



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

MASTER DEGREE COURSE IN COMPUTATIONAL FINANCE

REGRESSION AND TIME SERIES MODELS

Group Work 1 - Regression with CAPM Model

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Introduction

Assignment 1

Data Choice and Download

Assignment 2

Equity Returns

In this section, we analyze the relationship between the excess returns of individual stocks and those of the sector market using scatter plots. The objective is to explore whether linear relationships exist, as assumed by the CAPM model. Scatter plots are used to visually assess the correlation between variables and to identify potential deviations. Particular focus is given to outliers and non-linear trends, as these could suggest the need for deeper analysis or alternative approaches. The scatter plots reveal a clear relationship between the excess returns of most stocks and the sector market. For instance, stocks like Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Medtronic show a well-defined linear trend, indicating a strong correlation with market returns. These results suggest that the CAPM model can effectively describe the variability in returns for these stocks, supported by significant β coefficients and high R^2 values. However, some stocks, such as Boston Scientific and Cigna, display more scattered data points around the trendline, pointing to weaker correlations and the influence of unique factors that the CAPM might not capture. In addition, outliers observed in stocks like Revvity and Labcorp Holdings could reflect extraordinary events, such as regulatory changes or R&D results, which may reduce the model's effectiveness for these cases. The slope of the trendline offers further insights: for example, Eli Lilly and Teleflex demonstrate steeper slopes, suggesting a high β and greater sensitivity to market movements, while flatter slopes, as observed in Humana, indicate lower exposure to systematic risk. Overall, our observations suggest that the CAPM model effectively explains the behavior of most stocks analyzed. However, instances of high dispersion or the presence of significant outliers underscore the need for further evaluation, which will be undertaken in subsequent stages of the analysis.

