Market risk management in a post-Basel II regulatory environment

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Market Risk Management in a Post-Basel II Regulatory Environment

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Abstract
We propose a novel method of Mean-Capital Requirement portfolio optimization. The optimization is performed using a parallel framework for optimization based on the Nondominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II. Capital requirements for market risk include an additional stress component introduced by the recent Basel 2.5 regulation. Our optimization with the Basel 2.5 formula in the objective function produces superior results to those of the old (Basel II) formula in stress scenarios in which the correlations of asset returns change considerably. These improvements are achieved at the expense of reduced cardinality of Pareto-optimal portfolios. This reduced cardinality (and thus portfolio diversification) in periods of relatively low market volatility may have unintended consequences for banks’ risk exposure.

KEY WORDS: Finance, Market Risk, Basel 2.5, GARCH, NSGA-II
1. Introduction

1.1. Capital requirements under Basel 2.5

The Basel II regulatory framework establishes the capital requirements (CR) for banks’ exposure to market, credit and operational risks in terms of Value at Risk (VaR) estimations (BIS, 2006). VaR is a quantile measure of risk that is defined as an estimate of the maximum portfolio loss for a given holding period and a pre-set significance level. Banks are allowed to develop their own internal VaR models. These models are subject to supervisory approval based on standardized backtesting procedures. In the aftermath of the global financial crisis, the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision has identified the undercapitalization of banks’ trading books and the pro-cyclicality of capital charges for market risk as the key weaknesses of the Basel II regulation. In response to the crisis, the Committee adopted the so-called Basel 2.5 regulation (BIS, 2009). Pursuant to the Basel 2.5 regulation, the CR required for market risk, calculated at day $T$ to be held on day $T+1$, is determined as a sum of two components: Regulatory VaR (according to BIS, 2006) and Regulatory Stressed VaR (the additional capital charge mandated by BIS, 2009):

$$CR_{T+1} = \text{Regulatory VaR} + \text{Regulatory Stressed VaR}$$

$$= \max(\text{VaR}_{\alpha,T+1}^p, (3 + k) \times \frac{1}{60} \sum_{i=0}^{59} \text{VaR}_{\alpha,T-1}^p) + \max(\text{SVaR}_{\alpha,T+1}^p, (3 + k) \times \frac{1}{60} \sum_{i=0}^{59} \text{SVaR}_{\alpha,T-1}^p) \quad (1)$$

Equation (1) requires that VaR estimates be made for a holding period $h$ of 10 working days at a significance level $\alpha$ of 1%. The value of the penalty parameter $k$ in Equation (1) is based on the total number of VaR violations in the backtesting sample of the previous 250 days. Namely, for each day $t$, $t= T-249, T-248,..., T-1,T$, the 1-day-ahead bank trading portfolio VaR estimated on day $t-1$, $\text{VaR}_t$, is compared to the realized portfolio return at day $t$, $r_t$. The number of VaR violations corresponds to the number of times that the realized portfolio loss (negative return) exceeds the loss predicted by the 1-day-ahead portfolio VaR estimate, that is when $r_t < -\text{VaR}_t$. Regulators use the number of violations as a proxy for the quality of the VaR modelling. Based on the number of VaR violations, the penalty parameter $k$ can take discrete values between 0 and 1 and is proportional to the number of violations (see Table 1). An internal model is rejected if the number of violations is greater than or equal to 10.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1. Value of the penalty parameter corresponding to the results of the backtesting procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of VaR violations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>k</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From Equation (1) and Table 1, it follows that the lowest possible VaR values might not necessarily lead to the lowest possible regulatory capital charge. Specifically, Regulatory VaR is determined as the maximum of the current 1-day-ahead VaR estimate and the average of the 1-day-ahead VaR estimates over the last 60 business days multiplied by the penalty factor $3+k$. Most of the time, the latter term dominates. Thus, a higher number of violations typically leads to a higher capital charge.

The expression for Regulatory Stressed VaR has the same structure as Regulatory VaR except that VaR estimates are replaced with their stressed counterparts, $SVaR$. The estimates for $SVaR$ are determined for the same portfolio and in exactly the same way as VaR estimates, but assuming that the relevant market factors experienced stress during the most recent 250 days. Note that the value of $k$ obtained from the backtesting of the original VaR estimates is also used in the Regulatory Stressed VaR expression.

It is important to note that the regulation requires banks to apply $CR$ formula to a portfolio that they hold on the calculation date (the so-called actual portfolio). The actual portfolio framework (APF) implies that asset holdings on the date of the $CR$ calculation, not the assets’ portfolio weights (i.e., the fractions of portfolio value invested in each individual asset), are held fixed over the backtesting period. Therefore, when determining the value of the $CR$, it is crucial that not only all 1-day-ahead VaR estimates but also the penalty factor are based on the time series of returns of the actual portfolio. Fixing portfolio weights during the backtesting sample of 250 days would simplify calculations but would not be in line with the Basel regulation.

1.2. Contribution of the paper

In this paper, we propose a novel Mean-$CR$ portfolio optimization approach in which the $CR$ for market risk is calculated strictly in accordance with the Basel 2.5 regulation (Equation (1)). The VaR calculations are based on daily returns and 10-day VaR is obtained as the 1-day VaR multiplied by the square root of 10 (this approach is explicitly allowed by the regulation). We assume that conditional (time varying) variance of portfolio returns follows a univariate Generalized Autoregressive Conditional Heteroskedasticity ($GARCH (1, 1)$) process (see Bollerslev, 1986), whereas portfolio returns, standardized by conditional volatility, follow Student’s $t$ distribution. This model is referred to as the univariate $GARCH$ VaR model. The univariate model of conditional variance efficiently captures the conditional variance of
portfolio returns and allows us to implement the backtesting procedure in accordance with the Basel 2.5 regulation.

