



# ECONOMIC CAPITAL MODELING

## CARe Seminar

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### **Boston**

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## Economic Capital Modeling

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# Economic Capital Modeling

## Agenda Items

- Introduction and background
  - *what is it?*
  - *what is needed?*
  - *what risks are modeled*
  - *components of an Economic Capital Model*
  - *what is the output?*
- The use of industry-wide benchmarks in selecting capital model parameters.
- How should the underwriting cycle be considered when selecting capital model parameters?
- Model Validation
- Uses of the Economic Capital Model
  - *Application to business decisions*
  - *Capital attribution*

# Economic Capital Modelling

- “It’s not complicated; it’s just difficult”
  - Don Mango

The image shows a page of handwritten mathematical work. At the top, there are several lines of equations involving integrals and derivatives, such as  $\langle \phi | \phi \rangle = \langle \partial_x | \int dx \psi \rangle \langle x | \phi \rangle$ . Below the equations, there are two graphs. The left graph shows a bell-shaped curve (Gaussian distribution) with a peak at  $x=0$  and a vertical axis labeled  $|\psi(x)|^2$ . The right graph shows a parabolic curve opening upwards, with a vertical axis labeled  $V(x)$ . The handwriting is dense and includes various mathematical symbols and constants.

or




# Economic Capital Modelling

## What is it?

- A major *quantitative* part of the ERM program
- A way to *measure* capital needed; for various stakeholders
  - Internal ERM (e.g. board, management)
  - Regulators (e.g. SII, ORSA)
  - Rating Agencies (AM Best, S&P)
- May be *deterministic* or *stochastic*
- May be *“home-built”* or in a *professional software package*
- More and more companies are utilizing stochastic models in professional software packages

# Economic Capital Modelling (ECM)

## What is needed?

- ECM is emerging as its own (actuarial) discipline
  - Works best with dedicated resources
    - Depends on size, complexity of company
  - Modelling team is often part of the ERM function
  - Requires interaction with
    - Actuarial (Pricing and Reserving)
    - Ceded Reinsurance
    - Cat modelling
    - Finance
    - **Business Unit Leaders**
    - **Senior Management**
-  *For model “buy-in” : more later*

## Economic Capital Modelling

### What are the costs?

- Dedicated staff
  - Depends on size/complexity of company
  - Minimum for even a company of modest size is 1-2 FTE
- Hardware: Technology is now so advanced and hardware costs so low that powerful desktops (e.g. 12 core machines) are common and inexpensive
- Software: License fee or more staff to build/maintain in-house
  - There are several commonly available packages
  - In-house systems beyond spreadsheets require highly skilled developers
- Consulting costs: can be expensive! Easy to use, easy to learn software will eliminate most of this.
- Total cost of ownership is usually very reasonable compared to the benefit:  
*modelling the company's capital at risk!*

## Economic Capital Modelling

### What risks are typically modelled? [For a P&C (re)insurance company]

- Should cover most quantifiable, material risks to the company
- In practice this usually means the following
  - Underwriting risk (including cat risk): Future accident year(s)
  - Reserve risk: Changes in past accident years
  - Asset (investment) risk
  - Reinsurer Default Risk
  - Operational Risk
- Reinsurance may be managed in different ways
  - Model may be net of reinsurance
  - Model may be gross of reinsurance with reinsurance overlaid
  - Model may be a combination of these
- The correlation (or dependence) structure is highly important



# Components of an Economic Capital Model



## Economic Capital Modelling

### What data is needed?

- Quite a lot for a “robust” stochastic model!
- For UW risk (non-cat): need frequency/severity parameters for each line of business or segment in desired level of granularity
- For cat risk, need cat modelling by region, peril, LOB, segment. etc.
- For reserve risk need “reserve runoff parameters” – payout, volatility
- For asset risk need current asset holding and economic scenarios
- Reinsurer default and operational risk rarely have explicit data/parameters available and require more judgment
- Modelling of reinsurance requires all treaty details
- Data needs underscore the need for the modelling team to work with actuarial, reinsurance and finance (or asset management)

