



Welcome to our 2022 Recap:

We are pleased to welcome you to our 2022 Year End Report.

2022 was a year of wild swings. There was a lot of bluster. There were some markets where this created price instability. In other markets the perceived levels of uncertainty as measured by option prices exploded. Both occurred in some markets.

The interest rate picture was an example where futures prices moved and implied volatility was not far behind. After a multi decade Goldilocks world of rates being "just right" the situation changed dramatically. With an inflation picture that began to deteriorate, the Fed hiked some lending rates. The prospect of multi-decade high inflation moved nominal rates higher and implied vols up to stratospheric levels (at least for "risk-free" assets). Given the high rates of realized inflation, the market seems to still believe this is an aberration, not a new normal. The incredibly large balance sheet of the Fed suggests that the new normal cannot be so benign. On the one hand the balance sheet could be maintained indefinitely, but this would translate into a large and non-sterilized injection into the banking system. This is hardly the stuff that quells inflation. On the other hand the Federal Government borrows heavily at the front end of the curve. A Fed which raises rates and restricts new credit (and does not itself purchase bonds) will cause the government's borrow cost to explode. Inflation is a friend of the borrower. We believe that higher inflation is here to stay and the Fed's machinations are focussed on optics. The government needs rates which are behind the inflation curve. The markets don't want to ponder the credit punch bowl being taken away.

A whole class/generation of equity investor was introduced to a concept they vaguely understood-the Bear Market. Major equity index futures were down anywhere from 9% to 33%. The Dow30 was down least. The Nasdaq100 was down the most. Problems with the FAANGS, Tesla and other tech names torpedoed the prospects of this index. Discounted cash flow models posit a negative correlation between rates and equity prices. For the average public company, rates (though higher) are still very mild. If inflation is running north of 7% and the real rate assumed to be in the 2.5 to 3.5% range, then a textbook application of Fisher's equation would indicate nominal rates of about 10% (risk free). Most large companies are able to borrow for much lower rates. If we look at the Treasury's HQM Yield Curve, we see no tenors yielding more than 5.5% suggesting that rates are still very pro-borrowers. Yes, the DCF is correct to discount corporate earnings a bit more, but it doesn't look like there is any reason for them to curtail capex for rate reasons. They are borrowing incredibly cheaply. The weakness in markets is probably due to concerns around the health of the consumer. It is still too early to gauge

the depth of that malaise.

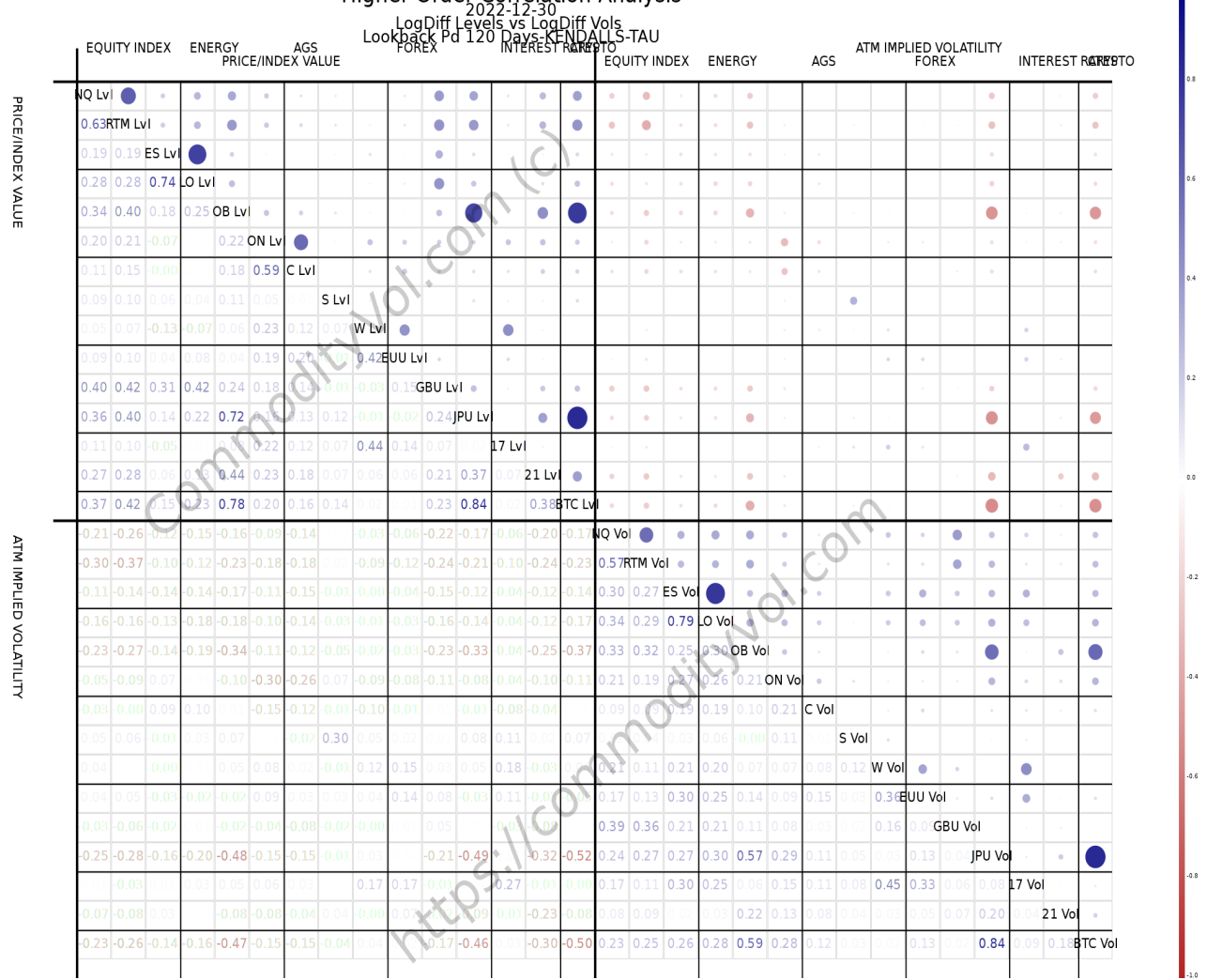
Energy generated more heat than light this year. Yes, most energy prices are higher now than they were at the beginning of the year. However, most of the prices are off their highs. With the exception of an early cold snap in the Europe and US, the weather has been very mild. The most derided and disliked commodity, coal, has staged a remarkable comeback with prices rocketing up nearly 100%. The critical months in energy are still ahead of us. The length of winter plays a critical roll in setting the stage for storage and consumption in the summer. There are still many months to go.

The Dollar showed remarkable strength against all but the Mexican and Brazilian currencies. If Europe's energy needs are fixed by importing US hydrocarbons, it stands to reason that the Dollar will have further room to rally. The demand for energy and the need to make European goods competitive on the World stage would suggest more declines are in store for the European currencies against the Dollar.

Ags ended up higher on the year, but somewhat off their worst case highs. The same can be said of vols.

Next we look at cross asset correlations over the last 120 days. In this case we look at a robust correlation measure called Kendall's Tau. Overall, there is not much correlation across asset classes. In the case of futures, we see high correlation between Nasdaq and Russell. This does not make sense except in sense of speculative investing getting punished in both markets. There is a rather strong correlation between SP500 and the oil future. A strong world economy will benefit both the SP500 and oil. There is a very strong correlation between refined gasoline (OB), the Japanese Yen and Bitcoin. The connection is not clear. The correlations are similar on the vol-vol side. Finally, there is significant cross correlation between the futures of JPY, Bitcoin and OB and their vols. All of this is suggesting these connections are not abberations.

Higher Order Correlation Analysis



As in previous letters, we now comment on the action in different market segments.

Interest rate futures were down across the board for the year. The Ultrabond futures faded the most, with Eurodollars the least. Vol was up across the board for this asset class, but the changes were inverse to duration. The short end of the curve suffered, or gained, most from the uncertainty. The market is very much focussed on the near term. The belief is that this is a rough patch in an otherwise calm sea. We are skeptical.

[Interest Rates ATM](#)

[30 Year Bond Detail](#)

[10 Year Note Detail](#)

[Ultrabond](#)

Equity markets were down. This is perhaps the stickiest down market in a long time and certainly the first bad market for a lot of investors. The most interesting observation is that the VIX index is up 5%, while the SP500 ATM vol is up more than 7 vol points. This is a bit odd. There should be a little more correspondence in the VIX and the ATM implied vol levels of the index. Perhaps there is an amelioration in the wings, or the second month's vols are persistently lower. If we look at the skew plot from the SP500 detail page, we see that only the extreme puts are cheaper. Everything else is higher at the end of the year. It does look like the SP vol term structure has flattened. That might be the explanation for this.

[EquityIndex ATM](#)

[SP500 Detail](#)

[VIX Detail](#)

Domestic coal rocketed up. It was the biggest winner in the energy patch. Vol also exploded for coal. The vol of vol in coal is exceedingly high. The next up is Diesel/ULSD/Heating Oil. The futures were up nearly 40% with vol also up significantly. Natural gas was up 17% which seems healthy, but is in fact way off its highs. Vol was up 24 vol points and has been persistently in the low 100s. There is a lot riding on the weather and the re-establishment of the LNG trains to Europe (and European weather as well). Brent and WTI were up 8.8% and 5.5%, respectively. The effects of price caps and OPEC+ cutbacks are not yet known. Vol is up on the year but has been mostly in a tight range.

[Energy ATM](#)

[WTI Crude Detail](#)

[Brent Crude Detail](#)

[US Natty Gas Detail](#)

[Details Energy](#)

The US Dollar has been incredibly strong for most of the year. Starting with the elephant in the room, BTC collapsed this year by about 63%. Ethereum futures, which were listed this year, collapsed as well. The most concerning aspect of this collapse is that vol has come out of the options. The vol leaving a collapsing market signals to us some degree of permanence. Against the Euro, Pound, and Yen, the Dollar showed a great deal of strength. From the view of Purchasing Power Parity theory in trade, we are confident that this move is permanent (at least to the extent sanctions against Russia are permanent). The high cost of energy in Europe will be compensated by a rapidly strengthening Dollar until a new equilibrium is reached-one influenced heavily by relative costs of production. Vol is up in all of these currencies. The Dollar did weaken against the Real and the Peso.

[Foreign Exchange ATM](#)

[Yen Detail](#)

[Euro Detail](#)

[Bitcoin Detail](#)

[Ethereum Detail](#)

With the exception of Oats, the Agricultural sector was up across the board. In almost every case, both vols and prices were off their best levels of the year. Even though there was some retracement, many of the grains and seeds were up more than 10%. Except in a handful of cases, (like Wheat, up 22%) vol was down. This is an interesting twist in the CPI and inflation debate, as most analysts have been concerned with energy. A prolonged increase in agricultural commodities might have a clear effect on consumers since the cost increases are more readily observed by consumers.

[Ags ATM](#)

[Wheat Detail](#)

[Kansas City Wheat Detail](#)

[Live Cattle Detail](#)

[Ags Details](#)

Metals have been an enigma this year. Copper is down significantly. Silver and Platinum are up. Perhaps the COVID related slowdowns in the Chinese economy has caused this slowdown in copper. The rather weak rally in silver and gold is hard to understand. Perhaps the market is convinced that Fed action will tame inflation at potentially the cost of lower output. In any event vol is nicely bid across the board.

[Metals ATM](#)

[Gold Detail](#)

[Copper Detail](#)

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At The Money Roundup of Products

InterestRates

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CBT/26	2 YR US Treasury Note	-6.438 [-5.9%]	+0.010 [+68.7%]
CBT/25	5 YR US Treasury Note	-12.508 [-10.4%]	+0.019 [+55.9%]
CBT/21	10 YR US Treasury Note	-17.141 [-13.2%]	+0.025 [+47.8%]
CBT/17	30 YR US Treasury Bond	-32.563 [-20.6%]	+0.040 [+40.4%]
CME/ED	Eurodollar	-4.720 [-4.7%]	+0.005 [+142.9%]
CBT/UBE	Long Term US Treasury Bond	-57.938 [-30.1%]	+0.049 [+30.4%]

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CBT/YM	E-Mini Dow	-3170.000 [-8.7%]	+0.044 [+29.6%]
CME/NQ	E-Mini Nasdaq	-5463.250 [-33.1%]	+0.076 [+37.6%]
CME/RTO	E-Mini Russell 2000	-498.500 [-22.0%]	+0.049 [+23.4%]
CME/RTM	E-Mini Russell EOM	-498.500 [-22.0%]	+0.046 [+24.1%]
CME/ES	E-Mini S&P 500	-925.000 [-19.3%]	+0.071 [+47.9%]
CBOE/VIX	VIX Volatility Index	+5.070 [+30.5%]	-0.093 [-12.5%]

Energy

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
NYMEX/BZO	Brent Crude Oil Margin	+6.930 [+8.8%]	+0.056 [+16.0%]
NYMEX/BE	Brent Euro Style	+7.790 [+10.0%]	-0.099 [-19.6%]
NYMEX/CVR	Chicago Ethanol(platts) Average Price	-0.087 [-3.8%]	-0.277 [-97.3%]
NYMEX/MTO	Coal Api2 Cif Ara Argsmccloskey	+108.900 [+91.5%]	+2.414 [+781.0%]
NYMEX/LO	Crude Oil	+4.180 [+5.5%]	+0.038 [+10.5%]
NYMEX/LN	European Natural Gas	+0.660 [+17.3%]	+0.244 [+38.5%]
NYMEX/E7	Henry Hub Financial Last Day	+0.660 [+17.3%]	+0.245 [+38.8%]
NYMEX/JKO	LNG Japan/korea Marker (platts) Average Price	-0.990 [-3.2%]	-0.090 [-11.9%]
NYMEX/ON	Natural Gas	+0.660 [+17.3%]	+0.243 [+38.4%]
NYMEX/OH	NY Harbor ULSD	+0.938 [+39.8%]	+0.170 [+49.7%]
NYMEX/OB	RBOB	+0.222 [+9.8%]	+0.062 [+16.2%]

Forex

exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CME/ADU	AUDUSD 2pmmfix	-0.036 [-5.1%]	+0.034 [+38.2%]
CME/BTC	Bitcoin	-29330.000 [-63.9%]	-0.154 [-25.4%]
CME/BR	BRLUSD Monthly	+0.011 [+6.2%]	+0.030 [+19.3%]
CME/CAU	CADUSD 2pmmfix	-0.045 [-5.8%]	-0.003 [-3.7%]
CME/CHU	CHFUSD 2pmmfix	-0.001 [-0.1%]	+0.010 [+14.1%]
CME/ETH	Ethereum Futures	-395.500 [-25.0%]	-0.822 [-60.6%]
CME/EUU	EURUSD 2pmmfix	-0.056 [-4.9%]	+0.019 [+26.8%]
CME/GBU	GBPUSD 2pmmfix	-0.140 [-10.4%]	+0.032 [+46.2%]
CME/JPU	JPYUSD 2pmmfix	-0.001 [-11.2%]	+0.081 [+134.1%]
CME/MP	Mexican Peso	+0.002 [+5.2%]	-0.043 [-32.1%]
CME/NE	New Zealand	-0.044 [-6.5%]	+0.039 [+41.9%]

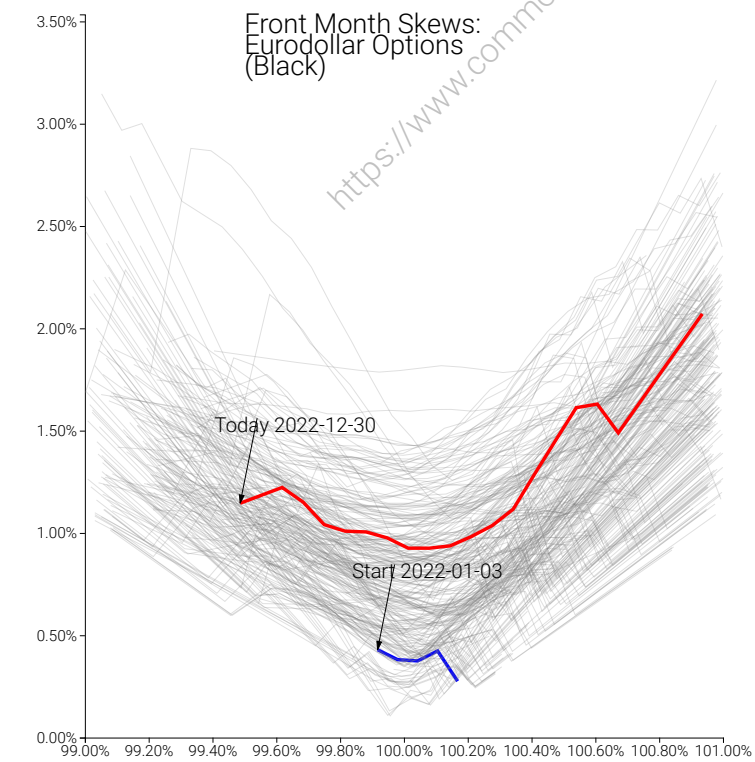
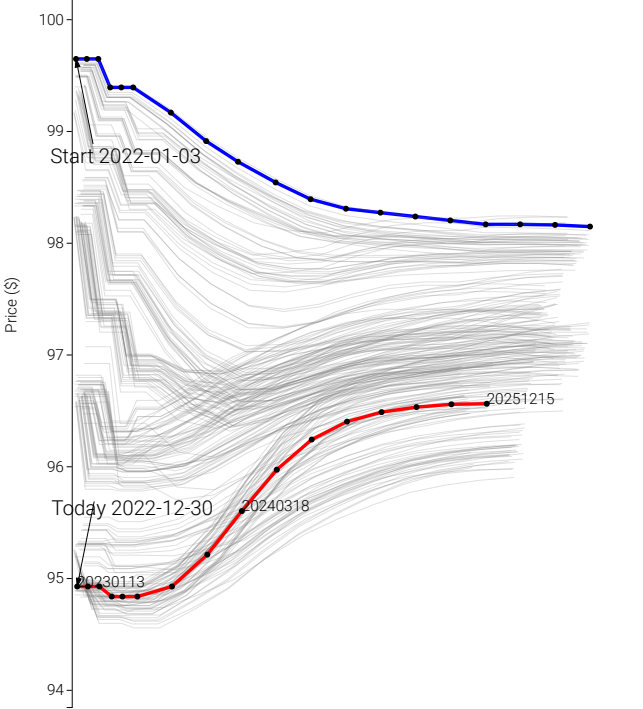
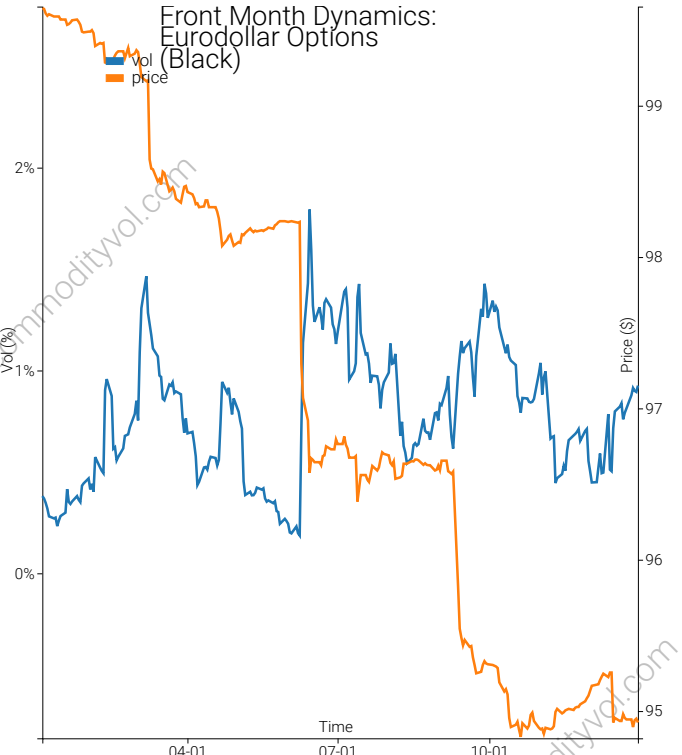
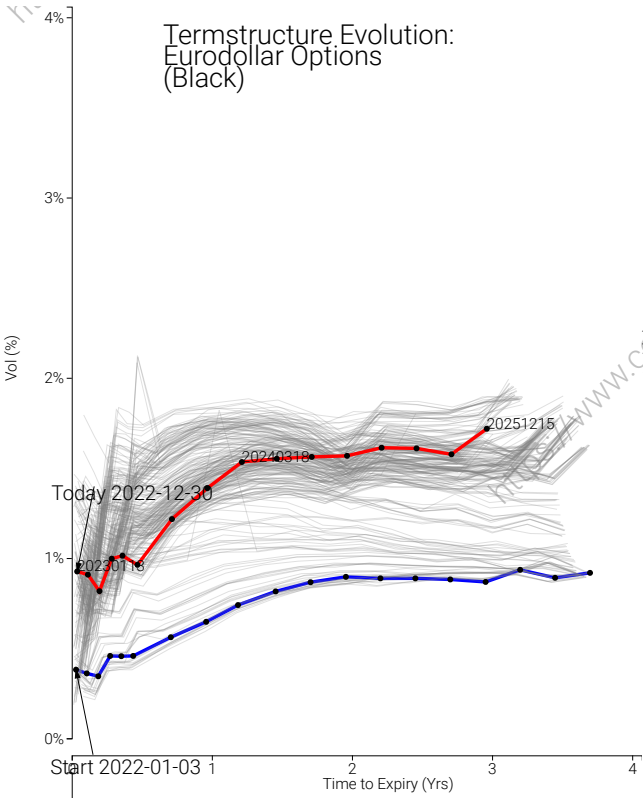
exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
CME/DK	Class IV Milk	+0.720 [+3.3%]	-0.138 [-82.7%]
CBT/C	Corn	+0.893 [+15.1%]	-0.068 [-27.5%]
CME/62	Feeder Cattle	+17.450 [+10.5%]	-0.017 [-16.4%]
CBT/KW	KC HRW Wheat	+0.965 [+12.2%]	+0.016 [+5.9%]
CME/LN	Lean Hog	+6.575 [+8.1%]	+0.001 [+0.6%]
CME/48	Live Cattle	+18.975 [+13.7%]	-0.060 [-40.2%]
CME/NF	Nonfat Dry Milk	-13.775 [-8.7%]	-0.048 [-61.4%]
CBT/O	Oats	-3.135 [-46.1%]	+0.045 [+11.5%]
CBT/14	Rough Rice	+3.755 [+25.7%]	+0.008 [+5.5%]
CBT/S	Soybean	+1.685 [+12.4%]	-0.014 [-6.8%]
CBT/06	Soybean Meal	+59.700 [+14.5%]	-0.036 [-11.6%]
CBT/07	Soybean Oil	+7.650 [+13.6%]	-0.054 [-15.5%]
CBT/W	Wheat	+0.340 [+4.5%]	+0.057 [+22.7%]

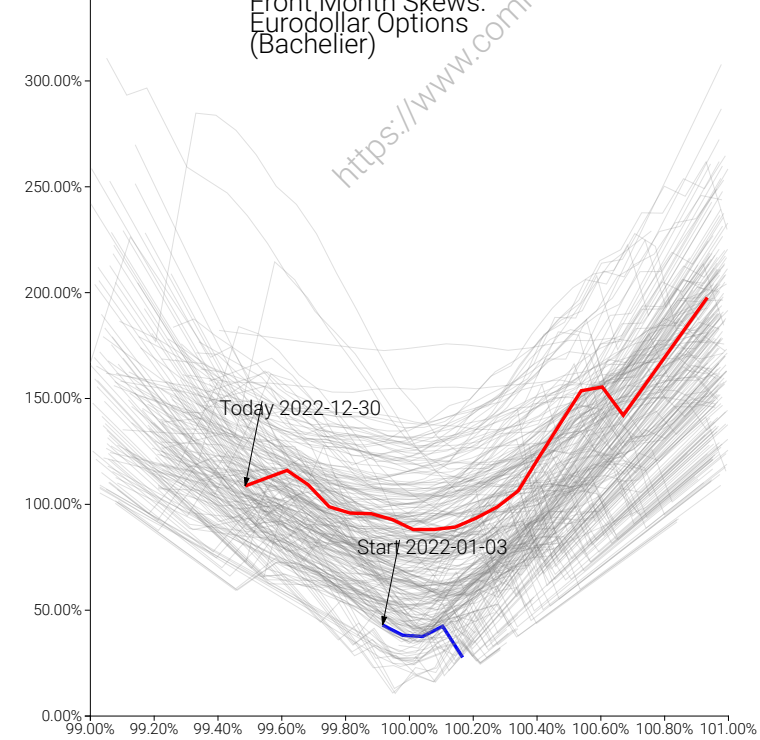
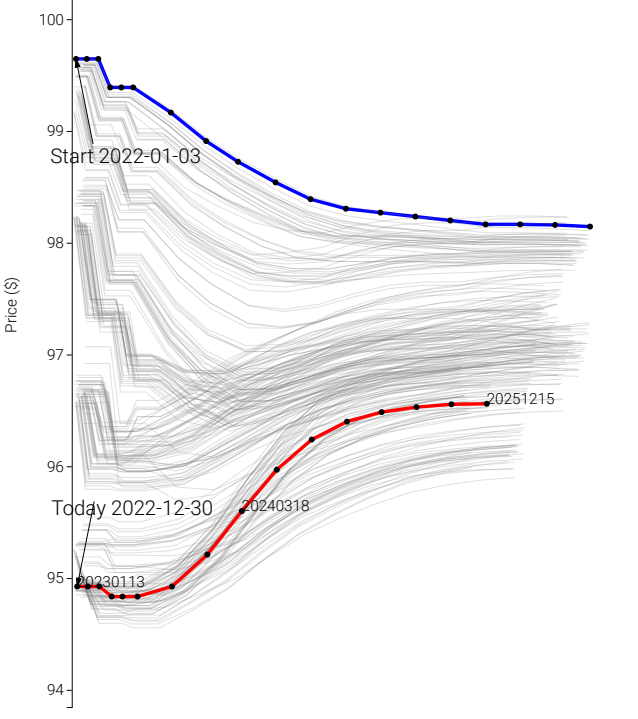
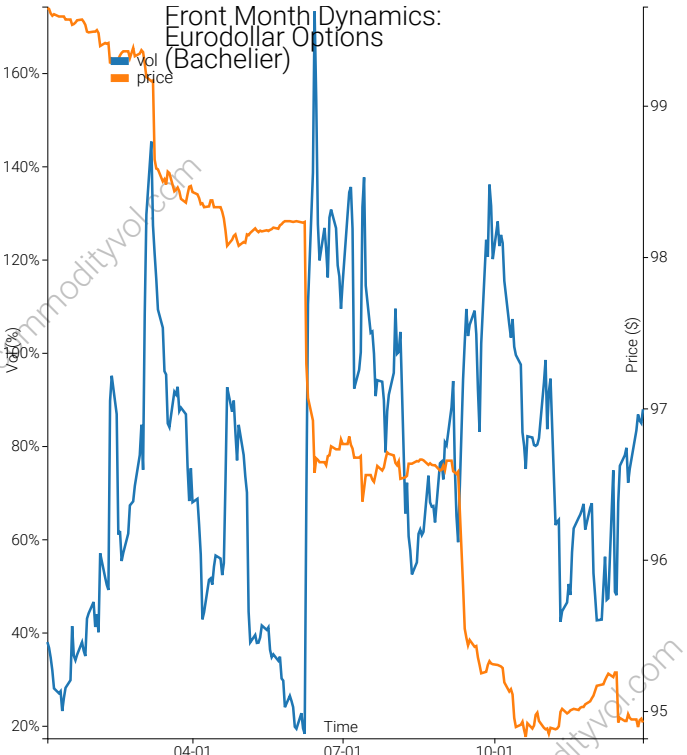
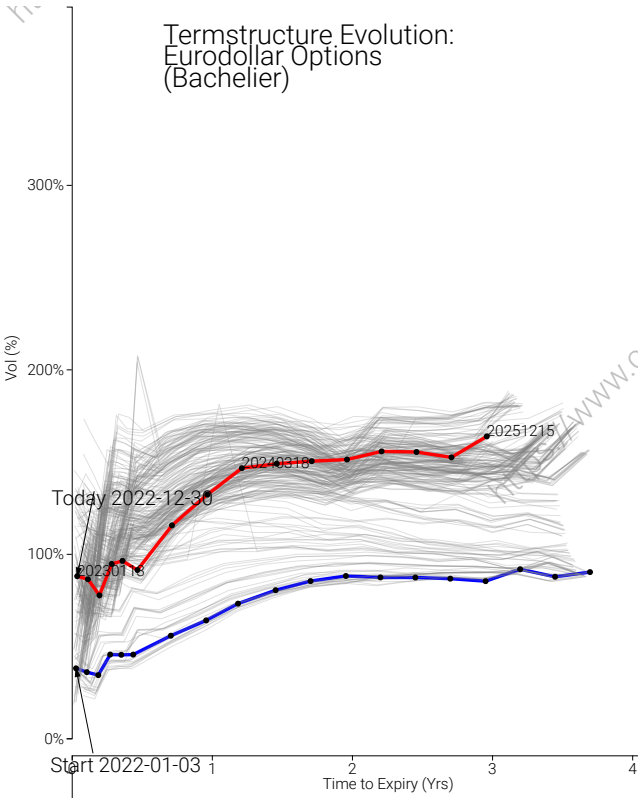
Metals

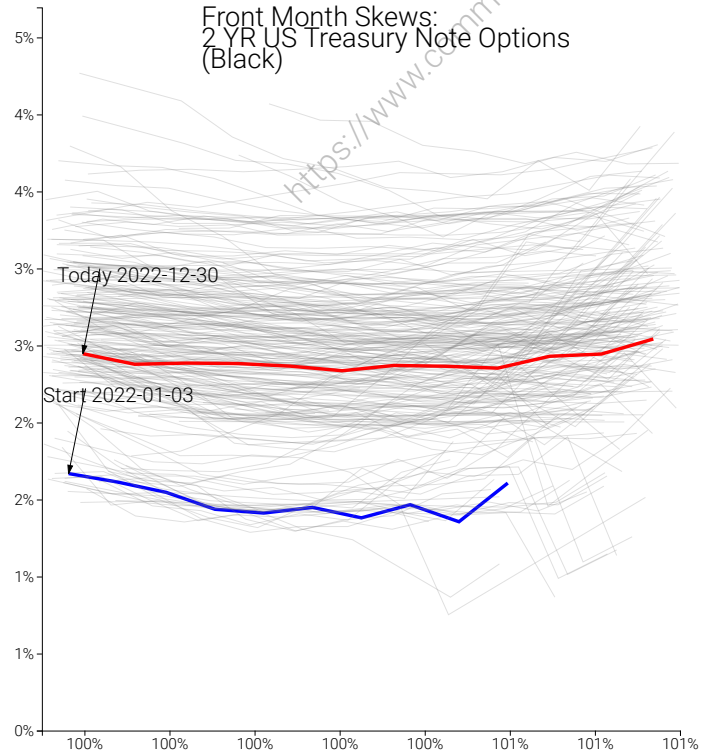
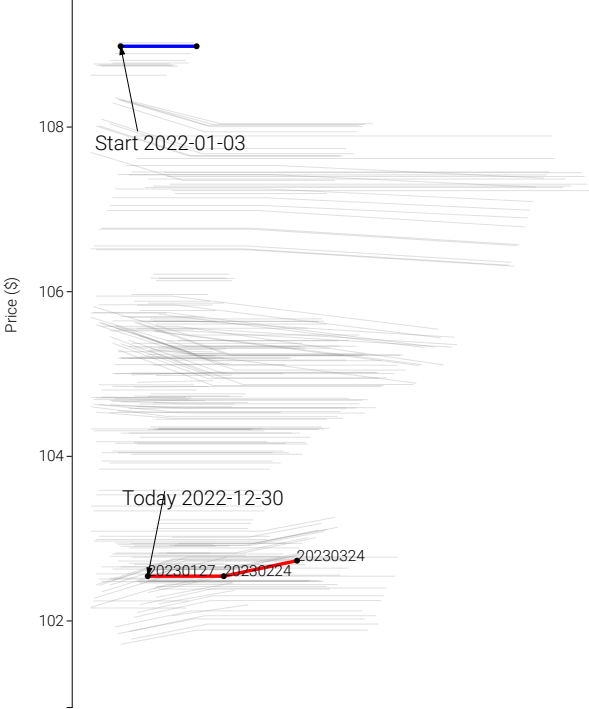
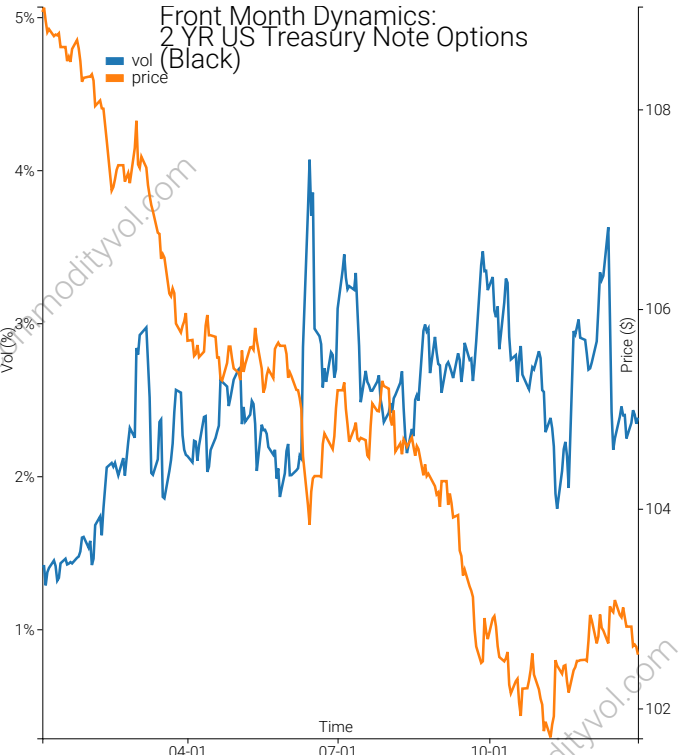
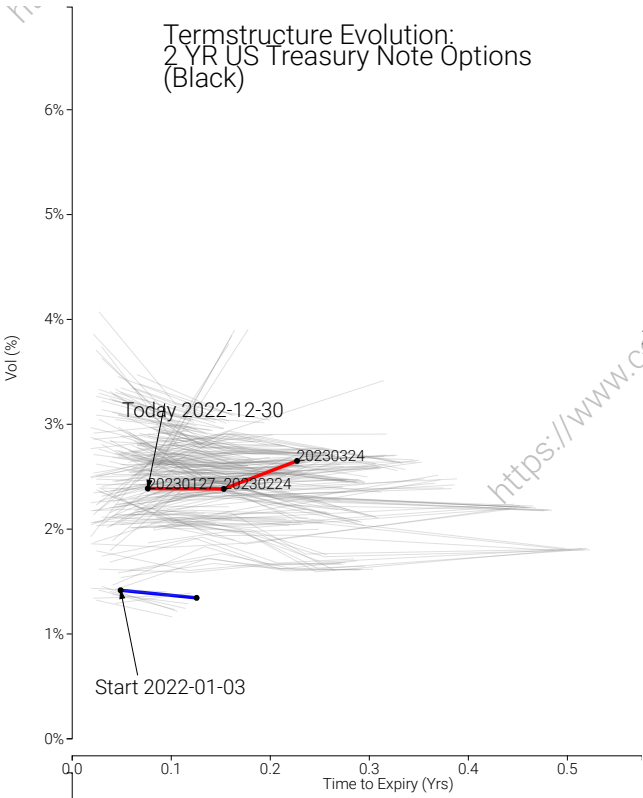
exch/prod	desc	futures chng [%]	vol chng [%]
COMEX/HX	Copper	-0.611 [-13.8%]	+0.036 [+14.6%]
COMEX/OG	Gold	+26.100 [+1.4%]	+0.014 [+10.8%]
NYMEX/PAO	Palladium	-28.000 [-1.5%]	+0.041 [+9.4%]
NYMEX/PO	Platinum	+128.900 [+13.5%]	+0.029 [+10.4%]
COMEX/SO	Silver	+1.230 [+5.4%]	+0.060 [+25.1%]

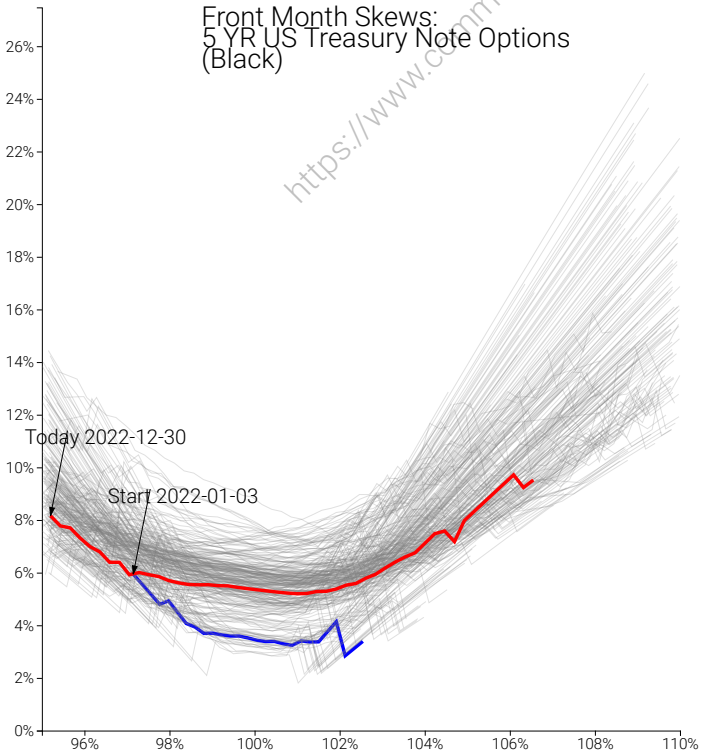
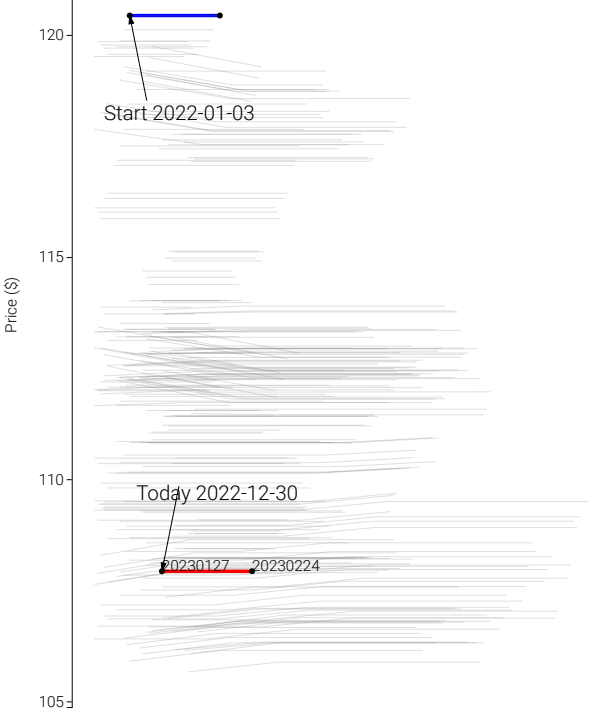
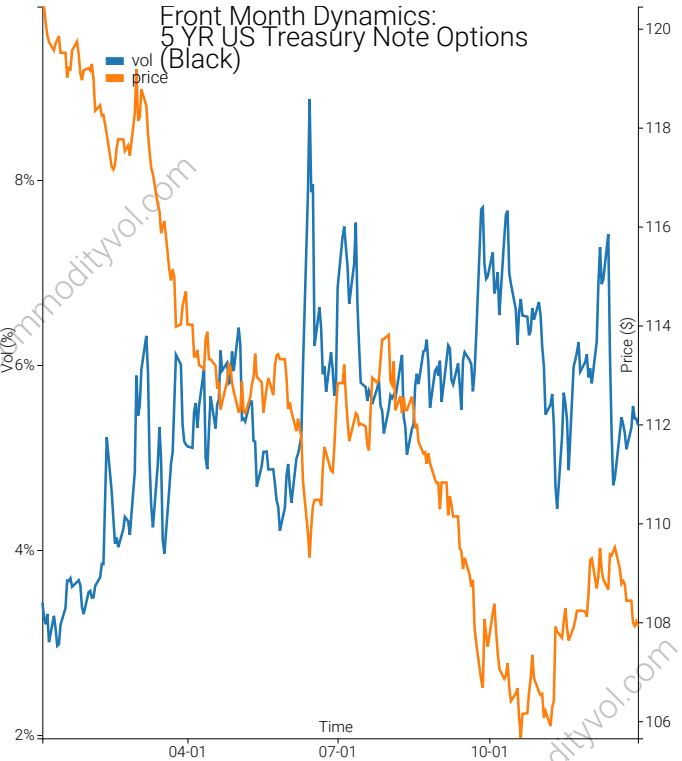
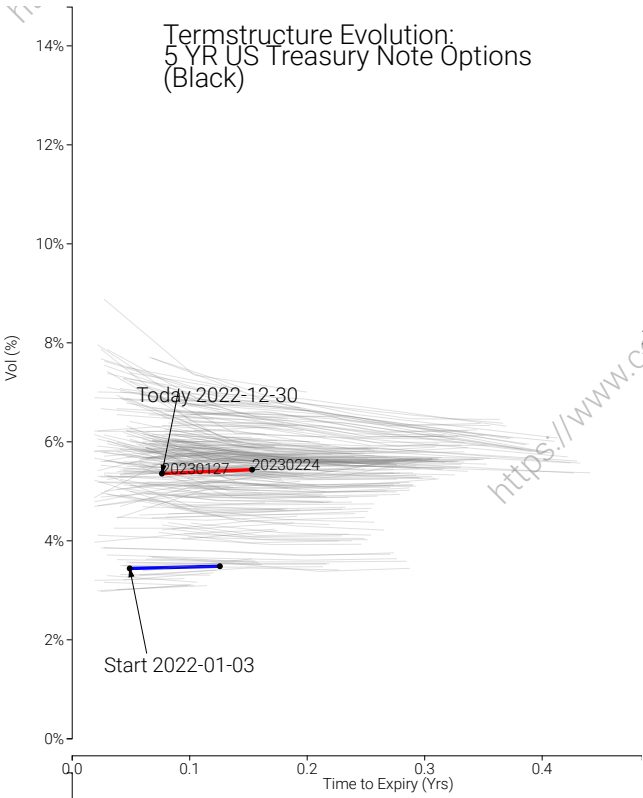
Skews, Termstructures and more

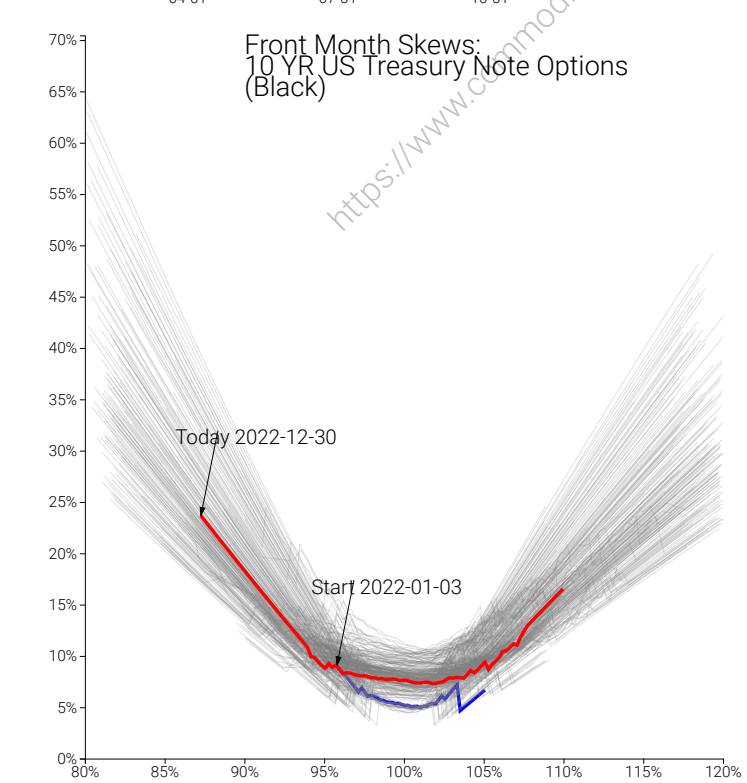
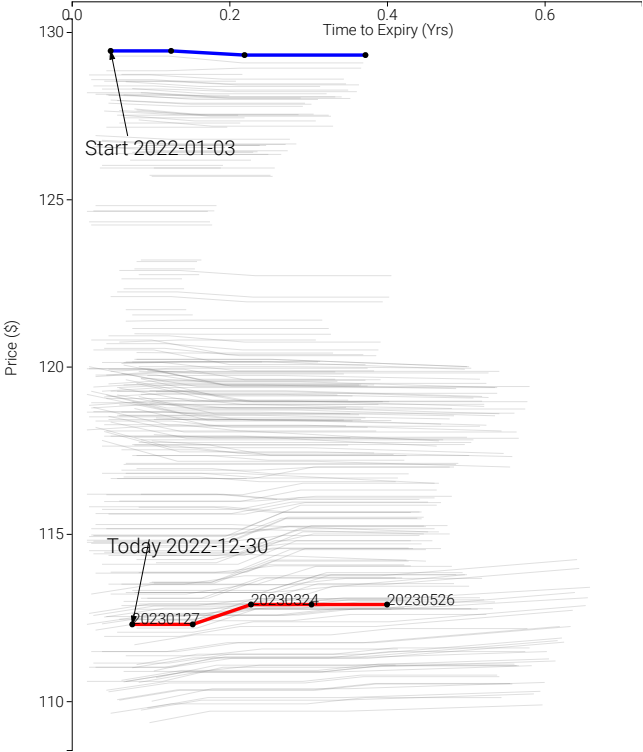
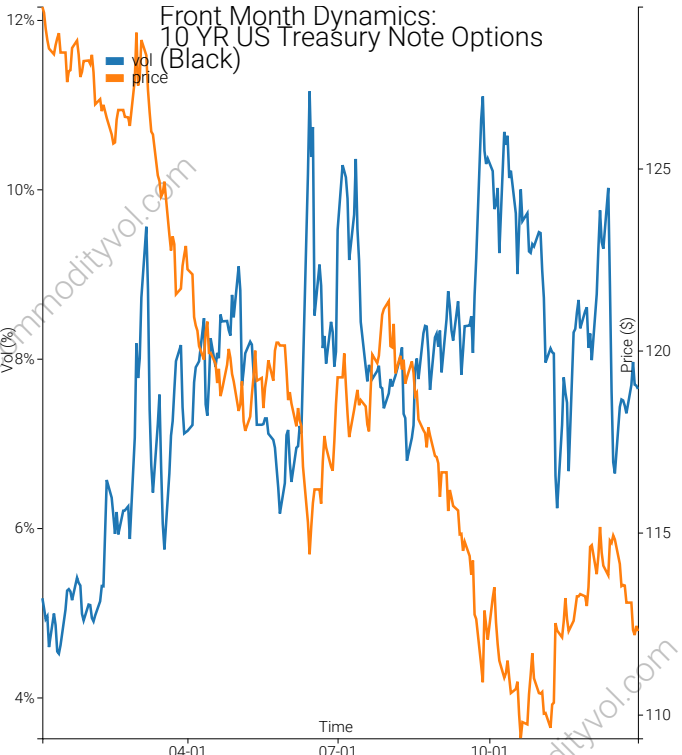
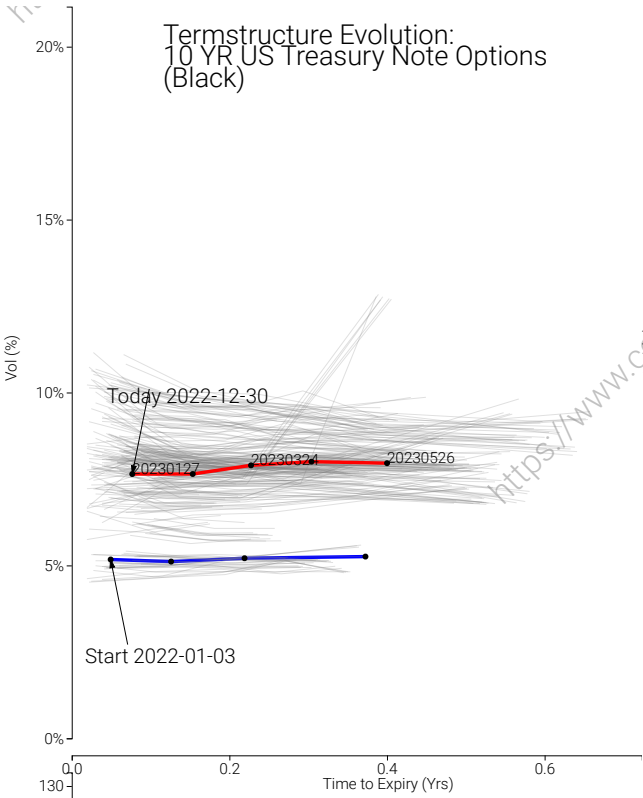
InterestRates: Fixed Income and STIRS

