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# Exact Maximum Likelihood estimation for the BL-GARCH model under elliptical distributed innovations 

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# Exact Maximum Likelihood estimation for the <br> BL-GARCH model under elliptical distributed 

innovations

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#### Abstract

In this paper, we discuss the class of Bilinear GARCH (BL-GARCH) models which are capable of capturing simultaneously two key properties of non-linear time series: volatility clustering and leverage effects. It has been observed often that the marginal distributions of such time series have heavy tails; thus we examine the BL-GARCH model in a general setting under some non-Normal distributions. We investigate some probabilistic properties of this model and we propose and implement a maximum likelihood estimation (MLE) methodology. To evaluate the smallsample performance of this method for the various models, a Monte Carlo study is conducted. Finally, within-sample estimation properties are studied using S\&P 500 daily returns, when the features of interest manifest as volatility clustering and leverage effects.


Keywords: BL-GARCH process; Elliptical distribution; Leverage effects; Maximum likelihood; Monte Carlo method; Volatility clustering.

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## 1 Introduction

Non-constant variance in non-linear time series is a challenging modelling exercise, considered among many others things by Tong (1990). In particular, the stylized fact that the volatility of financial time series is non-constant has been long recognized in the literature. A popular and prominent tool used to describe this phenomenon is the autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (ARCH) model. The ARCH model, developed by Engle (1982) and later extended to the GARCH model by Bollerslev (1986), formulates the conditional variance of a random variable as a linear function of its past squared realizations. Following the seminal work of Engle (1982), a number of applied studies surfaced to illustrate the usefulness of these models in economic and financial settings: for example, see Gouriéroux (1997) and recently Giraitis et al. (2007). Moreover, a large volume of the studies focuses upon the familiar observation within financial time series concerning asymmetric variation, whereby stock price changes are negatively correlated with changes in volatility; that is, negative shocks impose larger volatility relative to positive shocks of the same magnitude (Black, 1976). In the light of this empirical finding, various models which allow for asymmetry in volatility have been proposed. These models include the exponential GARCH model (EGARCH) of Nelson (1991), the APARCH model, proposed by Ding et al. (1993), and the BL-GARCH model recently introduced by Storti and Vitale (2003a). The lattermost model complements the Gaussian bilinear (BL) model of means, introduced by Granger and Andersen (1978), developed by Subba Rao and Gabr (1984), Guégan (1987) and Guégan and Pham (1989).

In this paper, we focus on the BL-GARCH model whose appeal is that it can take into account explosions and related volatility features of non-linear time series. Bilinear models have been shown more generally to be capable of providing an arbitrarily close second-order approximation to a general class of underlying nonlinear process that may be reasonably expressed in terms of the Volterra series expansion, as in Guégan (1988). That is, under some modifications, the BL-GARCH model can generalize various GARCH-
type models including the standard GARCH, and the APARCH models, among others.

Specifically, we study the $\operatorname{BL-GARCH}(1,1)$ process which is mainly used in applications. We substantially extend the work of Storti and Vitale (2003a) using elliptical noise. Specifically, we provide the main probabilistic properties of the model under this class of elliptical innovations (positivity of the variance, strict stationarity, $2 k$-order stationarity, and fourth-order moment). However, parameter estimation of the BL-GARCH model remains problematic. Indeed, to deal with the parameter estimation for the BL-GARCH model, Storti and Vitale (2003b) use an indirect maximum likelihood procedure based on the EM algorithm. Despite the fact that the EM algorithm has become a very popular computational method in statistics, this approach presents some limitations, including slow numerical convergence; the fact that the sequence of parameter vectors converges to a maximum likelihood estimator only if a judicious choice of the starting value is made; and the underlying assumption of Normality for the data set. These limitations, coupled with the non-existence of a measure of the standard errors for the estimates, serve to limit the method's applicability severely.

In addition, in its standard form, the BL-GARCH model assumes that the conditional distribution of assets' returns is Gaussian. However, for many financial time series, this specification does not adequately take into account leptokurtosis: see Baillie and Bollerslev (1991), McAleer (2005), Zivot and Wang (2005) and references therein for some examples. Thus, it is timely to investigate non-Normal alternative distributions.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, the BL-GARCH model is presented with some important properties concerning conditions for the conditional variance to be finite, as well as for strict stationarity, existence of moments and ergodic solutions. Knowlegde of these properties are essential for carrying out consistent estimator, which we address in Section 3, where we present the MLE method under elliptical distributions,
such as the Normal, Student-t and GED distribution functions. Section 4 calibrates the performance of the estimation procedure through Monte Carlo simulations. Section 5 presents the data and contains the main empirical findings along with the goodness-offit tests, while Section 6 provides concluding remarks. In the Appendix, we provide the score functions and the Hessian matrices for these models.

## 2 BL-GARCH model and its specification

The BL-GARCH model has been introduced and discussed by Storti and Vitale (2003a) in a Gaussian framework. We now specify some properties of this model in a more general context, in order to apply it to financial asset price returns whose distribution function is known to be far from Gaussian.

### 2.1 The BL-GARCH model

Let $S_{t}$ denote an asset price at time $t, y_{t}=\log \left(S_{t} / S_{t-1}\right)$, and $\mu_{t}=E\left(y_{t} \mid \Psi_{t-1}\right)$ the conditional mean given an increasing sequence of $\sigma$-fields $\Psi_{t-1}$ generated by $\left(y_{t-1}, y_{t-2}, \cdots\right)$. We assume that the series of interest, $\left(y_{t}\right)_{t}$, follows the recursive scheme, for all $t$,

$$
\begin{equation*}
y_{t}=\mu_{t}+u_{t} \tag{1a}
\end{equation*}
$$

$$
\begin{gather*}
u_{t}=h_{t} \varepsilon_{t},  \tag{1b}\\
h_{t}^{2}=a_{0}+\sum_{i=1}^{p} a_{i} u_{t-i}^{2}+\sum_{j=1}^{q} b_{j} h_{t-j}^{2}+\sum_{k=1}^{r} c_{k} h_{t-k} u_{t-k}, \tag{1c}
\end{gather*}
$$

where $p, q, r$ are non-negative integers with $r=\min (p, q), h_{t}^{2}$ is the conditional variance of the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ given the $\sigma$-fields $\Psi_{t-1}$, and $\varepsilon_{t}$ is a sequence of independent identically distributed $D(0,1)$ random variables with $D($.$) an elliptical probability den-$ sity function with mean 0 and unit variance. The model (1b)-(1c) is more general than the standard GARCH model of Bollerslev (1986) in the sense that it allows innovations
of different signs to have a strong impact on volatility and allows larger shocks to have a larger influence on volatility than does the standard GARCH model: see Black (1976).

