

Estimation of Conditional Value-at-Risk in Linear Model

Devoted to the Memory of Pranab Kumar Sen

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Abstract. The conditional value-at-risk (CVaR) represents a popular risk measure often exploited e.g. within portfolio optimization. The situation with a nuisance linear regression is considered here; in other words, we do not observe directly the loss Z of interest, but only $Y = \beta_0 + \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta} + Z$, where the covariates are not under our control. We propose a novel estimator of $\text{CVaR}(Z)$ based on the *averaged two-step regression quantile* combined with an R-estimate of regression parameters.

Keywords: linear regression, risk measure, conditional value-at-risk, nuisance regression, averaged regression quantile, two-step regression quantile

1 Introduction

We follow the variables $\mathbf{Z}_n = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n)^\top$ measuring the loss Z of an asset or of a portfolio at times 1, 2, . . . , n . They are assumed to be independent and identically distributed (*i.i.d.*) with a distribution function F , satisfying

$$\int z dF(z) = 0, \quad \int z^2 dF(z) < \infty, \quad (1)$$

otherwise unknown. We are interested in the possible risk of the loss Z in a given period and with a particular confidence level $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. The popular risk measure is the *Conditional Value-at-Risk* (CVaR), equal to

$$\text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z) = \mathbf{E}\{Z|Z > F^{-1}(\alpha)\} = (1-\alpha)^{-1} \int_\alpha^1 F^{-1}(t) dt = (1-\alpha)^{-1} \int_{F^{-1}(\alpha)}^\infty z dF(z). \quad (2)$$

It has obtained applications in many areas immediately after its introduction; let us mention the management of water supplies, risk management of the social security fund, the cash flow risk measurement for non-life insurance industry, the financial risk in the industrial areas, operational risk in the banks, and others. In the finance is CVaR taken as a popular a risk measure in portfolio optimization or management of extreme risk (cf. [5]). There is a rich bibliography on the subject, both from theoretical and applications points. Innovative ideas on the subject and estimation methods were presented e.g. in [1, 20, 21].

A review of estimation methods for CVaR, based on data, is collected in [18]. It describes the parametric, nonparametric and semiparametric estimation methods, supplemented with the computer software, partially available from the R package (*R Development Core Team, 2012*). In the parametric setup, [18] admits the skew and asymmetric probability distributions. The computing methods based on characteristic functions and Fourier analysis through the empirical data are studied in [22]. There is also compared the Value-at-Risk (VaR) and CVaR with the new *expectile based risk measure* (ERM); the ERM is found as the only risk measure that is both coherent and elicitable. Recently, [12] exploited the concept of pseudo-capacities, elaborated in [9] and [3], in estimating the CVaR in nonparametric and measurement error situations.

The risk of a loss is often affected by a nuisance regression caused by exogenous market variables as interest rates, overall market sentiment, liquidity shocks, etc. Effects of nuisance regression in testing predictive models were recently considered either in [17] for assessing value-at-risk or in [4] for combining two forecasts for assessing CVaR. Joint fitting VaR and CVaR in regression models by a two-step procedure has been recently considered in [8].

In the present paper, we consider estimating CVaR in the situation that the loss of interest is unobservable, being affected by the covariates within a nuisance linear regression model. Moreover, the situation is nonparametric, with an unknown probability distribution of the loss. The literature is almost void in estimation of CVaR for models with a nuisance regression. Mathematical solution of estimating CVaR under a nuisance linear regression was considered by Trindade et al. [21]; they proposed to estimate the nuisance regression parameters with an M-estimate, minimizing a convex criterion under the restriction that the resulting CVaR does not exceed a given $\eta > 0$. However, the M-estimator and the resulting CVaR are not scale equivariant, while the scale equivariance is a desirable property of measures in applications. Comparing with the proposal in [21], our novel estimator of CVaR proposed here is equal to the *averaged regression α -quantile* of residuals with respect to the R-estimate of the regression parameters. As such, the estimate of CVaR is scale-equivariant and its asymptotics follows from the asymptotics for R-estimators and averaged regression quantile.

