

# When There is No Place to Hide - Correlation Risk and The Cross-Sectional of Hedge Fund Returns

(joint work with A. Buraschi, Imperial College London, and F. Trojani,  
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  - differ from directional option and dynamic stop-loss strategies in that they expose a fund particularly to *correlation* risk rather than *volatility* risk
- Do hedge funds generate returns by 'insuring against' high correlation states?

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- But this time round the crisis spread even more rapidly 'from market to market, taking down arbitrageurs in US Treasuries and convertible bonds [...], because the amount of money hedge funds now run is so much higher.'
- (3) 'We have hedge fund clients who are very active traders of volatility, correlation and dispersion. Trading correlation and dispersion as an asset class can have a diversification effect,...' (Denis Frances, Global Head of Equity Derivatives Flow Sales at BNP Paribas, (FTfm, 28/1/2008))

# Presentation Outline

- Motivation
- Related Literature:
  - Volatility Risk and Hedge Fund Returns:
    - Fung and Hsieh (2001), Bondarenko (2003), Kong (2008)
  - Correlation Risk:
    - Buraschi, Porchia and Trojani (2006), Driessen, Maenhout and Vilkov (2007) and others
  - Correlations and Crisis Times
    - Bollerslev et al (1998), Moskowitz (2003) and others
  - Option-Implied Correlations
    - Longstaff, Santa-Clara and Schwartz (2003), Collin-Dufresne and Goldstein (2001) and others
- Methodology
- Empirical Results and Data
- Conclusions and Extensions

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$$Y_{t+1} = \mu + FY_t + G_t z_{t+1} + J_{t+1}$$
$$m_{t,t+1} = f(LR\ Risk, Uncertainty, \dots)$$

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- Micro-Foundations of Uncertainty
- Differences in Beliefs (Buraschi, Trojani and Vedolin (2008))

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dD}{D} &= \mu(z) dt + \sigma dW_t \\ \psi &= |\mu^i(z) - \mu^j(z)| \\ P_t &= E_t[m_{t,t+T}(\psi), D_{t+T}] \end{aligned}$$

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- Disagreement risk, endogenous correlations and priced correlation risk
- $\rho\left(\frac{dS^a}{S^a}, \frac{dS^b}{S^b}\right)$ ,  $\rho(t)$  and  $Cov(m_{t,t+T}(\psi); d\rho(\psi_t)) < 0$

- BKT 9-Factor Model (FH(2001) +  $VR_t + CR_t$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} r_{i,t} = & \alpha_i + \\ & \beta_i^1 SNPMRF_t \\ & + \beta_i^2 SCMLC_t + \beta_i^3 BD10RET_t + \beta_i^4 BAAMTSY_t + \\ & \beta_i^5 PTFSBD_t + \beta_i^6 PTFSFX_t + \beta_i^7 PTFSKOM_t + \\ & \beta_i^8 VR_t + \beta_i^9 CR_t + \varepsilon_t^i, \end{aligned}$$

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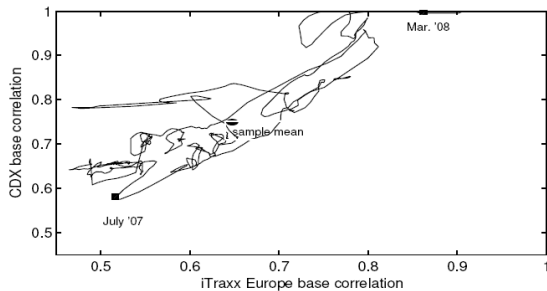
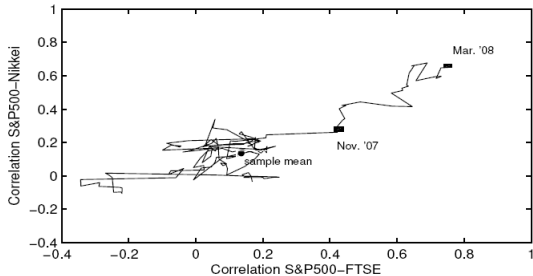
- Volatility Risk Premium: Implied minus Realized Volatility (JT (2005))
- Correlation Risk Premium (Proxy): *Correlation Trading* strategy shorts the index put in order to exploit the correlation risk premium, while hedging the exposure to stock return shocks and to individual volatility shocks (DMV(2006))

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- How does CR differ from OTM Put or straddle?

