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► To cite this version:

Michaël Allouche, Stéphane Girard, Emmanuel Gobet. Learning extreme Expected Shortfall with neural networks. Application to cryptocurrency data. 2023. hal-04347859v1

HAL Id: hal-04347859

<https://inria.hal.science/hal-04347859v1>

Preprint submitted on 15 Dec 2023 (v1), last revised 14 Mar 2024 (v3)

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Learning extreme Expected Shortfall with neural networks. Application to cryptocurrency data

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Abstract

We propose new parametrizations for neural networks in order to estimate extreme Expected Shortfall in heavy-tailed settings as a function of confidence levels. The proposed neural network estimator is able to extrapolate in the distribution tails thanks to an extension of the usual extreme-value second-order condition to an arbitrary order. The convergence rate of the uniform error between the extreme log-Expected Shortfall and its neural network approximation is established. The finite sample performance of the neural network estimator is compared to bias-reduced extreme-value competitors on simulated data. It is shown that our method outperforms them in difficult heavy-tailed situations where other estimators almost all fail. Finally, the neural network estimator is tested on real data to investigate the behavior of cryptocurrency extreme loss returns.

Key words: Extreme-value theory, heavy-tailed distribution, risk measure estimation, neural networks.

Mathematics Subject Classification: 60G70, 62G32, 68T07.

1 Introduction

The 80's and 90's saw major financial crises, highlighting the need for risk monitoring indicators, for defensive control or active management purposes. In July 1993, the G-30 – a consultative group of top bankers, financiers, and academics from leading industrial nations – met to discuss and share best risk management practices and came up with the notion of Value at Risk (VaR), which was already being investigated at the bank J.P. Morgan [35]. The VaR summarizes the *worst loss over a target horizon that will not be exceeded with a given level of confidence*. The VaR is then used to determine the amount of capital to set aside for solvency purposes, see [31, Section 3.4]. Major criticisms on the VaR include (i) its failure to fulfill the subadditivity property [1], making it a non coherent risk measure [9], and (ii) its failure to account for the magnitude of losses beyond the given confidence level, since quantiles only depend on the frequency of tail losses and not on their values, see [21, Section 1.3.3]. For these reasons, it has been proposed as early as 2002 to change the method for assessing risks from the usual VaR to the alternative coherent ES [1, 40]. Unlike the VaR, ES satisfies all of the requirements to be a coherent risk measure, namely translation invariance, monotonicity, positive homogeneity, and subadditivity [9]. Moreover, the work of [2] took part in promoting

the ES by introducing backtesting methodologies and by proving that the ES is jointly elicitable with the VaR. Because of the paramount importance of risk measures (like VaR or ES) in financial institutions, it is essential to accurately estimate them: it has been widely studied by both researchers and practitioners, see [21] for a review. In this work we focus on the ES and provide a new estimation methodology.

Let us define the quantities of interest. The VaR is defined as the quantile at a given confidence level $(1 - \alpha)$:

$$\text{VaR}(1 - \alpha) = q(1 - \alpha) = \inf\{x \in \mathbb{R}, F(x) \geq 1 - \alpha\},$$

where $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ and with F the cumulative distribution function of the random variable X of interest (X is usually the opposite of a loss and α is close to 0). Besides, the ES, also known as Conditional Value at Risk or Average Value at Risk, is defined as the average of the quantile function above the confidence level $(1 - \alpha)$:

$$\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^\alpha q(1 - u) du. \quad (1)$$

When the distribution of X is continuous (no atoms), $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha)$ coincides with the conditional expectation of X given that it exceeds the VaR $q(1 - \alpha)$:

$$\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \mathbb{E}(X \mid X > q(1 - \alpha)),$$

and it is referred to as Conditional Tail Expectation (CTE). When in addition, the distribution has a density f with respect to the Lebesgue measure, the above writes

$$\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{q(1-\alpha)}^\infty x f(x) dx. \quad (2)$$

Explicit derivations of the ES are available in some parametric families, namely elliptical [34], or phase-type distributions [13], opening the way to parametric estimation. See also Table 1 below for calculations associated with some heavy-tailed distributions. Nonparametric estimators have also been introduced in [11, 19] based on the empirical counterpart of (2):

$$\widehat{\text{ES}}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{1}{\lfloor n\alpha \rfloor} \sum_{j=1}^{\lfloor n\alpha \rfloor} X_{n-j+1,n}, \quad (3)$$

where $X_{1,n} \leq \dots \leq X_{n,n}$ denote the order statistics associated with the initial n -sample. See also [41] for a kernel version and [16] for the associated asymptotic properties.

In this work, we focus on extreme risks, *i.e.* the situation where α is so small that the VaR is larger than the maximal observation: $q(1 - \alpha) > X_{n,n}$. This is the case when $n\alpha < 1$, and in this challenging situation the naive estimator (3) cannot be used to estimate the so-called extreme ES. To overcome this problem, we propose in Section 2 an extrapolation formula dedicated to heavy-tailed distributions and leveraging extreme-value theory, linking the ES at an extreme level to the ES at a non-extreme one. Note that the non-Gaussian and heavy-tailed behaviors of traditional financial asset returns are well established since the last century [36], this conclusion being recently extended to cryptocurrency data [4] which often translates into a heavy-tailed loss X . We show that the linking function can be approximated by a neural network (NN) with a controlled error. The performance of the proposed NN estimator is illustrated on simulated data in Section 3: It is compared to five other extrapolation techniques stemming from extreme-value theory on a large variety of heavy-tailed situations. An application to cryptocurrency data is provided in Section 4 and a short conclusion is drawn in Section 5. Proofs and technical details are postponed to the Appendix.

2 Extrapolation principle for the Expected-Shortfall

2.1 Statistical framework

Let X_1, \dots, X_n be an i.i.d sample from an unknown cumulative distribution function (c.d.f) F assumed to be continuous. The associated order statistics are denoted by $X_{1,n} \leq \dots \leq X_{n,n}$. We address the estimation of $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n)$ at an extreme level α_n *i.e.* such that $n\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Remarking that

$$\mathbb{P}(X_{n,n} \leq \text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n)) \geq \mathbb{P}(X_{n,n} \leq q(1 - \alpha_n)) = \exp(-n\alpha_n(1 + o(1))) \rightarrow 1 \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty,$$

it follows that the ES of interest is out of the sample with probability tending to one. Dedicated extrapolation techniques are thus necessary since, in that challenging situation, the empirical estimator (3) cannot be used. Here, we focus on heavy-tailed distributions whose survival function $(1 - F)$ is regularly-varying with index $-1/\gamma$, where $\gamma > 0$ is called the tail-index. Our main assumption can be written as

(A) $(1 - F) \in \mathcal{RV}_{-1/\gamma}$ with $\gamma > 0$ *i.e.*

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1 - F(tx)}{1 - F(t)} = x^{-1/\gamma},$$

for all $x > 0$.

The index γ tunes the tail heaviness of F : the larger the index, the heavier the right tail. Examples include the (generalized) Pareto, Burr, Fisher, Inverse gamma and Student distributions. Equivalently, the tail quantile function $t > 1 \mapsto U(t) = q(1 - 1/t)$ can be rewritten as $U(t) = t^\gamma L(t)$ where L is a slowly-varying function, *i.e.* a regularly-varying function with index zero:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{L(tz)}{L(t)} = 1, \tag{4}$$

for all $z > 0$. See [10] for more details on regular variation theory. The following result provides a sufficient condition for the existence of the Expected-Shortfall associated with an heavy-tailed distribution.

Proposition 1. *If (A) holds with $\gamma \in (0, 1)$, then $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha)$ is finite for any $\alpha \in (0, 1)$.*

We also consider a J -th order condition ($J \geq 2$), introduced in [43], on the slowly-varying function to control the rate of convergence in (4):

(B_J) There exist for all $j \in \{2, \dots, J\}$, positive or negative functions A_j with $A_j(t) \rightarrow 0$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$, $|A_j| \in \mathcal{RV}_{\rho_j}$ and $\rho_j \leq 0$ such that

$$\log L(tz) - \log L(t) = \sum_{j=2}^J \prod_{\ell=2}^j A_\ell(t) R_j(z) + o\left(\prod_{j=2}^J A_j(t)\right),$$

as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $z > 0$, where:

$$R_j(z) := \int_1^z z_2^{\rho_2-1} \int_1^{z_2} z_3^{\rho_3-1} \dots \int_1^{z_{j-1}} z_j^{\rho_j-1} dz_j \dots dz_3 dz_2.$$

Such a condition refines the initial heavy-tail assumption and is therefore a classical device in extreme-value analysis for extrapolating beyond the observation range. For instance, when $J = 2$, we recover the classical second-order condition [27, Equation (13)]. Moreover, $J = 3$ and $J = 4$ yield back respectively the third-order [24, 38] and fourth-order conditions [26]. For most of heavy-tailed distributions, the A_j s are power functions, which will be our assumption in the sequel:

(C_J) $A_j(t) = c_j t^{\rho_j}$ where $c_j \neq 0$ and $\rho_j < 0$ for $j = 2, \dots, J$.

