FORECASTING OF CBOE VOLATILITY OF VIX (VVIX) AS A MEASURE OF PREDICTING EXTREME EVENTS – AN ARIMA FRAMEWORK

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Abstract- Volatility of VIX or VVIX is an indicator that is based upon volatility index or VIX. Volatility index or VIX is also known as 'investor fear gauge'. It is an indicator that may be considered as a strong indicator of investors' fears and emotions (Durand et al., 2011; Whaley, 2009). It measures investors' view of the market's volatility in the immediate term. The VVIX Index is on the other hand, an indicator of the expected volatility of the 30-day forward price of the VIX. VVIX may provide a further insight into the investors' expectations about future volatility in the market (Nikkinen & Peltomäki, 2019). VVIX is an interesting market indicator that provides an indication towards future tail risk (Park, 2015). The objective of this study is to offer a unique and simple method of forecasting VVIX. Our argument is, forecasting of VVIX may help market participants in gauging the possibility of tail risk, and may lead to better investment decision.

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Index Terms— Auto Regressive Integrated Moving Average (ARIMA), Extreme event**,** Forecasting, Tail risk, **V**VIX,

1 INTRODUCTION

Volatility of volatility index or VVIX captures the expected volatility of VIX. According to Park (2015), VVIX may be a good tail risk indicator. Tail risk may be defined as extraordinary risk that may fall beyond the +3 standard deviation. Most of the financial models e.g. the modern portfolio theory, Black and Scholes derivative pricing model etc. assumes a normality of sample as a basic assumption. A normal distribution curve assumes that, given enough observations, all values in the sample will be distributed equally above and below the mean. About 99.7% of all variations falls within three standard deviations of the mean and therefore there is only a 0.3% chance of an extremeeventoccurring [\(https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/fat](https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/fat-tail-risk-what-it-means-and-why-you-should-be-aware-it-2015-11-02)[tail-risk-what-it-means-and-why-you-should-be-aware-it-2015-](https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/fat-tail-risk-what-it-means-and-why-you-should-be-aware-it-2015-11-02) [11-02\)](https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/fat-tail-risk-what-it-means-and-why-you-should-be-aware-it-2015-11-02). However, in practice there are many instances of extreme event happening in stock markets across the world. The US subprime crisis (2008) is probably the most significant instance in recent times. Park (2015) demonstrated in his seminal paper, that VVIX may prove to be a useful tool for predicting tail risk.

Our argument is, forecasting of VVIX may help the market participants in gauging the possibility of tail risk or extreme events, and may lead to better investment decisions. This paper develops an analytical model for forecasting VVIX in the auto-regressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) framework for the period starting from March 2009 to October 2016. In this context, our first contribution to the literature is methodology. To prove the robustness of our model, it is

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validated by using daily data from November 2016 to October 2017.This study uses CBOE VVIX, which is traded at the Chicago Board of Exchange (CBOE) platform, USA. VVIX is a volatility of volatility index launched by CBOE, which measures the expected volatility of CBOE volatility index (VIX). The motivation of this study lies not only on the widespread agreement that VVIX is a good predictor of fat tail risks (Park, 2015), but also on the fact that there are many trading strategies that rely on the VVIX index for speculative and hedging purposes. It is important to being aware of possibility of extreme events. Also adopting an adequate hedging strategy for addressing possible tail risk events is also important to protect investments from economic turmoil. The ideal portfolio should not only generate good return for each unit of volatility, but also should be able to protect itself from tail risk. A good model for predicting VVIX can prove itself useful in this regard.Since the CBOE VVIX is a good predictor of extreme events in near future, so by forecasting the future value of CBOE VVIX, we may create a better trading strategy to avoid losses. The objective of this study is to fit a forecasting model on CBOE VVIX using ARIMA. The model would be useful predicting future movement of volatility and expected extreme events.VVIX is also less prone to measurement error. VVIX is in a sense the volatility predicted by market participants. (Płuciennik, Buszkowska, 2006). With the advent of volatility based indices, it is important to develop a model that may make a reliable forecast of VVIX, as a predictor of 'fat tail risk'.The rest of the paper is organized as follows. Section 'objective' describes the motivation behind the study. Section 'period of study and data' underlines the period covered under this study for fitting this model and also for validating the same. The section 'description of methodology' presents the description about methodology used in this paper. The section 'empirical results and analysis' shows the data analysis with the estimated results. The section 'evaluation of forecasts' presents the validation of the model. And finally, the

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paper concludes with the section 'conclusion and scope', which also indicates towards few areas for further research.

2 OBJECTIVE

The objective of this study is to develop a forecasting model to predict CBOE VVIX. We apply auto-regressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) technique for developing the model.

3. PERIOD OF STUDY

The period of study under consideration is from March 2009 until October 2016 for fitting the model. We also used daily data from November 2016 to October 2017 for validating the ARIMA model. The daily closing value of VVIX is downloaded from the website of the Chicago Board of Exchange [\(www.cboe.com\)](http://www.cboe.com/).

4. DATA AND METHODOLOGY

This section describes the methodology used for designing the VVIX model that forecasts the future direction. For this purpose, the ARIMA model has been used. But before that the unit root test has been performed to check the stationarity of the dataset.

4.1 Unit root analysis

As many a times, the time series variables suffer from the nonstationary problem, we have tested for unit root under augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test. Section 5.1 shows the result and analysis of ADF test.

4.2 ARIMA

The basic idea behind ARIMA or the Box-Jenkins (BJ) methodology for forecasting is to analyse the probabilistic or stochastic properties of economic time series on their own under the philosophy "let the data speak for themselves." This concept is very different from traditional regression models, in which the dependent variable Y_t is explained by k explanatory variables X_1, X_2, \ldots, X_n , the BJ time series models allow Y_t to be explained by the past, or lagged, values of Y_t itself and the current and lagged values of u_t , which is an uncorrelated random error with zero mean and constant variance σ^2 – that is, a white noise error term. The BJ methodology is based on the assumption that the time series under consideration is stationary.

4.2.1 The AR model

Consider the following model:

$$
Y_t = B_0 + B_1 Y_{t-1} + B_2 Y_{t-2} + \ldots + B_p Y_{t-p} + u_t
$$

Where u_t is a white noise error term.

This model is termed as an AR model of order p, AR (p), for it involves regressing Y at time t on its values lagged p periods into the past, the value of p being determined empirically using some criterion, such as the Akaike information criterion.

4.2.2 The MA model

The AR process is not the only mechanism that may have generated Y_t. In some situation, it might be possible to capture the process of generation of Y_t series by following model.

$$
Y_t = u_t + \Theta u_{t-1}
$$

Where, as before, u_t is a white error term. The model implies that Y_t is determined as a MA of the current and immediate past values of the error term. This model is called the firstorder MA or MA(1) model.

The general form of the MA model is an MA(q) model of the form

$$
Y_t = u_t + \Theta_1 u_{t-1} + \Theta_2 u_{t-2} + \ldots + \Theta_q u_{t-q}
$$

It appears that a MA process is simply a linear combination of white noise processes, so that Y_t depends on the current and previous values of a white noise error term. Further, as long as q is finite, the MA(q) process is stationary as it is an average of q stationary white noise error terms which are stationary.

4.2.3 The ARMA model

If we suppose that Y_t has characteristics of both AR and MA, then it is called ARMA process. For example, an ARMA (1,1) model may be written as

$$
Y_t = \Phi Y_{t-1} + u_t + \Theta u_{t-1}
$$

In general, an ARMA (p,q) process will have p AR and q MA terms. It is written as

 $Y_t = \Phi_1 Y_{t-1} + \Phi_2 Y_{t-2} + \ldots + \Phi_n Y_{t-n} + u_t + \Theta_1 u_{t-1} + \Theta_2 u_{t-2} + \ldots + \Theta_0 u_{t-q}$

