

Risk Management :

2/5 - Mesure du risque

Matthieu Garcin

26 février 2019

1 A zoo of risk measures

- Mathematical foundations of risk measures
- Value at risk
- Expected shortfall
- Moments of a distribution
- Mesures de risque entropiques
 - Definition
 - Risk aversion

2 Aspects empiriques

- Simulation Monte Carlo
- Bootstrap
- Backtesting
- Stress tests

1 A zoo of risk measures

- Mathematical foundations of risk measures
- Value at risk
- Expected shortfall
- Moments of a distribution
- Mesures de risque entropiques

2 Aspects empiriques

How to define a risk measure ?

- $X : \Omega \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a random **loss**.
- We focus on finite losses, that is the set \mathcal{X} of random variables X such that $\|X\|_\infty < \infty$, where $\|X\|_\infty = \sup_{\omega \in \Omega} |X(\omega)|$.
- $\rho : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}$ will be a capital requirement (or risk measure) associated to the random loss X .
- $F(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$ is the cumulative distribution function of X .
- F is not necessarily invertible. Why? We will use its generalized inverse :

$$F^{-1}(r) = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R}, F(x) \geq r\}.$$

$F^{-1}(r)$ is the quantile of X of probability r .

Définition

ρ is a **monetary risk measure** if :

- 1 it is **monotonic** : $X \leq Y \Rightarrow \rho(X) \leq \rho(Y)$,
- 2 it is **invariant by translation** : $\forall m \in \mathbb{R}, \rho(X + m) = \rho(X) + m$.

Volatility is **not** a monetary risk measure.

What are the properties of a risk measure ?

Proposition

If ρ is a monetary risk measure, it is Lipschitz :

$$|\rho(X) - \rho(Y)| \leq \|X - Y\|_{\infty}.$$

Proof :

- By definition of an infinite norm : $X - Y \leq \|X - Y\|_{\infty}$.
- By monotony, we get $\rho(X) \leq \rho(Y + \|X - Y\|_{\infty})$.
- By invariance by translation, it becomes $\rho(X) \leq \rho(Y) + \|X - Y\|_{\infty}$.
- So, $\rho(X) - \rho(Y) \leq \|X - Y\|_{\infty}$ and, by symmetry in X and Y , we also have $\rho(Y) - \rho(X) \leq \|X - Y\|_{\infty}$.

The financial intuition behind

- The difference of risk measure between two assets is lower than the maximal difference of loss the two assets can simultaneously encounter.
- For example, if stock 1 has a VaR of 1% and stock 2 a VaR of 0.8%, the maximal loss of a portfolio composed of stock 1 (long) minus stock 2 (short) is above 0.2%.
- What about the risk measure of the portfolio, $\rho(X - Y)$, compared to $\rho(X) - \rho(Y)$?

Coherent risk measure

Définition

The risk measure μ is **coherent** if it satisfies all the following properties :

- **Normality** : $\mu(0) = 0$ (particular case of positive homogeneity).
- **Monotonicity** : if profits $X_1 \leq X_2$ almost surely, then $\mu(X_1) \geq \mu(X_2)$.
- **Sub-additivity** (diversification principle) : $\mu(X_1 + X_2) \leq \mu(X_1) + \mu(X_2)$.
- **Positive homogeneity** : if $\lambda \geq 0$, then $\mu(\lambda X) = \lambda \mu(X)$.
- **Invariance by translation** : If p is a deterministic profit, then $\mu(X + p) = \mu(X) - p$.

- In other words, a coherent risk measure is a monetary risk measure with sub-additivity and positive homogeneity.
- The notion of coherence may be softened by the introduction of convexity instead of sub-additivity and positive homogeneity : if $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, then
$$\mu(\lambda X_1 + (1 - \lambda)X_2) \leq \lambda \mu(X_1) + (1 - \lambda) \mu(X_2).$$
- In particular, if μ is monetary and positively homogeneous, then μ convex $\Leftrightarrow \mu$ sub-additive.