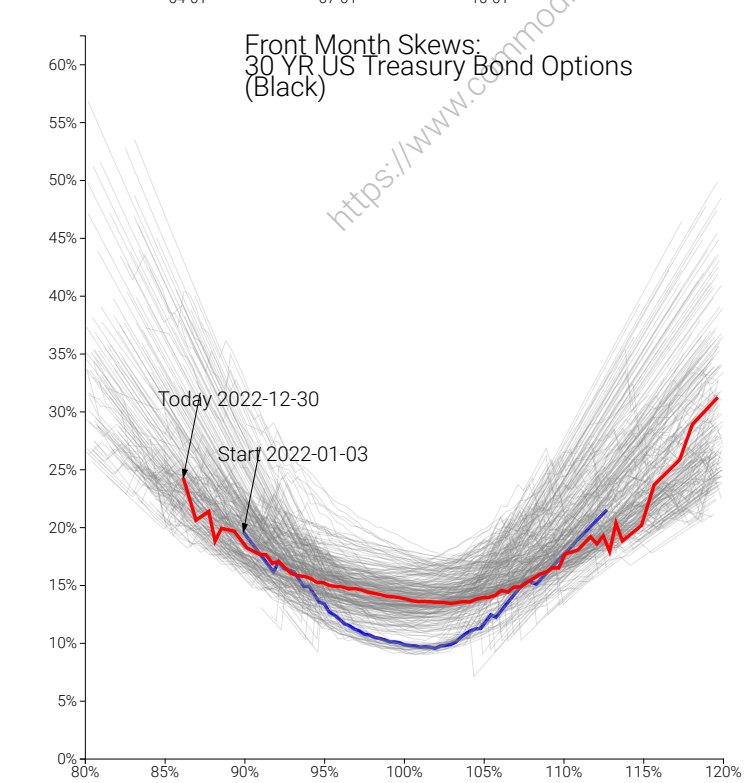
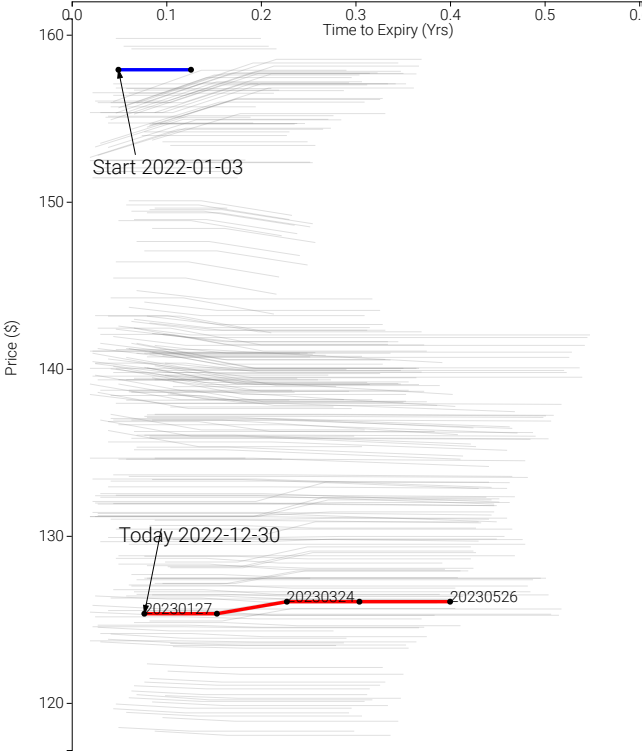
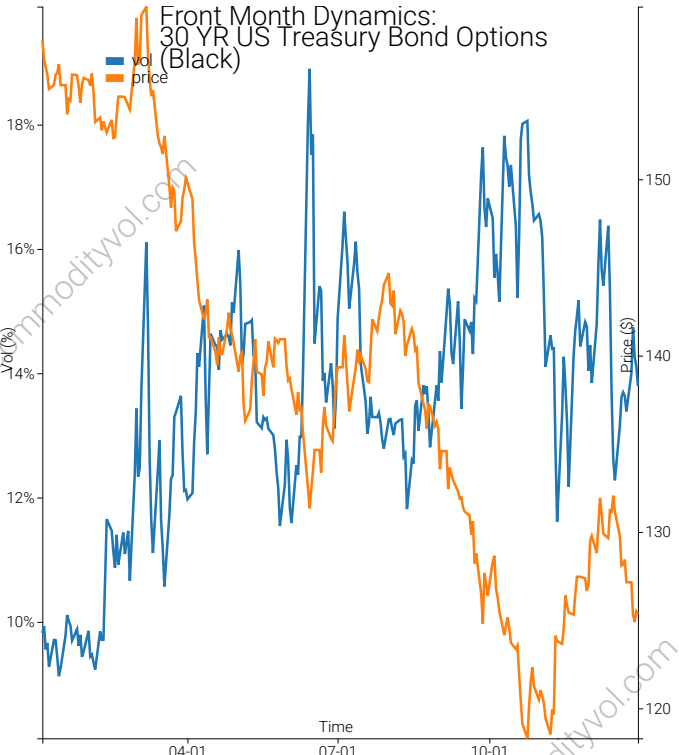
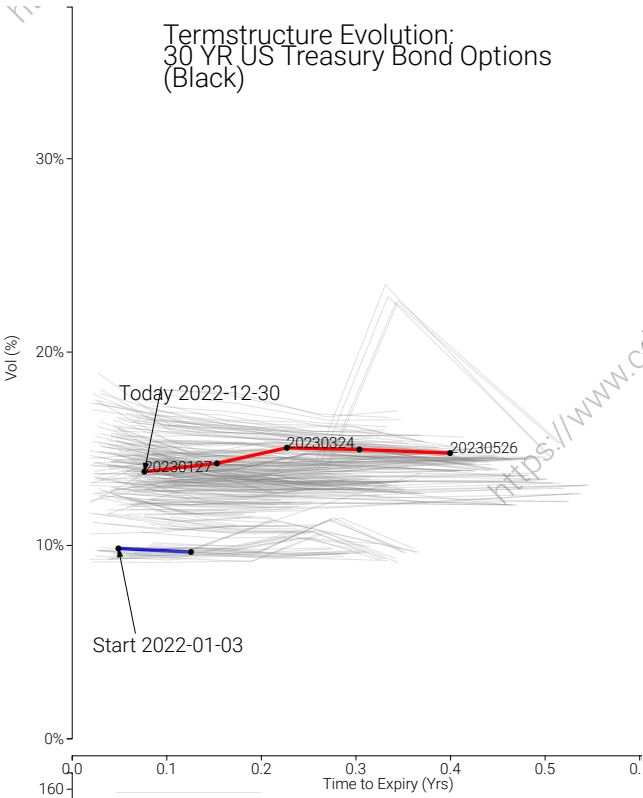


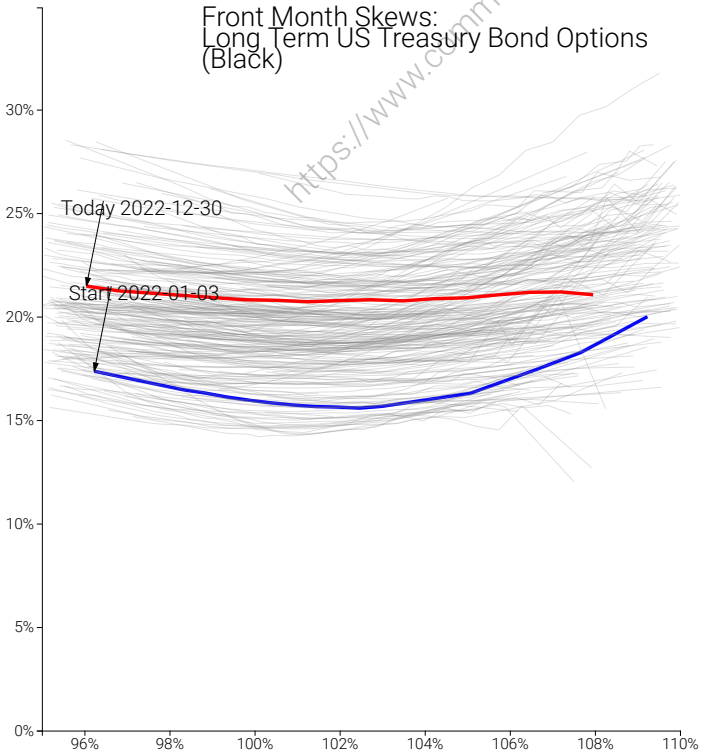
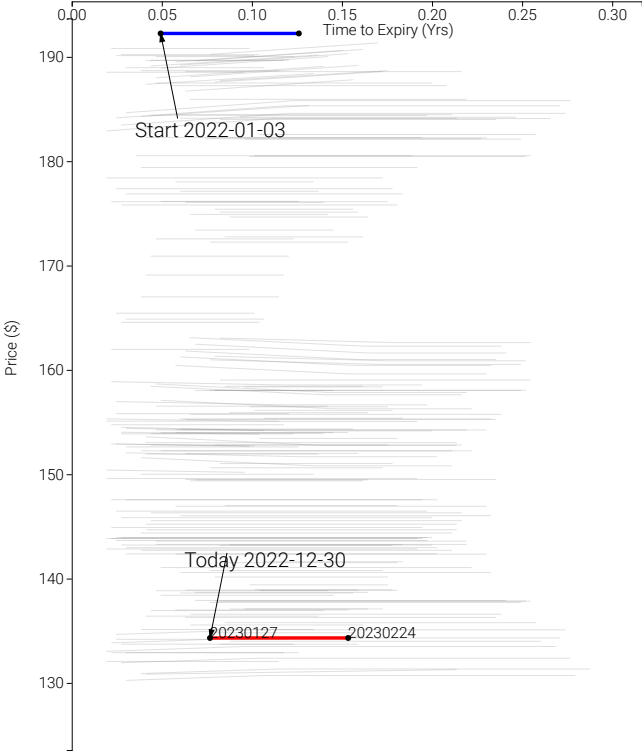
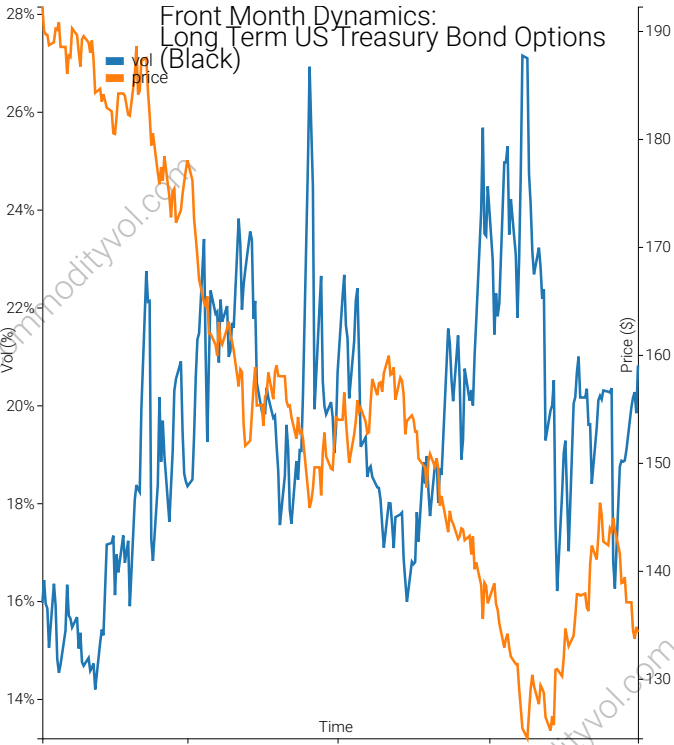
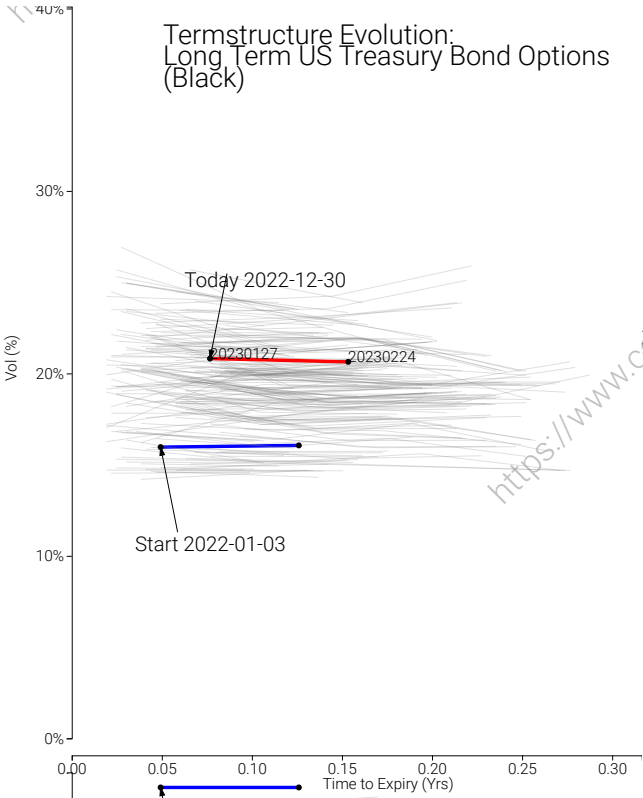




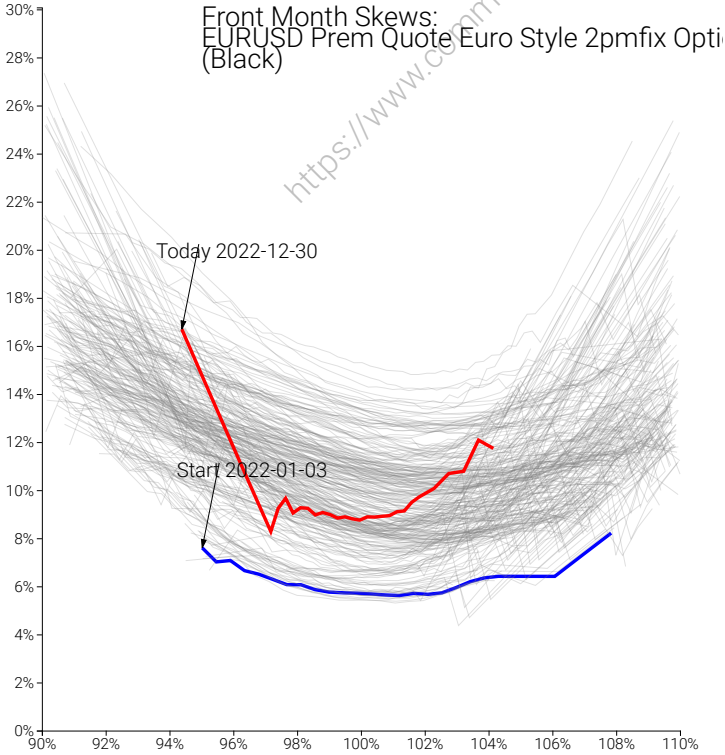
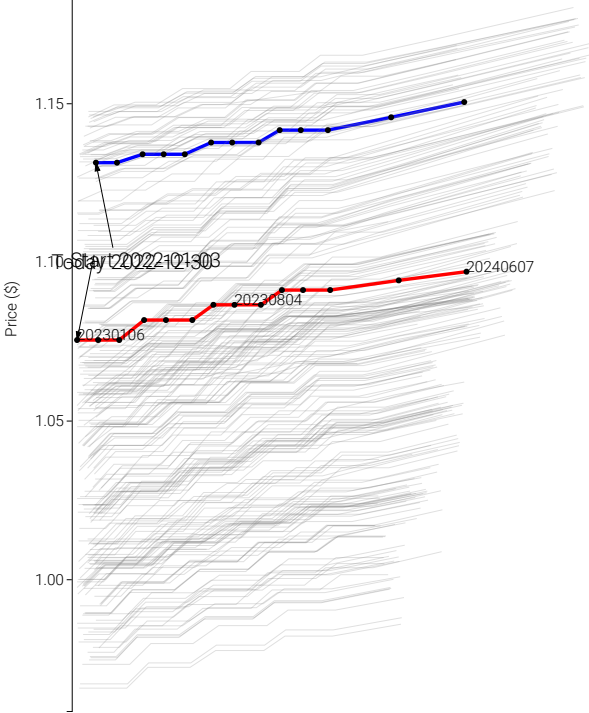
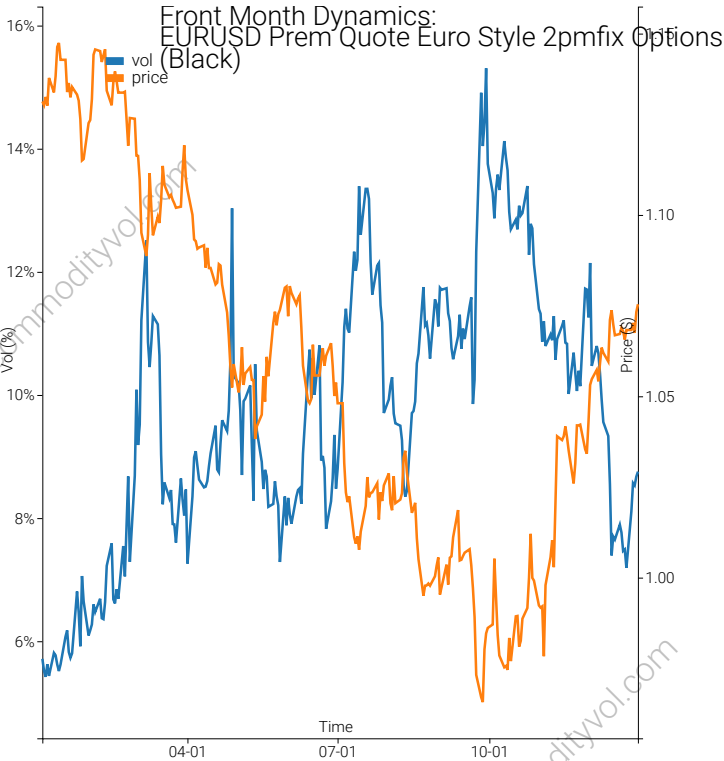
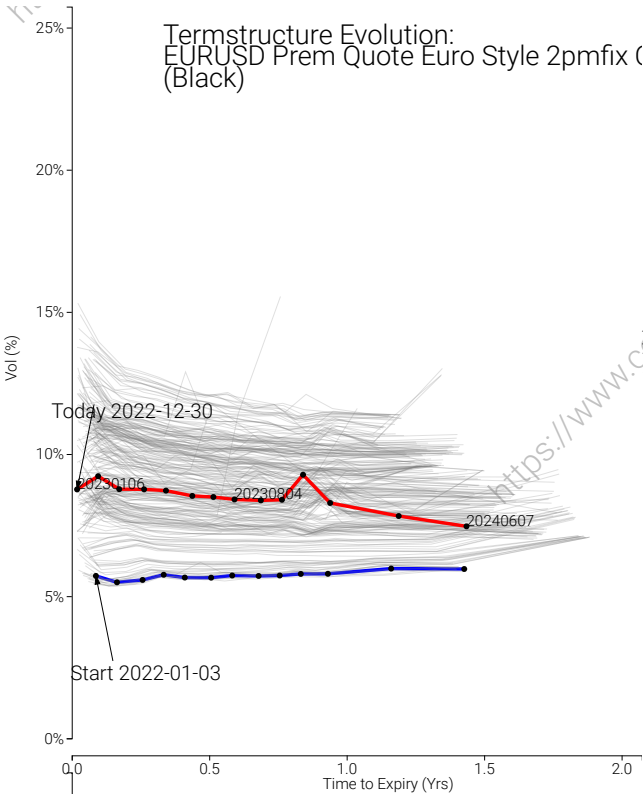


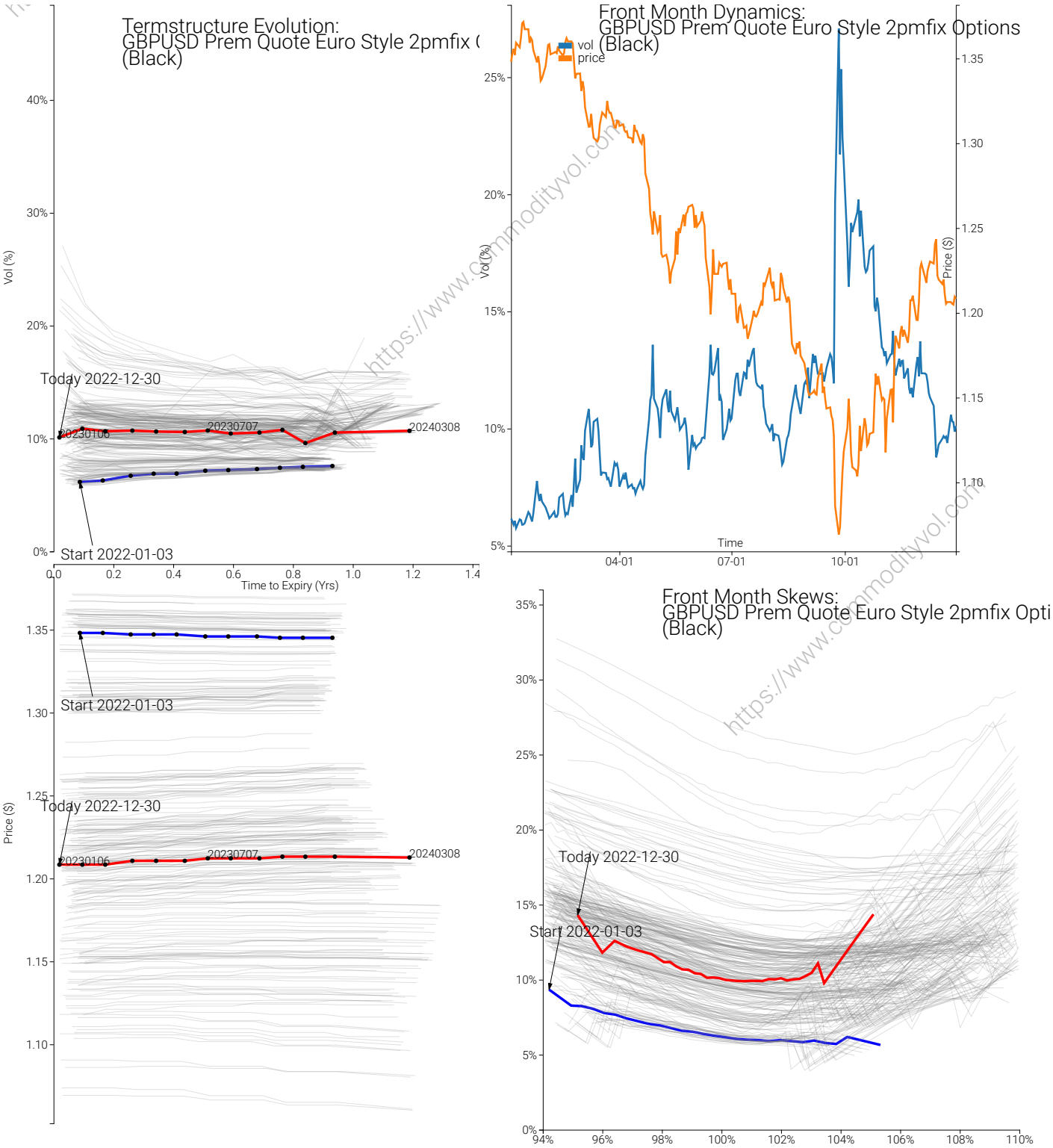


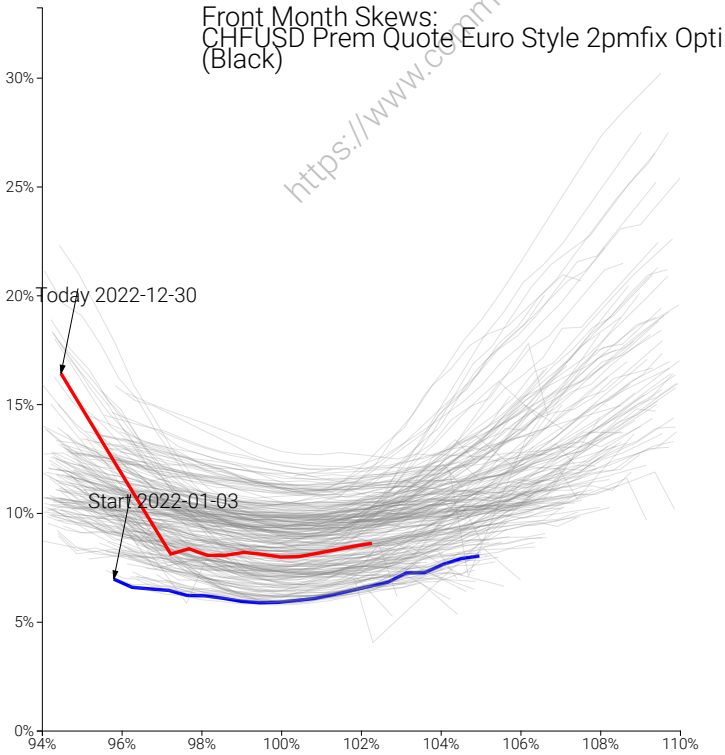
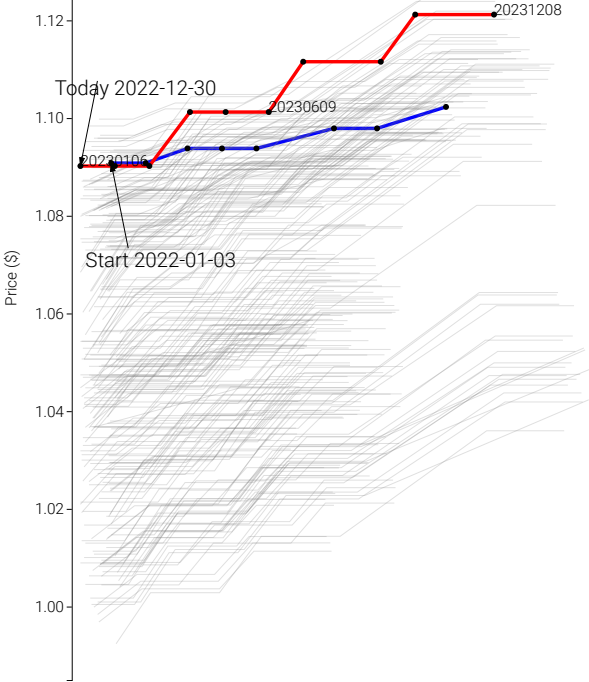
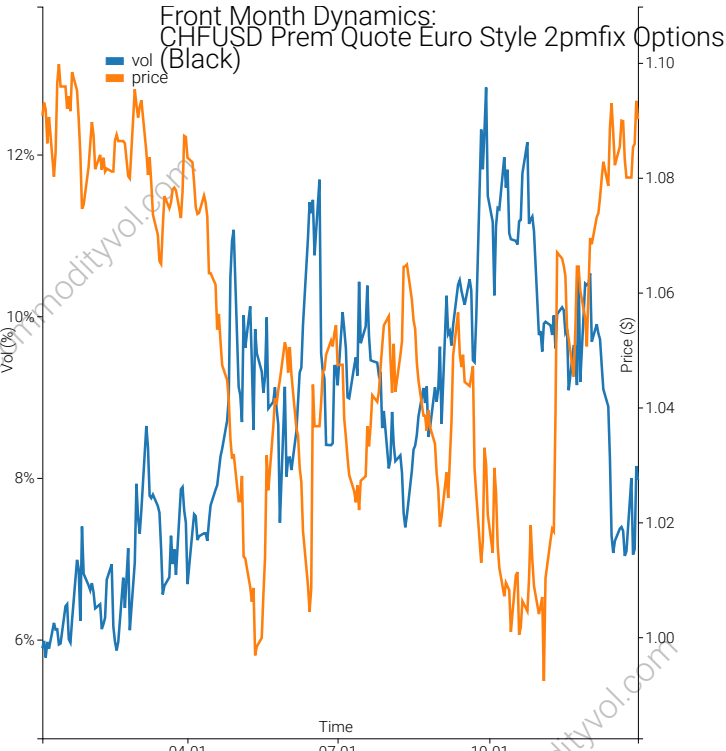
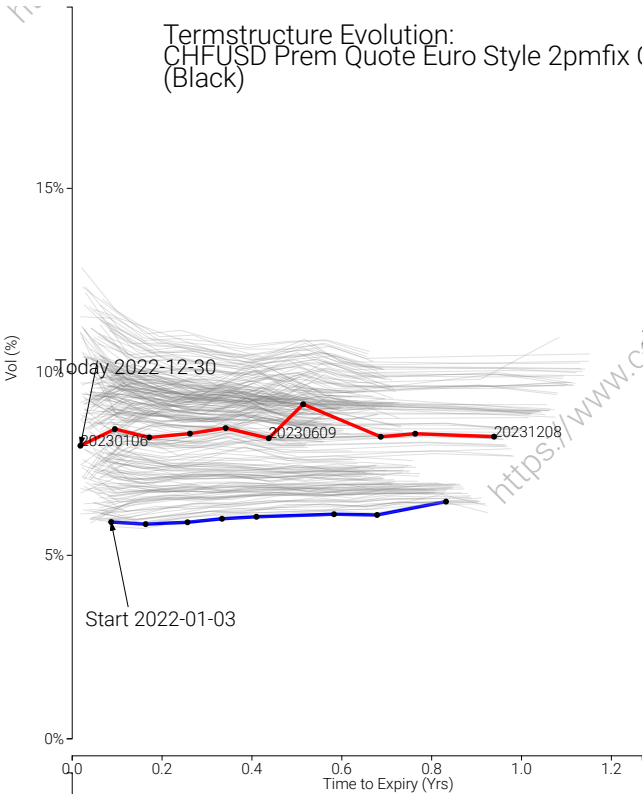


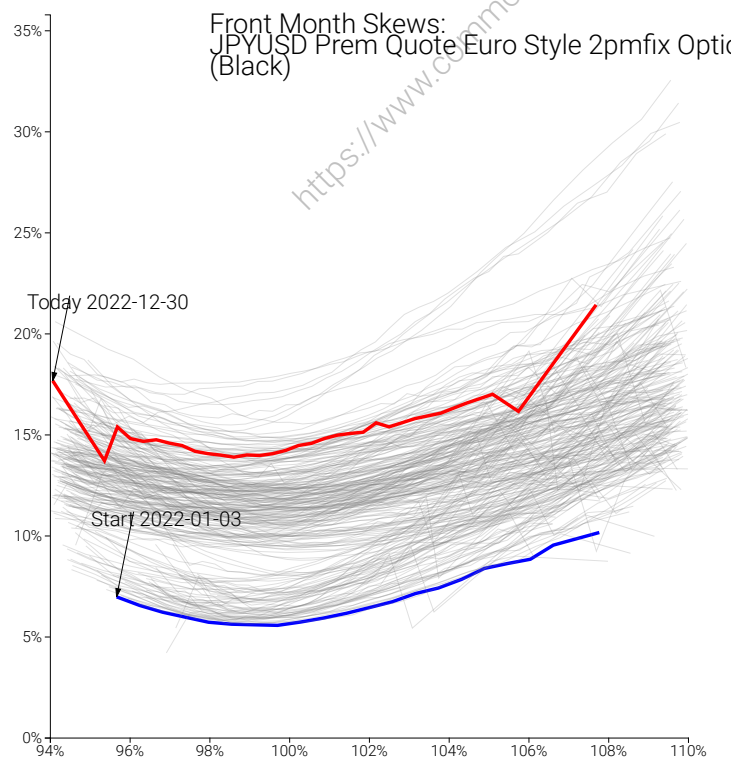
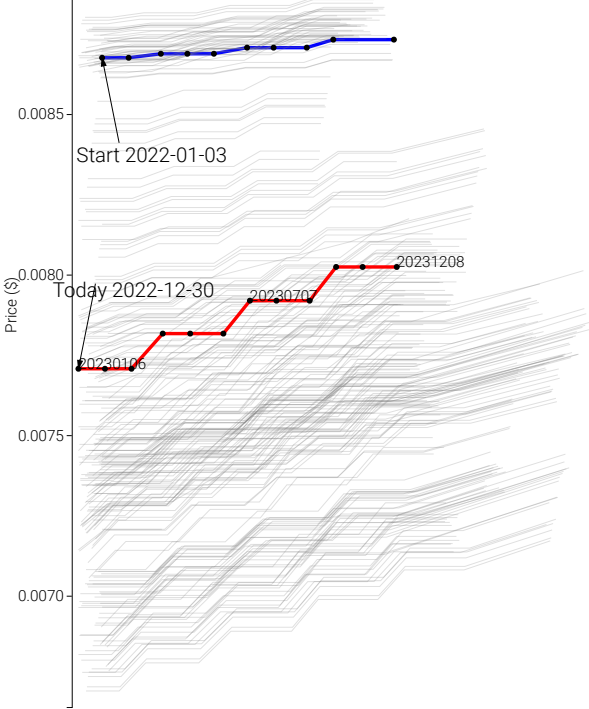
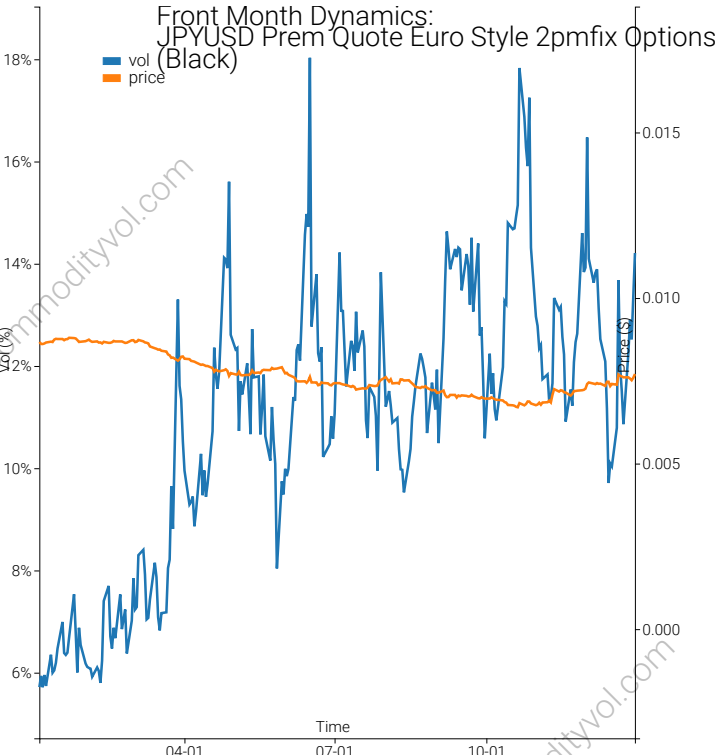
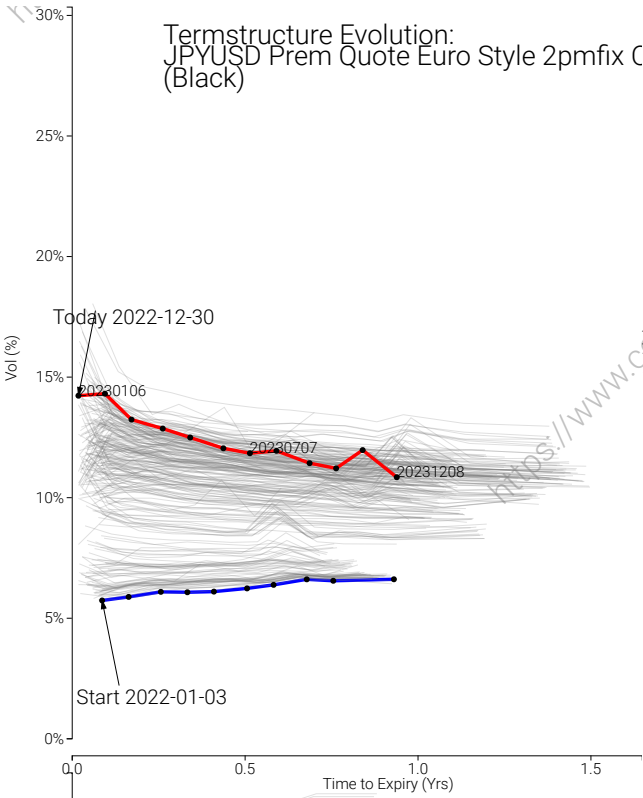


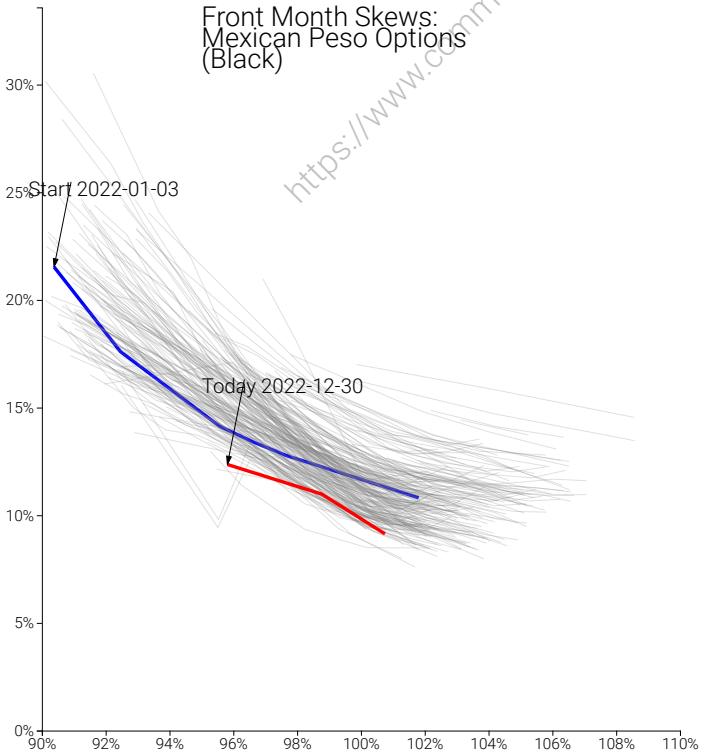
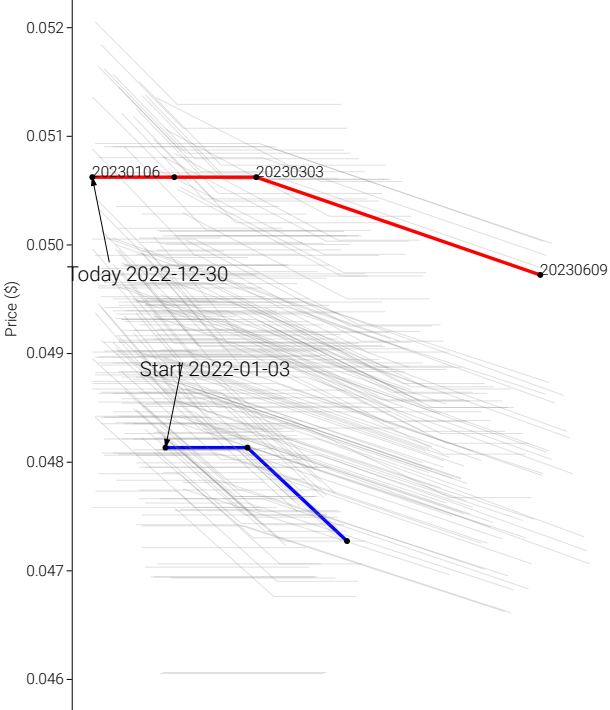
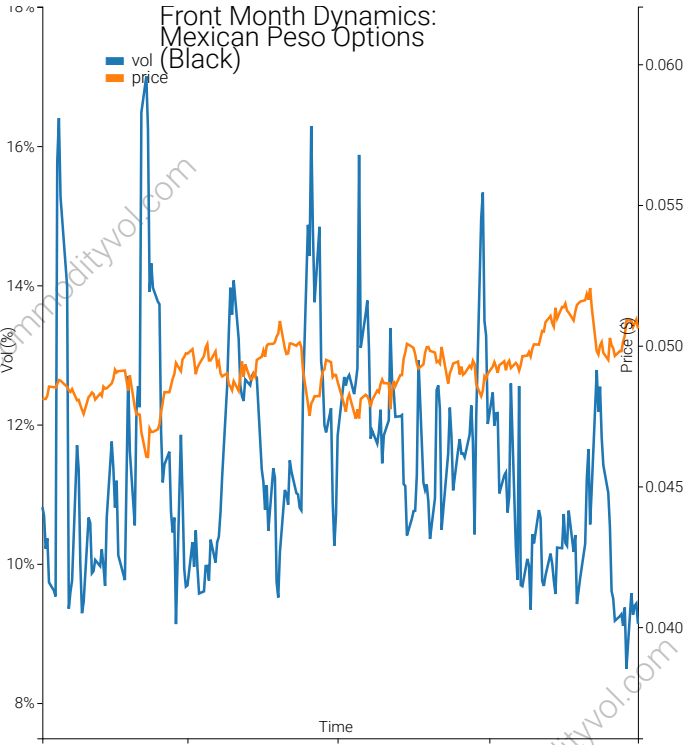
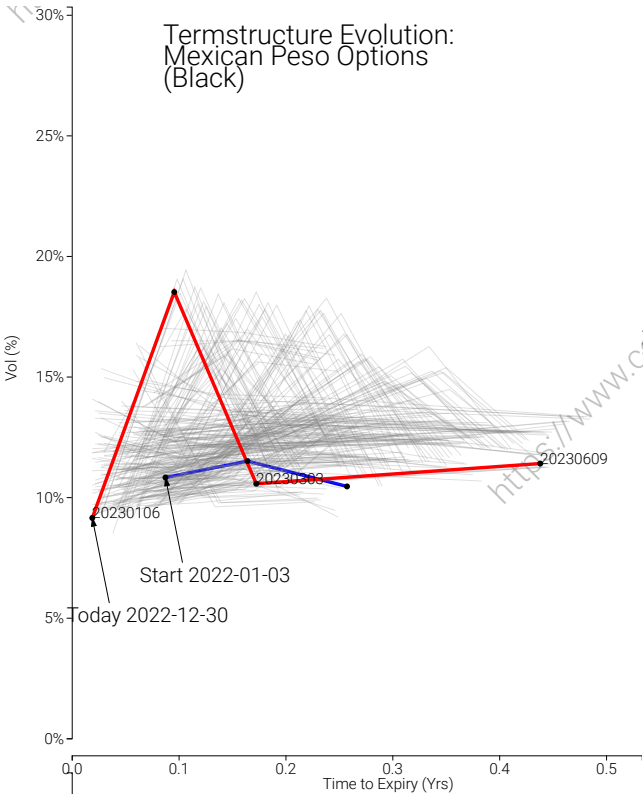
Forex

