

TOWARDS A FRAMEWORK FOR OPERATIONAL RISK IN THE BANKING  
SECTOR

by

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## ABSTRACT

Towards a Framework for Operational Risk  
in the Banking Sector

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There have been a series of destructive events that have threatened the stability of the financial system due to (OpRisk). In most, if not all of these cases, human error is at the center of the chain of events that lead or may lead to (OpRisk) losses. There are many attitudes that can potentially infect organisational processes, the most persistent of these attitudes stem from human failings that are exploitable Barberis & Thaler (2003), thus forming a basis for the theoretical foundation of OpRisk.

Shefrin (2016) notes that people would rather incur greater risks to hold on to things they already have, than the risks they would taken to get into that position in the first place, thereby risking a banks' survival, rather than expose their trading losses by consciously deceiving senior management to hide unethical operational practices. In this paper the application of machine learning techniques on the observed data demonstrates how these issues can be resolved given their flexibility to different types of empirical data.

(116 pages)

## PUBLIC ABSTRACT

Towards a Framework for Operational Risk  
in the Banking Sector  
Mphekeleli Hoohlo

The purpose of this research is to provide clarity; based on theory and empirical evidence, on how to tackle the specific problems in the *operational risk* (OpRisk) literature, which have earned a place in modern day recourse in risk and finance, due to how significantly its importance has increased over the last few decades. During this period, until present day, there have been and continues to be series of destructive events that have threatened the stability of financial systems due to OpRisk. In most, if not all of these cases, human error is at the center of the chain of events that lead or may lead to (OpRisk) losses. There are many attitudes that can potentially infect organisational processes, the most persistent of these attitudes stem from human failings that are exploitable Barberis & Thaler (2003), thus forming a basis for the theoretical foundation of OpRisk.

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## DEDICATION

Dedicate it.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledge those acknowledged individuals and things.

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## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### **Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this research is to apply a generalised linear model (GLM) suitable for exposure-based operational risk (EBOR) treatments within the operational risk management framework (ORMF), effectively replacing historical loss severity curves obtained from historical loss counts, by forward-looking measures using event frequencies based on actual operational risk (OpRisk) exposures. Preliminary work on EBOR models was undertaken by (Einemann, Fritscher, & Kalkbrener, 2018). Secondly, this study provides a comprehensive computational comparison of various data-intensive techniques amongst each other, and versus *classical* statistical estimation methods for classification and regression performances.

Our understanding of existing ORMF to date is limited to the assumption that financial institutions (FI's) are risk-neutral. Thirdly, in lieu of the afore-mentioned, this study finally seeks to invalidate the risk-neutral assumption, by means of various unsupervised learning techniques, by proposing that FI's are more risk-averse; this can be measured by analysing subtle patterns between data features and trends in the allocated risk capital estimates. In theory, a risk manager who experiences persistent/excessive losses due to particular risk events, would over-compensate cover for these particular risk types, and this would show in reduced losses in these types over time.

## Fundamentals of ORMF's

Most banks' estimates for their risk are divided into credit risk (50%), market risk (15%) and OpRisk (35%). Cruz (2002) postulated that OpRisk, which focuses on the human side of risk management is difficult to manage with the reduced ability to measure it. The process of OpRisk, that is, the how manifests in conscious and/or unconscious states of the risk manager/s (Hemrit & Arab, 2012), and encompasses approaches and theories that focus on how one will choose when faced with a decision, based on how comfortable they are with the situation and the variables that are present.

### *Definition of operational risk*

Operational risk (OpRisk) is defined as: *The risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems, and from external events. This definition includes legal risk, but excludes strategic and reputational risk.* (Risk, 2001).

A major managerial concern for businesses is an inability to identify and account for their susceptibility to OpRisk events following a number of very costly and highly publicized operational losses, in particular, it became popular following a fraudulent trading incident which was responsible for a catastrophic loss that led to the collapse of Barings Bank (the UK's oldest bank) in 1995.

The term OpRisk began to be used after the afore-mentioned and similar types of OpRisk events became more common. A (rogue) trader (Nick Leeson), who risked the banks' survival rather than expose his trading losses, by consciously deceiving senior management to hide his unethical acts, was found to have been

responsible for unethical trading practices when he created illegal trades in his account, then used his position in the front and back offices of the bank to hide his trading losses. Worse still, he incurred a greater risk to the bank by lying in order to give a false impression of his profits. Shefrin (2016) notes that people would rather incur greater risks to hold on to things they already have, than the risks they would taken to get into that position in the first place.

It was later discovered that he was placing illegal bets in the Asian-markets, and kept these contracts out of sight from senior management to cover up his illegal activity. When his fraudulent behaviour was discovered (after an earthquake hit at Kobe in Japan, that collapsed the Osaka Securities Exchange) he succumbed to unrecoverable losses due to trading positions he had accumulated, which resulted in a loss of around £1.3 billion to the bank, thus resulting in it's collapse. In most, if not all of these cases, human error is at the center of the chain of events that lead or may lead to OpRisk losses.

Since then, there have been a series of destructive events that have threatened the stability of the financial system due to OpRisk. Large fines have been imposed on the culprits and regulatory scrutiny has been heightened as a result of a number of operational events, e.g. the January 2016 "Dark Pool" trading penalties suffered by Barclays (\$70mn) and Credit Suisse (\$85mn), imposed by the United States (US) based securities exchange commision (SEC). These OpRisk loss events were due to fraudulent trading activity consisting of rogue traders dealing in illegally placed high frequency trades for private clients where prices were hidden.

In South Africa (SA), there is an upcoming case of price fixing and market allocation in trading foreign exchange (FX) currency pairs, reffered to the SA based competition tribunal for prosecution. Absa bank, Standard bank & Investec may be liable to payment of an admistrative penalty equal to 10% of their annual turnover

in 2016, following accusations by the local based competition commission in February 2017, of rogue traders manipulating the price of the rand through buying and selling US dollars in exchange for the rand at fixed prices. According to the competition commission, it has been alleged that currency traders have been colluding or manipulating the price of the rand through these buy and sell orders to change supply of the currency.

This has compromised the quality and accuracy of risk management's advisory service and pedigree, and aroused huge interest as the value of the rand has implications on South African's. Furthermore, this kind of behaviour can lead to catastrophic operational losses, as with the case for the Barings event, resulting is a mismatch between business' expectations and the value the risk management practice was able to deliver, which is prevalent across FI's and remains unchanged. There are many attitudes that can potentially infect organisational processes, the most persistent of these attitudes stem from human failings that are exploitable (Barberis & Thaler, 2003); i.e. humans' propensity to be deceitful during periods of distress, thus forming a basis for a theoretical foundation of OpRisk management.

### **Basel Committee's quantitative operational risk management framework**

The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is an organisation consisting of a group of central bank governors and heads of supervision of central banks around the world who represent an authority on good risk management in banking. More specifically, the BIS oversee the duties of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)/Basel Committee. The role of the BCBS is to set out guidelines on international financial regulation to cover risks in the banking sector. There have been three banking accords from the BCBS under the supervision of the BIS in dealing with financial regulation, viz., Basel I, Basel II & Basel III. These accords

describe an overview of capital requirements for financial institutions (FI's) in order to create a level playing field, by making regulations uniform throughout the world.

### *The Capital Adequacy Accord (Basel I)*

Basel I was established in 1988. Basel I meant that FI's were required to assign capital for credit risk to protect against credit default. In 1996, an amendment to Basel I imposed additional requirements to cover exposure due to market risk as well as credit risks. Basel I effectively minimised rules that favoured local FI's over potential foreign competitors, by opening up global competition so that these banks could buffer against international solvency. In 2001, the Risk (2001) consultative package provided an overview of the proposed framework for regulatory capital (RC) charge for OpRisk. A financial institution (FI) has an OpRisk component, which constitutes a substantial risk component other than credit and market risk. There are two types of OpRisk's viz., potential high severity risk where the probability of an extreme loss is very small but costly, and high frequency/low severity risk where frequency plays a major role in the OpRisk capital charge calculation.

### *New Capital Adequacy Accord (Basel II)*

The framework for Basel II was implemented in June 2006. The rationale for Basel II is to introduce risk sensitivity through more restrictive capital charge measures and flexibility with specific emphasis on OpRisk. The structure of the new accord is built upon a three-pillar framework: Pillar I stipulates minimum capital requirements for the calculation of regulatory capital for credit risk, market risk and OpRisk in order to retain capital to ward against these risks. Pillar II imposes a supervisory review process through which additional requirements can be imposed,



such as the bank's internal capital assessments, or to act on needed adequate capital support or best practice for mitigating their risks. Pillar III relates to market discipline, i.e. transparency requirements which require banks to publicly provide risk disclosures to keep them in line by enabling investors to form an accurate view of their capital adequacy, in order to reward or punish them on the basis of their risk profile.

