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Assessing Multi-Asset Investment Strategies for Annuity Funds

David Walsh / Colin Wilson 7th November 2007

Introduction

This session:

Introduce market leading tools for risk and capital analysis in annuity funds

Illustrate with the use of a model office

Investigate possible investment strategies for the office

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Internal Stochastic Models for Annuity Business

•Generally not as well developed as for with-profits

Increasing use by larger providers of stochastic annuity models for risk and capital measurement

•Models can be used to:

Calculate risk-based capital implications of alternative strategies
Quantify expected returns and uncertainty of alternative strategies



Our Modelling Approach

The B&H & NUL ALM are used to project portfolios and annuity liabilities in 1,000 simulations:

Allowing for credit transitions/ defaults
Changes in credit spreads
Changes in risk-free yield curve
Changes in mortality

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Practical Modelling Considerations

•Establishing an economically coherent appraisal framework is crucial

•Having an internal model to populate the framework can provide key insights

•But fundamental challenges and judgements abound with regard to:

Definition of economic measure (e.g. choice of time horizon?)
 Assessment of economic capital (stochastic asset model and calibration)

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Case Study

We use a model office to demonstrate the techniques:

A typical mix of traditional bonds

- •Fixed pension increases
- Average credit rating of AA-
- Asset duration 8.3yrs v Liability duration 9.6yrsNo new business

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Definitions

1 year VaR:

•Capital required to fund realistic liability reserve after 1 year with 99.5% confidence

Run-off VaR:

•Capital required to fund run-off cashflow shortfalls with 95% confidence

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Commercial Property

We introduce a limited property exposure:

Initial 5% investment into property

- Asset mix otherwise unchanged
- Annual rebalancing to maintain property exposure at 5%
 Modelled using lognormal equity methodology, correlated to existing portfolio

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Appraising annuity capital management strategies

Investment risk and return borne by shareholders

•Need a metric of shareholder value to steer appraisal of investment strategy

•Despite potential effects of risk adjustment basic return on capital is a commonly used measure

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Conclusions

- Shown how different investment strategies impact on the various capital and return numbers
- Holistic framework gives insights into interactions between risk factors
- Ultimate choice of strategy depends on the risk metrics
- Relationship between risk measures depends critically on degree of asset / liability mismatch

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