When $J = 2$, (C_J) amounts to supposing that the underlying distribution belongs to the Hall-Welsh class [29]. We give a list of examples of classical heavy-tailed distributions in Table 1 we shall work with in the simulation study (Section 3), with their respective values of γ and ρ_2 . We shall need the following assumption for the subsequent analysis.

(D) L is differentiable and $|(\log L)'| \in \mathcal{RV}_{\rho_2-1}$ with $\rho_2 < 0$.

See Lemma 6 for a discussion on the assumptions.

2.2 Basic properties

Assume (A) holds with $\gamma \in (0, 1)$, and consider the slowly-varying function $t \mapsto L(t) = t^{-\gamma}U(t)$. The following two functions are then introduced:

$$(y_1, y_2) \in [0, \infty)^2 \mapsto \varphi(y_1, y_2) = \log L(\exp(y_1 + y_2)) - \log L(\exp(y_2)), \quad (5)$$

$$u \in (0, 1] \mapsto \Psi(u) = \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} \frac{L(1/(wu))}{L(1/u)} dw \right). \quad (6)$$

As we will explain, the proposed approach consists in learning these functions φ and Ψ using Neural Network approximations. The key observation is that the log-spacings associated with the Expected-Shortfall can be rewritten in an appealing manner with φ and Ψ .

Proposition 2. *If (A) holds with $\gamma \in (0, 1)$, then, for all probability levels $(\alpha, \delta) \in (0, 1)^2$:*

$$\log \text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \log q(1 - \alpha) + \Psi(\alpha), \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \log \text{ES}(1 - \alpha) - \log \text{ES}(1 - \delta) &= \gamma \log(\delta/\alpha) + \varphi(\log(\delta/\alpha), \log(1/\delta)) + \Psi(\alpha) - \Psi(\delta) \\ &:= g(\alpha, \delta). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Remark that combining Lemma 7(i) and Proposition 2, Equation (7) yields an asymptotic equivalent between the Expected-Shortfall and the Value-at-Risk:

$$\lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{\text{ES}(1 - \alpha)}{q(1 - \alpha)} = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma}, \quad (9)$$

and we thus recover a result from [23, Proposition 1(ii)]. We also refer to [37] for first and second order asymptotic expansions of generalized shortfall risk measures. One can then use this first order approximation of the extreme Expected Shortfall to build an *indirect* estimator based on an estimator of the extreme quantile $q(1 - \alpha)$ and an estimator of the tail-index γ , see Paragraph 3.2 for further details.

Besides, thanks to (8) in Proposition 2, one can easily derive an extrapolation principle for the ES. Indeed, the ES at an extreme level $1 - \alpha_n$ (such that $n\alpha_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$) can be deduced from the ES at an intermediate level $1 - \delta_n$ (such that $n\delta_n \rightarrow \infty$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$) since

$$\text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n) = \text{ES}(1 - \delta_n)(\delta_n/\alpha_n)^\gamma \exp(\varphi(\log(\delta_n/\alpha_n), \log(1/\delta_n)) + \Psi(\alpha_n) - \Psi(\delta_n)), \quad (10)$$

or equivalently

$$\text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n) = \text{ES}(1 - \delta_n) \exp(g(\alpha_n, \delta_n)).$$

This kind of extrapolation method is widely used in extreme-value theory, see for instance Weissman estimator [44] dedicated to extreme quantiles and [17, 18] for extremiles and expectiles respectively. The challenge is to design an extrapolation function g in a way that the approximation of $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n)$ is as stable as possible with respect to the anchor level δ_n . The implementation of this idea requires the estimation of two real quantities, namely $\text{ES}(1 - \delta_n)$ and γ as well as the two functions φ and Ψ . For the latter problem, the simplest choice is to approximate the slowly-varying function L by a constant, leading to $\varphi \simeq 0$. Moreover Lemma 7(i) shows that $\Psi(\alpha_n) - \Psi(\delta_n) \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow 0$ suggesting the first-order approximation:

$$\text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n) \simeq \text{ES}(1 - \delta_n)(\delta_n/\alpha_n)^\gamma. \quad (11)$$

This result is used in Paragraph 3.2 to build the so-called *direct* estimator of the extreme Expected Shortfall. Note that we do not expect it to be accurate enough since this estimator accounts for a simplified behavior of the tails.

In the following, we focus on a nonparametric estimation of φ and Ψ using NNs whose first step consists in approximating the two unknown functions using expansions on well-chosen families of functions.

2.3 Approximation of the Expected Shortfall function with neural networks

The Hölder properties of the function Ψ are established in Lemma 7 in the Appendix, depending on the position of the second-order parameter ρ_2 compared to -1 . We show in the next Proposition that Ψ can be approximated using rectified linear unit (ReLU) activation functions $x \in \mathbb{R} \mapsto \sigma^{\text{R}}(x) := \max(0, x)$ with a controlled error.

Proposition 3. *Let L be a continuously differentiable slowly-varying function such that (D) holds. Let $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ and consider the function Ψ defined in (5). Then, for any $K_1 \geq 6$ and $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists a ReLU-NN with K_1 neurons, parameterized by $\theta_1 = (a_{1:K_1}^{(1)}, a_{1:K_1}^{(2)}, a_{1:K_1}^{(3)}) \in \Theta_1 := \mathbb{R}^{3K_1}$ and defined by*

$$u \in [0, 1] \mapsto \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1}(u) = \sum_{k=1}^{K_1} a_k^{(1)} \sigma^{\text{R}}\left(a_k^{(2)} u + a_k^{(3)}\right),$$

such that

$$\sup_{u \in [0, 1]} \left| \Psi(u) - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1}(u) \right| \leq 12H_\Psi (1/K_1)^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1},$$

where H_Ψ is the Hölder constant associated with Ψ and $\rho_2^\varepsilon = |\rho_2| - \varepsilon$.

Turning to φ , the next Proposition presents how, starting from the J -th order condition, a NN approximation of $\varphi(x_1, x_2)$ can be built using exponential linear unit (eLU) activation functions $x \in \mathbb{R} \mapsto \sigma^{\text{e}}(x) := x \mathbb{1}_{\{x \geq 0\}} + (\exp(x) - 1) \mathbb{1}_{\{x < 0\}}$. In the sequel, we let $\bar{\rho}_J = \rho_2 + \dots + \rho_J$ and $\bar{c}_J = |c_2 \times \dots \times c_J|$.

Proposition 4. *Let L be a continuously differentiable slowly-varying function verifying the J -th order condition (B_J) with (C_J) and $J \geq 2$. Consider the function φ defined in (5).*

Then, one can design an eLU-NN with $K_2 = J(J - 1)/2$ neurons, parameterized by $\theta_2 = (b_{1:K_2}^{(1)}, b_{1:K_2}^{(2)}, b_{1:K_2}^{(3)}, b_{1:K_2}^{(4)}) \in \Theta_2 := (\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}_-^3)^{K_2}$ defined by

$$(y_1, y_2) \in \mathbb{R}_+^2 \mapsto \tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2}(y_1, y_2) = \sum_{k=1}^{K_2} b_k^{(1)} \left(\sigma^e \left(b_k^{(2)} y_1 + b_k^{(3)} y_2 \right) - \sigma^e \left(b_k^{(4)} y_2 \right) \right), \quad (12)$$

and, for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $y_\varepsilon > 0$ such that, for all $y_1, y_2 \geq y_\varepsilon$,

$$\left| \varphi(y_1, y_2) - \tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2}(y_1, y_2) \right| \leq \varepsilon \bar{c}_J \exp((\bar{\rho}_J + \varepsilon)(y_1 + y_2) - y_2 \varepsilon).$$

Following (10), we thus propose to approximate the ES at level $(1 - \alpha_n)$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\text{ES}}_\theta^K(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - \delta_n) &:= \text{ES}(1 - \delta_n)(\delta_n/\alpha_n)^{\theta_0} \exp \left(\tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2}(\log(\delta_n/\alpha_n), \log(1/\delta_n)) \right) \\ &\quad \times \exp \left(\tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1}(\alpha_n) - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1}(\delta_n) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where $\theta := (\theta_0, \theta_1, \theta_2) \in \Theta := \mathbb{R}_+ \times \Theta_1 \times \Theta_2$ and $K := K_1 + K_2$, or equivalently,

$$\tilde{\text{ES}}_\theta^K(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - \delta_n) = \text{ES}(1 - \delta_n) \exp(\tilde{g}_\theta^K(\alpha_n, \delta_n)),$$

with $\tilde{g}_\theta^K(\alpha_n, \delta_n) = \theta_0 \log(\delta_n/\alpha_n) + \tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2}(\log(\delta_n/\alpha_n), \log(1/\delta_n)) + \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1}(\alpha_n) - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1}(\delta_n)$. Combining the above two results, we have:

Theorem 5. *Let L be a continuously differentiable slowly-varying function verifying **(B_J)**, **(C_J)** with $J \geq 2$ and **(D)**. Let $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ and consider the NN approximation (13) of the ES involving $K_1 \geq 6$ ReLU units and $K_2 = J(J - 1)/2$ eLU units. Consider two probability level sequences (α_n) and (δ_n) such that $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$ and $\alpha_n/\delta_n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. Then, for all $\varepsilon > 0$,*

$$\inf_{\theta \in \Theta} \left| \log \text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n) - \log \tilde{\text{ES}}_\theta^K(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - \delta_n) \right| \leq 24H_\Psi (1/K_1)^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1} + \bar{c}_J \varepsilon (\delta_n/\alpha_n)^\varepsilon \alpha_n^{-\bar{\rho}_J + \varepsilon}.$$

The approximation rate does not depend on the tail heaviness γ , but rather on the parameters ρ_2 and $\bar{\rho}_J$ stemming from the J -th order condition. Since $\bar{\rho}_J$ is a decreasing function of J , choosing $J > 2$ may be of interest to reduce the approximation error while usual extreme-value estimators rely on first- or second-order approximations, see Paragraph 3.2 for examples. The approximation rate is also driven by the complexity of the NN which can be quantified by both K_1 the number of ReLU units and K_2 the number of eLU units via J .

2.4 Estimation of the Expected Shortfall with neural networks

Here, we let $\delta_n = k/n$ where $k = k_n$ is an intermediate sequence *i.e.* such that $k \rightarrow \infty$ and $k/n \rightarrow 0$ as $n \rightarrow \infty$. The ES at the intermediate level δ_n is estimated by its empirical counterpart (3):

$$\widehat{\text{ES}}(1 - \delta_n) = \widehat{\text{ES}}(1 - k/n) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k X_{n-j+1, n},$$

and from (13), the ES at the extreme level α_n is thus estimated by

$$\begin{aligned}\widehat{\text{ES}}_{\hat{\theta}}^{\text{NN}}(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - k/n) &:= \left(\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k X_{n-j+1,n} \right) (k/(n\alpha_n))^{\hat{\theta}_0} \exp \left(\tilde{\varphi}_{\hat{\theta}_2}^{K_2}(\log(k/(n\alpha_n)), \log(n/k)) \right) \\ &\quad \times \exp \left(\tilde{\Psi}_{\hat{\theta}_1}^{K_1}(\alpha_n) + \tilde{\Psi}_{\hat{\theta}_1}^{K_1}(k/n) \right) \\ &= \left(\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k X_{n-j+1,n} \right) \exp \left(\tilde{g}_{\hat{\theta}}^K(\alpha_n, k/n) \right),\end{aligned}$$

where $\hat{\theta} = (\hat{\theta}_0, \hat{\theta}_1, \hat{\theta}_2)$ is computed by fitting the NN model of the log-spacings to the empirical ones. More specifically, Proposition 2 shows that, for all $k \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $i \in \{k+1, \dots, n\}$, one as

$$S_{i,k} := \log \text{ES}(1 - i/n) - \log \text{ES}(1 - k/n) = g(i/n, k/n).$$

The empirical estimator is deduced from (3) and given by

$$\hat{S}_{i,k} := \log \left(\frac{1}{i} \sum_{j=1}^i X_{n-j+1,n} \right) - \log \left(\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k X_{n-j+1,n} \right), \quad (14)$$

while the NN model is $\tilde{g}_{\hat{\theta}}^K(i/n, k/n)$. In practice, small indices i and k are discarded since the associated empirical estimates of the ES suffer from a large variance. To this end, we consider $\zeta \in [0, 1)$ and minimize the following distance between above two estimations of the $N = (n - 2 - \lceil \zeta n \rceil)(n - 1 + \lceil \zeta n \rceil)/2$ log-spacings:

$$\hat{\theta} = \arg \min_{\theta \in \Theta} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=2+\lceil \zeta n \rceil}^{n-1} \sum_{i=1+\lceil \zeta n \rceil}^{k-1} \left| \hat{S}_{i,k} - \tilde{g}_{\theta}^K(i/n, k/n) \right|. \quad (15)$$

See Figure 1 (right panel) for an illustration of the NN estimation of the ES log-spacing function g on Burr data, compared with the crude linear approximation. Implementation details are reported in the next Section.

3 Validation on simulated data

The finite sample behavior of the NN estimator of the extreme ES is illustrated on simulated data. To this end, we first describe both the estimator implementation and the model selection technique. Then, we briefly present some other bias-reduced estimators. Next, we list the heavy-tailed distributions as well as the performance criteria used to compare all considered estimators.

3.1 Implementation

All numerical experiments have been conducted on the Cholesky computing cluster from Ecole Polytechnique http://meso-ipp.gitlab.labos.polytechnique.fr/user_doc. It is composed by 4 nodes, where each one includes 2 CPU Intel Xeon Gold 6230 @ 2.1GHz, 20 cores and 4 Nvidia Tesla v100 graphics card. The code was implemented in Python 3.10.10 and using the library PyTorch 2.0.0.

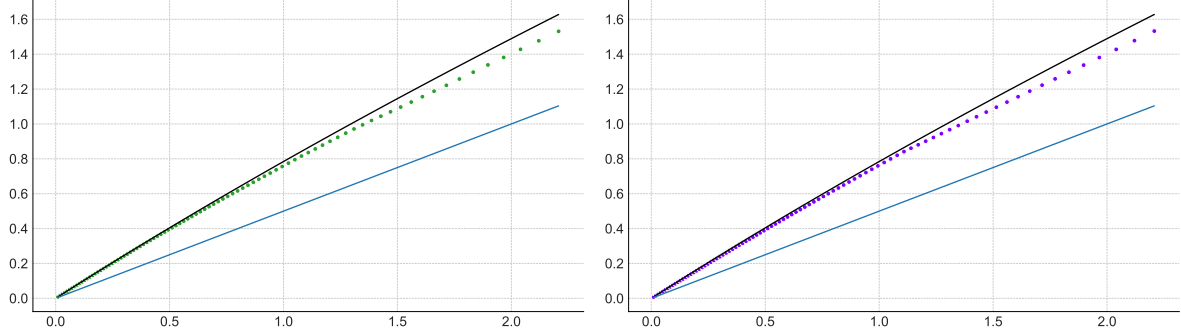


Figure 1: ES log-spacings associated with a Burr distribution ($\gamma = 1, \rho_2 = -1/2$), see Table 1 for the parametrization. Black curve: theoretical function $x_1 \mapsto g(x_1, \log(n/k))$; blue line: first order approximation $x_1 \mapsto \gamma x_1$ with $\varphi = \Psi = 0$; green dots (left panel): empirical pointwise estimation $(\log(k/i), \hat{S}_{i,k})$; purple dots (right panel): NN estimation $\tilde{g}_{\hat{\theta}}^K(\log(k/i), \log(n/k))$ with $i \in \{1, \dots, k-1\}$, $k = 100$ and $n = 500$.

The NN hyperparameters considered are the batch size set to 256, $K_1 = 10$ and $J \in \{2, 3, 4\}$ leading to $K \in \{11, 13, 16\}$ neurons. We used the optimizer Adam [33] with default parameters $\beta_1 = 0.9$ and $\beta_2 = 0.999$ for all tests performed during $M = 100$ iterations. The best iteration $m^* \in \{1, \dots, M\}$ is selected with [8, Algorithm 1] corresponding to the smallest median absolute deviation

$$\text{MAD} \left(\left\{ \widehat{\text{ES}}_{\hat{\theta}_m}^{\text{NN}} \left(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - \frac{k}{n} \right), k \in \{ \lceil 3n/100 \rceil, \dots, \lceil 3n/4 \rceil \} \right\} \right),$$

where, for any set $\mathcal{E} \subset \mathbb{R}$, the median absolute deviation is defined as

$$\text{MAD}(\mathcal{E}) = \text{median}_{\epsilon \in \mathcal{E}} |\epsilon - \text{median}(\mathcal{E})|. \quad (16)$$

