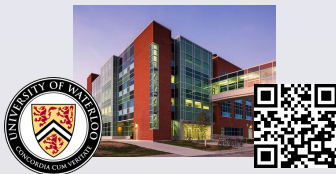


Merging e-values via martingales and e-backtesting

Ruodu Wang

<http://sas.uwaterloo.ca/~wang>

Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science
University of Waterloo



Workshop: "Safe, Anytime-Valid Inference (SAVI) and Game-theoretic Statistics"
Eindhoven, Netherlands, May 31, 2022

Agenda

- 1 E-values
- 2 Merging sequential e-values
- 3 Merging independent e-values
- 4 Merging dependent e-values and the e-BH procedure
- 5 Risk forecasts and backtests

E-values



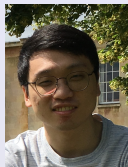
Aaditya Ramdas
(Carnegie Mellon)



Vladimir Vovk
(Royal Holloway)



Bin Wang
(CAS Beijing)



Qiuqi Wang
(Waterloo)



Johanna F. Ziegel
(Bern)

- ▶ **Vovk/W.**, **E-values: Calibration, combination, and applications.**
Annals of Statistics, 2021, [arXiv:1912.06116](#)
- ▶ **Vovk-Wang-W.**, **Admissible ways of merging p-values under arbitrary dependence.**
Annals of Statistics, 2022, [arXiv:2007.14208](#)
- ▶ **Vovk/W.**, **Merging sequential e-values via martingales.** 2022, [arXiv:2007.06382](#)
- ▶ **W./Ramdas**, **False discovery rate control with e-values.** JRSSB, 2022, [arXiv:2009.02824](#)
- ▶ **Wang/W./Ziegel**, **E-statistics, model-free tests, and backtesting the Expected Shortfall.**
2022, working paper

What is an e-value?

- ▶ A hypothesis H : a set of probability measures

Definition (e-variables, e-values, and e-processes)

- (1) An **e-variable** for testing H is a non-negative random variable $E : \Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ that satisfies $\int E dQ \leq 1$ for all $Q \in H$.
 - Realized values of e-variables are **e-values**.
 - (2) Given a filtration, an **e-process** for testing H is a non-negative process $(E_t)_{t=0,1,\dots,n}$ such that $\int E_\tau dQ \leq 1$ for all stopping times τ and all $Q \in H$.
- ▶ For simple hypothesis $\{\mathbb{P}\}$
 - **precise** e-variable: random variable ≥ 0 with mean 1
 - **precise** e-process: supermartingale ≥ 0 with initial value 1

What is an e-value?

- ▶ A **p-variable** for testing H is a random variable $P : \Omega \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ that satisfies $\sup_{Q \in \mathcal{H}} Q(P \leq \alpha) \leq \alpha$ for all $\alpha \in (0, 1)$
- ▶ **E-test**: $e(\text{data})$ large \iff reject \mathcal{H}
- ▶ **P-test**: $p(\text{data})$ small \iff reject \mathcal{H}
- ▶ E stands for **expectation**; P stands for **probability**
- ▶ An e-process has **retrospective** validity (**Ville's** inequality):

$$\mathbb{P} \left(\sup_{t \geq 0} X_t \geq \frac{1}{\alpha} \right) \leq \alpha \implies \inf_{t \geq 0} X_t^{-1} \text{ is a p-value}$$

- ▶ **Bayes factors** (simple hypothesis) and **likelihood ratios**:

$$e(\text{data}) = \frac{\Pr(\text{data} \mid \mathbb{Q})}{\Pr(\text{data} \mid \mathbb{P})}$$

E for Expectation (or Evidence)

	requirement	specific interpretation	representative forms	keyword
p-value P	$\mathbb{P}(P \leq \alpha) \leq \alpha$ for $\alpha \in (0, 1)$	probability of a more extreme observation	$\mathbb{P}(T' \leq T(\mathbf{X}) \mathbf{X})$	(conditional) probability
e-value E	$\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}[E] \leq 1$ and $E \geq 0$	likelihood ratios, stopped martingales, and betting scores	$\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}} \left[\frac{d\mathbb{Q}}{d\mathbb{P}} \middle \mathbf{X} \right]$ $\mathbb{E}^{\mathbb{P}}[M_{\tau} \mathbf{X}]$	(conditional) expectation

An analogy of p-variables and e-variables for a simple hypothesis $\{\mathbb{P}\}$

- ▶ \mathbf{X} is data
- ▶ $T(\mathbf{X})$ is any test statistic
- ▶ T' is an independent copy of $T(\mathbf{X})$ under \mathbb{P}
- ▶ \mathbb{Q} is any probability measure
- ▶ M is a test supermartingale under \mathbb{P} and τ a stopping time

(not to be confused with other objects bearing the name of e-values)

