



Estimating Financial Risk with Spark

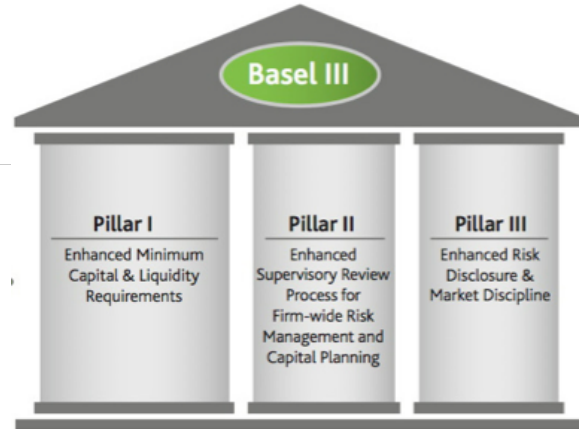
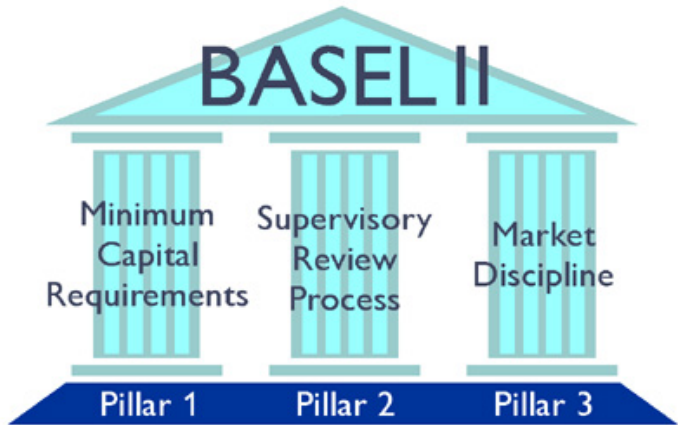
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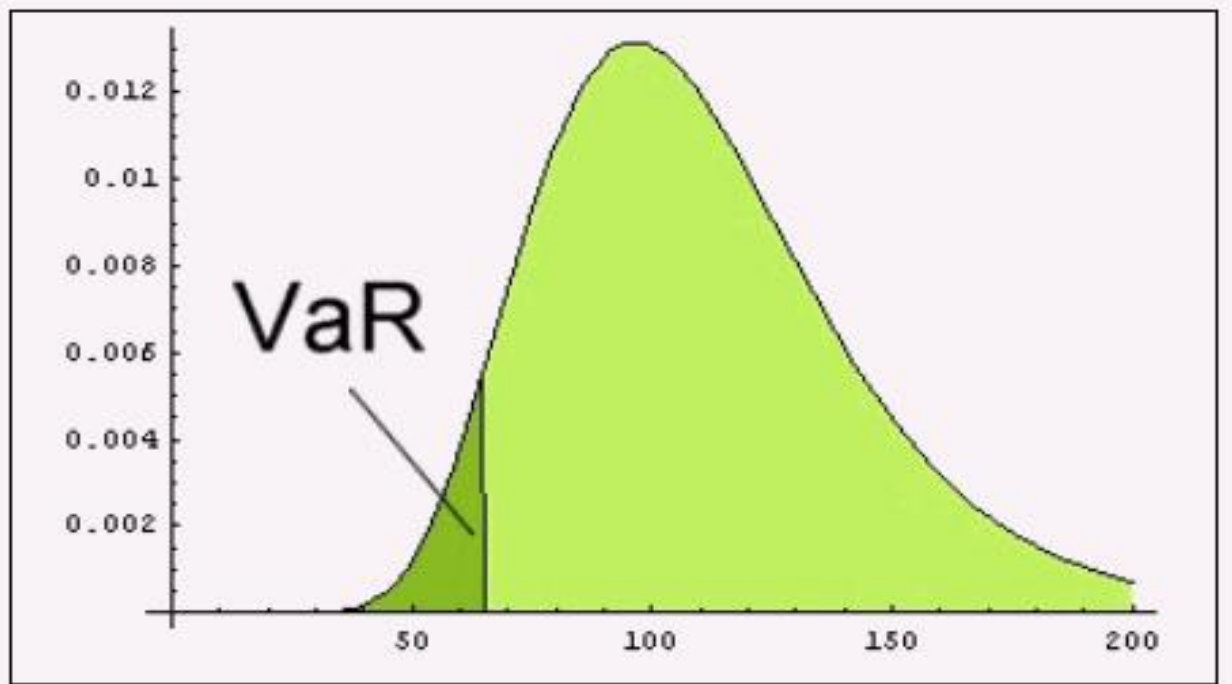
In reasonable
circumstances, what's
the most you can expect
to lose?



```
def valueAtRisk(  
    portfolio,  
    timePeriod,  
    pValue  
): Double = { ... }
```

```
def valueAtRisk(  
    portfolio,  
    2 weeks,  
    0.05  
) = $1,000,000
```

