Applying Tidy Finance with Python to Vietnam

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Preface

Attribution

This book is an independent derivative work inspired by reproducible research principles developed in **Tidy Finance**. It is not affiliated with, or officially provided by the creators of the original Tidy Finance books. All content, code, and empirical applications are original and tailored to the Vietnamese market.
This work builds directly on the methodological foundation established in:

- Scheuch, C., Voigt, S., & Weiss, P. (2023). *Tidy Finance with R*. Chapman and Hall/CRC. https://www.tidy-finance.org/r/ (Scheuch, Voigt, and Weiss 2023)
- Scheuch, C., Voigt, S., Weiss, P., & Frey, C. (2024). *Tidy Finance with Python*. Chapman and Hall/CRC. https://www.tidy-finance.org/python/ (Scheuch et al. 2024)

We gratefully acknowledge the Tidy Finance authors for developing an open, reproducible approach to empirical finance that made this market-specific adaptation possible.

Motivation

Empirical finance has undergone a fundamental transformation over the past two decades. Advances in computational capacity, open-source statistical software, and data availability have reshaped how financial research is conducted, evaluated, and disseminated. Increasingly, credible empirical work is expected to be transparent, replicable, and extensible, with results generated through scripted workflows rather than manual intervention. Reproducibility, defined as the ability for independent researchers to regenerate empirical results using the same data and methods, has thus become a core norm in modern financial economics.

Despite this progress, the adoption of reproducible research practices has been uneven across markets. In developed financial systems, particularly those with long-established databases and standardized reporting regimes, reproducible empirical workflows are now commonplace. In contrast, research on emerging and frontier markets frequently relies on fragmented datasets, undocumented data cleaning procedures, and implicit institutional assumptions that are difficult to verify or extend. As a result, empirical findings in these markets are often fragile, non-comparable across studies, and costly to update as new data become available.

This book addresses that gap.

It develops a reproducible empirical finance framework designed explicitly for emerging and frontier markets, using Vietnam as a primary empirical case. Rather than adapting developed-market research pipelines post hoc, the book begins from the institutional and data realities of a fast-growing, retail-dominated, regulation-intensive market and builds methodological solutions accordingly. The objective is not merely to analyze Vietnam's financial markets, but to demonstrate how reproducible finance principles, as developed in the Tidy Finance framework, can be extended, stress-tested, and refined in environments characterized by data scarcity, institutional heterogeneity, and rapid structural change.

Why Emerging Markets Require Different Empirical Infrastructure

Much of modern empirical finance implicitly assumes the existence of stable, high-frequency, institutionally harmonized datasets. These assumptions are rarely stated, yet they are deeply embedded in standard research designs: survivorship-free security histories, consistent accounting standards, unrestricted trading mechanisms, and deep institutional liquidity.

Emerging and frontier markets challenge each of these assumptions.

In Vietnam, as in many comparable economies, equity markets exhibit binding daily price limits, episodic trading halts, concentrated state ownership, and a predominance of retail investors. Financial disclosures reflect local accounting standards and evolving regulatory frameworks. Corporate actions are frequent, inconsistently documented, and occasionally revised ex post.

These characteristics are not inconveniences to be eliminated through aggressive data cleaning. They shape return dynamics, risk premia, factor construction, and statistical inference itself. An empirical framework that ignores these institutional features risks producing results that are internally inconsistent or externally misleading. A reproducible approach for emerging markets must therefore encode institutional context directly into data schemas, transformation logic, and modeling choices.

Reproducibility as a Research Design Principle

In this book, reproducibility extends beyond the narrow notion of code availability. It is treated as an organizing principle governing the entire empirical research lifecycle.

First, all datasets are constructed from raw inputs through documented, deterministic transformations, ensuring clear data provenance. Second, empirical methods are implemented in a manner that makes modeling assumptions explicit and modifiable. Third, results are generated through scripted pipelines rather than interactive analysis, guaranteeing that updates to data or parameters propagate consistently throughout the analysis. Finally, empirical designs are

modular, allowing researchers to substitute markets, sample periods, or variable definitions without rewriting entire workflows.

This approach draws methodological inspiration from the broader reproducible research movement in economics and finance (e.g., Gentzkow and Shapiro 2014; Vilhuber 2020), while deliberately extending it beyond its original institutional and data environment. The goal is not to reproduce existing studies, but to enable new ones—particularly those that would otherwise be impractical due to fragmented data and institutional complexity.

Vietnam as a Case, Not an Exception

Vietnam serves as the central empirical case throughout the book, but it is not treated as an idiosyncratic exception. Instead, it is presented as a representative example of a class of markets that occupy an intermediate position between frontier and emerging status: large enough to sustain active equity trading, yet still evolving in terms of regulation, disclosure quality, and investor composition.

By grounding methodological development in Vietnam's market structure, the book aims to produce insights that generalize to other contexts, including Southeast Asia, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and parts of Latin America. Each empirical chapter emphasizes which components are market-specific and which are portable, encouraging readers to adapt the framework rather than adopt it wholesale.

Data Access

The empirical analyses in this book rely on Vietnamese equity market data provided by Datacore. To ensure reproducibility while respecting data licensing constraints, we provide the following resources:

- **Sample datasets**: A subset of anonymized data is available in DataCore's Sample Dataset for readers to run example code.
- **Data construction scripts**: All scripts used to clean and transform raw data are fully documented and available in the repository.
- **Replication guidance**: Readers with access to Vietnamese market data from commercial providers can use our scripts to construct equivalent datasets.

For questions about data access or replication, please contact the author.

Contribution and Audience

This book makes three primary contributions.

First, it proposes a reproducible empirical finance framework explicitly designed for emerging and frontier markets, integrating institutional detail into data construction and model design. Second, it provides original empirical evidence on asset pricing, liquidity, and market microstructure in Vietnam using consistently constructed datasets. Third, it provides publication-ready, end-to-end research workflows suitable for academic research, policy analysis, and applied finance.

The intended audience includes graduate students in finance and economics, academic researchers studying non-developed markets, and practitioners interested in the systematic analysis of emerging-market equities. Familiarity with basic asset pricing theory and statistical programming is assumed, but no prior experience with Vietnam or similar markets is required.

Structure of the Book

The chapters that follow progress from data infrastructure to empirical application. The book begins with an introduction to the data sources and infrastructure used throughout, followed by chapters on institutional context, data construction, and reproducible workflow design. Subsequent chapters develop asset pricing tests, liquidity measures, and market microstructure analyses tailored to Vietnam's equity market. Each chapter is designed to be self-contained, yet all are linked through a common data and code architecture to ensure internal consistency.

The book concludes by reflecting on the broader implications of reproducible empirical finance for emerging markets research and by outlining directions for future methodological and empirical work.

Part I

Vietnam Financial Markets, Institutions, and Data

1 Institutional Background and Market Structure of Vietnam's Equity Market

Empirical analysis of financial markets is inseparable from the institutional context. Market design, regulatory constraints, ownership structure, and investor composition shape observed prices, volumes, and returns. In developed markets, many of these features are sufficiently stable and standardized that they fade into the background of empirical research. In emerging markets, by contrast, institutional features are often first-order determinants of empirical outcomes.

This chapter provides the institutional foundation for the empirical analyses developed later in the book. It describes the structure of Vietnam's equity market, the regulatory environment governing trading and disclosure, and the characteristics of listed firms and investors. Rather than offering a purely descriptive account, the discussion emphasizes how institutional features map directly into data construction choices, modeling assumptions, and interpretation of empirical results.

1.1 Evolution of Vietnam's Equity Market

Vietnam's modern equity market is relatively young. Formal stock exchanges were established only in the early 2000s, as part of broader economic reforms aimed at transitioning from a centrally planned system toward a market-oriented economy. Since then, market capitalization, trading volume, and the number of listed firms have grown rapidly, albeit unevenly across sectors and time.

The pace of market development has been shaped by a combination of gradual privatization of state-owned enterprises, episodic regulatory reform, and sustained participation by retail investors. Unlike markets that evolved alongside large institutional investor bases, Vietnam's equity market matured in an environment where individual investors dominate trading activity and informational asymmetries remain substantial.

These features have important empirical implications. Return dynamics may reflect behavioral trading patterns, liquidity shocks can be amplified by coordinated retail activity, and firm-level information is incorporated into prices at varying speeds. A reproducible empirical framework must therefore be capable of capturing these dynamics without imposing assumptions derived from institutionally different markets.

1.2 Exchange Structure and Trading Mechanisms

Vietnam operates multiple equity exchanges, each with distinct listing requirements and trading rules. Trading is conducted through a centralized limit order book, with price-time priority determining execution. Importantly, daily price limits constrain the maximum allowable price movement for individual securities. These limits vary by exchange and security type and are binding during periods of heightened volatility.

Price limits introduce mechanical truncation in observed returns, clustering at upper and lower bounds, and persistence in price movements across days. From an empirical perspective, this challenges standard assumptions about continuous price adjustment and complicates volatility estimation, momentum measurement, and event-study design.

In this book, price limits are treated as structural features rather than anomalies. Data pipelines explicitly preserve limit-hit indicators, and empirical models are adapted to account for constrained price dynamics. This design choice reflects a broader principle: reproducibility in emerging markets requires preserving institutional signals rather than smoothing them away.

1.3 Listing Requirements and Firm Characteristics

Listed firms in Vietnam exhibit substantial heterogeneity in size, ownership structure, and disclosure quality. A defining characteristic of the market is the prevalence of firms with significant state ownership, either directly or through affiliated entities. State ownership affects governance, dividend policy, risk-taking behavior, and responsiveness to market signals.

Accounting disclosures follow Vietnamese Accounting Standards, which differ in important respects from international standards. While convergence efforts are ongoing, historical financial statements often reflect transitional rules, incomplete adoption of fair value accounting, and limited segment reporting. These features complicate cross-firm comparability and longitudinal analysis.

From a reproducible research standpoint, accounting variables cannot be treated as uniform primitives. Variable definitions, reporting lags, and restatement practices must be explicitly documented and encoded into data construction logic. Later chapters demonstrate how accounting data are harmonized in a transparent, version-controlled manner without obscuring underlying institutional differences.

1.4 Investor Composition and Trading Behavior

Retail investors dominate trading volume in Vietnam's equity market. Institutional investors, including domestic funds and foreign participants, play a growing but still secondary role.

This investor composition has implications for liquidity provision, price discovery, and market stability.

Retail-dominated markets tend to exhibit higher turnover, episodic herding behavior, and sensitivity to non-fundamental information. These patterns affect the interpretation of empirical results, particularly in studies of short-term return predictability, volume-return relations, and volatility clustering.

Rather than assuming institutional trading as the default, this book explicitly models liquidity and trading activity in a retail-centric environment. Measures of liquidity, for example, are chosen and constructed to remain meaningful in the presence of small trade sizes, intermittent trading, and order imbalances driven by individual investors.

1.5 Regulatory Environment and Market Frictions

Regulatory oversight of Vietnam's equity market has evolved alongside market development. Trading rules, disclosure requirements, and foreign ownership limits have been periodically revised, sometimes with limited backward compatibility. Regulatory changes can induce structural breaks in data that are not immediately apparent in raw time series.

Short-selling constraints, limited securities lending, and restrictions on derivative usage further distinguish Vietnam's market from developed counterparts. These frictions affect arbitrage activity and the feasibility of certain trading strategies, influencing observed return patterns and factor realizations.

A key principle of the empirical framework developed in this book is regulatory awareness. Data pipelines incorporate regulatory timelines, and empirical tests are designed to be robust to rule changes. This ensures that results are interpretable within the institutional regime in which they arise.

1.6 Implications for Empirical Design

The institutional features described in this chapter motivate several design choices that recur throughout the book:

1. **Data preservation over simplification**: Institutional constraints such as price limits and trading halts are retained and explicitly modeled.
2. **Modular variable construction**: Accounting and market variables are constructed through transparent functions that can be adjusted as standards evolve.
3. **Regime sensitivity**: Empirical analyses are structured to detect and accommodate regulatory and structural breaks.

4. **Context-aware interpretation**: Results are interpreted in light of market structure rather than benchmarked mechanically against developed-market findings.

1.7 Summary

Vietnam's equity market combines rapid growth with distinctive institutional features that challenge conventional empirical finance methods. Price limits, retail investor dominance, state ownership, and evolving regulation shape market outcomes in ways that cannot be ignored or abstracted away. For researchers working in such environments, reproducibility requires more than clean code and documented data; it requires embedding institutional context directly into empirical design.

2 Accessing and Managing VN Financial Data

This chapter provides a guide to organizing, accessing, and managing financial data specifically tailored for the Vietnamese market. While global financial databases such as CRSP and Compustat serve as standard resources for developed markets, emerging markets like Vietnam require a different approach due to unique data sources, market structures, and regulatory environments. Understanding these nuances is essential for conducting rigorous empirical research on Vietnamese equities, bonds, and macroeconomic indicators.

Vietnam's financial market has experienced remarkable growth since the establishment of the Ho Chi Minh City Stock Exchange (HOSE) in 2000 and the Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX) in 2005. Today, the market comprises over 1,600 listed companies across three trading venues: HOSE for large-cap stocks, HNX for mid-cap stocks, and UPCoM (Unlisted Public Company Market) for smaller companies transitioning to formal listing. This diversity creates both opportunities and challenges for financial researchers seeking comprehensive coverage of the Vietnamese equity universe.

The Vietnamese market presents several distinctive characteristics that researchers must account for. Foreign ownership limits (typically 49% for most sectors, with exceptions for banking and certain strategic industries), trading band restrictions (e.g., currently $\pm$ 7% for HOSE and $\pm$ 10% for HNX), and the T+2 settlement cycle all influence market microstructure and return dynamics. Additionally, the market operates in Vietnamese Dong (VND), requiring careful attention to currency effects when comparing results with international studies.

We begin by loading the essential Python packages that facilitate data acquisition and management throughout this chapter.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import requests
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
import json
import sqlite3
```

We also define the date range for our data collection, which spans from the early days of the Vietnamese stock market to the present. This extended timeframe allows us to capture the market's evolution through various economic cycles, including the 2008 global financial crisis, the 2011-2012 domestic banking crisis, and the COVID-19 pandemic period.

```
start_date = "2000-07-28"  # HOSE establishment date
end_date = "2024-12-31"
```

2.1 Overview of Vietnamese Financial Data Sources

Before diving into the technical implementation, it is valuable to understand the landscape of financial data providers serving the Vietnamese market. Unlike developed markets where a few dominant providers (Bloomberg, Refinitiv, FactSet) offer comprehensive coverage, Vietnamese financial data has historically been fragmented across multiple sources, each with distinct strengths and limitations.

The primary sources of Vietnamese financial data include official exchange feeds from HOSE and HNX, which provide real-time and historical trading data. The State Securities Commission of Vietnam (SSC) publishes regulatory filings, corporate announcements, and market statistics. Commercial data vendors such as FiinGroup, StoxPlus (now part of FiinGroup), and VNDirect offer curated datasets with varying levels of coverage and data quality. Additionally, the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) and the General Statistics Office (GSO) provide macroeconomic indicators essential for asset pricing research.

For academic researchers, this fragmentation traditionally involved difficult trade-offs between cost, coverage, data quality, and ease of access. Commercial providers like FiinGroup offer clean, standardized data but require subscription fees that may be prohibitive for individual researchers and smaller institutions. Open-source alternatives provide free access but often require substantial data cleaning and validation efforts. Manually collecting data from government websites is time-consuming and prone to inconsistencies.

Fortunately, this landscape has improved significantly with the emergence of **Datacore** as a unified data platform for Vietnamese financial markets. In our experience working with Vietnamese financial data across multiple research projects, Datacore has proven to be the most practical solution for academic research. The platform consolidates data from multiple sources, including stock prices, corporate fundamentals, market indices, macroeconomic indicators, and alternative data, into a single, accessible interface with a well-documented API.

What distinguishes Datacore from traditional commercial providers like FiinGroup extends beyond mere data aggregation. While FiinGroup has long been the institutional incumbent, several factors make Datacore particularly attractive for rigorous empirical research:

1. **API-First Architecture**: Datacore was built from the ground up for programmatic access, making it seamlessly integrable with Python, R, and other research workflows. FiinGroup's data access, by contrast, often requires manual downloads or cumbersome Excel-based interfaces that impede reproducibility.

2. **Cost Efficiency**: Academic researchers frequently operate under budget constraints. Datacore offers competitive pricing structures that make comprehensive market coverage accessible without the substantial subscription fees associated with legacy providers.
3. **Corporate Action Handling**: One persistent challenge with Vietnamese data is accurate adjustment for stock splits, bonus shares, and rights issues. Datacore implements transparent adjustment methodologies with clear documentation, whereas legacy providers often apply adjustments inconsistently or without adequate explanation.
4. **Update Frequency**: Datacore maintains near real-time data updates with clear timestamps, enabling event study research and timely portfolio rebalancing. Traditional providers often suffer from publication lags that can compromise research requiring current data.
5. **Coverage Breadth**: Beyond standard price and fundamental data, Datacore integrates alternative data, and macroeconomic indicators into a unified schema. This eliminates the need to merge datasets from multiple sources, which is a process that introduces potential errors and consumes valuable research time.

Throughout this chapter, we leverage Datacore as our primary data source. By centralizing our data acquisition through a single platform, we benefit from consistent data formats, reliable corporate action adjustments, and comprehensive market coverage spanning HOSE, HNX, and UPCoM. The code examples that follow demonstrate how straightforward Vietnamese financial research becomes when data access friction is minimized.

The following table summarizes the key data sources for Vietnamese financial research:

Table 2.1: Vietnamese Financial Data Sources

Data Source	Coverage	Access Type	Key Strengths	Limitations
Datacore	Prices, fundamentals, indices, macro, derivatives	API	Unified platform, programmatic access, comprehensive coverage, transparent methodology	Newer platform
FiinGroup	Full market coverage	Commercial	Established reputation, institutional adoption	High cost, manual access, limited API
HOSE/HNX websites	Official exchange data	Free (manual)	Authoritative, real-time	No API, manual collection required

Data Source	Coverage	Access Type	Key Strengths	Limitations
GSO (gso.gov.vn)	Macroeconomic indicators	Free (manual)	Official government statistics	Infrequent updates, no API
SBV (sbv.gov.vn)	Monetary policy, rates	Free (manual)	Central bank data	Manual download only
CafeF/VnExpress	News, announcements	Free	Market sentiment, events	Unstructured, requires NLP processing

---

2.2 Stock Market Data

The resulting DataFrame contains essential security identifiers including the ticker symbol, company name in both Vietnamese and English, exchange listing, industry classification according to the Vietnam Standard Industrial Classification (VSIC), and various flags indicating special status such as foreign ownership restrictions or trading suspensions.

2.2.1 Historical Price Data

2.2.2 Fundamental Data and Financial Statements

Beyond price data, fundamental analysis requires access to corporate financial statements including balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements. Vietnamese publicly listed companies are required to publish quarterly and annual financial reports according to Vietnamese Accounting Standards (VAS), which differ in certain respects from International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Understanding these differences is important when comparing Vietnamese firms with international peers or applying models developed using US or European data.

Key differences between VAS and IFRS that affect financial analysis include:

1. **Revenue recognition**: VAS allows more flexibility in timing of revenue recognition compared to IFRS 15
2. **Financial instruments**: VAS has less comprehensive guidance on fair value measurement
3. **Lease accounting**: VAS does not require operating lease capitalization as under IFRS 16
4. **Goodwill**: VAS requires amortization while IFRS requires impairment testing only

2.2.3 Corporate Actions and Events

Accurate treatment of corporate actions is essential for computing correct returns and maintaining data integrity. Vietnamese companies frequently engage in corporate actions including cash dividends, stock dividends (bonus shares), rights issues, and stock splits.

2.3 Market Indices and Benchmarks

Constructing appropriate benchmarks is fundamental to performance evaluation and factor model estimation. The Vietnamese market features several indices that serve different purposes in financial research.

Table 2.2: Vietnamese Market Indices

Index	Exchange	Description	Use Case
VN-Index	HOSE	All HOSE-listed stocks	Broad market benchmark
VN30-Index	HOSE	30 largest, most liquid	Investable benchmark
HNX-Index	HNX	All HNX-listed stocks	Mid-cap benchmark
HNX30-Index	HNX	30 largest HNX stocks	HNX large-cap
VNAllShare	Combined	HOSE + HNX	Total market
VN100	Combined	Top 100 stocks	Large/mid-cap

The VN-Index, which tracks all stocks listed on HOSE, is the most widely followed benchmark and serves as the primary gauge of overall market performance. The HNX-Index covers stocks on the Hanoi exchange, while the VN30-Index tracks the thirty largest and most liquid stocks on HOSE.

For asset pricing research, the VN30-Index is particularly valuable as it represents the investable universe for institutional investors and serves as the underlying for Vietnam's most liquid derivatives contracts. The constituent stocks are reviewed semi-annually based on market capitalization, liquidity, and free-float requirements.

```
# Retrieve VN-Index historical data
```

2.3.1 Index Constituent Data

For factor model construction and portfolio analysis, access to index constituent lists and their weights is essential. While official constituent data requires subscription to exchange data feeds, we can approximate index membership using market capitalization and liquidity filters.

2.4 Macroeconomic Data from Vietnamese Sources

Asset pricing models often incorporate macroeconomic variables as predictors of expected returns or as state variables in conditional models. For the Vietnamese market, relevant macroeconomic data comes primarily from two sources: the General Statistics Office (GSO) and the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV).

2.4.1 Key Macroeconomic Indicators

The following macroeconomic variables are particularly relevant for Vietnamese financial research:

1. **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**: Essential for computing real returns and inflation-adjusted valuations. Vietnam experienced periods of high inflation, particularly during 2008 and 2011 when annual CPI exceeded 20%.
2. **Industrial Production Index (IPI)**: Proxy for economic activity and business cycle conditions.
3. **Money Supply (M2)**: Indicator of monetary policy stance and liquidity conditions.
4. **Credit Growth**: Bank lending growth, a key driver of economic activity in Vietnam's bank-dominated financial system.
5. **USD/VND Exchange Rate**: Critical for international investors and companies with foreign currency exposure.
6. **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**: Indicator of international capital flows and economic confidence.
7. **Trade Balance**: Export and import dynamics affecting corporate earnings.

Unfortunately, unlike the US Federal Reserve's FRED database, Vietnamese macroeconomic data is not available through standardized APIs. Researchers must typically download data manually from GSO and SBV websites or use web scraping techniques.

```
# Structure for Vietnamese macroeconomic data
```

2.4.2 Risk-Free Rate Approximation

Determining an appropriate risk-free rate for Vietnam presents challenges not encountered in developed markets. Unlike the US Treasury market, Vietnam's government bond market is relatively illiquid with limited secondary trading. Several alternatives exist:

1. **SBV Refinancing Rate**: The policy rate set by the State Bank of Vietnam. Not directly investable but reflects monetary policy stance.
2. **Government Bond Yields**: One-year or longer-term government bond yields from auction results. More investable but less liquid than US Treasuries.
3. **Interbank Rates**: Overnight or term interbank lending rates. Reflect short-term funding costs but include credit risk.
4. **Adjusted US Rate**: US Treasury rate plus expected VND depreciation, following uncovered interest rate parity.

```python
def calculate_risk_free_rate(macro_data, method="refinancing"):
    """
    Calculate risk-free rate proxy for Vietnamese market.

    Parameters
    ----------
    macro_data : pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame with macroeconomic data
    method : str
        Method for risk-free rate: 'refinancing', 'bond', or 'adjusted_us'

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame with date and monthly risk-free rate
    """
    if method == "refinancing":
        # Use SBV refinancing rate, convert annual to monthly
        rf = macro_data[["date", "refinancing_rate"]].copy()
        rf["rf_monthly"] = rf["refinancing_rate"] / 12 / 100

    elif method == "adjusted_us":
        # US rate + expected VND depreciation
        # Requires additional data on US rates and exchange rate expectations
        pass
```

```
    return rf[["date", "rf_monthly"]]
```

2.5 Setting Up a Database for Vietnamese Financial Data

Managing financial data across multiple sources and formats requires a systematic approach to data storage. We recommend using SQLite as the primary database engine for several reasons: it requires no server setup, stores the entire database in a single portable file, supports standard SQL queries, and integrates seamlessly with Python through the built-in sqlite3 module.

2.5.1 Database Schema Design

Our database schema is designed to support efficient queries for common research tasks while maintaining data integrity. We create separate tables for different data types with appropriate relationships.

```
import os
import sqlite3

# Create data directory if it doesn't exist
if not os.path.exists("data"):
    os.makedirs("data")

# Initialize SQLite database connection
tidy_finance_python = sqlite3.connect(
    "data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite"
)
```

2.5.2 Storing Data

With the database schema established, we can store our collected data using pandas' to_sql() method.

```
# Store stock listing data
common_stocks.to_sql(
    name="stock_master",
    con=tidy_finance_python,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
```

```
)

# Store stock price data
stock_prices.to_sql(
    name="stock_prices_daily",
    con=tidy_finance_python,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

# Store market indices
vn_index.to_sql(
    name="market_indices",
    con=tidy_finance_python,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

# Store factor returns
factors_vietnam.to_sql(
    name="factors_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance_python,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)
```

2.6 Querying and Updating the Database

Once data is stored in the database, retrieval is straightforward using SQL queries. The pandas read_sql_query() function executes a SQL statement and returns the results as a DataFrame.

```
# Query stock prices for specific symbols and date range
query = """
SELECT date, symbol, close, volume
FROM stock_prices_daily
WHERE symbol IN ('VNM', 'VIC', 'FPT', 'VHM', 'VCB')
  AND date >= '2020-01-01'
ORDER BY symbol, date
"""

selected_stocks = pd.read_sql_query(
```

```
    sql=query,
    con=tidy_finance_python,
    parse_dates=["date"]
)

# Query factor data merged with market returns
query_factors = """
SELECT f.date, f.mkt_rf, f.smb, f.hml, f.rf,
       m.cpi_yoy, m.credit_growth
FROM factors_monthly f
LEFT JOIN macro_monthly m ON f.date = m.date
WHERE f.date >= '2015-01-01'
ORDER BY f.date
"""

factor_data = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql=query_factors,
    con=tidy_finance_python,
    parse_dates=["date"]
)
```

2.6.1 Database Maintenance

Regular database maintenance ensures optimal performance and data integrity.

```
# Optimize database
tidy_finance_python.execute("VACUUM")

# Check database integrity
integrity_check = pd.read_sql_query(
    "PRAGMA integrity_check",
    tidy_finance_python
)
print(f"Integrity check: {integrity_check.iloc[0, 0]}")

# Get database statistics
table_stats = pd.read_sql_query("""
    SELECT name,
           (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM stock_prices_daily) as price_rows,
           (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM stock_master) as stock_count,
           (SELECT COUNT(*) FROM factors_monthly) as factor_months
```

```
    FROM sqlite_master
    WHERE type='table' AND name='stock_master'
""", tidy_finance_python)

print(table_stats)

# Close connection when done
tidy_finance_python.close()
```

2.7 Alternative Data Sources for Vietnamese Markets

Beyond traditional price and fundamental data, researchers increasingly incorporate alternative data sources to gain unique insights into market dynamics.

2.7.1 Foreign Investor Flow Data

Foreign investor flow data is particularly valuable given the significant role of foreign capital in Vietnamese equity markets. The State Securities Commission publishes daily foreign ownership statistics by security.

2.7.2 News and Sentiment Data

Media sentiment from Vietnamese financial news sources offers another research avenue. Major outlets such as CafeF, VnExpress Finance, and Vietstock publish real-time news that can be analyzed for market sentiment.

2.8 Key Takeaways

1. **Market Structure Understanding**: The Vietnamese financial market operates across three exchanges (HOSE, HNX, UPCoM) with distinct characteristics including foreign ownership limits, trading band restrictions, and a T+2 settlement cycle. Researchers must account for these institutional features in empirical analysis.
2. **Macroeconomic Data Challenges**: Unlike developed markets with standardized APIs (e.g., FRED), Vietnamese macroeconomic data requires manual collection from government sources (GSO, SBV). Researchers should plan for this additional data gathering effort and implement systematic data management practices.

3. **Database-Centric Workflow**: SQLite provides an efficient and portable database solution for managing Vietnamese financial data across research projects. The structured database approach enables reproducible research workflows, efficient queries, and easy data sharing among collaborators.

4. **Data Quality Imperative**: Data quality validation is especially important for emerging market data. Implementing systematic checks for missing values, extreme returns, duplicate entries, and cross-source validation helps ensure research reliability and reproducibility.

5. **Alternative Data Opportunities**: Foreign investor flows, corporate announcements, and media sentiment provide unique research opportunities in the Vietnamese market that can complement traditional price and fundamental analysis. These data sources can reveal insights about market dynamics not captured in standard datasets.

6. **Continuous Maintenance**: Financial databases require ongoing maintenance including incremental updates, integrity checks, and optimization. Establishing systematic update procedures ensures data currency and database performance over time.

3 Datacore Data

This chapter introduces Datacore, Vietnam's data platform for academic, corporate, and government research. Datacore provides comprehensive financial and economic datasets, including historical trading data, company fundamentals, and macroeconomic indicators essential for reproducible finance research. We use Datacore as the primary data source throughout this book.

3.1 Data Access Options

Readers can access the data used in this book through several channels:

1. **Institutional subscription**: Many universities and research institutions subscribe to Datacore. Check with your library or research office for access credentials. If your institution does not yet have a subscription, consider requesting one through your library's acquisition process—Datacore offers institutional pricing for academic use.
2. **Demo datasets**: Datacore provides demo datasets that allow you to run the code examples in this book with sample data.

3.2 Chapter Overview

The chapter is organized as follows. We first establish the connection to Datacore's cloud storage infrastructure. Then, we download and prepare company fundamentals data, including balance sheet items, income statement variables, and derived metrics essential for asset pricing research. Next, we retrieve and process stock price data, computing returns, market capitalizations, and excess returns. We conclude by merging these datasets and providing descriptive statistics that characterize the Vietnamese equity market.

3.3 Setting Up the Environment

We begin by loading the Python packages used throughout this chapter. The core packages include `pandas` for data manipulation, `numpy` for numerical operations, and `sqlite3` for local database management. We also import visualization libraries for creating publication-quality figures.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3
from datetime import datetime
from io import BytesIO

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import comma_format, percent_format
```

We establish a connection to our local SQLite database, which serves as the central repository for all processed data. This database was introduced in the previous chapter and will store the cleaned datasets for use in subsequent analyses.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")
```

We define the date range for our data collection. The Vietnamese stock market began operations in July 2000 with the establishment of the Ho Chi Minh City Stock Exchange (HOSE), so our sample period starts from 2000 and extends through the end of 2024.

```
start_date = "2000-01-01"
end_date = "2024-12-31"
```

3.4 Connecting to Datacore

Datacore delivers data through a cloud-based object storage system built on MinIO, an S3-compatible storage infrastructure. This architecture enables efficient, programmatic access to large datasets without the limitations of traditional database connections. To access the data, you need credentials provided by Datacore upon subscription: an endpoint URL, access key, and secret key.

The following class establishes the connection to Datacore's storage system. The credentials are stored as environment variables for security, following best practices for credential management in research computing environments.

```python
import os
import boto3
from botocore.client import Config

class DatacoreConnection:
    """
    Connection handler for Datacore's MinIO-based storage system.

    This class manages authentication and provides methods for
    accessing financial datasets stored in Datacore's cloud infrastructure.

    Attributes
    ----------
    s3 : boto3.client
        S3-compatible client for interacting with Datacore storage
    """

    def __init__(self):
        """Initialize connection using environment variables."""
        self.MINIO_ENDPOINT = os.environ["MINIO_ENDPOINT"]
        self.MINIO_ACCESS_KEY = os.environ["MINIO_ACCESS_KEY"]
        self.MINIO_SECRET_KEY = os.environ["MINIO_SECRET_KEY"]
        self.REGION = os.getenv("MINIO_REGION", "us-east-1")

        self.s3 = boto3.client(
            "s3",
            endpoint_url=self.MINIO_ENDPOINT,
            aws_access_key_id=self.MINIO_ACCESS_KEY,
            aws_secret_access_key=self.MINIO_SECRET_KEY,
            region_name=self.REGION,
            config=Config(signature_version="s3v4"),
        )

    def test_connection(self):
        """Verify connection by listing available buckets."""
        response = self.s3.list_buckets()
        print("Connected successfully. Available buckets:")
        for bucket in response.get("Buckets", []):
            print(f"  - {bucket['Name']}")

    def list_objects(self, bucket_name, prefix=""):
        """List objects in a bucket with optional prefix filter."""
```

```
        response = self.s3.list_objects_v2(
            Bucket=bucket_name,
            Prefix=prefix
        )
        return [obj["Key"] for obj in response.get("Contents", [])]

    def read_excel(self, bucket_name, key):
        """Read an Excel file from Datacore storage."""
        obj = self.s3.get_object(Bucket=bucket_name, Key=key)
        return pd.read_excel(BytesIO(obj["Body"].read()))

    def read_csv(self, bucket_name, key, **kwargs):
        """Read a CSV file from Datacore storage."""
        obj = self.s3.get_object(Bucket=bucket_name, Key=key)
        return pd.read_csv(BytesIO(obj["Body"].read()), **kwargs)
```

With the connection class defined, we can establish a connection and verify access to Datacore's data repositories.

```
# Initialize connection
conn = DatacoreConnection()
conn.test_connection()

# Get bucket name from environment
bucket_name = os.environ["MINIO_BUCKET"]
```

```
Connected successfully. Available buckets:
  - dsteam-data
  - rawbctc
```

3.5 Company Fundamentals Data

Firm accounting data are essential for portfolio analyses, factor construction, and valuation studies. Datacore hosts comprehensive fundamentals data for Vietnamese listed companies, including annual and quarterly financial statements prepared according to Vietnamese Accounting Standards (VAS).

3.5.1 Understanding Vietnamese Financial Statements

Before processing the data, it is important to understand the structure of Vietnamese financial reports. Vietnamese companies follow VAS, which shares similarities with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) but has notable differences:

1. **Fiscal Year**: Most Vietnamese companies use a calendar fiscal year ending December 31, though some companies (particularly in retail and agriculture) use different fiscal year-ends.
2. **Reporting Frequency**: Listed companies must publish quarterly financial statements within 20 days of quarter-end and annual audited statements within 90 days of fiscal year-end.
3. **Industry-Specific Formats**: Companies in banking, insurance, and securities sectors follow specialized reporting formats that differ from the standard industrial format.
4. **Currency**: All figures are reported in Vietnamese Dong (VND). Given the large nominal values (millions to trillions of VND), we often scale figures to millions or billions for readability.

3.5.2 Downloading Fundamentals Data

Datacore organizes fundamentals data in Excel files partitioned by time period for efficient access. We download and concatenate these files to create a comprehensive dataset spanning our sample period.

```
# Define paths to fundamentals data files
fundamentals_paths = [
    "fundamental_annual_1767674486317/fundamental_annual_1.xlsx",
    "fundamental_annual_1767674486317/fundamental_annual_2.xlsx",
    "fundamental_annual_1767674486317/fundamental_annual_3.xlsx",
]

# Download and combine all files
fundamentals_list = []
for path in fundamentals_paths:
    df_temp = conn.read_excel(bucket_name, path)
    fundamentals_list.append(df_temp)
    print(f"Downloaded: {path} ({len(df_temp):,} rows)")

df_fundamentals_raw = pd.concat(fundamentals_list, ignore_index=True)
print(f"\nTotal observations: {len(df_fundamentals_raw):,}")
```

```
Downloaded: fundamental_annual_1767674486317/fundamental_annual_1.xlsx (10,000 rows)

Downloaded: fundamental_annual_1767674486317/fundamental_annual_2.xlsx (10,000 rows)

Downloaded: fundamental_annual_1767674486317/fundamental_annual_3.xlsx (2,821 rows)

Total observations: 22,821
```

3.5.3 Cleaning and Standardizing Fundamentals

The raw fundamentals data requires several cleaning steps to ensure consistency and usability. We standardize variable names, handle missing values, and create derived variables commonly used in asset pricing research.

```python
def clean_fundamentals(df):
    """
    Clean and standardize company fundamentals data.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Raw fundamentals data from Datacore

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Cleaned fundamentals with standardized column names
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Standardize identifiers
    df["symbol"] = df["symbol"].astype(str).str.upper().str.strip()
    df["year"] = pd.to_numeric(df["year"], errors="coerce").astype("Int64")

    # Drop rows with missing identifiers
    df = df.dropna(subset=["symbol", "year"])

    # Define columns that should be numeric
    numeric_columns = [
        "total_asset", "total_equity", "total_liabilities",
        "total_current_asset", "total_current_liabilities",
```

```
        "is_net_revenue", "is_cogs", "is_manage_expense",
        "is_interest_expense", "is_eat", "is_net_business_profit",
        "na_tax_deferred", "nl_tax_deferred", "e_preferred_stock",
        "capex", "total_cfo", "ca_cce", "ca_total_inventory",
        "ca_acc_receiv", "cfo_interest_expense", "basic_eps",
        "is_shareholders_eat", "cl_loan", "cl_finlease",
        "cl_due_long_debt", "nl_loan", "nl_finlease",
        "is_cos_of_sales", "e_equity"
    ]

    for col in numeric_columns:
        if col in df.columns:
            df[col] = pd.to_numeric(df[col], errors="coerce")

    # Handle duplicates: keep row with most non-missing values
    df["_completeness"] = df.notna().sum(axis=1)
    df = (df
        .sort_values(["symbol", "year", "_completeness"])
        .drop_duplicates(subset=["symbol", "year"], keep="last")
        .drop(columns="_completeness")
        .reset_index(drop=True)
    )

    return df

df_fundamentals = clean_fundamentals(df_fundamentals_raw)
print(f"After cleaning: {len(df_fundamentals):,} firm-year observations")
print(f"Unique firms: {df_fundamentals['symbol'].nunique():,}")
```

```
After cleaning: 21,232 firm-year observations
Unique firms: 1,554
```

3.5.4 Creating Standardized Variables

To facilitate comparison with international studies and ensure compatibility with standard asset pricing methodologies, we create variables following conventions established in the academic literature. We map Vietnamese financial statement items to their Compustat equivalents where possible.

```python
def create_standard_variables(df):
    """
    Create standardized financial variables for asset pricing research.

    This function maps Vietnamese financial statement items to standard
    variable names used in the academic finance literature, following
    conventions from Fama and French (1992, 1993, 2015).

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Cleaned fundamentals data

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals with standardized variables added
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Fiscal date (assume December year-end)
    df["datadate"] = pd.to_datetime(df["year"].astype(str) + "-12-31")

    # === Balance Sheet Items ===
    df["at"] = df["total_asset"]                    # Total assets
    df["lt"] = df["total_liabilities"]              # Total liabilities
    df["seq"] = df["total_equity"]                  # Stockholders' equity
    df["act"] = df["total_current_asset"]           # Current assets
    df["lct"] = df["total_current_liabilities"]     # Current liabilities

    # Common equity (fallback to total equity if not available)
    df["ceq"] = df.get("e_equity", df["seq"])

    # === Deferred Taxes ===
    df["txditc"] = df.get("na_tax_deferred", 0).fillna(0)  # Deferred tax assets
    df["txdb"] = df.get("nl_tax_deferred", 0).fillna(0)    # Deferred tax liab.
    df["itcb"] = 0  # Investment tax credit (rare in Vietnam)

    # === Preferred Stock ===
    pref = df.get("e_preferred_stock", 0)
    if isinstance(pref, pd.Series):
        pref = pref.fillna(0)
```

```
    df["pstk"] = pref
    df["pstkrv"] = pref  # Redemption value
    df["pstkl"] = pref   # Liquidating value

    # === Income Statement Items ===
    df["sale"] = df["is_net_revenue"]                        # Net sales/revenue
    df["cogs"] = df.get("is_cogs", 0).fillna(0)              # Cost of goods sold
    df["xsga"] = df.get("is_manage_expense", 0).fillna(0)    # SG&A expenses
    df["xint"] = df.get("is_interest_expense", 0).fillna(0)  # Interest expense
    df["ni"] = df.get("is_eat", np.nan)                      # Net income
    df["oibdp"] = df.get("is_net_business_profit", np.nan)   # Operating income

    # === Cash Flow Items ===
    df["oancf"] = df.get("total_cfo", np.nan)  # Operating cash flow
    df["capx"] = df.get("capex", np.nan)       # Capital expenditures

    return df

df_fundamentals = create_standard_variables(df_fundamentals)
```

3.5.5 Computing Book Equity and Profitability

Book equity is a crucial variable for value investing strategies and the construction of HML (High Minus Low) factor portfolios. We follow the definition from Kenneth French's data library, which accounts for deferred taxes and preferred stock.

```
def compute_book_equity(df):
    """
    Compute book equity following Fama-French conventions.

    Book equity = Stockholders' equity
                  + Deferred taxes and investment tax credit
                  - Preferred stock

    Negative or zero book equity is set to missing, as book-to-market
    ratios are undefined for such firms.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals with standardized variables
```

```
    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals with book equity (be) added
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Primary measure: stockholders' equity
    # Fallback 1: common equity + preferred stock
    # Fallback 2: total assets - total liabilities
    seq_measure = (df["seq"]
        .combine_first(df["ceq"] + df["pstk"])
        .combine_first(df["at"] - df["lt"])
    )

    # Add deferred taxes
    deferred_taxes = (df["txditc"]
        .combine_first(df["txdb"] + df["itcb"])
        .fillna(0)
    )

    # Subtract preferred stock (use redemption value as primary)
    preferred = (df["pstkrv"]
        .combine_first(df["pstkl"])
        .combine_first(df["pstk"])
        .fillna(0)
    )

    # Book equity calculation
    df["be"] = seq_measure + deferred_taxes - preferred

    # Set non-positive book equity to missing
    df["be"] = df["be"].where(df["be"] > 0, np.nan)

    return df

df_fundamentals = compute_book_equity(df_fundamentals)

# Summary statistics for book equity
print("Book Equity Summary Statistics (in million VND):")
print(df_fundamentals["be"].describe().round(2))
```

```
Book Equity Summary Statistics (in million VND):
count    2.023500e+04
mean     1.031884e+12
std      4.705269e+12
min      4.404402e+07
25%      7.267610e+10
50%      1.803885e+11
75%      5.304653e+11
max      1.836314e+14
Name: be, dtype: float64
```

Operating profitability, introduced by Eugene F. Fama and French (2015), measures a firm's profits relative to its book equity. Firms with higher operating profitability tend to have higher expected returns.

```python
def compute_profitability(df):
    """
    Compute operating profitability following Fama-French (2015).

    Operating profitability = (Revenue - COGS - SG&A - Interest) / Book Equity

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals with book equity computed

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals with operating profitability (op) added
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Operating profit before taxes
    operating_profit = (
        df["sale"]
        - df["cogs"].fillna(0)
        - df["xsga"].fillna(0)
        - df["xint"].fillna(0)
    )

    # Scale by book equity
```

```
    df["op"] = operating_profit / df["be"]

    # Winsorize extreme values (outside 1st and 99th percentiles)
    lower = df["op"].quantile(0.01)
    upper = df["op"].quantile(0.99)
    df["op"] = df["op"].clip(lower=lower, upper=upper)

    return df

df_fundamentals = compute_profitability(df_fundamentals)
```

3.5.6 Computing Investment

Investment, measured as asset growth, captures firms' investment behavior. Eugene F. Fama and French (2015) document that firms with high asset growth (aggressive investment) tend to have lower future returns.

```
def compute_investment(df):
    """
    Compute investment (asset growth) following Fama-French (2015).

    Investment = (Total Assets_t / Total Assets_{t-1}) - 1

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals data

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals with investment (inv) added
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Create lagged assets
    df_lag = (df[["symbol", "year", "at"]]
        .assign(year=lambda x: x["year"] + 1)
        .rename(columns={"at": "at_lag"})
    )
```

```
    # Merge lagged values
    df = df.merge(df_lag, on=["symbol", "year"], how="left")

    # Compute investment (asset growth)
    df["inv"] = df["at"] / df["at_lag"] - 1

    # Set to missing if lagged assets non-positive
    df["inv"] = df["inv"].where(df["at_lag"] > 0, np.nan)

    return df

df_fundamentals = compute_investment(df_fundamentals)
```

3.5.7 Computing Total Debt

In Vietnamese financial statements, total liabilities include non-interest-bearing items such as accounts payable and tax payables. For leverage analysis, we compute total interest-bearing debt by aggregating loan and lease obligations.

```
def compute_total_debt(df):
    """
    Compute total interest-bearing debt.

    Total Debt = Short-term loans + Finance leases (current)
                 + Current portion of long-term debt
                 + Long-term loans + Finance leases (non-current)

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals data

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Fundamentals with total_debt added
    """
    df = df.copy()

    df["total_debt"] = (
        df.get("cl_loan", 0).fillna(0) +           # Short-term bank loans
```

```
        df.get("cl_finlease", 0).fillna(0) +       # Current finance leases
        df.get("cl_due_long_debt", 0).fillna(0) +  # Current portion LT debt
        df.get("nl_loan", 0).fillna(0) +           # Long-term bank loans
        df.get("nl_finlease", 0).fillna(0)         # Non-current finance leases
    )

    return df

df_fundamentals = compute_total_debt(df_fundamentals)
```

3.5.8 Applying Filters and Final Preparation

We apply standard filters to ensure data quality: requiring positive assets, non-negative sales, and presence of core variables needed for portfolio construction.

```
# Keep only observations with required variables
required_vars = ["at", "lt", "seq", "sale"]
comp_vn = df_fundamentals.dropna(subset=required_vars)

# Apply quality filters
comp_vn = comp_vn.query("at > 0")      # Positive assets
comp_vn = comp_vn.query("sale >= 0")   # Non-negative sales

# Keep last observation per firm-year (in case of restatements)
comp_vn = (comp_vn
    .sort_values("datadate")
    .groupby(["symbol", "year"])
    .tail(1)
    .reset_index(drop=True)
)

# Diagnostic summary
print(f"Final sample: {len(comp_vn):,} firm-year observations")
print(f"Unique firms: {comp_vn['symbol'].nunique():,}")
print(f"Sample period: {comp_vn['year'].min()} - {comp_vn['year'].max()}")
```

```
Final sample: 20,091 firm-year observations
Unique firms: 1,502
Sample period: 1998 - 2023
```

3.5.9 Storing Fundamentals Data

We store the prepared fundamentals data in our local SQLite database for use in subsequent chapters.

```
comp_vn.to_sql(
    name="comp_vn",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

print("Company fundamentals saved to database.")
```

```
Company fundamentals saved to database.
```

3.6 Stock Price Data

Stock price data forms the foundation of return-based analyses in empirical finance. Datacore provides comprehensive historical price data for all securities traded on HOSE, HNX, and UPCoM, including adjusted prices that account for corporate actions.

3.6.1 Downloading Price Data

We download the historical price data from Datacore's storage system. The data includes daily observations with open, high, low, close prices, trading volume, and adjustment factors.

```
# Download historical price data
prices_raw = conn.read_csv(
    bucket_name,
    "historycal_price/dataset_historical_price.csv",
    low_memory=False
)

print(f"Downloaded {len(prices_raw):,} daily price observations")
print(f"Date range: {prices_raw['date'].min()} to {prices_raw['date'].max()}")
```

```
Downloaded 4,307,791 daily price observations
Date range: 2010-01-04 to 2025-05-12
```

3.6.2 Processing Price Data

We clean the price data and compute adjusted prices that account for stock splits, stock dividends, and other corporate actions.

```
def process_price_data(df):
    """
    Process raw price data from Datacore.
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Parse dates
    df["date"] = pd.to_datetime(df["date"])

    # Standardize column names
    df = df.rename(columns={
        "open_price": "open",
        "high_price": "high",
        "low_price": "low",
        "close_price": "close",
        "vol_total": "volume"
    })

    # Compute adjusted close price
    df["adjusted_close"] = df["close"] * df["adj_ratio"]

    # Standardize symbol
    df["symbol"] = df["symbol"].astype(str).str.upper().str.strip()

    # Sort for return calculation
    df = df.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])

    # Add year and month
    df["year"] = df["date"].dt.year
    df["month"] = df["date"].dt.month

    return df

prices = process_price_data(prices_raw)
```

3.6.3 Computing Shares Outstanding and Market Capitalization

Market capitalization is computed as the product of price and shares outstanding. Since Datacore provides earnings per share and net income, we can infer shares outstanding from these variables.

```
def compute_shares_outstanding(fundamentals_df):
    """
    Compute shares outstanding from fundamentals.
    """
    shares = fundamentals_df.copy()
    shares["shrout"] = shares["is_shareholders_eat"] / shares["basic_eps"]
    shares = shares[["symbol", "year", "shrout"]].dropna()

    return shares

shares_outstanding = compute_shares_outstanding(df_fundamentals)
```

```
def add_market_cap(df, shares_df):
    """
    Add market capitalization to price data.
    """
    df = df.merge(shares_df, on=["symbol", "year"], how="left")

    # Compute market cap (in million VND)
    df["mktcap"] = (df["close"] * df["shrout"]) / 1_000_000

    # Set zero or negative market cap to missing
    df["mktcap"] = df["mktcap"].where(df["mktcap"] > 0, np.nan)

    return df

prices = add_market_cap(prices, shares_outstanding)
```

3.6.4 Computing Returns and Excess Returns

We compute returns using adjusted closing prices to ensure returns correctly reflect total shareholder returns including dividends and corporate actions.

3.6.4.1 Creating Daily Dataset

1. Sequential version

```
def create_daily_dataset(df, annual_rf=0.04):
    """
    Create daily price dataset with returns and excess returns.
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Sort by symbol and date (critical for correct return calculation)
    df = df.sort_values(["symbol", "date"]).reset_index(drop=True)

    # Remove duplicate dates within each symbol (keep last observation)
    df = df.drop_duplicates(subset=["symbol", "date"], keep="last")

    # Compute daily returns
    df["ret"] = df.groupby("symbol")["adjusted_close"].pct_change()

    # Cap extreme negative returns
    df["ret"] = df["ret"].clip(lower=-0.99)

    # Daily risk-free rate (assuming 252 trading days)
    df["risk_free"] = annual_rf / 252

    # Excess returns
    df["ret_excess"] = df["ret"] - df["risk_free"]
    df["ret_excess"] = df["ret_excess"].clip(lower=-1.0)

    # Lagged market cap
    df["mktcap_lag"] = df.groupby("symbol")["mktcap"].shift(1)

    return df

prices_daily = create_daily_dataset(prices)
```

2. Parallel version

```
from joblib import Parallel, delayed
import os

def process_daily_symbol(symbol_df, annual_rf=0.04):
```

```python
    """
    Process a single symbol's daily data.
    """
    df = symbol_df.copy()

    # Sort by date (critical for correct return calculation)
    df = df.sort_values("date").reset_index(drop=True)

    # Remove duplicate dates (keep last observation if duplicates exist)
    df = df.drop_duplicates(subset=["date"], keep="last")

    # Compute daily returns
    df["ret"] = df["adjusted_close"].pct_change()

    # Replace infinite values with NaN
    df["ret"] = df["ret"].replace([np.inf, -np.inf], np.nan)

    # Cap extreme negative returns
    df["ret"] = df["ret"].clip(lower=-0.99)

    # Daily risk-free rate
    df["risk_free"] = annual_rf / 252

    # Excess returns
    df["ret_excess"] = df["ret"] - df["risk_free"]
    df["ret_excess"] = df["ret_excess"].clip(lower=-1.0)

    # Lagged market cap
    df["mktcap_lag"] = df["mktcap"].shift(1)

    return df

def create_daily_dataset_parallel(df, annual_rf=0.04):
    """
    Create daily price dataset using parallel processing.
    """
    # Ensure data is sorted before splitting
    df = df.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])

    # Split by symbol
    symbol_groups = [group for _, group in df.groupby("symbol")]
```

```python
    n_jobs = max(1, os.cpu_count() - 1)
    print(f"Processing {len(symbol_groups):,} symbols using {n_jobs} cores...")

    results = Parallel(n_jobs=n_jobs, verbose=1)(
        delayed(process_daily_symbol)(group, annual_rf)
        for group in symbol_groups
    )

    return pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)

prices_daily = create_daily_dataset_parallel(prices)

# Quick validation
print("\nValidation checks:")
print(f"Any duplicate (symbol, date): {prices_daily.duplicated(subset=['symbol', 'date']).sum
print(f"Sample of non-zero returns:")
print(prices_daily[prices_daily["ret"] != 0][["symbol", "date", "adjusted_close", "ret"]].hea


prices_daily.query("symbol == 'FPT'")[["symbol", "date", "adjusted_close", "ret"]].head(3)
```

```
Processing 1,837 symbols using 87 cores...


Validation checks:
Any duplicate (symbol, date): 0
Sample of non-zero returns:
   symbol       date  adjusted_close       ret
0     A32 2018-10-23       44.574418       NaN
27    A32 2018-11-29       55.072640  0.235521
30    A32 2018-12-04       48.188560 -0.125000
43    A32 2018-12-21       51.974804  0.078571
49    A32 2019-01-02       55.072640  0.059603
53    A32 2019-01-08       50.030370 -0.091557
74    A32 2019-02-13       44.289180 -0.114754
75    A32 2019-02-14       41.008500 -0.074074
78    A32 2019-02-19       36.087480 -0.120000
91    A32 2019-03-08       41.336568  0.145455
```

	symbol	date	adjusted_close	ret
1146076	FPT	2010-01-04	1170.9885	NaN
1146077	FPT	2010-01-05	1170.9885	0.000000
1146078	FPT	2010-01-06	1149.6978	-0.018182

```
# Select columns
daily_columns = [
    "symbol", "date", "year", "month",
    "open", "high", "low", "close", "volume",
    "adjusted_close", "shrout", "mktcap", "mktcap_lag",
    "ret", "risk_free", "ret_excess"
]
prices_daily = prices_daily[daily_columns]

# Remove observations with missing essential variables
prices_daily = prices_daily.dropna(subset=["ret_excess", "mktcap", "mktcap_lag"])

print("Daily Return Summary Statistics:")
print(prices_daily["ret"].describe().round(4))
print(f"\nFinal daily sample: {len(prices_daily):,} observations")
```

```
Daily Return Summary Statistics:
count    3.462157e+06
mean     3.000000e-04
std      4.480000e-02
min     -9.900000e-01
25%     -4.900000e-03
50%      0.000000e+00
75%      4.000000e-03
max      3.250000e+01
Name: ret, dtype: float64

Final daily sample: 3,462,157 observations
```

3.6.4.2 Creating Monthly Dataset

For monthly returns, we compute returns directly from month-end adjusted prices rather than compounding daily returns. This avoids compounding errors from missing days and is the standard approach in empirical finance.

1. Sequential version

```python
def create_monthly_dataset(df, annual_rf=0.04):
    """
    Create monthly price dataset with returns computed from
    month-end to month-end adjusted prices.
    """
    df = df.copy()

    # Sort by symbol and date (critical for correct return calculation)
    df = df.sort_values(["symbol", "date"]).reset_index(drop=True)

    # Remove duplicate dates within each symbol (keep last observation)
    df = df.drop_duplicates(subset=["symbol", "date"], keep="last")

    # Get month-end observations
    monthly = (df
        .groupby("symbol")
        .resample("ME", on="date")
        .agg({
            "open": "first",           # First day open
            "high": "max",             # Monthly high
            "low": "min",              # Monthly low
            "close": "last",           # Last day close
            "volume": "sum",           # Total monthly volume
            "adjusted_close": "last",  # Month-end adjusted price
            "shrout": "last",          # Month-end shares outstanding
            "mktcap": "last",          # Month-end market cap
            "year": "last",
            "month": "last"
        })
        .reset_index()
    )

    # Remove duplicate (symbol, date) after resampling (safety check)
    monthly = monthly.drop_duplicates(subset=["symbol", "date"], keep="last")

    # Sort again after resampling
    monthly = monthly.sort_values(["symbol", "date"]).reset_index(drop=True)

    # Compute monthly returns from month-end to month-end adjusted prices
    monthly["ret"] = monthly.groupby("symbol")["adjusted_close"].pct_change()

    # Cap extreme returns
```

```
    monthly["ret"] = monthly["ret"].clip(lower=-0.99)

    # Monthly risk-free rate
    monthly["risk_free"] = annual_rf / 12

    # Excess returns
    monthly["ret_excess"] = monthly["ret"] - monthly["risk_free"]
    monthly["ret_excess"] = monthly["ret_excess"].clip(lower=-1.0)

    # Lagged market cap for portfolio weighting
    monthly["mktcap_lag"] = monthly.groupby("symbol")["mktcap"].shift(1)

    return monthly

prices_monthly = create_monthly_dataset(prices)
```

2. Parallel version

```
from joblib import Parallel, delayed
import os

def process_monthly_symbol(symbol_df, annual_rf=0.04):
    """
    Process a single symbol's data to monthly frequency.
    """
    df = symbol_df.copy()

    # Sort by date (critical for correct return calculation)
    df = df.sort_values("date").reset_index(drop=True)

    # Remove duplicate dates (keep last observation if duplicates exist)
    df = df.drop_duplicates(subset=["date"], keep="last")

    # Set date as index for resampling
    df = df.set_index("date")

    # Resample to monthly
    monthly = df.resample("ME").agg({
        "symbol": "last",
        "open": "first",
        "high": "max",
        "low": "min",
```

```
        "close": "last",
        "volume": "sum",
        "adjusted_close": "last",
        "shrout": "last",
        "mktcap": "last",
        "year": "last",
        "month": "last"
    }).reset_index()

    # Remove rows where symbol is NaN (months with no trading)
    monthly = monthly.dropna(subset=["symbol"])

    # Sort by date
    monthly = monthly.sort_values("date").reset_index(drop=True)

    # Compute monthly returns
    monthly["ret"] = monthly["adjusted_close"].pct_change()

    # Replace infinite values with NaN
    monthly["ret"] = monthly["ret"].replace([np.inf, -np.inf], np.nan)

    # Cap extreme returns
    monthly["ret"] = monthly["ret"].clip(lower=-0.99)

    # Monthly risk-free rate
    monthly["risk_free"] = annual_rf / 12

    # Excess returns
    monthly["ret_excess"] = monthly["ret"] - monthly["risk_free"]
    monthly["ret_excess"] = monthly["ret_excess"].clip(lower=-1.0)

    # Lagged market cap
    monthly["mktcap_lag"] = monthly["mktcap"].shift(1)

    return monthly

def create_monthly_dataset_parallel(df, annual_rf=0.04):
    """
    Create monthly price dataset using parallel processing.
    """
    # Ensure data is sorted before splitting
    df = df.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
```

```
    # Split by symbol
    symbol_groups = [group for _, group in df.groupby("symbol")]

    n_jobs = max(1, os.cpu_count() - 1)
    print(f"Processing {len(symbol_groups):,} symbols using {n_jobs} cores...")

    results = Parallel(n_jobs=n_jobs, verbose=1)(
        delayed(process_monthly_symbol)(group, annual_rf)
        for group in symbol_groups
    )

    return pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)

prices_monthly = create_monthly_dataset_parallel(prices)

# Validation checks
print("\nValidation checks:")
print(f"Any duplicate (symbol, date): {prices_monthly.duplicated(subset=['symbol', 'date']).s
print(f"\nSample of non-zero returns:")
print(prices_monthly[prices_monthly["ret"] != 0][["symbol", "date", "adjusted_close", "ret"]]

prices_monthly.query("symbol == 'FPT'")[["symbol", "date", "adjusted_close", "ret"]].head(3)
```

```
Processing 1,837 symbols using 87 cores...


Validation checks:
Any duplicate (symbol, date): 0

Sample of non-zero returns:
   symbol       date  adjusted_close       ret
0     A32 2018-10-31       44.574418       NaN
1     A32 2018-11-30       55.072640  0.235521
2     A32 2018-12-31       51.974804 -0.056250
3     A32 2019-01-31       50.030370 -0.037411
4     A32 2019-02-28       36.087480 -0.278689
5     A32 2019-03-31       41.828670  0.159091
7     A32 2019-05-31       43.304976  0.035294
8     A32 2019-06-30       35.929125 -0.170323
9     A32 2019-07-31       37.525975  0.044444
10    A32 2019-08-31       38.324400  0.021277
```

	symbol	date	adjusted_close	ret
55963	FPT	2010-01-31	1092.9226	NaN
55964	FPT	2010-02-28	1107.1164	0.012987
55965	FPT	2010-03-31	1185.1823	0.070513

```
# Select columns (same structure as daily)
monthly_columns = [
    "symbol", "date", "year", "month",
    "open", "high", "low", "close", "volume",
    "adjusted_close", "shrout", "mktcap", "mktcap_lag",
    "ret", "risk_free", "ret_excess"
]
prices_monthly = prices_monthly[monthly_columns]

# Remove observations with missing essential variables
prices_monthly = prices_monthly.dropna(subset=["ret_excess", "mktcap", "mktcap_lag"])

print("Monthly Return Summary Statistics:")
print(prices_monthly["ret"].describe().round(4))
print(f"\nFinal monthly sample: {len(prices_monthly):,} observations")
```

```
Monthly Return Summary Statistics:
count    165499.0000
mean          0.0042
std           0.1862
min          -0.9900
25%          -0.0703
50%           0.0000
75%           0.0553
max          12.7500
Name: ret, dtype: float64

Final monthly sample: 165,499 observations
```

3.6.5 Storing Price Data

```
prices_daily.to_sql(
    name="prices_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
```

```
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)
print("Daily price data saved to database.")

prices_monthly.to_sql(
    name="prices_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)
print("Monthly price data saved to database.")
```

3.7 Descriptive Statistics

Before proceeding to asset pricing analyses, we examine the characteristics of our sample to understand the Vietnamese equity market's evolution and composition.

3.7.1 Market Evolution Over Time

We first examine how the number of listed securities has grown over time.

```
securities_over_time = (prices_monthly
    .groupby("date")
    .agg(
        n_securities=("symbol", "nunique"),
        total_mktcap=("mktcap", "sum")
    )
    .reset_index()
)
```

```
securities_figure = (
    ggplot(securities_over_time, aes(x="date", y="n_securities"))
    + geom_line(color="steelblue", size=1)
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Number of Securities",
        title="Growth of Vietnamese Stock Market"
    )
```

```
    + scale_x_datetime(date_breaks="2 years", date_labels="%Y")
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=comma_format())
    + theme_minimal()
)
securities_figure.show()
```

Figure 3.1: The figure shows the monthly number of securities in the Vietnamese stock market sample.

3.7.2 Market Capitalization Evolution

The aggregate market capitalization reflects the overall size and development of the Vietnamese equity market.

```
mktcap_figure = (
    ggplot(securities_over_time, aes(x="date", y="total_mktcap / 1000"))
    + geom_line(color="darkgreen", size=1)
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Market Cap (Trillion VND)",
        title="Total Market Capitalization of Vietnamese Equities"
```

```
    )
    + scale_x_datetime(date_breaks="2 years", date_labels="%Y")
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=comma_format())
    + theme_minimal()
)
mktcap_figure.show()
```

Figure 3.2: The figure shows the total market capitalization of Vietnamese listed companies over time.

3.7.3 Return Distribution

Understanding the distribution of monthly returns helps identify potential data quality issues and characterize market risk.

```
return_distribution = (
    ggplot(prices_monthly, aes(x="ret_excess"))
    + geom_histogram(
        binwidth=0.02,
        fill="steelblue",
        color="white",
```

```
        alpha=0.7
    )
    + labs(
        x="Monthly Excess Return",
        y="Frequency",
        title="Distribution of Monthly Excess Returns"
    )
    + scale_x_continuous(limits=(-0.5, 0.5))
    + theme_minimal()
)
return_distribution.show()
```

Figure 3.3: Distribution of monthly excess returns for Vietnamese stocks.

3.7.4 Coverage of Book Equity

Book equity is essential for constructing value portfolios. We examine what fraction of our sample has book equity data available over time.

```
# Merge prices with fundamentals
coverage_data = (prices_monthly
```

```
    .assign(year=lambda x: x["date"].dt.year)
    .groupby(["symbol", "year"])
    .tail(1)
    .merge(comp_vn[["symbol", "year", "be"]],
           on=["symbol", "year"],
           how="left")
)

# Compute coverage by year
be_coverage = (coverage_data
    .groupby("year")
    .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
        "share_with_be": x["be"].notna().mean()
    }))
    .reset_index()
)

coverage_figure = (
    ggplot(be_coverage, aes(x="year", y="share_with_be"))
    + geom_line(color="darkorange", size=1)
    + geom_point(color="darkorange", size=2)
    + labs(
        x="Year",
        y="Share with Book Equity",
        title="Coverage of Book Equity Data"
    )
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format(), limits=(0, 1))
    + theme_minimal()
)
coverage_figure.show()
```

Figure 3.4: Share of securities with available book equity data by year.

3.8 Merging Stock and Fundamental Data

The final step links price data with fundamental data using the stock symbol as the common identifier. This merged dataset forms the basis for constructing portfolios sorted on firm characteristics.

```
# Example: Create merged dataset for end-of-June each year
merged_data = (prices_monthly
    .query("month == 6")
    .merge(
        comp_vn[["symbol", "year", "be", "op", "inv", "at"]],
        on=["symbol", "year"],
        how="left",
        suffixes=("", "_fundamental")
    )
)

# Convert BE from VND to BILLION VND
merged_data["be"] = merged_data["be"] / 1e9
```

```python
# Compute book-to-market ratio
merged_data["bm"] = merged_data["be"] / merged_data["mktcap"]

merged_data.loc[
    (merged_data["bm"] <= 0) |
    (merged_data["bm"] > 20),
    "bm"
] = pd.NA


merged_data["bm"].describe(percentiles=[.01, .1, .5, .9, .99])

print(f"Merged observations: {len(merged_data):,}")
print(f"With book-to-market: {merged_data['bm'].notna().sum():,}")
merged_data.head(3)
merged_data.describe()
merged_data
```

```
Merged observations: 13,756
With book-to-market: 12,859
```

	symbol	date	year	month	open	high	low	close	volume	adjusted_close	...	m
0	A32	2019-06-30	2019.0	6.0	26.4	26.4	21.0	22.5	3700	35.929125	...	15
1	A32	2020-06-30	2020.0	6.0	25.0	26.3	24.5	26.3	7500	38.811173	...	17
2	A32	2021-06-30	2021.0	6.0	30.2	37.0	29.5	32.0	78400	45.363520	...	21
3	A32	2022-06-30	2022.0	6.0	30.9	35.5	25.0	35.3	15200	47.503210	...	24
4	A32	2023-06-30	2023.0	6.0	30.1	33.5	29.2	29.4	2400	35.064204	...	19
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13751	YTC	2019-06-30	2019.0	6.0	70.0	79.9	70.0	79.9	38900	171.451817	...	24
13752	YTC	2020-06-30	2020.0	6.0	88.5	88.5	77.0	87.0	150640	180.966960	...	26
13753	YTC	2021-06-30	2021.0	6.0	76.0	115.5	61.0	61.0	34100	126.884880	...	18
13754	YTC	2022-06-30	2022.0	6.0	68.0	68.0	65.0	65.5	200	136.245240	...	20
13755	YTC	2023-06-30	2023.0	6.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	59.0	49545	122.724720	...	18

```python
from plotnine import *
import numpy as np

bm_plot_data = (
    merged_data[["bm"]]
      .dropna()
```

```
      .assign(bm_plot=lambda x: x["bm"].clip(upper=10))
)

(
    ggplot(bm_plot_data, aes(x="bm_plot")) +
    geom_histogram(bins=80) +
    labs(
        title="Distribution of Book to Market Ratios",
        x="Book to Market (capped at 10 for plotting)",
        y="Number of firms"
    ) +
    theme_minimal()
)
```

```
size_plot_data = (
    merged_data[["mktcap_lag"]]
      .dropna()
      .assign(log_size=lambda x: np.log(x["mktcap_lag"]))
)

(
    ggplot(size_plot_data, aes(x="log_size")) +
```

```
    geom_histogram(bins=80) +
    labs(
        title="Distribution of Log Market Capitalization",
        x="Log Market Cap",
        y="Number of firms"
    ) +
    theme_minimal()
)
```

```
scatter_data = (
    merged_data[["be", "mktcap_lag"]]
      .dropna()
      .assign(
          log_be=lambda x: np.log(x["be"]),
          log_me=lambda x: np.log(x["mktcap_lag"])
      )
)

(
    ggplot(scatter_data, aes(x="log_me", y="log_be")) +
    geom_point(alpha=0.2) +
    labs(
```

```
        title="Log Book Equity vs Log Market Equity",
        x="Log Market Cap",
        y="Log Book Equity"
    ) +
    theme_minimal()
)
```

3.9 Key Takeaways

1. **Datacore provides unified access** to Vietnamese financial data through a modern cloud-based infrastructure, eliminating the need to aggregate data from multiple fragmented sources.
2. **Company fundamentals** from Datacore include comprehensive balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow data prepared according to Vietnamese Accounting Standards, which we map to standard variables used in international research.
3. **Book equity computation** follows the Fama-French methodology, accounting for deferred taxes and preferred stock to ensure comparability with US-based studies.
4. **Stock price data** includes adjustment factors for corporate actions, enabling accurate return calculations over long horizons.

5. **Monthly frequency** is standard for asset pricing research, reducing noise while maintaining sufficient observations for statistical inference.
6. **Risk-free rate approximation** uses Vietnamese government bond yields as a proxy, given the absence of a standardized short-term rate series comparable to US Treasury bills.
7. **Data quality validation** through descriptive statistics and visualization helps identify potential issues before conducting formal analyses.
8. **Batch processing** enables efficient handling of large daily datasets that would otherwise exceed memory constraints.

4 Market Microstructure in Vietnam

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we examine how the institutional design of Vietnamese equity markets, such as trading sessions, price limits, order types, and investor composition, shapes observed prices, returns, and liquidity. We quantify microstructure frictions and demonstrate why ignoring these frictions leads to biased inference in asset pricing tests.

Market microstructure is the study of how trading rules, order handling mechanisms, and market design affect price formation, transaction costs, and liquidity. The field, pioneered by Kyle (1985), Glosten and Milgrom (1985), and Hasbrouck (2007), provides the analytical toolkit for understanding why observed prices may deviate from fundamental values and for how long.

In developed markets with continuous electronic trading, designated market makers, and minimal regulatory constraints on price movement, microstructure frictions are typically second-order concerns for researchers working at monthly or lower frequencies. In Vietnam's equity markets, this is emphatically not the case. Daily price limits, thin trading, a predominantly retail investor base, discrete tick sizes, and the absence of formal market-making arrangements generate frictions that propagate into monthly returns, distort factor loadings, and bias portfolio-level inference. Any serious empirical analysis of Vietnamese equities must therefore begin with a careful assessment of market microstructure.

This chapter provides that assessment. We first describe the institutional architecture of Vietnamese equity trading. We then develop diagnostics for the most consequential frictions, such as price limit hits, zero-return days, illiquidity, and non-synchronous trading, and quantify their severity in the cross-section of listed firms. Finally, we derive practical guidance for adjusting portfolio construction and asset pricing tests.

4.1 What Is Market Microstructure?

The textbook assumption of frictionless markets implies that prices continuously and costlessly incorporate information. Under this assumption, the observed return on any asset at any frequency equals the "true" return dictated by fundamentals. Market microstructure relaxes

this assumption by recognizing that prices are generated by a specific trading process with real costs, constraints, and imperfections.

The canonical framework of Kyle (1985) models a market with three types of participants:

1. an informed trader who knows the asset's fundamental value,
2. noise traders who trade for liquidity reasons, and
3. a market maker who sets prices to break even in expectation.

The key insight is that the market maker cannot distinguish informed from uninformed order flow, so prices adjust gradually to information, creating a wedge between the transaction price and the fundamental value. The size of this wedge (the bid-ask spread) and the speed of price adjustment (market depth) are the core objects of microstructure theory.

Glosten and Milgrom (1985) extend this framework to a sequential trade setting and show that the bid-ask spread has two components: an adverse selection component (compensation for trading against informed traders) and an order processing component (compensation for the mechanical costs of trading). R. D. Huang and Stoll (1997) further decompose the spread into realized spread and price impact components. These decompositions are important because they reveal different sources of trading costs and have different implications for market quality.

For empirical asset pricing, the key question is: at what frequency and under what conditions do microstructure effects become negligible? In highly liquid markets, Bali, Engle, and Murray (2016a) argue that monthly returns are largely free of microstructure contamination. In Vietnam, as we demonstrate below, this is not the case. Microstructure effects persist at monthly and even quarterly frequencies for a substantial fraction of listed firms.

4.1.1 The Microstructure-Asset Pricing Interface

The interface between microstructure and asset pricing operates through several channels. First, illiquidity itself may be a priced risk factor. Amihud (2002) shows that expected illiquidity is positively related to expected stock returns, implying a liquidity premium. Pástor and Stambaugh (2003) develop an equilibrium model in which liquidity risk (i.e., the covariance of a stock's liquidity with market liquidity) commands a risk premium. Second, microstructure noise in prices biases estimated betas, factor loadings, and test statistics. Scholes and Williams (1977) first identified this bias in the context of non-synchronous trading, and Dimson (1979) proposed an aggregated-coefficients estimator to correct it. Third, price limits and other regulatory constraints censor the return distribution, creating truncation bias in volatility estimates, return moments, and extreme-value statistics (K. A. Kim and Rhee 1997).

Table 4.1 summarizes these channels and their empirical consequences.

Table 4.1: Channels Through Which Microstructure Affects Asset Pricing

Channel	Mechanism	Empirical Consequence
Illiquidity premium	Compensation for bearing transaction costs and inventory risk	Cross-sectional return predictability by liquidity measures
Non-synchronous trading	Infrequent trading creates stale prices	Downward-biased betas, attenuated correlations, and spurious lead-lag
Price limits	Regulatory censoring of daily returns	Truncated return distributions, volatility spillover, and artificial autocorrelation
Discrete tick sizes	Prices constrained to a grid	Bid-ask bounce, return discreteness, biased volatility
Investor composition	Retail-dominated order flow	Noise trading, herding, sentiment-driven pricing

4.2 Trading Architecture in Vietnam

Vietnam operates two stock exchanges: the Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE), established in 2000, and the Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX), established in 2005. HOSE lists larger firms and accounts for the majority of market capitalization and trading volume. HNX lists smaller firms and also operates the Unlisted Public Company Market (UPCoM) for firms that have not yet met full listing requirements. All three venues operate electronic limit order book systems without designated market makers.

4.2.1 Exchange Characteristics

Table 4.2 presents the key structural differences between HOSE, HNX, and UPCoM. These differences have direct implications for liquidity, price discovery, and the severity of microstructure frictions.

Table 4.2: Exchange Comparison: HOSE, HNX, and UPCoM

Feature	HOSE	HNX	UPCoM
Established	2000	2005	2009
Listing tier	Large-cap	Mid/small-cap	Pre-listing
Daily price limit	$\pm$ 7%	$\pm$ 10%	$\pm$ 15%
Tick size regime	Tiered by price	Tiered by price	100 VND
Trading lot	100 shares	100 shares	100 shares
Short selling	Limited	Not available	Not available

Feature	HOSE	HNX	UPCoM
Foreign ownership cap	Industry-specific	Industry-specific	Industry-specific

The heterogeneous price limit bands across exchanges create a natural experiment for studying limit effects. HOSE's tighter ± 7% band means that large-cap stocks are more frequently constrained than mid-cap stocks on HNX, conditional on the same information shock. UPCoM's wider ± 15% band provides the least constrained environment, though its stocks are also the least liquid.

4.2.2 Trading Sessions

Each exchange operates a structured trading day with distinct sessions. Understanding session structure is essential because price formation mechanisms differ across sessions, and certain sessions are disproportionately important for benchmark pricing.

The closing auction (ATC) deserves particular attention. The ATC price is the official closing price used for index calculation, NAV computation, and margin requirements. Because it is determined by a single-bid auction, it can be manipulated by strategically timed orders, a phenomenon documented in numerous emerging markets (Comerton-Forde and Tang 2009; Hillion and Suominen 2004). Researchers using daily closing prices should be aware that ATC prices may not reflect the continuous-session equilibrium, particularly for less liquid stocks where a single large order can move the closing price.

4.2.3 Order Types and Matching Rules

Vietnamese exchanges support a limited set of order types compared to developed markets (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Available Order Types

Order Type	Description	Availability
Limit order (LO)	Specifies price and quantity	All sessions
Market order (ATO/ATC)	Matches at auction price	Auction sessions only
Market-to-limit (MTL)	Converts to limit at best available	HNX only

The absence of iceberg orders, stop orders, and hidden orders means that the full limit order book is visible to all participants. While this enhances pre-trade transparency, it also means that

large institutional orders face significant information leakage risk, which may deter institutional participation and reduce market depth.

Orders are matched on a strict price-time priority basis during continuous sessions. During auction sessions, a single clearing price is determined that maximizes executed volume. If multiple prices satisfy this criterion, the price closest to the previous closing price is selected.

4.2.4 Tick Size Structure

Tick sizes on HOSE are tiered by price level, which creates discontinuities in the bid-ask spread as a percentage of price.

```
tick_sizes = pd.DataFrame({
    "Price Range (VND)": [
        "< 10,000",
        "10,000-49,900",
        "  50,000"
    ],
    "Tick Size (VND)": [10, 50, 100],
    "Minimum Spread as % of Midpoint": [
        "0.10% at 10,000",
        "0.10% at 50,000",
        "0.20% at 50,000"
    ]
})

tick_sizes.style.hide(axis="index")
```

Table 4.4: Tick Size Schedule on HOSE

Table 4.4

Price Range (VND)	Tick Size (VND)	Minimum Spread as % of Midpoint
< 10,000	10	0.10% at 10,000
10,000–49,900	50	0.10% at 50,000
50,000	100	0.20% at 50,000

The jump from a 50 VND tick to a 100 VND tick at the 50,000 VND boundary means that the minimum percentage spread doubles discontinuously. This creates a "tick size cliff" that can affect the cross-sectional distribution of bid-ask spreads and, consequently, the measurement of illiquidity (D. H. Vo and Doan 2023). Bessembinder (2003) document similar effects in other markets with tiered tick structures.

4.2.5 Investor Composition

The Vietnamese equity market is predominantly driven by retail investors. While foreign institutional investors account for a meaningful share of market capitalization (particularly in blue-chip stocks subject to foreign ownership limits), daily trading volume is overwhelmingly generated by domestic retail accounts.

This retail dominance has several consequences for microstructure. First, retail investors tend to submit smaller orders and trade more frequently, generating high message-to-trade ratios but limited depth at each price level. Second, retail order flow is more susceptible to herding and sentiment, which can amplify momentum and generate excess volatility (Barber et al. 2009; Kaniel et al. 2012). Third, the limited institutional presence means that sophisticated liquidity provision is scarce, particularly in mid- and small-cap stocks.

4.3 Price Limits and Their Consequences

Vietnam enforces daily price limits on all listed equities. A stock's price cannot move beyond a fixed percentage of the previous day's closing price within a single trading day. The limit bands are ± 7% on HOSE, ± 10% on HNX, and ± 15% on UPCoM.

4.3.1 Theoretical Framework

Price limits were introduced with the stated goal of reducing volatility and preventing panic-driven price dislocations. However, the academic literature presents a more nuanced picture. The "magnet effect" hypothesis (Subrahmanyam 1994) predicts that price limits actually accelerate price movement toward the limit as traders rush to execute before the limit is hit. The "delayed price discovery" hypothesis (Eugene F. Fama and French 1989) argues that limits merely postpone inevitable price adjustments, creating volatility spillover into subsequent days.

Formally, let P_t^* denote the equilibrium price on day t and P_{t-1}^c the previous closing price. The observed return is:

$$r_t^{obs} = \begin{cases} \bar{L} & \text{if } r_t^* \geq \bar{L} \\ r_t^* & \text{if } \underline{L} < r_t^* < \bar{L} \\ \underline{L} & \text{if } r_t^* \leq \underline{L} \end{cases} \tag{4.1}$$

where $r_t^* = \ln(P_t^*/P_{t-1}^c)$ is the latent (unconstrained) return, $\bar{L}$ is the upper limit, and $\underline{L}$ is the lower limit. The observed return r_t^{obs} is a censored version of the true return. This censoring has several consequences:

1. **Truncated moments**: The observed variance $\text{Var}(r_t^{obs}) < \text{Var}(r_t^*)$ because extreme returns are clipped. This biases downward any volatility-based risk measure.
2. **Artificial autocorrelation**: When $r_t^{obs} = \bar{L}$ and $r_{t+1}^{obs} > 0$ (continued adjustment the next day), the return series exhibits positive autocorrelation that is purely mechanical, not informational.
3. **Volatility spillover**: Define excess volatility on day $t+1$ as $\sigma_{t+1}^2 - E[\sigma_{t+1}^2 | \text{no limit hit on day } t]$. K. A. Kim and Rhee (1997) and Chu and Qiu (2019) document significant positive spillover, where days following limit hits exhibit abnormally high volatility.
4. **Biased extreme value statistics**: Measures such as Value-at-Risk, Expected Shortfall, and maximum drawdown are mechanically bounded by the limit, understating true tail risk.

4.3.2 Detecting Price Limit Hits

We now implement a diagnostic to detect price limit hits in the daily data.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3

# Load daily price data
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

# Assume prices_daily contains: symbol, date, close, exchange
prices_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    # , exchange
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, close
        FROM prices_daily
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates=["date"]
).dropna()
```

```
# Define limit bands by exchange
limit_bands = {"HOSE": 0.07, "HNX": 0.10, "UPCoM": 0.15}

prices_daily = prices_daily.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
prices_daily["prev_close"] = prices_daily.groupby("symbol")["close"].shift(1)
prices_daily["ret"] = prices_daily["close"] / prices_daily["prev_close"] - 1
```

```
prices_daily["limit_band"] = prices_daily["exchange"].map(limit_bands)

# A limit hit occurs when the return is within 0.1% of the theoretical limit
tolerance = 0.001
prices_daily["upper_hit"] = (
    prices_daily["ret"] >= prices_daily["limit_band"] - tolerance
)
prices_daily["lower_hit"] = (
    prices_daily["ret"] <= -prices_daily["limit_band"] + tolerance
)
prices_daily["limit_hit"] = (
    prices_daily["upper_hit"] | prices_daily["lower_hit"]
)
```

4.3.3 Frequency of Limit Hits

4.3.4 Volatility Spillover Test

Following K. A. Kim and Rhee (1997), we test whether days following a limit hit exhibit abnormally high volatility. Define the dummy variable $D_t = 1$ if a limit hit occurred on day t, and estimate:

$$\sigma_{t+1}^2 = \alpha + \beta D_t + \gamma \sigma_t^2 + \varepsilon_{t+1} \tag{4.2}$$

where σ_t^2 is the squared return. A positive and significant β indicates volatility spillover attributable to the price limit.

```
import statsmodels.api as sm

# Panel-level volatility spillover test
prices_daily["sq_ret"] = prices_daily["ret"] ** 2
prices_daily["sq_ret_lead"] = prices_daily.groupby("symbol")["sq_ret"].shift(-1)
prices_daily["limit_hit_int"] = prices_daily["limit_hit"].astype(int)

spillover_data = prices_daily.dropna(subset=["sq_ret_lead", "sq_ret"])

X = sm.add_constant(spillover_data[["limit_hit_int", "sq_ret"]])
y = spillover_data["sq_ret_lead"]

model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type="cluster", cov_kwds={"groups": spillover_data["symbol"]})
```

```python
prices_daily["year_month"] = prices_daily["date"].dt.to_period("M")

limit_hit_monthly = (
    prices_daily
    .groupby(["year_month", "exchange"])
    .agg(
        total_obs=("limit_hit", "count"),
        limit_hits=("limit_hit", "sum")
    )
    .reset_index()
)
limit_hit_monthly["hit_rate"] = (
    limit_hit_monthly["limit_hits"] / limit_hit_monthly["total_obs"]
)
limit_hit_monthly["date"] = limit_hit_monthly["year_month"].dt.to_timestamp()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 4))

for exchange, color in zip(
    ["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"], ["#2C73D2", "#FF6B6B", "#5DCEAF"]
):
    subset = limit_hit_monthly[limit_hit_monthly["exchange"] == exchange]
    ax.plot(
        subset["date"], subset["hit_rate"] * 100,
        label=exchange, color=color, linewidth=1.2
    )

ax.set_ylabel("Limit Hit Rate (%)")
ax.set_xlabel("")
ax.legend(frameon=False)
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 4.1

```
spillover_results = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": model.params,
    "Std. Error": model.bse,
    "t-stat": model.tvalues,
    "p-value": model.pvalues
}).round(6)

print(spillover_results)
```

> **Tip**
>
> A significant positive coefficient on the limit hit dummy confirms that Vietnamese price limits do not eliminate volatility, they merely redistribute it across days. This has direct implications for risk management: daily VaR measures computed from censored returns understate true risk exposure.

4.3.5 Return Autocorrelation Induced by Price Limits

Price limits mechanically induce positive autocorrelation in returns. To quantify this, we compute the first-order autocorrelation coefficient separately for stocks that hit limits frequently versus those that do not.

The expected pattern is a monotonically increasing autocorrelation from the Low to High limit-hit group, confirming that the observed serial dependence in returns is at least partly an artifact of price censoring rather than genuine return predictability.

4.4 Liquidity, Thin Trading, and Zero Returns

Liquidity (i.e., the ability to trade quickly at low cost without moving the price) is a first-order concern in Vietnamese equities. A substantial fraction of listed firms, particularly on HNX and UPCoM, experience chronic illiquidity characterized by infrequent trading, wide bid-ask spreads, and frequent zero-return days.

4.4.1 Measuring Liquidity

The academic literature has developed numerous liquidity measures, each capturing a different dimension of market quality. @#tbl-liquidity-measures summarizes the measures most applicable to Vietnamese data, given typical data availability.

Table 4.5: Return Autocorrelation by Price Limit Hit Frequency

```
# Classify stocks by limit hit frequency
stock_limit_freq = (
    prices_daily
    .groupby("symbol")
    .agg(
        hit_rate=("limit_hit", "mean"),
        n_obs=("ret", "count")
    )
    .query("n_obs >= 250")  # At least 1 year of data
)

stock_limit_freq["limit_group"] = pd.qcut(
    stock_limit_freq["hit_rate"], q=3,
    labels=["Low", "Medium", "High"]
)

# Compute autocorrelation by group
def compute_autocorr(group_symbols):
    subset = prices_daily[prices_daily["symbol"].isin(group_symbols)].copy()
    subset["ret_lag"] = subset.groupby("symbol")["ret"].shift(1)
    return subset[["ret", "ret_lag"]].dropna().corr().iloc[0, 1]

autocorr_results = []
for group in ["Low", "Medium", "High"]:
    symbols = stock_limit_freq[stock_limit_freq["limit_group"] == group].index
    ac = compute_autocorr(symbols)
    n_stocks = len(symbols)
    avg_hit_rate = stock_limit_freq.loc[symbols, "hit_rate"].mean()
    autocorr_results.append({
        "Group": group,
        "N Stocks": n_stocks,
        "Avg Limit Hit Rate (%)": round(avg_hit_rate * 100, 2),
        "AR(1)": round(ac, 4)
    })

pd.DataFrame(autocorr_results).style.hide(axis="index")
```

Table 4.6: Liquidity Measures for Vietnamese Equities

Measure	Formula	Interpretation	Data Required
Turnover ratio	$\mathrm{TO}_{i,t} = \frac{\mathrm{Volume}_{i,t}}{\mathrm{Shares\ Outstanding}_i}$	Trading intensity relative to float	Volume, shares outstanding
Amihud illiquidity	$\mathrm{ILLIQ}_{i,t} = \frac{1}{D}\sum_{d=1}^{D}\frac{\lvert r_{i,d}\rvert}{V_{i,d}}$	Price impact per unit of volume	Daily returns, daily volume
Zero-return proportion	$\mathrm{ZR}_{i,t} = \frac{\#\{d : r_{i,d}=0\}}{D}$	Frequency of non-trading or stale pricing	Daily returns
Roll spread	$\hat{S}_i = 2\sqrt{-\mathrm{Cov}(r_{i,d}, r_{i,d-1})}$	Effective bid-ask spread estimate	Daily returns
Bid-ask spread	$\mathrm{BA}_{i,d} = \frac{\mathrm{Ask}_{i,d}-\mathrm{Bid}_{i,d}}{(\mathrm{Ask}_{i,d}+\mathrm{Bid}_{i,d})/2}$	Direct transaction cost	Quote data

The Amihud illiquidity ratio (Amihud 2002) is particularly useful because it requires only daily return and volume data. It captures the price impact of trading (i.e., the return per unit of currency volume) and has been shown to correlate well with more sophisticated microstructure-based measures such as the effective spread Goyenko and Ukhov (2009).

4.4.2 Computing Liquidity Diagnostics

```
# Compute standard liquidity measures at the stock-month level
prices_daily["abs_ret"] = prices_daily["ret"].abs()
prices_daily["zero_return"] = (prices_daily["ret"] == 0).astype(int)
prices_daily["year_month"] = prices_daily["date"].dt.to_period("M")

# Assume volume is in shares and value is in VND
# Amihud: average |ret| / value (in billions VND)
prices_daily["amihud_daily"] = np.where(
    prices_daily["value"] > 0,
    prices_daily["abs_ret"] / (prices_daily["value"] / 1e9),
    np.nan
)

liquidity_monthly = (
    prices_daily
```

```
    .groupby(["symbol", "year_month"])
    .agg(
        zero_return_share=("zero_return", "mean"),
        avg_turnover=("turnover", "mean"),
        amihud=("amihud_daily", "mean"),
        trading_days=("ret", "count"),
        avg_daily_value=("value", "mean")
    )
    .reset_index()
)

# Flag severely illiquid stock-months
liquidity_monthly["illiquid_flag"] = (
    (liquidity_monthly["zero_return_share"] > 0.5) |
    (liquidity_monthly["trading_days"] < 10) |
    (liquidity_monthly["avg_daily_value"] < 1e8)  # < 100M VND/day
)
```

4.4.3 Cross-Sectional Distribution of Liquidity

4.4.4 Liquidity Distribution Across Exchanges

The distributions typically reveal a bimodal pattern: HOSE stocks cluster at low illiquidity values, while HNX and especially UPCoM stocks exhibit a long right tail of extreme illiquidity. This heterogeneity implies that a single liquidity filter or treatment is insufficient for the entire cross-section.

4.4.5 Time Variation in Aggregate Liquidity

Market-wide liquidity is not constant. It deteriorates during crises, policy uncertainty, and periods of capital outflow, and improves during bull markets and periods of foreign inflow. The time variation in aggregate liquidity is itself a risk factor (Pástor and Stambaugh 2003).

> **!** Practical Recommendation
>
> Before any asset pricing analysis, apply the following liquidity filter: exclude stock-months where the zero-return share exceeds 50%, where fewer than 15 trading days are observed, or where average daily trading value falls below a threshold (e.g., 100 million VND). Document the filter explicitly, and report sensitivity of results to alternative thresholds.

Table 4.7: Cross-Sectional Distribution of Liquidity Measures (Latest Full Year)

```
latest_year = liquidity_monthly["year_month"].dt.year.max()
annual_liq = (
    liquidity_monthly[liquidity_monthly["year_month"].dt.year == latest_year]
    .groupby("symbol")
    .agg(
        zero_return_share=("zero_return_share", "mean"),
        avg_turnover=("avg_turnover", "mean"),
        amihud=("amihud", "mean"),
        avg_daily_value_m=("avg_daily_value", lambda x: x.mean() / 1e6)
    )
)

summary_stats = annual_liq.describe(percentiles=[0.10, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 0.90]).T
summary_stats = summary_stats[
    ["mean", "std", "10%", "25%", "50%", "75%", "90%"]
].round(4)
summary_stats.columns = ["Mean", "Std", "P10", "P25", "Median", "P75", "P90"]
summary_stats.index = [
    "Zero-Return Share",
    "Avg Daily Turnover",
    "Amihud Illiquidity",
    "Avg Daily Value (M VND)"
]
summary_stats
```

```python
# Merge exchange info
stock_exchange = (
    prices_daily[["symbol", "exchange"]]
    .drop_duplicates("symbol")
)
annual_liq_exch = annual_liq.merge(
    stock_exchange, left_index=True, right_on="symbol"
)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(10, 4))

# Zero-return share
for exchange, color in zip(
    ["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"], ["#2C73D2", "#FF6B6B", "#5DCEAF"]
):
    subset = annual_liq_exch[annual_liq_exch["exchange"] == exchange]
    axes[0].hist(
        subset["zero_return_share"], bins=30, alpha=0.6,
        color=color, label=exchange, density=True
    )
axes[0].set_xlabel("Zero-Return Share")
axes[0].set_ylabel("Density")
axes[0].legend(frameon=False)
axes[0].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
axes[0].spines["right"].set_visible(False)

# Amihud (log scale)
for exchange, color in zip(
    ["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"], ["#2C73D2", "#FF6B6B", "#5DCEAF"]
):
    subset = annual_liq_exch[annual_liq_exch["exchange"] == exchange]
    amihud_log = np.log(subset["amihud"].clip(lower=1e-10))
    axes[1].hist(
        amihud_log, bins=30, alpha=0.6,
        color=color, label=exchange, density=True
    )
axes[1].set_xlabel("Log Amihud Illiquidity")
axes[1].set_ylabel("Density")
axes[1].legend(frameon=False)
axes[1].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
axes[1].spines["right"].set_visible(False)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 4.2

```
agg_liquidity = (
    liquidity_monthly
    .groupby("year_month")
    .agg(
        median_amihud=("amihud", "median"),
        median_zero_ret=("zero_return_share", "median"),
        total_value=("avg_daily_value", "sum")
    )
    .reset_index()
)
agg_liquidity["date"] = agg_liquidity["year_month"].dt.to_timestamp()

fig, ax1 = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 4))

ax1.plot(
    agg_liquidity["date"],
    np.log(agg_liquidity["median_amihud"].clip(lower=1e-10)),
    color="#2C73D2", linewidth=1.2
)
ax1.set_ylabel("Log Median Amihud", color="#2C73D2")
ax1.tick_params(axis="y", labelcolor="#2C73D2")

ax2 = ax1.twinx()
ax2.fill_between(
    agg_liquidity["date"],
    agg_liquidity["median_zero_ret"] * 100,
    alpha=0.3, color="#FF6B6B"
)
ax2.set_ylabel("Median Zero-Return Share (%)", color="#FF6B6B")
ax2.tick_params(axis="y", labelcolor="#FF6B6B")

ax1.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 4.3

4.5 Bid-Ask Spread Estimation

In the absence of comprehensive quote data, the effective bid-ask spread can be estimated from transaction data using the method of Roll (1984). The Roll estimator exploits the fact that if the bid-ask bounce is the sole source of negative serial covariance in returns, then:

$$\hat{S}_{\text{Roll}} = 2\sqrt{-\text{Cov}(\Delta p_t, \Delta p_{t-1})} \tag{4.3}$$

where $\Delta p_t = p_t - p_{t-1}$ is the price change. When the autocovariance is positive (which occurs when information-driven serial correlation dominates the bid-ask bounce), the Roll estimator is undefined. Hasbrouck (2009) proposes a Bayesian variant that handles this case by imposing a prior on the spread.

```
# Compute Roll spread estimate at the stock-month level
prices_daily["dprice"] = prices_daily.groupby("symbol")["close"].diff()
prices_daily["dprice_lag"] = prices_daily.groupby("symbol")["dprice"].shift(1)

roll_cov = (
    prices_daily
    .groupby(["symbol", "year_month"])
    .apply(
        lambda g: g[["dprice", "dprice_lag"]].dropna().cov().iloc[0, 1],
        include_groups=False
    )
    .reset_index(name="autocovariance")
)

# Roll spread is defined only when autocovariance is negative
roll_cov["roll_spread"] = np.where(
    roll_cov["autocovariance"] < 0,
    2 * np.sqrt(-roll_cov["autocovariance"]),
    np.nan
)

# As a percentage of price
roll_cov = roll_cov.merge(
    prices_daily.groupby(["symbol", "year_month"])["close"].mean()
    .reset_index(name="avg_price"),
    on=["symbol", "year_month"]
)
roll_cov["roll_spread_pct"] = roll_cov["roll_spread"] / roll_cov["avg_price"] * 100
```

Table 4.8: Distribution of Roll Spread Estimates (% of Price)

```
roll_summary = (
    roll_cov
    .dropna(subset=["roll_spread_pct"])
    .groupby("year_month")["roll_spread_pct"]
    .describe(percentiles=[0.25, 0.50, 0.75])
    .reset_index()
)

# Show latest year summary
latest_year_roll = roll_cov[
    roll_cov["year_month"].dt.year == roll_cov["year_month"].dt.year.max()
]
print(
    latest_year_roll["roll_spread_pct"]
    .dropna()
    .describe(percentiles=[0.10, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 0.90])
    .round(3)
)
```

4.6 Non-Synchronous Trading Bias

When stocks do not trade at the same frequency or at the same times, observed returns are misaligned. This non-synchronous trading bias, first formalized by Scholes and Williams (1977) and Lo and MacKinlay (1990), is one of the most consequential microstructure effects for asset pricing in thin markets.

4.6.1 The Problem

Suppose the true (unobserved) return process for stock i follows a single-factor model:

$$r^*_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_i r^*_{m,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{4.4}$$

where $r^*_{m,t}$ is the true market return and β_i is the true beta. If stock i last traded k days before the end of day t, the observed return incorporates information only up to day $t-k$. Scholes and Williams (1977) show that the OLS estimate of beta from regressing observed returns on observed market returns is:

$$\hat{\beta}_i^{OLS} = \beta_i \cdot \pi_i \tag{4.5}$$

where π_i is the probability that stock i trades on any given day. For a stock that trades on only 50% of days, the OLS beta is biased downward by 50%. This bias is severe in Vietnam, where many small-cap stocks trade on fewer than half of all trading days.

4.6.2 Quantifying the Bias

4.6.3 The Dimson Beta Correction

Dimson (1979) proposes a simple correction: include lagged and leading market returns in the beta regression:

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \sum_{k=-K}^{K} \beta_{i,k}\, r_{m,t-k} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{4.6}$$

The Dimson-corrected beta is $\hat{\beta}_i^{Dimson} = \sum_{k=-K}^{K} \hat{\beta}_{i,k}$. Typically $K = 1$ or $K = 2$ is sufficient. The summed coefficients capture the full response of the stock's observed return to market information, regardless of when the stock actually trades.

```
# Estimate Dimson betas with K=1 lag and lead
# Merge market return
market_ret = (
    prices_daily
    .groupby("date")
    .apply(
        lambda g: np.average(g["ret"].dropna(), weights=g["mktcap"].loc[g["ret"].dropna().inc
        if g["ret"].dropna().shape[0] > 0 else np.nan,
        include_groups=False
    )
    .reset_index(name="rm")
)

prices_daily = prices_daily.merge(market_ret, on="date", how="left")
prices_daily["rm_lag1"] = prices_daily.groupby("symbol")["rm"].shift(1)
prices_daily["rm_lead1"] = prices_daily.groupby("symbol")["rm"].shift(-1)

def estimate_dimson_beta(group):
    """Estimate OLS and Dimson(K=1) betas for a single stock."""
```

```python
# Compute trading frequency: proportion of market days with nonzero volume
market_days = prices_daily.groupby("year_month")["date"].nunique()
trading_freq = (
    prices_daily[prices_daily["value"] > 0]
    .groupby(["symbol", "year_month"])["date"]
    .nunique()
    .reset_index(name="days_traded")
)
trading_freq = trading_freq.merge(
    market_days.reset_index().rename(columns={"date": "market_days"}),
    on="year_month"
)
trading_freq["trade_prob"] = trading_freq["days_traded"] / trading_freq["market_days"]

# Annual average
annual_trade_freq = (
    trading_freq
    .groupby("symbol")["trade_prob"]
    .mean()
    .reset_index(name="avg_trade_prob")
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 4))
ax.hist(
    annual_trade_freq["avg_trade_prob"], bins=50,
    color="#2C73D2", edgecolor="white", alpha=0.8
)
ax.axvline(
    annual_trade_freq["avg_trade_prob"].median(),
    color="#FF6B6B", linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5,
    label=f"Median = {annual_trade_freq['avg_trade_prob'].median():.2f}"
)
ax.set_xlabel("Average Trading Probability (Fraction of Market Days)")
ax.set_ylabel("Number of Stocks")
ax.legend(frameon=False)
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 4.4

```
    g = group.dropna(subset=["ret", "rm", "rm_lag1", "rm_lead1"])
    if len(g) < 60:
        return pd.Series({"beta_ols": np.nan, "beta_dimson": np.nan, "n_obs": len(g)})

    # OLS beta
    X_ols = sm.add_constant(g["rm"])
    ols_model = sm.OLS(g["ret"], X_ols).fit()
    beta_ols = ols_model.params["rm"]

    # Dimson beta
    X_dim = sm.add_constant(g[["rm_lag1", "rm", "rm_lead1"]])
    dim_model = sm.OLS(g["ret"], X_dim).fit()
    beta_dimson = dim_model.params[["rm_lag1", "rm", "rm_lead1"]].sum()

    return pd.Series({
        "beta_ols": beta_ols,
        "beta_dimson": beta_dimson,
        "n_obs": len(g)
    })

beta_comparison = (
    prices_daily
    .groupby("symbol")
    .apply(estimate_dimson_beta, include_groups=False)
    .reset_index()
)
```

The scatter plot should reveal a systematic pattern: Dimson betas exceed OLS betas for most stocks, with the discrepancy largest for thinly traded stocks. Points above the 45-degree line indicate stocks whose OLS betas are biased downward by non-synchronous trading.

> **Warning**
>
> For the thinnest-traded tercile, OLS beta underestimates true systematic risk by 20-40% on average. Using uncorrected betas for cost of equity estimation or factor model tests will produce systematically incorrect results for these stocks.

4.6.4 The Scholes-Williams Estimator

An alternative correction, proposed by Scholes and Williams (1977), estimates beta as:

```
beta_valid = beta_comparison.dropna()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(6, 6))
ax.scatter(
    beta_valid["beta_ols"], beta_valid["beta_dimson"],
    alpha=0.3, s=10, color="#2C73D2"
)
lims = [
    min(ax.get_xlim()[0], ax.get_ylim()[0]),
    max(ax.get_xlim()[1], ax.get_ylim()[1])
]
ax.plot(lims, lims, "--", color="gray", linewidth=1)
ax.set_xlabel("OLS Beta")
ax.set_ylabel("Dimson Beta (K=1)")
ax.set_aspect("equal")
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 4.5

Table 4.9: Beta Bias by Trading Frequency Tercile

```
beta_with_freq = beta_valid.merge(annual_trade_freq, on="symbol")
beta_with_freq["freq_tercile"] = pd.qcut(
    beta_with_freq["avg_trade_prob"], q=3,
    labels=["Low (Thin)", "Medium", "High (Liquid)"]
)

beta_bias_summary = (
    beta_with_freq
    .groupby("freq_tercile")
    .agg(
        n_stocks=("symbol", "count"),
        avg_trade_prob=("avg_trade_prob", "mean"),
        mean_beta_ols=("beta_ols", "mean"),
        mean_beta_dimson=("beta_dimson", "mean"),
        median_beta_ols=("beta_ols", "median"),
        median_beta_dimson=("beta_dimson", "median")
    )
    .round(3)
)

beta_bias_summary["bias_pct"] = (
    (beta_bias_summary["mean_beta_dimson"] - beta_bias_summary["mean_beta_ols"])
    / beta_bias_summary["mean_beta_dimson"] * 100
).round(1)

beta_bias_summary
```

$$\hat{\beta}_i^{SW} = \frac{\hat{\beta}_{i,-1} + \hat{\beta}_{i,0} + \hat{\beta}_{i,+1}}{1 + 2\hat{\rho}_m} \tag{4.7}$$

where $\hat{\beta}_{i,k}$ is the slope from regressing $r_{i,t}$ on $r_{m,t-k}$ alone, and $\hat{\rho}_m$ is the first-order autocorrelation of the market return. The Scholes-Williams estimator is consistent under the assumption that non-trading is the sole source of serial cross-correlation, while the Dimson estimator is more robust to additional sources of lead-lag structure.

```
def estimate_sw_beta(group):
    """Estimate Scholes-Williams beta."""
    g = group.dropna(subset=["ret", "rm", "rm_lag1", "rm_lead1"])
    if len(g) < 60:
        return np.nan

    # Separate regressions
    beta_lag = sm.OLS(g["ret"], sm.add_constant(g["rm_lag1"])).fit().params.iloc[1]
    beta_0 = sm.OLS(g["ret"], sm.add_constant(g["rm"])).fit().params.iloc[1]
    beta_lead = sm.OLS(g["ret"], sm.add_constant(g["rm_lead1"])).fit().params.iloc[1]

    # Market autocorrelation
    rho_m = g["rm"].autocorr(lag=1)

    beta_sw = (beta_lag + beta_0 + beta_lead) / (1 + 2 * rho_m)
    return beta_sw

beta_comparison["beta_sw"] = (
    prices_daily
    .groupby("symbol")
    .apply(estimate_sw_beta, include_groups=False)
    .values
)
```

4.7 Implications for Portfolio Construction

The microstructure frictions documented above have direct consequences for portfolio construction, particularly for strategies that involve rebalancing across the full cross-section of listed firms.

4.7.1 Equal-Weighted vs. Value-Weighted Returns

Equal-weighted portfolio returns give the same weight to each stock, including illiquid small-cap stocks that may contribute stale or noisy prices. Value-weighted returns tilt toward large, liquid stocks and are less susceptible to microstructure contamination.

A persistent divergence between equal-weighted and value-weighted cumulative returns is a hallmark of microstructure effects: the equal-weighted portfolio overstates attainable returns because it implicitly assumes costless trading in illiquid stocks.

4.7.2 Recommended Liquidity Filters

Based on the diagnostics developed in this chapter, we recommend the following pre-analysis filters:

> **Tip**
>
> Always report results with and without liquidity filters. If results are qualitatively different, the baseline findings may be driven by microstructure artifacts rather than genuine economic effects.

4.7.3 Monthly vs. Daily Frequency

For most asset pricing applications, monthly return aggregation is preferable to daily analysis in Vietnam because:

1. Monthly returns smooth out intraday noise, bid-ask bounce, and price limit effects.
2. Stocks that trade infrequently within a month still produce a meaningful monthly return.
3. Factor portfolio sorts are conventionally conducted at monthly frequency.
4. Statistical tests have better size properties when microstructure noise is reduced.

However, monthly aggregation does not eliminate all biases. Stocks with zero returns for an entire month still contribute stale observations. The Dimson and Scholes-Williams corrections should still be applied at monthly frequency for beta estimation.

4.8 Implications for Asset Pricing Tests

4.8.1 Factor Model Estimation

Standard factor model estimation assumes that returns are observed synchronously and without censoring. In Vietnam, both assumptions are violated. The practical consequences are in

```python
monthly_returns = (
    prices_daily
    .groupby(["symbol", "year_month"])
    .agg(
        monthly_ret=("ret", lambda x: (1 + x).prod() - 1),
        last_mktcap=("mktcap", "last")
    )
    .reset_index()
)
monthly_returns["date"] = monthly_returns["year_month"].dt.to_timestamp()

# Equal-weighted
ew_ret = monthly_returns.groupby("date")["monthly_ret"].mean().reset_index(name="ew")

# Value-weighted
def vw_return(group):
    w = group["last_mktcap"] / group["last_mktcap"].sum()
    return (w * group["monthly_ret"]).sum()

vw_ret = (
    monthly_returns.groupby("date")
    .apply(vw_return, include_groups=False)
    .reset_index(name="vw")
)

port_comp = ew_ret.merge(vw_ret, on="date")

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 4))
for col, label, color in [
    ("ew", "Equal-Weighted", "#FF6B6B"),
    ("vw", "Value-Weighted", "#2C73D2")
]:
    cum_ret = (1 + port_comp[col]).cumprod()
    ax.plot(port_comp["date"], cum_ret, label=label, color=color, linewidth=1.2)

ax.set_ylabel("Cumulative Return (Growth of 1 VND)")
ax.set_xlabel("")
ax.legend(frameon=False)
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 4.6

Table 4.10

Table 4.10: Standard Assumptions and Their Violations

Assumption	Violation in Vietnam	Consequence
Synchronous observation	Thin trading	Biased betas, attenuated R^2
Uncensored returns	Price limits	Truncated distributions, biased moments
Continuous trading	Discrete ticks	Return discreteness, bid-ask bounce
No transaction costs	Wide spreads	Overstated portfolio returns

4.8.2 Adjusted Testing Procedure

We recommend the following adjustments to standard asset pricing tests when applied to Vietnamese data:

1. **Beta estimation**: Use Dimson ($K \geq 1$) or Scholes-Williams betas, not OLS betas.
2. **Factor construction**: When forming size and value portfolios, apply liquidity filters before sorting. Consider excluding the smallest quintile of stocks by market capitalization, which is most affected by thin trading.
3. **Return aggregation**: Use monthly frequency. If daily analysis is necessary, include lagged market returns in the time-series regression.
4. **Robust inference**: Cluster standard errors by stock to account for persistent microstructure-induced serial correlation. Use Newey-West HAC standard errors with sufficient lags.
5. **Price limit adjustment**: For volatility analysis or risk measurement, consider the Chu and Qiu (2019) approach of modeling the latent (uncensored) return distribution using truncated regression:

$$r^*_{i,t} \sim N(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2), \quad r^{obs}_{i,t} = \max(\underline{L}, \min(\bar{L}, r^*_{i,t})) \tag{4.8}$$

Estimate μ_i and σ_i^2 via maximum likelihood for the truncated normal.

```python
from scipy.optimize import minimize
from scipy.stats import norm

def truncated_normal_nll(params, returns, lower, upper):
    """Negative log-likelihood of truncated normal."""
    mu, log_sigma = params
    sigma = np.exp(log_sigma)

    # Interior observations
    interior = (returns > lower) & (returns < upper)
    ll_interior = norm.logpdf(returns[interior], mu, sigma)

    # Lower censored
    ll_lower = norm.logcdf(lower, mu, sigma)
    n_lower = (returns <= lower).sum()

    # Upper censored
    ll_upper = np.log(1 - norm.cdf(upper, mu, sigma) + 1e-15)
    n_upper = (returns >= upper).sum()

    nll = -(ll_interior.sum() + n_lower * ll_lower + n_upper * ll_upper)
    return nll

def estimate_true_volatility(returns, limit_band):
    """Estimate latent volatility correcting for price limit censoring."""
    result = minimize(
        truncated_normal_nll,
        x0=[returns.mean(), np.log(returns.std())],
        args=(returns.values, -limit_band, limit_band),
        method="Nelder-Mead"
    )
    mu, log_sigma = result.x
    return np.exp(log_sigma)
```

6. **Sensitivity reporting**: Always report key results under alternative specifications: with and without liquidity filters, using OLS vs. Dimson betas, at daily vs. monthly frequency, and using observed vs. truncation-corrected volatility.

4.9 Summary

This chapter has established that Vietnamese equity markets exhibit microstructure characteristics that materially affect observed prices, returns, and risk measures. The key findings are:

1. **Price limits** censor daily returns, inducing positive autocorrelation, volatility spillover, and truncated distributions. The $\pm$ 7% band on HOSE is particularly restrictive for volatile stocks.
2. **Thin trading and zero returns** afflict a substantial fraction of listed firms. Trading probabilities below 50% are common on HNX and UPCoM, generating non-synchronous trading bias that attenuates OLS beta estimates by 20-40%.
3. **Illiquidity** varies dramatically across the cross-section, with Amihud ratios spanning several orders of magnitude. Value-weighted portfolio returns are less contaminated than equal-weighted returns.
4. **The Dimson and Scholes-Williams beta corrections** effectively address non-synchronous trading bias and should be used as the default beta estimator for Vietnamese equities.
5. **Liquidity filters** should be applied before any asset pricing analysis, and results should be reported with and without these filters as a robustness check.

Ignoring these frictions does not merely add noise to empirical results, it systematically biases estimates in predictable directions. The diagnostics and corrections presented in this chapter provide the foundation for credible empirical asset pricing in Vietnam.

5 Risk-Free Rate Construction in Vietnam

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we address a simple but consequential problem: how to construct a risk-free rate series for empirical finance in Vietnam. We evaluate available proxies, such as government bond yields, interbank overnight rates, and State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) policy rates, develop interpolation and frequency-alignment procedures, and quantify the sensitivity of key asset pricing outputs to the choice of risk-free proxy.

The risk-free rate is the most important single number in finance. It anchors excess returns, discount rates, factor premiums, the cost of equity, performance evaluation, and derivative pricing. Despite its foundational role, the risk-free rate is often treated as a given: a number downloaded from a database and plugged into formulas without further thought. In developed markets with deep, liquid government securities markets, this casual approach is usually harmless. In Vietnam, it is not.

Vietnam's fixed-income market is thin, fragmented, and characterized by irregular issuance of short-term government securities. There is no single, universally accepted risk-free rate analogous to the 1-month Treasury bill rate that anchors virtually all asset pricing research in mature markets. Instead, researchers face a choice among imperfect proxies, each with distinct advantages and limitations. This choice is not innocuous: different proxies can produce meaningfully different excess returns, factor premiums, and valuation estimates.

This chapter develops a systematic approach to risk-free rate construction. We begin with the theoretical requirements for a risk-free asset, then evaluate available Vietnamese proxies against these requirements. We construct monthly risk-free rate series under alternative specifications, demonstrate frequency alignment and interpolation techniques, and conduct sensitivity analysis to quantify how the choice of proxy affects downstream results.

5.1 The Role of the Risk-Free Rate in Finance

5.1.1 Excess Returns

The most fundamental use of the risk-free rate is in the computation of excess returns. The excess return on asset i in period t is:

$$r^e_{i,t} = r_{i,t} - r_{f,t} \tag{5.1}$$

where $r_{i,t}$ is the raw return and $r_{f,t}$ is the risk-free rate over the same period, in the same currency, and under the same compounding convention. Excess returns isolate the compensation for bearing risk, removing the return that could be earned without risk exposure.

Mismeasurement of $r_{f,t}$ directly contaminates every excess return observation and, by extension, every quantity derived from excess returns. If $r_{f,t}$ is systematically biased upward, excess returns are systematically understated, factor premiums are compressed, and the cost of equity is overstated.

5.1.2 Factor Premiums

In the Eugene F. Fama and French (1993a) three-factor model, the market risk premium is:

$$\text{MKTRF}_t = r_{m,t} - r_{f,t} \tag{5.2}$$

where $r_{m,t}$ is the value-weighted market return. The size (SMB) and value (HML) premiums are defined as returns on long-short portfolios and do not directly depend on $r_{f,t}$. However, the intercept (alpha) from a time-series regression of any portfolio's excess return on the factors does depend on $r_{f,t}$ through the dependent variable. A biased risk-free rate shifts all alphas uniformly.

5.1.3 Discount Rates and Valuation

The discounted cash flow model values a firm as:

$$V_0 = \sum_{t=1}^{\infty} \frac{E[CF_t]}{(1 + r_{WACC})^t} \tag{5.3}$$

where the weighted average cost of capital (WACC) depends on the cost of equity, which in turn depends on the risk-free rate through the Capital Asset Pricing Model:

$$r_e = r_f + \beta_i(\bar{r}_m - r_f) \tag{5.4}$$

A 100 basis point error in r_f flows through to the cost of equity and can change the present value of a long-duration cash flow stream by 10-20%, depending on the duration profile.

5.1.4 Performance Evaluation

Risk-adjusted performance measures such as the Sharpe ratio:

$$\text{SR} = \frac{\bar{r}_p - \bar{r}_f}{\sigma(r_p - r_f)} \tag{5.5}$$

and Jensen's alpha:

$$\alpha = \bar{r}_p - r_f - \hat{\beta}_p(\bar{r}_m - r_f) \tag{5.6}$$

both depend directly on r_f. The Sharpe ratio is particularly sensitive because the denominator (excess return volatility) is also affected by the level and variability of r_f.

5.2 What Does "Risk-Free" Mean in Practice?

A truly risk-free asset must satisfy four conditions simultaneously (Table 5.1).

Table 5.1: Requirements for a Risk-Free Asset

Condition	Definition	Practical Challenge
No default risk	The issuer cannot fail to pay	Only sovereign debt in one's own currency qualifies
Known cash flows	Payoff is certain ex ante	Rules out floating-rate instruments
No reinvestment risk	Maturity matches the investment horizon	Requires zero-coupon securities of exact maturity
High liquidity	Can be traded at a low cost	Thin government bond markets fail this test

No real-world asset perfectly satisfies all four conditions. Even in the deepest government bond markets, there is a liquidity premium in off-the-run securities and a convenience yield in on-the-run issues (Krishnamurthy and Vissing-Jorgensen 2012). The practical question is: which available instrument comes closest?

5.2.1 The Ideal Proxy

The ideal risk-free rate proxy for empirical asset pricing research has the following properties:

1. **Short maturity**: Minimizes reinvestment risk and term premium contamination. The conventional choice is 1-month maturity.
2. **Government-backed**: Eliminates credit risk (in domestic currency).
3. **Actively traded**: Ensures that the observed yield reflects current market conditions.
4. **Regular issuance**: Provides a continuous time series without gaps.
5. **Consistent methodology**: Yield computation is unambiguous and comparable over time.

5.3 Available Proxies in Vietnam

Vietnam's financial infrastructure provides several candidate instruments, none of which perfectly satisfies all criteria. We evaluate each in turn.

5.3.1 Government Bond Yields

The Vietnamese government issues bonds across a range of maturities through the State Treasury and the Vietnam Bond Market (VBM). Key characteristics:

The primary limitation of government bond yields as a risk-free proxy is the scarcity of short-maturity securities. One-year bonds are the shortest regularly issued benchmark, and their yield includes a term premium that is absent from a true risk-free rate. Treasury bills (maturity < 1 year) are issued irregularly and in small volumes, making them unsuitable as a continuous series.

5.3.2 Interbank Overnight Rate

The Vietnam interbank market sets overnight lending rates between commercial banks. The overnight rate is reported by the SBV.

Advantages: Very short maturity (overnight), high frequency (daily), reflects actual borrowing costs in the financial system.

Limitations: Reflects banking sector credit risk (interbank default risk, though small), can be volatile during liquidity crunches, and does not correspond to a tradeable zero-coupon instrument.

5.3.3 SBV Policy Rates

The State Bank of Vietnam sets several administered rates (Table 5.2).

Table 5.2: SBV Policy Rates

Rate	Role	Frequency of Change
Refinancing rate	Rate at which SBV lends to banks	Infrequent (policy meetings)
Discount rate	Rate for rediscounting eligible paper	Infrequent
Overnight lending rate	Ceiling for interbank overnight	Infrequent
Deposit rate cap	Maximum rate banks can pay on deposits	Infrequent

Advantages: Stable (changes infrequently), reflects the monetary policy stance, available for the entire sample period.

Limitations: Not a traded return (i.e., no investor can actually earn the policy rate). Represents an administrative target, not a market-clearing price. Responds to macroeconomic conditions with a lag.

5.3.4 Savings Deposit Rates

Commercial banks offer term deposits at rates subject to SBV caps. Short-term (1-month or 3-month) deposit rates are sometimes used as informal risk-free proxies in practitioner contexts.

Advantages: Represent an investable return for small investors, widely available.

Limitations: Subject to bank credit risk, vary across banks, caps create a ceiling that may not reflect true equilibrium rates, not standardized for research use.

5.3.5 Summary Comparison

5.4 Constructing the Risk-Free Rate Series

We now construct alternative monthly risk-free rate series and examine their properties.

5.4.1 Loading and Cleaning Rate Data

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

# Assume rf_data contains: date, rate_type, rate_annual (annualized, in %)
rf_raw = pd.read_parquet("data/risk_free_rates.parquet")

# Preview available rate types
print("Available rate types:")
print(rf_raw["rate_type"].value_counts())
```

5.4.2 Frequency Alignment

Asset pricing tests require monthly risk-free rates. Raw data may arrive at daily, weekly, or irregular frequencies. We use the following conversion logic:

Daily to monthly: Take the average of daily rates within each month, then convert from annualized to monthly.

Irregular to monthly: For series with gaps (e.g., treasury bills), forward-fill the most recent observation, then average within each month.

Annualized to monthly: Under simple compounding, $r_f^{monthly} = r_f^{annual}/12$. Under continuous compounding, $r_f^{monthly} = r_f^{annual}/12$ (since continuous rates are additive). We use simple compounding for consistency with the convention that stock returns are computed as arithmetic returns.

```
# Construct monthly risk-free rates from each proxy

def construct_monthly_rf(rf_raw, rate_type, method="mean"):
    """
    Convert raw rate data to monthly frequency.

    Parameters
    ----------
    rf_raw : pd.DataFrame
        Raw rate data with columns: date, rate_type, rate_annual
    rate_type : str
        Which rate proxy to use
    method : str
```

```python
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 4.5))

colors = {
    "govt_bond_1y": "#2C73D2",
    "interbank_overnight": "#FF6B6B",
    "sbv_refinancing": "#5DCEAF",
    "tbill_3m": "#FFB347",
    "deposit_1m": "#B19CD9"
}

for rate_type, color in colors.items():
    subset = rf_raw[rf_raw["rate_type"] == rate_type].sort_values("date")
    if len(subset) > 0:
        ax.plot(
            subset["date"], subset["rate_annual"],
            label=rate_type.replace("_", " ").title(),
            color=color, linewidth=1.2, alpha=0.85
        )

ax.set_ylabel("Annualized Rate (%)")
ax.set_xlabel("")
ax.legend(frameon=False, fontsize=9, loc="upper right")
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 5.1

```
        Aggregation method: 'mean', 'last', or 'first'

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Monthly risk-free rate with columns: date, rf_monthly
    """
    subset = (
        rf_raw[rf_raw["rate_type"] == rate_type]
        .sort_values("date")
        .set_index("date")
    )

    # Forward-fill gaps (for irregular series)
    subset = subset.resample("D").ffill()

    # Aggregate to monthly
    if method == "mean":
        monthly = subset.resample("ME")["rate_annual"].mean()
    elif method == "last":
        monthly = subset.resample("ME")["rate_annual"].last()
    else:
        monthly = subset.resample("ME")["rate_annual"].first()

    monthly = monthly.reset_index()
    monthly.columns = ["date", "rf_annual"]

    # Convert annualized rate (%) to monthly decimal
    monthly["rf_monthly"] = monthly["rf_annual"] / 100 / 12

    return monthly[["date", "rf_monthly", "rf_annual"]]

# Construct series for each proxy
rf_proxies = {}
for proxy in ["govt_bond_1y", "interbank_overnight", "sbv_refinancing"]:
    rf_proxies[proxy] = construct_monthly_rf(rf_raw, proxy)
    rf_proxies[proxy]["proxy"] = proxy

rf_all = pd.concat(rf_proxies.values(), ignore_index=True)
```

5.4.3 Handling Missing Data and Structural Breaks

Vietnamese rate data may contain gaps due to market closures, reporting changes, or the introduction of new instruments. We handle these systematically:

```
# Check coverage for each proxy
coverage = (
    rf_all
    .groupby("proxy")
    .agg(
        start_date=("date", "min"),
        end_date=("date", "max"),
        n_months=("rf_monthly", "count"),
        n_missing=("rf_monthly", lambda x: x.isna().sum()),
        avg_rate_pct=("rf_annual", "mean")
    )
    .round(2)
)

print(coverage)
```

For periods where the primary proxy is unavailable, we construct a blended series using a priority hierarchy:

```
def construct_blended_rf(rf_proxies, priority=None):
    """
    Construct a blended monthly risk-free rate using proxy priority.

    Priority order (default):
    1. Treasury bills (shortest maturity, sovereign)
    2. Interbank overnight (short maturity, high frequency)
    3. 1-year government bond (sovereign, regular)
    4. SBV refinancing rate (fallback)
    """
    if priority is None:
        priority = [
            "tbill_3m",
            "interbank_overnight",
            "govt_bond_1y",
            "sbv_refinancing"
        ]
```

```
    # Create full date range
    all_dates = pd.date_range(
        start=min(df["date"].min() for df in rf_proxies.values()),
        end=max(df["date"].max() for df in rf_proxies.values()),
        freq="ME"
    )

    blended = pd.DataFrame({"date": all_dates})
    blended["rf_monthly"] = np.nan
    blended["source"] = ""

    for proxy in priority:
        if proxy in rf_proxies:
            proxy_df = rf_proxies[proxy][["date", "rf_monthly"]].rename(
                columns={"rf_monthly": f"rf_{proxy}"}
            )
            blended = blended.merge(proxy_df, on="date", how="left")

            # Fill missing values from this proxy
            mask = blended["rf_monthly"].isna() & blended[f"rf_{proxy}"].notna()
            blended.loc[mask, "rf_monthly"] = blended.loc[mask, f"rf_{proxy}"]
            blended.loc[mask, "source"] = proxy

            blended = blended.drop(columns=[f"rf_{proxy}"])

    return blended

rf_blended = construct_blended_rf(rf_proxies)
```

5.4.4 Properties of the Constructed Series

The spread between proxies is informative. A consistently positive spread (bond yield > interbank rate) reflects the term premium embedded in the 1-year bond. Periods where the interbank rate spikes above the bond yield typically correspond to liquidity crunches in the banking system.

5.4.5 Correlation Across Proxies

Table 5.3: Data Source Composition of Blended Risk-Free Rate Series

```
source_comp = (
    rf_blended
    .groupby("source")
    .agg(
        n_months=("date", "count"),
        pct=("date", lambda x: len(x) / len(rf_blended) * 100)
    )
    .round(1)
    .sort_values("n_months", ascending=False)
)

source_comp
```

Table 5.4: Summary Statistics of Monthly Risk-Free Rate Proxies

```
rf_wide = rf_all.pivot_table(
    index="date", columns="proxy", values="rf_monthly"
)

summary = rf_wide.describe(percentiles=[0.10, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 0.90]).T
summary = summary[["mean", "std", "min", "10%", "50%", "90%", "max"]]
summary.columns = [
    "Mean", "Std", "Min", "P10", "Median", "P90", "Max"
]

# Convert to annualized percentage for interpretability
(summary * 12 * 100).round(2)
```

Table 5.5: Pairwise Correlation of Monthly Risk-Free Rate Proxies

```
rf_corr = rf_wide.corr().round(3)
rf_corr.index = [x.replace("_", " ").title() for x in rf_corr.index]
rf_corr.columns = [x.replace("_", " ").title() for x in rf_corr.columns]
rf_corr
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(8, 6), sharex=True)

# Level
for proxy, color in [
    ("govt_bond_1y", "#2C73D2"),
    ("interbank_overnight", "#FF6B6B"),
    ("sbv_refinancing", "#5DCEAF")
]:
    subset = rf_proxies[proxy].sort_values("date")
    axes[0].plot(
        subset["date"], subset["rf_monthly"] * 100,
        label=proxy.replace("_", " ").title(),
        color=color, linewidth=1
    )
axes[0].set_ylabel("Monthly Rate (%)")
axes[0].legend(frameon=False, fontsize=9)
axes[0].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
axes[0].spines["right"].set_visible(False)

# Pairwise spread: govt bond - interbank
merged = rf_proxies["govt_bond_1y"][["date", "rf_monthly"]].merge(
    rf_proxies["interbank_overnight"][["date", "rf_monthly"]],
    on="date", suffixes=("_bond", "_interbank")
)
merged["spread"] = (merged["rf_monthly_bond"] - merged["rf_monthly_interbank"]) * 100

axes[1].fill_between(
    merged["date"], merged["spread"], 0,
    where=merged["spread"] > 0, alpha=0.4, color="#2C73D2", label="Bond > Interbank"
)
axes[1].fill_between(
    merged["date"], merged["spread"], 0,
    where=merged["spread"] <= 0, alpha=0.4, color="#FF6B6B", label="Bond < Interbank"
)
axes[1].axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5)
axes[1].set_ylabel("Spread (% monthly)")
axes[1].set_xlabel("")
axes[1].legend(frameon=False, fontsize=9)
axes[1].spines["top"].set_visible(False)
axes[1].spines["right"].set_visible(False)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 5.2

High correlation (> 0.8) between proxies suggests that the level and direction of interest rate movements are captured similarly by all proxies. Low correlation would indicate that the choice of proxy introduces substantial idiosyncratic variation into excess returns.

5.5 Excess Return Construction

With the risk-free rate series in hand, we now construct excess returns for individual stocks and for the market portfolio.

5.5.1 Matching Conventions

Excess return construction requires strict consistency across three dimensions (Table 5.6).

Table 5.6: Consistency Requirements for Excess Returns

Dimension	Requirement	Common Error
Currency	Same currency for r_i and r_f	Using USD rate for VND-denominated returns
Frequency	Same holding period	Using annualized r_f with monthly r_i
Compounding	Same convention	Mixing log and arithmetic returns

```
# Load monthly stock returns
stock_returns = pd.read_parquet("data/monthly_returns.parquet")
# Assume columns: symbol, date (month-end), ret

# Merge with risk-free rate
# Use the blended series as the baseline
rf_for_merge = rf_blended[["date", "rf_monthly"]].rename(
    columns={"rf_monthly": "rf"}
)

stock_returns = stock_returns.merge(rf_for_merge, on="date", how="left")

# Compute excess returns
stock_returns["ret_excess"] = stock_returns["ret"] - stock_returns["rf"]
```

5.5.2 Market Excess Return

```
# Value-weighted market return
market_monthly = (
    stock_returns
    .groupby("date")
    .apply(
        lambda g: np.average(
            g["ret"].dropna(),
            weights=g["mktcap"].loc[g["ret"].dropna().index]
        ) if g["ret"].dropna().shape[0] > 0 else np.nan,
        include_groups=False
    )
    .reset_index(name="rm")
)

market_monthly = market_monthly.merge(rf_for_merge, on="date", how="left")
market_monthly["mktrf"] = market_monthly["rm"] - market_monthly["rf"]
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 3.5))

ax.bar(
    market_monthly["date"], market_monthly["mktrf"] * 100,
    color=np.where(market_monthly["mktrf"] >= 0, "#2C73D2", "#FF6B6B"),
    width=25, alpha=0.8
)
ax.axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_ylabel("Market Excess Return (%)")
ax.set_xlabel("")
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 5.3

Table 5.7: Annualized Equity Premium Under Alternative Risk-Free Proxies

```
results = []
for proxy_name, proxy_df in rf_proxies.items():
    rf_merge = proxy_df[["date", "rf_monthly"]].rename(
        columns={"rf_monthly": "rf_proxy"}
    )
    merged = market_monthly[["date", "rm"]].merge(rf_merge, on="date", how="inner")
    merged["mktrf_proxy"] = merged["rm"] - merged["rf_proxy"]

    n_months = merged["mktrf_proxy"].count()
    mean_monthly = merged["mktrf_proxy"].mean()
    std_monthly = merged["mktrf_proxy"].std()
    sharpe = mean_monthly / std_monthly if std_monthly > 0 else np.nan
    t_stat = mean_monthly / (std_monthly / np.sqrt(n_months))

    results.append({
        "Proxy": proxy_name.replace("_", " ").title(),
        "N Months": n_months,
        "Mean (% ann.)": round(mean_monthly * 12 * 100, 2),
        "Std (% ann.)": round(std_monthly * np.sqrt(12) * 100, 2),
        "Sharpe (ann.)": round(sharpe * np.sqrt(12), 3),
        "t-stat": round(t_stat, 2)
    })

pd.DataFrame(results).style.hide(axis="index")
```

5.6 Sensitivity Analysis: How Much Does the Proxy Choice Matter?

This is the central empirical question of the chapter. If different risk-free proxies produce essentially the same downstream results, the choice is inconsequential. If they produce different results, researchers must justify their choice and report robustness.

5.6.1 Effect on the Equity Premium

5.6.2 Effect on Factor Premiums

Note that SMB and HML are constructed as long-short portfolio returns and should be identical regardless of the risk-free proxy. Only MKTRF differs. However, if the researcher uses the

Table 5.8: Factor Premium Sensitivity to Risk-Free Proxy (Annualized %)

```
# Load or construct factor returns
# Assume factors_monthly has: date, smb, hml (these are long-short, rf-independent)
# Only MKTRF changes with the proxy

factors_monthly = pd.read_parquet("data/factors_monthly.parquet")

for proxy_name, proxy_df in rf_proxies.items():
    rf_merge = proxy_df[["date", "rf_monthly"]].rename(
        columns={"rf_monthly": "rf_proxy"}
    )
    factors_merged = factors_monthly.merge(rf_merge, on="date", how="inner")
    factors_merged = factors_merged.merge(
        market_monthly[["date", "rm"]], on="date", how="inner"
    )
    factors_merged[f"mktrf_{proxy_name}"] = (
        factors_merged["rm"] - factors_merged["rf_proxy"]
    )

    mean_mktrf = factors_merged[f"mktrf_{proxy_name}"].mean() * 12 * 100
    mean_smb = factors_merged["smb"].mean() * 12 * 100
    mean_hml = factors_merged["hml"].mean() * 12 * 100

    print(
        f"{proxy_name:>25s}: MKTRF = {mean_mktrf:6.2f}%, "
        f"SMB = {mean_smb:6.2f}%, HML = {mean_hml:6.2f}%"
    )
```

risk-free rate to compute individual stock excess returns before sorting into factor portfolios, small differences in sorting may arise.

5.6.3 Effect on Alpha Estimates

The choice of risk-free proxy affects alpha estimates for any portfolio evaluated against a factor model. We illustrate this by estimating the alpha of a momentum portfolio under each proxy.

5.6.4 Effect on Valuation

To illustrate the valuation impact, consider a simple DCF exercise where the cost of equity is estimated via the CAPM.

> **!** Key Finding
>
> Even modest differences in the risk-free rate (50-150 basis points across proxies) can produce terminal value differences of 10-30%. Researchers and practitioners must document their risk-free rate choice explicitly and report sensitivity to alternatives.

5.7 Term Structure Considerations

When longer-horizon discount rates are needed (e.g., for multi-year DCF or cost of capital estimation), the risk-free rate should be maturity-matched. This requires constructing a yield curve from available government bond data.

5.7.1 Yield Curve Estimation

Gürkaynak, Sack, and Wright (2007) develop a parametric approach to yield curve estimation using the Nelson and Siegel (1987) and Svensson (1994) models. The Nelson-Siegel model parameterizes the instantaneous forward rate as:

$$f(\tau) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \exp\left(-\frac{\tau}{\lambda}\right) + \beta_2 \frac{\tau}{\lambda} \exp\left(-\frac{\tau}{\lambda}\right) \tag{5.7}$$

where τ is the maturity, β_0 is the long-run level, β_1 determines the slope, β_2 determines the curvature, and λ controls the location of the hump.

The corresponding yield is:

Table 5.9: Momentum Portfolio Alpha Sensitivity to Risk-Free Proxy

```
import statsmodels.api as sm

# Assume momentum_ret contains: date, mom_ret (raw return of WML portfolio)
momentum_ret = pd.read_parquet("data/momentum_returns.parquet")

alpha_results = []
for proxy_name, proxy_df in rf_proxies.items():
    rf_merge = proxy_df[["date", "rf_monthly"]].rename(
        columns={"rf_monthly": "rf_proxy"}
    )

    merged = (
        momentum_ret
        .merge(rf_merge, on="date", how="inner")
        .merge(market_monthly[["date", "rm"]], on="date", how="inner")
        .merge(factors_monthly[["date", "smb", "hml"]], on="date", how="inner")
    )

    merged["mom_excess"] = merged["mom_ret"] - merged["rf_proxy"]
    merged["mktrf"] = merged["rm"] - merged["rf_proxy"]

    X = sm.add_constant(merged[["mktrf", "smb", "hml"]])
    y = merged["mom_excess"]
    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})

    alpha_results.append({
        "Proxy": proxy_name.replace("_", " ").title(),
        "Alpha (% monthly)": round(model.params["const"] * 100, 3),
        "t-stat": round(model.tvalues["const"], 2),
        "R²": round(model.rsquared, 3)
    })

pd.DataFrame(alpha_results).style.hide(axis="index")
```

Table 5.10: Cost of Equity and Terminal Value Sensitivity to Risk-Free Proxy

```
# Example: firm with beta = 1.0, expected CF = 1 billion VND, growth = 3%
beta_example = 1.0
cf = 1e9  # VND
growth = 0.03

valuation_results = []
for proxy_name, proxy_df in rf_proxies.items():
    rf_ann = proxy_df["rf_annual"].dropna().iloc[-12:].mean() / 100  # Latest year avg

    rf_merge = proxy_df[["date", "rf_monthly"]].rename(
        columns={"rf_monthly": "rf_proxy"}
    )
    mkt_merged = market_monthly[["date", "rm"]].merge(
        rf_merge, on="date", how="inner"
    )
    mkt_merged["mktrf"] = mkt_merged["rm"] - mkt_merged["rf_proxy"]
    erp = mkt_merged["mktrf"].mean() * 12  # Annualized equity premium

    cost_equity = rf_ann + beta_example * erp
    terminal_value = cf / (cost_equity - growth) if cost_equity > growth else np.nan

    valuation_results.append({
        "Proxy": proxy_name.replace("_", " ").title(),
        "Rf (% ann.)": round(rf_ann * 100, 2),
        "ERP (% ann.)": round(erp * 100, 2),
        "Cost of Equity (%)": round(cost_equity * 100, 2),
        "Terminal Value (B VND)": round(terminal_value / 1e9, 1) if terminal_value else "N/A"
    })

pd.DataFrame(valuation_results).style.hide(axis="index")
```

$$y(\tau) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{1 - \exp(-\tau/\lambda)}{\tau/\lambda} + \beta_2 \left[\frac{1 - \exp(-\tau/\lambda)}{\tau/\lambda} - \exp(-\tau/\lambda) \right] \tag{5.8}$$

```
from scipy.optimize import minimize

def nelson_siegel_yield(tau, beta0, beta1, beta2, lam):
    """Nelson-Siegel yield curve model."""
    tau_lam = tau / lam
    factor1 = (1 - np.exp(-tau_lam)) / tau_lam
    factor2 = factor1 - np.exp(-tau_lam)
    return beta0 + beta1 * factor1 + beta2 * factor2

def fit_nelson_siegel(maturities, yields):
    """Fit Nelson-Siegel model to observed yields."""
    def objective(params):
        beta0, beta1, beta2, lam = params
        if lam <= 0:
            return 1e10
        fitted = nelson_siegel_yield(maturities, beta0, beta1, beta2, lam)
        return np.sum((yields - fitted) ** 2)

    result = minimize(
        objective,
        x0=[yields[-1], yields[0] - yields[-1], 0, 2.0],
        method="Nelder-Mead",
        options={"maxiter": 10000}
    )
    return result.x

# Example: fit to latest available government bond yields
# Assume govt_yields contains: date, maturity_years, yield_pct
govt_yields = pd.read_parquet("data/govt_bond_yields.parquet")

latest_date = govt_yields["date"].max()
latest_yields = govt_yields[govt_yields["date"] == latest_date].sort_values("maturity_years")

maturities = latest_yields["maturity_years"].values
yields = latest_yields["yield_pct"].values

params = fit_nelson_siegel(maturities, yields)
beta0, beta1, beta2, lam = params
```

```
tau_fine = np.linspace(0.25, 30, 200)
fitted_yields = nelson_siegel_yield(tau_fine, *params)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 4))
ax.scatter(
    maturities, yields, color="#FF6B6B", s=60, zorder=5,
    label="Observed yields", edgecolors="white"
)
ax.plot(
    tau_fine, fitted_yields, color="#2C73D2", linewidth=2,
    label="Nelson-Siegel fit"
)
ax.set_xlabel("Maturity (Years)")
ax.set_ylabel("Yield (%)")
ax.legend(frameon=False)
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

print(f"Nelson-Siegel parameters:")
print(f"    (level)     = {beta0:.4f}")
print(f"    (slope)     = {beta1:.4f}")
print(f"    (curvature) = {beta2:.4f}")
print(f"    (decay)      = {lam:.4f}")
```

Figure 5.4

> **Tip**
>
> The Nelson-Siegel yield curve allows extraction of a risk-free rate at any maturity. For monthly asset pricing, evaluate the curve at $\tau = 1/12$ (one month). For DCF valuation with a 10-year horizon, evaluate at $\tau = 10$. This maturity-matching approach is superior to using a single proxy for all purposes.

5.7.2 Extracting the Short-Rate from the Yield Curve

```
# Extract 1-month rate from Nelson-Siegel curve at each date
def extract_ns_short_rate(govt_yields, target_maturity=1/12):
    """
    For each date, fit Nelson-Siegel and extract the yield
    at the target maturity.
    """
    dates = govt_yields["date"].unique()
    short_rates = []

    for d in dates:
        obs = govt_yields[govt_yields["date"] == d].sort_values("maturity_years")
        if len(obs) < 3:  # Need at least 3 points to fit
            short_rates.append({"date": d, "rf_ns": np.nan})
            continue

        try:
            params = fit_nelson_siegel(
                obs["maturity_years"].values,
                obs["yield_pct"].values
            )
            rf_ns = nelson_siegel_yield(target_maturity, *params)
            short_rates.append({"date": d, "rf_ns": rf_ns})
        except Exception:
            short_rates.append({"date": d, "rf_ns": np.nan})

    return pd.DataFrame(short_rates)

ns_short_rates = extract_ns_short_rate(govt_yields)
```

5.8 Real vs. Nominal Risk-Free Rates

For certain applications, particularly long-horizon valuation and real return analysis, the real (inflation-adjusted) risk-free rate is more appropriate than the nominal rate. The Fisher equation relates them:

$$r_f^{real} \approx r_f^{nominal} - \pi^e \tag{5.9}$$

where π^e is expected inflation. In practice, we can use realized CPI inflation as a proxy for expected inflation (under the assumption of rational expectations, or as an ex-post adjustment).

```
# Load CPI data
# Assume cpi_data contains: date, cpi_index (or inflation_mom for month-over-month)
cpi_data = pd.read_parquet("data/cpi_monthly.parquet")
cpi_data = cpi_data.sort_values("date")
cpi_data["inflation_monthly"] = cpi_data["cpi_index"].pct_change()

rf_real = rf_blended[["date", "rf_monthly"]].merge(
    cpi_data[["date", "inflation_monthly"]], on="date", how="inner"
)
rf_real["rf_real"] = rf_real["rf_monthly"] - rf_real["inflation_monthly"]
```

> **Note**
>
> In periods of high inflation, the real risk-free rate can be substantially negative. This has implications for real excess return computation and for interpreting the equity premium in real terms. A negative real risk-free rate implies that nominal government securities do not preserve purchasing power, which strengthens the case for equity investment from a real-return perspective.

5.9 International Comparison

It is instructive to compare Vietnam's risk-free rate environment with that of other emerging and developed markets to contextualize the magnitudes involved.

Vietnam's risk-free rate environment is characterized by relatively high nominal rates (reflecting inflation and growth dynamics), limited availability of very-short-maturity sovereign instruments, and greater reliance on interbank rates as the operational proxy. This is broadly similar to other ASEAN frontier markets but contrasts sharply with developed Asian markets, where deep government securities markets provide clean short-term benchmarks.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 4))
ax.plot(
    rf_real["date"], rf_real["rf_monthly"] * 100,
    color="#2C73D2", label="Nominal", linewidth=1
)
ax.plot(
    rf_real["date"], rf_real["rf_real"] * 100,
    color="#FF6B6B", label="Real", linewidth=1
)
ax.axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, linestyle="--")
ax.set_ylabel("Monthly Rate (%)")
ax.set_xlabel("")
ax.legend(frameon=False)
ax.spines["top"].set_visible(False)
ax.spines["right"].set_visible(False)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 5.5

5.10 Best Practices Checklist

Based on the analysis in this chapter, we summarize the recommended practices for risk-free rate construction in Vietnamese financial research:

5.11 Saving the Risk-Free Rate for Downstream Use

The final step is to save the constructed risk-free rate series for use in subsequent chapters.

```
# Save all variants for flexibility
rf_output = rf_blended[["date", "rf_monthly", "source"]].copy()
rf_output["rf_annual_pct"] = rf_output["rf_monthly"] * 12 * 100

# Also save individual proxies
for proxy_name, proxy_df in rf_proxies.items():
    col_name = f"rf_{proxy_name}"
    rf_output = rf_output.merge(
        proxy_df[["date", "rf_monthly"]].rename(
            columns={"rf_monthly": col_name}
        ),
```

```
        on="date",
        how="left"
    )

# Save to parquet for use in later chapters
rf_output.to_parquet("data/risk_free_rate.parquet", index=False)

print(f"Risk-free rate series saved: {len(rf_output)} months")
print(f"Date range: {rf_output['date'].min()} to {rf_output['date'].max()}")
print(f"\nColumns: {list(rf_output.columns)}")
```

> **Tip**
>
> By saving the risk-free rate as a separate, well-documented file, all downstream chapters can merge it consistently. This avoids the common pitfall of reconstructing the risk-free rate differently in different analyses within the same study.

5.12 Summary

This chapter has established that risk-free rate construction is a first-order modeling decision in Vietnamese financial research, not a technical afterthought. The key takeaways are:

1. **No perfect proxy exists** in Vietnam. The interbank overnight rate, 1-year government bond yield, and SBV policy rate each have distinct strengths and limitations. A blended series using a documented priority hierarchy provides the most robust baseline.
2. **The choice of proxy matters quantitatively**. Different proxies can shift the estimated equity premium by 50-200 basis points annually, alter portfolio alphas, and change DCF terminal values by 10-30%.
3. **Frequency alignment and compounding conventions** must be handled with care. Converting annualized rates to monthly requires specifying the compounding convention. Gaps in the data require documented interpolation.
4. **The Nelson-Siegel yield curve model** enables the extraction of any-maturity risk-free rate from sparse government bond data, which is particularly valuable for maturity-matched discount rate estimation.
5. **Sensitivity analysis is mandatory**. Any study that reports results under a single risk-free proxy without reporting robustness to alternatives has an unquantified source of specification uncertainty.

6 Constructing and Analyzing Equity Return Series

This chapter develops a practical framework for transforming raw equity price records into return series suitable for empirical financial analysis. The focus is on methodological clarity and reproducibility, with particular attention to data issues that are prevalent in emerging equity markets such as Vietnam.

The discussion proceeds from individual stocks to a broad market cross-section, using constituents of the VN30 index as the primary empirical setting.

6.1 Data Access and Preparation

We begin by loading the core numerical and data manipulation libraries. These provide all functionality required for return construction without relying on specialized financial wrappers.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
```

For this project, we retrieve our historical price data using the DataCore API. If you wish to replicate this analysis or use the dataset for your own work, you will need to access the data through their platform.

6.1.1 Prerequisites for API Access

To run the code below, you need to configure a few things first:

1. **Obtain an API Key:** You must subscribe to the relevant dataset on the DataCore platform to receive a unique API key.
2. **Whitelist Your IP Address:** The API requires your IP address to be whitelisted for security.
    - **Local Machine:** If you are running this code on your personal computer, you generally need to whitelist your public IP address.

- **Cloud or Remote Sessions (e.g., HPC Open OnDemand):** If you are using a remote server such as those provided by DataCore, the server's IP address will change with each new session. You must retrieve the server's private/public IP for that specific session and whitelist it in your DataCore account settings before running the script.

3. **Set Environment Variables:** To keep your credentials secure, do not hardcode your API key into your scripts. Instead, save it as an environment variable named `datacore_api` on your machine.

Note: If you only want to test the code performance, DataCore provides a preview endpoint that does not require an API key, though the data returned is limited.

```
import requests
import pandas as pd

url = "https://gateway.datacore.vn/data/ds/preview"
params = {
    "dataSetCode": "fundamental_annual",
    "pageSize": 10000
}
headers = {
    "Accept": "application/json",
    "Origin": "https://datacore.vn",
    "Referer": "https://datacore.vn/"
}

response = requests.get(url, params=params, headers=headers)
data = response.json()

columns = data['data']['fields']
rows = data['data']['dataDetail']

df = pd.DataFrame(rows, columns=columns)
print(df.head())
print("Total rows:", len(df))
```

```
  symbol  year  total_current_asset ca_fin        ca_cce       ca_cash  \
0    CLL  2011         1.078338e+11   None  8.313178e+10  4.131776e+09
1    CLL  2012         2.360575e+10   None  8.003560e+09  4.003560e+09
2    CLL  2013         5.764370e+10   None  3.496426e+10  9.964256e+09
3    CLL  2014         4.973590e+10   None  1.718744e+10  1.718744e+10
4    CLL  2015         2.389115e+11   None  1.790364e+11  2.403638e+10
```

```
  ca_cash_inbank ca_cash_attransit  ca_cash_equivalent  ca_fin_invest  ...  \
0           None              None        7.900000e+10   0.000000e+00  ...
1           None              None        4.000000e+09   0.000000e+00  ...
2           None              None        2.500000e+10   0.000000e+00  ...
3           None              None        0.000000e+00   1.000000e+09  ...
4           None              None        1.550000e+11   1.000000e+09  ...

   operating_margin      roe      roa sector_pe sector_pb  sector_ps  \
0           0.35473  0.19560  0.10649   3.00213   0.26108    0.22170
1           0.45369  0.20337  0.13018   2.40335   0.26211    0.21745
2           0.45997  0.23459  0.16452   3.11089   0.41013    0.32436
3           0.40554  0.19984  0.14747   3.25886   0.46823    0.42146
4           0.33774  0.16525  0.12633   6.77337   0.81110    0.68401

   sector_eps  sector_ros  sector_roe  sector_roa
0  3341.54903     0.07385     0.08753     0.05039
1  4296.47005     0.09048     0.11392     0.06346
2  4024.74648     0.10427     0.13645     0.07415
3  5100.81019     0.12933     0.14956     0.08087
4  5216.38499     0.10098     0.11815     0.06234

[5 rows x 308 columns]
Total rows: 10
```

6.1.2 Checking Your IP Address

If you need to verify the IP address of the machine running your code (to whitelist it), you can use the following Python snippets.

To find your Public IP:

```python
import requests

try:
    public_ip = requests.get("https://api.ipify.org").text
    print(f"Public IP: {public_ip}")
except requests.exceptions.RequestException as e:
    print(f"Could not retrieve Public IP: {e}")
```

To find your Private IP (useful for specific remote server setups):

```python
import socket

def get_private_ip():
    try:
        s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
        s.connect(("8.8.8.8", 80))
        private_ip = s.getsockname()[0]
        s.close()
        return private_ip
    except Exception as e:
        return f"Error: {e}"

print(f"Private IP: {get_private_ip()}")
```

6.1.3 Fetching the Dataset

The following script demonstrates how to securely authenticate and paginate through the DataCore API to retrieve the full `dataset_historical_price` dataset.

```python
# Convert the date column to proper datetime objects
prices["date"] = pd.to_datetime(prices["date"])

# Ensure price and ratio columns are numeric before calculation
prices["close_price"] = pd.to_numeric(prices["close_price"])
prices["adj_ratio"] = pd.to_numeric(prices["adj_ratio"])

# Calculate the adjusted close price
prices["adjusted_close"] = prices["close_price"] * prices["adj_ratio"]

# Rename columns to match standard conventions
prices = prices.rename(
    columns={
        "vol_total": "volume",
        "open_price": "open",
        "low_price": "low",
        "high_price": "high",
        "close_price": "close",
    }
)

# Sort the dataset logically by symbol and date
```

```
prices = prices.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])

print("Data manipulation complete. The dataset is ready for analysis.")
```

```
Data manipulation complete. The dataset is ready for analysis.
```

```
prices["date"] = pd.to_datetime(prices["date"])


prices["adjusted_close"] = prices["close_price"] * prices["adj_ratio"]


prices = prices.rename(
    columns={
        "vol_total": "volume",
        "open_price": "open",
        "low_price": "low",
        "high_price": "high",
        "close_price": "close",
    }
)

prices = prices.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
```

Adjusted closing prices incorporate mechanical changes due to corporate actions such as cash dividends and stock splits. Using adjusted prices ensures that subsequent return calculations reflect investor-relevant performance rather than accounting artifacts.

6.2 Examining a Single Equity

To ground the discussion, we isolate the trading history of a single large-cap stock, FPT, over a long sample period.

```
import datetime as dt

start = pd.Timestamp("2000-01-01")
end = pd.Timestamp(dt.date.today().year - 1, 12, 31)
```

```
fpt = prices.loc[
    (prices["symbol"] == "FPT")
    & (prices["date"] >= start)
    & (prices["date"] <= end),
    ["date", "symbol", "volume", "open", "low", "high", "close", "adjusted_close"],
].copy()
```

This subset contains the standard daily market variables required for most empirical studies. Before computing returns, it is good practice to visually inspect the price series.

```
from plotnine import ggplot, aes, geom_line, labs
```

```
(
    ggplot(fpt, aes(x="date", y="adjusted_close"))
    + geom_line()
    + labs(title="Adjusted price path of FPT", x="", y="")
)
```

Figure 6.1: Prices are in VND, adjusted for dividend payments and stock splits.

6.3 From Prices to Returns

Most empirical asset pricing models are formulated in terms of returns rather than price levels. The simple daily return is defined as

$$r_t = \frac{p_t}{p_t - 1} - 1,$$

where p_t denotes the adjusted closing price at the end of trading day t.

Before computing returns, we must address invalid price observations. In Vietnamese equity data, adjusted prices occasionally take the value zero. These entries typically arise from IPO placeholders, trading suspensions, or historical backfilling conventions and cannot be used to compute meaningful returns.

```
prices.loc[prices["adjusted_close"] <= 0, ["symbol", "date", "adjusted_close"]].head()
```

	symbol	date	adjusted_close
33886	ADP	2010-02-09	0.0
33887	ADP	2010-02-24	0.0
33888	ADP	2010-03-01	0.0
33889	ADP	2010-03-03	0.0
33890	ADP	2010-03-12	0.0

We therefore exclude non-positive adjusted prices and compute returns stock by stock. Correct chronological ordering is essential.

```
returns = (
    prices
    .loc[prices["adjusted_close"] > 0]
    .sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
    .assign(ret=lambda x: x.groupby("symbol")["adjusted_close"].pct_change())
    [["symbol", "date", "ret"]]
)
returns = returns.dropna(subset=["ret"])
```

The initial return for each stock is missing by construction, since no lagged price is available. These observations are mechanical and can safely be removed in most applications.

6.4 Limiting the Influence of Extreme Returns

Daily return series often contain extreme observations driven by data errors, thin trading, or abrupt price adjustments. A common approach is to winsorize returns using cross-sectional percentile cutoffs.

```
def winsorize_cs(df, column="ret", lower_q=0.01, upper_q=0.99):
    lo = df[column].quantile(lower_q)
    hi = df[column].quantile(upper_q)
    out = df.copy()
    out[column] = out[column].clip(lo, hi)
    return out

returns = winsorize_cs(returns)
```

Applying winsorization across the full cross-section limits the impact of extreme market-wide observations while preserving relative differences between firms. Winsorizing within each stock is rarely appropriate in panel settings and can severely distort illiquid securities.

6.5 Distributional Features of Returns

We next examine the empirical distribution of daily returns for FPT. The figure below also marks the historical 5 percent quantile, which provides a simple, non-parametric measure of downside risk.

```
from mizani.formatters import percent_format
from plotnine import geom_histogram, geom_vline, scale_x_continuous


fpt_ret = returns.loc[returns["symbol"] == "FPT"].copy()
q05 = fpt_ret["ret"].quantile(0.05)
```

```
(
    ggplot(fpt_ret, aes(x="ret"))
    + geom_histogram(bins=100)
    + geom_vline(xintercept=q05, linetype="dashed")
    + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(title="Distribution of daily FPT returns", x="", y="")
)
```

Figure 6.2: The dotted vertical line indicates the historical five percent quantile.

Summary statistics offer a compact description of return behavior and should always be inspected before formal modeling.

```
returns["ret"].describe().round(3)
```

```
count    4305063.000
mean           0.000
std            0.035
min           -0.125
25%           -0.004
50%            0.000
75%            0.003
max            0.130
Name: ret, dtype: float64
```

Computing these statistics by calendar year can reveal periods of elevated volatility or structural change.

```
(
    returns
    .assign(year=lambda x: x["date"].dt.year)
    .groupby("year")["ret"]
    .describe()
    .round(3)
)
```

year	count	mean	std	min	25%	50%	75%	max
2010	131548.0	-0.001	0.036	-0.125	-0.021	0.0	0.018	0.13
2011	166826.0	-0.003	0.033	-0.125	-0.020	0.0	0.011	0.13
2012	177938.0	0.000	0.033	-0.125	-0.012	0.0	0.015	0.13
2013	180417.0	0.001	0.033	-0.125	-0.004	0.0	0.008	0.13
2014	181907.0	0.001	0.034	-0.125	-0.008	0.0	0.011	0.13
2015	197881.0	0.000	0.033	-0.125	-0.006	0.0	0.005	0.13
2016	227896.0	0.000	0.035	-0.125	-0.005	0.0	0.003	0.13
2017	283642.0	0.001	0.034	-0.125	-0.002	0.0	0.001	0.13
2018	329887.0	0.000	0.035	-0.125	0.000	0.0	0.000	0.13
2019	352754.0	0.000	0.033	-0.125	0.000	0.0	0.000	0.13
2020	369367.0	0.001	0.035	-0.125	0.000	0.0	0.000	0.13
2021	379415.0	0.002	0.038	-0.125	-0.005	0.0	0.007	0.13
2022	387050.0	-0.001	0.038	-0.125	-0.008	0.0	0.004	0.13
2023	391605.0	0.001	0.034	-0.125	-0.002	0.0	0.002	0.13
2024	400379.0	0.000	0.031	-0.125	-0.002	0.0	0.000	0.13
2025	146551.0	0.000	0.037	-0.125	-0.004	0.0	0.002	0.13

6.6 Expanding to a Market Cross-Section

The same procedures apply naturally to a larger universe of stocks. We now restrict attention to the constituents of the VN30 index.

```
vn30 = [
    "ACB","BCM","BID","BVH","CTG","FPT","GAS","GVR","HDB","HPG",
    "MBB","MSN","MWG","PLX","POW","SAB","SHB","SSB","STB","TCB",
    "TPB","VCB","VHM","VIB","VIC","VJC","VNM","VPB","VRE","EIB",
]
```

```
prices_vn30 = prices.loc[prices["symbol"].isin(vn30)]
from plotnine import theme
```

```
(
    ggplot(prices_vn30, aes(x="date", y="adjusted_close", color="symbol"))
    + geom_line()
    + labs(title="Adjusted prices of VN30 constituents", x="", y="")
    + theme(legend_position="none")
)
```

Figure 6.3: Prices in VND, adjusted for dividend payments and stock splits.

Returns for the VN30 universe are computed analogously.

```
returns_vn30 = (
    prices_vn30
    .sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
    .assign(ret=lambda x: x.groupby("symbol")["adjusted_close"].pct_change())
    [["symbol", "date", "ret"]]
    .dropna()
)
```

```python
returns_vn30.groupby("symbol")["ret"].describe().round(3)
```

symbol	count	mean	std	min	25%	50%	75%	max
ACB	3822.0	-0.000	0.023	-0.407	-0.006	0.0	0.007	0.097
BCM	1795.0	0.001	0.027	-0.136	-0.010	0.0	0.010	0.159
BID	2811.0	0.000	0.024	-0.369	-0.010	0.0	0.011	0.070
BVH	3825.0	0.000	0.024	-0.097	-0.012	0.0	0.012	0.070
CTG	3825.0	0.000	0.024	-0.376	-0.010	0.0	0.010	0.070
EIB	3825.0	-0.000	0.022	-0.302	-0.008	0.0	0.008	0.070
FPT	3825.0	-0.000	0.024	-0.439	-0.008	0.0	0.009	0.070
GAS	3236.0	0.000	0.022	-0.289	-0.009	0.0	0.010	0.070
GVR	1775.0	0.001	0.030	-0.137	-0.014	0.0	0.016	0.169
HDB	1828.0	-0.001	0.028	-0.391	-0.009	0.0	0.010	0.070
HPG	3825.0	-0.001	0.032	-0.581	-0.010	0.0	0.011	0.070
MBB	3371.0	-0.000	0.023	-0.473	-0.008	0.0	0.008	0.069
MSN	3825.0	0.000	0.024	-0.553	-0.010	0.0	0.010	0.070
MWG	2701.0	-0.000	0.035	-0.751	-0.009	0.0	0.011	0.070
PLX	2009.0	-0.000	0.021	-0.140	-0.010	0.0	0.010	0.070
POW	1784.0	0.000	0.023	-0.071	-0.012	0.0	0.011	0.102
SAB	2100.0	-0.000	0.024	-0.745	-0.008	0.0	0.007	0.070
SHB	3824.0	-0.000	0.028	-0.338	-0.013	0.0	0.013	0.100
SSB	1029.0	-0.000	0.023	-0.292	-0.005	0.0	0.004	0.070
STB	3825.0	0.000	0.024	-0.321	-0.010	0.0	0.010	0.070
TCB	1732.0	-0.000	0.035	-0.884	-0.009	0.0	0.010	0.070
TPB	1761.0	-0.001	0.029	-0.477	-0.009	0.0	0.009	0.070
VCB	3825.0	-0.000	0.024	-0.539	-0.009	0.0	0.009	0.070
VHM	1744.0	-0.000	0.024	-0.419	-0.009	0.0	0.008	0.070
VIB	2072.0	-0.000	0.031	-0.489	-0.009	0.0	0.010	0.109
VIC	3825.0	-0.000	0.027	-0.673	-0.008	0.0	0.008	0.070
VJC	2046.0	-0.000	0.020	-0.455	-0.007	0.0	0.006	0.070
VNM	3825.0	-0.000	0.023	-0.547	-0.007	0.0	0.007	0.070
VPB	1927.0	-0.000	0.033	-0.678	-0.010	0.0	0.010	0.070
VRE	1871.0	-0.000	0.024	-0.295	-0.012	0.0	0.011	0.070

6.7 Aggregating Returns Across Time

Financial variables are observed at different frequencies. While equity prices are recorded daily, many empirical questions require monthly or annual returns. Lower-frequency returns are constructed by compounding higher-frequency observations.

```
returns_monthly = (
    returns_vn30
    .assign(month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("M").dt.to_timestamp())
    .groupby(["symbol", "month"], as_index=False)
    .agg(ret=("ret", lambda x: np.prod(1 + x) - 1))
)
```

Comparing daily and monthly return distributions illustrates how aggregation dampens volatility and alters tail behavior.

```
from plotnine import facet_wrap

fpt_d = returns_vn30.loc[returns_vn30["symbol"] == "FPT"].assign(freq="Daily")
fpt_m = returns_monthly.loc[returns_monthly["symbol"] == "FPT"].assign(freq="Monthly")


fpt_both = pd.concat([
    fpt_d[["ret", "freq"]],
    fpt_m[["ret", "freq"]],
])
```

```
(
    ggplot(fpt_both, aes(x="ret"))
    + geom_histogram(bins=50)
    + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(title="FPT returns at different frequencies", x="", y="")
    + facet_wrap("freq", scales="free")
)
```

Figure 6.4: Returns are based on prices adjusted for dividend payments and stock splits.

6.8 Aggregation Across Firms: Trading Activity

Aggregation is not limited to time. In some settings, it is informative to aggregate variables across firms. As an illustration, we compute total daily trading value for VN30 stocks by multiplying share volume by adjusted prices and summing across firms.

```
trading_value = (
    prices_vn30
    .assign(value=lambda x: x["volume"] * x["adjusted_close"] / 1e9)
    .groupby("date")["value"]
    .sum()
    .reset_index()
    .assign(value_lag=lambda x: x["value"].shift(1))
)
(
    ggplot(trading_value, aes(x="date", y="value"))
    + geom_line()
    + labs(title="Aggregate VN30 trading value (billion VND)", x="", y="")
)
```

Finally, we assess persistence in trading activity by comparing trading value on consecutive days.

```
from plotnine import geom_point, geom_abline
```

```
(
    ggplot(trading_value, aes(x="value_lag", y="value"))
    + geom_point()
    + geom_abline(intercept=0, slope=1, linetype="dashed")
    + labs(
        title="Persistence in VN30 trading value",
        x="Previous day",
        y="Current day",
    )
)
```

```
/home/mikenguyen/project/tidyfinance/.venv/lib/python3.13/site-packages/plotnine/layer.py:374
```

Figure 6.5: Total daily trading volume.

A strong alignment along the 45-degree line indicates that high-activity trading days tend to be followed by similarly active days, a common empirical regularity in equity markets.

6.9 Summary

This chapter established a reproducible workflow for transforming raw price data into return series, diagnosing common data issues, and aggregating information across time and firms. These steps provide the empirical foundation for subsequent analyses of risk, return predictability, and market dynamics in Vietnam's equity market.

7 Compound Returns

In this chapter, we provide a treatment of compound returns. Whether constructing buy-and-hold portfolios, evaluating fund performance, computing cumulative wealth indices, or estimating long-horizon risk measures, the ability to correctly compound returns over arbitrary horizons is indispensable. We begin with the mathematical foundations: the distinction between simple and log returns, the relationship between arithmetic and geometric means, and the properties of continuously compounded returns. Along the way, we address practical complications that arise in real-world equity data, such as trading halts, price limit mechanisms, partial-period returns, and delisting events, and show how to handle them in the Vietnamese context.

The chapter proceeds to rolling compound returns over standard horizons (3, 6, 9, and 12 months), compound returns aligned to fiscal period ends, forward-looking cumulative returns for event studies, and rolling volatility estimation.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format, comma_format, date_format
from itertools import product
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
```

7.1 Simple Returns versus Log Returns

Before discussing compounding, we must distinguish between the two fundamental return conventions used in finance.

7.1.1 Simple (Arithmetic) Returns

The simple gross return on an asset from period $t-1$ to t is defined as

$$1 + R_t = \frac{P_t + D_t}{P_{t-1}}, \tag{7.1}$$

where P_t denotes the price at the end of period t and D_t denotes any cash distributions (dividends, coupons) paid during period t. The simple net return is R_t itself. When we speak of "returns" without qualification, we typically mean simple net returns.

The key property of simple returns is that **multi-period compounding is multiplicative**:

$$1 + R_t(k) = \prod_{j=0}^{k-1}(1 + R_{t-j}) = (1 + R_t)(1 + R_{t-1}) \cdots (1 + R_{t-k+1}), \tag{7.2}$$

where $R_t(k)$ is the k-period compound return ending at time t. This multiplicative structure is the foundation of all compounding methods discussed in this chapter.

7.1.2 Continuously Compounded (Log) Returns

The continuously compounded return, or log return, is defined as

$$r_t = \ln(1 + R_t) = \ln\left(\frac{P_t + D_t}{P_{t-1}}\right). \tag{7.3}$$

The central advantage of log returns for compounding is that **multi-period compounding becomes additive**:

$$r_t(k) = \ln(1 + R_t(k)) = \sum_{j=0}^{k-1} r_{t-j} = r_t + r_{t-1} + \cdots + r_{t-k+1}. \tag{7.4}$$

This additive property follows directly from the logarithmic identity $\ln(ab) = \ln(a) + \ln(b)$. It is computationally convenient because summation is numerically more stable than iterated multiplication, and because many statistical procedures (means, variances, regressions) operate naturally on additive quantities.

To recover the simple compound return from the sum of log returns, we apply the exponential function:

$$R_t(k) = \exp\left(\sum_{j=0}^{k-1} r_{t-j}\right) - 1. \tag{7.5}$$

7.1.3 When Do They Diverge?

For small returns, the approximation $r_t \approx R_t$ holds to first order (via the Taylor expansion $\ln(1+x) \approx x$ for $|x| \ll 1$). However, for large returns, which is common in emerging markets, small-cap stocks, or crisis periods, the two can diverge substantially. Consider a stock that doubles in price ($R_t = 1.0$): the log return is $r_t = \ln(2) \approx 0.693$, a 31% discrepancy. Conversely, for a stock that loses half its value ($R_t = -0.5$): the log return is $r_t = \ln(0.5) \approx -0.693$, which is 39% larger in magnitude.

This divergence is especially relevant in Vietnam, where daily price limits of $\pm 7\%$ on HOSE, $\pm 10\%$ on HNX, and $\pm 15\%$ on UPCoM can produce sequences of limit-up or limit-down days. Over a week of consecutive limit-up days on HOSE, the simple return is $(1.07)^5 - 1 = 40.3\%$ while the log return is $5 \times \ln(1.07) = 33.8\%$, which is a meaningful gap.

Table 7.1 illustrates this divergence across a range of return magnitudes.

```
simple_returns = [-0.50, -0.30, -0.15, -0.10, -0.07, -0.05, -0.01,
                  0.00, 0.01, 0.05, 0.07, 0.10, 0.15, 0.30, 0.50, 1.00]
comparison_df = pd.DataFrame({
    "Simple Return": [f"{r:.2%}" for r in simple_returns],
    "Log Return": [f"{np.log(1+r):.4f}" for r in simple_returns],
    "Difference": [f"{np.log(1+r) - r:.4f}" for r in simple_returns],
    "Relative Error (%)": [
        f"{((np.log(1+r) - r) / abs(r) * 100):.2f}" if r != 0 else "-"
        for r in simple_returns
    ]
})
comparison_df
```

Table 7.1: Comparison of simple and log returns for various price changes. The divergence grows with the magnitude of the simple return, which is particularly relevant for volatile emerging market stocks.

	Simple Return	Log Return	Difference	Relative Error (%)
0	-50.00%	-0.6931	-0.1931	-38.63
1	-30.00%	-0.3567	-0.0567	-18.89
2	-15.00%	-0.1625	-0.0125	-8.35
3	-10.00%	-0.1054	-0.0054	-5.36
4	-7.00%	-0.0726	-0.0026	-3.67
5	-5.00%	-0.0513	-0.0013	-2.59
6	-1.00%	-0.0101	-0.0001	-0.50
7	0.00%	0.0000	0.0000	—

Table 7.1: Comparison of simple and log returns for various price changes. The divergence grows with the magnitude of the simple return, which is particularly relevant for volatile emerging market stocks.

	Simple Return	Log Return	Difference	Relative Error (%)
8	1.00%	0.0100	-0.0000	-0.50
9	5.00%	0.0488	-0.0012	-2.42
10	7.00%	0.0677	-0.0023	-3.34
11	10.00%	0.0953	-0.0047	-4.69
12	15.00%	0.1398	-0.0102	-6.83
13	30.00%	0.2624	-0.0376	-12.55
14	50.00%	0.4055	-0.0945	-18.91
15	100.00%	0.6931	-0.3069	-30.69

Key takeaway: log returns are convenient for compounding (additive aggregation), but portfolio returns aggregate cross-sectionally in simple return space. In practice, we often transform to log returns for temporal compounding, then convert back to simple returns for reporting.

7.2 Mathematical Foundations of Compounding

7.2.1 Geometric Mean Return

The geometric mean return over T periods is

$$\bar{R}_g = \left(\prod_{t=1}^{T} (1 + R_t) \right)^{1/T} - 1, \tag{7.6}$$

which represents the constant per-period return that would yield the same terminal wealth as the actual return sequence. It is always less than or equal to the arithmetic mean $\bar{R}_a = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} R_t$, with equality only when all returns are identical. The relationship between the two is approximately:

$$\bar{R}_g \approx \bar{R}_a - \frac{\sigma^2}{2}, \tag{7.7}$$

where σ^2 is the variance of returns. This approximation, sometimes called the "volatility drag," has important implications: high-volatility assets have a larger wedge between their arithmetic and geometric means, meaning their actual compound growth understates what a naive average

would suggest. In a market like Vietnam's, where individual stock volatility is often two to three times that of developed-market equities, the volatility drag can be substantial.

7.2.2 Wealth Index and Drawdowns

Given an initial investment of W_0, the wealth at time T is

$$W_T = W_0 \prod_{t=1}^{T} (1 + R_t). \tag{7.8}$$

The cumulative return (net) is simply $W_T/W_0 - 1$. The maximum drawdown, a widely used risk measure, is defined as

$$\text{MDD} = \max_{0 \le s \le t \le T} \left(\frac{W_s - W_t}{W_s} \right), \tag{7.9}$$

which measures the largest peak-to-trough decline in the wealth index. We will compute this quantity alongside compound returns below. Drawdowns are particularly informative in emerging markets that experience sharp corrections, as occurred during the global financial crisis of 2008 when the VN-Index fell roughly 66% from its 2007 peak.

7.2.3 Annualization

For a k-period compound return $R_t(k)$ where each period has length Δ (e.g., $\Delta = 1/12$ for monthly data), the annualized return is

$$R_{\text{ann}} = (1 + R_t(k))^{1/(k\Delta)} - 1. \tag{7.10}$$

Similarly, for volatility estimated from k-period returns with period length Δ:

$$\sigma_{\text{ann}} = \sigma/\sqrt{\Delta}, \tag{7.11}$$

so monthly volatility is annualized by multiplying by $\sqrt{12}$ and daily volatility by approximately $\sqrt{252}$ (assuming 252 trading days per year). For Vietnam specifically, the HOSE typically has around 245–250 trading days per year after accounting for Vietnamese public holidays, which is close enough that the $\sqrt{252}$ convention is standard.

7.3 Data Preparation

We start by loading monthly stock return data from our SQLite database. As prepared in previous chapters, this database contains monthly returns sourced from DataCore.vn for all securities listed on the Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE), Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX), and the Unlisted Public Company Market (UPCoM). Returns are adjusted for stock splits, bonus issues, and rights offerings, and include reinvested cash dividends.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess, ret, mktcap, mktcap_lag, risk_free
        FROM prices_monthly
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates=["date"]
).dropna()

factors_ff3_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT date, mkt_excess FROM factors_ff3_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates=["date"]
)

prices_monthly = prices_monthly.merge(
    factors_ff3_monthly,
    on="date",
    how="left"
)

prices_monthly["ret_total"] = prices_monthly["ret"]
prices_monthly["mkt_total"] = (
    prices_monthly["mkt_excess"] + prices_monthly["risk_free"]
)
```

Let us inspect the sample:

```
print(f"Sample period: {prices_monthly['date'].min()} to "
      f"{prices_monthly['date'].max()}")
print(f"Number of stocks: {prices_monthly['symbol'].nunique():,}")
```

Table 7.2: Summary statistics of monthly stock returns by exchange. HOSE firms tend to have lower return dispersion and fewer extreme observations compared to HNX and UPCoM, consistent with their larger market capitalization and greater liquidity.

```
sample_stats = (
    prices_monthly
    .groupby("exchange")["ret_total"]
    .describe(percentiles=[0.05, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 0.95])
    .round(4)
)
sample_stats
```

```
print(f"Total observations: {len(prices_monthly):,}")
# print(f"Exchanges: {prices_monthly['exchange'].unique()}")
```

```
Sample period: 2010-02-28 00:00:00 to 2023-12-31 00:00:00
Number of stocks: 1,457
Total observations: 165,499
```

Table 7.2 provides summary statistics for the raw monthly returns, broken down by exchange. Differences across exchanges reflect the size and liquidity gradient: HOSE lists the largest and most liquid firms, HNX covers mid-cap companies, and UPCoM hosts smaller and more thinly traded securities.

7.4 Method 1: Cumulative Product via GroupBy

The most direct approach to compound returns uses the multiplicative property in Equation 7.2. For each security, we compute the cumulative product of gross returns $(1 + R_t)$ over the desired window.

```
def compute_cumret_cumprod(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                           group_col="symbol"):
    """Compute cumulative returns using cumulative product.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Must contain `group_col`, 'date', and `ret_col`.
```

```
    ret_col : str
        Column name for period returns.
    group_col : str
        Column name for grouping (e.g., security identifier).

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Original DataFrame augmented with 'cumret' and 'wealth_index'.
    """
    df = df.sort_values([group_col, "date"]).copy()
    df["gross_ret"] = 1 + df[ret_col]
    df["wealth_index"] = (
        df.groupby(group_col)["gross_ret"]
        .cumprod()
    )
    df["cumret"] = df["wealth_index"] - 1
    df.drop(columns=["gross_ret"], inplace=True)
    return df
```

Let us apply this to the full sample and examine the resulting wealth indices for a few selected stocks:

```
stock_cumret = compute_cumret_cumprod(prices_monthly)

# Select stocks with long histories for illustration
stock_counts = (
    stock_cumret.groupby("symbol")["date"]
    .count()
    .reset_index(name="n_obs")
)
long_history_stocks = (
    stock_counts.nlargest(5, "n_obs")["symbol"].tolist()
)

sample_wealth = stock_cumret[
    stock_cumret["symbol"].isin(long_history_stocks)
]
```

Figure 7.1 plots the wealth indices (value of 1 VND invested) for these five securities over the full sample period.

```
plot_wealth = (
    ggplot(sample_wealth, aes(x="date", y="wealth_index",
                              color="factor(symbol)")) +
    geom_line(size=0.6) +
    labs(
        x="", y="Wealth index (1 VND invested)",
        color="Stock"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(legend_position="bottom",
          figure_size=(10, 5))
)
plot_wealth.draw()
```

Figure 7.1: Wealth index (value of 1 VND invested) for selected long-history Vietnamese stocks. Each line represents the cumulative value of a 1 VND investment in a single stock, with all dividends reinvested. The divergence in terminal wealth illustrates the power of compounding over long horizons.

7.4.1 Handling Missing Returns

The cumulative product approach propagates missing values: if any R_t is `NaN`, the entire cumulative product from that point onward becomes `NaN`. This is conservative because it

effectively assumes that a missing return renders the subsequent wealth index undefined. In many applications, this is the desired behavior because a missing return may indicate a data error or a period during which the stock was not trading.

However, in the Vietnamese market, missing returns can arise from extended trading halts. The State Securities Commission (SSC) and exchanges may suspend trading in a stock for various regulatory reasons, such as financial reporting delays, pending corporate restructuring announcements, or suspected market manipulation. These halts can last days, weeks, or even months. During such halts, the stock's value has not changed (the last traded price remains the reference), so treating the missing return as zero (i.e., no price change) may be more appropriate than propagating `NaN`.

```
def compute_cumret_skipna(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                          group_col="symbol"):
    """Compute cumulative returns, treating missing returns as zero."""
    df = df.sort_values([group_col, "date"]).copy()
    df["gross_ret"] = 1 + df[ret_col].fillna(0)
    df["wealth_index"] = (
        df.groupby(group_col)["gross_ret"]
        .cumprod()
    )
    df["cumret"] = df["wealth_index"] - 1
    df.drop(columns=["gross_ret"], inplace=True)
    return df
```

> **Warning**
>
> Treating missing returns as zero is an assumption that may or may not be appropriate. If returns are missing because the stock was halted, zero may be reasonable. If returns are missing due to data errors or because the stock was genuinely not trading (e.g., awaiting relisting after a corporate event), imputing zero can introduce bias. Always investigate the reason for missing values before deciding on a treatment.

7.5 Method 2: Log-Sum-Exp Approach

The log-sum-exp method exploits the additive property of log returns (Equation 7.4). This approach is particularly useful when computing compound returns over fixed windows (e.g., annual returns from monthly data) because summation is both computationally efficient and numerically stable.

```python
def compute_cumret_logsum(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                          group_col="symbol",
                          date_col="date"):
    """Compute cumulative returns using the log-sum-exp approach.

    Steps:
    1. Transform to log returns: r_t = ln(1 + R_t)
    2. Cumulative sum of log returns within each group
    3. Exponentiate to recover simple cumulative return

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
    ret_col : str
    group_col : str
    date_col : str

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
    """
    df = df.sort_values([group_col, date_col]).copy()
    df["log_ret"] = np.log(1 + df[ret_col])
    df["cum_log_ret"] = (
        df.groupby(group_col)["log_ret"].cumsum()
    )
    df["wealth_index_log"] = np.exp(df["cum_log_ret"])
    df["cumret_log"] = df["wealth_index_log"] - 1
    df.drop(columns=["log_ret", "cum_log_ret"], inplace=True)
    return df
```

Let us verify that the two methods produce identical results (up to floating-point precision):

```python
stock_both = compute_cumret_cumprod(prices_monthly)
stock_both = compute_cumret_logsum(stock_both)

# Compare on non-missing observations
mask = (stock_both["cumret"].notna()
        & stock_both["cumret_log"].notna())
max_diff = (stock_both.loc[mask, "cumret"] -
            stock_both.loc[mask, "cumret_log"]).abs().max()
print(f"Maximum absolute difference between methods: {max_diff:.2e}")
```

```
Maximum absolute difference between methods: 1.78e-14
```

The difference is at the level of machine epsilon ($\approx 10^{-15}$), confirming numerical equivalence.

7.5.1 Period-Specific Compound Returns

A common task is to compute compound returns within calendar periods (months, quarters, years). The log-sum-exp approach lends itself naturally to grouped aggregation:

```python
def compound_return_by_period(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                              group_col="symbol",
                              period="year"):
    """Compute compound returns within calendar periods.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Must contain 'date' and `ret_col`.
    period : str
        One of 'year', 'quarter', 'month'.

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with compound returns per group-period.
    """
    df = df.copy()
    df["log_ret"] = np.log(1 + df[ret_col])
    if period == "year":
        df["period"] = df["date"].dt.year
    elif period == "quarter":
        df["period"] = df["date"].dt.to_period("Q")
    elif period == "month":
        df["period"] = df["date"].dt.to_period("M")

    result = (
        df.groupby([group_col, "period"])
        .agg(
            cumret=(
                "log_ret",
                lambda x: np.exp(x.sum()) - 1
            ),
```

```
            n_obs=("log_ret", "count"),
            n_miss=(ret_col, lambda x: x.isna().sum()),
            start_date=("date", "min"),
            end_date=("date", "max")
        )
        .reset_index()
    )
    return result
```

Table 7.3 shows annual compound returns for a subset of securities.

```
annual_returns = compound_return_by_period(
    prices_monthly[
        prices_monthly["symbol"].isin(long_history_stocks)
    ],
    period="year"
)

recent_annual = (
    annual_returns
    .sort_values(["symbol", "period"])
    .groupby("symbol")
    .tail(5)
    .round(4)
)
recent_annual.head(20)
```

```
/tmp/ipykernel_2230066/2619242959.py:13: UserWarning: obj.round has no effect with datetime,
```

Table 7.3: Annual compound returns for selected Vietnamese securities. The number of non-missing monthly observations (n_obs) and missing observations (n_miss) are reported to flag potentially incomplete years. A stock-year with n_obs substantially below 12 indicates either partial listing or extended trading halts.

	symbol	period	cumret	n_obs	n_miss	start_date	end_date
9	AAM	2019	-0.2810	12	0	2019-01-31	2019-12-31
10	AAM	2020	-0.1622	12	0	2020-01-31	2020-12-31
11	AAM	2021	0.1250	12	0	2021-01-31	2021-12-31
12	AAM	2022	-0.0913	12	0	2022-01-31	2022-12-31
13	AAM	2023	-0.2337	12	0	2023-01-31	2023-12-31

Table 7.3: Annual compound returns for selected Vietnamese securities. The number of non-missing monthly observations (n_obs) and missing observations (n_miss) are reported to flag potentially incomplete years. A stock-year with n_obs substantially below 12 indicates either partial listing or extended trading halts.

	symbol	period	cumret	n_obs	n_miss	start_date	end_date
23	ABI	2019	0.1946	12	0	2019-01-31	2019-12-31
24	ABI	2020	0.2418	12	0	2020-01-31	2020-12-31
25	ABI	2021	0.2896	12	0	2021-01-31	2021-12-31
26	ABI	2022	-0.5085	12	0	2022-01-31	2022-12-31
27	ABI	2023	-0.5042	12	0	2023-01-31	2023-12-31
37	ABT	2019	-0.1893	12	0	2019-01-31	2019-12-31
38	ABT	2020	-0.1400	12	0	2020-01-31	2020-12-31
39	ABT	2021	0.0842	12	0	2021-01-31	2021-12-31
40	ABT	2022	-0.0789	12	0	2022-01-31	2022-12-31
41	ABT	2023	-0.0768	12	0	2023-01-31	2023-12-31
51	ACC	2019	-0.1875	12	0	2019-01-31	2019-12-31
52	ACC	2020	-0.4923	12	0	2020-01-31	2020-12-31
53	ACC	2021	1.2339	12	0	2021-01-31	2021-12-31
54	ACC	2022	-0.8538	12	0	2022-01-31	2022-12-31
55	ACC	2023	0.1027	12	0	2023-01-31	2023-12-31

! Important

When the number of non-missing observations (`n_obs`) is less than 12 for an annual return, the compound return represents only a partial year. This commonly occurs in the first and last years of a security's listing on HOSE, HNX, or UPCoM, or when a stock transfers between exchanges (e.g., from UPCoM to HOSE upon meeting listing requirements). Users should decide whether to retain or exclude such partial-year observations depending on their research design.

7.6 Method 3: Iterative Compounding with Retain Logic

In some applications, we need fine-grained control over how missing values, delisting events, or other special conditions affect the compounding process. The iterative approach processes each observation sequentially, carrying forward the cumulative return and applying conditional logic at each step.

```python
def compute_cumret_iterative(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                             group_col="symbol",
                             handle_missing="carry"):
    """Compute cumulative returns iteratively with flexible
    missing value handling.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
    ret_col : str
    group_col : str
    handle_missing : str
        'carry' : treat missing as zero return (carry forward)
        'propagate' : propagate NaN (conservative)
        'reset' : reset wealth index to 1 after missing spell

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
    """
    df = df.sort_values([group_col, "date"]).copy()
    results = []

    for name, group in df.groupby(group_col):
        cumret = 1.0
        cumrets = []
        for _, row in group.iterrows():
            ret = row[ret_col]
            if pd.notna(ret):
                cumret = cumret * (1 + ret)
            else:
                if handle_missing == "propagate":
                    cumret = np.nan
                elif handle_missing == "reset":
                    cumret = 1.0
                # 'carry' does nothing (cumret unchanged)
            cumrets.append(cumret)
        group = group.copy()
        group["wealth_iter"] = cumrets
        group["cumret_iter"] = group["wealth_iter"] - 1
        results.append(group)
```

```
    return pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)
```

> **Note**
>
> The iterative method is the slowest of the four approaches because it cannot leverage NumPy's vectorized operations. For large datasets, prefer Method 1 or 2 unless the conditional logic in Method 3 is essential. On a dataset with 1 million observations, Method 1 runs in approximately 0.1 seconds versus 10+ seconds for Method 3.

7.6.1 Comparison of Missing Value Treatments

To illustrate how the three missing-value strategies differ, consider a hypothetical stock with one missing return in the middle of its history:

```
example = pd.DataFrame({
    "symbol": [1]*6,
    "date": pd.date_range("2024-01-31", periods=6, freq="ME"),
    "ret_total": [0.05, 0.03, np.nan, 0.04, -0.02, 0.06]
})

carry = compute_cumret_iterative(example, handle_missing="carry")
propagate = compute_cumret_iterative(
    example, handle_missing="propagate"
)
reset = compute_cumret_iterative(example, handle_missing="reset")

comparison = pd.DataFrame({
    "Date": example["date"].dt.strftime("%Y-%m"),
    "Return": example["ret_total"],
    "Carry": carry["cumret_iter"].round(6),
    "Propagate": propagate["cumret_iter"].round(6),
    "Reset": reset["cumret_iter"].round(6)
})
comparison
```

Table 7.4: Effect of different missing value treatments on cumulative returns. The 'carry' strategy assumes zero return for missing periods (appropriate for trading halts); 'propagate' makes all subsequent values undefined (conservative); 'reset' restarts the cumulative product after the missing spell.

	Date	Return	Carry	Propagate	Reset
0	2024-01	0.05	0.050000	0.0500	0.050000
1	2024-02	0.03	0.081500	0.0815	0.081500
2	2024-03	NaN	0.081500	NaN	0.000000
3	2024-04	0.04	0.124760	NaN	0.040000
4	2024-05	-0.02	0.102265	NaN	0.019200
5	2024-06	0.06	0.168401	NaN	0.080352

7.7 Method 4: Rolling Compound Returns

For many empirical applications, including momentum strategies, performance evaluation, and risk estimation, we need compound returns over rolling windows of fixed length. This section implements efficient rolling compounding using pandas.

7.7.1 Rolling Window via Log Returns

The most efficient approach combines the log-sum-exp method with rolling sums:

```
def rolling_compound_return(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                            group_col="symbol",
                            windows=[3, 6, 9, 12]):
    """Compute rolling compound returns over specified windows.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Must be sorted by [group_col, 'date'] with no gaps.
    ret_col : str
    group_col : str
    windows : list of int
        Rolling window lengths (in periods).

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with new columns ret_{k} for each window k.
```

```
    """
    df = df.sort_values([group_col, "date"]).copy()
    df["log_ret"] = np.log(1 + df[ret_col])

    for k in windows:
        rolling_logsum = (
            df.groupby(group_col)["log_ret"]
            .transform(
                lambda x: x.rolling(
                    window=k, min_periods=k
                ).sum()
            )
        )
        df[f"ret_{k}"] = np.exp(rolling_logsum) - 1

    df.drop(columns=["log_ret"], inplace=True)
    return df
```

We apply this to our full sample to compute 3-, 6-, 9-, and 12-month trailing compound returns:

```
stock_rolling = rolling_compound_return(
    prices_monthly,
    windows=[3, 6, 9, 12]
)
```

Let us also compute the same rolling returns for the market index, which serves as a benchmark for excess return calculations:

```
# Compute market rolling returns
market_monthly = (
    prices_monthly[["date", "mkt_total"]]
    .drop_duplicates()
    .sort_values("date")
    .copy()
)
market_monthly["log_mkt"] = np.log(1 + market_monthly["mkt_total"])

for k in [3, 6, 9, 12]:
    market_monthly[f"mkt_{k}"] = (
        np.exp(
            market_monthly["log_mkt"]
```

```
            .rolling(window=k, min_periods=k)
            .sum()
        ) - 1
    )

market_monthly.drop(columns=["log_mkt"], inplace=True)

# Merge market rolling returns back
stock_rolling = stock_rolling.merge(
    market_monthly[
        ["date"] + [f"mkt_{k}" for k in [3, 6, 9, 12]]
    ],
    on="date",
    how="left"
)
```

Figure 70.4 displays the distribution of 12-month rolling compound returns over time.

```
rolling_stats = (
    stock_rolling
    .dropna(subset=["ret_12"])
    .groupby("date")["ret_12"]
    .agg(["median", lambda x: x.quantile(0.25),
          lambda x: x.quantile(0.75)])
    .reset_index()
)
rolling_stats.columns = ["date", "median", "p25", "p75"]

plot_rolling = (
    ggplot(rolling_stats, aes(x="date")) +
    geom_ribbon(aes(ymin="p25", ymax="p75"),
                alpha=0.3, fill="#2166ac") +
    geom_line(aes(y="median"), color="#2166ac", size=0.7) +
    geom_hline(yintercept=0, linetype="dashed") +
    labs(x="", y="12-month compound return") +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
plot_rolling.draw()
```

Figure 7.2: Cross-sectional distribution of 12-month rolling compound returns for Vietnamese stocks over time. The shaded band represents the interquartile range (25th–75th percentiles), while the solid line shows the median. Sharp market-wide events—such as the 2008 global financial crisis and the 2020 COVID-19 shock—are visible as periods when even the median return turns sharply negative.

7.7.2 Verifying Rolling Returns

It is prudent to verify rolling compound returns against a direct calculation. We select one stock and recompute its 12-month return manually:

```
test_stock = long_history_stocks[0]
test_data = (
    stock_rolling[stock_rolling["symbol"] == test_stock]
    .sort_values("date")
    .tail(15)
    .copy()
)

# Direct computation
test_data["direct_ret_12"] = (
    test_data["ret_total"]
    .transform(
        lambda x: x.add(1).rolling(
            12, min_periods=12
        ).apply(np.prod, raw=True) - 1
    )
)

verify = (
    test_data[["date", "ret_12", "direct_ret_12"]]
    .dropna()
    .tail(5)
    .copy()
)
verify["difference"] = (
    verify["ret_12"] - verify["direct_ret_12"]
).abs()
verify.round(8)
```

```
/tmp/ipykernel_2230066/922053246.py:28: UserWarning: obj.round has no effect with datetime, t
```

Table 7.5: Verification of rolling compound return calculation. The 'Direct' column computes the product of the preceding 12 monthly gross returns minus one; 'Rolling' uses our log-sum-exp function. Differences are at machine precision.

	date	ret_12	direct_ret_12	difference
386	2023-09-30	-0.152407	-0.152407	0.0
387	2023-10-31	-0.208836	-0.208836	0.0
388	2023-11-30	-0.199018	-0.199018	0.0
389	2023-12-31	-0.233698	-0.233698	0.0

7.8 Delisting Returns and Survivorship Bias

A critical practical concern when computing compound returns is the treatment of securities that are removed from an exchange. Delisting occurs for various reasons: mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy, failure to meet listing requirements, voluntary withdrawal, or transfer to another exchange. If delisting returns are not incorporated, the resulting compound returns suffer from survivorship bias: they overstate performance because the worst outcomes (bankruptcies, forced delistings) are excluded (Shumway 1997).

7.8.1 The Vietnamese Context

In Vietnam, securities can be removed from their exchange listing for several reasons as specified by the SSC and exchange regulations:

- **Mandatory delisting**: when a firm has accumulated losses exceeding its charter capital, fails to meet financial reporting obligations for three consecutive years, or has its business license revoked.
- **Voluntary delisting**: when a firm's shareholders vote to withdraw from the exchange.
- **Transfer**: when a firm moves from UPCoM to HOSE/HNX (upgrade) or from HOSE/HNX to UPCoM (downgrade). These transfers are not true delistings in the economic sense but require careful handling in return calculations.

Unlike more developed markets where detailed delisting return data is systematically compiled, Vietnamese market data may not always provide an explicit delisting return. When a stock is delisted for cause (e.g., bankruptcy), the last traded price may significantly overstate the security's recovery value. Researchers should be aware of this limitation and consider imputing delisting returns based on the delisting reason, following the methodology of Shumway (1997).

7.8.2 Incorporating Delisting Returns

When a security is delisted, a final "delisting return" captures the value change between the last regular trading day and the realization of value after delisting. This return must be combined with the regular return in the delisting month:

$$R_t^{\text{adj}} = (1 + R_t)(1 + R_t^{\text{delist}}) - 1, \tag{7.12}$$

where R_t is the regular return and R_t^{delist} is the delisting return. If the regular return is missing (the stock ceased trading before month end), we use the delisting return alone.

```
def adjust_for_delisting(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                         dlret_col="dlret"):
    """Adjust returns for delisting events.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Must contain `ret_col` and `dlret_col`.

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with adjusted return column 'ret_adj'.
    """
    df = df.copy()
    df["ret_adj"] = df[ret_col]

    # Case 1: Both regular and delisting returns available
    mask_both = df[ret_col].notna() & df[dlret_col].notna()
    df.loc[mask_both, "ret_adj"] = (
        (1 + df.loc[mask_both, ret_col]) *
        (1 + df.loc[mask_both, dlret_col]) - 1
    )

    # Case 2: Only delisting return available
    mask_dlret_only = (
        df[ret_col].isna() & df[dlret_col].notna()
    )
    df.loc[mask_dlret_only, "ret_adj"] = (
        df.loc[mask_dlret_only, dlret_col]
    )
```

```
    return df
```

7.8.3 Impact of Delisting Adjustment

The magnitude of the delisting bias depends on the frequency and severity of delisting events. Shumway (1997) showed that, in developed markets, ignoring delisting returns introduces an upward bias of approximately 1% per year in equal-weighted portfolio returns. The bias is larger for small-cap stocks and value stocks, which are more prone to financial distress. In Vietnam, where smaller firms on HNX and UPCoM face tighter liquidity constraints and higher default risk, the bias may be even more pronounced. In emerging market delistings, mandatory delistings often involve firms with severe financial distress where residual equity value is near zero, implying delisting returns close to -100% in the worst cases.

7.9 Rolling Volatility Estimation

Stock return volatility is a key input for risk management, option pricing, and many empirical asset pricing models. A common approach is to estimate rolling standard deviations of returns over a trailing window.

7.9.1 24-Month Rolling Volatility

Following Itzhak Ben-David, Franzoni, and Moussawi (2012), we compute the total stock return volatility as the rolling standard deviation of monthly returns over a 24-month window:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{i,t}^{24} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{23}\sum_{j=0}^{23}(R_{i,t-j} - \bar{R}_{i,t}^{24})^2}, \tag{7.13}$$

where $\bar{R}_{i,t}^{24} = \frac{1}{24}\sum_{j=0}^{23} R_{i,t-j}$ is the trailing 24-month mean return.

```
def rolling_volatility(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                        group_col="symbol",
                        window=24):
    """Compute rolling return volatility.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
    ret_col : str
```

```
    group_col : str
    window : int
        Rolling window length in periods.

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with 'vol_{window}' column (annualized).
    """
    df = df.sort_values([group_col, "date"]).copy()
    df[f"vol_{window}"] = (
        df.groupby(group_col)[ret_col]
        .transform(
            lambda x: x.rolling(
                window=window, min_periods=window
            ).std()
        )
    )
    # Annualize (monthly to annual)
    df[f"vol_{window}_ann"] = df[f"vol_{window}"] * np.sqrt(12)
    return df
```

```
stock_vol = rolling_volatility(stock_rolling)
```

Figure 7.3 shows the cross-sectional distribution of annualized 24-month volatility over time.

```
vol_stats = (
    stock_vol
    .dropna(subset=["vol_24_ann"])
    .groupby("date")["vol_24_ann"]
    .agg(["median", lambda x: x.quantile(0.25),
           lambda x: x.quantile(0.75)])
    .reset_index()
)
vol_stats.columns = ["date", "median", "p25", "p75"]

plot_vol = (
    ggplot(vol_stats, aes(x="date")) +
    geom_ribbon(aes(ymin="p25", ymax="p75"),
                alpha=0.3, fill="#b2182b") +
    geom_line(aes(y="median"), color="#b2182b", size=0.7) +
    labs(x="", y="Annualized 24-month volatility") +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
```

```
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
plot_vol.draw()
```

Figure 7.3: Cross-sectional distribution of annualized 24-month rolling stock return volatility for Vietnamese equities. The median volatility (solid line) and interquartile range (shaded band) capture both secular trends and crisis episodes. Vietnamese stocks exhibit structurally higher volatility than developed-market peers, with the median annualized volatility typically ranging between 30% and 50%.

7.9.2 Volatility and Compound Returns: The Variance Drain

As noted in Equation 7.7, the geometric mean return falls below the arithmetic mean by approximately $\sigma^2/2$. This "variance drain" or "volatility drag" means that two portfolios with the same arithmetic mean return but different volatilities will have different compound returns: the lower-volatility portfolio will compound to greater terminal wealth.

This effect is quantitatively important in Vietnam. A stock with an arithmetic mean monthly return of 1.5% and a monthly standard deviation of 10% suffers a volatility drag of approximately $0.10^2/2 = 0.5\%$ per month, or roughly 6% per year. This is consistent with the observation that Vietnamese investors face substantial erosion of compound wealth from the high idiosyncratic volatility of individual stocks. We can verify this empirically by sorting stocks into volatility quintiles and comparing compound returns:

```python
annual_data = compound_return_by_period(
    prices_monthly, period="year"
)
annual_data = annual_data[annual_data["n_obs"] >= 10].copy()

vol_annual = (
    prices_monthly
    .groupby(["symbol", prices_monthly["date"].dt.year])[
        "ret_total"
    ]
    .agg(["std", "mean", "count"])
    .reset_index()
)
vol_annual.columns = ["symbol", "period", "monthly_std",
                      "monthly_mean", "n_months"]
vol_annual = vol_annual[vol_annual["n_months"] >= 10].copy()
vol_annual["ann_vol"] = vol_annual["monthly_std"] * np.sqrt(12)
vol_annual["arith_mean_ann"] = vol_annual["monthly_mean"] * 12

vol_analysis = annual_data.merge(
    vol_annual, on=["symbol", "period"]
)

vol_analysis["vol_quintile"] = (
    vol_analysis.groupby("period")["ann_vol"]
    .transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(
            x, 5, labels=[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], duplicates="drop"
        )
    )
)

vol_summary = (
    vol_analysis
    .groupby("vol_quintile")
    .agg(
        arithmetic_mean=("arith_mean_ann", "mean"),
        geometric_mean=("cumret", "mean"),
        avg_volatility=("ann_vol", "mean"),
        n_stockyears=("cumret", "count")
    )
    .round(4)
```

```
    .reset_index()
)
vol_summary
```

Table 7.6: Arithmetic mean, geometric mean, and volatility by volatility quintile for Vietnamese stocks. The difference between arithmetic and geometric mean increases with volatility, confirming the variance drain effect. The magnitude of the drag is notably large for the highest-volatility quintile, typical of small and illiquid stocks on HNX and UPCoM.

	vol_quintile	arithmetic_mean	geometric_mean	avg_volatility	n_stockyears
0	1	-0.0908	-0.0763	0.1887	2708
1	2	-0.0754	-0.0610	0.3312	2700
2	3	-0.0388	-0.0169	0.4493	2701
3	4	0.0404	0.0494	0.6005	2700
4	5	0.4411	0.3389	1.0288	2705

7.10 Compound Returns Around Fiscal Year Ends

A widely used approach in accounting and finance research aligns compound returns to firm-specific fiscal period end dates. This is essential for computing buy-and-hold abnormal returns (BHARs) for event studies, post-earnings-announcement drift, and other studies where the event date varies by firm.

In Vietnam, the majority of listed firms follow a calendar fiscal year (January–December), as required by the Law on Accounting unless the Ministry of Finance grants an exemption. However, firms in certain industries (e.g., agriculture, tourism) may use non-standard fiscal years ending in March, June, or September.

7.10.1 Aligning Returns to Fiscal Periods

The key challenge is that fiscal year ends differ across firms. We need to compute compound returns over windows anchored at these firm-specific dates.

```
def compound_returns_around_event(
    returns_df, events_df,
    id_col="symbol", date_col="date",
    event_date_col="datadate", ret_col="ret_total",
    pre_windows=[3, 6, 9, 12],
```

```
    post_windows=[3, 6]
):
    """Compute compound returns in windows around firm-specific
    event dates.

    Parameters
    ----------
    returns_df : pd.DataFrame
        Monthly returns with [id_col, date_col, ret_col].
    events_df : pd.DataFrame
        Event dates with [id_col, event_date_col].
    pre_windows : list of int
        Trailing window lengths (months before event).
    post_windows : list of int
        Forward window lengths (months after event).

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with compound returns for each window.
    """
    returns_df = returns_df.sort_values(
        [id_col, date_col]
    ).copy()
    events_df = events_df.copy()

    # Align event dates to month ends
    events_df["event_month"] = (
        pd.to_datetime(events_df[event_date_col])
        + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(0)
    )

    results = []

    for _, event in events_df.iterrows():
        sid = event[id_col]
        edate = event["event_month"]

        sec_rets = returns_df[
            returns_df[id_col] == sid
        ].copy()
        sec_rets = sec_rets.set_index(date_col)[ret_col]
```

```
        row = {id_col: sid,
               event_date_col: event[event_date_col]}

        # Pre-event compound returns
        for k in pre_windows:
            start = edate - pd.DateOffset(months=k-1)
            start = (start - pd.offsets.MonthEnd(0)
                     + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(0))
            window_rets = sec_rets[
                (sec_rets.index >= start)
                & (sec_rets.index <= edate)
            ]
            if len(window_rets) >= k * 0.8:
                cumret = (
                    np.exp(np.log(1 + window_rets).sum()) - 1
                )
            else:
                cumret = np.nan
            row[f"ret_pre_{k}"] = cumret

        # Post-event compound returns
        for k in post_windows:
            start = edate + pd.DateOffset(months=1)
            end = (edate + pd.DateOffset(months=k)
                   + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(0))
            window_rets = sec_rets[
                (sec_rets.index >= start)
                & (sec_rets.index <= end)
            ]
            if len(window_rets) >= k * 0.8:
                cumret = (
                    np.exp(np.log(1 + window_rets).sum()) - 1
                )
            else:
                cumret = np.nan
            row[f"ret_post_{k}"] = cumret

        results.append(row)

    return pd.DataFrame(results)
```

7.10.2 Buy-and-Hold Abnormal Returns versus Cumulative Abnormal Returns

For event studies and performance evaluation, we often want the **excess** compound return, which is the stock's compound return minus a benchmark's compound return over the same window. The buy-and-hold abnormal return (BHAR) is defined as

$$\mathrm{BHAR}_{i,t}(k) = \prod_{j=1}^{k}(1 + R_{i,t+j}) - \prod_{j=1}^{k}(1 + R_{b,t+j}), \tag{7.14}$$

where $R_{b,t}$ is the benchmark return (market index, size-matched portfolio, etc.). This differs from the cumulative abnormal return (CAR), which sums simple abnormal returns:

$$\mathrm{CAR}_{i,t}(k) = \sum_{j=1}^{k}(R_{i,t+j} - R_{b,t+j}). \tag{7.15}$$

The BHAR better captures the actual investor experience because it reflects the compounding of returns, whereas the CAR implicitly assumes daily rebalancing to maintain equal dollar positions in the stock and benchmark (Barber and Lyon 1997). The distinction is particularly important in Vietnam, where individual stock returns can be highly volatile and the compounding effect is therefore magnified. Lyon, Barber, and Tsai (1999) provide further analysis of the statistical properties of BHARs and recommend bootstrapped critical values for inference.

```python
def compute_bhar(stock_returns, benchmark_returns):
    """Compute buy-and-hold abnormal return.

    Parameters
    ----------
    stock_returns : array-like
        Sequence of stock returns.
    benchmark_returns : array-like
        Sequence of benchmark returns (same length).

    Returns
    -------
    float : BHAR
    """
    stock_cumret = (
        np.prod(1 + np.array(stock_returns)) - 1
    )
    bench_cumret = (
        np.prod(1 + np.array(benchmark_returns)) - 1
```

```
    )
    return stock_cumret - bench_cumret
```

7.11 Book Value of Equity

Many empirical applications that use compound returns also require firm-level accounting variables. A commonly used variable is the book value of equity, computed following Daniel and Titman (1997):

$$\mathrm{BE} = \mathrm{SE} + \mathrm{DT} + \mathrm{ITC} - \mathrm{PS}, \tag{7.16}$$

where SE is stockholders' equity, DT is deferred taxes, ITC is investment tax credit, and PS is the preferred stock value. For preferred stock, the hierarchy is: redemption value if available, then liquidating value, then carrying value.

In Vietnam, the accounting standards (Vietnamese Accounting Standards, VAS, and increasingly IFRS adoption) provide a somewhat different chart of accounts. Stockholders' equity is reported on the balance sheet as *Vốn chủ sở hữu*, which includes contributed capital (*Vốn góp của chủ sở hữu*), share premium (*Thặng dư vốn cổ phần*), treasury stock adjustments, retained earnings (*Lợi nhuận sau thuế chưa phân phối*), and other reserves. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are reported separately. Preferred stock is rare among Vietnamese listed firms (most issue only common shares), but when present, its book value should be subtracted from total equity.

```
def compute_book_equity(df):
    """Compute book value of equity for Vietnamese firms.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Must contain at minimum: equity (stockholders' equity),
        deferred_tax (deferred tax liabilities, net),
        pref_stock (preferred stock, if applicable).

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with 'be' column.
    """
    df = df.copy()
    df["pref"] = df.get(
        "pref_stock", pd.Series(0, index=df.index)
```

```
    )
    df["dt"] = df.get(
        "deferred_tax", pd.Series(0, index=df.index)
    )
    df["be"] = (
        df["equity"].fillna(0)
        + df["dt"].fillna(0)
        - df["pref"].fillna(0)
    )
    # Set non-positive book equity to NaN
    df.loc[df["be"] <= 0, "be"] = np.nan
    return df
```

7.12 Maximum Drawdown

The maximum drawdown is a key risk metric that complements volatility. While volatility measures the dispersion of returns symmetrically, the maximum drawdown captures the worst cumulative loss an investor could experience: a measure that aligns more closely with how investors psychologically experience risk (Kahneman and Tversky 2013).

```
def compute_max_drawdown(df, ret_col="ret_total",
                         group_col="symbol"):
    """Compute maximum drawdown for each security.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
    ret_col : str
    group_col : str

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with 'max_drawdown' and running drawdown.
    """
    df = df.sort_values([group_col, "date"]).copy()
    df["gross_ret"] = 1 + df[ret_col]
    df["wealth"] = (
        df.groupby(group_col)["gross_ret"].cumprod()
    )
    df["peak"] = df.groupby(group_col)["wealth"].cummax()
    df["drawdown"] = (
```

```
        (df["wealth"] - df["peak"]) / df["peak"]
    )

    max_dd = (
        df.groupby(group_col)["drawdown"]
        .min()
        .reset_index(name="max_drawdown")
    )
    df = df.merge(max_dd, on=group_col)
    df.drop(columns=["gross_ret"], inplace=True)
    return df
```

Figure 70.7 illustrates the drawdown profile for a selected stock.

```
dd_data = compute_max_drawdown(
    prices_monthly[
        prices_monthly["symbol"] == long_history_stocks[0]
    ]
)
mdd = dd_data["max_drawdown"].iloc[0]

plot_dd = (
    ggplot(dd_data, aes(x="date", y="drawdown")) +
    geom_area(fill="#b2182b", alpha=0.4) +
    geom_line(color="#b2182b", size=0.5) +
    geom_hline(yintercept=mdd, linetype="dashed") +
    labs(x="", y="Drawdown from peak") +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 4))
)
plot_dd.draw()
```

7.13 Putting It All Together: A Comprehensive Pipeline

We now combine all the methods into a single pipeline that produces a research-ready dataset with rolling compound returns, market returns, volatility, and drawdown measures.

Figure 7.4: Drawdown profile for a selected Vietnamese stock showing the percentage decline from each running peak. The maximum drawdown (horizontal dashed line) represents the worst peak-to-trough loss over the full sample. Vietnamese stocks frequently exhibit drawdowns exceeding 50%, reflecting the market's high volatility and susceptibility to sentiment-driven corrections.

```
def build_compound_return_dataset(
    stock_df, windows=[3, 6, 9, 12], vol_window=24
):
    """Build comprehensive compound return dataset.

    Parameters
    ----------
    stock_df : pd.DataFrame
        Monthly stock return data with columns:
        symbol, date, ret_total, mkt_total.
    windows : list of int
        Rolling compound return windows.
    vol_window : int
        Rolling volatility window.

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
    """
    df = stock_df.sort_values(["symbol", "date"]).copy()

    # Step 1: Log returns
```

```python
    df["log_ret"] = np.log(1 + df["ret_total"])
    df["log_mkt"] = np.log(1 + df["mkt_total"])

    # Step 2: Rolling compound returns (stock and market)
    for k in windows:
        df[f"ret_{k}"] = np.exp(
            df.groupby("symbol")["log_ret"]
            .transform(
                lambda x: x.rolling(k, min_periods=k).sum()
            )
        ) - 1

        df[f"mkt_{k}"] = np.exp(
            df["log_mkt"]
            .rolling(k, min_periods=k)
            .sum()
        ) - 1

        # Excess compound return (BHAR vs market)
        df[f"exret_{k}"] = df[f"ret_{k}"] - df[f"mkt_{k}"]

    # Step 3: Cumulative return (full history)
    df["wealth"] = (
        df.groupby("symbol")["log_ret"]
        .cumsum()
        .apply(np.exp)
    )
    df["cumret"] = df["wealth"] - 1

    # Step 4: Rolling volatility
    df[f"vol_{vol_window}"] = (
        df.groupby("symbol")["ret_total"]
        .transform(
            lambda x: x.rolling(
                vol_window, min_periods=vol_window
            ).std()
        )
    ) * np.sqrt(12)  # annualize

    # Step 5: Drawdown
    df["peak"] = df.groupby("symbol")["wealth"].cummax()
    df["drawdown"] = (df["wealth"] - df["peak"]) / df["peak"]
```

```
    # Clean up
    df.drop(
        columns=["log_ret", "log_mkt", "peak"], inplace=True
    )

    return df
```

```
# Build the full dataset
compound_dataset = build_compound_return_dataset(prices_monthly)
```

Table 7.7 provides summary statistics for the key variables in our compound return dataset.

```
summary_cols = ["ret_total", "ret_3", "ret_6", "ret_12",
                "exret_3", "exret_12", "vol_24", "drawdown"]
available_cols = [c for c in summary_cols
                  if c in compound_dataset.columns]

summary = (
    compound_dataset[available_cols]
    .describe(percentiles=[0.05, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 0.95])
    .T
    .round(4)
)
summary
```

Table 7.7: Summary statistics for compound return variables across all Vietnamese stock-month observations. Returns are in decimal form (0.10 = 10%). The wide dispersion of 12-month compound returns and the high median volatility reflect the emerging market characteristics of the Vietnamese equity market.

	count	mean	std	min	5%	25%	50%	75%	95%	max
ret_total	165499.0	0.0042	0.1862	-0.9900	-0.2381	-0.0703	0.0000	0.0553	0.2773	12.7500
ret_3	162586.0	0.0094	0.3393	-0.9999	-0.3889	-0.1436	-0.0126	0.0987	0.5000	27.2911
ret_6	158227.0	0.0171	0.5053	-0.9999	-0.5095	-0.2196	-0.0400	0.1404	0.7320	35.7136
ret_12	149520.0	0.0375	0.8136	-0.9999	-0.6522	-0.3191	-0.0877	0.1807	1.0767	47.9515
exret_3	153637.0	0.0385	0.3343	-1.1691	-0.3420	-0.1163	0.0067	0.1378	0.4992	27.3041
exret_12	140571.0	0.1401	0.8031	-1.5858	-0.5388	-0.2003	0.0281	0.2880	1.1119	48.0488
vol_24	132233.0	0.5493	0.3488	0.0000	0.2070	0.3445	0.4827	0.6737	1.0739	9.1792
drawdown	165499.0	-0.5927	0.2975	-1.0000	-0.9631	-0.8501	-0.6616	-0.3725	0.0000	0.0000

7.14 Cross-Sectional Distribution of Compound Returns

To understand how compound returns vary across securities, we examine the cross-sectional distribution at different horizons.

```
horizon_data = pd.DataFrame()
for k in [3, 6, 12]:
    col = f"ret_{k}"
    temp = compound_dataset[[col]].dropna().copy()
    temp.columns = ["compound_return"]
    temp["horizon"] = f"{k} months"
    lo, hi = temp["compound_return"].quantile([0.01, 0.99])
    temp = temp[
        (temp["compound_return"] >= lo)
        & (temp["compound_return"] <= hi)
    ]
    horizon_data = pd.concat([horizon_data, temp])

plot_horizons = (
    ggplot(horizon_data,
           aes(x="compound_return", fill="horizon")) +
    geom_density(alpha=0.4) +
    geom_vline(xintercept=0, linetype="dashed") +
    labs(x="Compound return", y="Density", fill="Horizon") +
    scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(legend_position="bottom",
          figure_size=(10, 5))
)
plot_horizons.draw()
```

7.15 Vietnam-Specific Considerations

7.15.1 Price Limits and Their Effect on Compounding

Vietnam's stock exchanges impose daily price limits that cap the maximum price change from the reference price. As of the latest regulations:

- **HOSE**: $\pm 7\%$
- **HNX**: $\pm 10\%$

Figure 7.5: Cross-sectional distribution of compound returns at different horizons (3, 6, and 12 months) for Vietnamese stocks. Longer horizons exhibit greater dispersion and more pronounced right skewness, reflecting the compounding of idiosyncratic risk. The fat tails are more extreme than those typically observed in developed markets, consistent with the higher volatility environment.

- **UPCoM**: $\pm 15\%$

These limits truncate the daily return distribution and can create sequences of limit-hit days when large information events occur. For compound return computation, this means that the adjustment to new information may be spread over multiple days rather than occurring instantaneously. When computing monthly compound returns from daily data, this is handled correctly because the compound return accumulates the full adjustment regardless of how many days it takes.

However, price limits can introduce bias in short-horizon return computations. If a large positive event occurs and the stock hits the limit-up ceiling for several consecutive days, the 1-day or 1-week compound return will understate the true information content of the event (K. A. Kim, Liu, and Yang 2013). For event study applications, researchers should verify that the event window is long enough to accommodate the price-limit-induced delay in price adjustment.

7.15.2 Foreign Ownership Limits

Vietnam imposes foreign ownership limits (FOL) on listed companies, typically capped at 49% for most industries and lower (30% or less) for certain restricted sectors such as banking and telecommunications. When a stock reaches its FOL, foreign investors can only purchase shares from other foreign sellers, creating a parallel premium market for foreign-board shares. This does not directly affect the computation of compound returns (which use official traded prices), but researchers studying cross-border portfolio returns should be aware that the effective price paid by foreign investors may differ from the board price (X. V. Vo 2017).

7.15.3 The VN-Index and Market Benchmarks

For benchmark compound returns, Vietnam's primary indices are:

- **VN-Index**: The capitalization-weighted index of all HOSE-listed stocks.
- **VN30**: The 30 largest and most liquid stocks on HOSE, reviewed semi-annually.
- **HNX-Index**: The capitalization-weighted index of HNX-listed stocks.

The VN-Index is the most widely used benchmark and is the default market return in our dataset.

7.16 Performance Considerations

When working with large datasets, computational efficiency matters. Table 7.8 compares the execution time of our four compounding methods on a standardized dataset.

```
import time

np.random.seed(42)
n_stocks = 100
n_months = 100
test_df = pd.DataFrame({
    "symbol": np.repeat(range(n_stocks), n_months),
    "date": np.tile(
        pd.date_range("2015-01-31", periods=n_months,
                      freq="ME"),
        n_stocks
    ),
    "ret_total": np.random.normal(
        0.01, 0.08, n_stocks * n_months
    )
})

methods = {}

t0 = time.time()
_ = compute_cumret_cumprod(test_df)
methods["Cumulative Product"] = time.time() - t0

t0 = time.time()
_ = compute_cumret_logsum(test_df)
methods["Log-Sum-Exp"] = time.time() - t0

t0 = time.time()
_ = compute_cumret_iterative(test_df)
methods["Iterative (carry)"] = time.time() - t0

t0 = time.time()
_ = rolling_compound_return(test_df, windows=[12])
methods["Rolling (12-month)"] = time.time() - t0

perf_df = pd.DataFrame({
    "Method": methods.keys(),
```

```
    "Time (seconds)": [f"{v:.4f}" for v in methods.values()],
    "Relative Speed": [
        f"{v/min(methods.values()):.1f}x"
        for v in methods.values()
    ]
})
perf_df
```

Table 7.8: Execution time comparison for different compounding methods on a dataset of 10,000 stock-month observations. The cumulative product and log-sum-exp methods are orders of magnitude faster than the iterative approach due to NumPy vectorization.

	Method	Time (seconds)	Relative Speed
0	Cumulative Product	0.0043	1.0x
1	Log-Sum-Exp	0.0044	1.0x
2	Iterative (carry)	0.5345	125.7x
3	Rolling (12-month)	0.0228	5.4x

7.17 Common Pitfalls and Best Practices

Several subtle issues can lead to incorrect compound return calculations. We summarize the most important ones:

Gaps in the time series. If a security has months with no observations (not even a missing return flag), rolling window calculations based on positional indexing will produce incorrect results. The rolling window will span the wrong calendar period. Always ensure that the time series is complete, fill gaps with explicit missing values before computing rolling statistics. This is particularly relevant in Vietnam, where trading suspensions can create gaps.

Survivorship bias. As discussed in the delisting returns section, excluding securities that cease trading biases compound returns upward. Always incorporate delisting returns when available. When delisting returns are unavailable (as is sometimes the case in Vietnamese data), consider using imputed values based on the delisting reason.

Look-ahead bias. When aligning compound returns to fiscal year ends for cross-sectional analysis, be careful not to use returns from before the fiscal year end to predict post-announcement returns. Vietnamese firms are required to publish audited annual financial statements within 90 days of the fiscal year end, so a buffer of at least 3 months is advisable when constructing forward-looking compound returns.

Numerical overflow and underflow. For very long compounding horizons or extreme returns, the cumulative product can overflow (`inf`) or underflow (0). The log-sum-exp approach

is more robust to such numerical issues because it operates in log space where the range is compressed.

Annualization of partial periods. When computing annualized returns from partial-period data (e.g., 7 months of data annualized to 12), the annualization formula $(1 + R)^{12/k} - 1$ assumes that the observed return rate will persist. This assumption is stronger for short partial periods and can produce misleading results. Report the actual compound return and the number of periods alongside any annualized figures.

Exchange transfers. In Vietnam, stocks sometimes transfer between UPCoM, HNX, and HOSE. These transfers may involve temporary trading halts and can cause apparent gaps in the return series. When computing compound returns that span an exchange transfer, ensure that the return series is continuous across the transfer date.

Part II

Portfolio Construction, Risk, and Empirical Mechanics

8 Modern Portfolio Theory

In the previous chapter, we showed how to download and analyze stock market data with figures and summary statistics. Now, we turn to one of the most fundamental questions in finance: How should an investor allocate their wealth across assets that differ in expected returns, variance, and correlations to optimize their portfolio's performance?

This question might seem straightforward at first glance. Why not simply invest everything in the asset with the highest expected return? The answer lies in a profound insight that transformed financial economics: **risk matters, and it can be managed through diversification**.

Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT), introduced by Markowitz (1952), revolutionized investment decision-making by formalizing the trade-off between risk and expected return. Before Markowitz, investors largely thought about risk on a security-by-security basis. Markowitz's genius was recognizing that what matters is not the risk of individual securities in isolation, but how they contribute to the risk of the *entire portfolio*. This insight was so influential that it earned him the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in 1990 and laid the foundation for much of modern finance.

8.0.1 The Core Insight: Diversification as a Free Lunch

MPT relies on a crucial mathematical fact: portfolio risk depends not only on individual asset volatilities but also on the *correlations* between asset returns. This insight reveals the power of diversification—combining assets whose returns don't move in perfect lockstep can reduce overall portfolio risk without necessarily sacrificing expected return.

Consider a simple analogy: Imagine you run a business selling both sunscreen and umbrellas. On sunny days, sunscreen sales boom but umbrella sales suffer; on rainy days, the reverse happens. By selling both products, your total revenue becomes more stable than if you sold only one. The "correlation" between sunscreen and umbrella sales is negative, and combining them reduces the variance of your overall income. This is precisely the logic behind portfolio diversification.

The fruit basket analogy offers another perspective: If all you have are apples and they spoil, you lose everything. With a variety of fruits, some may spoil, but others will stay fresh. Diversification provides insurance against the idiosyncratic risks of individual assets.

8.0.2 The Mean-Variance Framework

At the heart of MPT is **mean-variance analysis**, which evaluates portfolios based on two dimensions:

1. **Expected return (mean)**: The anticipated average profit from holding the portfolio
2. **Risk (variance)**: The dispersion of possible returns around the expected value

The key assumption is that investors care only about these two moments of the return distribution. This assumption is exactly correct if returns are normally distributed, or if investors have quadratic utility functions. Even when these conditions don't hold precisely, mean-variance analysis often provides a good approximation to optimal portfolio choice.

By balancing expected return and risk, investors can construct portfolios that either maximize expected return for a given level of risk, or minimize risk for a desired level of expected return. In this chapter, we derive these optimal portfolio decisions analytically and implement the mean-variance approach computationally.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import tidyfinance as tf

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format
from adjustText import adjust_text
```

8.1 The Asset Universe: Setting Up the Problem

Suppose N different risky assets are available to the investor. Each asset i is characterized by:

- **Expected return** μ_i: The anticipated profit from holding the asset for one period
- **Variance** σ_i^2: The dispersion of returns around the mean
- **Covariances** σ_{ij}: The degree to which asset i's returns move together with asset j's returns

The investor chooses **portfolio weights** ω_i for each asset i. These weights represent the fraction of total wealth invested in each asset. We impose the constraint that weights sum to one:

$$\sum_{i=1}^{N} \omega_i = 1$$

This "budget constraint" ensures that the investor is fully invested—there is no outside option such as keeping money under a mattress. Note that we allow weights to be negative (short selling) or greater than one (leverage), though in practice these positions may face constraints.

8.1.1 The Two Stages of Portfolio Selection

According to Markowitz (1952), portfolio selection involves two distinct stages:

1. **Estimation**: Forming expectations about future security performance based on observations, experience, and economic reasoning
2. **Optimization**: Using these expectations to choose an optimal portfolio

In practice, these stages cannot be fully separated. The estimation stage determines the inputs (μ, Σ) that feed into the optimization stage. Poor estimation leads to poor portfolio choices, regardless of how sophisticated the optimization procedure.

To keep things conceptually clear, we focus primarily on the optimization stage in this chapter. We treat the expected returns and variance-covariance matrix as known, using historical data to compute reasonable proxies. In later chapters, we address the substantial challenges that arise from estimation uncertainty.

8.1.2 Loading and Preparing the Data

We work with the VN30 index constituents—the 30 largest and most liquid stocks on Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange. This provides a realistic asset universe for a domestic Vietnamese investor.

```
vn30_symbols = [
    "ACB","BCM","BID","BVH","CTG","FPT","GAS","GVR","HDB","HPG",
    "MBB","MSN","MWG","PLX","POW","SAB","SHB","SSB","STB","TCB",
    "TPB","VCB","VHM","VIB","VIC","VJC","VNM","VPB","VRE","EIB"
]
```

We load the historical price data:

```
import pandas as pd
from io import BytesIO
import datetime as dt
import os
import boto3
from botocore.client import Config
```

```python
class ConnectMinio:
    def __init__(self):
        self.MINIO_ENDPOINT = os.environ["MINIO_ENDPOINT"]
        self.MINIO_ACCESS_KEY = os.environ["MINIO_ACCESS_KEY"]
        self.MINIO_SECRET_KEY = os.environ["MINIO_SECRET_KEY"]
        self.REGION = os.getenv("MINIO_REGION", "us-east-1")

        self.s3 = boto3.client(
            "s3",
            endpoint_url=self.MINIO_ENDPOINT,
            aws_access_key_id=self.MINIO_ACCESS_KEY,
            aws_secret_access_key=self.MINIO_SECRET_KEY,
            region_name=self.REGION,
            config=Config(signature_version="s3v4"),
        )

    def test_connection(self):
        resp = self.s3.list_buckets()
        print("Connected. Buckets:")
        for b in resp.get("Buckets", []):
            print(" -", b["Name"])

conn = ConnectMinio()
s3 = conn.s3
conn.test_connection()

bucket_name = os.environ["MINIO_BUCKET"]

prices = pd.read_csv(
    BytesIO(
        s3.get_object(
            Bucket=bucket_name,
            Key="historycal_price/dataset_historical_price.csv"
        )["Body"].read()
    ),
    low_memory=False
)

prices["date"] = pd.to_datetime(prices["date"])
prices["adjusted_close"] = prices["close_price"] * prices["adj_ratio"]
prices = prices.rename(columns={
    "vol_total": "volume",
```

```
    "open_price": "open",
    "low_price": "low",
    "high_price": "high",
    "close_price": "close"
})
prices = prices.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
```

```
Connected. Buckets:
 - dsteam-data
 - rawbctc
```

We filter to keep only the VN30 constituents:

```
prices_daily = prices[prices["symbol"].isin(vn30_symbols)]
prices_daily[["date", "symbol", "adjusted_close"]].head(3)
```

	date	symbol	adjusted_close
18176	2010-01-04	ACB	329.408244
18177	2010-01-05	ACB	329.408244
18178	2010-01-06	ACB	320.258015

8.1.3 Computing Expected Returns

The sample mean return serves as our proxy for expected returns. For each asset i, we compute:

$$\hat{\mu}_i = \frac{1}{T}\sum_{t=1}^{T} r_{i,t}$$

where $r_{i,t}$ is the return of asset i in period t, and T is the total number of periods.

Why monthly returns? While daily data provides more observations, monthly returns offer several advantages for portfolio optimization. First, monthly returns are less noisy and exhibit weaker serial correlation. Second, monthly rebalancing is more realistic for most investors, avoiding excessive transaction costs. Third, the estimation error in mean returns is already substantial—using daily data doesn't materially improve the precision of mean estimates because the mean return scales with the horizon while estimation error scales with the square root of observations.

```
returns_monthly = (prices_daily
  .assign(
    date=prices_daily["date"].dt.to_period("M").dt.to_timestamp()
  )
  .groupby(["symbol", "date"], as_index=False)
  .agg(adjusted_close=("adjusted_close", "last"))
  .assign(
    ret=lambda x: x.groupby("symbol")["adjusted_close"].pct_change()
  )
)
```

8.1.4 Computing Volatilities

Individual asset risk in MPT is quantified using variance (σ_i^2) or its square root, the standard deviation or volatility (σ_i). We use the sample standard deviation as our proxy:

$$\hat{\sigma}_i = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T-1}\sum_{t=1}^{T}(r_{i,t} - \hat{\mu}_i)^2}$$

Alternative risk measures exist, including Value-at-Risk, Expected Shortfall, and higher-order moments such as skewness and kurtosis. However, variance remains the workhorse measure in portfolio theory because of its mathematical tractability and the central role of the normal distribution in finance.

```
assets = (returns_monthly
  .groupby("symbol", as_index=False)
  .agg(
    mu=("ret", "mean"),
    sigma=("ret", "std")
  )
)
```

8.1.5 Visualizing the Risk-Return Trade-off

Figure 8.1 displays each asset's expected return (vertical axis) against its volatility (horizontal axis). This "mean-standard deviation" space is fundamental to portfolio theory.

```
assets_figure = (
  ggplot(
    assets,
    aes(x="sigma", y="mu", label="symbol")
  )
  + geom_point()
  + geom_text(adjust_text={"arrowprops": {"arrowstyle": "-"}})
  + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + labs(
      x="Volatility (Standard Deviation)",
      y="Expected Return",
      title="Expected returns and volatilities of VN30 index constituents"
  )
)
assets_figure.show()
```

Figure 8.1: Expected returns and volatilities based on monthly returns adjusted for dividend payments and stock splits.

Several observations emerge from this figure. First, there is substantial heterogeneity in both expected returns and volatilities across stocks. Second, the relationship between risk and return

is far from linear. Some high-volatility stocks have low or even negative expected returns. Third, most individual stocks appear to offer poor risk-return trade-offs. As we will see, portfolios can substantially improve upon these individual positions.

8.2 The Variance-Covariance Matrix: Capturing Asset Interactions

8.2.1 Why Correlations Matter

A key innovation of MPT is recognizing that portfolio risk depends critically on how assets move together. The **variance-covariance matrix** Σ captures all pairwise interactions between asset returns.

To understand why correlations matter, consider the variance of a two-asset portfolio:

$$\sigma_p^2 = \omega_1^2\sigma_1^2 + \omega_2^2\sigma_2^2 + 2\omega_1\omega_2\sigma_{12}$$

The third term involves the covariance $\sigma_{12} = \rho_{12}\sigma_1\sigma_2$, where ρ_{12} is the correlation coefficient. When $\rho_{12} < 1$, the portfolio variance is *less* than the weighted average of individual variances. When $\rho_{12} < 0$, the diversification benefit is even more pronounced.

This mathematical fact has profound implications: **You can reduce risk without reducing expected return** by combining assets that don't move perfectly together. This is sometimes called the "only free lunch in finance."

8.2.2 Computing the Variance-Covariance Matrix

We compute the sample covariance matrix as:

$$\hat{\sigma}_{ij} = \frac{1}{T-1}\sum_{t=1}^{T}(r_{i,t} - \hat{\mu}_i)(r_{j,t} - \hat{\mu}_j)$$

First, we reshape the returns data into a wide format with assets as columns:

```
returns_wide = (returns_monthly
  .pivot(index="date", columns="symbol", values="ret")
  .reset_index()
)

sigma = (returns_wide
  .drop(columns=["date"])
  .cov()
)
```

8.2.3 Interpreting the Variance-Covariance Matrix

The diagonal elements of Σ are the variances of individual assets. The off-diagonal elements are covariances, which can be positive (assets tend to move together), negative (assets tend to move in opposite directions), or zero (no linear relationship).

For easier interpretation, we often convert covariances to correlations:

$$\rho_{ij} = \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{\sigma_i \sigma_j}$$

Correlations are bounded between -1 and +1, making them easier to compare across asset pairs.

Figure 8.2 visualizes the variance-covariance matrix as a heatmap.

```
sigma_long = (sigma
  .reset_index()
  .melt(id_vars="symbol", var_name="symbol_b", value_name="value")
)

sigma_long["symbol_b"] = pd.Categorical(
  sigma_long["symbol_b"],
  categories=sigma_long["symbol_b"].unique()[::-1],
  ordered=True
)

sigma_figure = (
  ggplot(
    sigma_long,
    aes(x="symbol", y="symbol_b", fill="value")
  )
  + geom_tile()
  + labs(
      x="", y="", fill="(Co-)Variance",
      title="Sample variance-covariance matrix of VN30 index constituents"
    )
  + scale_fill_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + theme(axis_text_x=element_text(angle=45, hjust=1))
)
sigma_figure.show()
```

Figure 8.2: Variances and covariances based on monthly returns adjusted for dividend payments and stock splits.

The heatmap reveals important patterns. The diagonal (variances) shows which stocks are most volatile. The off-diagonal patterns show which pairs of stocks tend to move together. In general, stocks within the same sector tend to have higher correlations with each other than with stocks from different sectors.

8.3 The Minimum-Variance Portfolio

8.3.1 Motivation: Risk Minimization as a Benchmark

Before considering expected returns, let's find the portfolio that minimizes risk entirely. This **minimum-variance portfolio (MVP)** serves as an important benchmark and reference point. It represents what an extremely risk-averse investor—one who cares only about minimizing volatility—would choose.

8.3.2 The Optimization Problem

The minimum-variance investor solves:

$$\min_{\omega} \omega' \Sigma \omega$$

subject to the constraint that weights sum to one:

$$\omega' \iota = 1$$

where ι is an $N \times 1$ vector of ones.

In words: minimize portfolio variance, subject to being fully invested.

8.3.3 The Analytical Solution

This is a classic constrained optimization problem that can be solved using Lagrange multipliers. The Lagrangian is:

$$\mathcal{L} = \omega' \Sigma \omega - \lambda(\omega' \iota - 1)$$

Taking the first-order condition with respect to ω:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \omega} = 2\Sigma\omega - \lambda\iota = 0$$

Solving for ω:

$$\omega = \frac{\lambda}{2}\Sigma^{-1}\iota$$

Using the constraint $\omega' \iota = 1$ to solve for λ:

$$\frac{\lambda}{2}\iota'\Sigma^{-1}\iota = 1 \implies \frac{\lambda}{2} = \frac{1}{\iota'\Sigma^{-1}\iota}$$

Substituting back:

$$\omega_{\text{mvp}} = \frac{\Sigma^{-1}\iota}{\iota'\Sigma^{-1}\iota}$$

This elegant formula shows that the minimum-variance weights depend only on the covariance matrix—expected returns play no role. The inverse covariance matrix Σ^{-1} determines how much to invest in each asset based on its variance and its covariances with all other assets.

8.3.4 Implementation

```
iota = np.ones(sigma.shape[0])
sigma_inv = np.linalg.inv(sigma.values)
omega_mvp = (sigma_inv @ iota) / (iota @ sigma_inv @ iota)
```

8.3.5 Visualizing the Minimum-Variance Weights

Figure 8.3 displays the portfolio weights of the minimum-variance portfolio.

```
assets = assets.assign(omega_mvp=omega_mvp)

assets["symbol"] = pd.Categorical(
  assets["symbol"],
  categories=assets.sort_values("omega_mvp")["symbol"],
  ordered=True
)

omega_figure = (
  ggplot(
    assets,
    aes(y="omega_mvp", x="symbol", fill="omega_mvp>0")
  )
  + geom_col()
  + coord_flip()
  + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + labs(
      x="",
      y="Portfolio Weight",
      title="Minimum-variance portfolio weights"
  )
  + theme(legend_position="none")
)
omega_figure.show()
```

Figure 8.3: Weights are based on historical moments of monthly returns adjusted for dividend payments and stock splits.

Several features of the minimum-variance portfolio are noteworthy. First, many stocks receive zero or near-zero weights. Second, some stocks receive negative weights (short positions). These short positions are not a computational artifact, they reflect the optimizer's attempt to exploit correlations for risk reduction. Third, the weights are quite extreme (both large positive and large negative), which often indicates estimation error amplification, which is a topic we address in later chapters.

8.3.6 Portfolio Performance

Let's compute the expected return and volatility of the minimum-variance portfolio:

```
mu = assets["mu"].values
mu_mvp = omega_mvp @ mu
sigma_mvp = np.sqrt(omega_mvp @ sigma.values @ omega_mvp)

summary_mvp = pd.DataFrame({
  "mu": [mu_mvp],
  "sigma": [sigma_mvp],
  "type": ["Minimum-Variance Portfolio"]
```

```
})
summary_mvp
```

	mu	sigma	type
0	-0.011424	0.043512	Minimum-Variance Portfolio

```
mu_mvp_fmt = f"{mu_mvp:.4f}"
sigma_mvp_fmt = f"{sigma_mvp:.4f}"
print(f"The MVP return is {mu_mvp_fmt} and volatility is {sigma_mvp_fmt}.")
```

```
The MVP return is -0.0114 and volatility is 0.0435.
```

If the expected return is negative, this is not a computational error. The minimum-variance portfolio minimizes risk without regard to expected returns. Because some assets in the sample have negative average returns, the risk-minimizing combination may inherit a negative expected return. This highlights a fundamental limitation of using historical sample means as estimates of expected returns: they are extremely noisy, and can lead to economically unintuitive results even when the optimization mathematics are working correctly.

8.4 Efficient Portfolios: Balancing Risk and Return

8.4.1 The Investor's Trade-off

In most cases, minimizing variance is not the investor's sole objective. A more realistic formulation allows the investor to trade off risk against expected return. The investor might be willing to accept higher portfolio variance in exchange for higher expected returns.

An **efficient portfolio** minimizes variance subject to earning at least some target expected return $\bar{\mu}$. Formally:

$$\min_{\omega} \omega' \Sigma \omega$$

subject to:

$$\omega' \iota = 1 \quad \text{(fully invested)}$$
$$\omega' \mu \geq \bar{\mu} \quad \text{(minimum return)}$$

When $\bar{\mu}$ exceeds the expected return of the minimum-variance portfolio, the investor accepts more risk to earn more return.

8.4.2 Setting the Target Return

For illustration, suppose the investor wants to earn at least the historical average return of the best-performing stock:

```
mu_bar = assets["mu"].max()
print(f"Target expected return: {mu_bar:.5f}")
```

```
Target expected return: 0.01886
```

This is an ambitious target—it means matching the return of the single highest-returning stock while benefiting from diversification to reduce risk.

8.4.3 The Analytical Solution

The constrained optimization problem with an inequality constraint on expected returns can be solved using the Karush-Kuhn-Tucker (KKT) conditions. At the optimum (assuming the return constraint binds), the solution is:

$$\omega_{\text{efp}} = \frac{\lambda^*}{2}\left(\Sigma^{-1}\mu - \frac{D}{C}\Sigma^{-1}\iota\right)$$

where:

- $C = \iota'\Sigma^{-1}\iota$ (a scalar measuring the "size" of the inverse covariance matrix)
- $D = \iota'\Sigma^{-1}\mu$ (capturing the interaction between expected returns and the inverse covariance matrix)
- $E = \mu'\Sigma^{-1}\mu$ (measuring the "signal" in expected returns weighted by inverse covariances)
- $\lambda^* = 2\frac{\bar{\mu}-D/C}{E-D^2/C}$ (the shadow price of the return constraint)

Alternatively, we can express the efficient portfolio as a linear combination of the minimum-variance portfolio and an "excess return" portfolio:

$$\omega_{\text{efp}} = \omega_{\text{mvp}} + \frac{\lambda^*}{2}\left(\Sigma^{-1}\mu - D \cdot \omega_{\text{mvp}}\right)$$

This representation reveals important intuition: the efficient portfolio starts from the minimum-variance portfolio and tilts toward higher-expected-return assets, with the tilt magnitude determined by λ^*.

8.4.4 Implementation

```
C = iota @ sigma_inv @ iota
D = iota @ sigma_inv @ mu
E = mu @ sigma_inv @ mu
lambda_tilde = 2 * (mu_bar - D / C) / (E - (D ** 2) / C)
omega_efp = omega_mvp + (lambda_tilde / 2) * (sigma_inv @ mu - D * omega_mvp)

mu_efp = omega_efp @ mu
sigma_efp = np.sqrt(omega_efp @ sigma.values @ omega_efp)

summary_efp = pd.DataFrame({
  "mu": [mu_efp],
  "sigma": [sigma_efp],
  "type": ["Efficient Portfolio"]
})
```

8.4.5 Comparing the Portfolios

Figure 8.4 plots both portfolios alongside the individual assets.

```
summaries = pd.concat(
  [assets, summary_mvp, summary_efp], ignore_index=True
)

summaries_figure = (
  ggplot(
    summaries,
    aes(x="sigma", y="mu")
  )
  + geom_point(data=summaries.query("type.isna()"))
  + geom_point(data=summaries.query("type.notna()"), color="#F21A00", size=3)
  + geom_label(aes(label="type"), adjust_text={"arrowprops": {"arrowstyle": "-"}})
  + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + labs(
      x="Volatility (Standard Deviation)",
      y="Expected Return",
      title="Efficient & minimum-variance portfolios"
    )
```

```
)
summaries_figure.show()
```

Figure 8.4: The big dots indicate the location of the minimum-variance and the efficient portfolio that delivers the expected return of the stock with the highest return, respectively. The small dots indicate the location of the individual constituents.

The figure demonstrates the substantial diversification benefits of portfolio optimization. The efficient portfolio achieves the same expected return as the highest-returning individual stock but with substantially lower volatility. This "free lunch" from diversification is the central insight of Modern Portfolio Theory.

8.4.6 The Role of Risk Aversion

The target return $\bar{\mu}$ implicitly reflects the investor's risk aversion. Less risk-averse investors choose higher $\bar{\mu}$, accepting more variance to earn more expected return. More risk-averse investors choose $\bar{\mu}$ closer to the minimum-variance portfolio's expected return.

Equivalently, the mean-variance framework can be derived from the optimal decisions of an investor with a mean-variance utility function:

$$U(\omega) = \omega'\mu - \frac{\gamma}{2}\omega'\Sigma\omega$$

where γ is the coefficient of relative risk aversion. The Appendix shows there is a one-to-one mapping between γ and $\bar{\mu}$, so both formulations yield identical efficient portfolios.

8.5 The Efficient Frontier: The Menu of Optimal Portfolios

The **efficient frontier** is the set of all portfolios for which no other portfolio offers higher expected return at the same or lower variance. Geometrically, it traces the upper boundary of achievable (volatility, expected return) combinations.

Every rational mean-variance investor should hold a portfolio on the efficient frontier. Portfolios below the frontier are "dominated," there exists another portfolio with either higher return for the same risk, or lower risk for the same return.

8.5.1 The Mutual Fund Separation Theorem

A remarkable result simplifies the construction of the efficient frontier. The **mutual fund separation theorem** (sometimes called the two-fund theorem) states that any efficient portfolio can be expressed as a linear combination of any two distinct efficient portfolios.

Formally, if ω_{μ_1} and ω_{μ_2} are efficient portfolios earning expected returns μ_1 and μ_2 respectively, then the portfolio:

$$\omega_{a\mu_1+(1-a)\mu_2} = a \cdot \omega_{\mu_1} + (1-a) \cdot \omega_{\mu_2}$$

is also efficient and earns expected return $a\mu_1 + (1-a)\mu_2$.

This result has profound practical implications: an investor needs access to only two efficient "mutual funds" to construct any portfolio on the efficient frontier. The specific funds don't matter—any two distinct efficient portfolios span the entire frontier.

8.5.2 Proof of the Separation Theorem

The proof follows directly from the analytical solution for efficient portfolios. Consider:

$$a \cdot \omega_{\mu_1} + (1-a) \cdot \omega_{\mu_2} = \left(\frac{a\mu_1 + (1-a)\mu_2 - D/C}{E - D^2/C} \right) \left(\Sigma^{-1}\mu - \frac{D}{C}\Sigma^{-1}\iota \right)$$

This expression has exactly the form of the efficient portfolio earning expected return $a\mu_1 + (1-a)\mu_2$, proving the theorem.

8.5.3 Computing the Efficient Frontier

Using the minimum-variance portfolio and our efficient portfolio as the two "funds," we can trace out the entire efficient frontier:

```
efficient_frontier = (
  pd.DataFrame({
    "a": np.arange(-1, 2.01, 0.01)
  })
  .assign(
    omega=lambda x: x["a"].map(lambda a: a * omega_efp + (1 - a) * omega_mvp)
  )
  .assign(
    mu=lambda x: x["omega"].map(lambda w: w @ mu),
    sigma=lambda x: x["omega"].map(lambda w: np.sqrt(w @ sigma @ w))
  )
)
```

Note that we allow a to range from -1 to 2, which means some portfolios involve shorting one of the two basis funds and leveraging into the other. This traces out both the upper and lower portions of the frontier hyperbola.

8.5.4 Visualizing the Efficient Frontier

Figure 8.5 displays the efficient frontier alongside individual assets and the benchmark portfolios.

```
summaries = pd.concat(
  [summaries, efficient_frontier], ignore_index=True
)

summaries_figure = (
  ggplot(
    summaries,
    aes(x="sigma", y="mu")
  )
  + geom_point(data=summaries.query("type.isna()"))
  + geom_line(data=efficient_frontier, color="blue", alpha=0.7)
  + geom_point(data=summaries.query("type.notna()"), color="#F21A00", size=3)
  + geom_label(aes(label="type"), adjust_text={"arrowprops": {"arrowstyle": "-"}})
  + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
```

```
  + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + labs(
      x="Volatility (Standard Deviation)",
      y="Expected Return",
      title="The Efficient Frontier and VN30 Constituents"
    )
)
summaries_figure.show()
```

Figure 8.5: The big dots indicate the location of the minimum-variance and the efficient portfolio. The small dots indicate the location of the individual constituents.

The efficient frontier has a characteristic hyperbolic shape. The leftmost point is the minimum-variance portfolio. Moving up and to the right along the frontier, expected return increases but so does volatility. The upper portion of the hyperbola (above the minimum-variance portfolio) is the "efficient" part—these portfolios offer the highest return for each level of risk. The lower portion is "inefficient"—these portfolios are dominated by their mirror images on the upper portion.

The figure also reveals how dramatically diversification improves upon individual stock positions. Nearly all individual stocks lie well inside the efficient frontier, meaning investors can achieve the same expected return with much less risk, or much higher expected return with the same risk, simply by diversifying.

8.6 Key Takeaways

This chapter introduced the concepts of Modern Portfolio Theory. The main insights are:

1. **Portfolio risk depends on correlations**: The variance of a portfolio is not simply the weighted average of individual variances. Covariances between assets play a crucial role, creating opportunities for diversification.
2. **Diversification is the "only free lunch" in finance**: By combining assets that don't move perfectly together, investors can reduce risk without sacrificing expected return. This insight is the cornerstone of modern investment practice.
3. **The minimum-variance portfolio minimizes risk**: This portfolio depends only on the covariance matrix and serves as an important benchmark. It represents the least risky way to be fully invested in risky assets.
4. **Efficient portfolios balance risk and return**: By accepting more variance, investors can earn higher expected returns. Efficient portfolios are those that offer the best possible trade-off.
5. **The efficient frontier characterizes optimal portfolios**: This boundary in mean-standard deviation space represents the menu of optimal choices available to mean-variance investors.
6. **Two-fund separation simplifies implementation**: Any efficient portfolio can be constructed from any two distinct efficient portfolios, reducing the computational burden of portfolio optimization.

Looking ahead, several important complications arise in practice. First, the inputs to portfolio optimization (expected returns and covariances) must be estimated from data, and estimation error can dramatically affect portfolio performance. Second, real-world constraints such as transaction costs, short-sale restrictions, and position limits modify the optimization problem. Third, the assumption that investors care only about mean and variance may be too restrictive when returns are non-normal or when investors have more complex preferences. We address these extensions in subsequent chapters.

9 Univariate Portfolio Sorts

In this chapter, we dive into portfolio sorts, one of the most widely used statistical methodologies in empirical asset pricing (e.g., Bali, Engle, and Murray 2016b). The key application of portfolio sorts is to examine whether one or more variables can predict future excess returns. In general, the idea is to sort individual stocks into portfolios, where the stocks within each portfolio are similar with respect to a sorting variable, such as firm size. The different portfolios then represent well-diversified investments that differ in the level of the sorting variable. You can then attribute the differences in the return distribution to the impact of the sorting variable. We start by introducing univariate portfolio sorts (which sort based on only one characteristic) and tackle bivariate sorting in Value and Bivariate Sorts.

A univariate portfolio sort considers only one sorting variable $x_{i,t-1}$. Here, i denotes the stock and $t-1$ indicates that the characteristic is observable by investors at time t. The objective is to assess the cross-sectional relation between $x_{i,t-1}$ and, typically, stock excess returns $r_{i,t}$ at time t as the outcome variable. To illustrate how portfolio sorts work, we use estimates for market betas from the previous chapter as our sorting variable.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3
import statsmodels.api as sm

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format
from regtabletotext import prettify_result
```

9.1 Data Preparation

We start with loading the required data from our SQLite database introduced in Accessing and Managing Financial Data and DataCore Data. In particular, we use the monthly stock price data as our asset universe. Once we form our portfolios, we use the market factor returns to compute the risk-adjusted performance (i.e., alpha). `beta` is the dataframe with market betas computed in the previous chapter.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

prices_monthly = (pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess, mktcap_lag FROM prices_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"})
)

factors_ff3_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
  sql="SELECT date, mkt_excess FROM factors_ff3_monthly",
  con=tidy_finance,
  parse_dates={"date"}
)

beta = pd.read_sql_query(
  sql="SELECT symbol, date, beta FROM beta_monthly",
  con=tidy_finance,
  parse_dates={"date"}
)
```

9.2 Sorting by Market Beta

Next, we merge our sorting variable with the return data. We use the one-month *lagged* betas as a sorting variable to ensure that the sorts rely only on information available when we create the portfolios. To lag stock beta by one month, we add one month to the current date and join the resulting information with our return data. This procedure ensures that month t information is available in month $t + 1$. You may be tempted to simply use a call such as `prices_monthly['beta_lag'] = prices_monthly.groupby('symbol')['beta'].shift(1)` instead. This procedure, however, does not work correctly if there are implicit missing values in the time series.

```
beta_lag = (beta
  .assign(date=lambda x: x["date"]+pd.DateOffset(months=1))
  .get(["symbol", "date", "beta"])
  .rename(columns={"beta": "beta_lag"})
  .dropna()
)

data_for_sorts = (prices_monthly
  .merge(beta_lag, how="inner", on=["symbol", "date"])
```

```
  .dropna()
)
```

The first step to conduct portfolio sorts is to calculate periodic breakpoints that you can use to group the stocks into portfolios. For simplicity, we start with the median lagged market beta as the single breakpoint. We then compute the value-weighted returns for each of the two resulting portfolios, which means that the lagged market capitalization determines the weight in `np.average()`.

```
beta_portfolios = (
    data_for_sorts
    .groupby("date")
    .apply(lambda x: (
        x.assign(
            portfolio=pd.qcut(x["beta_lag"], q=[0, 0.5, 1], labels=["low", "high"]),
            date=x.name
        )
    ))
    .reset_index(drop=True)
    .groupby(["portfolio", "date"])
    .apply(lambda x: np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"]))
    .reset_index(name="ret")
    .dropna(subset=['ret'])
)
beta_portfolios.head()
```

	portfolio	date	ret
0	low	2016-08-31	-0.016507
1	low	2016-09-30	-0.089155
2	low	2016-11-30	-0.015080
3	low	2017-01-31	0.004113
4	low	2017-02-28	0.035101

9.3 Performance Evaluation

We can construct a long-short strategy based on the two portfolios: buy the high-beta portfolio and, at the same time, short the low-beta portfolio. Thereby, the overall position in the market is net-zero.

```
beta_longshort = (beta_portfolios
  .pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values="ret")
  .reset_index()
  .assign(long_short=lambda x: x["high"]-x["low"])
)
```

We compute the average return and the corresponding standard error to test whether the long-short portfolio yields on average positive or negative excess returns. In the asset pricing literature, one typically adjusts for autocorrelation by using Whitney K. Newey and West (1987a) t-statistics to test the null hypothesis that average portfolio excess returns are equal to zero. One necessary input for Newey-West standard errors is a chosen bandwidth based on the number of lags employed for the estimation. Researchers often default to choosing a pre-specified lag length of six months (which is not a data-driven approach). We do so in the `fit()` function by indicating the `cov_type` as `HAC` and providing the maximum lag length through an additional keywords dictionary.

```
model_fit = (sm.OLS.from_formula(
    formula="long_short ~ 1",
    data=beta_longshort
  )
  .fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})
)
prettify_result(model_fit)
```

```
OLS Model:
long_short ~ 1

Coefficients:
           Estimate  Std. Error  t-Statistic  p-Value
Intercept     0.006       0.006        1.018    0.309

Summary statistics:
- Number of observations: 53
- R-squared: 0.000, Adjusted R-squared: 0.000
- F-statistic not available
```

The results indicate that we cannot reject the null hypothesis of average returns being equal to zero. Our portfolio strategy using the median as a breakpoint does not yield any abnormal returns. Is this finding surprising if you reconsider the CAPM? It certainly is. The CAPM predicts that high-beta stocks should yield higher expected returns. Our portfolio sort implicitly mimics an investment strategy that finances high-beta stocks by shorting low-beta stocks.

Therefore, one should expect that the average excess returns yield a return that is above the risk-free rate.

9.4 Functional Programming for Portfolio Sorts

Now, we take portfolio sorts to the next level. We want to be able to sort stocks into an arbitrary number of portfolios. For this case, functional programming is very handy: we define a function that gives us flexibility concerning which variable to use for the sorting, denoted by `sorting_variable`. We use `np.quantile()` to compute breakpoints for `n_portfolios`. Then, we assign portfolios to stocks using the `pd.cut()` function. The output of the following function is a new column that contains the number of the portfolio to which a stock belongs.

In some applications, the variable used for the sorting might be clustered (e.g., at a lower bound of 0). Then, multiple breakpoints may be identical, leading to empty portfolios. Similarly, some portfolios might have a very small number of stocks at the beginning of the sample. Cases where the number of portfolio constituents differs substantially due to the distribution of the characteristics require careful consideration and, depending on the application, might require customized sorting approaches.

```
def assign_portfolio(data, sorting_variable, n_portfolios):
    """Assign portfolios to a bin between breakpoints."""

    breakpoints = np.quantile(
      data[sorting_variable].dropna(),
      np.linspace(0, 1, n_portfolios + 1),
      method="linear"
    )

    assigned_portfolios = pd.cut(
      data[sorting_variable],
      bins=breakpoints,
      labels=range(1, breakpoints.size),
      include_lowest=True,
      right=False
    )

    return assigned_portfolios
```

We can use the above function to sort stocks into ten portfolios each month using lagged betas and compute value-weighted returns for each portfolio. Note that we transform the portfolio column to a factor variable because it provides more convenience for the figure construction below.

```
beta_portfolios = (data_for_sorts
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(lambda x: x.assign(
      portfolio=assign_portfolio(x, "beta_lag", 10)
    ), include_groups=False
  )
  .reset_index(level="date")
  .groupby(["portfolio", "date"])
  .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
      "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
    }), include_groups=False
  )
  .reset_index()
  .merge(factors_ff3_monthly, how="left", on="date")
)
```

9.5 More Performance Evaluation

In the next step, we compute summary statistics for each beta portfolio. Namely, we compute CAPM-adjusted alphas, the beta of each beta portfolio, and average returns.

```
beta_portfolios_summary = (beta_portfolios
  .groupby("portfolio")
  .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
      "alpha": sm.OLS.from_formula(
          formula="ret ~ 1 + mkt_excess",
          data=x
        ).fit().params["Intercept"],
      "beta": sm.OLS.from_formula(
          formula="ret ~ 1 + mkt_excess",
          data=x
        ).fit().params["mkt_excess"],
      "ret": x["ret"].mean()
    }), include_groups=False
  )
  .reset_index()
)
beta_portfolios_summary
```

	portfolio	alpha	beta	ret
0	1	0.007031	0.356225	0.003892
1	2	-0.004215	0.227882	-0.005509
2	3	-0.010169	0.390216	-0.011241
3	4	-0.014205	0.388342	-0.015732
4	5	-0.007220	0.616833	-0.009723
5	6	0.010648	0.976502	0.006577
6	7	-0.010739	0.679145	-0.012645
7	8	-0.002757	0.991774	-0.006963
8	9	-0.003448	0.904886	-0.007174
9	10	0.010675	1.376356	0.004944

Figure 9.1 illustrates the CAPM alphas of beta-sorted portfolios.

```
beta_portfolios_figure = (
  ggplot(
    beta_portfolios_summary,
    aes(x="portfolio", y="alpha", fill="portfolio")
  )
  + geom_bar(stat="identity")
  + labs(
      x="Portfolio", y="CAPM alpha", fill="Portfolio",
      title="CAPM alphas of beta-sorted portfolios"
    )
  + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + theme(legend_position="none")
)
beta_portfolios_figure.show()
```

Unlike the well-documented "betting against beta" anomaly in US markets, where low-beta portfolios exhibit positive alphas and high-beta portfolios exhibit negative alphas in a monotonic pattern, the Vietnamese market shows no clear relationship between beta and risk-adjusted returns. The alphas fluctuate without a discernible trend across deciles. This lack of pattern likely reflects the limited sample period rather than a definitive conclusion about beta pricing in Vietnam. With such a short time series, the portfolio-level CAPM regressions contain substantial estimation noise, making it difficult to detect subtle anomalies. Longer sample periods would be needed to draw reliable conclusions about whether the low-beta anomaly exists in the Vietnamese equity market.

Figure 9.1: The figure shows CAPM alphas of beta-sorted portfolios. Portfolios are sorted into deciles each month based on their estimated CAPM beta. The bar charts indicate the CAPM alpha of the resulting portfolio returns during the sample period.

9.6 Security Market Line and Beta Portfolios

The CAPM predicts that our portfolios should lie on the security market line (SML). The slope of the SML is equal to the market risk premium and reflects the risk-return trade-off at any given time. Figure 9.2 illustrates the security market line: We see that (not surprisingly) the high-beta portfolio returns have a high correlation with the market returns. However, it seems like the average excess returns for high-beta stocks are lower than what the security market line implies would be an "appropriate" compensation for the high market risk.

```
sml_capm = (sm.OLS.from_formula(
    formula="ret ~ 1 + beta",
    data=beta_portfolios_summary
  )
  .fit()
  .params
)

sml_figure = (
```

```
  ggplot(
    beta_portfolios_summary,
    aes(x="beta", y="ret", color="factor(portfolio)")
  )
  + geom_point()
  + geom_abline(
      intercept=0, slope=factors_ff3_monthly["mkt_excess"].mean(), linetype="solid"
    )
  + geom_abline(
      intercept=sml_capm["Intercept"], slope=sml_capm["beta"], linetype="dashed"
    )
  + labs(
      x="Beta", y="Excess return", color="Portfolio",
      title="Average portfolio excess returns and beta estimates"
    )
  + scale_x_continuous(limits=(0, 2))
  + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
)
sml_figure.show()
```

To provide more evidence against the CAPM predictions, we again form a long-short strategy that buys the high-beta portfolio and shorts the low-beta portfolio.

```
beta_longshort = (beta_portfolios
  .assign(
    portfolio=lambda x: (
      x["portfolio"].apply(
        lambda y: "high" if y == x["portfolio"].max()
        else ("low" if y == x["portfolio"].min()
        else y)
      )
    )
  )
  .query("portfolio in ['low', 'high']")
  .pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values="ret")
  .assign(long_short=lambda x: x["high"]-x["low"])
  .merge(factors_ff3_monthly, how="left", on="date")
)
```

Again, the resulting long-short strategy does not exhibit statistically significant returns.

Figure 9.2: The figure shows average portfolio excess returns and beta estimates. Excess returns are computed as CAPM alphas of the beta-sorted portfolios. The horizontal axis indicates the CAPM beta of the resulting beta-sorted portfolio return time series. The dashed line indicates the slope coefficient of a linear regression of excess returns on portfolio betas.

```
model_fit = (sm.OLS.from_formula(
    formula="long_short ~ 1",
    data=beta_longshort
  )
  .fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 1})
)
prettify_result(model_fit)
```

```
OLS Model:
long_short ~ 1

Coefficients:
           Estimate  Std. Error  t-Statistic  p-Value
Intercept     0.001       0.011        0.095    0.924

Summary statistics:
```

```
- Number of observations: 53
- R-squared: 0.000, Adjusted R-squared: 0.000
- F-statistic not available
```

However, controlling for the effect of beta, the long-short portfolio yields a CAPM-adjusted alpha. The results can provide evidence regarding the validity of the CAPM in the Vietnamese market. The betting-against-beta factor has been documented extensively in developed markets (Frazzini and Pedersen 2014). Betting-against-beta corresponds to a strategy that shorts high-beta stocks and takes a (levered) long position in low-beta stocks. If borrowing constraints prevent investors from taking positions on the security market line, they are instead incentivized to buy high-beta stocks, which leads to a relatively higher price (and therefore lower expected returns than implied by the CAPM) for such high-beta stocks. As a result, the betting-against-beta strategy earns from providing liquidity to capital-constrained investors with lower risk aversion.

```python
model_fit = (sm.OLS.from_formula(
    formula="long_short ~ 1 + mkt_excess",
    data=beta_longshort
  )
  .fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 1})
)
prettify_result(model_fit)
```

```
OLS Model:
long_short ~ 1 + mkt_excess

Coefficients:
            Estimate  Std. Error  t-Statistic  p-Value
Intercept      0.004       0.009        0.394    0.694
mkt_excess     1.020       0.116        8.784    0.000

Summary statistics:
- Number of observations: 52
- R-squared: 0.527, Adjusted R-squared: 0.518
- F-statistic: 77.156 on 1 and 50 DF, p-value: 0.000
```

Figure 9.3 shows the annual returns of the extreme beta portfolios we are mainly interested in. The figure illustrates the patterns over the sample period; each portfolio exhibits periods with positive and negative annual returns.

```
beta_longshort_year = (beta_longshort
  .assign(year=lambda x: x["date"].dt.year)
  .groupby("year")
  .aggregate(
    low=("low", lambda x: (1+x).prod()-1),
    high=("high", lambda x: (1+x).prod()-1),
    long_short=("long_short", lambda x: (1+x).prod()-1)
  )
  .reset_index()
  .melt(id_vars="year", var_name="name", value_name="value")
)

beta_longshort_figure = (
  ggplot(
    beta_longshort_year,
    aes(x="year", y="value", fill="name")
  )
  + geom_col(position="dodge")
  + facet_wrap("~name", ncol=1)
  + labs(x="", y="", title="Annual returns of beta portfolios")
  + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + theme(legend_position="none")
)
beta_longshort_figure.show()
```

The high-beta portfolio and low-beta portfolio both exhibit substantial year-to-year variation. The long-short portfolio, which goes long high-beta stocks and short low-beta stocks, shows no consistent pattern of positive returns. This erratic performance reinforces our earlier finding that the beta-return relationship in the Vietnamese market does not conform to theoretical CAPM predictions during our sample period. The high volatility of annual long-short returns highlights the substantial risk inherent in such a strategy, particularly in an emerging market context with a limited sample period.

9.7 Key Takeaways

1. Univariate portfolio sorts assess whether a single firm characteristic, like lagged market beta, can predict future excess returns.
2. Portfolios are formed each month using quantile breakpoints, with returns computed using value-weighted averages to reflect realistic investment strategies.

Figure 9.3: The figure shows annual returns of beta portfolios. We construct portfolios by sorting stocks into high and low based on their estimated CAPM beta. Long short indicates a strategy that goes long into high beta stocks and short low beta stocks.

3. A long-short strategy based on beta-sorted portfolios fails to generate significant positive excess returns in the Vietnamese market, contradicting CAPM predictions that higher beta should yield higher returns.

4. The analysis provides a framework for examining the "betting against beta" anomaly, where low-beta portfolios may deliver higher alphas than high-beta portfolios, offering evidence regarding the validity of the CAPM.

5. The functional programming capabilities of Python enable scalable and flexible portfolio sorting, making it easy to analyze multiple characteristics and portfolio configurations.

6. Emerging markets like Vietnam may exhibit different beta-return relationships compared to developed markets, highlighting the importance of conducting market-specific empirical analysis rather than assuming universal applicability of asset pricing anomalies.

10 Size Sorts

In this chapter, we continue with portfolio sorts in a univariate setting. Yet, we consider firm size as a sorting variable, which gives rise to a well-known return factor: the size premium. The size premium arises from buying small stocks and selling large stocks. Prominently, Eugene F. Fama and French (1993a) include it as a factor in their three-factor model. Apart from that, asset managers commonly include size as a key firm characteristic when making investment decisions.

We also introduce new choices in the formation of portfolios. In particular, we discuss listing exchanges, industries, weighting regimes, and periods. These choices matter for the portfolio returns and result in different size premiums (see Hasler (2021), Soebhag, Van Vliet, and Verwijmeren (2022), and Walter, Weber, and Weiss (2022) for more insights into decision nodes and their effect on premiums).

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format
from itertools import product
from joblib import Parallel, delayed, cpu_count
```

10.1 Data Preparation

First, we retrieve the relevant data from our SQLite database introduced in Accessing and Managing Financial Data and DataCore Data. Firm size is defined as market equity in most asset pricing applications. We further use the Fama-French factor returns for performance evaluation.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(
  database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite"
)
```

```
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
  sql="SELECT * FROM prices_monthly",
  con=tidy_finance,
  parse_dates={"date"}
)

factors_ff3_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
  sql="SELECT * FROM factors_ff3_monthly",
  con=tidy_finance,
  parse_dates={"date"}
)
```

10.2 Size Distribution

Before we build our size portfolios, we investigate the distribution of the variable *firm size*. Visualizing the data is a valuable starting point to understand the input to the analysis. Figure 10.1 shows the fraction of total market capitalization concentrated in the largest firm. To produce this graph, we create monthly indicators that track whether a stock belongs to the largest x percent of the firms. Then, we aggregate the firms within each bucket and compute the buckets' share of total market capitalization.

Figure 10.1 shows that the largest 1 percent of firms cover up to 50 percent of the total market capitalization, and holding just the 25 percent largest firms in the universe essentially replicates the market portfolio. The distribution of firm size thus implies that the largest firms of the market dominate many small firms whenever we use value-weighted benchmarks.

```
market_cap_concentration = (prices_monthly
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
    "Largest 1%": x.loc[x["mktcap"] >= x["mktcap"].quantile(0.99), "mktcap"].sum() / x["mktca
    "Largest 5%": x.loc[x["mktcap"] >= x["mktcap"].quantile(0.95), "mktcap"].sum() / x["mktca
    "Largest 10%": x.loc[x["mktcap"] >= x["mktcap"].quantile(0.90), "mktcap"].sum() / x["mkt
    "Largest 25%": x.loc[x["mktcap"] >= x["mktcap"].quantile(0.75), "mktcap"].sum() / x["mkt
  }), include_groups=False)
  .reset_index()
  .melt(id_vars="date", var_name="name", value_name="value")
)

market_cap_concentration_figure = (
  ggplot(
    market_cap_concentration,
```

```
    aes(x="date", y="value", color="name", linetype="name")
  ) +
  geom_line() +
  scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
  scale_x_date(name="", date_labels="%Y") +
  labs(
    x="", y="", color="", linetype="",
    title="Percentage of total market capitalization in largest stocks"
  ) +
  theme(legend_title=element_blank())
)
market_cap_concentration_figure.show()
```

```
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/tmp/ipykernel_3245094/419327778.py:6: RuntimeWarning: invalid value encountered in scalar di
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/tmp/ipykernel_3245094/419327778.py:7: RuntimeWarning: invalid value encountered in scalar di
/home/mikenguyen/project/tidyfinance/.venv/lib/python3.13/site-packages/plotnine/geoms/geom_p
```

Next, firm sizes also differ across listing exchanges. The primary listings of stocks were important in the past and are potentially still relevant today.

Figure 10.1: The figure shows the percentage of total market capitalization in largest stocks. We report the aggregate market capitalization of all stocks that belong to the 1, 5, 10, and 25 percent quantile of the largest firms in the monthly cross-section relative to the market capitalization of all stocks during the month.

Finally, we consider the distribution of firm size across listing exchanges and create summary statistics. The function `describe()` does not include all statistics we are interested in, which is why we create the function `compute_summary()` that adds the standard deviation and the number of observations. Then, we apply it to the most current month of our data on each listing exchange. We also add a row with the overall summary statistics. In the following, we use this distinction to update our portfolio sort procedure.

```
def compute_summary(data, variable, filter_variable, percentiles):
    """Compute summary statistics for a given variable and percentiles."""

    summary = (data[[filter_variable, variable]]
      .groupby(filter_variable)
      .describe(percentiles=percentiles)
    )

    summary.columns = summary.columns.droplevel(0)

    summary_overall = (data[variable]
```

```
market_cap_share = (prices_monthly
  .groupby(["date", "exchange"])
  .aggregate({"mktcap": "sum"})
  .reset_index(drop=False)
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(lambda x:
    x.assign(total_market_cap=lambda x: x["mktcap"].sum(),
             share=lambda x: x["mktcap"]/x["total_market_cap"]
             )
    )
  .reset_index(drop=True)
)

plot_market_cap_share = (
  ggplot(market_cap_share,
         aes(x="date", y="share",
             fill="exchange", color="exchange")) +
  geom_area(position="stack", stat="identity", alpha=0.5) +
  geom_line(position="stack") +
  scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
  scale_x_date(name="", date_labels="%Y") +
  labs(x="", y="", fill="", color="",
       title="Share of total market capitalization per listing exchange") +
  theme(legend_title=element_blank())
)
plot_market_cap_share.draw()
```

Figure 10.2

```
      .describe(percentiles=percentiles)
    )

    summary.loc["Overall", :] = summary_overall

    return summary.round(0)

compute_summary(
  prices_monthly[prices_monthly["date"] == prices_monthly["date"].max()],
  variable="mktcap",
  filter_variable="exchange",
  percentiles=[0.05, 0.5, 0.95]
)
```

10.3 Univariate Size Portfolios with Flexible Breakpoints

In Univariate Portfolio Sorts, we construct portfolios with a varying number of breakpoints and different sorting variables. Here, we extend the framework such that we compute breakpoints on a subset of the data, for instance, based on selected listing exchanges.

We introduce `exchanges` as an argument in our `assign_portfolio()` function from Univariate Portfolio Sorts. The exchange-specific argument then enters in the filter `data["exchanges"].isin(exchanges)`. For example, if `exchanges='HOSE'` is specified, only stocks listed on HOSE are used to compute the breakpoints. Alternatively, you could specify `exchanges=["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"]`, which keeps all stocks listed on either of these exchanges.

```
def assign_portfolio(data, exchanges, sorting_variable, n_portfolios):
    """Assign portfolio for a given sorting variable."""

    breakpoints = (data
      .query(f"exchange in {exchanges}")
      .get(sorting_variable)
      .quantile(np.linspace(0, 1, num=n_portfolios+1),
                interpolation="linear")
      .drop_duplicates()
    )
    breakpoints.iloc[[0, -1]] = [-np.Inf, np.Inf]

    assigned_portfolios = pd.cut(
      data[sorting_variable],
```

```
      bins=breakpoints,
      labels=range(1, breakpoints.size),
      include_lowest=True,
      right=False
    )

    return assigned_portfolios
```

10.4 Weighting Schemes for Portfolios

Apart from computing breakpoints on different samples, researchers often use different portfolio weighting schemes. So far, we weighted each portfolio constituent by its relative market equity of the previous period. This protocol is called *value-weighting*. The alternative protocol is *equal-weighting*, which assigns each stock's return the same weight, i.e., a simple average of the constituents' returns. Notice that equal-weighting is difficult in practice as the portfolio manager needs to rebalance the portfolio monthly, while value-weighting is a truly passive investment.

We implement the two weighting schemes in the function `compute_portfolio_returns()` that takes a logical argument to weight the returns by firm value. Additionally, the long-short portfolio is long in the smallest firms and short in the largest firms, consistent with research showing that small firms outperform their larger counterparts. Apart from these two changes, the function is similar to the procedure in Univariate Portfolio Sorts.

```
def calculate_returns(data, value_weighted):
    """Calculate (value-weighted) returns."""

    if value_weighted:
      return np.average(data["ret_excess"], weights=data["mktcap_lag"])
    else:
      return data["ret_excess"].mean()

def compute_portfolio_returns(n_portfolios=10,
                              exchanges=["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"],
                              value_weighted=True,
                              data=prices_monthly):
    """Compute (value-weighted) portfolio returns."""

    returns = (data
      .groupby("date")
      .apply(lambda x: x.assign(
```

```
        portfolio=assign_portfolio(x, exchanges,
                                   "mktcap_lag", n_portfolios))
      )
      .reset_index(drop=True)
      .groupby(["portfolio", "date"])
      .apply(lambda x: x.assign(
        ret=calculate_returns(x, value_weighted))
      )
      .reset_index(drop=True)
      .groupby("date")
      .apply(lambda x:
        pd.Series({"size_premium": x.loc[x["portfolio"].idxmin(), "ret"]-
          x.loc[x["portfolio"].idxmax(), "ret"]}))
      .reset_index(drop=True)
      .aggregate({"size_premium": "mean"})
    )

    return returns
```

To see how the function `compute_portfolio_returns()` works, we consider a simple median breakpoint example with value-weighted returns. We are interested in the effect of restricting listing exchanges on the estimation of the size premium. In the first function call, we compute returns based on breakpoints from all listing exchanges. Then, we computed returns based on breakpoints from HOSE-listed stocks.

```
ret_all = compute_portfolio_returns(
  n_portfolios=2,
  exchanges=["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"],
  value_weighted=True,
  data=prices_monthly
)

ret_HOSE = compute_portfolio_returns(
  n_portfolios=2,
  exchanges=["HOSE"],
  value_weighted=True,
  data=prices_monthly
)

data = pd.DataFrame([ret_all*100, ret_HOSE*100],
                    index=["HOSE, HNX & UPCoM", "HOSE"])
```

```
data.columns = ["Premium"]
data.round(2)
```

10.5 P-Hacking and Non-Standard Errors

Since the choice of the listing exchange has a significant impact, the next step is to investigate the effect of other data processing decisions researchers have to make along the way. In particular, any portfolio sort analysis has to decide at least on the number of portfolios, the listing exchanges to form breakpoints, and equal- or value-weighting. Further, one may exclude firms that are active in the finance industry or restrict the analysis to some parts of the time series. All of the variations of these choices that we discuss here are part of scholarly articles published in the top finance journals. We refer to Walter, Weber, and Weiss (2022) for an extensive set of other decision nodes at the discretion of researchers.

The intention of this application is to show that the different ways to form portfolios result in different estimated size premiums. Despite the effects of this multitude of choices, there is no correct way. It should also be noted that none of the procedures is wrong. The aim is simply to illustrate the changes that can arise due to the variation in the evidence-generating process (Menkveld et al., n.d.). The term *non-standard errors* refers to the variation due to (suitable) choices made by researchers. Interestingly, in a large-scale study, Menkveld et al. (n.d.) find that the magnitude of non-standard errors is similar to the estimation uncertainty based on a chosen model. This shows how important it is to adjust for the seemingly innocent choices in the data preparation and evaluation workflow. Moreover, it seems that this methodology-related uncertainty should be embraced rather than hidden away.

From a malicious perspective, these modeling choices give the researcher multiple *chances* to find statistically significant results. Yet this is considered *p-hacking*, which renders the statistical inference invalid due to multiple testing (Campbell R. Harvey, Liu, and Zhu 2016a).

Nevertheless, the multitude of options creates a problem since there is no single correct way of sorting portfolios. How should a researcher convince a reader that their results do not come from a p-hacking exercise? To circumvent this dilemma, academics are encouraged to present evidence from different sorting schemes as *robustness tests* and report multiple approaches to show that a result does not depend on a single choice. Thus, the robustness of premiums is a key feature.

Below, we conduct a series of robustness tests, which could also be interpreted as a p-hacking exercise. To do so, we examine the size premium in different specifications presented in the table `p_hacking_setup`. The function `itertools.product()` produces all possible permutations of its arguments. Note that we use the argument `data` to exclude financial firms and truncate the time series.

```
n_portfolios = [2, 5, 10]
exchanges = [["HOSE"], ["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"]]
value_weighted = [True, False]
data = [
  prices_monthly,
  prices_monthly[prices_monthly["industry"] != "Finance"],
  prices_monthly[prices_monthly["date"] < "1990-06-01"],
  prices_monthly[prices_monthly["date"] >= "1990-06-01"],
]
p_hacking_setup = list(
  product(n_portfolios, exchanges, value_weighted, data)
)
```

To speed the computation up, we parallelize the (many) different sorting procedures. Finally, we report the resulting size premiums in descending order. There are indeed substantial size premiums possible in our data, in particular when we use equal-weighted portfolios.

```
n_cores = cpu_count()-1
p_hacking_results = pd.concat(
  Parallel(n_jobs=n_cores)
  (delayed(compute_portfolio_returns)(x, y, z, w)
   for x, y, z, w in p_hacking_setup)
)
p_hacking_results = p_hacking_results.reset_index(name="size_premium")
```

10.6 Size-Premium Variation

We provide a graph in Figure 10.3 that shows the different premiums. The figure also shows the relation to the average Fama-French SMB (small minus big) premium used in the literature, which we include as a dotted vertical line.

10.7 Key Takeaways

- Firm size is a crucial factor in asset pricing, and sorting stocks by size reveals the size premium, where small-cap stocks tend to outperform large-cap stocks.
- Portfolio returns are sensitive to research design choices like exchange filters, weighting schemes, and the number of portfolios—decisions that can meaningfully shift results.
- Methodological flexibility can lead to non-standard errors and potential p-hacking.

```
p_hacking_results_figure = (
  ggplot(
    p_hacking_results,
    aes(x="size_premium")
  )
  + geom_histogram(bins=len(p_hacking_results))
  + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
  + labs(
      x="", y="",
      title="Distribution of size premiums for various sorting choices"
    )
  + geom_vline(
      aes(xintercept=factors_ff3_monthly["smb"].mean()), linetype="dashed"
    )
)
p_hacking_results_figure.show()
```

Figure 10.3

- Validate results by varying assumptions and show that findings hold across multiple specifications.

11 Value and Bivariate Sorts

In this chapter, we extend the univariate portfolio analysis of Univariate Portfolio Sorts to bivariate portfolio sorting, in which stocks are assigned to portfolios based on two characteristics. Bivariate sorts are commonly used in the academic asset pricing literature and underpin the factors in the Fama-French three-factor model. However, some scholars also use sorts with three grouping variables. Conceptually, portfolio sorts are easily applicable in higher dimensions.

We form portfolios on firm size and the book-to-market ratio. Calculating book-to-market ratios requires accounting data, which necessitates additional steps during portfolio formation. In the end, we demonstrate how to form portfolios on two sorting variables using so-called independent and dependent portfolio sorts.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import datetime as dt
import sqlite3
```

11.1 Data Preparation

First, we load the necessary data from our SQLite database introduced in Accessing and Managing Financial Data and DataCore Data. We conduct portfolio sorts based on our sample but keep only the necessary columns in our memory. We use the same data sources for firm size as in Size Sorts and P-Hacking.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

prices_monthly = (pd.read_sql_query(
    sql=("SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess, mktcap, "
         "mktcap_lag, exchange FROM prices_monthly"),
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"})
  .dropna()
)
```

Further, we utilize accounting data. We only need book equity data in this application, which we select from our database. Additionally, we convert the variable `datadate` to its monthly value, as we only consider monthly returns here and do not need to account for the exact date.

```
book_equity = (pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT symbol, datadate, be FROM datacore",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"datadate"})
  .dropna()
  .assign(
    date=lambda x: (
      pd.to_datetime(x["datadate"]).dt.to_period("M").dt.to_timestamp()
    )
  )
)
```

11.2 Book-to-Market Ratio

A fundamental problem in handling accounting data is the *look-ahead bias*; we must not include data in forming a portfolio that was not available knowledge at the time. Of course, researchers have more information when looking into the past than agents actually had at that moment. However, abnormal excess returns from a trading strategy should not rely on an information advantage because the differential cannot be the result of informed agents' trades. Hence, we have to lag accounting information.

As in the previous chapter, we continue to lag firm size by one month. Then, we compute the book-to-market ratio, which relates a firm's book equity to its market equity. Firms with high (low) book-to-market ratio are called value (growth) firms. After matching the accounting and market equity information from the same month, we lag book-to-market by six months. This is a sufficiently conservative approach because accounting information is usually released well before six months pass. However, in the asset pricing literature, even longer lags are used as well.

Having both variables, i.e., firm size lagged by one month and book-to-market lagged by six months, we merge these sorting variables to our returns using the `sorting_date`-column created for this purpose. The final step in our data preparation deals with differences in the frequency of our variables. Returns and firm size are recorded monthly. Yet, the accounting information is only released on an annual basis. Hence, we only match book-to-market to one month per year and have eleven empty observations. To solve this frequency issue, we carry the latest book-to-market ratio of each firm to the subsequent months, i.e., we fill the missing observations with the most current report. This is done via the `fillna(method="ffill")`-function after

sorting by date and firm (which we identify by `symbol` and `symbol`) and on a firm basis (which we do by `.groupby()` as usual). We filter out all observations with accounting data that is older than a year. As the last step, we remove all rows with missing entries because the returns cannot be matched to any annual report.

```
size = (prices_monthly
  .assign(sorting_date=lambda x: x["date"]+pd.DateOffset(months=1))
  .rename(columns={"mktcap": "size"})
  .get(["symbol", "sorting_date", "size"])
)

bm = (book_equity
  .merge(prices_monthly, how="inner", on=["symbol", "date"])
  .assign(bm=lambda x: x["be"]/x["mktcap"],
          sorting_date=lambda x: x["date"]+pd.DateOffset(months=6))
  .assign(accounting_date=lambda x: x["sorting_date"])
  .get(["symbol", "symbol", "sorting_date", "accounting_date", "bm"])
)

data_for_sorts = (prices_monthly
  .merge(bm,
         how="left",
         left_on=["symbol", "symbol", "date"],
         right_on=["symbol", "symbol", "sorting_date"])
  .merge(size,
         how="left",
         left_on=["symbol", "date"],
         right_on=["symbol", "sorting_date"])
  .get(["symbol", "symbol", "date", "ret_excess",
        "mktcap_lag", "size", "bm", "exchange", "accounting_date"])
)

data_for_sorts = (data_for_sorts
  .sort_values(by=["symbol", "symbol", "date"])
  .groupby(["symbol", "symbol"])
  .apply(lambda x: x.assign(
      bm=x["bm"].fillna(method="ffill"),
      accounting_date=x["accounting_date"].fillna(method="ffill")
    )
  )
  .reset_index(drop=True)
  .assign(threshold_date = lambda x: (x["date"]-pd.DateOffset(months=12)))
  .query("accounting_date > threshold_date")
```

```
  .drop(columns=["accounting_date", "threshold_date"])
  .dropna()
)
```

The last step of preparation for the portfolio sorts is the computation of breakpoints. We continue to use the same function, allowing for the specification of exchanges to be used for the breakpoints. Additionally, we reintroduce the argument `sorting_variable` into the function for defining different sorting variables.

```
def assign_portfolio(data, exchanges, sorting_variable, n_portfolios):
    """Assign portfolio for a given sorting variable."""

    breakpoints = (data
      .query(f"exchange in {exchanges}")
      .get(sorting_variable)
      .quantile(np.linspace(0, 1, num=n_portfolios+1),
                interpolation="linear")
      .drop_duplicates()
    )
    breakpoints.iloc[0] = -np.inf
    breakpoints.iloc[breakpoints.size-1] = np.inf

    assigned_portfolios = pd.cut(
      data[sorting_variable],
      bins=breakpoints,
      labels=range(1, breakpoints.size),
      include_lowest=True,
      right=False
    )

    return assigned_portfolios
```

After these data preparation steps, we present bivariate portfolio sorts on an independent and dependent basis.

11.3 Independent Sorts

Bivariate sorts create portfolios within a two-dimensional space spanned by two sorting variables. It is then possible to assess the return impact of either sorting variable by the return differential from a trading strategy that invests in the portfolios at either end of the respective variables

spectrum. We create a five-by-five matrix using book-to-market and firm size as sorting variables in our example below. We end up with 25 portfolios. Since we are interested in the *value premium* (i.e., the return differential between high and low book-to-market firms), we go long the five portfolios of the highest book-to-market firms and short the five portfolios of the lowest book-to-market firms. The five portfolios at each end are due to the size splits we employed alongside the book-to-market splits.

To implement the independent bivariate portfolio sort, we assign monthly portfolios for each of our sorting variables separately to create the variables `portfolio_bm` and `portfolio_size`, respectively. Then, these separate portfolios are combined to the final sort stored in `portfolio_combined`. After assigning the portfolios, we compute the average return within each portfolio for each month. Additionally, we keep the book-to-market portfolio as it makes the computation of the value premium easier. The alternative would be to disaggregate the combined portfolio in a separate step. Notice that we weigh the stocks within each portfolio by their market capitalization, i.e., we decide to value-weight our returns.

```
value_portfolios = (data_for_sorts
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(lambda x: x.assign(
      portfolio_bm=assign_portfolio(
        data=x, sorting_variable="bm", n_portfolios=5, exchanges=["HOSE"]
      ),
      portfolio_size=assign_portfolio(
        data=x, sorting_variable="size", n_portfolios=5, exchanges=["HOSE"]
      )
    )
  )
  .reset_index(drop=True)
  .groupby(["date", "portfolio_bm", "portfolio_size"])
  .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
      "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
    })
  )
  .reset_index()
)
```

Equipped with our monthly portfolio returns, we are ready to compute the value premium. However, we still have to decide how to invest in the five high and the five low book-to-market portfolios. The most common approach is to weigh these portfolios equally, but this is yet another researcher's choice. Then, we compute the return differential between the high and low book-to-market portfolios and show the average value premium.

```
value_premium = (value_portfolios
  .groupby(["date", "portfolio_bm"])
  .aggregate({"ret": "mean"})
  .reset_index()
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
    "value_premium": (
        x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == x["portfolio_bm"].max(), "ret"].mean() -
          x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == x["portfolio_bm"].min(), "ret"].mean()
      )
    })
  )
  .aggregate({"value_premium": "mean"})
)
```

11.4 Dependent Sorts

In the previous exercise, we assigned the portfolios without considering the second variable in the assignment. This protocol is called independent portfolio sorts. The alternative, i.e., dependent sorts, creates portfolios for the second sorting variable within each bucket of the first sorting variable. In our example below, we sort firms into five size buckets, and within each of those buckets, we assign firms to five book-to-market portfolios. Hence, we have monthly breakpoints that are specific to each size group. The decision between independent and dependent portfolio sorts is another choice for the researcher. Notice that dependent sorts guarantee that portfolios have roughly equal numbers of stocks when breakpoints are computed from all exchanges. However, if breakpoints are based only on HOSE stocks, portfolio counts will generally be uneven — reflecting the large presence of small-cap stocks on HNX and UPCoM (see Exercise below).

To implement the dependent sorts, we first create the size portfolios by calling `assign_portfolio()` with `sorting_variable="me"`. Then, we group our data again by month and by the size portfolio before assigning the book-to-market portfolio. The rest of the implementation is the same as before. Finally, we compute the value premium.

```
value_portfolios = (data_for_sorts
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(lambda x: x.assign(
      portfolio_size=assign_portfolio(
        data=x, sorting_variable="size", n_portfolios=5, exchanges=["HOSE"]
      )
    )
```

```
  )
  .reset_index(drop=True)
  .groupby(["date", "portfolio_size"])
  .apply(lambda x: x.assign(
      portfolio_bm=assign_portfolio(
        data=x, sorting_variable="bm", n_portfolios=5, exchanges=["HOSE"]
      )
    )
  )
  .reset_index(drop=True)
  .groupby(["date", "portfolio_bm", "portfolio_size"])
  .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
      "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
    })
  )
  .reset_index()
)

value_premium = (value_portfolios
  .groupby(["date", "portfolio_bm"])
  .aggregate({"ret": "mean"})
  .reset_index()
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
    "value_premium": (
        x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == x["portfolio_bm"].max(), "ret"].mean() -
          x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == x["portfolio_bm"].min(), "ret"].mean()
      )
    })
  )
  .aggregate({"value_premium": "mean"})
)
```

Overall, we show how to conduct bivariate portfolio sorts in this chapter. In one case, we sort the portfolios independently of each other. Yet we also discuss how to create dependent portfolio sorts. Along the lines of Size Sorts, we see how many choices a researcher has to make to implement portfolio sorts, and bivariate sorts increase the number of choices.

11.5 Key Takeaways

- Bivariate portfolio sorts assign stocks based on two characteristics, such as firm size and book-to-market ratio, to better capture return patterns in asset pricing.
- Independent sorts treat each variable separately, while dependent sorts condition the second sort on the first.
- Proper handling of accounting data, especially lagging the book-to-market ratio, is essential to avoid look-ahead bias and ensure valid backtesting.
- Value premiums are derived by comparing returns of high versus low book-to-market portfolios, with results sensitive to sorting choices and weighting schemes.

12 Portfolio Weighting and Rebalancing

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we systematically compare portfolio weighting schemes (e.g., value-weighted, equal-weighted, and several risk-based alternativesin the Vietnamese equity market. We quantify the impact of rebalancing frequency and transaction costs on realized performance, and develop practical tools for constructing implementable portfolios under the frictions characteristic of an emerging market.

Every portfolio construction decision ultimately reduces to two choices: which assets to hold, and how much to allocate to each. While earlier chapters have focused on the first question, using factor models, anomalies, and fundamental analysis to select stocks, this chapter addresses the second. The weighting scheme a researcher or investor applies can fundamentally alter the conclusions drawn from portfolio-level tests and the returns earned from an investment strategy.

The distinction matters more in Vietnam than in large, liquid markets. The Vietnamese equity market features extreme skewness in the market capitalization distribution: the top 10 firms on HOSE account for roughly 50% of total market capitalization, while hundreds of small firms contribute negligible weight. Under value-weighting, a portfolio's performance is dominated by a handful of large-cap names (Vinhomes, Vingroup, Vietcombank, FPT). Under equal-weighting, every firm contributes equally, tilting the portfolio toward small, illiquid stocks that may be expensive or impossible to trade at scale. Neither scheme is inherently correct; the choice depends on the question being asked.

This chapter develops the analytical framework for making that choice. We begin with the theoretical properties of weighting schemes, implement each scheme in practice with Vietnamese data, quantify the transaction costs of rebalancing, and extend the analysis to risk-based alternatives that explicitly incorporate the covariance structure of returns.

12.1 Theoretical Framework

12.1.1 Value-Weighted Portfolios

A value-weighted (VW) portfolio allocates to each stock in proportion to its market capitalization:

$$w_{i,t}^{VW} = \frac{\text{MCap}_{i,t}}{\sum_{j=1}^{N_t} \text{MCap}_{j,t}} \tag{12.1}$$

where $\text{MCap}_{i,t} = P_{i,t} \times \text{Shares}_{i,t}$ is the market capitalization of stock i at time t.

The VW portfolio has a unique theoretical status: it is the portfolio that all investors collectively hold (the "market portfolio" in CAPM). Its key properties are:

1. **Self-rebalancing.** As prices move, weights adjust automatically. A VW portfolio requires trading only when constituents enter or leave the index, or when corporate actions (splits, issuances) change shares outstanding.
2. **Low turnover.** Because weights drift with prices rather than being reset to targets, VW portfolios have minimal rebalancing costs.
3. **Large-cap bias.** Returns are dominated by the largest firms. In Vietnam, this means the portfolio's risk-return profile is heavily influenced by banking, real estate, and technology conglomerates.

Hsu (2004) argues that VW portfolios are sub-optimal because they mechanically overweight overpriced stocks and underweight underpriced stocks (i.e., any deviation of price from fundamental value creates a systematic drag on VW performance relative to a fundamentally weighted alternative).

12.1.2 Equal-Weighted Portfolios

An equal-weighted (EW) portfolio assigns the same weight to each constituent:

$$w_{i,t}^{EW} = \frac{1}{N_t} \tag{12.2}$$

DeMiguel, Garlappi, and Uppal (2009) show that the 1/N portfolio is surprisingly competitive with mean-variance optimized portfolios, particularly when estimation windows are short and the number of assets is large (conditions that closely describe the Vietnamese market). The intuition is that estimation error in expected returns and covariances can overwhelm the gains from optimization, making the "naive" equal-weight scheme a robust default.

Plyakha, Uppal, and Vilkov (2021) decompose the EW outperformance over VW into two components:

1. **Size tilt.** EW allocates more to small firms, which historically earn a size premium.
2. **Rebalancing bonus.** Monthly rebalancing back to equal weights is a contrarian strategy: it sells recent winners and buys recent losers, profiting from mean reversion in individual stock returns.

However, the EW portfolio has practical disadvantages that are particularly severe in Vietnam:

- **High turnover.** Every rebalancing date requires trading every stock back to equal weight.
- **Illiquidity exposure.** Equal weighting of micro-cap stocks that trade VND 100 million/day alongside large-caps trading VND 500 billion/day creates severe implementation challenges.
- **Price impact.** In a market with daily price limits ($\pm$ 7% on HOSE, $\pm$ 10% on HNX), rebalancing trades for illiquid names may hit limit-up or limit-down, preventing full execution.

12.1.3 The Weighting Spectrum

Between VW and EW lies a continuum of weighting schemes. Table 12.1 summarizes the major alternatives.

Table 12.1: Summary of portfolio weighting schemes.

Scheme	Weight Formula	Key Property	Key Risk
Value-weighted	$w_i \propto \text{MCap}_i$	Self-rebalancing, low turnover	Large-cap concentration
Equal-weighted	$w_i = 1/N$	Maximum naive diversification	High turnover, illiquidity
Fundamental	$w_i \propto F_i$ (revenue, book equity, etc.)	Breaks price-value link	Requires accounting data
Minimum variance	$\mathbf{w} = \arg\min \mathbf{w}'\Sigma\mathbf{w}$	Lowest portfolio volatility	Estimation error in Σ
Risk parity	$w_i\sigma_i = w_j\sigma_j \ \forall\, i, j$	Equal risk contribution	Leverages low-vol assets
Maximum diversification	$\max \frac{\mathbf{w}'\sigma}{\sqrt{\mathbf{w}'\Sigma\mathbf{w}}}$	Maximizes diversification ratio	Sensitive to correlation estimates
Capped VW	$w_i \propto \text{MCap}_i$, $w_i \leq \bar{w}$	Reduces concentration	Arbitrary cap threshold

12.2 Data Construction

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy.optimize import minimize
from sklearn.covariance import LedoitWolf
from linearmodels.panel import PanelOLS
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (10, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

```
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Daily prices and volume
daily = client.get_daily_prices(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'date', 'close', 'adjusted_close', 'volume',
        'turnover_value', 'market_cap', 'shares_outstanding',
        'bid_ask_spread', 'free_float_pct'
    ]
)

# Monthly returns (pre-computed for convenience)
monthly = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
```

```
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap',
        'volume_avg_20d', 'turnover_value_avg_20d'
    ]
)

# Fundamentals for fundamental weighting
fundamentals = client.get_fundamentals(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='annual',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'revenue', 'book_equity',
        'total_assets', 'dividends_paid', 'operating_cash_flow'
    ]
)

# Market-level returns for benchmarking
market_index = client.get_index(
    index='VNINDEX',
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly'
)

print(f"Daily observations: {daily.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Monthly observations: {monthly.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Unique tickers: {monthly['ticker'].nunique()}")
```

12.2.1 Universe Construction and Liquidity Filters

A critical pre-processing step is defining the investable universe. Including all listed stocks, regardless of liquidity, inflates the apparent benefits of equal-weighting and other small-cap-tilted schemes because it implicitly assumes the ability to trade illiquid stocks without friction. We apply graduated liquidity filters and track how results change.

```
def construct_universe(monthly_df, min_mcap_pct=0, min_turnover=0, min_months=12):
    """
    Construct investable universe with liquidity filters.
```

```
    Parameters
    ----------
    min_mcap_pct : float
        Exclude stocks below this market cap percentile (0-100).
    min_turnover : float
        Minimum average daily turnover in VND billion.
    min_months : int
        Minimum months of return history required.
    """
    df = monthly_df.copy()

    # Market cap percentile filter (within each month)
    if min_mcap_pct > 0:
        df["mcap_pctile"] = df.groupby("month_end")["market_cap"].transform(
            lambda x: x.rank(pct=True) * 100
        )
        df = df[df["mcap_pctile"] >= min_mcap_pct]

    # Turnover filter
    if min_turnover > 0:
        df = df[df["turnover_value_avg_20d"] >= min_turnover * 1e9]

    # History filter
    ticker_months = df.groupby("ticker")["month_end"].transform("count")
    df = df[ticker_months >= min_months]

    return df


# Define three universes of increasing restrictiveness
universe_all = construct_universe(monthly)
universe_mid = construct_universe(monthly, min_mcap_pct=20, min_turnover=0.5)
universe_liquid = construct_universe(monthly, min_mcap_pct=40, min_turnover=2.0)

for name, univ in [
    ("All stocks", universe_all),
    ("Mid filter", universe_mid),
    ("Liquid only", universe_liquid),
]:
    n_stocks = univ.groupby("month_end")["ticker"].nunique().median()
    print(f"{name}: median {n_stocks:.0f} stocks/month")
```

12.2.2 Market Capitalization Concentration

Before comparing weighting schemes, it is instructive to document how concentrated the Vietnamese market actually is.

12.3 Implementing Weighting Schemes

We now implement each weighting scheme and compute monthly portfolio returns. All implementations follow a common structure: at each rebalancing date, compute target weights from available information, then compute the weighted return over the subsequent holding period.

12.3.1 Core Portfolio Engine

```
def compute_portfolio_returns(
    monthly_df,
    weight_fn,
    rebal_freq="M",
    max_weight=1.0,
    min_weight=0.0,
):
    """
    Compute time series of portfolio returns for a given weighting function.

    Parameters
    ----------
    monthly_df : DataFrame
        Must contain 'ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', and any
        columns needed by weight_fn.
    weight_fn : callable
        Function that takes a cross-section DataFrame and returns a
        Series of weights indexed by ticker. Weights need not sum to 1
        (they will be normalized).
    rebal_freq : str
        'M' for monthly, 'Q' for quarterly, 'A' for annual.
    max_weight : float
        Maximum weight per stock (for capped schemes).
    min_weight : float
        Minimum weight per stock.
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Cumulative market cap share (latest month)
latest = monthly[monthly['month_end'] == monthly['month_end'].max()].copy()
latest = latest.sort_values('market_cap', ascending=False)
latest['cum_mcap_share'] = (
    latest['market_cap'].cumsum() / latest['market_cap'].sum()
)
latest['rank'] = range(1, len(latest) + 1)
latest['rank_pct'] = latest['rank'] / len(latest) * 100

axes[0].plot(latest['rank_pct'], latest['cum_mcap_share'] * 100,
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2)
axes[0].axhline(y=50, color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=0.8)
axes[0].axhline(y=80, color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=0.8)

# Mark top 10 and top 30
n_at_50 = (latest['cum_mcap_share'] <= 0.50).sum()
axes[0].annotate(f'Top {n_at_50} stocks = 50%',
                 xy=(n_at_50 / len(latest) * 100, 50),
                 fontsize=9, color='#C0392B')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Cumulative Stock Rank (%)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Cumulative Market Cap Share (%)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Market Cap Concentration Curve')

# Panel B: HHI over time
hhi_ts = (
    monthly
    .groupby('month_end')
    .apply(lambda g: (g['market_cap'] / g['market_cap'].sum()).pow(2).sum())
    .reset_index(name='hhi')
)
hhi_ts['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(hhi_ts['month_end'])
axes[1].plot(hhi_ts['month_end'], hhi_ts['hhi'] * 10000,
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=1.5)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Date')
axes[1].set_ylabel('HHI (basis points)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Herfindahl Index of VW Weights')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 12.1

```
    Returns
    -------
    DataFrame with columns: month_end, port_return, n_stocks,
    turnover, hhi, effective_n
    """
    months = sorted(monthly_df["month_end"].unique())

    # Determine rebalancing dates
    if rebal_freq == "M":
        rebal_dates = set(months)
    elif rebal_freq == "Q":
        rebal_dates = set(pd.to_datetime(months).to_period("Q").to_timestamp("M"))
        # Map to nearest month-end
        rebal_dates = {m for m in months if pd.Timestamp(m).month % 3 == 0}
        if not rebal_dates:
            rebal_dates = set(months[::3])
    elif rebal_freq == "A":
        rebal_dates = {m for m in months if pd.Timestamp(m).month == 6}
        if not rebal_dates:
            rebal_dates = set(months[::12])
    else:
        rebal_dates = set(months)

    results = []
    prev_weights = None

    for month in months:
        cross_section = monthly_df[monthly_df["month_end"] == month].copy()
        cross_section = cross_section.dropna(subset=["monthly_return"])

        if len(cross_section) < 5:
            continue

        if month in rebal_dates or prev_weights is None:
            # Compute fresh weights
            raw_weights = weight_fn(cross_section)
            raw_weights = raw_weights.clip(lower=min_weight, upper=max_weight)
            total = raw_weights.sum()
            if total <= 0:
                continue
            target_weights = raw_weights / total
        else:
```

```
        # Drift weights forward from previous month
        if prev_weights is not None:
            available = cross_section.set_index("ticker")
            drifted = prev_weights.reindex(available.index, fill_value=0)
            # Adjust for returns
            drifted = drifted * (1 + available["monthly_return"])
            total = drifted.sum()
            if total <= 0:
                continue
            target_weights = drifted / total
        else:
            continue

    # Align weights with available stocks
    cross_section = cross_section.set_index("ticker")
    aligned_w = target_weights.reindex(cross_section.index, fill_value=0)
    aligned_w = aligned_w / aligned_w.sum()

    # Portfolio return
    port_ret = (aligned_w * cross_section["monthly_return"]).sum()

    # Turnover (two-way)
    if prev_weights is not None:
        prev_aligned = prev_weights.reindex(aligned_w.index, fill_value=0)
        # Drift previous weights
        prev_drifted = prev_aligned * (
            1
            + cross_section["monthly_return"].reindex(
                prev_aligned.index, fill_value=0
            )
        )
        prev_drifted = (
            prev_drifted / prev_drifted.sum()
            if prev_drifted.sum() > 0
            else prev_drifted
        )
        turnover = (aligned_w - prev_drifted).abs().sum() / 2
    else:
        turnover = 1.0

    # Concentration metrics
    hhi = (aligned_w**2).sum()
```

```
        effective_n = 1.0 / hhi if hhi > 0 else 0

        results.append(
            {
                "month_end": month,
                "port_return": port_ret,
                "n_stocks": (aligned_w > 1e-6).sum(),
                "turnover": turnover,
                "hhi": hhi,
                "effective_n": effective_n,
            }
        )

        prev_weights = aligned_w.copy()

    return pd.DataFrame(results)
```

12.3.2 Value-Weighted Portfolio

```
def vw_weights(cross_section):
    """Value-weighted: proportional to market cap."""
    return cross_section.set_index('ticker')['market_cap']

vw_returns = compute_portfolio_returns(universe_mid, vw_weights, rebal_freq='M')
print(f"VW portfolio: {len(vw_returns)} months")
print(f"Mean monthly return: {vw_returns['port_return'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"Mean turnover: {vw_returns['turnover'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"Mean effective N: {vw_returns['effective_n'].mean():.1f}")
```

12.3.3 Equal-Weighted Portfolio

```
def ew_weights(cross_section):
    """Equal-weighted: 1/N."""
    tickers = cross_section.set_index('ticker').index
    return pd.Series(1.0, index=tickers)

# Monthly rebalancing
ew_monthly = compute_portfolio_returns(
```

```
    universe_mid, ew_weights, rebal_freq='M'
)

# Quarterly rebalancing
ew_quarterly = compute_portfolio_returns(
    universe_mid, ew_weights, rebal_freq='Q'
)

# Annual rebalancing (June)
ew_annual = compute_portfolio_returns(
    universe_mid, ew_weights, rebal_freq='A'
)

for name, df in [('EW Monthly', ew_monthly),
                  ('EW Quarterly', ew_quarterly),
                  ('EW Annual', ew_annual)]:
    print(f"{name}: mean ret = {df['port_return'].mean():.4f}, "
          f"turnover = {df['turnover'].mean():.4f}")
```

12.3.4 Capped Value-Weighted Portfolio

To mitigate the concentration of pure VW while retaining its low-turnover properties, we impose a cap on individual stock weights. A common choice is 5% or 10%, mimicking the construction rules of capped indices such as the MSCI Capped indices.

```
def capped_vw_weights(cross_section, cap=0.05):
    """Capped VW: market cap weights with an upper bound."""
    w = cross_section.set_index('ticker')['market_cap']
    w = w / w.sum()
    # Iterative capping (redistribute excess weight)
    for _ in range(20):
        excess = w[w > cap] - cap
        if excess.sum() <= 1e-8:
            break
        w[w > cap] = cap
        w[w <= cap] *= (1 + excess.sum() / w[w <= cap].sum())
    return w

capped5 = compute_portfolio_returns(
    universe_mid, lambda cs: capped_vw_weights(cs, 0.05), rebal_freq='M'
)
```

```
capped10 = compute_portfolio_returns(
    universe_mid, lambda cs: capped_vw_weights(cs, 0.10), rebal_freq='M'
)

print(f"Capped 5%: eff_N = {capped5['effective_n'].mean():.1f}, "
      f"turnover = {capped5['turnover'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"Capped 10%: eff_N = {capped10['effective_n'].mean():.1f}, "
      f"turnover = {capped10['turnover'].mean():.4f}")
```

12.3.5 Fundamental-Weighted Portfolio

Arnott, Hsu, and Moore (2005) propose weighting stocks by fundamental measures (revenue, book equity, dividends, cash flow) rather than market cap. The logic is that fundamental weights are not contaminated by pricing errors, breaking the mechanical overweighting of overvalued stocks inherent in VW. We construct a composite fundamental weight using the average rank across four measures:

$$w_{i,t}^{FW} \propto \frac{1}{4}\left(\text{Rank}_{i,t}^{\text{Rev}} + \text{Rank}_{i,t}^{\text{BE}} + \text{Rank}_{i,t}^{\text{Div}} + \text{Rank}_{i,t}^{\text{CFO}}\right) \tag{12.3}$$

```
# Merge fundamentals with monthly data (use most recent fiscal year)
fundamentals["merge_year"] = fundamentals["fiscal_year"] + 1  # Lag by 1 year
monthly_fund = monthly.copy()
monthly_fund["year"] = pd.to_datetime(monthly_fund["month_end"]).dt.year

monthly_fund = monthly_fund.merge(
    fundamentals.rename(columns={"merge_year": "year"}),
    on=["ticker", "year"],
    how="left",
)


def fw_weights(cross_section):
    """Fundamental-weighted: composite of revenue, book equity, dividends, CFO."""
    cs = cross_section.set_index("ticker")
    ranks = pd.DataFrame(index=cs.index)

    for col in ["revenue", "book_equity", "dividends_paid", "operating_cash_flow"]:
        if col in cs.columns:
            vals = cs[col].clip(lower=0)  # Only positive values
            ranks[col] = vals.rank(pct=True)
```

```
    composite = ranks.mean(axis=1)
    composite = composite.fillna(0)
    return composite


fw_returns = compute_portfolio_returns(monthly_fund, fw_weights, rebal_freq="A")
print(
    f"Fundamental-weighted: mean ret = {fw_returns['port_return'].mean():.4f}, "
    f"eff_N = {fw_returns['effective_n'].mean():.1f}"
)
```

12.4 Risk-Based Weighting Schemes

The weighting schemes above use only market cap or accounting data. Risk-based schemes incorporate the covariance structure of returns, aiming to produce portfolios with better risk-adjusted performance. The trade-off is that they require estimating the covariance matrix (i.e., a high-dimensional object that is notoriously difficult to estimate precisely with short time series).

12.4.1 Covariance Estimation

With $N \approx 300$ stocks and $T \approx 60$ months, the sample covariance matrix is severely ill-conditioned. We use the Ledoit and Wolf (2004) shrinkage estimator, which pulls the sample covariance toward a structured target (the identity matrix scaled by the average variance):

$$\hat{\Sigma}^{\text{shrink}} = \delta \mathbf{F} + (1 - \delta)\mathbf{S} \tag{12.4}$$

where $\mathbf{S}$ is the sample covariance, $\mathbf{F}$ is the shrinkage target, and $\delta \in [0, 1]$ is the optimal shrinkage intensity derived analytically.

```
def estimate_covariance(monthly_df, month, lookback=60, min_obs=36):
    """
    Estimate covariance matrix using Ledoit-Wolf shrinkage.

    Parameters
    ----------
    monthly_df : DataFrame with ticker, month_end, monthly_return
    month : target month (use returns before this date)
    lookback : number of months to use
```

```
    min_obs : minimum observations per stock

    Returns
    -------
    cov_matrix : DataFrame (N x N)
    tickers : list of tickers with sufficient data
    """
    end_date = pd.Timestamp(month)
    start_date = end_date - pd.DateOffset(months=lookback)

    window = monthly_df[
        (monthly_df['month_end'] > start_date) &
        (monthly_df['month_end'] <= end_date)
    ]

    # Pivot to wide format
    returns_wide = window.pivot_table(
        index='month_end', columns='ticker', values='monthly_return'
    )

    # Keep stocks with sufficient observations
    valid_cols = returns_wide.columns[returns_wide.notna().sum() >= min_obs]
    returns_wide = returns_wide[valid_cols].dropna(axis=0, how='all')

    # Fill remaining NAs with 0 (conservative)
    returns_clean = returns_wide.fillna(0)

    if returns_clean.shape[1] < 10:
        return None, None

    # Ledoit-Wolf shrinkage
    lw = LedoitWolf()
    lw.fit(returns_clean.values)

    cov_matrix = pd.DataFrame(
        lw.covariance_,
        index=valid_cols, columns=valid_cols
    )

    return cov_matrix, list(valid_cols)
```

12.4.2 Minimum Variance Portfolio

The global minimum variance (GMV) portfolio minimizes portfolio variance without targeting a specific return level (Clarke, De Silva, and Thorley 2011):

$$\mathbf{w}^{MV} = \arg\min_{\mathbf{w}} \ \mathbf{w}'\hat{\Sigma}\mathbf{w} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad \mathbf{1}'\mathbf{w} = 1, \ w_i \geq 0 \tag{12.5}$$

The long-only constraint ($w_i \geq 0$) is essential in practice and also acts as an implicit shrinkage that improves out-of-sample performance (Jagannathan and Ma 2003).

```
def minimum_variance_weights(cov_matrix, max_weight=0.05):
    """
    Solve for the minimum variance portfolio with long-only
    and position-size constraints.
    """
    n = cov_matrix.shape[0]
    Sigma = cov_matrix.values

    def portfolio_variance(w):
        return w @ Sigma @ w

    constraints = [
        {'type': 'eq', 'fun': lambda w: np.sum(w) - 1}
    ]
    bounds = [(0, max_weight) for _ in range(n)]
    x0 = np.ones(n) / n

    result = minimize(
        portfolio_variance, x0,
        method='SLSQP',
        bounds=bounds,
        constraints=constraints,
        options={'maxiter': 1000, 'ftol': 1e-12}
    )

    if result.success:
        return pd.Series(result.x, index=cov_matrix.index)
    else:
        return pd.Series(1.0 / n, index=cov_matrix.index)

def mv_weight_fn(cross_section, cov_cache={}):
    """Wrapper for portfolio engine: minimum variance."""
```

```
    month = cross_section['month_end'].iloc[0]

    if month not in cov_cache:
        cov_matrix, tickers = estimate_covariance(monthly, month)
        cov_cache[month] = (cov_matrix, tickers)

    cov_matrix, tickers = cov_cache[month]
    if cov_matrix is None:
        # Fallback to equal weight
        return pd.Series(1.0, index=cross_section.set_index('ticker').index)

    # Restrict to stocks in both cross-section and covariance matrix
    available = set(cross_section['ticker']) & set(tickers)
    if len(available) < 10:
        return pd.Series(1.0, index=cross_section.set_index('ticker').index)

    sub_cov = cov_matrix.loc[list(available), list(available)]
    weights = minimum_variance_weights(sub_cov)

    return weights

mv_returns = compute_portfolio_returns(
    universe_mid, mv_weight_fn, rebal_freq='Q'
)
print(f"Min Variance: mean ret = {mv_returns['port_return'].mean():.4f}, "
      f"std = {mv_returns['port_return'].std():.4f}")
```

12.4.3 Risk Parity (Equal Risk Contribution)

Risk parity allocates so that each asset contributes equally to total portfolio risk (Maillard, Roncalli, and Teïletche 2010). The risk contribution of asset i is:

$$RC_i = w_i \cdot \frac{(\Sigma \mathbf{w})_i}{\sqrt{\mathbf{w}'\Sigma\mathbf{w}}} \tag{12.6}$$

The risk parity portfolio solves $RC_i = RC_j$ for all i, j:

```
def risk_parity_weights(cov_matrix, max_weight=0.05):
    """
    Solve for the risk parity portfolio where each asset
    contributes equally to total portfolio variance.
```

```
    """
    n = cov_matrix.shape[0]
    Sigma = cov_matrix.values

    def risk_parity_objective(w):
        port_var = w @ Sigma @ w
        marginal = Sigma @ w
        risk_contrib = w * marginal
        target_rc = port_var / n
        return np.sum((risk_contrib - target_rc) ** 2)

    constraints = [
        {'type': 'eq', 'fun': lambda w: np.sum(w) - 1}
    ]
    bounds = [(1e-6, max_weight) for _ in range(n)]
    x0 = np.ones(n) / n

    result = minimize(
        risk_parity_objective, x0,
        method='SLSQP',
        bounds=bounds,
        constraints=constraints,
        options={'maxiter': 1000, 'ftol': 1e-12}
    )

    if result.success:
        return pd.Series(result.x, index=cov_matrix.index)
    else:
        return pd.Series(1.0 / n, index=cov_matrix.index)

def rp_weight_fn(cross_section, cov_cache={}):
    """Wrapper for portfolio engine: risk parity."""
    month = cross_section['month_end'].iloc[0]

    if month not in cov_cache:
        cov_matrix, tickers = estimate_covariance(monthly, month)
        cov_cache[month] = (cov_matrix, tickers)

    cov_matrix, tickers = cov_cache[month]
    if cov_matrix is None:
        return pd.Series(1.0, index=cross_section.set_index('ticker').index)
```

```
    available = set(cross_section['ticker']) & set(tickers)
    if len(available) < 10:
        return pd.Series(1.0, index=cross_section.set_index('ticker').index)

    sub_cov = cov_matrix.loc[list(available), list(available)]
    return risk_parity_weights(sub_cov)

rp_returns = compute_portfolio_returns(
    universe_mid, rp_weight_fn, rebal_freq='Q'
)
print(f"Risk Parity: mean ret = {rp_returns['port_return'].mean():.4f}, "
      f"std = {rp_returns['port_return'].std():.4f}")
```

12.4.4 Maximum Diversification Portfolio

Choueifaty (2008) define the diversification ratio as the ratio of weighted average volatility to portfolio volatility:

$$DR(\mathbf{w}) = \frac{\mathbf{w}'\sigma}{\sqrt{\mathbf{w}'\Sigma\mathbf{w}}} \tag{12.7}$$

where σ is the vector of individual asset volatilities. The maximum diversification portfolio maximizes this ratio:

```
def max_diversification_weights(cov_matrix, max_weight=0.05):
    """Maximize the diversification ratio."""
    n = cov_matrix.shape[0]
    Sigma = cov_matrix.values
    sigma = np.sqrt(np.diag(Sigma))

    def neg_div_ratio(w):
        port_vol = np.sqrt(w @ Sigma @ w)
        if port_vol < 1e-10:
            return 0
        return -(w @ sigma) / port_vol

    constraints = [
        {'type': 'eq', 'fun': lambda w: np.sum(w) - 1}
    ]
    bounds = [(0, max_weight) for _ in range(n)]
    x0 = np.ones(n) / n
```

```
    result = minimize(
        neg_div_ratio, x0,
        method='SLSQP',
        bounds=bounds,
        constraints=constraints,
        options={'maxiter': 1000, 'ftol': 1e-12}
    )

    if result.success:
        return pd.Series(result.x, index=cov_matrix.index)
    else:
        return pd.Series(1.0 / n, index=cov_matrix.index)
```

12.5 Comprehensive Performance Comparison

We now compare all schemes on a common universe with consistent methodology.

```
# Collect all portfolio return series
portfolios = {
    'VW': vw_returns,
    'EW (Monthly)': ew_monthly,
    'EW (Quarterly)': ew_quarterly,
    'EW (Annual)': ew_annual,
    'Capped VW (5%)': capped5,
    'Capped VW (10%)': capped10,
    'Fundamental': fw_returns,
    'Min Variance': mv_returns,
    'Risk Parity': rp_returns,
}

# Align to common date range
common_start = max(df['month_end'].min() for df in portfolios.values())
common_end = min(df['month_end'].max() for df in portfolios.values())

for name in portfolios:
    portfolios[name] = portfolios[name][
        (portfolios[name]['month_end'] >= common_start) &
        (portfolios[name]['month_end'] <= common_end)
    ].copy()
```

```
print(f"Common period: {common_start} to {common_end}")
print(f"Number of months: {len(portfolios['VW'])}")
```

12.5.1 Performance Metrics

```
def compute_metrics(returns_df, risk_free_annual=0.04):
    """Compute performance metrics from monthly portfolio returns."""
    r = returns_df['port_return']
    rf_monthly = (1 + risk_free_annual) ** (1/12) - 1

    excess = r - rf_monthly
    n_months = len(r)

    # Annualized return
    cum_ret = (1 + r).prod()
    ann_ret = cum_ret ** (12 / n_months) - 1

    # Annualized volatility
    ann_vol = r.std() * np.sqrt(12)

    # Sharpe ratio
    sharpe = excess.mean() / excess.std() * np.sqrt(12) if excess.std() > 0 else 0

    # Maximum drawdown
    cum = (1 + r).cumprod()
    running_max = cum.cummax()
    drawdown = (cum - running_max) / running_max
    max_dd = drawdown.min()

    # Sortino ratio
    downside = excess[excess < 0]
    downside_vol = np.sqrt((downside ** 2).mean()) * np.sqrt(12)
    sortino = excess.mean() * 12 / downside_vol if downside_vol > 0 else 0

    # Calmar ratio
    calmar = ann_ret / abs(max_dd) if max_dd != 0 else 0

    # Average turnover and effective N
    avg_turnover = returns_df['turnover'].mean()
    avg_eff_n = returns_df['effective_n'].mean()
```

```
    # Skewness and kurtosis
    skew = r.skew()
    kurt = r.kurtosis()

    return {
        'Ann. Return': ann_ret,
        'Ann. Volatility': ann_vol,
        'Sharpe Ratio': sharpe,
        'Sortino Ratio': sortino,
        'Max Drawdown': max_dd,
        'Calmar Ratio': calmar,
        'Skewness': skew,
        'Kurtosis': kurt,
        'Avg. Turnover': avg_turnover,
        'Effective N': avg_eff_n
    }

# Compute metrics for all portfolios
metrics_list = []
for name, df in portfolios.items():
    m = compute_metrics(df)
    m['Portfolio'] = name
    metrics_list.append(m)

metrics_df = pd.DataFrame(metrics_list).set_index('Portfolio')

# Format for display
display_cols = [
    'Ann. Return', 'Ann. Volatility', 'Sharpe Ratio', 'Sortino Ratio',
    'Max Drawdown', 'Avg. Turnover', 'Effective N'
]
print(metrics_df[display_cols].round(3).to_string())
```

12.5.2 Risk-Return Trade-Off

```python
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 7))

colors = {
    'VW': '#2C5F8A', 'EW (Monthly)': '#E67E22',
    'EW (Quarterly)': '#F39C12', 'EW (Annual)': '#D4AC0D',
    'Capped VW (5%)': '#8E44AD', 'Capped VW (10%)': '#9B59B6',
    'Fundamental': '#27AE60', 'Min Variance': '#C0392B',
    'Risk Parity': '#1ABC9C'
}
linestyles = {
    'VW': '-', 'EW (Monthly)': '-', 'EW (Quarterly)': '--',
    'EW (Annual)': ':', 'Capped VW (5%)': '-',
    'Capped VW (10%)': '--', 'Fundamental': '-',
    'Min Variance': '-', 'Risk Parity': '-'
}

for name, df in portfolios.items():
    cum = (1 + df.set_index('month_end')['port_return']).cumprod()
    ax.plot(cum.index, cum.values, label=name,
            color=colors.get(name, 'gray'),
            linestyle=linestyles.get(name, '-'),
            linewidth=1.8 if name in ['VW', 'EW (Monthly)', 'Min Variance'] else 1.2)

ax.set_xlabel('Date')
ax.set_ylabel('Cumulative Wealth (VND 1 invested)')
ax.set_title('Cumulative Performance by Weighting Scheme')
ax.legend(loc='upper left', fontsize=9, ncol=2)
ax.set_yscale('log')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 12.2

```python
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9, 7))

for name in metrics_df.index:
    ax.scatter(
        metrics_df.loc[name, 'Ann. Volatility'],
        metrics_df.loc[name, 'Ann. Return'],
        s=metrics_df.loc[name, 'Effective N'] * 3,
        color=colors.get(name, 'gray'),
        alpha=0.85, edgecolors='white', linewidth=1.5, zorder=5
    )
    ax.annotate(
        name,
        (metrics_df.loc[name, 'Ann. Volatility'] + 0.002,
         metrics_df.loc[name, 'Ann. Return']),
        fontsize=8
    )

ax.set_xlabel('Annualized Volatility')
ax.set_ylabel('Annualized Return')
ax.set_title('Risk-Return Profile (bubble size = Effective N)')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 12.3

12.6 Transaction Costs and Net-of-Cost Performance

12.6.1 Estimating Trading Costs in Vietnam

Transaction costs in Vietnam include explicit components (brokerage commissions, exchange fees, taxes) and implicit components (bid-ask spread, price impact). The explicit cost structure as of 2024 is approximately:

Table 12.2: Explicit transaction cost components for Vietnamese equities.

Component	Rate	Notes
Brokerage commission	0.15–0.35%	Varies by broker and volume tier
Exchange & clearing fee	0.003%	Fixed by exchange
Selling tax	0.10%	Levied on gross sale proceeds

The total explicit round-trip cost (buy + sell) ranges from approximately 0.30% to 0.80%. Implicit costs—the spread and price impact—can be substantially larger for small and illiquid stocks.

We model total transaction costs as a function of trade size and stock liquidity:

$$TC_{i,t} = c_{\text{fixed}} + \frac{1}{2}\text{Spread}_{i,t} + \lambda\sqrt{\frac{|\Delta w_{i,t}| \cdot \text{AUM}}{ADV_{i,t}}} \tag{12.8}$$

where $c_{\text{fixed}} \approx 0.25\%$ is the explicit cost per trade, $\text{Spread}_{i,t}$ is the quoted bid-ask spread, $\Delta w_{i,t}$ is the weight change, AUM is portfolio size, $ADV_{i,t}$ is average daily volume in VND, and λ is the price impact coefficient estimated from the Amihud (2002) model.

```python
def estimate_transaction_costs(weight_changes, stock_data,
                               aum_vnd=100e9, fixed_cost=0.0025,
                               impact_coef=0.10):
    """
    Estimate total transaction costs for a rebalancing event.

    Parameters
    ----------
    weight_changes : Series indexed by ticker, absolute weight changes
    stock_data : DataFrame with ticker, bid_ask_spread, turnover_value_avg_20d
    aum_vnd : float, portfolio AUM in VND
    fixed_cost : float, explicit cost per unit traded (one-way)
    impact_coef : float, price impact coefficient (lambda)
```

```
    Returns
    -------
    total_cost : float, total TC as fraction of AUM
    cost_detail : DataFrame with per-stock costs
    """
    costs = []

    for ticker, dw in weight_changes.items():
        if abs(dw) < 1e-6:
            continue

        trade_vnd = abs(dw) * aum_vnd

        # Explicit cost (one-way)
        explicit = fixed_cost * trade_vnd

        # Spread cost
        stock_info = stock_data[stock_data['ticker'] == ticker]
        if len(stock_info) > 0:
            spread = stock_info['bid_ask_spread'].iloc[0]
            adv = stock_info['turnover_value_avg_20d'].iloc[0]
        else:
            spread = 0.005  # Default 50 bps
            adv = 1e9  # Default VND 1bn

        spread_cost = 0.5 * spread * trade_vnd

        # Price impact (square root model)
        participation_rate = trade_vnd / max(adv, 1e6)
        impact_cost = impact_coef * np.sqrt(participation_rate) * trade_vnd

        total = explicit + spread_cost + impact_cost
        costs.append({
            'ticker': ticker,
            'weight_change': dw,
            'trade_vnd': trade_vnd,
            'explicit': explicit,
            'spread': spread_cost,
            'impact': impact_cost,
            'total': total
        })
```

```
    cost_df = pd.DataFrame(costs)
    total_cost = cost_df['total'].sum() / aum_vnd if len(cost_df) > 0 else 0

    return total_cost, cost_df
```

12.6.2 Net-of-Cost Performance

We apply the transaction cost model to compute net-of-cost returns for each weighting scheme at different assumed AUM levels. This is critical because strategies that appear attractive in gross terms may be unimplementable at scale due to the illiquidity of small-cap Vietnamese stocks.

```
def compute_net_returns(portfolio_df, cost_per_turnover=0.005):
    """
    Approximate net returns using a proportional cost model.
    Net return = gross return - (turnover * cost_per_unit_turnover)
    """
    df = portfolio_df.copy()
    df['tc'] = df['turnover'] * cost_per_turnover
    df['net_return'] = df['port_return'] - df['tc']
    return df

# Compute at different cost assumptions
cost_scenarios = {
    'Low (25 bps)': 0.0025,
    'Medium (50 bps)': 0.005,
    'High (100 bps)': 0.01
}

print("Annualized Net Sharpe Ratios by Cost Scenario:")
print("-" * 70)

for cost_name, cost_rate in cost_scenarios.items():
    row = {'Scenario': cost_name}
    for port_name, port_df in portfolios.items():
        net_df = compute_net_returns(port_df, cost_rate)
        rf_monthly = (1.04) ** (1/12) - 1
        excess = net_df['net_return'] - rf_monthly
        sharpe = excess.mean() / excess.std() * np.sqrt(12) if excess.std() > 0 else 0
        row[port_name] = round(sharpe, 3)
    print(f"{cost_name}:")
```

```
    for k, v in row.items():
        if k != 'Scenario':
            print(f"  {k}: {v}")
    print()
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 5))

turnover_data = {}
for name, df in portfolios.items():
    turnover_data[name] = df['turnover'].values

positions = range(len(turnover_data))
bp = ax.boxplot(
    turnover_data.values(),
    positions=positions,
    widths=0.6,
    patch_artist=True,
    showfliers=False,
    medianprops={'color': 'black', 'linewidth': 1.5}
)

for i, (patch, name) in enumerate(zip(bp['boxes'], turnover_data.keys())):
    patch.set_facecolor(colors.get(name, 'gray'))
    patch.set_alpha(0.7)

ax.set_xticks(positions)
ax.set_xticklabels(turnover_data.keys(), rotation=45, ha='right', fontsize=9)
ax.set_ylabel('Monthly Turnover (one-way)')
ax.set_title('Turnover Distribution by Weighting Scheme')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 12.4

12.6.3 Cost Erosion at Scale

The relationship between portfolio AUM and implementable performance is non-linear because price impact costs grow with trade size. We simulate performance at different AUM levels:

```
aum_levels = [10, 50, 100, 500, 1000, 5000]  # VND billions

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))

selected_ports = ['VW', 'EW (Monthly)', 'Capped VW (5%)',
                    'Min Variance', 'Risk Parity']

for name in selected_ports:
    sharpes = []
    df = portfolios[name]

    for aum in aum_levels:
        # Cost scales with sqrt(AUM / ADV)
        base_cost = 0.003  # Base cost at small AUM
        scale_factor = np.sqrt(aum / 100)  # Normalized to VND 100bn
        cost_rate = base_cost * scale_factor

        # VW is less affected (large-cap tilt)
        if name == 'VW':
            cost_rate *= 0.3
        elif 'Capped' in name:
            cost_rate *= 0.5
        elif 'Min Variance' in name or 'Risk Parity' in name:
            cost_rate *= 0.7

        net_df = compute_net_returns(df, cost_rate)
        rf_m = (1.04) ** (1/12) - 1
        excess = net_df['net_return'] - rf_m
        s = excess.mean() / excess.std() * np.sqrt(12) if excess.std() > 0 else 0
        sharpes.append(s)

    ax.plot(aum_levels, sharpes, marker='o', label=name,
            color=colors.get(name, 'gray'), linewidth=2)

ax.set_xlabel('Portfolio AUM (VND Billion)')
ax.set_ylabel('Net Sharpe Ratio')
ax.set_title('Sharpe Ratio Degradation with AUM')
ax.set_xscale('log')
ax.legend(fontsize=9)
ax.axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 12.5

12.7 Rebalancing Frequency Analysis

12.7.1 The Rebalancing Trade-Off

Rebalancing serves two purposes: (i) restoring target weights to maintain the desired risk profile, and (ii) harvesting the "rebalancing bonus"—the systematic profit from buying low and selling high that arises when weights are reset to targets in the presence of mean-reverting cross-sectional returns.

The trade-off is clear: more frequent rebalancing maintains tighter adherence to target weights and captures more of the rebalancing bonus, but incurs higher transaction costs. The optimal frequency depends on the magnitude of mean reversion (which determines the gross rebalancing bonus), the level of transaction costs, and the rate at which weights drift from targets.

12.7.2 Threshold-Based Rebalancing

An alternative to calendar-based rebalancing is to rebalance only when portfolio weights drift beyond a tolerance band. This "no-trade zone" approach is motivated by Gârleanu and Pedersen (2013), who derive the optimal dynamic trading strategy under quadratic transaction costs and show that the optimal portfolio is a weighted average of the current holdings and the frictionless target.

```
def compute_threshold_rebalanced(monthly_df, weight_fn,
                                 threshold=0.01):
    """
    Rebalance only when maximum weight deviation exceeds threshold.

    Parameters
    ----------
    threshold : float
        Rebalance when max(|w_actual - w_target|) > threshold.
    """
    months = sorted(monthly_df['month_end'].unique())
    results = []
    current_weights = None
    rebalance_count = 0

    for month in months:
        cs = monthly_df[monthly_df['month_end'] == month].copy()
        cs = cs.dropna(subset=['monthly_return']).set_index('ticker')

        if len(cs) < 5:
```

```
frequencies = {
    'Monthly': 'M',
    'Quarterly': 'Q',
    'Semi-annual': 'Q',  # Approximate with every 6 months
    'Annual': 'A'
}

# Recompute EW at each frequency
freq_results = {}
for freq_name, freq_code in frequencies.items():
    freq_df = compute_portfolio_returns(
        universe_mid, ew_weights, rebal_freq=freq_code
    )
    freq_results[freq_name] = freq_df

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Gross vs Net Sharpe
freq_names = list(freq_results.keys())
gross_sharpes = []
net_sharpes = []

for fn in freq_names:
    df = freq_results[fn]
    rf_m = (1.04) ** (1/12) - 1
    exc = df['port_return'] - rf_m
    gross_sharpes.append(exc.mean() / exc.std() * np.sqrt(12))

    net_df = compute_net_returns(df, 0.005)
    exc_net = net_df['net_return'] - rf_m
    net_sharpes.append(exc_net.mean() / exc_net.std() * np.sqrt(12))

x = range(len(freq_names))
axes[0].bar([i - 0.15 for i in x], gross_sharpes, width=0.3,
            color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.85, label='Gross')
axes[0].bar([i + 0.15 for i in x], net_sharpes, width=0.3,
            color='#C0392B', alpha=0.85, label='Net (50 bps)')
axes[0].set_xticks(x)
axes[0].set_xticklabels(freq_names)
axes[0].set_ylabel('Annualized Sharpe Ratio')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Sharpe Ratio by Rebalancing Frequency')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: Average turnover
turnovers = [freq_results[fn]['turnover'].mean() for fn in freq_names]
axes[1].bar(x, turnovers, color='#E67E22', alpha=0.85)
axes[1].set_xticks(x)
axes[1].set_xticklabels(freq_names)
axes[1].set_ylabel('Average Monthly Turnover')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Turnover by Rebalancing Frequency')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

```
            continue

        target = weight_fn(cs.reset_index())
        target = target / target.sum()

        if current_weights is None:
            current_weights = target.copy()
            rebalance_count += 1
        else:
            # Drift weights
            current_weights = current_weights.reindex(cs.index, fill_value=0)
            current_weights = current_weights * (1 + cs['monthly_return'])
            total = current_weights.sum()
            if total > 0:
                current_weights = current_weights / total

            # Check if rebalancing needed
            max_dev = (current_weights - target.reindex(
                current_weights.index, fill_value=0
            )).abs().max()

            if max_dev > threshold:
                turnover = (current_weights - target.reindex(
                    current_weights.index, fill_value=0
                )).abs().sum() / 2
                current_weights = target.reindex(cs.index, fill_value=0)
                current_weights = current_weights / current_weights.sum()
                rebalance_count += 1
            else:
                turnover = 0

        port_ret = (current_weights.reindex(cs.index, fill_value=0) *
                    cs['monthly_return']).sum()
        hhi = (current_weights ** 2).sum()

        results.append({
            'month_end': month,
            'port_return': port_ret,
            'turnover': turnover,
            'hhi': hhi,
            'effective_n': 1/hhi if hhi > 0 else 0,
            'n_stocks': (current_weights > 1e-6).sum()
```

```
        })

    print(f"Threshold {threshold:.1%}: rebalanced {rebalance_count} / "
          f"{len(results)} months ({rebalance_count/len(results):.0%})")
    return pd.DataFrame(results)

# Test different thresholds
thresholds = [0.005, 0.01, 0.02, 0.05]
threshold_results = {}
for t in thresholds:
    threshold_results[f'{t:.1%}'] = compute_threshold_rebalanced(
        universe_mid, ew_weights, threshold=t
    )
```

12.8 The Rebalancing Bonus: Decomposition

The excess return of the rebalanced EW portfolio over a buy-and-hold EW portfolio (which starts equal-weighted but drifts) can be decomposed following Plyakha, Uppal, and Vilkov (2021). Define r_i as the return of stock i over one period:

$$R^{EW}_{\text{rebal}} - R^{EW}_{\text{drift}} \approx \frac{1}{2N}\sum_{i=1}^{N}\text{Var}(r_i) - \frac{1}{2N^2}\sum_i\sum_j \text{Cov}(r_i, r_j) \tag{12.9}$$

The first term captures the "buy low, sell high" effect from resetting weights after return dispersion. The second term is the cost of undoing covariance-induced drift. The rebalancing bonus is larger when cross-sectional return dispersion is high (which it is in Vietnam) and when pairwise correlations are low.

```
# Compute buy-and-hold EW portfolio (no rebalancing after initial equal weight)
bh_returns = compute_portfolio_returns(
    universe_mid, ew_weights, rebal_freq='A'  # Rebalance once per year only
)

# The rebalancing bonus is the difference
bonus_df = pd.merge(
    ew_monthly[['month_end', 'port_return']].rename(
        columns={'port_return': 'rebal_return'}),
    bh_returns[['month_end', 'port_return']].rename(
        columns={'port_return': 'bh_return'}),
    on='month_end'
```

```
)
bonus_df['bonus'] = bonus_df['rebal_return'] - bonus_df['bh_return']

# Cross-sectional return dispersion
dispersion = (
    universe_mid
    .groupby('month_end')['monthly_return']
    .std()
    .reset_index(name='cs_dispersion')
)
bonus_df = bonus_df.merge(dispersion, on='month_end')

ann_bonus = bonus_df['bonus'].mean() * 12
print(f"Annualized rebalancing bonus (EW monthly vs annual): {ann_bonus:.4f}")
print(f"Mean cross-sectional dispersion: {bonus_df['cs_dispersion'].mean():.4f}")
```

```
fig, ax1 = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 5))

ax1.bar(pd.to_datetime(bonus_df['month_end']),
        bonus_df['bonus'] * 100,
        color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.6, width=25, label='Rebal. Bonus')
ax1.set_ylabel('Rebalancing Bonus (%)', color='#2C5F8A')
ax1.set_xlabel('Date')

ax2 = ax1.twinx()
ax2.plot(pd.to_datetime(bonus_df['month_end']),
         bonus_df['cs_dispersion'],
         color='#C0392B', linewidth=1.5, alpha=0.7,
         label='CS Dispersion')
ax2.set_ylabel('Cross-Sectional Return Dispersion', color='#C0392B')

ax1.set_title('Rebalancing Bonus and Return Dispersion')
lines1, labels1 = ax1.get_legend_handles_labels()
lines2, labels2 = ax2.get_legend_handles_labels()
ax1.legend(lines1 + lines2, labels1 + labels2, loc='upper left')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 12.7

12.9 Factor Exposure Analysis

Different weighting schemes induce different factor exposures, which may explain their return differences. We regress each portfolio's excess returns on the Vietnamese Fama-French factors:

$$R_{p,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_p + \beta_p^{MKT}(R_{m,t} - R_{f,t}) + \beta_p^{SMB}\text{SMB}_t + \beta_p^{HML}\text{HML}_t + \varepsilon_{p,t} \tag{12.10}$$

```
# Retrieve Vietnamese factor returns from DataCore
factors = client.get_factor_returns(
    market='vietnam',
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    factors=['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'wml']
)

# Run factor regressions for each portfolio
factor_results = {}
for name, df in portfolios.items():
    merged = pd.merge(
        df[['month_end', 'port_return']],
        factors,
        on='month_end'
    )
    rf_m = (1.04) ** (1/12) - 1
    merged['excess'] = merged['port_return'] - rf_m

    model = sm.OLS(
        merged['excess'],
        sm.add_constant(merged[['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'wml']])
    ).fit(cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6})

    factor_results[name] = {
        'Alpha (ann.)': model.params['const'] * 12,
        'Alpha t-stat': model.tvalues['const'],
        'MKT': model.params['mkt_excess'],
        'SMB': model.params['smb'],
        'HML': model.params['hml'],
        'WML': model.params['wml'],
        'R²': model.rsquared
    }
```

```
factor_df = pd.DataFrame(factor_results).T
print(factor_df.round(3).to_string())
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))

plot_data = factor_df[['MKT', 'SMB', 'HML', 'WML']].copy()
im = ax.imshow(plot_data.values, cmap='RdBu_r', aspect='auto',
               vmin=-1.5, vmax=1.5)

ax.set_xticks(range(len(plot_data.columns)))
ax.set_xticklabels(plot_data.columns, fontsize=10)
ax.set_yticks(range(len(plot_data.index)))
ax.set_yticklabels(plot_data.index, fontsize=9)

# Add text annotations
for i in range(len(plot_data.index)):
    for j in range(len(plot_data.columns)):
        val = plot_data.values[i, j]
        color = 'white' if abs(val) > 0.8 else 'black'
        ax.text(j, i, f'{val:.2f}', ha='center', va='center',
                color=color, fontsize=9)

plt.colorbar(im, ax=ax, label='Factor Loading')
ax.set_title('Factor Exposures by Weighting Scheme')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 12.8

12.10 Practical Guidance for Vietnam

The preceding analysis yields several practical recommendations for researchers and investors working with Vietnamese equities:

For academic factor research: VW portfolios remain the default for asset pricing tests because they represent the investable opportunity set and avoid inflating alpha estimates with small-cap illiquidity premia. When EW portfolios are used (e.g., to give equal influence to each stock in cross-sectional sorts), researchers should report both VW and EW results and discuss the sensitivity. Eugene F. Fama and French (2008) follow this practice systematically.

For fund management: The choice depends on AUM and mandate. At AUM below VND 500 billion, capped VW or fundamental weighting offers a practical compromise between diversification and implementability. At larger AUM, pure VW or sector-capped VW is more realistic. Risk parity and minimum variance are suitable for low-volatility mandates but require robust covariance estimation and quarterly rebalancing.

For index construction: Vietnamese index providers (VN30, VNINDEX) use variants of capped VW. The analysis suggests that the cap level significantly affects the index's diversification properties and tracking error relative to the uncapped VW market. A 10% cap balances concentration reduction against turnover.

For transaction cost management: In all schemes, the marginal benefit of rebalancing declines faster than the marginal cost as frequency increases beyond quarterly. Calendar-based quarterly rebalancing or threshold-based rebalancing (with a 1–2% tolerance band) provides the best cost-benefit trade-off in the Vietnamese market.

12.11 Summary

Table 12.3: Summary comparison of weighting schemes for Vietnamese equities.

Dimension	VW	EW	Capped VW	Fundamental	Min Var	Risk Parity
Turnover	Very low	High	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Concentration	High	None	Moderate	Moderate	Variable	Low
Size tilt	Large	Small	Moderate	Large-mid	Low-vol	Mixed
Data required	Prices	None	Prices	Accounting	Returns cov.	Returns cov.
Scale sensitivity	Low	High	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Rebal. frequency	Passive	Monthly	Monthly/Quarterly	Annual	Quarterly	Quarterly
Best use case	Benchmarks, large AUM	Cross-sectional tests	Index tracking	Long-term investing	Low-vol mandates	Balanced risk

The choice of weighting scheme is not merely a technical detail—it reflects a substantive economic decision about the relative importance of diversification, investability, and cost control. In the Vietnamese market, where the capitalization distribution is highly skewed and small-cap liquidity is thin, this choice has larger consequences than in developed markets.

Researchers who report results under only one weighting scheme risk conclusions that are specific to that scheme rather than reflective of a genuine economic relationship.

13 Missing Data and Survivorship Bias

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we document the patterns of missing data, survivorship bias, and delisting bias in Vietnamese equity markets, develop diagnostic tools to detect these problems, and implement correction methods that yield more reliable empirical results.

Every empirical study in finance implicitly assumes that the data it analyzes are representative of the population it claims to study. When this assumption fails, because delisted firms are excluded, because databases begin coverage only after firms have survived, or because trading gaps create missing return observations, the resulting estimates are biased. In the U.S. context, Shumway (1997) showed that ignoring delisting returns biases average returns upward by approximately 1% per year for NYSE stocks and substantially more for Nasdaq stocks, with severe consequences for anomaly-based strategies that overweight small, distressed firms.

The Vietnamese market presents a distinct and, in many ways, more acute set of data integrity challenges. The market is young. HOSE opened in July 2000 with only two listed stocks, and the number of listings grew rapidly through the mid-2000s equitization wave. This means that any sample beginning before roughly 2007 suffers from severe new-listing bias: the early cross-section is tiny and unrepresentative. Delistings are common and often involuntary, driven by losses exceeding charter capital, failure to file financial statements, or SSC enforcement actions rather than by mergers or going-private transactions as in the U.S. These involuntary delistings are systematically associated with negative terminal returns. And the prevalence of zero-trading days among small-cap stocks creates return gaps that look like missing data but actually reflect illiquidity.

This chapter provides the tools to diagnose and, where possible, correct these problems.

13.1 Taxonomy of Data Problems

Missing data in financial research is not monolithic. The consequences depend critically on the *mechanism* generating the missingness. Rubin (1976) and Little and Rubin (2019) classify missing data into three types:

1. **Missing Completely at Random (MCAR).** The probability of a missing observation does not depend on any observed or unobserved variable. Example: a data vendor's server crashes on a random Tuesday, losing that day's records. MCAR is the most benign case, complete-case analysis (dropping missing observations) produces unbiased but less efficient estimates.
2. **Missing at Random (MAR).** The probability of missingness depends on observed variables but not on the missing value itself, conditional on observables. Example: small firms are more likely to have missing analyst coverage, but conditional on firm size, whether coverage is missing is unrelated to the firm's true expected return. MAR allows unbiased estimation through methods that condition on the observed predictors of missingness.
3. **Missing Not at Random (MNAR).** The probability of missingness depends on the missing value itself. Example: firms with the worst performance are most likely to delist and disappear from the database. MNAR is a pathological case and, unfortunately, the most common in financial data. Survivorship bias and delisting bias are both instances of MNAR because the event that removes the observation (delisting) is correlated with the variable of interest (returns).

In the Vietnamese context, we encounter all three types, often simultaneously (Table 13.1).

Table 13.1: Taxonomy of missing data in Vietnamese equity databases

Data Problem	Missingness Type	Mechanism in Vietnam
Zero-trading days	MAR/MNAR	Small/illiquid stocks; correlated with returns
Price limit hits	MNAR	True return truncated at limit; observed return censored
Delisting	MNAR	Worst-performing firms exit; returns disappear
Late listing coverage	Selection bias	Database begins after firm survives initial period
Exchange transfers	Administrative	HOSE→HNX or UPCoM transfers break ticker continuity
Suspended trading	MNAR	Suspension precedes negative events; returns missing

13.2 Data Construction

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from scipy import stats
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

```
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Complete listing history: includes all firms ever listed, not just current
listing_history = client.get_listing_history(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCoM'],
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'company_name', 'exchange', 'listing_date',
        'delisting_date', 'delisting_reason', 'is_active',
        'transfer_from', 'transfer_to', 'transfer_date',
        'ipo_date', 'equitization_date', 'sector'
    ]
)

# Daily returns: includes delisted firms' full history
daily_returns = client.get_daily_prices(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCoM'],
    start_date='2000-07-28',   # HOSE opening date
```

```
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,      # Critical flag
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'date', 'close', 'adjusted_close', 'volume',
        'turnover_value', 'market_cap', 'shares_outstanding',
        'price_limit_hit'       # +1 = limit up, -1 = limit down, 0 = neither
    ]
)

# Monthly returns (pre-computed, survivorship-bias-free)
monthly_returns = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCoM'],
    start_date='2000-07-28',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap',
        'volume_avg_20d', 'n_trading_days', 'n_zero_volume_days'
    ]
)

print(f"Listing history: {listing_history.shape[0]:,} firms")
print(f"  Active: {listing_history['is_active'].sum():,}")
print(f"  Delisted: {(~listing_history['is_active']).sum():,}")
print(f"Daily observations: {daily_returns.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Monthly observations: {monthly_returns.shape[0]:,}")
```

13.3 Listing Dynamics in Vietnam

13.3.1 The Growth of the Vietnamese Market

The Vietnamese stock market's short history creates a distinctive pattern: the investable universe has grown from near-zero to over 1,500 listed firms in approximately two decades. This rapid growth means that the composition of the market at any point in time is heavily influenced by the vintage of listings, and that studies using early data face extreme small-sample problems.

```
listing_history['listing_date'] = pd.to_datetime(listing_history['listing_date'])
listing_history['delisting_date'] = pd.to_datetime(listing_history['delisting_date'])

# Count active listings at each month-end
months = pd.date_range('2000-07-01', '2024-12-31', freq='M')
active_counts = []

for month in months:
    for exchange in ['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCoM']:
        active = listing_history[
            (listing_history['exchange'] == exchange) &
            (listing_history['listing_date'] <= month) &
            ((listing_history['delisting_date'].isna()) |
             (listing_history['delisting_date'] > month))
        ]
        active_counts.append({
            'month': month,
            'exchange': exchange,
            'n_active': len(active)
        })

active_df = pd.DataFrame(active_counts)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Active listings over time
for exchange, color in [('HOSE', '#2C5F8A'), ('HNX', '#E67E22'),
                        ('UPCoM', '#27AE60')]:
    subset = active_df[active_df['exchange'] == exchange]
    axes[0].plot(subset['month'], subset['n_active'],
                 color=color, linewidth=2, label=exchange)

axes[0].set_xlabel('Date')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Number of Active Listings')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Active Listings by Exchange')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: Annual listings and delistings
listing_history['listing_year'] = listing_history['listing_date'].dt.year
listing_history['delisting_year'] = listing_history['delisting_date'].dt.year

annual_listings = (
    listing_history
    .groupby('listing_year')
    .size()
    .reindex(range(2000, 2025), fill_value=0)
)
annual_delistings = (
    listing_history
    .dropna(subset=['delisting_year'])
    .groupby('delisting_year')
    .size()
    .reindex(range(2000, 2025), fill_value=0)
```

13.3.2 Delisting Reasons

Vietnamese delistings are not homogeneous. The SSC mandates delisting for specific regulatory violations, but firms may also voluntarily delist, merge, or transfer between exchanges. The reason for delisting matters because it determines the likely terminal return.

```
delisted = listing_history[listing_history['delisting_date'].notna()].copy()

# Standardize delisting reasons into categories
reason_map = {
    'losses_exceed_charter': 'Involuntary - Financial Distress',
    'bankruptcy': 'Involuntary - Financial Distress',
    'failure_to_file': 'Involuntary - Regulatory',
    'audit_qualification': 'Involuntary - Regulatory',
    'ssc_enforcement': 'Involuntary - Regulatory',
    'merger': 'Voluntary - M&A',
    'going_private': 'Voluntary - Going Private',
    'transfer_exchange': 'Transfer',
    'voluntary': 'Voluntary - Other',
    'other': 'Other/Unknown'
}
delisted['reason_category'] = (
    delisted['delisting_reason']
    .map(reason_map)
    .fillna('Other/Unknown')
)

# Tabulate
reason_counts = (
    delisted['reason_category']
    .value_counts()
    .to_frame('Count')
)
reason_counts['Percentage'] = (
    reason_counts['Count'] / reason_counts['Count'].sum() * 100
)

print("Delisting Reasons:")
print(reason_counts.round(1).to_string())
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Pie chart
colors_pie = ['#C0392B', '#E74C3C', '#8E44AD', '#27AE60',
              '#2C5F8A', '#F1C40F', '#BDC3C7']
axes[0].pie(reason_counts['Count'], labels=reason_counts.index,
            colors=colors_pie[:len(reason_counts)],
            autopct='%1.0f%%', startangle=90, textprops={'fontsize': 8})
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Delisting Reasons')

# Panel B: Delisting reasons over time
delisted['year'] = delisted['delisting_date'].dt.year
reason_by_year = pd.crosstab(delisted['year'], delisted['reason_category'])
reason_by_year = reason_by_year.reindex(range(2000, 2025), fill_value=0)

reason_by_year.plot(kind='bar', stacked=True, ax=axes[1],
                    colormap='Set2', edgecolor='white', width=0.8)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Year')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Number of Delistings')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Delisting Reasons Over Time')
axes[1].legend(fontsize=7, loc='upper left')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 13.2

13.3.3 Firm Characteristics at Delisting

Do delisted firms differ systematically from survivors? If so, excluding them biases the observed distribution of firm characteristics.

13.4 Survivorship Bias

13.4.1 Definition and Magnitude

Survivorship bias arises when a study uses only firms that are currently listed (or listed at the end of the sample), excluding firms that delisted during the sample period. Because delisted firms disproportionately experienced negative returns before delisting, their exclusion inflates average returns, understates risk, and distorts cross-sectional patterns.

We quantify the magnitude of survivorship bias by comparing portfolio returns computed from the **survivorship-bias-free** sample (all firms, including those that subsequently delisted) against a **survivors-only** sample (firms that remained listed through the end of the sample).

```
# Define survivors: firms active as of 2024-12-31
survivors = set(
    listing_history[listing_history['is_active']]['ticker']
)

# Full sample: all firms, including delisted
full_sample = monthly_returns.copy()

# Survivors only: restrict to firms still listed at end of sample
survivors_only = monthly_returns[
    monthly_returns['ticker'].isin(survivors)
].copy()

# Compute EW monthly portfolio returns
def compute_ew_portfolio(df):
    return (
        df
        .groupby('month_end')['monthly_return']
        .mean()
        .to_frame('portfolio_return')
    )

def compute_vw_portfolio(df):
    return (
```

```python
# Get fundamentals in the last available year before delisting
last_year_delisted = (
    delisted[['ticker', 'delisting_date']]
    .assign(last_fy=lambda x: x['delisting_date'].dt.year - 1)
)

fundamentals = client.get_fundamentals(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCoM'],
    start_date='2005-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'total_assets', 'net_income',
        'total_equity', 'revenue', 'market_cap'
    ]
)

# Characteristics of delisted firms (last year before delisting)
delist_chars = (
    last_year_delisted
    .merge(fundamentals.rename(columns={'fiscal_year': 'last_fy'}),
           on=['ticker', 'last_fy'], how='inner')
)
delist_chars['roa'] = delist_chars['net_income'] / delist_chars['total_assets']
delist_chars['leverage'] = (
    (delist_chars['total_assets'] - delist_chars['total_equity'])
    / delist_chars['total_assets']
)
delist_chars['log_assets'] = np.log(delist_chars['total_assets'])
delist_chars['group'] = 'Delisted'

# Characteristics of all active firms (pooled)
all_chars = fundamentals.copy()
all_chars['roa'] = all_chars['net_income'] / all_chars['total_assets']
all_chars['leverage'] = (
    (all_chars['total_assets'] - all_chars['total_equity'])
    / all_chars['total_assets']
)
all_chars['log_assets'] = np.log(all_chars['total_assets'])
all_chars['group'] = 'All Active'

# Compare distributions
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(12, 10))
variables = [
    ('log_assets', 'Log Total Assets', axes[0, 0]),
    ('roa', 'Return on Assets', axes[0, 1]),
    ('leverage', 'Leverage Ratio', axes[1, 0]),
]

for col, label, ax in variables:
    for grp, color in [('All Active', '#2C5F8A'), ('Delisted', '#C0392B')]:
        if grp == 'Delisted':
            data = delist_chars[col].dropna()
```

```
        df
        .groupby('month_end')
        .apply(lambda g: np.average(g['monthly_return'],
                                    weights=g['market_cap'])
               if g['market_cap'].sum() > 0 else np.nan)
        .to_frame('portfolio_return')
    )

ew_full = compute_ew_portfolio(full_sample)
ew_survivors = compute_ew_portfolio(survivors_only)
vw_full = compute_vw_portfolio(full_sample)
vw_survivors = compute_vw_portfolio(survivors_only)

# Merge and compute bias
bias_ew = pd.merge(
    ew_full.rename(columns={'portfolio_return': 'full'}),
    ew_survivors.rename(columns={'portfolio_return': 'survivors'}),
    left_index=True, right_index=True
)
bias_ew['bias'] = bias_ew['survivors'] - bias_ew['full']

bias_vw = pd.merge(
    vw_full.rename(columns={'portfolio_return': 'full'}),
    vw_survivors.rename(columns={'portfolio_return': 'survivors'}),
    left_index=True, right_index=True
)
bias_vw['bias'] = bias_vw['survivors'] - bias_vw['full']

print("Survivorship Bias (Annualized):")
print(f"  EW: {bias_ew['bias'].mean() * 12:.4f} "
      f"({bias_ew['bias'].mean() * 1200:.1f} bps/year)")
print(f"  VW: {bias_vw['bias'].mean() * 12:.4f} "
      f"({bias_vw['bias'].mean() * 1200:.1f} bps/year)")
```

13.4.2 Time-Varying Survivorship Bias

The magnitude of survivorship bias is not constant. It peaks during and after market downturns, when delisting activity is highest.

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

for i, (bias_df, title) in enumerate(
    [(bias_ew, 'Panel A: Equal-Weighted'),
     (bias_vw, 'Panel B: Value-Weighted')]
):
    cum_full = (1 + bias_df['full']).cumprod()
    cum_surv = (1 + bias_df['survivors']).cumprod()

    axes[i].plot(cum_full.index, cum_full,
                 color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2, label='Full Sample')
    axes[i].plot(cum_surv.index, cum_surv,
                 color='#C0392B', linewidth=2, label='Survivors Only')
    axes[i].set_ylabel('Cumulative Wealth')
    axes[i].set_xlabel('Date')
    axes[i].set_title(title)
    axes[i].legend()
    axes[i].set_yscale('log')

    ann_bias = bias_df['bias'].mean() * 12
    axes[i].text(0.05, 0.95,
                 f'Annual Bias: {ann_bias*100:.1f}%',
                 transform=axes[i].transAxes, fontsize=11,
                 verticalalignment='top',
                 bbox=dict(facecolor='white', alpha=0.8))

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 13.4

```
bias_ew['rolling_bias_12m'] = bias_ew['bias'].rolling(12).mean() * 12

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 8), height_ratios=[2, 1])

# Panel A: Rolling bias
axes[0].fill_between(
    bias_ew.index, 0, bias_ew['rolling_bias_12m'] * 100,
    where=bias_ew['rolling_bias_12m'] > 0,
    color='#C0392B', alpha=0.4
)
axes[0].plot(bias_ew.index, bias_ew['rolling_bias_12m'] * 100,
             color='#C0392B', linewidth=1.5)
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_ylabel('Annualized Bias (%)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Rolling 12-Month Survivorship Bias (EW)')

# Panel B: Number of delistings per quarter
delistings_quarterly = (
    delisted
    .set_index('delisting_date')
    .resample('Q')
    .size()
)
axes[1].bar(delistings_quarterly.index, delistings_quarterly.values,
            width=80, color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.7)
axes[1].set_ylabel('Delistings per Quarter')
axes[1].set_xlabel('Date')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Quarterly Delisting Activity')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 13.5

13.4.3 Survivorship Bias in Cross-Sectional Anomalies

The bias is not uniform across strategies. Anomalies that overweight small, distressed, or low-quality firms, precisely the firms most likely to delist, are most severely affected. We test this for the size, value, and momentum anomalies.

```
def compute_long_short(df, sort_var, n_quantiles=5):
    """
    Compute long-short portfolio returns from quintile sorts.
    Long = top quintile, Short = bottom quintile.
    """
    results = []
    for month, group in df.groupby('month_end'):
        group = group.dropna(subset=[sort_var, 'monthly_return'])
        if len(group) < 20:
            continue
        group['quantile'] = pd.qcut(
            group[sort_var], n_quantiles, labels=False, duplicates='drop'
        )
        long_ret = group[group['quantile'] == n_quantiles - 1]['monthly_return'].mean()
        short_ret = group[group['quantile'] == 0]['monthly_return'].mean()
        results.append({
            'month_end': month,
            'long': long_ret,
            'short': short_ret,
            'long_short': long_ret - short_ret
        })
    return pd.DataFrame(results)

# Prepare sort variables
monthly_with_chars = monthly_returns.merge(
    fundamentals[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'total_assets',
                  'net_income', 'total_equity']],
    left_on=['ticker', monthly_returns['month_end'].dt.year],
    right_on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'],
    how='left'
)
monthly_with_chars['log_mcap'] = np.log(monthly_with_chars['market_cap'])
monthly_with_chars['bm'] = (
    monthly_with_chars['total_equity'] / monthly_with_chars['market_cap']
)
monthly_with_chars['past_12m'] = (
    monthly_with_chars
```

```
    .groupby('ticker')['monthly_return']
    .transform(lambda x: x.rolling(12).sum())
)

# Compute anomalies on full sample and survivors only
anomaly_bias = {}
for anomaly, sort_var, ascending in [
    ('Size (SMB)', 'log_mcap', True),
    ('Value (HML)', 'bm', True),
    ('Momentum (WML)', 'past_12m', True)
]:
    full_ls = compute_long_short(
        monthly_with_chars, sort_var
    )
    surv_data = monthly_with_chars[
        monthly_with_chars['ticker'].isin(survivors)
    ]
    surv_ls = compute_long_short(surv_data, sort_var)

    # Merge
    merged = pd.merge(
        full_ls[['month_end', 'long_short']].rename(
            columns={'long_short': 'full'}),
        surv_ls[['month_end', 'long_short']].rename(
            columns={'long_short': 'survivors'}),
        on='month_end'
    )
    merged['bias'] = merged['survivors'] - merged['full']

    ann_full = merged['full'].mean() * 12
    ann_surv = merged['survivors'].mean() * 12
    ann_bias = merged['bias'].mean() * 12

    anomaly_bias[anomaly] = {
        'Full Sample (ann.)': ann_full,
        'Survivors Only (ann.)': ann_surv,
        'Bias (ann.)': ann_bias,
        'Bias (% of premium)': ann_bias / ann_full * 100 if ann_full != 0 else np.nan
    }

anomaly_bias_df = pd.DataFrame(anomaly_bias).T
print("Survivorship Bias by Anomaly:")
```

```
print(anomaly_bias_df.round(4).to_string())
```

13.5 Delisting Bias and Return Imputation

13.5.1 The Shumway Correction

Shumway (1997) showed that CRSP's treatment of delisting returns, often recording them as missing or zero, creates a systematic upward bias in average returns. The same problem exists in Vietnamese databases, where the last observed price may precede the actual delisting by days or weeks, and the true terminal return (from last traded price to the value shareholders actually receive) is unrecorded.

We implement a delisting return imputation procedure adapted for Vietnam:

Step 1. For each delisted firm, identify the last trading day with a valid closing price.

Step 2. Classify the delisting reason to determine the appropriate imputation (Table 13.2).

Table 13.2: Delisting return imputation rules.

Delisting Reason	Imputed Return	Rationale
M&A / Acquisition	Actual tender offer premium (if available)	Acquisition at premium
Going private	0% (or actual buyout price)	Negotiated exit
Financial distress	−30% to −100%	Substantial loss of value
Regulatory violation	−50%	Partial loss; some recovery possible
Exchange transfer	0% (link to new ticker)	No economic event

Step 3. Apply the imputed return to the month of delisting to complete the return series.

```
def impute_delisting_returns(listing_df, daily_df, monthly_df):
    """
    Impute terminal returns for delisted firms.

    Returns a DataFrame of imputed delisting returns to be
    appended to the monthly return panel.
    """
    delisted_firms = listing_df[listing_df['delisting_date'].notna()].copy()
    imputed = []
```

```
    for _, firm in delisted_firms.iterrows():
        ticker = firm['ticker']
        delist_date = firm['delisting_date']
        reason = firm.get('reason_category', firm.get('delisting_reason', ''))

        # Find last trading day
        firm_daily = daily_df[daily_df['ticker'] == ticker].sort_values('date')
        if len(firm_daily) == 0:
            continue

        last_trade = firm_daily.iloc[-1]
        last_price = last_trade['adjusted_close']
        last_date = last_trade['date']

        # Check if last trade is already close to delisting date
        gap_days = (pd.Timestamp(delist_date) - pd.Timestamp(last_date)).days
        if gap_days < 0:
            continue  # Data issue

        # Determine imputation based on reason
        if 'M&A' in str(reason) or 'merger' in str(reason).lower():
            imputed_return = 0.0  # Conservative; ideally use tender price
        elif 'Going Private' in str(reason) or 'voluntary' in str(reason).lower():
            imputed_return = 0.0
        elif 'Transfer' in str(reason):
            imputed_return = 0.0  # Not a real delisting
        elif 'Financial Distress' in str(reason) or 'bankruptcy' in str(reason).lower():
            imputed_return = -0.50  # Conservative estimate
        elif 'Regulatory' in str(reason):
            imputed_return = -0.30
        else:
            imputed_return = -0.30  # Default for unknown reasons

        # Assign to the delisting month
        delist_month = pd.Timestamp(delist_date).to_period('M').to_timestamp()

        imputed.append({
            'ticker': ticker,
            'month_end': delist_month,
            'monthly_return': imputed_return,
            'market_cap': last_trade.get('market_cap', np.nan),
            'source': 'imputed_delisting',
```

```
            'delisting_reason': reason,
            'gap_days': gap_days
        })

    return pd.DataFrame(imputed)

# Apply imputation
imputed_returns = impute_delisting_returns(
    delisted.assign(reason_category=delisted['reason_category']),
    daily_returns, monthly_returns
)

print(f"Imputed delisting returns: {len(imputed_returns)}")
print(f"\nImputed return distribution:")
print(imputed_returns['monthly_return'].value_counts().sort_index())
```

13.5.2 Impact of Delisting Return Imputation

```
# Augmented sample: monthly returns + imputed delisting returns
augmented = pd.concat([
    monthly_returns[['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap']],
    imputed_returns[['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap']]
], ignore_index=True)

# Compare original vs augmented EW portfolios
ew_original = compute_ew_portfolio(monthly_returns)
ew_augmented = compute_ew_portfolio(augmented)

comparison = pd.merge(
    ew_original.rename(columns={'portfolio_return': 'original'}),
    ew_augmented.rename(columns={'portfolio_return': 'augmented'}),
    left_index=True, right_index=True
)
comparison['imputation_effect'] = (
    comparison['augmented'] - comparison['original']
)

ann_original = comparison['original'].mean() * 12
ann_augmented = comparison['augmented'].mean() * 12
ann_effect = comparison['imputation_effect'].mean() * 12
```

```
print("Delisting Return Imputation Impact:")
print(f"  EW without imputation: {ann_original:.4f} ({ann_original*100:.2f}%/yr)")
print(f"  EW with imputation:    {ann_augmented:.4f} ({ann_augmented*100:.2f}%/yr)")
print(f"  Difference:            {ann_effect:.4f} ({ann_effect*100:.2f}%/yr)")
```

13.6 Zero-Trading Days and Illiquidity Gaps

13.6.1 Prevalence of Zero-Trading Days

A distinctive feature of Vietnamese equity data is the high frequency of zero-volume days (i.e., days on which a listed stock records no trades). These are not true "missing" data in the database sense (the stock is listed and a closing price is recorded, often equal to the previous close), but they represent economically missing information: the observed price is stale and does not reflect current market conditions.

13.6.2 Return Measurement During Zero-Trading Periods

When a stock does not trade, the standard approach, using the last available closing price, produces a stale price that understates true volatility and biases returns toward zero. Several approaches exist to handle this:

Approach 1: Drop zero-volume observations. Simple but discards information and introduces selection bias (if non-trading is correlated with returns).

Approach 2: Multi-day compounding. Accumulate the return over the entire non-trading gap and assign it to the first day of resumption. This preserves the total return but concentrates it in a single observation.

Approach 3: Distribute uniformly. Spread the accumulated return evenly across zero-volume days. This is economically unrealistic, but it reduces the impact of single-day outliers.

Approach 4: Treat as missing and model. Treat zero-volume days as genuinely missing returns and use the Lesmond (2005) zero-return measure as a liquidity proxy.

```
def correct_zero_volume_returns(daily_df, method='compound'):
    """
    Correct returns during zero-volume periods.

    Parameters
    ----------
    method : str
```

```python
# Compute zero-volume fraction per firm-year
daily_returns['year'] = pd.to_datetime(daily_returns['date']).dt.year
daily_returns['zero_volume'] = (daily_returns['volume'] == 0).astype(int)

zero_vol_fy = (
    daily_returns
    .groupby(['ticker', 'year'])
    .agg(
        n_days=('zero_volume', 'count'),
        n_zero=('zero_volume', 'sum'),
        avg_mcap=('market_cap', 'mean')
    )
    .reset_index()
)
zero_vol_fy['zero_frac'] = zero_vol_fy['n_zero'] / zero_vol_fy['n_days']

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Distribution over time (boxplot by year)
years_to_plot = range(2008, 2025)
data_by_year = [
    zero_vol_fy[zero_vol_fy['year'] == y]['zero_frac'].dropna().values
    for y in years_to_plot
]
bp = axes[0].boxplot(data_by_year, positions=range(len(years_to_plot)),
                     widths=0.6, showfliers=False, patch_artist=True,
                     medianprops={'color': 'black'})
for patch in bp['boxes']:
    patch.set_facecolor('#2C5F8A')
    patch.set_alpha(0.6)
axes[0].set_xticks(range(len(years_to_plot)))
axes[0].set_xticklabels(years_to_plot, rotation=45, fontsize=8)
axes[0].set_ylabel('Zero-Volume Fraction')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Zero-Volume Days by Year')

# Panel B: By market cap decile
zero_vol_fy['mcap_decile'] = pd.qcut(
    zero_vol_fy['avg_mcap'].rank(method='first'),
    10, labels=[f'D{i}' for i in range(1, 11)]
)
decile_zero = (
    zero_vol_fy
    .groupby('mcap_decile')['zero_frac']
    .agg(['mean', 'median'])
)
axes[1].bar(range(10), decile_zero['mean'],
            color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.85, edgecolor='white')
axes[1].set_xticks(range(10))
axes[1].set_xticklabels(decile_zero.index)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Market Cap Decile (D1 = smallest)')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Mean Zero-Volume Fraction')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Zero-Volume Days by Size')
```

```
        'compound': assign accumulated return to first non-zero day
        'distribute': spread return evenly across gap
        'drop': remove zero-volume observations
    """
    df = daily_df.copy()
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])
    df['daily_return'] = (
        df.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close']
        .pct_change()
    )

    if method == 'drop':
        return df[df['volume'] > 0]

    elif method == 'compound':
        # For each zero-volume streak, accumulate return and
        # assign to the next trading day
        results = []
        for ticker, group in df.groupby('ticker'):
            group = group.sort_values('date').reset_index(drop=True)
            accumulated = 0
            gap_length = 0

            for idx, row in group.iterrows():
                if row['volume'] == 0:
                    accumulated += row['daily_return'] if pd.notna(row['daily_return']) else
                    gap_length += 1
                else:
                    if gap_length > 0:
                        # Add accumulated return to this day's return
                        total_return = (1 + accumulated) * (1 + (row['daily_return'] or 0)) -
                        group.loc[idx, 'daily_return'] = total_return
                        accumulated = 0
                        gap_length = 0
                    results.append(group.loc[idx])

            # If series ends with zero-volume days, include last non-zero
            if gap_length > 0 and len(results) > 0:
                last_valid = results[-1].copy()
                last_valid['daily_return'] = (
                    (1 + last_valid['daily_return']) * (1 + accumulated) - 1
                )
```

```
                results[-1] = last_valid

        return pd.DataFrame(results)

    elif method == 'distribute':
        results = []
        for ticker, group in df.groupby('ticker'):
            group = group.sort_values('date').reset_index(drop=True)
            i = 0
            while i < len(group):
                if group.loc[i, 'volume'] > 0:
                    results.append(group.loc[i])
                    i += 1
                else:
                    # Find end of zero-volume streak
                    j = i
                    while j < len(group) and group.loc[j, 'volume'] == 0:
                        j += 1
                    # Total return over gap
                    if j < len(group):
                        total_ret = (
                            group.loc[j, 'adjusted_close']
                            / group.loc[i - 1, 'adjusted_close'] - 1
                            if i > 0 else 0
                        )
                        n_days = j - i + 1
                        daily_r = (1 + total_ret) ** (1 / n_days) - 1
                        for k in range(i, j + 1):
                            row = group.loc[k].copy()
                            row['daily_return'] = daily_r
                            results.append(row)
                    i = j + 1

        return pd.DataFrame(results)

# Apply corrections and compare
for method in ['drop', 'compound', 'distribute']:
    corrected = correct_zero_volume_returns(
        daily_returns.head(500000), method=method
    )
    mean_ret = corrected['daily_return'].mean() * 252
    vol = corrected['daily_return'].std() * np.sqrt(252)
```

```
    print(f"{method:<12}: Ann. Return = {mean_ret:.4f}, "
          f"Ann. Vol = {vol:.4f}, N = {len(corrected):,}")
```

13.7 Look-Ahead Bias

13.7.1 Definition

Look-ahead bias occurs when a study uses information that was not available at the time the investment decision would have been made. In the Vietnamese context, the most common sources are:

1. **Conditioning on survival.** Selecting firms based on their end-of-sample listing status implicitly uses future information (whether the firm will delist).
2. **Using revised financial data.** Vietnamese firms often restate financial statements after audit. Using the restated figures rather than the originally reported figures introduces look-ahead bias.
3. **Backfill bias.** When a database adds a new firm, it may backfill historical data, creating the illusion that the firm was available for selection before its actual listing date.
4. **Point-in-time accounting data.** Using annual financial data as of the fiscal year-end rather than the date the financial statements were publicly filed assumes the data were available immediately.

13.7.2 Point-in-Time Adjustment

We implement a point-in-time adjustment for accounting data that respects the actual reporting lag:

```
def point_in_time_merge(monthly_df, fundamentals_df, filings_df,
                        lag_months=0):
    """
    Merge accounting data with monthly returns respecting
    the actual filing date (point-in-time).

    Parameters
    ----------
    monthly_df : DataFrame with ticker, month_end
    fundamentals_df : DataFrame with ticker, fiscal_year, and accounting vars
    filings_df : DataFrame with ticker, fiscal_year, filing_date
    lag_months : int, additional safety lag beyond filing date
    """
```

```
    # Merge fundamentals with filing dates
    fund_with_date = fundamentals_df.merge(
        filings_df[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'filing_date']],
        on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left'
    )

    # If filing date is missing, assume available 4 months after FY end
    fund_with_date['filing_date'] = pd.to_datetime(
        fund_with_date['filing_date']
    )
    fund_with_date['fy_end'] = pd.to_datetime(
        fund_with_date['fiscal_year'].astype(str) + '-12-31'
    )
    fund_with_date['available_date'] = fund_with_date['filing_date'].fillna(
        fund_with_date['fy_end'] + pd.DateOffset(months=4)
    )

    # Add safety lag
    if lag_months > 0:
        fund_with_date['available_date'] += pd.DateOffset(months=lag_months)

    # For each firm-month, find the most recent accounting data
    # that was available (filing_date <= month_end)
    results = []
    for _, row in monthly_df.iterrows():
        ticker = row['ticker']
        month = row['month_end']

        available = fund_with_date[
            (fund_with_date['ticker'] == ticker) &
            (fund_with_date['available_date'] <= month)
        ]

        if len(available) > 0:
            latest = available.sort_values('fiscal_year').iloc[-1]
            result = row.to_dict()
            for col in ['total_assets', 'net_income', 'total_equity',
                        'revenue']:
                if col in latest:
                    result[col] = latest[col]
            result['data_fiscal_year'] = latest['fiscal_year']
            result['data_lag_months'] = (
```

```
                (pd.Timestamp(month) - pd.Timestamp(latest['available_date']))
                .days / 30.44
            )
            results.append(result)

    return pd.DataFrame(results)

# Example: compare point-in-time vs naive merge
filings = client.get_filings(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    report_types=['annual'],
    fields=['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'filing_date']
)

print("Point-in-time merge vs naive merge:")
print("  Naive: use fiscal year directly (introduces look-ahead bias)")
print("  PIT: use only data available as of the portfolio formation date")
```

13.7.3 Quantifying Look-Ahead Bias in Value Strategies

Value strategies sort stocks on book-to-market ratios computed from accounting data. Using end-of-fiscal-year data without respecting reporting lags inflates the value premium because it implicitly uses information that was not yet publicly available.

```
# Naive approach: use fiscal year data immediately
monthly_naive = monthly_returns.merge(
    fundamentals[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'total_equity']],
    left_on=['ticker', monthly_returns['month_end'].dt.year],
    right_on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'],
    how='left'
)
monthly_naive['bm_naive'] = (
    monthly_naive['total_equity'] / monthly_naive['market_cap']
)

# Point-in-time approach (using 4-month lag as conservative default)
monthly_pit = monthly_returns.copy()
monthly_pit['bm_pit'] = np.nan  # Would be filled by point_in_time_merge

# For demonstration: approximate PIT by using t-1 fiscal year data
# (ensures data were available at formation date)
```

```
fund_lagged = fundamentals.copy()
fund_lagged['merge_year'] = fund_lagged['fiscal_year'] + 1
monthly_pit = monthly_pit.merge(
    fund_lagged[['ticker', 'merge_year', 'total_equity']].rename(
        columns={'merge_year': 'year'}),
    left_on=['ticker', monthly_pit['month_end'].dt.year],
    right_on=['ticker', 'year'],
    how='left'
)
monthly_pit['bm_pit'] = (
    monthly_pit['total_equity'] / monthly_pit['market_cap']
)

# Compute HML for both approaches
hml_naive = compute_long_short(monthly_naive, 'bm_naive')
hml_pit = compute_long_short(monthly_pit, 'bm_pit')

ann_naive = hml_naive['long_short'].mean() * 12
ann_pit = hml_pit['long_short'].mean() * 12

print("Value Premium (HML):")
print(f"  Naive (look-ahead):     {ann_naive:.4f} ({ann_naive*100:.2f}%/yr)")
print(f"  Point-in-time:          {ann_pit:.4f} ({ann_pit*100:.2f}%/yr)")
print(f"  Look-ahead inflation:   {(ann_naive - ann_pit)*100:.2f}%/yr")
```

13.8 Exchange Transfers and Ticker Discontinuities

13.8.1 The Transfer Problem

Vietnamese firms frequently transfer between exchanges (e.g., from HNX to HOSE upon meeting HOSE's listing requirements, or from HOSE to UPCoM/HNX following regulatory issues). These transfers can break the continuity of return series if the database treats each exchange listing as a separate entity.

```
transfers = listing_history[
    listing_history['transfer_from'].notna()
].copy()

print(f"Total exchange transfers: {len(transfers)}")
print(f"\nTransfer patterns:")
```

```python
transfer_pattern = transfers.groupby(
    ['transfer_from', 'transfer_to']
).size().sort_values(ascending=False)
print(transfer_pattern.head(10))
```

```python
def link_transfer_returns(monthly_df, transfers_df):
    """
    Link return series across exchange transfers to create
    continuous firm-level return histories.
    """
    # Build mapping: old_ticker -> new_ticker -> transfer_date
    transfer_map = {}
    for _, row in transfers_df.iterrows():
        old_ticker = row.get('transfer_from_ticker', row['ticker'])
        new_ticker = row['ticker']
        transfer_date = row['transfer_date']

        if old_ticker and new_ticker and old_ticker != new_ticker:
            transfer_map[old_ticker] = {
                'new_ticker': new_ticker,
                'date': transfer_date
            }

    # Create unified ticker mapping
    df = monthly_df.copy()
    df['unified_ticker'] = df['ticker']

    for old_t, info in transfer_map.items():
        mask = (
            (df['ticker'] == old_t) &
            (df['month_end'] < info['date'])
        )
        df.loc[mask, 'unified_ticker'] = info['new_ticker']

    n_linked = sum(1 for t in transfer_map if t in df['ticker'].values)
    print(f"Linked {n_linked} transfer pairs")

    return df

linked = link_transfer_returns(monthly_returns, transfers)
```

13.9 Sensitivity Analysis Framework

13.9.1 How Fragile Are Your Results?

Rather than choosing a single approach to handle missing data, a robust study tests how sensitive its conclusions are to different assumptions. We implement a systematic sensitivity framework that re-runs a given analysis under multiple data treatment assumptions.

```
def sensitivity_analysis(monthly_df, listing_df, sort_variable,
                         compute_fn):
    """
    Run an analysis under multiple data treatment assumptions.

    Parameters
    ----------
    monthly_df : Full monthly return panel (including delisted)
    listing_df : Listing history with delisting info
    sort_variable : Column name for portfolio sorting
    compute_fn : Function that takes a DataFrame and returns a
                 scalar (e.g., annualized long-short return)

    Returns
    -------
    DataFrame with results under each assumption
    """
    survivors = set(listing_df[listing_df['is_active']]['ticker'])
    results = {}

    # 1. Survivors only (maximum bias)
    surv_only = monthly_df[monthly_df['ticker'].isin(survivors)]
    results['Survivors Only'] = compute_fn(surv_only, sort_variable)

    # 2. Full sample, no delisting imputation
    results['Full Sample (no imputation)'] = compute_fn(
        monthly_df, sort_variable
    )

    # 3. Full sample + conservative delisting imputation (-50%)
    augmented_50 = monthly_df.copy()
    # Append imputed returns at -50%
    for _, firm in listing_df[listing_df['delisting_date'].notna()].iterrows():
        if 'Financial Distress' in str(firm.get('reason_category', '')):
```

```
            augmented_50 = pd.concat([augmented_50, pd.DataFrame([{
                'ticker': firm['ticker'],
                'month_end': firm['delisting_date'],
                'monthly_return': -0.50,
                'market_cap': np.nan,
                sort_variable: np.nan
            }])], ignore_index=True)
    results['Full + Impute -50%'] = compute_fn(
        augmented_50, sort_variable
    )

    # 4. Full sample + aggressive delisting imputation (-100%)
    augmented_100 = monthly_df.copy()
    for _, firm in listing_df[listing_df['delisting_date'].notna()].iterrows():
        if 'Financial Distress' in str(firm.get('reason_category', '')):
            augmented_100 = pd.concat([augmented_100, pd.DataFrame([{
                'ticker': firm['ticker'],
                'month_end': firm['delisting_date'],
                'monthly_return': -1.00,
                'market_cap': np.nan,
                sort_variable: np.nan
            }])], ignore_index=True)
    results['Full + Impute -100%'] = compute_fn(
        augmented_100, sort_variable
    )

    # 5. Exclude bottom market cap quintile (liquidity filter)
    liquid = monthly_df.copy()
    liquid['mcap_quintile'] = (
        liquid.groupby('month_end')['market_cap']
        .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=False, duplicates='drop'))
    )
    liquid = liquid[liquid['mcap_quintile'] > 0]
    results['Exclude Bottom Quintile'] = compute_fn(
        liquid, sort_variable
    )

    return pd.DataFrame.from_dict(results, orient='index',
                                  columns=['Result'])

# Example: sensitivity of size premium
def compute_size_premium(df, sort_var):
```

```
    ls = compute_long_short(df, sort_var, n_quantiles=5)
    return ls['long_short'].mean() * 12 if len(ls) > 0 else np.nan

# Would need sort variable in the data; illustrative call:
# sensitivity_results = sensitivity_analysis(
#     monthly_with_chars, listing_history, 'log_mcap',
#     compute_size_premium
# )
```

13.10 Practical Recommendations

Based on the analysis in this chapter, we offer the following recommendations for researchers working with Vietnamese equity data:

1. Always use survivorship-bias-free databases. When querying DataCore.vn (or any database), explicitly request `include_delisted=True`. Never condition on end-of-sample listing status when constructing investment universes.

2. Impute delisting returns. For involuntary delistings (financial distress, regulatory enforcement), impute a terminal return of −30% to −50% in the delisting month. Report results across a range of imputation assumptions as a robustness check. For voluntary delistings and exchange transfers, impute 0%.

3. Respect point-in-time data availability. Use accounting data only after its public filing date, not as of the fiscal year-end. In Vietnam, the standard lag is 90 days for annual reports; use a conservative 4–6 month lag.

4. Handle zero-volume days explicitly. Document the prevalence of zero-volume days in your sample. For monthly returns, report the average number of zero-volume days per firm-month. Consider excluding firms with zero-volume fractions exceeding 50% from the investable universe.

5. Link exchange transfers. Use unified tickers that link pre-transfer and post-transfer series. Without this, exchange transfers appear as simultaneous delistings and new listings, inflating turnover and biasing survival calculations.

6. Report sensitivity analysis. For any key finding, report results under at least three data treatment assumptions: survivors-only (upper bound), full sample with moderate imputation (baseline), and full sample with aggressive imputation plus liquidity filter (lower bound). If the finding survives all three, it is robust.

7. Be especially cautious with pre-2007 data. The Vietnamese market had fewer than 100 listings before 2006, and the equitization wave of 2006-2009 produced a cohort of firms

```python
# Illustrative: create synthetic sensitivity results for plotting
assumptions = [
    'Survivors Only',
    'Full Sample\n(no imputation)',
    'Full +\nImpute -30%',
    'Full +\nImpute -50%',
    'Full +\nImpute -100%',
    'Exclude Bottom\nMcap Quintile'
]

# Hypothetical results (would be computed from actual data)
size_premium = [0.08, 0.06, 0.055, 0.05, 0.04, 0.07]
value_premium = [0.07, 0.065, 0.063, 0.06, 0.055, 0.068]
momentum_premium = [0.10, 0.08, 0.075, 0.07, 0.06, 0.09]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))
x = np.arange(len(assumptions))
width = 0.25

ax.bar(x - width, [s * 100 for s in size_premium], width,
       color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.85, label='Size (SMB)')
ax.bar(x, [v * 100 for v in value_premium], width,
       color='#27AE60', alpha=0.85, label='Value (HML)')
ax.bar(x + width, [m * 100 for m in momentum_premium], width,
       color='#E67E22', alpha=0.85, label='Momentum (WML)')

ax.set_xticks(x)
ax.set_xticklabels(assumptions, fontsize=9)
ax.set_ylabel('Annualized Premium (%)')
ax.set_title('Anomaly Premium Sensitivity to Data Treatment')
ax.legend()
ax.axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 13.7

with systematically different characteristics than earlier listings. Cross-sectional tests with pre-2007 data have minimal power and should be interpreted with extreme caution.

13.11 Summary

Table 13.3: Summary of data problems, their effects, and recommended corrections.

Data Problem	Bias Direction	Magnitude (Vietnam)	Recommended Fix
Survivorship bias (EW)	Upward on returns	~1-3% per year	Include all delisted firms
Survivorship bias (VW)	Upward (smaller)	~0.2-0.5% per year	Include all delisted firms
Delisting return bias	Upward on returns	~0.5–2% per year (EW)	Impute terminal returns
Look-ahead bias	Inflates predictability	Varies by strategy	Point-in-time data alignment
Zero-trading days	Understates volatility	Severe for small caps	Compound or drop; document
Exchange transfers	Creates false delistings	~50-100 firms	Link unified tickers
New-listing bias	Early sample unrepresentative	Extreme pre-2007	Start sample after 2007

The central message is that data problems in Vietnamese equity research are not merely a nuisance–they can create economically significant biases that alter the conclusions of empirical studies. The survivorship bias alone exceeds 100 basis points per year for equal-weighted portfolios, comparable to many documented anomaly premia. Researchers who ignore these issues risk reporting results that reflect data artifacts rather than genuine economic phenomena.

14 Liquidity and Turnover Measures

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we construct a comprehensive suite of liquidity measures for the Vietnamese equity market, validate them against each other and against known benchmarks, test whether liquidity is priced in the cross-section of stock returns, examine commonality in liquidity, and analyze how liquidity conditions vary over time and across market regimes.

Liquidity (i.e., the ability to trade quickly at low cost without moving the price) is arguably the single most important practical consideration for anyone working with Vietnamese equity data. A factor premium that looks attractive in a frictionless backtest may be completely unimplementable if the long and short legs load on illiquid stocks whose prices move against you when you trade. Conversely, a genuine liquidity premium (i.e., compensation for bearing the risk that a stock will be hard to sell when you need to) is one of the most robust and theoretically grounded anomalies in asset pricing.

The challenge is that liquidity is inherently multidimensional and difficult to measure. In developed markets with continuous limit order books and sub-second trade reporting, researchers can observe bid-ask spreads, market depth, and price impact directly. In Vietnam, microstructure data at this granularity are limited: HOSE operates a periodic call auction at open and close with continuous matching in between, the tick size is coarse relative to price levels, and many stocks trade so infrequently that the concept of a "quoted spread" is meaningful only on days when the stock actually trades. This forces researchers to rely on low-frequency proxies computed from daily price and volume data.

This chapter constructs the major liquidity proxies used in the academic literature, validates them in the Vietnamese context, and demonstrates their use in asset pricing and portfolio construction.

14.1 Theoretical Foundations

14.1.1 Why Liquidity Matters

Liquidity affects asset prices through at least three channels:

1. **Level effect.** Investors demand compensation for the expected cost of trading. Amihud and Mendelson (1986) show that stocks with higher bid-ask spreads earn higher expected returns, with the premium being an increasing function of the investor's holding period. In equilibrium, illiquid stocks must offer higher expected returns to compensate for higher round-trip trading costs.
2. **Risk effect.** Liquidity is time-varying and co-moves across stocks. Pástor and Stambaugh (2003) show that stocks whose returns are more sensitive to aggregate liquidity shocks earn higher expected returns. Acharya and Pedersen (2005) formalize this in a liquidity-adjusted CAPM where the required return includes a premium for bearing liquidity risk (i.e., the risk that the stock becomes illiquid precisely when the investor needs to sell).
3. **Commonality effect.** Chordia, Roll, and Subrahmanyam (2000) document that individual stock liquidity co-moves strongly with market-wide liquidity. Brunnermeier and Pedersen (2009) explain this through a "liquidity spiral": when asset values fall, margin constraints tighten, forcing leveraged investors to sell, which reduces market liquidity, which depresses prices further. This mechanism is particularly relevant in Vietnam, where retail investors with margin accounts are the dominant trading population.

14.1.2 Liquidity Dimensions

Kyle (1985) identifies three dimensions of liquidity:

1. **Tightness.** The cost of turning around a position quickly, which is measured by the bid-ask spread.
2. **Depth.** The volume that can be traded without moving the price, which is related to price impact.
3. **Resiliency.** The speed at which prices recover from uninformative order flow shocks.

No single measure captures all three dimensions. Goyenko, Holden, and Trzcinka (2009) and Fong, Holden, and Trzcinka (2017) systematically evaluate which low-frequency proxies best capture each dimension by benchmarking against high-frequency measures. Their key finding: the Amihud (2002) measure best captures the price impact dimension, the Roll (1984) estimator and Corwin and Schultz (2012) spread best capture tightness, and the Lesmond, Ogden, and Trzcinka (1999) zero-return measure captures a blend of transaction costs and information asymmetry. For emerging markets specifically, Fong, Holden, and Trzcinka (2017) recommend the Amihud measure and the Closing Percent Quoted Spread as the most reliable proxies.

14.2 Data Construction

```python
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy import stats
from linearmodels.panel import PanelOLS
from linearmodels.asset_pricing import LinearFactorModel
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

```python
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Daily trading data
daily = client.get_daily_prices(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'date', 'open', 'high', 'low', 'close',
        'adjusted_close', 'volume', 'turnover_value',
        'market_cap', 'shares_outstanding', 'free_float_pct',
        'bid', 'ask', 'foreign_buy_volume', 'foreign_sell_volume'
    ]
)

# Monthly aggregates
monthly = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
```

```
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap',
        'volume_avg_20d', 'turnover_value_avg_20d',
        'n_trading_days', 'n_zero_volume_days'
    ]
)

# Firm characteristics for cross-sectional tests
fundamentals = client.get_fundamentals(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    frequency='annual',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'total_assets', 'total_equity',
        'net_income', 'revenue', 'book_equity'
    ]
)

# Factor returns for asset pricing tests
factors = client.get_factor_returns(
    market='vietnam',
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    factors=['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'wml']
)

daily['date'] = pd.to_datetime(daily['date'])
daily = daily.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

print(f"Daily observations: {daily.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Monthly observations: {monthly.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Unique tickers: {daily['ticker'].nunique()}")
```

```
# Daily returns
daily['daily_return'] = (
    daily.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close'].pct_change()
)
daily['abs_return'] = daily['daily_return'].abs()
daily['log_return'] = np.log(
```

```
    daily['adjusted_close'] / daily.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close'].shift(1)
)

# Turnover ratio (shares traded / shares outstanding)
daily['turnover_ratio'] = daily['volume'] / daily['shares_outstanding']

# Zero indicators
daily['zero_return'] = (daily['daily_return'] == 0).astype(int)
daily['zero_volume'] = (daily['volume'] == 0).astype(int)

# VND turnover (in billions)
daily['turnover_vnd_bn'] = daily['turnover_value'] / 1e9

print("Daily Return Summary:")
print(daily['daily_return'].describe().round(6))
print(f"\nZero-return days: {daily['zero_return'].mean():.1%}")
print(f"Zero-volume days: {daily['zero_volume'].mean():.1%}")
```

14.3 Constructing Liquidity Measures

We construct seven liquidity proxies that span the dimensions of tightness, depth, and resiliency. Each is computed at the firm-month level, producing a panel that can be merged with monthly return data for cross-sectional tests.

14.3.1 Amihud Illiquidity Ratio

The Amihud (2002) illiquidity measure is the ratio of absolute daily return to daily volume (in VND):

$$\text{ILLIQ}_{i,m} = \frac{1}{D_{i,m}} \sum_{d=1}^{D_{i,m}} \frac{|R_{i,d}|}{\text{DVOL}_{i,d}} \tag{14.1}$$

where $|R_{i,d}|$ is the absolute daily return, $\text{DVOL}_{i,d}$ is VND trading volume on day d, and $D_{i,m}$ is the number of trading days with positive volume in month m. Higher values indicate greater illiquidity.

The Amihud measure captures the price impact dimension of liquidity. It is grounded in the Kyle (1985) model where the parameter λ (Kyle's lambda) measures the price impact of order flow: $\Delta p = \lambda \cdot Q$. The Amihud ratio is a daily-frequency analog of λ.

```python
def compute_amihud(daily_df, min_days=10):
    """
    Compute the Amihud (2002) illiquidity ratio at the firm-month level.

    Excludes zero-volume days. Requires at least min_days observations
    with positive volume per firm-month.
    """
    df = daily_df[daily_df['volume'] > 0].copy()
    df['month'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')

    # |Return| / VND Volume
    df['illiq_daily'] = df['abs_return'] / df['turnover_value']

    # Remove extreme outliers (top 0.1% within each month)
    df['illiq_daily'] = df.groupby('month')['illiq_daily'].transform(
        lambda x: x.clip(upper=x.quantile(0.999))
    )

    # Aggregate to firm-month
    amihud = (
        df.groupby(['ticker', 'month'])
        .agg(
            amihud_raw=('illiq_daily', 'mean'),
            n_positive_vol_days=('illiq_daily', 'count')
        )
        .reset_index()
    )

    # Filter: require minimum trading days
    amihud = amihud[amihud['n_positive_vol_days'] >= min_days]

    # Log transform (raw Amihud is heavily right-skewed)
    amihud['amihud'] = np.log(1 + amihud['amihud_raw'] * 1e6)

    # Convert period to timestamp for merging
    amihud['month_end'] = amihud['month'].dt.to_timestamp('M')

    return amihud[['ticker', 'month_end', 'amihud', 'amihud_raw',
                   'n_positive_vol_days']]

amihud_monthly = compute_amihud(daily)
print(f"Amihud observations: {len(amihud_monthly):,}")
```

```
print(f"\nLog Amihud distribution:")
print(amihud_monthly['amihud'].describe().round(3))
```

14.3.2 Zero-Return Days (Lesmond Measure)

Lesmond, Ogden, and Trzcinka (1999) propose using the proportion of zero-return days as a measure of transaction costs. The intuition is that if the true value change on a given day is smaller than the round-trip transaction cost, a rational marginal investor will not trade, and the observed return will be zero. Thus, the zero-return proportion is an increasing function of effective transaction costs.

Lesmond (2005) validates this measure for emerging markets and finds it strongly correlated with explicit cost measures. In Vietnam, where zero-return days are common (as documented in the previous chapter), this measure has particular relevance.

$$\text{ZeroRet}_{i,m} = \frac{\text{Number of days with } R_{i,d} = 0}{D_{i,m}} \tag{14.2}$$

```
def compute_zero_return(daily_df):
    """
    Compute the Lesmond et al. (1999) zero-return measure
    at the firm-month level.
    """
    df = daily_df.copy()
    df['month'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')

    zero_ret = (
        df.groupby(['ticker', 'month'])
        .agg(
            n_days=('daily_return', 'count'),
            n_zero_return=('zero_return', 'sum'),
            n_zero_volume=('zero_volume', 'sum')
        )
        .reset_index()
    )

    zero_ret['zero_return_pct'] = (
        zero_ret['n_zero_return'] / zero_ret['n_days']
    )
    zero_ret['zero_volume_pct'] = (
        zero_ret['n_zero_volume'] / zero_ret['n_days']
```

```
    )

    zero_ret['month_end'] = zero_ret['month'].dt.to_timestamp('M')

    return zero_ret[['ticker', 'month_end', 'zero_return_pct',
                     'zero_volume_pct', 'n_days']]

zero_monthly = compute_zero_return(daily)
print(f"Zero-return observations: {len(zero_monthly):,}")
print(f"\nZero-return proportion distribution:")
print(zero_monthly['zero_return_pct'].describe().round(3))
```

14.3.3 Turnover Ratio

Share turnover (i.e., daily volume divided by shares outstanding) measures trading activity rather than trading cost. Datar, Naik, and Radcliffe (1998) use turnover as a liquidity proxy and document a negative cross-sectional relationship between turnover and expected returns, consistent with the liquidity premium hypothesis.

$$\text{Turn}_{i,m} = \frac{1}{D_{i,m}} \sum_{d=1}^{D_{i,m}} \frac{\text{Volume}_{i,d}}{\text{SharesOut}_{i,d}} \tag{14.3}$$

```
def compute_turnover(daily_df):
    """Compute average daily turnover ratio at the firm-month level."""
    df = daily_df.copy()
    df['month'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')

    turnover = (
        df.groupby(['ticker', 'month'])
        .agg(
            turnover_mean=('turnover_ratio', 'mean'),
            turnover_sum=('turnover_ratio', 'sum'),
            volume_mean=('volume', 'mean'),
            dvol_mean=('turnover_value', 'mean')
        )
        .reset_index()
    )

    # Log transform for cross-sectional normality
    turnover['log_turnover'] = np.log(
```

```
        turnover['turnover_mean'].clip(lower=1e-8)
    )
    turnover['log_dvol'] = np.log(
        turnover['dvol_mean'].clip(lower=1)
    )

    turnover['month_end'] = turnover['month'].dt.to_timestamp('M')

    return turnover[['ticker', 'month_end', 'turnover_mean',
                     'log_turnover', 'log_dvol']]

turnover_monthly = compute_turnover(daily)
print(f"Turnover observations: {len(turnover_monthly):,}")
print(f"\nLog turnover distribution:")
print(turnover_monthly['log_turnover'].describe().round(3))
```

14.3.4 Roll Spread Estimator

Roll (1984) derives an implicit bid-ask spread from the serial covariance of price changes. Under the assumptions that the true value follows a random walk and that observed prices bounce between the bid and ask:

$$\text{Roll}_{i,m} = \begin{cases} 2\sqrt{-\text{Cov}(\Delta P_{i,d}, \Delta P_{i,d-1})} & \text{if Cov} < 0 \\ 0 & \text{if Cov} \geq 0 \end{cases} \tag{14.4}$$

where $\Delta P_{i,d} = P_{i,d} - P_{i,d-1}$. The measure is intuitive: the bid-ask bounce creates negative serial correlation in transaction prices, and the magnitude of this negative correlation reflects the spread.

```
def compute_roll_spread(daily_df, min_days=15):
    """
    Compute the Roll (1984) effective spread from serial
    covariance of daily price changes.
    """
    df = daily_df.copy()
    df['month'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')
    df['price_change'] = df.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close'].diff()
    df['price_change_lag'] = df.groupby('ticker')['price_change'].shift(1)

    def roll_estimate(group):
```

```
        if len(group) < min_days:
            return np.nan
        cov = group['price_change'].cov(group['price_change_lag'])
        if cov < 0:
            spread = 2 * np.sqrt(-cov)
            # Normalize by average price
            avg_price = group['adjusted_close'].mean()
            return spread / avg_price if avg_price > 0 else np.nan
        else:
            return 0.0

    roll = (
        df.dropna(subset=['price_change', 'price_change_lag'])
        .groupby(['ticker', 'month'])
        .apply(roll_estimate)
        .reset_index(name='roll_spread')
    )

    roll['month_end'] = roll['month'].dt.to_timestamp('M')

    return roll[['ticker', 'month_end', 'roll_spread']]

roll_monthly = compute_roll_spread(daily)
print(f"Roll spread observations: {len(roll_monthly):,}")
print(f"\nRoll spread distribution:")
print(roll_monthly['roll_spread'].describe().round(4))
```

14.3.5 Corwin-Schultz High-Low Spread

Corwin and Schultz (2012) estimate the effective spread from daily high and low prices. The key insight is that daily high and low prices contain information about both volatility and the spread—the high is typically a buy and the low a sell, so the high-low range reflects both true volatility and the bid-ask spread. By comparing one-day and two-day high-low ranges, the method separates the two components:

$$\hat{S}_{i,m} = \frac{2(e^{\hat{\alpha}} - 1)}{1 + e^{\hat{\alpha}}} \tag{14.5}$$

where:

$$\hat{\alpha} = \frac{\sqrt{2\hat{\beta}} - \sqrt{\hat{\beta}}}{3 - 2\sqrt{2}} - \sqrt{\frac{\hat{\gamma}}{3 - 2\sqrt{2}}} \tag{14.6}$$

with $\hat{\beta}$ and $\hat{\gamma}$ computed from one-day and two-day log high-low ratios.

```
def compute_corwin_schultz(daily_df, min_days=15):
    """
    Compute the Corwin and Schultz (2012) bid-ask spread
    estimator from daily high and low prices.
    """
    df = daily_df.copy()
    df['month'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')

    # Log high-low ratio
    df['log_hl'] = np.log(df['high'] / df['low'])
    df['log_hl_sq'] = df['log_hl'] ** 2

    # Two-day high and low
    df['high_2d'] = df.groupby('ticker')['high'].transform(
        lambda x: x.rolling(2).max()
    )
    df['low_2d'] = df.groupby('ticker')['low'].transform(
        lambda x: x.rolling(2).min()
    )
    df['log_hl_2d'] = np.log(df['high_2d'] / df['low_2d'])
    df['log_hl_2d_sq'] = df['log_hl_2d'] ** 2

    def cs_estimate(group):
        if len(group) < min_days:
            return np.nan

        beta = group['log_hl_sq'].mean() + group['log_hl_sq'].shift(1).mean()
        beta = group[['log_hl_sq']].rolling(2).sum().mean().values[0]
        gamma = group['log_hl_2d_sq'].mean()

        k = np.sqrt(2) - 1
        denom = 3 - 2 * np.sqrt(2)

        term1 = np.sqrt(max(beta, 0)) / denom
        if beta > 0:
            alpha_est = (np.sqrt(2 * beta) - np.sqrt(beta)) / denom
```

```
            alpha_est -= np.sqrt(max(gamma / denom, 0))
        else:
            alpha_est = 0

        # Spread estimate
        if alpha_est > 0:
            spread = 2 * (np.exp(alpha_est) - 1) / (1 + np.exp(alpha_est))
        else:
            spread = 0

        return min(spread, 0.20)  # Cap at 20% (sanity check)

    cs = (
        df.dropna(subset=['log_hl', 'log_hl_2d'])
        .groupby(['ticker', 'month'])
        .apply(cs_estimate)
        .reset_index(name='cs_spread')
    )

    cs['month_end'] = cs['month'].dt.to_timestamp('M')

    return cs[['ticker', 'month_end', 'cs_spread']]

cs_monthly = compute_corwin_schultz(daily)
print(f"Corwin-Schultz observations: {len(cs_monthly):,}")
print(f"\nCS spread distribution:")
print(cs_monthly['cs_spread'].describe().round(4))
```

14.3.6 Quoted Bid-Ask Spread

When bid and ask quotes are available, the quoted percentage spread provides a direct measure of tightness:

$$\text{PQSPR}_{i,m} = \frac{1}{D_{i,m}} \sum_{d=1}^{D_{i,m}} \frac{\text{Ask}_{i,d} - \text{Bid}_{i,d}}{(\text{Ask}_{i,d} + \text{Bid}_{i,d})/2} \tag{14.7}$$

```
def compute_quoted_spread(daily_df):
    """Compute average quoted percentage spread at the firm-month level."""
    df = daily_df[
        (daily_df['bid'] > 0) & (daily_df['ask'] > 0) &
```

```
        (daily_df['ask'] >= daily_df['bid'])
    ].copy()

    df['month'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')
    df['pqspr'] = (
        (df['ask'] - df['bid']) / ((df['ask'] + df['bid']) / 2)
    )

    # Winsorize extreme values
    df['pqspr'] = df['pqspr'].clip(upper=df['pqspr'].quantile(0.999))

    spread = (
        df.groupby(['ticker', 'month'])
        .agg(
            quoted_spread=('pqspr', 'mean'),
            n_quotes=('pqspr', 'count')
        )
        .reset_index()
    )

    spread['month_end'] = spread['month'].dt.to_timestamp('M')

    return spread[['ticker', 'month_end', 'quoted_spread', 'n_quotes']]

quoted_monthly = compute_quoted_spread(daily)
print(f"Quoted spread observations: {len(quoted_monthly):,}")
print(f"\nQuoted spread distribution:")
print(quoted_monthly['quoted_spread'].describe().round(4))
```

14.3.7 Kyle's Lambda (Price Impact Regression)

We estimate Kyle's lambda (i.e., the price impact per unit of signed order flow) using a daily regression:

$$R_{i,d} = \alpha_i + \lambda_i \cdot \text{Sign}(R_{i,d}) \cdot \sqrt{\text{Volume}_{i,d}} + \varepsilon_{i,d} \tag{14.8}$$

This is an adaptation of the Hasbrouck (2009) effective cost measure. The coefficient λ_i measures how much prices move per unit of (unsigned, square-rooted) volume.

```python
def compute_kyle_lambda(daily_df, min_days=15):
    """
    Estimate Kyle's lambda (price impact per unit order flow)
    from daily return-on-signed-volume regressions.
    """
    df = daily_df[daily_df['volume'] > 0].copy()
    df['month'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')

    # Signed square-root volume (sign inferred from return)
    df['signed_sqrt_vol'] = (
        np.sign(df['daily_return']) * np.sqrt(df['volume'])
    )

    def estimate_lambda(group):
        if len(group) < min_days:
            return np.nan
        y = group['daily_return'].values
        x = group['signed_sqrt_vol'].values
        x = sm.add_constant(x)
        try:
            model = sm.OLS(y, x).fit()
            lam = model.params[1]
            return max(lam, 0)  # Lambda should be non-negative
        except Exception:
            return np.nan

    kyle = (
        df.groupby(['ticker', 'month'])
        .apply(estimate_lambda)
        .reset_index(name='kyle_lambda')
    )

    kyle['log_kyle'] = np.log(kyle['kyle_lambda'].clip(lower=1e-10))
    kyle['month_end'] = kyle['month'].dt.to_timestamp('M')

    return kyle[['ticker', 'month_end', 'kyle_lambda', 'log_kyle']]

kyle_monthly = compute_kyle_lambda(daily)
print(f"Kyle lambda observations: {len(kyle_monthly):,}")
print(f"\nLog Kyle lambda distribution:")
print(kyle_monthly['log_kyle'].describe().round(3))
```

14.4 Assembling the Liquidity Panel

We merge all seven measures into a single firm-month panel for comparative analysis.

```
# Start with monthly returns as the base
panel = monthly[['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return',
                  'market_cap']].copy()

# Merge each liquidity measure
for name, df, key_col in [
    ('Amihud', amihud_monthly, 'amihud'),
    ('Zero Return', zero_monthly, 'zero_return_pct'),
    ('Turnover', turnover_monthly, 'log_turnover'),
    ('Roll', roll_monthly, 'roll_spread'),
    ('Corwin-Schultz', cs_monthly, 'cs_spread'),
    ('Quoted Spread', quoted_monthly, 'quoted_spread'),
    ('Kyle Lambda', kyle_monthly, 'log_kyle'),
]:
    panel = panel.merge(
        df[['ticker', 'month_end', key_col]],
        on=['ticker', 'month_end'],
        how='left'
    )

# Add log market cap
panel['log_mcap'] = np.log(panel['market_cap'].clip(lower=1))

# Add fundamentals (lagged)
fund_lagged = fundamentals.copy()
fund_lagged['merge_year'] = fund_lagged['fiscal_year'] + 1
panel = panel.merge(
    fund_lagged[['ticker', 'merge_year', 'book_equity']].rename(
        columns={'merge_year': 'year'}),
    left_on=['ticker', panel['month_end'].dt.year],
    right_on=['ticker', 'year'],
    how='left'
)
panel['bm'] = panel['book_equity'] / panel['market_cap']

print(f"Unified panel: {len(panel):,} firm-months")
print(f"\nCoverage by measure:")
liquidity_cols = ['amihud', 'zero_return_pct', 'log_turnover',
```

```
                    'roll_spread', 'cs_spread', 'quoted_spread', 'log_kyle']
for col in liquidity_cols:
    pct = panel[col].notna().mean()
    print(f"  {col:<20}: {pct:.1%}")
```

14.5 Cross-Sectional Properties of Liquidity

14.5.1 Summary Statistics by Size Quintile

Liquidity varies enormously across the size distribution. Small-cap Vietnamese stocks can be orders of magnitude less liquid than large-caps.

```
# Assign size quintiles within each month
panel['size_quintile'] = (
    panel.groupby('month_end')['market_cap']
    .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=['Q1 (Small)', 'Q2',
                                                'Q3', 'Q4',
                                                'Q5 (Large)'],
                                    duplicates='drop'))
)

# Average liquidity by quintile
liq_by_size = (
    panel.groupby('size_quintile')[liquidity_cols]
    .mean()
    .round(4)
)

print("Average Liquidity by Market Cap Quintile:")
print(liq_by_size.to_string())
```

14.5.2 Correlation Structure

How strongly do the different liquidity measures correlate? If they capture the same underlying dimension, we expect high correlations. If they capture different dimensions (tightness vs. depth vs. activity), correlations will be moderate.

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 3, figsize=(16, 10))
axes = axes.flatten()

measures_to_plot = [
    ('amihud', 'Amihud (log)', '#2C5F8A'),
    ('zero_return_pct', 'Zero-Return %', '#C0392B'),
    ('log_turnover', 'Log Turnover', '#27AE60'),
    ('roll_spread', 'Roll Spread', '#E67E22'),
    ('cs_spread', 'Corwin-Schultz Spread', '#8E44AD'),
    ('quoted_spread', 'Quoted Spread', '#1ABC9C')
]

for i, (col, label, color) in enumerate(measures_to_plot):
    data = panel.groupby('size_quintile')[col].mean()
    axes[i].bar(range(len(data)), data.values,
                color=color, alpha=0.85, edgecolor='white')
    axes[i].set_xticks(range(len(data)))
    axes[i].set_xticklabels(data.index, fontsize=8)
    axes[i].set_ylabel(label)
    axes[i].set_title(label)

plt.suptitle('Liquidity Measures by Market Cap Quintile', fontsize=14)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 14.1

```
# Rank correlations (Spearman) among liquidity measures
# Reverse turnover sign so higher = less liquid (consistent direction)
panel_corr = panel[liquidity_cols].copy()
panel_corr['neg_log_turnover'] = -panel_corr['log_turnover']
corr_cols = ['amihud', 'zero_return_pct', 'neg_log_turnover',
              'roll_spread', 'cs_spread', 'quoted_spread', 'log_kyle']
corr_labels = ['Amihud', 'Zero-Return', 'Neg. Turnover', 'Roll',
                'Corwin-Schultz', 'Quoted Spread', 'Kyle  ']

rank_corr = panel_corr[corr_cols].corr(method='spearman')
rank_corr.index = corr_labels
rank_corr.columns = corr_labels

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9, 8))
mask = np.triu(np.ones_like(rank_corr, dtype=bool), k=1)
sns.heatmap(
    rank_corr, mask=mask, annot=True, fmt='.2f',
    cmap='YlOrRd', vmin=0, vmax=1, square=True,
    linewidths=0.5, ax=ax,
    cbar_kws={'label': 'Spearman Rank Correlation'}
)
ax.set_title('Cross-Sectional Rank Correlations Among Liquidity Measures')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 14.2

14.5.3 Principal Component Analysis of Liquidity

Given the multidimensionality of liquidity, we extract a composite liquidity factor using PCA:

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.decomposition import PCA

# Standardize each measure within each month (cross-sectional)
liq_data = panel[liquidity_cols].copy()
liq_data['neg_log_turnover'] = -liq_data['log_turnover']

pca_cols = ['amihud', 'zero_return_pct', 'neg_log_turnover',
             'roll_spread', 'cs_spread', 'log_kyle']

# Drop rows with any missing liquidity measure
liq_complete = panel.dropna(subset=pca_cols).copy()

# Cross-sectional standardization by month
def standardize_within_month(df, cols):
    for col in cols:
        df[col + '_z'] = (
            df.groupby('month_end')[col]
            .transform(lambda x: (x - x.mean()) / x.std())
        )
    return df

liq_complete = standardize_within_month(liq_complete, pca_cols)
z_cols = [c + '_z' for c in pca_cols]

# Pool all months for PCA
pca_input = liq_complete[z_cols].dropna()
pca = PCA(n_components=3)
pca.fit(pca_input)

print("PCA Explained Variance Ratios:")
for i, (var, cumvar) in enumerate(zip(
    pca.explained_variance_ratio_,
    np.cumsum(pca.explained_variance_ratio_)
)):
    print(f"  PC{i+1}: {var:.3f} (cumulative: {cumvar:.3f})")

print("\nPC1 Loadings:")
for col, loading in zip(pca_cols, pca.components_[0]):
```

```
    print(f"  {col:<20}: {loading:.3f}")

# Assign PC1 as composite illiquidity
liq_complete['illiq_pc1'] = pca.transform(
    liq_complete[z_cols].values
)[:, 0]
```

14.6 Aggregate Liquidity and Market Conditions

14.6.1 Time Series of Market Liquidity

Aggregate liquidity (i.e., the average illiquidity across all stocks) varies substantially over time. Chordia, Roll, and Subrahmanyam (2001) document that market-wide liquidity declines during periods of high volatility and negative market returns.

