

# 3 Empirical properties of financial data

3.1 Stylized facts of financial return series

3.2 Multivariate stylized facts

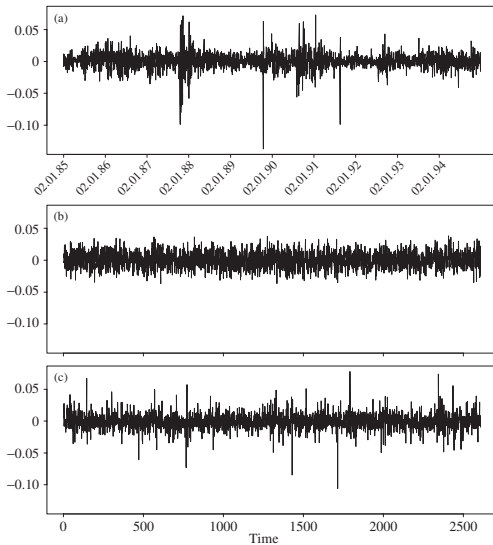
## 3.1 Stylized facts of financial return series

- Stylized facts are a collection of empirical observations and inferences drawn of such, which apply to many time series of risk-factor changes (e.g. log-returns on equities, indices, exchange rates, commodity prices).
- Stylized facts often apply to daily log-returns (also to intra-daily, weekly, monthly). Tick-by-tick (high-frequency) data have their own stylized facts (not discussed here) and annual return (low-frequency) data are more difficult to investigate (data sparsity; non-stationarity).
- Consider discrete-time risk-factor changes  $X_t = Z_t - Z_{t-1}$ , e.g.  $Z_t = \log S_t$ , in which case

$$X_t = \log(S_t/S_{t-1}) \approx S_t/S_{t-1} - 1 = (S_t - S_{t-1})/S_{t-1};$$

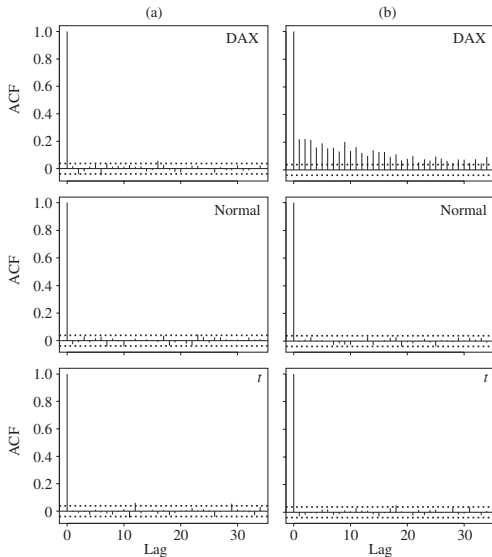
the former is often called (log-)return, the latter (classical) return.

## 3.1.1 Volatility Clustering



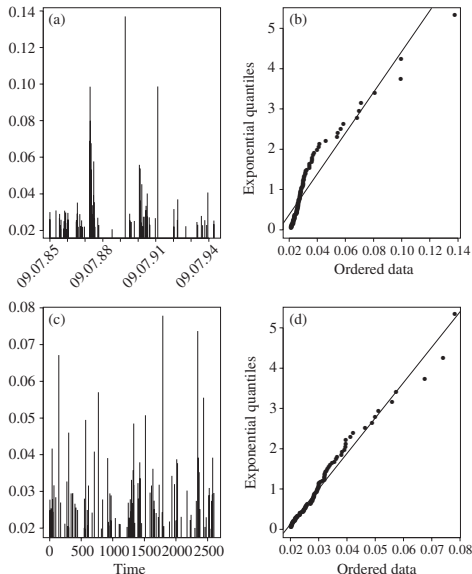
- (a) Log-returns for the DAX index from 1985-01-02 to 1994-12-30 ( $n = 2608$ )
- (b) Simulated iid data from a fitted normal ( $\hat{\mu} = \bar{X}_n$ ,  $\hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)^2$ )  
 $\Rightarrow$  Shows too few extremes
- (c) Simulated iid data from a fitted  $t_{3.8}$  (num. max. of log-likelihood; still no volatility clustering = tendency for extreme returns to be followed by extreme returns, see also ACF below)

*Autocorrelation function (ACF)*  $\rho(h) = \text{corr}(X_0, X_h)$  for  $h \in \mathbb{Z}$



- (a) ACF of  $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$
- (b) ACF of  $(|X_t|)_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$
- Non-zero ACF at lag 1 implies a tendency for a return to be followed by a return of equal sign; not the case here  $\Rightarrow$  Predicted return  $\approx 0$
- iid data  $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$  implies  $\rho_X(h) = \rho_{|X|}(h) = I_{\{h=0\}}$ ; not the case here (confirm with a Ljung–Box test  
 $H_0 : \rho(k) = 0, k = 1, \dots, h$ )
- $(X_t)_{t \in \mathbb{Z}}$  not a random walk (e.g. no geometric BM)

Concerning clustering of extremes, consider the 100 largest losses of the...



