## Credit Risk Optimization



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Algorithmics $A^{i}$

## Overview

Objective: Re-balance a portfolio of financial instruments to minimize the risk of losses due to credit events
§Background
§Portfolio credit risk model
§Optimization models
§Computational results

## Background

## Corporate Bond Prices

|  | 27-Feb-08 |  | 27-Feb-09 |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Issue | Price (\$) | Yield (\%) | Price (\$) | Yield (\%) | $\Delta$ Price (\$) |
| Ford 6.5\% 8/1/18 | 70 | 11.5 | 16 | 45.6 | -54 |
| GM 7.7\% 4/15/16 | 82 | 11.0 | 13 | 66.4 | -69 |
| Target 6.0\% 1/15/18 | 103 | 5.6 | 100 | 6.0 | -3 |
| Walmart 5.375\% 4/5/17 | 103 | 4.9 | 105 | 4.5 | 2 |

Automotive bonds lost about 80\% of their value in one year Bonds of discount retailers retained their value

Market is less confident that automative companies will be able to make the required interest and principal payments

## Credit Risk

The risk of monetary loss due to the default, or a change in the perceived likelihood of default, of a counterparty to a contract.

Counterparties (governments, companies) are assigned a credit rating reflecting the likelihood that they will honour their contracts
§Various rating scales (S\&P, Moody's, Fitch, DBRS)
§Range from AAA (best) to Default (worst)
\$The lower the rating, the more compensation is required
§Pay more interest
§Provide more collateral

## Credit Transition Matrix

Specifies the likelihood of migrating from one credit rating (state) to another over a fixed time horizon (usually one year)
e.g., annual transition matrix (\% probability)

|  | AAA | AA | A | BBB | BB | B | CCC | Default |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AAA | 92.18 | 7.06 | 0.73 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 |
| AA | 1.17 | 90.84 | 7.63 | 0.26 | 0.07 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.02 |
| A | 0.05 | 2.39 | 91.83 | 5.07 | 0.50 | 0.13 | 0.01 | 0.02 |
| BBB | 0.05 | 0.24 | 5.20 | 88.49 | 4.88 | 0.80 | 0.16 | 0.18 |
| BB | 0.01 | 0.05 | 0.50 | 5.45 | 85.12 | 7.05 | 0.55 | 1.27 |
| B | 0.01 | 0.03 | 0.13 | 0.43 | 6.52 | 83.20 | 3.04 | 6.64 |
| CCC | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.58 | 1.74 | 4.18 | 68.00 | 25.50 |
| Default | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 |

## Credit Losses

Associated with each future credit state is a change in the monetary value of the contract
se.g., a BBB-rated bond that is worth $\$ 100$ today may, one year from now, be worth $\$ 92$ if the issuer is rated BB or $\$ 104$ if the issuer is rated A
\$For simplicity, assume that value depends only on credit rating

Each counterparty loss $(L)$ has a discrete distribution $\left(F_{L}\right)$ se.g., for a BBB-rated counterparty

|  | AAA | AA | A | BBB | BB | B | CCC | Default |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Loss per $\$ 1$ | -0.07 | -0.06 | -0.04 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.20 | 0.45 | 1.00 |
| Probability (\%) | 0.05 | 0.24 | 5.20 | 88.49 | 4.88 | 0.80 | 0.16 | 0.18 |

§Note that losses are positive and gains are negative

## Credit Risk Measures

Portfolio loss distribution $\left(F_{\Lambda}\right)$ is positively skewed with mode zero


## Credit Risk Optimization

We want to adjust the composition of the portfolio to "shrink" the right tail of the portfolio loss distribution
\&Let $x_{j}$ denote the size of the position in counterparty $j$
sLet $L^{j}$ denote the loss in value per unit of counterparty $j$
§The loss for a portfolio of $J$ counterparties is

$$
\mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x})=\sum_{j=1}^{J} L^{j} x_{j} \leftarrow L^{j,} \text { s are co-dependent }
$$

Minimize $_{x \in \Omega} g(\Lambda(x))$ where $g$ is
§VaR ${ }_{\alpha}$
$\S E S_{\alpha}$
§Variance
§Second moment, i.e., $\mathrm{E}\left[\Lambda(\boldsymbol{x})^{2}\right]=\operatorname{var}[\Lambda(\boldsymbol{x})]+\mathrm{E}[\Lambda(\boldsymbol{x})]^{2}$