Probability
density



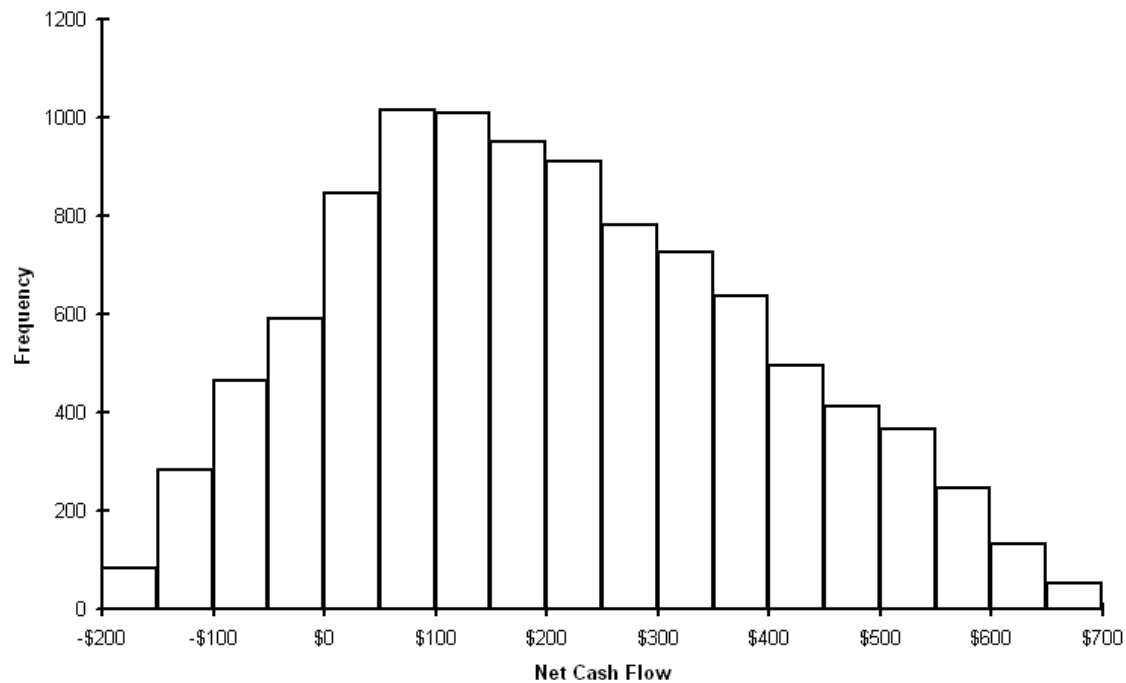
Portfolio return (\$) over the time
period

VaR estimation approaches

- Variance-covariance
- Historical
- Monte Carlo



RiskSim Monte Carlo Simulation



Market Risk Factors

- Indexes (S&P 500, NASDAQ)
- Prices of commodities
- Currency exchange rates
- Treasury bonds

Predicting Instrument Returns from Factor Returns

- Train a linear model on the factors for each instrument

$$r_{it} = c_i + \sum_{j=1}^{|w_i|} w_{ij} \cdot m_{tj}$$

Fancier

- Add features that are non-linear transformations of the market risk factors
- Decision trees
- For options, use Black-Scholes

```
import org.apache.commons.math3.stat.regression.OLSMultipleLinearRegression
```

```
// Load the instruments and factors
```

```
val factorReturns: Array[Array[Double]] = ...
```

```
val instrumentReturns: RDD[Array[Double]] = ...
```

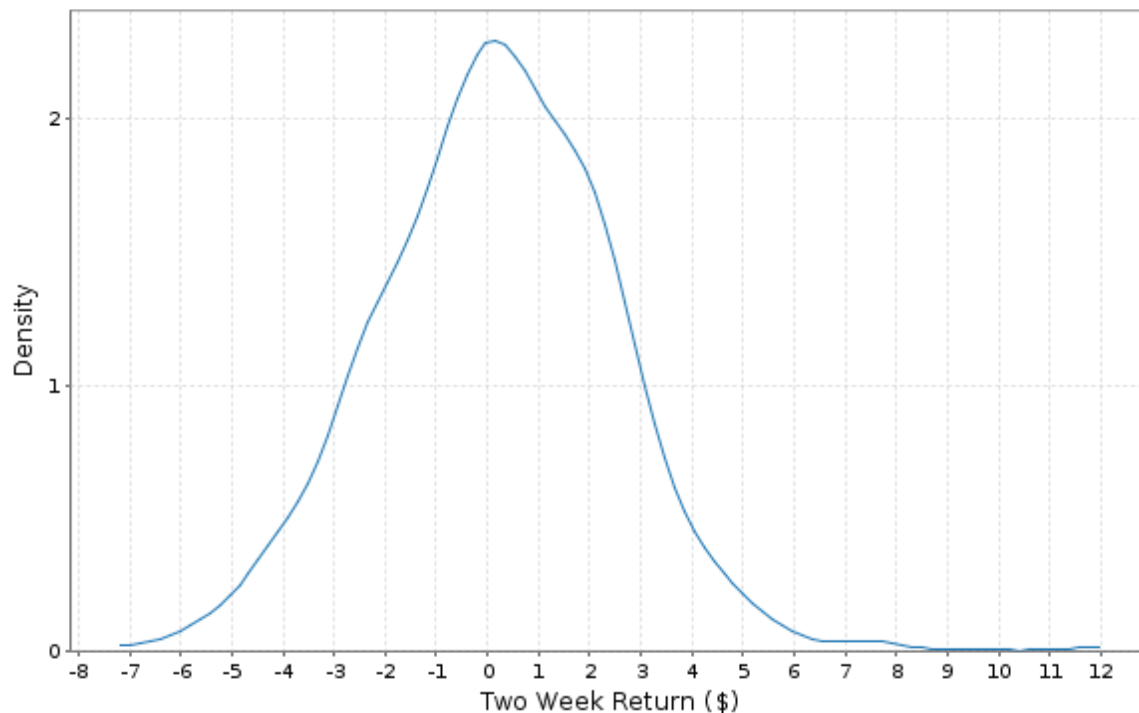
```
// Fit a model to each instrument
```

```
val models: Array[Array[Double]] =  
  instrumentReturns.map { instrument =>  
    val regression = new OLSMultipleLinearRegression()  
    regression.newSampleData(instrument, factorReturns)  
    regression.estimateRegressionParameters()  
  }.collect()
```

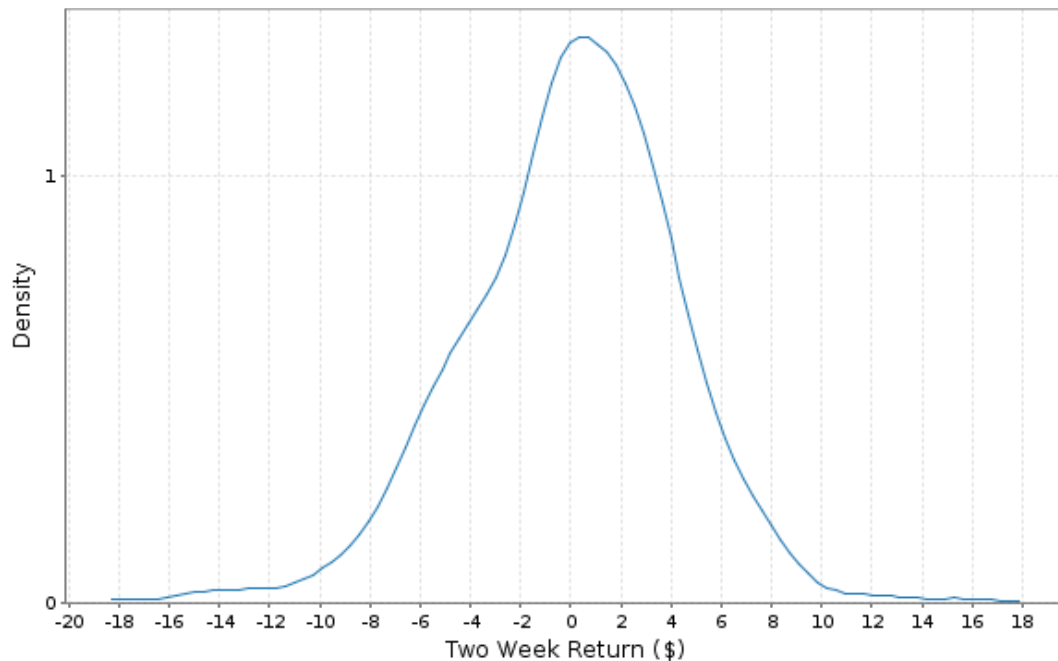
How to sample factor returns?