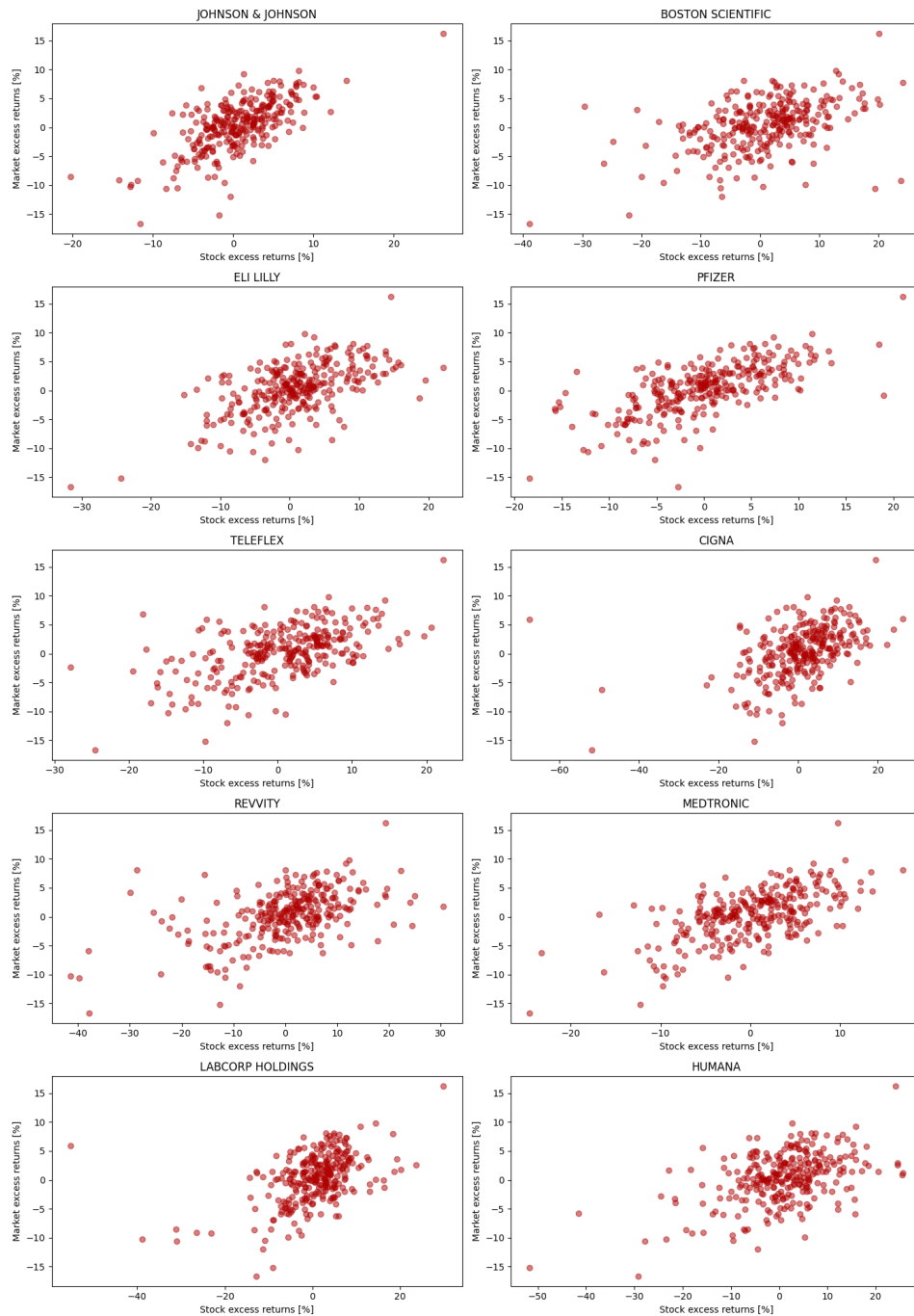


Fig. 2.1: Scatterplot of equities' log-returns against excess market returns.

Assignment 3

Linear Regression

In this section, we analyze the relationship between the excess returns of individual stocks and those of the sector market using scatter plots. The objective is to explore whether linear relationships exist, as assumed by the CAPM model. Scatter plots are used to visually assess the correlation between variables and to identify potential deviations. Particular focus is given to outliers and non-linear trends, as these could suggest the need for deeper analysis or alternative approaches. The scatter plots reveal a clear relationship between the excess returns of most stocks and the sector market. For instance, stocks like Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Medtronic show a well-defined linear trend, indicating a strong correlation with market returns. These results suggest that the CAPM model can effectively describe the variability in returns for these stocks, supported by significant β coefficients and high R^2 values. However, some stocks, such as Boston Scientific and Cigna, display more scattered data points around the trendline, pointing to weaker correlations and the influence of unique factors that the CAPM might not capture. In addition, outliers observed in stocks like Revvity and Labcorp Holdings could reflect extraordinary events, such as regulatory changes or R&D results, which may reduce the model's effectiveness for these cases. The slope of the trendline offers further insights: for example, Eli Lilly and Teleflex demonstrate steeper slopes, suggesting a high β and greater sensitivity to market movements, while flatter slopes, as observed in Humana, indicate lower exposure to systematic risk. Overall, our observations suggest that the CAPM model effectively explains the behavior of most stocks analyzed. However, instances of high dispersion or the presence of significant outliers underscore the need for further evaluation, which will be undertaken in subsequent stages of the analysis.

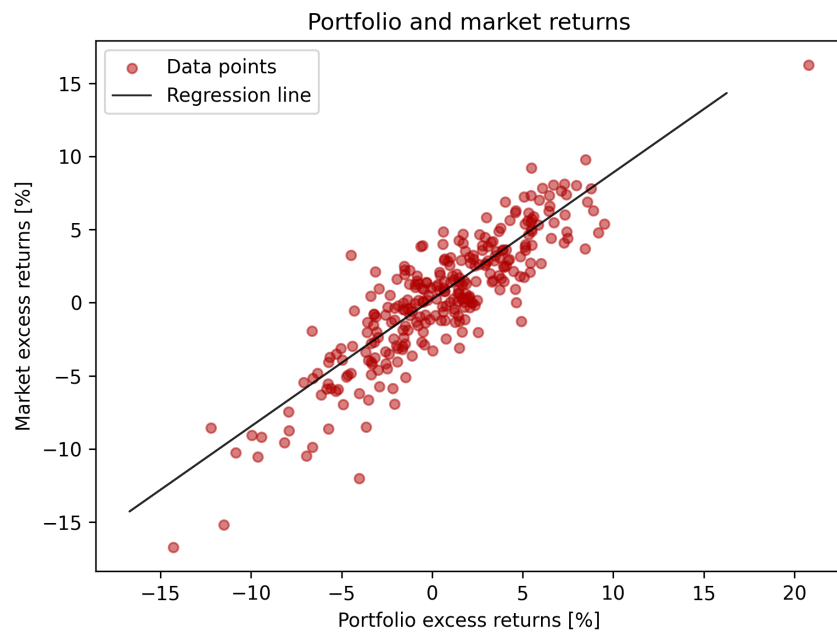


Fig. 3.1: Scatterplot of portfolio's returns against excess market returns, with linear regression.

