Ekaterina Ugulava

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□ https://eugulava.github.io/

EDUCATION

University of Amsterdam

PhD Candidate in Econometrics

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. H. Peter Boswijk, Dr. Sander Barendse and Dr. Paolo Gorqi

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Sep 2021 - Sep 2025 (expected)

Tinbergen Institute

MPhil in Economics (Advanced Econometrics Track)

Thesis: Long Memory Realised GAS Model

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Jan 2020 - Aug 2021

National Research University (NRU) – Higher School of Economics

BSc in Economics

Saint-Petersburg, Russia Sep 2015 – Jun 2019

University of York York, the United Kingdom

Academic mobility programme

Jan 2018 – Jun 2018

PLACEMENT

Prof. Dr. Eric Bartelsman

Placement Director e.j.bartelsman@vu.nl Christina Månsson

Placement Assistant c.mansson@tinbergen.nl

References

Prof. Dr. H. Peter Boswijk

Professor of Financial Econometrics

University of Amsterdam

H.P.Boswijk@uva.nl

Dr. Sander Barendse

Assistant Professor of Econometrics

University of Amsterdam

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Dr. Paolo Gorgi

Associate Professor of Econometrics and Data Science

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

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Dr. Anne Opschoor

Associate Professor of Finance Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

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RESEARCH

Primary Fields: Econometrics, Financial Econometrics.

Secondary Fields: Risk Management, Macroeconometrics.

Job Market Paper (Working Paper)

• "Horizon-Matched Estimation of Volatility Models: Application to a Misspecification Testing and Forecasting", 2024.

Abstract: Multi-period volatility forecasting is crucial for financial decision-making. We consider a scenario where the decision-maker specifies an ex-ante loss function, such as the QLIKE, to assess the accuracy of multi-period volatility forecasts from a candidate volatility model. To reduce the impact of model

misspecification on forecast accuracy, we introduce an estimator that is 'matched' to the specification of the forecast evaluation loss function. We examine the estimator's performance under a bias-variance trade-off, highlighting conditions where it is likely to offer improvements over standard estimation methods. We also propose a model misspecification test based on the Hausman principle, which exploits the fact that our estimator and the standard estimator are consistent for the true parameter under the null of correct specification but converge to different pseudo-true values under the alternative. In a Monte Carlo study, we examine the misspecification with respect to long-memory dynamics. Our results show that the misspecification test is reasonably sized and has power that increases with the degree of long-memory misspecification. Additionally, we recover multi-period volatility forecasts and find that under correct specification, both estimators perform equivalently; however, under misspecification, our estimator provides superior forecast accuracy. Finally, an out-of-sample analysis across ten return and realised measure series from 2001 to 2010 suggests two key findings: first, it is optimal for our estimator to match the estimation loss function to a shorter horizon than the forecasting horizon; second, our estimator provides greater accuracy gains for GARCH-type volatility models applied to realised measures of volatility compared to those applied to returns.

Other Working Papers

• "Long Memory Realised GAS Model", 2022 (draft available soon).

Summary: We introduce a univariate score-driven model that explicitly incorporates long-memory dynamics in the conditional variance of daily returns. We model the conditional variance as a fractionally integrated process and as a heterogeneous autoregressive model. The new model accommodates heavy-tailed densities for both daily returns and realised measures. This choice of observational densities ensures automatic correction for influential observations through the score function. Our out-of-sample analysis identifies that accounting for long memory is particularly useful for volatility level evaluation and return risk assessment during non-crisis periods.

Work in Progress

• "Simulation-Based Method for Quantiles of Cumulative Variables", 2024.

