

Trends in the extreme value index

Laurens de Haan

Erasmus University Rotterdam

Chen Zhou

De Nederlandsche Bank, Erasmus University Rotterdam, and Tinbergen Institute

Abstract

We consider extreme value analysis for independent but non-identically distributed observations. In particular, the observations do not share the same extreme value index (tail index). The tail index is assumed to change in a continuous way over time/space. We provide a nonparametric local estimate for the functional extreme value index. Besides estimating the extreme value index locally, we also provide an estimator for the accumulated trend up to a certain time and its joint asymptotic behavior. The asymptotic theory for the global estimator can be used for testing a pre-specified parametric trend in the extreme value indices. In particular, it can be applied to test whether the extreme value index remains at a constant level across all observations.