

Systemic Risk and Financial Connectedness: Empirical Evidence

Mateusz Dadej

August 12, 2024

1 Introduction

A fundamental characteristic that distinguishes systemic events from idiosyncratic ones are the relation between the system participants. A common sequence of a systemic contagion, is when a supposedly firm specific events becomes transmitted into the cross-sectional dimension. Clearly, the way particular entities are interacting within the system is a key characteristic in order to understand the dynamics and severity of systemic events. This is what separates the common approach to systemic risk, where the stability of the system is but a sum of idiosyncratic risks, to the one that emphasizes the role of system structure. These contrasting distinctions are best captured by the concepts of *too-big-to-fail* and *too-interconnected-to-fail*. Where the former, emphasizes the sheer size of the entity and its potential impact on the system in case of default. On the other hand, the latter term describes the way the system depends on that particular institution, due to its central role within the system. It has been acknowledged that the macroprudential policy was too focused on the sheer size of institutions, but insufficiently on their systemic contribution (see e.g. Bernanke (2009) or Rajan (2009)). That being said, it is crucial to view the system through the lenses of both of these approaches, for they are complimentary when assessing the stability of the financial system.

This approach to the systemic risk, gave a rise to the concept of *robust yet fragile* property of the financial system. In the context of financial markets, the term was first coined¹ by the economist at the Bank of England, Andrew Haldane (Haldane

¹Before that, the term was commonly used in the complexity science (see e.g. Doyle et al. (2005))

(2013)). He posits, that due to its interconnectedness, the financial system exhibits a tipping point property. The connections among financial institutions serves as a shock absorbers, as long as the extent of the shock is limited. The common links allow for a shock to be spread throughout the network, at the same time suppressing the damages of the initial shock. However, once the extent of the shock exceeds a certain point, the properties of the contagion changes markedly. The network of the institutions no longer works as shock absorber, but as a shock amplifier of the initial disturbance. The damages are transmitted further on, disturbing the banks in a chain reaction. With the final contagion substantially exceeding the degree of the initial shock. The contagion is transmitted akin to the spread of the disease.

A relatively new strain of literature, that incorporates the way institutions are forming the financial networks, have emerged as a response to the increasing connections among the market participants. The literature provides several theoretical models describing the aforementioned property². One of the extension of the property is described in Acemoglu et al. (2015a). They provide a simple, yet profound model in which a more densely connected financial network improves the stability of the system when faced by a shock, relatively smaller in magnitude. On the other hand, similarly to the *robust yet fragile* property, beyond some degree of the shock, more dense connections of the system are undermining the stability thereof. Thus, their conjecture highlights, that the network density may have a substantially different effect depending on which regime the markets currently are.

Considering the above theoretical literature, herein work aims at providing an empirical evidence to the regime-dependent effect of the network density on the stability of the financial system. The paper mostly follow the description of the *robust yet fragile* property as in Acemoglu et al. (2015a), however, the evidence is easily applicable to the other models (see Glasserman and Young (2016) for an extensive literature review). To the best of the knowledge, there has not been a study that provides an empirical evidence of this phenomenon.

More precisely, the research design is a two-step process. First, to collect a time series of stock prices of the systematically important banks in both US and EU. Based on the data, the network between the banks and its density is estimated in a rolling

and Carlson and Doyle (2002))

²In fact, the *robust yet fragile* property of the financial system was described before it was called as such (see e.g Gai and Kapadia (2010), first published in 2008, or Gallegati et al. (2008)).

window basis. In order to achieve robust results, the modeling approach is based on several methods, well established in the literature of network econometrics. This procedure results in a time series of financial connectedness for the particular financial market. In the second step, a Markov switching ARCH model is estimated, where the connectedness is the exogenous, regime-dependent variable. It is assumed, that a volatility of particular banking index reflects the stability thereof. Additionally, the research provide a series of robustness checks, *inter alia*, by including the financial statement data of the banks in the modeling framework.

The model endogenously finds two distinct regimes of the analyzed relationship. The results indeed provide an evidence confirming the set of theoretical models. The effect of the network density on the stability of the financial system varies depending on the regimes. However, the effect is much asymmetrical. During the stable market regime, the network density has almost no effect on the stability of the financial system. At the same time, more dense financial network, is undermining the stability of the system during the unstable market regime³. It is, thus, evident that the increased bank interconnectedness is in total a damaging property of the financial markets.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows. Next section provides a brief literature review and its link to herein paper. Section 3 describes the data and provides preliminary statistics. The methods employed to estimate the connectedness of the financial sectors are described in the section 4. The estimated networks are analyzed in section 5. The modeling of regime-dependent effect of connectedness is described in the section 6 and its main results are presented in the section 7. The robustness check and its results are described in the sections 8. Section 9 concludes.

2 Literature

As the research aims at connecting the theoretical models of the financial networks with the empirical evidence, the relevant literature is divided into theoretical and empirical part.

One of the earliest seminal models describing the contagion through the lens of financial networks was Allen and Gale (2000). Where they arrive to the very intuitive conclusion that a complete network⁴ between the banks, is more robust to the contagion

³Acemoglu et al. (2015a) describe these regimes as "small shock" and "large shock" respectively.

⁴In graph theory, a complete graph has connections among all of its nodes.

than the incomplete one. The mechanism is that the more diversified network of banks allows the liquidity shock to spread among the network. A similar conclusion can be drawn from the work of Freixas et al. (2000), where they emphasize the role of the central bank in coordinating the banking system during the contagion. An important advancement in analyzing financial networks was introduced in Eisenberg and Noe (2001). They provide a method to obtain a clearing vector among the banks, that clears their obligation. Additionally, they prove uniqueness of the vector. The method is extensively used for modeling the contagion in the financial networks and has been extended, e.g. for liquidity consideration (Cifuentes et al. (2005)) or for liquidation costs (Rogers and Veraart (2013)).

Since the first works, modeling banking system as a financial network, there was an increased effort into describing alternative ways of contagion propagation in this framework. One of the very first ones was described in Cifuentes et al. (2005), where the banks are interconnected through common market asset holdings. They show, that when the market's demand for illiquid assets is not perfectly elastic, selling them on the market by the banks may decrease prices substantially. At the same time, due to mark-to-market accounting, other banks with the same holdings may be under pressure to sell their assets, further depressing and generating the fire sales. This contagion may begin even from lesser shocks. Elliott et al. (2014) emphasize the role of bankruptcy cost in amplifying the cascading effect of the contagion. Their model also distinguishes integration from the network connectedness, defining it as a degree of dependence from the network. They show, that although integration can increase the likelihood of a cascade once an initial failure happens, it might also decrease the chance of that first failure. Caballero and Simsek (2013) shows, that once the contagion begin, the banks are facing an increasingly complex environment as they need to monitor the bigger part of the network in order to control their own default risk. This uncertainty induced counterparty risk causes precautionary behavior among banks, further exacerbating the fire sale.

A considerably more relevant strain of literature to herein research considers the nonlinear effect of the connectedness on contagion dynamics. Based on previously studied concept of percolation on random graph from complexity science (Callaway et al. (2000) or Newman et al. (2001)), Gai and Kapadia (2010) show that the financial system exhibits a similar form of phase transition. Specifically, due to the dense structure of

the financial networks, the likelihood of contagion is particularly low. However, the same property makes the contagion very severe once it happens. Based on the same model, May and Arinaminpathy (2010) apply mean-field approximation, to identify the contribution of various parameters in the model to the likelihood and severity of the contagion. An already mentioned research of Acemoglu et al. (2015a), goes beyond the model of Gai and Kapadia (2010). They suggest, that the degree of connectedness of the financial system have a regime-dependent effect on stability, at the same time proving the narrative of Andrew Haldane (Haldane (2013)). The contribution of herein research is exactly to provide an empirical evidence of their work as well as the intuition of policymakers.

Since the work is mostly empirical in nature, it is also imperative to position it among the literature of network econometrics. Although scarce in data, there has been several works statistically describing the actual transaction level data⁵ and thus, the network among the banks. Using Bundesbank data on bilateral interbank exposures among 2000 banks from 1999 to 2012, Craig and von Peter (2014) provide evidence for tiering on the interbank market. The banks are forming a very hierarchical network, where a lower-tiered banks are interacting between each other mostly through the intermediating banks, mostly bigger in size⁶. The tiering behavior is modeled and commonly referred to in the literature as a *core-periphery* structure. Based on the Italian interbank market data from January 1999 to December 2010, Fricke and Lux (2015a) confirm previous contribution, at the same time showing, that the core of the financial network is highly persistent in time. That is, the banks forming the core don't change the position in the structure. Langfield et al. (2014) extend the previous research with the data across other class of assets held among the banks (such as derivatives, marketable securities, repo, unsecured lending and secured lending). They emphasize particular heterogeneity of the financial network, by distinguishing between interbank funding and interbank exposures. The structure is significantly different among these types, thus the dynamics of contagion varies depending on the source of risk (liquidity vs. credit risk). Clearly, the contribution of this part of the literature is mostly in describing the stylized facts present in the actual financial networks.

As much as the network data is available (although to the very limited extent),

⁵The data is often proprietary to the public entities regulating the financial markets.

⁶A similar behavior is also present in other economic networks e.g. international trade (Antras and Costinot (2011))

the econometricians aimed at estimating the financial networks from broadly available sources, mostly from equity price time series. Billio et al. (2012) describe a pair of econometric methods, that are employed as part of this work. They use monthly stock prices of insurers, hedge funds and banks to estimate their interconnectedness. In the first approach they suggest a model based on principal component analysis (Hereafter referred to as PCA, Muirhead (2009)). When used on the covariance matrix of stock returns, the PCA will provide a set of factors eigenvalues best describing the variation of the system. A higher share of the variance, explained by top eigenvalues, indicates elevated connectedness in the system. A second model provides more detailed information by estimating a whole directed network of the financial institutions. The method is based on the "Granger causality" (Granger (1969)) among the pair of allegedly connected entities. The financial network is constructed by performing the granger test on each of pairs of the stock returns with adjacency matrix entries being one or zero depending on the outcome of the test. The resulting approach allows higher flexibility in analyzing the topology of the network and deciding the measures of connectedness (the authors use a range of different network measures). These methods are employed in the research design and more closely described later on.

Alternative methodology to estimate financial networks from the stock prices data was developed by Diebold and Yilmaz (2014). In their work, the financial network⁷ is estimated as a matrix of parameters from the Vector Autoregression model (Sims (1980)). Precisely, the adjacency matrix of the network is the Θ from the VAR matrix notation: $\mathbf{y}_t = \theta_o + \Theta \mathbf{y}_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$. In a similar vein to Billio et al. (2012), the authors use their method to estimate the network and appropriate connectedness measures among the financial institutions from USA⁸. As these methods may seem to be substitutable at first, the authors themselves point out the differences between their approach and that of Billio et al. (2012). Considering the VAR methodology, it is evident that the resulting network of connections is weighted, unlike the Granger-based approach. This provides another dimension to analyze the strength of the links among the institutions. Moreover, at least in the standard formulation, the Granger-based approach is only

⁷Or in the paper's terminology - a connectedness table.

⁸The same approach was applied also to other data. For example, international trade (Diebold and Yilmaz (2023)) commodities (Diebold et al. (2017) and Gong and Xu (2022)), cryptocurrencies (Ji et al. (2019)), particular pair of countries (Dadej (2023)) and among the whole asset classes (Bouri et al. (2021)).

pairwise. That is, it does not control for the spurious relationship, stemming from the confounding third (or more, in that matter) entity. However, the Granger-based method is flexible enough to extend the main regression used to test the Granger causality by more control variables. There are, of course, some disadvantages to rely on the VAR approach. It requires identifying assumptions, related to the variance decomposition. Also, what is more relevant to the herein research is higher computational burden coming from the VAR approach. Given, that the research design does not require information on link weights and is computationally expensive, the approach of Billio et al. (2012) was considered to be more appropriate.

There is a number of alternative methods used for estimating networks in general, but more often used in other fields of study. A common approach from systems biology are Gaussian graphical models (e.g. applied in Friedman (2004)). They allow for maximum likelihood estimation with penalization, producing a robust network estimation. Some of the applications in finance were estimating international finance flows (Giudici and Spelta (2016)) or systemic risk on the banking sector (Cerchiello and Giudici (2016)). Barigozzi and Brownlees (2019) employs common approach to estimate network with VAR, but they extend the methodology with LASSO estimation (Breiman (1995)), allowing for sparsity of the network and improved forecasting.

Another strain of literature, suggesting the methods to estimate financial networks, comes from a different data source. Banks do not provide counterparty information in their financial statements but they do show their aggregated values for both lending and borrowing on the interbank market. This is a source of hard data that provides the marginal values for the adjacency matrix of the network, i.e. the columns and rows sums. Several authors provided methods of filling the adjacency matrix at the same time satisfying some stylized facts regarding financial networks. The stylized facts are provided by the research based on the actual data (surveyed before in herein section) or commonly accepted economic rationale, in case of no self-lending restriction. One of the most common approach is to estimate the network as evenly as possible. This method, know as *maximum entropy* (Upper (2011)), assumes that banks are trying to diversify their holdings as much as possible. The supposition that banks are diversifying as much as possible, may seems appealing at first. However, due to the monitoring costs and informal relationships (Bräuning and Fecht (2016)) among banks (Cocco et al. (2009)), it is not realistic. Most likely overestimating density of the actual

financial network. Having that in mind, Anand et al. (2015) suggest a *minimum density* method which minimizes the total number of linkages necessary for allocating interbank positions. An appealing characteristic of the method is that it is overestimating the degree of contagion (according to the author’s comparison). This is contrary to the benchmark methods, which more often underestimate it. A method suggested by Baral and Figue (2012), draws a link weights based on the copula distribution fitted to the aggregated interbank data. Cimini et al. (2015) uses fitness model based on likelihood of directed connections with additional knowledge of the node’s parameters. Drehmann and Tarashev (2013) takes into account a commonly recognized stylized fact regarding the interbank market, that the network exhibits a *core-periphery* structure. Their method provides a reconstructed matrix with *core-periphery* characteristic. Hałaj and Kok (2013) suggest an iterative method were the network links are drawn randomly until the network is reconstructed. Above methods are compared together in a horse race described in Anand et al. (2018).

A literature considering connections between financial institutions in the context of systemic risk and contagion is vast. Considering the increased importance of connectedness for assessing the systemic risk, Hautsch et al. (2014) improve on the works of Adrian and Brunnermeier (2016) to propose the realized systemic risk beta. The measure specify the contribution of particular financial institution to the systemic risk, given its position in the network. A similar metric is suggested by Dungey et al. (2012). They rank financial institutions in order of their systemic importance, considering their correlation-based connectedness. Savona (2014) estimate dynamic conditional correlation model, in order to study the contagion among the hedge funds. The author shows, that correlations are key factor for predicting depressed hedge fund returns. A broader perspective is shown in the work of Minoiu et al. (2015). According to their research, an elevated country connectedness, and at the same time, decrease in those of its neighbors, is able to predict the banking crisis.

3 Data

The main set of results is based on the equity stock prices and indices data. The stock data is adjusted for corporate actions such as splits and dividends. The analysis focus on the data of financial institutions from two biggest financial sectors. Namely, that of United States and European Union. An exact list of the institutions follows

the stress test exercises from both of the banking sectors analyzed (European Banking Authority (2021) and Federal Reserve system (2021)). The number of institutions is 31 and 42 for USA and EU respectively. The full list is presented in the table 7 in the appendix A. Not every company was listed from the beginning of the analyzed period. The list of the first available price data (thus including in the analysis) is presented in table 8 in the appendix A. Additionally, the relevant banking indices are used as a proxy of financial stability (KBW Nasdaq Bank Index and EURO STOXX® Banks) and broad market indices for control (S&P500 and STOXX® Europe 600). A robustness check incorporates financial statements of the institutions into analysis. The financial variables are obtained from Orbis database for each quarter between 2017Q3 and 2024Q4⁹. The source of the data is Yahoo Finance.

3.1 Summary statistics

Table 1 reports descriptive statistics of the stock price data for both of the markets. On average the stock prices have a (slight) upward trend with average return being positive and similar for both of the markets. Although, once the sample is split pre and post Great Financial Crisis (hereafter referred to as GFC), there are substantial differences. The average returns are higher post-GFC for USA than before, au contraire, the European returns were higher pre-GFC. It clearly shows, the banking dimension of the debt crisis that hit the Europe in the second decade of 21st century. It is also evident that the European market is more volatile. Every dispersion measure is higher for EU than USA. This is as expected, considering the more severe banking crises in a lot of European member states (e.g. Greece, Italy and Ireland). Unlike in the USA, where there was no substantial banking contagion after the 2008 subprime crisis.

The American market is on average more correlated than the European one. The reason is more fragmented banking sector¹⁰ in Europe, with different member states having a separate banking law, regulators, capital markets and in general a more heterogeneous real economy. That being said, the systemic risk of the banking sector is indeed a EU-wide concern (see e.g. Song and Zhang (2021)).

⁹However, due to missing reports for some institutions the actual data used is smaller

¹⁰Although, the concept of Banking union is discussed.

market	EU	USA
Average return (%)	0.0395	0.0412
Std. deviation (%)	3.83	2.49
max drawdown (%)	-88.77	-83.17
1% percentile (%)	-7.55	-6.63
99% percentile (%)	7.76	6.99
worst return (%)	-93.33	-59.03
max return (%)	1400	86.9
Average correlation	0.398	0.617
Sample size	5748	5844

Table 1: Descriptive statistics of the data. The statistics are averages over stock returns and markets. In case of maximum and minimum values, the minimum (for stocks) of the minimum (for each market) and vice versa for the maximum.

4 Financial network connectedness

Because of lack of public data from the interbank market, or as a matter of fact, any bilateral contractual obligations between the banks, the academic literature developed a set of tools to estimate the financial networks from available sources. As shown in the literature, these methods are well established and commonly applied in order to estimate the financial connections. This is despite some of their limitations. One may wonder, how can the stock prices reflect an information that is not public? There is however, evidence, that the stock prices discount also some unknown information to the public, e.g. due to insider trading or inferred from other data. A classic example is Newhard (2014), describing the, allegedly, the first ever event study performed on the stock prices. Based on the outperformance of lithium producers he inferred the fuel material used in the manufacturing of the newly-developed hydrogen bomb. An information which was non-public, to the extent, that his paper was confiscated. The literature on insider trading and non-public information on the stock market is vast and extends beyond the scope of herein paper (see e.g. Haw et al. (1990), Huddart et al. (2007) or Klein et al. (2020)). As well as assessment of the methods to estimate the financial network.

A schematic representation describing the problem faced by both Billio et al. (2012)

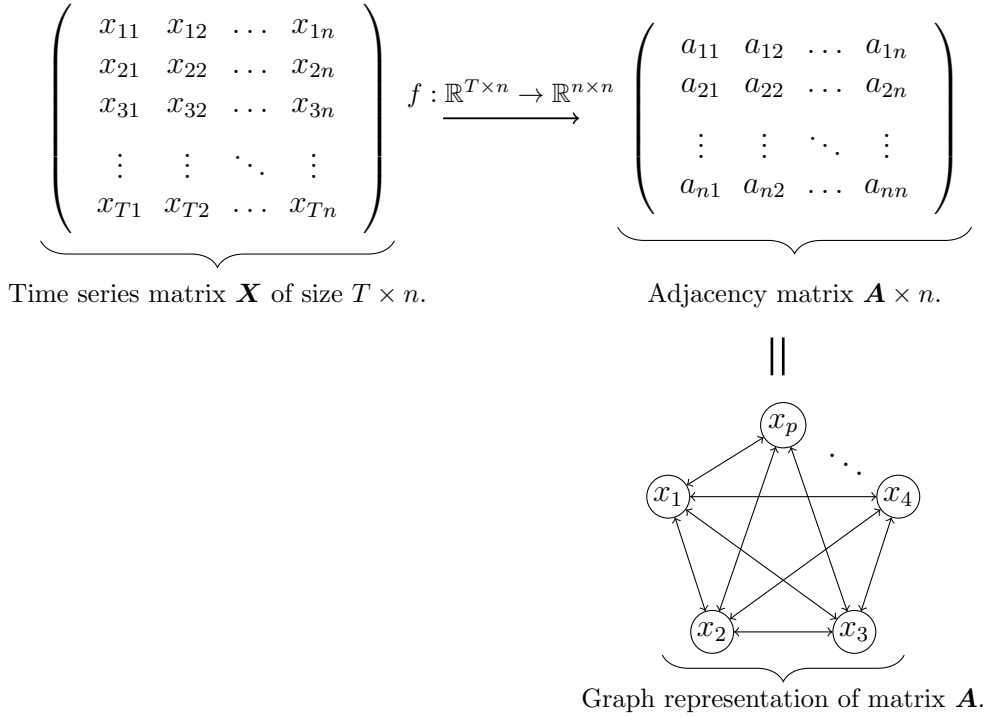


Figure 1: Scheme describing the process of financial network estimation.

and Diebold et al. (2017) of financial network estimation is shown in the Figure 1. Based on the multivariate time-series data matrix X , consisting of stock price returns, the authors suggest a method of inferring an adjacency matrix, describing the connections among the financial institutions. As shown, the adjacency matrix has a number of columns and rows equal to the number of entities. Each of the elements in the adjacency matrix \mathbf{A} , describe the connections between the entities. That is, $a_{i,j} > 0 \Rightarrow i \rightarrow j \forall i \neq j$. In the economic applications, the diagonal values are usually zero, as there is no intuition behind a self connection of a financial institution. Each $a_{i,j}$ can take binary values in case of unweighted graph or any other real-valued number in case of weighted graph. A very useful property, linking linear algebra and graph theory is that every graph has its own adjacency matrix (and vice versa). Thus, a variety of graph theory measures may be applied to the estimated network of connections. One of the most common measure describing the financial connectedness is the average degree, which is average number of edges each of the graph nodes has. The measure may provide a single value number describing the connectedness of entirety of financial system (at least so far as goes the number of included financial institutions).

In what follows in the section, the particular methods of estimating the financial networks are described. Out of the three methods employed in the research design, the

last two of the them follows the work of Billio et al. (2012). With the first one suggested by the author.

4.1 Ledoit-Wolf covariance

This approach follows a commonly applied in finance (and in portfolio optimization in particular) shrinkage method suggested by Ledoit and Wolf (2003). The idea behind shrinkage is to compute the convex linear combination of sample covariance $\hat{\Sigma} = \frac{1}{N} \mathbf{X}' \mathbf{X}$ (with elements $\hat{\sigma}_{i,j}$) of rates of returns matrix \mathbf{X} and an identity matrix \mathbb{I} :

$$\tilde{\Sigma} := \rho_1 \mathbb{I} + \rho_2 \hat{\Sigma} \quad (1)$$

The optimal linear combination above is the solution to the following quadratic program subject to linear constraint:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\rho_1, \rho_2} \quad & \mathbb{E}[\|\tilde{\Sigma} - \Sigma\|^2] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \tilde{\Sigma} = \rho_1 \mathbb{I} + \rho_2 \hat{\Sigma} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Where the $\|\cdot\|$ is the Frobenius norm defined¹¹ as $\|A\| = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sum_{j=1}^N a_{i,j}^2}$. With solution equal to:

$$\tilde{\Sigma} = \frac{\beta^2}{\delta^2} \mu \mathbb{I} + \frac{\alpha^2}{\delta^2} \hat{\Sigma} \quad (3)$$

The estimators of β^2 , δ^2 , α^2 and μ being:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mu}_T &= \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \sigma_{i,i}^T \\ \hat{\delta}_T^2 &= \|\hat{\Sigma}_T - \hat{\mu}_T \mathbb{I}_T\|^2 \\ \hat{\beta}_T^2 &= \min \left\{ \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T \|x_t^T (x_t^T)' - \hat{\Sigma}_T\|^2, \hat{\delta}_T^2 \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Once the shrinked covariance matrix is estimated, it is assumed to reflect the underlying connections among the financial institutions. The connectedness is thus measured as an average Ledoit-Wolf covariance among the entities:

$$\gamma_{lw} = \frac{\sum_{i \neq j}^N \sum_{j \neq i}^N \tilde{\sigma}_{i,j}}{N^2 - N} \quad (5)$$

¹¹For the purpose of this exercise, this is a slightly modified version of the Frobenius norm.

Where $\tilde{\sigma}_{i,j}$ are, as before, elements of the matrix $\tilde{\Sigma}$.

The procedure tends to pull the most extreme parameters into more central values, thus systematically reducing estimation error. The estimation error is especially substantial when the dimension of the analyzed data is high, with respect to the amount of observations available. another work by the original authors Ledoit and Wolf (2004) performs a Monte Carlo simulation study benchmarking alternative ways to estimate the covariance matrix and shows the superiority of their approach for large dimensional data. This is considerably relevant considering research design of this work. As mentioned before, the connectedness measure will be calculated in a rolling window basis. Often as small as a single quarter (63 observations vs. 42 variables).

4.2 Principal component analysis

A connectedness measure based on the principal component analysis (PCA) is the first method suggested by Billio et al. (2012). The idea is to calculate the share of variance explained by the top k component. In principle, the PCA is the eigendecomposition of a covariance matrix (with variance of covariates scaled to one). Namely, we wish to find an eigenvector ν and eigenvalue λ that satisfy following equation:

$$\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{v} = \lambda\mathbf{v} \quad (6)$$

The values of interest may be find solving a homogeneous system of linear equations $|\hat{\Sigma} - \lambda\mathbb{I}| = 0$, with $|\cdot|$ being a determinant operator. An important property of the eigenvectors is their orthogonality. The covariance matrix is decomposed in a following way:

$$\hat{\Sigma} = \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{\Lambda}\mathbf{Q}' \quad (7)$$

Where $\mathbf{\Lambda} = \text{diag}\{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n\}$ and \mathbf{Q} is an orthogonal matrix whose columns are unit eigenvectors. Thus, the eigendecomposition yields a set of uncorrelated components fully explaining (linearly) the underlying covariance matrix. The eigenvalues reflect the variance explained by the relative eigenvector.

In the context of the data used in this research, the biggest eigenvalue shows the amount of variance of the returns, explained by the most important factor. Thus, the relevant measure of the connectedness is:

$$\gamma_{pca} = \frac{\max\{\lambda\}}{\lambda' \mathbf{1}} \quad (8)$$

Where $\mathbf{1}$ is a vector of ones with appropriate size. The measure may be interpreted as a share of the single most important component in explaining the total sum of the variances. It is clear, that the measure have some drawbacks when analyzing connectedness. The procedure does not yield the connections among the institutions (other than covariance itself) but a single measure of connectedness. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, the measure is useful in the context of herein research design, as the main objective of this stage is to obtain the single connectedness measure.

4.3 Granger based connectedness measure

The approach, that yields not only a network of the connections but also its directionality is based on the concept of Granger causality (Granger (1969)). The variable x_t is said to "Granger-cause" a variable y_t if it contains enough information at time $t - 1$ to predict the respective variable in the next period t . Naturally, this statement is tested by running a regression with lagged variable:

$$y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_t + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^p \beta_{i+1} y_{t-p}}_{\text{lag controls}} + \epsilon_t \quad (9)$$

Where β are the estimated coefficients and ϵ_t the uncorrelated error term. The variable x_t is said to Granger-cause y_t if the respective coefficient β_1 is significantly different from zero. In the context of financial markets, the above approach may appear to be implausible to a lot of financial economists. That is because of the relatively high degree of information efficiency, considering we analyze the most liquid markets in the world. This efficiency implies that any publicly accessible information should yield no predictive ability, thus rendering the equation 10 pointless. That being said, the test indeed finds the underlying connections ¹². This is due to several factors. The primary one, is that the statistical significance is not equal to the economical one. Any execution of potential strategy following the equation 10, will stumble upon the transaction costs, including slippage and commissions, which will make the exercise unprofitable. Thus, the granger causality may just as well be seen as a return spillover between the institutions, as shown in Battiston et al. (2012).

¹²Even with a frequency higher than the applied confidence interval.

The exact procedure employed in the research design is slightly modified¹³. The procedures uses excess returns of the institutions stock prices over a relevant benchmark of market rates of return. Consequently, the returns of the institutions will have a purely idiosyncratic character. The regression has a following specification:

$$r_{i,t+1} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 r_{j,t} + \beta_2 r_{i,t} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^k \beta_{i+2} x_t}_{\text{Sectoral controls}} + \epsilon_t \quad (10)$$

The financial institutions are assumed to be connected when the β_1 coefficient is statistically different from 0. The sectoral controls consists of rates of returns of consumer discretionary ETF, Real Estate ETF, crude oil WTI and treasure bills of 3-month and 10 year maturity. These variables control for common shocks among the institutions. Since the institutions may have a common exposures (e.g. to real estate through mortgages portfolio), a shock to the real estate market could hit both of the institutions equally, showing potential Granger causality, despite no bilateral contractual obligations among them. By introducing some of the sectoral controls the research design is free from this sort of relationship. It is however important to note, that these channels are also of concern by the theoretical literature studying contagion on the financial networks. This channel is described e.g. by Cifuentes et al. (2005) and may play an actual role in the mechanism describing the *robust-yet-fragile* phenomena. That being said, this is one of the three other methods estimating the financial connectedness in herein study and the only one where controlling for the common shock is possible. Thus, the other measures will be allowed to capture this channel.

The above Granger analysis is ran on every pair of the institutions. The adjacency matrix of the financial network \mathbf{A} has following entries:

$$a_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \beta_1 \text{ is significant} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad \forall i \neq j \quad (11)$$

Thus, the resulting graph is unweighted, because the adjacency matrix is binary. Although, this is only a matter of choice. The entries might as well be equal to the

¹³Billio et al. (2012) performs the Granger causality test by filtering the returns with GARCH(1,1) process and then using the time-varying variance to test the significance of the β coefficient from the regression. This approach is, however, computationally more expensive. This technical dimension is more relevant to this study as the connectedness is measured in a rolling window basis. Unlike in the original study of Billio et al. (2012).

effect size β_1 . This is however unnecessary, given the research design. Since the Granger causality is not granted, the network is also directed. Clearly, these properties of the approach are beneficial with respect to the rest employed. The method is also different in a way that it measures the lagged connection among the entities. It is unclear if that is the most suitable approach, considering that the information is discounted in real time on the financial markets.

The connectedness measure is then calculated in a similar manner as for the Ledoit-Wolf approach:

$$\gamma_g = \frac{\sum_{i \neq j}^N \sum_{j \neq i}^N a_{i,j}}{N^2 - N} \quad (12)$$

5 Network estimation results

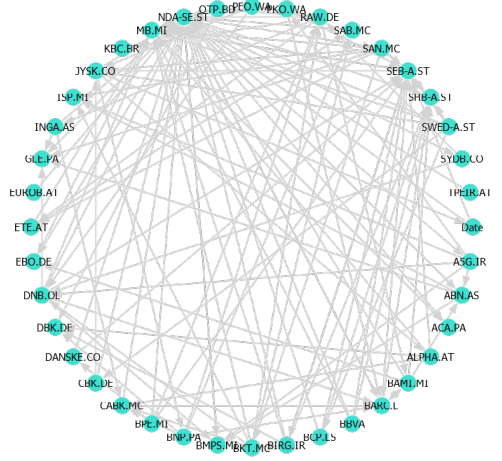
5.1 Static analysis

Although, the ground truth of the true financial network is unknown, it is still informative to investigate the properties of the estimated networks. This way we can evaluate if the estimation results are economically sensible. Figure 5 shows two representations of the same graph, estimated with the Granger-based method. The data used for the estimation is from 2023, as the actual links among the financial institutions is concentrated within this horizon¹⁴. It is clear from the visual presentation of the network, how dense the connection is¹⁵. As reported in the table 2, the visualized graph is more dense than for the USA market and different time periods. The European financial sector is less densely connected than the USA, in both of the period subsample. This is to be expected (also from the descriptive statistics in the subsection 3.1), considering that the banking sector is more fragmented due to separate jurisdictions. In absolute terms, every estimated network is somewhat more dense¹⁶ than the evidence from empirical

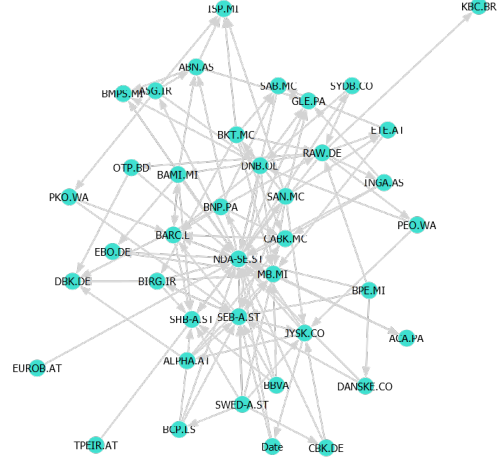
¹⁴The data on maturity structure on interbank market is scarce as well. A bit outdated but complete sample from the German interbank market from 2000 reports that around 40% of the interbank debt has a maturity of less than a year (Upper and Worms (2004)). The inclusion of derivatives would most likely increase this share.

¹⁵The definition of *density* as well as other network statistics used in this section and henceforth is described in the appendix B

¹⁶This is, however, arbitrary to some degree. The level of density might be as well manipulated by choosing different confidence level when checking the β coefficient significance in Granger test.



(a) Circle representation of graph



(b) Circle representation of graph

Figure 2: Financial network visualization based on the European market data from 2023. Each point (node) represents a financial institution and the connections (edges) are links estimated with the Granger causality method. The arrows indicate the direction of particular link. Each node is labeled with the ticker of given financial institution.

literature based on transaction level data. One of the lowest estimates of the density comes from the work of Anand et al. (2015). Based on the German interbank market they report the density to be around 0.59%. On the other hand, one of the highest reported values of density is 15% from the Italian e-MID interbank market (Fricke and Lux (2015b)). The estimates clearly vary substantially, most likely depending on the types of instruments considered a connection among the institutions, as well as the sample of banks. Other than the purely arbitrary level of confidence in the Granger test, the reason of increased density of estimated network is the subsample of only systematically important institutions. This, by definition, makes them more connected to with the rest of the system, rather than the, e.g. regional banks. Still, the density is within estimates from the empirical literature, ensuring that the estimated network is economically sensible (or the chosen confidence level).

The literature investigating the topological nature of the interbank market often provide evidence of the *dis-assortative* property of the network. In graph theory, the term assortativity refers to the tendency of nodes to be connected with the nodes of

Increasing its level from 95% to e.g. 99% would decrease the density. The level of significance is decided by convention.

Network measures	2023		2006	
	Europe	US	US	Europe
density	0.0756	0.108	0.186	0.130
Average degree	6.048	6.26	9.3	9.11
Median degree	4	5	8	9
Excess degree assortativity	-0.373	-0.324	-0.324	-0.245
Indegree assortativity	-0.188	0.137	0.1	0.162
Outdegree assortativity	-0.31	-0.0037	-0.072	0.134
Total degree assortativity	-0.2626	-0.287	-0.307	-0.118
Cluster coefficient	0.033	0.0459	0.078	0.053
intermediator share	0.68	0.866	0.769	0.88
Max path	6	11	5	7
Relative max eigenvector centrality	0.064	0.354	0.221	0.163
Relative core size	0.195	0.195	0.243	0.243
Absolute core size	8	8	10	10

Table 2: Descriptive statistics of estimated networks. The definitions of each are described in appendix B.

similar characteristic. In the context of financial networks, the term of *dis-assortative* property is often used with respect to different bank features. For example, Based on the Brazilian interbank market, Silva et al. (2016) report its dis-assortative property with respect to the amount of connections of institutions¹⁷ (node degree). The same property was observed on the Italian interbank market (L. Bargigli and Pierobon (2015)). On the other hand, Craig and von Peter (2014) also provides evidence of dis-assortative behavior, however in this case, with respect to the bank size (i.e. smaller banks are more likely to be connected to the big ones).

The assortativity, describing the correlation of node in/out-degree, is negative in almost every subsample of estimated networks, that is, they present a dis-assortative properties with respect to its degree. The only type of assortativity that is mostly positive is the indegree assortativity (measuring the correlation between the indegree of the connected nodes). It's worth to note, that the same pattern is present in some of the theoretical models (i.e. Aldasoro et al. (2017)). The negative values are expected.

¹⁷A similar reference is used e.g. in Aldasoro et al. (2017)

This is because the economic role of the interbank market is mostly to facilitate the flow of funds from banks with excess liquidity to those of funding needs. Thus, the banks are more likely connected with each other if their connections have, in overall, different directions of edges. As mentioned before, the empirical literature also reports mostly negative assortativity values.

The dis-assortative property of the financial network is closely related with the *core-periphery* structure of the network (Craig and von Peter (2014)). This structure is commonly observed in the transaction level data of the interbank market and is a widely acknowledged stylized fact. The structure is present when there is a core of the network with (usually bigger) banks, intermediating the flow of funds among the smaller ones. The banks tend to trade between the core and a periphery, but not within those groups. The identified core of the structure is rather stable between the financial markets but changes a bit throughout time. Nevertheless, the relative size is considerably higher than the estimates from the literature. For example, the seminal paper (Craig and von Peter (2014)) identifying the structure reports its relative size to be 3% (depending on the specification). The reason for such a wide difference is most likely due to the sample used. This work mostly uses data of global systematically important institutions, which are most likely part of the core of the financial network. Another factor might be the different methodology applied to identify the core-periphery structure and the network itself.

5.2 Dynamic connectedness

As mentioned before, the connectedness measure described in the section 4 are calculated in a rolling window bases. That is, at each time t the connectedness is calculated for the past window of observations up to $t - w$, where w is a window length. The calculations are done with two window lengths of a quarter and a year. The resulting time series from the calculation are presented in figure 3. The variables were standardized ($\frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma_x}$), in order to be comparable among each other (also during the modeling stage).

The Granger based method provides the most distinct and volatile time series. The method also captures a different type of connectedness. As noted already, it controls for the common exposures by introducing sectoral controls in the Granger regression. The other approaches are not controlling for exogenous variables (other than subtracting the banking index returns) and are as well capturing linear relationship between the

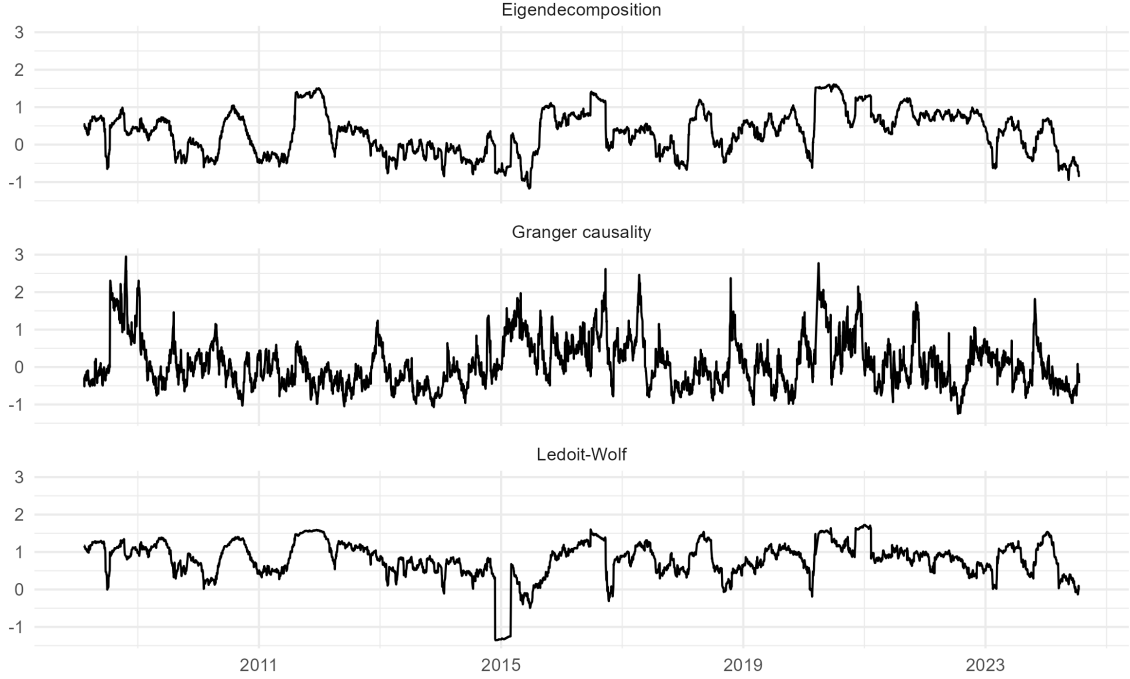


Figure 3: Connectedness time series of the US market. Rolling window of a quarter.

rates of return. The similarity is also confirmed by the Pearson's correlation equal to 77% among the eigendecomposition and Ledoit-Wolf methods. On the other hand the Granger based connectedness time series has only 15% and 3% correlation with respect to the eigendecomposition and Ledoit-Wolf methods respectively¹⁸.

6 Regime-dependent effect of connectedness

The previous section described in detail the methods of estimating the connectedness of the financial system. Subsequently, the resulting time series of the connectedness of the system are going to be utilized in the next process of time-series modeling. As the theoretical contribution posits, the connectedness should have a regime-dependent effect on the systemic stability of the financial sector. Thus, the econometric tool of choice is the Markov switching autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (ARCH) model. The class of models with Markov switching parameters were first proposed in the seminal work of Hamilton (1989), with the natural extension for ARCH effect in Cai (1994). Since then, these models were the go-to approach to model a time-variation

¹⁸The full correlation matrix is shown on the figure 10 in the appendix B.2.

and regime-change in the regression model parameters.

As in usual process of ARCH modeling, the model requires to specify the mean equation:

$$r_{b,t} = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k \beta_i r_{b,t-i} + \sum_{j=0}^p \beta_{k+j} r_{m,t-j} + \epsilon_t \quad (13)$$

Where $r_{b,t}$ and $r_{m,t}$ are rates of returns for banking index and broad market at time t respectively. Note, the broad market index is included as a covariate also at time t . The lags were chosen with the Akaike information criterion (Akaike (1998)) to be 3 for both of the covariates. Subsequently, the absolute values of the residual are modeled with a regime-switching model:

$$\sqrt{\epsilon_t^2} = \alpha_{0,S_t} + \underbrace{\alpha_{1,S_t} \gamma_{t-1}}_{\text{connectedness}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^p \alpha_{i+1} \sqrt{\epsilon_{t-i}^2}}_{\text{lag controls}} + \vartheta_t \quad (14)$$

$$\vartheta \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \eta) \quad (15)$$

Where γ_t is, as before, the financial connectedness at time t ¹⁹. The lag covariates control for the heteroskedasticity, common in financial time-series. The error term of the volatility equation is normally distributed with zero mean and η variance. It is worth to note, that despite commonly observed fat-tailed behavior of the financial data it is sufficient to use normal distribution as the mixture of two distributions with different variance (for each market regime) will produce in the end a fat-tail like distribution (Timmermann (2000)). Unlike in a standard ARCH model, the parameters α are unconstrained. The reason is that the model purpose is not to predict the volatility but investigate the regime-dependent effect of connectedness on systemic risk. Thus, it is more valuable to see if the coefficients are negative (or not), rather than eliminating the possibility of producing negative volatility when forecasting²⁰. An important assumption in the model is that the volatility (or the absolute rates of return) of the banking index is the appropriate proxy for the stability of the financial sector. There are some

¹⁹Of course, there are different connectedness variables, calculated with different methods, rolling window sizes and markets but the indices are omitted for the sake of brevity.

²⁰A similar trade-off which occurs when deciding for logistic regression or linear probability model - risk of nonsensical predictions vs. ease of interpretability.

theoretical arguments that it may not always be the case (see e.g. the literature regarding the volatility paradox - Brunnermeier and Sannikov (2014) or Danielsson et al. (2018)), nonetheless it is still a commonly utilized proxy in the literature (some of the examples are Nelson and Perli (2007), Bratis et al. (2020), International Monetary Fund (2009) or Billio et al. (2016)).

The γ_{t-1} and the corresponding coefficient α_{1,S_t} are the relevant term of interest to the research design. Notably, the connectedness time series is lagged by a single period. This operation is subtle yet crucial, as the instantaneous relationship between the system stability and connectedness may not be fully exogenous. The connectedness measures, especially the one based on Ledoit-Wolf estimation, are still imperfect estimations and captures to some degree a simple correlation among the stock returns. It is commonly acknowledged that the correlations increases also as a consequence of sudden volatility spikes. For example, due to the margin calls (Kahraman and Tookes (2019)) or fly to safety effects (Baele et al. (2019)). Additionally, the banks themselves may make hedging decision in the face of market uncertainty, thus changing the connections among each other. In order to eliminate this source of endogeneity, the connectedness variables are lagged by a single period. With this specification, the model investigates how the financial stability evolves under different connectedness levels prior to the arrival of the shock. Because of this, the coefficient have a causal interpretation.

The parameters indexed by S_t depends upon the latent (unobservable) state, that may take values from 1 to K . The parameters change their values depending on the state. The state K is governed by the Markov process. The probability of transition from state i to state j is given by $K \times K$ left-stochastic transition matrix \mathbf{P} :

$$\mathbf{P} = P(S_t = i | S_{t-1} = j) = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_{1,1} & \pi_{1,2} & \cdots & \pi_{1,k} \\ \pi_{2,1} & \pi_{2,2} & \cdots & \pi_{2,k} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \pi_{k,1} & \pi_{k,2} & \cdots & \pi_{k,k} \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

With standard constraints $\sum_i^K \pi_{i,j} = 1 \ \forall j \in \{1, \cdot, K\}$ and $0 \geq \pi_{i,j} \geq 1 \ \forall i, j \in \{1, \cdot, K\}$. For the state size $K = 2$, which is the case for herein model, the constraint for the transition matrix may be easily imposed with following parametrization:

$$P(S_t = i | S_{t-1} = j) = \begin{bmatrix} \pi_1 & 1 - \pi_2 \\ 1 - \pi_1 & \pi_2 \end{bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

Because of the latent nature of the regimes, the maximum likelihood estimation of the model is relatively complex. The objective function is not solvable analytically but is reasonably easy to optimize with gradient-based methods²¹. Although, computationally manageable, increasing the amount of parameters (say, by adding regime-switching covariates or increasing number of states) pose a risk of reaching a local maxima. Hence, the model specification is maintained sufficiently concise.

Appendix C elaborates on technical details of the implementation and provides a source to reproduce the research.

7 Main results

The model described in previous section was estimated based on data from both markets and in a various specifications. Tables 3 and 4 presents the selected parameters from the various model specifications for window size of quarter and a year respectively. Due to the amount of the models and their parameters, the other information regarding them (e.g. estimated coefficients for lag covariates) are shown in the appendix D. The tables present 4 parameters from equation 14 for each of the regimes. The corresponding standard errors are computed based on the inverse of Hessian matrix produced from the likelihood optimization.

The model is able to clearly distinguish two regimes of stable and unstable markets (or alternatively, low and high shock). The Regime 1 has a lower intercept, hence it describes the financial system under the low volatility. For example, the model for US data using the Ledoit-Wolf connectedness estimated a model with an intercept of 0.37 and 1.342 for two regimes²². All of the other models has a substantial difference between the intercepts at different regimes. As may be concluded from the diagonal values of transition matrix $\pi_{i,i}$, the stable markets are always more persistent. For example, the model for US data with Eigenvalue-based connectedness has a transition probability from stable markets regime equal to 82.3%. This is the chance of staying in the same regime over in the next period. The persistance of the regimes is aligned

²¹The initial parameters without exact transition matrix are found with Expectations-Maximization algorithm (Dempster et al. (1977)) and the actual Markov switching likelihood is maximized with the gradient-based method (Rowan (1990))

²²Considering that time series are multiplied by 100, the values correspond to the 0.37% and 1.342% of volatility under zero values for other covariates.

