Judging Fund Managers by the Company They Keep

Cohen, Coval, and Pastor (2005)

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February 22, 2019

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#### Intuition

- Active Mutual Fund managers rely on many techniques to reach benchmarks
- Managers using similar techniques more likely to make similar decisions
- Then, managers who make similar investment decisions should deliver similar performance

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## Signs

- Can tell if manager is skilled by comparing investment decisions with other skilled managers given private info
- Skilled managers make similar investment decisions because they interpret info well (if public)
- Similar managers should have similar portfolio compositions

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#### Intuition for novel measures

- This paper's metric of a manger's skill is a weighted average of traditional skill measures across all managers where weights are covariances between the manager's current portfolio weights and the current weights of the other managers
- Trade-based performance judges manager's skill by extent to which recent changes in his hoilding match those of managers with outstanding past performance.
  - weighted avg of traditional skill measures, but weights are covariance between concurrent changes in manager's portfolio weights and those of other managers
- Evaluate mutual fund performance by pooling information across funds - instead of single history for single manager

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#### **Simulations**

- Results come by way of simulations:
  - estimators produce higher rank correlations with true skill than standard estimators
  - estimators perform best with high number of managers, small history

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#### **Fund Return Predictability**

- Sort funds in deciles according to both alpha and novel measures
- Find fund returns have persistence after controlling for momentum
- Authors show that their measures contain significant information not found in alpha

## **New Performance Measures**

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#### Two Measures

- Measure Based on Levels of Holdings
- 2 Measure Based on Changes in Holdings

Equation (1)

$$\bar{\delta}_n = \sum_{m=1}^M \mathsf{v}_{m,n} \alpha_m$$

Equation (2)

$$v_{m,n} = \frac{w_{m,n}}{\sum_{m=1}^{M} w_{m,n}}$$

for:

- M managers and N stocks which is held by at least one manager.
- lacktriangledown denotes reference measure of skill for manager m here Jensen's alpha

# Measure Based on Levels of Holdings

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#### Intuition

Equation (1) and (2) say the quality of stock n is the average skil of all managers who hold stock n in their portfolios, weighted by how much stock they hold.

■ Implies that skilled managers hold more high quality stocks From this we get Equation (3), the population performance measure:

$$\delta_m^* = \sum_{n=1}^N w_{m,n} \bar{\delta}_n$$

which measures manager's performance as the average quality of all stocks in manager's portfolio, where each stock contributes to its portfolio weight.

## Measure Based on Levels of Holdings

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To construct our estimator of managerial skill, we replace  $\alpha_m$  in equation (1) with  $\hat{\alpha}_m$ , the usual OLS estimator of alpha:

$$\hat{\delta}_m^* = \sum_{n=1}^N w_{m,n} \bar{\bar{\delta}}_n,\tag{4}$$

where

$$\bar{\bar{\delta}}_n = \sum_{m=1}^M v_{m,n} \hat{\alpha}_m. \tag{5}$$

# Measure Based on Levels of Holdings

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- Some derivations via matrix algebra show that a manager's skill is a weighed average of the usual skill measures across all managers. The weight assigned to the performance of a manager is simply simiply a loose measure of covariance between the weights of one manager with another.
- Additionally,  $\bar{\hat{\delta}}_m^* = \bar{\hat{\alpha}}_m$ 
  - That is, skill measure here has same info as usual measure about performance of mutual fund industry as a whole
  - There will be gains to the skill measure, however.
- If  $\hat{\alpha}_m$ 's are not perfectly correlated,  $\hat{\delta}_m^*$  has a lower standard error.

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#### Intuition

- Last measure inferred managers make similar decisions if they have similar holdings
- Now, assume managers make similar decisions if their trades are similar

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Cohen, Coval, and Pastor (2005) Return on portfolio of manager m at time t can be written as:

$$R_{m,t} = \sum_{n=1}^{N} w_{m,n} r_{n,t}$$

where  $r_{n,t}$  denotes the return on stock n. Change in weights is:

$$d_{m,n} = w_{m,n,t} - w_{m,n,t-1} \frac{1 + r_{n,t}}{1 + R_{m,t}}$$

which is the difference between the current weight and the weight obtained if the manager neither bought nor sold any of this stock over the past period (one quarter).