Spectral risk measure

Rationale : A spectral risk measure is a weighted average of the possible payoffs of a portfolio, with a larger weight for less favourable payoffs. Thereafter, the weight is ϕ .

Définition

Let X be the payoff of a portfolio and F_X its cdf. A spectral measure M_ϕ is a function in \mathbb{R} such that there exists a function $\phi : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ such that :

$$M_\phi(X) = - \int_0^1 \phi(p) F_X^{-1}(p) dp,$$

where

- ❶ ϕ is non-increasing,
- ❷ ϕ is right-continuous,
- ❸ ϕ is integrable and $\int_0^1 \phi(p) dp = 1$

- We interpret ϕ as a weight due to assumption 3, overweighting bad outcomes due to assumption 1.
- The VaR is not spectral due to assumption 2 (see its distortion measure, in next slides).

Spectral risk measure

- If we consider the distribution of the losses, F_{-X} , which is such that $F_X^{-1}(p) = -F_{-X}^{-1}(1-p)$, then $M_\phi(X) = \int_0^1 \phi(1-p)F_{-X}^{-1}(p)dp$, after a change of variable.
- The expected value is a spectral risk measure, with $\phi = 1$.

Proposition

Every spectral measure is monetary, sub-additive and positively homogeneous. In other words, it is a coherent risk measure.

For discrete observations of price returns, where each outcome is considered as equiprobable, we define a spectral measure as

$$M_\phi(X) = -\frac{1}{N} \sum_{s=1}^N \phi_s X_{s:N},$$

where

- $X_{1:N} \leq \dots \leq X_{N:N}$ are the order statistics,
- $\forall s, \phi_s \geq 0$,
- $\sum_{s=1}^N \phi_s = 1$,
- ϕ_s is non-increasing.

Distortion risk measure

A distortion risk measure is a risk measure defined as a weighted sum of payoffs (or returns) of a portfolio, *whatever the weight*. In particular, a spectral risk measure is a distortion risk measure.

Définition

Let μ be a distortion function : $\mu : [0, 1] \rightarrow [0, 1]$ and μ is non-decreasing and surjective, so that $\mu(0) = 0$ and $\mu(1) = 1$.

The corresponding **distortion risk measure**, for gains X of cdf F_X is

$$R_\mu(X) = \int_0^1 F_{-X}^{-1}(1 - p) d\mu(p) = - \int_0^1 F_X^{-1}(p) d\mu(p).$$

Proposition

Let M_ϕ be a spectral risk measure and R_μ a distortion risk measure, with μ differentiable. Then :

$$M_\phi = R_\mu \Leftrightarrow \phi = \mu'.$$

In such a case and if ϕ is differentiable, then $\mu'' \leq 0$.

Théorème

The distortion μ is concave (overweight of greater losses) $\Leftrightarrow R_\mu$ is a coherent risk measure.

Distortion risk measure

Usual risk measures :

- **Value at risk** with confidence α : distortion $\mu(x) = \mathbb{1}_{[1-\alpha,1]}(x)$, not differentiable, not concave : not spectral.
- **Expected shortfall** with confidence α : distortion $\mu(x) = \mathbb{1}_{[1-\alpha,1]}(x) + \mathbb{1}_{[0,1-\alpha)}(x) \frac{x}{1-\alpha}$, not differentiable but concave : coherent, and even spectral.
- **Expected loss** : distortion $\mu(x) = x$, so that $\mu' = 1 > 0$: spectral.

What about the properties of usual risk measures ?

The VaR :

- is monetary,
- is positively homogeneous,
- is **not** necessarily convex : take losses X and Y iid Bernoulli(p) ; then

$$VaR_{\alpha} \left(\frac{X + Y}{2} \right) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \alpha \geq 1 - p^2 \\ 0 & \text{if } \alpha \leq (1 - p)^2 \\ 1/2 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

whereas

$$\frac{1}{2} (VaR_{\alpha}(X) + VaR_{\alpha}(Y)) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \alpha \geq p \\ 0 & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

- is therefore neither sub-additive nor coherent.