Assignment 4

Diagnostic Tests

This section validates the reliability of the CAPM model through diagnostic tests. These tests aim to ensure that key assumptions, such as constant residual variance (homoscedasticity) and the absence of autocorrelation, are satisfied. When violations are detected, adjustments, such as robust standard errors, are applied to improve the reliability of the results. The results confirm that the CAPM model effectively explains the returns of many stocks in the Healthcare sector. For example, Johnson & Johnson ($\beta=0.752$, $p<0.01$) and Pfizer ($\beta=0.953$, $p<0.01$) show significant β coefficients, indicating their sensitivity to market movements. High R^2 values suggest that a substantial portion of the return variability is explained by the model. However, for stocks like Cigna and Labcorp Holdings, lower R^2 values point to the potential influence of idiosyncratic factors not captured by the CAPM. The diagnostic tests highlight some limitations. For instance, the White Test identifies heteroscedasticity in stocks such as Johnson & Johnson and Humana, indicating that residual variance is not constant. To address this issue, we applied robust standard errors (HAC). Additionally, the Breusch-Godfrey Test reveals autocorrelation in the residuals for Labcorp Holdings, requiring further adjustments to ensure the validity of the model. Despite these challenges, the F-statistics and regression p-values confirm the overall significance of the model. The analysis of the equally weighted portfolio further supports these results. Diversification reduces idiosyncratic risk and enhances the stability of parameter estimates. Compared to individual stocks, the portfolio demonstrates a stronger and more consistent linear relationship with market returns, reinforcing the applicability of the CAPM model at an aggregate level.

Assignment 5

Chow Test

5.1 Structural Breaks and Chow Test

In this section, we employ the Chow test to assess whether a significant structural change occurs in the regression models at specific points in time. To ensure the robustness of our analysis, we first established a minimum data subset size for the unrestricted models, setting it to 10% of the total dataset, in order to maintain statistical validity while preserving sufficient data for meaningful comparisons. Subsequently, the Chow test was systematically applied to all linear regressions conducted on the selected equities, allowing us to identify potential structural breaks across the dataset, that is, significant changes in the regression parameters caused by external shocks, market-wide events, or company-specific factors. These structural breaks may reflect shifts in the relationship between excess returns and market behaviour, such as changes in systematic risk (β) or the presence of unexplained excess returns (α) due to macroeconomic conditions, regulatory adjustments or sector-specific developments. To identify these structural breaks, we analyzed the p-values obtained from the Chow test for each equity over time: a p-value below the threshold of 0.01 was interpreted as evidence of a structural break at that particular point in time, signaling that the CAPM parameters had changed significantly. In this analysis, only periods of at least two consecutive months with p-values below the threshold were considered as break dates, ensuring that the identified breaks reflect sustained shifts rather than noise or transient fluctuations.

The results of this analysis are displayed in Figure [5.1](#), highlighting that different

