# Value-at-Risk, Expected Shortfall and Density Forecasting



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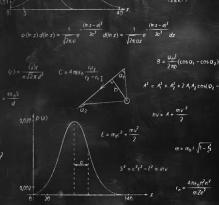
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#### **Risk Measurement Overview**

- What is risk?
- What is Value-at-Risk?
- How can VaR be measured and modeled?
- How can VaR models be tested?
- What is Expected Shortfall?
- How can densities be forecasted?
- How can density models be evaluated?
- What is a coherent risk measure?

## Risk

- What is risk?
- Market Risk
  - ► Liquidity Risk
  - ► Credit Risk
  - ► Counterparty Risk
  - ► Model Risk
  - Estimation Risk
- Today's focus: Market Risk
- Tools
  - ▶ Value-at-Risk
  - ► Expected Shortfall
  - Density Estimation



#### Value-at-Risk

- Value-at-Risk is a standard tool of risk management
  - ▶ Basel Accord

## Definition (Value-at-Risk)

The  $\alpha$  Value-at-Risk (VaR) of a portfolio is defined as the largest number such that the probability that the loss in portfolio value over some period of time is greater than the VaR is  $\alpha$ ,

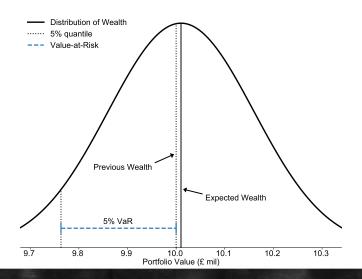
$$Pr(R < -VaR) = \alpha$$

where  $R=W_1-W_0$  is the total return on the portfolio,  $W_t,\,t=0,\,1$ , is the value of the assets in the portfolio and 1 and 0 measure an arbitrary time span (e.g. one day or two weeks).

- Units are \$, £, ¥
- Almost always positive
- It is a quantile

# Value-at-Risk in a picture

- Returns are  $N(.001, .015^2)$
- $W_0$  is £10,000,000



#### Percent Value-at-Risk

Value-at-Risk can be normalized and reported as a %

## Definition (Percentage Value-at-Risk)

The  $\alpha$  percentage Value-at-Risk (%VaR) of a portfolio is defined as the largest return such that the probability that the return on the portfolio over some period of time is less than -%VaR is  $\alpha$ ,

$$Pr(r < -\%VaR) = \alpha$$

where r is the percentage return on the portfolio. %VaR can be equivalently defined as  $%VaR = VaR/W_0$ .

- Units are returns (no units)
- Also almost always positive
- lacktriangle Lets VaR be interpreted without knowing the value of the portfolio,  $W_0$ 
  - No meaningful loss of information from standard VaR
  - Used throughout rest of lecture in place of formal definition of VaR

# Relationship between Quantiles and VaR

- VaR is a quantile
  - Quantile of the future distribution

## Definition ( $\alpha$ -Quantile)

The  $\alpha$ -quantile of a random variable X is defined as the *smallest* number  $q_{\alpha}$  such that

$$\Pr(X \le q_{\alpha}) = \alpha$$

- Other "-iles"
  - ► Tercile
  - ▶ Quartile
  - Quintile
  - ▶ Decile
  - ▶ Percentile

#### Conditional and Unconditional VaR

Condiitonal VaR is similar to conditional mean or conditional variance

## Definition (Conditional Value-at-Risk)

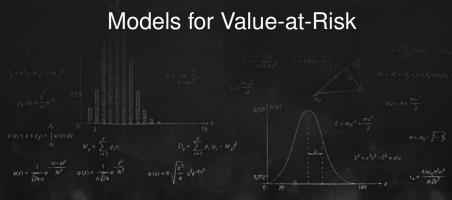
The conditional  $\alpha$  Value-at-Risk is defined as

$$Pr(r_{t+1} < -VaR_{t+1|t}|\mathcal{F}_t) = \alpha$$

where  $r_{t+1} = \left(W_{t+1} - W_t\right)/W_t$  is the return on a portfolio at time t+1.