		US				EU			
Measure		Regime 1		Regime 2		Regime 1		Regime 2	
		Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.
Ledoit-Wolf	α_0	0.374	0.013	1.385	0.038	0.441	0.019	1.82	0.05
	α_1	0.015*	0.006	0.155*	0.029	0.019	0.01	0.302*	0.036
	η	0.326	0.007	0.935	0.01	0.401	0.009	1.209	0.011
	$\pi_{i,i}$	82.4%		61.1%		73.52%		48.16%	
Eigenvalue	α_0	0.377	0.014	1.382	0.039	0.434*	0.017	1.829*	0.048
	α_1	0.02*	0.007	0.136*	0.029	-0.013	0.008	0.303*	0.043
	η	0.327	0.007	0.939	0.01	0.49	0.008	1.22	0.11
	$\pi_{i,i}$	82.3%		67.2%		74.8%		60.8%	
Granger	α_0	0.373*	0.013	1.392*	0.039	0.445*	0.018	1.824*	0.05
	α_1	0.018*	0.006	0.08	0.027	0.018	0.01	0.276*	0.033
	η	0.328	0.007	0.949	0.01	0.401	0.009	1.215	0.011
	$\pi_{i,i}$	83.39%		62.91%		74.56%		50.76%	

Table 3: Model estimation results for rolling window size of quarter (63 trading days). Full model parameters in the appendix D. * coefficient with 5% statistical significance.

with a commonly observed behavior of financial markets, which are more often than not calm²³. Since none of the transition probabilities are substantially high (e.g. above 90%) the identified regimes are in general switching relatively often. In fact, a regime in one of the models have transition probability below 50% suggesting that it is less probable to stay in the same state in the upcoming period. The stable markets have also smaller variance of error term η (a volatility of volatility) further confirming the distinction between the stable and unstable regimes.

The results confirm the conjecture of the Acemoglu et al. (2015a) and Haldane (2013), at least to some extent. The coefficient α_1 corresponds to the main variable of interest, i.e. the connectedness of the system. The values of the parameter are almost always significantly positive²⁴. For example, on the European market and a window size of a quarter, a one standard deviation increase in connectedness results in volatility higher by around 0.3 percentage point during the unstable market (or high shock) regime. It is evident, that the connectedness has a regime-dependent effect on

²³Although, one may argue that the unstable market is less common by definition.

²⁴except the model for US market with Granger connectedness.

		US				EU			
Measure		Regime 1		Regime 2		Regime 1		Regime 2	
		Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.
Ledoit-Wolf	α_0	0.37	0.013	1.342	0.037	0.458	0.018	1.874	0.053
	α_1	0.014*	0.006	0.226*	0.026	0.034	0.009	0.194	0.038
	η	0.319	0.007	0.888	0.009	0.409	0.008	1.246	0.011
	$\pi_{i,i}$	80.64%		57.8%		76.07%		50.8%	
Eigenvalue	α_0	0.378	0.014	1.337	0.0378	0.441	0.018	1.871	0.053
	α_1	0.025*	0.007	0.222*	0.028	-0.009	0.008	0.035	0.045
	η	0.319	0.007	0.89	0.01	0.41	0.008	1.261	0.011
	$\pi_{i,i}$	80.33%		57%		77.13%		53.2%	
Granger	α_0	0.375	0.013	1.352	0.036	0.463	0.018	1.861	0.05
	α_1	0.019	0.007	0.197	0.024	0.044	0.01	0.294	0.037
	η	0.316	0.007	0.889	0.009	0.404	0.008	1.22	0.011
	$\pi_{i,i}$	80.72%		58.84%		75.16%		50.28%	

Table 4: Model estimation results for rolling window size of quarter (256 trading days). Full model parameters in the appendix D. * coefficient with 5% statistical significance.

the financial stability. Just as described in the work of Acemoglu et al. (2015a), during the unstable market regime (or in the original work terms - a high shock regime), the connectedness amplifies the shock and increases the volatility of the system.

On the other hand, the behavior under the stable markets regime is less aligned with the theory. The connectedness, although in some cases significant, is never economically sizeable in terms of the effect. Most corresponding coefficients are around 0.02, suggesting a connectedness higher by one standard deviation should result in volatility higher of around 0.02 percentage points. A value virtually negligible. This is in contrast to the robust-yet-fragile theory, that posits an improvement in terms of financial stability due to higher connectedness of the market participants.

8 Robustness check

In order to investigate the role of firm-specific variables in driving the main results, the model was extended for balance sheet and PnL data of the financial institutions. Naturally, incorporating this kind of data is not costless for the research design. The

Variable	Mean	Median	Std Dev	Minimum	Maximum
Assets	403,288,031	265,337,983	431,680,746	23,076,398	1,748,295,895
IB Assets	19,134,891	8,878,950	25,601,625	967,511	92,904,796
IB Liabilities	43,925,992	22,018,866	55,708,873	998,750	209,368,622
Operating Income	5,471,043	2,885,447	6,565,259	409,057	31,875,663
ROA	0.0155	0.0136	0.0069	0.0064	0.0327
IB Assets/Liabilites	1.0646	0.4691	2.2903	0.0928	11.7987

Table 5: Descriptive statistics of Orbis data for European financial intermediaries. Nominal values in EUR. "IB" refers to interbank market. FY2023.

universe of institutions had to be shrank, as well as the size of the time series. Thus, the following exercise is left as a robustness check.

8.1 Data

The data was sourced from the Orbis dataset spanning seven and a half years starting from third quarter of 2016 up to fiscal year of 2023²⁵. Due to the incomplete dataset, the number of financial intermediaries analyzed is reduced to 31 for European market. The institutions left are listed in the table 8 from appendix A. The financial variables are denominated in EUR based on the exchange rate at the end of the corresponding fiscal period. Table 5 presents some descriptive statistics of the financial data. The last two firm characteristics from the table and a natural logarithm of assets were used in the modeling part as exogenous variables.

8.2 Modeling adjustment

Other than the data limitation, the introduction of fiscal data requires a matching time series to the daily stock returns. In order to increase the frequency of the data, the quarterly financial variables were interpolated into a weekly frequency. The stock returns, on the other hand, were compounded into weekly returns. The resulting modeling frequency is a compromise between reasonable size of the resulting dataset and an information content of the variables. The size thereof used to estimate the model is equal to 312 observations. Although, the initial period of window size is omitted due to

²⁵the oldest possible data to download from the Orbis website

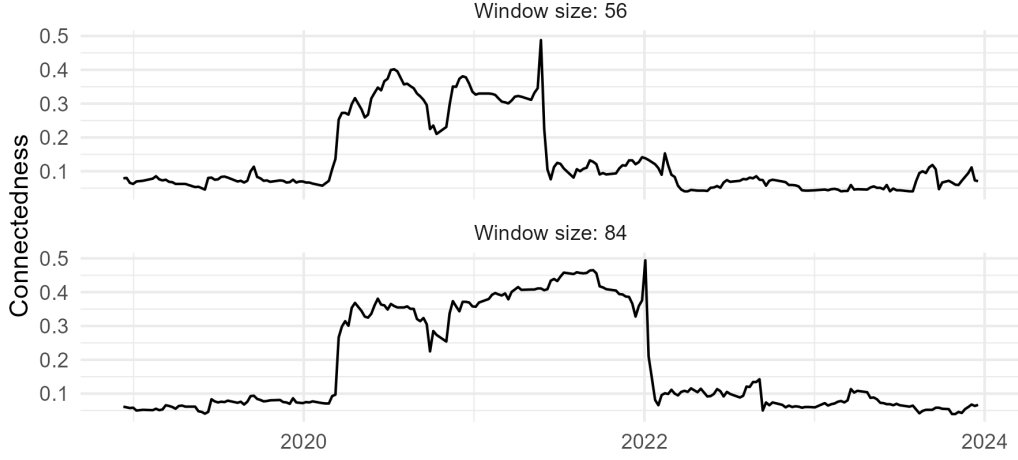


Figure 4: Connectedness time series of the EU market with balance sheet and PnL information.

lack of the corresponding connectedness time-series. The window is changed as well (to 56 and 84 weeks), since the previous size of a quarter would be too small for meaningful inference. The financial data was interpolated with piecewise cubic polynomial. The figure 8 in appendix E presents an example of interpolated data and an actual one.

The only connectedness method flexible enough for introducing the exogenous, firm-specific variables is the one based on Granger causality. Specifically, the equation 10 was extended by the additional covariates:

$$r_{i,t+1} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 r_{j,t} + \beta_2 r_{i,t} + \underbrace{\beta_3 \log A_t + \beta_4 \text{ROA}_t + \beta_5 \frac{\text{IB Assets}_t}{\text{IB liab.}_t} + \beta_6 \frac{D_t}{A_t}}_{\text{New balance sheet data of institution } i} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^k \beta_{i+5} x_t}_{\text{Sectoral controls}} + \epsilon_t \quad (18)$$

The regression now controls for firm-specific financial data when identifying the link between the pair of financial institutions i and j . With A_t being total assets, ROA_t the return on assets, IB stands for interbank and D are deposits at time t for the institution i . The resulting connectedness time series for both of the window sizes is presented in figure 4. The main event driving the connectedness was clearly related to the COVID-19 health crisis. The rest of the procedure is as before, the regime switching ARCH specification is otherwise as described in the equation 14.

		Window size: 56 weeks				Window size: 84 week			
Measure		Regime 1		Regime 2		Regime 1		Regime 2	
		Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.	Estimate	S.E.
Granger	α_0	1.524*	0.19	5.031*	0.53	1.511*	0.206	5.078*	0.564
	α_1	0.129	0.093	1.175*	0.534	0.187	0.104	0.925*	0.489
	η	1.013*	0.045	2.872*	0.086	0.979*	0.049	2.924*	0.086
	$\pi_{i,i}$	80.36%		51.85%		76.53%		49.76%	

Table 6: Model estimates for model with Granger-based connectedness and with incorporated financial data. Data for European financial market.* coefficient with 5% statistical significance.

8.3 Results

The results of model estimates for window sizes of 56 (a year) and 84 (year and a half) weeks are presented in table 6. The estimates confirms the main results. The model clearly distinguishes between two regimes with elevated volatility and a standard market conditions. The coefficients corresponding to the connectedness between these regimes vary. As before, the connectedness is an amplifying mechanism of instability for financial sector but only during the high shock regime. On the other hand, the direction of the effect during the stable regime is unexpected. With the coefficient being insignificant and slightly (what's more surprising) positive. The differences of these results with respect to the main ones are also due to the increase in frequency, which resulted in higher intercept and η parameters.

9 Concluding remarks

The economic theory thoroughly described and modeled the conjecture of Haldane (2013) through the lens of financial network theory. The models suggested e.g. in Acemoglu et al. (2015a) provided a theory in which the connectedness in the financial sector have a regime-dependent effect on the stability thereof. According to the work, more dense network may diversify and spread the shock of the relatively small magnitude. On the other hand, once the shock is above some threshold, the effect of connectedness changes substantially. The shock is transmitted further into the network with more financial intermediaries being affected.

This work presented a first empirical evidence of this regime-dependent effect of connectedness on financial stability. The research design allowing to test this phenomena was a two step process. First, the connectedness of financial system was estimated based on various, well established methods from the literature. The rolling-window estimation produced a time series describing how interconnectedness changes through time. In the next step, the produced time-series was used as an exogenous variable in a Markov-switching ARCH model. The estimated coefficients of the model allowed to see how the effect of the connectedness changes, depending on the regime. The research design also includes a robustness check with a balance sheet and profit and loss information of the financial intermediaries. The robustness check further confirms the main results.

The evidence of the research is mixed. The effect of connectedness on the financial stability is substantially asymmetric. During the higher shock regime, the more connected the system is, the more volatility it suffers once the shock arrives. The second part of the results, less aligned with the theory is that during calm market regime the connectedness does not play a significant role in the contagion dynamics. The asymmetry may be explained by the *financial network externality* described in Acemoglu et al. (2015b). According to which, the overall connectedness have a damaging effect on the system because the market participants are not internalizing the consequences of credit risk on other parts of the network, not directly related to thereof.

References

- Acemoglu, D., Ozdaglar, A., and Tahbaz-Salehi, A. (2015a). Systemic risk and stability in financial networks. *American Economic Review*, 105(2):564–608.
- Acemoglu, D., Ozdaglar, A. E., and Tahbaz-Salehi, A. (2015b). Systemic risk in endogenous financial networks. *Columbia business school research paper*, (15-17).
- Adrian, T. and Brunnermeier, M. K. (2016). Covar. *American Economic Review*, 106(7):1705–41.
- Akaike, H. (1998). Information theory and an extension of the maximum likelihood principle. In *Selected papers of hirotugu akaike*, pages 199–213. Springer.
- Aldasoro, I., Delli Gatti, D., and Faia, E. (2017). Bank networks: Contagion, systemic risk and prudential policy. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 142:164–188.

