

Tail Event Driven Asset Allocation - TEDAS

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S&P 500 Stocks

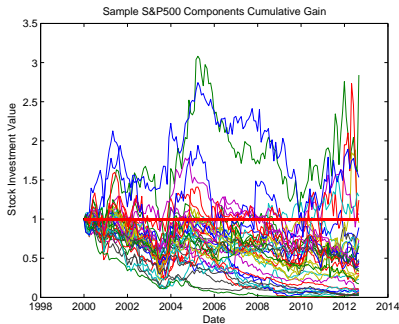


Figure 1: 38 random S&P 500 Sample Components' Cumulative Return:
87% of stocks lost the value of the initial investment (**thick red line**)



Hedge Funds

A **hedge fund** is an "aggressively managed portfolio of investments that uses advanced investment strategies such as leveraged, long, short and derivative positions in both domestic and international markets with the goal of generating high returns".

- diversification - reduction of the portfolio risk
- construction - a more diverse universe of assets
- allocation - a higher risk-adjusted return.



Hedge Funds

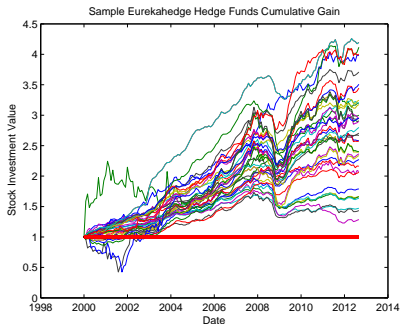


Figure 2: 38 Eurekahedge Hedge Funds Indices' Cumulative Return: **0%** of funds lost the value of the initial investment (thick red line)



Hedge Funds and Diversification

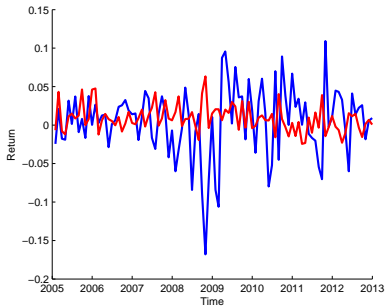


Figure 3: S&P 500 (in blue) and Eureka Hedge North America Macro Hedge Fund Index (in red) monthly returns in 31.01.2005-31.12.2012



Outline

1. Motivation ✓
2. Hedge Funds' Potential For Diversification
3. Asset Allocation with Hedge Funds
4. Portfolio Trading Strategy
5. Results

Mean-Variance Optimization

Markowitz diversification rule:

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{w \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\text{minimize}} && w^\top \Sigma w \\ & \text{subject to} && w^\top \mu = r_T, \\ & && \sum_{i=1}^d w_i = 1, \\ & && w_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where w_i , $i = 1, \dots, d$ are weights, $\Sigma \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d}$ is the covariance matrix for d portfolio asset returns r_i , r_T is the "target" return for the portfolio.



Diversification Concept

Portfolio diversification is a tool to reduce **specific risk** and remain only with **market risk**. Mean-variance theory implies that

- diversification is beneficial when portfolio asset returns are uncorrelated or negatively correlated;
- increasing diversification increases certainty when returns are uncorrelated and variances are identical;
- it is necessary to avoid investing in securities with high covariances among themselves.



Correlation Examples - Traditional Assets

MSCI Indices	US	UK	SW	GER	JAP
US (US)	1.00				
UK (UK)	0.69	1.00			
SW (Switzerland)	0.51	0.58	1.00		
GER (Germany)	0.60	0.59	0.50	1.00	
JAP (Japan)	0.47	0.45	0.38	0.24	1.00

Table 1: Correlation statistics for traditional asset class indices; based on monthly data Jan. 1994 - Aug. 2001; table from Lhabitant (2002, p.158)



Correlation Examples - Traditional Assets and Hedge Fund Indices

Hedge Funds	US	UK	SW	GER	JAP
Conv. arb.	0.10	0.08	0.07	0.10	-0.02
Dedic. sh. bias	-0.77	-0.53	-0.33	-0.46	-0.48
Fix. inc. arb.	0.10	0.13	0.01	0.08	-0.10
Glob. macro	0.30	0.19	0.10	0.27	-0.11
Man. fut.	-0.10	0.02	-0.09	-0.03	0.03

Table 2: Correlation statistics for traditional asset class and hedge funds' indices; based on monthly data Jan. 1994 - Aug. 2001; table from Lhabitant (2002, p.164)

► Details for Hedge Funds Strategies



Correlation Examples - Traditional Assets and Hedge Fund Indices

Table 3: Correlation statistics for MSCI and hedge funds' indices returns

Hedge Fund Indices	MSCI Indices								
	WRD	EUR	US	UK	FR	SW	GER	JAP	PAC
Asia CTA	-0.01	0.02	-0.02	-0.06	0.01	-0.09	0.04	-0.03	0.02
Asia Distressed Debt	0.30	0.30	0.24	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.34
Asia Macro	-0.01	-0.01	-0.04	0.01	-0.02	0.07	-0.03	0.06	0.06
Global CTA FoF	0.02	0.08	-0.08	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.06	0.10
Global Event Driven FoF	0.65	0.59	0.58	0.66	0.59	0.50	0.57	0.47	0.67
Global Macro FoF	0.19	0.22	0.07	0.24	0.22	0.18	0.20	0.23	0.31
CTA/Managed Futures	-0.04	0.02	-0.13	0.03	0.03	0.07	-0.01	0.04	0.05
Event Driven	0.82	0.75	0.75	0.78	0.75	0.64	0.75	0.62	0.83
Fixed Income	0.70	0.65	0.63	0.70	0.65	0.56	0.62	0.51	0.78
Long Short Equities	0.82	0.78	0.74	0.76	0.77	0.64	0.77	0.64	0.82
Asia inc Japan Distr. Debt	0.30	0.30	0.24	0.31	0.31	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.34
Asia inc Japan Macro	0.34	0.33	0.31	0.27	0.33	0.24	0.35	0.31	0.40

Calculations based on monthly data Jan. 2000 - Jul. 2012

WRD - World, EUR - Eurozone, FR - France, SW - Switzerland, PAC - Pacific ex. Japan

FoF means "fund of funds"



Asset Allocation and Hedge Funds

Combine several assets to maximize risk-adjusted performance consistently with the investor's preferences.

Hedge funds:

- may in reality be a conservative investment
- offer superior risk-adjusted returns
- better diversification
- dynamic.