We now specify some properties of the model (1a)-(1c), restricting to the case $p=q=$ $r=1$ which is the more useful for applications, as in Baillie and DeGennaro (1990), or Hansen and Lunde (2005). First of all, we give the conditions for which the conditional variance $h_{t}^{2}$, defined as

$$
\begin{equation*}
h_{t}^{2}=a_{0}+a_{1} u_{t-1}^{2}+b_{1} h_{t-1}^{2}+c_{1} h_{t-1} u_{t-1}, \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

is nonnegative. Indeed, it is important in practice for estimation theory (using quasimaximum likelihood methods) that a model such as that in that (1a), (1b), and (2) does not generate negative conditional variance $h_{t}^{2}$ in sample, since the log quasi-likelihood involves a term in $\log \left(h_{t}^{2}\right)$, which explodes to $-\infty$ as $h_{t}^{2}$ approaches 0 and is ill-defined for $h_{t}^{2} \leq 0$.

The second set of properties concerns the strict stationarity and the stationarity of the process (1a), (1b), and (2), and the expression of moments.

### 2.1.1 Positivity of the conditional variance

Write the relationship (2) as

$$
h_{t}^{2}=\left[1, u_{t-1}, h_{t-1}\right]\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
a_{0} & 0 & 0  \tag{3}\\
0 & a_{1} & \frac{c_{1}}{2} \\
0 & \frac{c_{1}}{2} & b_{1}
\end{array}\right]\left[\begin{array}{c}
1 \\
u_{t-1} \\
h_{t-1}
\end{array}\right] .
$$

Then we get the following result.

Proposition 2.1 . Let the process $\left(y_{t}\right)_{t}$ be defined by (la), (lb), and (2). A sufficient set

$$
\begin{equation*}
a_{0}>0 ; a_{1}>0 ; b_{1}>0 ; \text { and } c_{1}^{2}<4 a_{1} b_{1} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof From the relationship (3), we observe that a necessary and sufficient condition for the positivity of $h_{t}^{2}$ is given by the positive definiteness of the matrix $A$, where

$$
A=\left[\begin{array}{ccc}
a_{0} & 0 & 0 \\
0 & a_{1} & \frac{c_{1}}{2} \\
0 & \frac{c_{1}}{2} & b_{1}
\end{array}\right]
$$

Now a matrix is positive definite if all its eigenvalues are strictly positive. The set of eigenvalues is equal to

$$
\left\{a_{0}, \frac{a_{1}+b_{1}+\sqrt{\left(a_{1}-b_{1}\right)^{2}+c_{1}^{2}}}{2}, \frac{a_{1}+b_{1}-\sqrt{\left(a_{1}-b_{1}\right)^{2}+c_{1}^{2}}}{2}\right\}
$$

Hence, a sufficient set of conditions for positiveness of the conditional variance $h_{t}^{2}$ defined by the relation (2) is given by the conditions (4).

### 2.1.2 Stationarity conditions

In order to give the conditions for strict stationarity of (1a), (1b), and (2), we rewrite (2) in a formal way using random coefficients. Then, we get

$$
\begin{equation*}
h_{t}^{2}=g\left(\varepsilon_{t-1}\right)+c\left(\varepsilon_{t-1}\right) h_{t-1}^{2}, \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

with $g\left(\varepsilon_{t-1}\right)=a_{0}$ and $c\left(\varepsilon_{t-1}\right)=b_{1}+c_{1} \varepsilon_{t-1}+a_{1} \varepsilon_{t-1}^{2}$.

Theorem 2.1 Let the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ be defined by (1b) and (5). We assume that the condi-

$$
h_{t}^{2}=g\left(\varepsilon_{t-1}\right)+\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \prod_{j=0}^{k} c\left(\varepsilon_{t-1-j}\right) g\left(\varepsilon_{t-1-k}\right)
$$

if and only if

$$
\begin{equation*}
E\left[\log \left\{c\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)\right\}\right]<0 \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

Proof First of all, we remark that the random coefficients $c\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)$ and $g\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)$ are nonnegative, for all $t$, thanks to the conditions (4). Second, applying Fubini's and Tonelli's Theorems and using the fact that the $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ are independent and identically distributed, the largest Lyapunov exponent of the model (1b) and (2) is equal to

$$
\begin{aligned}
\inf _{n \in \mathbb{N}}\left\{E\left[\frac{1}{n+1} \log \left(c\left(\varepsilon_{0}\right) c\left(\varepsilon_{-1}\right) \cdots c\left(\varepsilon_{-n}\right)\right)\right]\right\} & =\inf _{n \in \mathbb{N}}\left\{\frac{1}{n+1} \sum_{i=0}^{n} E\left[\log \left(c\left(\varepsilon_{-i}\right)\right)\right]\right\} \\
& =E\left[\log \left\{c\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)\right\}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

Third, the process $\left(h_{t}^{2}\right)_{t}$ can be rewritten as a random coefficient autoregressive process, given by

$$
X_{t}=A_{t} X_{t-1}+B_{t}
$$

where $X_{t}=h_{t}^{2}, A_{t}=c\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)$, and $B_{t}=g\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)$. In addition, since the variance of the process $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ is finite, we get $E\left[\log \left\{c\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)\right\}\right]<\infty$. Thus, following the main lines of Theorem 1.3 of Bougerol and Picard (1992), we get our Theorem 2.1.

Note that the condition (6) can be difficult to verify from a data set $y_{1}, \cdots, y_{n}$. Nevertheless, this condition can be verified a posteriori after the model (1a), (1b), and (2) has been fitted. Thus, it could be useful to have a more flexible condition to verify the stationarity of a real data set. Here, we focus on an $m$-order stationarity condition, for any $m \in \mathbb{N}$. We get the following theorem.

Theorem 2.2 Let the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ be defined by (lb), and (5). We assume that all the absolute moments up to $2 m(m \in \mathbb{N})$ of the process $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ exist, then a necessary and sufficient

$$
E\left\{c\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)\right\}^{m}<1
$$

Proof To get this result, we follow the main lines of Theorem 2.2 in Ling and McAleer (2002). Note that, in their theorem, Ling and McAleer use the exponent km instead of $m$ which appears to be a typographical error, since the exponent appearing in their proof is m.