- Need to be able to generate sample vectors where each component is a factor return.
- Factors returns are usually correlated.

Distribution of US treasury bond two-week returns



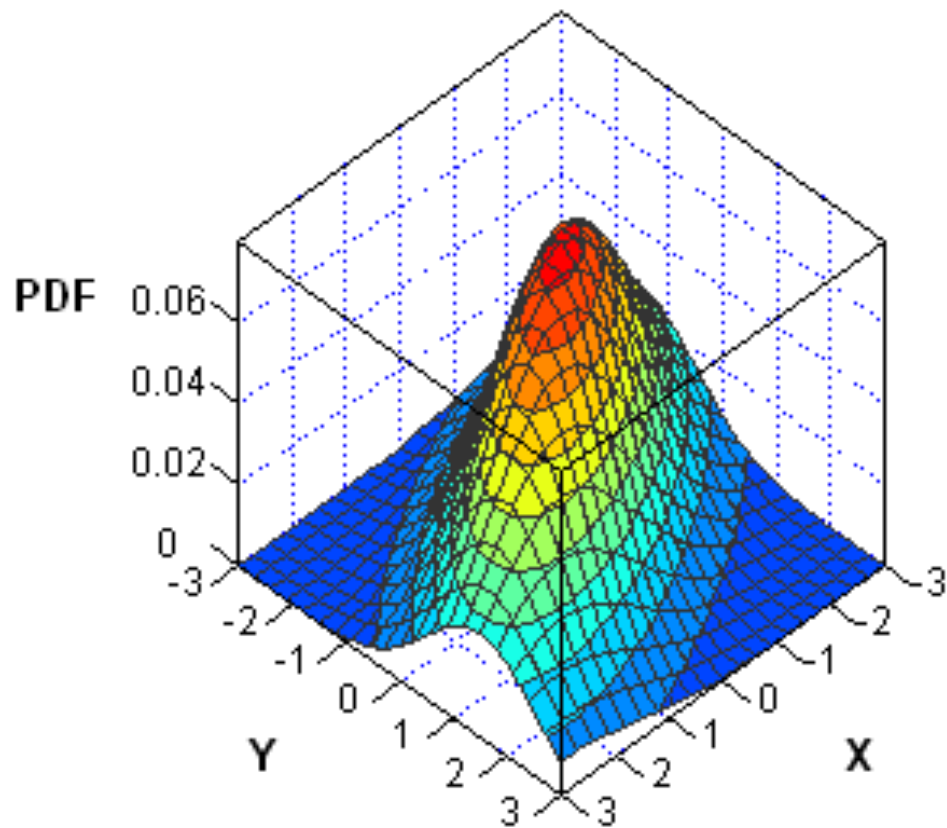
Distribution of crude oil two-week returns



The Multivariate Normal Distribution

$$m_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$$

- Probability distribution over vectors of length N
- Given all the variables but one, that variable is distributed according to a univariate normal distribution
- Models correlations between variables



```
import org.apache.commons.math3.stat.correlation.Covariance
```

```
// Compute means
```

```
val factorMeans: Array[Double] = transpose(factorReturns)  
    .map(factor => factor.sum / factor.size)
```

```
// Compute covariances
```

```
val factorCovs: Array[Array[Double]] = new Covariance(factorReturns)  
    .getCovarianceMatrix().getData()
```

Fancier

- Multivariate normal often a poor choice compared to more sophisticated options
- Fatter tails: Multivariate T Distribution
- Filtered historical simulation
 - ARMA
 - GARCH

Running the simulations

- Create an RDD of seeds
- Use each seed to generate a set of simulations
- Aggregate results

```
// Broadcast the factor return -> instrument return models
```

```
val bModels = sc.broadcast(models)
```

```
// Generate a seed for each task
```

```
val seeds = (baseSeed until baseSeed + parallelism)
```

```
val seedRdd = sc.parallelize(seeds, parallelism)
```

```
// Create an RDD of trials
```

