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Forecasting sovereign CDS volatility: A comparison of univariate GARCH-class models

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Abstract

Initially overlooked by investors, the sovereign credit risk has been reassessed upwards since the 2000's which has contributed to awaken the interest of speculators in sovereign CDS. The growing need of accurate forecasting models has led us to fill the gap in the literature by studying the predictability of sovereign CDS volatility, using both linear and non-linear GARCH-class models. This paper uses data from 38 worldwide countries, ranging from January 2006 to March 2017. Results show that the CDS markets are subject to periods of volatility clustering, nonlinearity, asymmetric leverage effects and long-memory behavior. Using 7 heteroskedastic and no heteroskedastic-robust statistic criteria, results show that the fractionally-integrated models outperform the basic GARCH-class models in terms of forecasting ability and that allowing flexibility regarding the persistence degree of variance shocks significantly improves the model's suitability to data. Despite the divergence in the economic status and geographical positions of the countries composing our sample, the FIGARCH and FIEGARCH models are mainly found to be the most accurate models in predicting credit market volatility.

JEL Classification: G15, G17, C58.

Keywords: CDS volatility, Predictability, Forecasting models, Loss functions criteria.

1 Introduction

Understanding the fluctuations' dynamic of financial assets has always been of a particular interest in the academic and non-academic spheres. The considerable number of studies focusing on the stock prices' mechanism point out several stylized facts characterizing the financial markets such as: the volatility clustering, the non-stationarity... (See for example [Niu and Wang \(2013\)](#) for a study of the statistical behaviors of the Shanghai Composite Index and Hang Seng Index). Besides the stock markets widely studied, analyzing the characteristics of the credit market, and particularly the sovereign CDS market, is likewise interesting especially when it comes to investigating the impact of financial properties on the suitability of the CDS volatility modeling and forecasting ability.

The curious increase in the empirical studies dealing with modeling CDS data during the last decade can be explained by several reasons: (i) the constantly evolving outstanding amount of the CDS contracts reaching its highest values during the crisis periods, (ii) the need of more clear understanding of the role played by this market in the spread of crises and (iii) and the requirement of identifying the main explaining factors of credit risk. Furthermore, the use of CDS contracts no more as hedging instruments but rather as diversification, trading and speculation instruments has legitimized the usefulness of CDS volatility forecasting to investors for both risk management and portfolio management.

Despite the relevance of the volatility forecasts particularly in the decision process and considering the grown interest in predicting credit spreads, the nonexistence of papers in the literature of CDS spreads dealing with the ability of GARCH models to accurately forecast the volatility of the CDS is completely outrageous^[1]. The literature on CDS is mainly composed by studies that focus on the determinants of these credit spreads ([Oliveira et al., 2012](#); [Costantini et al., 2014](#); [Fontana and Scheicher, 2016](#)) or the Granger Causal relationship between CDS markets and related markets [Coudert et al. \(2010\)](#); [Longstaff et al. \(2011\)](#); [Coudert and Gex \(2013\)](#); [Sabkha et al. \(2017\)](#). The very few papers that investigate the forecasts of CDS spreads ([Krishnan et al., 2010](#); [Sharma and Thuraishamy, 2013](#); [Avino and Nneji, 2014](#); [Srivastava et al., 2016](#)) only focus on the first moment order, while the predictability of the CDS volatility remains understudied. Yet, these studies try to forecast the CDS spreads based on the commonly known economic and financial determinants and not based on the predictive ability of the econometric models. Considering the foregoing gaps, this study aims to extent the literature by investigating the forecasting performance of 9 GARCH-class models in the sovereign CDS markets from January 2nd, 2006 to March 31st, 2017.

Our study contributes to the existing literature in several ways: first, as far as we are concerned, none of the previous studies has focused on the predictability of CDS volatility, especially when it comes to the sovereign market. Second, our paper contributes as well to the literature by implementing a larger set of statistical loss function criteria -taking into account the nonzero mean and the heteroscedasticity of the forecast errors - to assess the out-of-sample predictive ability of the models in comparison with existing forecasting papers on financial assets. Third, the comparative study between linear and non-linear ARCH-class

^[1]The majority of papers dealing with the predictive power of GARCH models, only focus on the major stock indexes and exchange rates ([Poon, 2005](#))

models provides a better and clearer comprehension of the in-sample and out-of-sample fit of the CDS data. Finally, our data set allows us to draw more robust and worldwide conclusions, as it is composed by CDS spreads for 38 countries from all over the world covering the recent two economic and financial crises when the volatility of asset prices have reached their highest unexpected levels.

Our empirical findings show that the sovereign CDS market is characterized by the same stylized facts as the stock market: volatility clustering, leverage effects and long memory behavior. The results of the diagnostic tests on the in-sample modeling generally show that no model outperforms all the others in terms of fitting. Based on the results the 7 loss functions, the predictive performance of the fractionally-integrated models seems to be more accurate, emphasizing the importance of taking into account the long-range memory and the nonlinear behavior of CDS spreads while forecasting volatility. Among the fractionally-integrated models, our results show that the FIGARCH and the FIEGARCH are the most accurate models, providing the best out-of-sample performances in most cases.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. A brief literature review of the previous studies predicting financial assets is section 2. Section 3 presents the sample and data used to compare the predictive ability of the models and displays the 9 volatility forecasting models studied. Results of the in-sample and out-of-sample analysis are reported in Section 4. Section 5 concludes the paper.

2 Literature review

Investigating the degree to which financial time series can be accurately forecast has always been in the limelight of researchers' issues. The empirical literature on the modeling and predicting volatility processes is extensive and takes into account more and more financial markets properties. Engle (1982) is the first researcher to model financial data through a time-varying stochastic process characterized by a nonconstant correlated variance so-called ARCH model. A generalization of this Autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity model is then proposed by Bollerslev (1986) with more parsimonious and less overparametrization and biasedness in the estimates. Some extensions of this model are afterwards proposed, taking into account more stylized facts of the financial markets: leverage effects (Nelson, 1991; Glosten et al., 1993), stationarity issues (Engle and Bollerslev, 1986), long memory Ding et al. (1993); Baillie et al. (1996); Bollerslev and Mikkelsen (1996); Tse (1998); Davidson (2004)...^[2].

These GARCH-class volatility models have been widely used to forecast various financial data, based on their predictive power. The great focus in these studies has been primarily given to stock returns (Keim and Stambaugh, 1986; Poon, 2005; Guidolin et al., 2009; Ferreira and Santa-Clara, 2011; Niu and Wang, 2013), in which recent past information is found to help forecast the future variance. Similar studies are conducted using commodity market data, especially oil data (Agnolucci, 2009; Wei et al., 2010; Chkili et al., 2014; Charles and Darné, 2017). Generally, these studies show no model outperforms all the others in capturing the time series financial and statistical features, while the non-linear GARCH-class models

^[2]For an exhaustive survey of the proposed ARCH-class models, see Poon (2005)

are found to be more relevant in terms of forecasting accuracy^[3].

Unlike stock markets, exchange rates and oil market data, not many studies have been conducted to assess the predictive performance of the volatility GARCH-type models using CDS data. Despite [Krishnan et al. \(2010\)](#), [Sharma and Thuraisamy \(2013\)](#), [Avino and Nneji \(2014\)](#) and [Srivastava et al. \(2016\)](#) whose aim is to predict the future changes in the CDS spreads based on some macroeconomic and marketwide variables, the literature on CDS spreads focuses generally on the key drivers and determinants of these credit spreads ([Oliveira et al., 2012](#); [Costantini et al., 2014](#); [Fontana and Scheicher, 2016](#)) or rather on the interaction and comovement between CDS markets and the other related financial markets ([Coudert et al., 2010](#); [Longstaff et al., 2011](#); [Coudert and Gex, 2013](#); [Sabkha et al., 2017](#)).

Among the first authors who are interested in the prediction of credit spreads, [Krishnan et al. \(2010\)](#) construct credit-spread curves, based on several macroeconomic and firm-specific variables, for 241 highly and lowly credit-risky firms from 1990 to 2005. Results show that only the information contained in the riskless yield curve significantly improve the out-of-sample forecasts. Focusing more precisely on the CDS as proxy for the credit risk level, [Sharma and Thuraisamy \(2013\)](#) investigates the forecastability of the CDS spreads of 8 Asian sovereign from 2005 to 2012. In-sample and out-of-sample evidences reveal that the oil price uncertainty provides valuable information for predicting the future fluctuations in the sovereign CDS spreads. [Avino and Nneji \(2014\)](#) use some economic and financial factors to investigate whether the iTraxx index spreads are forecastable. Based on the results of the predictive ability of some linear (Structural OLS model and AR(1)) and non-linear (Markov-switching) models, these authors show that the daily changes in the CDS index can be predictable from the yield curve, the equity returns and the changes in the VSTOXX volatility index. Using an error correction model before, during and after the subprime crisis, [Srivastava et al. \(2016\)](#) show that the VIX predicts the future changes in 98% of the studied sovereign CDS markets.

These few studies on the forecastability of CDS spreads rely on the information contained in the theoretical determinants - widely used in the empirical literature - and its ability to predict future fluctuations in the CDS market. Yet, the accuracy of these CDS predictions is assessed through some loss functions criteria that are subject to nonzero mean noise and serial correlation (such as RMSE, MAE...). Furthermore, the data studied so far only cover the period of the subprime crisis and end before or right after the outbreak of the Sovereign debt crisis, which is quite a weak point given that all the unexpected changes in the market behavior are not taken into account in their forecasting models. Finally, the most important shortcoming of the aforementioned studies, is that they focus on the first moment order neglect the Variance in forecasting the CDS spreads.

3 Data and methodology

This section introduces one of our paper contributions: the sample under study, composed by countries around the world, allowing us to provide international evidences and data time

^[3]For a complete theoretical and empirical survey on the use of univariate ARCH processes in financial studies, see [Bollerslev et al. \(1992\)](#).

line covering the both recent two financial and economic crises. Volatility forecasting models are as well presented in this section.

3.1 Sample and data description

Our study focuses on a sample composed by 38 worldwide countries belonging to five different geographical areas: Eastern and Western Europe, North and South America and Asia. Besides the developed countries and the emerging countries, the sample under study in this paper includes some Newly Industrialized Countries (such as Brazil, Mexico, Philippines and Thailand...) and some low economic growth countries with the highest credit risk levels (such as Portugal, Ireland, Greece and Spain...). The sample details with the economic and geographical status of each country are given in [Table 1](#).

The dataset used is composed by daily 5-year sovereign CDS spreads, denominated in US dollars and collected from Thomson Reuters®. The extracted series cover a period spanning from January 2006 to March 2017, during which the world financial and credit markets have been affected by two major crises, namely the Global Financial Crisis and the Sovereign Debt Crisis. Thus, modeling, forecasting the CDS volatility and comparing models performances are particularly interesting during this period during which we observed some unexpected fluctuations on the credit market.

3.2 Marginal volatility processes: univariate ARCH-type models

The financial markets are generally characterized by periods of volatility clustering, during which the assets' second moment order remains high before regaining its normal levels. [Engle \(1982\)](#) proposes an Autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity (ARCH) model able to capture such financial phenomenon. This volatility persistence is as well observed in the Credit Default Swap market and the use of ARCH-class models to model the variance of the CDS spreads is thus legitimate. As an extension of the ARCH model, [Bollerslev \(1986\)](#) proposes a generalized high-order ARCH process that is more parsimonious and allows for less overparametrization and biasedness in the estimates. This GARCH model is given by:

$$\begin{aligned} x_{i,t} &= \mu_{i,t} + u_{i,t} \quad / \quad u_{i,t} = \sigma_{i,t} \varepsilon_{i,t}, \quad \varepsilon_{i,t} | \mathcal{P}_{t-1} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{N}(0, 1); \\ \sigma_{i,t}^2 &= V(x_{i,t} | \mathcal{F}_{t-1}) = \alpha_{i,0} + \sum_{k=1}^{q_i} \alpha_{i,k} a_{i,t-1}^2 + \sum_{h=1}^{p_i} \beta_{i,h} \sigma_{i,t-1}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

with $x_{i,t}$ is a financial time series, i is a given country from the sample and $\mu_{i,t}$ and $\sigma_{i,t}$ are respectively conditional mean and conditional volatility. To satisfy the positive-definite condition, some restrictions are imposed: $p \geq 0$, $q \geq 0$, $\alpha_{i,k} \geq 0$ for $k = 1, \dots, q_i$, $\beta_{i,h} \geq 0$ and $\alpha_{i,0} \geq 0$ for $h = 1, \dots, p_i$.