## Portfolio Credit Risk Model

## Structural Models of Portfolio Credit Risk

Structural models infer a counterparty's future credit state from a continuous random variable called a creditworthiness index ( $W$ )
Se.g., if $T_{B B B} \leq W<T_{A}$ then new credit state is BBB
§Thresholds are chosen so that $P\left(T_{B B B} \leq W<T_{A}\right)$ is consistent with the credit transition matrix


## Creditworthiness Index



Creditworthiness index of counterparty $j$ :

$$
W_{j}=\sum_{k=1}^{K} \beta_{j k} Y_{N(0,1)}+\sigma_{j} Z_{j}
$$

$K$ credit drivers are correlated standard Normal variates with joint distribution function $F_{Y}$

## Sampling Credit Drivers

Generate samples $\boldsymbol{y}_{m}, m=1, \ldots, M$ from $F_{\boldsymbol{Y}}$
§Effect is to shift the transition probabilities for counterparties

|  | AAA | AA | A | BBB | BB | B | CCC | Default |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Loss per \$1 | -0.07 | -0.06 | -0.04 | 0.00 | 0.08 | 0.20 | 0.45 | 1.00 |
| Probability (\%) | 0.05 | 0.24 | 5.20 | 88.49 | 4.88 | 0.80 | 0.16 | 0.18 |
| Probability \| y (\%) | 0.01 | 0.05 | 1.73 | 83.59 | 10.83 | 2.41 | 0.57 | 0.79 |

§Creditworthiness indices are conditionally independent given $\boldsymbol{y}$
The portfolio loss distribution conditional on $\boldsymbol{y}_{m}$ is the convolution of the conditional counterparty loss distributions

$$
F_{\mathrm{L}(x) \mid y}=F_{L^{\prime} x_{1} \mid y} * F_{L^{2} x_{2} \mid y} * \quad \ldots \quad * F_{L^{\prime} x_{j} \mid y}
$$

The unconditional portfolio loss distribution is the mixture of the conditional portfolio loss distributions

$$
F_{\mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x})}(\ell)=\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} F_{\mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x}) \mid \boldsymbol{y}}(\ell)
$$

## Conditional Independence Framework



## Optimization Challenges

Minimizing $\mathrm{E}[\Lambda(\boldsymbol{x})]$ or $\operatorname{var}[\Lambda(\boldsymbol{x})]$ is easy (compute unconditional means and covariances of counterparty losses from $F_{L y}$ ) but minimizing $\operatorname{Va}_{\alpha}$ or $E S_{\alpha}$ is more challenging

Formulating an optimization model using convolutions is not practical
$\$ 8$ credit states, $J$ counterparties $\rightarrow 8^{J}$ possible portfolio losses for each $y$

Consider approximations to the conditional loss distribution $F_{\Lambda(x) y}$ §Monte Carlo sampling
§Normal distribution
§Conditional mean

## Monte Carlo Sampling Approximation

## Monte Carlo Sampling Approximation



## Estimating VaR and ES from Samples

e.g., 100 random samples (each has probability 0.01 ) sorted in increasing sequence

| $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ |  | $\mathbf{9 5}$ | $\mathbf{9 6}$ | $\mathbf{9 7}$ | $\mathbf{9 8}$ | $\mathbf{9 9}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| -400 | -350 | -300 | -225 | -150 | -100 | $\ldots$ | 825 | 850 | 875 | 900 | 950 | 1100 |

$\$ V a R_{0.95}=850$ is the fifth-largest observation
$\S E S_{0.95}=935$ is the average of the five largest observations

$$
\begin{aligned}
E S_{0.95} & =\frac{1}{5}(850+875+900+950+1100) \\
= & 850+\frac{1}{5}(\underbrace{0+25+50+100+250}_{V a R_{0.95} \text { exceedance }})
\end{aligned}
$$

## Monte Carlo Optimization Models

$E S_{\alpha}$ can be minimized with linear programming
Rockafellar, R. T. and S. Uryasev (2000), "Optimization of conditional Value at Risk," The Journal of Risk 2(3), 21-41

$$
\begin{gathered}
\min _{x \in \Omega} \quad z+\frac{1}{M N(1-\alpha)} \sum_{i=1}^{M N}\left[\ell_{i}(\boldsymbol{x})-z\right]^{+} \\
\text {Recall: } \quad E S_{0.95}=850+\frac{1}{5}(0+25+50+100+250)
\end{gathered}
$$

$V a R_{\alpha}$ minimization is an integer program (MN binary variables)
§Use a heuristic approach based on successive $E S_{\alpha}$ optimization slteratively fix the samples in the tail of the distribution
Larsen, N., Mausser H., and S. Uryasev (2002), "Algorithms for Optimization of Value-at-Risk," in Financial Engineering, e-commerce and Supply Chain, P. Pardalos and V.K. Tsitsiringos (Eds.), 129-157.

