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Aggregate Implications
of Micro Asset Market Segmentation*

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Abstract

An extensive empirical literature finds that micro asset markets are segmented from one another. We develop a consumption-based asset pricing model to quantify the aggregate implications of a financial system compromised of many such segmented micro asset markets. We specify exogenously the level of segmentation that determines how much idiosyncratic risk traders bear in their micro market and calibrate the segmentation to match facts about systematic and idiosyncratic return volatility. In our benchmark model traders bear 30% of their idiosyncratic risk, the unconditional aggregate equity premium is 2.4% annual, and the welfare costs of segmentation are substantial, 1.8% of lifetime consumption.

Keywords: Asset pricing, market segmentation, idiosyncratic risk.

JEL classifications: G12.

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1 Introduction

Do market-specific frictions matter for aggregate asset prices? An extensive empirical literature finds that micro asset markets are segmented from one another, in the sense that “local factors”, specific to the market under consideration, help explain asset prices in that particular market (Collin-Dufresne, Goldstein and Martin, 2001, Gabaix, Krishnamurthy and Vigneron, 2007, for example). These empirical segmentation patterns are commonly interpreted as evidence that contractual constraints, between financial firms, their employees, and their outside investors, create what Shleifer and Vishny (1997) called limits to arbitrage. But these analyses give no clear sense of whether such segmentation matters in the aggregate. To address this question, we construct a consumption-based asset pricing model from a collection of segmented micro asset markets. Our approach is deliberately macro: the model does not address particular features of any specific asset market, but can spell out precisely the aggregate implications of the market segmentation frictions.

In our benchmark model, there are many durable risky assets. Each type of asset is traded in its own specialized market. If these risky assets could be frictionlessly traded across markets, all idiosyncratic market-specific risk would be diversified away and traders would be exposed only to aggregate risk. This full risk sharing is prevented by exogenously, the following pattern of market-specific segmentation frictions: for each market \(m\), an exogenous fraction \(\lambda_m\) of the expense of purchasing assets in that market must be borne by traders specialized in that market. In return, these traders receive \(\lambda_m\) of the benefit, i.e., of the dividends and resale price of assets sold in that market. In equilibrium, the parameter \(\lambda_m\) determines the fraction of non-tradeable idiosyncratic risk in market \(m\). When \(\lambda_m = 0\) all idiosyncratic risk can be traded and traders are fully diversified. When \(\lambda_m = 1\) traders cannot trade away their idiosyncratic risk and instead simply consume the dividends from the asset in their specific market.

Our setup is made tractable by following Lucas (1990) in assuming that investors can pool the tradeable idiosyncratic risk within a large family. In equilibrium, the “state price” of a unit of consumption in each market \(m\) is a weighted average of the marginal utility of consumption in that market (with weight \(\lambda_m\)) and a term that reflects the cross-sectional average marginal utility of consumption (with weight \(1 - \lambda_m\)). In the special case where \(\lambda_m = 0\) for all markets \(m\), then the state price of consumption is equal across markets and equal to the marginal utility of the aggregate endowment. This economy thus collapses to the standard Lucas (1978) model where asset prices depend only on aggregate consumption risk. By contrast, when \(\lambda_m > 0\), asset prices also depend on the amount of idiosyncratic consumption risk ultimately borne by traders. This idiosyncratic consumption risk is determined jointly by (i) the level and cross-sectional variation of segmentation frictions \(\lambda_m\), and (ii) the distribution of idiosyncratic volatilities across markets.

We start by calibrating a special case of the general model where \(\lambda_m = \lambda\) for all markets. The parameters governing the aggregate endowment process and preferences are standard: independently and identically distributed (IID) lognormal aggregate endowment growth, time- and state-separable expected utility preferences with constant relative risk aversion \(\gamma = 4\). The parameters governing the distribution of individual endowments and the single \(\lambda\) are used to simultaneously match the systematic return volatility of a well-diversified market portfolio and key time-series properties of an individual stock’s total return volatility (see Goyal and Santa-Clara, 2003; Bali, Cakici, Yan and Zhang, 2005). This procedure yields segmentation of approximately \(\lambda = 0.30\). This model generates a sizeable unconditional equity premium, some 2.4% annual. However, as is familiar from many asset pricing models with expected utility preferences and trend growth, the model has a risk-free rate that is too high and too volatile.

This benchmark model is then extended by allowing for multiple types of market segmentation \(\lambda_m\), which generates cross-sectional differences in stock return volatilities. This motivates us to pick values for \(\lambda_m\) in order to match the volatilities of portfolios sorted on measures of idiosyncratic volatility, as documented by Ang, Hodrick, Xing and Zhang (2006).

Our main finding is that aggregation matters: with cross-sectional variation in \(\lambda_m\), the model needs an average amount of segmentation of approximately \(\bar{\lambda} = 0.10\) to hit our targets, only one-third that of the single \(\lambda\) model. Moreover, this version of the model delivers essentially the same aggregate asset pricing implications as the single \(\lambda\) benchmark despite having only about one-third the average amount of segmentation. The characteristics of the micro markets in this disaggregate economy are quite distinct: some 50% of the aggregate market by value has a \(\lambda_m\) of approximately zero, with the amount of segmentation rising to a maximum of \(\lambda_m = 0.37\) for about 2% of the aggregate market by value. We also find that dispersion in the amount of segmentation has significant implications. In particular, while the average amount of segmentation is lower

\[ \lambda \]
in the multiple $\lambda_m$ model, the welfare costs of segmentation are actually larger than in the single $\lambda$ model. The welfare cost of segmentation is a convex function of $\lambda_m$ so that, other things equal, an increase in the dispersion of segmentation increases the welfare cost. For the single $\lambda$ model (with no dispersion), the welfare costs of segmentation are about 1.8% of lifetime consumption. By contrast, for the multiple $\lambda_m$ model the welfare costs rise to about 3% of lifetime consumption, even though the average amount of segmentation is only one-third that of the single $\lambda$ model.

To assist in interpreting our results, we compare our segmented markets model to an otherwise similar incomplete markets model. Like a standard incomplete markets model, our segmented markets model features uninsured idiosyncratic risk. This risk is priced in the segmented markets model, but it is not priced in the incomplete markets counterpart. As a consequence, idiosyncratic risk leads to a significant aggregate risk premium in the segmented markets model but has no such implications in the incomplete markets model.

**Market frictions in the asset pricing literature.** Traditionally, macroeconomists have taken the view that frictions in financial intermediation or other asset trades are small enough to be neglected. In particular, early contributions, such as Lucas (1978) and Breeden (1979), characterize equilibrium asset prices using frictionless models. The quantitative limitations of plausibly calibrated traditional asset pricing models were highlighted by the “equity premium” and “risk-free rate” puzzles of Mehra and Prescott (1985) and Weil (1989).

Since then an extensive literature has attempted to explicitly incorporate market frictions in an attempt to rationalize these and related asset pricing puzzles.\(^1\) Models introducing market frictions have tended to follow one of two approaches. One part of the financial economics literature followed deliberately micro-market approaches, focusing on the impact of specific frictions in specific financial markets. This micro-markets approach is transparent and leads to precise implications but does not lead to any clear sense of whether or why micro asset market frictions matter in the aggregate. Moreover, these models are typically not well integrated with the standard consumption-based asset pricing framework. Others have taken an unabashedly aggregate approach, with some financial friction faced by a representative intermediary (see, e.g., Aiyagari and Gertler, 1999; Kyle and Xiong, 2001; Vayanos, 2005; He and Krishnamurthy, 2010a,b) or by households (see, among others, Heaton and Lucas, 1996; Chien, Cole and Lustig, 2011; Pavlova and Rigobon, 2008). The friction “stands in” for a diverse array of real-world micro frictions facing intermediaries and households. In these macro models, financial intermediaries often bear disproportionate amounts of aggregate risk, but this implication is inconsistent with the empirical literature on market segmentation, which emphasizes instead that intermediaries bear disproportionate amounts of “local” or idiosyncratic risk.

