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An Economic Capital study of the Pension Protection Fund and UK's Defined Benefit Pension Sector

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Actuarial Teachers and Researchers Conference (2014) – University of Edinburgh

December 2, 2014

Agenda

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Economic capital
- 3 Stochastic model
- 4 Model assumptions
- 5 Results
- 6 Conclusions

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- 1 Introduction
 - Background
- 2 Economic capital
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Background

Regulatory developments

- Basel 2/3.
- Solvency 2.
- Pensions Regulations.

Pensions: Developments in the UK

- Pensions Act (2004): PPF and the Pensions Regulator.
- Private pension membership: 46% (1997) to 32% (2012).
- DB scheme membership: 34% (1997) to 8% (2012).

Questions:

- 1 Impact of capital requirements on individual DB pension schemes.
- 2 Role of the PPF for the risk management of the entire sector.

Agenda

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Economic capital**
 - Formulation
 - Eligible schemes
 - PPF
- 3 Stochastic model
- 4 Model assumptions
- 5 Results
- 6 Conclusions

Economic Capital Formulation

Economic capital is the excess of assets over liabilities in respect of accrued benefits required to ensure that assets exceed liabilities on all future valuation dates over a specified time horizon with a prescribed high probability.

Notations:

X_t : Net cash flow of the scheme;

L_t : Value of s179 liability of the scheme;

$I_{s,t}$: Accumulation factor;

$D_{s,t}$: Discount factor.

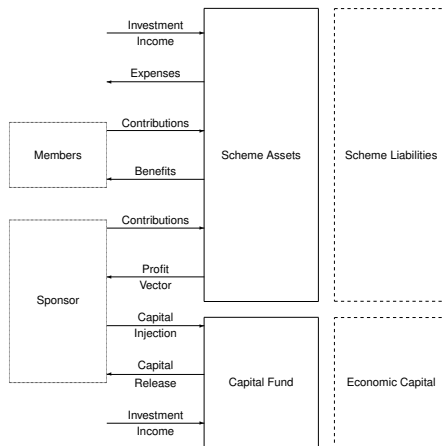
Building blocks

$P_t = L_{t-1}I_{(t-1,t)} - X_t - L_t$: Profit vector, with $P_0 = -X_0 - L_0$.

$R_t = \sum_{s=0}^t P_s I_{s,t}$: Accumulated retained profits until time t ,

$V_t = \sum_{s=t+1}^T P_s D_{t,s}$: Present value of future profits at time t .

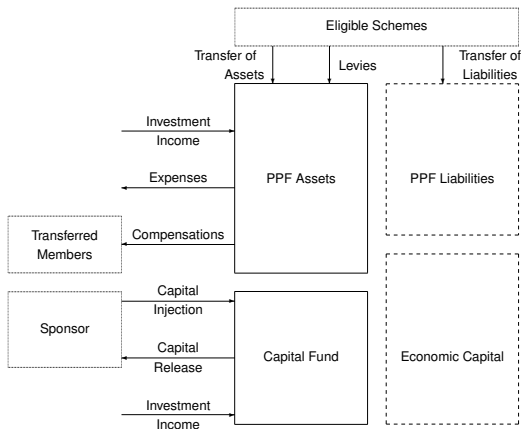
Eligible Scheme Cashflow and Capital Requirement



$$\text{Capital requirement: } C_t = \max \left[- \min_{s=t}^T V_s D_{t,s}, 0 \right].$$

$$\text{Economic capital requirement: } \rho(C_t) = \text{VaR}(C_t, p = 0.995).$$

PPF Cashflow and Capital Requirement



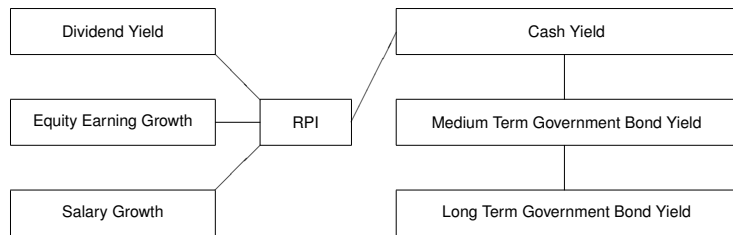
$$\text{Capital requirement: } C_t = \max \left[- \min_{s=t}^T R_s D_{t,s}, 0 \right].$$

$$\text{Economic capital requirement: } \rho(C_t) = \text{VaR}(C_t, p = 0.995).$$

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 - Economic variables
 - Longevity
- 4 Model assumptions
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Stochastic model: Economic Variables



The individual economic random variables, Z_{it} s, are modelled as:

$$Z_{it} = \mu_j + Y_{it}, \text{ where } Y_{it} = \beta_j Y_{i(t-1)} + \varepsilon_{it} \text{ and } \varepsilon_{it} \sim N(0, \sigma_j^2).$$

The error terms

- are assumed to be independently distributed across time t ;
- which are directly connected to each other are dependent;
- which are indirectly connected are still dependent, but more weakly so.

