

# **Final Presentation**

**Undergraduate Student Investment  
Management Fund – Team B**

**April 29, 2022**



# Team Introduction



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# The Interest

Choice Set

Expected Alpha

Experience

Relevance

# Investment Thesis



# Investment Thesis Evidence

Boehmer, Jones., Zhang, Zhang. "Tracking Retail Investor Activity." The Journal of Finance, 76(5), 2249-2305. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jofi.13033>.

Panel A: Form Portfolios on the Previous Week's Marketable Retail Order Imbalance Based on Number of Shares Traded

Holding	Full Sample				Small		Medium		Big	
Period	Mean	<i>t</i> -Stat	alpha	<i>t</i> -Stat	alpha	<i>t</i> -Stat	alpha	<i>t</i> -Stat	alpha	<i>t</i> -Stat
1 week	0.092%	2.66	0.084%	2.43	0.403%	9.16	0.170%	6.24	0.067%	1.78

4.78%

4.37%

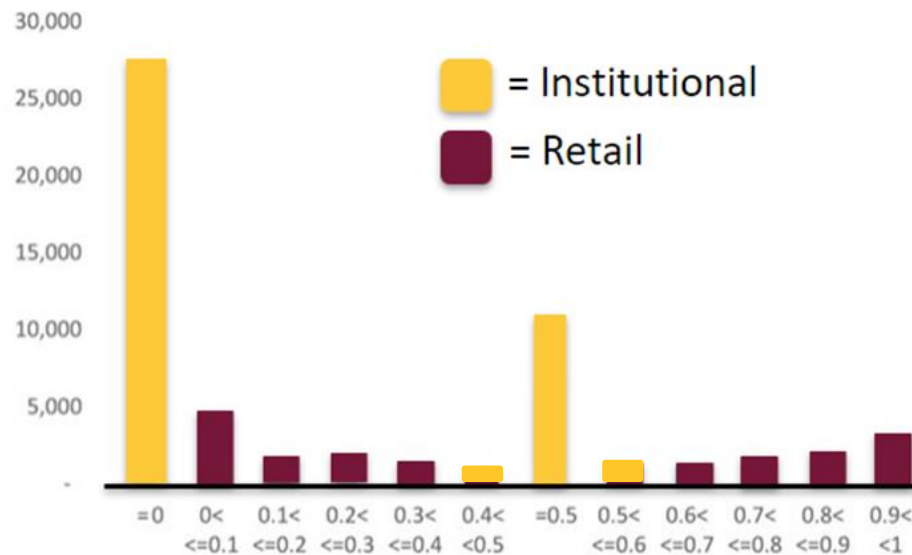
20.96%

8.84%

3.48%

Annualized Alphas

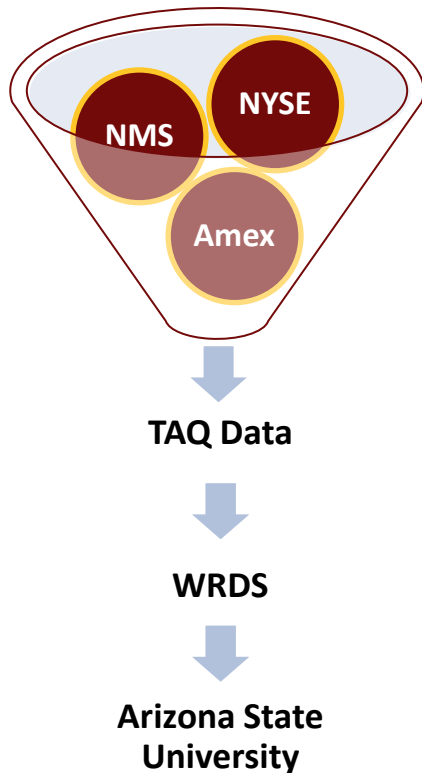
# How Do We Find Retail Trades?



$$\text{Retail Order Imbalance} = \frac{\text{Retail Buy Vol.} - \text{Retail Sell Vol.}}{\text{Retail Buy Vol.} + \text{Retail Sell Vol.}}$$

# **Initial Strategy Implementation**

# Where Do We Get Our Data?



## Step "0"

- 1) Extract the NBBO
- 2) Data cleansing & exported to CSV file
- 3) Apply constraints
- 4) NBBO file and trade files merged
- 5) Clean final table
- 6) Create zip file
- 7) Export to team



# Seeding & Rebalancing Mechanics



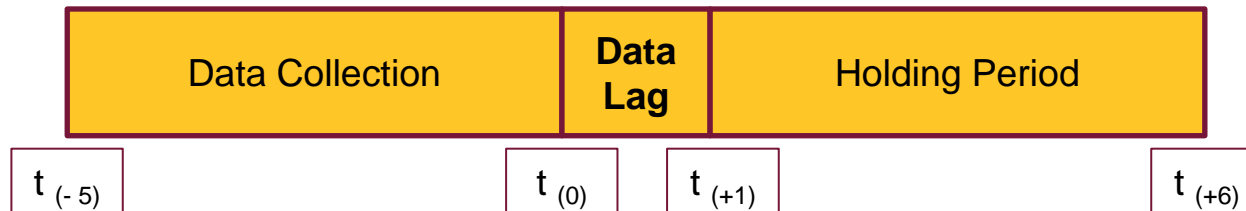
# Issues Encountered

## Pre-Existing

- Data arrival – four days of trading
- Data lag due to collection period
- Transaction costs

## During Implementation

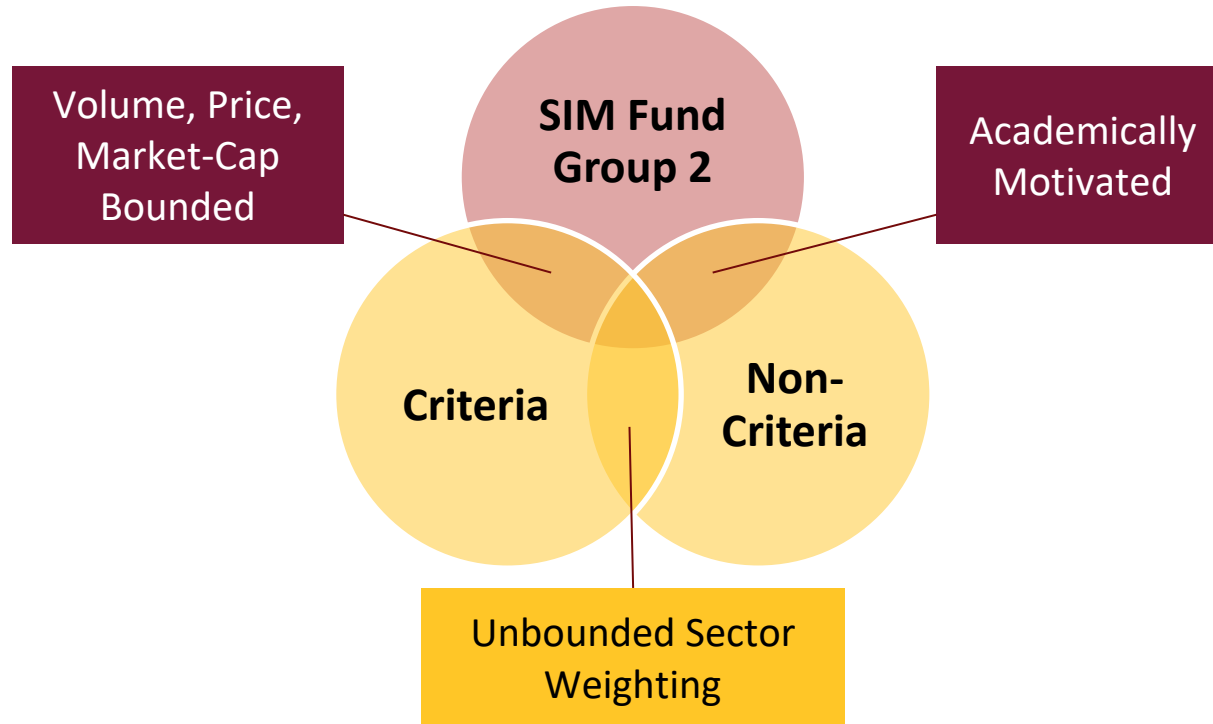
- Technical difficulties with WRDS
- Intraday price volatility
- ASU SIM Fund investment charter



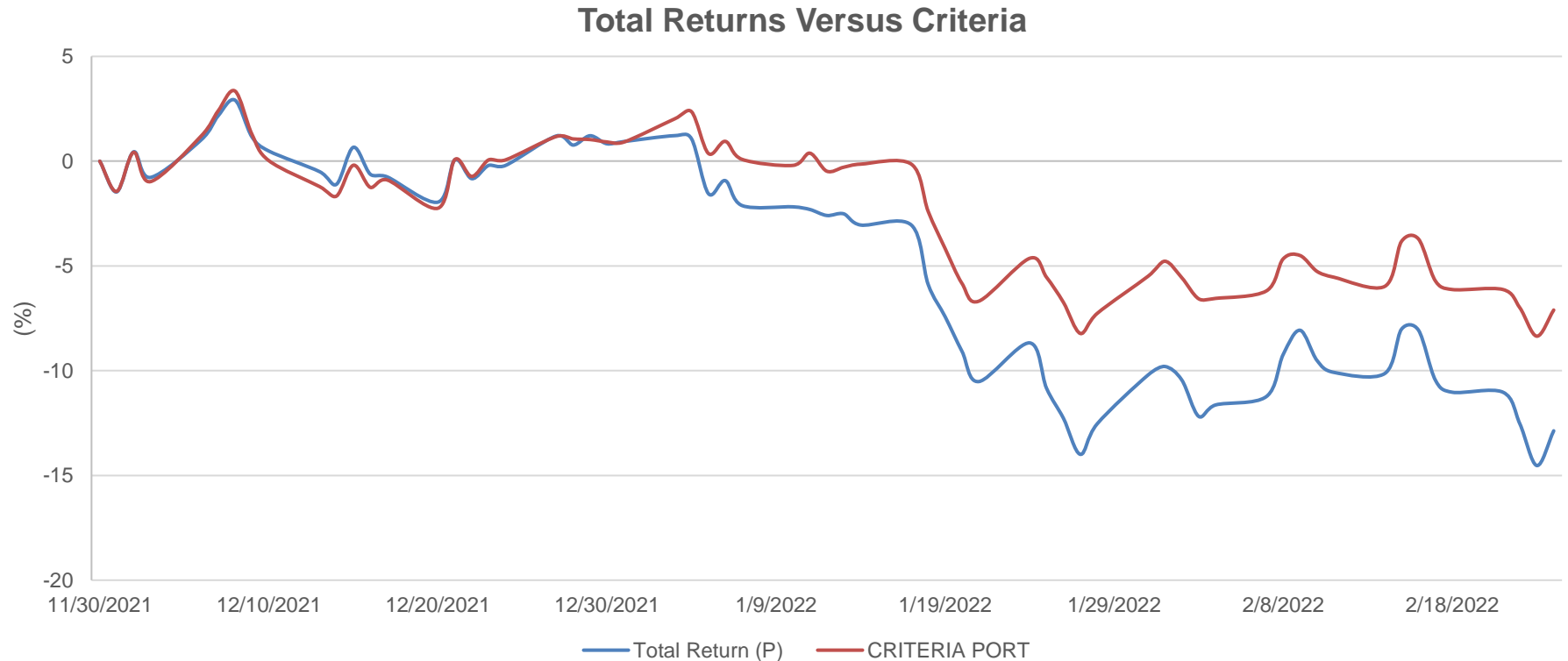
## Weekly Meetings

- ✓ Portfolio performance
- ✓ Comparison of pseudo portfolio returns
  - Used to determine the effect of portfolio constraints
  - Built into stock selection process
- ✓ News checks

