## Density Forecasting: Growth at Risk Part II. Applications

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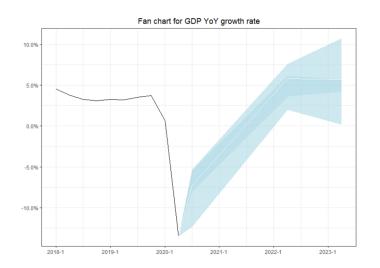
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#### Fan Charts

- Fan charts are popular to present the balance of risks going forward
- Density forecasting is a natural framework to build fan charts
- Fundamentally different from the fan charts inherited from VAR (or SVAR)
  - In a VAR-fan chart, the distribution comes from the residual (the " $\epsilon$ "): uncertainty here is about our ignorance of the deterministic DGP centered around the mean
  - In a density framework however, the DGP is fundamentally uncertain: there are no residuals, the object of interest is the distribution itself

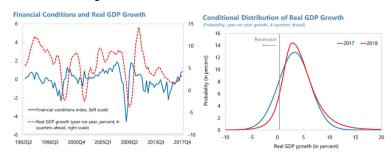
#### Fan chart: Israel 2020



Source: Bol Financial Stability Report, June 2020

#### Singapore: Probability of Recessions

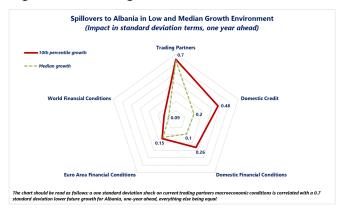
- Probability of recession (growth below zero) in Singapore
- Identify key macrofinancial variables: External factors, financial conditions, housing, China



Source: IMF Article IV (2018)

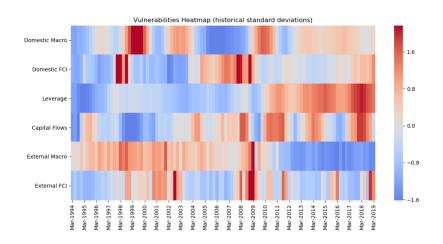
### Spillover analysis

#### Spillovers Amplification in Crisis Time



Source: IMF Albania Article IV 2019

#### **Vulnerabilities Heatmap**



Source: IMF Staff

#### Assessing the Likelihood of a Scenario (I)

- A simple use of GaR is to estimate the likelihood of a scenario, provided via other methods (2 standard deviations, structural models, etc.)
- Because GaR provides the full conditional distribution, the probability of any given scenario can be estimated
- Useful approach to put the "severity" of stress-testers assumptions into perspective

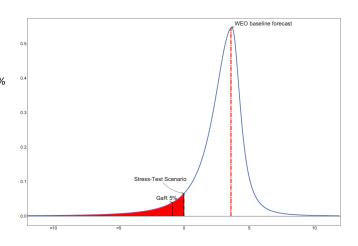
### Assessing the Likelihood of a Scenario (II)

#### Results:

Probability of recession (stress-test scenario): 8.9%

GaR at 5%: -0.9%

GaR at 10%: 0.2%

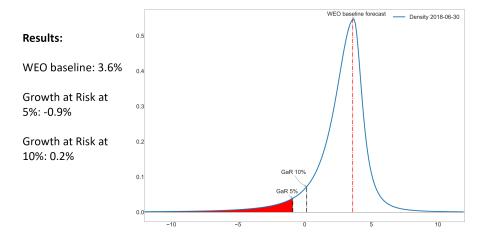


Source: IMF FSAP (2018)

#### Modeling Tail-Risks Around a Baseline Scenario

- Using the constrained approach, possbility to make the density forecast consistent with the authorities baseline scenario
- Consistency: if the authorities scenario is very optimistic, the left tail will inflate accordingly
- Useful to discuss the drivers of the model (partitions and the quantile regressions coefficients)

## Modeling Tail-Risks Around a Baseline Scenario (II)



Source: IMF FSAP (2018)