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- $\mathcal{N}_m^+ = \{n : d_{m,n} > 0\}$  stocks purchased by manager m between t-1 and t
- $\mathcal{N}_m^- = \{n : d_{m,n} < 0\}$  stocks sold by manager m between t-1 and t
- $\mathcal{M}_n^+ = \{m : d_{m,n} > 0\}$  set of managers who made net purchases of stock n between t-1 and t
- $\mathcal{M}_m^- = \{m : d_{m,n} < 0\}$  set of managers who made net sales of stock n between t-1 and t

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$$x_{m,n}^{+} = \frac{d_{m,n}}{\sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}_{m}^{+}} d_{m,n}}, \quad x_{m,n}^{-} = \frac{d_{m,n}}{\sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}_{m}^{-}} d_{m,n}},$$
 (17)

$$y_{m,n}^{+} = \frac{d_{m,n}}{\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}_{n}^{+}} d_{m,n}}, \quad y_{m,n}^{-} = \frac{d_{m,n}}{\sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}_{n}^{-}} d_{m,n}},$$
 (18)

where  $d_{m,n}$  is the difference between the current weight and the weight obtained if the manager neither bought nor sold any of this stock over the past period (one quarter).

- Then,  $x_{m,n}^+$  ( $x_{m,n}^-$ ) captures the fraction of manager m's purchases (sales) accounted for by stock n
- And,  $y_{m,n}^+$  ( $y_{m,n}^-$ ) captures the fraction of purchases (sales) of sotck n accounted for by manager m

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Cohen, Coval, and Pastor (2005) For each stock n, we define its quality measure  $\bar{\delta}_n$  as

$$\bar{\delta}_n = \bar{\delta}_n^+ - \bar{\delta}_n^-,\tag{19}$$

where

$$\bar{\delta}_n^+ = \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}_n^{\pm}} y_{m,n}^+ \hat{\alpha}_m, \tag{20}$$

$$\bar{\delta}_n^- = \sum_{m \in \mathcal{M}_n^-} y_{m,n}^- \hat{\alpha}_m, \tag{21}$$

The quality of stock n is the difference between the average skill of all managers who bought stock n recently and average skill of all managers who sold stock n recently, where the averages are weighted by how much was bought and sold

 Example: Stocks of high quality are those that wre recently bought mostly by high-skill managers and sold by low-skill managers

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Cohen, Coval, and Pastor (2005) Hence, our trade-based skill measure is

$$\hat{\delta}_m^{**} = \hat{\delta}_m^+ - \hat{\delta}_m^-, \tag{22}$$

where

$$\hat{\delta}_m^+ = \sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}_m^+} x_{m,n}^+ \bar{\delta}_n \tag{23}$$

$$\hat{\delta}_m^- = \sum_{n \in \mathcal{N}_m^-} \bar{\delta}_n. \tag{24}$$

This is the difference between the average quality of stocks recently bought by manager m and the average quality of the stocks recently sold by this manager.

#### **New Performance Measures**

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#### **Some Considerations**

- Not necessarily an optimized measure would be challenging
- May look like "herding" but literature does not factor in trades
- Not just window-dressing since managers not only judged by portfolio, but also its relation to others

## **Simulations**

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#### Design

Let M managers receive signals about expected excess returns of N stocks:

$$r_{n,t} = \mu_{n,t} + e_{n,t}, n = 1, ..., N; t = 1, ..., T$$

where  $\mu_{n,t}$  is the stocks's expected excess return and  $e_{n,t}$  is an error term. Each are drawn from a normal distribution centered on zero with distinct variances.

