2024 CFA Program: Level III Errata

27 September 2023

If you find something in the curriculum that you think is in error, please submit full details via the form at http://cfa.is/Errata.

- Corrections below are in bold, and new corrections will be shown in red; page numbers shown are for the print volumes.
- The short scale method of numeration is used in the CFA Program curriculum. A billion is $10^9$ and a trillion is $10^{12}$. This is in contrast to the long scale method where a billion is 1 million squared and a trillion is 1 million cubed. The short scale method of numeration is the prevalent method internationally and in the finance industry.

Volume 1

Capital Market Expectations, Part 2: Forecasting Asset Returns (LM 2)
- The last sentence of the second-to-last paragraph before Example 5 (page 87 of print) should read, “Adding in the risk-free rate, the expected returns for German shares and bonds would be 4.93% and 2.16%, respectively.”
- In the Solution to Practice Question 1 (page 127 of print), the sentence under the table should read, “Estimate of the expected return of an equal-weighted investment in the three securities: $(1\% + 2\% + 3.3\%)/3 = 4.21\%$.

Volume 2

Swaps, Forwards, and Futures Strategies (LM2)
- The last sentence of Practice Problem 24 (page 131 of print) should read, “Explain how Ko can use this information to understand potential movements in the current federal funds rate.” And the following sentence should be added: “Calculate the probability of an increase in 25 bps in the target range.”

Currency Management: An Introduction (LM3)
- In Practice Problem 14 (page 217 of print), the third sentence should read, “Overall returns can be enhanced by capturing opportunities between the US dollar and the Indian rupee (INR) within a range of plus or minus 25% from the neutral position consisting of 100% of the portfolio as valued in USD.”

Overview of Fixed-Income Portfolio Management (LM4)
- The second bullet after Exhibit 8 (page 250 of print) should read, “Coupon-paying bonds have less convexity than zero-coupon bonds of the same duration: A 30-year coupon-paying bond with a duration of approximately 18 years has less convexity than an 18-year zero-coupon bond. Coupon-bearing bonds have coupon payments that act as cash flows that partially offset changes in interest rates. These periodic coupon payments...”
payments create a flatter price-yield curve compared to zero-coupon bonds, leading to lower convexity.”

Volume 3
Yield Curve Strategies (LM1)
- The first sentence in Example 4 (page 17 of print) should read, “An investment manager who pursues the cash-based yield curve strategies described in Exhibit 5 faces an inverted yield curve (with a decline in long-term yields-to-maturity and a sharp increase in short-term yields-to-maturity) instead of a static yield curve post implementation.”
- In the table under Exhibit 9 (page 27 of print), the column heading “Coupon” should instead read “Yield to Maturity.”

Fixed-Income Active Management: Credit Strategies (LM2)
- In Example 4, the Solution to Question 2 (page 71 of print) should read, For the yield spread measure, neither the 1.29% spread nor the 7-year government rate of 1.39% has changed, so an analyst considering only these two factors would expect the bank bond price to remain unchanged. However, for the G-spread measure, the 20 bp increase in the 10-year government YTM causes the 8-year interpolated government YTM to change.
  - The 7-year and the 10-year bond weights for the interpolation are the same as for Question 1, \( w_7 = 66.7\% \) and \( w_{10} = 33.3\% \).
  - The new 8-year government rate is a weighted average of the 7-year bond rate and the 10-year bond rate using the weights in Step 1.
    \[
    r_{8yr} = w_7 \times r_{7yr} + w_{10} \times r_{10yr}
    \]
    \[
    = (66.7\% \times 1.39\%) + (33.3\% \times 1.86\%) = 1.55\%
    \]
  - The bank bond YTM has risen by 0.07% to 2.75% (=1.55% + 1.20%).
  - The bank bond price change can be estimated by multiplying the yield change by modified duration (\(-\text{ModDur} \times \Delta\text{Yield}\)) as in earlier lessons. This change can be calculated as \(-0.497\%\) (=\(-7.1 \times 0.07\%\)).

Note that we can confirm this using the Excel PV function \((=\text{PV (rate, nper, pmt, FV, type)})\) where “rate” is the interest rate per period (0.0268), “nper” is the number of periods (8), “pmt” is the periodic coupon (2.75), “FV” is future value (100), and “type” corresponds to payments made at the end of each period (0).

Initial bank bond price: 100.50 (=\(-\text{PV (0.0268, 8, 2.75, 100, 0)}\))
New bank bond price: \textbf{100} (=\(-\text{PV (0.0275, 8, 2.75, 100, 0)}\))
Price change: \textbf{−0.497\%} (= (99.39 − 100.50)/100.50)
- Equation 10 (page 82 of print) should read,
  \[
  E [\text{ExcessSpreadReturn}] \approx \text{Spread}_0 - (\text{EffSpreadDur} \times \Delta\text{Spread}) - (\text{POD} \times \text{LGD})
  \]
- In Example 28, in the Solutions to 1 and 2 (page 116 of print), Equation 10 is repeated but should read,
  \[
  E [\text{ExcessSpreadReturn}] \approx \text{Spread}_0 - (\text{EffSpreadDur} \times \Delta\text{Spread}) - (\text{POD} \times \text{LGD})
  \]
In the tables for both these solutions, the column header “Excess Spread” should read “Excess Spread Return.”
• In Example 29 (page 117 of print), the Solution to 1, the first sentence should read, “The investor should sell protection on the CDX IG Index and buy protection on the CDX HY Index.” The second sentence of the second paragraph should read, “Because the investor is long protection CDX HY and short protection CDX IG, the net annual premium paid is $400,000 (=10,000,000 × (−5.00% + 1.00%).” The last paragraph of the Solution to 1 should read:

The investor has a $17,800 loss from the CDX IG position (= (0.99244 − 0.99066) × $10,000,000) and a $178,000 gain from the short CDX HY position (1.0752 − 1.093) × −$10,000,000). So the one-year loss is −17,800 + 178,000 + 400,000 = −$239,800.

• In Example 29, the second sentence in the second paragraph of the Solution to 2 (page 118 of print) should read, “In this case, the investor takes the opposite position to that of Question 1, namely long CDX HY and short CDX IG, so The net annual premium paid is $400,000 (=10,000,000 × (5.00% − 1.00%).” The last sentence should read, “Subtracting the $400,000 net premium results in a one-year gain from the strategy of $697,000 under this scenario.”

Volume 5
Case Study in Risk Management: Institutional (PM LM 7)
• In the Investment Committee Meeting Memo 2.0, the figure in the second bullet under Memo 2A: Asset Allocation and Performance (page 487 of print) should read: