Financial returns

INTRODUCTION TO PORTFOLIO RISK MANAGEMENT IN PYTHON

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Course overview

Learn how to analyze investment return distributions, build portfolios and reduce risk, and identify key factors which are driving portfolio returns.

- Univariate Investment Risk
- Portfolio Investing
- Factor Investing
- Forecasting and Reducing Risk

Investment risk

What is Risk?

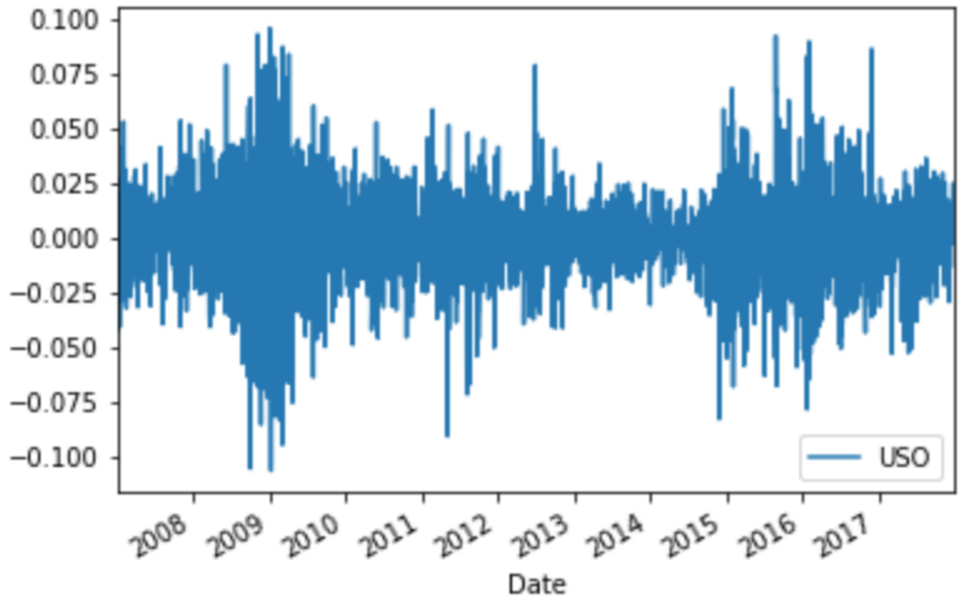
- Risk in financial markets is a measure of uncertainty
- Dispersion or variance of financial returns

How do you typically measure risk?

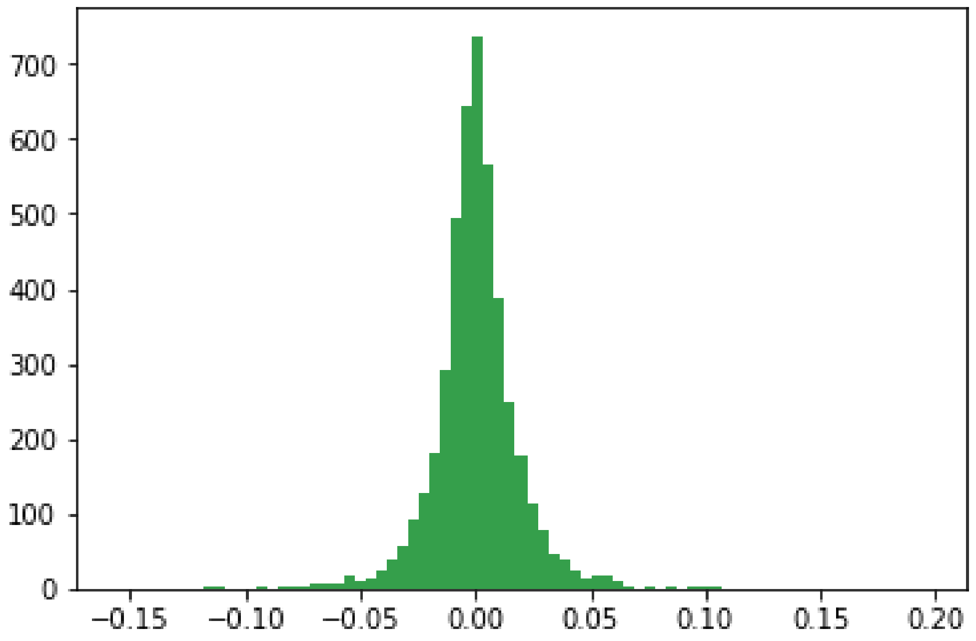
- Standard deviation or variance of daily returns
- Kurtosis of the daily returns distribution
- Skewness of the daily returns distribution
- Historical drawdown

Financial risk

Returns

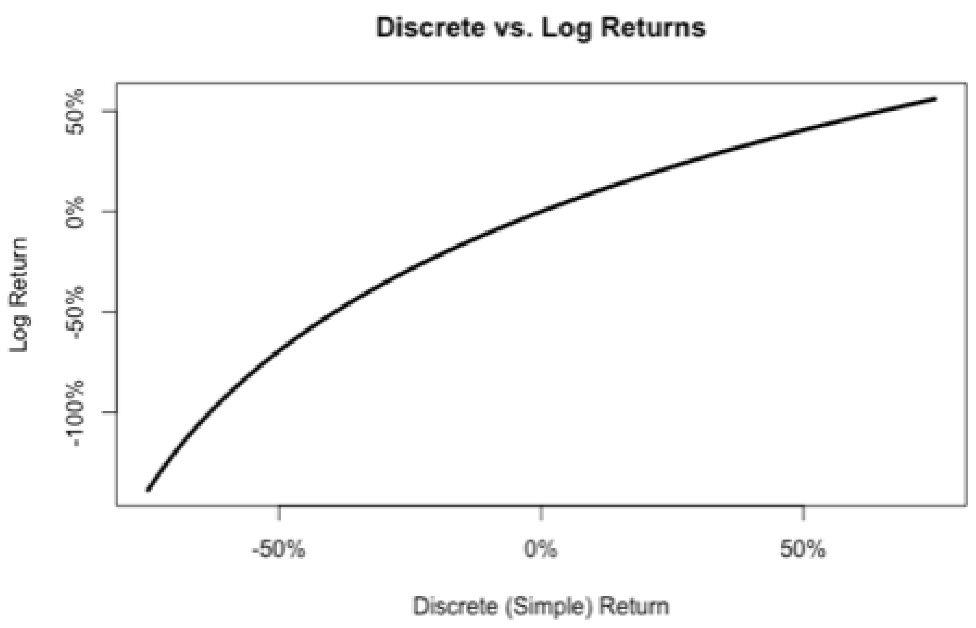


Probability



A tale of two returns

- Returns are derived from stock prices
- **Discrete returns** (simple returns) are the most commonly used, and represent periodic (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly, etc.) price movements
- **Log returns** are often used in academic research and financial modeling. They assume continuous compounding.



Log returns are always smaller than discrete returns

Calculating stock returns

- Discrete returns are calculated as the change in price as a percentage of the previous period's price

Calculating Discrete Returns

$$\mathrm{R}_{t_2} = \frac{(P_{t_2} - P_{t_1})}{P_{t_1}}$$

Calculating log returns

- Log returns are calculated as the difference between the log of two prices
- Log returns *aggregate across time*, while discrete returns *aggregate across assets*

$$Rl = \ln(\frac{P_{t_2}}{P_{t_1}})$$

or equivalently

$$Rl = \ln(P_{t_2}) - \ln(P_{t_1})$$

Calculating stock returns in Python

Step 1:

Load in stock prices data and store it as a pandas DataFrame organized by date:

```
import pandas as pd
StockPrices = pd.read_csv('StockData.csv', parse_dates=['Date'])
StockPrices = StockPrices.sort_values(by='Date')
StockPrices.set_index('Date', inplace=True)
```

Calculating stock Returns in Python

Step 2:

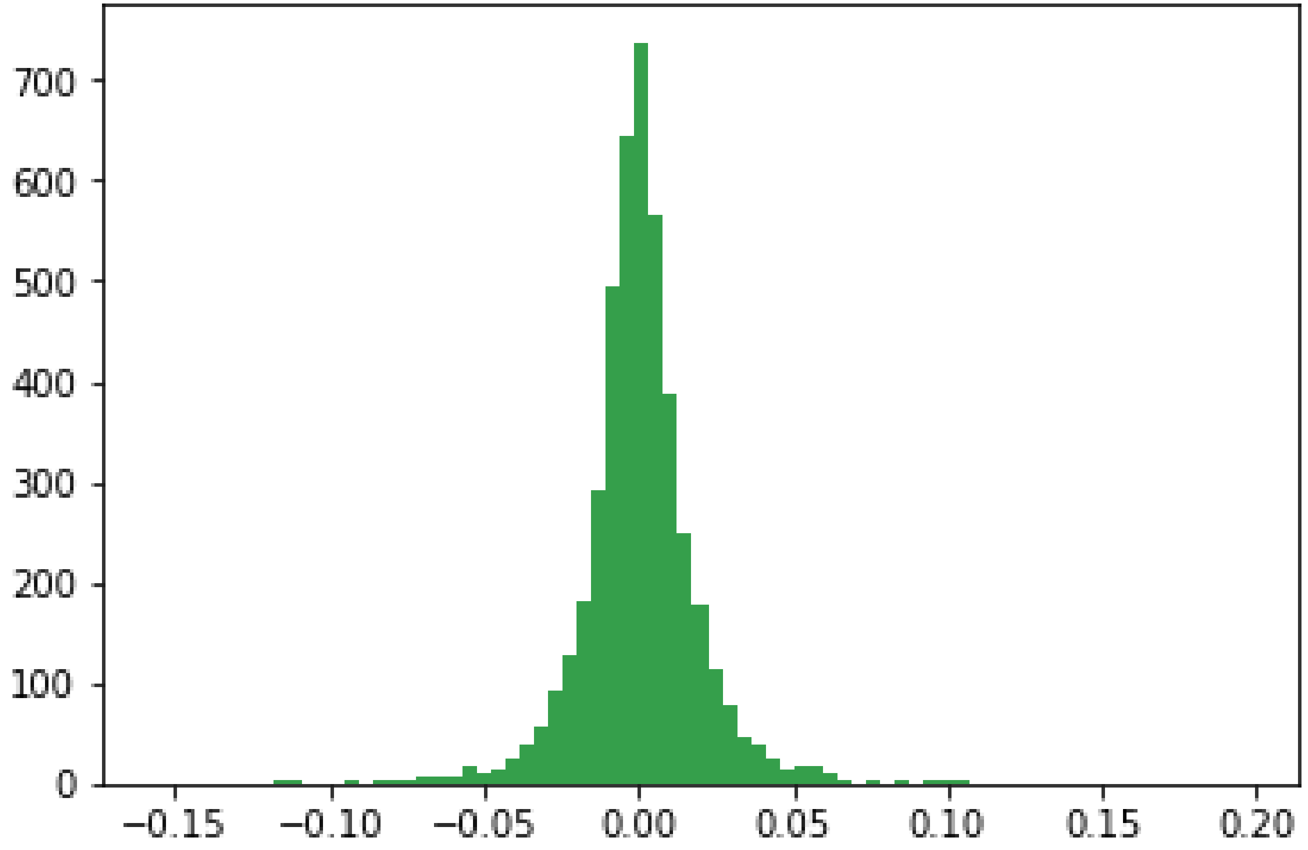
Calculate daily returns of the adjusted close prices and append the returns as a new column in the DataFrame.

```
StockPrices["Returns"] = StockPrices["Adj Close"].pct_change()
StockPrices["Returns"].head()
```

	Open	High	Low	Close	Adj Close	Volume	Returns
Date							
2000-01-03	58.68750	59.3125	56.00000	58.28125	42.641369	53228400	NaN
2000-01-04	56.78125	58.5625	56.12500	56.31250	41.200928	54119000	-0.033780
2000-01-05	55.56250	58.1875	54.68750	56.90625	41.635361	64059600	0.010544
2000-01-06	56.09375	56.9375	54.18750	55.00000	40.240646	54976600	-0.033498
2000-01-07	54.31250	56.1250	53.65625	55.71875	40.766510	62013600	0.013068