- t is an arbitrary measure of time  $\Rightarrow t+1$  also refers to an arbitrary unit of time
  - ▶ day, two-weeks, 5 years, etc.
- Incorporates all information available at time t to assess risk at time t+1
- Natural extension of conditional expectation and conditional variance to conditional quantile





## Conditional VaR: RiskMetrics

- Industry standard benchmark
- Restricted GARCH(1,1)

$$\sigma_{t+1}^2 = (1 - \lambda)r_t^2 + \lambda \sigma_t^2$$

■ Exponentially Weighted Moving Average (EWMA):

$$\sigma_{t+1}^2 = \sum_{i=0}^{\infty} (1 - \lambda) \lambda^i r_{t-i}^2$$
$$VaR_{t+1} = -\sigma_{t+1} \Phi^{-1}(\alpha)$$

- lacktriangledown  $\Phi^{-1}(\cdot)$  is the inverse normal CDF
- Advantages
  - No parameters to estimate
  - $\lambda$  =.94 (daily data), .97 (weekly), .99 (monthly)
  - Easy to extend to portfolios (see notes)
- Disadvantages
  - ► No parameters to estimate
  - ► No leverage effect
  - Random Walk VaR

## Conditional VaR: GARCH models for Value-at-Risk

$$\begin{split} r_{t+1} &= \mu + \epsilon_{t+1} \\ \sigma_{t+1}^2 &= \omega + \gamma \epsilon_t^2 + \beta \sigma_t^2 \\ \epsilon_{t+1} &= \sigma_{t+1} e_{t+1} \\ e_{t+1} &\stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} f(0,1) \end{split}$$

■ Value-at-Risk:

$$VaR_{t+1} = -\hat{\mu} - \hat{\sigma}_{t+1}F_{\alpha}^{-1}$$

- lacksquare  $F_{lpha}^{-1}$  is the lpha quantile of the distribution of  $e_{t+1}$ 
  - ► For example, 1.645 for the 5% from a normal
- Advantages
  - Flexible volatility model and easy to estimate
- Disadvantages
  - ► Must chose f (know f to get the correct VaR)
  - Location-Scale families

# Conditional VaR: Semiparametric/Filtered HS

lacktriangledown Parametric GARCH + Nonparametric Density ightarrow Semi-parametric VaR

$$e_{t+1} \overset{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} g(0,1), \quad g \text{unknown distribution}$$

- Implementation
  - 1. Fit an ARCH model using Normal QMLE
  - 2.  $\hat{e}_t = \frac{\hat{\epsilon}_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t}$
  - 3. Order residuals

$$\hat{e}_1 < \hat{e}_2 < \ldots < \hat{e}_{N-1} < \hat{e}_N$$

■ Quantile is residual  $\alpha \times N$  residual (N=T).

$$VaR_{t+1}(\alpha) = -\hat{\mu} - \hat{\sigma}_{t+1}\hat{G}_{\alpha}^{-1}$$

- Advantages
  - ► All advantages of GARCH
  - Quantile converges to true quantile
- Disadvantages
  - Location-Scale families
  - ► Quantile convergence is slow

#### Conditional VaR: CaViaR

- Conditional Autoregressive Value-at-Risk (ARCVaR)
  - Conditional quantile regression
  - lacktriangle Directly parameterize quantile  $F_{lpha}^{-1}=q$  of the return distribution

$$q_{t+1} = \omega + \gamma HIT_t + \beta q_t$$

$$HIT_t = I_{[r_t < q_t]} - \alpha$$

$$VaR_{t+1} = -q_{t+1}$$

- Advantages
  - ► Focuses on quantile
  - ► Flexible specification
- Disadvantages
  - Hard to estimate
  - Which specification?
  - Out-of-order VaR: 5% can less than 10% VaR

## Estimation of CaViaR models

- Many CaViaR specifications
  - Symmetric

$$q_{t+1} = \omega + \gamma HIT_t + \beta q_t.$$

Symmetric absolute value,

$$q_{t+1} = \omega + \gamma |r_t| + \beta q_t.$$

Asymmetric absolute value

$$q_{t+1} = \omega + \gamma_1 |r_t| + \gamma_2 |r_t| I_{[r_t < 0]} + \beta q_t$$

Indirect GARCH

$$q_{t+1} = \left(\omega + \gamma r_t^2 + \beta q_t^2\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Estimation minimizes the "tick" loss function

$$\underset{\boldsymbol{\theta}}{\operatorname{argmin}} T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \alpha(r_t - q_t) (1 - I_{[r_t < q_t]}) + (1 - \alpha)(q_t - r_t) I_{[r_t < q_t]}$$

- ▶ Non-differentiable
- ► Requires "derivative-free" optimizers (e.g. simplex optimizers)

