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Measuring heavy-tailedness of distributions

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Abstract. Different questions related with analysis of extreme values and outliers arise frequently in practice. To exclude extremal observations and outliers is not a good decision, because they contain important information about the observed distribution. The difficulties with their usage are usually related with the estimation of the tail index in case it exists. There are many measures for the center of the distribution, e.g. mean, mode, median. There are many measures for the variance, asymmetry and kurtosis, but there is no easy characteristic for heavy-tailedness of the observed distribution. Here we propose such a measure, give some examples and explore some of its properties. This allows us to introduce classification of the distributions, with respect to their heavy-tailedness. The idea is to help and navigate practitioners for accurate and easier work in the field of probability distributions.

Using the properties of the defined characteristics some distribution sensitive extremal index estimators are proposed and their properties are partially investigated.

INTRODUCTION

More than 90 years scientists look for appropriate way for handling outliers. Irwin[1], McKay[2], Nair [3] and Dixon [4, 5] consider them mainly with respect to the deviations of the distribution of the maxima of the sample from the one of the maxima of the normal distribution. They discuss the effect of removing outliers and propose some techniques for handling them. Further on some other tests for outliers appear, see e.g. Grubbs' test [6]. They still neglects the importance of the extreme values, do not take into account the fact that the standard deviation does not obligatory exists, especially in case of heavy tailed distributions, and compare the observed variable with the appropriate normal one. Recently Klebanov et al. [7, 8, 9] reminded this topic.

In 1978 Tukey et al. give different definitions for mild and extremal outliers [10] and box-plots [11] via the quartiles of the distribution and the inter-quartile range (IQR). Here we make classification of the distributions, with respect to the heaviness of their tails using the theoretical: quartiles Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, IQR , lower inner fences (I_L), lower outer fences (O_L), upper inner fences (I_R) and upper outer fences (O_R).

Suppose X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n are mutually independent observations of a random variable (r.v.) X with cumulative distribution function (c.d.f.) $F(x) = \mathbb{P}(X \leq x)$, probability density function (p.d.f.) f and increasing order statistics $X_{(1,n)} \leq \dots \leq X_{(n,n)}$. There are many different possibilities to define empirical p -quantiles, $p \in (0, 1)$. See e.g. [12, 13, 14]. We use the following one $\hat{F}^{\leftarrow}(p) = X_{(\lfloor (n+1)p \rfloor, n)} + \{(n+1)p - \lfloor (n+1)p \rfloor\} \{X_{(\lfloor (n+1)p \rfloor + 1, n)} - X_{(\lfloor (n+1)p \rfloor, n)}\}$, where $\lfloor a \rfloor$ means the integer part of a and $\frac{1}{n+1} \leq p \leq \frac{n}{n+1}$.

Let $\hat{Q}_1, \hat{Q}_2, \hat{Q}_3$ be the empirical quartiles of the observed r.v. and $I\hat{Q}R = \hat{Q}_3 - \hat{Q}_1$ be the corresponding empirical IQR. We use the concepts for empirical: lower inner fences $\hat{I}_L = \hat{Q}_1 - 1.5I\hat{Q}R$, upper inner fences $\hat{I}_R = \hat{Q}_3 + 1.5I\hat{Q}R$, lower outer fences $\hat{O}_L = \hat{Q}_1 - 3I\hat{Q}R$, upper outer fences $\hat{O}_R = \hat{Q}_3 + 3I\hat{Q}R$, mild and extreme outliers, given e.g. in [15, 16, 17]. We call an observation **mild outlier** if it is outside the interval $[\hat{Q}_1 - 1.5I\hat{Q}R; \hat{Q}_3 + 1.5I\hat{Q}R]$ and inside the interval $[\hat{Q}_1 - 3I\hat{Q}R; \hat{Q}_3 + 3I\hat{Q}R]$. We call an observation **extreme outlier** if it is outside the interval $[\hat{Q}_1 - 3I\hat{Q}R; \hat{Q}_3 + 3I\hat{Q}R]$. See Figure 1 and [15].

Different questions related with analysis of outliers arise frequently in practice. The difficulties with their usage are usually related with the estimation of the tail index in case it exists. Recently the extreme value theory develops techniques for handling them, but it mainly relies on the second order condition (see e.g. [18]). It seems to be difficult to be checked, handled and understood from practitioners. Due to lack of information about the distribution outside

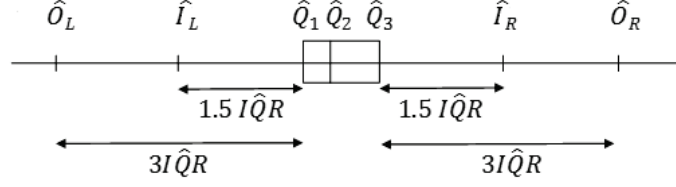


Figure 1. Empirical box-plot, together with the empirical inner and outer fences.

