Testing the Predictive Power of Single Alpha Directional Trading Signals

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Goal and Results

Goal:

 Test single trading signals' predict ability to return, using OLS univariate regression to see the statistical significance of each signals corresponding to each asset.

Improvement:

- Divide both side of OLS by the std of VIX to reduce the residual volatility during Covid period, following the OLS assumption about homoscedasticity of the error term.
- Check multicollinearity problem by VIF approach

Results:

 The MAXO and BB signals do not show pervasively statistical significance in asset return prediction.

Outline

- Data
- Trading Signals
- Introduce VIX index to OLS
- Feature Selection
- OLS Regression
- Result comparison
- Summary

Data

- We used 10 years worth of data from the following sector ETFs:
 - Energy: XLE
 - Materials: XLB
 - Industrials: XLI
 - Consumer Discretionary: XLY
 - Consumer Staples: XLP
 - Healthcare: XLV
 - Financials: XLF
 - Information Technology: SMH
 - Communication Services: XTL
 - Utilities: XLU
- From Bloomberg we utilized the TOT_RETURN_INDEX_GROSS_DVDS FLD in order to account for dividends through the life of the asset
- We collect <u>VIX index</u> from Federal Reserve Economic Data

Trading Signals

- Bollinger Bands
 - Calculate 20 day moving average and volatility to calculate upper/lower bounds of prices. We'd go long if the price drops below the lower bound and short if price moves higher than the upper bound
- MAXO(2,10), MAXO (10,60)
 - MAXO(X, Y): calculate X day and Y day moving averages and take the sign of (Xday Yday)

Feature Selection

We apply VIF, a measure of the amount of multicollinearity in a set XLE_MAXO(10,60)_lag_1 of multiple regression variables. XLE MAXO(10,60) lag_2

We screen out features with VIF value > 10, which shows high multicollinearity

According to results, MAXO(10,60) in most assets have multicollinearity, we decide to drop MAXO(10,60) for all assets

Screened results(VIF>10):

```
XLI_MAX0(10,60)_lag_1
                        XLI_MAX0(10,60)_lag_2
XLE_MAXO(10,60)_lag_2
                        XLI_MAX0(10,60)_lag_3
XLE MAXO(10,60) lag 3
                        XLI_MAXO(10,60)_lag_4
                        XLI_MAX0(10,60)_lag_5
XLE MAXO(10,60) lag 4
                        XLY_MAXO(10,60)_lag_1
XLE MAXO(10,60) lag 5
                        XLY_MAX0(10,60)_lag_2
                        XLY_MAX0(10,60)_lag_3
XLB MAXO(10,60) lag 1
                        XLY_MAXO(10,60) lag 4
XLB MAXO(10,60) lag 2
                        XLY_MAX0(10,60)_lag_5
XLB_MAX0(10,60)_lag_3
                        XLP_MAX0(10,60)_lag_1
                        XLP_MAX0(10,60)_lag_2
XLB MAXO(10,60) lag 4
                        XLP_MAX0(10,60)_lag_3
XLB_MAX0(10,60)_lag_5
                        XLP MAXO(10,60) lag 4
```

Data Statistics

Asset	Return Average	Return Volatility	BB Average	BB Volatility	MAXO Average	MAXO Volatility
XLE	0.04%	1.73%	1.04%	32.28%	7.68%	99.72%
XLB	0.05%	1.23%	0.38%	33.02%	15.45%	98.81%
XLI	0.05%	1.16%	0.25%	30.85%	18.33%	98.31%
XLY	0.06%	1.22%	-0.06%	30.95%	19.81%	98.03%
XLP	0.04%	0.86%	-0.38%	32.25%	21.55%	97.65%
XLV	0.06%	1.00%	-0.60%	32.00%	19.87%	98.02%
XLF	0.06%	1.30%	0.03%	32.40%	19.49%	98.10%
SMH	0.10%	1.71%	-1.42%	32.66%	23.35%	97.25%
XTL	0.03%	1.27%	0.25%	32.05%	10.08%	99.51%
XLU	0.04%	1.11%	1.86%	31.85%	16.62%	98.61%
Average	0.05%	1.26%	0.14%	32.03%	17.22%	98.40%

The daily Return Average is quite low while the average volatility over assets is higher then mean almost 25 times, which indicates the assets are quite unstable.