3.2 Competitors

Five extreme ES estimators arising from extreme-value theory are considered. They can be divided in two main families: the direct and the indirect ones. On the first hand, plugging the empirical counterpart (3) of the intermediate ES in the first-order approximation (11) yields the direct extreme ES estimator

$$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D}}(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - k/n) = \left(\frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k X_{n-j+1,n} \right) \left(\frac{k}{n\alpha_n} \right)^{\widehat{\gamma}_{\text{H}}(k)}, \quad (17)$$

where

$$\widehat{\gamma}_{\text{H}}(k) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{i=1}^k \log(X_{n-i+1,n}) - \log(X_{n-k,n})$$

is the Hill estimator [30] of the tail-index. A similar estimator is introduced in the conditional case [22] while this extrapolation principle is applied to multivariate versions of the ES in [14, 20]. On the other hand, the indirect estimator combines the first-order approximation (9) of the link between extreme ES and the associated extreme quantile together with the Weissman

estimator [44] to get:

$$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I}}(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - k/n) = \frac{\widehat{q}_{\text{W}}(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - k/n)}{1 - \widehat{\gamma}_{\text{H}}(k)} = \frac{X_{n-k,n}}{1 - \widehat{\gamma}_{\text{H}}(k)} \left(\frac{k}{n\alpha_n} \right)^{\widehat{\gamma}_{\text{H}}(k)}. \quad (18)$$

One can then propose reduced bias versions of (17) and (18) by replacing the Hill estimator by the Corrected-Hill estimator [12] denoted by $\widehat{\gamma}_{\text{CH}}$ in the sequel. This gives rise respectively to $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D,CH}}$ and $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CH}}$. Additionally, replacing in (18) the Weissman estimator \widehat{q}_{W} by the Corrected Weissman estimator [28], which reduces both the extrapolation bias and the bias coming from the estimation of the tail-index in the extreme quantile estimator, gives $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CW}}$. Summarizing, the five competitors are $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D}}$, $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I}}$ (no bias correction), $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D,CH}}$, $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CH}}$ (one bias correction) and $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CW}}$ (two bias corrections).

3.3 Experimental design

The comparative study is achieved on seven heavy-tailed distributions which have a closed-form ES expression (see Table 1): Pareto, Student, Fréchet, Inverse gamma, Burr, generalized Pareto distribution (GPD), and Fisher-Snedecor. For all considered distributions, five values of the tail-index are considered: $\gamma \in \{0.1, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.9\}$. The Burr distribution has a free second-order parameter, four large values are investigated: $\rho_2 \in \{-1, -1/2, -1/4, -1/8\}$, while the ρ_2 parameter associated with the six remaining distributions is fixed, see Table 1 for details.

For each of these 50 considered configurations, $R = 500$ replicated data sets of size $n = 500$ are simulated with $\zeta = 0.02$ and the extreme ES of order $1 - \alpha_n = 1 - 1/(2n)$ is estimated using the NN ES estimator and the five estimators described in the above paragraph. Their performance is assessed using the Relative median-squared error (RMedSE):

$$\text{RMedSE} \left(\widehat{\text{ES}}, \frac{1}{2n} \right) = \text{median}_{r \in \{1, \dots, R\}} \left[\left(\frac{\widehat{\text{ES}}^{(r)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2n}; 1 - \frac{k^*(r)}{n} \right)}{\text{ES} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2n} \right)} - 1 \right)^2 \right],$$

where $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{(r)} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2n}; 1 - \frac{k^*(r)}{n} \right)$ denotes an estimator of $\text{ES} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2n} \right)$ (either the NN one or some of its competitors) computed with the anchor index $k^*(r)$ selected using [5, Algorithm 1] with initial points $a^{(0)} = \lceil 3n/100 \rceil$ and $c^{(0)} = \lceil 3n/4 \rceil$ on the r th replication, $r \in \{1, \dots, R\}$.

3.4 Results

It appears from the results in Table 2–Table 4 that the NN approach is an efficient tool for estimating extreme ES in difficult heavy-tailed situations where other estimators almost all fail. The NN estimator indeed yields the best results in 21 out of 50 times and always provides a valid result ($\text{RMedSE} \leq 1$). As a comparison, $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D}}$, $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D,CH}}$, $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I}}$, $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CH}}$ and $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CW}}$ estimators give the best (and valid) results respectively only in 4(15), 3(31), 4(12), 7(33) and 11(28) out of 50 times. The second best estimator is thus $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CW}}$ which enjoys a double bias correction. Its performances are yet only half as good as the ones obtained with the NN approach. Note that in the Pareto case, the ES log-spacing function is linear and thus both $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D}}$ and $\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I}}$ benefit from the perfect parametric form with γ the only parameter to estimate. Unsurprisingly, these two methods yield the best results in this particular case, see Table 2. In contrast, they are outperformed by reduced biased approaches on all other distributions.

Figure 2 and Figure 3 illustrate that the NN estimate features a nice stability in terms of bias and RMedSE for a wide range of k values on selected situations from Table 2–Table 4. This phenomenon may be highly appreciated even when the NN estimator is not ranked first on the RMedSE criteria basis, see for instance the bottom panel of Figure 2. Note that this stability in terms of bias and RMedSE criteria with respect to the anchor point k comes from the fact that the empirical ES log-spacings function (see Figure 1) is smoother than the empirical quantile log-spacing function (see [8, Figure 2]) and so easier to approximate with a NN. Therefore, even with a low number of neurons, the NN is able to perfectly approximate the empirical log-spacings (14) for every k , so that the NN-ES bias and variance mainly come from the statistical properties of the empirical log-spacings used as training data.

As a conclusion, even though the NN method is numerically more expensive than its competitors, it provides a very effective estimator for all heavy-tailed situations. Here, the NNs are built with 11 neurons ($K_1 = 10$ and $J = 2$), which remains acceptable from the computational cost point of view (computing the NN estimate on 500 replications in multiprocessing with 40 cores took 3 hours with a batch size of 256).

4 Illustration on cryptocurrency data

While the cryptocurrency market is not regulated yet, the study of risk measures is of essential importance for financial actors such as investors, hedge funds, market makers, traders, and can provide solid foundations for future regulator policies. Some works dealing with ES estimation for cryptocurrency data based on GARCH models started to emerge (see among others [3, 15] and [42] for a review), but none of them focused on the ES at extreme levels.

Here, the ES-NN estimator is tested on the negative daily log-returns of BTC/USD during seven years between 2016 and 2022. The dataset provided by Kaiko is based on a daily robust aggregation of all trades between 12pm and 11:59pm. The variables of interest $X^{(j)}$ are the negative daily log-returns for each year composed respectively by $n^{(j)}$ data, $j \in \{1, \dots, 7\}$. More details on the data statistics are reported in Table 5, while the data distribution is illustrated in Figure 4a. The very large losses suggest a heavy-tail behavior, even for the most liquid pair in the cryptocurrency market. This is confirmed by the log quantile-quantile plot (Figure 4b) which is approximately linear for all years at level $\xi = 0.9$, providing a graphical evidence of the tail heaviness of each margin. The estimated tail-indices are reported Table 5, they vary between 0.25 and 0.6, which is in line with the conclusions of [4].

For each year $j \in \{1, \dots, 7\}$, denote by $\mathcal{X}_j^{\text{test}} = \{X_{n^{(j)}-i+1, n^{(j)}}, i = 1, \dots, \lceil n^{(j)}(1 - \xi) \rceil\}$ the testing set composed by the $\lceil n^{(j)}(1 - \xi) \rceil$ th largest order statistics with $\xi = 0.9$ and $\mathcal{X}_j^{\text{train}}$ the remaining data set with size $\lceil n^{(j)}\xi \rceil$. Clearly, $X_{n^{(j)}-\lceil n^{(j)}(1-\xi) \rceil+1, n^{(j)}}$ can be interpreted as the empirical estimator computed on $\mathcal{X}_j^{\text{test}}$ of the extreme quantile $q(1 - 1/\lceil n^{(j)}\xi \rceil)$. Similarly, our objective is, for each year $j \in \{1, \dots, 7\}$, to compute the extreme ES of level $(1 - 1/\lceil n^{(j)}\xi \rceil)$ on $\mathcal{X}_j^{\text{train}}$ using the six above competitors and to compare the estimations to the empirical estimation computed on $\mathcal{X}_j^{\text{test}}$ by the sample average. The estimation procedure (15) as well as the model selection (16) are similar to the ones used for the simulated data with hyperparameters $\zeta = 0$, $K_1 = 10$, $J = 4$, a batch size of 32 and 500 epochs.