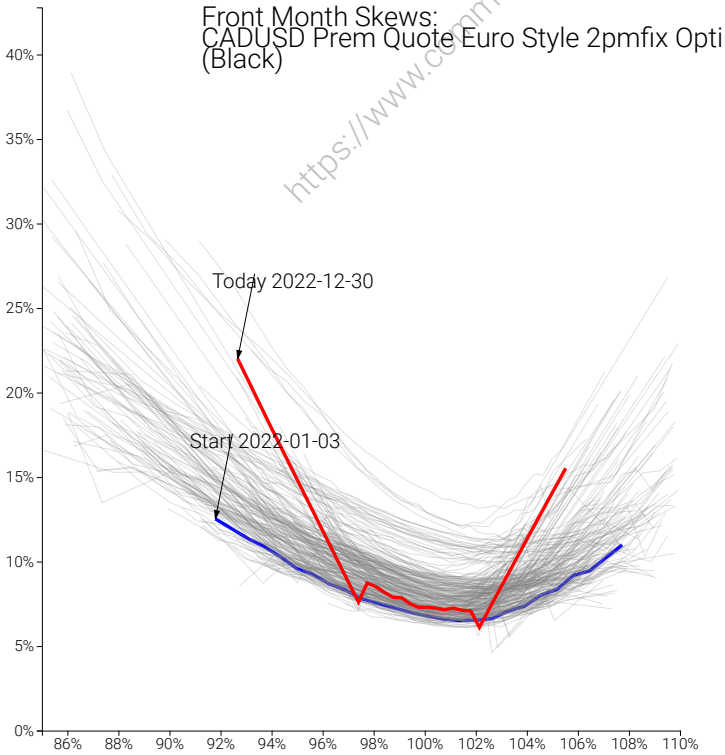
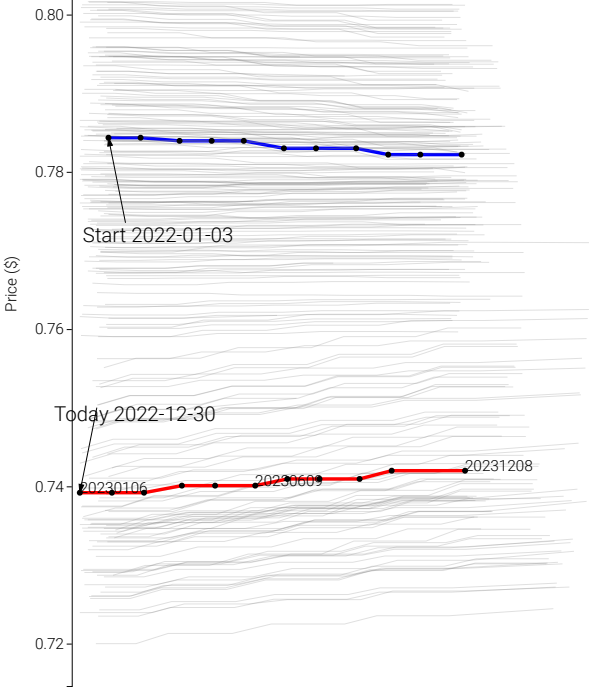
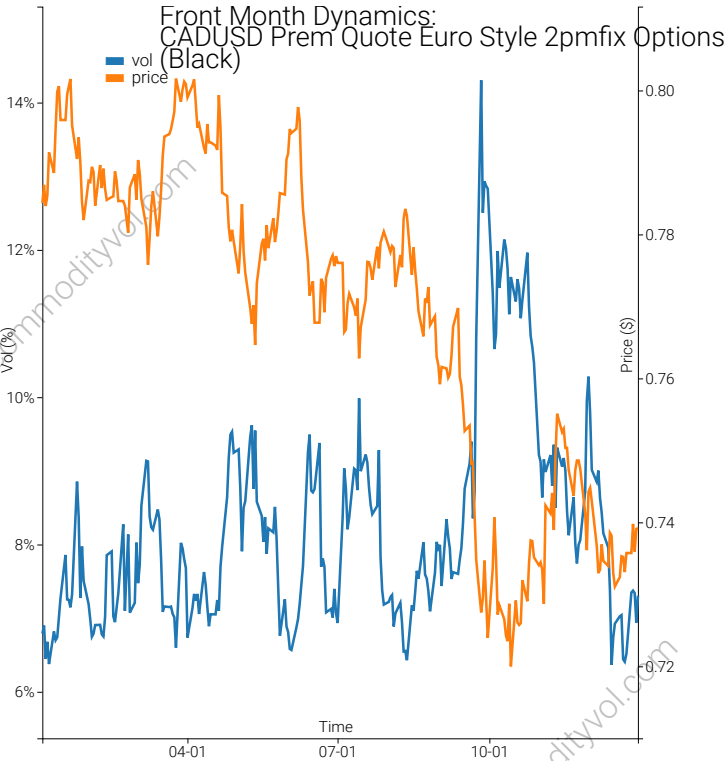
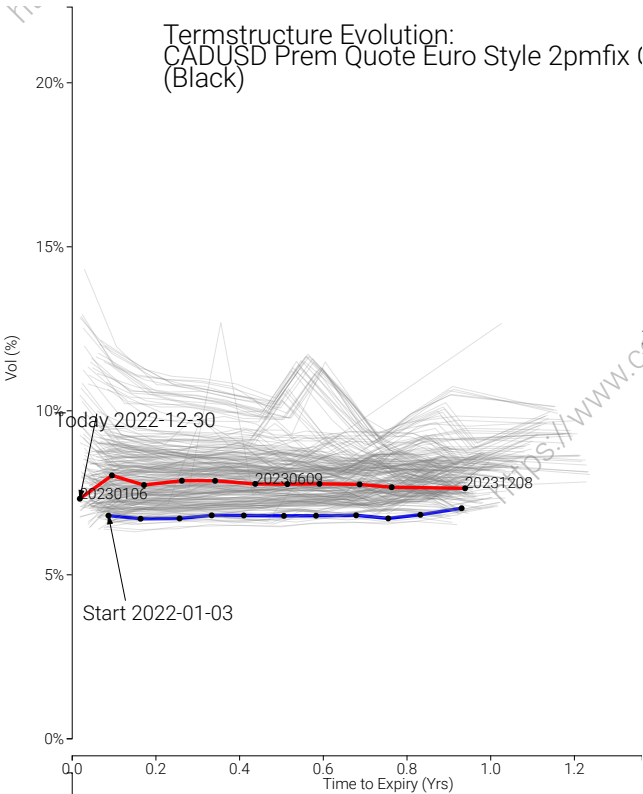


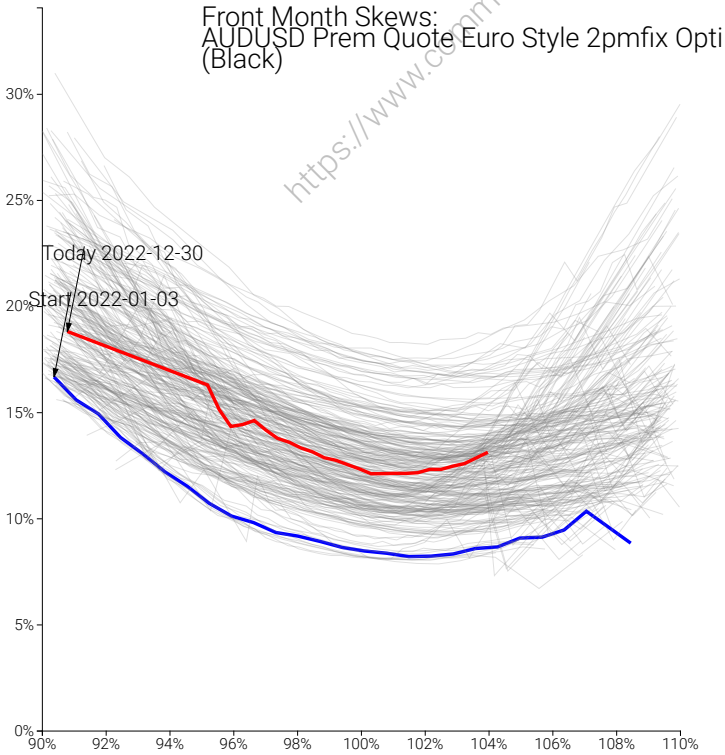
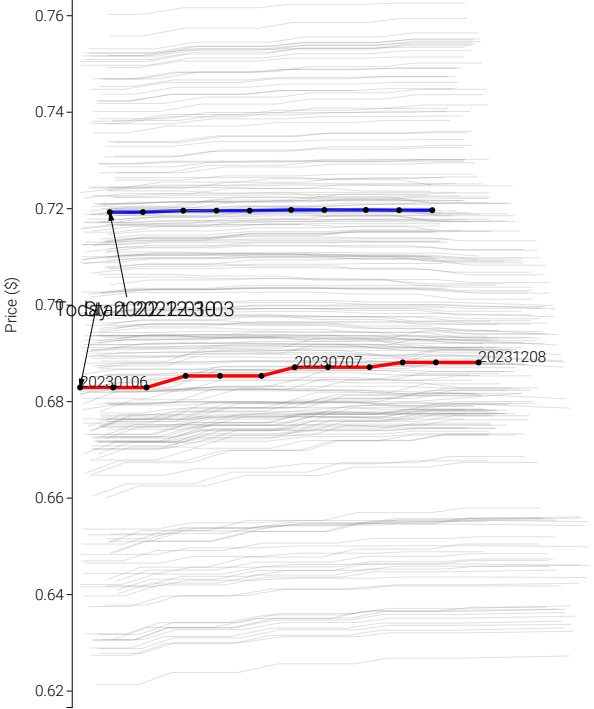
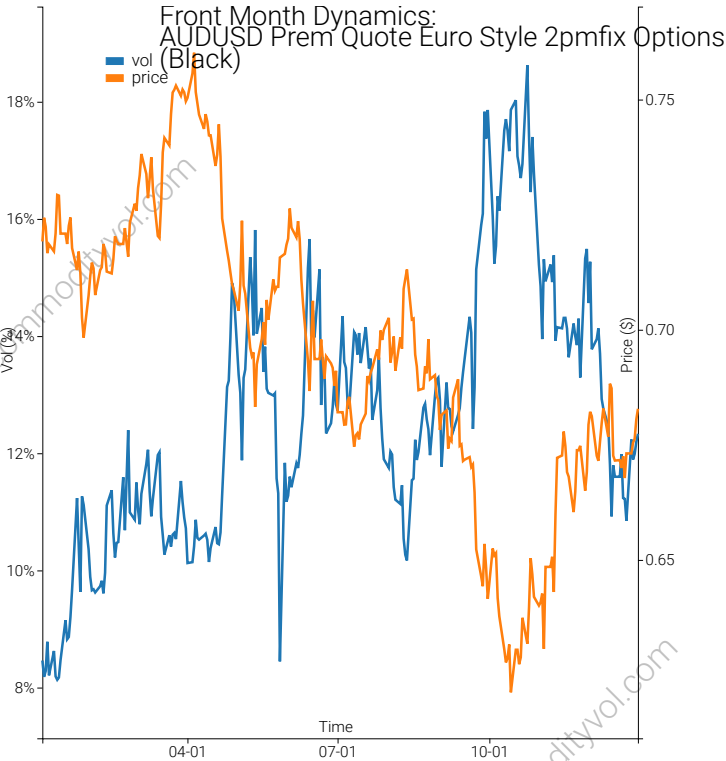
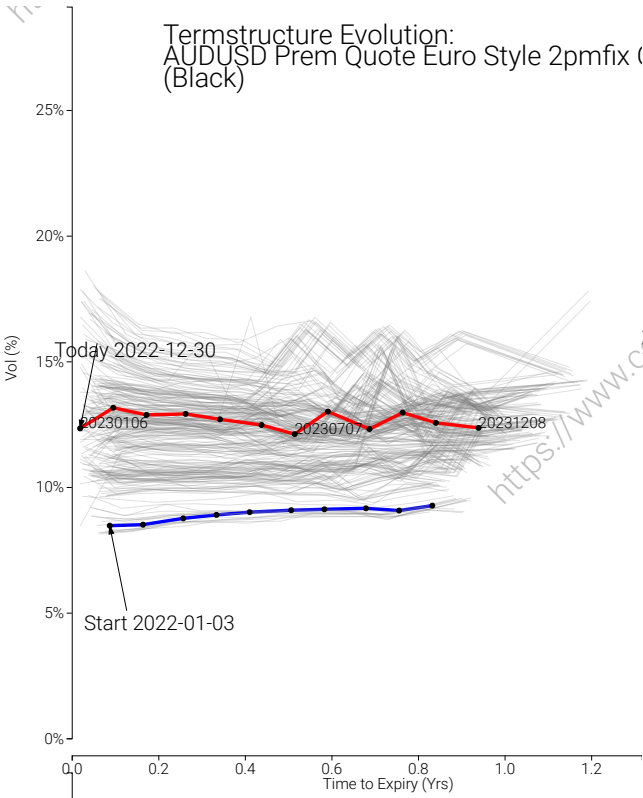


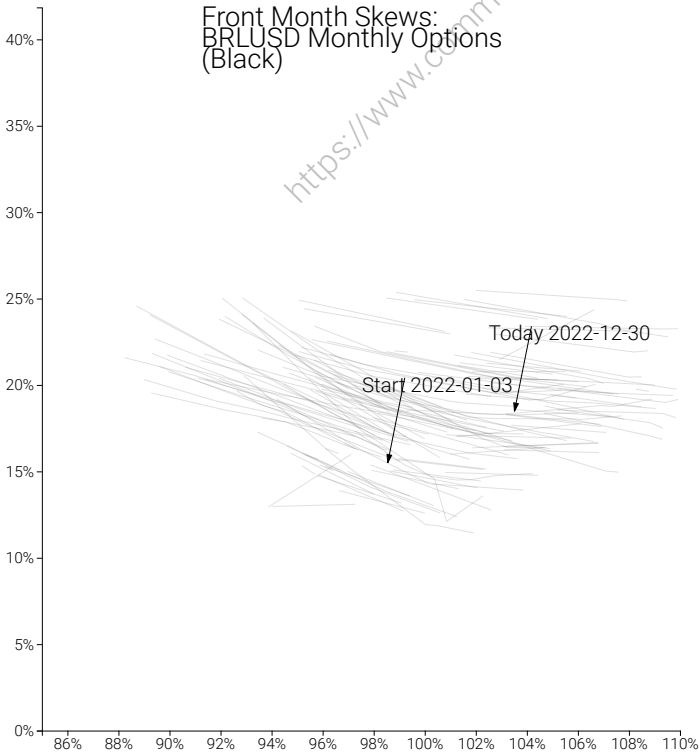
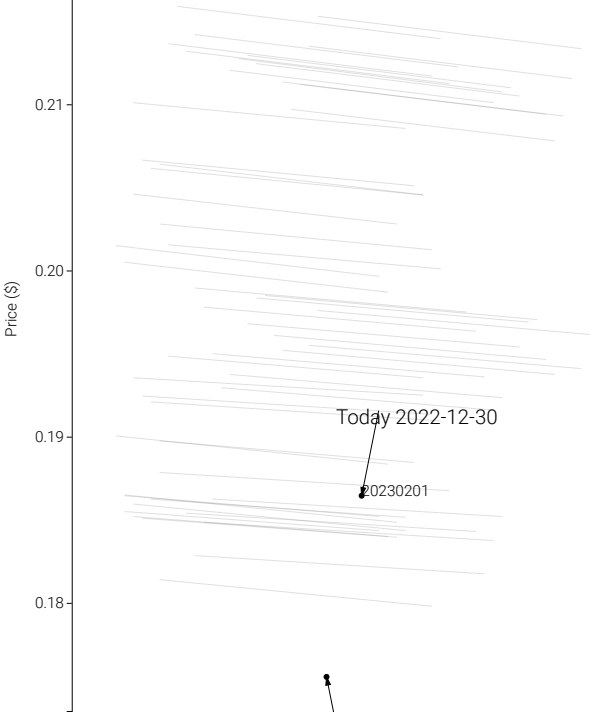
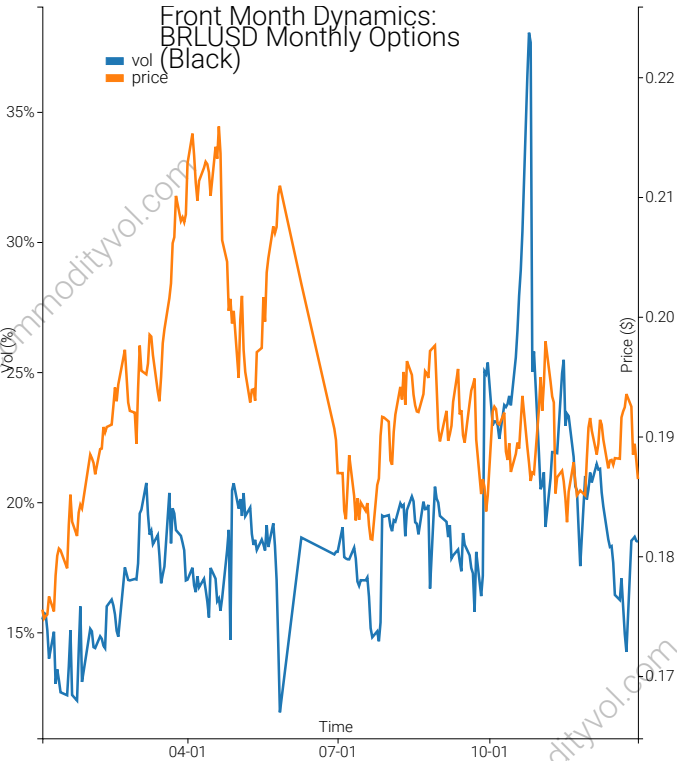
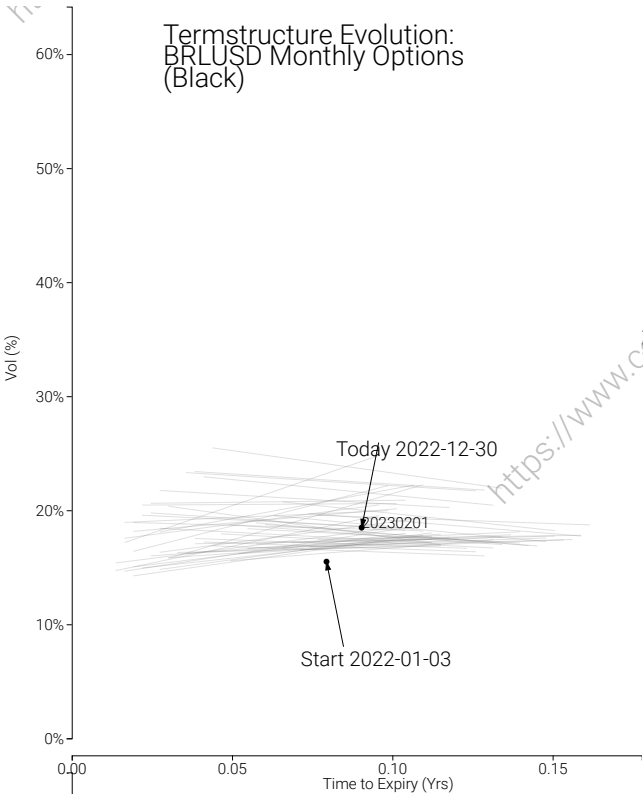


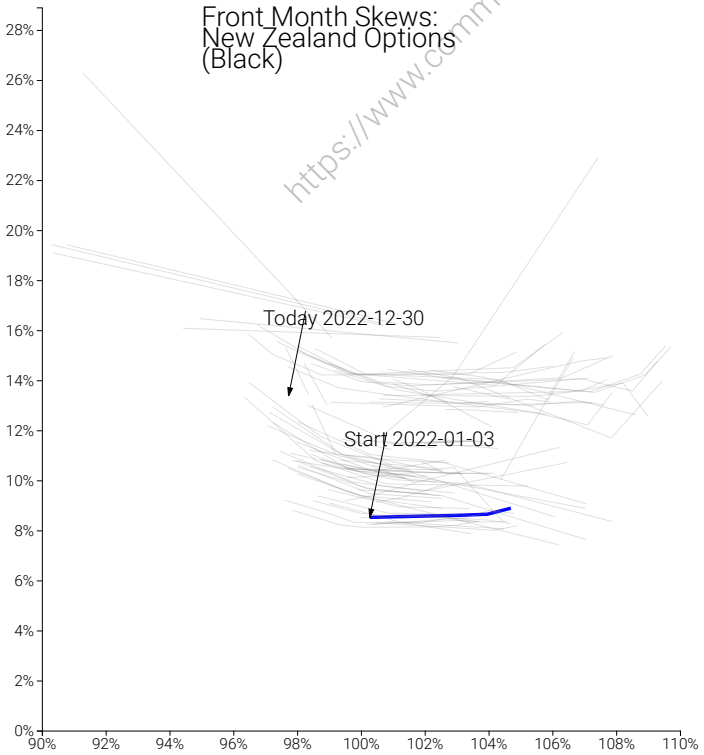
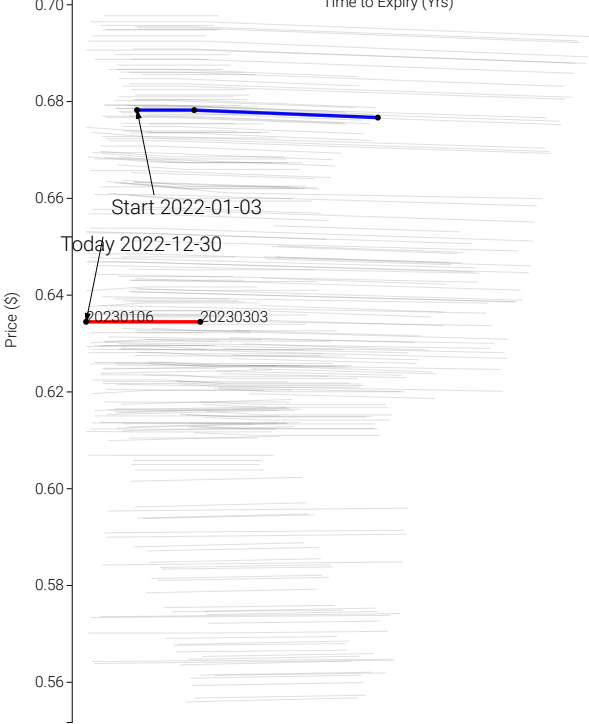
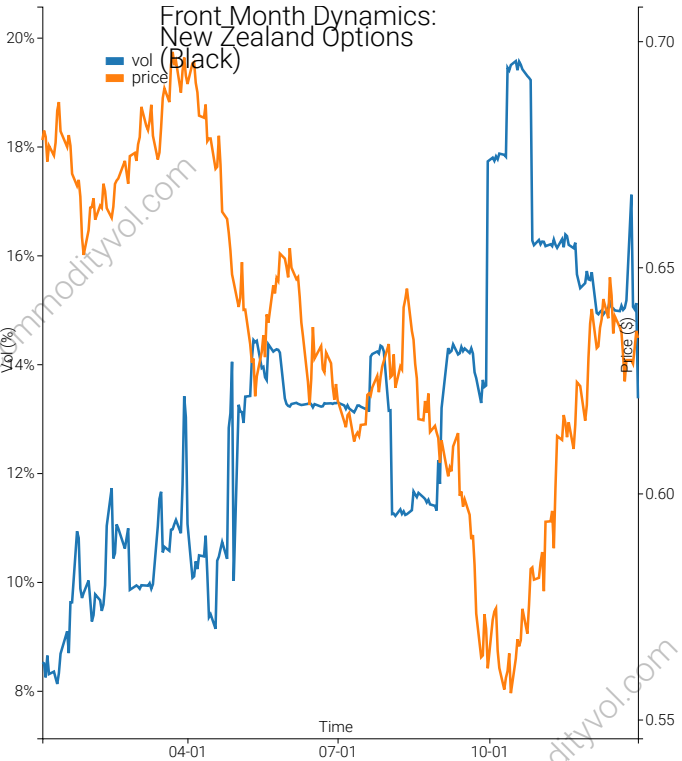
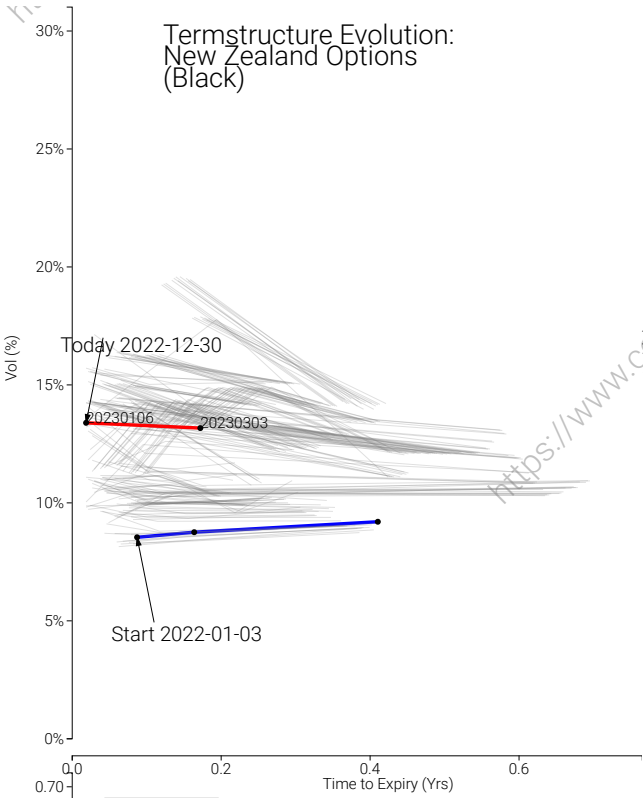


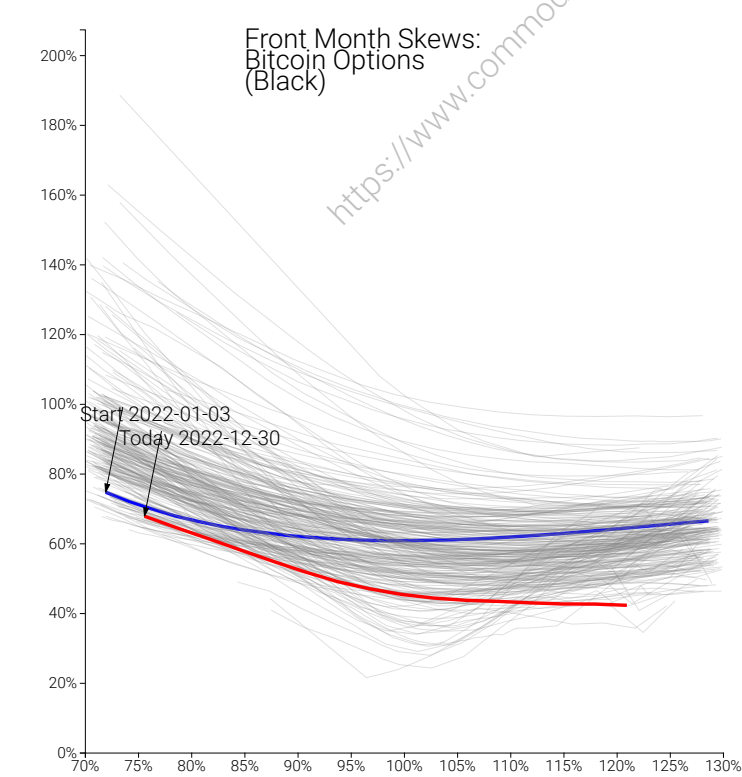
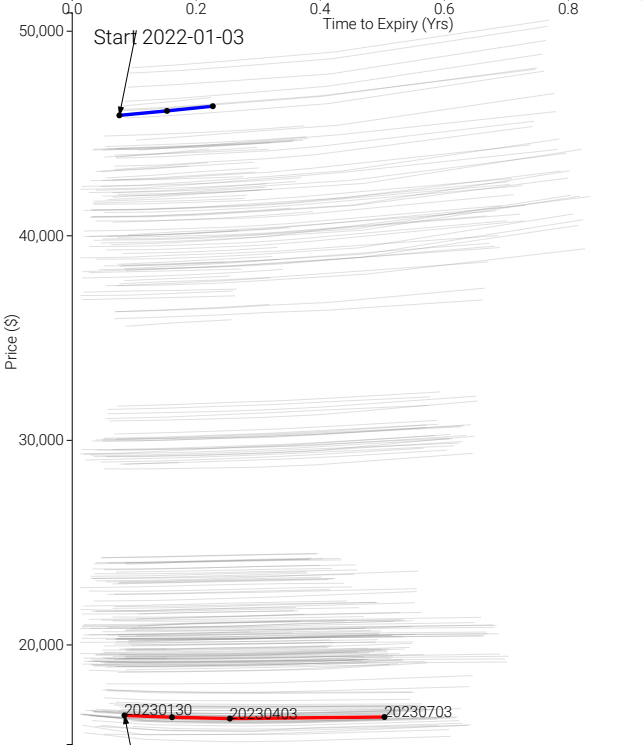
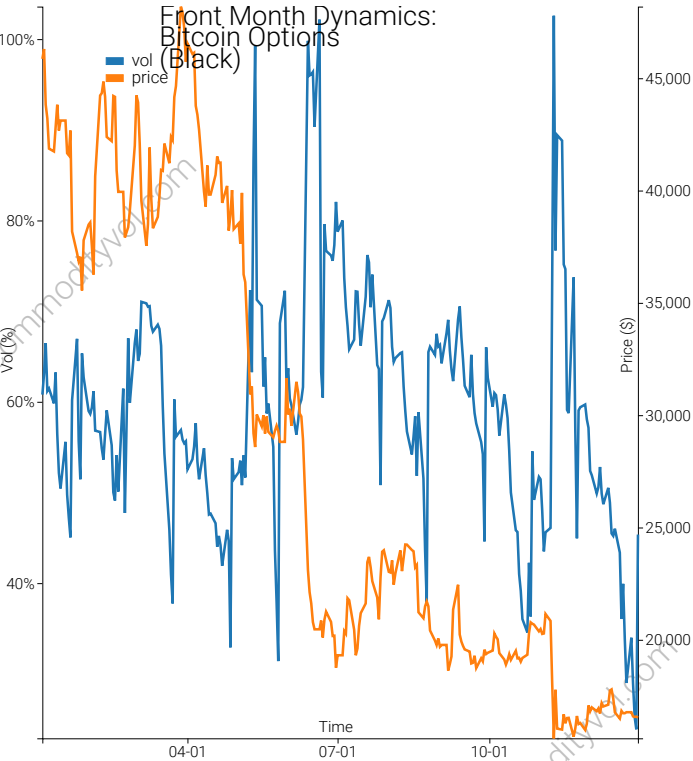
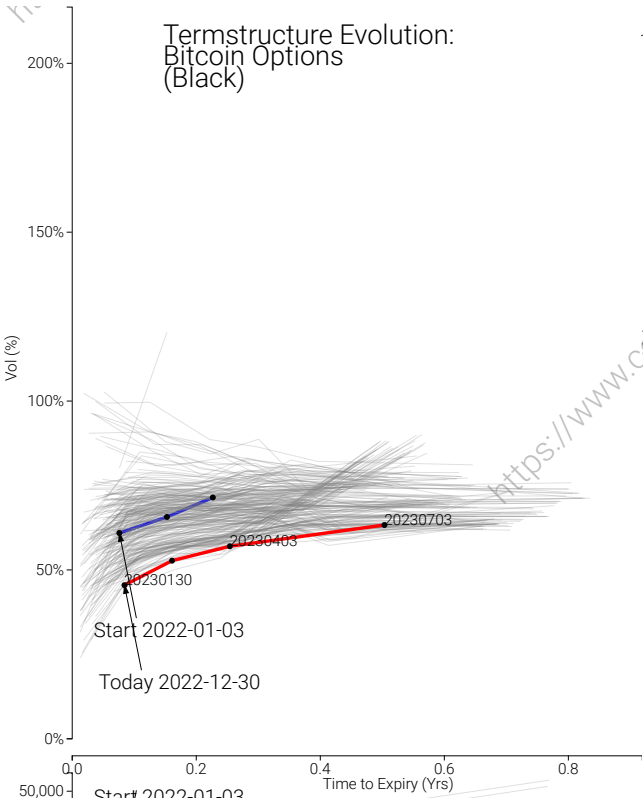


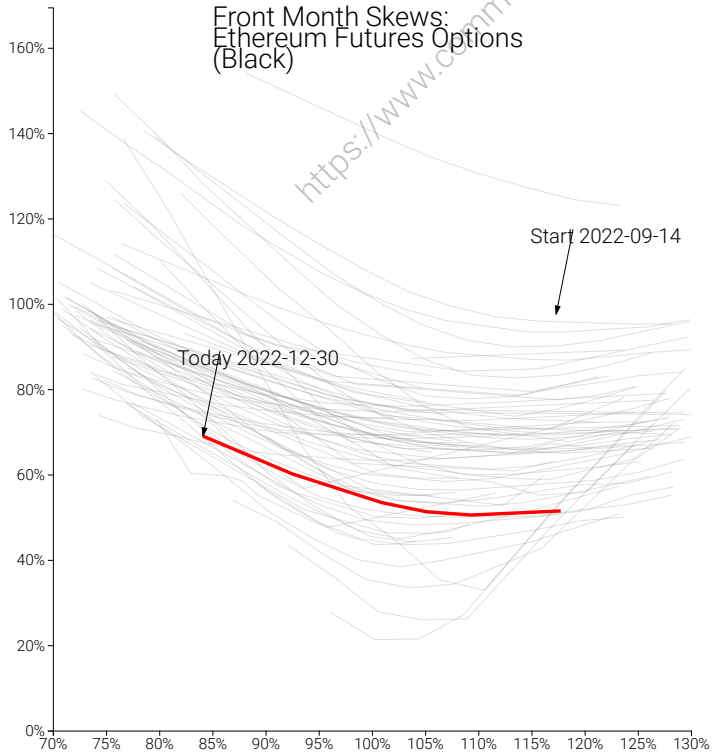
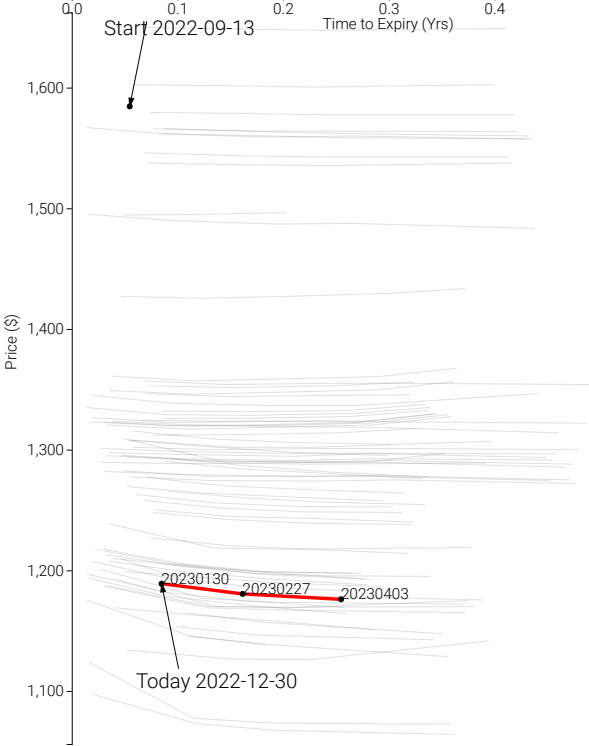
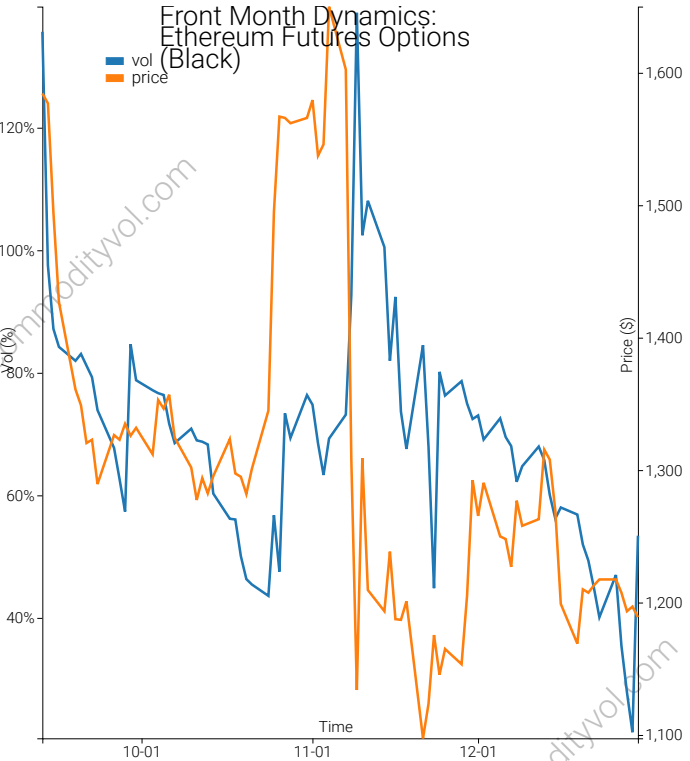
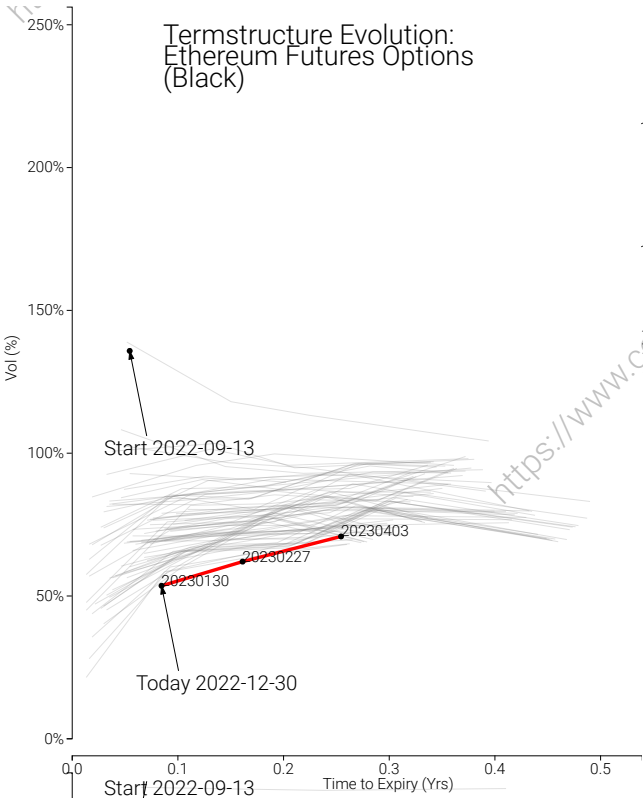




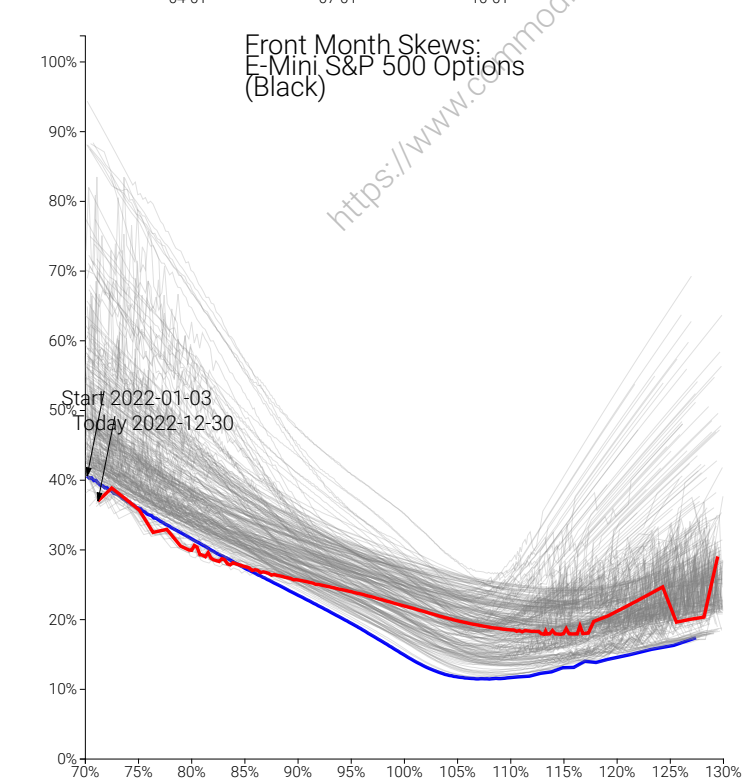
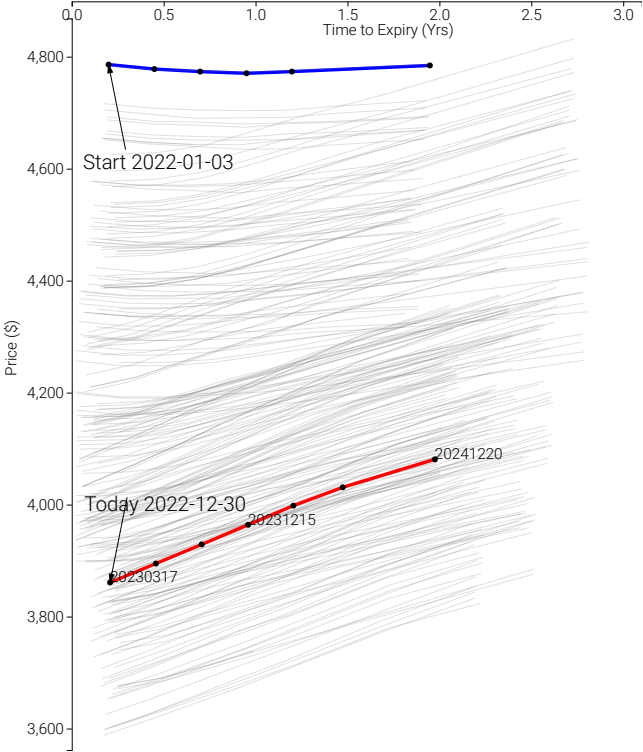
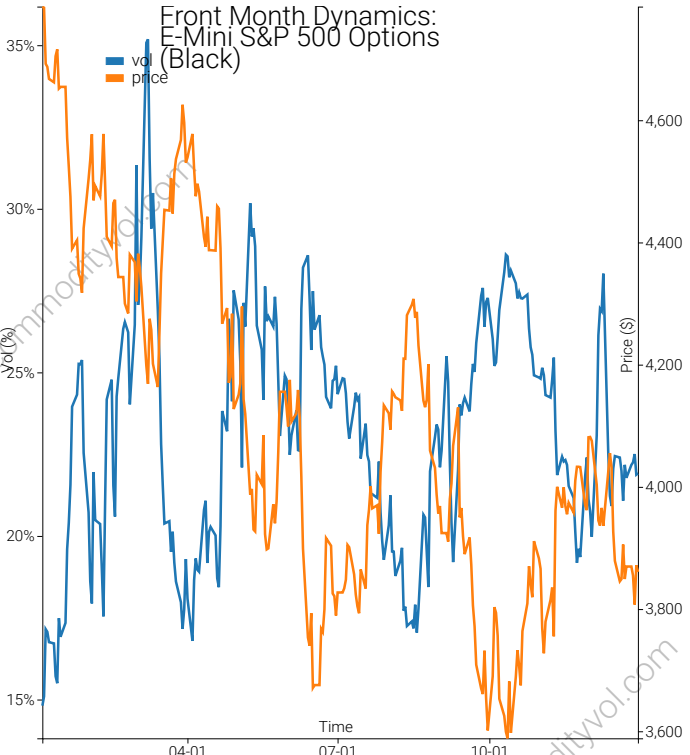
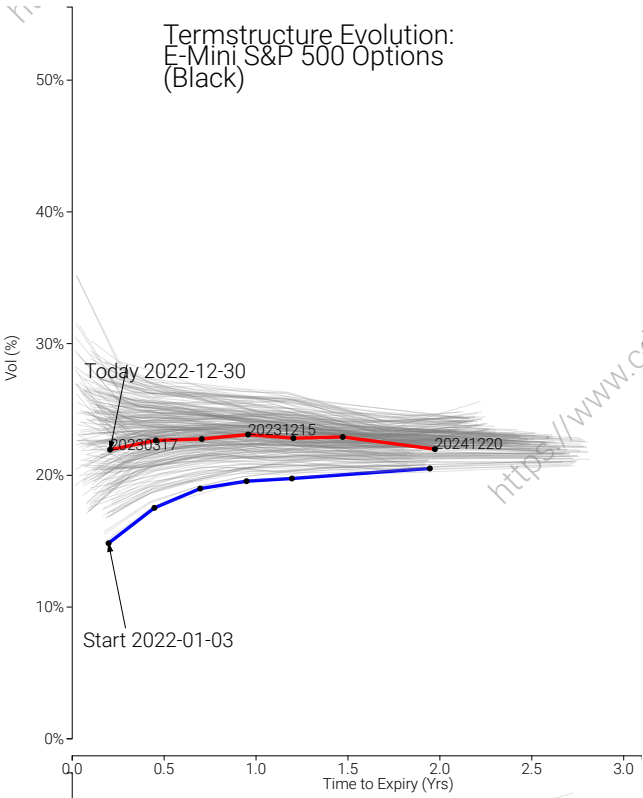


