

The Strategic Under-Reporting of Bank Risk

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Motivation

Risk measurement is central to financial-sector regulation.

- ▶ Banks are complex.
- ▶ Risk is not perfectly observable to outsiders.

Banks need to self-report their risk, which influences

- ▶ capital requirements
- ▶ market participants' risk-assessment

This Paper

Main Questions:

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- ▶ What implications does this have for the risk assessment of the entire financial system?

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- ▶ Focus on the bank's trading book.
- ▶ Banks self-report their trading book's Value-at-Risk (VaR) to the regulators.

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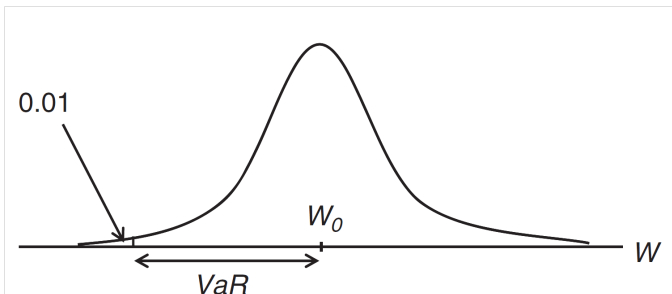
Empirical Setting:

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- ▶ Banks self-report their trading book's Value-at-Risk (VaR) to the regulators.

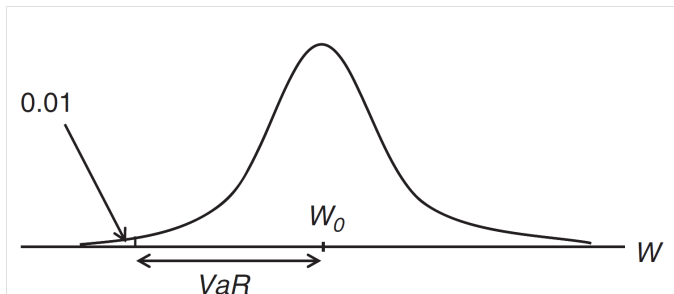
The Under-Reporting Tradeoff:

- ▶ Lower *current* capital requirement, but potentially higher *future* capital capital requirement.

Value-at-Risk Modeling

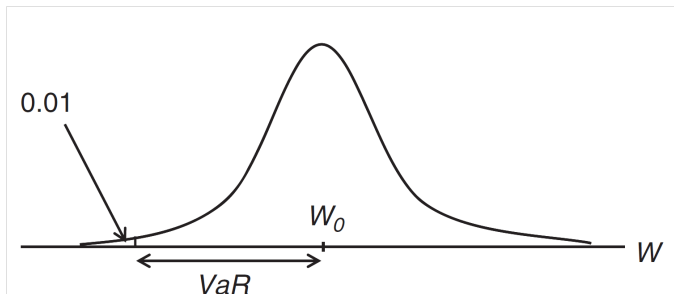


Value-at-Risk Modeling



- ▶ Typical trading portfolio has its largest risk exposures to:
 - ▶ interest rates
 - ▶ equities
 - ▶ foreign exchange
 - ▶ commodities

Value-at-Risk Modeling



- ▶ Typical trading portfolio has its largest risk exposures to:
 - ▶ interest rates
 - ▶ equities
 - ▶ foreign exchange
 - ▶ commodities
- ▶ *VaR*: self-reported portfolio value-at-risk
 - ▶ level of asset holdings
 - ▶ asset volatilities
 - ▶ correlation structure
 - ▶ relevant historical data period

VaR Exceptions & Capital Charge

$$\textit{Capital charge} = k \times \textit{VaR}$$

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k :

- ▶ Regulatory capital multiplier based on past year's Exceptions.

VaR Exceptions:

- ▶ Compare reported VaR to trading book gains/losses each day.