The nice stability of the NN estimator with respect to the anchor points is again confirmed on this real data set as illustrated in Figure 5a, and highly appreciated compared to the other estimators which have an estimation largely dependent on the choice of the anchor point. All the estimations are reported in Figure 5b for each year, and, it appears that the NN estimator

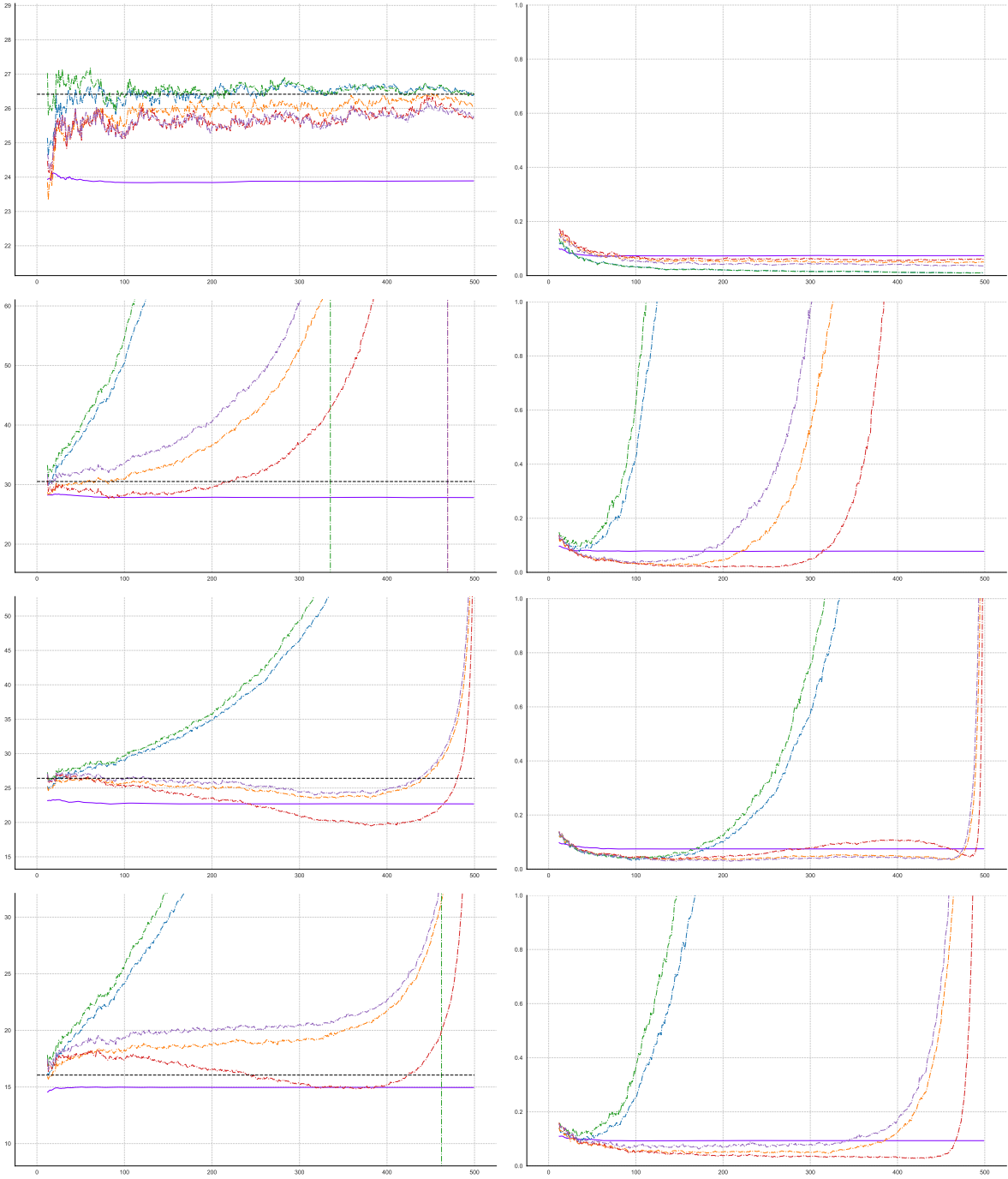


Figure 2: Illustration on simulated data sets of size $n = 500$ from Pareto, Student's t , Fréchet and Inverse gamma distributions (all with $\gamma = 0.4$) from top to bottom. Median of the estimators (left panel) of the extreme ES (black dashed line) at level $1 - \alpha_n = 1 - 1/(2n)$ and RMedSE (right panel), as functions of $k \in \{2 + [\zeta n], \dots, n - 1\}$, computed on $R = 500$ replications, associated with \widehat{ES}^D (blue), $\widehat{ES}^{D,CH}$ (orange), \widehat{ES}^I (green), $\widehat{ES}^{I,CH}$ (red), $\widehat{ES}^{I,CW}$ (mauve) and NN (purple) estimators.

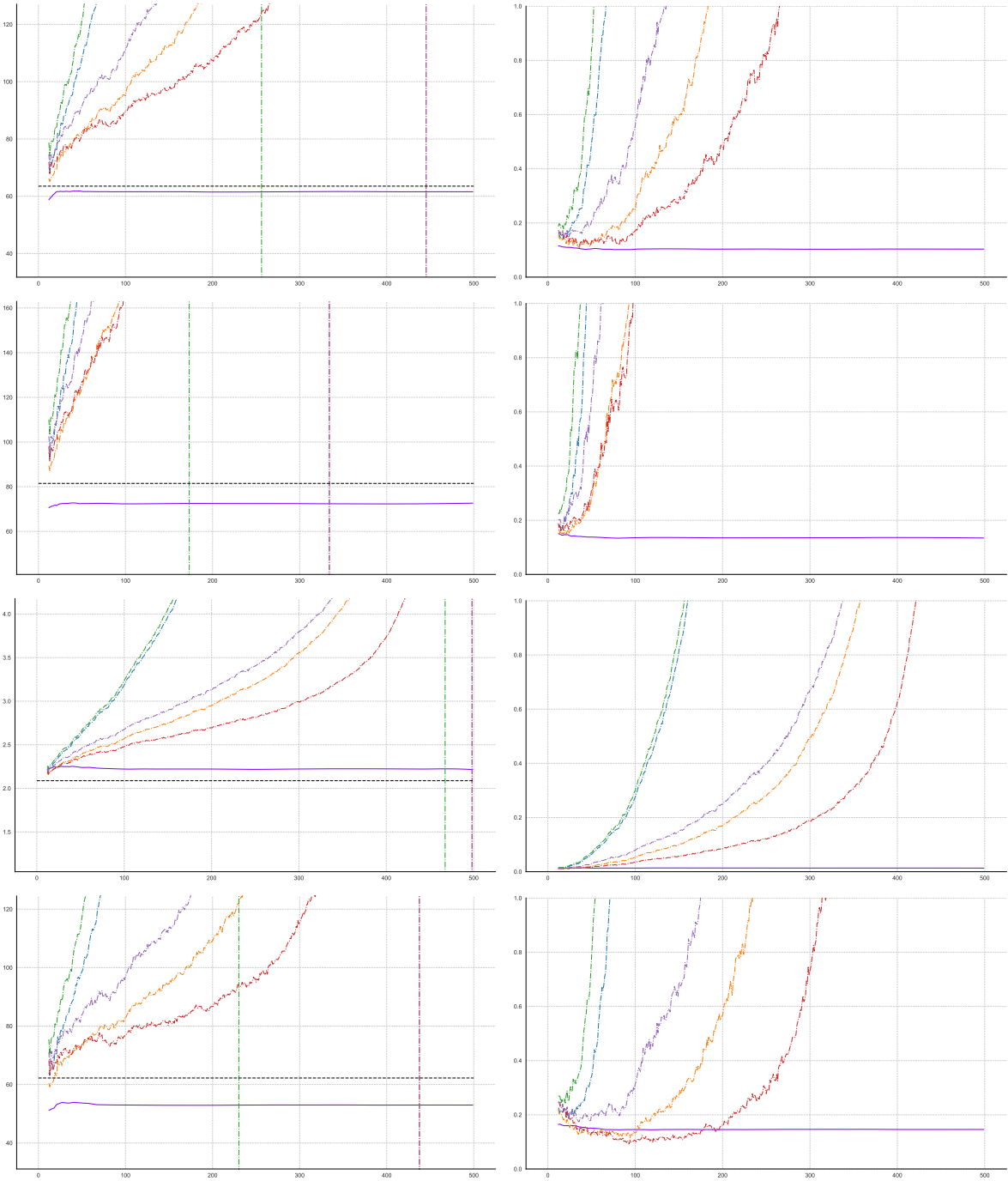
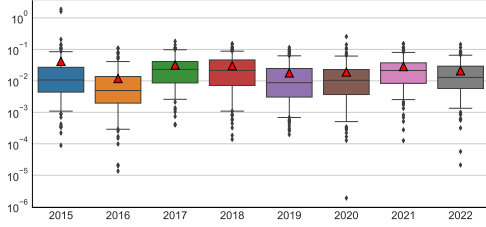
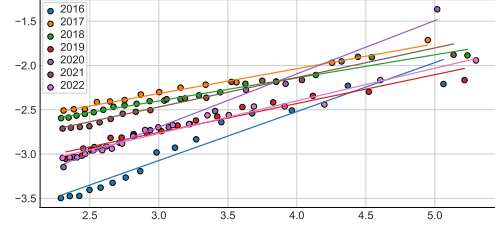


Figure 3: Illustration on simulated data sets of size $n = 500$ from GPD, Fisher-Snedecor (both with $\gamma = 0.4$) and Burr distributions with $(\gamma = 0.1, \rho = -1/4)$ and $(\gamma = 0.5, \rho = -1/2)$ from top to bottom. Median of the estimators (left panel) of the extreme ES (black dashed line) at level $1 - \alpha_n = 1 - 1/(2n)$ and RMedSE (right panel), as functions of $k \in \{2, \dots, n - 1\}$, computed on $R = 500$ replications, associated with \widehat{ES}^D (blue), $\widehat{ES}^{D,CH}$ (orange), \widehat{ES}^I (green), $\widehat{ES}^{I,CH}$ (red), $\widehat{ES}^{I,CW}$ (mauve) and NN (purple) estimators.