Visualizing return distributions

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
plt.hist(StockPrices["Returns"].dropna(), bins=75, density=False)
plt.show()
```



Let's practice!

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Mean, variance, and normal distribution

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Moments of distributions

Probability distributions have the following moments:

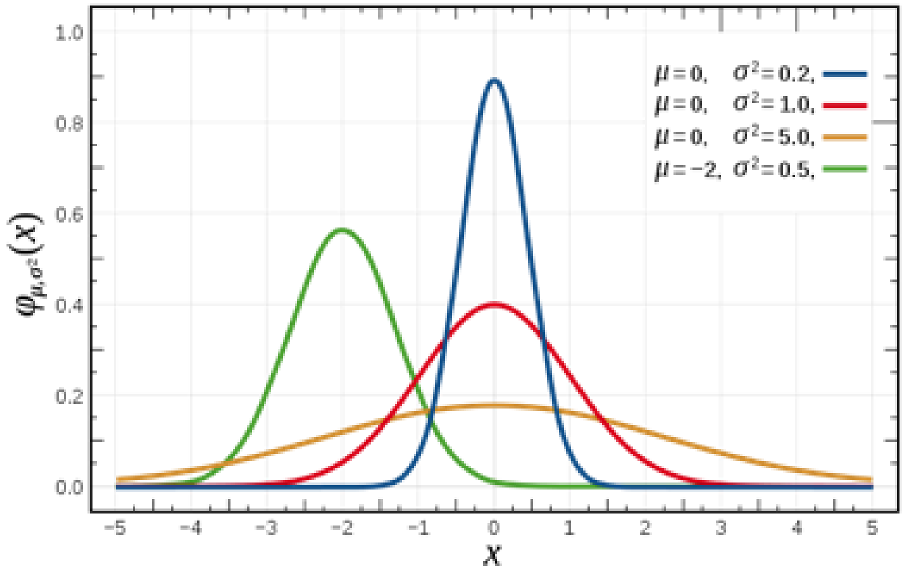
- 1) Mean (μ)
- 2) Variance (σ^2)
- 3) Skewness
- 4) Kurtosis

There are many types of distributions. Some are normal and some are non-normal. A random variable with a **Gaussian distribution** is said to be *normally distributed.*

Normal Distributions have the following properties:

- Mean = μ
- Variance = σ^2
- Skewness = 0
- Kurtosis = 3

Probability Density Function of Normal Distributions