Our approach takes a middle course. Starting from a model that is consistent with intermediaries bearing too much local risk, we work out the aggregation problem. With the aggregation problem solved, our stylized model of a collection of micro-markets that together form a financial system can then be embedded into an otherwise standard asset pricing model. In a sense, our model can be viewed as a multiple market version of a limited participation model of asset prices where agents are restricted in their ability to participate in asset trade. Important early contributions to this approach include Mankiw and Zeldes (1991), Saito (1995) and Basak and Cuoco (1998). State of the art contributions to this literature include Gomes and Michaelides (2008), Guvenen (2009) and Chien, Cole and Lustig (2011).

Section 2 presents the model and shows how to compute equilibrium asset prices. Section 3 calibrates a special case of the model with a single type of market segmentation and Section 4 shows that this model can generate a sizeable equity premium. Section 5 discusses how the equilibrium in our model can be obtained by traders individually optimizing subject to constraints on asset trade both in their specialized market and in other markets. This section also explains how our model relates to standard incomplete markets models. Section 6 extends our benchmark model by allowing for multiple types of market segmentation and calculates the welfare costs of segmentation.\(^2\)

\(^1\)See for example Aiyagari and Gertler (1991), He and Modest (1995) and Luttmer (1996, 1999) for the quantitative evaluation of asset pricing models with trading frictions.

\(^2\)Various extensions and further computational details are given in a supplementary appendix, Edmond and Weill (2012), available online from the journal’s website.
2 Model

Market structure and endowments. The model is a variant on the pure endowment asset pricing models of Lucas (1978), Breeden (1979) and Mehra and Prescott (1985). Time is discrete and denoted $t \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$. There are many distinct micro asset markets indexed by $m \in [0, 1]$. Each market $m$ is specialized in trading a single type of durable asset with supply normalized to one. Each period the asset produces a stochastic realization of a non-storable dividend $y_{m,t} > 0$. The aggregate endowment available to the entire economy is $y_t := \int_0^1 y_{m,t} \, dm$. The aggregate endowment $y_t > 0$ follows an exogenous stochastic process, described in detail below. Conditional on all realized aggregate variables, the endowments $y_{m,t}$ are independently and identically distributed (IID) across markets.

Preferences. We follow Lucas (1990) and use a representative family construct to provide consumption insurance beyond our market-segmentation frictions. The single representative family, which is initially endowed with the entire supply of assets, consists of many, identical, traders who are specialized in particular asset markets. The period utility for the family is $U(c_t) := \int_0^1 u(c_{m,t}) \, dm$, where $u : \mathbb{R}^+ \to \mathbb{R}$ is a standard increasing concave utility function. Intertemporal utility for the family has the standard time- and state-separable form, $\mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t U(c_t) \right]$, with constant time discount factor $\beta$. The crucial role of the representative family is to eliminate the wealth distribution across markets as an additional endogenous state variable (see, e.g., Alvarez, Atkeson and Kehoe, 2002).

Segmentation frictions. We interpret the representative family as a partially integrated financial system. Each trader in market $m$ works at a specialized trading desk that deals in the asset specific to that market (Figure 1 illustrates). Traders in market $m$ are assumed to bear an exogenous fraction $\lambda_m \in [0, 1]$ of the expense of trading in that market and in return receive $\lambda_m$ of the benefit. The remaining $1 - \lambda_m$ of the expense and benefit of trading in that market is shared between family members.

More precisely, given segmentation parameter $\lambda_m$, the period budget constraint facing a representative trader in market $m$ is:

$$c_{m,t} + \lambda_m p_{m,t} s_{m,t} + (1 - \lambda_m)p_{F,m,t}^F \leq \lambda_m(p_{m,t} + y_{m,t})s_{m,t-1} + (1 - \lambda_m)(p_{t-1,t}^F + y_t^F),$$

where $p_{m,t}$ is the ex-dividend price of a share in the asset in market $m$ while $s_{m,t}$ represents share holdings in that asset.

2.1 Family accounting

As can be seen from the budget constraint (1), a trader in market $m$ holds directly a number $\lambda_m s_{m,t}$ of shares of asset $m$. The collection of remaining shares, $(1 - \lambda_m)s_{n,t}$ for all $n \in [0, 1]$, is collectively held by all family members in a family portfolio. The expense and benefit of trading this family portfolio is divided among family members in a manner summarized by the two terms $(1 - \lambda_m)p_{F,m,t}^F$ and $(1 - \lambda_m)(p_{t-1,t}^F + y_t^F)$ in the budget constraint. Specifically, the term $(1 - \lambda_m)p_{F,m,t}^F$ on the left-hand side means that the trader in market $m$ is asked to contribute $1 - \lambda_m$ of the expense of acquiring the family portfolio this period (ex-dividend). Symmetrically, the term $(1 - \lambda_m)(p_{F,t-1,t}^F + y_t^F)$ on the right-hand side means that the trader receives $1 - \lambda_m$ of the benefit from the family portfolio acquired last period (cum-dividend). Thus, a balanced family budget requires that:

$$\int_0^1 (1 - \lambda_m)p_{F,m,t}^F \, dm = \int_0^1 (1 - \lambda_m)p_{n,t} s_{n,t} \, dn. \quad (2)$$

In words, the total value of all family members’ contributions to the family portfolio (the left-hand-side) has to equal the total asset value of the family portfolio (the right-hand-side). Defining $\bar{\lambda} := \int_0^1 \lambda_m \, dm$, we can rewrite this accounting identity as:

$$p_{F,m,t}^F = \int_0^1 \frac{1 - \lambda_n}{1 - \lambda} p_{n,t} s_{n,t} \, dn. \quad (3)$$
Similarly, \( \int_0^1 (1 - \lambda_m)(p_{t-1,m}^F + y_t) \, dm \) is equal to the cum-dividend value of the remaining shares brought into the period. This yields:

\[
p_{t-1,m}^F + y_t = \int_0^1 \frac{1 - \lambda_n}{1 - \lambda} (p_{n,t} + y_{n,t}) s_{n,t-1} \, dn.
\] (4)

### 2.2 Equilibrium

A price path is a sequence \( p = \{p_t\}_{t=0}^\infty \), adapted to agents’ information. Each element of the sequence, \( p_t : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \), is a measurable function mapping each asset \( m \in [0, 1] \) into its time-\( t \) price, \( p_{m,t} \). Given a price path, the family maximizes its intertemporal utility by choosing an adapted consumption and asset holding plan, \( (c, s) = \{c_t, s_t\}_{t=0}^\infty \), where \( c_t : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+ \) and \( s_t : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \) are measurable functions specifying \( c_{m,t} \) and \( s_{m,t} \) in each asset market \( m \in [0, 1] \). The maximization is subject to the collection of budget constraints (1), one for each \( m \in [0, 1] \), the accounting identities for the family portfolio, (3) and (4), and takes as given the initial distribution of asset holdings, \( s_{m,-1} = 1 \) for all \( m \in [0, 1] \).

An equilibrium of this economy is a consumption and asset holding plan, \( (c, s) \), and a price path, \( p \), such that (i) \( (c, s) \) solves the family’s problem given \( p \), and (ii) asset markets clear, i.e., \( s_{m,t} = 1 \) for all \( m \in [0, 1] \) and \( t \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\} \).

**Equilibrium allocation.** Before solving for asset prices, we provide the equilibrium allocation of consumption across markets. Substituting the accounting identities (3) and (4) into the budget constraint (1) and imposing the equilibrium condition \( s_{m,t} = 1 \) gives:

\[
c_{m,t} = \lambda_m y_{m,t} + (1 - \lambda_m) \int_0^1 \frac{1 - \lambda_n}{1 - \lambda} y_{n,t} \, dn.
\] (5)

Since the realized idiosyncratic \( y_{n,t} \) are independent of \( \lambda_n \), an application of the law of large numbers then gives:

\[
c_{m,t} = \lambda_m y_{m,t} + (1 - \lambda_m)y_t.
\] (6)

Equilibrium consumption in market \( m \) is a weighted average of the idiosyncratic and aggregate endowments with weights reflecting the degree of market segmentation. The parameter \( \lambda_m \) represents the extent to which traders are not fully diversified and hence determines the degree of risk sharing in the economy. If \( \lambda_m = 0 \), traders are fully diversified and will have consumption equal to the aggregate endowment, \( c_{m,t} = y_t \). But if \( \lambda_m = 1 \), traders are not at all diversified and simply consume the dividends realized in their specific market, \( c_{m,t} = y_{m,t} \).

