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Efficient Jacobian evaluations for estimating zero lower bound term structure models

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Keywords

Black framework, zero lower bound, shadow short rate, term structure model

JEL Classification

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Efficient Jacobian evaluations for estimating zero lower bound term structure models

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Faster extended Kalman filter estimations of zero lower bound models of the term structure are possible if the analytic properties of the Jacobian matrix for the measurement equation are exploited. I show that such results are straightforward to incorporate, at least in Monte-Carlo-based implementations, and that will facilitate fast and robust estimations of zero lower bound term structure models with the iterated extended Kalman filter.

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1 Introduction

This article shows that faster extended and iterated extended Kalman filter estimations of Black (1995) zero lower bound (ZLB) models of the term structure are possible if the analytic properties of the Jacobian matrix for the measurement equation are exploited.¹

As background, interest rates for multi-factor Black (1995) models do not have closed form analytic solutions. Hence, calculating a set of model yields for a given set of state variables at time t and the parameters within a Black (1995) model, what I will call an implementation, necessarily requires numerical methods. For example, Black (1995) models using Gaussian affine term structure models to represent the shadow term structure (hereafter B-GATSMs) have been implemented with finite-difference grids, interest rate lattices, and Monte Carlo simulations; Kim and Singleton (2012), Richard (2013), and Bauer and Rudebusch (2013) are recent respective examples. Recent advances in Priebisch (2013) and Krippner (2013a) offer faster B-GATSM implementations, respectively via a close second-order approximation evaluated with numerical methods, and a Monte Carlo simulation with a control variate. The control variate is itself an alternative

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¹The terminology “zero lower bound/ZLB” is standard in the literature, even though a non-zero lower bound may be appropriate in practice to accommodate central bank policy rate preferences and/or institutional frictions; see Jarrow (2013) on the latter. Non-zero lower bounds can readily be incorporated into ZLB models; e.g. see Krippner (2013c) p. 5 or Wu and Xia (2013) eq. 1.

shadow/ZLB-GATSM framework proposed in Krippner (2012, 2013), which I hereafter call the K-GATSM.²

When estimating B-GATSMs, implementations will be required for each observation of yield curve data, and the complexity is further compounded by shadow/ZLB-GATSM measurement equations having a non-linear dependence on the shadow-GATSM state variables. Hence, B-GATSM estimations often employ the extended Kalman filter (EKF) with numerically evaluated Jacobian matrices at each observation to calculate the value of the log-likelihood function for a given set of parameters; e.g. see Kim and Singleton (2012) and Bauer and Rudebusch (2013) p. 10 as referenced earlier.³ Such estimations are therefore very time consuming given $N + 1$ implementations or $2N + 1$ implementations (where N is the number of factors) are required respectively for a first-difference or central-difference Jacobian approximation. In addition, because each implementation of a B-GATSM is subject to numerical approximation error, taking differences between implementations to obtain the Jacobian elements numerically could result in significant error magnification.

Fortunately, I show that it is easy to exploit the analytic properties of the B-GATSM measurement equation to obtain the Jacobian using the numerical implementations already undertaken for the central value of the state variables. That principle has already been exploited for K-GATSMs in Krippner (2013c) and Wu and Xia (2013), as I briefly illustrate in section 3 after outlining the appropriate notation for shadow/ZLB-GATSMs in section 2. In section 3, I first show that the same principle holds for the generic B-GATSM, and then illustrate how that result applies in practice to the estimation of B-GATSMs implemented with Monte Carlo methods. I conclude in section 5, noting that the IEKF estimations with analytic Jacobians are likely to be preferable to the EKF or unscented Kalman filter for B-GATSM estimations.

