Adaptive Reduced-Order Model Construction for Conditional Value-at-Risk Estimation *


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Abstract

This paper shows how to systematically and efficiently improve a reduced-order model (ROM) to obtain a better ROM-based estimate of the Conditional Value-at-Risk (CVaR) of a computationally expensive quantity of interest (QoI). Efficiency is gained by exploiting the structure of CVaR, which implies that a ROM used for CVaR estimation only needs to be accurate in a small region of the parameter space, called the $\varepsilon$-risk region. Hence, any full-order model (FOM) queries needed to improve the ROM can be restricted to this small region of the parameter space, thereby substantially reducing the computational cost of ROM construction. However, an example is presented which shows that simply constructing a new ROM that has a smaller error with the FOM is in general not sufficient to yield a better CVaR estimate. Instead a combination of previous ROMs is proposed that achieves a guaranteed improvement, as well as $\varepsilon$-risk regions that converge monotonically to the FOM risk region with decreasing ROM error. Error estimates for the ROM-based CVaR estimates are presented. The gains in efficiency obtained by improving a ROM only in the small $\varepsilon$-risk region over a traditional greedy procedure on the entire parameter space is illustrated numerically.

Keywords: Reduced-order models, Risk measures, Conditional Value-at-Risk, Estimation, Sampling

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1 Introduction

In this paper we develop an approach to systematically and efficiently improve a reduced-order model (ROM) to obtain a better ROM-based estimate of the Conditional Value-at-Risk (CVaR) of a computationally expensive quantity of interest (QoI). This paper builds on our recent work [2], where we analyzed uses of ROMs to substantially decrease the computational cost of sampling-based estimation of CVaR. Our previous paper used the approximation properties of a ROM, but the ROMs could have been computed separately. This paper integrates the ROM generation into the estimation process. Efficiency is gained by exploiting the structure of CVaR, which implies that a ROM used for CVaR estimation only needs to be accurate in a small region of the parameter space. Hence, any expensive full-order model (FOM) queries needed to improve a given ROM can be restricted to this small region of the parameter space, thereby substantially reducing the computational cost of ROM construction. CVaR and related risk measures have been used to quantify risk in a variety of applications ranging from portfolio optimization [17, 7, 10], engineering design [15, 22, 20, 18], to PDE-constrained optimization [6, 24]. While in special cases the CVaR for some random variables with known distributions can be computed analytically [11], for most science and engineering applications the distribution of the QoI is not known analytically. Instead, this distribution depends on the distribution of the random variables entering the system and on the dependence of the system state (often the solution of a partial differential equation (PDE)) on these random variables. In this situation CVaR must be estimated by sampling the QoI, and each sample requires a computationally expensive solution of the FOM system equations. The ROM approach proposed in this paper provides sequences of CVaR estimates with guaranteed error bounds, and decreasing errors with substantially reduced total number of expensive FOM evaluations.

Estimating the CVaR of a QoI requires sampling in the tail of the distribution of the QoI, and these samples lie a small region, called the risk region, of the parameter space. Unfortunately, as indicated earlier, this risk region is not known analytically, but must be estimated from samples of the QoI. In [2] we have shown how to use a ROM for which an error estimate is available to construct a so-called $\varepsilon$-risk region that contains the true risk region of the original computationally expensive FOM QoI, and an estimate of the CVaR of the FOM QoI that only requires ROM evaluations. The error between the CVaR of the FOM QoI and this ROM based CVaR estimate depends only on the ROM error in the $\varepsilon$-risk region. Therefore we need to improve the ROM only in the $\varepsilon$-risk region. This is typically achieved by evaluating the FOM. Since these FOM queries are now restricted to the small $\varepsilon$-risk region and not the entire parameter space our tailored process of improving the ROM is computationally substantially more efficient than traditional approaches. However, we present a simple example which shows that simply constructing a new ROM that has a smaller error with the FOM is in general not sufficient to yield a better CVaR estimate. Instead we propose a combination of the previously used ROM with the new ROM that achieves a guaranteed improvement in the CVaR estimate of the FOM QoI. We present error estimates for our ROM-based CVaR estimates, and we numerically demonstrate the gains in efficiency that can be obtained by improving a ROM only in the small $\varepsilon$-risk region over a traditional greedy procedure on the entire parameter space.
ROMs play a role in multifidelity methods for uncertainty quantification and optimization, see, e.g., the survey [12]. However, this survey focuses on the risk neutral expected value estimation. The use of ROMs for CVaR estimation and risk averse optimization is more recent and more limited. As we have already stated in [2], ‘Proper orthogonal decomposition based ROMs have recently been used in [20] to minimize CVaR for an aircraft noise problem modeled by the Helmholtz equation. However, they do not adaptively refine the reduced-order models, nor analyze the impact of ROMs on the CVaR estimation error.’ ‘The design of a ultrahigh-speed hydrofoil by using CVaR optimization is considered by Royset et al. [18]. They propose to build surrogates of the CVaR of their QoI and model these surrogates as random variables “due to unknown error in the surrogate relative to the actual value” of the CVaR of their QoI. This randomness in the CVaR surrogate is then incorporated into the design process by applying CVaR again, but with a different quantile level to the surrogate. Ultimately, they use a surrogate for the quantity of interest that combines high-fidelity and low-fidelity QoI evaluations into a polynomial fit model. Our work does not require additional stochastic treatment of model error, and focuses on the efficient and accurate sampling of CVaR using ROMs of the QoI that satisfy the original governing equations.’

Zahr et al. [21] extend the adaptive sparse-grid trust-region method of Kouri et al. [5] to include ROMs into optimization under uncertainty. The algorithm allows differentiable risk measures, such as a smoothed CVaR, but the numerical example in [21] considers risk neutral optimization using the expected value. While sparse grids can be very efficient for the integration of QoIs that are smooth in the random variables, numerical results [19, Sec. 3.2.4] indicate that they may not be much more efficient than plain Monte-Carlo sampling when applied to CVaR and other risk measures. Thus improving the efficiency of Monte-Carlo sampling by integrating ROMs, CVaR structure, and Monte-Carlo sampling as proposed in this paper seems beneficial for risk averse optimization.

The paper by Zou et al. [25], which is an extension of [23], is closest to our paper in spirit. They compute estimates of general risk measures including CVaR based on a ROM and on an error estimates that takes into account the structure of the risk measure. However, their analysis is tied to their ROM approach, which uses a piecewise affine linear approximation over a Voronoi tessellation of the parameter space. To improve their ROM the Voronoi tessellation is refined as necessary. Their error estimates, which are tailored to the structure of the risk measure, tend to refine Voronoi tessellation primarily in subregions of the parameter space roughly corresponding to what we referred to earlier as the risk region. In contrast, our basic analysis is based on a generic ROM for which an error estimate is available and we propose a combination of ROMs that leads to a guaranteed improvement of the ROM-based CVaR estimate. We then tailor our general framework to a class of widely used projection-based ROMs, see, e.g., [1], [3], or [14].

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduced the problem formulation and reviews results from [2] that are needed for the integration of ROM construction. Section 3 presents our new adaptive ROM strategy for CVaR computation and gives a complete algorithm. Section 4 discusses practical aspects of the algorithm implementation as well as construction and error estimation for projection-based ROMs. In Section 5 we present numerical results to support our theoretical findings and show the computational savings of our proposed adaptive ROM approach.
2 Problem formulation and background

This section introduces the basic problem setting and notation, and reviews some results on CVaR. Specifically, in Section 2.1 we define the state equation and the QoI. Section 2.2 defines the CVaR and its corresponding risk region, and Section 2.3 briefly reviews the sampling-based computation of CVaR.

2.1 The state equation and quantity of interest

Given a random variable \( \xi \) with values \( \xi \in \Xi \subset \mathbb{R}^M \) and with density \( \rho \), we are interested in the efficient approximation of risk measures of the random variable \( \xi \mapsto s(y(\xi)) \)

\[
(1)
\]
where \( s : \mathbb{R}^N \mapsto \mathbb{R} \) is a quantity of interest (QoI) which depends on \( y : \Xi \mapsto \mathbb{R}^N \) which is implicitly defined as the solution of the the state equation

\[
F(y(\xi), \xi) = 0 \quad \text{for almost all } \xi \in \Xi,
\]

(2)
with \( F : \mathbb{R}^N \times \Xi \mapsto \mathbb{R}^N \). For now we assume that (2) has a unique solution \( y(\xi) \) for almost all \( \xi \in \Xi \). Later we will verify this assumption for the specific applications we consider.