## Normal Approximation

## Central Limit Theorem (CLT)

If the number of counterparties is large and contracts are relatively small then the conditional portfolio loss distribution is close to Normal
$\mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x}) \mid \boldsymbol{y}_{m} \xrightarrow{D} \mathrm{~N}\left(\sum_{j=1}^{J} \mu_{L^{j} \mid \boldsymbol{y}_{m}} x_{j}, \sum_{j=1}^{J} \sigma_{\left.L^{j}\right|_{m}}^{2} x_{j}^{2}\right) \equiv \mathrm{N}\left(\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}), \sigma_{m}^{2}(\boldsymbol{x})\right)$
§Need the size restriction (Lyapunov or Lindeberg condition) because conditional counterparty losses are independent but not identically distributed

Portfolio loss distribution is

$$
F_{\mathrm{L}(x)}(\ell)=\frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \Phi\left(\frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)
$$

## Normal (CLT) Approximation



## CLT Optimization Models

$V a R_{\alpha}$ minimization is a (non-convex*) non-linear program

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\min _{\boldsymbol{x} \in \Omega} & \ell(\boldsymbol{x}) \\
\text { s.t. } & \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \Phi\left(\frac{\ell(\boldsymbol{x})-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)=\alpha
\end{array}
$$

$E S_{\alpha}$ minimization is a non-linear program
$\min _{x \in \Omega} \frac{1}{M(1-\alpha)} \sum_{m=1}^{M}\left[\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})\left(1-\Phi\left(\frac{\ell(\boldsymbol{x})-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)\right)+\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \phi\left(\frac{\ell(\boldsymbol{x})-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)\right]$
s.t. $\quad \frac{1}{M} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \Phi\left(\frac{\ell(\boldsymbol{x})-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)=\alpha$

## Conditional Mean Approximation

## Conditional Mean (CM)

If the portfolio comprises an extremely large number of almost identical contracts then the conditional portfolio loss is approximated by the sum of the conditional mean counterparty losses

$$
\mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x}) \mid \boldsymbol{y}_{m} \approx \sum_{j=1}^{J} \mu_{L^{j} \mid y_{m}} x_{j} \equiv \mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})
$$

Assume: diversification eliminates all specific risk

Portfolio loss distribution is approximated by a sample of size $M$
§Optimization models are same as those for Monte Carlo sampling

## Conditional Mean (CM) Approximation



## Computational Results

## Test Portfolio

3000 counterparties and 50 credit drivers (from ISDA/IACPM 2006)
§Credit drivers are industry/country indices
§Each counterparty depends on one credit driver ( $0.42 \leq \beta \leq 0.65$ )
§Initial contract values are identical

Consider individual counterparties and groups
§Can be impractical to take action at counterparty level
§Counterparties maintain their initial weightings within groups
§Grouping is done at random
$\$ 10$ groups of 300
$\$ 50$ groups of 60
$\$ 300$ groups of 10
$\$ 3000$ groups of 1

## Formulations

|  | VaR $_{0.999}$ | $E S_{0.999}$ | Variance, <br> 2nd Moment |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MC Sampling <br> $(N=1,20)$ | Linear <br> (Heuristic) | Linear |  |
| Normal <br> Approximation | Non-convex* <br> Non-linear | Convex <br> Non-linear |  |
| Cond. Mean <br> Approximation | Linear <br> (Heuristic) | Linear |  |
| Unconditional |  |  | Convex <br> Quadratic |

## Constraints $(\Omega)$

§Maintain initial value of portfolio
§Earn at least the initial expected return
§Trading limits [0, 2] for each counterparty
§Can eliminate or double the initial position

## Methodology

Perform 5 trials, each with $M=10,000$ credit driver samples
§Report the average over 5 trials

Evaluate optimal portfolios by computing $V a R_{0.999}$ and $E S_{0.999}$
§Out-of-Sample
$\$ M=6,000,000, N=1$ (assume to be the true loss distribution)
\$Determine effects of systemic sampling error and model approximation error
sln-sample
$\$ N=150$ (assume to be the true conditional loss distribution)
slsolate effects of model approximation error