Mean-CR optimization is subject to two key challenges: i) the use of the APF approach; and ii) the fact that the backtesting penalty parameter is a discrete function of VaR violations. As a result, the optimization problem that we solve is a highly complex, non-differentiable and non-convex. We manage this complexity by employing the Nondominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II (NSGA-II) (Deb et al., 2000; Deb et al., 2002). When univariate GARCH model is used to estimate VaR, CR calculation for single portfolio becomes very time consuming. Thus, the NSGA-II algorithm cannot be executed on a single processor within a reasonable time frame. To address this problem, we employ a parallel framework for optimization based on the genetic algorithm developed by Ivanovic et al. (2015).

In the empirical section, we test our approach using an opportunity set of 40 constituents of the Standard and Poor’s 100 index (S&P 100). Specifically, we examine two samples representing high- and low-volatility market environments and include comparison of four stress scenarios. We show that Mean-CR optimal portfolios, presented in the Mean-CR plane, outperform Mean-Regulatory VaR optimal portfolios only when the original correlation of asset returns significantly differs from the correlations imposed by the stress scenarios. This is the case for two of the four stress scenarios that we employ. The improvements are particularly pronounced in a low-volatility environment. However, they are achieved at the expense of the reduced cardinality of Pareto-optimal portfolios. For this reason, the additional capital charge in the Basel 2.5 formula might result in less diversified optimal portfolios, especially during periods of relatively low market volatility. We see this as an unintended consequence of the current regulation. In addition, we show that although the Mean-VaR optimization is much simpler, generally does not lead to near optimal Mean-CR trade-offs.

1.3. Relation to the literature
Santos et al. (2012) is the only previous study on portfolio optimization that uses CR as the objective function. Those authors propose an analytical model to determine optimal portfolios with minimum CR. They convexify CR and impose an ad-hoc (exogenous) limitation on the number of VaR violations. In determining CR, the authors use conditional multivariate GARCH VaR model. Unlike our univariate GARCH VaR approach, their model implicitly assumes that assets’ portfolio weights, rather than asset holdings, are fixed over the observed
time period. The two \textit{GARCH VaR} modelling approaches are compared in detail in Ranković et al. (2016). That paper pioneers the use of \textit{APF} in \textit{Mean-VaR} portfolio optimization, showing that within the \textit{APF} approach, the use of univariate \textit{GARCH VaR} outperforms its multivariate \textit{GARCH VaR} counterpart. We significantly extend Ranković et al. (2016) work by applying their approach to construct the \textit{Mean-CR} Pareto-optimal front.

In addition to the three hypothetical scenarios considered in Santos et al. (2012), we also consider a historical stress scenario. This historical scenario explores what would have happened to our portfolio if adverse historical conditions were to re-occur. The use of the historical stress scenario is consistent with regulatory changes suggesting that \textit{CR} should be calibrated to a period of significant market stress in both internal and standard regulatory models (BIS, 2009). Both historical and hypothetical stress scenarios are frequently employed in banking practice (Alexander, 2008a). The advantage of historical scenarios is that they consist of credible assumptions (i.e., events that have actually occurred in the past). In contrast, hypothetical scenarios allow us to make our own assumptions about the future based on both current market conditions and the specifics of our portfolio.

The real-world optimization problems in finance usually include multiple conflicting objectives, non-differentiable objective functions, large and non-convex solution spaces, complex constraints etc. which are not solvable using traditional analytical techniques. Recently, metaheuristics, such as multi-objective evolutionary algorithms (\textit{MOEAs}) have become very popular in solving complex portfolio optimization problems (e.g. see Branke et al., 2009).\footnote{A detailed overview of \textit{MOEA} applications in finance can be found in Schlottmann and Seese (2004), Tapia and Coello (2007), Metaxiotis and Liagkouras (2012) and Ponsich et al. (2013).} \textit{MOEAs} have the ability to generate the entire Pareto-optimal front in a single run. However, they require numerous solution evaluations. An important characteristic of \textit{MOEAs} is that the evaluations of solutions within a single generation are independent and therefore suitable for parallel execution. Ivanovic et al. (2015) propose a parallel framework for optimization based on a genetic algorithm (\textit{WoBinGO}). To solve multi-objective problems, those authors employ \textit{NSGA-II}, showing that their framework provides a better execution time of two orders of magnitude for solving computationally extensive problems than serial execution.

\footnote{A detailed overview of \textit{MOEA} applications in finance can be found in Schlottmann and Seese (2004), Tapia and Coello (2007), Metaxiotis and Liagkouras (2012) and Ponsich et al. (2013).}
The remainder of this paper proceeds as follows. Section 2 presents the univariate \textit{VaR} model. The portfolio optimization problem is formally introduced in Section 3. In Section 4, we discuss the optimization methodology. In Section 5, we present data and sample characteristics. Section 6 reports on empirical results and analyses the impact of various stress scenarios and robustness checks. We conclude the paper in Section 7.

2. \textit{VaR} model

Based on the empirical characteristics, financial asset returns are often presented as a function of first two conditional moments of distribution \( r_t = \mu_t + \sigma_t z_t \), where \( z_t \) is the innovation term of the process assumed to be independently and identically distributed. In estimating \textit{VaR}, we assume that the conditional mean of daily returns \( \mu_t \) is dominated by the conditional volatility of returns \( \sigma_t \) (\( \mu_t \ll \sigma_t \)). This implies that daily portfolio returns can be approximated as \( r_t \approx \sigma_t z_t \) (see Alexander, 2008a; Christofferson, 2012; Pritsker, 2006). In addition, we assume that innovations \( z_t \) follow a standardized Student’s \( t \) distribution with conditional variance following the most popular univariate \textit{GARCH} \( (1,1) \) model (see Bollerslev, 1986):

\[
\sigma_{it}^2 = \omega + \theta r_i^2 + \beta \sigma_i^2
\]  

(2)