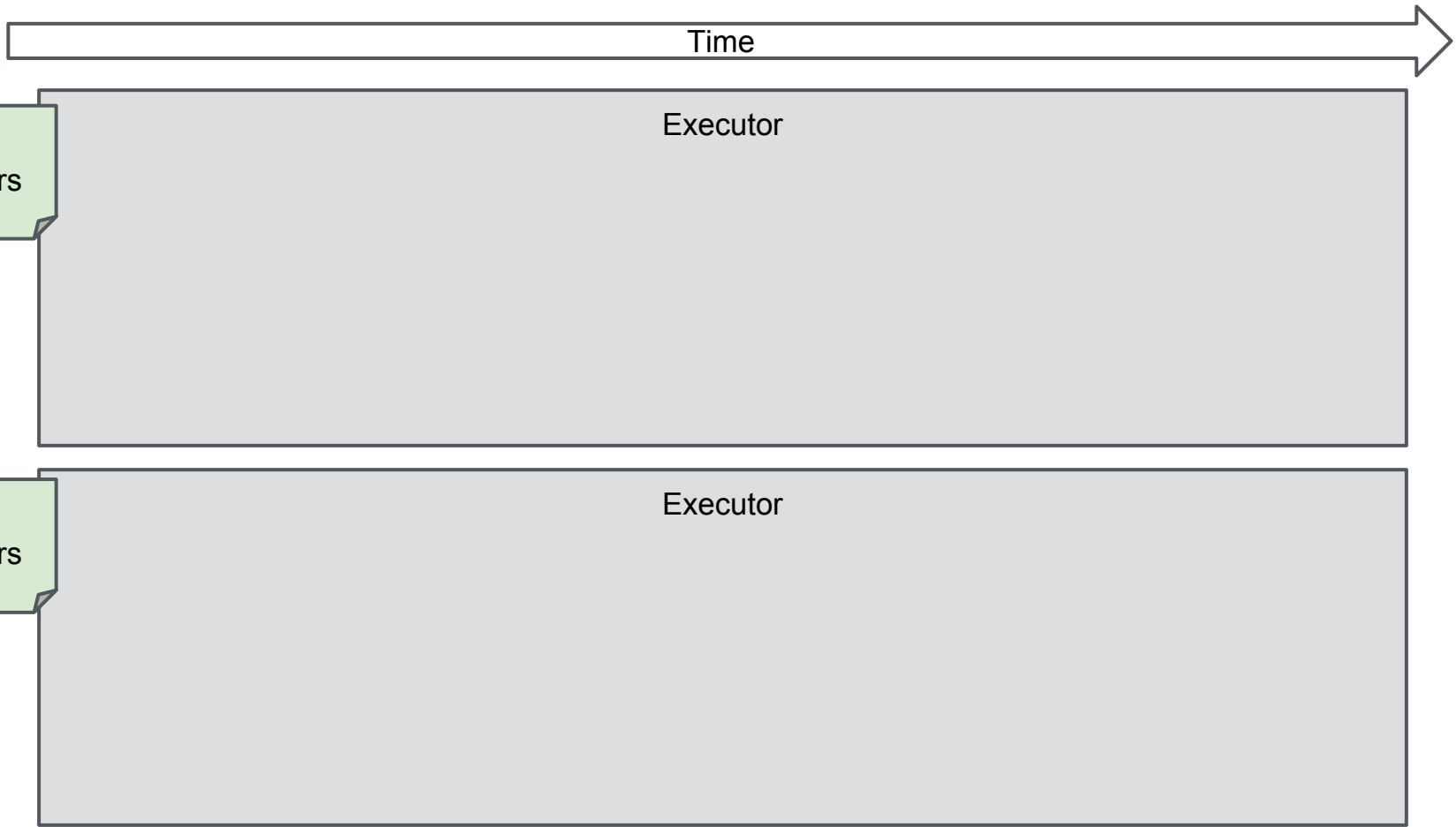
```
val trialReturns: RDD[Double] = seedRdd.flatMap { seed =>
```

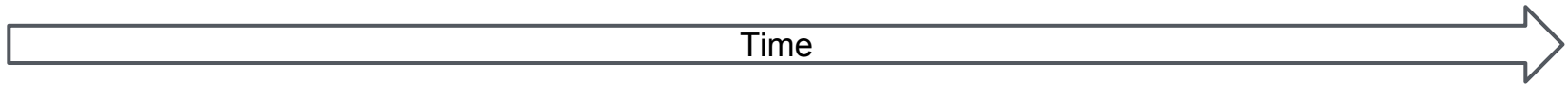
```
    trialReturns(seed, trialsPerTask, bModels.value, factorMeans, factorCovs)
```

```
}
```

