

# A Stochastic Model for Share Earnings

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“Higgledy-Piggledy Growth”

I. M. D. Little, 1962

“Higgledy-Piggledy Growth Again”

A. C. Rayner & I. M. D. Little, 1966

*A drunken stagger about a random walk*

comment by A. C. Stalker, ca 1980

Wilkie (1986) modelled Share Prices as the Ratio of  
Share Dividends to Dividend Yield.

Dividends depended on lagged Price inflation,  
plus random walk bits

Dividend Yield modelled as auto-regressive  
AR(1) (mean reverting).

Earnings index existed but only since 1962  
Too short

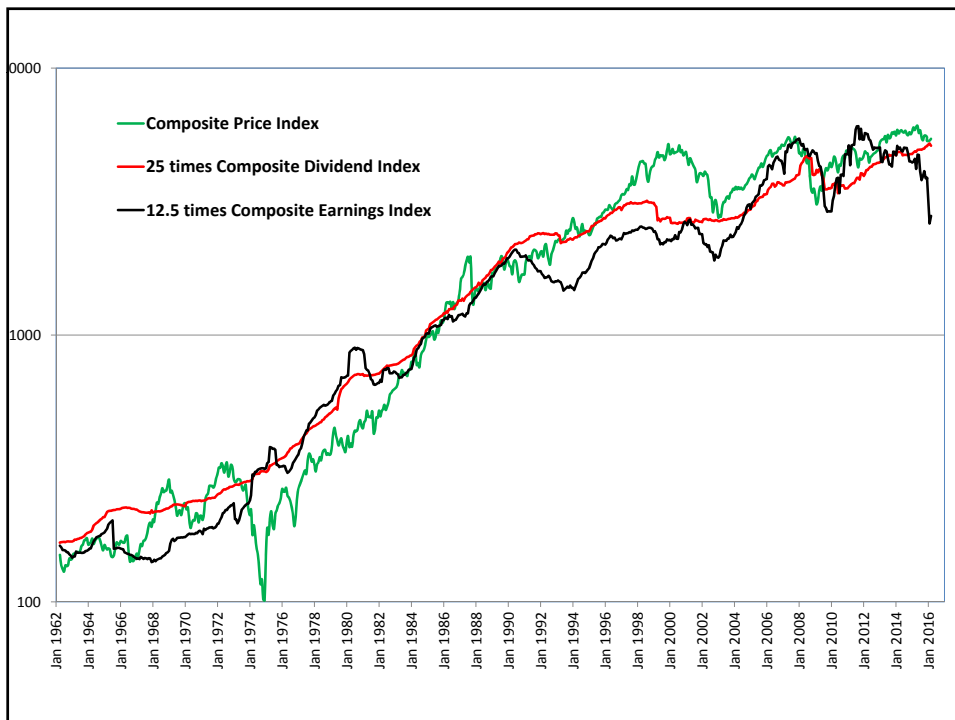
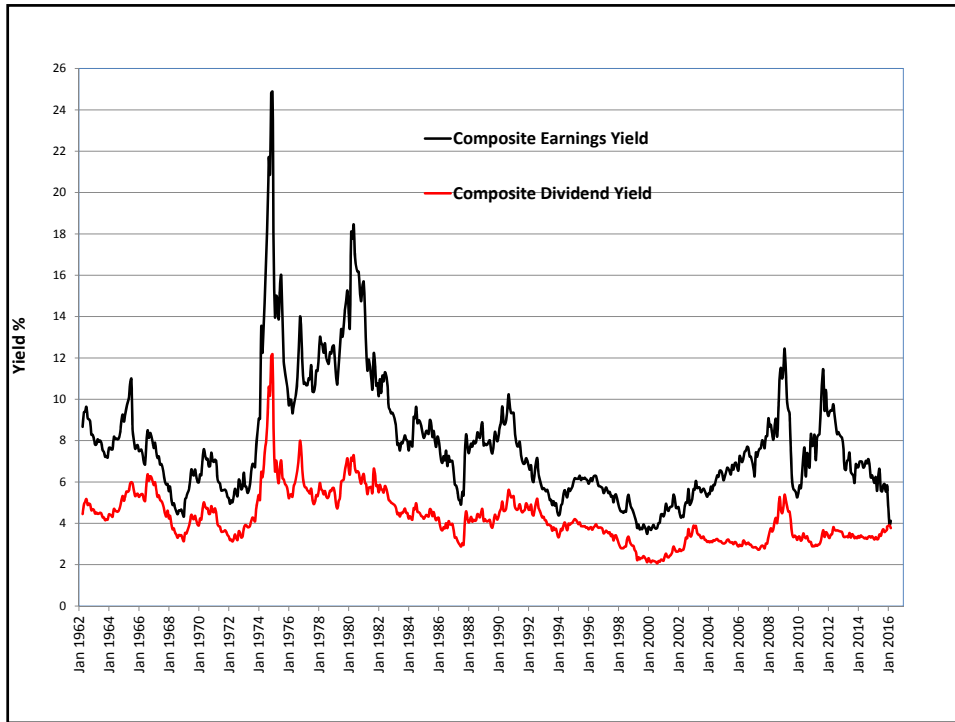
Earnings Index now from 1962, over 50 years

