

E-backtesting

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Agenda

Risk forecasts and backtests

E-values

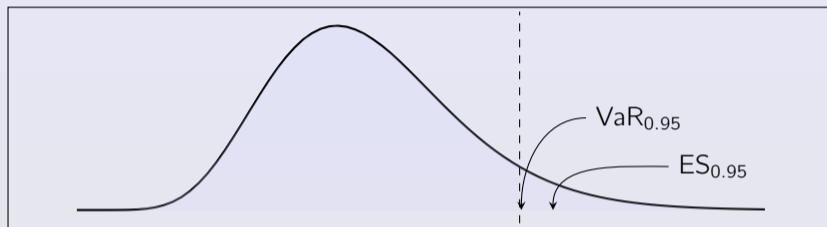
Model-free e-statistics

E-backtesting

Simulation and data analysis

based on joint work with Qiuqi Wang (Georgia State) and Johanna Ziegel (Bern)

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

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

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

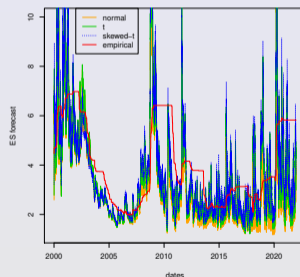
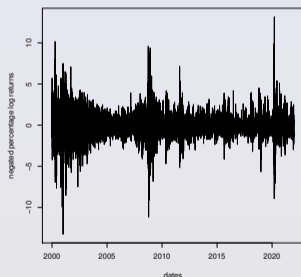
(also: TVaR/CVaR/AVaR)

Some recent work on VaR vs ES

- Axiomatic characterizations
 - VaR: Kou/Peng' 16 OR; He/Peng' 18 OR; Liu/W.'21 MOR
 - ES: W./Zitikis'21 MS; Embrechts/Mao/Wang/W.'21 MF
- Risk sharing
 - Embrechts/Liu/W.'18 OR; Embrechts/Liu/Mao/W.'20 MP
- Robustness, optimization, calibration
 - Embrechts/Schied/W.'22 OR; Li/W.'23 JE
- Forecasting and **backtesting ES**
 - Fissler/Ziegel'16 AOS; Nolde/Ziegel'17 AOAS; Du/Escanciano'17 MS; Moldenhauer/Pitera'17 JRisk; Banulescu-Radu/Hurlin/Leymarie/Scaillet'21 MS; Bayer/Dimitriadis'22 JFEC; Hoga/Demetrescu'22 MS

Features in backtesting risk measures I

After each period (e.g., one trading day), a new **observation** comes in, and a **risk forecast** is announced by a financial institution (bank). **Hypothesis testing methods** are designed to assess the risk forecasts.



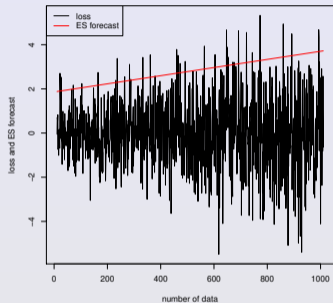
- Negated log-returns (in %) of the NASDAQ Composite index from [Jan 16, 1996 to Dec 31, 2021](#)
- Fitted (AR(1)-GARCH(1, 1)) or empirical $ES_{0.975}$ forecasts with moving window of 500

Features in backtesting risk measures II

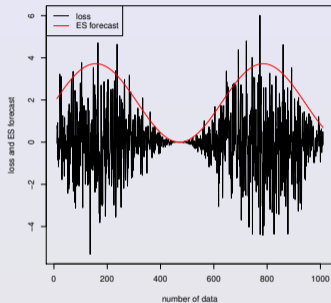
Challenges

- The risks are **neither independent nor identically distributed**
- The predictions are **even less clearly structured**
- The regulator **does not necessarily know** or **trust** the underlying model used by the bank to produce a risk prediction
 - Only **limited information** is supplied by the bank, and the bank may **make mistakes** on models it provide.

