Extremes of Stationary Time Series – Day 1.

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In basic data analysis we often assume that observations are independent or even independent and identically distributed,

$$X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{ind}}{\sim} F_1, \ldots, F_n, \qquad X_1, \ldots, X_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} N(\mu, \sigma^2),$$

Time series is the study of observations that arise in some order (usually time) and so are dependent: in other words

one d***** thing after another!

There are many more ways to be dependent than to be independent, and almost all data are collected in time order, so time series arise in a vast range of disciplines: climatology; economics; finance; marketing; epidemiology; biomedicine; genomics; environmental science; computer science; electrical engineering; physics; ...

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Definition.

- (a) A stochastic process $\{X_t\}_{t\in\mathcal{T}}$ with index set \mathcal{T} is a family of random variables defined on a probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) .
- (b) A realisation of $\{X_t\}$ is the outcome $\{x_t\}_{t\in\mathcal{T}} = \{X_t(\omega)\}_{t\in\mathcal{T}}$ for some $\omega\in\Omega$. About the index set
- In time series usually $\mathcal{T}=\mathbb{R},\mathbb{R}_+$ or $\mathbb{Z};$
- owing to digitisation, \mathcal{T} cannot in practice contain a sub-interval of \mathbb{R} , but the time step Δt can be very small in some applications;
- almost-)continuous time series can be thinned by subsampling at the points of a grid, or, in some cases, by integration over intervals of width h (e.g., rainfall data);
- for general discussion, we take $\mathcal{T} = \mathbb{Z}$, so that X_t is recorded at times $0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \ldots$, and write a realisation of the process observed for finite period as x_1, \ldots, x_n

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- We will explore the impact of dependence between values in the series on the extreme values when observed at long-range and short-range.
- Generally, one considers how dependence affects:

$$\square \quad M_n = \max(X_1, \dots, X_n);$$

exceedances of a high threshold.

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A process $\{X_t\}$ is said to be a stationary process if the joint distributions of

$$(X_{t_1}, \dots, X_{t_k})$$
 and $(X_{t_1+\tau}, \dots, X_{t_k+\tau})$

are the same for any k, t_1 , . . . , t_k , and τ .

 \blacksquare Throughout we will assume that the univariate marginal distribution function is F, *i.e.*,

$$F(x) = \mathbb{P}(X_t \le x)$$

for all t.

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We suppose that there exist normalising sequences $a_n > 0$ and b_n such that

$$\frac{M_n - b_n}{a_n}$$

has a non-degenerate limit distribution.

We want to characterise the limit behaviour of M_n .

Recall: $M_n = \max(X_1, \dots, X_n)$.

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In the absence of any conditions that limit the amount of long-range dependence that can be present in the values of the series, any limit distribution can be obtained.

For example let $X_t = X_1$ for all t, then for all n,

$$\mathbb{P}(M_n \le x) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 \le x) = F(x),$$

so the class of limit distributions covers all distributions.

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- Let $M_{i,j} = \max(X_i, \dots, X_j)$ and $u_n = a_n x + b_n$ for a_n, b_n defined above and x any real number.
- **AIM** (u_n) condition: there exists a sequence q_n of positive integers with $q_n = o(n)$ such that for all i and j

$$|\mathbb{P}(M_{1,i} \le u_n, M_{i+q_n,i+q_n+j} \le u_n) - \mathbb{P}(M_{1,i} \le u_n)\mathbb{P}(M_{1,j} \le u_n)| \to 0,$$

as $n \to \infty$.

The condition ensures that separated groups of extreme points become increasingly close to being independent as their separation and level both increase at appropriate rates.

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$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{M_n - b_n}{a_n} \le x\right) \to H(x), \quad n \to \infty,$$

where H is a non-degenerate distribution, and that the $AIM(a_nx+b_n)$ condition holds, then H is of the same type¹ as

$$\exp[-(1+\xi x)_{+}^{-1/\xi}],$$

i.e. a GEV limit distribution.

¹Recall: We say that distribution functions F_1 and F_2 are of the same type if there exist constants a > 0 and b such that $F_2(ax + b) = F_1(x)$ for all x.

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- 3. In a neighbouring pair of long and short blocks, the maximum over the two blocks is likely to be in the long block.
- 4. All maxima tend to fall into the long blocks.
- 5. Long block maxima are approximately independent as they are separated in time by the short blocks, so satisfy $AIM(u_n)$ condition.
- 6. Long block maxima satisfy the max-stability property, and hence are GEV.

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At a practical level this is all we need, the maximum of a stationary sequence that has some independence at long-range follows a GEV distribution.

The result does not show how the dependence changes the behaviour of M_n .

■ We separate marginal and dependence features for the remainder and subsequently fix the marginal distribution F of the $\{X_t\}$ to be Fréchet.

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Let $\{X_t\}$ be a stationary process which has Fréchet marginal distributions, *i.e.*

$$F(x) = \exp(-1/x)$$
 for $x > 0$.

Let \widehat{M}_n denote the maximum of n IID variables with marginal distribution F, then

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{\widehat{M}_n}{n} \le x\right) = \{F(nx)\}^n = \exp(-1/x) = G(x),$$

i.e., \widehat{M}_n/n has a Fréchet limit distribution for all n and we denote the limit distribution of the maximum of the IID variables by G.

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Suppose that $M_n = \max(X_1, \dots, X_n)$, that $\{X_t\}$ satisfies the AIM(nx) condition and that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{M_n}{n} \le x\right) \to H(x),$$

then we can assess the effect of dependence on M_n by looking at the difference between H and G.

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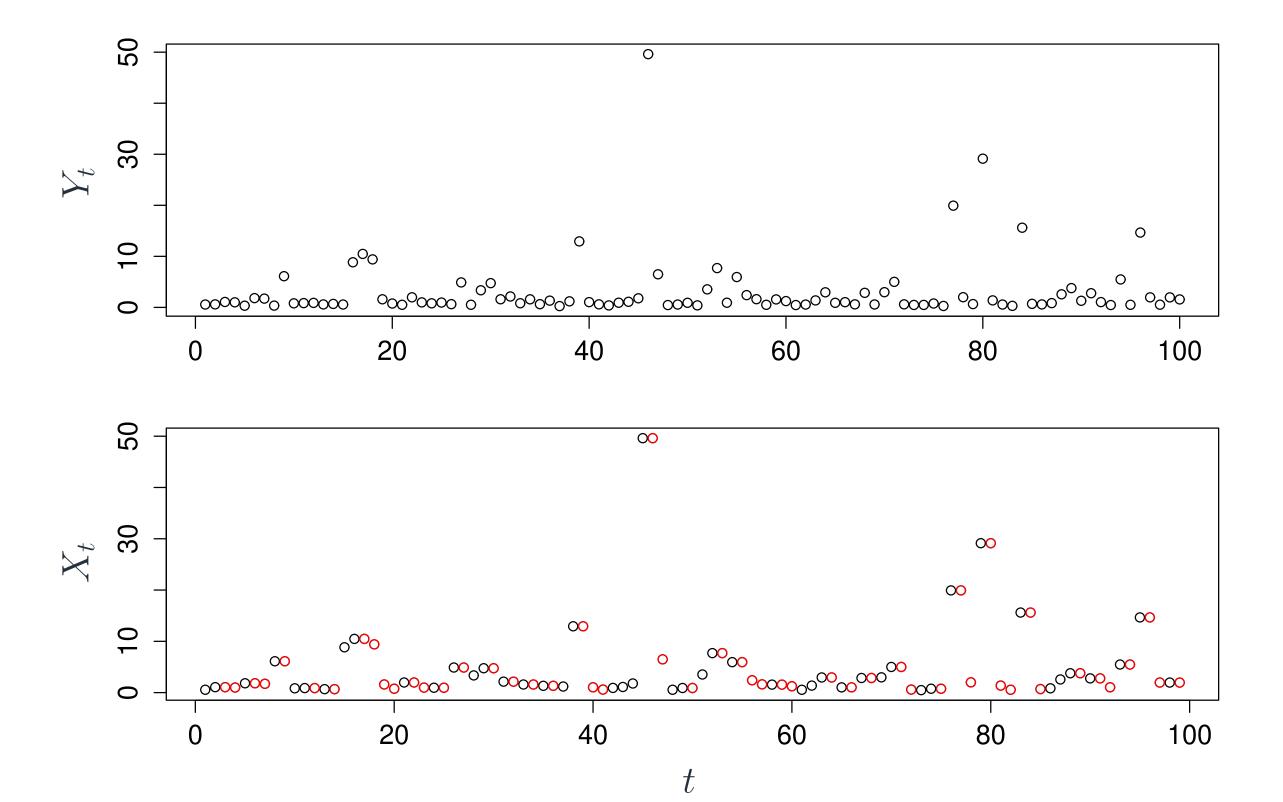
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Let $\{Y_t\}$ be IID with $F_Y(y) = \exp[-1/(2y)]$, *i.e.*, Fréchet type marginals. Define, for all t, $X_t = \max(Y_t, Y_{t-1})$.



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The marginal distribution of the $\{X_t\}$ process is:

$$\mathbb{P}(X_t \le x) = \mathbb{P}(Y_t \le x, Y_{t-1} \le x)$$

$$= \{F_Y(x)\}^2$$

$$= \exp[-2/(2x)]$$

$$= \exp(-1/x),$$

i.e., Fréchet distributed.

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For $\tau > 1$, X_t is independent of $X_{t+\tau}$ as the associated Y variables are all different for each of the X's and hence the X's are independent.

For $\tau = 1, X_t$ is dependent with $X_{t+\tau}$ as both X_t and X_{t+1} are functions of Y_t .

- It is hence clear that long-range independence holds.
- Extreme values occur as groups or clusters of independent values, with two values per cluster for all the largest values.

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$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{M_n}{n} \le x\right) = \mathbb{P}(X_1 \le nx, \dots, X_n \le nx) = \mathbb{P}(Y_0 \le nx, Y_1 \le nx, \dots, Y_n \le nx)$$

$$= [F_Y(nx)]^{n+1} = [\exp\{-1/(2nx)\}]^{n+1}$$

$$= \exp\{-(n+1)/(2nx)\} \to \exp\{-1/(2x)\} \quad \text{as } n \to \infty$$

$$= \{G(x)\}^{1/2} = H(x).$$

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The previous example shows that short-range dependence in the extreme values of the process affects the limiting distribution of M_n .

First we present a measure of short-range extremal dependence, termed the extremal index.

 \blacksquare Define the extremal index θ , for variables with Fréchet marginals, by

$$\theta = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}(M_{2,p_n} \le n | X_1 > n)$$
$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \{1 - \mathbb{P}(M_{2,p_n} > n | X_1 > n)\}$$

where $p_n = o(n)$.

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- $0 \le \theta \le 1.$
- lacktriangle Larger values of heta correspond to weaker short-range extremal dependence.
- For an IID process $\theta = 1$ as

$$\theta = \lim_{n \to \infty} \{F(n)\}^{p_n}$$

$$= \lim_{n \to \infty} \exp(-p_n/n)$$

$$= 1,$$

since $p_n/n \to 0$.

If a process is independent for all lags $\tau \geq m$, for some finite m then $1/m \leq \theta \leq 1$.

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- From the realisation of the process it is clear that $\theta = 1/2$.
- A derivation is

$$\mathbb{P}(M_{2,p_n} \le n | X_1 > n) = \mathbb{P}(Y_1 \le n, \dots, Y_{p_n} \le n | \max(Y_0, Y_1) > n)$$

$$\approx \mathbb{P}(Y_1 \le n, \dots, Y_{p_n} \le n | Y_0 > n) \frac{1}{2} + \mathbb{P}(Y_1 \le n, \dots, Y_{p_n} \le n | Y_1 > n) \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\to 1 \times \frac{1}{2} + 0 \times \frac{1}{2}, \quad n \to \infty$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} = \theta.$$

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Combining the above results and examples, the following result should appear to be quite natural.

For variables with Fréchet marginal distributions, provided that

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{M_n}{n} \le x\right) \to H(x), \quad n \to \infty$$

to a non-degenerate limit H and that

- \blacksquare AIM(nx) condition holds;
- \blacksquare θ exists,

then

$$H(x) = \{G(x)\}^{\theta}.$$

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The implications of this result are that, except for a really weak long-range dependence condition:

- 1. for stationary processes the effect of dependence is through θ only;
- 2. θ can be absorbed into the normalising constants, so dependence does not change the limiting type;
- 3. the limit suggests

$$H(x) = \lim_{n \to \infty} [\{F(nx)\}^n]^{\theta} = \lim_{n \to \infty} F(nx)^{n\theta},$$

so $n\theta$ can be thought of as an effective number of independent variables.

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- Consider random variables X_1, \ldots, X_n with arbitrary distribution function F and which satisfy the $AIM(u_n)$ condition.
- $\blacksquare \quad \text{As } n \to \infty,$

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\frac{M_n - b_n}{a_n} \le y\right) \to \exp\left[-\theta \left\{1 + \xi \left(\frac{y - \mu}{\sigma}\right)\right\}_+^{-1/\xi}\right],$$

where if the variables are IID then $\theta = 1$.

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We assume that

- \blacksquare { X_t } is a stationary process with arbitrary distribution function F;
- the required norming constants for an IID process with marginal F are a_n and b_n with limit distribution G, a GEV $(0, 1, \xi)$ distribution;
- a long-range asymptotic independence condition (similar to the AIM $(a_nx + b_n)$ condition) holds.

Consider the point processes

$$P_n = \left\{ \left(\frac{i}{n+1}, \frac{X_i - b_n}{a_n} \right) : i = 1, \dots, n \right\}$$

on $[0,1] \times \mathbb{R}$.

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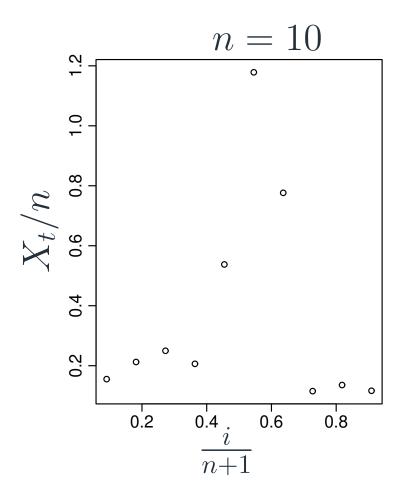
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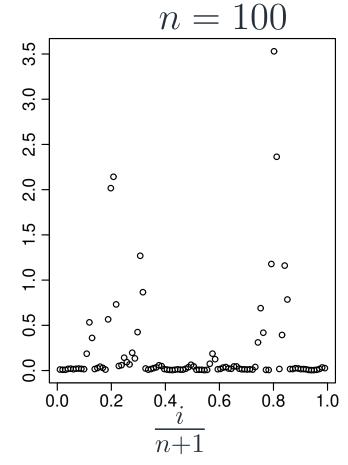
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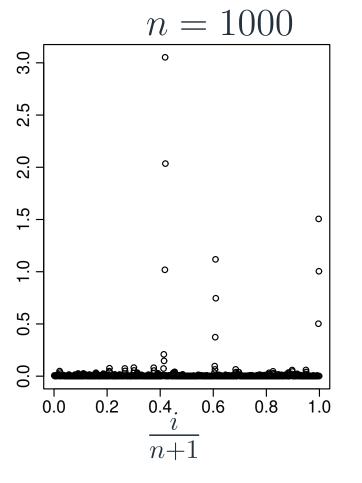
Point process P_n for n = 10, 100, 1000, 10000 respectively with

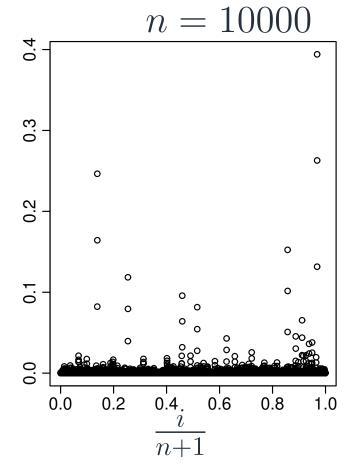
$$X_i \sim \text{Moving Max}(\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2) = \max(\alpha_0 Y_i, \alpha_1 Y_{i-1}, \alpha_2 Y_{i-2}),$$

with
$$\alpha_0 = 1/3$$
, $\alpha_1 = 1/2$, $\alpha_2 = 1/6$.









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Under the above conditions on P_n , on the set $[0, 1] \times (u, \infty)$, where $u > b_l = \lim_{n \to \infty} (x_F - b_n)/a_n$, then [Hsing et al., 1988, Rootzén, 1988]

$$P_n \stackrel{d}{\longrightarrow} P \quad \text{as } n \to \infty,$$

where P is a clustered non-homogeneous Poisson process with cluster distribution π .

The cluster distribution π is concentrated on $\{1, 2, \dots\}$ and has probability mass function

$$\pi(j) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \pi_n(j) = \lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbb{P}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{p_n} I\left(\frac{X_i - b_n}{a_n} > x\right) = j \mid \sum_{i=1}^{p_n} I\left(\frac{X_i - b_n}{a_n} > x\right) > 0\right],$$

where $p_n = o(n)$ and $x > b_l$.

lacktriangle The Laplace functional of the limiting Poisson process P is

$$-\log \mathbb{E} e^{-Pf} = \theta (1 + \xi y)^{-1/\xi} \int_0^1 [1 - \phi(f(t))] dt, \quad f \ge 0, \text{Borel}$$

where $\phi(s) = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} e^{-sj} \pi(j)$ is the Laplace transform of the cluster distribution π .

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- The extremal index satisfies $\theta^{-1} = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} j\pi(j)$.
- The set of cluster maxima (the largest value in each vertical string of points in the point process) form a non-homogeneous Poisson process with intensity

$$\lambda(t,y) = \theta(1+\xi y)_{+}^{-1-1/\xi}.$$

For data over a high threshold u we absorb the location b_n and scale a_n normalisation into the parameters to give the intensity of the non-homogeneous Poisson Process for the cluster maxima as

$$\lambda(t,y) = \theta \sigma^{-1} \left[1 + \xi \left(\frac{y - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \right]_{+}^{-1 - 1/\xi}.$$

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Fixing a threshold level $u > b_l$ we have that:

- 1. clusters are those set of points exceeding u which occur at the same normalised time. In the original series these are large points which occur within a short time period of one another.
- 2. the expected number of exceedances of u per cluster (for which the cluster maxima exceeds u) is θ^{-1} , irrespective of the level u;
- 3. relative to independent series, when $\theta < 1$ there are fewer clusters (by a factor θ) and more exceedances per cluster (by a factor θ^{-1});
- 4. values in one cluster are independent of values in another cluster;
- 5. values within a cluster are dependent.

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Fixing a threshold level $u > b_l$ we have that:

1. the rate of cluster maxima exceeding the threshold u is

$$\theta[1 + \xi(u - \mu)/\sigma]_{+}^{-1/\xi};$$

2. the rate of arbitrary values exceeding the threshold u is

$$[1 + \xi(u - \mu)/\sigma]_{+}^{-1/\xi};$$

3. cluster maxima excesses over u are independent, and follow a $GPD(\sigma_u, \xi)$, with shape parameter ξ ; $GPD(\sigma_u, \xi)$ model for cluster maxima excesses over u, where

$$\sigma_u = \sigma + \xi(u - \mu);$$

4. arbitrary (in time) excesses over u also follow a GPD(σ_u , ξ), *i.e.* with the same parameters as the cluster maxima.

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We consider the additional practical difficulties encountered due to dependence in analysing the extreme values of a stationary process.

In a practical data analysis, we must:

- select a high threshold;
- identify clusters of extreme values which are independent from one another;
- estimate the extremal index.

When clusters are defined we

- extract the cluster maxima and fit the GPD distribution to the cluster maxima over the threshold;
- estimate characteristics of the cluster;
- assess sensitivity of cluster characteristics to threshold selection.

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There are a number of ways of identifying independent clusters of extreme values. Here we will focus on:

- the runs method, proposed by Smith and Weissman [1994];
- the blocks and intervals methods, see Ferro and Segers [2003];
- the identification of conditions that can be tested for independence between clusters, see Ledford and Tawn [2003].

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For a selected high threshold u we conclude that if consecutive exceedances of the threshold u are separated by a set of r consecutive observations below the threshold u then the exceedances belong to separate clusters.

Similarly, exceedances separated by less than r consecutive non-exceedances are deemed to be in the same cluster.

The choice of *u* and *r* is critical, *r* needs to be the time lag when the process is "independent in the extremes".

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These motivate the runs estimator of the extremal index θ :

Use the empirical form the extremal index,

$$\widehat{\theta}(u,r) = \widehat{\mathbb{P}}(M_{2,r+1} \le u \mid X_1 > u),$$

using the empirical probability.

- $\widehat{\theta}(u,r)$ is identical to 1/(mean cluster size) with clusters defined by the runs method.
- $\widehat{\theta}(u,r)$ can be obtained using the function exi(data,u,r) from the evd R package.

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- Another estimator can be constructed by exploting the fact that the extremal index is related to the times between threshold exceedances.
- Let $\{X_t\}_{t\geq 1}$ be a process for which we consider the exceedances of a threshold u. Let F denote de marginal distribution of the X_i .
- Assume W.L.O.G. that $X_1 > u$, and let T(u) denote a random waiting time until the next exceedance of u.
- Then, $T(u) = \min\{t \ge 1 : X_{t+1} > u\}$ and

$$\mathbb{P}(T(u) > n) = \mathbb{P}(\max\{X_2, \dots, X_{n+1}\} \le u \mid X_1 > u).$$

If the X_i are IID, then

$$\mathbb{P}(T(u) > n) = F(u)^n,$$

and it can be shown that $\{1 - F(u)\}T(u)$ is asymptotically unit exponential.

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■ When the X_i are not independent, *i.e.*, $\theta \in (0, 1)$, it can be shown that

$$\{1 - F(u)\}T(u) \xrightarrow{d} T_{\theta},$$

where T_{θ} denotes a random variable distributed according to the mixture

$$(1-\theta)\varepsilon_0 + \theta\mu_\theta$$

where ε_0 is the degenerate probability distribution at 0 and μ_{θ} is the exponential distribution with mean θ^{-1} .

Note: θ is both the proportion of non-zero interexceedance times and the reciprocal of the mean of the non-zero interexceedance times.

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- Suppose that we observe n_u exceedances of u at times $1 \leq S_1 < \ldots < S_{n_u} \leq n$.
- Compute the interexceedance times $T_i = S_{i+1} S_i$ for $i = 1, \ldots, n_{u-1}$.
- Set

$$\widehat{\theta}_n^{\delta}(u) = \frac{2\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_u-1} T_i\right)^2}{(n_u - 1)\sum_{i=1}^{n_u-1} T_i^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \widehat{\theta}_n^{\star}(u) = \frac{2\left(\sum_{i=1}^{n_u-1} T_i - 1\right)^2}{(n_u - 1)\sum_{i=1}^{n_u-1} (T_i - 1)(T_i - 2)}.$$

■ Then, the Ferro & Segers estimator $\widehat{\theta}_{FS}$ is given by

$$\widehat{\theta}_{FS} = \begin{cases} \min\{1, \widehat{\theta}_{n}^{\delta}(u)\} & \text{if } \max\{T_{i} : 1 \le i \le n_{u-1}\} \le 2\\ \min\{1, \widehat{\theta}_{n}^{\star}(u)\} & \text{if } \max\{T_{i} : 1 \le i \le n_{u-1}\} > 2 \end{cases}$$

 $\widehat{\theta}_{FS}$ can be obtained using the function exi(data,u,r=0) from the evd R package.

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- A convenient way to estimate uncertainty for an estimate $\widehat{\theta}$ is to perform a bootstrap procedure.
- In the case of stationary sequences, a block bootstrap procedure is chosen to account for short range dependence structures.
 - \square Consider n realisations $\boldsymbol{x}_{1:n} = \{x_t\}_{t=1}^n$ from a time-series $\{X_t : t = 1, 2, \dots\}$.
 - \Box Create a collection of moving blocks of size b, e.g., $C = \{x_{1:b}, \ldots, x_{i:(i+b-1)}, \ldots, x_{n:b}\}$.
 - \Box Create a block bootstrap sample $X_{1:n}$ by sampling n/b blocks from C with replacement.
- For each of m block bootstrap samples, estimate the extremal index, resulting in a collection $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = \{\widehat{\theta}_1, \dots, \widehat{\theta}_m\}.$
- Construct a quantile-based confidence interval from $\widehat{\theta}$.

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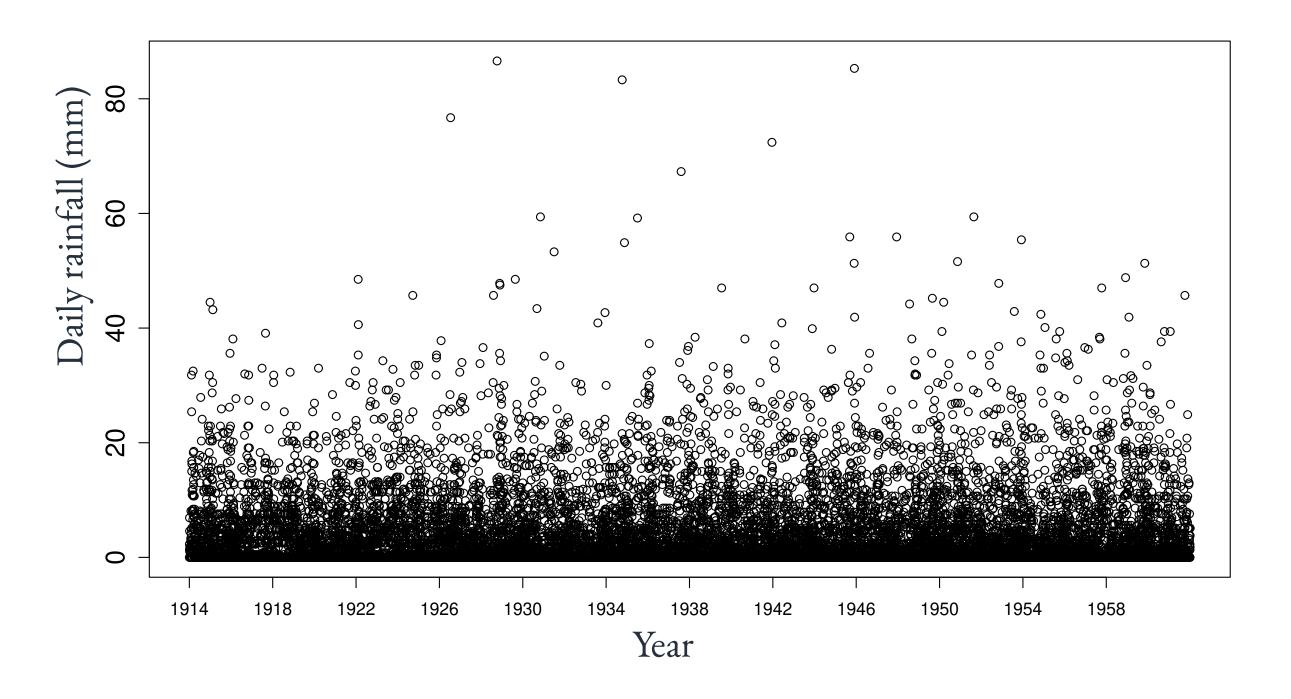
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We illustrate the use of these cluster identification and extremal index estimation using a time series of daily rainfall accumulations at a location in south-west England, recorded during 1914-1962.



The series is assumed to be stationary over this observation period.

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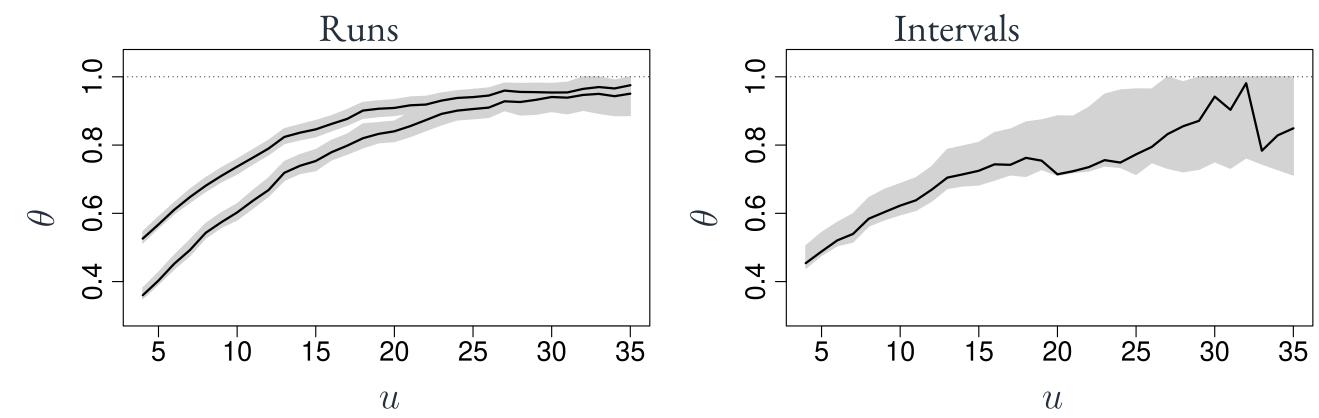
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- $\widehat{\theta}(u,r)$ are threshold dependent;
- increasing r does not materially change our estimate $\widehat{\theta}(u,r)$;
- r = 1 is appropriate for cluster identification;
- the value of $\widehat{\theta}(u,r) \approx 1$ indicates weak short-range dependence with a limiting cluster size of 1 for higher thresholds;
- rainfall episodes tend to last a number of days, but this analysis tells us that extreme daily rainfall events tend to be isolated.

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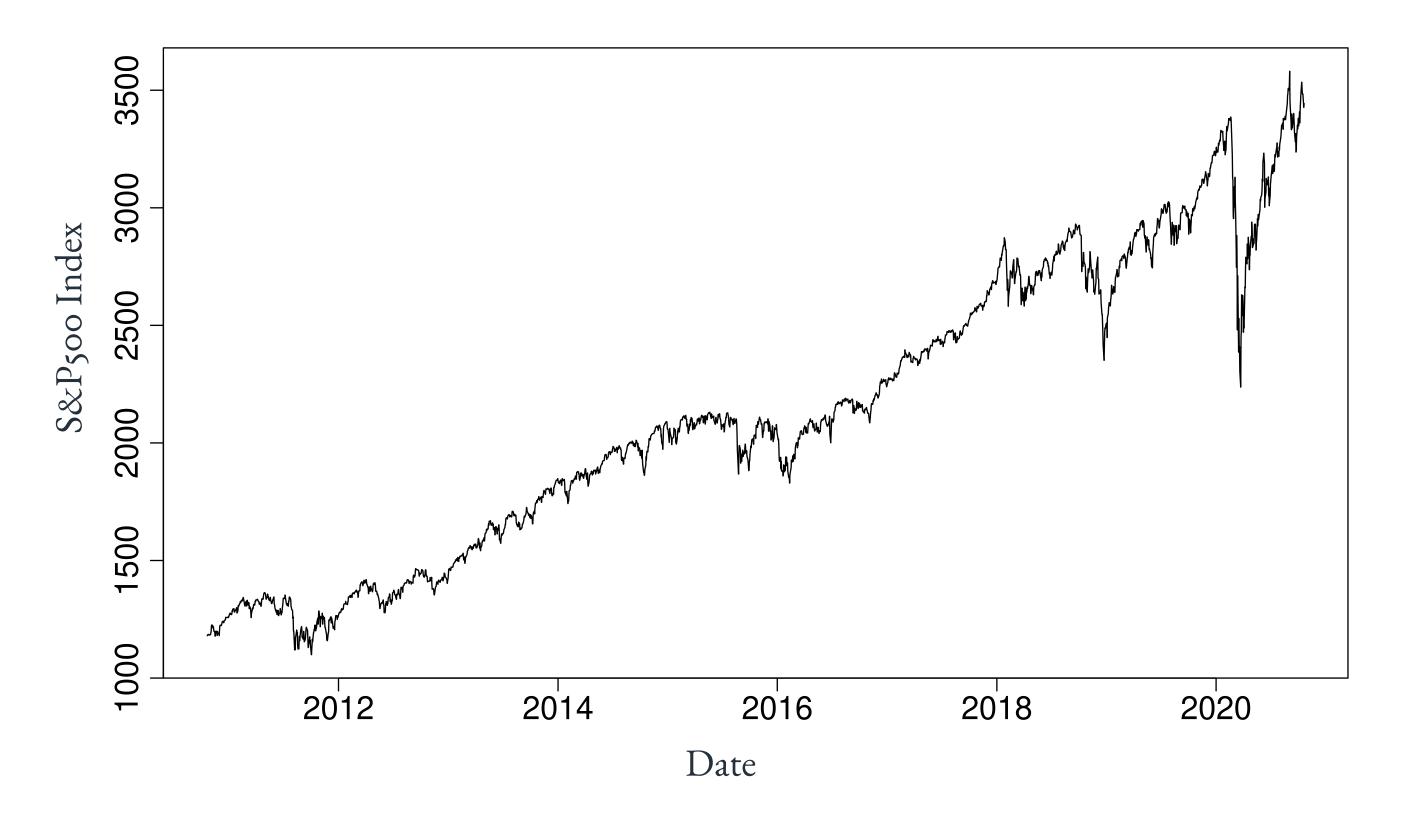
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We now turn to estimating clustering for the financial time series data.



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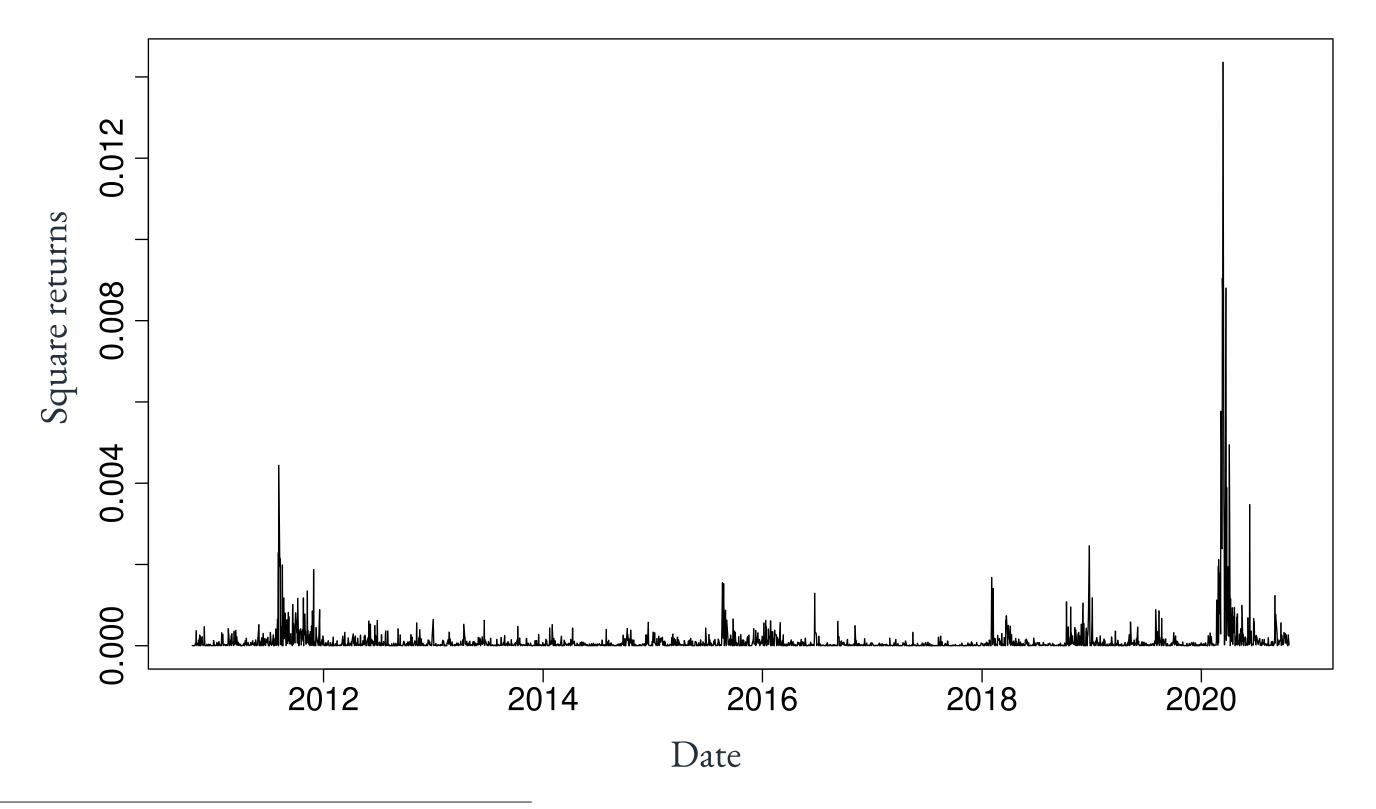
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We focus on the squared returns from the S&P500 share index.



Recall: The return R_t for day t is $R_t = (X_{t-1} - X_t)/X_{t-1}$.

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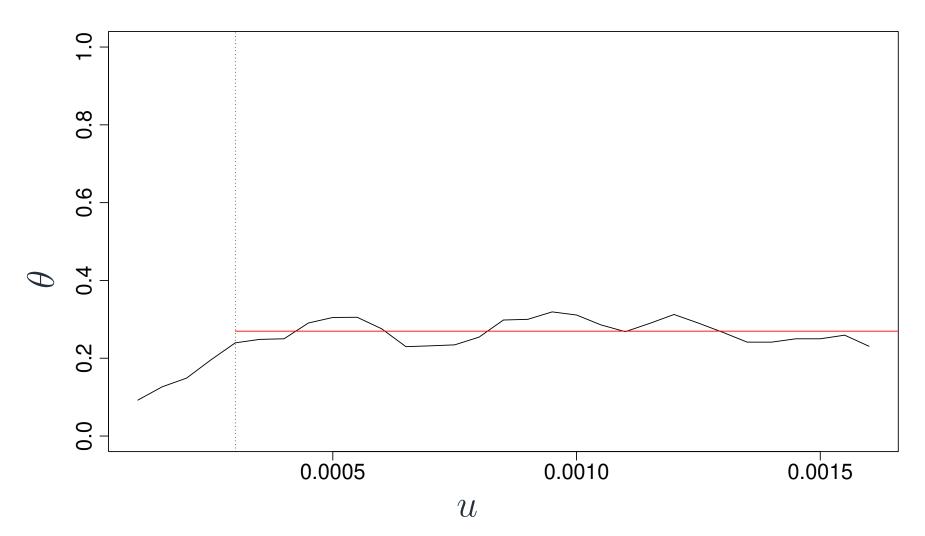
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We compute the extremal index of the squared returns based on a runs estimator with r=10.



- $\widehat{\theta}(u,r)$ is stable for $u \ge 0.0003$ (dotted line) corresponding to the 0.92 quantile of the squared returns.
- The value of $\widehat{\theta}(u \ge 0.0003, r) \approx 0.270$ (red line) suggests that the mean cluster size is around 3.70.
- r = 10 seems fine for cluster identification.

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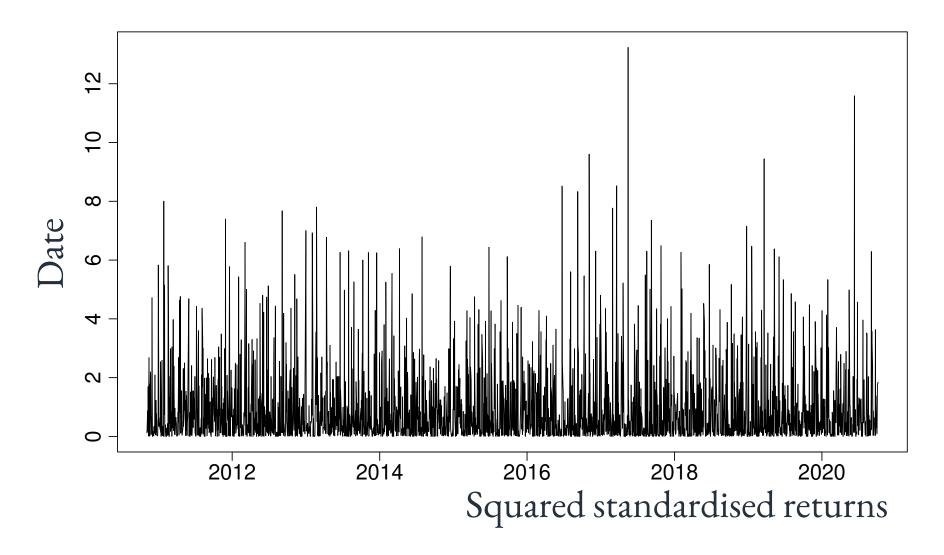
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We now investigate the source of serial dependence being the changing volatility of the process. We work with the squared standardised series:



We standardise the returns series by

- subtracting the local mean;
- dividing by the local standard deviation.

Local means and standard deviations were calculated using the h=21 observations centred on the value to be standardised.

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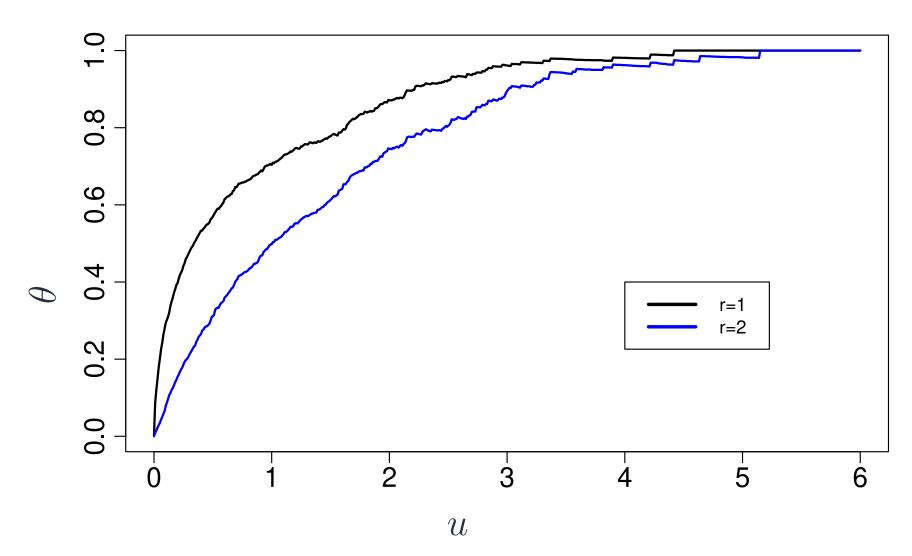
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- Estimates of $\widehat{\theta}(u,r)$ are threshold dependent.
- Increasing r does not materially change our conclusions, r=1 is fine for cluster identification.
- The limiting value of $\theta=1$ indicates weak short-range independence with a limiting cluster size of 1.
- By undertaking the more sophisticated analysis and standardising the series we appear to have accounted for all the short-range dependence in the series.

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For a specific threshold u, we can

- model the cluster maxima:
 - identify the clusters for a given threshold u and run length r using the clusters() function from the evd package in R.
 - \square fit the GPD(σ_u, ξ) model for cluster maxima excesses over u;
 - standard errors can be obtained by usual methods as cluster maxima are independent.

- model all exceedances:
 - \square fit the GPD(σ_u, ξ) model for the excess of all exceedances over u;
 - the data are dependent so block bootstrap methods are needed for standard error evaluation.

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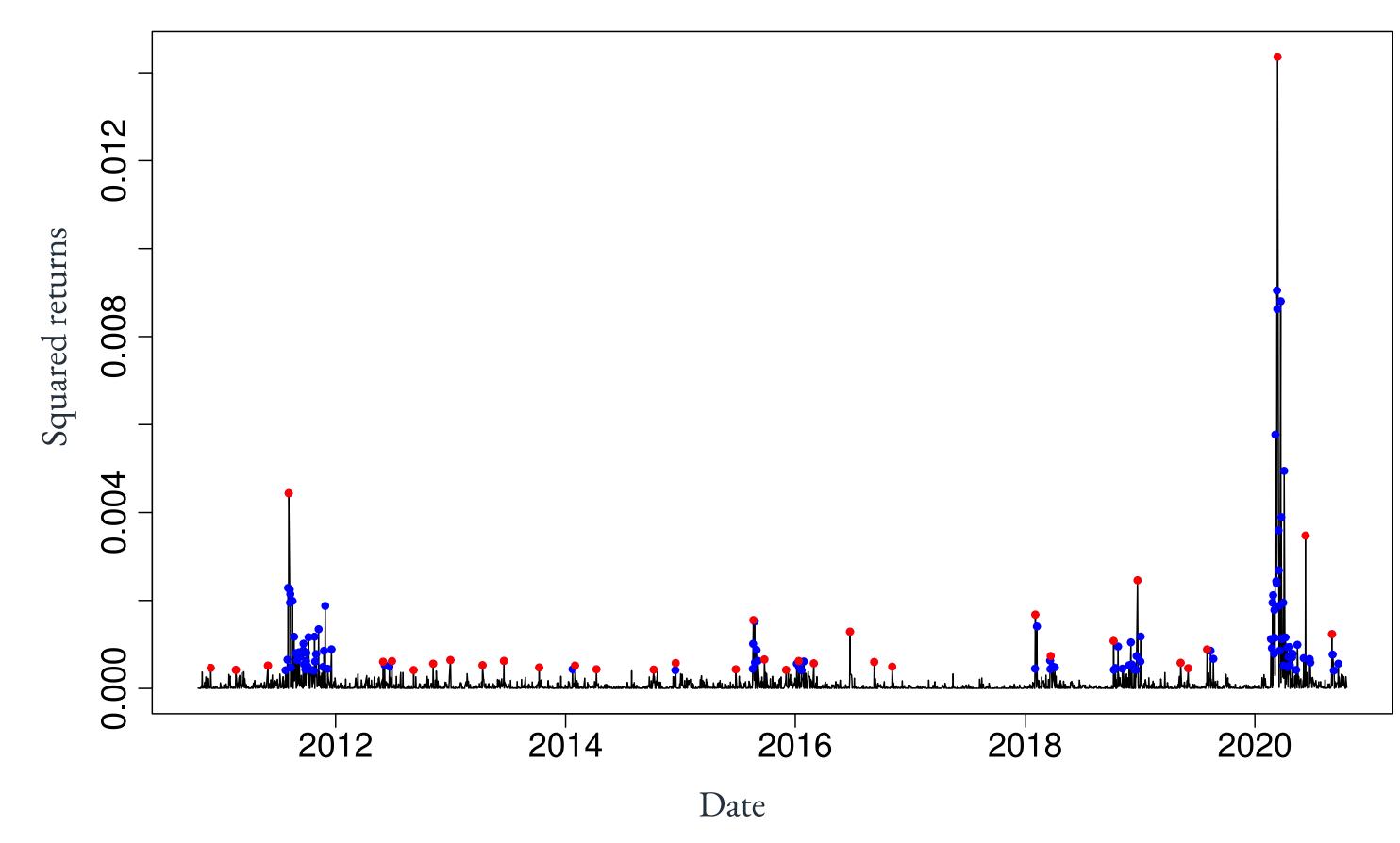
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To estimate μ and σ in the point process intensity, we need information in addition to that given by our estimate of σ_u and ξ .

This information is given by the expected number of cluster maxima exceeding u.

Equating the point process and sample values gives

$$\theta[1 + \xi(u - \mu)/\sigma]_{+}^{-1/\xi} = n_{\text{cl},u}.$$

It follows that

$$\widehat{\sigma} = \widehat{\sigma}_u(n_{\text{exc},u})^{\widehat{\xi}}$$

and

$$\widehat{\mu} = u + (\widehat{\sigma} - \widehat{\sigma}_u)/\widehat{\xi}.$$

 $[\]theta$ is estimated by $\widehat{\theta}_u = n_{\mathrm{cl},u}/n_{\mathrm{exc},u}$, i.e., the number of clusters above u divided by the number of exceedances of u.

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For the squared S&P500 returns:

- using a declustering parameter of r=10 and a threshold of u=0.0004 corresponding to the 0.95 quantile of the squared returns gives $n_{\rm cl} = 35$ independent clusters;
- there are $n_{\text{exc},u} = 140$ exceedances of u;
- we estimate the extremal index as $\widehat{\theta} = 0.25$;
- fitting a GPD to cluster maxima gives $\widehat{\sigma}_u = 0.000215(0.00002), \widehat{\xi} = 0.905(0.271);$
- combining the above estimates gives

$$\widehat{\sigma} = \widehat{\sigma}_u(n_{\text{exc},u})^{\widehat{\xi}} = 0.0189$$

and

$$\widehat{\mu} = u + (\widehat{\sigma} - \widehat{\sigma}_u)/\widehat{\xi} = 0.0211.$$

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Example: financial time series data

Extremal index for the squared S&P500 returns

Squared standardised returns

Extremal index for the squared

standardised returns

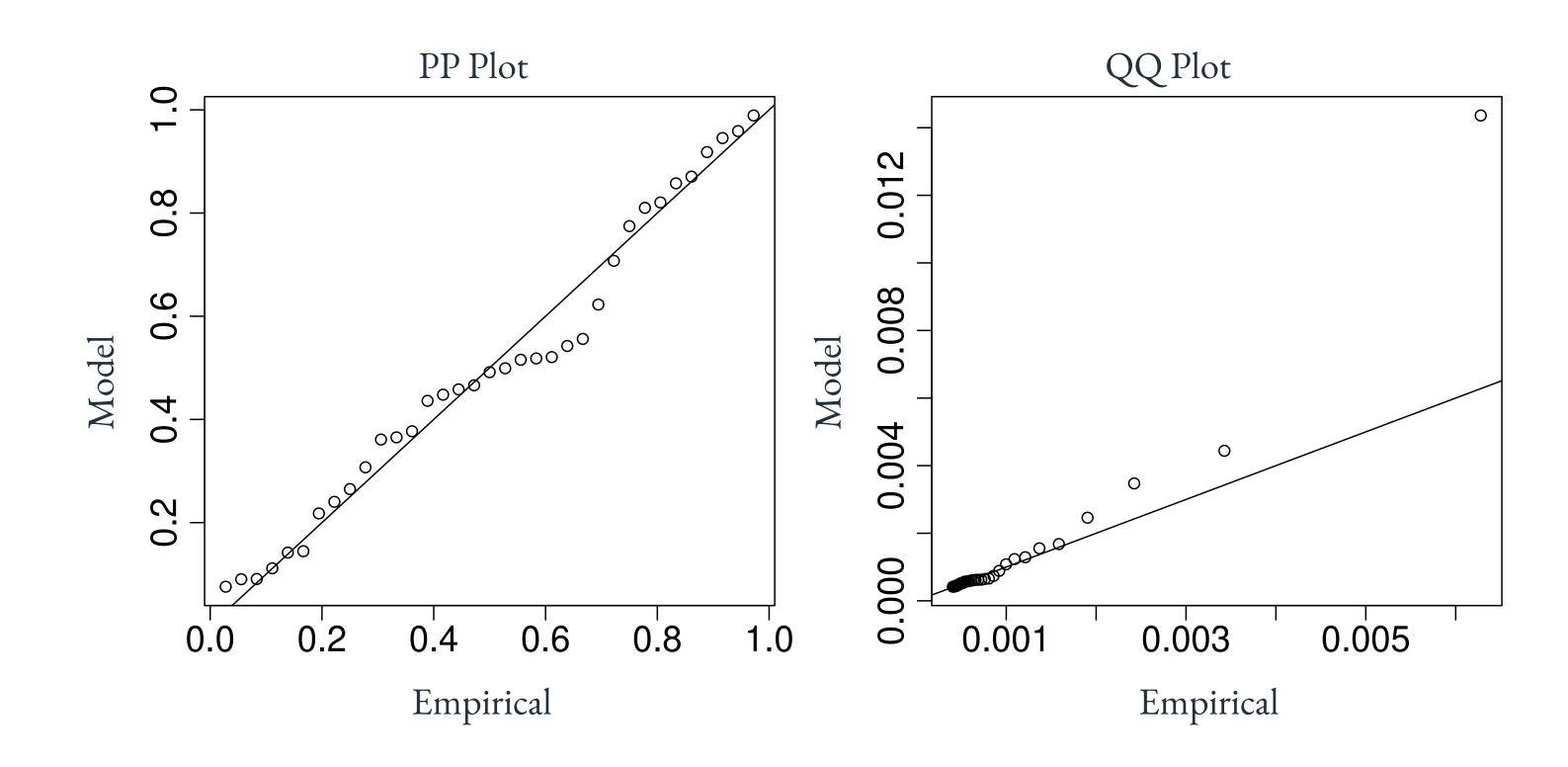
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