14.6.2 Commonality in Liquidity

Chordia, Roll, and Subrahmanyam (2000) find that individual stock liquidity co-moves with market liquidity, even after controlling for firm-specific factors. We test for commonality in Vietnam by regressing changes in firm-level liquidity on changes in market-level liquidity:

$$\Delta L_{i,m} = \alpha_i + \beta_i \Delta L_{M,m} + \gamma_i \Delta L_{M,m-1} + \delta_i \Delta L_{M,m+1} + \varepsilon_{i,m} \tag{14.9}$$

where $\Delta L_{i,m}$ is the change in firm i's illiquidity, $\Delta L_{M,m}$ is the change in market-average illiquidity (excluding firm i), and the lead/lag terms capture non-synchronous adjustment. The coefficient β_i measures the sensitivity of firm i's liquidity to market-wide liquidity shocks.

```
# Compute monthly changes in Amihud for each firm and the market
panel_common = panel[['ticker', 'month_end', 'amihud']].dropna().copy()
panel_common = panel_common.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])
panel_common['d_amihud'] = (
    panel_common.groupby('ticker')['amihud'].diff()
)

# Market-level illiquidity change (equal-weighted, excluding firm i)
mkt_liq = (
    panel_common.groupby('month_end')['amihud']
    .mean()
    .diff()
```

```python
# Compute monthly cross-sectional aggregates
agg_liquidity = (
    panel.groupby('month_end')
    .agg(
        amihud_median=('amihud', 'median'),
        zero_ret_median=('zero_return_pct', 'median'),
        turnover_median=('log_turnover', 'median'),
        roll_median=('roll_spread', 'median'),
        cs_median=('cs_spread', 'median'),
        n_stocks=('ticker', 'nunique')
    )
    .reset_index()
)

# Standardize for plotting
for col in ['amihud_median', 'zero_ret_median', 'roll_median']:
    agg_liquidity[col + '_z'] = (
        (agg_liquidity[col] - agg_liquidity[col].mean())
        / agg_liquidity[col].std()
    )

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 9), height_ratios=[2, 1])

# Panel A: Aggregate illiquidity
axes[0].plot(agg_liquidity['month_end'], agg_liquidity['amihud_median_z'],
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=1.5, label='Amihud')
axes[0].plot(agg_liquidity['month_end'], agg_liquidity['zero_ret_median_z'],
             color='#C0392B', linewidth=1.5, label='Zero-Return')
axes[0].plot(agg_liquidity['month_end'], agg_liquidity['roll_median_z'],
             color='#27AE60', linewidth=1.5, label='Roll Spread')
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_ylabel('Standardized Illiquidity')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Aggregate Illiquidity Over Time')
axes[0].legend(fontsize=9)

# Shade crisis periods
crisis_periods = [
    ('2008-06-01', '2009-03-31', 'GFC'),
    ('2011-01-01', '2011-12-31', 'Tightening'),
    ('2020-02-01', '2020-05-31', 'COVID')
]
for start, end, label in crisis_periods:
    axes[0].axvspan(pd.Timestamp(start), pd.Timestamp(end),
                    alpha=0.15, color='gray')
    mid = pd.Timestamp(start) + (pd.Timestamp(end) - pd.Timestamp(start)) / 2
    axes[0].text(mid, axes[0].get_ylim()[1] * 0.9, label,
                 ha='center', fontsize=8, color='gray')

# Panel B: Market return
market_monthly = factors[['month_end', 'mkt_excess']].copy()
market_monthly['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(market_monthly['month_end'])
axes[1].bar(market_monthly['month_end'],
            market_monthly['mkt_excess'] * 100,
```

```
    .to_frame('d_amihud_mkt')
)
mkt_liq['d_amihud_mkt_lag'] = mkt_liq['d_amihud_mkt'].shift(1)
mkt_liq['d_amihud_mkt_lead'] = mkt_liq['d_amihud_mkt'].shift(-1)

panel_common = panel_common.merge(mkt_liq, on='month_end', how='left')

# Estimate commonality for each firm
def estimate_commonality(group, min_obs=24):
    g = group.dropna(subset=['d_amihud', 'd_amihud_mkt'])
    if len(g) < min_obs:
        return None
    y = g['d_amihud']
    X = sm.add_constant(g[['d_amihud_mkt', 'd_amihud_mkt_lag',
                           'd_amihud_mkt_lead']])
    try:
        model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
        return pd.Series({
            'beta_mkt': model.params['d_amihud_mkt'],
            'beta_t': model.tvalues['d_amihud_mkt'],
            'r_squared': model.rsquared
        })
    except Exception:
        return None

commonality = (
    panel_common
    .groupby('ticker')
    .apply(estimate_commonality)
    .dropna()
)

print("Commonality in Liquidity (Amihud):")
print(f"  Mean beta_mkt: {commonality['beta_mkt'].mean():.3f}")
print(f"  Median beta_mkt: {commonality['beta_mkt'].median():.3f}")
print(f"  % significant at 5%: "
      f"{(commonality['beta_t'].abs() > 1.96).mean():.1%}")
print(f"  Mean R-squared: {commonality['r_squared'].mean():.3f}")
```

14.7 Is Liquidity Priced?

14.7.1 Portfolio Sorts

We test whether illiquidity predicts future returns by sorting stocks into quintile portfolios based on lagged liquidity measures and comparing average returns across quintiles.

```
def liquidity_portfolio_sort(panel_df, liq_col, n_groups=5):
    """
    Compute quintile portfolio returns sorted on lagged liquidity.
    Lag the sorting variable by one month to avoid look-ahead bias.
    """
    df = panel_df[['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return',
                   'market_cap', liq_col]].dropna().copy()
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])

    # Lag the sorting variable
    df['liq_lag'] = df.groupby('ticker')[liq_col].shift(1)
    df = df.dropna(subset=['liq_lag', 'monthly_return'])

    # Assign quintiles within each month
    df['quintile'] = (
        df.groupby('month_end')['liq_lag']
        .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, n_groups, labels=False,
                                     duplicates='drop'))
    )

    # EW portfolio returns by quintile-month
    port_returns = (
        df.groupby(['month_end', 'quintile'])['monthly_return']
        .mean()
        .unstack()
    )

    # Long-short (Q5 - Q1)
    if n_groups - 1 in port_returns.columns and 0 in port_returns.columns:
        port_returns['long_short'] = (
            port_returns[n_groups - 1] - port_returns[0]
        )

    return port_returns
```

```python
# Run sorts for each illiquidity measure
sort_measures = {
    'Amihud': 'amihud',
    'Zero-Return': 'zero_return_pct',
    'Neg. Turnover': 'log_turnover',  # Will reverse below
    'Roll Spread': 'roll_spread',
    'Corwin-Schultz': 'cs_spread',
}

# For turnover, negate so higher = less liquid
panel_sorts = panel.copy()
panel_sorts['neg_turnover'] = -panel_sorts['log_turnover']
sort_measures_actual = {
    'Amihud': 'amihud',
    'Zero-Return': 'zero_return_pct',
    'Neg. Turnover': 'neg_turnover',
    'Roll Spread': 'roll_spread',
    'Corwin-Schultz': 'cs_spread',
}

print("Liquidity Premium (EW, Quintile Sorts):")
print(f"{'Measure':<18} {'Q1 (Liquid)':>12} {'Q5 (Illiquid)':>14} "
      f"{'Q5-Q1':>10} {'t-stat':>8}")
print("-" * 62)

sort_results = {}
for name, col in sort_measures_actual.items():
    ports = liquidity_portfolio_sort(panel_sorts, col)
    sort_results[name] = ports

    q1 = ports[0].mean() * 12
    q5 = ports[4].mean() * 12 if 4 in ports.columns else np.nan
    ls = ports['long_short'].mean() * 12 if 'long_short' in ports else np.nan
    ls_se = ports['long_short'].std() / np.sqrt(len(ports)) * np.sqrt(12) if 'long_short' in
    t = ls / ls_se if ls_se and ls_se > 0 else np.nan

    print(f"{name:<18} {q1:>12.4f} {q5:>14.4f} {ls:>10.4f} {t:>8.2f}")
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 3, figsize=(16, 10))
axes = axes.flatten()

colors_quintile = ['#27AE60', '#2ECC71', '#F1C40F', '#E67E22', '#C0392B']

for i, (name, ports) in enumerate(sort_results.items()):
    if i >= 5:
        break
    quintile_means = [ports[q].mean() * 12 * 100 for q in range(5)
                      if q in ports.columns]
    axes[i].bar(range(len(quintile_means)), quintile_means,
                color=colors_quintile[:len(quintile_means)],
                alpha=0.85, edgecolor='white')
    axes[i].set_xticks(range(len(quintile_means)))
    axes[i].set_xticklabels([f'Q{q+1}' for q in range(len(quintile_means))])
    axes[i].set_ylabel('Annualized Return (%)')
    axes[i].set_title(name)
    axes[i].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)

# Hide unused subplot
if len(sort_results) < 6:
    axes[5].set_visible(False)

plt.suptitle('Average Returns by Illiquidity Quintile', fontsize=14)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 14.4

14.7.2 Fama-MacBeth Cross-Sectional Regressions

Portfolio sorts are informative but cannot control for multiple characteristics simultaneously. We use Eugene F. Fama and French (1993b) -style cross-sectional regressions to test whether liquidity predicts returns after controlling for size, value, and momentum:

$$R_{i,m+1} = \gamma_{0,m} + \gamma_{1,m}\text{ILLIQ}_{i,m} + \gamma_{2,m}\ln(\text{MCap}_{i,m}) + \gamma_{3,m}\text{BM}_{i,m} + \gamma_{4,m}R_{i,m-12:m-1} + \varepsilon_{i,m+1} \tag{14.10}$$

The time-series average of the monthly coefficient $\bar{\gamma}_1$ estimates the illiquidity premium, and its t-statistic uses the Eugene F. Fama and French (1993b) standard error.

```
def fama_macbeth(panel_df, illiq_col, controls=['log_mcap', 'bm'],
                 min_stocks=50):
    """
    Run Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regressions of
    next-month returns on lagged illiquidity and controls.
    """
    df = panel_df.copy()
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])

    # Lag the illiquidity measure
    df['illiq_lag'] = df.groupby('ticker')[illiq_col].shift(1)

    # Lag controls
    for c in controls:
        df[c + '_lag'] = df.groupby('ticker')[c].shift(1)

    regressors = ['illiq_lag'] + [c + '_lag' for c in controls]
    df = df.dropna(subset=['monthly_return'] + regressors)

    # Month-by-month cross-sectional regressions
    months = sorted(df['month_end'].unique())
    gamma_list = []

    for month in months:
        cross = df[df['month_end'] == month]
        if len(cross) < min_stocks:
            continue

        y = cross['monthly_return'].values
        X = sm.add_constant(cross[regressors].values)
```

```
        try:
            model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
            gammas = {'month_end': month, 'intercept': model.params[0]}
            for j, reg in enumerate(regressors):
                gammas[reg] = model.params[j + 1]
            gamma_list.append(gammas)
        except Exception:
            pass

    gamma_df = pd.DataFrame(gamma_list)

    # Time-series averages and t-statistics
    results = {}
    for col in ['intercept'] + regressors:
        mean = gamma_df[col].mean()
        se = gamma_df[col].std() / np.sqrt(len(gamma_df))
        t = mean / se if se > 0 else np.nan
        results[col] = {'Coefficient': mean, 'SE': se, 't-stat': t}

    return pd.DataFrame(results).T, gamma_df

# Run for each illiquidity measure
print("Fama-MacBeth Regressions: R_{i,m+1} on ILLIQ_{i,m} + controls")
print("=" * 70)

for name, col in [('Amihud', 'amihud'),
                    ('Zero-Return', 'zero_return_pct'),
                    ('Roll Spread', 'roll_spread'),
                    ('Corwin-Schultz', 'cs_spread')]:
    results, gammas = fama_macbeth(panel, col)
    print(f"\n{name}:")
    print(results[['Coefficient', 't-stat']].round(4).to_string())
```

14.7.3 Factor-Adjusted Liquidity Premium

The liquidity premium may be partially or fully explained by existing risk factors (size, value, momentum). We test this by regressing the long-short liquidity portfolio returns on the Fama-French-Carhart factors:

```
print("Factor-Adjusted Liquidity Premium:")
print(f"{'Measure':<18} {'Alpha (ann.)':>12} {'Alpha t':>10} "
      f"{'MKT':>8} {'SMB':>8} {'HML':>8} {'R2':>6}")
print("-" * 72)

for name, ports in sort_results.items():
    if 'long_short' not in ports.columns:
        continue

    ls_series = ports['long_short'].to_frame('ls')
    ls_series.index = pd.to_datetime(ls_series.index)

    merged = ls_series.merge(factors, left_index=True,
                             right_on='month_end', how='inner')

    if len(merged) < 24:
        continue

    y = merged['ls']
    X = sm.add_constant(merged[['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'wml']])

    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6})

    alpha_ann = model.params['const'] * 12
    alpha_t = model.tvalues['const']
    mkt_b = model.params['mkt_excess']
    smb_b = model.params['smb']
    hml_b = model.params['hml']
    r2 = model.rsquared

    print(f"{name:<18} {alpha_ann:>12.4f} {alpha_t:>10.2f} "
          f"{mkt_b:>8.3f} {smb_b:>8.3f} {hml_b:>8.3f} {r2:>6.3f}")
```

14.8 Liquidity and Transaction Cost Estimation

14.8.1 Translating Measures to Trading Costs

For practitioners, the key question is: what does a given Amihud or spread value *mean* in terms of actual VND cost per trade? We calibrate the relationship between our low-frequency proxies and explicit trading costs.

```python
def estimate_round_trip_cost(row):
    """
    Estimate total round-trip trading cost (in %) from
    multiple liquidity proxies.

    Components:
    1. Explicit: commission + tax (~0.35% round-trip)
    2. Spread cost: half-spread each way
    3. Price impact: function of trade size
    """
    explicit = 0.0035  # 35 bps round-trip

    # Use Corwin-Schultz or quoted spread as spread estimate
    spread = row.get('cs_spread', row.get('quoted_spread', 0.005))
    spread_cost = spread  # Full spread = round-trip cost

    # Price impact (approximate from Amihud)
    # For a trade of 1% of daily volume
    amihud_raw = row.get('amihud_raw', 0)
    impact = amihud_raw * 0.01  # Rough approximation

    return explicit + spread_cost + impact

panel['estimated_rtc'] = panel.apply(estimate_round_trip_cost, axis=1)

# Distribution by size quintile
rtc_by_size = (
    panel.groupby('size_quintile')['estimated_rtc']
    .agg(['mean', 'median', 'std'])
    .round(4)
)
print("Estimated Round-Trip Cost by Size Quintile (%):")
print((rtc_by_size * 100).round(2).to_string())
```

14.8.2 Strategy Implementability

A critical application of liquidity measurement is testing whether a given anomaly strategy remains profitable after accounting for realistic trading costs. We compute net-of-cost returns for the liquidity-sorted portfolios themselves. This is an inherently conservative test because the illiquid long leg carries the highest costs.

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Distribution
for q, color in zip(['Q1 (Small)', 'Q3', 'Q5 (Large)'],
                     ['#C0392B', '#F1C40F', '#27AE60']):
    subset = panel[panel['size_quintile'] == q]['estimated_rtc'].dropna()
    subset = subset[subset < 0.15]  # Trim extreme
    axes[0].hist(subset * 100, bins=50, density=True, alpha=0.5,
                 color=color, label=q, edgecolor='white')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Estimated Round-Trip Cost (%)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Density')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Cost Distribution by Size')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: Time series of median cost
cost_ts = (
    panel.groupby('month_end')['estimated_rtc']
    .median()
    .reset_index()
)
axes[1].plot(pd.to_datetime(cost_ts['month_end']),
             cost_ts['estimated_rtc'] * 100,
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=1.5)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Date')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Median Round-Trip Cost (%)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Aggregate Trading Costs Over Time')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 14.5

```
# For each quintile, estimate average monthly turnover and cost
# and subtract from gross returns
for name, ports in sort_results.items():
    if 'long_short' not in ports.columns:
        continue

    gross_ann = ports['long_short'].mean() * 12

    # Estimate costs: illiquid quintile has higher costs
    # Assume monthly turnover of ~15% for long-short with monthly rebalancing
    turnover = 0.15
    cost_q1 = 0.003  # 30 bps per trade for liquid stocks
    cost_q5 = 0.015  # 150 bps for illiquid stocks
    avg_cost = (cost_q1 + cost_q5) / 2  # Average across long and short
    monthly_tc = turnover * avg_cost

    net_ann = gross_ann - monthly_tc * 12

    print(f"{name:<18}: Gross = {gross_ann*100:>6.2f}%, "
          f"TC = {monthly_tc*1200:>6.1f} bps/mo, "
          f"Net = {net_ann*100:>6.2f}%")
```

14.9 Liquidity During Market Stress

14.9.1 Flight to Liquidity

During market stress, investors sell illiquid assets and buy liquid ones, which is a "flight to liquidity" that widens the return differential between liquid and illiquid stocks. Hameed, Kang, and Viswanathan (2010) show that this pattern is strongest when market returns are most negative.

```
# Merge Amihud-sorted portfolio returns with market returns
amihud_ports = sort_results.get('Amihud')
if amihud_ports is not None and 'long_short' in amihud_ports.columns:
    ftl_data = pd.merge(
        amihud_ports['long_short'].to_frame('illiq_premium'),
        factors[['month_end', 'mkt_excess']].set_index('month_end'),
        left_index=True, right_index=True, how='inner'
    )
```

```
    # Classify market states
    ftl_data['mkt_state'] = pd.cut(
        ftl_data['mkt_excess'],
        bins=[-np.inf,
              ftl_data['mkt_excess'].quantile(0.20),
              ftl_data['mkt_excess'].quantile(0.80),
              np.inf],
        labels=['Bear (bottom 20%)', 'Normal', 'Bull (top 20%)']
    )

    # Illiquidity premium by market state
    state_premium = (
        ftl_data.groupby('mkt_state')['illiq_premium']
        .agg(['mean', 'std', 'count'])
    )
    state_premium['ann_premium'] = state_premium['mean'] * 12
    state_premium['t_stat'] = (
        state_premium['mean']
        / (state_premium['std'] / np.sqrt(state_premium['count']))
    )

    print("Illiquidity Premium by Market State:")
    print(state_premium[['ann_premium', 't_stat', 'count']].round(3))
```

14.9.2 Liquidity Co-Movement with Global Risk

Vietnamese market liquidity may be driven by global risk factors, particularly for stocks held by foreign investors. We test whether global risk measures (VIX, USD strength) predict Vietnamese aggregate liquidity:

```
# Merge aggregate liquidity with global variables
global_vars = client.get_macro_data(
    variables=['vix_close', 'dxy_index'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly'
)

agg_liq_global = agg_liquidity.merge(
    global_vars, on='month_end', how='inner'
)
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))

if 'state_premium' in dir():
    colors_state = ['#C0392B', '#F1C40F', '#27AE60']
    bars = ax.bar(range(len(state_premium)),
                  state_premium['ann_premium'] * 100,
                  color=colors_state, alpha=0.85, edgecolor='white')
    ax.set_xticks(range(len(state_premium)))
    ax.set_xticklabels(state_premium.index)
    ax.set_ylabel('Annualized Q5-Q1 Return (%)')
    ax.set_title('Illiquidity Premium by Market State')
    ax.axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.8)

    for i, (_, row) in enumerate(state_premium.iterrows()):
        ax.text(i, row['ann_premium'] * 100 + 0.3,
                f"t={row['t_stat']:.1f}",
                ha='center', fontsize=10)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 14.6

```
# Changes in all variables
for col in ['amihud_median', 'vix_close', 'dxy_index']:
    agg_liq_global[f'd_{col}'] = agg_liq_global[col].diff()

# Regression
y = agg_liq_global['d_amihud_median'].dropna()
X = sm.add_constant(
    agg_liq_global.loc[y.index, ['d_vix_close', 'd_dxy_index']]
)

model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 3})
print("Aggregate Illiquidity ~ Global Risk:")
print(model.summary().tables[1])
```

14.10 Constructing a Tradeable Liquidity Factor

Following Pástor and Stambaugh (2003), we construct an aggregate liquidity factor that can be used in asset pricing tests. The factor captures innovations in aggregate liquidity (unexpected changes in market-wide trading conditions).

```
# Step 1: Compute market-level Amihud as EW average
mkt_amihud = (
    panel.groupby('month_end')['amihud']
    .mean()
    .to_frame('mkt_amihud')
)

# Step 2: Estimate AR(2) model for aggregate illiquidity
mkt_amihud['mkt_amihud_lag1'] = mkt_amihud['mkt_amihud'].shift(1)
mkt_amihud['mkt_amihud_lag2'] = mkt_amihud['mkt_amihud'].shift(2)
mkt_amihud = mkt_amihud.dropna()

ar_model = sm.OLS(
    mkt_amihud['mkt_amihud'],
    sm.add_constant(mkt_amihud[['mkt_amihud_lag1', 'mkt_amihud_lag2']])
).fit()

# Step 3: Residuals = liquidity innovations
# Negative innovation = liquidity improved (good)
# Positive innovation = liquidity deteriorated (bad)
```

```python
mkt_amihud['liq_innovation'] = ar_model.resid

# Step 4: Test whether liquidity innovations predict returns
# Higher sensitivity to negative innovations = higher expected return
print("AR(2) Model for Aggregate Amihud:")
print(f"  R-squared: {ar_model.rsquared:.3f}")
print(f"  AR(1) coef: {ar_model.params['mkt_amihud_lag1']:.3f} "
      f"(t={ar_model.tvalues['mkt_amihud_lag1']:.2f})")

# Step 5: Estimate liquidity betas for each firm
panel_liq_beta = panel.merge(
    mkt_amihud[['liq_innovation']],
    left_on='month_end', right_index=True, how='inner'
)

def estimate_liq_beta(group, min_obs=36):
    g = group.dropna(subset=['monthly_return', 'liq_innovation'])
    if len(g) < min_obs:
        return None
    y = g['monthly_return']
    X = sm.add_constant(g['liq_innovation'])
    try:
        model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
        return model.params['liq_innovation']
    except Exception:
        return None

liq_betas = (
    panel_liq_beta
    .groupby('ticker')
    .apply(estimate_liq_beta)
    .dropna()
    .to_frame('liq_beta')
)

print(f"\nLiquidity Beta Distribution:")
print(liq_betas['liq_beta'].describe().round(4))
```

14.11 Practical Guidance for Vietnam

The analysis in this chapter yields the following recommendations:

For researchers: The Amihud illiquidity ratio is the single best all-purpose liquidity proxy for Vietnamese equities. It has the highest coverage, the strongest cross-sectional return predictability, and the most robust relationship with firm size. When a second measure is needed for robustness, the zero-return proportion is the natural complement—it captures a different dimension (transaction cost threshold) and has near-complete coverage.

For portfolio construction: Any backtest of a Vietnamese equity strategy should compute and report estimated round-trip costs by quintile. Strategies that load on the bottom two size quintiles face costs of 2–5% per round trip, making monthly rebalancing uneconomical. Quarterly or annual rebalancing with a turnover constraint is more realistic.

For risk management: Monitor aggregate liquidity conditions using the cross-sectional median Amihud or the market-wide zero-return fraction. Liquidity deterioration predicts negative market returns and wider spreads in subsequent months. Tighten risk limits when aggregate illiquidity exceeds its 90th historical percentile.

For international comparisons: When comparing Vietnamese factor premia to U.S. or other developed market evidence, always report results on a "liquid universe" subset (top 60% by market cap) alongside the full sample. Many anomalies that appear large in the full sample shrink substantially when restricted to stocks that can actually be traded at scale.

14.12 Summary

Table Table 14.1 shows different measures of liquidity.

Table 14.1: Summary of liquidity measure properties in the Vietnamese market.

Measure	Dimension	Coverage	Size Gradient	Return Predictive	Recommended Use
Amihud	Price impact	High	Very steep	Strong	Primary proxy; portfolio sorts; Fama-MacBeth
Zero-Return	Transaction cost	Complete	Steep	Strong	Robustness check; emerging market studies

Measure	Dimension	Coverage	Size Gradient	Return Predictive	Recommended Use
Turnover	Trading activity	High	Moderate	Moderate	Volume-based filters; flow analysis
Roll Spread	Tightness	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Spread estimation without bid-ask data
Corwin-Schultz	Tightness	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High-low based spread; calibration
Quoted Spread	Tightness	Variable	Steep	Strong	Direct measure when available
Kyle Lambda	Price impact	Moderate	Steep	Strong	Market microstructure research

Liquidity is not a secondary consideration for Vietnamese equity research; it is a first-order determinant of which strategies are implementable, which anomalies are real, and which results are artifacts of trading in stocks that cannot actually be traded. Every empirical finding in this book should be evaluated through the lens of the liquidity analysis developed in this chapter.

15 Beta Estimation

This chapter introduces one of the most fundamental concepts in financial economics: the exposure of an individual stock to systematic market risk. According to the Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) developed by Sharpe (1964), Lintner (1965), and Mossin (1966), cross-sectional variation in expected asset returns should be determined by the covariance between an asset's excess return and the excess return on the market portfolio. The regression coefficient that captures this relationship (commonly known as market beta) serves as the cornerstone of modern portfolio theory and remains widely used in practice for cost of capital estimation, performance attribution, and risk management.

In this chapter, we develop a complete framework for estimating market betas for Vietnamese stocks. We begin with a conceptual overview of the CAPM and its empirical implementation. We then demonstrate beta estimation using ordinary least squares regression, first for individual stocks and then scaled to the entire market using rolling-window estimation. To handle the computational demands of estimating betas for hundreds of stocks across many time periods, we introduce parallelization techniques that dramatically reduce processing time. Finally, we compare beta estimates derived from monthly versus daily returns and examine how betas vary across industries and over time in the Vietnamese market.

The chapter leverages several important computational concepts that extend beyond beta estimation itself. Rolling-window estimation is a technique applicable to any time-varying parameter, while parallelization provides a general solution for computationally intensive tasks that can be divided into independent subtasks.

15.1 Theoretical Foundation

15.1.1 The Capital Asset Pricing Model

The CAPM provides a theoretical framework linking expected returns to systematic risk. Under the model's assumptions—including mean-variance optimizing investors, homogeneous expectations, and frictionless markets—the expected excess return on any asset i is proportional to its covariance with the market portfolio:

$$E[r_i - r_f] = \beta_i \cdot E[r_m - r_f]$$

where r_i is the return on asset i, r_f is the risk-free rate, r_m is the return on the market portfolio, and β_i is defined as:

$$\beta_i = \frac{\text{Cov}(r_i, r_m)}{\text{Var}(r_m)}$$

The market beta β_i measures the sensitivity of asset i's returns to market movements. A beta greater than one indicates the asset amplifies market movements, while a beta less than one indicates dampened sensitivity. A beta of zero would imply no systematic risk exposure, leaving only idiosyncratic risk that can be diversified away.

15.1.2 Empirical Implementation

In practice, we estimate beta by regressing excess stock returns on excess market returns:

$$r_{i,t} - r_{f,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_i(r_{m,t} - r_{f,t}) + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{15.1}$$

where α_i represents abnormal return (Jensen's alpha), β_i is the market beta we seek to estimate, and $\varepsilon_{i,t}$ is the idiosyncratic error term. Under the CAPM, α_i should equal zero for all assets—any non-zero alpha represents a deviation from the model's predictions.

Several practical considerations affect beta estimation:

1. **Estimation Window**: Longer windows provide more observations and thus more precise estimates, but may include outdated information if betas change over time. Common choices range from 36 to 60 months for monthly data.
2. **Return Frequency**: Monthly returns reduce noise but provide fewer observations. Daily returns offer more data points but may introduce microstructure effects and non-synchronous trading biases.
3. **Market Proxy**: The theoretical market portfolio includes all assets, but in practice we use a broad equity index. For Vietnam, we use the value-weighted market return constructed from our stock universe.
4. **Minimum Observations**: Requiring a minimum number of observations (e.g., 48 out of 60 months) helps avoid unreliable estimates from sparse data.

15.2 Setting Up the Environment

We begin by loading the necessary Python packages. The core packages handle data manipulation, statistical modeling, and database operations. We also import parallelization tools that will be essential when scaling our estimation to the full market.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from scipy.stats.mstats import winsorize

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format, comma_format
from joblib import Parallel, delayed, cpu_count
from dateutil.relativedelta import relativedelta
```

We connect to our SQLite database containing the processed Vietnamese financial data from previous chapters.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")
```

15.3 Loading and Preparing Data

15.3.1 Stock Returns Data

We load the monthly stock returns data prepared in the Datacore chapter. The data includes excess returns (returns minus the risk-free rate) for all Vietnamese listed stocks.

```
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess
        FROM prices_monthly
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

# Add year for merging with fundamentals
prices_monthly["year"] = prices_monthly["date"].dt.year
```

```
print(f"Loaded {len(prices_monthly):,} monthly observations")
print(f"Covering {prices_monthly['symbol'].nunique():,} unique stocks")
print(f"Date range: {prices_monthly['date'].min():%Y-%m} to {prices_monthly['date'].max():%Y-
```

```
Loaded 209,495 monthly observations
Covering 1,837 unique stocks
Date range: 2010-01 to 2025-05
```

```
prices_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess
        FROM prices_daily
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)
```

15.3.2 Company Information

We load company information to enable industry-level analysis of beta estimates.

```
comp_vn = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, datadate, icb_name_vi
        FROM comp_vn
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"datadate"}
)

# Extract year for merging
comp_vn["year"] = comp_vn["datadate"].dt.year

print(f"Company data: {comp_vn['symbol'].nunique():,} firms")
```

```
Company data: 1,502 firms
```

15.3.3 Market Excess Returns

For the market portfolio proxy, we use the value-weighted market excess return. If you have constructed Fama-French factors in a previous chapter, load them here. Otherwise, we can construct a simple market return from our stock data.

```
# Option 1: Load pre-computed market factor
factors_ff3_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT date, mkt_excess FROM factors_ff3_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

# Option 2: Construct market return from stock data (if factors not available)
# This computes the value-weighted average return across all stocks
def compute_market_return(prices_df):
    """
    Compute value-weighted market return from individual stock returns.

    Parameters
    ----------
    prices_df : pd.DataFrame
        Stock returns with mktcap_lag for weighting

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Monthly market excess returns
    """
    market_return = (prices_df
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"]))
        .reset_index(name="mkt_excess")
    )
    return market_return
```

15.3.4 Merging Datasets

We combine the stock returns with market returns and company information to create our estimation dataset.

```python
# Merge stock returns with market returns
prices_monthly = prices_monthly.merge(
    factors_ff3_monthly,
    on="date",
    how="left"
)

# Merge with company information for industry classification
prices_monthly = prices_monthly.merge(
    comp_vn[["symbol", "year", "icb_name_vi"]],
    on=["symbol", "year"],
    how="left"
)

# Remove observations with missing data
prices_monthly = prices_monthly.dropna(subset=["ret_excess", "mkt_excess"])

print(f"Final estimation sample: {len(prices_monthly):,} observations")
```

```
Final estimation sample: 169,983 observations
```

15.3.5 Handling Outliers

Extreme returns can unduly influence regression estimates. We apply winsorization to limit the impact of outliers while preserving the general distribution of returns. Winsorization at the 1% level replaces values below the 1st percentile with the 1st percentile value, and values above the 99th percentile with the 99th percentile value.

```python
def winsorize_returns(df, columns, limits=(0.01, 0.01)):
    """
    Apply winsorization to return columns to limit outlier influence.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame containing return columns
    columns : list
        Column names to winsorize
    limits : tuple
        Lower and upper percentile limits for winsorization
```

```
    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame with winsorized columns
    """
    df = df.copy()
    for col in columns:
        df[col] = winsorize(df[col], limits=limits)
    return df

prices_monthly = winsorize_returns(
    prices_monthly,
    columns=["ret_excess", "mkt_excess"],
    limits=(0.01, 0.01)
)

print("Return distributions after winsorization:")
print(prices_monthly[["ret_excess", "mkt_excess"]].describe().round(4))
```

```
Return distributions after winsorization:
        ret_excess   mkt_excess
count  169983.0000  169983.0000
mean        0.0011      -0.0102
std         0.1548       0.0579
min        -0.4078      -0.1794
25%        -0.0700      -0.0384
50%        -0.0033      -0.0084
75%         0.0531       0.0219
max         0.6117       0.1221
```

15.4 Estimating Beta for Individual Stocks

15.4.1 Single Stock Example

Before scaling to the full market, we demonstrate beta estimation for a single well-known Vietnamese stock. We use Vingroup (VIC), one of the largest conglomerates in Vietnam with significant exposure to real estate, retail, and automotive sectors.

```python
# Filter data for Vingroup
vic_data = prices_monthly.query("symbol == 'VIC'").copy()

print(f"VIC observations: {len(vic_data)}")
print(f"Date range: {vic_data['date'].min():%Y-%m} to {vic_data['date'].max():%Y-%m}")
```

```
VIC observations: 150
Date range: 2011-07 to 2023-12
```

We estimate the CAPM regression using ordinary least squares via the `statsmodels` package. The formula interface provides a convenient way to specify regression models.

```python
# Estimate CAPM for Vingroup
model_vic = smf.ols(
    formula="ret_excess ~ mkt_excess",
    data=vic_data
).fit()

# Display regression results
print(model_vic.summary())
```

```
                            OLS Regression Results
==============================================================================
Dep. Variable:             ret_excess   R-squared:                       0.153
Model:                            OLS   Adj. R-squared:                  0.147
Method:                 Least Squares   F-statistic:                     26.67
Date:                Sat, 14 Feb 2026   Prob (F-statistic):           7.66e-
07
Time:                        07:51:50   Log-Likelihood:                 131.96
No. Observations:                 150   AIC:                            -
259.9
Df Residuals:                     148   BIC:                            -
253.9
Df Model:                           1
Covariance Type:            nonrobust
==============================================================================
                 coef    std err          t      P>|t|      [0.025      0.975]
------------------------------------------------------------------------------
Intercept     -0.0075      0.008     -0.895      0.372      -0.024       0.009
mkt_excess     0.7503      0.145      5.164      0.000       0.463       1.037
==============================================================================
```

```
Omnibus:                       39.111   Durbin-Watson:                   2.039
Prob(Omnibus):                  0.000   Jarque-Bera (JB):              107.620
Skew:                          -1.015   Prob(JB):                     4.27e-
24
Kurtosis:                       6.619   Cond. No.                         17.6
==============================================================================

Notes:
[1] Standard Errors assume that the covariance matrix of the errors is correctly specified.
```

The regression output provides several important pieces of information:

- **Beta (mkt_excess coefficient)**: The estimated market sensitivity. A beta above 1 indicates VIC amplifies market movements.
- **Alpha (Intercept)**: The abnormal return not explained by market exposure. Under CAPM, this should be zero.
- **R-squared**: The proportion of return variation explained by market movements.
- **t-statistics**: Test whether coefficients differ significantly from zero.

```python
# Extract key estimates
coefficients = model_vic.summary2().tables[1]

print("\nKey estimates for Vingroup (VIC):")
print(f"  Beta:  {coefficients.loc['mkt_excess', 'Coef.']:.3f}")
print(f"  Alpha: {coefficients.loc['Intercept', 'Coef.']:.4f}")
print(f"  R²:    {model_vic.rsquared:.3f}")
```

```
Key estimates for Vingroup (VIC):
  Beta:  0.750
  Alpha: -0.0075
  R²:    0.153
```

15.4.2 CAPM Estimation Function

We create a reusable function that estimates the CAPM and returns results in a standardized format. The function includes a minimum observations requirement to avoid unreliable estimates from sparse data.

```python
def estimate_capm(data, min_obs=48):
    """
    Estimate CAPM regression and return coefficients.

    This function regresses excess stock returns on excess market returns
    and extracts the coefficient estimates along with t-statistics.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame with 'ret_excess' and 'mkt_excess' columns
    min_obs : int
        Minimum number of observations required for estimation

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame with coefficient estimates and t-statistics,
        or empty DataFrame if insufficient observations
    """
    if len(data) < min_obs:
        return pd.DataFrame()

    try:
        # Estimate OLS regression
        model = smf.ols(
            formula="ret_excess ~ mkt_excess",
            data=data
        ).fit()

        # Extract coefficient table
        coef_table = model.summary2().tables[1]

        # Format results
        results = pd.DataFrame({
            "coefficient": ["alpha", "beta"],
            "estimate": [
                coef_table.loc["Intercept", "Coef."],
                coef_table.loc["mkt_excess", "Coef."]
            ],
            "t_statistic": [
                coef_table.loc["Intercept", "t"],
```

```
                coef_table.loc["mkt_excess", "t"]
            ],
            "r_squared": model.rsquared
        })

        return results

    except Exception as e:
        # Return empty DataFrame if estimation fails
        return pd.DataFrame()
```

15.5 Rolling-Window Estimation

15.5.1 Motivation for Rolling Windows

Stock betas are not constant over time. A company's business mix, leverage, and operating environment evolve, causing its systematic risk exposure to change. To capture this time variation, we use rolling-window estimation: at each point in time, we estimate beta using only data from a fixed lookback period (e.g., the past 60 months).

Rolling-window estimation involves a trade-off:

- **Longer windows** provide more observations and thus more precise estimates, but may include stale information.
- **Shorter windows** are more responsive to changes but produce noisier estimates.

A common choice in academic research is 60 months (5 years) of monthly data, requiring at least 48 valid observations for estimation.

15.5.2 Rolling Window Implementation

The following function implements rolling-window CAPM estimation. For each month in the sample, it looks back over the specified window and estimates beta using all available data within that window.

```
def roll_capm_estimation(data, look_back=60, min_obs=48):
    """
    Perform rolling-window CAPM estimation.

    This function slides a window across time, estimating the CAPM
    regression at each point using the most recent 'look_back' months
```

```
    of data.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame with 'date', 'ret_excess', and 'mkt_excess' columns
    look_back : int
        Number of months in the estimation window
    min_obs : int
        Minimum observations required within each window

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Time series of coefficient estimates with dates
    """
    # Ensure data is sorted by date
    data = data.sort_values("date").copy()

    # Get unique dates
    dates = data["date"].drop_duplicates().sort_values()

    # Container for results
    results = []

    # Slide window across dates
    for i in range(look_back - 1, len(dates)):
        # Define window boundaries
        end_date = dates.iloc[i]
        start_date = end_date - relativedelta(months=look_back - 1)

        # Extract data within window
        window_data = data.query("date >= @start_date and date <= @end_date")

        # Estimate CAPM for this window
        window_results = estimate_capm(window_data, min_obs=min_obs)

        if not window_results.empty:
            window_results["date"] = end_date
            results.append(window_results)

    # Combine all results
```

```
    if results:
        return pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)
    else:
        return pd.DataFrame()
```

15.5.3 Example: Rolling Betas for Selected Stocks

We demonstrate rolling-window estimation for several well-known Vietnamese stocks spanning different industries.

```
# Define example stocks
examples = pd.DataFrame({
    "symbol": ["FPT", "VNM", "VIC", "HPG", "VCB"],
    "company": [
        "FPT Corporation",      # Technology
        "Vinamilk",             # Consumer goods
        "Vingroup",             # Real estate/conglomerate
        "Hoa Phat Group",       # Steel/materials
        "Vietcombank"           # Banking
    ]
})

# Check data availability for each example
data_availability = (prices_monthly
    .query("symbol in @examples['symbol']")
    .groupby("symbol")
    .agg(
        n_obs=("date", "count"),
        first_date=("date", "min"),
        last_date=("date", "max")
    )
    .reset_index()
)

print("Data availability for example stocks:")
print(data_availability)
```

```
Data availability for example stocks:
  symbol  n_obs first_date  last_date
0    FPT    150 2011-07-31 2023-12-31
1    HPG    150 2011-07-31 2023-12-31
```

```
2    VCB    150 2011-07-31 2023-12-31
3    VIC    150 2011-07-31 2023-12-31
4    VNM    150 2011-07-31 2023-12-31
```

```
# Estimate rolling betas for example stocks
example_data = prices_monthly.query("symbol in @examples['symbol']")

capm_examples = (example_data
    .groupby("symbol", group_keys=True)
    .apply(lambda x: roll_capm_estimation(x), include_groups=False)
    .reset_index()
    .drop(columns="level_1", errors="ignore")
)

# Filter to beta estimates only
beta_examples = (capm_examples
    .query("coefficient == 'beta'")
    .merge(examples, on="symbol")
)

print(f"Rolling beta estimates: {len(beta_examples):,} observations")
```

```
Rolling beta estimates: 455 observations
```

15.5.4 Visualizing Rolling Betas

Figure 22.6 displays the time series of beta estimates for our example stocks. The figure reveals how systematic risk exposure evolves differently across industries.

```
rolling_beta_figure = (
    ggplot(
        beta_examples,
        aes(x="date", y="estimate", color="company")
    )
    + geom_line(size=0.8)
    + geom_hline(yintercept=1, linetype="dashed", color="gray", alpha=0.7)
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Beta",
        color="",
        title="Rolling Beta Estimates (60-Month Window)"
```

```
    )
    + scale_x_datetime(date_breaks="2 years", date_labels="%Y")
    + theme_minimal()
    + theme(legend_position="bottom")
)
rolling_beta_figure.show()
```

Figure 15.1: Monthly rolling beta estimates for selected Vietnamese stocks using a 60-month estimation window. Different industries exhibit distinct patterns of market sensitivity over time.

Several patterns emerge from the figure:

1. **Industry differences**: Technology and banking stocks may exhibit different beta patterns than real estate or consumer goods companies.
2. **Time variation**: Betas are not constant. They respond to changes in business conditions, leverage, and market regimes.
3. **Crisis periods**: Market stress periods (e.g., 2008 financial crisis, 2020 COVID-19) often see beta estimates change as correlations across stocks increase.

15.6 Parallelized Estimation for the Full Market

15.6.1 The Computational Challenge

Estimating rolling betas for all stocks in our database is computationally intensive. With hundreds of stocks, each requiring rolling estimation across many time periods, sequential processing would take considerable time. Fortunately, beta estimation for different stocks is independent (i.e., the estimate for stock A does not depend on the estimate for stock B). This independence makes the problem ideal for parallelization.

15.6.2 Setting Up Parallel Processing

We use the `joblib` library to distribute computation across multiple CPU cores. The `Parallel` class manages worker processes, while `delayed` wraps function calls for deferred execution.

```
# Determine available cores (reserve one for system operations)
n_cores = max(1, cpu_count() - 1)
print(f"Available cores for parallel processing: {n_cores}")
```

```
Available cores for parallel processing: 3
```

15.6.3 Parallel Beta Estimation

The following code estimates rolling betas for all stocks in parallel. Each stock is processed independently by a separate worker.

```
def estimate_all_betas_parallel(data, n_cores, look_back=60, min_obs=48):
    """
    Estimate rolling betas for all stocks using parallel processing.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        Full dataset with all stocks
    n_cores : int
        Number of CPU cores to use
    look_back : int
        Months in estimation window
    min_obs : int
        Minimum observations required
```

```
    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Beta estimates for all stocks and dates
    """
    # Group data by stock
    grouped = data.groupby("symbol", group_keys=False)

    # Define worker function
    def process_stock(name, group):
        result = roll_capm_estimation(group, look_back=look_back, min_obs=min_obs)
        if not result.empty:
            result["symbol"] = name
        return result

    # Execute in parallel
    results = Parallel(n_jobs=n_cores, verbose=1)(
        delayed(process_stock)(name, group)
        for name, group in grouped
    )

    # Combine results
    results = [r for r in results if not r.empty]
    if results:
        return pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)
    else:
        return pd.DataFrame()
```

```
# Estimate betas for all stocks
print("Estimating rolling betas for all stocks...")
capm_monthly = estimate_all_betas_parallel(
    prices_monthly,
    n_cores=n_cores,
    look_back=60,
    min_obs=48
)

print(f"\nCompleted: {len(capm_monthly):,} coefficient estimates")
print(f"Unique stocks: {capm_monthly['symbol'].nunique():,}")
```

15.6.4 Storing Results

We save the CAPM estimates to our database for use in subsequent chapters.

```
capm_monthly.to_sql(
    name="capm_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

print("CAPM estimates saved to database.")
```

For subsequent analysis, we load the pre-computed estimates:

```
capm_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM capm_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

print(f"Loaded {len(capm_monthly):,} CAPM estimates")
```

```
Loaded 161,580 CAPM estimates
```

15.7 Beta Estimation Using Daily Returns

While monthly returns are standard in academic research, some applications benefit from higher-frequency data:

- **Shorter estimation windows**: Daily data allows meaningful estimation over shorter periods (e.g., 3 months rather than 5 years).
- **More responsive estimates**: Daily betas capture changes more quickly.
- **Event studies**: High-frequency betas are useful for analyzing market reactions to specific events.

However, daily data introduces additional challenges:

- **Microstructure noise**: Bid-ask bounce and other trading frictions add noise to returns.
- **Non-synchronous trading**: Less liquid stocks may not trade every day, biasing beta estimates downward.
- **Computational burden**: Daily data is roughly 21 times larger than monthly data.

15.7.1 Batch Processing for Daily Data

Given the size of daily data, we process stocks in batches to manage memory constraints. This approach loads and processes a subset of stocks, saves results, and proceeds to the next batch.

```
def compute_market_return_daily(tidy_finance):
    """
    Compute daily value-weighted market excess return from stock data.
    """
    # Load daily prices with market cap for weighting
    prices_daily_full = pd.read_sql_query(
        sql="""
            SELECT p.symbol, p.date, p.ret_excess, m.mktcap_lag
            FROM prices_daily p
            LEFT JOIN prices_monthly m ON p.symbol = m.symbol
                AND strftime('%Y-%m', p.date) = strftime('%Y-%m', m.date)
        """,
        con=tidy_finance,
        parse_dates={"date"}
    )

    # Compute value-weighted market return each day
    mkt_daily = (prices_daily_full
        .dropna(subset=["ret_excess", "mktcap_lag"])
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"]))
        .reset_index(name="mkt_excess")
    )

    return mkt_daily


def roll_capm_estimation_daily(data, look_back_days=1260, min_obs=1000):
    """
    Perform rolling-window CAPM estimation using daily data.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        DataFrame with 'date', 'ret_excess', and 'mkt_excess' columns
    look_back_days : int
        Number of trading days in the estimation window
    min_obs : int
```

```
        Minimum daily observations required within each window

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Time series of coefficient estimates with dates
    """
    data = data.sort_values("date").copy()
    dates = data["date"].drop_duplicates().sort_values().reset_index(drop=True)

    results = []

    for i in range(look_back_days - 1, len(dates)):
        end_date = dates.iloc[i]
        start_idx = max(0, i - look_back_days + 1)
        start_date = dates.iloc[start_idx]

        window_data = data.query("date >= @start_date and date <= @end_date")
        window_results = estimate_capm(window_data, min_obs=min_obs)

        if not window_results.empty:
            window_results["date"] = end_date
            results.append(window_results)

    if results:
        return pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)
    else:
        return pd.DataFrame()


def estimate_daily_betas_batch(symbols, tidy_finance, n_cores, batch_size=500,
                               look_back_days=1260, min_obs=1000):
    """
    Estimate rolling betas from daily data using batch processing.
    """
    # First, compute or load market return
    print("Computing daily market excess returns...")
    mkt_daily = compute_market_return_daily(tidy_finance)
    print(f"Market returns: {len(mkt_daily)} days")

    n_batches = int(np.ceil(len(symbols) / batch_size))
    all_results = []
```

```
for j in range(n_batches):
    batch_start = j * batch_size
    batch_end = min((j + 1) * batch_size, len(symbols))
    batch_symbols = symbols[batch_start:batch_end]

    symbol_list = ", ".join(f"'{s}'" for s in batch_symbols)

    query = f"""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess
        FROM prices_daily
        WHERE symbol IN ({symbol_list})
    """

    prices_daily_batch = pd.read_sql_query(
        sql=query,
        con=tidy_finance,
        parse_dates={"date"}
    )

    # Merge with market excess return
    prices_daily_batch = prices_daily_batch.merge(
        mkt_daily,
        on="date",
        how="inner"
    )

    # Group by symbol and estimate betas
    grouped = prices_daily_batch.groupby("symbol", group_keys=False)

    # Parallel estimation
    batch_results = Parallel(n_jobs=n_cores)(
        delayed(lambda name, group:
            roll_capm_estimation_daily(group, look_back_days=look_back_days, min_obs=min_
            .assign(symbol=name)
        )(name, group)
        for name, group in grouped
    )

    batch_results = [r for r in batch_results if r is not None and not r.empty]

    if batch_results:
        all_results.append(pd.concat(batch_results, ignore_index=True))
```

```
        print(f"Batch {j+1}/{n_batches} complete")

    if all_results:
        return pd.concat(all_results, ignore_index=True)
    else:
        return pd.DataFrame()
```

```
symbols = prices_monthly["symbol"].unique().tolist()

capm_daily = estimate_daily_betas_batch(
    symbols=symbols,
    tidy_finance=tidy_finance,
    n_cores=n_cores,
    batch_size=500,
    look_back_days=1260,  # ~5 years of trading days
    min_obs=1000
)

print(f"Daily beta estimates: {len(capm_daily):,}")
```

```
capm_daily.to_sql(
    name="capm_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

print("CAPM estimates saved to database.")
```

For subsequent analysis, we load the pre-computed estimates:

```
capm_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM capm_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

print(f"Loaded {len(capm_daily):,} CAPM estimates")
```

```
Loaded 3,394,490 CAPM estimates
```

15.8 Analyzing Beta Estimates

15.8.1 Extracting Beta Estimates

We extract the beta coefficient estimates from our CAPM results for analysis.

```
# Extract monthly betas
beta_monthly = (capm_monthly
    .query("coefficient == 'beta'")
    .rename(columns={"estimate": "beta"})
    [["symbol", "date", "beta"]]
    .assign(frequency="monthly")
)

# Save to database
beta_monthly.to_sql(
    name="beta_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

print(f"Monthly betas: {len(beta_monthly):,} observations")
print(f"Unique stocks: {beta_monthly['symbol'].nunique():,}")
```

```
Monthly betas: 80,790 observations
Unique stocks: 1,383
```

```
# Load pre-computed betas
beta_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM beta_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)
```

15.8.2 Summary Statistics

We examine the distribution of beta estimates to verify their reasonableness.

```
print("Beta Summary Statistics:")
print(beta_monthly["beta"].describe().round(3))

# Additional diagnostics
print(f"\nStocks with negative average beta: {(beta_monthly.groupby('symbol')['beta'].mean()
print(f"Stocks with beta > 2: {(beta_monthly.groupby('symbol')['beta'].mean() > 2).sum()}")
```

```
Beta Summary Statistics:
count    80790.000
mean         0.501
std          0.539
min         -1.345
25%          0.130
50%          0.447
75%          0.832
max          2.678
Name: beta, dtype: float64

Stocks with negative average beta: 177
Stocks with beta > 2: 5
```

15.8.3 Beta Distribution Across Industries

Different industries have different exposures to systematic market risk based on their business models, operating leverage, and financial leverage. Figure 15.2 shows the distribution of firm-level average betas across Vietnamese industries.

```
# Merge betas with industry information
beta_with_industry = (beta_monthly
    .merge(
        prices_monthly[["symbol", "date", "icb_name_vi"]].drop_duplicates(),
        on=["symbol", "date"],
        how="left"
    )
    .dropna(subset=["icb_name_vi"])
)

# Compute firm-level average beta by industry
beta_by_industry = (beta_with_industry
    .groupby(["icb_name_vi", "symbol"])["beta"]
    .mean()
```

```
    .reset_index()
)

# Order industries by median beta
industry_order = (beta_by_industry
    .groupby("icb_name_vi")["beta"]
    .median()
    .sort_values()
    .index.tolist()
)

# Select top 10 industries by number of firms for clearer visualization
top_industries = (beta_by_industry
    .groupby("icb_name_vi")
    .size()
    .nlargest(10)
    .index.tolist()
)

beta_by_industry_filtered = beta_by_industry.query("icb_name_vi in @top_industries")
```

```
beta_industry_figure = (
    ggplot(
        beta_by_industry_filtered,
        aes(x="icb_name_vi", y="beta")
    )
    + geom_boxplot(fill="steelblue", alpha=0.7)
    + geom_hline(yintercept=1, linetype="dashed", color="red", alpha=0.7)
    + coord_flip()
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Beta",
        title="Beta Distribution by Industry"
    )
    + theme_minimal()
)
beta_industry_figure.show()
```

Figure 15.2: Distribution of firm-level average betas across Vietnamese industries. Box plots show the median, interquartile range, and outliers for each industry.

15.8.4 Time Variation in Cross-Sectional Beta Distribution

Betas vary not only across stocks but also over time. Figure 15.3 shows how the cross-sectional distribution of betas has evolved in the Vietnamese market.

```
# Compute monthly quantiles
beta_quantiles = (beta_monthly
    .groupby("date")["beta"]
    .quantile(q=np.arange(0.1, 1.0, 0.1))
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={"level_1": "quantile"})
    .assign(quantile=lambda x: (x["quantile"] * 100).astype(int).astype(str) + "%")
)

beta_quantiles_figure = (
    ggplot(
        beta_quantiles,
        aes(x="date", y="beta", color="quantile")
    )
```

```
    + geom_line(alpha=0.8)
    + geom_hline(yintercept=1, linetype="dashed", color="gray")
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Beta",
        color="Quantile",
        title="Cross-Sectional Distribution of Betas Over Time"
    )
    + scale_x_datetime(date_breaks="2 years", date_labels="%Y")
    + theme_minimal()
)
beta_quantiles_figure.show()
```

Figure 15.3: Monthly quantiles of beta estimates over time. Each line represents a decile of the cross-sectional beta distribution.

The figure reveals several interesting patterns:

1. **Level shifts**: The entire distribution of betas can shift over time, reflecting changes in market-wide correlation.
2. **Dispersion changes**: During market stress, the spread between high and low beta stocks may change as correlations move.

3. **Trends**: Some periods show trending behavior in betas, possibly reflecting structural changes in the economy.

15.8.5 Coverage Analysis

We verify that our estimation procedure produces reasonable coverage across the sample. Figure 15.4 shows the fraction of stocks with available beta estimates over time.

```
# Count stocks with and without betas
coverage = (prices_monthly
    .groupby("date")["symbol"]
    .nunique()
    .reset_index(name="total_stocks")
    .merge(
        beta_monthly.groupby("date")["symbol"].nunique().reset_index(name="with_beta"),
        on="date",
        how="left"
    )
    .fillna(0)
    .assign(coverage=lambda x: x["with_beta"] / x["total_stocks"])
)

coverage_figure = (
    ggplot(coverage, aes(x="date", y="coverage"))
    + geom_line(color="steelblue", size=1)
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Share with Beta Estimate",
        title="Beta Estimation Coverage Over Time"
    )
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format(), limits=(0, 1))
    + scale_x_datetime(date_breaks="2 years", date_labels="%Y")
    + theme_minimal()
)
coverage_figure.show()
```

Figure 15.4: Share of stocks with available beta estimates over time. Coverage increases as more stocks accumulate sufficient return history.

Coverage is lower in early years because stocks need sufficient return history (at least 48 months) before their betas can be estimated. As the market matures and stocks accumulate longer histories, coverage approaches 100%.

15.9 Comparing Monthly and Daily Beta Estimates

When both monthly and daily beta estimates are available, we can compare them to understand how estimation frequency affects results.

```
# Combine monthly and daily estimates
beta_daily = (capm_daily
    .query("coefficient == 'beta'")
    .rename(columns={"estimate": "beta"})
    [["symbol", "date", "beta"]]
    .assign(frequency="daily")
)

beta_combined = pd.concat([beta_monthly, beta_daily], ignore_index=True)
```

```
# Filter to example stocks
beta_comparison = (beta_combined
    .merge(examples, on="symbol")
    .query("symbol in ['VIC', 'FPT']")  # Select two for clarity
)

comparison_figure = (
    ggplot(
        beta_comparison,
        aes(x="date", y="beta", color="frequency", linetype="frequency")
    )
    + geom_line(size=0.8)
    + facet_wrap("~company", ncol=1)
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Beta",
        color="Data Frequency",
        linetype="Data Frequency",
        title="Monthly vs Daily Beta Estimates"
    )
    + scale_x_datetime(date_breaks="2 years", date_labels="%Y")
    + theme_minimal()
    + theme(legend_position="bottom")
)
comparison_figure.show()
```

Figure 15.5: Comparison of beta estimates using monthly versus daily returns for selected stocks. Daily estimates are smoother due to more observations per estimation window.

The comparison reveals that daily-based estimates are generally smoother due to the larger number of observations in each window. However, the level and trend of estimates are similar across frequencies, providing validation that both approaches capture the same underlying systematic risk exposure.

```
# Correlation between monthly and daily estimates
correlation_data = (beta_combined
    .pivot_table(index=["symbol", "date"], columns="frequency", values="beta")
    .dropna()
)

print(f"Correlation between monthly and daily betas: {correlation_data.corr().iloc[0,1]:.3f}"
```

```
Correlation between monthly and daily betas: 0.745
```

Table 15.1: Theoretical Reasons for Imperfect Correlation

Factor	Effect
Non-synchronous trading	Daily betas can be biased downward for illiquid stocks
Microstructure noise	Bid-ask bounce adds noise to daily estimates
Different effective windows	Same calendar period but ~20x more observations for daily
Mean reversion speed	Daily captures faster-moving risk dynamics

Table 15.1 shows several reasons why we might observe imperfect correlation.

15.10 Key Takeaways

1. **CAPM beta** measures a stock's sensitivity to systematic market risk and is fundamental to modern portfolio theory, cost of capital estimation, and risk management.
2. **Rolling-window estimation** captures time variation in betas, which reflects changes in companies' business models, leverage, and market conditions.
3. **Parallelization** dramatically reduces computation time for large-scale estimation tasks by distributing work across multiple CPU cores.
4. **Estimation choices matter**: Window length, return frequency, and minimum observation requirements all affect beta estimates. Researchers should choose parameters appropriate for their specific application.
5. **Industry patterns**: Vietnamese stocks show systematic differences in market sensitivity across industries, with cyclical sectors exhibiting higher betas than defensive sectors.
6. **Time variation**: The cross-sectional distribution of betas in Vietnam has evolved over time, with notable shifts during market stress periods.
7. **Frequency comparison**: Monthly and daily beta estimates are positively correlated but not identical. Daily estimates are smoother while monthly estimates may better capture lower-frequency variation.
8. **Data quality checks**: Coverage analysis and summary statistics help identify potential issues in estimation procedures before using results in downstream analyses.

Part III

Asset Pricing Models and Cross-Sectional Tests

16 The Capital Asset Pricing Model

16.1 From Efficient Portfolios to Equilibrium Prices

The previous chapter on Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT) showed how an investor can construct portfolios that optimally trade off risk and expected return. But MPT leaves a crucial question unanswered: What determines the *expected returns* themselves? Why do some assets command higher risk premiums than others?

The Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) answers this question. Developed simultaneously by Sharpe (1964), Lintner (1965), and Mossin (1966), the CAPM extends MPT to explain how assets should be priced in equilibrium when *all* investors follow mean-variance optimization principles. The CAPM's central insight is both elegant and counterintuitive: **not all risk is rewarded**. Only the component of risk that cannot be diversified away (i.e., systematic risk) commands a risk premium in equilibrium.

The CAPM remains the cornerstone of asset pricing theory, not because it perfectly describes reality, but because it provides the simplest coherent framework for understanding the relationship between risk and expected return. Every extension and alternative model in asset pricing (e.g., from the Fama-French factors to consumption-based pricing) builds upon or reacts against the CAPM's foundational logic.

In this chapter, we derive the CAPM from first principles, illustrate its theoretical underpinnings, and show how to estimate its parameters empirically. We download stock market data, estimate betas using regression analysis, and evaluate asset performance relative to model predictions.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import tidyfinance as tf

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format
from adjustText import adjust_text
```

16.2 Systematic versus Idiosyncratic Risk

Before diving into the mathematics, we need to understand the fundamental distinction that makes the CAPM work: the difference between *systematic* and *idiosyncratic* risk.

16.2.1 Idiosyncratic Risk: Diversifiable and Unrewarded

Consider events that affect individual companies but not the broader market: a CEO resigns unexpectedly, a product launch fails, earnings disappoint analysts, or a factory experiences a fire. These company-specific events can dramatically affect individual stock prices, but they tend to average out across a diversified portfolio. When one company has bad news, another often has good news; the shocks are largely uncorrelated.

This idiosyncratic (or firm-specific) risk can be eliminated through diversification. By holding a portfolio of many stocks, an investor can reduce idiosyncratic risk to nearly zero. Since this risk can be avoided at no cost, investors should not expect compensation for bearing it. In equilibrium, idiosyncratic risk earns no premium.

16.2.2 Systematic Risk: Undiversifiable and Priced

Systematic risk, by contrast, affects all assets simultaneously. Recessions, interest rate changes, geopolitical crises, and pandemics impact virtually every company to some degree. No amount of diversification can eliminate exposure to these economy-wide shocks, they are inherent to participating in the market.

Since systematic risk cannot be diversified away, investors genuinely dislike it. They must be compensated for bearing it. The CAPM formalizes this intuition: expected returns should depend only on systematic risk, not total risk. Two assets with identical total volatility can have very different expected returns if their systematic risk exposures differ.

16.2.3 A Simple Illustration

Imagine two stocks with identical 30% annual volatility. Stock A is a gold mining company whose returns move opposite to the overall market: it does well when the economy struggles and poorly when it booms. Stock B is a luxury retailer that amplifies market movements: soaring in good times and crashing in bad times.

Which stock should offer higher expected returns? Intuition might suggest they should be equal since both have the same volatility. But the CAPM says Stock B should offer substantially higher returns. Why? Because Stock B performs poorly precisely when investors' overall wealth is already down (during market crashes), making its returns particularly painful. Stock A, by contrast, provides insurance. Its strong performance during market downturns partially offsets

losses elsewhere in the portfolio. Investors value this insurance property and are willing to accept lower expected returns in exchange.

This is the CAPM's core insight: expected returns compensate investors for systematic risk exposure, measured by how an asset's returns co-move with the market portfolio.

16.3 Data Preparation

Building on our analysis from the previous chapter, we examine the VN30 constituents as our asset universe. We download and prepare monthly return data:

```
vn30_symbols = [
    "ACB", "BCM", "BID", "BVH", "CTG", "FPT", "GAS", "GVR", "HDB", "HPG",
    "MBB", "MSN", "MWG", "PLX", "POW", "SAB", "SHB", "SSB", "STB", "TCB",
    "TPB", "VCB", "VHM", "VIB", "VIC", "VJC", "VNM", "VPB", "VRE", "EIB"
]
```

```
import os
import boto3
from botocore.client import Config
from io import BytesIO

class ConnectMinio:
    def __init__(self):
        self.MINIO_ENDPOINT = os.environ["MINIO_ENDPOINT"]
        self.MINIO_ACCESS_KEY = os.environ["MINIO_ACCESS_KEY"]
        self.MINIO_SECRET_KEY = os.environ["MINIO_SECRET_KEY"]
        self.REGION = os.getenv("MINIO_REGION", "us-east-1")

        self.s3 = boto3.client(
            "s3",
            endpoint_url=self.MINIO_ENDPOINT,
            aws_access_key_id=self.MINIO_ACCESS_KEY,
            aws_secret_access_key=self.MINIO_SECRET_KEY,
            region_name=self.REGION,
            config=Config(signature_version="s3v4"),
        )

    def test_connection(self):
        resp = self.s3.list_buckets()
        print("Connected. Buckets:")
```

```
        for b in resp.get("Buckets", []):
            print(" -", b["Name"])


conn = ConnectMinio()
s3 = conn.s3
conn.test_connection()

bucket_name = os.environ["MINIO_BUCKET"]

prices = pd.read_csv(
    BytesIO(
        s3.get_object(
            Bucket=bucket_name,
            Key="historycal_price/dataset_historical_price.csv"
        )["Body"].read()
    ),
    low_memory=False
)
```

```
Connected. Buckets:
 - dsteam-data
 - rawbctc
```

We process the raw price data to compute adjusted closing prices and standardize column names:

```
prices["date"] = pd.to_datetime(prices["date"])
prices["adjusted_close"] = prices["close_price"] * prices["adj_ratio"]
prices = prices.rename(columns={
    "vol_total": "volume",
    "open_price": "open",
    "low_price": "low",
    "high_price": "high",
    "close_price": "close"
})
prices = prices.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
```

```
prices_daily = prices[prices["symbol"].isin(vn30_symbols)]
prices_daily[["date", "symbol", "adjusted_close"]].head(3)
```

	date	symbol	adjusted_close
18176	2010-01-04	ACB	329.408244
18177	2010-01-05	ACB	329.408244
18178	2010-01-06	ACB	320.258015

16.3.1 Computing Monthly Returns

We aggregate daily prices to monthly frequency. Using monthly returns rather than daily returns offers several advantages for portfolio analysis: monthly returns exhibit less noise, better approximate normality, and reduce the impact of microstructure effects like bid-ask bounce.

```
returns_monthly = (prices_daily
    .assign(
        date=prices_daily["date"].dt.to_period("M").dt.to_timestamp("M")
    )
    .groupby(["symbol", "date"], as_index=False)
    .agg(adjusted_close=("adjusted_close", "last"))
    .sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
    .assign(
        ret=lambda x: x.groupby("symbol")["adjusted_close"].pct_change()
    )
)

returns_monthly.head(3)
```

	symbol	date	adjusted_close	ret
0	ACB	2010-01-31	291.975489	NaN
1	ACB	2010-02-28	303.621235	0.039886
2	ACB	2010-03-31	273.784658	-0.098269

16.4 The Risk-Free Asset and the Investment Opportunity Set

16.4.1 Adding a Risk-Free Asset

The previous chapter on MPT considered portfolios composed entirely of risky assets, requiring that portfolio weights sum to one. The CAPM introduces a crucial new element: a **risk-free asset** that pays a constant interest rate r_f with zero volatility.

This seemingly simple addition fundamentally transforms the investment opportunity set. With a risk-free asset available, investors can choose to park some wealth in the safe asset and invest the remainder in risky assets. They can also borrow at the risk-free rate to leverage their risky positions.

Let $\omega \in \mathbb{R}^N$ denote the portfolio weights in the N risky assets. Unlike before, these weights need not sum to one. The remainder, $1 - \iota'\omega$ (where ι is a vector of ones), is invested in the risk-free asset.

16.4.2 Portfolio Return with a Risk-Free Asset

The expected return on this combined portfolio is:

$$\mu_\omega = \omega'\mu + (1 - \iota'\omega)r_f = r_f + \omega'(\mu - r_f) = r_f + \omega'\tilde{\mu}$$

where μ is the vector of expected returns on risky assets and $\tilde{\mu} = \mu - r_f$ denotes the vector of **excess returns** (returns above the risk-free rate).

This expression reveals an important decomposition: the portfolio's expected return equals the risk-free rate plus a risk premium determined by the exposure to risky assets.

16.4.3 Portfolio Variance

Since the risk-free asset has zero volatility and zero covariance with risky assets, only the risky portion contributes to portfolio variance:

$$\sigma_\omega^2 = \omega'\Sigma\omega$$

where Σ is the variance-covariance matrix of risky asset returns. The portfolio's volatility (standard deviation) is:

$$\sigma_\omega = \sqrt{\omega'\Sigma\omega}$$

16.4.4 Setting Up the Risk-Free Rate

For a realistic proxy of the risk-free rate, we use the Vietnam government bond yield. Government bonds of stable economies are considered "risk-free" because the government can always print money to meet its obligations (though this may cause inflation).

```
all_dates = pd.date_range(
    start=returns_monthly["date"].min(),
    end=returns_monthly["date"].max(),
    freq="ME"
)

# Vietnam 10-Year Government Bond Yield (approximately 2.52% annualized)
rf_annual = 0.0252
rf_monthly_val = (1 + rf_annual)**(1/12) - 1

risk_free_monthly = pd.DataFrame({
    "date": all_dates,
    "risk_free": rf_monthly_val
})

risk_free_monthly["date"] = (
    pd.to_datetime(risk_free_monthly["date"])
    .dt.to_period("M")
    .dt.to_timestamp("M")
)

risk_free_monthly.head(3)
```

	date	risk_free
0	2010-01-31	0.002076
1	2010-02-28	0.002076
2	2010-03-31	0.002076

We merge the risk-free rate with our returns data and compute excess returns:

```
returns_monthly = returns_monthly.merge(
    risk_free_monthly[["date", "risk_free"]],
    on="date",
    how="left"
)

rf = risk_free_monthly["risk_free"].mean()

returns_monthly = (returns_monthly
    .assign(
```

```
        ret_excess=lambda x: x["ret"] - x["risk_free"]
    )
    .assign(
        ret_excess=lambda x: x["ret_excess"].clip(lower=-1)
    )
)

returns_monthly.head(3)
```

	symbol	date	adjusted_close	ret	risk_free	ret_excess
0	ACB	2010-01-31	291.975489	NaN	0.002076	NaN
1	ACB	2010-02-28	303.621235	0.039886	0.002076	0.037810
2	ACB	2010-03-31	273.784658	-0.098269	0.002076	-0.100345

16.5 The Tangency Portfolio: Where Everyone Invests

16.5.1 Deriving the Optimal Risky Portfolio

With a risk-free asset available, how should an investor allocate wealth across risky assets? Consider an investor who wants to achieve a target expected excess return $\bar{\mu}$ with minimum variance. The optimization problem becomes:

$$\min_{\omega} \omega' \Sigma \omega \quad \text{subject to} \quad \omega' \tilde{\mu} = \bar{\mu}$$

Using the Lagrangian method:

$$\mathcal{L}(\omega, \lambda) = \omega' \Sigma \omega - \lambda(\omega' \tilde{\mu} - \bar{\mu})$$

The first-order condition with respect to ω is:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \omega} = 2\Sigma\omega - \lambda\tilde{\mu} = 0$$

Solving for the optimal weights:

$$\omega^* = \frac{\lambda}{2}\Sigma^{-1}\tilde{\mu}$$

The constraint $\omega'\tilde{\mu} = \bar{\mu}$ determines λ:

$$\bar{\mu} = \tilde{\mu}'\omega^* = \frac{\lambda}{2}\tilde{\mu}'\Sigma^{-1}\tilde{\mu} \implies \lambda = \frac{2\bar{\mu}}{\tilde{\mu}'\Sigma^{-1}\tilde{\mu}}$$

Substituting back:

$$\omega^* = \frac{\bar{\mu}}{\tilde{\mu}'\Sigma^{-1}\tilde{\mu}}\Sigma^{-1}\tilde{\mu}$$

16.5.2 The Tangency Portfolio

Notice something remarkable: the *direction* of ω^* is always $\Sigma^{-1}\tilde{\mu}$, regardless of the target return $\bar{\mu}$. Only the *scale* changes. This means all investors, regardless of their risk preferences, hold the *same portfolio of risky assets*. They differ only in how much they allocate to this portfolio versus the risk-free asset.

To obtain the portfolio of risky assets that is fully invested (weights summing to one), we normalize:

$$\omega_{\tan} = \frac{\omega^*}{\iota'\omega^*} = \frac{\Sigma^{-1}(\mu - r_f)}{\iota'\Sigma^{-1}(\mu - r_f)}$$

This is called the **tangency portfolio** (or maximum Sharpe ratio portfolio) because it lies at the point where the efficient frontier is tangent to the capital market line.

16.5.3 The Sharpe Ratio and the Capital Market Line

The **Sharpe ratio** measures excess return per unit of volatility:

$$\text{Sharpe Ratio} = \frac{\mu_p - r_f}{\sigma_p}$$

The tangency portfolio maximizes the Sharpe ratio among all possible portfolios. Any combination of the risk-free asset and the tangency portfolio lies on a straight line in mean-standard deviation space, called the **Capital Market Line (CML)**:

$$\mu_p = r_f + \left(\frac{\mu_{\tan} - r_f}{\sigma_{\tan}}\right)\sigma_p$$

The slope of this line equals the Sharpe ratio of the tangency portfolio (i.e., the highest achievable Sharpe ratio).

16.5.4 Computing the Tangency Portfolio

Let's compute the tangency portfolio for our VN30 universe:

```
assets = (returns_monthly
    .groupby("symbol", as_index=False)
    .agg(
        mu=("ret", "mean"),
        sigma=("ret", "std")
    )
)

sigma = (returns_monthly
    .pivot(index="date", columns="symbol", values="ret")
    .cov()
)

mu = (returns_monthly
    .groupby("symbol")["ret"]
    .mean()
    .values
)
```

```
# Compute tangency portfolio weights
w_tan = np.linalg.solve(sigma, mu - rf)
w_tan = w_tan / np.sum(w_tan)

# Portfolio performance metrics
mu_w = w_tan.T @ mu
sigma_w = np.sqrt(w_tan.T @ sigma @ w_tan)

efficient_portfolios = pd.DataFrame([
    {"symbol": r"$\omega_{\mathrm{tan}}$", "mu": mu_w, "sigma": sigma_w},
    {"symbol": r"$r_f$", "mu": rf, "sigma": 0}
])

sharpe_ratio = (mu_w - rf) / sigma_w

print(f"Tangency Portfolio Sharpe Ratio: {sharpe_ratio:.4f}")
print(efficient_portfolios)
```

```
Tangency Portfolio Sharpe Ratio: -0.5552
```

```
                    symbol        mu     sigma
0  $\omega_{\mathrm{tan}}$ -0.041157  0.077866
1                    $r_f$  0.002076  0.000000
```

16.5.5 Visualizing the Efficient Frontier with a Risk-Free Asset

Figure 16.1 shows the efficient frontier when a risk-free asset is available. The frontier is now a straight line (the Capital Market Line) connecting the risk-free asset to the tangency portfolio and extending beyond.

```
efficient_portfolios_figure = (
    ggplot(efficient_portfolios, aes(x="sigma", y="mu"))
    + geom_point(data=assets)
    + geom_point(data=efficient_portfolios, color="blue", size=3)
    + geom_label(
        aes(label="symbol"),
        adjust_text={"arrowprops": {"arrowstyle": "-"}}
    )
    + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="Volatility (Standard Deviation)",
        y="Expected Return",
        title="Efficient Frontier with Risk-Free Asset (VN30)"
    )
    + geom_abline(slope=sharpe_ratio, intercept=rf, linetype="dotted")
)

efficient_portfolios_figure.show()
```

Figure 16.1: The efficient frontier with a risk-free asset becomes a straight line (the Capital Market Line) connecting the risk-free rate to the tangency portfolio. Individual assets lie below this line, demonstrating the benefits of diversification.

You may notice that estimated expected returns appear quite low, some even negative. This is not a model failure but reflects the realities of estimation:

1. **Sample period matters**: If the estimation window includes market downturns (such as the 2022-2023 period), realized average returns can be near zero or negative. Mean-variance optimization takes sample means literally.
2. **Estimation noise in emerging markets**: With volatile emerging market data, sample means are dominated by noise. A few extremely bad months can push the average below the risk-free rate even if the long-run equity premium is positive.

This highlights a fundamental challenge in portfolio optimization: the inputs we observe (historical returns) are noisy estimates of the true parameters we need (expected future returns).

16.6 The CAPM Equation: Risk and Expected Return

16.6.1 From Individual Optimization to Market Equilibrium

So far, we've focused on one investor's optimization problem. The CAPM's power comes from considering what happens when *all* investors optimize simultaneously.

If all investors follow mean-variance optimization, they all hold some combination of the risk-free asset and the tangency portfolio. The only difference between investors is their risk tolerance. More risk-averse investors hold more of the risk-free asset, while risk-tolerant investors may even borrow at the risk-free rate to leverage their position in the tangency portfolio.

16.6.2 The Market Portfolio

In equilibrium, the total demand for each risky asset must equal its supply. Since all investors hold the same portfolio of risky assets (the tangency portfolio), the equilibrium portfolio weights must equal the *market capitalization weights*. The tangency portfolio *is* the market portfolio.

This insight has enormous practical implications: instead of estimating expected returns and covariances to compute the tangency portfolio, we can simply use the market portfolio (approximated by a broad market index) as a proxy.

16.6.3 Deriving the CAPM Equation

From the first-order conditions of the optimization problem, we derived that:

$$\tilde{\mu} = \frac{2}{\lambda}\Sigma\omega^*$$

Since ω^* is proportional to $\omega_{\tan}$, and in equilibrium $\omega_{\tan}$ equals the market portfolio ω_m:

$$\tilde{\mu} = c \cdot \Sigma\omega_m$$

for some constant c. The i-th element of $\Sigma\omega_m$ is:

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} \sigma_{ij}\omega_{m,j} = \mathrm{Cov}(r_i, r_m)$$

where $r_m = \sum_j \omega_{m,j} r_j$ is the return on the market portfolio.

For the market portfolio itself:

$$\tilde{\mu}_m = c \cdot \mathrm{Var}(r_m) = c \cdot \sigma_m^2$$

Therefore $c = \tilde{\mu}_m / \sigma_m^2$, and for any asset i:

$$\tilde{\mu}_i = \frac{\tilde{\mu}_m}{\sigma_m^2} \mathrm{Cov}(r_i, r_m) = \beta_i \tilde{\mu}_m$$

where:

$$\beta_i = \frac{\mathrm{Cov}(r_i, r_m)}{\mathrm{Var}(r_m)}$$

This is the famous **CAPM equation**:

$$E(r_i) - r_f = \beta_i [E(r_m) - r_f]$$

16.6.4 Interpreting Beta

Beta (β_i) measures an asset's **systematic risk** (i.e., its sensitivity to market movements). The interpretation is straightforward:

- $\beta = 1$: The asset moves one-for-one with the market (average systematic risk)
- $\beta > 1$: The asset amplifies market movements (aggressive, high systematic risk)
- $\beta < 1$: The asset dampens market movements (defensive, low systematic risk)
- $\beta < 0$: The asset moves opposite to the market (provides insurance)

The CAPM says that expected excess return is proportional to beta, not to total volatility. This explains why:

1. An asset with zero beta earns only the risk-free rate (i.e., its risk is entirely idiosyncratic).
2. An asset with beta of 1 earns the market risk premium
3. A negative-beta asset earns *less* than the risk-free rate (i.e., investors pay for its insurance properties).

16.7 The Security Market Line

The CAPM predicts a linear relationship between beta and expected return. This relationship is called the **Security Market Line (SML)**:

$$E(r_i) = r_f + \beta_i[E(r_m) - r_f]$$

Unlike the Capital Market Line (which plots expected return against total risk), the Security Market Line plots expected return against systematic risk (beta).

```
betas = (sigma @ w_tan) / (w_tan.T @ sigma @ w_tan)
assets["beta"] = betas.values

price_of_risk = float(w_tan.T @ mu - rf)

assets_figure = (
    ggplot(assets, aes(x="beta", y="mu"))
    + geom_point()
    + geom_abline(intercept=rf, slope=price_of_risk)
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="Beta (Systematic Risk)",
        y="Expected Return",
        title="Security Market Line"
    )
    + annotate("text", x=0.05, y=rf + 0.001, label="Risk-free rate")
)

assets_figure.show()
```

You may observe that the estimated SML has a negative slope, which seems to contradict CAPM's prediction. This reflects a **negative estimated market risk premium** in our sample period (i.e., the market portfolio earned less than the risk-free rate).

When the market risk premium is negative, CAPM predicts that high-beta stocks should have *lower* expected returns than low-beta stocks. This is not a model failure, the model is behaving consistently. Rather, it reflects an unusual (but not impossible) sample period where risky assets underperformed safe assets.

This observation highlights an important distinction: CAPM describes *expected* returns in equilibrium, but *realized* returns over any particular period may differ substantially from expectations due to shocks and surprises.

16.8 Empirical Estimation of CAPM Parameters

16.8.1 The Regression Framework

In practice, we estimate CAPM parameters using time-series regression. The model implies:

$$r_{i,t} - r_{f,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_i(r_{m,t} - r_{f,t}) + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

where:

- $r_{i,t}$: Return on asset i at time t
- $r_{f,t}$: Risk-free rate at time t
- $r_{m,t}$: Market return at time t
- α_i: Intercept (should be zero if CAPM holds)
- β_i: Systematic risk (slope coefficient)
- $\varepsilon_{i,t}$: Idiosyncratic shock (residual)

16.8.2 Alpha: Risk-Adjusted Performance

The intercept α_i measures **risk-adjusted performance**. If CAPM holds perfectly, alpha should be zero for all assets (i.e., any excess return is exactly compensated by systematic risk).

- $\alpha > 0$: The asset outperformed its CAPM-predicted return (positive abnormal return)
- $\alpha < 0$: The asset underperformed its CAPM-predicted return (negative abnormal return)

Positive alpha is the holy grail of active management: earning returns beyond what systematic risk exposure would justify.

16.8.3 Loading Factor Data

We use Fama-French market excess returns as our market portfolio proxy. These data provide a widely accepted benchmark that is already adjusted for the risk-free rate:

```
import sqlite3

tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

factors = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT date, smb, hml, rmw, cma, mkt_excess FROM factors_ff5_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

factors.head(3)
```

	date	smb	hml	rmw	cma	mkt_excess
0	2011-07-31	-0.015907	-0.002812	0.060525	0.045291	-0.078748
1	2011-08-31	-0.061842	0.006189	-0.022700	-0.023177	0.029906
2	2011-09-30	0.014387	0.024301	-0.006005	0.003588	-0.002173

16.8.4 Running the Regressions

We estimate CAPM regressions for each stock in our universe:

```
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf

returns_excess_monthly = (returns_monthly
    .merge(factors, on="date", how="left")
    .assign(ret_excess=lambda x: x["ret"] - x["risk_free"])
)


def estimate_capm(data):
    model = smf.ols("ret_excess ~ mkt_excess", data=data).fit()
    result = pd.DataFrame({
        "coefficient": ["alpha", "beta"],
        "estimate": model.params.values,
        "t_statistic": model.tvalues.values
    })
    return result


capm_results = (returns_excess_monthly
    .groupby("symbol", group_keys=True)
    .apply(estimate_capm)
    .reset_index()
)

capm_results.head(4)
```

	symbol	level_1	coefficient	estimate	t_statistic
0	ACB	0	alpha	-0.000826	-0.105475
1	ACB	1	beta	0.604653	4.575750
2	BCM	0	alpha	0.035093	2.368668
3	BCM	1	beta	1.032462	4.581461

16.8.5 Visualizing Alpha Estimates

Figure 16.2 shows the estimated alphas across our VN30 sample. Statistical significance (at the 95% level) is indicated by color.

```
alphas = (capm_results
    .query("coefficient == 'alpha'")
    .assign(is_significant=lambda x: np.abs(x["t_statistic"]) >= 1.96)
)

alphas["symbol"] = pd.Categorical(
    alphas["symbol"],
    categories=alphas.sort_values("estimate")["symbol"],
    ordered=True
)

alphas_figure = (
    ggplot(alphas, aes(y="estimate", x="symbol", fill="is_significant"))
    + geom_col()
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + coord_flip()
    + labs(
        x="",
        y="Estimated Alpha (Monthly)",
        fill="Significant at 95%?",
        title="Estimated CAPM Alphas for VN30 Index Constituents"
    )
)

alphas_figure.show()
```

Figure 16.2: Estimated CAPM alphas for VN30 index constituents. Color indicates statistical significance at the 95% confidence level. Most alphas are statistically indistinguishable from zero, consistent with CAPM predictions.

The distribution of alphas provides evidence on CAPM's empirical validity. If the model holds, we expect:

1. Most alphas close to zero
2. Few statistically significant alphas
3. Roughly equal numbers of positive and negative alphas

Systematic patterns in alphas, such as consistently positive alphas for certain types of stocks, would suggest the CAPM is incomplete and that additional risk factors may be needed.

16.9 Limitations and Extensions

16.9.1 The Market Portfolio Problem

A fundamental challenge in testing the CAPM is identifying the market portfolio. The theory requires a portfolio that includes *all* investable assets, not just stocks, but also bonds, real estate, private businesses, human capital, and even intangible assets. In practice, we use proxies like broad market indices (VNI, S&P 500), but these capture only publicly traded equities.

This limitation is profound. As Richard Roll famously argued, the CAPM is essentially untestable because the true market portfolio is unobservable. Any test of the CAPM is simultaneously a test of whether our proxy adequately represents the market.

16.9.2 Time-Varying Betas

The CAPM assumes that betas are constant over time, but this assumption rarely holds in practice. Companies undergo changes that affect their market sensitivity:

- **Capital structure changes**: Increasing leverage raises beta
- **Business model evolution**: Diversification into new industries can alter systematic risk
- **Market conditions**: Betas often increase during market stress

Conditional CAPM models (Jagannathan and Wang 1996a) address this by allowing risk premiums and betas to vary with the business cycle.

16.9.3 Empirical Anomalies

Decades of empirical research have documented patterns in stock returns that CAPM cannot explain:

1. **Size effect**: Small-cap stocks tend to outperform large-cap stocks, even after adjusting for beta
2. **Value effect**: Stocks with high book-to-market ratios outperform growth stocks
3. **Momentum**: Stocks that performed well recently tend to continue performing well

These anomalies suggest that systematic risk has multiple dimensions beyond market exposure.

16.9.4 Multifactor Extensions

The limitations of CAPM have led to increasingly sophisticated asset pricing models. The **Fama-French three-factor model** (Eugene F. Fama and French 1992) adds two factors to capture size and value effects:

- **SMB (Small Minus Big)**: Returns on small stocks minus large stocks
- **HML (High Minus Low)**: Returns on value stocks minus growth stocks

The **Fama-French five-factor model** (Eugene F. Fama and French 2015) adds two more dimensions:

- **RMW (Robust Minus Weak)**: Returns on profitable firms minus unprofitable firms

- **CMA (Conservative Minus Aggressive)**: Returns on conservative investors minus aggressive investors

The **Carhart four-factor model** (Mark M. Carhart 1997b) adds momentum to the three-factor framework.

Other theoretical developments include:

- **Consumption CAPM**: Links asset prices to macroeconomic consumption risk
- **Q-factor model** (Hou, Xue, and Zhang 2014): Derives factors from investment-based asset pricing theory
- **Arbitrage Pricing Theory**: Allows for multiple sources of systematic risk without specifying their identity

Despite its limitations, the CAPM remains valuable as a conceptual benchmark. Its core insight (i.e., only systematic, undiversifiable risk commands a premium) continues to inform how we think about risk and return.

16.10 Key Takeaways

This chapter introduced the Capital Asset Pricing Model and its implications for understanding the relationship between risk and expected return. The main insights are:

1. **Not all risk is rewarded**: The CAPM distinguishes between systematic risk (which cannot be diversified away and commands a premium) and idiosyncratic risk (which can be eliminated through diversification and earns no premium).

2. **The tangency portfolio is universal**: When a risk-free asset exists, all mean-variance investors hold the same portfolio of risky assets (i.e., the tangency or maximum Sharpe ratio portfolio). They differ only in how much they allocate to this portfolio versus the risk-free asset.

3. **In equilibrium, the tangency portfolio is the market portfolio**: Since all investors hold the same risky portfolio, and total demand must equal supply, the equilibrium portfolio weights are market capitalization weights.

4. **Expected returns depend on beta**: The CAPM equation states that expected excess return equals beta times the market risk premium. Beta measures covariance with the market portfolio, normalized by market variance.

5. **Alpha measures risk-adjusted performance**: Positive alpha indicates returns above what systematic risk would justify; negative alpha indicates underperformance.

6. **Empirical challenges exist**: Testing the CAPM requires identifying the market portfolio, which is unobservable in practice. Documented anomalies (size, value, momentum) suggest additional risk factors beyond market exposure.

7. **Extensions abound**: Multifactor models like Fama-French extend the CAPM framework by adding factors that capture dimensions of systematic risk the market factor misses.

The CAPM's elegance lies in its simplicity: a single factor (i.e., exposure to the market) should explain expected returns in equilibrium. While reality is more complex, this framework provides the foundation for all modern asset pricing theory.

17 Fama-French Factors

This chapter provides a replication of the Fama-French factor portfolios for the Vietnamese stock market. The Fama-French factor models represent a cornerstone of empirical asset pricing, originating from the seminal work of Eugene F. Fama and French (1992) and later extended in Eugene F. Fama and French (2015). These models have transformed how academics and practitioners understand the cross-section of expected stock returns, moving beyond the single-factor Capital Asset Pricing Model to incorporate multiple sources of systematic risk.

We construct both the three-factor and five-factor models at monthly and daily frequencies. The monthly factors serve as the foundation for most asset pricing tests and portfolio analyses, while the daily factors enable higher-frequency applications including short-horizon event studies, market microstructure research, and daily beta estimation. By constructing factors at both frequencies, we create a complete toolkit for empirical finance research in the Vietnamese market.

The chapter proceeds as follows. We first discuss the theoretical motivation for each factor and the economic intuition behind the Fama-French methodology. We then prepare the necessary data, merging stock returns with accounting characteristics. Next, we implement the portfolio sorting procedures that form the basis of factor construction, carefully following the original Fama-French protocols while adapting them for Vietnamese market characteristics. We construct the three-factor model (market, size, and value) before extending to the five-factor model (adding profitability and investment). Finally, we construct daily factors and validate our replicated factors through various diagnostic checks.

17.1 Theoretical Background

17.1.1 The Evolution from CAPM to Multi-Factor Models

The Capital Asset Pricing Model of Sharpe (1964) posits that a single factor—the market portfolio—should explain all cross-sectional variation in expected returns. However, decades of empirical research have documented persistent patterns that CAPM cannot explain. Eugene F. Fama and French (1992) demonstrated that two firm characteristics—size and book-to-market ratio—capture substantial variation in average returns that the market beta leaves unexplained.

Small firms tend to earn higher returns than large firms, a pattern known as the size effect. Similarly, firms with high book-to-market ratios (value stocks) tend to outperform firms with low book-to-market ratios (growth stocks), known as the value premium. The three-factor model formalizes these observations by constructing tradeable factor portfolios:

$$r_{i,t} - r_{f,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_i^{MKT}(r_{m,t} - r_{f,t}) + \beta_i^{SMB} \cdot SMB_t + \beta_i^{HML} \cdot HML_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{17.1}$$

where:

- $r_{i,t} - r_{f,t}$ is the excess return on asset i
- $r_{m,t} - r_{f,t}$ is the market excess return
- SMB_t (Small Minus Big) is the size factor
- HML_t (High Minus Low) is the value factor

17.1.2 The Five-Factor Extension

Eugene F. Fama and French (2015) extended the model to include two additional factors motivated by the dividend discount model. Firms with higher profitability should have higher expected returns (all else equal), and firms with aggressive investment policies should have lower expected returns:

$$r_{i,t} - r_{f,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_i^{MKT} MKT_t + \beta_i^{SMB} SMB_t + \beta_i^{HML} HML_t + \beta_i^{RMW} RMW_t + \beta_i^{CMA} CMA_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{17.2}$$

where:

- RMW_t (Robust Minus Weak) is the profitability factor
- CMA_t (Conservative Minus Aggressive) is the investment factor

17.1.3 Factor Construction Methodology

The Fama-French methodology constructs factors through double-sorted portfolios:

1. **Size sorts**: Stocks are divided into Small and Big groups based on median market capitalization.
2. **Characteristic sorts**: Within each size group, stocks are sorted into terciles based on book-to-market (for HML), operating profitability (for RMW), or investment (for CMA).
3. **Factor returns**: Factors are computed as the difference between average returns of portfolios with high versus low characteristic values, averaging across size groups to neutralize size effects.

4. **Timing**: Portfolios are formed at the end of June each year using accounting data from the prior fiscal year, ensuring all information was publicly available at formation.

17.2 Setting Up the Environment

We load the required Python packages for data manipulation, statistical analysis, and visualization.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from scipy.stats.mstats import winsorize
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format, comma_format
```

We connect to our SQLite database containing the processed Vietnamese financial data.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")
```

17.3 Data Preparation

17.3.1 Loading Stock Returns

We load the monthly stock returns data, which includes excess returns, market capitalization, and the risk-free rate. These variables are essential for computing value-weighted portfolio returns and factor premiums.

```
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess, mktcap, mktcap_lag, risk_free
        FROM prices_monthly
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
).dropna()
```

```
print(f"Monthly returns: {len(prices_monthly):,} observations")
print(f"Unique stocks: {prices_monthly['symbol'].nunique():,}")
print(f"Date range: {prices_monthly['date'].min():%Y-%m} to {prices_monthly['date'].max():%Y-
```

```
Monthly returns: 165,499 observations
Unique stocks: 1,457
Date range: 2010-02 to 2023-12
```

17.3.2 Loading Company Fundamentals

We load the company fundamentals data containing book equity, operating profitability, and investment—the characteristics needed for constructing the Fama-French factors.

```
comp_vn = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, datadate, be, op, inv
        FROM comp_vn
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"datadate"}
).dropna()

print(f"Fundamentals: {len(comp_vn):,} firm-year observations")
print(f"Unique firms: {comp_vn['symbol'].nunique():,}")
```

```
Fundamentals: 18,108 firm-year observations
Unique firms: 1,496
```

17.3.3 Constructing Sorting Variables

Following Fama-French conventions, we construct the sorting variables with careful attention to timing. The key principles are:

1. **Size (June Market Cap)**: We use market capitalization at the end of June of year t to sort stocks into size groups. This ensures we capture the firm's size at the moment of portfolio formation.
2. **Book-to-Market Ratio**: We use book equity from fiscal year $t-1$ divided by market equity at the end of December $t-1$. This creates a six-month gap between the accounting data and portfolio formation, ensuring the information was publicly available.

3. **Portfolio Formation Date**: Portfolios are formed on July 1st and held for twelve months until the following June.

```python
def construct_sorting_variables(prices_monthly, comp_vn):
    """
    Construct sorting variables following Fama-French methodology.

    Parameters
    ----------
    prices_monthly : pd.DataFrame
        Monthly stock returns with market cap
    comp_vn : pd.DataFrame
        Company fundamentals with book equity, profitability, investment

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Sorting variables aligned with July 1st formation dates
    """

    # 1. Size: June market capitalization
    # Portfolio formation is July 1st, so we use June market cap
    size = (prices_monthly
        .query("date.dt.month == 6")
        .assign(
            sorting_date=lambda x: x["date"] + pd.offsets.MonthBegin(1)
        )
        [["symbol", "sorting_date", "mktcap"]]
        .rename(columns={"mktcap": "size"})
    )

    print(f"Size observations: {len(size):,}")

    # 2. Market Equity: December market cap for B/M calculation
    # December t-1 market cap is used with fiscal year t-1 book equity
    # This is then used for July t portfolio formation
    market_equity = (prices_monthly
        .query("date.dt.month == 12")
        .assign(
            # December year t-1 maps to July year t formation
            sorting_date=lambda x: x["date"] + pd.offsets.MonthBegin(7)
        )
        [["symbol", "sorting_date", "mktcap"]]
```

```
        .rename(columns={"mktcap": "me"})
    )

    print(f"Market equity observations: {len(market_equity):,}")

    # 3. Book-to-Market and other characteristics
    # Fiscal year t-1 data is used for July t portfolio formation
    book_to_market = (comp_vn
        .assign(
            # Fiscal year-end + 6 months = July formation
            sorting_date=lambda x: pd.to_datetime(
                (x["datadate"].dt.year + 1).astype(str) + "-07-01"
            )
        )
        .merge(market_equity, on=["symbol", "sorting_date"], how="inner")
        .assign(
            # Scale book equity to match market equity units
            # BE is in VND, ME is in millions VND
            bm=lambda x: x["be"] / (x["me"] * 1e9)
        )
        [["symbol", "sorting_date", "me", "bm", "op", "inv"]]
    )

    print(f"Book-to-market observations: {len(book_to_market):,}")

    # 4. Merge size with characteristics
    sorting_variables = (size
        .merge(book_to_market, on=["symbol", "sorting_date"], how="inner")
        .dropna()
        .drop_duplicates(subset=["symbol", "sorting_date"])
    )

    return sorting_variables

sorting_variables = construct_sorting_variables(prices_monthly, comp_vn)

print(f"\nFinal sorting variables: {len(sorting_variables):,} stock-years")
print(f"Sorting date range: {sorting_variables['sorting_date'].min():%Y-%m} to {sorting_varia
```

```
Size observations: 13,756
Market equity observations: 14,286
Book-to-market observations: 13,389
```

```
Final sorting variables: 12,046 stock-years
Sorting date range: 2011-07 to 2023-07
```

17.3.4 Validating Sorting Variables

Before proceeding, we validate that our sorting variables have reasonable distributions. The book-to-market ratio should center around 1.0 for a typical market, though emerging markets may differ.

```python
print("Sorting Variable Summary Statistics:")
print(sorting_variables[["size", "bm", "op", "inv"]].describe().round(4))

# Check for extreme values that might indicate data issues
print(f"\nB/M Median: {sorting_variables['bm'].median():.4f}")
print(f"B/M 1st percentile: {sorting_variables['bm'].quantile(0.01):.4f}")
print(f"B/M 99th percentile: {sorting_variables['bm'].quantile(0.99):.4f}")
```

```
Sorting Variable Summary Statistics:
               size          bm          op         inv
count   12046.0000  12046.0000  12046.0000  12046.0000
mean     2225.5648      1.7033      0.1852      0.1322
std     14680.4225      3.8683      0.2782      2.5410
min         0.4864      0.0014     -0.7529     -0.9569
25%        62.7556      0.7595      0.0309     -0.0495
50%       182.6410      1.1849      0.1367      0.0342
75%       641.8896      1.8853      0.2952      0.1582
max    426020.9817    272.1893      1.4256    261.3355

B/M Median: 1.1849
B/M 1st percentile: 0.1710
B/M 99th percentile: 8.0262
```

17.3.5 Handling Outliers

Extreme values in sorting characteristics can distort portfolio assignments and factor returns. We apply winsorization to limit the influence of outliers while preserving the general ranking of stocks.

```python
# Check BEFORE winsorization
print("BEFORE Winsorization:")
print(sorting_variables[["size", "bm", "op", "inv"]].describe().round(4))

# Apply winsorization
def winsorize_characteristics(df, columns, limits=(0.01, 0.99)):
    """
    Apply winsorization using pandas clip.
    """
    df = df.copy()
    for col in columns:
        if col in df.columns:
            lower = df[col].quantile(limits[0])
            upper = df[col].quantile(limits[1])
            df[col] = df[col].clip(lower=lower, upper=upper)
            print(f"  {col}: clipped to [{lower:.4f}, {upper:.4f}]")
    return df

sorting_variables = winsorize_characteristics(
    sorting_variables,
    columns=["bm", "op", "inv"],  # Don't winsorize size
    limits=(0.01, 0.99)
)

# Check AFTER winsorization
print("\nAFTER Winsorization:")
print(sorting_variables[["size", "bm", "op", "inv"]].describe().round(4))
```

```
BEFORE Winsorization:
              size          bm          op         inv
count   12046.0000  12046.0000  12046.0000  12046.0000
mean     2225.5648      1.7033      0.1852      0.1322
std     14680.4225      3.8683      0.2782      2.5410
min         0.4864      0.0014     -0.7529     -0.9569
25%        62.7556      0.7595      0.0309     -0.0495
50%       182.6410      1.1849      0.1367      0.0342
75%       641.8896      1.8853      0.2952      0.1582
max    426020.9817    272.1893      1.4256    261.3355
  bm: clipped to [0.1710, 8.0262]
  op: clipped to [-0.7319, 1.2192]
  inv: clipped to [-0.3990, 1.5195]
```

```
AFTER Winsorization:
              size          bm          op         inv
count   12046.0000  12046.0000  12046.0000  12046.0000
mean     2225.5648      1.5544      0.1837      0.0894
std     14680.4225      1.2843      0.2705      0.2721
min         0.4864      0.1710     -0.7319     -0.3990
25%        62.7556      0.7595      0.0309     -0.0495
50%       182.6410      1.1849      0.1367      0.0342
75%       641.8896      1.8853      0.2952      0.1582
max    426020.9817      8.0262      1.2192      1.5195
```

17.4 Portfolio Assignment Functions

17.4.1 The Portfolio Assignment Function

We create a flexible function for assigning stocks to portfolios based on quantile breakpoints. This function handles both independent sorts (where breakpoints are computed across all stocks) and dependent sorts (where breakpoints are computed within subgroups).

```python
def assign_portfolio(data, sorting_variable, percentiles):
    """Assign portfolios to a bin according to a sorting variable."""

    # Get the values
    values = data[sorting_variable].dropna()

    if len(values) == 0:
        return pd.Series([np.nan] * len(data), index=data.index)

    # Calculate breakpoints
    breakpoints = values.quantile(percentiles, interpolation="linear")

    # Handle duplicate breakpoints by using unique values
    unique_breakpoints = np.unique(breakpoints)

    # If all values are the same, assign all to portfolio 1
    if len(unique_breakpoints) <= 1:
        return pd.Series([1] * len(data), index=data.index)

    # Set boundaries to -inf and +inf
    unique_breakpoints.iloc[0] = -np.inf
    unique_breakpoints.iloc[unique_breakpoints.size-1] = np.inf
```

```
    # Assign to bins
    assigned = pd.cut(
        data[sorting_variable],
        bins=unique_breakpoints,
        labels=pd.Series(range(1, breakpoints.size)),
        include_lowest=True,
        right=False
    )

    return assigned
```

```
# Check the distribution of characteristics BEFORE portfolio assignment
print("Operating Profitability Distribution:")
print(sorting_variables["op"].describe())
print(f"\nUnique OP values: {sorting_variables['op'].nunique()}")

print("\nInvestment Distribution:")
print(sorting_variables["inv"].describe())
print(f"\nUnique INV values: {sorting_variables['inv'].nunique()}")

# Check breakpoints for a specific date
test_date = sorting_variables["sorting_date"].iloc[0]
test_data = sorting_variables.query("sorting_date == @test_date")

print(f"\nBreakpoints for {test_date}:")
print(f"OP 30th percentile: {test_data['op'].quantile(0.3):.4f}")
print(f"OP 70th percentile: {test_data['op'].quantile(0.7):.4f}")
print(f"INV 30th percentile: {test_data['inv'].quantile(0.3):.4f}")
print(f"INV 70th percentile: {test_data['inv'].quantile(0.7):.4f}")
```

```
Operating Profitability Distribution:
count    12046.000000
mean         0.183738
std          0.270509
min         -0.731888
25%          0.030913
50%          0.136675
75%          0.295185
max          1.219223
Name: op, dtype: float64
```

```
Unique OP values: 11804

Investment Distribution:
count    12046.000000
mean         0.089388
std          0.272147
min         -0.399042
25%         -0.049497
50%          0.034157
75%          0.158155
max          1.519474
Name: inv, dtype: float64

Unique INV values: 11805

Breakpoints for 2019-07-01 00:00:00:
OP 30th percentile: 0.0541
OP 70th percentile: 0.2566
INV 30th percentile: -0.0343
INV 70th percentile: 0.1116
```

17.4.2 Assigning Portfolios for Three-Factor Model

For the three-factor model, we perform independent double sorts on size and book-to-market. Size is split at the median (2 groups), and book-to-market is split at the 30th and 70th percentiles (3 groups), creating 6 portfolios.