Section 2 of this paper overviews regression quantiles together with averaged two-step regression quantiles, which are exploited in Section 3 to define a novel CVaR estimate for a nuisance regression.

2 Regression quantile and its two-step version

2.1 Motivation and notation

The averaged two-step regression α -quantile, introduced in [11], approximates the quantile function $F^{-1}(\alpha)$ of the errors asymptotically in probability for $n \rightarrow \infty$, up to the standardization with the regression parameters (cf. [14]). Because its number of breakpoints equals exactly to n , while in the case of ordinary regression quantile it is much larger, and it is nondecreasing in $\alpha \in (0, 1)$, the averaged two-step regression quantile also facilitates joint fitting the VaR and CVaR in the regression model.

Even if distribution function of Z is unknown, the estimate of $\text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z)$ in (2) can be obtained from the empirical quantile function of independent observations Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n . The resulting estimate would be

$$\widehat{\text{CVaR}}_\alpha(Z) = [n(1 - \alpha)]^{-1} \sum_{i=[n\alpha]}^n Z_{n:i} = [n(1 - \alpha)]^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i \mathcal{I}[Z_i \geq Z_{n:[n\alpha]}]. \quad (3)$$

However, the financial returns are often regressed on some covariates, and we can observe only the variables $\mathbf{Y}_n = (Y_{n1}, \dots, Y_{nn})^\top$, what are the Z_n affected by covariates \mathbf{X}_n with unknown intensities, measured by regression coefficients β_1, \dots, β_n . Taking this into account, we work with the linear regression model

$$\mathbf{Y}_n = \beta_0 \mathbf{1}_n + \mathbf{X}_n \boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{Z}_n \quad (4)$$

with observations $\mathbf{Y}_n = (Y_{n1}, \dots, Y_{nn})^\top$, unknown parameters β_0 (intercept), $\boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_p)^\top$ (scales), $\mathbf{1}_n = (1, \dots, 1)^\top \in \mathbb{R}_n$ and the $n \times p$ matrix $\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{X}_n$ of covariates. It is a known matrix with the rows $\mathbf{x}_i^\top = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{ip})$, $i = 1, \dots, n$.

Because Z_1, \dots, Z_n are not available, every inference on the loss Z and on F^{-1} , hence also estimating $\text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z)$, are possible only by means of observations of Y . Thus we have to look for an alternative explicit estimating of $\text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z)$. Pioneering ideas in estimating the CVaR were presented in [1, 20, 21]. Compared to them, we take as a main tool for estimating CVaR the two-step α -regression quantile of the model (4), originated and illustrated by the present authors in [11, 13, 14].

2.2 Regression quantile

The model (4) can be rewritten as the model

$$Y_{ni} = \beta_0 + \mathbf{x}_{ni}^\top \boldsymbol{\beta} + Z_{ni}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n \quad (5)$$

with covariates $\mathbf{x}_{n1}, \dots, \mathbf{x}_{nn}$, each element of \mathbb{R}_p . For the sake of brevity, we also use the notation $\mathbf{x}_{ni}^* = (1, x_{i1}, \dots, x_{ip})^\top$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Let $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_n(\alpha) \in \mathbb{R}_{p+1}$

be the α -regression quantile of model (4), $0 < \alpha < 1$, i.e. the solution of the minimization

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \rho_\alpha(Y_i - b_0 - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{b}) = \min, \quad b_0 \in \mathbb{R}_1, \quad \mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{R}_p. \quad (6)$$