### *Basel III*

Basel III establishes tougher capital standards through more restrictive capital definitions, higher RWA's, additional capital buffers, and higher requirements for minimum capital ratios (Dorval, 2013). Through Basel III, the BCBS is introducing a number of fundamental reforms grouped under three main headings (Committee & others, 2010): 1] A future of more capital through incremental trading book risk (credit items in trading book treated in the same way as if they were in banking book), 2] More liquidity through the introduction of a global liquidity risk standard (Basel III will push banks toward holding greater levels of liquid instruments, such as government bonds and more liquid corporate instruments), and 3] Lower risk under the new requirements of the capital base, i.e., establish more standardized risk-adjusted capital requirements.

Regarding the sequence Basel I and Basel II: Regulation begins as a qualitative recommendation which requires banks to have an assets-to-capital multiple of at least 20, then focuses on ratios in which both on-balance sheet and off-balance sheet items are used to calculate the bank's total risk-weighted assets (RWA's)<sup>1</sup>, then on tail risk. In other words, auditors' discretion is replaced by market perception of capital, meaning there is a market risk capital charge for all items in the

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<sup>1</sup>Also referred to as risk-weighted amount, it is a measure of the bank's total credit exposure

trading business line, then exciting new static risk management approaches which involve calculating a 99.9 percentile left tail confidence interval to measure OpRisk value-at-risk (VaR) and convert it into a RC charge.

The future regulatory environment requires OpRisk professionals, who are not only intelligent, creative and motivated but also have the courage to uphold the OpRisk advisory service standards. Businesses that want to successfully manage risk, would be well advised to utilize new theoretical and empirical techniques, such that large and small scale experiments play an important role in risk analysis and regulatory research.

### **Modern OpRisk measurement frameworks (ORMF's)**

Basel II describes three methods of calculating capital charge for OpRisk RC viz., the standardised approach (SA), the basic indicator approach (BIA) and the internal measurement approach (IMA). The basic indicator approach (BIA) sets the OpRisk RC equal to a percentage (15%) of the annual gross income of the firm as a whole to determine the annual capital charge. The SA is similar to the BIA except the firm is split into eight business lines and assigned a different percentage of a three year average gross income per business line, the summation of which is the capital charge (Hoohlo, 2015). In the IMA, the bank uses it's own internal models to calculate OpRisk loss.

#### *Advanced Measurement Approach (AMA)*

The advanced measurement approach (AMA) is an IMA method which applies estimation techniques of OpRisk capital charge derived from a bank's internal risk measurement system Cruz (2002). Basel II proposed measurement of OpRisk

to define capital requirements against unexpected bank losses whereas the unexpected loss (UL) is the quantile for the level  $\alpha$  minus the mean. According to the AMA, which is thought to outperform the simpler SA approach and the BIA, RC requirements are defined according to the UL limit in one year and the loss distribution at a 99.9% confidence level ( $\alpha = 0.01\%$ ) aggregate loss distribution<sup>2</sup> used as a measure of RC. The BCBS proposes to define RC as  $RC = UL$ . This involves simulations based on historical data to establish frequency and severity distributions for losses. In this case the RC is a VaR measure.

The Basel III capital adequacy rules permit model-based calculation methods for capital, including the AMA for OpRisk capital. Under Basel III, standardised methods for OpRisk capital have been overhauled, however for a while there was no prospect of an overhaul of the AMA. Given the relative infancy of the field of OpRisk measurement, banks are mostly free to choose among various AMA principle-based frameworks to a significant degree of flexibility (Risk, 2016). A bank that undertakes an AMA should be able to influence their capital requirements through modeling techniques resulting in lowered pressure on OpRisk capital levels, which in turn has a positive impact on the bank.

A FI's ability to determine the framework used for its regulatory OpRisk RC calculation, evolves from how advanced the FI is along the spectrum of available approaches used to determine capital charge (Risk, 2001). BCBS recognizes that a variety of potentially credible approaches to quantify OpRisk are currently being developed by the industry, and that these R&D activities should be incentivised. Increasing levels of sophistication of OpRisk measurement methodologies should generally be rewarded with a reduction in the regulatory OpRisk capital requirement.

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<sup>2</sup>The aggregate loss distribution is obtained by convoluting a loss event frequency distribution and a loss severity distribution by means of the random sums method.

*The standardised measurement approach (SMA)*

The flexibility of internal models was expected to narrow over time as more accurate OpRisk measurement was obtained and stable measures of RC were reached, ultimately leading to the emergence of best practice. Instead, internal models produced wildly differing results of OpRisk RC capital from bank to bank, contrary to the expectations of the BCBS. In March 2016, the BCBS published for consultation a standardised measurement approach (SMA) for OpRisk RC; that proposes to abandon the freedom of internal modelling (thus ending the AMA) approaches for OpRisk RC, in exchange for being able to use a simple formula to facilitate comparability across the industry.

Under the SMA, RC will be determined using a simple method comprising of two components: A stylised systemic risk model (business indicator component), and an idiosyncratic risk model (loss component), which are combined via an internal loss multiplier (ILM), whose function is to link capital to a FI's operational loss experience to determine SMA capital.

The SMA formula is thought to be consistent with regulators' intent for simplification and increased comparability across most banks. However, there is a feeling from some in the banking industry that the SMA is disadvantaged as it is not the same as measuring OpRisk. Mignola, Ugoccioni, & Cope (2016) and Peters, Shevchenko, Hassani, & Chapelle (2016) identified that the SMA does not respond appropriately to changes in the risk profile of a bank i.e., it is unstable viz., two banks of the same risk profile and size can exhibit OpRisk RC differences exceeding 100%, and risk insensitive; that SMA capital results generally appear to be more variable across banks than AMA results, where banks had the option of fitting the loss data to statistical distributions.

*Argument*

Over the last twenty years, hard-won incremental steps to develop a measure for the size of OpRisk exposure along with the emergence of promising technologies presents a unique opportunity for bankers and treasurers - traditionally risk-averse players - to develop a novel type of way of looking at decision making under risk/uncertainty. New technologies have been introduced which make use of up to date technical solutions (such as homo heuristics developed by Gigerenzer & Brighton (2009), who maintain their methods solve practical finance problems by simple rules of thumb, or Kahneman (2003)'s intuitive judgements and deliberate decision making), argued to more likely represent the true embedded OpRisk in financial organisations as these methods are designed to fit normal behavioral patterns in their formulation, which is consistent with how decisions are made under risk/uncertainty.

What are the important steps toward completing the post crisis reforms during the current year? Should the risk management fraternity follow the chartered<sup>3</sup> path followed in the Risk (2016) consultative document, scrapping away twenty years of internal measurement approaches (such as the AMA), or should the focus of financial regulators shift toward improving on what they see fit within current existing AMA frameworks. The question is should OpRisk managements' focus be on stimulating active discussions on practical approaches to quantify, model and manage OpRisk for better risk management and improved controls, or abandon the adoption of innovative measurement approaches, such as the AMA, in exchange for being able to use a simple formula across the whole industry?

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<sup>3</sup>Meaning as of the publication [risk2016supporting] the methods brought forth in the consultative document have not been approved for the public, the ideas within an experimental (leased) phase for the exclusive use of BCBS and certain FI's

## Context of the study

Regulatory reforms are designed and fines imposed to protect against operational errors and other conduct costs connected with wrongdoing and employee misconduct. Despite the introduction and use of these seemingly robust strategies, regulations, processes and practices relating to managing risk in FI's, bank losses continue to occur at a rather distressing frequency. A cyclical pattern of OpRisk loss events still persists; as evidenced in the recent price fixing and collusion cases, defeating the explicit objectives of risk management frameworks. This demonstrates a scourge of reflexivity prevailing in financial markets emphasising that, there are theories that seem to work for a time only to outlive their use and become insufficient for the complexities that arise in reality.

### *Why OpRisk?*

A forceful narrative in management theory is that an organisation running effective maintenance procedures combined with optimal team and individual performers i.e., the right balance of skills in the labour force and adequate technological advancements, means systems and services can be used to more efficiently produce material gains, enhance organisational effectiveness, meet business objectives and increase investment activity. Conversely, the risk of the loss of business certainty associated with lowered organisational competitiveness and inadequate systems technology that underpins operations and services is a key source leading to a potential breakdown in investment services activity (Hoohlo, 2015). In fact OpRisk control could set banks apart in competition. This serves as an incentive to support regulation, particularly Basel III recovery and resolution processes.