# Economic Capital Modelling

## What is the output?

- There is much variety possible
- The most basic output is the “capital need” usually defined as a tail point of a defined “total capital” metric
  - E.g. 1 in 200 VaR or TVaR
- Sample “Total Capital” metric (simplified)
  - Underwriting Risk + Reserve Risk - Asset Risk*, where
    - Underwriting Risk = Net Underwriting Loss = Loss – Premium + Expense
    - Reserve Risk = Change in Reserves
    - Asset Risk = Investment Income + Capital Gains
- Usual output is the distribution of each component and the total
  - *This reflects diversification and the correlation (dependence) structure*
  - *Shows the importance of dependence*

## Economic Capital Modelling Sample Output – “Total Risk”

	UW	Reserve	Asset	Total
95.0%	17.3	22.7	12.1	23.4
98.0%	26.9	30.2	13.9	34.4
99.0%	33.2	36.2	15.0	42.5
99.5%	39.9	41.7	15.8	50.0

	UW	Reserve	Asset	Total
95.0%	17.0	22.8	12.0	28.6
98.0%	26.6	30.5	13.9	42.7
99.0%	33.3	36.1	15.0	53.2
99.5%	39.7	41.4	15.8	63.2

*No correlation between  
UW and Reserve Risk*

*With correlation between  
UW and Reserve Risk*

## Economic Capital Modelling

### Sample Output

- Another key output is the distribution of year-end surplus
  - This is a left-tail distribution

<b>0.10%</b>	<b>499.7</b>
<b>0.50%</b>	<b>534.7</b>
<b>1.00%</b>	<b>550.1</b>
<b>2.00%</b>	<b>565.6</b>
<b>5.00%</b>	<b>585.5</b>
<b>10.00%</b>	<b>597.5</b>
<b>Mean</b>	<b>627.5</b>
<b>80.00%</b>	<b>647.5</b>
<b>90.00%</b>	<b>655.9</b>
<b>95.00%</b>	<b>662.5</b>

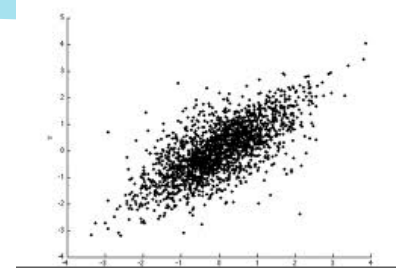
*Initial PHS = 600m*

*1% chance of loss of 9% of initial surplus*

- Useful for setting/monitoring risk tolerance statements
- “We want a <1% chance of losing 10% of surplus”

## Economic Capital Modelling

### How do we model correlation (dependence)?



- Correlation between what?
  - Within risk categories (between LOBs for underwriting or reserve risk)
  - Between risk categories (between underwriting and reserve risk)
  - Between assets and liabilities (uw/reserve risk and asset risk)
- Correlations for natural perils (e.g. EQ and FF or one peril across multiple regions) is generally built into the cat models so it is reflected in the capital model
- Mathematical methods – usually for non-cat underwriting risk, reserve risk
  - Copulas
  - Factor-based (e.g. indexes also known as “common drivers”)
  - Correlation vs. Causation
- Economic scenarios – for assets and inflation
- Developing parameters requires judgment (data may be limited)
  - Industry benchmarks can assist

# Economic Capital Modelling

## What are economic scenarios?



- Think of an “event set” for asset returns and inflations
- Typically includes bond yield curves, equity returns and inflations
- Naturally correlates all variables (similar to cat models)
- Produced by several major vendors
- *A standard input to most capital modelling software packages*

'Scenario	TimeStep	USA_appreciation	USA_divYield	CorpAAA_(0.25)	CorpAAA_(1)	CorpAAA_(2)	CorpAAA_(5)	CorpAAA_(10)	CorpAAA_(15)	CorpAAA_(30)	CorpAAA_default	CorpAAA_LossGivendefault	CPIUSA_InflationIndex	MedicalUSA_InflationIndex
[Data]														
1	0	0.0000000	0.0000000	0.0028980	0.0048520	0.0096270	0.0264800	0.0429500	0.0491100	0.0524100	0.0000000	0.0000000	0.0000000	0.0000000
1	1	0.0610000	0.0184900	0.0101800	0.0127400	0.0184200	0.0310600	0.0413800	0.0454600	0.0484900	0.0000000	0.3500000	0.0218800	0.0340500
1	2	-0.0777568	0.0185900	0.0176100	0.0202800	0.0265500	0.0415900	0.0540700	0.0579300	0.0590100	0.0000000	0.3500000	0.0334400	0.0513800
1	3	-0.0247317	0.0208800	0.0193900	0.0219900	0.0278300	0.0419000	0.0535700	0.0572000	0.0582900	0.0000000	0.3500000	0.0259500	0.0438400
1	4	0.3203395	0.0173400	0.0138600	0.0155400	0.0193700	0.0295200	0.0398200	0.0443100	0.0479800	0.0000000	0.3500000	0.0002011	0.0277200
1	5	0.0047619	0.0178700	0.0160300	0.0178700	0.0220800	0.0331100	0.0437200	0.0480100	0.0509800	0.0000000	0.3500000	-0.0142700	0.0149600
1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.0116100	0.0096710
1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.0023170	0.0275900
1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0217800	0.0525900
1	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0192900	0.0339400
1	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-0.0054940	-0.0191400

Equity Returns

Bond Yield Curves

Bond Defaults

Inflations

## Economic Capital Modelling

### Other considerations

- Single or multiyear
  - Multiyear can be extremely complicated: do you really need it?
  - Years are not independent; requires “decision rules”
  - If planning is multiyear, consider a deterministic model beyond year one
- Does it match “plan” at the mean for premiums, loss ratios, etc.?
  - Generally desirable to get “buy-in”
  - Matching both “gross” and “net” plan is not so easy
- Can the capital model be used for
  - Financial planning and not just ERM (solvency capital)
  - Time-sensitive reinsurance decisions
  - Capital allocation
  - Cat management



# Economic Capital Modelling

## When is it most effective?

- When there is business unit and management “buy-in”
  - Capital models should be used in planning and for business decisions
  - Business unit leaders can help validate the model
  - Management (and the board) should understand what the model does
- When there is dedicated modelling staff in the ERM department
- When actuarial, reinsurance and finance all support ERM
- When the model is not more complex than needed
- When it is seen as a benefit and not a cost
- When there is good communication between all stakeholders



# Economic Capital Model Process Overview

## INPUTS

### Independently Modeled Risk Towers

#### Underwriting Risk

##### Catastrophe Risk

- RMS and AIR by LOB and peril
- Model blending

##### Reinsurance Recovery Risk

- Schedule F data
- Reinsurer treaty participations
- Defaults based on AM Best FSR

##### Ex Cat UW Risk

- Claims data by LOB
  - Attritional
  - Large
- Reinsurance treaties
  - LOB correlation
  - Inflation scenarios

##### Reserve Risk

- Development scenarios by line of business
- LOB correlation
- Inflation scenarios

##### Investment Risk

- ESG files
- Year end bond holdings

##### Operational Risk

- Not yet quantified

## OUTPUTS

### Tower Results Combined

Pre-tax profit/loss results from Risk Towers combined via correlation matrix

### Capital Indications

Aggregate Risk Tower results used to measure overall capital adequacy at target

Link to risk preferences to establish a required amount of capital to run the business

### RORAC

Risk measures by LOB used to allocate indicated capital based upon target return

# Parameterizing Economic Capital Model

## Use of Industry Benchmarks

- Correlation: benchmarks appear to be more readily available within a particular risk category rather than between risk categories
- Coefficient of Variation (CV)
  - Ratio of standard deviation to mean
  - Popular measure of variability
- Early years (new to EC Model) highly dependent
  - Align with companies of comparable size
  - Challenges
    - Inclusive of catastrophes
    - Specialty lines may not be representative of internal appetite
- Later years use as reasonability test
  - More heavily rely upon internal claim statistics
  - Still used for emerging businesses
  - Balance qualitative and quantitative analysis

# Parameterizing Economic Capital Model

## Use of Industry Benchmarks

- Helpful as a cross-check even for segments in which your company has a long and credible history.
- Should be based on a long and credible data series, ideally after scrubbing to reduce the impact of data anomalies.
- Potential Challenges:
  - If benchmarks were derived from data that included all perils, they would not be applicable to the non-cat pillar of the ECM.
  - When working on the ECM of a reinsurance company:
    - How applicable are the product line definitions used in annual statement data?
    - How should parameters vary by layer?

# Parameterizing Economic Capital Model

## Industry Benchmark Data: Correlation in the Ultimate Loss Ratio

Line of Business	CAL	CMP	GLC	GLO	HO	MPLC	MPLO	PPA	PLC	PLO	WC	Auto-Correlation
CAL	100%											87%
CMP	76%	100%										73%
GLC	54%	56%	100%									82%
GLO	78%	78%	89%	100%								86%
HO	16%	58%	14%	17%	100%							21%
MPLC	74%	83%	76%	94%	21%	100%						90%
MPLO	66%	75%	67%	84%	20%	92%	100%					72%
PPA	42%	2%	15%	10%	15%	-8%	-16%	100%				86%
PLC	54%	55%	59%	71%	24%	61%	44%	30%	100%			26%
PLO	60%	69%	88%	86%	21%	87%	78%	6%	50%	100%		70%
WC	61%	15%	58%	52%	-8%	28%	24%	71%	38%	34%	100%	86%
All Lines	80%	74%	74%	82%	49%	70%	62%	50%	64%	69%	67%	69%

- This table shows the correlation between the actual ultimate loss ratio by line of business.
- It can be used by management to determine the inherent correlation of the actual ultimate loss ratios between different lines of business.

## Parameterizing Economic Capital Model

### Blending Qualitative and Quantitative

- Risk Driver Framework - Correlation
  - Identify sources of risk and risk drivers within each
    - Economic; Social; Legal; Political; Technological; Environmental; Operations; Other
    - Short-term inflation; Compensation Culture; War; IT Infrastructure; Global Warming; Claims Practices; Emerging Risks
  - Weight importance of each risk driver
  - Assign sensitivity of each line to each risk driver
  - Calculate score for each pair of lines
  - Rank risk drivers to gain qualitative perspective on strength of correlation
- Leverage quantitative analysis to inform selection on relative size of correlation

## Parameterizing Economic Capital Model Considering the UW Cycle and Market Conditions

- Industry Risk-Based Capital (RBC) takes the perspective of modeling an unknown insurer facing an unknown upcoming accident year, for a particular line of insurance.
- When parameterizing an internal capital model, much more information is known:
  - The ECM focuses on a specific insurer facing a specific year and line.
  - You know a great deal about your company's exposures in each line and these may differ from the industry average.
  - You have an approximate estimate of where the upcoming year will be situated within the underwriting cycle.
- When using industry benchmarks, be aware of what adjustments (if any) were made to remove the underwriting cycle.

## Parameterizing Economic Capital Model

### Considering the UW Cycle and Market Conditions

- The UW cycle is implicit in the loss ratio forecast used to establish mean losses for each line.
- Should correlation change?
  - Are results by line more likely to move together?
- Should coefficient of variation change?
- Should you add pricing risk to the model?
  - Model focuses on losses: perhaps add volatility around rates premium
- For the reserve pillar – should the model assume that the current booked reserves are the mean of the distribution?
  - The ECM team should interact with the appointed actuary



## Model Validation

- The model requires validation of individual parameters to ensure they are reasonable
- Validation should include some if not all of the following:
  - Back-testing
  - Sensitivity testing
  - Scenario testing (Stress testing)
  - Reverse stress testing
- A validation framework would classify all model parameters along two scales
  - Materiality
  - Reliance on Expert Judgement
  - Test the most material parameters that have a high degree of expert judgement
- Validation should cover internal model assumptions as well as external models

# Model Validation – Sensitivity Testing Example

- Sensitivity testing is key to measuring the materiality of parameters and is particularly important for parameters that require a high degree of expert judgement
- One such area is the correlation parameters
  - Between the risk towers (underwriting excl. catastrophes, catastrophes, reserving, reinsurance recoverables, investments)
  - Between Lines of Business within a risk tower

## Sensitivity Testing

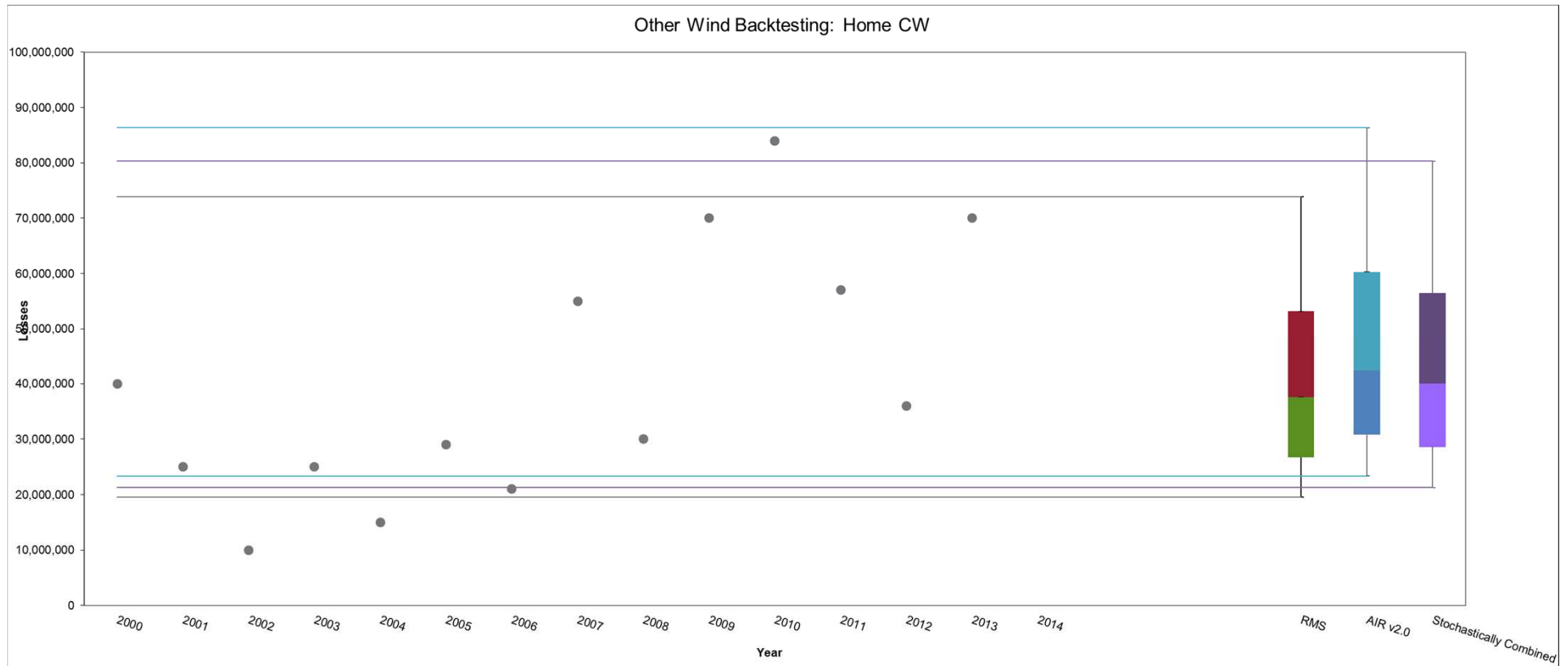
Test #	Test Category	Base (1)	Change	Stressed		Impact \$	Impact %	Result (2)	Comment
				Base 1:250	1:250				
1	Line of Business Correlation	Base	Reserve Correlation at 10/25/50	-1,000 m	-950 m	50 m	-5.0%	pass	A large decrease in correlation among lines for reserve risk has less than a 10% impact on the 1:250
2	Risk Tower Correlation	Base	Low 10% Risk Tower Correlation	-1,000 m	-1,250 m	-250 m	25.0%	fail	Material assumption requiring high degree of expert judgement. 10% is an unreasonably low degree of correlation among several risk tower pairs, underwriting and reserving for example.
3	Risk Tower Correlation	Base	Medium 25% Risk Tower Correlation	-1,000 m	-980 m	20 m	-2.0%	pass	Material assumption requiring high degree of expert judgement. Selected correlation produces a slightly lower result than a uniform 25% correlation.
4	Risk Tower Correlation	Base	High 50% Risk Tower Correlation	-1,000 m	-1,200 m	-200 m	20.0%	fail	Material assumption requiring high degree of expert judgement. 50% is an unreasonably high degree of correlation among several risk tower pairs, underwriting and investment for example.

### NOTES:

- (1) **Base** The 1:250 VaR using 2015 Plan Net Loss Ratio; 25/50/75 Reserve Risk Correlation and **Selected** Risk Tower Correlation.
- (2) **Test Criteria** An impact of less than or equal to 10% is an automatic pass. All test failures are reviewed with the EC Model Working Group

# Model Validation – External Catastrophe Models

## Example of Back-testing Severe Convective Storm Models



- Box-Whisker plots represent model loss distribution for in-force exposures
- Whiskers at 10% and 90% percentile, 20% probability of outlier
- Historical losses (trended to in-force exposure date and adjusted for geographic mix change) are displayed as dots.
- Over 15 years there are three outliers so test passes
- Test should be performed by state if data allows

# Uses of Economic Capital Models

## Applying Model Results to Business Decisions

- Understanding Tail Risk
  - Risk Drivers
  - Risk Monitoring
  - Required Capital
- Capital Attribution - RORAC
  - Profit provisions – Complement of the target combined ratio (TCR)
  - Based on an Internal Rate of Return (IRR) model – TCR required to achieve target return on risk adjusted capital given cash flows over life of a policy
  - Risk Based Performance Measurement
- Portfolio Optimization, Acquisitions
- Planning – study the capital needs of segments based on the plan
- Reinsurance - efficiently spend budget to achieve desired results

# Capital Attribution

## Risk measurement approaches

### Benefits

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### Shortcomings

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#### Regulatory – S&P CAR

- Defacto regulator
- International
- Widely understood (published factors) and used
- Actions in all lines must be responsive to this measure

- Allocation of company wide capital to business units is based on broad assumptions
- Less explicit recognition of company volatility

#### Volatility - Standard Deviation

- Helps assign capital in line with goal of earnings stability by requiring more capital for high volatility lines

- Volatility does not capture the shape of the loss curve, the potential for large yet rare events

#### Tail - Window VaR

- Helps recognize and assign capital towards the potential risk associated with tail
- Relative tail risk for each line independently
- Volume matters to size of tail risk

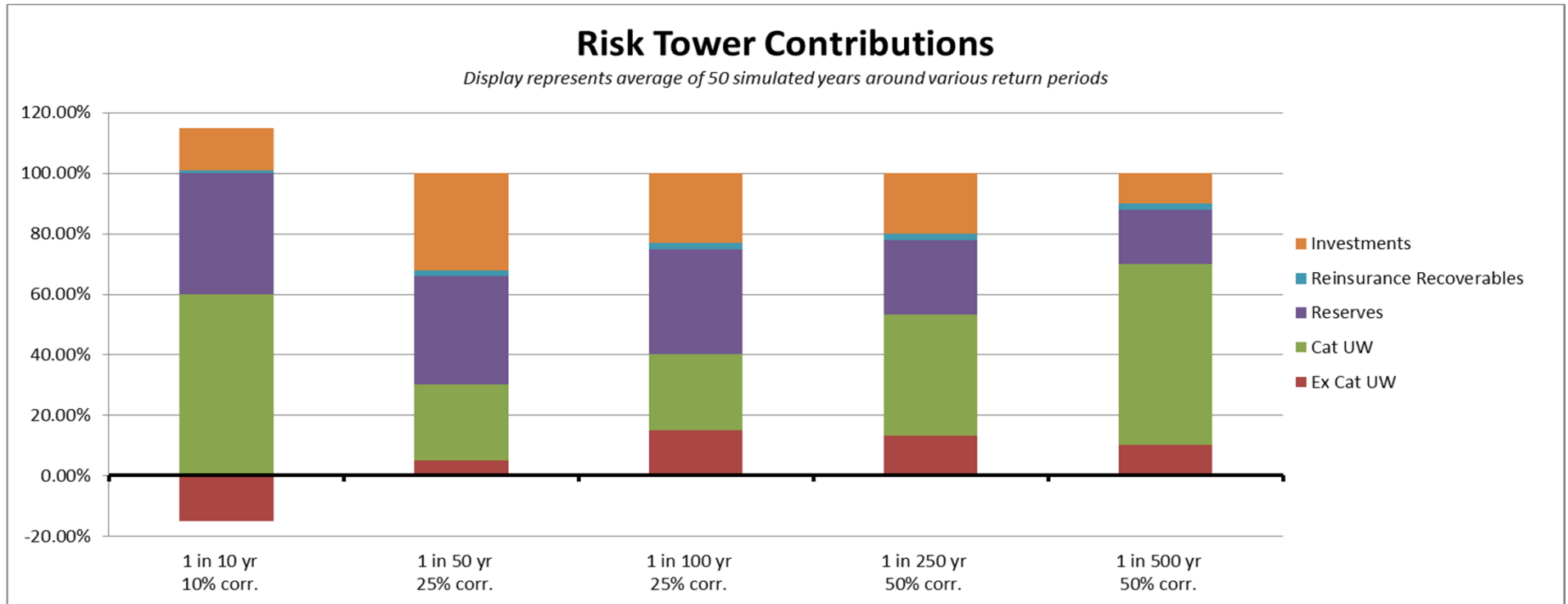
- Selecting different threshold changes the results
- Very sensitive to parameter uncertainty at low probabilities

#### Marginal - CoXTVaR

- Helps recognize and account for the impact of diversification
- Contribution of each line to extreme tail
- Distance of tail from the mean to emphasize skewness of distribution over volume

- Selecting different threshold changes the results
  - Very sensitive to parameter uncertainty (Catastrophe in particular) at low probabilities
-

# Marginal Contribution by Risk Tower Example



- Illustrates the marginal contribution of each risk tower to the company result at various return periods
- Note how source of risk changes as one moves further into the tail of the distribution

## Conclusion

- Economic capital modeling provides many benefits:
  - Improved understanding of the company's business
  - Meaningful and useful capital attribution
  - Improved strategic decision making
- Perspective: Insurers, Reinsurers, and Brokers
  - Broad model structure likely to be similar (UW risk, reserve risk, asset risk, etc.)
  - The greatest difference tends to be in the data available to parameterize reserve risk and non-cat UW risk (and hence in the models used for those pillars).
  - Brokers
    - offer capital modeling software.
    - compile useful modeling benchmarks.
    - provide insights into insurer and reinsurer capital models.
- We welcome your questions