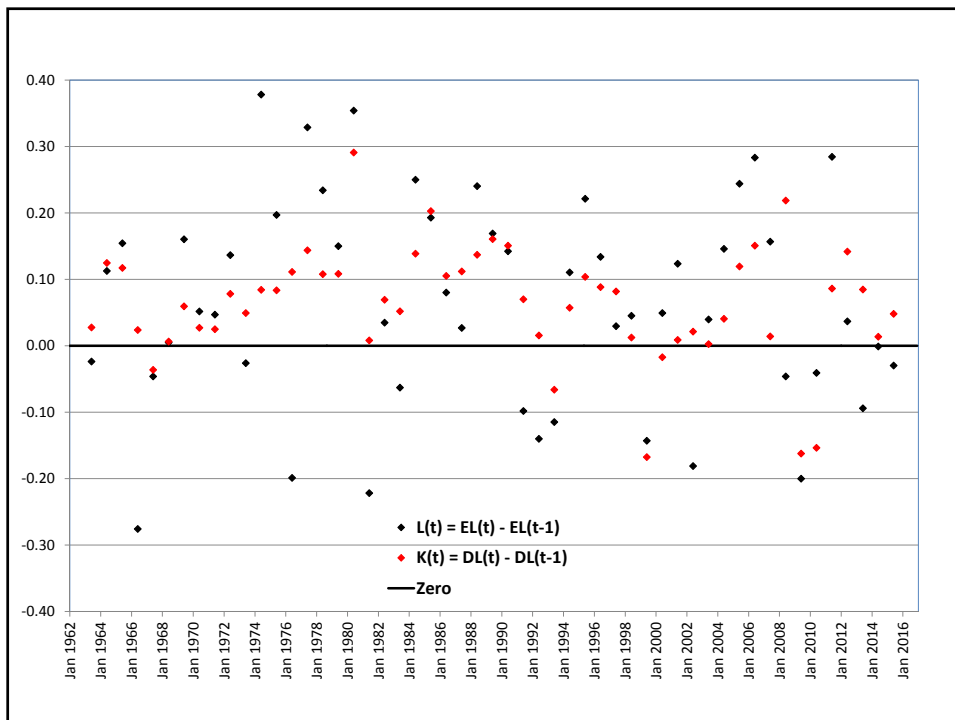
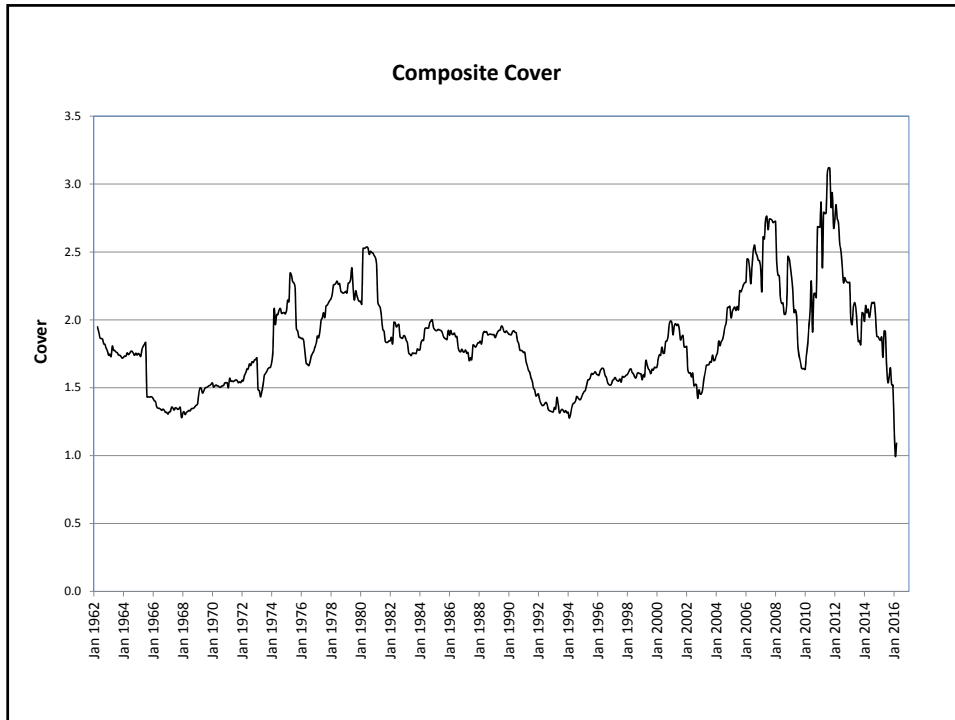
From April 1962 on “Non-financials Index”