# Correlation and Stock Market Return



# Variance Risk Premium Construction (1)

- Continuously-resampled realized variance from time 0 to time  $T$  can be expressed as follows:

$$V_{iT} = \int_0^T \phi_i^2(t) dt,$$

where  $\phi_i^2(t)$  is the instantaneous variance of stock  $i$  at time  $t$ .

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- We use  $U_0$  to denote the time-0 price of the variance contract, which at maturity- $T$  has a payoff  $V_T$ . The price of the variance risk contract is the risk-neutral expected integrated variance and thus reflects expectations of future variance:

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- Model-free implied variance (MFIV)* (Britten-Jones and Neuberger (2000) and Jiang and Tian (2005))

# Correlation Risk Premium Construction (1)

- To derive an expression for *unexpected* individual stock option returns, we apply Ito's lemma to changes in individual put option prices  $P_i$  :

$$\frac{dP_{it}}{P_{it}} - E_t \left[ \frac{dP_i}{P_i} \right] = \frac{S_{it}}{P_{it}} \frac{\partial P_{it}}{\partial S_{it}} \phi_{it} dB_{it} + \frac{1}{P_{it}} \frac{\partial P_{it}}{\partial \phi_{it}^2} \zeta_i(\phi_{it}) dB_{\phi_{it}}$$

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- Unexpected returns on index put options with price  $P_I$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dP_{It}}{P_{It}} - E_t \left[ \frac{dP_I}{P_I} \right] &= \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{S_{it}}{P_{It}} \frac{\partial P_{It}}{\partial S_{it}} \phi_{it} dB_{it} + \sum_{i=1}^N \frac{1}{P_{It}} \frac{\partial P_{It}}{\partial \phi_{it}^2} \zeta_i(\phi_{it}) dB_{\phi_{it}} \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{P_{It}} \frac{\partial P_{It}}{\partial \rho} \sigma(\rho) dB_{\rho}. \end{aligned}$$

The correlation trading strategy implies shorting the index put in order to exploit the correlation risk premium, while hedging the exposure to stock return shocks  $dB_j$  and to individual volatility shocks  $dB_{\phi_i}$ .

## Correlation Risk Premium Construction (2)

- To implement this strategy, we first short index puts worth 100% of initial wealth, and invest the proportion  $y_i$  of the initial wealth in individual put option  $i$ , where  $y_i$  is obtained by solving the following equation:

$$-\frac{1}{P_{It}} \frac{\partial P_{It}}{\partial \phi_{it}^2} \zeta_{it}(\phi_{it}) + y_{it} \frac{1}{P_{it}} \frac{\partial P_{it}}{\partial \phi_{it}^2} \zeta_{it}(\phi_{it}) = 0.$$

To delta-hedge the portfolio we invest a proportion  $z_i$  of initial wealth in each individual stock  $i$  where  $z_i$  satisfies:

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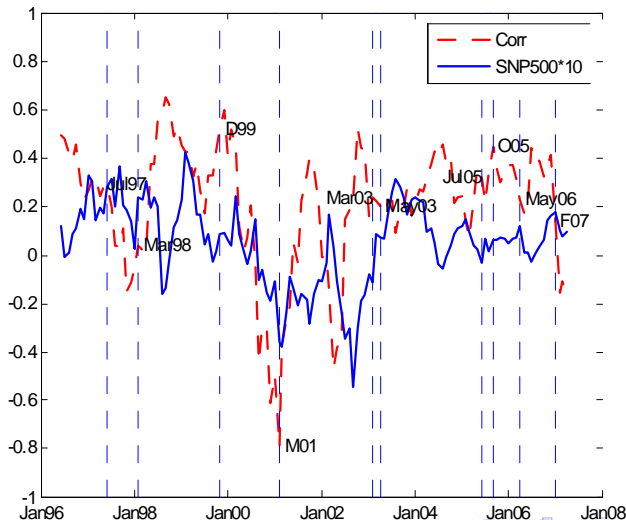
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- We use the Black-Scholes formula to calculate the individual and index put vegas,  $\frac{\partial P_{It}}{\partial \phi_{it}^2}$  and  $\frac{\partial P_{it}}{\partial \phi_{it}^2}$ , and the individual and index put deltas,  $\frac{\partial P_{It}}{\partial S_{It}}$  and  $\frac{\partial P_{it}}{\partial S_{it}}$ . The correlation coefficient  $\rho(t)$  is the estimate as the average 30-day moving window pairwise correlation.

