Pricing for Basket CDS and LCDS

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, under the reduced form framework and “Bottom Up” method, a model for pricing a basket Loan-only Credit Default Swap (LCDS), with the negative correlation between prepayment and default, is established. A general pricing formula for it is obtained, where one factor CIR (Cox-Ingersoll-Ross) and ICIR (Inversed CIR) models are used to describe the negative correlation between prepayment and default. In this situation, the positivity of prepayment and default intensity processes are guaranteed. Numerical computations are presented.

Keywords: Basket Loan-Only Credit Default Swap; Prepayment Risk; Bottom Up; Reduced Form; One Factor ICIR Model

1. Introduction

During the last twenty years, the market for credit derivatives has experienced rapid development with the increasingly prominent importance of derivatives which leads to the evolution and innovation of the credit market.

The international financial crisis began in the year 2008 shocked the financial market even the global economy. Since assets securitization contributed a lot to the financial crisis, recent researches focus more and more on measuring the related risks and prices. Academic studies usually analyze the risks of interest rate, prepayment, default etc., which are related to the asset securitization products by building mathematical models. Then they try to use methods of stochastic processes, partial differential equations and statistics etc. to obtain solutions analytically, or use finite differential methods and the Monte Carlo simulation etc. to study empirical data and solution numerically.

The two classical frameworks in the mathematical modeling of the problem are the structural and reduced-form methods. Among them, the reduced-form method has peerless advantages than the structural method in pricing credit derivatives with large asset pools. Then as a result, many new methods and techniques have been developed within the reduced-form framework in recent years, especially for pricing basket CDS, CDO and LCDS etc. The reduced-form method can be divided into two categories: “Bottom Up” ([1,2]) and “Top Down” ([3,4]) frameworks. In the first one, the events probability distributions of the whole asset pool are obtained after the intensity models of every reference contract being built. Nevertheless, in the second one, the model focuses on the whole asset pool, and the parameters of the model can be estimated from statistical data. Once the events are modeled, the pricing formula can be obtained by using PDEs or statistical methods. Furthermore, numerical methods such as finite differentiation can be applied for numerical analysis.

We begin pricing basket CDS, which helps us better understand the pricing model of basket LCDS. Under the assumption that the default intensity follows a Vasicek model, Junmei Ma and Jin Liang ([5]) obtained the joint survive probability distribution function of N assets with PDEs. Tao Wang and Jin Liang ([6]) employed Monte Carlo method to verify the above model and analyzed its effective range. In more details, Jin Liang et al. ([7]) pointed out that the Vasicek model is accurate only when the asset pool is a small one, and it does not fit the reality when the scale of the asset pool increases to some extent. Therefore, it is reasonable that the positive default intensity should be guaranteed by replacing the Vasicek model with a CIR model, though the correlation between different assets increase the dimension of the PDE and bring more difficulties in solving this problem.

Loan Credit Default Swaps (LCDS) are almost identical to the standard Credit Default Swaps (CDS) except two features. 1) The reference obligation of a LCDS contract is limited on loans; 2) LCDS contract can be cancelled. This means that correlated prepayment and default should be both considered. Therefore, pricing a LCDS is not simply extending from pricing a standard CDS. The situation for basket LCDS makes problem more complicated. Literatures on pricing a single-name
LCDS include ex. Wei ([8]) and Liang & Wang ([9]). By use of “top down” framework, pricing a basket LCDS is considered in Liang and Zhou ([10,11]) and Wu and Liang ([12]).

In this article, the Bottom Up method is used to price basket CDS and LCDS. We use a factor model to describe the correlation of the prepayment and default among the references. This model is developed step by step from Pricing a basket CDS, the simplest basket LCDS (two references) to large-scale basket LCDS to obtain the formulae.

The structure of the paper as follows: In the next Section 2, a model of pricing basket CDS with CIR process is discussed. In Section 3, a simplest basket LCDS, which includes two loan references, is considered. Then the model is extended to a large scale of basket LCDS in Section 4. Numerical examples are shown in Section 5. Section 6 is conclusion.

2. Basket CDS Pricing with CIR Intensities

According to [5], the basket CDS can be priced given the joint survival probability of reference assets (here we assume the assets are all residential mortgage loans) in the pool. If the prepayment is neglected, this CDS is a special case of a basket LCDS. In the following paragraphs the single factor CIR model will be used to build to the dependency of the reference loans.

