



Risk Preferences and their Robust Representation

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Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

Motivation

- The goal is to understand “risk” in a context (setting) independent manner, focusing on some crucial invariant features:
 - “diversification should not increase the risk”
 - “the better for sure, the less risky”

- We consider a structural approach to risk which is motivated by the former theory on preferences and risk
 - VON NEUMANN and MORGENSTERN and their theory on preference comparison and utility for lotteries.
 - ARTZNER, DELBAEN, EBER and HEATH; FÖLLMER and SCHIED and their theory of monetary risk measures for random variables.and three recent preprints by CERREIA-VIOGLIO, MACCHERONI, MARINACCI and MONTRUCCHIO on
 - Quasiconvex risk measures
 - Complete quasiconvex duality theory
 - Uncertainty averse preferences

- Based on the concept of acceptance families we will give a robust representation for a huge class of risk orders.



Outline

- 1 Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families
- 2 Robust Representation
- 3 Illustrative Setting





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Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

Setting, Definitions



Risky positions in \mathcal{X} are ordered $\cdots \succcurlyeq x \succcurlyeq y \succcurlyeq z \cdots$ according to a total preorder \succcurlyeq .

The relation $x \succcurlyeq y$ means “ x is riskier than y ”.



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

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The relation $x \succcurlyeq y$ means “*x is riskier than y*”.

In this framework, the notions of “diversification should not increase the risk” and “the better for sure the less risky” translate into

Definition (Risk Order)

A total preorder \succcurlyeq is a risk order if it is

- **Quasiconvex:** $x \succcurlyeq \lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y$ whenever $x \succcurlyeq y$,
- **Monotone:** $x \succcurlyeq y$ whenever $y \trianglerighteq x$.

- Diversification imposes \mathcal{X} convex. (in fact a mixture space)
- \trianglerighteq is a preorder expressing a kind of “better than . . . for sure”.



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

A Setting Dependant Interpretation of Risk

Possible settings by the specification of the convex set \mathcal{X} and the monotonicity preorder \triangleright .

- **Random variables** on (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) with as preorder \triangleright the “ $\geq P$ -almost surely”.
- **Stochastic processes** modeling cumulative wealth processes $X = X_0, X_1, \dots, X_T$ with as preorder \triangleright the cash flow monotonicity “ $X_t - X_{t-1} := \Delta X_t \geq \Delta Y_t$ ”.
- **Probability distributions** (lotteries) \mathcal{M}_1 is a convex set with standard monotonicity preorders \triangleright either the first or second stochastic order.
- **Cumulative consumption streams** are right continuous non decreasing functions $c : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ building a convex cone. Here $c^{(1)}$ is “better for sure” than $c^{(2)}$ if $c^{(1)} - c^{(2)}$ is still a cumulative consumption stream.
- **Stochastic kernels** are probability distributions subject to uncertainty, that is, mappings $\tilde{X} : \Omega \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_1$. Possible preorders \triangleright are either the P -almost sure first or second stochastic order.
- ...



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

Definitions

Definition (Risk Order)

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Total preorders can (separability) be represented by functions $F : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$

$$x \succsim y \quad \iff \quad F(x) \geq F(y)$$

Numerical representations of risk orders inherit their properties and belongs to the following class:

Definition (Risk Measure)

A function $\rho : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$ is a risk measure if it is

- **Quasiconvex:** $\rho(\lambda x + (1 - \lambda)y) \leq \max\{\rho(x), \rho(y)\}$.
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Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

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Any risk measure defines at any level of risk $m \in \mathbb{R}$ a risk acceptance set

$$\mathcal{A}^m = \{x \mid \rho(x) \leq m\}$$

of those positions with a risk below m . Here again, the family, called *risk acceptance family*, gets properties from the risk measure and belongs to the following class.



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

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Definition (Risk Acceptance Family)

A family $\mathcal{A} = (\mathcal{A}^m)_{m \in \mathbb{R}}$ of subset of \mathcal{X} is a risk acceptance family if it is

- **Convex:** \mathcal{A}^m is convex,
- **Monotone:** $\mathcal{A}^m \subset \mathcal{A}^n$ and $x \triangleright y$ for some $y \in \mathcal{A}^m$ implies $x \in \mathcal{A}^m$,
- **Right-Continuous:** $\mathcal{A}^m = \bigcap_{n > m} \mathcal{A}^n$.