For many results in this paper, the specific structure (1), (2) of the QoI is not important. Therefore we define

\[
X = s(y(\cdot)).
\]

(3)
We assume that \( X \in L_1^\rho(\Xi) \) and \( X \in L_2^\rho(\Xi) \). The expected value of a random variable \( X \) is \( E[X] = \int_\Xi X(\xi) \rho(\xi) d\xi \).

2.2 Conditional Value-at-Risk

We review basic properties of the Conditional Value-at-Risk at level \( \beta \), denoted as CVaR\(_\beta\), that are required within this paper. The CVaR\(_\beta\) is based on the Value-at-Risk (VaR\(_\beta\)). For a given level \( \beta \in (0, 1) \) the VaR\(_\beta\)[\( X \)] is the \( \beta \)-quantile of the random variable \( X \),

\[
\text{VaR}_\beta[X] = \min_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ \Pr\left[ \{ \xi \in \Xi : X(\xi) \leq t \} \right] \geq \beta \right\}.
\]

(4)
We often use the short-hand notation \( \{ X \leq t \} = \{ \xi \in \Xi : X(\xi) \leq t \} \) and the indicator function

\[
I_S(\xi) = \begin{cases} 
1, & \text{if } \xi \in S, \\
0, & \text{else.}
\end{cases}
\]

Different equivalent definitions of CVaR\(_\beta\) exist. The following definition is due to Rockafellar and Uryasev [16, 17]. The CVaR\(_\beta\) at level \( \beta \in (0, 1) \) is

\[
\text{CVaR}_\beta[X] = \text{VaR}_\beta[X] + \frac{1}{1-\beta} \mathbb{E}\left[ (X - \text{VaR}_\beta[X])_+ \right].
\]

(5)
The representation (5) of CVaR $\beta[X]$ motivates the following definition.

**Definition 2.1** The risk region corresponding to CVaR $\beta[X]$ is given by

$$\mathcal{G}_\beta[X] := \{ \xi \in \Xi : X(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X] \}.$$  

(6)

As mentioned before, VaR $\beta[X]$ and CVaR $\beta[X]$ depend only on the values of $X$ that lie in the upper tail of the c.d.f. In particular, for any set $\bar{\mathcal{G}}$ with

$$\mathcal{G}_\beta[X] \subset \bar{\mathcal{G}} \subset \Xi$$

(7)

we can write the VaR $\beta$ in (4) as

$$\text{VaR}_\beta[X] = \min_{t \in \mathbb{R}} \left\{ \Pr \left( \left\{ \xi \in \bar{\mathcal{G}} : X(\xi) \leq t \right\} \right) \geq \beta \right\},$$

(8)

and the CVaR (5) as

$$\text{CVaR}_\beta[X] = \text{VaR}_\beta[X] + \frac{1}{1-\beta} \int_{\bar{\mathcal{G}}} (X(\xi) - \text{VaR}_\beta[X]) + \rho(\xi) d\xi.$$  

(9)

These representations show that we only need values of $X$ in a subdomain $\bar{\mathcal{G}}$ of the parameter space that includes the risk-region. In Section 3 we will use ROMs to compute approximations $\mathcal{G}$ of the risk region with the property (7) and for parameters $\xi \in \mathcal{G}$ we will approximate the FOM QoI $X$ by the ROM approximation. However, before we introduce ROMs, we briefly discuss sampling-based estimation of CVaR $\beta$, upon which practical ROM-based CVaR estimators are based.

### 2.3 Sampling-based estimation of VaR $\beta$ and CVaR $\beta$

Algorithm 1 below is used to obtain sampling-based estimates of VaR $\beta[X]$ and CVaR $\beta[X]$. The algorithm is standard, see, e.g., see [17], [2]. For additional information see [2].

We note that the second term on the right-hand side of equation (13) in Algorithm 1 is nonzero for the case $\sum_{j=1}^{k-1} p^{(j)} \neq 1 - \beta$ and is based on the idea of splitting the probability atom at VaR $\beta[X]$ (see [17]). An important observation is that the estimates (11) and (13) depend only on the parameters in the sample risk-region $\hat{\mathcal{G}}$ (12) and their corresponding probabilities. Thus Algorithm 1 called with a parameter set $\Xi_m$ and a parameter set $\bar{\Xi}$ such that $\hat{\mathcal{G}} \subset \bar{\Xi} \subset \Xi_m$ give the same estimates $\hat{\text{VaR}}_\beta[X]$ and $\hat{\text{CVaR}}_\beta[X]$.

As discussed in [2; p. 1418], we can also compute confidence intervals using the asymptotic results in [4; Sec. 2.1, 2.2]. Since we will use it in our computations, we note that the 100$(1 - \alpha)\%$ confidence interval (CI) for CVaR $\beta[X]$ is

$$\left[ \hat{\text{CVaR}}_\beta[X] - z_\alpha \frac{\hat{\kappa}_\beta}{\sqrt{m}}, \hat{\text{CVaR}}_\beta[X] + z_\alpha \frac{\hat{\kappa}_\beta}{\sqrt{m}} \right],$$

(14)
Algorithm 1: Sampling-based estimation of VaR\(_{\beta}\) and CVaR\(_{\beta}\).

**Input:** Set \(\Xi_m = \{\xi^{(1)}, \ldots, \xi^{(m)}\} \subset \Xi\) of finitely many parameters and corresponding probabilities \(p^{(1)}, \ldots, p^{(m)}\), risk level \(\beta \in (0, 1)\), and random variable \(X : \Xi \to \mathbb{R}\).

**Output:** Estimate \(\hat{\text{VaR}}_{\beta}[X]\) and \(\hat{\text{CVaR}}_{\beta}[X]\).

1: Evaluate \(X\) at the parameter samples: \(X(\xi^{(1)}), \ldots, X(\xi^{(m)})\).
2: Sort values of \(X\) in descending order and relabel the samples so that
\[
X(\xi^{(1)}) > X(\xi^{(2)}) > \ldots > X(\xi^{(m)}),
\]
and reorder the probabilities accordingly (so that \(p^{(j)}\) corresponds to \(\xi^{(j)}\)).
3: Compute an index \(k_{\beta}\) such that
\[
\sum_{j=1}^{k_{\beta}-1} p^{(j)} \leq 1 - \beta < \sum_{j=1}^{k_{\beta}} p^{(j)}.
\]
4: Set
\[
\hat{\text{VaR}}_{\beta}[X] = X(\xi^{(k_{\beta})}),
\]
\[
\hat{\text{G}}_{\beta}[X] = \{\xi \in \Xi_m : X(\xi) \geq \hat{\text{VaR}}_{\beta}[X]\},
\]
\[
\hat{\text{CVaR}}_{\beta}[X] = \frac{1}{1-\beta} \sum_{j=1}^{k_{\beta}-1} p^{(j)} X(\xi^{(j)}) + \frac{1}{1-\beta} \left(1 - \beta - \sum_{j=1}^{k_{\beta}-1} p^{(j)}\right) \hat{\text{VaR}}_{\beta}[X].
\]

where \(z_\alpha = \Phi^{-1}(1 - \alpha/2)\) with \(\Phi\) being the c.d.f. of the standard normal variable, and \(\hat{k}_{\beta} = \hat{\psi}_{\beta} / (1 - \beta)\) with
\[
(\hat{\psi}_{\beta})^2 = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} 1_{\hat{G}_{\beta}[X]}(\xi^{(j)}) \left(X(\xi^{(j)}) - \hat{\text{VaR}}_{\beta}[X]\right)^2 - \left(\frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^{m} 1_{\hat{G}_{\beta}[X]}(\xi^{(j)}) \left(X(\xi^{(j)}) - \hat{\text{VaR}}_{\beta}[X]\right)\right)^2.
\]

3 Adaptive surrogate-based CVaR\(_{\beta}\) approximation

For our target application, the FOM (2) is a large-scale system that arises from the discretization of a PDE. For given \(\xi\) the solution of (2) for \(y(\xi)\) is expensive and therefore sampling the QoI (1) for CVaR\(_{\beta}\) computations is expensive. In this section, we propose a method that combines adaptive ROM refinement with knowledge of the CVaR\(_{\beta}\) computation to generate efficient approximation of the CVaR\(_{\beta}\) of the QoI (1).

We review ROM-based CVaR\(_{\beta}\) computation in Section 3.1. In Section 3.2 we propose our new method that adaptively refines surrogate models to achieve monotonically converging risk regions. Section 3.3 then presents our complete algorithm for adaptive surrogate-based CVaR\(_{\beta}\) approximation.
3.1 Reduced-order models for CVaR computation

A ROM of (2) is a model of small dimension, i.e.,

\[ F_k(y_k(\xi), \xi) = 0 \quad \text{for almost all } \xi \in \Xi, \]

(15)

with \( F_k : \mathbb{R}^{N_k} \times \Xi \mapsto \mathbb{R}^{N_k} \), \( N_k \ll N \), and a \( s_k : \mathbb{R}^{N_k} \mapsto \mathbb{R} \) such that

\[ \xi \mapsto s_k(y_k(\xi)) \]

(16)

is a good approximation of (1). We will provide a more detailed discussion of projection-based ROMs in Section 4.1 For now, let \( X_k : \Xi \mapsto \mathbb{R} \), \( k = 1, \ldots \), denote an approximation of the QoI \( X \). We refer to \( X_k \) as a model of \( X \). At this point it is not important that the evaluation of \( X \) requires the solution of a computationally expensive system (2)–(1), nor is it important how the models \( X_k \) are computed. However, we assume that we have an estimate for the errors between \( X_k \) and \( X \), namely

\[ |X_k(\xi) - X(\xi)| \leq \epsilon_k(\xi) \quad \text{for almost all } \xi \in \Xi, \quad k = 1, \ldots. \]

(17)

We next show how to construct estimates of the risk region that satisfy (7) from approximations \( X_k \) of \( X \), and we derive approximations of \( \text{VaR}_{\beta}[X] \) and \( \text{CVaR}_{\beta}[X] \) based on \( X_k \); for more information see our previous work in [2]. Recall the risk region of the QoI \( X \) from equation (6). The \( \epsilon \)-risk region associated with \( X_k \) is defined as

\[ G^k_{\beta} = \left\{ \xi : X_k(\xi) + \epsilon_k(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_{\beta}[X_k - \epsilon_k(\xi)] \right\}. \]

(18)

Since

\[ X_k(\xi) + \epsilon_k(\xi) \geq X(\xi) \geq X_k(\xi) - \epsilon_k(\xi) \]

the monotonicity of \( \text{VaR}_{\beta} \) gives

\[ \text{VaR}_{\beta}[X] \geq \text{VaR}_{\beta}[X_k - \epsilon_k(\xi)]. \]

Hence \( X_k(\xi) + \epsilon_k(\xi) \geq X(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_{\beta}[X_k - \epsilon_k(\xi)] \). Similarly, \( X_k(\xi) + \epsilon_k(\xi) \geq X_k(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_{\beta}[X_k - \epsilon_k(\xi)] \). The previous inequalities imply

\[ G_{\beta}[X] \subset G^k_{\beta} \quad \text{and} \quad G_{\beta}[X_k] \subset G^k_{\beta}. \]

(19)

We have shown in [2, Thm 3.3] that if (17) holds, then

\[ \left| \text{CVaR}_{\beta}[X] - \text{CVaR}_{\beta}[X_k] \right| \leq \frac{1}{1 - \beta} \int_{G^k_{\beta}} |X(\xi) - X_k(\xi)| p(\xi) d\xi \]

(20)

and

\[ \left| \text{CVaR}_{\beta}[X] - \text{CVaR}_{\beta}[X_k] \right| \leq \left( 1 + \frac{1}{1 - \beta} \right) \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in G_{\beta}} \epsilon_k(\xi). \]

(21)
We note that under continuity conditions on the c.d.fs. of \( X \) and \( X_k \), which often hold, the factor 1 + 1/(1 − \( \beta \)) on the right-hand side of (21) can typically be replaced by 1, see [2, Thm 3.3] for details. Moreover, the first inequality (20) appears in the proof of [2, Thm 3.3].

We see from equations (20)–(21) that for the accurate estimation of CVaR\( _\beta |X| \) with a surrogate model, we need a model \( X_k \) that is accurate in the \( \varepsilon \)-risk region \( G^k_\beta \). Moreover, applying (8) and (9) with \( X \) and \( \hat{G} \) replaced by \( X_k \) and \( G^k_\beta \) shows that we only need to evaluate \( X_k \) in the \( \varepsilon \)-risk region \( G^k_\beta \) to evaluate CVaR\( _\beta |X_k| \).

### 3.2 Improving CVaR\( _\beta \) computation with adaptive reduced-order models

What if CVaR\( _\beta |X_k| \) is not a good enough approximation of CVaR\( _\beta |X| \)? In that case, we would like to generate a new model \( X_{k+1} \), so that CVaR\( _\beta |X_{k+1}| \) is a better estimate of CVaR\( _\beta |X| \) than CVaR\( _\beta |X_k| \), or at least that the upper bound (20) for the error is reduced. The upper bound (20) for the CVaR\( _\beta \) approximation error is reduced if the \( \varepsilon \)-risk region is non-expanding, \( G^{k+1}_\beta \subset G^k_\beta \), and the approximation error is non-increasing, \( \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \leq \varepsilon_k(\xi) \) for \( \xi \in G^{k+1}_\beta \), since then

\[
\text{ess sup}_{\xi \in G^{k+1}_\beta} \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \leq \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in G^k_\beta} \varepsilon_k(\xi) \leq \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in G^k_\beta} \varepsilon_k(\xi). \tag{22}
\]

In general, however, a model \( X_{k+1} \) with a smaller error \( \varepsilon_{k+1} < \varepsilon_k \) a.e. in \( \Xi \) alone does not guarantee that \( G^{k+1}_\beta \subset G^k_\beta \) as the following example shows.

**Example 3.1** Let \( X \geq 0 \) be a non-negative random variable and consider the surrogate model \( X_k = X + \frac{1}{k}(-1)^k X \) with error \( \varepsilon_k(\xi) = |X(\xi) - X_k(\xi)| = \frac{1}{k}X \). For \( k = 1, \ldots \) the \( \varepsilon \)-risk regions are

\[
G^{2k-1}_\beta = \{ \xi : X_{2k-1} + \varepsilon_{2k-1} \geq \text{VaR}_\beta [X_{2k-1} - \varepsilon_{2k-1}] \} = \left\{ \xi : X(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_\beta \left[ X - \frac{2}{2k-1} X \right] \right\},
\]

\[
G^{2k}_\beta = \{ \xi : X_{2k} + \varepsilon_{2k} \geq \text{VaR}_\beta [X_{2k} - \varepsilon_{2k}] \} = \left\{ \xi : X(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_\beta [X] \right\}.
\]

We have the inclusions

\[
G^{2k}_\beta \subset G^{2k-1}_\beta,
\]

since \((2k - 3)/(2k - 1) < k/(k + 1)\), but

\[
G^{2k}_\beta \subset G^{2k+1}_\beta,
\]

since \((2(k + 1) - 3)/(2(k + 1) - 1) < k/(k + 1)\). Thus, there is no monotonicity (in the sense of inclusion) of the \( \varepsilon \)-risk regions. Note, that the \( \varepsilon \)-risk regions are based on the models \( X_k \). While the
models $X_k$ become more accurate, lack of monotonicity of the $\varepsilon$-risk regions is due to the fact that here the $\varepsilon_k$ neighborhoods around the $X_k$ are alternatingly below or above the true $X$.

When does the use of a new model $X_{k+1}$ improve the approximation of $\text{CVaR}_\beta[X]$? A sufficient condition for improvement is the monotonicity condition

$$X_k(\xi) + \varepsilon_k(\xi) \geq X_{k+1}(\xi) + \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \geq X(\xi) \geq X_{k+1}(\xi) - \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \geq X_k(\xi) - \varepsilon_k(\xi) \quad \text{a.e. in } \Xi. \quad (23)$$

In fact, monotonicity of $\text{VaR}_\beta$ gives $\text{VaR}_\beta[X] \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+1}] \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X_k - \varepsilon_k]$. These inequalities and $(23)$ yield

$$X_k(\xi) + \varepsilon_k(\xi) \geq X_{k+1}(\xi) + \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \geq X(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+1}] \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X_k - \varepsilon_k] \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{C}_\beta[X],$$

and

$$X_k(\xi) + \varepsilon_k(\xi) \geq X_{k+1}(\xi) + \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+1}] \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X_k - \varepsilon_k] \quad \text{a.e. in } \mathbb{C}_\beta,$$

which imply

$$\mathbb{C}_\beta[X] \subset \mathbb{C}_\beta^{k+1} \subset \mathbb{C}_\beta^k. \quad (24)$$

Unfortunately, models $X_k$, $k = 1, \ldots$, typically do not satisfy the monotonicity relations $(23)$, as the simple Example 3.1 shows. However we can combine the models $X_k$, $k = 1, \ldots$, into models $\tilde{X}_k$, $k = 1, \ldots$, that satisfy $(23)$. We define these new models $\tilde{X}_k$ in the next lemma.

**Lemma 3.2** If the models $X_k$ and error functions $\varepsilon_k$ satisfy $(17)$, $k = 1, \ldots$, then the models $\tilde{X}_k$ and corresponding error functions $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k$ defined by $\tilde{X}_1 = X_1$, $\tilde{\varepsilon}_1 = \varepsilon_1$ and

$$\tilde{X}_{k+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \max \left\{ X_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k - \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\} + \min \left\{ X_{k+1} + \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k + \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\} \right), \quad (25)$$

$$\tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \min \left\{ X_{k+1} + \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k + \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\} - \max \left\{ X_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k - \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\} \right) \quad (26)$$

for $k = 1, \ldots$, satisfy the monotonicity relations $(23)$.

**Proof:** The proof is by induction. By assumption on $\tilde{X}_1 = X_1$ and $\tilde{\varepsilon}_1 = \varepsilon_1$ and satisfy $(17)$.

Now, suppose that $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{\varepsilon}_1), \ldots, (\tilde{X}_k, \tilde{\varepsilon}_k)$ satisfy the monotonicity relations $(23)$. Since $(\tilde{X}_k, \tilde{\varepsilon}_k)$ and $(X_{k+1}, \varepsilon_{k+1})$ satisfy $(17)$,

$$\max \left\{ X_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k - \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\} \leq X \leq \min \left\{ X_{k+1} + \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k + \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\}.$$  

By construction of $\tilde{X}_{k+1}$ and $\tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1}$,

$$\tilde{X}_k - \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \leq \max \left\{ X_{k+1} - \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k - \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\} = \tilde{X}_{k+1} - \tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1}$$

$$\leq X \leq \tilde{X}_{k+1} + \tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1} = \min \left\{ X_{k+1} + \varepsilon_{k+1}, \tilde{X}_k + \tilde{\varepsilon}_k \right\} \leq \tilde{X}_k + \tilde{\varepsilon}_k,$$
i.e., the monotonicity relations (23) are satisfied for $(\tilde{X}_1, \tilde{\varepsilon}_1), \ldots, (\tilde{X}_{k+1}, \tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1})$. \hfill \Box

The error (26) satisfies
\[ \tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1} \leq \min\{\tilde{\varepsilon}_k, \varepsilon_{k+1}\} \text{ a.e. in } \Xi. \tag{27} \]
Let $\tilde{G}_k^\beta$ be the $\varepsilon$-risk region (18) associated with $\tilde{X}_k, \tilde{\varepsilon}_k$. The estimate (27) implies that to achieve
\[ \tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1}(\xi) < \tilde{\varepsilon}_k(\xi) \text{ a.e. in } \tilde{G}_k^\beta \tag{28} \]
we only need to improve the model $X_{k+1}$ in the small $\varepsilon$-risk region $\tilde{G}_k^\beta$, not in the entire parameter region $\Xi$, i.e., we only need that
\[ \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \leq \tilde{\varepsilon}_k(\xi) - \delta_k \text{ a.e. in } \tilde{G}_k^\beta \tag{29} \]
for some $\delta_k > 0$. We summarize the improvement result in the following theorem.

**Theorem 3.3** If $\tilde{X}_k, k = 1, \ldots$, are the models with corresponding error functions $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k, k = 1, \ldots$, defined in (25), (26), and $\tilde{G}_k^\beta, k = 1, \ldots$, are the $\varepsilon$-risk regions (18) associated with $\tilde{X}_k, \tilde{\varepsilon}_k$, then
\[ \left| CVaR_\beta[X] - CVaR_\beta[\tilde{X}_k] \right| \leq \left( 1 + \frac{1}{1 - \beta} \right) \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in \tilde{G}_k^\beta} \tilde{\varepsilon}_k(\xi), \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots, \tag{30} \]
and
\[ \mathcal{G}_\beta[X] \subset \tilde{G}_{k+1}^\beta \subset \tilde{G}_k^\beta, \quad k = 1, 2, \ldots. \tag{31} \]
Moreover, if $\varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \leq \tilde{\varepsilon}_k(\xi) - \delta_k$ a.e. in $\tilde{G}_k^\beta$ for some $\delta_k > 0$, then
\[ \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in \tilde{G}_{k+1}^\beta} \varepsilon_{k+1}(\xi) \leq \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in \tilde{G}_k^\beta} \tilde{\varepsilon}_k(\xi) - \delta_k. \tag{32} \]

**Proof:** Since the models $\tilde{X}_k, k = 1, 2, \ldots$, satisfy the monotonicity relations (23), the error estimate (30) is just (21), see [2, Thm 3.3]. The inclusions (31) follow from the arguments used to derive (24). The error reduction (32) follows from (27)–(29) and (31). \hfill \Box

Having defined new models $\tilde{X}_k$ and errors $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k$, we revisit Example 3.1. We show that for this example problem, the monotonicity of the $\varepsilon$-risk regions is now indeed satisfied.

**Example 3.4** Recall the setup from Example 3.1, where $X \geq 0$ is a non-negative random variable and a surrogate model is $X_k = X + \frac{1}{k}(-1)^kX$ with error $\varepsilon_k(\xi) = |X(\xi) - X_k(\xi)| = \frac{1}{k}X$. We now construct $\tilde{X}_k, \tilde{\varepsilon}_k$ following Lemma 3.2. We have
\[ \tilde{X}_1 = X_1 = X + 1(-1)^1X = 0, \quad \tilde{\varepsilon}_1 = \varepsilon_1 = X, \]
and with $X \geq 0$ and evaluating equations (25)–(26), we find that for this particular example, $\tilde{X}_k = X$, $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k = 0$ for $k \geq 2$. Moreover, the first risk region is $\tilde{G}_1^\beta = \{ \xi : X \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[-X] \} = \mathbb{R}^M$ and the
subsequent risk regions are $\tilde{G}_k^\beta = \{ \xi : X(\xi) \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[X] \}$, the true risk region of the full order model $X$, for $k \geq 2$. Consequently,

$$\tilde{G}_1^\beta \supset \tilde{G}_2^\beta = \tilde{G}_k^\beta = G_\beta[X], \quad k \geq 2,$$

i.e., the risk regions are shrinking monotonically and contain the true risk region, as guaranteed by Theorem 3.3. The fact that the second adjusted risk region is already identical to the true risk region of the FOM $X$ is particular to this artificial example.

### 3.3 Algorithm for surrogate-based CVaR approximation

The previous results lead to the following Algorithm 2 that adaptively constructs models $X_k$ based on estimates $\tilde{G}_k^\beta$ of the risk region $G_\beta[X]$. As noted earlier, applying (8) and (9) with $X$ and $G$ replaced by $\tilde{X}_k$ and $\tilde{G}_k^\beta \supset G_\beta[\tilde{X}_k]$ shows that we only need to evaluate $\tilde{X}_k$ in the $\varepsilon$-risk region $\tilde{G}_k^\beta \subset \tilde{G}_k^{k-1}$ to evaluate $\text{CVaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_k]$. Furthermore, $X_{k+1}$ only needs to improve upon $\tilde{X}_k$ in the risk $\varepsilon$-risk region $\tilde{G}_k^k$, i.e., we only need (29). Since $\tilde{G}_k^\beta$ tend to be small (in probability) subsets of the parameter space $\Xi$, the adaptive generation of the models by the previous algorithm can lead to large computational savings.

**Algorithm 2: Surrogate-based CVaR estimation.**

**Input:** Desired error tolerance TOL, maximum number of iterations $k_{\text{max}}$, risk-level $\beta \in (0, 1)$.

**Output:** $\text{CVaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_k]$ and $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta$ such that $|\text{CVaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_k] - \text{CVaR}_\beta[X]| \leq \tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta \leq \text{TOL}$ or $k = k_{\text{max}}$.