VaR Exceptions & Capital Charge

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VaR Exceptions:

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Exceptions	k factor	Regulatory Zone
0-4	3.00	Green
5	3.40	Yellow
6	3.50	
7	3.65	
8	3.75	
9	3.85	Red
10+	4.00	

Data:

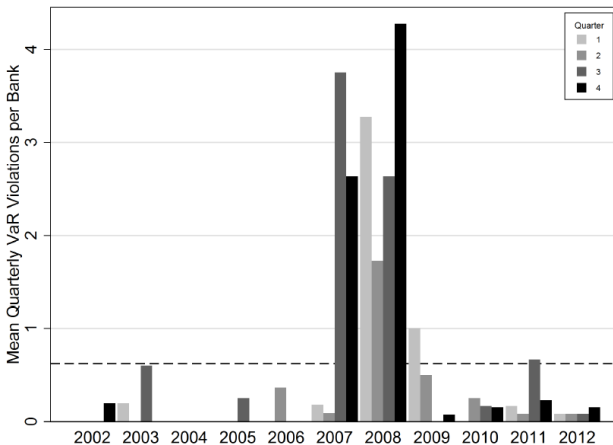
- ▶ 15 large global banks, 2002-2012 (quarterly)

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- ▶ Average quarterly exceptions: 0.62

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Research Design

Framework for setting up empirical tests:

$$Reported_{it} = G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{predicted}) - \eta_{it}$$

$$\eta_{it} = \phi(Incentives_{it}) + u_{it}$$

$$Actual_{it} = G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{realized})$$

Research Design

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$$\text{Reported}_{it} = G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{predicted}}) - \eta_{it}$$

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$$\text{Actual}_{it} = G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{realized}})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Actual}_{it} - \text{Reported}_{it} = & \{G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{realized}}) - G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{predicted}})\} \\ & + \phi(\text{Incentives}_{it}) + u_{it} \end{aligned}$$

Research Design

Framework for setting up empirical tests:

$$\text{Reported}_{it} = G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{predicted}}) - \eta_{it}$$

$$\eta_{it} = \phi(\text{Incentives}_{it}) + u_{it}$$

$$\text{Actual}_{it} = G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{realized}})$$

*Exceptions*_{*i,t+1*}

*ModelQuality*_{*it*}

$$\underbrace{\text{Actual}_{it} - \text{Reported}_{it}}_{\text{Exceptions}_{i,t+1}} = \underbrace{\{G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{realized}}) - G(\alpha, \Lambda_{it}, \Sigma_{\text{predicted}})\}}_{\text{ModelQuality}_{it}} + \underbrace{\phi(\text{Incentives}_{it}) + u_{it}}_{\text{Equity}_{it}}$$

VaR Exceptions and Book Equity

Do banks under-report their risk when their capital levels are low?

- ▶ Key incentive variable: $Equity_{it} = \log\left(\frac{Equity}{Assets}\right)$

$$Exceptions_{i,t+1} = \psi(Equity)_{it} + \alpha_i + \zeta_t + \Gamma X_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

Prediction: Low Equity *today* \Rightarrow higher *future* exceptions.

- ▶ $\hat{\psi} < 0$

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Prediction: Low Equity *today* \Rightarrow higher *future* exceptions.

- ▶ $\hat{\psi} < 0$

Note:

- ▶ The dependent variable is **Exceptions**, not VaR.

VaR Exceptions and Book Equity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.70***				
	(0.01)				
(z)log(Assets)					
(z)NI-to-Assets					
(z)Vol-Commodities					
(z)Vol-S&P 500					
(z)Vol-Foreign Exchange					
(z)Vol-Interest Rate					
Bank FE	Yes				
Year-Quarter FE	Yes				
Observations	424				
R^2	0.45				
Clustered by	Y-Q				
<i>p</i> -values in parentheses					
* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$					

VaR Exceptions and Book Equity

	(1) (z)Exceptions	(2) (z)Exceptions	(3) (z)Exceptions	(4) (z)Exceptions	(5) (z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.70*** (0.01)	-0.63*** (0.00)			
(z)log(Assets)		0.51 (0.16)			
(z)NI-to-Assets		-0.03 (0.74)			
(z)Vol-Commodities					
(z)Vol-S&P 500					
(z)Vol-Foreign Exchange					
(z)Vol-Interest Rate					
Bank FE	Yes	Yes			
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes			
Observations	424	424			
R^2	0.45	0.45			
Clustered by	Y-Q	Y-Q			

p-values in parentheses

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	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.70*** (0.01)	-0.63*** (0.00)	-0.78*** (0.00)		
(z)log(Assets)		0.51 (0.16)	0.35** (0.02)		
(z)NI-to-Assets		-0.03 (0.74)	-0.02 (0.81)		
(z)Vol-Commodities			0.11** (0.03)		
(z)Vol-S&P 500			0.31*** (0.00)		
(z)Vol-Foreign Exchange			0.01 (0.85)		
(z)Vol-Interest Rate			0.13** (0.02)		
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	No		
Observations	424	424	424		
R^2	0.45	0.45	0.41		
Clustered by	Y-Q	Y-Q	Y-Q		