### 2.3 Asset pricing

Asset prices are obtained using the first-order conditions for the family’s problem. Let \( \mu_{m,t} \geq 0 \) denote the Lagrange multiplier on (1), the constraint for market \( m \) at time \( t \). As shown in ??, the family’s Lagrangian can be written:

\[
\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \sum_{t=0}^\infty \beta^t \int_0^1 \left( u(c_{m,t}) + q_{m,t}(p_{m,t} + y_{m,t})s_{m,t-1} - q_{m,t}p_{m,t}s_{m,t} - \mu_{m,t}c_{m,t} \right) \, dm \right],
\] (7)

where

\[
q_{m,t} := \lambda_m \mu_{m,t} + (1 - \lambda_m) \int_0^1 \frac{1 - \lambda_n}{1 - \lambda} \mu_{n,t} \, dn.
\] (8)

is a weighted average of the Lagrange multipliers in market \( m \) and the multipliers for other markets with weights reflecting the various degrees of market segmentation. More specifically, \( q_{m,t} \) is the marginal value to the family of earning one (real) dollar in market \( m \). The first term in (8) arises because a fraction \( \lambda_m \) goes to the local trader, with marginal utility \( \mu_{m,t} \). The second term arises because the remaining fraction is shared among other family members, with marginal utility \( \mu_{n,t} \), according to their relative contributions \( (1 - \lambda_n)/(1 - \lambda) \) to the family portfolio. We refer to \( q_{m,t} \) as the state price of earning one real dollar in market \( m \).
Just as equilibrium consumption in market \( m \) is a weighted average of the idiosyncratic or “local” endowment and aggregate endowment with weights \( \lambda_m \) and \( 1 - \lambda_m \), so too the state price for market \( m \) is a weighted average of the idiosyncratic multiplier and an aggregate multiplier with the same weights. To highlight this, define:

\[
q_t := \int_0^1 \frac{1 - \lambda_m}{1 - \lambda} \mu_{m,t} \, dn,
\]

so that the market-specific state price can be written \( q_{m,t} = \lambda_m \mu_{m,t} + (1 - \lambda_m)q_t \). If any particular market \( m \) has \( \lambda_m = 0 \) then the state price in that market is equal to the aggregate state price \( q_{m,t} = q_t \) and is independent of the local endowment realization. If the segmentation parameter is common across markets, \( \lambda_m = \lambda \) all \( m \), then \( q_t \) is the cross-sectional average marginal utility and \( q_t = \int_0^1 q_{m,t} \, dm \). More generally, \( q_t \) is not a simple average over \( \mu_{m,t} \) since different markets have different relative contributions \( (1 - \lambda_m)/(1 - \lambda) \) to the family portfolio.

The first order conditions for the family are straightforward. For each \( c_{m,t} \) we have \( u'(c_{m,t}) = \mu_{m,t} \).

Taking derivatives with respect to \( s_{m,t} \) then gives the Euler equation:

\[
p_{m,t} = \mathbb{E}_t \left[ \beta \frac{q_{m,t+1}}{q_{m,t}} \left( p_{m,t+1} + y_{m,t+1} \right) \right],
\]

where the expectation is conditional on the family’s information at time \( t \). This is a standard equation, familiar from Lucas (1978), with the crucial distinction being that the stochastic discount factor (SDF), \( \beta q_{m,t+1}/q_{m,t} \), is market-specific.

Combining the formulas for equilibrium consumption (6), market-specific state prices (8), and the pricing equation (10) provides a mapping from the primitives of the economy (the \( \lambda_m, y_{m,t} \) etc) into equilibrium asset prices. The standard Lucas (1978) asset prices are obtained in the further special case \( \lambda_m = 0 \) all \( m \), so that \( c_{m,t} = y_t \) all \( m \) and \( \mu_{m,t} = u'(y_t) \) all \( m \) and \( q_t = \int_0^1 u'(y_t) \, dn = u'(y_t) \).

### 2.4 Shadow prices of risk-free bonds

To simplify the presentation of the model, we have not explicitly introduced risk-free assets. But “shadow” bond prices can be computed under the following convention. Let \( \pi_{k,t} \) denote the price at time \( t \) of a zero-coupon bond that pays one unit of the consumption good for sure at time \( t + k \geq 1 \), and that is held in the family portfolio. As shown in ??, these bonds would have price:

\[
\pi_{k,t} = \mathbb{E}_t \left[ \beta \frac{q_{t+k-1}}{q_t} \pi_{k-1,t+1} \right],
\]

with \( \pi_{0,t} := 1 \). Bonds are priced by the aggregate state price \( q_t \). The one-period shadow gross risk-free rate is \( R_{f,0} := 1/\pi_{1,t} = 1/\mathbb{E}_t [\beta q_{t+1}/q_t] \). Although the SDF for bonds \( \beta q_{t+1}/q_t \) does not depend on any particular idiosyncratic endowment realization, it does depend on the distribution of idiosyncratic endowments and in general is not the Lucas-Breeden SDF.

### 3 Calibration

Let period utility \( u(c) \) be constant relative risk aversion (CRRA) with coefficient \( \gamma > 0 \) so that \( u'(c) = c^{-\gamma} \). Let the log aggregate endowment be a random walk with drift, \( \log y_{t+1} := \log(y_{t+1}/y_t) = \log g + \epsilon_{g,t+1} \), where the innovations \( \epsilon_{g,t+1} \) are IID normal with mean zero and variance \( \sigma_g^2 \). Log market-specific endowments are the log aggregate endowment plus an idiosyncratic term, \( \log y_{m,t} := \log y_t + \log \hat{y}_{m,t} \), so that market-specific endowments inherit the trend in the aggregate endowment. The log idiosyncratic endowment, \( \log \hat{y}_{m,t} \), is conditionally IID normal in the cross-section with mean \(-\sigma_t^2/2\) and variance \( \sigma_t^2 \) where \( \sigma_t \) follows a stochastic process specified below. The mean is chosen so that the average in levels is normalized to one, i.e., \( \int_0^1 \hat{y}_{m,t} \, dm = 1 \).
**Idiosyncratic endowment volatility.** The cross-sectional standard deviation of the idiosyncratic endowment, \( \sigma_t \), is an AR(1) process in logs:

\[
\log \sigma_{t+1} = (1 - \phi) \log \sigma_t + \phi \log \sigma_t + \epsilon_{v,t+1}, \quad \epsilon_{v,t+1} \sim \text{IID and } N(0, \sigma_{ev}^2), \quad \sigma > 0.
\]  

For short, we refer to \( \sigma_t \) as *idiosyncratic endowment volatility*, but note that \( \sigma_t \) itself is an aggregate state variable. At any point in time, the idiosyncratic endowment volatility \( \sigma_t \) is the same in all markets \( m \). In a frictionless model \( (\lambda_m = 0 \text{ all } m) \), all idiosyncratic risk would be diversified away so that asset prices would be independent of the aggregate state \( \sigma_t \). In other words, despite aggregate fluctuations in the level of idiosyncratic endowment volatility \( \sigma_t \), the level of \( \sigma_t \) would not be a priced factor. With segmentation frictions \( (\lambda_m > 0) \), by contrast, both the level and dynamics of \( \sigma_t \) will affect asset prices.