Consider the case of a regulator in a financial system, who assumes that he/she is consciously and accurately analysing an observed subject, trusting the validity and relying on the visual information that their sense of sight reveals. In the absence of visual confirmation they are hindered from extracting and/or analysing information about the system and their efforts to regulate could potentially fail. The organisational methods and functioning of current information systems in this industry sector obscure the full extent of OpRisk challenges from the eyes of the risk practitioner.

When an attack such as an operational error occurs at a speed that the OpRisk agent (an individual legal entity or a group) is unable to react quickly enough, due to limitations of their processing speed, and they are not able to process all the information in the given time span, they could lose control/fail to comply with regulatory standards. The latter case is more often than not the most accurate reflection of current risk management practices. The agent represents one end of the spectrum of a risk management strategy, which mitigates risk and enforces regulation, dependent on the information received. The other end of the spectrum is one which does not react at all to changes in the system environment.

Current conventional financial systems where information processing is slow and have a tendency to rely on manual, uncertain, unpredictable and unrealistic controls, obscure risk management reporting and produce undesirable market conditions. The OpRisk management function should be able to assist the firms' ability to mitigate risks by acquiring and/or refining risk management solutions which deliver reliable and consistent benefits of improved control and management of the risks inherent in banking operations (Dorval, 2013). This proposal attempts to fill the gap in the current system where there is a risk management information lag or an obstruction from the eyes of the risk practitioner.

## Analysis and interpretation issues with behavioral finance theory

Behavioral management theory is very much concerned with social factors such as motivation, support and employee relations. A critical component of behavioral finance is building models which better reflect actual behavior. Studies have revealed that these social factors are not easy to incorporate into finance models or to understand in the traditional framework.

The traditional finance paradigm seeks to understand financial markets using models in which agents are “rational”. According to Barberis & Thaler (2003), this means that agents update their beliefs on the onset of new information, and that given their beliefs, they make choices that are normatively acceptable, and that most people do this most of the time. Neoclassical theory has grown to become the primary take on modern-day economics formed to solve problems for decision making under uncertainty/risk. Expected Utility Theory (EUT) has dominated the analysis and has been generally accepted as the normative model of rational choice, and widely applied as a descriptive model of economic choice (Kahneman & Tversky, 2013).

### *Expected utility theory*

Expected utility theory<sup>4</sup> (EUT): We see a fundamental relation for expected utility (Expectation) of a contract  $X$ , that yields outcome  $x_i$  with probability  $p_i$ , where  $X = (x_1, p_1; \dots; x_n, p_n)$  and  $p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n = 1$  given by:

$$U(x_1, p_1; \dots; x_n, p_n) = p_1 u(x_1) + \dots + p_n u(x_n) \quad (1.1)$$

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<sup>4</sup>Expected utility theory provides a model of rationality based on choice.



corroborated by Morgenstern & Von Neumann (1953); Friedman & Savage (1948); Kahneman & Tversky (2013) & others.

A common thread running through the rational viz., the neoclassical take of modern-day economics vs the non-neoclassical schools of thought are findings of behavioral economics which tend to refute the notion that individuals behave rationally. Many argue that individuals are fundamentally irrational because they do not behave rationally giving rise to a literature and debates as to which heuristics and sociological and institutional priors are rational (Altman, 2008).

In the real world there is a point of transition between the traditional (neoclassical) approach to decision making, based on data and data analysis (logic and rational), by adding new parameters and arguments that are outside rational conventional thinking but are also valid. For example, that neoclassical theory makes use of the assumption that all parties will behave rationally overlooks the fact that human nature is vulnerable to other forces, which causes people to make irrational choices.

An essential ingredient of any model trying to understand trading behavior is an assumption about investor preferences (Barberis & Thaler, 2003), or how investors evaluate risky gambles. Investors systematically deviate from rationality when making financial decisions, yet as acknowledged by Kuhnen & Knutson (2005), the mechanisms responsible for these deviations have not been fully identified. Some errors in judgement suggest distinct mental operations promote different types of financial choices that may lead to investing mistakes. Deviations from the optimal investment strategy of a rational risk neutral agent are viewed as risk-seeking mistakes and risk-aversion mistakes (Kuhnen & Knutson, 2005).

*Theoretical investigations for the quantification of modern ORMF*

Kuhnen & Knutson (2005) explain that these risk-seeking choices (such as gambling at a casino) and risk-averse choices (such as buying insurance) may be driven by distinct neural<sup>5</sup> phenomena, which when activated can lead to a shift in risk preferences. Kuhnen & Knutson (2005) found that certain areas of the brain precede risk-seeking mistakes or risky choices and other areas precede risk-aversion mistakes or riskless choices. A risk-aversion mistake is one where a gamble on a prospect of a gain is taken by a risk-averse agent in the face of the chance of a prospective loss. The fear of losing prohibits one's urge to gamble, but people engage in gambling activity anyway. Barberis & Thaler (2003) show that people regularly deviate from the traditional finance paradigm evidenced by the extensive experimental results compiled by cognitive psychologists on how people make decisions given their beliefs.

Kahneman & Tversky (2013) maintains, preferences between prospects which violate rational behaviour demonstrate that outcomes which are obtained with certainty are overweighted relative to uncertain outcomes. This will contribute to a risk-averse preference for a sure gain over a larger gain that is merely probable or a risk-seeking preference for a loss that is merely probable over a smaller loss that is certain. As a psychological principle, overweighting of certainty favours risk-aversion in the domain of gains and risk-seeking in the domain of losses.

The present discussion replicates the common behavioral pattern of risk aversion, where people weigh losses more than equivalent gains. Furthermore, neuroeconomic research shows that this pattern of behavior is directly tied to the brain's greater sensitivity to potential losses than gains (Tom, Fox, Trepel, & Poldrack,

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<sup>5</sup>As recent evidence from human brain imaging has shown [Kuhnen2005neural] linking neural states to risk-related behaviours [Barberis2003increased].

2007). This provides a target for investigating a more comprehensive theory of individual decision-making rather than the rational actor model and thus yield new insights relevant to economic theory<sup>6</sup> (Kuhnen & Knutson, 2005).

If people are reasonably accurate in predicting their choices, the presence of systematic violations of risk neutral behavior provides presumptive evidence against this i.e., people systematically violate EUT when choosing among risky gambles. This seeks to improve and adapt to reality and advance different interpretations of economic behaviour; viz., to propose a more adequately descriptive model, that can represent the basis for an alternative to the way the traditional model is built for decisions taken under uncertainty. This has led some influential commentators to call for an entirely new economic paradigm to displace conventional neoclassical theory with a psychologically more realistic preference specification (List, 2004).

### **A new class of ORMF models approach**

A substantial body of evidence shows that decision makers systematically violate EUT when choosing between risky prospects. Indeed, people would rather satisfy their needs than maximise their utility, contravening the normative model of rational choice (i.e., EUT) which has dominated the analysis of decision making under risk. In recent work (Barberis & Thaler, 2003) in behavioral finance, it has been argued that some of the lessons learnt from violations of EUT are central to understanding a number of financial phenomena. In response to this, there has been several theories put forward advocating for the basis of a slightly different interpretation which describes how individuals actually make decisions under uncertainty/risk. Of all the non-EUT's, we focus on Prospect Theory (PT) as this

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<sup>6</sup>Representing ability of FI's financial market models to characterise the repeated decision-making process that applies to loss aversion

framework has had most success matching most empirical facts<sup>7</sup>.

Kahneman & Tversky (2013) list the key elements of PT, which are 1] a value function, and 2] a non-linear transformation of the probability scale, that factors in risk aversion of the participants. According to Kahneman & Tversky (2013), the probability scale overweights small probabilities and underweights high probabilities. This feature is known as loss/risk aversion: This means that people have a greater sensitivity to losses (around 2.5 times more times) than gains, and are especially sensitive to small losses unless accompanied by small gains<sup>8</sup>. Loss aversion is a strong differentiator when it comes to explaining exceptions to the general risk patterns that characterize prospect theory.

### *Prospect theory*

By relaxation of the expectation principle in equation 1.6.1, the over-all value  $V$  of the regular prospect  $(x, p; y, q)$ : In such a prospect, one receives  $x$  with probability  $p$ ,  $y$  with probability  $q$ , and nothing with probability  $1 - p - q$ , is expressed in terms of two scales,  $\pi(\cdot)$ , and  $\nu(\cdot)$ , where  $\pi(\cdot)$  is a decision weight and  $\nu(\cdot)$  a number reflecting the subjective value of the outcome. Then  $V$  is assigned the value:

$$V = \pi(p)\nu(x) + \pi(q)\nu(y) \quad \text{iff} \quad p + q \leq 1 \quad (1.2)$$

The scale,  $\pi$ , associates with each probability  $p$  a decision weight which reflects the impact of  $p$  on the over-all value of the prospect. The second scale,  $\nu$ , assigns to each outcome  $x$  a number  $\nu(x)$ , which measures the value of deviations from a reference point i.e., gains or losses.  $\pi$  is not a probability measure and  $\pi(p) +$

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<sup>7</sup>OpRisk loss events in FI's are largely due to human failings that are exploitable e.g., fraudulent trading activity, and PT is based on the same behavioural element of how people make financial decisions about prospects

<sup>8</sup>Diminishing marginal utility for gains but opposite for losses.