## Out-of-Sample VaR



## Out-of-Sample ES



Algorithmics

## Approximation Quality for VaR



## Approximation Quality for ES



## Granularity Effects

What happens as the portfolio becomes more granular (smallness condition is violated)? e.g., 50 groups with wider trading limits

| $V a R_{0.999}$ | Trading limits [0, 2] |  |  | Trading limits [-3, 15] |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (Out / In) - 1 | $(\ln / \mathrm{Obj})-1$ | HHI | (Out / In) - 1 | $(\ln / \mathrm{Obj})-1$ | HHI |
| CLT | 0.90\% | 0.66\% | 0.0345 | 0.76\% | 2.70\% | 0.1556 |
| $\mathrm{MC}(20)$ | 1.22\% | 2.25\% | 0.0322 | 1.15\% | 3.77\% | 0.1311 |
| CM | 0.92\% | 9.54\% | 0.0385 | -0.27\% | 267.81\% | 0.7456 |
| $\mathrm{MC}(1)$ | 1.15\% | 16.38\% | 0.0345 | 0.25\% | 35.63\% | 0.1712 |


| $E S_{0.999}$ | Trading limits [0, 2] |  |  | Trading limits [-3, 15] |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (Out / In) - 1 | (ln / Obj) - 1 | HHI | (Out / In) - 1 | $(\ln / \mathrm{Obj})-1$ | HHI |
| CLT | 0.82\% | 0.61\% | 0.0342 | 0.65\% | 3.10\% | 0.1624 |
| $\mathrm{MC}(20)$ | 0.95\% | 0.83\% | 0.0338 | 0.94\% | 3.14\% | 0.1296 |
| CM | 0.53\% | 9.37\% | 0.0399 | -0.13\% | 294.00\% | 0.7482 |
| $\mathrm{MC}(1)$ | 0.71\% | 16.48\% | 0.0363 | 0.09\% | 52.47\% | 0.1729 |

Approximations to the conditional distribution get worse, especially for CM

## §HHI is the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index

## Systemic Sampling Effects

How does the number of systemic samples affect out-of-sample performance?

| $V a R_{0.999}$ | 10,000 Systemic Samples |  |  | 50,000 Systemic Samples |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 10 Groups | 50 Groups | 300 Groups | 10 Groups | 50 Groups | 300 Groups |
| CLT | 96.5\% | 88.4\% | 80.0\% | 96.3\% | 88.3\% | 79.6\% |
| MC(20), (4) | 96.7\% | 89.2\% | 81.4\% | 96.6\% | 89.2\% | 81.3\% |
| CM | 98.2\% | 90.0\% | 83.4\% | 97.4\% | 89.5\% | 82.1\% |
| MC(1) | 97.9\% | 93.2\% | 85.8\% | 97.1\% | 90.4\% | 82.9\% |


| $E S_{0.999}$ | 10,000 |  |  | Systemic Samples |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | 10 Groups | 50 Groups | 300 Groups | 10 Groups | 50 Groups | 300 Groups |
| CLT | $96.5 \%$ | $88.1 \%$ | $78.8 \%$ | $96.4 \%$ | $87.9 \%$ | $78.4 \%$ |
| MC(20), (4) | $96.7 \%$ | $88.4 \%$ | $79.7 \%$ | $96.6 \%$ | $88.5 \%$ | $79.3 \%$ |
| CM | $97.8 \%$ | $89.1 \%$ | $80.4 \%$ | $97.6 \%$ | $89.4 \%$ | $79.7 \%$ |
| MC(1) | $98.6 \%$ | $92.8 \%$ | $85.6 \%$ | $96.9 \%$ | $89.5 \%$ | $80.8 \%$ |

Slight improvement for MC(1), negligible for others
§CLT with 10,000 systemic samples does better than other models with 50,000 systemic samples

## Performance

|  | $E S_{0.999}$ |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Model | Solver | 10 grp | 50 grp | 300 grp | 3000 grp |
| CLT | IPOPT | $4-8$ | $6-8$ | $14-83$ | $181-1090$ |
| CM | CPLEX | 1 | $1-2$ | $6-8$ | $73-86$ |
| MC(1) | CPLEX | 1 | $1-2$ | $6-10$ | $14-115$ |
| MC(20) | CPLEX | $137-155$ | $233-279$ | $461-578$ | $1050-1280$ |

Elapsed time (sec)
Server: $8 \times$ Opteron 885 CPU, 16 cores (jobs run on 1 core), 64 Gb RAM

* VaR optimization for MC(20) was run in parallel mode on 4 threads

|  | Variance |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Model | Solver | 10 grp | 50 grp | 300 grp | 3000 grp |
| Uncond | MOSEK | $<1$ | $<1$ | 1 | $682-719$ |