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VaR Exceptions and Book Equity

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.70*** (0.01)	-0.63*** (0.00)	-0.78*** (0.00)	-0.66*** (0.00)	-0.66** (0.03)
(z)log(Assets)		0.51 (0.16)	0.35** (0.02)	0.51 (0.14)	0.51** (0.04)
(z)NI-to-Assets		-0.03 (0.74)	-0.02 (0.81)	-0.04 (0.57)	-0.04 (0.65)
(z)Vol-Commodities			0.11** (0.03)	0.07 (0.45)	0.07 (0.11)
(z)Vol-S&P 500			0.31*** (0.00)	0.37** (0.02)	0.37** (0.03)
(z)Vol-Foreign Exchange			0.01 (0.85)	0.07 (0.42)	0.07 (0.23)
(z)Vol-Interest Rate			0.13** (0.02)	0.07 (0.70)	0.07 (0.38)
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Observations	424	424	424	424	424
R^2	0.45	0.45	0.41	0.47	0.47
Clustered by	Y-Q	Y-Q	Y-Q	Y-Q	Bank

p-values in parentheses

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Addressing Model Quality Concerns

1. Macro shocks cause models to perform poorly:
2. Banks have time-invariant modeling skills that affect model performance:
3. Time-varying model quality that is correlated with equity capital.

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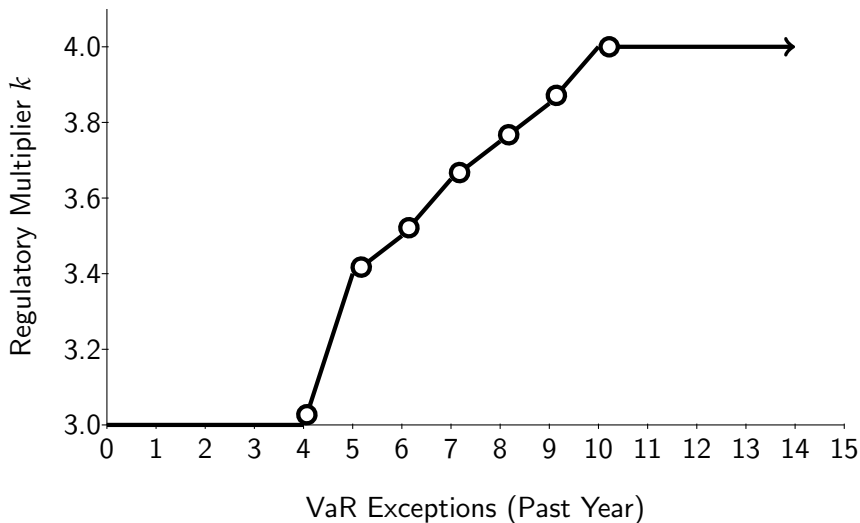
$$Exceptions_{i,t+1} = \beta(Equity)_{it} + \alpha_i + \delta_t + \Gamma X_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

where

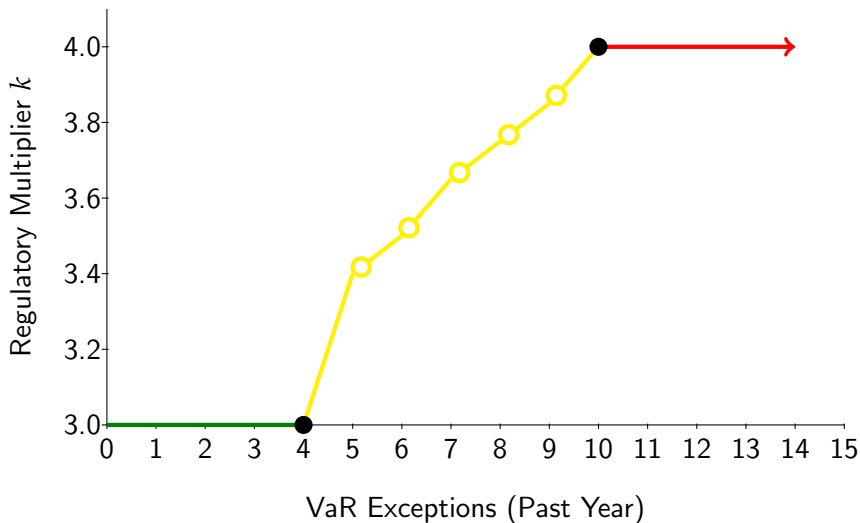
$$\epsilon_{it} = ModelQuality_{it} + \eta_{it}$$