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

One-to-One Relation between Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

Theorem (Risk Orders ↔ Risk Measures ↔ Risk Acceptance Families)

- Any numerical representation ρ of a risk order \succcurlyeq is a risk measure.
Any risk measure ρ defines a risk order \succcurlyeq through

$$x \succcurlyeq y \quad \iff \quad \rho(x) \geq \rho(y)$$

- Risk measures and risk acceptance families are related one to one through

$$\mathcal{A}^m := \{x \in \mathcal{X} \mid \rho(x) \leq m\} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(x) = \inf \left\{ m \mid x \in \mathcal{A}^m \right\}$$

Axioms of monotonicity or quasiconvexity for the risk orders are global!

Economic Index of Riskiness (AUMANN and SERRANO; FORSTER and HART)

For a loss function l , consider

$$\lambda(X) = \sup \{ \lambda > 0 \mid E[l(-\lambda X)] \leq c \}$$

which represents the maximal exposure to a position X provided that the expected loss remains below a threshold. The **economic index of riskiness** is then defined as

$$\rho(X) := 1/\lambda(X) \quad \implies \quad \mathcal{A}^m = \left\{ X \mid c \geq E[l(-X/m)] \right\}$$



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

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Axioms of monotonicity or quasiconvexity for the risk orders are global!

Certainty Equivalent

- Probability Distributions:** $l : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty[$ nondecreasing loss function

$$\rho(\mu) = l^{-1} \left(\int l(-x) \mu(dx) \right) \quad \implies \quad \mathcal{A}^m = \left\{ \mu \mid \int l(-x) \mu(dx) \leq l(m) \right\}$$

- Random Variables:** $l : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty[$ is a nondecreasing convex loss function.

$$\rho(X) = l^{-1} (E[l(-X)]) \quad \implies \quad \mathcal{A}^m = \left\{ X \mid E[l(-X)] \leq l(m) \right\}$$



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

Further Properties : Convexity, Positive Homogeneity and Scaling Invariance

Proposition (Convexity, Positive Homogeneity and Scaling Invariance)

- (i) ρ is convex iff $\lambda \mathcal{A}^m + (1 - \lambda) \mathcal{A}^{m'} \subset \mathcal{A}^{\lambda m + (1 - \lambda)m'}$.
- (ii) ρ is positive homogeneous iff $\lambda \mathcal{A}^m = \mathcal{A}^{\lambda m}$ for $\lambda > 0$.
- (iii) ρ is scaling invariant iff $\lambda \mathcal{A}^m = \mathcal{A}^m$ for $\lambda > 0$.
- (iv) ρ is affine iff \succsim is *independent* and *archimedean*.

These properties are no longer global!

Examples (SAVAGE; MARKOWITZ; SHARPE; VON NEUMANN and MORGENSTERN)

- **Savage representation:** $\rho(X) := E_Q [I(-X)]$ convex RM if I is a convex loss function.
- **Mean Variance:** $\rho(X) = E[-X] + \frac{\gamma}{2} \text{Var}(X)$ convex RM monotone w.r.t. trivial order.
- **Sharpe Ratio:** $\rho(X) = E[-X] / \sqrt{E[X^2 - E[X]^2]}$ scaling invariant RM monotone w.r.t. trivial order
- **von Neumann and Morgenstern:** $\rho(\mu) = \int I(-x) \mu(dx)$ affine RM monotone w.r.t. the first stochastic order if I is a loss function.



Risk Orders, Risk Measures and Risk Acceptance Families

Further Properties : Monetary Risk Measures (ARTZNER, DELBAEN, EBER and HEATH; FÖLLMER and SCHIED)

Existence of a numéraire π . \mathcal{X} is a vector space and \succsim a vector order.

Definition (Cash Additive and Subadditive Risk Measures)

A risk measure ρ is

- **Cash Additive** if $\rho(x + m\pi) = \rho(x) - m$ for any $m \in \mathbb{R}$.
- **Cash Subadditive** if $\rho(x + m\pi) \geq \rho(x) - m$ for any $m > 0$.

Proposition

- ρ is cash additive iff $\mathcal{A}^0 = \mathcal{A}^m + m\pi$.
- \succsim is cash additive iff
 - (i) $y \succ x \succ z$ implies the existence of a unique $m \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $x \sim m\pi$;
 - (ii) $x \succ y$ implies $x + m\pi \succ y + m\pi$.
- A cash additive risk measure ρ is automatically convex.

Classical cash additive monetary risk measures

- **Average Value at Risk:** $AV@R_q(X) = \sup_Q \{E_Q[-X] \mid dQ/dP < 1/q\}$.
- **Entropy:** $\rho(X) = \ln(E[e^{-X}])$.
- **Optimized Certainty Equivalent:** $\rho(X) = -\sup_m \{m + E[f(X - m)]\}$.