We assume that the number of reference loans in the pool is N, and describe the default process of every loan with non-homogenous Poisson process. The default intensities \( \lambda_i \) (i = 1, 2, ..., N) satisfy the following single factor models:

\[
\lambda_i = \rho_i r_i + (1 - \rho_i) \beta_i, \quad i = 1, 2, \cdots, N.
\]

in which 0 ≤ \( \rho_i \) ≤ 1 are correlation coefficients, and \( r_i \) and \( \beta_i \) are drove by CIR processes.

Denote \( \tau_i \) as the default times of loan \( i (i = 1 \cdots N) \). \( \tau_i \) are stopping times defined in a probability space \((\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{R}^+}, \mathbb{P})\), where \( \mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0} \) represents the information flow formed by all the information in the market, and \( \mathbb{P} \) is the risk-neutral probability measure, \( \mathcal{H}_i = h_i^0 \vee h_i^1 \vee \cdots \vee h_i^N \vee \varepsilon, \) and \( \{\mathcal{F}_t\}_{t \geq 0} \) includes all the known information in the market.

\[
h_i^u = \sigma(H_i^u : u \leq t) = \sigma(I_{(u \in [t])} | u \leq t), H_i^u = I_{[u \in [-]} \]

is the default indicating process of loan \( i, \) \( H_i^u = (h_i^u)_{t \in \mathbb{R}_+}. \)

According to the definition of reduced form method, the unity survive probability from time \( t \) to time \( s \) is

\[
P_{i \rightarrow s} = E_i \left[ e^{-\int_t^s \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \, du} \right].
\]

According to the solving method in [9,12], one can obtain

\[
E_i \left[ e^{-\int_t^s \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \, du} \right] = E_i \left[ e^{-\int_t^s \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda_i \, du} \right]
\]

\[
= A_i^{\rho \beta} \left( \sum_{i=1}^N \rho_i, 0 \right) \prod_{i=1}^N A_i^{\rho \beta} (1 - \rho_i, 0).
\]

where

\[
A_i^{\rho \beta} (k, z)
\]

\[
= \left[ \left( \sigma_i^2 z - 2d_2 \right) e^{-d_1 (u-v)} + \left( 2d_1 - \sigma_i^2 z \right) e^{-d_2 (u-v)} \right]^{2N/\sigma_i^2}
\]

\[
d_1 = \frac{k_i - \sqrt{k_i^2 + 2k_1^2}}{2},
\]

\[
d_2 = \frac{k_i + \sqrt{k_i^2 + 2k_1^2}}{2}.
\]

And thus the explicit expression for the joint survive probability \( P_{i \rightarrow s} \) can be obtained, which is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 2 is a price picture of large scale nth-to-default basket CDS, and the coefficients are the same as [6]. The picture indicates that the pricing formula still corresponds to reality when the asset amount exceeds that in [6]. Thus the CIR model fills the gap in the model using Vasicek process. The model can be applied to evaluate larger-scale basket CDS than those shown in the figure, and it is more proficient. Estimating from the current calculation efficiency, it takes about 10 to 20 minutes to price an nth-to-default basket CDS with 120 loans.

Figure 1. Joint survival probability.
Figure 2. Fair price of basket nth-to-default CDS.

3. Pricing the Simplest Basket LCDS

3.1. Model Establishment

For a basket LCDS, the contract may be terminated by prepayment or default of any loan in the pool, but the seller only compensates the loss caused by default. As a result, not only the case of loan termination, but also the reason (prepayment or default) of it, should be taken into consideration. Meanwhile, the prepayment and default of a loan are negatively correlated. In this section, a pricing consideration. Meanwhile, the prepayment and default of one loan are negatively correlated. In this section, a pricing consideration. Meanwhile, the prepayment and default of any loan in the pool, but the seller only compensates the loss caused by default. As a result, not only the case of loan termination, but also the reason (prepayment or default) of it, should be analyzed, which are the prepayment and default intensity processes and stopping times defined on a probability space . The and are defined similarly as in the previous section, includes all available information of the market. The compact remains valid when only one loan is prepaid, and it will terminate without any compensation if both loans are prepaid.

For two reference loans, four intensity processes should be analyzed, which are the prepayment and default intensity processes of loan and prepaying (defaulting) in anterior to the other defaulting (prepaying) before time .

The basket LCDS is assumed to be “first to default”, which means that the contract seller will make the compensation to the contract buyer either of the loans in the pool defaults. The compact remains valid when only one loan is prepaid, and it will terminate without any compensation if both loans are prepaid.

