



Applied Mathematical Finance >

Volume 17, 2010 - [Issue 1](#)

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# Short Positions, Rally Fears and Option Markets

Ernst Eberlein & Dilip B. Madan

Pages 83-98 | Received 10 Nov 2008, Accepted 02 Apr 2009, Published online: 04 Sep 2009

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504860903075688>

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## Abstract

Index option pricing on world market indices are investigated using Lévy processes with no positive jumps. Economically this is motivated by the possible absence of longer horizon short positions while mathematically we are able to evaluate for such processes the probability of a rally before a crash. Three models are used to effectively calibrate index options at an annual maturity, and it is observed that positive jumps may be needed for FTSE, N225 and HSI. Rally before a crash probabilities are shown to have fallen by 10 points after July 2007. Typical implied volatility curves for such models are also described and illustrated. They have smirks and never smile.

Key Words:

Spectrally negative processes

implied volatility smiles

two-sided exit problems

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