- Allen, F. and Gale, D. (2000). Financial contagion. *Journal of Political Economy*, 108(1):1–33.
- Anand, K., Craig, B., and Von Peter, G. (2015). Filling in the blanks: Network structure and interbank contagion. *Quantitative Finance*, 15(4):625–636.
- Anand, K., van Lelyveld, I., Ádám Banai, Friedrich, S., Garratt, R., Halaj, G., Fique, J., Hansen, I., Jaramillo, S. M., Lee, H., Molina-Borboa, J. L., Nobili, S., Rajan, S., Salakhova, D., Silva, T. C., Silvestri, L., and de Souza, S. R. S. (2018). The missing links: A global study on uncovering financial network structures from partial data. *Journal of Financial Stability*, 35:107–119. Network models, stress testing and other tools for financial stability monitoring and macroprudential policy design and implementation.
- Antras, P. and Costinot, A. (2011). Intermediated trade. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(3):1319–1374.
- Baele, L., Bekaert, G., Inghelbrecht, K., and Wei, M. (2019). Flights to Safety. *The Review of Financial Studies*, 33(2):689–746.
- Baral, P. and Fique, J. (2012). Estimation of bilateral connections in a network: Copula vs. maximum entropy. In *CIRANO* [https://cirano.qc.ca/conferences/public/pdf/networks2012/02-BARAL-FIQUE-Estimation of Bilateral Exposures-A Copula Approach. pdf](https://cirano.qc.ca/conferences/public/pdf/networks2012/02-BARAL-FIQUE-Estimation%20of%20Bilateral%20Exposures-A%20Copula%20Approach.pdf).
- Barigozzi, M. and Brownlees, C. (2019). Nets: Network estimation for time series. *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 34(3):347–364.
- Battiston, S., Delli Gatti, D., Gallegati, M., Greenwald, B., and Stiglitz, J. E. (2012). Liaisons dangereuses: Increasing connectivity, risk sharing, and systemic risk. *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, 36(8):1121–1141. Quantifying and Understanding Dysfunctions in Financial Markets.
- Bernanke, B. S. (2009). Financial reform to address systemic risk. Speech at the Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, D.C.
- Bezanson, J., Edelman, A., Karpinski, S., and Shah, V. B. (2017). Julia: A fresh approach to numerical computing. *SIAM Review*, 59(1):65–98.
- Billio, M., Getmansky, M., Lo, A. W., and Pelizzon, L. (2012). Econometric measures of connectedness and systemic risk in the finance and insurance sectors. *Journal of Financial Economics*, 104(3):535–559. Market Institutions, Financial Market Risks and Financial Crisis.

- Billio, M., Pelizzon, L., and Savona, R. (2016). *Systemic risk tomography: signals, measurement and transmission channels*. Elsevier.
- Bouchet-Valat, M. and Kamiński, B. (2023). Dataframes.jl: Flexible and fast tabular data in julia. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 107(4):1–32.
- Bouri, E., Cepni, O., Gabauer, D., and Gupta, R. (2021). Return connectedness across asset classes around the covid-19 outbreak. *International Review of Financial Analysis*, 73:101646.
- Bratis, T., Laopodis, N. T., and Kouretas, G. P. (2020). Systemic risk and financial stability dynamics during the eurozone debt crisis. *Journal of Financial Stability*, 47:100723.
- Breiman, L. (1995). Better subset regression using the nonnegative garrote. *Technometrics*, 37(4):373–384.
- Brunnermeier, M. K. and Sannikov, Y. (2014). A macroeconomic model with a financial sector. *American Economic Review*, 104(2):379–421.
- Bräuning, F. and Fecht, F. (2016). Relationship Lending in the Interbank Market and the Price of Liquidity*. *Review of Finance*, 21(1):33–75.
- Caballero, R. J. and Simsek, A. (2013). Fire sales in a model of complexity. *The Journal of Finance*, 68(6):2549–2587.
- Cai, J. (1994). A markov model of switching-regime arch. *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, 12(3):309–316.
- Callaway, D. S., Newman, M. E. J., Strogatz, S. H., and Watts, D. J. (2000). Network robustness and fragility: Percolation on random graphs. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 85:5468–5471.
- Carlson, J. M. and Doyle, J. (2002). Complexity and robustness. *Proceedings of the national academy of sciences*, 99(suppl_1):2538–2545.
- Cerchiello, P. and Giudici, P. (2016). Conditional graphical models for systemic risk estimation. *Expert Systems with Applications*, 43:165–174.
- Cifuentes, R., Ferrucci, G., and Shin, H. S. (2005). Liquidity risk and contagion. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 3(2-3):556–566.
- Cimini, G., Squartini, T., Garlaschelli, D., and Gabrielli, A. (2015). Systemic risk analysis on reconstructed economic and financial networks. *Scientific reports*, 5(1):15758.
- Cocco, J. F., Gomes, F. J., and Martins, N. C. (2009). Lending relationships in the interbank market. *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, 18(1):24–48.

- Craig, B. and von Peter, G. (2014). Interbank tiering and money center banks. *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, 23(3):322–347.
- Dadej, M. (2023). Business cycle transmission between france and united kingdom. *Journal of Economic Studies*, 50(8):1926–1938.
- Dadej, M. (2024). Marswitching.jl: A julia package for markov switching dynamic models. *Journal of Open Source Software*, 9(98):6441.
- Danielsson, J., Valenzuela, M., and Zer, I. (2018). Learning from History: Volatility and Financial Crises. *The Review of Financial Studies*, 31(7):2774–2805.
- Dempster, A. P., Laird, N. M., and Rubin, D. B. (1977). Maximum likelihood from incomplete data via the em algorithm. *Journal of the royal statistical society: series B (methodological)*, 39(1):1–22.
- Diebold, F. X., Liu, L., and Yilmaz, K. (2017). Commodity connectedness. Working Paper 23685, National Bureau of Economic Research.
- Diebold, F. X. and Yilmaz, K. (2023). On the past, present, and future of the diebold–yilmaz approach to dynamic network connectedness. *Journal of Econometrics*, 234:115–120. Jubilee Issue - Celebrating our Fiftieth Anniversary: 1973–2023.
- Diebold, F. X. and Yilmaz, K. (2014). On the network topology of variance decompositions: Measuring the connectedness of financial firms. *Journal of Econometrics*, 182(1):119–134. Causality, Prediction, and Specification Analysis: Recent Advances and Future Directions.
- Doyle, J. C., Alderson, D. L., Li, L., Low, S., Roughan, M., Shalunov, S., Tanaka, R., and Willinger, W. (2005). The “robust yet fragile” nature of the internet. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 102(41):14497–14502.
- Drehmann, M. and Tarashev, N. (2013). Measuring the systemic importance of interconnected banks. *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, 22(4):586–607.
- Dungey, M., Luciani, M., and Veredas, D. (2012). Ranking Systemically Important Financial Institutions. CAMA Working Papers 2012-47, Centre for Applied Macroeconomic Analysis, Crawford School of Public Policy, The Australian National University.
- Eisenberg, L. and Noe, T. H. (2001). Systemic risk in financial systems. *Management Science*, 47(2):236–249.
- Elliott, M., Golub, B., and Jackson, M. O. (2014). Financial networks and contagion. *American Economic Review*, 104(10):3115–3153.

- European Banking Authority (2021). 2021 eu-wide stress test. Technical report, European Banking Authority.
- Fairbanks, J., Besançon, M., Simon, S., Hoffman, J., Eubank, N., and Karpinski, S. (2021). Juliagraphs/graphs.jl: an optimized graphs package for the julia programming language.
- Federal Reserve system (2021). Dodd-frank act stress test 2021: Supervisory stress test results. Technical report, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system.
- Freixas, X., Parigi, B. M., and Rochet, J.-C. (2000). Systemic risk, interbank relations, and liquidity provision by the central bank. *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, 32(3):611–638.
- Fricke, D. and Lux, T. (2015a). Core-periphery structure in the overnight money market: evidence from the e-mid trading platform. *Computational Economics*, 45:359–395.
- Fricke, D. and Lux, T. (2015b). On the distribution of links in the interbank network: evidence from the e-mid overnight money market. *Empirical Economics*, 49:1463–1495.
- Friedman, N. (2004). Inferring cellular networks using probabilistic graphical models. *Science*, 303(5659):799–805.
- Gai, P. and Kapadia, S. (2010). Contagion in financial networks. *Proceedings of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering Sciences*, 466(2120):2401–2423.
- Gallegati, M., Greenwald, B., Richiardi, M. G., and Stiglitz, J. E. (2008). The asymmetric effect of diffusion processes: Risk sharing and contagion. *Global Economy Journal*, 8(3).
- Giudici, P. and Spelta, A. (2016). Graphical network models for international financial flows. *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, 34(1):128–138.
- Glasserman, P. and Young, H. P. (2016). Contagion in financial networks. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 54(3):779–831.
- Gong, X. and Xu, J. (2022). Geopolitical risk and dynamic connectedness between commodity markets. *Energy Economics*, 110:106028.
- Granger, C. W. J. (1969). Investigating causal relations by econometric models and cross-spectral methods. *Econometrica*, 37(3):424–438.

- Hałaj, G. and Kok, C. (2013). Assessing interbank contagion using simulated networks. *Computational Management Science*, 10:157–186.
- Haldane, A. G. (2013). *Rethinking the financial network*. Springer.
- Hamilton, J. D. (1989). A new approach to the economic analysis of nonstationary time series and the business cycle. *Econometrica*, 57(2):357–384.
- Harris, C. R., Millman, K. J., van der Walt, S. J., Gommers, R., Virtanen, P., Cournapeau, D., Wieser, E., Taylor, J., Berg, S., Smith, N. J., Kern, R., Picus, M., Hoyer, S., van Kerkwijk, M. H., Brett, M., Haldane, A., del Río, J. F., Wiebe, M., Peterson, P., Gérard-Marchant, P., Sheppard, K., Reddy, T., Weckesser, W., Abbasi, H., Gohlke, C., and Oliphant, T. E. (2020). Array programming with NumPy. *Nature*, 585(7825):357–362.
- Hautsch, N., Schaumburg, J., and Schienle, M. (2014). Financial Network Systemic Risk Contributions*. *Review of Finance*, 19(2):685–738.
- Haw, I.-M., Pastena, V. S., and Lilien, S. B. (1990). Market manifestation of nonpublic information prior to mergers: The effect of ownership structure. *Accounting Review*, pages 432–451.
- Huddart, S., Ke, B., and Shi, C. (2007). Jeopardy, non-public information, and insider trading around sec 10-k and 10-q filings. *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, 43(1):3–36.
- International Monetary Fund (2009). Global financial stability report: Risk, measuring systemic and soundness, restoring financial. Technical report, International Monetary Fund.
- Ji, Q., Bouri, E., Lau, C. K. M., and Roubaud, D. (2019). Dynamic connectedness and integration in cryptocurrency markets. *International Review of Financial Analysis*, 63:257–272.
- Kahraman, B. and Tookes, H. (2019). Margin Trading and Comovement During Crises*. *Review of Finance*, 24(4):813–846.
- Klein, A., Li, T., and Zhang, B. (2020). Seeking Out Non-Public Information: Sell-Side Analysts and the Freedom of Information Act. *The Accounting Review*, 95(1):233–257.
- L. Bargigli, G. di Iasio, L. I. F. L. and Pierobon, F. (2015). The multiplex structure of interbank networks. *Quantitative Finance*, 15(4):673–691.
- Langfield, S., Liu, Z., and Ota, T. (2014). Mapping the uk interbank system. *Journal*

- of *Banking & Finance*, 45:288–303. Liquidity Risk, Reform of Bank Regulation, and Risk Management, Liquidity Risk Management, New York, USA, 14 June 2014 Liquidity Risk, Reform of Bank Regulation, and Risk Management, Risk Management and Reform of Bank Regulation, Beijing, China, 22–23 April 2013 Liquidity shocks, governance, systemic risk and financial stability.
- Ledoit, O. and Wolf, M. (2003). Honey, i shrunk the sample covariance matrix. *UPF economics and business working paper*, (691).
- Ledoit, O. and Wolf, M. (2004). A well-conditioned estimator for large-dimensional covariance matrices. *Journal of Multivariate Analysis*, 88(2):365–411.
- May, R. M. and Arinaminpathy, N. (2010). Systemic risk: the dynamics of model banking systems. *Journal of The Royal Society Interface*, 7(46):823–838.
- Minoiu, C., Kang, C., Subrahmanian, V., and Berea, A. (2015). Does financial connectedness predict crises? *Quantitative Finance*, 15(4):607–624.
- Muirhead, R. J. (2009). *Aspects of multivariate statistical theory*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Nelson, W. R. and Perli, R. (2007). Selected indicators of financial stability. *Risk Measurement and Systemic Risk*, 4:343–372.
- Newhard, J. M. (2014). The stock market speaks: How dr. alchian learned to build the bomb. *Journal of Corporate Finance*, 27:116–132.
- Newman, M. E. (2002). Assortative mixing in networks. *Physical review letters*, 89(20):208701.
- Newman, M. E. J., Strogatz, S. H., and Watts, D. J. (2001). Random graphs with arbitrary degree distributions and their applications. *Phys. Rev. E*, 64:026118.
- pandas development team, T. (2020). pandas-dev/pandas: Pandas.
- R Core Team (2023). *R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing*. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria.
- Rajan, R. (2009). Too systemic to fail: consequences, causes and potential remedies. Written statement to the Senate Banking Committee Hearings.
- Rogers, L. C. and Veraart, L. A. (2013). Failure and rescue in an interbank network. *Management Science*, 59(4):882–898.
- Rowan, T. H. (1990). *Functional stability analysis of numerical algorithms*. PhD thesis, Department of Computer Science, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX.
- Savona, R. (2014). Hedge fund systemic risk signals. *European Journal of Operational Research*, 236(1):282–291.