A basket LCDS pricing formula can thus be obtained with the help of the basic pricing model of a single-name
of LCDS in [13]. We assume that the expiration time of the contract is $T$, the spread at time $t$ is $S_t$, the face
or fair value of the reference loan is $F$. The days of pay-
ment are assumed to be $t_0 < t_1 < \cdots < t_m = T$, with $M$
representing the sum of periods. The interval between
two paying dates is $\Delta t$. The current price of an LCDS
contract is the difference between the expected present
values of protection and premium, in other words,
\[
V(\text{LCDS}) = E[PV_{\text{prot}}] - E[PV_{\text{prev}}].
\]

By applying the cash flow discounting method to the
probability expressions Equations (8)-(12), the present
values of insurance spreads and compensation can be
obtained as follows:
\[
P V_{\text{prot}} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(1 - R\right) F \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \lambda_t^d e^{-\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \phi(t) dt} + \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \lambda_t^{dp} e^{-\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \phi(t) dt} \right] \]
\[
P V_{\text{prev}} = \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left(1 - R\right) F \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{m} \left[ \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \lambda_t^d e^{-\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \phi(t) dt} + \int_{t_i}^{t_{i+1}} \lambda_t^{dp} e^{-\int_{t_i}^{t_j} \phi(t) dt} \right].
\]

where $R$ is the recovery rate when default occurs and is
assumed to be a constant, $\lambda_t^d = \lambda_t^{dp} + \lambda_t^w$, $i = 1, 2$,
$\lambda_t^w = \lambda_t^w + \lambda_t^v$.

The fair price of this basket LCDS can be obtained by
letting $E[PV_{\text{prot}}] = E[PV_{\text{prev}}]$.

3.2. Model Solution

The key of pricing basket LCDS is to calculate the pro-
babilities Equations (8)-(12), so that it is necessary to
model default and prepayment intensities, which are
negative correlated and both non-negative processes. We
assume them to satisfy SDEs as follows:
\[
\lambda_t^d = \frac{a_{ij}}{r_t} + b_{ij} \beta_t^p, \quad \lambda_t^{dp} = \frac{a_{dd}}{r_t} + b_{dd} \beta_t^d, \quad i = 1, 2 (15)
\]

\[
\partial_t A_{\text{prev}}^\text{w}(k, z) = \frac{-2 k^0 \beta_t \left( e^{-d_t(z,w)} - e^{-d_t(w)} \right)}{\sigma_t^2 (\sigma_t^2 + 2 d_t) e^{-d_t(z,w)} + \left( d_t - \sigma_t^2 z \right) e^{-d_t(w)}} + \frac{\beta_t e^{-d_t(z,w)} e^{-d_t(w)}}{d_t - d_t} + \frac{2 \beta_t e^{-d_t(z,w)} e^{-d_t(w)} (d_t - \sigma_t^2 z e^{-d_t(w)})}{(\sigma_t^2 z - 2 d_t) e^{-d_t(z,w)} + (2 d_t - \sigma_t^2 z e^{-d_t(w)})}.
\]

\[
B_{\text{prev}}(a, b, r) = e^{-r \cdot \gamma} e^{-k \cdot \phi(\gamma, \gamma, \text{w}, \text{w})} \cdot \eta_{e^{-\gamma}} \cdot \eta_{e^{-\gamma}} \cdot \left( \mu - v_2 + 2, \mu + 1 \right) \frac{\eta_{e^{-\gamma}} e^{-\gamma}}{\mu + 1}.
\]
where $d_1$ and $d_2$ are the same as in the former chapter, $\Gamma(x)$ is the gamma function, and $\Phi(\xi, v; z)$ is a confluent hyper geometric function:

$$
\Phi(\xi, v; z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\xi)_k}{k!} z^k,
$$

(19)

$$
(\xi)_k = \xi(\xi + 1)\cdots(\xi + k - 1), k > 0, (\xi)_0 = 1.
$$

For the solving process of $B^r_n(a, b, f)$, for details please refer to [9,12-15]. In this way, the price of two-reference basket LCDS can be obtained explicitly.

