

Exam 2019

Leopoldo rewritten

1) Derive the GAS updating

We have

$$p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) = \left[2^{(1+\frac{1}{\nu})} \varphi_t \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \right]^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2}\right)$$

Such that

$$\log p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) = - \left[\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \log(2) + \log(\varphi_t) + \log(\Gamma(1 + \frac{1}{\nu})) \right] - \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2}$$

$$\log p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) \propto -\log(\varphi) - \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2}$$

Note that $\varphi > 0$ such that $|\varphi| = \varphi$

The score with respect to φ is

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2} &= \frac{1}{2} y_t^\nu \varphi_t^{-\nu} = \frac{1}{2} - \nu y_t^\nu \varphi_t^{-\nu-1} = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\nu \frac{y_t^\nu}{\varphi_t^{\nu+1}} \right) \\ \frac{\partial \log(p(y))}{\partial \varphi} &= -\frac{1}{\varphi} + \frac{\nu |y - \mu|^\nu}{2 \varphi^{\nu+1}} \\ &= \frac{1}{\varphi} \left(\frac{\nu |y - \mu|^\nu}{2 \varphi^\nu} - 1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Note that when $\nu = 2$ we obtain $\frac{1}{\varphi} \left[\frac{(y-\mu)^2}{\varphi^2} - 1 \right]$ which is the score of the gaussian distribution, as on L9S38.
The GAS-GED model is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_t &= \exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t) \rightarrow \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t}(\varphi_t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t}(\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)) \\ \tilde{\varphi}_t &= \omega + \alpha s_{t-1} + \beta \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1} \end{aligned}$$

Where

$$\begin{aligned} s_t &= \frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \\ &= \frac{\partial \varphi_t}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \varphi_t} \\ &= \underbrace{\frac{\partial \varphi_t}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t}}_{\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)} \frac{1}{\varphi} \left(\frac{\nu |y - \mu|^\nu}{2 \varphi^\nu} - 1 \right) \\ &= \exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t) \left[-\frac{1}{\varphi_t} + \nu \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2} \right] \\ &= \exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t) \left[-\frac{1}{\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)} + \nu \frac{\frac{|y_t|^\nu}{\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)^{\nu+1}}}{2} \right] \\ &= \left[-\frac{\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)}{\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)} + \nu \frac{1}{2} \frac{\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t) * |y_t|^\nu}{\exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)^{\nu+1}} \right] \\ &= -1 + \nu \frac{|y_t|^\nu}{2 \exp(\tilde{\varphi}_t)} \\ s_t(y_t, \nu, \tilde{\varphi}_t) &= \nu \frac{|y_t|^\nu}{2 \exp(\nu \tilde{\varphi}_t)} - 1 \end{aligned}$$

Further we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 E[S_t | F_{t-1}] &= \int s_t * p(y_t | F_{t-1}) dy_t \\
 &= \int \frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | F_{t-1}))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} p(y_t | F_{t-1}) dy_t \\
 &= \int \frac{\partial (p(y_t | F_{t-1}))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} * \frac{1}{p(y_t | F_{t-1})} * p(y_t | F_{t-1}) dy \\
 &= \int \frac{\partial (p(y_t | F_{t-1}))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} dy \\
 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \int (p(y_t | F_{t-1})) 1 dy \\
 &= \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} 1 = 0
 \end{aligned}$$

Also note that $E[s_t] = E[E[s_t | F_{t-1}]] = E[0] = 0$

2) Derive the log likelihood

$$\begin{aligned}
 p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) &= \left[2^{(1+\frac{1}{\nu})} \varphi_t \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \right]^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2}\right) \\
 \log(p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu)) &= \log\left(\left[2^{(1+\frac{1}{\nu})} \varphi_t \Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \right]^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2}\right)\right) \\
 &= -\log\left(2^{(1+\frac{1}{\nu})}\right) - \log(\varphi_t) - \log\left(\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right)\right) - \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2} \\
 &= -\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \log(2) - \log(\varphi_t) - \log\left(\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right)\right) - \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