$$cov(Equity_{it}, \epsilon_{it}) = cov(Equity_{it}, ModelQuality_{it}) \neq 0$$

Regulatory Scrutiny, and the Shape of Penalties



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The Penalty Function and Reporting Incentives

- ▶ More than 4 exceptions in a year puts you in the yellow zone
- ▶ 99%-level VaR model means expectation of 0.62 exceptions/quarter.
- ▶ $\mathbb{E}[\text{Exceptions}_{4Q}] = \text{Exceptions}_{\text{Trailing } 3Q} + 0.62$

The Penalty Function and Reporting Incentives

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- ▶ $\mathbb{E}[Exceptions_{4Q}] = Exceptions_{Trailing\ 3Q} + 0.62$

- ▶ Expected-Green group: < 4 exceptions in the trailing 3 quarters.
- ▶ Expected-Yellow group ≥ 4 exceptions in the trailing 3 quarters.

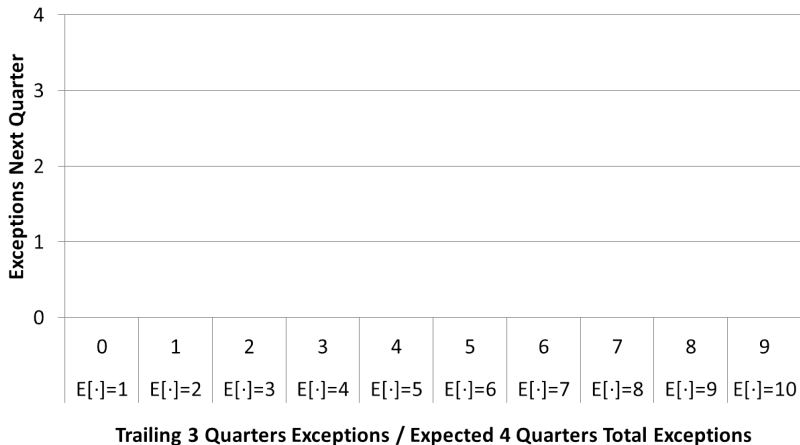
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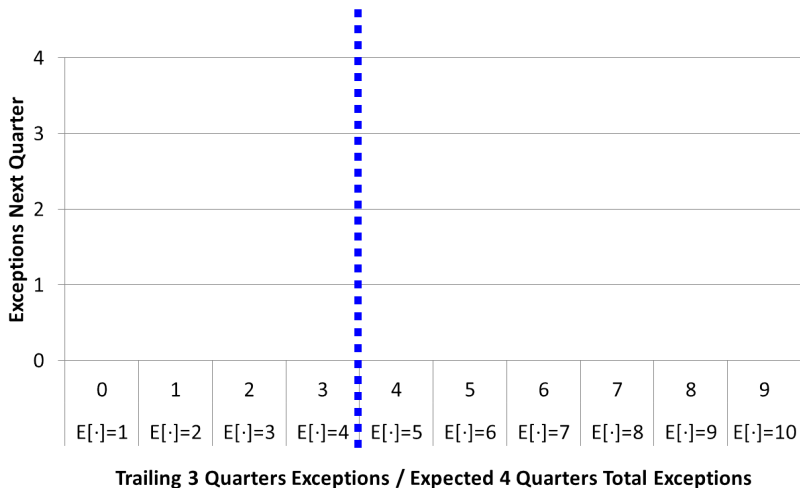
- ▶ Expected-Green group: < 4 exceptions in the trailing 3 quarters.
- ▶ Expected-Yellow group ≥ 4 exceptions in the trailing 3 quarters.