Example in testing multiple hypotheses

Multi-armed bandit problems

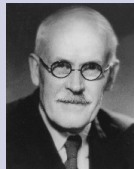
- ▶ K arms
- ▶ null hypothesis k : arm k has mean reward at most 1
- ▶ strategy (k_t) : at time $t \geq 1$, pull arm k_t , obtain an iid reward $X_{k_t, t} \geq 0$
- ▶ aim: quickly detect arms with mean > 1
 - or maximize profit, minimize regret, etc ...
- ▶ running reward: $M_{k, t} = \prod_{j=1}^t X_{k, j} \mathbf{1}_{\{k_j = k\}}$
- ▶ complicated dependence due to exploration/exploitation
- ▶ $M_{1, \tau}, \dots, M_{K, \tau}$ are e-values for any stopping time τ

Calibration

- ▶ Admissible p-to-e calibrators
 - Power calibrators: $f_{\kappa}(p) = \kappa p^{\kappa-1}$ for $\kappa \in (0, 1)$
 - Shafer's: $f(p) = p^{-1/2} - 1$
 - Averaging $f_{\kappa}: \int_0^1 \kappa p^{\kappa-1} d\kappa = \frac{1-p+p \ln p}{p(-\ln p)^2}$
- ▶ the only admissible e-to-p calibrator: $e \rightarrow e^{-1} \wedge 1$

Sir Jeffreys

“Users of these tests speak of the 5 per cent. point [p-value of 5%] in much the same way as I should speak of the $K = 10^{-1/2}$ point [e-value of $10^{1/2}$], and of the 1 per cent. point [p-value of 1%] as I should speak of the $K = 10^{-1}$ point [e-value of 10].” (Theory of Probability, p.435, 3rd Ed.)



Sequential e-values

E-variables E_1, \dots, E_K are **sequential** if E_k is an e-variable **conditional on E_1, \dots, E_{k-1}** for each k .

- ▶ $\mathbb{E}[E_k \mid E_1, \dots, E_{k-1}] \leq 1$ for all $k \in [K] := \{1, \dots, K\}$
- ▶ E-values e_1, \dots, e_K are obtained by laboratories $1, \dots, K$
- ▶ Laboratory k makes sure that its result e_k is a valid e-value given the previous results e_1, \dots, e_{k-1}
- ▶ Independent e-variables are sequential

Progress

- 1 E-values
- 2 Merging sequential e-values**
- 3 Merging independent e-values
- 4 Merging dependent e-values and the e-BH procedure
- 5 Risk forecasts and backtests

One little philosophical slide

P-values can be avoided if one only aims for a **binary decision**

- ▶ If $\alpha = 0.05$ is set a priori, then $p = 0.049$ and $p = 0.001$ carry the same **significance**
- ▶ If α is not set a priori, then we cannot reject anything after we see the data
- ▶ When we need to **operate on p-values**, the abstract p-value becomes convenient
 - p-combination, Bonferroni, closed testing, FDR (**Benjamini-Hochberg**), FCR, meta analysis ...

One little philosophical slide

P-values can be avoided if one only aims for a **binary decision**

- ▶ If $\alpha = 0.05$ is set a priori, then $p = 0.049$ and $p = 0.001$ carry the same **significance**
- ▶ If α is not set a priori, then we cannot reject anything after we see the data
- ▶ When we need to **operate on p-values**, the abstract p-value becomes convenient
 - p-combination, Bonferroni, closed testing, FDR (**Benjamini-Hochberg**), FCR, meta analysis ...

Same for e-values?

- ▶ The abstract notion is needed when we operate on e-values
 - e-combination, e/p-calibration, closed testing, FDR (e-BH), FCR (e-BY), meta analysis ...
 - out-come level, study level, or multiple hypotheses
- ▶ We do not specify how they are obtained or the target statistical problem

Handling e-values

- ▶ We are supplied with K e-values for a hypothesis H_0
 - Obtained from other papers/talks ...
 - They may be **sequential**, **independent**, or **arbitrarily dependent**

How do we come up with one output e-value?

Handling e-values

- ▶ We are supplied with K e-values for a hypothesis H_0
 - Obtained from other papers/talks ...
 - They may be **sequential**, **independent**, or **arbitrarily dependent**

How do we come up with one output e-value?