### 3.1 Solving the quantitative model

Using equation (6), equilibrium consumption in market \( m \) can be written as the product of the aggregate endowment \( y_t \) and an idiosyncratic component that depends only on the local idiosyncratic endowment \( \hat{y}_{m,t} \) and the amount of segmentation:

\[
c_{m,t} = [1 + \lambda_m (\hat{y}_{m,t} - 1)]y_t.
\]  

Similarly, using this expression for consumption and the fact that utility is CRRA allows us to re-write the local state price from (8) as

\[
q_{m,t} = \theta_{m,t} y_t^{-\gamma}
\]

where:

\[
\theta_{m,t} := \lambda_m [1 + \lambda_m (\hat{y}_{m,t} - 1)]^{-\gamma} + (1 - \lambda_m) \int_0^1 \frac{1 - \lambda_{m,t}}{1 - \lambda} [1 + \lambda_{m,t} (\hat{y}_{m,t} - 1)]^{-\gamma} \, dn,
\]  

The SDF for market \( m \) is then

\[
\beta q_{m,t+1} / q_{m,t} = \beta \theta_{m,t+1} / \theta_{m,t}.
\]

As in Campbell and Cochrane (1999) and in recent papers by Lustig and Van Nieuwerburgh (2005), Piazzesi, Schneider and Tuzel (2007), Kocherlakota and Pistaferri (2009), and Chien and Lustig (2010), amongst others, the SDF can be written as the product of the usual Lucas-Breeden aggregate SDF \( \beta g_{t+1}^{-\gamma} \), with a multiplicative "twisting" factor \( \theta_{m,t+1} / \theta_{m,t} \). Unlike these papers, however, the twisting factor in our model is *market-specific*. The twisting factor varies over time both because of fluctuations in the local endowment \( \hat{y}_{m,t} \) and also because of aggregate fluctuations in the *cross-sectional distribution* of endowments, as determined by the volatility factor \( \sigma_t \). ?? discusses the properties of the twisting factor in further detail.

To solve the model in stationary variables, let \( \hat{p}_{m,t} := p_{m,t} / y_t \) denote the price-to-aggregate-dividend ratio for market \( m \). Dividing both sides of equation (10) by \( y_t > 0 \) and using \( g_{t+1} := y_{t+1} / y_t \) this ratio solves the Euler equation:

\[
\hat{p}_{m,t} = E_t \left[ \beta \hat{g}_{t+1}^{-\gamma} \theta_{m,t+1} / \theta_{m,t} (\hat{p}_{m,t+1} + \hat{y}_{m,t+1}) \right],
\]  

which is the standard CRRA equation except for the twisting factor \( \theta_{m,t+1} / \theta_{m,t} \). This is a linear integral equation to be solved for the unknown function mapping the state into the price/dividend ratio. As detailed in ??, we solve this integral equation numerically using the methods of Tauchen and Hussey (1991).

### 3.2 Calibration strategy

The model is calibrated to monthly postwar data. The aggregate endowment is interpreted as per capita real personal consumption expenditure on nondurables and services with \( \tilde{g} = (1.02)^{1/12} \) set to match an annual 2% growth rate and \( \sigma_{eg} = 0.01 / \sqrt{12} \) set to match an annual 1% standard deviation. The discount factor is set to \( \beta = (0.99)^{1/12} \) to reflect an annual pure rate of time preference of 1% and the coefficient of relative risk aversion is set to \( \gamma = 4 \).

For our benchmark calibration we assume that all markets in the economy share the same segmentation parameter, \( \lambda \). Given the values for preference parameters \( \beta, \gamma \) and the aggregate endowment growth process \( \hat{g}, \sigma_{eg} \) above, values still need to be assigned to this single \( \lambda \) and the three parameters of the cross-sectional endowment volatility process \( \hat{\sigma}, \phi, \sigma_{ev} \).
3.3 Calibrating the idiosyncratic volatility process

The crucial consequence of market segmentation is that local traders are forced to bear some idiosyncratic risk. Thus, to explain the impact of market segmentation on risk premia, it is important that our model generates realistic levels of idiosyncratic risk. This leads us to choose the parameters of the stochastic process for idiosyncratic endowment volatility in order to match key features of the volatility of a typical stock return. To see why there is a natural mapping between the two volatilities, observe that the gross return on a stock can be written $R_{m,t} = \frac{y_{m,t} + \hat{p}_{m,t}}{\hat{p}_{m,t-1}}$. Thus, the volatility of $\hat{y}_{m,t}$ directly affects stock returns through the dividend term of the numerator. It also indirectly affects stock returns through the asset price, $\hat{p}_{m,t}$.

Our statistics on stock return volatility draw on Goyal and Santa-Clara (2003). Their measure of monthly stock volatility is obtained by adding up the cross-sectional stock return dispersion over each day of the previous month. Figure 2 shows the monthly time series of their measure of the cross-sectional standard deviation of stock returns, as updated by Bali, Cakici, Yan and Zhang (2005).

The idiosyncratic endowment volatility process is chosen so that our model replicates three key features of this stock return volatility data, namely: (i) the unconditional average return volatility of 16.4% monthly, (ii) the unconditional standard deviation of return volatility 4.17% monthly, and (iii) the AR(1) coefficient of return volatility 0.84 monthly. These three features are replicated by simultaneously choosing the three parameters governing the stochastic process for endowment volatility: the unconditional average $\bar{\sigma}$, the innovation standard deviation $\sigma_{\text{ev}}$, and the AR(1) coefficient $\phi$.

3.4 Calibrating the segmentation parameter

The segmentation parameter $\lambda$ governs the extent to which local traders can diversify away the return volatility of their local asset. Thus, $\lambda$ determines the extent to which the volatility factor, $\sigma_t$, has an impact on asset prices and creates systematic variation in asset returns. This leads us to identify $\lambda$ using a measure of systematic volatility, specifically the 4.16% monthly standard deviation of the real value-weighted return of NYSE stocks from CRSP.

To understand how the identification works, recall first what would happen in the absence of market segmentation, $\lambda = 0$. Then, we would be back in the Mehra and Prescott model with IID lognormal aggregate endowment growth. As is well known, this model cannot generate realistic amounts of systematic volatility. Specifically, with $\lambda = 0$ the return from a diversified market portfolio is $g_t(1 + \bar{p})/\bar{p}$ where $\bar{p} = \beta E[g^{1-\gamma}]/(1 - \beta E[g^{1-\gamma}])$ is the constant price/dividend ratio for the aggregate market. With our standard parameterization of the preference parameters and aggregate endowment growth, $(1 + \bar{p})/\bar{p} \approx 1.0058$ so that the monthly standard deviation of the diversified market portfolio return is approximately the same as the monthly standard deviation of aggregate endowment growth, 0.29% monthly as opposed to 4.16% monthly in the data.

By contrast, with segmentation frictions ($\lambda > 0$), idiosyncratic endowment volatility creates systematic volatility. Indeed, because of persistence, high idiosyncratic endowment volatility this month predicts high idiosyncratic endowment volatility next month. Thus in every market $m$ local traders expect to bear more idiosyncratic risk, and, because of risk aversion, the price/dividend ratio $\hat{p}_{m,t} = p_{m,t}/y_t$ has to go down everywhere. Because this effect impacts all stocks at the same time, it endogenously creates systematic return volatility. Clearly, the effect is larger if markets are more segmented and traders are forced to bear more idiosyncratic risk. A larger $\lambda$ will thus result in a larger increase in systematic volatility.

3.5 Calibration results

The calibrated parameters are listed in Table 1. In our benchmark calibration, the level of $\lambda$ is 0.31. That is, 31% of idiosyncratic endowment risk is non-tradeable. In terms of portfolio weights, $\lambda = 0.31$ also implies that, in a typical market $m$, a trader invests approximately 31% of his wealth in the local asset and the rest in the family portfolio. Table 2 shows that, with these parameters, the benchmark model matches the target moments exactly.
4 Quantitative examples

Let the gross market return be \( R_{M,t+1} := (p_{t+1} + y_{t+1})/p_t \) where \( p_t := \int_0^1 p_{m,t} \, dm \) is the ex-dividend value of the market portfolio, \( y_t \) is the aggregate endowment, and \( p_t/y_t \) is the price/dividend ratio of the market. The shadow gross one period risk free rate is \( R_{f,t} := E_t[\beta q_{t+1}/q_t]^{-1} \) where \( q_t \) is the aggregate state price that determines the price of risk free bonds, as in (11). Implicitly, bonds are priced as if they trade in their own frictionless “\( \lambda = 0 \)” market, but the pricing of such bonds takes into account \( \lambda > 0 \) in other asset markets. The unconditional equity risk premium is calculated as \( E[R_{M,t+1} - R_{f,t}] \), and similarly for other statistics.