- ▶ Key idea: Banks near the Green-Yellow threshold have
 - ▶ similar recent model performance, but
 - ▶ *Yellow* banks have stronger incentives to under-report than *Green* banks at the margin.

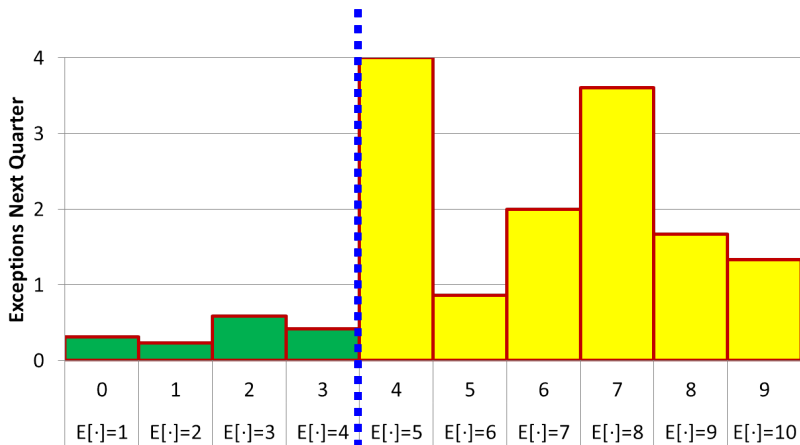
Average Future Exceptions Around the Threshold



Average Future Exceptions Around the Threshold

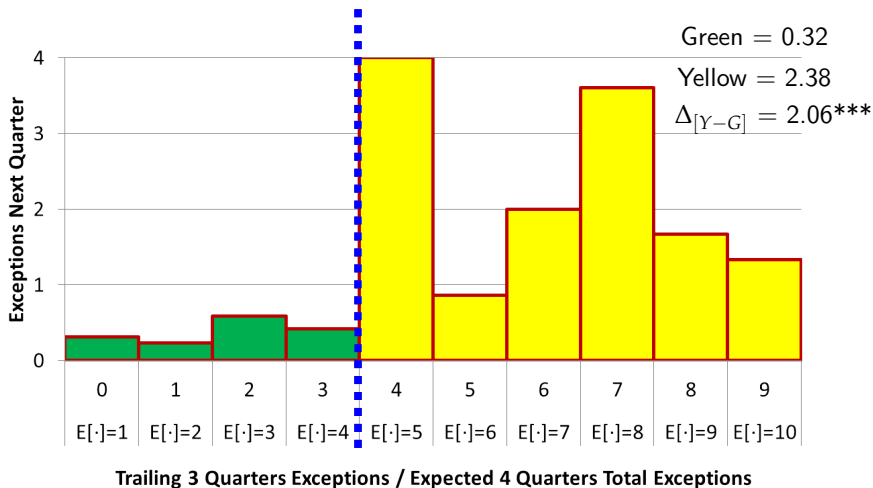


Average Future Exceptions Around the Threshold



Trailing 3 Quarters Exceptions / Expected 4 Quarters Total Exceptions

Average Future Exceptions Around the Threshold



The Penalty Function and Equity Capital

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Exceptions}_{i,t+1} = & \beta_0 + \beta_1(\text{NegativeEquity}_{i,t}) + \beta_2(\text{Yellow}_{i,t}) \\ & + \beta_3(\text{NegativeEquity}_{i,t} \times \text{Yellow}_{i,t}) + \Gamma X_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t} \end{aligned}$$

Identifying Assumptions for observations near the Green-Yellow Threshold:

- ▶ correlation between unobserved model quality and equity capital is similar.
- ▶ there are sharp changes in incentives due to changes in net benefits of under-reporting.