Stochastic model: Longevity

The mortality model used is developed in three steps:

- Step 1:** Set S1PM and S1PF as the baseline mortality tables for males and females respectively.
- Step 2:** Project these base mortality tables from year 2006 to year 2012 using the mortality projection table published by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.
- Step 3:** Finally, model the future stochastic mortality improvements starting from 2012 by modelling stochastic uncertainty around the central mortality projection (Sweeting (2008)).

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- 2 Economic capital
- 3 Stochastic model
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 - Membership profile
 - Model points
 - Investment
- 5 Results
- 6 Conclusions

Membership Profile

Table : Average membership profile of eligible schemes.

Membership group (Members)	Number of schemes	Average membership			Total
		Active	Deferred	Pensioner	
A: (5-99)	2,260	6 (13%)	23 (52%)	15 (35%)	44
B: (100-999)	2,828	56 (16%)	182 (52%)	113 (32%)	351
C: (1,000-4,999)	824	384 (17%)	1,103 (49%)	754 (34%)	2,241
D: (5,000-9,999)	192	1,231 (17%)	3,297 (46%)	2,601 (37%)	7,129
E: (Over 10,000)	212	6,651 (19%)	14,763 (42%)	13,608 (39%)	35,022

Model Points

Table : Eligible schemes model points.

Membership types	Age	Gender	Accrued service/benefit
Active	30	Male/Female	7 years past service
	40	Male/Female	16 years past service
	50	Male/Female	25 years past service
	60	Male/Female	34 years past service
Deferred	50	Male	Accrued pension of £3,000 per year
	50	Female	Accrued pension of £1,500 per year
Pensioner	70	Male	Pension of £6,000 per year
	70	Female	Pension of £3,000 per year

Assets, Liabilities and Investment Strategies

Table : Comparison of assets and liabilities.

	Estimated	Actual
Assets	£1,018b	£1,027b
Liabilities	£1,218b	£1,231b

Table : Distribution of eligible scheme by investment strategies.

Investment strategy	Asset allocation		Proportion of eligible schemes
	Equities	Bonds	
<i>L</i>	25%	75%	25%
<i>M</i>	50%	50%	60%
<i>H</i>	75%	25%	15%

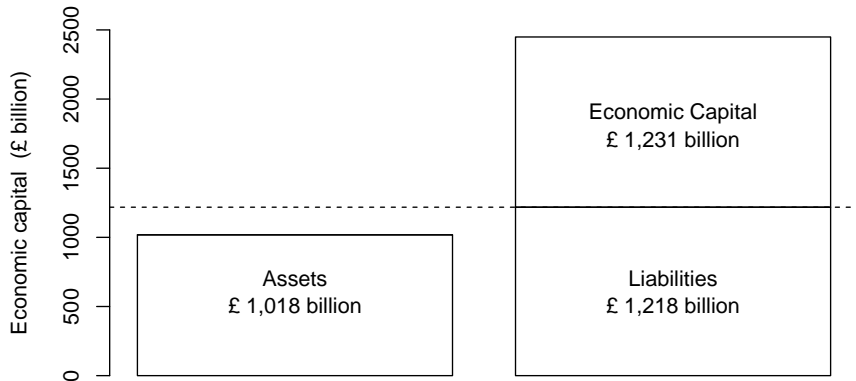
PPF broadly follows investment strategy *L*.