1. Set $k = 1$ and generate model $\tilde{X}_1 = X_1$, $\tilde{\varepsilon}_1 = \varepsilon_1$ with (17).
2. Compute $\text{CVaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_1]$ and $\varepsilon_1^\beta = \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in \tilde{G}_1^\beta} \tilde{\varepsilon}_1(\xi)$.
3. while $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta > \text{TOL}$ and $k < k_{\text{max}}$
   4. Compute model $X_{k+1}$ and error function $\varepsilon_{k+1}$ with (17) and (29).
   5. Compute model $\tilde{X}_{k+1}$ and error function $\tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1}$ as in (25b) and (26b).
   6. Compute $\text{VaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_{k+1}]$, $\text{CVaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_{k+1}]$, $\varepsilon$-risk region $\tilde{G}_{k+1}^\beta$, and error in $\varepsilon$-risk region
      $$\tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1}^\beta = \text{ess sup}_{\xi \in \tilde{G}_{k+1}^\beta} \tilde{\varepsilon}_{k+1}(\xi).$$
4. Set $k = k + 1$ and continue.
5. end while

In the following section we address several implementation details that are important for the realization of Algorithm 2 in combination with ROMs.
4 Implementation

This section discusses an implementation of Algorithm 2 to estimate the CVaR$_\beta$ of a QoI defined via (3) and a linear version of the state equation (2). The implementation uses projection-based ROMs and sampling-based estimation of VaR$_\beta$ and CVaR$_\beta$ for the ROMs. We begin by reviewing the basic form of projection-based ROMs and error estimates. The combination of ROM adaptation and sampling-based CVaR$_\beta$ computation is then presented in Section 4.3.

4.1 Error estimation for projection-based ROMs

We summarize results on error estimation for projection-based ROMs for linear parametric systems. These results are by now standard and can be found, e.g., [8, 3, 14, 1]. Given $A(\xi) \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N}$, $b(\xi) \in \mathbb{R}^n$, parameters $\xi \in \Xi$, and $s : \mathbb{R}^N \to \mathbb{R}$, we consider the FOM

$$A(\xi)y(\xi) = b(\xi) \quad \text{for } \xi \in \Xi,$$  \hspace{1cm} (33)

and corresponding QoI

$$X(\xi) = s(y(\xi)) \in \mathbb{R}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (34)

This fits the framework of Section 2.1 with $F(y, \xi) = A(\xi)y - b(\xi)$. We assume that

$$\|A(\xi)\| \leq \gamma, \quad \|A(\xi)^{-1}\| \leq \alpha^{-1},$$  \hspace{1cm} (35)

We use $\alpha^{-1}$ to denote the upper bound for the inverse, since this notation is closer what is used, e.g., in [8, 3, 14, 1], where (33) arises from the discretization of an elliptic PDE and $\alpha$ is related to coercitivity constants of the PDE.

The ROM is specified by a matrix $V_k \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N_k}$ of rank $N_k$, and is given by

$$V_k^T A(\xi) V_k y_k(\xi) = V_k^T b(\xi) \quad \text{for } \xi \in \Xi,$$  \hspace{1cm} (36)

and corresponding QoI

$$X_k(\xi) = s(V_k y_k(\xi)) \in \mathbb{R}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (37)

We assume that the matrix $V_k$ is such that (36) has a unique solution for all $\xi \in \Xi$. To simplify the presentation we also assume that the computation of quantities like $V_k^T A(\xi) V_k$, $A(\xi) V_k$, and $A(\xi)^T V_k$ for $\xi \in \Xi$ is computationally inexpensive, which is the case if $A(\xi)$ and $b(\xi)$ admit an affine parametric dependence, see, e.g., [1, Sec. 2.3.5], [3, Sec. 3.3], or [14, Sec. 3.4].

The equations (33) and (36) imply the basic error estimate for the state

$$\|y(\xi) - V_k y_k(\xi)\| \leq \alpha^{-1} \|A(\xi) V_k y_k(\xi) - b(\xi)\| \quad \text{for } \xi \in \Xi.$$  \hspace{1cm} (38)

If $s$ is Lipschitz continuous, i.e., $|s(y) - s(z)| \leq L \|y - z\|$ for all $y, z \in \mathbb{R}^N$, then the basic error estimate

$$|X(\xi) - X_k(\xi)| \leq \varepsilon_k(\xi) := \frac{L}{\alpha} \|A(\xi) V_k y_k(\xi) - b(\xi)\| \quad \text{for } \xi \in \Xi$$  \hspace{1cm} (39)

holds for the QoI. This is the realization of the bound (17). Improved error estimates for linear QoIs can be obtained based on solutions of a dual or adjoint equation, see, e.g., [1, Sec. 2.3.4], [3, Sec. 4], [8], or [14, Sec. 3.6].
4.2 Greedy ROM construction and estimation of CVaR$\beta$

In a standard greedy algorithm, the ROM specified by $V_k$ is updated by computing the FOM solution (33) at $\xi^{(k)} = \arg\max_{\xi \in \Xi} \varepsilon_k(\xi)$ and setting $V_{k+1} = [V_k, y(\xi^{(k)})]$. In practice, one often does not simply add the FOM solution $y(\xi^{(k)})$ as a column to $V_k$, but instead computes an orthonormal basis (see, e.g., [3, Sec. 3.2.2], or [14, Chapter 7]).

In our recent work [2], we have used this greedy procedure and the resulting ROMs without adjustment. That is we have used $\tilde{X}_k = X_k$ and $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k = \varepsilon_k$, which implies $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^G = \varepsilon_k^G$, $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta = \varepsilon_k^\beta$. While for each ROM a CVaR$\beta$ holds, this approach has two deficiencies. First, as discussed in Section 3.2 the ROM CVaR$\beta$ estimation error is not guaranteed to decrease as we go from ROM $X_k$ to ROM $X_{k+1}$. Secondly, the standard greedy procedure seeks the maximum of $\varepsilon_k(\xi)$ over the entire parameter space. Even though computation of $\varepsilon_k(\xi)$ only requires ROM (36) solutions and FOM residual evaluations, these evaluations at a large number of points $\xi \in \Xi$ is still expensive. Moreover, the ROM error over $\varepsilon$-risk region determines the ROM CVaR$\beta$ estimation error, see Theorem 3.3, limiting the greedy approach to this smaller set tends to decrease this error faster.

Our adaptive approach corrects these deficiencies: It uses the modified reduced order models $\tilde{X}_k$ and error bounds $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k$ introduced in Lemma 3.2 to guarantee monotonicity of the resulting ROM CVaR$\beta$ estimation error, and it selects FOM snapshots by maximizing the current ROM error bound $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k$ only over the small $\varepsilon$-risk region $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta$. The details are specified in the next section.

4.3 Adaptive ROM construction and estimation of CVaR$\beta$

The sampling-based version of Algorithm 2 is presented in Algorithm 3 below. In each step $k$ of the algorithm a projection based ROM (36) of size $N_k \times N_k$ is computed, as well as the corresponding ROM QoI (37). To improve the ROM snapshots of the FOM are computed using the greedy approach limited to the current estimate $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta$ of the risk region. As (28) and (29) show, we only need to improve $X_{k+1}$ in $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta$, in order to improve the estimate of CVaR$\beta$. Since we work with a discrete sample space $\Xi_m$, (28) implies (29) with some $\delta_k > 0$. Furthermore, we can easily check whether the condition $\max_{\xi \in \tilde{\varepsilon}_k^\beta} \varepsilon_{k+1} < \tilde{\varepsilon}_k^G$ holds, which is sufficient for $\varepsilon_{k+1}^G$ to be less than $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^G$, and is weaker than condition (28). We recommend to use this last condition in practice because it can sometimes be achieved with fewer FOM snapshots than are needed to enforce (28). In Algorithm 3 we limit the number of snapshots that are added in each iteration by $\ell_{\text{max}}$. Even though the (possibly pessimistic) error bound may not be reduced, the actual error may reduce. Finally, in Algorithm 3 we simply add the FOM solution $y(\xi^{(\ell)})$ to the current ROM basis, but in practice we compute orthogonal bases.
Algorithm 3: Adaptive construction of ROMs for CVaR$_\beta$ estimation.

**Input:** Linear FOM (33) with (35) and Lipschitz continuous QoI (34). Parameter samples $\mathcal{Z}_m = \{\xi^{(1)}, \ldots, \xi^{(m)}\}$ with probabilities $p^{(1)}, \ldots, p^{(m)}$. Risk level $\beta \in (0, 1)$. Tolerance TOL.

**Output:** CVaR$_\beta[X]$ and $\tilde{G}_k$ such that $|\text{CVaR}_\beta[X] - \text{CVaR}_\beta[X]| \leq \tilde{G}_k \leq \text{TOL}$ or $k = k_{\text{max}}$.

1. Set $k = 1$ and generate $V_1 \in \mathbb{R}^{N \times N_1}$ and ROM (36), $\tilde{X}_1(\tilde{\xi}) = X_1(\tilde{\xi}) = (V_1^T c(\tilde{\xi}))^T y_1(\tilde{\xi})$ with error function $\tilde{e}_1(\tilde{\xi}) = \tilde{e}_1(\tilde{\xi})$ given by (39).
2. Set $\tilde{G}_0 = \xi_m$.
3. while $k < k_{\text{max}}$ do
4. Call Algorithm 1 with $\mathcal{Z}_m = \tilde{G}_k^{-1}$, corresponding probabilities $p^{(j)}$, and $X = \tilde{X}_k$ to compute $\text{VaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_k]$, and $\text{CVaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_k]$.
5. Call Algorithm 1 with $\mathcal{Z}_m = \tilde{G}_k^{-1}$, corresponding probabilities $p^{(j)}$, and $X = \tilde{X}_k - \tilde{e}_k$ to compute $\text{VaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_k - \tilde{e}_k]$.
6. Estimate $\tilde{G}_k$ as
   $$\tilde{G}_k = \{\xi^{(j)} \in \tilde{G}_k^{-1} : \tilde{X}_k(\xi^{(j)}) + \tilde{e}_k(\xi^{(j)}) \geq \text{VaR}_\beta[\tilde{X}_k - \tilde{e}_k]\}$$
   and set $\tilde{G}_k^G = \max\{\tilde{e}_k(\xi^{(j)}) : \xi^{(j)} \in \tilde{G}_k\}$.
7. if $\tilde{G}_k^G < \text{TOL}$ then
8. break
9. end if
10. Set $\ell = 1$ (number of snapshots to add) and $V_{k+1} = V_k$
11. while $\ell < \ell_{\text{max}}$ do
12. Compute the FOM solution $y(\hat{\xi}^{(j)})$ at $\hat{\xi}^{(j)} = \arg\max_{\xi \in \tilde{G}_k} \tilde{e}_k(\xi)$.
13. Update ROM matrix $V_{k+1} \leftarrow [V_{k+1}, y(\hat{\xi}^{(j)})]$ and set $N_{k+1} = N_k + \ell$.
14. Construct the new ROM of size $N_{k+1}$ and evaluate $X_{k+1}(\xi^{(j)})$ and $e_{k+1}(\xi^{(j)})$ for $\xi^{(j)} \in \tilde{G}_k$.
15. Compute model $\tilde{X}_{k+1}(\xi^{(j)})$ and error function $\tilde{e}_{k+1}(\xi^{(j)})$ as in (25b) and (26b) for $\xi^{(j)} \in \tilde{G}_k$.
16. if $\tilde{e}_{k+1}(\xi^{(j)}) < \tilde{e}_k(\xi^{(j)})$ for $\xi^{(j)} \in \tilde{G}_k$ (or $\max \tilde{e}_{k+1}(\xi^{(j)}) < \tilde{G}_k^G$ for $\xi^{(j)} \in \tilde{G}_k$) then
17. break
18. end if
19. Set $\ell = \ell + 1$.
20. end while
21. Set $k = k + 1$ and continue.
22. end while
5 Numerical results

We now apply our Algorithm 3 to the so-called thermal fin problem with varying numbers of random variables. We describe the test problem in Section 5.2, and then show results for the case of two, three, and six random variables in Sections 5.3 to 5.5.

5.1 Thermal fin model

We consider a thermal fin with fixed geometry as shown in Figure 1, consisting of a vertical post with horizontal fins attached. We briefly review the problem here and refer to [9, 13] for more details. The thermal fin consists of four horizontal subfins with width $L = 2.5$, thickness $t = 0.25$, as well as a fin post with unit width and height four. The fin is parametrized by the fin conductivities $k_i, i = 1, \ldots, 4$ and post conductivity $k_0$, as well as the Biot number $Bi$ which is a nondimensionalized heat transfer coefficient for thermal transfer from the fins to the surrounding air. Thus, the system parameters are $[k_0, k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4, Bi] \in [0.1, 1] \times [0.1, 2]^4 \times [0.01, 0.1]$. In our experiments some or all of these parameters play the role of the random variables $\xi$, which are uniformly distributed in the parameter space above. The system is governed by an elliptic PDE in two spatial dimensions whose solution is the temperature field $y(\xi)$. We consider cases when only $k_0$ and $Bi$ are random (Section 5.3), $k_0$, $k_1$ and $Bi$ are random (Section 5.4, and finally, when all six parameters are random (Section 5.5).

![Figure 1: Thermal fin geometry and model parameters.](image)

The fin conducts heat away from the root $\Gamma_{\text{root}}$, so the lower the root temperature, the more effective the thermal fin. Thus, as a QoI we consider the average temperature at the root, i.e.,

$$X(\xi) = \int_{\Gamma_{\text{root}}} y(\xi)d\xi.$$

The FOM is a finite element discretization with $N = 4,760$ degrees of freedom. The ROM are reduced-basis (RB) approximations $y_k$, see [13] for details of RB methods for the thermal fin problem. The ROM-based estimates are compared to a FOM-sampling-based estimation of
CVaR$_{\beta}[X]$ using Algorithm (1). For this FOM-based estimation of CVaR$_{\beta}[X]$ we use 20,000 Monte Carlo samples for the problem with two random variables, 10$^5$ samples for the problem with three random variables, and samples 10$^6$ for the problem with six random variables. Since the ROM needs to approximate the FOM on these sets of samples, we use them as training sets to construct the ROMs. The thermal fin model and the RB ROM fits exactly into the framework of Section 4.1. We use the error bound (39) in the adaptive CVaR$_{\beta}$ approximation below. The risk level $\beta$ is set to $\beta = 0.99$.

In the following sections we report the numerical results obtained with the adaptive Algorithm 3 and with the greedy approach outlined in Section 4.2. The latter corresponds to Algorithm 3 with $\tilde{X}_k = X_k$, $\tilde{\epsilon}_k = \epsilon_k$, $\tilde{G}_k = G^k$, and $\tilde{\epsilon}_k = \epsilon^G_k$. Moreover, in the latter case, in step 12 we compute the FOM solution $y(\xi(i))$ at $\xi(i) = \arg\max_{\xi \in \Xi} \epsilon_k(\xi)$ to update the ROM $X_k$. In steps 4 and 5 we call Algorithm 1 with the full set $\Xi_m$ of parameters. Since computation of $\arg\max_{\xi \in \Xi_m} \epsilon_k(\xi)$ in step 12 already requires computation of $X_k$ and $\epsilon_k$ at all parameters in $\Xi_m$, this modification of steps 4 and 5 is insignificant.

5.2 Overview of reported data

We report the results of the CVaR$_{\beta}$ estimation using the adaptive and the greedy approach in Tables 1–6 in Sections 5.3–5.5 below. Each table contains the same information, which we discuss for convenience here:

- CVaR$_{\beta}$ reports the sampling-based CVaR$_{\beta}$ estimates for the FOM or the $k$th ROM,
- ‘Width CI’ is the width of the CI (14) of the sampling-based CVaR$_{\beta}$ estimate using the FOM or the $k$th ROM,
- ‘Abs error’ is $||\text{CVaR}_{\beta}[X] - \text{CVaR}_{\beta}[X_k]||$, i.e., the error between estimates with the FOM and the $k$th ROM (via adaptive or greedy approach),
- $\epsilon_k^G$ and $\tilde{\epsilon}_k^G$ are the CVaR$_{\beta}$ error bounds computed using the ROM $X_k$ / modified ROM $\tilde{X}_k$,
- $|G_k^\epsilon|$ and $|\tilde{G}_k^\epsilon|$ denotes the percentage of ‘volume’ measured in probability occupied by the $\epsilon$-risk region for the ROM $X_k / \tilde{X}_k$ within the parameter region $\Xi$,
- $N_k$ is the size of the $k$-th ROM,
- $|\Xi_m|$ is the number of samples at which the current ROM has to be evaluated.
Risk region of FOM, \( G_\beta[X] \)

\[ (b) \] \( \varepsilon \)-risk region of ROM 1, \( \tilde{G}_k^\beta \)

\[ (c) \] \( \varepsilon \)-risk region of ROM 4, \( \tilde{G}_k^\beta \)

Figure 2: Risk regions shown in light yellow for thermal fin problem with two random variables and \( \beta = 0.99 \). The \( \varepsilon \)-risk regions for the ROMs are designed to contain the FOM risk region. The smaller the ROM error, the closer the \( \varepsilon \)-risk regions to the true FOM risk region.

### 5.3 Results for two random variables

We start with a problem with two random variables \( \xi = (k_0, Bi) \) uniformly distributed in \( \Xi = [0.1, 1] \times [0.01, 0.1] \). Having two random variables allows us to visualize both the risk regions and the error estimates. We fix \( k_1 = k_2 = k_3 = k_4 = 0.1 \).