The BB strategy shows selective trading signals with a stronger inclination to buy XLE and XLU, and sell SMH with absolute average signal larger than 1, whereas other assets are given more neutral signals. In contrast, the MAXO strategy prefers buying than selling across all assets, demonstrating a consistently bullish stance relative to BB signals.

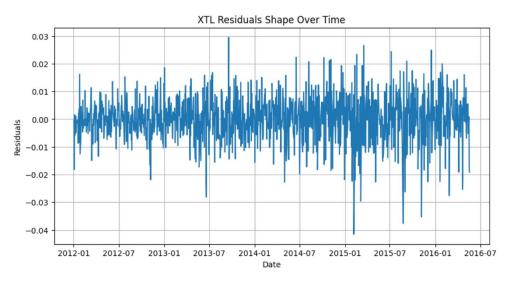
The volatility figures suggest that BB signals are relatively stable, while MAXO signals are highly volatile, implying a reactive approach that closely tracks daily market movements.

OLS Regression - Autoregressive Model

$$Y_t = c + \phi_1 Y_{t-1} + \phi_2 Y_{t-2} + \ldots + \phi_p Y_{t-p} + \epsilon_t$$

- Y_t is the value of the asset returns at time t.
- $Y_{t-1}, Y_{t-2}, \dots, Y_{t-p}$ are the lagged values of the asset returns, where each lag corresponds to a previous time period (e.g., Y_{t-1} is the asset return at time t-1).
- c is a constant (intercept of the model),
- $\phi_1, \phi_2, \ldots, \phi_p$ are the coefficients that measure the impact of the p lagged returns on the current return.
- ullet is the error term, representing random fluctuations that cannot be predicted by past returns.
- We initially set an upto 5 day lag, to see if there is a lag in the relationship of our signals and the actual data, since in financial data, this is often the case, and time series data often show dependency on time.

Residual Distribution



- Here we can see that our errors exhibit heteroskedasticity which means that are variance is inconsistent through this time period and this doesn't align with OLS assumptions
- Our errors are compact during low vol period and very wide during periods of high vol - such as COVID
- To combat this, we will divide our data set by VIX

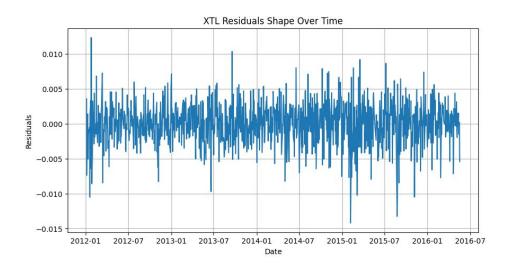
Introduce VIX Index to OLS

$$\frac{Y_t}{\sigma_{VIX,t}} = \frac{c}{\sigma_{VIX,t}} + \frac{\phi_1 Y_{t-1}}{\sigma_{VIX,t}} + \frac{\phi_2 Y_{t-2}}{\sigma_{VIX,t}} + \ldots + \frac{\phi_p Y_{t-p}}{\sigma_{VIX,t}} + \frac{\epsilon_t}{\sigma_{VIX,t}}$$

For each day t, We calculate the volatility of VIX index before that day t, the historical standard deviation of mean.

- We divide both hand side by the volatility of VIX to make OLS residuals constant variance
- This make model's predictions less sensitive to periods of high volatility and allowing for a more consistent interpretation of the beta coefficients.