Besides the Normal distribution, we consider, in the following, two different alternative symmetric probability density functions for the innovations $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ : the standard Student-t distribution with $v$ degrees of freedom, following Bollerslev (1987) and the Generalized Error Distribution (GED), as in Nelson (1991). Recall that a random variable $X$ follows a GED if its probability density function is given by

$$
f(x)=\frac{v 2^{-\left(1+\frac{1}{v}\right)}}{\lambda_{v} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{v}\right)} e^{-\frac{1}{2}\left|\frac{x}{\lambda_{v}}\right|^{v}},-\infty<x<\infty,
$$

with $\lambda_{v}=\sqrt{2^{-2 / v} \Gamma(1 / v) / \Gamma(3 / v)}, 0<v<\infty$ is the tail-thickness parameter and $\Gamma$ is the Euler gamma function defined by $\Gamma(x)=\int_{0}^{\infty} t^{x-1} e^{-t} d t$. The GED includes the Gaussian distribution $(v=2)$ as a special case, along with many other distributions, some more fattailed than the Gaussian (e.g., the double exponential distribution corresponding to $v=1$ ) and some more thin-tailed (e.g., the Uniform distribution on the interval $[-\sqrt{3}, \sqrt{3}]$ when $v \rightarrow \infty)$.

In the next corollary, we give conditions for the existence of the second- and fourthorder moments of the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ under the above distributions.

Corollary 2.1 Let the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ be defined by (lb) and (2). We assume that $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ follows a distribution function belonging to the class of elliptical distribution functions, denoted $D(0,1)$.

1) The second order moment of the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ exists if and only if

$$
\begin{equation*}
a_{1}+b_{1}<1 \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

and is given by

$$
E\left(u_{t}^{2}\right)=\frac{a_{0}}{1-a_{1}-b_{1}} .
$$

2) The fourth order moment of the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ exists if and only if

$$
b_{1}^{2}+c_{1}^{2}+s a_{1}^{2}+2 a_{1} b_{1}<1
$$

where $s=E\left(\varepsilon_{t}^{4}\right)$, and it is equal to

$$
E\left(u_{t}^{4}\right)=\frac{s a_{0}^{2}\left(1+a_{1}+b_{1}\right)}{\left(1-a_{1}-b_{1}\right)\left(1-b_{1}^{2}-c_{1}^{2}-s a_{1}^{2}-2 a_{1} b_{1}\right)} .
$$

a) If the process $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ follows a standard Normal distribution $(N(0,1)$ ), then $s=3 ;$
b) If the process $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ follows a standard Student-t distribution with $v \geq 5$ (to guarantee existence of the fourth-moment $)$, then $s=3 v^{2} /[(v-2)(v-4)]$;
c) If the process $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t}$ follows a standardized GED distribution with $v>0$, then $s=\lambda_{v} 2^{4 / v} \Gamma(5 / v) / \Gamma(1 / v)$.

Proof 1) Assuming $m=1$ in the previous theorem, we restrict the existence of a second order stationarity for the process $\left(u_{t}\right)_{t}$ defined by (1b), and (2) at the condition $a_{1}+b_{1}<1$. We remark that this condition is similar to the one given by Bollerslev (1986) for a stationary solution of the $\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ process. Note that the stationarity condition is independent of $c_{1}$.
2) If we set $m=2$ in Theorem 2.2, then we obtain

$$
E\left(c\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)^{2}\right)=b_{1}^{2}+c_{1}^{2}+s a_{1}^{2}+2 a_{1} b_{1}
$$

and hence the condition for existence of the fourth order moment is obtained. In addition, with some straighforward integration, one can obtain the value of $s$ for the different distribution functions we have considered.

We can remark that this model permits to model large kurtosis when compare to the standard GARCH model.

## 3 Maximum likelihood estimation

The estimation of conditional volatility models are typically performed by an MLE procedure, as in Bollerslev and Wooldridge (1992). Given a sample $y_{1}, \cdots, y_{n}$, the conditional likelihood function is equal to

$$
\mathscr{L}(\omega)=\mathscr{L}\left(\omega \mid y_{1}, \cdots, y_{n}\right)=\prod_{t=1}^{n} g\left(y_{t}, \mu_{t}(\alpha), h_{t}(\omega)\right)
$$

where $g\left(y_{t}, \mu_{t}(\alpha), h_{t}(\omega)\right)$ denotes the conditional density function for the random variables $y_{t}$ with mean $\mu_{t}$ and standard deviation $h_{t}$, and $\omega=(\alpha, \theta)$ is the parameter vector to be estimated. Here $\alpha$ corresponds to the set of parameters in the conditional mean assumed, in what follows, to be an $\operatorname{ARMA}(k, l)$ model and $\theta=\left(a_{0}, a_{1}, b_{1}, c_{1}\right)$ is the set of parameters for the $\operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$. We assume that we work under the stationarity conditions given in the previous section. Thus, estimation proceeds by maximising $L(\omega)=\log (\mathscr{L}(\omega))$, where pre-sample values of $h_{t}^{2}$ are set to the unconditional sample variance.

Considering the three most typical elliptical normalized distributions that have been applied so far - the Normal, Student-t and GED distributions - we give below the ex-
pressions of the log-likelihood function, $L(\omega)$, while the score function, and the Hessian matrix for each distribution are provided in an Appendix.

### 3.1 Normal distribution

The Normal distribution is the most widely used when estimating GARCH models. If we assume that the innovations $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$ have a Gaussian distribution function then the conditional log-likelihood function associated with $u_{t}=y_{t}-\mu_{t}$ is given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
L(\omega)=-\frac{n}{2} \log (2 \pi)-\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left\{\log \left(h_{t}^{2}\right)+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\right\} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $n$ is the sample size. To obtain an analytical or numerical solution for the MLE, we need to know the first-order derivative, see the Appendix for details, and to solve the equation $\partial L(\omega) / \partial \omega=0$.

### 3.2 Student-t distribution

Now, if we assume that the innovations $\left(\varepsilon_{t}\right)_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$ follow a Student-t distribution with $v$ degrees of freedom, then the MLE estimator $\hat{\omega}_{n}$ maximizes the log-likelihood function

$$
\begin{align*}
L(\omega)= & n\left\{\log \Gamma\left(\frac{v+1}{2}\right)-\log \Gamma\left(\frac{v}{2}\right)-\frac{1}{2} \log \pi(v-2)\right\} \\
& -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left[\log \left(h_{t}^{2}\right)+(v+1) \log \left\{1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}(v-2)}\right\}\right] \tag{9}
\end{align*}
$$

where $2<v \leq \infty$. When $v \rightarrow \infty$, we get the Normal distribution, so that the smaller the value of $v$, the fatter the tails.