If derivative f of F exists and is positive in a neighborhood of the quantile $F^{-1}(\alpha)$, and if the matrix

$$\mathbf{Q}_n = n^{-1} (\mathbf{1}_n, \mathbf{X}_n)^\top (\mathbf{1}_n, \mathbf{X}_n)$$

is positively definite starting with some n , then $n^{\frac{1}{2}}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_n(\alpha) - \check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\alpha))$ admits the asymptotic representation (see e.g. [15])

$$n^{\frac{1}{2}}(\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_n(\alpha) - \check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\alpha)) = n^{-\frac{1}{2}}(f(F^{-1}(\alpha)))^{-1} \mathbf{Q}_n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i^* (\alpha - I[Z_i < F^{-1}(\alpha)]) + o_p(1) \quad (7)$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$, where $\check{\boldsymbol{\beta}}(\alpha) = (F^{-1}(\alpha) + \beta_0, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_p)^\top$ is the population counterpart of the regression quantile. The intercept part of the representation (7) is rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\beta}_{n0}(\alpha) - \beta_0 - F^{-1}(\alpha) &= (nf(F^{-1}(\alpha)))^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (\alpha - I[Z_i < F^{-1}(\alpha)]) + o_p(n^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \\ &= Z_{n:[n\alpha]} - F^{-1}(\alpha) + o_p(n^{-\frac{1}{2}}) \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$, where the first equality follows from (7), while the second equality follows from the Bahadur representation of sample quantile. $\hat{\beta}_{n1}(\alpha), \dots, \hat{\beta}_{np}(\alpha)$ are consistent estimates of the slope parameters β_1, \dots, β_p . The slope components of regression quantile are asymptotically independent of the intercept component $\hat{\beta}_{n0}(\alpha)$. The solution of (6) minimizes the $(\alpha, 1 - \alpha)$ convex combination of residuals $(Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{b})$ over $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbf{R}^{p+1}$, where the choice of α depends on the balance between underestimating and overestimating the respective losses Y_i . The increasing $\alpha \nearrow 1$ reflects a greater concern about underestimating losses Y , comparing to overestimating. A useful functional of the regression quantile is the *averaged regression α -quantile*, the weighted mean of components of $\widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_n(\alpha)$, $0 \leq \alpha \leq 1$:

$$\bar{B}_n(\alpha) = \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \widehat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_n(\alpha) = \hat{\beta}_{n0}(\alpha) + \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^p x_{ij} \hat{\beta}_j(\alpha), \quad \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^* = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i^* \quad (9)$$

As shown in [11], the $\bar{B}_n(\alpha) - \beta_0 - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}$ is asymptotically equivalent to the $[n\alpha]$ -quantile $e_{n:[n\alpha]}$ of the model errors, if they are identically distributed.

2.3 Two-step regression quantile

The two-step regression quantile was introduced in [13] and later studied e.g. in [14], where it was shown that it is asymptotically equivalent to the ordinary

α -regression quantile. The two-step regression α -quantile combines the rank-estimator (R-estimator) $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}$ of the slope components $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ with the $[n\alpha]$ order statistics of the residuals $Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. The two-step regression quantile first estimates the slope components $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ by means of an R-estimate $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}(\lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^p$, defined as a minimizer of the Jaeckel's measure of the rank dispersion [10] with a fixed $\lambda \in (0, 1)$:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{b}) [a_i(\lambda, \mathbf{b}) - \bar{a}_n(\lambda)] = \min \quad (10)$$

with respect to $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, b_2, \dots, b_p)^\top \in \mathbb{R}^p$. The notation in (10) means:

$$a_i(\lambda, \mathbf{b}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \dots & R_{ni}(Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{b}) < n\lambda \\ R_i - n\lambda & \dots & n\lambda \leq R_{ni}(Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{b}) < n\lambda + 1 \\ 1 & \dots & n\lambda + 1 \leq R_{ni}(Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{b}), \end{cases}$$

Here $R_{ni}(Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \mathbf{b})$, $i = 1, \dots, n$ are the ranks of the residuals, and $a_i(\lambda, \mathbf{b})$ are known as *Hájek's rank scores* (see [7]). Note that $\bar{a}_n(\lambda) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n a_i(\lambda, \mathbf{b})$ is constant in \mathbf{b} , as an average of the rank scores. The minimization (10) can be rewritten as

$$\sum_{i=1}^n (Y_i - \bar{Y}_n - (\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)^\top \mathbf{b}) a_i(\lambda, \mathbf{b}) = \min. \quad (11)$$

It implies that the solution of (10) is invariant to the intercept, which is a nuisance component. The solution of (10) and (11) is the R-estimator $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}(\lambda)$ of $\boldsymbol{\beta} = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_p)^\top$, generated by the following score function $\varphi_\lambda : (0, 1) \mapsto \mathbb{R}^1$:

$$\varphi_\lambda(u) + (1 - \lambda) = \begin{cases} 0 & \dots & 0 \leq u < \lambda \\ 1 & \dots & \lambda \leq u \leq 1. \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

Generally, as the score function we can use another nondecreasing square integrable function on $(0, 1)$. By [15], $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}(\lambda)$ consistently estimates $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ under the following conditions on F and on \mathbf{X}_n :

- (F1) The distribution function F has a continuous density f with a positive and finite Fisher information $\mathcal{I}(f)$.
- (X1) Assume that, as $n \rightarrow \infty$,

$$n^{-1} \mathbf{V}_n = O_p(1) \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbf{V}_n = \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{x}_{ni} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)(\mathbf{x}_{ni} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)^\top, \quad (13)$$

$$\max_{1 \leq i \leq n} \|\mathbf{x}_{ni} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n\| = o(n^{1/4}), \quad \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n = n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_{ni}.$$

Moreover, we assume that \mathbf{V}_n satisfies

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \max_{1 \leq i \leq n} (\mathbf{x}_{ni} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)^\top \mathbf{V}_n^{-1} (\mathbf{x}_{ni} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n) = 0. \quad (14)$$

Under conditions (F1) and (X1), the R-estimator $\tilde{\beta}_{nR} = \tilde{\beta}_{nR}(\lambda)$ admits the following asymptotic representation, as $n \rightarrow \infty$ (see e.g. [15] for the proof):

$$\tilde{\beta}_{nR} - \beta = (f(F^{-1}(\lambda))^{-1} \mathbf{V}_n^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n (\mathbf{x}_{ni} - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n) (I[Z_{ni} > F^{-1}(\lambda)] - (1-\lambda))) + o_p(n^{-1/2}), \quad (15)$$

hence $\|n^{1/2}(\tilde{\beta}_{nR} - \beta)\| = O_p(1)$. The intercept component of the two-step regression

α -quantile is defined as the $[n\alpha]$ -quantile of the residuals $Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \tilde{\beta}_{nR}(\lambda)$, $i = 1, \dots, n$. Denote it as $\tilde{\beta}_{nR,0}(\alpha)$, hence

$$\tilde{\beta}_{nR,0}(\alpha) = \left(Y_i - \mathbf{x}_i^\top \tilde{\beta}_{nR}(\lambda) \right)_{n:[n\alpha]}$$

and we define the two-step α -regression quantile as the vector in \mathbb{R}_{p+1}

$$\tilde{\beta}_n(\alpha) = \left(\tilde{\beta}_{nR,0}(\alpha), (\tilde{\beta}_{nR}(\lambda))^\top \right)^\top. \quad (16)$$

Hence, the averaged two-step regression α -quantile equals to

$$\tilde{B}_{n\alpha} = \tilde{\beta}_{nR,0}(\alpha) + \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \tilde{\beta}_{nR}(\lambda) = \left(Y_i - (\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)^\top \tilde{\beta}_{nR}(\lambda) \right)_{n:[n\alpha]} \quad (17)$$

It has been introduced in [14], where it is proven that

$$\tilde{B}_{n\alpha} - \beta_0 - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \beta = Z_{n:[n\alpha]} + o_p(n^{-1/2}) = F^{-1}(\alpha) + o_p(n^{-1/2}) \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty \quad (18)$$

uniformly for $\alpha \in (\varepsilon, 1 - \varepsilon)$, $0 < \varepsilon \leq 1/2$, and for any fixed $\lambda \in (0, 1)$.