Here, \( \theta, \beta >0 \) and \( \theta+\beta<1 \). The Student’s \( t \) distribution can explain heavy-tailed distributions of various degrees (see Christoffersen, 2012; Huisman et al., 1998) thus allowing us as to account for conditional nonnormality in portfolio returns. The \textit{GARCH} model efficiently captures the volatility clustering that is often present in empirical returns.\(^2\) To estimate \textit{GARCH VaR} for the portfolio under consideration, we first fit the univariate \textit{GARCH} \( (1,1) \) model on a time series of 1,000 daily portfolio returns (see Equation (2)). Next, we multiply the \( \alpha \)-quantile of the fitted standardized return distribution by the current 1-day-ahead conditional volatility estimate. Our 1-day-ahead \textit{VaR} estimate is calculated using the following formula:

\[
\text{VaR}_{t+1}^\alpha = -\left(\omega + \theta r_t^2 + \beta \sigma_t^2\right)^{1/2} \cdot t_{\alpha}^{-1}(d)
\]  

(3)

\(^2\) For more on the superiority of the \textit{GARCH} model for \textit{VaR} estimation, see Alexander (2008a), Alexander and Sheedy (2008), Berkowitz and O’Brien (2002), Hull and White (1998), and Pritsker (2006), among others.
Here, \( d \) is the number of degrees of freedom of the estimated Student’s \( t \) distribution for the given portfolio, and \( t_{a^{-1}}(d) \) is the \( \alpha \)-quantile of the standardized Student’s \( t \) distribution with \( d \) degrees of freedom. Note that in the univariate \( \text{GARCH VaR} \) model, the distribution of each portfolio’s returns has its own number of degrees of freedom. The number of degrees of freedom is estimated jointly with the corresponding \( \text{GARCH} (1, 1) \) parameters.

3. Actual portfolio \textit{Mean-CR} optimization problem

A bi-objective portfolio optimization problem typically aims to minimize portfolio risk and maximize expected portfolio return. The optimization is subject to constraints that define a set of feasible portfolios. In this paper, we minimize \( \text{CR} \) (given by Equation (1)) and maximize the expected return on the portfolio. Specifically, we are attempting to solve the following problem:

\[
\begin{align*}
\min_{\mathbf{w}_T} & \quad CR_{T+1} \\
\max_{\mathbf{w}_T} & \quad E(r) \\
\text{subject to} & \quad \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_{i,T} = 1 \\
& \quad 0 \leq w_{i,T} \leq 1, \quad i = 1, \ldots, N
\end{align*}
\]

Here, \( T \) denotes the optimization date; \( CR_{T+1} \) are the capital requirements for market risk, calculated at day \( T \), to be held on day \( T+1 \) (Equation (1)); \( E(r) \) is the expected return on portfolio at day \( T \), defined as the sample mean portfolio return over the observed time horizon of 1,000 days; and \( \mathbf{w}_T \) is the vector of portfolio weights \( w_{i,T} \) at day \( T \). Decision variables are represented by vector \( \mathbf{w}_T \). Note that the portfolio of assets is typically defined by weights because such a representation is independent of budget level. The first constraint (Equation (6)) ensures that weights sum up to 1. Expression (7) ensures the non-negativity of each investment consistent with the absence of short sales.

When estimating \( CR \), we follow the APF approach introduced in Rankovic et al. (2016). Let \( n_i \) denote holdings of asset \( i \) at date \( T \). We can express \( n_i \) via corresponding portfolio weights \( w_{i,T} \):

\[
n_i = \frac{w_{i,T} V_{p,T}}{P_{i,T}}
\]
Here $V_{p,T}$ and $P_{i,T}$ are the dollar portfolio value and the price of asset $i$ at time $T$, respectively.

To obtain returns on the actual portfolio, we hold fixed asset holdings $n_i$ over time. Therefore, the return on the actual portfolio at time $t \leq T$ is given by the following expression:

$$r_t = \frac{V_{p,t}}{V_{p,t-1}} - 1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_i P_{i,t}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} n_i P_{i,t-1}} - 1$$  \hspace{1cm} (9)

Substituting expression (8) into (9), return on the actual portfolio at time $t$ can be expressed in terms of portfolio weights at time $T$:

$$r_t = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i V_{p,T}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i P_{i,T}} - 1 = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i P_{i,T}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i P_{i,t-1}}$$  \hspace{1cm} (10)

Equations (8) – (10) imply that in the APF approach portfolio weights change over time while holdings remain fixed. For a given actual portfolio (i.e., for a given vector $w_T$), the time series of portfolio returns are obtained using Equation (10), whereas VaR and SVaR estimations are calculated using Equation (3). In the case of Regulatory VaR, in Equation (10) we use realized market prices during the backtesting period. In the case of Regulatory Stressed VaR, we use the market prices under four alternative stress scenarios. We discuss specification of the alternative stress scenarios used in the empirical analysis in Section 6.2.

4. **Mean-CR optimization based on evolutionary algorithm (EA)**

EAs start with a set of randomly generated candidate solutions, referred to as a population. In each of the iterations (generations), a set of new candidate solutions (offspring solutions) is generated by applying the evolutionary processes of: selection, crossover and mutation. As these procedures are repeated, their solutions evolve and improve in terms of the chosen objectives. To evaluate each candidate solution, we first generate a time series of returns on the actual portfolio and stressed time series of realized portfolio returns by applying Equation (10). We then calculate Regulatory VaR by performing the backtesting procedure on the time series of returns on the actual portfolio and determine the 1-day-ahead VaR, the last 60-day VaR average and penalty parameter $k$. Because we use the univariate GARCH ($1, 1$) model for
VaR estimation, the backtesting procedure for every single candidate portfolio requires an estimation of 250 sets of GARCH parameters. We used the ‘rugarch’ package (Ghalanos, 2014) within the software R (R Core Team, 2014). GARCH model parameters are determined, using maximum likelihood (ML) estimation, with ‘ugarchfit’ method. Estimation of a single set of GARCH parameters is based on a time series of 1,000 portfolio returns. It is worth noting that using the long time series of portfolio returns increases numerical stability of ML estimation. For the 1-day-ahead estimation of conditional volatility, we used the ‘ugarchforecast’ method.