### 3.3 GED distribution

Knowing that skewness and kurtosis are important in financial applications, Nelson (1991) suggested to consider the family of GED distribution functions. The GED log-likelihood

$$
\begin{align*}
L(\omega)= & n\left\{\log \left(\frac{v}{\lambda_{v}}\right)-\left(1+\frac{1}{v}\right) \log (2)-\log \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{v}\right)\right\} \\
& -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left\{\log \left(h_{t}^{2}\right)+h_{t}^{-v}\left|\frac{u_{t}}{\lambda_{v}}\right|^{v}\right\} . \tag{10}
\end{align*}
$$

The use and analysis of the MLE method for the estimation problem is well known. The main feature is that maximum likelihood estimators achieve optimal accuracy, in the sense that they are asymptotically consistent, and achieve the Cramér-Rao lower bound. Despite these advantages, an important obstacle to employing this method is the difficulty of computing a value $\hat{\omega}_{M L E}$ that satisfies condition (4). In the next section, the practical applicability and small sample performance of the MLE procedure for BL-GARCH processes are studied by Monte Carlo simulations.

## 4 Monte Carlo experiments

To our knowledge, no results exist on the properties of the MLE estimators when we observe a sample generated by (1a)-(1c) and we estimate them using the previous likelihoods. Thus, we have designed and executed a Monte Carlo experiment using the distribution functions described in the previous section as data generating processes, with the aim of analyzing the sampling properties of the exact MLE estimators of the parameter vector $\omega$ for the BL-GARCH model. Through the Monte Carlo experiments, the model considered for $u_{t}=y_{t}-\mu_{t}$ is a BL-GARCH $(1,1)$ given by (1a), (1b), and (2). We consider several samples size $n=100,300,1000$ and 3000. Two cases are studied in the simulation experiments. In the first case, the conditional mean, $\mu_{t}$, is set equal to zero, while in the second we assume that it follows an $\operatorname{AR}(1)$ model. The data generating processes' parameters are summarized in Table 1 with the first three lines corresponding to the case $\mu_{t}=0$ and the last line to $\mu_{t}=\alpha_{0}+\alpha_{1} y_{t-1}$. Throughout the simulations, we consider a

Student-t with five degrees of freedom. Thus, the first four moments of the conditional density exist. For the GED distribution, we assume that the tail-thickness parameter is equal to three. We note particularly that we choose a small bilinear effect $\left(c_{1}\right)$ in Model 4 in order to assess the capability of detecting it by maximum likelihood. Other simulation results are available upon request.

Table 1: Data generating processes (DGPs)

| DGP | $\alpha_{0}$ | $\alpha_{1}$ | $a_{0}$ | $a_{1}$ | $b_{1}$ | $c_{1}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Model 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.9 | 0.15 |
| Model 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.9 | 0.25 |
| Model 3 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.05 | 0.75 | 0.35 |
| Model 4 | 0.01 | 0.2 | 0.01 | 0.09 | 0.9 | 0.15 |

Tables 2-4 list the Monte Carlo mean, and the root mean square error (RMSE) for the parameter vector $\omega$ across $M=1000$ Monte Carlo replications. The mean absolute error (MAE) are available from authors upon request. The simulation algorithm generates $n+500$ observations for each series, saving only the last $n$. This operation is performed in order to avoid dependence on initial values. The calculations were carried out in Matlab on a Pentium IV CPU 3.00 GHz computer. Inspection of Table 2, corresponding to the Normal case, reveals that, for all sample sizes, the averages obtained from the exact MLE are very close to the true parameter values. The corresponding RMSE are very small indicating evidence that estimators are consistent. Tables 3 and 4 present the estimated results from a non-Gaussian BL-GARCH model. We read, from these tables, that the averages of the parameter estimates are close to the true values under each of the underlying non-Normal error distributions. The RMSE are quite small and decrease when the sample sizes increase. Finally, Table 5 summarizes the results from the $\operatorname{AR}(1)-\operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$. Results reveal that parameter estimates are satisfactory in the sense that RMSE are small. We can also remark that, in general, the estimators of the autoregressive models seem not to be affected by the presence of the BL-GARCH errors. In addition, the method seems
applicable, even if the sample size is less than 100, due to the fact that, in general, the true values are contained with $\pm 2$ standard deviations of MLE's estimates: see Figures 1-4. But, we can note that in the simulation results, the bilinear effect probably cannot be detected for $n \leq 100$. An important finding is that our method is capable of estimating simultaneously the conditional mean and conditional variance parameters, while the proposed algorithm in Storti and Vitale (2003b) cannot.

Table 2: Estimated parameters for the centred Gaussian BL-GARCH model defined by (1b)-(2)

| Model | $n$ | $\hat{a}_{0}$ |  | $\hat{a}_{1}$ |  | $\hat{b}_{1}$ |  | $\hat{c}_{1}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE |
| 1 | 100 | 0.09565 | 0.26478 | 0.09236 | 0.09654 | 0.76343 | 0.29031 | 0.15901 | 0.13342 |
|  | 300 | 0.01770 | 0.02273 | 0.08398 | 0.04610 | 0.89119 | 0.07083 | 0.15306 | 0.04939 |
|  | 1000 | 0.01150 | 0.00422 | 0.08943 | 0.01953 | 0.89718 | 0.02021 | 0.15252 | 0.03658 |
|  | 3000 | 0.01047 | 0.00205 | 0.09022 | 0.01090 | 0.89883 | 0.01089 | 0.15129 | 0.01463 |
| 2 | 100 | 0.09694 | 0.12746 | 0.06368 | 0.08043 | 0.82400 | 0.21326 | 0.27502 | 0.12345 |
|  | 300 | 0.05385 | 0.02661 | 0.04573 | 0.03235 | 0.89923 | 0.05210 | 0.25481 | 0.05712 |
|  | 1000 | 0.05141 | 0.00972 | 0.04756 | 0.01637 | 0.90081 | 0.02073 | 0.25072 | 0.02904 |
|  | 3000 | 0.05010 | 0.00469 | 0.04905 | 0.00884 | 0.90071 | 0.01073 | 0.24942 | 0.01540 |
| 3 | 100 | 0.22124 | 0.12953 | 0.07752 | 0.07592 | 0.70142 | 0.18151 | 0.36293 | 0.13423 |
|  | 300 | 0.20409 | 0.06385 | 0.05699 | 0.03419 | 0.73837 | 0.08437 | 0.35189 | 0.07852 |
|  | 1000 | 0.20094 | 0.03056 | 0.05201 | 0.01823 | 0.74715 | 0.03988 | 0.35259 | 0.04184 |
|  | 3000 | 0.20013 | 0.01751 | 0.05023 | 0.01096 | 0.74947 | 0.02252 | 0.35015 | 0.02407 |

This table summarizes the estimated coefficients from the $\operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ model with the true value set of parameters $\left\{a_{0}, a_{1}, b_{1}, c_{1}\right\}=\{0.01,0.09,0.9,0.15\},\{0.05,0.05,0.9,0.25\}$ and $\{0.2,0.05,0.75,0.35\}$. MAE - Mean Absolute Errors, RMSE - root mean square error for the $\operatorname{Gaussian} \operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$. Monte Carlo simulations are computed with 1000 replications. Each replication gives a sample size $n=100,300$, 1000 and 3000 observations. Results for the mean absolute errors are available from authors upon request.

Table 3: Estimated parameters for the centred Student-t BL-GARCH model defined by (1b)-(2)

| Model | $n$ | $\hat{a}_{0}$ |  | $\hat{a}_{1}$ |  | $\hat{b}_{1}$ |  | $\hat{c}_{1}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE |
| 1 | 100 | 0.10610 | 0.27096 | 0.10400 | 0.012400 | 0.73671 | 0.31462 | 0.14972 | 0.18310 |
|  | 300 | 0.02153 | 0.04723 | 0.08986 | 0.05539 | 0.88264 | 0.09447 | 0.15937 | 0.06570 |
|  | 1000 | 0.0119 | 0.00473 | 0.09018 | 0.0242 | 0.8961 | 0.0239 | 0.1522 | 0.0321 |
|  | 3000 | 0.0104 | 0.00214 | 0.08951 | 0.0129 | 0.8994 | 0.0119 | 0.1493 | 0.0184 |
| 2 | 100 | 0.14528 | 0.18852 | 0.07323 | 0.09183 | 0.76433 | 0.27763 | 0.28221 | 0.18218 |
|  | 300 | 0.07061 | 0.08397 | 0.05241 | 0.04431 | 0.87763 | 0.12948 | 0.26215 | 0.07734 |
|  | 1000 | 0.05164 | 0.01263 | 0.04824 | 0.01606 | 0.90045 | 0.02198 | 0.25186 | 0.03909 |
|  | 3000 | 0.05058 | 0.00624 | 0.04958 | 0.00906 | 0.90005 | 0.01209 | 0.25087 | 0.02241 |
| 3 | 100 | 0.24646 | 0.25177 | 0.08733 | 0.10274 | 0.67189 | 0.23289 | 0.35433 | 0.17808 |
|  | 300 | 0.21268 | 0.09401 | 0.06466 | 0.04799 | 0.71045 | 0.13967 | 0.35592 | 0.10375 |
|  | 1000 | 0.2018 | 0.04975 | 0.05065 | 0.02003 | 0.74725 | 0.05793 | 0.34400 | 0.05716 |
|  | 3000 | 0.20206 | 0.02479 | 0.04994 | 0.01191 | 0.74910 | 0.02897 | 0.35035 | 0.03202 |

This table summarizes the estimated coefficients from the $\operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ model with the true value set of parameters $\left\{a_{0}, a_{1}, b_{1}, c_{1}\right\}=\{0.01,0.09,0.9,0.15\},\{0.05,0.05,0.9,0.25\}$ and $\{0.2,0.05,0.75,0.35\}$. RMSE - root mean square error for the Student-t $\operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$. Monte Carlo simulations are computed with 1000 replications. Each replication gives a sample size $n=100,300,1000$ and 3000 observations.

Table 4: Estimated parameters for the centred GED BL-GARCH model defined by (1b)(2)

| Model | $n$ | $\hat{a}_{0}$ |  | $\hat{a}_{1}$ |  | $\hat{b}_{1}$ |  | $\hat{c}_{1}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE | Mean | RMSE |
| 1 | 100 | 0.07398 | 0.14326 | 0.10136 | 0.08697 | 0.77613 | 0.24907 | 0.16339 | 0.10712 |
|  | 300 | 0.01609 | 0.01114 | 0.08845 | 0.03609 | 0.89029 | 0.04430 | 0.15484 | 0.03870 |
|  | 1000 | 0.01105 | 0.00351 | 0.08917 | 0.01832 | 0.89884 | 0.01823 | 0.15094 | 0.01919 |
|  | 3000 | 0.01025 | 0.00181 | 0.09067 | 0.01027 | 0.89866 | 0.01026 | 0.15070 | 0.01183 |
| 2 | 100 | 0.08216 | 0.09275 | 0.06423 | 0.07831 | 0.84761 | 0.16582 | 0.27555 | 0.10431 |
|  | 300 | 0.05405 | 0.01935 | 0.04715 | 0.03173 | 0.89845 | 0.04357 | 0.25623 | 0.04708 |
|  | 1000 | 0.05077 | 0.00738 | 0.04875 | 0.01547 | 0.90018 | 0.01819 | 0.25067 | 0.02358 |
|  | 3000 | 0.05037 | 0.00393 | 0.04956 | 0.00866 | 0.90008 | 0.00976 | 0.25066 | 0.01287 |
| 3 | 100 | 0.21931 | 0.11359 | 0.07424 | 0.07298 | 0.70846 | 0.16225 | 0.36299 | 0.12272 |
|  | 300 | 0.21268 | 0.09401 | 0.06466 | 0.04799 | 0.71045 | 0.13967 | 0.35592 | 0.10375 |
|  | 1000 | 0.20262 | 0.02578 | 0.05130 | 0.01631 | 0.74550 | 0.03466 | 0.35097 | 0.03392 |
|  | 3000 | 0.20020 | 0.01393 | 0.05082 | 0.01040 | 0.74919 | 0.01874 | 0.35114 | 0.01958 |

This table summarizes the estimated coefficients from the $\operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ model with the true value set of parameters $\left\{a_{0}, a_{1}, b_{1}, c_{1}\right\}=\{0.01,0.09,0.9,0.15\},\{0.05,0.05,0.9,0.25\}$ and $\{0.2,0.05,0.75,0.35\}$. RMSE - root mean square error for the $\operatorname{GED} \operatorname{BL-GARCH}(1,1)$. Monte Carlo simulations are computed with 1000 replications. Each replication gives a sample size $n=100,300,1000$ and 3000 observations.

Table 5: Estimated parameters for the centred AR-BL-GARCH model defined by (1a),(1b), and (2)

| Distribution | n | $\hat{\alpha}_{0}$ | $\hat{\alpha}_{1}$ | $\hat{a}_{0}$ | $\hat{a}_{1}$ | $\hat{b}_{1}$ | $\hat{c}_{1}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Normal | 100 | 0.0257 | 0.18447 | 0.10767 | 0.09233 | 0.78056 | 0.16659 |
|  |  | $[0.09254]$ | $[0.08737]$ | $[0.24972]$ | $[0.10633]$ | $[0.28043]$ | $[0.13219]$ |
|  | 300 | 0.01897 | 0.19377 | 0.01874 | 0.0838 | 0.88978 | 0.15629 |
|  |  | $[0.04338]$ | $[0.05949]$ | $[0.02728]$ | $[0.04697]$ | $[0.07751]$ | $[0.05055]$ |
|  | 1000 | 0.01103 | 0.19871 | 0.01142 | 0.08847 | 0.89841 | 0.15103 |
|  |  | $[0.02069]$ | $[0.03167]$ | $[0.00441]$ | $[0.01995]$ | $[0.02064]$ | $[0.02422]$ |
|  | 3000 | 0.01117 | 0.19905 | 0.01042 | 0.08998 | 0.89941 | 0.15086 |
|  |  | $[0.01189]$ | $[0.0187]$ | $[0.00209]$ | $[0.01134]$ | $[0.01117]$ | $[0.01444]$ |
| Student-t | 100 | 0.0209 | 0.18876 | 0.08852 | 0.09884 | 0.7457 | 0.15474 |
|  |  | $[0.07803]$ | $[0.10338]$ | $[0.23158]$ | $[0.11957]$ | $[0.32115]$ | $[0.17796]$ |
|  | 300 | 0.01472 | 0.19351 | 0.02124 | 0.08836 | 0.87681 | 0.15205 |
|  |  | $[0.03494]$ | $[0.05758]$ | $[0.03351]$ | $[0.05389]$ | $[0.10593]$ | $[0.06717]$ |
|  | 1000 | 0.01123 | 0.19838 | 0.01206 | 0.09095 | 0.89505 | 0.15105 |
|  |  | $[0.01737]$ | $[0.031]$ | $[0.00523]$ | $[0.02215]$ | $[0.0227]$ | $[0.03156]$ |
|  | 3000 | 0.01053 | 0.19941 | 0.01054 | 0.09075 | 0.89861 | 0.15111 |
|  |  | $[0.01013]$ | $[0.01748]$ | $[0.00278]$ | $[0.01286]$ | $[0.01323]$ | $[0.01999]$ |
| GED | 100 | 0.01715 | 0.18247 | 0.09296 | 0.09692 | 0.77744 | 0.16364 |
|  |  | $[0.09838]$ | $[0.10735]$ | $[0.10735]$ | $[0.10405]$ | $[0.28519]$ | $[0.11175]$ |
|  | 300 | 0.01680 | 0.19660 | 0.01619 | 0.08756 | 0.89222 | 0.15398 |
|  |  | $[0.04067]$ | $[0.05591]$ | $[0.02660]$ | $[0.04534]$ | $[0.06616]$ | $[0.04133]$ |
|  | 1000 | 0.01253 | 0.19973 | 0.01098 | 0.0914 | 0.89718 | 0.15228 |
|  |  | $[0.021]$ | $[0.03152]$ | $[0.004]$ | $[0.02045]$ | $[0.02062]$ | $[0.02077]$ |
|  | 3000 | 0.01059 | 0.19945 | 0.01026 | 0.09187 | 0.89782 | 0.15056 |
|  | $[0.01288]$ | $[0.01753]$ | $[0.00232]$ | $[0.01533]$ | $[0.01465]$ | $[0.01379]$ |  |

This table summarizes the estimated coefficients from the AR(1)-BL$\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ model with the true value set of parameters $\left\{\alpha_{0}, \alpha_{1}, a_{0}, a_{1}, b_{1}, c_{1}\right\}=$ $\{0.01,0.2,0.01,0.09,0.9,0.15\}$. RMSE - root mean square error for the AR(1)-BL$\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ in brackets. Monte Carlo simulations are computed with 1000 replications. Each replication gives a sample size $n=100,300,1000$ and 3000 observations.


Fig. 1: Boxplot of estimates of the parameter $a_{0}=0.01$ of Model 1 under Normal, Student-t and GED distributions ( $n=1000$ )


Fig. 3: Boxplot of estimates of the parameter $b_{1}=0.9$ of Model 1 under Normal, Student-t and GED distributions ( $n=1000$ )


Fig. 2: Boxplot of estimates of the parameter $a_{1}=0.09$ of Model 1 under Normal, Student-t and GED distributions ( $n=1000$ )


Fig. 4: Boxplot of estimates of the parameter $c_{1}=0.15$ of Model 1 under Normal, Student-t and GED distributions ( $n=1000$ )

## 5 Empirical study

The daily continuously compounded returns of the S\&P 500 stock market index are used for the empirical study in this paper to gauge the effectiveness of the BL-GARCH-type model with Normal, Student-t and GED innovations. In particular, we analyze the period from March 01, 1999, through January 31, 2001, which yields $n=487$ daily observations, excluding public holidays. The sample closely corresponds to the data set used by Storti and Vitale (2003b). Table 6 gives the summary statistics of the S\&P 500 log returns for the full sample. The mean and the standard deviation are quite small, while the estimated measure of skewness is significantly positive, indicating that the S\&P 500 has non-symmetric returns. The kurtosis is a little larger than that of a Normal distribution, suggesting that fat-tailed distributions could better describe the unconditional distribution of the data. The results of the non-Normality test agree with prior literature using financial data, that is, a leptokurtic distribution is found for these S\&P $500 \log$ returns data. The Box-Pierce $Q$-tests of up to twenty-fourth order serial correlation for the levels and squares of the mean-corrected S\&P $500 \log$ returns were performed: $Q(24)$ and $Q^{2}(24)$ are significant for both the returns and squared returns series. In summary, the diagnostics suggest that a GARCH-class model would be appropriate, along with an error distribution that allows for greater kurtosis than the Gaussian distribution. Figure 5 gives the time plot of the data, and Figure 6 the returns distribution.

Table 6: Statistics of daily $\log$ returns of the S\&P 500 stock market index.

| Number of observations | 487 | Skewness | 0.03708 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Mean | 0.0002055 | Kurtosis | 4.4643 |
| Standard deviation | 0.01283 | Jarque-Bera test | 43.3524 |
| Minimum | -0.06004 | $Q(24)$ | 39.2169 |
| Maximum | 0.04888 | $Q^{2}(24)$ | 45.7208 |

The Jarque-Bera test critical value at significance level of $5 \%$ is 5.85423. $Q$ and $Q^{2}$ are the Box Pierce statistics for the levels and square of the S\&P $500 \log$ returns, respectively, using 24 lags. The critical value at level $5 \%$ is 36.4150 .