# Weighted Historical Simulation

- Uses a weighted empirical CDF
- Weights are exponentially decaying

$$w_i = \lambda^{t-i} (1 - \lambda) / (1 - \lambda^t), \quad i = 1, 2, \dots, t$$

■ Weighted Empirical CDF

$$\hat{G}_t(r) = \sum_{i=1}^t w_i I_{[r_i < r]}$$

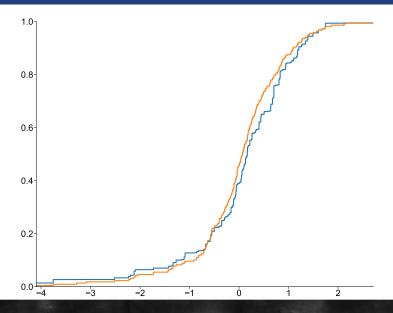
Conditional VaR is solution to

$$\operatorname{VaR}_{t+1} = \min_{r} \hat{G}(r) \ge \alpha$$

■ Example uses  $\lambda = 0.975$ 

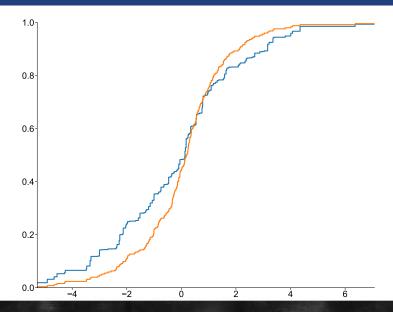
# Weighted Historical Simulation

2018



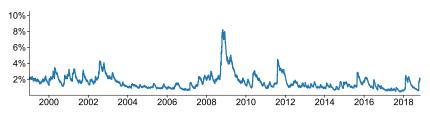
# Weighted Historical Simulation

2009

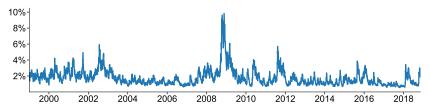


# S&P 500 VaR Estimates, $\alpha = 5\%$

% VaR using RiskMetrics

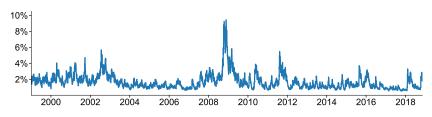


% VaR using TARCH(1,1,1) with Skew t errors

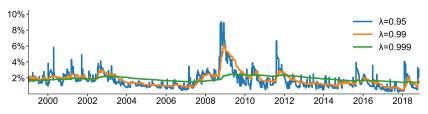


## S&P 500 VaR Estimates, $\alpha = 5\%$

#### % VaR using Asymmetric CaViaR



#### % VaR using Weighted Historical Simulation



#### **Unconditional VaR**

- Parametric Estimation
  - Specify some fully parametric model for returns
  - Estimate the parameters by MLE
  - VaR is the α-quantile of the fit distribution
- Nonparametric Estimation (Historical Simulation)
  - Nonparametric estimation of the density of returns using raw data
  - Identical to previous density estimation
  - ► Can "smooth" to reduce variance
- Parametric Monte Carlo
  - Estimate a conditional model for short horizon returns
  - Simulate the model for many periods
  - Use a nonparametric estimate of the density of the simulated returns



# Evaluation of Value-at-Risk Models



# Evaluating VaR models

Basic instrument for testing VaR is the "Hit"

$$ge_t = I_{[r_t < F_t^{-1}]} - \alpha = HIT_t$$

- Is the generalized error from the "tick" loss function
- If the VaR is correct,

$$\mathbf{E}_{t-1}[HIT_t] = 0$$

- Leads to a standard Generalized Mincer-Zarnowitz evaluation framework
- Hit Regression

$$HIT_{t+h} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 VaR_{t+h|t} + \gamma_2 HIT_t + \gamma_3 HIT_{t-1} + \dots + \gamma_K HIT_{t-K+1}$$

- ▶ Null is  $H_0: \gamma_0 = \gamma_1 = ... = \gamma_K = 0$
- ▶ Alternative is  $H_1: \gamma_i \neq 0$  for some j
- As always, GMZ can be augmented with any time t measurable variable