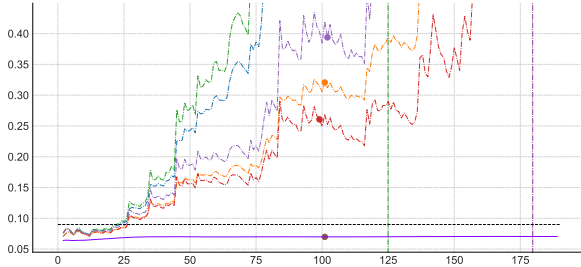


(a)

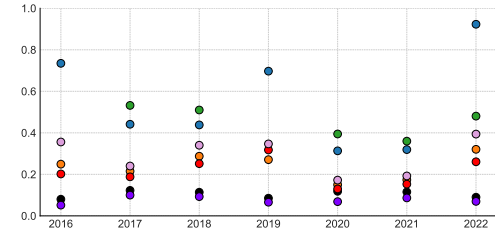


(b)

Figure 4: Illustration on real data. (a): Boxplot of the dataset (in a logarithmic scale) for each considered year. The mean is represented by a red triangle and the whiskers represent the 5th and 95th percentile. (b): Log quantile-quantile plots $\log((n^{(j)} + 1)/i) \mapsto \log X_{n^{(j)}-i+1, n^{(j)}}^{(j)}$, for $i \in \{1, \dots, \lceil(1 - \xi)n^{(j)}\rceil\}$ on the selected years $j \in \{1, \dots, 7\}$ at probability level $\xi = 0.90$.



(a)



(b)

Figure 5: Illustration on real data: Estimation of the extreme ES associated with empirical (black), \widehat{ES}^D (blue), $\widehat{ES}^{D,CH}$ (orange), \widehat{ES}^I (green), $\widehat{ES}^{I,CH}$ (red), $\widehat{ES}^{I,CW}$ (mauve) and NN (purple) estimators. (a): Estimated ES as functions of $k \in \{2, \dots, n - 1\}$ for the year 2022. The empirical estimate is depicted with a horizontal black dashed line. (b): Estimated ES at the selected anchor point for all considered years. The vertical axis is clipped between 0 and 1.

is the closest to the empirical one. Here again, the results associated with the NN estimator are more satisfying than those obtained with other extreme ES estimators.

5 Conclusion

We have introduced, to the best of our knowledge, the first NN approach dedicated to extreme ES estimation. From the theoretical point of view, the uniform convergence rate of the approximations underpinning the estimator is established within an extreme-value framework. From the practical point of view, our estimator has been tested on both simulated and real data; showing in the former case that the NN estimator outperforms most of usual estimators in challenging heavy-tailed situations. In the cryptocurrency data application, the NN estimator is the closest to the empirical one when investigating extreme loss returns. Our further work will consist in adapting this framework to the estimation of conditional extreme Expected Shortfalls, taking inspiration from previous works dedicated to conditional extreme quantiles [8, 39]. Finally, since expectiles [25] can also be considered as an alternative to the VaR, their estimation in distribution tails using NN can also be of interest, both in conditional and unconditional settings.

Acknowledgments: This work is supported by the French National Research Agency (ANR) in the framework of the Investissements d’Avenir Program (ANR-15-IDEX-02) and by MIAI @ Grenoble Alpes (ANR-19-P3IA-0003). S. Girard and E. Gobet also acknowledge the support of the Chair Stress Test, Risk Management and Financial Steering, led by the French Ecole Polytechnique and its Foundation and sponsored by BNP Paribas.

	Distribution (parameters)	Density function f Expected Shortfall $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha)$	γ	ρ_2
	Pareto $(\theta > 1)$	$f(t) = \theta t^{-\theta-1}, t \geq 1$ $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{\theta \alpha^{-1/\theta}}{\theta - 1}$	$1/\theta$	$-\infty$
	Student's t $(\nu > 1)$	$f(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\nu} B(\nu/2, 1/2)} \left(1 + \frac{t^2}{\nu}\right)^{-(\nu+1)/2}, t \in \mathbb{R}$ $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{\nu + q^2(1 - \alpha)f(q(1 - \alpha))}{(\nu - 1)\alpha}$	$1/\nu$	$-2/\nu$
IGG	Fréchet $(\theta > 1)$	$f(t) = \theta t^{-\theta-1} \exp(-t^{-\theta}), t > 0$ $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \Gamma_\ell(1 - 1/\theta, -\log(1 - \alpha))$	$1/\theta$	-1
	Inverse gamma $(\zeta > 1)$	$f(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(\zeta)} t^{-\zeta-1} \exp(-1/t), t > 0$ $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{\Gamma_\ell(\zeta - 1, 1/q(1 - \alpha))}{\Gamma(\zeta)}$	$1/\zeta$	$-1/\zeta$
BFS	Burr* $(\zeta > 0, \zeta\theta > 1)$	$f(t) = \zeta \theta t^{\zeta-1} (1 + t^\zeta)^{-\theta-1}, t > 0$ $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{\theta \zeta q(1 - \alpha)}{(\theta \zeta - 1)} {}_2F_1\left(-\frac{1}{\zeta}, 1; \theta + 1 - 1/\zeta; \frac{1}{1 - \alpha^{-1/\theta}}\right)$	$1/(\zeta\theta)$	$-1/\theta$
	GPD $(0 < \xi < 1)$	$f(t) = (1 + \xi t)^{-1-1/\xi}, t > 0$ $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{\alpha^{-\xi} + \xi - 1}{\xi(1 - \xi)}$	ξ	$-\xi$
	Fisher-Snedecor $(\nu_1 > 0, \nu_2 > 2)$	$f(t) = \frac{(\nu_1/\nu_2)^{\nu_1/2}}{B(\nu_1/2, \nu_2/2)} t^{\nu_1/2-1} \left(1 + \frac{\nu_1}{\nu_2} t\right)^{-(\nu_1+\nu_2)/2}, t > 0$ $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{(\nu_1/\nu_2)^{-\nu_2/2} q(1 - \alpha)^{1-\nu_2/2}}{\alpha B(\nu_1/2, \nu_2/2)(\nu_2/2-1)} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{\nu_1+\nu_2}{2}, \frac{\nu_2}{2} - 1; \frac{\nu_2}{2}; -\frac{\nu_2}{\nu_1 q(1 - \alpha)}\right)$	$2/\nu_2$	$-2/\nu_2$

Table 1: Examples of heavy-tailed distributions (divided in four classes) satisfying the J -th order condition **(B_J)** with the associated values of $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha)$, γ and ρ_2 . Here, $\Gamma(\cdot)$, $\Gamma_\ell(\cdot, \cdot)$, $B(\cdot, \cdot)$ and ${}_2F_1(\cdot, \cdot; \cdot; \cdot)$ respectively denote the gamma, lower incomplete gamma, beta and hypergeometric functions. See [6] for derivation details associated with IGG and BFS families of distributions respectively. * Note that the expression of the ES associated with the Burr distribution provided in [32] is incorrect.

	$\widehat{\text{ES}}_{\hat{\theta}}^{\text{NN}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D,CH}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CH}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CW}}$
Pareto ($\rho_2 = -\infty$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0026	0.0009	0.0030	0.0009	0.0034	0.0022
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.0734	0.0167	0.0513	0.0163	0.0602	0.0423
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1250	0.0278	0.0816	0.0268	0.0994	0.0716
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.1951	0.0459	0.1256	0.0442	0.1593	0.1139
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6627	0.2648	0.3651	0.2654	0.6774	0.5994
Student's t ($\rho_2 = -2\gamma$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0187	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.0782	-	-	0.1081	0.0247	0.2327
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1605	-	0.0372	-	0.0760	0.0430
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2068	-	0.0844	-	0.2355	0.0697
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6606	0.2644	0.6477	-	0.8147	0.6682

Table 2: RMedSE associated with six estimators of $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n = 1 - 1/(2n))$ on two heavy-tailed distributions. The best result is emphasized in bold. RMedSEs larger than 1 are not reported.