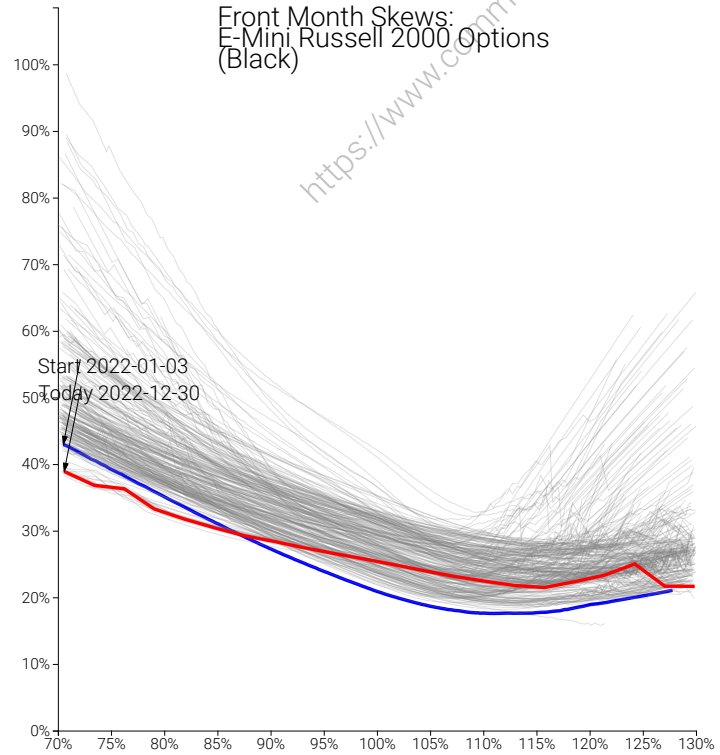
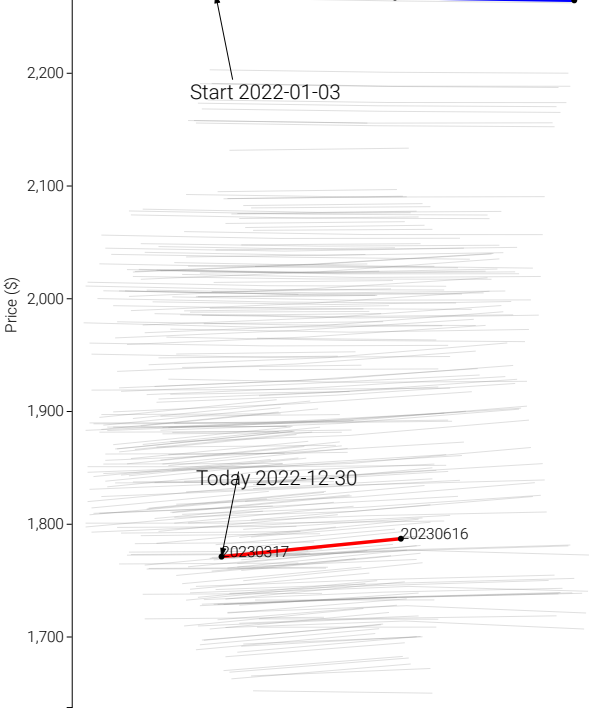
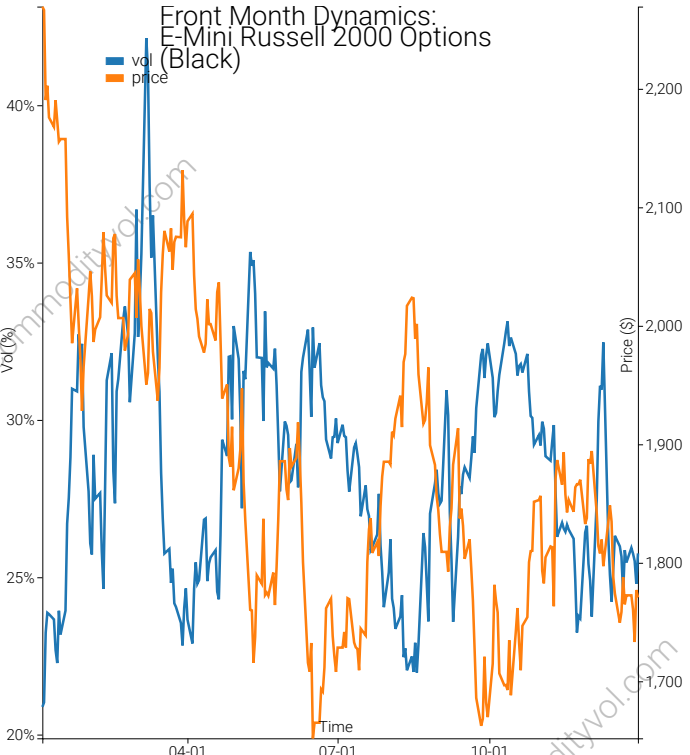
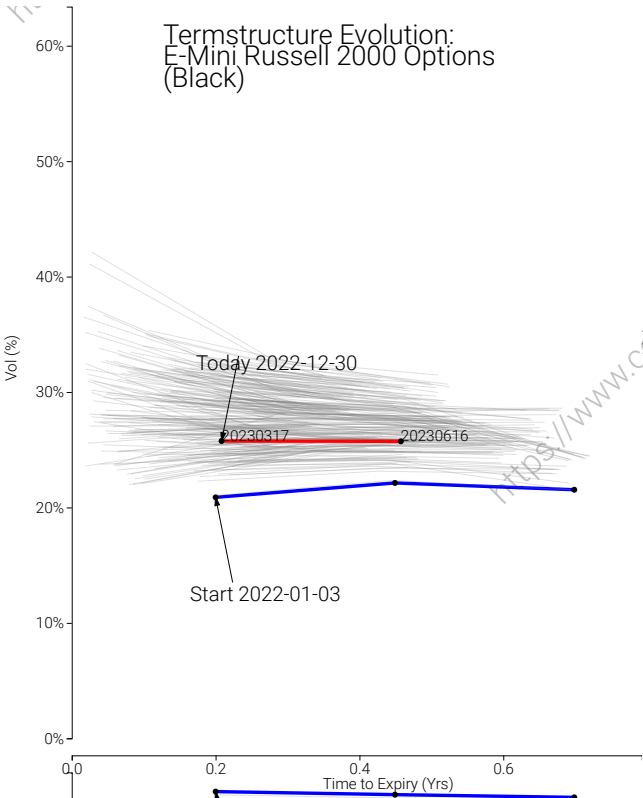


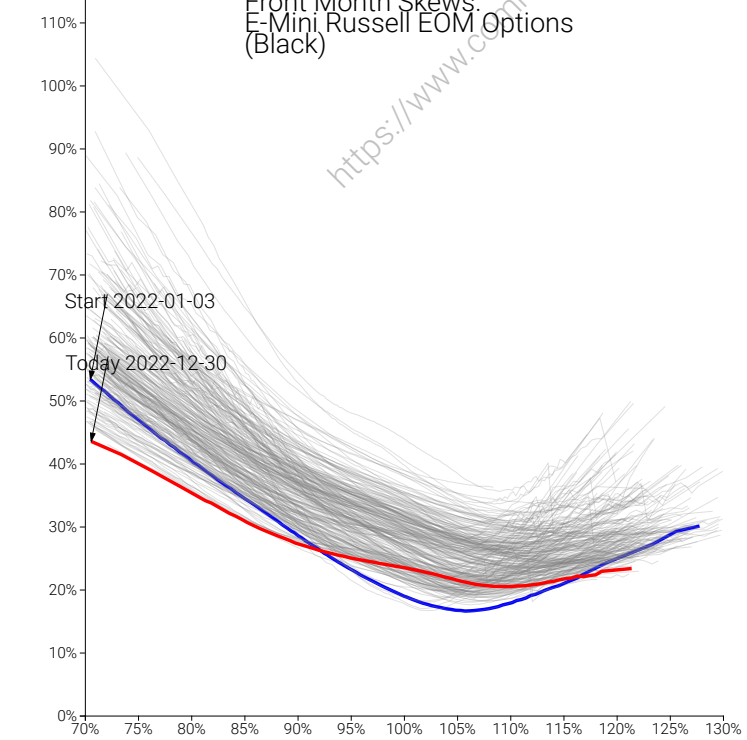
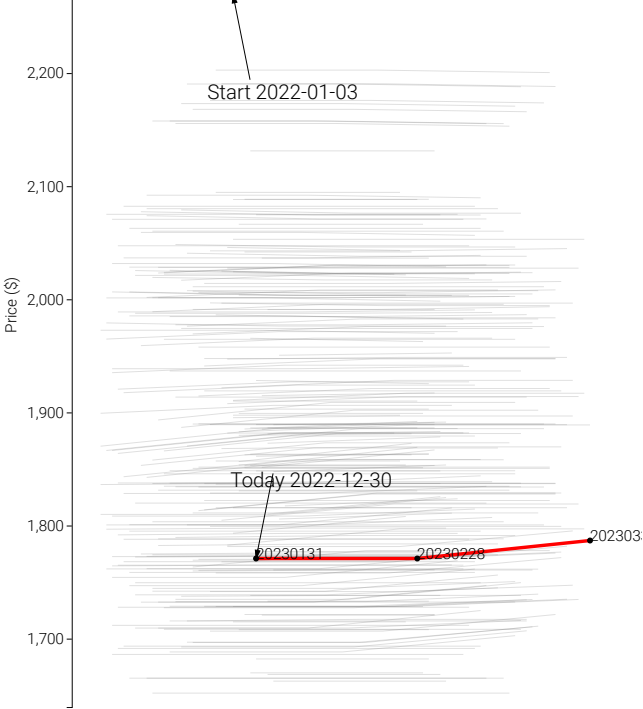
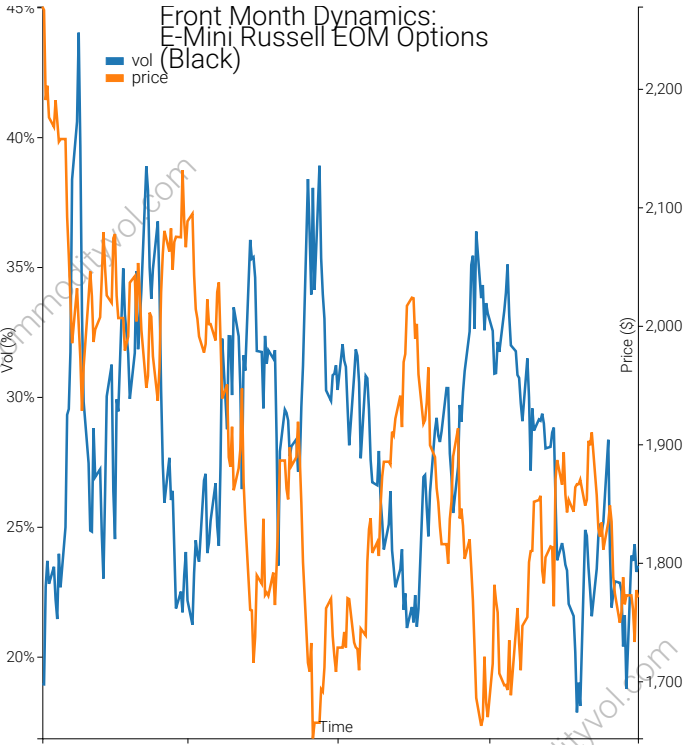
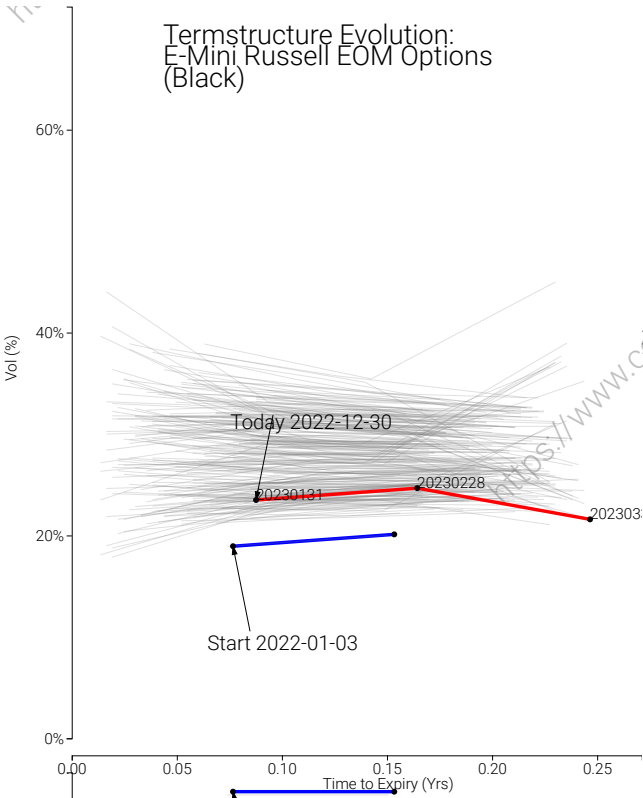


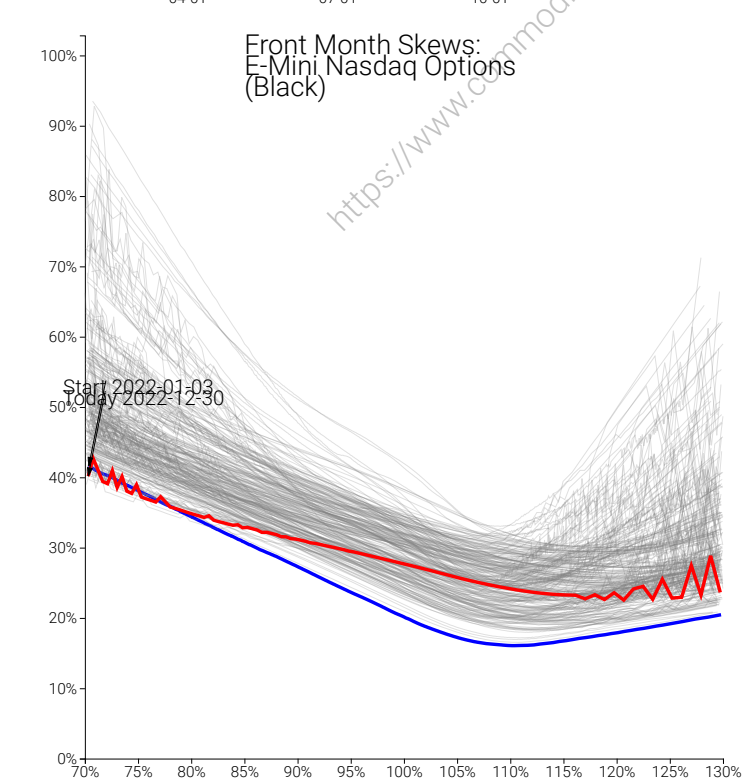
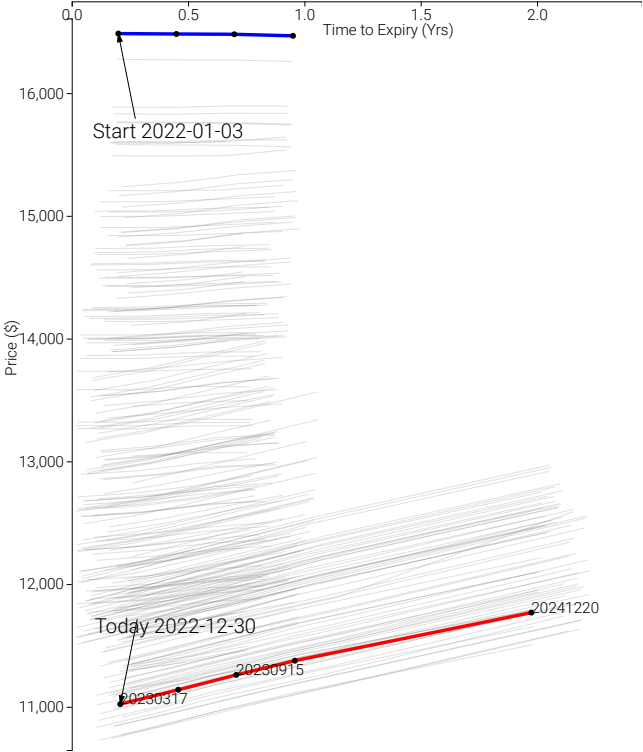
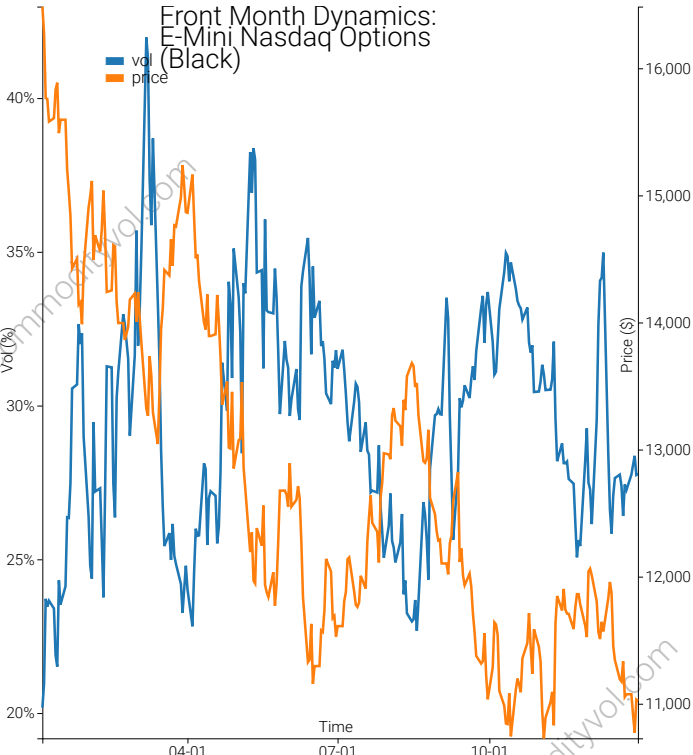
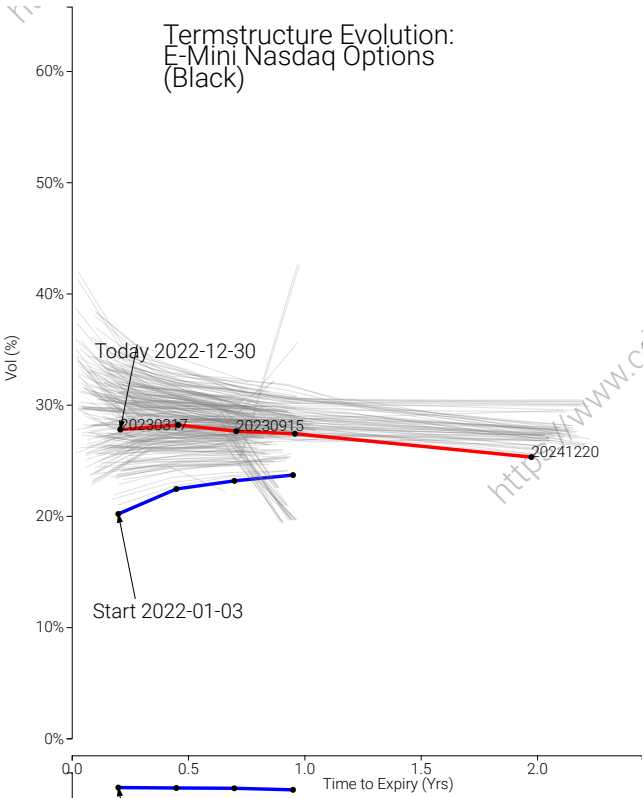


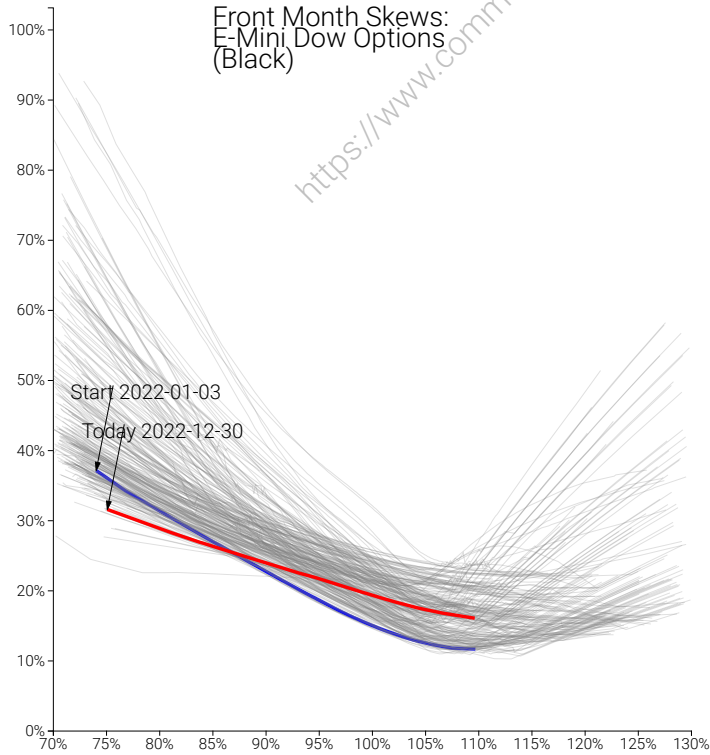
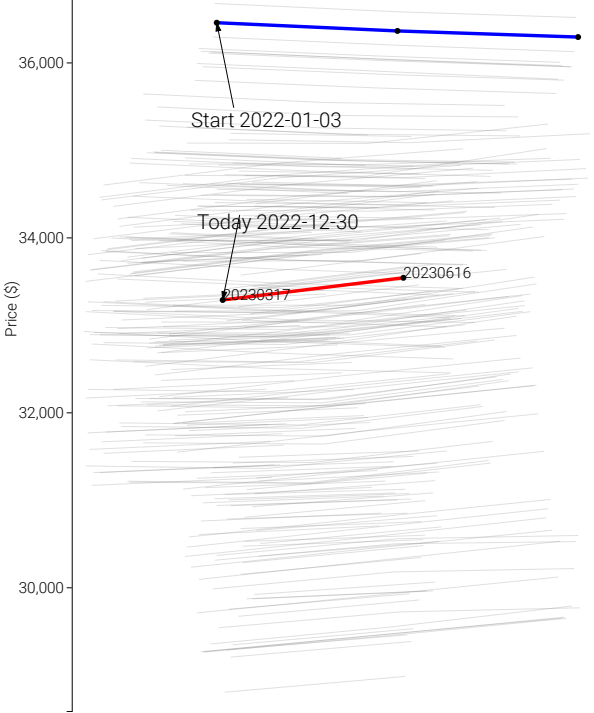
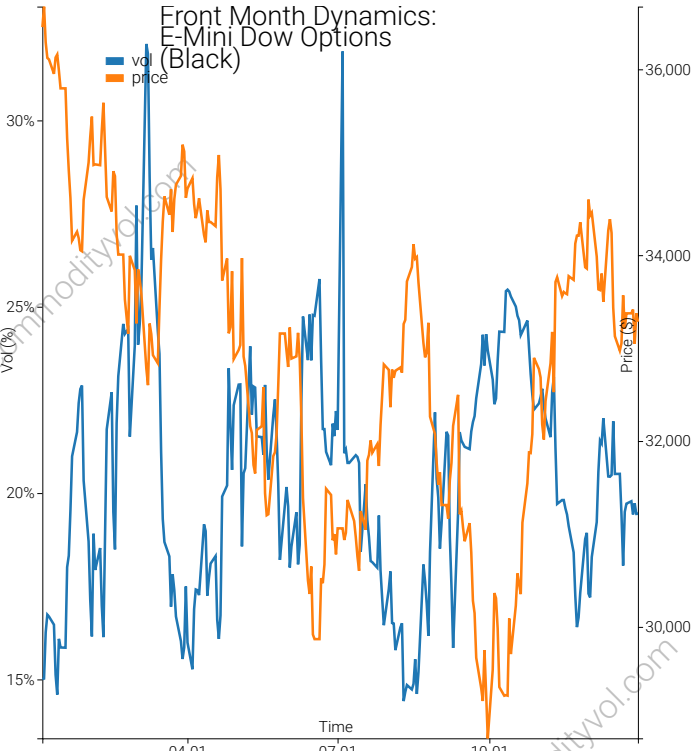
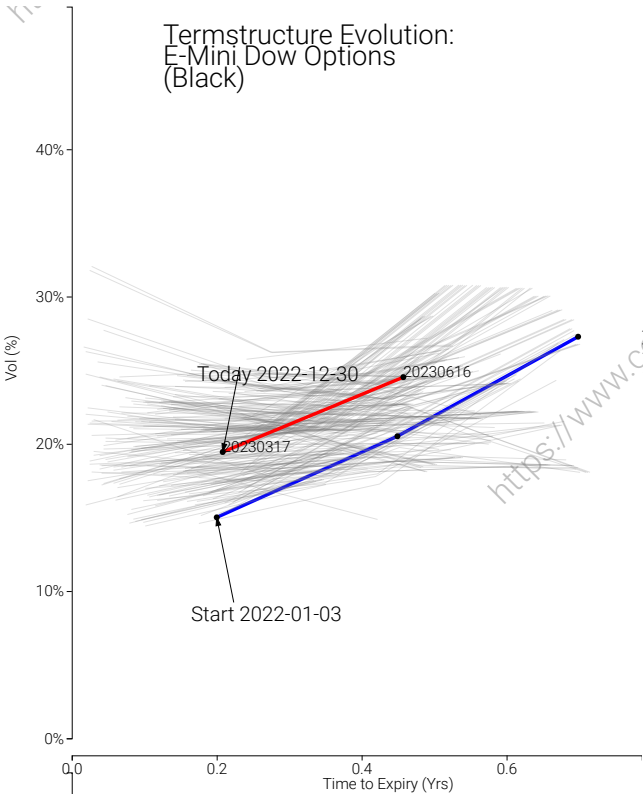
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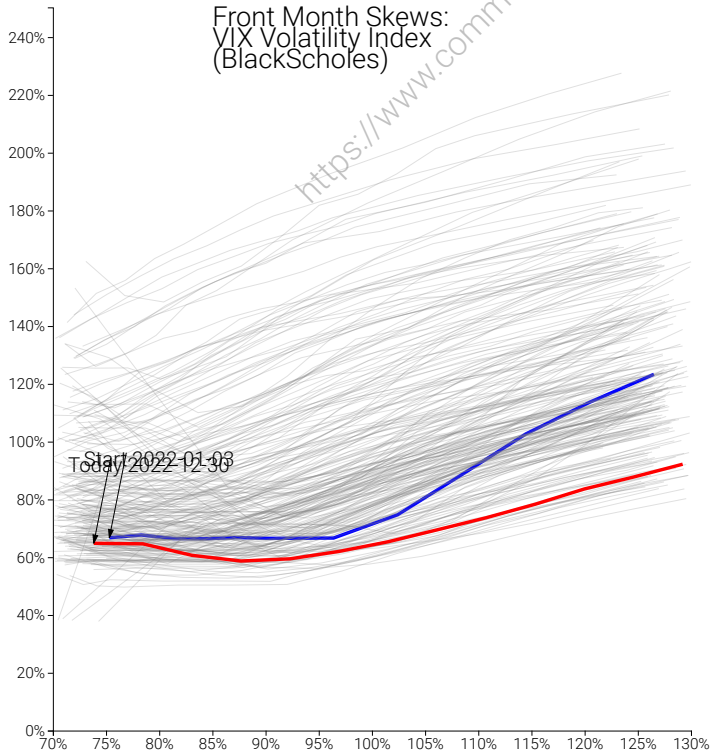
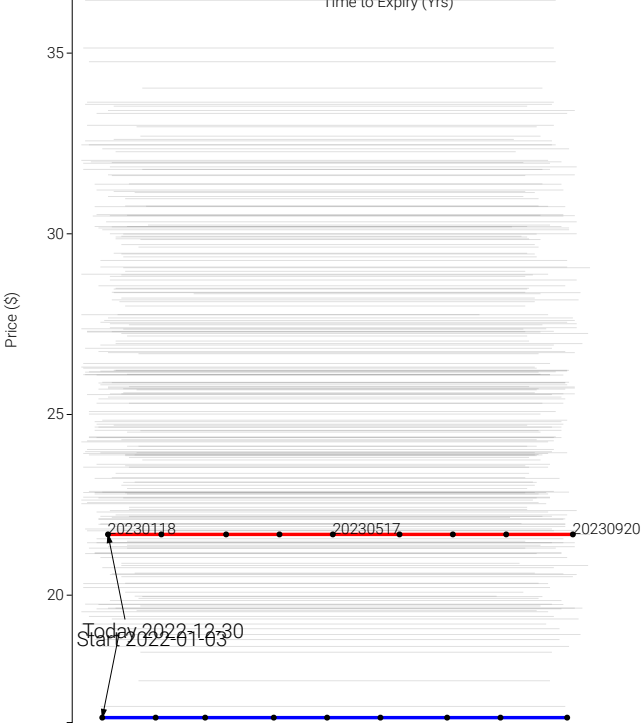
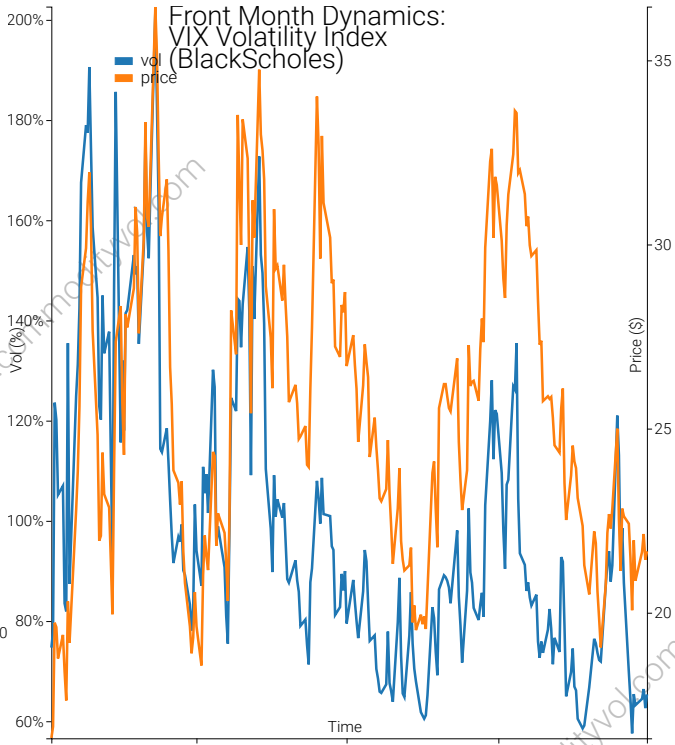
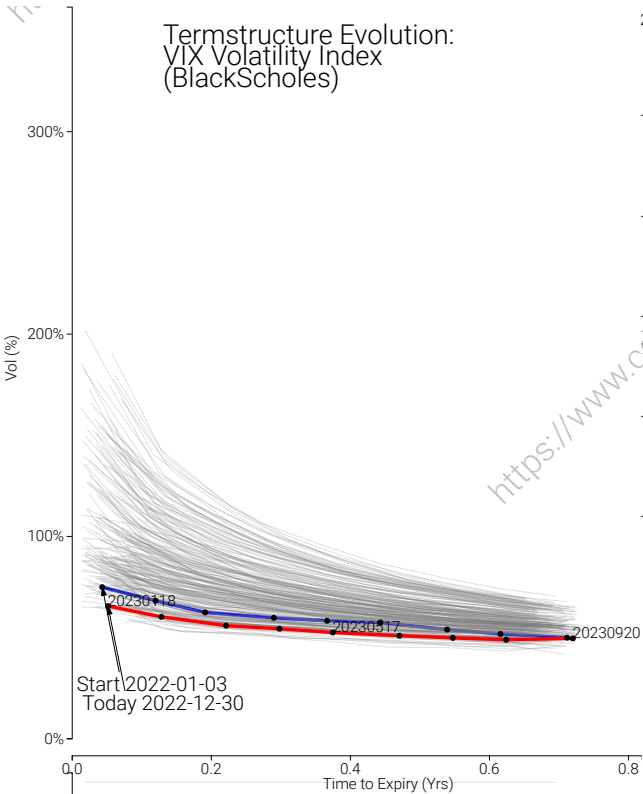




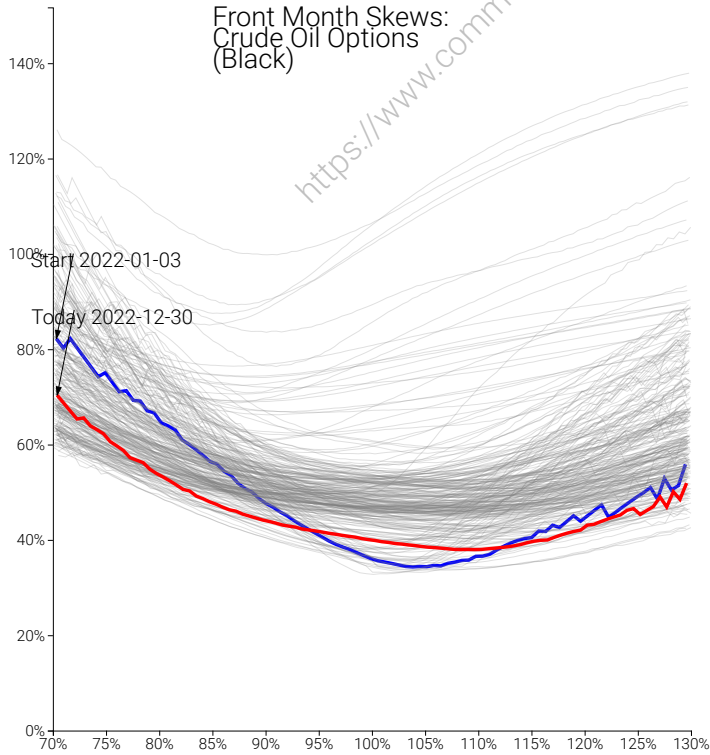
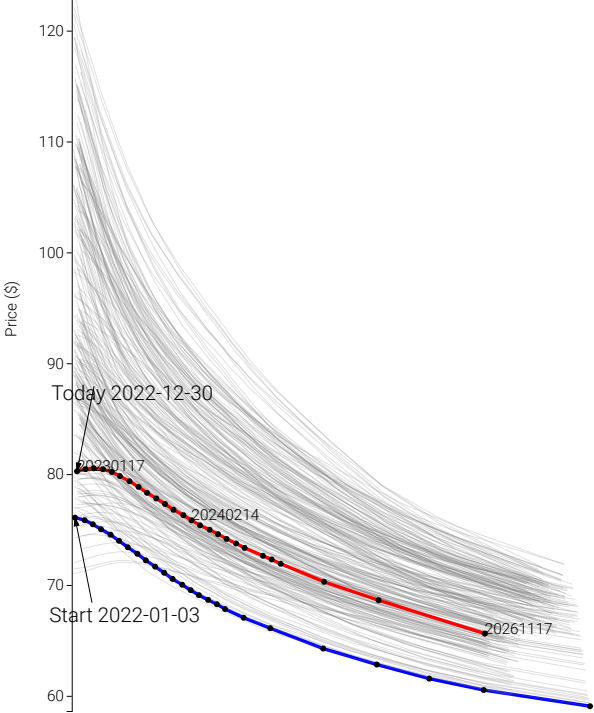
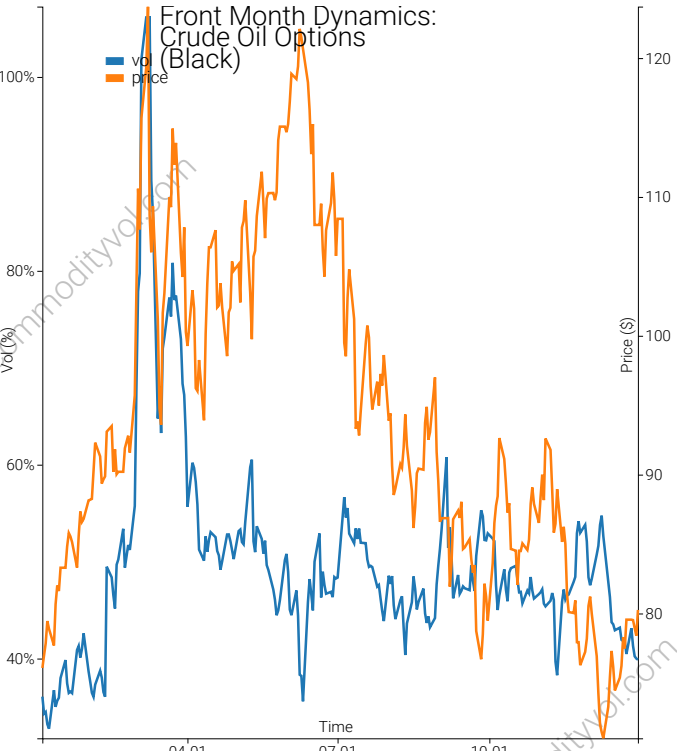
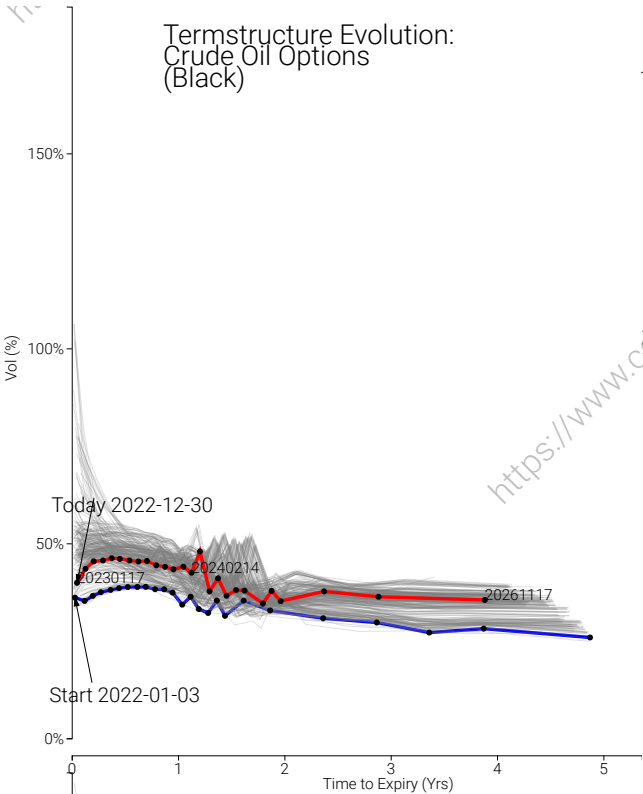


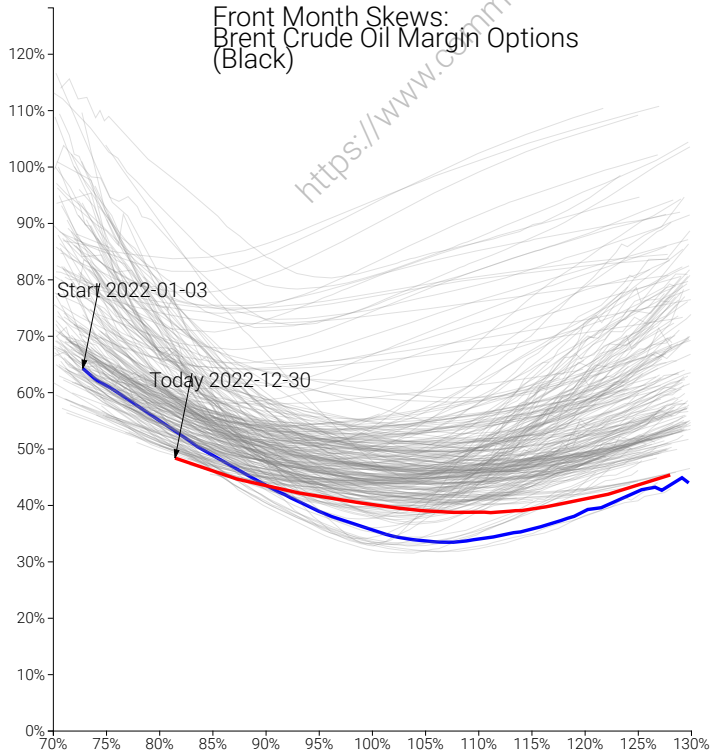
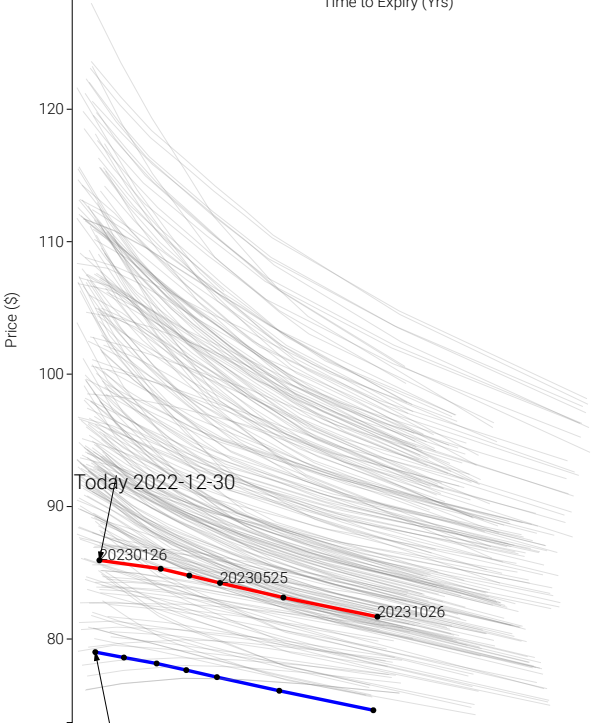
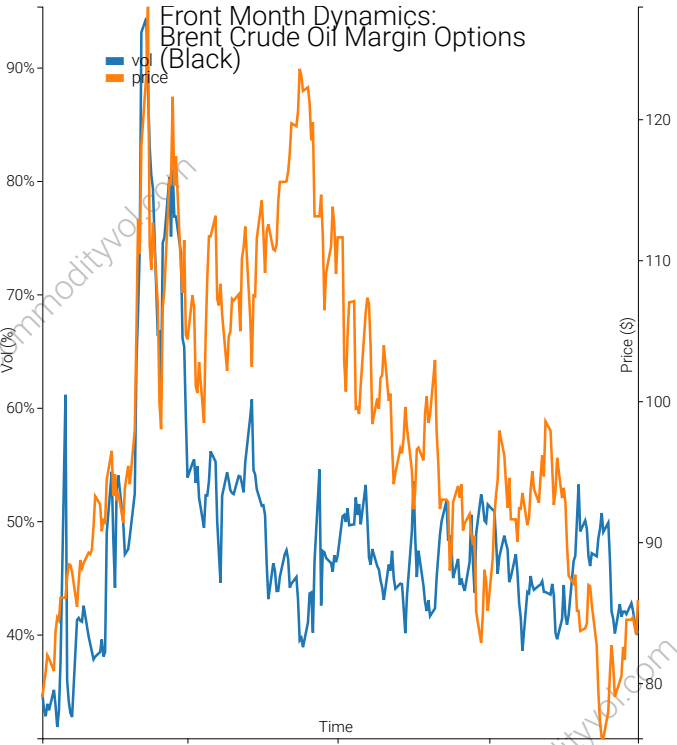
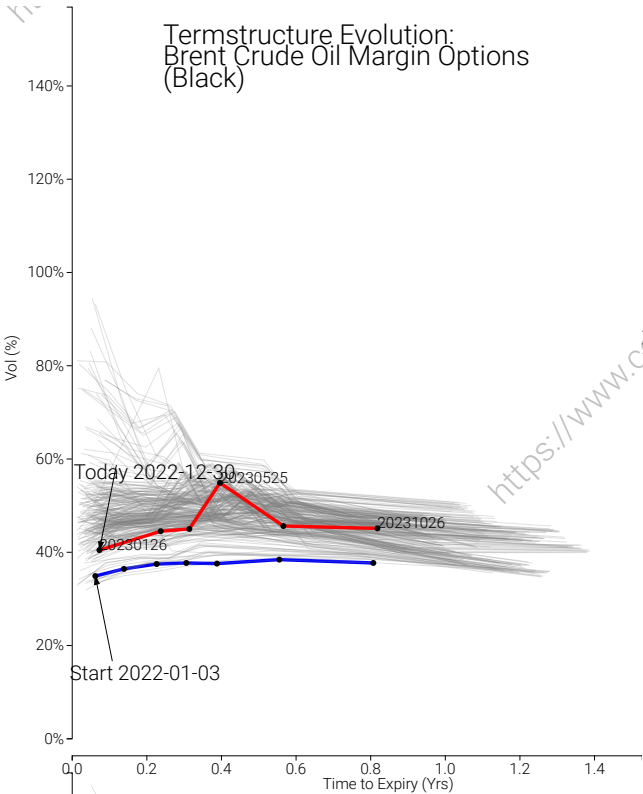


