# An Asset Based Model of Defaultable Convertible Bonds with Endogenised Recovery

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#### Abstract

We describe a two factor valuation model for convertible bonds when the firm may default. We endogenize both default and the recovery value of a defaulted bond.

A sophisticated numerical framework enables us to specify numerically and financially consistent boundary conditions and inequality constraints.

We investigate the affect of changing the default, recovery and loss specification. The affect of introducing a stochastic interest rate is quantified, and asset and interest rate delta and gammas are found. The bond's sensitivity to interest rate changes is about one tenth that of a corresponding defaultable straight bond, chiefly due to the presence of the conversion feature.

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# 1 Introduction

Convertible bonds (CBs) are widely issued securities that enable issuers to obtain relatively cheap finance in exchange for up-side gain. Only recently, however, have models begun to take unpredictable default of the issuer into account. This paper proposes a two-factor model for CBs in which the issuer may default. Our state variables are the firm's asset value and the short interest rate. The CB defaults either at the unpredictable jump time of a counting process, or when, potentially, the firm is required to make a cashflow to the CB. We endogenise recovery upon default into our model by assuming that the firm can invoke temporary protection against its creditors, leading to a quantification of the recovered value of the claim against the firm.

Let  $V_t$  denote the value of a firm's assets,  $S_t$  the value of its equity and  $D_t$  the value of the firm's debt, so that  $V_t = S_t + D_t$ . We assume the firm has a single debt class composed of convertible bonds.

Valuation models for convertible bonds fall into several categories, depending on the state variables of the model and how default is specified. Existing models take as their primary state variable either the asset value  $V_t$  or the stock value  $S_t$ , they may include or not a second state variable  $r_t$  representing interest rate risk, and default risk may or may not be modelled.

The early models of convertible bonds (Ingersoll (1977) and Brennan and Schwartz (1977)) follow Merton (1973) in using  $V_t$  with geometric Brownian motion as the sole state variable. McConnel and Schwartz (1996) have  $S_t$  as the sole state variable. Brennan and Schwartz (1980) and more recently Nyborg (1996) and Carayannopoulos (1996) include in addition a stochastic interest rate. Brennan and Schwartz and Nyborg assume the short rate follows a mean reverting log-normal process; Carayannopoulos assumes the short rate follows the Cox, Ingersoll and Ross (1985) model. Default risk is usually incorporated structurally by capping payouts to the bond by the value of the firm.

The majority of the recent literature uses  $S_t$  with geometric Brownian motion as the main state variable, incorporating either an interest rate variable, or default, or both. A variety of one-factor interest rate models have been used. The Vasicek (1977) or else the extended Vasicek (Hull and White (1990)) models are used by Epstein, Haber and Wilmott (2000), Barone-Adesi, Bermudez and Hatgioannides (2003), Bermudez and Nogueiras (2003), and Davis and Lischka (1999). Ho and Pteffer (1996) use the Black, Derman and Toy (1990) model; and Zvan, Forsyth and Vetzal (1998) and Yigitbasioglu (2002) use the Cox, Ingersoll and Ross model.

Of these papers, only Davis and Lischka (1999) and Yigitbasioglu (2002) also allow for default (although Ho and Pteffer incorporate a credit spread). In general, credit risk models fall into two main categories, structural and reduced form. In structural models such as Zhou (1997) and Longstaff and Schwartz (1995), default occurs when a state variable, usually  $V_t$ , breaches a barrier level. It is necessary to specify the process for  $V_t$ , the location of the barrier, and the form and amount of recovery upon default. In reduced form models, such as Finger (2000) and Jarrow, Lando and Turnbull (1997), default is

exogenous, occurring at the jump time of a counting process,  $N_t$ , with jump intensity  $\lambda_t$ . Reduced form models were analyzed by Duffie and Singleton (1999). The main issues in reduced form models are the specification of processes for the riskless short rate  $r_t$ , the hazard rate  $\lambda_t$ , and the loss rate  $w_t$ . Our model has both reduced form and structural features.

Dimensional problems restrict the use of more than two factors in a model. Single factor models that incorporate default risk and do so in the reduced form framework include Andersen and Buffum (2003), Takahashi, Kobayahashi and Nakagawa (2001) and Ayache, Forsyth and Vetzal (2002), (2003). Davis and Lischka (1999) present a reduced form modelling framework with several graphical comparisons. Tseveriotis and Fernandes (1998) and Yigitbasioglu (2002), extended by Ayache, Forsyth and Vetzal (2002), (2003), split the CB value into a bond part and an equity part each with its own discount rate. Tseveriotis and Fernandes and Yigitbasioglu impose a fixed credit spread between the discount rates. Ayache, Forsyth and Vetzal and Takahashi, Kobayahashi and Nakagawa determine the credit spread via a hazard rate in a reduced form framework. All of these models are equity based, with  $S_t$  as the main state variable.

Care is required to specify correctly what happens to the convertible bond when default occurs. When the underlying state variable is the asset value  $V_t$  it is relatively easy to so do in a logically consistent way. When the state variable is the equity value  $S_t$  considerable difficulties may arise. For instance boundary conditions are hard to specify in a financially consistent manner; some models may not require that when  $S_t \to 0$  the bond value goes to zero.

To avoid specification problems inherent in models based upon  $S_t$  we choose  $V_t$  as our primary state variable, taking care to impose financially consistent boundary conditions. We are not aware of other reduced form specifications that model default when  $V_t$  is the state variable.

We obtain values by solving numerically a partial differential inequality (PDI) using a finite element and duality method. Related methods have rarely been used in finance, but see Vazquez (1998), Forsyth et al. (2002), Zvan et al. (1998) and Zvan et al. (2001). Variational inequalities, which are fundamental to our numerical method, provide an excellent framework to deal with existence and uniqueness issues, as well as for numerical analysis. Finite element methods offer some computation advantages compared to finite differences and lattice methods.

We use the method of Barone-Adesi, Bermudez and Hatgioannides (2003) and Bermudez and Nogueiras (2003). Finite elements are used to discretise in space and the method of characteristics to discretise in time, yielding a tailored Lagrange-Galerkin discretization. The method of characteristics copes better with the degenerate nature of financial PDIs, avoiding instabilities that typically arise with other discretisation schemes.

In order to deal with the free boundaries arising from early exercise, we use a duality method over the variational formulation of the discretised problem, essentially a Lagrange multiplier method. This scheme implicitly incorporates

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Takahashi, Kobayahashi and Nakagawa also discuss a structural model of default.

the early exercise conditions, rather than explicitly applying them after evolving backwards in time at each step. This improves convergence.

We find that our recovery specification allows a wide range of behavior upon default. For illustrative examples we find that the sensitivity of the value of the convertible bond to changes in the asset value and interest rates depends crucially on the specification of a conversion feature. Its sensitivity to the specification of call and redemption features also depends on the conversion feature specification.

The second section of the paper describes the CB valuation model. The third section describes the numerical method. The fourth section presents numerical results, and the final section concludes.

