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UseR! 2006

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# Why R and how

- Why use *R*?
  - no best-practice in the field, few existing tools
  - powerful, complete language
  - flexible framework
- How R is used at Sanpaolo IMI:
  - methodological research
  - application prototyping
  - production environment



Statistical approach to operational risk

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## Operational risk measurement

- OR: Failures of normal processes (mistakes, frauds, robberies, liabilities, ...)
- Two complementary approaches:
  - historical data (backward-looking)
  - scenario analysis (forward-looking)
- Actuarial method: compose
  - Frequency distribution
  - Severity distribution



Statistical approach to operational ris

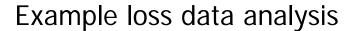
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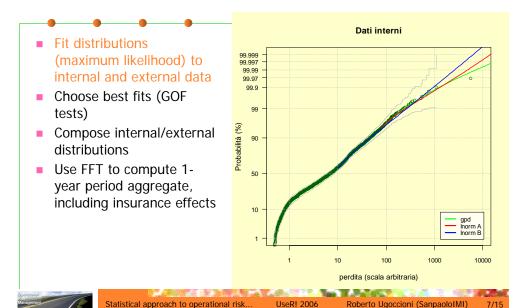
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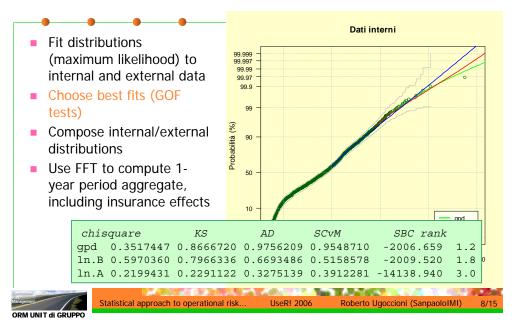
## Historical loss data analysis

- For each risk class (i.i.d.):
  - Fit distributions (maximum likelihood) to internal and external data
  - Choose best fits (GOF tests)
  - Compose internal/external distributions
  - Use FFT to compute 1-year period aggregate, including insurance effects
- Measure rank correlations between risk classes in the data
- Aggregate classes using copulas



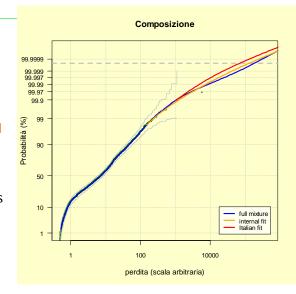


# Example loss data analysis



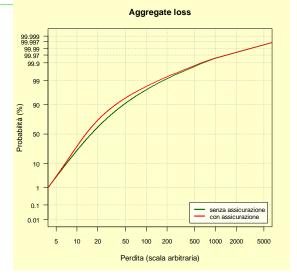
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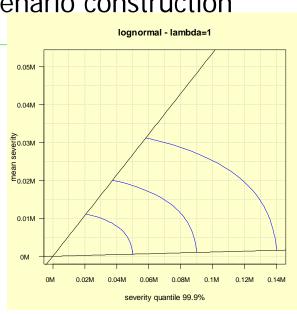
#### Scenario analysis

- Interview local management
- For each event type
  - Ask average frequency
  - Ask average loss
  - Ask "worst case" loss (99% quantile)
- Use ranges to guide these answers

Statistical approach to operational risk

# **Example scenario construction**

- fix frequency classes
- determine three possible values for the 1-year aggregate unexpected loss
- for each mean frequency, determine points with same UL
- determine mean loss ranges
- for each mean loss range, determine worst-case ranges by instersecting with iso-UL curves



# Preparing scenario analysis

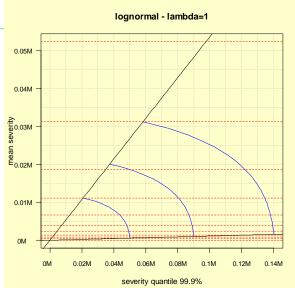
- Prepare the answer ranges:
  - fix frequency classes
  - determine three possible values for the 1-year aggregate unexpected loss (UL+EL= 99.9% quantile)
  - for each mean frequency, determine points with same UL
  - determine mean loss ranges
  - for each mean loss range, determine worst-case ranges by instersecting with iso-UL curves



**Example scenario construction** 

#### fix frequency classes determine three possible values for the 1-year aggregate unexpected loss

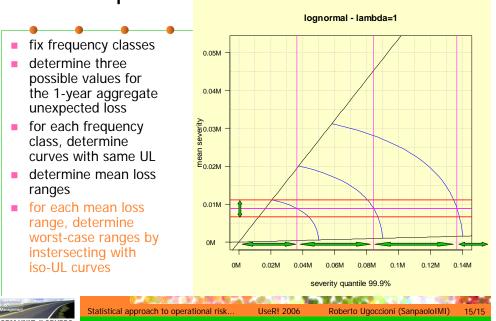
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**Example scenario construction** 



#### Conclusions

#### How did R perform?

- methodological research and application prototyping: flexible tool, powerful language; library of tools developed
- production environment: needs ad hoc GUI, has little support for compilation on mainframe architectures (e.g. HPUX)
- memory/performance saturation limit hit when needing to handle very large amounts of data (>10<sup>7</sup> points)



**Example scenario construction** 

