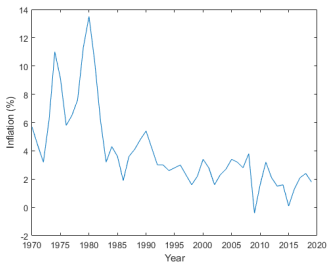




# Hedging long-term investments

- Inflation risk is especially relevant on the long-term

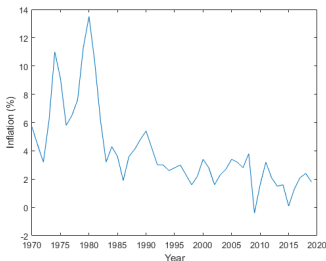
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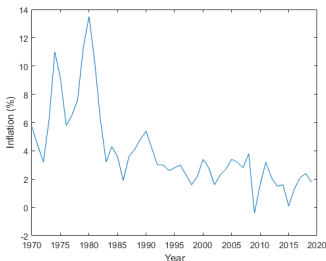


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**Figure.** Yearly inflation (%) in the US



- Theoretically, both the interest rate and inflation risk can be hedged by buying Index Linked Bonds (ILBs)
- However, in practice ILBs are illiquid (Ciocyte and Westerhout (2017), Beetsma et al. (2020))  
→ **How to (robustly) hedge inflation risk without ILBs?**

# Literature - Sangvinatsos and Wachter strategy

- Influential study of Sangvinatsos and Wachter (2005): the **SW-strategy** hedges the nominal interest rate and inflation without ILBs
- The hedge demand turns out to be a long-short position in nominal bonds, with typically extreme weights
- As a consequence, the strategy is very sensitive to bond maturities and estimation errors in parameters

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- The hedge demand turns out to be a long-short position in nominal bonds, with typically extreme weights
- As a consequence, the strategy is very sensitive to bond maturities and estimation errors in parameters
  - E.g. uncertainty about the market price of risk (Flor and Larsen (2011), Garlappi and Uppal (2007), Martellini et al. (2015), and Feldhütter et al. (2012))

# Literature - Alternative strategies

- Related strategy of Brennan and Xia (2002) (**BX-strategy**) results in similar issues
  - See e.g. Martellini et al. (2015). The proposed solution is implementing constraints on the portfolio weights, but in that case no analytical solution

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- Related strategy of Brennan and Xia (2002) (**BX-strategy**) results in similar issues
  - See e.g. Martellini et al. (2015). The proposed solution is implementing constraints on the portfolio weights, but in that case no analytical solution
- We find that one bond strategies lead to less extreme and less sensitive demands
  - Drawback: inflation risk cannot be hedged fully, e.g. (Mkaouar et al., 2017)
  - Van Bilsen, Boelaars and Bovenberg (2020) derive the optimal strategy in the BX-model (**BBB-strategy**)
  - Munk, Sørensen and Vinther (2004) (**MSV-strategy**) derive the optimal strategy in another restricted SW-model



# Our contribution

- Focus on a robust real wealth hedge and the corresponding hedge demand for nominal bonds

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- Focus on a robust real wealth hedge and the corresponding hedge demand for nominal bonds
- Robust choice of bond maturities
- Sensitivity to changes in parameters
  - Unlike existing literature, we do not focus on market prices of risk
  - Relevant parameters are the mean-reversion parameters and the feedback parameter, the parameter that takes into account the impact of the inflation rate level on the nominal interest rate drift

## Preview of results

- The choice of bond maturities is relevant. The 'robust' choice contains a mid-term bond (10Y) and a very long-term bond (50Y). This differs from commonly used bond maturities

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  - Similarly, we observe a loss of 15-95% if the investor believes that the **feedback parameter** doubles
- One bond strategies are often more robust than two bond strategies, but these fail to hedge inflation risk well