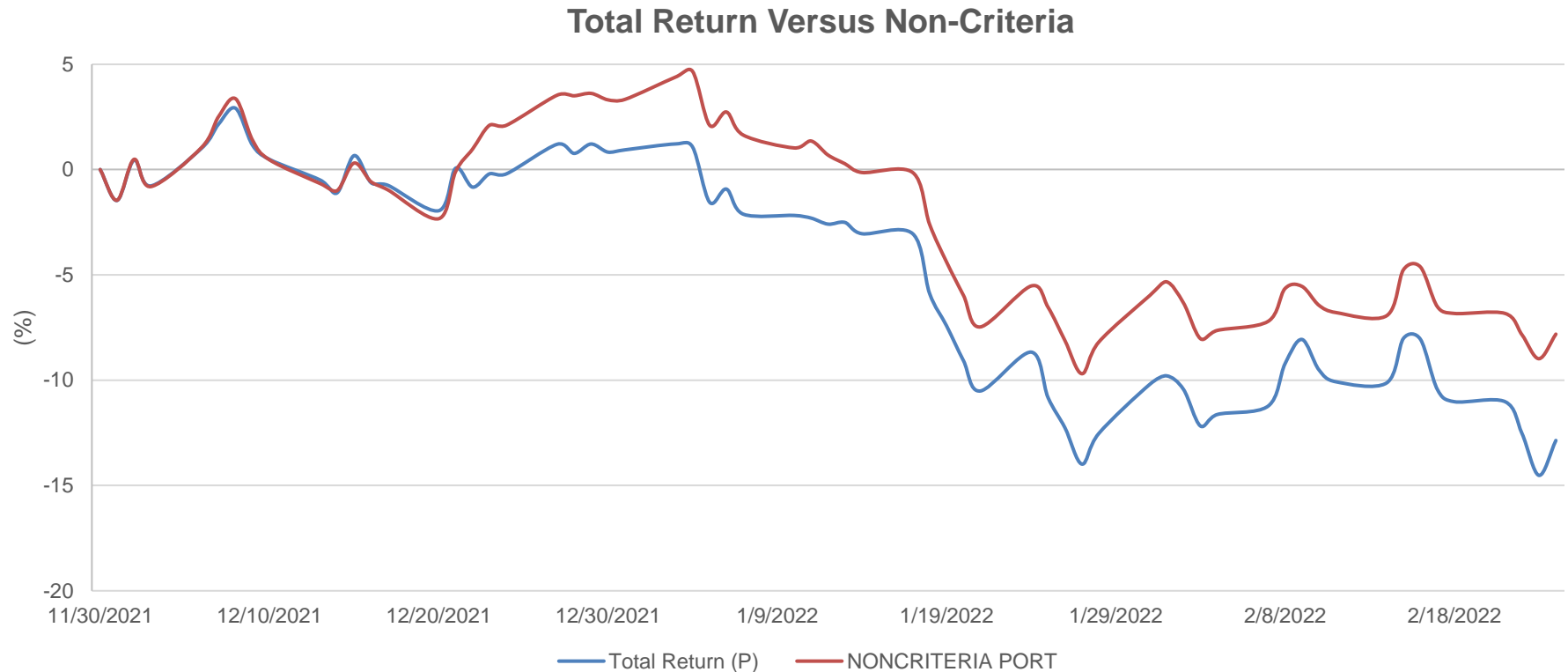
# Pseudo Portfolios



# Criteria Pseudo Performance



# Non-Criteria Performance



# Data Study

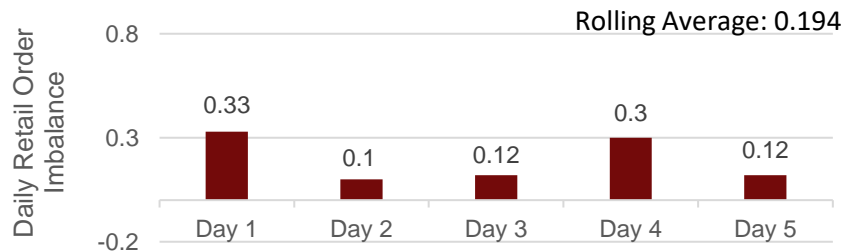
- Study reason: inconsistency of returns and strength of our indicator.
- The "type" counts the number of previous five days are positive.
- Measure of excess return across the following week.

## Signal Strength

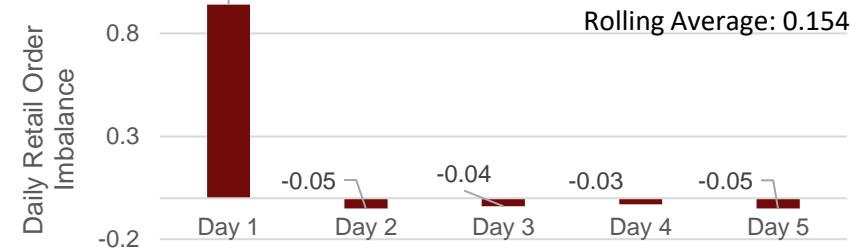
## Average Excess Return

5	0.37%
4	0.51%
3	0.38%
2	0.31%
1	0.33%

### Consistent Retail Buying



### One Day Spike



# Implementation Adjustment



# Change of Implementation

## Phase 1

Market Cap:  
500M -  
15.5B

- Maintained a small-cap strategy
- Strongest excess returns
- Focused on securities with the highest average buying pressure over the week
- Highest Decile

Average  
Buying  
Pressure

## Phase 2

Lifted 15.5B  
Market Cap  
Ceiling

- Adoption of the Russell 3K as our benchmark
- Driven by pseudo portfolios
- Focus on firms with 4 or 5 days of retail buying pressure
- Driven by data study