	$\widehat{\text{ES}}_{\hat{\theta}}^{\text{NN}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{D,CH}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CH}}$	$\widehat{\text{ES}}^{\text{I,CW}}$
Fréchet ($\rho_2 = -1$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0027	0.0095	0.0026	0.0101	0.0039	0.0021
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.0748	0.2041	0.0458	0.2540	0.0650	0.0376
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1415	0.3404	0.0715	0.5052	0.1027	0.0618
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2306	0.5266	0.1133	-	0.1540	0.1037
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6755	0.2446	0.4083	-	0.5487	0.4478
Inverse gamma ($\rho_2 = -\gamma$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0111	0.7545	0.0409	0.8272	0.0105	0.0622
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.0936	-	0.0479	-	0.0374	0.0723
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1520	-	0.0665	-	0.0647	0.0685
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2163	-	0.0903	-	0.1130	0.0920
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6762	0.3630	0.3941	-	0.5481	0.4533

Table 3: RMedSE associated with six estimators of $\text{ES}(1 - \alpha_n = 1 - 1/(2n))$ on two heavy-tailed distributions included in the IGG family [6]. The best result is emphasized in bold. RMedSEs larger than 1 are not reported.

	$\widehat{ES}_{\hat{\theta}}^{MN}$	\widehat{ES}^D	$\widehat{ES}^{D,CH}$	\widehat{ES}^I	$\widehat{ES}^{I,CH}$	$\widehat{ES}^{I,CW}$
Burr ($\rho_2 = -1$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0038	0.0420	0.0036	0.0435	0.0100	0.0021
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.0831	-	0.0457	-	0.1264	0.0351
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1386	-	0.0693	-	0.1828	0.0560
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2170	-	0.0979	-	0.2579	0.0879
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6805	-	0.4261	-	0.5718	0.3878
Burr ($\rho_2 = -1/2$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0062	0.3896	0.0128	0.4165	0.0022	0.0233
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.0874	-	0.4337	-	0.0816	0.8469
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1461	-	0.9603	-	0.2350	-
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2046	-	-	-	0.8951	-
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6691	-	-	-	-	-
Burr ($\rho_2 = -1/4$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0135	-	0.2536	-	0.1203	0.3733
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.1266	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1896	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2032	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.7341	-	-	-	-	-
Burr ($\rho_2 = -1/8$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0427	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.1822	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.2639	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.4219	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.9766	-	-	-	-	-
GPD ($\rho_2 = -\gamma$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0464	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.1030	-	-	-	0.6973	-
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1736	-	0.9603	-	0.2350	-
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2335	-	0.3596	-	0.0975	-
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6775	-	0.3383	-	0.4861	0.3132
Fisher-Snedecor ($\rho_2 = -\gamma$)						
$\gamma = 0.1$	0.0654	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.4$	0.1352	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.5$	0.1828	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.6$	0.2456	-	-	-	-	-
$\gamma = 0.9$	0.6928	-	0.1802	-	-	-

Table 4: RMedSE associated with six estimators of $ES(1 - \alpha_n = 1 - 1/(2n))$ on three heavy-tailed distributions included in the BFS family [6]. The best result is emphasized in bold. RMedSEs larger than 1 are not reported.

Period	$n^{(j)}$: nb. data	Mean	Std.	Largest return	Tail-index
2016	157	1.18	1.82	11	0.55
2017	140	3.17	3.15	18	0.28
2018	187	3.01	2.98	15	0.26
2019	183	1.78	2.16	11	0.33
2020	150	1.90	2.91	25	0.60
2021	169	2.83	2.77	15	0.33
2022	199	2.08	2.19	14	0.37

Table 5: Real data statistics: number of data, mean, standard deviation, largest negative daily log-return (last three scaled by 10^2) and estimated tail-index for each year.

A Appendix: Preliminary results

Lemma 6. *Let L be a slowly-varying function with Karamata representation*

$$L(x) = c(x) \exp \left(\int_{x_0}^x \frac{\eta(s)}{s} ds \right),$$

where $x \geq x_0 > 0$, $c(t) \rightarrow c_0 > 0$ and $\eta(s) \rightarrow 0$ as $s \rightarrow \infty$.

(i) *If $|\eta| \in \mathcal{RV}_{\rho_2}$ with $\rho_2 < 0$ and L is normalized i.e. $c(x) = c_0$ for all $x \geq x_0$, then L satisfies **(D)**.*

(ii) *Conversely, if L satisfies **(D)** then L satisfies **(B_J)** with $J = 2$.*

Proof. (i) Since L is normalized, one has for all $x \geq x_0$,

$$\log \left(\frac{L(x)}{L(x_0)} \right) = \int_{x_0}^x \frac{\eta(s)}{s} ds.$$

It is thus clear that $x \geq x_0 \mapsto \log L(x)$ is differentiable and $(\log L)'(x) = \eta(x)/x$ which proves the result.

(ii) Assumption **(D)** implies that there exists $L_2 \in \mathcal{RV}_0$ such that $|(\log L)'(x)| = x^{\rho_2-1} L_2(x)$. Integrating, one obtains for $t, z > 0$,

$$\log \left(\frac{L(tz)}{L(t)} \right) = \int_t^{tz} x^{\rho_2-1} L_2(x) dx = t^{\rho_2} L_2(t) \int_1^z y^{\rho_2-1} \frac{L_2(ty)}{L_2(t)} dy,$$

with $L_2(ty)/L_2(t) \rightarrow 1$ as $t \rightarrow \infty$ for all $y > 0$. Combining Potter bounds [10, Theorem 1.5.6, p.25] with Lebesgue's dominated convergence theorem shows that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{A_2(t)} \log \left(\frac{L(tz)}{L(t)} \right) = \int_1^z y^{\rho_2-1} dy = R_2(z),$$

where $A_2(t) := t^{\rho_2} L_2(t)$. This is assumption **(B_J)** with $J = 2$, the result is thus proved. \square

Let $I \subset \mathbb{R}$. In the following, $\mathcal{C}^{0,\xi}(I)$ denotes the set of Hölder continuous functions on I with exponent $\xi \in (0, 1]$. The next Lemma establishes the regularity properties of Ψ depending on the assumptions made on the slowly-varying function L .

Lemma 7. *Let L be a continuously differentiable slowly-varying function, $\gamma \in (0, 1)$ and consider the function Ψ defined in (6). Then,*

(i) *Ψ is differentiable on $(0, 1]$ and can be continuously extended to $[0, 1]$ by setting $\Psi(0) = -\log(1 - \gamma)$.*

(ii) *If, moreover, **(D)** holds, then for all $\varepsilon \in (0, |\rho_2|)$, $\Psi \in \mathcal{C}^{0,\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1}([0, 1])$ where we have set $\rho_2^\varepsilon := -\rho_2 - \varepsilon = |\rho_2| - \varepsilon > 0$.*

Proof. (i) It is clear that

$$u \in (0, 1] \mapsto \Psi(u) = \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} \frac{L(1/(wu))}{L(1/u)} dw \right)$$

is differentiable on $(0, 1]$. By the slowly-varying property, one has $L(1/(wu))/L(1/u) \rightarrow 1$ as $u \rightarrow 0^+$ for all $w > 0$. From Potter bounds [10, Theorem 1.5.6, p.25], the dominated

convergence theorem applies and then $\Psi(u) \rightarrow \log(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} dw)$ as $u \rightarrow 0^+$, the first part of the result follows.

(ii) Let $\varepsilon \in (0, |\rho_2|)$. From Potter bounds (see [10, Theorem 1.5.6, p.25]), there exists $C_\varepsilon > 0$ such that, for $0 < u \leq v \leq 1$ small enough,

$$|\log L(1/v) - \log L(1/u)| \leq C_\varepsilon \int_{1/v}^{1/u} w^{\rho_2-1+\varepsilon} dw \leq \frac{C_\varepsilon}{|\rho_2| - \varepsilon} (v^{-\rho_2-\varepsilon} - u^{-\rho_2-\varepsilon}). \quad (19)$$

Let us decompose the increments of Ψ as

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi(v) - \Psi(u) &= \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} \frac{L(1/(wv))}{L(1/w)} dw \right) - \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} \frac{L(1/(wu))}{L(1/u)} dw \right) \\ &= \log L(1/u) - \log L(1/v) \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

$$+ \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} L(1/(wv)) dw \right) - \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} L(1/(wu)) dw \right). \quad (21)$$

The first term (20) can be handled as follows. One has, for any $0 < u \leq v \leq 1$ and any $\beta > 0$,

$$0 \leq v^\beta - u^\beta \leq (\beta \vee 1)(v - u)^{\beta \wedge 1}. \quad (22)$$

Combining (19) and (22) yields

$$|\log L(1/v) - \log L(1/u)| \leq (\rho_2^\varepsilon \vee 1) \frac{C_\varepsilon}{\rho_2^\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1} =: C_{2,\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1}. \quad (23)$$