Expected shortfall

The expected shortfall is coherent and even spectral. That is why the regulator finally prefers this risk measure.

1 A zoo of risk measures

- Mathematical foundations of risk measures
- Value at risk
- Expected shortfall
- Moments of a distribution
- Mesures de risque entropiques

2 Aspects empiriques

Inverse distribution function

Définition

Let X be a random variable (say a price return) and F be its cumulative distribution function : $F(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$. The **generalized inverse** of F is

$$F^{-1}(p) = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R}, F(x) \geq p\}.$$

- The generalized inverse is also called the quantile.
- If F is *continuous* and *strictly increasing*, the generalized inverse is the standard inverse.
- F^{-1} is nondecreasing.
- $F^{-1}(F(x)) \leq x$ and $F(F^{-1}(p)) \geq p$.
- If a random variable U is uniform in $[0, 1]$, then $F^{-1}(U)$ is distributed according to F . This is used to generate pseudo-random numbers in F .

Value at risk

Définition

Let X be a random variable depicting a gain. Then, the value at risk with confidence α is :

$$\text{VaR}_\alpha(X) = -F_X^{-1}(1 - \alpha).$$

Alternatively, if Y is a loss ($Y = -X$), $\text{VaR}_\alpha(Y) = F_Y^{-1}(\alpha)$.

- In other words, the VaR at 99% is the quantile at 99% of the losses or the opposite of the quantile at 1% of the gains.
- The VaR is the maximum expected loss for a given confidence level.
- For successive gains X_1, \dots, X_n , we can either assume that they are identically distributed (and even independent) or not, for example with conditional cdf $F(X_i | X_{i-1}, \dots, X_{i-d})$ or with any model of dynamic.

Estimating Value at risk (1/2)

Several notions of VaR depending on their estimation method.

- ① **Historical VaR** : based directly on past values (not used for estimating, but simulation directly in this past dataset). Drawbacks : equal weight to each observation and static (possibility to weight data to have something more dynamic with more weight on recent observations), often iid assumption.
 - **Empirical VaR** : empirical quantile, but need big amount of data (should have a number of observations $\gg 1/(1 - \alpha)$).
 - **VaR based on empirical distribution** : estimation of the whole distribution, when less data than needed for empirical quantiles (e.g., 100 data for $\alpha = 99.9\%$), and then quantile on the empirical distribution. Empirical distribution could be **parametric** or **non-parametric** (would be better), like a kernel-based distribution.
 - **EVT VaR** : much more accurate for tail behaviour than a Kernel approach, it leverages on the fact that the distribution of extreme events should be close to a known parametrized distribution, whatever the distribution of the returns (restricts the difficulty of the problem).

② ...

Estimating Value at risk (2/2)

1 ...

2 **Monte-Carlo VaR** : based on a dynamic, a model estimated on historical data.

- **parametric VaR** : parametric model such as
 - iid Gaussian (or other) returns : sounds arbitrary, not that efficient and does not need Monte-Carlo (closed formulas). But could be used to model factors (and then Monte-Carlo approach useful). Difficulty to identify factors (econometric approach).
 - parametric dynamic, such as GARCH, which is more accurate.
- **non-parametric VaR** : already proposed non-parametric models, here Monte Carlo is a method and not a model, it can then use any non-parametric model.