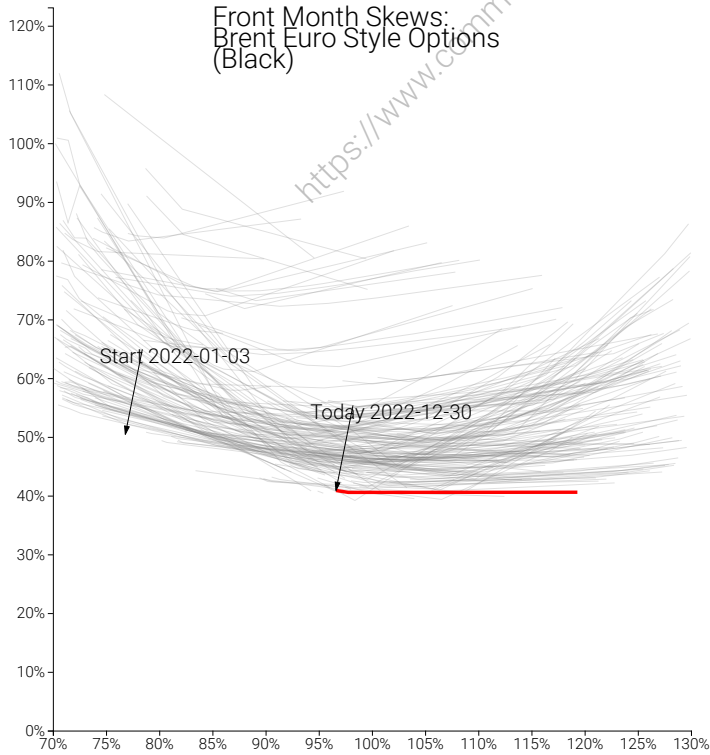
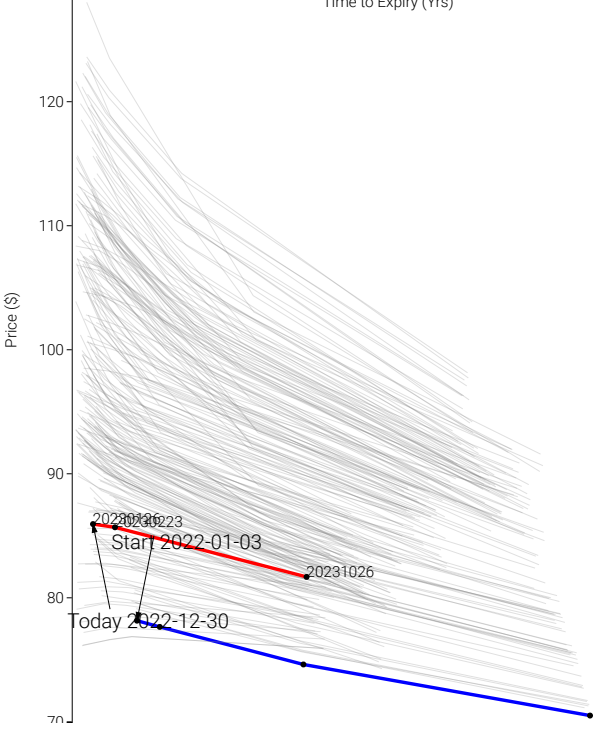
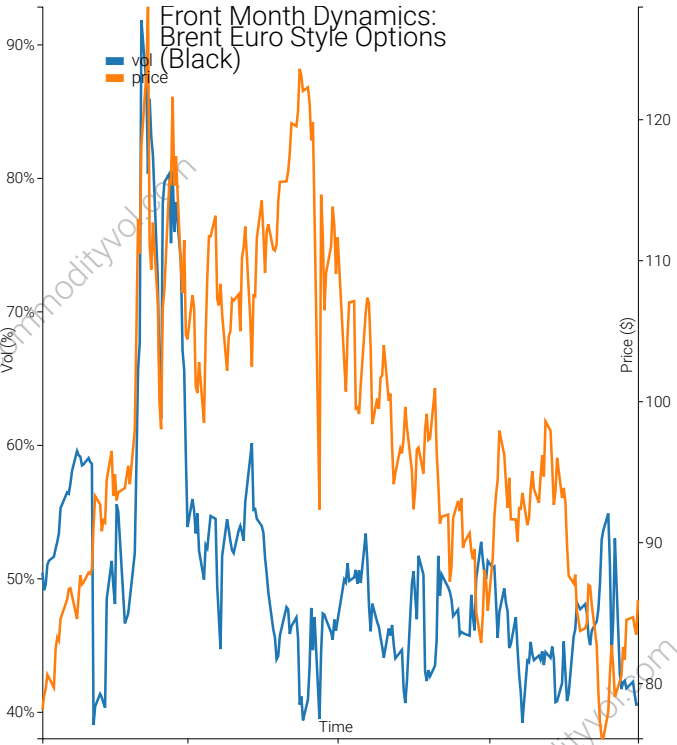
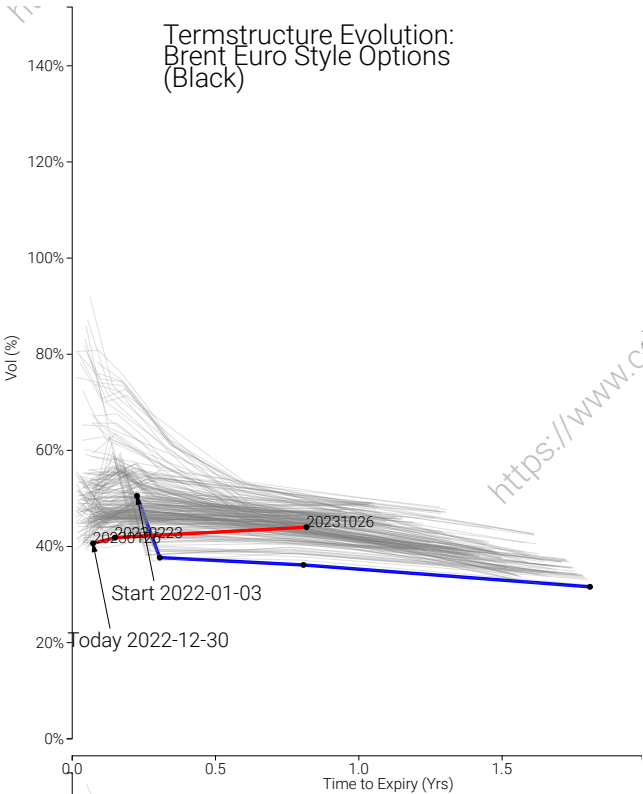


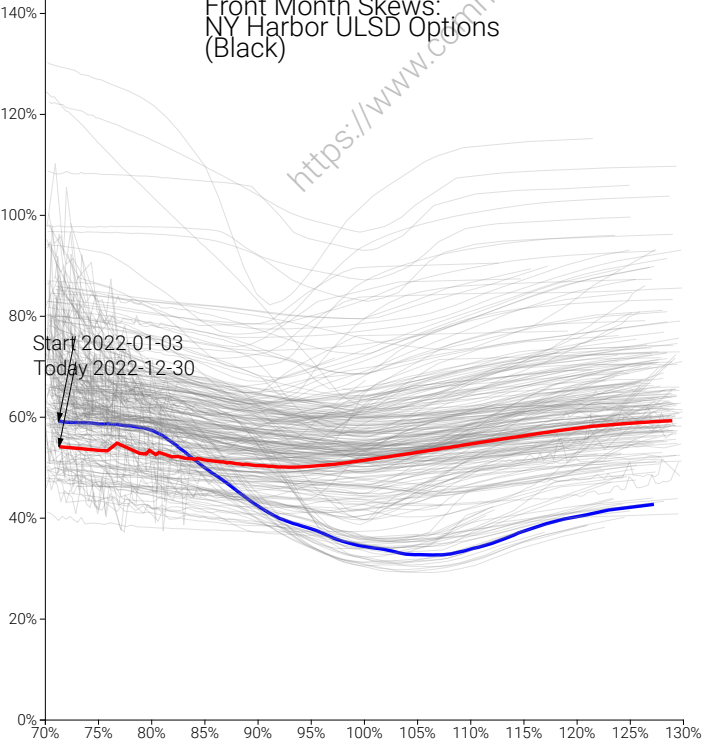
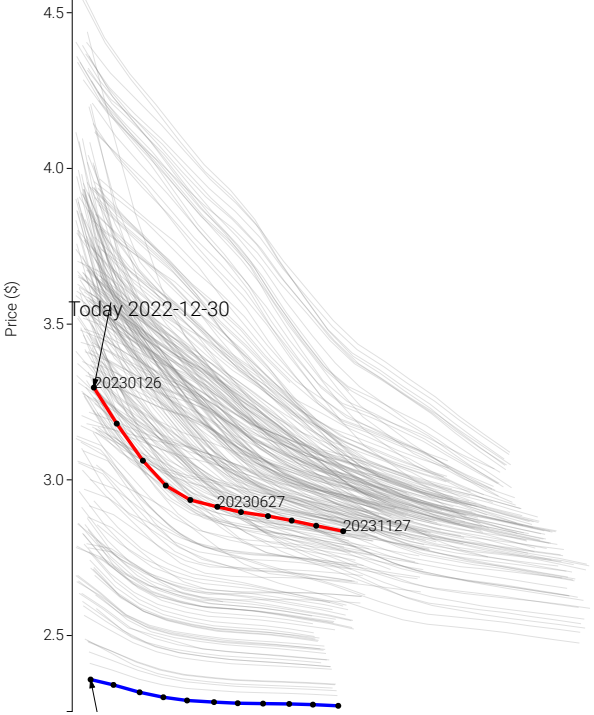
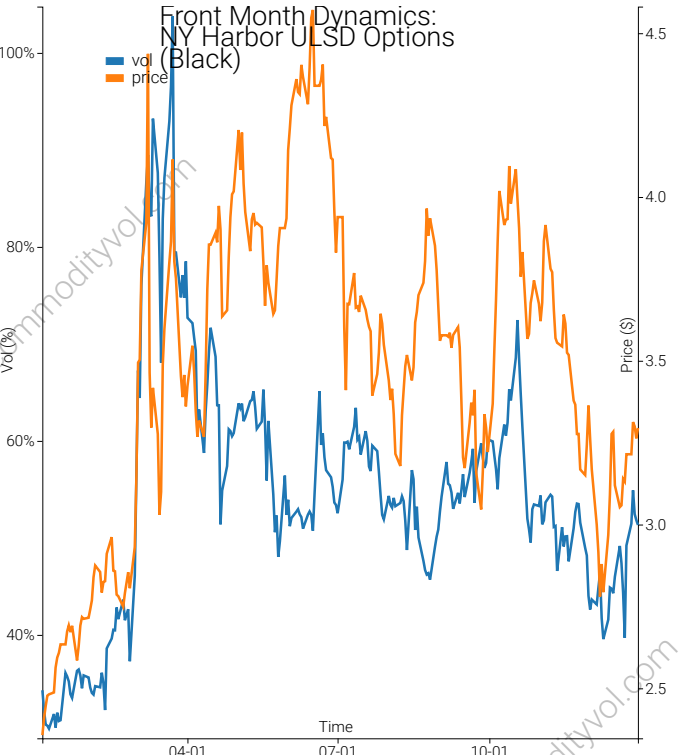
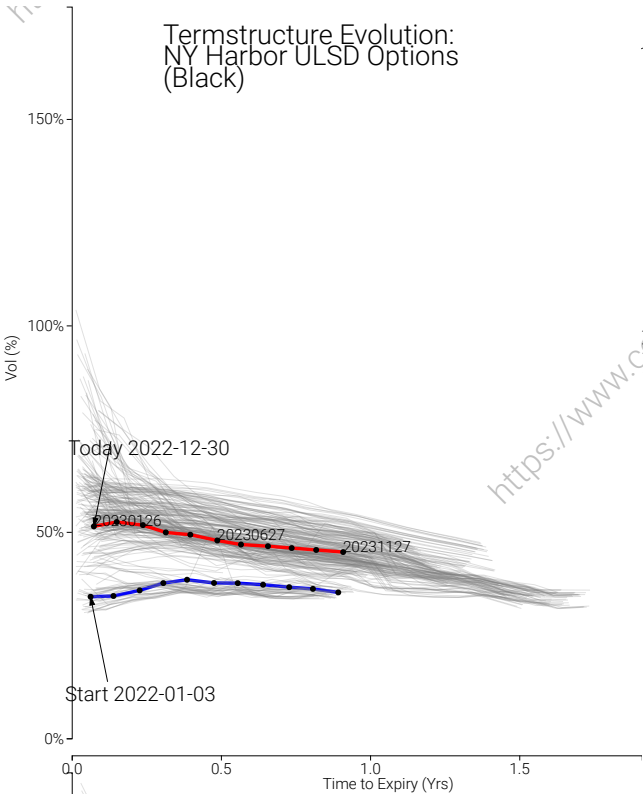


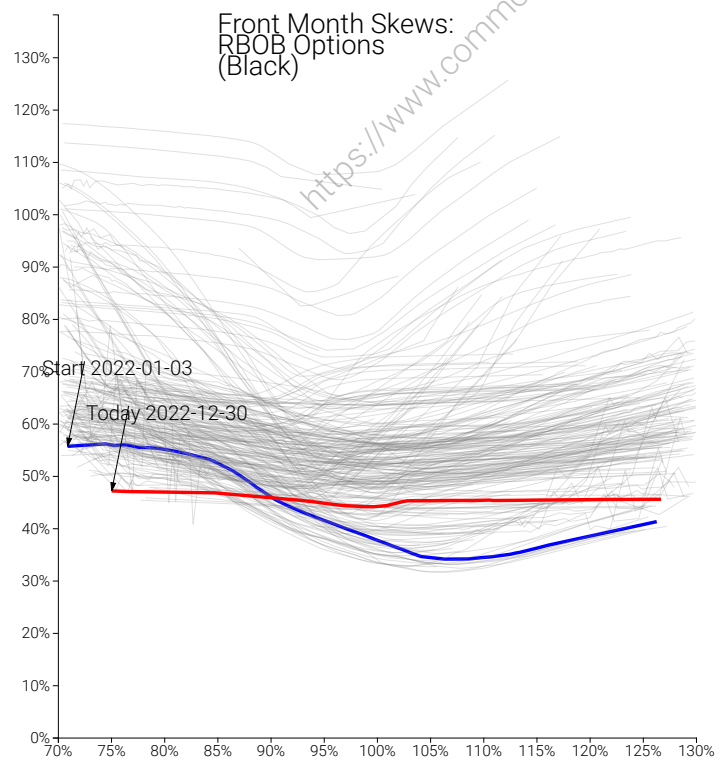
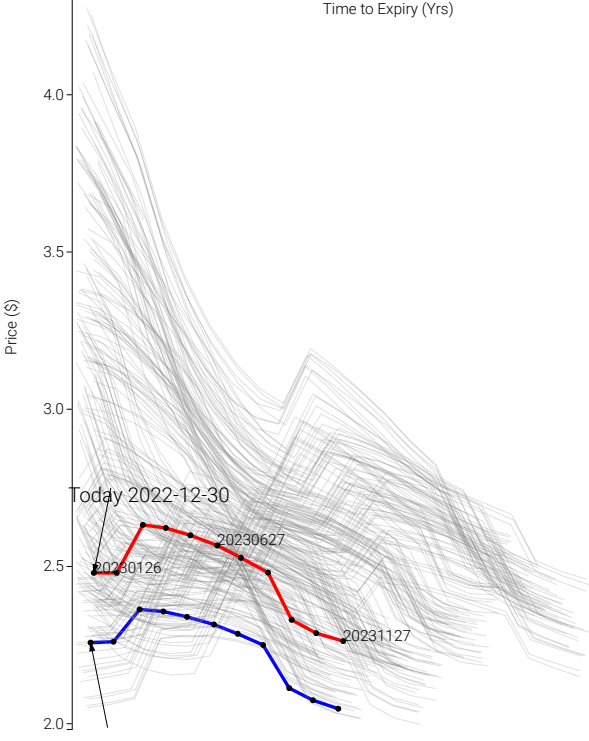
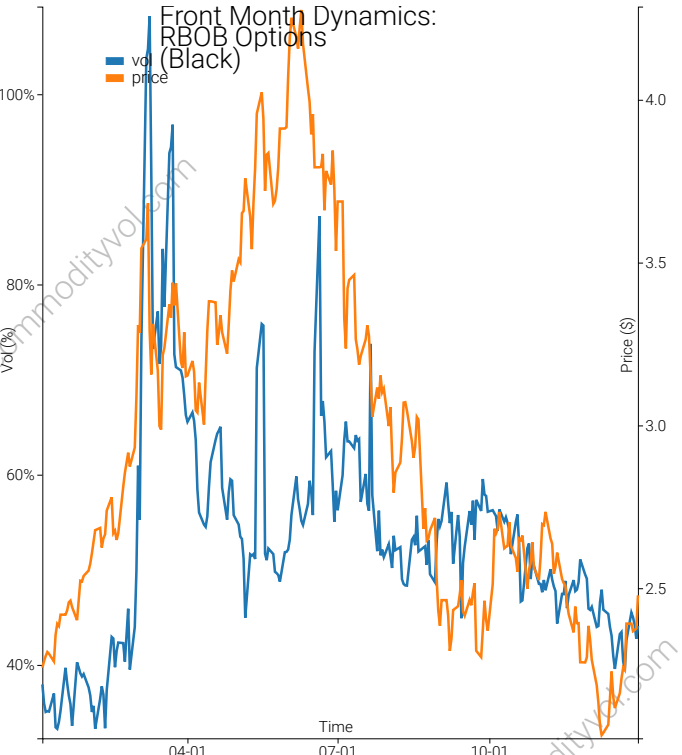
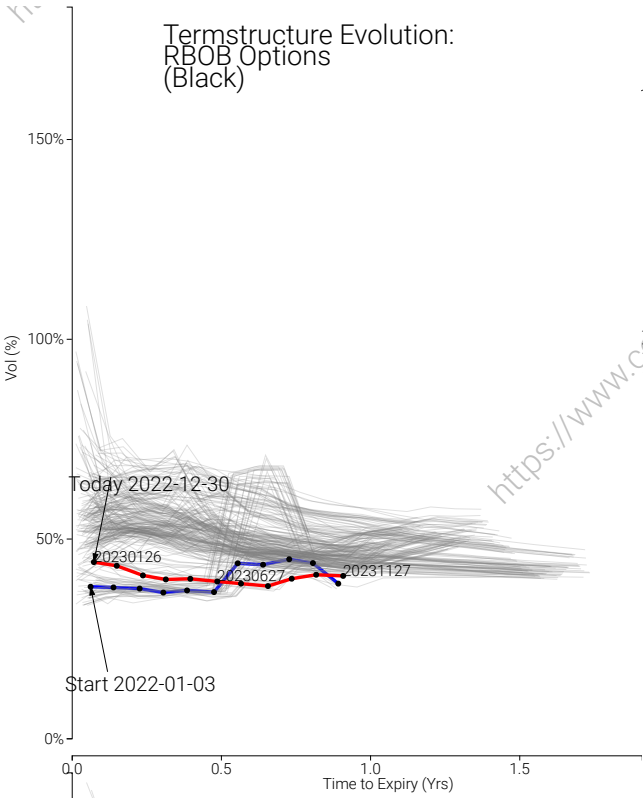
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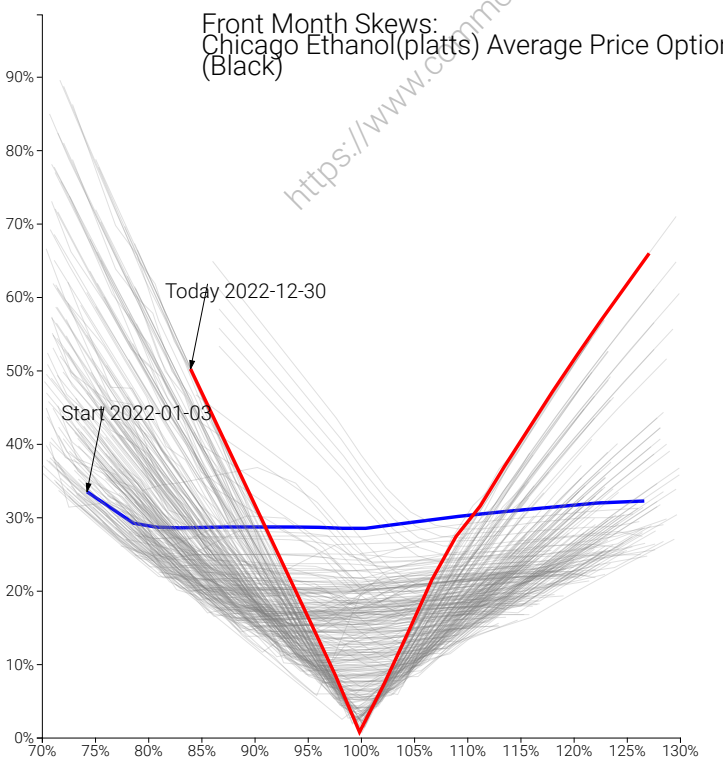
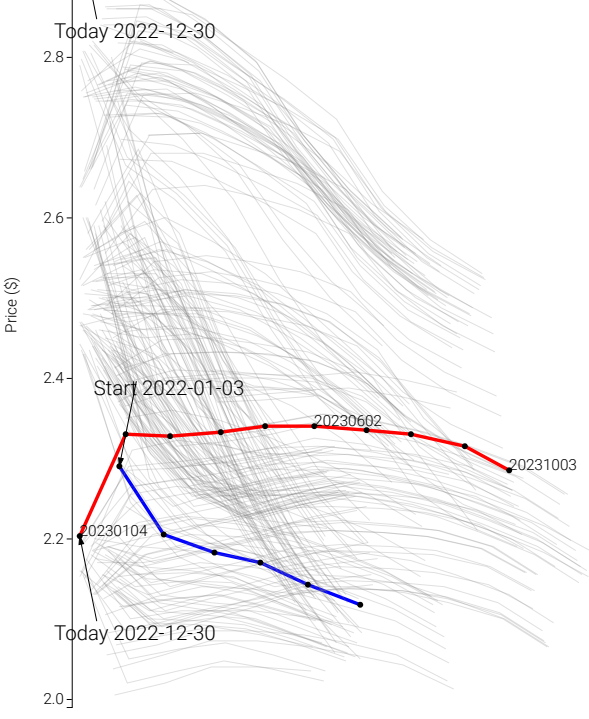
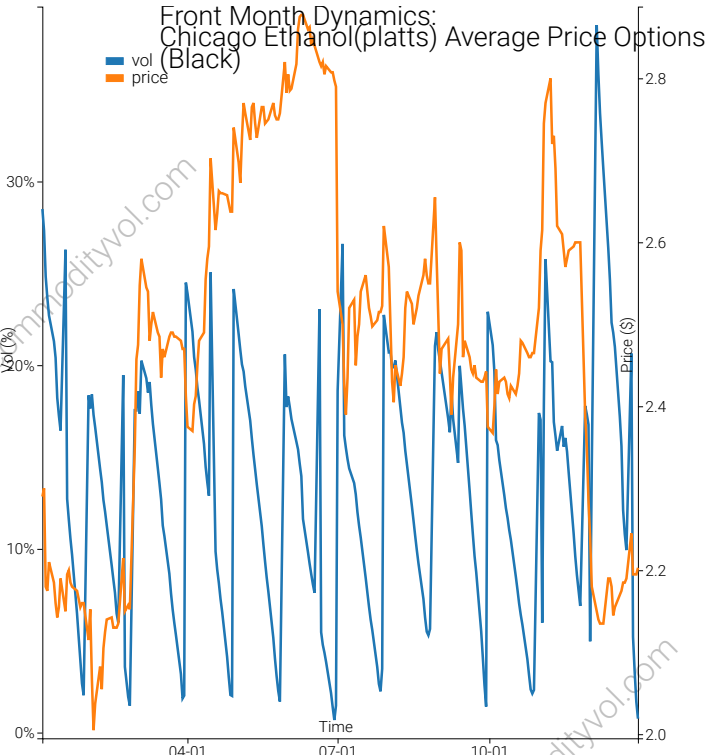
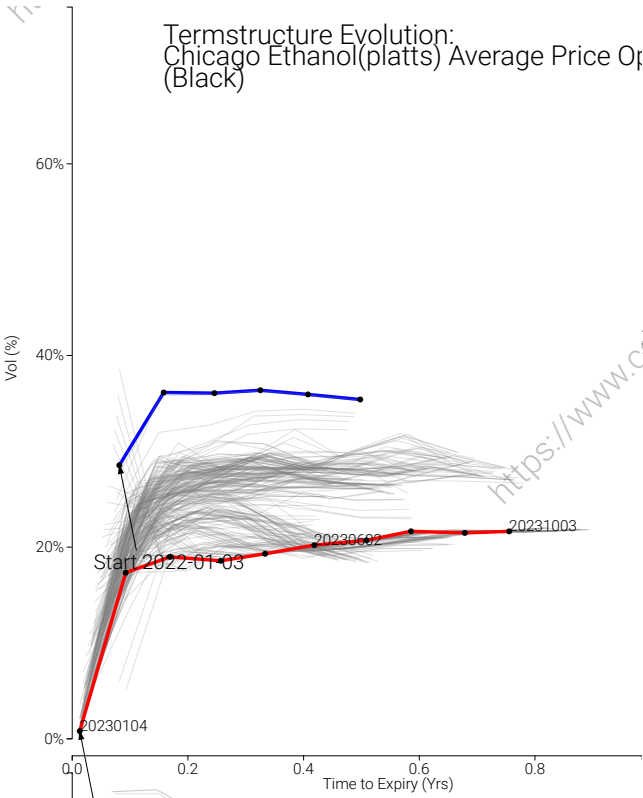




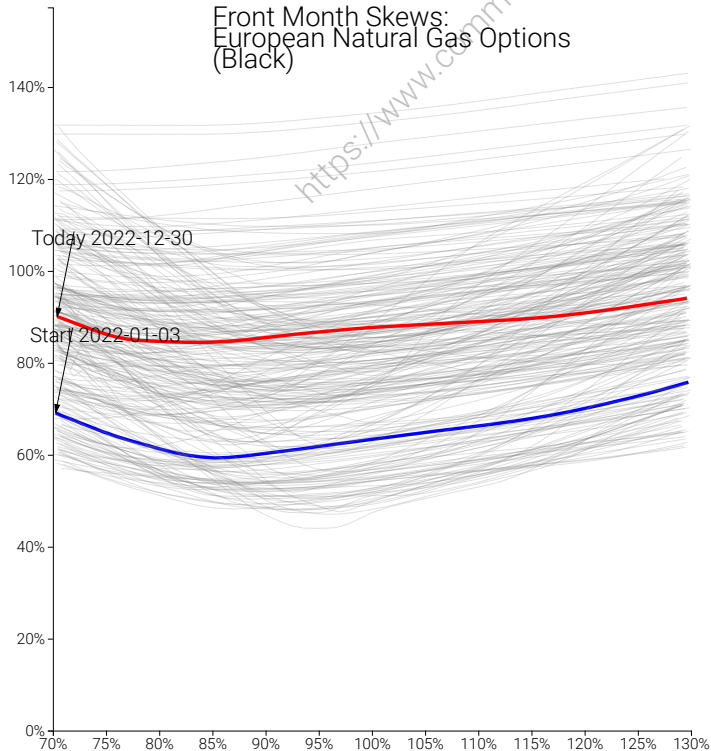
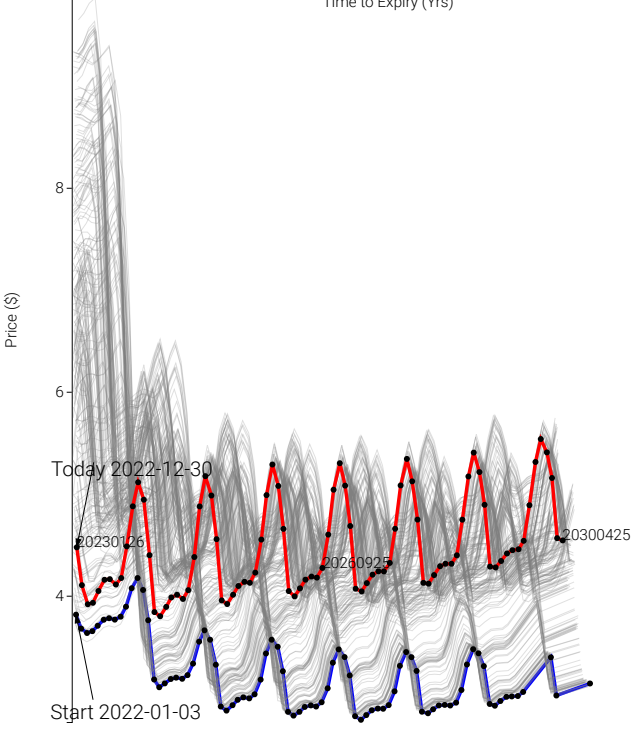
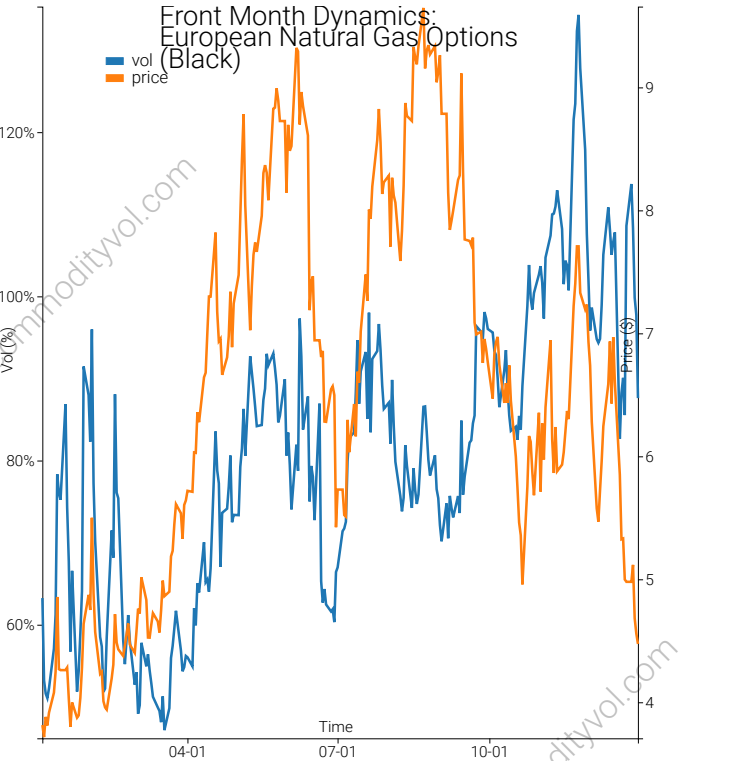
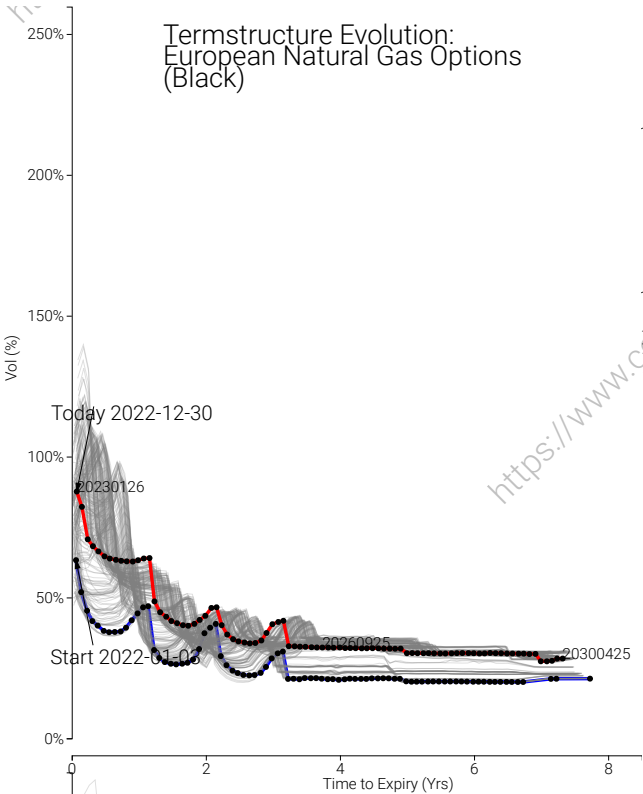


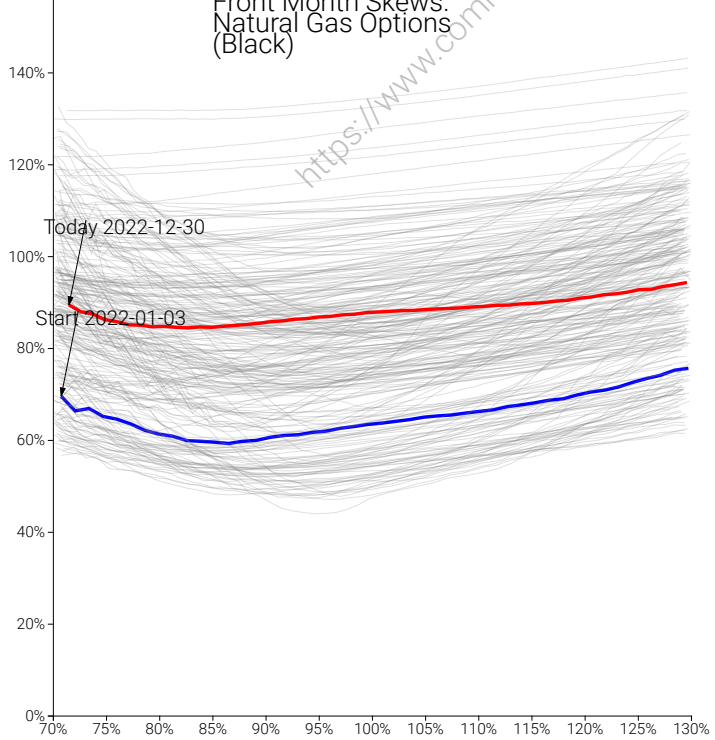
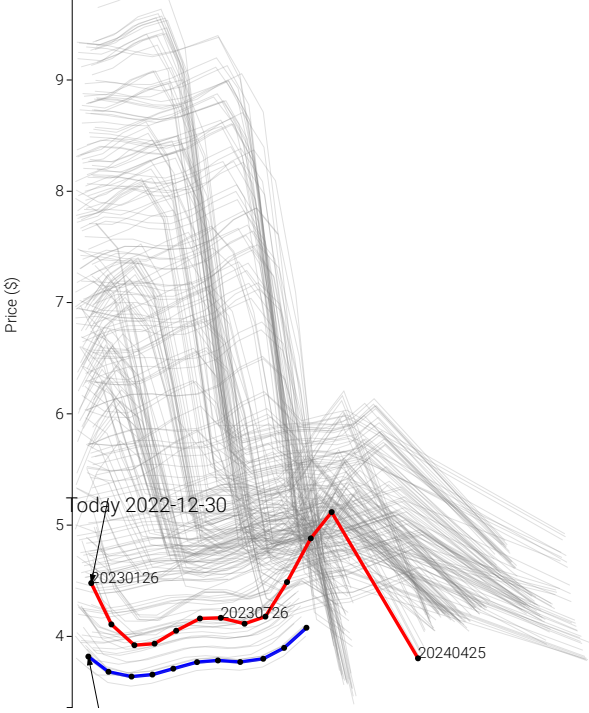
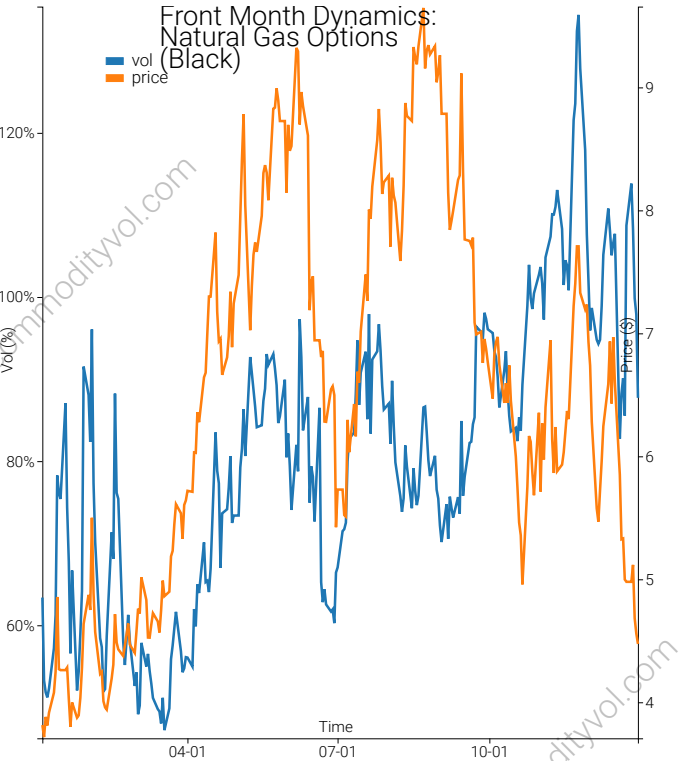
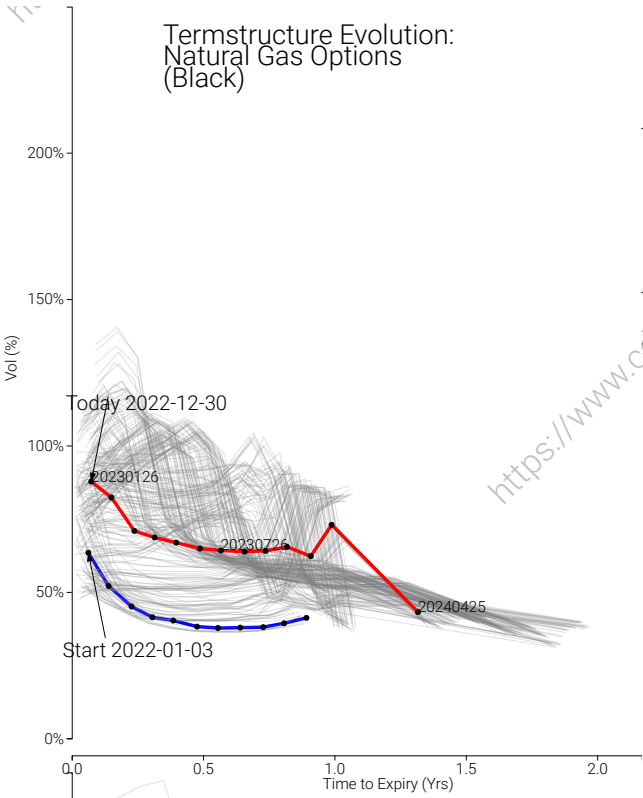


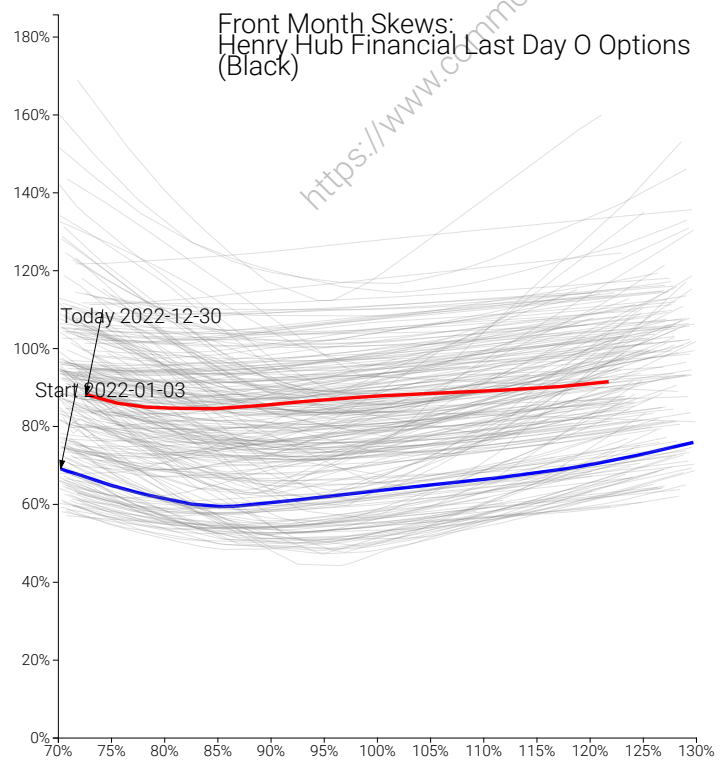
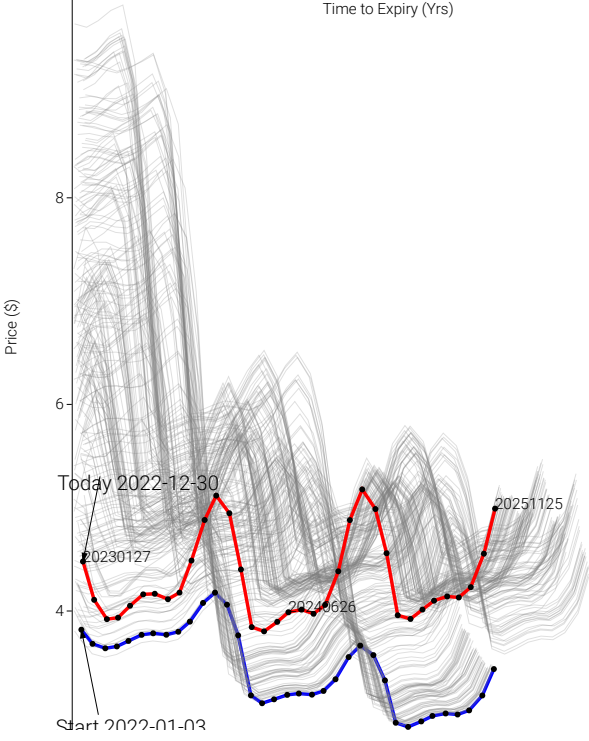
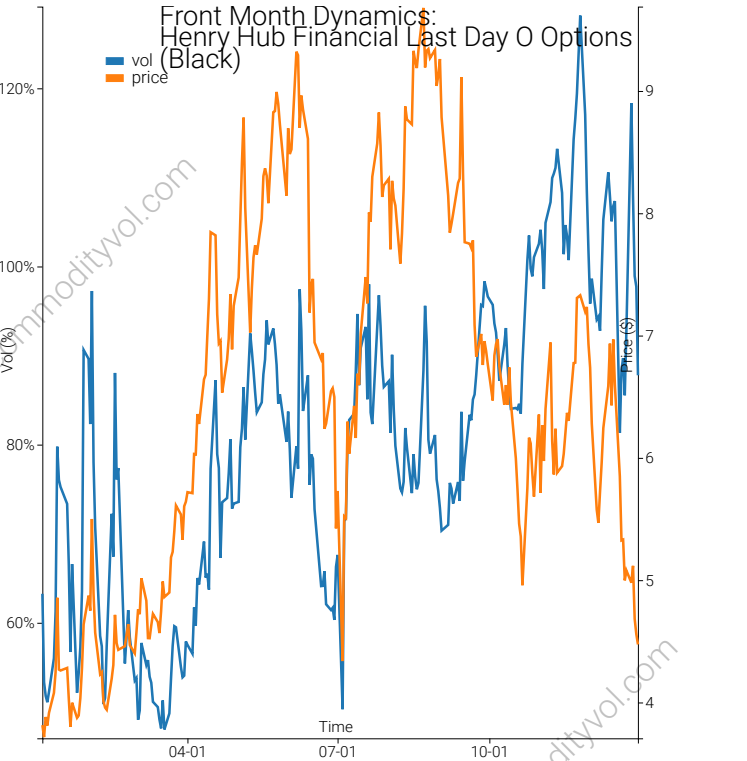
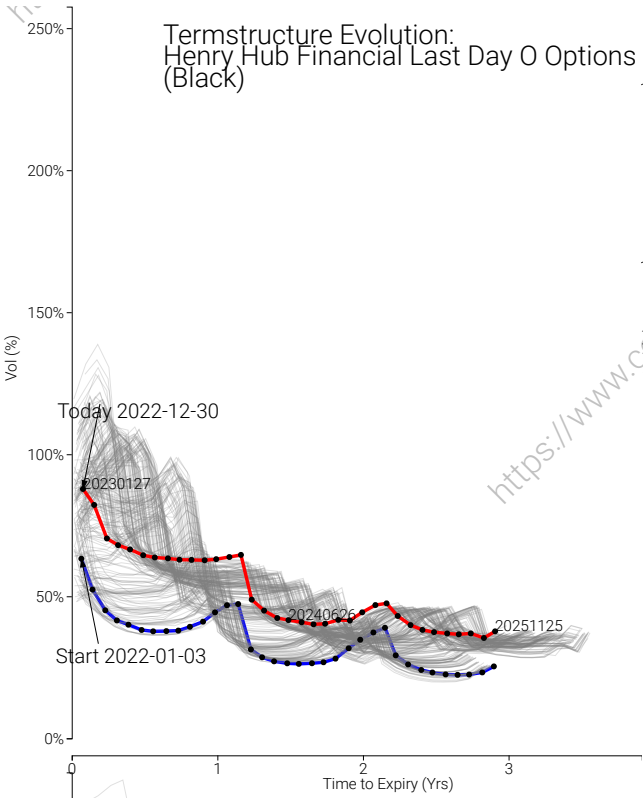


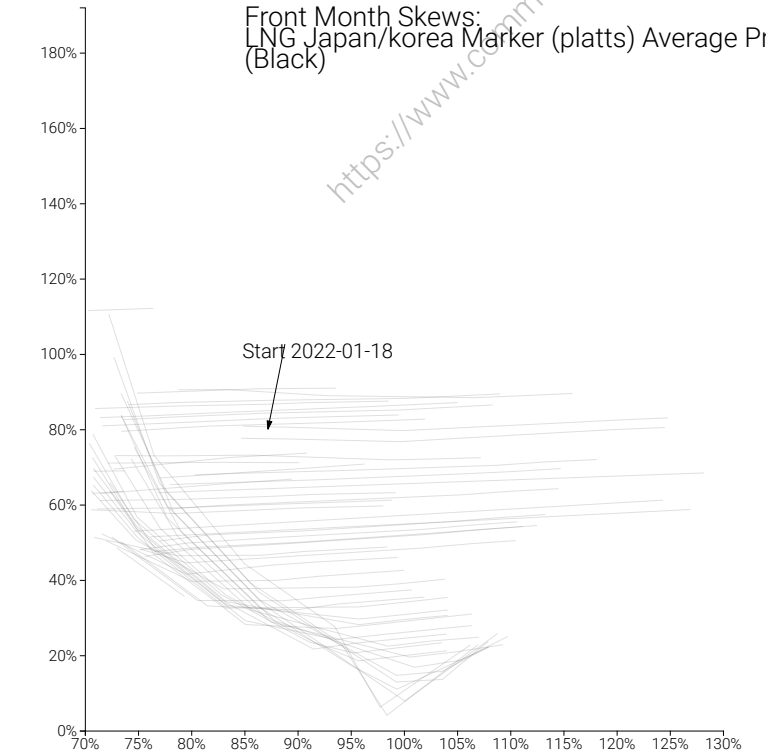
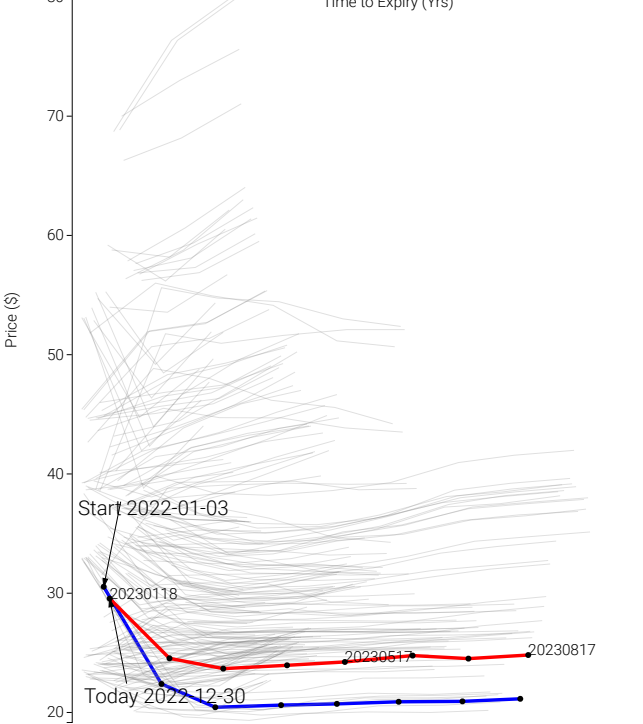
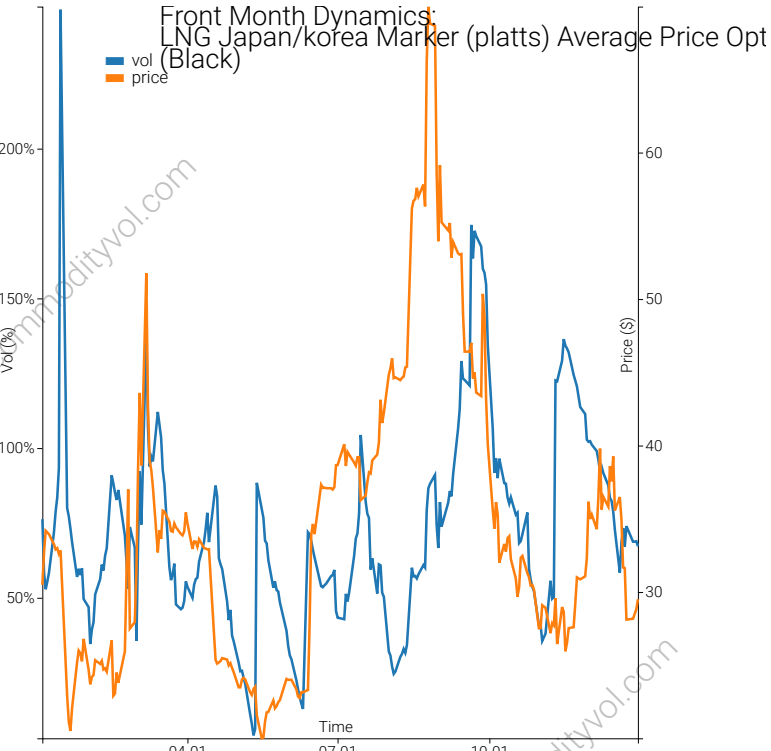
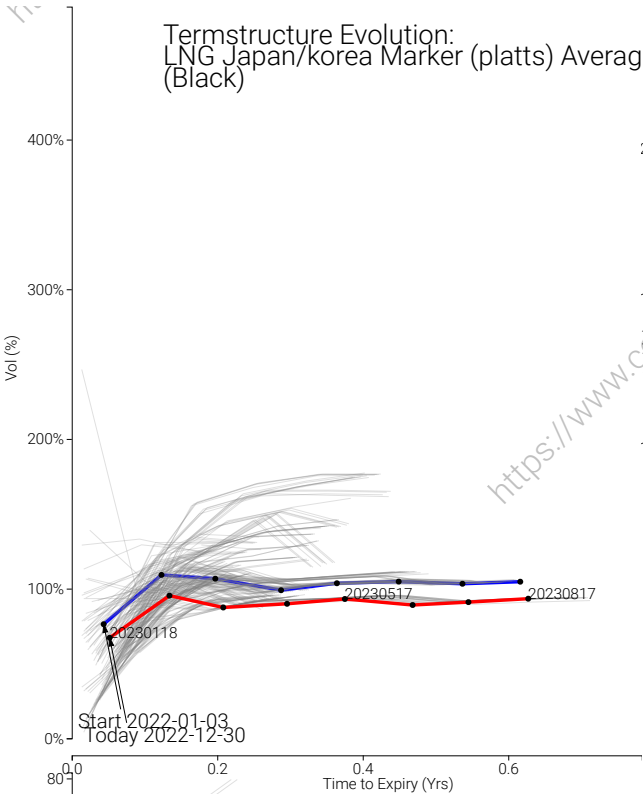