## Conclusions

Normal approximation is attractive for optimization
§Consistently better than Monte Carlo sampling with only $10 \%$ of the data
§Acceptable performance solving non-linear model \&Relatively robust to violations of smallness condition

Tests with more realistic counterparty groupings yield consistent results

Further work:
slmprove VaR for Monte Carlo sampling
§Vary credit driver sensitivities, quantiles

$$
A^{i}
$$

## Integrated Market-Credit Loss Model



Exposure
Creditworthiness ( $W$ )

Market Factors $(X) \quad$ Credit Drivers $(Y) \quad$ Specific Factors $(Z)$

Systemic Risk

## Creditworthiness Index and Transitions

|  | Default | CCC | B | BB | BBB | A | AA | AAA |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Probability (\%) | 0.18 | 0.16 | 0.80 | 4.88 | 88.49 | 5.20 | 0.24 | 0.05 |
| Value of $\$ 1$ | 0.00 | 0.55 | 0.80 | 0.92 | 1.00 | 1.04 | 1.06 | 1.07 |
| Loss per $\$ 1$ | 1.00 | 0.45 | 0.20 | 0.08 | 0.00 | -0.04 | -0.06 | -0.07 |



## Conditional Transition Probabilities for BBB



Favourable systemic

Unfavourable systemic

Unconditional (calibrate CWI thresholds)

## Number of Samples

For $\alpha$ close to 1 , we need a lot of samples to get good estimates of $V a R_{\alpha}$ and $E S_{\alpha}$
$\$ \alpha \geq 0.995$ is common for credit risk



Possible to reduce the number of samples by "careful" selection?

## Monte Carlo Sampling Optimization Models

$$
\begin{array}{|ll}
\min _{x \in \Omega} & z \\
\text { s.t. } & \\
& \sum_{j=1}^{J} l_{i}^{j} x_{j}-z-B d_{i} \leq 0 \quad \text { for } i=1, \ldots, M N \\
& \sum_{i=1}^{m} d_{i} \leq M N(1-\alpha) \\
& d_{i} \in\{0,1\} \quad \text { for } \quad i=1, \ldots, M N \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

$$
\begin{array}{|ll}
\min _{x \in \Omega} & z+\frac{1}{M N(1-\alpha)} \sum_{i=1}^{M N} y_{i} \\
\text { s.t. } & \\
& \sum_{j=1}^{J} l_{i}^{j} x_{j}-z-y_{i} \leq 0 \quad \text { for } i=1, \ldots, M N
\end{array}
$$

## VaR Minimization Heuristic

Step 0. Initialization

1. Set $\alpha_{0}=\alpha, k=0, H_{0}=\{s: s=1, \ldots, M\}$.
2. Assign value to the parameter for discarding scenarios $\varepsilon, 0<\varepsilon<1$.

Step 1. Optimization sub-problem

1. Minimize $\alpha_{k}$ - CVaR

$$
\begin{array}{llr}
\min _{x, z, \ell, \gamma} & \ell+\nu_{k} \sum_{s \in H_{k}} \pi_{s} z_{s} & \\
\text { s.t. } & \sum_{i} \mu_{i, s} x_{i} \leq \ell+z_{s}, z_{s} \geq 0 & s \in H_{k}, \\
& \sum_{i} \mu_{i, s} x_{i} \leq \gamma & s \in H_{k}, \\
& \sum_{i} \mu_{i, s} x_{i} \geq \gamma & s \notin H_{k}, \\
& \sum_{i} x_{i}=1 & \\
& \sum_{i} r_{i} x_{i} \geq R & i=1, \ldots, N \\
& x_{i}-x_{i}^{0} \leq y_{i}, & i=1, \ldots, N \\
& x_{i}^{0}-x_{i} \leq y_{i}, & i=1, \ldots, N \\
& \sum_{i} y_{i} \leq \triangle x & x_{i} \leq x_{i} \leq \bar{x}_{i},
\end{array}
$$

where $\nu_{k}=1 /\left(\left(1-\alpha_{k}\right) M\right)$. Denote the optimal solution of this problem by $x_{k}^{*}$.
2. Order the scenarios $y_{s} x_{k}^{*}, s=1, \ldots, M$ in ascending order and denote ordered scenarios by $s_{j}, j=1, \ldots, M$.