#### **Shocks Simulation**

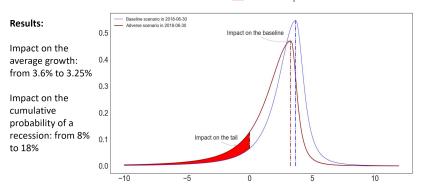
- Simulate scenario via counterfactual regressors
- E.g. impact of 2-std fci shock on future growth?
- The tool estimates counterfactual scenarios:
  - lacktriangle On a new  $ilde{X}_t$  ad-hoc generated by the user
  - 2 Using the same  $\hat{\beta}^{\tau}$  as estimated over past data
- Interesting point: a shock can be amplified at certain points of the distribution (non-linearities)

#### Comparative Static Approach

- The shock on  $X_t$  is "ceteris paribus": NOT a structural shock in a VAR-sense
- Should be used to inform about potential spillovers, not for rigorous policy analysis: transmission channels are not clearly identified

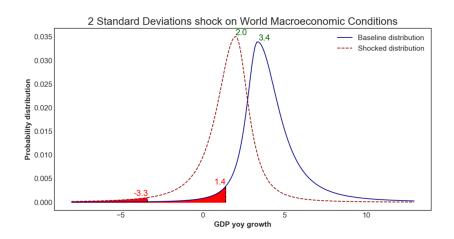
#### Comparative Static Example (I)

Impact of Tightened Financial Conditions on Growth Adverse scenario assumes a 1 sd shock on price of risk



Source: IMF Staff

### Comparative Static Example (II)



Source: IMF Staff

#### Quantifying the Risk Assessment Matrix (RAM)

- Because GaR is a density, it provides not only the pdf, but also the cdf and quantile functions
- Using the scenario analysis above, it is straigthforward to quantify the RAM in terms of:
  - Risks to the baseline
  - Tail-risks
- Again, this is a comparative statics analysis without clean identification

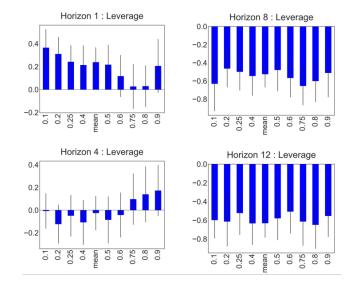
### Quantifying the RAM: Albania

#### Quantitative Risk Assessment, One-Year Horizon

| Source of Risk   | Relative Likelihood<br>compared with the<br>no-shock scenario | Simulated Shock (in standard deviations)                              | Estimated Impact<br>on the Median vs.<br>10 <sup>th</sup> percentile <i>(in</i><br>p.p. real growth) | No-shock and<br>counterfactual<br>probability of<br>growth <2% |
|--|---|---|--|--|
| Weaker than<br>expected growth in<br>main trading partners | Medium  | - 2 std in<br>macroeconomic<br>conditions of main<br>trading partners | -1.6 <u>p.p</u> ; -1.7 <u>p.p</u>  | 3% ; 43%   |
| Sharp tightening of financial conditions in the Euro Area  | High  | + 2 std in EA FCI composite   | -0.9 <u>p.p</u> ; -1 <u>p.p</u>  | 3% ; <mark>20%</mark>  |
| Financial turmoil in<br>key partners country               | Medium  | + 2 std in key partners bond rates                                    | -1.1 p.p. ; -1.8 p.p.  | 3%; 25%  |
| Increase in leverage                                       | Low   | + 2 <u>std</u> in leverage<br>index                                   | -0.4 p.p.; -2 p.p.   | 3% ; 16%   |

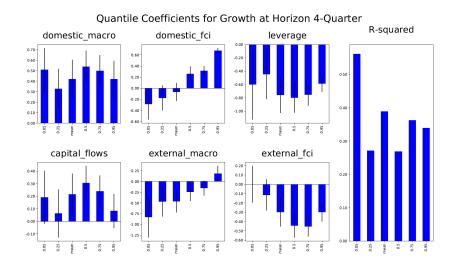
Source: IMF Albania Article IV (2018)