2 Shadow/ZLB-GATSMs and estimation

I adopt the generic GATSM specification from Dai and Singleton (2002) pp. 437-38 to define the shadow-GATSM. Hence, the shadow short rate is:

$$r(t) = a_0 + b_0' x(t) \tag{1}$$

where a_0 is a constant, b_0 is a constant $N \times 1$ vector containing the weights for the N state variables $x_n(t)$, and $x(t)$ is an $N \times 1$ vector containing the N state variables $x_n(t)$. Under the physical \mathbb{P} measure, $x(t)$ evolves as the following correlated vector Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process:

$$dx(t) = \kappa[\theta - x(t)] dt + \sigma dW(t) \tag{2}$$

where θ is a constant $N \times 1$ vector representing the long-run level of $x(t)$, κ is a constant $N \times N$ matrix that governs the deterministic mean reversion of $x(t)$ to θ , σ is a constant

²The Wu and Xia (2013) model is a discrete-time version of the K-GATSM, although it is derived differently. K-GATSMs are much quicker to implement than B-GATSMs, because they only require univariate numerical integration regardless of the number of factors, and they have been shown to give an acceptable approximation to B-GATSMs in practice; see Krippner (2013c), Christensen and Rudebusch (2013a, b), and Wu and Xia (2013).

³Kim and Singleton (2012) method confirmed by personal correspondence with the authors. Richard (2013) evaluates the log-likelihood function with a derivative-free method numerical methods, but repeated implementations are still required at each observation.

$N \times N$ matrix representing the potentially correlated volatilities of $x(t)$, and $dW(t)$ is an $N \times 1$ vector with independent Wiener components $dW_n(t) \sim N(0, 1) \sqrt{dt}$.

The market prices of risk are linear with respect to the state variables, i.e.:⁴

$$\Pi(t) = \sigma^{-1} [\gamma + \Gamma x(t)] \quad (3)$$

where γ and Γ are respectively a constant $N \times 1$ vector and constant $N \times N$ matrix. Under the risk-adjusted \mathbb{Q} measure, the process for $x(t)$ is:

$$dx(t) = \tilde{\kappa} [\tilde{\theta} - x(t)] dt + \sigma d\tilde{W}(t) \quad (4)$$

where $\tilde{\kappa} = \kappa + \Gamma$ and $\tilde{\theta} = \tilde{\kappa}^{-1} (\kappa\theta - \gamma)$.

For the purposes of the brief discussion of K-GATSMs in section 3, it is sufficient to note that the system described above produces closed form analytic solutions for shadow forward rates $f[x(t), \mathbb{A}, u]$ and annualized option volatilities $\omega[\mathbb{A}, u]$, as a function of the state variables $x(t)$, the parameter set $\mathbb{A} = \{\kappa, \theta, \sigma, \gamma, \Gamma\}$, and the time to maturity u (see Krippner (2013c) pp. 14-15 for details). For B-GATSMs, the path of the shadow short rate under the risk-adjusted \mathbb{Q} measure, $r(t+u)$, may be obtained from the solution to equation 4 (e.g. see Meucci (2010) p. 3), i.e.:

$$x(t+u) = \tilde{\theta} + \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}u) [x(t) - \tilde{\theta}] + \int_t^{t+u} \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}[u-v]) \sigma dW(v) \quad (5)$$

which gives:

$$r(t+u) = a_0 + b'_0 \left\{ \tilde{\theta} + \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}u) [x(t) - \tilde{\theta}] + \int_t^{t+u} \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}[u-v]) \sigma dW(v) \right\} \quad (6)$$

Regarding the estimation of shadow/ZLB-GATSMs, the state equation is that of the shadow-GATSM, i.e. the linear expression:

$$x_{t+1} = \theta + \exp(-\kappa\Delta t) (x_t - \theta) + \varepsilon_{t+1} \quad (7)$$

where Δt is the time increment between observations, the subscript t is an integer index for the time series of term structure observations, and ε_{t+1} is the $N \times 1$ vector of innovations to the state variable vector x_{t+1} .