The log likelihood is

$$\begin{aligned}
 L(y_{1:t} | \theta_t) &= \sum_{t=1}^T \left(-\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \log(2) - \log(\varphi_t) - \log\left(\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right)\right) - \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2} \right) \\
 &= -\sum_{t=1}^T \left(\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \log(2) + \log(\varphi_t) + \log\left(\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right)\right) + \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2} \right) \\
 &= -T \left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \log(2) - T \log\left(\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right)\right) - \sum_{t=1}^T \left(\log(\varphi_t) + \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2} \right) \\
 &= -T \left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right) \log(2) - T \log\left(\Gamma\left(1 + \frac{1}{\nu}\right)\right) - \sum_{t=1}^T \log(\varphi_t) - \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\left|\frac{y_t}{\varphi_t}\right|^\nu}{2}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\varphi_t = \varphi_t(\theta)$ and $\theta = (\omega, \alpha, \beta, \nu)'$

Constraints to impose that $\tilde{\varphi}_t$ is covariance stationary

$$\tilde{\varphi}_t = \omega + \alpha s_{t-1} + \beta \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}$$

Can be written as

$$\tilde{\varphi}_t = \frac{\omega}{1-\beta} + \alpha \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \beta^s s_{t-1-s}$$

First moment

$$\begin{aligned}
E[\tilde{\varphi}_t] &= E\left[\frac{\omega}{1-\beta} + \alpha \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^k s_{t-1-k}\right] \\
&= \frac{\omega}{1-\beta} + \alpha E\left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^k s_{t-1-k}\right] \\
&= \frac{\omega}{1-\beta} + \alpha \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^k E[s_{t-1-k}]
\end{aligned}$$

and sim

$$E[s_t] = 0$$

$$E[\tilde{\varphi}_t] = \frac{\omega}{1-\beta} < \infty$$

Second moment

$$\begin{aligned}
E[\tilde{\varphi}_t^2] &= E\left[\left(\frac{\omega}{1-\beta} + \alpha \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^k s_{t-1-k}\right)^2\right] \\
&= \left(\frac{\omega}{1-\beta}\right)^2 + \alpha^2 E\left[\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^k s_{t-1-k}\right)^2\right] + 2 * \left(\frac{\omega}{1-\beta}\right) * \left(\alpha E\left[\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^k s_{t-1-k}\right]\right) \\
&= \frac{\omega^2}{(1-\beta)^2} + \alpha^2 E\left[\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^k s_{t-1-k}\right) \left(\sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \beta^l s_{t-1-l}\right)\right] + \frac{2\alpha\omega}{1-\beta} \underbrace{\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} E[\beta^k s_{t-1-k}]}_{=0} \\
&= \frac{\omega^2}{(1-\beta)^2} + \alpha^2 E\left[\left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \beta^k \beta^l s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l}\right)\right] \\
&= \frac{\omega^2}{(1-\beta)^2} + \alpha^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \beta^k \beta^l E[(s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l})]
\end{aligned}$$

Conclusion

$$E[(s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l})] = \begin{cases} E[(s_{t-1-k}^2)] = e < \infty & \text{if } k = l \\ E[(s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l})] = 0 & \text{if } k \neq l \end{cases}$$

Assume $k < l$

$$\begin{aligned}
E[(s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l})] &= E[E[(s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l}) | F_{t-1-k}]] \\
&= E[s_{t-1-k} E[s_{t-1-l} | F_{t-1-k}]]
\end{aligned}$$

But

$$\begin{aligned}
E[(s_{t-1-k} | F_{t-1-k})] &= E[E[s_{t-1-l} | F_{t-2-l}] | F_{t-1-k}] \\
&= E[0 | F_{t-1-k}] = 0
\end{aligned}$$

if $k > l$ the same applies

$$E[(s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l})] = \begin{cases} e < \infty & \text{if } k = l \\ 0 & \text{if } k \neq l \end{cases}$$

Then

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} \beta^k \beta^l E[s_{t-1-k} s_{t-1-l}] = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \beta^{2k} e = \frac{e}{1-\beta^2}$$

and

$$E[\tilde{\varphi}_t^2] = \frac{\omega^2}{(1-\beta)^2} + \frac{\alpha^2 e}{1-\beta^2} < \infty \text{ if } |\alpha| < \infty, |\omega| < \infty, |\beta| < 1$$

The autocovariance

$$\begin{aligned} \text{cov}(\tilde{\varphi}_t, \tilde{\varphi}_{t-k}) &= E[\tilde{\varphi}_t \tilde{\varphi}_{t-k}] - E[\tilde{\varphi}_t] E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-k}] \\ &= E[\tilde{\varphi}_t \tilde{\varphi}_{t-k}] - \frac{\omega^2}{(1-\beta^2)} \end{aligned}$$