After VIX Division



The variance range of residual is reduced from +-0.03 to +-0.015, around 2x less. This suggests that incorporating the VIX standard deviation adjustment has effectively decreased the variability in the OLS residuals, yielding a more accurate representation of the trading signals' impact.

Compare OLS Before vs. After VIX Division

Model Summary	Model Summary for XLE: OLS Regression Results								OLS Regres	sion Resu	lts		
Dep. Variable Model: Method: Date: Time: No. Observati Df Residuals: Df Model: Covariance Ty	Sun,	XLE_return OLS Least Squares 10 Mar 2024 02:55:44 1905 1898 6 nonrobust	Adj. R-: F-stati:	squared: stic: -statistic):		0. 002 -0. 001 0. 6902 0. 658 5686. 6 -1. 136e+04 -1. 132e+04	Dep. Variable Model: Method: Date: Time: No. Observati Df Residuals: Df Model: Covariance Ty	Sun ons:	XLE_return OLS Least Squares, 10 Mar 2024 02:55:46 1833 1826 6 nonrobust	R-square Adj. R- F-stati Prob (F	ed: squared:	-	0. 003 -0. 000 0. 9610 0. 450 7483. 8 1. 495e+04 1. 491e+04
	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0. 025	0. 975]	=========	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0. 025	0. 975]
const XLE_BB XLE_BB_lag_1 XLE_BB_lag_2 XLE_BB_lag_3 XLE_BB_lag_4 XLE_BB_lag_5	0.0001 0.0014 7.959e-06 -0.0006 0.0002 0.0009 -0.0008	0.000 0.001 0.001 0.001 0.001 0.001 0.001	0. 491 1. 532 0. 008 -0. 639 0. 227 0. 931 -0. 885	0. 623 0. 126 0. 994 0. 523 0. 820 0. 352 0. 376	-0. 000 -0. 000 -0. 002 -0. 003 -0. 002 -0. 001 -0. 003	0. 001 0. 003 0. 002 0. 001 0. 002 0. 003 0. 001	const XLE_BB XLE_BB_lag_1 XLE_BB_lag_2 XLE_BB_lag_3 XLE_BB_lag_4 XLE_BB_lag_5	2. 593e-05 0. 0019 9. 327e-05 -0. 0002 -8. 66e-05 0. 0011 -0. 0004	9.58e-05 0.001 0.001 0.001 0.001 0.001 0.001	0. 271 1. 966 0. 094 -0. 252 -0. 088 1. 084 -0. 436	0. 787 0. 049 0. 925 0. 801 0. 930 0. 279 0. 663	-0.000 4.89e-06 -0.002 -0.002 -0.002 -0.001 -0.002	0. 000 0. 004 0. 002 0. 002 0. 002 0. 003 0. 003
Omnibus: Prob(Omnibus) Skew: Kurtosis:	:	109. 668 0. 000 -0. 157 5. 205	Durbin-V Jarque-I Prob(JB) Cond. No	Bera (JB):	======	1. 948 393. 642 3. 32e-86 4. 10	Omnibus: Prob(Omnibus) Skew: Kurtosis:	:	101. 709 0. 000 -0. 199 5. 031	Durbin- Jarque- Prob(JB Cond. N	Bera (JB):):		1. 902 327. 127 9. 23e-72 12. 0

The reduction in kurtosis after adjusting for VIX suggests that incorporating market volatility helps in diminishing the prevalence of outliers in the residuals. Nonetheless, with the Omnibus probability near zero in both scenarios, indicating the residual distribution is not normally distributed, implying potential omitted variable bias, or non-linear relationship between asset's returns and the trading signal.

OLS Regression-BB Signal-Single Asset

T-value: The absolute values of t statistic are all lower than 2, so BB trading signals and its lags do not have a strong effect on the return.

F-test: its high probability 0.35 suggests that BB signals and its lags do not significantly enhance the explanation of XLE returns beyond what is captured by a simplistic model that includes only the intercept.

Durbin-Watson: It is approximately 2, indicating no autocorrelation in residuals, showing residual independence across time.