Definition (e/ie/se-merging functions)

An **e-merging**/**ie-merging**/**se-merging** function is a Borel function $F : [0, \infty)^K \rightarrow [0, \infty)$ such that $F(E_1, \dots, E_K)$ is an e-variable for **all/all independent/all sequential** e-variables E_1, \dots, E_K .

$$\{\text{e-merging}\} \subsetneq \{\text{se-merging}\} \subsetneq \{\text{ie-merging}\}$$

Sequential vs independent e-variables

- ▶ An iid sample (X_1, \dots, X_K) from $\theta_{\text{tr}} \in \Theta$ are sequentially revealed
- ▶ Test $H_0 : \theta_{\text{tr}} = 0$ against $H_1 : \theta_{\text{tr}} \in \Theta_1$ where $0 \notin \Theta_1 \subseteq \Theta$.
 - It does not hurt to think about testing $N(\theta, 1)$
- ▶ Let ℓ be the likelihood ratio function

$$\ell(x; \theta) = \frac{dQ_\theta}{dQ_0}(x),$$

where Q_θ is the probability measure corresponds to $\theta \in \Theta$

- ▶ $\ell(X_k; \theta)$ for any $\theta \in \Theta$ and $k \in [K]$ is an e-variable for H_0

Sequential vs independent e-variables

The scientist may choose two difference strategies:

- (a) Fix $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_K \in \Theta_1$
 - One may simply choose all θ_k to be the same
- (b) Adaptively update $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_K$, where θ_k is estimated from (X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}) for each k .
 - E.g., Bayesian update or point estimates

In either case:

- ▶ Define the e-variables $E_k := \ell(X_k; \theta_k)$ for $k \in [K]$
 - In (a), E_1, \dots, E_K are independent e-variables
 - in (b), E_1, \dots, E_K are sequential e-variables
- ▶ Combine $(E_k)_{k \in [K]}$ to get an output e-variable, e.g., $\prod_{k=1}^K E_k$

Sequential vs independent e-variables

- ▶ An iid sample (X_1, \dots, X_K) from $N(\theta_{\text{tr}}, 1)$
- ▶ $H_0 : \theta_{\text{tr}} = 0$ against $H_1 : \theta_{\text{tr}} > 0$
- ▶ Set $\theta_{\text{tr}} = 0.3$
- ▶ Five ways to obtain $E_k = \ell(X_k; \theta_k)$
 - (i) $\theta_k = \theta_{\text{tr}} = 0.3$: true alternative, growth-optimal
 - (ii) $\theta_k = \theta_0 = 0.1$: misspecified alternative
 - (iii) θ_k follows an iid uniform distribution on $[0, 0.5]$
 - (iv) θ_k follows a Bayesian update rule with a prior $\theta \sim N(\theta_0, 0.2^2)$
 - (v) θ_k is MLE based on (X_1, \dots, X_{k-1}) with $\theta_1 = \theta_0$
- ▶ (i)-(iii): independent e-variables; (iv)-(v): sequential
- ▶ Report $\prod_{k=1}^K E_k$

Sequential vs independent e-variables

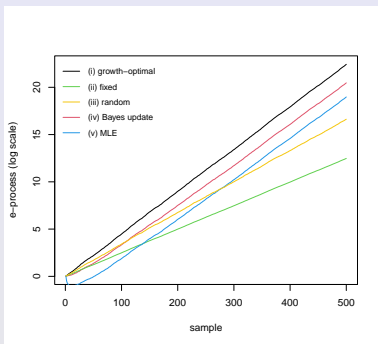
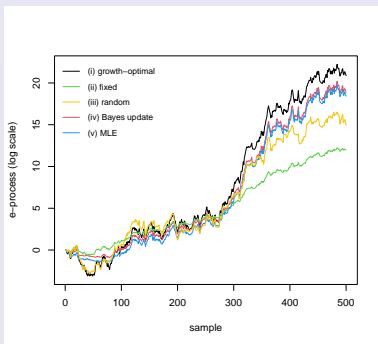


Figure: A few ways of constructing e-processes from likelihood ratio.
Left: one run; Right: the average (log) of 1000 runs.

- ▶ Trade-off: sequential vs independent

Merging with U-statistics

The U-statistics for $n \in \{0, 1, \dots, K\}$:

$$U_n(e_1, \dots, e_K) := \frac{1}{\binom{K}{n}} \sum_{\{k_1, \dots, k_n\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, K\}} e_{k_1} \dots e_{k_n}.$$

- ▶ product ($n = K$)
- ▶ arithmetic average M_K ($n = 1$)
- ▶ constant 1 ($n = 0$)

Proposition 1

Each of the U-statistics and their convex mixtures is an admissible ie-merging function and an admissible se-merging function.

- ▶ **Admissibility:** not strictly dominated by any

Merging with U-statistics

Proposition 2

For the product function $P_K : (e_1, \dots, e_K) \mapsto \prod_{k=1}^K e_k$ and any *ie*-merging function F , it holds

$$(e_1, \dots, e_K) \in [1, \infty)^K \implies F(e_1, \dots, e_K) \leq P_K(e_1, \dots, e_K).$$

Merging with U-statistics

Proposition 2

For the product function $P_K : (e_1, \dots, e_K) \mapsto \prod_{k=1}^K e_k$ and any ie-merging function F , it holds

$$(e_1, \dots, e_K) \in [1, \infty)^K \implies F(e_1, \dots, e_K) \leq P_K(e_1, \dots, e_K).$$

In the setting that all e-variables are independent and have mean ≥ 1 under the alternative, the product function P_K is