From December 1992 also on All-share Index

Earnings Yield originally, later P/E ratio

We have spliced NFI and ASI at March 1994  
to give Composite Index





P/E ratio = Price/Earnings = 1/Earnings Yield

Dividend Yield = Dividend/Price = 1/"D/E Ratio"

Cover = Earnings/Dividend = 1/Payout ratio

P/E Ratio  $\times$  Dividend Yield  $\times$  Cover = 1 (or 100)

Normally all  $> 0$  on the index, but  $E \leq 0$  for some companies, and  $D = 0$  for some companies

Use June values, 1962 to 2015

$t = \text{year}$

Present model:

$$YL(t) = \text{Ln}(\text{Dividend yield}(t))$$

$$DL(t) = \text{Ln}(\text{Dividend}(t))$$

$$K(t) = DL(t) - DL(t - 1)$$

New model adds:

$$EL(t) = \text{Ln}(\text{Earnings}(t))$$

$$L(t) = EL(t) - EL(t - 1)$$

$$VL(t) = \text{Ln}(\text{Cover}(t))$$

$L(t)$  depends on current and last year's Inflation  
but not older inflation

$$EE(t) = ESD \cdot EZ(t)$$

$$E[EZ(t)] = 0 \quad \text{Var}[EZ(t)] = 1, \text{ plausibly } N(0,1)$$

$$L(t) = EMU + EQ1 \cdot I(t) + EQ2 \cdot I(t-1) + EE(t)$$

$$EL(t) = EL(t-1) + L(t)$$

We put  $EQ1 + EQ2 = 1$ , so "unit gain"

$$EQ1 = 2.61, EQ2 = -1.61, EMU = 0.010, ESD = 0.130$$

$$EMU^* = EMU + (EQ1 + EQ2) \cdot QMU = 0.01 + QMU$$

$$VL(t) = EL(t) - DL(t)$$

very dependent on Earnings  
with influence from price inflation  
and AR(1)

