Risk Preferences and The Macro Announcement
Premium

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August 5, 2016

The paper develops a theory for equity premium around macroeconomic announcements. Stock returns realized around pre-scheduled macroeconomic announcements, such as the employment report and the FOMC statements, account for 55% of the market equity premium during the 1961-2014 period, and virtually 100% of it during the later period of 1997-2014, where more announcement data are available. We provide a characterization theorem for the set of intertemporal preferences that generate a positive announcement premium. Our theory establishes that the announcement premium identifies a significant deviation from expected utility and constitutes an asset market based evidence for a large class of non-expected models that features aversion to "Knightian uncertainty", for example, Gilboa and Schmeidler [29]. We also present a dynamic model to account for the evolution of equity premium around macroeconomic announcements.

JEL Code: D81, G12

Key words: equity premium, announcement, Knightian uncertainty, robustness

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1 Introduction

In this paper, we develop a theory of equity premium for pre-scheduled macroeconomic announcements. We demonstrate that the macro announcement premium provides an asset-market-based evidence that highlights the importance of incorporating non-expected utility analysis in quantitative macro and asset pricing models.

Macro announcements, such as the publication of the employment report and the FOMC statements, resolve uncertainty about the future course of economic growth, and modern financial markets allow asset prices to react to these announcements instantaneously, especially with high-frequency trading. Empirically, a large fraction of the market equity premium in the United States is realized within a small number of trading days with significant macroeconomic announcements. During the period of 1961-2014, for example, the cumulative excess returns of the S&P 500 index on the thirty days per year with significant macroeconomic news announcements averaged 3.36%, which accounts for 55% of the total annual equity premium during this period (6.19%). The market return realized on announcement days constitutes 100% of the equity premium during the later period of 1997-2014, which more announcements are available.

To understand the above features of financial markets, we develop a theoretical model that allows uncertainty to resolve before the realizations of macroeconomic shocks and characterize the set of intertemporal preferences for the representative consumer under which an announcement premium arises.

Our main result is that resolutions of uncertainty are associated with realizations of equity premium if and only if the investor’s intertemporal preference can be represented by a certainty equivalence functional that increases with respect to second-order stochastic dominance, a property we define as generalized risk sensitivity. The above theorem has two immediate implications. First, the intertemporal preference has an expected utility representation if and only if the announcement premium is zero for all assets. Second, announcement premia can only be compensation for generalized risk sensitivity and cannot be compensation for the risk aversion of the Von Neumann–Morgenstern utility function.

Therefore, the macro announcement premium provides an asset-market-based evidence that identifies a key aspect of investors’ preferences not captured by expected utility analysis: generalized risk sensitivity. Many non-expected utility models in the literature satisfy this property. For example, we show that the uncertainty aversion axiom of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29] provides a sufficient condition for generalized risk sensitivity. Therefore, the large magnitude of the announcement premium in the data can be interpreted as a strong empirical evidence for a broad class of non-expected utility models.
From an asset pricing perspective, the stochastic discount factor under non-expected utility generally has two components: the intertemporal marginal rate of substitution that appears in standard expected utility models and an additional term that can be interpreted as the density of a probability distortion. We demonstrate that the probability distortion is a valid stochastic discount factor for announcement returns. In addition, under differentiability conditions, generalized risk sensitivity is equivalent to the probability distortion being pessimistic, that is, it assigns higher weights to states with low continuation utility and lower weights to states with high continuation utility. Our results imply that the empirical evidence on the announcement premium is informative about the relative importance of the two components of the stochastic discount factor and therefore provides a strong discipline for asset pricing models.

We present a continuous-time model with learning to quantitatively account for the evolution of the equity premium before, at, and after macroeconomic announcements. In our model, investors update their beliefs about hidden state variables that govern the dynamics of aggregate consumption based both on their observations of the realizations of consumption and on pre-scheduled macroeconomic announcements. We establish two results in this environment. First, as in Breeden [12], because consumption follows a continuous-time diffusion process, the equity premium investors receive in periods without news announcements is proportional to the length of the holding period of the asset. At the same time, macro announcements result in non-trivial reductions of uncertainty, and are associated with realizations of a substantial amount of equity premium in an infinitesimally small window of time.

Second, the equity premium typically increases before macro announcements, peaks at the announcements, and drops sharply afterwards. The reduction in uncertainty right after announcements implies a simultaneous decline in the equity premium going forward. At the same time, after the current news announcement and before the next news announcement, because investors do not observe the movement in the hidden state variable, uncertainty slowly builds up over time, and so does the equity premium.

**Related literature**  Our paper builds on the literature that studies decision making under non-expected utility. We adopt the general representation of dynamic preferences of Strzalecki [57]. Our framework includes most of the non-expected utility models in the literature as special cases. We show that examples of dynamic preferences that satisfy generalized risk sensitivity include the maxmin expected utility of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29], the dynamic version of which is studied by Chen and Epstein [16] and Epstein and Schneider [24]; the recursive preference of Kreps and Porteus [45] and Epstein and Zin [26]; the robust control preference of Hansen and Sargent [35, 36] and the related multiplier preference.
of Strzalecki [56]; the variational ambiguity-averse preference of Maccheroni, Marinacci, and Rustichini [49, 50]; the smooth ambiguity model of Klibanoff, Marinacci, and Mukerji [43, 44]; and the disappointment aversion preference of Gul [30]. We also discuss the relationship between our notion of generalized risk sensitivity and related decision theoretic concepts studied in the above papers, for example, uncertainty aversion and preference for early resolution of uncertainty.

A vast literature applies the above non-expected utility models to the study of asset prices and the equity premium. We refer the readers to Epstein and Schneider [25] for a review of asset pricing studies with the maxmin expected utility model, Ju and Miao [38] for an application of the smooth ambiguity-averse preference, Hansen and Sargent [33] for the robust control preference, Routledge and Zin [54] for an asset pricing model with disappointment aversion, and Bansal and Yaron [9] and Bansal [6] for the long-run risk models that build on recursive preferences. The nonlinearity of the certainty equivalence functionals in the above models typically gives rise to an additional equity premium. However, the existing literature has not yet identified an asset-market-based evidence for the nonlinearity of the certainty equivalence functionals in the above models. Our results imply that the macro announcement premium provides such an evidence.

Our findings are consistent with the literature that identifies large variations in marginal utilities from the asset market data, for example, Hansen and Jagannathan [32], Bansal and Lehmann [7], and Alvarez and Jermann [3, 4]. Our theory implies that quantitatively, most of the variations in marginal utility must come from generalized risk sensitivity and not from risk aversion in expected utility models.

The above observation is likely to have sharp implications on the research on macroeconomic policies. Several recent papers study optimal policy design problems in non-expected utility models. For example, Farhi and Werning [28] and Karantounias [41] analyze optimal fiscal policies with recursive preferences, and Woodford [59], Karantounias [40], Hansen and Sargent [37], and Kwon and Miao [47, 46] focus on preferences that fear model uncertainty. In the above studies, the nonlinearity in agents' certainty equivalence functionals implies a forward-looking component of variations in their marginal utilities that affects policy makers’ objectives. Our results imply that the empirical evidence of the announcement premium can be used to gauge the magnitude of this deviation from expected utility, and to quantify the importance of robustness in the design of macroeconomic policies.

Our empirical results are related to the previous research on stock market returns on macroeconomic announcement days. The previous literature documents that stock market returns and Sharpe ratios are significantly higher on days with macroeconomic news releases in the United States (Savor and Wilson [55]) and internationally (Brusa, Savor, and Wilson...
Lucca and Moench [48] find similar patterns for equity returns on pre-scheduled FOMC announcement days. Cieslak, Morse, and Vissing-Jorgensen [18] provide an extensive study of the cyclical pattern of stock returns around FOMC announcements. Rosoiu [53] finds similar patterns in high-frequency data.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. We document some stylized facts for the equity premium for macroeconomic announcements in Section 2. In Section 3, we present two simple examples to illustrate how the announcement premium can arise in models that deviate from expected utility. We present our theoretical results and discuss the notion of generalized risk sensitivity in Section 4. We present a continuous-time model in Section 5 to quantitatively account for the evolution of the equity premium around macroeconomic news announcement days. Section 6 concludes.

2 Stylized facts

To demonstrate the significance of the equity premium for macro-announcements and to highlight the difference between announcement days and non-announcement days, we focus on a relatively small set of pre-scheduled macroeconomic announcements that is released at the monthly or lower frequency. Within this category, we select the top five announcements ranked by investor attention by Bloomberg users. This procedure yields on average fifty announcement days per year in the 1997-2014 period, where data on all five announcements are available, and thirty announcement days per year in the longer sample period of 1961-2014. We summarize our main findings below and provide details of data construction in the data appendix.

1. A large fraction of the market equity premium are realized on a relatively small number of trading days with pre-scheduled macroeconomic news announcements (See also Savor and Wilson [55] and Lucca and Moench [48]).

As shown in Table 1, during the 1961-2014 period, on average, thirty trading days per year have significant macroeconomic news announcements. The cumulative stock market excess return on the thirty news announcement days averages 3.36% per year, accounting for about 55% of the annual equity premium (6.19%) during this period. This pattern is even more pronounced if we focus on the later period of 1997-2014, where data on all five announcements are available. In this period, the market equity premium is 7.44% per year, and the cumulative excess return of the S&P500 index on the fifty announcement days averages 8.24% per year. The equity premium on the rest of the trading days is not statistically different from zero.
Figure 1 plots the average returns over 30 minute intervals around macro announcements, where time 0 is the announcement time. The solid line is the average return for all five announcements and the dashed line plots the average return for all announcements except the FOMC announcement. The sample period is 1997-2013.

2. The equity premium increases before news announcements, peaks at the announcements, and immediately drops afterwards.

In Table 2, we document the average daily excess stock market return on announcement days \((t)\), that on the days right before announcements \((t-1)\) and that on the day right after announcements \((t+1)\). The average announcement day return is 11.21 basis points during the entire sample period (top panel) and 16.48 basis points during the later period of 1997-2014, when more announcement data are available. The daily equity premium before and after announcement days is not statistically different from zero. In Figure 1, we illustrate the pattern of the evolution of market excess return in thirty-minute intervals around macro announcements by using high-frequency data for S&P 500 futures contracts during the period of 1997-2014. This evidence highlights that most of the announcement premium is realized during a short time interval around announcements.

3. The significance of the macro announcement premium is robust both intraday and overnight.

Some announcements are pre-scheduled during financial market trading hours (e.g., FOMC announcements) and others are pre-scheduled prior to the opening of financial markets (e.g., non-farm payrolls). We define intraday return (or open-to-close return) as the stock market return from the open to the close of a trading day and overnight return (or close-to-open return) as the return from the close of a trading day to the open of the next trading day. We compute intraday and overnight returns for periods with and without prescheduled announcements and report our findings in Table 3. The average
overnight return during the 1997-2014 period averages about 3.52 basis points per day, and the average intraday return is close to zero\(^1\). Remarkably, both intraday and overnight return are significantly larger on pre-scheduled announcements days than on non-announcements days. The average intraday return with announcement is 17.0 basis points, and the average overnight return with announcement is 9.32 basis points, while the average intraday and overnight return on non-announcement are not statistically different from zero. This new evidence reinforces the view that most of the equity premium realizes during periods of macroeconomic announcements.

3 Two illustrative examples

In this section, we set up a two-period model and discuss two simple examples to illustrate conditions under which resolutions of uncertainty are associated with realizations of the equity premium.

3.1 A two-period model

We consider a representative-agent economy with two periods (or dates), 0 and 1. There is no uncertainty in period 0, and the period-0 aggregate endowment is a constant, \(C_0\). Aggregate endowment in period 1, denoted \(C_1\), is a random variable. We assume a finite number of states: \(n = 1, 2, \cdots N\), and denote the possible realizations of \(C_1\) as \(\{C_1(n)\}_{n=1,2,\cdots N}\). The probability of each state is \(\pi(n) > 0\) for \(n = 1, 2, \cdots, N\).

Period 0 is further divided into two subperiods. In period 0\(^-\), before any information about about \(C_1\) is revealed, the pre-announcement asset market opens, and a full set of Arrow-Debreu security is traded. The asset prices at this point are called pre-announcement prices and are denoted as \(P^-\). Note that \(P^-\) cannot depend on the realization of \(C_1\), which is not known at this point.

In period 0\(^+\), the agent receives a news announcement \(s\) that carries information about \(C_1\). Immediately after the arrival of \(s\), the post-announcement asset market opens. Asset prices at this point, which are called post-announcement prices, depend on \(s\) and are denoted as \(P^+(s)\). In period 1, the payoff of the Arrow-Debreu securities are realized and \(C_1\) is consumed. In Figure 2, we illustrate the timing of information and consumption (top panel) and that of the asset markets (panel) assuming that \(N = 2\) and that the news announcement \(s\) fully reveals \(C_1\).

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\(^1\)The previous literature (for example, Kelly and Clark [42] and Polk, Lou, and Skouras [52]) documents that the overnight market return is on average higher than the intraday return in the United States.
The announcement return of an asset, which we denote as $R_A(s)$, is defined as the return of a strategy that buy the asset before the pre-scheduled announcement and sell right afterwards:

$$R_A(s) = \frac{P^+(s)}{P^-}.$$  \[1\]

We say that the asset requires a positive announcement premium if $E[R_A(s)] > 1$. We also define the post-announcement return conditioning on announcement $s$ as: $R_P(X|s) = \frac{X}{P^+(s)}$. Clearly, the total return of asset from period 0 to period 1 is $R(X) = R_A(s) R_P(X|s)$.

We note two important properties of the news announcement in our model. First, it affects the conditional distribution of future consumption, but rational expectations imply that surprises in news must average to zero by the law of iterated expectation. Second, news announcements do not impact the current-period consumption. Empirically, as we show in Section 2, the stock market returns realized within the 30-minute intervals of announcements account for almost all of the equity premium at the annual level. The instantaneous response of consumption to news at this high frequency can hardly have any quantitative effect on the total consumption of the year.\(^2\) Furthermore, our analysis remains valid in the continuous-time model presented in Section 5, where the length of a period is infinitesimal.

\(^2\)Our assumption is broadly consistent with the empirical evidence that large movements in the stock market is typically not associated with significant immediate adjustment in aggregate consumption, for example, Bansal and Shaliastovich [8].
3.2 Expected utility

We first consider the case in which the representative agent has expected utility: \( u(C_0) + \beta E[u(C_1)] \), where \( u \) is strictly increasing and continuously differentiable. For simplicity, we assume that \( s \) fully reveals \( C_1 \) in this example and the one in the following section, although our general result in Section 3.3 does not depend on this assumption. The pre-announcement price of an asset with payoff \( X \) is given by:

\[
P^{-} = E \left[ \frac{\beta u'(C_1)}{u'(C_0)} X \right]. \tag{2}
\]

In period \( 0^+ \), because \( s \) full reveals the true state, the agent’s preference is represented by

\[
u(C_0) + \beta u(C_1(s)). \tag{3}\]

Therefore, for any \( s \), the post-announcement price of the asset is

\[
P^+(s) = \frac{\beta u'(C_1(s))}{u'(C_0)} X(s). \tag{4}\]

Clearly, the expected announcement return is \( E[R_A(s)] = \frac{E[P^+(s)]}{P^{-}} = 1 \). There can be no announcement premium on any asset under expected utility.

3.3 An example with uncertainty aversion

Consider an agent with the constraint robust control preferences of Hansen and Sargent [34]:

\[
u(C_0) + \beta \min_m E[mu(C_1)] \tag{5}\]

subject to: \( E[m \ln m] \leq \eta \)

\[
E[m] = 1.\]

The above expression also can be interpreted as the maxmin expected utility of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29]. The agent treats the reference probability measure, under which equity premium is evaluated (by econometricians), as an approximation. As a result, the agent takes into account a class of alternative probability measures, represented by the density \( m \) close to the reference probability measure. The inequality \( E[m \ln m] \leq \eta \) requires that the relative entropy of the alternative probability models to be less than \( \eta \).
In this case, the pre-announcement price of an asset with payoff \( X \) is:

\[
P^- = E \left[ m^* \frac{\beta u'(C_1)}{w'(C_0)} X \right],
\]

where \( m^* \) is the density of the minimizing probability for (5) and can be expressed as a function of \( s \):

\[
m^* (s) = \frac{e^{-\frac{u(C_1 (s))}{\theta}}}{E \left[ e^{-\frac{u(C_1)}{\theta}} \right]}. \tag{7}
\]

The positive constant in the above expression, \( \theta \) is determined by the binding relative entropy constraint \( E [m^* \ln m^*] = \eta \).

In period 0\(^+\), after the resolution of uncertainty, the agent’s utility reduces to (3). As a result, the post-announcement price of the asset is the same as that in (4). Therefore, we can write the pre-announcement price as:

\[
P^- = E \left[ m^* (s) P^+ (s) \right]. \tag{8}
\]

Because \( m^* \) is a decreasing function of date-1 utility \( u(C_1) \), it is straightforward to prove the following claim.

**Claim 1.** Suppose that the post-announcement price, \( P^+ (s) \), is a strictly increasing function of \( C_1 \), then \( P^- < E \left[ P^+ (s) \right] \). As a result, the announcement premium for the asset is strictly positive.

The intuition of the above result is clear. Because uncertainty is resolved after the announcement, asset prices are discounted using marginal utilities. Under expected utility, the pre-announcement price is computed using probability-weighted marginal utilities, and therefore the pre-announcement price must equal the expected post-announcement prices and there can be no announcement premium under rational expectation. Under the robust control preference, the pre-announcement price is not computed by using the reference probability, but rather by using the pessimistic probability that overweights low-utility states and underweights high-utility states as shown in equation (7). As a result, uncertainty aversion applies an extra discounting for payoffs positively correlated with utility, and therefore the asset market requires a premium for such payoffs relative to risk-free returns.

Because the probability distortion \( m^* \) discounts announcement returns, we will call it the announcement stochastic discount factor (SDF), or A-SDF to distinguish it from the standard SDF in intertemporal asset pricing models which are derived from agents’ marginal rate of intertemporal substitution of consumption. In our model, there is no intertemporal consumption decision before and after the announcement. The term \( m^* \) reflects investors’
uncertainty aversion and identifies the probability distortion relative to rational expectation.

4 Risk preferences and the announcement premium

The asset pricing equation (8) holds under much more general conditions. In this section, we consider a very general class of intertemporal preferences that has the recursive representation

\[ V_t = u(C_t) + \beta I[V_{t+1}], \]

where \( \beta \in (0, 1) \) and \( I \) is the certainty equivalence functional that maps the next-period utility (which is a random variable) into its certainty equivalent (which is a real number). We assume that \( I \) is normalized and weakly increasing in first-order stochastic dominance.\(^3\) As shown by Strzałek [57], representation (9) includes most of the dynamic preferences under uncertainty proposed in the literature.\(^4\) Our main focus is to characterize the set of preferences under which the announcement premium is non-negative for payoffs that are increasing functions of continuation utility.

4.1 The announcement SDF

We continue to focus on the two-period model assuming i) a finite state space, ii) fully revealing announcements, and iii) equal probability of each state, that is, \( \pi(s) = \frac{1}{N} \) for \( s = 1, 2, \ldots, N \). Although none of the above assumptions are necessary for our main theorem, they allow us to avoid cumbersome notations and illustrate the basic intuition for our results. We present and prove our general theorems without the above assumptions in a fully dynamic setup in Appendix B.

In the two-period model, because the signal \( s \) fully reveals the state of the world, \( C_{1,s} \) is known at announcement. Because \( I \) is normalized and \( V_s \) is known after receiving announcement \( s \), the agent’s post-announcement utility can be written as: \( V_s = u(C_0) + \beta u(C_{1,s}). \) With a finite number of states, the certainty equivalence functional \( I \) can be viewed

\(^3\)A certainty equivalence functional \( I \) is normalized if \( I[k] = k \) whenever \( k \) is a constant. It is weakly increasing in first-order stochastic dominance if \( I[X_1] \geq I[X_2] \) whenever \( X_1 \) first-order stochastic dominates \( X_2 \). See Appendix B for details.

\(^4\)As Strzałek [57] shows, this representation includes the maxmin expected utility of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29], the second-order expected utility of Ergin and Gul [27], the smooth ambiguity preferences of Klibanoff, Marinacci, and Mukerji [43], the variational preferences of Maccheroni, Marinacci, and Rustichini [49], the multiplier preferences of Hansen and Sargent [33] and Strzałek [56], and the confidence preferences of Chateauneuf and Faro [15]. In addition, our setup is more general than that of Strzałek [57], because we do not require the function \( u(\cdot) \) to be affine. In Appendix A, we provide expressions for the A-SDF for the above-mentioned decision models.
as a function from $R^N$ to $R$. We use the vector notation and denote the agent’s utility at time $0^-$ as $\mathcal{I}[V]$, where $V = [V_1, V_2, \ldots, V_N]$. Assuming $\mathcal{I}$ is differentiable, from date $0^-$ perspective, the agent’s marginal utility with respect to $C_0$ is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial C_0} \mathcal{I}[V] = \sum_{s=1}^{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial V_s} \mathcal{I}[V] \cdot u'(C_0),$$

and the marginal utility with respect to $C_{1,s}$ is

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial C_{1,s}} \mathcal{I}[V] = \frac{\partial}{\partial V_s} \mathcal{I}[V] \cdot \beta u'(C_{1,s}).$$

Because the pre-announcement price of an asset can be computed as the marginal utility weighted payoffs, we can write

$$P^- = \sum_{s=1}^{N} \frac{\partial}{\partial C_{1,s}} \mathcal{I}[V] X_s = E \left[ m^*(s) \beta \frac{u'(C_1(s))}{u'(C_0)} \cdot X(s) \right], \quad (10)$$

where

$$m^*(s) = \frac{1}{\pi(s)} \frac{\partial}{\partial V_s} \mathcal{I}[V]. \quad (11)$$

At time $0^+$, $s$ fully reveals the state, and $P^+(s)$ is, again, given by equation (4). Clearly, the asset pricing equation (8) holds with the A-SDF $m^*$ defined by (11). We summarize our results for the existence of A-SDF as follows.

**Theorem 1.** *(Existence of A-SDF)*

Assume that both $u$ and $\mathcal{I}$ are continuously differentiable with strictly positive (partial) derivatives. Assume also that $\mathcal{I}$ is normalized.\(^5\) Then in any competitive equilibrium, there exists a strictly positive $m^* = \{m^*(s)\}_{s=1,2,\ldots,N}$ such that

1. $m^*$ is a density, that is, $E[m^*] = 1$, and
2. for all announcement returns $R_A(s)$,

$$E[m^*(s) R_A(s)] = 1. \quad (12)$$

To provide a precise statement about the sign of the announcement premium, we focus our attention on payoffs that are co-monotone with continuation utility. We define an announcement-contingent payoff $f$ to be co-monotone with continuation utility if $[f(s) - f(s')][V(s) - V(s')] \geq 0$ for all $s, s'$. Intuitively, co-monotonicity captures the idea

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\(^5\)See Definition A.4 in Appendix B.
that the payoff $f$ is an increasing function of the continuation utility $V$. We are interested in identifying properties of the certainty equivalence functional $I$ such that the following condition is true.

**Condition 1.** The announcement premium is non-negative for all payoffs that are co-monotone with continuation utility $V$.

In the case of expected utility, $I[V] = \sum_{s=1}^{N} \pi(s) V_s$ is linear, and $m^*(s) = 1$ for all $s$ by equation (11). As a result, equation (12) reduces to $E[R_A(s)] = 1$, and there can be no premium for any announcement return. In general, assuming $m^*(s)$ is a decreasing function of aggregate consumption, $C_{1,s}$, or equivalently, a decreasing functions of $V_s$, then by equation (12), the announcement premium $E[R_A(s)] - 1 = -\text{cov}[m^*(s), R_A(s)]$ must be positive for all returns $R_A(s)$ that are co-monotone with continuation utility $V_s$. The converse of the above statement is also true. That is, suppose $m^*(s)$ is a not a decreasing functions of $V_s$, then we can always find an return that is co-monotone with $V_s$, but requires a negative announcement premium.

As a result of the above observation, Condition 1 is equivalent to $m^*(s)$ being a decreasing function of $V_s$, which is equivalent to $\frac{\partial}{\partial V_s} I[V]$ being a decreasing function of $V_s$ by Equation (11). Under the assumption of equal probability for all states, the latter property is known to be equivalent to $I$ being increasing in second-order stochastic dominance.\(^6\) We can summarize our main results as follows.

**Theorem 2.** *(Announcement Premium)* Under the assumptions of Theorem 1,

1. the announcement premium is zero for all assets if and only if $I$ is the expectation operator.

2. Condition 1 is equivalent to the certainty equivalence functional $I$ being non-decreasing with respect to second-order stochastic dominance.

The above theorem holds under much more general conditions. In Appendix C, we show that the conclusion of the above theorem remains true in a fully dynamic model without the assumption of fully revealing signals or a finite number of states with equal probability.\(^7\)

\(^6\)Under our assumptions, this property of $I$ is also known as Schur concavity. See also Muller and Stoyan [51] and Chew and Mao [17].

\(^7\)A stronger version of the above theorem is also true. That is, the announcement premium is positive for all payoffs that are strictly co-monotone with continuation utility $V_s$ if and only if the certainty equivalence functional $I$ is strictly increasing with respect to second-order stochastic dominance. A proof for this result is available upon request.
4.2 Generalized risk-sensitive preferences

Theorem 2 motivates the following definition of generalized risk sensitivity.

**Definition 1. (Generalized Risk Sensitivity)**

An intertemporal preference of the form (18) is said to satisfy (strictly) generalized risk sensitivity, if the certainty equivalence functional \( I \) is (strictly) monotone with respect to second-order stochastic dominance.

Under our definition, generalized risk-sensitive preference is precisely the class of preferences that requires a non-negative announcement premium for all assets with payoff co-monotone with investors’ continuation utility.

The SDF for many non-expected utility models takes the form \( m^*(s) \beta u'(C_1(s)) / u'(C_0) \), as in Equation (10). Theorem 2 has two important implications. First, generalized risk sensitivity is precisely the class of preferences under which \( m^* \) is a decreasing function of continuation utility and therefore enhances risk compensation. Second, generalized risk sensitivity can be identified from empirical evidence on announcement returns. In fact, as we show in Section 4.3, the empirical evidence on the announcement premium can be used to gauge the quantitative importance of the term \( m^* \).

To clarify the notion of generalized risk sensitivity, we next discuss its relationship with two other related properties of choice behavior under uncertainty that are known to be associated with higher risk compensations, uncertainty aversion (Gilboa and Schmeidler [29]), and the preference for early resolution of uncertainty (Kreps and Porteus [45]).

**Generalized risk sensitivity and uncertainty aversion** Most of the dynamic uncertainty-averse preferences studied in the literature can be viewed as a special case of the general representation (9). In the special case in which \( u(\cdot) \) is affine as in Strzalecki [57], quasiconcavity is equivalent to the uncertainty aversion axiom of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29]. We make the following observations about the relationship between uncertainty aversion and generalized risk sensitivity.

1. **Quasiconcavity of \( I \) is sufficient, but not necessary, for generalized risk sensitivity.**

A direct implication of the above result is that all uncertainty-averse preferences can be viewed as different ways to formalize generalized risk sensitivity, and they all require

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For example, Hansen and Sargent [33] use a risk-sensitive operator to motivate the term \( m^* \) as a decreasing function of continuation utility. In this sense, our notion of generalizes the risk-sensitive operator of Hansen and Sargent [33].
a non-negative announcement premium (for all assets with payoffs co-monotone with continuation utility). These preferences include the maxmin expected utility of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29], the second-order expected utility of Ergin and Gul [27], the smooth ambiguity preferences of Klibanoff, Marinacci, and Mukerji [43], the variational preferences of Maccheroni, Marinacci, and Rustichini [49], the multiplier preferences of Hansen and Sargent [33] and Strzalecki [56], and the confidence preferences of Chateauneuf and Faro [15].

In Appendix C, we provide a proof for the sufficiency of quasiconcavity for generalized risk sensitivity. To illustrate that quasiconcavity is not necessary, in the same appendix, we also provide an example that satisfies generalized risk sensitivity, but not quasiconcavity.

2. If $I$ is of the form $I[V] = \phi^{-1}(E[\phi(V)])$, where $\phi$ is a strictly increasing function, then generalized risk sensitivity is equivalent to quasiconcavity, which is also equivalent to the concavity of $\phi$.

The certainty equivalence function of many intertemporal preferences takes the above form, for example the the second-order expected utility of Ergin and Gul [27] and the recursive preferences of Kreps and Porteus [45] and Epstein and Zin [26]. For these preferences, g-risk sensitivity is equivalent to the concavity of $\phi$.

3. Within the class of smooth ambiguity-averse preferences, uncertainty aversion is equivalent to generalized risk sensitivity.

The smooth ambiguity-averse preference of Klibanoff, Marinacci, and Mukerji [43, 44] can be represented in the form of (9) with the following choice of the certainty equivalence functional:

$$I[V] = \phi^{-1} \left\{ \int_{\Delta} \phi(E^x[V]) d\mu(x) \right\}.$$  \(13\)

We use $\Delta$ to denote a set of probability measures indexed by $x, P_x$. The notation $E^x[.]$ stands for expectation under the probability $P_x$, and $\mu(x)$ is a probability measure over $x$. In Appendix C, we show that generalized risk sensitivity is equivalent to the concavity of $\phi$, which is also equivalent to uncertainty aversion.

**Generalized risk sensitivity and preference for early resolution of uncertainty**

A well-known class of model that gives rise to an additional term $m^*$ in the SDF in (10) is the recursive preference with constant relative risk aversion and constant intertemporal elasticity of substitution (IES). It is also well-known that the resultant $m^*$ is decreasing in
continuation utility under preference for early resolution of uncertainty, that is, if the relative risk aversion \( \gamma \) is greater than the reciprocal of IES, \( \frac{1}{\psi} \). However, for the general representation (9), generalized risk sensitivity is neither necessary nor sufficient for preference for early resolution of uncertainty. A simple example of a preference with indifference toward the timing of resolution of uncertainty, but requires a strictly positive announcement premium, is the constraint robust control preference in Section 3.3.\(^9\) We summarize our main results below.

1. **Concavity of the certainty equivalence functional** \( \mathcal{I} \) **is sufficient for both generalized risk sensitivity and preference for early resolution of uncertainty.**

   Note that concavity implies quasiconcavity and therefore generalized risk sensitivity. Theorem 2 of Strzalecki [57] also implies that these preferences satisfy preference for early resolution of uncertainty. As a result, Theorems 2 and 3 of Strzalecki [57] imply that the variational preference of Maccheroni, Marinacci, and Rustichini [49] is both risk sensitive and prefers early resolution of uncertainty.

2. **If \( \mathcal{I} \) of the form** \( \mathcal{I}[V] = \phi^{-1}(E[\phi(V)]) \) **or is the smooth ambiguity preference,** \( \mathcal{I}[V] = \int_{\Delta} \phi(E^x[V]) d\mu(x) \), **where \( \phi \) is strictly increasing and twice continuously differentiable, then generalized risk sensitivity implies preference for early resolution of uncertainty if either of the following two conditions hold.**

   (a) There exists \( A \geq 0 \) such that \( -\frac{\phi''(a)}{\phi'(a)} \in [\beta A, A] \) for all \( a \in \mathbb{R} \).

   (b) \( u(C) \geq 0 \) for all \( C \), and \( \beta \left[ -\frac{\phi''(k+\beta a)}{\phi'(k+\beta a)} \right] \leq -\frac{\phi''(a)}{\phi'(a)} \) for all \( a, k \geq 0 \).

The above two conditions are the same as Conditions 1 and 2 in Strzalecki [57]. Intuitively, they require that the Arrow-Pratt coefficient of the function \( \phi \) does not vary too much. In both cases, generalized risk sensitivity implies the concavity of \( \phi \). By Theorem 4 of Strzalecki [57], either of the above conditions implies preference for early resolution of uncertainty.

Because the recursive utility with constant relative risk aversion and constant IES can be represented in the form of (9) with \( u(C) = \frac{1}{1-\frac{1}{\psi}} C^{1-\frac{1}{\psi}} \), and \( \mathcal{I}[V] = \phi^{-1}(E[\phi(V)]) \),

\(^9\)To verify that this preference is indifferent toward the timing of resolution of uncertainty, note that the time 0− utility of the agent is

\[
V^E = \min E \left[ m \{ u(C_0) + \beta u(C_1) \} \right],
\]

if uncertainty is resolved at 0+, and the utility at time 0− is

\[
V^L = u(C_0) + \beta \min E \left[ m \{ u(C_1) \} \right],
\]

if uncertainty is resolved at time 1. Clearly, \( V^E = V^L \).
where $\phi(x) = \left[(1 - \frac{1}{\psi})x\right]^{\frac{1}{1-\gamma}}$. It follows from Condition b that $\mathcal{I}$ is quasi-concave and therefore requires a positive announcement premium if and only if $\gamma \geq \frac{1}{\psi}$. That is, for this class of preferences, preference for early resolution of uncertainty and generalized risk sensitivity are equivalent. Therefore, assuming a recursive utility with constant relative risk aversion and constant IES, the empirical evidence for announcement premium can be also interpreted as evidence for preference for early resolution of uncertainty.

3. In general, preference for early resolution of uncertainty is neither sufficient nor necessary for a positive announcement premium.

In Appendix C, we provide an example of a generalized risk-sensitive preference that violates preference for early resolution of uncertainty, as well as an example of an utility function that prefers early resolution of uncertainty, but does not satisfy generalized risk sensitivity.

4. The only class of preferences that requires a positive announcement premium and is indifferent toward the timing of resolution of uncertainty is the maxmin expected utility of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29].

The maxmin expected utility of Gilboa and Schmeidler [29] is the only class of preference of the form (9) that is indifferent toward the timing of resolution of uncertainty (Strzalecki [57]). As the example in Section 2.3 shows, this class of preference exhibits generalized risk sensitivity.

4.3 Asset pricing implications

**Decomposition of returns by the timing of its realizations** In general, equity returns can be decomposed into an announcement return and a post-announcement return. Using the notations we setup in Section 3 of the paper, the return of an asset can be computed as:

$$R(X) = \frac{X}{P^+} = R_P(X|s)R_A(s),$$

where $R_A(s)$ is the announcement return defined in (1), and $R_P(X|s) = \frac{X}{P^+(s)}$ is the post-announcement return (conditioning on $s$). The optimal portfolio choice problem on the post-announcement asset market implies that for each $s$, there exists $y^*(C_1|s)$, which is a function of $C_1$, such that

$$E[y^*(C_1|s)R_P(X|s)|s] = 1,$$

(14)
for all post-announcement returns. In our simple model in which $s$ fully reveals $C_1$, $y^* = \frac{\beta u'(C_1)}{u'(C_0)}$. In general, $y^*$ depends on agents’ intertemporal marginal rate of substitution on the post-announcement asset market. Combining Equations (12) and (14), and applying the law of iterated expectation, we have

$$E[m^*y^* \cdot R(X)] = 1.10$$ (15)

Equation (15) appears in many intertemporal asset pricing models. Equations (12) and (14) provide a decomposition of intertemporal returns into an announcement return and a post-announcement return and a decomposition of the SDF. We make the following comments.

1. Theorem 2 implies that the announcement premium must be compensation for generalized risk sensitivity and cannot be compensation for risk aversion associated with the Von Neumann–Morgenstern utility function $u$, because the A-SDF, $m^*$, depends only on the curvature of the certainty equivalence functional $\mathcal{I} [\cdot]$, and not on $u$. The announcement premium is determined by the properties of $\mathcal{I} [\cdot]$, whereas the post-announcement premium, which is not realized until the action of consumption is completed, reflects the curvature of $u$.

2. The large magnitude of announcement return in the data implies that the probability distortion in $m^*$ must be significant. Just as intertemporal asset returns provide restrictions on the SDF that prices these returns, announcement returns provide restrictions on the magnitude of the probability distortions. For example, we can bound the entropy of the A-SDF as in Bansal and Lehmann [7] and Backus, Chernov, and Zin [5]:

$$-E[\ln (m^*y^*)] = -E[\ln m^*] - E[\ln y^*] \geq E[\ln R].$$

Using the average market return during the 1997-2014 period, we have $-E[\ln (m^*y^*)] \geq E[\ln R] = 7.44\%$. The entropy bound on the probability distortion component provides a tighter restriction:

$$-E[\ln m^*] \geq E[\ln R_A] = 8.24\%$$ using the average announcement return during the same period. These bounds imply that the volatility of the SDF $y^*$ is likely to be small.

3. The Hansen-Jaganathan bound (Hansen and Jagannathan [32]) for the SDF’s leads to a similar conclusion. Equation (12) implies that for any announcement return, $R_A$, $\sigma[m^*] \geq \frac{E[R_A-1]}{\sigma[R_A]}$. The Sharpe ratio for announcement returns reported in Table 1 can be used to compute the Hansen-Jaganathan bound for A-SDF: $\sigma[m^*] \geq 55\%$ for the 1961-2014 period, and $\sigma[m^*] \geq 88\%$ if we focus on the later period of 1997-2014, where more announcement data are available.

---

$^{10}$We show in Appendix B that this decomposition holds in the fully dynamic model. See equation (B.4).
In contrast, the moments of the total stock market return in the same period in fact implies a weaker bound on SDF that prices the overall return, \( m^* y^* \). Using equation (15), we have

\[
\sigma [m^* y^*] \geq \frac{E [R (X) - 1]}{\sigma [R (X)]}.
\] (16)

Inequality (16) implies \( \sigma [m^* y^*] \geq 40\% \) if we focus on the period of 1961-2014 in Table 1, and \( \sigma [m^* y^*] \geq 37\% \) for the latter period of 1997-2014.

4. Assuming log-normality, equation (12) implies \( \ln E [R_A] = -Cov [\ln R_A, \ln m^*] \), and equation (15) implies

\[
\ln E [R] \ln R_f = -Cov [\ln R, \ln m^* + \ln y^*] = -Cov [\ln R, \ln m^*] - Cov [\ln R, \ln y^*].
\] (17)

Because \( \ln R = \ln R_A (s) + \ln R_P \) and \( -Cov [\ln R_A, \ln m^*] = \ln E [R_A] \) by equation (12), we have:

\[
\ln E [R] \ln R_f = \ln E [R_A] - Cov [\ln m^*, \ln R_P] - Cov [\ln y^*, \ln R].
\] (18)

As we explained earlier, most of the equity premium in the data is announcement premium. Therefore, the term \(-Cov [\ln m^*, \ln R_P] - Cov [\ln y^*, \ln R] \) must be close to zero. Note that \( m^* (s) \) is a function of the announcement, while \( R_P (X|s) \) is the post-announcement return; therefore, the term \( Cov [\ln m^*, \ln R_P] \) is likely to be close to zero. This implies that the compensation for the curvature of the Von Neumann–Morgenstern utility function \( u \) as captured by the term \(-Cov [\ln y^*, \ln R] \) must be close to zero.

5. The external habit preference does not generate an announcement premium, and the internal habit model produces a negative announcement premium.

The external habit preference (for example, Constantinides [20] and Campbell and Cochrane [14]) can be written as: \( E \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{T} \frac{1}{1-\gamma} (C_t - H_t)^{1-\gamma} \right] \), where \( \{H_t\}_{t=0}^{\infty} \) is the habit process. Consider the date-0 market for announcements. The pre-announcement price of any payoff \( \{X_t\}_{t=1}^{\infty} \) is

\[
P^- = E \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{T} \left( \frac{C_t - H_t}{C_0 - H_0} \right)^{-\gamma} X_t \right],
\]
and the post-announcement price (after $s_0$ is announced) is

$$P^+(s) = E \left[ \sum_{t=0}^{T} \left( \frac{C_t - H_t}{C_0 - H_0} \right)^{-\gamma} X_t \right] s.$$  

Clearly, like in the case of expected utility, $P_0^- = E[P_0^+(s)]$, and there can be no announcement premium. The external habit model is similar to expected utility because the habit process is exogenous, and agents do not take into account of the effect of current consumption choices on future habits when making consumption and investment decisions. We further show in Appendix C that the internal habit model (for example, Boldrin, Christiano, and Fisher [11]) generates a negative announcement premium.

5 A quantitative model of announcement premium

In this section, we present a continuous-time model with the Kreps-Porteus utility and show that our model can quantitatively account for the dynamic pattern of the announcement premium in the data. In our model, shocks to aggregate consumption are modeled as Brownian motions and arrive gradually over time. This setup allows us to distinguish the announcement premium that is instantaneously realized upon news announcements and the risk premium that investors receive incrementally as shocks to consumption materialize slowly over time.

5.1 Model setup

The dynamics of consumption and dividends We consider a continuous-time representative agent economy. The growth rate of aggregate consumption during an infinitesimal interval $\Delta$ is specified as:

$$\ln C_{t+\Delta} - \ln C_t = x_t \Delta + \sigma (B_{C,t+\Delta} - B_{C,t}),$$

where $x_t$ is a continuous time AR(1) process not observable to the agents of the economy. The law of motion of $x_t$ is

$$x_{t+\Delta} = a_x \Delta \bar{x} + (1 - a\Delta) x_t + \sigma_x (B_{x,t+\Delta} - B_{x,t}),$$
where $\bar{x}$ is the long-run average growth rate of the economy, and $B_{C,t+\Delta} + B_{C,t}$ and $B_{x,t+\Delta} - B_{x,t}$ are normally distributed innovations (increments of Brownian motions). We assume that $B_{C,t}$ and $B_{x,t}$ are independent. In the continuous-time notation,

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{dC_t}{C_t} &= x_t dt + \sigma dB_{C,t}, \\
\frac{dx_t}{x_t} &= a_x (\bar{x} - x_t) dt + \sigma_x dB_{x,t}
\end{align*}
$$

(19)

Our benchmark asset is a claim to the following dividend process:

$$
\frac{dD_t}{D_t} = [\bar{x} + \phi (x_t - \bar{x})] dt + \phi \sigma dB_{C,t},
$$

(20)

where we assume that the long-run average growth rate of consumption and dividend are the same, and we allow the leverage parameter $\phi > 1$ so that dividends are more risky than consumption, as in Bansal and Yaron [9].

**Timing of information and Bayesian learning** The representative agent in the economy can use two sources of information to update beliefs about $x_t$. First, the realized consumption path contains information about $x_t$, and second, an additional signal about $x_t$ is revealed at pre-scheduled discrete time points $T, 2T, 3T, \cdots$. For $n = 1, 2, 3, \cdots$, we denote $s_n$ as the signal observed at time $nT$ and assume $s_n = x_{nT} + \varepsilon_n$, where $\varepsilon_n$ is normally distributed with mean zero and variance $\sigma^2_s$. Note that announcements of the signals at $t = T, 2T, 3T, \cdots$ are not associated with the realization of any consumption shocks.

In the interior of $(0, T)$, the agent does not observe the true value of $x_t$ and updates belief about $x_t$ based on the observed consumption process according to Bayes’ rule. We define $\hat{x}_t = E (x_t | C^t)$ as the posterior mean of $x_t$ and time $t$, and define $q_t = E \left[ (x_t - \hat{x}_t)^2 | C^t \right]$ as the posterior variance of $x_t$.\(^{11}\) The dynamics of $x_t$ can be written as (Kalman-Bucy filter):

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{d\hat{x}_t}{\hat{x}_t} &= a [\bar{x} - \hat{x}_t] dt + \frac{q(t)}{\sigma} d\tilde{B}_{C,t},
\end{align*}
$$

(21)

where the innovation process, $\tilde{B}_{C,t}$ is defined by $d\tilde{B}_{C,t} = \frac{1}{\sigma} \left[ \frac{dC_t}{C_t} - \hat{x}_t dt \right]$. The posterior variance, $q(t)$ satisfies the Riccati equation:

$$
\begin{align*}
dq(t) &= \left[ \sigma_x^2 - 2a_x q(t) - \frac{1}{\sigma^2} q^2(t) \right] dt.
\end{align*}
$$

(22)

The posterior distribution is updated immediately following the announcement of signals

\(^{11}\)Here we use the notation $C^t$ to denote the history of consumption up to time $t$.  

20
at time $T, 2T, \cdots$. At time $T$, for example, the agent updates beliefs using Bayes rule:

$$\hat{x}_T^+ = \frac{1}{q_T} \left[ \frac{1}{\sigma_S^2} s + \frac{1}{q_T} \hat{x}_T^- \right]; \quad \frac{1}{q_T} = \frac{1}{\sigma_S^2} + \frac{1}{q_T},$$

(23)

where $s$ is the signal observed at time $T$, $\hat{x}_T^-$ and $q_T^-$ are the posterior mean and variance of $x_T$ before the announcement, and $\hat{x}_T^+$ and $q_T^+$ denote the posterior mean and variance of $x_T$ after the announcement at time $T$. We plot the dynamics of posterior variance $q_t$ in Figure 3 with the assumption that announcements are made every thirty days and they completely reveal the information about $x_t$, that is, $\sigma_S^2 = 0$. At announcements, the posterior variance drops immediately to zero, as indicated by the circles. After announcement, information slowly arrives and as a result, the posterior variance gradually increases over time before the next announcement.

Figure 3: posterior variance of $x_t$

Preferences and the stochastic discount factor We assume that the representative agent has a Kreps-Porteus utility with preference for early resolution of uncertainty, $\gamma > \frac{1}{\psi}$. In continuous time, this preference is represented by the stochastic differential utility of Duffie and Epstein [22] that can be interpreted as the limit of the recursive relationship (9) over a small time interval $\Delta$ as $\Delta \to 0$:

$$V_t = \left(1 - e^{-\rho\Delta}\right) u(C_t) + e^{-\rho\Delta} \mathcal{I}[V_{t+\Delta} \mid \hat{x}_t, q_t],$$

(24)

where $\rho$ is the time discount rate, and $\mathcal{I}[\cdot \mid \hat{x}_t, q_t]$ is the certainty equivalence functional conditioning on agents’ posterior belief at time $t$, $(\hat{x}_t, q_t)$. To derive closed-form solutions, we focus on the case in which $\psi = 1$. The corresponding choices of utility function $u$ and certainty equivalence functional $\mathcal{I}$ are: $u(C) = \ln C$ and $\mathcal{I}[V] = \frac{1}{1-\gamma} \ln E \left[e^{(1-\gamma)V}\right]$. This
preference can also be interpreted as the multiplier robust control preference of Hansen and Sargent [33].