- Silva, T. C., de Souza, S. R. S., and Tabak, B. M. (2016). Network structure analysis of the brazilian interbank market. *Emerging Markets Review*, 26:130–152.
- Sims, C. A. (1980). Macroeconomics and reality. *Econometrica*, 48(1):1–48.
- Song, L. and Zhang, Y. (2021). Banking network structure and transnational systemic risk contagion—the case of the european union. *Finance Research Letters*, 39:101660.
- Timmermann, A. (2000). Moments of markov switching models. *Journal of Econometrics*, 96(1):75–111.
- Upper, C. (2011). Simulation methods to assess the danger of contagion in interbank markets. *Journal of financial stability*, 7(3):111–125.
- Upper, C. and Worms, A. (2004). Estimating bilateral exposures in the german interbank market: Is there a danger of contagion? *European Economic Review*, 48(4):827–849.

A Data

USA		EU		
Ticker	Name	Ticker	Name	Country
BAC	Bank of America Corporation	EBO	Erste Group Bank AG	Austria
BK	The Bank of New York Mellon	RAW	Raiffeisen Bank AG	Austria
BCS	Barclays*	KBC	KBC Group	Belgium
BMO	Bank of Montreal*	CBK	Commerzbank AG	Germany
COF	Capital One Financial Corporation	DBK	Deutsche Bank AG	Germany
SCHW	The Charles Schwab Corporation	NDA-SE	Nordea	Finland
C	Citigroup	DANSKE	Danske Bank A/S	Denmark
CFG	Citizens Financial Group	JYSK	Jyske Bank A/S	Denmark
DB	Deutsche Bank*	SYDB	Sydbank A/S	Denmark
GS	The Goldman Sachs Group	BBVA	Banco Bilbao Vizcaya	Spain
JPM	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	BKT	Bankinter SA	Spain
MTB	M&T Bank Corporation	CABK	CaixaBank SA	Spain
MS	Morgan Stanley	SAB	Banco de Sabadell SA	Spain
NTRS	Northern Trust Corporation	SAN	Banco Santander SA	Spain
PNC	The PNC Financial Services Group	UNI	Unicaja Banco SA	Spain
STT	State Street Corporation	BNP	BNP Paribas SA	France
TD	The Toronto Dominion Bank*	ACA	Crédit Agricole SA	France
TFC	Truist Financial Corporation	GLE	Société Générale	France
UBS	UBS Group AG*	ALPHA	Alpha Services and Holdings SA	Greece
WFC	Wells Fargo & Company	EUROB	Eurobank Ergasias	Greece
ALLY	Ally Financial Inc.	ETE	National Bank of Greece SA	Greece
AXP	American Express Company	TPEIR	Piraeus Financial Holdings SA	Greece
DFS	Discover Financial Services	OTP	OTP Bank Nyrt	Hungary
FITB	Fifth Third Bancorp	A5G	AIB Group plc	Ireland
HSBC	HSBC Holdings plc*	BARC	Barclays PLC	Great Britain
HBAN	Huntington Bancshares Incorporated	BARC	Barclays PLC	Great Britain
KEY	KeyCorp Bank	BIRG	Bank of Ireland Group	Ireland
MUFG	Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group*	BAMI	Banco BPM S.p.A.	Italy
PNC	The PNC Financial Services Group	ISP	Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A.	Italy
RF	Regions Financial Corporation	MB	Mediobanca Banca di Credito Finanziario S.p.A.	Italy
SAN	Banco Santander, S.A.*	BMPS	Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena S.p.A.	Italy
		BPE	BPER Banca S.p.A.	Italy
		UCG	UniCredit S.p.A.	Italy
		ABN	ABN AMRO Bank N.V.	Netherlands
		INGA	ING Groep N.V.	Netherlands
		DNB	DNB Bank ASA	Norway
		PKO	Powszechna Kasa Oszczednosci Bank Polski S.A.	Poland
		PEO	Bank Polska Kasa Opieki S.A.	Poland
		BCP	Banco Comercial Português S.A.	Portugal
		SEB-A	Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB	Sweden
		SHB-A	Svenska Handelsbanken AB	Sweden
		SWED-A	Swedbank AB	Sweden

Table 7: List of the banks analyzed. *These banks are not registered in USA but are apparently systematically important to the local market according to the regulator.

USA		EU	
Ticker	IPO date	Ticker	IPO date
ALLY	2014-01-29	A5G	2000-01-06
AXP	2000-01-06	ABN	2015-11-23
BAC	2000-01-06	ACA	2001-12-17
BCS	2000-01-06	ALPHA	2000-01-06
BK	2000-01-06	BAMI	2000-01-06
BMO	2000-01-06	BARC	2000-01-06
C	2000-01-06	BBVA	2000-01-06
CFG	2014-09-25	BCP	2000-01-06
COF	2000-01-06	BIRG	2001-07-16
DB	2000-01-06	BKT	2000-01-06
DFS	2007-06-15	BMPS	2000-01-06
FITB	2000-01-06	BNP	2000-01-06
GS	2000-01-06	BPE	2000-01-06
HBAN	2000-01-06	CABK	2007-10-11
HSBC	2000-01-06	CBK	2000-01-06
JPM	2000-01-06	DANSKE	2000-11-09
KEY	2000-01-06	DBK	2000-01-06
MS	2000-01-06	DNB	2000-01-06
MTB	2000-01-06	EBO	2009-03-31
MUFG	2001-04-03	ETE	2000-01-06
NTRS	2000-01-06	EUROB	2000-01-06
Open	2000-01-06	GLE	2000-01-06
PNC	2000-01-06	INGA	2000-01-06
RF	2000-01-06	ISP	2000-01-06
SAN	2000-01-06	JYSK	2004-10-05
SCHW	2000-01-06	KBC	2000-01-06
STT	2000-01-06	MB	2000-01-06
TD	2000-01-06	NDA	2000-01-06
TFC	2000-01-06	OTP	2002-03-06
UBS	2000-05-17	PEO	2000-01-06
		PKO	2004-11-11
		RAW	2010-08-17
		SAB	2000-01-06
		SAN	2000-01-06
		SEB	2000-01-06
		SHB	2000-01-06
		SWED	2000-01-06
		SYDB	2000-01-06
		TPEIR	2000-01-06
		UCG	2000-01-06
		UNI	2017-07-03

Table 8: First available data for each of the stock prices.

B Network metrics

We define a graph $G = (V, E)$ to be an abstract object with a set of E edges (or links) and a set of V vertices (or nodes). The nodes are connected with edges in a graph. The node set V and a set of edges E is denoted as $V(G)$ and $E(G)$. The cardinality of these sets are usually denoted as $m = |E|$ for edges and $n = |V|$ for nodes. The edges may be represented by the nodes they connect - (u, v) (or with shorthand notation uv). In case of directed graph, the order of the notation matters, as it defines the direction of the edge ($uv \neq vu$). For the weighted graph, the values associated to the nodes may be represented as a function $\omega : E \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$, assigning each edge $e \in E$ a weight $\omega(e)$. In case of the financial networks, the values may describe e.g. the exposure of the bilateral contractual obligation between the financial intermediaries. The undirected graphs are equivalent to the weighted ones with a unit edge weights $\omega(e) = 1 \forall e \in E$.

Degree, denoted as $d(v)$ is the number of edges of particular node v . For a directed graph, the *out-degree* of $v \in V$ is denoted as $d^+(v)$, define the number of edges with the origin v . Analogically, the *in-degree* is denoted as $d^-(v)$ is the number of the edges with destination at v .

As mentioned in the subsection 4, the graph theory has a very appealing relation to the linear algebra. Every graph may be represented by its adjacency matrix, often denoted \mathbf{A} . In case of unweighted, directed graph, the adjacency matrix has values $a_{i,j} \in \{0, 1\}$, indicating a node connection. That is, $a_{i,j} = 1 \Rightarrow i \rightarrow j \forall i \neq j$. The matrix elements may take other values in case of the weighted graph.

B.1 Graph statistics definition

Network density measures the connectedness of the network. The statistic is defined as:

$$\gamma(G) := \frac{m}{\binom{n}{2}} \quad (19)$$

Average degree is simply the average number of edges for each of the node in the graph:

$$\bar{d}(G) = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{v \in V} d(v) \quad (20)$$

The **median degree** is defined in a corresponding fashion.

The **assortativity** measures the correlation among the connected nodes with respect to their characteristics. It's calculation follows the Pearson correlation coefficient:

$$r(G) = \frac{\sum_{uv \in E}^m (d(u) - \bar{d}(G))(d(v) - \bar{d}(G))}{\sqrt{\sum_{uv \in E}^m (d(u) - \bar{d}(G))^2} \sqrt{\sum_{uv \in E}^m (d(v) - \bar{d}(G))^2}}, E \in G \quad (21)$$

Naturally, as for the Pearson's correlation, it takes values between -1 and 1 and is interpreted in the same way as well. Depending on type of the assortativity, the correlation may be calculated based on other measure than degree of the node ($d(u)$). The excess degree assortativity is defined as in Newman (2002) and uses outdegree value for source node u and indegree for destination node v .

The **clustering coefficient** measure the relative amount of clusters. It is calculated as a share of closed triplets in total number of possible triplets of the graph. The closed triplet, being a three connected nodes. The calculation is easily defined with a matrix notation:

$$C(\mathbf{A}) = \frac{\sum_i^n \sum_j^n \sum_k^n a_{i,j} a_{j,k} a_{k,i}}{\frac{1}{2} \sum_i^n k_i (k_i - 1)} \quad (22)$$

Where $k_i = \sum_j^n a_{i,j}$.

The **intermediator share** is simply a share of nodes with both indegree and out-degree:

$$\frac{1}{n} \sum_{v \in V}^n \min\{1, d^+(v) d^-(v)\} \quad (23)$$

The **maximum path** is the biggest set (in sense of cardinality) of distinct edges connecting nodes for every pair of the nodes.

The **relative max eigenvector centrality** is a share of the node with the highest eigenvector centrality in the total sum of the centrality measures in the whole graph. The eigenvector centrality c satisfies the following equation:

$$\lambda c_i = \sum_{j \neq i}^n a_{j,i} c_j \quad (24)$$

Or alternatively in the matrix formulation:

$$\lambda \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{A}' \mathbf{c} \quad (25)$$

The equation may be solved as described in the subsection 4.2. The appealing property of the measure is that the centrality of the node i is proportional to the centrality of its directly neighboring nodes²⁶. Additionally, the node may be central in the system either through the number of neighbors or the value of their centrality.