$\pi(1 - p) < 1$ . Through PT we add new parameters and arguments to improve the mathematical modelling method for decisions taken under risk/uncertainty, such that the value of each outcome is multiplied by a decision weight, not by an additive probability.

PT looks for common attitudes in people (in FI's) with regard to their behaviour toward taking financial risks or gambles that cannot be captured by EUT. In light of this view, people are not fully invested in either of the perceived outcomes  $x$  and  $y$ , Which tells us that  $p + q \leq 1$ . In lieu of this, an FI using (internal) historical OpRisk loss data to model future events; say a historical case of fraud at the FI occurs and is incorporated in the model, the probability of making the same error in future is provided for in the model versus risk events that haven't happened. The modelled future should over-provide for the loss events that have already occurred, which fits normal patterns around individuals psychological make up and is consistent with risk-averse behavior. The idea at the basis of PT is that a better modeling method can be obtained which leads to a closer approximation of the over-all-value of OpRisk losses.

### *Modeling*

In this study, an important new algorithm for ORMFs and is laid out coupled with data intensive estimation techniques; viz. Generalised Additive Models for location Scale & Shape (GAMLSS), Generalized Linear Models (GLDs), Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), Random Forest (RF) & Decision Trees (DTs), which have capabilities to tease out the deep hierarchies in the features of covariates irrespective of the challenges associated with the non-linear or multi-dimensional nature of the underlying problem, at the same time supporting the call from industry for a new class of EBOR models that capture forward-looking aspects. Machine Learn-

ing (ML) is used as a substitute tool for the traditional model based Autoregressive Moving Average (ARMA) used for analysing and representing stochastic processes. As opposed to the statistical tool, ML does not impose a functional relationship between variables, the functional relationship is determined by extracting the pattern of the training set and by learning from the data observed.

Using computationally intensive (using ML techniques on historical data ) OpRisk measurement techniques and mixing with a theory is not a new approach for modeling, particularly in calculating OpRisk RC; as evidenced through Agostini, Talamo, & Vecchione (2010) in a study whereby the LDA model for forecasting OpRisk RC, via VaR, was implemented in conjunction with the use of advanced credibility theory (CT). The idea at the basis of their use of CT, is to advance the very recent literature that a better estimation of the OpRisk RC measurement can be obtained by integrating historical data and scenario analysis i.e., combining the historical simulations with scenario assessments through formulas that are weighted averages of the historical data entries and scenario assessments, advocating for the combined use of both experiences.

However, applying ML is an original way of looking at the approximation issue as opposed to advanced CT. The essential feature of PT are assumptions which are more compatible with basic principles of perception and judgement for decisions taken under uncertainty, whereas ML will reveal additional chance probabilities determined through the natural clusters of unknown data feature findings from which new discoveries are made.

According to Kahneman & Tversky (2013), the decision maker, who is a risk agent within the FI, constructs a representation of the losses and outcomes that are relevant to the decision, then assesses the value of each prospect and chooses according to the losses (changes in wealth), not the overall financial state of the FI. We wish to bring the prescribed model to equilibrium, by applying a method

that tries to establish what accurately ascribes to decision rules that people wish to obey, in made predictions about what operational loss events might result in the future, then use empirical data to test this idea in a way that is falsifiable.

## **Problem statement**

### *Main problem*

The existing models of OpRisk VaR measurement frameworks assume FI's are risk neutral, and do not learn from past losses/mistakes: We address weaknesses in current OpRisk VaR measurement frameworks by assuming that FI's are more risk averse. Furthermore, introducing exposure-based operational risk modeling, we gain an understanding of how capturing past losses and exposures of forward looking aspects affect risk attitudes using machine learning techniques. As a consequence, projected future losses are estimated through a learning algorithm adapting capital estimates to changes in the risk profile, i.e. in the introduction of new products or changes in the business mix of the portfolio (e.g. mergers, trade terminations, allocations or disinvestments), providing sufficient incentives for OpRisk management to mitigate risk.

## **Objectives of the study**

The research objectives are three-fold:

### *Exposure-based OpRisk (EBOR) models*

To quantify OpRisk losses by introducing generalised additive models for location, scale and shape (GAMLSS) in the framework for OpRisk management, that captures exposures to forward-looking aspects of the OpRisk loss prediction problem. EBOR treatments effectively replace historical loss severity curves obtained from historical loss counts, by looking into deep hierarchies in the features of covariates in investment banking (IB), and by forward-looking measures using event frequencies based on actual operational risk (OpRisk) exposures in the business environment and internal control risk factors (BEICF) thereof.

### *Modeling OpRisk depending on covariates*

To investigate the performance of several supervised learning classes of data-intensive methodologies for the improved assessment of OpRisk against current *traditional* statistical estimation techniques. Three different machine learning techniques viz., DTs, RFs, and ANNs, are employed to approximate weights of input features (the risk factors) of the model. A comprehensive list of user defined input variables with associated root causes contribute to the *frequency* of OpRisk events of the underlying value-adding processes. Moreover, the *severity* of OpRisk is also borne out through loss impacts in the dataset . As a consequence of theses new methodologies, capital estimates should be able to adapt to changes in the risk profile of the bank, i.e. upon the addition of new products or varying the business mix of the bank providing sufficient incentives for ORMF to mitigate risk (Einemann et al., 2018).



### *Interpretation Issues using cluster analysis*

To identify potential flaws in the mathematical framework for the loss distribution approach (LDA) model of ORM, which is based the derivation of OpRisk losses based on a risk-neutral measure  $\mathbb{Q}$ , by employing Cluster Analysis (CA). The study addresses weaknesses in the current *traditional* LDA model framework, by assuming managerial risk-taking attitudes are more risk averse. More precisely, CA learns the deep hierarchies of input features<sup>9</sup> that constitute OpRisk event *frequencies & severities* of losses during banking operations. In theory, a risk manager who experiences persistent/excessive losses due to particular risk events, would over-compensate cover for these particular risk types. This would show in reduced losses in those loss event types over time, subsequently determining whether risk adverse techniques over-compensate for persistent losses.

### **Significance of the study**

This study fills a gap in that advancing OpRisk VaR measurement methods beyond simplistic and traditional techniques, new data-intensive techniques offer an important tool for ORMFs and at the same time supporting the call from industry for a new class of EBOR models that capture forward-looking aspects of ORM (Embrechts, Mizgier, & Chen, 2018). The current *traditional* approach consists of a loss data collection exercise (LDCE) which suffers from inadequate technologies at times relying on spreadsheets and manual controls to pull numbers together, and therefore do not support the use of data intensive techniques for the management of financial risks. In this study, a new dataset with unique feature characteristics

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<sup>9</sup>A typical approach taken in the literature is to use an unsupervised learning algorithm to train a model of the unlabeled data and then use the results to extract interesting features from the data [coates2012learning]

is developed using an automated LDCE, as defined by Committee & others (2011) for internal data. The dataset in question is at the level of individual loss events, it is fundamental as part of the study to know when they happened, and be able to identify the root causes of losses arising from which OpRisk loss events.

This study will provide guidance on combining various supervised learning techniques with extreme value theory (EVT) fitting, which is very much based on the Dynamic EVT-POT model developed by Chavez-Demoulin, Embrechts, & Hofert (2016). This can only happen due to an abundance of larger and better quality datasets and which also benefits the loss distribution approach (LDA) and other areas of OpRisk modeling. In Chavez-Demoulin et al. (2016), they consider dynamic models based on covariates and in particular concentrate on the influence of internal root causes that prove to be useful from the proposed methodology. Moreover, EBOR models are important due to wide applicability beyond capital calculation and the potential to evolve into an important tool for auditing process and early detection of potential losses, culminating in structural and operational changes in the FI, hence releasing human capital to focus on dilemmas that require human judgement.

## **Organisation of the study**

This study is made up of seven chapters. The introductory chapter is to the purpose, overview, research problem & objectives, and the significance of the study. The introductory chapter is succeeded by a general literaty review chapter (two) followed by three stand alone chapters each focusing on the three research objectives regarding the issues in OpRisk capital requirement estimation.