Probability Density Function Equation of a Standard Normal Distribution

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}}e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

The standard normal distribution

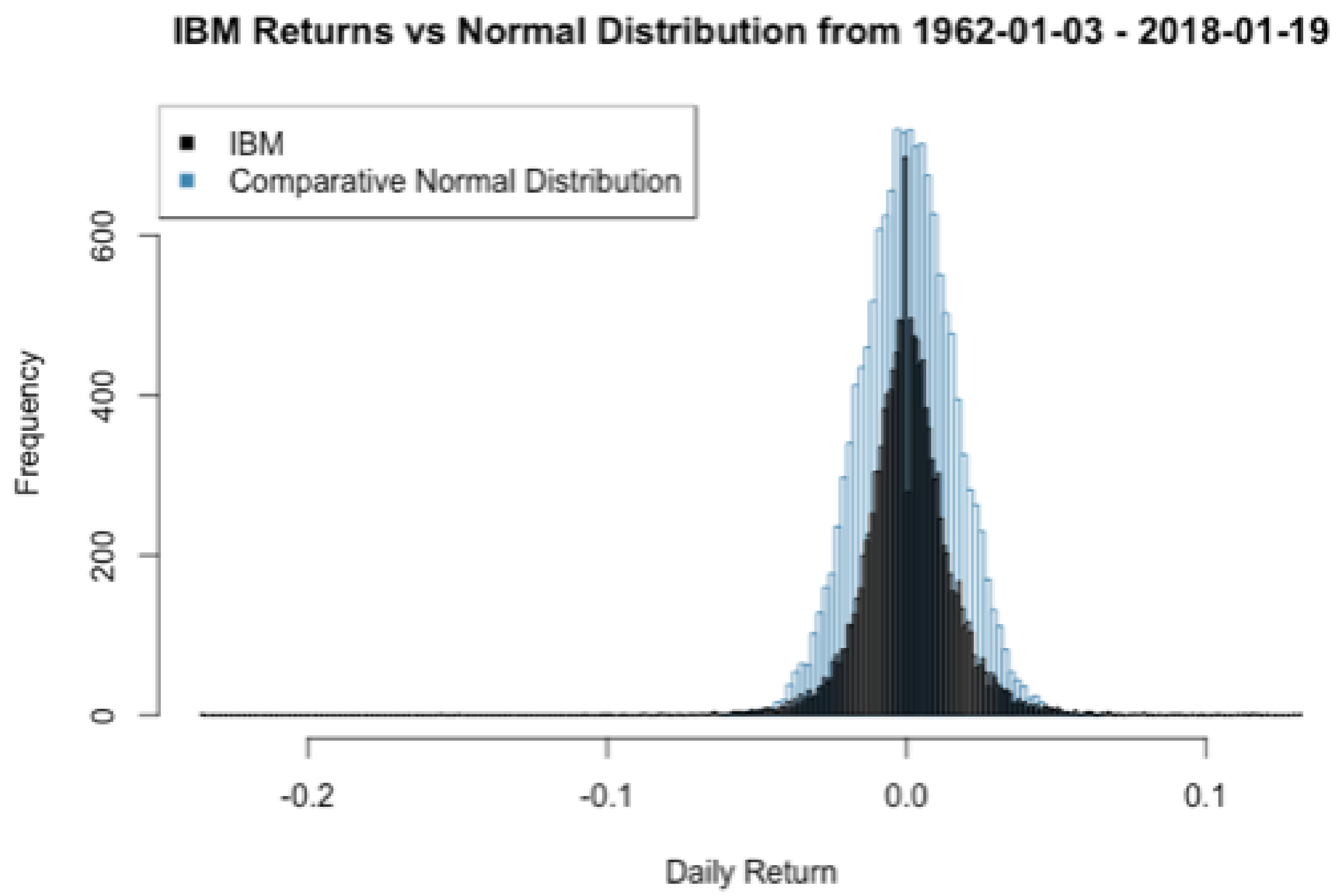
The **Standard Normal** is a special case of the Normal Distribution when:

- $\sigma = 1$
- $\mu = 0$

Comparing against a normal distribution

- Normal distributions have a skewness near 0 and a kurtosis near 3.
- Financial returns tend not to be normally distributed
- Financial returns can have high kurtosis

Comparing against a normal distribution



Distribution	Mu	Sigma	Max	Min	Skewness	Kurtosis
Normal Distribution	4e-04	0.0158	0.0530	-0.0610	-0.02	2.96
IBM	4e-04	0.0158	0.1316	-0.2352	0.02	13.20

Calculating mean returns in python

To calculate the average daily return, use the `np.mean()` function:

```
import numpy as np
np.mean(StockPrices["Returns"])
```

```
0.0003
```

To calculate the average annualized return assuming 252 trading days in a year:

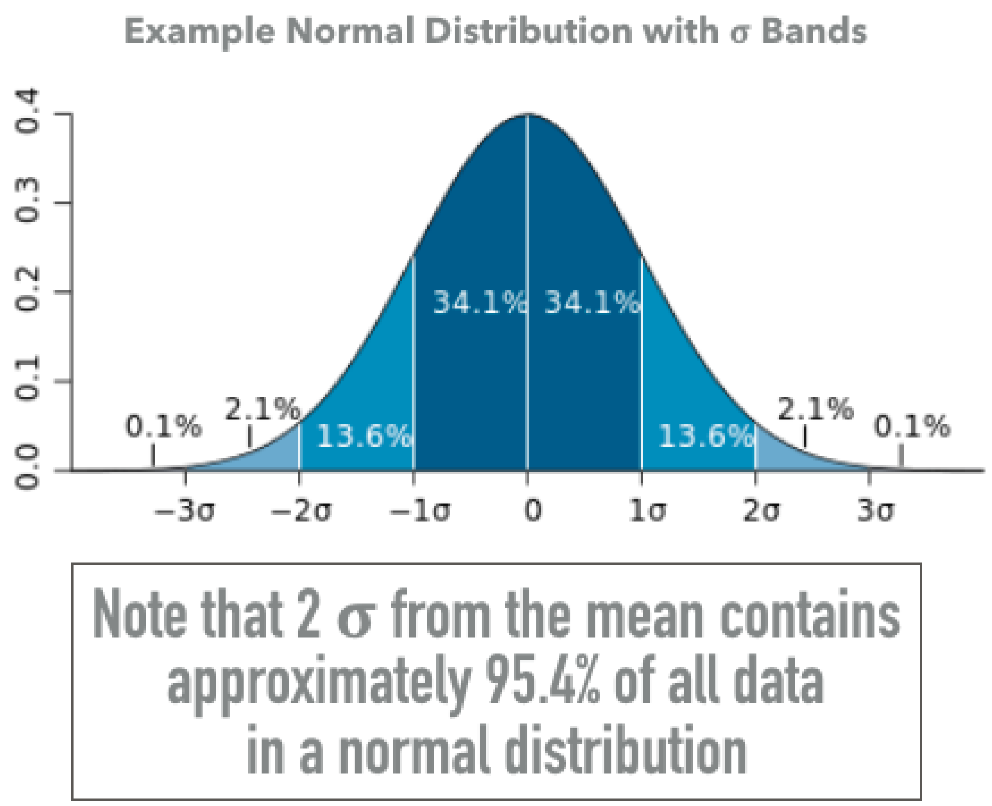
```
import numpy as np
((1+np.mean(StockPrices["Returns"]))**252)-1
```

```
0.0785
```

Standard deviation and variance

Standard Deviation (Volatility)

- Variance = σ^2
- Often represented in mathematical notation as σ, or referred to as *volatility*
- An investment with higher σ is viewed as a higher risk investment
- Measures the dispersion of returns



Standard deviation and variance in Python

Assume you have pre-loaded stock returns data in the `StockData` object. To calculate the periodic standard deviation of returns:

```
import numpy as np
np.std(StockPrices["Returns"])
```

```
0.0256
```

To calculate variance, simply square the standard deviation:

```
np.std(StockPrices["Returns"])**2
```

```
0.000655
```

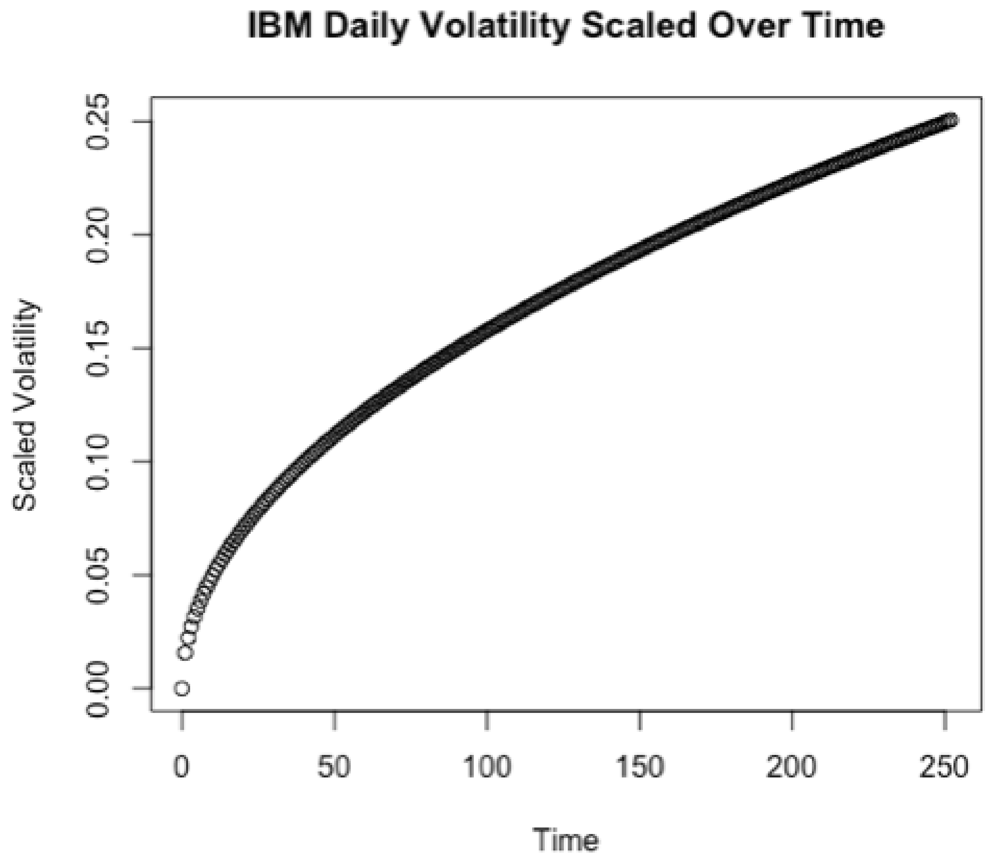
Scaling volatility

- Volatility scales with the square root of time
- You can normally assume 252 trading days in a given year, and 21 trading days in a given month

Example Volatility Scaling Equations

$$\sigma_{Annual} = \sigma_{Daily} * \sqrt{(252)}$$

$$\sigma_{Monthly} = \sigma_{Daily} * \sqrt{(21)}$$



Scaling volatility in Python

Assume you have pre-loaded stock returns data in the `StockData` object. To calculate the annualized volatility of returns:

```
import numpy as np
np.std(StockPrices["Returns"]) * np.sqrt(252)
```

```
0.3071
```

Let's practice!

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Skewness and kurtosis

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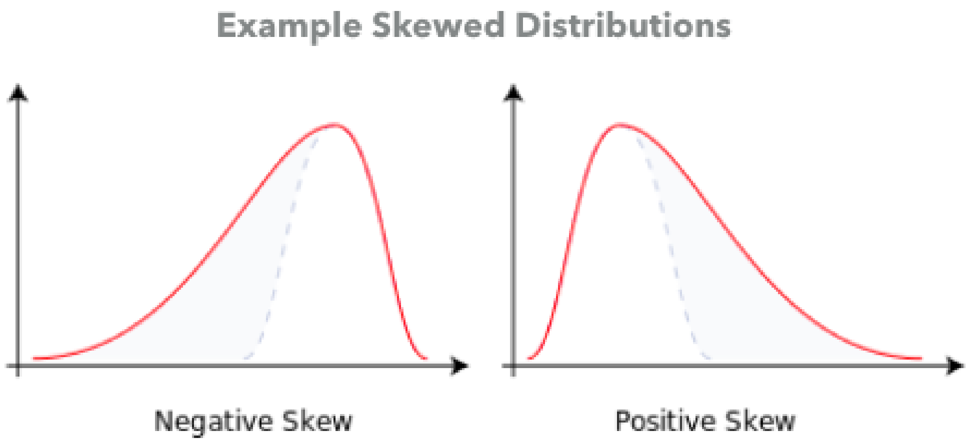
Skewness is the third moment of a distribution.

- **Negative Skew:** The mass of the distribution is concentrated on the right. Usually a right-leaning curve
- **Positive Skew:** The mass of the distribution is concentrated on the left. Usually a left-leaning curve
- In finance, you would tend to want positive skewness



Note the difference in the length and fatness of the tails depending on the skewness

Skewness in Python

Assume you have pre-loaded stock returns data in the `StockData` object.

To calculate the skewness of returns:

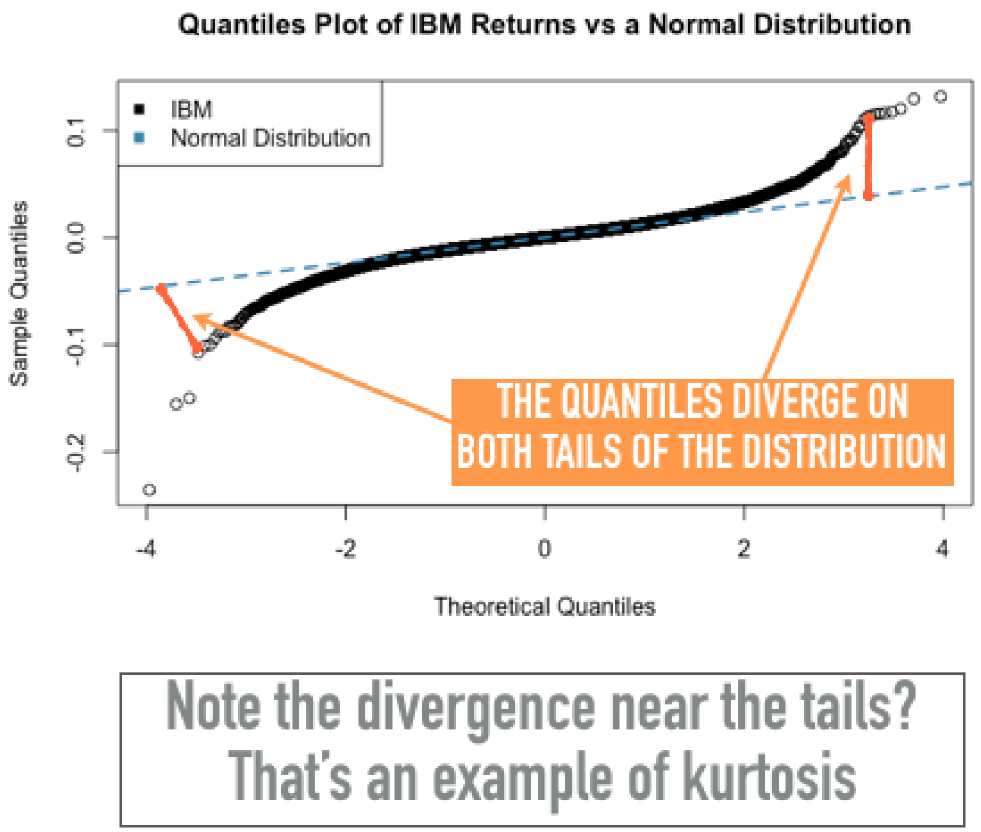
```
from scipy.stats import skew
skew(StockData["Returns"].dropna())
```

```
0.225
```

Note that the skewness is higher than 0 in this example, suggesting non-normality.

Kurtosis is a measure of the thickness of the tails of a distribution

- Most financial returns are leptokurtic
- **Leptokurtic:** When a distribution has positive excess kurtosis (kurtosis greater than 3)
- **Excess Kurtosis:** Subtract 3 from the sample kurtosis to calculate "Excess Kurtosis"



Excess kurtosis in Python

Assume you have pre-loaded stock returns data in the `StockData` object. To calculate the **excess kurtosis** of returns:

```
from scipy.stats import kurtosis
kurtosis(StockData["Returns"].dropna())
```

```
2.44
```

Note the excess kurtosis greater than 0 in this example, suggesting non-normality.

Testing for normality in Python

How do you perform a statistical test for normality?

The null hypothesis of the **Shapiro-Wilk test** is that the data are normally distributed.

```
# Run the Shapiro-Wilk normality test in Python
from scipy import stats
p_value = stats.shapiro(StockData["Returns"].dropna())[1]
if p_value <= 0.05:
    print("Null hypothesis of normality is rejected.")
else:
    print("Null hypothesis of normality is accepted.")
```

The p-value is the second variable returned in the list. If the p-value is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected because the data are most likely non-normal.

Let's practice!

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