3 Estimation of CVaR_α

If there are available independent observations Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n , then $\text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z)$ in (2) can be estimated with the aid of their empirical quantile function, even if distribution function of Z is unknown. The corresponding estimate of the conditional value-at-risk of Z would be

$$\widehat{\text{CVaR}}_{n\alpha}(Z) = [n(1 - \alpha)]^{-1} \sum_{i=[n\alpha]}^n Z_{n:i} = [n(1 - \alpha)]^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^n Z_i I[Z_i \geq Z_{n:[n\alpha]}]. \quad (19)$$

If the observations Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n , are not at disposal, we can profit from approximations (17) and (18) and estimate the CVaR_α by means of the averaged two-step regression quantile $\tilde{B}_n(\alpha)$, which explicitly contains only observations Y_1, \dots, Y_n . The resulting estimator is

$$\widehat{\text{CVaR}}_{n\alpha}(Y) = [n(1 - \alpha)]^{-1} \sum_{\alpha \leq \delta < 1} \tilde{B}_n(\delta) - \beta_0 - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \beta. \quad (20)$$

Hence, the estimate is determined up to the standardization with nuisance $\beta_0 + \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \boldsymbol{\beta}$, what can be approximated by means of Y_{n1}, \dots, Y_{nn} under the conditions (F1) and (X1), namely by $\bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}(\lambda)$ and by \bar{Y}_n . Indeed, by (5) and (1),

$$\bar{Y}_n = \beta_0 + \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \boldsymbol{\beta} + \bar{Z}_n = \beta_0 + \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n^\top \boldsymbol{\beta} + o_p(n^{-1/2})$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$.

Summarizing, our proposed estimate of the $\text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z)$ in the linear model is described in the following theorem:

Theorem 1. *Assume that the distribution of Z satisfies condition (F1), let $\int z dF(z) = 0$, $0 < \int z^2 dF(z) < \infty$, and let the matrix \mathbf{X}_n satisfy (X1). Then*

$$\widehat{\text{CVaR}}_{n\alpha}(Y) = [n(1 - \alpha)]^{-1} \sum_{\delta: \alpha \leq \delta < 1} \left(Y_i - (\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)^\top \tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}(\lambda) \right)_{n: [n\delta]} - \bar{Y}_n \quad (21)$$

is a \sqrt{n} -consistent estimate of $\text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z)$ for any fixed $\lambda \in (0, 1)$; more precisely

$$\widehat{\text{CVaR}}_{n\alpha}(Y) = \text{CVaR}_\alpha(Z) + o_p(n^{-1/2}) \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (22)$$

for any $\alpha \in (0, 1)$. Moreover,

$$\left(Y_i - (\mathbf{x}_i - \bar{\mathbf{x}}_n)^\top \tilde{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{nR}(\lambda) \right)_{n: [n\alpha]} - \bar{Y}_n = \text{VaR}_\alpha(Z) + o_p(n^{-1/2}) \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \quad (23)$$

Conclusion

A novel nonparametric estimate of the Conditional Value-at-Risk of variable Z is proposed here in the situation that the observations are the responses under the presence of nuisance regression. The estimate is based on the averaged two-step regression α -quantile of the linear model, exploiting an R-estimator of the slope components. As such, the estimates are \sqrt{n} consistent and scale equivariant estimates of the Conditional Value-at-Risk of variable Z , in spite of the presence of the nuisance regression.

The novel estimators may find applications not only in finance, but also in various other (non-financial) models, even in situations under the presence of nuisance covariates. This can be of interest e.g. in the risk assessment in metrology [2, 16] or within integrated energy systems for optimal scheduling the energy supply for large cities [19]). The novel tools come to hand, if the risk is influenced by a combination of more nuisance effects, including weather conditions (temperature, humidity, wind speed, precipitation, seasonal trends), energy price fluctuations, natural events (power outages), or industrial activity.

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