Non-parametric distribution

An estimator \hat{f} of a density should check : $\forall x \in \mathbb{R}, \hat{f}(x) \geq 0$, and $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \hat{f}(x)dx = 1$. From a series of observed price returns X_1, \dots, X_n , the probability density could be estimated by :

- A **histogram** (not continuous, not invariant by translation), with a discretization $a_1 < \dots < a_m$: if $x \in [a_i, a_{i+1})$, then

$$\hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{n(a_{i+1} - a_i)} \sum_{j=1}^n \mathbb{1}_{[a_i, a_{i+1})}(X_j).$$

- A **kernel density**, where the Kernel K , a density with cdf \mathcal{K} can be, for example, $K(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-x^2/2)$, with a smoothing parameter $h > 0$ indicating the smoothness/robustness :

$$\hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{nh} \sum_{i=1}^n K\left(\frac{x - X_i}{h}\right) \text{ and } \hat{F}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{K}\left(\frac{x - X_i}{h}\right).$$

Drawback : fixed-size resolution (h), thus spurious effects for tails and smoothing of essential elements in the main part of the distribution.

- An **adaptive (or variable) kernel density** :

$$\hat{f}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{hd_{i,k}} K\left(\frac{x - X_i}{hd_{i,k}}\right) \text{ and } \hat{F}(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{K}\left(\frac{x - X_i}{hd_{i,k}}\right),$$

where $d_{i,k}$ is the Euclidean distance between X_i and its k -th nearest neighbour among the $n - 1$ other observations, $X_1, \dots, X_{i-1}, X_{i+1}, \dots, X_n$.

Non-parametric distribution

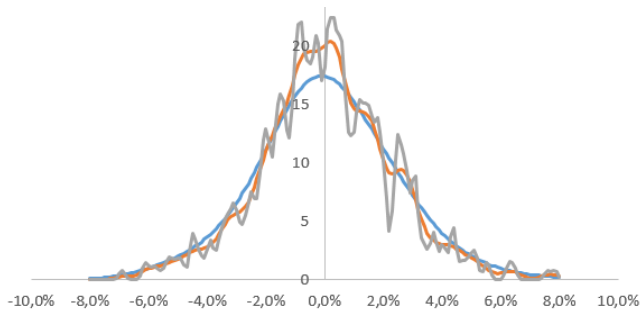


FIGURE – Kernel density of historical daily price returns (Natixis, 2015-2016) for $h = 0.01$ (smooth one), $h = 0.003$, and $h = 0.001$ (most erratic one).

Critiques de la VaR

La VaR est plus robuste que la volatilité et est un standard de marché, mais :

- En général la VaR n'est pas une mesure de risque cohérente car elle n'est pas sous-additive (ne reflète pas bien la diversification). Cela peut pousser une banque à des astuces comptables : supposons que le superviseur d'une banque impose d'immobiliser du capital par trading desk, correspondant à la VaR à 95% de chaque desk. Comment la banque définit-elle ses desks pour minimiser le capital immobilisé sachant qu'il existe des paires de desks pour lesquelles $VaR_{\alpha}(Y_1 + Y_2)$ peut être plus grand que $VaR_{\alpha}(Y_1) + VaR_{\alpha}(Y_2)$?
- La VaR ne donne aucune indication sur la taille potentielle de la perte au-dessus d'elle (ce n'est qu'une quantile) ; une solution consiste à observer plusieurs quantiles (VaR spectrale).

L'*expected shortfall* n'a pas ces deux inconvénients (avec hypothèse de distribution de pertes absolument continue pour ce qui concerne la cohérence).

1 A zoo of risk measures

- Mathematical foundations of risk measures
- Value at risk
- Expected shortfall
- Moments of a distribution
- Mesures de risque entropiques

2 Aspects empiriques

Expected shortfall

Let X be the gain of the portfolio, $\alpha \in [0, 1]$ a confidence level. We define several risk measures depicting the average of the $1 - \alpha$ worst losses :

- the **worst conditional expectation** : $WCE_\alpha(X) = \sup\{\mathbb{E}[-X|A], \mathbb{P}(A) \geq 1 - \alpha\}$,
- the **tail conditional expectation** : $TCE_\alpha = \mathbb{E}[-X|X \leq -VaR_\alpha(X)]$,
- the **average VaR** (AVaR), or **expected shortfall** (ES), or **conditional VaR** :

$$ES_\alpha(X) = \frac{1}{1-\alpha} \int_\alpha^1 VaR_r(X) dr = \frac{1}{1-\alpha} \int_\alpha^1 F_{-X}^{-1}(r) dr.$$