Table 3 shows our model’s implications for aggregate returns and price/dividend ratios. The table reports annualized monthly statistics from the model and compares these to annualized monthly returns and to annual price/dividend ratios (annual data for price/dividends are used because of the pronounced seasonality in dividends at the monthly frequency).

4.1 Equity premium

The benchmark model produces an annual equity risk premium of 2.4% annual as opposed to about 5.4% annual in our sample. Clearly this is a much larger equity premium than is produced by a standard Lucas/Mehra and Prescott model. For comparison, that model with risk aversion \( \gamma = 4 \) and IID consumption growth with annual standard deviation of 1% produces an annual equity premium of about 0.04%.

Why is there a large equity premium? Relative to standard consumption-based asset pricing models with time-separable expected utility preferences, our model delivers a large equity premium. Is this a direct consequence our strategy of picking \( \lambda \) in order to match systematic return volatility? No. Model risk premia are generated by covariances: no matter how much return volatility is fed into a model, the equity risk premia will be zero if the model’s SDF is not negatively correlated with return variation.

What, then, is the equity premium from the point of view of aggregate consumption? In our model, if we compute the unconditional average equity premium using the model generated market returns and the Lucas-Breeden SDF \( \beta q_{t+1}^{-1} \) instead of the true model SDF, then the equity premium is on the order of 0.04% (4 basis points) annual rather than the 2.4% annual in the benchmark model. Hence, while aggregate consumption growth does not command a big risk premium, the volatility factor does. To see this, consider the premium implied by the SDF \( \beta q_{t+1}/q_t \) where \( q_t \) is the aggregate state price that determines the price of risk free bonds. In general this is given by equation (9) but with a single common \( \lambda \) it reduces to \( q_t = \int_0^1 \mu_{m,t} \, dm = \int_0^1 c_{m,t}^{-\gamma} \, dm \), the cross-section average marginal utility. In our benchmark, this SDF implies a premium of 2.05% annual. This comes from the convexity of the marginal utility function: a high \( \sigma_t \) makes consumption highly dispersed across markets so that average marginal utilities are high. At the same time, a high \( \sigma_t \) depresses asset prices in every market, so that the return on the market portfolio is low.

4.2 Risk free rate and yield curve

The level of the risk-free rate is high, about 8.2% in the model as opposed to 1.8% in the data. As emphasized by Weil (1989), this comes from the relationship between real interest rates and growth in a deterministic setting with expected utility: high risk aversion means low intertemporal elasticity of substitution so that it takes high real interest rates to compensate for high aggregate growth. With risk, there is an offsetting precautionary savings effect that could, in principle, pull the risk-free rate back down to more realistic levels. But in our calibration this precautionary savings effect is small: raising \( \lambda \) from zero to \( \lambda = 0.31 \) lowers the risk free rate by about 1% annual.

In the data, the risk-free rate is smooth and the volatility of the equity premium reflects the volatility of equity returns. In the benchmark model, the risk free-rate is too volatile, about 5.6% annual as opposed to 1.2% annual in the data.

With IID lognormal aggregate growth and CRRA utility, the average yield curve in a standard asset pricing model is flat. But our model generates an increasing and concave average yield curve (see Figure III in the supplementary appendix). This comes from the relationship between the aggregate state price \( q_t \) and volatility \( \sigma_t \). Since \( \sigma_t \) has positive serial correlation but is not a random walk, its first difference is negatively
the regression coefficient is
in a monthly regression of the cross-section standard deviation of stock returns on
likelihood that volatility is above trend in period
in (12) to:

\[ \lambda \eta v_{t+1} \]

independently of aggregate growth. To see if our results are sensitive to this, we modify the stochastic process
Clara(2003). However, in the benchmark model the stochastic process for the cross-sectional volatility evolves
cyclicality is also a feature of the cross-sectional standard deviation of returns data from Goyal and Santa-
sions (Campbell, Lettau, Malkiel and Xu, 2001; Storesletten, Telmer and Yaron, 2004, for example). This
Measures of cross-sectional idiosyncratic risk increase in reces-
Countercyclical endowment volatility.

\[ \log \sigma_t = \beta g_t + \epsilon_t \]

Thus in this sense, expected returns are countercyclical. However, the risk-free rate is just as cyclical as the market
expected return is relatively high in “bad” aggregate states and relatively low in “good” aggregate states. In

4.4 Time variation in expected returns

In a frictionless (\( \lambda = 0 \)) version of our model, all idiosyncratic risk would be diversified and time-variation in
the volatility factor \( \sigma_t \) would be irrelevant for asset prices. Since aggregate endowment growth is IID, in that
frictionless world, the market price/dividend ratio would be constant as would expected returns and excess
returns. Realized returns would inherit the IID property of aggregate endowment growth. In our benchmark
model with \( \lambda > 0 \), however, the volatility factor \( \sigma_t \) is priced. And, since \( \sigma_t \) is persistent, fluctuations in \( \sigma_t \)
lead to fluctuations in expected returns and return volatility.

In particular, Figure 3 shows the expected market return, the risk-free rate and risk premium as a function
of \( \sigma_t \). Except for very low values of \( \sigma_t \), the expected return and risk-free rate are increasing in \( \sigma_t \), thus the
expected return is relatively high in “bad” aggregate states and relatively low in “good” aggregate states. In
this sense, expected returns are countercyclical. However, the risk-free rate is just as cyclical as the market
return so that the risk premium is almost a-cyclical. The aggregate market risk premium is significantly
countercyclical only for very high values of \( \sigma_t \), values far above the unconditional mean. ?? provides further
details.

4.5 Further discussion

Constant endowment volatility. Our benchmark model has two departures from a standard consumption-


based asset pricing model: (i) segmentation, and (ii) time-varying endowment volatility. To show that both
these departures are essential for our results, we solve our model with constant endowment volatility, i.e.,
\( \sigma_t = \bar{\sigma} \) for all \( t \). For this exercise, we fix the volatility at the same level as the unconditional average from
the benchmark model \( \bar{\sigma} = 0.32 \) and keep the level of segmentation at the benchmark \( \lambda = 0.31 \). Table 2
shows that this version of the model produces essentially the same amount of unconditional cross-sectional
stock return volatility as in the data but produces relatively little systematic stock volatility. In particular,
systematic stock volatility is only about 1% monthly as opposed to 4% in the data. And recall that, for
our preference and aggregate growth parameters, a standard model would imply negligible systematic stock
volatility. Thus \( \lambda > 0 \) is necessary but not sufficient for our model to create systematic stock volatility from
idiosyncratic endowment volatility.

Countercyclical endowment volatility. Measures of cross-sectional idiosyncratic risk increase in recessions (Campbell, Lettau, Malkiel and Xu, 2001; Storesletten, Telmer and Yaron, 2004, for example). This
cyclical is also a feature of the cross-sectional standard deviation of returns data from Goyal and Santa-
Clara (2003). However, in the benchmark model the stochastic process for the cross-sectional volatility evolves
independently of aggregate growth. To see if our results are sensitive to this, we modify the stochastic process
in (12) to:

\[ \log \sigma_{t+1} = (1 - \phi) \log \bar{\sigma} + \phi \log \sigma_t - \eta (\log g_t - \log \bar{g}) + \epsilon_{v,t+1}, \]

with \( \epsilon_{v,t+1} \) IID normal, as before. If \( \eta > 0 \), then aggregate growth below trend in period \( t \) increases the
likelihood that volatility is above trend in period \( t + 1 \). The new parameter \( \eta \) is identified by requiring that,
in a monthly regression of the cross-section standard deviation of stock returns on lagged aggregate growth,
the regression coefficient is \(-0.56\), as it is in the data. The calibrated parameters for this version of the
model are shown in Table 1. The elasticity $\eta$ is 2.5 so aggregate growth 1% below trend tends to increase endowment volatility by 2.5%. The other calibrated parameters are indistinguishable from their benchmark values. The model’s implications for asset prices are also very close to the results for the benchmark model. Thus, while the model can be reconciled with the countercyclical behavior of cross-sectional stock volatility, this feature is not necessary for our main results.

