Message from the President

Dear HKMS Members,

I hope all of you had a wonderful summer.

First of all, let me extend our warmest welcome to our new members, including Dr. Tong Tiejun (HKBU), Dr. Lui Lok Ming Ronald (CUHK), Dr. Mok Chung Pang (CUHK), Dr. Liu Chunling Catherine (PolyU), Dr. Zhi-An Wang (PolyU), Dr. Xianhua Peng (HKUST) and Dr. Maosheng Xiong (HKUST).



Following the success in launching our first book of the Undergraduate Textbook Series "Calculus: Rigor, Concision, Clarity", I am very pleased to share with you that we are currently working on publishing our new second book titled "Manage Your Money without Formulas", written by our member Dr. Leevan Ling (HKBU). This book is specifically designed for a one-term general education course in Applied Mathematics at university level. It is a good introductory book for non-math students who are interested in the financial scope. Adopting a case study approach, the book focuses on basic principles in personal financial management and money problems in real-life situations. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all who have contributed to this project.

May I also take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. Shao Qiman (HKUST), who was invited to deliver a 45-min talk in the Probability and Statistics session for the quadrennial International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2010. This year, the Congress was held on August 19-27 in Hyderabad, India. Over 3000 delegates from around 75 countries attended the ICM. Twenty eminent mathematicians (one of them was Prof. Peng Shige of Shandong University, China) were invited to deliver one-hour plenary speeches while other 171 sectional speakers gave 45-min talks on current state-of-the-art topics in mathematics research.

Available at

http://www.hkms.org.hk/

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HKMS is committed to facilitating and supporting academic activities among its members. We are proud to have sponsored the following conferences and activities since April 2010:

- International Workshop on Inverse Problems, CUHK (23-24 April 2010)
- Workshop on Complex Geometry, HKU (21-23 July 2010)
- The 4th Winter School on Applied Mathematics, City U (30 Nov 2010-10 Dec 2010)
- International Conference on Inverse Problems, City U (13-17 Dec 2010)

More details can be found at HKMS website: http://www.hkms.org.hk/

Last but not least, I would like to mention that we are planning to organize a joint conference with the mathematical societies of Yunnan, Zhejiang and Hunan provinces from the mainland China. We will inform you of the details as soon as the date and venue are fixed. I sincerely look forward to your continued support and participation in our efforts.

Tao TANG President, HKMS October 2010

Undergraduate Textbook in Mathematics
Hong Kong Mathematical Society
春港教學學大學教學教科者系列

Calculus
Rigor, Concision, Clarity

Jishan Hu
Jian-Shu Li
Wei-Ping Li
Min Yan

Title: Calculus:

Rigor, Concision, Clarity

Authors: Jishan Hu, Jian-Shu Li

Wei-Ping Li, Min Yan

(HKUST)

Price: For readers,

• in mainland China

RMB 89 (including mailing fee)

• in Hong Kong

HK \$89 (for students)

HK \$99 (for HKMS members)

HK \$120 (for others)

 Outside Hong Kong and mainland China US \$19 (including mailing fee)

**For any interested parties, please feel free to contact mscheung@hkms.org.hk.

2010-11 HKMS Best Thesis Award Call for Submission

The purpose of Hong Kong Mathematical Society Best Thesis Award is to recognize outstanding PhD or MPhil theses in the fields of mathematics and statistics. All submissions will go through a formal evaluation process by a panel of established scholars of the Society.

Submissions will be judged on the following criteria:

- Significance of results
- Originality of work
- Clarity of presentation
- Quality of writing

Eligible of the Award are postgraduate students who have obtained or will obtain their PhD or MPhil degrees in the fields of mathematics or statistics from any local university. Their Principal Supervisors must be regular faculty staff of any local university to be eligible to nominate his/her students. The theses should be submitted to the respective universities between 1 February 2009 and 31 January 2011.

Potential candidates are required to submit:

- 1. a curriculum vitae with a list of his/her publications (no more than two pages)
- 2. a full thesis written in English
- 3. a letter of nomination from his/her Principal Supervisor that:
 - i. verifies his/her eligibility for the Award
 - ii. describes and evaluates the thesis' contribution to the literature and the student's role in the scholarship

Each recipient of the Best Thesis Award will receive an official certificate and a cash prize. Up to three awards will be made avaliable each year.

Application Deadline:

Submissions must be received no later than 20 February 2011 to be considered for the Award. All theses must be submitted, in soft copy, to hkms.org.hk.

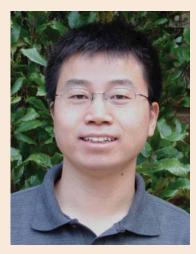


New Faculty Members

Tiejun Tong (HKBU)

Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics Ph.D. University of California at Santa Barbara

Dr. Tiejun Tong received his Ph.D. in Statistics from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 2005. He was a Postdoctoral Associate at the Yale University School of Medicine from 2005 to 2007. Before joining the HKBU, he was an Assistant Professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder.





