

A Theory for Measures of Tail Risk

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Outline

Motivation

Measures of tail risk

Gini Shortfall

Elicitable tail risk measures

Risk aggregation and dual representations

Conclusion

References

Based on joint work with Fangda Liu (CUFE, Beijing) and joint work with Edward Furman (York, Toronto) and Ričardas Zitikis (Western, London Ontario)

Value-at-Risk and Expected Shortfall

For $X \in L^0$, the Value-at-Risk (VaR) at confidence level $p \in (0, 1)$ has two versions:

$$\text{VaR}_p^L(X) = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R} : F_X(x) \geq p\} = F_X^{-1}(p),$$

and

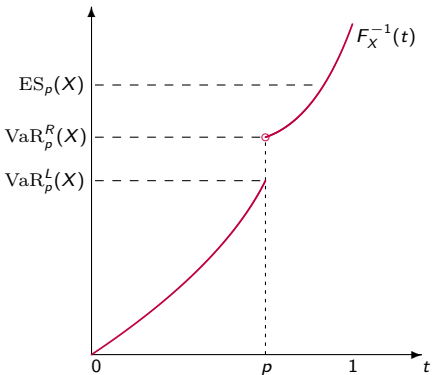
$$\text{VaR}_p^R(X) = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R} : F_X(x) > p\} = F_X^{-1}(p+).$$

The Expected Shortfall (ES) at confidence level $p \in (0, 1)$:

$$\text{ES}_p(X) = \frac{1}{1-p} \int_p^1 \text{VaR}_q^L(X) dq = \frac{1}{1-p} \int_p^1 \text{VaR}_q^R(X) dq$$

- ▶ Typical choices of p : 0.975, 0.99, 0.995, 0.999 ...

Value-at-Risk and Expected Shortfall



Tail risk

Quoting **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision**: Standards, January 2016, [Minimum capital requirements for Market Risk](#). Page 1. *Executive Summary*:

“... A shift from Value-at-Risk (VaR) to an Expected Shortfall (ES) measure of risk under stress. Use of ES will help to ensure a more prudent capture of “tail risk” and capital adequacy during periods of significant financial market stress.”

Some interpretation:

- ▶ “tail risk” is a crucial concern for prudent risk management
- ▶ “tail risk” is associated with financial market stress

So ... what is "tail risk"?

Google search for "tail risk". The search bar contains "tail risk". Below the search bar are tabs for "All", "Images", "Shopping", "News", "Videos", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The "All" tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says "About 1,820,000 results (0,43 seconds)". The first search result is from Investopedia.

Tail risk is a form of portfolio risk that arises when the possibility that an investment will move more than three standard deviations from the mean is greater than what is shown by a normal distribution.

[Tail Risk - Investopedia](http://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/tailrisk.asp)
www.investopedia.com/terms/t/tailrisk.asp

Google search for "tail risk". The search bar contains "tail risk". Below the search bar are tabs for "All", "Shopping", "Images", "News", "Videos", "More", "Settings", and "Tools". The "All" tab is selected. Below the tabs, it says "About 1,090,000 results (0.52 seconds)". The first search result is from Wikipedia.

Tail risk is the additional risk of an asset or portfolio of assets moving more than 3 standard deviations from its current price, above the risk of a normal distribution.

[Tail risk - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tail_risk)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tail_risk

Tail risk

That is wrong on so many levels.

– Apple’s Siri, as quoted by Sidney Resnick, April 2017, Zurich

- ▶ Probability of moving downside more than 3 standard deviations:
 - ▶ normal risk: 0.135%
 - ▶ Pareto(5) risk: 1.86%
 - ▶ Pareto(3) risk: 1.45%
 - ▶ Pareto(2.01) risk: 0.05%
 - ▶ Cantalli’s inequality: $\leq 10\%$ ($10\% \Rightarrow$ Bernoulli)
- ▶ No tail risk for very heavy-tailed distributions?
- ▶ A Bernoulli distribution has the most severe tail risk?

Tail risk

Our motivation

- ▶ establish a framework for regulatory concerns of tail risks
- ▶ complementary risk metrics to VaR and ES
 - ▶ VaR and ES are similar to “median” and “mean”
- ▶ alternative risk measures (internal risk management)
- ▶ better understand the roles of VaR and ES

Progress of the talk

Motivation

Measures of tail risk

Gini Shortfall

Elicitable tail risk measures

Risk aggregation and dual representations

Conclusion

References

Notation

Some notation.

