

A Multi-Asset Agent-Based Model

Richard Bookstaber ¹ Nathan Palmer^{1,2}

¹Office of Financial Research

²George Mason University

Research Consortium for Systemic Risk, June 11, 2012

Outline

- 1 Overview
- 2 The Model
- 3 Issues to Consider

General Applications of Agent-based Models

- Vulnerabilities and test for severity and path of shocks
- Efficacy of various risk metrics and suggest new ones
- Evaluation of importance of types of data
- Effects of policy actions

Objective

- Interaction of hedge funds and banks in a multi-asset framework
- Paths for market (and bank) contagion
 - e.g., for a given {leverage, concentration, liquidity}

Development

- Starting point: Thurner, et. al (2010).
- Refinements:
 - multi-asset
 - agent behavior
 - institutions and timing
 - short selling

Agents

- Noise traders
- Hedge fund managers
- Portfolio managers within each hedge fund
- Banks
- Investors

Basic Model Dynamics

- 1 Markets clear with noise traders and hedge funds fulfilling demands
- 2 Hedge funds borrow from banks, e.g., prime brokers
- 3 Hedge fund managers adjust leverage to manage margin constraints
- 4 Investors inject or extract capital based on individual hedge fund performance

Issues to Consider

- Number of Markets
- Measure of Concentration
- Measure of contagion
- Paths of stress:
 - 1 Price shocks
 - 2 Change in margin level
 - 3 Investor withdrawals
- Demand function specification
 - 1 Effect of immediacy
 - 2 Effect of high volatility

References



Thurner, S., Farmer, J. D. & Geanakoplos, J. (2010)
Leverage Causes Fat Tails and Clustered Volatility.
Cowles Foundation Discussion Paper No. 1745