#### Term Structure of Growth at Risk (Local Projections)



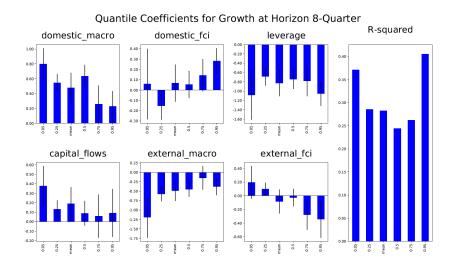
Source: IMF Staff

### Quantile Regressions Output 1 year Ahead



Source: IMF Article IV (2018)

### Quantile Regressions Output 2 years Ahead



Source: IMF Article IV (2018)

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### Making Sense of GaR

We developed a user-friendly Excel tool

 The Excel tool makes it easier for economists to estimate multi-layers density forecasting model

- However, it can not be applied automatically to forecast risk to growth for a country
  - The tool is just a set of Python macros with an Excel interface
  - The tool has limitations, but is useful to quickly dig into the model and see if "it worths it" to invest in GaR

#### Applied Work with GaR

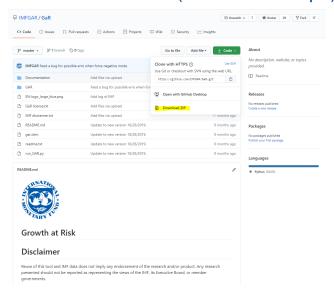
- Identify key macro-financial factors and vulnerabilities guided by economic intuition, experience, theory
- Understand what variables shift the mean and and what variables change the volatility and downside risk
- Aggregate data and construct meaningful regressors (cf partitioning). Evaluate whether the data partitions make economic sense
- Design appropriate GaR model by specifying quantiles, forecasting horizon, independent/control variables
- Be mindful of limitations and caveats, correlation/causation, data quality, sample size, types of financial regressors, etc.

## Install Free and Open-Source Python Anaconda distribution



Source: https://www.anaconda.com/products/individual

#### Download GaR from Github (Official IMF Repo)



Source: https://github.com/IMFGAR/GaR

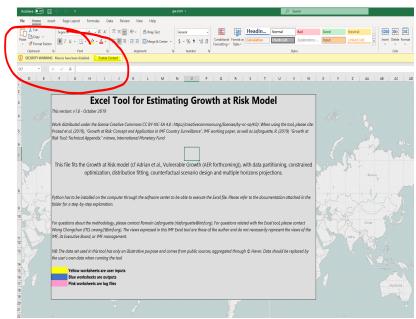
#### Unzip the folder: Documentation and Main Excel File

| Name                   | Date modified     | Туре              | Size     |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Documentation          | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | File folder       |          |
| GAR                    | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | File folder       |          |
| EN-logo_large_blue.png | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | PNG File          | 268 KB   |
| GaR license.txt        | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Text Document     | 19 KB    |
| gar.xlsm               | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Microsoft Excel M | 3,020 KB |
| IMF disclaimer.txt     | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Text Document     | 1 KB     |
| README.md              | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | MD File           | 2 KB     |
| readme.txt             | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Text Document     | 2 KB     |
| mrun_GAR.py            | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | PY File           | 2 KB     |

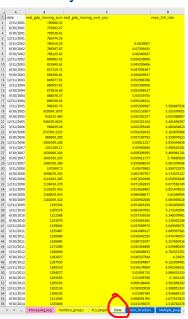
#### **Documentation**

| GaR - IMF Working Paper 19-36.pdf     | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Adobe Acrobat D  | 2,307 KB |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------|
| 🚭 GaR - Technical Appendix.docx       | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Microsoft Word D | 933 KB   |
| GaR license.txt                       | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Text Document    | 19 KB    |
| HowToUseGaR.docx                      | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Microsoft Word D | 396 KB   |
| Some examples of IMF GaR applications | 4/29/2020 3:07 PM | Microsoft Word D | 21 KB    |