- ▶ $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is an atomless probability space
- ▶ \mathcal{X} is a convex cone of random variables containing L^∞
 - ▶ e.g. $\mathcal{X} = L^\infty$
- ▶ A risk measure is a functional $\rho : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow (-\infty, \infty]$ such that $\rho(X) \in \mathbb{R}$ for $X \in L^\infty$.
- ▶ For $X \in \mathcal{X}$,
 - ▶ F_X : cdf of X
 - ▶ $F_X^{-1}(p) = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R} : F_X(x) \geq p\}$, $p \in (0, 1]$
 - ▶ U_X : a uniform random variable satisfying $F_X^{-1}(U_X) = X$ a.s.¹

¹such U_X always exists; see Lemma A.32 of Föllmer-Schied 2016

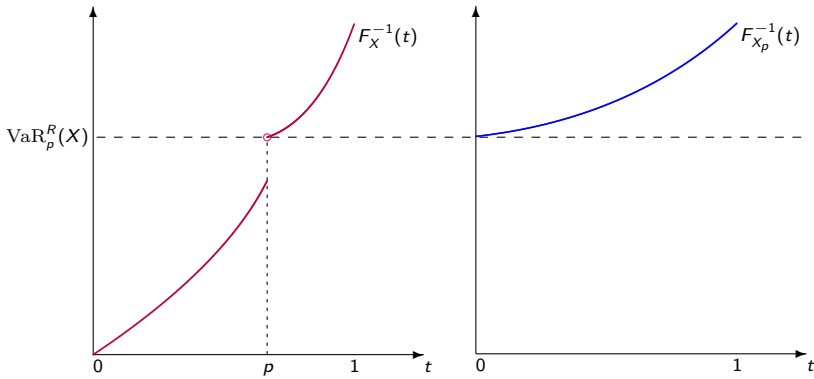
Tail risk

For any random variable $X \in \mathcal{X}$ and $p \in (0, 1)$, let X_p be the **tail risk of X** beyond its p -quantile

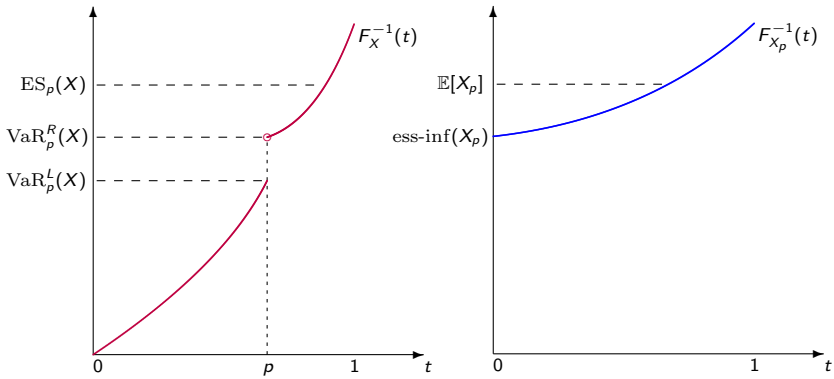
$$X_p = F_X^{-1}(p + (1 - p)U_X).$$

- ▶ $p + (1 - p)U_X$ is uniform on $[p, 1]$.

Tail risk



Tail risk



Generators of tail risk measures

Observe simple relations

$$\text{VaR}_p^R(X) = \text{ess-inf}(X_p) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{ES}_p(X) = \mathbb{E}[X_p], \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

Generally, for any law-invariant risk measure ρ^* on \mathcal{X} , define

$$\rho(X) = \rho^*(X_p), \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

then ρ is a p -tail risk measure.

- ▶ ρ is **generated by** ρ^* and ρ^* is a **p -generator** of ρ .
- ▶ There is a **one-to-one** relationship between ρ and ρ^*

Tail pair of risk measures

A pair of risk measures (ρ, ρ^*) is called a **p -tail pair** if ρ^* is law-invariant and is a p -generator of ρ .

Examples.