■ In every period t, each manager m receives a signal  $s_{m,n,t}$  about each stock n. With probability  $\gamma_m$  this signal is equal to the stock's true expected excess return, error otherwise:

$$s_{m,n,t} = \begin{cases} \mu_{n,t} & \text{with probability } \gamma_m \\ u_{n,t} & \text{with probability } 1 - \gamma_m, \end{cases}$$
 (31)

#### **Simulations**

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#### Design

Managers know their skill and error volatility. They have no information about expected excess return other than the signal. Then, goal will be to estimate:

- 1 Traditional Estimator of  $\alpha$  and  $\hat{\alpha}$  Jensen's alpha
- 2 Performance measure based on level of holdings  $\hat{\delta}_{m_{a}}^{*}$
- 3 Performance measure based on change in holdings  $\hat{\delta}_m^{**}$
- 4 Bayesian estimator  $\hat{\alpha}_m^B$
- **5** Population values  $\delta_m^*$  and  $\delta_m^{**}$

## **Simulations**

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#### **Process**

- Conduct 10,000 simulations for each se of parameter values
- Set managers *M* equal to 30, 100, and 300
- Set number of stocks *N* equal to 30, 100
- $\blacksquare$  Set number of time periods T to 1, 5, 10, 20, and 30
- Let  $\sigma_{\mu} = 0.1$  and  $\sigma_{e} = 0.5$
- Calculate measures for each manager (on previous slide)
- $\blacksquare$  Rank managers according to these measures to uncover correlation with true skill  $\gamma$

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#### Table 1

			N.	= 30		N = 100						
				_ 00					100			
M	â	$\hat{\delta}^*$	$\hat{\delta}^{**}$	α	δ*	δ**	â	$\hat{\delta}^*$	$\hat{\delta}^{**}$	α	$\delta^*$	δ**
						<i>T</i> :	= 1					
30	0.26	0.34	0.35	0.80	0.80	0.82	0.46	0.64	0.65	0.92	0.92	0.93
100	0.27	0.40	0.42	0.81	0.82	0.85	0.47	0.76	0.77	0.93	0.94	0.94
300	0.27	0.44	0.45	0.82	0.83	0.85	0.47	0.80	0.81	0.93	0.94	0.95
						T:	= 5					
30	0.53	0.64	0.63	0.94	0.86	0.87	0.77	0.89	0.90	0.98	0.94	0.95
100	0.54	0.72	0.74	0.95	0.85	0.88	0.78	0.93	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.96
300	0.54	0.76	0.78	0.95	0.84	0.88	0.79	0.94	0.96	0.98	0.94	0.96
						<b>T</b> =	= 10					
30	0.66	0.75	0.75	0.96	0.86	0.88	0.86	0.93	0.93	0.99	0.95	0.96
100	0.68	0.81	0.83	0.97	0.85	0.89	0.88	0.94	0.96	0.99	0.95	0.96
300	0.68	0.82	0.86	0.97	0.85	0.88	0.88	0.94	0.96	0.99	0.95	0.96
						T =	<b>= 20</b>					
30	0.79	0.82	0.83	0.98	0.87	0.89	0.92	0.94	0.95	0.99	0.95	0.96
100	0.80	0.84	0.87	0.98	0.85	0.89	0.93	0.95	0.96	0.99	0.95	0.96
300	0.80	0.84	0.88	0.99	0.85	0.89	0.93	0.95	0.96	1.00	0.95	0.96
						<b>T</b> =	= 30					
30	0.84	0.84	0.85	0.98	0.87	0.89	0.94	0.94	0.95	0.99	0.95	0.96
100	0.86	0.84	0.88	0.99	0.85	0.89	0.95	0.95	0.96	1.00	0.95	0.96
300	0.86	0.84	0.88	0.99	0.85	0.89	0.96	0.95	0.96	1.00	0.95	0.96

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- Generally, new measures have higher rank-order correlations
- Population means outperform  $\alpha$ .
- New measures do well in short return histories
- Also, new measures have higher correlation with population  $\alpha$  (next table)
- Mean-Squared Error is low for new measures in short horizon