LUI Lok Ming Ronald (CUHK)

Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles

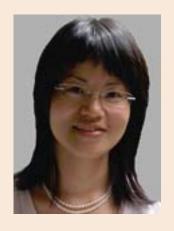
Dr. Ronald Lok Ming Lui is an Assistant Professor in the Math department of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). He got his PhD in Applied Mathematics at UCLA Math department in June, 2008, under the supervision of Prof. Tony F. Chan. Before joining CUHK, he worked as a Postdoctoral Scholar for 2 years at Harvard Math department, hosted by Prof. Shing-Tung Yau. His research current research interests include computational conformal/quasi-conformal geometry, medical imaging and 2D/3D shape analysis.

MOK Chung Pang (CUHK)

Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics Ph.D. Harvard University

Dr. Mok Chung Pang's research interests include Algebraic Number Theory, p-adic L-functions, Rational points on elliptic curves and Arithmetic applications of p-adic families of modular forms. He is currently working on p-adic L functions, and the arithmetic applications of the theory of eigenvarieties. Dr. Mok received his BSc from Chinese University of Hong Kong, A.M. and Ph.D. from Harvard University. Prior to joining Chinese University of Hong Kong, Dr. Mok had been working with University of California, Berkeley.





Liu Chunling Catherine (PolyU)
Lecturer, Department of Applied Mathematics
Ph.D. The University of Hong Kong

Dr. Catherine Liu Chunling got her PhD in Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong in 2008, and got her postdoctoral training at National Institutes of Health, USA before she jointed Department of Applied Mathematics, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Dr. Liu's research interests focus on incomplete data analysis, longitudinal data analysis, non- and semi- parametric statistics, linear and non-linear modeling and regression analysis, sequential analysis in biomedical studies, and survival analysis. Dr. Liu will dedicate herself to the pursuit of scholarship, teaching, and education of the next generation.

Zhian Wang (PolyU)Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics Ph.D. University of Alberta, Canada

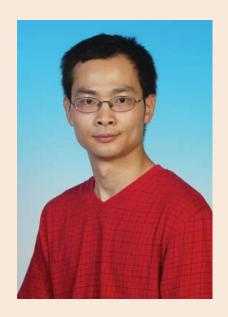
Dr. Zhian Wang's research interest is in mathematical biology and partial differential equations. Currently he is focused on the traveling waves of chemotaxis and applications, multi-scale and stochastic modeling of chemotaxis as well as global existence of solutions to the chemotaxis models with cell interactions. He is also interested in the mathematical modeling of wound healing and cancer development. Dr. Wang got Ph.D. from the University of Alberta on 2007 under the supervision of Professor Thomas Hillen. Then he moved to University of Minnesota to hold a position of postdoctoral associate at the Institute for Mathematics and Its Applications (IMA) from 2007-2009. From 2009 to 2010, he held a non-tenure track assistant professor at Vanderbilt University. From September of 2010, he starts to hold an assistant professor at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

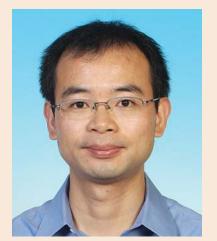


Maosheng Xiong (HKUST)

Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics Ph.D. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Maosheng Xiong got his Ph.D at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2007. From 2007 to 2010, he was an S. Chowla assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University. His research interest is in analytic number theory, additive combinatorics, expander graphs, and algebraic curves over finite fields. Building up several others' work, in his thesis he obtained the distribution of the size of Selmer groups and Tate-Shafarevich groups of quadrac twists of a large family of elliptic curves, classical objects in elliptic curves that has attracted many of the top researchers in number theory. He have also worked with collaborators on distribution of sequences related with Farey fractions, which are elementary objects but have applications in diophantine approximations, Dedekind sums, the Dedekind Eta function and torison points on elliptic curves. His current research is on analyzing distribution of zeros of zeta functions arising from, say, algebraic curves over finite fields. This study is motivated by and has implications in problems in algebraic geometry.





Xianhua PENG (HKUST)
Assistant Professor, Department of Mathematics
Ph.D. Columbia University

Dr. Xianhua Peng's research interests include Financial Mathematics and Engineering, Risk Management, and Applied Probability. He was a Fields Ontario Postdoctoral Fellow at Fields Institute and York University from August 2009 to July 2010. He received a Ph.D. degree in Operations Research under the supervision of Dr. Steven S.G. Kou at Columbia University in May 2009. He got a B.S. in Information Science and a M.S. in Applied Mathematics in the School of Mathematical Sciences at Peking University in July 2000 and July 2003, respectively.