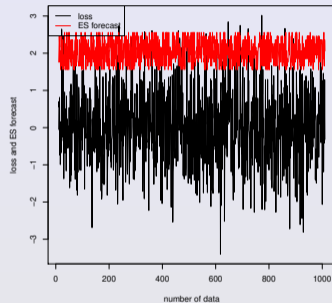
Some examples



The firm is **expanding the business**



The firm has a **business cycle**



The firm has a **poor forecast quality**

Question: How do we evaluate the ES forecasts (the true ES is not known)?

Features in backtesting risk measures III

The regulator is concerned about **underestimation** of the risk measure, whereas **overestimation** (being conservative) is **less of a concern**.

Example from Lehman Brothers (2008)

- underestimated default/credit risks
- hid the true their leverage and debt

Example from Silicon Valley Bank (2023)

- underestimated interest rate risk
- basically no risk management



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

Hypothesis to test

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

Backtesting VaR

- Daily prediction $r_t = \widehat{\text{VaR}}_p(L_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1})$
- Daily realization L_t

Backtesting for **fixed** T

- Under H_0 : $Y_t = \mathbb{1}_{\{L_t > r_t\}}$ are independent Bernoulli sample with mean at most $1 - p$
- $S_T = \sum_{t=1}^T Y_t \leq_{\text{st}} \text{Binomial}(T, 1 - p)$
- Easy to construct p-values (reject if S_t large enough)
- Completely model free

Such a simple procedure **does not exist for ES!**

Backtesting risk measures

Objective: build up a backtesting method that

- is model free
- is anytime valid
- works for both ES and VaR



Risk backtests
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E-values

E-values
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Model-free e-statistics
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E-backtesting
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Simulation and data
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Progress

Risk forecasts and backtests

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Simulation and data analysis

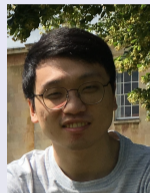
E-values



Vladimir Vovk
(Royal Holloway)



Aaditya Ramdas
(Carnegie Mellon)



Qiuqi Wang
(Georgia State)



Johanna Ziegel
(Bern)

- Vovk/W., E-values: Calibration, combination, and applications. Annals of Statistics, 2021
- W./Ramdas, False discovery rate control with e-values. JRSSB, 2022
- Grünwald/de Heide/Koolen, Safe testing. JRSSB, 2023
- Vovk/W., Confidence and discoveries with e-values. Statistical Science, 2023
- Waudby-Smith/Ramdas, Estimating means of bounded random variables by betting. JRSSB, 2023
- Wang/W./Ziegel, E-backtesting. Working paper, 2022, [arXiv:2209.00991](https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.00991)

What is an e-value?

- A hypothesis \mathcal{H} : a set of probability measures

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

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

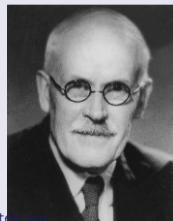
What is an e-value?

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

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

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., 1961)



Robustness advantages

- Validity for arbitrary dependence
 - **robust** to dependence
- They are easy to combine
 - **robust** to operations
- Flexible with regards to stop/continue procedures
 - **robust** to sampling and optimizing algorithms
- Non-asymptotic and model free
 - **robust** to model misspecification

Example in testing multiple hypotheses

Multi-armed bandit problems

Xu-W.-Ramdas'21 NeurIPS

- 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: $M_{k,t} = \prod_{j=1}^t X_{k,j} \mathbb{1}_{\{k_j=k\}}$
- complicated dependence due to exploration/exploitation
- $M_{1,\tau}, \dots, M_{K,\tau}$ are e-values for any stopping time τ

Combining sequential e-values

Sequential e-variables

- $\mathbb{E}[X_t \mid X_1, \dots, X_{t-1}] \leq 1$ for all $t = 1, 2, \dots$

The general protocol

- Obtain **sequential e-values** X_1, \dots, X_t, \dots
- Decide **predictable** $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_t, \dots \in [0, 1]$
- Compute the **e-process** ($E_0 = 1$)

$$E_t = E_{t-1}(1 - \lambda_t + \lambda_t X_t) = \prod_{s=1}^t (1 - \lambda_s + \lambda_s X_s)$$

