



Capital Markets

Homework # 3 (Due in class)

Preparation for Friday, November 5, 2004

Topic: Bond Arbitrage and T-Bills

Please clearly indicate “Homework #3” in the header of your turned-in answers for proper grade recording.

Preparatory Readings:

Re-read CP-2, Fabozzi, pp. 130-131

CP-3, Livingston, Chapter 8 (pp. 121-128)

Knowing how to read Wall Street Journal quotations is essential for solving the following problems. See pages 94-95 in The Wall Street Journal Guide to Understanding Money and Investing. Make sure that you locate the relevant column before looking for a specific security. For instance, for problem 1, you should first find the “Treasury Bills” column.

Bonds are quoted using a bid-asked spread. The difference between bid and asked is the profit a broker makes for “making a market”. You buy a bond using the asked price. You sell a bond using the bid price.

1. Use the attached page from the Nov. 16th 1999 *Wall Street Journal* (quotations as of Nov. 15th). There is a Treasury bill that matures on Jan. 6th, 2000. Assume the settlement date is Nov 16th.
 - a) What is the bill’s quoted bank discount asked yield?
 - b) What is the price you would have to pay to buy this bill at the quoted price on Nov. 16th?
 - c) Adjust this yield to compare it with the quoted yield on U.S. Treasury notes and bonds (i.e. adjust it to a bond-equivalent yield).
2. Use the attached issue of the *WSJ* to answer the following questions. Assume all trades settle (money exchanges hands) on November 15th at the prices quoted.
 - a) If you wanted to buy a \$1,000,000 face value position in the 7½ % Treasury Note which matures on November 15, 2001, what is the “invoice” price you would have to pay? i.e. the *WSJ* quote plus accrued interest?
 - b) What is the correct yield to maturity for this security at the quoted price?
 - c) What would the quoted price of this bond have to be in order for its yield to maturity to equal 6.00%?

- d) Construct a schedule of cash flows resulting from the purchase of \$1,000,000 face value of this note assuming it is held to maturity.
 - e) Now assume that settlement is on November 16th, rather than the 15th. What is the “invoice” price the buyer would pay if the *WSJ* quoted price remained the same?
3. *It is easier to solve this next problem with a spreadsheet. The key point of this exercise is that the cash flow generated by buying one treasury security can be replicated by buying a series of other treasury securities. The costs of buying these cash flows, however, may be different. It is like buying exactly the same goods (i.e., “cash flows” in our case), but paying different prices when buying single goods rather than an assortment pack. What would you do to attempt to profit from this potential mispricing situation? . . . of course something can be done after you map out the cash flows in question, construct a replicating portfolio using other securities, and calculate how much it will cost you to buy all the cash flows.*

Refer to the bond in Question 2 to answer the following questions. Settlement date remains Nov. 15, 1999.

- a) Consider the schedule of cash flows constructed in Question 2 part (d) for the 7½% Treasury Note which matures on November 15, 2001. Can a portfolio of Treasury Strips be purchased which would replicate the cash flows of the Treasury Note referred to in Question 2? (*Hint: The answer is YES!*) If so, how? Use “ci” T. Strips for coupon interest payments and “np” T. Strips for the ending principal payment. (*Hint: use the T.Strips that are marked with the dots on the attached WSJ Government Bond Page*).
- b) What would be the total cost of creating (purchasing) such a strip portfolio? (You’ll need to construct a spreadsheet for this.)
- c) Would the strip portfolio you constructed in b) be any more or less “risky” than the Treasury Note? Why is this important to know?
- d) Now consider a situation where you already own the Treasury Note in Question 2. What are the total proceeds you could likely get for it if you sold it?
- e) Compare the sales price calculated in d) to the cost of the portfolio calculated in b). Is there a difference? Is there a profit (i.e., *arbitrage*) opportunity for an investor here?
- f) Now consider a situation where you already own the strip portfolio that replicates the Treasury Note. How much could you likely get for this portfolio if you liquidated it (i.e. the bid price)?
- g) Compare the sales price calculated in f) to the total price in part a) of Question 2. Is there a difference? Is there a profit (i.e., *arbitrage*) opportunity for an investor here?
- h) **Advanced Question:** If this Note were being bought or sold on a non-coupon payment date (rather than an exact treasury six-month anniversary), what changes in your calculations would need to be made?

Attached is the WSJ Government Bond Page for use with Questions 1, 2 , and 3.