- ▶ uniformly “the most powerful” among all ie-merging functions
 - largest expected value under the alternative
- ▶ uniformly “the least stable” among all se-merging functions
 - largest second moment under the alternative

Merging independent e-values

Example

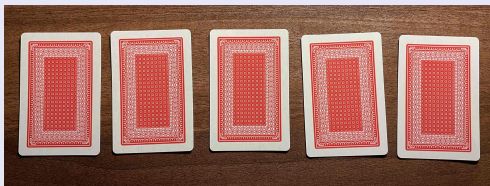
The function

$$(e_1, e_2) \mapsto \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{e_1}{1 + e_1} + \frac{e_2}{1 + e_2} \right) (1 + e_1 e_2)$$

is

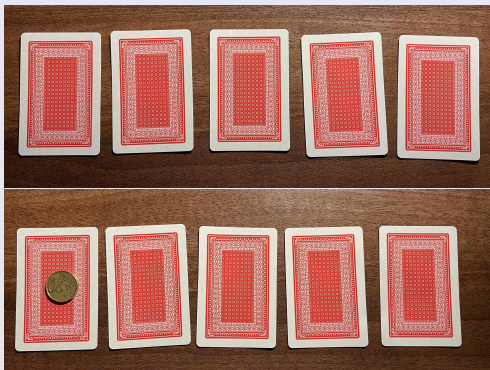
- ▶ an admissible ie-merging function;
- ▶ not a convex mixture of U-statistics;
- ▶ not an se-merging function.

Sequential e-merging



(each card has an e-value face down)

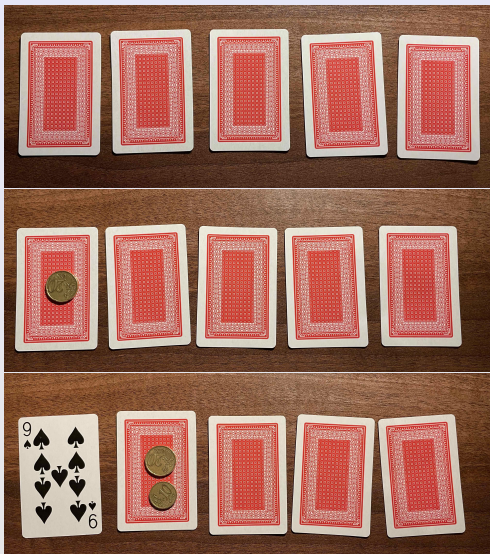
Sequential e-merging



(each card has an e-value face down)

(bet on the first card)

Sequential e-merging



(each card has an e-value face down)

(bet on the first card)

(reveal the card and proceed)

Sequential e-merging

- ▶ $\mathbf{e} := (e_1, \dots, e_K)$; $\mathbf{e}_{(k)} := (e_1, \dots, e_k)$; $\mathbf{e}_{(0)} := \emptyset$
- ▶ For some functions $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_K$, define $S_0 = 1$ and

$$S_k(\mathbf{e}) = \prod_{i=1}^k (1 - \lambda_i(\mathbf{e}_{(i-1)})(e_i - 1)), \quad k \in [K]$$

The sequence of functions $(S_k)_{k \in \{0,1,\dots,K\}}$ is a **test martingale**

- ▶ $(S_k(\mathbf{E}))_{k \in \{0,1,\dots,K\}}$ is an **e-process**
- ▶ Define the **martingale merging function** $F(\mathbf{e}) = S_K(\mathbf{e})$
- ▶ F and S_k are connected via

$$S_k(e_1, \dots, e_K) = F(e_1, \dots, e_k, 1, \dots, 1).$$

- ▶ F is generally not monotone

Sequential e-merging

Theorem 1

- (i) *A convex combination of martingale e-merging functions is a martingale e-merging function.*
 - (ii) *A martingale e-merging function is an se-merging function.*
 - (iii) *Each se-merging function is **dominated by a martingale e-merging function.***
- ▶ Arithmetic average, product, and U-statistics are all special cases of martingale e-merging functions

Sequential e-merging

- ▶ An e-variable E is **precise** if $\mathbb{E}[E] = 1$

Theorem 2

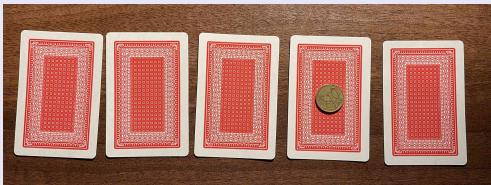
For a sequence of functions $F = (F_k)_{k=1,\dots,K}$, equivalent are:

- (i) F is a test martingale;
- (ii) $F(\mathbf{E})$ is a martingale (wrt. the natural filtration of \mathbf{E}) for any vector \mathbf{E} of precise and sequential e-values;
- (iii) F is **anytime valid** and **precise**; i.e., it satisfies
 - (a) $F_\tau(\mathbf{E})$ is an e-variable for any vector \mathbf{E} of sequential e-values and any stopping time τ ;
 - (b) For each $k \in [K]$, $\mathbb{E}[F_k(\mathbf{E})] = 1$ for any vector \mathbf{E} of precise and sequential e-variables.