### 3.3. Numerical Simulation

Based on the closed-form solution of two-reference basket LCDS obtained in the previous subsection, a calculation example is provided in this part, and the relevant parameter analysis is carried out. Thanks to the closed-form solutions, the computation is relatively fast and efficient, but the calculation amount is much larger than that of single-name LCDS. In this simulation the basic parameters are set as follows if they are not specified:

$$
T = 5, R = 0.8, \Delta t = 0.25, a_p = 0.015, b_p = 2, a_d = 3,
$$

$$
b_2 = 2, \kappa_0 = 0.15, \theta_0 = 0.03, \sigma_0 = 0.05, \kappa_y = 0.15,
$$

$$
\theta_y = 0.03, \sigma_y = 0.05, r_0 = 0.03, \beta_0^v = 0.03.
$$

($i = 1, 2; j = p, d$)

The four pictures in Figure 3 are the theoretical prices of the basket LCDS, and the relationship between the price of basket LCDS and the initial value of the interest rate $r_0$, the reversion mean value $\theta_0$, the velocity of regression $\kappa_0$ and the volatility $\sigma_0$ are shown in the pictures respectively. It is distinctly shown in the charts that the price of this LCDS increases together with $r_0$, $\theta_0$ or $\sigma_0$. Furthermore, the influence of the reversion mean value $\theta_0$ towards the price of the LCDS is relatively slight when the duration of the contract, $T$, is small, and remarkable when $T$ is big. This is similar with the phenomenon with single name LCDS. As for initial value of interest rate $r_0$, this property isn’t evident, and the volatility $\sigma_0$ influences the price in a contrary way. As is the case of single name LCDS, the price is least sensitive to the reversion speed $\kappa_0$, and increases together with $\kappa_0$.

All the four pictures show an increase-decrease tendency of the basket LCDS price with the growth of terminal $T$, which are different from the ones of the single-name LCDS. The reason lies in the fact that the contract won’t be terminated unless both loans are prepaid, which reduces the termination probability by prepayment. As the duration of the contract increases, the expected number of payment increases as well, while the number of loans under protection does not change. As a result,
the spread of the basket LCDS decreases.

As the method employed with multiple LCDS names, only the ratio of the system risk factor in $\lambda_i^{w}$ and $\lambda_i^{w}$ is changed. As a result, the values of these intensities remain almost unchanged. It can be indicated from Figure 4 above that the price of basket LCDS will increase as the increment in correlation between prepayment and default.

4. Large-Scale Basket LCDS Pricing

In the case that the asset pool contains $N$ prepayable loans, $2N$ intensity processes should be taken into consideration. Here we still use $\lambda_i^{w}$ and $\lambda_i^{w}$ ($i = 1, 2, \ldots, N$) to represent the prepayment and default intensity processes of loan $i$ respectively, and define the probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{G}, \{\mathcal{G}_t\}_{t \geq 0}, \mathbb{P})$ as the preceding text.

In the case with prepayable nth-to-default LCDS, the contract will be terminated and indemnity is made if the total number of default loans in the asset pool reaches $n$. If less than $n$ loans default in the pool and the other loans are all prepaid, the contract will also be stopped with no compensation. Seen from time $t$, the probability of $n$ loans are prepaid while $m$ loans survive ($0 \leq n, m \leq N, n + m \leq N$) before time $s$ is assumed to

$$P_{t}^{w,p,m} (s) = \sum_{k_0, k_1, \ldots, k_n, k_{n+1}, \ldots, k_m} P (\tau_{h_0} < s \land \tau_{h_1} < s \land \ldots \land \tau_{h_n} < s \land \tau_{h_{n+1}} > s \mid G_t)$$

$$= \prod_{i=1}^{N} \left(1_{\{t_i \leq s\}} \right) \sum_{k_0, k_1, \ldots, k_n, k_{n+1}, \ldots, k_m} E_i \left[ \prod_{j=1}^{m} \Lambda_{h_{j-1}}^{w} \int_{t_j}^{s} e^{-\int_{t_j}^{s} (\lambda_i^{w} + \lambda_i^{p}) dt} d\tau_{h_{j-1}} \prod_{j=1}^{m} \Lambda_{h_{j}}^{w} \int_{t_j}^{s} e^{-\int_{t_j}^{s} (\lambda_i^{w} + \lambda_i^{p}) dt} d\tau_{h_{j}} \right]$$

$$P_{t}^{N} (s) = P (\tau_1 \land \tau_2 \land \ldots \land \tau_N > s \mid G_t) = 1_{\{t_1 \leq s\}} 1_{\{t_2 \leq s\}} \ldots 1_{\{t_N \leq s\}} E_i \left[ e^{-\sum_{i=1}^{N} (\lambda_i^{w} + \lambda_i^{p}) s} \right]$$

where $h_0 < h_1 < \ldots < h_n, k_0 < k_1 < \ldots < k_m$ denote prepayment and default sequences respectively, and $\tilde{h}_n = (h_1, \ldots, h_n), \tilde{k}_m = (k_1, \ldots, k_m), \tilde{N} = (1, \ldots, N)$.

