^x(y) = \left(1 - (1 - y)^{x+1}\right)^{\frac{1}{x+1}}$$

- and MINMAXVAR by

$$\Psi^x(y) = 1 - \left(1 - y^{\frac{1}{x+1}}\right)^{x+1}$$

- The densities in the determining system now have weights tending to infinity for large losses and zero for large gains.

# Application to Unhedged Option Writes

- We ask what are levels of acceptability attained on these measures by strategies of writing options and holding the position to maturity and paying out the requisite cash flow.
- We took data on all out of the money options on the SPX and the FTSE from December 2000 to December 2005 and bucketed these by 7 ranges for moneyness and 4 ranges for maturity.

- We thereby obtained 28 cash flow distributions for writing options bucketed by moneyness and maturity.
- We then computed the level of each of 8 performance measure for each of the 2 indices.
- We report the results in eight 7 by 4 tables for each index.

## Remarks on Option Writes

- The  $TC$  is the smallest measure suggesting that exponential tilting is quite a severe risk adjustment.
- $MINMAXVAR$  and  $MAXMINVAR$  are next and comparable with each other.
- This followed by  $MAXVAR$  indicative of the large weighting of losses in this measure.
- The highest measure is that for  $MINVAR$  among the new coherent indices.
- The values are generally below unity with the exception of  $MINVAR$  for short maturity out of the money calls.

SPX Options

| Strike<br>Ranges | SR             |        |        |         | TC             |        |        |         |
|------------------|----------------|--------|--------|---------|----------------|--------|--------|---------|
|                  | Maturity Range |        |        |         | Maturity Range |        |        |         |
|                  | 0-.25          | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 | 0-.25          | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9           | 0.3166         | 0.1790 | 0.2136 | 0.4585  | 0.0520         | 0.0247 | 0.0345 | 0.1346  |
| .9-.95           | 0.1970         | 0.1234 | 0.1748 | 0.2802  | 0.0266         | 0.0128 | 0.0246 | 0.0600  |
| .95-1.0          | 0.1281         | 0.0741 | 0.0857 | 0.1043  | 0.0132         | 0.0050 | 0.0067 | 0.0100  |
| 1.0-1.05         | 0.0697         | 0.0203 | 0.0127 | 0.0566  | 0.0044         | 0.0004 | 0.0002 | 0.0031  |
| 1.05-1.1         | 0.1761         | 0.2732 | 0.2879 | 0.2347  | 0.0284         | 0.0683 | 0.0763 | 0.0520  |
| 1.1-1.15         | 0.3544         | 0.3423 | 0.4538 | 0.3667  | 0.0846         | 0.0939 | 0.1536 | 0.1084  |
| 1.15-1.2         | 0.5336         | 0.4849 | 0.4950 | 0.4409  | 0.1262         | 0.1393 | 0.1574 | 0.1366  |

| Strike<br>Ranges | GLR    |        |        |         | RAROCX10 |        |        |         |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|
|                  | 0-.25  | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 | 0-.25    | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9           | 2.9789 | 0.8292 | 0.8997 | 2.0282  | 0.3328   | 0.1073 | 0.1244 | 0.2954  |
| .9-.95           | 1.2354 | 0.4962 | 0.6636 | 0.9792  | 0.1437   | 0.0682 | 0.0961 | 0.1596  |
| .95-1.0          | 0.6234 | 0.2528 | 0.2768 | 0.2921  | 0.0773   | 0.0380 | 0.0439 | 0.0551  |
| 1.0-1.05         | 0.2498 | 0.0578 | 0.0345 | 0.1444  | 0.0361   | 0.0100 | 0.0063 | 0.0302  |
| 1.05-1.1         | 0.5665 | 0.9487 | 1.0264 | 0.7847  | 0.1070   | 0.1861 | 0.2036 | 0.1612  |
| 1.1-1.15         | 2.1914 | 1.5448 | 2.1740 | 1.4472  | 0.2734   | 0.2344 | 0.3170 | 0.2389  |
| 1.15-1.2         | 6.8759 | 3.8486 | 2.7580 | 2.0353  | 0.7889   | 0.4555 | 0.3674 | 0.2935  |