What's New

Qi-Man Shao was invited to speak in ICM 2010

Once every four years, mathematicians from all over the world gather at the International Congress for Mathematicians (ICM) to discuss the latest results in their research fields. This summer the ICM will be held in Hyderabad, India. Invited speakers for this international event all made significant contributions in their fields. We are extremely proud that our colleague Professor Qi-Man Shao has been invited to speak in the Probability and Statistics session.

His main research interests include limit theory in probability and statistics, self-normalized large and moderate deviation theory; high-dimensional and large-scale statistical analysis; Stein\'s method for normal and non-normal approximation, Gaussian random fields, random polynomials and matrices.He has coauthored two books entitled Monte Carlo Methods In Bayesian Computation (Springer 2000) and Self-normalized Processes: Theory and Statistical Applications (Springer 2009), and published over 130 articles in probability and statistics. He is an associate editor of The Annals of Statistics and The Annals of Applied Probability. He is an elected fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.



Qi-Man ShaoChair Professor
Department of Mathematics
The Hong Kong University of
Science and Technology

http://www.math.ust.hk/read_
more.php?file=4

News of ICM 2010

The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) 2010 has been held at Hyderabad of India during August 19-27th, 2010, under the auspices of the International Mathematical Union (IMU). The Fields Medals, the Nevanlinna Prize, and the Gauss Prize have been awarded during the congress' opening ceremony. In particular, the new prize "Chern Medal Award" has also been awarded for the first time. The four Fields Medal awardees of the year 2010 are: Elon Lindenstrauss, Ngô Bảo Châu, Stanislav Smirnov, and Cédric Villani. The winner of the Rolf Nevanlinna Prize 2010 is Daniel Spielman. The winner of the Carl Friedrich Gauss Prize for Applications of Mathematics 2010 is Yves Meye. The winner of the Chern Medal Award 2010 is Louis Nirenberg.

次貸危機與金融數學

楊曉光 唐躍 陳浩 (中國科學院數學與系統科學研究院)

一、引言

肇始於美國的次貸危機很快演變成一場波及全球的 金融危機,並且對世界經濟造成巨大的衝擊。在這場危 機中扮演主要角色的是次級貸款以及基於次級貸款的金 融衍生產品,而這些產品得以能夠有市場有交易,關鍵 就是能夠對它們進行定價,而金融衍生產品的定價,離 不開相對而言高深複雜的金融數學。

次級貸款(subprime mortgage loan)又名次級抵押貸款和次級按揭貸款。正常情況下,客戶向銀行或其他貸款機構申請貸款,定期償付本金和利息,形成貸款合約。但一部分客戶由於信用條件或其他原因未能滿足正常貸款發放的要求,貸款機構無法與他們簽署直接貸款協定,為了滿足這部分客戶的要求,貸款機構發放了對



楊 曉 光 (圖 左), 1986年清華大學應用 數學系畢業,1993年 獲清華大學博士學 位,現任中國科學院 數學與系統科學研究 院研究員。

唐躍,中國科學院數 學與系統科學研究院 博士生。

陳浩,中國科學院數 學與系統科學研究院 博士生。

客戶信用要求寬鬆但貸款利率更高的貸款,這就是次級貸款。具體而言,次級貸款即為發放給信用評分在500到620貸款人的住房抵押貸款。次級貸款的特點:發放貸款時不考慮借貸人的財務狀況;首付很低或者沒有首付;初始還貸利率很低;蘊涵著巨大的違約風險,歷史違約率遠遠大於優先順序和Alt-A級貸款。以前次級貸款人是不能獲得信用貸款的。2001年以後,美國房價上漲速度加快,形成房價持續上漲預期,各類房地產金融機構為了獲取更高利潤,在滿足優質客戶的信貸需求以後,開發面向次級貸款人、利率水準相對較高的次級貸款。從2001年到2006年,美國抵押貸款增長30%,次貸增長200%。

根據Inside Mortgage Finance 2007年的報告顯示,2001年到2006年間,次級貸款占按揭貸款的比重直線上升,由2001年的9%上升到2006年的23.8%。次貸風險得以放大並貫穿整個金融系統的載體是基於次貸的衍生產品,這些衍生產品的高收益是促進次貸膨脹的主要原因之一。據IMF統計顯示,從2001年到2005年,全球信用衍生品市場呈現爆發式增長,截至2005年,全球信用衍生品市場規模達到17萬億美元,2006年這一數字達到35萬億美元,與全球GDP總額大致相當。