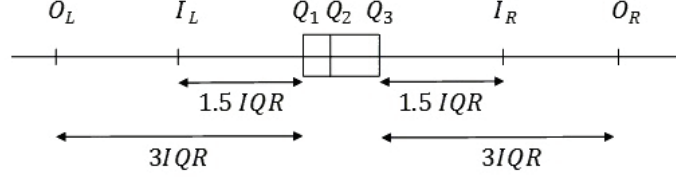


Figure 2. Theoretical box-plot, together with theoretical inner and outer fences.

the range of the data, its tail should be estimated via many characteristics. There are many measures for the center of the distribution, e.g. mean, mode, median. There are measures for the variance, asymmetry and kurtosis, but there is no enough characteristics for measuring heaviness of the tails of the distribution. Here we propose such measures and give some examples. All of them are invariant with respect to shifting of the discussed r.v. This allows us to introduce classification of the distributions, with respect to their heavy-tailedness. Using the outliers we propose a relatively easy techniques to recognize the tail of the distribution and to estimate its index of regular variation in case it exists. The idea is to help and navigate practitioners for accurate statistical diagnostics and easier work in the field of probability distributions. This approach provides benchmarks only for recognizing the tails of the observed distribution. For better fit we need to take into account also the specific form of its center.

CLASSIFICATION OF DISTRIBUTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THEIR HEAVY-TAILEDNESS

Following Tukey, under theoretical box-plot of a given c.d.f. F we understand the one on Figure 2. One of the possibilities to make a tentative fitting of the observed distribution is to compare its empirical box-plot with the theoretical box-plot of the tested distribution. However this approach is not robust, especially for small samples. See e.g. [15]. The presence of outliers in a sample of independent observations strongly depends not only of the distributional type, but also from the sample size. Therefore we classify the distributions with respect to their probabilities to have mild or extreme outliers. First of all let us mention that all numerical characteristics that we introduce are invariant with respect to shifting of the r.v.

Classification of the distributions with respect to heaviness of their left tails

Definition 1. We call a r.v. X and its c.d.f. F , $p_{mL}(X)$ -mild-heavy left-tailed if

$$P(Q_1(F) - 3IQR(F) < X \leq Q_1(F) - 1.5IQR(F)) = p_{mL}(X).$$

Having in mind this definition we introduce classification of the distributions with respect to their mild left tail.

Definition 2. A r.v. X and a r.v. Y belong to one and the same p_{mL} -mild-heavy left-tailed class if $p_{mL}(X) = p_{mL}(Y)$. See Figure 3, b). A r.v. X has lighter mild-heavy left tail than a r.v. Y if $p_{mL}(X) < p_{mL}(Y)$.

Let us note that $p_{mL}(X) = p_{mL}(Y)$ does not mean neither that the X and Y belong to one and the same distributional type, nor that they have one and the same mean or variance. But if $X = Y$ in distribution then $p_{mL}(X) = p_{mL}(Y)$.

The p_{mL} characteristic is invariant with respect to shifting. More precisely, for all $c_1 \in \mathbb{R}$ $p_{mL}(c_1 + X) = p_{mL}(X)$.

Table 1 presents a small part of the this classification, where $c_m = \left(\log_{1-\frac{\log 3}{\log 4}} \frac{3}{5}\right)^{-1} \approx 3.08$, $c_e = \left(\log_{1-\frac{\log 3}{\log 4}} \frac{3}{4}\right)^{-1} \approx 5.47$. The fact that p_{mL} characteristic of all normal distributions is approximately 0.0035 in practice means that if

Table 1. Classification of some of the distributions with respect to their mild-heavy left-tailedness.