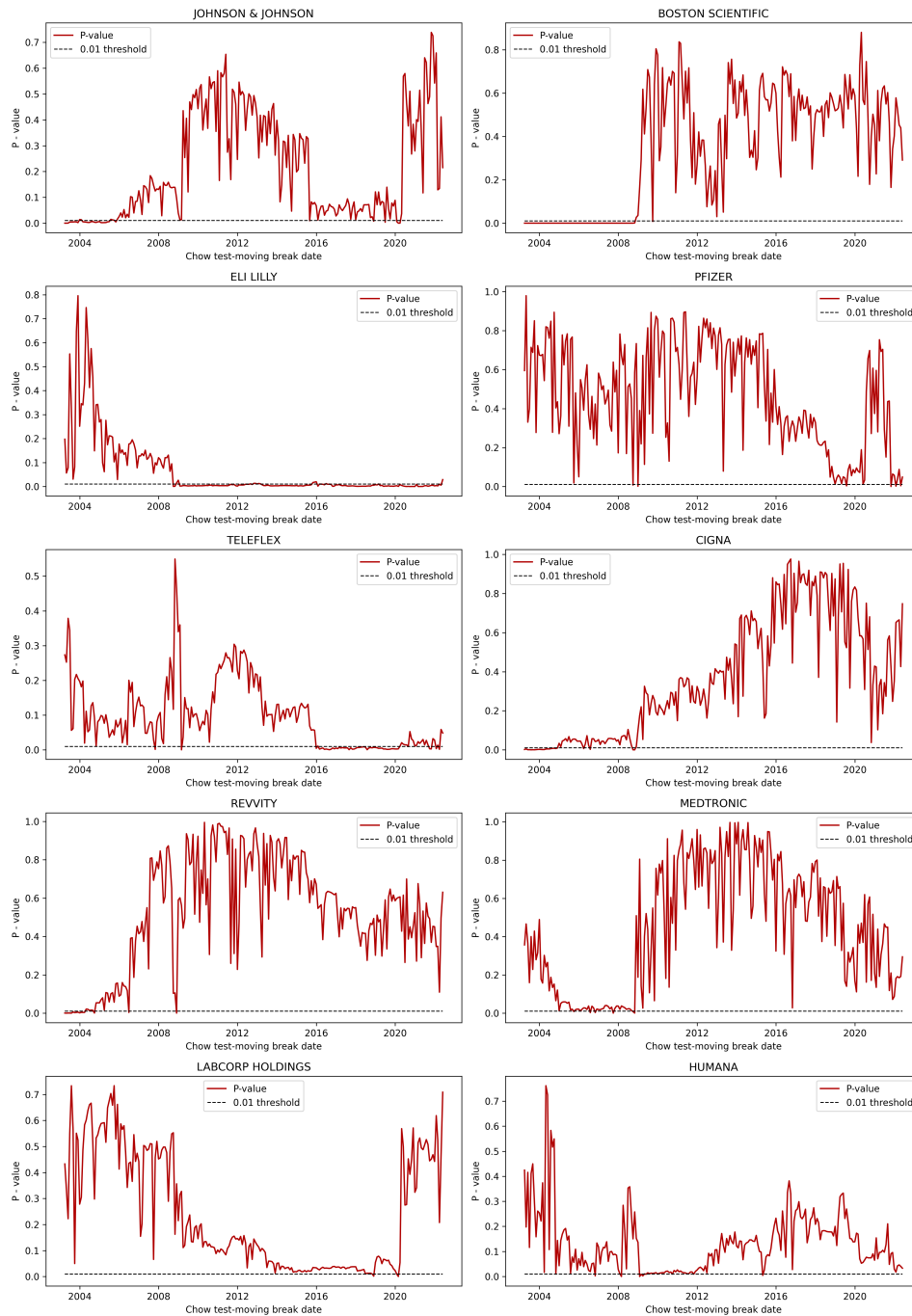


Fig. 5.1: Chow Test performed for all equities in search of structural breaks.

equities exhibit fundamentally distinct behaviors. Notably, certain equities, such as *Eli Lilly*, *Boston Scientific*, and *Teleflex*, show p-values consistently below the 0.01 threshold for extended periods, indicating prolonged structural breaks; this raises the question of whether the CAPM relationship for these equities in these periods is truly linear or whether a different modeling approach may be warranted.

5.2 Periods of Shared Structural Breaks

Despite these observations, no clear or consistent pattern of structural breaks emerges across all equities; to explore potential commonalities further, an additional histogram was generated (Figure 5.2), which illustrates the frequency and overlap of structural breaks shared among different equities.

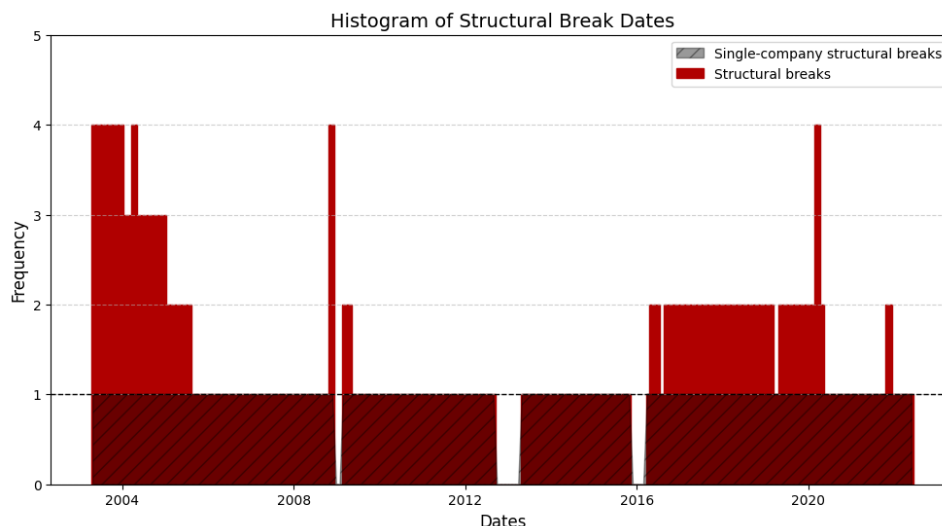


Fig. 5.2: Frequency of months identified as structural break points.

Figure 5.2 highlights two important aspects of the data: first, there is no single period that constitutes a break date for all equities; the maximum number of companies sharing a structural break at any given time is in fact 4. Nonetheless, the break dates identified as significant changes to the regression parameters align closely with expectations, in fact the data reveal break dates significantly relevant in three distinct periods of time:

- **2003:** Structural breaks are observed throughout most of the year, coinciding with the SARS epidemic. This period also aligns with economic and legislative developments, including the introduction of the Medicare Modernization Act, which reshaped healthcare policy and access in the United States.
- **October and November 2008:** These months mark the onset of the 2008/2009 financial crisis.
- **February and March 2020:** Structural breaks during this time correspond to the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread implementation of precautionary measures.

