Intermediary Asset Pricing and the Financial Crisis^{*}

Arvind Krishnamurthy Stanford University and NBER

* Drawn from work with Zhiguo He

Neoclassical Asset Pricing

$$P_t = E_t \left[\sum D_{t+j} M_{t+j} \right]$$

- Pricing kernel M_{t+j} reflects how a "representative" investor values stochastic payoffs
 - Consumption habits (Campbell-Cochrane, JPE 1999)
 - Long-run risk to consumption growth (Bansal-Yaron, JF 2004)

Granularity in crises

Panel A: EURO basis, January 2007- January 2012



Figure 3 from Ivashina, Scharfstein and Stein (QJE 2012)

Non-linearity



Figure 2 from He and Krishnamurthy (AER 2013)

Model impulse response (-1% shock)



Figure 6 from He and Krishnamurthy (WP 2017)

Academic progress report card

- Models of intermediary asset pricing
 - Data linking intermediary frictions to asset prices
 - Good case studies
 - How much does it matter for aggregate asset prices?
- \checkmark Models to connect phenomena to macro
 - Data on crises and macro outcomes



Figure 2 from He and Krishnamurthy (AER 2013)

Measurement

- Leveraged loans, consumer credit, corporate leverage
 - All look stretched and likely will unstretch at some point
 - Will this have a significant macro effect?
 - 1998 (LTCM) versus 2008 (Subprime)
- How to determine we are close to \widehat{w} ?
 - Loosely "leverage" of the financial system
- We should be able to do much better

"One reads with dismay of Presidents Hoover and then Roosevelt designing policies to combat the Great Depression of the 1930s on the basis of such sketchy data as stock prices indices, freight car loadings, and incomplete indices of industrial production. The fact was that comprehensive measures of national income and output did not exist at the time. The Depression, and with it the growing role of government in the economy, emphasized the need for such measures and led to the development of a comprehensive set of national income accounts."

Froyen (2005)

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