B.2 Graphs and tables

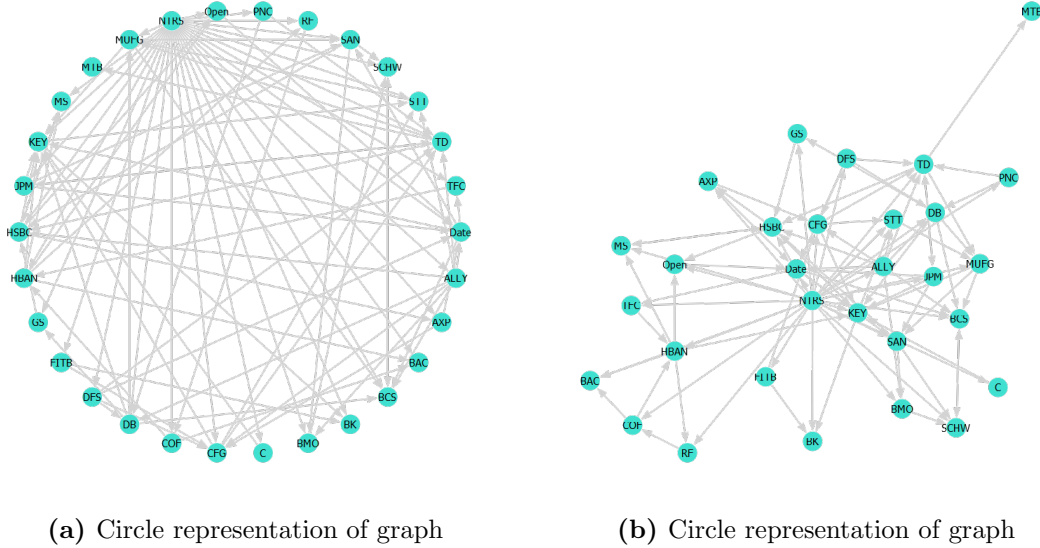


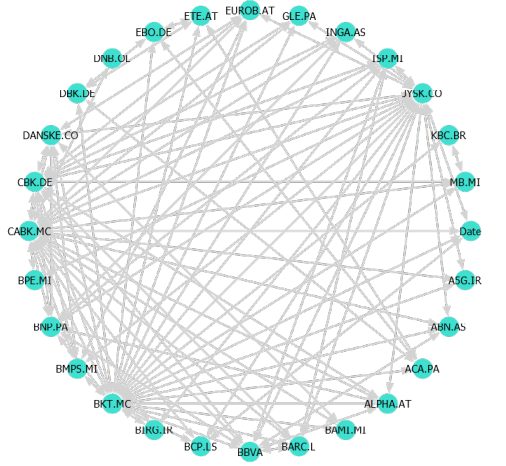
Figure 5: Financial network visualization based on the US market data from 2023. Each point (node) represents a financial institution and the connections (edges) are estimated links.

C Technical details

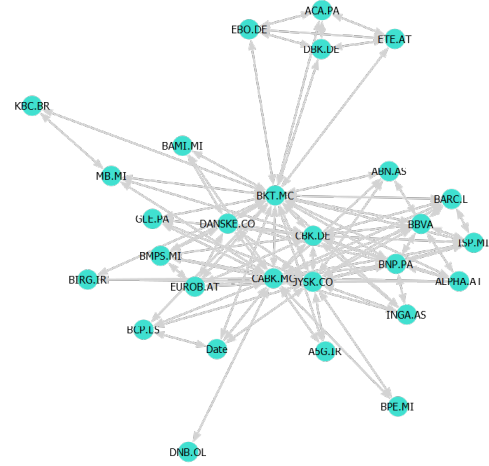
Importing data and some elements of its preprocessing was done with Python programming language version 3.12.2. With packages yfinance, NumPy (Harris et al. (2020)) and pandas (pandas development team (2020)). The connectedness estimation was computationally expensive²⁷, thus it was done with Julia programming language 1.10.1 version (Bezanson et al. (2017)). The packages used were: DataFrames.jl for data analysis (Bouchet-Valat and Kamiński (2023)), Graphs.jl for graph handling (Fairbanks et al. (2021)) and MarSwitching.jl for estimation of Markov switching model (Dadej

²⁶It is clear when the change of the index of c at the R.H.S. is spotted

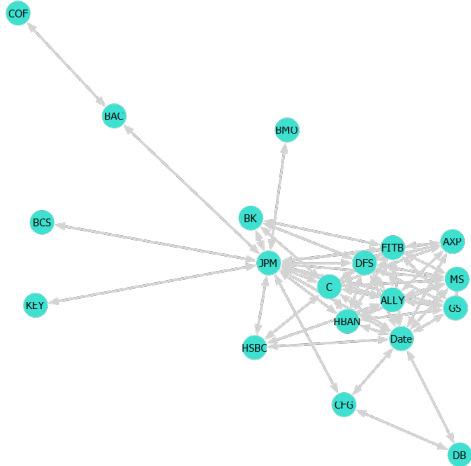
²⁷For example, the granger based method required fitting, at each point in time (around 6,000 observations) a multivariate regression among every combination of 42 stocks.



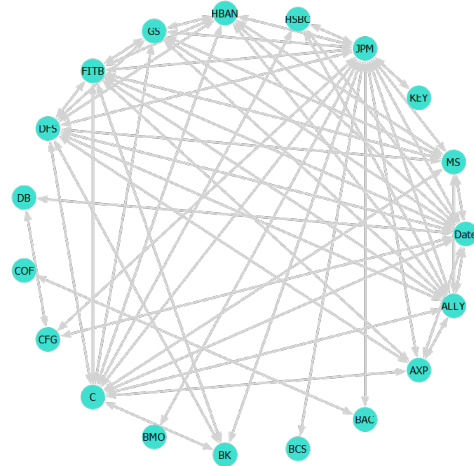
(a) Circle representation of EU financial network



(b) EU financial network representation with random position



(c) US financial network representation with random position



(d) Circle representation of US financial network

Figure 6: Graph visualization based on the data from 2023. Each point (node) represents a financial institution and the connections (edges) are estimated links. The network is estimated with the Ledoit-Wolf covariance estimator. The nodes are assumed to be connected if the estimated covariance exceeds 0.02%

Metric	EU	US
Density	0.117	0.135
Average degree	9.36	7.86
Median degree	8	3
Assortativity	-0.485	-0.372
Cluster coefficient	0.105	0.162
Intermediator share	0.682	0.633
Max path	3	4
Eigenvector centrality	0.109	0.121
Core size (%)	17.07	19.51
Absolute core size	7	8

Table 9: Network metrics of financial network estimated with Ledoit-Wolf shrinkage method.
Data from 2023

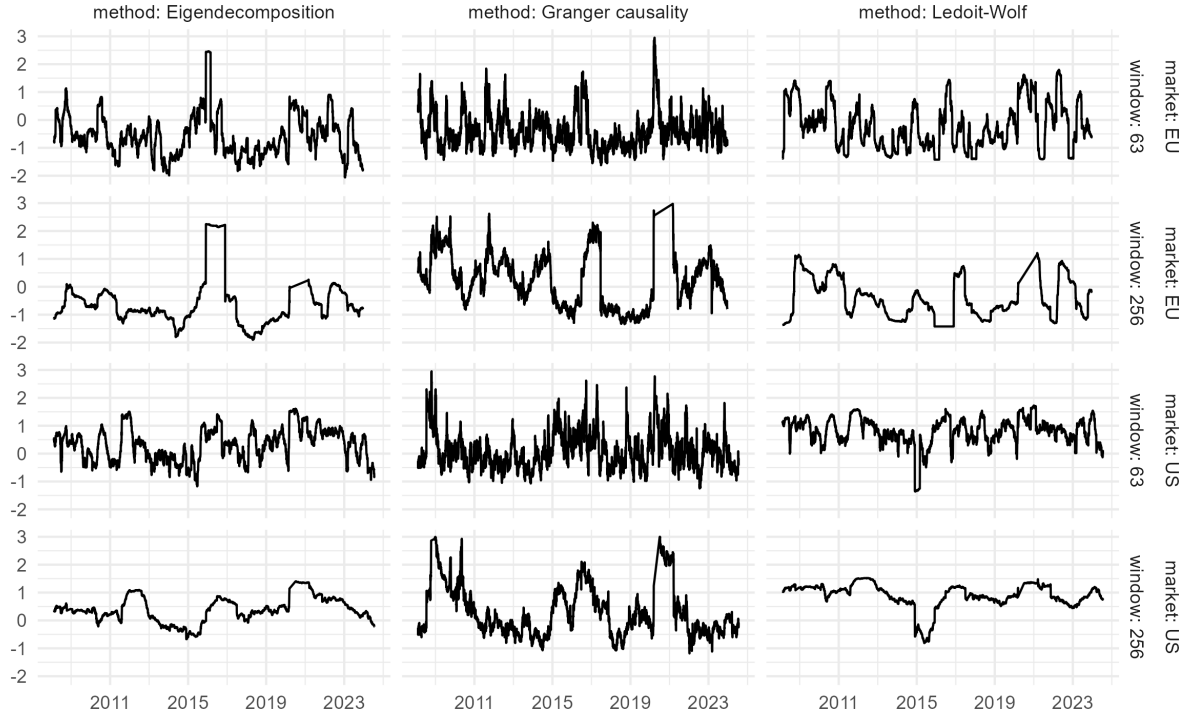


Figure 7: Connectedness time series

	cor_lw_us_256	cor_lw_us_63	eig_us_256	eig_us_63	granger_us_256	granger_us_63
cor_lw_us_256	1.00	0.59	0.65	0.29	0.12	-0.15
cor_lw_us_63	0.59	1.00	0.57	0.77	0.17	0.03
eig_us_256	0.65	0.57	1.00	0.66	0.28	0.07
eig_us_63	0.29	0.77	0.66	1.00	0.23	0.16
granger_us_256	0.12	0.17	0.28	0.23	1.00	0.45
granger_us_63	-0.15	0.03	0.07	0.16	0.45	1.00

Table 10: Pearson correlation matrix among the different specifications of connectedness time series

(2024)). The data visualization and descriptive statistics were don in R programming language version 4.3.2 (R Core Team (2023)). The repository with the source code and instructions to reproduce the research is available [here](#).

D Full model estimation results

E Robustness check details

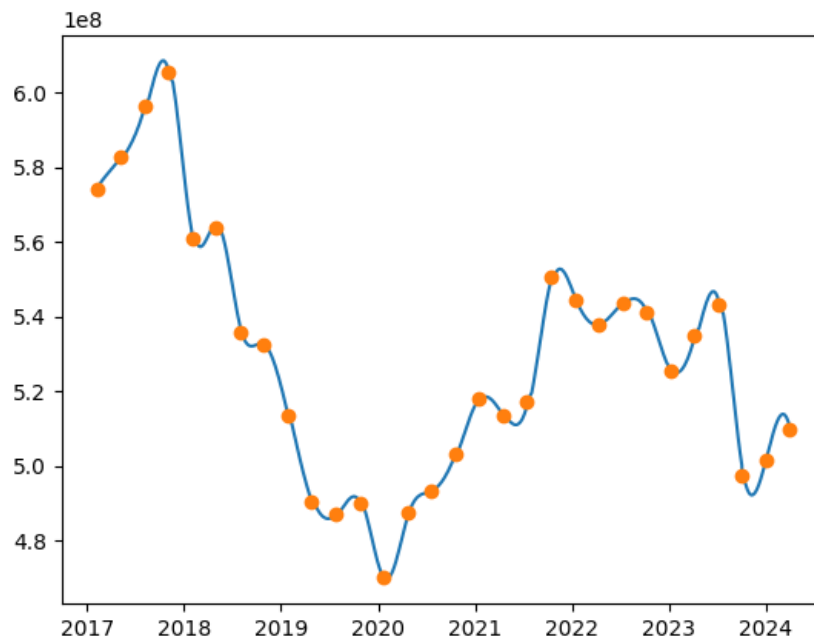


Figure 8: Asset data interpolation of Commerzbank AG. The orange points are actual data from the balance sheet. The blue line is the interpolated data. The slight discrepancy between the maximum or minimum and the data point is due to the moving data to the nearest week end for stock data matching.