**Alternative calibration with $\beta > 1$.** The level of the risk free rate in our model can be reduced by allowing a pure time discount factor $\beta > 1$. As emphasized by Kocherlakota (1990), since the growth-adjusted discount factor is $\beta g^{1-\gamma}$, for $\gamma > 1$ a value of $\beta > 1$ can still be consistent with finite expected utility. Table 1 presents a version of our model choosing a value of $\beta$ to match the level of the risk-free rate, with other parameters chosen to match the same moments as before. This gives $\beta = 1.0042$ monthly so that the annual growth-adjusted discount factor is approximately 0.99 and the model risk-free rate is 1.81% annual, on average. The other calibrated values are essentially unchanged and the model’s ability to match the target moments is not compromised by the need to also match the risk-free rate. While the model with $\beta > 1$ is able to deliver a lower risk-free rate than our benchmark model, it dramatically increases the average market price/dividend ratio.

5 Individual optimality and trading constraints

In our model, individual traders do not optimize. Instead, the family optimizes on their behalf. In this section we explain two implementation schemes such that the trades dictated by the family are individually optimal. The first implementation uses portfolio constraints: an individual trader is constrained to a minimum asset holding if her private valuation of an asset is lower than the market price, and vice-versa if her private valuation is higher. The second implementation does the same thing, but using taxes and subsidies.

5.1 Implementation with portfolio constraints

Let $V_{m,t}$ denote the private valuation of trader $m$ for the asset in that local market and let $V_{m,t}^F$ denote their valuation for the family portfolio. These are given by:

$$V_{m,t} := E_t \left[ \frac{u'(c_{m,t+1})}{u'(c_{m,t})} \left( p_{m,t+1} + y_{m,t+1} \right) \right],$$

(17)

$$V_{m,t}^F := E_t \left[ \frac{u'(c_{m,t+1})}{u'(c_{m,t})} \left( p_{F,t+1}^F + y_{t+1}^F \right) \right],$$

(18)

where $c_{m,t}$ denotes the consumption of trader $m$, $p_{m,t}$ the price of asset $m$, and $p_{F,t}^F$ the price of the family portfolio in the equilibrium corresponding to the family problem.

With these definitions in mind, we reverse-engineer a simple set of portfolio constraints which make the trades dictated by the family also individually optimal. Consider, for simplicity, the case when $\lambda_m = \lambda$ for all $m$ and suppose that an individual trader can trade his local asset and the family portfolio. Then the trader’s sequential budget constraint is:

$$c_{m,t} + p_{m,t}s_{m,t} + p_{F,t}^F s_{m,t}^F \leq \left( p_{m,t} + y_{m,t} \right) s_{m,t-1} + \left( p_{F,t-1}^F + y_{t-1}^F \right) s_{m,t-1}^F.$$ 

(19)

Now assume that the trader faces the following constraints on the quantities of her asset holdings:

$$s_{m,t} \geq \lambda \text{ if } V_{m,t} \leq p_{m,t} \quad \text{and} \quad s_{m,t} \leq \lambda \text{ if } V_{m,t} \geq p_{m,t}$$

$$s_{m,t}^F \geq 1 - \lambda \text{ if } V_{m,t}^F \leq p_{F,t} \quad \text{and} \quad s_{m,t}^F \leq 1 - \lambda \text{ if } V_{m,t}^F \geq p_{F,t}^F.$$ 

(20)

for the local asset and for the family portfolio, respectively. One can immediately verify that the trader’s allocation in the family equilibrium solves the problem of an individual trader when faced with these portfolio constraints. The constraints are intuitive. When the private valuation of the trader is below the market price, then the trader wants to lower her holding below $\lambda$, and so, to implement the family equilibrium, the trader...
needs to be confronted with the constraint that \( s_{m,t} \geq \lambda \). The opposite is true when the trader’s private valuation is above the market price.

Panel A of Figure 4 illustrates this pattern of binding constraints using our benchmark calibration. Consider for instance the left-side of the graph, when the local endowment realization, \( y_{m,t} \), is low. Then consumption \( c_{m,t} = \lambda y_{m,t} + (1 - \lambda) y_t \) is low as well, implying that the marginal utility of the local trader, \( \mu_{m,t} \), is high relative to that of the family, \( q_{m,t} = \lambda \mu_{m,t} + (1 - \lambda) \int_1^{\lambda} \mu_{n,t} \, dn \). As shown in the figure, this means that the local trader has a low private valuation for assets. The portfolio constraint thus prescribes that they should hold a minimum position. The opposite is true when the local endowment realization is high.

5.2 Implementation with taxes and subsidies

The family’s trades can also be implemented using taxes and subsidies. The main idea is simply to tax the local trader’s asset purchases when their private valuation is high relative to that of the family and to subsidize their purchases when their private valuation is low. Specifically, consider a scheme offering to pay \( \tau_{m,t} = 1 - V_{m,t}/p_{m,t} \) per real dollar invested in the local asset and \( \tau_{m,t}^F = 1 - V_{m,t}^F/p_{m,t}^F \) per real dollar invested in the family portfolio (if positive, \( \tau_{m,t} \) is a subsidy; if negative it is a tax). Panel B of Figure 4 illustrates the subsidies and taxes using our benchmark calibration.

5.3 Importance of constraining trade in all assets

To implement the family equilibrium, typically there need to be constraints not only on trades in local assets but also on trades in other markets. Moreover, these constraints may prescribe either minimum or maximum holdings.

To highlight the importance of imposing constraints on both kinds of assets, ? studies a version of our model with only constraints on local asset trades. Specifically, we consider an incomplete markets version of our model in which aggregate consumption growth and idiosyncratic dividends are independent and IID. Each trader \( m \in [0,1] \) is constrained to hold at least \( \lambda \) shares of the asset traded in their local market, but faces no constraints on their holdings of assets traded in other markets. Under this portfolio constraint, the model becomes essentially equivalent to the incomplete markets model of Krueger and Lustig (2010), whose predictions are markedly different from those of the segmented markets model. In particular, all local assets are sold at the same ex-dividend price. This happens because trader \( m \) is in fact not “marginal” in their own market; because their portfolio constraint is binding they do not “price” asset \( m \). Instead the local asset ends up being priced by the traders operating in other markets \( n \neq m \). But these other traders do not care about the idiosyncratic risk of market \( m \). Since assets are symmetric, they end up with the same equilibrium price.

6 Cross-sectional volatilities

We now pursue the implications of the general model with market-specific \( \lambda_m \) and hence a non-degenerate cross-section of volatility. Specifically, consider a finite number of market types. Each market contains the same number of assets, but there is a total measure \( \omega_m \) of traders in market \( m \) with a supply per trader normalized to 1. With this notation, the aggregate endowment is \( y = \sum_m y_m \omega_m \).

6.1 Calibration strategy and results

In the single \( \lambda \) benchmark, the value of \( \lambda \) was identified by matching a measure of systematic volatility, the return volatility of a well-diversified portfolio of stocks. Now a vector of segmentation parameters needs to be identified and this is achieved using a closely-related strategy. In particular, market types are identified with quintile portfolios of stocks sorted on measures of idiosyncratic volatility. The value of \( \lambda_m \) for \( m = 1, \ldots, 5 \) is chosen to match the total volatility of the \( m \)th quintile portfolio as calculated by Ang, Hodrick, Xing and Zhang (2006). Similarly, the values of \( \omega_m \) are chosen so that the average portfolio weight of the family in assets of market \( m \) matches the average market share for the \( m \)th quintile portfolio. Our procedure chooses these parameters simultaneously with the parameters of the stochastic process for cross-sectional endowment.
volatility. The values of the preference parameters and the aggregate growth parameters are kept at their benchmark values.