- $(\text{VaR}_p^R, \text{ess-inf})$
- $(\text{VaR}_{(p+1)/2}^R, \text{right-median})$
- $(\text{ES}_p, \mathbb{E})$
- $(\text{VaR}_q^L, \text{VaR}_{(q-p)/(1-p)}^L), q > p$

Risk measure properties

Classic properties. For $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}$,
 Monetary risk measures

- (A1) **Monotonicity**: $\rho(X) \leq \rho(Y)$ if $X \leq Y$.
- (A2) **Translation invariance**: $\rho(X + m) = \rho(X) + m$ if $m \in \mathbb{R}$.

(Artzner-Delbaen-Eber-Heath 1999, Föllmer-Schied 2002, Frittelli-Rosazza Gianin 2002)

Risk measure properties

Classic properties. For $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}$,

Convex risk measures

- (A1) **Monotonicity:** $\rho(X) \leq \rho(Y)$ if $X \leq Y$.
- (A2) **Translation invariance:** $\rho(X + m) = \rho(X) + m$ if $m \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (A3) **Convexity:** $\rho(\lambda X + (1 - \lambda)Y) \leq \lambda\rho(X) + (1 - \lambda)\rho(Y)$ for $\lambda \in [0, 1]$.

(Artzner-Delbaen-Eber-Heath 1999, Föllmer-Schied 2002, Frittelli-Rosazza Gianin 2002)

Risk measure properties

Classic properties. For $X, Y \in \mathcal{X}$,

Coherent risk measures

- (A1) **Monotonicity**: $\rho(X) \leq \rho(Y)$ if $X \leq Y$.
- (A2) **Translation invariance**: $\rho(X + m) = \rho(X) + m$ if $m \in \mathbb{R}$.
- (A3) **Convexity**: $\rho(\lambda X + (1 - \lambda)Y) \leq \lambda\rho(X) + (1 - \lambda)\rho(Y)$ for $\lambda \in [0, 1]$.
- (A4) **Positive homogeneity**: $\rho(\lambda X) = \lambda\rho(X)$ for $\lambda > 0$.
- (A5) **Subadditivity**: $\rho(X + Y) \leq \rho(X) + \rho(Y)$.

(Artzner-Delbaen-Eber-Heath 1999, Föllmer-Schied 2002, Frittelli-Rosazza Gianin 2002)

VaR and ES

Take $p \in (0, 1)$.

- For $(\rho, \rho^*) = (\text{VaR}_p^R, \text{ess-inf})$, both ρ and ρ^* are monotone, translation-invariant, positively homogeneous, and comonotonically additive.
- For $(\rho, \rho^*) = (\text{ES}_p, \mathbb{E})$, both ρ and ρ^* are, in addition to the above, subadditive, convex, and \prec_{cx} -monotone.

Tail standard deviation risk measure

Take $p \in (0, 1)$, $\mathcal{X} = L^2$ and let ρ^* be the **standard deviation risk measure** for some $\beta > 0$

$$\rho^*(X) = \mathbb{E}[X] + \beta \sqrt{\text{var}(X)}, \quad X \in L^2. \tag{1}$$

Let

$$\rho(X) = \rho^*(X_p) = \mathbb{E}[X_p] + \beta \sqrt{\text{var}(X_p)}, \quad X \in L^2.$$

- ▶ ρ^* is convex, subadditive, and \prec_{CX} -monotone
- ▶ but ρ is **NOT** convex, subadditive, or \prec_{CX} -monotone!

Properties of tail risk measures

Theorem 3

Suppose that $p \in (0, 1)$ and (ρ, ρ^*) is a p -tail pair of risk measures on \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{X}^* , respectively. Then ρ is a coherent (convex, monetary) risk measure if and only if so is ρ^* .

Remark.

- ▶ Monotonicity is essential for the other properties to pass through.
- ▶ To construct coherent tail risk measures: apply an existing coherent risk measure to the tail risk X_p .

Smallest tail risk measures

Theorem 4

For $p \in (0, 1)$, if ρ is a monetary p -tail risk measure with $\rho(0) = 0$, then $\rho \geq \text{VaR}_p^R$ on \mathcal{X} , and if ρ is a coherent p -tail risk measure, then $\rho \geq \text{ES}_p$ on \mathcal{X} .

Remark.

- VaRs and ES serve as benchmarks for tail risk measures.
- The converse statements are not true in general. For instance, take $\rho(X) = \max\{\mathbb{E}[X], \text{VaR}_p^R(X)\}$.
- For distortion risk measures, the converse statements are true.