VaR Exceptions, The Penalty Function, and Low Equity

	(1) Full	(2) Full	(3) Full	(4) [0-8]	(5) [1-8]	(6) [2-7]
(z)NegativeEquity	0.75*** (0.00)					
Yellow						
(z)NegativeEquity * Yellow						
Red						
(z)NegativeEquity * Red						
Controls	Yes					
Bank FE	Yes					
Year-Quarter FE	Yes					
Observations	378					
R^2	0.50					

p-values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

VaR Exceptions, The Penalty Function, and Low Equity

	(1) Full	(2) Full	(3) Full	(4) [0-8]	(5) [1-8]	(6) [2-7]
(z)NegativeEquity	0.75*** (0.00)	0.59** (0.02)				
Yellow		0.54** (0.02)				
(z)NegativeEquity * Yellow						
Red		0.83 (0.25)				
(z)NegativeEquity * Red						
Controls	Yes	Yes				
Bank FE	Yes	Yes				
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes				
Observations	378	378				
R^2	0.50	0.52				

p-values in parentheses

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VaR Exceptions, The Penalty Function, and Low Equity

	(1) Full	(2) Full	(3) Full	(4) [0-8]	(5) [1-8]	(6) [2-7]
(z)NegativeEquity	0.75*** (0.00)	0.59** (0.02)	0.40* (0.09)			
Yellow		0.54** (0.02)	0.45* (0.08)			
(z)NegativeEquity * Yellow			0.79* (0.06)			
Red		0.83 (0.25)	0.54 (0.34)			
(z)NegativeEquity * Red			0.37 (0.24)			
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Observations	378	378	378			
R^2	0.50	0.52	0.55			

p-values in parentheses

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VaR Exceptions, The Penalty Function, and Low Equity

	(1) Full	(2) Full	(3) Full	(4) [0-8]	(5) [1-8]	(6) [2-7]
(z)NegativeEquity	0.75*** (0.00)	0.59** (0.02)	0.40* (0.09)	0.26 (0.20)		
Yellow		0.54** (0.02)	0.45* (0.08)	0.54** (0.03)		
(z)NegativeEquity * Yellow			0.79* (0.06)	0.78* (0.06)		
Red		0.83 (0.25)	0.54 (0.34)			
(z)NegativeEquity * Red			0.37 (0.24)			
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Observations	378	378	378	349		
R^2	0.50	0.52	0.55	0.58		

p-values in parentheses

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VaR Exceptions, The Penalty Function, and Low Equity

	(1) Full	(2) Full	(3) Full	(4) [0-8]	(5) [1-8]	(6) [2-7]
(z)NegativeEquity	0.75*** (0.00)	0.59** (0.02)	0.40* (0.09)	0.26 (0.20)	-0.08 (0.83)	
Yellow		0.54** (0.02)	0.45* (0.08)	0.54** (0.03)	0.61* (0.05)	
(z)NegativeEquity * Yellow			0.79* (0.06)	0.78* (0.06)	1.47*** (0.00)	
Red		0.83 (0.25)	0.54 (0.34)			
(z)NegativeEquity * Red			0.37 (0.24)			
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Observations	378	378	378	349	119	
R^2	0.50	0.52	0.55	0.58	0.77	

p-values in parentheses

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VaR Exceptions, The Penalty Function, and Low Equity

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(z)NegativeEquity	0.75*** (0.00)	0.59** (0.02)	0.40* (0.09)	0.26 (0.20)	-0.08 (0.83)	1.68 (0.13)
Yellow		0.54** (0.02)	0.45* (0.08)	0.54** (0.03)	0.61* (0.05)	1.01 (0.38)
(z)NegativeEquity * Yellow			0.79* (0.06)	0.78* (0.06)	1.47*** (0.00)	1.54** (0.04)
Red		0.83 (0.25)	0.54 (0.34)			
(z)NegativeEquity * Red			0.37 (0.24)			
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	378	378	378	349	119	64
R^2	0.50	0.52	0.55	0.58	0.77	0.85

p-values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Stale Model Unrelated to Incentives

- ▶ Banks were just too slow to update their model.
- ▶ Failure to update the model is unrelated to incentives.

Two Additional Tests:

1. leave out the transition period
2. exploit the dynamics of exceptions

Stale Model Unrelated to Incentives

- ▶ Banks were just too slow to update their model.
- ▶ Failure to update the model is unrelated to incentives.