Théorème

We have : $AVaR_\alpha(X) \geq WCE_\alpha(X) \geq TCE_\alpha(X) \geq VaR_\alpha(X)$. Moreover, if the distribution of X is without atoms ($\forall \varepsilon > 0, \exists (A_i)$, a finite partition of the set Ω such that $\mathbb{P}(A_i) \leq \varepsilon$) : $AVaR_\alpha(X) = WCE_\alpha(X) = TCE_\alpha(X)$.

Théorème

If $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is without atoms, then ES_α is the smallest coherent risk measure, continuous by below (that is for $X_n \nearrow X$, $\rho(X_n) \rightarrow \rho(X)$), and invariant by the distribution (ρ is invariant by distribution if $\rho(X) = \rho(Y)$ when X and Y have the same distribution), which dominates VaR_α .

1 A zoo of risk measures

- Mathematical foundations of risk measures
- Value at risk
- Expected shortfall
- Moments of a distribution
- Mesures de risque entropiques

2 Aspects empiriques

Risk measures based on moments

- Variance and volatility (square root of variance) are not monetary risk measures because they are neither monotonic (X uniform in $[0, 1]$, Y constant equal to 2, then $X < Y$ but $\rho(X) > \rho(Y)$) nor invariant by translation ($\text{vol}(X + 1) = \text{vol}(X) \neq \text{vol}(X) + 1$).
- Nevertheless, massively used to monitor the *risk* of a portfolio.
- Could use other moments too for asymmetry (skewness) or tail behaviour (kurtosis).

About cumulative volatility

We want to know the contribution of one asset to the global volatility, with a linear combination.

- $\text{Var}(X + Y) = \text{Var}(X) + \text{Var}(Y)$ if zero correlation (not independence), but not linear for volatility $\text{Vol}(X + Y) = \sqrt{\text{Vol}(X)^2 + \text{Vol}(Y)^2}$.
- In general, if we note $\text{Vol}_X = \sigma_X$ and ρ the correlation, $\sigma_{X+Y}^2 = \sigma_X^2 + \sigma_Y^2 + 2\rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y$ and thus $\sigma_{X+Y} = \frac{\sigma_X^2 + \rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y}{\sigma_{X+Y}} + \frac{\sigma_Y^2 + \rho\sigma_X\sigma_Y}{\sigma_{X+Y}}$.
- For n assets, $\sigma_{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}^2 = \sum_{i=1}^n \sigma_{X_i}^2 + \sum_{i \neq j} \rho_{i,j} \sigma_{X_i} \sigma_{X_j}$. Therefore the volatility can be written as a linear combination of n volatilities relative to each asset :

$$\sigma_{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i} = \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{\sigma_{X_i}^2 + \sum_{j \neq i} \rho_{i,j} \sigma_{X_i} \sigma_{X_j}}{\sigma_{\sum_{j=1}^n X_j}} \right].$$

Deviation risk measure

A generalization of volatility, quantifies deviation and not downside risk (differences with coherent risk measure, in addition to monetary and monotonicity, which disappears, are in bold) :

- ① Normality : $\mu(0) = 0$ (particular case of positive homogeneity).
- ② **Positivity** : $\mu(X) > 0$ if X is not constant, $\mu(X) = 0$ else.
- ③ Sub-additivity (diversification principle) : $\mu(X_1 + X_2) \leq \mu(X_1) + \mu(X_2)$.
- ④ Positive homogeneity : if $\lambda \geq 0$, then $\mu(\lambda X) = \lambda \mu(X)$.
- ⑤ **Invariance by translation** : If p is a deterministic profit, then $\mu(X + p) = \mu(X)$.

