

# Measuring the “Dark Matter” in Asset Pricing Models

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# Outline

Overview

Fragility Measures

Finite-sample Interpretation

Applications

Conclusion

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Fragility Measures

Finite-sample Interpretation

Applications

Disaster Risk

Long-Run Risk

Conclusion

# “Dark matter”-based asset pricing

- Some asset pricing models rely heavily on “dark matter”:
  - (1) parameters are difficult to measure directly in the data;
  - (2) results are sensitive to how the “dark matter” is specified.
- Common defense:
  - ↪ Assumed parameter values/model structure are acceptable if not rejected by the data;
  - ↪ The fact that they help “explain” asset prices is viewed as evidence supporting such choices.

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- Common defense:
  - ↪ Assumed parameter values/model structure are acceptable if not rejected by the data;
  - ↪ The fact that they help “explain” asset prices is viewed as evidence supporting such choices.
- However, (1) + (2) imply model fragility:
  - ↪ Implicit degrees of freedom is large;
  - ↪ The model tends to over-fit the data in sample;
  - ↪ Poor out-of-sample performance.

## A traditional approach: sensitivity analysis

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  2. What does it mean for the results to be “*not sensitive*” to such perturbations?
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  3. Difficult to extend sensitivity analysis to high-dimensional parameter vectors.
- We formally define a measure of model robustness and establish a convenient way to compute it.
  - ↪ multivariate sensitivity analysis
  - ↪ formal connection to over-fitting tendency

## Model fragility: informational approach

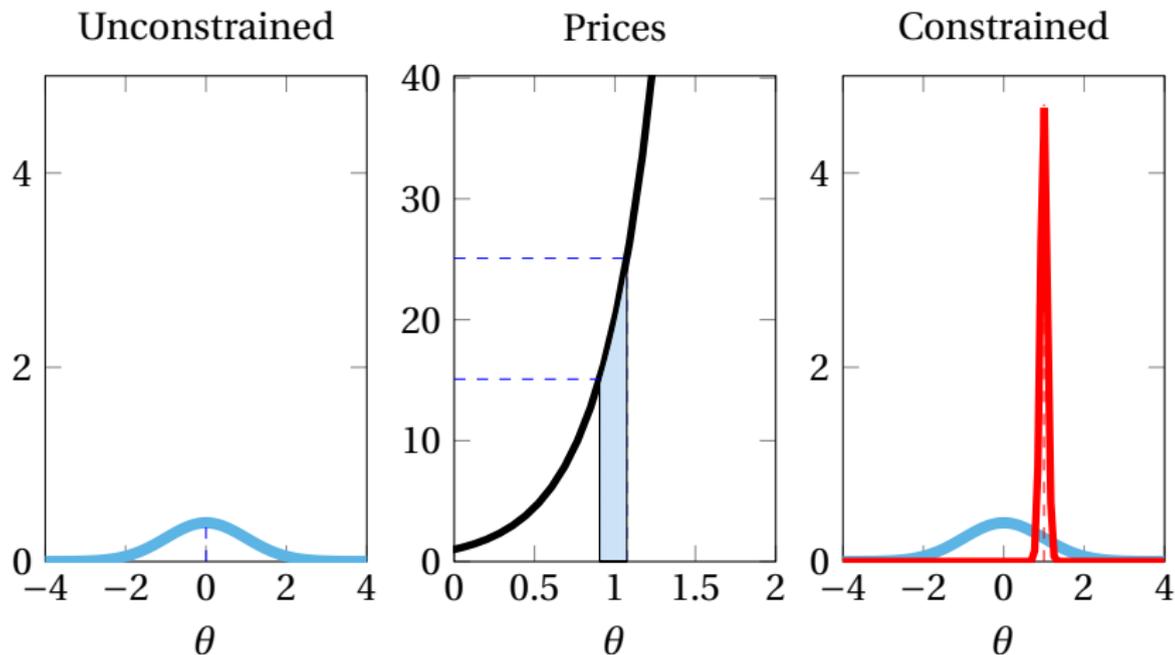
- Prices  $P_t$  are linked to dividends  $x_t$  through a pricing model:

$$P_t = f(x_t, \theta, \varepsilon_t)$$

→  $\theta$ : governs the dynamics of  $x_t$  and affects stock prices

- We compare information about  $\theta$  in
  - (I) History of  $x_t$
  - (II) History of  $\{x_t, P_t\}$  with cross-equation restrictions

## Illustration



- Prices are sensitive to  $\theta \Leftrightarrow$  prices are informative about  $\theta$   
(relative to fundamentals)  $\Rightarrow$  sign of fragility

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# A Generic Structural Model

- **Baseline model:** specifies dynamics for  $\mathbf{x}_t$ , with distribution  $\mathbb{P}$ 
  - ↪ indexed by baseline parameters  $\theta: D_\Theta \times 1$
  - ↪ true baseline parameter value is  $\theta_0$