# Unconditional Evaluation of VaR using the Bernoulli

- HITs from a correct VaR model have a Bernoulli distribution
  - ▶ 1 with probability \( \alpha \)
  - ▶ 0 with probability  $1 \alpha$
- Likelihood for T Bernoulli random variables  $x_t \in \{0,1\}$

$$f(x_t; p) = \prod_{t=1}^{T} p^{x_t} (1 - p)^{1 - x_t}$$

■ Log-likelihood is

$$l(p; x_t) = \sum_{t=1}^{T} x_t \ln p + (1 - x_t) \ln 1 - p$$

- $\blacksquare \ \, \text{In terms of} \, \, \alpha \, \, \text{and} \, \, \widetilde{HIT}_t \\ l(\alpha; \widetilde{HIT}_t) = \sum_{t=1}^T \widetilde{HIT}_t \ln \alpha + \left(1 \widetilde{HIT}_t\right) \ln 1 \alpha$
- Easy to conduct a LR test

$$LR = 2(l(\hat{\alpha}; \widetilde{HIT}) - l(\alpha_0; \widetilde{HIT})) \sim \chi_1^2$$

 $\hat{\alpha} = T^{-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \widetilde{HIT}_t$ ,  $\alpha_0$  is the  $\alpha$  from the VaR

# Evaluation of Conditional VaR using the Bernoulli

- Can also be extended to testing conditional independence of HITs
- Define

$$n_{00} = \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} (1 - \widetilde{HIT}_t)(1 - \widetilde{HIT}_{t+1}), \quad n_{10} = \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} (1 - \widetilde{HIT}_t)\widetilde{HIT}_{t+1}$$

$$n_{01} = \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \widetilde{HIT}_t(1 - \widetilde{HIT}_{t+1}), \quad n_{11} = \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} \widetilde{HIT}_t\widetilde{HIT}_{t+1}$$

The log-likelihood for the sequence two VaR exceedences is

$$l(p; \widetilde{HIT}) = n_{11} \ln(p_{11}) + n_{01} \ln(1 - p_{11}) + n_{00} \ln(p_{00}) + n_{10} \ln(1 - p_{00})$$

# Evaluation of Conditional VaR using the Bernoulli

- Null is  $H_0: p_{11} = 1 p_{00} = \alpha$
- MLEs are

$$\hat{p}_{00} = \frac{n_{00}}{n_{00} + n_{10}}, \ \hat{p}_{11} = \frac{n_{11}}{n_{11} + n_{01}}$$

Tested using a likelihood ratio test

$$LR = 2(l(\hat{p}_{00}, \hat{p}_{11}; \widetilde{HIT}) - l(p_{00} = 1 - \alpha, p_{11} = \alpha; \widetilde{HIT}))$$

■ Test statistic follows a  $\chi^2_2$  distribution

# Relationship to Probit/Logit

- Standard GMZ regression is not an ideal test
- Ignores special structure of a *HIT*
- A HIT is a limited dependant variable
  - Only takes one of two values
- $\blacksquare$  Define a modified hit  $\widetilde{HIT}_t = I_{[r_t < F_t^{-1}]}$ 
  - ▶ Takes the value 1 with probability  $\alpha$  and 0 with probability  $1-\alpha$
  - ▶ Name that distribution →
- Leads to a modified regression framework known as a probit or logit
  - ► Probit:

$$\widetilde{HIT}_{t+1} = \Phi \left( \gamma_0 + \mathbf{x}_t \boldsymbol{\gamma} \right)$$

- If model is correct,  $\gamma_0 = \Phi^{-1}(\alpha)$  and  $\gamma = 0$
- Estimated using Bernoulli Maximum Likelihood
- Easy to compute Likelihood ratio
- Accounts for the limited range of the variable and that the density is non-normal
- Allows for simple-yet-powerful likelihood ratio tests under the null



# Density Forecasting and Evaluation



# Density Estimation and Forecasting

- End all be all of risk measurement
- Issues:
  - Equally hard
  - Lots of estimation and model error
    - Can have non obvious effects on nonlinear functions (i.e. options)
  - Not closed under aggregation
    - No multi-step
- Builds off of the GARCH VaR application

# Density forecasts from GARCH models

■ Simple constant mean GARCH(1,1)

$$\begin{split} r_{t+1} &= \mu + \epsilon_{t+1} \\ \sigma_{t+1}^2 &= \omega + \gamma \epsilon_t^2 + \beta \sigma_t^2 \\ \epsilon_{t+1} &= \sigma_{t+1} e_{t+1} \\ e_{t+1} &\stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} g(0,1). \end{split}$$

- lacktriangleq g is some known distribution, but not necessarily normal
- $\blacksquare$  Density forecast is simply  $g(\mu,\sigma^2_{t+1|t})$
- Flexible through choice of *g*
- Parsimonious
- Semiparametric works in same way replacing g with the standardized residuals of a "smoothed" estimate

#### **Kernel Densities**

"Smoothed" densities are more precise than rough estimates

$$g(e) = \frac{1}{Th} \sum_{t=1}^{T} K\left(\frac{\hat{e}_t - e}{h}\right), \quad \hat{e}_t = \frac{y_t - \hat{\mu}_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t} = \frac{\hat{\epsilon}_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t}$$

- $\blacksquare$  Local average of how many  $\hat{e}_t$  there are in a small neighborhood of e
- $\blacksquare$   $K(\cdot)$  is a kernel
  - ► Gaussian

$$K(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \exp(-x^2/2)$$

► Epanechnikov

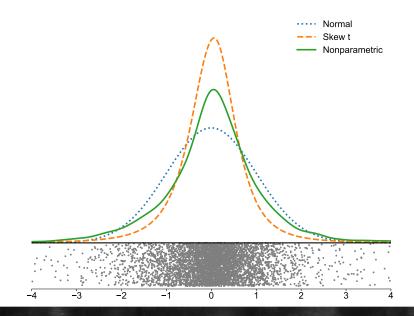
$$K(x) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{3}{4}(1-x^2) & -1 \leq x \leq 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

- h: Bandwidth controls smoothing
- Silverman's bandwidth

$$1.06\sigma_x T^{-\frac{1}{5}}$$

- ▶ h too small produces very rough densities (low bias but lots of variance)
- h too large produces everly smooth (low variance but very biased).

# S&P 500 Parametric and Nonparametric Densities



# Multi-step Density Forecasts

- Densities do not aggregate in general
  - Multivariate normal is special
- Densities from GARCH models do not easily aggregate
- 1-step density forecast from a standard GARCH(1,1)

$$r_{t+1}|\mathcal{F}_t \sim N(\mu, \sigma_{t+1|t}^2)$$

Wrong 2-step forecast from a standard GARCH(1,1)

$$r_{t+2}|\mathcal{F}_t \sim N(\mu, \sigma_{t+2|t}^2)$$

■ Correct 2-step forecast from a standard GARCH(1,1)

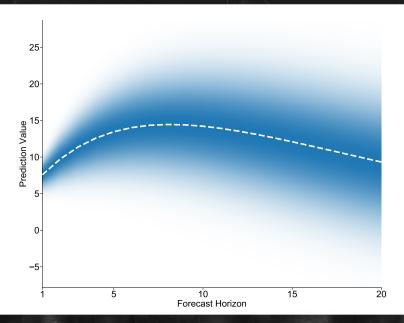
$$r_{t+2}|\mathcal{F}_t \sim \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \phi(\mu, \sigma^2(e_{t+1})_{t+2|t+1}) \phi(e_{t+1}) de_{t+1}.$$

- lacktriangle Must integrate out the variance uncertainty between t+1 and t+2
- Easy fix: directly model t + 2 (or t + h)

## The Fan plot

- Hard to produce time-series of densities
- Solution is the Fan Plot
- Popularized by the Bank of England
- Horizontal axis (x) is the number of time-periods ahead
- Vertical axis (y) is the vale the variable might take
- Density is expressed using varying degrees of color intensity.
  - Dark color indicate the highest probability
  - Progressively lighter colors represent decreasing likelihood
  - ► Essentially a plot of many quantiles of the distribution through time
- A lot of "wow"
- Not necessarily a lot of content

# A fan plot for an AR(2)



# Density "Standardized" Residuals

- Consider a generic stochastic process  $\{y_t\}$ 
  - ► Residuals from mean models:

$$\hat{\epsilon}_t = y_t - \hat{\mu}_t$$

► Residuals from variance models:

$$\hat{e}_t = \frac{\hat{\epsilon}_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t} = \frac{y_t - \hat{\mu}_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t}$$

Residuals from Value-at-Risk models:

$$HIT_t = I_{[y_t < q_t]} - \alpha$$

Residual from density models:

$$\hat{u}_t = F_t(y_t)$$

- Known as the Probability Integral Transformed Residuals.
- One very useful property: If  $y_t \sim F$  then  $u_t \equiv F(y_t) \sim U(0,1)$

# Probability Integral Transform

## Theorem (Probability Integral Transform)

Let a random variable X have a continuous, increasing CDF  $F_X(x)$  and define  $Y = F_X(X)$ . Then Y is uniformly distributed and  $\Pr(Y \le y) = y, \, 0 < y < 1$ .

For any  $y \in (0,1)$ ,  $Y = F_X(X)$ , and so

$$\begin{split} \Pr(Y \leq y) &= \Pr(F_X(X) \leq y) \\ &= \Pr(F_X^{-1}(F_X(X)) \leq F_X^{-1}(y)) \\ &= \Pr(X \leq F_X^{-1}(y)) \\ &= F_X(F_X^{-1}(y)) \end{split} \qquad \begin{aligned} \text{Since $F_X^{-1}$ is increasing} \\ &= F_X(F_X^{-1}(y)) \\ &= y \end{aligned}$$

# Evaluating Density Forecasts: QQ Plots

- Quantile-Quantile Plots
- Plots the data against a hypothetical distribution

$$\hat{e}_1 < \hat{e}_2 < \ldots < \hat{e}_{N-1} < \hat{e}_N$$

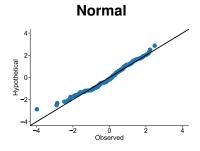
- ightharpoonup N = T but used to indicate that the index is not related to time
- $e_n$  against  $F^{-1}(\frac{j}{T+1})$

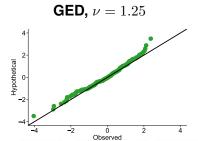
$$F^{-1}\left(\frac{1}{T+1}\right) < F^{-1}\left(\frac{2}{T+1}\right) < \dots < F^{-1}\left(\frac{T-1}{T+1}\right) < F^{-1}\left(\frac{T}{T+1}\right)$$

- lacktriangledown  $F^{-1}$  is inverse CDF of distribution being used for comparison
- Should lie along a 45° line
- No confidence bands

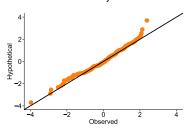
# QQ Plots for the S&P 500

#### Monthly Returns

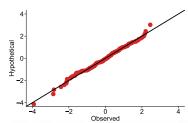




## Student's t, $\nu = 5.8$



### **Skewed** t, $\nu = 6.3, \lambda = -0.19$



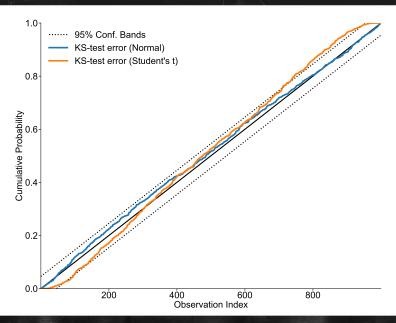
# Evaluating Density Forecasts: Kolmogorov-Smirnov

- Formalizes QQ plots
- Key property
  - If  $x \sim F$ , then  $u \equiv F(x) \sim U(0,1)$
  - ► Can test U(0,1)
- KS tests maximum deviation from U(0,1)

$$\max_{\tau} \left| \frac{1}{T} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{\tau} I_{[u_i < \frac{\tau}{T}]} \right) - \frac{\tau}{T} \right|, \quad \tau = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

- $\frac{1}{T}\sum_{i=1}^{\tau}I_{[u_i<\frac{\tau}{T}]}$ : Empirical percentage of u below  $\tau/T$
- $\tau/T$ : How many *should* be below  $\tau/T$
- Nonstandard distribution
- Parameter estimation error
  - Parameter Estimation Error (PEE) causes significant size distortions
  - ▶ Using a 5% CV will only reject 0.1% of the time
  - Solution is to simulate the needed critical values

# The Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test



## Addressing PEE in a KS test

- Model is a complete model so can be easily simulated
- Exact KS distribution tabulated

### Algorithm (Correct CV for KS test with PEE)

- 1. Estimate model and save  $\hat{\theta}$
- 2. Repeat many times (1000+)
  - a. Simulate artificial series from model using  $\hat{\theta}$  with same number of observations as original data
  - b. Estimate parameters from simulated data,  $\ddot{ heta}$
  - c. Compute KS test statistic on simulated data using  $\theta$  and save as  $KS_i$ ,  $i=1,2,\ldots$ ,
- 3. Sort the  $KS_i$  values and use the  $1-\alpha$  quantile for get correct CV for  $\alpha$  size test

# **Evaluating Density Forecasts: Berkowitz Test**

- Berkowitz Test extends KS to evaluation of conditional densities
- Exploits probability integral transform property

$$\hat{u}_t = F(y_t)$$

■ But then *re-transforms* the data to a standard normal

$$\hat{\eta}_t = \Phi^{-1}(\hat{u}_t) = \Phi^{-1}(F(y_t))$$

- ► Since  $\hat{u}_t \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} U(0,1)$ ,  $\hat{\eta}_t \stackrel{\text{i.i.d.}}{\sim} N(0,1)$
- Test is a likelihood ratio test using an AR(1)

$$\hat{\eta}_t = \phi_0 + \phi_1 \hat{\eta}_{t-1} + \nu_t$$

- If the model is correctly specified
  - $\phi_0 = 0, \phi_1 = 0, \sigma^2 = V[\nu_t] = 1$
- Likelihood ratio

$$2\left(l(\eta_t|\hat{\phi}_0,\hat{\phi}_1,\hat{\sigma}^2) - l(\eta_t|\phi_0 = 0,\phi_1 = 0,\sigma^2 = 1)\right) \sim \chi_3^2$$

► Critical values wrong if *F* has estimated parameters



## Idealized Risk Measures



- Coherence is a desirable property for a risk measure
  - But not completely necessary
- lacktriangledown ho is the required capital necessary according to some measure of risk (VaR, ES, Standard Deviation, etc.)
- $\blacksquare$  P,  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are portfolios of assets
- A Coherent measure satisfies:

**Drift Invariance** 

$$\rho(P+c) = \rho(P) - c$$

Homogeneity

$$\rho(\lambda P) = \lambda \rho(P) \quad \text{for any } \lambda > 0$$

Monotonicity If  $P_1$  first order stochastically dominates  $P_2$ , then

$$\rho(P_1) \le \rho(P_2)$$

Subadditivity

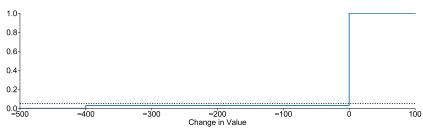
$$\rho(P_1 + P_2) \le \rho(P_1) + \rho(P_2)$$

- VaR is not coherent
  - Because VaR is a quantile it may not be subadditive

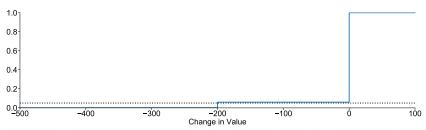
#### VaR is Not Coherent

- Two portfolios  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  holding a bond
  - Each paying 0%, par value of \$1,000
  - Default probability 3%, recovery rate 60%
  - Two companies, defaults are independent
- Value-at-Risk of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  is \$0
- Value-at-RIsk of  $P_3 = 50\% \times P_1 + 50\% \times P_2 = \$200$ 
  - 5.91% that one or both default





#### $P_3$



- ES is coherent
  - ► Doesn't mean much
  - VaR still has a lot of advantages
  - ▶ More importantly VaR and ES agree in most realistic settings

#### ES is coherent

- ES of  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  is \$240
  - Given in lower 5% of distribution, 60% chance of a loss of \$400
- ES of  $P_3$ 
  - Given in lower 5% of distribution:
    - 0.0009/0.05 = .018 probability of \$400 loss (2 defaults)
    - 0.0491/0.05 = .982 probability of \$200 loss (1 default)
    - ES of \$7.20 + \$196.40 = \$203.60
- ES is subadditive when VaR is not



## **Expected Shortfall**

Conditional Expected Shortfall (ES, also called Tail VaR)

$$ES_{t+1} = E_t[r_{t+1}|r_{t+1} < -VaR_{t+1}]$$

- "Expected Loss given you have a Value-at-Risk violation"
- Usually requires the specification of a complete model for the conditional distribution
- Uses all of the information in the tail
- Evaluation
  - Standard Problem, a conditional mean
  - GMZ regression

$$(ES_{t+1|t} - R_{t+1})I_{[R_{t+1} < -VaR_{t+1|t}]} = \mathbf{x}_t \gamma$$

- 
$$H_0: \gamma = 0$$

Difficult to test since relatively few observations