Examples :

- volatility (standard deviation) : $\sqrt{E[(X - E[X])^2]}$,
- lower and upper semi-deviation : $\sigma_-(X) = \sqrt{E[(X - EX)_-^2]}$ and $\sigma_+(X) = \sqrt{E[(X - EX)_+^2]}$, where $[X]_- = \max\{0, -X\}$ and $[X]_+ = \max\{0, X\}$,
- mean absolute deviation : $MAD(X) = E(|X - EX|)$.

1 A zoo of risk measures

- Mathematical foundations of risk measures
- Value at risk
- Expected shortfall
- Moments of a distribution
- Mesures de risque entropiques
 - Definition
 - Risk aversion

2 Aspects empiriques

Defining the entropic risk measure

The exponential or entropic risk measure $e_\gamma(X)$, for a risk aversion $\gamma > 0$ and for a given random variable X representing a profit, say a price return of a financial asset between two dates, is defined by :

$$e_\gamma(X) = \frac{1}{\gamma} \ln \mathbb{E}[e^{-\gamma X}] = \frac{1}{\gamma} \ln M_X(-\gamma), \quad (1)$$

where M_X is the moment-generating function of X . Symmetrically, if a random variable Y represents a risk, say a loss, the corresponding profit X is equal to $-Y$ and the corresponding entropic risk measure is $e_\gamma(-Y)$.

The entropic risk measure $e_\gamma(Y)$ of a random variable Y representing a risk is also the insurance premium against the risk Y in an exponential utility framework. For the risk Y and a utility function u , the premium P is the capital required such that the risk Y is properly hedged, that is to say the expected utility of the risk hedged by its premium is zero :

$$\mathbb{E}[u(P - Y)] = 0.$$

In the case of the entropic risk measure, $e_\gamma(-Y)$ is the premium for an exponential utility function of risk aversion γ :

$$u : x \mapsto \frac{1}{\gamma} (1 - e^{-\gamma x}).$$

Properties of the entropic risk measure

- 1 Since the entropic risk measure is related to the moment-generating function of the profits, it is based on all its moments. This is an evident advantage over the simplistic volatility as a risk measure.
- 2 The entropic risk measure is convex. This implies that diversification does not increase the risk : when two portfolios are merged, the resulting risk is not higher than the sum of the risk of each portfolio. Other popular risk measures, like the value-at-risk (VaR), do not have this important property.
- 3 Neither the entropic risk measure nor the VaR are coherent risk measures. In particular, the entropic risk measure lacks positive homogeneity. A risk measure ρ is positively homogeneous if $\forall \lambda \geq 0, \rho(\lambda X) = \lambda \rho(X)$. The VaR and the expected shortfall, which is convex as well and thus coherent, are positively homogeneous. The example of a Gaussian profit X of mean μ and variance σ^2 shows that the entropy is not positively homogeneous. Indeed, the entropic risk measure is then equal to $-\mu + \sigma^2 \gamma / 2$. But if the variable X is doubled, the entropy is not doubled since it is equal to $-2\mu + 2\sigma^2 \gamma$. However, positive homogeneity of risk measures is not a realistic property since in practice the risk of a position is often non-linearly related to the held amount, due to liquidity risk.

Coherent risk measure

The risk measure μ is coherent if it satisfies all the following properties :

- Normality : $\mu(0) = 0$.
- Monotonicity : if profits $X_1 \leq X_2$ almost surely, then $\mu(X_1) \geq \mu(X_2)$.
- Sub-additivity (diversification principle) : $\mu(X_1 + X_2) \leq \mu(X_1) + \mu(X_2)$.
- Positive homogeneity : if $\lambda \geq 0$, then $\mu(\lambda X) = \lambda \mu(X)$.
- Invariance by translation : If p is a deterministic profit, then $\mu(X + p) = \mu(X) - p$.