在這些衍生品繁榮的過程中,金融數學是衍生品發展的理論基礎。衍生品的交易需要有價格作為交易的基礎,與普通商品不同,衍生品看不見摸不到的特性使得衍生品的價格確定無法通過人為簡單判斷估計確定。在20世紀,隨著金融數學作為一個獨立的學科分支出現,特別是BS期權定價公式出現後,金融家們發現金融數學模型可以為衍生品的定價工作提供支援,實踐效果也可以接受。隨著金融 衍生品的發展和繁榮,衍生品的結構越來越複雜,金融數學的工具也應用得越來越廣泛。2006年以前,利用金融數學模型為



衍生品定價的方法已經被普遍採用,金融數學專家也被業界和學術界視為天之嬌子。但是由於衍生品的大量使用是這次次貸危機爆主要原因之一,次貸危機發生後,社會上有一種觀點認為複雜的金融數學模型是華爾街金融大鱷們忽悠民眾、貪婪掘金的"幫兇"。本文在簡述次貸衍生產品在危機中的作用之後,對次貸衍生產品的基本定價模型進行考察,分析這些模型運用失當之處,並討論如何正確認識金融數學的作用。

二、衍生產品在次貸危機中的作用

這次次貸危機影響範圍廣,傳導鏈條長,具體 過程可以大致概括如下。首先,購房者與放貸機構 簽訂貸款合同,放貸機構為購房者提供住房貸款, 購房者按期償還貸款。這種類型的貸款相當於放貸機構持有了購房者的債權,而這種債權有購房者停止償還貸款的信用風險,所以放貸機構不願單獨承擔此類風險而希望把風險轉移出去。於是放貸機構與房利美,房地美和抵押貸款公司或銀行達成協定,放貸機構將購房者的貸款出售給上述機構。類似的,上述機構也不願意獨自承擔所有風險,於是購房者的貸款又以MBS的形式打包出售給投資銀行,投資銀行再將這些產品進一步採用CDO打包出售給保險機構和對沖基金等投資者。最後投資者之間會簽訂CDS等協定進行風險轉移。在這個金融創新鏈條上,牽涉到了商業銀行、抵押貸款公司、投資銀行、保險機構、對沖基金等金融機構,所以在這次次貸危機中,上述金融機構都受到了不同程度的影響。

具體而言,這次次貸危機涉及的衍生產品主要有MBS,CDO,CDS三類。

MBS(抵押貸款支持證券,即Mortgage backed security):MBS是將若干抵押貸款組成資產池,在其還本付息所產生的現金流基礎上發行的證券。MBS的金融原理第一是"打包";第二是"分級",即排定一個優先償付順序;第三是"升級",通過保險公司提供保險等多種手段,實現信用升級。

CDO(抵押債務債券,即Collateralized Debt Obligation),是將若干固定收益資產(MBS)再次打包,重新分配現金流價付的優先次序,再劃分出高層、夾層、權益層等不同層次的債券。CDO的發行人(通常是投資銀行)經過優先價付分級、信用升級等手段,保證高層債券從評級公司獲得AAA/Aaa評級。危機前的CDO呈現出兩個特點,一是高風險的次級抵押貸款經過層層包裝後,大部分進入CDO的高層和夾層,打上了投資級甚至AAA/Aaa評級的標籤;二是CDO的年回報率大致為300%,高於同等評級的傳統證券,出現了"同風險,不同收益"的怪現象。馬克思有句名言,"有300%的利潤,資本就敢犯任何罪行,甚至冒絞首的危險"。CDO的高回報率,使得投資機構對CDO產品趨之若鶩,進而創造出CDO2、CDO3乃至CDOⁿ等更多名目的衍生品種,並進一步推動了對次級抵押貸款及其證券化產品的需求。

CDS(信用違約掉期,即Credit Default Swap):信用違約掉期不局限於對一個實際的違約事件進行補償,它在交易條款中包含信用等級降低這樣的事件。在一個違約掉期交易中,風險保護的賣方將獲得買方提前支付或分期支付的一定費用作為回報,當信用資產的所有者違約或信用級別降低時,補償買方因此而承受的損失。在市場處於上升期的階段裏,CDS的賣方坐收無成本的現金流收益,而CDS買方信用產品的信用等級得到很大的提高,使得這些原本風險很大的產品進入投資級。在次貸危機之前,由於美國房地產市場的一路上揚,CDS買賣雙方都從中獲利,CDS得到蓬勃發展,全球CDS存量從2004年的6萬4千億美元,激增到2007年的57萬9千億美元。CDS的激增也推動了次級貸款、MBS、CDO的大幅增加。



