

# Credit Derivatives

27 March 2009

# Agenda

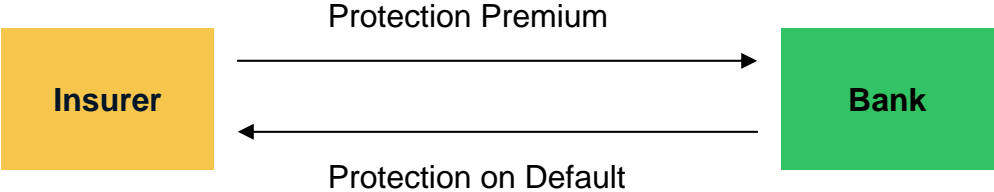
- CDS Overview and Market Backdrop
- How Writing CDS May Go Awry
- The Future for Credit Derivatives
- Credit Risk Management
- Other Uses of Credit Derivatives
- Counterparty Risk Management

# CDS Overview and Market Backdrop

# Credit Default Swap Mechanics

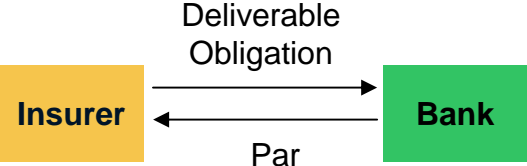
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## CDS Cashflows Before Maturity/Default



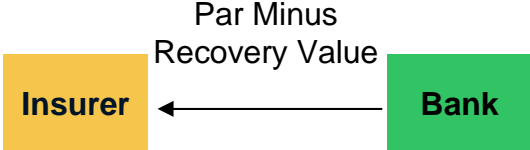
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## Physical Settlement in the Event of Default



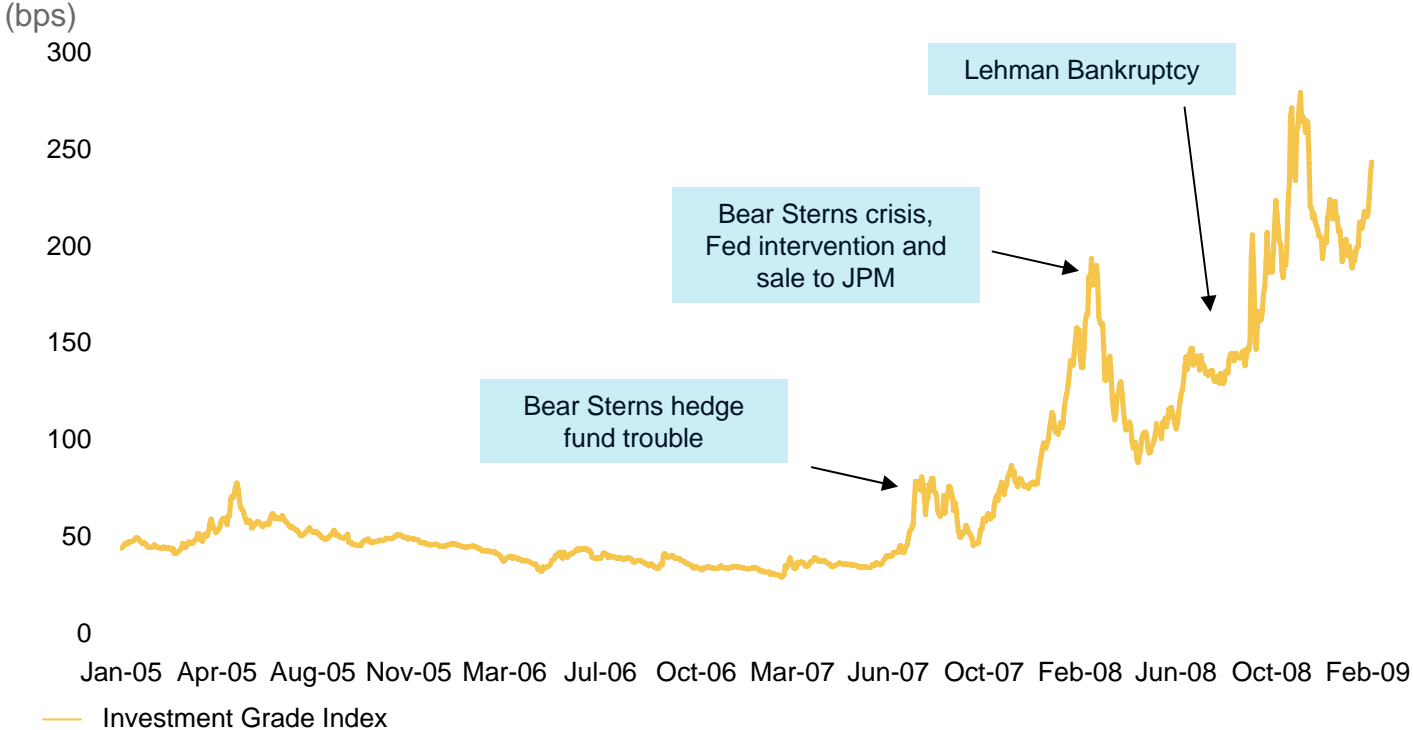
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## Cash Settlement in the Event of Default