As is well-known for representative agent economies with recursive preferences, any return $R_{t,t+\Delta}$ must satisfy the intertemporal Euler equation $E[SDF_{t,t+\Delta}R_{t,t+\Delta}] = 1$, where the stochastic discount factor for the time interval $(t, t+\Delta)$ given by

$$SDF_{t,t+\Delta} = e^{-\rho\Delta} \left( \frac{C_{t+\Delta}}{C_t} \right)^{-1} e^{(1-\gamma)V_{t+\Delta}} E_t \left[ e^{(1-\gamma)V_{t+\Delta}} \right].$$

(25)

Consistent with our earlier notation, we define the A-SDF $m_{t+\Delta}^* = \frac{e^{(1-\gamma)V_{t+\Delta}}}{E_t \left[ e^{(1-\gamma)V_{t+\Delta}} \right]}$, and the intertemporal SDF $y_{t+\Delta}^* = e^{-\rho\Delta} \left( \frac{C_{t+\Delta}}{C_t} \right)^{-1}$. Clearly, $m_{t+\Delta}^*$ is a probability density and represents the probability distortion under the robust control interpretation of the model. With the above specification of preferences and consumption, the value function has a closed-form solution, which we denote $V_t = V(\hat{x}_t, t, C_t)$, and

$$V(\hat{x}, t, C) = \frac{1}{a_x + \rho} \hat{x} + \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} h(t) + \ln C,$$

(26)

where the function $h(t)$ is given in Appendix D of the paper. We set the parameter values of our model to be consistent with standard long-run risk calibrations and list them in Table 4. We now turn to the quantitative implications of the model on the announcement premium.

5.2 The announcement premium

**Equity premium on non-announcement days** In the interior of $(nT, (n+1)T)$, the equity premium can be calculated using the SDF (25) like in standard learning models (for example, Veronesi [58] and Ai [2]). Let $p_t$ denote the price-to-dividend ratio of the benchmark asset, and let $r_t$ denote the risk-free interest rate at time $t$. Using a log-linear approximation of $p_t$, the equity premium for the benchmark asset over a small time interval $(t, t+\Delta)$ can be written as:

$$E_t \left[ \frac{p_{t+\Delta}D_{t+\Delta} + D_{t+\Delta}\Delta}{p_tD_t} - e^{rt}\Delta \right] \approx \left[ \gamma\sigma + \frac{\gamma - 1}{a_x + \rho} \frac{q_t}{\phi + \frac{\phi - 1}{a_x + \rho}} \right] \Delta.$$

(27)

\[12^\text{In general, the equity premium depends on the state variable } \hat{x}. \text{ The log-linear approximation does not capture this dependence. We use the log-linear approximation to illustrate the intuition of the model. All figures and calibration results are obtained based on the global solution of the PDE obtained by the Markov chain approximation method.}\]
The above expression has intuitive interpretations. The term $[\gamma \sigma + \frac{\gamma - 1}{a_x + \rho} \psi]$ is the sensitivity of the SDF with respect to consumption shocks, where $\gamma \sigma$ is market price of risk due to risk aversion, and the term $\frac{\gamma - 1}{a_x + \rho} \psi$ is associated with recursive utility and aversion to long-run risks. The second term $\left[\sigma + \frac{\phi - 1}{a_x + \rho} \phi\right]$ is the elasticity of asset return with respect to shocks in consumption, where $\phi \sigma$ is the sensitivity of dividend growth with respect to consumption growth, and $\frac{\phi - 1}{a_x + \rho} \phi$ is the response of price-dividend ratio to investors’ belief about future consumption growth.

As we show in Figure 3, after the previous announcement and before the next announcement, because investors do not observe the true value of $x_t$, the posterior variance $q_t$ increases over time. By equation (27), the equity premium also rises with $q_t$. In Figure 4, we plot the instantaneous equity premium $[\gamma \sigma + \frac{\gamma - 1}{a_x + \rho} \psi] [\phi \sigma + \frac{\phi - 1}{a_x + \rho} \phi]$ on non-announcement days. Clearly, the equity premium increases over time. This feature of our model captures the "pre-announcement drift" documented in empirical work.

Figure 4: Equity Premium on Non-Announcement Days

Figure 4 plots the annualized equity premium on non-announcement days in our model with recursive utility.

As in typical continuous-time models, the amount of equity premium is proportional to the length of holding period, $\Delta$ by equation (27). In fact, $SDF_{t,t+\Delta} \to 1$ as $\Delta \to 0$. Intuitively, the amount of risk diminishes to zero in an infinitesimally small time interval, and so does risk premium. The situation is very different on macroeconomic announcement days, which we turn to next.

**Announcement returns** Consider the stochastic discount factor in (25). As $\Delta \to 0$, the term $y_{t+\Delta} = e^{-\rho\Delta} \left(\frac{C_{t+\Delta}}{C_t}\right)^{-\frac{\phi}{\psi}} \to 1$; however, the A-SDF $m_{t+\Delta}$ does not necessarily collapse to 1 unless the term $V_t$ is a continuous function of $t$. We define $m_t^* = \lim_{\Delta \to 0^+} m_{t+\Delta}$. In
periods with no news announcements, because consumption evolves continuously, so does
the posterior belief $(\hat{x}_t, q_t)$. Therefore, $m^*_t = 1$. In contrast, at time $0, T, 2T, \cdots$, upon news
announcement, $\hat{x}_t$ and $q_t$ updates instantaneously, and

$$m^*_T = \frac{e^{\frac{1-\gamma}{\alpha x + \rho} \hat{x}_T^+}}{E \left[ e^{\frac{1-\gamma}{\alpha x + \rho} \hat{x}_T^+} | \hat{x}_T, q_T \right]}.$$  \hspace{1cm} \hspace{1cm} (28)

is the A-SDF for the announcement at time $T$.

We focus on asset prices and returns around announcements. We denote the time-$T$
pre-announcement price-to-dividend ratio as $p^{-}_T$ and the time-$T$ post-announcement price-
to-dividend ratio as $p^{+}_T$. No arbitrage implies that for all $\Delta$,

$$p^{-}_T D_T = E_{T} \left[ \int_{0}^{\Delta} SDF_{T,T+s} D_{T+s} ds + SDF_{T,T+\Delta} p_{t+\Delta} D_{T+\Delta} \right],$$

where $E_{T}$ denotes the expectation taken with respect to the information at time $T$ before
announcements. Taking the limit as $\Delta \rightarrow 0$, and using the fact that $y^*_{t+\Delta} \rightarrow 1$, we have:

$$p^{-}_T = E_{T} \left[ m^*_T \times p^{+}_T \right],$$ \hspace{1cm} \hspace{1cm} \hspace{1cm} (29)

which is the continuous-time version of the asset pricing equation (8). As we show in
Appendix D, using a first-order approximation, the announcement premium can be written
as:

$$\ln \frac{E_{T} \left[ p^{+}_T \right]}{p^{-}_T} \approx \frac{\gamma - 1}{\alpha x + \rho} \frac{\phi - 1}{\alpha x + \rho} \left( q^{-}_T - q^{+}_T \right).$$ \hspace{1cm} \hspace{1cm} (30)

We make the following observations.

1. In contrast to non-announcement periods, the equity premium does not disappear as
$\Delta \rightarrow 0$. As long as $\phi > 1$ and the agent prefers early resolution of uncertainty ($\gamma > 1$),
the announcement premium is positive.

In Figure 5, we plot the daily equity premium implied by our model with recursive
utility (top panel) and that in a model with expected utility (bottom panel). Because
we are calculate equity premium over a short time interval, the equity premium in
non-announcement periods is negligible compared with announcement returns. The
announcement premium is about 17 basis points in the top panel, and the equity
premium is close to zero on announcement days. The quantitative magnitude of these
returns is quite similar to their empirical counterpart in Table 1. Consistent with
our theoretical results in Section 2, the announcement premium for expected utility is
zero. The premium on the announcement days for expected utility is 0.028 basis point,
several orders of magnitude smaller than that for recursive utility.\footnote{The equity premium on announcement days in the expected utility model is not literally zero because even though announcement premium is zero, compensation for consumption risks is positive with $\Delta = \frac{1}{360}$.}

Figure 5: announcement premium for recursive utility and expected utility

Figure 5 plots daily equity premium for recursive utility (top panel) and that for expected utility (bottom panel). Equity premium is measured in basis points. The dotted line is the equity premium on non-announcement days, and the circles indicate the equity premium on announcement days.

2. The announcement premium identifies the probability distortion component of the SDF.

The SDF in equation (25) has two components, the term $e^{-\rho \Delta} \left( \frac{C_{t+\Delta}}{C_t} \right)^{-1}$ that arises from standard log utility, and the A-SDF $\frac{e^{(1-\gamma) V_{t+\Delta}}}{E_t e^{(1-\gamma) V_{t+\Delta}}}$ that can be interpreted as probability distortion. As we take the limit $\Delta \to 0$, the intertemporal substitution of consumption term vanishes, and the A-SDF, (28), only depends on probability distortion. In the log-linear approximation (30), the term $\frac{\gamma-1}{ax+\rho}$ is due to investors’ probability distortion with respect to $x_t^\tau$, and the term $\frac{\phi-1}{ax+\rho}$ measures the sensitivity of price-to-dividend ratio with respect to probability distortions.

3. The magnitude of announcement premium is proportional to the variance reduction in the posterior belief of the hidden state variable $x_t$ upon the news announcement, $q_{T^-} - q_{T^+}$. The higher is the information content in news, the larger is the announcement premium. In addition, the announcement premium also increases with the persistence of the shocks. As the mean-reversion parameter $ax$ becomes smaller, the half life of the impact of $x_t$ on consumption increases, and so does the announcement premium.
Figure 6: dynamics of price-to-dividend ratio

Figure 6 plots the evolution of log price-to-dividend ratio over the announcement cycles. The dotted line is the price-to-dividend ratio evaluated at the steady-state level of expected consumption growth rate, $\bar{x}$. The dash-dotted line is the price-to-dividend ratio for $x_t$ one standard deviation above and below its steady-state level. The standard deviation is calculated at the monthly level, that is, $h = \frac{1}{12}$.

To better understand the nature of the announcement premium, in Figure 6, we plot the price-dividend ratio in the model as a function of time under different assumptions of the posterior belief, $\hat{x}_t$. The dotted line is the price-to-dividend ratio assuming $\hat{x}_t = \bar{x}$, and the dash-dotted lines are plotted under values of $\hat{x}_t$ one standard deviation above and below $\bar{x}$, where standard deviation is calculated as the monthly standard deviation of the Brownian motion shock $dB_t$. Note that on average, announcements are associated with an immediately increase in the valuation ratio. After announcements, as the discount rate increases, the price-to-dividend ratio drops gradually until the next announcement. Because $\phi > 1$, the price-to-dividend ratio is increasing in the posterior belief $\hat{x}_t$, and therefore the market equity requires a positive announcement premium by equation (30).

Comparison with alternative model specifications In Table 5, we present the model-implied equity premium and announcement premium for our model with learning (left panel). For comparison, we also present under the column ”Observable” the same moments for an otherwise identical model, except that $x_t$ is assumed to be fully observable. Under the column ”Expected Utility”, we report the moments of a model with expected utility by setting $\gamma = 1$ and keeping all other features identical to our benchmark learning model. Note that our model with learning produces a higher equity premium than the model with $x_t$ fully observable. The average equity premium in the learning model is 5.4% per year, while the same moment is 4.58% in the model without learning. More importantly, in the model with learning, a large fraction of the equity premium are realized on the twelve scheduled
announcement days: the total returns on announcement days averages 2.53% per year. In the model in which \( x_t \) is fully observable, announcements are not associated with any premium because their information content is fully anticipated.

As we have discussed before, the announcement premium is zero under expected utility, and therefore the magnitude of the equity premium on announcement days and that on non-announcement days is the same. In addition, under expected utility, risks in \( x_t \) are not priced, and therefore the overall equity premium is a lot lower than that in economies with recursive utility.

### 5.3 Preference for early resolution of uncertainty

As we have shown in the previous section, within the class of recursive utility with constant relative risk aversion and constant IES, a positive announcement premium is equivalent to preference for early resolution of uncertainty. In this section, we discuss the relationship between the announcement premium and timing premium, defined as the welfare gain of early resolution of uncertainty, in the context of our continuous-time model.

We define timing premium as in Epstein, Farhi, and Strzalecki [23].\(^\text{14}\) Consider a macroeconomic announcement at time \( 0^+ \) that resolves all uncertainty in the economy from time \( 0^+ \) to \( \infty \). Let \( W^+ \) be the agent’s utility at time \( 0^+ \) when all uncertainty is resolved, that is,

\[
W_0^+ (\tau) = \int_0^\infty e^{-\rho t} \rho \ln C_t dt.
\]

Let \( W^- \) be the certainty equivalent of \( W^+ \):

\[
W^- = \frac{1}{1-\gamma} \ln E^- [e^{(1-\gamma)W^+}].
\]

That is, \( W^- \) is the utility of the representative agent who does not know any information about the future, but anticipates that all uncertainty from time \( 0 \) to \( \infty \) will be resolved immediately at \( 0^+ \). Preference for early resolution implies that \( V_0 < W_0^- (\tau) \), where \( V_0 = V (x_0, 0, C_0) \) is the utility of the agent in the economy without advanced information as we defined in (24).

The timing premium \( \lambda \) is defined as the maximum fraction of life-time consumption that

\[^{14}\text{See also Ai [1] for a decomposition of the welfare of gain of early resolution of uncertainty in production economies.}\]
the representative agent is willing to pay for the announcement:

\[ 1 - \lambda = e^{V_0 - W_0} (\tau) = \frac{e^{V_0}}{\{E^{-} [e^{(1-\gamma)W^+}]\}^{1-\gamma}}. \] (33)

Now consider an asset market for the announcement at time 0+. Let \( p^+ \) as the price-to-dividend ratio of the equity claim at time 0+ upon the announcement. The pre-announcement price-to-dividend ratio is given by

\[ p^- = \frac{E_0^{-} \left[ e^{(1-\gamma)W^+} p^+ \right]}{E_0^{-} \left[ e^{(1-\gamma)W^+} \right]}, \] (34)

where \( W^+ \) is the agent’s continuation utility after announcement as defined in equation (31). The expected return associated with the announcement can be calculated as

\[ \frac{E_0^{-} [p_0^+]}{p^-} = \frac{E_0^{-} [p_0^+] E_0^{-} \left[ e^{(1-\gamma)W^+} \right]}{E_0^{-} \left[ e^{(1-\gamma)W^+} p^+ \right]} . \]

It is not hard to show that \( \lambda = \ln \frac{E_0^{-} [p_0^+]}{p^-} = 0 \) for \( \gamma = 1 \). That is, the timing premium and announcement premium are both zero for expected utility. In addition, as long as \( p^+ \) is positively correlated with \( e^{(1-\gamma)W^+} \), both the timing premium and the announcement premium increase with the measure of preference for early resolution of uncertainty, \( \gamma - 1 \).

As shown earlier in the paper, generalized risk sensitivity is necessary to account for the large observed announcement premium. Within the class of Kreps-Porteus preferences, the empirical evidence on the large announcement premium *ipso facto* implies a significant preference for early resolution of uncertainty. As there is no direct measurement on what investors are willing to pay for early resolution, it is hard to evaluate the model along this dimension. In addition to the announcement premium, previous literature has demonstrated that recursive preferences with a strong generalized risk sensitivity is important to account for risk premia across different assets classes (see Bansal and Yaron [9], Hansen, Heaton, and Li [31], Colacito and Croce [19], and Barro [10]) and other macro-economic facts (for example, Kaltenbrunner and Lochstoer [39] and Croce [21]). The announcement premium evidence along with this earlier papers underscore the importance of generalized risk sensitivity within this class of recursive preferences.
6 Conclusion

Motivated by the fact that a large fraction of the market equity premium are realized on a small number of trading days with significant macroeconomic news announcement, in this paper, we provide a theory and a quantitative analysis for premium for macroeconomic announcements. We show that a positive announcement premium is equivalent to generalized risk sensitivity, that is, investors’ certainty equivalence functional increases with respect to second order stochastic dominance. We demonstrate that generalized risk sensitivity is precisely the class of preferences in which deviations from expected utility enhances the volatility of the stochastic discount factor. As a result, our theoretical framework implies that the announcement premium can be interpreted as an asset-market-based evidence for a broad class of non-expected utility models that feature aversion to ”Knightian uncertainty”. We also present a dynamic model to quantitatively account for the pattern of equity premium around news announcement days.
Here, we describe the details of our empirical evidence on the macroeconomic announcement premium.

**Data description** We focus on the top five macroeconomic news ranked by investor attention among all macroeconomic announcements at the monthly or lower frequency. They are unemployment/non-farm payroll (EMPL/NFP) and producer price index (PPI) published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the FOMC statements, the gross domestic product (GDP) reported by U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Institute for Supply Management’s Manufacturing Report (ISM) released by Bloomberg.\(^\text{15}\)

The EMPL/NFL and PPI are both published at a monthly frequency and their announcement dates come from the BLS website. The BLS began announcing its scheduled release dates in advance in 1961 which is also the start date for our EMPL/NFL announcements sample. The PPI data series start in 1971.\(^\text{16}\) There are a total of eight FOMC meetings each calendar year and the dates of FOMC meetings are taken from the Federal Reserve’s website. The FOMC statements begin in 1994 when the Committee started announcing its decision to the markets by releasing a statement at the end of each meeting. For meetings lasting two calendar days we consider the second day (the day the statement is released) as the event date. GDP is released quarterly beginning from 1997, which is the first year that full data are available, and the dates come from the BEA’s website.\(^\text{17}\) Finally, ISM is a monthly announcement with dates coming from Bloomberg starting from 1997. The last year for which we collect data on all announcements is 2014.

**Equity return on announcement days** Table 1 reports the mean, standard deviation, and Sharpe ratio of the annual return of the market, and the same moments for the return on announcement days. The announcement returns are calculated as the culmulative market returns on announcement days within a year. This is equivalent to the return of a

\(^{15}\)Both unemployment and non-farm payroll information are released as part of the Employment Situation Report published by the BLS. We treat them as one announcement.

\(^{16}\)While the CPI data is also available from the BLS back to 1961, once the PPI starts being published it typically precedes the CPI announcement. Given the large overlap in information between the two macro releases much of the “news” content in the CPI announcement will already be known to the market at the time of its release. For this reason we opt in favor of using PPI.

\(^{17}\)GDP growth announcements are made monthly according to the following pattern: in April the advance estimate for Q1 GDP growth is released, followed by a preliminary estimate of the same Q1 GDP growth in May and a final estimate given in the June announcement. Arguably most uncertainty about Q1 growth is resolved once the advance estimate is published and most learning by the markets will occur prior to this release. For this reason we will focus only on the 4 advance estimate release dates every year.
strategy that long the market before the day of the pre-scheduled news announcements, hold it on the trading day with the news announcement, and sell immediately afterwards.

In Table 2, we compare the average daily stock market return on news announcement days, which we denote as \( t \), that on the day before the news announcement \( (t - 1) \), and that after the news announcement \( (t + 1) \). We present our results separately for each of the five news announcement and for all news, where standard errors are shown in parentheses.\(^{18}\) Excess market returns are taken from Kenneth French’s web site. The vast majority of announcements are made on trading days. When this is not the case we assign the news release to the first trading day that follows the announcement.

**High frequency returns**  In Figure 1, we plot the average stock market returns over 30-minute intervals before and after news announcements. Here we use high frequency data for the S&P 500 SPDR that runs from 1997 to 2013 and comes from the TAQ database. Each second the median price of all transactions occurring that second is computed.\(^8\) The price at lower frequency intervals (for example 30-min) is then constructed as the price for the last (most recent) second in that interval when transactions were observed. The exact time at which the news are released are reported by Bloomberg. In Figure 1, the return at time 0 is the 30-minute news event return. Employment/Non-farm payroll, GDP and PPI announcements are made at 8:30 AM before the market begins. In these cases we will consider the 30-minute news event return to be the return between 4:00 PM (close of trading) of the previous day and 9:30 AM when the market opens on the day of the announcement. The 30-minute event return for ISM announcements, which are made at 10:00AM, covers the interval between 9:30 AM and 10:00 AM of the announcement day. Finally, the timing of the FOMC news release varies. We add 30 minutes to the announcement time to account for the press conference after the FOMC meeting.\(^{19}\)

\(^{18}\)They are Newey-West standard errors (5-lags) of an OLS regression of excess returns on event dummies.  
\(^{19}\)For example if a statement is released at 14:15 PM, we add 30 minutes for the press conference that follows and then we round the event time to 15:00 PM.
References


### Table 1

**Market Return on Announcement and Non-announcement Days**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># per Year</th>
<th>Mean Ex</th>
<th>Std</th>
<th>Sharpe R.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Market</strong></td>
<td>252</td>
<td>6.19</td>
<td>15.59</td>
<td>0.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All</strong></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>6.23</td>
<td>0.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPL/NFP</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>3.42</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPI</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>3.84</td>
<td>0.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOMC</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.69</td>
<td>3.36</td>
<td>0.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>None</strong></td>
<td>222</td>
<td>2.82</td>
<td>14.29</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># per Year</th>
<th>Mean Ex</th>
<th>Std</th>
<th>Sharpe R.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Market</strong></td>
<td>232</td>
<td>7.44</td>
<td>20.14</td>
<td>0.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>8.24</td>
<td>9.37</td>
<td>0.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPL/NFP</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>4.45</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPI</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.90</td>
<td>4.62</td>
<td>0.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOMC</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.91</td>
<td>3.54</td>
<td>0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.20</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>0.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>5.06</td>
<td>0.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>None</strong></td>
<td>202</td>
<td>−0.78</td>
<td>17.79</td>
<td>−0.04</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table documents the mean excess return of the market, its standard deviation and Sharpe ratio on announcement and non-announcement days. The mean excess return is computed as the average daily market excess return on event days multiplied by the average number of events per year. The first column is the average number of events per year during the sample period. The release dates for unemployment/non-farm payroll (EMPL/NFP) and producer price index (PPI) come from the BLS with data starting in 1961 and 1971 respectively. The dates of Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meetings are taken from the Federal Reserve’s website and begin in 1994. Gross domestic product (GDP) release dates come from the BEA’s website and Institute for Supply Management’s Manufacturing Report (ISM) announcement dates come from Bloomberg. Both are available after 1997.
Table 2  
Average Daily Return around Announcements (Basis Points)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1961-2014</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of events</td>
<td>t-1</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>t+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>1,624</td>
<td>1.77 (0.66)</td>
<td>11.21(3.99)</td>
<td>0.84(0.27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPL/NFP</td>
<td>648</td>
<td>4.24 (0.11)</td>
<td>6.18(1.59)</td>
<td>-2.47(-0.65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPI</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>-3.09 (-0.73)</td>
<td>7.61(1.57)</td>
<td>-1.05(-0.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOMC</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>10.57 (0.99)</td>
<td>33.60(3.68)</td>
<td>1.10(0.10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>-0.08 (-0.01)</td>
<td>14.99(1.50)</td>
<td>13.64(1.32)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMPL</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>-0.60 (-0.08)</td>
<td>18.42(1.86)</td>
<td>5.76(0.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None</td>
<td>11,968</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.27(1.40)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                  | 1997-2014 |          |          |          |
|                  | # of events | t-1 | t      | t+1     |
| All              | 897        | -0.12(-0.03) | 16.48(3.76) | 0.21(0.05) |
| EMPL/NFP        | 216        | -1.09(-0.12) | 15.44(1.77) | -7.15(-0.87) |
| PPI             | 216        | -8.38(-1.10) | 7.53(0.83) | -6.20(-0.68) |
| FOMC            | 144        | -13.62(1.11) | 36.35(3.49) | -1.34(-0.11) |
| GDP             | 144        | -0.08(-0.01) | 14.99(1.50) | 13.64(1.32) |
| EMPL            | 216        | -0.13(-0.02) | 18.42(1.86) | 5.76(0.68) |
| None            | 3,633      | -0.36(-0.18) |          |          |

This Table documents the average daily return on the trading before announcements (t-1), at announcements (t), and after announcements (t+1). Returns are measured in basis points and T-stats based on Newey-West (5 lags) standard errors are included in parenthesis. The first column is the total number of events during the sample period. The release dates for unemployment/non-farm payroll (EMPL/NFP) and producer price index (PPI) come from the BLS with data starting in 1961 and 1971 respectively. The dates of Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meetings are taken from the Federal Reserve’s website and begin in 1994. Gross domestic product (GDP) release dates come from the BEA’s website and Institute for Supply Management’s Manufacturing Report (ISM) announcement dates come from Bloomberg. Both are available after 1997.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># of Events</th>
<th>Mean (StErr)</th>
<th>Std</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intraday Returns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Intraday</td>
<td>4278</td>
<td>−0.55 (1.67)</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcement</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>17.0 (6.43)</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOMC</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>23.2 (10.0)</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>12.1 (8.26)</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Announcement</td>
<td>3942</td>
<td>−2.05 (1.72)</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight Returns</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Overnight</td>
<td>4277</td>
<td>3.52 (1.06)</td>
<td>69.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcement</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>9.32 (3.38)</td>
<td>78.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NFP</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>16.2 (5.47)</td>
<td>78.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPI</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>−2.17 (5.86)</td>
<td>83.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>16.2 (6.02)</td>
<td>70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Announcement</td>
<td>3733</td>
<td>2.67 (1.11)</td>
<td>67.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table decomposes intraday and overnight returns into announcement day returns and non-announcement day returns. The first column is the total number of events during the sample period of 1997-2014. The mean return on event days is measured in basis points with standard error of the point estimate in parenthesis.
Table 4
Calibrated Parameter Values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$\beta$</td>
<td>discount rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\gamma$</td>
<td>risk aversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{x}$</td>
<td>average consumption growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma$</td>
<td>volatility of consumption growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$a_x$</td>
<td>mean reversion in $x$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma_x$</td>
<td>volatility of $x$ (long-run risk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\phi$</td>
<td>leverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\sigma_{\bar{x}}^2$</td>
<td>Noise in announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1/T$</td>
<td>Frequency of announcement per year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4 presents the calibrated parameters of our learning model.
Table 5

Expected returns in the model with and without learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Learning</th>
<th>Observable</th>
<th>Expected Utility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Equity Premium</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>4.58%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average return on announcement Days</td>
<td>2.53%</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average risk-free interest rate</td>
<td>1.75%</td>
<td>2.56%</td>
<td>2.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volatility of equity return</td>
<td>11.18%</td>
<td>11.18%</td>
<td>8.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volatility on announcement days</td>
<td>6.53%</td>
<td>1.01%</td>
<td>0.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volatility on non-announcement days</td>
<td>9.05%</td>
<td>11.18%</td>
<td>8.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volatility of risk-free interest rate</td>
<td>0.81%</td>
<td>0.81%</td>
<td>0.68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5 reports the total return on equity, return on announcement days, and the risk-free interest rate in the model with learning (left panel), those in a model where \(x_t\) is fully observable (middle panel), and those in the model with learning and with expected utility (right panel). We simulate the model for 160 years and drop the first 100 years to guarantee convergence to steady-state. We run 100 such simulations and report the sample average of the moments computed from these simulations.