Distribution	p_{mL}
$U(a, b), a < b; \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \beta); \text{Pareto}(\alpha, \delta); \text{Frechet}(\alpha), 0 < \alpha < c_m$	0
$\text{Frechet}(\alpha), \alpha \in (c_m, c_e]$	$\exp\{-(2.5\log^{-1/\alpha}(4) - 1.5\log^{-1/\alpha}(\frac{4}{3}))^{-\alpha}\} \approx 0$
$\text{Frechet}(\alpha), \alpha > c_e$	$\exp\{-(2.5\log^{-1/\alpha}(4) - 1.5\log^{-1/\alpha}(\frac{4}{3}))^{-\alpha}\} - \exp\{-(4\log^{-1/\alpha}4 - 3\log^{-1/\alpha}(\frac{4}{3}))^{-\alpha}\} \approx 0$
Gumbel	≈ 0.00000043
$N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	≈ 0.0035
$\text{Weibull}^-(\alpha)$	$\exp\{-(2.5\log^{1/\alpha}4 - 1.5\log^{1/\alpha}(\frac{4}{3}))^\alpha\} - \exp\{-(4\log^{1/\alpha}4 - 3\log^{1/\alpha}(\frac{4}{3}))^\alpha\}$
$\text{Weibull}^-(2)$	≈ 0.0102
$t(2)$	≈ 0.0266
$t(1)$	≈ 0.0328
$-Exp(\lambda)$	≈ 0.0339
$\text{Weibull}^-(1)$	≈ 0.0389
$\text{Weibull}^-(0.5)$	≈ 0.0495

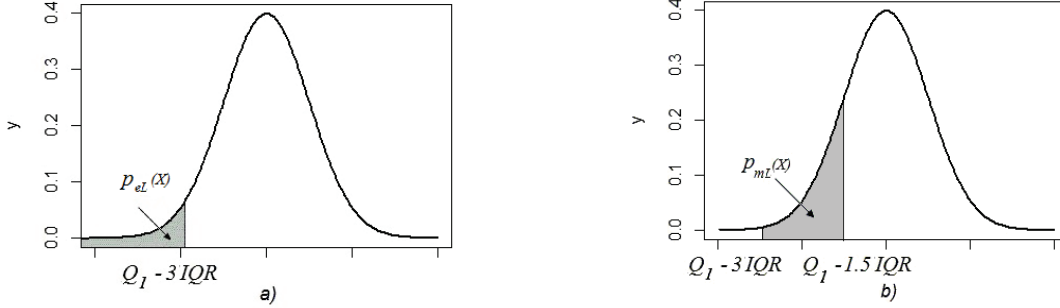


Figure 3. Relation between the plot of the p.d.f. of a r.v. X with c.d.f. F , $p_{mL}(X)$ and $p_{eL}(X)$.

we observe such a r.v. we should expect 3 or 4 mild left outliers to appear in a sample of 1000 observations. Analogously we should expect to have around 34 or 35 mild left outliers in a sample of 10000 observations and so on. All negative exponential distributions have approximately 0.0203-mild-heavy left tail. So, if we observe 100 independent realizations of exponentially distributed r.v. we should expect to have 2 mild left outliers.

What about more extreme left outliers? See Figure 3, a).

Definition 3. We call a r.v. X and its c.d.f. F , $p_{eL}(X)$ -extremely heavy left-tailed if

$$P(X < Q_1(F) - 3IQR(F)) = p_{eL}(X).$$

Definition 4. We say that a r.v. X and a r.v. Y belong to one and the same p_{eL} -extremely heavy left-tailed class if $p_{eL}(X) = p_{eL}(Y)$. Analogously, we say that a r.v. X has lighter extremely heavy left tail than a r.v. Y if $p_{eL}(X) < p_{eL}(Y)$.

Table 2 presents some examples of classification of distributions with respect to their extremely heavy left tails. In order to explain the results let us consider again the normal distribution. The value $p_{eL} \approx 0.0000012$ means that in case we have independent observations on such a r.v. we should expect to have 1 or 2 left extreme outliers in a sample of 10^6 observations. Analogously we should expect to have approximately 12 left extreme outliers in a sample of 10^7 observations and so on.

Note: 1. $p_{mL}(X) < p_{mL}(Y)$ is not equivalent to $p_{eL}(X) < p_{eL}(Y)$.

2. If $p_{eL}(X) = p_{eL}(Y)$ or $p_{mL}(X) = p_{mL}(Y)$, this does not obligatory mean that X and Y coincide in distribution.

3. $p_{eL}(c_1 + X) = p_{eL}(X)$, for all $c_1 \in \mathbb{R}$.

Table 2. Classification of some of the distributions with respect to their extremely heavy left-tailedness.

