

Models of default times

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Default time

- Given a measurable filtered probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{F})$, a default time is a positive random variable.
- The default process is $A_t = \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau \leq t\}}$. Denoting by \mathbb{A} the filtration generated by A , the filtration $\mathbb{G} = (\mathcal{G}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is the smallest filtration containing \mathbb{F} and \mathbb{A} .
- We denote by A^p (resp. A^o) the dual \mathbb{F} -predictable (resp. optional) projection of A . We denote by \mathcal{J}^o (resp. \mathcal{J}^p) the set of jump times of A^o (resp. A^p).

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- We denote by \mathcal{A} the set of \mathbb{F} -stopping times ϑ such that $\mathbb{P}(\tau = \vartheta) > 0$. Then, $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{J}^o$ and \mathcal{J}^p is the subset of \mathcal{A} made of predictable stopping times. In particular, τ avoids \mathbb{F} stopping times if and only if A^o is continuous.
- The process Z defined as $Z_t = \mathbb{P}(\tau > t | \mathcal{F}_t)$, called the Azéma supermartingale admits a Doob-Meyer decomposition $Z = M - A^p$.

Intensity process

- The compensator of A or the **intensity process** of τ is the increasing \mathbb{G} -predictable process Λ such that $A - \Lambda$ is a \mathbb{G} -martingale, given by $\Lambda_t = \int_0^{t \wedge \tau} \frac{dA_s^p}{Z_{s-}}$.
- In case where $Z > 0$, the process Z admits a unique multiplicative decomposition $Z = Ne^{-\Gamma}$ where N is a local \mathbb{F} -martingale and Γ an increasing \mathbb{F} -predictable process. If Γ is continuous, the intensity process is Γ^τ .
- It follows that the intensity process does not contain full information about Z .

Simple Defaultable claims

- Payment at maturity and recovery at hit.

$$\zeta := Y_T \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > T\}} + C_\tau \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau \leq T\}}$$

where $Y_T \in \mathcal{F}_T$ and C is an \mathbb{F} -predictable process. One has

$$\mathbb{E}[\zeta | \mathcal{G}_t] = Z_t^{-1} \mathbb{E}[Y_T Z_T + \int_{(t, T]} C_u dA_u^p | \mathcal{F}_t] \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau > t\}} + C_\tau \mathbf{1}_{\{\tau \leq t\}}$$

- In the case where C is \mathbb{F} -optional, then one has to replace A^p with A^o in the above formula.

A second Azéma supermartingale

- The supermartingale Z does not contain full information about A° : it is not possible to recover A° from Z .
- The second Azéma supermartingale is

$$\tilde{Z}_t := \mathbb{P}(\tau \geq t | \mathcal{F}_t).$$

This supermartingale is làdlàg and admits a unique Doob-Meyer-Mertens decomposition $\tilde{Z} = m - A_-^\circ$ where m is an \mathbb{F} -martingale.

- The processes $Z, \tilde{Z}, A^\circ, A^p$ and Λ play an important role. Note that $Z_t = \mathbb{E}[A_\infty^p - A_t^p | \mathcal{F}_t]$ and $\tilde{Z}_t = \mathbb{E}[A_\infty^\circ - A_{t-}^\circ | \mathcal{F}_t]$.

Revisiting Cox's model

Let K be an increasing \mathbb{F} -adapted process with $K_0 = 0$ and

$$\tau = \inf\{t : K_t \geq \Theta\}$$

where Θ is an exponential r.v. independent from \mathbb{F} . Then \mathbb{F} is immersed in \mathbb{G} .

Let $\mathcal{J}(K)$ the set of jump times of K , then $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{J}(K)$.