We thus have proved that (20) satisfies a Hölder continuity condition with Hölder index $\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1$. Let us now focus on (21). Similarly to (23), one has, for any $w \in (0, 1)$ any $(u, v) \in (0, 1]^2$,

$$|\log L(1/(wv)) - \log L(1/(wu))| \leq C_{2,\varepsilon} |wv - wu|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1} \leq C_{2,\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1},$$

or equivalently,

$$\exp(-C_{2,\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1}) \leq \frac{L(1/(wv))}{L(1/(wu))} \leq \exp(C_{2,\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1}).$$

Therefore, (21) is controlled as

$$\begin{aligned} &\log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} L(1/(wv)) dw \right) - \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} L(1/(wu)) dw \right) \\ &\leq \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} L(1/(wu)) \exp(C_{2,\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1}) dw \right) - \log \left(\int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} L(1/(wu)) dw \right) \\ &\leq C_{2,\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1}. \end{aligned}$$

A similar lower bound can be easily derived, and this proves that (21) also satisfies the Hölder continuity criterion with exponent ρ_2^ε . All in all, we have proved that

$$|\Psi(v) - \Psi(u)| \leq 2C_{2,\varepsilon} |v - u|^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1},$$

which is the desired result. \square

Our next goal is to study the uniform approximation error of a $\mathcal{C}^{0,\xi}([0, 1])$ -function, $\xi \in (0, 1]$ by a feedforward ReLU-NN. To this end, consider the triangular function $\widehat{\sigma}^{\mathbf{R}} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-1, 1]$ built using three shifted ReLU functions $x \in \mathbb{R} \mapsto \sigma^{\mathbf{R}}(x) := \max(0, x)$:

$$\widehat{\sigma}^{\mathbf{R}}(x) := \sigma^{\mathbf{R}}(x + 1) - 2\sigma^{\mathbf{R}}(x) + \sigma^{\mathbf{R}}(x - 1) = \begin{cases} 1 + x, & \text{if } -1 \leq x \leq 0, \\ 1 - x, & \text{if } 0 \leq x \leq 1, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

It is then possible to control the uniform error between the function f and its piece-wise linear approximation based on triangular functions, depending on the regularity of f .

Lemma 8. *Let $\widehat{\sigma}^{\mathbf{R}}$ be a triangular function, $\tau \in (0, 1)$ and $f \in \mathcal{C}^{0,\xi}([0, \tau])$ with $\xi \in (0, 1]$. For all $M \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$, let $h = \tau/M$ and $u_j = jh$ for $j = 0, \dots, M$. Then*

$$\sup_{u \in [0, \tau]} \left| f(u) - \sum_{j=0}^M f(u_j) \widehat{\sigma}^{\mathbf{R}} \left(\frac{u - u_j}{h} \right) \right| \leq 2H_f (\tau/M)^\xi,$$

where H_f is the Hölder constant associated with f .

Proof. The proof follows that same lines as the one of [7, Lemma 12]. Clearly,

$$\sup_{u \in [0, \tau]} \left| f(u) - \sum_{j=0}^M f(u_j) \widehat{\sigma}^{\mathbf{R}} \left(\frac{u - u_j}{h} \right) \right| =: \max_{i=0, \dots, M-1} \sup_{u \in [u_i, u_{i+1}]} |\Delta_i(u)|,$$

where

$$\Delta_i(u) := f(u) - \left(f(u_i) \left(\frac{u_{i+1} - u}{h} \right) + f(u_{i+1}) \left(\frac{u - u_i}{h} \right) \right).$$

As a consequence, if $f \in \mathcal{C}^{0,\xi}([0, \tau])$, one has

$$|\Delta_i(u)| \leq |f(u) - f(u_i)| \left(\frac{u_{i+1} - u}{h} \right) + |f(u) - f(u_{i+1})| \left(\frac{u - u_i}{h} \right) \leq 2H_f h^\xi,$$

and the conclusion follows. \square

Note that the above construction involves $K = 3(M + 1) \geq 6$ neurons.

B Appendix: Proofs of main results

B.1 Proof of Proposition 1

Assume $\gamma \in (0, 1)$. From (1), one has

$$\text{ES}(1 - \alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^\alpha u^{-\gamma} L(1/u) \, du = \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_{1/\alpha}^\infty v^{\gamma-2} L(v) \, dv,$$

where L is slowly-varying and [10, Proposition 1.5.10] proves the result. \square

B.2 Proof of Proposition 2

Let $u \in (0, 1)$. The regular variation property yields

$$U(1/u) = U(1/\alpha)(\alpha/u)^\gamma \frac{L(1/u)}{L(1/\alpha)},$$

or equivalently,

$$q(1-u) = q(1-\alpha)(\alpha/u)^\gamma \frac{L(1/u)}{L(1/\alpha)}.$$

Replacing in (1) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \log \text{ES}(1-\alpha) &= \log q(1-\alpha) + \log \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^\alpha \left(\frac{u}{\alpha}\right)^{-\gamma} \frac{L(1/u)}{L(1/\alpha)} du \\ &= \log q(1-\alpha) + \log \int_0^1 w^{-\gamma} \frac{L(1/(w\alpha))}{L(1/\alpha)} dw, \\ &= \log q(1-\alpha) + \Psi(\alpha), \end{aligned}$$

and (7) is thus proved. As an immediate consequence, one has

$$\log \text{ES}(1-\alpha) - \log \text{ES}(1-\delta) = \log q(1-\alpha) - \log q(1-\delta) + \Psi(\alpha) - \Psi(\delta),$$

while

$$\log q(1-\alpha) - \log q(1-\delta) = \gamma \log(\delta/\alpha) + \varphi(\log(\delta/\alpha), \log(1/\delta)).$$

Combining the two above equations proves (8). \square

B.3 Proof of Proposition 3

Lemma 7(ii) shows that $\Psi \in \mathcal{C}^{0, \rho_2^\varepsilon}([0, 1])$ for all $\varepsilon \in (0, |\rho_2|)$. The result thus follows from Lemma 8: for any $K_1 \geq 6$,

$$\sup_{u \in [0, 1]} \left| \Psi(u) - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1}(u) \right| \leq 2H_\Psi (K_1/3 - 1)^{-(\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1)} \leq 2H_\Psi (6/K_1)^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1} \leq 12H_\Psi (1/K_1)^{\rho_2^\varepsilon \wedge 1},$$

which is the desired result. \square

B.4 Proof of Proposition 4

Following [8, Proposition 1], there exists a NN defined as in (12) such that, for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists y_ε such that

$$\varphi(y_1, y_2) = \tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2}(y_1, y_2) + \Delta(\exp(y_1), \exp(y_2)) \prod_{j=2}^J A_j(\exp(y_2)),$$

with $|\Delta(\exp(y_1), \exp(y_2))| \leq \varepsilon \exp(y_1(\bar{\rho}_J + \varepsilon))$ for all $y_1, y_2 \geq y_\varepsilon$. It follows from (C_J) that

$$\left| \varphi(y_1, y_2) - \tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2}(y_1, y_2) \right| \leq \varepsilon \bar{c}_J \exp((\bar{\rho}_J + \varepsilon)(y_1 + y_2) - y_2 \varepsilon),$$

where we have introduced $\bar{c}_J = \prod_{j=2}^J |c_j|$. \square

B.5 Proof of Theorem 5

Collecting (10) and (13), one has

$$\inf_{\theta \in \Theta} \left| \log \mathbf{ES}(1 - \alpha_n) - \log \tilde{\mathbf{E}}_{\theta}^K(1 - \alpha_n; 1 - \delta_n) \right| \leq \inf_{\theta_2 \in \Theta_2} \left| \left(\varphi - \tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2} \right) \left(\log(\delta_n/\alpha_n), \log(1/\delta_n) \right) \right| \\ + \inf_{\theta_1 \in \Theta_1} \left| \left(\Psi - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1} \right) (\alpha_n) \right| + \left| \left(\Psi - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1} \right) (\delta_n) \right|.$$

Let $\varepsilon > 0$. First, Proposition 3 entails that, for all $n \geq 1$,

$$\inf_{\theta_1 \in \Theta_1} \left| \left(\Psi - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1} \right) (\alpha_n) \right| + \left| \left(\Psi - \tilde{\Psi}_{\theta_1}^{K_1} \right) (\delta_n) \right| \leq 24H_{\Psi} (1/K_1)^{\rho_2^{\bar{}} \wedge 1}.$$

Second, Proposition 4 implies that, for all $\varepsilon > 0$, there exists $n_{\varepsilon} \geq 1$ such that, for all $n \geq n_{\varepsilon}$,

$$\inf_{\theta_2 \in \Theta_2} \left| \left(\varphi - \tilde{\varphi}_{\theta_2}^{K_2} \right) \left(\log(\delta_n/\alpha_n), \log(1/\delta_n) \right) \right| \leq \bar{c}_J \varepsilon (\delta_n/\alpha_n)^{\varepsilon} \alpha_n^{-\bar{\rho}_J + \varepsilon}.$$

The conclusion follows.

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