# Objective

- Maximize expected utility from terminal real wealth:

$$\max_{W_T} \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ u \left( \frac{W_T}{\Pi_T} \right) \right] \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbb{E}_0[\zeta_T W_T] = W_0$$

- Nominal wealth  $W_t$ , price level  $\Pi_t$
- (Large) investment horizon  $T$
- CRRA-utility function  $u(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{x^{1-\gamma}-1}{1-\gamma} & \text{if } \gamma \neq 1 \\ \log(x) & \text{if } \gamma = 1 \end{cases}$   
with coefficient of relative risk aversion  $\gamma$
- Nominal pricing kernel  $\zeta_t$ , expressed in factor loadings  $\tilde{\lambda}$  :

$$\frac{d\zeta_t}{\zeta_t} = -R_t^f dt - \tilde{\lambda}_R dB_t^R - \tilde{\lambda}_\pi dB_t^\pi$$

# Risks

- Investor aims to hedge  $\Pi_t$  and nominal interest rate  $R_t$
- Assume price level process  $\frac{d\Pi_t}{\Pi_t} = \pi_t dt$ 
  - $\pi_t$  expected inflation

- Both risk factors follow an Ornstein-Uhlenbeck process:

$$d \begin{bmatrix} R_t \\ \pi_t \end{bmatrix} = - \begin{bmatrix} \kappa_R & \kappa_{R\pi} \\ 0 & \kappa_\pi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} R_t - \bar{R} \\ \pi_t - \bar{\pi} \end{bmatrix} dt + \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_R & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_\pi \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dB_t^R \\ dB_t^\pi \end{bmatrix}$$

with mean-reversion parameters  $\kappa_R$  and  $\kappa_\pi$ ;  
and feedback parameter  $\kappa_{R\pi}$

- Assume  $B_t^R$  and  $B_t^\pi$  are correlated by correlation matrix  $\rho$

# Available assets

- Available assets: risk-free rate  $R_t$ , bonds  $i$  with time to maturity  $\tau_i$  and price  $P_t(\tau_i)$ :

$$P_t(\tau_i) = e^{-a(\tau_i) - b_R(\tau_i)R_t - b_{R,\pi}(\tau_i)\pi_t}$$

- $a(\tau_i)$ ,  $b_R(\tau_i)$ ,  $b_{R,\pi}(\tau_i)$  represent sensitivities of  $P_t(\tau_i)$ 
  - $b_R(\tau_i)$  depends on  $\kappa_R$
  - $a(\tau_i)$  and  $b_{R,\pi}(\tau_i)$  depend on  $\kappa_R$ ,  $\kappa_\pi$ , and  $\kappa_{R\pi}$
- Consequence: fully hedge  $\pi_t$  by short-long composition



# Remaining definitions

- Let  $\sigma_X$  correspond to the factor volatilities and  $\sigma$  to the bond exposures:

$$\sigma_X = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_R & 0 \\ 0 & \sigma_\pi \end{bmatrix} ; \sigma = \begin{bmatrix} -\sigma_R \mathbf{b}_R(\tau_1) & -\sigma_\pi \mathbf{b}_{R\pi}(\tau_1) \\ -\sigma_R \mathbf{b}_R(\tau_2) & -\sigma_\pi \mathbf{b}_{R\pi}(\tau_2) \end{bmatrix}$$

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Variable	Definition
$x_t^*$	Optimal nominal bond allocations
$\lambda$	Market prices of risk
$\Omega = \sigma \rho \sigma'$	Variance-covariance matrix
$\Lambda = \sigma \lambda$	Risk premiums
$\tilde{\lambda} = \rho^{-1} \lambda$	Factor loadings of nominal pricing kernel

# Solution Sangvinatsos and Wachter (2005)

- The optimal strategy contains a speculative and a hedging demand:

$$x_t^* = \frac{1}{\gamma}(\sigma')^{-1}\rho^{-1}\lambda + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\gamma}\right)\Omega^{-1}\sigma'\rho\sigma_X B(\tau)'$$

where  $B(\tau)$  contains the exposures to shocks in  $R_t$  and  $\pi_t$  and is dependent on  $\kappa_R$ ,  $\kappa_\pi$ , and  $\kappa_{R\pi}$

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- Two bonds: hedge demand is **not** impacted by  $\rho$  or  $\sigma_X$
- Extreme values of  $x_t^*$  if  $\tau_1 \approx \tau_2$ ,  $\kappa_{R\pi} \approx 0$ , or  $\kappa_R \approx \kappa_\pi$

▶▶ Conditions extreme positions

▶▶ Example extreme positions

# Choice bond maturities

- Approach “robust” choice  $(\tau_1^{min}, \tau_2^{min})$  by minimising the sum of absolute optimal bond allocations at  $t = 0$ :

$$(\tau_1^{min}, \tau_2^{min}) = \arg \min_{\tau_1, \tau_2} (|x_{0,1}^*| + |x_{0,2}^*|)$$

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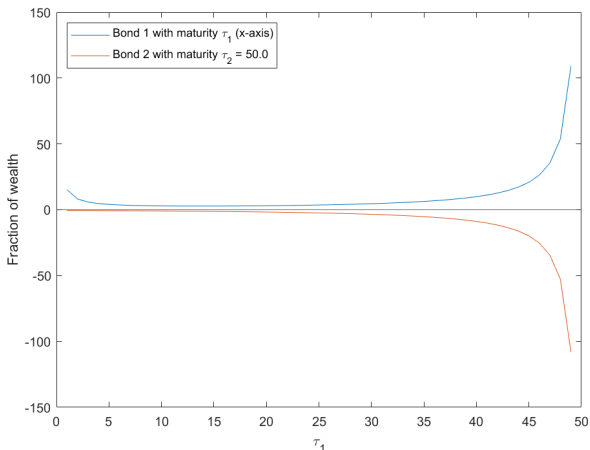
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- Result robust choice  $\forall T \in \{1, 5, 10, 20, 30\}$ ;  
 $\forall \gamma \in \{1, 2, 25\}; \tau_1, \tau_2 \in \{1, 2, \dots, 50\} \rightarrow (11, 50)$

▶ Robust to include long-term bond  $\geq 30Y$

# Example relevance impact bond maturities



**Figure.** Optimal bond allocations at  $t = 0$  (in fraction of wealth) for  $\gamma = 25$ ,  $\kappa_{R\pi} = -0.078$ ,  $T = 30$ ,  $\tau_2 = 50$ , and a variable  $\tau_1$  given on the x-axis.

# Initial parameters

- Parameters from Brennan and Xia (2002)

<b>Set <math>\Theta</math></b>	
$\kappa_{R\pi}$	-0.078
$\kappa_R$	0.105
$\sigma_R$	0.019
$\lambda_R$	-0.219
$\kappa_\pi$	0.027
$\sigma_\pi$	0.014
$\lambda_\pi$	-0.105
$\rho_{R\pi}$	0.733



# Impact parameters on wealth

- Let the Data Generating Process (DGP) be based on initial parameter set  $\Theta$
- Let the perceived optimal strategy  $\hat{x}_t$  be based on investor's beliefs  $\hat{\Theta}$

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- Given  $\hat{x}_t$ , simulate  $W_t$  by Euler approximation with monthly time intervals and monthly portfolio rebalancing
- Results for  $\gamma \in \{1, 2, 25\}$
- Set  $T = 30$ ;  $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (10, 50)$ ; and  $W_0 = 1,000$

# Impact feedback parameter $\kappa_{R\pi}$

- Incorrect beliefs about  $\kappa_{R\pi}$  are relevant for the two bond strategy

**Table.** Certainty Equivalent (CE) where DGP is based on  $\kappa_{R\pi}$ , but the investor believes it is based on  $\hat{\kappa}_{R\pi}$  ▶ Support values  $\kappa_{R\pi}$

		<i>Two bond SW-strategy</i>				<i>One bond SW-strategy</i>			
		<i>2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>25</i>
$\hat{\kappa}_{R\pi}$	$\gamma$								
	$\kappa_{R\pi}$								
		-0.078		0		-0.078		0	
	-0.117	2,694	153	1,371	0				
	-0.078	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,517</b>	1,371	0				
	-0.039	2,430	109	1,371	0				
	-0.001	1,398	0	1,371	0				
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- Incorrect beliefs about  $\kappa_{R\pi}$  are relevant for the two bond strategy
- For the one bond strategy less relevant, but a low CE

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		<i>Two bond SW-strategy</i>				<i>One bond SW-strategy</i>			
		2	25	2	25	2	25	2	25
$\hat{\kappa}_{R\pi}$	$\gamma$	-0.078		0		-0.078		0	
	-0.117	2,694	153	1,371	0	2,319	203	1,885	2
-0.078	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,517</b>	1,371	0	<b>2,324</b>	<b>251</b>	1,904	4	
-0.039	2,430	109	1,371	0	2,316	200	1,920	6	
-0.001	1,398	0	1,371	0	2,285	105	1,927	7	
0					2,283	103	<b>1,927</b>	<b>7</b>	

# Impact remaining parameters - SW-strategy

- Incorrect beliefs about  $\kappa_R$  and  $\kappa_\pi$  cause a large loss in utility from terminal real wealth  $\rightarrow x_i^*$  for sets 0,4,and 5  $\rightarrow \hat{\Theta}^k$
- For  $\gamma = 25$ , the CE can even decrease to 0

$\gamma$	CE			Loss w.r.t. set 0 (%)		
	1	2	25	1	2	25
<i>Parameter set k</i>						
<b>0 (Initial)</b>	<b>3,725</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,517</b>			
1 ( $\kappa_R, \sigma_R \uparrow$ )	1,657	571	0	-56%	-81%	-100%
2 ( $\kappa_\pi, \sigma_\pi \uparrow$ )	3,436	2,712	937	-8%	-11%	-63%
3 ( $\kappa_R, \sigma_R \downarrow$ )	2,171	1,501	4	-42%	-51%	-100%
4 ( $\kappa_\pi, \sigma_\pi \downarrow$ )	3,715	3,013	2,061	0%	-1%	-18%
5 ( $\kappa_R, \sigma_R, \kappa_\pi, \sigma_\pi \uparrow$ )	313	24	0	-92%	-99%	-100%
6 ( $\kappa_R, \sigma_R, \kappa_\pi, \sigma_\pi \downarrow$ )	2,126	1,445	3	-43%	-52%	-100%
7 ( $\rho_{R\pi} = 0.6$ )	3,574	2,979	2,511	-4%	-2%	0%
8 ( $\rho_{R\pi} = 0.9$ )	1,291	1,802	2,425	-65%	-41%	-4%

**Table.** Certainty Equivalent (CE) if the true parameter set is  $\Theta$ , but the investor believes it is  $\hat{\Theta}^k$ , where  $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (10, 50)$ ,  $\kappa_{R\pi} = -0.078$ .  $\rightarrow$  Impact  $\tau_i$

# Impact remaining parameters (BX/BBB/MSV)

- The BBB-strategy appears to be the most 'robust to parameter uncertainty' (best worst-case scenario over  $\hat{\Theta}^k$ )
  - ▶ Corresponding  $x_t^*$
  - ▶  $k \in \{1, 2, 3, 6\}$
  - ▶  $k \in \{7, 8\}$
- However, robust one bond strategies still lead to low CE in case of correct beliefs ( $\Theta$ )

$\gamma$	$\Theta$ (Initial)			$\hat{\Theta}^5(\kappa_R, \sigma_R, \kappa_\pi, \sigma_\pi \uparrow)$		
	1	2	25	1	2	25
$CE^{SW2}$	<b>3,725</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>0</b>
$CE^{BX}$	3,725	3,041	2,517	1,692	1,330	26
$CE^{SW1}$	<b>3,048</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>2,271</b>	<b>70</b>
$CE^{BBB}$	3,048	2,324	251	2,970	2,259	211
$CE^{MSV}$	2,833	2,283	103	2,750	2,257	8

**Table.** Certainty Equivalent (CE) if the true parameter set is  $\Theta$ , but the investor believes it is  $\hat{\Theta}^k$ , where  $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (10, 50)$ ,  $\kappa_{R\pi} = -0.078$ .



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- We study alternative strategies
  - The BX-strategy results in similar issues
  - One bond strategies have less extreme demands which leads to the opposite results:
    - Less impact of parameter uncertainty or non-robust choice of bond maturities
    - Possible large loss in utility due to no full inflation risk hedge

# Future research

- Formal robust optimisation
  - Trade-off between parameter uncertainty and inflation hedging
  - Let the investor choose both the bond maturities and the type of strategy (two bond SW-strategy, BBB-strategy, ...)

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# Parameter sensitivity sets

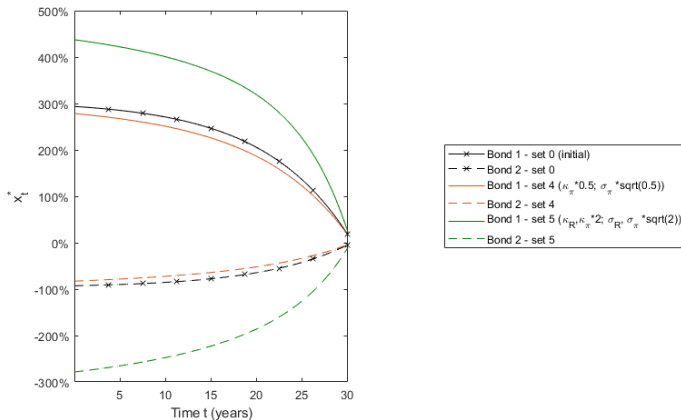
- Parameter sensitivity sets  $\hat{\Theta}^k, k \in \{1, 2, \dots, 8\}$  ▶ Impact  $\hat{\Theta}^k$

Set $k$	Initial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
$\kappa_R$	0.105	0.210	0.105	0.053	0.105	0.210	0.053	0.105	0.105
$\sigma_R$	0.019	0.027	0.019	0.014	0.019	0.027	0.014	0.019	0.019
$\kappa_\pi$	0.027	0.027	0.054	0.027	0.014	0.054	0.014	0.027	0.027
$\sigma_\pi$	0.014	0.014	0.020	0.014	0.010	0.020	0.010	0.014	0.014
$\rho_{R\pi}$	0.733	0.733	0.733	0.733	0.733	0.733	0.733	0.600	0.900



# Explanation extreme impact on CE

- Beliefs of  $\hat{\Theta}^5$  (increase in  $\kappa_R, \kappa_\pi$ ) lead to more deviation from  $x_t^* | \Theta$  than beliefs of  $\hat{\Theta}^4$  ( $\kappa_\pi$  decreases) ▶ Impact on CE



**Figure.** Optimal bond allocations for  $\gamma = 25, \tau_1, \tau_2 = (10, 50)$



## Robust choice when $\tau_1$ is fixed

- We saw that if  $\tau_1, \tau_2 \in \{1, 2, \dots, 50\}$ , then (11,50) is a robust choice for the bond maturities ▶ Robust choice
- $\tau_1$  fixed;  $\tau_2 \in \{1, 2, \dots, 50\} \rightarrow$  include long-term bond  $\geq 30Y$ :

$\tau_1$	5	10	15	20	25	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>
$\tau_2$ (robust)	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	8	9	10	10	11



# Impact feedback parameter $\kappa_{R\pi}$ on bond demands

- The very extreme positions in the two bond SW-strategy fully hedge inflation risk, even when  $\kappa_{R\pi} \approx 0$ .
- If  $\kappa_{R\pi} \rightarrow 0$ , it is an advantage that the BX-, MSV-, and BBB-strategies are independent on the actual  $\kappa_{R\pi}$

►► Impact on CE

$j$	3			4			5		
	$\kappa_{R\pi}^j$			$\kappa_{R\pi}^j$			$\kappa_{R\pi}^j$		
$\gamma$	1	2	25	1	2	25	1	2	25
$x_1^*$	<b>520%</b>	<b>516%</b>	<b>513%</b>	<b>7,632%</b>	<b>12,597%</b>	<b>17,165%</b>			
$x_2^*$	<b>-170%</b>	<b>-204%</b>	<b>-236%</b>	<b>-4,818%</b>	<b>-8,099%</b>	<b>-11,118%</b>			
$x_1^{BX}$	426%	357%	294%	426%	357%	294%	426%	357%	294%
$x_2^{BX}$	-109%	-100%	-93%	-109%	-100%	-93%	-109%	-100%	-93%
$\tilde{x}_0^*$	<b>160%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>185%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>-22%</b>	<b>185%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>-22%</b>
$x^{BBB}$	138%	91%	48%	138%	91%	48%	138%	91%	48%
$x^{MSV}$	185%	77%	-22%	185%	77%	-22%	185%	77%	-22%

**Table.** Perceived optimal bond allocations if  $\kappa_{R\pi}^j$  is the true value, but the investor believes  $\kappa_{R\pi}$  equals -0.078 (BX/BBB) or 0 (MSV),  $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (10, 50)$



# Impact remaining parameter beliefs for $k \in \{1, 2, 3, 6\}$

- Similar results as for  $k \in \{4, 5\}$  ▶  $k \in \{4, 5\}$  ▶  $k \in \{7, 8\}$

$\gamma$	$\Theta(\text{Initial})$			$\hat{\Theta}^1(\kappa_R, \sigma_R \uparrow)$			$\hat{\Theta}^2(\kappa_\pi, \sigma_\pi \uparrow)$		
	1	2	25	1	2	25	1	2	25
$CE^{SW2}$	<b>3,725</b>	<b>3,041</b>	<b>2,517</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,436</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>937</b>
$CE^{BX}$	3,725	3,041	2,517	3,449	2,882	1,849	2,673	1,409	0
$CE^{SW1}$	<b>3,048</b>	<b>2,324</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>3,025</b>	<b>2,297</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>3,037</b>	<b>2,309</b>	<b>232</b>
$CE^{BBB}$	3,048	2,324	251	2,995	2,304	249	3,044	2,315	182
$CE^{MSV}$	2,833	2,283	103	2,750	2,247	20	2,833	2,299	57

$\gamma$	$\hat{\Theta}^3(\kappa_R, \sigma_R \downarrow)$			$\hat{\Theta}^6(\kappa_R, \sigma_R, \kappa_\pi, \sigma_\pi \downarrow)$		
	1	2	25	1	2	25
$CE^{SW2}$	<b>2,171</b>	<b>1,501</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,126</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>3</b>
$CE^{BX}$	2,638	1,981	30	2,454	1,847	48
$CE^{SW1}$	<b>3,046</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>3,014</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>87</b>
$CE^{BBB}$	2,851	2,284	232	2,876	2,212	200
$CE^{MSV}$	2,590	2,239	155	2,590	2,153	242

**Table.** Certainty Equivalent (CE) if the true parameter set is  $\Theta$ , but the investor believes it is  $\hat{\Theta}^k$ , where  $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (10, 50)$ ,  $\kappa_{R\pi} = -0.078$ .