For sake of simplicity and suitability, only models with process orders (p_i and q_i) equal to 1 are estimated. In fact, the simplest GARCH(1,1) specification is the most useful and fitted for financial time series ([Bollerslev, 1986](#); [Wei et al., 2010](#)).

The GARCH(1,1) process, as proposed by [Bollerslev \(1986\)](#) is given by the following formula:

$$\sigma_{i,t}^2 = \alpha_{i,0} + \alpha_{i,1} + \alpha_{i,1} a_{i,t-1}^2 + \beta_{i,1} \sigma_{i,t-1}^2. \quad (2)$$

Table 1: Sample and countries classification into economic categories and geographical positions

Country	Geographical position	Country	Geographical position
<i>Developed countries (20)</i>		<i>Newly industrialized countries (6)</i>	
Austria	Western Europe	Brazil	South America
Belgium	Western Europe	China	Asia
Denmark	Western Europe	Mexico	North America
Finland	Western Europe	Thailand	Asia
France	Western Europe	Turkey	Asia
Germany	Western Europe	<i>Emerging countries (11)</i>	
Ireland	Western Europe	Bulgaria	Eastern Europe
Italy	Western Europe	Croatia	Eastern Europe
Japan	Asia	Czech	Eastern Europe
Latvia	Eastern Europe	Hungary	Western Europe
Lithuania	Eastern Europe	Greece	Western Europe
Netherlands	Western Europe	Indonesia	Asia
Norway	Western Europe	Poland	Eastern Europe
Portugal	Western Europe	Romania	Eastern Europe
Slovakia	Eastern Europe	Russia	Asia
Slovenia	Eastern Europe	Ukraine	Eastern Europe
Spain	Western Europe	Venezuela	South America
Sweden	Western Europe		
UK	Western Europe		
USA	North America		

The countries' economic classification is made according to the NU, the CIA World Factbook, the IMF and the World Bank criteria, in order to have a sample with a sufficient number of countries in each category.

Furthermore to the previous model restrictions, $\alpha_{i,1}$ and $\beta_{i,1}$ parameters must satisfy the condition of $\alpha_{i,1} + \beta_{i,1} < 1$ to comply with the stationarity in the broad sense.

A more restrictive version of the GARCH(1,1) is proposed by Engle and Bollerslev (1986) where the equivalent of the unit root in the mean is included in the variance so we can handle for the stationarity of the variance. The Integrated GARCH(1,1) takes into account the persistence of conditional volatilities^[4]. The main difference with the GARCH(1,1) is that the IGARCH requires the parameters α_1 and β_1 to respect the equality of $\alpha_1 + \beta_1 = 1$. Thus, the IGARCH(1,1)^[5] can be written as follows:

$$\sigma_{i,t}^2 = \alpha_{i,1}a_{t-1}^2 + (1 - \alpha_{i,1})\sigma_{i,t-1}^2. \quad (3)$$

Besides the aforementioned linear models, there exist some nonlinear GARCH-class of models taking into account the other financial markets properties. The Exponential GARCH,

^[4]Today's shocks on a financial asset (future contracts for example) have a significant impact on the conditional volatility several periods in the future.

^[5]The IGARCH(1,1) is equivalent to the Exponentially Weighted Moving Average(EWMA) model developed by Morgan (1996).

as proposed by Nelson (1991), is one of these models that accounts for the leverage effect and the asymmetry of the error distribution. While the nonnegativity of linear GARCH model is ensured by several parameters restrictions, the EGARCH model proposes another formulation allowing for a positive volatility without any restrictive constraints. The EGARCH(1,1) is expressed as follows:

$$\ln(\sigma_{i,t}^2) = \alpha_{i,0} + \alpha_{i,1-1}\ln(\sigma_{i,t}^2) + \beta_{i,1}g(\varepsilon_{i,t-1}), \quad (4)$$

where $g(\varepsilon_{i,t}) = \theta_i\varepsilon_{i,t} + \gamma_i[|\varepsilon_{i,t}| - E(|\varepsilon_{i,t}|)]$.

The asymmetric relation between assets' fluctuation and volatility changes is depicted by the θ_i and γ_i representing respectively the sign and the magnitude of $\varepsilon_{i,t}$.

Glosten et al. (1993) propose a model that allows the sign and the amplitude of the innovations (ε_t) to affect the conditional volatility separately. The asymmetric leverage effect^[6] is represented in the following formulation of the GJR-GARCH(1,1)^[7] model:

$$\sigma_{i,t}^2 = \alpha_{i,0} + \alpha_{i,1}a_{i,t-1}^2 + \gamma_i I_{i,t-1}a_{i,t-1}^2 + \beta_{i,1}\sigma_{i,t-1}^2, \quad (5)$$

with I_t is a dummy variable equals to 0 when a_t is positive and 1 otherwise.

The first model accounting for the long-range persistence of financial assets variance is developed by Ding et al. (1993). This asymmetric power ARCH model allows the volatility to be long-memory^[8]. The APARCH(1,1) model is:

$$\sigma_{i,t}^2 = \alpha_{i,0} + \alpha_{i,1}(|a_{i,t-1}| - \gamma_i a_{i,t-1})^\delta + \beta_{i,1}\sigma_{i,t-1}^\delta. \quad (6)$$

where δ depicts the Box-Cox power transformation of the conditional volatility (σ_t) and satisfies the condition of $\delta \geq 0$.

A more flexible class of GARCH models is proposed by Baillie et al. (1996) who introduce a new feature of the unit root for the variance. In fact, the fractionally integrated GARCH model (FIGARCH) highlights the fact that - unlike stationary processes where the persistence of volatility shocks is finite - in unit root processes, the impact of lagged errors occurs at a slow hyperbolic rate of decay. The FIGARCH model allows, thus, to capture the long memory in financial volatility with a complete flexibility regarding the persistence degree. In fact, the FIGARCH(1,d,1) formulation depends on fractional integration parameter (d) as follows:

$$\sigma_{i,t}^2 = \alpha_{i,0} + [1 - (1 - \beta_i(L))^{-1}(1 - \phi(L))(1 - L)^d]a_{i,t}^2 + \beta_i\sigma_{i,t-1}^2. \quad (7)$$

with $0 < d < 1$. When $d=1$, the FIGARCH(1,d,1) is equivalent to an IGARCH(1,1) where the persistence of conditional variance is supposed to be complete, while when $d=0$, it is rather equivalent to a GARCH(1,1) and no volatility persistence is taken into consideration. L is the lag operator and $(1 - L)^d$ is the financial fractional differencing operator.

^[6]Positive and negative financial shocks revamp asymmetrically the variance. Furthermore, bad news (shocks) generate greater volatility than good news.

^[7]The volatility's different reactions to signs and sizes of past innovations are also suggested in the Threshold Heteroskedastic model (TGARCH) of Zakoian (1994). The major difference is that in the TGARCH model the conditional standard deviation (σ_t) is considered rather than the conditional variance (σ_t^2).

^[8]The autocorrelation function of time series returns decreases gradually.

Other ARCH formulations are extended to the fractionally integrated GARCH, including asymmetric leverage effect presented in the EGARCH model. [Bollerslev and Mikkelsen \(1996\)](#) propose a new class of model combining characteristics of the FIGARCH and the EGARCH models so-called FIEGARCH(p,d,q). Financial assets' volatilities are, thus, better explained and depicted by a mean-reverting fractionally integrated process. The FIEGARCH(1,d,1) model is written as follows:

$$\ln(\sigma_{i,t}^2) = \alpha_{i,0} + \phi(L)^{-1}(1-L)^{-d}[1 + \psi(L)]g(\varepsilon_{i,t-1}). \quad (8)$$

where $\phi(L)$ and $\psi(L)$ are lag polynomials, and - as in the EGARCH(1,1)^[9] - $g(\varepsilon_t)$ is a quantization function of information flows such as:

$$g(\varepsilon_{i,t}) = \theta_i \varepsilon_{i,t} + \gamma_i [|\varepsilon_{i,t}| - E(|\varepsilon_{i,t}|)].$$

An extension of the conventional fractionally integrated GARCH model is proposed by [Tse \(1998\)](#) so-called FIAPARCH(1,d,1). The new approach combines the long-range dependencies feature and the asymmetric impact of lagged positive and negative shocks on future volatilities in one fractionally integrated model. The FIAPARCH(1,d,1) is written as follows:

$$\sigma_{i,t}^\delta = \alpha_{i,0}(1 - \beta_i)^{-1} + [1 - (1 - \beta_i(L))^{-1}\phi(L)(1 - L)^d](|a_{i,t}| - \gamma_i a_{i,t})^\delta. \quad (9)$$

More recently, another linear GARCH model, called hyperbolic GARCH (HYGARCH) is proposed by [Davidson \(2004\)](#) who argues that the impact of lagged errors on the conditional variance discloses near-epoch dependence feature. The main contribution of this model is that the fractional integration parameter is negative (-d) instead of positive and that d increases rather when it approaches zero^[10]. The statistical properties included in the HYGARCH make it the most successful and used approach by financial practitioners in modeling time series volatilities. The HYGARCH(1,d,1) is defined under the following formulation:

$$\sigma_{i,t}^2 = \alpha_{i,0} + [1 - (1 - \beta_i(L))^{-1}(1 - \phi(L))[1 + \alpha_i((1 - L)^d - 1)]]a_{i,t}^2. \quad (10)$$

The volatility estimation of the CDS log returns of the 38 countries is computed for 9 GARCH-class models taking into account, each time, different financial stylized facts such as long-run properties in the conditional mean and volatility clustering and long-memory behavior in the conditional variance. The BFGS-BOUNDS method ([Broyden, 1970](#)) is used to optimize the likelihood function rather than the conventional numerical optimization, in order to respect the parameters constraints, notably the stationary and the nonnegativity constraints.

In addition to the widely used Box-Pierce tests and the LM ARCH effects test, several other diagnostic tests are reported here, namely the Nyblom test, the adjusted Pearson goodness-of-fit test and the Residual-Based Diagnostic (as suggested by [Fantazzini \(2011\)](#)). The Joint Nyblom ([Nyblom, 1989](#)) is a stability test under the null hypothesis of parameters joint constancy over time against the alternative of parameters shift at an undefined

^[9]When the memory parameter, d=0, the FIEGARCH formulation is equivalent to the conventional EGARCH(1,1) (FIEGARCH(1,0,1) $\simeq$ EGARCH(1,1)).

^[10]When d of the HYGARCH is positive, it is considered as a unit root process.

breakpoint. According to [Palm and Vlaar \(1997\)](#), The adjusted Pearson goodness-of-fit test verifies whether the residuals' empirical distribution matches or not the theoretical distribution (namely Gauss, Student or G.E.D depending on the country). The Residuals-Based Diagnostic test ([Tse, 2002](#)) checks for conditional Heteroscedasticity, by complementing and filling the gaps of the Box-Pierce Q statistics.

3.3 Loss functions criteria

Following [Wei et al. \(2010\)](#), the forecasting process of the CDS volatility is implemented as follows: the 38 CDS times series' timeline is divided into two subperiods: the in-sample volatility estimation is conducted from January 2nd, 2006 to March 31st, 2014 (2152 observations), and the out-of-sample model forecasts concerns the last three years, i.e. from April 1st, 2014 to March 31st, 2017 (783 observations). The twenty-day out-of-sample forecasting are used to assess and compare the predictive performance of the 9 studied models.

The comparison of the volatility models' forecasting ability is not straightforward. Several measures of the predictive ability are suggested in the literature based on some loss functions. According to [Poon \(2005\)](#), [Wei et al. \(2010\)](#) and [Pilbeam and Langeland \(2015\)](#), we can not conclude with certainty the superiority of one model over another in terms of forecasting performance, based solely on the result of a single error statistic since each criterion may be more and less relevant from one case to another^[11]. That's why the conclusions made in this study are based on the results of rich set composed by the 7 most popular and relevant ones, including:

- The Mean Square Error (MSE):

$$MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N (\hat{\sigma}_t - \sigma_t)^2, \quad (11)$$

- The Mean Absolute Error (MAE):

$$MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N |\hat{\sigma}_t - \sigma_t|, \quad (12)$$

- The Heteroscedasticity-adjusted Mean Square Error (HMSE). As suggested by [Bollerslev and Ghysels \(1996\)](#), the HMSE is calculated as follows:

$$HMSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N \left(\frac{\sigma_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t} - 1 \right)^2, \quad (13)$$

- The Heteroscedasticity-adjusted Mean Absolute Error (HMAE). [Andersen et al. \(1999\)](#) proposes a loss function that better accommodates the heteroskedasticity in the forecast bias . The HMAE is calculated as follows:

$$HMAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N \left| \frac{\sigma_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t} - 1 \right|, \quad (14)$$

^[11] [Diebold and Mariano \(2002\)](#) argue that allowing for forecast errors to be non-Gaussian, nonzero mean and autocorrelated produces better tests' results.

- The QLIKE loss function (QLIKE). This is a test of forecast bias implied by a Gaussian likelihood (see [Wei et al. \(2010\)](#) for a further details.)

$$QLIKE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N \left(LN(\hat{\sigma}_t) + \frac{\sigma_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t} \right), \quad (15)$$

- The R²LOG loss function (R²LOG): This loss function assesses the goodness-of-fit of the out-of-sample forecasts based on the regressions of [Mincer and Zarnowitz \(1969\)](#)

$$R^2LOG = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N \left(LN\left(\frac{\sigma_t}{\hat{\sigma}_t}\right) \right)^2, \quad (16)$$

- The Mean Logarithm of Absolute Errors (MLAE): As proposed [Pagan and Schwert \(1990\)](#), the MLAE criterion is written as follows:

$$MLAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{t=1}^N LN | \hat{\sigma}_t - \sigma_t |. \quad (17)$$

With N is the number of predicted data and $\hat{\sigma}_t$ is the volatility forecasts. The latent daily CDS spreads volatility σ_t is not observed and is thus proxied by the squared daily logarithmic returns^[12]. Previous studies ([Lopez, 2001](#); [Poon, 2005](#)) report that the use of such a proxy produces unbiased estimates, even though it remains questionable (noisy estimator because of its asymmetric distribution).

4 Empirical results

This section presents the summary statistics for the 38 studied time series. The modeling, estimation and testing of the forecasting ability of the 9 GARCH-class models are presented, as well, in this section.

4.1 Descriptive statistics

Descriptive statistics, displayed in [Table 2](#), show that the studied countries present dissimilar credit risk levels with CDS spreads ranging from 1 bp to 37081.41 bp. The average daily spreads highlights, as well, this divergence in sovereign financing conditions with the largest value recorded, as expected, in Greece (9508.85 bp) and the smallest value recorded in the USA (24.01 bp). The high levels of standard deviations reveal, on the other side, that the worldwide financial and economic troubles impacted the public finances of the countries under study, doubtlessly with different magnitudes. The least volatile CDS market is Germany (24.50). According to the Augmented Dickey-Fuller test ([Dickey and Fuller, 1981](#)), all the time series present a unit root, implying that the CDS spreads of the 38 countries are non-stationary at 5% statistical level at least.

^[12]More methods exist in the literature to proxy the volatility of financial assets, such as, the high-low measure and the realized volatility estimate. For a complete survey of these methods, see [Poon \(2005\)](#).

Table 2: Descriptive statistics and ARCH effect tests for the CDS time series

	Obs.	CDS spreads			Std. Dev	ADF statistics	ARCH-LM (2)	CDS log returns				GPH	
		Min	Mean	Max				ARCH-LM (5)	ARCH-LM (10)				
Austria	2936	1.40	36.13	132.77	24.96	-2.45	249.75 ***	127.05 ***	72.58 ***			0.29	***
Belgium	2936	2.05	72.39	398.78	74.62	-1.67	508.94 ***	237.99 ***	120.84 ***			0.18	***
Brazil	2936	61.50	178.55	606.31	94.86	-2.46	25.01 ***	43.70 ***	37.71 ***			0.11	***
Bulgaria	2936	13.22	180.37	692.65	121.88	-2.25	12.71 ***	10.36 ***	6.72 ***			0.08	***
China	2936	10.00	82.44	276.30	43.56	-2.82 *	120.85 ***	63.09 ***	39.00 ***			0.22	***
Croatia	2936	24.88	244.20	592.50	128.47	-2.15	137.90 ***	58.87 ***	47.62 ***			0.26	***
Czech	2936	3.41	66.89	350.00	49.54	-2.62 *	62.52 ***	46.01 ***	29.50 ***			0.14	***
Denmark	2936	11.25	36.65	157.46	32.94	-2.17	87.27 ***	41.66 ***	24.36 ***			0.21	***
Finland	2936	2.69	26.85	94.00	19.24	-2.33	13.79 ***	7.98 ***	4.43 ***			0.05	***
France	2936	1.50	54.30	245.27	50.56	-1.71	276.95 ***	120.56 ***	62.86 ***			0.20	***
Germany	2936	1.40	28.77	118.38	24.50	-2.05	252.46 ***	128.31 ***	73.27 ***			0.29	***
Greece	2936	5.20	9508.85	37081.41	15351.1	-1.46	5.E-04	4.E-04	6.E-04			-4.E-04	
Hungary	2936	17.34	225.98	729.89	153.05	-2.18	14.48 ***	15.20 ***	8.67 ***			0.10	***
Indonesia	2936	118.09	219.29	1240.00	116.83	-2.63 *	139.82 ***	105.31 ***	61.49 ***			0.23	***
Ireland	2936	1.75	188.89	1249.30	234.02	-1.36	218.63 ***	103.01 ***	63.33 ***			0.18	***
Italy	2936	5.75	151.7504	586.7	127.38	-1.79	127.35 ***	60.46 ***	35.18 ***			0.19	***
Japan	2936	2.13	49.26	152.64	33.28	-1.94	71.53 ***	31.30 ***	21.68 ***			0.13	***
Latvia	2936	5.50	210.89	1176.30	216.13	-1.62	152.57 ***	68.47 ***	35.36 ***			0.26	***
Lithuania	2936	6.00	169.21	850.00	154.01	-1.90	56.75 ***	26.91 ***	13.56 ***			0.15	***
Mexico	2936	64.17	141.89	613.11	59.36	-3.03 *	356.35 ***	160.17 ***	127.50 ***			0.39	***
Netherlands	2936	7.67	37.13	133.84	29.50	-2.00	10.79 ***	4.33 ***	5.59 ***			0.05	***
Norway	2936	10.59	30.95	62.00	17.82	-1.68	3.22 ***	2.46 ***	2.06 ***			0.05	***
Philippines	2936	78.30	188.72	840.00	101.70	-1.77	154.83 ***	127.66 ***	90.03 ***			0.23	***
Poland	2936	7.67	101.35	421.00	73.12	-2.32	311.98 ***	135.64 ***	75.78 ***			0.21	***
Portugal	2936	4.02	289.89	1600.98	323.68	-1.60	53.57 ***	42.23 ***	22.61 ***			0.17	***
Qatar	2936	7.8	83.13518	390	53.89	-2.12	37.65 ***	17.33 ***	9.55 ***			0.09	***
Romania	2936	17.00	204.20	767.70	144.17	-2.09	57.88 ***	33.74 ***	17.50 ***			0.17	***
Russia	2936	36.88	209.09	1106.01	147.84	-2.95 *	258.09 ***	117.58 ***	65.50 ***			0.29	***
Slovakia	2936	5.33	77.52	306.01	66.71	-2.03	25.14 ***	24.62 ***	19.31 ***			0.11	***
Slovenia	2936	4.25	131.24	488.58	114.88	-1.65	13.23 ***	9.82 ***	34.88 ***			0.11	***
Spain	2936	2.55	144.63	634.35	135.01	-1.56	195.02 ***	78.80 ***	39.98 ***			0.19	***
Sweden	2936	1.63	27.17	159.00	25.70	-2.64 *	69.49 ***	30.82 ***	20.72 ***			0.16	***
Thailand	2936	51.01	120.94	500.00	41.89	-3.64 *	81.52 ***	120.36 ***	96.33 ***			0.17	***
Turkey	2936	109.82	217.65	835.01	72.41	-3.72 *	69.04 ***	86.65 ***	46.84 ***			0.21	***
UK	2936	16.50	42.89	165.00	28.11	-2.07	27.33 ***	21.12 ***	23.19 ***			0.11	***
Ukraine	2936	1.00	2173.76	15028.76	3969.27	-2.15	60.42 ***	32.53 ***	17.13 ***			0.11	***
USA	2936	10.02	24.01	90.00	11.11	-3.58 *	94.96 ***	46.67 ***	24.57 ***			0.18	***
Venezuela	2936	124.62	1771.08	10995.67	1869.79	-2.00	36.17 ***	38.56 ***	22.73 ***			0.11	***

The table reports descriptive statistics for the daily sovereign CDS spreads of 38 countries. Min., Max. and Std. Dev. denote respectively to the minimum, the maximum and the standard deviation. The Augmented-Dickey Fuller (Individual intercept included in the test equation) is a unit root test that informs about the stationarity of time-series with a null hypothesis of the presence of a unit root in the process. The Engle's ARCH-LM test with 2, 5 and 10 lag orders informs about the presence of ARCH effects in the series under the null hypothesis of no autocorrelations in the squared residuals. GPH is the log periodogram test of Geweke and Porter-Hudak (1983) with d-parameter (m=1467). This test is applied to the squared logarithmic returns (as proxy for unconditional volatility) to detect any long-range dependence under the null assumption of no long-memory behavior in the volatility process. *, ** and *** refer to the statistical significance at respectively 10%, 5% and 1% levels.

Focusing on the evolution of the CDS log returns (computed as $x_t = \log(\frac{S_t}{S_{t-1}})$) over the studied period, as presented in Figure 1, some volatility clustering periods are detected. Results of the ARCH-LM test in Table 2 confirm that the data used clearly exhibit heteroscedastic properties and support the appropriate use of GARCH-class processes to model the conditional volatility. The GPH test (Geweke and Porter-Hudak, 1983) conducted on the squared CDS log returns rejects the null hypothesis of no long-memory behavior in the series' volatility process, suggesting the use of the fractionally-integrated models^[13]. Figure 2 reports the density estimation and show that the series, composing our international sample, exhibit dissimilar statistical behaviors as to their empirical distribution. The majority of the data returns distribution does not overlay the Gaussian reference, which indicates that the residuals should be allowed to follow a Gaussian, a student and a Generalized Error Distribution (G.E.D)^[14].

^[13]Another commonly used long-range test is the Gaussian semi-parametric (GSP) (Robinson, 1995). Results of the GSP are not reported here because they are similar to those of the GPH.

^[14]Other statistical distribution should, as well, be taken into account in further studies, such as the Skewed t-student...

Figure 1: Daily CDS log returns for 38 worldwide countries

Figure 2: Daily CDS log returns for 38 worldwide countries

4.2 Models estimation and diagnostic tests

Results of the 9 GARCH-class model estimates are not reported here but are available upon request. Even though some models are difficult to optimize, no miss-convergences are recorded for any time series. However, at first sight, the major conclusion that could be drawn regarding the models estimation process is that taking into account several financial markets' stylized facts (long memory characteristic, shock persistence and asymmetric leverage effects...) does not necessarily improve the models performances since the more the model is over-parametrized, the more its computation and its convergence are complicated. In fact, different inconsistency and inaccuracy of the estimator parameters in some countries and for some model can result from the complexity of the model's statistical specifications. At the opposite, the models that great perform as to strong numerical convergence and computing-time delay are the GARCH, the IGARCH, FIGARCH and FIEGARCH.

Results of the univariate misspecification tests applied on the standardized residuals are presented in [Table 5 \(Appendix A\)](#). The Q portmanteau empirical statistics with 20 lags of both standardized residuals in levels and squared show that the null hypothesis of no serial correlation is accepted in most cases for all the studied models. The LM-ARCH test up to 10 lag orders shows, as well, that there is no heteroscedasticity in the conditional variance equations of most of time series. The GARCH, IGARCH and FIGARCH models pass this in 100% of cases, whilst the least performant model, in terms of serial correlation, in the FIAPARCH with ARCH effects detected in 6 countries. Moreover, testing for conditional heteroscedasticity through the Residual-Based Diagnostic (RDB) for conditional heteroscedasticity ([Tse, 2002](#)) gives better results, with absolutely no detected serial correlation in all series for the APARCH, IGARCH and FIGARCH. Based on the the Nyblom test, proposed by [Nyblom \(1989\)](#), no possible shifts are detected and the 9 models parameters coefficients are found to be constant over time for all countries. One of the recommended steps in modeling financial data process is to evaluate the goodness of fit ([D'Agostino, 2017](#)). The fitting of our models are thus assessed, in this paper, through the adjusted Pearson goodness-of-fit test. Statistics indicate that mostly there is no difference between the empirical distribution of the residuals and the theoretical one. Interestingly, the basic GARCH model seems to have the highest number (12 over the 38 studied series) of unconformity and discrepancy of the data from the data from the hypothesized probability distribution.

In addition to the diagnostic tests, [Table 5](#) displays the Akaike information criterion (AIC) for each model and country. Result do not allow us to unanimously select only one most appropriate model. AIC results of the studied models are mitigated across the 38 countries of the sample. By minimizing the AIC, the APARCH turns out to be the best fitted model for the CDS data of 34% of the sample, while HYGARCH, IGARCH and FIAPARCH provide the best in-sample fit for respectively 26%, 18% and 11% of the studied countries. However, these results are not in line with the preliminary analysis where all the studied CDS log returns are found to be subject to long-memory feature in the variance. By only focusing in the fractionally integrated subset of models, the HYGARCH is found to majority outperform in 53% of cases, followed by the FIAPARCH in 40% of cases. These results divergence points out the limits of using the 'minimizing loss of information' technique in comparing models appropriateness. Thus, this approach seems to be, in this case, not totally consistent and should only be used tentatively, at least if it is not associated with any other

approaches. Hence the importance of rather rely on the forecasting ability to select the best performant volatility model.

4.3 Forecasting performance

Results of the twenty-day out-of-sample volatility forecasts are reported in [Table 3](#) and [Table 4](#). As mentioned before, the forecasting robustness and reliability of the 9 models is studied through 7 error statistics, namely the MSE, MAE, HMSE, HMAE, QLIKE, $R^2\text{LOG}$ and MLAE. Even though there is no unanimous dominant model in terms of forecasting ability according to all the comparison measure, it is clearly seen that the fractionally-integrated class of model outperforms the basic GARCH models - not taking into account long-memory in volatility process. Ranked in the last position by 5 out of the 7 criteria, the least forecasting performant model for CDS volatility is the EGARCH with the largest recorded errors.

The lowest values of MSE, MAE and $R^2\text{LOG}$ are recorded for the FIGARCH, whilst the lowest values of HMSE, QLIKE and MLAE are reported for the FIEGARCH, making them preferable, in terms of accurate forecasting abilities, to the other studied models. On another side, and according to the results of the MSE, MAE, HMAE, $R^2\text{LOG}$ and MLAE criteria, the HYGARCH produce the highest errors, probably due to its computational complexity.

These findings empirically reveal the nonlinear predictability pattern of CDS volatility. In general, our results are in line with the findings of other financial markets: the non-linear GARCH-class models, that allows for leverage effects, nonsymmetrical dependencies and long-range memory in the volatility model provide a more accurate in-sample performance and a more reliable out-of-sample forecasting ability. The improvement of the forecasting power of the studied models depends, thus, on their ability to capture a maximum of financial stylized facts while estimating the CDS volatility of future days.

Table 4: Summary of the number of selected models according to each criterion

	GARCH	EGARCH	GJR	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIEGARCH	FIAPARCH	HYGARCH
MSE	5	1	2	2	7	16	5	13	3
MAE	4	0	1	0	3	14	6	11	4
HMSE	3	3	2	2	2	4	10	7	9
HMAE	4	3	2	4	3	6	7	11	1
QLIKE	6	2	2	3	3	4	10	7	5
$R^2\text{LOG}$	5	2	2	1	3	9	6	8	5
MLAE	2	3	0	3	0	6	18	5	4

5 Conclusion

This paper aimed to assess the performances of 9 linear and non-linear volatility models. Using daily sovereign CDS data, GARCH, IGARCH, EGARCH, GJR, APARCH, FIGARCH, FIEGARCH, FIAPARCH and HYGARCH are estimated, allowing to take into account different financial markets properties such as the leverage effect, the asymmetric reaction to good and bad news and long-range persistence. The performance comparison being made upon several loss functions criteria and several multivariate diagnostic tests, a certain number of conclusions can be drawn.

Table 3: Results of the loss functions criteria for the twenty-day out-of-sample volatility predictions

Statistic criteria		MSE										MAE									
		GARCH	EGARCH	GJR	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIEGARCH	FIAPARCH	HYGARCH	GARCH	EGARCH	GJR	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIEGARCH	FIAPARCH	HYGARCH		
Austria	0.0168	0.2640	0.0181	0.0483	0.0189	0.0189	0.1318	0.0189	0.0194	0.0597	0.1335	0.0603	0.1620	0.0643	0.0643	0.1249	0.0527	0.0636			
Belgium	0.0051	0.1971	0.0050	0.0073	0.0050	0.0050	0.6694	0.0058	0.0095	0.0313	0.2422	0.0323	0.0450	0.0324	0.0325	0.2595	0.0332	0.0577			
Brazil	0.0012	0.1120	0.0014	0.0020	0.0010	0.0010	0.9925	0.0010	0.0027	0.0249	0.1668	0.0276	0.0326	0.0222	0.0219	0.5846	0.0216	0.0381			
Bulgaria	0.0009	0.1813	0.0009	0.0010	0.0008	0.0008	0.1759	0.0008	0.0022	0.0174	0.1050	0.0174	0.0206	0.0105	0.0159	0.0156	0.0277	0.0277			
China	0.0042	0.3349	0.0047	0.0050	0.0055	0.0044	0.0003	0.0044	0.0046	0.0322	0.3501	0.0342	0.0375	0.0410	0.0346	0.0270	0.0361	0.0342			
Croatia	0.0025	0.0046	0.0023	0.0461	0.0008	0.0007	0.0004	0.0008	0.5356	0.0304	0.0418	0.0291	0.1430	0.0161	0.0160	0.0409	0.0166	0.1537			
Czech	0.0082	0.9185	0.0089	0.0092	0.0081	0.0082	0.9067	0.0077	0.0010	0.0380	0.6732	0.0372	0.0504	0.0455	0.0369	0.2705	0.0441	0.0404			
Denmark	0.0070	0.2619	0.0053	0.0076	0.0052	0.0052	0.3797	0.0046	0.0051	0.0456	0.1950	0.0481	0.0621	0.0487	0.0476	0.1142	0.0578	0.0471			
Finland	0.0067	0.7343	0.0065	0.0051	0.0059	0.0065	0.0165	0.0060	0.0064	0.0396	0.4611	0.0408	0.0368	0.0390	0.0400	0.0913	0.0410	0.0402			
France	0.0104	0.0237	0.0114	0.0378	0.0057	0.0055	0.0237	0.0048	0.0290	0.0483	0.0654	0.0504	0.1088	0.0371	0.0370	0.0654	0.0358	0.0828			
Germany	0.0182	0.0165	0.0170	0.0197	0.0171	0.0183	0.1753	0.0205	0.0194	0.0552	0.0603	0.0548	0.0597	0.1203	0.0554	0.0548	0.0585	0.0666			
Greece	0.4862	0.6709	0.4788	0.4704	0.4758	0.4814	0.2765	0.4754	0.4775	0.1550	0.2466	0.1490	0.1483	0.1643	0.1511	0.9744	0.1472	0.1496			
Hungary	0.0032	0.0055	0.0031	0.0012	0.0011	0.0010	0.0049	0.0015	0.0008	0.0367	0.0301	0.0361	0.0200	0.0203	0.0190	0.0306	0.0259	0.0173			
Indonesia	0.4590	0.4590	0.4588	0.4585	0.4587	0.4585	0.6687	0.4586	0.4588	0.1924	0.1925	0.1926	0.1928	0.1925	0.1926	0.1539	0.1925	0.1930			
Ireland	0.0228	0.0889	0.0206	0.0375	0.0197	0.0189	0.7325	0.0175	0.0919	0.0487	0.0625	0.0477	0.0637	0.0477	0.0439	0.5391	0.0439	0.1077			
Italy	0.0043	0.0046	0.0038	0.0015	0.0046	0.0013	0.0012	0.0013	0.0013	0.0496	0.0476	0.0463	0.0286	0.0239	0.0256	0.0476	0.0263	0.0254			
Japan	0.0026	0.6015	0.0023	0.0033	0.0022	0.0022	0.5609	0.0022	0.0044	0.0290	0.8366	0.0290	0.0374	0.0284	0.0284	0.1798	0.0283	0.0448			
Latvia	0.0052	0.1550	0.0051	0.0098	0.0042	0.0044	0.3013	0.0043	0.0046	0.0319	0.2975	0.0330	0.0471	0.0316	0.0314	0.1861	0.0327	0.0316			
Lithuania	0.0073	0.4946	0.0076	0.0074	0.0067	0.0063	0.4168	0.0079	0.0075	0.0389	0.3211	0.0401	0.0405	0.0398	0.0381	0.1271	0.0401	0.0396			
Mexico	0.0024	0.0034	0.0026	0.0026	0.0028	0.0023	0.2575	0.0028	0.0031	0.0397	0.0384	0.0367	0.0381	0.0398	0.0365	0.2979	0.0395	0.0409			
Netherlands	0.0199	0.0184	0.0179	0.0182	0.0177	0.0178	0.1028	0.0181	0.0184	0.0743	0.0758	0.0739	0.0754	0.0732	0.0731	0.0000	0.0747	0.0765			
Norway	0.0675	0.2614	0.0668	0.0693	0.3232	0.0673	0.3232	0.0677	0.0675	0.1514	0.2985	0.1484	0.1575	0.1050	0.1480	0.1050	0.1488	0.1489			
Philippines	0.0008	0.0032	0.0008	0.0007	0.0009	0.0006	0.2773	0.0010	0.0012	0.0226	0.0209	0.0206	0.0199	0.0231	0.0185	0.9723	0.0221	0.0236			
Poland	0.0029	0.0048	0.0029	0.0043	0.0012	0.0012	0.0088	0.0011	0.0010	0.0325	0.0471	0.0321	0.0401	0.0202	0.0201	0.0612	0.0197	0.0176			
Portugal	0.0035	0.0068	0.0038	0.0059	0.0015	0.0015	0.0113	0.0023	0.0015	0.0405	0.0545	0.0422	0.0557	0.0263	0.0260	0.0743	0.0334	0.0247			
Qatar	0.0042	0.0066	0.0043	0.0062	0.0604	0.0043	0.0042	0.0045	0.0044	0.0349	0.0421	0.0353	0.0444	0.0350	0.0346	0.0835	0.0362	0.0357			
Romania	0.0016	0.0198	0.0009	0.0009	0.0008	0.0007	0.7783	0.0011	0.0026	0.0172	0.1187	0.0183	0.0184	0.0156	0.0154	0.1630	0.0188	0.0292			
Russia	0.0012	0.0021	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0012	0.0021	0.0011	0.0012	0.0239	0.0259	0.0238	0.0237	0.0243	0.0243	0.0259	0.0235	0.0239			
Slovakia	0.0034	0.0339	0.0025	0.0264	0.0018	0.0018	0.6179	0.0019	0.0067	0.0252	0.0633	0.0265	0.0752	0.0218	0.0218	0.2373	0.0312	0.0420			
Slovenia	0.0034	0.0405	0.0034	0.0033	0.0034	0.0034	0.2103	0.0049	0.0044	0.0302	0.0426	0.0300	0.0297	0.0299	0.0298	0.8524	0.0312	0.0296			
Spain	0.0028	0.0279	0.0027	0.0031	0.0025	0.0024	0.0279	0.0023	0.0061	0.0317	0.0827	0.0320	0.0351	0.0295	0.0285	0.0827	0.0282	0.0477			
Sweden	0.0055	0.1411	0.0060	0.0059	0.0056	0.0058	0.2944	0.0060	0.0058	0.0475	0.5913	0.0481	0.0481	0.0485	0.0464	0.4491	0.0473	0.0465			
Thailand	0.0013	0.2656	0.0014	0.0015	0.0013	0.0013	0.4255	0.0013	0.0016	0.0252	0.2061	0.0261	0.0271	0.0256	0.0252	0.3849	0.0259	0.0299			
Turkey	0.0008	0.0117	0.0009	0.0010	0.0007	0.0007	0.4182	0.0006	0.0013	0.0198	0.0583	0.0207	0.0221	0.0186	0.0185	0.0773	0.0185	0.0270			
UK	0.0015	0.0028	0.0017	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.4541	0.0015	0.0019	0.0298	0.0296	0.0303	0.0292	0.0312	0.0284	0.3958	0.0281	0.0330			
Ukraine	0.0042	0.1403	0.0049	0.0052	0.0043	0.0046	0.1388	0.0045	0.0067	0.0274	0.1164	0.0249	0.0290	0.0258	0.0250	0.4394	0.0244	0.0304			
USA	0.0151	0.0177	0.0151	0.0151	0.0148	0.0146	0.0177	0.0147	0.0163	0.0949	0.0965	0.0949	0.0950	0.0929	0.0907	0.0965	0.0916	0.0990			
Venezuela	0.0009	0.0025	0.0009	0.0008	0.0007	0.0007	0.0662	0.0007	0.0018	0.0209	0.0239	0.0207	0.0201	0.0188	0.0187	0.0454	0.0176	0.0310			

Numbers in bold refer to the models minimizing the loss function criterion.

Table 3: Results of the loss functions criteria for the twenty-day out-of-sample volatility predictions (*Continued*)

Statistic criteria	HMSE										HMAE									
	GJR	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	EGARCH	GJR	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	HYGARCH
Austria	0.1717	0.8324	0.8449	0.8449	0.5361	0.2306	0.1342	0.4810	0.9513	0.1400	0.1135	0.1160	0.1160	0.1014	0.1504	0.1504	0.3334	0.3334	0.3334	0.3334
Belgium	0.1511	0.6688	0.1655	0.2009	0.5731	0.4235	0.0048	0.3403	0.3789	0.2287	0.1332	0.9186	0.1058	0.1382	0.6533	0.6533	0.5977	0.5977	0.5977	0.5977
Brazil	0.3147	0.1508	0.3319	0.8107	0.1001	0.1605	0.1141	0.1071	0.1247	0.4636	0.1299	0.1570	0.8090	0.8774	0.1018	0.9637	0.9637	0.9637	0.9637	0.9637
Bulgaria	0.2566	0.1750	0.9986	0.2960	0.7895	0.1858	0.3913	0.3834	0.8154	0.4077	0.1066	0.2605	0.1725	0.0815	0.3563	0.3563	0.3590	0.3590	0.3590	0.3590
China	0.4046	0.3621	0.5312	0.3100	0.9334	0.3090	0.1973	0.1656	0.4026	0.4940	0.1455	0.4296	0.1343	0.1503	0.1302	0.3417	0.3417	0.3417	0.3417	0.3417
Croatia	0.7541	0.8237	0.1212	0.9844	0.6604	0.9817	0.9754	0.7310	0.7544	0.7297	0.8821	0.7854	0.7447	0.7559	0.7434	0.9875	0.9875	0.9875	0.9875	0.9875
Czech	0.3804	0.1615	0.1679	0.7687	0.3568	0.1866	0.1210	0.8474	0.9255	0.1102	0.8713	0.8982	0.1697	0.2686	0.9185	0.3290	0.3290	0.3290	0.3290	0.3290
Denmark	0.7105	0.9270	0.5294	0.7015	0.4449	0.1866	0.1334	0.4203	0.3393	0.4420	0.2553	0.5189	0.4186	0.9326	0.1785	0.5613	0.5613	0.5613	0.5613	0.5613
Finland	0.1419	0.7411	0.1322	0.1299	0.1036	0.1107	0.2654	0.5708	0.5239	0.1105	0.4776	0.3471	0.1356	0.2766	0.0150	0.4860	0.4860	0.4860	0.4860	0.4860
France	0.3916	0.3300	0.1807	0.1572	0.9806	0.1188	0.9758	0.2958	0.7225	0.4459	0.7253	0.7944	0.7757	0.7225	0.1098	0.7805	0.7805	0.7805	0.7805	0.7805
Germany	0.2565	0.4401	0.5318	0.8237	0.8339	0.4818	0.5216	0.1277	0.9793	0.7806	0.7225	0.7484	0.1438	0.1015	0.6760	0.2014	0.2014	0.2014	0.2014	0.2014
Greece	0.5632	0.1728	0.3808	0.1166	0.1101	0.1085	0.3914	0.1711	0.2910	0.4335	0.8196	0.4155	0.1881	0.1490	0.1759	0.3499	0.3499	0.3499	0.3499	0.3499
Hungary	0.3482	0.2020	0.1544	0.1241	0.8405	0.1136	0.1327	0.7520	0.7063	0.7510	0.7681	0.7416	0.7162	0.7102	0.7423	0.7524	0.7524	0.7524	0.7524	0.7524
Indonesia	0.6001	0.1478	0.1356	0.9473	0.2363	0.6628	0.4736	0.4057	0.1180	0.1912	0.1402	0.9120	0.1323	0.1130	0.8306	0.2002	0.2002	0.2002	0.2002	0.2002
Ireland	0.2727	0.5478	0.2666	0.8881	0.1456	0.2613	0.4427	0.1308	0.1289	0.1344	0.1949	0.3797	0.2469	0.9929	0.1316	0.1094	0.1094	0.1094	0.1094	0.1094
Italy	0.5332	0.5444	0.8795	0.6657	0.1005	0.7044	0.6773	0.6671	0.6652	0.6584	0.7089	0.6766	0.6411	0.6652	0.6588	0.6456	0.6456	0.6456	0.6456	0.6456
Japan	0.1605	0.2312	0.2424	0.1800	0.1526	0.2020	0.7090	0.1814	0.2176	0.9274	0.1048	0.1202	0.9272	0.2593	0.8864	0.7186	0.7186	0.7186	0.7186	0.7186
Latvia	0.1466	0.4932	0.2723	0.2850	0.3223	0.4290	0.1014	0.1678	0.3185	0.4106	0.6083	0.1436	0.5743	0.1662	0.5234	0.3183	0.3183	0.3183	0.3183	0.3183
Lithuania	0.6748	0.9203	0.7588	0.8314	0.7358	0.0203	0.1169	0.2231	0.3007	0.9843	0.9596	0.3581	0.9213	0.2896	0.1487	0.3957	0.3957	0.3957	0.3957	0.3957
Mexico	0.2091	0.4638	0.3383	0.1779	0.4335	0.3150	0.1786	0.2657	0.4865	0.7087	0.3329	0.1242	0.5829	0.2816	0.2391	0.2095	0.2095	0.2095	0.2095	0.2095
Netherlands	0.0019	0.6496	0.3412	0.2072	0.0637	0.0000	0.0000	0.3186	0.8029	0.0619	0.3484	0.7852	0.6322	0.0961	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Norway	0.8095	0.3640	0.1293	0.1105	0.1105	0.5344	0.9276	0.9625	0.1405	0.4785	0.9825	0.1400	0.1836	0.1005	0.7092	0.1546	0.1546	0.1546	0.1546	0.1546
Philippines	0.1944	0.4249	0.4094	0.5997	0.1045	0.2713	0.1959	0.2934	0.7178	0.2247	0.1017	0.1411	0.1017	0.4089	0.3749	0.7089	0.7089	0.7089	0.7089	0.7089
Poland	0.1288	0.2891	0.5712	0.1017	0.6582	0.1118	0.1405	0.8264	0.7200	0.8248	0.1145	0.8328	0.7086	0.7477	0.7300	0.7939	0.7939	0.7939	0.7939	0.7939
Portugal	0.1711	0.4652	0.9779	0.9757	0.8876	0.9183	0.1444	0.9365	0.6933	0.9749	0.7071	0.7109	0.7116	0.7557	0.5761	0.7929	0.7929	0.7929	0.7929	0.7929
Qatar	0.1555	0.2364	0.5162	0.6170	0.4738	0.1086	0.1277	0.1042	0.1068	0.1197	0.2883	0.1930	0.7598	0.5004	0.3111	0.3036	0.3036	0.3036	0.3036	0.3036
Romania	0.2356	0.2481	0.4849	0.1579	0.2475	0.2162	0.7391	0.1133	0.8750	0.7715	0.7773	0.7664	0.7499	0.7592	0.8042	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228	0.1228
Russia	0.5564	0.5567	0.5493	0.5487	0.5422	0.5583	0.5558	0.6024	0.5999	0.6010	0.6019	0.6011	0.6008	0.5999	0.6019	0.6018	0.6018	0.6018	0.6018	0.6018
Slovakia	0.1461	0.3172	0.1572	0.1572	0.2691	0.2237	0.1246	0.2604	0.7703	0.2627	0.1362	0.2946	0.2946	0.2534	0.3357	0.6022	0.6022	0.6022	0.6022	0.6022
Slovenia	0.1043	0.1004	0.9656	0.5711	0.3511	0.5791	0.2105	0.1349	0.1303	0.1343	0.1317	0.1338	0.1214	0.5795	0.1575	0.1595	0.1595	0.1595	0.1595	0.1595
Spain	0.1756	0.3023	0.1479	0.1879	0.8925	0.1131	0.1946	0.5370	0.7852	0.1700	0.2662	0.6153	0.7971	0.7852	0.1443	0.8480	0.8480	0.8480	0.8480	0.8480
Sweden	0.2442	0.6636	0.1900	0.4728	0.7608	0.9317	0.1547	0.2643	0.7898	0.6910	0.1042	0.8460	0.4014	0.8354	0.9885	0.1769	0.1769	0.1769	0.1769	0.1769
Thailand	0.1456	0.2096	0.4946	0.1019	0.2233	0.6441	0.4063	0.8256	0.9634	0.1751	0.2007	0.1378	0.1017	0.1734	0.3048	0.2604	0.2604	0.2604	0.2604	0.2604
Turkey	0.3787	0.3207	0.3749	0.1958	0.2613	0.6156	0.2767	0.1840	0.2208	0.9913	0.2780	0.9056	0.7166	0.8171	0.6053	0.3471	0.3471	0.3471	0.3471	0.3471
UK	0.2678	0.3819	0.3119	0.1041	0.4351	0.8048	0.1135	0.1085	0.1513	0.2461	0.9242	0.4022	0.1572	0.8956	0.4215	0.1596	0.1596	0.1596	0.1596	0.1596
Ukraine	0.1479	0.1547	0.1262	0.4541	0.1003	0.3017	0.3461	0.9458	0.9780	0.1663	0.1696	0.2055	0.9862	0.9370	0.1562	0.8165	0.8165	0.8165	0.8165	0.8165
USA	0.5874	0.5831	0.5456	0.5450	0.5131	0.5807	0.7764	0.4248	0.3882	0.4241	0.4244	0.4127	0.4116	0.3882	0.4194	0.7035	0.7035	0.7035	0.7035	0.7035
Venezuela	0.6039	0.6044	0.6700	0.6665	0.2341	0.1708	0.1064	0.6130	0.6045	0.6066	0.6017	0.6276	0.6244	0.1536	0.1447	0.2678	0.2678	0.2678	0.2678	0.2678

Numbers in bold refer to the models minimizing the loss function criterion.

Table 3: Results of the loss functions criteria for the twenty-day out-of-sample volatility predictions (*Continued*)

Statistic criteria	QLIKE										R2LOG									
	GARCH	EGARCH	GJR	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	FIGARCH	HYGARCH
Austria	0.3750	0.1801	0.3647	0.1122	0.0853	0.0853	0.2368	0.4388	0.2264	0.4459	0.7794	0.1370	0.4488	0.4488	0.1329	0.1417	0.4363	0.4395	0.4395	0.4395
Belgium	0.3249	0.2503	0.2132	0.1330	0.9026	0.9056	0.1228	0.4992	0.4427	0.1054	0.2292	0.1098	0.1098	0.1001	0.1001	0.1417	0.9336	0.1345	0.1345	0.1345
Brazil	0.9257	0.2236	0.4483	0.1299	0.1426	0.6683	0.7384	0.1017	0.8118	0.7850	0.1215	0.1084	0.2500	0.8061	0.0688	0.9786	0.2601	0.9204	0.9204	0.9204
Bulgaria	0.3663	0.9138	0.3905	0.1048	0.2435	0.1555	0.9137	0.3393	0.1829	0.8627	0.1904	0.0860	0.0089	0.8123	0.0809	0.1905	0.8050	0.1035	0.1035	0.1035
China	0.1481	0.2386	0.9202	0.1437	0.4296	0.1168	0.0789	0.1285	0.3236	0.9805	0.1314	0.1498	0.1259	0.5610	0.1031	0.8734	0.1774	0.1013	0.1013	0.1013
Croatia	0.1083	0.1065	0.1081	0.8651	0.9786	0.1022	0.1065	0.1028	0.0301	0.1315	0.1591	0.1290	0.2399	0.9687	0.1007	0.1578	0.1020	0.6233	0.6233	0.6233
Czech	0.6735	0.4635	0.9242	0.7804	0.7404	0.1523	0.7804	0.7355	0.1502	0.7963	0.3167	0.8417	0.1125	0.1092	0.8436	0.6036	0.1074	0.7744	0.7744	0.7744
Denmark	0.2878	0.3238	0.4243	0.2553	0.5189	0.4019	0.9147	0.1785	0.5447	0.1056	0.1821	0.1860	8.9493	0.1191	0.1809	0.3673	0.9240	0.1931	0.1931	0.1931
Finland	0.5708	0.3954	0.1089	0.3253	0.3324	0.1202	0.1426	0.4608	0.4697	0.2240	0.9955	0.1902	0.8405	0.1390	0.1120	0.1508	0.1576	0.1479	0.1479	0.1479
France	0.1680	0.5936	0.3170	0.9615	0.4206	0.4408	0.5936	0.4926	0.6442	0.8680	0.1270	0.7548	0.9179	0.8703	0.7518	0.1060	0.7389	0.1080	0.1080	0.1080
Germany	0.1148	0.2539	0.6543	0.7091	0.7356	0.1309	0.3156	0.6746	0.1885	0.7950	0.8545	0.7606	0.9179	0.8703	0.8189	0.1209	0.1020	0.9904	0.9904	0.9904
Greece	0.1711	0.2741	0.4335	0.6542	0.2582	0.1862	0.1472	0.1756	0.3319	0.9231	0.2916	0.3044	0.1760	0.2234	0.1340	0.1506	0.1627	0.1451	0.1451	0.1451
Hungary	0.8936	0.8885	0.8926	0.8866	0.8261	0.8524	0.7965	0.8634	0.8103	0.1249	0.1124	0.1238	0.9855	0.1046	0.9688	0.1137	0.1132	0.9037	0.9037	0.9037
Indonesia	0.1115	0.1167	0.1895	0.1385	0.8979	0.1307	0.4041	0.8149	0.2002	0.1362	0.3234	0.2156	0.2222	0.1270	0.2141	0.1169	0.1719	0.1636	0.1636	0.1636
Ireland	0.1150	0.1970	0.1187	0.1932	0.3638	0.2309	0.8289	0.1300	0.4509	0.1118	0.9596	0.1110	0.1807	0.1237	0.1165	0.1204	0.1527	0.1330	0.1330	0.1330
Italy	0.7739	0.7709	0.7740	0.6496	0.7049	0.6434	0.7709	0.6969	0.6980	0.8880	0.8694	0.8575	0.6427	0.5688	0.6196	0.8694	0.6496	0.6142	0.6142	0.6142
Japan	0.1677	0.8736	0.9131	0.1186	0.1065	0.9130	0.1034	0.8725	0.5747	0.8854	0.2290	0.1141	0.1226	0.8269	0.1080	0.1235	0.1013	0.9994	0.9994	0.9994
Latvia	0.1488	0.2997	0.3894	0.6083	0.1251	0.0393	0.0413	0.5231	0.3183	0.1304	0.1525	0.1490	0.5939	0.1431	0.1339	0.2170	0.2523	0.1506	0.1506	0.1506
Lithuania	0.2044	0.2832	0.8059	0.9593	0.1943	0.7515	0.2709	0.1485	0.3763	0.1440	0.1894	0.1353	0.3666	0.1400	0.1467	0.2463	0.2881	0.1599	0.1599	0.1599
Mexico	0.2510	0.3569	0.7069	0.3311	0.2391	0.5811	0.2799	0.1242	0.2095	0.1281	0.6893	0.3228	0.2731	0.1787	0.2829	0.4145	0.1144	0.2030	0.2030	0.2030
Netherlands	0.3186	0.7874	0.0602	0.3482	0.7697	0.6164	0.0943	0.0000	0.0000	0.1709	0.1953	0.1873	0.4355	0.1955	0.1852	0.2312	0.0005	0.0205	0.0205	0.0205
Norway	0.9625	0.9873	0.4605	0.9822	0.1382	0.1817	0.1382	0.7092	0.1546	0.1780	0.3609	0.2067	0.6787	0.4132	0.2810	0.4132	0.1752	0.6818	0.6818	0.6818
Philippines	0.2764	0.5689	0.4073	0.9985	0.1411	0.9867	0.2082	0.3731	0.7089	0.1427	0.8120	0.1290	0.2031	0.1566	0.9553	0.1075	0.1789	0.2175	0.2175	0.2175
Poland	0.7821	0.9163	0.7809	0.5306	0.7129	0.8302	0.9038	0.8112	0.7167	0.9412	0.1378	0.9352	0.8913	0.7587	0.8056	0.1298	0.7800	0.7594	0.7594	0.7594
Portugal	0.4618	0.7363	0.4295	0.6806	0.6288	0.6279	0.4300	0.6775	0.5410	0.9387	0.1244	0.9564	0.1147	0.7570	0.7513	0.1116	0.9194	0.6986	0.6986	0.6986
Qatar	0.8931	0.9255	0.1047	0.2883	0.1782	0.6127	0.3549	0.2950	0.2885	0.1012	0.1193	0.1063	0.5715	0.1140	0.9339	0.1519	0.1160	0.1245	0.1245	0.1245
Romania	0.9652	0.7679	0.8900	0.1095	0.5996	0.8822	0.9351	0.8511	0.1053	0.8422	0.2420	0.8845	0.1900	0.7781	0.8136	0.1131	0.8882	0.1068	0.1068	0.1068
Russia	0.7350	0.7483	0.7483	0.7356	0.7394	0.7396	0.7342	0.7346	0.7355	0.4808	0.5077	0.4789	0.4786	0.4858	0.4856	0.5077	0.4764	0.4806	0.4806	0.4806
Slovakia	0.8763	0.8667	0.8932	0.1168	0.1221	0.1220	0.7453	0.1612	0.4213	0.8999	0.1717	0.9302	0.1374	0.8099	0.8099	0.7402	0.7805	0.1089	0.1089	0.1089
Slovenia	0.3175	0.3700	0.3431	0.3376	0.3232	0.4420	0.3842	0.1575	0.1376	0.2210	0.2280	0.2209	0.2202	0.2200	0.2192	0.1958	0.4102	0.1607	0.1607	0.1607
Spain	0.4066	0.6002	0.1569	0.2526	0.4860	0.6670	0.6002	0.1314	0.7091	0.7214	0.1041	0.7774	0.8834	0.6883	0.7057	0.1041	0.7092	0.9179	0.9179	0.9179
Sweden	0.2641	0.6405	0.6727	0.1040	0.8460	0.4014	0.1769	0.9883	0.1595	0.3345	0.1262	0.1958	0.3440	0.1552	0.1162	0.3369	0.4645	0.1294	0.1294	0.1294
Thailand	0.8093	0.8193	0.1599	0.1990	0.8699	0.1228	0.2893	0.2446	0.1665	0.9046	0.1089	0.1216	0.7366	0.9387	0.1019	0.3224	0.1245	0.1270	0.1270	0.1270
Turkey	0.1695	0.2053	0.8470	0.2632	0.7646	0.5755	0.6912	0.7542	0.3322	0.0647	0.9940	0.6162	0.7366	0.5595	0.5477	0.7946	0.4184	0.7218	0.7218	0.7218
UK	0.1066	0.1342	0.2441	0.9221	0.4022	0.1400	0.8769	0.4213	0.1576	0.2285	0.1329	0.2740	0.3564	0.1378	0.1115	0.3719	0.4688	0.2560	0.2560	0.2560
Ukraine	0.9283	0.0917	0.1489	0.1544	0.4717	0.8153	0.4308	0.1525	0.1233	0.5386	0.8248	0.1418	0.7089	0.7089	0.5386	0.3086	0.7997	0.1493	0.1493	0.1493
USA	0.3082	0.2732	0.3076	0.3077	0.2962	0.2956	0.2732	0.3036	0.5831	0.1617	0.1628	0.1621	0.1624	0.1574	0.1545	0.1628	0.1573	0.1809	0.1809	0.1809
Venezuela	0.8257	0.8405	0.8291	0.8315	0.7997	0.7998	0.0123	0.0011	0.1111	0.4877	0.5290	0.4847	0.4770	0.4530	0.4516	0.7244	0.4906	0.0751	0.0751	0.0751

Numbers in bold refer to the models minimizing the loss function criterion.