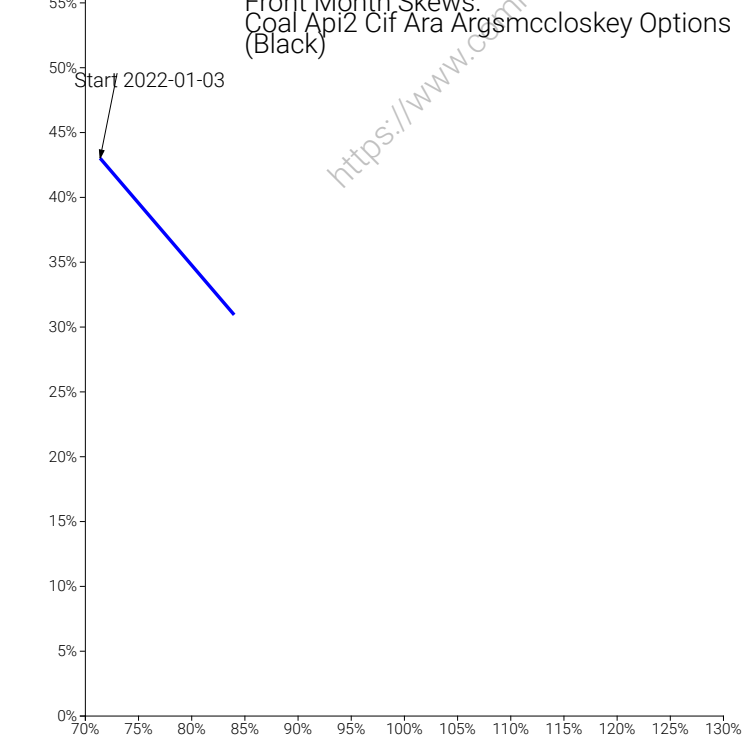
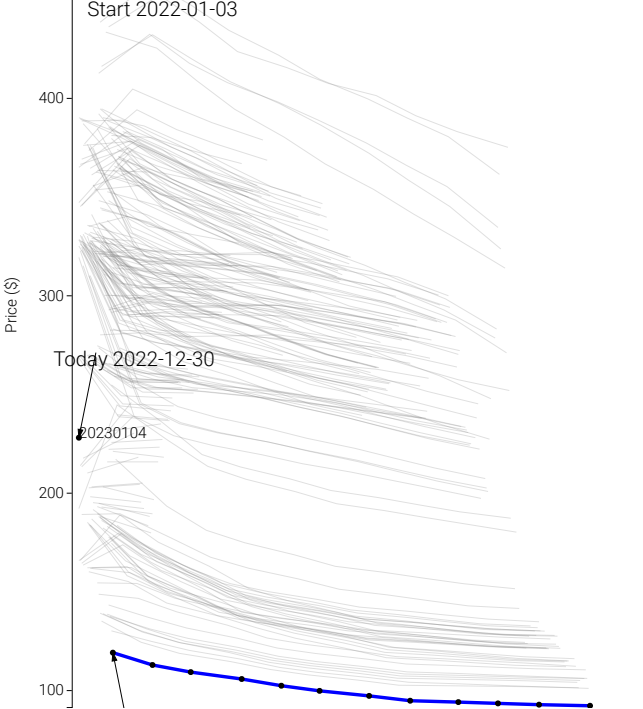
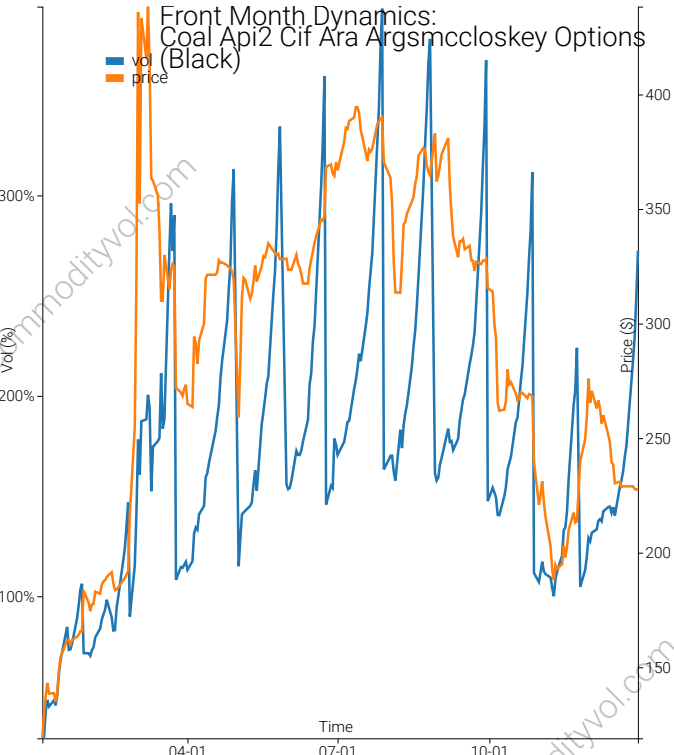
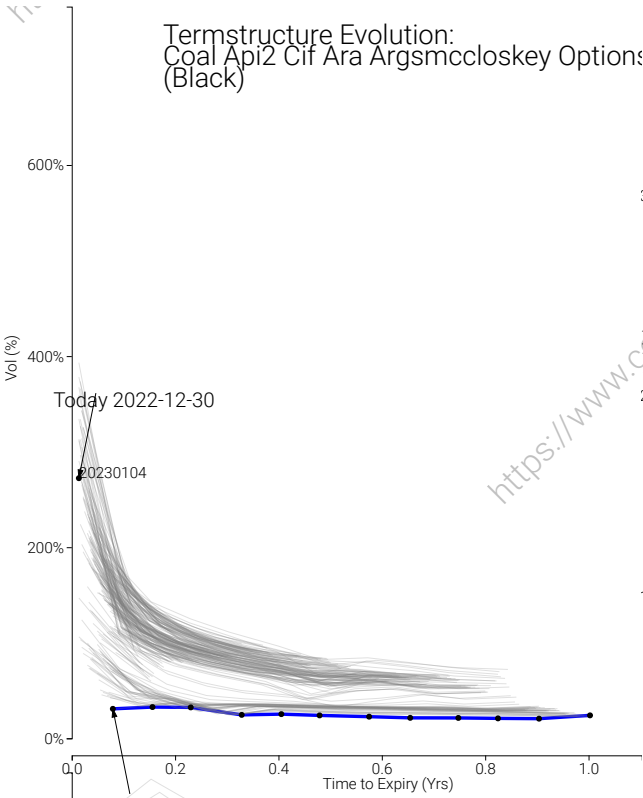
Energy: Natural Gas



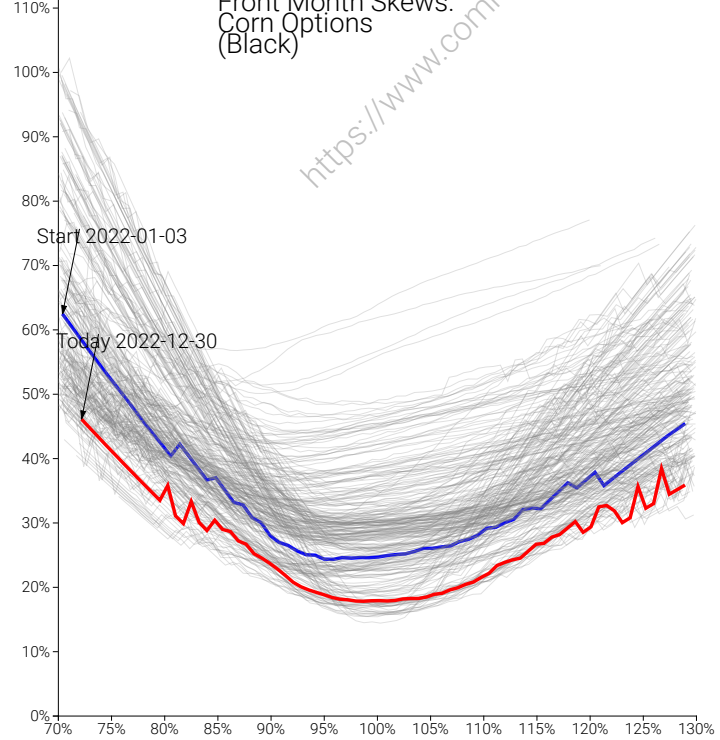
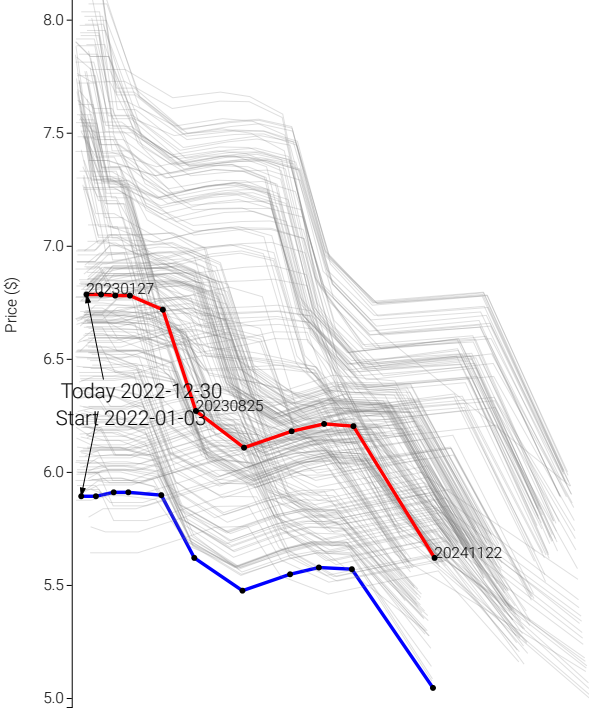
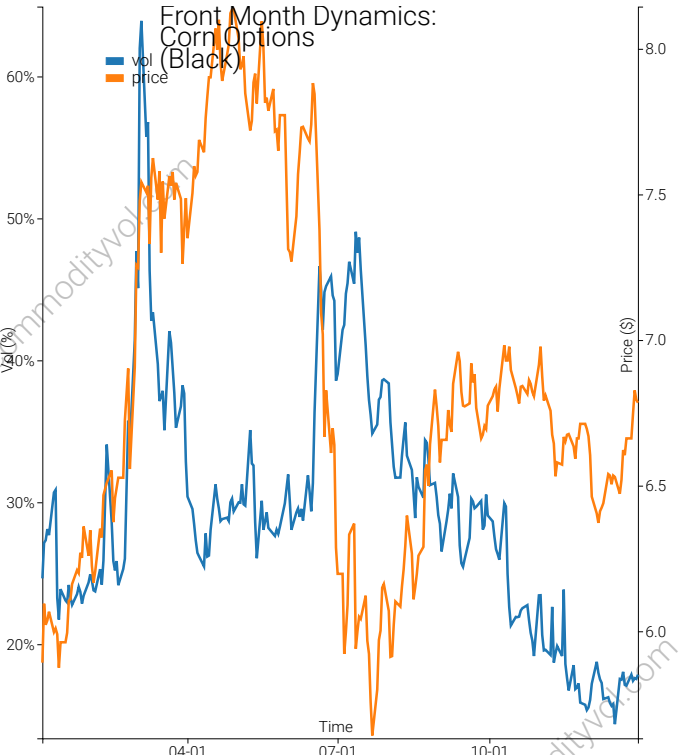
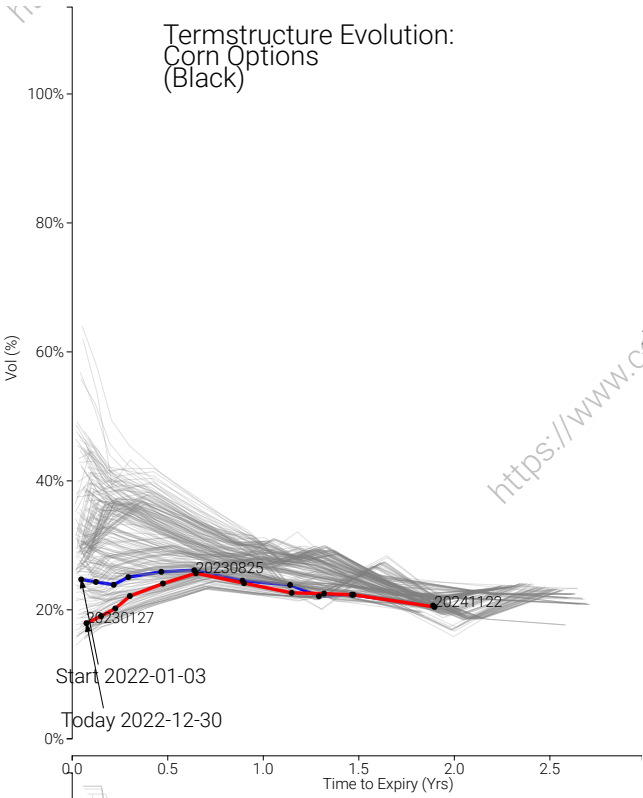


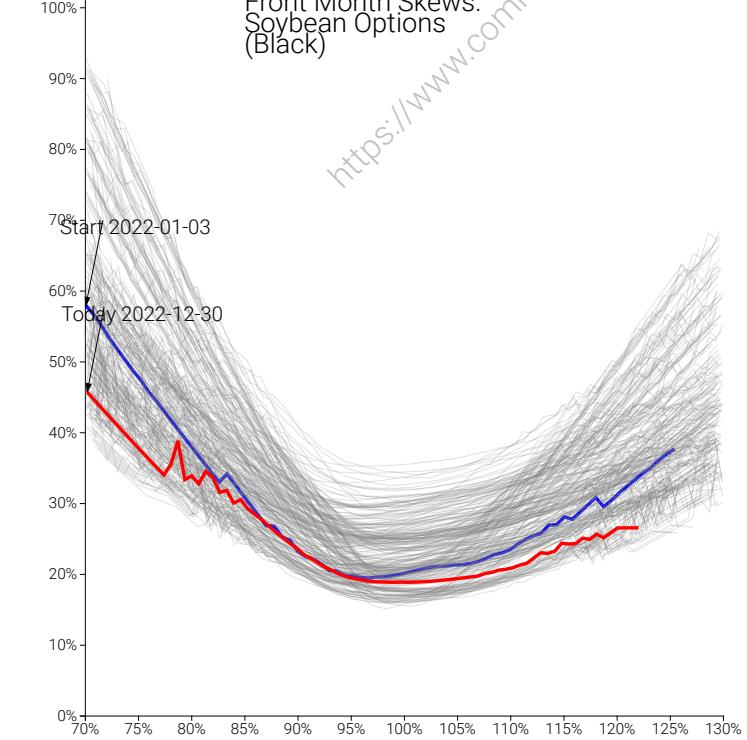
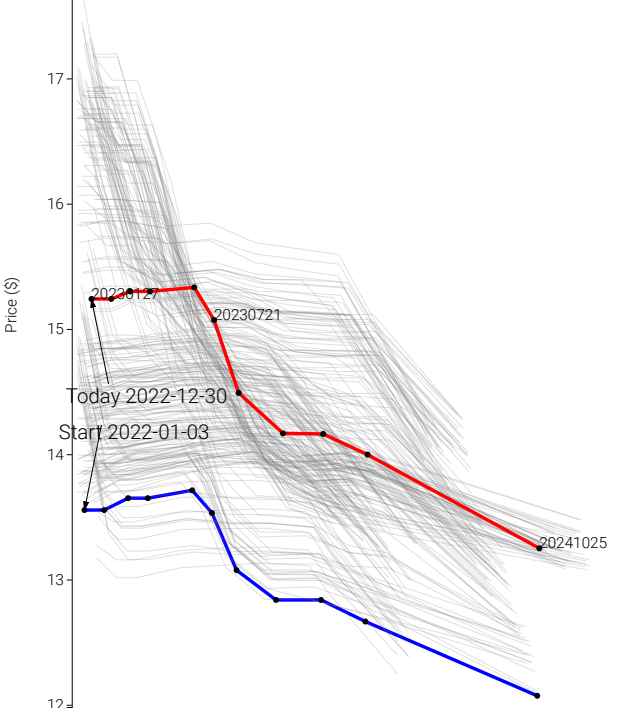
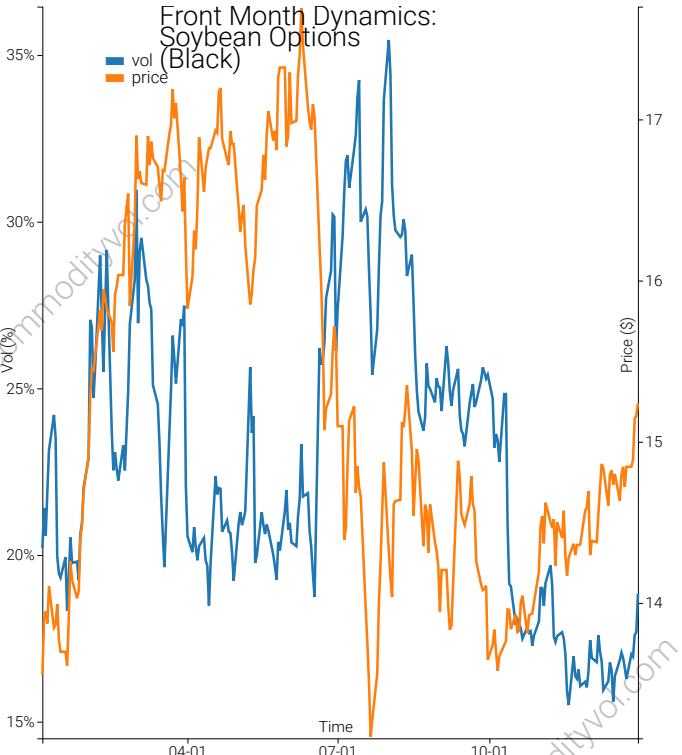
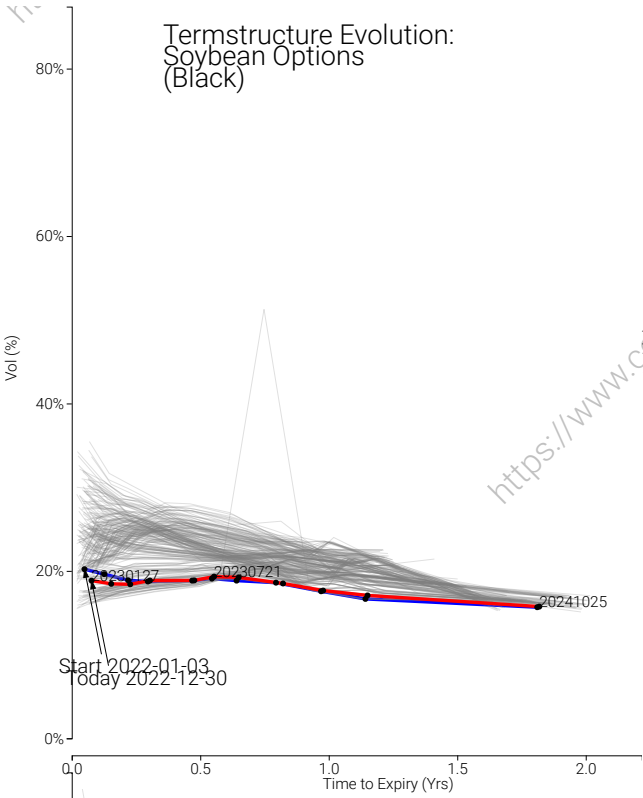


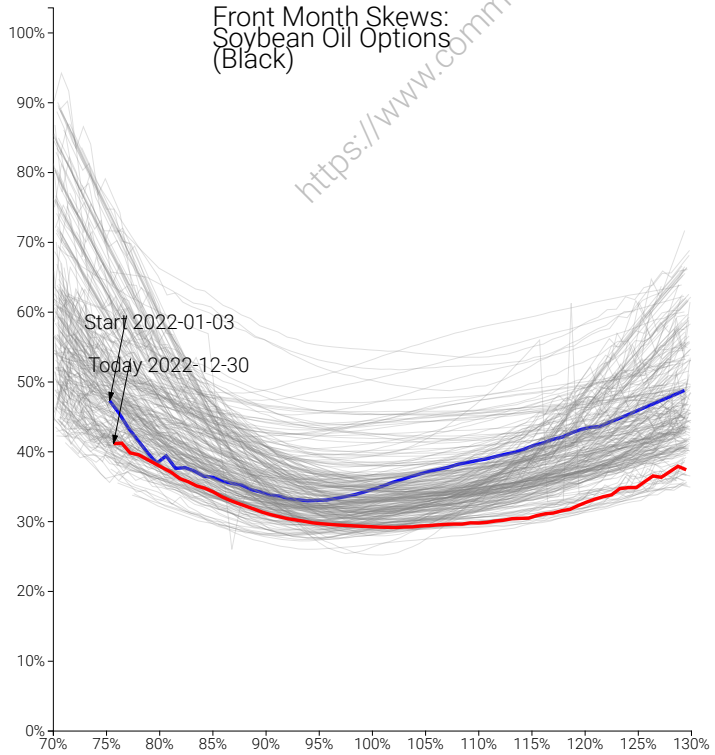
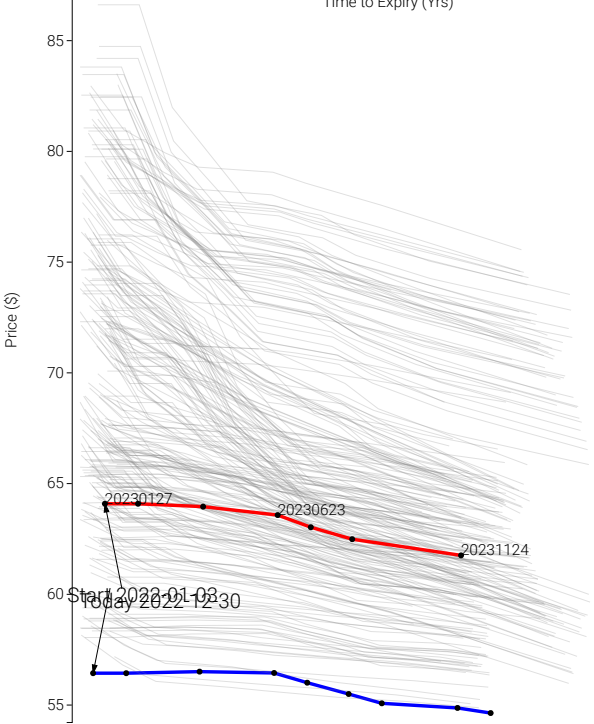
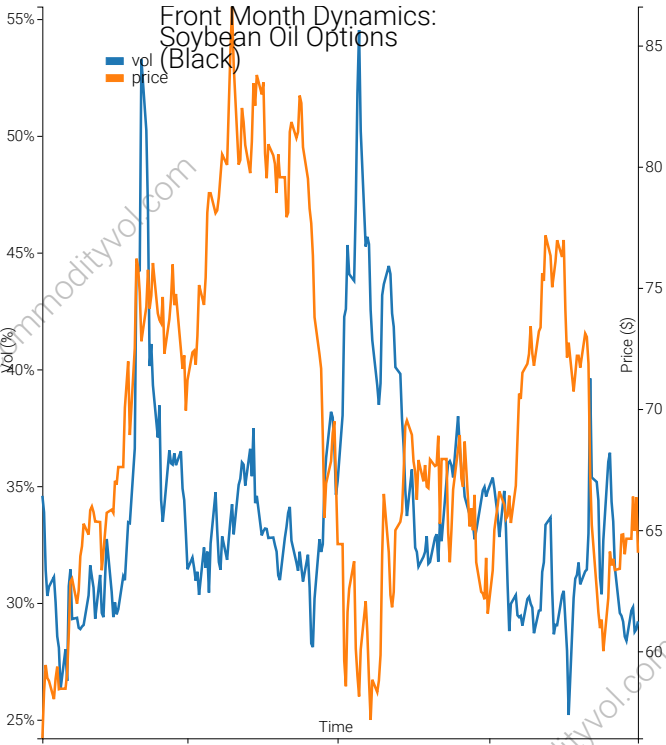
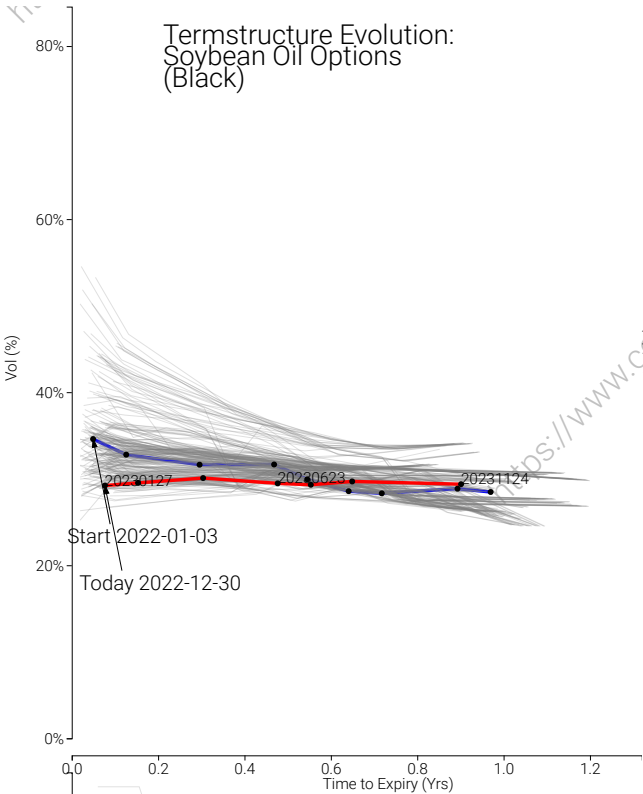


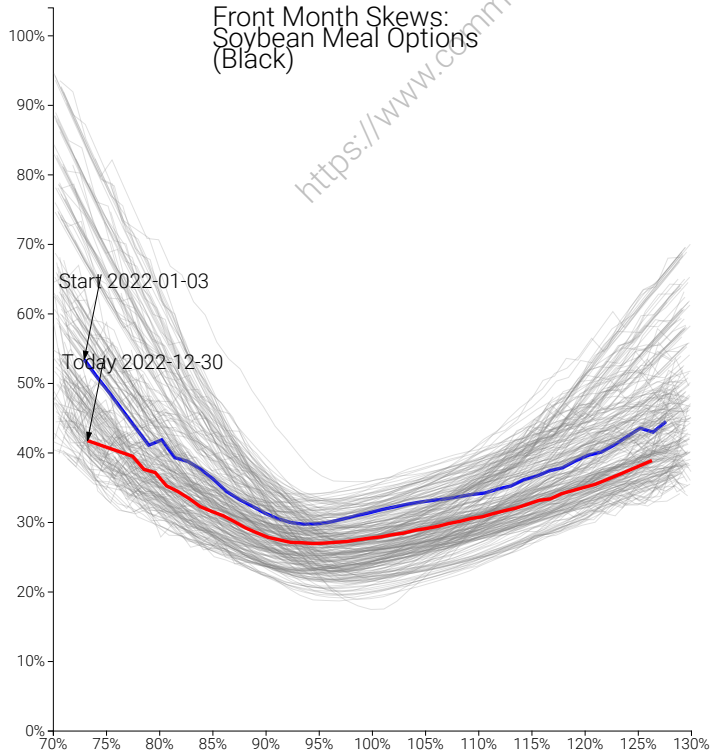
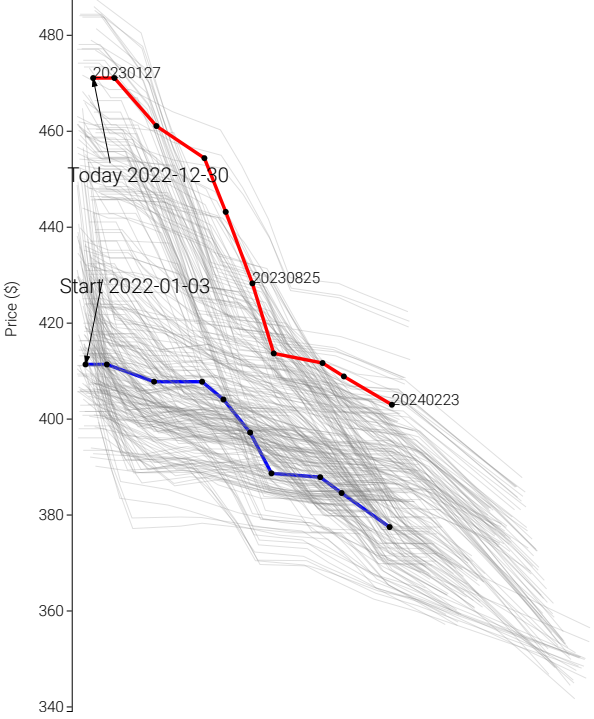
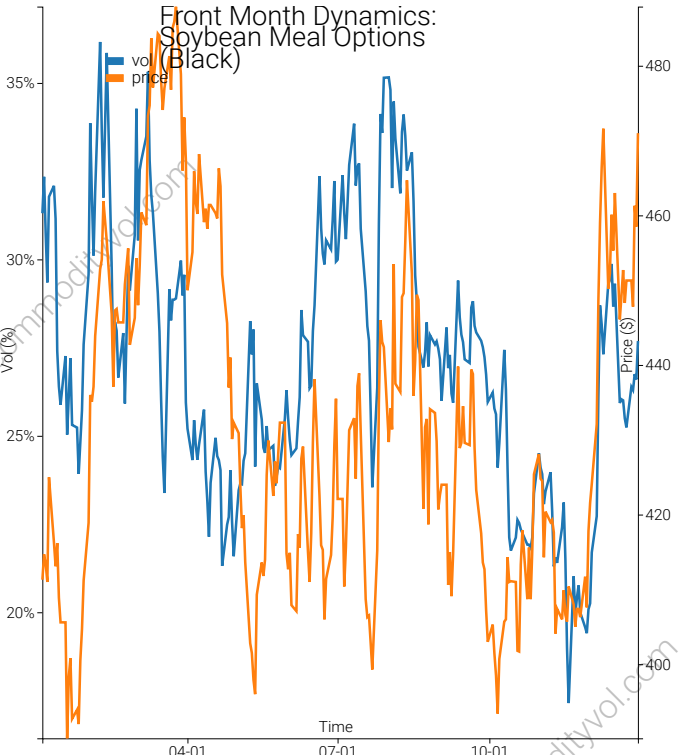
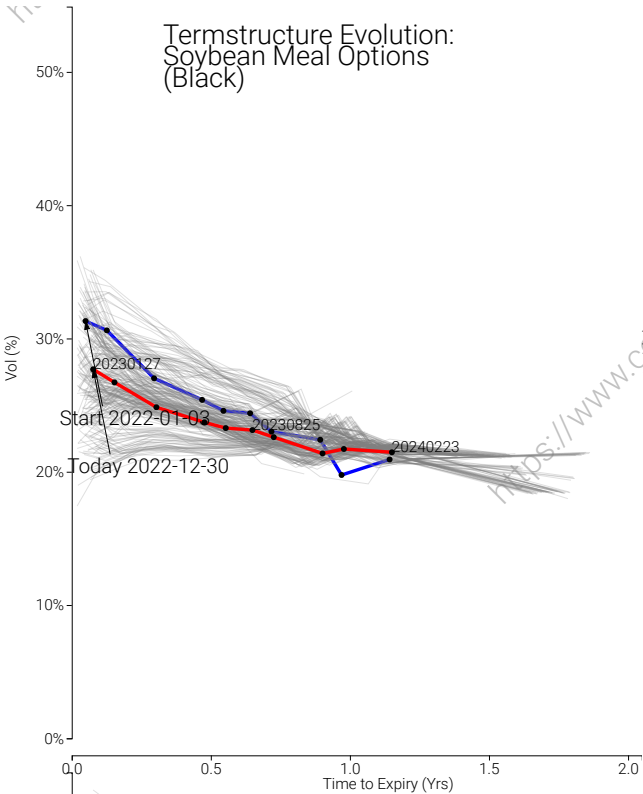


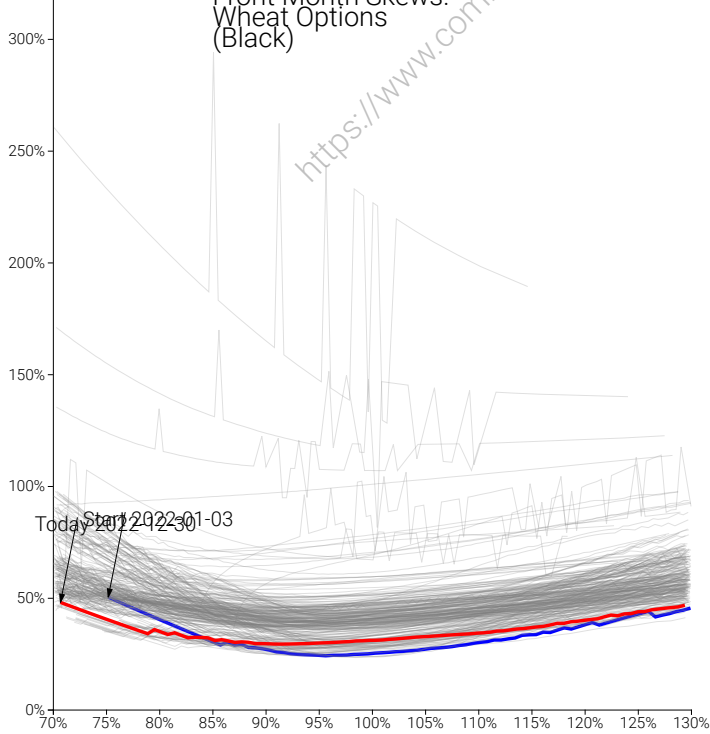
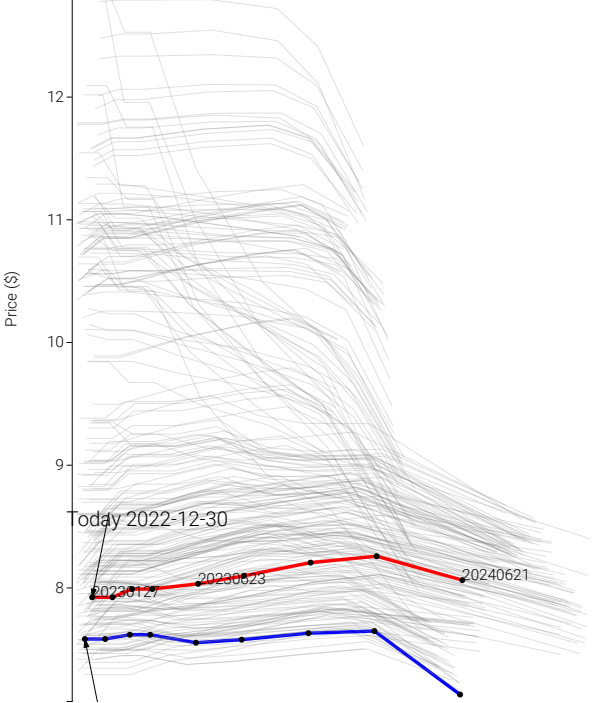
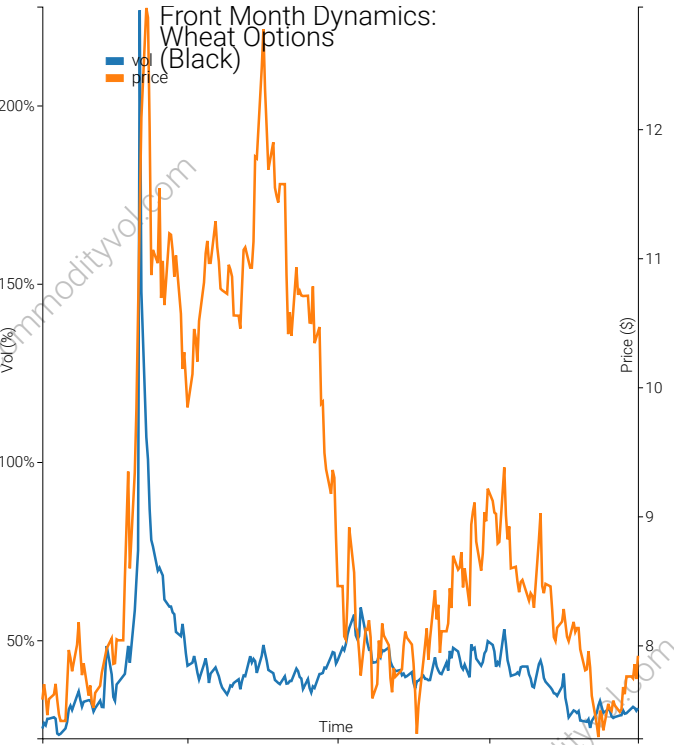
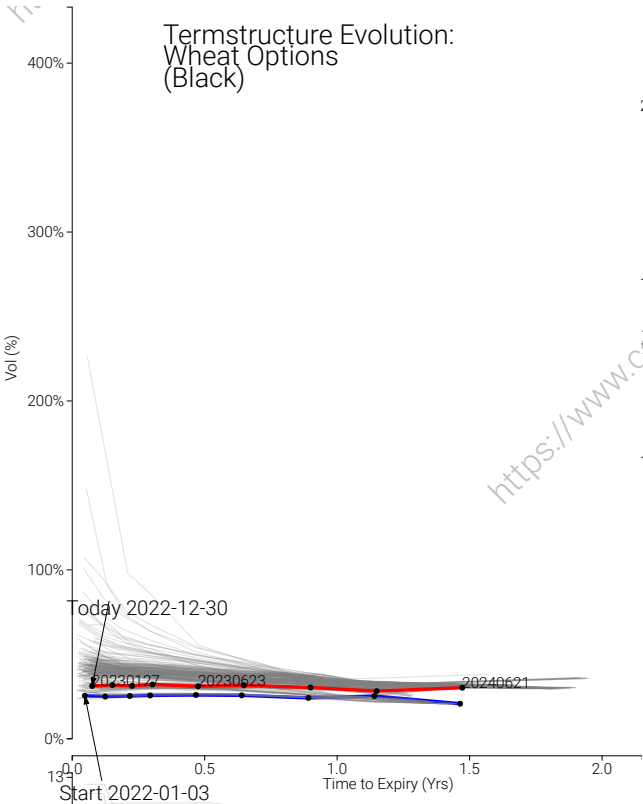
Ags: Grains, Oilseeds, and so forth

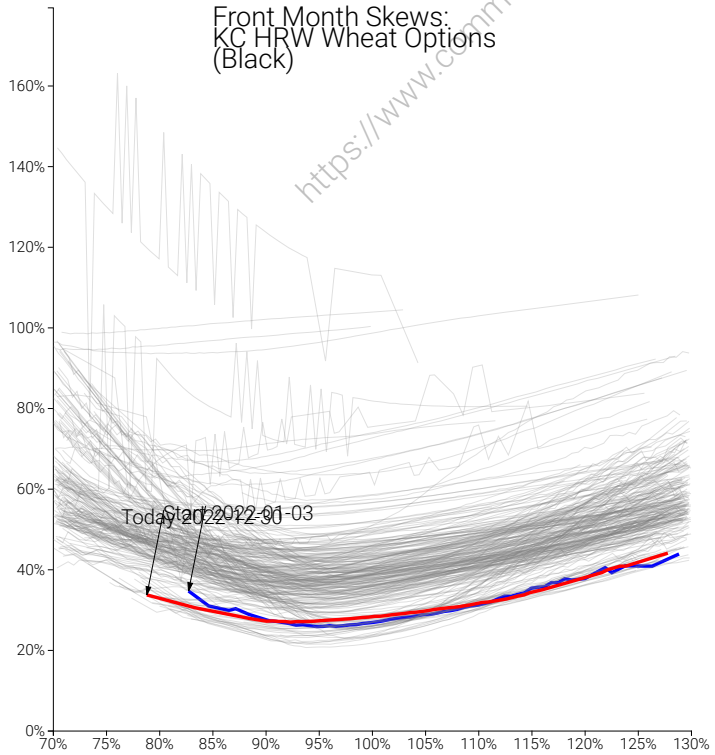
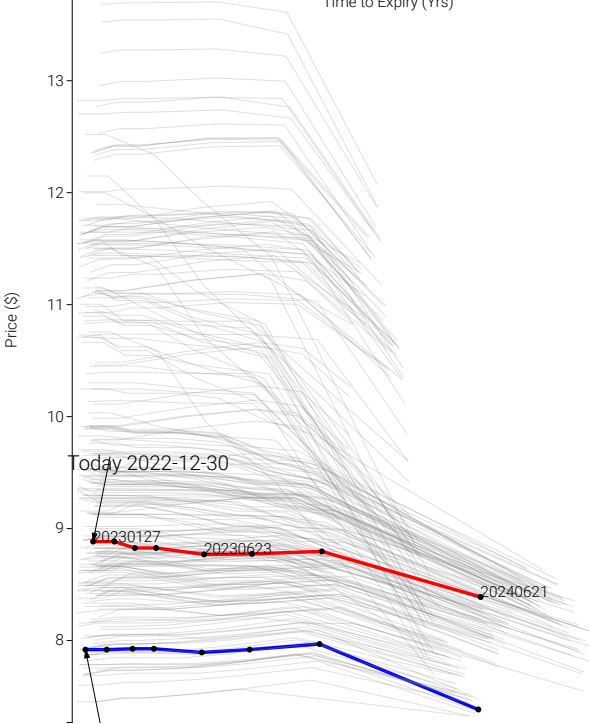
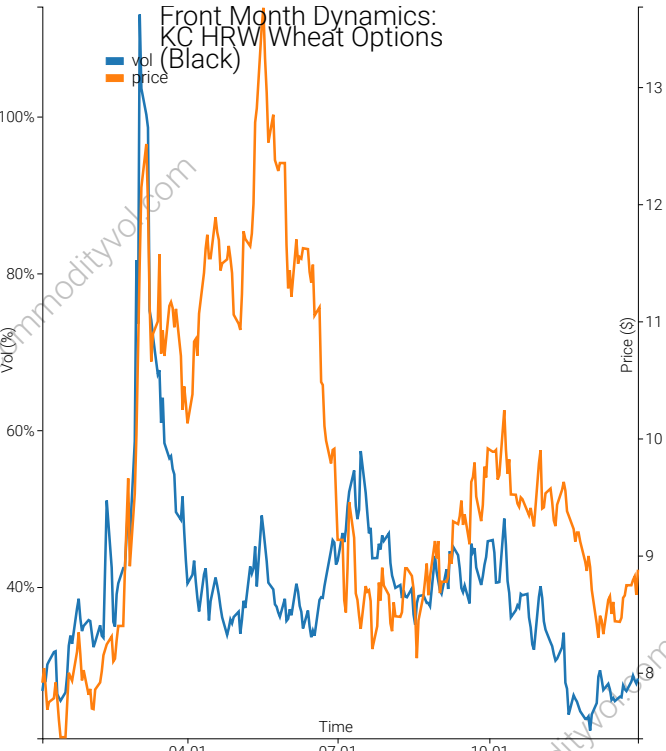
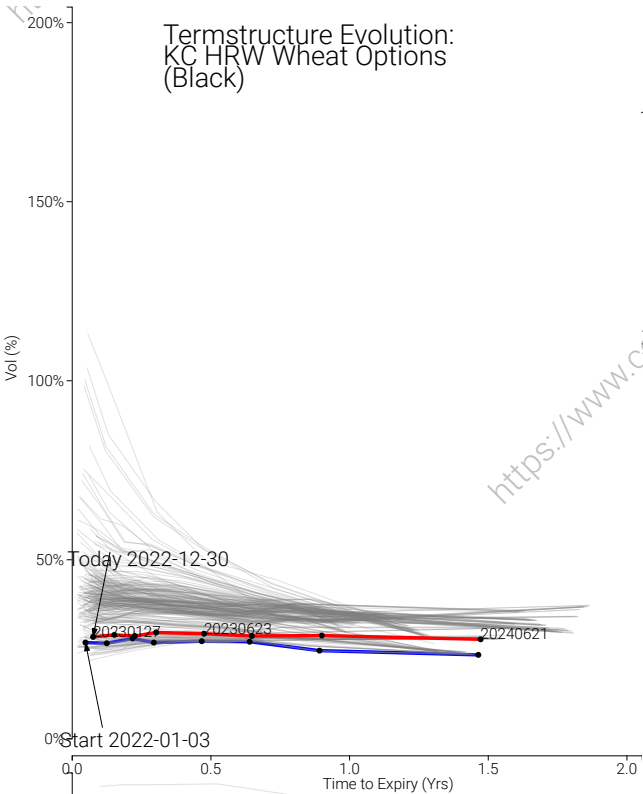