三、次貸衍生產品定價模型的運用失當

目前,信用衍生產品定價主要分為兩大類,結構性模型(Structural Model)和簡約模型(Reduced-Form Model)。結構性模型由Merton(1974)首先提出,模型主要假設為公司資產服從對數正態分佈,當公司資產低於某門檻時,即發生違約,結構模型從描述信用產品發行人本身的資本結構入手,假定違約事件是由公司內部因素造成的。簡約模型是由Jarrow(1995)等人所提出,其主要模型假設為違約是隨機發生的,且服從隨機跳躍過程,簡約模型著眼于違約或信用評級變動等事件發生的概率,並將它與市場可觀測的信用利差聯繫起來,而不深究造成違約的原因。目前,多個資產間的違約相關性模型幾乎都是建立在這兩個模型之上,當前國際上流行的CDO定價方法主要是建立在簡約模型的基礎之上。

CDS是部分融資合成型CDO得以構建的基礎,而CDO證券的持有者 能否按期收回本金與利息,首先也取決於CDS是否違約,在次貸危機爆

發後,由於很多次級抵押貸款債權(參照實體)出現違約,很多超優先順序投資者因為支付不起巨額的 CDS賠償金而瀕臨破產,由於不能收到超優先順序投資者的賠付,發起人也不再向SPV支付CDS保費,這 就導致CDO證券出現違約,最終造成持有者CDO證券的投資者蒙受虧損。

因此,對合成型CDO的定價,首先也取決於對CDS如何定價。根據資產定價理論,任何金融產品的市場價值都等於一系列未來現金流的折現價值。一份CDS合同通常面臨兩種現金流,一種是固定的保費支出(a fixed premium),另一種是可能發生的賠償收入(a contingent payment)。CDS的定價實質上是設定CDS的息差(保費費率),而息差設定的標準是使得保費支出的現值等於賠償收入的現值,即CDS交易的淨現值應該等於零。

CDS定價可以按照如下步驟進行:首先確定保費支出的現值,然後計算賠償收入的現值,最後計算息差。在計算CDS價格時,最重要的兩個參數是折現率和違約概率。折現率與利率有關,一般假設利率滿足如下的隨機微分方程, $dr_{c}=a(b-r_{c})dt+\sigma dz_{c}$ 。

對違約概率而言,一般假設違約事件服從以為密度的Possion分佈, $d \ln(h_t) = a(b - \ln(h_t))dt + \sigma dz_t$ 。

CDO的定價過程中有四個關鍵要素,分別是每個借款人的違約概率(Probability of Default,PD)、每筆債權的名義價值(Notional Value,NV)、每筆債權的回收率(Recovery Rate,RR),以及借款人之間的違約相關性(Default Correlation)。前三個因素決定了特定借款人的違約風險可能造成的損失,即 $PD \times NV \times (1-RR)$ 。而違約相關性假定則決定了在同一個時點,CDO信用資產池中的所有資產發生違約的概率是多少,從而得出損失的潛在分佈(Potential Loss Distribution)。單個借款人的違約概率和回收率一般是通過借款人的信用評級(即歷史資料)獲得的,估計違約相關性的常用方法有蒙特卡羅類比法、因數 Copula模型法和靜態價差法,其中因數Copula 模型法已經成為國際上通行的CDO定價方法。

CDS和CDO的定價過程中,主要存在如下幾個問題。

首先,在對CDS和CDO進行定價時,通常假設貸款者有能力償還貸款,從而有穩定的現金流,這是定價的基礎,而真實情況是美國房地產市場的價格突然非預期地下跌,造成了大量信用違約事件。2000年到2006年的6年間,美國房地產市場持續繁榮,房價指數保持在10%的增長率,現房銷售基本保持正增長,特別在2004年至2006年間,現房銷售同比增長率在10%附近浮動,一度曾超過20%的增長率。然而從2006年開始,美國房地產一路下跌,房價指數同比增長從15%的增長高位連續不斷下跌到-10%附近。目前對違約概率和違約損失的估計有相似案例搜索,回歸和模擬等方法。無論採用哪種方法,如果採用06年以前的資料構建模型對未來預測,由於06年以前的資料都在10%以上,模型無法計算出目前房地產市場的負增長狀況,從而造成了模型對未來違約估計失效的情況。進一步,模型對違約相關參數的嚴重估計偏差將影響信用違約互換產品的定價,造成模型定價偏誤。

其次,在對CDS和CDO進行定價時,對折現因數的計算需要用到未來的利率,這種利率通常是通過歷史資料建立數學模型計算得到,無法將影響利率的重要因素,例如未來宏觀調控方向和力度等完全涵蓋。從2004年6月30日到2006年6月29日,美聯儲連續加息17次,聯邦基礎利率從40年來的最低點1.25%上升至5.25%。模型在歷史利率持續走低的情況下,很難預測得到這種持續上揚的情況,造成模型定價偏誤。