Omnibus: The almost 0 probability of omnibus implies residuals are not normal distributions, causing bias effect of BB signals toward asset's return and the bias statistical indicator.

Model Summary	for XLE:					
		OLS Regres	sion Resul	lts		
Dep. Variable Model: Method: Date: Time: No. Observati Df Residuals: Df Model: Covariance Ty	I Sun, ons:	XLE_return OLS .east Squares 10 Mar 2024 02:55:56 1234 1227 6 nonrobust		squared: stic: -statistic):		0.005 0.001 1.117 0.350 5048.6 008e+04 005e+04
	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0. 025	0. 975
const XLE_BB XLE_BB_lag_1 XLE_BB_lag_2 XLE_BB_lag_3 XLE_BB_lag_4 XLE_BB_lag_5	5. 145e-05 7. 825e-05 -0. 0024 0. 0008 -0. 0011 -0. 0015 -0. 0028	0.000 0.002 0.002 0.002 0.002 0.002 0.002	0. 445 0. 037 -1. 062 0. 331 -0. 484 -0. 663 -1. 315	0. 656 0. 971 0. 288 0. 741 0. 628 0. 507 0. 189	-0. 000 -0. 004 -0. 007 -0. 004 -0. 006 -0. 006 -0. 007	0. 00 0. 00 0. 00 0. 00 0. 00 0. 00
Omnibus: Prob(Omnibus) Skew: Kurtosis:	:	698. 046 0. 000 -1. 851 30. 537	Durbin-V Jarque-F Prob(JB) Cond. No	Bera (JB):	39	2. 125 9693. 621 0. 00 24. 5

OLS Regression-BB Signal-All Assets

Asset	intercept	Coefficient	lag_1 Coefficient	lag_2 Coefficient	lag_3 Coefficient	lag_4 Coefficient	lag_5 Coefficient	t-statistic	Durbin-Watson
XLE	0.000026	0.001858	0.000094	-0.000244	-0.000100	0.001062	-0.000402	1.966877	1.902306
XLB	0.000140	-0.000750	0.002320	0.000122	0.000954	0.000787	-0.000378	-0.927302	1.956881
XLI	0.000195	0.000276	0.001396	0.000797	-0.000049	0.002174	-0.000798	0.360926	1.965719
XLY	0.000254	0.000497	0.000095	0.001444	-0.000130	0.000778	-0.001157	0.678007	1.936123
XLP	0.000156	0.000761	-0.000198	0.000128	0.001235	-0.000568	0.000409	1.445481	1.999593
XLV	0.000227	-0.000327	0.001218	0.000160	0.001294	0.000501	-0.000250	-0.480358	2.014263
XLF	0.000245	-0.001405	0.001295	-0.000260	0.000422	0.002630	-0.000916	-1.682296	2.003054
SMH	0.000315	0.001289	0.002368	-0.000888	0.001455	0.000862	-0.001037	1.205574	1.966194
XTL	0.000160	-0.001821	0.002269	0.000593	-0.000453	0.001444	-0.000770	-2.038509	1.963050
XLU	0.000133	0.000365	0.000614	-0.000688	-0.000063	-0.001047	0.000317	0.553230	2.021098

Coefficient Values: Positive coefficients for certain assets suggest BB buy signals are associated with positive returns. Interestingly, the negative coefficients for XLB, XLV, XLF, and SMH are followed by positive coefficients at time lag 1, indicating a delayed positive market response to the BB buy signals on those assets.

T-value: T-statistics for almost all assets fall below the absolute value of 2, signifying that the BB signals lack statistical significance in predicting asset returns.

Durbin-Watson: The Durbin-Watson values are all near 2 across all assets, indicating residuals follow the OLS assumption of independent residuals over time, which is a good sign of more accurate estimation effects of factors.

