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Level and Slope of Volatility Smiles in Long-Run Risk Models

Nicole Branger, Paulo Rodrigues, Christian Schlag

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We propose a long-run risk model with stochastic volatility, a time-varying mean reversion level of volatility, and jumps in the state variables. The special feature of our model is that the jump intensity is not affine in the conditional variance but driven by a separate process. We show that this separation of jump risk from volatility risk is needed to match the empirically weak link between the level and the slope of the implied volatility smile for S&P 500 options.

LEVEL AND SLOPE OF VOLATILITY SMILES IN LONG-RUN RISK MOD-ELS

Nicole Branger<sup>†</sup>

Finance Center Muenster, University of Muenster, Germany

Paulo Rodrigues

Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands

Christian SCHLAG

 $<sup>^{\</sup>dagger} \ Universitaetsstrasse\ 14\text{-}16,\ 48143\ Muenster,\ Germany,\ e\text{-}mail:\ nicole.branger@wiwi.uni-muenster.de,\ phone:\ +49143\ Muenster,\ d\text{-}mail:\ nicole.branger@wiwi.uni-muenster.de,\ phone:\ +49143\ Muenster.de,\ phone:\ +49143\ Muenster,\ phone:\ +49143\$ 

Corresponding author. P.O. Box MD Maastricht, The Netherlands, p.rodrigues@maastrichtuniversity.nl, phone: +31 43 388 36 33

<sup>\*</sup> Theodor-W.-Adorno-Platz 3, 60323 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, e-mail:schlag@finance.uni-frankfurt.de, phone: +49 69 798-33699. Earlier versions of this paper were presented at the universities of Bonn, Tuebingen, Vienna, at the 12th Symposium on Finance, Banking, and Insurance in Karlsruhe, at the 2012 ESSFM Meetings in Gerzensee, and at the annual meetings of the German Finance Association 2012. We thank all conference and workshop participants for their comments and suggestions. All remaining errors are our responsibility. Christian Schlag gratefully acknowledges financial support by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) and research support from SAFE, funded by the State of Hessen initiative for research LOEWE.

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