$$VE(t) = VSD \cdot VZ(t)$$

$$E[VZ(t)] = 0 \quad \text{Var}[VZ(t)] = 1, \text{ possibly } N(0,1)$$

$$VN(t) = VA \cdot VN(t-1) + VE1 \cdot EE(t) + VE2 \cdot EE(t-1) + VE(t)$$

$$VL(t) = Ln(VMU) + VW \cdot I(t) + VN(t)$$

$$VA = 0.90, VE1 = 0.69, VE2 = -0.16$$

$$VW = 1.63, VMU = 1.70, VSD = 0.058$$

Model for  $Y(t)$  unchanged

Parameters for Composite for 1963-2015

$$YW = 1.50, YA = 0.70, YMU = 0.037, YSD = 0.17$$

Dividend index  $D(t)$  with  $DL(t) = \ln(D(t))$

$$DL(t) = EL(t) - VL(t)$$

Share prices  $P(t)$  with  $PL(t) = \ln(P(t))$

$$PL(t) = DL(t) - YL(t)$$

P/E ratio  $M(t)$  with  $ML(t) = \ln(M(t))$

$$ML(t) = -VL(t) - YL(t)$$

## Forecast means and confidence intervals

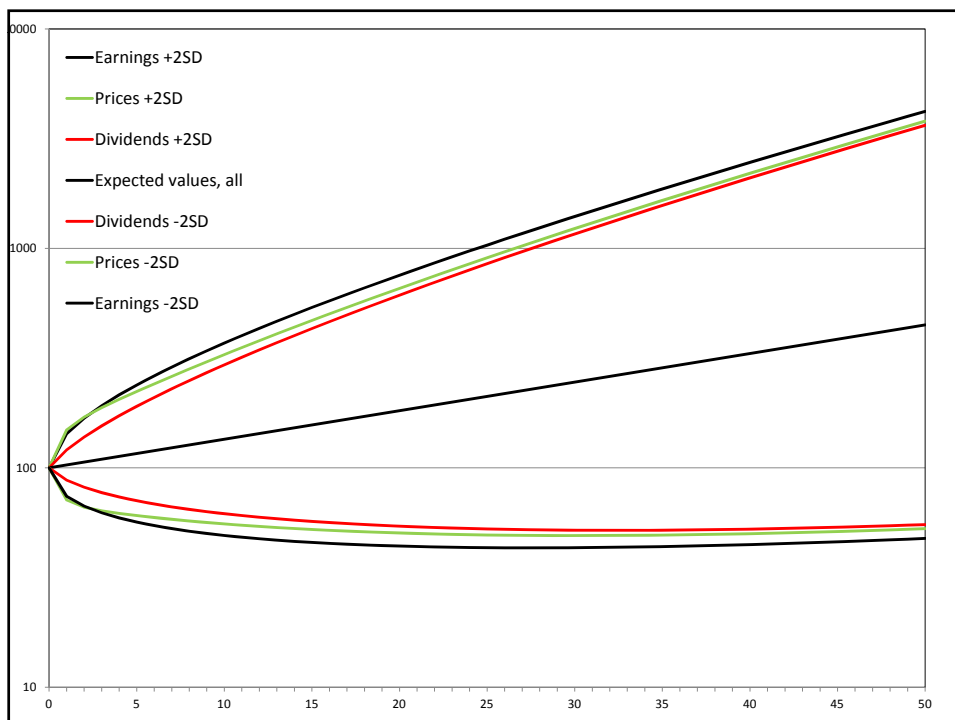
$E$  and  $E \pm 2S.D.$

$QMU = 0.02$  so about 2% inflation

$EMU = 0.01$  so about 1% real increase in  $E, D, P$

Neutral initial conditions

50 years ahead





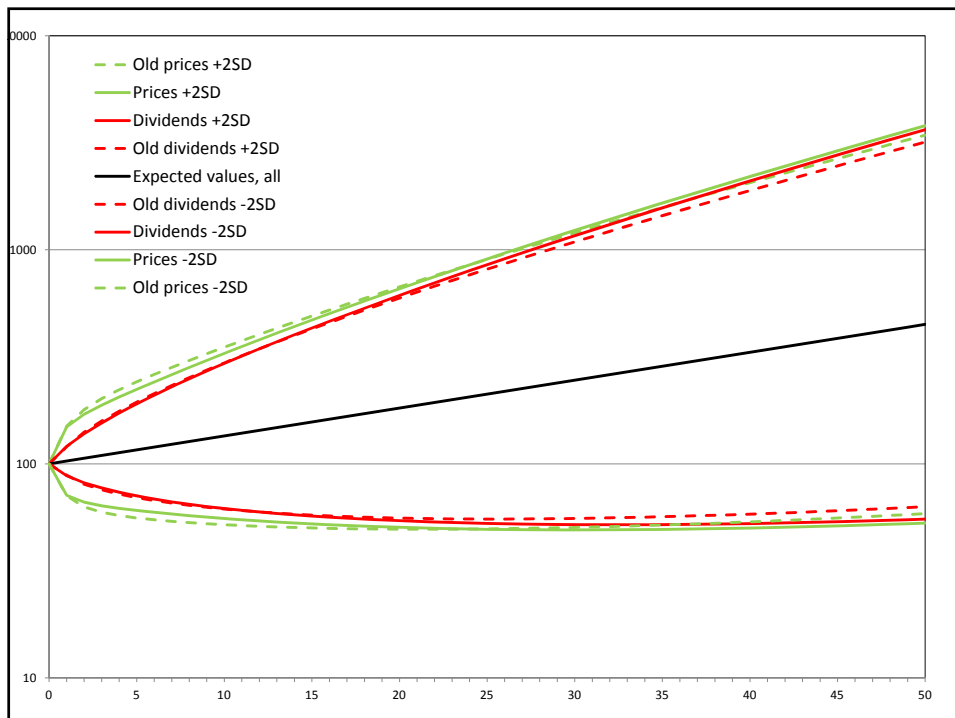
The same for original model

$QMU = 0.02$  again

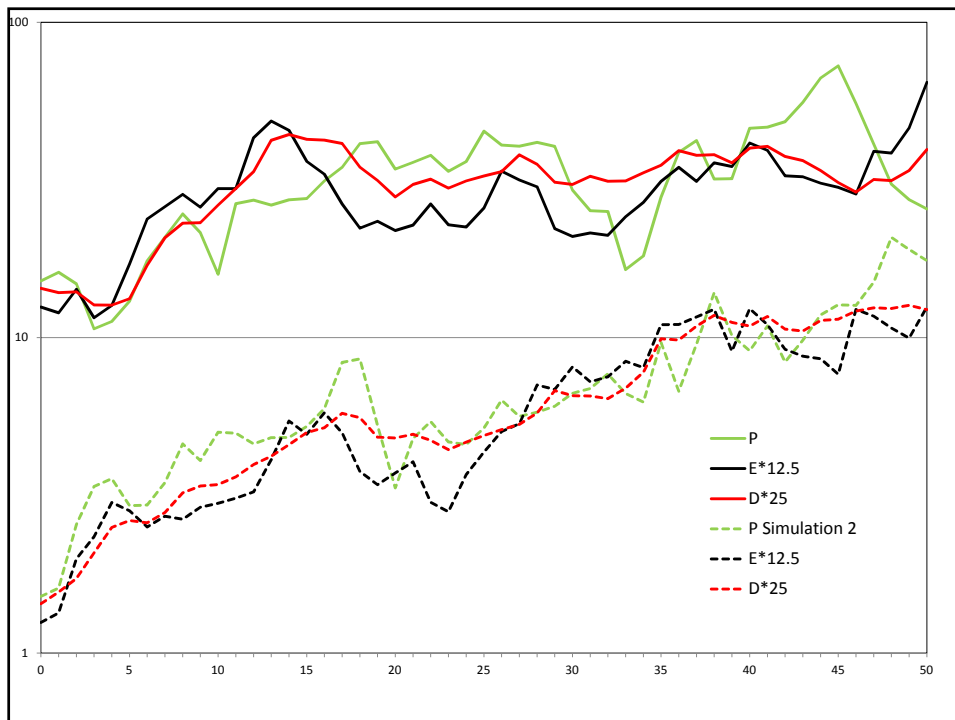
$DMU = 0.01$  so about 1% real increase in  $D, P$