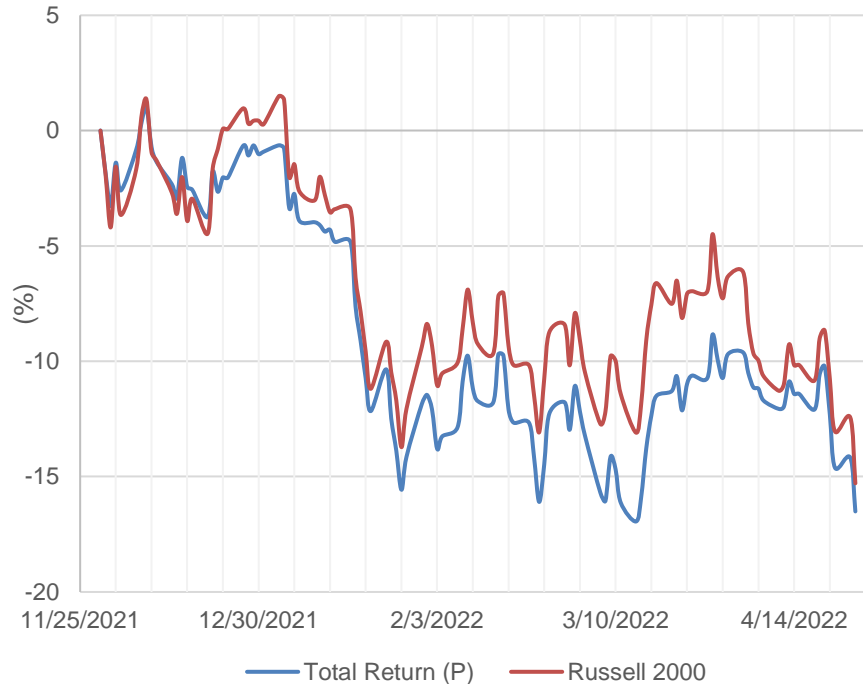
Consisting  
Buying  
Pressure

# Portfolio Performance

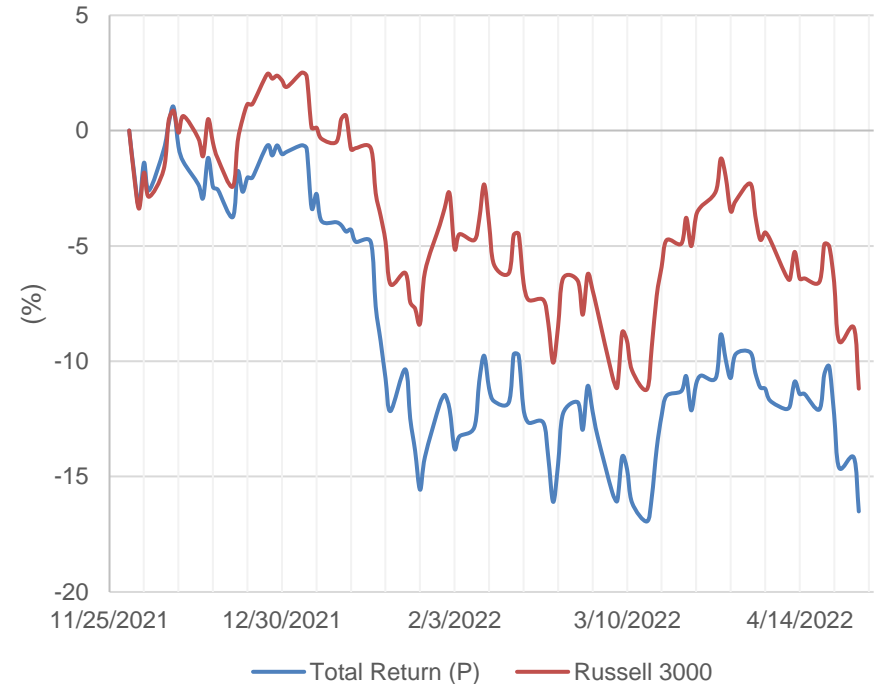


# Aggregate Portfolio Performance

## Total