# 2 An Asset Based Model for Convertible Bond Valuation

Suppose that the value  $V_t$  of the firm's assets follows a jump-augmented geometric Brownian motion under the objective measure,

$$dV_t = \mu_t V_{t-} dt + \sigma_V V_{t-} dz_t^V - w_t V_{t-} dN_t, \tag{1}$$

where  $z_t^V$  is a standard Brownian motion and  $N_t$  is a counting process with intensity  $\lambda_t$ .  $w_t$  is a proportional loss.  $N_t$  models exogenous default events. At a jump time  $\tau$  for  $N_t$  the asset value falls by a proportion  $w_{\tau}$ ,

$$V_{\tau} = V_{\tau} \quad (1 - w_{\tau}) \,. \tag{2}$$

Since we focus on asset risk and interest rate risk we assume that  $w_t$  is non-stochastic. Under the equivalent martingale measure (EMM) associated with the accumulator numeraire  $B_t = \exp\left(\int_0^t r_s \mathrm{d}s\right)$  the relative price  $V_t/B_t$  is a martingale so

$$dV_t = (r_t + \bar{\lambda}_t w_t) V_{t_-} dt + \sigma_V V_{t_-} dz_t^V - w_t V_{t_-} dN_t,$$
(3)

where  $r_t$  is the instantaneous short rate,  $\bar{\lambda}_t = \lambda_t (1 - \gamma)$  is the jump intensity under the EMM and  $\bar{\lambda}_t w_t$  is the compensator for the jump component of  $V_t$ .

We suppose that the firm has issued a convertible bond with market value  $D_t$  at time t. The bond matures at time T with face value F. At certain times  $t_i$ ,  $i=1,\ldots,N$ ,  $t_N=T$ , it pays coupons of size  $P_{t_i}$ , and  $V_{t_i}=V_{t_i-}-P_{t_i}$ . At certain times up to and including time T the bond may be converted to equity. Its value upon conversion at time t is  $\kappa_t V_t$  where  $\kappa_t$  is the proportion of the firms asset value acquired by the debt holders.<sup>2</sup> Dilution effects are absorbed into  $\kappa_t$ .

 $<sup>^2</sup>$  Unlike Ayache, Forsyth and Vetzal (2002) and Tsiveriotis and Fernandes (1998) we account for the affect of conversion upon the value of the firm's equity. At conversion, the firm's total value is unchanged but it becomes all equity.

We assume that the CB may be both callable and redeemable with call price  $C_t$  and redemption price  $R_t$  at certain times t. On any particular date the CB need be neither callable nor redeemable but we assume that if it is callable on some date then it is also convertible on that date. In the sequel we suppose that the call price and redemption price are imputed to accrue interest on coupons and that if  $t_i \leq t < t_{i+1}$  for coupon payment dates  $t_i$  the call price and redemption price are set to be

$$C_t = C + \frac{t - t_i}{t_{i+1} - t_i} P_{t_{i+1}}, \tag{4}$$

$$R_t = R + \frac{t - t_i}{t_{i+1} - t_i} P_{t_{i+1}}, \tag{5}$$

for constants C and R.

If the bond is redeemed, or if a coupon or principal is to be paid, we suppose that the firm may choose to default. We assume that if the firm defaults, whether exogenously or endogenously, the CB holders may choose to convert.

Our default specification has both reduced form and structural elements. Summarising, a default event may occur in one of two ways. Firstly, when the counting process  $N_t$  jumps the firm is supposed to have been hit by an unexpected exogenous default. Secondly, when a claim is made against the firm, specifically when the CB is redeemed or when a coupon or principal payment is due to be made, the firm may choose to default.

We first give a detailed specification of the components of the model. Then we display the PDI obeyed by the convertible bond value in this framework, and its boundary conditions.

#### Detailed Specification of the Model 2.1

To specify a model we need to define what happens to the CB value when default occurs, define the hazard rate process  $\bar{\lambda}_t$ , and provide an interest rate model. We consider each of these in turn. Finally we bring together the separate components into a fully specified model with a consistent set of boundary conditions and inequality constraints.

#### 2.1.1 The default event and recovery values

So far no assumptions have been made about what happens upon default. We now assume that at the time  $\tau$  of a default event the firm loses the right to call the debt, and that CB holders may no longer redeem the debt, but upon default the CB holders have the option to convert.<sup>3</sup> Write  $D_{\tau}^*$  for the value of the CB at a default time  $\tau$  and  $F_{\tau}^*$  for the recovery value of the CB at time  $\tau$ . Since bondholders have the option to convert in the event of default we have

$$D_{\tau}^* = \max\left\{F_{\tau}^*, \ \kappa_{\tau} V_{\tau}\right\}. \tag{6}$$

 $D_{\tau}^* = \max\left\{F_{\tau}^*,\ \kappa_{\tau}V_{\tau}\right\}.$   $^3$  We see below it may indeed be optimal for the CB holders to do so.

Now we consider the recovery value  $F_{\tau}^*$  of the convertible bond upon default.

Two main assumptions are made in the credit literature about the recovery value  $F_{\tau}^{*}$  of a defaulted bond. The first is to suppose that the ratio  $l_{\tau}$  $(D_{\tau_-} - F_{\tau}^*)/D_{\tau_-}$ , the loss in the event of default, may be modelled and so determine  $F_{\tau}^*$  from  $D_{\tau_{-}}$ . The second supposes that  $F_{\tau}^*$  is a function of the riskless present value to time  $\tau$  of the face value F.

Each of these assumptions has some attractions, but neither attempts to model the recovery process, regarding recovery values as exogenously determined and separately estimated. Most models of convertibles assume that the recovery value is a fraction of either the bond principal F (for example Andersen and Buffum (2003), Davis and Lischka (1999)), or the market price of the CB just prior to default  $D_{\tau_{-}}$  (for example Takahashi, Kobayahashi and Nakagawa (2001), or, in splitting schemes, some proportion of the bond part of the CB (for example Ayache, Forsyth and Vetzal (2003)).

We endogenise recovery into our model.

In practice default may occur when the firm value is significantly greater than the value of its obligations, a feature allowed in our model. The outcome of default is to put the firm into reorganization during which time it receives protection against the claims of its creditors. The effect is that even though theoretically the firm may have the capacity to fulfill the claims against it, in practice the values of the claims may be considerably less than their face values.

We operationalise this as follows. We interpret a default event simply as a trigger that puts the firm into reorganization, giving the firm protection against its creditors. Upon default at time  $\tau$  the bondholders have a claim of value  $F_{\tau}$ against the firm where

$$F_{\tau} = \begin{cases} F + P_{T}, & \text{if } \tau = T \text{ is at the maturity time } T, \\ F + P_{t_{i}}, & \text{if default is at a coupon payment time, } \tau = t_{i}, \\ \text{or a redemption date coinciding with a coupon date,} \\ F, & \text{if default is exogenous,} \\ \text{or at a redemption date not coinciding with a coupon date.} \end{cases}$$

Alternatively we could assume, for instance, that  $F_{\tau}$  contains accrued interest, or that on a redemption date  $F_{\tau} = \max\{F, R_{\tau}\}.$ 

We suppose that the protection offered by reorganization grants the firm a grace period of length s after default such that during this period the bondholders no longer have the right to enforce default but the firm has the option at any time during this period to choose to default. At a put time  $t \geq \tau$ , the recovery value of the CB is  $F_t^* = \min\{F_\tau, V_t\} = F_\tau - (F_\tau - V_t)_+$ , where we suppose that the bond holders' claim does not earn interest. Hence, given no disbursements or refinancing, at a default time  $\tau$  the value of debt is

$$F_{\tau}^{*} = \operatorname{Pv}(F_{\tau}) - p(V_{\tau}, F_{\tau}), \text{ where}$$
(8)

$$F_{\tau}^{*} = \operatorname{Pv}(F_{\tau}) - p(V_{\tau}, F_{\tau}), \text{ where}$$
 (8)  
 $V_{\tau} = V_{\tau_{-}}(1 - w_{\tau}),$  (9)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Ayache, Forsyth and Vetzal (2002) discuss in detail default issues in equity based models

for a put option p.<sup>5</sup> Effectively the bondholders are forced to give a put option to the firm allowing the firm to annul the bondholders' claim of  $F_{\tau}$  by transferring the firm to the bondholders.