We use a rolling window of 1,000 returns for the backtesting period of 250 days (see Figure 1). Here, $T$ is the optimization date, whereas $t$ refers to an arbitrary date within the backtesting period. Notably, the number of VaR violations is determined endogenously (within the backtesting procedure) as a part of the objective function evaluation.

Next, we calculate Regulatory Stressed VaR, which is based on the same penalty parameter $k$ obtained in the estimation of Regulatory VaR. Thus, we need to calculate the SVaR average of the last 60 days. This requires the estimation of 60 additional sets of GARCH parameters. Here, we use a rolling window of 1,000 returns for a period of 60 days. The latest 250 returns of the sample ending at the optimization date $T$ are stressed returns (See Figure 2). Here, $t$ is an arbitrary date within the period of the last 60 days. In sum, to calculate CR for a single candidate portfolio we need 310 ML estimations, 250 estimations for Regulatory VaR and 60 estimations for Regulatory Stressed VaR.

Figure 1. Regulatory VaR calculation
Figure 2. Regulatory Stressed VaR calculation

NSGA-II is executed within WoBinGO parallel framework on a cluster of 100 dedicated processors. In the preparatory phase, the main WoBinGO component (master) generates a data file (timeSeries.csv) with a time series of assets’ prices, a data file (stressedTimeSeries.csv) with a stressed time series of assets’ prices and an R script file (Script.R) containing the sequence of commands for CR calculation. The files are then automatically uploaded to a file system shared among all cluster nodes.

In the execution phase, the master executes the main evolutionary loop (i.e., the loop over generations). For each individual solution within a generation, WoBinGO generates a file with portfolio weights (weights.csv) and uploads it to the first available processor. Next, it invokes R, which executes Script.R created in the preparatory phase. During the execution of the script file, R uses the data file timeSeries.csv, the data file stressedTimeSeries.csv and the solution portfolio weights file weights.csv, generating the time series of returns and stressed time series of returns on the actual portfolio (applying Equation (8)). The CR is, then, calculated applying Equation (1), and the result (CR and Mean) is returned back to the main evolutionary loop and assigned to the corresponding solution. When all solutions from a single generation are evaluated, the master proceeds with the evolutionary algorithm.

The implementation of NSGA-II requires settings for the solution representation, the population size, the crossover and mutation probabilities and the termination condition. Driven by the considered optimization problem, we define solution as a non-negative real-valued vector of portfolio weights. The population size is set to 100.

To breed the offspring population, a uniform crossover operator is employed. Portfolios from the current population are randomly selected and recombined with a predefined crossover
probability that equals 1. The recombination implies that every allele (i.e., individual asset weight) is exchanged between the pair of parent solutions with a certain probability, which is known as the swapping probability (see Sastry et al., 2005). In accordance with the previous literature, we set the swapping probability to 0.5.

For the mutation process, we apply a uniform mutation operator. The operator implies that each allele is selected with a predefined mutation probability and replaced with a realization of a random variable, which is uniformly distributed in the range defined by the lower and upper domain bounds. We set the mutation probability to 0.05. The selected crossover and mutation operators satisfy the constraint defined by Equation (7) for each offspring. However, these operators do not ensure satisfaction of the budget constraint (Equation (6)). Thus, we normalize each of the offspring solutions. We do that in the standard way by dividing each weight by sum of all weights.

To reduce the execution time, we introduce a termination condition based on hypervolume measure (see Zitzler et al., 2003). The hypervolume quantifies the volume of the objective solution space dominated by an approximation set. For optimization problems with two objectives, it quantifies the area of the objective space dominated by the approximation set. Here, the area is bounded by a predefined reference point defined by the minimum return and maximum CR achieved in the current generation. Therefore, the termination condition is defined in terms of the relative increase of the hypervolume. If the relative increase of the hypervolume is not greater than $5 \times 10^{-4}$ in 10 successive generations, the algorithm stops. The maximum number of generations is set to 100.

5. Data and sample characteristics
For the sake of easier comparison, we use the same data sample as in Ranković et al. (2016). Specifically, we use 40 constituent stocks of the S&P 100 with the highest market capitalization (as of September 6, 2013) and with daily price observations available from January 2007. To determine the maximum and minimum volatility dates, the 1-day-ahead daily volatility of the S&P 100 is estimated using the rolling estimation period from January 4, 2012 to September 6, 2013. Volatilities are estimated using the GARCH ($1, 1$) model. Standardized returns are assumed to have a standardized Student’s $t$ distribution. GARCH volatility estimations of the S&P 100 index are based on the rolling window of 1,000 daily
returns. Specifically, a maximum volatility of 20.5% in annual terms is found on June 29, 2012 whereas a minimum volatility of 9.3% is determined on July 31, 2013. We use these dates to create two samples of time series with 1,251 daily prices. One thousand, two hundred and fifty-one prices give us 1,250 returns (1,000 returns for GARCH parameters estimation and 250 returns for backtesting). One sample ends on the maximum volatility date (we refer to this sample as the high-volatility sample), whereas the other ends on the minimum volatility date (we refer to this sample as the low-volatility sample).

6. Results
We perform two sets of empirical experiments. First, we apply the proposed NSGA-II algorithm to construct two benchmark solution sets based on simpler optimization problems: the Mean-VaR and Mean-Regulatory VaR Pareto-optimal sets of portfolios. We present these two sets of solutions in the Mean-Regulatory VaR coordinates. When performing the Mean-Regulatory VaR optimization, we use only the first part of Equation (1) and therefore do not address stressed time series. In addition, we use the Mean-VaR Pareto-optimal set as the initial population. This reduces (to an extent) the computational complexity but still requires parallel computing (note that the APF Mean-VaR optimization can easily be performed on a single processor). For these two benchmark sets, we then calculate the corresponding CR using the Basel 2.5 formula (Equation (1)), utilizing four proposed stress scenarios. We adopt these values as benchmarks for the Mean-CR optimized portfolios. Finally, we generate Mean-CR Pareto-optimal fronts and compare the Mean-VaR, Mean-Regulatory VaR and Mean-CR Pareto-optimal sets in the Mean-CR coordinates for every stress scenario.