- The only optimal procedures in the sense of **Pareto** or **Wald**

Vovk/W.'22

Risk backtests
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Model-free e-statistics

E-values
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Model-free e-statistics
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E-backtesting
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Simulation and data
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Progress

Risk forecasts and backtests

E-values

Model-free e-statistics

E-backtesting

Simulation and data analysis

Model-free e-statistics

Setting

- The model space \mathcal{M} is a set of distributions on \mathbb{R}
- ρ is the **risk measure** to be tested
 - treated as a mapping on either \mathcal{M} or \mathcal{X}
- $\phi : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ represents **auxiliary statistics**
- $\psi = (\rho, \phi)$ represents the collection of **available statistical information**

Remarks.

- If ϕ is a constant (we can take $\phi = 0$), then only the predicted value of ρ is used
- We omit ϕ if it is a constant
- ϕ may be d -dimensional in general, but we focus on $d = 0$ (constant ϕ) or $d = 1$

Model-free e-statistics

Intuitive thoughts in case ϕ is omitted

- $e(X, r)$ is an **e-variable** if $r \geq \rho(F_X) \leftrightarrow$ **validity**
- If r is **under-specified**, then $\mathbb{E}[e(X, r)] > 1 \leftrightarrow$ **consistency**
- $r \mapsto e(X, r)$ should be **decreasing** \leftrightarrow **monotonicity**

Model-free e-statistics

Intuitive thoughts in case ϕ is omitted

- $e(X, r)$ is an **e-variable** if $r \geq \rho(F_X) \leftrightarrow$ **validity**
- If r is **under-specified**, then $\mathbb{E}[e(X, r)] > 1 \leftrightarrow$ **consistency**
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Definition (Model-free e-statistics)

A **model-free e-statistic** for $(\rho, \phi) : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ is a measurable function

$e : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ satisfying $\int e(x, \rho(F), \phi(F)) dF \leq 1$ for each $F \in \mathcal{M}$. Moreover,

- e is **testing ρ** if $\int e(x, r, z) dF(x) > 1$ for all $F \in \mathcal{M}$ with $\rho(F) > r$ and all (r, z) in the range of (ρ, ϕ) .
- The test is **strict** if $r \mapsto e(x, r, z)$ is decreasing.
- We write $e(x, r) = e(x, r, 0)$ if $\phi = 0$ (so z does not matter)

Model-free e-statistics

Examples (convention: $0/0 = 1$ and $1/0 = \infty$)

- Let \mathcal{M} be the set of distributions on \mathbb{R}_+ with a finite mean. The function $e(x, r) = x/r$ for $x, r \geq 0$ is a model-free e-statistic strictly testing the **mean**.

Model-free e-statistics

Examples (convention: $0/0 = 1$ and $1/0 = \infty$)

- Let \mathcal{M} be the set of distributions on \mathbb{R}_+ with a finite mean. The function $e(x, r) = x/r$ for $x, r \geq 0$ is a model-free e-statistic strictly testing the **mean**.
- Let \mathcal{M} be the set of distributions on \mathbb{R} with a finite variance. The function $e(x, r, z) = (x - z)^2/r$ for $x, z \in \mathbb{R}$ and $r \geq 0$ is a model-free e-statistic for (\mathbb{E}, Var) strictly testing the **variance**.

Model-free e-statistics

Examples (convention: $0/0 = 1$ and $1/0 = \infty$)

- Let \mathcal{M} be the set of distributions on \mathbb{R}_+ with a finite mean. The function $e(x, r) = x/r$ for $x, r \geq 0$ is a model-free e-statistic strictly testing the **mean**.
- Let \mathcal{M} be the set of distributions on \mathbb{R} with a finite variance. The function $e(x, r, z) = (x - z)^2/r$ for $x, z \in \mathbb{R}$ and $r \geq 0$ is a model-free e-statistic for (\mathbb{E}, Var) strictly testing the **variance**.
- Let \mathcal{M} be the set of all distributions on \mathbb{R} and take $p \in (0, 1)$. The function $e(x, r) = \mathbf{1}_{\{x > r\}} / (1 - p)$ for $x, r \in \mathbb{R}$ is a model-free e-statistic strictly testing VaR_p .