| Strike<br>Ranges | AIMIN  |        |        |         | AIMAX  |        |        |         |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|                  | 0-.25  | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 | 0-.25  | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9           | 0.9115 | 0.3461 | 0.4710 | 1.1245  | 0.3397 | 0.1667 | 0.2059 | 0.4718  |
| .9-.95           | 0.4708 | 0.2762 | 0.2889 | 0.4581  | 0.2003 | 0.1306 | 0.1341 | 0.2304  |
| .95-1.0          | 0.2508 | 0.0763 | 0.1169 | 0.1884  | 0.1169 | 0.0398 | 0.0593 | 0.1075  |
| 1.0-1.05         | 0.0644 | 0.0077 | 0.0216 | 0.0245  | 0.0348 | 0.0044 | 0.0123 | 0.0152  |
| 1.05-1.1         | 0.2461 | 0.3635 | 0.4193 | 0.2764  | 0.1823 | 0.2791 | 0.3238 | 0.2254  |
| 1.1-1.15         | 0.6849 | 0.4636 | 0.8665 | 0.6080  | 0.3699 | 0.3050 | 0.4894 | 0.3805  |
| 1.15-1.2         | 1.2659 | 1.1474 | 0.9899 | 0.8882  | 0.5485 | 0.5218 | 0.4718 | 0.4546  |

| Strike<br>Ranges | AIMAXMIN |        |        |         | AIMINMAX |        |        |         |
|------------------|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|
|                  | 0-.25    | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 | 0-.25    | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9           | 0.2249   | 0.1076 | 0.1359 | 0.2994  | 0.2145   | 0.1049 | 0.1315 | 0.2780  |
| .9-.95           | 0.1330   | 0.0856 | 0.0885 | 0.1458  | 0.1291   | 0.0838 | 0.0866 | 0.1404  |
| .95-1.0          | 0.0772   | 0.0259 | 0.0388 | 0.0669  | 0.0759   | 0.0257 | 0.0384 | 0.0657  |
| 1.0-1.05         | 0.0224   | 0.0028 | 0.0078 | 0.0093  | 0.0223   | 0.0028 | 0.0078 | 0.0093  |
| 1.05-1.1         | 0.1010   | 0.1500 | 0.1727 | 0.1193  | 0.0983   | 0.1440 | 0.1649 | 0.1155  |
| 1.1-1.15         | 0.2207   | 0.1721 | 0.2823 | 0.2170  | 0.2095   | 0.1648 | 0.2629 | 0.2050  |
| 1.15-1.2         | 0.3362   | 0.3166 | 0.2871 | 0.2726  | 0.3127   | 0.2944 | 0.2678 | 0.2546  |

FTSE Options

| Strike Ranges | SR             |         |         |         | TC             |        |        |         |
|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|--------|--------|---------|
|               | Maturity Range |         |         |         | Maturity Range |        |        |         |
|               | 0-.25          | .25-.5  | .5-.75  | .75-1.0 | 0-.25          | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9        | 0.2505         | 0.0650  | -0.0475 | 0.0988  | 0.0396         | 0.0038 | 0.0000 | 0.0090  |
| .9-.95        | 0.1103         | 0.0064  | -0.1085 | -0.0858 | 0.0100         | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| .95-1.0       | 0.0462         | -0.0214 | -0.1615 | -0.2076 | 0.0020         | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.0-1.05      | -0.0149        | -0.0541 | -0.2304 | -0.2873 | 0.0000         | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.05-1.1      | 0.5915         | 0.4471  | 0.4948  | 0.4469  | 0.2599         | 0.1775 | 0.2244 | 0.1822  |
| 1.1-1.15      | 0.6761         | 0.6869  | 0.7332  | 0.5958  | 0.2326         | 0.3341 | 0.4149 | 0.2851  |
| 1.15-1.2      | 0.5219         | 0.7185  | 1.0434  | 0.8054  | 0.1167         | 0.2588 | 0.5540 | 0.4188  |

| Strike Ranges | GLR     |         |         |         | RAROCX10 |        |        |         |
|---------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|
|               | 0-.25   | .25-.5  | .5-.75  | .75-1.0 | 0-.25    | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9        | 1.8315  | 0.2645  | 0.0000  | 0.2802  | 0.2089   | 0.0356 | 0.0000 | 0.0528  |
| .9-.95        | 0.5638  | 0.0203  | 0.0000  | 0.0000  | 0.0686   | 0.0033 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| .95-1.0       | 0.1802  | 0.0000  | 0.0000  | 0.0000  | 0.0245   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.0-1.05      | 0.0000  | 0.0000  | 0.0000  | 0.0000  | 0.0000   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.05-1.1      | 3.2350  | 1.9633  | 2.0273  | 1.8022  | 0.4959   | 0.3532 | 0.4291 | 0.3623  |
| 1.1-1.15      | 9.1868  | 5.7715  | 4.2449  | 2.7973  | 1.0758   | 0.7685 | 0.6863 | 0.4782  |
| 1.15-1.2      | 17.4153 | 23.4815 | 16.0821 | 5.1221  | 2.0014   | 2.8906 | 2.3423 | 0.7614  |

| Strike Ranges | AIMIN  |        |        |         | AIMAX  |        |        |         |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
|               | 0-.25  | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 | 0-.25  | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9        | 0.4579 | 0.0269 | 0.0000 | 0.1385  | 0.2314 | 0.0157 | 0.0000 | 0.0849  |
| .9-.95        | 0.1657 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  | 0.0867 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| .95-1.0       | 0.0526 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  | 0.0289 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.0-1.05      | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.05-1.1      | 1.1565 | 0.6869 | 0.8379 | 0.7031  | 0.6760 | 0.5104 | 0.6533 | 0.5422  |
| 1.1-1.15      | 1.7939 | 1.3843 | 1.5108 | 1.0274  | 0.7746 | 0.7789 | 0.9108 | 0.6721  |
| 1.15-1.2      | 2.1375 | 2.8520 | 3.2708 | 1.8586  | 0.9083 | 1.1088 | 1.2811 | 0.9130  |

| Strike Ranges | AIMAXMIN |        |        |         | AIMINMAX |        |        |         |
|---------------|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|
|               | 0-.25    | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 | 0-.25    | .25-.5 | .5-.75 | .75-1.0 |
| .85-.9        | 0.1447   | 0.0099 | 0.0000 | 0.0517  | 0.1401   | 0.0098 | 0.0000 | 0.0509  |
| .9-.95        | 0.0556   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  | 0.0549   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| .95-1.0       | 0.0185   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  | 0.0184   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.0-1.05      | 0.0000   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  | 0.0000   | 0.0000 | 0.0000 | 0.0000  |
| 1.05-1.1      | 0.3770   | 0.2675 | 0.3313 | 0.2805  | 0.3429   | 0.2492 | 0.3028 | 0.2599  |
| 1.1-1.15      | 0.4557   | 0.4271 | 0.4886 | 0.3619  | 0.4120   | 0.3852 | 0.4314 | 0.3288  |
| 1.15-1.2      | 0.5162   | 0.6262 | 0.7293 | 0.5220  | 0.4655   | 0.5498 | 0.6187 | 0.4591  |

# Acceptability Levels For Hedge Funds

- For data on hedge fund returns we had 60 monthly returns on 527 hedge funds and we centered and scaled this data to zero mean and unit variance.
- To get a better assessment of the distribution function we fitted a probability model, and in particular the centered and scaled *CGMY* model for  $Y = .5$ . We therefore estimated just two parameters,  $G$ ,  $M$ .
- We then simulated cash flows from these distributions and evaluated the new coherent indices on this data as well as similar data for 27 stocks and 10 as a benchmark.
- The results are reported in a table.