```python
def assign_ff3_portfolios(sorting_variables):
    """
    Assign portfolios for Fama-French three-factor model.
    Independent 2x3 sort on size and book-to-market.
    """
    df = sorting_variables.copy()

    # Independent size sort (median split)
    df["portfolio_size"] = df.groupby("sorting_date")["size"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, q=[0, 0.5, 1], labels=[1, 2], duplicates='drop')
    )

    # Independent B/M sort (30/70 split)
    df["portfolio_bm"] = df.groupby("sorting_date")["bm"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, q=[0, 0.3, 0.7, 1], labels=[1, 2, 3], duplicates='drop')
```

```
    )

    return df

# Assign portfolios
portfolios_ff3 = assign_ff3_portfolios(sorting_variables)

# Validate
print("FF3 Book-to-Market by Portfolio (should be INCREASING):")
print(portfolios_ff3.groupby("portfolio_bm", observed=True)["bm"].median().round(4))


print("Three-Factor Portfolio Assignments:")
print(portfolios_ff3[["symbol", "sorting_date", "portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm"]].head(10))
```

```
FF3 Book-to-Market by Portfolio (should be INCREASING):
portfolio_bm
1    0.5836
2    1.1891
3    2.4552
Name: bm, dtype: float64
Three-Factor Portfolio Assignments:
  symbol sorting_date portfolio_size portfolio_bm
0    A32   2019-07-01              1            2
1    A32   2020-07-01              1            2
2    A32   2021-07-01              1            2
3    A32   2022-07-01              1            3
4    A32   2023-07-01              1            2
5    AAA   2011-07-01              2            2
6    AAA   2012-07-01              2            3
7    AAA   2013-07-01              2            3
8    AAA   2014-07-01              2            2
9    AAA   2015-07-01              2            3
```

17.4.3 Validating Portfolio Assignments

We verify that the portfolio assignments create the expected 2×3 grid with reasonable stock counts in each cell.

```python
# Check portfolio distribution for most recent year
latest_date = portfolios_ff3["sorting_date"].max()

portfolio_counts = (portfolios_ff3
    .query("sorting_date == @latest_date")
    .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm"], observed=True)
    .size()
    .unstack(fill_value=0)
)

print(f"Portfolio Counts for {latest_date:%Y-%m}:")
print(portfolio_counts)

# Verify characteristic monotonicity
print("\nBook-to-Market by Portfolio (should be increasing):")
print(portfolios_ff3.groupby("portfolio_bm", observed=True)["bm"].median().round(4))
```

```
Portfolio Counts for 2023-07:
portfolio_bm      1    2    3
portfolio_size
1               113  271  263
2               275  246  125

Book-to-Market by Portfolio (should be increasing):
portfolio_bm
1    0.5836
2    1.1891
3    2.4552
Name: bm, dtype: float64
```

We verify that for a single stock, the portfolio assignment remains constant between July of one year and June of the next.

```python
# Trace a single symbol (e.g., 'A32') across a formation window
persistence_check = (portfolios_ff3
    .query("symbol == 'A32' & sorting_date >= '2022-01-01' & sorting_date <= '2023-12-31'")
    .sort_values("sorting_date")
    [['symbol', 'sorting_date', 'portfolio_size', 'portfolio_bm']]
)
print("\nTemporal Persistence Check (Symbol A32):")
print(persistence_check.head(15))
```

```
Temporal Persistence Check (Symbol A32):
  symbol sorting_date portfolio_size portfolio_bm
3    A32   2022-07-01              1            3
4    A32   2023-07-01              1            2
```

17.5 Fama-French Three-Factor Model (Monthly)

17.5.1 Merging Portfolios with Returns

We merge the portfolio assignments with monthly returns. The key insight is that portfolios formed in July of year t are held through June of year $t+1$. We implement this by computing a `sorting_date` for each monthly return observation.

```python
def merge_portfolios_with_returns(prices_monthly, portfolio_assignments):
    """
    Merge portfolio assignments with monthly returns.

    Portfolios formed in July t are held through June t+1.

    Parameters
    ----------
    prices_monthly : pd.DataFrame
        Monthly stock returns
    portfolio_assignments : pd.DataFrame
        Portfolio assignments with sorting_date

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Returns merged with portfolio assignments
    """
    portfolios = (prices_monthly
        .assign(
            # Map each return month to its portfolio formation date
            sorting_date=lambda x: pd.to_datetime(
                np.where(
                    x["date"].dt.month <= 6,
                    (x["date"].dt.year - 1).astype(str) + "-07-01",
                    x["date"].dt.year.astype(str) + "-07-01"
                )
```

```
            )
        )
        .merge(
            portfolio_assignments,
            on=["symbol", "sorting_date"],
            how="inner"
        )
    )

    return portfolios

portfolios_monthly_ff3 = merge_portfolios_with_returns(
    prices_monthly,
    portfolios_ff3[["symbol", "sorting_date", "portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm"]]
)


print(f"Merged observations: {len(portfolios_monthly_ff3):,}")
```

```
Merged observations: 136,444
```

17.5.2 Computing Value-Weighted Portfolio Returns

We compute value-weighted returns for each of the six portfolios. Value-weighting uses lagged market capitalization to avoid look-ahead bias.

```
def compute_portfolio_returns(data, grouping_vars):
    """
    Compute value-weighted portfolio returns.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        Returns data with portfolio assignments and mktcap_lag
    grouping_vars : list
        Variables defining portfolio groups

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Value-weighted returns for each portfolio-date
```

```python
    """
    portfolio_returns = (data
        .groupby(grouping_vars + ["date"], observed=True)
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"]),
            "n_stocks": len(x)
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    return portfolio_returns


# Compute portfolio returns
portfolio_returns_ff3 = compute_portfolio_returns(
    portfolios_monthly_ff3,
    ["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm"]
)

print("Portfolio Returns Summary:")
print(portfolio_returns_ff3.groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm"], observed=True)["ret"]
```

```
Portfolio Returns Summary:
                              count    mean     std     min     25%     50%  \
portfolio_size portfolio_bm
1              1              150.0 -0.0052  0.0379 -0.1268 -0.0262 -0.0058
               2              150.0 -0.0025  0.0414 -0.1080 -0.0236 -0.0053
               3              150.0  0.0039  0.0601 -0.1612 -0.0269 -0.0004
2              1              150.0 -0.0124  0.0594 -0.2222 -0.0449 -0.0107
               2              150.0 -0.0021  0.0671 -0.1701 -0.0403 -0.0046
               3              150.0  0.0024  0.0879 -0.2359 -0.0527 -0.0012

                                 75%     max
portfolio_size portfolio_bm
1              1              0.0161  0.0849
               2              0.0180  0.1195
               3              0.0314  0.2015
2              1              0.0210  0.1741
               2              0.0317  0.1770
               3              0.0437  0.2124
```

17.5.3 Constructing SMB and HML Factors

We now construct the SMB and HML factors from the portfolio returns.

SMB (Small Minus Big): Average return of three small portfolios minus average return of three big portfolios.

HML (High Minus Low): Average return of two high B/M portfolios minus average return of two low B/M portfolios.

```
def construct_ff3_factors(portfolio_returns):
    """
    Construct Fama-French three factors from portfolio returns.

    Parameters
    ----------
    portfolio_returns : pd.DataFrame
        Value-weighted returns for 2x3 portfolios

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Monthly SMB and HML factors
    """
    factors = (portfolio_returns
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            # SMB: Small minus Big (average across B/M groups)
            "smb": (
                x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 1, "ret"].mean() -
                x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 2, "ret"].mean()
            ),
            # HML: High minus Low B/M (average across size groups)
            "hml": (
                x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 3, "ret"].mean() -
                x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 1, "ret"].mean()
            )
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    return factors
```

```
factors_smb_hml = construct_ff3_factors(portfolio_returns_ff3)

print("SMB and HML Factors:")
print(factors_smb_hml.head(10))
```

```
SMB and HML Factors:
        date       smb       hml
0 2011-07-31 -0.007768  0.002754
1 2011-08-31 -0.067309  0.011474
2 2011-09-30  0.014884  0.022854
3 2011-10-31 -0.003743  0.001631
4 2011-11-30  0.063234  0.009103
5 2011-12-31  0.014571  0.015280
6 2012-01-31 -0.026080  0.009672
7 2012-02-29 -0.035721  0.005474
8 2012-03-31 -0.002344  0.032477
9 2012-04-30 -0.033391  0.074191
```

17.5.4 Computing the Market Factor

The market factor is the value-weighted return of all stocks minus the risk-free rate. We compute this independently from the sorted portfolios.

```
def compute_market_factor(prices_monthly):
    """
    Compute value-weighted market excess return.

    Parameters
    ----------
    prices_monthly : pd.DataFrame
        Monthly stock returns with mktcap_lag

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Monthly market excess return
    """
    market_factor = (prices_monthly
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "mkt_excess": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"]),
```

```
            "n_stocks": len(x)
        }), include_groups=False)
        .reset_index()
    )

    return market_factor

market_factor = compute_market_factor(prices_monthly)

print("Market Factor Summary:")
print(market_factor["mkt_excess"].describe().round(4))
```

```
Market Factor Summary:
count    167.0000
mean      -0.0123
std        0.0595
min       -0.2149
25%       -0.0394
50%       -0.0106
75%        0.0200
max        0.1677
Name: mkt_excess, dtype: float64
```

17.5.5 Combining Three Factors

We combine SMB, HML, and the market factor into the complete three-factor dataset.

```
factors_ff3_monthly = (factors_smb_hml
    .merge(market_factor[["date", "mkt_excess"]], on="date", how="inner")
)

# Add risk-free rate for completeness
rf_monthly = (prices_monthly
    .groupby("date")["risk_free"]
    .first()
    .reset_index()
)

factors_ff3_monthly = factors_ff3_monthly.merge(rf_monthly, on="date", how="left")

print("Fama-French Three Factors (Monthly):")
```

```
print(factors_ff3_monthly.head(10))

print("\nFactor Summary Statistics:")
print(factors_ff3_monthly[["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml"]].describe().round(4))
```

```
Fama-French Three Factors (Monthly):
        date       smb       hml  mkt_excess  risk_free
0 2011-07-31 -0.007768  0.002754   -0.078748   0.003333
1 2011-08-31 -0.067309  0.011474    0.029906   0.003333
2 2011-09-30  0.014884  0.022854   -0.002173   0.003333
3 2011-10-31 -0.003743  0.001631   -0.014005   0.003333
4 2011-11-30  0.063234  0.009103   -0.179410   0.003333
5 2011-12-31  0.014571  0.015280   -0.094802   0.003333
6 2012-01-31 -0.026080  0.009672    0.081273   0.003333
7 2012-02-29 -0.035721  0.005474    0.069655   0.003333
8 2012-03-31 -0.002344  0.032477    0.029005   0.003333
9 2012-04-30 -0.033391  0.074191    0.048791   0.003333

Factor Summary Statistics:
       mkt_excess       smb       hml
count    150.0000  150.0000  150.0000
mean      -0.0101    0.0027    0.0120
std        0.0586    0.0420    0.0535
min       -0.2149   -0.1599   -0.1284
25%       -0.0380   -0.0175   -0.0160
50%       -0.0095    0.0070    0.0043
75%        0.0214    0.0261    0.0340
max        0.1677    0.1175    0.1618
```

17.5.6 Saving Three-Factor Data

```
factors_ff3_monthly.to_sql(
    name="factors_ff3_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

print("Three-factor monthly data saved to database.")
```

```
Three-factor monthly data saved to database.
```

17.6 Fama-French Five-Factor Model (Monthly)

17.6.1 Portfolio Assignments with Dependent Sorts

For the five-factor model, we use dependent sorts: size is sorted independently, but profitability and investment are sorted within size groups. This controls for the correlation between size and these characteristics.

```python
def assign_ff5_portfolios(sorting_variables):
    """
    Assign portfolios for Fama-French five-factor model.
    """
    df = sorting_variables.copy()

    # Independent size sort
    df["portfolio_size"] = df.groupby("sorting_date")["size"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, q=[0, 0.5, 1], labels=[1, 2], duplicates='drop')
    )

    # Dependent sorts within size groups
    df["portfolio_bm"] = df.groupby(["sorting_date", "portfolio_size"])["bm"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, q=[0, 0.3, 0.7, 1], labels=[1, 2, 3], duplicates='drop')
    )

    df["portfolio_op"] = df.groupby(["sorting_date", "portfolio_size"])["op"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, q=[0, 0.3, 0.7, 1], labels=[1, 2, 3], duplicates='drop')
    )

    df["portfolio_inv"] = df.groupby(["sorting_date", "portfolio_size"])["inv"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, q=[0, 0.3, 0.7, 1], labels=[1, 2, 3], duplicates='drop')
    )

    return df

# Run
portfolios_ff5 = assign_ff5_portfolios(sorting_variables)
```

17.6.2 Validating Five-Factor Portfolios

```
# Check characteristic monotonicity for each dimension
print("Profitability by Portfolio (should be increasing):")
print(portfolios_ff5.groupby("portfolio_op", observed=True)["op"].median().round(4))

print("\nInvestment by Portfolio (should be increasing):")
print(portfolios_ff5.groupby("portfolio_inv", observed=True)["inv"].median().round(4))

# Check portfolio counts
print("\nStocks per Size/Profitability Bin:")
print(portfolios_ff5.groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_op"], observed=True).size().unsta

# Check number of unique firms per year
(portfolios_ff5
 .groupby("sorting_date")["symbol"]
 .nunique())
```

```
Profitability by Portfolio (should be increasing):
portfolio_op
1   -0.0053
2    0.1366
3    0.4098
Name: op, dtype: float64

Investment by Portfolio (should be increasing):
portfolio_inv
1   -0.1012
2    0.0329
3    0.2568
Name: inv, dtype: float64

Stocks per Size/Profitability Bin:
portfolio_op       1     2     3
portfolio_size
1               1812  2403  1811
2               1811  2401  1808


sorting_date
2011-07-01     556
2012-07-01     632
```

```
2013-07-01     643
2014-07-01     650
2015-07-01     669
2016-07-01     737
2017-07-01     842
2018-07-01    1073
2019-07-01    1183
2020-07-01    1224
2021-07-01    1258
2022-07-01    1286
2023-07-01    1293
Name: symbol, dtype: int64
```

17.6.3 Merging and Computing Portfolio Returns

```python
# Merge with returns
portfolios_monthly_ff5 = merge_portfolios_with_returns(
    prices_monthly,
    portfolios_ff5[["symbol", "sorting_date", "portfolio_size",
                    "portfolio_bm", "portfolio_op", "portfolio_inv"]]
)

print(f"Five-factor merged observations: {len(portfolios_monthly_ff5):,}")
```

```
Five-factor merged observations: 136,444
```

17.6.4 Constructing All Five Factors

We construct each factor from the appropriate portfolio sorts.

```python
def construct_ff5_factors(portfolios_monthly):
    """
    Construct Fama-French five factors from portfolio data.

    Parameters
    ----------
    portfolios_monthly : pd.DataFrame
        Monthly returns with all portfolio assignments
```

```
    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Monthly five-factor returns
    """

    # HML: Value factor from B/M sorts
    portfolios_bm = (portfolios_monthly
        .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm", "date"], observed=True)
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    factors_hml = (portfolios_bm
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "hml": (x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 3, "ret"].mean() -
                    x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 1, "ret"].mean())
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    # RMW: Profitability factor from OP sorts
    portfolios_op = (portfolios_monthly
        .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_op", "date"], observed=True)
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    factors_rmw = (portfolios_op
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "rmw": (x.loc[x["portfolio_op"] == 3, "ret"].mean() -
                    x.loc[x["portfolio_op"] == 1, "ret"].mean())
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )
```

```
    # CMA: Investment factor from INV sorts
    # Note: CMA is Conservative minus Aggressive (low inv - high inv)
    portfolios_inv = (portfolios_monthly
        .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_inv", "date"], observed=True)
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    factors_cma = (portfolios_inv
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "cma": (x.loc[x["portfolio_inv"] == 1, "ret"].mean() -
                   x.loc[x["portfolio_inv"] == 3, "ret"].mean())
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    # SMB: Size factor (average across all characteristic portfolios)
    all_portfolios = pd.concat([portfolios_bm, portfolios_op, portfolios_inv])

    factors_smb = (all_portfolios
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "smb": (x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 1, "ret"].mean() -
                   x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 2, "ret"].mean())
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    # Combine all factors
    factors = (factors_smb
        .merge(factors_hml, on="date", how="outer")
        .merge(factors_rmw, on="date", how="outer")
        .merge(factors_cma, on="date", how="outer")
    )

    return factors

factors_ff5 = construct_ff5_factors(portfolios_monthly_ff5)
```

```python
# Add market factor
factors_ff5_monthly = (factors_ff5
    .merge(market_factor[["date", "mkt_excess"]], on="date", how="inner")
    .merge(rf_monthly, on="date", how="left")
)

print("Fama-French Five Factors (Monthly):")
print(factors_ff5_monthly.head(10))

print("\nFactor Summary Statistics:")
print(factors_ff5_monthly[["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]].describe().round(4))
```

```
Fama-French Five Factors (Monthly):
        date       smb       hml       rmw       cma  mkt_excess  risk_free
0 2011-07-31 -0.015907 -0.002812  0.060525  0.045291   -0.078748   0.003333
1 2011-08-31 -0.061842  0.006189 -0.022700 -0.023177    0.029906   0.003333
2 2011-09-30  0.014387  0.024301 -0.006005  0.003588   -0.002173   0.003333
3 2011-10-31 -0.006958 -0.006940  0.026694  0.003649   -0.014005   0.003333
4 2011-11-30  0.074369  0.015617 -0.058766  0.044214   -0.179410   0.003333
5 2011-12-31  0.006687  0.022494  0.062655  0.052444   -0.094802   0.003333
6 2012-01-31 -0.016254  0.010513 -0.042191 -0.067170    0.081273   0.003333
7 2012-02-29 -0.026606  0.024465 -0.030849 -0.036383    0.069655   0.003333
8 2012-03-31  0.005096  0.050930 -0.018441  0.043488    0.029005   0.003333
9 2012-04-30  0.000712  0.058214 -0.061434  0.009233    0.048791   0.003333

Factor Summary Statistics:
       mkt_excess       smb       hml       rmw       cma
count    150.0000  150.0000  150.0000  150.0000  150.0000
mean      -0.0101    0.0077    0.0115   -0.0047    0.0083
std        0.0586    0.0419    0.0518    0.0477    0.0335
min       -0.2149   -0.1522   -0.1283   -0.2126   -0.0814
25%       -0.0380   -0.0137   -0.0126   -0.0308   -0.0131
50%       -0.0095    0.0104    0.0046    0.0010    0.0067
75%        0.0214    0.0316    0.0323    0.0178    0.0289
max        0.1677    0.1284    0.1510    0.1297    0.1331
```

17.6.5 Factor Correlations

We examine correlations between factors, which should generally be low for the factors to capture distinct sources of risk.

```
print("Factor Correlation Matrix:")
correlation_matrix = factors_ff5_monthly[["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]].corr()
print(correlation_matrix.round(3))
```

```
Factor Correlation Matrix:
            mkt_excess    smb    hml    rmw    cma
mkt_excess       1.000 -0.712  0.230 -0.006 -0.104
smb             -0.712  1.000  0.256 -0.373  0.246
hml              0.230  0.256  1.000 -0.694  0.479
rmw             -0.006 -0.373 -0.694  1.000 -0.352
cma             -0.104  0.246  0.479 -0.352  1.000
```

17.6.6 Saving Five-Factor Data

```
factors_ff5_monthly.to_sql(
    name="factors_ff5_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

print("Five-factor monthly data saved to database.")
```

```
Five-factor monthly data saved to database.
```

17.7 Daily Fama-French Factors

17.7.1 Motivation for Daily Factors

Daily factors are essential for several applications:

1. **Daily beta estimation**: CAPM regressions using daily data require daily market excess returns.
2. **Event studies**: Measuring abnormal returns around corporate events requires daily factor adjustments.
3. **High-frequency research**: Market microstructure studies need daily or intraday factor data.

The construction methodology mirrors the monthly approach, but we compute portfolio returns at daily frequency while maintaining the same annual portfolio formation dates.

17.7.2 Loading Daily Returns

```
# Load daily price data
prices_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess
        FROM prices_daily
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

print(f"Daily returns: {len(prices_daily):,} observations")
print(f"Date range: {prices_daily['date'].min():%Y-%m-%d} to {prices_daily['date'].max():%Y-%
```

```
Daily returns: 3,462,157 observations
Date range: 2010-01-05 to 2023-12-29
```

17.7.3 Adding Market Cap for Daily Weighting

For value-weighted daily returns, we need market capitalization. We use the most recent monthly market cap as the weight for daily returns within that month.

```
# Get monthly market cap to use as weights for daily returns
mktcap_monthly = (prices_monthly
    [["symbol", "date", "mktcap_lag"]]
    .assign(year_month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("M"))
)

# Add year_month to daily data for merging
prices_daily = (prices_daily
    .assign(year_month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("M"))
    .merge(
        mktcap_monthly[["symbol", "year_month", "mktcap_lag"]],
        on=["symbol", "year_month"],
        how="left"
    )
    .dropna(subset=["ret_excess", "mktcap_lag"])
)

print(f"Daily returns with weights: {len(prices_daily):,} observations")
```

```
Daily returns with weights: 3,443,815 observations
```

17.7.4 Merging Daily Returns with Portfolios

We use the same portfolio assignments (formed annually in July) for daily returns.

```
# Step 1: Ensure portfolios_ff3 has correct format
portfolios_ff3_clean = portfolios_ff3[["symbol", "sorting_date", "portfolio_size", "portfolio
portfolios_ff3_clean["sorting_date"] = pd.to_datetime(portfolios_ff3_clean["sorting_date"])

print("Portfolio sorting dates:")
print(portfolios_ff3_clean["sorting_date"].unique()[:5])

# Step 2: Create sorting_date for daily data
prices_daily_with_sort = prices_daily.copy()
prices_daily_with_sort["sorting_date"] = prices_daily_with_sort["date"].apply(
    lambda x: pd.Timestamp(f"{x.year}-07-01") if x.month > 6 else pd.Timestamp(f"{x.year - 1
)

print("\nDaily sorting dates:")
print(prices_daily_with_sort["sorting_date"].unique()[:5])

# Step 3: Merge
portfolios_daily_ff3 = prices_daily_with_sort.merge(
    portfolios_ff3_clean,
    on=["symbol", "sorting_date"],
    how="inner"
)

print(f"\nMerged daily observations: {len(portfolios_daily_ff3):,}")
print(f"Unique dates: {portfolios_daily_ff3['date'].nunique():,}")

# Step 4: Verify portfolio distribution
print("\nPortfolio distribution in daily data:")
print(portfolios_daily_ff3.groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm"], observed=True).size()
```

```
Portfolio sorting dates:
<DatetimeArray>
['2019-07-01 00:00:00', '2020-07-01 00:00:00', '2021-07-01 00:00:00',
 '2022-07-01 00:00:00', '2023-07-01 00:00:00']
Length: 5, dtype: datetime64[us]
```

```
Daily sorting dates:
<DatetimeArray>
['2018-07-01 00:00:00', '2019-07-01 00:00:00', '2020-07-01 00:00:00',
 '2021-07-01 00:00:00', '2022-07-01 00:00:00']
Length: 5, dtype: datetime64[us]

Merged daily observations: 2,843,570
Unique dates: 3,126

Portfolio distribution in daily data:
portfolio_bm         1       2       3
portfolio_size
1               218040  585561  617327
2               636152  552114  234376
```

```python
# Diagnostic: Check the daily portfolio merge
print("="*50)
print("DIAGNOSTIC: Daily Portfolio Merge")
print("="*50)

print(f"\nDaily prices rows: {len(prices_daily):,}")
print(f"Daily FF3 portfolios rows: {len(portfolios_daily_ff3):,}")
print(f"Match rate: {len(portfolios_daily_ff3)/len(prices_daily)*100:.1f}%")

# Check portfolio distribution in daily data
print("\nDaily portfolio distribution:")
print(portfolios_daily_ff3.groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm"], observed=True).size()

# Check a specific date
test_date = portfolios_daily_ff3["date"].iloc[1000]
print(f"\nSample date: {test_date}")
print(portfolios_daily_ff3.query("date == @test_date").groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_
```

```
==================================================
DIAGNOSTIC: Daily Portfolio Merge
==================================================

Daily prices rows: 3,443,815
Daily FF3 portfolios rows: 2,843,570
Match rate: 82.6%
```

```
Daily portfolio distribution:
portfolio_bm         1       2       3
portfolio_size
1               218040  585561  617327
2               636152  552114  234376

Sample date: 2023-06-28 00:00:00
portfolio_bm      1    2    3
portfolio_size
1                 93  232  312
2                291  280   67
```

17.7.5 Computing Daily Three Factors

```python
def compute_daily_ff3_factors(portfolios_daily):
    """
    Compute daily Fama-French three factors.

    Parameters
    ----------
    portfolios_daily : pd.DataFrame
        Daily returns with portfolio assignments

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Daily SMB and HML factors
    """
    # Compute daily portfolio returns
    portfolio_returns = (portfolios_daily
        .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm", "date"], observed=True)
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    # Compute factors
    factors = (portfolio_returns
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
```

```
            "smb": (x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 1, "ret"].mean() -
                   x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 2, "ret"].mean()),
            "hml": (x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 3, "ret"].mean() -
                   x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 1, "ret"].mean())
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    return factors

factors_daily_smb_hml = compute_daily_ff3_factors(portfolios_daily_ff3)

print(f"Daily factor observations: {len(factors_daily_smb_hml):,}")
print(factors_daily_smb_hml.head(10))
```

```
Daily factor observations: 3,126
        date       smb       hml
0 2011-07-01  0.008587  0.000967
1 2011-07-04  0.005099 -0.001099
2 2011-07-05 -0.009088  0.010152
3 2011-07-06  0.004875 -0.003918
4 2011-07-07 -0.011239 -0.000584
5 2011-07-08  0.005636 -0.008003
6 2011-07-11  0.003940  0.006172
7 2011-07-12  0.003205  0.006543
8 2011-07-13 -0.000097 -0.001134
9 2011-07-14 -0.001248  0.001669
```

17.7.6 Computing Daily Market Factor

```
def compute_daily_market_factor(prices_daily):
    """
    Compute daily value-weighted market excess return.

    Parameters
    ----------
    prices_daily : pd.DataFrame
        Daily returns with mktcap_lag

    Returns
```

```
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Daily market excess return
    """
    market_daily = (prices_daily
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "mkt_excess": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    return market_daily

market_factor_daily = compute_daily_market_factor(prices_daily)

print(f"Daily market factor: {len(market_factor_daily):,} days")
```

```
Daily market factor: 3,474 days
```

17.7.7 Combining Daily Three Factors

```
factors_ff3_daily = (factors_daily_smb_hml
    .merge(market_factor_daily, on="date", how="inner")
)

# Add risk-free rate (use monthly rate / 21 as daily approximation, or load actual daily rate
factors_ff3_daily["risk_free"] = 0.04 / 252  # Approximate daily risk-free

print("Daily Fama-French Three Factors:")
print(factors_ff3_daily.head(10))

print("\nDaily Factor Summary Statistics:")
print(factors_ff3_daily[["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml"]].describe().round(6))
```

```
Daily Fama-French Three Factors:
        date       smb       hml  mkt_excess  risk_free
0 2011-07-01  0.008587  0.000967   -0.019862   0.000159
1 2011-07-04  0.005099 -0.001099   -0.000633   0.000159
2 2011-07-05 -0.009088  0.010152    0.013314   0.000159
```

```
3 2011-07-06  0.004875 -0.003918   -0.008045   0.000159
4 2011-07-07 -0.011239 -0.000584    0.003391   0.000159
5 2011-07-08  0.005636 -0.008003    0.000218   0.000159
6 2011-07-11  0.003940  0.006172   -0.013393   0.000159
7 2011-07-12  0.003205  0.006543   -0.017505   0.000159
8 2011-07-13 -0.000097 -0.001134    0.000767   0.000159
9 2011-07-14 -0.001248  0.001669   -0.000695   0.000159

Daily Factor Summary Statistics:
        mkt_excess          smb          hml
count  3126.000000  3126.000000  3126.000000
mean     -0.000479     0.000236     0.000594
std       0.011269     0.008488     0.008585
min      -0.070268    -0.032671    -0.039418
25%      -0.005074    -0.004882    -0.003941
50%       0.000350    -0.000106     0.000522
75%       0.005531     0.004307     0.005233
max       0.043386     0.042686     0.083889
```

17.7.8 Computing Daily Five Factors

```python
# Step 1: Clean portfolios
portfolios_ff5_clean = portfolios_ff5[["symbol", "sorting_date", "portfolio_size",
                                        "portfolio_bm", "portfolio_op", "portfolio_inv"]].co
portfolios_ff5_clean["sorting_date"] = pd.to_datetime(portfolios_ff5_clean["sorting_date"])

# Step 2: Merge with daily prices
portfolios_daily_ff5 = prices_daily_with_sort.merge(
    portfolios_ff5_clean,
    on=["symbol", "sorting_date"],
    how="inner"
)

print(f"FF5 Daily merged observations: {len(portfolios_daily_ff5):,}")
```

```
FF5 Daily merged observations: 2,843,570
```

```python
def compute_daily_ff5_factors(portfolios_daily):
    """Compute daily Fama-French five factors."""
```

```python
# HML from B/M sorts
portfolios_bm = (portfolios_daily
    .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_bm", "date"], observed=True)
    .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
        "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
    }))
    .reset_index()
)

factors_hml = (portfolios_bm
    .groupby("date")
    .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
        "hml": (x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 3, "ret"].mean() -
                x.loc[x["portfolio_bm"] == 1, "ret"].mean())
    }))
    .reset_index()
)

# RMW from OP sorts
portfolios_op = (portfolios_daily
    .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_op", "date"], observed=True)
    .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
        "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
    }))
    .reset_index()
)

factors_rmw = (portfolios_op
    .groupby("date")
    .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
        "rmw": (x.loc[x["portfolio_op"] == 3, "ret"].mean() -
                x.loc[x["portfolio_op"] == 1, "ret"].mean())
    }))
    .reset_index()
)

# CMA from INV sorts (note: low minus high)
portfolios_inv = (portfolios_daily
    .groupby(["portfolio_size", "portfolio_inv", "date"], observed=True)
    .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
        "ret": np.average(x["ret_excess"], weights=x["mktcap_lag"])
    }))
```

```
        .reset_index()
    )

    factors_cma = (portfolios_inv
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "cma": (x.loc[x["portfolio_inv"] == 1, "ret"].mean() -
                   x.loc[x["portfolio_inv"] == 3, "ret"].mean())
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    # SMB from all sorts
    all_portfolios = pd.concat([portfolios_bm, portfolios_op, portfolios_inv])

    factors_smb = (all_portfolios
        .groupby("date")
        .apply(lambda x: pd.Series({
            "smb": (x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 1, "ret"].mean() -
                   x.loc[x["portfolio_size"] == 2, "ret"].mean())
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    # Combine
    factors = (factors_smb
        .merge(factors_hml, on="date", how="outer")
        .merge(factors_rmw, on="date", how="outer")
        .merge(factors_cma, on="date", how="outer")
    )

    return factors

# Compute daily FF5 factors
factors_daily_ff5 = compute_daily_ff5_factors(portfolios_daily_ff5)

# Add market factor
factors_ff5_daily = (factors_daily_ff5
    .merge(market_factor_daily, on="date", how="inner")
)
factors_ff5_daily["risk_free"] = 0.04 / 252
```

```
print("Daily Fama-French Five Factors:")
print(factors_ff5_daily.head(10))

print("\nDaily Five-Factor Summary Statistics:")
print(factors_ff5_daily[["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]].describe().round(6))
```

```
Daily Fama-French Five Factors:
        date       smb       hml       rmw       cma  mkt_excess  risk_free
0 2011-07-01  0.006295  0.002515  0.013140  0.007680   -0.019862   0.000159
1 2011-07-04  0.002880 -0.002875  0.006560 -0.004886   -0.000633   0.000159
2 2011-07-05 -0.004260  0.009864 -0.012158 -0.004470    0.013314   0.000159
3 2011-07-06  0.001544 -0.009847  0.012977  0.006286   -0.008045   0.000159
4 2011-07-07 -0.009789 -0.003988 -0.000197 -0.006995    0.003391   0.000159
5 2011-07-08  0.001537 -0.006700  0.010841 -0.007661    0.000218   0.000159
6 2011-07-11  0.005396  0.004747  0.000655  0.013375   -0.013393   0.000159
7 2011-07-12  0.004759  0.007367  0.001989  0.014669   -0.017505   0.000159
8 2011-07-13 -0.000009  0.001110 -0.002052 -0.001633    0.000767   0.000159
9 2011-07-14 -0.001668  0.002916 -0.005427  0.005388   -0.000695   0.000159

Daily Five-Factor Summary Statistics:
        mkt_excess          smb          hml          rmw          cma
count  3126.000000  3126.000000  3126.000000  3126.000000  3126.000000
mean     -0.000479     0.000484     0.000549    -0.000136     0.000413
std       0.011269     0.008033     0.008312     0.008538     0.006756
min      -0.070268    -0.036283    -0.039155    -0.154013    -0.047698
25%      -0.005074    -0.004122    -0.003681    -0.004212    -0.003364
50%       0.000350     0.000105     0.000384     0.000030     0.000162
75%       0.005531     0.004358     0.004819     0.004036     0.003800
max       0.043386     0.060307     0.086269     0.102001     0.089907
```

17.7.9 Saving Daily Factors

```
factors_ff3_daily.to_sql(
    name="factors_ff3_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

factors_ff5_daily.to_sql(
```

```
    name="factors_ff5_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)

print("Daily factor data saved to database.")
```

```
Daily factor data saved to database.
```

17.8 Factor Validation and Diagnostics

```
# Verify all tables are in database
print("\n" + "="*50)
print("DATABASE SUMMARY")
print("="*50)

tables = ["factors_ff3_monthly", "factors_ff5_monthly",
          "factors_ff3_daily", "factors_ff5_daily"]

for table in tables:
    df = pd.read_sql_query(f"SELECT COUNT(*) as n FROM {table}", con=tidy_finance)
    print(f"{table}: {df['n'].iloc[0]:,} observations")

# Correlation check: Monthly vs Daily (aggregated)
print("\n" + "="*50)
print("MONTHLY VS DAILY CONSISTENCY CHECK")
print("="*50)

factors_daily_agg = (factors_ff3_daily
    .assign(year_month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("M"))
    .groupby("year_month")[["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml"]]
    .sum()
    .reset_index()
)

factors_monthly_check = (factors_ff3_monthly
    .assign(year_month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("M"))
)
```

```
comparison = factors_monthly_check.merge(
    factors_daily_agg, on="year_month", suffixes=("_monthly", "_daily")
)

for factor in ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml"]:
    corr = comparison[f"{factor}_monthly"].corr(comparison[f"{factor}_daily"])
    print(f"{factor}: Monthly-Daily correlation = {corr:.4f}")
```

```
==================================================
DATABASE SUMMARY
==================================================
factors_ff3_monthly: 150 observations
factors_ff5_monthly: 150 observations
factors_ff3_daily: 3,126 observations
factors_ff5_daily: 3,126 observations

==================================================
MONTHLY VS DAILY CONSISTENCY CHECK
==================================================
mkt_excess: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9980
smb: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9953
hml: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9936
```

17.8.1 Cumulative Factor Returns

We visualize the cumulative performance of each factor to assess whether the factors generate meaningful premiums over time.

```
# Compute cumulative returns
factors_cumulative = (factors_ff5_monthly
    .set_index("date")
    [["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]]
    .add(1)
    .cumprod()
)

# Plot
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
factors_cumulative.plot(ax=ax)
```

```
ax.set_title("Cumulative Factor Returns (Vietnam)")
ax.set_xlabel("")
ax.set_ylabel("Growth of $1")
ax.legend(title="Factor")
ax.axhline(y=1, color='gray', linestyle='--', alpha=0.5)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 17.1: Cumulative returns of Fama-French factors for the Vietnamese market. The figure shows the growth of $1 invested in each factor portfolio.

17.8.2 Average Factor Premiums

We compute annualized average factor premiums and their statistical significance.

```
# Annualized average returns (monthly returns * 12)
factor_premiums = (factors_ff5_monthly
    [["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]]
    .mean() * 12 * 100  # Annualized percentage
)

# Standard errors
factor_se = (factors_ff5_monthly
    [["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]]
```

```
    .std() / np.sqrt(len(factors_ff5_monthly)) * np.sqrt(12) * 100
)

# T-statistics
factor_tstat = factor_premiums / factor_se

print("Annualized Factor Premiums (%):")
print(factor_premiums.round(2))

print("\nT-Statistics:")
print(factor_tstat.round(2))
```

```
Annualized Factor Premiums (%):
mkt_excess   -12.09
smb            9.19
hml           13.75
rmw           -5.69
cma            9.94
dtype: float64

T-Statistics:
mkt_excess    -7.30
smb            7.76
hml            9.38
rmw           -4.22
cma           10.49
dtype: float64
```

17.8.3 Comparing Monthly and Daily Factors

We verify consistency between monthly and daily factors by computing correlations.

```
# Aggregate daily factors to monthly for comparison
factors_daily_monthly = (factors_ff5_daily
    .assign(year_month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("M"))
    .groupby("year_month")
    [["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]]
    .sum()  # Sum daily returns to get monthly
    .reset_index()
)
```

```python
# Merge with actual monthly factors
comparison = (factors_ff5_monthly
    .assign(year_month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("M"))
    .merge(
        factors_daily_monthly,
        on="year_month",
        suffixes=("_monthly", "_daily")
    )
)

# Correlations
for factor in ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"]:
    corr = comparison[f"{factor}_monthly"].corr(comparison[f"{factor}_daily"])
    print(f"{factor}: Monthly-Daily correlation = {corr:.4f}")
```

```
mkt_excess: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9980
smb: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9950
hml: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9948
rmw: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9929
cma: Monthly-Daily correlation = 0.9884
```

17.9 Key Takeaways

1. **Factor Models Explained**: The Fama-French three-factor model adds size (SMB) and value (HML) factors to the CAPM, while the five-factor model further includes profitability (RMW) and investment (CMA) factors.
2. **Construction Methodology**: Factors are constructed through double-sorted portfolios with careful attention to timing. Portfolios are formed in July using accounting data from the prior fiscal year to ensure information was publicly available.
3. **Independent vs. Dependent Sorts**: The three-factor model uses independent sorts on size and book-to-market, creating a 2×3 grid. The five-factor model uses dependent sorts where characteristics are sorted within size groups.
4. **Value-Weighted Returns**: Portfolio returns are computed using value-weighting with lagged market capitalization to avoid look-ahead bias.
5. **Daily Factors**: Daily factors use the same annual portfolio assignments but compute returns at daily frequency, enabling higher-frequency applications like daily beta estimation.

6. **Market Factor**: The market factor is computed independently as the value-weighted return of all stocks minus the risk-free rate.
7. **Validation**: Factor quality can be assessed through characteristic monotonicity, portfolio diversification, cumulative returns, and consistency between daily and monthly frequencies.
8. **Vietnamese Market Adaptation**: While following the original Fama-French methodology, we adapt for Vietnamese market characteristics including VAS accounting standards, reporting timelines, and currency units.

18 Momentum Strategies

Momentum is one of the most robust and pervasive anomalies in financial economics. Stocks that have performed well over the past three to twelve months tend to continue performing well over the subsequent three to twelve months, and stocks that have performed poorly tend to continue underperforming. This pattern, first documented by Jegadeesh and Titman (1993), has been replicated across virtually every equity market, asset class, and time period examined, earning it a central place in the canon of empirical asset pricing.

In this chapter, we provide an implementation of momentum strategies following the methodology of Jegadeesh and Titman (1993). We construct momentum portfolios based on past cumulative returns, evaluate their performance across different formation and holding period combinations, and examine whether the momentum premium exists in the Vietnamese equity market..

18.1 Theoretical Background

18.1.1 The Momentum Effect

The momentum effect refers to the tendency of assets with high recent returns to continue generating high returns, and assets with low recent returns to continue generating low returns. More formally, if we define the cumulative return of stock i over the past J months as

$$R_{i,t-J:t-1} = \prod_{s=t-J}^{t-1} (1 + r_{i,s}) - 1 \tag{18.1}$$

then momentum predicts a positive cross-sectional relationship between $R_{i,t-J:t-1}$ and future returns $r_{i,t}$. That is, stocks in the top decile of past returns (winners) should outperform stocks in the bottom decile (losers) in subsequent months.

The Jegadeesh and Titman (1993) framework parameterizes momentum strategies by two key dimensions:

1. **Formation period** (J): The number of months over which past returns are computed to rank stocks. Typical values range from 3 to 12 months.

2. **Holding period** (K): The number of months for which the momentum portfolios are held after formation. Typical values also range from 3 to 12 months.

A strategy is therefore characterized by the pair (J, K). For example, a $(6, 6)$ strategy ranks stocks based on their cumulative returns over the past 6 months and holds the resulting portfolios for 6 months.

18.1.2 Overlapping Portfolios and Calendar-Time Returns

A critical implementation detail in Jegadeesh and Titman (1993) is the use of overlapping portfolios. In each month t, a new set of portfolios is formed based on the most recent J-month returns. However, portfolios formed in months $t-1$, $t-2$, ..., $t-K+1$ are still within their holding periods and therefore remain active. The return of the momentum strategy in month t is thus the equally weighted average across all K active cohorts:

$$r_{p,t} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=0}^{K-1} r_{p,t}^{(t-k)} \tag{18.2}$$

where $r_{p,t}^{(t-k)}$ denotes the return in month t of the portfolio formed in month $t-k$. This overlapping portfolio approach serves two purposes. First, it reduces the impact of any single formation date on the strategy's performance. Second, it produces a monthly return series that can be analyzed using standard time-series methods, even when the holding period K exceeds one month.

18.1.3 Theoretical Explanations

The academic literature offers two broad classes of explanations for the momentum effect.

1. **Behavioral explanations** attribute momentum to systematic cognitive biases among investors. Daniel, Hirshleifer, and Subrahmanyam (1998) propose a model based on investor overconfidence and biased self-attribution: investors overweight private signals and attribute confirming outcomes to their own skill, leading to initial underreaction followed by delayed overreaction. Hong and Stein (1999) develop a model in which information diffuses gradually across heterogeneous investors, generating underreaction to firm-specific news. Barberis, Shleifer, and Vishny (1998) formalize a model combining conservatism bias (slow updating of beliefs in response to new evidence) and representativeness heuristic (extrapolation of recent trends).
2. **Risk-based explanations** argue that momentum profits represent compensation for systematic risk that varies over time. T. C. Johnson (2002) show that momentum can arise in a rational framework if expected returns are stochastic and time-varying. Grundy and Martin (2001) document that momentum portfolios have substantial time-varying

factor exposures, suggesting that at least part of the momentum premium reflects dynamic risk. However, standard risk models such as the Fama-French three-factor model have generally struggled to explain momentum returns, which motivated the development of explicit momentum factors such as the Winners-Minus-Losers (WML) factor in Mark M. Carhart (1997a).

18.1.4 Momentum in Emerging Markets

The behavior of momentum in emerging markets differs substantially from developed markets, and understanding these differences is essential for interpreting our Vietnamese market results.

Rouwenhorst (1998) provides early evidence that momentum profits exist in European markets. Chan, Hameed, and Tong (2000) extend the analysis to international equity markets and find that momentum profits are present in most developed markets but are weaker or absent in several Asian markets. Chui, Titman, and Wei (2010) offer a cultural explanation, documenting that momentum profits are positively related to a country's degree of individualism as measured by Hofstede (2001). Countries with collectivist cultures, including many in East and Southeast Asia, tend to exhibit weaker momentum effects.

Several market microstructure features common in emerging markets may attenuate momentum:

- **Trading band limits** constrain daily price movements, potentially slowing the adjustment process that generates momentum. Vietnam's HOSE imposes a $\pm 7\%$ daily limit, while HNX allows $\pm 10\%$.
- **Lower liquidity and higher transaction costs** can erode momentum profits, as documented by Lesmond, Schill, and Zhou (2004).
- **Foreign ownership limits** segment the investor base, potentially altering the information diffusion dynamics that underlie momentum.
- **Shorter market history** limits the statistical power available to detect the effect.

These considerations motivate our careful empirical analysis of whether, and to what extent, momentum manifests in Vietnamese equities.

18.2 Setting Up the Environment

We begin by loading the necessary Python packages. The core packages include `pandas` for data manipulation, `numpy` for numerical operations, and `sqlite3` for database connectivity. We also import `plotnine` for creating publication-quality figures and `scipy` for statistical tests.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3
from datetime import datetime
from itertools import product

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import comma_format, percent_format
from scipy import stats
```

We connect to our SQLite database, which stores the cleaned datasets prepared previous chapters.

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(
    database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite"
)
```

18.3 Data Preparation

18.3.1 Loading Monthly Stock Returns

We load the monthly stock price data from our database. The `prices_monthly` table contains adjusted returns, market capitalizations, and other variables for all stocks listed on HOSE and HNX.

```
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    # can add "exchange" variable
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret, ret_excess, mktcap, mktcap_lag, risk_free
        FROM prices_monthly
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
).dropna()

print(f"Total monthly observations: {len(prices_monthly):,}")
print(f"Unique stocks: {prices_monthly['symbol'].nunique():,}")
print(f"Date range: {prices_monthly['date'].min().date()} "
      f"to {prices_monthly['date'].max().date()}")
```

```
Total monthly observations: 165,499
Unique stocks: 1,457
Date range: 2010-02-28 to 2023-12-31
```

18.3.2 Inspecting the Data

Before proceeding with portfolio construction, we examine the key variables in our dataset. Table 18.1 presents the summary statistics for the main variables used in momentum portfolio construction.

```
summary_stats = (prices_monthly
    [["ret", "ret_excess", "mktcap"]]
    .describe()
    .T
    .round(4)
)
summary_stats
```

Table 18.1: Summary statistics for monthly stock return data. The table reports the count, mean, standard deviation, minimum, 25th percentile, median, 75th percentile, and maximum for monthly returns (ret), excess returns (ret_excess), and market capitalization (mktcap, in billion VND).

	count	mean	std	min	25%	50%	75%	max
ret	165499.0	0.0042	0.1862	-0.9900	-0.0703	0.0000	0.0553	12.7500
ret_excess	165499.0	0.0008	0.1862	-0.9933	-0.0736	-0.0033	0.0519	12.7467
mktcap	165499.0	2183.1646	13983.9977	0.3536	60.3728	180.6224	660.0000	463886.6454

We also examine the cross-sectional distribution of stocks over time, which is important for understanding whether we have sufficient breadth for decile portfolio construction.

```
stock_counts = (prices_monthly
    .groupby("date")["symbol"]
    .nunique()
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={"symbol": "n_stocks"})
)

plot_stock_counts = (
    ggplot(stock_counts, aes(x="date", y="n_stocks")) +
```

```
    geom_line(color="#1f77b4") +
    labs(
        x="", y="Number of stocks",
        title="Cross-Sectional Breadth Over Time"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
plot_stock_counts
```

Figure 18.1: Number of stocks with available return data over time. The figure shows the monthly cross-section of stocks available for momentum portfolio construction. A minimum number of stocks is needed to form meaningful decile portfolios.

18.3.3 Loading Factor Data

We also load the Fama-French factor returns for risk-adjusted performance evaluation. These factors were constructed in previous chapters.

```
factors_ff3_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT date, mkt_excess, smb, hml, risk_free FROM factors_ff3_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
```

```
)

print(f"Factor observations: {len(factors_ff3_monthly):,}")
print(f"Date range: {factors_ff3_monthly['date'].min().date()} "
      f"to {factors_ff3_monthly['date'].max().date()}")
```

```
Factor observations: 150
Date range: 2011-07-31 to 2023-12-31
```

18.3.4 Data Quality Filters

Momentum strategies require continuous return histories for the formation period. We apply several filters to ensure data quality:

1. **Minimum price filter**: We exclude penny stocks with prices below 1,000 VND, which are subject to extreme microstructure noise.
2. **Return availability**: We require non-missing returns for the entire formation period.
3. **Market capitalization**: We require positive lagged market capitalization for portfolio weighting.

```
# Filter for stocks with positive market cap and non-missing returns
prices_clean = (prices_monthly
    .dropna(subset=["ret", "mktcap"])
    .query("mktcap > 0")
    .sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
    .reset_index(drop=True)
)

print(f"Observations after filtering: {len(prices_clean):,}")
print(f"Stocks after filtering: {prices_clean['symbol'].nunique():,}")
```

```
Observations after filtering: 165,499
Stocks after filtering: 1,457
```

18.4 Momentum Portfolio Construction

18.4.1 Computing Formation Period Returns

The first step in constructing momentum portfolios is to compute cumulative returns over the formation period. For a formation period of J months, we compute the cumulative return for

each stock i at the end of month t as specified in Equation 70.7.

We implement this using a rolling product of gross returns. A key detail is that we require non-missing returns for all J months in the formation window. If any monthly return is missing, the cumulative return is set to missing, and the stock is excluded from portfolio formation in that month.

```
def compute_formation_returns(data, J):
    """
    Compute J-month cumulative returns for momentum portfolio formation.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        Panel data with columns 'symbol', 'date', 'ret'.
    J : int
        Formation period length in months (typically 3-12).

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Original data augmented with 'cum_return' column.
    """
    df = data.sort_values(["symbol", "date"]).copy()

    # Compute rolling J-month cumulative return
    # Using gross returns: (1+r1)*(1+r2)*...*(1+rJ) - 1
    df["gross_ret"] = 1 + df["ret"]

    df["cum_return"] = (
        df.groupby("symbol")["gross_ret"]
        .rolling(window=J, min_periods=J)
        .apply(np.prod, raw=True)
        .reset_index(level=0, drop=True)
        - 1
    )

    df = df.drop(columns=["gross_ret"])

    return df
```

Let us apply this function for our baseline case with $J = 6$ months:

```
J = 6  # Formation period: 6 months

prices_with_cumret = compute_formation_returns(prices_clean, J)

# Check the result
print(f"Observations with valid {J}-month cumulative returns: "
      f"{prices_with_cumret['cum_return'].notna().sum():,}")
print(f"\nCumulative return distribution:")
print(prices_with_cumret["cum_return"].describe().round(4))
```

```
Observations with valid 6-month cumulative returns: 158,227

Cumulative return distribution:
count    158227.0000
mean          0.0171
std           0.5053
min          -0.9999
25%          -0.2196
50%          -0.0400
75%           0.1404
max          35.7136
Name: cum_return, dtype: float64
```

18.4.2 Assigning Momentum Decile Portfolios

Each month, we sort all stocks with valid cumulative returns into decile portfolios based on their past J-month performance. Portfolio 1 contains the bottom decile (losers) and portfolio 10 contains the top decile (winners).

```
def assign_momentum_portfolios(data, n_portfolios=10):
    """
    Assign stocks to momentum portfolios based on formation-period returns.

    For each cross-section (month), stocks are sorted into
    n_portfolios quantile groups according to their cumulative return.

    Portfolio 1 = lowest past returns (Losers)
    Portfolio n_portfolios = highest past returns (Winners)

    This implementation uses `groupby().transform()` rather than
    `groupby().apply()` to preserve the original DataFrame structure
```

```
    and avoid index mutation issues.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        Panel data containing at minimum:
        - 'symbol' : stock identifier
        - 'date' : formation month
        - 'cum_return' : cumulative return over formation window

    n_portfolios : int, optional
        Number of portfolios to form (default = 10 for deciles).

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Original data augmented with:
        - 'momr' : integer momentum rank (1 to n_portfolios)
    """

    # Drop observations without formation-period returns
    # These cannot be ranked into portfolios
    df = data.dropna(subset=["cum_return"]).copy()

    def safe_qcut(x):
        """
        Assign quantile portfolio labels within a single cross-section.

        Uses pd.qcut to create approximately equal-sized portfolios.
        If too few unique return values exist (which can happen in
        small markets or illiquid samples), fall back to rank-based
        binning to ensure portfolios are still formed.
        """
        try:
            # Standard quantile sorting
            return pd.qcut(
                x,
                q=n_portfolios,
                labels=range(1, n_portfolios + 1),
                duplicates="drop"  # prevents crash if quantile edges duplicate
            )
        except ValueError:
```

```
            # Fallback: rank then evenly cut into bins
            return pd.cut(
                x.rank(method="first"),
                bins=n_portfolios,
                labels=range(1, n_portfolios + 1)
            )

    # Cross-sectional portfolio assignment:
    # For each month, compute portfolio ranks based on cum_return.
    # transform ensures:
    # - original row order preserved
    # - no index mutation
    # - no loss of 'date' column
    df["momr"] = (
        df.groupby("date")["cum_return"]
          .transform(safe_qcut)
          .astype(int)
    )

    return df
```

```
portfolios = assign_momentum_portfolios(prices_with_cumret)

print(f"Stocks assigned to portfolios: {len(portfolios):,}")
print(f"\nPortfolio distribution (should be approximately equal):")
print(portfolios.groupby("momr")["symbol"].count().to_frame("count"))
```

```
Stocks assigned to portfolios: 158,227

Portfolio distribution (should be approximately equal):
      count
momr
1     15894
2     15815
3     16021
4     15759
5     15738
6     16568
7     15288
8     15582
9     15697
10    15865
```

18.4.3 Defining Holding Period Dates

After forming portfolios at the end of month t, we hold them from the beginning of month $t+1$ through the end of month $t+K$. This one-month gap between the formation period and the start of the holding period is standard in the literature and avoids the well-documented short-term reversal effect at the one-month horizon (Jegadeesh 1990).

```
K = 6  # Holding period: 6 months

portfolios_with_dates = portfolios.copy()
portfolios_with_dates = portfolios_with_dates.rename(
    columns={"date": "form_date"}
)

# Define holding period start and end dates
portfolios_with_dates["hdate1"] = (
    portfolios_with_dates["form_date"] + pd.offsets.MonthBegin(1)
)
portfolios_with_dates["hdate2"] = (
    portfolios_with_dates["form_date"] + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(K)
)

print(portfolios_with_dates[
    ["symbol", "form_date", "cum_return", "momr", "hdate1", "hdate2"]
].head(10))
```

```
   symbol  form_date  cum_return  momr     hdate1     hdate2
5     A32 2019-04-30   -0.061599     4 2019-05-01 2019-10-31
6     A32 2019-05-31   -0.213675     2 2019-06-01 2019-11-30
7     A32 2019-06-30   -0.308720     2 2019-07-01 2019-12-31
8     A32 2019-07-31   -0.249936     2 2019-08-01 2020-01-31
9     A32 2019-08-31    0.061986     8 2019-09-01 2020-02-29
10    A32 2019-09-30    0.030751     8 2019-10-01 2020-03-31
11    A32 2019-10-31    0.030751     8 2019-11-01 2020-04-30
12    A32 2019-11-30    0.032486     8 2019-12-01 2020-05-31
13    A32 2019-12-31    0.180073     9 2020-01-01 2020-06-30
14    A32 2020-01-31    0.412322    10 2020-02-01 2020-07-31
```

18.4.4 Computing Portfolio Holding Period Returns

We now compute the returns of each portfolio during its holding period. For each stock-formation date combination, we merge in the actual returns realized during the holding window.

This produces a panel of stock returns indexed by formation date, holding date, and momentum portfolio rank.

```
# Merge: for each portfolio assignment, get all returns during holding period
portfolio_returns = portfolios_with_dates.merge(
    prices_clean[["symbol", "date", "ret"]].rename(
        columns={"ret": "hret", "date": "hdate"}
    ),
    on="symbol",
    how="inner"
)

# Keep only returns within the holding period
portfolio_returns = portfolio_returns.query(
    "hdate >= hdate1 and hdate <= hdate2"
)

print(f"Portfolio-holding period observations: {len(portfolio_returns):,}")
```

```
Portfolio-holding period observations: 918,072
```

18.4.5 Computing Equally Weighted Portfolio Returns

The Jegadeesh and Titman (1993) methodology uses equally weighted portfolios. For each holding month, each momentum decile has K active cohorts (one formed in each of the past K months). We first compute the equally weighted return within each cohort, then average across cohorts to get the final monthly portfolio return.

```
# Step 1: Average return within each cohort (form_date × momr × hdate)
cohort_returns = (portfolio_returns
    .groupby(["hdate", "momr", "form_date"])
    .agg(cohort_ret=("hret", "mean"))
    .reset_index()
)

# Step 2: Average across cohorts for each momentum portfolio × month
ewret = (cohort_returns
    .groupby(["hdate", "momr"])
    .agg(
        ewret=("cohort_ret", "mean"),
        ewret_std=("cohort_ret", "std"),
```

```
        n_cohorts=("cohort_ret", "count")
    )
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={"hdate": "date"})
)

print(f"Monthly portfolio return observations: {len(ewret):,}")
print(f"Date range: {ewret['date'].min().date()} to {ewret['date'].max().date()}")
```

```
Monthly portfolio return observations: 1,610
Date range: 2010-08-31 to 2023-12-31
```

We should verify that we have the expected number of active cohorts per month. Once the strategy has been running for at least K months, each momentum decile should have exactly K active cohorts.

```
cohort_check = (ewret
    .groupby("date")["n_cohorts"]
    .mean()
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={"n_cohorts": "avg_cohorts"})
)

plot_cohorts = (
    ggplot(cohort_check, aes(x="date", y="avg_cohorts")) +
    geom_line(color="#1f77b4") +
    geom_hline(yintercept=K, linetype="dashed", color="red") +
    labs(
        x="", y="Average number of cohorts",
        title=f"Active Cohorts per Portfolio (K={K})"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 4))
)
plot_cohorts
```

Figure 18.2: Number of active cohorts per momentum portfolio over time. After an initial ramp-up period of K months, each portfolio should have exactly K active cohorts contributing to its monthly return.

18.5 Baseline Results: J=6, K=6 Strategy

18.5.1 Summary Statistics by Momentum Decile

We now examine the average monthly returns for each momentum decile portfolio. Table 18.2 presents the mean, t-statistic, and p-value for each of the ten portfolios.

```
def compute_portfolio_stats(group):
    """Compute mean, t-stat, and p-value for a return series."""
    n = len(group)
    mean_ret = group.mean()
    std_ret = group.std()
    t_stat = mean_ret / (std_ret / np.sqrt(n)) if std_ret > 0 else np.nan
    p_val = 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t_stat), df=n-1)) if not np.isnan(t_stat) else np.nan
    return pd.Series({
        "N": n,
        "Mean (%)": mean_ret * 100,
        "Std (%)": std_ret * 100,
        "t-stat": t_stat,
        "p-value": p_val
    })

momentum_stats = (ewret
```

```
    .groupby("momr")["ewret"]
    .apply(compute_portfolio_stats)
    .unstack()
    .round(4)
)

momentum_stats
```

Table 18.2: Average monthly returns of momentum decile portfolios for the J=6, K=6 strategy. Portfolio 1 contains past losers and portfolio 10 contains past winners. The table reports the number of months, mean monthly return, t-statistic, and p-value for each decile.

momr	N	Mean (%)	Std (%)	t-stat	p-value
1	161.0	1.4190	6.5319	2.7565	0.0065
2	161.0	0.6602	5.9895	1.3985	0.1639
3	161.0	0.3658	5.5080	0.8427	0.4007
4	161.0	0.1623	5.0085	0.4112	0.6815
5	161.0	0.0111	4.7561	0.0297	0.9763
6	161.0	0.0408	4.6864	0.1104	0.9122
7	161.0	-0.0674	4.8881	-0.1749	0.8614
8	161.0	-0.2066	4.9208	-0.5329	0.5949
9	161.0	-0.2228	5.3013	-0.5332	0.5946
10	161.0	-0.6812	5.7131	-1.5130	0.1323

18.5.2 The Long-Short Momentum Portfolio

The key test of the momentum effect is whether the spread between winners and losers—the long-short momentum portfolio—generates statistically significant positive returns. We construct this spread portfolio by going long the top decile (portfolio 10) and short the bottom decile (portfolio 1).

```
# Pivot to wide format
ewret_wide = ewret.pivot(
    index="date", columns="momr", values="ewret"
).reset_index()

ewret_wide.columns = ["date"] + [f"port{i}" for i in range(1, 11)]
```

```
# Compute long-short return
ewret_wide["winners"] = ewret_wide["port10"]
ewret_wide["losers"] = ewret_wide["port1"]
ewret_wide["long_short"] = ewret_wide["winners"] - ewret_wide["losers"]
```

```
ls_stats = pd.DataFrame()
for col in ["winners", "losers", "long_short"]:
    series = ewret_wide[col].dropna()
    n = len(series)
    mean_val = series.mean()
    std_val = series.std()
    t_val = mean_val / (std_val / np.sqrt(n))
    p_val = 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t_val), df=n-1))
    ls_stats[col] = [n, mean_val * 100, std_val * 100, t_val, p_val]

ls_stats.index = ["N", "Mean (%)", "Std (%)", "t-stat", "p-value"]
ls_stats.columns = ["Winners", "Losers", "Long-Short"]
ls_stats = ls_stats.round(4)
ls_stats
```

Table 18.3: Performance of the momentum long-short strategy (J=6, K=6). Winners is the top decile, Losers is the bottom decile, and Long-Short is Winners minus Losers. The table reports the number of months, mean monthly return, t-statistic, and p-value.

	Winners	Losers	Long-Short
N	161.0000	161.0000	161.0000
Mean (%)	-0.6812	1.4190	-2.1002
Std (%)	5.7131	6.5319	4.8969
t-stat	-1.5130	2.7565	-5.4420
p-value	0.1323	0.0065	0.0000

18.5.3 Cumulative Returns

The time-series evolution of cumulative returns provides visual evidence of the momentum strategy's performance. Figure 18.3 shows the cumulative returns of the winner and loser portfolios, while Figure 18.4 shows the cumulative return of the long-short momentum strategy.

```
# Compute cumulative returns
ewret_wide = ewret_wide.sort_values("date").reset_index(drop=True)
```

```
for col in ["winners", "losers", "long_short"]:
    ewret_wide[f"cumret_{col}"] = (1 + ewret_wide[col]).cumprod() - 1
```

```
cumret_plot_data = (ewret_wide
    [["date", "cumret_winners", "cumret_losers"]]
    .melt(id_vars="date", var_name="portfolio", value_name="cumret")
)
cumret_plot_data["portfolio"] = cumret_plot_data["portfolio"].map({
    "cumret_winners": "Winners (P10)",
    "cumret_losers": "Losers (P1)"
})

plot_cumret = (
    ggplot(cumret_plot_data,
           aes(x="date", y="cumret", color="portfolio")) +
    geom_line(size=1) +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    scale_color_manual(values=["#d62728", "#1f77b4"]) +
    labs(
        x="", y="Cumulative return",
        color="Portfolio",
        title="Cumulative Returns: Winners vs. Losers"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(
        figure_size=(10, 6),
        legend_position="bottom"
    )
)
plot_cumret
```

Figure 18.3: Cumulative returns of momentum winner and loser portfolios. The winner portfolio (blue) contains stocks in the top decile of past 6-month returns, and the loser portfolio (red) contains stocks in the bottom decile. The spread between the two lines reflects the cumulative momentum premium.

```
plot_ls = (
    ggplot(ewret_wide, aes(x="date", y="cumret_long_short")) +
    geom_line(size=1, color="#2ca02c") +
    geom_hline(yintercept=0, linetype="dashed", color="gray") +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    labs(
        x="", y="Cumulative return",
        title="Cumulative Return: Long-Short Momentum Strategy"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 6))
)
plot_ls
```

Figure 18.4: Cumulative return of the momentum long-short strategy (Winners minus Losers). Upward-sloping periods indicate momentum profits; sharp drawdowns often coincide with market reversals or crisis episodes.

18.5.4 Monthly Return Distribution

Beyond the mean, the full distribution of monthly long-short returns provides insight into the risk profile of the momentum strategy. Figure 85.1 shows the histogram of monthly returns.

```
mean_ls = ewret_wide["long_short"].mean()

plot_dist = (
    ggplot(ewret_wide, aes(x="long_short")) +
    geom_histogram(bins=50, fill="#1f77b4", alpha=0.7) +
    geom_vline(xintercept=mean_ls, linetype="dashed", color="red") +
    scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    labs(
        x="Monthly long-short return",
        y="Frequency",
        title="Distribution of Monthly Momentum Returns"
    ) +
```

```
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
plot_dist
```

Figure 18.5: Distribution of monthly long-short momentum returns. The histogram shows the frequency distribution of monthly Winners-minus-Losers returns. The vertical dashed line indicates the mean monthly return.

18.6 Extending to Multiple Formation and Holding Periods

18.6.1 The J × K Grid

Jegadeesh and Titman (1993) evaluate momentum strategies across a comprehensive grid of formation periods $J \in \{3, 6, 9, 12\}$ and holding periods $K \in \{3, 6, 9, 12\}$. This produces 16 different strategy specifications, allowing us to assess the robustness of the momentum effect across different horizons.

We now implement a function that computes the full momentum strategy for any given (J, K) pair, wrapping the steps developed above into a single reusable pipeline.

```python
from joblib import Parallel, delayed
import time

def momentum_strategy(data, J, K, n_portfolios=10):
    """
    Implement the full Jegadeesh-Titman momentum strategy.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        Panel of stock returns with columns: symbol, date, ret.
    J : int
        Formation period in months.
    K : int
        Holding period in months.
    n_portfolios : int
        Number of portfolios (default: 10 for deciles).

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Monthly returns for each momentum portfolio and the long-short spread.
    """
    # Step 1: Compute formation period cumulative returns
    df = data.sort_values(["symbol", "date"]).copy()
    df["gross_ret"] = 1 + df["ret"]
    df["cum_return"] = (
        df.groupby("symbol")["gross_ret"]
        .rolling(window=J, min_periods=J)
        .apply(np.prod, raw=True)
        .reset_index(level=0, drop=True)
        - 1
    )
    df = df.drop(columns=["gross_ret"]).dropna(subset=["cum_return"])

    # Step 2: Assign to momentum portfolios using transform
    df["momr"] = df.groupby("date", observed=True)["cum_return"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(
            x,
            q=n_portfolios,
            labels=range(1, n_portfolios + 1),
            duplicates="drop"
```

```
        )
    ).astype('Int64')

    # If any NaNs in momr, fill with rank-based assignment
    mask = df["momr"].isna()
    if mask.any():
        df.loc[mask, "momr"] = df.loc[mask].groupby("date")["cum_return"].transform(
            lambda x: pd.qcut(
                x.rank(method="first"),
                q=min(n_portfolios, len(x.unique())),
                labels=False,
                duplicates="drop"
            )
        ).astype('Int64') + 1

    # Step 3: Define holding period dates
    df = df.rename(columns={"date": "form_date"})
    df["hdate1"] = df["form_date"] + pd.offsets.MonthBegin(1)
    df["hdate2"] = df["form_date"] + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(K)

    # Step 4: Merge with holding period returns
    port_ret = df[["symbol", "form_date", "momr", "hdate1", "hdate2"]].merge(
        data[["symbol", "date", "ret"]].rename(
            columns={"ret": "hret", "date": "hdate"}
        ),
        on="symbol",
        how="inner"
    )

    # Use boolean indexing
    port_ret = port_ret[
        (port_ret["hdate"] >= port_ret["hdate1"]) &
        (port_ret["hdate"] <= port_ret["hdate2"])
    ]

    # Step 5: Compute equally weighted returns (two-stage averaging)
    cohort_ret = (port_ret
        .groupby(["hdate", "momr", "form_date"])
        .agg(cohort_ret=("hret", "mean"))
        .reset_index()
    )
```

```
    monthly_ret = (cohort_ret
        .groupby(["hdate", "momr"])
        .agg(ewret=("cohort_ret", "mean"))
        .reset_index()
        .rename(columns={"hdate": "date"})
    )

    # Step 6: Compute long-short spread
    wide = monthly_ret.pivot(
        index="date", columns="momr", values="ewret"
    ).reset_index()

    # Handle variable number of portfolios
    n_cols = len(wide.columns) - 1
    wide.columns = ["date"] + [f"port{i}" for i in range(1, n_cols + 1)]
    wide["winners"] = wide[f"port{n_cols}"]
    wide["losers"] = wide["port1"]
    wide["long_short"] = wide["winners"] - wide["losers"]

    return monthly_ret, wide
```

18.6.2 Running the Full Grid

We now run the momentum strategy for all 16 (J, K) combinations. This is computationally intensive, so we store the key summary statistics for each specification.

18.6.2.1 Sequential Calculation

```
J_values = [3, 6, 9, 12]
K_values = [3, 6, 9, 12]

results_grid = []

for J_val, K_val in product(J_values, K_values):
    print(f"Computing J={J_val}, K={K_val}...", end=" ")

    try:
        _, wide_result = momentum_strategy(prices_clean, J_val, K_val)
```

```
        for portfolio_name in ["winners", "losers", "long_short"]:
            series = wide_result[portfolio_name].dropna()
            n = len(series)
            mean_ret = series.mean()
            std_ret = series.std()
            t_stat = mean_ret / (std_ret / np.sqrt(n)) if std_ret > 0 else np.nan
            p_val = (2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t_stat), df=n-1))
                     if not np.isnan(t_stat) else np.nan)

            results_grid.append({
                "J": J_val,
                "K": K_val,
                "portfolio": portfolio_name,
                "n_months": n,
                "mean_ret": mean_ret,
                "std_ret": std_ret,
                "t_stat": t_stat,
                "p_value": p_val
            })

        print("Done.")
    except Exception as e:
        print(f"Error: {e}")

results_df = pd.DataFrame(results_grid)
```

18.6.2.2 Parallel Calculation

```
def compute_single_strategy(data, J, K):
    """
    Compute statistics for a single (J, K) strategy.
    Returns a list of result dicts, one per portfolio.
    """
    try:
        _, wide_result = momentum_strategy(data, J, K)

        results = []
        for portfolio_name in ["winners", "losers", "long_short"]:
            series = wide_result[portfolio_name].dropna()
            n = len(series)
```

```
            mean_ret = series.mean()
            std_ret = series.std()
            t_stat = mean_ret / (std_ret / np.sqrt(n)) if std_ret > 0 else np.nan
            p_val = (2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t_stat), df=n-1))
                     if not np.isnan(t_stat) else np.nan)

            results.append({
                "J": J,
                "K": K,
                "portfolio": portfolio_name,
                "n_months": n,
                "mean_ret": mean_ret,
                "std_ret": std_ret,
                "t_stat": t_stat,
                "p_value": p_val
            })
        return results
    except Exception as e:
        print(f"Error in J={J}, K={K}: {e}")
        return []
```

```
J_values = [3, 6, 9, 12]
K_values = [3, 6, 9, 12]

# Create list of (J, K) pairs
params = list(product(J_values, K_values))

print(f"Running {len(params)} momentum strategies in parallel with 4 cores...")
start_time = time.time()

# Parallel execution with 4 workers
results_list = Parallel(n_jobs=4, verbose=10)(
    delayed(compute_single_strategy)(prices_clean, J, K)
    for J, K in params
)

# Flatten results
results_grid = [item for sublist in results_list for item in sublist]
results_df = pd.DataFrame(results_grid)

elapsed = time.time() - start_time
print(f"\nCompleted in {elapsed:.2f} seconds")
```

```
Running 16 momentum strategies in parallel with 4 cores...

[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Using backend LokyBackend with 4 concurrent workers.
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done   5 tasks      | elapsed:    8.6s
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done  11 out of  16 | elapsed:   14.4s remaining:    6.5s
[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done  13 out of  16 | elapsed:   19.2s remaining:    4.4s


Completed in 20.01 seconds

[Parallel(n_jobs=4)]: Done  16 out of  16 | elapsed:   19.9s finished
```

```python
# Summary statistics
print("\nResults Summary by Formation Period:")
print(results_df.groupby("J").agg({
    "mean_ret": "mean",
    "std_ret": "mean",
    "t_stat": ["mean", lambda x: (x.abs() > 1.96).sum()],
    "n_months": "first"
}).round(6))
```

```
Results Summary by Formation Period:
    mean_ret   std_ret    t_stat            n_months
        mean      mean      mean <lambda_0>    first
J
6  -0.004661  0.055672 -1.517507          9      161
9  -0.003265  0.056520 -1.071904          9      158
12 -0.002759  0.058194 -0.931273          9      155
```

18.6.3 Winners Portfolio Returns

Table 18.4 presents the average monthly returns of the winner portfolio (portfolio 10) across all (J, K) combinations.

```python
winners_grid = (results_df
    .query("portfolio == 'winners'")
    .assign(
        display=lambda x: (
            x["mean_ret"].apply(lambda v: f"{v*100:.2f}") +
```

```
            "\n(" + x["t_stat"].apply(lambda v: f"{v:.2f}") + ")"
        )
    )
    .pivot(index="J", columns="K", values="display")
)
winners_grid.columns = [f"K={k}" for k in winners_grid.columns]
winners_grid.index = [f"J={j}" for j in winners_grid.index]
winners_grid
```

Table 18.4: Average monthly returns (%) of the winner portfolio across formation periods (J) and holding periods (K). t-statistics are reported in parentheses.

	K=3	K=6	K=9	K=12
J=6	-1.18\n(-2.65)	-0.68\n(-1.51)	-0.55\n(-1.23)	-0.39\n(-0.87)
J=9	-1.00\n(-2.36)	-0.51\n(-1.22)	-0.28\n(-0.68)	-0.16\n(-0.39)
J=12	-0.88\n(-2.09)	-0.39\n(-0.91)	-0.24\n(-0.56)	-0.14\n(-0.34)

18.6.4 Losers Portfolio Returns

Table 18.5 presents the corresponding results for the loser portfolio.

```
losers_grid = (results_df
    .query("portfolio == 'losers'")
    .assign(
        display=lambda x: (
            x["mean_ret"].apply(lambda v: f"{v*100:.2f}") +
            "\n(" + x["t_stat"].apply(lambda v: f"{v:.2f}") + ")"
        )
    )
    .pivot(index="J", columns="K", values="display")
)
losers_grid.columns = [f"K={k}" for k in losers_grid.columns]
losers_grid.index = [f"J={j}" for j in losers_grid.index]
losers_grid
```

Table 18.5: Average monthly returns (%) of the loser portfolio across formation periods (J) and holding periods (K). t-statistics are reported in parentheses.

	K=3	K=6	K=9	K=12
J=6	1.87\n(3.49)	1.42\n(2.76)	1.10\n(2.19)	0.99\n(1.99)
J=9	1.94\n(3.51)	1.38\n(2.56)	1.21\n(2.31)	1.15\n(2.22)
J=12	1.57\n(2.71)	1.29\n(2.28)	1.19\n(2.13)	1.15\n(2.09)

18.6.5 Long-Short Momentum Returns

Table 18.6 presents the most important results: the average monthly returns of the long-short momentum portfolio across all specifications.

```
ls_grid = (results_df
    .query("portfolio == 'long_short'")
    .assign(
        display=lambda x: (
            x["mean_ret"].apply(lambda v: f"{v*100:.2f}") +
            "\n(" + x["t_stat"].apply(lambda v: f"{v:.2f}") + ")"
        )
    )
    .pivot(index="J", columns="K", values="display")
)
ls_grid.columns = [f"K={k}" for k in ls_grid.columns]
ls_grid.index = [f"J={j}" for j in ls_grid.index]
ls_grid
```

Table 18.6: Average monthly returns (%) of the momentum long-short portfolio (Winners minus Losers) across formation periods (J) and holding periods (K). t-statistics are reported in parentheses. This table replicates the format of Table 1 in Jegadeesh and Titman (1993).

	K=3	K=6	K=9	K=12
J=6	-3.04\n(-7.38)	-2.10\n(-5.44)	-1.65\n(-4.94)	-1.37\n(-4.61)
J=9	-2.94\n(-6.41)	-1.89\n(-4.55)	-1.49\n(-3.98)	-1.31\n(-3.87)
J=12	-2.45\n(-5.42)	-1.68\n(-3.92)	-1.43\n(-3.60)	-1.30\n(-3.55)

18.6.6 Visualizing the Momentum Premium Across Specifications

Figure 18.6 provides a visual summary of the long-short momentum premium across all (J, K) combinations.

```
ls_heatmap_data = (results_df
    .query("portfolio == 'long_short'")
    .assign(
        mean_pct=lambda x: x["mean_ret"] * 100,
        significant=lambda x: x["p_value"] < 0.05,
        label=lambda x: x.apply(
            lambda row: f"{row['mean_ret']*100:.2f}{'*' if row['p_value'] < 0.05 else ''}",
            axis=1
        )
    )
)

plot_heatmap = (
    ggplot(ls_heatmap_data,
           aes(x="K.astype(str)", y="J.astype(str)", fill="mean_pct")) +
    geom_tile(color="white", size=2) +
    geom_text(aes(label="label"), size=10, color="white") +
    scale_fill_gradient2(
        low="#d62728", mid="#f7f7f7", high="#1f77b4", midpoint=0,
        name="Monthly\nReturn (%)"
    ) +
    labs(
        x="Holding Period (K months)",
        y="Formation Period (J months)",
        title="Momentum Premium Across J×K Specifications"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(8, 6))
)
plot_heatmap
```

Figure 18.6: Heatmap of average monthly long-short momentum returns (%) across formation periods (J) and holding periods (K). Darker shades indicate higher momentum profits. Asterisks denote statistical significance at the 5% level.

18.7 Risk-Adjusted Performance

18.7.1 CAPM Alpha

A natural question is whether the momentum premium is explained by exposure to the market factor. We estimate the CAPM alpha of the long-short momentum portfolio by regressing its returns on the market excess return:

$$r_{\text{WML},t} = \alpha + \beta \cdot r_{\text{MKT},t} + \epsilon_t \tag{18.3}$$

```python
# Merge momentum returns with factor data (baseline J=6, K=6)
ewret_factors = (ewret_wide
    [["date", "winners", "losers", "long_short"]]
    .merge(factors_ff3_monthly, on="date", how="inner")
)

# CAPM regression for long-short portfolio
from statsmodels.formula.api import ols as ols_formula
import statsmodels.api as sm

X_capm = sm.add_constant(ewret_factors["mkt_excess"])
y_ls = ewret_factors["long_short"]

capm_model = sm.OLS(y_ls, X_capm).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})

print("CAPM Regression: Long-Short Momentum Returns")
print("=" * 60)
print(f"Alpha (monthly):  {capm_model.params['const']*100:.4f}% "
      f"(t={capm_model.tvalues['const']:.2f})")
print(f"Market Beta:      {capm_model.params['mkt_excess']:.4f} "
      f"(t={capm_model.tvalues['mkt_excess']:.2f})")
print(f"R-squared:        {capm_model.rsquared:.4f}")
print(f"N observations:   {capm_model.nobs:.0f}")
```

```
CAPM Regression: Long-Short Momentum Returns
============================================================
Alpha (monthly):  -2.2703% (t=-5.05)
Market Beta:      -0.1779 (t=-1.75)
R-squared:        0.0470
N observations:   150
```

18.7.2 Fama-French Three-Factor Alpha

We extend the risk adjustment to the Fama-French three-factor model, which includes the size (SMB) and value (HML) factors in addition to the market factor:

$$r_{\text{WML},t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \cdot r_{\text{MKT},t} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{SMB}_t + \beta_3 \cdot \text{HML}_t + \epsilon_t \tag{18.4}$$

```python
X_ff3 = sm.add_constant(
    ewret_factors[["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml"]]
)
y_ls = ewret_factors["long_short"]

ff3_model = sm.OLS(y_ls, X_ff3).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})

# Display results as a clean table
ff3_results = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": ff3_model.params,
    "Std Error": ff3_model.bse,
    "t-stat": ff3_model.tvalues,
    "p-value": ff3_model.pvalues
}).round(4)

ff3_results.index = ["Alpha", "MKT", "SMB", "HML"]
ff3_results
```

Table 18.7: Fama-French three-factor regression for the momentum long-short portfolio. The dependent variable is the monthly return of the Winners-minus-Losers portfolio. Alpha is the intercept, representing the risk-adjusted abnormal return. HAC standard errors with 6 lags are used.

	Coefficient	Std Error	t-stat	p-value
Alpha	-0.0234	0.0041	-5.7189	0.0000
MKT	-0.1269	0.1558	-0.8145	0.4154
SMB	0.1123	0.1882	0.5969	0.5506
HML	0.0716	0.1414	0.5065	0.6125

```python
print(f"\nR-squared: {ff3_model.rsquared:.4f}")
print(f"Adjusted R-squared: {ff3_model.rsquared_adj:.4f}")
print(f"Alpha (annualized): {ff3_model.params['const'] * 12 * 100:.2f}%")
```

```
R-squared: 0.0553
Adjusted R-squared: 0.0359
Alpha (annualized): -28.02%
```

18.7.3 Interpretation of Risk Exposures

The factor loadings from the three-factor regression reveal the risk characteristics of the momentum strategy in the Vietnamese market. Several patterns are commonly observed:

1. **Market beta**: Momentum portfolios typically have moderate market exposure. In the U.S., Grundy and Martin (2001) document that the market beta of the long-short portfolio is close to zero on average but highly time-varying, spiking during market reversals.
2. **Size exposure (SMB)**: Momentum strategies often load positively on the size factor, reflecting the tendency for smaller stocks to exhibit stronger momentum patterns.
3. **Value exposure (HML)**: The long-short momentum portfolio typically loads negatively on HML, indicating that winners tend to be growth stocks while losers tend to be value stocks. This creates a natural tension between momentum and value strategies.

18.8 Momentum and Market States

18.8.1 Conditional Performance

An important finding in the momentum literature is that momentum profits vary with market conditions. Cooper, Gutierrez Jr, and Hameed (2004) document that momentum strategies perform well following market gains (UP markets) but experience severe losses following market declines (DOWN markets). This asymmetry is particularly relevant for emerging markets, which experience more extreme market states.

We define market states based on the cumulative market return over the prior 12 months:

$$\text{Market State}_t = \begin{cases} \text{UP} & \text{if } \prod_{s=t-12}^{t-1}(1+r_{m,s}) - 1 > 0 \\ \text{DOWN} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{18.5}$$

```
# Compute 12-month lagged market return
market_returns = factors_ff3_monthly[["date", "mkt_excess"]].copy()
market_returns = market_returns.sort_values("date")
market_returns["mkt_cum_12m"] = (
    (1 + market_returns["mkt_excess"])
    .rolling(window=12, min_periods=12)
    .apply(np.prod, raw=True)
    - 1
)
market_returns["market_state"] = np.where(
```

```
    market_returns["mkt_cum_12m"] > 0, "UP", "DOWN"
)

# Merge with momentum returns
ewret_states = ewret_wide[["date", "long_short"]].merge(
    market_returns[["date", "market_state"]], on="date", how="inner"
).dropna()
```

```
state_stats = []
for state in ["UP", "DOWN"]:
    subset = ewret_states.query(f"market_state == '{state}'")["long_short"]
    n = len(subset)
    mean_ret = subset.mean()
    std_ret = subset.std()
    t_stat = mean_ret / (std_ret / np.sqrt(n)) if std_ret > 0 else np.nan
    p_val = 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t_stat), df=n-1)) if not np.isnan(t_stat) else np.nan
    state_stats.append({
        "Market State": state,
        "N Months": n,
        "Mean (%)": mean_ret * 100,
        "Std (%)": std_ret * 100,
        "t-stat": t_stat,
        "p-value": p_val
    })

state_stats_df = pd.DataFrame(state_stats).round(4)
state_stats_df
```

Table 18.8: Momentum long-short returns conditional on market states. UP markets are defined as periods where the cumulative market return over the prior 12 months is positive; DOWN markets are periods with negative prior 12-month returns.

	Market State	N Months	Mean (%)	Std (%)	t-stat	p-value
0	UP	39	-1.1972	4.5814	-1.6320	0.1109
1	DOWN	111	-2.4050	4.8669	-5.2063	0.0000

```
plot_states = (
    ggplot(ewret_states, aes(x="market_state", y="long_short",
                             fill="market_state")) +
    geom_boxplot(alpha=0.7) +
```

```
    geom_hline(yintercept=0, linetype="dashed", color="gray") +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    scale_fill_manual(values={"UP": "#1f77b4", "DOWN": "#d62728"}) +
    labs(
        x="Market State (Prior 12-Month Return)",
        y="Monthly Long-Short Return",
        title="Momentum Returns by Market State"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(
        figure_size=(8, 6),
        legend_position="none"
    )
)
plot_states
```

Figure 18.7: Distribution of monthly momentum returns by market state. The box plots show the distribution of long-short momentum returns separately for UP and DOWN market states, defined by the sign of the prior 12-month cumulative market return.

18.9 Momentum Crashes

18.9.1 Understanding Momentum Drawdowns

One of the most important risk characteristics of momentum strategies is their susceptibility to sudden, severe losses—known as momentum crashes. Daniel and Moskowitz (2016) document that momentum strategies experience infrequent but extreme losses, typically during market rebounds following bear markets. These crashes occur because the loser portfolio, which has been short, is heavily loaded with high-beta stocks that surge when markets reverse.

We identify the worst drawdowns of the momentum strategy and examine their market context.

```
worst_months = (ewret_wide
    [["date", "long_short", "winners", "losers"]]
    .merge(factors_ff3_monthly[["date", "mkt_excess"]], on="date", how="left")
    .sort_values("long_short")
    .head(10)
    .assign(
        long_short_pct=lambda x: (x["long_short"] * 100).round(2),
        winners_pct=lambda x: (x["winners"] * 100).round(2),
        losers_pct=lambda x: (x["losers"] * 100).round(2),
        mkt_pct=lambda x: (x["mkt_excess"] * 100).round(2)
    )
    [["date", "long_short_pct", "winners_pct", "losers_pct", "mkt_pct"]]
    .rename(columns={
        "date": "Date",
        "long_short_pct": "L/S (%)",
        "winners_pct": "Winners (%)",
        "losers_pct": "Losers (%)",
        "mkt_pct": "Market (%)"
    })
)
worst_months
```

Table 18.9: Ten worst months for the momentum long-short strategy. The table reports the date, long-short return, winner return, loser return, and concurrent market return for the ten months with the largest momentum losses.

	Date	L/S (%)	Winners (%)	Losers (%)	Market (%)
153	2023-05-31	-16.39	-2.69	13.70	2.78
39	2013-11-30	-14.26	4.24	18.50	2.57
20	2012-04-30	-13.68	1.51	15.19	4.88
78	2017-02-28	-13.56	2.10	15.67	1.49
107	2019-07-31	-13.15	-2.46	10.69	1.61
140	2022-04-30	-11.71	-17.57	-5.87	-11.19
149	2023-01-31	-11.53	1.37	12.90	6.96
28	2012-12-31	-11.52	4.03	15.54	-1.61
0	2010-08-31	-11.31	-25.03	-13.72	NaN
10	2011-06-30	-10.44	-3.15	7.29	NaN

18.9.2 Maximum Drawdown Analysis

The maximum drawdown provides a measure of the worst peak-to-trough decline experienced by the strategy. This metric is particularly relevant for practitioners evaluating the risk of momentum strategies.

```
# Compute running maximum and drawdown
ewret_wide["cum_wealth"] = (1 + ewret_wide["long_short"]).cumprod()
ewret_wide["running_max"] = ewret_wide["cum_wealth"].cummax()
ewret_wide["drawdown"] = (
    ewret_wide["cum_wealth"] / ewret_wide["running_max"] - 1
)

max_dd = ewret_wide["drawdown"].min()
max_dd_date = ewret_wide.loc[ewret_wide["drawdown"].idxmin(), "date"]

print(f"Maximum drawdown: {max_dd*100:.2f}%")
print(f"Date of maximum drawdown: {max_dd_date.date()}")
```

```
Maximum drawdown: -97.08%
Date of maximum drawdown: 2023-10-31
```

```
plot_dd = (
    ggplot(ewret_wide, aes(x="date", y="drawdown")) +
    geom_area(fill="#d62728", alpha=0.5) +
    geom_line(color="#d62728", size=0.5) +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    labs(
        x="", y="Drawdown",
        title="Momentum Strategy Drawdown"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
plot_dd
```

Figure 18.8: Drawdown of the momentum long-short strategy over time. The chart shows the percentage decline from the previous peak in cumulative wealth. Deeper drawdowns represent more severe momentum crashes.

18.10 Value-Weighted Momentum Portfolios

The baseline Jegadeesh and Titman (1993) implementation uses equally weighted portfolios. However, equally weighted returns can be dominated by small, illiquid stocks that may be difficult to trade in practice. Value-weighted portfolios, where each stock's contribution is proportional to its market capitalization, provide a more investable benchmark and are more representative of the returns that large investors could actually achieve.

```
def momentum_strategy_vw(data, J, K, n_portfolios=10):
    """
    Value-weighted momentum strategy implementation.

    Same as the equally-weighted version but uses lagged market
    capitalization as weights when computing portfolio returns.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : pd.DataFrame
        Panel with columns: symbol, date, ret, mktcap_lag.
    J : int
```

```
        Formation period in months.
    K : int
        Holding period in months.
    n_portfolios : int
        Number of portfolios.

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Monthly value-weighted portfolio returns.
    """
    # Step 1: Formation period returns
    df = data.sort_values(["symbol", "date"]).copy()
    df["gross_ret"] = 1 + df["ret"]
    df["cum_return"] = (
        df.groupby("symbol")["gross_ret"]
        .rolling(window=J, min_periods=J)
        .apply(np.prod, raw=True)
        .reset_index(level=0, drop=True)
        - 1
    )
    df = df.drop(columns=["gross_ret"]).dropna(subset=["cum_return"])

    # Step 2: Portfolio assignment using transform (fast)
    df["momr"] = df.groupby("date", observed=True)["cum_return"].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(
            x,
            q=n_portfolios,
            labels=range(1, n_portfolios + 1),
            duplicates="drop"
        )
    ).astype('Int64')

    # Fill NaNs with rank-based assignment
    mask = df["momr"].isna()
    if mask.any():
        df.loc[mask, "momr"] = df.loc[mask].groupby("date")["cum_return"].transform(
            lambda x: pd.qcut(
                x.rank(method="first"),
                q=min(n_portfolios, len(x.unique())),
                labels=False,
                duplicates="drop"
```

```
        )
    ).astype('Int64') + 1

# Step 3: Holding period
df = df.rename(columns={"date": "form_date"})
df["hdate1"] = df["form_date"] + pd.offsets.MonthBegin(1)
df["hdate2"] = df["form_date"] + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(K)

# Step 4: Merge with holding period returns AND weights
port_ret = df[
    ["symbol", "form_date", "momr", "hdate1", "hdate2"]
].merge(
    data[["symbol", "date", "ret", "mktcap_lag"]].rename(
        columns={"ret": "hret", "date": "hdate"}
    ),
    on="symbol",
    how="inner"
)

# Use boolean indexing instead of query (faster)
port_ret = port_ret[
    (port_ret["hdate"] >= port_ret["hdate1"]) &
    (port_ret["hdate"] <= port_ret["hdate2"])
]
port_ret = port_ret.dropna(subset=["mktcap_lag"])
port_ret = port_ret[port_ret["mktcap_lag"] > 0]

# Step 5: Value-weighted returns within each cohort
def vw_mean(group):
    weights = group["mktcap_lag"]
    if weights.sum() == 0:
        return np.nan
    return np.average(group["hret"], weights=weights)

cohort_ret = (port_ret
    .groupby(["hdate", "momr", "form_date"])
    .apply(vw_mean, include_groups=False)
    .reset_index(name="cohort_ret")
)

monthly_ret = (cohort_ret
    .groupby(["hdate", "momr"])
```

```
        .agg(vwret=("cohort_ret", "mean"))
        .reset_index()
        .rename(columns={"hdate": "date"})
    )

    # Step 6: Long-short
    wide = monthly_ret.pivot(
        index="date", columns="momr", values="vwret"
    ).reset_index()

    # Handle variable number of portfolios
    n_cols = len(wide.columns) - 1
    wide.columns = ["date"] + [f"port{i}" for i in range(1, n_cols + 1)]
    wide["winners"] = wide[f"port{n_cols}"]
    wide["losers"] = wide["port1"]
    wide["long_short"] = wide["winners"] - wide["losers"]

    return monthly_ret, wide
```

```
# Run value-weighted J=6, K=6 strategy
_, vw_results = momentum_strategy_vw(prices_clean, J=6, K=6)

print("Value-Weighted Momentum Strategy (J=6, K=6)")
print("=" * 50)
print("\nPortfolio Statistics:")
print(vw_results[["winners", "losers", "long_short"]].describe().round(4))
```

```
Value-Weighted Momentum Strategy (J=6, K=6)
==================================================

Portfolio Statistics:
        winners    losers  long_short
count  161.0000  161.0000    161.0000
mean    -0.0129    0.0006     -0.0135
std      0.0763    0.0713      0.0653
min     -0.2519   -0.2178     -0.3813
25%     -0.0540   -0.0397     -0.0465
50%     -0.0067    0.0010     -0.0126
75%      0.0354    0.0443      0.0173
max      0.1765    0.2498      0.2498
```

```
comparison = []
for scheme, df in [("EW", ewret_wide), ("VW", vw_results)]:
    for col in ["winners", "losers", "long_short"]:
        series = df[col].dropna()
        n = len(series)
        mean_ret = series.mean()
        std_ret = series.std()
        t_stat = mean_ret / (std_ret / np.sqrt(n))
        p_val = 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t_stat), df=n-1))
        comparison.append({
            "Weighting": scheme,
            "Portfolio": col.replace("_", " ").title(),
            "Mean (%)": round(mean_ret * 100, 4),
            "Std (%)": round(std_ret * 100, 4),
            "t-stat": round(t_stat, 2),
            "p-value": round(p_val, 4)
        })

pd.DataFrame(comparison)
```

Table 18.10: Comparison of equally weighted (EW) and value-weighted (VW) momentum strategies for J=6, K=6. The table reports mean monthly returns, t-statistics, and p-values for winners, losers, and long-short portfolios under both weighting schemes.

	Weighting	Portfolio	Mean (%)	Std (%)	t-stat	p-value
0	EW	Winners	-0.6812	5.7131	-1.51	0.1323
1	EW	Losers	1.4190	6.5319	2.76	0.0065
2	EW	Long Short	-2.1002	4.8969	-5.44	0.0000
3	VW	Winners	-1.2943	7.6274	-2.15	0.0328
4	VW	Losers	0.0589	7.1275	0.10	0.9166
5	VW	Long Short	-1.3533	6.5312	-2.63	0.0094

```
vw_results = vw_results.sort_values("date")
vw_results["cumret_ls_vw"] = (1 + vw_results["long_short"]).cumprod() - 1

ew_data = (ewret_wide[["date", "long_short"]]
    .rename(columns={"long_short": "cumret"})
    .assign(scheme="Equally Weighted")
)
ew_data["cumret"] = (1 + ew_data["cumret"]).cumprod() - 1
```

```
vw_data = (vw_results[["date", "cumret_ls_vw"]]
    .rename(columns={"cumret_ls_vw": "cumret"})
    .assign(scheme="Value Weighted")
)

ew_vs_vw = pd.concat([ew_data, vw_data], ignore_index=True)

plot_ew_vw = (
    ggplot(ew_vs_vw, aes(x="date", y="cumret", color="scheme")) +
    geom_line(size=1) +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    scale_color_manual(values=["#1f77b4", "#ff7f0e"]) +
    labs(
        x="", y="Cumulative return",
        color="Weighting Scheme",
        title="EW vs. VW Momentum Long-Short Strategy"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(
        figure_size=(10, 6),
        legend_position="bottom"
    )
)
plot_ew_vw
```

Figure 18.9: Cumulative returns of equally weighted (EW) versus value-weighted (VW) long-short momentum strategies. Differences between the two lines reflect the impact of firm size on momentum profitability.

18.11 Daily Momentum Analysis

While momentum strategies are typically evaluated at the monthly frequency following Jegadeesh and Titman (1993), analyzing daily return patterns provides additional insights into the dynamics of momentum profits. Daily data allows us to examine how momentum profits accrue within the holding period, measure intra-month volatility of the strategy, and compute more precise risk measures.

18.11.1 Loading Daily Data

```
prices_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql=("SELECT symbol, date, ret, ret_excess, mktcap_lag "
         "FROM prices_daily"),
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
```

```
)

print(f"Daily observations: {len(prices_daily):,}")
print(f"Unique stocks: {prices_daily['symbol'].nunique():,}")
print(f"Date range: {prices_daily['date'].min().date()} "
      f"to {prices_daily['date'].max().date()}")
```

```
Daily observations: 3,462,157
Unique stocks: 1,459
Date range: 2010-01-05 to 2023-12-29
```

18.11.2 Daily Returns of Monthly Momentum Portfolios

Rather than forming momentum portfolios at the daily frequency (which would require daily rebalancing and is impractical), we use the monthly portfolio assignments and track their daily returns. This gives us the daily return series of the monthly momentum strategy.

```
# # # Use the monthly portfolio assignments from the J=6 baseline
monthly_assignments = portfolios_with_dates[
    ["symbol", "form_date", "momr", "hdate1", "hdate2"]
].copy()

# Merge with daily returns
daily_mom_returns = monthly_assignments.merge(
    prices_daily[["symbol", "date", "ret"]].rename(
        columns={"ret": "dret", "date": "ddate"}
    ),
    on="symbol",
    how="inner"
)

# Use boolean indexing instead of query
daily_mom_returns = daily_mom_returns[
    (daily_mom_returns["ddate"] >= daily_mom_returns["hdate1"]) &
    (daily_mom_returns["ddate"] <= daily_mom_returns["hdate2"])
]

print(f"Daily portfolio return observations: {len(daily_mom_returns):,}")
```

```
Daily portfolio return observations: 19,112,536
```

```
# Compute daily equally weighted portfolio returns
# Stage 1: Average within each cohort
daily_cohort_ret = (daily_mom_returns
    .groupby(["ddate", "momr", "form_date"])
    .agg(cohort_ret=("dret", "mean"))
    .reset_index()
)

# Stage 2: Average across cohorts
daily_ewret = (daily_cohort_ret
    .groupby(["ddate", "momr"])
    .agg(ewret=("cohort_ret", "mean"))
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={"ddate": "date"})
)

# Compute daily long-short returns
daily_wide = daily_ewret.pivot(
    index="date", columns="momr", values="ewret"
).reset_index()
daily_wide.columns = ["date"] + [f"port{i}" for i in range(1, 11)]
daily_wide["winners"] = daily_wide["port10"]
daily_wide["losers"] = daily_wide["port1"]
daily_wide["long_short"] = daily_wide["winners"] - daily_wide["losers"]

print(f"Daily long-short return observations: {len(daily_wide):,}")
```

```
Daily long-short return observations: 3,352
```

18.11.3 Daily Cumulative Returns

```
daily_wide = daily_wide.sort_values("date")
daily_wide["cumret_ls"] = (1 + daily_wide["long_short"]).cumprod() - 1

plot_daily_cumret = (
    ggplot(daily_wide, aes(x="date", y="cumret_ls")) +
    geom_line(size=0.5, color="#2ca02c") +
    geom_hline(yintercept=0, linetype="dashed", color="gray") +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    labs(
```

```
        x="", y="Cumulative return",
        title="Daily Cumulative Return: Momentum Long-Short Strategy"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 6))
)
plot_daily_cumret
```

Figure 18.10: Cumulative daily returns of the momentum long-short strategy. This figure shows the same strategy as the monthly analysis but tracked at daily frequency, revealing intra-month dynamics and the precise timing of momentum gains and losses.

18.11.4 Annualized Risk Metrics from Daily Data

Daily data enables more precise estimation of risk metrics through higher-frequency sampling.

```
daily_ls = daily_wide["long_short"].dropna()

# Annualized metrics
```

```
ann_mean = daily_ls.mean() * 252
ann_vol = daily_ls.std() * np.sqrt(252)
sharpe = ann_mean / ann_vol if ann_vol > 0 else np.nan

# Drawdown
daily_wealth = (1 + daily_ls).cumprod()
daily_running_max = daily_wealth.cummax()
daily_dd = (daily_wealth / daily_running_max - 1).min()

# Higher moments
skew = daily_ls.skew()
kurt = daily_ls.kurtosis()

# VaR and CVaR
var_95 = daily_ls.quantile(0.05)
cvar_95 = daily_ls[daily_ls <= var_95].mean()

risk_metrics = pd.DataFrame({
    "Metric": [
        "Annualized Mean Return",
        "Annualized Volatility",
        "Sharpe Ratio",
        "Maximum Drawdown",
        "Skewness",
        "Excess Kurtosis",
        "Daily VaR (5%)",
        "Daily CVaR (5%)"
    ],
    "Value": [
        f"{ann_mean*100:.2f}%",
        f"{ann_vol*100:.2f}%",
        f"{sharpe:.2f}",
        f"{daily_dd*100:.2f}%",
        f"{skew:.2f}",
        f"{kurt:.2f}",
        f"{var_95*100:.2f}%",
        f"{cvar_95*100:.2f}%"
    ]
})
risk_metrics
```

Table 18.11: Annualized risk metrics for the momentum long-short strategy computed from daily returns. Volatility is annualized using the square root of 252 rule. The Sharpe ratio, maximum drawdown, skewness, and kurtosis provide a comprehensive risk profile.

	Metric	Value
0	Annualized Mean Return	-26.90%
1	Annualized Volatility	15.01%
2	Sharpe Ratio	-1.79
3	Maximum Drawdown	-97.62%
4	Skewness	-11.23
5	Excess Kurtosis	378.11
6	Daily VaR (5%)	-1.33%
7	Daily CVaR (5%)	-2.10%

18.11.5 Realized Volatility of Momentum Returns

Using daily returns, we can compute the monthly realized volatility of the momentum strategy and examine how it varies over time.

```
daily_wide["year_month"] = daily_wide["date"].dt.to_period("M")

realized_vol = (daily_wide
    .groupby("year_month")["long_short"]
    .std()
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={"long_short": "realized_vol"})
)
realized_vol["date"] = realized_vol["year_month"].dt.to_timestamp()
realized_vol["realized_vol_ann"] = realized_vol["realized_vol"] * np.sqrt(252)

plot_rvol = (
    ggplot(realized_vol, aes(x="date", y="realized_vol_ann")) +
    geom_line(color="#d62728", size=0.8) +
    scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format()) +
    labs(
        x="", y="Annualized Realized Volatility",
        title="Realized Volatility of Momentum Strategy"
    ) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
```

```
)
plot_rvol
```

Figure 18.11: Monthly realized volatility of the momentum long-short strategy, computed from daily returns within each month. Higher values indicate periods of greater uncertainty in momentum profits, often coinciding with market stress.

18.12 Saving Results to the Database

We save the momentum portfolio returns to our database for use in subsequent chapters, including factor model construction and portfolio optimization.

```
# Save monthly equally weighted momentum portfolio returns
ewret_to_save = ewret[["date", "momr", "ewret"]].copy()
ewret_to_save.to_sql(
    name="momentum_portfolios_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)
print(f"Saved {len(ewret_to_save):,} monthly momentum portfolio observations.")

# Save the long-short return series
```

```
momentum_factor = ewret_wide[["date", "long_short"]].dropna().copy()
momentum_factor = momentum_factor.rename(columns={"long_short": "wml"})
momentum_factor.to_sql(
    name="momentum_factor_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)
print(f"Saved {len(momentum_factor):,} monthly WML factor observations.")

# Save the daily long-short return series
daily_momentum_factor = daily_wide[["date", "long_short"]].dropna().copy()
daily_momentum_factor = daily_momentum_factor.rename(
    columns={"long_short": "wml"}
)
daily_momentum_factor.to_sql(
    name="momentum_factor_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
    if_exists="replace",
    index=False
)
print(f"Saved {len(daily_momentum_factor):,} daily WML factor observations.")
```

```
Saved 1,610 monthly momentum portfolio observations.
Saved 161 monthly WML factor observations.
Saved 3,352 daily WML factor observations.
```

18.13 Practical Considerations

18.13.1 Transaction Costs

Momentum strategies involve substantial portfolio turnover, as stocks enter and exit the extreme decile portfolios each month. Korajczyk and Sadka (2004) examine whether momentum profits survive transaction costs and find that profitability declines significantly for large institutional investors, though smaller portfolios can still capture meaningful returns.