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- **Full model:** joint dynamics of  $(\mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{y}_t)$ , with distribution  $\mathbb{Q}$ 
  - ↪ indexed by  $\theta$  and nuisance parameter  $\psi$ :  $D_\Psi \times 1$
  - ↪ true nuisance parameter value is  $\psi_0$

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  - ↪ true nuisance parameter value is  $\psi_0$
- Model performance is summarized by a set of moment conditions (why not MLE?)
  - ↪ baseline sub-model:  $\mathbb{E} [g_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta_0; \mathbf{x}_t)] = 0$
  - ↪ full model:  $\mathbb{E} [g_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta_0, \psi_0; \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{y}_t)] = 0$
  - ↪  $g_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta_0; \mathbf{x}_t)$  is a sub-vector of  $g_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta_0, \psi_0; \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{y}_t)$

## QUICK REVIEW OF GMM

- Empirical moment conditions for the full model:

$$\widehat{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbb{Q},n}(\theta, \psi) \equiv \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n \mathbf{g}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta, \psi; \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{y}_t)$$

- Efficient GMM estimator  $(\widehat{\theta}^{\mathbb{Q}}, \widehat{\psi}^{\mathbb{Q}})$  minimizes:

$$\widehat{J}_{n,S_{\mathbb{Q}}}(\theta, \psi) \equiv n \widehat{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbb{Q},n}(\theta, \psi)^T S_{\mathbb{Q}}^{-1} \widehat{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbb{Q},n}(\theta, \psi)$$

- Spectral density matrix:

$$S_{\mathbb{Q}} = \sum_{\ell=-\infty}^{+\infty} \mathbb{E}_{\mathbb{Q}} [g(\theta_0, \psi_0; \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{y}_t) g(\theta_0, \psi_0; \mathbf{x}_{t-\ell}, \mathbf{y}_{t-\ell})^T]$$

- Counterparts for the baseline model:  $\widehat{\mathbf{g}}_{\mathbb{P},n}(\theta), \widehat{J}_{n,S_{\mathbb{P}}}(\theta), S_{\mathbb{P}}, \widehat{\theta}^{\mathbb{P}}$

# GMM FISHER INFORMATION MATRIX

- Baseline model:

$$\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta) \equiv G_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta)^T S_{\mathbb{P}}^{-1} G_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta)$$

where  $G_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta) \equiv \mathbb{E}[\nabla g_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta; \mathbf{x}_t)]$

- Full model:

$$\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta, \psi) \equiv G_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta, \psi)^T S_{\mathbb{Q}}^{-1} G_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta, \psi)$$

where  $G_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta, \psi) \equiv \mathbb{E}[\nabla g_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta, \psi; \mathbf{x}_t, \mathbf{y}_t)]$

## MARGINAL FISHER INFORMATION MATRIX

- Efficient asymptotic variances of  $\theta$  in the baseline model:

$$\mathbb{V}_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta) = \mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta)^{-1}$$

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- Efficient asymptotic variances of  $\theta$  in the full model:

$$\mathbb{V}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\psi) = \mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\psi)^{-1}$$

- Marginal GMM Fisher information matrix:

$$\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\psi) \equiv \underbrace{\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(1,1)}(\theta, \psi)}_{\text{conditional information}} - \underbrace{\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(1,2)}(\theta, \psi)\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(2,2)}(\theta, \psi)\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(1,2)}(\theta, \psi)^T}_{\text{information loss due to uncertainty in } \psi}$$

$$\mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta, \psi) = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(1,1)}(\theta, \psi), & \mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(1,2)}(\theta, \psi) \\ \mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(2,1)}(\theta, \psi), & \mathbf{I}_{\mathbb{Q}}^{(2,2)}(\theta, \psi) \end{bmatrix}$$

# FISHER FRAGILITY MEASURE

## Definition

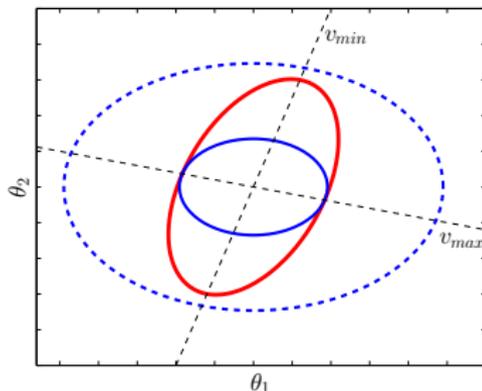
$$\rho(\theta_0|\psi_0) = \mathbf{tr} [\mathbb{V}_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta_0|\psi_0)^{-1} \mathbb{V}_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta_0)]$$

