Abstract

The driving forces behind cryptoassets' price dynamics are often perceived as being dominated by speculative factors and inherent bubble-bust episodes. Fundamental components are believed to have a weak, if any, role in the price-formation process. This study examines five cryptoassets with different backgrounds, namely Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin, XRP, and Dogecoin between 2016 and 2022. It utilizes the cusp catastrophe model to connect the fundamental and speculative drivers with possible price bifurcation characteristics of market collapse events. The findings show that the price and return dynamics of all the studied assets, except for Dogecoin, emerge from complex interactions between fundamental and speculative components, including episodes of price bifurcations. Bitcoin shows the strongest fundamentals, with on-chain activity and economic factors driving the fundamental part of the dynamics. Investor attention and off-chain activity drive the speculative component for all studied assets. Among the fundamental drivers, the analyzed cryptoassets present their coin-specific factors, which can be tracked to their protocol specifics and are economically sound.

Keywords: Cryptocurrency, Bitcoin, Cusp catastrophe model, Crash

JEL Classification: C52, G12

Catastrophe modeling

ZA 2 language

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Article Tall

This article refers to the use of computers to estimate losses caused by disasters. For other meanings of the word catastrophe, including catastrophe theory in mathematics, see catastrophe (disambiguation).

Catastrophe modeling ^[1] (also known as cat modeling) is the process of using computer-assisted calculations to estimate the losses that could be sustained due to a catastrophic event such as a hurricane or earthquake. Cat modeling is especially applicable to analyzing risks in the insurance industry and is at the confluence of actuarial science, engineering, meteorology, and seismology.

Bifurcation theory

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Bifurcation theory is the mathematical study of changes in the qualitative or topological structure of a given family of curves, such as the integral curves of a family of vector fields, and the solutions of a family of differential equations. Most commonly applied to the mathematical study of dynamical systems, a bifurcation occurs when a small smooth change made to the parameter values (the bifurcation parameters) of a system causes a sudden 'qualitative' or topological change in its behavior. (1) Bifurcations occur in both continuous systems (described by ordinary, delay or partial differential equations) and discrete systems (described by maps).

The name "bifurcation" was first introduced by Henri Poincaré in 1885 in the first paper in mathematics showing such a behavior. A period such a dehavior with the most including such as the such as

Phase portrait showing saddle-node bifurcation

Wavelet Coherence a bi-variate framework used to study the interaction between different time series and their evolution over a continuous time and frequency space. In comparison to the wavelet correlation analysis, wavelet coherence can effectively identify regions of high co-movement in the time-frequency space.

The cusp catastrophe model is an innovative approach for investigating a phenomenon that consists of both continuous and discrete changes in one modeling framework. However, its application to empirical health and behavior data has been hindered by the complexity in data-model fit. 13. 10. 2017

BARUNIK & VOSVRDA 2009