Step 2. Estimating VaR
Calculate VaR estimate $j_{k}=y_{j(\alpha)} x_{k}^{*}$, where $j(\alpha)=\min \{j: j / M \geq \alpha\}$.
Step 3. Stopping and re-initialization

1. $k=k+1$.
2. $b_{k}=\alpha+(1-\alpha)(1-\varepsilon)^{k}$ and $\alpha_{k}=\alpha / b_{k}$.
3. $H_{k}=\left\{s_{j} \in H_{k-1}: j / M \leq b_{k}\right\}$.
4. If $H_{k}=H_{k-1}$ then stop the algorithm and return the estimate of the VaR-optimal portfolio $x_{k}^{*}$ and $\operatorname{VaR} \ell_{k}$, otherwise go to Step 1.

## VaR Optimization Alternatives

## Convex Approximations

§Assume some structure in the uncertainty
Bertsimas, D. and M. Sim (2004), "The Price of Robustness," Operations Research 52(1), 35-53.
Nemirovski, A. and A. Shapiro (2006), "Convex Approximations of Chance Constrained Programs," Siam Journal on Optimization 17(4), 969-996.

## Worst-Case Scenario

§No assumptions about uncertainty structure
Calafiore, G. and M.C. Campi (2006), "The Scenario Approach to Robust Control Design," IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control 51(5), 742-753.

## $E S_{\alpha}$ Objective for Normal Approximation

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x}) \mid \boldsymbol{y}_{m} \equiv \mathrm{~L}_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \sim \mathrm{N}\left(\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}), \sigma_{m}^{2}(\boldsymbol{x})\right) \\
& \mathrm{E}\left[\mathrm{~L}(\boldsymbol{x}) \mid \mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x}) \geq V a R_{\alpha}\right]=\frac{1}{M(1-\alpha)} \sum_{m=1}^{M} \mathrm{E}\left[\mathrm{~L}_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \times 1\left\{\mathrm{~L}_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \geq V a R_{\alpha}\right\}\right] \\
& \mathrm{E}\left[\mathrm{~L}_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \mid \mathrm{L}_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \geq \ell\right] \\
& =\mathrm{E}\left[\left(\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})+\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) Z\right) \times 1\left\{Z \geq \frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right\}\right] \\
& =\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})\left(1-\Phi\left(\frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)\right)+\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \int_{\frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}}^{\infty} Z \frac{e^{-Z^{2} / 2}}{\sqrt{2 \pi}} d Z \\
& =\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})\left(1-\Phi\left(\frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)\right)+\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})\left[-\frac{e^{-Z^{2} / 2}}{\sqrt{2 \pi}}\right]_{\frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}}}^{\infty} \\
& =\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})\left(1-\Phi\left(\frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)\right)+\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x}) \phi\left(\frac{\ell-\mu_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}{\sigma_{m}(\boldsymbol{x})}\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Conditional Mean Motivation

Chebyshev inequality (basis of LLN)

$$
P\left(\left|\frac{S_{n}}{n}-\mu\right|<\varepsilon\right) \geq 1-\frac{\sigma^{2}}{n \varepsilon^{2}} \rightarrow P\left(\left|S_{n}-n \mu\right|<n \varepsilon\right) \geq 1-\frac{\sigma^{2}}{n \varepsilon^{2}}
$$

For non-iid, Kolmogorov criterion requires $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_{n}^{2}}{n}<\infty$

Idea: as the number of counterparties increases, the contribution of the variances to the sum becomes small relative to that of the means

Suppose $\quad \mu_{L^{j} \mid y_{m}} x_{j} \approx \mu, \quad \sigma_{L^{j} \mid y_{m}} x_{j} \approx \sigma$
From CLT:

$$
\mathrm{L}(\boldsymbol{x}) \mid \boldsymbol{y}_{m} \approx J \mu+\sqrt{J} \sigma Z, \quad Z \sim \mathrm{~N}(0,1)
$$

## Out-of-Sample VaR



## Out-of-Sample ES



## Approximation Quality for VaR



## Approximation Quality for $E S$



## CLT Gradients and Hessians

Calculating gradients

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \nabla \ell_{\alpha}(x)=f\left(\ell_{\alpha}(x)\right) \\
& \nabla \mathrm{ES}_{\alpha}(x)=f\left(\ell_{\alpha}(x), \mathrm{ES}_{\alpha}(x)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Calculating Hessians

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \nabla^{2} \ell_{\alpha}(x)=f\left(\ell_{\alpha}(x), \nabla \ell_{\alpha}(x)\right) \\
& \nabla^{2} \operatorname{ES}_{\alpha}(x)=f\left(\ell_{\alpha}(x), \operatorname{ES}_{\alpha}(x), \nabla \mathrm{ES}_{\alpha}(x)\right)
\end{aligned}
$$