# Where Credit Spreads are...

## 20 Months into the Crisis, Credit Spreads Remain Elevated...

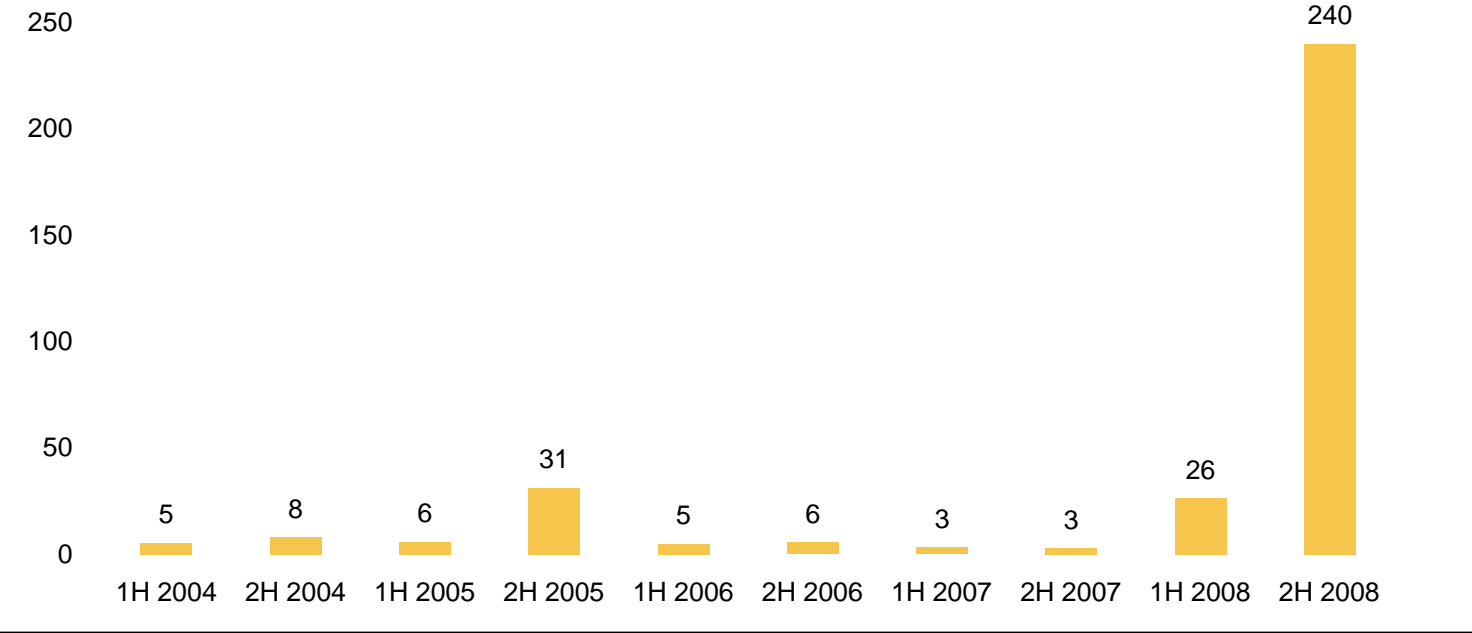


Source: Bloomberg

# Corporate Default Rates Going Up

## Historical Corporate Default Volumes (1)

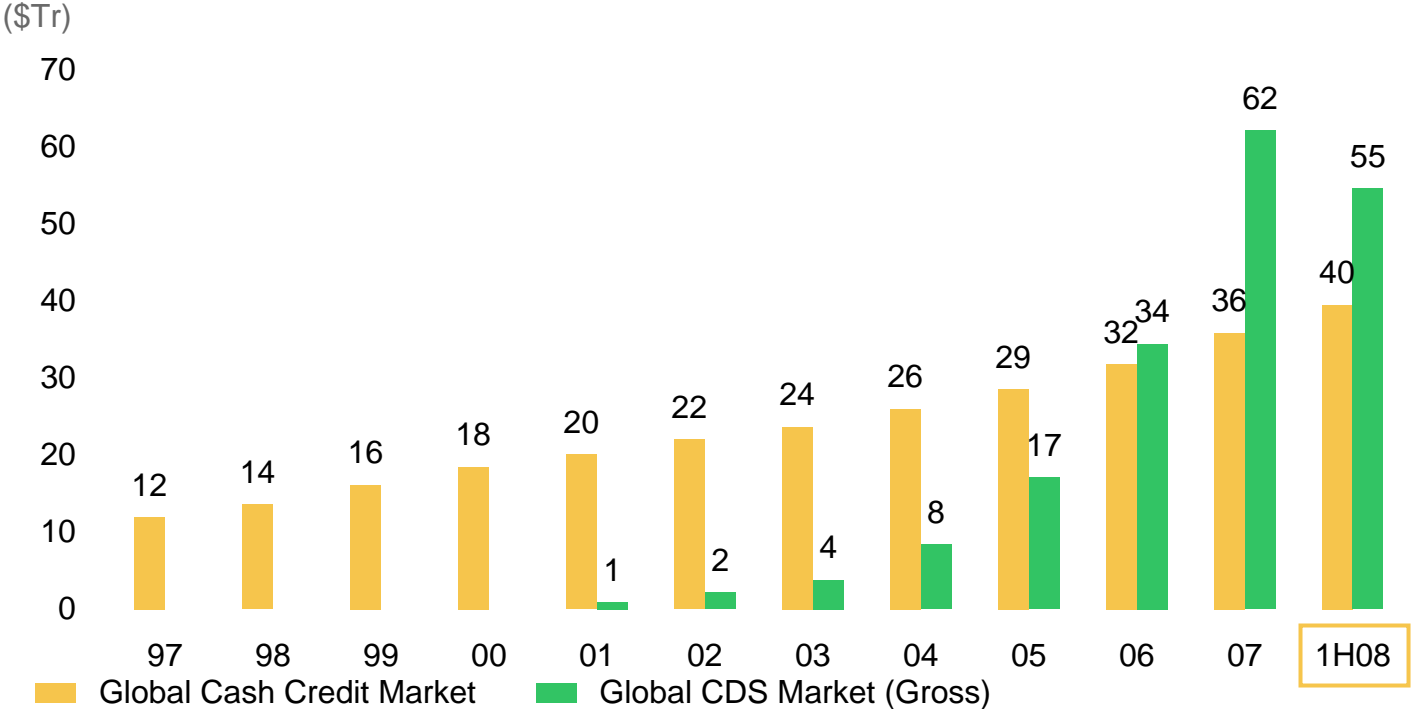
Last 5 Years  
US\$Bn



Source: Moody's

# Size of the CDS Market

## CDS Notional Outstanding



Source: ISDA, Thomson Financial

# How Writing CDS May Go Awry



# “Financial Weapons of Mass Destruction”(1)?

## How Derivatives Go Awry – The Case of AIG

- \$61.7Bn loss reported this month is the biggest quarterly loss of any company in American history
- \$25.9Bn of losses from misplaced bets in credit-derivatives exceed the combined 4Q losses of the two largest banking casualties Merrill Lynch and Citigroup

### The Culprits

#### Credit Default Swaps (CDS)

- AIG Financial Product (FP) sold CDS protection to companies that held collateralised debt obligations (CDO) based on subprime mortgages
- The housing bubble burst, CDS holders demanded collateral and payment from AIG when CDO values plunged

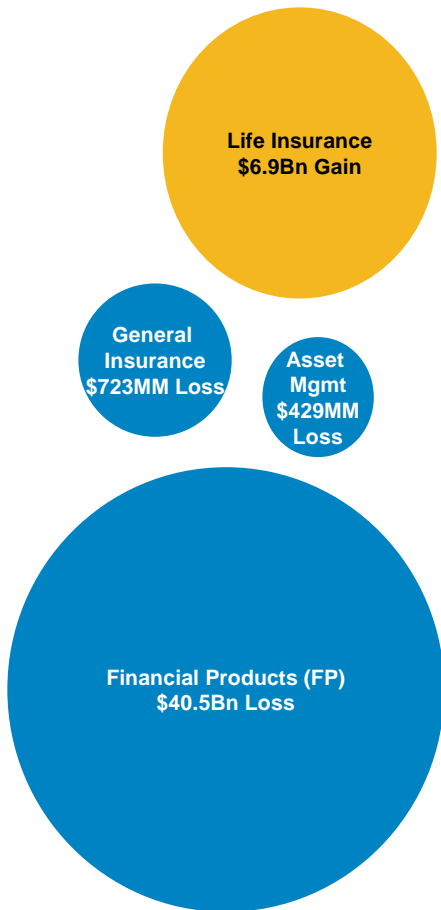
#### Securities lending

- Instead of investing the cash collateral posted by lenders in low risk investments like commercial paper, AIG invested in higher-risk mortgage- and asset-backed securities

Aug 2007	Aug / Oct 2007	Feb 2008	Aug 2008	Sept 2008	Nov 2008
AIG officials stress that “the risk undertaken (on CDS) is very modest and remote”	Goldman Sachs, a big swaps counterparty, demands AIG post \$4.5Bn in collateral	Total unrealised losses of \$11.5Bn Total \$5.3Bn collateral posted	Total unrealised losses of \$26.2Bn Total \$16.5Bn collateral posted	Forced to post another \$14.5Bn in collateral after S&P downgrades AIG	Total unrealised losses of \$33.2Bn Total \$33.2Bn collateral posted

# The Hedge Fund Attached to an Insurance Company<sup>(1)</sup>

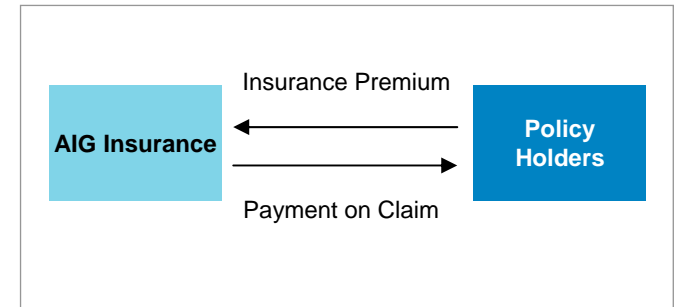
## An Analysis of AIG's Financial Products Unit



source : AIG annual report 2008

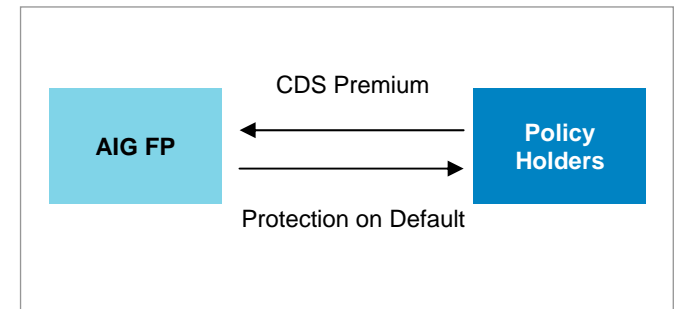
### AIG the Insurance Company

- Insurance companies are supposed to avoid excessive risk concentrations, e.g. by setting risk retention limit on a single life



### AIG Financial Product - the Hedge Fund

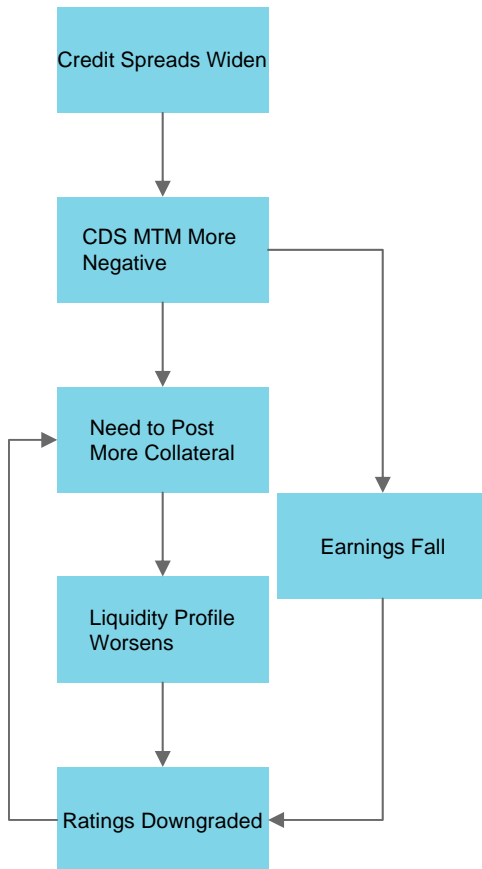
- AIG FP was insuring systemic risk by, e.g. writing multiple CDS protection on the same group of mortgage CDO



# Delving Deeper: 3 Risks Associated with Writing CDS

## The Vicious Cycle

### The Vicious Cycle



There are three types of risks associated with writing CDS contracts:

### (1) Mark-to-market Risk

- As credit spreads widen, protection sellers have a negative mark-to-market on the balance sheet, which will also flow through the profit and loss account

### (2) Liquidity Risk

- Depending on the collateral agreement with its counterparty, a negative mark-to-market may require the protection seller to post a large amount of cash collateral to its counterparty, thereby introducing significant liquidity risk

### (3) Default Risk

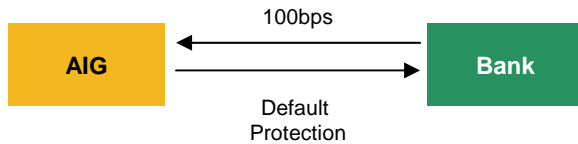
- When defaults occur, the protection seller will have to compensate the protection buyer, thereby incurring actual losses

# (1) Mark-to-market Risk

## Earnings Take the Hit

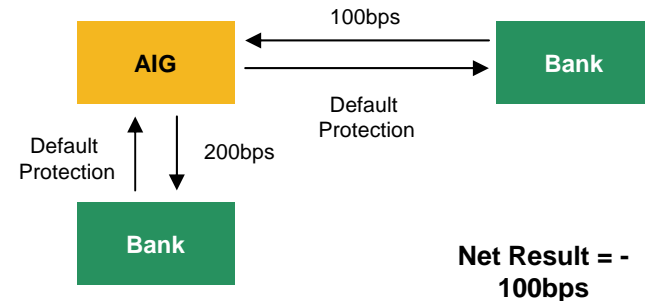
### At Inception

Assume CDS Premium is 100bps p.a.



### Credit Spread Widens

Assume CDS Premium is 200bps p.a.



- When credit spreads widen, protection seller would have a negative mark-to-market because they now have to pay a higher CDS premium to “buy back” the protection they sold (if they are to close out the contract)
- This negative mark-to-market will flow through P&L, even when no actual defaults have occurred
- In 2008, AIG took a \$40.4Bn mark-to-market losses through its P&L

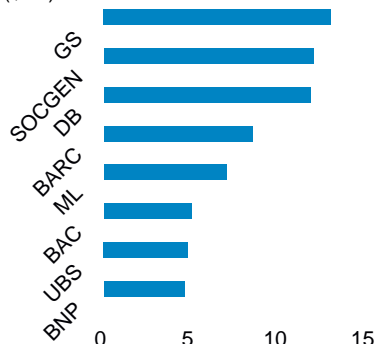
## (2) Liquidity Risk

### Demand for Collateral as a Results of Negative MTM

- When financial institutions trade with each other, a collateral agreement is normally put in place
  - When the mark-to-market is negative, the protection seller normally have to post collateral to the protection buyer
- The amount of collateral will depend on:
  - Ratings: the lower the rating of the protection seller, the higher the amount of collateral needed
  - Mark-to-market: the more negative the mark-to-market, the higher the amount of collateral needed

#### AIG's Biggest Counterparties

CDS and Securities Lending  
(Sep-Dec 2008)  
(\$Bn)



Source AIG

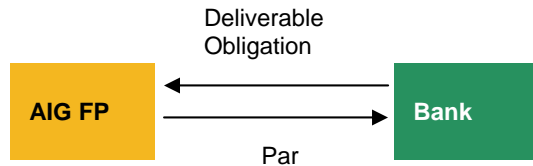
- AIG's collateral posting requirement is high because
  - Credit spread has widened, resulting a massive negative mark-to-market
  - AIG's ratings have been downgraded
- In fact, a large portion of the governments bail-out funds were used as collateral for the CDS contracts AIG has written:
  - Goldman Sachs \$12.9Bn, Soc Gen \$11.9Bn, Deutsche Bank \$11.8Bn, Barclays \$8.5Bn, Merrill Lynch, \$6.8Bn, etc

# (3) Default Risk

## Making the Protection Buyer Whole in the Event of Default

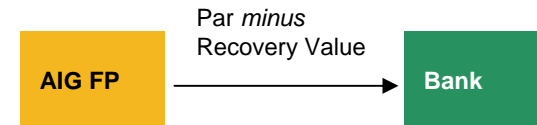
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### Physical Settlement in the Event of Default



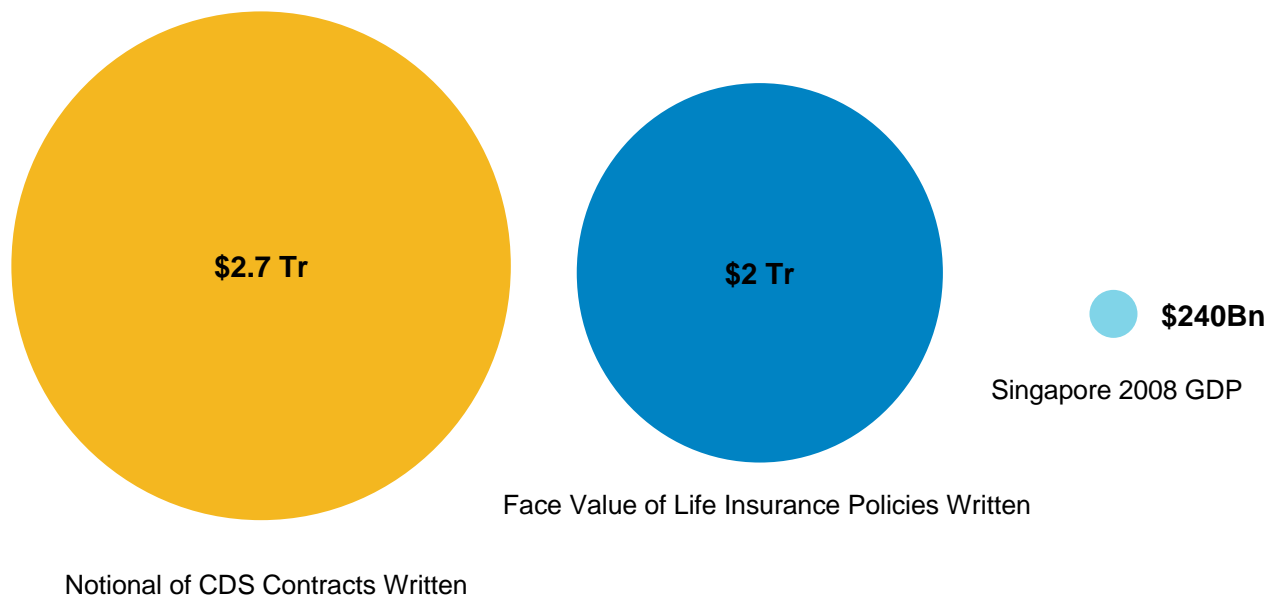
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### Cash Settlement in the Event of Default



- 
- When the actual defaults happen, AIG FP had to make the protection buyer whole on the reference obligation
  - AIG FP has written protection on a large number of mortgage-backed securities, which had very low recovery value
    - Therefore, the losses are very close to 100%

# Grasping the Magnitude of the Risks



- **AIG Financial Products, established in 1987, has written a huge amount of CDS contracts in the recent years**
  - Before the financial crisis, AIG was one of the largest seller of CDS protection

# The Future for Credit Derivatives

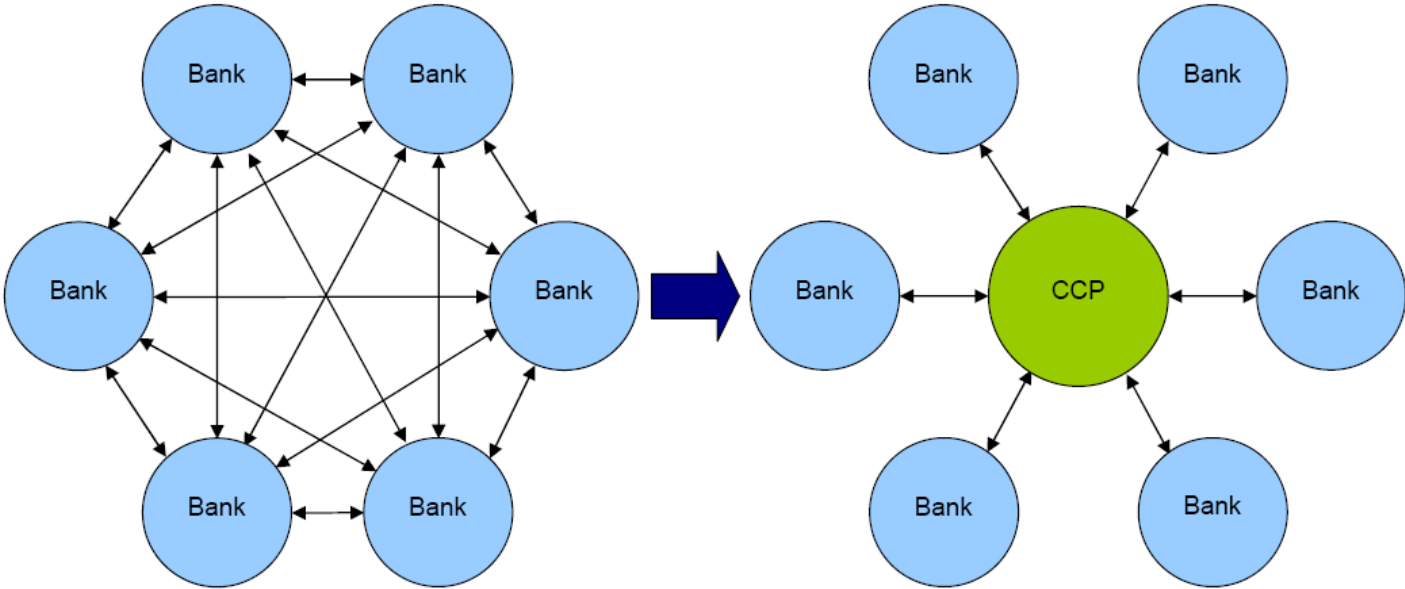


# CDS Market Passed the Test of Lehman

- Significant for the CDS market because it is both:
  - A frequently traded name in the CDS market (hence large volume outstanding)
  - A counterparty to many CDS contracts
- Therefore, Lehman's bankruptcy was a big test for the CDS market
- Positive result because:
  - CDS settlement process went orderly, despite large volume
  - Wall Street banks had the most exposure to Lehman through inter-broker trades but did not experience large losses because CDS was used to hedge these exposures

# CDS Market is Evolving

## From Over-the-Counter to Centralized Clearing

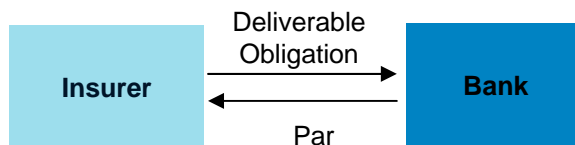


# Credit Risk Management

# Index Products

## Portfolio Hedging

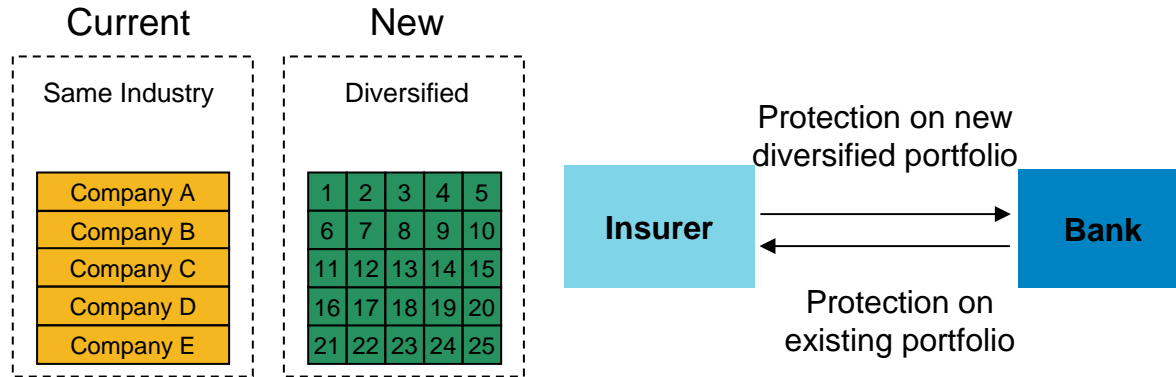
### Index Product



- Standardized and very developed
- Available for regional names
- Highly liquid. Typical size per trade:
  - North American IG index: >500MM USD
  - European IG index: >250MM EUR
  - Asian IG index: >50MM USD

# Costless Credit Diversification

## Synthetic Bond Reallocation

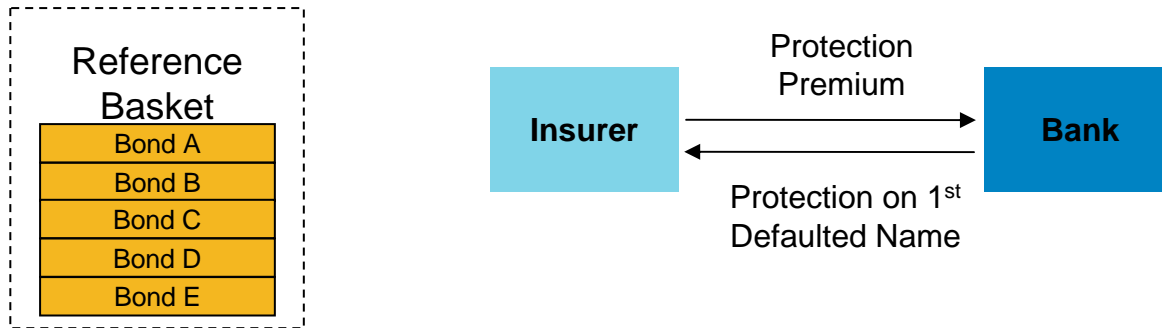


- Insurer buys protection on existing portfolio and sells protection on new diversified portfolio to offset cost
- Achieves diversification effect without buying and selling bonds
- Quick to execute

# First to Default Basket (FTD)

## Lowering the Cost of Hedging

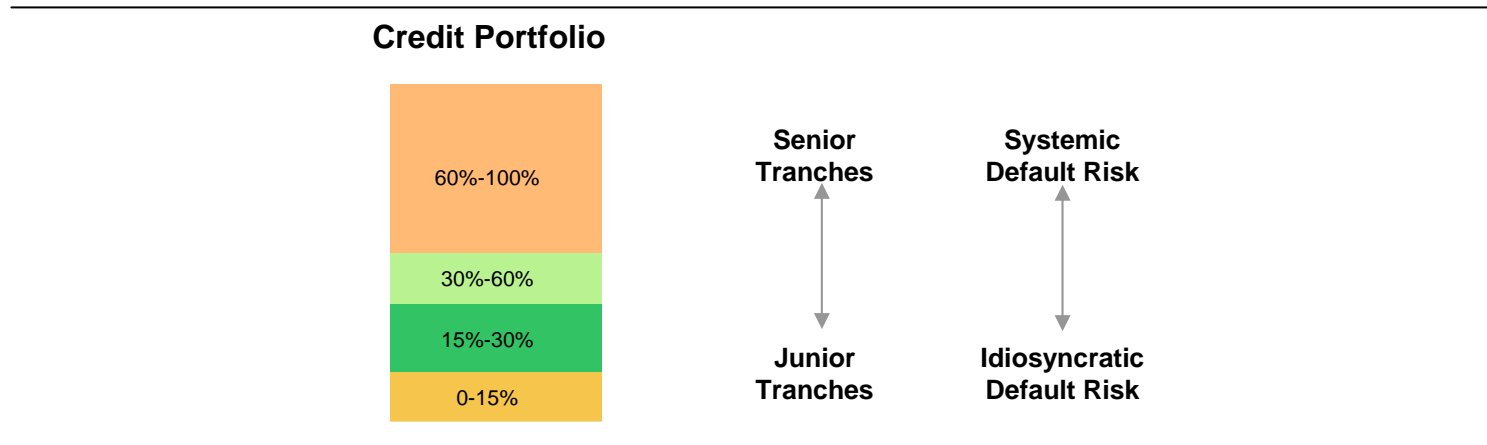
### Illustration



- 1<sup>st</sup> to Default Basket offers protection on the first defaulted name in a basket
- Cheaper than hedging entire basket, but also provides less protection
  - Correlation drives relative cheapness
- Can be altered to Nth to default to increase level of protection

# Index Tranches

## Extending the N<sup>th</sup> to Default Basket

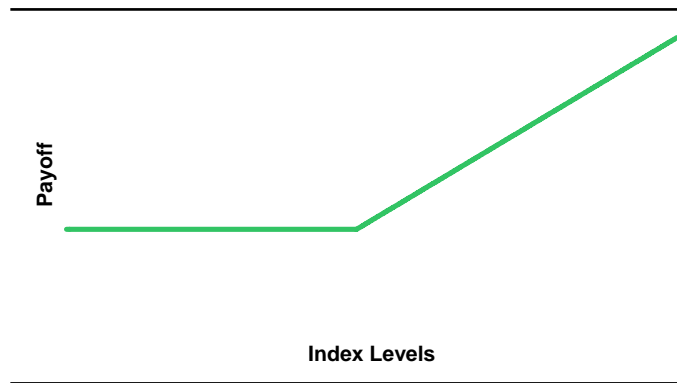


- Protections can be bought on any tranche of a portfolio
  - Protection more expensive for lower (more junior) tranches
  - Cheaper for higher (more senior) tranches
  
- Allows insurers to retain amount of risk proportionate to their available capital
  - More capital means protection on more senior tranches, i.e., cheaper cost

# Index Options

## Payer and Receiver Credit Options

### Index Payer Swaptions



- The option gives the buyer the right to buy credit protection at the strike level
- Protection against mark-to-market losses from widening credit spreads
- A payoff is earned if the underlying credit spread widens beyond the option strike level
- The options also generates a payout as index members default



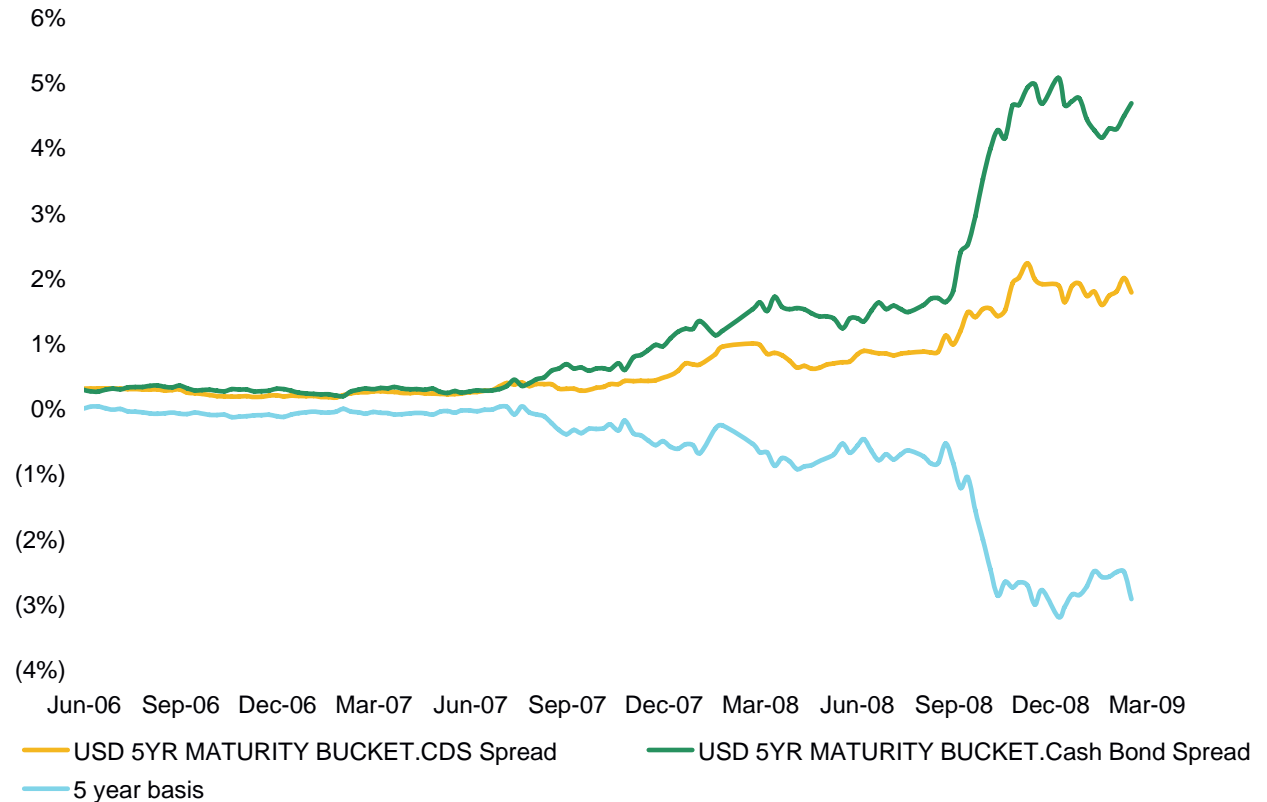
# Other Uses of Credit Derivatives

# Historical Difference Between Cash and CDS Spreads

- Selling protection via a Credit Default Swap (“CDS”) incurs almost identical credit risk to owning a cash bond
  - In “normal” market environments, the credit spread of cash bonds closely track credit default swap spreads
- Over the past 18 months, both CDS and cash bond spreads have widened significantly
  - The widening has not been uniform, with bond spreads widening substantially more than CDS spreads
- This “negative basis” (CDS spread – bond credit spread) has been driven by technical factors
  - Investors’ increased funding costs mean they demand a higher return from cash investments
  - CDS contracts are derivatives which do not incur any funding costs

## Historical Trend of Cash Bond and CDS spread

from mid 2006 to-date



Source Morgan Stanley

# Negative Basis Trade Mechanics

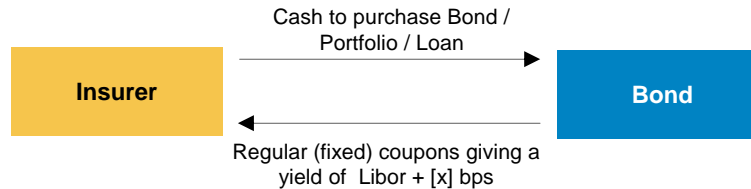
- It is possible for investors with access to funding (e.g. insurers) to capitalise on the Negative Basis by buying the relatively “cheap” corporate bonds, and selling the relatively “expensive” CDS

– Buying corporate bonds and buying protection via CDS securities with similar maturity dates enables a positive spread to be earned with minimal risk

- CDS contract with Morgan Stanley will be collateralised, hence there will be no counter-party risk towards Morgan Stanley.

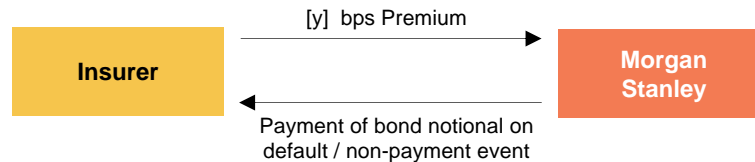
## Step 1

Insurer purchases Bond / Portfolio / Loan



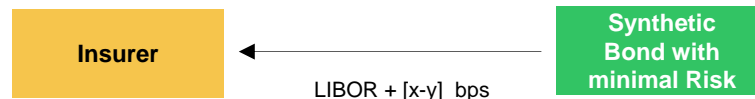
## Step 2

Insurer purchases CDS protection <sup>(1)</sup> on Bond / Portfolio / Loan



## Net Position

Insurer holds a synthetic risk-free bond earning LIBOR plus return

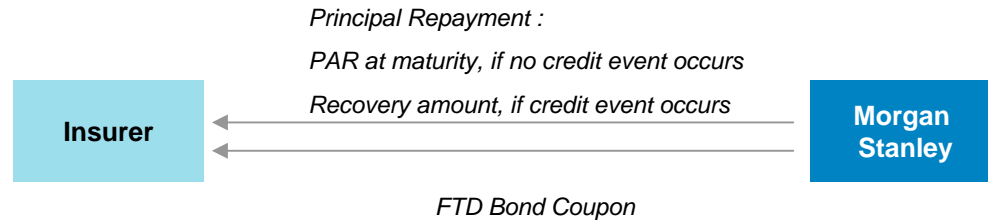


(1) CDS will be fully collateralized to remove the

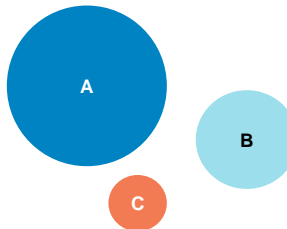
# First-to-default Bond

- Many investors are interested in products that enable them to earn additional yield while taking exposure to familiar names.
- A first-to-default (FTD) Bond allows an investor to achieve this goal.
- The additional yield comes from “structural” leverage: the FTD gives simultaneous exposure to the entire portfolio, without having to invest in the entire portfolio name-by-name

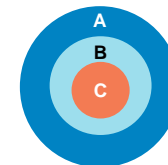
## First-to-Default Bond Mechanism



**1) Low Correlation Perceived by Markets**  
High FTD Bond Coupon



**2) High Correlation Perceived by Markets**  
Low FTD Bond Coupon



# Counterparty Risk Management

# The Practicality of Executing Derivatives

- FX, interest rate and credit derivatives are executed “over the counter” and on a bespoke basis rather than traded on an exchange
- Well-established and standardised documentation should be minimal legal or credit risk associated with these bilateral contracts

## Legal Documentation

- Each Individual Trade
  - Trade Confirm
  - Details terms of the transaction (notional, tenor, rate, etc)
  - Avoids ambiguity in the event of a dispute
- Governing Entire Portfolio
  - ISDA Master Agreement
  - Outlines legal rights and requirements of counterparties
  - Allows for trade ‘netting’
  - ISDA – International Swaps and Derivatives Association
  - Addresses legal risk associated with derivatives trades
  - Credit Support Annex (CSA)
  - Details terms of collateral agreement (threshold, frequency of posting)
  - Included as part of ISDA
  - Standard practice for sophisticated financial counterparties
  - Addresses credit risk associated with derivatives trade

# How Credit Risk Arises

- The mark-to-market of a derivative is the profit or loss that would be realised if the position was unwound (i.e. cancelled) at the prevailing market rates
- If the derivative has a positive mark-to-market, the position is an asset to the Insurer
- The Insurer is exposed to a default by its derivative Counterparty
  - Upon default, the Insurer has an unsecured claim for the value of the mark-to-market and will likely recover less than 100%

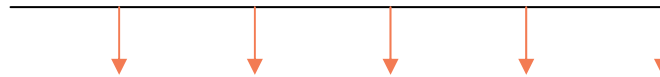
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## Derivative Mark-to-Market = Cost Incurred / Benefit Realised If Trade Were Unwound