Chapter one begins with an account of significance and a commentary on the nature and scope of the practical problem. It then provides a background of current

issues when dealing with OpRisk measurement, the research problem and research questions thereof. Chapter two gives an overview of the literature concerning the LDA, an AMA technique used in the generation of OpVaR. It concludes by proposing the a research methodology in which a combination of ML techniques and statistical theory underlying ORMF's would benefit measurement of capital requirements for OpVaR.

Chapter three looks at the methodological and empirical determinants of OpRisk measurement. It explores the different dataset...

## CHAPTER 2

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### Introduction

A look into literary sources for OpRisk indicates (Acharyya, 2012) that there is insufficient academic literature that looks to characterize its theoretical roots, as it is a relatively new discipline, choosing instead to focus on proposing a solution to the quantification of OpRisk. This chapter seeks to provide an overview of some of the antecedents of OpRisk measurement and management in the banking industry. As such, this chapter provides a discussion on why OpRisk is not trivial to quantify and attempts to understand its properties in the context of risk aversion with the thinking of practitioners and academics in this field.

According to Cruz (2002), FI's wish to measure the impact of operational events upon profit and loss (P&L), these events depict the idea of explaining the *volatility of earnings* due to OpRisk data points which are directly observed and recorded. By seeking to incorporate data intensive statistical approaches to help understand the data, the framework analyses response variables that are decidedly non-normal (including categorical outcomes and discrete counts) which can shed further light on the understanding of firm-level OpRisk RC. Lastly, a synopsis of gaps in the literature is presented.

## The theoretical foundation of OpRisk

Hemrit & Arab (2012) argue that common and systematic operational errors in hypothetical situations poses presumptive evidence that OpRisk events, assuming that the subjects have no reason to disguise their preferences, are created subconsciously. This study purports, supported by experimental evidence, behavioural finance theories should take some of this behaviour into account in trying to explain, in the context of a model, how investors maximise a specific utility/value function.

Furthermore its argued by integrating OpRisk management into behavioral finance theory,<sup>1</sup>, that it may be possible to improve our understanding of firm level RC by refining the resulting OpRisk models to account for these behavioral traits - implying that people's economic preferences described in the model, have an economic incentive to improve the OpRisk RC measure.

Wiseman & Catanach Jr (1997) suggest that managerial risk-taking attitudes are influenced by the decision (performance) context in which they are taken. In essence, managerial risk-taking attitude is considered as a proxy for measuring OpRisk (Acharyya, 2012). In so doing, Wiseman & Catanach Jr (1997) investigate more comprehensive economic theories, viz. prospect theory and the behavioural theory of the firm, that prove relevant to complex organizations who present a more fitting measure for OpRisk.

In a theoretical paper, Wiseman & Catanach Jr (1997) discussed several organizational and behavioural theories, such as PT, which influence managerial risk-taking attitudes. Their findings demonstrate that behavioural views, such as PT and the behavioural theory of the firm explain risk seeking and risk averse behaviour

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<sup>1</sup>In behavioral finance, we investigate whether certain financial phenomena are the result of less than fully rational thinking [barberis2003survey]

in the context of OpRisk even after agency based influences are controlled for. Furthermore, they challenge arguments that behavioral influences are masking underlying root causes due to agency effects. Instead they argue for mixing behavioral models with agency based views to obtain more complete explanations of risk preferences and risk taking behavior (Wiseman & Catanach Jr, 1997).

Despite the reality that OpRisk does not lend itself to scientific analysis in the way that market risk and credit risk do, someone must do the analysis, value the RC measurement and hope the market reflects this. Besides, financial markets are not objectively scientific, a large percentage of successful people have been lucky in their forecasts, it is not an area which lends itself to scientific analysis.

## **Overview of operational risk management**

It is important to note how OpRisk manifests itself: King (2001) has established the causes and sources of operational loss events as observed phenomena associated with operational errors and are wide ranging. By definition, the occurrence of a loss event is due to P&L volatility from a payment, settlement or a negative court ruling within the capital horizon over a time period (of usually one year) (Einemann et al., 2018). As such, P&L volatility is not only related to the way firms finance their business, but also in the way they *operate*.

In operating practice, one assumes that on observing or on following instructions we are consciously analysing and accurately executing our tasks based on the information. However, the occurrence of operational loss events indicates that there are sub-conscious faults in information processing, which we are not consciously aware of. These operational loss events are almost always initiated at the dealing phase of a trading process, which more often than not implicates front office (FO) personnel to bear the responsibility for the losses e.g., during the trading process

in cases where OpRisk events occur as a result of a mismatch between the trade booked (booking in trade feed) and the details agreed by the trader. The middle office (MO) and back offices (BO) conduct the OpRisk management, who undertake a broad view of P&L attribution carried out from deal origination to settlement within the perspective of strategic management, and detects the interrelationships between OpRisk factors with others to conceptualise the potential overall consequences (Acharyya, 2012) e.g., in the afore-mentioned example, human error (a subconscious phenomenon) is usually quoted as the source of error, and the trade is fixed by “amending” or manually changing the trade details.

Furthermore, Acharyya (2012) recognised that organizations may hold OpRisk due to external causes, such as failure of third parties or vendors (either intentionally or unintentionally), in maintaining promises or contracts. The criticism in the literature is that no amount of capital is realistically reliable for the determination of RC as a buffer to OpRisk, particularly the effectiveness of the approach of capital adequacy from external events, as there is effectively no control over them.

### **The loss collection data exercise (LCDE)**

The main challenge in OpRisk modeling is in poor loss data quantities, and low data quality. There are usually very few data points and are often characterised by high frequency low severity (HFLS) and low frequency high severity (LFHS) losses. It is common knowledge that HFLS losses at the lower end of the spectrum tend to be ignored and are therefore less likely to be reported, whereas low frequency high severity losses (LFHS) are well guarded, and therefore not very likely to be made public.

In this study, a new dataset with unique feature characteristics is developed

using the official loss data collection exercise (LDCE), as defined by Committee & others (2011) for internal data. The dataset in question is at the level of individual loss events, it is fundamental as part of the study to know when they happened, and be able to identify the root causes of losses arising from which OpRisk loss events.

The LCDE is carried out drawing statistics directly from the trade generation and settlement system, which consists of a tractable set of documented trade detail extracted at the most granular level, i.e. on a trade-by-trade basis [as per number of events (frequencies) and associated losses (severities)], and then aggregated daily. The dataset is split into proportions and trained, validated and tested. The aforementioned LDCE, is an improved reflection of the risk factors by singling out the value-adding processes associated with individual losses, on a trade-by-trade level.

### **Current operational risk measurement modeling framework**

Historical severity curves obtained from historical loss counts have been widely considered to be the most reliable models when used in OpRisk loss estimation. However they have not been successful when used as measures capturing forward-looking aspects of the OpRisk loss prediction problem.

In this paper, we develop data intensive analysis techniques which yield a more realistic estimation for underlying risk factors, through linking risk factors to covariates based on internal control vulnerabilities (ICV's). ICV's are selected as measures of trading risk exposure, business environment and internal control factors (BEICF's) i.e., trade characteristics and causal factors. For each loss event, information such as unique trade identifier, trader identification, loss event capture personnel, trade status and instrument type, loss event description, loss amount, market variables, trading desk and business line, beginning and ending date and



time of the event, and settlement time are given.

AMA's allow banks to use their internally generated risk estimates Under Basel II; a first attempt internal measurement approach (IMA) capital charge calculation for OpRisk (i.e. ) is similar to the Basel II model for credit risk, where a loss event is a default in the credit risk jargon. There are generally seven event type categories (Risk, 2001) and eight business lines. Potential losses are decomposed into several ( $7 \times 8 = 56$ ) sub-risks using event types and business line combinations: e.g., execution, delivery & process management is one such category defined the risk that operational losses/problems would take place in the banks transactions, given as:

$$\mathcal{C}_{OpRisk}^{IMA} = \sum_{i=1}^8 \sum_{k=1}^7 \gamma_{ik} \epsilon_{ik} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\epsilon_{ik}$  : expected loss for business line  $i$ , risk type  $k$