An important observation is that the structural breaks identified in 2003 extended over a prolonged period, spanning multiple consecutive months, whereas the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic appears to have been more concentrated and shorter in duration. The prolonged effect in 2003 could reflect the gradual adjustment of the healthcare market to the SARS epidemic and concurrent economic and legislative changes. In contrast, the shorter duration of structural breaks during COVID-19 may suggest that lessons learned from the SARS outbreak, including the implementation of precautionary measures and improved epidemic preparedness, helped mitigate the impact of subsequent epidemics on the healthcare market. Alternatively, the healthcare market may have simply grown so significantly in size and diversification over time that it developed a level of resilience that enables it to absorb and adapt to substantial disruptions in the economic landscape. This growth, coupled with advancements in technology, expanded infrastructure, and more robust financial mechanisms, might have contributed to the market's ability to withstand even major shocks, such as those caused by the 2008 crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. This explanation also accounts for the observation that the majority of equities were not significantly impacted during these events: the increased resilience and diversification of the healthcare market may have allowed many companies to maintain stability despite the broader economic disruptions.

5.3 Chow Test on Portfolio

In order to further investigate the impact of significant events in the economic environment, the same Chow test was performed on the excess returns of the portfolio. This approach aggregates the behavior of individual equities into a single measure, allowing for the identification of systemic disruptions across the healthcare market.

The results, displayed in Figure 5.3, reveal that there is only one time period in which structural breaks in the portfolio's return dynamics are particularly significant: that is the beginning of 2009, likely reflecting the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis.

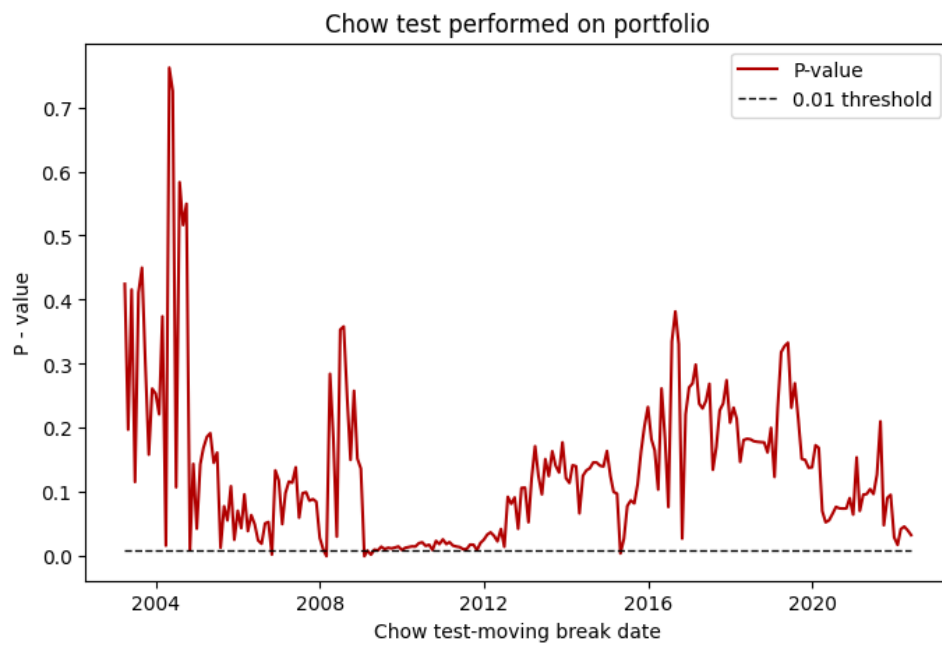


Fig. 5.3: Frequency of months identified as structural break points.

Assignment 6

Rolling CAPM Stability Analysis

This section discusses the results of a rolling window analysis of the parameters from the previous regression models between 2006 and 2024. The first subsection compares the rolling window analysis with the Chow test results from Assignment 5. The following three sections focus on analyzing the parameters (Alpha and Beta), the R-squared and the portfolio, respectively.

6.1 Comparisons with the Chow Test

The Rolling Window (RW) analysis revealed significant changes in parameters around three key periods: 2008, 2014-2016, and 2020-2022. These breakpoints likely correspond to major historical events: the subprime mortgage crisis, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare), and the COVID-19 pandemic, respectively.

6.1.1 2008

All regression models had a break date signaled by the RW analysis around the end of 2008. This is coherent with the results of the Chow test, that indicated structural breaks for all stocks in those periods, with the exception of Labcorp Holdings. With regards to Labcorp Holdings, the only visible change of its parameter around that date is a sharp drop of its Beta, which quickly bounced back to its previous level. Apparently the Chow test didn't regard this as a significant parameter change.