No Earnings

Expected values all just the same



Two simulations  
Same basis  
Neutral initial conditions  
One 10 times the other  
Annual values  
Need stochastic interpolation to compare  
with actual data



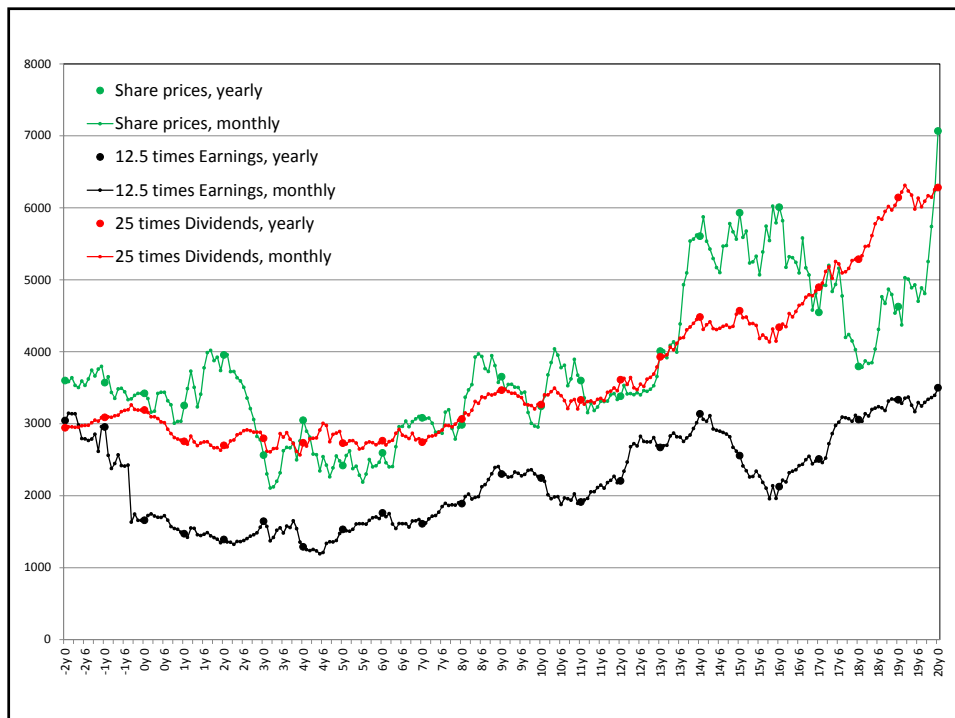
## Simulation from “June 2016”