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#### Table II

			Panel A	A: Nank	Correla	tions w	un Trad	itionai a	<b>5ΚΙΙΙ</b> (α)			
			<b>N</b> :	= 30		N = 100						
M	â	$\hat{\alpha}^B$	δ*	δ**	δ*	δ**	â	$\hat{lpha}^B$	δ*	δ**	δ*	δ**
						<b>T</b> :	= 1					
30	0.32	0.32	0.41	0.40	0.96	0.95	0.49	0.49	0.67	0.68	0.98	0.9
100	0.33	0.33	0.48	0.47	0.98	0.97	0.50	0.50	0.80	0.80	0.99	0.9
300	0.33	0.33	0.52	0.51	0.99	0.97	0.50	0.50	0.84	0.84	0.99	0.9
						T:	= <b>5</b>					
30	0.55	0.55	0.66	0.65	0.89	0.91	0.78	0.78	0.90	0.91	0.96	0.9
100	0.56	0.56	0.75	0.76	0.88	0.91	0.79	0.79	0.94	0.95	0.96	$0.9^{\circ}$
300	0.57	0.57	0.78	0.80	0.87	0.91	0.80	0.80	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.9
						T =	- 10					
30	0.68	0.68	0.77	0.77	0.88	0.90	0.87	0.87	0.93	0.94	0.95	0.9
100	0.69	0.69	0.82	0.84	0.87	0.90	0.88	0.88	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.9
300	0.70	0.70	0.83	0.87	0.86	0.90	0.89	0.89	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.9
						T =	<b>30</b>					
30	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.86	0.88	0.90	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.9
100	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.88	0.86	0.89	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.9
300	0.87	0.87	0.85	0.89	0.85	0.89	0.96	0.96	0.95	0.96	0.95	0.9

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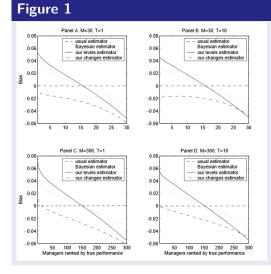
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#### Table II

				Par	nel B: M	ean Squ	ared Er	rors				
			<b>N</b> :	= 30		N = 100						
M	â	$\hat{lpha}^B$	$\hat{\delta}^*$	$\hat{\delta}^{**}$	$\delta^*$	δ**	â	$\hat{lpha}^B$	$\hat{\delta}^*$	$\hat{\delta}^{**}$	δ*	δ**
						<i>T</i> :	= 1					
30	2.65	1.71	1.48	0.75	0.11	0.11	0.78	0.53	0.49	0.23	0.09	0.1
100	2.61	1.65	1.40	0.52	0.12	0.10	0.78	0.52	0.49	0.19	0.10	0.1
300	2.62	1.65	1.40	0.47	0.12	0.10	0.78	0.52	0.49	0.19	0.10	0.1
						T:	= 5					
30	0.53	0.36	0.36	0.23	0.09	0.09	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.11	0.08	0.0
100	0.53	0.36	0.35	0.17	0.09	0.09	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.10	0.09	0.0
300	0.52	0.35	0.35	0.15	0.10	0.09	0.16	0.13	0.17	0.10	0.10	0.0
						T =	<b>= 10</b>					
30	0.26	0.20	0.22	0.16	0.08	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.12	0.10	0.08	0.0
100	0.26	0.19	0.22	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.0
300	0.26	0.19	0.22	0.12	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.13	0.09	0.09	0.0
						<b>T</b> =	= 30					
30	0.09	0.09	0.13	0.12	0.08	0.10	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.09	0.08	0.0
100	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.03	0.05	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.0
300	0.09	0.09	0.13	0.10	0.09	0.09	0.03	0.05	0.11	0.09	0.09	0.0

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#### Data

- CRSP mutual fund data (returns net of fees)
- Add fees back in with annual expense ratio
- Spectrum Data from Thomson Financial on WRDS
  - Allows for access to holding reports
  - merge with CRSP via hand matching
- Quarterly Data
- April 1982 September 2002

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#### **Steps**

- f 1 Compute traditional alpha  $\hat{lpha}$
- 2 Using  $\hat{\alpha}$  as reference, compute  $\hat{\delta}^*$  and  $\hat{\delta}^{**}$
- 3 Compute nine versions of each measure with three benchmark models and three lookback periods.
- 4 Sort funds into decile portfolios at the beginning of each quarter, equal weighting.