Non-linear optimization algorithm

$$
x^{k+1}=x^{k}-\left(\nabla^{2} f\left(x^{k}\right)\right)^{-1} \nabla f\left(x^{k}\right)
$$

## Other Test Results

| Model | Risk <br> Measure | Init portf | $\begin{gathered} 20 \mathrm{Ggps} \\ 1 \mathrm{CP} \\ \text { Heterog } \\ \text { Budget } \end{gathered}$ | 20 Ggps Heterog Budget 99\% Qt | 20 Ggps <br> 1 CP <br> Heterog <br> Default | 20 Ggps 60 CPs Heterog | 20 Ggps 150 CPs Heterog | 20 Ggps 150 CPs Homog | 50 Ggps 10 CPs Heterog | 50 Ggps <br> 10 CPs <br> Heterog <br> Budget | $\begin{gathered} \hline 500 \\ \text { Ggps } \\ 1 \mathrm{CP} \\ \text { Heterog } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 500 \\ \text { Ggps } \\ 1 \mathrm{CP} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 500 \\ \text { Ggps } \\ 1 \mathrm{CP} \\ \text { Heterog } \\ \text { Budget } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | 500 <br> Ggps <br> 1 CP <br> Heterog <br> Default | $\begin{gathered} 500 \\ \text { Ggps } \\ 6 \mathrm{CPs} \\ \text { Heterog } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CLT | ES 99.9\% | 100\% | 59.93\% | 83.39\% | 61.95\% | 88.32\% | 92.93\% | 86.43\% | 87.61\% | 70.49\% | 67.23\% | 67.05\% | 53.98\% | 34.66\% | 76.97\% |
|  | VaR 99.9\% | 100\% | 125.04\% | 79.75\% | 45.38\% | 87.38\% | 92.98\% | 87.38\% | 86.33\% | 70.09\% | 68.61\% | 68.60\% | 56.48\% | 35.61\% | 77.82\% |
| LLN | ES 99.9\% | 100\% | 95.58\% | 91.64\% | 77.34\% | 89.59\% | 93.69\% | 88.48\% | 113.19\% | 115.14\% | 87.09\% | 87.04\% | 114.96\% | 45.07\% | 78.66\% |
|  | VaR 99.9\% | 100\% | 144.06\% | 46.37\% | 64.72\% | 89.53\% | 94.74\% | 91.26\% | 115.91\% | 111.74\% | 87.09\% | 87.13\% | 118.93\% | 44.28\% | 81.00\% |
| MCs | ES 99.9\% | 100\% | 63.23\% | 72.17\% | 49.73\% | 91.26\% | 96.82\% | 89.29\% | 91.25\% | 78.09\% | 72.44\% | 68.42\% | 65.66\% | 40.61\% | 83.44\% |
|  | VaR 99.9\% | 100\% | 89.04\% | 47.75\% | 44.35\% | 91.02\% | 96.30\% | 90.83\% | 90.06\% | 74.81\% | 73.14\% | 70.73\% | 65.44\% | 40.93\% | 84.09\% |
| MCs (x5) | ES 99.9\% | 100\% | 47.23\% | 69.62\% | 44.55\% | 89.10\% | 94.14\% | 86.95\% | 88.52\% | 70.22\% | 68.75\% | 67.04\% | 57.74\% | 35.93\% | 79.08\% |
|  | VaR 99.9\% | 100\% | 102.22\% | 49.36\% | 41.28\% | 88.72\% | 94.22\% | 87.97\% | 87.58\% | 71.22\% | 70.65\% | 69.11\% | 60.05\% | 36.41\% | 81.39\% |
| WMCs | ES 99.9\% | 100\% | 63.93\% | 75.07\% | 50.30\% | 93.31\% | 98.59\% | 91.10\% | 92.61\% | 78.79\% | 72.45\% | 69.08\% | 65.66\% | 40.69\% | 83.79\% |
|  | VaR 99.9\% | 100\% | 90.68\% | 53.78\% | 45.93\% | 91.15\% | 97.50\% | 91.02\% | 91.37\% | 77.07\% | 73.06\% | 70.89\% | 65.66\% | 41.30\% | 85.17\% |
| MV (CLT) | ES 99.9\% | 100\% | 93.03\% | 87.60\% | 76.43\% | 91.15\% | 96.88\% | 87.59\% | 115.38\% | 138.29\% | 91.90\% | 92.31\% | 136.88\% | 40.77\% | 83.24\% |
|  | VaR 99.9\% | 100\% | 129.89\% | 45.23\% | 65.64\% | 89.80\% | 96.12\% | 88.27\% | 111.55\% | 143.04\% | 91.91\% | 92.29\% | 141.99\% | 40.96\% | 83.05\% |
| MV (MCs) | ES 99.9\% | 100\% | 73.88\% | 78.80\% | 56.56\% | 90.87\% | 95.60\% | 87.87\% | 92.16\% | 80.20\% | 78.69\% | 77.10\% | 64.71\% | 38.29\% | 83.68\% |
|  | VaR 99.9\% | 100\% | 117.20\% | 72.99\% | 44.72\% | 89.17\% | 95.03\% | 88.41\% | 90.15\% | 79.07\% | 77.94\% | 76.43\% | 64.18\% | 38.23\% | 83.15\% |