OLS Regression-MAXO Signal-Single Asset

Following the same logic as BB interpretation

T-value: The major absolute values of t statistic are all lower than 2 except for MAXO with lag 3, so MAXO and its lags do not have a strong effect on the return overall.

F-test: its high probability 0.133 suggests that MAXO signals and its lags do not substantially improve the model's ability to explain XLE returns compared to a baseline model that includes only an intercept.

Durbin-Watson: It is approximately 2, indicating no autocorrelation in residuals, showing residual independence across time.

Omnibus: The almost 0 probability of omnibus implies residuals are not normal distributions, causing bias effect of MAXO signals toward asset's return and the bias statistical indicator.

Dep. Variable:	XLE_re		- 100 Marie 100			0.008	
Model:		OLS		R-squared:		0.003	
Method:	Least Squ				×	1. 640	
Date:				(F-statistic):	0. 133	
Time:		5:56	0	Likelihood:		5050. 2	
No. Observations:		1234				-1.009e+04	
Df Residuals:		1227	BIC:			-1.005e+04	
Df Model:		6					
Covariance Type:	nonro	bust					
	coef	std	err	t	P> t	[0. 025	0. 975
const	2. 546e-05	0.	000	0. 220	0.826	-0.000	0.00
XLE_MAXO(2, 10)	0.0004	0.	001	0.374	0.709	-0.002	0.00
XLE_MAXO(2, 10)_lag_1	0.0006	0.	001	0. 528	0.598	-0.002	0.00
XLE_MAXO(2, 10)_lag_2		0.	001	-0.600	0.548	-0.003	0.00
XLE_MAXO(2, 10)_lag_3	0.0026	0.	001	2.212	0.027	0.000	0.00
XLE_MAXO(2, 10)_lag_4	-0.0022	0.	001	-1.852	0.064	-0.004	0.00
XLE_MAXO(2, 10)_1ag_5		0.	001	1. 090	0. 276	-0.001	0.00
Omnibus:	705	. 775	Durb	in-Watson:		2, 119	
Prob(Omnibus):	C	0.000	Jaro	ue-Bera (JB):		41007.391	
Skew:		. 877				0.00	
Kurtosis:	20	990	Cond	. No.		13.3	

OLS Regression-MAXO Signal-All Assets

Asset	intercept	Coefficient	lag_1 Coefficient	lag_2 Coefficient	lag_3 Coefficient	lag_4 Coefficient	lag_5 Coefficient	t-statistic	Durbin-Watson
XLE	0.000042	0.000552	-0.000705	-0.000349	0.000107	0.000156	0.000004	1.323533	1.962746
XLB	0.000179	-0.000100	0.000071	-0.000040	0.000248	-0.001049	0.000306	-0.283838	1.935282
XLI	0.000218	0.000281	0.000188	-0.000544	-0.000051	-0.000200	0.000055	0.864717	1.984708
XLY	0.000245	0.000316	-0.000429	-0.000013	-0.000258	0.000055	0.000416	1.005185	1.968662
XLP	0.000159	-0.000089	-0.000229	0.000226	-0.000400	0.000594	-0.000224	-0.371761	2.029592
XLV	0.000234	0.000131	-0.000337	-0.000030	0.000035	-0.000393	0.000341	0.434322	2.003517
XLF	0.000235	-0.000324	0.000429	-0.000182	-0.000192	-0.000484	0.000876	-0.928358	1.951999
SMH	0.000271	0.000554	-0.000674	0.000250	-0.000041	-0.000690	0.001072	1.210727	2.000923
XTL	0.000159	0.000097	-0.000009	0.000093	0.000191	-0.000574	0.000186	0.255233	1.928586
XLU	0.000151	-0.000152	-0.000246	0.000174	-0.000163	0.000605	-0.000486	-0.550463	2.027050

Coefficients: The positive coefficients indicate that buy signals from MAXO align with positive returns. However, for assets like XLB and XLF, an immediate negative response to MAXO buy signals transitions to positive at a one-period lag, highlighting a market delay. In XLU, the highest positive effect 0.000605 surfaces at a four-period lag, suggesting the strategy's signals may be more frequent than the market's response cycle in XLU.