The calibrated parameters from this procedure are listed in Table 4. Market 1, with the lowest idiosyncratic volatility, has a segmentation parameter of only $\lambda_1 = 0.01$. This market consists of 20% of assets by number but it accounts for 51% of total market value. By contrast, market 5 has segmentation parameter $\lambda_5 = 0.37$ but accounts for only 2% of total market value. Across markets the segmentation parameters $\lambda_m$ are monotonically increasing in $m$ while the weights $\omega_m$ are monotonically decreasing in $m$. Averaging over the five markets $\lambda = \sum_m \lambda_m \omega_m = 0.115$. Thus this economy, which matches the same aggregate moments as the benchmark model, hits its targets with an average amount of segmentation $\lambda = 0.115$ roughly one-third that of the single parameter benchmark $\lambda = 0.31$. This suggests that there may be a significant bias when aggregating a collection of heterogeneously segmented markets into a “representative” segmented market.

6.2 Asset pricing implications

Table 5 shows the risk premia for each market type in the model and their empirical counterparts. In the data, the premium for the low volatility market 1 is 0.53% monthly (roughly 6.5% annual) whereas in the model it is 0.17% monthly. For markets with higher volatility, the model predicts that risk premia monotonically increase, reaching 0.53% monthly for market 5. However, the data exhibits a hump-shaped pattern for the cross-section of premia, reaching a maximum at about 0.69% monthly for market 3, then falling to $-0.53\%$ for the most volatile market 5. Thus the model does not account for the negative risk premia of the smallest, highest idiosyncratic volatility, markets.

Table 5 also shows the aggregate asset pricing implications of the model with market-specific $\lambda_m$. The aggregate equity premium is 2.9%, about 0.50% higher than in the benchmark single $\lambda$ model, despite the fact that the average segmentation here is only $\lambda = 0.115$, one-third the single $\lambda$ benchmark. For comparison, the table shows the asset pricing implications for an otherwise identical single $\lambda$ economy with $\lambda = \lambda = 0.115$. The aggregation of the micro segmentation frictions across the different markets adds some 1.2% annual to the equity premium, taking it from 1.7% to 2.9%.

6.3 Welfare costs of market segmentation

We measure the welfare costs of segmentation as the percentage increase in lifetime consumption required to make the family indifferent between living with a given amount of market segmentation or eliminating that segmentation entirely (the same way that Lucas, 1987, measures the welfare costs of business cycles).

For the single $\lambda$ benchmark the welfare cost of segmentation is 2.2% of lifetime consumption. Fluctuations in $\sigma_t$ account for a small yet economically significant share of this cost. If the calculation is repeated with $\sigma_t = \bar{\sigma}$, then the cost of segmentation drops to 1.85% of lifetime consumption. Figure 5 shows the cost of segmentation as a function of the segmentation parameter $\lambda$. The cost of segmentation is increasing and convex in $\lambda$; traders find it increasingly costly to bear more idiosyncratic volatility. This suggests that, in a multiple model, the average level of segmentation is likely to underestimate the true economic cost of segmentation.

Indeed, for the multiple $\lambda_m$ economy the welfare cost is 3% of lifetime consumption, considerably larger than the 2.2% for the single $\lambda$ economy. The welfare cost is higher than in the single $\lambda$ case because of two effects. First, the level of volatility is larger in the multiple $\lambda_m$ calibration than in the single $\lambda$ calibration. This increases the cost of segmentation for any $\lambda$. Second, the cost is a convex function of $\lambda_m$ so that Jensen’s inequality implies that increased dispersion in segmentation raises the welfare cost. ?? provides more detail on these calculations.

7 Conclusion

To assess the aggregate implications of market-specific frictions, we develop a consumption-based asset pricing model in which assets are traded in a financial system consisting of many segmented markets. Because of the segmentation, a trader operating in one particular market cannot fully diversify the idiosyncratic risk specific to that market. Assets in each micro market are priced by a convex combination of the individual marginal
utility of traders specialized in that asset (who bear some idiosyncratic risk), and the average marginal utility in the economy (reflecting diversification of the remaining idiosyncratic risk in a large portfolio).

Our model implies that market-specific segmentation frictions can have significant implications for aggregate asset prices. The amount of segmentation is calibrated to reproduce key facts on systematic and idiosyncratic return volatility and the model then implies a sizeable aggregate equity premium and pronounced time-variation in expected returns. A disaggregated version of the model that allows the amount of segmentation to differ across markets produces the same aggregate asset pricing implications but with a much smaller average amount of segmentation. Moreover, despite having a smaller average amount of segmentation, this disaggregated version of the model also implies a significantly larger welfare cost of segmentation. In short, both the mean and the cross-sectional dispersion of the segmentation friction matter in the aggregate.

Finally, our segmented markets model has markedly different asset pricing implications from those of an otherwise similar incomplete markets model. Idiosyncratic risk leads to a significant aggregate risk premium in the segmented markets model but has no such implications in the incomplete markets model.
References


There are many markets \( m \in [0, 1] \). Traders at each market bear fraction \( \lambda_m \) of the expense of their trades and share the remaining fraction \( 1 - \lambda_m \) of the expense with all other traders through a family portfolio.
Figure 2
Cross-sectional standard deviation of stock returns.

The expected market return, risk free rate, and expected excess return (risk premium) as a function of the volatility state $\sigma_t$, all expressed in annual terms. The aggregate endowment growth is fixed at its unconditional mean. The vertical dashed line is the unconditional mean $\bar{\sigma}$. 

Figure 3
Conditional returns.
Panel A: Implementation with portfolio constraints. The market price and trader’s private valuation for the local asset and for the family portfolio as a function of the local endowment $\hat{y}_{m,t} = y_{m,t}/y_t$, all expressed in annual terms. The aggregate endowment growth and volatility are kept fixed at their unconditional means.

Panel B: Implementation with taxes/subsidies. The tax/subsidy for the local asset $\tau_{m,t}$ and for the family portfolio $\tau_{F, t}$, both as a function of the local endowment $\hat{y}_{m,t} = y_{m,t}/y_t$. The aggregate endowment growth and volatility are kept fixed at their unconditional means.
Panel A: *Single segmentation parameter* \( \lambda \). For our benchmark calibration with \( \lambda = 0.31 \), the welfare cost of segmentation \( \Omega \) is 2.2% of lifetime consumption. Time-varying volatility accounts for a small but economically significant share of this cost. If \( \sigma_t \) is constant, the cost of segmentation drops to 1.85% of lifetime consumption.

Panel B: *Market-specific segmentation parameters* \( \lambda_m \). The welfare cost of segmentation \( \Omega_m \) in each market with and without time-varying volatility. The average welfare cost of segmentation \( \Omega \) is 3% of lifetime consumption, higher than in the single \( \lambda = 0.31 \) benchmark, despite the average segmentation \( \bar{\lambda} = 0.11 \) being only one-third as high.
### Table 1
Parameter choices.