6.1.2 2014-2016

In these dates the results of the Chow Test and of the RW analysis are not always linked. The RW analysis detected parameter changes for 6 stocks in this period: Johnson & Johnson, Teleflex, Eli Lilly, Humana, Boston Scientific and Cigna. The Chow test, however, failed to detect structural shifts in the parameters of Boston Scientific and Cigna, despite them visually indicating important changes.

6.1.3 2020-2022

In this period the RW analysis detected parameter changes for 5 stocks in this period: Johnson & Johnson, Teleflex, Eli Lilly, Labcorp and Pfizer. Although a few other stocks exhibited parameter shifts during that period, the changes were minimal and insignificant. This aligns well with the findings of the Chow test in Assignment 5.

6.2 Alpha & Beta

The RW analysis is useful not only to detect structural breaks, but it can be useful to analyze the economic meaning of the parameters too. Generally speaking, Alphas fluctuated around 0 and Betas fluctuated around a different value for each stock. There are, however, a few exceptions:

- Eli Lilly: Alpha in a constant upward trend and Beta in a downward trend with some fluctuation
- Boston Scientific: Beta in an upward trend
- Medtronic: Beta in an upward trend with some fluctuation

According to the CAPM model and the Efficient Market Theory, the parameter Alpha should be null, since variables are expressed in excess returns (the risk-free rate is implicit).

$$r_i^e = \beta * r_m^e + \eta \quad (6.1)$$

However, when Alpha is different from zero in the regression model it can mean 2 things:

- Alpha > 0 : The stock's returns are beyond what is explained by the industry performance and risk-free rate. It overperforms in relation to its risk.
- Alpha < 0 : The stock loses value relative to its expected risk adjusted returns. It underperforms in relation to its risk.

So, when a stock has its Alpha constantly increasing it may be a signal of the existence of positive external variables that the market hasn't yet incorporated in the stock's price—market inefficiency. That seems to be the case of Eli Lilly. The Beta, on the other hand, may assume non null values and still be coherent with the CAPM model. From a statistical point of view, Beta represents the sensitivity of a stock's excess returns to the industry's excess returns. Whereas from an economical point of view Beta measures the sensitivity to systematic risk (economic downturns, interest rate changes, geopolitical events). A changing Beta may be detecting fundamental changes in a company's management strategy or market dynamics such as:

- Increase/decrease of leverage
- Expanding to more risky or less risky market segments
- Mergers & Acquisitions

Therefore, Eli Lilly, Medtronic and Boston Scientific changing Betas are an invitation for further analysis of the companies' business models and management strategy.

6.3 R-squared

R-squared measures the strength of the linear relationship between a stock's excess returns and the industry's excess returns. In the CAPM framework, Beta represents systematic risk, while the error term reflects idiosyncratic risk—essentially, any unexplained variance in the model. A shifting R-squared indicates a change in the relevance of the error term in explaining the dependent variable:

- Decreasing R-squared: The error term becomes more significant, suggesting that unknown variables are driving the stock's returns.
- Increasing R-squared: Beta and industry returns explain the stock's performance more effectively, making it more predictable based on systematic factors.

Periods of low R-squared may signal market inefficiencies. Investors who identify the specific factors driving a stock's deviation from market trends can develop strong, informed investment theses. Conversely, periods of high R-squared indicate alignment with market trends, where stock-specific opportunities are limited, and broader market strategies may be more effective.

The R-squared fluctuated throughout the study period (2006-2024), with notable variations in 2008 and 2020, both periods of high systemic risk—the subprime crisis and COVID-19 pandemic. In 2008, R-squared behaved differently across stocks: it increased for some, indicating stronger ties to market trends and greater impact from the crisis, while it decreased for others, suggesting weaker market influence. In contrast, 2020 saw R-squared increase for all analyzed stocks, highlighting COVID-19 as a major systemic risk that significantly explained returns across the board.

6.4 The portfolio

The portfolio's Beta and Alpha visually signal 3 possible structural break periods, 2008, 2016 and 2020.

This result does not entirely align with the Chow test, as no structural break was identified in 2020. Despite relatively high R-squared values (ranging from 0.65 to 0.85), the data displays trends similar to stock movements, characterized by notable fluctuations. Three significant changes stand out:

- 2008: A sharp decline followed by a quick recovery
- 2014: A marked drop
- 2020: A drastic increase