Table 3: Results of the loss functions criteria for the twenty-day out-of-sample volatility predictions (*Continued*)

Statistic criteria		MLAE									
Countries	GARCH	EGARCH	GJR	APARCH	IGARCH	FIGARCH	FIEGARCH	FIAPARCH	HYGARCH		
Austria	0,1624	0,1566	0,1630	0,9488	0,1566	0,1067	0,1110	0,1589	0,1588		
Belgium	0,1863	0,1824	0,1836	0,1651	0,1833	0,1339	0,1484	0,1817	0,1469		
Brazil	0,1796	0,1865	0,1750	0,1672	0,1860	0,1052	0,1930	0,1893	0,1591		
Bulgaria	0,2087	0,1254	0,2091	0,1990	0,2131	0,2136	0,1253	0,2135	0,1873		
China	0,1991	0,1922	0,2230	0,2163	0,2025	0,1741	0,1936	0,1756	0,2061		
Croatia	0,1767	0,1567	0,1789	0,1092	0,2061	0,2034	0,1568	0,2014	0,0012		
Czech	0,2128	0,6195	0,2197	0,1678	0,1717	0,2149	0,2106	0,1719	0,1999		
Denmark	0,1664	0,1641	0,1784	0,1610	0,1652	0,1723	0,1604	0,1587	0,1707		
Finland	0,1771	0,1743	0,1839	0,1809	0,1765	0,1840	0,1251	0,1777	0,1783		
France	0,1662	0,1409	0,1643	0,1266	0,1754	0,1749	0,1409	0,1757	0,1426		
Germany	0,1838	0,1603	0,1796	0,1759	0,1804	0,1832	0,1229	0,1821	0,1599		
Greece	0,2184	0,1930	0,2217	0,1652	0,1427	0,2053	0,1288	0,2246	0,1799		
Hungary	0,1651	0,1798	0,1659	0,1942	0,1904	0,1941	0,1789	0,1788	0,1987		
Indonesia	0,1719	0,1723	0,1672	0,1601	0,1665	0,1633	0,1671	0,1641	0,1639		
Ireland	0,1812	0,1743	0,1814	0,1641	0,1804	0,1860	0,1927	0,1813	0,1378		
Italy	0,1445	0,1467	0,1481	0,1737	0,1841	0,1767	0,1467	0,1735	0,1773		
Japan	0,1799	0,6318	0,1818	0,1678	0,1818	0,1826	0,1264	0,1852	0,1569		
Latvia	0,2083	0,2026	0,2191	0,2075	0,2019	0,2029	0,1468	0,2280	0,2022		
Lithuania	0,2013	0,1874	0,1961	0,2050	0,2178	0,1868	0,1892	0,1843	0,2069		
Mexico	0,1763	0,1759	0,1708	0,1667	0,1653	0,1671	0,1679	0,1614	0,1675		
Netherlands	0,1654	0,1684	0,1700	0,1744	0,1659	0,1615	0,1623	0,1727	0,1670		
Norway	0,1437	0,1651	0,1523	0,1538	0,1503	0,1381	0,1503	0,1739	0,1646		
Philippines	0,1795	0,1935	0,1903	0,1895	0,1784	0,1917	0,1560	0,1876	0,1968		
Poland	0,1784	0,1484	0,1797	0,1742	0,1980	0,1951	0,1391	0,1965	0,2008		
Portugal	0,1622	0,1432	0,1597	0,1456	0,1789	0,1790	0,1329	0,1632	0,1841		
Qatar	0,1862	0,1694	0,1848	0,1849	0,1841	0,1904	0,1386	0,1877	0,1859		
Romania	0,2064	0,9735	0,1975	0,1904	0,2119	0,2063	0,1761	0,1986	0,1834		
Russia	0,1800	0,1776	0,1804	0,1799	0,1792	0,1794	0,1776	0,1805	0,1801		
Slovakia	0,2046	0,2085	0,2005	0,1745	0,2107	0,2107	0,1445	0,2113	0,1864		
Slovenia	0,1792	0,2325	0,1793	0,1805	0,1802	0,1810	0,1997	0,1744	0,2168		
Spain	0,1740	0,1237	0,1731	0,1682	0,1774	0,1806	0,1237	0,1804	0,1557		
Sweden	0,1690	0,1603	0,1873	0,1824	0,1660	0,1791	0,0519	0,1810	0,1814		
Thailand	0,1873	0,1890	0,1884	0,1864	0,1849	0,1848	0,1811	0,1816	0,1763		
Turkey	0,1901	0,1437	0,1887	0,1847	0,1927	0,1933	0,1416	0,1886	0,1728		
UK	0,1728	0,1788	0,1775	0,1804	0,1811	0,1772	0,1809	0,1692	0,1701		
Ukraine	0,1969	0,5542	0,2127	0,2020	0,2016	0,2059	0,0591	0,2100	0,2195		
USA	0,1222	0,1218	0,1222	0,1221	0,1243	0,1268	0,1218	0,1265	0,1189		
Venezuela	0,1926	0,1912	0,1943	0,1965	0,1980	0,1992	0,1737	0,1986	0,1716		

Numbers in bold refer to the models minimizing the loss function criterion.

First, the in-sample estimation shows that all the models almost always pass all diagnostic tests for the most cases, and that the smallest Akaike criterion does not allow us to choose only one best fitted model. Second, none of the volatility models studied in this paper is found to be more relevant than all the others in all situations, in terms of forecasting ability. The chosen model varies from one country to another and from loss function criterion to another. Third, in most cases and according to the majority of the errors statistics criteria, the non-linear GARCH-class models, that capture the long-memory behavior, the leverage effects and the asymmetric dependencies in the volatility process are more relevant in terms of out-of-sample forecasting ability than the others. Fourth, the FIGARCH and FIEGARCH models are found to be the most relevant and robust forecasting models.

Since comparing predictive performance of volatility models is of a paramount in assessing diversifiable risk, in dynamic asset pricing theory and in optimization of portfolio allocation, the economic implication of our findings concerns particularly policymakers, financial practitioners and financial market participants generally. The in-sample performances show that no model clearly outperforms all the others, and since the results are mitigated and differ from one country to another, no volatility model should be selected in an arbitrary way. The model selection should rather be based on the particular features of the data used and the country studied. When it comes to the forecasting performances, some models are preferable and seem to predict accurately and robustly the future volatility of the CDS market. Thus, after taking into account the transaction costs, investors can eventually take advantage of the market's relative inefficiency and generate extra-profits by putting in place a simple trading strategy to exploit the predictability of sovereign CDS volatility. Finally, our study shows that improving the volatility forecasts needs including the maximum of CDS market's stylized facts. However, in practice, the implementation of complex models generates additional costs that are not necessarily reflected in our comparison method, which may controvert the usefulness of using better volatility predictive models.

Our research line can be pursued in several ways. First, a further investigation on the performances of the volatility models can be done by carrying out a comparative study based on the superior predictive ability test rather than on the diagnostic tests and loss functions criteria as in our case. Second, our study can be applied to the corporate CDS market, in order to assess whether the nature of the reference entity impacts the performances of the studied models. Third, since there is a dynamic segmentation in financial markets, it can be interesting to check the robustness of our findings using a different sample from other regions and/or a CDS term structure with different maturity.

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A Appendix

Table 5: Results of the diagnostic tests for the 38 countries

Countries	Austria					Belgium					Brazil				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-3.347	29.0760 *	0.2384	0.0117	0.0043	2083.67 ***	0.5595	-4.798	0.0826	0.0134	0.0007	210.80	7363.14 ***	3.68E-09	
ERGARCH(1,1)	-3.415	5.0765	0.0271	0.0043	59.82	3088.26 ***	0.3002	-5.087	590.777 ***	456.839 ***	68.8840 ***	651.05	4087.95 ***	66.3374	
GJR(1,1)	-0.548	4.8651	0.1230	0.0124	41.55	3463.04 ***	0.0044	0.0005	274.01	0.0005	274.01	0.0005	632.10	6.82E-10	
APARCH(1,1)	-3.851	5.7814	0.0140	0.0014	181.32	1773.18 ***	0.0350	-5.539	0.0252	0.0099	0.0001	299.26	2471.35 ***	3.23E-15	
IGARCH(1,1)	-3.364	15.8231 *	0.3135	0.0309	8.83	3206.35 ***	0.3850	-5.177	0.0494	0.0214	0.0011	202.39	3226.50 ***	5.49E-12	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-3.362	15.8233 *	0.3135	0.0309	18.05	3206.35 ***	0.3775	-4.978	0.1992	0.0214	0.0011	185.82	2173.43 ***	6.26E-08	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-3.407	23.1804	0.7559	0.0058	38.20	2131.51 ***	0.3927	-4.977	0.0958	0.0127	0.0006	241.35	6964.53 ***	1.02E-06	
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-3.352	37.6455 ***	4.8655	0.0173	39.73	-	-	-4.776	386.283 ***	266.753 ***	32.6210 ***	306.75	2467.60 ***	-	
HYGARCH(1,1)	-3.355	53.4004 ***	29.6438 **	0.1805	26.14	3427.08 ***	2.2517	-5.238	0.1010	0.0331	0.0016	242.27	6885.60 ***	8.98E-06	
Countries	Bulgaria					China					Croatia				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-5.436	0.0069	0.0069	0.0003	73.69	4499.06 ***	5.34E-16	-5.448	0.5744	0.0443	0.0023	147.78	3162.01 ***	6.71E-07	
ERGARCH(1,1)	-5.345	25.0836	0.0627	0.0028	77.44	3906.25 ***	1.4874	-5.204	2.8891	0.0950	0.0048	298.22	-	-	
GJR(1,1)	-5.438	0.0069	0.0069	0.0003	76.87	3546.85 ***	4.20E-16	-6.320	37.8428 ***	2.6997	0.0021	298.22	-	-	
APARCH(1,1)	-5.539	0.0069	0.0069	0.0003	39.92	4318.73 ***	7.48E-18	-6.121	4.2686	0.0409	0.0019	233.25	7042.35 ***	1.74E-09	
IGARCH(1,1)	-5.380	69.5080	0.0069	0.0003	30.81	2960.60 ***	2.87E-15	-6.864	0.0669	0.0069	0.0009	263.50	7718.56 ***	1.55E-05	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-5.380	0.0069	0.0069	0.0003	31.87	2971.07 ***	3.43E-14	-5.536	0.4017	0.0450	0.0023	86.17	1104.85	7.83E-07	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-5.342	25.0304	0.0627	0.0028	81.79	3886.62 ***	1.4868	-5.333	0.0058	0.0069	0.0003	202.05	10697.77 ***	9.6003	
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-5.384	0.0069	0.0069	0.0003	20.12	2889.18 ***	-	-5.353	0.0085	0.0069	0.0003	204.24	11407.99	3.59E-10	
HYGARCH(1,1)	-5.508	0.0078	0.0069	0.0003	66.07	4352.37 ***	2.41E-10	-6.230	3.9754	0.0485	0.0025	297.64	3817.47	1.08E-07	
Countries	Czech					Denmark					Finland				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-5.460	1.1361	0.3438	0.0186	304.86	5073.43 ***	0.0013	-5.001	22.9743	1.1090	0.0486	4.68	34939.38 ***	0.4752	
ERGARCH(1,1)	-5.707	178.713 ***	142.618 ***	7.4291 ***	75.39	11394.00 ***	51.2730 ***	-6.520	8.2895	0.0250	0.0013	602.91	11332.87 ***	3.84E-05	
GJR(1,1)	-5.529	1.1746	0.0491	0.0024	251.86	2065.11	0.0040	-5.183	17.1878	0.9706	0.0737	604.19	14714.60 ***	0.5105	
APARCH(1,1)	-4.029	19.3863	29.8426 **	2.9599 **	2.48	19300.08 ***	2.6905	-51.589	0.0012	0.0084	-	542.38	-	-	
IGARCH(1,1)	-3.832	16.2848	5.5208	0.5229	2.30	14895.55 ***	7.4466	-24.427	0.0069	0.0069	-	614.94	30376.46 ***	4.05E-15	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-5.833	1.0567	0.1636	0.0083	101.94	8931.95	0.0015	-6.632	0.2966	0.4900	0.0178	585.49	10407.58 ***	5.38E-04	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-4.076	28.1956 *	95.3242 ***	9.9514 **	213.66	8526.67 ***	6.0092	-4.523	2.4864	0.0352	0.0019	401.82	6117.50	1.78E-05	
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-4.118	14.9785	34.6246 **	3.3487 **	2.84	15533.45 ***	5.5932	-60.873	0.0069	0.0069	-	560.41	30616.72 ***	730.361 ***	
HYGARCH(1,1)	-5.660	5.6146	0.2789	0.0195	251.01	2707.45 ***	0.1864	-7.299	3.8123	0.1021	-	708.00	14265.76 ***	6.25E-06	
Countries	France					Germany					Greece				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	ROB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-4.100	0.9096	0.0068	0.0004	96.07	6384.03 ***	4.07E-08	-4.457	122.807 ***	150.00 ***	0.0115	245.11	5271.93	4.52E-04	
ERGARCH(1,1)	-	-	-	-	-	7012.25	21.4607 **	-3.264	64.5231 ***	5.3478	0.1604	3.33	3475.68	2.7357	
GJR(1,1)	-4.134	0.3972	0.0068	0.0003	101.48	6842.79 ***	5.20E-09	-4.461	18.4334	0.8178	0.0144	245.61	6702.13	0.0125	
APARCH(1,1)	-	0.0504	0.0069	0.0003	73.40	5469.24	1.25E-10	-4.488	0.1859	0.1002	0.0005	38.10	16685.33 ***	9.61E-08	
IGARCH(1,1)	-4.038	18.7233	5.7989	0.3162	10.14	4847.63 ***	1.8916	-4.580	0.3806	0.0518	0.0100	38.10	16685.33 ***	9.61E-08	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-4.041	17.1288	4.2451	0.2667	12.07	4735.22	1.7622	-4.528	38.5063	38.5063 ***	5.7621	60.97	14.82	0.0070	
FIGARCH(1,1)	-4.133	23.4623	23.7292	0.7788	68.83	7032.25	21.5068	-4.463	10.3676	0.3631	0.0243	37.88	16535.60	1.8196	
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-4.032	18.2128	2.3464	0.1837	16.22	4221.79	2.3503	-4.560	0.0030	0.0077	0.0004	78.34	8313.85	7.18E-12	
HYGARCH(1,1)	-4.134	0.8961	0.0070	0.0004	90.94	5802.09	5.57E-09	-	0.0035	0.0097	0.0005	156.04	8510.04	8.24E-08	

Table 5: Results of the diagnostic tests for the 38 countries (*Continued*)

Countries	Hungary					Indonesia					Ireland				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-4.326	1.6930	0.0152	0.0008	12.88	1586.45	0.0006	-5.546	113.132 ***	18.8160 ***	1.6382	514.46	5.1466 ***	45.5986	0.0012
ERGARCH(1,1)	-4.240	28.2994	5.6046	0.0845	19.17	1846.23 ***	106.9260	-5.236	23.6731	40.8243 ***	1.4670	513.97	7.2044 ***	6.1253	0.0163
GJR(1,1)	-4.925	1.7769	0.0154	0.0008	13.14	1597.37	0.0006	-6.511	2.6780	0.0119	0.0005	533.16	5776.80	0.0009	0.0005
APARCH(1,1)	-5.167	26.2051	0.1162	0.0071	141.07	2751.07	0.0057	-6.658	1.8670	0.0074	0.0003	563.07	5125.68	0.0002	0.0008
FIGARCH(1,1)	-5.089	52.1714 ***	0.1537	0.0081	181.27	1532.29	0.0325	-5.699	26.7126	6.2195	0.3782	593.40	7546.30	9.9746	0.0003
FIGARCH(1,1)	-4.204	28.4870 *	2.5608	0.0687	68.48	1766.78 ***	0.0755	-3.225	3.9180	0.0064	0.0003	541.72	1828.68	0.0002	0.0003
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-5.224	76.7774 ***	12.1500	0.9990	145.79	1781.95 ***	15.9512	-6.467	11.7813	0.0349	0.0029	506.17	9136.52	62.3447 ***	0.0003
HYGARCH(1,1)	-5.113	59.3085 ***	1.6252	0.1113	104.79	3150.59	1.9650	-6.910	172.627 ***	104.791 ***	5.7026 ***	529.39	9136.52	62.3447 ***	0.0025
Countries	Italy					Japan					Latvia				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-4.117	18.3550	16.1005	1.0983	6.42	706.76 ***	79.1957	-4.820	0.2421	0.2421	0.0013	289.80	2900.87	4.49E-07	0.0684
ERGARCH(1,1)	-4.128	20.7661	10.6894	0.7044	20.93	701.34	78.4549	-4.838	4.0528	0.0111	0.0004	202.05	9224.14	0.0007	0.0009
GJR(1,1)	-4.117	18.5368	15.2346	1.0255	7.09	706.18	107.6900	-5.035	0.0229	0.0243	0.0012	202.05	4412.83	8.08E-10	0.0009
APARCH(1,1)	-4.332	48.6710 ***	84.9849 ***	7.6263 ***	173.33	2805.25	0.3320	-5.140	0.0240	0.0099	0.0005	266.30	3341.43	5.69E-10	0.0005
IGARCH(1,1)	-4.401	37.9334 ***	19.7886	1.4640	215.87	2121.04	4.9326	-4.991	0.0129	0.0399	0.0021	165.41	2958.77	5.14E-06	0.0011
FIGARCH(1,1)	-4.128	20.7663	10.6893	0.7044	4.36	701.34	4.8578	-4.586	15.8544	0.1658	0.0008	214.76	7362.93 ***	0.0048	0.0059
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-4.232	44.4320 ***	95.9543 ***	7.6864 ***	146.59	1124.49 ***	56.7892	-5.018	0.0379	0.0070	0.0003	142.79	5069.07 ***	5.32E-09	0.0184
HYGARCH(1,1)	-3.814	19.4447	8.8074	0.4818	3.09	1547.15	4.8663	-5.016	11.9659	0.8543	0.0065	255.87	2500.80	7.60E-05	0.0014
Countries	Lithuania					Mexico					Netherlands				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-6.986	22.9839	0.5948	0.0027	626.88	8019.14	0.0016	-5.775	42.1415 ***	0.0255	0.0018	628.12	7472.34	0.2978	0.0069
ERGARCH(1,1)	-6.043	0.0127	0.0243	0.0012	361.43	6720.50	1.41E-07	-5.141	55.9448 ***	35.3469 ***	0.9119	575.62	8368.05	1.24E-08	0.0005
GJR(1,1)	-6.728	29.4856	1.2122	0.0062	48.72	12154.68	0.0331	-7.185	0.0186	0.0069	0.0003	631.92	8368.05	1.24E-08	0.0067
APARCH(1,1)	-7.589	0.0209	0.0224	0.0011	338.70	21762.97	9.09E-15	-7.663	0.0659	0.0069	0.0003	652.20	7895.86	1.02E-07	0.0023
IGARCH(1,1)	-47.880	35.0081 ***	0.2251	0.0040	267.36	79526.05	0.2251	-29.261	0.0069	0.0069	0.0003	681.00	8752.33	0.0009	0.0011
FIGARCH(1,1)	-7.446	2.2311	0.0548	0.0026	526.61	10417.77	4.21E-04	-6.052	0.0376	0.0069	0.0003	761.49	8112.90	4.41E-08	0.0032
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-4.365	0.3887	0.0381	0.0019	425.87	6323.87	3.41E-06	-3.288	0.0350	0.0073	0.0004	618.85	10814.81	8.58E-09	0.0007
HYGARCH(1,1)	-7.763	0.0364	0.0342	0.0017	548.06	6935.73	3.52E-07	-66.974	0.0069	-	-	536.51	9598.41	0.0005	0.0005
	-6.983	17.4218	0.2280	0.0023	736.56	19071.59	0.0046	-11.191	0.5601	0.1274	-	606.15	10556.06	2.13E-06	0.0031
Countries	Norway					Philippines					Poland				
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q(200)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nyblom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	RDB(10)	
GARCH(1,1)	-30.204	0.0069	0.0069	-	646.42	35160.34	-	-6.564	3.8317	0.0178	0.0008	713.13	13233.96	0.0013	0.0052
ERGARCH(1,1)	-6.029	0.4984	0.0160	0.0008	411.98	13618.65	4.34E-07	-5.646	92.5266 ***	0.9462	0.0919	696.82	8147.63	1.1129	0.0011
GJR(1,1)	-6.799	28.7313	1.4934	0.0104	731.24	18536.04	0.0198	-6.554	0.7813	0.0114	0.0006	632.62	9185.87	4.83E-06	0.0051
APARCH(1,1)	-8.343	46.8995 ***	1.7125	0.0006	664.89	14001.38	0.0001	-7.543	0.0180	0.0080	0.0004	621.12	9278.99	-	0.0036
IGARCH(1,1)	-30.400	0.0069	0.0069	-	638.59	34622.64 ***	-	-28.595	0.0069	0.0069	0.0006	686.30	13240.25	-	0.0074
FIGARCH(1,1)	-6.279	1.1235	0.0122	0.0006	695.05	5532.87	2.59E-07	-6.607	8.9322	0.0516	0.0024	590.67	7501.75	0.0183	0.0032
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-5.595	0.0444	0.0087	-	526.34	4376.50	2.59E-08	-4.025	0.0079	0.0079	0.0004	526.10	8707.55	2.88E-10	0.0514
HYGARCH(1,1)	-10.666	0.0069	0.0069	-	821.47	16500.80	7.33E-24	-6.269	1.0833	0.0254	0.0013	462.53	14578.78	-	0.3230
	-8.168	0.0410	0.0075	0.0004	818.18	17491.46	1.06E-13	-6.188	24.8994	5.5387	-	632.05	14900.23	6.1970	0.5005

Table 5: Results of the diagnostic tests for the 38 countries (*Continued*)

Table 5: Results of the diagnostic tests for the 38 countries (*Continued*)

Countries	USA						Venezuela					
	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q2(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nylom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)	Information Criteria	Q(20)	Q2(20)	ARCH(10)	Joint Nylom	A. Pearson G.o.f (50 cells)
GARCH(1,1)	-3.343	22.1954	0.6640	0.0343	2.10	30069.34	-4.433	16.8322	7.8329	0.4800	2.83	738.70
ENGARCH(1,1)	-3.219	20.9911	0.6783	0.0249	70.44	10179.22	-4.335	22.2545	8.0298	0.2973	69.96	590.98
GJR(1,1)	-3.343	22.6308	0.6768	0.0361	2.90	30020.77	-4.433	16.1177	9.7585	0.6520	2.68	905.20
APARCH(1,1)	-3.343	23.2446	0.7894	0.0441	3.33	2994.64	-4.450	16.2001	51.5638 ***	4.2005 ***	2.39	1071.96
IGARCH(1,1)	-3.333	25.8119	1.2310	0.0762	1.73	29578.64	-4.409	16.9461	23.4663	1.7687	1.5400	1025.57
FIGARCH(1,1)	-3.385	21.7770	1.0326	0.0392	18.30	29371.73	-4.410	18.3256	13.0599	0.7184	75.83	720.43
FIEGARCH(1,1)	-3.218	20.9958	0.6784	0.0249	134.90	10202.40	-4.518	84.5941 ***	0.1977	0.0138	238.36	200.46
FIAPARCH(1,1)	-3.394	18.9781	0.5677	0.2338	40.45	29411.16	-4.771	44.4650 ***	81.4568 ***	8.4904 ***	149.77	340.07
HYGARCH(1,1)	-3.475	21.4223	0.2415	0.0196	15.65	27477.49	-4.861	183.998 ***	32.3894 **	3.2795 ***	237.86	403.25
												169.0970

Q(20) and Q²(20) are the Box-Pierce Q statistics under the null hypothesis of no serial correlation in the 20th lag order of respectively the standardized residuals and the squared standardized residuals. ARCH (10) is the Engle's ARCH-LM test with 10 lag orders, used to detect ARCH effects in the series under the null hypothesis of no autocorrelations in the squared residuals. The Joint Nylom is a stability test under the null hypothesis of parameters joint consistency over time against the alternative of parameters shift at an undefined breakpoint. The A. Pearson G.o.f is the adjusted Pearson goodness-of-fit test that verifies whether the residuals' empirical distribution matches or not the theoretical distribution (namely Gauss, Student or G.O.D depending on the country). RDB denotes the Residuals-Based Diagnostic test that checks for conditional Heteroscedasticity, by complementing and filling the gaps of the Box-Pierce Q statistics. *, **, and *** denote the statistical significance at respectively 1%, 5% and 10% levels.