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Robust Representation of Risk Orders

Setup, Lower Semicontinuous Risk Orders

- \mathcal{X} is a locally convex topological vector space with dual \mathcal{X}^* .
- \succcurlyeq is a vector order: $x \succcurlyeq y$ iff $x - y \in \mathcal{K}$ closed convex cone with polar cone \mathcal{K}° .

Examples

- \mathbb{L}^∞ , $\mathcal{K} = \mathbb{L}_+^\infty$, weak topology $\sigma(\mathbb{L}^\infty, \mathbb{L}^1)$, dual \mathbb{L}^1 , polar cone $\mathcal{K}^\circ = \mathbb{L}_+^1$.
- $\mathcal{M}_{1,c} \subset ca_c = \mathcal{X}$, weak topology $\sigma(ca_c, C) \implies \mathcal{X}^* = C$.
 - First stochastic order: $\mathcal{K}^1 = \{\mu \mid \int f d\mu \geq 0, \text{ for all nondecreasing } f\}$.
 - Second stochastic order: $\mathcal{K}^2 = \{\mu \mid \int f d\mu \geq 0, \text{ for all nondecreasing concave } f\}$.

Definition (Lower Semicontinuous Risk Orders)

A risk order \succcurlyeq is lower semicontinuous if $\mathcal{L}(x) = \{y \in \mathcal{X} \mid x \succcurlyeq y\}$ is $\sigma(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}^*)$ -closed for any $x \in \mathcal{X}$.

Proposition (Metha)

A risk order \succcurlyeq is separable and lower semicontinuous if and only if there exists a corresponding lower semicontinuous risk measure ρ .
 Moreover, the class of corresponding lower semicontinuous risk measures is stable under lower semicontinuous increasing transformations.



Robust Representation of Risk Orders

Setup, Lower Semicontinuous Risk Orders

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Robust Representation of Risk Orders

Representation Theorem

Main robust representation result:

Theorem

Any lower semicontinuous risk measure $\rho : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$ has a robust representation:

$$\rho(x) = \sup_{x^* \in \mathcal{K}^\circ} R(x^*, \langle x^*, -x \rangle)$$

for a unique maximal risk function $R \in \mathcal{R}^{max}$.

Definition

\mathcal{R}^{max} denotes the set of maximal risk functions

$$R : \mathcal{K}^\circ \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$$

- nondecreasing and left-continuous in the second argument
- R is jointly quasiconcave,
- $R(\lambda x^*, s) = R(x^*, s/\lambda)$ for any $\lambda > 0$,
- R has a uniform asymptotic minimum, $\lim_{s \rightarrow -\infty} R(x^*, s) = \lim_{s \rightarrow -\infty} R(y^*, s)$,
- its right-continuous version, $R^+(x^*, s) := \inf_{s' > s} R(x^*, s')$ is upper semicontinuous



Robust Representation of Risk Orders

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Example: The cash additive case on \mathbb{L}^∞

$$\rho(X) = \sup_Q \{E_Q[-X] - \alpha_{min}(Q)\}$$

In this case:

$$R(Q, s) = s - \alpha_{min}(Q).$$

Moreover, ρ and α_{min} are one-to-one.



Robust Representation of Risk Orders

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for a unique maximal risk function $R \in \mathcal{R}^{max}$.

Conversely, for any risk function $R : \mathcal{K}^\circ \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$ which is nondecreasing and left-continuous in the second argument

$$\rho(x) = \sup_{x^* \in \mathcal{K}^\circ} R(x^*, \langle x^*, -x \rangle)$$

is a lower semicontinuous risk measures

- The one-to-one relation between ρ and the risk function $R \in \mathcal{R}^{max}$ is crucial!
 - makes comparative statics meaningful
 - CERREIA-VIOGLIO, MACCHERONI, MARINACCI and MONTRUCCHIO introduced the notion of complete quasiconvex duality.
- CERREIA-VIOGLIO ET AL. provide complete quasiconvex duality results on M -spaces with unit under further assumptions on the monotonicity
 - $\rightarrow (\mathbb{L}^\infty, \|\cdot\|_\infty), \mathcal{K} = \mathbb{L}_+^\infty$



Robust Representation of Risk Orders

Representation Theorem: Modifications

- In case the order is **regular**, i.e., there is π with $\langle x^*, \pi \rangle > 0$ for all $x^* \in \mathcal{K}^\circ \setminus \{0\}$, one gets a robust representation:

$$\rho(x) = \sup_{x^* \in \mathcal{K}_\pi^\circ} R(x^*, \langle x^*, -x \rangle)$$

where $\mathcal{K}_\pi^\circ = \{x^* \in \mathcal{K}^\circ \mid \langle x^*, \pi \rangle = 1\}$.