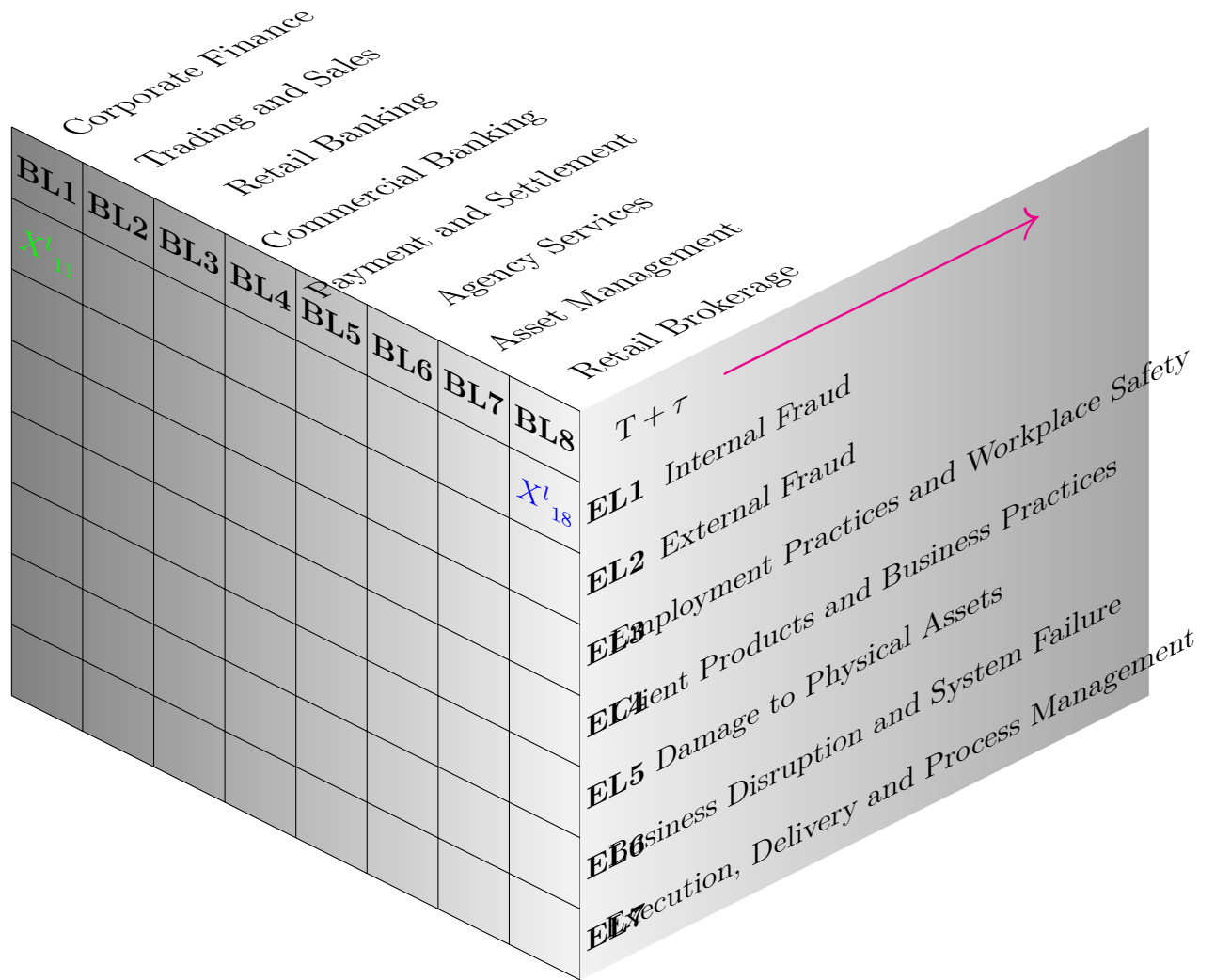
$\gamma_{ik}$  : scaling factor

*The business line/ event type (BL/ET) matrix*

The 3-dimensional diagram, Figure ?? depicts the formation of the  $BL/ET$  matrix: Duration (time  $T + \tau$ ) is represented along the depth ordinate.

### **Loss Distribution Approach (LDA)**

The Loss Distribution Approach (LDA) is an AMA method whose main objective is to provide realistic estimates to calculate VaR for OpRisk RC in the banking sector and it's business units based on loss distributions that accurately reflect the frequency and severity loss distributions of the underlying data. Having calculated



**Figure 5.1:** The 3-Dimensional grid of the BL/ET matrix for 7 event types and 8 business lines

separately the frequency and severity distributions, we need to combine them into one aggregate loss distribution that allows us to produce a value for the OpRisk VaR.

We begin by defining some concepts:

- In line with Basel II, and according to @frachot2001loss, we consider a matrix consisting of business lines  $BL$  and (operational) event types  $ET$ . The bank estimates, for each business line/event type (BL/ET) cell, the probability functions of the single event impact and the event frequency for the next three months. More precisely, in each cell of the BL/ET matrix separate distributions for loss frequency and severity are modeled and aggregated to a loss distribution at the group level. The aggregated operational losses can be seen as a sum  $S$  of a random number  $N$  of individual operational losses  $(X_1, \dots, X_N)$ . This sum can be represented by:

$$S = X_1, \dots, X_N, \quad N = 1, 2, \dots \quad (2.2)$$

- Three month daily statistics are taken of the time series of internal processing errors (frequency data) and their associated severities and used in each cell of the BL/ET matrix. Frequency refers to the number of events that occur within the specified time period (daily buckets)  $T$  and  $T + \tau$  and severity refers to the P&L impact resulting from the frequency of events. The time (1 day bucket) period is chosen in order to ensure that the number of data points is sufficient for statistical analysis.

#### *Computing the frequency distribution*

- Let  $N_{ij}$  be variable in random selection, representing **the number of times of process risk event failures** between times  $T$  &  $T + \tau$ . Suppose subscript

$i$  refers to the  $BL$  which ranges from  $1, \dots, k$  and subscript  $j$  to  $ET$  ( $j = 1$  for process risk). We have taken a random sample implying that the observations  $N_{ij}$ , where  $i, j = (1, 1), \dots, (k, 1)$  are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d).

- The random variable  $N_{i1}$ <sup>2</sup> has distribution function<sup>3</sup> The random variable has distribution function (d.f.)  $\mathbf{P}_{i1}(n/\theta_0)$ , where  $\theta_0$  is an unknown parameter of the estimated distribution. The unknown parameter  $\theta_0$  may be a scalar or a vector quantity  $\theta_0$ , for example, The Poisson distribution depends on one parameter called  $\lambda$  whereas the univariate normal distribution depends on two parameters,  $\mu$  and  $\sigma^2$ , the mean and variance. These parameters are to be estimated in some way. We use the Maximum Likelihood Estimate (m.l.e) which is that value of  $\theta$  that makes the observed data “most probable” or “most likely”.
- The d.f.  $\mathbf{P}_{i1}(n/\theta_0)$ , is the probability that  $N_{i1}$  takes a value less than or equal to  $n$ , where  $n$  is a small sample from the entire population of observed frequencies, i.e.

$$\mathbf{P}_{ij}(n) = Pr(N_{ij} \leq n) \quad i, j = (1, 1), \dots, (k, 1) \quad (2.3)$$

- The probability density function (p.d.f) : A density function is a non-negative function  $p(n)$  whose integral, extended over the entire  $x$  axis, is equal to 1 for a given continuous random variable  $X$ . i.e. it is the area under the probability density curve, of the discrete random variable  $N_{i1}$  takes discrete values of  $n$  with finite probabilities. In the discrete case the term for p.d.f. is the probability function (p.f.) also called the probability mass function, i.e.  $N_{i1}$  is given by the probability that the variable takes the value  $n$ , i.e.

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<sup>2</sup> $N_{ij}$  where subscript  $j = 1$  since we are only dealing with 1 event type i.e. process risk

<sup>3</sup>The term distribution function is monotonic increasing function of  $n$  which tends to 0 as  $n \rightarrow -\infty$ , and to 1 as  $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$p_{ij}(n) = \Pr(N_{ij} = n), \quad i, j = (1, 1), \dots, (k, 1) \quad (2.4)$$

- The r.h.s of equation (2.3) is the summation of the r.h.s of equation (2.4), we derive a relation for the **loss frequency distribution** in terms of the (p.f):

$$\mathbf{P}_{ij}(n) = \sum_{k=1}^{n_k} p_{ij}(n) \quad i, j = (1, 1), \dots, (k, 1) \quad (2.5)$$

### *Computing the severity distribution*

- Suppose  $X_{ij}$  is a random variable representing **the amount of one loss event** in a cell of the BL/ET matrix. Define next period's loss in each cell  $(i, j)$ , where  $i$  is the number of business line cells,  $L^{T+1}_{i,j}$ : Operational loss for loss type  $j = 1$  (process risk). One models the amount of the total operational loss of type  $j$  at a given time  $T$  &  $T + 1$ , over the future (say 3 months), as:

$$L^{T+1} = \sum_{i=1}^k L^{T+1}_{i1} = \sum_{i=1}^2 \sum_{l=1}^{N_{i1}^{T+1}} X^l_{i1} \quad l = 1, 2, \dots, N_{i1} \quad (2.6)$$

- Let  $N_1, N_2, \dots, N_m$  (where  $m$  is the number of combinations in the BL/ET matrix) be random variables that represent the loss frequencies. It is usually assumed that the random variables  $X_{i1}$  are independently distributed and independent of the number of events  $N_m$ . A fixed number of a particular loss type would be denoted by  $X^1_{i1}$ , i.e the random variable  $X^l_{i1}$ , represents random samples of the severity distribution [aue2006lda].