#### Open the Excel tool and enable content



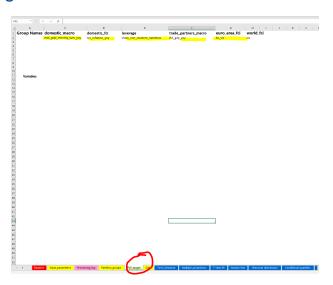
#### Input data on the "Data" yellow sheet



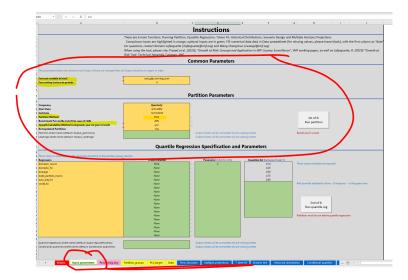
## Group variables into partitions in the "Partition" excel sheet



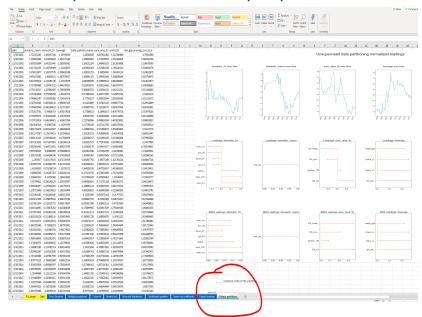
## In case of PLS: determine supervising variables in "PLS target" sheet



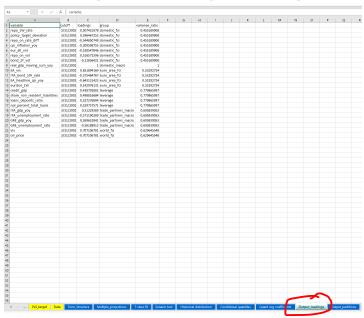
# Estimate the partitions: choose horizon, partitioning methods, etc.



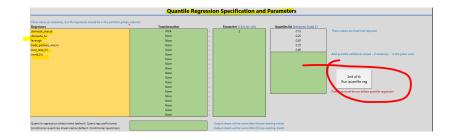
#### Estimated partitions are in "Output partitions"



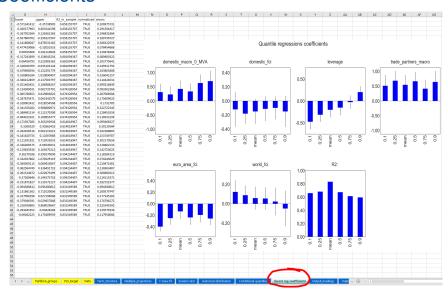
### Estimated loadings are in "Output'loadings"



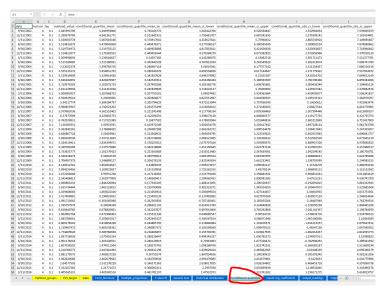
#### Parameters for the quantile regressions



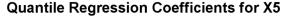
## Results of the quantile regressions in "Quant Reg Coefficients"

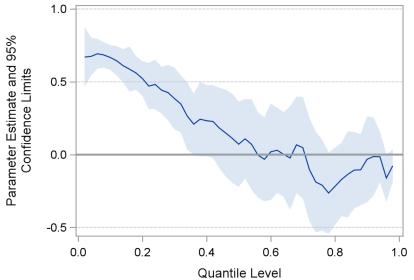


## In-sample Conditional Quantiles in "Conditional Quantiles"

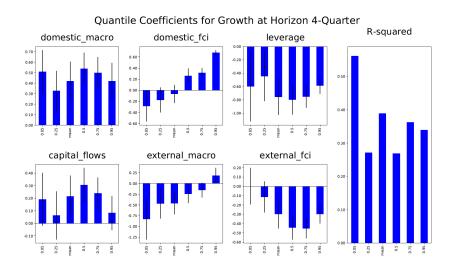


## Non-Linearities in Quantile Regressions Coefficients





### **Quantile Regressions Output**



Source: IMF Article IV (2018)