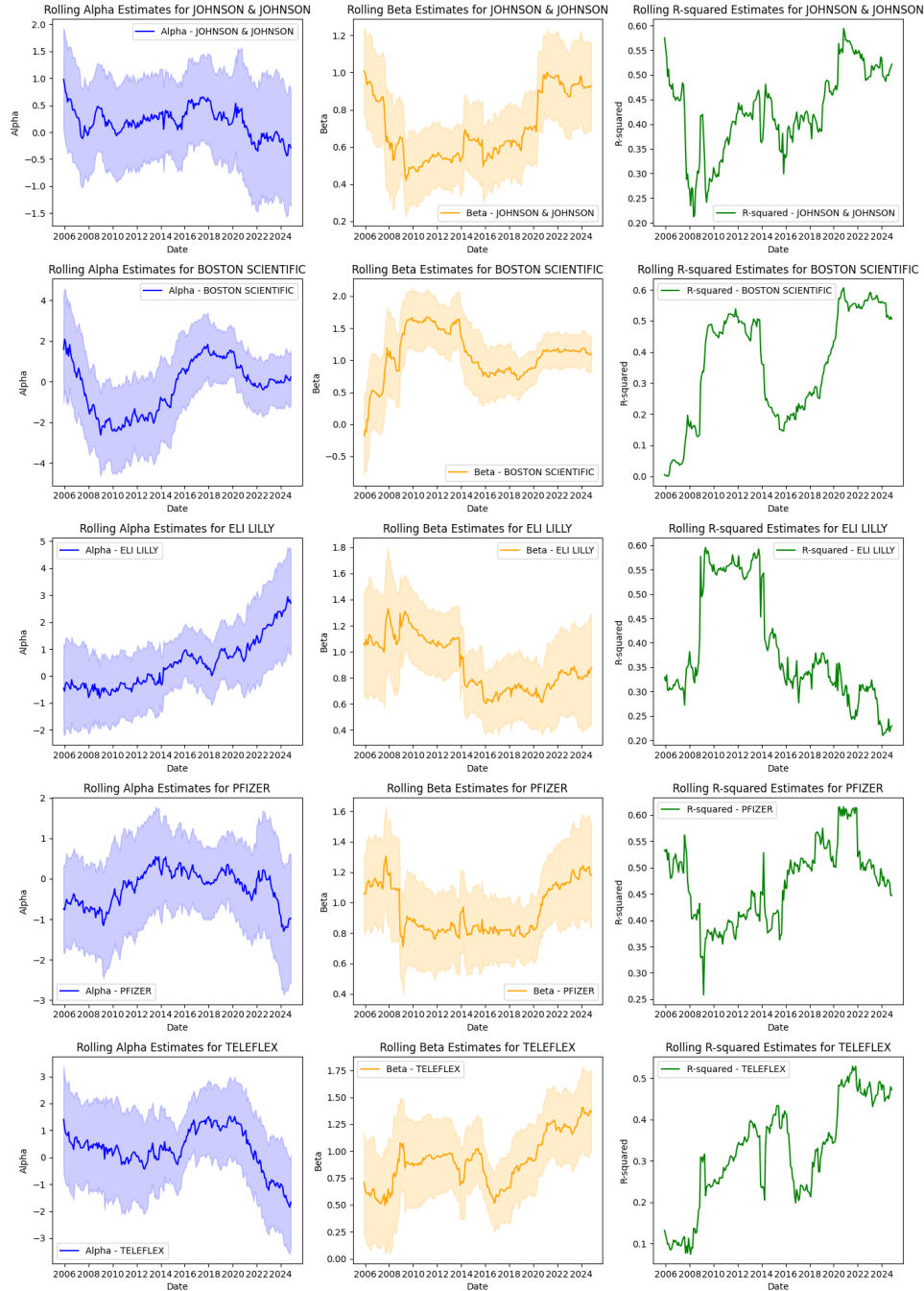


Fig. 6.1: Rolling quantities computed on all equities as an alternative of the Chow Test in search for structural breaks (1).