Two Additional Tests:

1. leave out the transition period
2. exploit the dynamics of exceptions
 - ▶ Use lagged exception as a proxy for time-varying modeling skill:

$$Exceptions_{i,t+1} = \beta(Equity)_{it} + \alpha_i + \delta_t + \Gamma X_{it} + \theta Exceptions_{i,t} + \eta_{it}$$

Stale Model Tests

Stale Model Tests

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	All	drop2007	AB1lag	AB2lags
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.66***			
	(0.00)			
L.(z)Exceptions				
L2.(z)Exceptions				
Controls	Yes			
Bank FE	Yes			
Year-Quarter FE	Yes			
Observations	424			
R^2	0.47			
2nd Order AR test p -value				
Sargan Test p -value				
p -values in parentheses				
* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$				

Stale Model Tests

	(1) All	(2) drop2007	(3) AB1lag	(4) AB2lags
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.66*** (0.00)	-0.65** (0.01)		
L.(z)Exceptions				
L2.(z)Exceptions				
Controls	Yes	Yes		
Bank FE	Yes	Yes		
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes		
Observations	424	379		
R^2	0.47	0.48		
2nd Order AR test p -value				
Sargan Test p -value				
p -values in parentheses				
* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$				

Stale Model Tests

	(1) All	(2) drop2007	(3) AB1lag	(4) AB2lags
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.66*** (0.00)	-0.65** (0.01)	-0.45** (0.01)	
L.(z)Exceptions			0.30*** (0.00)	
L2.(z)Exceptions				
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Observations	424	379	392	
R^2	0.47	0.48		
2nd Order AR test p -value			0.94	
Sargan Test p -value			0.49	

p -values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Stale Model Tests

	(1) All	(2) drop2007	(3) AB1lag	(4) AB2lags
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.66*** (0.00)	-0.65** (0.01)	-0.45** (0.01)	-0.47** (0.02)
L.(z)Exceptions			0.30*** (0.00)	0.31*** (0.00)
L2.(z)Exceptions				-0.01 (0.96)
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	424	379	392	378
R^2	0.47	0.48		
2nd Order AR test p -value			0.94	1.00
Sargan Test p -value			0.49	0.52

p -values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Variation in the Benefits of Under-Reporting

Cross-Sectional Variation:

- ▶ Banks with large trading operations.

Time Series Variation:

- ▶ Times when the financial system is under stress.

VaR Exceptions and Trading Exposure

Key idea: Under-reporting provides more capital relief to banks with relatively larger trading desks.

VaR Exceptions and Trading Exposure

Key idea: Under-reporting provides more capital relief to banks with relatively larger trading desks.

Measure: VaR-to-equity-capital ratio as of 2006Q1 (VE_{2006}).

- ▶ Captures the relative importance of VaR levels to capital charges.
- ▶ Freezing the measure at 2006Q1 ensures it is not affected by post-crisis changes in risk-taking behavior or equity capital.

$$Exceptions_{i,t+1} = \psi(Equity)_{it} + \theta(Equity_{it} \times VE_{2006_i}) + \Gamma X_{it} + \epsilon_{it}$$

Prediction: Larger Trading Exposure \Rightarrow higher sensitivity to low capital.

- ▶ $\hat{\theta} < 0$

VaR Exceptions and Trading Exposure

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.92** (0.01)		
(z)VE_2006 * (z)log(Eq/A)			
High(VE_2006) * (z)log(Eq/A)			
Controls	Yes		
Bank FE	Yes		
Year-Quarter FE	Yes		
Observations	330		
R^2	0.47		

p-values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

VaR Exceptions and Trading Exposure

	(1) (z)Exceptions	(2) (z)Exceptions	(3) (z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.92** (0.01)	-0.50 (0.15)	
(z)VE_2006 * (z)log(Eq/A)		-0.48** (0.02)	
High(VE_2006) * (z)log(Eq/A)			
Controls	Yes	Yes	
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	
Observations	330	330	
R ²	0.47	0.50	

p-values in parentheses

* *p* < 0.10, ** *p* < 0.05, *** *p* < 0.01

VaR Exceptions and Trading Exposure

	(1)	(2)	(3)
	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.92** (0.01)	-0.50 (0.15)	0.35 (0.45)
(z)VE_2006 * (z)log(Eq/A)		-0.48** (0.02)	
High(VE_2006) * (z)log(Eq/A)			-1.92** (0.02)
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	330	330	330
R^2	0.47	0.50	0.51

p-values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Risk Reporting During System-Wide Stress

During times of financial sector stress:

- ▶ capital is likely most costly
- ▶ it is most important for regulators to get an accurate measurement of risk

⇒ Both private benefits and social costs of under-reporting are high.