Notes.

- ▶ A **distortion risk measure** is a law-invariant, comonotonic-additive and monetary risk measure.

Other properties

Other mathematical or statistical properties:

- ▶ **Superadditivity and concavity.** Counter-example: $(\text{VaR}_\rho^R, \text{ess-inf})$
- ▶ **Linearity.** Counter-example: $(\text{ES}_\rho, \mathbb{E})$
- ▶ **Common robustness (continuity) properties** such as continuity with respect to Wasserstein L^q -norm ($q \geq 1$) or convergence in distribution can be naturally passed on from ρ^* to ρ .
- ▶ **Elicitability** cannot be passed from ρ^* to ρ (will be discussed later)

Progress of the talk

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Elicitable tail risk measures

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Conclusion

References

Gini mean deviation

- ▶ C. Gini noticed the center-free version of the variance

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}[(X^* - X^{**})^2], \quad X \in L^2,$$

where X^* and X^{**} are two independent copies of X .

- ▶ Consequently, he introduced

$$\text{Gini}(X) = \mathbb{E}[|X^* - X^{**}|], \quad X \in L^1,$$

which is nowadays known as the **Gini mean difference**.

- ▶ The Gini functional is comonotonic-additive and satisfies

$$\text{Gini}(X) = 2 \int_0^1 F_X^{-1}(u)(2u - 1) du = 4 \text{Cov}(X, U_X).$$

Gini principle

- ▶ D. Denneberg, insisting comonotonic-additivity, introduced the **Gini principle** to replace the standard deviation risk measure, for $\lambda > 0$.

$$GP^\lambda(X) = \mathbb{E}[X] + \lambda \text{Gini}(X), \quad X \in L^1.$$

- ▶ Using the language of risk measures, the Gini principle is convex, subadditive, \prec_{cx} -monotone, positively homogeneous, comonotonic-additive and translation invariant, but not necessarily monotone.

(Denneberg 1990)

Gini Shortfall

By applying the Gini principle to the tail risk, define the **Gini Shortfall** for $p \in [0, 1)$ and $\lambda > 0$,

$$GS_p^\lambda(X) = \mathbb{E}[X_p] + \lambda \text{Gini}(X_p), \quad X \in L^1,$$

and equivalently,

$$GS_p^\lambda(X) = ES_p(X) + \lambda \mathbb{E}[|X_p^* - X_p^{**}|], \quad X \in L^1,$$

where X_p^* and X_p^{**} are two independent copies of X_p .

- ▶ A Gini Shortfall combines magnitude (captured by **the ES part**) and variability (captured by **the Gini part**) of tail risk.

Gini Shortfall

Theorem 5

Let $p \in (0, 1)$ and $\lambda \in [0, \infty)$.

1. The functional GS_p^λ is translation invariant, positively homogeneous, and comonotonic-additive.
2. The following statements are equivalent:
 - (i) GS_p^λ is monotone;
 - (ii) GS_p^λ is convex;
 - (iii) GS_p^λ is subadditive;
 - (iv) GS_p^λ is \prec_{cx} -monotone;
 - (v) GS_p^λ is a coherent risk measure;
 - (vi) $\lambda \in [0, 1/2]$.

Gini Shortfall

- ▶ Unlike other distortion risk measures, a Gini Shortfall has a simple non-parametric estimator

$$\widehat{GS}_p^\lambda = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m X_i + \frac{\lambda}{m(m-1)} \sum_{i,j=1}^m |X_i - X_j|,$$

where X_1, \dots, X_m are the largest $m = \lfloor np \rfloor$ observations in an iid sample of size n .

- ▶ A Gini shortfall is well defined on L^1 and is continuous with respect to L^1 convergence.