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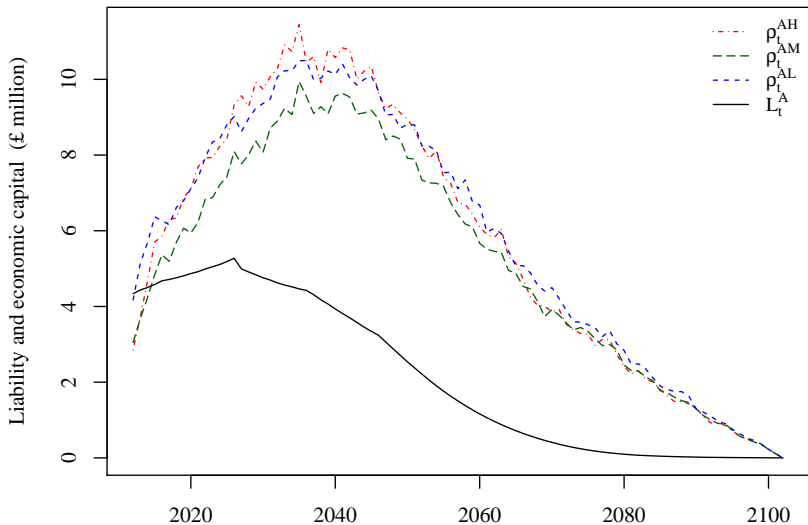
Aggregate Economic Capital for Eligible Schemes