CDO有一個重要參數是違約相關性,目前模型對違約相關性的處理是利用歷史資料計算,但事實上違約相關性隨市場環境等不斷變化,歷史資訊無法反映所有情況,當市場出現逆轉時,歷史的違約相關性與實際違約相關性存在著重大的偏差,導致定價存在一定偏誤。

從上面CDO和CDS的定價模型可以看到,模型中參數都是以其 當前標底資產的屬性作為輸入參數,而捲入危機的很大一部分衍生 產品的標底資產本身又是衍生產品。市場參與者由於無法掌握再上



一層標底資產的狀況,無法對它們的屬性(例如違約率、違約損失率)直接進行估計,只能在一定的假設 之下根據市場交易的信用價差來估計這些參數,而這種市場交易的信用價差只能反映對應層次市場參與者 的判斷,不能反映該衍生產品所包含的完整資訊。隨著衍生鏈條的加長,這種參數估計的偏差會越來越大。

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市場參與者對於衍生鏈條上各層次衍生產品信用價差的判斷,主要依據相應衍生產品的信用評級。一方面如上述而言,由於對違約率、違約損失率的估計不準確,評級機構對於衍生產品的信用評級難以準確;另一方面,評級結果是由人決定的,由於評級機構不受監管,評級機構與被評級機構的利益相一致,於是就造成評級結果的高估,次貸擔保債券的90%被授予AAA級,而美國非金融企業發行的證券中只有很小很小的比例能得到AAA級,出現了次級債務擔保的風險和財務最健全的公司債券的風險處於同一等級這種明顯不合理的現象。而這些卻不是金融數學模型能夠控制的。

最後,上述模型只考慮了信用風險,而實際中的流動性因素沒有被充分考慮。事實上,CDO產品是一種高度個性化的產品,一般被設計用來滿足某個機構的需求,CDO大多數隻被設計給 "買入持有"型的投資者,比如養老基金,保險公司等機構,這些機構正是看准了這種產品的高收益與高信用評級的特徵,而低的流動性意味著,一旦這些機構在CDO火爆的時候持有了過多的CDO,以後脫手將十分困難,市場參與者的同質性又使CDO的流動性進一步降低。因此當實體經濟的還款拖欠也就是信用風險被CDO放大過後,CDO的價值會急劇縮水,流動性幾乎喪失殆盡,隨後,信用衍生品市場開始動盪,而這反過來影響投資者的信心,導致投資者對風險進行重估,危機開始蔓延,投資者開始千方百計地拒絕任何高風險的固定收益品種,導致許多信貸行的對沖基金價值縮水,而這進一步加重了投資者的憂慮,引發新一輪的風險重估。

四、對金融數學發展及金融數學應用的啟示

金融數學的運用失當,應該說對某種意義而言在這次次貸危機中起到了一定的推波助瀾的作用。儘管相對於造成次貸危機的其他眾多因素中,金融數學的作用可能是最小的,但這促使我們去思考金融數學的未來發展。

首先,可以說人類有史以來,數學的主要應用領域是物理和工程,數學對物理與工程中問題的描述也相當成熟,從天體運行到微觀粒子,從太空梭到三峽大壩,數學已成為人類認識自然改造自然最有力的工具。但是利用數學對於人類社會活動的描述,特別是金融數學,如果從BS期權定價公式開始算起,只是短短三十多年的時間。相比與人類歷史,自然界的歷史要悠久很多很多,自然界幾十億年的演化,其運動規律比較穩定,因此其數學描述也有一定的穩定性。然而人類整個歷史不過上百萬年,人類文明史不過幾千年,人類市場經濟歷史不過幾百年,人類的衍生品交易歷史不過幾十年,現代金融還處在快速演化之中,而致力於衍生產品定價的金融數學還只是這演化中的一部分。因此金融數學在衍生產品定價上出現偏差是再正常不過的。此次次貸危機中的表現,不是金融數學的發展過度,恰恰是金融數學的發展不足。次貸危機帶給我們的啟示之一是需要大力發展金融數學。

其次,金融數學的應用,要認識到金融數學的局限性,不僅要認識到金融數學本身發展階段的局限性,認識到金融數學還不能像工程數學解決工程問題那樣可靠地解決金融問題,而且要認識到現在的金融數學模型本身並非萬能的局限性。衍生品定價中的金融數學模型是在已有資訊集下採用某種方法對未來未知的情況做出判斷。這裏有兩個關鍵因素。第一是資訊集,第二是採用的方法。對於首先說資訊集而言,無論如何努力搜集整理資訊,資訊總是不完全的,特別地,未來的資訊總是我們無法掌握的,即無法得到足夠充分的資訊將所有的未知轉化為已知,這種資訊的不完全性決定了模型對未知的估計總會存在偏誤。第二,採用的方法上,沒有絕對萬能的模型和方法,每一種方法都有其自身的嚴格假設和前提,當環境變化,這些假設和前提條件不再成立時,方法和模型也就出現了問題。