Distribution	$p_{eL} = F(O_L)$
U(a, b); Gamma(α, λ); Pareto(α, δ); Frechet(α), $0 < \alpha < c_e$	0
Frechet(α), $\alpha \geq c_e$; Gumbel	≈ 0
N(μ, σ^2)	≈ 0.0000012
Weibull ⁻ (α)	$\exp\{-(4\log^{1/\alpha} 4 - 3\log^{1/\alpha} \frac{4}{3})^\alpha\}$
Weibull ⁻ (2)	≈ 0.0000668
-Exp(λ)	≈ 0.0093
Weibull ⁻ (1)	≈ 0.0093
t(2)	≈ 0.0146
t(1)	≈ 0.0452
Weibull ⁻ (0.5)	≈ 0.0654

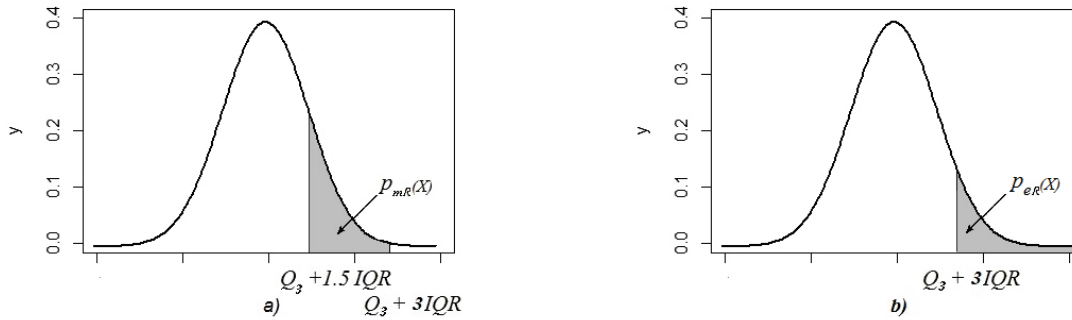


Figure 4. Relation between the plot of the p.d.f. of a r.v. X with c.d.f. F , $p_{mR}(X)$ and $p_{eR}(X)$.

Classification of the distributions with respect to heaviness of their right tails

Analogously to the previous subsection we can work with the right tails. See Figure 4, a) and b).

Definition 5. We call a r.v. X and its c.d.f. F , $p_{mR}(X)$ -mild-heavy right-tailed if

$$P(Q_3(F) + 1.5IQR(F) < X \leq Q_3(F) + 3IQR(F)) = p_{mR}(X).$$

Definition 6. We say that a r.v. X and a r.v. Y belong to one and the same p_{mR} -mild-heavy right-tailed class if $p_{mR}(X) = p_{mR}(Y)$. A r.v. X has lighter mild-heavy right tail than a r.v. Y if $p_{mR}(X) < p_{mR}(Y)$.

Definition 7. We call a r.v. X and its c.d.f. F , $p_{eR}(X)$ -extremely heavy right-tailed if

$$P(X > Q_3(F) + 3IQR(F)) = p_{eR}(X).$$

Definition 8. A r.v. X and a r.v. Y belong to one and the same p_{eR} -extremely heavy right-tailed class if $p_{eR}(X) = p_{eR}(Y)$. We say that a r.v. X has lighter extreme right tail than a r.v. Y if $p_{eR}(X) < p_{eR}(Y)$.

The properties of these characteristics are analogous to the corresponding one of the left tails.

Some examples are given in Table 3. Again we observe that $p_{mR}(X) < p_{mR}(Y)$ is not equivalent to $p_{eR}(X) < p_{eR}(Y)$. The analysis is analogous to those made above for the left tails. It is well known that if we consider only a fixed distribution with regularly varying tail, the bigger the value of α the lighter the corresponding tail of the distribution is. However when we consider the extremely heavy tails, which one of Pareto or Frechet distribution has heavier right tail depends on their parameters. If $X \sim \text{Pareto}(2, 1)$ and $Y \sim \text{Frechet}(\alpha)$, $\alpha \geq 1$ then X has heavier right tail than Y , but $\text{Frechet}(0.5)$ has heavier extremal right tail than $\text{Pareto}(0.5, 1)$.

Note that if $X \sim \text{Gamma}(\alpha, \lambda)$, $\lambda > 0$, then $p_{mL}(X)$, $p_{eL}(X)$, $p_{mR}(X)$ and $p_{eR}(X)$ does not depend on λ .

Classification of the distributions with respect to heaviness of their two-sided tails

Here, for the seek of completeness, we consider the two-sided heavy-tailedness of the distributions. However in practice it is better to make a more detailed comparison of the probabilities to have one-sided left or right, mild or

Table 3. Classification of some of the distributions with respect to heaviness of their right tails.