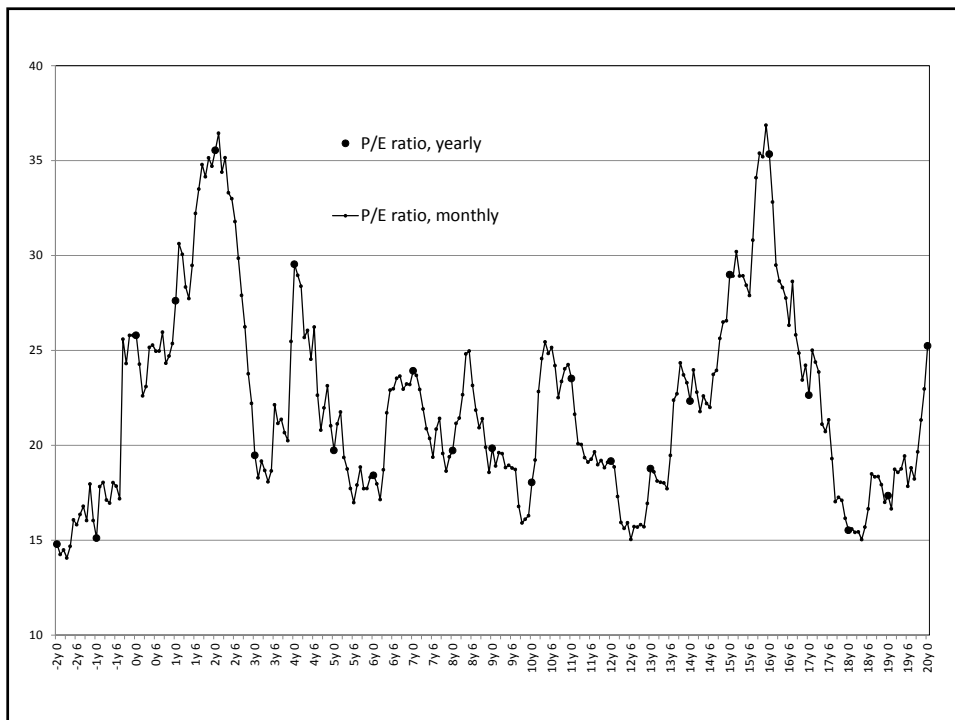
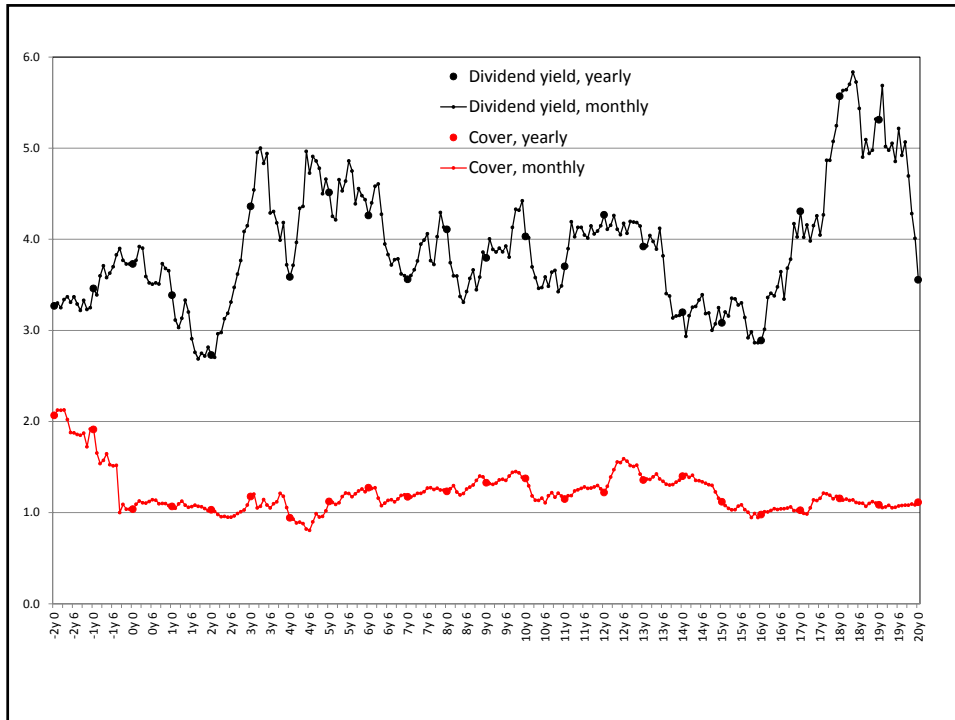
Actual initial conditions for past months

End-April values repeated for end May, end June

Monthly values by stochastic interpolation  
with special Brownian bridges

One simulation, 2 past years, 20 future years





Cover has very slow autoregression,  $VA = 0.90$ ,  
so it does not go back quickly to mean.

But can Dividends continue to be very close  
to Earnings?

Perhaps we should reconsider the model  
when real June 2016 figures available.

Why not VAR model for  $EL$ ,  $DL$ ,  $PL$  together?

They are co-integrated, levels move together.

Why not co-integrated model?

Differences (ratios)  $VL$ ,  $YL$ ,  $ML$  stationary.

Three series are independent

we choose  $E$ ,  $V$ ,  $Y$ , but others are possible