The **loss severity distribution** is denoted by  $\mathbf{F}_{i1}$ . Since loss severity variate  $X$  is continuous (i.e. can take on any real value), we define a level of precision  $h$  such that the probability of  $X$  being within  $\pm h$  of a given number  $x$  tends to zero. The loss severity,  $X_{i1}$  has a (d.f.)  $\mathbf{F}_{i1}(x/\theta_1)$ , where  $\theta_1$  is an unknown

parameter and  $x$  is a small sample from the entire population of loss severity.

- We define probability density in the continuous case as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_X(x) &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{Pr[x < X \leq x + h]}{h} \\
 &= \lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{F_X(x + h) - F_X(x)}{h} \\
 &= \frac{dF_X(x)}{dx}
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.7}$$

operate with  $\int dx$  on both sides of 2.7

$$\mathbf{F}_{X_{ij}}(x) = \int_{k=1}^{\infty} f_{X_{ij}}(x) dx \quad i, j = (1, 1), \dots, (k, 1) \tag{2.8}$$

where  $f_{X_{ij}}(x)$  is the probability density function (p.d.f.). Once again, the subscript  $X$  identifies the random variable for severity (P&L impact) of one loss event while the argument  $x$  is an arbitrary sample of the severity events.

### *Formal Results*

Having calculated both the frequency and severity process we need now to combine them in one aggregate loss distribution that allows us to predict an amount for the operational losses to a degree of confidence. There is no simple way of aggregating the frequency and severity distribution. Numerical approximation techniques (computer algorithms) successfully bridge the divide between theory and implementation for the problems of mathematical analysis.

The aggregated losses at time  $t$  are given by  $\vartheta(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} X_n$  (where  $X$  represents individual operational losses). Frequency and severity distributions are estimated, e.g., the poisson distribution is a representation of a discrete variable commonly used to model operational event frequency (counts), and a selection from

continuous distributions which can be linear (e.g. gamma distribution) or non-linear (e.g. lognormal distribution) for operational loss severity amounts. The compound loss distribution  $\mathbf{G}(t)$  can now be derived. Taking the aggregated losses we obtain:

$$\mathbf{G}_{\vartheta(t)}(x) = Pr[\vartheta(t) \leq x] = Pr \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} X_n \leq x \right) \quad (2.9)$$

For most choices of  $N(t)$  and  $X_n$ , the derivation of an explicit formula for  $\mathbf{G}_{\vartheta(t)}(x)$  is, in most cases impossible.  $\mathbf{G}(t)$  can only be obtained numerically using the Monte Carlo method, Panjer's recursive approach, and the inverse of the characteristic function [Frachot, Georges, & Roncalli (2001); Aue & Kalkbrener (2006); Panjer (2006); & others].

- We now introduce the aggregate loss variable at time  $t$  given by  $\vartheta(t)$ . This new variable represents **the loss for business line  $i$  and event type  $j$** . The aggregate loss is defined by  $\vartheta(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} X_n$  (where  $X$  represents individual operational losses). Once frequency and severity distributions are estimated, the compound loss distribution  $\mathbf{G}(t)$  can be derived. Taking the aggregated losses we obtain:

$$\mathbf{G}_{\vartheta(t)}(x) = Pr[\vartheta(t) \leq x] = Pr \left( \sum_{n=1}^{N(t)} X_n \leq x \right) \quad (2.10)$$

- The derivation of an explicit formula for  $\mathbf{G}_{\vartheta(t)}(x)$  is, in most cases impossible. Again we implicitly assume that the processes  $\{N(t)\}$  and  $\{X_n\}$  are independent and identically distributed (i.i.d). Deriving the analytical expression for  $\mathbf{G}_{\vartheta(t)}(x)$ , we see a fundamental relation corroborated by @frachot2001loss, @cruz2002modeling, @embrechts2013modelling, & others:

$$\mathbf{G}_{\vartheta(t)}(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \sum_{n,k=0,1}^{\infty} p_k(n) \mathbf{F}_X^{k*}(x) & x > 0 \\ p_k(0) & x = 0 \end{array} \right\} \quad (2.11)$$

where  $\star$  is the *convolution* operator on d.f.'s,  $\mathbf{F}^{k\star}$  is the  $k$ -fold convolution of  $\mathbf{F}$  with itself. The convolution of two functions  $f(x)$  and  $g(x)$  is the function

$$\int_0^x f(t)g(x-t)dt \quad (2.12)$$

, i.e.  $\mathbf{F}_X^{k\star}(x) = Pr(X_1 + \dots + X_k \leq x)$ , the d.f. of the sum of  $k$  independent random variables with the same distribution as  $X$ .

- The aggregate loss distribution  $\mathbf{G}_{\vartheta(t)}(x)$  cannot be represented in analytic form, hence approximations, expansions, recursions of numerical algorithms are proposed to overcome this problem. For purposes of our study, an approximation method will do. One such method consists of taking a set  $\langle \vartheta_1, \dots, \vartheta_s \rangle$ , otherwise known as the ideal generated by elements  $\vartheta_1, \dots, \vartheta_s$  which are  $s$  simulated values of the random variable  $\vartheta_{ij}$  for  $s = 1, \dots, S$  [@fraleigh2003first].

This method is popularly known as Monte Carlo simulation coined by physicists in the 1940's, it derives its name and afore-mentioned popularity to its similarities to games of chance. The way it works in layman's terms is; in place of simulating scenario's based on a base case, any possible scenario through the use of a probability distribution (not just a fixed value) is used to simulate a model many times. In the LDA separate distributions of frequency and severity are derived from loss data then combined by Monte Carlo simulation.

### *Dependence Effects (Copulae)*

The standard assumption in the LDA is that frequency and severity distributions in a cell are independent and the severity samples are i.i.d. According to Basel II, dependence effects in OpRisk are not considered. Economic capital allocation however, could benefit if it were determined in a way that recognises the risk-



reducing impact of correlation effects between the risks of the BL/ET combinations. Concluding remarks from a study by Urbina & Guillén (2014) allude that failure to account for correlation may lead to risk management practices that are unfair, as evidenced in an example using data from the banking sector.

One of the main issues we are confronted with in OpRisk measurement is the aggregation of individual risks (in each BL/ET element). A powerful concept to aggregate the risks – the *copula* function – has been introduced in finance by Embrechts, McNeil, & Straumann (2002). Copulas have been used extensively in finance theory lately and are sometimes held accountable for recent global financial failures, e.g. the global credit crunch of 2008 - 2009. They are nevertheless still applicable and in use for OpRisk as operational risk models follow a different stochastic process to other areas of risk, e.g. operational VaR is subject to more jumps than market VaR and is thought to be discrete whereby market VaR is continuous.

Copulas are functions which conveniently incorporate correlation into a function that combines each of the frequency (marginal) distributions to produce a single bivariate cumulative distribution function. Our model is used to determine the aggregate (bivariate) distribution of a number of correlated random variables through the use of a Clayton copula. Dependence matters due to the effect of the addition of risk measures over different risk classes (cells in the BL/ET matrix).

More precisely, the frequency distributions of the individual cells of the BL/ET matrix are correlated through a Clayton copula in order to replicate observed correlations in the observed data. Let  $m$  be the number of cells,  $\mathbf{G}_1, \mathbf{G}_2, \dots, \mathbf{G}_m$  the distribution functions of the frequency distributions in the individual cells and  $\mathbf{C}$  the so-called copula. Abe Sklar proved in 1959 through his theorem (Sklar's Theorem) that for any joint distribution  $\mathbf{G}$  the copula  $\mathbf{C}$  is unique.  $\mathbf{C}$  is a distribution function on  $[0, 1]^m$  with uniform marginals. We refer to a recent article by Chavez-

Demoulin, Embrechts, & Nešlehová (2006) for further information: It is sufficient to note that  $\mathbf{C}$  is unique if the marginal distributions are continuous.

$$\mathbf{G}(x_1, \dots, x_m) = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{G}_1(x_1), \dots, \mathbf{G}_m(x_m)) \quad (2.13)$$

Conversely, for any copula  $\mathbf{C}$  and any distribution functions  $\mathbf{G}_1, \mathbf{G}_2, \dots, \mathbf{G}_m$ , the functions  $\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{G}_1(x_1), \dots, \mathbf{G}_m(x_m))$  is a joint distribution function with marginals  $\mathbf{G}_1(x_1), \dots, \mathbf{G}_m(x_m)$ . Moreover, combining given marginals with a chosen copula through Equation 2.13 always yields a multivariate distribution with those marginals. The copula function has then a great influence on the aggregation of risk.