# Correlation Risk Premium and S&P Return

- 12-month MA of correlation risk return and S&P return (1996-2007)



## Hedge Funds

- Survivorship bias-free hedge fund return data
- BarclayHedge 1990-2008.
- 5660 HFs and FoFs in January 2008

## Variance and Correlation Risk (1996-2007)

- Optionmetrics

- Indiv. HF Ret. (% p.m.):

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- Individ. HF Ret. (% p.m.):

	#	Mean	Std
ALL	3114	0.61	1.37
LSE	469	0.79	2.35
LNK	167	0.99	2.29
EL	395	0.69	2.87
OPTS	22	0.59	0.74
EMKN	110	0.34	0.64
MA	61	0.62	1.38
ED	142	0.86	2.11

# CAPM Model Alphas and Betas for HF Indices

- 1996-2007, value (AuM) weighted indices:

	<i>EL</i>	<i>LSE</i>	<i>LNK</i>	<i>EMKN</i>	<i>OPTS</i>	<i>ED</i>	<i>MA</i>
$\bar{r}_i$ (% p.a.)	8.2	9.4	11.8	4.0	7.0	10.3	7.4
$\alpha$ (% p.a.)	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>10.1</b>	3.8	6.7	8.5	6.6
$t_\alpha$	2.6	3.7	4.8	5.9	9.0	4.5	4.9
$\beta_{SNP}$	<b>0.55</b>	0.34	0.26	<b>0.02</b>	0.04	0.27	0.11
$t_\beta$	16.3	9.0	6.2	1.8	3.1	7.4	4.4
adj. $R^2$	66.3	<b>37.5</b>	<b>22.2</b>	1.7	5.8	28.4	11.7

# BKT Model Alphas and Betas for HF Indices

	<i>EL</i>	<i>LSE</i>	<i>LNK</i>	<i>EMKN</i>	<i>OPTS</i>	<i>ED</i>	<i>MA</i>
$\bar{r}_i$ (% p.a.)	8.2	9.4	11.8	4.1	7.1	10.3	7.4
$\alpha$ (% p.a.)	2.6	<b>4.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	4.5	<b>7.42</b>	7.2	7.3
$t_\alpha$	1.6	2.56	3.6	6.02	8.88	3.74	4.96
$\beta_{SNP}$	0.56	0.36	0.26	<b>0.04</b>	0.05	0.24	0.118
$t_{\beta_{SNP}}$	20.6	13.1	7.5	2.63	3.19	7.31	4.53
$\beta_{CR}$	-0.002	0.007	0.005	0.001	0.002	-0.005	-0.005
$t_{\beta_{CR}}$	-0.9	<b>3.76</b>	<b>2.09</b>	0.58	<b>2.12</b>	<b>-2.08</b>	<b>-3.06</b>
$\beta_{VR}$	0.005	0.004	0.003	-0.003	-0.003	0.004	-0.001
$t_{VR}$	1.7	<b>1.33</b>	<b>0.84</b>	-2.02	<b>-1.97</b>	1.11	-0.49
adj. $R^2$	<b>80.71</b>	<b>71.16</b>	<b>49.09</b>	10.73	17.81	46.46	25.38