Gini Shortfall

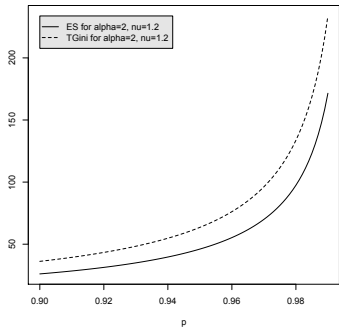
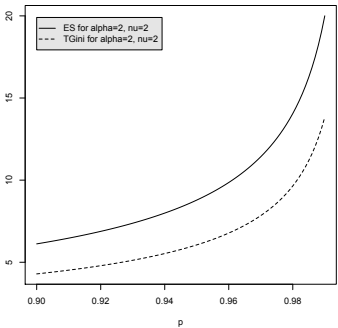


Figure: $ES_p(X)$ and $TGini_p(X) = \mathbb{E}[|X_p^* - X_p^{**}|]$, $p \in [0.9, 0.99]$ for skew-t risks with $\alpha = 2$ and $\nu = 2$ (left) and $\alpha = 2$ and $\nu = 1.2$ (right)

Elicibility

Modified definition of elicibility for law-invariant risk measures

Definition 6

A law-invariant risk measure $\rho : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is **elicitable** if there exists a function $S : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\rho(X) = \min \left\{ \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \mathbb{E}[S(x, X)] \right\}, \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

- Typically one may further require $S(x, y) \geq 0$ and $S(x, x) = 0$ for $x, y \in \mathbb{R}$

Comparative forecasting

- ▶ for simplicity, suppose that observations are iid
- ▶ for a risk measure ρ , different forecasting procedures $\rho^{(1)}, \dots, \rho^{(k)}$
- ▶ at time $t - 1$, the estimated/modeled value of $\rho(X_t)$ is $\rho_t^{(i)}$
- ▶ collect the statistics $S(\rho_t^{(i)}, X_t)$; a summary statistic can typically be chosen as $T_n(\rho^{(i)}) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{t=1}^n S(\rho_t^{(i)}, X_t)$
- ▶ the above procedure is **model-independent**
- ▶ **forecasting comparison**: compare $T_n(\rho^{(1)}), \dots, T_n(\rho^{(k)})$
 - ▶ risk analyst: compare forecasting procedures/models
 - ▶ regulator: compare **internal model** forecasts with a **standard model**

Estimation procedures of an elicitable risk measure are **straightforward** to compare.

Elicitable risk measures

Some characterizations (under suitable conditions)

- (Gneiting 2011)
VaR is elicitable whereas ES is not.
- (Ziegel 2016)
Among all coherent risk measures, only expectiles (including the mean) are elicitable.
- (Bellini-Bignozzi 2015, Delbaen-Bellini-Bignozzi-Ziegel 2016)
Among all convex risk measures, only **shortfall risk measures** are elicitable.
- (Kou-Peng 2016, W.-Ziegel 2015)
Among all distortion risk measures, only the mean and the quantiles are elicitable.
- (Acerbi-Székely 2014, Fissler-Ziegel 2016)
(VaR,ES) is **co-elicitable**

Elicitable risk measures

Remarks.

- For a p -tail pair (ρ, ρ^*) : elicibility cannot be pass from ρ^* to ρ : take (ES_ρ, \mathbb{E}) . \mathbb{E} is elicitable, whereas ES_ρ is not.
- A necessary condition for elicibility is closely related to the class of shortfall risk measure (a result of Weber 2006).

Elicitable tail risk measures

Theorem 7

1. For any $p \in (0, 1)$, the only elicitable p -tail convex risk measure is VaR_1^L (the essential supremum).
2. For $p \in (0, 1)$, a monetary and positively homogeneous p -tail risk measure ρ satisfying DLC is elicitable if and only if $\rho = \text{VaR}_q^L$ for some $q \in (p, 1]$.

Remark.

- ▶ A new axiomatic characterization of VaRs
- ▶ To arrive at VaR_q^R : “lower-continuity” \rightarrow “upper-continuity”, and “min” \rightarrow “max” in the definition of elicitable risk measures
- ▶ Full characterization of elicitable p -tail risk measures is available

Progress of the talk

Motivation

Measures of tail risk

Gini Shortfall

Elicitable tail risk measures

Risk aggregation and dual representations

Conclusion

References

Risk aggregation

Target: for given univariate distributions F_1, \dots, F_n , calculate

$$\sup\{\rho(S) : S \in \mathcal{S}_n(F_1, \dots, F_n)\}$$

where $\mathcal{S}_n(F_1, \dots, F_n)$ is the **aggregation set** defined as

$$\mathcal{S}_n(F_1, \dots, F_n) = \{X_1 + \dots + X_n : X_i \in \mathcal{X}, X_i \sim F_i, i = 1, \dots, n\}.$$

- ▶ This setting is called **risk aggregation with dependence uncertainty**
- ▶ A particularly relevant case is $\rho = \text{VaR}_p^L$ or $\rho = \text{VaR}_p^R$ for some $p \in (0, 1)$.