## **Empirical Analysis Results**

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- All three measures capable of predicting future returns
- Persistence in performance weakins when momentum benchmark is included
- Most predictive power acheived with  $\hat{\delta}^*$

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					De	cile					
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	10-1
		Par	nel A: Sor	ting Fund	ls by Past	12 Mont	hs of Pe	rformar	ice		
				I	ama-Fre	nch Alph	as				
ŵ	-1.62	-0.39	0.00	0.15	0.43	0.75	0.94	1.19	1.62	3.57	5.19
	(-1.62)	(-0.57)	(0.00)	(0.30)	(0.87)	(1.44)	(1.84)	(2.13)	(2.31)	(3.57)	(3.67)
ş*	-1.87	-0.91	-0.75	-0.24	-0.01	-0.01	0.18	2.00	2.72	5.48	7.36
	(-1.30)	(-0.87)	(-1.03)	(-0.42)	(-0.02)	(-0.01)	(0.33)	(2.81)	(2.86)	(4.11)	(3.23)
ŝ**	-1.13	-0.27	-0.12	0.37	0.53	0.07	0.97	0.75	1.51	3.32	4.4
	(-1.23)	(-0.45)	(-0.21)	(0.67)	(1.08)	(0.17)	(1.77)	(1.34)	(2.23)	(3.63)	(4.53)
					Four-Fac	tor Alpha	s				
ŵ	-1.21	-0.63	0.19	1.13	0.89	0.29	0.65	1.05	1.81	2.48	3.69
	(-1.20)	(-0.80)	(0.31)	(2.13)	(1.81)	(0.54)	(1.29)	(1.68)	(2.63)	(2.60)	(2.64)
*	-1.58	-0.89	-0.29	-0.11	0.51	0.72	0.67	1.97	1.33	4.30	5.88
	(-1.14)	(-0.81)	(-0.38)	(-0.17)	(0.91)	(1.32)	(1.25)	(2.56)	(1.37)	(3.46)	(2.73)
ş++	-0.60	-0.20	0.30	0.38	0.54	0.76	0.18	0.86	1.15	2.92	3.52
	(-0.62)	(-0.31)	(0.47)	(0.81)	(1.10)	(1.56)	(0.32)	(1.55)	(1.66)	(3.11)	(3.25)

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#### New info not contained in $\alpha$ ?

- $\blacksquare$  Perform conditional sorts into quintiles based on  $\hat{\alpha}$  and then  $\hat{\delta}^*.$
- Look cheifly at average of portfolios that buy funds with high  $\hat{\delta}^*$  and shorts low  $\hat{\delta}^*$  within a given  $\hat{\alpha}$  quintile
- Appears that there is info contained in  $\hat{\delta}^*$  not in  $\hat{\alpha}$ .

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## Table IV

				Pane	l A: Sorting	Funds by $\hat{\alpha}$	and Then b	y δ*					
Quintile			Quint	ile of $\hat{\alpha}$		Quintile of $\hat{a}$							
of å*	1	2	3	4	5	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	Avg.	
			Fama-Fre	nch Alphas					Four-Facto	or Alphas			
1	-2.89	-0.58	-0.12	0.12	-0.18	-0.73	-1.55	-0.95	0.05	-0.76	0.40	-0.56	
2	-1.61	-1.79	-0.53	0.46	0.54	-0.59	-1.28	-0.23	-1.08	-0.01	1.18	-0.28	
3	-1.73	0.21	0.14	-0.55	2.18	0.05	-2.05	1.21	0.58	0.81	1.28	0.37	
4	-1.05	0.22	0.61	0.77	3.77	0.86	-0.85	1.20	0.95	1.81	2.29	1.08	
5	2.34	2.40	2.60	4.65	6.58	3.71	1.22	2.27	1.91	2.78	5.41	2.72	
5-1	5.22	2.98	2.72	4.53	6.76	4.44	2.77	3.22	1.86	3.54	5.01	3.28	
t-stat	(2.68)	(1.66)	(1.74)	(2.58)	(3.38)	(2.77)	(1.57)	(1.66)	(1.09)	(2.00)	(2.66)	(2.06	
				Pane	l B: Sorting	Funds by δ*	and Then l	oy â					
Quintile			Quint	ile of δ*			Quintile of δ*						
of â	1	2	3	4	5	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	Avg.	
			Fama-Fre	nch Alphas					Four-Facto	or Alphas			
1	-2.24	-0.05	0.24	2.00	3.83	0.76	-1.37	-0.90	1.42	1.01	2.36	0.51	
2	-2.51	-0.21	0.21	1.52	3.64	0.53	-1.94	0.08	1.05	1.47	2.16	0.56	
3	-0.87	-1.26	0.44	0.80	3.66	0.56	-1.19	0.67	0.70	1.63	2.96	0.95	
4	-0.94	-0.82	-0.35	0.08	3.22	0.24	-1.12	-0.01	-0.08	1.37	2.83	0.60	
5	-0.41	-0.08	-0.36	0.95	6.28	1.28	-0.54	-0.93	0.06	1.09	3.87	0.71	
5-1	1.84	-0.04	-0.60	-1.04	2.45	0.52	0.83	-0.04	-1.36	0.08	1.51	0.20	
t-stat	(1.49)	(-0.04)	(-0.67)	(-1.07)	(2.61)	(0.82)	(0.68)	(-0.05)	(-1.53)	(0.08)	(1.51)	(0.33	