The measurement equation for both the K-GATSM and B-GATSM may be represented as:

$$\underline{\mathbf{R}}_t = \underline{\mathbf{R}}[x_{t,i}, \mathbb{A}] + \eta_t \quad (8)$$

where $\underline{\mathbf{R}}_t$ is the $K \times 1$ vector of interest rate data $\underline{\mathbf{R}}[t, \tau_k]$ for the K maturities at time index t , η_t is the $K \times 1$ vector of components unexplained by the shadow/ZLB-GATSM, and $\underline{\mathbf{R}}[x_{t,i}, \mathbb{A}]$ is the $K \times 1$ vector of shadow/ZLB-GATSM rates $\underline{\mathbf{R}}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]$ for each maturity. The latter are obtained from an implementation of either the K-GATSM or B-GATSM, where $x_{t,i}$ is the estimate of the state variable vector at time index t and iteration i of the IEKF (the EKF sets $i = 0$). The K-GATSM uses interest rates defined by equation 11 in section 3, while the B-GATSM uses interest rates defined by equation 14 in section 4.

⁴This is the ‘‘essentially affine’’ specification from Duffee (2002), but for a model with full Gaussian dynamics. Also see Cheridito, Filipović, and Kimmel (2007) for further discussion on market price of risk specifications.

Estimating the K-GATSM or B-GATSM via the EKF or IEKF requires the $K \times N$ Jacobian matrix $H_{t,i}$ for $\mathbb{R}[x_{t,i}, \mathbb{A}]$. Omitting the parameter dependence hereafter and concentrating on a single maturity τ_k , each row of $H_{t,i}$ is defined as:

$$H_{t,i,k} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau_k] \Big|_{x(t)=x_{t,i}} \quad (9)$$

I provide $H_{t,i,k}$ for the K-GATSM in section 3 and derive $H_{t,i,k}$ for the B-GATSM in section 4.

3 K-GATSM term structures and Jacobian

K-GATSM forward rates are defined as (see Krippner (2013c) p. 16):

$$\underline{f}[x(t), u] = f[x(t), u] \cdot \Phi \left[\frac{f[x(t), u]}{\omega[u]} \right] + \omega(u) \cdot \phi \left[\frac{f[x(t), u]}{\omega[u]} \right] \quad (10)$$

where $\Phi[\cdot]$ and $\phi[\cdot]$ are respectively the cumulative normal and marginal normal density functions. The interest rate for a given maturity τ_k is obtained using the standard term structure relationship:⁵

$$\mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau_k] = \frac{1}{\tau_k} \int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{f}[x(t), u] \, du \quad (11)$$

In practice, calculating $\mathbb{R}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]$ for a given state variable vector $x_{t,i}$ proceeds via univariate numerical integration over time to maturity τ . That integration can be simplified to averaging the elements of the sequence $\underline{f}[x_{t,i}, 0], \dots, \underline{f}[x_{t,i}, \Delta\tau], \dots, \underline{f}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]$, which is in turn obtained from the associated sequences of the closed form analytic calculations of $\underline{f}[x_{t,i}, \Delta\tau]$ and $\omega[\Delta\tau]$ and the functions $\Phi[\cdot]$ and $\phi[\cdot]$.⁶

As detailed in Krippner (2013c) pp. 53-55, calculating the partial differential of $\mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau_k]$ in equation 9 and making the substitution $x(t) = x_{t,i}$ in the result gives row k of the Jacobian $H_{t,i}$ corresponding to $\mathbb{R}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]$, i.e.:

$$H_{t,i,k} = \frac{1}{\tau_k} \int_0^{\tau_k} b'_0 \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}\tau) \cdot \Phi \left[\frac{f[x_{t,i}, u]}{\omega(u)} \right] \quad (12)$$

The numerical evaluations of $\Phi[\cdot]$ are already required for the measurement equation, i.e. the calculation of interest rates $\mathbb{R}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]$ from forward rates $\underline{f}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]$ in equation 11. Therefore, no further implementations are required to obtain $H_{t,i,k}$.

4 B-GATSM term structures and Jacobian

B-GATSM bond prices for time to maturity τ may be defined generically as (see Krippner (2013c) p. 6):

$$\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau] = \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t \left[\exp \left(- \int_0^\tau \underline{r}(t+u) \, du \right) \right] \quad (13)$$

⁵A reference for this standard term structure relationship and others I use subsequently in the article is Filipović (2009) p. 7.