Returns and Risk Characteristics

Table 4: Returns and risk characteristics for hedge fund and MSCI indices

Hedge Fund/ MSCI Index	Return and Risk Measures					
	Aver. Ret.	Stand. Dev.	Skew	Kurt.	Sharpe Ratio	Value- at-Risk
Asia CTA	0.12	0.24	3.37	11.97	0.37	0.25
Asia Distressed Debt	0.12	0.06	0.82	1.65	1.58	-0.02
Asia Macro	0.10	0.22	-2.66	8.63	0.34	0.22
Global CTA FoF	0.06	0.08	-0.81	0.22	0.42	0.07
Global Distr. Debt FoF	0.04	0.05	-2.30	6.30	0.28	0.04
Global Event Driven FoF	0.05	0.05	-1.78	4.83	0.41	0.03
Global Macro FoF	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.74	0.73	0.02
CTA/Managed Futures	0.11	0.08	-0.28	-0.27	1.13	0.01
Event Driven	0.10	0.07	-0.57	2.02	1.01	0.02
Fixed Income	0.08	0.04	1.21	4.34	1.38	-0.02
Long Short Equities	0.09	0.08	-0.67	1.64	0.75	0.04

Data sources are Eurekahedge and MSCI; based on monthly data Jan. 2000 - Jul. 2012

all measures are annualized except for VaR (calculated monthly)

VaR calculated at 0.05% confidence level via log-normal approximation (see Dowd (2005))



Returns and Risk Characteristics - Ctd.

Table 5: Returns and risk characteristics for hedge fund and MSCI indices

Hedge Fund/ MSCI Index	Return and Risk Measures					
	Aver. Ret.	Stand. Dev.	Skew	Kurt.	Sharpe Ratio	Value- at-Risk
Asia inc Japan Distr. Debt	0.12	0.06	0.82	1.65	1.58	−0.02
Asia inc Japan Macro	0.11	0.22	2.04	4.18	0.38	0.22
MSCI World	−0.01	0.17	−0.37	−0.96	−0.22	0.25
MSCI Eurozone	−0.04	0.24	−0.46	−0.41	−0.26	0.35
MSCI US	−0.01	0.16	−0.48	−0.90	−0.22	0.24
MSCI UK	−0.02	0.18	−0.09	−0.95	−0.24	0.27
MSCI France	−0.02	0.23	−0.34	−0.42	−0.22	0.33
MSCI Switzerland	0.03	0.17	−0.60	−0.07	0.00	0.23
MSCI Germany	−0.01	0.27	−0.68	0.09	−0.16	0.37
MSCI Japan	−0.04	0.18	0.00	−0.84	−0.40	0.29
MSCI Pacific ex. Japan	0.04	0.22	−0.36	−0.83	0.07	0.28

Data sources are Eurekahedge and MSCI; based on monthly data Jan. 2000 - Jul. 2012

all measures are annualized except for VaR (calculated monthly)

VaR calculated at 0.05% confidence level via log-normal approximation (see Dowd (2005))



Alternative Allocation Approach

Motivation:

- ▣ hedge funds' returns often have negative skewness and/or positive excess kurtosis - mean-variance approach tends to underestimate portfolio risk
- ▣ financial returns' covariance structure is often time-changing

Possible remedies:

- ▣ use VaR as the objective optimization function
- ▣ adjust VaR for skewness and kurtosis, e.g, via Cornish-Fisher (CF) expansion
- ▣ use a multivariate GARCH framework to model variance-covariance structure



Time-Varying Covariance Structure

- covariance structure of returns may be time-varying;
- financial time series tend to exhibit volatility clustering;
- leverage effect: volatility increases when the asset price falls.



ACF diagnostics

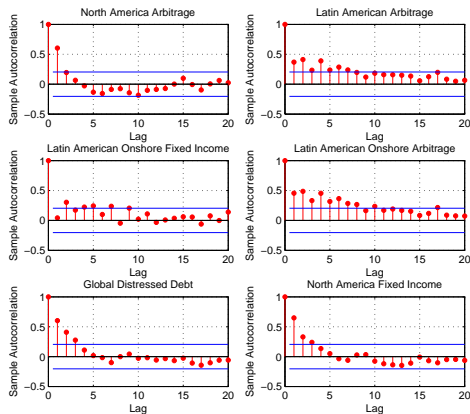


Figure 4: Sample ACFs of the squared returns for selected hedge fund strategies



Test for ARCH Effects

H0: a series of residuals e_t exhibits no conditional heteroscedasticity.

H1: in

$$e_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \sum_{k=1}^p \alpha_k e_{t-k}^2 + u_t, \quad u_t \sim N(0, \sigma^2), \text{ i.i.d.} \quad (1)$$

at least one $\alpha_k \neq 0$, $k = 1, \dots, p$. The test statistic $n \cdot R^2$, where n is the sample size and R^2 is the coefficient of determination of the OLS estimation of this regression; $n \cdot R^2 \sim \chi_p^2$.



Test for ARCH Effects - Results

Table 6: Test for ARCH effects in selected hedge funds' returns residuals

Hedge Fund Name	Test Results			
	Test Stat.	Crit. Value	P-value	Conclusion
North America Arbitrage	33.66	5.99	0.00	H0 rej.
Latin American Arbitrage	6.73	5.99	0.03	H0 rej.
Latin American Onshore Fixed Income	2.75	5.99	0.25	H0 not rej.
Latin American Onshore Arbitrage	9.53	5.99	0.01	H0 rej.
Global Distressed Debt FoF	60.06	5.99	0.00	H0 rej.
North America Fixed Income	47.20	5.99	0.00	H0 rej.

The significance level for the test is 0.05; H0: no ARCH effect

$p = 2$ lags assumed



Modelling Variance-Covariance Structure

Problem: model the covariance matrix Σ_t of financial returns r_t , as in $r_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1} \sim N(0, \Sigma_t)$. Some possible methods:

1. Exponentially Weighted Moving Average estimator:

$$\hat{\Sigma}_t = \frac{1 - \lambda}{1 - \lambda^{t-1}} \sum_{j=1}^{t-1} \lambda^{j-1} r_{t-j} r_{t-j}^\top,$$

where $0 < \lambda < 1$ and the weights $(1 - \lambda)\lambda^{j-1}/(1 - \lambda^{t-1})$ sum up to one.

2. Orthogonal GARCH framework: modelling

$$\Sigma_t = B_t \Delta_t B_t^\top + \Omega_t$$

[► Details](#)

3. Dynamic Conditional Correlation (DCC) framework: modelling

$$\Sigma_t = D_t R_t D_t$$

[► Details](#)



Cornish-Fisher VaR Optimization

The modified optimization problem becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \underset{w \in \mathbb{R}^d}{\text{minimize}} && W\{-\omega(w) \cdot \sigma_p(w)\} \\ & \text{subject to} && w^\top \mu = r_T, \\ & && \sum_{i=1}^d w_i = 1, \quad w_i \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where $W \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tilde{w}^\top \tilde{r}$ is portfolio value, with previously estimated weights \tilde{w} and returns \tilde{r} ; $\sigma_p^2(w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} w^\top \Sigma w$,

$$\omega(w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} z_\alpha + (z_\alpha^2 - 1) \frac{S_p(w)}{6} + (z_\alpha^3 - 3z_\alpha) \frac{K_p(w)}{24} - (2z_\alpha^3 - 5z_\alpha) \frac{S_p(w)^2}{36},$$

where $S_p(w)$ and $K_p(w)$ are, respectively, portfolio skewness and kurtosis, z_α is standard normal lower α -quantile. [▶ Details](#)



Efficient Frontier

Efficient frontier is the set of optimal portfolio risk and return values $(\sigma_p(w), \mu)$ such that $\mu \geq \mu_T$, i.e., such portfolios which have their expected return at least as large as the minimum variance portfolio.

Portfolios that lie below the efficient frontier are *sub-optimal*: they do not provide enough return for the level of risk.

Portfolios made solely of stocks are **sub-optimal** to those which include hedge funds.



Efficient Frontier Example

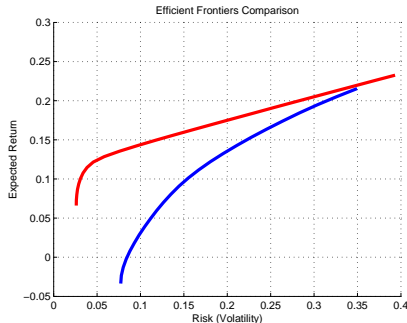


Figure 5: Efficient frontiers built by using all S&P 500 components only (in blue) and by randomly mixing them with Eurekahedge hedge funds indices (in red)



Risk-Adjusted Return

Hedge funds offer superior risk-adjusted returns

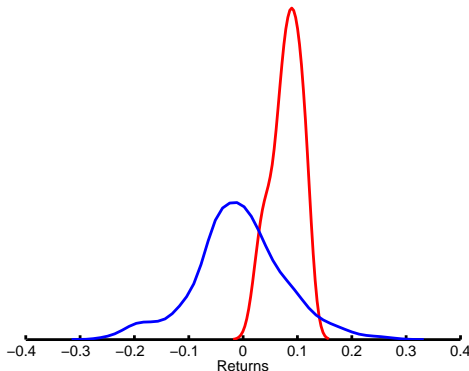


Figure 6: Estimated kernel densities for S&P 500 components (in blue) and for Eureka hedge funds indices (in red) returns



Tail Event Driven Asset Allocation Strategy

How to choose hedge funds which are negatively related to S&P 500 in the lower tail?

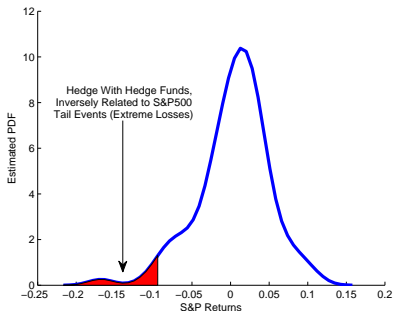


Figure 7: Hedge funds can provide insurance for S&P 500 for tail events



ALQR-Based TEDAS

- consider a data vector $Y \in \mathbb{R}^n$ of S& P 500 returns and a matrix $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$ of hedge funds' returns, $p > n$;
- negative relationship between S& P 500 tail events and hedge funds is captured by the sample quantiles $q_\tau(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F_{y|x}^{-1}(\tau)$
 $= \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} E_{Y|X=x} \rho_\tau\{Y - f(X, \beta)\},$
 $\rho_\tau(u) = u\{\tau - \mathbf{I}(u < 0)\}, \tau \in (0, 1), \beta$ measure the tail dependence;
- let $f(X, \beta) = X\beta$, deal with $p > n$ by introducing L_1 penalty $\lambda \|\hat{\omega}^\top \beta\|_1$ to nullify "excessive" coefficients; λ and $\hat{\omega}$ controlling penalization; constraining $\beta \leq 0$ gives the final Adaptive Lasso Quantile Regression (ALQR) estimator [Details](#)

$$\hat{\beta}_{\tau, \hat{\lambda}} = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_\tau(Y_i - X_i^\top \beta) + \lambda \|\hat{\omega}^\top \beta\|_1$$



ALQR Monte-Carlo Analysis

- $\lambda_n = 0.25 \sqrt{\|\hat{\beta}^{\text{init}}\|_0 \log(n \vee p) (\log n)^{0.1/2}}$, $\hat{\omega}_j = 1/|\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{init}}| \wedge \sqrt{n}$;
 $\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{init}}$ are from (3) (for oracle [Details](#) results to hold);
- linear model (1) with $X_i \sim N(0, \Omega)$, $n = 50$, $p = 300$,
 $\beta = (-5, -5, -5, 5, 5, 5, 0, \dots, 0)$, $q = 6$, $\varepsilon_i \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$;
- $\Omega_{i,j} = 0.5^{|i-j|}$, $\sigma = 0.1, 0.5, 1$ (three levels of noise);
- for $\hat{\beta}^{\text{init}}$ estimator $\hat{\beta}_{\tau, \hat{\lambda}}$ from the model (2) is used, where $\hat{\lambda}$ is chosen according to the BIC criterion

$$\text{BIC}_{\lambda_n, \tau} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \log \left\{ n^{-1} \cdot \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_{\tau}(Y_i - X_i^{\top} \hat{\beta}_{\tau}) \right\} + \frac{\log(n)}{2n} \cdot \hat{\text{df}}(\lambda_n)$$

where $\hat{\text{df}}(\lambda_n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \|\hat{\beta}\|_0 = \hat{q}$.



Accuracy Criteria

Model selection is assessed according to a number of accuracy criteria:

1. Standardized L_2 -norm

$$\text{Dev} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\|\beta - \hat{\beta}\|_2}{\|\beta\|_2}$$

2. Sign consistency

$$\text{Acc} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{j=1}^p |\text{sign}(\beta_j) - \text{sign}(\hat{\beta}_j)|$$

3. Least angle

$$\text{Angle} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\langle \beta, \hat{\beta} \rangle}{\|\beta\|_2 \|\hat{\beta}\|_2}$$



Accuracy Criteria

4. Estimate of q

$$\text{Est} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \hat{q}$$

5. Empirical risk

$$\text{Risk} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sqrt{n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \left[X_i^T (\beta - \hat{\beta}) \right]^2}$$



Monte-Carlo Analysis Results

Table 7: Criteria Results under Different Models and Quantiles

Accuracy Crit. and Model		Noise Levels and Quantile Indices					
		$\sigma=0.1$		$\sigma=0.5$		$\sigma=1$	
		$\tau=0.1$	$\tau=0.9$	$\tau=0.1$	$\tau=0.9$	$\tau=0.1$	$\tau=0.9$
Dev	ALQR	0.55(0.29)	0.60(0.27)	0.65(0.25)	0.55(0.28)	0.60(0.28)	0.57(0.27)
	LQR	0.59(0.27)	0.63(0.25)	0.68(0.20)	0.60(0.22)	0.66(0.20)	0.63(0.21)
Acc	ALQR	3.47(2.41)	3.78(2.47)	4.10(2.57)	3.15(2.25)	3.76(2.63)	3.38(2.49)
	LQR	9.29(2.08)	10.03(2.47)	9.86(2.65)	9.47(2.68)	9.68(2.77)	9.65(2.62)
Angle	ALQR	0.55(0.47)	0.63(0.47)	0.75(0.62)	0.53(0.46)	0.67(0.61)	0.57(0.48)
	LQR	0.78(0.60)	0.89(0.61)	0.95(0.70)	0.73(0.51)	0.92(0.76)	0.80(0.56)
Est	ALQR	5.85(1.10)	5.92(1.36)	5.82(1.29)	5.83(1.01)	5.80(1.30)	5.88(1.12)
	LQR	12.33(1.83)	12.77(2.10)	12.48(1.88)	12.87(2.17)	12.44(1.93)	12.79(1.98)
Risk	ALQR	5.64(3.40)	6.35(3.40)	6.89(3.46)	5.56(3.22)	6.45(3.68)	5.96(3.43)
	LQR	6.90(3.49)	7.62(3.39)	7.91(2.99)	7.02(2.91)	7.88(3.10)	7.47(2.99)