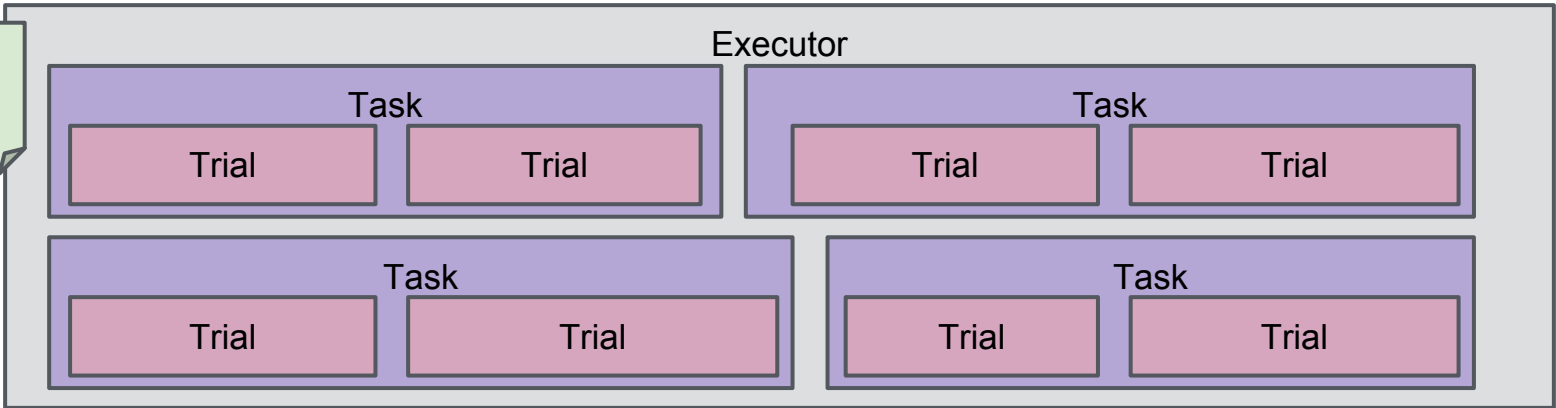


```
def trialReturn(factorDist: MultivariateNormalDistribution, models: Seq[Array[Double]]): Double = {  
  val trialFactorReturns = factorDist.sample()  
  var totalReturn = 0.0  
  
  for (model <- models) {  
    // Add the returns from the instrument to the total trial return  
    for (i <- until trialFactorReturns.length) {  
      totalReturn += trialFactorReturns(i) * model(i)  
    }  
  }  
  totalReturn  
}
```