We have to study $E(\tilde{\varphi}_t \tilde{\varphi}_{t-k})$,
Consider the case $k = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} E[\tilde{\varphi}_t \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] &= E[(\omega + \alpha s_{t-1} + \beta \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}) \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] \\ &= \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] + \underbrace{\alpha E[s_{t-1} \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}]}_{=0} + \beta E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}^2] \end{aligned}$$

Consider the case $k = 2$

$$\begin{aligned} E[\tilde{\varphi}_t \tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] &= E[(\omega + \alpha s_{t-1} + \beta \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}) \tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] \\ &= \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] + \underbrace{\alpha E[s_{t-1} \tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}]}_{=0} + \beta E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1} \tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] \\ &= \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] + \beta (\omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] + \beta E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}^2]) \\ &= \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] + \beta \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] + \beta^2 E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}^2] \\ &= \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] + \beta \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] + \beta^2 E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}^2] \end{aligned}$$

However we know that $E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] = E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-2}] = \frac{\omega}{1-\beta}$

$$= \omega (E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}] + \beta E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}]) + \beta^2 E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}^2]$$

By iterative substitutions we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} E[\tilde{\varphi}_t \tilde{\varphi}_{t-h}] &= \omega E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}^2] \sum_{e=0}^{h-1} \beta^e + \beta^h E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}^2] \\ &= \frac{\omega^2}{1-\beta} \sum_{e=0}^{h-1} \beta^e + \beta^h \left[\frac{\omega^2}{(1-\beta)^2} + \frac{\alpha^2 e}{1-\beta^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

which does not depend from t

So conditions for the covariance stationarity are $|\beta| < 1, |\omega| < \infty, |\alpha| < \infty$

Leopoldo finished

1 Theoretical part

1.1 Derive the GAS updating for φ_t

In general the updating step in GAS model with no scaling is

$$\psi_t = \psi(y_{1:t-1}) \quad (1)$$

$$= \omega + \alpha u_{t-1} + \beta \psi_{t-1} \quad (2)$$

Where ψ_t is the variable of interest, and the one we seek to filter out, and where

$$u_t = \nabla_t = \frac{\partial \log p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \psi)}{\partial \psi} \quad (3)$$

which is the unscaled score of the conditional distribution. The general idea is to use this score of the conditional distribution to give the direction update step. In some applications it is convenient to introduce a link function, such that we restrict our variable in some way. In this particular exercise for the GAS-GED model, we want to

have the scale parameter φ_t which is the variable of interest, is positive. We impose this restriction by introducing an exponential line equation such that:

$$\varphi_t = \exp(\bar{\varphi}_t) \quad (4)$$

$$\bar{\varphi}_t = \omega + \alpha \tilde{u}_{t-1} + \beta \bar{\varphi}_{t-1} \quad (5)$$

with $\tilde{u}_t \equiv s_t$ as stated in exercise, where

$$s_t = \frac{\partial \log p(y_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}; \tilde{\varphi}, \nu, \mu)}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} = \frac{\partial \log p(y_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}; \tilde{\varphi}, \nu, \mu)}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \frac{\partial \varphi_t}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \quad (6)$$

is the score of $Y_t | F_{t-1}$ with respect to $\tilde{\varphi}$. This means that in this exercise we need to find the logarithm to the PDF of the conditional distribution of Y_t given information up through time $t-1$, F_{t-1} which is the generalized error distribution, i.e. $Y_t | F_{t-1} \sim GED(0, \varphi, \nu)$ (Note that $\mu = 0$. with $\mu = 0$ the pdf is

$$p(y_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) = \left[2^{(1+1/\nu)} \varphi_t \Gamma(1 + 1/\nu) \right]^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{|y_t/\varphi_t|^\nu}{2}\right) \quad (7)$$

and log-transformed it is:

$$\begin{aligned} \log(p(y_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu)) &= \log\left(\left[2^{(1+1/\nu)} \varphi_t \Gamma(1 + 1/\nu)\right]^{-1} \exp\left(-\frac{|y_t/\varphi_t|^\nu}{2}\right)\right) \\ &= -\log\left(2^{(1+1/\nu)}\right) - \log(\varphi_t) - \log(\Gamma(1 + 1/\nu)) - \frac{|y_t/\varphi_t|^\nu}{2} \\ &= -(1 + 1/\nu)\log(2) - \log(\varphi_t) - \log(\Gamma(1 + 1/\nu)) - \frac{|y_t/\varphi_t|^\nu}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Let us now find s_t by using the chain rule and then insert $\varphi_t = \exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)$

$$\begin{aligned} s_t &= \frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \bar{\varphi}_t} \quad (9) \\ &= \frac{\partial \varphi_t}{\partial \bar{\varphi}_t} \frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \varphi_t} \\ &= \underbrace{\frac{\partial \varphi_t}{\partial \bar{\varphi}_t}}_{\exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)} \frac{1}{\varphi} \left(\frac{\nu}{2} \frac{|y - \mu|^\nu}{\varphi^\nu} - 1 \right) \\ &= \exp(\bar{\varphi}_t) \left[-\frac{1}{\varphi_t} + \nu \frac{|y_t|^\nu}{2 \varphi_t^{v+1}} \right] \\ &= \exp(\bar{\varphi}_t) \left[-\frac{1}{\exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)} + \nu \frac{|y_t|^\nu}{2 \exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)^{v+1}} \right] \\ &= \left[-\frac{\exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)}{\exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)} + \nu \frac{1}{2} \frac{\exp(\bar{\varphi}_t) * |y_t|^\nu}{\exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)^{v+1}} \right] \\ &= -1 + \nu \frac{1}{2} \frac{|y_t|^\nu}{\exp(\bar{\varphi}_t)} \\ s_t(y_t, \nu, \bar{\varphi}_t) &= \nu \frac{|y_t|^\nu}{2 \exp(\nu \bar{\varphi}_t)} - 1 \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

Now we have everything we need in order to formalise the updating step for the GAS-GED model

$$\varphi_t = \exp(\bar{\varphi}_t) \quad (11)$$

$$\bar{\varphi}_t = \omega + \alpha \tilde{u}_{t-1} + \beta \bar{\varphi}_{t-1} \quad (12)$$

$$s_t = \nu \frac{|y_t|^\nu}{2 \exp(\nu \bar{\varphi}_t)} - 1 \quad (13)$$

In order to find the unconditional expected value of $s_t, E[s_t]$ we consider s_t in its general expression $s_t = \frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t}$

$$E[s_t] = E \left[\frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \right] \quad (14)$$

We compute the expectation by using the PDF of y_t in the conditional distribution, since s_t is the score of the conditional distribution

$$\begin{aligned} E[s_t] &= \int_y \frac{\partial \log(p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) dy \\ &= \int_y \frac{\partial (p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} * \frac{1}{p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu)} p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) dy \\ &= \int_y \frac{\partial (p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu))}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} dy \\ &= \frac{\partial \int_y (p(y_t | y_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu)) dy}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \\ &= \frac{\partial 1}{\partial \tilde{\varphi}_t} \\ &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we can find $E[s_t | F_{t-1}]$ by using the argument that s_t is the score of the conditional distribution, meaning that conditioning again on the same information set will give us $E(s_t)$ by the law of iterated expectation. That is:

$$E[s_t | F_{t-1}] = E(s_t) = 0$$

1.2 Log-likelihood and parameter restrictions

In question 1, we have already established the individual log-likelihood contribution as

$$\log p(y_t | \mathbf{y}_{1:t-1}; \varphi_t, \nu) = -[(1 + 1/\nu) \log(2) + \log(\varphi_t) + \log(\Gamma(1 + 1/\nu))] - \frac{|y_t/\varphi_t|^\nu}{2}$$

Adding up, we get the log-likelihood function where we note that φ_t is a function of (ω, α, β) such that the log-likelihood is also a function of these parameters

$$\log L(\omega, \alpha, \beta, \nu) = \sum_{t=1}^T \left(-[(1 + 1/\nu) \log(2) + \log(\varphi_t) + \log(\Gamma(1 + 1/\nu))] - \frac{|y_t/\varphi_t|^\nu}{2} \right) \quad (15)$$

$$= -T(1 + 1/\nu) \log(2) - T \log(\Gamma(1 + 1/\nu)) - \sum_{t=1}^T \left(\log(\varphi_t) + \frac{|y_t/\varphi_t|^\nu}{2} \right) \quad (16)$$