# Long-Short Equity Funds Sorted By Correlation Risk Beta

		<i>Low</i>	2	3	4	<i>High</i>	<i>Mean</i>
	$\beta_{CR}$	-0.016	-0.004	0.000	0.005	0.019	0.001
	Total Ret.	12.7	8.5	7.7	8.1	11.7	9.8
CAPM	$\alpha_{CAPM}$	<b>11.3</b>	7.6	6.6	6.9	<b>9.7</b>	8.4
BKT	$\alpha_{BKT}$	<b>14.2</b>	7.9	6.4	4.6	<b>2.0</b>	7.0
	$t_{\alpha_{BKT}}$	1.89	1.61	1.58	0.93	0.28	1.26
	$t_{\beta_{CR}}$	-1.86	-0.84	0.01	0.91	2.23	0.09
	$t_{\beta_{VR}}$	0.028	0.22	0.04	0.32	0.55	0.23
	cont. $\alpha$	<b>14.2</b>	7.9	6.3	4.6	<b>2.0</b>	7.0
	cont. $\beta_{CR}$	<b>-3.6</b>	-1.0	0.1	1.2	<b>3.6</b>	0.1
	cont. $\beta_{VR}$	<b>-0.2</b>	0.4	0.1	1.4	<b>2.2</b>	0.8
	cont. $\beta_{SNP}$	<b>1.2</b>	0.7	1.0	1.1	<b>1.8</b>	1.1
	drawdown	<b>26.0</b>	15.5	<b>11.6</b>	19.7	<b>41.5</b>	22.9
	adj $R^2$	<b>26.5</b>	22.7	<b>24.1</b>	22.3	<b>36.4</b>	26.6
	% dead	<b>52.1</b>	32.6	38.0	36.9	<b>58.7</b>	43.7

# Summary of Results by Investment Objective

- Positive Index Level  $\beta_{CR}$ 
  - Long/Short Equity
  - Low Net Exposure (LNX)
  - Option Trader
- Negative Index Level  $\beta_{CR}$ 
  - Merger Arbitrage
  - Event Driven

# LNx Funds Sorted By Correlation Risk Beta

		<i>Low</i>	2	3	4	<i>High</i>	<i>Mean</i>
	$\beta_{CR}$	-0.017	-0.005	0.0	0.003	0.011	-0.002
	Total Ret.	12.3	11.2	8.4	8.9	8.8	9.9
CAPM	$\alpha_{CAPM}$	<b>11.1</b>	9.9	6.8	8.0	<b>7.6</b>	8.5
BKT	$\alpha_{BKT}$	<b>16.1</b>	8.9	6.4	5.7	<b>2.4</b>	7.9
	$t_{\alpha_{BKT}}$	2.43	1.79	1.46	1.31	0.31	1.46
	$t_{\beta_{CR}}$	-2.21	-0.94	-0.06	0.67	1.56	-0.19
	$t_{\beta_{VR}}$	-0.14	0.53	0.28	0.16	0.17	0.20
	cont. $\alpha$	<b>16.1</b>	8.8	6.3	5.7	<b>2.4</b>	7.9
	cont. $\beta_{CR}$	<b>-3.9</b>	-1.1	-0.1	0.7	<b>2.6</b>	-0.3
	cont. $\beta_{VR}$	<b>-0.5</b>	2.1	0.8	0.7	<b>1.1</b>	0.8
	cont. $\beta_{SNP}$	<b>1.1</b>	0.1	0.9	1.4	<b>0.7</b>	0.8
	drawdown	<b>16.0</b>	9.1	7.3	10.0	<b>19.1</b>	12.3
	adj $R^2$	<b>18.7</b>	16.1	14.6	16.5	<b>16.4</b>	16.4

# Case Study

- $\alpha_{CAPM}$  of the 3 funds with highest  $\beta_{CORR}$  explained by  $\beta_{CORR}$  exposure

Name	Category	Ret
3. AP	Equity Long-Bias	42.5
2. OS	Equity Long/Short	14.7
1. AL	Equity Long/Short	20.1

Name	Ret	$\alpha_{CAPM}$	$\alpha_{S\&P,VC,COR}$	$\beta_{COR}$	$t_{\beta_{CORR}}$	$t_{\beta_{VC}}$
3.	42.5	27.9	10.1	6.2%	1.7	0.5
2.	14.7	13.9	-6.1	6.5%	2.1	1.11
1.	20.1	19.9	3.1	8.5%	2.9	-0.05

# Conclusions and Extensions

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