Return Versus Russell 2000

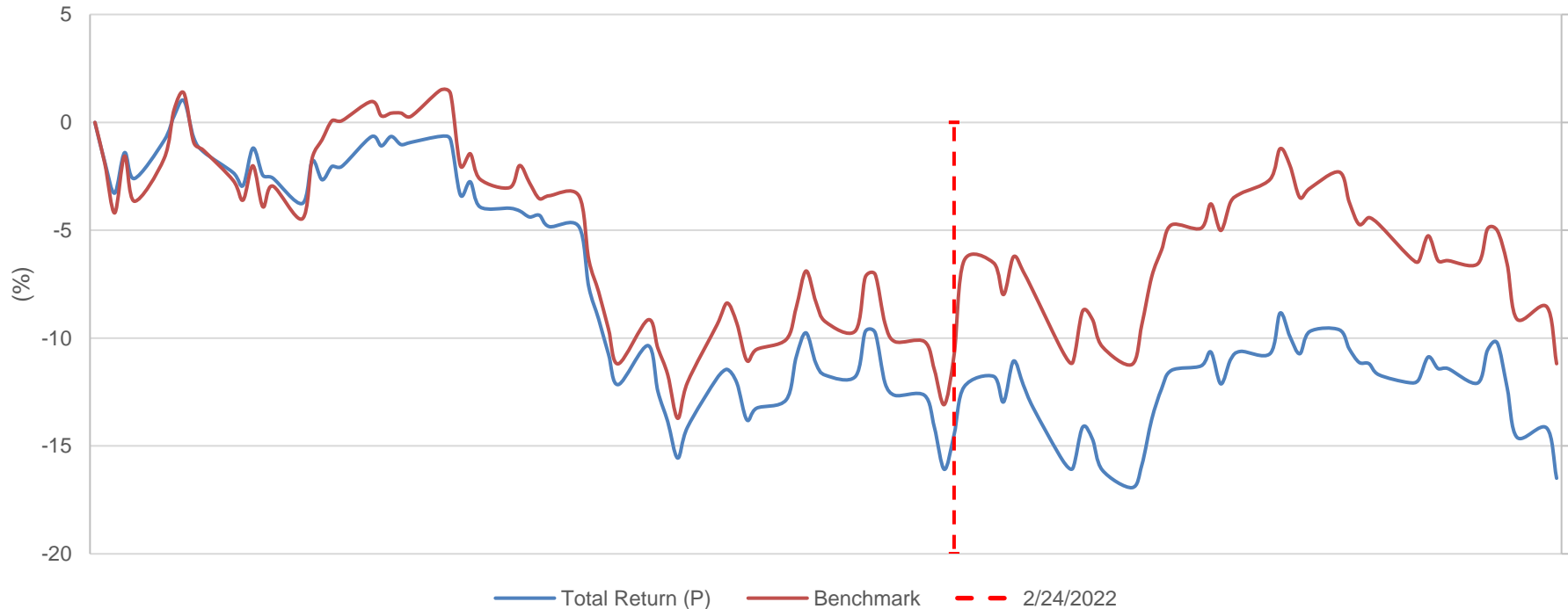


## Total Return Versus Russell 3000



# Aggregate Portfolio Performance

Total Return Versus *Blended Benchmark*



# Lessons Learned

Active Strategies are Costly to Implement

No Alpha is Guaranteed

Sector Neutrality Can Hinder Performance

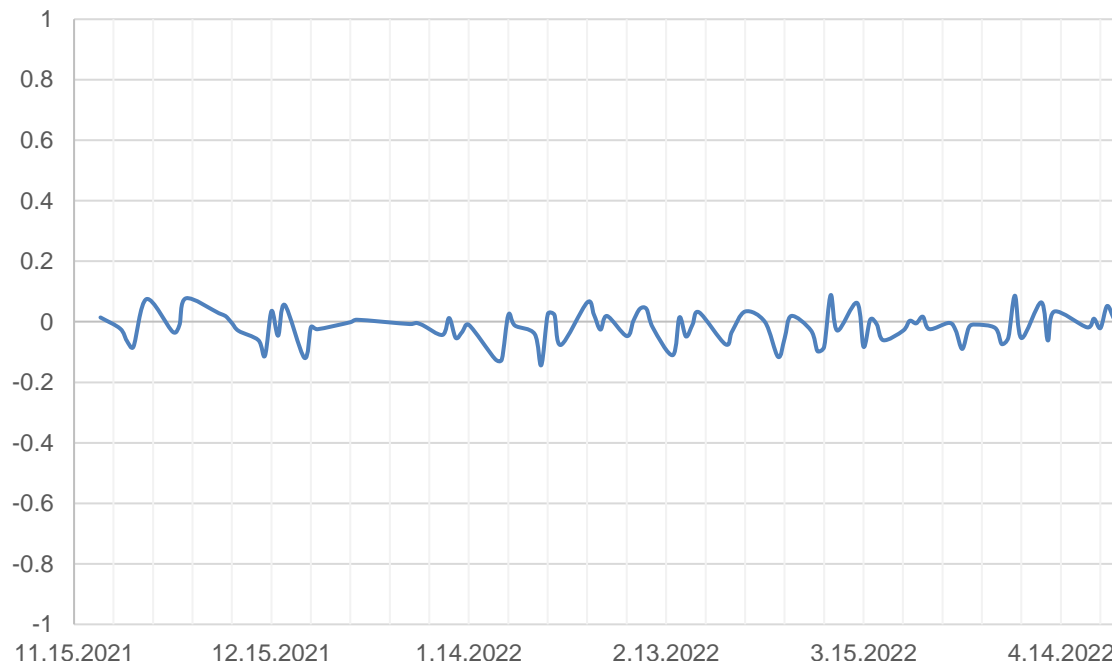
# Questions?



# What About Meme-Stocks?

- GameStop (GME)
  - In data, not enough retail buy pressure
- AMC Entertainment (AMC)
  - Excluded from data
- Bed, Bath, & Beyond (BBBY)
  - In data, not enough retail buy pressure
- Nokia (NOK)
  - Excluded from data

**GME Retail Order Imbalance**



# Scalability?

## With \$100,000...

- Data Accessibility
- Data Prices
- High Turnover
- Bid-Ask Spread & Transaction Costs

## With \$100,000,000...

- “Instant” Data Accessibility
- Price Impact
- High Turnover
- Bid-Ask Spread & Transaction Costs

Costly to Scale



# Order Flow & Price Improvement

## Institutional Order Flow:

**Ask** → \$10.03

1) **Midpoint** → **\$10.0150**

**Bid** → \$10.00

**Ask** → \$8.10

2) **Midpoint** → **\$8.0700**

**Bid** → \$8.40

*\*Sent Through Exchanges & Dark Pools*

## Retail Order Flow:

**NBO** → \$10.03

**Midpoint** → \$10.0150

**NBB** → \$10.00

**NBO** → \$8.09

**Midpoint** → \$8.0700

**NBB** → \$8.40

National Best Bid & Offer

*\*Sent Through Wholesalers*

Retail Buy:  
\$10.0290

(1)

Retail Sell:  
\$10.0010

Retail Buy:  
\$8.0890

(2)

Retail Sell:  
\$8.0410

# Thank You



# Appendix

# Excess Returns in “K” Weeks

Panel A: Predict Bid-Ask Average Return  $k$  Weeks Ahead

# of Weeks Ahead	Mroibvol		Mroibtrd	
	Coef.	$t$ -Stat	Coef.	$t$ -Stat
1 week	0.00092	15.60	0.00076	12.30
2 weeks	0.00055	9.35	0.00048	7.89
4 weeks	0.00031	5.56	0.00026	4.66
6 weeks	0.00022	3.90	0.00015	2.60
8 weeks	0.00021	3.47	0.00011	1.75
10 weeks	0.00010	1.82	0.00002	0.35
12 weeks	0.00007	1.29	0.00009	1.52

Panel B: Predict CRSP Return  $k$  Weeks Ahead

# of Weeks Ahead	Mroibvol		Mroibtrd	
	Coef.	$t$ -Stat	Coef.	$t$ -Stat
1 week	0.00096	16.29	0.00081	13.20
2 weeks	0.00058	9.99	0.00052	8.57
4 weeks	0.00032	5.92	0.00028	5.05
6 weeks	0.00024	4.18	0.00017	2.93
8 weeks	0.00021	3.50	0.00011	1.80
10 weeks	0.00011	2.04	0.00005	0.81
12 weeks	0.00008	1.39	0.00010	1.76

# Excess Returns of Price Groups

Mroib Measure		Mroibvol		
Price Groups	Coef.	<i>t</i> -Stat	Interquartile	Weekly Return Diff
Low	0.0014	13.34	1.432	0.205%
Medium	0.0007	10.00	1.289	0.089%
High	0.0002	3.23	0.961	0.020%

# Sample Weekly Portfolio Return



# Evidence of Paper (Anecdotes)

## (1) Price Relevant Information

- Retail investor with industry specific knowledge
  - Perfectly legal knowledge about various suppliers, competitors, or buyers in the industry.
  - Business knowledge as an informant to their portfolios.
  - Quickly adjust their portfolio before widely known professionals and institutional investors.

## (2) Short-Term Momentum

**“How a New Wave of Retail Investors is Redefining Stock Pricing,” Wharton**



# Non-Criteria vs Benchmark