Judging Fund Managers by the Company They Keep

Cohen, Coval, and Pastor (2005)

#### **Useful to Investors?**

- Examine "feasible" portfolio strategies.
- Holdings info available to investors comes with a lag
- Form measures on lagged data, using t to predict returns in t + 4 through t + 6
  - Normally t + 1 through t + 3
- Do double sorts again
- Measures are still helpful, even with lag

Judging Fund Managers by the Company They Keep

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## Table IX

				Pane	l A: Sorting	Funds by $\hat{\alpha}$	and Then by	γ δ̂*					
Quintile			Quint	ile of â		Quintile of â							
of å*	1	2	3	4	5	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	
			Fama-Fre	nch Alphas					Four-Fact	or Alphas			
1	-3.61	-1.03	-1.16	0.21	0.73	-0.97	-3.03	-0.67	-0.20	-0.67	-0.21	-0.9	
2	-0.85	-0.64	-0.07	0.82	1.01	0.06	-1.08	0.22	-0.29	0.30	0.83	0.0	
3	-0.33	0.60	0.34	-0.03	2.42	0.60	0.15	0.62	0.28	0.44	1.83	0.6	
4	-0.59	0.19	-0.30	0.62	3.37	0.66	-0.12	1.29	0.86	0.01	1.41	0.6	
5	1.18	0.71	1.43	1.47	5.60	2.08	0.49	0.45	1.74	1.56	5.05	1.8	
5-1	4.79	1.74	2.59	1.27	4.87	3.05	3.51	1.11	1.94	2.23	5.26	2.8	
t-stat	(3.07)	(1.35)	(2.11)	(0.98)	(2.76)	(2.56)	(2.09)	(0.79)	(1.48)	(1.68)	(3.20)	(2.2	
				Panel	B: Sorting	Funds by $\hat{\alpha}$	and Then by	8**					
Quintile	Quintile of $\hat{\alpha}$							Quintile of $\hat{\alpha}$					
of å**	1	2	3	4	5	Avg.	1	2	3	4	5	Avg	
			Fama-Fre	nch Alphas					Four-Fact	or Alphas			
1	-1.43	-0.38	-0.82	0.89	1.55	-0.04	-1.82	0.04	0.21	-0.06	1.40	-0.0	
2	-0.47	1.12	0.08	0.42	0.97	0.43	-0.55	0.76	0.31	-0.45	1.03	0.2	
3	-0.59	-0.40	0.88	1.36	3.40	0.93	0.39	0.34	0.58	0.56	1.79	0.7	
4	-0.09	0.15	0.75	0.76	2.31	0.78	0.83	1.51	0.30	1.57	0.59	0.9	
5	0.06	-0.23	-0.73	-0.62	3.51	0.40	-1.05	0.61	0.33	-0.71	3.68	0.5	
5-1	1.49	0.15	0.08	-1.51	1.95	0.43	0.78	0.57	0.12	-0.65	2.28	0.6	
t-stat	(1.31)	(0.19)	(0.09)	(-2.06)	(1.62)	(0.82)	(0.70)	(0.61)	(0.14)	(-0.80)	(2.11)	(1.1	