The solution progress of $P_{t}^{w,p,m} (s)$ can be divided into $n + m$ time intervals. Suppose that $t_{h_n} > t_{h_{n+1}}$ are the moments of the last three credit events. By the technique used in pricing two-reference LCDS, from time $t_{h_n}$ to $t_{h_{n+1}}$, the expectation

$$E_i \left[ \prod_{j=1}^{m} \Lambda_{h_{j-1}}^{w} \int_{t_j}^{s} e^{-\int_{t_j}^{s} (\lambda_i^{w} + \lambda_i^{p}) dt} d\tau_{h_{j-1}} \prod_{j=1}^{m} \Lambda_{h_{j}}^{w} \int_{t_j}^{s} e^{-\int_{t_j}^{s} (\lambda_i^{w} + \lambda_i^{p}) dt} d\tau_{h_{j}} \right]$$

can be rewritten as

$$E_i \left[ \int_{t_{h_n}}^{s} \Lambda_{h_n}^{w} e^{-\int_{t_{h_n}}^{s} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\lambda_i^{w} + \lambda_i^{p}) dt} d\tau_{h_n} \right].$$

And from $t_{h_{n+1}}$ to $t_{h_{n+1}}$, the expectation can be written as

$$E_i \left[ \int_{t_{h_{n+1}}}^{s} \Lambda_{h_{n+1}}^{w} e^{-\int_{t_{h_{n+1}}}^{s} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\lambda_i^{w} + \lambda_i^{p}) dt} d\tau_{h_{n+1}} \right].$$

Same as the case with two-reference LCDS, $\lambda_i^{w}$ and $\lambda_i^{w}$ ($i = 1, \ldots, N$) are modeled as follows:

$$\lambda_i^{w} = \frac{a_i}{r_i} + b_i \beta_i^{w}, \lambda_i^{w} = a_i r_i + b_i \beta_i^{w}.$$
The two expectations of $\sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=p}^{d} a_{ij}(i=1,\ldots,N; j=p,d)$ are all non-negative constants. The two expectations can be expressed as functions of $A_{ij}(k,z), B_{ij}(k,z), C_{ij}(a,b,f)$. The other intervals can be dealt with in the same way. Thus the explicit expression of Equation (20) can be obtained, and the price prepayable nth-to-default LCDS can be derived.

Although the model in this chapter provides us an explicit solution, the large scale of calculation prevents us from evaluating it directly. Here only the outcomes by Monte Carlo stimulation are demonstrated. It is indicated in Figure 5 that the price of a first-to-default LCDS with an asset pool of two loans (with an expiration of over two years) is lower than that of a single-name LCDS, which concords the property shown in the model and result in Sections 3.2 and 3.3.

According to Figures 6 and 7, the price of first-to-default basket LCDS (corresponding to the case $n=1$) is decreasing with the enlargement of expiration $T$. In the case when $n=2$, the price of second-to-default basket LCDS is first increasing then decreasing along with $T$. And the price of fourth-to-default basket LCDS is increasing along with terminal $T$. In summary, the price of basket LCDS first decreases then increases with terminal time $T$ as $n$ increases, and this coincides the conclusions in 3.3. The reason of this phenomenon may lie in this fact: we have assumed from the beginning that the LCDS will only be terminated due to prepayment when the living loans are all prepaid while the number of default loans is smaller than $n$. As a result, the probability to close the contract by prepayment is rather small when $n$ is small, and the surviving probability of the contract is larger with larger $T$. The augmentation in the times to pay spreads reduces the spread rate. Contrariwise, the prepayment probability increases and the number of payment decreases, resulting in an increasing spread rate.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, a single factor model with CIR process used in pricing a single-name LCDS is extended for pricing a basket CDS and LCDS. The model is under reduced form framework, where the prepayment and default are two negative correlated processes following factor CIR processes. Pricing formulas for basket CDS, two-reference basket LCDS and large-scale basket LCDS are established and calculated. The first two prices are presented numerical examples analytically while the last one is shown by Monte Carlo simulation. From the results, analysis on parameters is carried on.

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