Distribution	p_{mR}	$p_{eR} = \bar{F}_X(O_R)$
$U(a, b), a < b, Weibull^-(\alpha), a, b \in \mathbb{R}$	0	0
$N(\mu, \sigma^2)$	≈ 0.0035	≈ 0.0000012
$Gamma(2, \lambda), \lambda > 0$	≈ 0.0011	≈ 0.000071
<i>Gumbel</i>	≈ 0.0243	≈ 0.0026
$Exp(\lambda), \lambda > 0$	≈ 0.0339	≈ 0.0093
$t(2)$	≈ 0.0266	≈ 0.0146
$Gamma(0.5, \lambda), \lambda > 0$	$\approx \mathbf{0.0502}$	≈ 0.0255
<i>Frechet</i> (α)	$1 - exp^{-(2.5 \sqrt[3]{3.48-1.5 \sqrt{0.72}})^{-\alpha}}$	$1 - e^{-(4 \sqrt[3]{3.48-3 \sqrt{0.72}})^{-\alpha}}$
<i>Frechet</i> (2)	≈ 0.0429	≈ 0.0406
$t(1)$	≈ 0.0328	≈ 0.0452
<i>Pareto</i> (α, δ)	$\frac{\delta^{-\alpha}}{4} (2.5 - 1.5 \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}})^{-\alpha} - p_{eR}$	$\frac{\delta^{-\alpha}}{4} (4 - 3 \sqrt{\frac{1}{3}})^{-\alpha}$
<i>Pareto</i> (2, 1)	$\approx \mathbf{0.045}$	≈ 0.0486
<i>Frechet</i> (1)	≈ 0.0415	≈ 0.0817
<i>Pareto</i> (1, 1)	≈ 0.0417	≈ 0.0833
<i>Pareto</i> (0.5, 1)	≈ 0.0331	≈ 0.1306
<i>Frechet</i> (0.5)	≈ 0.0323	≈ 0.1360

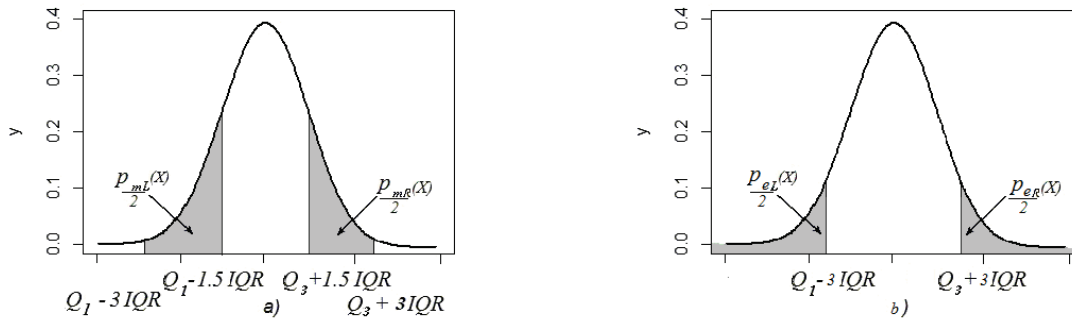


Figure 5. Relation between the plot of the p.d.f. of a r.v. X , $p_{m2}(X) = \frac{p_{mL}(X)+p_{mR}(X)}{2}$ and $p_{e2}(X) = \frac{p_{eL}(X)+p_{eR}(X)}{2}$.

extreme outliers. It gives us more comprehensive picture about the tail behaviour of the observed distribution.

Definition 9. We call a r.v. X and its c.d.f. F , $p_{m2}(X)$ -mild-heavy two-tailed if

$$P(Q_1(F) - 3IQR(F) < X \leq Q_1(F) - 1.5IQR(F) \cup Q_3(F) + 1.5IQR(F) < X \leq Q_3(F) + 3IQR(F)) = p_{m2}(X).$$

Definition 10. A r.v. X and a r.v. Y belong to one and the same p_{m2} -mild-heavy two-tailed class if $p_{m2}(X) = p_{m2}(Y)$. A r.v. X with c.d.f. F has lighter mild two-tails than a r.v. Y if $p_{m2}(X) < p_{m2}(Y)$.

Definition 11. A r.v. X and its c.d.f. F are called $p_{e2}(X)$ -extremely heavy two-tailed if

$$P(X < Q_1(F) - 3IQR(F) \cup X > Q_3(F) + 3IQR(F)) = p_{e2}(X).$$

Definition 12. A r.v. X and a r.v. Y belong to one and the same p_{e2} -extremely heavy two-tailed class if $p_{e2}(X) = p_{e2}(Y)$ and a r.v. X has lighter extreme two-tails than a r.v. Y if $p_{e2}(X) < p_{e2}(Y)$.