The reference value \( \widehat{\text{CVaR}}_\beta[X] \) is estimated with \( m = 20,000 \) Monte Carlo samples in \( \Xi \). These samples, \( \Xi_m \), also serve as input for Algorithm 3 with corresponding probabilities \( p^{(j)} = 1/m \), \( j = 1, \ldots, m \). The risk region \( G_\beta[X] \) is shown light yellow in Figure 2a. The \( \varepsilon \)-risk regions \( \tilde{G}_k^\beta \) for the ROMs are designed to contain the FOM risk region, and are the closer to the FOM risk region \( G_\beta[X] \) the smaller the ROM error is.

The error in the FOM estimate \( \widehat{\text{CVaR}}_\beta[X] \) is quantified by the confidence interval (CI) width (14). We want a ROM estimate of the same quality. Therefore, we apply Algorithm 3 with tolerance

\[ \text{TOL} = 10^{-1} \times (\text{CI width}) \]

i.e., 10% of the current estimate of the width of the confidence interval for \( \widehat{\text{CVaR}}_\beta[X] \).

Initially, \( \Xi_m \) is the set of 20,000 Monte Carlo samples. The initial ROM basis \( V_1 \) is generated with \( N_1 = 1 \) snapshot of the FOM at a randomly selected \( \xi \in \Xi_m \). The error function \( \varepsilon_1(\xi) = \varepsilon_1(\xi) \) evaluated at the samples is plotted in Figure 3a. To construct the next ROM we consider only the samples and the corresponding error values in the risk region \( \tilde{G}_k^\beta \) plotted in Figure 2b. More generally, in step \( k \) we add a snapshot taken at a sample corresponding to the largest value of \( \varepsilon_k(\xi) \) in \( \tilde{G}_k^\beta \). For the newly constructed ROM \( \tilde{X}_{k+1} \) and its error function \( \varepsilon_{k+1} \) we check whether \( \varepsilon_{k+1} < \varepsilon_k \). If this is not the case we add another FOM snapshot to the basis \( V_{k+1} \). In the current example we found that \( \varepsilon_{k+1} < \varepsilon_k \) is always satisfied after the addition of a single FOM snapshot.

In our adaptive framework, reported in Table 1, we only need to evaluate \( \tilde{X}_k \) and \( \varepsilon_k \) in the current \( \varepsilon \)-risk region \( \Xi_m = \tilde{G}_k^\beta \). For example, to build \( \tilde{X}_2 \) we consider 8,128 (and not the full 20,000) samples as candidates for the snapshot selection. These are the only samples that we use.
Figure 3: Error functions $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k(\xi)$ for the ROMs obtained at different steps of Algorithm 3 and error functions $\varepsilon(\xi)$ obtained with a greedy approach evaluated at samples. Note the different magnitudes on the color bars. Both approaches reduce the error, but error reduction for the adaptive approach is focused more on the risk region.
Table 1: Results for the adaptive algorithm for the thermal fin problem with two random variables and $\beta = 0.99$. The sizes of the $\varepsilon$-risk region $|\tilde{G}_k^\beta|$ and of the error bound $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^G$ decrease monotonically. The current ROM need to be evaluated at a decreasing number $|\Xi_m|$ of samples, which approaches $1\% = (1 - \beta) \times 100\%$ of the original number of samples.

|       | $\text{CVaR}_\beta$ | Width CI | Abs error | $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^G$ | $|\tilde{G}_k^\beta|$ | $N_k$ | $|\Xi_m|$ |
|-------|----------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| FOM   | 11.98                | 0.23     | —         | —                        | —                     | —     | —        |
| ROM1  | 8.74                 | 0.13     | 3.247     | 9.181                    | 40.64                 | 1     | 20,000   |
| ROM2  | 11.09                | 0.18     | 0.897     | 1.771                    | 2.99                  | 2     | 8,128    |
| ROM3  | 11.92                | 0.24     | 0.062     | 0.285                    | 1.25                  | 3     | 598      |
| ROM4  | 11.98                | 0.23     | 0.004     | 0.020                    | 1.01                  | 4     | 251      |

Table 2: Results for the greedy approach for the thermal fin problem with two random variables and $\beta = 0.99$. Although this cannot be guaranteed, in this case the sizes of the $\varepsilon$-risk region $|\tilde{G}_k^\beta|$ and the error bound $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^G$ happen to decrease monotonically. In each step the current ROM has to be evaluated at all $|\Xi_m| = 20,000$ samples.

|       | $\text{CVaR}_\beta$ | Width CI | Abs error | $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k^G$ | $|\tilde{G}_k^\beta|$ | $N_k$ | $|\Xi_m|$ |
|-------|----------------------|----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|
| FOM   | 11.98                | 0.23     | —         | —                        | —                     | —     | —        |
| ROM1  | 8.74                 | 0.13     | 3.247     | 9.181                    | 40.64                 | 1     | 20,000   |
| ROM2  | 11.09                | 0.18     | 0.897     | 1.771                    | 2.99                  | 2     | 8,128    |
| ROM3  | 11.13                | 0.19     | 0.853     | 1.592                    | 2.92                  | 3     | 20,000   |
| ROM4  | 11.97                | 0.23     | 0.017     | 0.082                    | 1.05                  | 4     | 20,000   |
| ROM5  | 11.97                | 0.23     | 0.015     | 0.067                    | 1.05                  | 5     | 20,000   |
| ROM6  | 11.98                | 0.23     | 0.004     | 0.010                    | 1.01                  | 6     | 20,000   |

The snapshots selected by Algorithm 3 and by the greedy approach are shown in Figure 4. Our proposed adaptive algorithm selects FOM snapshots in the current $\varepsilon$-risk region, which is close to the original risk region. In contrast, the standard greedy algorithm selects FOM snapshots in
the original parameter region. For example, the third snapshot is far outside the risk region, see Figure 4b. In this example, selecting the next snapshot globally in the entire parameter region still gives a good reduction of the ROM error in the \( \varepsilon \)-risk region \( \varepsilon_{G_{\beta}} \). The greedy algorithm only needs two additional steps to reach the CVaR \( \beta \) tolerance, compared to our adaptive algorithms. A big difference is in the expense of ROM evaluations, see the last columns of Tables 1 and 2.

### 5.4 Results for three random variables

Now we consider the problem with \( k_1 = k_2 = k_3 = k_4 \) and three random variables \( \xi = (k_0, k_1, Bi) \) uniformly distributed in \( \Xi = [0.1, 1] \times [0.1, 2] \times [0.01, 0.1] \). We use 100,000 Monte Carlo samples.

The results for the adaptive approach and the greedy approach are presented in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. The format of these tables is identical to that of Tables 1 and 2, respectively.

The snapshots selected by both approaches are shown in Figure 5. We start with a randomly selected initial sample, which is chosen to be the same for both approaches (sample 1 in Figures 5a and 5b). The second sample happens to be the same in both the adaptive and greedy approach. Due to our suggested ROM modification (25), ROM \( \tilde{X}_2 \) in the adaptive case has a smaller bound \( \tilde{\varepsilon}_G \) than ROM \( X_2 \) in the greedy case, \( \varepsilon_G \). The third snapshot is different for the two approaches. However, the third snapshot selected by the greedy approach happens to lie in the \( \varepsilon \)-risk region \( G_{\beta} \) of ROM \( X_2 \). (Of course, the third snapshot selected by the adaptive approach will always be chosen in \( \varepsilon \)-risk region \( \tilde{G}_{\beta} \) of ROM \( \tilde{X}_2 \).) In this case, the resulting ROM \( \tilde{X}_3 \) in the adaptive case has a larger bound \( \tilde{\varepsilon}_G \) than the bound \( \varepsilon_G \) for ROM \( X_3 \) in the greedy case. This can happen, since we compute the next snapshot based on an error bound of the current model, and not based on the error of the new model. In the majority of cases, however, the error bound \( \tilde{\varepsilon}_G \) for the ROM constructed with
|      | CVaR\(\beta\) | Width CI | Abs error | \(\bar{\varepsilon}_k\) | \(|G_k^\beta|\) | \(N_k\) | |\(\Xi_m\)| |
|------|--------------|----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|--------|---------|
| FOM  | 10.475       | 0.094    | —         | —              | —             | —      | —       |
| ROM1 | 9.071        | 0.105    | 1.4041    | 30.5336        | 14.29         | 1      | 100,000 |
| ROM2 | 10.162       | 0.106    | 0.3135    | 10.7583        | 5.62          | 2      | 14,295  |
| ROM3 | 10.351       | 0.099    | 0.1240    | 7.6804         | 2.78          | 3      | 5,623   |
| ROM4 | 10.432       | 0.095    | 0.0428    | 0.3127         | 1.15          | 4      | 2,783   |
| ROM5 | 10.451       | 0.094    | 0.0240    | 0.1864         | 1.08          | 5      | 1,153   |
| ROM6 | 10.471       | 0.094    | 0.0043    | 0.0540         | 1.02          | 6      | 1,085   |
| ROM7 | 10.472       | 0.094    | 0.0028    | 0.0369         | 1.01          | 7      | 1,017   |
| ROM8 | 10.475       | 0.094    | 0.0005    | 0.0074         | 1.00          | 8      | 1,014   |

Table 3: Results for adaptive algorithm for the thermal fin problem with three random variables and \(\beta = 0.99\).}

|      | CVaR\(\beta\) | Width CI | Abs error | \(\varepsilon_k^G\) | \(|G_k^G|\) | \(N_k\) | \(|\Xi_m|\) |
|------|--------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|--------|---------|
| FOM  | 10.475       | 0.094    | —         | —               | —             | —      | —       |
| ROM1 | 9.071        | 0.105    | 1.4041    | 30.5336        | 14.29         | 1      | 100,000 |
| ROM2 | 10.163       | 0.106    | 0.3118    | 11.7122        | 5.98          | 2      | 100,000 |
| ROM3 | 10.418       | 0.095    | 0.0576    | 0.5651         | 1.22          | 3      | 100,000 |
| ROM4 | 10.439       | 0.095    | 0.0367    | 0.2944         | 1.14          | 4      | 100,000 |
| ROM5 | 10.456       | 0.094    | 0.0189    | 0.1928         | 1.07          | 5      | 100,000 |
| ROM6 | 10.460       | 0.094    | 0.0149    | 0.0909         | 1.05          | 6      | 100,000 |
| ROM7 | 10.461       | 0.094    | 0.0145    | 0.0961         | 1.05          | 7      | 100,000 |
| ROM8 | 10.474       | 0.094    | 0.0014    | 0.0135         | 1.00          | 8      | 100,000 |
| ROM9 | 10.475       | 0.094    | 0.0006    | 0.0101         | 1.00          | 9      | 100,000 |
| ROM10| 10.475       | 0.094    | 0.0003    | 0.0037         | 1.00          | 10     | 100,000 |

Table 4: Results for the greedy approach for the thermal fin problem with three random variables and \(\beta = 0.99\).
the adaptive approach is smaller than the error bound $\varepsilon^G_k$ for the ROM constructed with the greedy approach.

By construction, the error bound $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k$ in the adaptive approach decreases monotonically. This may not be true for the greedy approach. In fact, as can be seen from Table 4, between ROM 6 and ROM 7 we observe an increase in the estimate of $\varepsilon^G_k$.

A major strength of our proposed adaptive method is that the ROMs $\tilde{X}_k$ and their error bounds $\tilde{\varepsilon}_k$ have to be evaluated only at a small number $|\Xi_m|$ of the total samples, whereas in the greedy approach all ROMs and their error bounds have to be evaluated at all 100,000 samples. This leads to significant computational savings for the adaptive ROM construction and CVaR$_\beta$ estimation.

![Figure 5: Snapshots for ROM construction for the thermal fin problem with three random variables and $\beta = 0.99$.](image)

5.5 Results for six random variables

Finally, we let all six parameters $\xi = (k_0, k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4, Bi)$ to be random, uniformly distributed in $\Xi = [0.1, 1] \times [0.1, 2]^4 \times [0.01, 0.1]$. We use 1,000,000 Monte Carlo samples.

Results for $\beta = 0.99$ are presented in Tables 5 and 6. We omit some of the rows in both tables in the interest of saving space. In the greedy case we once more observe an increase in $\varepsilon^G_k$ between subsequent iterations (see rows corresponding to ROM 10 and ROM 11 in Table 6).

In this example with six random variables, the computational savings produced by using our proposed adaptive sampling strategy are most pronounced. For the adaptive case after ROM 9 we evaluate consequent ROMs and their error functions for about 10,000 samples only, whereas the greedy-based ROM construction requires the full 1,000,000 evaluations of the ROM and FOM. Thus, we save 990,000 FOM evaluations, or $\beta = 0.99$ of computational effort.

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Table 5: Results for the adaptive algorithm for the thermal fin problem with six random variables and $\beta = 0.99$.

| CVaR$_\beta$ | Width CI | Abs error | $\varepsilon^G_k$ | $|\tilde{G}^k_\beta|$ | $N_k$ | $|\Xi_m|$ |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|------|----------|
| FOM          | 10.462   | 0.029     | —                 | —                   | —    | 1,000,000 |
| ROM1         | 9.927    | 0.027     | 0.5350            | 7.7972              | 4.66 | 1        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM2         | 9.978    | 0.027     | 0.4845            | 6.0581              | 3.07 | 2        | 46,594    |
| ROM3         | 10.247   | 0.028     | 0.2149            | 3.0542              | 1.54 | 3        | 30,745    |
| ROM4         | 10.375   | 0.029     | 0.0874            | 1.9710              | 1.28 | 4        | 15,404    |
| ROM5         | 10.400   | 0.029     | 0.0622            | 1.0965              | 1.19 | 5        | 12,847    |
| ROM6         | 10.424   | 0.029     | 0.0379            | 0.8581              | 1.11 | 6        | 11,909    |
| ROM7         | 10.450   | 0.029     | 0.0119            | 0.5222              | 1.04 | 7        | 11,113    |
| ROM8         | 10.455   | 0.029     | 0.0076            | 0.1929              | 1.02 | 8        | 10,414    |
| ROM9         | 10.458   | 0.029     | 0.0045            | 0.1339              | 1.01 | 9        | 10,209    |
| ...          |          |           |                   |                     |      |          |
| ROM17        | 10.462   | 0.029     | 0.0001            | 0.0023              | 1.00 | 17       | 10,008    |

Table 6: Results for the greedy procedure for the thermal fin problem with six random variables and $\beta = 0.99$.

| CVaR$_\beta$ | Width CI | Abs error | $\varepsilon^G_k$ | $|\tilde{G}^k_\beta|$ | $N_k$ | $|\Xi_m|$ |
|--------------|----------|-----------|-------------------|---------------------|------|----------|
| FOM          | 10.462   | 0.029     | —                 | —                   | —    | 1,000,000 |
| ROM1         | 9.927    | 0.027     | 0.5350            | 7.7972              | 4.66 | 1        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM2         | 10.043   | 0.027     | 0.4187            | 6.5766              | 3.84 | 2        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM3         | 10.158   | 0.027     | 0.3042            | 6.3876              | 3.00 | 3        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM4         | 10.281   | 0.028     | 0.1809            | 5.2228              | 2.15 | 4        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM5         | 10.321   | 0.028     | 0.1415            | 4.1100              | 1.75 | 5        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM6         | 10.379   | 0.029     | 0.0834            | 3.6190              | 1.29 | 6        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM7         | 10.428   | 0.029     | 0.0340            | 0.8186              | 1.09 | 7        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM8         | 10.435   | 0.029     | 0.0268            | 0.3095              | 1.06 | 8        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM9         | 10.437   | 0.029     | 0.0253            | 0.2275              | 1.06 | 9        | 1,000,000 |
| ROM10        | 10.438   | 0.029     | 0.0244            | 0.1922              | 1.05 | 10       | 1,000,000 |
| ROM11        | 10.446   | 0.029     | 0.0166            | 0.3131              | 1.07 | 11       | 1,000,000 |
| ...          |          |           |                   |                     |      |          |
| ROM22        | 10.462   | 0.029     | 0.0001            | 0.0024              | 1.00 | 22       | 1,000,000 |
6 Conclusions

We have presented an extension of our recent work \[2\] that systematically and efficiently improves a ROM to obtain a better ROM-based CVaR estimate. A key ingredient to make efficient use of ROM, is the structure of CVaR, which only depends on samples in a small, but a-priori unknown region of the parameter space. ROMs are used to approximate this region, and new ROMs only need to be better than the previous ROM in these approximate regions. However, to guarantee that this approach monotonically improves the CVaR estimate, we had to introduce a new way to combine previously constructed ROMs into new adaptive ROMs. We have provided error estimates, and demonstrated the benefits of our approach on a numerical example for the CVaR estimation of a QoI governed by an elliptic differential equation.

Our approach requires the construction of ROMs with error bounds. In many examples it is difficult to find error bounds, and instead one may only have asymptotic bounds or estimates. Extension of our approach to such cases would expand the rigorous and systematic use of ROMs for CVaR estimation.

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References