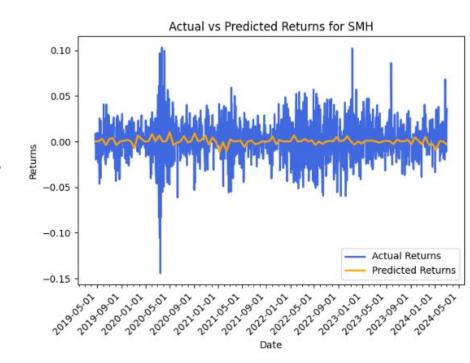
T-value: T-statistics for all assets fall below the absolute value of 2, signifying that the MAXO signals lack statistical significance in predicting asset returns.

Durbin-Watson: The Durbin-Watson values are all near 2 across all assets, indicating residuals follow the OLS assumption of independent residuals over time, which is a good sign of more accurate estimation effects of factors.

Predicted Return vs. Actual Return

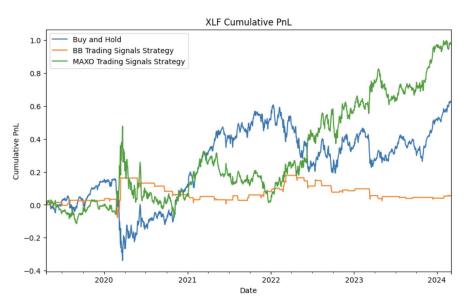
Split the dataset into train: test = 60: 40, maintaining the chronological sequence. Use the fitted model in train set to predict return in test set.

- Signal return are very weak, compared to the actual return with noise. The model fail to capture the actual returns volatility.
- The graph implies heteroskedasticity in the residuals, as actual returns exhibit greater variance than the homoscedastic predicted returns, indicating the VIX adjustment did not fully address this issue, and further transformation is needed to stabilize the variance.



P&L Analysis with XLF

	OLS F	Regress	ion R	esults 			
Dep. Variable:	XLF_re	eturn	R-sq	uared:		0.007	
Model:		0LS	Adj.	R-squared:		0.002	
Method:	Least Squ			atistic:		1.408	
Date:	Sun, 10 Mar	2024		(F-statistic)):	0.208	
Time:	02:5	55:56		Likelihood:		5397.9	
No. Observations:		1234	AIC:			-1.078e+04	
Df Residuals:		1227	BIC:			-1.075e+04	
Df Model:		6					
Covariance Type:	nonro	bust					
	coef	std	err	t	P> t	[0.025	0.975]
const	2.369e-05	8.926	 05	0.266	0.791	-0.000	0.000
XLF_MAX0(2,10)	0.0004	0.	001	0.498	0.619	-0.001	0.002
XLF_MAX0(2,10)_lag_1	0.0012	0.	001	1.234	0.217	-0.001	0.003
XLF_MAX0(2,10)_lag_2	-0.0020	0.	001	-1.990	0.047	-0.004	-2.81e-05
XLF_MAX0(2,10)_lag_3	0.0016	0.	001	1.692	0.091	-0.000	0.004
XLF_MAX0(2,10)_lag_4	-0.0008	0.	001	-0.782	0.435	-0.003	0.001
XLF_MAXO(2,10)_lag_5	0.0007	0.	001	0.875	0.382	-0.001	0.002
Omnibus:	45!	 5.342	Durb	in-Watson:		2.460	
Prob(Omnibus):		0.000	Jarg	ue-Bera (JB):		38410.469	
Skew:	-6	765		(JB):		0.00	
Kurtosis:		289		. No.		15.0	



- When looking at the P&L of trading strategies on XLF (Financials Sector ETF) the MAXO trading signals picks up more P&L than the buy and hold strategy
- By naively looking at the chart, one might conclude that this was a successful strategy but our statistics show that it was only luck
- Although our R^2 is higher than in most other cases, it is still quiet low and our t-stats show that none of the signals are significant

Possible Improvement - Single Lag or Multiple Lags?