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$$\rho(\theta_0|\psi_0) = \mathbf{tr} [\mathbb{V}_Q(\theta_0|\psi_0)^{-1} \mathbb{V}_P(\theta_0)]$$

- Comparing estimation precision under full model and baseline model:  $\mathbb{V}_Q(\theta_0|\psi_0)$  vs.  $\mathbb{V}_P(\theta_0)$
- Informativeness of cross-equation restrictions
- $\rho(\theta_0|\psi_0) = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \dots + \lambda_{D_\Theta}$



$\lambda_1 \geq \dots \geq \lambda_{D_\Theta}$  are eigenvalues of  $\mathbb{V}_Q(\theta_0|\psi_0)^{-1/2} \mathbb{V}_P(\theta_0) \mathbb{V}_Q(\theta_0|\psi_0)^{-1/2}$

# THE “WORST-CASE” DIRECTIONS

## Definition

For any  $1 \leq D \leq D_\Theta$ ,

$$\rho^D(\theta_0|\psi_0) = \max_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{R}^{D \times D_\Theta}, \mathbf{Rank}(\mathbf{v})=D} \mathbf{tr} \left[ (\mathbf{v} \mathbf{V}_Q(\theta_0|\psi_0) \mathbf{v}^T)^{-1} (\mathbf{v} \mathbf{V}_P(\theta_0) \mathbf{v}^T) \right]$$

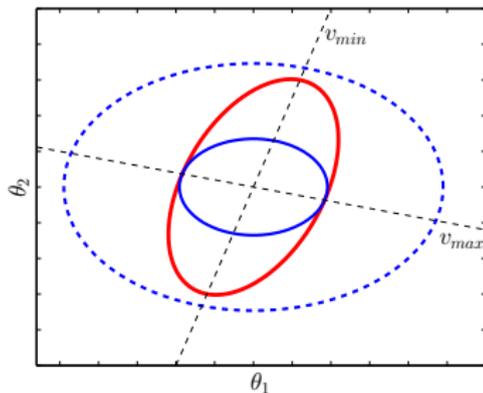
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- Search all directions  $\mathbf{v}$  for the largest discrepancy between  $\mathbb{V}_Q(\theta_0|\psi_0)$ ,  $\mathbb{V}_P(\theta_0)$
- “Effective sample size”: extra sample needed to match the variance of  $\mathbf{v}\theta$
- $\varrho^D(\theta_0|\psi_0) = \lambda_1 + \dots + \lambda_D$



## WHY IS $\varrho$ A MEASURE OF MODEL FRAGILITY?

Over-fitting tendency of model  $\mathbb{Q}$  relative to  $\mathbb{P}$ :

$$\varrho_o(\theta_0 | \psi_0, \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) \equiv \int d_{S_{\mathbb{Q}}} \{\theta; \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n\} \pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta | \mathbf{x}^n) d\theta,$$

- $d_{S_{\mathbb{Q}}} \{\theta; \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n\}$  measures the over-fitting for a particular model  $\theta$ , based on  $J$ -distance (GMM analog of the log likelihood ratio)

$$d_{S_{\mathbb{Q}}} \{\theta; \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n\} = \underbrace{\widehat{J}_{n, S_{\mathbb{Q}}}(\theta, \check{\psi}^{\mathbb{Q}}) - \widehat{J}_{n, S_{\mathbb{Q}}}(\hat{\theta}^{\mathbb{Q}}, \hat{\psi}^{\mathbb{Q}})}_{J\text{-distance gap} \geq 0}$$

- $(\hat{\theta}^{\mathbb{Q}}, \hat{\psi}^{\mathbb{Q}})$  is the GMM estimator
- $(\theta, \check{\psi}^{\mathbb{Q}})$  is the constrained GMM estimator with fixed  $\theta$

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- Averaged over  $\pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta | \mathbf{x}^n)$ , the posterior of  $\theta$  in the baseline model.
- This measure extends the DIC measure for over-fitting tendency in statistics (Spiegelhalter et al. 2002)

## EQUIVALENCE RESULTS

**Theorem:** Under standard regularity conditions,

$$\text{wlim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varrho_o(\theta_0 | \psi_0, \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) = \varrho(\theta_0 | \psi_0) + \sum_{i=1}^{D_\theta} [\lambda_i - 1] \chi_{i,1}^2$$

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- “wlim”: a variable with the limiting distribution (in the sense of weak convergence)
- $\chi_{1,i}^2$ : i.i.d. chi-squared random variables with 1 degree of freedom

## AVERAGE TENDENCY OF OVER-FITTING

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \text{wlim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \rho_o(\theta_0 | \psi_0, \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) \right] = 2\rho(\theta_0 | \psi_0) - D_{\Theta}$$

### Interpretation:

- $\rho(\theta_0 | \psi_0)$  is the implicit degrees of freedom, while  $D_{\Theta}$  is the standard explicit degrees of freedom
- $\rho(\theta_0 | \psi_0)$  captures the average tendency of over-fitting when sample size is large
- When bootstrapping based on a large sample  $(\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n)$  to estimate the average tendency of over-fitting, the result should be close to  $2\rho(\theta_0 | \psi_0) - D_{\Theta}$

## TAIL DISTRIBUTION FOR $\varrho$

Tail probability of the limiting variable converges to zero at an exponential rate:

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} \ln \mathbb{P} \left\{ \text{wlim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \varrho_o(\theta_0 | \psi_0, \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) > x \right\} = -\frac{1}{2(\lambda_1 - 1)}$$

**Interpretation:**

- The thickness of the tail distribution is fully characterized by the largest eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$ , which is the worst-case 1-D Fisher fragility measure  $\varrho^1(\theta_0 | \psi_0)$ .
- Given the average level  $\varrho(\theta_0 | \psi_0)$ , the more the distribution of eigenvalues is concentrated on  $\lambda_1$ , the higher the probability of extreme over-fitting.

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# INFORMATIVENESS OF ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS

- In finite sample, we can compare posterior beliefs about  $\theta$ 
  - ↪ Compare the entire posterior distributions
  - ↪ Quantify the additional information in cross-equation restrictions
- Prior and Posteriors
  - ↪  $\pi(\theta)$ : the common prior about  $\theta$
  - ↪  $\pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n)$ : posterior based on baseline model and  $\mathbf{x}^n$
  - ↪  $\pi_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n)$ : posterior based on full model and  $(\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n)$
- Use relative entropy to measure the statistical discrepancy between  $\pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n)$  and  $\pi_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n)$ :

$$\mathbf{D}_{KL}(\pi_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) || \pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n)) = \int \ln \left( \frac{\pi_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n)}{\pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n)} \right) \pi_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta|\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) d\theta$$

## EFFECTIVE SAMPLE SIZE

- Relative entropy is difficult to interpret. We normalize it by asking:
  - ↪ How much extra data ( $m^*$ ) is needed on average to generate the same amount of additional information about  $\theta$  based only on the baseline model
- The additional information provided by “effective sample” is measured by the mutual information between  $\theta$  and  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^m$  conditional observed data  $\mathbf{x}^n$ :

$$I(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^m; \theta | \mathbf{x}^n) = \mathbb{E}^{\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^m | \mathbf{x}^n} [\mathbf{D}_{KL}(\pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta' | \tilde{\mathbf{x}}^m, \mathbf{x}^n) || \pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta' | \mathbf{x}^n))]$$

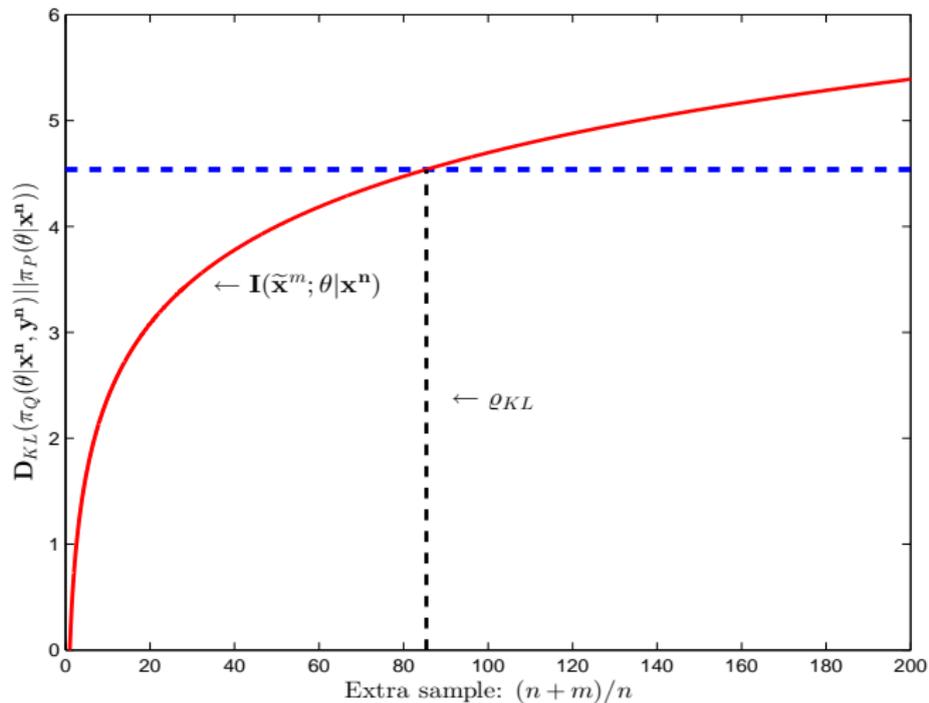
- Effective sample size ratio:

$$\varrho_{KL}(\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) = \frac{n + m^*}{n}$$

such that

$$\mathbf{D}_{KL}(\pi_{\mathbb{Q}}(\theta | \mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) || \pi_{\mathbb{P}}(\theta | \mathbf{x}^n)) = I(\tilde{\mathbf{x}}^{m^*}; \theta | \mathbf{x}^n)$$

# ILLUSTRATION: SOLVING FOR $\varrho_{KL}$



# ASYMPTOTIC EQUIVALENCE

Under standard regularity conditions,

$$\mathbb{E} \left[ \text{wlim}_{n \rightarrow \infty} \ln \varrho_{KL}(\mathbf{x}^n, \mathbf{y}^n) \right] = \ln \varrho(\theta_0 | \psi_0)$$

**Interpretation:**

- $\varrho(\theta_0 | \psi_0)$  captures the additional effective sample size under a rigorous information-theoretic framework
- It further justifies the economic interpretation: informativeness of cross-equation restrictions implied by theories

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# Disaster risk model

- Disaster:  $z_t \in (0, 1)$ ,  $\Pr(z_t = 1) = p$
- **Baseline model** for (log) consumption growth  $g_t$ :
  - ↪  $z_t = 0$ :  $g_t \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$
  - ↪  $z_t = 1$ :  $g_t = -v_t$ , where  $v_t \sim \mathbf{1}\{v_t > \underline{v}\} \xi e^{-\xi(v_t - \underline{v})}$
- **Full model**: adds excess log return on the market portfolio  $r_t$ 
  - ↪  $z_t = 0$ :  $r_t$  and  $g_t$  are jointly normal,

$$r_t = \eta + \rho \frac{\tau}{\sigma} (g_t - \mu) + \sqrt{1 - \rho^2} \tau \varepsilon_{0,t}$$

↪  $z_t = 1$ :

$$r_t = b g_t + \zeta \varepsilon_{1,t}$$

↪ Representative agent with power utility:  $\gamma$

- “Dark matter” parameters:  $p, \xi$

## Cross-equation restriction

- Consumption Euler equation for excess log returns

$$1 = \mathbb{E}_t \left[ \frac{m_{t+1}}{\mathbb{E}_t[m_{t+1}]} e^{r_{t+1}} \right]$$

- The log equity premium is then given by

$$\mathbb{E}[r_t] = (1 - p)\eta - pb(\underline{\nu} + 1/\xi),$$

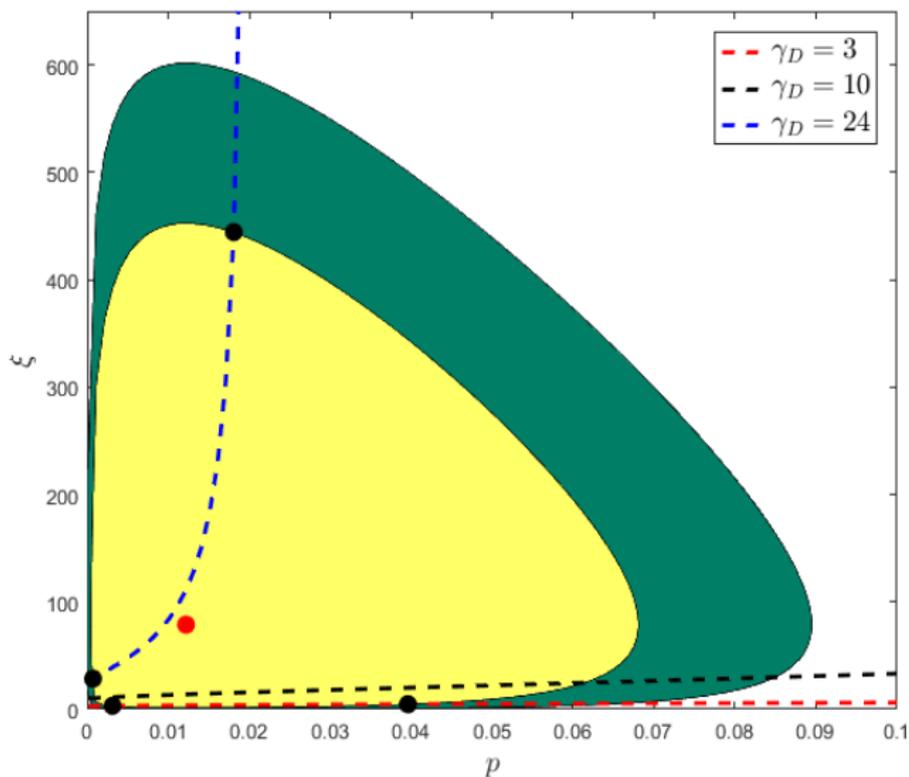
$$\eta \approx \gamma\rho\sigma\tau - \frac{\tau^2}{2} + \underbrace{e^{\gamma\mu - \frac{\gamma^2\sigma^2}{2}} \xi \left( \frac{e^{\gamma\underline{\nu}}}{\xi - \gamma} - \frac{e^{\frac{\xi^2}{2} + (\gamma - b)\underline{\nu}}}{\xi + b - \gamma} \right)}_{\text{disaster risk premium}} \frac{p}{1 - p}$$

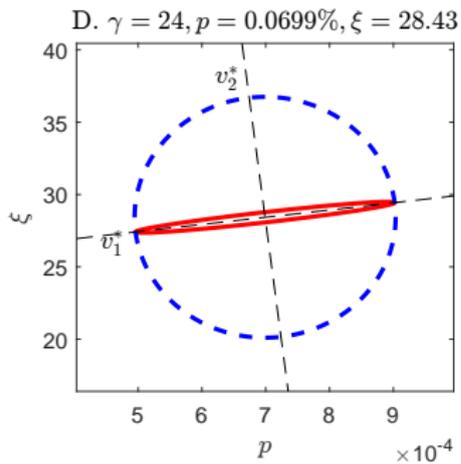
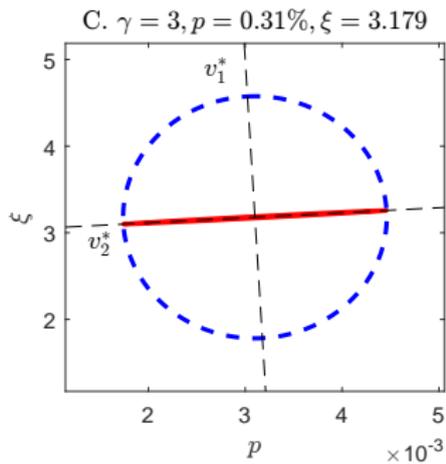
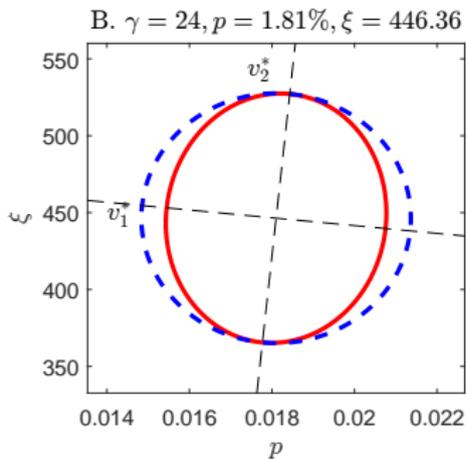
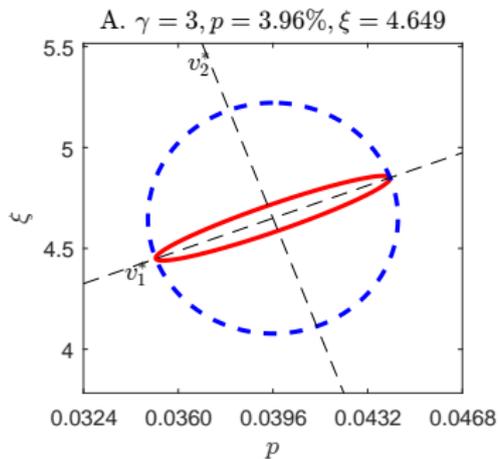
- Key properties:

1.  $\eta$  is unbounded as  $\xi \rightarrow \gamma$  (no matter how small  $p$  is)
2. Large disaster size (small  $\xi$ )  $\implies$  high sensitivity of  $\eta$  to  $p$

## Disaster risk model: An Irrefutable Model?

“Dark matter” parameters:  $p, \xi$





## LONG-RUN RISK MODEL

- Consumption processes:

$$\Delta c_{t+1} = \mu_c + x_t + \sigma_t \epsilon_{c,t+1}$$

$$x_{t+1} = \rho x_t + \varphi_x \sigma_t \epsilon_{x,t+1}$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{t+1}^2 = \bar{\sigma}^2 + \nu(\tilde{\sigma}_t^2 - \bar{\sigma}^2) + \sigma_w \epsilon_{\sigma,t+1}$$

$$\sigma_{t+1}^2 = \max(\underline{\sigma}^2, \tilde{\sigma}_{t+1}^2)$$

- Dividend process:

$$\Delta d_{t+1} = \mu_d + \phi_d x_t + \varphi_{d,c} \sigma_t \epsilon_{c,t+1} + \varphi_{d,d} \sigma_t \epsilon_{d,t+1}$$

- Representative agent with EZW preference:  $\delta_L$ ,  $\gamma_L$  and  $\psi_L$
- From the consumption Euler equation, derive a linear approximation of the stochastic discount factor

$$m_{t+1} = \Gamma_0 + \Gamma_1 x_t + \Gamma_2 \sigma_t^2 - \lambda_c \sigma_t \epsilon_{c,t+1} - \lambda_x \varphi_x \sigma_t \epsilon_{x,t+1} - \lambda_\sigma \sigma_w \epsilon_{\sigma,t+1}$$

## CROSS-EQUATION RESTRICTIONS

- In equilibrium, the excess (log) market return can be written as

$$r_{m,t+1}^e = \mu_{r,t}^e + \underbrace{\beta_\eta \sigma_t \eta_{t+1} + \beta_e \sigma_t e_{t+1} + \beta_w \sigma_w w_{t+1} + \varphi_{d,d} \sigma_t u_{d,t+1}}_{\text{Loadings on shocks}}$$

- The conditional expected excess (log) return  $\mu_{r,t}^e = \mathbb{E}_t \left[ r_{m,t+1}^e \right]$  is

$$\mu_{r,t}^e = \lambda_\eta \beta_\eta \sigma_{p,t}^2 + \lambda_e \beta_e \sigma_{p,t}^2 + \lambda_w \beta_w \sigma_w^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left( \beta_\eta^2 \sigma_t^2 + \beta_e^2 \sigma_t^2 + \beta_w^2 \sigma_w^2 + \varphi_{d,d}^2 \sigma_t^2 \right)$$

- $\beta$ 's and  $\lambda$ 's are determined as fixed points in the equilibrium.

## BASILINE MODEL CHOICE

■ **Baseline model:**  $\mathbf{x}_t = (\Delta c_{t+1}, x_t, \sigma_t^2, \Delta d_{t+1})$

↪ baseline parameters  $\theta = (\mu_c, \rho, \varphi_x, \bar{\sigma}^2, \nu, \sigma_w, \mu_d, \phi_d, \varphi_{d,c}, \varphi_{d,d})$

■ **Full model:** asset pricing model with  $\mathbf{y}_t = r_{m,t+1}^e$

↪ nuisance parameters  $\psi = (\gamma_L, \psi_L)$

# MODEL I

## ■ Bansal-Kiku-Yaron (2012) parameters

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Preferences	$\delta_L$	$\gamma_L$	$\psi_L$			
	0.9989	<b>10</b>	1.5			
Consumption	$\mu_c$	$\rho$	$\varphi_e$	$\bar{\sigma}$	$\nu$	$\sigma_w$
	0.0015	0.975	0.038	0.0072	<b>0.999</b>	$2.8e-6$
Dividends	$\mu_d$	$\psi$	$\pi$	$\varphi_{d,d}$		
	0.0015	2.5	2.6	5.96		
Other	$\underline{\sigma}$					
	0.0001					

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## Does a good job matching asset pricing moments

- Simulated and sample moments for the benchmark calibration:

Moment	Data	Model		
	Estimate	5%	Median	95%
$\mathbb{E}[r_M - r_f]$	7.09	2.33	5.88	10.58
$\mathbb{E}[r_M]$	7.66	2.91	6.66	11.20
$\sigma(r_M)$	20.28	12.10	20.99	29.11
$\mathbb{E}[r_f]$	0.57	-0.20	0.77	1.45
$\sigma(r_f)$	2.86	0.64	1.07	1.62
$\mathbb{E}[p - d]$	3.36	2.69	2.99	3.30

## MODEL II (ALTERNATIVE CALIBRATION)

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Preferences	$\delta_L$	$\gamma_L$	$\psi_L$			
	0.9989	<b>27</b>	1.5			
Consumption	$\mu_c$	$\rho$	$\varphi_e$	$\bar{\sigma}$	$\nu$	$\sigma_w$
	0.0015	0.975	0.038	0.0072	<b>0.98</b>	$2.8e-6$
Dividends	$\mu_d$	$\psi$	$\pi$	$\varphi$		
	0.0015	2.5	2.6	5.96		
Other	$\underline{\sigma}$					
	0.0001					

---

## Also matches asset pricing moments

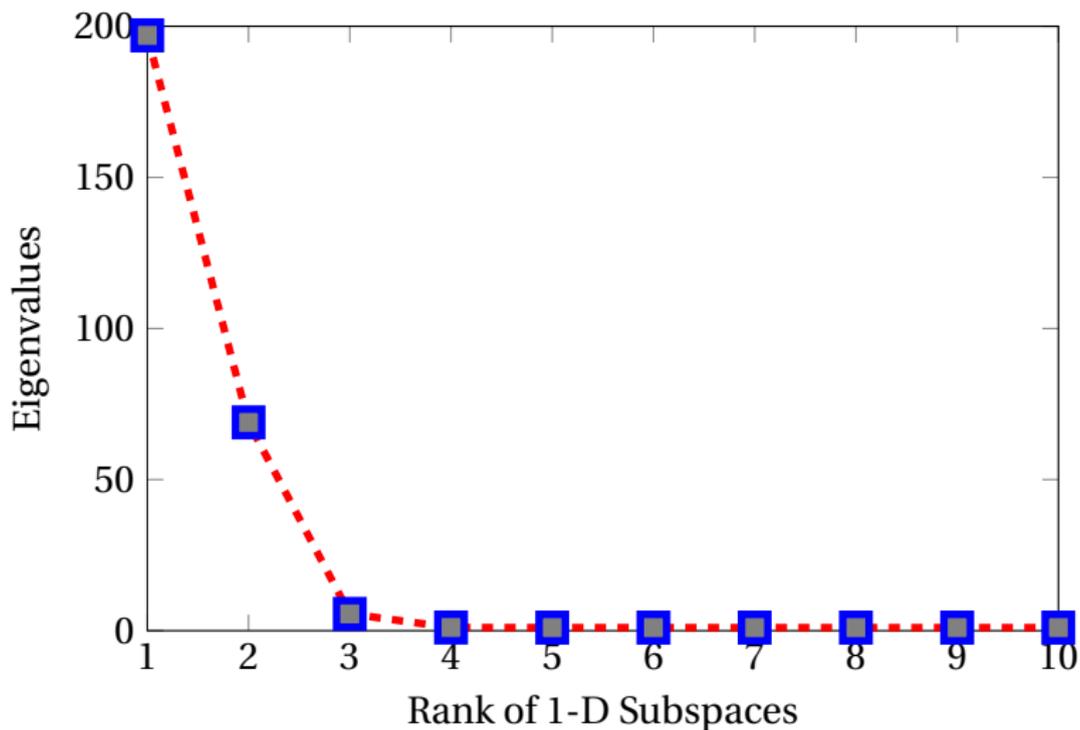
- Simulated and sample moments for alternative calibration:

Moment	Data	Model		
	Estimate	5%	Median	95%
$\mathbb{E}[r_M - r_f]$	7.09	3.65	6.78	10.05
$\mathbb{E}[r_M]$	7.66	4.42	7.75	11.20
$\sigma(r_M)$	20.28	15.01	17.55	20.33
$\mathbb{E}[r_f]$	0.57	0.47	0.96	1.46
$\sigma(r_f)$	2.86	0.73	0.94	1.23
$\mathbb{E}[p - d]$	3.36	2.77	2.81	2.85

# But they are very different in terms of fragility

Model	$\rho$	$\rho^1$	$\rho^v$									
			$\mu_c$	$\rho$	$\varphi_x$	$\bar{\sigma}^2$	$v$	$\sigma_w$	$\mu_d$	$\phi_d$	$\varphi_{d,c}$	$\varphi_{d,d}$
I. Nuisance parameter vector $\psi: (\gamma_L, \psi_L)$												
(M1)	276.3	196.3	1.0	1.1	1.0	48.9	97.8	1.0	1.0	3.4	1.0	1.0
(M2)	34.0	21.1	1.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	3.4	1.0	1.4	4.2	1.0	1.0
II. Nuisance parameter vector $\psi$ : empty												
(M1)	$3.58 \cdot 10^5$	$3.57 \cdot 10^5$	1.0	2.1	1.1	115.6	117.5	1.3	1.1	7.1	1.0	1.0
(M2)	323.3	287.7	1.0	2.5	1.0	1.0	6.3	1.0	1.9	31.3	1.0	1.0

## Diagnosing the sources of fragility



# Outline

Overview

Fragility Measures

Finite-sample Interpretation

Applications

- Disaster Risk

- Long-Run Risk

**Conclusion**

## INFORMATIVENESS: HOW TO INTERPRET?

What does it mean when the cross-equation restrictions in a model appear highly informative?

- Powerful identification if economic restrictions are valid.
- Sign of fragility
  - ↳ Why should we be concerned: prone to over-fitting in sample, poor out-of-sample performance, problematic implications for counter-factual analysis ...

## HOW TO USE THE FRAGILITY MEASURE?

- To improve model selection and inference
  - ↳ Model selection: measure the fragility of a class of models
  - ↳ Structural estimation: guard against mis-specification and false confidence in inference
- Model diagnostics: To identify aspects of the model that require more data or theory support.
  - ↳ International evidence? Survey data?
  - ↳ If it is about agents' beliefs, can they be micro-founded, e.g. via preferences, information aggregation, market frictions?
  - ↳ Explicitly analyze agents' uncertainties inside the model (Hansen-Sargent)
- Method can be applied to structural models in many fields (structural corporate, IO, macro, ...)