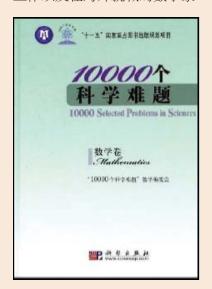
再者,如同數學可以精確地計算運載火箭的軌道,但不能決定運載火箭何時發射、目標是哪里、是裝載核彈頭還是裝載氣象衛星一樣,金融數學模型也不能決定模型的一個具體運用是為了提高整個社會所有成員的福利,還是被用來謀取少數人眼前的利益。金融危機的產生一方面存在著其歷史必然性,另一方面其產生的主要原因還是人類自身的貪婪行為。可以斷言,無論金融數學如何發展,都不可能杜絕金融危機的發生。金融數學是人類認識問題和分析問題的一種工具,它拓展了人類智慧,推動了人類社會的總體進步,金融數學的發展不會因為這次危機而停步,今後將會有更加廣闊的空間和更好的發展前景。

摘自《中國數學會通訊》 http://www.cms.org.cn/cms/index.htm

好書推薦 《10000個科學難題(數學卷)》 推薦人:張智民

科學出版社的《10000個科學難題(數學卷)》於2009年5月問世。由李大潛院士簽頭的編委會由47位國內知名數學家組成。251個數學問題用去了551頁的篇幅。雖然在10000個科學問題中佔的比例僅僅40分之一多一點點,但其內容涵蓋數學領域的方方面面,從傳統的數論,拓撲,幾何,代數,分析,微分方程,集合論,數理邏輯,函數論,圖論,到近代興起的科學計算,隨機過程,現代統計學,分形理論,計算複雜性理論,動力系統,弦理論,密碼學,以及圍繞相對論的數學理論,幾乎無所不包。問題的作者基本上由編委會邀請產生,其中有老一代德高望重的大師級人物如吳文俊(第471頁),但更多的是1977年恢復高之後進入大學的新一代數學家。除少數幾個例外,作者幾乎是清一色的中國人,包括在我國研究所或高校工作以及在海外就職的數學家。





本書的大部分問題由一位數學家提供,另有44個問題是兩位作者供稿,只有一個問題有三個合作者(第413頁)。供稿最多的個人是清華大學的馮克勤教授,獨攬5項問題(分別是第122頁,131頁,133頁,136頁,460頁)。另外兼有五項問題的作者都有合作者。

值得注意的幾點:第一,問題的作者大部分是77後,他們是在改革開放以後進入大學的,說明了我國數學界的中堅力量已實現了歷史轉型,走出了文革浩劫造成的十年斷代的陰影。第二,計算數學的很大一部分來自海外,從另一個方面提示這是一個新興的學科。第三,與純數學不同,計算數學很難提出幾個像黎曼猜想(第126頁)那樣乾淨利落的問題,有的往往是一個新的領域。第四,有三個希爾伯特問題入選,它們是:第九(133頁),第十二(136頁),和第十六問題(293頁);第五,有幾個千禧年百萬美元問題入選,如Navier-Stokes問題(第327頁)和量子楊-米爾斯問題(第381頁)。第六,就風格而言,本書可謂百家爭鳴。上百名作者,風格各異,問題的篇幅很不相同。最長的一篇(第114頁)包括參考文獻共八頁,儼然是一篇論文,而最短的不足一頁。

有人說,龐伽萊是最後一位數學通才,最後一個以全部數學,包括純粹和應用數學作為研究領域的人。如今數學的分支是如此之多,可以肯定,沒有哪一個人可以讀懂本書的所有內容,因為大部分問題是面向專家的。除少數問題外,即使從事數學工作的專業人員,也只能完全明白與自己領域相關的那些問題。就領域而言,恐怕只有一個例外,那就是數論。很多數論問題,稍稍有些數學知識的讀者就可以理解問題本身。這也許又一次印證了數學是科學的皇后,而數論是數學的皇后的說法。

對於任何一個從事數學專業的人員,本書都是一本不可多得的參考書。即使對其它專業的科學工作者,它也具有相當的參考價值。人們可以在書中找到專家對一些著名世界數學難題的精確而又通俗的解讀。比如圍繞哥德巴赫猜想,自從一九七八年《人民文學》第一期徐遲的報告文學問世以來,存在著種種神話和誤解。讀過中國科學院賈朝華研究員的注釋(第101頁),可以對這個著名猜想有一個全面的瞭解。