For simplicity we suppose that default is a unique event. Once default has occurred we suppose the firm value follows a geometric Brownian motion but that the event of default influences the growth of firm's future asset value. If we suppose that both the CB and the firm's equity continue to trade during reorganization, then under the EMM the instantaneous return to the firm's assets is still the short rate  $r_t$ . However, it seems reasonable to suppose that the volatility of  $V_t$  may change, perhaps increasing, as a consequence of default. Denote the post-default volatility by  $\sigma^*$ . The recovery value  $F_{\tau}^*(V_{\tau})$  at default time  $\tau$  is thus determined by two parameter values, s and  $\sigma^*$ , each with a natural interpretation.

In the exposition that follows we employ a simplifying assumption. We suppose the firm may exercise the put only at the time  $\tau + s$ , so p becomes a European put. Effectively, after a default event, the bondholders are obliged to wait a period s before receiving a payment of min  $\{F_{\tau}, V_{\tau+s}\}$ . This assumption enormously decreases the complexity and cost of finding numerical solutions to (13).

A feature of our formulation is that at a default time  $\tau$  the CB holders never receive the amount of their claim,  $F_{\tau}$ . For instance at the maturity time T there will be a range of asset values where the firm will not default but where bondholders will not convert, receiving instead an amount equal to  $F_T$ . In our model if the bondholders do not convert they recover  $F_T^*$ , which can be significantly less that  $F_T$ . This behaviour could be inappropriate at moderate levels of the firm's assets. We can overcome this problem by allowing s to depend on  $\frac{V_T}{F_T}$  so that  $s \sim 0$  when  $V_T \gg F_T$ . However, this would complicate the model and in any case the effect is likely to be slight.

When at a default time  $\tau$  the asset value  $V_{\tau} \gg F_{\tau}$  is high we refer to 'technical default', since the CB will be converted.

#### 2.1.2 The Interest Rate Model

We assume the interest rate model is extended Vasicek. This model combines tractability with the flexibility to calibrate to a pre-specified initial term structure. The short rate process under the EMM is

$$dr_t = \alpha \left( \theta(t) - r_t \right) dt + \sigma_r dz_t^r, \tag{10}$$

where  $\theta(t)$  can be chosen so that model spot rates coincide with market spot rates. We set  $\mu_r \equiv \mu(t,r) = \alpha\left(\theta(t) - r_t\right)$  for the drift of r and write  $\rho$  for the correlation between  $z_t^r$  and  $z_t^V$ ,  $\mathrm{d}z_t^r\mathrm{d}z_t^V = \rho\mathrm{d}t$ .

The Vasicek model allows rates to become negative (with small probability). An alternative would be to use the CIR model in which rates are certain to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>We could also assume that the claim does earn interest, in which case  $F_t^* = \min \{ \operatorname{Fv}(F_\tau), V_t \} = \operatorname{Fv}(F_\tau) - (\operatorname{Fv}(F_\tau) - V_t)_+, \text{ where } \operatorname{Fv}(F) \text{ stands for the future value of } F, \text{ so that } F_\tau^* = F_\tau - p\left(V_\tau, \operatorname{Fv}(F_\tau)\right).$ 

remain non-negative. However, choosing the Vasicek model allows us to simplify the numerical procedure.

In the Vasicek model when  $\rho=0$  there is a simple explicit solution for  $p\left(V,r\right).^{6}$ 

#### 2.1.3 The Hazard Rate Process

We do not model the risk-adjusted hazard rate  $\bar{\lambda}_t$  with its own specific risk. Instead we suppose that  $\bar{\lambda}_t \equiv \bar{\lambda} (V_t, r_t)$  is a deterministic function of  $V_t$  and  $r_t$ . We assume that  $\bar{\lambda}_t$  decreases as both  $V_t$  and  $r_t$  increase. In principle a credit spread model implicitly determines an intensity function. In their single factor reduced form model Takahashi, Kobayahashi and Nakagawa explicitly assume that  $\bar{\lambda}_t \equiv \bar{\lambda}(S_t,) = a + bS_t^{-c}$ . Andersen and Buffum (2003) discuss several functional forms for  $\bar{\lambda}_t$ .

We allow  $\bar{\lambda}_t$  to depend on  $V_t$  and  $r_t$ . For concreteness we choose the functional form

$$\bar{\lambda}(V_t, r_t) = \lambda \exp(-(aV_t + br_t)), \qquad a, b \ge 0.$$
(11)

The coefficients  $\lambda$ , a and b control the background default rate and the sensitivity of  $\bar{\lambda}_t$  to  $V_t$  and  $r_t$ . Default risk decreases as  $V_t$  increases. As  $r_t \to -\infty$ ,  $\bar{\lambda}_t \to \infty$  so that default becomes inevitable.

Note that (11) does not require  $\bar{\lambda}_t$  to go to infinity when  $V_t$  goes to zero. However a consequence of our formulation is that  $D_t < V_t$  for all t, so that  $D_t$  goes to zero as  $V_t$  goes to zero without any constraint on  $\bar{\lambda}_t$ .

### 2.2 A PDI for a Convertible Bond

We need to specify both the PDI, its boundary conditions and inequality constraints.

#### 2.2.1 The PDI

By Itō's lemma (Protter (1995)) the process followed by  $D_t$  is

$$dD_{t} = \left(\frac{\partial D}{\partial t} + \left(r_{t} + \bar{\lambda}_{t}w_{t}\right)V_{t}\frac{\partial D}{\partial V} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{V}^{2}V_{t}^{2}\frac{\partial^{2}D}{\partial V^{2}}\right) + \mu_{r}\frac{\partial D}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{r}^{2}\frac{\partial^{2}D}{\partial r^{2}} + \rho\sigma_{r}\sigma_{V}V_{t}\frac{\partial^{2}D}{\partial V\partial r}\right)dt + \sigma_{V}V_{t}\frac{\partial D}{\partial V}dz_{t}^{V} + \sigma_{r}\frac{\partial D}{\partial r}dz_{t}^{r} + \Delta D_{t}\left(V_{t_{-}}\right),$$

$$(12)$$

where  $\Delta D_t (V_{t_-}) = D_t^* (V_t) - D_{t_-} (V_{t_-})$  is the change in the value of the convertible bond if a jump, hence a default, occurs at time t.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup>In fact in our numerical work we use this formula even when  $\rho \neq 0$ . The error introduced is slight (over our range of values of  $\rho$ ) and the numerical burden is considerably reduced.

Under the EMM the relative price  $D_t/B_t$  is a martingale. Imposing this condition we find,

$$r_{t}D_{t} = \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} + \left(r_{t} + \bar{\lambda}_{t}w_{t}\right)V_{t}\frac{\partial D}{\partial V} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{V}^{2}V_{t}^{2}\frac{\partial^{2}D}{\partial V^{2}} + \mu_{r}\frac{\partial D}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_{r}^{2}\frac{\partial^{2}D}{\partial r^{2}} + \rho\sigma_{r}\sigma_{V}V_{t}\frac{\partial^{2}D}{\partial V\partial r} + \bar{\lambda}_{t}\mathbb{E}_{t_{-}}\left[D_{t}^{*}\left(V_{t}\right) - D_{t_{-}}\left(V_{t_{-}}\right)\right]$$

$$(13)$$

Since we assume deterministic loss and recovery conditions this becomes

$$(r_t + \bar{\lambda}_t) D_t = \bar{\lambda}_t D_t^* + \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} + (r_t + \bar{\lambda}_t w_t) V_t \frac{\partial D}{\partial V} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_V^2 V_t^2 \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial V^2}$$

$$+ \mu_r \frac{\partial D}{\partial r} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_r^2 \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial r^2} + \rho \sigma_r \sigma_V V_t \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial V \partial r}$$

$$(14)$$

where in our formulation  $D_t^* = \max\{F_t^*, \kappa_t V_t\}$  and  $F_t^* = \operatorname{Pv}(F_t) - p$  for a put  $p \equiv p(V_t, F_t)$  where  $V_t = V_{t-}(1 - w_t)$ .