- If K is continuous, one has

$$Z = e^{-K} = \tilde{Z}, A^o = A^p = 1 - Z, \Lambda = K,$$

- If K is predictable and continuous on right,

$$Z = e^{-K}, A^p = 1 - Z, \Lambda = K_- - \sum (e^{-\Delta K} - 1)$$

- If K is continuous on right,

$$Z = e^{-K}, \tilde{Z} = e^{-K_-}, A^o = 1 - e^{-K},$$

- If K is continuous on left, one has

$$\tilde{Z} = e^{-K}, \quad Z = \tilde{Z}_+ .$$

- Therefore, one can construct default times with a given set \mathcal{A} . Jiao and Li, Gehmlich and Schmidt have produced models where \mathcal{A} is not empty
- Any random time admits a unique decomposition as $\xi \wedge \vartheta$ where ξ avoids stopping times and ϑ is thin and $\xi \vee \vartheta = \infty$.

- Another characteristic is the conditional cumulative distribution

$$F_t(u) = \mathbb{P}(\tau \leq u | \mathcal{F}_t).$$

- It is known that if $L(u)$ is a family of martingales, increasing w.r.t. u , valued in $[0, 1]$ then, one can construct on an extended probability space a random time τ (in fact the identity) and a probability \mathbb{Q} such that
 - $\forall t \geq 0, \mathbb{Q}|_{\mathcal{F}_t} = \mathbb{P}|_{\mathcal{F}_t}$
 - $\mathbb{Q}(\tau \leq u | \mathcal{F}_t) = L_t(u).$

Density process

- The conditional law admits a density when $\mathbb{E}[f(\tau)|\mathcal{F}_t] = \int_0^\infty f(u)p_t(u)\nu(du)$ where ν is the law of τ .
Note that $p(u)$ is a family of nonnegative martingales and that

$$F_t(u) = \mathbb{P}(\tau \leq u|\mathcal{F}_t) = \int_0^u p_t(\theta)\nu(d\theta)$$

defines a family of martingales, valued in $[0, 1]$, increasing w.r.t. u .

- a family of density is a family of nonnegative martingales $p(u)$ such that for any t , $\int_0^\infty p_t(u)\eta(du) = 1$.
- Very few examples are known in the literature.

Density process

The density process is necessary in the two following cases

- Pricing of defaultable claims with payment at maturity: assume that the payoff, done at time T is of the form $\zeta = f(\tau, Y_T)$.

$$Z_t^{-1} \mathbb{E} \left[\int_{(t, T]} f(u, Y_T) p_T(du) \mid \mathcal{F}_t \right].$$

- Optimisation problems. In that case, one needs the decomposition of \mathbb{F} martingales into \mathbb{G} martingales which is

$$ntX_t = \widehat{X}_t + \int_0^{t \wedge \tau} \frac{1}{Z_{s-}} d\langle X, m \rangle_s^{\mathbb{F}} + \int_{t \wedge \tau}^t \frac{1}{p_{s-}(\tau)} d\langle X, p(u) \rangle_s^{\mathbb{F}} \Big|_{u=\tau},$$

where \widehat{X} is a \mathbb{G} -local martingale.

Construction of a random time from a $[0, 1]$ valued supermartingale

Assume that Z is a continuous supermartingale valued in $]0, 1[$ with multiplicative decomposition $Z = Ne^{-\Lambda}$ where Λ is continuous.

- We set, for $u < t$,

$$F_t(u) = (1 - Z_t) \exp \left\{ - \int_u^t \frac{Z_s}{1 - Z_s} d\Lambda_s \right\},$$

and for $t \leq u$

$$F_t(u) = \mathbb{E}[F_u(u)|\mathcal{F}_t] = \mathbb{E}[1 - Z_u|\mathcal{F}_t].$$

- The family $F(u)$ is a family of martingales, valued in $(0, 1]$, increasing w.r.t. u .