Progress

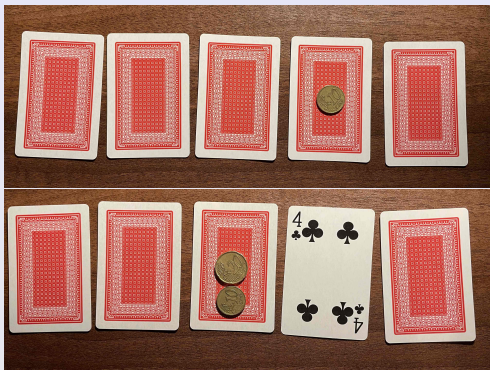
- 1 E-values
- 2 Merging sequential e-values
- 3 Merging independent e-values**
- 4 Merging dependent e-values and the e-BH procedure
- 5 Risk forecasts and backtests

Independent e-merging



(choose a card to bet on)

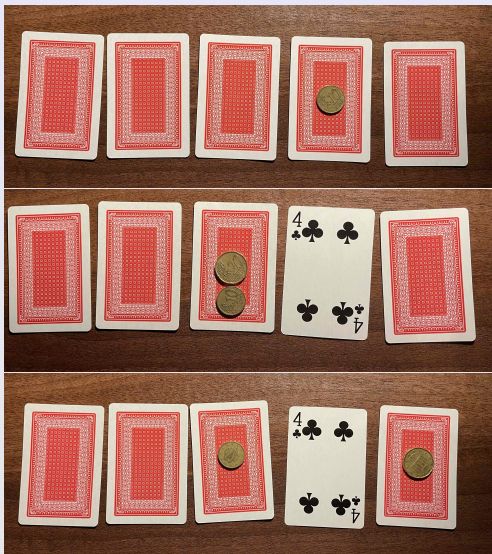
Independent e-merging



(choose a card to bet on)

(choose both the next card and the bet)

Independent e-merging



(choose a card to bet on)

(choose both the next card and the bet)

(one could also bet several cards simultaneously - mixed strategy)

Independent e-merging

- ▶ Write $\mathbf{e}_{(k)}^\pi = (e_{\pi_1}, \dots, e_{\pi_k})$ where π_j may be a function
- ▶ A **reading strategy** $\pi = (\pi_k)_{k \in [K]}$ is such that
 - $\pi_k : [0, \infty)^{k-1} \rightarrow [K]$
 - $\pi_k(\mathbf{e}_{(k-1)}^\pi) \neq \pi_j(\mathbf{e}_{(j-1)}^\pi)$ for all $\mathbf{e} \in [0, \infty)^K$ and $j \neq k$; i.e., you can only read the same e-value once

Lemma 1

Let E_1, \dots, E_K be independent e-variables, and π a reading strategy. Recursively define $E_k^\pi = E_{\pi_k}(E_1^\pi, \dots, E_{k-1}^\pi)$ for $k \in [K]$. Then E_1^π, \dots, E_K^π are sequential e-variables. If E_1, \dots, E_K are iid, then so are E_1^π, \dots, E_K^π .

Independent e-merging

- ▶ A **reordered test martingale**: $S_0 = 1$,

$$S_k^{\lambda, \pi}(\mathbf{e}) = \prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 + \lambda_j(\mathbf{e}_{(j-1)}^\pi)(e_{\pi_j(\mathbf{e}_{(j-1)})} - 1) \right), \quad k \in [K]$$

- ▶ A **generalized martingale merging function** (GMMF) is a mixture of $S_K^{\lambda, \pi}$ above

Proposition 3

Any GMMF is an ie-merging function.

Independent e-merging

- ▶ A **reordered test martingale**: $S_0 = 1$,

$$S_k^{\lambda, \pi}(\mathbf{e}) = \prod_{i=1}^k \left(1 + \lambda_j(\mathbf{e}_{(j-1)}^\pi)(e_{\pi_j(\mathbf{e}_{(j-1)})} - 1) \right), \quad k \in [K]$$

- ▶ A **generalized martingale merging function** (GMMF) is a mixture of $S_K^{\lambda, \pi}$ above

Proposition 3

Any GMMF is an ie-merging function.

- ▶ Are all ie-merging function dominated by some GMMF, like se-merging functions dominated by MMF?