對於教育工作者,回答學生關於數學難題的疑問,本書無疑具有相當的價值。

數學領域的最新發展,將費爾瑪大定理以及龐伽萊猜想從未解決的著名數學問題的名單中去掉了。出版這套書的意圖之一就是喚起有志於獻身數學研究的青年樹立遠大目標,爭取以自己的辛勤工作甚至畢生精力讓更多的題目從本書的再版中消失。

本書列為"十一五"國家重點圖書出版規劃項目,16開本,裝禎堪稱一流,達到國際標準。清新的封面 封底設計讓人耳目一新。擺在書架上有一定的裝飾效果。翻開書頁,紙質厚實光潔,字跡醒目。最後要提一 下定價:人民幣118元。比起歐美同樣產品價錢要便宜很多,而在質量上卻毫不遜色。

Mathematics Conferences in 2010



East Asian Post Graduate Workshop on Soft Matter (UST, 28-30 April 2010)



International Conference on Applied Mathematics (CityU, 7-11 June 2010)



Workshop on Computational Imaging Science (HKBU, 12 August 2010)

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University	Conference	Date
CUHK	International Workshop on Inverse Problems http://www.ims.cuhk.edu.hk/conference/iwip2010/	23-24 April 2010 Venue: CUHK
HKU	Workshop on Complex Geometry http://hkumath.hku.hk/~imr/records0910/WCG-2010- Jul/2010Complex%20Geometry_1stAnn.htm	21-23 July 2010 Venue: HKU
CityU	The 4th Winter School on Applied Mathematics http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/ma/ws2010/	30 November- 10 December 2010 Venue: CityU
CityU	International Conference on Inverse Problems http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/ma/icip2010/	13-17 December 2010 Venue: CityU

Other Conferences in 2010

University	Conference	Date
HKUST	East Asian Post Graduate Workshop on Soft Matter http://pgworkshop.ust.hk/	28-30 April 2010 Venue: HKUST
CityU	International Conference on Applied Mathematics http://www6.cityu.edu.hk/rcms/ICAM2010/index.html	7-11 June 2010 Venue: CityU
HKBU	Workshop on Computational Imaging Science http://www.math.hkbu.edu.hk/ICM/workshop/WCIS10/	12 August 2010 Venue: HKBU
HKUST	The Shaw Prize Lecture in Mathematical Sciences 2010 http://shawprize.ust.hk/	29 September 2010 Venue: HKUST
HKUST	Meet with Scientists: Dialogue with Mathematics Giants http://ias.ust.hk/eng/events_detail.html?id=41⟨=en	29 September 2010 Venue: HKUST
HKUST	Distinguished Lecture: Expansion in Linear Groups and Applications http://ias.ust.hk/eng/events_detail.html?id=33⟨=en	30 September 2010 Venue: HKUST
HKBU	Joint China and Russia Conference on Computational Mathematics http://www.math.hkbu.edu.hk/JCRCCM10/	1-3 November 2010 Venue: HKBU
PolyU	International Conference on Applied Statistics and Financial Mathematics http://www.polyu.edu.hk/ama/events/conference/asfm2010/	16-18 December 2010 Venue: PolyU

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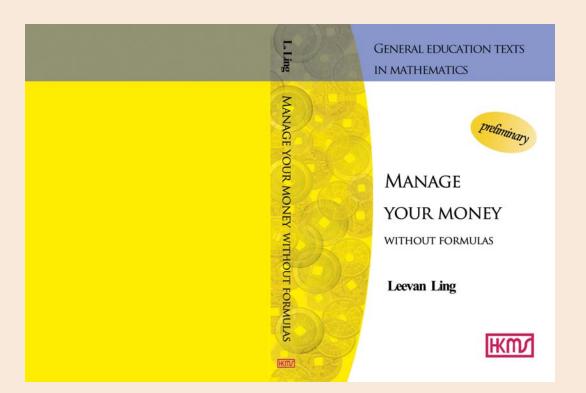
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Our Upcoming Textbook



This book begins with an introduction to different types of interest, followed by basic growth models and complicated annuity models commonly found in Hong Kong. Some chapters will include a section entitled "EXCEL Tutorial" that teaches the computer skills necessary to use a spreadsheet model and solve a problem. We will also cover more advanced ideas including forecasting trends in interest rates, estimating market-price behavior, and carrying out simulations. Taking the aforementioned into account, students will be able to select the best deal out of the overwhelming amount of financial plans offered by Hong Kong financial institutions and mathematically apply simulated stock prices to the real stock market. This book captures examples from real-life situations in order to guide students into building a strong foundation in logical thinking and problem solving skills, which will enable them to prepare a cost-benefit analysis as a decision-making tool in their daily lives. Local examples not only provide a sense of familiarity for students, but also make all the techniques acquired in this course applicable to Hong Kong situations. We hope that this book can open a window towards the use of mathematics in real life and make readers enjoy applying mathematics.

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