If  $V_t$  is the sole state variable this becomes

$$(r_t + \bar{\lambda}_t) D_t = \bar{\lambda}_t D_t^* + \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} + (r_t + \bar{\lambda}_t w_t) V_t \frac{\partial D}{\partial V} + \frac{1}{2} \sigma_V^2 V_t^2 \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial V^2}$$
 (15)

which is the form of equation (43) in Ayache, Forsyth and Vetzal (2003).

# 2.2.2 Inequality Constraints and Auxiliary Conditions for the PDI

We need to specify the final payoff to the convertible bond at time T and payoffs at intermediate times  $0 \le t < T$ . We also specify inequality constraints and other conditions on the bond's value.

At the Final Exercise Time T At times when a cash payment has to be made to the bond the firm has the option to default. At the final time T the firm will default if  $V_{T_-} < F_T$ . If  $V_{T_-} \ge F_T$  we suppose the firm acts to maximise the value of equity by minimising the value of the CB. Since the bond may convert upon default, we have

$$D_T = D_T^* = \max\{F_T^*, \ \kappa_T V_T\}. \tag{16}$$

There is a critical asset value  $V_T^* > F_T$  such that  $F_T^* = \text{Pv}(F_T) - p(V_T, F_T) = \kappa_T V_T^*$ . The CB holders will convert if  $V_T > V_T^*$ , whether or not the firm elects to default.

At Redemption and Call dates Consider a redemption date t at which the CB is not callable and which no coupon is paid. Redemption is at the option of the bondholders. If the bond is redeemed the firm has the option to default. If the firm defaults the CB holders have the option to convert. Hence

$$\max\left\{\min\left\{F_t^*, R_t\right\}, \kappa_t V_t\right\} \le D_t. \tag{17}$$

At a call date t there is an upper bound on the value of the bond. If it is called at time t the CB holders have the option to convert so

$$\kappa_t V_t \le D_t \le \min \left\{ V_t, C_t \right\}, \quad V_t < C_t / \kappa_t, D_t = \kappa_t V_t, \quad V_t \ge C_t / \kappa_t.$$

$$(18)$$

We can combine (17) and (18) into a single expression

$$\max \{\min \{F_t^*, R_t\}, \kappa_t V_t\} \le D_t \le \max \{\min \{V_t, C_t\}, \kappa_t V_t\},$$
 (19)

where  $R_t$  is set to zero on a non-redemption date,  $C_t$  is set to  $+\infty$  on a non-call date, and  $\kappa_t$  is set to zero on a non-conversion date.

At a Coupon Date Suppose a coupon of size  $P_t$  is due to be paid at time t and that no exercise conditions are invoked so that  $D_t^* = F_t^*$ . We suppose that the firm acts to maximise the value of equity. The firm has the choice of paying the coupon or defaulting so the equity value is

$$S_{t} = \begin{cases} (V_{t_{-}} - P_{t})_{+} - D_{t}, & \text{if the coupon is paid,} \\ V_{t_{-}} - F_{t}^{*} & \text{if the firm defaults,} \end{cases}$$
 (20)

so 
$$S_t = \max \left\{ \left( V_{t-} - P_t \right)_+ - D_t, \ V_{t-} - F_t^* \right\} > 0.$$

There is a critical value  $V_{t_-}^* > P_t$  with  $D_{t_-}^* \left( V_{t_-}^* \right) = P_t + D_t \left( V_{t_-}^* \right)$ , such that the firm defaults if  $V_{t_-} < V_{t_-}^*$  and pays the coupon otherwise. When  $V_{t_-} \ge V_{t_-}^*$  we have  $D_{t_-} \left( V_{t_-}^* \right) \ge P_t$ . Then, if there are no exercise conditions,

$$0 < D_t(V_t) = \begin{cases} D_{t_-}(V_{t_-}) - P_t, & V_{t_-} \ge V_{t_-}^*, \\ F_t - p(V_{t_-}), & V_{t_-} < V_{t_-}^*. \end{cases}$$
 (21)

Now suppose that exercise features are present. If we assume for simplicity that  $R_t = R_{t-}$ ,  $C_t = C_{t-}$  and  $\kappa_t = \kappa_{t-}$ , and that the CB specifies that  $F_t = F_{t-}$ , then the firm may choose to call just before the coupon is paid, but the CB holders will not elect to redeem or convert until after the coupon is paid. Then if  $V_{t-} \geq V_{t-}^*$  the firm does not default and

$$\max \{\min \{F_t^*, R_t\}, \kappa_t V_t\} \le D_t(V_t) \le \max \{\min \{V_t, C_t\}, \kappa_t V_t\}.$$
 (22)

Otherwise, if  $V_{t_{-}} < V_{t_{-}}^{*}$  the firm defaults and  $D_{t}\left(V_{t}\right) = D_{t_{-}}^{*} = \max\left\{F_{t_{-}}^{*}, \ \kappa_{t_{-}}V_{t_{-}}\right\}$ .

# 3 The Solution Method

Several numerical methods have been used in the literature to obtain CB values. Ho and Pteffer (1996) use a two factor lattice. Epstein, Haber and Wilmott (2000), and Yigitbasioglu (2002) use finite difference methods. Zvan,

Forsyth and Vetzal (1998) and Barone-Adesi, Bermudez and Hatgioannides (2003) use finite element schemes.

We use a finite element and duality method, with time discretised by the method of characteristics, to solve the PDI (14). Bermudez and Nogueiras (2003) give a full description of the numerical method. They present an algorithm for a general two factor PDI and apply it to valuation problems in finance. We summarise the general setting.

On a spatial domain  $\Omega$  and for given measurable functions f,  $A_0$ ,  $B_i$ ,  $A_{i,j}$ , H,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  of  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and t, the algorithm finds functions  $D(x_1, x_2, t)$  and  $P(x_1, x_2, t)$  such that in  $\Omega \times (0, T)$ 

$$P = f + A_0 D + \frac{\partial D}{\partial t} + \sum_{i=1}^{2} B_i \frac{\partial D}{\partial x_i} + \sum_{i=1}^{2} A_{i,j} \frac{\partial^2 D}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}, \qquad (23)$$

$$R_1 \le D \le R_2,\tag{24}$$

$$D(x_1, x_2, T) = H(x_1, x_2). (25)$$

The Lagrange multiplier P has the property that

$$R_1 < D < R_2 \Longrightarrow P = 0, \tag{26}$$

$$D = R_1 \Longrightarrow P \le 0, (27)$$

$$D = R_2 \Longrightarrow P \ge 0. \tag{28}$$

In the region where P = 0 the equality (26) holds. The surfaces separating the regions where P < 0, P = 0 and P > 0 are the free boundaries.

In our case we have

$$x_1 = r_t, (29)$$

$$x_2 = V_t, (30)$$

$$A_{11} = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_r^2, \ A_{12} = A_{21} = \frac{1}{2}\rho\sigma_r\sigma_V V_t, \ A_{22} = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_V^2 V_t^2, \tag{31}$$

$$B_1 = \mu_r, \ B_2 = (r_t + \bar{\lambda}_t w_t) V_t,$$
 (32)

$$A_0 = -\left(r_t + \bar{\lambda}_t\right), \ f = \bar{\lambda}_t D_t^*, \tag{33}$$

Early exercise features are modelled by the functions  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  and at a call or redemption date, for instance,

$$R_1(r_t, S_t, t) = \max\{\min\{F_t^*, R_t\}, \kappa_t V_t\},$$
(34)

$$R_2(r_t, S_t, t) = \max\{\min\{V_t, C_t\}, \kappa_t V_t\},$$
 (35)

and H is determined by the payoff function of the CB.

In the next section we specify the boundary conditions require by the numerical method.

# 3.1 Asymptotic Boundary Conditions

For numerical purposes we need to solve the PDI on a finite domain  $\Omega = \Omega^r \times \Omega^V$  where  $\Omega^r = [r_{\min}, r_{\max}], \ \Omega^V = [0, V_{\max}]$  and  $V_{\max} \geq R_t, C_t$  at all times when these are defined. At the boundaries of the solution domain  $\Omega$  we need to supply boundary conditions to our solution method. We suppose that asymptotic approximations can be applied at  $r_{\min}$ ,  $r_{\max}$  and  $V_{\max}$ .

Four boundary conditions are required. The convertible bond literature is often not explicit about the boundary conditions used. In our framework the asset boundary conditions, at  $V_t = 0$ ,  $V_{\text{max}}$  are straightforward, as are the conditions at  $r_{\text{max}}$ . There are problems if one tries to supply a boundary condition at  $r_{\text{min}} = 0$ . Instead we choose  $r_{\text{min}} < 0$ , a natural assumption in the Vasicek model where interest rates are not constrained to be positive.<sup>7</sup>

We suppose the final condition and inequality constraints are given by (16), (19) and (22) and explore asymptotic conditions. Since the PDI is solved backwards in time we re-formulate (21) and (22). On a coupon date t we first compute a value  $D_{t_+}$ , notionally the CB value immediately after the coupon has been paid, respecting exercise conditions at time  $t_+$ , post-coupon. We then find  $D_{t_-}$ , the CB value immediately before the coupon is paid, and impose exercise conditions at time  $t_-$ , pre-coupon. Then we continue iterating backwards.

Over the coupon payment time we have

$$V_{t_{-}} = V_{t_{+}} + P_{t}, \tag{36}$$

$$\widetilde{D}_{t_{-}}(V_{t_{-}}) = \begin{cases} D_{t_{+}}(V_{t_{-}} - P_{t}) + P_{t}, & V_{t_{-}} \ge V_{t_{-}}^{*}, \\ D_{t_{-}}^{*}, & V_{t_{-}} < V_{t_{-}}^{*}. \end{cases}$$
(37)

then the exercise condition is

$$\max \left\{ \min \left\{ \widetilde{D}_{t_{-}} \left( V_{t_{-}} \right), \ R_{t} \right\}, \ \kappa_{t} V_{t_{-}} \right\} \leq D_{t_{-}} \leq \max \left\{ \min \left\{ V_{t_{-}}, C_{t} \right\}, \ \kappa_{t} V_{t_{-}} \right\}.$$

$$(38)$$

First, consider a convertible bond with no coupons, convertible only at time T, nowhere callable or redeemable, where default occurs only at time T with no proportional loss and is modelled by setting the bond payoff to be  $D_T = \max \{\min \{V_T, F\}, \kappa_T V_T\}$ . We call this a simple CB. In this case the convertible value decomposes into the value of a defaultable straight bond and a call on the firm's assets, with explicit solution

$$D_t = V_t - c_t \left( V_t, F \right) + \kappa_T c_t \left( V_t, F / \kappa_T \right) \tag{39}$$

where

$$c_t(V_t, F) = V_t N(d_1) - \operatorname{Pv}(F) N(d_2), \qquad (40)$$

$$d_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{T-t}}\ln\left(\frac{V_t}{\operatorname{Pv}(F)}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\sigma\sqrt{T-t},\tag{41}$$

$$d_2 = d_1 - \sigma \sqrt{T - t}, (42)$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>We find that it is possible to choose  $r_{\min} < 0$  so that asymptotic conditions apply and the computation of  $\bar{\lambda}_t$  does not cause overflow.

 $N\left(\cdot\right)$  is the cumulative normal distribution function and  $\operatorname{Pv}\left(F\right)$  is the present value computed in the Vasicek term structure model.

Asymptotic Dirichlet and Neumann boundary conditions can be computed and are given in table 1. Note that limits as  $(V,r) \to (+\infty, -\infty)$  depend upon the direction of the limit. We found it best to use a Neumann boundary conditions at the  $r \to -\infty$  boundary, and Dirichlet boundary conditions at the other three boundaries.

Now consider the general CB.

**High asset value** As  $V \to \infty$  the CB effectively becomes an equity instrument and it will either be converted, or converted when it is called, at an optimal time  $t^*$  that does not depend upon V or the coupon stream. Then, ignoring the possibility of default, the bond value is

$$D_t = \kappa_{t^*} V_t + \widehat{P}_t^{t^*} \tag{43}$$

where  $\widehat{P}_{t}^{t^{*}} = \sum_{t \leq t_{i} \leq t^{*}} \Pr(P_{t_{i}})$  is the value at time t of the future coupons received up to time  $t^{*}$ .

In general (43) may be hard to compute, but when conversion terms are constant  $t^*$  is the first available conversion date. If continuous conversion is possible  $t^* = t$  and  $D_t = \kappa_t V_t$ .

Low asset value When V = 0 we have  $D_t = 0$ .

**High interest rate** As  $r \to \infty$  for t < T the present value of the principle F goes to zero. Cash becomes irrelevant and the time value of money is expressed in returns to the asset process. The payoff to the CB at time T is effectively  $\kappa_T V_T$ , and default is irrelevant. Payoffs, if received in cash, will be used to immediately buy the asset.

As before, suppose the bond is exercised by one party or the other at an optimal time  $t^*$ . It may be optimal to redeem if  $R_t/V_t$  is large enough, or to call when  $V_t < C_t/\kappa_t$  if future values of  $\kappa_t$  are large enough. At time  $t^*$  we have  $D_{t^*} = \kappa_{t^*}^* V_{t^*}$  where  $\kappa_{t^*}^* = \max\{C_{t^*}/V_{t^*}, \kappa_t\}$  if the bond was called and  $\kappa_{t^*}^* = \max\{\kappa_{t^*}, \min\{D_{t^*}^*, R_{t^*}\}/V_{t^*}\}$  if the bond is redeemed. Since cashflows are immediately used to buy equity,  $\kappa_{t^*}^*$  is the effective conversion ratio at time  $t^*$ . For high r,

$$D_t = \kappa_{t^*}^* V_t + \widehat{V}_t^{t^*} \tag{44}$$

where  $\hat{V}_{t_1}^{t_2} = V_t \sum_{t_1 \leq s \leq t_2} P_s / V_s$  is the value at time  $t_1$  of asset rebased future coupons received up to time  $t_2$ .

As before, this simplifies if conversion terms, et cetera, are constant and continuous, and we may set  $D_t = \kappa_t^* V_t$ .

Low interest rate When  $r \to -\infty$  the asset value becomes irrelevant and cash values dominate. Default occurs at the first cashflow date, if not sooner.

CB holders will wait for a default event at some time  $\tau$  and then take over the firm, so  $D_t = \mathbb{E}_t \left[ \text{Pv} \left( V_{\tau} \right) \right] = V_t$ .

We see that, with possible slight modification, table 1 gives the correct boundary conditions for a general convertible bond.

# 4 Numerical results

In this section we first benchmark the model, investigating the convergence properties of the numerical method. We then explore the affect upon CB values of altering parameter values within the model, looking particularly at the exercise conditions, asset and interest rate values and parameters, the recovery parameters s and  $\sigma^*$ , and the default parameters  $\lambda$ , a, b and w.

Each parameter has a base case value, and a high and a low value. These are given in tables 2, 3 and 4. For the base case we suppose that the CB has T=5 years to maturity with face value F=20. The CB may be converted at any time with indirect conversion ratio  $\kappa_t \equiv \kappa = 0.2$ . The CB pays a coupon of 0.6 every half year, an annual coupon yield of 6%. It is callable and redeemable at any time with the call and redemption prices determined from (4) and (5) with C=22 and R=18. The initial asset value is  $V_0=100$  and initial interest rate is  $r_0=0.06$ . For the default intensity function we set  $\lambda=0.15$ , a=0.015, b=1.5, giving  $\bar{\lambda}_t \in [0,0.7]$  over the domain, with  $\bar{\lambda}_t=0.03$  in the base case. For middling values of  $V_t$  and  $r_t$ ,  $\bar{\lambda}_t$  has about the same sensitivity to changes in each. Other parameter values are given in the tables.

We note that with this specification the convertible bond is at the money and that in the base case the likelihood of exogenous default is relatively low.

For the numerical method we use four mesh specifications of increasing resolution. Mesh 1 is the coarsest with just 20 space steps in the interest rate dimension, 40 in the asset dimension, and 50 time steps up to time T=5. Each successive mesh doubles both the number of space steps in each dimension and the number of time steps so that the finest mesh, mesh 4, has 160 interest rate steps and 320 asset steps, and 400 times steps up to five years.

# 4.1 Benchmarking

We benchmark to a simple CB whose value is given by (39), investigating convergence. Domain bounds are set to be  $\Omega^r = [-1,1]$  and  $\Omega^V = [0,800]$ .  $\Omega^V$  corresponds to roughly a 99.9% confidence interval on  $V_T$ . We give  $L^2$  errors over both the entire domain  $\Omega$  and also over a narrower region of interest  $\widehat{\Omega} = \widehat{\Omega}^r \times \widehat{\Omega}^V$ , where  $\widehat{\Omega}^r = [0,0.15]$  and  $\widehat{\Omega}^V = [25,400]$ .  $\widehat{\Omega}^V$  is roughly a 99% confidence interval on  $V_T$ .  $\widehat{\Omega}$  reflects a range of values of r and V likely to be observed in practice and so the error on  $\widehat{\Omega}$  is likely to be more representative.

The results are presented in table 5. Two sets of results are shown. The top panel uses analytical values on the boundary, the bottom panel uses asymptotic approximations, as given in table 1. In each case three of the boundaries are Dirichlet and fourth, at the lower boundary for r, is Neumann. 'Error TD' is

the error on the entire domain  $\Omega$ ; 'Error RI' is the error on the region of interest,  $\widehat{\Omega}$ . 'Factor' is progressive error reduction factor in moving to a finer mesh level from the preceding mesh level. Times are in seconds.<sup>8</sup>

We see that using both analytical and asymptotic boundaries the convergence rate is not as fast as the theoretical rate of 2, although on the region of interest the convergence rate is much faster than on the whole domain. Errors are significantly less, by a factor of 100, on the region of interest compared to the total domain. Errors are greater on the total domain with asymptotic boundary conditions, but they are of the same order of magnitude. On the region of interest the errors for analytical and asymptotic boundary conditions are the same to two significant figures, supporting our use of asymptotic boundary conditions in the sequel.

Subsequent tables are computed using mesh 4 and asymptotic boundary conditions. All specifications lie within the region of interest so, in line with the errors reported in table 5, CB values are reported to 3 decimal places. With early exercise possible, a typical execution time is around 6700 seconds, relatively independent of the CB specification.

## 4.2 The Recovery Specification

We investigate the consequences of our recovery specification, interpreting it by computing the implied recovery ratio  $\delta(V_t, r_t)$  defined as

$$\delta\left(V_{t}, r_{t}\right) = \mathbb{E}_{t}\left[\frac{F_{\tau}^{*}}{F} \mid V_{t}, r_{t}\right] \tag{45}$$

for a default time  $\tau$ .  $\delta$  is the proportion of face value the bondholders can expect to recover in the event of default if they do not convert.<sup>10</sup> We compute  $\delta$  for a simple CB. Table 6 shows  $\delta$  for a variety of initial conditions and recovery specifications. The entry in bold is the base case.

Our example is at the money but the default put is out of the money so the value  $F_T^*$  is approximately equal to the present value at time T of  $F_T$  paid at time T+s.

We see that the most important factor for expected recovery is the length of the reorganisation period, followed by the interest rate and then the initial asset value. Changing the volatility parameter has little effect when the reorganisation period is short, but has an effect comparable in size to the asset value change when s is longer.

Table 7 gives recovery rates for riskier CBs issued at a much lower asset value. The implied recovery rates are significantly smaller. With low asset values the put value is not negligible; default is no longer technical and CB

 $<sup>^8\</sup>mathrm{The}$  implementation was in Fortran 77 run on a 2.4 Mhz Pentium IV PC, with no special speed-ups.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>A convergence rate of order 2 has been proven for a related PDI, but not strictly for the PDI of this paper.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>When the CB is in the money default is technical and the CB will be converted.

holders will not find it optimal to convert, instead obtaining only the expected recovery rates given in the table. The affect of  $\sigma^*$  is now significant.

#### 4.3 Exercise Conditions

We investigate the affect of the presence or absence of the various exercise conditions. We consider a riskless coupon bond with default and various combinations of exercise conditions added in, ending with the full specification of the base case CB. We also give an approximation to the value of  $\partial D_t/\partial r$  found by central difference from CB values computed at different initial values of the interest rate.

Tables 8 and 9 show the results. 'Def' is defaultable (with recovery), 'Con' is convertible, 'Red' is redeemable and 'Call' is callable.  $\Delta$  and  $\Gamma$  are the CB delta and gamma respectively. The riskless bond values are Vasicek values computed analytically and shown for comparison. The base case value of the CB is 21.085, shown in bold. Tables 8 shows the standard case. For comparison, table 9 shows the effect of reducing the conversion factor from 0.2 to 0.15. We first discuss table 8.

With our specification and model parameters, the presence of default reduces the value of the corresponding riskless bond by a little over 5%. The bond has a high credit risk stemming from a relatively high endogenous default rate.

Adding the conversion feature increases the value of the CB by around 13% in the base case. The effect is similar at all levels of the initial interest rate. It is greater at higher values of  $V_0$  as the CB becomes more in the money, and at higher values of r. The introduction of the call feature reduces the value of the CB. The reduction is greater at higher values of  $V_0$  as the CB is more likely to be called. Adding the redemption feature has very little effect on the CB value, with our specification.

Asset deltas are not insignificant. They vary only a little as the initial interest rate changes. Introducing conversion to a straight defaultable bond increases the delta by a factor of 100. The call feature does not greatly affect the asset delta, reducing it slightly, and adding a redemption feature affects the asset delta very little.

 $\partial D_t/\partial r$ , the CB's rho, indicates the sensitivity of the CB to changes in the initial value of the interest rate. The conversion feature reduces the absolute size of the CB's rho by a fifth to a tenth, depending on the initial asset value. The redemption feature has little affect, but the call feature reduces rho at higher asset values.

Allowing the riskless bond to become defaultable reduces rho by roughly 20% and adding additional optionality reduces it further, by about 90% in the base case. For this CB, additional optionality effectively decreases the interest rate exposure of the CB and significantly increases its asset value exposure.