Model notation: ALQR - Adaptive Lasso-penalized quantile regression; LQR - simple Lasso-penalized quantile regression

Standard deviations are given in brackets

Number of replications is 100



Criteria Results



Figure 8: Criteria evaluated for two models ALQR(red) and LQR(blue) for $\tau = 0.1$ and for $\sigma = 0.1, 0.5, 1$ (from left to right)



Data for Analysis

- data on 166 monthly log-returns of 164 Eureka hedge funds indices in the period of 31.01.2000 - 31.10.2013 (source: *Bloomberg*)
- data on 166 monthly log-returns of S&P 500 in the period of 31.01.2000 - 31.10.2013
- the idea is to hedge the benchmark asset (e.g., S&P 500) with a security (e.g., hedge fund) moving in opposite direction at different quantiles



TEDAS Build-Up

- moving window, width $l = 80$ months: the covariate matrix $X_l \in \mathbb{R}^{80 \times 164}$, ($n = 80$, $p = 164$); the response vector $Y_l \in \mathbb{R}^{80}$
- $\tau_{1,2,3,4,5} = (0.05, 0.15, 0.25, 0.35, 0.50)$
- $\hat{q}_\tau \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} F_n^{-1}(\tau)$ is the S&P 500 log-returns sample τ -quantiles obtained from the S&P 500 log-returns edf F_n
- $\hat{\beta}_{\tau, \hat{\lambda}}$ are the estimated non-zero ALQR coefficients
- the GARCH process for individual assets is assumed to be the GARCH (1,1) with mean equation specified as ARMA (1,1) model



TEDAS Explained

Start with initial wealth $W_1 = \$1$. At each time moment $t; t = 1, \dots, n$

1. determine the S&P 500 return r_t
2. choose $\tau_{j,t}, j = 1, \dots, 5$ corresponding to the right-hand side \hat{q}_{τ_t} in one of the conditions which holds simultaneously:

$$r_t \leq \hat{q}_{\tau_{1,t}}, \hat{q}_{\tau_{1,t}} < r_t \leq \hat{q}_{\tau_{2,t}}, \hat{q}_{\tau_{2,t}} < r_t \leq \hat{q}_{\tau_{3,t}},$$

$$\hat{q}_{\tau_{3,t}} < r_t \leq \hat{q}_{\tau_{4,t}}, \hat{q}_{\tau_{4,t}} < r_t \leq \hat{q}_{\tau_{5,t}}$$
3. solve the ALQR problem for $\hat{\beta}_{\tau_{j,t}, \lambda_n}$ on the moving window using the observations $X \in \mathbb{R}^{t-l+1, \dots, t \times p}$, $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{t-l+1, \dots, t}$, buy the hedge funds with $\hat{\beta}_{\tau_{j,t}, \lambda_n} \neq 0$ taken with optimal weights
4. if none of the inequalities from Step 2 holds, invest into the benchmark asset (S&P 500) at r_t .



TEDAS Example

1. Suppose $t = 58$ (Oct. 2009), accumulated wealth $W_{58} = \$1.429$, $r_{58} = -1.85\%$.
2. It occurs that $\hat{q}_{0.15,58} = -4.18\%$, $\hat{q}_{0.25,58} = -1.85\%$ and so $\hat{q}_{0.15,58} < r_{58} \leq \hat{q}_{0.25,58}$.
3. Solving the ALQR problem using $X \in \mathbb{R}^{9, \dots, 58 \times 170}$, $Y \in \mathbb{R}^{9, \dots, 58}$ yields $\hat{\beta}_{0.25,58} = (-0.77, -1.12, -0.41)$, which correspond to three hedge funds, namely, *Latin American Arbitrage*, *North America Macro*, *Emerging Markets CTA/Managed Futures*.
4. CF-VaR optimization problem yields $w = (0.22, 0.16, 0.62)$ as solution, this portfolio yields a return of 0.62% ($W_{59} = \$1.438$), while the benchmark asset return has been -1.85% .



All Strategies

- "Strategy 1" - ALQR-based TEDAS with CF-VaR optimization and DCC-modeled covariance structure
- "Strategy 2" - base case S&P 500 "buy-and-hold"
- "Strategy 3" - ALQR-based TEDAS with "naive" diversification (always equal weights, no optimization)
- "Strategy 4" - based on Orthogonal GARCH model and simple variance-covariance VaR optimization



Strategies' Returns Comparison

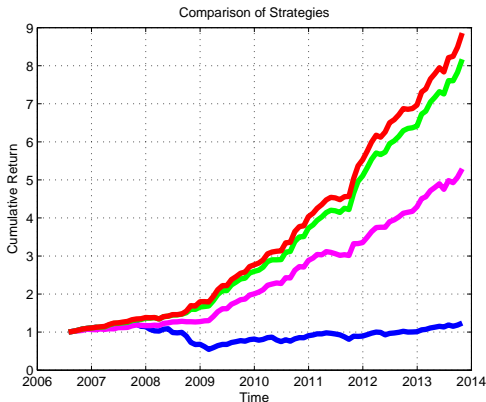


Figure 9: Strategies' cumulative returns' comparison: Strategy 1 (in red), Strategy 2 (in blue), Strategy 3 (in green), Strategy 4 (in magenta)



Strategies' Transaction Cost

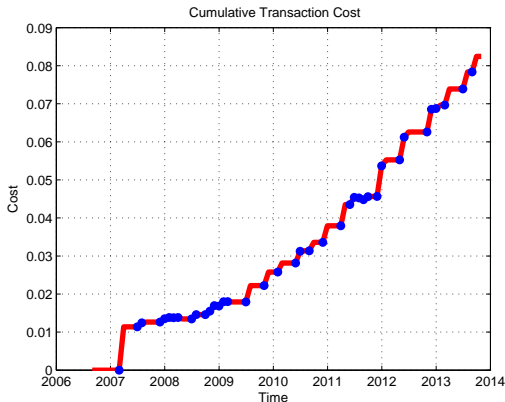


Figure 10: Cumulative transaction cost for Strategies 1,3,4 (each time 1% of trade value); blue dots denote portfolio rebalancing



Strategies' Risk Comparison

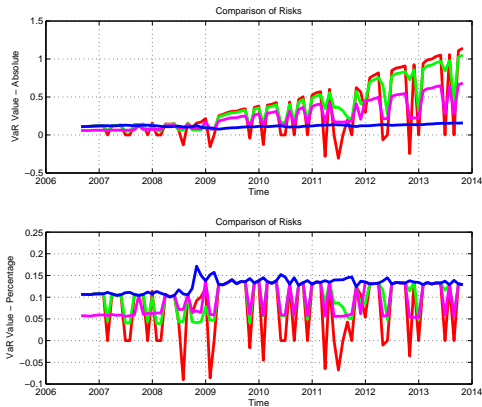
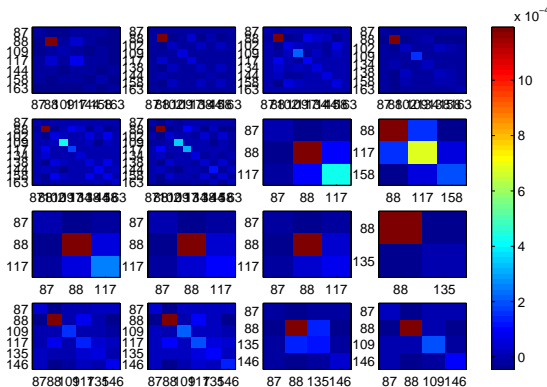


Figure 11: Absolute (left) and relative(right) CF-VaR for Strategies: 1 (in red), 2 (in blue), 3 (in green), 4(in magenta)



Covariance Structure Estimates



Covariance Structure Estimates

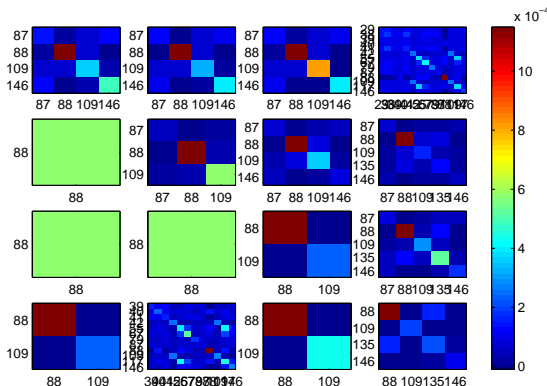


Figure 13: DCC-forecasted covariance matrices for periods 17-32 when the portfolio was rebalanced



$-\hat{\beta}$ in each window, $\tau = 0.05$

Figure 14: Different $-\hat{\beta}$ in application; $\tau = 0.05$



$-\hat{\beta}$ in each window, $\tau = 0.35$

Figure 15: Different $-\hat{\beta}$ in application; $\tau = 0.35$

Tail Event Driven Asset Allocation - TEDAS



Histograms of \hat{q}

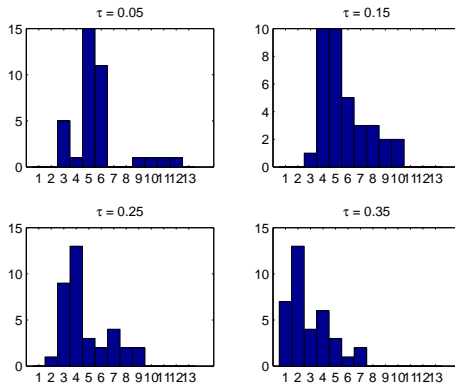


Figure 16: Frequency of the number of selected variables for 4 different τ



The estimated value of λ

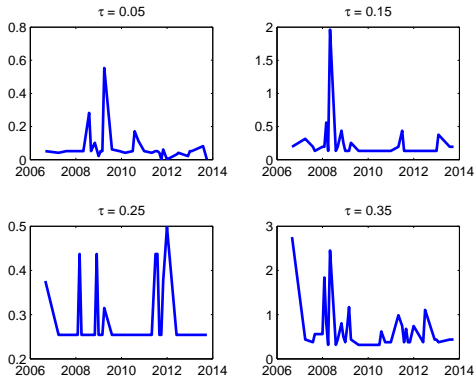


Figure 17: The estimated λ for 4 different τ



The Influential Variables

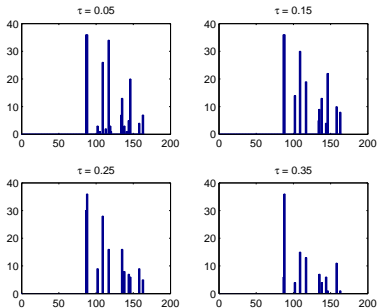


Figure 18: The frequency of the hedge funds



Selected Hedge Funds

Table 8: The selected hedge funds for $\tau = 0.05$

Top 9 influential hedge funds	Frequency
Emerging Markets Arbitrage Hedge Fund Index	36
Emerging Markets CTA/Managed Futures Hedge Fund Index	36
CTA/Managed Futures Hedge Fund Index	34
Asia inc. Japan Macro Hedge Fund Index	26
Europe CTA Managed Futures Hedge Fund Index	20
Asia CTA Hedge Fund Index	13
Asia Convertible Arbitrage Hedge Fund Index	7
Europe Relative Value Hedge Fund Index	7
Europe Arbitrage Hedge Fund Index	5



Conclusions

- ▣ hedge funds can successfully replace conventional assets in portfolios;
- ▣ diversification with hedge funds is superior to traditional financial instruments;
- ▣ tail event driven asset allocation strategy using the Adaptive Lasso quantile regression method performs better than others in terms of risk and return;
- ▣ the combination of the ALQR method and dynamically modeled covariance structure produces gains in terms of risk and return.



Tail Event Driven Asset Allocation - TEDAS

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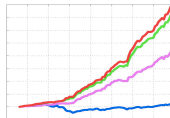
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Lasso Shrinkage

Linear model: $Y = X\beta + \varepsilon$; $Y \in \mathbb{R}^n$, $X \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times p}$, $\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p$, $\{\varepsilon_i\}_{i=1}^n$ i.i.d., independent of $\{X_i; i = 1, \dots, n\}$

The optimization problem for the lasso estimator:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}^{\text{lasso}} = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} f(\beta) \\ \text{subject to } g(\beta) \geq 0 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f(\beta) &= \frac{1}{2} (y - X\beta)^\top (y - X\beta) \\ g(\beta) &= t - \|\beta\|_1 \end{aligned}$$

where t is the size constraint on $\|\beta\|_1$ [► Back to "ALQR Estimator"](#)



Lasso Duality

If (1) is convex programming problem, then the Lagrangian is

$$L(\beta, \lambda) = f(\beta) - \lambda g(\beta).$$

and the primal-dual relationship is

$$\underbrace{\min_{\beta} \sup_{\lambda \geq 0} L(\beta, \lambda)}_{\text{primal}} \geq \underbrace{\max_{\lambda \geq 0} \inf_{\beta} L(\beta, \lambda)}_{\text{dual}}$$

Then the dual function $L^*(\lambda) = \inf_{\beta} L(\beta, \lambda)$ is

$$L^*(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2} y^T y - \frac{1}{2} \hat{\beta}^T X^T X \hat{\beta} - t \frac{(y - X \hat{\beta})^T X \hat{\beta}}{\|\hat{\beta}\|_1}$$

with $(y - X \hat{\beta})^T X \hat{\beta} / \|\hat{\beta}\|_1 = \lambda$ [► Back to "ALQR Estimator"](#)



Paths of Lasso Coefficients

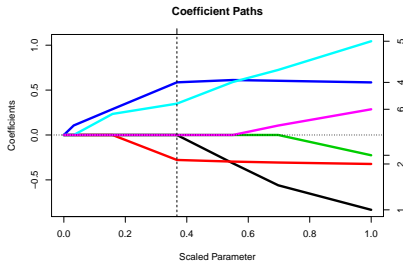


Figure 19: Lasso shrinkage of coefficients in the hedge funds dataset example (6 covariates were chosen for illustration); each curve represents a coefficient as a function of the scaled parameter $\hat{s} = t/\|\beta\|_1$; the dashed line represents the model selected by the BIC information criterion ($\hat{s} = 3.7$)

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Example of Lasso Geometry

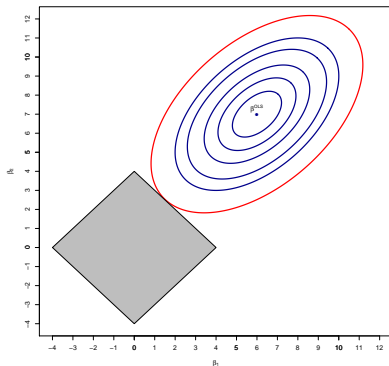



Figure 20: Contour plot of the residual sum of squares objective function centered at the OLS estimate $\hat{\beta}^{ols} = (6, 7)$ and the constraint region $\sum |\beta_j| \leq t$  MVAlassocontour



Quantile Regression

The loss $\rho_\tau(u) = u\{\tau - \mathbf{I}(u < 0)\}$ gives the (conditional) quantiles $F_{y|x}^{-1}(\tau) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} q_\tau(x)$.

Minimize

$$\hat{\beta}_\tau = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_\tau(Y_i - X_i^\top \beta).$$

Re-write:

$$\underset{(\xi, \zeta) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{2n}}{\text{minimize}} \quad \left\{ \tau \mathbf{1}_n^\top \xi + (1 - \tau) \mathbf{1}_n^\top \zeta \mid X\beta + \xi - \zeta = Y \right\}$$

with ξ, ζ are vectors of "slack" variables [► Back to "ALQR Estimator"](#)



Non-Positive (NP) Lasso-Penalized QR

The **lasso-penalized** QR problem with an additional non-positivity constraint takes the following form:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \underset{(\xi, \zeta, \eta, \tilde{\beta}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^{2n+p} \times \mathbb{R}^p}{\text{minimize}} && \tau \mathbf{1}_n^\top \xi + (1 - \tau) \mathbf{1}_n^\top \zeta + \lambda \mathbf{1}_n^\top \eta \\
 & \text{subject to} && \xi - \zeta + \eta = Y + X \tilde{\beta}, \\
 & && \xi \geq 0, \\
 & && \zeta \geq 0, \\
 & && \eta \geq \tilde{\beta}, \\
 & && \eta \geq -\tilde{\beta}, \\
 & && \tilde{\beta} \geq 0, \quad \tilde{\beta} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\beta
 \end{aligned} \tag{3}$$

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Solution

Transform into matrix (I_n is $n \times n$ identity matrix; $E_{n \times k} = \begin{pmatrix} I_k \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$):

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{minimize} && c^\top x \\ &\text{subject to} && Ax = b, \quad Bx \leq 0 \end{aligned}$$

where $A = \begin{pmatrix} I_n & -I_n & I_n & X \end{pmatrix}$, $b = Y$, $x = \begin{pmatrix} \xi & \zeta & \eta & \beta \end{pmatrix}^\top$,

$$c = \begin{pmatrix} \tau 1_n \\ (1 - \tau) 1_n \\ \lambda 1_n \\ 0 1_n \end{pmatrix}, \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} -I_n & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -I_n & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -E_{n \times k} & E_{n \times k} \\ 0 & 0 & -E_{n \times k} & -E_{n \times k} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & E_{n \times k} \end{pmatrix}$$

► [Back to "ALQR Estimator"](#)



Solution - Continued

The previous problem may be reformulated into *standard form*

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{minimize} && c^T x \\ & \text{subject to} && Cx = d, \\ & && x + s = u, \quad x \geq 0, s \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

and the dual problem is:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize} && d^T y - u^T w \\ & \text{subject to} && C^T y - w + z = c, \quad z \geq 0, w \geq 0 \end{aligned}$$

► [Back to "ALQR Estimator"](#)



Solution - Continued

The KKT conditions for this linear program are

$$F(x, y, z, s, w) = \begin{Bmatrix} Cx - d \\ x + s - u \\ C^T y - w + z - c \\ x \circ z \\ s \circ w \end{Bmatrix} = 0,$$

with $y \geq 0$, $z \geq 0$ dual slacks, $s \geq 0$ primal slacks, $w \geq 0$ dual variables.

This can be solved by a primal-dual path following algorithm based on the *Newton method*

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Adaptive Lasso Procedure

Lasso estimates $\hat{\beta}$ can be inconsistent (Zou, 2006) in some scenarios.

Lasso soft-threshold function gives biased results

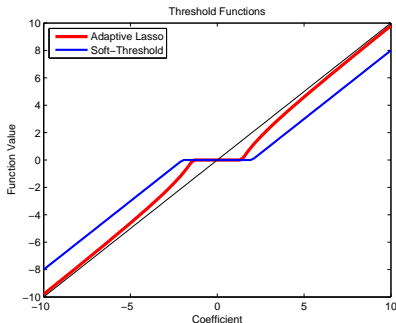


Figure 21: Threshold functions for simple and adaptive Lasso



Adaptive Lasso Procedure

The adaptive Lasso (Zou, 2006) yields a sparser solution and is less biased.

L_1 - penalty replaced by a re-weighted version; $\hat{\omega} = 1/|\hat{\beta}^{\text{init}}|^\gamma$,
 $\gamma = 1$, $\hat{\beta}^{\text{init}}$ is from (1)

The adaptive lasso estimates are given by:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\hat{\lambda}}^{\text{adapt}} = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - X_i^\top \beta)^2 + \lambda \|\hat{\omega}^\top \beta\|_1$$

(Bühlmann, van de Geer, 2011): $\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{init}} = 0$, then $\hat{\beta}_j^{\text{adapt}} = 0$

► [Back to "ALQR Estimator"](#)



Simple and Adaptive Lasso Penalized QR

Simple lasso-penalized QR optimization problem is:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\tau, \hat{\lambda}} = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_{\tau}(Y_i - X_i^{\top} \beta) + \lambda \|\beta\|_1 \quad (4)$$

Adaptive lasso-penalized QR model uses the re-weighted penalty:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\tau, \hat{\lambda}}^{\text{adapt}} = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_{\tau}(Y_i - X_i^{\top} \beta) + \lambda \|\hat{\omega}^{\top} \beta\|_1 \quad (5)$$

Adaptive lasso-penalized QR procedure can ensure oracle properties for the estimator [► Details](#)

[► Back to "ALQR Estimator"](#)



Algorithm for Adaptive Lasso Penalized QR

The optimization for the adaptive lasso can be re-formulated as a lasso problem:

- the covariates are rescaled: $\tilde{X} = (X_1 \circ \hat{\beta}_1^{\text{init}}, \dots, X_p \circ \hat{\beta}_p^{\text{init}})$;
- the lasso problem (3) is solved:

$$\hat{\beta}_{\tau, \hat{\lambda}} = \arg \min_{\beta \in \mathbb{R}^p} \sum_{i=1}^n \rho_{\tau}(Y_i - \tilde{X}_i^{\top} \beta) + \lambda \|\beta\|_1$$

- the coefficients are re-weighted as $\hat{\beta}^{\text{adapt}} = \hat{\beta}_{\tau, \hat{\lambda}} \circ \hat{\beta}^{\text{init}}$

► Back to "ALQR Estimator"



Oracle Properties of an Estimator

An estimator has oracle properties if (Zheng et al., 2013):

- it selects the correct model with probability converging to 1;
- the model estimates are consistent with an appropriate convergence rate (He, Shao, 2000);
- estimates are asymptotically normal with the same asymptotic variance as that knowing the true model

► Back to "Simple and Adaptive Lasso Penalized QR"



Oracle Properties for Adaptive Lasso QR

In the linear model, let $Y = X\beta + \varepsilon = X^1\beta^1 + X^2\beta^2 + \varepsilon$, where $X = (X^1, X^2)$, $X^1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times q}$, $X^2 \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times (p-q)}$; β_q^1 are true nonzero coefficients, $\beta_{p-q}^2 = 0$ are noise coefficients; $q = \|\beta\|_0$.

Also assume that $\lambda q / \sqrt{n} \rightarrow 0$ and $\lambda / \{\sqrt{q} \log(n \vee p)\} \rightarrow \infty$ and certain regularity conditions are satisfied [▶ Details](#)

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Oracle Properties for Adaptive Lasso QR

Then the adaptive L_1 QR estimator has the oracle properties (Zheng et al., 2013):

1. Variable selection consistency:

$$P(\beta^2 = 0) \geq 1 - 6 \exp \left\{ -\frac{\log(n \vee p)}{4} \right\}.$$

2. Estimation consistency: $\|\beta - \hat{\beta}\| = \mathcal{O}_p(\sqrt{q/n})$

3. Asymptotic normality: $u_q^2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha^T \Sigma_{11} \alpha, \forall \alpha \in \mathbb{R}^q, \|\alpha\| < \infty,$

$$n^{1/2} u_q^{-1} \alpha^T (\beta^1 - \hat{\beta}^1) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{L}} N \left\{ 0, \frac{(1-\tau)\tau}{f^2(\gamma^*)} \right\}$$

where γ^* is the τ th quantile and f is the pdf of ε

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Selected Hedge Funds' Strategies

1. *Convertible arbitrage* hedge funds focus on the mispricing of convertible bonds. A typical position involves a long position in the convertible bond and a short position in the underlying asset.
2. *Fixed income arbitrage* hedge funds tend to profit from price anomalies between related securities and/or bet on the evolution of interest rates spreads. Typical trading strategies are butterfly-like structures, cash/futures basis trading strategies or relative swap spread trades.
3. *Event-driven* hedge funds focus on price movements generated by an anticipated corporate event, such as a merger, an acquisition, a bankruptcy, etc.



Selected Hedge Funds' Strategies

4. *Long/short equity* hedge funds represent the original hedge fund model. They invest in equities both on the long and the short sides, and generally have a small net long exposure. They are genuinely opportunistic strategies and could be classified as "double alpha, low beta" funds.
5. *Market neutral* hedge funds seek to neutralize certain market risks by taking offsetting long and short positions in instruments with actual or theoretical relationships. Most of them are in fact long/short equity hedge funds.
6. *Dedicated short bias* hedge funds are essentially long/short equity hedge funds, that maintain a consistent net short exposure, therefore attempting to capture profits when the market declines.



Selected Hedge Funds' Strategies

7. *Emerging market* hedge funds invest in equities and fixed-income securities of emerging markets around the world.
8. *Global macro* hedge funds take very large directional bets on overall market directions that reflect their forecasts of major economic trends and/or events.
9. *Managed futures* hedge funds implement discretionary or systematic trading in listed financial, commodity and currency futures around the world. The managers of these funds are known as commodity trading advisors (CTAs).
10. *Multi-strategy* hedge funds regroup managers acting in several of the above-mentioned strategies.



The Orthogonal GARCH Model

- Y_t is a time-dependent matrix of asset returns,
 $\Gamma_t = B_t \in \mathbb{R}^{p \times p}$ is the matrix of standardized eigenvectors of $\frac{1}{n} Y_t^\top Y_t$ ordered according to decreasing magnitude of eigenvalues
- $F_t = P_t \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} Y_t \Gamma_t$ is the matrix of principal components of Y_t
- retaining only the first k most important factors f and introducing noise terms u_i gives
 $y_j = b_{j1}f_1 + b_{j2}f_2 + \dots + b_{jk}f_k + u_j$ or $Y_t = F_t B_t^\top + U_t$
- then $\Sigma_t = \text{Var}(Y_t) = \text{Var}(F_t B_t^\top) + \text{Var}(U_t) = B_t \Delta_t B_t^\top + \Omega_t$,
 where $\Delta_t = \text{Var}(F_t)$ is a diagonal matrix of principal component variances at t : can be separately modeled by univariate GARCH processes [► Back](#)



The Orthogonal GARCH Model - continued

- B_t does not change much from day to day and can be approximated by B_{t-1} without introducing large errors in the calculation of the covariance matrix;
- Ω_t assumed to be constant and diagonal: it may be calculated from residuals $E_t = Y_t - F_t B_t^\top$, where each ω_j^2 on the diagonal is equal to $\omega_j^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (y_{ij} - f_i^\top \tilde{b}_j)^2$ with $\tilde{B} = B^\top$;
- the rule how to choose k can be based on the "proportion of total variation" explained by the first k principal components, which is calculated as the ratio of the sum of the first k eigenvalues of the matrix $\frac{1}{n} Y_t^\top Y_t$ to the sum of all p eigenvalues of this matrix

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The Dynamic Conditional Correlations Model (cDCC, with Aielli correction)

The DCC (1,1) model separately estimates a series of univariate GARCH models and their correlation: $r_t | \mathcal{F}_{t-1} \sim N(0, D_t R_t D_t)$, where

$$D_t^2 = \text{diag}(\omega_i) + \text{diag}(\alpha_i) \odot r_{t-1} r_{t-1}^\top + \text{diag}(\beta_i) \odot D_{t-1}^2,$$

$$\varepsilon_t = D_t^{-1} r_t,$$

$$Q_t = S \odot (\mathbf{1}^\top - A - B) + A \odot \{P_{t-1} \varepsilon_{t-1} \varepsilon_{t-1}^\top P_{t-1}\} + B \odot Q_{t-1},$$

$$R_t = \{\text{diag}(Q_t)\}^{-1} Q_t \{\text{diag}(Q_t)\}^{-1}$$

where r_t is an $d \times 1$ vector of returns t , D_t is an $d \times d$ diagonal matrix of standard deviations σ_{it} , $i = 1, \dots, d$, modeled by univariate GARCH, ε_t is an $d \times 1$ vector of standardized returns with $\varepsilon_{it} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} r_{it} \sigma_{it}^{-1}$, $\mathbf{1}$ is a vector of ones; $P_{t-1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{diag}(Q_t)\}^{1/2}$



The DCC Model - Continued

- the correlation targeting gives $S = (1/T) \sum_{t=1}^T \varepsilon_t \varepsilon_t^\top$
- then provided that $Q_0 = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_0^\top$ is positive definite, each subsequent Q_t will also be positive definite
- the procedure will yield consistent but inefficient estimates of the parameters: the log-likelihood function

$$L(\theta, \phi) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \left(n \log(2\pi) + 2 \log |D_t| + \log |R_t| + \varepsilon_t^\top R_t^{-1} \varepsilon_t \right),$$

where θ denotes the parameters in D and ϕ denotes additional correlation parameters in R , is maximized by parts



The DCC Model - Continued

The log-likelihood is rewritten:

$$L(\theta, \phi) = L_V(\theta) + L_C(\theta, \phi),$$

where the volatility part is the sum of individual GARCH likelihoods jointly maximized by separately maximizing each term

$$\begin{aligned} L_V(\theta) &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \left(n \log(2\pi) + \log |D_t|^2 + r_t^\top D_t^{-2} r_t \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \sum_{i=1}^d \left(\log(2\pi) + \log(\sigma_{it}^2) + \frac{r_{it}^2}{\sigma_{it}^2} \right), \end{aligned}$$

and the correlation part is

$$L_C(\theta, \phi) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^T \left(\log |R_t| + \varepsilon_t^\top R_t^{-1} \varepsilon_t - \varepsilon_t^\top \varepsilon_t \right).$$



Portfolio Skewness and Kurtosis

Portfolio skewness S_p and excess kurtosis K_p are given by moment expressions

$$S_p(w) = \frac{1}{\sigma_p^3(w)} (m_3 - 3m_2m_1 + 2m_1^3)$$

$$K_p(w) = \frac{1}{\sigma_p^4(w)} (m_4 - 4m_3m_1 + 6m_2m_1^2 + 3m_1^4) - 3$$

where portfolio non-central moments also depend on w :

$$m_1 = \mu_p(w) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} w^\top \mu$$

$$m_2 = \sigma_p^2 + m_1^2$$

$$m_3 = \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{k=1}^d w_i w_j w_k S_{ijk}$$



Portfolio Skewness and Kurtosis - Continued

$$m_4 = \sum_{i=1}^d \sum_{j=1}^d \sum_{k=1}^d \sum_{l=1}^d w_i w_j w_k w_l K_{ijkl},$$

where $\sigma_p^2(w) = w^\top \Sigma w$ and $S_{ijk} = E(r_i \times r_j \times r_k)$, $K_{ijkl} = E(r_i \times r_j \times r_k \times r_l)$ can be computed via sample averages from returns data.

S_{ijk} , K_{ijkl} determine the d -dimensional portfolio co-skewness and co-kurtosis tensors

$$S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{S_{ijk}\}_{i,j,k=1,\dots,d} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d \times d}$$

$$K \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{K_{ijkl}\}_{i,j,k,l=1,\dots,d} \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times d \times d \times d}.$$

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Regularity Conditions for Adaptive Lasso QR

A1 Sampling and smoothness: $\forall x$ in the support of X_i , $\forall y \in \mathbb{R}$,
 $f_{Y_i|X_i}(y|x)$, $f \in \mathcal{C}^k(\mathbb{R})$, $|f_{Y_i|X_i}(y|x)| < \bar{f}$, $|f'_{Y_i|X_i}(y|x)| < \bar{f}'$; $\exists \underline{f}$,
 such that $f_{Y_i|X_i}(x^\top \beta_\tau | x) > \underline{f} > 0$

A2 Restricted identifiability and nonlinearity: let $\delta \in \mathbb{R}^p$,
 $T \subset \{0, 1, \dots, p\}$, δ_T such that $\delta_{Tj} = \delta_j$ if $j \in T$, $\delta_{Tj} = 0$ if
 $j \notin T$; $T = \{0, 1, \dots, s\}$, $\bar{T}(\delta, m) \subset \{0, 1, \dots, p\} \setminus T$, then
 $\exists m \geq 0$, $c \geq 0$ such that

$$\inf_{\delta \in A, \delta \neq 0} \frac{\delta^\top E(X_i X_i^\top) \delta}{\|\delta_{T \cup \bar{T}(\delta, m)}\|^2} > 0, \quad \frac{3\underline{f}^{3/2}}{8\bar{f}'} \inf_{\delta \in A, \delta \neq 0} \frac{E[|X_i^\top \delta|^2]^{3/2}}{E[|X_i^\top \delta|^3]} > 0,$$

where $A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\delta \in \mathbb{R}^p : \|\delta_{T^c}\|_1 \leq c \|\delta_T\|_1, \|\delta_{T^c}\|_0 \leq n\}$



Regularity Conditions - Continued

A3 Growth rate of covariates:

$$\frac{q^3 \{\log(n \vee p)\}^{2+\eta}}{n} \rightarrow 0, \eta > 0$$

A4 Moments of covariates: Cramér condition

$$E[|x_{ij}|^k] \leq 0.5 C_m M^{k-2} k!$$

for some constants $C_m, M, \forall k \geq 2, j = 1, \dots, p$

A5 Well-separated regression coefficients: $\exists b_0 > 0$, such that
 $\forall j \leq q, |\hat{\beta}_j| > b_0$



The GJR (1,1) model

The Glosten-Jagannathan-Runkle (GJR-GARCH) (1,1) model with mean equation specified as autoregressive moving average (ARMA) (1,1), may be represented as follows

$$\begin{aligned}r_t &= c + \phi_1 r_{t-1} + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \\ \varepsilon_t &= \sigma_t z_t, \quad z_t \sim N(0, 1), \text{ i.i.d.}, \\ \sigma_t^2 &= \omega + \beta \sigma_{t-1}^2 + \gamma \varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \xi I(\varepsilon_{t-1} < 0) \varepsilon_{t-1}^2\end{aligned}$$

where $c, \phi_1, \theta_1, \omega, \beta, \gamma, \xi$ are model parameters, $\omega > 0, \beta \geq 0, \gamma \geq 0, \gamma + \xi \geq 0, \beta + \gamma + \xi < 1, I(\cdot)$ is the indicator function.

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