⁶ $\Phi[\cdot]$ does not actually have a mathematical closed form analytic solution, of course, but it is so well tabulated or approximated that it can be treated as having one. Also, it is more efficient in practice to calculate a single sequence of $\underline{f}[x_{t,i}, \Delta\tau]$ out to the longest maturity τ_K , and then simply use the results up to τ_k for the shorter maturities; see Krippner (2013c) pp. 52-53.

where $\tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t$ is the risk-adjusted expectations operator with $\underline{r}(t+u) = \max\{0, r(t+u)\}$, where $r(t+u)$ is as defined in equation 6 and $\max\{0, \cdot\}$ is the mechanism that imposes the ZLB.

B-GATSM interest rates $\mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau]$ are obtained from $\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau]$ with a standard term structure relationship, i.e.:

$$\mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau] = -\frac{1}{\tau} \log \{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau]\} \quad (14)$$

From equation 9, the row of the Jacobian $H_{t,i}$ corresponding to an interest rate $\mathbb{R}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]$ requires the partial differential of $\mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau_k]$ with respect to $x(t)$, i.e.:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau_k] &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \left(-\frac{1}{\tau} \log \{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]\} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{\tau} \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \log \{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]\} \\ \langle \text{Chain rule} \rangle &= -\frac{1}{\tau} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]} \log \{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]\} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k] \\ &= -\frac{1}{\tau} \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]} \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t \left[\exp \left(-\int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{r}(t+u) du \right) \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{\tau} \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]} \cdot \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \exp \left(-\int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{r}(t+u) du \right) \right\} \\ \langle \text{Chain rule} \rangle &= -\frac{1}{\tau} \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]} \cdot \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t \left\{ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \exp[y] \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \left[-\int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{r}(t+u) du \right] \right\} \\ &\quad \left\langle y = -\int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{r}(t+u) du ; \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \exp[y] = \exp[y] \right\rangle \\ &= -\frac{1}{\tau} \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]} \cdot \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t \left\{ \exp[y] \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \left[-\int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{r}(t+u) du \right] \right\} \\ &= -\frac{1}{\tau} \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]} \cdot \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t \left\{ \exp[y] \cdot \left[-\int_0^{\tau_k} \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \underline{r}(t+u) du \right] \right\} \quad (15) \end{aligned}$$

The partial differential of $\underline{r}(t+u)$ with respect to $x(t)$ is:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \underline{r}(t+u) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \max\{0, r(t+u)\} \\ \underline{q}(t+u) &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r(t+u) \leq 0 \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} r(t+u) & \text{if } r(t+u) > 0 \end{cases} \quad (16) \end{aligned}$$

From equation 6 with the normalization $\tilde{\theta} = 0$:⁷

$$r(t+u) = a_0 + b'_0 \left\{ \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}\tau) x(t) + \int_t^{t+u} \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}[u-v]) \sigma dW(v) \right\} \quad (17)$$

and therefore:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} r(t+u) = b'_0 \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}\tau) \quad (18)$$

⁷Setting $\tilde{\theta} = 0$ is a common (and convenient) normalization for the identification and estimation of GATSMs and shadow/ZLB-GATSMs; see, for example, Christensen and Rudebusch (2013a, b), Krippner (2013c), and Wu and Xia (2013).

Substituting that result into equation 16 gives:

$$\underline{q}(t+u) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r(t+u) \leq 0 \\ b'_0 \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}\tau) & \text{if } r(t+u) > 0 \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

and so the partial differential of $\mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau_k]$ with respect to $x(t)$ result becomes:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x(t)} \mathbb{R}[x(t), \tau_k] = \frac{1}{\tau} \frac{1}{\mathbb{P}[x(t), \tau_k]} \cdot \tilde{\mathbb{E}}_t \left\{ \exp\left(-\int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{r}(t+u) du\right) \cdot \int_0^{\tau_k} \underline{q}(t+u) du \right\} \quad (20)$$

Therefore, $H_{t,i,k}$ may be obtained by evaluating equation 20 directly using $\underline{r}(t+u)$ and $\underline{q}(t+u)$ generated with $x(t) = x_{t,i}$ in equation 17.