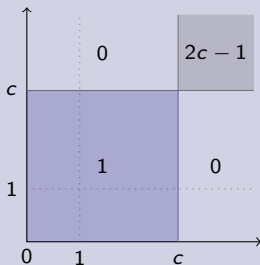
Merging independent e-values

Example

Fix a constant $c > 1$ and define the function $G : [0, \infty)^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ by

$$G(\mathbf{e}) = \mathbb{1}_{[0,c)^2}(\mathbf{e}) + (2c - 1)\mathbb{1}_{[c,\infty)^2}(\mathbf{e}).$$

- ▶ G is an ie-merging function
- ▶ G is not dominated by any GMMF
- ▶ G is not increasing or precise



This counter-example is provided by Zhenyuan Zhang

Merging independent e-values

Open questions:

- ▶ What are all (precise, increasing) ie-merging functions?
- ▶ Does the set of precise ie-merging functions coincide with GMMF?
- ▶ Are there useful ie-merging functions beyond GMMF?
- ▶ After all, what is the value of independence (if any)?

Progress

- 1 E-values
- 2 Merging sequential e-values
- 3 Merging independent e-values
- 4 Merging dependent e-values and the e-BH procedure**
- 5 Risk forecasts and backtests

Arbitrarily dependent e-values

Theorem 3

Suppose that F is a symmetric e-merging function. Then $F \leq \lambda + (1 - \lambda)M_K$ for some $\lambda \in [0, 1]$, and F is admissible if and only if $F = \lambda + (1 - \lambda)M_K$ with $\lambda = F(\mathbf{0})$.

- ▶ For any symmetric e-merging function F :

$$F(\mathbf{e}) > 1 \implies M_K(\mathbf{e}) \geq F(\mathbf{e}).$$

- ▶ Asymmetric e-merging: $\mathbf{e} \mapsto \boldsymbol{\lambda} \cdot \mathbf{e}$ for $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \in \Delta_K$ where Δ_K is the standard K -simplex

Vovk-W., E-values: Calibration, combination, and applications.

Annals of Statistics, 2021, Theorem 3.2 (relaxing monotonicity: Proposition E.3)

Connection to p-merging

Theorem 4

For any *admissible* p-merging function F and $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$, there exist $(w_1, \dots, w_K) \in \Delta_K$ and *admissible calibrators* f_1, \dots, f_K such that

$$F(\mathbf{p}) \leq \epsilon \iff \sum_{k=1}^K w_k f_k(p_k) \geq \frac{1}{\epsilon}.$$

If F is *symmetric*, then there exists an *admissible calibrator* f such that

$$F(\mathbf{p}) \leq \epsilon \iff \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K f(p_k) \geq \frac{1}{\epsilon}.$$

Vovk-Wang-W., [Admissible ways of merging p-values under arbitrary dependence](#).

Annals of Statistics, 2022, Theorem 5.1

E-BH procedure

- ▶ e_1, \dots, e_K : e-values associated to H_1, \dots, H_K , respectively
- ▶ $e_{[1]} \geq \dots \geq e_{[K]}$: order statistics
- ▶ The rough relation $e \sim 1/p \Rightarrow$ use $1/e$ in the BH procedure

E-BH procedure

The **e-BH procedure** $\mathcal{G}_\alpha : [0, \infty]^K \rightarrow 2^{\mathcal{K}}$ for $\alpha > 0$ rejects hypotheses with the largest k^* e-values, where

$$k^* = \max \left\{ k \in \mathcal{K} : \frac{ke_{[k]}}{K} \geq \frac{1}{\alpha} \right\}.$$

E-BH procedure

Theorem 5

The e-BH procedure \mathcal{G}_α applied to *arbitrary* e-values has FDR at most $K_0\alpha/K$.

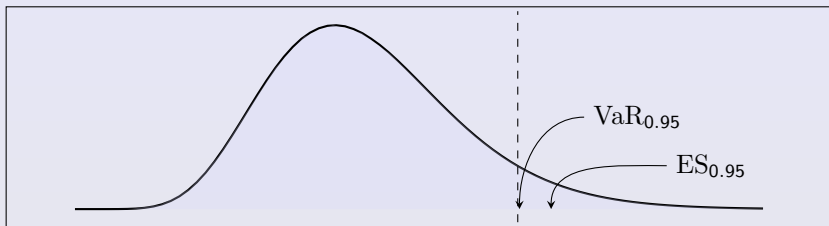
	nice cases	general (AD)
p-BH	$\frac{K_0}{K}\alpha$	penalty
e-BH	boosting	$\frac{K_0}{K}\alpha$

- ▶ The catch: for the same data set, $e \leq 1/p$ and often $e < 1/p$

W.-Ramdas, False discovery rate control with e-values.

JRSSB, 2022, Theorem 2

VaR and ES



Value-at-Risk (VaR), $p \in (0, 1)$

$$\text{VaR}_p : L^0 \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{VaR}_p(X) &= q_p(X) \\ &= \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R} : \mathbb{P}(X \leq x) \geq p\}\end{aligned}$$

(left-quantile)

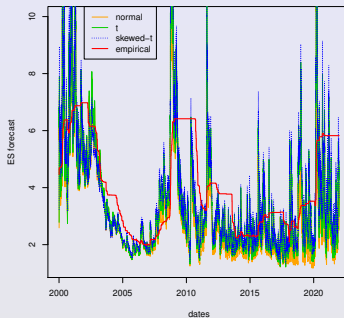
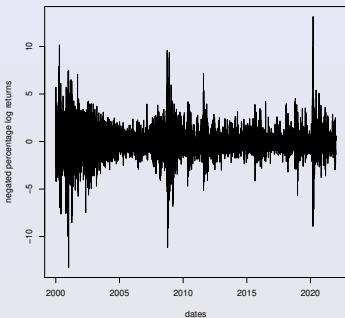
Expected Shortfall (ES), $p \in (0, 1)$

$$\text{ES}_p : L^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R},$$

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

(also: TVaR/CVaR/AVaR)

An example



- ▶ Negated log-returns (in %) of the NASDAQ Composite index from Jan, 2000 to Dec 2021
- ▶ Fitted (AR(1)-GARCH(1,1)) or empirical $ES_{0.975}$ forecasts with moving window of 500

Backtesting risk measures

- ▶ Risk measure ρ to backtest
- ▶ Define

$$\mathcal{F}_{t-1} := \sigma(L_s : s \leq t-1)$$

- ▶ Daily observations
 - risk measure forecast r_t for $\rho(L_t)$ given \mathcal{F}_{t-1}
 - realized loss L_t
- ▶ non-iid, non-stationary observations

Hypothesis to test

$$H_0 : \text{conditional on } \mathcal{F}_{t-1}: \quad r_t \geq \rho(L_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1}) \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, T$$

Some summary

- ▶ ES is the standard risk measure in banking
- ▶ VaR is easy to backtest and model-free methods are available
- ▶ ES is difficult to backtest and no model-free methods are available

E-backtesting ES

Daily observations

- ▶ ES forecast r_t
- ▶ VaR forecast z_t
- ▶ realized loss L_t

Hypothesis to test

$$H_0 : \quad \text{conditional on } \mathcal{F}_{t-1}: \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, T \\ r_t \geq \text{ES}_p(L_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1}) \text{ and } z_t = \text{VaR}_p(L_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1})$$

A weaker hypothesis

$$H'_0 : \quad \text{conditional on } \mathcal{F}_{t-1} : \\ r_t - z_t \geq \text{ES}_p(L_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1}) - \text{VaR}_p(L_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1}) \quad \text{for } t = 1, \dots, T \\ \text{and } z_t \geq \text{VaR}_p(L_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1})$$

Obtaining sequential e-values

Define the function

$$e_p(x, r, z) = \frac{(x - z)_+}{(1 - p)(r - z)}, \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, \quad z \leq r,$$

Theorem 6

For H_0 or H'_0 , $e_p(L_t, r_t, z_t)$, $t = 1, \dots, T$ are sequential e-variables.

- ▶ Proof: based on [Rockafellar/Uryasev'02](#)
- ▶ e_p is the **only choice** in this procedure in some sense

Backtesting ES

The general protocol for $t \in \mathbb{N}$

- ▶ The bank announces **ES forecast** r_t and **VaR forecast** z_t
- ▶ Decide **predictable** $\lambda_t(r_t, z_t) \in [0, 1]$
 - Choosing λ_t : many papers/talks ...
- ▶ Observe **realized loss** L_t
- ▶ Obtain the **e-value** $x_t = e_p(L_t, r_t, z_t)$
- ▶ Compute the **e-process** ($E_0 = 1$)

$$E_t = E_{t-1}(1 - \lambda_t + \lambda_t x_t) = \prod_{s=1}^t (1 - \lambda_s + \lambda_s x_s).$$

- ▶ **model free, anytime valid**, and allowing for **intermediate assessments**

Simulation studies

Data generating process (Nolde/Ziegel'17)

- ▶ AR(1)-GARCH(1,1) process:

$$L_t = \mu_t + \epsilon_t, \quad \epsilon_t = \sigma_t Z_t,$$

$$\mu_t = -0.05 + 0.3L_{t-1}, \quad \sigma_t^2 = 0.01 + 0.1\epsilon_{t-1}^2 + 0.85\sigma_{t-1}^2$$

- ▶ The innovations $\{Z_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}_+}$ are iid skew-t with shape parameter $\nu = 5$ and skewness parameter $\gamma = 1.5$
- ▶ simulate 5500 daily losses (one run)

Simulation studies

Forecasters

- ▶ Fit AR(1)-GARCH(1,1) everyday with a moving window of 500 days
- ▶ Innovations: **normal**, **t** and **skew-t**
- ▶ Strategies: **under-report**, **point forecast**, **over-report**

Average point forecast over 5000 days

	$\widehat{\text{VaR}}_{0.95}$	$\widehat{\text{VaR}}_{0.99}$	$\widehat{\text{VaR}}_{0.875}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}_{0.875}$	$\widehat{\text{VaR}}_{0.975}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}_{0.975}$
normal	0.605	0.883	0.403	0.606	0.734	0.888
t	0.528	0.974	0.300	0.566	0.709	1.034
skewed-t	0.658	1.217	0.365	0.701	0.888	1.281
true	0.658	1.242	0.359	0.706	0.897	1.312

Backtesting ES (e-process)

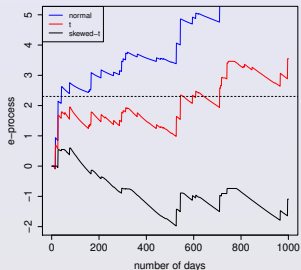
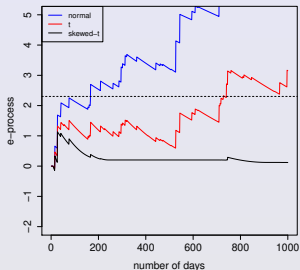


Figure: (Log) e-processes testing $ES_{0.975}$ with respect to number of days.

Left: constant Kelly; right: functional Kelly

Backtesting ES (constant Kelly)

	constant Kelly				
	−10% ES	−10% both	exact	+10% both	+10% ES
normal	42 (58.25)	76 (59.94)	167 (39.70)	313 (23.81)	313 (25.41)
t	296 (33.71)	296 (37.97)	728 (19.03)	1958 (6.417)	1832 (8.665)
skewed-t	1914 (5.490)	1921 (5.497)	− (−0.3122)	− (0.1477)	− (0.06787)

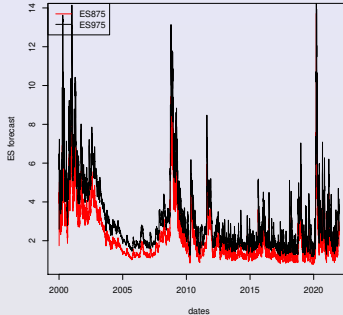
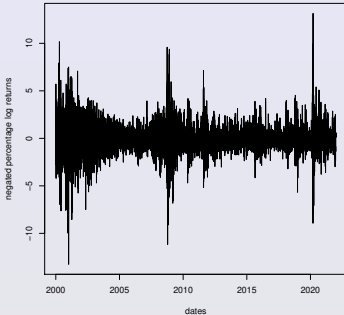
Table: Number of days taken to reject $ES_{0.975}$ forecasts; “−” means no rejection is detected till day 5000; numbers in brackets are final (log) e-values

Backtesting ES (functional Kelly)

	functional Kelly				
	-10% ES	-10% both	exact	+10% both	+10% ES
normal	27 (50.66)	41 (52.92)	41 (36.93)	42 (24.45)	209 (25.84)
t	167 (31.67)	167 (35.38)	544 (20.32)	1405 (9.477)	1326 (11.71)
skewed-t	1914 (6.370)	1866 (7.185)	- (-1.524)	- (-5.566)	- (-6.044)

Table: Number of days taken to reject $ES_{0.975}$ forecasts; “-” means no rejection is detected till day 5000; numbers in brackets are final (log) e-values

Empirical setting

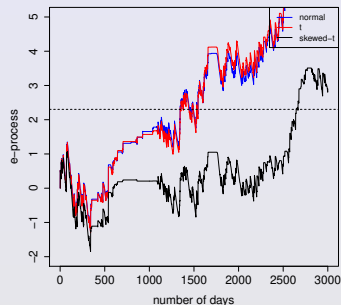


- ▶ Negated log-returns of the NASDAQ Composite index from [Jan 2000](#) to [Dec 2021](#)
- ▶ Fitted to an AR(1)-GARCH(1,1) model with moving window of 500
- ▶ Sample size after initial training: $n = 5,536$

Jan 2005 - Dec 2021, functional Kelly, $\widehat{ES}_{0.875}$ (log scale)

Impact of financial crisis

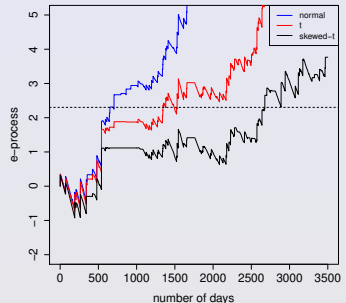
	normal	t	skewed-t
average $\widehat{ES}_{0.875}$	1.823	1.829	1.965
rejection day	1344	1345	2645
final (log) e-value	14.70	14.91	4.722



Jan 2005 - Dec 2021, functional Kelly, $ES_{0.975}$ (log scale)

Impact of financial crisis

	normal	t	skewed-t
average $\widehat{ES}_{0.975}$	2.624	2.979	3.218
rejection day	650	1344	2676
final (log) e-value	23.84	10.56	4.825



Thank you



Working paper series on e-values www.alrw.net/e