Note: Again the equalities $p_{m2}(X) = p_{m2}(Y)$ or $p_{e2}(X) = p_{e2}(Y)$, does not obligatory mean that $X \stackrel{d}{=} Y$.

In Table 4 we have presented the values of $p_{m2}(X)$ and $p_{e2}(X)$ for some probability laws. See Figure 5, a) and b).

Algorithm for applications

Considering the outliers in a sample and comparing their relative frequencies with p_{mL} , p_{eL} , p_{mR} and p_{eR} we are able to make a better modelling of the tails of the distribution of the observed r.v. The algorithm is the following:

Table 4. Classification of some of the distributions with respect to heaviness of their two-sided tails.

Distribution	$p_{m2}(X) = p_{mL}(X) + p_{mR}(X)$	$p_{e2}(X) = F_X(O_L) + \bar{F}_X(O_R)$
U(a, b)	0	0
N(μ, σ^2)	≈ 0.007	≈ 0.000002
Gamma(2, λ), $\lambda > 0$	≈ 0.0011	≈ 0.000071
Weibull ⁻ (α)	$\exp\{-(2, 5\log^{1/\alpha}4 - 1, 5\log^{1/\alpha}4/3)^\alpha\} - p_1$	$p_1 = \exp\{-(4\log^{1/\alpha}4 - 3\log^{1/\alpha}4/3)^\alpha\}$
Weibull ⁻ (2)	≈ 0.0102	≈ 0.000067
Gumbel	≈ 0.0243	≈ 0.0026
-Exp(λ), Exp(λ), $\lambda > 0$	≈ 0.0339	≈ 0.0093
Weibull ⁻ (1)	≈ 0.0388	≈ 0.0093
Gamma(0.5, λ), $\lambda > 0$	$\approx \mathbf{0.0501}$	≈ 0.0255
t(2)	$\approx \mathbf{0.0532}$	≈ 0.0293
Frechet(α)	$1 - \exp^{-(2.5 \sqrt[3]{3.48} - 1.5 \sqrt[3]{0.72})^{-\alpha}} - p_3$	$p_3 = 1 - e^{-(4 \sqrt[3]{3.48} - 3 \sqrt[3]{0.72})^{-\alpha}}$
Frechet(2)	≈ 0.0429	≈ 0.0406
Pareto(α, δ)	$\frac{\delta^{-\alpha}}{4} (2.5 - 1.5 \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{3}})^{-\alpha} - p_2$	$p_2 = \frac{\delta^{-\alpha}}{4} (4 - 3 \sqrt[3]{\frac{1}{3}})^{-\alpha}$
Pareto(2, 1)	≈ 0.045	≈ 0.0486
Weibull ⁻ (0.5)	≈ 0.0495	≈ 0.0654
Frechet(1)	≈ 0.0415	≈ 0.0817
Pareto(1, 1)	≈ 0.0417	≈ 0.0833
t(1)	$\approx \mathbf{0.0656}$	≈ 0.0903
Pareto(0.5, 1)	≈ 0.0331	≈ 0.1306
Frechet(0.5)	≈ 0.0323	≈ 0.1360

1. Determine $\hat{Q}_1, \hat{Q}_2, \hat{Q}_3, I\hat{Q}_R, \hat{I}_L, \hat{O}_L, \hat{I}_R, \hat{O}_R$ and compare the empirical box-plot with the theoretical box-plot of the chosen distributions.
2. Determine the relative frequencies of the left and right, mild and extreme outliers.
3. Make confidence intervals, based on the relative frequencies of mild or extreme outliers. Compare these relative frequencies with p_{mL} and p_{mR} in the list of distributions and chose appropriate classes of distributions for modelling the probability law of the observed r.v.
4. Make confidence intervals, based only on the relative frequencies of extreme outliers. Compare these relative frequencies with p_{eL} and p_{eR} in the list of distributions chosen in 3. and find the most appropriate distributional types for modeling the observed r.v.
5. Estimate the parameters of the chosen distributions.
6. Use some goodness of fit test to chose the best model.

FIVE NEW ESTIMATORS OF THE EXTREMAL INDEX. EMPIRICAL STUDY.