As an example of applying the generic B-GATSM Jacobian principle in practice, the Monte Carlo implementation for a B-GATSM is:

$$\widehat{\mathbb{P}}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k] = \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \exp\left[-\sum_{m=0}^M \underline{r}_{j,m} \cdot \Delta\tau\right] \quad (21)$$

where $\underline{r}_{j,m}$ is obtained from the Black ZLB mechanism $\underline{r}_{j,m} = \max\{0, \underline{r}_{j,m}\}$, with $\underline{r}_{j,m} = a_0 + b'_0 x_{j,m}$ and $x_{j,m}$ generated from a suitably discretized simulation of the state variable diffusion process under the \mathbb{Q} measure, i.e.:

$$x_{j,m} = x_{j,m-1} + \tilde{\kappa} [\tilde{\theta} - x_{j,m-1}] \Delta\tau + \sigma \sqrt{\Delta\tau} \tilde{\varepsilon}_{j,m} \quad (22)$$

Regarding notation, J is the number of simulations, j is the index for each simulation, m is the index for each step of the simulation, $M = \tau_k/\Delta\tau - 1$ is the number of steps for each simulation, $\tilde{\varepsilon}_{j,m}$ are independent $N(0, 1)$ draws, and $x_{j,0} = x_{t,i}$.⁸

Row k of the Jacobian $H_{t,i}$ is therefore:

$$H_{t,i,k} = \frac{1}{\tau_k} \frac{1}{\widehat{\mathbb{P}}[x_{t,i}, \tau_k]} \cdot \frac{1}{J} \sum_{j=1}^J \exp\left[-\sum_{m=0}^{M-1} \underline{r}_{j,m} \cdot \Delta\tau\right] \cdot \sum_{m=0}^{M-1} \underline{q}_{j,m} \cdot \Delta\tau \quad (23)$$

where:

$$\underline{q}_{j,m} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } r_{j,m} \leq 0 \\ b'_0 \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}\tau) & \text{if } r_{j,m} > 0 \end{cases} \quad (24)$$

The important point is that, because $\underline{q}_{j,m}$ is an elementary transformation of $r_{j,m}$, no further implementations are required to obtain the Jacobian beyond those already employed for the measurement equation.

5 Conclusion

This article shows that the principles for obtaining the Jacobian directly from the measurement equation calculations for the K-GATSM carries over to B-GATSMs. In particular,

⁸Analogous to the comment for the K-GATSM in footnote 4, it is more efficient in practice to simulate single paths of $x_{j,m}$ out to the longest maturity τ_K , and then use the results up to τ_k to obtain the results required for shorter maturities. Also, to maintain precise correspondence with the continuous time specification, the discretized $\tilde{\kappa}$, say $\tilde{\kappa}^*$, should actually be set to $\tilde{\kappa}^* = [I - \exp(-\tilde{\kappa}\Delta\tau)]/\Delta\tau$. However, because $\exp(-\tilde{\kappa}\Delta\tau) \simeq I - \tilde{\kappa}\Delta\tau$ the difference between $\tilde{\kappa}$ and $\tilde{\kappa}^*$ becomes practically negligible for suitably small values of $\Delta\tau$.

only a single implementation per yield curve observation is required for the EKF, and combining this result with the faster B-GATSM implementations described in Priebsch (2013) or Krippner (2013a) should allow for much faster EKF estimations of multi-factor B-GATSMs.

More importantly, only a single implementation is also required to obtain the Jacobian per IEKF iteration, and the IEKF has been shown to provide more robust results than the EKF when estimating K-GATSMs (due to the high non-linearity in shadow/ZLB-GATSMs; see Krippner (2013c) pp. 23-25). Faster B-GATSM implementations with several iterations of the IEKF should therefore provide more robust B-GATSM estimations than present EKF estimations. In addition, IEKF estimation should be faster than using the unscented Kalman filter estimation, as employed in Kim and Priebsch (2013), because the latter requires $2N + 1$ implementations for each observation of yield curve data.

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