As at 31 March 2012



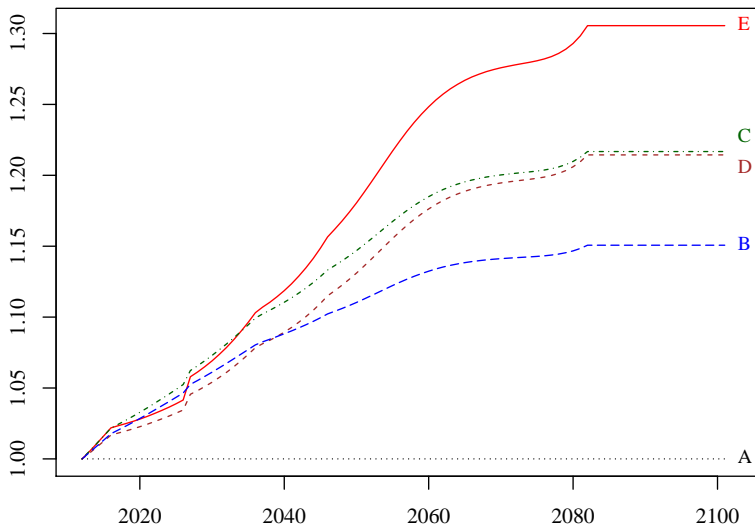
Economic Capital: Eligible Scheme in A

Membership group A



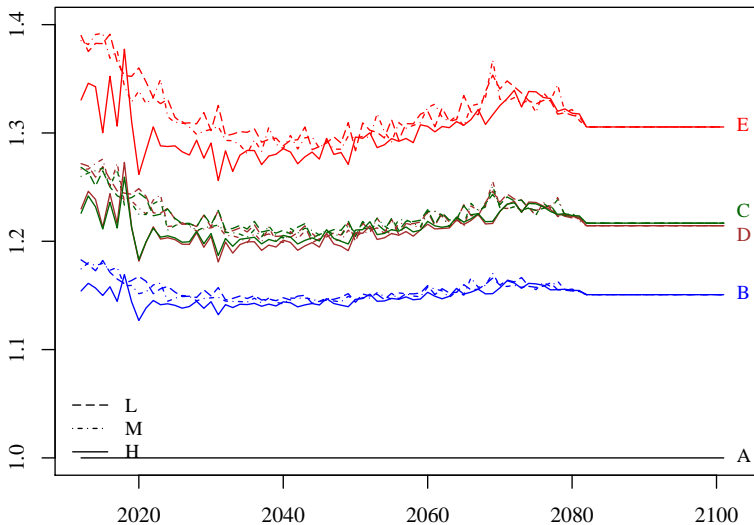
Eligible Schemes: Liability Comparison

L_t^X/L_0^X as multiples of L_t^A/L_0^A where $X=A,B,C,D,E$



Eligible Schemes: Economic Capital Comparison

ρ_t^{XY}/L_0^X as multiples of ρ_t^{AY}/L_0^A where $X=A,B,C,D,E$ and $Y=L,M,H$



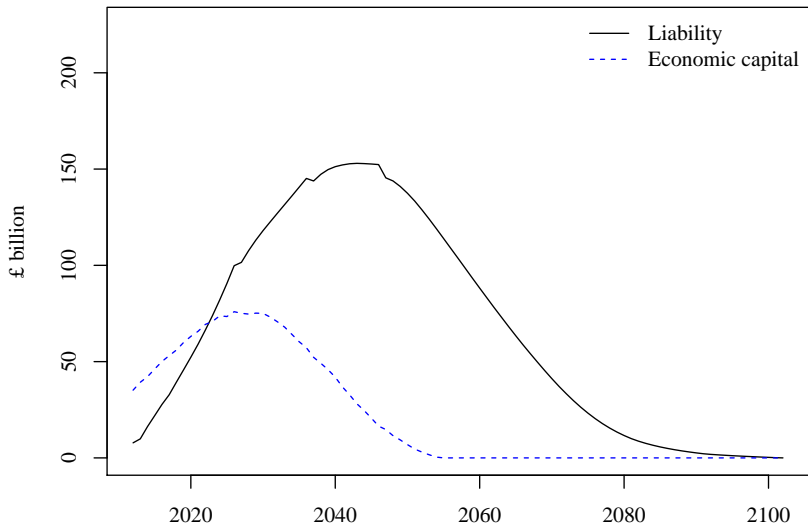
PPF: Some Additional Assumptions

- PPF levy: 0.072% of the total s179 liabilities.
- Amortisation period: 10 years.
- Funding cap: 120% of s179 liabilities.
- Insolvency rates:

Membership group	Annual insolvency rate
A	1.60%
B	0.95%
C	0.90%
D	0.53%
E	0.72%

PPF: Base Case Results

PPF schemes liability and economic capital : Base case



PPF: Sensitivity Results

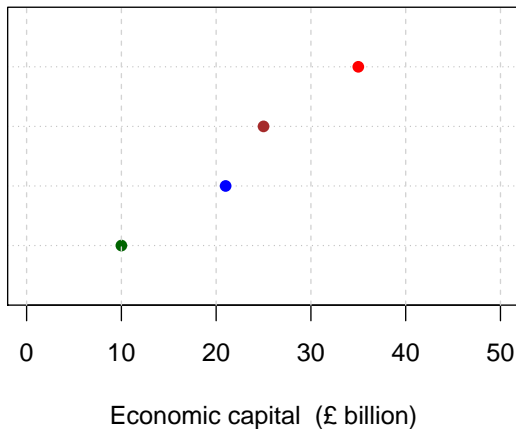
As at 31 March 2012

1: Base Case

2: 4-year Amortisation

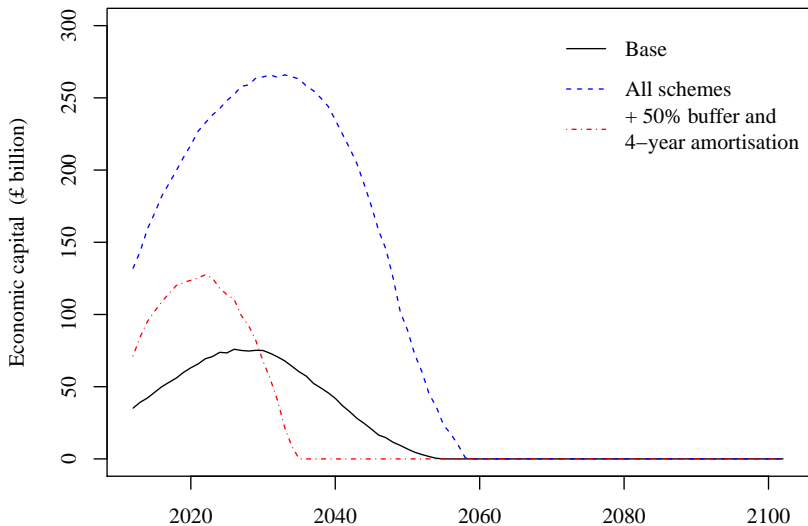
3: 50% Buffer

4: (2) + (3)



PPF Takes Over All Schemes With Insolvent Sponsors

PPF takes over all schemes with insolvent sponsors



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Conclusions

Summary

- Aggregate economic capital requirement:
 - ▶ On eligible scheme basis: **£1,200 billion**.
 - ▶ For PPF: **£35 billion**.
- **Reasonable capital buffer + shorter amortisation period** can bring down the economic capital requirement further.

Need a **holistic view**, taking PPF into account, while devising regulations for defined benefit pension sector.

References

YANG, W. & TAPADAR, P. (2014). Role of the Pension Protection Fund in Financial Risk Management of UK Defined Benefit Pension Sector: A Multi-period Economic Capital Study. *To appear in Annals of Actuarial Science*.