- (a) ... DAX index  
(c) ... simulated fitted  $t_{3.8}$
- (b), (d) Q-Q plots of waiting times between these large losses (should be  $\text{Exp}(\lambda)$  for iid data; see EVT) against empirical ones.
- The DAX data shows shorter and longer waiting times than the iid data  
 $\Rightarrow$  clustering of extremes

## 3.1.2 Non-normality and heavy tails

### Formal statistical tests of normality

- For **general univariate df**  $F$ :

- ▶ Kolmogorov–Smirnov (test statistic  $T_n = \sup_x |\hat{F}_n(x) - F(x)|$ )
- ▶ Cramér–von Mises ( $T_n = n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\hat{F}_n(x) - F(x))^2 dF(x)$ )
- ▶ **Anderson–Darling** ( $T_n = n \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{(\hat{F}_n(x) - F(x))^2}{F(x)(1-F(x))} dF(x)$ ; recommended by D’Agostino and Stephens (1986))

- For  $F = N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ :

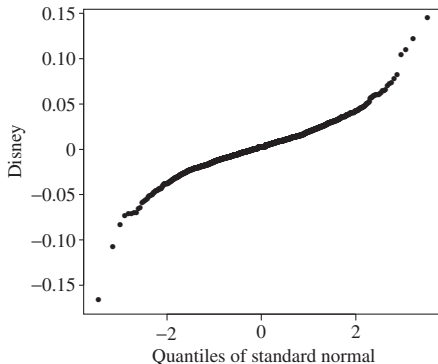
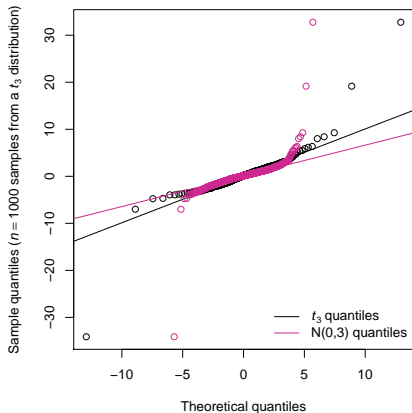
- ▶ Shapiro–Wilk (idea: quantify Q-Q plot in one number; see later)
- ▶ D’Agostino (based on skewness and kurtosis as Jarque–Bera)
- ▶ **Jarque–Bera test**: Compares skewness  $\beta = \frac{\mathbb{E}((X-\mu)^3)}{\sigma^3}$  and kurtosis  $\kappa = \frac{\mathbb{E}((X-\mu)^4)}{\sigma^4}$  with sample versions. The test statistic is

$$T_n = \frac{n}{6} \left( \hat{\beta}^2 + \frac{1}{4} (\hat{\kappa} - 3)^2 \right) \underset{n \text{ large}}{\overset{H_0}{\rightsquigarrow}} \chi^2_2.$$

## Graphical tests

- Suppose we want to **graphically test whether  $X_1, \dots, X_n \sim F$  for some df  $F$**  based on realizations  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  of iid  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ .
- Let  $x_{(1)} \leq \dots \leq x_{(n)}$  denote the corresponding **order statistics** and note that  $\hat{F}_n(x) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I_{\{x_i \leq x\}} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n I_{\{x_{(i)} \leq x\}}$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}$ , i.e. the order statistics contain all relevant information about  $x_1, \dots, x_n$ .
- Possible graphical tests (see also the appendix):
  - ▶ **P-P plot:** Plot  $\{(p_i, F(x_{(i)})) : i = 1, \dots, n\}$ , where  $p_i \approx \frac{i-1/2}{n} \approx \frac{i}{n} \approx \hat{F}_n(x_{(i)})$ . If  $F \approx \hat{F}_n$ , the points lie roughly on a **line with slope 1**; this also applies to Q-Q plots.
  - ▶ **Q-Q plot:** Plot  $\{(F^{\leftarrow}(p_i), x_{(i)}) : i = 1, \dots, n\}$  (tail differences better visible).

Interpreting Q-Q plots (**S-shape** hints at **heavier tails** than  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$ ):



Daily returns typically have kurtosis  $\kappa > 3$  (*leptokurtic*; narrower center, heavier tails than  $N(\mu, \sigma^2)$  for which  $\kappa = 3$ ). They have typically **power-like tails** rather than exponential.



### 3.1.3 Longer-interval return series

- By going from daily to weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly data, these effects become less pronounced (returns look more iid, less heavy-tailed).
- The (non-overlapping)  $h$ -period log-return at  $t \in \{h, 2h, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{h} \rfloor h\}$  is

$$X_t^{(h)} = \log\left(\frac{S_t}{S_{t-h}}\right) = \log\left(\frac{S_t}{S_{t-1}} \frac{S_{t-1}}{S_{t-2}} \dots \frac{S_{t-h+1}}{S_{t-h}}\right) = \sum_{k=0}^{h-1} X_{t-k}$$

A Central Limit Theorem (CLT) effect takes place (less heavy-tailed, less evidence of serial correlation).

- Problem: The larger  $h$ , the less data is available.
- Possible remedy: Consider overlapping returns

$$\left\{ X_t^{(h)} : t \in \left\{ h, h+k, \dots, h + \left\lfloor \frac{n-h}{k} \right\rfloor k \right\} \right\}, \quad 1 \leq k < h.$$

⇒ More data but serially dependent now.

To summarize, we can infer the following stylized facts about univariate financial return series:

- (U1) Return series are not iid although they show little serial correlation;
- (U2) Series of absolute or squared returns show profound serial correlation;
- (U3) Conditional expected returns are close to zero;
- (U4) Volatility (conditional standard deviation) appears to vary over time;
- (U5) Extreme returns appear in clusters;
- (U6) Return series are leptokurtic or heavy-tailed (power-like tail).

## 3.2 Multivariate stylized facts

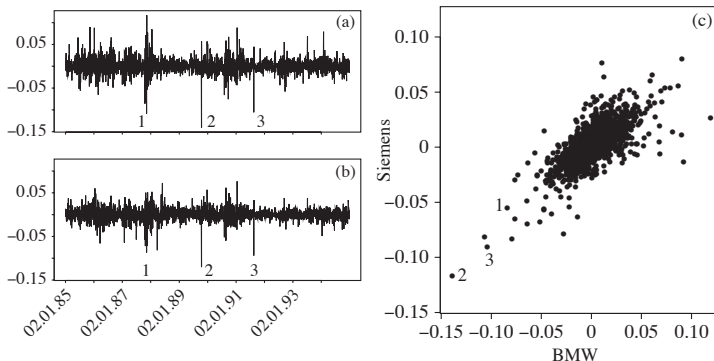
Consider **multivariate** log-return data  $X_1, \dots, X_n$ .

### 3.2.1 Correlation between series

- By (U1), the **returns of stock A at  $t$  and  $t + h$  show little correlation**. The same applies to the returns of stock A at  $t$  and stock B at  $t + h$ ,  $h > 0$ . Stock **A and stock B on day  $t$  may be correlated** due to factors that affect the whole market (**contemporaneous dependence**).
- **Correlations of returns at  $t$  vary over time** (difficult to detect whether changes are continual or constant within regimes; fit different models for changing correlation, then make a formal comparison).
- **Periods of high/low volatility** are typically **common to more than one stock**  $\Rightarrow$  Returns of large magnitude in A at  $t$  may be followed by returns of large magnitude in A and B at  $t + h$ .

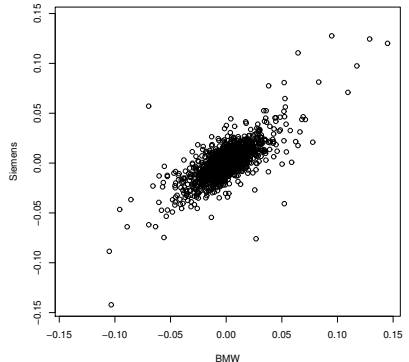
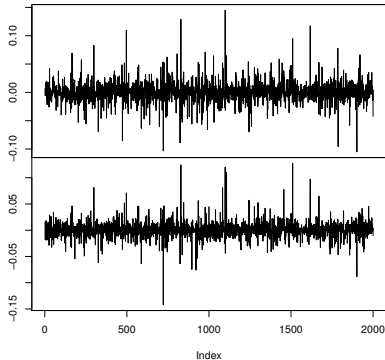
### 3.2.2 Tail dependence

(BMW, Siemens) log-returns from 1985-01-23 to 1994-09-22 ( $n = 2000$ )



In **volatile/extreme periods**, dependence is **stronger** (1: 1987-10-19 **Black Monday** (DJ drop by 22%); 2: 1989-10-16 **Monday demonstrations in Leipzig** (Wende); 3: 1991-08-19 **coup against soviet president M. Gorbachev**).

Simulated log-returns from a fitted bivariate  $t$  distribution ( $n = 2000$ ;  $\rho = 0.72$ ,  $\nu = 2.8$  both fitted to (BMW, Siemens))



- The multivariate  $t$  distribution can replicate joint large gains/losses but in a symmetric way.
- The multivariate normal distribution cannot replicate such behaviour, known as tail dependence; see Chapter 7.

To summarize, we can infer the following stylized facts about multivariate financial return series:

- (M1) Multivariate return series show little evidence of cross-correlation, except for contemporaneous returns (i.e. at the same  $t$ );
- (M2) Multivariate series of absolute returns show profound cross-correlation;
- (M3) Correlations between contemporaneous returns vary over time;
- (M4) Extreme returns in one series often coincide with extreme returns in several other series (e.g. tail dependence).