Fig. 5: S\&P 500 daily returns 03/01/99-01/31/01


Fig. 6: Non-parametric density of S\&P 500 daily returns (solid line) and probability density function of the Normal distribution (dotted line)

The parameter estimates from the GARCH model with Normal, Student-t and GED errors are also provided in Table 7, with the robust standard errors due to Bollerslev and Wooldridge (1992) shown in parentheses. While Table 8 summerizes the maximum likelihood estimation results from the BL-GARCH model. In order to compare the different
models, various goodness-of-fit statistics are used. The diagnostics, summarized in Tables 7 and 8, are the log-likelihood function at its maximum, and the Akaike Information Criterion (AIC). We further report the values of the Box-Pierce $(Q)$ statistics for the standardized and squared standardized residuals with, in parentheses, the corresponding pvalues as a check of the empirical validity of the models. It appears from Table 7 that the estimates $\hat{a}_{1}$ and $\hat{b}_{1}$ in the $\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ are significant at the $5 \%$ level with the volatility coefficient greater in magnitude. Hence the hypothesis of constant variance can be rejected, at least within sample. Furthermore, the stationarity condition is satisfied for the three distributions because $\hat{a}_{1}+\hat{b}_{1}<1$ at the maximum of the respective log-likelihood functions.

The fit of the $\operatorname{BL}-\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ model, in Table 8, shows that the innovation and volatility spillovers are significantly different from zero. Further, the estimated asymmetric volatility response $\left(\hat{c}_{1}\right)$ is negative and significant for all models, confirming the usual expectation in stock markets where downward movements (falling returns) are followed by higher volatility than upward movements (increasing returns). In all cases, the tail parameter estimates are strongly significant: far from two for the GED distribution, $v$ large through insignificant for the Student-t distribution but $1 / v$ different to zero.

We note that, in the Gaussian case, our estimate's results in the fifth column of Table 8 are significantly similar to those given in Table 3 in Storti and Vitale (2003b). The latter results are recalled in the footnote of Table 8. In addition, we can remark that the standard errors in our study are more robust than those given in Storti and Vitale.

The results for the $Q$-statistics given in Tables 7 and 8 are not significant up to order 12 and also order 24 , which indicates that the $\operatorname{GARCH}(1,1)$ as well as the $\operatorname{BL-GARCH}(1,1)$ process are appropriate to model the conditional variance of the S\&P 500 log-returns. However, the goodness-of-fit statistics as well as the residuals diagnostics indicate that
the BL-GARCH performs better, compare to the GARCH model, in describing the conditional variance of the S\&P 500 returns. Moreover, the possible usefulness of using fattailed innovations for the BL-GARCH model seems to be confirmed by the log-likelihood and the AIC values. This result confirms the general finding in the financial literature when comparing GARCH-family models with Normal and fat-tailed distributions.

Table 7: GARCH model estimates for the S\&P 500 return

| Parameters | Normal | Student-t | GED |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\hat{a_{0}}$ | 0.00000715 | 0.000006361 | 0.000006108 |
|  | $\left(0.2810410^{-10}\right)$ | $\left(0.2058610^{-10}\right)$ | $\left(0.2014410^{-10}\right)$ |
| $\hat{a_{1}}$ | 0.0568184 | 0.0504452 | 0.0499355 |
|  | $(0.0007625)$ | $(0.0006168)$ | $(0.0006111)$ |
| $\hat{b_{1}}$ | 0.900428 | 0.911250 | 0.913097 |
|  | $(0.0026979)$ | $(0.0017480)$ | $(0.0018101)$ |
| $\hat{v}$ | - | 8.676471 | 1.514841 |
|  | $(-)$ | $(9.929491)$ | $(0.017712)$ |


| Goodness-of-fit statistics |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Log-lik | 1435.91706 | 1441.94452 | 1441.04650 |
| AIC | -2865.83441 | -2875.88904 | -2874.09300 |
| Diagnostics |  |  |  |
| $Q(12)$ | 15.892571 | 16.018537 | 16.010225 |
|  | $(0.196206)$ | $(0.190388)$ | $(0.190768)$ |
| $Q(24)$ | 32.082112 | 32.206641 | 32.159427 |
|  | $(0.124969)$ | $(0.121951)$ | $(0.123088)$ |
| $Q^{2}(12)$ | 4.682633 | 4.589348 | 4.566436 |
|  | $(0.967748)$ | $(0.970309)$ | $(0.970918)$ |
| $Q^{2}(24)$ | 19.326186 | 19.483667 | 19.377018 |
|  | $(0.734378)$ | $(0.725728)$ | $(0.731595)$ |

This table provides the estimated coefficients, standard errors for the GARCH equation for the S\&P 500 log returns index market. $\hat{a}_{0}$ is the constant in the conditional standard deviation equation, $\hat{a}_{1}$ is the ARCH coefficient, $\hat{b}_{1}$ is the GARCH coefficient, $\hat{c_{1}}$ is the leverage effect, $\hat{v}$ is the degrees of freedom. Log-lik is the maximized $\log$ likelihood. AIC is the Akaike Information Citerion and BIC the Bayesian Information Criterion. $Q$ and $Q^{2}$ are the Box Pierce statistics for the standardized and squared standardized residuals respectively, using 12 and 24 lags with $p$-values in square brackets. The critical values at significant level of $5 \%$ are 21.026069 and 36.415028 respectively.

Table 8: BL-GARCH model estimates for the S\&P 500 return

| Parameters | Normal | Student-t | GED |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\hat{a_{0}}$ | 0.000011394 | 0.000009243 | 0.00001057 |
|  | $\left(0.1477510^{-10}\right)$ | $\left(0.1349610^{-10}\right)$ | $\left(0.1542410^{-10}\right)$ |
| $\hat{a_{1}}$ | 0.060119 | 0.0513906 | 0.0559965 |
|  | $(0.0006226)$ | $(0.0005249)$ | $(0.0006235)$ |
| $\hat{b_{1}}$ | 0.880531 | 0.900687 | 0.888784 |
|  | $(0.0013771)$ | $(0.0011259)$ | $(0.0013873)$ |
| $\hat{c_{1}}$ | -0.271323 | -0.249673 | -0.261943 |
|  | $(0.0027800)$ | $(0.0030085)$ | $(0.0031051)$ |
| $\hat{v}$ | - | 14.943269 | 1.741412 |
|  | $(-)$ | $(67.446372)$ | $(0.024844)$ |


| Goodness-of-fit statistics |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Log-lik | 1456.47965 | 1458.63396 | 1457.65676 |
| AIC | -2904.95930 | -2907.26792 | -2905.31353 |
| Diagnostics |  |  |  |
| $Q(12)$ | 15.876516 | 15.739415 | 15.833319 |
|  | $(0.196958)$ | $(0.203465)$ | $(0.198990)$ |
| $Q(24)$ | 32.314595 | 32.501633 | 32.417392 |
|  | $(0.119381)$ | $(0.115033)$ | $(0.116975)$ |
| $Q^{2}(12)$ | 4.477202 | 4.455119 | 4.485078 |
|  | $(0.973208)$ | $(0.973756)$ | $(0.973011)$ |
| $Q^{2}(24)$ | 22.177684 | 22.542585 | 22.475412 |
|  | $(0.568662)$ | $(0.546916)$ | $(0.550914)$ |