Table 9 shows how the situation changes if the conversion factor is significantly reduced, to  $\kappa = 0.15$ . Now the CB is out of the money.

 $<sup>^{11}</sup>$ These are reported 'plain', without division by the conversion ratio.

Adding convertibility increases the value of the defaultable bond by about 5%, but adding the call and redemption features has little affect on the CB value. Asset deltas are affected, but by much less that in the  $\kappa=0.2$  case. Rhos are reduced, but by much less than in the  $\kappa=0.2$  case.

The CB of table 9 is relatively 'bond-like' whereas that of table 8 is much more 'asset-like'.

Table 10 shows the affect of changing exercise conditions. Since the CB is at the money, changing the convertibility condition has a significant effect. Increasing the redemption level has little effect but changing the call level has a large effect for this at the money CB.

### 4.4 Parameter Deltas and Gammas

We investigate the sensitivity of the base case CB to changes in parameter values. We value the CB at the higher value and lower value of each parameter. The delta and gamma are then computed by central difference. Results are given in table 11. r is the initial value of the stochastic Vasicek interest rate. Later, table 15 considers the effect of changes to r where r is a constant interest rate.

Deltas are very small.  $\sigma_V$  has a greater delta than  $\sigma_r$ , and when  $\sigma_V$  is scaled by V (to make it comparable to an absolute volatility) the affect upon  $\Delta$  is even greater. Increasing the correlation  $\rho$  slightly increases the bond value.  $\theta$ , the level to which  $r_t$  reverts, has a slightly larger delta since it reflects the longer term value of  $r_t$ .

# 4.5 The Default Specification

We explore the consequences of changing the default specifications. Tables 12, 13 and 14 summarise the results.

Care must be taken in interpreting these tables. They assume that the initial asset value  $V_0$  and the default and loss parameters  $(s, \sigma^*, \lambda, a, b, w)$  may be determined independently, so that, for instance, the default rate might increase while  $V_0$  remains fixed. In practice an increase to  $\bar{\lambda}$  might be expected to cause  $V_0$  to fall, so that the CB value would be computed for a reduced value of  $V_0$ . This feature is not modelled by the specification (3), nor reflected in the tables. This suggests that a full defaultable bond model would need to endogenise the affect of default on  $V_t$ , perhaps by allowing  $V_0$  to be determined from future cashflow streams.

Note that these considerations do not affect the practical implementation of a model. Calibrating to market data fits to mutally determined values of  $V_0$  and the default and loss parameters, so CB values are correctly determined.

Table 12 shows sensitivities to the recovery parameters and base, high and low values of  $\bar{\lambda}_t$ , conditional on  $V_0$  remaining fixed. Table 13 shows the effect on CB values of  $\lambda$ , a and b individually taking high or low values, conditional on fixed  $V_0$ , and table 14 shows the affect upon the CB value of varying the loss rate, w, for different initial asset values  $V_0$ .

Bearing in mind the discussion above, because the rate of exogenous default in the base case is quite low, varying the hazard rate parameters and w seems to have little effect on CB values. Note that in table 14 when  $V_0 = 120$  it is optimal to immediately convert the bond.

### 4.6 The Effect of a Stochastic Interest Rate

We have seen the effect upon the bond value of changes is the parameters of the interest rate process. We can also test to find the extend of the affect upon the bond price of a stochastic interest rate. By setting  $\sigma_r = 0$  and  $r = \theta$  we effectively make r non-stochastic. We investigate the presence of a stochastic interest rate in more detail. Table 15 gives the results, looking at several sets of initial conditions.<sup>12</sup>

Since the coupon rate is close to current and future interest rate levels the CB price remains relatively stable as T increases. As we have seen elsewhere, the value of the CB is relatively sensitive to the initial asset value  $V_0$ , and is even more so to the conversion parameter  $\kappa$ .

Comparing to table 11, we see that making r constant at its initial value has the effect of increasing the value of the CB. Consistent with this, increasing the interest rate volatility when the rate is stochastic decreases the value of the CB, except for short times to maturity.

## 5 Conclusions

In this paper we have introduced a two-factor model for defaultable convertible bond pricing. The state variables are the firm asset value and the short interest rate. Default can be exogenous, at the jump time of a counting process, or endogenous at times that the firm must make a cash payment. We endogenise recovery into the model by supposing that upon default the firm enters a reorganisation period.

We price convertible bonds by solving numerically a PDI using finite elements to discretise in space and a method of characteristics to discretise in time. Early exercise is dealt with using a duality method in the variational formulation of the discretised problem.

Care has been taken to specify correctly the boundary conditions in the model, ensuring that these are financially and numerically consistent.

We have investigated the effect of introducing a stochastic interest rate and we have explored the consequences of our default, recovery and loss specification, finding that a wide range of recovery levels are possible, linked to a natural interpretation of the recovery process.

The sensitivity of the CB value to changes in the initial values of the asset and the interest rate have been investigated. We have found that with our specification the CB has a large asset delta and a relatively low sensitivity to

 $<sup>^{-12}</sup>$ When T increases or decreases, the time step  $\Delta t$  is held constant and the number of time steps is varied.

the initial interest rate. Adding the conversion feature increases the CB asset delta by a factor of 100.

We believe that the modelling framework presented in this paper is flexible and more realistic than formulations based upon the firm equity value as a state variable. Our endogenised recovery specification potentially allows a greater ability to estimate recovery values from the market.

We conclude that the flexible specification of this model may give it greater potential to explain empirical CB values than existing models in the literature.

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Boundary:		$V \to 0$	$V \to \infty$	$r \to -\infty$	$r \to \infty$
Dirichlet:	$D_t$	0	$\kappa_T V_t$	$V_T$	$\kappa_T V_t$
Neumann:	Neumann: $\frac{\partial D_t}{\partial V}$		$\kappa_T$	1	$\kappa_T$
	$\frac{\partial D_t}{\partial r}$	0	0	0	0

Table 1: Boundary conditions, simple CB

	Exercise parameter values								
Convertibility Callability Redeemability									
Base:	0.2	22	18						
High:	0.22	24	19						
Low:	0.18	21	16						

Table 2: Exercise parameter values

Process parameters								
		Fo	or $r$		Fo	r $V$	Corr.	
Parameter:	$r_0$	$\alpha$	$\theta$	$\sigma_r$	$V_0$	$\sigma_V$	ρ	
Base:	0.06	0.2	0.06	0.02	100	0.25	0.1	
High:	0.07	0.21	0.07	0.025	105	0.30	0.15	
Low:	0.05	0.19	0.05	0.015	95	0.20	0.05	

Table 3: Process parameter values

Defa	Default, recovery and loss parameters								
		Default		Reco	Loss				
Parameter:	λ	a	b	s	$\sigma^*$	w			
Base:	0.15	0.015	1.5	1	0.35	0.4			
High:	0.2	0.03	3	5	0.45	0.6			
Low:	0.1	0.003	0.3	0.25	0.25	0.2			

Table 4: Default and recovery parameter values

Error	Errors and Convergence, Analytical Boundary Conditions								
Mesh	Error TD	Factor	Error RI	Factor	Time				
1	$6.1E{-02}$	-	3.1E-03	-	3				
2	3.8E - 02	1.6E + 00	1.4E-03	2.2E + 00	17				
3	2.2E - 02	1.7E+00	7.4E-04	1.8E + 00	154				
4	$1.2E{-02}$	1.8E + 00	4.5E - 04	1.6E + 00	1648				