		0LS Regr	ession R	esults		
Dep. Variable:		XLU_retur	n R-sq	uared:		0.001
Model:		OL	S Adj.	R-squared:		0.001
Method:		Least Square	s F-st	atistic:		2.146
Date:		Mon, 11 Mar 202	24 Prob	(F-statistic	c):	0.143
Time:		02:21:3	7 Log-	Likelihood:		6415.1
No. Observatio	ns:	196	5 AIC:			-1.283e+04
Df Residuals:		190	3 BIC:			-1.282e+04
Df Model:			1			
Covariance Typ	e:	nonrobus	it			
	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0.025	0.975]
const	0.0004	0.000	2.094	0.036	2.54e-05	0.001
XLE_BB	0.0009	0.001	1.465	0.143	-0.000	0.002
Omnibus:		171.40	5 Durb	in-Watson:		2.008
Prob(Omnibus):		0.00	00 Jarq	ue-Bera (JB)	:	406.421
Skew:		-0.53	31 Prob	(JB):		5.58e-89
Kurtosis:		4.99	8 Cond	. No.		3.12

- One thing we can see here is that adding lagged features doesn't help explain our data. We get similar results when using a single 1 day lag feature.
- We choose to keep running the regressions on multiple lags to see if we see consistent results for all assets and strategies and whether we see any patterns in specific lags
- The Adjusted R^2 becomes negative after adding in 5 lags, which implies the potential overfitting problem, indicating that use 1 lag shows more accurate and generalized estimation of out signals

		OLS Regres	sion Resul	ts			
Dep. Variable Model:		XLE_return OLS	Adj. R-s	quared:	0. 002 -0. 001		
		east Squares 10 Mar 2024			0. 6902 0. 658 5686. 6 -1. 136e+04 -1. 132e+04		
			Log-Like				
		1905	-	TIMOOU.			
		1898					
Df Model:		6					
Covariance Ty	pe:	nonrobust					
	coef	std err	t	P> t	[0. 025	0. 975	
const	0. 0001	0.000	0. 491	0. 623	-0. 000	0. 00	
XLE_BB	0.0014	0.001	1.532	0.126	-0.000	0.00	
XLE_BB_lag_1	7.959e-06	0.001	0.008	0.994	-0.002	0.00	
XLE_BB_1ag_2		0.001	-0.639	0. 523	-0.003	0.00	
XLE_BB_1ag_3			0. 227	0.820	-0.002	0.00	
XLE_BB_lag_4		0.001	0.931	0.352	-0.001	0.00	
XLE_BB_1ag_5	-0. 0008	0.001	-0. 885	0. 376	-0. 003	0.00	
Omnibus:		109. 668	Durbin-W	atson:		1. 948	
Prob(Omnibus)	:	0.000	Jarque-B	Bera (JB):		393. 642	
Skew:		-0. 157	Prob(JB)	:	3	3. 32e-86	
Kurtosis:		5. 205	Cond. No).		4.10	

Summary

- Looking at our statistics, the t-statistic show that BB and MAXO(2, 10) signals are statistically insignificant, while the Omnibus test indicates non-normality in the residuals, prompting the exploration of alternative nonlinear modeling approaches.
- Dividing our data by VIX smoothed heteroskedasticity but not addressed it in residuals, still requiring further transformation.
- Running the regression on multiple lags allowed us to rule out the hypothesis that maybe certain day lags would better help explain the returns
 - We saw no patterns across assets or strategies
- In the cases where our signals make more money than a buy and hold strategy, we have concluded that the P&L stems from luck rather than from our signals having strong predictability power.
- In cases like this it can be easy to accept the P&L results blindly but our project shows that its important to take a look at the statistics to see the validity of the signal

Thank you!