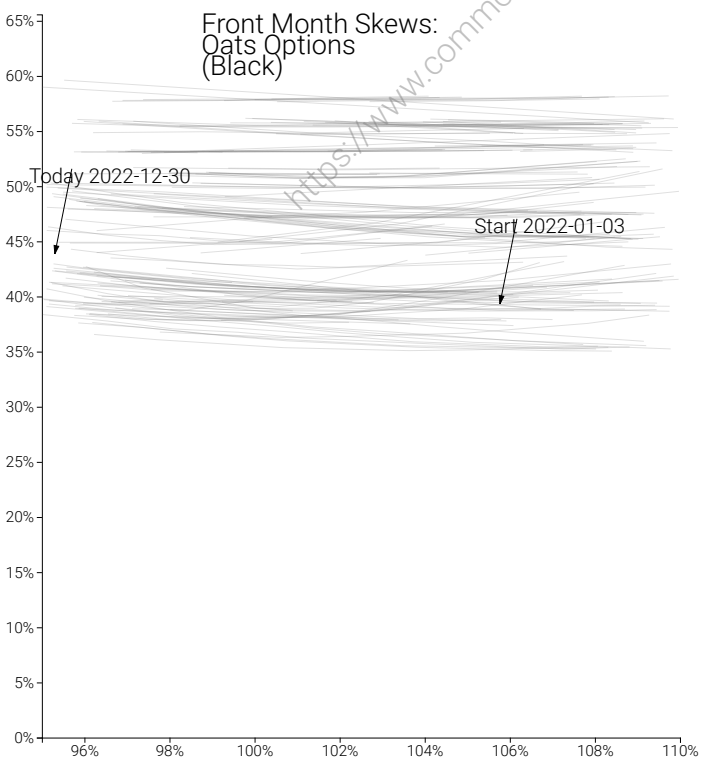
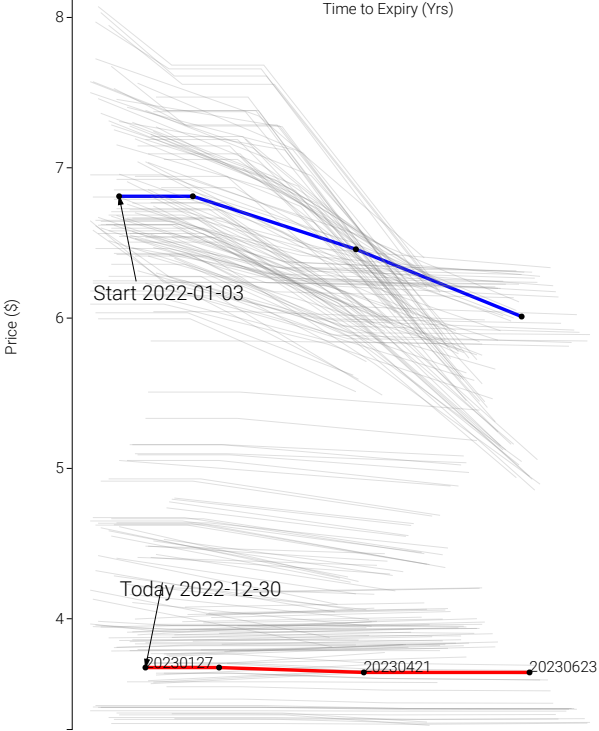
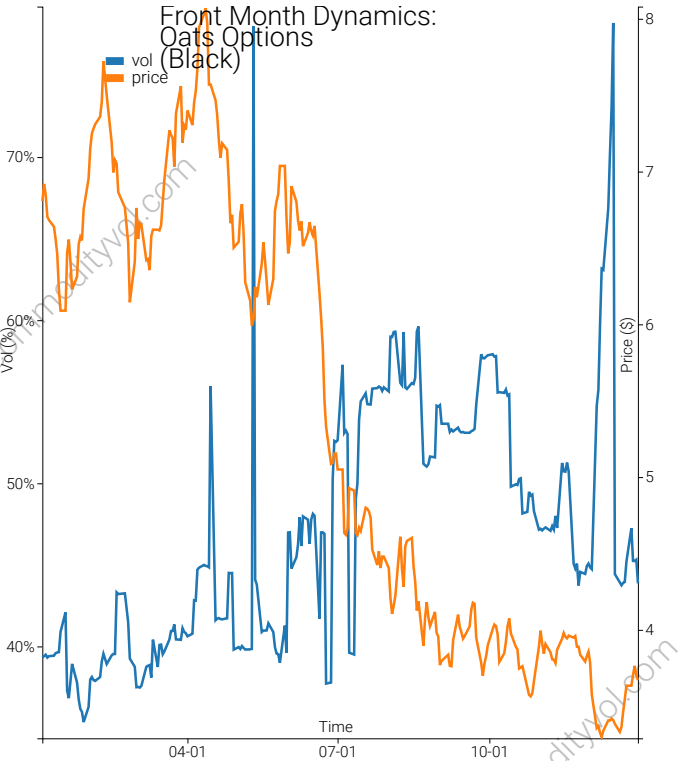
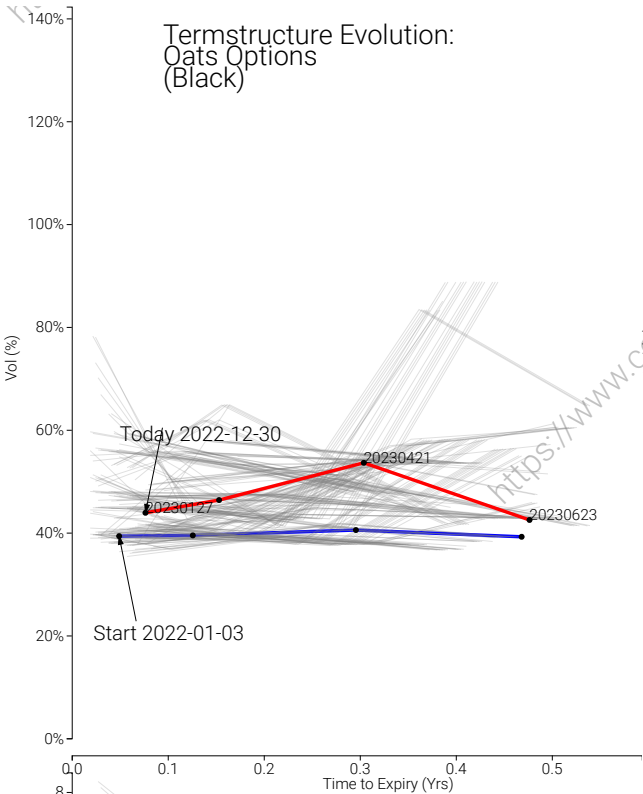


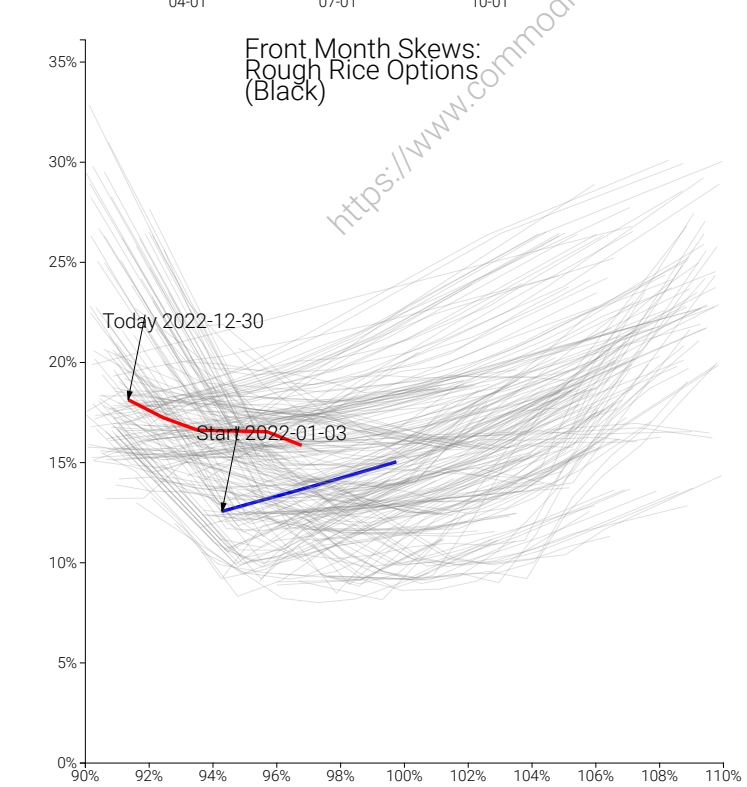
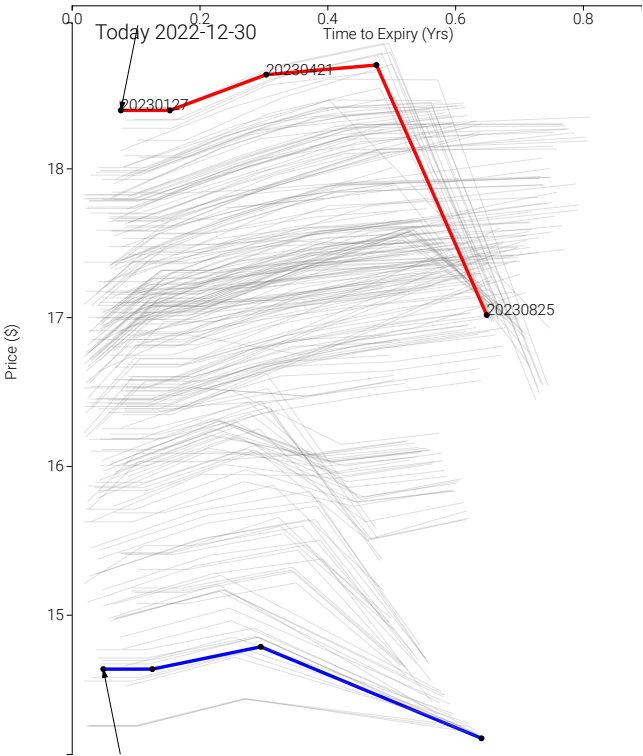
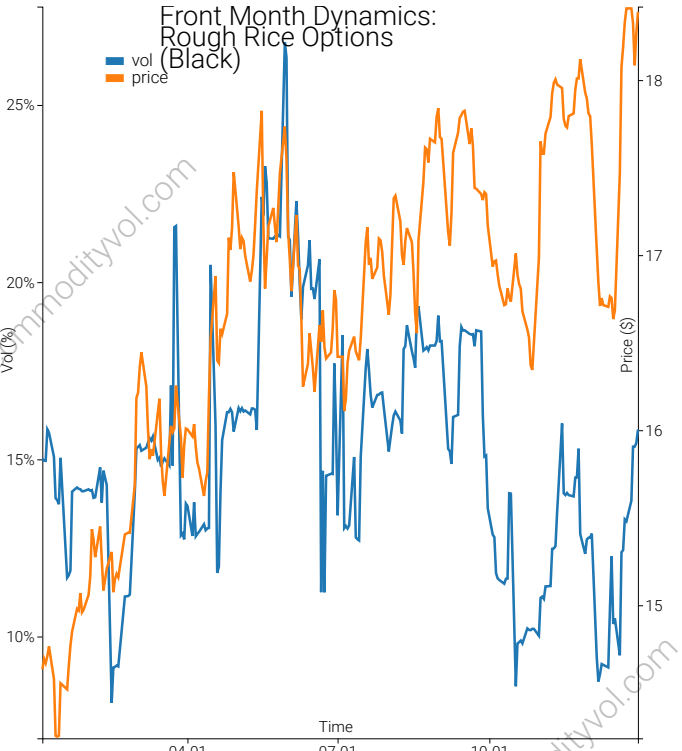
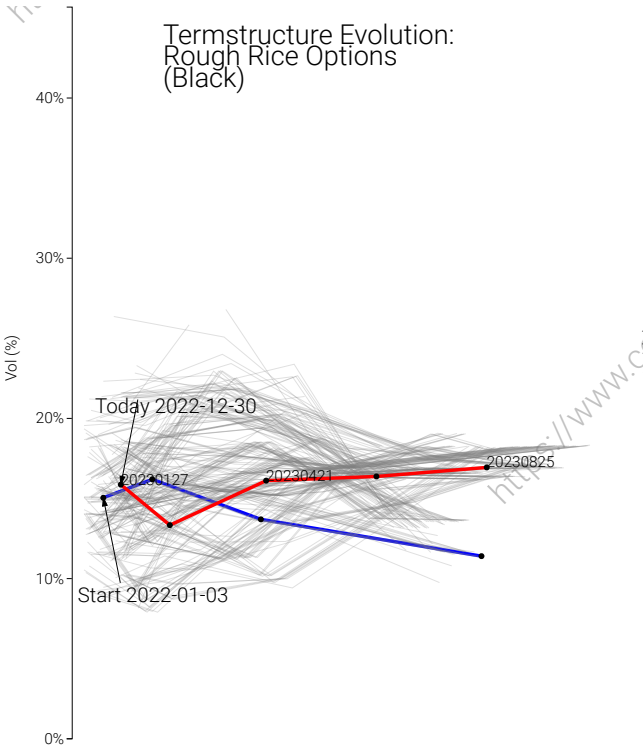


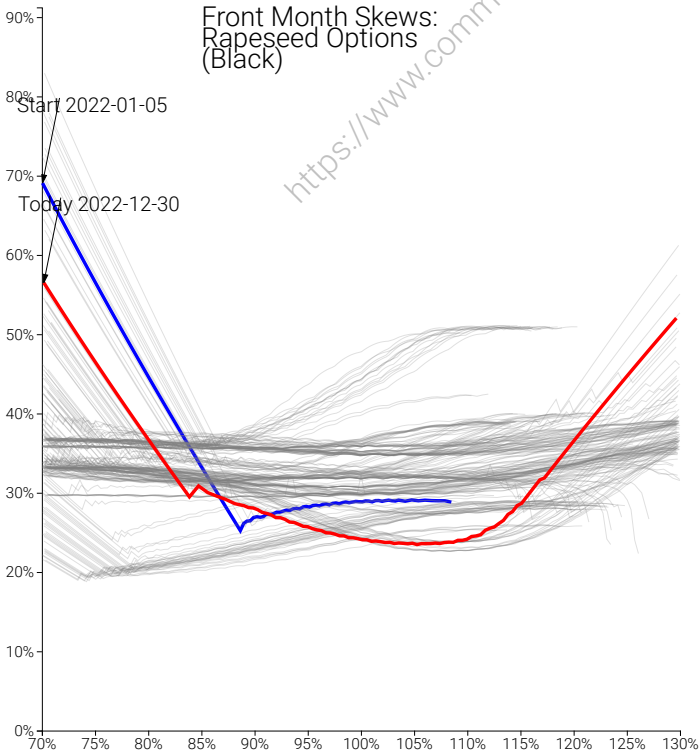
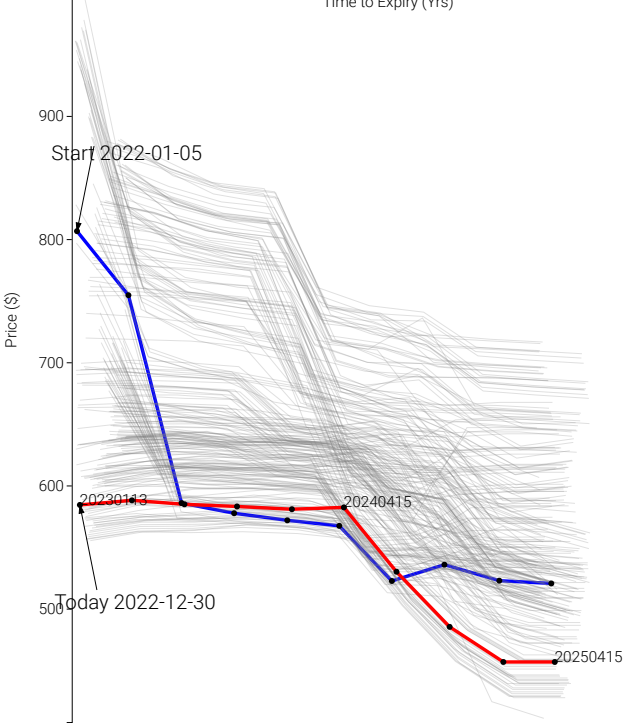
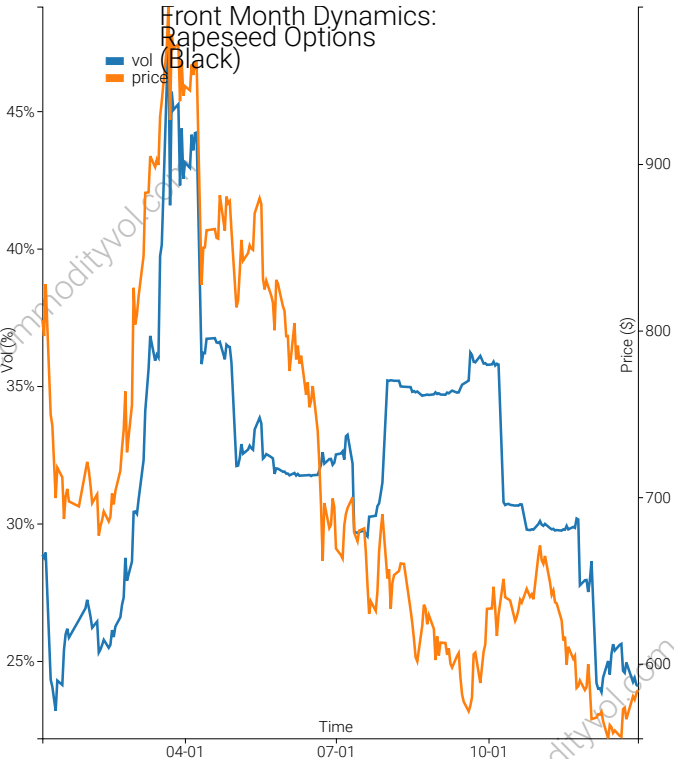
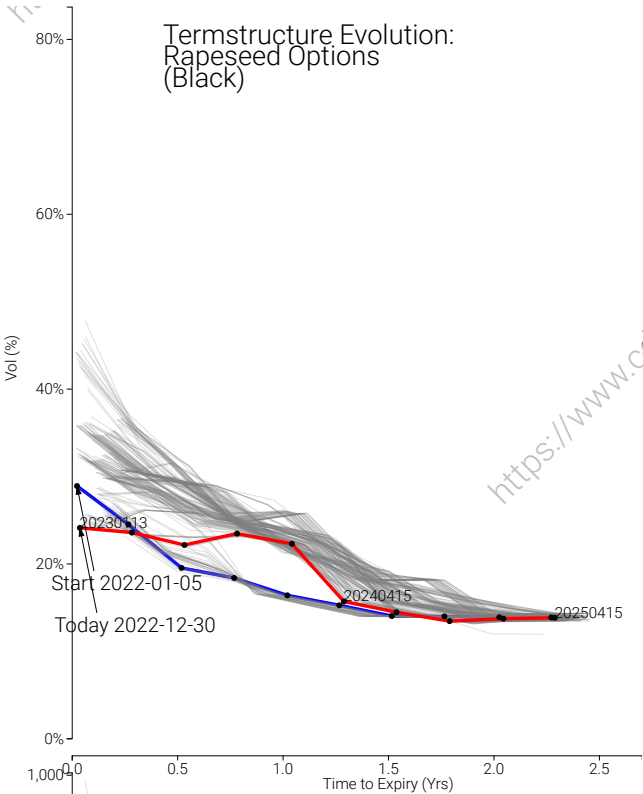




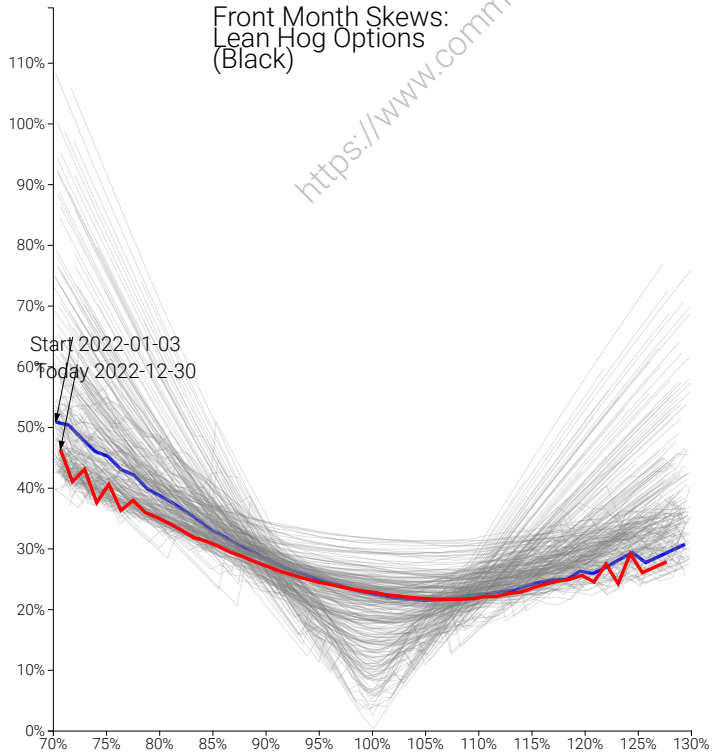
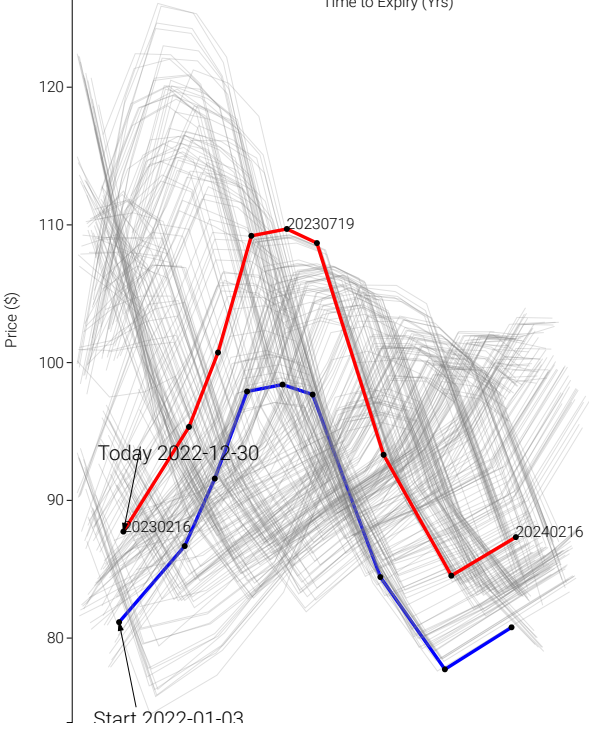
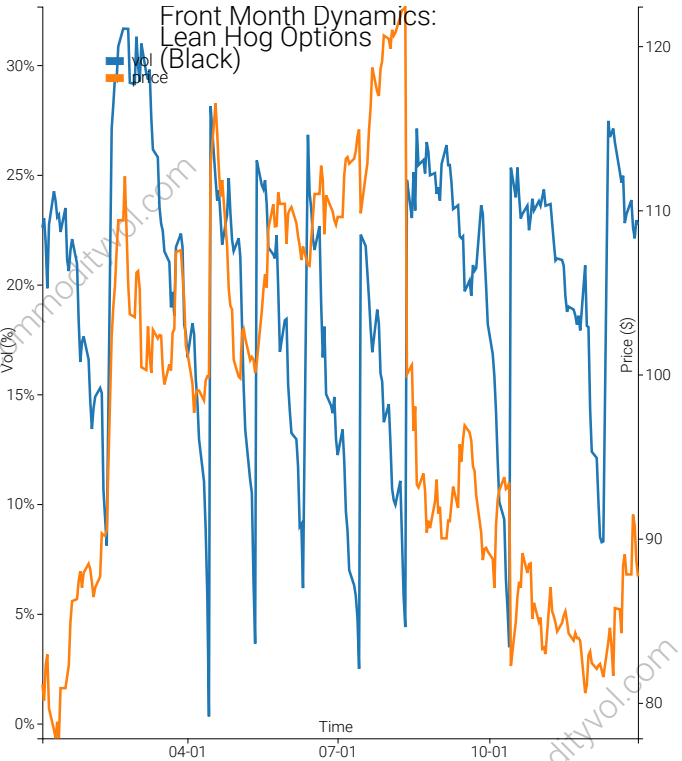
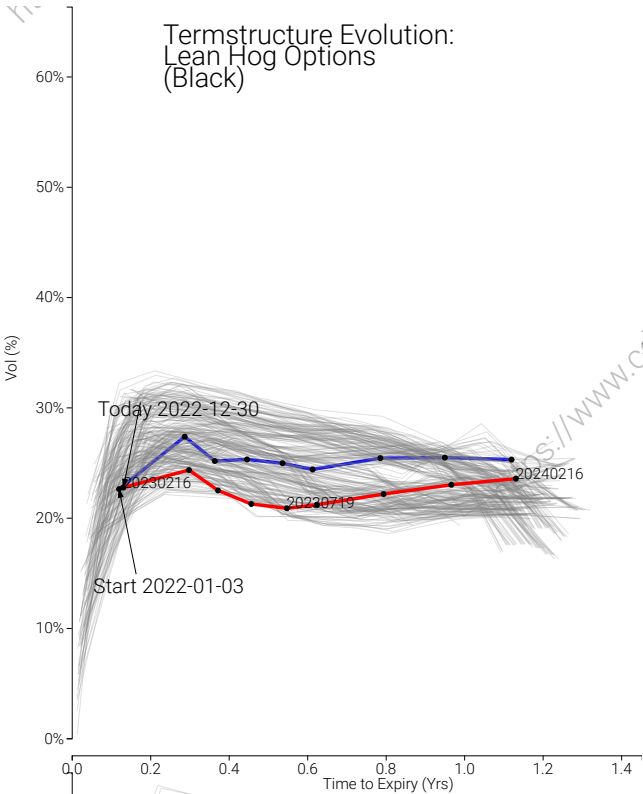


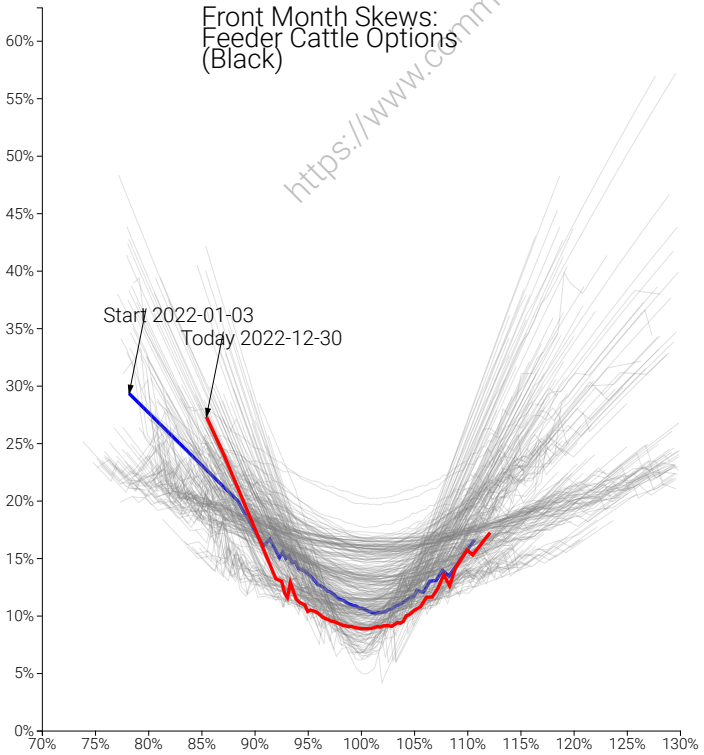
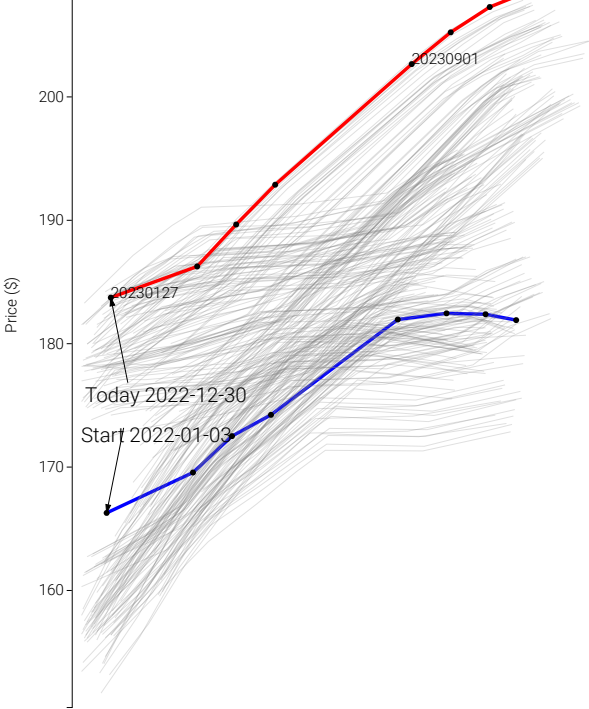
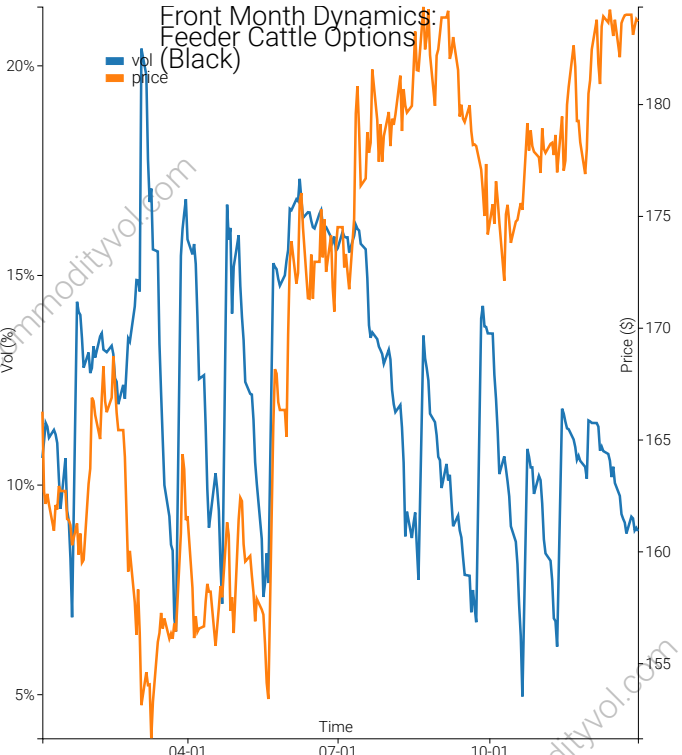
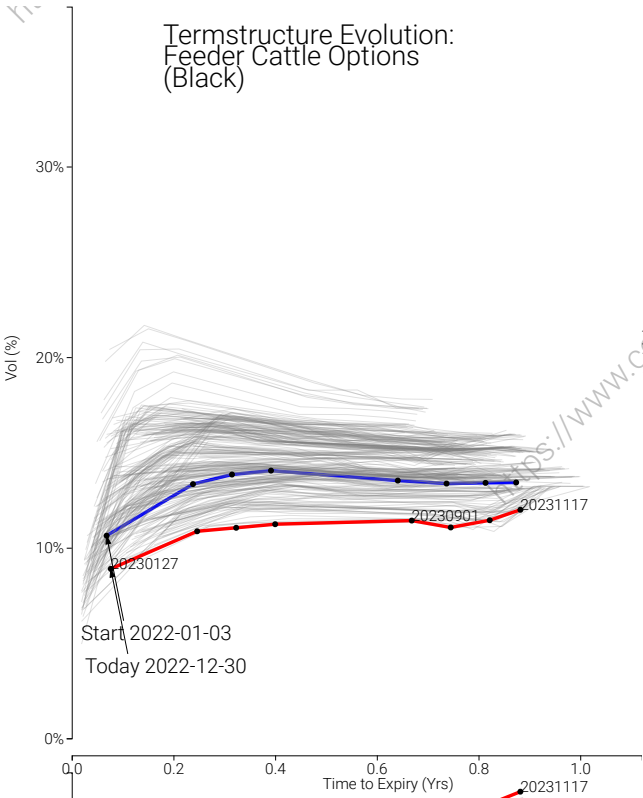


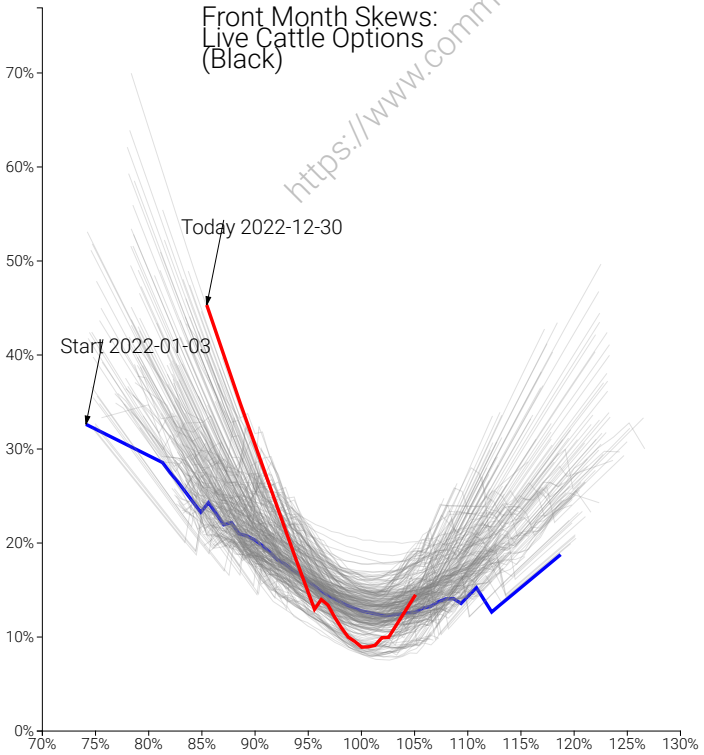
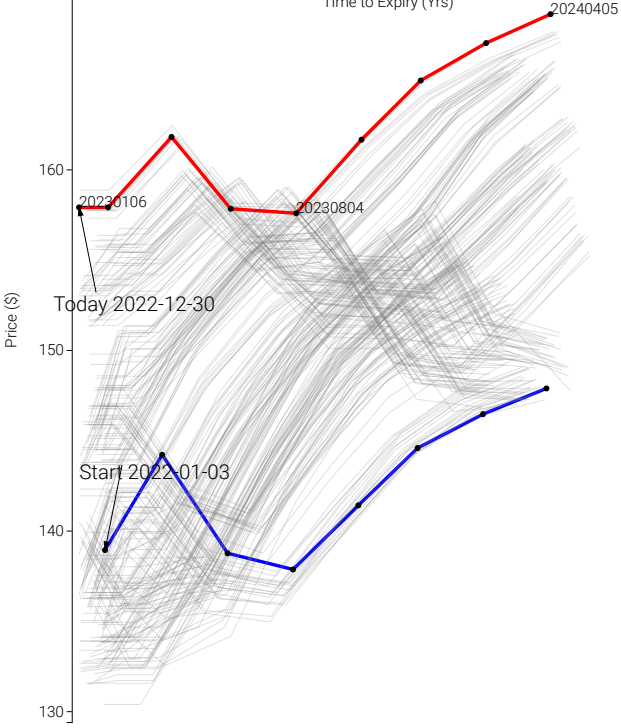
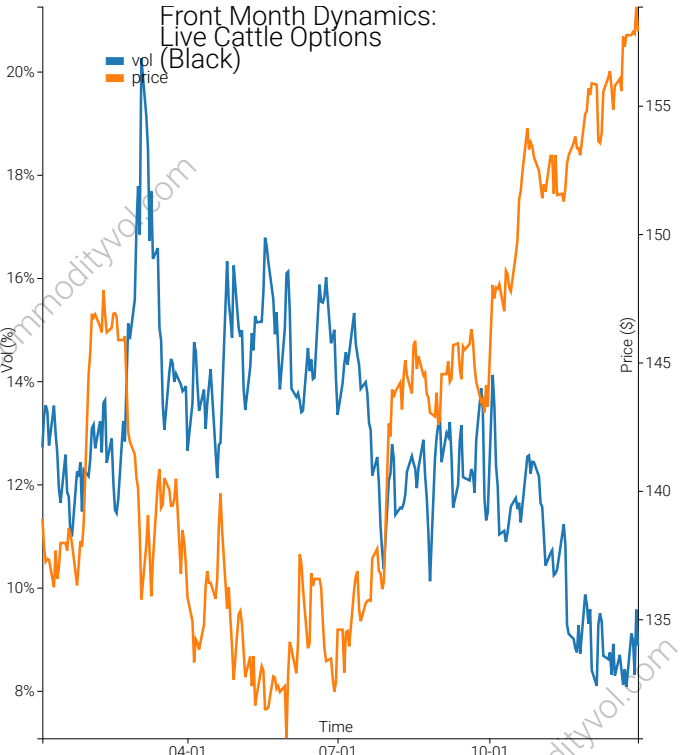
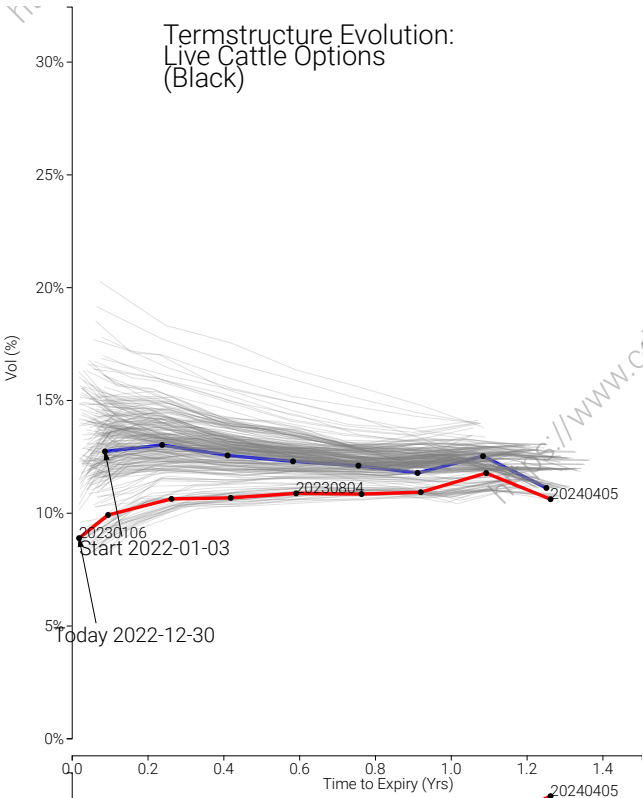


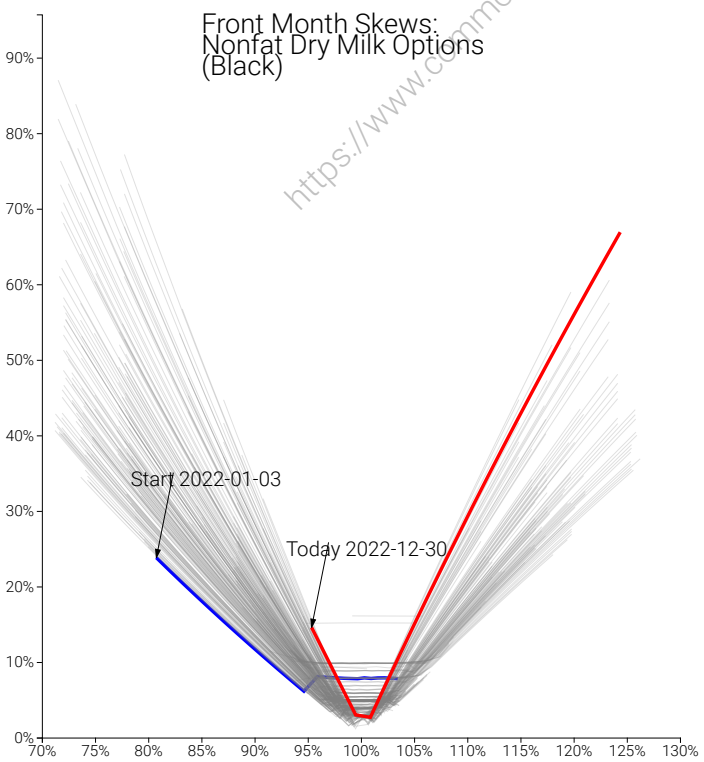
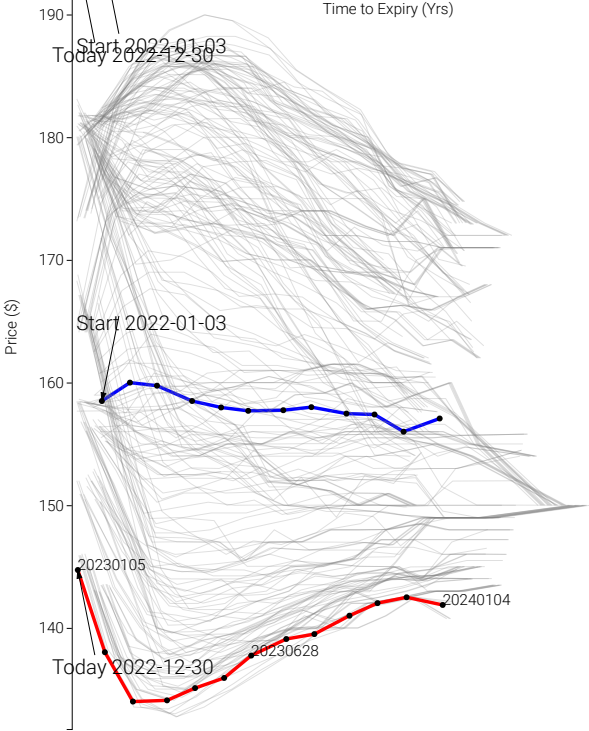
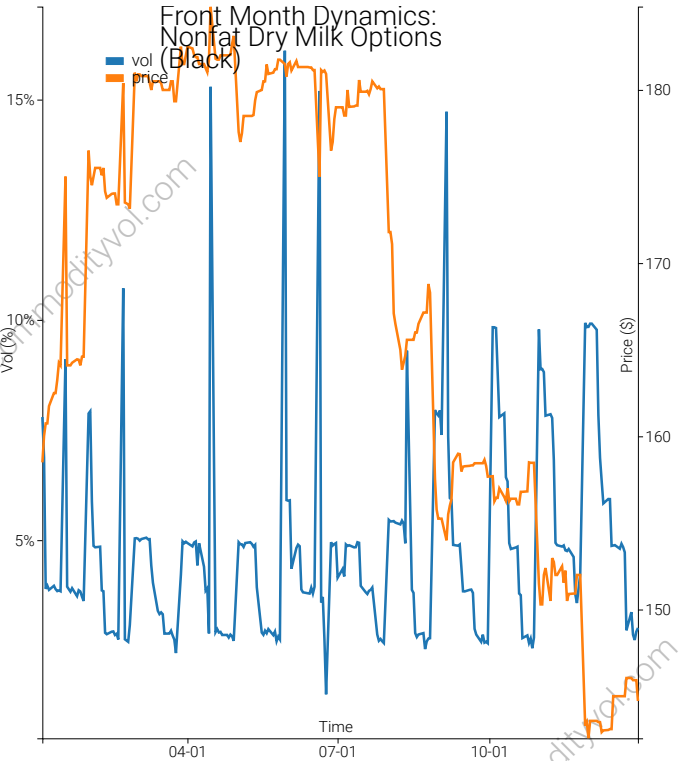
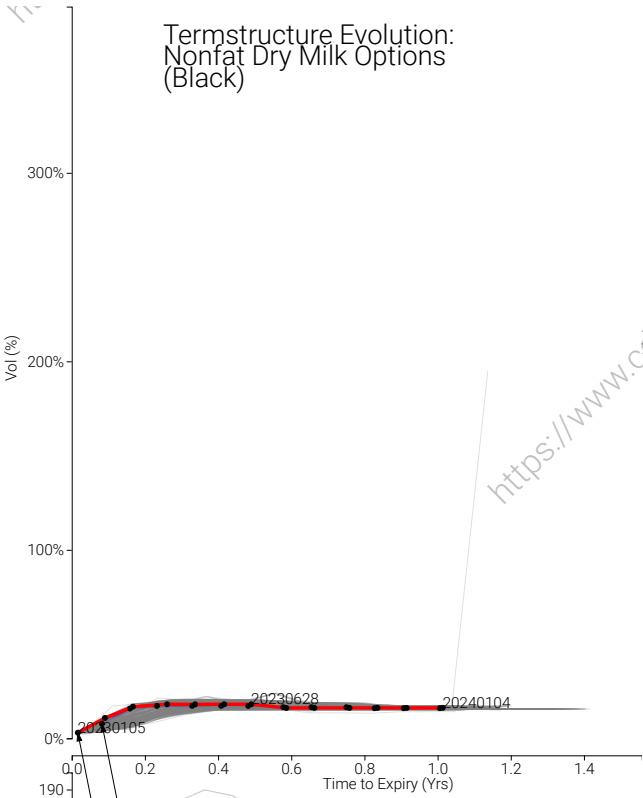