**T0 – Company X CDS Spread = 200bps**

**Insurer Buys 5Y Credit Protection on Company X at 200bps per year**

*Contracted CDS Cash Flows*

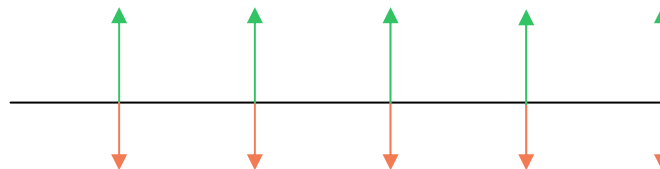


*Insurer pays 2% per year to bank; bank provides default protection*

**T1 – CDS Spread Widens to 300bps**

**Insurer Unwinds Existing Position by Selling Credit Protection on Company X at 300bps per year**

*Contracted CDS Cash Flows*



*Insurer receives 3% per year from bank; Insurer provides default protection*

**Net, Insurer receives 1% per year; MtM = unwind value = 5%<sup>(1)</sup>**

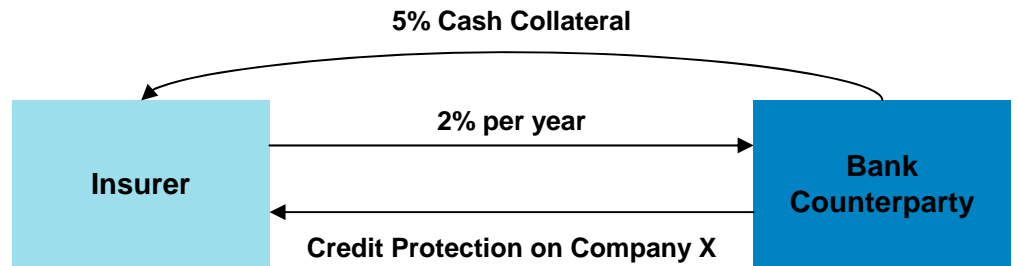
*Insurer pays 2% per year to bank; bank provides default protection*

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# Collateralisation – The Principles

- Under a collateral agreement, the “out-of-the-money” party posts cash collateral to the “in-the-money” party equal to the derivative mark-to-market
  - This is a direct cash transfer
- If the out-of-the-money counterparty defaults, the derivatives contract is cancelled and the collateral is simply not returned
- No credit losses are sustained even if there is a default

**Company X Market CDS Spread = 200bps**



***Ongoing Basis***

Derivative MtM +5  
Collateral Position +5

***Upon Default of Bank Counterparty***

Derivative MtM chg. -5  
Cash Position +5  
Net Impact 0

***Ongoing Basis***

Derivative MtM -5  
Collateral Position -5

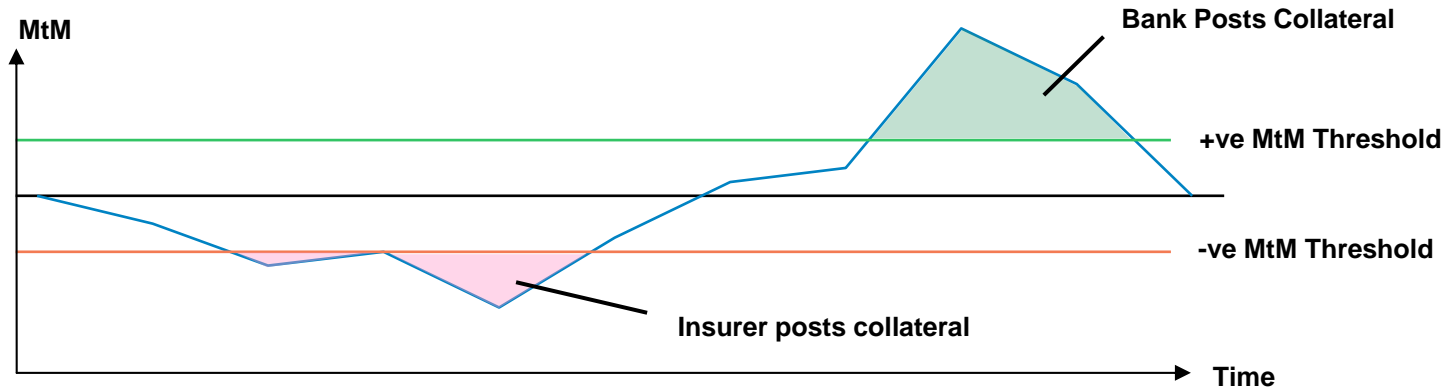
***Upon Default of Bank Counterparty***

Derivative MtM chg. +5  
Cash Position -5  
Net Impact 0

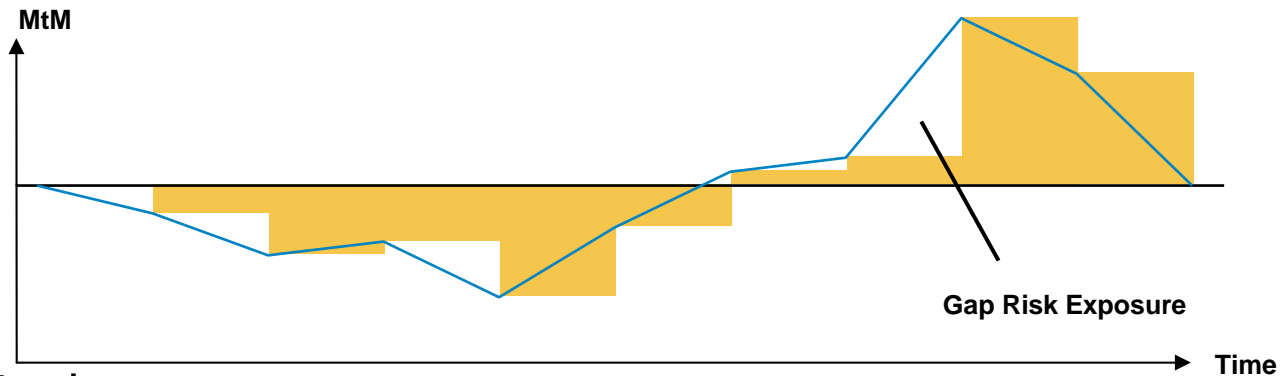


# Regular Collateral Rebalancing

## Collateral Thresholds May be Applied



## Periodic Margining - 'Gap Risk' Remains an Exposure



Thank You