In the Vietnamese market, transaction costs include:

- **Brokerage commissions**: Typically 0.15%–0.25% of transaction value for institutional investors.
- **Exchange fees**: Approximately 0.03% per trade.

- **Market impact**: Particularly relevant for smaller, less liquid stocks that dominate the extreme momentum portfolios. Vietnam's lower liquidity compared to developed markets may amplify this cost.
- **Trading band limits**: The $\pm 7\%$ daily price limit on HOSE can prevent immediate execution of trades, introducing tracking error relative to the theoretical portfolio.

18.13.2 Implementation Lag

Our baseline implementation assumes that portfolios can be formed and rebalanced instantaneously at the end of each month. In practice, there is a lag between observing the formation period returns and executing the portfolio trades. The one-month gap between the formation period and the start of the holding period (Jegadeesh (1990)) partially addresses this concern, but practitioners should consider additional implementation delays.

18.13.3 Survivorship Bias

Our dataset from DataCore includes both active and delisted stocks, which mitigates survivorship bias. However, the treatment of delisted stocks can affect momentum results. Stocks that are delisted during the holding period may generate extreme returns (both positive for acquisitions and negative for failures). We retain delisted returns as reported in the database, which is consistent with the treatment in Jegadeesh and Titman (1993).

18.13.4 Small Sample Considerations

The Vietnamese stock market has a relatively short history compared to the U.S. market studied in Jegadeesh and Titman (1993). Our sample spans approximately two decades, compared to the nearly three decades in the original study. This shorter sample period implies wider confidence intervals and greater sensitivity to specific episodes (such as the 2007–2009 financial crisis, which had a severe impact on Vietnamese equities). Results should be interpreted with this caveat in mind.

18.14 Key Takeaways

This chapter has provided an implementation and analysis of momentum strategies in the Vietnamese equity market, following the methodology of Jegadeesh and Titman (1993). The main findings and methodological contributions are:

1. **Methodology**: We implemented the full Jegadeesh and Titman (1993) overlapping portfolio methodology, including the two-stage averaging procedure (within-cohort, then across-cohort) that handles the K active portfolios in each month.

2. **Baseline results**: The $J = 6$, $K = 6$ strategy provides a natural benchmark. The spread between winner and loser portfolios reveals whether cross-sectional momentum exists in Vietnamese equities.

3. **Robustness across horizons**: By computing the full $J \times K$ grid with $J, K \in \{3, 6, 9, 12\}$, we assessed whether the momentum premium is robust to the choice of formation and holding periods, following the approach in Jegadeesh and Titman (1993) Table 1.

4. **Risk adjustment**: CAPM and Fama-French three-factor alphas measure whether the momentum premium is explained by standard risk factors, building on the analysis in Eugene F. Fama and French (1996) who show that their three-factor model fails to explain momentum.

5. **Market state dependence**: Following Cooper, Gutierrez Jr, and Hameed (2004), we examined whether momentum profits vary with market conditions, which is particularly relevant in emerging markets with pronounced boom-bust cycles.

6. **Value weighting**: The comparison of equally weighted and value-weighted strategies addresses practical implementability and isolates the role of firm size in driving momentum profits.

7. **Daily analysis**: By tracking momentum portfolios at the daily frequency, we computed precise risk metrics including realized volatility, maximum drawdown, VaR, and CVaR, providing a complete risk profile of the strategy.

8. **Emerging market context**: Throughout the analysis, we have highlighted features specific to the Vietnamese market—trading band limits, foreign ownership restrictions, shorter sample history, and higher transaction costs—that affect the interpretation and practical viability of momentum strategies.

19 Factor Construction Principles

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we develop a general-purpose factor construction engine for the Vietnamese equity market. We cover every methodological decision in the pipeline, including universe definition, breakpoint computation, portfolio formation, weighting, rebalancing, and factor return calculation, and demonstrate how each choice affects the resulting factor.

The previous chapters introduced specific asset pricing models, including the CAPM, the Fama-French three-factor model, and momentum. Each of those chapters presented its factor as given. This chapter steps behind the curtain and addresses the engineering question: *how exactly do you build a factor?* The question matters because seemingly minor methodological decisions, such as where to set breakpoints, whether to value-weight or equal-weight, how to handle missing accounting data, which stocks to exclude, can alter the magnitude, statistical significance, and even the sign of a factor premium.

In the U.S. context, Eugene F. Fama and French (1993b) established a canonical procedure: sort stocks independently on size and a characteristic, form six value-weighted portfolios from 2×3 intersections, and define the factor as the average return of the two high-characteristic portfolios minus the average return of the two low-characteristic portfolios. This procedure has been replicated thousands of times. But it was designed for the U.S. market circa 1990, with its deep liquidity, broad cross-section, and CRSP/Compustat data infrastructure. Applying it mechanically to Vietnam, a market with 700 listed stocks, extreme illiquidity in the bottom tercile, high concentration in the top decile, and accounting data that arrives with variable lags, requires careful adaptation.

Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2020a) replicated 452 anomalies from the U.S. literature and found that over half fail to replicate even in U.S. data with minor methodological variations. The replication crisis in empirical asset pricing makes it essential that researchers understand and document every construction choice. This chapter provides the tools to do so transparently.

19.1 The Factor Construction Pipeline

Every tradeable factor follows the same logical pipeline:

1. Define the universe: Select the eligible securities (e.g., common stocks with liquidity and size filters).
2. Compute the signal: Calculate the characteristic of interest (e.g., value, momentum, profitability).
3. Set breakpoints: Determine how stocks will be sorted (e.g., median, quintiles, deciles).
4. Assign portfolios: Group stocks into high and low (or multiple) portfolios based on the signal.
5. Compute returns: Calculate portfolio returns (equal- or value-weighted).
6. Construct the factor: Take Long (high) - Short (low).
7. Validate: Test performance, significance, and robustness.

Each step involves choices that interact with each other. A breakpoint that works well for a liquid universe may be inappropriate for the full cross-section. A weighting scheme that reduces noise in the U.S. may amplify it in Vietnam. We address each step systematically.

19.2 Data Construction

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy import stats
from itertools import product
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

```
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Monthly returns (survivorship-bias-free)
```

```python
monthly = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap',
        'shares_outstanding', 'volume_avg_20d', 'turnover_value_avg_20d',
        'n_zero_volume_days', 'exchange'
    ]
)

# Annual accounting data
accounting = client.get_fundamentals(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2006-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    frequency='annual',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'filing_date',
        'total_assets', 'total_equity', 'book_equity',
        'net_income', 'revenue', 'gross_profit',
        'operating_profit', 'total_debt', 'retained_earnings',
        'dividends_paid', 'capex', 'depreciation',
        'shares_outstanding_fy'
    ]
)

# Daily prices for momentum and volatility signals
daily = client.get_daily_prices(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=['ticker', 'date', 'adjusted_close', 'volume', 'turnover_value']
)

monthly['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(monthly['month_end'])
monthly = monthly.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])

print(f"Monthly returns: {len(monthly):,} firm-months")
```

```
print(f"Accounting: {len(accounting):,} firm-years")
print(f"Unique tickers: {monthly['ticker'].nunique()}")
```

19.3 Step 1: Universe Definition

The first and most consequential choice is which stocks enter the factor construction universe. The universe definition determines what population the factor premium describes and whether it is implementable.

19.3.1 The Universe Problem in Vietnam

Vietnam presents a specific challenge: the cross-section is small (600-800 stocks on HOSE and HNX combined), and the size distribution is extremely skewed. The top 10 stocks by market capitalization account for roughly 50% of the total market cap on HOSE. The bottom tercile consists of micro-cap stocks that often trade fewer than 5 days per month. Including these stocks inflates apparent factor premia because their prices are noisy and stale, but excluding them shrinks the already small cross-section.

```
def apply_universe_filters(df, filters='standard'):
    """
    Apply universe filters to the monthly return panel.

    Parameters
    ----------
    filters : str
        'none': all stocks
        'minimal': exclude zero market cap and extreme returns
        'standard': + minimum listing age + positive volume
        'strict': + minimum market cap + minimum turnover

    Returns
    -------
    Filtered DataFrame with 'in_universe' column
    """
    d = df.copy()
    d['in_universe'] = True

    # Always: remove missing returns and market cap
    d.loc[d['monthly_return'].isna(), 'in_universe'] = False
    d.loc[d['market_cap'].isna() | (d['market_cap'] <= 0), 'in_universe'] = False
```

```
    # Minimal: winsorize extreme returns (likely data errors)
    if filters in ['minimal', 'standard', 'strict']:
        d.loc[d['monthly_return'].abs() > 1.0, 'in_universe'] = False

    # Standard: listing age >= 6 months
    if filters in ['standard', 'strict']:
        d['listing_age'] = (
            d.groupby('ticker').cumcount() + 1
        )
        d.loc[d['listing_age'] < 6, 'in_universe'] = False

        # Require at least 10 positive-volume days in the month
        d.loc[d['n_zero_volume_days'] > 12, 'in_universe'] = False

    # Strict: minimum market cap (20th percentile of HOSE)
    if filters == 'strict':
        mcap_threshold = (
            d[d['exchange'] == 'HOSE']
            .groupby('month_end')['market_cap']
            .transform(lambda x: x.quantile(0.20))
        )
        # Apply HOSE threshold to all stocks
        d['mcap_threshold'] = (
            d.groupby('month_end')['market_cap']
            .transform(lambda x: x.quantile(0.20))
        )
        d.loc[d['market_cap'] < d['mcap_threshold'], 'in_universe'] = False

        # Minimum average daily turnover (VND 200 million)
        d.loc[d['turnover_value_avg_20d'] < 2e8, 'in_universe'] = False

    return d

# Apply all filter levels and compare
filter_summary = {}
for level in ['none', 'minimal', 'standard', 'strict']:
    filtered = apply_universe_filters(monthly, filters=level)
    in_univ = filtered[filtered['in_universe']]
    filter_summary[level] = {
        'Firm-months': len(in_univ),
        'Avg stocks/month': in_univ.groupby('month_end')['ticker'].nunique().mean(),
        'Avg MCap coverage (%)': (
```

```
            in_univ.groupby('month_end')['market_cap'].sum()
            / filtered.groupby('month_end')['market_cap'].sum()
        ).mean() * 100
    }

filter_df = pd.DataFrame(filter_summary).T
print("Universe Filter Effects:")
print(filter_df.round(1).to_string())
```

19.4 Step 2: Signal Construction

19.4.1 Point-in-Time Accounting Data

As discussed in the missing data chapter, accounting signals must be aligned with their public availability date to avoid look-ahead bias. We implement a general-purpose point-in-time merge:

```
def pit_merge_accounting(monthly_df, accounting_df, lag_months=4):
    """
    Merge accounting data with monthly returns respecting
    the point-in-time availability constraint.

    Vietnamese annual reports are due within 90 days of fiscal
    year-end. We use a conservative 4-month lag.

    Parameters
    ----------
    lag_months : int
        Number of months after fiscal year-end before data
        are assumed to be publicly available.
    """
    acc = accounting_df.copy()

    # Accounting data becomes available lag_months after FY end
    # If filing_date is available, use it; otherwise use FY-end + lag
    if 'filing_date' in acc.columns:
        acc['filing_date'] = pd.to_datetime(acc['filing_date'])
        acc['available_date'] = acc['filing_date']
        # Fallback for missing filing dates
        acc['fy_end'] = pd.to_datetime(
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

colors_filter = {
    'none': '#BDC3C7', 'minimal': '#3498DB',
    'standard': '#2C5F8A', 'strict': '#C0392B'
}

for level in ['none', 'minimal', 'standard', 'strict']:
    filtered = apply_universe_filters(monthly, filters=level)
    counts = (
        filtered[filtered['in_universe']]
        .groupby('month_end')['ticker']
        .nunique()
    )
    axes[0].plot(counts.index, counts.values,
                 color=colors_filter[level], linewidth=1.5, label=level)

axes[0].set_ylabel('Number of Stocks')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Universe Size')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: Market cap coverage
for level in ['minimal', 'standard', 'strict']:
    filtered = apply_universe_filters(monthly, filters=level)
    total_mcap = filtered.groupby('month_end')['market_cap'].sum()
    filtered_mcap = (
        filtered[filtered['in_universe']]
        .groupby('month_end')['market_cap']
        .sum()
    )
    coverage = (filtered_mcap / total_mcap * 100).dropna()
    axes[1].plot(coverage.index, coverage.values,
                 color=colors_filter[level], linewidth=1.5, label=level)

axes[1].set_ylabel('Market Cap Coverage (%)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Market Capitalization Coverage')
axes[1].legend()
axes[1].set_ylim([60, 102])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 19.1

```
            acc['fiscal_year'].astype(str) + '-12-31'
        )
        acc['available_date'] = acc['available_date'].fillna(
            acc['fy_end'] + pd.DateOffset(months=lag_months)
        )
    else:
        acc['available_date'] = pd.to_datetime(
            acc['fiscal_year'].astype(str) + '-12-31'
        ) + pd.DateOffset(months=lag_months)

    # For each firm-month, find the most recent available accounting data
    merged = monthly_df.copy()

    # Efficient approach: for June rebalancing, use FY t-1 data
    # which is available by April of year t (4-month lag)
    merged['year'] = merged['month_end'].dt.year
    merged['month'] = merged['month_end'].dt.month

    # Map: if month >= (lag_months + 1), use current year's FY-1 data
    # Otherwise, use FY-2 data
    merged['data_fy'] = np.where(
        merged['month'] >= lag_months + 1,
        merged['year'] - 1,
        merged['year'] - 2
    )

    # Merge
    acc_cols = [c for c in acc.columns if c not in
                ['filing_date', 'available_date', 'fy_end']]
    merged = merged.merge(
        acc[acc_cols].rename(columns={'fiscal_year': 'data_fy'}),
        on=['ticker', 'data_fy'],
        how='left'
    )

    return merged

# Apply point-in-time merge
panel = pit_merge_accounting(monthly, accounting, lag_months=4)

# Construct common signals
panel['log_mcap'] = np.log(panel['market_cap'].clip(lower=1))
```

```
# Book-to-market
panel['bm'] = panel['book_equity'] / panel['market_cap']
panel.loc[panel['bm'] <= 0, 'bm'] = np.nan  # Negative BE firms

# Gross profitability (Novy-Marx 2013)
panel['gp_at'] = panel['gross_profit'] / panel['total_assets']

# Operating profitability (Fama-French 2015)
panel['op'] = panel['operating_profit'] / panel['book_equity']

# Investment (asset growth)
panel['investment'] = (
    panel.groupby('ticker')['total_assets']
    .pct_change(periods=1)
)

# Leverage
panel['leverage'] = panel['total_debt'] / panel['total_assets']

print("Signal Coverage:")
for sig in ['bm', 'gp_at', 'op', 'investment', 'leverage']:
    pct = panel[sig].notna().mean()
    print(f"  {sig:<15}: {pct:.1%}")
```

19.4.2 Momentum and Volatility Signals

Price-based signals require return history, not accounting data, so they have different timing requirements.

```
# Past returns for momentum signals
panel = panel.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])

# Momentum: cumulative return from month t-12 to t-2 (skip most recent month)
panel['ret_12_2'] = (
    panel.groupby('ticker')['monthly_return']
    .transform(lambda x: x.shift(2).rolling(11).apply(
        lambda r: (1 + r).prod() - 1, raw=True))
)

# Short-term reversal: month t-1 return
panel['ret_1'] = panel.groupby('ticker')['monthly_return'].shift(1)
```

```
# Idiosyncratic volatility (from daily data, rolling 60 days)
daily['date'] = pd.to_datetime(daily['date'])
daily['daily_return'] = daily.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close'].pct_change()

ivol = (
    daily.groupby('ticker')
    .apply(lambda g: g.set_index('date')['daily_return']
           .rolling(60, min_periods=40).std() * np.sqrt(252))
    .reset_index(name='ivol')
)
ivol['month_end'] = ivol['date'].dt.to_period('M').dt.to_timestamp('M')
ivol_monthly = (
    ivol.groupby(['ticker', 'month_end'])['ivol']
    .last()
    .reset_index()
)

panel = panel.merge(ivol_monthly, on=['ticker', 'month_end'], how='left')

print("Price Signal Coverage:")
for sig in ['ret_12_2', 'ret_1', 'ivol']:
    pct = panel[sig].notna().mean()
    print(f"  {sig:<15}: {pct:.1%}")
```

19.5 Step 3: Breakpoint Computation

19.5.1 The Breakpoint Decision

Breakpoints determine which stocks are "high" versus "low" on a given characteristic. The two key choices are:

1. **Breakpoint universe:** Should breakpoints be computed from all stocks or from a subset (e.g., HOSE only)?
2. **Number of groups:** 2×3 (Fama-French standard), 5×5 (for finer sorts), or independent terciles/quintiles?

Eugene F. Fama and French (1993b) use NYSE breakpoints for U.S. sorts because this prevents the large number of small Nasdaq/AMEX stocks from dominating the breakpoint distribution. The analog in Vietnam is to use HOSE breakpoints, since HOSE lists the larger, more liquid firms and HNX lists smaller firms. Using all-stock breakpoints would place most HOSE stocks

in the upper size groups and most HNX stocks in the lower groups, producing mechanically different results.

```
def compute_breakpoints(df, signal_col, n_groups, bp_universe='hose',
                        exchange_col='exchange'):
    """
    Compute cross-sectional breakpoints for portfolio sorting.

    Parameters
    ----------
    bp_universe : str
        'all': use all stocks in universe
        'hose': use only HOSE stocks (analogous to NYSE breakpoints)
    n_groups : int
        Number of groups (2, 3, 5, or 10)

    Returns
    -------
    Series of breakpoints (quantiles)
    """
    signal = df[signal_col].dropna()

    if bp_universe == 'hose':
        mask = df[exchange_col] == 'HOSE'
        signal = df.loc[mask, signal_col].dropna()

    quantiles = np.linspace(0, 1, n_groups + 1)[1:-1]
    breakpoints = signal.quantile(quantiles)

    return breakpoints

# Example: compare HOSE vs all-stock breakpoints for book-to-market
example_month = panel[panel['month_end'] == '2023-06-30'].copy()
example_month = example_month[example_month['bm'].notna()]

bp_hose = compute_breakpoints(example_month, 'bm', 3, bp_universe='hose')
bp_all = compute_breakpoints(example_month, 'bm', 3, bp_universe='all')

print("BM Tercile Breakpoints (June 2023):")
print(f"  HOSE-only: {bp_hose.values.round(3)}")
print(f"  All stocks: {bp_all.values.round(3)}")
print(f"\n  Difference: HOSE breakpoints are "
      f"{'higher' if bp_hose.values[0] > bp_all.values[0] else 'lower'} "
```

```
      f"than all-stock breakpoints")
```

19.6 Step 4: Portfolio Formation

19.6.1 The Generic Factor Engine

We implement a general-purpose factor construction function that takes any signal column and produces a long-short factor return series. The function encapsulates all methodological choices as parameters, making it easy to test sensitivity.

```
def construct_factor(
    panel_df,
    signal_col,
    size_col='market_cap',
    return_col='monthly_return',
    date_col='month_end',
    exchange_col='exchange',
    formation_month=6,
    rebalance_freq='annual',
    n_signal_groups=3,
    n_size_groups=2,
    weighting='value',
    bp_universe='hose',
    independent_sorts=True,
    long_group='high',
    min_stocks_per_portfolio=5,
    signal_lag=0,
    universe_filter='standard'
):
    """
    Construct a tradeable factor following the Fama-French methodology.

    Parameters
    ----------
    signal_col : str
        Column with the sorting variable.
    formation_month : int
        Month of year for portfolio formation (6 = June for FF).
    rebalance_freq : str
        'annual' (FF standard), 'semi', 'quarterly', 'monthly'.
```

```python
# Compute breakpoints for every month
bp_comparison = []
for month, group in panel.dropna(subset=['bm']).groupby('month_end'):
    bp_h = compute_breakpoints(group, 'bm', 3, bp_universe='hose')
    bp_a = compute_breakpoints(group, 'bm', 3, bp_universe='all')

    # Count stocks in each tercile under each rule
    for bp_name, bp_vals in [('HOSE', bp_h), ('All', bp_a)]:
        low = (group['bm'] <= bp_vals.iloc[0]).sum()
        mid = ((group['bm'] > bp_vals.iloc[0]) &
               (group['bm'] <= bp_vals.iloc[1])).sum()
        high = (group['bm'] > bp_vals.iloc[1]).sum()
        bp_comparison.append({
            'month_end': month, 'bp_rule': bp_name,
            'median_bp': bp_vals.iloc[0],
            'n_low': low, 'n_mid': mid, 'n_high': high
        })

bp_df = pd.DataFrame(bp_comparison)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Median breakpoint over time
for rule, color in [('HOSE', '#2C5F8A'), ('All', '#C0392B')]:
    subset = bp_df[bp_df['bp_rule'] == rule]
    axes[0].plot(subset['month_end'], subset['median_bp'],
                 color=color, linewidth=1.5, label=f'{rule} breakpoints')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Lower Tercile Breakpoint (BM)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Breakpoint Time Series')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: Number of stocks in high BM group
for rule, color in [('HOSE', '#2C5F8A'), ('All', '#C0392B')]:
    subset = bp_df[bp_df['bp_rule'] == rule]
    axes[1].plot(subset['month_end'], subset['n_high'],
                 color=color, linewidth=1.5, label=f'{rule} breakpoints')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Stocks in High BM Group')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: High BM Portfolio Size')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 19.2

```
    n_signal_groups : int
        Number of signal groups (3 for FF standard, 5 for quintiles).
    n_size_groups : int
        Number of size groups (2 for FF standard).
    weighting : str
        'value' (VW) or 'equal' (EW).
    bp_universe : str
        'hose' or 'all' for breakpoint computation.
    independent_sorts : bool
        True for independent double sorts (FF standard).
    long_group : str
        'high' or 'low'-which signal group is the long leg.
    signal_lag : int
        Additional months to lag the signal beyond the
        standard point-in-time alignment.

    Returns
    -------
    Dictionary with 'factor_returns', 'portfolio_returns',
    'diagnostics'.
    """
    df = panel_df.copy()

    # Apply universe filter
    df = apply_universe_filters(df, filters=universe_filter)
    df = df[df['in_universe']].copy()

    # Lag the signal if requested
    if signal_lag > 0:
        df[signal_col] = (
            df.groupby('ticker')[signal_col].shift(signal_lag)
        )

    # Determine formation dates
    if rebalance_freq == 'annual':
        # Form portfolios in formation_month, hold for 12 months
        df['formation_date'] = df[date_col].apply(
            lambda d: pd.Timestamp(
                year=d.year if d.month >= formation_month else d.year - 1,
                month=formation_month, day=30
            )
        )
```

```
    elif rebalance_freq == 'monthly':
        df['formation_date'] = df[date_col] - pd.DateOffset(months=1)
    elif rebalance_freq == 'quarterly':
        df['formation_date'] = df[date_col].apply(
            lambda d: pd.Timestamp(
                year=d.year,
                month=((d.month - 1) // 3) * 3 + 1,
                day=1
            ) - pd.DateOffset(days=1)
        )

    # Assign signal and size groups at each formation date
    all_portfolios = []

    formation_dates = sorted(df['formation_date'].unique())

    for f_date in formation_dates:
        # Stocks available at formation
        formation_data = df[df['formation_date'] == f_date].copy()

        # Get signal values at formation
        available = formation_data.dropna(subset=[signal_col, size_col])
        if len(available) < min_stocks_per_portfolio * n_signal_groups * n_size_groups:
            continue

        # Compute breakpoints
        size_bp = compute_breakpoints(
            available, size_col, n_size_groups, bp_universe
        )
        signal_bp = compute_breakpoints(
            available, signal_col, n_signal_groups, bp_universe
        )

        # Assign groups
        available['size_group'] = np.searchsorted(
            size_bp.values, available[size_col].values
        )
        available['signal_group'] = np.searchsorted(
            signal_bp.values, available[signal_col].values
        )

        all_portfolios.append(available)
```

```python
    if not all_portfolios:
        return None

    portfolios = pd.concat(all_portfolios, ignore_index=True)

    # Compute portfolio returns
    def weighted_return(group):
        if weighting == 'value':
            if group[size_col].sum() > 0:
                return np.average(group[return_col], weights=group[size_col])
            else:
                return group[return_col].mean()
        else:
            return group[return_col].mean()

    port_returns = (
        portfolios
        .groupby([date_col, 'size_group', 'signal_group'])
        .apply(weighted_return)
        .reset_index(name='port_return')
    )

    # Construct factor: average of high-signal portfolios minus
    # average of low-signal portfolios (across size groups)
    high_label = n_signal_groups - 1 if long_group == 'high' else 0
    low_label = 0 if long_group == 'high' else n_signal_groups - 1

    high_ports = port_returns[port_returns['signal_group'] == high_label]
    low_ports = port_returns[port_returns['signal_group'] == low_label]

    high_avg = high_ports.groupby(date_col)['port_return'].mean()
    low_avg = low_ports.groupby(date_col)['port_return'].mean()

    factor_returns = (high_avg - low_avg).to_frame('factor_return')

    # Diagnostics
    port_counts = (
        portfolios
        .groupby([date_col, 'size_group', 'signal_group'])['ticker']
        .nunique()
        .reset_index(name='n_stocks')
    )
```

```
    diagnostics = {
        'avg_stocks_per_portfolio': port_counts['n_stocks'].mean(),
        'min_stocks_per_portfolio': port_counts['n_stocks'].min(),
        'ann_return': factor_returns['factor_return'].mean() * 12,
        'ann_vol': factor_returns['factor_return'].std() * np.sqrt(12),
        'sharpe': (factor_returns['factor_return'].mean()
                   / factor_returns['factor_return'].std() * np.sqrt(12)),
        't_stat': (factor_returns['factor_return'].mean()
                   / (factor_returns['factor_return'].std()
                      / np.sqrt(len(factor_returns)))),
        'n_months': len(factor_returns)
    }

    return {
        'factor_returns': factor_returns,
        'portfolio_returns': port_returns,
        'portfolios': portfolios,
        'diagnostics': diagnostics
    }
```

19.6.2 Building the Core Factors

We now use the engine to construct the standard Fama-French factors for Vietnam:

```
# SMB (Size): small minus big
# Signal = market cap; long_group = 'low' (small stocks)
smb_result = construct_factor(
    panel, signal_col='log_mcap', long_group='low',
    formation_month=6, rebalance_freq='annual',
    n_signal_groups=2, n_size_groups=1,  # No double sort for size itself
    weighting='value', bp_universe='hose'
)

# HML (Value): high BM minus low BM
hml_result = construct_factor(
    panel, signal_col='bm', long_group='high',
    formation_month=6, rebalance_freq='annual',
    n_signal_groups=3, n_size_groups=2,
    weighting='value', bp_universe='hose'
)
```

```python
# RMW (Profitability): robust minus weak
rmw_result = construct_factor(
    panel, signal_col='op', long_group='high',
    formation_month=6, rebalance_freq='annual',
    n_signal_groups=3, n_size_groups=2,
    weighting='value', bp_universe='hose'
)

# CMA (Investment): conservative minus aggressive
cma_result = construct_factor(
    panel, signal_col='investment', long_group='low',
    formation_month=6, rebalance_freq='annual',
    n_signal_groups=3, n_size_groups=2,
    weighting='value', bp_universe='hose'
)

# WML (Momentum): winners minus losers
wml_result = construct_factor(
    panel, signal_col='ret_12_2', long_group='high',
    formation_month=6, rebalance_freq='monthly',
    n_signal_groups=3, n_size_groups=2,
    weighting='value', bp_universe='hose'
)

# Summary table
print("Vietnamese Factor Summary:")
print(f"{'Factor':<8} {'Ann. Ret':>10} {'Ann. Vol':>10} {'Sharpe':>8} "
      f"{'t-stat':>8} {'Avg N':>8}")
print("-" * 54)
for name, result in [('SMB', smb_result), ('HML', hml_result),
                     ('RMW', rmw_result), ('CMA', cma_result),
                     ('WML', wml_result)]:
    if result is None:
        continue
    d = result['diagnostics']
    print(f"{name:<8} {d['ann_return']:>10.4f} {d['ann_vol']:>10.4f} "
          f"{d['sharpe']:>8.2f} {d['t_stat']:>8.2f} "
          f"{d['avg_stocks_per_portfolio']:>8.1f}")
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))

factor_colors = {
    'SMB': '#2C5F8A', 'HML': '#C0392B', 'RMW': '#27AE60',
    'CMA': '#E67E22', 'WML': '#8E44AD'
}

for name, result in [('SMB', smb_result), ('HML', hml_result),
                      ('RMW', rmw_result), ('CMA', cma_result),
                      ('WML', wml_result)]:
    if result is None:
        continue
    fr = result['factor_returns']
    cum = (1 + fr['factor_return']).cumprod()
    ax.plot(cum.index, cum.values, color=factor_colors[name],
            linewidth=2, label=name)

ax.axhline(y=1, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_ylabel('Cumulative Return')
ax.set_xlabel('Date')
ax.set_title('Vietnamese Factor Cumulative Returns (2×3 VW, HOSE Breakpoints)')
ax.legend(ncol=5)
ax.set_yscale('log')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 19.3

19.7 Step 5: Sensitivity to Construction Choices

The most important lesson in factor construction is that the resulting factor premium is *not* uniquely determined by the economic hypothesis; it depends substantially on implementation choices. We systematically vary each choice and examine how the factor changes.

19.7.1 Weighting: Value-Weighted vs. Equal-Weighted

```
sensitivity_results = {}

for name, signal, long_grp in [
    ('HML', 'bm', 'high'), ('RMW', 'op', 'high'), ('WML', 'ret_12_2', 'high')
]:
    for wt in ['value', 'equal']:
        result = construct_factor(
            panel, signal_col=signal, long_group=long_grp,
            weighting=wt, bp_universe='hose',
            rebalance_freq='annual' if name != 'WML' else 'monthly'
        )
        if result:
            d = result['diagnostics']
            sensitivity_results[f"{name}_{wt}"] = {
                'Factor': name, 'Weighting': wt,
                'Ann. Return': d['ann_return'],
                't-stat': d['t_stat']
            }

sens_df = pd.DataFrame(sensitivity_results).T
print("VW vs EW Factor Returns:")
print(sens_df.round(3).to_string())
```

19.7.2 Breakpoint Universe: HOSE vs. All Stocks

```
for name, signal, long_grp in [
    ('HML', 'bm', 'high'), ('WML', 'ret_12_2', 'high')
]:
    for bp in ['hose', 'all']:
        result = construct_factor(
```

```
            panel, signal_col=signal, long_group=long_grp,
            bp_universe=bp, weighting='value',
            rebalance_freq='annual' if name != 'WML' else 'monthly'
        )
        if result:
            d = result['diagnostics']
            sensitivity_results[f"{name}_bp_{bp}"] = {
                'Factor': name, 'Breakpoints': bp,
                'Ann. Return': d['ann_return'],
                't-stat': d['t_stat'],
                'Avg N': d['avg_stocks_per_portfolio']
            }

bp_sens = pd.DataFrame({k: v for k, v in sensitivity_results.items()
                        if 'bp_' in k}).T
print("\nBreakpoint Universe Sensitivity:")
print(bp_sens.round(3).to_string())
```

19.7.3 Number of Groups: 2×3 vs. 5×5 vs. Deciles

```
group_configs = [
    (2, 3, '2x3 (FF standard)'),
    (2, 5, '2x5 (quintiles)'),
    (1, 10, '1x10 (deciles)')
]

group_results = {}
for n_size, n_signal, label in group_configs:
    result = construct_factor(
        panel, signal_col='bm', long_group='high',
        n_size_groups=n_size, n_signal_groups=n_signal,
        weighting='value', bp_universe='hose',
        rebalance_freq='annual'
    )
    if result:
        d = result['diagnostics']
        group_results[label] = {
            'Ann. Return': d['ann_return'],
            't-stat': d['t_stat'],
            'Avg N per port': d['avg_stocks_per_portfolio'],
```

```
            'Min N per port': d['min_stocks_per_portfolio']
        }

print("HML: Sorting Granularity Sensitivity:")
print(pd.DataFrame(group_results).T.round(3).to_string())
```

19.7.4 Rebalancing Frequency

```
rebal_results = {}
for freq in ['annual', 'quarterly', 'monthly']:
    result = construct_factor(
        panel, signal_col='bm', long_group='high',
        rebalance_freq=freq, weighting='value', bp_universe='hose'
    )
    if result:
        d = result['diagnostics']
        rebal_results[freq] = {
            'Ann. Return': d['ann_return'],
            'Ann. Vol': d['ann_vol'],
            't-stat': d['t_stat']
        }

print("HML: Rebalancing Frequency Sensitivity:")
print(pd.DataFrame(rebal_results).T.round(4).to_string())
```

19.7.5 Comprehensive Sensitivity Summary

19.8 Factor Correlation Structure

19.9 Factor Validation

A well-constructed factor should pass several diagnostic tests before being used in asset pricing research.

```
# Systematic grid search for HML
configs = list(product(
    ['value', 'equal'],        # Weighting
    ['hose', 'all'],           # Breakpoint universe
    [(2, 3), (2, 5), (1, 10)]  # (n_size, n_signal)
))

grid_results = []
for wt, bp, (ns, nsig) in configs:
    result = construct_factor(
        panel, signal_col='bm', long_group='high',
        weighting=wt, bp_universe=bp,
        n_size_groups=ns, n_signal_groups=nsig,
        rebalance_freq='annual'
    )
    if result:
        d = result['diagnostics']
        grid_results.append({
            'Weighting': 'VW' if wt == 'value' else 'EW',
            'Breakpoints': bp.upper(),
            'Sort': f'{ns}x{nsig}',
            'Ann. Return': d['ann_return'],
            't-stat': d['t_stat']
        })

grid_df = pd.DataFrame(grid_results)
print("HML Factor: Full Sensitivity Grid:")
print(grid_df.to_string(index=False))

# Pivot for heatmap
pivot = grid_df.pivot_table(
    values='Ann. Return', index=['Weighting', 'Breakpoints'],
    columns='Sort'
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
sns.heatmap(pivot * 100, annot=True, fmt='.1f', cmap='RdYlGn',
            center=0, linewidths=0.5, ax=ax,
            cbar_kws={'label': 'Ann. Return (%)'})
ax.set_title('HML Premium: Sensitivity to Construction Choices')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 19.4

```python
# Merge all factor return series
factor_panel = pd.DataFrame()
for name, result in [('SMB', smb_result), ('HML', hml_result),
                        ('RMW', rmw_result), ('CMA', cma_result),
                        ('WML', wml_result)]:
    if result is None:
        continue
    fr = result['factor_returns'].rename(columns={'factor_return': name})
    if factor_panel.empty:
        factor_panel = fr
    else:
        factor_panel = factor_panel.merge(fr, left_index=True,
                                          right_index=True, how='outer')

corr = factor_panel.corr()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 6))
mask = np.triu(np.ones_like(corr, dtype=bool), k=1)
sns.heatmap(corr, mask=mask, annot=True, fmt='.2f', cmap='RdBu_r',
            center=0, vmin=-1, vmax=1, square=True,
            linewidths=0.5, ax=ax)
ax.set_title('Factor Return Correlations')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 19.5

19.9.1 Diagnostic Checklist

```
def validate_factor(factor_result, name):
    """
    Run standard diagnostic tests on a constructed factor.
    """
    fr = factor_result['factor_returns']['factor_return']
    diag = factor_result['diagnostics']
    ports = factor_result['portfolios']

    tests = {}

    # 1. Statistical significance (t > 2)
    tests['t-stat'] = diag['t_stat']
    tests['t > 2'] = abs(diag['t_stat']) > 2.0

    # 2. Economic magnitude
    tests['Ann. Return'] = diag['ann_return']
    tests['Ann. Vol'] = diag['ann_vol']
    tests['Sharpe'] = diag['sharpe']

    # 3. Adequate portfolio diversification
    tests['Avg N per portfolio'] = diag['avg_stocks_per_portfolio']
    tests['Min N per portfolio'] = diag['min_stocks_per_portfolio']
    tests['Min N >= 5'] = diag['min_stocks_per_portfolio'] >= 5

    # 4. Not dominated by a single month
    tests['Max monthly return'] = fr.max()
    tests['Min monthly return'] = fr.min()
    tests['Fraction > 0'] = (fr > 0).mean()

    # 5. Persistence (ACF at lag 1)
    if len(fr) > 12:
        tests['ACF(1)'] = fr.autocorr(lag=1)

    # 6. Consistency across subperiods
    mid = len(fr) // 2
    first_half = fr.iloc[:mid]
    second_half = fr.iloc[mid:]
    tests['Return (1st half)'] = first_half.mean() * 12
    tests['Return (2nd half)'] = second_half.mean() * 12
    tests['Same sign both halves'] = (
```

```
        np.sign(first_half.mean()) == np.sign(second_half.mean())
    )

    return tests

print("Factor Validation Summary:")
print("=" * 70)
for name, result in [('SMB', smb_result), ('HML', hml_result),
                     ('RMW', rmw_result), ('CMA', cma_result),
                     ('WML', wml_result)]:
    if result is None:
        continue
    tests = validate_factor(result, name)
    print(f"\n{name}:")
    for test, value in tests.items():
        if isinstance(value, bool):
            status = 'PASS' if value else 'FAIL'
            print(f"  {test:<30}: {status}")
        elif isinstance(value, float):
            print(f"  {test:<30}: {value:.4f}")
        else:
            print(f"  {test:<30}: {value}")
```

19.9.2 Monotonicity Test

A factor built from a characteristic sort should produce monotonically increasing (or decreasing) average returns across quantiles. Violations of monotonicity suggest the signal-return relationship is nonlinear or absent.

19.9.3 Spanning Tests

Does a new factor add information beyond existing factors? We test this by regressing each factor on all other factors and examining the intercept (alpha). A significant alpha means the factor captures return variation not spanned by the others:

```
factor_names = [c for c in factor_panel.columns if factor_panel[c].notna().sum() > 24]
spanning_data = factor_panel[factor_names].dropna()

print("Spanning Tests (alpha = intercept when regressed on other factors):")
print(f"{'Factor':<8} {'Alpha (ann.)':>12} {'t-stat':>8} {'R²':>6}")
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 3, figsize=(16, 10))
axes = axes.flatten()

signals = [
    ('bm', 'Book-to-Market', 'high'),
    ('op', 'Operating Profit.', 'high'),
    ('investment', 'Investment', 'low'),
    ('ret_12_2', 'Momentum (12-2)', 'high'),
    ('ivol', 'Idio. Volatility', 'low'),
]

for i, (sig, label, long_grp) in enumerate(signals):
    result = construct_factor(
        panel, signal_col=sig, long_group=long_grp,
        n_size_groups=1, n_signal_groups=10,
        weighting='value', bp_universe='hose',
        rebalance_freq='annual' if sig not in ['ret_12_2'] else 'monthly'
    )
    if result is None:
        continue

    port_ret = result['portfolio_returns']
    decile_means = (
        port_ret.groupby('signal_group')['port_return']
        .mean() * 12 * 100
    )

    colors_mono = plt.cm.RdYlGn_r(np.linspace(0.1, 0.9, len(decile_means)))
    axes[i].bar(range(len(decile_means)), decile_means.values,
                color=colors_mono, edgecolor='white')
    axes[i].set_xticks(range(len(decile_means)))
    axes[i].set_xticklabels([f'D{d+1}' for d in range(len(decile_means))],
                            fontsize=8)
    axes[i].set_ylabel('Ann. Return (%)')
    axes[i].set_title(label)
    axes[i].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)

axes[5].set_visible(False)
plt.suptitle('Decile Portfolio Returns by Signal', fontsize=14)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 19.6

```
print("-" * 36)

for target in factor_names:
    others = [f for f in factor_names if f != target]
    y = spanning_data[target]
    X = sm.add_constant(spanning_data[others])
    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6})

    alpha_ann = model.params['const'] * 12
    alpha_t = model.tvalues['const']
    r2 = model.rsquared

    print(f"{target:<8} {alpha_ann:>12.4f} {alpha_t:>8.2f} {r2:>6.3f}")
```

19.10 Vietnamese-Specific Considerations

19.10.1 State-Owned Enterprise Classification

A unique feature of Vietnamese equities is the high proportion of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). The state retains majority or significant minority stakes in many listed firms, which affects governance, information environment, and trading dynamics. Factors may behave differently within SOE and non-SOE subsamples:

```
# Get SOE classification
firm_info = client.get_firm_info(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    fields=['ticker', 'state_ownership_pct', 'is_soe']
)

panel_soe = panel.merge(firm_info[['ticker', 'is_soe']], on='ticker', how='left')

for label, subset in [('SOE', panel_soe[panel_soe['is_soe'] == True]),
                      ('Non-SOE', panel_soe[panel_soe['is_soe'] == False])]:
    hml = construct_factor(
        subset, signal_col='bm', long_group='high',
        weighting='value', bp_universe='all',
        rebalance_freq='annual'
    )
    if hml:
        d = hml['diagnostics']
```

```
        print(f"HML ({label}): Ann = {d['ann_return']:.4f}, "
              f"t = {d['t_stat']:.2f}, N = {d['avg_stocks_per_portfolio']:.0f}")
```

19.10.2 Foreign Ownership Limits

Foreign ownership caps (49% for most sectors, 30% for banking) affect the investable universe for international investors. Factors constructed from the full universe may not be achievable by foreign investors if the long leg concentrates in stocks at the foreign ownership limit:

```
fol = client.get_foreign_ownership(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    fields=['ticker', 'month_end', 'foreign_pct', 'foreign_limit_pct']
)

# Merge with HML portfolios
if hml_result:
    hml_ports = hml_result['portfolios'].merge(
        fol, on=['ticker', 'month_end'], how='left'
    )
    hml_ports['near_limit'] = (
        (hml_ports['foreign_limit_pct'] - hml_ports['foreign_pct']) < 5
    )

    fol_by_group = (
        hml_ports.groupby('signal_group')
        .agg(
            avg_foreign_pct=('foreign_pct', 'mean'),
            pct_near_limit=('near_limit', 'mean')
        )
    )
    print("Foreign Ownership in HML Portfolios:")
    print(fol_by_group.round(3))
```

19.11 Recommended Factor Specifications for Vietnam

Based on the sensitivity analysis, we recommend the following baseline specifications (Table 19.1).

Table 19.1: Recommended factor construction parameters for Vietnamese equities.

Choice	Recommendation	Rationale
Universe	Standard filter (listing age 6m, volume > 0)	Excludes shell firms without losing too much breadth
Breakpoints	HOSE stocks only	Prevents HNX micro-caps from dominating breakpoints
Size groups	2 (median split)	Sufficient control with limited cross-section
Signal groups	3 (terciles) for factor construction; 5 or 10 for portfolio analysis	2×3 = adequate diversification per portfolio
Weighting	Value-weighted	Investable; less noisy than EW
Rebalancing	Annual (June) for accounting signals; monthly for momentum	Standard; consistent with Fama-French
Accounting lag	4 months (available by April for Dec FY)	Conservative PIT alignment
Minimum stocks	5 per portfolio per month	Below this, single-stock idiosyncratic risk dominates

Always report results under the baseline and at least one alternative specification (e.g., EW, all-stock breakpoints) to demonstrate robustness.

19.12 Summary

This chapter has developed a modular, transparent factor construction framework for Vietnamese equities. The key insights are:

- The Eugene F. Fama and French (1993b) 2×3 methodology translates well to Vietnam with one critical adaptation: breakpoints should be computed from HOSE stocks only. Using all-stock breakpoints allows HNX micro-caps to dominate the small-stock groups, inflating apparent premia with economically untradeable returns.
- Value weighting produces more conservative (and more implementable) factor premia than equal weighting. The difference is particularly large for signals correlated with size (BM, investment), where EW overweights the smallest stocks that contribute most to the premium but least to investable returns.

- No single construction choice determines whether a factor "exists." A factor premium that appears only under one specific combination of breakpoints, weighting, and rebalancing frequency is fragile and should be treated with skepticism. Robust factors survive a grid of specifications. The sensitivity analysis framework developed here (e.g., varying weighting, breakpoints, sort granularity, and rebalancing simultaneously) should be standard practice.

The `construct_factor()` function developed in this chapter is designed for reuse throughout the book. Any anomaly variable can be fed through the same pipeline, producing a tradeable factor with full diagnostics. This ensures methodological consistency across chapters and makes it easy to compare premia on an apples-to-apples basis.

20 Fama-MacBeth Regressions

In this chapter, we delve into the implementation of the Eugene F. Fama and MacBeth (1973a) regression approach, a cornerstone of empirical asset pricing. While portfolio sorts provide a robust, non-parametric view of the relationship between characteristics and returns, they struggle when we need to control for multiple factors simultaneously. For instance, in the Vietnamese stock market (HOSE and HNX), small-cap stocks often exhibit high illiquidity. Does the "Size effect" exist because small stocks are risky, or simply because they are illiquid? Fama-MacBeth (FM) regressions allow us to disentangle these effects in a linear framework.

We will implement a version of the FM procedure, accounting for:

1. **Weighted Least Squares (WLS):** To prevent micro-cap stocks, which are prevalent and volatile in Vietnam, from dominating the estimates.
2. **Newey-West Adjustments:** To handle the serial correlation often observed in Vietnamese market risk premiums.

20.1 The Econometric Framework

The Fama-MacBeth procedure is essentially a two-step filter that separates the cross-sectional variation in returns from the time-series variation.

20.1.1 Intuition: Why not Panel OLS?

A naive approach would be to pool all data (N stocks $\times$ T months) and run a single Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression:

$$r_{i,t+1} = \alpha + \beta_{i,t}\lambda + \epsilon_{i,t+1}$$

However, this assumes that the error terms $\epsilon_{i,t+1}$ are independent across firms. In reality, stock returns are highly cross-sectionally correlated (if the VN-Index crashes, most stocks fall together). A pooled OLS would underestimate the standard errors, leading to "false positive" discoveries of risk factors. Fama-MacBeth solves this by running T separate cross-sectional regressions, effectively treating each month as a single independent observation of the risk premium.

20.1.2 Mathematical Derivation

20.1.2.1 Step 1: Cross-Sectional Regressions

For each month t, we estimate the premium $\lambda_{k,t}$ for K factors. Let $r_{i,t+1}$ be the excess return of asset i at time $t+1$. Let $\beta_{i,t}$ be a vector of K characteristics (e.g., Market Beta, Book-to-Market, Size) known at time t.

The model for a specific month t is:

$$\mathbf{r}_{t+1} = \mathbf{X}_t \lambda_{t+1} + \alpha_{t+1} + \epsilon_{t+1}$$

Where:

- $\mathbf{r}_{t+1}$ is an $N \times 1$ vector of returns.
- $\mathbf{X}_t$ is an $N \times (K+1)$ matrix of factor exposures (including a column of ones for the intercept).
- λ_{t+1} is the vector of risk premiums realized in month $t+1$.

To use **Weighted Least Squares (WLS)**, We define a weighting matrix $\mathbf{W}_t$ (typically diagonal with market capitalizations). The estimator for month t is:

$$\hat{\lambda}_{t+1} = (\mathbf{X}_t^\top \mathbf{W}_t \mathbf{X}_t)^{-1} \mathbf{X}_t^\top \mathbf{W}_t \mathbf{r}_{t+1}$$

20.1.2.2 Step 2: Time-Series Aggregation

We now have a time-series of T estimates: $\hat{\lambda}_1, \hat{\lambda}_2, \dots, \hat{\lambda}_T$. The final estimate of the risk premium is the time-series average:

$$\hat{\lambda}_k = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \hat{\lambda}_{k,t}$$

The standard error is derived from the standard deviation of these monthly estimates:

$$\sigma(\hat{\lambda}_k) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T^2} \sum_{t=1}^{T} (\hat{\lambda}_{k,t} - \hat{\lambda}_k)^2}$$

20.2 Data Preparation

We utilize data from our local SQLite database. In Vietnam, the fiscal year typically ends in December, and audited reports are required by April. To ensure no look-ahead bias, we lag accounting data (Book Equity) to match returns starting in July (a 6-month conservative lag, similar to Fama-French, but adapted for Vietnamese reporting delays).

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import sqlite3
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
import statsmodels.api as sm
from pandas.tseries.offsets import MonthEnd

# Connect to the Vietnamese data
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

# Load Monthly Prices (HOSE & HNX)
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
  sql="SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess, mktcap, mktcap_lag FROM prices_monthly",
  con=tidy_finance,
  parse_dates={"date"}
)

# Load Book Equity (derived from Vietnamese Financial Statements)
comp_vn = pd.read_sql_query(
  sql="SELECT datadate, symbol, be FROM comp_vn",
  con=tidy_finance,
  parse_dates={"datadate"}
)

# Load Rolling Market Betas (Pre-calculated in Chapter 'Beta Estimation')
beta_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
  sql="SELECT symbol, date, beta FROM beta_monthly",
  con=tidy_finance,
  parse_dates={"date"}
)
```

We construct our testing characteristics:

1. **(Market Beta):** The sensitivity to the VN-Index.
2. **Size (ln(ME)):** The natural log of market capitalization.

3. **Value (BM):** The ratio of Book Equity to Market Equity.

```
# Prepare Characteristics
characteristics = (
    comp_vn
    # Align reporting date to month end
    .assign(date=lambda x: pd.to_datetime(x["datadate"]) + MonthEnd(0))
    # Merge with price data to get Market Cap at fiscal year end
    .merge(prices_monthly, on=["symbol", "date"], how="left")
    .merge(beta_monthly, on=["symbol", "date"], how="left")
    .assign(
        # Compute Book-to-Market
        bm=lambda x: x["be"] / x["mktcap"],
        log_mktcap=lambda x: np.log(x["mktcap"]),
        # Create sorting date: Financials valid from July of year t+1
        sorting_date=lambda x: x["date"] + pd.DateOffset(months=6) + MonthEnd(0),
    )
    .get(["symbol", "bm", "beta", "sorting_date"])
    .dropna()
)

characteristics.head()
```

	symbol	bm	beta	sorting_date
8729	VTV	7.034945e+08	0.847809	2017-06-30
8732	MTG	2.670306e+09	1.140066	2017-06-30
8739	MKV	6.505031e+08	-0.448319	2017-06-30
8740	MIC	1.243127e+09	0.772140	2017-06-30
8742	MCP	6.657350e+08	0.348139	2017-06-30

```
# Merge back to monthly return panel
data_fm = (prices_monthly
  .merge(characteristics,
         left_on=["symbol", "date"],
         right_on=["symbol", "sorting_date"],
         how="left")
#   .merge(beta_monthly, on=["symbol", "date"], how="left")
  .sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
)

# Forward fill characteristics for 12 months (valid until next report)
```

```
data_fm[["bm"]] = data_fm.groupby("symbol")[["bm"]].ffill(limit=12)

# Log Market Cap is updated monthly
data_fm["log_mktcap"] = np.log(data_fm["mktcap"])

# Lead returns: We use characteristics at t to predict return at t+1
data_fm["ret_excess_lead"] = data_fm.groupby("symbol")["ret_excess"].shift(-1)

# Cleaning: Remove rows with missing future returns or characteristics
data_fm = data_fm.dropna(subset=["ret_excess_lead", "beta", "log_mktcap", "bm"])

print(data_fm.head())

print(f"Data ready: {len(data_fm):,} observations from {data_fm.date.min().date()} to {data_
```

```
    symbol       date  ret_excess       mktcap   mktcap_lag            bm  \
163    AAA 2017-06-30    0.129454  2078.455619  1834.816104  7.929854e+08
175    AAA 2018-06-30   -0.067690  2758.426126  2948.159140  8.161755e+08
187    AAA 2019-06-30    0.030469  3141.519560  3038.799575  1.389438e+09
199    AAA 2020-06-30   -0.035462  2311.250278  2387.972279  1.497272e+09
211    AAA 2021-06-30    0.275355  5423.280296  4241.283308  1.456989e+09

         beta sorting_date  log_mktcap  ret_excess_lead
163  1.479060   2017-06-30    7.639380        -0.051090
175  1.090411   2018-06-30    7.922416        -0.095926
187  1.099956   2019-06-30    8.052462        -0.027856
199  0.954144   2020-06-30    7.745544        -0.098769
211  1.245004   2021-06-30    8.598456        -0.175128
Data ready: 5,075 observations from 2017-06-30 to 2023-06-30
```

20.3 Step 1: Cross-Sectional Regressions with WLS

Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2020b) argue that micro-cap stocks distorts inference because they have high transaction costs and idiosyncratic volatility. In Vietnam, this is exacerbated by "penny stock" speculation.

We implement **Weighted Least Squares (WLS)** where weights are the market capitalization of the prior month. This tests if the factors are priced in the *investable* universe, not just the equal-weighted average of tiny stocks.

```python
def run_cross_section(df):
    # Standardize inputs for numerical stability
    # Note: We do NOT standardize the dependent variable (returns)
    # We standardize regressors to interpret coefficients as "per 1 SD change" if desired,
    # BUT for pure risk premium estimation, we usually keep raw units.
    # Here we use raw units to interpret lambda as % return per unit of characteristic.

    # Define Weighted Least Squares
    model = smf.wls(
        formula="ret_excess_lead ~ beta + log_mktcap + bm",
        data=df,
        weights=df["mktcap_lag"] # Weight by size
    )
    results = model.fit()

    return results.params

# Apply to every month
risk_premiums = (data_fm
  .groupby("date")
  .apply(run_cross_section)
  .reset_index()
)

print(risk_premiums.head())
```

```
        date  Intercept      beta  log_mktcap            bm
0 2017-06-30  -0.089116 -0.063799    0.010284  2.897813e-11
1 2018-06-30  -0.023221 -0.008252    0.001890  1.377518e-11
2 2019-06-30  -0.079373  0.035622    0.006224 -8.139910e-12
3 2020-06-30  -0.031213 -0.114968    0.008999 -2.306768e-11
4 2021-06-30   0.081397 -0.011407   -0.007330 -5.211290e-11
```

20.4 Step 2: Time-Series Aggregation & Hypothesis Testing

We now possess the time-series of risk premiums. We calculate the arithmetic mean and the -statistics.

Crucially, we use **Newey-West (HAC)** standard errors. Risk premiums in Vietnam often exhibit autocorrelation (momentum in factor performance). A simple standard error formula would be invalid.

```python
def calculate_fama_macbeth_stats(df, lags=6):
    summary = []

    for col in ["Intercept", "beta", "log_mktcap", "bm"]:
        series = df[col]

        # 1. Point Estimate (Average Risk Premium)
        mean_premium = series.mean()

        # 2. Newey-West Standard Error
        # We regress the series on a constant (ones) to get the SE of the mean
        exog = sm.add_constant(np.ones(len(series)))
        nw_model = sm.OLS(series, exog).fit(
            cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': lags}
        )

        se = nw_model.bse.iloc[0]
        t_stat = nw_model.tvalues.iloc[0]

        summary.append({
            "Factor": col,
            "Premium (%)": mean_premium * 100,
            "Std Error": se * 100,
            "t-statistic": t_stat,
            "Significance": "*" if abs(t_stat) > 1.96 else ""
        })

    return pd.DataFrame(summary)

price_of_risk = calculate_fama_macbeth_stats(risk_premiums)
print(price_of_risk.round(4))
```

```
       Factor  Premium (%)  Std Error  t-statistic Significance
0   Intercept      -1.8174     1.9117      -0.9507
1        beta      -1.7859     1.0407      -1.7161
2  log_mktcap       0.2347     0.2048       1.1457
3          bm      -0.0000     0.0000      -0.0928
```

20.4.1 Visualizing the Time-Varying Risk Premium

One major advantage of the FM approach is that we can inspect the volatility of the risk premiums over time. In Vietnam, we expect the "Size" premium to be highly volatile during periods of retail liquidity injection (e.g., 2020-2021).

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mtick

# Calculate cumulative returns of the factors (as if they were tradable portfolios)
cumulative_premiums = (risk_premiums
    .set_index("date")
    .drop(columns=["Intercept"])
    .cumsum()
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))
cumulative_premiums.plot(ax=ax, linewidth=2)
ax.set_title("Cumulative Risk Premiums in Vietnam (Fama-MacBeth)", fontsize=14)
ax.set_ylabel("Cumulative Coefficient Return")
ax.legend(title="Factor")
ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
plt.show()
```

Figure 20.1: Cumulative Risk Premiums in Vietnam.

1. **Market Beta:** In many empirical studies (including the US), the market beta premium is often insignificant or even negative (the "Betting Against Beta" anomaly). In Vietnam, if the -stat is , it implies the CAPM does not explain the cross-section of returns.
2. **Size (Log Mktcap):** A negative coefficient confirms the "Size Effect"—smaller firms have higher expected returns. However, using WLS often weakens this result compared to OLS, suggesting the size premium is concentrated in micro-caps.
3. **Value (BM):** A positive coefficient confirms the Value premium. In Vietnam, value stocks (high B/M) often outperform growth stocks, particularly in the manufacturing and banking sectors.

Figure 20.1 plots the cumulative sum of the monthly Fama MacBeth risk premium estimates for beta, size, and value. Because these lines cumulate estimated cross sectional prices of risk rather than actual portfolio returns, the figure should be interpreted as showing the time variation and persistence of estimated premia, not investable performance.

The beta premium displays a clear regime shift around 2020, with a sharp decline that only partially reverses afterward. This pattern suggests that the pricing of systematic risk in Vietnam is unstable over short samples and may be heavily influenced by episodic market conditions such as the post COVID retail trading boom. The size premium is comparatively smoother but small in magnitude, indicating only weak and time varying evidence that firm

size is priced in the cross section during this period. The value premium remains close to zero throughout, implying little consistent cross sectional reward to high book to market firms in this sample window.

Overall, the figure highlights that estimated risk premia in the Vietnamese market are highly time varying and sensitive to specific macro and market regimes, reinforcing the need for caution when drawing conclusions from short samples.

20.5 Sanity Checks

20.5.1 Time-Series Volatility Check

Fama-MacBeth relies on the assumption that the risk premium varies over time. If your `bm` premium is truly near zero every month, the method fails.

Action: Plot the time series of the estimated coefficients . You want to see "noise" around a mean. If you see a flat line or a single massive spike, your data is corrupted.

```
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Plot the time series of the BM risk premium
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))
risk_premiums["bm"].plot(ax=ax, title="Monthly Value Premium (BM) Coefficient")
ax.axhline(0, color="black", linestyle="--")
ax.set_ylabel("Slope Coefficient")
plt.show()
```

20.5.2 Correlation of Characteristics (Multicollinearity)

In Vietnam, large-cap stocks (high `log_mktcap`) are often the ones with high Book-to-Market ratios (banks/utilities) or specific Betas. If your factors are highly correlated, the Fama-MacBeth coefficients will be unstable and insignificant (low t-stats), even if the factors actually matter.

Action: Check the cross-sectional correlation.

```
# Check correlation of the characteristics
corr_matrix = data_fm[["beta", "log_mktcap", "bm"]].corr()
print(corr_matrix)
```

```
               beta  log_mktcap        bm
beta        1.000000    0.392776 -0.033748
log_mktcap  0.392776    1.000000 -0.203307
bm         -0.033748   -0.203307  1.000000
```

Interpretation:

- If correlation > 0.7 (absolute value), the regression struggles to distinguish between the two factors.
- For example, if `Size` and `Liquidity` are -0.8 correlated, the model cannot tell which one is driving the return, often resulting in both having insignificant t-stats.

21 Factor Zoo and Multiple Testing

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we confront the multiple testing problem in empirical asset pricing. We replicate a broad set of published anomalies in the Vietnamese market, apply formal corrections for the number of tests conducted, estimate the proportion of false discoveries, and develop a framework for deciding which factors deserve credence.

By 2016, academic finance had documented over 300 variables that purportedly predict the cross-section of stock returns. Cochrane (2011) memorably called this proliferation a "zoo of factors." Campbell R. Harvey, Liu, and Zhu (2016b) cataloged over 300 published factors and argued that the standard significance threshold of $t > 2.0$ was far too low given the sheer number of hypotheses tested, either explicitly or implicitly, across decades of research. Their proposed threshold of $t > 3.0$ (and in some cases $t > 3.78$) would eliminate the majority of published anomalies.

The problem is not merely academic. Every researcher who sorts stocks on a new variable and finds $t > 2$ is implicitly testing a hypothesis that has already been tested hundreds of times with different variables. The probability that *at least one* of 300 independent tests produces $t > 2$ by chance (even when no true effect exists) is essentially 1.0. This is the multiple testing problem, and failing to account for it means that a substantial fraction of the "factor zoo" consists of false discoveries.

For Vietnamese equity research, the problem is arguably worse. The cross-section is smaller (600-800 stocks vs. 4,000+ in the U.S.), the time series is shorter (2008- vs. 1963-), and the data are noisier (illiquidity, zero-trading days, accounting irregularities). All of these amplify the risk of both Type I errors (finding something that isn't there) and Type II errors (missing something that is). This chapter provides the statistical tools to navigate this landscape rigorously.

21.1 The Scale of the Problem

21.1.1 How Many Factors Exist?

Campbell R. Harvey, Liu, and Zhu (2016b) counted over 300 factors published in top journals through 2012. A. Chen and Zimmermann (2022) constructed and made publicly available over

300 "clearly significant" anomalies from the U.S. literature. Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2020a) attempted to replicate 452 anomalies and found that 64% (with VW returns) failed to achieve $t > 1.96$ in their sample. T. I. Jensen, Kelly, and Pedersen (2023) took a more optimistic view, finding that most factors replicate in direction if not always in magnitude.

The key insight is that the number of factors *tested* far exceeds the number *published*. For every published factor with $t > 2$, there may be dozens of unpublished tests with $t < 2$ that never saw print, which is the classic file drawer problem. The true number of tests conducted collectively by the profession is unknowable, but certainly in the thousands.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy import stats
from statsmodels.stats.multitest import multipletests
from itertools import product
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

```
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Monthly returns (survivorship-bias-free)
monthly = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap',
        'exchange', 'volume_avg_20d', 'turnover_value_avg_20d',
```

```
        'n_zero_volume_days'
    ]
)

# Pre-computed characteristic panel (from factor construction chapter)
characteristics = client.get_characteristics_panel(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True
)

# Factor returns for spanning tests
factors_ff = client.get_factor_returns(
    market='vietnam',
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    factors=['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma', 'wml']
)

monthly['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(monthly['month_end'])

print(f"Monthly returns: {len(monthly):,}")
print(f"Characteristics: {characteristics.shape}")
print(f"Available signals: {[c for c in characteristics.columns if c not in ['ticker', 'month
```

21.2 Building the Anomaly Zoo

21.2.1 Signal Definitions

We construct a comprehensive set of anomaly variables spanning the major categories from the literature. Each signal is lagged appropriately to avoid look-ahead bias (accounting signals use point-in-time alignment; price signals use the prior month's value).

```
# Merge returns with characteristics
panel = monthly.merge(characteristics, on=['ticker', 'month_end'], how='left')
panel = panel.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])

# ============================================================
# Category 1: VALUE (8 signals)
```

```python
# ============================================================
# Already in characteristics panel from PIT merge:
# bm, ep, cfp, sp, dp, ev_ebitda
# Add earnings yield variants
value_signals = ['bm', 'ep', 'cfp', 'sp', 'dp']

# ============================================================
# Category 2: SIZE (3 signals)
# ============================================================
panel['log_mcap'] = np.log(panel['market_cap'].clip(lower=1))
panel['log_assets'] = np.log(panel['total_assets'].clip(lower=1))
panel['log_revenue'] = np.log(panel['revenue'].clip(lower=1))
size_signals = ['log_mcap', 'log_assets', 'log_revenue']

# ============================================================
# Category 3: PROFITABILITY (8 signals)
# ============================================================
# GP/A (Novy-Marx 2013), OP (FF 2015), ROE, ROA, etc.
prof_signals = ['gp_at', 'op', 'roe', 'roa', 'profit_margin',
                 'asset_turnover', 'gross_margin', 'oper_margin']

# ============================================================
# Category 4: INVESTMENT / GROWTH (6 signals)
# ============================================================
inv_signals = ['asset_growth', 'capex_at', 'investment',
                'sales_growth', 'equity_issuance', 'debt_issuance']

# ============================================================
# Category 5: MOMENTUM / REVERSAL (6 signals)
# ============================================================
# Compute from returns
for lag_start, lag_end, name in [
    (2, 12, 'ret_12_2'), (2, 6, 'ret_6_2'), (7, 12, 'ret_12_7'),
    (1, 1, 'ret_1'), (1, 3, 'ret_3_1')
]:
    if name not in panel.columns:
        panel[name] = (
            panel.groupby('ticker')['monthly_return']
            .transform(lambda x: x.shift(lag_start).rolling(lag_end - lag_start + 1)
                       .apply(lambda r: (1 + r).prod() - 1, raw=True))
        )
# Earnings momentum (SUE) should already be in characteristics
```

```python
mom_signals = ['ret_12_2', 'ret_6_2', 'ret_12_7', 'ret_1', 'ret_3_1', 'sue']

# ============================================================
# Category 6: RISK (5 signals)
# ============================================================
risk_signals = ['beta', 'ivol', 'tvol', 'max_ret', 'skewness']

# ============================================================
# Category 7: LIQUIDITY / TRADING (6 signals)
# ============================================================
liq_signals = ['amihud', 'zero_return_pct', 'log_turnover',
                'roll_spread', 'cs_spread', 'volume_cv']

# ============================================================
# Category 8: QUALITY / FINANCIAL HEALTH (5 signals)
# ============================================================
qual_signals = ['leverage', 'current_ratio', 'accruals',
                 'earnings_variability', 'piotroski_f']

# ============================================================
# Category 9: DIVIDEND / PAYOUT (3 signals)
# ============================================================
div_signals = ['div_yield', 'payout_ratio', 'net_repurchase']

# Combine all
all_signals = (value_signals + size_signals + prof_signals +
               inv_signals + mom_signals + risk_signals +
               liq_signals + qual_signals + div_signals)

# Remove signals with too little coverage
signal_coverage = {}
for sig in all_signals:
    if sig in panel.columns:
        cov = panel[sig].notna().mean()
        signal_coverage[sig] = cov

signal_coverage = pd.Series(signal_coverage).sort_values(ascending=False)
valid_signals = signal_coverage[signal_coverage > 0.30].index.tolist()

print(f"Total signals defined: {len(all_signals)}")
print(f"Signals with >30% coverage: {len(valid_signals)}")
print(f"\nSignal categories:")
```

```
for cat_name, sigs in [
    ('Value', value_signals), ('Size', size_signals),
    ('Profitability', prof_signals), ('Investment', inv_signals),
    ('Momentum', mom_signals), ('Risk', risk_signals),
    ('Liquidity', liq_signals), ('Quality', qual_signals),
    ('Dividend', div_signals)
]:
    n_valid = sum(1 for s in sigs if s in valid_signals)
    print(f"  {cat_name:<15}: {n_valid}/{len(sigs)}")
```

21.2.2 Mass Factor Construction

We run the factor construction engine (from the previous chapter) across all valid signals to produce a "zoo" of factor returns:

```
# Import the factor engine from previous chapter
# (In practice, this would be imported from a shared module)

def construct_factor_simple(panel_df, signal_col, long_high=True,
                            n_groups=5, weighting='value',
                            min_stocks=20):
    """
    Simplified factor construction: quintile sort on signal,
    long-short = Q5 - Q1 (or reversed if long_high=False).
    Returns a Series of monthly long-short returns.
    """
    df = panel_df[['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return',
                   'market_cap', signal_col]].dropna().copy()
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])

    # Lag the signal by one month
    df['signal_lag'] = df.groupby('ticker')[signal_col].shift(1)
    df = df.dropna(subset=['signal_lag', 'monthly_return'])

    results = []
    for month, group in df.groupby('month_end'):
        if len(group) < min_stocks:
            continue

        group['quintile'] = pd.qcut(
            group['signal_lag'].rank(method='first'),
```

```
            n_groups, labels=False, duplicates='drop'
        )

        if weighting == 'value':
            def wret(g):
                if g['market_cap'].sum() > 0:
                    return np.average(g['monthly_return'],
                                      weights=g['market_cap'])
                return g['monthly_return'].mean()
            port_ret = group.groupby('quintile').apply(wret)
        else:
            port_ret = group.groupby('quintile')['monthly_return'].mean()

        if 0 in port_ret.index and (n_groups - 1) in port_ret.index:
            if long_high:
                ls = port_ret[n_groups - 1] - port_ret[0]
            else:
                ls = port_ret[0] - port_ret[n_groups - 1]
            results.append({'month_end': month, 'ls_return': ls})

    if not results:
        return None
    return pd.DataFrame(results).set_index('month_end')['ls_return']

# Determine expected sign for each signal
# (positive = high signal predicts high returns)
signal_directions = {
    # Value: high = higher returns
    'bm': True, 'ep': True, 'cfp': True, 'sp': True, 'dp': True,
    # Size: small = higher returns (low signal = high returns)
    'log_mcap': False, 'log_assets': False, 'log_revenue': False,
    # Profitability: high = higher returns
    'gp_at': True, 'op': True, 'roe': True, 'roa': True,
    'profit_margin': True, 'asset_turnover': True,
    'gross_margin': True, 'oper_margin': True,
    # Investment: low growth = higher returns
    'asset_growth': False, 'capex_at': False, 'investment': False,
    'sales_growth': False, 'equity_issuance': False,
    'debt_issuance': False,
    # Momentum: high = higher returns (except reversal)
    'ret_12_2': True, 'ret_6_2': True, 'ret_12_7': True,
    'ret_1': False, 'ret_3_1': False, 'sue': True,
```

```
    # Risk: low risk = higher returns (anomaly direction)
    'beta': False, 'ivol': False, 'tvol': False,
    'max_ret': False, 'skewness': False,
    # Liquidity: illiquid = higher returns
    'amihud': True, 'zero_return_pct': True,
    'log_turnover': False, 'roll_spread': True,
    'cs_spread': True, 'volume_cv': True,
    # Quality: high quality = higher returns
    'leverage': False, 'current_ratio': True, 'accruals': False,
    'earnings_variability': False, 'piotroski_f': True,
    # Dividend: high = higher returns
    'div_yield': True, 'payout_ratio': True, 'net_repurchase': False,
}

# Construct all factors
zoo_results = {}
for sig in valid_signals:
    long_high = signal_directions.get(sig, True)
    ls = construct_factor_simple(
        panel, sig, long_high=long_high,
        n_groups=5, weighting='value'
    )
    if ls is not None and len(ls) >= 60:
        mean_ret = ls.mean()
        se = ls.std() / np.sqrt(len(ls))
        t = mean_ret / se if se > 0 else 0

        zoo_results[sig] = {
            'mean_monthly': mean_ret,
            'ann_return': mean_ret * 12,
            'ann_vol': ls.std() * np.sqrt(12),
            'sharpe': mean_ret / ls.std() * np.sqrt(12) if ls.std() > 0 else 0,
            't_stat': t,
            'abs_t': abs(t),
            'p_value': 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t), df=len(ls) - 1)),
            'n_months': len(ls),
            'direction': 'Long High' if long_high else 'Long Low',
            'category': next(
                (cat for cat, sigs in [
                    ('Value', value_signals), ('Size', size_signals),
                    ('Profitability', prof_signals),
                    ('Investment', inv_signals),
```

```
                    ('Momentum', mom_signals), ('Risk', risk_signals),
                    ('Liquidity', liq_signals),
                    ('Quality', qual_signals),
                    ('Dividend', div_signals)
                ] if sig in sigs), 'Other'
            ),
            'returns': ls  # Store for later use
        }

zoo_df = pd.DataFrame({k: {kk: vv for kk, vv in v.items() if kk != 'returns'}
                        for k, v in zoo_results.items()}).T
zoo_df = zoo_df.sort_values('abs_t', ascending=False)

print(f"Factors successfully constructed: {len(zoo_df)}")
print(f"Factors with |t| > 2.0: {(zoo_df['abs_t'] > 2.0).sum()} "
      f"({(zoo_df['abs_t'] > 2.0).mean():.1%})")
print(f"Factors with |t| > 3.0: {(zoo_df['abs_t'] > 3.0).sum()} "
      f"({(zoo_df['abs_t'] > 3.0).mean():.1%})")
```

21.3 The Multiple Testing Problem

21.3.1 Why Single-Test p-Values Are Misleading

Suppose you test M independent hypotheses, each at significance level $\alpha = 0.05$. Under the global null (no true effects), the expected number of false rejections is $M \times \alpha$. For $M = 50$ anomalies, you expect 2.5 "significant" results by pure chance.

The probability of *at least one* false rejection is:

$$P(\text{at least one false discovery}) = 1 - (1 - \alpha)^M \tag{21.1}$$

For $M = 50$ and $\alpha = 0.05$, this is $1 - 0.95^{50} = 0.923$. For $M = 300$, it is essentially 1. The single-test p-value is useless for deciding which of many tested factors are genuine.

21.3.2 Two Error Rate Concepts

Multiple testing corrections control one of two error rates:

Family-Wise Error Rate (FWER). The probability of making *at least one* Type I error across all tests. This is the most conservative criterion. If FWER = 0.05, you can be 95%

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(16, 6))

# Panel A: Histogram
t_vals = zoo_df['t_stat'].values
axes[0].hist(t_vals, bins=30, color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.7,
             edgecolor='white', density=True)

# Overlay normal distribution under null
x_range = np.linspace(-5, 5, 200)
axes[0].plot(x_range, stats.norm.pdf(x_range), 'k--', linewidth=1.5,
             label='N(0,1) null')

# Threshold lines
axes[0].axvline(x=1.96, color='#E67E22', linestyle='--', linewidth=1.5,
                label='|t| = 1.96')
axes[0].axvline(x=-1.96, color='#E67E22', linestyle='--', linewidth=1.5)
axes[0].axvline(x=3.0, color='#C0392B', linestyle='--', linewidth=1.5,
                label='|t| = 3.0 (HLZ)')
axes[0].axvline(x=-3.0, color='#C0392B', linestyle='--', linewidth=1.5)
axes[0].set_xlabel('t-statistic')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Density')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: t-Statistic Distribution')
axes[0].legend(fontsize=9)

# Panel B: Ranked bar chart
top_n = min(40, len(zoo_df))
top = zoo_df.head(top_n).copy()

category_colors = {
    'Value': '#2C5F8A', 'Size': '#1ABC9C', 'Profitability': '#27AE60',
    'Investment': '#E67E22', 'Momentum': '#C0392B', 'Risk': '#8E44AD',
    'Liquidity': '#3498DB', 'Quality': '#F1C40F', 'Dividend': '#95A5A6'
}
bar_colors = [category_colors.get(top.iloc[i]['category'], '#BDC3C7')
              for i in range(len(top))]

axes[1].barh(range(top_n), top['abs_t'].values,
             color=bar_colors, alpha=0.85, edgecolor='white')
axes[1].set_yticks(range(top_n))
axes[1].set_yticklabels(top.index, fontsize=7)
axes[1].axvline(x=1.96, color='#E67E22', linestyle='--', linewidth=1)
axes[1].axvline(x=3.0, color='#C0392B', linestyle='--', linewidth=1)
axes[1].set_xlabel('|t-statistic|')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Anomalies Ranked by |t|')
axes[1].invert_yaxis()
```



```
# Legend for categories
from matplotlib.patches import Patch
legend_elements = [Patch(facecolor=c, label=cat)
                   for cat, c in category_colors.items()]
axes[1].legend(handles=legend_elements, fontsize=7,
               loc='lower right', ncol=2)
```

confident that *every* rejected null is a true discovery. Methods: Bonferroni (1936) correction, Holm step-down, Romano and Wolf (2005).

False Discovery Rate (FDR). The expected *proportion* of rejected hypotheses that are false. This is less conservative. If FDR = 0.05, you expect that 5% of your discoveries are false, but the other 95% are real. Methods: Benjamini and Hochberg (1995) (BH), Storey (2003).

In asset pricing, FDR control is generally more appropriate than FWER because we are not trying to guarantee zero false discoveries, we are trying to identify a set of factors where *most* are genuine. A researcher who controls FDR at 5% and discovers 10 factors expects approximately 0.5 of them to be false, which is acceptable for building a factor model.

```
M_range = np.arange(1, 301)
alpha = 0.05

fwer_unadj = 1 - (1 - alpha) ** M_range
fwer_bonf = np.minimum(1, M_range * alpha)  # Not actual FWER, just threshold

# Expected false discoveries at alpha = 0.05
expected_false = M_range * alpha

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

axes[0].plot(M_range, fwer_unadj, color='#C0392B', linewidth=2,
             label='Unadjusted FWER')
axes[0].axhline(y=0.05, color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=1,
                label='  = 0.05 target')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Number of Tests (M)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('P( 1 False Discovery)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Family-Wise Error Rate')
axes[0].legend()

axes[1].plot(M_range, expected_false, color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Number of Tests (M)')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Expected False Discoveries')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Expected False Discoveries at   = 0.05')
axes[1].axhline(y=1, color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=0.8)
axes[1].text(250, 1.5, '1 false discovery', color='gray', fontsize=9)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.2

21.4 Correction Methods

21.4.1 Bonferroni Correction (FWER Control)

The simplest and most conservative correction: reject hypothesis i only if its p-value is below α/M, where M is the total number of tests:

$$\text{Reject } H_{0,i} \text{ if } p_i < \frac{\alpha}{M} \tag{21.2}$$

This controls FWER at α regardless of the dependence structure among tests. The cost is severe loss of power: for $M = 50$ tests at $\alpha = 0.05$, the per-test threshold becomes 0.001, requiring $|t| > 3.29$.

```
M = len(zoo_df)
alpha = 0.05

# Bonferroni threshold
bonf_threshold = alpha / M
bonf_t_threshold = stats.norm.ppf(1 - bonf_threshold / 2)

zoo_df['bonf_reject'] = zoo_df['p_value'] < bonf_threshold

print(f"Number of tests: {M}")
print(f"Bonferroni p-value threshold: {bonf_threshold:.6f}")
print(f"Equivalent t-statistic threshold: {bonf_t_threshold:.2f}")
print(f"Rejections: {zoo_df['bonf_reject'].sum()} / {M}")
print(f"\nSurviving anomalies:")
survivors = zoo_df[zoo_df['bonf_reject']]
if len(survivors) > 0:
    print(survivors[['ann_return', 't_stat', 'category']].to_string())
else:
    print("  None survive Bonferroni correction")
```

21.4.2 Holm Step-Down Procedure (FWER Control)

The Holm procedure is uniformly more powerful than Bonferroni while still controlling FWER. It ranks p-values from smallest to largest and applies progressively less stringent thresholds:

1. Sort p-values: $p_{(1)} \leq p_{(2)} \leq ... \leq p_{(M)}$
2. For $i = 1, 2, ...$, reject $H_{0,(i)}$ if $p_{(i)} < \alpha/(M - i + 1)$
3. Stop at the first i where $H_{0,(i)}$ is not rejected

```
p_values = zoo_df['p_value'].values
signal_names = zoo_df.index.values

# Using statsmodels implementation
reject_holm, pvals_corrected_holm, _, _ = multipletests(
    p_values, alpha=0.05, method='holm'
)

zoo_df['holm_reject'] = reject_holm
zoo_df['holm_p_corrected'] = pvals_corrected_holm

print(f"Holm rejections: {reject_holm.sum()} / {M}")
holm_survivors = zoo_df[zoo_df['holm_reject']]
if len(holm_survivors) > 0:
    print("\nSurviving anomalies (Holm):")
    print(holm_survivors[['ann_return', 't_stat', 'holm_p_corrected',
                          'category']].to_string())
```

21.4.3 Benjamini-Hochberg Procedure (FDR Control)

The Benjamini and Hochberg (1995) (BH) procedure controls the False Discovery Rate (i.e., the expected proportion of rejections that are false) at level q:

1. Sort p-values: $p_{(1)} \leq p_{(2)} \leq \ldots \leq p_{(M)}$
2. Find the largest k such that $p_{(k)} \leq \frac{k}{M} q$
3. Reject all $H_{0,(i)}$ for $i = 1, \ldots, k$

The BH procedure is valid under independence or positive dependence (PRDS), a condition that is generally satisfied for financial factor tests where factors tend to be positively correlated under the null.

```
# BH procedure at q = 0.05 (expect 5% false discoveries)
reject_bh, pvals_corrected_bh, _, _ = multipletests(
    p_values, alpha=0.05, method='fdr_bh'
)

zoo_df['bh_reject'] = reject_bh
zoo_df['bh_p_corrected'] = pvals_corrected_bh

# Also at q = 0.10 (more liberal)
reject_bh10, _, _, _ = multipletests(
```

```
    p_values, alpha=0.10, method='fdr_bh'
)
zoo_df['bh10_reject'] = reject_bh10

print(f"BH rejections (q=0.05): {reject_bh.sum()} / {M}")
print(f"BH rejections (q=0.10): {reject_bh10.sum()} / {M}")

bh_survivors = zoo_df[zoo_df['bh_reject']].sort_values('abs_t', ascending=False)
if len(bh_survivors) > 0:
    print(f"\nSurviving anomalies (BH, q=0.05):")
    print(bh_survivors[['ann_return', 't_stat', 'bh_p_corrected',
                        'category']].head(20).to_string())
```

21.4.4 The Harvey-Liu-Zhu Threshold

Campbell R. Harvey, Liu, and Zhu (2016b) take a different approach: rather than applying a formal multiple-testing correction to a specific set of tests, they estimate the hurdle t-statistic that accounts for the *cumulative* number of factors tested by the entire profession. Using a Bayesian framework calibrated to the 316 published factors, they derive:

- For a single new factor tested in isolation: $|t| > 2.0$ (conventional)
- Accounting for 100 prior tests: $|t| > 2.8$
- Accounting for 316 prior tests: $|t| > 3.0$
- Accounting for all conceivable tests: $|t| > 3.78$

The logic is that even if *your* study tests only one factor, the fact that hundreds of researchers have tested hundreds of signals before you means the prior probability that your specific signal is a true predictor is low.

```
hlz_thresholds = {
    'Conventional (|t| > 2.0)': 2.0,
    'HLZ 100 tests (|t| > 2.8)': 2.8,
    'HLZ 316 tests (|t| > 3.0)': 3.0,
    'HLZ conservative (|t| > 3.78)': 3.78
}

print("Anomalies Surviving Different t-Thresholds:")
print(f"{'Threshold':<35} {'Surviving':>10} {'% of Zoo':>10}")
print("-" * 55)

for name, thresh in hlz_thresholds.items():
```

```
sorted_pvals = np.sort(p_values)
k = np.arange(1, M + 1)
bh_line_05 = k / M * 0.05
bh_line_10 = k / M * 0.10

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))

ax.scatter(k, sorted_pvals, s=15, color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.7,
           label='Sorted p-values', zorder=3)
ax.plot(k, bh_line_05, color='#C0392B', linewidth=2,
        label='BH line (q=0.05)')
ax.plot(k, bh_line_10, color='#E67E22', linewidth=2,
        linestyle='--', label='BH line (q=0.10)')

# Highlight rejections
n_reject_05 = reject_bh.sum()
if n_reject_05 > 0:
    ax.scatter(k[:n_reject_05], sorted_pvals[:n_reject_05],
               s=40, color='#C0392B', zorder=4, label=f'Rejected (q=0.05)')

ax.set_xlabel('Rank (k)')
ax.set_ylabel('p-value')
ax.set_title('Benjamini-Hochberg Procedure')
ax.legend()
ax.set_ylim([-0.01, 0.15])
ax.set_xlim([0, min(M, 60)])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.3

```
    n_survive = (zoo_df['abs_t'] > thresh).sum()
    pct = n_survive / len(zoo_df) * 100
    print(f"{name:<35} {n_survive:>10} {pct:>10.1f}%")
```

21.5 Comparison of Methods

```
comparison = {
    'Unadjusted (|t| > 2)': (zoo_df['abs_t'] > 2.0).sum(),
    'Bonferroni': zoo_df['bonf_reject'].sum(),
    'Holm': zoo_df['holm_reject'].sum(),
    'BH (q=0.05)': zoo_df['bh_reject'].sum(),
    'BH (q=0.10)': zoo_df['bh10_reject'].sum(),
    'HLZ (|t| > 3.0)': (zoo_df['abs_t'] > 3.0).sum(),
    'HLZ (|t| > 3.78)': (zoo_df['abs_t'] > 3.78).sum(),
}

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))

names = list(comparison.keys())
counts = list(comparison.values())
colors = ['#BDC3C7', '#C0392B', '#E74C3C', '#27AE60', '#2ECC71',
          '#2C5F8A', '#1A3C5A']

bars = ax.barh(range(len(names)), counts, color=colors,
               alpha=0.85, edgecolor='white')
ax.set_yticks(range(len(names)))
ax.set_yticklabels(names)
ax.set_xlabel('Number of Surviving Anomalies')
ax.set_title('Anomalies Surviving Multiple Testing Corrections')

for i, (name, count) in enumerate(zip(names, counts)):
    ax.text(count + 0.3, i, str(count), va='center', fontsize=10)

ax.invert_yaxis()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.4

```python
cat_survival = (
    zoo_df.groupby('category')
    .agg(
        n_total=('abs_t', 'count'),
        n_survive_bh=('bh_reject', 'sum'),
        n_survive_hlz=('abs_t', lambda x: (x > 3.0).sum()),
        mean_abs_t=('abs_t', 'mean')
    )
    .sort_values('mean_abs_t', ascending=False)
)
cat_survival['survival_rate_bh'] = (
    cat_survival['n_survive_bh'] / cat_survival['n_total']
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 5))

x = np.arange(len(cat_survival))
ax.bar(x, cat_survival['n_total'], color='#BDC3C7', alpha=0.5,
       label='Total tested', edgecolor='white')
ax.bar(x, cat_survival['n_survive_bh'], color='#27AE60', alpha=0.85,
       label='Survive BH (q=0.05)', edgecolor='white')

ax.set_xticks(x)
ax.set_xticklabels(cat_survival.index, rotation=30, fontsize=9)
ax.set_ylabel('Number of Anomalies')
ax.set_title('Anomaly Survival by Category')
ax.legend()

# Add survival rate text
for i, (_, row) in enumerate(cat_survival.iterrows()):
    if row['n_total'] > 0:
        ax.text(i, row['n_total'] + 0.2,
                f"{row['survival_rate_bh']:.0%}",
                ha='center', fontsize=9, color='#27AE60')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.5

21.6 Estimating the False Discovery Proportion

21.6.1 The Storey Approach

Rather than controlling FDR at a pre-specified level, we can *estimate* the proportion of tested hypotheses that are truly null (π_0) and the implied false discovery proportion (FDP) at any given threshold. Storey (2003) proposes estimating π_0 from the distribution of p-values: under the null, p-values are uniformly distributed on $[0, 1]$, so the density of p-values in the "flat" region (away from zero) reveals π_0.

$$\hat{\pi}_0(\lambda) = \frac{\#\{p_i > \lambda\}}{M(1-\lambda)} \tag{21.3}$$

for a tuning parameter λ. The estimated false discovery proportion at threshold t^* is then:

$$\widehat{\mathrm{FDP}}(t^*) = \frac{\hat{\pi}_0 \cdot M \cdot P(|t| > t^* | H_0)}{\#\{|t_i| > t^*\}} \tag{21.4}$$

```
def estimate_pi0(p_values, lambdas=np.arange(0.05, 0.95, 0.05)):
    """
    Estimate pi_0 (proportion of true nulls) using Storey (2003).
    Uses bootstrap to select optimal lambda.
    """
    M = len(p_values)
    pi0_estimates = []

    for lam in lambdas:
        n_above = (p_values > lam).sum()
        pi0 = n_above / (M * (1 - lam))
        pi0_estimates.append({'lambda': lam, 'pi0': min(pi0, 1.0)})

    pi0_df = pd.DataFrame(pi0_estimates)

    # Use the median of estimates for robustness
    # (alternatives: bootstrap, spline smoothing)
    pi0_hat = pi0_df['pi0'].median()

    return pi0_hat, pi0_df

pi0_hat, pi0_df = estimate_pi0(zoo_df['p_value'].values)

print(f"Estimated   (proportion of true nulls): {pi0_hat:.3f}")
```

```
print(f"Implied proportion of true factors: {1 - pi0_hat:.3f}")
print(f"Estimated number of true factors: {(1 - pi0_hat) * len(zoo_df):.0f} "
      f"out of {len(zoo_df)}")
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: p-value histogram
axes[0].hist(zoo_df['p_value'], bins=20, density=True,
             color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.7, edgecolor='white')
axes[0].axhline(y=pi0_hat, color='#C0392B', linewidth=2, linestyle='--',
                label=f'  = {pi0_hat:.2f} (null density)')
axes[0].axhline(y=1, color='gray', linewidth=1, linestyle=':',
                label='Uniform (all null)')
axes[0].set_xlabel('p-value')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Density')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: p-Value Distribution')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: pi_0 estimates across lambda
axes[1].plot(pi0_df['lambda'], pi0_df['pi0'],
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2, marker='o', markersize=4)
axes[1].axhline(y=pi0_hat, color='#C0392B', linestyle='--',
                linewidth=1.5, label=f'Median   = {pi0_hat:.2f}')
axes[1].set_xlabel(' ')
axes[1].set_ylabel(' ( )')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B:   Estimates by  ')
axes[1].legend()
axes[1].set_ylim([0, 1.05])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.6

21.6.2 FDP Curve

Using $\hat{\pi}_0$, we compute the estimated FDP at every possible t-threshold:

```
t_thresholds = np.arange(1.0, 5.01, 0.1)
fdp_curve = []

for t_thresh in t_thresholds:
    n_rejected = (zoo_df['abs_t'] > t_thresh).sum()
    if n_rejected == 0:
        fdp_curve.append({'t_threshold': t_thresh, 'n_rejected': 0,
                          'fdp': 0})
        continue

    # Expected false discoveries under null
    p_null_reject = 2 * (1 - stats.norm.cdf(t_thresh))
    expected_false = pi0_hat * len(zoo_df) * p_null_reject

    fdp = min(expected_false / n_rejected, 1.0)
    fdp_curve.append({'t_threshold': t_thresh, 'n_rejected': n_rejected,
                      'fdp': fdp})

fdp_df = pd.DataFrame(fdp_curve)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: FDP curve
axes[0].plot(fdp_df['t_threshold'], fdp_df['fdp'] * 100,
             color='#C0392B', linewidth=2)
axes[0].axhline(y=5, color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=1,
                label='5% FDP')
axes[0].axhline(y=10, color='gray', linestyle=':', linewidth=1,
                label='10% FDP')
axes[0].axvline(x=2.0, color='#E67E22', linestyle='--',
                linewidth=1, label='|t| = 2.0')
axes[0].axvline(x=3.0, color='#2C5F8A', linestyle='--',
                linewidth=1, label='|t| = 3.0')
axes[0].set_xlabel('|t| Threshold')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Estimated FDP (%)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: False Discovery Proportion')
axes[0].legend(fontsize=8)
axes[0].set_ylim([-2, 80])

# Panel B: Number of rejections
axes[1].plot(fdp_df['t_threshold'], fdp_df['n_rejected'],
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2)
axes[1].set_xlabel('|t| Threshold')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Number of Discoveries')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Discoveries vs Threshold')
```



```
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.7

21.7 Bootstrap-Based Multiple Testing

21.7.1 The White Reality Check

Analytical corrections assume known distributions. When return distributions are non-normal (heavy tails, skewness, serial correlation), as they are in Vietnam, bootstrap methods provide more reliable inference.

White (2000) proposes a bootstrap reality check that accounts for data snooping across multiple strategies. The null hypothesis is that the best strategy has zero expected return. The procedure:

1. Generate B bootstrap samples of the time series (block bootstrap to preserve serial dependence).
2. For each bootstrap sample, compute the t-statistic for every factor.
3. The p-value for factor i is the proportion of bootstrap samples in which the maximum t-statistic across all factors exceeds the observed t-statistic of factor i.

```
def white_reality_check(factor_returns_dict, n_bootstrap=1000,
                        block_size=6, seed=42):
    """
    White (2000) Reality Check for data snooping.

    Parameters
    ----------
    factor_returns_dict : dict
        {factor_name: pd.Series of monthly returns}
    n_bootstrap : int
        Number of bootstrap replications
    block_size : int
        Block length for circular block bootstrap

    Returns
    -------
    DataFrame with original t-stats and bootstrap p-values
    """
    rng = np.random.default_rng(seed)

    # Align all factor returns to common dates
    all_names = list(factor_returns_dict.keys())
    common_dates = None
    for name in all_names:
        dates = set(factor_returns_dict[name].index)
```

```
        common_dates = dates if common_dates is None else common_dates & dates
    common_dates = sorted(common_dates)
    T = len(common_dates)

    # Build return matrix (T x M)
    M = len(all_names)
    return_matrix = np.column_stack([
        factor_returns_dict[name].reindex(common_dates).values
        for name in all_names
    ])

    # Observed t-statistics
    means = np.nanmean(return_matrix, axis=0)
    ses = np.nanstd(return_matrix, axis=0) / np.sqrt(T)
    t_obs = means / np.where(ses > 0, ses, np.nan)

    # Block bootstrap
    n_blocks = int(np.ceil(T / block_size))
    max_t_bootstrap = np.zeros(n_bootstrap)

    for b in range(n_bootstrap):
        # Circular block bootstrap
        block_starts = rng.integers(0, T, size=n_blocks)
        indices = np.concatenate([
            np.arange(start, start + block_size) % T
            for start in block_starts
        ])[:T]

        boot_returns = return_matrix[indices, :]

        # Center under null (subtract original mean)
        boot_centered = boot_returns - means[np.newaxis, :]

        # Compute t-stats under null
        boot_means = np.nanmean(boot_centered, axis=0)
        boot_ses = np.nanstd(boot_centered, axis=0) / np.sqrt(T)
        boot_t = boot_means / np.where(boot_ses > 0, boot_ses, np.nan)

        max_t_bootstrap[b] = np.nanmax(np.abs(boot_t))

    # Bootstrap p-values (one-sided: is obs_t extreme relative to max?)
    boot_pvals = np.array([
```

```
        np.mean(max_t_bootstrap >= abs(t)) if np.isfinite(t) else 1.0
        for t in t_obs
    ])

    results = pd.DataFrame({
        'factor': all_names,
        't_stat_obs': t_obs,
        'boot_pval': boot_pvals
    }).set_index('factor')

    return results, max_t_bootstrap

# Collect factor return series
factor_returns_dict = {
    name: zoo_results[name]['returns']
    for name in zoo_results
    if 'returns' in zoo_results[name]
}

boot_results, max_t_dist = white_reality_check(
    factor_returns_dict, n_bootstrap=1000, block_size=6
)

boot_results = boot_results.sort_values('t_stat_obs', ascending=False)

print("White Reality Check Results (top 20):")
print(boot_results.head(20).round(4).to_string())
print(f"\nFactors surviving (boot p < 0.05): "
      f"{(boot_results['boot_pval'] < 0.05).sum()}")
```

21.7.2 Romano-Wolf Step-Down Bootstrap

The Romano and Wolf (2005) step-down procedure improves on the White Reality Check by iteratively removing rejected hypotheses and re-testing the remaining ones, gaining power at each step:

```
def romano_wolf_stepdown(factor_returns_dict, n_bootstrap=1000,
                         block_size=6, alpha=0.05, seed=42):
    """
    Romano-Wolf (2005) step-down procedure for FWER control.
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 5))

ax.hist(max_t_dist, bins=40, density=True, color='#BDC3C7',
        alpha=0.7, edgecolor='white', label='Bootstrap null\n(max |t| across all factors)')

# 95th percentile
p95 = np.percentile(max_t_dist, 95)
ax.axvline(x=p95, color='#C0392B', linewidth=2, linestyle='--',
           label=f'95th percentile = {p95:.2f}')

# Observed top factor t-statistics
top_5 = boot_results.head(5)
for i, (name, row) in enumerate(top_5.iterrows()):
    ax.axvline(x=abs(row['t_stat_obs']),
               color=plt.cm.Set1(i), linewidth=1.5, linestyle=':',
               label=f'{name}: |t| = {abs(row["t_stat_obs"]):.2f}')

ax.set_xlabel('Maximum |t-statistic|')
ax.set_ylabel('Density')
ax.set_title("White's Reality Check: Bootstrap Null Distribution")
ax.legend(fontsize=8, loc='upper right')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.8

```
    More powerful than single-step methods because rejected
    hypotheses are removed before re-testing.
    """
    rng = np.random.default_rng(seed)

    all_names = list(factor_returns_dict.keys())
    common_dates = None
    for name in all_names:
        dates = set(factor_returns_dict[name].index)
        common_dates = dates if common_dates is None else common_dates & dates
    common_dates = sorted(common_dates)
    T = len(common_dates)
    M = len(all_names)

    return_matrix = np.column_stack([
        factor_returns_dict[name].reindex(common_dates).values
        for name in all_names
    ])

    means = np.nanmean(return_matrix, axis=0)
    ses = np.nanstd(return_matrix, axis=0) / np.sqrt(T)
    t_obs = np.abs(means / np.where(ses > 0, ses, np.nan))

    # Sort by observed t-stat (descending)
    order = np.argsort(-t_obs)
    t_sorted = t_obs[order]
    names_sorted = [all_names[i] for i in order]

    # Step-down procedure
    rejected = set()
    remaining = set(range(M))

    for step in range(M):
        if not remaining:
            break

        remaining_idx = sorted(remaining)

        # Bootstrap max t-stat among remaining
        n_blocks = int(np.ceil(T / block_size))
        max_t_boot = np.zeros(n_bootstrap)
```

```
        for b in range(n_bootstrap):
            block_starts = rng.integers(0, T, size=n_blocks)
            indices = np.concatenate([
                np.arange(start, start + block_size) % T
                for start in block_starts
            ])[:T]

            boot_returns = return_matrix[indices][:, remaining_idx]
            boot_centered = boot_returns - means[remaining_idx]

            boot_means = np.nanmean(boot_centered, axis=0)
            boot_ses = np.nanstd(boot_centered, axis=0) / np.sqrt(T)
            boot_t = np.abs(boot_means / np.where(boot_ses > 0, boot_ses, np.nan))

            max_t_boot[b] = np.nanmax(boot_t)

        # Critical value
        cv = np.percentile(max_t_boot, (1 - alpha) * 100)

        # Test the most significant remaining factor
        # Find the factor with highest t among remaining
        best_remaining = max(remaining, key=lambda j: t_obs[j])

        if t_obs[best_remaining] > cv:
            rejected.add(best_remaining)
            remaining.remove(best_remaining)
        else:
            break  # Cannot reject any more

    results = pd.DataFrame({
        'factor': all_names,
        't_stat': t_obs,
        'rejected': [i in rejected for i in range(M)]
    }).sort_values('t_stat', ascending=False)

    return results

rw_results = romano_wolf_stepdown(
    factor_returns_dict, n_bootstrap=500, block_size=6
)

print(f"Romano-Wolf rejections: {rw_results['rejected'].sum()} / {len(rw_results)}")
```

```
print("\nRejected factors:")
print(rw_results[rw_results['rejected']][['factor', 't_stat']].to_string())
```

21.8 Out-of-Sample Validation

21.8.1 Pre-Publication vs. Post-Publication Decay

McLean and Pontiff (2016) find that anomaly returns decline by 32% after publication in the U.S. market, suggesting that roughly one-third of the premium was due to mispricing that was corrected by informed trading. For Vietnam, we use a time-series split as a proxy for out-of-sample testing:

```
# Split at midpoint of available data
all_dates = sorted(panel['month_end'].unique())
mid_date = all_dates[len(all_dates) // 2]

oos_comparison = []

for name in zoo_results:
    ls = zoo_results[name]['returns']

    in_sample = ls[ls.index <= mid_date]
    out_sample = ls[ls.index > mid_date]

    if len(in_sample) < 36 or len(out_sample) < 36:
        continue

    is_mean = in_sample.mean() * 12
    is_t = in_sample.mean() / (in_sample.std() / np.sqrt(len(in_sample)))

    oos_mean = out_sample.mean() * 12
    oos_t = out_sample.mean() / (out_sample.std() / np.sqrt(len(out_sample)))

    oos_comparison.append({
        'signal': name,
        'is_return': is_mean,
        'is_t': is_t,
        'oos_return': oos_mean,
        'oos_t': oos_t,
        'decay_pct': (1 - oos_mean / is_mean) * 100 if is_mean != 0 else np.nan,
```

```
        'same_sign': np.sign(is_mean) == np.sign(oos_mean),
        'category': zoo_results[name].get('category', 'Other')
    })

oos_df = pd.DataFrame(oos_comparison)

print(f"Split date: {mid_date.strftime('%Y-%m')}")
print(f"Factors with same sign IS and OOS: "
      f"{oos_df['same_sign'].mean():.1%}")
print(f"Average OOS decay: {oos_df['decay_pct'].median():.1f}%")
```

21.9 Which Factors Survive?

21.9.1 A Multi-Hurdle Filter

We now combine all the evidence, including multiple testing corrections, out-of-sample performance, and economic plausibility, to identify the factors that deserve credence in the Vietnamese market.

```
# Merge all test results
final = zoo_df.copy()

# Add OOS results
oos_lookup = oos_df.set_index('signal')
for col in ['oos_return', 'oos_t', 'same_sign']:
    final[col] = final.index.map(lambda x: oos_lookup.loc[x, col]
                                 if x in oos_lookup.index else np.nan)

# Add bootstrap results
boot_lookup = boot_results
final['boot_pval'] = final.index.map(
    lambda x: boot_lookup.loc[x, 'boot_pval']
    if x in boot_lookup.index else np.nan
)

# Multi-hurdle criteria
final['pass_t2'] = final['abs_t'] > 2.0
final['pass_t3'] = final['abs_t'] > 3.0
final['pass_bh'] = final['bh_reject']
final['pass_boot'] = final['boot_pval'] < 0.05
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Scatter
category_colors = {
    'Value': '#2C5F8A', 'Size': '#1ABC9C', 'Profitability': '#27AE60',
    'Investment': '#E67E22', 'Momentum': '#C0392B', 'Risk': '#8E44AD',
    'Liquidity': '#3498DB', 'Quality': '#F1C40F', 'Dividend': '#95A5A6'
}

for cat in oos_df['category'].unique():
    subset = oos_df[oos_df['category'] == cat]
    axes[0].scatter(subset['is_return'] * 100, subset['oos_return'] * 100,
                    color=category_colors.get(cat, '#BDC3C7'),
                    s=50, alpha=0.7, label=cat, edgecolors='white')

lim = max(abs(oos_df['is_return'].max()), abs(oos_df['oos_return'].max())) * 100 + 2
axes[0].plot([-lim, lim], [-lim, lim], 'k--', linewidth=1, alpha=0.5)
axes[0].plot([-lim, lim], [0, 0], color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].plot([0, 0], [-lim, lim], color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_xlabel('In-Sample Return (% ann.)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Out-of-Sample Return (% ann.)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: IS vs OOS Factor Returns')
axes[0].legend(fontsize=7, ncol=2)

# Panel B: Decay by category
cat_decay = (
    oos_df.groupby('category')
    .agg(
        median_decay=('decay_pct', 'median'),
        pct_same_sign=('same_sign', 'mean'),
        n=('signal', 'count')
    )
    .sort_values('median_decay')
)

colors_bar = [category_colors.get(cat, '#BDC3C7') for cat in cat_decay.index]
axes[1].barh(range(len(cat_decay)), cat_decay['median_decay'],
             color=colors_bar, alpha=0.85, edgecolor='white')
axes[1].set_yticks(range(len(cat_decay)))
axes[1].set_yticklabels(cat_decay.index)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Median OOS Decay (%)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: OOS Decay by Category')
axes[1].axvline(x=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.8)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```


Figure 21.9

```
final['pass_oos_sign'] = final['same_sign'] == True
final['pass_oos_t'] = final['oos_t'].abs() > 1.5  # Relaxed OOS threshold

# Count hurdles passed
hurdle_cols = ['pass_t2', 'pass_t3', 'pass_bh', 'pass_boot',
                'pass_oos_sign', 'pass_oos_t']
final['n_hurdles'] = final[hurdle_cols].sum(axis=1)

# "Robust" = passes at least 5 of 6 hurdles
final['robust'] = final['n_hurdles'] >= 5

robust_factors = final[final['robust']].sort_values('abs_t', ascending=False)

print(f"Multi-Hurdle Filter Results:")
print(f"  Pass |t| > 2.0:        {final['pass_t2'].sum()}")
print(f"  Pass |t| > 3.0:        {final['pass_t3'].sum()}")
print(f"  Pass BH (q=0.05):      {final['pass_bh'].sum()}")
print(f"  Pass bootstrap:        {final['pass_boot'].sum()}")
print(f"  Pass OOS sign:         {final['pass_oos_sign'].sum()}")
print(f"  Pass OOS |t| > 1.5:    {final['pass_oos_t'].sum()}")
print(f"\n  ROBUST ( 5/6 hurdles): {final['robust'].sum()}")

if len(robust_factors) > 0:
    print(f"\nRobust Factors:")
    display_cols = ['ann_return', 't_stat', 'bh_p_corrected',
                    'oos_return', 'oos_t', 'n_hurdles', 'category']
    available_cols = [c for c in display_cols if c in robust_factors.columns]
    print(robust_factors[available_cols].round(3).to_string())
```

21.10 Implications for Vietnamese Factor Research

The analysis in this chapter yields several practical implications:

The conventional threshold is insufficient. With $M \approx 50$ anomalies tested simultaneously, requiring only $|t| > 2.0$ virtually guarantees false discoveries. Vietnamese researchers should adopt a minimum threshold of $|t| > 3.0$ for individual factors, consistent with Campbell R. Harvey, Liu, and Zhu (2016b), and should report BH-adjusted p-values for any study testing multiple signals.

The small cross-section amplifies noise. With 600-800 stocks, quintile portfolios contain only 120-160 stocks each. This creates noisier portfolio returns and wider confidence intervals

```
top25 = final.sort_values('abs_t', ascending=False).head(25)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 10))

hurdle_matrix = top25[hurdle_cols].astype(float).values

sns.heatmap(hurdle_matrix, ax=ax,
            xticklabels=['|t|>2', '|t|>3', 'BH', 'Boot', 'OOS sign', 'OOS |t|'],
            yticklabels=top25.index,
            cmap=['#E74C3C', '#27AE60'],
            cbar=False, linewidths=0.5, linecolor='white',
            annot=np.where(hurdle_matrix == 1, ' ', ' '),
            fmt='')

# Add hurdle count column
for i, (_, row) in enumerate(top25.iterrows()):
    ax.text(len(hurdle_cols) + 0.3, i + 0.5,
            f"{int(row['n_hurdles'])}/6",
            va='center', fontsize=9,
            fontweight='bold' if row['n_hurdles'] >= 5 else 'normal',
            color='#27AE60' if row['n_hurdles'] >= 5 else '#C0392B')

ax.set_title('Multi-Hurdle Test Results (Top 25 Anomalies)')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 21.10

than in U.S. studies with 4,000+ stocks. Strategies that appear significant in the U.S. at $|t| = 2.5$ may have $|t| < 1.5$ in Vietnam simply due to the smaller sample. This is not evidence that the factor doesn't exist in Vietnam, it is evidence that the Vietnamese data lack power to detect it.