### **LDA model shortcomings**

After most complex banks adopted the LDA for accounting for RC, significant biases and delimitations in loss data remain when trying to attribute capital requirements to OpRisk losses (Frachot et al., 2001). OpRisk is related to the internal processes of the FI, hence the quality and quantity of internal data (optimally combined with external data) are of greater concern as the available data could be rare and/or of poor quality. Such expositions are unsatisfactory if OpRisk, as Cruz (2002) professes, represents the next frontier in reducing the riskiness associated with earnings.

Opdyke (2014) advanced studies intending on eliminating bias apparently due to heavy tailed distributions to further provide insight on new techniques to deal with the issues that arise in LDA modeling, keeping practitioners and academics at breadth with latest research in OpRisk VaR theory. Recent work in LDA modeling has been found wanting (Badescu, Lan, Lin, & Tang, 2015), due to the very complex characteristics of data sets in OpRisk VaR modeling, and even when studies

used quality data and adequate historical data points, as pointed out in a recent paper by Hoohlo (2015), there is a qualitative aspect in OpRisk modeling that is often ignored, but whose validity should not be overlooked.

Opdyke (2014), Agostini et al. (2010), Jongh, De Wet, Raubenheimer, & Venter (2015), Galloppo & Previati (2014), and others explicate how greater accuracy, precision and robustness uphold a valid and reliable estimate for OpRisk capital as defined by Basel II/III. Transforming this basic knowledge into “risk culture” or firm-wide knowledge for the effective management of OpRisk, serves as a starting point for a control function providing attribution and accounting support within a framework, methodology and theory for understanding OpRisk measurement. FI’s are beginning to implement sophisticated risk management systems similar to those for market and credit risk, linking theories which govern how these risk types are controlled to theories that govern financial losses resulting from OpRisk events.

Jongh et al. (2015) and Galloppo & Previati (2014) sought to address the shortcomings of Frachot et al. (2001) by finding possible ways to improve the problems of bias and data delimitation in operational risk management. They follow the recent literature in finding a statistical-based model for integrating internal data and external data as well as scenario assessments in an endeavor to improve on accuracy of the capital estimate.

### **A new class of models capturing forward-looking aspects**

Agostini et al. (2010) also argued that banks should adopt an integrated model by combining a forward-looking component (scenario analysis) to the historical operational VaR, further adding to the literature through their integration model which is based on the idea of estimating the parameters of the historical and subjective distributions and then combining them by using the advanced CT.

The idea at the basis of CT is that a better estimation of the OpRisk measure can be obtained by combining the two sources of information: The historical loss data and expert's judgements, advocating for the combined use of both experiences. Agostini et al. (2010) seek to explain through a weight called the credibility, the amount of credence given to two components (historical and subjective) determined by statistical uncertainty of information sources, as opposed to a weighted average approach chosen on the basis of qualitative judgements.

Thus generating a more predictable and forward looking capital estimate. He deemed the integration method as advantageous as it is self contained and independent of any arbitrary choice in the weight of the historical or subjective components of the model.

### **Applicability of EBOR methodology for capturing forward-looking aspects of ORM**

Einemann et al. (2018), in a theoretical paper, construct a mathematical framework for an EBOR model to quantify OpRisk for a portfolio of pending litigations. Their work unearths an invaluable contribution to the literature, discussing a strategy on how to integrate EBOR and LDA models by building hybrid frameworks which facilitate the migration of OpRisk types from a classical to an exposure-based treatment through a quantitative framework, capturing forward looking aspects of BEICF's (Einemann et al., 2018).

The fundamental premise of the tricky nature behind ORMF, is to provide an exposure-based treatment of OpRisk losses which caters to modeling capital estimates for forward-looking aspects of ORM due to the lag in the loss data. By the very nature of OpRisk, there is usually a significant lag between the moment the OpRisk event is conceived to the moment the event is observed and accounted.i.e.,

there is a gap in time between the moment the risk is conceived and the realised losses. This timing paradox often results in questionable capital estimates, especially for those near misses, pending and realised losses that need to be captured in the model.

### *Definition of exposure*

Exposure is residual risk, or the risk that remains after risk treatments have been applied. In the ORMF context, it is defined as:

**Definition 2.9.1.1** *The **exposure** of risk type  $i$ ,  $d_i$  is the time interval, expressed in units of time, from the initial moment when the event happened, until the occurrence of a risk correction.*

### *Definition of rate*

The **rate**,  $R$  is defined as:

**Definition 2.9.2.1** *the **rate** is the mean count per unit exposure*

i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} R &= \frac{\mu}{\tau} \quad \text{where} \quad R = \text{rate}, \quad \tau = \text{exposure}, d_i \quad \text{and} \\ \mu &= \text{mean count over an exposure duration of } T + \tau \end{aligned}$$

### **Intepretation**

In turn, the fundamental premise behind the LDA is that each firm's OpRisk losses are a reflection of it's underlying Oprisk exposure. In particular, the assump-

tion behind the use of the poisson model to estimate the frequency of losses, is that both the the intensity (or rate) of occurrence and the opportunity (or exposure) for counting are constant for all available observations.

The measure of exposure we need to use depends specifically on projecting the number of Oprisk event types (frequency of losses) and is different to the measure if the target variable were the severity of the losses. We need historical exposure for experience rating because we need to be able to compare the loss experience of different years on a like-for-like basis and to adjust it to current exposure levels(Parodi, 2014).

When observed counts all have the same exposure, modeling the mean count  $\mu$  as a function of explanatory variables  $x_1, \dots, x_p$  is the same as modeling the rate  $R$ .

## Benefits and Limitations

These approaches in 2.5, were found to have significant advantages over conventional LDA methods, proposing that an optimal mix of the two modeling elements could more accurately predict OpRisk VaR over traditional methods. Particularly Agostini et al. (2010), whose integration model represents a benchmark in OpRisk measurement by including a component in the AMA model that is not obtained by a direct average of historical and subjective VaR.

Instead, the basic idea of the integration methodology in 2.8 is to estimate the parameters of the frequency and severity distributions based on the historical losses and correct them; via a statistical theory, to include information coming from the scenario analysis. The method has the advantage of being completely self contained and independent of any arbitrary choice in the weight of the historical or subjec-

tive component of the model, made by the analyst. The components weights are derived in an objective and robust way, based on the statistical uncertainty of information sources, rather than through risk managers choices based on qualitative motivations.

However, they could not explain the prerequisite coherence between the historical and subjective distribution function needed in order for the model to work; particularly when a number of papers (Chau, 2014), propose using mixtures of (heavy tailed) distributions commonly used in the setting of OpRisk capital estimation (Opdyke, 2014).

In 2.9, their model (Einemann et al., 2018) is particularly well-suited to the specific risk type dealt with in their paper i.e., the portfolio of litigation events, due to better usage of existing information and more plausible model behavior over the litigation life cycle, but is bound to under-perform for many other OpRisk event types, since these EBOR models are typically designed to quantify specific aspects of OpRisk - litigation risk have rather concentrated risk profiles. However, EBOR models are important due to wide applicability beyond capital calculation and its potential to evolve into an important tool for auditing process and early detection of potential losses.

## **Gap in the Literature**

There is cognitive pressure which seeks to remove information which we are largely unaware of, because they are undetectable to human senses that no one could ever see them. We seek to remove this pressure, effectively lowering uncertainty and allowing us to position ourselves to develop a defense against our cognitive biases. It is through patterns in that information that we are largely unaware

of that predictions could arise; or that, OpRisk management incorporates rather than dismiss the many alternatives that were not imagined, the possibility of market inefficiencies or finding value in unusual places.

## **Conclusion**

A substantial body of evidence suggests that loss aversion, the tendency to be more sensitive to losses than to gains plays an important role in determining how people evaluate risky gambles. In this paper we evidence that human choice behaviour can substantially deviate from neoclassical norms.

PT takes into account the loss avoidance agents and common attitudes toward risk or chance that cannot be captured by EUT; which is not testing for that inherent bias, so as to expect the probability of making the same operational error in future to be overcompensated for i.e., If an institution suffers from an OpRisk event and survives, it's highly unlikely to suffer the same loss in the future because they will over-provide for particular operational loss due to their natural risk aversion. This is a testable proposition which fits normal behavioral patterns and is consistent with risk averse behaviour.



## CHAPTER 3

### Chapter 3's Title

## CHAPTER 4

### Chapter 4's Title

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## CHAPTER 5

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