6.1. Basel II capital requirements: Mean-Regulatory VaR optimization
In this subsection, we present the results of the Mean-Regulatory VaR optimization and compare them, in the Mean-Regulatory VaR plane, with our benchmark Mean-VaR Pareto-optimal sets for the low- (Figure 3) and high- (Figure 4) volatility samples.\(^3\)

---

\(^3\) We annualize expected return assuming 252 days per annum.
Differences in the two Pareto-optimal sets are more evident in the high-volatility sample (Figure 4), particularly for portfolios with lower expected returns, which are normally more diversified portfolios. It is worth recalling here that the cardinality of optimal portfolios always increases with a decrease in the expected return. Thus, portfolios with very high expected returns consist of only a few assets. By construction, the portfolio with the highest return consists of a single asset.

In Table 2, we present the number of VaR violations for Mean-VaR and Mean-Regulatory VaR optimized portfolios. Mean-Regulatory VaR optimization provides better trade-offs than
Mean-VaR optimization. Notably, the algorithm finds it optimal to always keep the number of violations within the no-penalty zone. In contrast, in the high-volatility regime, twenty (out of one hundred) Mean-VaR optimized portfolios lead to more than four violations. The maximum number of violations was seven. Thus, the lowest possible VaR estimations do not necessarily lead to the lowest possible Regulatory VaR because of the penalties associated with the number of VaR violations.

Table 2. Number of violations – Basel II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Optimization criterion</th>
<th>Number of violations</th>
<th>More than 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low volatility</td>
<td>VaR</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulatory VaR</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High volatility</td>
<td>VaR</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulatory VaR</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As expected, the average number of violations for both the Mean-VaR and the Mean-Regulatory VaR optimized portfolios is significantly higher in the high-volatility regime. We conclude that increased optimization complexity, implied by moving from Mean-VaR to Mean-Regulatory VaR is generally warranted.

6.2. Basel 2.5 capital requirements (CR) in four stress scenarios

Now we address the central issue of this paper, that is, how to minimize capital charge CR (see Equation 1) while maximizing the expected portfolio returns. In doing so, we construct a new type of Pareto-optimal front. This is an important practical issue for all institutions that follow Basel 2.5 rules. With the addition of the Regulatory Stressed VaR term, the overall level of the required regulatory capital charge has been substantially increased with respect to the level determined by the original Basel II regulation. In addition, different stress scenarios could have different impacts on the optimal Mean-CR trade-off. When performing the Mean-CR optimization, we use the Mean-Regulatory VaR Pareto-optimal set as the initial population.

We solve the Mean-CR optimization problem and compare the results with the Mean-Regulatory VaR and Mean-VaR Pareto-optimal sets in the Mean-CR plane. This gives us an idea of how close we can get to the Mean-CR Pareto-optimal front when utilizing simpler Mean-VaR and Mean-Regulatory VaR optimization procedures.

When calculating the Regulatory Stressed VaR, we apply one historical stress test and three hypothetical tests. Following the regulation, the last 250 prices of the original time series of
asset prices must be replaced by stressed prices. Thus, for each stress test we generate stressed time series of asset prices so that their last 250 returns correspond to a chosen stress scenario. The rest of the time series of prices remains unchanged. Next, we utilize Equation (10) to calculate the actual portfolio returns corresponding to such a stressed price series. The results for all stressed scenarios are presented for both the low- and high-volatility samples.

To perform a historical stress test, we begin by calculating the moving standard deviation of returns on the S&P100 index (used here as a proxy for the market portfolio) for 60-day time intervals for the period between January 16, 2008 and January 4, 2010. We use 60-day time intervals for the volatility estimation because Regulatory Stressed VaR is based on average VaR for a 60-day period. We find that the maximum volatility of 4.55% is recorded for the 60-day period that ended on December 8, 2008. For this reason, to obtain the stressed time series, we replace the original asset prices for the last 250 days with the prices implied by historical returns for the period December 12, 2007 to December 8, 2008.

In addition, we consider three hypothetical stress scenarios consistent with the three scenarios examined in Santos et al. (2012). Under the first scenario (HSS1), we apply a uniform haircut of 20% to the last 250 asset returns. For each portfolio asset \( i \), the stressed return is defined as follows: 
\[
    r_{i,t}^{\text{stressed}} = r_{i,t} - 0.2 \text{Mean}(r_i), \quad \text{where } t = T-249, \; T-248, \ldots, T.
\]
Here, \( r_{i,t}^{\text{stressed}} \) is a stressed return of asset \( i \) at time \( t \), \( r_{i,t} \) is the original return of asset \( i \) at time \( t \) and Mean \((r_i)\) is the mean of the last 250 returns of asset \( i \). We generate stressed time series of assets’ prices by adjusting the original time series. Formally, 
\[
    p_{i,t}^{\text{stressed}} = p_{i,t-1}^{\text{stressed}} (1 + r_{i,t}^{\text{stressed}}), \quad t = T-249, \; T-248, \ldots, T \quad \text{and} \quad p_{i,T-250}^{\text{stressed}} = P_{i,T-250}.
\]
Here, \( P_{i,t} \) and \( p_{i,t}^{\text{stressed}} \) are the original and stressed prices of asset \( i \) at time \( t \), respectively.