4.2.4 The ARIMA model

If a time series is integrated of order d and we apply ARMA (p,q) model to it, then we say that the original time series is ARIMA (p,d,q), i.e., it is an ARIMA time series. Clearly, if a time series is ARIMA (2,1,2), it has to be differenced once to make it stationary and the stationary time series can be modelled as ARMA (2,2) process, i.e., it will have two AR and two MA terms. Similarly, an ARIMA (p,0,p) series is same as ARMA (p,q) when the time series is stationary at the beginning. On the other hand, ARIMA (p,0,0) and ARIMA (0,0,q) series represent AR (p) and MA (q) stationary processes, respectively. Thus, given the values of p,d, and q, one can say what process is being modelled.

5. EMPIRICAL RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

This study fits a forecasting model based on CBOE VVIX, the indicator of extreme events. The study considers log of daily VVIX (LVVIX) value. The idea behind plotting the log of a variable represents a relative change (or rate of return), whereas a change in the log of a variable itself represents an absolute change. Returns are unit free and they are comparable (Gujarati, 2015). The total number of observations are n=616.

5.1 Test of Stationarity

First test of stationarity of the time series data is tasted. To test stationarity, the ADF test is being used. The test is performed

by using the following form:

 Δ LVVIX_t = B₁ +B₂t +B₃ LVVIX_{t-1} + $\sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \alpha_i$ LVVIX_{t-1} + ϵ_t (1) In each case, the null hypothesis is $B_3 = 0$ (i.e. unit root exists) and the alternative hypothesis is that $B_3 < 0$ (i.e. no unit root). The result of the unit root test of LVVIX with intercept is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Unit root test of VVIX with intercept

Noti Hypothesis: LN_WIX_has a unit mot Expressors: Constant Linear Trend Lag Length: 0 (Automatic - based on SIC, maxing=18)

*MacKinnon (1996) one-sided p-values.

Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test Equation Dependent Variable D(LN VVDC) Method: Least Squares Date: 12/24/19 Time 15:03 Sample (adjusted): 1/08/200710/15/2018 Included observations: 615 after adjustments

As the R^2 (0.130951) is less than Durbin-Watson stat (2.092748), therefore the regression is not spurious (Bhowmick, 2015).

Table 1 shows the results of ADF test. The LVVIX lagged one period. The ADF test statistic is (-9.600639). However, the DF critical values are -3.973046 (1% level), -3.417142 (5% level), and -3.130953 (10% level). In absolute terms, 9.600639 is greater than any of the DF critical t values in absolute terms. Hence, the conclusion is that the VVIX time series is stationary (Gujarati, 2015). To confirm, also plotted the graph of LVVIX over time (Figure 1). The graph confirms the stationarity of LVVIX.

Figure 1: LVVIX time series

5.2 DETERMINATION OF P,Q, AND D

As the LVVIX is stationary time series with level unit root, therefore we consider the value of d=0. We already have showed that the level order time series LVVIX is stationary. So, we work with LVVIX only here. To see, which ARIMA model fits LVVIX, and following the BJ methodology, we computed the correlogram of this series upto 36 lags. For determining the number of lags, we followed the rule of thumb suggested by Schwert (1989). Due to space constraint, we show the correlogram upto 15 lags in Table 2 below. The complete correlogram is given in annexure A1 at the end of this paper.

Table 2: AC function and PAC function of LVVIX

Date: 12/24/19 Time: 15:28 Sample: 1/01/2007 10/15/2018 Included observations: 616

Table 2 produces two types of correlation coefficients: Autocorrelation (AC) and partial AC (PAC). The AC function (ACF) shows correlation of LVVIX with its values with various lags. The PAC function (PACF) shows the correlation between observations that are k periods apart after controlling for the effects of intermediate lags. The BJ methodology uses both these correlation coefficients to identify the type of ARMA model that is appropriate for this case.

Table 2 shows gradual decline of AC and changes in positive and negative signs of PAC. However, it does not show any sign of exponential decay for any sustained period.

To see, which correlations are statistically significant, we calculate the standard error of sample correlation coefficients given by $\sqrt{1/n} = \sqrt{1/616} = 0.040291$, where n is the sample size. Therefore, the 95% confidence interval for the true correlation coefficients is about 0 ± 1.96 (0.040291) = $(-$ 0.07897 to 0.07897). Correlation coefficients lying outside these bounds are statistically significant at 5% level. On this basis, it seems that PACF correlations at lag(s) 1, 4, 11, 26 are statistically significant.

Since we do not have any clear-cut pattern of the ACF and PACF, we will proceed by trial and error.

First, we fit an AR model at lags 1, 4, 11, 26.

Then we fit an MA model at lags 1, 4, 11, and 26. The results of AR (1,4,11,26) is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: AR model fit at lags 1, 4, 11, and 26

Dependent Variable: LN VVIX Method: ARMA Max imum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Date: 12/24/19 Time: 17:09 Sample: 1/01/2007 10/15/2018 Included observations: 616 Convergence achieved after 12 iterations Coefficient covariance computed using outer product of gradients

Since the AR(11) and AR(26) coefficients are not significant, we can drop these from consideration and re-estimate the model with AR (1) and AR (4). The result is shown in table 4 below.

Table 4: AR(1) and AR(4) model for LVVIX

Dependent Variable: LN VVIX Method: ARMA Max imum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Date: 12/24/19 Time: 17:22 Sample: 1/01/2007 10/15/2018 Included observations: 616 Convergence achieved after 10 iterations Coefficient covariance computed using outer product of gradients

In the next stage, we fit the MA model. Again, we go through the trial and error method for MA(1), MA(4), MA(11) and MA(26). The result of MA model is given in Table 5 below. The model is significant at MA (1) and MA (4).

Table 5: MA model fit at lags 1,4,11,26

Dependent Variable: LN VVIX Nethod: ARMA Maximum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH)
Date: 12/24/19 Time: 17:31 Sample: 1/01/2007 10/15/2018 Included observations: 616 Convergence achieved after 26 iterations Coefficient covariance computed using outer product of gradients

Thus we use ARIMA (1,0,1), ARIMA (1,0,4), ARIMA (4,0,1) and ARIMA (4,0,4).

Table 6 shows ARIMA (1,0,1) model fit.

Table 6: ARIMA (1,0,1) model fit

Dependent Variable: LN_VVIX_
Method: ARMA Maximum LikeIihood (OPG - BHHH) Date: 12/24/19 Time: 17:44 Sample: 1/01/2007 10/15/2018 Included observations: 616 Convergence achieved after 12 iterations Coefficient covariance computed using outer product of gradients

In table 6, both the AR(1) and MA(1) is significant. So, we will consider ARIMA (1,0,1) for fitting the model. Next, we try ARIMA (1,0,4) for fitting the model fit.

Table 7: ARIMA (1.0.4) model fit

Adjusted R-squared

0.576369 S.D. dependent var

0.149247

From table 7, both AR(1) and MA(4) is both are significant. So, we will accept ARIMA (1,0,4). Table 8 shows ARIMA (4,0,1) results, in which both AR(4) and MA(1) is significant. So we may accept ARIMA (4,0,1) also.

Table 8: ARIMA (4,0,1) model fit

Next, we consider the ARIMA (4,0,4). The result is given in table 9 below.

Table 9: ARIMA (4,0,4) model fit

Dependent Variable: LN_VVIX Method: ARMA Max imum Likelihood (OPG - BHHH) Date: 01/02/20 Time: 11:46 Sample: 1/01/2007 10/15/2018 Included observations: 616 Convergence achieved after 12 iterations Coefficient covariance computed using outer product of gradients

From table 9, it appears that ARIMA (4,0,4) is also suitable for the model. So, the question is out of these four models ARIMA models, which one we should select.