The notion of coherence may be softened by the introduction of convexity instead of sub-additivity and positive homogeneity : if $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, then

$$\mu(\lambda X_1 + (1 - \lambda)X_2) \leq \lambda \mu(X_1) + (1 - \lambda) \mu(X_2).$$

Scaling rule of the entropic risk measure

- Scaling rule (when horizon multiplied by t) of the VaR for i.i.d. Gaussian returns : \sqrt{t} .
- Alternative example of dependent Gaussian : scaling in t^H for a H -fractional Brownian motion.
- Alternative example of i.i.d. non-Gaussian : scaling in t for Cauchy process.

Instead of that, the entropic risk measure has a unique scaling rule for i.i.d. returns, whether they are Gaussian or not : the log-return until time t is the sum of t i.i.d. returns of horizon 1, X_1, \dots, X_t , and $e_\gamma \left(\sum_{i=1}^t X_i \right) = \sum_{i=1}^t e_\gamma (X_i) = t e_\gamma (X_1)$, so that the scaling factor is t .

Risk aversion

The risk measure is increasing with the risk aversion γ . However, determining the risk aversion of an agent may seem as arbitrary as choosing a confidence level α for a VaR. In fact, both parameters can be linked. For example, assuming Gaussian price returns X of mean μ and variance σ^2 , the corresponding entropic risk measure and VaR are respectively $-\mu + \sigma^2\gamma/2$ and $-\mu + \sigma G^{-1}(1 - \alpha)$. Both are equal if $\gamma = 2G^{-1}(1 - \alpha)/\sigma$. We can therefore define a risk aversion for a type of asset. For instance, concerning a stock market for which we assume a long-term annual volatility of 20%, values of the VaR parameter α equal to 5%, 1% and 0.01% are respectively associated to a risk aversion γ equal to 16.45, 23.26 and 30.90.

Estimating the risk aversion

- Price of a stock is discounted sum of future dividends : does not take into account variations of preference over different horizons. On the opposite, options exist for different horizons : they are well-suited to estimate risk aversion.
- Estimate mean of a distribution on stocks and all the density on options :
$$q(S_T) = e^{r(T-t)} \frac{\partial^2 C(t, S_t, K, T)}{\partial K^2} \Big|_{K=S_T}.$$
- This distribution is estimated at a single date, not on historical data : it is therefore much more responsive to changing market expectations.
- ...

Estimating the risk aversion

- ...
- Unfortunately, the option-implied density is risk-neutral, which may not be consistent with the actual forecast of the most representative investor (the market). The difference between risk-neutral (q) and physical (p) distributions is due to risk aversion (λ for representative utility function U) or equivalently to the **stochastic discount factor** (aka **pricing kernel** : $\zeta(S_T)$) :

$$\frac{p(S_T)}{q(S_T)} = \lambda \frac{U'(S_T)}{U'(S_t)} = \zeta(S_T).$$

- If two among p , q , U are known, the third one is inferred. In practice, only q is known. Solutions : assume stationarity of p or stationarity of U (parametric function, depending on λ , which in this case is constant).
- The risk aversion is then the λ maximizing the forecast ability over historical data.

Stochastic discount factor

- For assets $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ of pay-off π_i , initial price p_i and return $R_i = \pi_i/p_i$, the stochastic discount factor ζ is such that, $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, $\mathbb{E}(\zeta \pi_i) = p_i$, in which \mathbb{E} is expressed in the risk-neutral distribution.
- As a consequence $\forall i, j$, $\mathbb{E}[\zeta(R_i - R_j)] = 0$.
- In the risk-neutral distribution, the risk-free rate R_f is deterministic. Therefore, $\mathbb{E}(\zeta) = 1/R_f$.
- As $\text{cov}(X, Y) = \mathbb{E}[X, Y] - \mathbb{E}[X]\mathbb{E}[Y]$, we have $1 = \text{cov}(\zeta, R_i) + \mathbb{E}(\zeta)\mathbb{E}(R_i)$. In particular :

$$\mathbb{E}(R_i) - R_f = -R_f \text{cov}(\zeta, R_i),$$

which is the risk premium of asset i .

Bibliographie

- Bliss, Panigirtzoglou (2004), *Option-implied risk aversion estimates*