Under the second scenario (HSS2), we start with the stressed returns obtained under HSS1 and double their volatility. Note that a covariance matrix of asset returns \( V \) can be decomposed as \( V = DCD \). Here, \( D \) is the diagonal matrix of the standard deviations of asset returns and \( C \) is the corresponding correlation matrix. We construct \( D_{\text{stressed}} \), a diagonal matrix at date \( T \), by placing stressed volatilities \( \sigma_{i,T}^{\text{stressed}} = 2 \sigma_{i,T} \) on the diagonal. Here \( \sigma_{i,T} \) is the sample standard deviation of the \( i \)-th asset calculated using the last 250 returns. The stressed covariance matrix is \( V_{\text{stressed}} = D_{\text{stressed}} C D_{\text{stressed}} \). To obtain stressed returns for \( n \) assets from the opportunity set we employ Cholesky matrix decomposition. We decompose both the original and stressed covariance matrices as follows: \( V = QQ' \) and \( V_{\text{stressed}} = Q_{\text{stressed}} (Q_{\text{stressed}}') \), where \( Q \) and \( Q_{\text{stressed}} \) are lower triangular matrices. If \( R \) is the returns matrix of dimensions 250x\( n \) (in this matrix
columns represent time series of \( n \) assets entering the opportunity set), then the matrix of stress-adjusted historical returns \( \mathbf{R}^{\text{stressed}} \) is obtained as \( \mathbf{R}^{\text{stressed}} = \mathbf{R}(\mathbf{Q}^{\text{stressed}}\mathbf{Q}^{\text{stressed}}}^{-1})' \) (See Alexander, 2008b). Stressed time series of asset prices are obtained from matrix \( \mathbf{R}^{\text{stressed}} \) by adjusting the original time series of prices in the same fashion as under HSS1.

In the third scenario (HSS3), we repeat the exercise from the previous scenario. In addition, we stress the correlation matrix so that \( \rho_{i,j}^{\text{stressed}} = \min(2\rho_{i,j}, 0.95), i\neq j \). Here, \( \rho_{ij} \) and \( \rho_{i,j}^{\text{stressed}} \) are the original and stressed sample correlation coefficients between assets \( i \) and \( j \), calculated using the last 250 returns. The stressed covariance matrix is now \( \mathbf{V}^{\text{stressed}} = \mathbf{D}^{\text{stressed}}\mathbf{C}^{\text{stressed}}\mathbf{D}^{\text{stressed}}' \). Here, \( \mathbf{D}^{\text{stressed}} \) is defined as in HSS2. We then generate the matrix of stressed historical returns \( \mathbf{R}^{\text{stressed}} \) and the corresponding stressed asset prices following the same procedure as in HSS2. In modifying the correlations, we need to ensure positive semi-definiteness of the stressed covariance matrix. If the obtained stressed covariance matrix is not positive semi-definite, we apply the algorithm for finding the nearest positive semi-definite covariance matrix based on the Frobenius norm (see Higham, 2002). To implement the algorithm we used the ‘nearPD’ method from ‘Matrix’ package in software R.

**6.2.1. Historical stress scenario**

Here we present the results of Mean-CR optimization for the historical stress scenario. For comparison, we also calculate CR for the Mean-VaR and Mean-Regulatory VaR optimized portfolios under the historical stress scenario. Mean-CR optimization leads to particularly large improvements in low-volatility sample vis-à-vis the benchmarks (Figure 5). In contrast, improvement vis-à-vis Mean–Regulatory VaR optimization is less pronounced in the high-volatility sample (Figure 6).
Figure 5. Mean-CR performance for historical stress scenario: low-volatility sample

Figure 6. Mean-CR performance for historical stress scenario: high-volatility sample

Table 3 presents the number of VaR violations in the low- and high-volatility samples. Mean-CR optimization keeps the number of violations of optimal portfolios within the no-penalty zone. Consistent with the benchmarks, the average number of violations is higher in the high-volatility sample.
Table 3. Number of violations: Historical stress scenario

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Optimization criterion</th>
<th>Number of violations</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>More than 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low volatility</td>
<td>VaR</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulatory VaR</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS1</td>
<td>1.92</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS2</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS3</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High volatility</td>
<td>VaR</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulatory VaR</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS1</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS2</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS3</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mean-VaR optimization, although much simpler, performs remarkably well in the case of larger returns, especially for the high-volatility sample (see Figure 6). However, Mean-VaR optimization does not lead to the near optimal Mean-CR trade-offs for the entire Pareto front.

6.2.2. Hypothetical stress scenarios

Here, we present the results of Mean-CR optimization for the three hypothetical stress scenarios. The results presented in Figures 7 and 8 suggest that, under HSS1, Mean-CR optimization does not improve Mean-CR trade-offs compared to the Mean–Regulatory VaR optimal set. In that situation additional computational complexity is likely not warranted. This conclusion is supported by the results for the number of VaR violations in the low- and high-volatility samples for the three scenarios (see Table 4). The two models exhibited identical minimum and maximum numbers of violations for the two optimization dates and very similar average numbers of violations. Unsurprisingly, the Mean-VaR optimization solutions perform worse, particularly in the high-volatility sample.

Table 4. Number of violations: Hypothetical stress scenario scenarios HSS1-HSS3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Optimization criterion</th>
<th>Number of violations</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>More than 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low volatility</td>
<td>VaR</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulatory VaR</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS1</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS2</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS3</td>
<td>1.31</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High volatility</td>
<td>VaR</td>
<td>3.26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regulatory VaR</td>
<td>2.93</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS1</td>
<td>2.98</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS2</td>
<td>2.95</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CR-HSS3</td>
<td>2.88</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Similarly, we observe no significant differences between the Mean-Regulatory VaR and Mean-CR optimized portfolios (Figures 9 and 10) when HSS2 is applied. Here, the Mean-VaR benchmark lags behind even more significantly, particularly for the high-volatility sample.

In HSS3, the Mean-CR optimization provides a significant improvement with respect to the Mean–Regulatory VaR benchmark, particularly for the low-volatility sample (Figures 11 and 12). In that case, the impact of the HSS3 stress scenario is qualitatively similar to the case of the historical stress scenario. In contrast to the historical scenario, however, an improvement, albeit smaller, is now recorded in the high-volatility sample.