In this section we suppose that $\widehat{Q}_1 > 0, \widehat{Q}_1 \neq 1$ and at least one of the following two conditions hold: $\widehat{Q}_1 \neq \widehat{Q}_3$ or $\widehat{O}_R > 1$. We propose to model the observed r.v. with appropriate distribution with regularly varying tail, i.e. such that $\lim_{y \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1-F(xy)}{1-F(y)} = x^{-\alpha}$ and present five distribution sensitive estimators of the parameter α . The relative frequency \hat{p}_{eR} of the right extreme outliers in the sample is a strongly consistent and unbiased estimator of p_{eR} . The right outer fence \hat{O}_R is an asymptotically consistent estimator of the theoretical O_R .

The following two estimators have very fast rate of convergence in case when the observed r.v. is Pareto(α) distributed. See the empirical study and Table 5.

$$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n} = -\frac{\log \hat{p}_{eR}}{\log \widehat{O}_R}, \quad \hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n} = \frac{\log(3)}{\log \widehat{Q}_3 - \log \widehat{Q}_1}.$$

They have approximately the same properties as the Hill and the t-Hill estimators.

Table 5. Empirical results.

Distribution of ξ .	n	$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$		$\hat{\alpha}_{Frech,n}$		$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$		$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$		$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$		The best estimator	
		Mean	St. Dev.	Mean	St. Dev.	Mean	St. Dev.	Mean	St. Dev.	Mean	St. Dev.		
<i>Pareto</i> (α)	$\alpha = 0.5$	30	0.5463	0.1356	0.531	0.138	0.5116	0.1442	0.7323	0.2064	1.2437	29.8589	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$
		100	0.5119	0.0669	0.4954	0.0683	0.5035	0.0756	0.7207	0.1083	0.3904	74.1974	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$
		1000	0.5015	0.0204	0.4846	0.0208	0.5005	0.0238	0.7164	0.034	1.7906	0.3105	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$
		10000	0.5001	0.0063	0.4831	0.0063	0.5002	0.0074	0.716	0.0106	1.761	0.0922	$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$
	$\alpha = 1$	30	1.0671	0.2528	1.05	0.2568	1.026	0.2869	1.4685	0.4106	-2.1133	17.9816	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$
		100	1.0312	0.1486	1.0141	0.1518	1.0092	0.1516	1.4446	0.2171	-3.0747	9.8974	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$
		1000	1.0022	0.0422	0.9848	0.0432	1.0006	0.0469	1.4322	0.0671	-2.3396	0.2569	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$
		10000	1.0004	0.0132	0.983	0.0136	1	0.0146	1.4314	0.021	-2.324	0.081	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$
	$\alpha = 2$	30	1.9996	0.4313	1.9789	0.4351	2.0514	0.566	2.9364	0.8102	-1.134	0.2572	$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$
100		2.0772	0.3332	2.0607	0.338	2.0185	0.3021	2.8893	0.4325	-1.0865	0.0938	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$	
1000		2.0083	0.0937	1.9919	0.0953	2.0021	0.094	2.8658	0.1346	-1.0766	0.0273	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$	
10000		2	0.0292	1.9836	0.0297	1.9998	0.03	2.8624	0.043	-1.0737	0.0087	$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$	
<i>Frechet</i> (α)	$\alpha = 0.5$	30	0.5738	0.1549	0.5568	0.1564	0.354	0.0826	0.5067	0.1182	0.9214	9.8233	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		100	0.5335	0.0738	0.5151	0.0747	0.3508	0.0442	0.5021	0.0632	0.7301	0.2186	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		1000	0.5201	0.0222	0.5014	0.0225	0.3494	0.0139	0.5001	0.0199	0.7012	0.0564	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		10000	0.519	0.007	0.5002	0.007	0.3494	0.0044	0.5001	0.0062	0.6989	0.0175	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
	$\alpha = 1$	30	1.0825	0.2599	1.0654	0.2637	0.7066	0.1648	1.0115	0.2358	3.2049	324.4615	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		100	1.0506	0.1534	1.0337	0.1565	0.7023	0.0892	1.0053	0.1277	5.5908	707.2482	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		1000	1.0209	0.0445	1.0038	0.0454	0.6989	0.0276	1.0004	0.0396	-15.003	1031.205	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		10000	1.0174	0.014	1.0003	0.0143	0.6987	0.0088	1.0001	0.0126	287.2494	14959.87	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
	$\alpha = 2$	30	1.9469	0.3957	1.9289	0.3988	1.4131	0.3275	2.0227	0.4688	-1.5699	1.755	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		100	2.094	0.3418	2.081	0.3461	1.4031	0.178	2.0084	0.2548	-1.4384	0.1996	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		1000	2.0202	0.0978	2.0072	0.0993	1.3975	0.0554	2.0004	0.0794	-1.4013	0.0553	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
		10000	2.0144	0.0309	2.0014	0.0313	1.3974	0.0175	2.0002	0.025	-1.3975	0.0176	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$
<i>Hill-Horror</i> (α)	$\alpha = 0.5$	30	0.4692	0.1223	0.4534	0.1234	0.2921	0.0675	0.4181	0.0966	2.164	0.7827	$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$
		100	0.4393	0.0591	0.4221	0.0598	0.2925	0.0367	0.4186	0.0525	0.5647	0.9664	$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$
		1000	0.4286	0.0178	0.411	0.0179	0.2915	0.0115	0.4173	0.0165	0.5012	0.0342	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
		10000	0.4278	0.0057	0.4102	0.0057	0.2915	0.0037	0.4172	0.0052	0.5001	0.0107	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
	$\alpha = 1$	30	0.8051	0.205	0.788	0.2077	0.4134	0.0926	0.5917	0.1325	2.6214	187.5964	$\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$
		100	0.7581	0.1056	0.7403	0.1075	0.4127	0.0505	0.5908	0.0723	1.0795	0.4421	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
		1000	0.7377	0.0315	0.7194	0.0321	0.4115	0.0158	0.589	0.0227	1.0055	0.0948	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
		10000	0.7355	0.0098	0.7172	0.01	0.4113	0.005	0.5887	0.0072	1.0008	0.0908	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
	$\alpha = 2$	30	1.2185	0.283	1.2019	0.2859	0.5198	0.1143	0.744	0.1636	1.543	69.0628	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
		100	1.1965	0.1785	1.1812	0.1816	0.519	0.0631	0.7429	0.0903	2.8577	28.6543	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
		1000	1.1554	0.05	1.1399	0.051	0.5178	0.0196	0.7411	0.0281	2.0379	0.3168	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$
		10000	1.1529	0.0159	1.1374	0.0162	0.5177	0.0062	0.741	0.0089	2.0044	0.0932	$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$