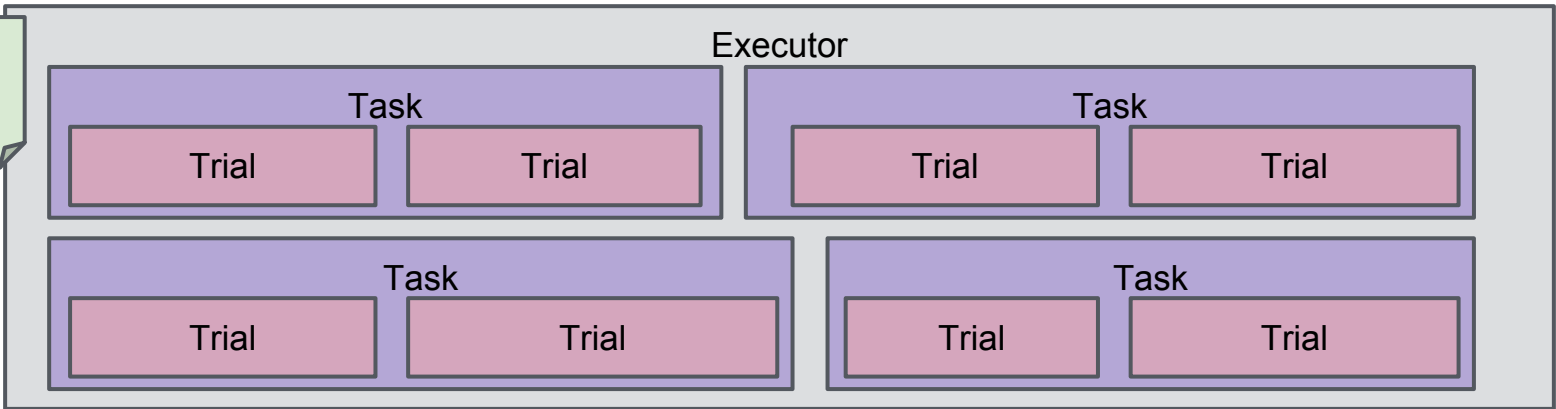




Model parameters



Model parameters



// Cache for reuse

```
trialReturns.cache()
```

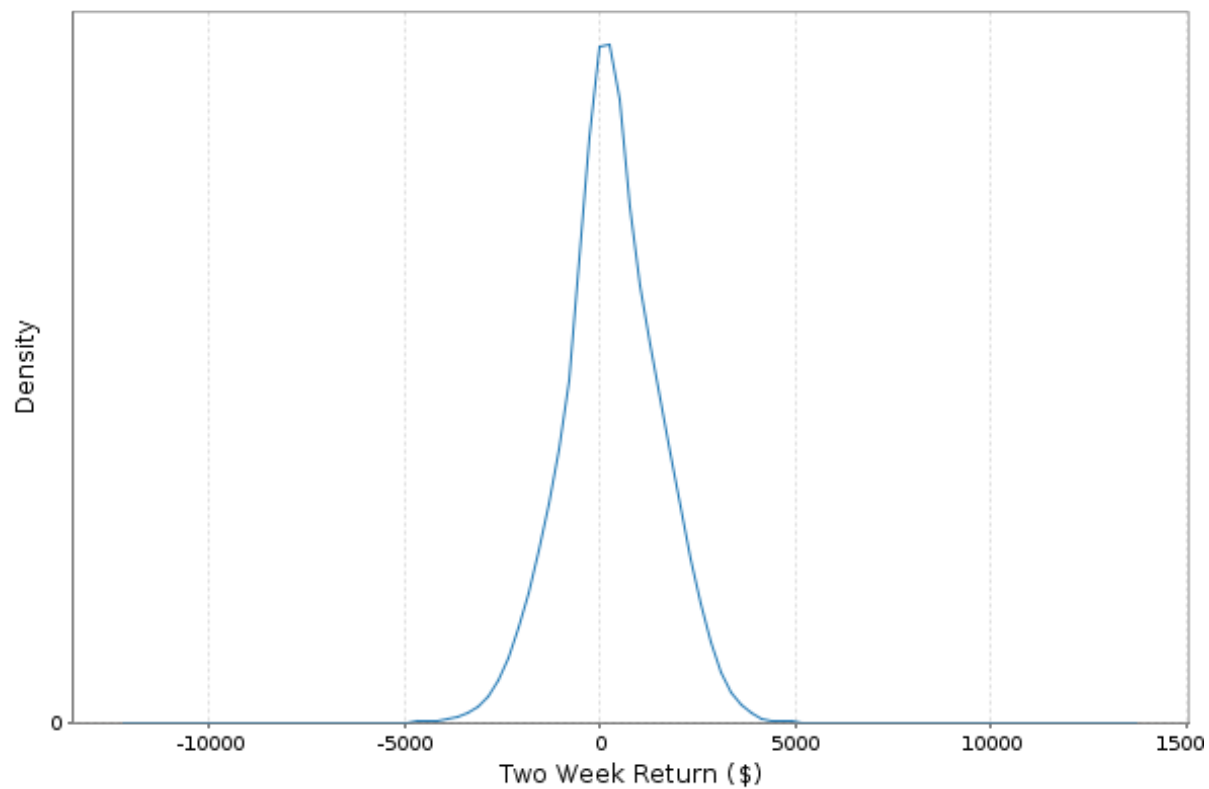
```
val numTrialReturns = trialReturns.count().toInt
```

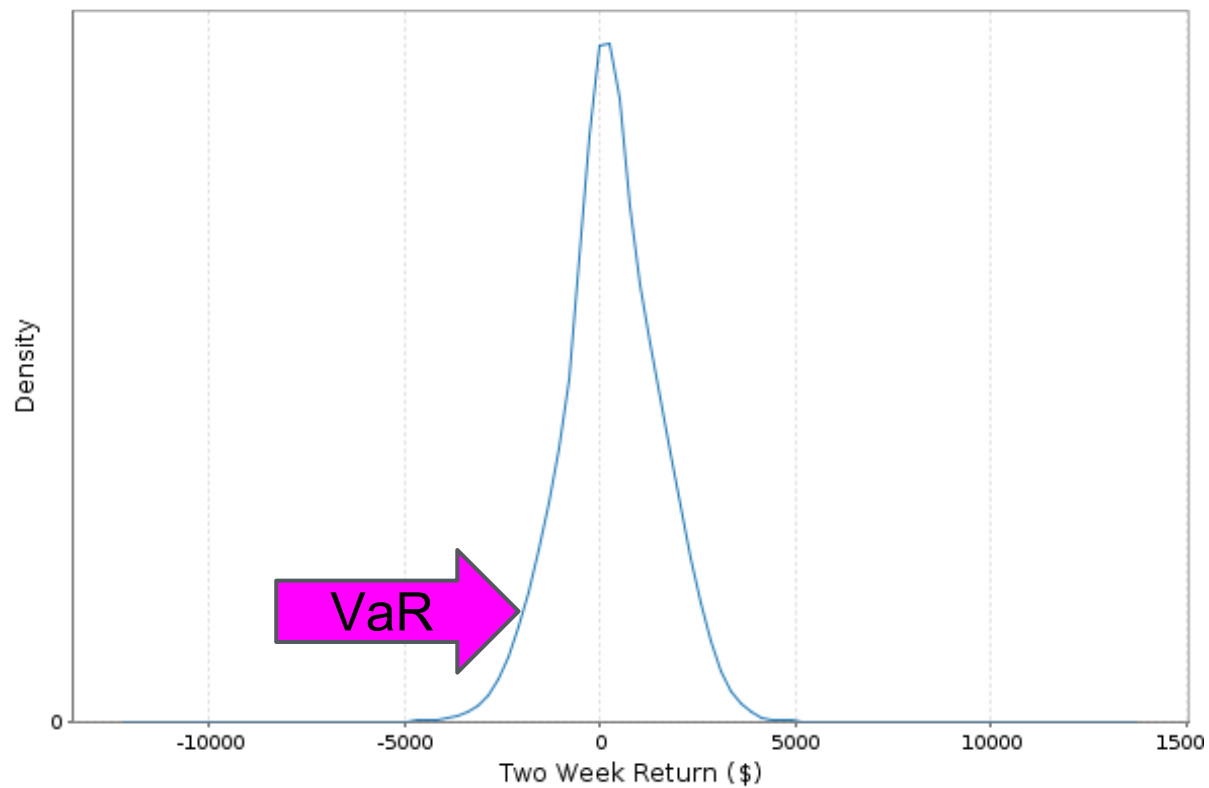
// Compute value at risk

```
val valueAtRisk = trials.takeOrdered(numTrialReturns / 20).last
```