This function must be numerically maximized with respect to the parameters ω, α, β and ν . Let us now look at the parameter constraints needed. In order to establish covariance stationarity of the sequence $\tilde{\varphi}_t$ we must have that the mean and variance of $\tilde{\varphi}_t$ is constant over time

$$E[\tilde{\varphi}_t] = E[\tilde{\varphi}_{t+h}] = \mu_{\tilde{\varphi}} < \infty \quad (17)$$

$$\text{Var}(\tilde{\varphi}_t) = \text{Var}(\tilde{\varphi}_{t+h}) = \sigma_{\tilde{\varphi}}^2 \in (0; \infty) \quad (18)$$

The expected value of $\tilde{\varphi}_t$

$$\begin{aligned} E(\tilde{\varphi}_t) &= E(\omega + \alpha s_{t-1} + \beta \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}) \\ &= \omega + \beta E(\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}) \\ E(\tilde{\varphi}) &= \frac{\omega}{1 - \beta} \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

In order for this to be finite, we need to impose $\beta \neq 1$. The variance of $\tilde{\varphi}_t$ is

$$\begin{aligned} Var(\tilde{\varphi}_t) &= Var(\omega + \alpha s_{t-1} + \beta \tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}) \\ &= \alpha^2 Var(s_t) + \beta^2 Var(\tilde{\varphi}_{t-1}) \\ Var(\tilde{\varphi}) &= \frac{\alpha^2 E(s_t^2)}{1 - \beta^2} \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

If we assume that $E[s_t^2] < \infty$, we need to restrict $|\beta| < 1$ in order to have a finite positive variance. This means that the two restrictions we need to make are

$$v > 0 \text{ and } |\beta| < 1$$

1.3 Scale parameter response to special cases

Let us write the two functions;

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(y_t) &= s(y_t, 1, 0) = \frac{|y_t|}{2} - 1 \\ f_2(y_t) &= s(y_t, 2, 0) = y_t^2 - 1 \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

Let us compare the value of two and see when one is bigger than the other. We have $f_1(y_t) > f_2(y_t)$ if

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|y_t|}{2} - 1 &> y_t^2 - 1 \\ \frac{|y_t|}{2} &> y_t^2 \\ |y_t| &< \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

Intuitively, this makes sense as v indicates the fat of the tails. For $v = 1$ the tails are fatter than for $v = 2$. In a distribution with fatter tails, we will have that the scale parameter will respond the most (for a given α at least) if we observe $|y_t| < \frac{1}{2}$ since it has less probability mass close to the mean (of zero), which means that it will correct its scale/variance relatively more than the distribution with thinner tails and, hence, more probability mass around its mean. In contrast, we see that for $|y_t| > \frac{1}{2}$ the thinner-tailed distribution will have to correct its scale (and hence variance) the most, in order to make the observation more “likely” to occur.

2 Computational part

2.1 Estimation of GAS-GED

In order to estimate a GAS-GED model, I have written two central codes. One that filter the scale parameter and, hence, the standard deviation for given parameter values and data. Another that uses maximum likelihood to estimate the parameter values in the filter. I have commented a bit on the input and outputs of each function in the R code. However, I want to comment on a particular decision of mine here. I have initialized the recursions for the scales by setting the standard deviation equal to the sample standard deviation estimated from the first 150 observations of the process. This is done for two reasons: Firstly, in the empirical part, we want to compare the filtered volatilities from a GAS-GED model with those from a GARCH(1,1) estimated by the `ugarchfit` function in the `rugarch` package. This function initializes the process, by default, to the sample variance based on the whole sample. However, as mentioned later, I have changed this as well. Secondly, the variance seem to increase significantly towards the financial crises such that initializing the process by the sample variance based on the whole sample, will be a very misleading guess on the initial variance.

$$\sigma = 2^{\frac{1}{v}} \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma(\frac{3}{v})}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{v})}} \varphi \quad (23)$$

$$\tilde{\psi}_t = \omega + \beta * \tilde{\psi}_{t-1} + \alpha * \underbrace{\left(\frac{|y_{t-1}|^v}{\tilde{\psi}_{t-1}^v} - 1 \right)}_{s_{t-1}} \quad (24)$$