TABLE 2  
 Acceptability Levels of Funds From Standardized CGMY  
 quantiles

| Based on |   | .05   | .5    | .95    |
|----------|---|-------|-------|--------|
| MN       | S | 0     | .1177 | .3243  |
|          | I | 0     | .1265 | .2492  |
|          | F | .1640 | .7175 | 2.0668 |
| MX       | S | 0     | .0883 | .2779  |
|          | I | 0     | .0957 | .1964  |
|          | F | .1374 | .4966 | 1.2346 |
| MXMN     | S | 0     | .0494 | .1426  |
|          | I | 0     | .0535 | .1062  |
|          | F | .0738 | .2679 | .6591  |
| MNMX     | S | 0     | .0488 | .1372  |
|          | I | 0     | .0527 | .1032  |
|          | F | .0726 | .2495 | .5645  |

## Remarks on Hedge Fund Levels

- Hedge Funds do access higher levels of acceptability than one may obtain from stocks or indices.
- The highest levels are again for *MINVAR*, followed by *MAXVAR* and the composite measures.
- The measures are generally below unity indicating a fairly efficient economy.

# From Required Returns to Required Sharpe Ratios

- Investment in a return distribution  $X$  may be standardized on defining  $Z$  such that

$$X = \mu + \sigma Z$$

- Let  $F_Z$  be the distribution function of the standardized variate. We show that for each coherent acceptability index,  $X$  is acceptable at level  $x$  just if

$$SR = \frac{\mu}{\sigma} \geq c_Z(x)$$
$$c_Z(x) = - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} z d(\Psi^x(F_Z(z))).$$

- Hence hedge funds may affect distributions by accessing different skews and kurtosis with a view to raising Sharpe ratios but required Sharpe ratios for acceptability may rise by even more.
- A regression of required Sharpe ratios on skewness and kurtosis indicates a preference for skewness.
- Kurtosis is confused as higher kurtosis appears to lower required Sharpe ratios.
- We split Kurtosis into tailweightedness and peakedness and find the latter is preferred while the former is shunned.

TABLE 3

Regression Coefficients of Required Sharpe Ratios  
on Skewness and Kurtosis

|      | Constant | Skewness | Kurtosis | R <sup>2</sup> |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| MN   | 0.5536   | 0.00076  | -0.0055  | 83.45          |
|      | t-stat   | (0.98)   | (-7.07)  |                |
| MX   | 0.7572   | -0.0529  | -0.0037  | 64.08          |
|      | t-stat   | (-29.10) | (-2.06)  |                |
| MXMN | 0.9954   | -0.0566  | -0.0062  | 76.54          |
|      | t-stat   | (-35.36) | (-3.90)  |                |
| MNMX | 1.1674   | -0.0763  | -0.0071  | 74.88          |
|      | t-stat   | (-35.65) | (-3.30)  |                |

TABLE 4

Regression Coefficients of Required Sharpe Ratios  
Skewness, Peakedness and Tailweightedness

|      | Const  | Skew     | Peak      | Tail    | R <sup>2</sup> |
|------|--------|----------|-----------|---------|----------------|
| MN   | 1.0738 | 0.00832  | -0.8662   | 2.0137  | 96.70          |
|      | t-stat | (23.21)  | (-115.69) | (30.58) |                |
| MX   | 0.8121 | -0.0536  | -0.3494   | 3.889   | 59.01          |
|      | t-stat | (-26.73) | (-8.34)   | (10.56) |                |
| MXMN | 1.2864 | -0.0539  | -0.7447   | 4.8321  | 64.26          |
|      | t-stat | (-26.41) | (-17.45)  | (12.87) |                |
| MNMX | 1.4479 | -0.0741  | -0.7966   | 5.7761  | 64.57          |
|      | t-stat | (-28.20) | (-14.52)  | (11.97) |                |