The second group of two estimators

$$\hat{\alpha}_{Frech,n} = -\frac{\log(-\log \widehat{P}_{eR})}{\log \widehat{O}_R}, \quad \hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n} = -\frac{\log(\log(4)) - \log(\log(4/3))}{\log \widehat{Q}_3 - \log \widehat{Q}_1}$$

is better in cases when the observed r.v. is a *Frechet*(α) distributed. We should mention that in both of these cases, it is well known that for estimating the parameter of the Pareto distribution, the Hill estimator (see e.g. [19]) is the best estimator. With respect to the robustness their behaviour is comparable with the one of the t-Hill estimator (see [20, 21]).

The last estimator is the most appropriate in case the observed r.v. has Hill-Horror distribution

$$F^{\leftarrow}(p) = (1-p)^{-1/\alpha}(-\log(1-p)), p \in (0, 1), \quad (\text{see}[22]).$$

This estimator is defined by

$$\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n} = \frac{\log(3)}{\log \widehat{Q}_3 + \log(\log(4/3)) - \log \widehat{Q}_1 - \log(\log(4))}.$$

Let us make a brief empirical investigation of these estimators. For different but fixed $n = 30, 10^2, 10^3, 10^4$, we have made $m = 10^4$ samples with sample size n , of observation on one and the same r.v. Within these $m = 10^4$ samples the type and the parameters are one and the same, but in general the types change between *Pareto*(α), *Frechet*(α) or *Hill-Horror*(α) distribution for different α . Then we have calculated 10^4 values of $\hat{\alpha}_{Par,n}$, $\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Par,n}$, $\hat{\alpha}_{Frech,n}$, $\hat{\alpha}_{Q,Frech,n}$, $\hat{\alpha}_{Q,HillH,n}$ and finally we have calculated the corresponding means and standard deviations. The results are given in Table 5. The best estimator in any particular case is the one that takes into account the type of the observed r.v. Therefore the choice of the distribution is the most important step for the estimation of the index of regular variation.

Although we have found good estimators for the regularly varying index when the observed distribution is almost regularly varying. The most dangerous case, is again the Hill-Horror distributed one. The question about estimation of α for small samples of such data, e.g. when $n \leq 30$ is still open. In this cases, however it seems to be not realistic to find a good estimator of the tail index, because due to the slow rate of convergence, with very high probability, the sample does not contain enough information about the tail of the distribution.

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