From the Akaike info criterion and Schwarz criterion, it may be observed that the it's minimum in case of ARIMA (1,0,4) model. It seems that the ARIMA (1,0,4) is the most appropriate model fit to depict the behavior of the level differences of the logs of daily closing VVIX over the sample period. After going through the abovementioned tests, and under consideration of principles of parsimony, finally, we select the ARIMA (1,0,4) or ARMA (1,4) as a fit model for forecasting of VVIX. This model may be used as an estimator for predicting the future values of VVIX.The generalized ARIMA (1,0,4) model may be written as (Chatfield, 2003):

 $X_t = \mu(1-a)+\alpha (x_{t-1})+\beta_1 e_{t-1}+\beta_2 e_{t-2}+\beta_3 e_{t-3}+\beta_4 e_{t-4}$ Or

$$
X_{t} = \mu(1-a) + \alpha (x_{t-1}) + \beta_1(x_{t-1} - x_{t-2}) + \beta_2 (x_{t-2} - x_{t-3}) + \beta_3 (x_{t-3} - x_{t-4}) + \beta_4
$$

(x_{t-4} - x_{t-5}) (2)

Now, we may put the values of ARIMA (1,0,4) from table 7 into equation 2, where

 $\mu = 4.476882$ α = 0.737267 $β_1 = 0$ $β₂ = 0$ $\beta_3 = 0$ $β₄ = 0.103093$

By putting the abovementioned values in equation 2, the model becomes,

 $X_t = 4.476882$ (1-0.737267)+ 0.737267 (X_{t-1})+ 0.103093 (X_{t-4} - X_{t-1} (3)

Using this model, we compute the difference between the observed value and the computed model value for the sample data using equation 3, and find root mean squared errors (RMSE) equals to 0.097424, which again established the appropriateness of model.

5.3 ARIMA Forecasting

We now use ARIMA (1,0,4) model for forecasting VVIX. Figure 2 shows the static forecast of VVIX. This figure shows the actual and forecast values of logs of closing VVIX, as well as the confidence interval of the forecast. The accompanying table gives the same measures of the quality of the forecast, namely RMSE, mean absolute error (MAE), mean absolure percent error, and Theil inequality coefficient. The Theil coefficient is very low (0.010880), suggesting that the fitted model is quite good. This is clearly shown in Figure 2, which demonstrates how closely the actual and forecast values track each other.

Figure 2: Static forecast of LVVIX

6. EVALUATION OF FORECASTS

The forecast of VVIX appears to be very reliable on the basis of the following criterion:

- i. The estimated coefficients of both AR(1) and MA(4) terms are statistically significant.
- ii. The value of RMSE for the estimated ARIMA (1,0,4) model is 0.097424, which is pretty low.
- iii. The values of 'bias proportion', 'variance proportion' and 'covariance proportion' are 0.000001, 0.138589,

and 0.861413. Since the values of 'bias proportion', and 'variance proportion' is low and the 'covariance proportion' is high, therefore the forecast may be considered satisfactory.

iv. All inverted AR and MA roots are within the unit circle (figure 3), which implies that the chosen ARIMA model is stationary and the model has been correctly specified.

For validation of the model, we again considered the daily VVIX data from 22nd October 2018 to 18th October 2019. Table 10 shows the beginning of month estimated value and the observed value of log of VVIX by using equation 3. Though all the computations are based on daily closing quotes of VVIX, in table10, we only showed the month-end data for eleven months due to limited space.

Figure 3: Inverse roots of autoregressive / moving average polynomials of VVIX

Table 10: Forecasted values of log of VVIX

7. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE SCOPE

Our objective was to fit a forecasting model for VVIX. Based on literature (Park, 2015), we considered the VVIX as an indicator for tail risk i.e. possibility of extreme events. We find ARIMA (1,0,4) is the fittest model to forecast future VVIX values. The evaluation of forecasting ARIMA model is also found to be reliable. A reliable forecast of VVIX may prove to be very useful in predicting how the possibility of extreme event may emerge in near term. Investors may find this extremely useful in taking investment decisions. They will be

able to take appropriate hedging decisions to protect the investment portfolio. This study may be extended by linking VVIX with the VIX returns. A derivative trader may be able to take a better decision by considering the forecasted values of VVIX.

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