Model-free e-statistics for VaR

The model-free e-statistic strictly testing VaR_p

$$e_p^Q(x, r) = \frac{\mathbb{1}_{\{x > r\}}}{1 - p}, \quad x, r \in \mathbb{R}$$

Theorem 1

For $p \in (0, 1)$, all model-free e-statistics testing VaR_p that are continuous except at $x = r$ have the form

$$e'(x, r) = 1 - \lambda(r) + \lambda(r)e_p^Q(x, r), \quad x, r \in \mathbb{R},$$

for some continuous $\lambda : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow (0, 1]$. Moreover, e' is strictly testing VaR_p if and only if $\lambda(r)$ is constant in r .

Model-free e-statistics for ES

Proposition 1

There does not exist a model-free e-statistic testing ES_p using solely the information of ES_p .

Define the function

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

Theorem 2

For $p \in (0, 1)$, e_p^{ES} is a model-free e-statistic for (ES_p, VaR_p) strictly testing ES_p .

Model-free e-statistics for ES

Sketch of Proof. VaR-ES optimization formula:

Rockafellar/Uryasev'02 JBF

$$\begin{aligned} \text{VaR}_\rho(X) &\in \arg \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ x + \frac{1}{1-\rho} \mathbb{E}[(X-x)_+] \right\} \\ \text{ES}_\rho(X) &= \min_{x \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ x + \frac{1}{1-\rho} \mathbb{E}[(X-x)_+] \right\} \\ &= \text{VaR}_\rho(X) + \frac{1}{1-\rho} \mathbb{E}[(X - \text{VaR}_\rho(X))_+] \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\mathbb{E}[e_p^{\text{ES}}(X, \text{ES}_\rho(X), \text{VaR}_\rho(X))] = \frac{\mathbb{E}[(X - \text{VaR}_\rho(X))_+]}{(1-\rho)(\text{ES}_\rho(X) - \text{VaR}_\rho(X))} = 1$$

and

$$\mathbb{E}[e_p^{\text{ES}}(X, r, z)] > 1 \quad \text{for any } z \leq r < \text{ES}_\rho(X)$$

Model-free e-statistics for ES

Theorem 3

All model-free e-statistics for (ES_p, VaR_p) testing ES_p have the form

$$e'(x, r, z) = 1 - \lambda(r, z) + \lambda(r, z)e_p^{\text{ES}}(x, r, z), \quad x \in \mathbb{R}, z \leq r.$$

for some $\lambda : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow (0, 1]$. Moreover, e' is strictly testing ES_p if and only if both $r \mapsto \lambda(r, z)$ and $r \mapsto (r - z)/\lambda(r, z)$ are increasing.

Risk backtests
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E-values
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Model-free e-statistics
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E-backtesting
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Simulation and data
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Backtesting

Progress

Risk forecasts and backtests

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Simulation and data analysis

E-backtesting

Daily observations

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

Hypothesis to test

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

A weaker hypothesis

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

Backtesting ES

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

- The bank announces **ES forecast** r_t and **VaR forecast** z_t
- Decide **predictable** $\lambda_t(r_t, z_t) \in [0, 1]$ (\Rightarrow **not shown** to the bank)
- Observe **realized loss** L_t
- Obtain the **sequential e-values** $X_t = e_p^{\text{ES}}(L_t, r_t, z_t)$
- Compute the **e-process** ($E_0 = 1$)

$$E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = (1 - \lambda_t + \lambda_t X_t) E_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \prod_{s=1}^t (1 - \lambda_s + \lambda_s X_s).$$

Backtesting ES

Theorem 4

Under H_0 or H'_0 , $(E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}))_{t=1,\dots,T}$ is a supermartingale, and

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\sup_{t \geq 1} E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \geq \frac{1}{\alpha}\right) \leq \alpha.$$

Our method

- Completely **model free**
- **Anytime validity**: one can stop at any stopping time
- **Early warning**: one can reject at a low threshold such as 2

Comparison with existing methods

Literature	Parametric or dependence assumptions	Forecast structural assumptions	Fixed sample size	Asymptotic test	Reliance on VaR forecast
MF00	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
AS14	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
DE17	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
NZ17	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
BD22	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
HD22	yes	yes	no	no	yes
This paper	no	no	no	no	yes

Table: Comparison of backtesting methods for ES; parametric or dependence assumptions refer to those on loss distributions, time series models, stationarity, or strong mixing; forecast structural assumptions refer to requirements on the forms and properties of risk forecasts

Backtesting risk measures

- A **model-free e-statistic** $e : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow [0, \infty]$ for (ρ, ϕ) testing ρ
- ρ forecast r_t ; ϕ forecast z_t ; **realized loss** L_t ; **e-value** $X_t = e(L_t, r_t, z_t)$

Hypothesis to test

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

- Decide a (**predictable**) $\lambda_t(r_t, z_t) \in [0, 1]$
- Compute the **test martingale** ($E_0 = 1$)

$$E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = (1 - \lambda_t + \lambda_t X_t) E_{t-1}(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) = \prod_{s=1}^t (1 - \lambda_s + \lambda_s X_s).$$

- Size- α test for H_0 : reject if $\sup_t E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \geq 1/\alpha$

Choosing λ_t

- Heuristic choice of **constant** $\lambda_t = \lambda \in [0, 1]$, e.g., $\lambda = 0.01$
- Adaptive choices:
 - Dependent on observed loss data
 - Dependent on forecast
 - Dependent on past forecast
- **E-power** (Vovk/W.'23) of an e-variable E for an alternative Q :

$$\mathbb{E}^Q[\log E]$$

In our setting (where Q_t is unknown):

$$\mathbb{E}^{Q_t}[\log(1 - \lambda_t + \lambda_t e(L_t, r_t, z_t)) \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}]$$

- $\lambda \mapsto \log(1 - \lambda + \lambda e(L_t, r_t, z_t))$ is concave

Choosing λ_t

Fix $\gamma \in (0, 1)$; $\gamma = 1/2$ works well

- **GRO** (growth-rate optimal): $L \sim Q_t$,

Grünwald/de Heide/Koolen'23

$$\lambda_t^{\text{GRO}} = \lambda_t^{\text{GRO}}(r, z) = \arg \max_{\lambda \in [0, \gamma]} \mathbb{E}^{Q_t}[\log(1 - \lambda + \lambda e(L, r, z)) \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}], \quad r, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

- **GREE** (growth-rate for empirical e-statistics):

$$\lambda_t^{\text{GREE}} = \arg \max_{\lambda \in [0, \gamma]} \frac{1}{t-1} \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \log(1 - \lambda + \lambda e(L_s, r_s, z_s))$$

- **GREL** (growth-rate for empirical losses):

$$\lambda_t^{\text{GREL}} = \lambda_t^{\text{GREL}}(r, z) = \arg \max_{\lambda \in [0, \gamma]} \frac{1}{t-1} \sum_{s=1}^{t-1} \log(1 - \lambda + \lambda e(L_s, r, z)), \quad r, z \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

- **GREM** (GRE mixture): $E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{\text{GREM}}) = (E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{\text{GREL}}) + E_t(\boldsymbol{\lambda}^{\text{GREE}}))/2$

Optimality of a method

Definition (Asymptotic optimality)

For $(L_{t-1}, r_t, z_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ adapted to $(\mathcal{F}_{t-1})_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ and a given model-free e-statistic e ,

- two betting processes $\boldsymbol{\lambda} = (\lambda_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\boldsymbol{\lambda}' = (\lambda'_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ are **asymptotically equivalent**, denoted by $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \simeq \boldsymbol{\lambda}'$, if

$$\frac{1}{T} (\log E_T(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) - \log E_T(\boldsymbol{\lambda}')) \xrightarrow{p} 0 \quad \text{as } T \rightarrow \infty;$$

- a betting process $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ is **asymptotically optimal (AO)** if $\boldsymbol{\lambda} \simeq (\lambda_t^{\text{GRO}}(r_t, z_t))_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$.
- The long-term growth rates of the two resulting e-processes are the same
- GRO as the oracle benchmark
- $\psi^*(\mathcal{M}) = \{(r, z) \text{ in the range of } (\rho, \phi) \text{ such that } e(x, r, z) < \infty \text{ for all } x\}$

Optimality of GREE and GREL

Assumption 1

For all $(r, z) \in \psi^*(\mathcal{M})$, $\sup_{t \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{E}^{Q_t}[\log(e(L_t, r, z))] < \infty$.

Theorem 5

Suppose that $(r_t, z_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ takes values in $\psi^*(\mathcal{M})$, $(L_{t-1}, r_t, z_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ is adapted to $(\mathcal{F}_{t-1})_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$, e is a model-free e-statistic, and Assumption 1 holds.

- (i) λ^{GREE} is AO if $(e(L_t, r_t, z_t))_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ is iid and $(r_t, z_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ is deterministic.
- (ii) λ^{GREL} is AO if $(L_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ is iid and either:
 - (a) $(r_t, z_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$ takes finitely many possible values in \mathbb{R}^2 ;
 - (b) (r_t, z_t) lives in a common compact set, $e(x, r, z)$ is continuous in (r, z) , and $(r_t, z_t) \xrightarrow{P} (r_0, z_0)$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for some (r_0, z_0) .
- (iii) λ^{GREM} is AO if either λ^{GREE} or λ^{GREL} is AO.

Progress

Risk forecasts and backtests

E-values

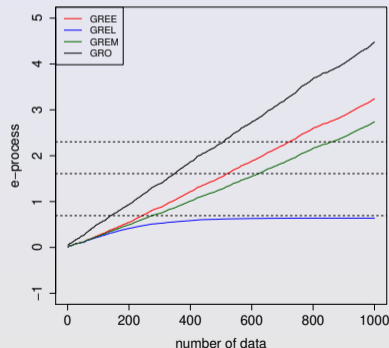
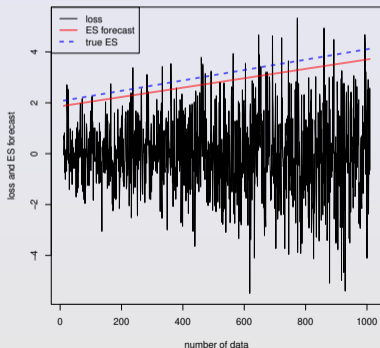
Model-free e-statistics

E-backtesting

Simulation and data analysis

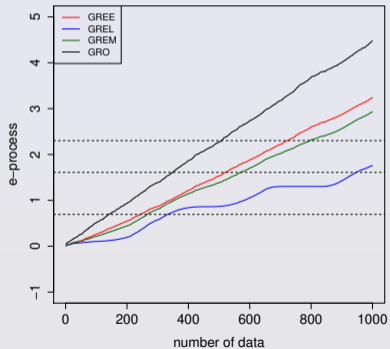
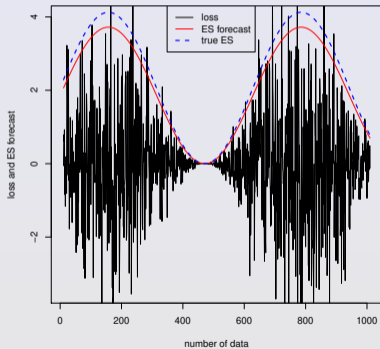
Example 1: Co-movements of losses and forecasts (linear growth)

- Sample size for testing $n = 1,000$; size of training data $l = 10$
- Losses: $L_t = Z_t(1 + t/(n + l))$; $\{Z_t\}_{t=1, \dots, n+l}$ are iid samples from $N(0, 1)$
- ES forecasts: $r_t = 1.86(1 + t/(n + l))$; VaR forecasts: $z_t = 1.48(1 + t/(n + l))$



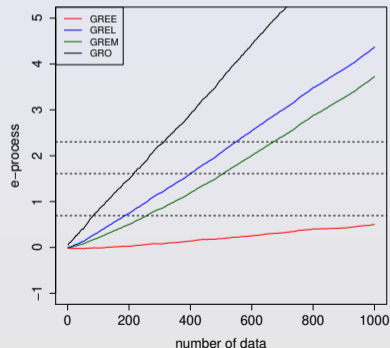
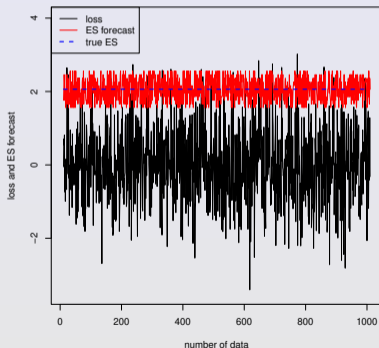
Example 2: Co-movements of losses and forecasts (varying magnitude)

- Losses: $L_t = Z_t(1 + \sin(\theta t))$, $\theta = 0.01$
- ES forecasts: $r_t = 1.86(1 + \sin(\theta t))$; VaR forecasts: $z_t = 1.48(1 + \sin(\theta t))$



Example 3: Forecasts with an estimation error

- **Losses:** iid $L_t \sim N(0, 1)$
- **ES forecasts:** $r_t = 2.06 + \varepsilon_t$; **VaR forecasts:** $z_t = 1.64 + \varepsilon_t$; $\{\varepsilon_t\}_{t=1, \dots, n+l}$ are iid samples uniformly distributed on support $\{\pm i/10 : i = 0, \dots, 5\}$



Time-series model

Data generating process (Nolde/Ziegel'17)

- AR(1)-GARCH(1, 1) process:

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

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

- The innovations $\{Z_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}_+}$ are iid **skewed-t** with shape parameter $\nu = 5$ and skewness parameter $\gamma = 1.5$
- simulate 1,000 daily losses in each run (1,000 runs)

Time-series model

Forecasters

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

Average point forecast over 500 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), GREM

E-value rejection thresholds: 2, 5, and 10

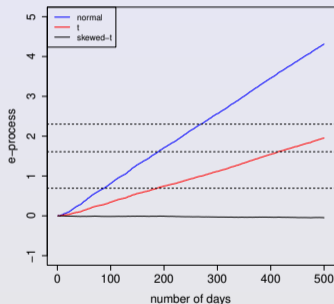


Figure: Average (Log) e-processes testing $ES_{0.975}$ with respect to number of days using the GREM method

Backtesting ES, GREM

Threshold	-10% ES			exact			+10% ES		
	2	5	10	2	5	10	2	5	10
normal	99.8	99.5	98.5	99.3	95.7	88.3	94.8	79.8	62.1
t	98.4	88.8	77.1	88.1	63.9	43.1	70.0	34.9	15.6
skewed-t	47.6	16.1	6.2	18.8	4.0	0.8	7.9	1.1	0.1

Table: Percentage of rejections (%) for $ES_{0.975}$ forecasts using the GREM method within the total 1,000 trials

Detection of structural change

Data generating process (Hoga/Demetrescu'22)

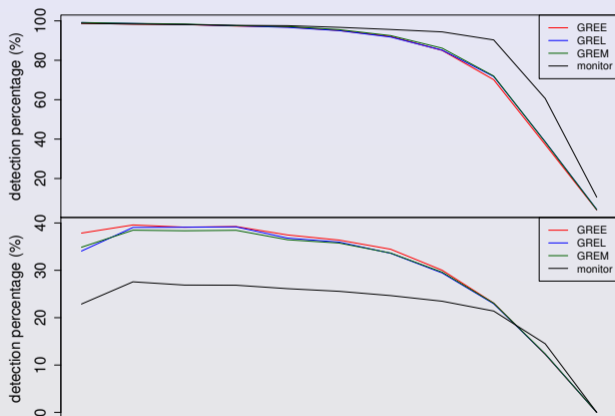
- GARCH(1, 1) process:

$$L_t = -\sigma_t Z_t, \quad \sigma_t^2 = 0.00001 + 0.04\varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta_t \sigma_{t-1}^2$$

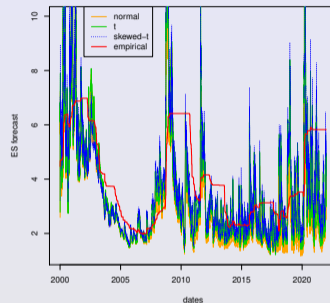
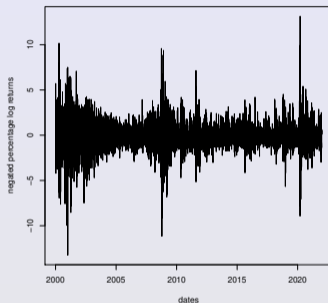
- The innovations $\{Z_t\}_{t \in \mathbb{N}_+}$ are iid **skewed-t** with shape parameter $\nu = 5$ and skewness parameter $\gamma = 0.95$
- Simulate 250 daily losses for forecasting and 250 for testing
- $\beta_t = 0.7 + 0.25\mathbb{1}_{\{t > b^*\}}$; $b^* + 1$ is the time where structural change happens

Backtesting $ES_{0.95}$

Percentage of detections (%) and average number of days needed to detect structural change (ARL) with respect to b^* ; black line ("monitor") represents the result of the sequential monitoring method in Hoga/Demetrescu'22



Data analysis setting

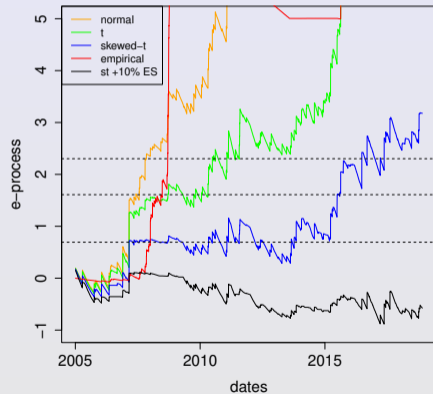


- Negated log-returns of the NASDAQ Composite index from [Jan 16, 1996 to Dec 31, 2021](#)
- Fitted to an AR(1)-GARCH(1, 1) model with moving window of 500
- Sample size after initial training: $n = 5,536$

Jan 2005 - Dec 2021, GREM, $ES_{0.975}$

Threshold	2	5	10	
normal	540	610	713	(30.28)
t	540	933	1381	(10.25)
skewed-t	540	2639	2889	(4.169)
st +10% ES	–	–	–	(–0.6896)
empirical	756	862	931	(8.454)

Table: Number of days taken to reject the $ES_{0.975}$ forecasts, and final log e-values (in brackets); “–” means no rejection



Future directions

- E-backtesting other risk measures

- Gini deviation ($\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{E}[|X - X'|]$): Model-free e-statistics take the form of $r \mapsto \frac{|x_1 - x_2|}{2r}$
(requires two iid copies)
- Distortion risk measures

- Game theoretic framework

- Financial institution: report as low risk forecasts as possible
- Regulator: reject when e-process becomes large
- Equilibrium risk forecasts and betting process $(\lambda_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$

- Other methods choosing betting process $(\lambda_t)_{t \in \mathbb{N}}$

- Optimal betting process for specific distributions
- Optimal betting process for general dependence structures

Thank you

Thank you for your attention



<https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.00991>