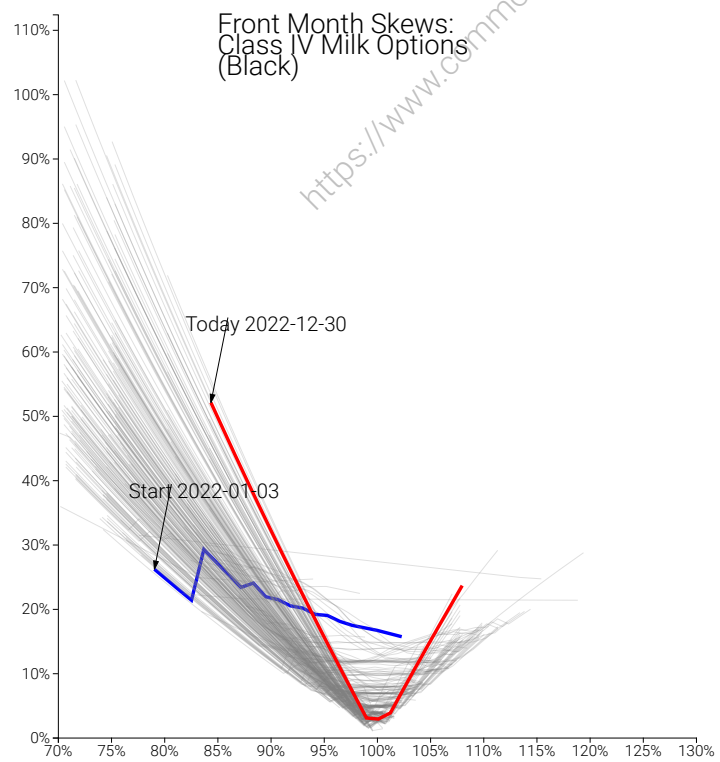
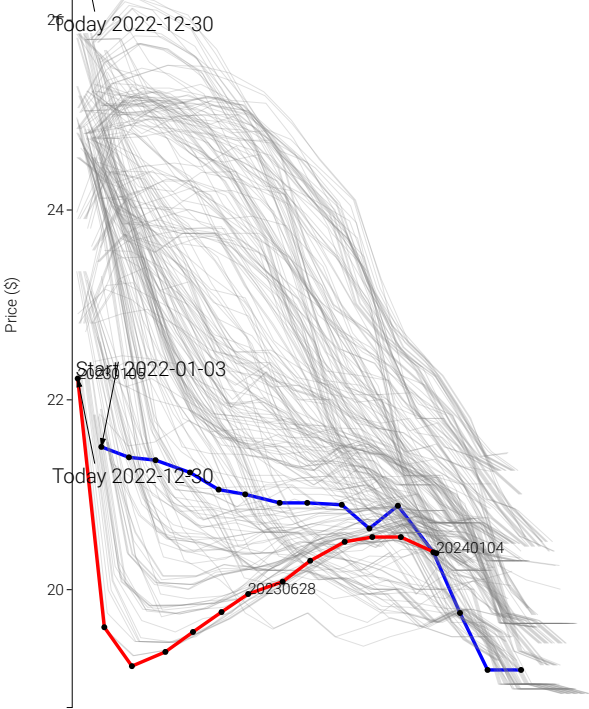
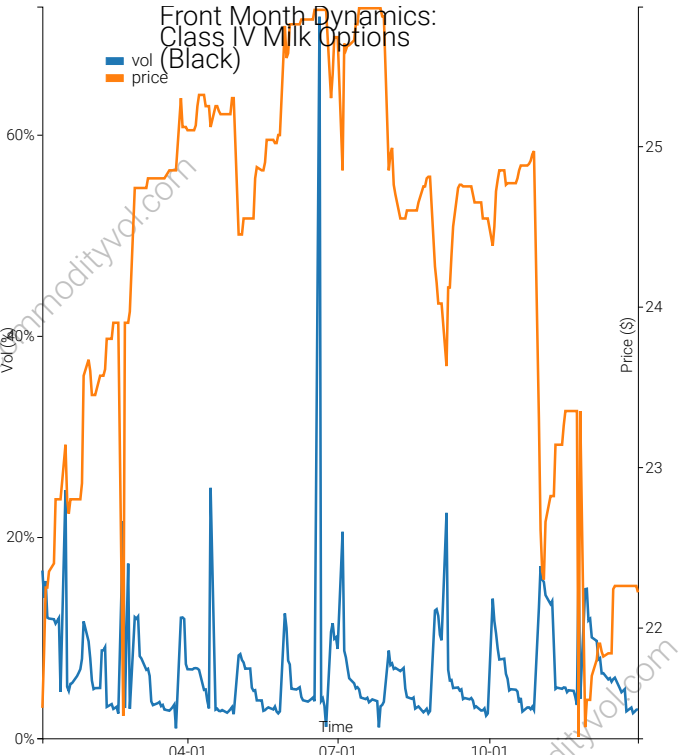
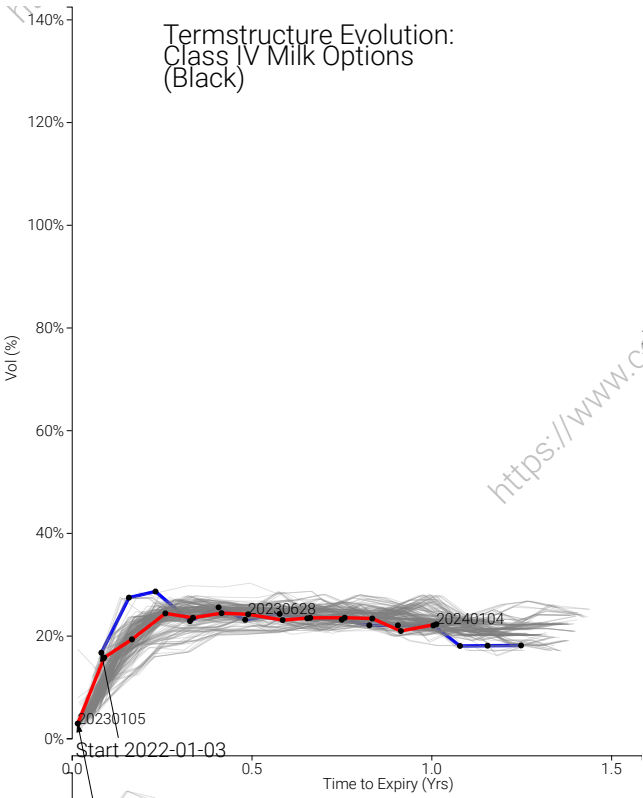
Ags: Proteins, Meats and so forth



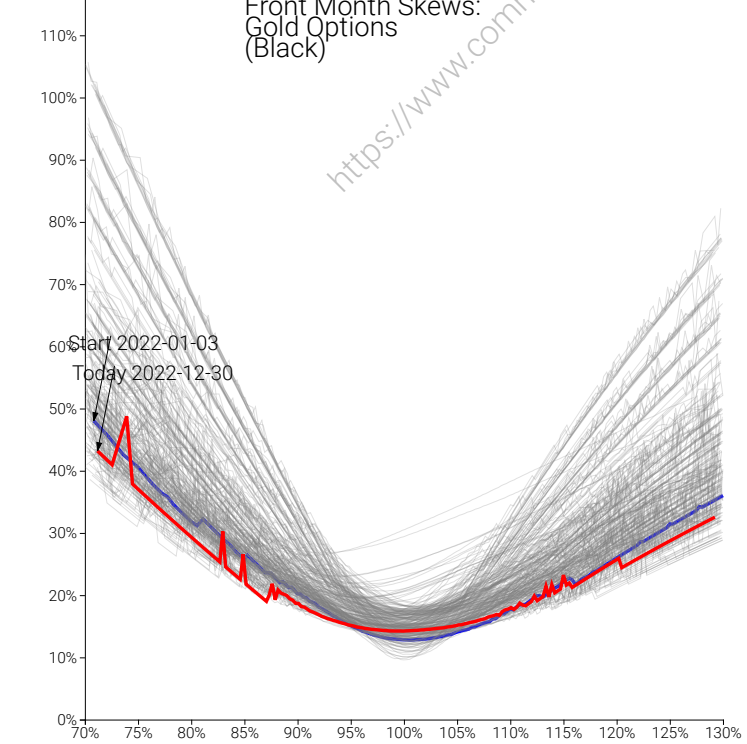
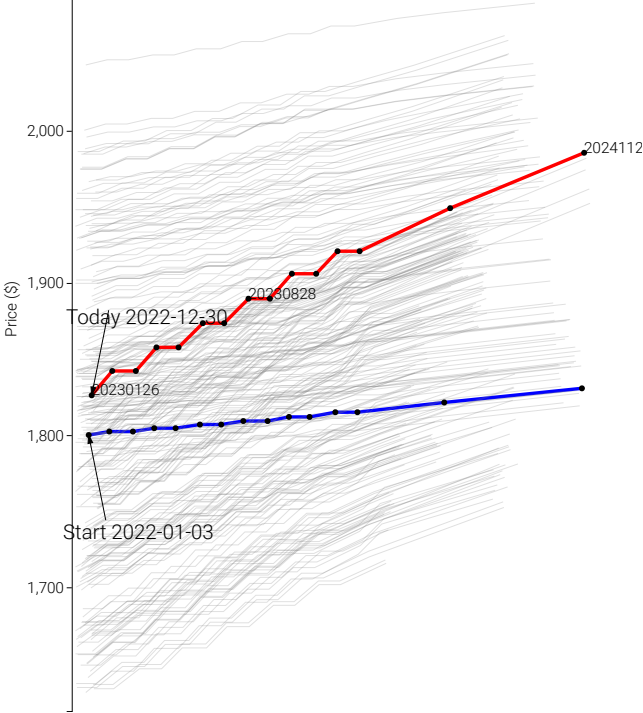
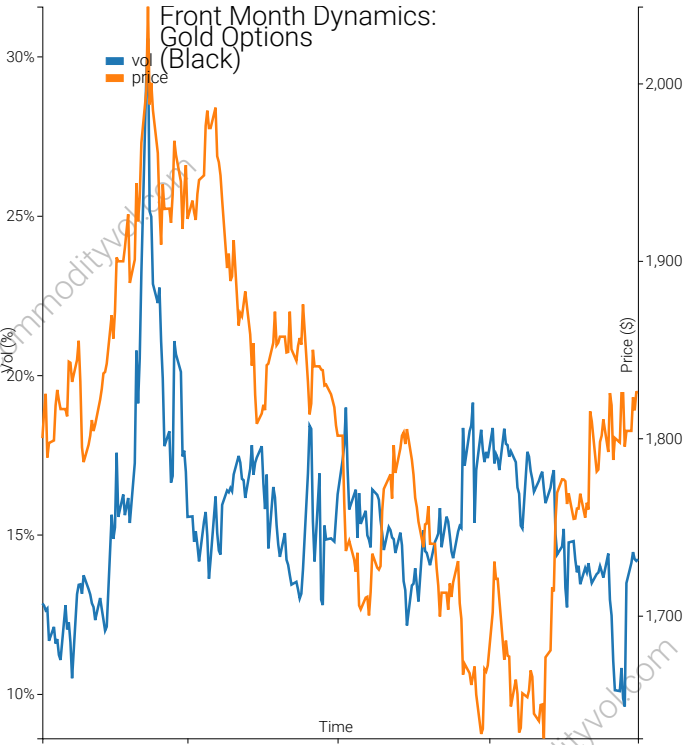
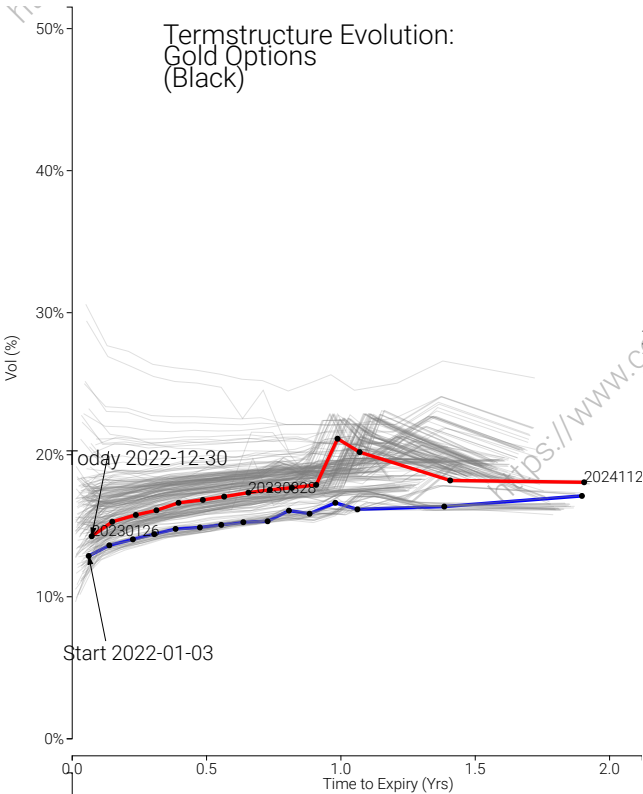


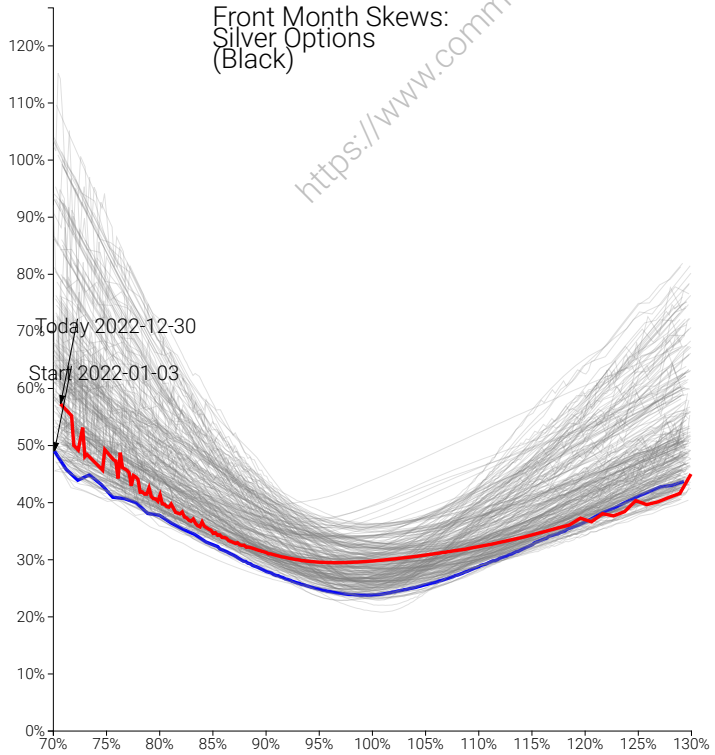
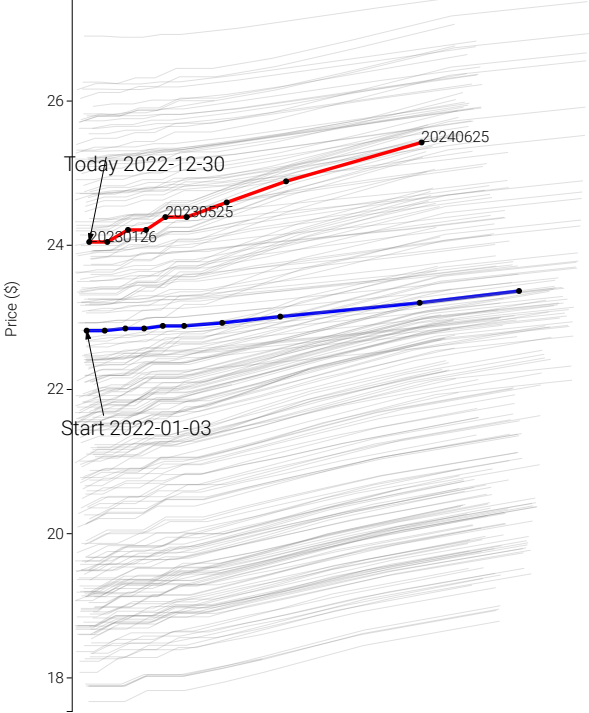
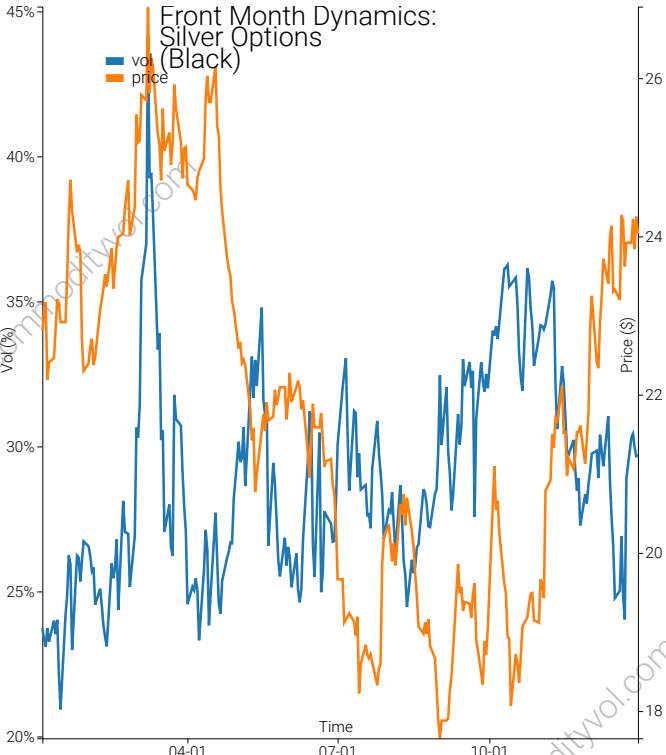
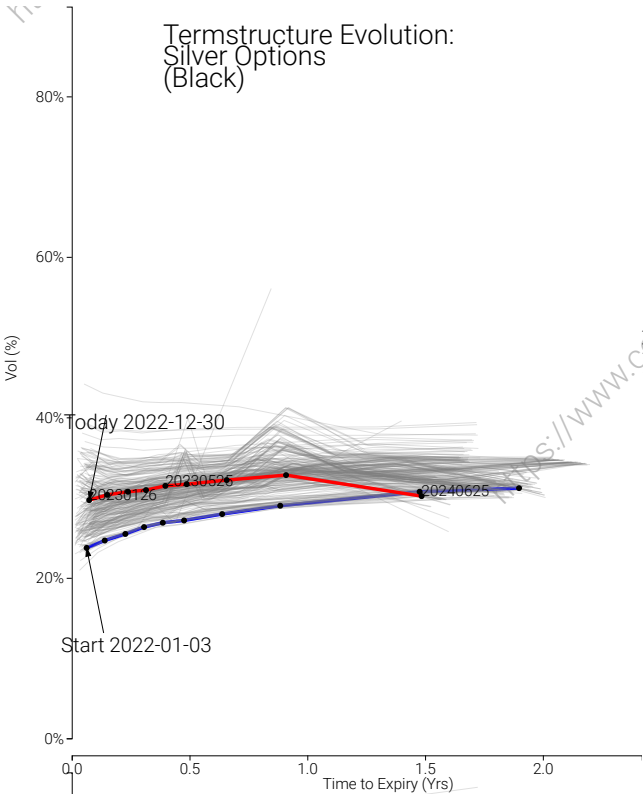


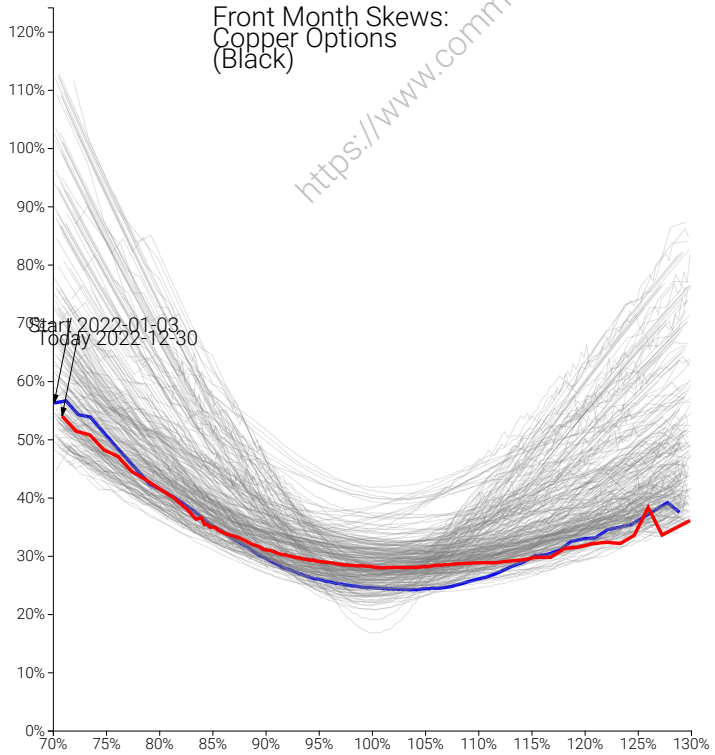
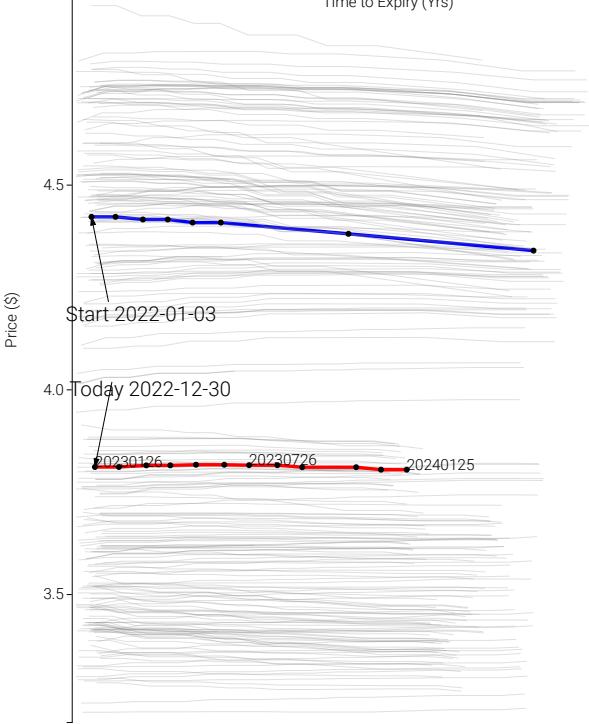
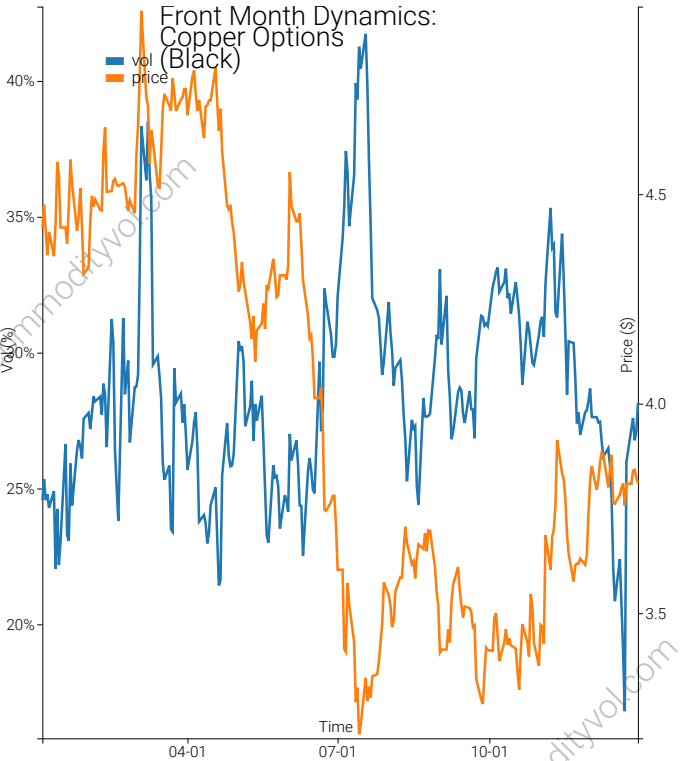
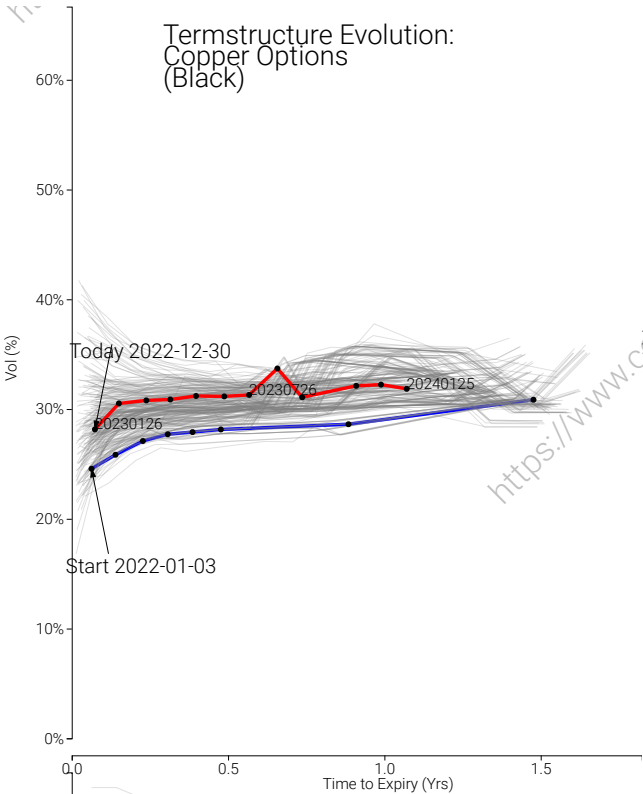


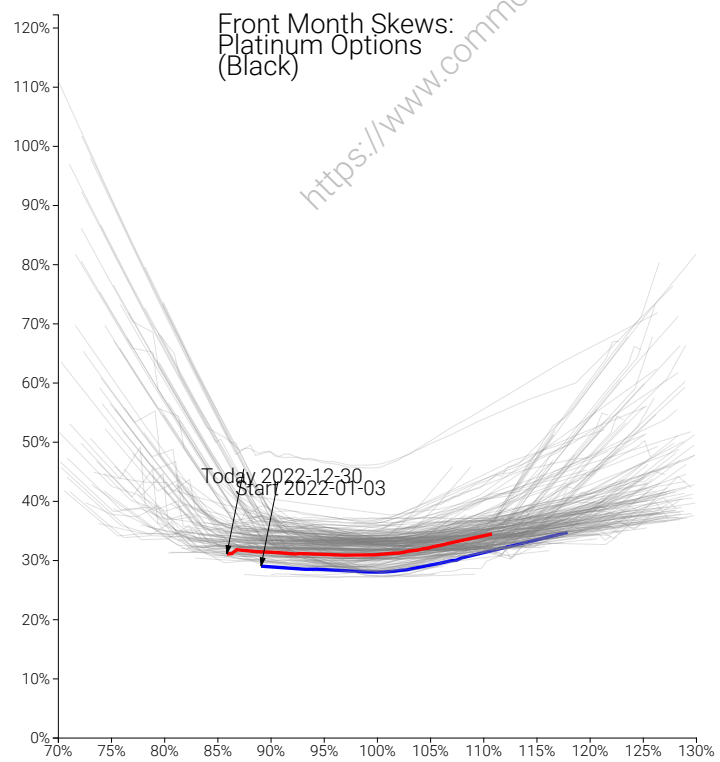
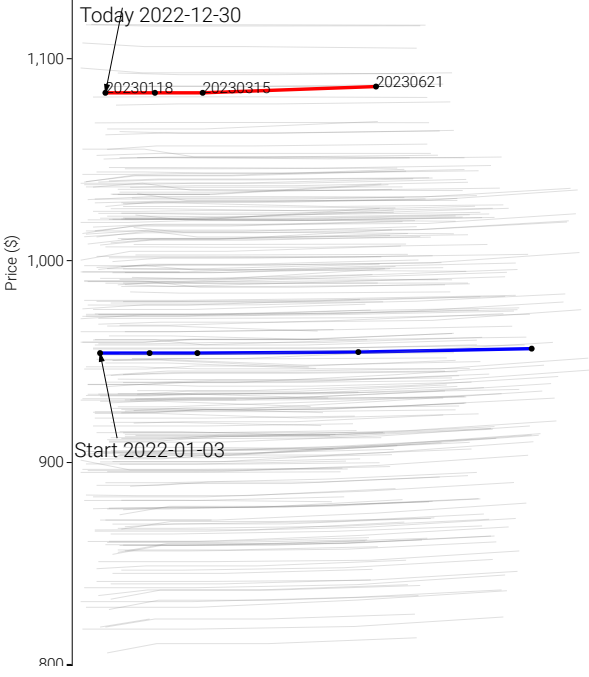
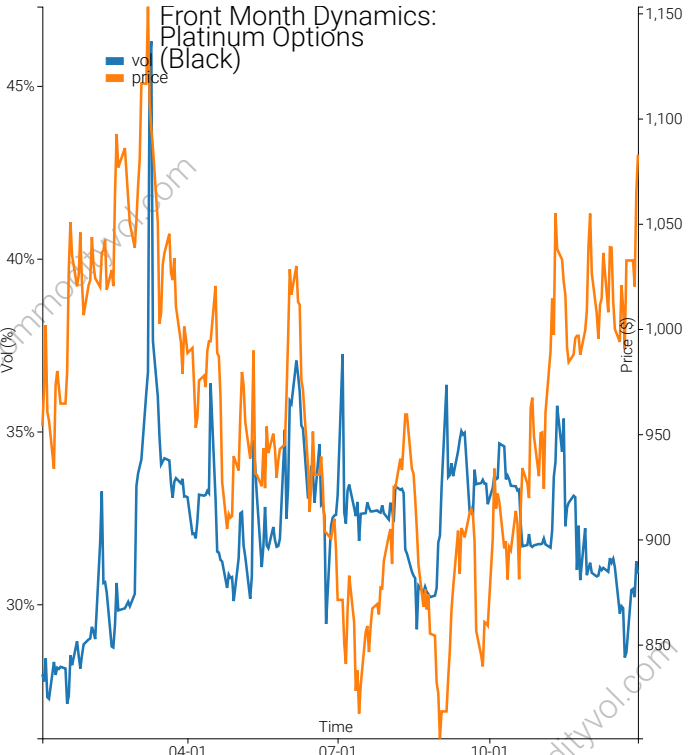
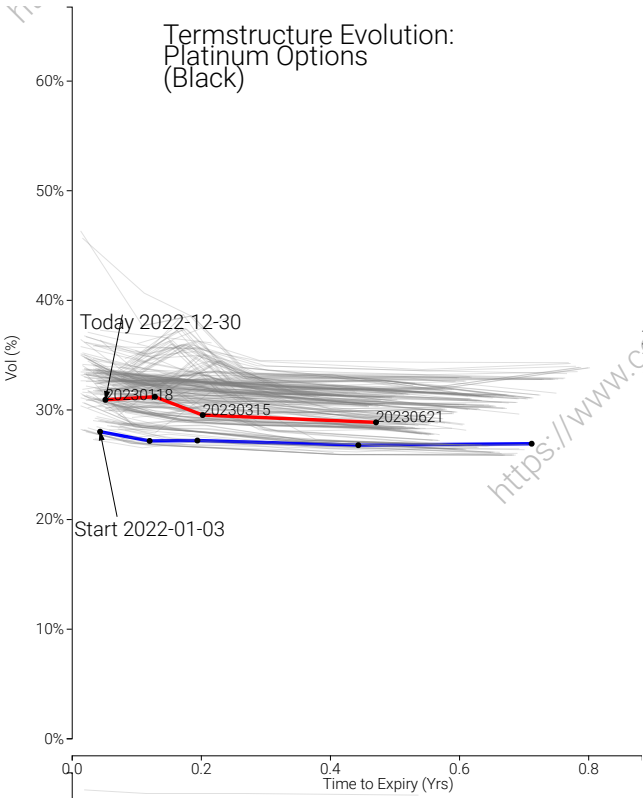


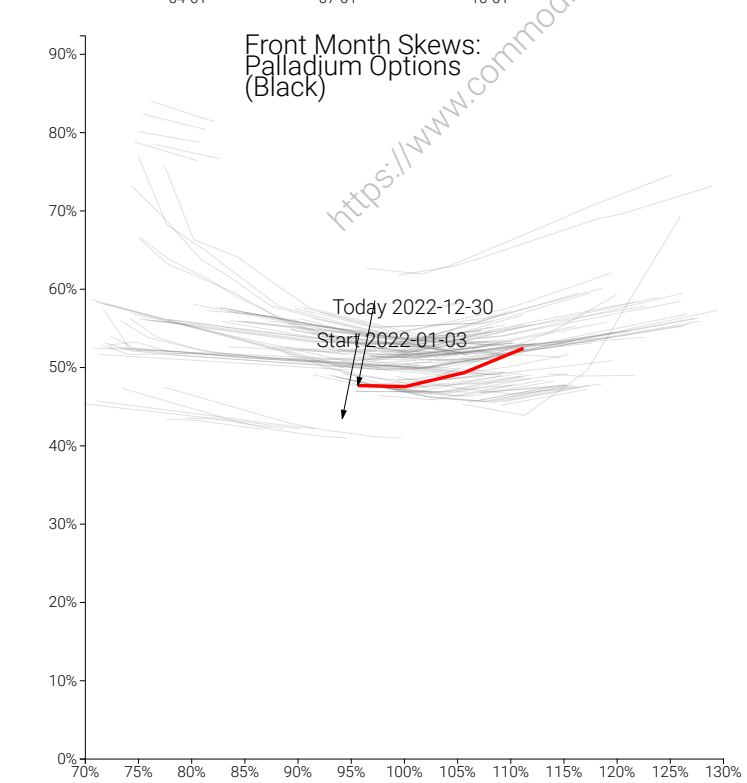
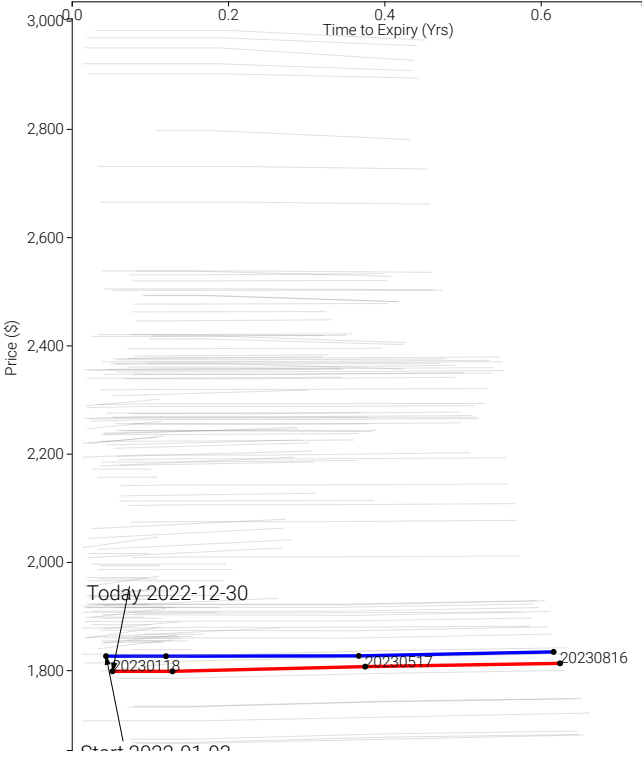
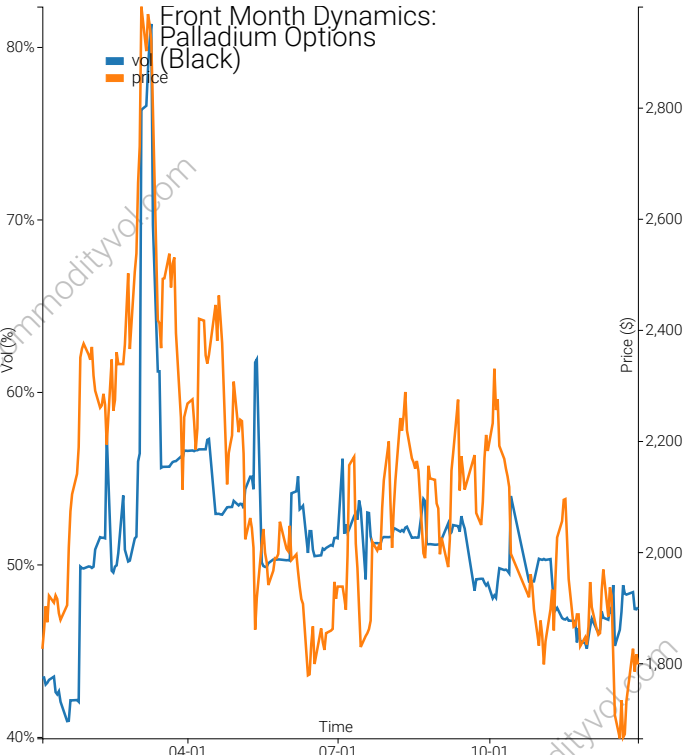
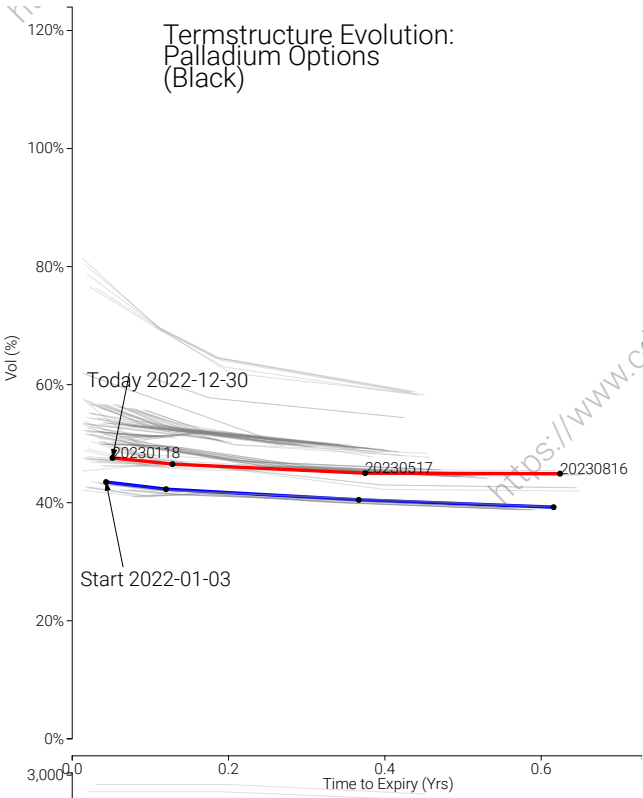
Metals









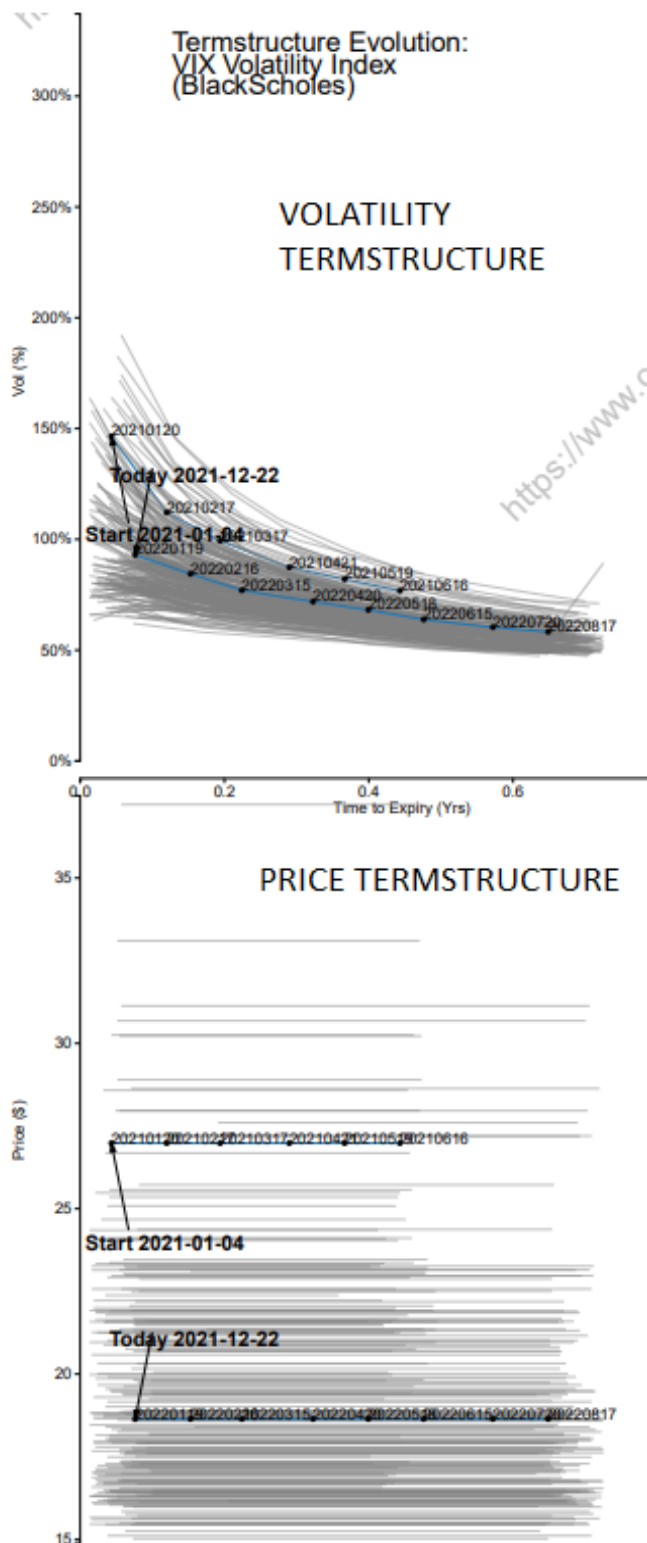


Explanation:

The document is composed of two parts. There is a tabular portion which summarizes the changes in front month futures prices and the changes in the at the money front month implied volatility. The results are presented as raw differences and percentage changes. The plots in this document try to give a feel for the evolution of the futures and options for each product type. The skew/termstructure/xyplots are broken out by major asset classes: Indexes, Fixed Income and so on.

At the Money Volatility and Price Term Structures:

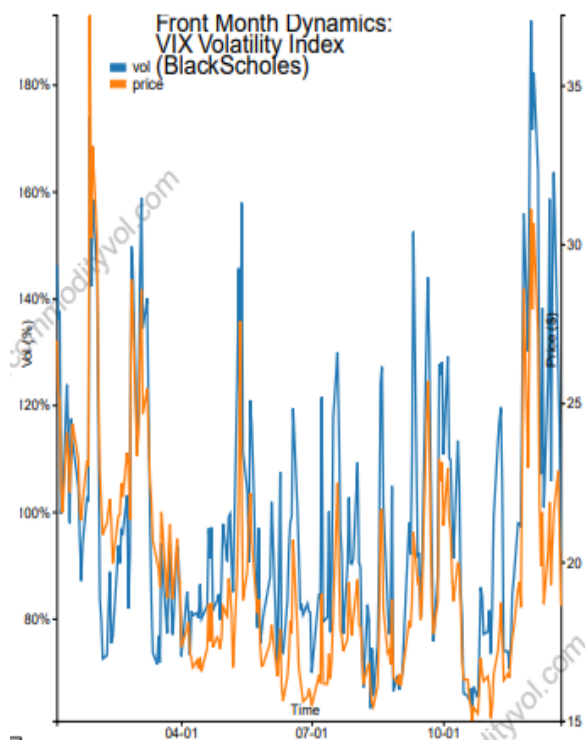
Stacked on top of the other on the left hand side, see the termstructures of vol and the (underlying) futures contract price.



The starting curve is the termstructure at the beginning of the period. This curve is labelled start and is typically colored blue. The ending curve is typically colored red and denoted by the text: Today. The greyed out lines are the termstructures for each day of the period. The hope is that the range of movements becomes apparent.

Front Month At the Money Volatility and Front Month Price Over the Year:

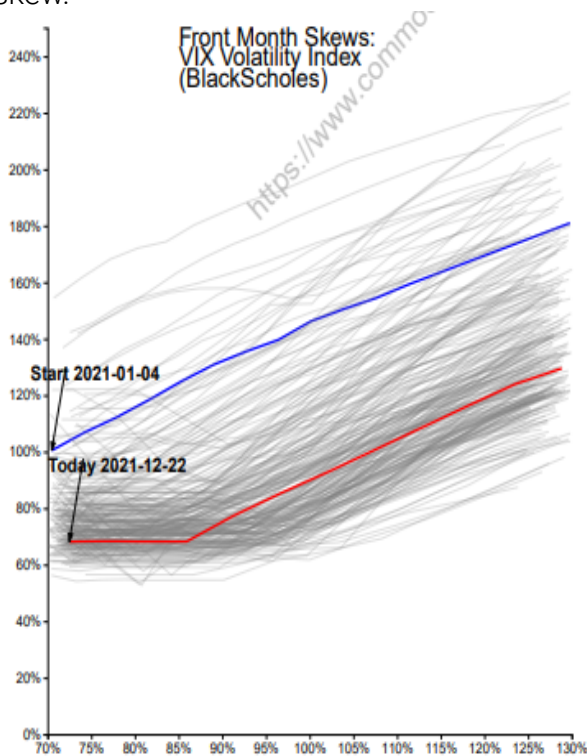
On the right hand panel we have the price and implied volatility of the front month contract.



At the money implied volatility is shown in blue and the axis on the left should be used to read off the values. The front month futures price is in orange and the right hand axis is where its value can be read.

Front Month Skew:

On the right hand in the bottom panel we have the starting front month skew and the ending front month skew.



The front month skew is shown for the starting date. The starting curve is labelled as 'Start' and captioned with the date. The starting curve is blue. Conversely, the ending curve is shown in red and labeled Today. The y-axis shows the implied volatility and the x-axis shows the moneyness. The moneyness is a way to normalize the skew so that it is comparable across time.

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