VaR Introduction III: Monte Carlo VaR
Monte Carlo VaR

Summary

- VaR Definition
- VaR Roles
- VaR Pros and Cons
- VaR Approaches
- Monte Carlo VaR
- Monte Carlo VaR Methodology and Implementation
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Monte Carlo VaR

Value at Risk (VaR) Definition

◆ The maximum likely loss on a portfolio for a given probability defined as x% confidence level over N days

◆ Pr(Loss > VaR(x%)) < 1 - x%

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Monte Carlo VaR

VaR Roles

- Risk measurement
- Risk management
- Risk control
- Financial reporting
- Regulatory and economic capital

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Monte Carlo VaR

VaR Pros & Cons

◆ Pros
  ◆ Regulatory measurement for market risk
  ◆ Objective assessment
  ◆ Intuition and clear interpretation
  ◆ Consistent and flexible measurement

◆ Cons
  ◆ Doesn’t measure risk beyond the confidence level: tail risk
  ◆ Non sub-additive

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Three VaR Approaches

◆ Parametric VaR
◆ Historical VaR
◆ Monte Carlo VaR

The presentation focuses on historical VaR.
Monte Carlo VaR

Assumption

Assuming market factors follow certain stochastic processes.

Pros

- Easy back and stress test
- Good for high confidence level and tail risk

Cons

- Dependent on distribution assumption
- Calibration required
- Extensive computation

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Monte Carlo VaR Methodology and Implementation

◆ Assume each market factor follows certain stochastic process: \( \vartheta(\sigma_i W_i) \) where \( W \) is a Wiener process

◆ Calibrate volatility \( \sigma_i \) for each market factor and pair-wise correlation \( \rho_{ij} \) for any two market factors

◆ Simulate market factor changes \( \delta_i \) based on the stochastic processes and correlated random variables.

◆ Generate market scenarios \( x_i = x_0 \delta_i \)

◆ Compute scenario PVs: \( P(x_i) \) and scenario P&L: \( P(x_i) - P(x_0) \)

◆ Sort all scenario P&Ls. The VaR is the number at 1% lowest level

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Monte Carlo VaR

VaR Scaling

- Normally firms compute 1-day 99% VaR
- Regulators require 10-day 99% VaR
- Under IID assumption, 10-day VaR = $\sqrt{10} \times VaR_{1\text{-day}}$
VaR Backtest

- The only way to verify a VaR system is to backtest
- At a certain day, compute hypothetic P&L. If (hypothetic P&L > VaR) ➔ breach, otherwise, ok
- Hypothetic P&L is computed by holding valuation date and portfolio unchanged
- In one year period,
  - If number of breaches is 0-4, the VaR system is in Green zone
  - If number of breaches is 5-9, the VaR system is in Yellow zone
  - If number of breaches is 10 or more, the VaR system is in Red zone
Thanks!

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