Summary: We propose a simulation-based method for constructing conditional quantiles of cumulative variables of interest (e.g., returns, GDP) based on a finite set of one-step-ahead estimated conditional quantiles. We show that the cumulative quantile generated by our method minimises the expected value of the quantile tick-loss function specified with respect to the cumulative variable. Our approach has applications in constructing downside risk measures, such as Value-at-Risk for cumulative returns and Growth-at-Risk for cumulative GDP growth.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Foundation)

Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Research Assistant for Prof. dr. Siem Jan Koopman and Prof. dr. Francisco Blasques

Feb 2021 - Jul 2021

- Score-Driven Models: Methodology and Theory, 2022. Download
- Score-Driven Models: Methodology and Applications, 2022. Download

National Research University (NRU)– Higher School of Economics

Research Assistant for dr. Alexander Muravyev

Saint-Petersburg, Russia
Nov 2018 – Dec 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Amsterdam

- Econometric Analysis (BSc): Fall 2024
- Advanced Risk Management (MSc): Spring 2022, 2023, 2024
- Econometrics (BSc): Fall 2022, 2023
- Thesis supervision (BSc): Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant, Tinbergen Institute

- Advanced Mathematics (MPhil): Fall 2021, 2022, 2023
- Advanced Econometrics III (Time Series Econometrics, MPhil): Spring 2021

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2024: 12th SIdE Workshop for PhD students in Econometrics and Empirical Economics (discussant Massimiliano Caporin); International Association for Applied Econometrics (Xiamen, China; Thessaloniki, Greece).

2023: UvA Econometrics internal seminar (Amsterdam, the Netherlands); TopQuants: Autumn Event, poster (ING, the Netherlands); 3rd International Econometrics PhD Conference (Econometric Institute at Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands).

2022: Brown Bag Econometrics Lunch Seminar (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands); International Association for Applied Econometrics (King's College London, the UK); 2nd International Conference on Econometrics and Business Analytics (Yerevan and Dilijan, Republic of Armenia); CEBA talk (online); 16th International Conference CFE (King's College London, the UK).

Additional Education

Lecturer: dr. Simon Pauw

Scientific Programming in Python

University of Amsterdam

February - March 2024

• Python data structures, Pandas, Seaborn, functional and object oriented programming.

Machine Learning in finance

Tinbergen Institute

Lecturer: Prof. dr. Yacine Aït-Sahalia

 $November\ 2021$

• Methodologies employed in machine learning and applications in finance (credit scoring, factor models, sentiment analysis).

QFFE Spring School

Aix-Marseille School of Economics

Lecturers: Prof. dr. Jun Yu, Prof. dr. Kris Jacobs

June 2023

• Estimation, inference, prediction, identification of fractional time series. Specification and estimation of dynamic option valuation models.

Tutorials CFE

King's College London

Lecturers: Prof. dr. Armelle Guillou, dr. Michael Pitt

December 2022

• Extreme value analysis. Latent variable dynamic models.

QFFE Spring School

Aix-Marseille School of Economics

Lecturers: dr. Christian Brownlees, Prof. dr. Peter Reinhard Hansen

June~2022

• Large dimensional network models. Estimation of covariances and correlations in finance.

Econometrics Summer Workshop

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Lecturers: Prof. Dr. Siem Jan Koopman and Prof. dr. Francisco Blasques

August 2019

• Estimation and inference of econometric models, and prediction.

Prizes and Awards

Tinbergen Institute Full Graduate Scholarship	2020-2021
Holland Scholarship Programme (contribution towards costs of living)	2019
VU Fellowship Programme (tuition fee waiver for MSc)	2019
Excellence Scholarship Erasmus+	2018
Scholarship from VTB Bank for outstanding results in studies and scientific work	2018
Finalist in the Econometrics projection competition: "The level of domestic corruption in Russia"	2018
Full State Scholarship for merits (tuition fee waiver for BSc)	2015-2019

Languages: Russian (native), English (fluent), Dutch (pre-intermediate, B1), Spanish (beginner, A2.1)

Programming languages: Matlab (expert), Python (proficient) and R (proficient)

Statistical software: Stata (experienced) and EViews (experienced)