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We focus on two main proxies of system-wide stress:

1. Lehman Brothers' collapse (2008Q4)
2. V-lab Capital Shortfall measure (Acharya et al. 2010)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Exceptions}_{i,t+1} = & \psi(\text{Equity})_{it} + \rho(\text{Stress})_t \\ & + \phi(\text{Equity}_{it} * \text{Stress}_t) + \Gamma X_{it} + \epsilon_{it} \end{aligned}$$

Risk Reporting During System-Wide Stress

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.66***			
	(0.00)			
(z)log(Eq/A) * 2008q4				
HiMES (top 4-tile)				
(z)log(Eq/A) * HiMES				
Controls	Yes			
Bank FE	Yes			
Year-Quarter FE	Yes			
Observations	424			
R^2	0.47			

p-values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Risk Reporting During System-Wide Stress

	(1) (z)Exceptions	(2) (z)Exceptions	(3) (z)Exceptions	(4) (z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.66*** (0.00)	-0.57** (0.01)		
(z)log(Eq/A) * 2008q4		-1.75*** (0.00)		
HiMES (top 4-tile)				
(z)log(Eq/A) * HiMES				
Controls	Yes	Yes		
Bank FE	Yes	Yes		
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes		
Observations	424	424		
R^2	0.47	0.56		

p-values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Risk Reporting During System-Wide Stress

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions	(z)Exceptions
(z)log(Eq/A)	-0.66*** (0.00)	-0.57** (0.01)	-0.66*** (0.01)	-0.26 (0.18)
(z)log(Eq/A) * 2008q4		-1.75*** (0.00)		
HiMES (top 4-tile)			0.22 (0.56)	0.21 (0.57)
(z)log(Eq/A) * HiMES				-0.42** (0.04)
Controls	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bank FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-Quarter FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	424	424	424	424
R^2	0.47	0.56	0.48	0.51

p-values in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Additional Robustness Tests:

1. Alternative measures of capital.
2. Poisson/negative binomial specifications.
3. Alternative measure of “excess” exceptions.
4. Control for
 - ▶ time-varying market risk exposure.
 - ▶ time-varying MBS exposure.
 - ▶ time-varying VaR risk factor exposure.

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The Level of VaR and Equity Capital:

- ▶ Prior volatility directly maps to the level of VaR.
- ▶ We find the a weaker relationship between past market volatility and reported level of VaR when firms have lower equity capital.
 - ▶ Suggests firms are using more discretion in the VaR reports when undercapitalized.

Summary

- ▶ Proper risk measurement is critical for the stability of individual financial institution and the financial system at large.
 - ▶ Important for within-firm capital allocation decisions and risk management.
 - ▶ Important for regulators to ensure a stable, functioning financial sector.
- ▶ The system provides managers with the incentives and ability to under-report risk to save capital when raising capital is more costly.

⇒ The states of the world when accurate risk measurement may be most important are precisely when this measurement is least informative.

The Strategic Under-Reporting of Bank Risk

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ACPR Banque de France

Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	SD	Min	P25	Median	P75	Max	N
<i>Bank Characteristics:</i>								
Total Assets (\$Bn)	901.40	767.93	73.14	291.14	602.46	1428.16	3643.58	424
NI-to-Assets (%Q)	0.17	0.20	-1.16	0.09	0.18	0.25	1.57	424
BookEq/AT (%)	6.32	3.15	1.69	4.06	5.14	9.01	13.84	424
log(Eq/AT)	-2.89	0.51	-4.08	-3.20	-2.97	-2.41	-1.98	424
<i>Value-at-Risk (\$MM):</i>								
Exceptions	0.62	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00	424
Total Value-at-Risk	61.90	85.86	3.60	9.00	26.00	75.00	433.00	422
VaR-Interest Rate	46.42	73.39	0.00	4.40	15.28	60.80	430.58	422
VaR-Foreign Exchange	9.09	12.44	0.00	0.89	2.69	15.70	62.82	422
VaR-Equities	20.87	31.39	0.00	3.14	7.64	27.12	204.60	422
VaR-Commodities	7.49	10.80	0.00	0.29	2.08	10.50	52.31	422
VaR-Other	17.23	49.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.65	322.88	422
VaR-Diversification Benefit	40.89	54.01	0.00	4.86	11.70	59.60	241.67	422

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