Errors	Errors and Convergence, Asymptotic Boundary Conditions								
Mesh	Error TD	Factor	Error RI	Factor	Time				
1	6.7E - 02	-	3.1E - 03	-	2				
2	4.7E - 02	1.4E+00	1.4E - 03	2.2E+00	15				
3	3.4E - 02	1.4E+00	7.4E - 04	1.8E + 00	146				
4	2.8E - 02	1.2E + 00	4.5E - 04	1.6E + 00	1648				

Table 5: Error and convergence

Recover	·y	Initial values of $(V_t, r_t)$						
parame	ters	(100, 0.06)	(80, 0.05)	(120, 0.05)	(80, 0.07)	(120, 0.07)		
	(1, 0.35)	0.941	0.942	0.945	0.937	0.939		
	(0.25, 0.25)	0.985	0.985	0.986	0.984	0.984		
$(s, \sigma^*)$	(0.25, 0.45)	0.985	0.985	0.986	0.983	0.984		
	(5, 0.25)	0.746	0.752	0.755	0.736	0.738		
	(5, 0.45)	0.721	0.715	0.736	0.704	0.722		

Table 6: The Implied Recovery Rate: Simple CB

Recover	y	Initial values of $(V_t, r_t)$				
parame	parameters		(30, 0.06)	(35, 0.06)		
	(1, 0.35)	0.854	0.885	0.904		
	(0.25, 0.25)	0.913	0.942	0.959		
$(s, \sigma^*)$	(0.25, 0.45)	0.904	0.935	0.953		
	(5, 0.25)	0.675	0.697	0.711		
	(5, 0.45)	0.577	0.606	0.628		

Table 7: The Implied Recovery Rate, Riskier CB

Ex	ercise (	Conditi	ions	$V_0$		r		$\partial D_t/\partial r$
Def	Con	Red	Call		0.05	0.06	0.07	
	Riskles	s Bond	i	100	20.569	19.992	19.432	-56.9
				95	19.280	18.835	18.366	-45.7
$$	-	-	-	100	19.285	18.840	18.370	-45.8
(D	efaulta	ble bo	nd)	105	19.290	18.845	18.374	-45.8
				$\Delta$	0.001	0.001	0.001	
				Γ	-4.0E-05	-3.9E-05	-3.6E-05	
				95	20.902	20.823	20.738	-8.2
$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	-	-	100	21.399	21.338	21.274	-6.2
				105	22.002	21.957	21.909	-4.7
				Δ	0.110	0.113	0.117	
				Γ	0.004	0.004	0.004	
				95	20.907	20.830	20.748	-7.9
	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	-	100	21.401	21.342	21.280	-6.1
				105	22.003	21.959	21.912	-4.5
				$\Delta$	0.110	0.113	0.116	
				Γ	0.004	0.004	0.004	
				95	20.749	20.672	20.588	-8.0
$$	$\sqrt{}$	-	$\sqrt{}$	100	21.134	21.081	21.024	-5.5
				105	21.579	21.551	21.520	-3.0
				$\Delta$	0.083	0.088	0.093	
				Γ	0.002	0.002	0.002	
				95	20.753	20.679	20.598	-7.7
√		$\sqrt{}$	$\checkmark$	100	21.136	21.085	21.029	-5.3
(Base case)			105	21.580	21.553	21.522	-2.9	
				$\Delta$	0.083	0.087	0.092	
				Γ	0.002	0.002	0.002	

Table 8: Effect of Exercise Features, base case, kappa = 0.2

Ex	ercise (	Conditi	ons	$V_0$		r		$\partial D_t/\partial r$
Def	Con	Red	Call		0.05	0.06	0.07	
	Riskles	s Bone	i	100	20.569	19.992	19.432	-56.9
				95	19.280	18.835	18.366	-45.7
$$	-	-	-	100	19.285	18.840	18.370	-45.8
(D	(Defaultable bond)			105	19.290	18.845	18.374	-45.8
İ				Δ	0.001	0.001	0.001	
				Γ	-4.0E-05	-3.9E-05	-3.6E-05	
				95	19.844	19.632	19.398	-22.3
$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	-	-	100	19.920	19.733	19.526	-19.7
				105	20.017	19.856	19.679	-16.9
				Δ	0.017	0.022	0.028	
				Γ	7.9E-04	9.0E-04	1.0E-03	
				95	19.869	19.670	19.449	-21.0
$\sqrt{}$			-	100	19.939	19.761	19.565	-18.7
İ				105	20.030	19.877	19.708	-16.1
İ				Δ	0.016	0.021	0.026	
				Γ	8.6E-04	9.7E-04	1.1E-03	
				95	19.839	19.625	19.388	-22.5
$\sqrt{}$		-	$\sqrt{}$	100	19.912	19.723	19.513	-20.0
				105	20.002	19.840	19.660	-17.1
				Δ	0.016	0.021	0.027	
				Γ	6.6E-04	7.7E-04	8.8E-04	
				95	19.864	19.663	19.440	-21.2
$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\checkmark$	100	19.931	19.752	19.553	-18.9
	(Base	case)		105	20.015	19.861	19.690	-16.3
				$\Delta$	0.015	0.020	0.025	
				Γ	7.2E-04	8.4E-04	9.5E-04	

Table 9: Effect of Exercise Features, low conversion rate, kappa = 0.15

	Conve	rtibility	Red.	Call		
l				Low High		
	Low	20.347	Low	20.722	21.307	
ſ	High	22.070	High	20.725	21.311	

Table 10: Sensitivities to changes in exercise conditions

		r-para	$_{ m meters}$	V-para	Corr.		
Parameter:	r	$\alpha$	$\theta$	$\sigma_r$	V	$\sigma_V$	$\rho$
High:	21.029	21.083	21.072	21.083	21.553	21.193	21.088
Low:	21.136	21.086	21.097	21.086	20.679	20.948	21.081
Delta:	-5.34	-0.16	-1.27	-0.23	0.09	2.45	0.07
Gamma:	-46.4	0.10	-3.00	-15.20	0.00	-11.52	-0.06

Table 11: Sensitivities to changes in parameter values  $\,$ 

Recovery		Hazard rate, $\lambda_t$			
Parameter		Base	High	Low	
	(1, 0.35)	21.085	21.112	21.080	
İ	(0.25, 0.25)	21.138	21.186	21.126	
$(s, \sigma^*)$	(0.25, 0.45)	21.137	21.186	21.126	
	(5, 0.25)	20.473	20.475	20.476	
	(5, 0.45)	20.324	20.317	20.330	

Table 12: Sensitivities to changes in default parameters

	Default Parameters			
Parameter	λ	a	b	
High	21.087	21.080	21.084	
Low	21.083	21.101	21.085	

Table 13: Sensitivities to changes in default parameters

Recovery		Loss rate, $w$			
Parameters		0.2	0.4	0.6	
	80	19.864	19.879	19.864	
$V_0$	100	21.071	21.085	21.094	
	120	24.000	24.000	24.000	

Table 14: Effect of Different Loss Rates

Initial		Stochastic $r$		Constant $r$			
Conditions		$\sigma_r$		r			
		0.015	0.02	0.025	0.05	0.06	0.07
T	1	20.983	20.986	20.989	21.075	20.988	20.901
	5	21.086	21.085	21.083	21.183	21.119	21.046
	10	21.087	21.086	21.084	21.184	21.123	21.049
$V_0$	95	20.681	20.679	20.676	20.826	20.729	20.619
	100	21.086	21.085	21.083	21.183	21.119	21.046
	105	21.553	21.553	21.552	21.604	21.571	21.531
κ	0.18	20.351	20.347	20.341	20.544	20.411	20.260
	0.2	21.086	21.085	21.083	21.183	21.119	21.046
	0.22	22.070	22.070	22.070	22.074	22.073	22.069

Table 15: Effect of a stochastic interest rate