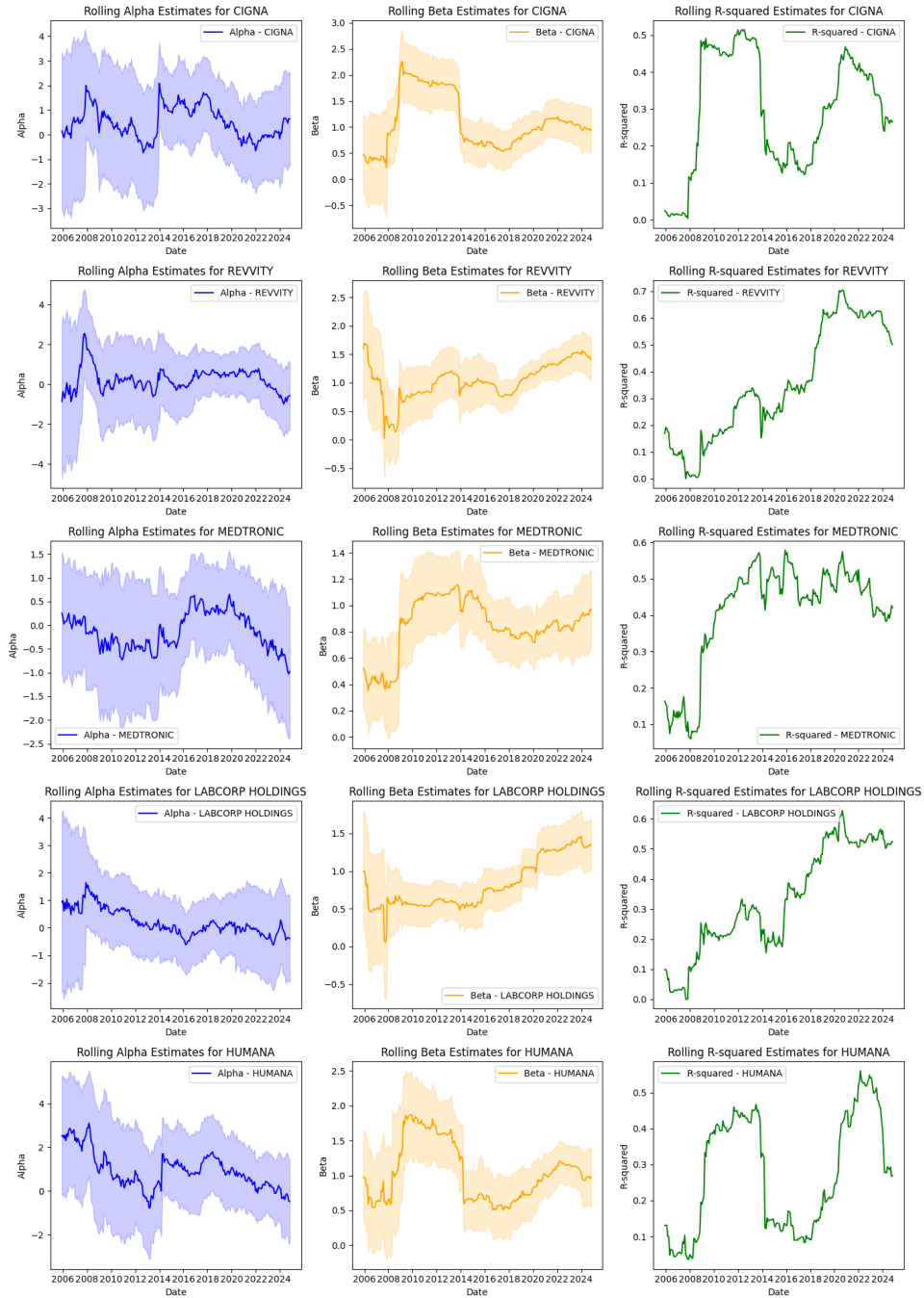


Fig. 6.2: Rolling quantities computed on all equities as an alternative of the Chow Test in search for structural breaks (2).

Assignment 7

Multivariate Regression

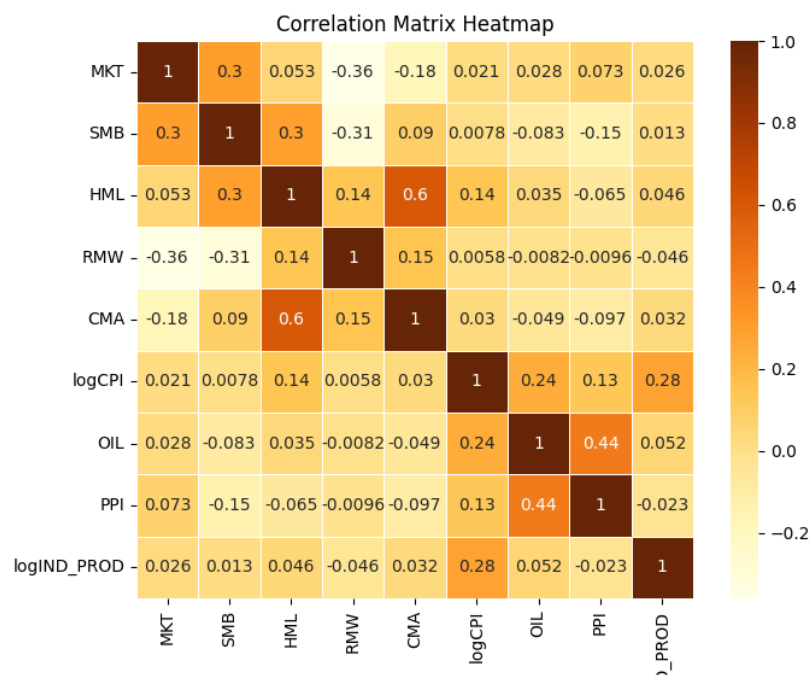


Fig. 7.1: Heatmap of the correlations between the chosen explanatory variables.

Appendix

Summary of Group Members' Contribution

Martina Arrighini:

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Enrico Paciaroni: