# Is the Volatility of the Market Price of Risk due to Intermittent Portfolio Re-balancing? by Chien, Cole, and Lustig

Fernando Alvarez

University of Chicago

February 2010

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Rebalancing

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#### Measurement of Conditional Sharpe Ratio & Individual Portfolio Behavior

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- Why Sharpe ratio is countercyclical w/ intermittent rebalancing (1, 4 to 6).
- Other issues: leverage, highest Sharpe ratio, level of constraints.

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- ► Passive non Participants: 50%, can NOT hold equity, \u03c6 \* = 0, save in uncontingent bonds, subject to idiosyncratic uninsurable risk.

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- ► Result follow because dividend and labor income are perfectly correlated.
- ► Adding Passive continuous rebalancers does not change result if  $\varpi^* = \frac{1}{1+\psi}$ .

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  - there are no Passive Traders,
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- Then, interest rates may be lower, but the multiplicative equity premium is the same as in Representative Agent Economy.
- It is as if the economy has a different constant value of β̂ and no aggregate shocks.
- Equivalence uses the multiplicative nature of η<sub>t</sub> and CRRA: normalize consumption by Y<sub>t</sub>.
- Since  $\hat{\beta}$  is constant, time invariant exposure to aggregate shock.
- ► In this case for continuous rebalancers holding  $\varpi_t$  fixed is optimal.

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Rebalancing

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- Hence, in equilibrium, active traders must borrow uncontingent.
- Thus active traders have a leverage position in equity,
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  - priced by agent with max MRS across states (Luttmer)
  - Sharpe Ratio >  $\alpha \sigma(\Delta \log C)$  of group.
  - see Table for case with complete traders.

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### **Countercyclical Risk Prices**

- Consider Intermittent Rebalacing Traders
- in non-rebalancing periods, they have no access to dividends.
- Active Traders absorb a disproportional share of the changes
- ▶ in an recession (expansion), the risk prices are high (low).
- describe mechanism in detail.

## High Sharpe Ratio After a Bad Aggregate Shock

irb trader (vs active trader) in non-rebalancing period t - 1:

- buy (sell) more equity with dividends.
- finance consumption by borrowing against equity in 'broker account'.

irb trader (vs active trader) in rebalancing period t:

sell (buy) extra equity to repay loan. Reverse the positions.

$$b_{t-1} + c_{t-1} = \gamma Y_{t-1} \eta_{t-1} + b_{t-2} R_{t-2}$$

$$s_t V_t + b_t + c_t = \gamma Y_t \eta_t + b_{t-1} R_{t-1} + s_{t-2} \left( 1 + \frac{D_{t-1}}{V_{t-1}} \right) (V_t + D_t)$$

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- Random case: after a low dividend, active trader sell less equity: and thus he is more exposed to further shocks (more leveraged).

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- Interesting: Analytics in model without idiosyncratic risk, and without non-participants. Are non-participants needed to create leverage on active traders?
- Is the evidence in the paper the right type? Most household don't trade in equities often, and lots of trade involve no net cash flow (Inv. Compay Inst.)