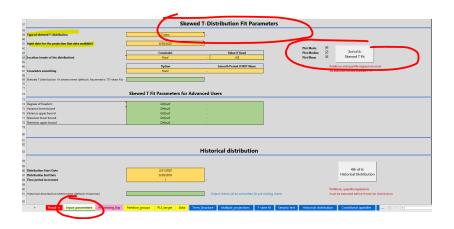
#### Parameters for distribution fit

Remember that a distribution is fitted on a given date:

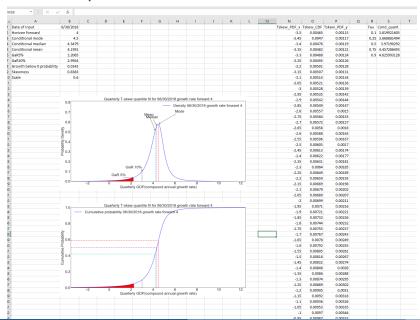
$$Y_{2021} = \beta^q * X_{2020}$$

- The tool allows to project a density for a given date and horizon
- Possibility also to fix the mode: constrained optimization

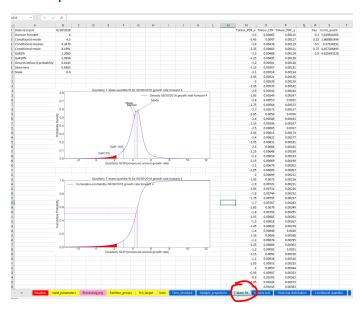
# Parameters for distribution fit: type of distribution, conditioning



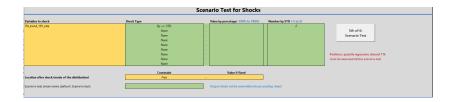
#### Tskew fit output in "Tskew fit"



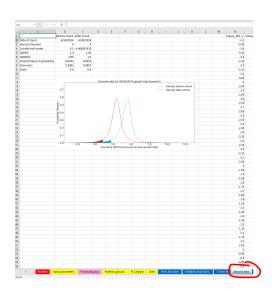
#### Tskew fit output in "Tskew fit"



### Scenario design



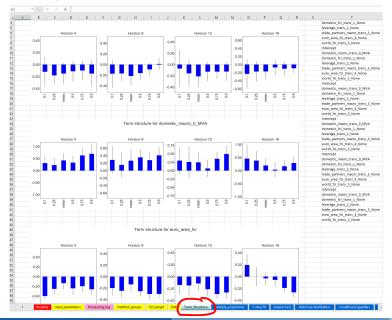
# The projections from the scenarios are in "Scenario Test"



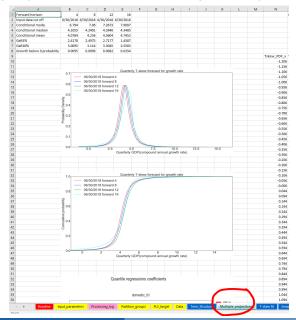
#### The term structure



#### The term quantile coefficients are in "Term Structure"



#### The term projections are in "Multiple Projections"



#### Support

 The tool, documentation, etc. will be kept updated on the public Github folder: https://github.com/IMFGAR/GaR/

 IMF Working paper on Growth at Risk: Concept and Application in IMF Country Surveillance (2019, IMF WP 19/36)

 Issues, questions and suggestions? Contact rlafarguette@imf.org or cwang2@imf.org