- In case of random variables with $\pi = 1$, \mathcal{K}_1° is a set of probability measures.
- The first and second stochastic order are not regular
- Similar robust representation results hold on open/closed convex sets rather than vector spaces
- The setup is general and includes the following risk orders/preferences:
 - Expected utilities (VON NEUMANN and MORGENSTERN)
 - Mean variance preferences (MARKOWITZ)
 - Coherent and convex risk measures (ARTZNER ET AL. and FÖLLMER/SCHIED and FRITTELLI/GIANIN)
 - Performance measures such as the Sharpe ratio and their monotone versions (CHERNY and MADAN)
 - Economic index of riskiness (AUMANN and SERRANO)
 - Value at risk
 - Intertemporal preference functionals (HINDY, HUAN and KREPS)
 - Multiprior maxmin expected utilities (GILBOA and SCHMEIDLER)
 - Variational preferences (MACCHERONI ET AL.)
 - Uncertainty averse preferences (CERREIA-VIOGLIO ET AL.)
 - ...



Robust Representation of Risk Orders

Sketch of the proof and computation of the risk function

- Start with the risk acceptance family $\mathcal{A} = (\mathcal{A}^m)_{m \in \mathbb{R}}$ corresponding to ρ .
- For any risk level m holds by means of the theory of **cash-additive risk measures**

$$X \in \mathcal{A}^m \iff E_Q[-X] \leq \alpha_{\min}(Q, m) \quad \text{for all } Q$$

where $\alpha_{\min}(Q, m) = \sup_{X \in \mathcal{A}^m} E_Q[-X]$ is a penalty function.

- Then

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(X) &= \inf \{m \in \mathbb{R} \mid X \in \mathcal{A}^m\} \\ &= \inf \{m \in \mathbb{R} \mid E_Q[-X] - \alpha_{\min}(Q, m) \leq 0 \text{ for all } Q\} \\ &= \sup_Q \inf_{m \in \mathbb{R}} \{m \mid E_Q[-X] \leq \alpha_{\min}(Q, m)\} \\ &= \sup_Q R(Q, E_Q[-X]) \end{aligned}$$

where $R(Q, \cdot)$ is the generalized left-inverse of $m \mapsto \alpha_{\min}(Q, m)$

- The difficult part of the proof is to show that the duality is complete.



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Illustrative Settings

Random Variables

Proposition

Any lower semicontinuous risk measure $\rho : \mathbb{L}^\infty \rightarrow [-\infty, +\infty]$ has a robust representation:

$$\rho(X) = \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{M}_{1,f}(P)} R(Q, E_Q[-X]), \quad X \in \mathbb{L}^\infty,$$

for a unique $R \in \mathcal{R}^{max}$. In particular, if ρ is cash additive,

$$\rho(X) = \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{M}_{1,f}(P)} \{E_Q[-X] - \alpha_{min}(Q, 0)\}.$$

- In case that ρ has the Fatou property it is well known (DELBAEN) that ρ is $\sigma(\mathbb{L}^\infty, \mathbb{L}^1)$ -lower semicontinuous and the previous representations hold in terms of $\mathcal{M}_1(P)$.
- Under adequate lower semicontinuity conditions, robust representations of risk measures on \mathbb{L}^p and Orlicz spaces work analogously.



Illustrative Settings

Random Variables

Robust Representation of the Certainty Equivalent $\rho(X) = I^{-1}(E[I(-X)])$.

- **Quadratic Function:** $I(s) = s^2/2 - s$ for $s \geq -1$ and $I(s) = -1/2$ elsewhere.

$$\rho(X) = \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{M}_1(P)} \left\{ \frac{E_Q[-X] + 1}{\|dQ/dP\|_{L^2}} - J(E_Q[-X]) \right\}, \quad X \in \mathbb{L}^\infty,$$

whereby $J(s) = 1$ if $s > 1$ and $J(s) = +\infty$ elsewhere.

- **Logarithm Function:** If $I(s) = -\ln(-s)$ for $s < 0$, then

$$\rho(X) := -\exp(E[\ln(X)]) = \sup_{Q \in \mathcal{M}_1(P)} \left\{ \frac{E_Q[-X]}{\exp\left(E\left[\ln\left(\frac{dQ}{dP}\right)\right]\right)} \right\}, \quad X \in \mathbb{L}^\infty.$$

Economic Index of Riskiness (AUMANN and SERRANO)

$$\rho(X) = \sup_Q \frac{E_Q[-X]}{E_Q[\ln(c_0 dQ/dP)]}, \quad X \in \mathbb{L}^\infty.$$

Conclusion



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!