- Note that, for $u < t$,

$$dF_t(u) = -\frac{F_t(u)}{1 - Z_t} dM_t$$

where M is the martingale part in the Doob-Meyer decomposition of Z ;

- Other solutions: let Y be any continuous local martingale and f be any bounded Lipschitz function with $f(0) = 0$, then a family $F(u)$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} dF_t(u) &= -F_t(u) \left(\frac{1}{1 - Z_t} dM_t + f(F_t(u) - 1 + Z_t) dY_t \right) \\ F_u(u) &= 1 - Z_u \end{aligned}$$

More generally, for Z valued in $]0, 1[$, the family $F(u)$ defined as

$$\begin{aligned} dF_t(u) &= -F_{t-}(u) \frac{1}{1 - {}^pZ_t} dM_t, \text{ for } t > u \\ F_u(u) &= 1 - Z_u \\ F_t(u) &= \mathbb{E}[1 - Z_u | \mathcal{F}_t], \text{ for } u > t \end{aligned}$$

is a family of conditional laws. One can show that

$$F_t(u) = (1 - Z_t) \exp\left(- \int_{(u,t]} \frac{dA_s^{p,c}}{1 - {}^pZ_s}\right) \prod_{u < s \leq t} \left(1 - \frac{\Delta A_s^p}{1 - {}^pZ_s}\right)$$

where pZ is the predictable projection of Z and $A^{p,c}$ is the continuous part of A^p .

Construction of densities

- If $F(u)$ is differentiable w.r.t. u , we obtain the conditional density of τ .
- For example, in the previous case with $\Lambda_t = \int_0^t \lambda_s ds$

$$F_t(u) = (1 - Z_t) \exp \left\{ - \int_u^t \frac{Z_s}{1 - Z_s} \lambda_s ds \right\}$$

we obtain that, for $t > u$

$$g_t(u) = F_t(u) \frac{Z_u}{1 - Z_u} \lambda_u$$

and

$$dg_t(u) = \frac{Z_u}{1 - Z_u} \lambda_u dF_t(u) = g_t(u) \frac{1}{1 - Z_t} dM_t$$

Construction of supermartingales valued in $[0, 1]$

- **Starting from dual projections:** If K is an \mathbb{F} -predictable increasing process such that $G_t := \mathbb{E}[K_\infty - K_t | \mathcal{F}_t] \leq 1$, then G is a supermartingale valued in $[0, 1]$ and is the Azéma supermartingale of a random time, and K will be the dual predictable projection of A .
- **Starting from dual projections:** If K is an \mathbb{F} -optional increasing process such that $\tilde{G}_t := \mathbb{E}[K_\infty - K_{t-} | \mathcal{F}_t] \leq 1$, then \tilde{G} is a supermartingale valued in $[0, 1]$ and K will be the dual optional projection of A .

- **Starting with intensity rate:** Let B be a Brownian motion. The solution of

$$dG_t = -\lambda_t G_t dt + b_t G_t (1 - G_t) dB_t, \quad G_0 = 1$$

where $\lambda \geq 0$ and b are two bounded optional processes is a supermartingale valued in $[0, 1]$ and λ is the intensity rate of the associated random times. The conditional density of τ is, for $t > u$

- For $t < u$, if λ is deterministic, and setting $\Lambda_t = \int_0^t \lambda(s) ds$ and $N_t = G_t e^{\Lambda(t)}$

$$\mathbb{E}[G_u | \mathcal{F}_t] = e^{-\Lambda(u)} \mathbb{E}[N_u | \mathcal{F}_t] = N_t e^{-\Lambda(u)}$$

so that $g_t(u) = \lambda(u) e^{-\Lambda(u)} N_t$.

It follows that

$$g_t(u) = \lambda(u) e^{-\Lambda(u)} N_t \mathbf{1}_{\{t \leq u\}} + \lambda(u) e^{-\Lambda(u)} \frac{N_u}{\nu_u} \nu_t \mathbf{1}_{\{t > u\}}$$




where $d\nu_t = -b_t e^{-\Lambda(t)} \nu_t N_t dB_t$.

- For Γ a continuous increasing \mathbb{F} adapted process







$$dG_t = -G_t d\Gamma_t + b_t G_t (1 - G_t) dB_t, \quad G_0 = 1$$

is a supermartingale valued in $[0, 1]$. This is in particular the case for last passage times, where Γ involves a local time, or when $G = Y \wedge 1$ for a positive supermartingale Y .




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Handwritten mathematical scribbles on a piece of paper, including the expression $45 \times 6 + 2 = 272$ and other illegible numbers and symbols.

Thank you for your attention