// Compute expected shortfall

```
val expectedShortfall =  
    trials.takeOrdered(numTrialReturns / 20).sum / (numTrialReturns / 20)
```





So why Spark?

Ease of use

- Parallel computing for 5-year olds
- Scala, Python, and R REPLs

Single platform for

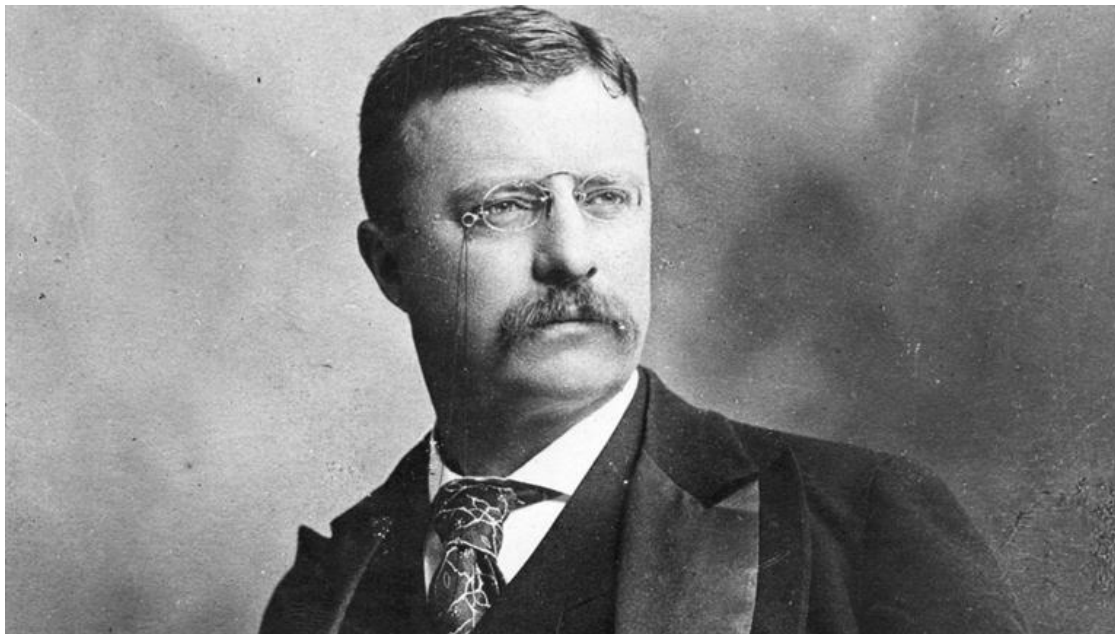
- Cleaning data
- Fitting models
- Running simulations
- Storing results
- Analyzing results

But it's CPU-bound and we're using Java?



- Computational bottlenecks are normally in matrix operations, which can be BLAS-ified
- Can call out to GPUs just like in C++
- Memory access patterns aren't high-GC inducing

Want to do this yourself?



spark-timeseries

- <https://github.com/cloudera/spark-timeseries>
- Everything here + some fancier stuff
- Patches welcome!