## Performance (50,000 Systemic Samples)

|  | VaR $_{0.999}$ |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Model | Solver | 10 grp | 50 grp | 300 grp | 3000 grp |
| CLT | IPOPT | $24-30$ | $30-35$ | $72-443$ |  |
| CM | CPLEX | $22-24$ | $66-80$ | $500-748$ |  |
| MC(1) | CPLEX | $34-59$ | $107-188$ | $646-780$ |  |
| MC(20)* | CPLEX | $3579-3715$ | $2393-2945$ | $6820-8990$ |  |

Elapsed time (sec)
Server : $8 \times$ Opteron 885 CPU, 16 cores (jobs run on 1 core), 64 Gb RAM

* VaR optimization for $M C(20)$ was run in parallel mode on 4 threads

|  | Variance |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Model | Solver | 10 grp | 50 grp | 300 grp | 3000 grp |
| Uncond | MOSEK | $<1$ | $<1$ | 1 |  |

## Detailed Performance Data

## Credit-Risk Model with Credit-State Migrations

3000 Groups, Wide Budget, 10000 Scenarios, 99.9\% Quantile
Problem dimension: 3000 groups - 6000 variables, 6003 constraints
Minimizing Value-at-Risk or Expected Shortfall The Hessian Matrix is Computed or Approximated

| Solver / Model | Solution status | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Solution } \\ \text { time } \\ \text { (seconds) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Relative difference in optimal solution | Number of iterations | Number of function evaluations | Number of gradient evaluations | Number of Hessian evaluations |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MOSEK <br> Objective: VaR <br> Hessian: computed | The Optimization Problem is Nonconvex | 2185 |  | - | - | - | - |
| IPOPT <br> Objective: VaR <br> Hessian: computed | Optimal Solution Found (Overall /max solution error: 8.0e-09) | 11484 |  | 64 | 65 | 65 | 64 |
| IPOPT <br> Objective: VaR <br> Hessian: approximation | Solved To Acceptable Level (Overall /max solution error: 9.1e-07) | 1408 |  | 438 | 1197 | 441 | 0 |
| MOSEK <br> Objective: Expected Shortfall <br> Hessian: computed | Optimal (Overall /max solution error: $1.6 \mathrm{e}-08)$ | 8058 | $\begin{gathered} -0.00037 \% \\ \text { (vs. IPOPT Hes) } \end{gathered}$ | 36 | 39 | 75 | 37 |
| MOSEK <br> Objective: Expected Shortfall Hessian: computed Parallel - 8 CPUs | Optimal <br> (Overall /max solution error: 1.6e-08) | 1672 |  | 36 | 39 | 75 | 37 |
| IPOPT <br> Objective: Expected Shortfall Hessian: computed | Optimal Solution Found (Overall /max solution error: $2.5 \mathrm{e}-09$ ) | 11554 | $\begin{gathered} 0.00037 \% \\ \text { (vs. MOSEK Hes) } \end{gathered}$ | 65 | 66 | 66 | 65 |
| IPOPT <br> Objective: Expected Shortfall <br> Hessian: approximation | Optimal Solution Found (Overall /max solution error: $1.5 \mathrm{e}-09)$ | 979 | $\begin{gathered} 0.00076 \% \\ \text { (vs. MOSEK Hes) } \end{gathered}$ | 260 | 465 | 261 | 0 |

## Industry Practice (March 2009)

Typical portfolio size: 5,000 counterparties
Typical no. credit drivers per counterparty: 1
Typical beta: 0.4-0.5
Typical no. systemic samples: 10,000
Typical no. specific samples: 1,000 (for risk measurement, not optimization)