Risk aggregation

For $X \in L^0$, $F_X^{[\rho]}$ is the distribution of X_ρ .

Theorem 8

Let $p \in (0, 1)$, (ρ, ρ^*) be a p -tail pair of monotone risk measures. For any univariate distributions F_1, \dots, F_n , we have

$$\sup\{\rho(S) : S \in \mathcal{S}_n(F_1, \dots, F_n)\} = \sup\{\rho^*(T) : T \in \mathcal{S}_n(F_1^{[\rho]}, \dots, F_n^{[\rho]})\}.$$

Remark.

- ▶ monotonicity is essential for the above equation to hold

Risk aggregation

For the cases of VaR and ES:

(i) Take $\rho = \text{VaR}_\rho^R$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \sup\{\text{VaR}_\rho^R(S) : S \in \mathcal{S}_n(F_1, \dots, F_n)\} \\ &= \sup\{\text{ess-inf}(T) : T \in \mathcal{S}_n(F_1^{[\rho]}, \dots, F_n^{[\rho]})\}. \end{aligned}$$

(ii) Take $\rho = \text{ES}_\rho$. For any $X_1, \dots, X_n \in L^1$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ES}_\rho(X_1 + \dots + X_n) &\leq \sup\{\mathbb{E}[T] : T \in \mathcal{S}_n(F_{X_1}^{[\rho]}, \dots, F_{X_n}^{[\rho]})\} \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{E}[(X_i)_\rho] = \sum_{i=1}^n \text{ES}_\rho(X_i), \end{aligned}$$

which is (yet another proof of) the classic subadditivity of ES_ρ .

(cf. Bernard-Jiang-W. 2014, Embrechts-W. 2015)

Dual representations

Suppose $p \in (0, 1)$, \mathcal{D}_p is the set of distributions functions on $[p, 1]$ and ρ is a functional mapping $\mathcal{X} = L^\infty$ to \mathbb{R} .

- (i) ρ is a comonotonically additive and coherent p -tail risk measure if and only if there exists $g \in \mathcal{D}_p$ such that

$$\rho(X) = \int_p^1 \text{ES}_q(X) dg(q), \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

- (ii) ρ is a coherent p -tail risk measure if and only if there exists a set $\mathcal{G} \subset \mathcal{D}_p$ such that

$$\rho(X) = \sup_{g \in \mathcal{G}} \int_p^1 \text{ES}_q(X) dg(q), \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

Dual representations

(iii) ρ is a convex and monetary p -tail risk measure if and only if there exists a function $v : \mathcal{D}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\rho(X) = \sup_{g \in \mathcal{P}} \left\{ \int_0^1 \text{ES}_q(X) dg(q) - v(g) \right\}, \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

(iv) ρ is a \prec_{cx} -monotone and monetary p -tail risk measure if and only if there exists a set \mathcal{H} of functions mapping $[p, 1]$ to \mathbb{R} such that

$$\rho(X) = \inf_{\alpha \in \mathcal{H}} \sup_{q \in [p, 1]} \{ \text{ES}_q(X) - \alpha(q) \}, \quad X \in \mathcal{X}.$$

Progress of the talk

Motivation

Measures of tail risk

Gini Shortfall

Elicitable tail risk measures

Risk aggregation and dual representations

Conclusion

References

Concluding remarks

- ▶ replacing a generic risk measure by its tail counterpart is philosophically analogous to replacing the expectation by an ES
- ▶ Gini shortfall seems to be a promising risk measure to consider
- ▶ potential applications and future research in portfolio selection, decision analysis, risk sharing, etc.
- ▶ better position VaR and ES among all tail risk measures
- ▶ generalization of the tail distributional transform $X \mapsto X_\rho$
 - ▶ choose a general distributional transform $T : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ and a law-invariant risk measure ρ^*
 - ▶ define a risk measure $\rho_T(X) = \rho^*(T(X))$, $X \in \mathcal{X}$.
 - ▶ study properties of the triplet (ρ_T, ρ^*, T)

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



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