This table provides the estimated coefficients, standard errors for the conditional standard deviation equation for the $\mathrm{S} \& \mathrm{P} 500 \log$ returns index market. $\hat{a}_{0}$ is the constant in the conditional standard deviation equation, $\hat{a}_{1}$ is the ARCH coefficient, $\hat{b}_{1}$ is the GARCH coefficient, $\hat{c_{1}}$ is the leverage effect, $\hat{v}$ is the degrees of freedom. Log-lik is the maximized log likelihood. AIC is the Akaike Information Citerion and BIC the Bayesian Information Criterion. $Q$ and $Q^{2}$ are the Box Pierce statistics for the standardized and squared standardized residuals respectively, using 12 and 24 lags with p-values in square brackets. The critical values at significant level of $5 \%$ are 21.026069 and 36.415028 respectively. The estimated parameters and standard errors (in parentheses) in Storti and Vitale (2003b) are: $a_{0}=2.09 \times 10^{-5}\left(7.07 \times 10^{-6}\right), a_{1}=0.071$ (0.031), $b_{1}=0.801(0.061)$ and $c_{1}=-0.266(0.056)$.

## 6 Conclusion

This work extends the study of the BL-GARCH model proposed by Storti and Vitale (2003a) considering elliptical distributions and it gives new probabilistic results concerning the stationarity of the process and the moments. We obtain exact maximum likelihood estimates for this class of processes under conditional elliptical distributions. The small-
sample properties indicate that the approach can yield asymptotically efficient estimates. In addition, these results strongly suggest that the maximum likelihood estimation inference procedure can be used to estimate the parameters of the BL-GARCH model, even in small samples (100 observations). Further, one advantage of the maximum likelihood estimator procedure proposed in this paper, compared to the method used by Storti and Vitale (2003b), is that it could simultaneously estimate the parameters of the BL-GARCH when the conditional mean is assumed non-constant. Further, the empirical results reveal that the BL-GARCH-t $(1,1)$, i.e., a BL-GARCH model with conditional errors that are t -distributed, fits the choosen data set best. This result points out the interest of using fat-tailed distributions combined with non-linear variance when modelling financial time series.

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## Appendix

## Score functions and Hessian matrix for the Normal distribution

In the expression (8), taking the differential of $L(\omega)$ with respect to the $\omega$ yields

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial L(\omega)}{\partial \omega}=\sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{2}} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega}+\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{h_{t}^{2}}\left(\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}-1\right) \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega} . \tag{11}
\end{equation*}
$$

The Hessian matrix is given by

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial^{2} L(\omega)}{\partial \omega \partial \omega^{\prime}}= & -\sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{h_{t}^{2}} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}}-\sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{4}} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} \\
& -\sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{4}} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega_{2}^{\prime}}+\sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{h_{t}^{4}}\left(\frac{1}{2}-\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\right) \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} . \tag{12}
\end{align*}
$$

The score function is given by

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial L(\omega)}{\partial \omega}= & \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left[\frac{v+1}{v-2} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{2}}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}(v-2)}\right)^{-1}\right] \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega} \\
& +\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left[\frac{v+1}{v-2} \frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}(v-2)}\right)^{-1}-1\right] \frac{1}{h_{t}^{2}} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega} \tag{13}
\end{align*}
$$

and the Hessian matrix is equal to

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial^{2} L(\omega)}{\partial \omega \partial \omega^{\prime}}= & \frac{v+1}{v-2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{2}}\left[\frac{2}{v-2}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{2}}-1\right] \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} \\
& +\frac{v+1}{v-2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{4}}\left[\frac{1}{v-2}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1} \frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}-1\right] \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} \\
& +\frac{v+1}{v-2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{4}}\left[\frac{1}{v-2}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1} \frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}-1\right] \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} \\
& +\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{h_{t}^{4}}\left[1+\frac{(v+1) u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1}\right] \\
& \times\left[\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\left(1+\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{(v-2) h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{-1}-2\right] \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} \tag{14}
\end{align*}
$$

## Score functions and Hessian matrix for the GED distribution

In that case, the score function and the Hessian matrix, respectively, are given by

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{\partial L(\omega)}{\partial \omega}=\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{v}{\left|\lambda_{v}\right|}\left(\frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}}\right)^{v} \frac{1}{u_{t}} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega}+\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{h_{t}^{2}}\left[\frac{1}{2} \frac{l}{\left|\lambda_{v}\right|^{v}}\left(\frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}}\right)^{v}-1\right] \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega}, \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

and

$$
\begin{align*}
\frac{\partial^{2} L(\omega)}{\partial \omega \partial \omega^{\prime}}= & -\frac{v}{\left|\lambda_{v}\right|^{v}}\left(\frac{v-3}{2}\right) \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{1}{h_{t}^{2}}\left(\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{\frac{v}{2}-1} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial \mu_{t}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} \\
& -\frac{1}{2} \frac{v}{\left|\lambda_{v}\right|^{v}} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{4}}\left(\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{\frac{v}{2}-1}\left[1+\left(\frac{v}{2}-1\right) \frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\right] \\
& -\frac{1}{2} \frac{v}{\left|\lambda_{v}\right|^{v}} \sum_{t=1}^{n} \frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}^{4}}\left(\frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\right)^{\frac{v}{2}-1}\left[1+\left(\frac{v}{2}-1\right) \frac{u_{t}^{2}}{h_{t}^{2}}\right] \\
& -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{t=1}^{n}\left[\frac{1}{4} \frac{v(v+2)}{\left|\lambda_{v}\right|^{v}}\left(\frac{u_{t}}{h_{t}}\right)^{v}-1\right] \frac{1}{h_{t}^{4}} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega} \frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega^{\prime}} . \tag{16}
\end{align*}
$$

Equations (11) through (16) require the computation of $\partial h_{t}^{2} / \partial \omega$. We provide it:

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{\partial h_{t}^{2}}{\partial \omega}= & \left(1, u_{t-1}^{2}, h_{t-1}^{2}, h_{t-1} u_{t-1}\right)+2 a_{1} u_{t-1} \frac{\partial u_{t-1}}{\partial \omega}+b_{1} \frac{\partial h_{t-1}^{2}}{\partial \omega} \\
& +c_{1}\left(h_{t-1} \frac{\partial u_{t-1}}{\partial \omega}+\frac{1}{2} \frac{u_{t-1}}{h_{t-1}} \frac{\partial h_{t-1}^{2}}{\partial \omega}\right) .
\end{aligned}
$$

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