Note that for the historical and all three hypothetical stress scenarios and in both volatility samples, Mean-CR optimization keeps the number of violations within the no-penalty zone (i.e., less than or equal to 4).

Figure 7. Mean-CR performance for HSS1 stress scenario: low-volatility sample
Figure 8. *Mean-CR* performance for HSS1 stress scenario: high-volatility sample

Figure 9. *Mean-CR* performance for HSS2 stress scenario: low-volatility sample
6.3. Further analysis and robustness checks

In this subsection, we perform further analyses and robustness checks. Specifically, we: i) examine the relationship between the average change in correlation (imposed by stress tests) and corresponding differences in the Mean-CR trade-offs; ii) examine cardinality of the Pareto-optimal portfolios; and iii) repeat our Mean-CR optimization using an alternative opportunity set.
6.3.1. Mean-Regulatory VaR vs. Mean-CR optimization

To quantify differences in correlation matrices between the original and stressed returns, we utilize the average (mean) Correlation difference, calculated using the last 250 returns as follows:

$$
\text{Correlation difference} = \text{Abs} \left( \frac{\rho_{i,j}^{\text{stressed}}}{\rho_{i,j}} - 1 \right)
$$

(11)

where $\rho_{i,j}^{\text{stressed}}$ and $\rho_{i,j}$ denote the stressed and the original correlations between assets $i$ and $j$, $i \neq j$, respectively. We also quantify the differences between the Mean-CR and Mean-Regulatory VaR optimal portfolios in terms of both CR and returns. First, we determine portfolios in the Mean-Regulatory VaR solution set that are weakly dominated by at least one portfolio in the Mean-CR Pareto-optimal front. We postulate that only those weakly dominated Mean-Regulatory VaR portfolios are improved by Mean-CR optimization. For the weakly dominated portfolios, we determine the closest dominant portfolio in the Mean-CR Pareto-optimal front in terms of the Euclidean distance. In doing so, we consider that CR and returns are not of the same order of magnitude. Thus, before calculating the Euclidean distance between any two portfolios, we divide each of the portfolio’s objective values by its corresponding maximum value. We then calculate the CR and return differences between each weakly dominated Mean-Regulatory VaR portfolio and its closest dominant portfolio on the Mean-CR Pareto-optimal front. Correlation differences, CR improvements, return improvements and number of improved portfolios in different stress scenarios are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Correlation differences, CR improvements, return improvements and number of improved portfolios

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High Volatility</th>
<th>Low Volatility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correlation differences (%)</td>
<td>CR Improvement (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Stress</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS2</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS3</td>
<td>52.26</td>
<td>6.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The largest differences between the correlation matrices of the original and stressed returns are observed for historical and HSS3 scenarios, particularly in the low-volatility sample. It is
precisely in these two scenarios that the Mean-CR optimization significantly outperforms the Mean-Regulatory VaR benchmark.

Consistent with the results in Section 7.2, the greatest improvement in CR and returns are achieved for the historical and HSS3 stress scenarios. Improvements are more pronounced in the low-volatility sample than in the high-volatility sample. Note that the historical stress scenario is the same for both high- and low-volatility samples. However, in the low-volatility environment, the original correlations are smaller than in the high-volatility environment. This leads to greater differences between the original and stressed correlations and, consequently, to greater improvements in Mean-CR trade-offs. Under HSS3, correlations are doubled but capped at 0.95 independent of the volatility regime. In the low-volatility environment, where the original correlations are relatively small, this typically leads to doubling of the original correlations. In contrast, in the high-volatility environment, the original correlations are higher and thus the cap is reached much more often. As a result, the value of correlation differences under the HSS3 scenario in the high-volatility sample is roughly half the value reached in the low-volatility sample (52.26% versus 105.04%). However, it is also much higher than the value for the historical scenario in the high-volatility sample (18.69%) (see Table 5).

For robustness checks, we also compared the Mean-CR and Mean-Regulatory VaR solutions subject to the four stress scenarios using the ε-indicator (Zitzler et al., 2003) and generational distance (GD) (see Van Veldhuizen and Lamont, 1998; Van Velduizen and Lamont, 2002). The results presented in the Appendix are consistent with the results presented in Table 5.

6.3.2. Cardinality of portfolios
In Figures 13 and 14 we present cardinality (the number of assets) for portfolios entering Mean-CR, Mean-Regulatory VaR and Mean-VaR Pareto-optimal sets in the high- and low-volatility samples when the historical stress scenario is applied. Here, we consider only assets with weights greater than 2%.  

4 For robustness checks, we also tried a 1% threshold. The results are consistent with the reported results for the higher threshold of 2%.
In Figures 15 and 16, we present the number of assets included in the Mean-CR, Mean-Regulatory VaR and Mean-VaR Pareto-optimal set, in the high- and low-volatility samples when the HSS3 stress scenario is applied.
The results presented in Figures 13 to 16 suggest that portfolios with low returns (and low CR) contain a higher number of assets thus exhibiting higher diversification. The increase in returns (and therefore risk) results in a decrease in cardinality of Pareto-optimal portfolios (i.e. lower diversification).

Importantly, Mean-CR optimization is associated with a significant decrease in cardinality in the low-volatility sample both for the historical and HSS3 stress scenarios, and for the HSS3 stress scenario in the high-volatility sample. As stated earlier, these are the cases in which Mean-CR optimization outperforms Mean-Regulatory VaR benchmark the most. The greatest improvements with respect to that benchmark are therefore associated with a decrease in the cardinality of Mean-CR Pareto-optimal portfolios for comparable returns. Note that for the HSS1 and HSS2 stress scenarios, we detect neither a significant improvement in the Mean-CR
trade-offs nor a reduction in cardinality with respect to the benchmark *Mean-Regulatory VaR* optimization. These are stress scenarios for which correlations are not impacted.

### 6.3.3. An alternative opportunity set

We performed robustness checks using the opportunity set of Morgan Stanley Composite indices (*MSCI*) for 31 countries. To determine the maximum and minimum volatility dates, we apply the same approach as for the *S&P100* sample. Specifically, for each day in the rolling estimation period of 421 days (from January 4, 2012 to September 6, 2013), we estimated the 1-day-ahead daily returns volatility of the *MSCI World* US dollar-denominated price index. This index serves as a market portfolio proxy in this case. A maximum volatility of 0.013682 (20.46% in annual terms) is determined on June 29, 2012, whereas a minimum volatility of 0.006662 (9.87% in annual terms) is determined on August 14, 2013. The unreported results are statistically and economically consistent with the results obtained for the *S&P 100* stocks.

### 7. Conclusions

We propose a novel method for *Mean-CR* portfolio optimization that accurately incorporates Basel 2.5 regulation for market risk capital requirements in the optimization procedure. In our approach, *CR* is calculated within the actual portfolio framework whereas the corresponding *VaR* estimation is based on the univariate *GARCH VaR* analytical model. We solve the optimization problem by employing the *NSGA-II* algorithm within *WoBinGO*, a parallel framework for genetic algorithm-based optimization. The method is applied to the opportunity set consisting of the 40 largest stocks in the *S&P 100* index. Our findings are confirmed in unreported robustness tests on the investment universe consisting of the 31 *MSCI* country indices.

We compare the results of *Mean-CR* optimization with two simpler optimization approaches, namely *Mean-VaR* and *Mean-Regulatory VaR*. Our results provide several important insights for financial institutions and regulators. First, *Mean-VaR* optimized portfolios are a relatively

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5 The 31 market indices are US dollar-denominated price indices that include large and mid-cap securities from the following countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

6 The results are available from the authors upon request.
poor proxy for the optimal trade-off between portfolio returns and corresponding capital charges under both Basel II and Basel 2.5 regulatory frameworks. Second, unlike \textit{Mean-VaR} optimal portfolios, \textit{Mean-Regulatory VaR} optimization generates optimal portfolios that never lead to a non-zero penalty factor $k$. Furthermore, our optimization approach is successful in finding portfolios that keep the number of \textit{VaR} violations within the no-penalty zone (in addition to portfolios which are \textit{Mean-Regulatory VaR}-efficient) while reducing \textit{Regulatory Stressed VaR}.

For the stress tests that do not change correlations, adding the \textit{Regulatory Stressed VaR} term to the optimization process does not substantially impact \textit{Mean-CR} trade-offs. If financial institutions were to apply such tests, they could simplify the optimization procedure by effectively ignoring the stress term in the optimization problem and consequently, keeping their portfolios more diversified. In contrast, \textit{Mean-CR} optimal portfolios tend to outperform \textit{Mean-Regulatory VaR} counterparts when the stress test substantially impacts correlations.

These improvements, measured by average \textit{CR} and return differences, are related to a decrease in the cardinality of portfolios with comparable returns. This is particularly evident for portfolios with lower expected returns. These results are consistent with anecdotal evidence showing the reduced benefits of diversification in the aftermath of the recent financial crisis. Namely, if all banks aim to minimize their capital charge, they are likely to hold few assets in their portfolios, adversely impacting the liquidity of all other assets. Therefore, our study informs the ongoing debate about the implementation of a new regulatory framework (Basel III) scheduled for 2019.
Appendix

A.1 ε-indicator
The ε-indicator determines the minimum value by which a reference set must be multiplied so that every solution in the reference set becomes weakly dominated by at least one solution in the approximation set (see Zitzler et al., 2003). If the approximation set exactly matches the reference set, then the ε-indicator takes a value of one. In Table A1, the ε-indicator refers to the Mean-Regulatory VaR Pareto-optimal set presented in the Mean-CR space, whereas the Mean-CR Pareto-optimal front is used as the reference set. Mean-Regulatory VaR optimal solutions that became dominated in Mean-CR solution space have been discarded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ε</th>
<th>Correlation differences (%)</th>
<th>ε</th>
<th>Correlation differences (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historical Stress</td>
<td>1.054</td>
<td>18.69</td>
<td>1.148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS1</td>
<td>1.021</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS2</td>
<td>1.022</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>1.009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS3</td>
<td>1.158</td>
<td>52.26</td>
<td>1.300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table A1. ε-indicators and average correlation differences

A.2 Generational distance (GD)
The Generational Distance (GD) proposed by Van Veldhuizen and Lamont (1998) and Van Veldhuizen and Lamont (2002) determines the average Euclidian distance between solutions that belong to the known Pareto-optimal front and solutions belonging to the true Pareto-optimal front:

$$GD = \left( \sum_{i=1}^{n} d_i^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

where $d_i$ denotes Euclidian distance between $i$-th solution of the known Pareto-optimal front and the closest solution of the true Pareto-optimal solution and, $n$ denotes the number of solutions in the known Pareto-optimal front. Lower GD values suggest greater proximity between the known and true Pareto-optimal front.

Here, for the known Pareto-optimal front, we adopt the Mean-Regulatory VaR Pareto-optimal set presented in the Mean-CR space, whereas for the true Pareto-optimal front, we use the Mean-CR Pareto-optimal front. Again, Mean-Regulatory VaR optimal solutions that became
dominated in Mean-CR solution space have been discarded. We normalize the portfolios’ CR and return values by dividing them by the corresponding maximum values. In Table A2, we present GD values and average correlation differences in alternative scenarios.

**Table A2. GD values and average correlation differences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High Volatility</th>
<th>Low Volatility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>GD</td>
<td>Correlation differences (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Stress</td>
<td>9.38E-4</td>
<td>18.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS1</td>
<td>4.82E-4</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS2</td>
<td>6.54E-4</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSS3</td>
<td>5.35E-3</td>
<td>52.26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**References**