#### Panel A: Preferences and aggregate endowment growth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Monthly value</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(\beta)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>or 1.004 when calibrated, as below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\gamma)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>coefficient relative risk aversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\bar{g})</td>
<td>1.002</td>
<td>average aggregate growth 2% annual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\sigma_{\epsilon g})</td>
<td>0.003</td>
<td>std dev aggregate growth 1% annual</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Panel B: Segmentation and idiosyncratic endowment volatility.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Constant</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>(\beta &gt; 1)</th>
<th>Data moment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(\lambda)</td>
<td>0.310</td>
<td>0.310</td>
<td>0.310</td>
<td>0.312</td>
<td>std dev diversified market portfolio return 4.16% monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\bar{\sigma})</td>
<td>0.318</td>
<td>0.318</td>
<td>0.318</td>
<td>0.316</td>
<td>average cross-section std dev returns 16.40% monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\sigma_{\epsilon v})</td>
<td>0.207</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.207</td>
<td>0.205</td>
<td>time-series std dev cross-section std dev returns 4.17% monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\phi)</td>
<td>0.784</td>
<td>0.785</td>
<td>0.790</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>AR(1) cross-section std dev returns 0.84 monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\eta)</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2.513</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>cross-section std dev returns on lagged growth -0.56 monthly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(\beta)</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>0.999</td>
<td>1.004</td>
<td>average risk-free rate 1.81% annual</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top panel shows our parameters for preferences and aggregate endowment growth. The bottom panel shows our parameters for segmentation and the idiosyncratic endowment volatility process \(\sigma_t\) and the moments in the Goyal and Santa-Clara (2003) cross-sectional standard deviation of stock returns data that they are chosen to match. The Benchmark model has a single common segmentation parameter \(\lambda\) and time-varying idiosyncratic endowment volatility \(\sigma_t\). The Constant \(\sigma\) model sets \(\sigma_t = \bar{\sigma}\), i.e., to the Benchmark unconditional mean, for all \(t\). The Feedback model has counter-cyclical endowment volatility, with feedback from aggregate growth \(g_t\) to volatility \(\sigma_t\) governed by the elasticity \(\eta\). The \(\beta > 1\) model chooses \(\beta\) to match the average risk free rate. The Feedback and \(\beta > 1\) models are re-calibrated, each using an additional moment (as shown) in addition to those moments used for the Benchmark model. For all other cases, \(\beta\) has its benchmark value \(\beta = 0.999\). See the main text for further details.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moment</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Constant</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>$\beta &gt; 1$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>std dev diversified market portfolio return</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>4.16</td>
<td>4.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>average cross-section std dev returns</td>
<td>16.40</td>
<td>16.40</td>
<td>16.03</td>
<td>16.35</td>
<td>16.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time-series std dev cross-section std dev returns</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>4.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AR(1) cross-section std dev returns</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>regression cross-section std dev returns on lagged growth</td>
<td>-0.56</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-0.56</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>average risk-free rate (annual)</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>8.19</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>8.19</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our target moments in the US monthly postwar Goyal and Santa-Clara (2003) cross-sectional standard deviation of stock returns data and their model counterparts. The Benchmark model has a single common segmentation parameter $\lambda$ and time-varying idiosyncratic endowment volatility $\sigma_t$. The Constant $\sigma$ model sets $\sigma_t = \bar{\sigma}$, i.e., to the Benchmark unconditional mean, for all $t$. The Feedback model has counter-cyclical endowment volatility, with feedback from aggregate growth $g_t$ to volatility $\sigma_t$ governed by the elasticity $\eta$. The $\beta > 1$ model chooses $\beta$ to match the average risk free rate. See the main text for further details.
Table 3
Aggregate asset pricing implications of single $\lambda$ model.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moment</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Benchmark</th>
<th>Constant</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>$\beta &gt; 1$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>equity premium</td>
<td>$E[R_M - R_f]$</td>
<td>5.43</td>
<td>2.43</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>2.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{Std}[R_M - R_f]$</td>
<td>14.25</td>
<td>13.27</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>13.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sharpe ratio</td>
<td>$E[R_M - R_f]/\text{Std}[R_M - R_f]$</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.17</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{Std}[R_M]$</td>
<td>14.44</td>
<td>14.41</td>
<td>1.01</td>
<td>14.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>risk free rate</td>
<td>$E[R_f]$</td>
<td>1.81</td>
<td>8.19</td>
<td>9.25</td>
<td>8.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{Std}[R_f]$</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>price/dividend ratio</td>
<td>$E[p/y]$ (annual)</td>
<td>34.38</td>
<td>14.10</td>
<td>14.13</td>
<td>14.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{Std}[\log(p/y)]$ (annual)</td>
<td>38.63</td>
<td>20.56</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>20.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{Auto}[\log(p/y)]$ (monthly)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>0.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Aggregate asset pricing moments in postwar US data. All return data is monthly 1959:1-2007:12 and reported in annualized percent. The stock market index is the value weighted NYSE return from CRSP, and the risk-free return is the 90 day T-bill rate. We obtain real returns after deflating by the CPI from the BLS. Data on price/dividend ratios is annual 1959-2007. To annualize monthly returns we multiply by 12 and to annualize monthly standard deviations we multiply by $\sqrt{12}$. 
Table 4  
Market-specific segmentation: parameters and fit.

Panel A: *Segmentation parameters.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market m</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Portfolio std dev</th>
<th>Market share</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\lambda_m$</td>
<td>$\omega_m$</td>
<td>Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.010</td>
<td>0.514</td>
<td>3.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.178</td>
<td>0.277</td>
<td>4.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.264</td>
<td>0.128</td>
<td>5.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.324</td>
<td>0.058</td>
<td>7.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.365</td>
<td>0.023</td>
<td>8.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>average</td>
<td>0.115</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Panel B: *Idiosyncratic endowment volatility.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Moment</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{\sigma}$</td>
<td>average cross-section std dev returns</td>
<td>16.40</td>
<td>16.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma_{\epsilon v}$</td>
<td>time-series std dev cross-section std dev returns</td>
<td>4.17</td>
<td>4.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\phi$</td>
<td>AR(1) cross-section std dev returns</td>
<td>0.84</td>
<td>0.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top panel shows the five segmentation parameters $\lambda_m$ and measures of traders $\omega_m$, for $m = 1, \ldots, 5$, and the portfolio standard deviation and market share moments in the Ang, Hodrick, Xing and Zhang (2006) data they are chosen to match. The bottom panel shows the idiosyncratic endowment volatility process parameters and the moments in the Goyal and Santa-Clara (2003) cross-sectional standard deviation of stock returns data they are chosen to match.
Table 5
Asset pricing implications of market-specific segmentation.

Panel A: Market-specific asset pricing implications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market m</th>
<th>Risk premia Data</th>
<th>Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-0.53</td>
<td>0.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Panel B: Aggregate asset pricing implications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Moment</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Model</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity premium</td>
<td>$\mathbb{E}[R_M - R_f]$</td>
<td>5.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharpe ratio</td>
<td>$\mathbb{E}[R_M - R_f]/\text{Std}[R_M - R_f]$</td>
<td>0.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market return</td>
<td>$\mathbb{E}[R_M]$</td>
<td>7.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk free rate</td>
<td>$\mathbb{E}[R_f]$</td>
<td>1.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price/dividend</td>
<td>$\mathbb{E}[p/y]$ (annual)</td>
<td>34.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{Std}[\log(p/y)]$ (annual)</td>
<td>38.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\text{Auto}[\log(p/y)]$ (monthly)</td>
<td>0.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The top panel shows the market risk premia implied by the five markets $m = 1, \ldots, 5$ and their counterparts in the Ang, Hodrick, Xing and Zhang (2006) data. These are reported as monthly percent. The bottom panel shows the aggregate asset pricing implications. The column marked $\lambda_m$ refers to the model with market-specific segmentation parameters while the column marked $\bar{\lambda}$ refers to a model with a single segmentation parameter $\lambda$ that is set equal to the mean $\bar{\lambda} = \sum m \lambda_m \omega_m$ of the market-specific $\lambda_m$ model.
Aggregate Implications of Micro Asset Market Segmentation

by Chris Edmond and Pierre-Olivier Weill

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

• Quantifies macro implications of many partially integrated micro financial markets

• Segmentation determines idiosyncratic risk born by agents in each micro market

• Segmentation calibrated to match systematic and idiosyncratic return volatility

• Homogeneous segmentation: agents bear 30% of idiosyncratic risk, equity premium 2.4%

• Welfare costs of segmentation substantial, 1.8% of lifetime consumption