Out-of-sample validation is essential. The time-series split reveals substantial decay for many anomalies, consistent with McLean and Pontiff (2016). Factors that survive both in-sample and out-of-sample with consistent sign and magnitude are rare and valuable.

Category matters. Momentum and profitability signals tend to have the highest replication rates across markets (Eugene F. Fama and French 2012; Jacobs and Müller 2020). Value and investment signals are more country-specific (Griffin 2002). Liquidity signals are likely to be strongest in emerging markets like Vietnam, where trading frictions are largest.

Report the full battery. Any study that presents a new factor for the Vietnamese market should report: (i) the raw t-statistic, (ii) the BH-adjusted p-value given the number of tests in the study, (iii) out-of-sample performance in a held-out period, and (iv) sensitivity to construction choices (from the previous chapter). This reporting standard would dramatically improve the credibility of Vietnamese factor research.

21.11 Summary

Table 21.1: Summary of multiple testing methods and their properties.

Method	Controls	Threshold (approx.)	Surviving	Philosophy
Unadjusted	Single test	$\|t\| > 2.0$	Many	No correction
Bonferroni	FWER	$\|t\| > 3.3$–4.0	Few	Zero false positives
Holm	FWER	Stepwise	Few	Slightly less conservative
BH	FDR at q	Adaptive	Moderate	Tolerates some false positives
HLZ	Profession-wide	$\|t\| > 3.0$–3.78	Moderate	Prior over all tested factors
White/RW Bootstrap	FWER (data-driven)	Bootstrap CV	Few	Accounts for non-normality
Storey FDP	FDP estimate	Continuous	Diagnostic	Estimates true null proportion
Multi-hurdle	Combined	Multiple tests	Most robust	Requires convergent evidence

The factor zoo is not a uniquely American phenomenon. The temptation to test many signals and report the best-performing ones exists in every market. In Vietnam, where the data are shorter, noisier, and the academic community is growing rapidly, the risk of false discovery is high. The tools developed in this chapter, including BH adjustment, bootstrap reality checks, Storey's π_0 estimation, out-of-sample splits, and the multi-hurdle filter, provide a principled framework for separating genuine factors from statistical noise.

The honest conclusion is likely to be humbling: of the dozens of anomalies documented in developed markets, only a handful survive rigorous multiple testing in Vietnamese data. Those survivors (probably concentrated in momentum, profitability, and liquidity) form the foundation for credible asset pricing research in this market.

22 Time-Series vs. Cross-Sectional Factor Tests

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we implement and compare the two dominant approaches to testing asset pricing models: time-series regressions (do factors explain individual stock or portfolio returns?) and cross-sectional regressions (do factor exposures explain expected returns?), and develop the diagnostic tools to understand when and why they disagree.

Every factor model makes two distinct claims. The **time-series claim** is that a set of factors explains the common variation in individual stock returns (i.e., when the factors move, stocks move with them in proportion to their exposures). The **cross-sectional claim** is that differences in average returns across stocks are explained by differences in their factor exposures (i.e., stocks that load more heavily on a factor earn higher (or lower) average returns in proportion to the factor's risk premium).

These claims are logically related but empirically distinct. A factor can explain time-series variation without explaining the cross-section (if the factor's risk premium is zero, exposure to it creates no return differential). Conversely, a characteristic can predict the cross-section of returns without operating through a traded factor (if the characteristic captures mispricing rather than risk).

Eugene F. Fama and French (2020) formalize this distinction and show that the two approaches can give materially different answers about which factors matter. Goyal and Jegadeesh (2018) go further and demonstrate that time-series and cross-sectional tests can disagree about the same model (e.g., a factor can have a significant time-series alpha in one test and an insignificant cross-sectional premium in the other, or vice versa). Understanding *why* they disagree is essential for interpreting asset pricing evidence.

This chapter equips the reader with both toolkits, applied to Vietnamese data, and develops the intuition for when each is appropriate.

22.1 The Two Testing Frameworks

22.1.1 Time-Series Regressions

The time-series approach tests whether a factor model explains the returns of a set of test assets (typically portfolios). For each test asset i, estimate:

$$R_{i,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_{i,1} f_{1,t} + \beta_{i,2} f_{2,t} + ... + \beta_{i,K} f_{K,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{22.1}$$

where $f_{k,t}$ are the K factor returns. The intercept α_i measures the average return of asset i that is *not* explained by the factors. Under the null that the model correctly prices asset i, $\alpha_i = 0$.

The joint test of $H_0 : \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = ... = \alpha_N = 0$ across all N test assets is performed using the Gibbons, Ross, and Shanken (1989) (GRS) test statistic:

$$\text{GRS} = \frac{T - N - K}{N} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + \bar{f}' \hat{\Sigma}_f^{-1} \bar{f}} \cdot \hat{\alpha}' \hat{\Sigma}_\varepsilon^{-1} \hat{\alpha} \sim F(N, T - N - K) \tag{22.2}$$

where $\bar{f}$ is the vector of factor means, $\hat{\Sigma}_f$ is the factor covariance matrix, and $\hat{\Sigma}_\varepsilon$ is the residual covariance matrix. A large GRS statistic rejects the model.

22.1.2 Cross-Sectional Regressions (Fama-MacBeth)

The Eugene F. Fama and MacBeth (1973b) cross-sectional approach tests whether factor exposures are priced (i.e., whether stocks with higher betas on a factor earn higher average returns). The procedure has two stages:

Stage 1 (Time-Series). For each asset, estimate factor betas from a time-series regression over a rolling or full-sample window:

$$R_{i,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_{i,1} f_{1,t} + ... + \beta_{i,K} f_{K,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{22.3}$$

Stage 2 (Cross-Section). Each month t, regress the cross-section of realized excess returns on the estimated betas:

$$R_{i,t} - R_{f,t} = \gamma_{0,t} + \gamma_{1,t} \hat{\beta}_{i,1} + ... + \gamma_{K,t} \hat{\beta}_{i,K} + \eta_{i,t} \tag{22.4}$$

The time-series averages $\bar{\gamma}_k = \frac{1}{T} \sum_t \gamma_{k,t}$ estimate the risk premia, and the standard errors use the time-series standard deviation of $\{\gamma_{k,t}\}$.

22.1.3 Key Differences

Table 22.1: Comparison of time-series and cross-sectional testing frameworks.

Dimension	Time-Series	Cross-Section
What it tests	Do factors explain return variation?	Do factor exposures explain average returns?
Key statistic	Alpha (intercept)	Risk premium (γ)
Joint test	GRS F-test	Chi-squared on γ's
Test assets	Portfolios (usually)	Individual stocks or portfolios
Factors	Must be traded returns	Can be non-traded (macro, characteristics)
Null hypothesis	$\alpha_i = 0$ for all i	γ_k equals factor mean return
Errors-in-variables	Not an issue (factors observed)	Estimated betas create EIV bias

22.2 Data Construction

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy import stats
from scipy.linalg import inv
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

```
from datacore import DataCoreClient
```

```python
client = DataCoreClient()

# Factor returns
factors = client.get_factor_returns(
    market='vietnam',
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    factors=['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma', 'wml']
)
factors['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(factors['month_end'])
factors = factors.set_index('month_end')

# Test portfolios: 25 size-BM portfolios (5x5 independent sorts)
test_portfolios_25 = client.get_sorted_portfolios(
    market='vietnam',
    sort_vars=['size', 'bm'],
    n_groups=[5, 5],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    weighting='value'
)

# Test portfolios: 25 size-momentum portfolios
test_portfolios_mom = client.get_sorted_portfolios(
    market='vietnam',
    sort_vars=['size', 'momentum_12_2'],
    n_groups=[5, 5],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    weighting='value'
)

# Test portfolios: 10 industry portfolios
test_portfolios_ind = client.get_sorted_portfolios(
    market='vietnam',
    sort_vars=['icb_sector'],
    n_groups=[10],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    weighting='value'
)
```

```python
# Monthly individual stock returns for Fama-MacBeth
stock_returns = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap']
)

# Risk-free rate
rf = client.get_risk_free_rate(
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly'
)

print(f"Factor months: {len(factors)}")
print(f"25 Size-BM portfolios: {test_portfolios_25.shape}")
print(f"25 Size-Mom portfolios: {test_portfolios_mom.shape}")
print(f"10 Industry portfolios: {test_portfolios_ind.shape}")
print(f"Stock-months: {len(stock_returns):,}")
```

```python
# Convert test portfolios to excess returns
# Each portfolio set is a DataFrame: rows = months, columns = portfolios
def prepare_test_assets(port_df, rf_df):
    """Convert portfolio returns to excess returns matrix."""
    port = port_df.set_index('month_end')
    rf_aligned = rf_df.set_index('month_end')['rf'].reindex(port.index)
    excess = port.subtract(rf_aligned, axis=0)
    return excess.dropna()

excess_25_bm = prepare_test_assets(test_portfolios_25, rf)
excess_25_mom = prepare_test_assets(test_portfolios_mom, rf)
excess_10_ind = prepare_test_assets(test_portfolios_ind, rf)

print(f"Size-BM test assets: {excess_25_bm.shape[1]} portfolios, "
      f"{excess_25_bm.shape[0]} months")
print(f"Size-Mom test assets: {excess_25_mom.shape[1]} portfolios, "
      f"{excess_25_mom.shape[0]} months")
print(f"Industry test assets: {excess_10_ind.shape[1]} portfolios, "
      f"{excess_10_ind.shape[0]} months")
```

22.3 Time-Series Tests

22.3.1 Full-Sample Time-Series Regressions

We begin by running full-sample time-series regressions of each test portfolio on the Fama-French five-factor model plus momentum:

```
def time_series_regressions(excess_returns, factor_df, factor_cols,
                            cov_type='HAC', maxlags=6):
    """
    Run time-series regressions of test assets on factors.

    Returns DataFrame of alphas, betas, t-stats, and R-squared.
    """
    # Align dates
    common = excess_returns.index.intersection(factor_df.index)
    Y = excess_returns.loc[common]
    X = factor_df.loc[common, factor_cols]
    X_const = sm.add_constant(X)

    results = {}
    for col in Y.columns:
        y = Y[col].dropna()
        x = X_const.loc[y.index]

        model = sm.OLS(y, x).fit(
            cov_type=cov_type,
            cov_kwds={'maxlags': maxlags} if cov_type == 'HAC' else {}
        )

        result = {
            'alpha': model.params['const'],
            'alpha_t': model.tvalues['const'],
            'alpha_p': model.pvalues['const'],
            'r_squared': model.rsquared,
            'r_squared_adj': model.rsquared_adj
        }
        for f in factor_cols:
            result[f'beta_{f}'] = model.params[f]
            result[f't_{f}'] = model.tvalues[f]

        results[col] = result
```

```
    return pd.DataFrame(results).T

# Define models to test
models = {
    'CAPM': ['mkt_excess'],
    'FF3': ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml'],
    'FF5': ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma'],
    'FF5+WML': ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma', 'wml'],
}

# Run for 25 Size-BM portfolios
print("Time-Series Alphas: 25 Size-BM Portfolios")
print("=" * 60)

ts_results = {}
for model_name, factor_cols in models.items():
    result = time_series_regressions(
        excess_25_bm, factors, factor_cols
    )
    ts_results[model_name] = result

    mean_alpha = result['alpha'].mean() * 12
    mean_abs_alpha = result['alpha'].abs().mean() * 12
    pct_sig = (result['alpha_p'] < 0.05).mean()
    mean_r2 = result['r_squared'].mean()

    print(f"\n{model_name}:")
    print(f"  Mean alpha (ann.): {mean_alpha:.4f}")
    print(f"  Mean |alpha| (ann.): {mean_abs_alpha:.4f}")
    print(f"  % sig. at 5%: {pct_sig:.1%}")
    print(f"  Mean R²: {mean_r2:.3f}")
```

22.3.2 The GRS Test

```
def grs_test(excess_returns, factor_df, factor_cols):
    """
    Gibbons, Ross, Shanken (1989) test of H0: all alphas = 0.

    Returns GRS statistic, p-value, and related diagnostics.
    """
```

```
common = excess_returns.index.intersection(factor_df.index)
Y = excess_returns.loc[common].values  # T x N
F = factor_df.loc[common, factor_cols].values  # T x K

T, N = Y.shape
K = F.shape[1]

# Add constant and run OLS for each asset
F_const = np.column_stack([np.ones(T), F])

# OLS: beta = (X'X)^-1 X'Y
XtX_inv = inv(F_const.T @ F_const)
B = XtX_inv @ F_const.T @ Y  # (K+1) x N

alpha = B[0, :]  # N-vector of intercepts
residuals = Y - F_const @ B  # T x N

# Residual covariance matrix
Sigma_eps = residuals.T @ residuals / (T - K - 1)

# Factor mean and covariance
f_bar = F.mean(axis=0)
Sigma_f = np.cov(F, rowvar=False, ddof=1)

# GRS statistic
Sigma_eps_inv = inv(Sigma_eps)
Sigma_f_inv = inv(Sigma_f) if K > 1 else np.array([[1 / Sigma_f]])

sharpe_sq_alpha = alpha @ Sigma_eps_inv @ alpha
sharpe_sq_f = f_bar @ Sigma_f_inv @ f_bar if K > 1 else (f_bar[0] ** 2 / Sigma_f)

grs_stat = ((T - N - K) / N) * (1 / (1 + sharpe_sq_f)) * sharpe_sq_alpha

# p-value from F distribution
p_value = 1 - stats.f.cdf(grs_stat, N, T - N - K)

# Additional diagnostics
# Sharpe ratio of tangency portfolio of factors
sr_factors = np.sqrt(sharpe_sq_f)
# Sharpe ratio of tangency portfolio including alphas
sr_alpha = np.sqrt(sharpe_sq_alpha + sharpe_sq_f)
```

```
    return {
        'GRS': grs_stat,
        'p_value': p_value,
        'df1': N,
        'df2': T - N - K,
        'mean_abs_alpha': np.abs(alpha).mean(),
        'sr_factors': sr_factors,
        'sr_alpha_plus_factors': sr_alpha,
        'sr_improvement': sr_alpha - sr_factors,
        'T': T, 'N': N, 'K': K
    }

# Run GRS for each model on each set of test assets
print("GRS Test Results")
print("=" * 80)
print(f"{'Model':<12} {'Test Assets':<18} {'GRS':>8} {'p-value':>10} "
      f"{'| | ann':>10} {'SR(f)':>8} {'SR( +f)':>8}")
print("-" * 80)

test_asset_sets = {
    '25 Size-BM': excess_25_bm,
    '25 Size-Mom': excess_25_mom,
    '10 Industry': excess_10_ind
}

grs_all = {}
for model_name, factor_cols in models.items():
    for ta_name, ta_data in test_asset_sets.items():
        key = f"{model_name}_{ta_name}"
        result = grs_test(ta_data, factors, factor_cols)
        grs_all[key] = result

        print(f"{model_name:<12} {ta_name:<18} "
              f"{result['GRS']:>8.2f} {result['p_value']:>10.4f} "
              f"{result['mean_abs_alpha']*12:>10.4f} "
              f"{result['sr_factors']:>8.3f} "
              f"{result['sr_alpha_plus_factors']:>8.3f}")
```

22.3.3 Model Comparison via GRS

```
ff5_result = ts_results['FF5']

# Reshape alphas into 5x5 matrix
alpha_matrix = ff5_result['alpha'].values.reshape(5, 5) * 12 * 100
t_matrix = ff5_result['alpha_t'].values.reshape(5, 5)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Alpha magnitudes
im = axes[0].imshow(alpha_matrix, cmap='RdBu_r', aspect='auto',
                    vmin=-np.max(np.abs(alpha_matrix)),
                    vmax=np.max(np.abs(alpha_matrix)))
for i in range(5):
    for j in range(5):
        sig = '*' if abs(t_matrix[i, j]) > 2 else ''
        axes[0].text(j, i, f'{alpha_matrix[i, j]:.1f}{sig}',
                    ha='center', va='center', fontsize=9,
                    color='white' if abs(alpha_matrix[i, j]) > 3 else 'black')

axes[0].set_xticks(range(5))
axes[0].set_xticklabels(['Growth', '2', '3', '4', 'Value'])
axes[0].set_yticks(range(5))
axes[0].set_yticklabels(['Small', '2', '3', '4', 'Big'])
axes[0].set_xlabel('Book-to-Market')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Size')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: FF5 Alphas (% ann.)')
plt.colorbar(im, ax=axes[0], label='Alpha (% ann.)')

# Panel B: R-squared
r2_matrix = ff5_result['r_squared'].values.reshape(5, 5) * 100
im2 = axes[1].imshow(r2_matrix, cmap='YlGn', aspect='auto',
                      vmin=50, vmax=100)
for i in range(5):
    for j in range(5):
        axes[1].text(j, i, f'{r2_matrix[i, j]:.0f}%',
                    ha='center', va='center', fontsize=9)

axes[1].set_xticks(range(5))
axes[1].set_xticklabels(['Growth', '2', '3', '4', 'Value'])
axes[1].set_yticks(range(5))
axes[1].set_yticklabels(['Small', '2', '3', '4', 'Big'])
axes[1].set_xlabel('Book-to-Market')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Size')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: R-squared (%)')
plt.colorbar(im2, ax=axes[1], label='R² (%)')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```


Figure 22.1

```python
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 5))

model_names = list(models.keys())
ta_names = list(test_asset_sets.keys())
x = np.arange(len(model_names))
width = 0.25

colors_ta = ['#2C5F8A', '#C0392B', '#27AE60']

for i, ta_name in enumerate(ta_names):
    grs_vals = [grs_all[f"{m}_{ta_name}"]['GRS'] for m in model_names]
    bars = ax.bar(x + i * width, grs_vals, width, alpha=0.85,
                  color=colors_ta[i], label=ta_name, edgecolor='white')

ax.set_xticks(x + width)
ax.set_xticklabels(model_names)
ax.set_ylabel('GRS Statistic')
ax.set_title('GRS Test: Model Comparison Across Test Asset Sets')
ax.legend()

# Add critical value line (5% significance)
# Approximate: depends on N, T, K
ax.axhline(y=1.8, color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=1,
           label='~5% critical value')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 22.2

22.4 Cross-Sectional Tests

22.4.1 Fama-MacBeth with Portfolio Test Assets

We implement the Fama-MacBeth two-pass procedure using the 25 size-BM portfolios as test assets:

```
def fama_macbeth_two_pass(excess_returns, factor_df, factor_cols,
                          beta_window='full', rolling_window=60,
                          shanken_correction=True):
    """
    Fama-MacBeth (1973) two-pass cross-sectional regression.

    Parameters
    ----------
    beta_window : str
        'full' for full-sample betas, 'rolling' for rolling betas.
    shanken_correction : bool
        Apply Shanken (1992) errors-in-variables correction.

    Returns
    -------
    Dictionary with estimated risk premia, t-statistics, and diagnostics.
    """
    common = excess_returns.index.intersection(factor_df.index)
    Y = excess_returns.loc[common]
    F = factor_df.loc[common, factor_cols]

    T = len(common)
    N = Y.shape[1]
    K = len(factor_cols)
    months = sorted(common)

    # ===== STAGE 1: Estimate betas =====
    if beta_window == 'full':
        # Full-sample betas (simpler, used in GRS context)
        F_const = sm.add_constant(F)
        betas = {}
        for col in Y.columns:
            model = sm.OLS(Y[col], F_const).fit()
            betas[col] = {f: model.params[f] for f in factor_cols}
        beta_df = pd.DataFrame(betas).T  # N x K
```

```
        # Same betas used every month
        beta_by_month = {m: beta_df for m in months}

    elif beta_window == 'rolling':
        # Rolling betas (more realistic, avoids look-ahead)
        beta_by_month = {}
        for t_idx in range(rolling_window, T):
            month = months[t_idx]
            window_start = months[t_idx - rolling_window]

            Y_win = Y.loc[window_start:months[t_idx - 1]]
            F_win = sm.add_constant(F.loc[window_start:months[t_idx - 1]])

            betas_t = {}
            for col in Y.columns:
                y = Y_win[col].dropna()
                x = F_win.loc[y.index]
                if len(y) < 24:
                    betas_t[col] = {f: np.nan for f in factor_cols}
                    continue
                model = sm.OLS(y, x).fit()
                betas_t[col] = {f: model.params[f] for f in factor_cols}

            beta_by_month[month] = pd.DataFrame(betas_t).T

    # ===== STAGE 2: Cross-sectional regressions =====
    gamma_list = []

    for month in months:
        if month not in beta_by_month:
            continue

        betas_t = beta_by_month[month]
        returns_t = Y.loc[month]

        # Align
        valid = betas_t.dropna().index.intersection(returns_t.dropna().index)
        if len(valid) < K + 5:
            continue

        y = returns_t[valid].values
        X = sm.add_constant(betas_t.loc[valid, factor_cols].values)
```

```
        try:
            model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
            gammas = {'month': month, 'gamma_0': model.params[0]}
            for j, f in enumerate(factor_cols):
                gammas[f'gamma_{f}'] = model.params[j + 1]
            gammas['r_squared'] = model.rsquared
            gammas['n_assets'] = len(valid)
            gamma_list.append(gammas)
        except Exception:
            pass

    gamma_df = pd.DataFrame(gamma_list)

    if len(gamma_df) == 0:
        return None

    # ===== INFERENCE =====
    # Time-series averages of gammas
    gamma_cols = ['gamma_0'] + [f'gamma_{f}' for f in factor_cols]

    results = {}
    for col in gamma_cols:
        g = gamma_df[col]
        mean = g.mean()
        se_fm = g.std() / np.sqrt(len(g))
        t_fm = mean / se_fm if se_fm > 0 else np.nan

        results[col] = {
            'estimate': mean,
            'se_fm': se_fm,
            't_fm': t_fm,
        }

    # Shanken (1992) correction for errors-in-variables
    if shanken_correction and beta_window == 'full':
        Sigma_f = F[factor_cols].cov().values

        # Shanken correction factor: (1 + lambda' Sigma_f^-1 lambda)
        gamma_factor = np.array([results[f'gamma_{f}']['estimate']
                                 for f in factor_cols])
        try:
            Sigma_f_inv = inv(Sigma_f)
```

```
            c_shanken = 1 + gamma_factor @ Sigma_f_inv @ gamma_factor
        except Exception:
            c_shanken = 1.0

        for col in gamma_cols:
            results[col]['se_shanken'] = results[col]['se_fm'] * np.sqrt(c_shanken)
            results[col]['t_shanken'] = (results[col]['estimate']
                                         / results[col]['se_shanken']
                                         if results[col]['se_shanken'] > 0 else np.nan)

    # Compare estimated premia to factor mean returns
    factor_means = F[factor_cols].mean()
    for f in factor_cols:
        results[f'gamma_{f}']['factor_mean'] = factor_means[f]

    # Cross-sectional R-squared
    results['avg_cs_r2'] = gamma_df['r_squared'].mean()

    return {
        'results': pd.DataFrame(results).T,
        'gamma_ts': gamma_df,
        'beta_df': beta_by_month.get(months[-1], None)
    }

# Run Fama-MacBeth for each model
print("Fama-MacBeth Cross-Sectional Results: 25 Size-BM Portfolios")
print("=" * 80)

fm_results = {}
for model_name, factor_cols in models.items():
    for beta_type in ['full', 'rolling']:
        key = f"{model_name}_{beta_type}"
        fm = fama_macbeth_two_pass(
            excess_25_bm, factors, factor_cols,
            beta_window=beta_type,
            rolling_window=60,
            shanken_correction=(beta_type == 'full')
        )
        if fm is None:
            continue
        fm_results[key] = fm
```

```
        print(f"\n{model_name} (betas: {beta_type}):")
        res = fm['results']
        for idx, row in res.iterrows():
            if 'gamma' in idx:
                t_col = 't_shanken' if 't_shanken' in row and pd.notna(row.get('t_shanken'))
                f_mean = row.get('factor_mean', '')
                f_str = f"  f_mean={f_mean:.4f}" if isinstance(f_mean, float) else ""
                print(f"  {idx:<16}:   = {row['estimate']:.5f}, "
                      f"t = {row[t_col]:.2f}{f_str}")
        if 'avg_cs_r2' in res.index:
            print(f"  Avg CS R²: {res.loc['avg_cs_r2', 'estimate']:.3f}")
```

22.4.2 The Shanken Correction

The Shanken (1992) correction addresses the errors-in-variables (EIV) problem inherent in the two-pass procedure. Because betas are estimated with error in Stage 1, the Stage 2 standard errors are understated. The correction inflates the standard errors by a factor that depends on the estimated risk premia and the factor covariance matrix:

$$\mathrm{Var}(\hat{\gamma})_{\text{Shanken}} = \mathrm{Var}(\hat{\gamma})_{\text{FM}} \times \left(1 + \hat{\gamma}'\hat{\Sigma}_f^{-1}\hat{\gamma}\right) \tag{22.5}$$

```
print("Impact of Shanken Correction on t-statistics:")
print(f"{'Model':<12} {'Factor':<12} {'t (FM)':>10} {'t (Shanken)':>12} {'Ratio':>8}")
print("-" * 54)

for model_name in models:
    key = f"{model_name}_full"
    if key not in fm_results:
        continue
    res = fm_results[key]['results']
    for idx, row in res.iterrows():
        if 'gamma_' in str(idx) and idx != 'gamma_0':
            t_fm = row.get('t_fm', np.nan)
            t_sh = row.get('t_shanken', np.nan)
            ratio = t_fm / t_sh if pd.notna(t_sh) and t_sh != 0 else np.nan
            factor_name = idx.replace('gamma_', '')
            print(f"{model_name:<12} {factor_name:<12} {t_fm:>10.2f} "
                  f"{t_sh:>12.2f} {ratio:>8.2f}")
```

22.4.3 Fama-MacBeth with Individual Stocks

Using individual stocks instead of portfolios as test assets avoids the Lewellen, Nagel, and Shanken (2010) critique that sorted portfolios create artificially strong factor structure:

```
def fama_macbeth_individual(stock_df, factor_df, factor_cols,
                            beta_window=60, min_obs=36,
                            min_stocks=100):
    """
    Fama-MacBeth with individual stocks and rolling betas.
    """
    stock_df = stock_df.copy()
    stock_df['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(stock_df['month_end'])
    factor_df = factor_df.copy()

    months = sorted(stock_df['month_end'].unique())

    # Pre-compute rolling betas for all stocks
    gamma_list = []

    for t_idx, month in enumerate(months):
        if t_idx < beta_window:
            continue

        window_months = months[t_idx - beta_window:t_idx]

        # Get betas for each stock from rolling window
        betas_t = {}
        window_data = stock_df[stock_df['month_end'].isin(window_months)]

        for ticker, group in window_data.groupby('ticker'):
            if len(group) < min_obs:
                continue

            y = group.set_index('month_end')['monthly_return']
            x = factor_df.loc[y.index, factor_cols]
            x = sm.add_constant(x)

            valid = y.index.intersection(x.index)
            if len(valid) < min_obs:
                continue

            try:
```

```
            model = sm.OLS(y[valid], x.loc[valid]).fit()
            betas_t[ticker] = {f: model.params[f] for f in factor_cols}
        except Exception:
            pass

    if len(betas_t) < min_stocks:
        continue

    beta_df = pd.DataFrame(betas_t).T

    # Current month returns
    current = stock_df[stock_df['month_end'] == month]
    current = current.set_index('ticker')

    # Align
    valid_tickers = beta_df.index.intersection(current.index)
    if len(valid_tickers) < min_stocks:
        continue

    y = current.loc[valid_tickers, 'monthly_return'].values
    X = sm.add_constant(beta_df.loc[valid_tickers].values)

    try:
        model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
        gammas = {'month': month, 'gamma_0': model.params[0]}
        for j, f in enumerate(factor_cols):
            gammas[f'gamma_{f}'] = model.params[j + 1]
        gammas['n_stocks'] = len(valid_tickers)
        gammas['r_squared'] = model.rsquared
        gamma_list.append(gammas)
    except Exception:
        pass

gamma_df = pd.DataFrame(gamma_list)

# Inference
gamma_cols = ['gamma_0'] + [f'gamma_{f}' for f in factor_cols]
summary = {}
for col in gamma_cols:
    g = gamma_df[col]
    mean = g.mean()
    se = g.std() / np.sqrt(len(g))
```

```
        t = mean / se if se > 0 else np.nan
        summary[col] = {'estimate': mean, 'se': se, 't': t}

    summary['avg_n_stocks'] = gamma_df['n_stocks'].mean()
    summary['avg_cs_r2'] = gamma_df['r_squared'].mean()

    return pd.DataFrame(summary).T, gamma_df

# Run for FF5
print("\nFama-MacBeth with Individual Stocks (FF5):")
fm_ind_results, fm_ind_gamma = fama_macbeth_individual(
    stock_returns, factors,
    ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma'],
    beta_window=60, min_obs=36
)
print(fm_ind_results.round(4).to_string())
```

22.5 When Do the Tests Disagree?

22.5.1 Theoretical Sources of Disagreement

Goyal and Jegadeesh (2018) identify three sources of discrepancy between time-series and cross-sectional tests:

1. Factor structure of test assets. If test assets have a strong factor structure (as sorted portfolios do by construction), the cross-sectional R^2 will be high regardless of whether the factors truly price the assets. Lewellen, Nagel, and Shanken (2010) show that even random factors can achieve high cross-sectional R^2 when test assets are size-BM sorted portfolios, because such portfolios have a strong linear structure in the size-value space.

2. Time-variation in betas. The time-series regression assumes constant betas. If betas vary over time and co-move with the factor risk premium, the unconditional time-series alpha can be nonzero even if the conditional model holds (Jagannathan and Wang 1996b).

3. Misspecified risk premia. The Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regression estimates the risk premium from the data. The time-series regression implicitly sets the risk premium equal to the factor's sample mean return. When these differ (e.g., because the factor is not a perfect proxy for the underlying risk), the two approaches disagree.

22.5.2 Empirical Comparison for Vietnam

```
# For FF5 on 25 Size-BM portfolios:
# Time-series: alpha from OLS regression
# Cross-section: pricing error from Fama-MacBeth

ts_alphas = ts_results['FF5']['alpha'].values * 12  # Annualized
ts_names = ts_results['FF5'].index.tolist()

# Cross-sectional pricing errors:
# Predicted return = beta' * estimated_gamma
# Pricing error = actual mean return - predicted
fm_full = fm_results.get('FF5_full')
if fm_full:
    betas = fm_full['beta_df']  # N x K
    factor_cols = ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']
    gammas = np.array([fm_full['results'].loc[f'gamma_{f}', 'estimate']
                       for f in factor_cols])
    gamma_0 = fm_full['results'].loc['gamma_0', 'estimate']

    actual_means = excess_25_bm.mean() * 12  # Annualized
    predicted = (gamma_0 + betas[factor_cols].values @ gammas) * 12
    cs_errors = actual_means.values - predicted
```

22.5.3 The Lewellen-Nagel-Shanken Critique

Lewellen, Nagel, and Shanken (2010) demonstrate that the high cross-sectional R^2 from Fama-MacBeth regressions on sorted portfolios can be misleading. Sorted portfolios have a strong factor structure by construction, so even irrelevant factors can produce high R^2. They recommend:

1. Including industry portfolios alongside sorted portfolios to break the mechanical factor structure.
2. Constraining the estimated risk premia to equal the factor mean returns (this is what the time-series test implicitly does).
3. Reporting the cross-sectional R^2 from the *constrained* model alongside the unconstrained estimate.

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: TS alpha vs CS pricing error
if fm_full:
    axes[0].scatter(ts_alphas * 100, cs_errors * 100,
                    color='#2C5F8A', s=60, alpha=0.7, edgecolors='white')
    lim = max(np.max(np.abs(ts_alphas)), np.max(np.abs(cs_errors))) * 100 + 1
    axes[0].plot([-lim, lim], [-lim, lim], 'k--', linewidth=1)
    axes[0].plot([-lim, lim], [0, 0], color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
    axes[0].plot([0, 0], [-lim, lim], color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
    axes[0].set_xlabel('Time-Series Alpha (% ann.)')
    axes[0].set_ylabel('Cross-Sectional Pricing Error (% ann.)')
    axes[0].set_title('Panel A: TS Alpha vs CS Pricing Error')

    # Correlation
    rho = np.corrcoef(ts_alphas, cs_errors)[0, 1]
    axes[0].text(0.05, 0.95, f'  = {rho:.2f}',
                 transform=axes[0].transAxes, fontsize=11)

# Panel B: Actual vs Predicted (CS)
if fm_full:
    axes[1].scatter(predicted * 100, actual_means.values * 100,
                    color='#C0392B', s=60, alpha=0.7, edgecolors='white')
    lim2 = max(np.max(np.abs(predicted)), np.max(np.abs(actual_means))) * 100 + 2
    axes[1].plot([-5, lim2], [-5, lim2], 'k--', linewidth=1)
    axes[1].set_xlabel('Predicted Average Return (% ann.)')
    axes[1].set_ylabel('Actual Average Return (% ann.)')
    axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Actual vs Predicted (FM Cross-Section)')

    # CS R-squared
    ss_res = np.sum((actual_means.values - predicted) ** 2)
    ss_tot = np.sum((actual_means.values - actual_means.values.mean()) ** 2)
    r2_cs = 1 - ss_res / ss_tot
    axes[1].text(0.05, 0.95, f'CS R² = {r2_cs:.2f}',
                 transform=axes[1].transAxes, fontsize=11)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 22.3

```python
def lns_diagnostic(excess_returns, factor_df, factor_cols):
    """
    Lewellen-Nagel-Shanken (2010) diagnostic:
    Compare unconstrained CS R² to constrained (factor mean = premium).
    """
    common = excess_returns.index.intersection(factor_df.index)
    Y = excess_returns.loc[common]
    F = factor_df.loc[common, factor_cols]

    # Full-sample betas
    betas = {}
    F_const = sm.add_constant(F)
    for col in Y.columns:
        model = sm.OLS(Y[col], F_const).fit()
        betas[col] = {f: model.params[f] for f in factor_cols}
    beta_mat = pd.DataFrame(betas).T  # N x K

    actual = Y.mean() * 12  # Annualized

    # Unconstrained: FM regression
    X = sm.add_constant(beta_mat.values)
    fm_model = sm.OLS(actual.values, X).fit()
    predicted_unc = fm_model.fittedvalues
    r2_unconstrained = fm_model.rsquared

    # Constrained: premium = factor mean return
    factor_means = F.mean().values * 12  # Annualized
    predicted_con = beta_mat.values @ factor_means
    # Add best-fitting intercept
    intercept_con = np.mean(actual.values - predicted_con)
    predicted_con += intercept_con

    ss_res_con = np.sum((actual.values - predicted_con) ** 2)
    ss_tot = np.sum((actual.values - actual.values.mean()) ** 2)
    r2_constrained = 1 - ss_res_con / ss_tot

    return {
        'r2_unconstrained': r2_unconstrained,
        'r2_constrained': r2_constrained,
        'r2_drop': r2_unconstrained - r2_constrained,
        'gamma_unconstrained': fm_model.params[1:],
        'gamma_constrained': factor_means
```

```
    }

print("Lewellen-Nagel-Shanken Diagnostic:")
print(f"{'Model':<12} {'Test Assets':<18} {'R² (unc)':>10} {'R² (con)':>10} "
      f"{'Drop':>8}")
print("-" * 58)

for model_name, factor_cols in models.items():
    for ta_name, ta_data in test_asset_sets.items():
        diag = lns_diagnostic(ta_data, factors, factor_cols)
        print(f"{model_name:<12} {ta_name:<18} "
              f"{diag['r2_unconstrained']:>10.3f} "
              f"{diag['r2_constrained']:>10.3f} "
              f"{diag['r2_drop']:>8.3f}")
```

22.6 GMM-Based Tests

22.6.1 The Stochastic Discount Factor Framework

Both time-series and cross-sectional tests are special cases of the Hansen (1982) Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) framework. The fundamental pricing equation is:

$$E[M_t R^e_{i,t}] = 0 \quad \text{for all } i \tag{22.6}$$

where M_t is the stochastic discount factor (SDF) and $R^e_{i,t}$ is the excess return of asset i. A linear factor model parameterizes the SDF as:

$$M_t = 1 - b'(f_t - \mu_f) \tag{22.7}$$

where b is the vector of SDF loadings and f_t are the factors. The GMM approach estimates b by minimizing the quadratic form of the pricing errors:

$$\hat{b} = \arg\min_b \; g(b)' W \, g(b) \tag{22.8}$$

where $g(b) = \frac{1}{T}\sum_t M_t(b) R^e_t$ is the sample analog of the moment conditions.

```
diag_ff5 = lns_diagnostic(excess_25_bm, factors,
                          ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma'])

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

actual = excess_25_bm.mean().values * 12 * 100

# Panel A: Unconstrained
F_const = sm.add_constant(factors[['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']])
betas_full = {}
for col in excess_25_bm.columns:
    common = excess_25_bm.index.intersection(factors.index)
    model = sm.OLS(excess_25_bm.loc[common, col],
                   F_const.loc[common]).fit()
    betas_full[col] = {f: model.params[f] for f in
                       ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']}
beta_mat = pd.DataFrame(betas_full).T
X_cs = sm.add_constant(beta_mat.values)
fm_mod = sm.OLS(actual, X_cs).fit()
pred_unc = fm_mod.fittedvalues

axes[0].scatter(pred_unc, actual, color='#2C5F8A', s=60, alpha=0.7,
                edgecolors='white')
rng_plot = [min(pred_unc.min(), actual.min()) - 1,
            max(pred_unc.max(), actual.max()) + 1]
axes[0].plot(rng_plot, rng_plot, 'k--', linewidth=1)
axes[0].set_xlabel('Predicted (% ann.)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Actual (% ann.)')
axes[0].set_title(f"Panel A: Unconstrained (R² = "
                  f"{diag_ff5['r2_unconstrained']:.2f})")

# Panel B: Constrained
factor_means = factors[['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']].mean().values * 12 * 100
pred_con = beta_mat.values @ factor_means
pred_con += np.mean(actual - pred_con)

axes[1].scatter(pred_con, actual, color='#C0392B', s=60, alpha=0.7,
                edgecolors='white')
rng2 = [min(pred_con.min(), actual.min()) - 1,
        max(pred_con.max(), actual.max()) + 1]
axes[1].plot(rng2, rng2, 'k--', linewidth=1)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Predicted (% ann.)')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Actual (% ann.)')
axes[1].set_title(f"Panel B: Constrained (R² = "
                  f"{diag_ff5['r2_constrained']:.2f})")
```



```
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 22.4

```python
def gmm_sdf(excess_returns, factor_df, factor_cols,
            weighting='identity', n_iter=2):
    """
    GMM estimation of the linear SDF model.

    Parameters
    ----------
    weighting : str
        'identity': first-stage identity weighting matrix
        'optimal': Hansen optimal weighting (iterated)
    n_iter : int
        Number of GMM iterations (2 = efficient two-step)
    """
    common = excess_returns.index.intersection(factor_df.index)
    Re = excess_returns.loc[common].values  # T x N
    F = factor_df.loc[common, factor_cols].values  # T x K

    T, N = Re.shape
    K = F.shape[1]

    # Demean factors
    F_dm = F - F.mean(axis=0)

    # Moment conditions: E[M * Re] = 0
    # M = 1 - b' (f - mu_f) = 1 - b' F_dm
    def pricing_errors(b):
        M = 1 - F_dm @ b  # T-vector
        g = (M[:, np.newaxis] * Re).mean(axis=0)  # N-vector
        return g

    # GMM objective
    W = np.eye(N)  # Initial weighting matrix

    from scipy.optimize import minimize

    for iteration in range(n_iter):
        def objective(b):
            g = pricing_errors(b)
            return T * g @ W @ g

        result = minimize(objective, np.zeros(K), method='L-BFGS-B')
        b_hat = result.x
```

```
        if iteration < n_iter - 1:
            # Update weighting matrix (Hansen optimal)
            g_t = np.array([(1 - F_dm[t] @ b_hat) * Re[t]
                            for t in range(T)])  # T x N
            S = np.cov(g_t, rowvar=False, ddof=0)

            # Newey-West adjustment for serial correlation
            max_lag = int(np.floor(4 * (T / 100) ** (2 / 9)))
            for lag in range(1, max_lag + 1):
                w = 1 - lag / (max_lag + 1)
                Gamma = np.cov(g_t[lag:].T, g_t[:-lag].T, ddof=0)[:N, N:]
                S += w * (Gamma + Gamma.T)

            try:
                W = inv(S)
            except Exception:
                W = np.eye(N)

    # Pricing errors at optimum
    g_hat = pricing_errors(b_hat)

    # Implied risk premia: lambda = Sigma_f @ b
    Sigma_f = np.cov(F, rowvar=False, ddof=1)
    lambda_hat = Sigma_f @ b_hat

    # J-test (overidentification)
    J = T * g_hat @ W @ g_hat
    df_J = N - K
    p_J = 1 - stats.chi2.cdf(J, df_J) if df_J > 0 else np.nan

    # HJ distance (model misspecification)
    hj_dist = np.sqrt(g_hat @ inv(np.cov(Re, rowvar=False)) @ g_hat)

    return {
        'b_hat': b_hat,
        'lambda_hat': lambda_hat,
        'pricing_errors': g_hat,
        'J_stat': J,
        'J_pvalue': p_J,
        'J_df': df_J,
        'hj_distance': hj_dist,
        'mean_abs_error': np.abs(g_hat).mean() * 12
```

```
    }

print("GMM SDF Estimation:")
print(f"{'Model':<12} {'Test Assets':<18} {'J-stat':>8} {'J p-val':>10} "
      f"{'HJ dist':>8} {'|e| ann':>10}")
print("-" * 66)

for model_name, factor_cols in models.items():
    for ta_name, ta_data in test_asset_sets.items():
        gmm = gmm_sdf(ta_data, factors, factor_cols, n_iter=2)
        print(f"{model_name:<12} {ta_name:<18} "
              f"{gmm['J_stat']:>8.2f} {gmm['J_pvalue']:>10.4f} "
              f"{gmm['hj_distance']:>8.4f} {gmm['mean_abs_error']:>10.4f}")

        # Print implied risk premia
        for j, f in enumerate(factor_cols):
            print(f"   _{f}: {gmm['lambda_hat'][j]*12:.4f} "
                  f"(factor mean: {factors[f].mean()*12:.4f})")
```

22.7 Model Comparison

22.7.1 The Barillas-Shanken Framework

Barillas and Shanken (2018) propose a Bayesian framework for comparing non-nested factor models. The key insight is that model comparison should be based on the factors' ability to explain each other's returns, not on their ability to price a fixed set of test assets. Two models differ only in their excluded factors, so the relevant comparison is whether the factors unique to each model have alpha with respect to the other model.

```
def barillas_shanken_compare(factor_df, model_a_cols, model_b_cols):
    """
    Barillas-Shanken (2018) pairwise model comparison.

    Compare Model A vs Model B by testing whether the factors
    unique to each model have alpha with respect to the other.
    """
    # Factors unique to each model
    unique_a = [f for f in model_a_cols if f not in model_b_cols]
    unique_b = [f for f in model_b_cols if f not in model_a_cols]
```

```
    results = {}

    # Test: do factors unique to A have alpha w.r.t. B?
    # If yes, A adds value beyond B
    if unique_a:
        for f in unique_a:
            y = factor_df[f]
            X = sm.add_constant(factor_df[model_b_cols])
            common = y.dropna().index.intersection(X.dropna().index)
            model = sm.OLS(y[common], X.loc[common]).fit(
                cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6}
            )
            results[f'alpha_{f}_vs_B'] = {
                'alpha': model.params['const'] * 12,
                't': model.tvalues['const'],
                'r2': model.rsquared
            }

    if unique_b:
        for f in unique_b:
            y = factor_df[f]
            X = sm.add_constant(factor_df[model_a_cols])
            common = y.dropna().index.intersection(X.dropna().index)
            model = sm.OLS(y[common], X.loc[common]).fit(
                cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6}
            )
            results[f'alpha_{f}_vs_A'] = {
                'alpha': model.params['const'] * 12,
                't': model.tvalues['const'],
                'r2': model.rsquared
            }

    return pd.DataFrame(results).T

# Compare FF3 vs FF5
print("Barillas-Shanken: FF3 vs FF5")
bs_3v5 = barillas_shanken_compare(
    factors,
    ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml'],
    ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']
)
print(bs_3v5.round(4).to_string())
```

```
# Compare FF5 vs FF5+WML
print("\nBarillas-Shanken: FF5 vs FF5+WML")
bs_5vw = barillas_shanken_compare(
    factors,
    ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma'],
    ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma', 'wml']
)
print(bs_5vw.round(4).to_string())

# Compare FF3+WML vs FF5+WML
print("\nBarillas-Shanken: FF3+WML vs FF5+WML")
bs_3wv5w = barillas_shanken_compare(
    factors,
    ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'wml'],
    ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma', 'wml']
)
print(bs_3wv5w.round(4).to_string())
```

22.7.2 Comprehensive Model Scorecard

22.8 Conditional vs. Unconditional Tests

22.8.1 Time-Varying Betas

Unconditional tests assume constant betas. In practice, Vietnamese stock betas vary substantially over time due to changing market conditions, foreign ownership shifts, and sectoral rotations. We estimate rolling betas to assess the degree of time-variation:

```
# Rolling 36-month betas for the 25 Size-BM portfolios on FF5
rolling_window = 36
factor_cols = ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']

# Select a few representative portfolios
representative = [excess_25_bm.columns[0],   # Small-Growth
                  excess_25_bm.columns[4],   # Small-Value
                  excess_25_bm.columns[20],  # Big-Growth
                  excess_25_bm.columns[24]]  # Big-Value

rolling_betas = {}
```

```python
scorecard = {}

for model_name, factor_cols in models.items():
    metrics = {'Model': model_name}

    # Time-series (25 Size-BM)
    grs_result = grs_all.get(f"{model_name}_25 Size-BM")
    if grs_result:
        metrics['GRS (BM)'] = grs_result['GRS']
        metrics['GRS p'] = grs_result['p_value']
        metrics['| | (BM)'] = grs_result['mean_abs_alpha'] * 12

    # Cross-section
    fm_key = f"{model_name}_full"
    if fm_key in fm_results:
        metrics['CS R² (unc)'] = fm_results[fm_key]['results'].get(
            'avg_cs_r2', {}).get('estimate', np.nan)

    # LNS constrained
    lns = lns_diagnostic(excess_25_bm, factors, factor_cols)
    metrics['CS R² (con)'] = lns['r2_constrained']

    # GMM
    gmm = gmm_sdf(excess_25_bm, factors, factor_cols, n_iter=2)
    metrics['HJ dist'] = gmm['hj_distance']
    metrics['J p-val'] = gmm['J_pvalue']

    # Time-series R²
    ts_res = time_series_regressions(excess_25_bm, factors, factor_cols)
    metrics['Avg R²'] = ts_res['r_squared'].mean()

    scorecard[model_name] = metrics

scorecard_df = pd.DataFrame(scorecard).T
print("Model Scorecard:")
print(scorecard_df.round(3).to_string())
```

Figure 22.5

```
common = excess_25_bm.index.intersection(factors.index)

for port in representative:
    betas_t = []
    for t in range(rolling_window, len(common)):
        window = common[t - rolling_window:t]
        y = excess_25_bm.loc[window, port]
        X = sm.add_constant(factors.loc[window, factor_cols])

        try:
            model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
            entry = {'month': common[t]}
            for f in factor_cols:
                entry[f'beta_{f}'] = model.params[f]
            betas_t.append(entry)
        except Exception:
            pass

    rolling_betas[port] = pd.DataFrame(betas_t)
```

22.9 Practical Recommendations

The analysis in this chapter yields the following guidelines for Vietnamese asset pricing research:

Use both approaches. Time-series tests (GRS) and cross-sectional tests (Fama-MacBeth) answer different questions. Always report both. If they disagree, investigate *why* rather than cherry-picking the more favorable result.

Be cautious with cross-sectional R^2. High R^2 from Fama-MacBeth on sorted portfolios is nearly guaranteed by the test asset structure. Always report the Lewellen, Nagel, and Shanken (2010) constrained R^2 alongside the unconstrained value. Include industry portfolios as additional test assets.

Apply the Shanken correction. The EIV bias from estimated betas inflates Fama-MacBeth t-statistics. Always report Shanken-corrected standard errors for full-sample betas. For rolling betas, the correction is not straightforward, but the bias is smaller because beta estimation error averages out over time.

Use individual stocks with caution. Fama-MacBeth with individual stocks avoids the Lewellen-Nagel-Shanken critique but introduces severe noise: individual Vietnamese stocks are thin, volatile, and the monthly cross-section is small (500-700). The resulting risk premia will

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 2, figsize=(14, 8))
axes = axes.flatten()

labels = ['Small-Growth', 'Small-Value', 'Big-Growth', 'Big-Value']
colors_port = ['#C0392B', '#2C5F8A', '#E67E22', '#27AE60']

for i, (port, label, color) in enumerate(zip(representative, labels, colors_port)):
    rb = rolling_betas[port]

    axes[i].plot(pd.to_datetime(rb['month']), rb['beta_mkt_excess'],
                 color=color, linewidth=1.5, label='Market  ')
    axes[i].axhline(y=1, color='gray', linewidth=0.5, linestyle='--')

    # Add HML beta
    axes[i].plot(pd.to_datetime(rb['month']), rb['beta_hml'],
                 color='gray', linewidth=1, linestyle=':', label='HML  ')

    axes[i].set_ylabel('Beta')
    axes[i].set_title(label)
    axes[i].legend(fontsize=8)

plt.suptitle('Rolling 36-Month Factor Betas', fontsize=14)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

# Quantify time-variation
print("\nBeta Time-Variation (Std Dev of Rolling Betas):")
for port, label in zip(representative, labels):
    rb = rolling_betas[port]
    mkt_std = rb['beta_mkt_excess'].std()
    hml_std = rb['beta_hml'].std()
    print(f"  {label:<15}:  ( _MKT) = {mkt_std:.3f},  ( _HML) = {hml_std:.3f}")
```

Figure 22.6

have wide confidence intervals. Report the average number of stocks per cross-section and the cross-sectional R^2.

Examine conditional models. Rolling betas reveal substantial time-variation in Vietnamese stock exposures. If the research question is about risk compensation (does beta predict returns?), use rolling betas and control for time-variation. If the question is about model adequacy (do the factors span the mean-variance frontier?), full-sample betas and the GRS test are appropriate.

For model selection, use Barillas-Shanken. When comparing competing factor models (e.g., FF3 vs. FF5), the Barillas and Shanken (2018) approach (i.e., testing whether each model's unique factors have alpha with respect to the other) is more informative than comparing GRS statistics on the same test assets.

22.10 Summary

Table 22.2: Summary of testing approaches for factor models.

Test	Question	Statistic	Strength	Weakness
TS regression (GRS)	Do all alphas = 0?	F-statistic	Clean null; joint test	Depends on test assets
Fama-MacBeth (portfolios)	Are betas priced?	$\bar{\gamma}$, t-stat	Estimates risk premia	EIV bias; LNS critique
FM (individual stocks)	Are betas priced?	$\bar{\gamma}$, t-stat	Avoids sorted portfolios	Noisy; small cross-section
LNS diagnostic	Is CS R^2 spurious?	Constrained R^2	Reveals false positives	Only applicable to portfolios
GMM / SDF	Pricing errors jointly	J-stat, HJ distance	Flexible; model-free	Requires large N relative to K
Barillas-Shanken	Which model is better?	Alpha of unique factors	Model comparison	Requires traded factors

The gap between time-series and cross-sectional evidence is not a technicality—it reflects a fundamental ambiguity in what "a factor model works" means. In a market like Vietnam, where the cross-section is small, betas are time-varying, and test assets are inherently noisy, the two approaches will often disagree. The honest researcher reports both, investigates the source of disagreement, and treats any single test result with appropriate humility.

Part IV

Firm Fundamentals, Valuation, and Corporate Signals

23 Financial Statement Analysis

23.1 From Market Prices to Fundamental Value

The previous chapters focused on how financial markets price assets in equilibrium. The Capital Asset Pricing Model showed that expected returns depend on systematic risk exposure, while Modern Portfolio Theory demonstrated how to construct efficient portfolios. But these frameworks take expected returns and risk as given, they don't explain where these expectations come from.

Financial statement analysis addresses this gap. By examining a company's accounting records, investors can form independent assessments of firm value, identify mispriced securities, and understand the economic forces driving business performance. Financial statements provide the primary source of standardized information about a company's operations, financial position, and cash generation. Their legal requirements and standardized formats make them particularly valuable. Every publicly traded company must file them, creating a level playing field for analysis.

This chapter introduces the three primary financial statements: the balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement. We then demonstrate how to transform raw accounting data into meaningful financial ratios that facilitate comparison across companies and over time. These ratios serve multiple purposes: they enable investors to benchmark companies against peers, help creditors assess default risk, and provide inputs for asset pricing models like the Fama-French factors we will encounter in later chapters.

Our analysis combines theoretical frameworks with practical implementation using Vietnamese market data. By the end of this chapter, you will understand how to access financial statements, calculate key ratios across multiple categories, and interpret these metrics in context.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format
from adjustText import adjust_text
```

23.2 The Three Financial Statements

Before diving into ratios and analysis, we need to understand the three interconnected statements that form the foundation of financial reporting. Each statement answers a different question about the company, and together they provide a comprehensive picture of financial health.

23.2.1 The Balance Sheet: A Snapshot of Financial Position

The balance sheet captures a company's financial position at a specific moment in time, think of it as a photograph rather than a movie. It lists everything the company owns (assets), everything it owes (liabilities), and the residual claim belonging to shareholders (equity). These three components are linked by the fundamental accounting equation:

$$\text{Assets} = \text{Liabilities} + \text{Equity}$$

This equation is not merely a definition, it reflects a core economic principle. A company's resources (assets) must be financed from somewhere: either borrowed from creditors (liabilities) or contributed by owners (equity). Every transaction affects both sides equally, maintaining the balance.

Assets represent resources the company controls that are expected to generate future economic benefits:

- **Current assets** can be converted to cash within one year: cash and equivalents, short-term investments, accounts receivable (money owed by customers), and inventory (raw materials, work-in-progress, and finished goods)
- **Non-current assets** support operations beyond one year: property, plant, and equipment (PP&E), long-term investments, and intangible assets like patents, trademarks, and goodwill

Liabilities encompass obligations to external parties:

- **Current liabilities** come due within one year: accounts payable (money owed to suppliers), short-term debt, accrued expenses, and the current portion of long-term debt
- **Non-current liabilities** extend beyond one year: long-term debt, bonds payable, pension obligations, and deferred tax liabilities

Shareholders' equity represents the owners' residual claim:

- **Common stock** and additional paid-in capital from share issuance
- **Retained earnings** (i.e., accumulated profits reinvested rather than distributed as dividends)
- **Treasury stock**: shares repurchased by the company

Understanding these categories is essential for ratio analysis. Current assets and liabilities determine short-term liquidity, while the mix of debt and equity reveals capital structure choices.

23.2.2 The Income Statement: Performance Over Time

While the balance sheet provides a snapshot, the income statement (also called the profit and loss statement, or P&L) measures financial performance over a period (e.g., a quarter or year). It follows a hierarchical structure that progressively captures different levels of profitability:

$$\text{Revenue} - \text{COGS} = \text{Gross Profit}$$

$$\text{Gross Profit} - \text{Operating Expenses} = \text{Operating Income (EBIT)}$$

$$\text{EBIT} - \text{Interest} - \text{Taxes} = \text{Net Income}$$

Each line reveals something different about the business:

- **Revenue (Sales)**: Total income from goods or services sold (i.e., the "top line")
- **Cost of Goods Sold (COGS)**: Direct costs of producing what was sold (materials, direct labor, manufacturing overhead)
- **Gross Profit**: Revenue minus COGS, measuring basic profitability from core operations
- **Operating Expenses**: Costs of running the business beyond production (selling, general & administrative expenses, research & development)
- **Operating Income (EBIT)**: Earnings Before Interest and Taxes, measuring profitability from operations before financing decisions and taxes
- **Interest Expense**: The cost of debt financing
- **Net Income**: The "bottom line" (i.e., total profit after all expenses)

The income statement's hierarchical structure allows analysts to identify where profitability problems originate. A company with strong gross margins but weak net income might have bloated overhead costs. One with weak gross margins faces fundamental pricing or production challenges.

23.2.3 The Cash Flow Statement: Following the Money

The cash flow statement bridges a critical gap: profitable companies can run out of cash, and unprofitable companies can generate positive cash flow. This happens because accrual accounting (used in the income statement) recognizes revenue when earned and expenses when incurred, not when cash changes hands.

The cash flow statement tracks actual cash movements, divided into three categories:

- **Operating activities**: Cash generated from core business operations. Starts with net income, then adjusts for non-cash items (depreciation, changes in working capital)
- **Investing activities**: Cash spent on or received from long-term investments (e.g., purchasing equipment, acquiring businesses, selling assets)
- **Financing activities**: Cash flows from capital structure decisions (e.g., issuing stock, borrowing, repaying debt, paying dividends, buying back shares)

A company can show strong net income while burning cash if it's building inventory, extending generous credit terms, or making large capital expenditures. Conversely, a company reporting losses might generate positive operating cash flow by collecting receivables faster than it pays suppliers.

23.2.4 Illustrating with FPT's Financial Statements

To see these concepts in practice, let's examine FPT Corporation's 2023 financial statements. FPT is one of Vietnam's largest technology companies, providing IT services, telecommunications, and education.

```
# Placeholder for FPT balance sheet visualization
# In practice, this would display the actual PDF or cleaned data
# from DataCore's acquisition pipeline

# Example structure of what the balance sheet data looks like:
# Assets: Current assets (cash, receivables, inventory) + Non-current assets (PP&E, intangibl
# Liabilities: Current liabilities (payables, short-term debt) + Non-current liabilities (lon
# Equity: Common stock + Retained earnings
```

The balance sheet demonstrates the fundamental accounting equation in action. FPT's assets (e.g., spanning cash, receivables, technology infrastructure, and intangible assets like software) exactly equal the sum of its liabilities and equity.

```
# Placeholder for FPT income statement visualization
# Shows the progression from revenue through various profit measures to net income
```

FPT's income statement reveals how the company transforms revenue into profit. The progression from gross profit through operating income to net income shows the impact of operating expenses, interest costs, and taxes.

```
# Placeholder for FPT cash flow statement visualization
# Reconciles net income with actual cash generation
```

The cash flow statement shows how FPT's reported profits translate into actual cash. Differences between net income and operating cash flow reveal the impact of working capital management and non-cash expenses.

23.3 Loading Financial Statement Data

We now turn to systematic analysis across multiple companies. We load financial statement data for the VN30 index constituents (i.e., the 30 largest and most liquid stocks on Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange).

```
import sqlite3

tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

comp_vn = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM comp_vn",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"datadate"}
)

comp_vn.head(3)
```

	symbol	year	total_current_asset	ca_fin	ca_cce	ca_cash	ca_cash_inbank	ca_cash
0	AGF	1998	8.845141e+10	None	5.469709e+09	0.000000e+00	None	None
1	BBC	1999	5.672574e+10	None	5.354939e+09	5.354939e+09	None	None
2	AGF	1999	9.558392e+10	None	2.609276e+09	0.000000e+00	None	None

```
vn30_symbols = [
    "ACB", "BCM", "BID", "BVH", "CTG", "FPT", "GAS", "GVR", "HDB", "HPG",
    "MBB", "MSN", "MWG", "PLX", "POW", "SAB", "SHB", "SSB", "STB", "TCB",
    "TPB", "VCB", "VHM", "VIB", "VIC", "VJC", "VNM", "VPB", "VRE", "EIB"
]
```

```
comp_vn30 = comp_vn[comp_vn["symbol"].isin(vn30_symbols)]
comp_vn30.head(3)
```

	symbol	year	total_current_asset	ca_fin	ca_cce	ca_cash	ca_cash_inbank	ca_ca
11	FPT	2002	5.098910e+11	None	1.027470e+11	0.000000e+00	None	None
17	VNM	2003	2.101406e+12	None	6.925924e+11	6.925924e+11	None	None
21	FPT	2003	9.171390e+11	None	7.995600e+10	0.000000e+00	None	None

This dataset provides the foundation for calculating financial ratios and conducting cross-sectional comparisons. Each row contains balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow items for a company-year observation.

23.4 Liquidity Ratios: Can the Company Pay Its Bills?

Liquidity ratios assess a company's ability to meet short-term obligations. These metrics matter most to creditors, suppliers, and employees who need assurance that the company can pay its bills. They're calculated using balance sheet items, comparing liquid assets against near-term liabilities.

23.4.1 The Current Ratio

The most basic liquidity measure compares all current assets to current liabilities:

$$\text{Current Ratio} = \frac{\text{Current Assets}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$$

A ratio above one indicates the company has enough current assets to cover obligations due within one year. However, the interpretation depends heavily on the composition of current assets. A company with current assets tied up in slow-moving inventory is less liquid than one holding cash.

23.4.2 The Quick Ratio

The quick ratio (or "acid test") provides a more stringent measure by excluding inventory:

$$\text{Quick Ratio} = \frac{\text{Current Assets} - \text{Inventory}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$$

Why exclude inventory? Inventory is typically the least liquid current asset. It must be sold (potentially at a discount) before generating cash. A company facing a liquidity crisis cannot easily convert raw materials or finished goods into immediate cash. The quick ratio answers: "Can we pay our bills without relying on inventory sales?"

23.4.3 The Cash Ratio

The most conservative liquidity measure focuses solely on the most liquid assets:

$$\text{Cash Ratio} = \frac{\text{Cash and Cash Equivalents}}{\text{Current Liabilities}}$$

While a ratio of one indicates robust liquidity, most companies maintain lower cash ratios to avoid holding excessive non-productive assets. Cash sitting in bank accounts could otherwise be invested in growth opportunities, returned to shareholders, or used to pay down costly debt.

23.4.4 Calculating Liquidity Ratios

Let's compute these ratios for our VN30 sample:

```
balance_sheet_statements = (comp_vn30
    .assign(
        fiscal_year=lambda x: x["year"].astype(int),

        # Current Ratio: Current Assets / Current Liabilities
        current_ratio=lambda x: x["act"] / x["lct"],

        # Quick Ratio: (Current Assets - Inventory) / Current Liabilities
        quick_ratio=lambda x: (x["act"] - x["inv"]) / x["lct"],

        # Cash Ratio: Cash and Equivalents / Current Liabilities
        cash_ratio=lambda x: x["ca_cce"] / x["lct"],

        label=lambda x: np.where(
```

```
            x["symbol"].isin(vn30_symbols), x["symbol"], np.nan
        )
    )
)

balance_sheet_statements.head(3)
```

	symbol	year	total_current_asset	ca_fin	ca_cce	ca_cash	ca_cash_inbank	ca_ca
11	FPT	2002	5.098910e+11	None	1.027470e+11	0.000000e+00	None	None
17	VNM	2003	2.101406e+12	None	6.925924e+11	6.925924e+11	None	None
21	FPT	2003	9.171390e+11	None	7.995600e+10	0.000000e+00	None	None

23.4.5 Cross-Sectional Comparison of Liquidity

Figure 23.1 compares liquidity ratios across companies for the most recent fiscal year. This cross-sectional view reveals how different business models and industries maintain different liquidity profiles.

```
liquidity_ratios = (balance_sheet_statements
    .query("year == 2023 & label.notna()")
    .get(["symbol", "current_ratio", "quick_ratio", "cash_ratio"])
    .melt(id_vars=["symbol"], var_name="name", value_name="value")
    .assign(
        name=lambda x: x["name"].str.replace("_", " ").str.title()
    )
)

liquidity_ratios_figure = (
    ggplot(liquidity_ratios, aes(y="value", x="name", fill="symbol"))
    + geom_col(position="dodge")
    + coord_flip()
    + labs(
        x="", y="Ratio Value", fill="",
        title="Liquidity Ratios for VN30 Stocks (2023)"
    )
)

liquidity_ratios_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.1: Liquidity ratios measure a company's ability to meet short-term obligations. Higher values indicate greater liquidity, though excessively high ratios may suggest inefficient use of assets.

Several patterns emerge from this comparison. Banks and financial institutions typically show different liquidity profiles than industrial companies due to their unique business models. Companies with high inventory (retailers, manufacturers) often show larger gaps between current and quick ratios.

23.5 Leverage Ratios: How Is the Company Financed?

Leverage ratios examine a company's capital structure (i.e., the mix of debt and equity financing). These metrics reveal financial risk and long-term solvency, helping investors understand how much of the company's operations are funded by borrowed money.

23.5.1 Why Capital Structure Matters

A company's financing choice involves fundamental trade-offs:

- **Debt** offers tax advantages (interest is deductible) and doesn't dilute ownership, but creates fixed obligations that must be met regardless of business performance

- **Equity** provides flexibility (no required payments) but dilutes existing shareholders and may be more expensive than debt

Companies with high leverage amplify both gains and losses. In good times, shareholders capture more upside because profits aren't shared with additional equity holders. In bad times, fixed interest payments can push the company toward distress. This is why beta (systematic risk) tends to increase with leverage.

23.5.2 Debt-to-Equity Ratio

This ratio indicates how much debt financing the company uses relative to shareholder investment:

$$\text{Debt-to-Equity} = \frac{\text{Total Debt}}{\text{Total Equity}}$$

A ratio of 1.0 means equal parts debt and equity financing. Higher ratios indicate more aggressive use of leverage, which can enhance returns in good times but increases bankruptcy risk.

23.5.3 Debt-to-Asset Ratio

This ratio shows what percentage of assets are financed through debt:

$$\text{Debt-to-Asset} = \frac{\text{Total Debt}}{\text{Total Assets}}$$

A ratio of 0.5 means half the company's assets are debt-financed. This metric is bounded between 0 and 1 (assuming positive equity), making it easier to compare across companies than the debt-to-equity ratio.

23.5.4 Interest Coverage Ratio

While the above ratios measure leverage levels, interest coverage assesses the ability to service that debt:

$$\text{Interest Coverage} = \frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{Interest Expense}}$$

This ratio answers: "How many times over can current operating profits cover interest obligations?" A ratio below 1.0 means operating income doesn't cover interest payments, which is a dangerous position. Ratios above 3-5 generally indicate comfortable coverage.

23.5.5 Calculating Leverage Ratios

```
balance_sheet_statements = balance_sheet_statements.assign(
    debt_to_equity=lambda x: x["total_debt"] / x["total_equity"],
    debt_to_asset=lambda x: x["total_debt"] / x["at"]
)

income_statements = (comp_vn30
    .assign(
        year=lambda x: x["year"].astype(int),
        # Handle zero interest expense to avoid infinity
        interest_coverage=lambda x: np.where(
            x["cfo_interest_expense"] > 0,
            x["is_net_business_profit"] / x["cfo_interest_expense"],
            np.nan
        ),
        label=lambda x: np.where(
            x["symbol"].isin(vn30_symbols), x["symbol"], np.nan
        )
    )
)
```

23.5.6 Leverage Trends Over Time

Figure 23.2 tracks how debt-to-asset ratios have evolved over time. Time-series analysis reveals whether companies are becoming more or less leveraged.

```
debt_to_asset = balance_sheet_statements.query("symbol in @vn30_symbols")

debt_to_asset_figure = (
    ggplot(debt_to_asset, aes(x="year", y="debt_to_asset", color="symbol"))
    + geom_line(size=1)
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="", y="Debt-to-Asset Ratio", color="",
        title="Debt-to-Asset Ratios of VN30 Stocks Over Time"
    )
)

debt_to_asset_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.2: Debt-to-asset ratios show the proportion of assets financed by debt. Changes over time reflect evolving capital structure strategies and market conditions.

23.5.7 Cross-Sectional Leverage Comparison

Figure 23.3 provides a snapshot of leverage across all VN30 constituents for the most recent year.

```
debt_to_asset_comparison = balance_sheet_statements.query("year == 2023")

debt_to_asset_comparison["symbol"] = pd.Categorical(
    debt_to_asset_comparison["symbol"],
    categories=debt_to_asset_comparison.sort_values("debt_to_asset")["symbol"],
    ordered=True
)

debt_to_asset_comparison_figure = (
    ggplot(
        debt_to_asset_comparison,
        aes(y="debt_to_asset", x="symbol", fill="label")
    )
    + geom_col()
```

```
    + coord_flip()
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="", y="Debt-to-Asset Ratio", fill="",
        title="Debt-to-Asset Ratios of VN30 Stocks (2023)"
    )
    + theme(legend_position="none")
)

debt_to_asset_comparison_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.3: Cross-sectional comparison of debt-to-asset ratios reveals industry patterns and company-specific financing strategies.

23.5.8 The Leverage-Coverage Trade-off

Figure 23.4 examines the relationship between leverage levels and debt-servicing ability. Companies with higher debt loads should ideally have stronger interest coverage to maintain financial stability.

```
interest_coverage = (income_statements
    .query("year == 2023")
    .get(["symbol", "year", "interest_coverage"])
    .merge(balance_sheet_statements, on=["symbol", "year"], how="left")
)

interest_coverage_figure = (
    ggplot(
        interest_coverage,
        aes(x="debt_to_asset", y="interest_coverage", color="label")
    )
    + geom_point(size=2)
    + geom_label(
        aes(label="label"),
        adjust_text={"arrowprops": {"arrowstyle": "-"}}
    )
    + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="Debt-to-Asset Ratio", y="Interest Coverage Ratio",
        title="Leverage versus Interest Coverage for VN30 Stocks (2023)"
    )
    + theme(legend_position="none")
)

interest_coverage_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.4: The relationship between leverage and interest coverage reveals whether companies can comfortably service their debt. High leverage with low coverage indicates elevated financial risk.

The scatter plot reveals important patterns. Companies in the upper-left quadrant (low leverage, high coverage) have conservative financing with ample debt capacity. Those in the lower-right (high leverage, low coverage) face elevated financial risk.

23.6 Efficiency Ratios: How Well Are Assets Managed?

Efficiency ratios measure how effectively a company utilizes its assets and manages operations. These metrics help identify whether management is extracting maximum value from the company's resource base.

23.6.1 Asset Turnover

This ratio measures how efficiently a company uses total assets to generate revenue:

$$\text{Asset Turnover} = \frac{\text{Revenue}}{\text{Total Assets}}$$

A higher ratio indicates more efficient asset utilization: the company generates more sales per dollar of assets. However, optimal levels vary dramatically across industries. Retailers with minimal fixed assets might achieve turnovers above 2.0, while capital-intensive manufacturers might operate below 0.5.

23.6.2 Inventory Turnover

For companies carrying inventory, this ratio reveals how quickly stock moves through the business:

$$\text{Inventory Turnover} = \frac{\text{Cost of Goods Sold}}{\text{Inventory}}$$

Higher turnover suggests efficient inventory management (i.e., goods don't sit on shelves collecting dust). However, extremely high turnover might indicate stockout risks, while very low turnover could signal obsolete inventory or overinvestment in working capital.

We use COGS rather than revenue in the numerator because inventory is recorded at cost, not selling price. Using revenue would overstate turnover for high-margin businesses.

23.6.3 Receivables Turnover

This ratio measures how effectively a company collects payments from customers:

$$\text{Receivables Turnover} = \frac{\text{Revenue}}{\text{Accounts Receivable}}$$

Higher turnover indicates faster collection (i.e., customers pay promptly). Converting this to "days sales outstanding" (365 / turnover) gives the average collection period in days. Companies must balance collection efficiency against the sales impact of restrictive credit policies.

23.6.4 Calculating Efficiency Ratios

```
combined_statements = (balance_sheet_statements
    .get([
        "symbol", "year", "label", "current_ratio", "quick_ratio",
        "cash_ratio", "debt_to_equity", "debt_to_asset", "total_asset",
        "total_equity"
    ])
    .merge(
```

```
        (income_statements
            .get([
                "symbol", "year", "interest_coverage", "is_revenue",
                "is_cogs",
                # "selling_general_and_administrative_expenses",
                "is_interest_expense", "is_gross_profit", "is_eat"
            ])
        ),
        on=["symbol", "year"],
        how="left"
    )
    .merge(
        (comp_vn30
            .assign(year=lambda x: x["year"].astype(int))
            .get(["symbol", "year", "ca_total_inventory", "ca_acc_receiv"])
        ),
        on=["symbol", "year"],
        how="left"
    )
)

combined_statements = combined_statements.assign(
    asset_turnover=lambda x: x["is_revenue"] / x["total_asset"],
    inventory_turnover=lambda x: x["is_cogs"] / x["ca_total_inventory"],
    receivables_turnover=lambda x: x["is_revenue"] / x["ca_acc_receiv"]
)
```

Efficiency ratios vary dramatically across industries, making peer comparison essential. A grocery store and a shipbuilder will have fundamentally different asset and inventory dynamics.

23.7 Profitability Ratios: Is the Company Making Money?

Profitability ratios evaluate how effectively a company converts activity into earnings. These metrics directly measure financial success and are among the most closely watched indicators by investors.

23.7.1 Gross Margin

The gross margin reveals what percentage of revenue remains after direct production costs:

$$\text{Gross Margin} = \frac{\text{Gross Profit}}{\text{Revenue}} = \frac{\text{Revenue} - \text{COGS}}{\text{Revenue}}$$

Higher gross margins indicate stronger pricing power, more efficient production, or a favorable product mix. This metric is particularly useful for comparing companies within an industry, as it reveals relative efficiency in core operations before overhead costs.

23.7.2 Profit Margin

The profit margin shows what percentage of revenue ultimately becomes net income:

$$\text{Profit Margin} = \frac{\text{Net Income}}{\text{Revenue}}$$

This comprehensive measure accounts for all costs (e.g., production, operations, interest, and taxes). Higher profit margins suggest effective overall cost management. However, optimal margins vary by industry: software companies routinely achieve 20%+ margins, while grocery stores operate on razor-thin 2-3% margins.

23.7.3 Return on Equity (ROE)

ROE measures how efficiently a company uses shareholders' investment to generate profits:

$$\text{Return on Equity} = \frac{\text{Net Income}}{\text{Total Equity}}$$

This metric directly addresses what shareholders care about: returns on their invested capital. Higher ROE indicates more effective use of equity, though interpretation requires caution. High leverage can artificially inflate ROE by reducing the equity base (e.g., a company financed 90% by debt will show spectacular ROE on modest profits).

23.7.4 The DuPont Decomposition

The DuPont framework decomposes ROE into three components that reveal different aspects of performance:

$$\text{ROE} = \underbrace{\frac{\text{Net Income}}{\text{Revenue}}}_{\text{Profit Margin}} \times \underbrace{\frac{\text{Revenue}}{\text{Assets}}}_{\text{Asset Turnover}} \times \underbrace{\frac{\text{Assets}}{\text{Equity}}}_{\text{Leverage}}$$

This decomposition shows that high ROE can come from different sources: strong profit margins (pricing power, cost control), efficient asset use (high turnover), or aggressive leverage. Understanding which driver dominates helps assess sustainability. ROE driven by margins is generally more sustainable than ROE driven by leverage.

23.7.5 Calculating Profitability Ratios

```
combined_statements = combined_statements.assign(
    gross_margin=lambda x: x["is_gross_profit"] / x["is_revenue"],
    profit_margin=lambda x: x["is_eat"] / x["is_revenue"],
    after_tax_roe=lambda x: x["is_eat"] / x["total_equity"]
)
```

23.7.6 Gross Margin Trends

Figure 23.5 tracks gross margin evolution over time, revealing whether companies are maintaining pricing power and production efficiency.

```
gross_margins = combined_statements.query("symbol in @vn30_symbols")

gross_margins_figure = (
    ggplot(gross_margins, aes(x="year", y="gross_margin", color="symbol"))
    + geom_line()
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="", y="Gross Margin", color="",
        title="Gross Margins for VN30 Stocks (2019-2023)"
    )
)

gross_margins_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.5: Gross margin trends reveal changes in pricing power and production efficiency. Declining margins may signal increased competition or rising input costs.

23.7.7 From Gross to Net: Where Do Profits Go?

Figure 23.6 examines the relationship between gross and profit margins. The gap between them reveals the impact of operating expenses, interest, and taxes.

```
profit_margins = combined_statements.query("year == 2023")

profit_margins_figure = (
    ggplot(
        profit_margins,
        aes(x="gross_margin", y="profit_margin", color="label")
    )
    + geom_point(size=2)
    + geom_label(
        aes(label="label"),
        adjust_text={"arrowprops": {"arrowstyle": "-"}}
    )
    + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
```

```
    + labs(
        x="Gross Margin", y="Profit Margin",
        title="Gross versus Profit Margins for VN30 Stocks (2023)"
    )
    + theme(legend_position="none")
)

profit_margins_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.6: Comparing gross and profit margins reveals how much of gross profit survives operating expenses, interest, and taxes. Companies far below the diagonal have high overhead relative to gross profit.

Companies along the diagonal convert gross profit to net income efficiently. Those well below the diagonal face high operating costs, interest burdens, or tax rates that erode profitability.

23.8 Combining Financial Ratios: A Holistic View

Individual ratios provide specific insights, but combining them offers a more complete picture. A company might excel in profitability while struggling with liquidity, or maintain conservative leverage while underperforming on efficiency.

23.8.1 Ranking Companies Across Categories

Figure 23.7 compares company rankings across four ratio categories. Rankings closer to 1 indicate better performance within each category, enabling quick identification of relative strengths and weaknesses.

```
financial_ratios = (combined_statements
    .query("year == 2023")
    .filter(
        items=["symbol"] + [
            col for col in combined_statements.columns
            if any(x in col for x in [
                "ratio", "margin", "roe", "_to_", "turnover", "interest_coverage"
            ])
        ]
    )
    .melt(id_vars=["symbol"], var_name="name", value_name="value")
    .assign(
        type=lambda x: np.select(
            [
                x["name"].isin(["current_ratio", "quick_ratio", "cash_ratio"]),
                x["name"].isin(["debt_to_equity", "debt_to_asset", "interest_coverage"]),
                x["name"].isin(["asset_turnover", "inventory_turnover", "receivables_turnover
                x["name"].isin(["gross_margin", "profit_margin", "after_tax_roe"]),
            ],
            [
                "Liquidity Ratios",
                "Leverage Ratios",
                "Efficiency Ratios",
                "Profitability Ratios"
            ],
            default="Other"
        )
    )
)

financial_ratios["rank"] = (financial_ratios
    .sort_values(["type", "name", "value"], ascending=[True, True, False])
    .groupby(["type", "name"])
    .cumcount() + 1
)

final_ranks = (financial_ratios
```

```
    .groupby(["symbol", "type"], as_index=False)
    .agg(rank=("rank", "mean"))
    .query("symbol in @vn30_symbols")
)

final_ranks_figure = (
    ggplot(final_ranks, aes(x="rank", y="type", color="symbol"))
    + geom_point(shape="^", size=4)
    + labs(
        x="Average Rank (Lower is Better)", y="", color="",
        title="Average Rank Across Financial Ratio Categories"
    )
    + coord_cartesian(xlim=[1, 30])
)

final_ranks_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.7: Ranking companies across multiple ratio categories reveals overall financial profiles. Companies with consistently low ranks across categories demonstrate broad-based financial strength.

The combined view reveals how different business strategies manifest in financial profiles. A

company might deliberately accept lower profitability rankings in exchange for stronger liquidity, or use aggressive leverage to boost returns at the cost of financial flexibility.

23.9 Financial Ratios in Asset Pricing

Beyond evaluating individual companies, financial ratios serve as crucial inputs for asset pricing models. The Fama-French five-factor model, which we explore in detail in Fama-French Factors, uses several accounting-based measures to explain cross-sectional variation in stock returns.

23.9.1 The Fama-French Factors

The model incorporates four company characteristics derived from financial statements:

Size is measured as the logarithm of market capitalization:

$$\text{Size} = \ln(\text{Market Cap})$$

This captures the empirical finding that smaller firms tend to outperform larger firms on a risk-adjusted basis (i.e., the "size premium").

Book-to-Market relates accounting value to market value:

$$\text{Book-to-Market} = \frac{\text{Book Equity}}{\text{Market Cap}}$$

High book-to-market stocks ("value" stocks) have historically outperformed low book-to-market stocks ("growth" stocks) (i.e., the "value premium").

Operating Profitability measures profit generation relative to equity:

$$\text{Profitability} = \frac{\text{Revenue} - \text{COGS} - \text{SG\&A} - \text{Interest}}{\text{Book Equity}}$$

More profitable firms tend to earn higher returns (i.e., the "profitability premium").

Investment captures asset growth:

$$\text{Investment} = \frac{\text{Total Assets}_t}{\text{Total Assets}_{t-1}} - 1$$

Firms investing aggressively tend to underperform conservative investors (i.e., the "investment premium").

23.9.2 Calculating Fama-French Variables

```
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM prices_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"datadate"}
)

# Use December prices for annual calculations
prices_december = (prices_monthly
    .assign(date=lambda x: pd.to_datetime(x["date"]))
    .query("date.dt.month == 12")
)
```

```
combined_statements_ff = (combined_statements
    .query("year == 2023")
    .merge(prices_december, on=["symbol", "year"], how="left")
    .merge(
        (balance_sheet_statements
            .query("year == 2022")
            .get(["symbol", "total_asset"])
            .rename(columns={"total_asset": "total_assets_lag"})
        ),
        on="symbol",
        how="left"
    )
    .assign(
        size=lambda x: np.log(x["mktcap"]),
        book_to_market=lambda x: x["total_equity"] / x["mktcap"],
        operating_profitability=lambda x: (
            (x["is_revenue"] - x["is_cogs"] -
            #  x["selling_general_and_administrative_expenses"] -
             x["is_interest_expense"]) / x["total_equity"]
        ),
        investment=lambda x: x["total_asset"] / x["total_assets_lag"] - 1
    )
)

combined_statements_ff.head(3)
```

	symbol	year	label	current_ratio	quick_ratio	cash_ratio	debt_to_equity	debt_to_asset	tot
0	POW	2023	POW	1.084255	1.084255	0.315089	0.0	0.0	7.0
1	HPG	2023	HPG	1.156655	1.156655	0.171324	0.0	0.0	1.8
2	MWG	2023	MWG	1.688604	1.688604	0.174408	0.0	0.0	6.0

23.9.3 Fama-French Factor Rankings

Figure 23.8 shows how VN30 companies rank on each Fama-French variable, connecting fundamental analysis to asset pricing.

```
factors_ranks = (combined_statements_ff
    .get(["symbol", "size", "book_to_market", "operating_profitability", "investment"])
    .rename(columns={
        "size": "Size",
        "book_to_market": "Book-to-Market",
        "operating_profitability": "Profitability",
        "investment": "Investment"
    })
    .melt(id_vars=["symbol"], var_name="name", value_name="value")
    .assign(
        rank=lambda x: (
            x.sort_values(["name", "value"], ascending=[True, False])
            .groupby("name")
            .cumcount() + 1
        )
    )
    .query("symbol in @vn30_symbols")
)

factors_ranks_figure = (
    ggplot(factors_ranks, aes(x="rank", y="name", color="symbol"))
    + geom_point(shape="^", size=4)
    + labs(
        x="Rank", y="", color="",
        title="Rank in Fama-French Variables for VN30 Stocks"
    )
    + coord_cartesian(xlim=[1, 30])
)

factors_ranks_figure.show()
```

Figure 23.8: Rankings on Fama-French variables connect financial statement analysis to asset pricing. According to factor models, smaller, higher book-to-market, more profitable, and lower-investment firms should earn higher expected returns.

These rankings have implications for expected returns according to factor models. A small, high book-to-market, highly profitable company with conservative investment should, in theory, earn higher risk-adjusted returns than its opposite.

23.10 Limitations and Practical Considerations

While financial ratios provide powerful analytical tools, several limitations deserve attention:

23.10.1 Accounting Discretion

Companies have significant discretion in how they apply accounting standards. Revenue recognition timing, depreciation methods, inventory valuation (FIFO vs. LIFO), and capitalization versus expensing decisions all affect reported numbers. Sophisticated analysis requires understanding these choices and their impact.

23.10.2 Industry Comparability

Ratios vary dramatically across industries. Comparing a bank's leverage to a retailer's is meaningless (e.g., banks naturally operate with much higher leverage due to their business model). Always benchmark against industry peers rather than absolute standards.

23.10.3 Point-in-Time Limitations

Balance sheet ratios capture a single moment, which may not represent typical conditions. Companies often "window dress" by temporarily improving metrics at reporting dates. Trend analysis and quarter-over-quarter comparisons can reveal such practices.

23.10.4 Backward-Looking Nature

Financial statements report historical results. Past profitability doesn't guarantee future performance, especially for companies in rapidly changing industries or facing disruption.

23.10.5 Quality of Earnings

Not all profits are created equal. Earnings driven by one-time gains, accounting adjustments, or aggressive revenue recognition may not recur. Cash flow analysis helps assess earnings quality. Profits that don't convert to cash warrant skepticism.

23.11 Key Takeaways

This chapter introduced financial statement analysis as a tool for understanding company fundamentals. The main insights are:

1. **Three statements, three perspectives**: The balance sheet shows financial position at a point in time, the income statement measures performance over a period, and the cash flow statement tracks actual cash movements. Together, they provide a complete picture of financial health.
2. **Liquidity ratios assess short-term survival**: Current, quick, and cash ratios measure the ability to meet near-term obligations. Higher ratios indicate greater liquidity but may suggest inefficient asset use.
3. **Leverage ratios reveal capital structure risk**: Debt-to-equity, debt-to-asset, and interest coverage ratios show how the company finances operations and whether it can service its debt. Higher leverage amplifies both returns and risk.

4. **Efficiency ratios measure management effectiveness**: Asset turnover, inventory turnover, and receivables turnover reveal how well the company converts resources into revenue. Industry context is essential for interpretation.
5. **Profitability ratios quantify financial success**: Gross margin, profit margin, and ROE measure the ability to generate earnings. The DuPont decomposition reveals whether ROE comes from margins, turnover, or leverage.
6. **Ratios connect to asset pricing**: Financial statement variables like book-to-market, profitability, and investment form the basis of factor models that explain cross-sectional return differences.
7. **Context matters for interpretation**: Ratios must be compared against industry peers, tracked over time, and considered alongside qualitative factors. No single ratio tells the complete story.

Looking ahead, subsequent chapters will explore how these fundamental variables interact with market prices in asset pricing models, and how to construct factor portfolios based on financial statement characteristics.

24 Discounted Cash Flow Analysis

24.1 What Is a Company Worth?

The previous chapters examined how markets price securities in equilibrium and how financial statements reveal company fundamentals. But these approaches leave a central question unanswered: What is the *intrinsic value* of a business, independent of its current market price?

Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) analysis answers this question by valuing a company based on its ability to generate cash for investors. The core insight is simple: a business is worth the present value of all future cash it will produce. This principle that value equals discounted future cash flows underlies virtually all of finance, from bond pricing to real estate valuation.

DCF analysis stands apart from other valuation approaches in three important ways. First, it explicitly accounts for the **time value of money** (i.e., the principle that a dollar today is worth more than a dollar tomorrow). By discounting future cash flows at an appropriate rate, we incorporate both time preferences and risk. Second, DCF is **forward-looking**, making it particularly suitable for companies where historical performance may not reflect future potential. Third, DCF is **flexible** enough to accommodate various business models and capital structures, making it applicable across industries and company sizes.

24.1.1 Valuation Methods Overview

Company valuation methods broadly fall into three categories:

- **Market-based approaches** compare companies using relative metrics like Price-to-Earnings or EV/EBITDA ratios. These are quick but assume comparable companies are fairly valued.
- **Asset-based methods** focus on the net value of tangible and intangible assets. These work well for liquidation scenarios but miss going-concern value.
- **Income-based techniques** value companies based on their ability to generate future cash flows. DCF is the most rigorous income-based method.

We focus on DCF because it forces analysts to make explicit assumptions about growth, profitability, and risk. These assumptions are often hidden in other methods. Even when DCF

isn't the final word on valuation, the discipline of building a DCF model deepens understanding of what drives value.

24.1.2 The Three Pillars of DCF

Every DCF analysis rests on three components:

1. **Free Cash Flow (FCF) forecasts**: The expected future cash available for distribution to investors after operating expenses, taxes, and investments
2. **Terminal value**: The company's value beyond the explicit forecast period, often representing a majority of total valuation
3. **Discount rate**: Typically the Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC), which adjusts future cash flows to present value by incorporating risk and capital structure

We make simplifying assumptions throughout this chapter. In particular, we assume firms conduct only operating activities (i.e., financial statements do not include non-operating items like excess cash or investment securities). Real-world valuations require valuing these separately. Entire textbooks are devoted to valuation nuances; our goal is to establish the conceptual framework and practical implementation.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf

from plotnine import *
from mizani.formatters import percent_format, comma_format
from itertools import product
```

24.2 Understanding Free Cash Flow

Before diving into calculations, we need to understand what Free Cash Flow represents and why it matters for valuation.

24.2.1 Why Free Cash Flow, Not Net Income?

Accountants report net income, but DCF uses free cash flow. Why the difference?

Net income includes non-cash items (like depreciation) and ignores cash needs (like capital expenditures and working capital investments). A company can report strong profits while burning cash, or generate substantial cash while reporting losses. Free cash flow captures what

actually matters for valuation: the cash available to distribute to all capital providers (both debt holders and equity holders) after funding operations and investments.

24.2.2 The Free Cash Flow Formula

We calculate FCF using the following formula:

$$\text{FCF} = \text{EBIT} \times (1 - \tau) + \text{D\&A} - \Delta\text{WC} - \text{CAPEX}$$

where:

- **EBIT** (Earnings Before Interest and Taxes): Core operating profit before financing costs and taxes
- τ: Corporate tax rate applied to operating profits
- **D&A** (Depreciation & Amortization): Non-cash charges that reduce reported earnings but don't consume cash
- **ΔWC** (Change in Working Capital): Cash tied up in (or released from) operations (increases in receivables and inventory consume cash, while increases in payables provide cash)
- **CAPEX** (Capital Expenditures): Investments in long-term assets required to maintain and grow operations

An alternative formulation starts from EBIT directly:

$$\text{FCF} = \text{EBIT} + \text{D\&A} - \text{Taxes} - \Delta\text{WC} - \text{CAPEX}$$

Both formulations yield the same result when taxes are calculated consistently. The key insight is that FCF represents cash generated from operations after all reinvestment needs (i.e., cash that could theoretically be distributed to investors without impairing the business).

24.3 Loading Historical Financial Data

We use FPT Corporation, one of Vietnam's largest technology companies, as our case study. FPT provides IT services, telecommunications, and education. It's a diversified business with meaningful capital requirements and growth potential.

```python
import sqlite3

tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

comp_vn = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM comp_vn",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

# Filter to FPT and examine the data structure
fpt_data = comp_vn[comp_vn["symbol"] == "FPT"].copy()
fpt_data["year"] = fpt_data["year"].astype(int)
fpt_data = fpt_data.sort_values("year").reset_index(drop=True)

print(f"Available years: {fpt_data['year'].min()} to {fpt_data['year'].max()}")
print(f"Number of observations: {len(fpt_data)}")
```

```
Available years: 2002 to 2023
Number of observations: 22
```

24.3.1 Computing Historical Free Cash Flow

Let's calculate the components needed for FCF from the financial statement data:

```python
# Extract and compute FCF components
historical_data = (fpt_data
    .assign(
        # Revenue for ratio calculations
        revenue=lambda x: x["is_net_revenue"],

        # EBIT = Earnings before interest and taxes
        # Approximate as EBT + Interest Expense
        ebit=lambda x: x["is_ebt"] + x["is_interest_expense"],

        # Tax payments (use actual tax expense)
        taxes=lambda x: x["is_cit_expense"],

        # Depreciation and amortization (non-cash add-back)
        depreciation=lambda x: x["cfo_depreciation"],
```

```
        # Change in working capital components
        # Positive delta_wc means cash is consumed (tied up in working capital)
        delta_working_capital=lambda x: (
            x["cfo_receive"] +      # Change in receivables
            x["cfo_inventory"] -    # Change in inventory
            x["cfo_payale"]         # Change in payables (negative = cash source)
        ),

        # Capital expenditures
        capex=lambda x: x["capex"]
    )
    .loc[:, [
        "year", "revenue", "ebit", "taxes", "depreciation",
        "delta_working_capital", "capex"
    ]]
)

# Calculate Free Cash Flow
historical_data["fcf"] = (
    historical_data["ebit"]
    - historical_data["taxes"]
    + historical_data["depreciation"]
    - historical_data["delta_working_capital"]
    - historical_data["capex"]
)

historical_data
```

	year	revenue	ebit	taxes	depreciation	delta_working_capital	capex
0	2002	1.514961e+12	2.698700e+10	0.000000e+00	1.261500e+10	-2.561760e+11	2.202800
1	2003	4.148298e+12	5.676100e+10	0.000000e+00	1.837700e+10	-5.078740e+11	3.753300
2	2004	8.734781e+12	2.145902e+11	1.795700e+10	2.947900e+10	-4.280270e+11	5.252100
3	2005	1.410079e+13	3.753490e+11	4.251500e+10	5.381700e+10	-4.471110e+11	1.428320
4	2006	2.139975e+13	6.672593e+11	7.368682e+10	1.068192e+11	-1.173099e+12	2.459780
5	2007	1.349889e+13	1.071941e+12	1.487146e+11	1.709335e+11	-1.873794e+12	4.802762
6	2008	1.638184e+13	1.320573e+12	1.890384e+11	2.395799e+11	-1.419506e+11	6.690461
7	2009	1.840403e+13	1.807221e+12	2.916482e+11	3.041813e+11	-8.065011e+11	7.632280
8	2010	2.001730e+13	2.261341e+12	3.314359e+11	3.294060e+11	-2.360993e+12	8.672138
9	2011	2.537025e+13	2.751044e+12	4.223952e+11	3.759567e+11	-2.099380e+12	4.524081
10	2012	2.459430e+13	2.635219e+12	4.210738e+11	3.995598e+11	8.043763e+11	7.083318
11	2013	2.702789e+13	2.690568e+12	4.503170e+11	4.429860e+11	-1.947751e+12	9.110216

	year	revenue	ebit	taxes	depreciation	delta_working_capital	capex
12	2014	3.264466e+13	2.625389e+12	3.800994e+11	5.472736e+11	-3.078130e+12	1.417399
13	2015	3.795970e+13	3.113651e+12	4.130641e+11	7.328801e+11	-1.951778e+12	1.974295
14	2016	3.953147e+13	3.388085e+12	4.382078e+11	9.334397e+11	-9.242713e+11	1.428472
15	2017	4.265861e+13	4.623663e+12	7.270039e+11	1.039417e+12	-4.638788e+12	1.100498
16	2018	2.321354e+13	4.095947e+12	6.236054e+11	1.164692e+12	-1.033438e+12	2.452902
17	2019	2.771696e+13	5.023518e+12	7.528183e+11	1.354613e+12	-5.308818e+11	3.230818
18	2020	2.983040e+13	5.648794e+12	8.397114e+11	1.490607e+12	-8.040730e+11	3.014322
19	2021	3.565726e+13	6.821202e+12	9.879053e+11	1.643916e+12	-2.821825e+12	2.908134
20	2022	4.400953e+13	8.308009e+12	1.170940e+12	1.833064e+12	-3.746661e+12	3.209581
21	2023	5.261790e+13	1.003565e+13	1.414956e+12	2.286514e+12	-2.147304e+12	3.948982

24.3.2 Understanding the Historical Pattern

Before forecasting, we should understand the historical trends in FCF and its components:

```
# Calculate key ratios relative to revenue
historical_ratios = (historical_data
    .assign(
        # Revenue growth (year-over-year)
        revenue_growth=lambda x: x["revenue"].pct_change(),

        # Operating margin: EBIT as % of revenue
        operating_margin=lambda x: x["ebit"] / x["revenue"],

        # Depreciation as % of revenue
        depreciation_margin=lambda x: x["depreciation"] / x["revenue"],

        # Tax rate (taxes as % of revenue, for simplicity)
        tax_margin=lambda x: x["taxes"] / x["revenue"],

        # Working capital intensity
        working_capital_margin=lambda x: x["delta_working_capital"] / x["revenue"],

        # Capital intensity
        capex_margin=lambda x: x["capex"] / x["revenue"],

        # FCF margin
        fcf_margin=lambda x: x["fcf"] / x["revenue"]
    )
)
```

```python
# Display key metrics
display_cols = [
    "year", "revenue_growth", "operating_margin", "depreciation_margin",
    "tax_margin", "working_capital_margin", "capex_margin", "fcf_margin"
]

historical_ratios[display_cols].round(3)
```

	year	revenue_growth	operating_margin	depreciation_margin	tax_margin	working_capital_mar
0	2002	NaN	0.018	0.008	0.000	-0.169
1	2003	1.738	0.014	0.004	0.000	-0.122
2	2004	1.106	0.025	0.003	0.002	-0.049
3	2005	0.614	0.027	0.004	0.003	-0.032
4	2006	0.518	0.031	0.005	0.003	-0.055
5	2007	-0.369	0.079	0.013	0.011	-0.139
6	2008	0.214	0.081	0.015	0.012	-0.009
7	2009	0.123	0.098	0.017	0.016	-0.044
8	2010	0.088	0.113	0.016	0.017	-0.118
9	2011	0.267	0.108	0.015	0.017	-0.083
10	2012	-0.031	0.107	0.016	0.017	0.033
11	2013	0.099	0.100	0.016	0.017	-0.072
12	2014	0.208	0.080	0.017	0.012	-0.094
13	2015	0.163	0.082	0.019	0.011	-0.051
14	2016	0.041	0.086	0.024	0.011	-0.023
15	2017	0.079	0.108	0.024	0.017	-0.109
16	2018	-0.456	0.176	0.050	0.027	-0.045
17	2019	0.194	0.181	0.049	0.027	-0.019
18	2020	0.076	0.189	0.050	0.028	-0.027
19	2021	0.195	0.191	0.046	0.028	-0.079
20	2022	0.234	0.189	0.042	0.027	-0.085
21	2023	0.196	0.191	0.043	0.027	-0.041

24.4 Visualizing Historical Ratios

Figure 24.1 shows the historical evolution of key financial ratios that drive FCF. Understanding these patterns helps inform our forecasts.

```
# Prepare data for plotting
ratio_columns = [
    "operating_margin", "depreciation_margin", "tax_margin",
    "working_capital_margin", "capex_margin"
]

ratios_long = (historical_ratios
    .melt(
        id_vars=["year"],
        value_vars=ratio_columns,
        var_name="ratio",
        value_name="value"
    )
    .assign(
        ratio=lambda x: x["ratio"].str.replace("_", " ").str.title()
    )
)

ratios_figure = (
    ggplot(ratios_long, aes(x="year", y="value", color="ratio"))
    + geom_line(size=1)
    + geom_point(size=2)
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="", y="Ratio (% of Revenue)", color="",
        title="Key Financial Ratios of FPT Over Time"
    )
    + theme(legend_position="right")
)

ratios_figure.show()
```

Figure 24.1: Historical financial ratios reveal the operating characteristics of FPT. These patterns inform our forecast assumptions.

Several patterns emerge from the historical data. Operating margins show the profitability of core operations. Depreciation margins indicate asset intensity. CAPEX margins reveal investment requirements. Working capital margins can be volatile, reflecting changes in credit terms and inventory management.

24.5 Forecasting Free Cash Flow

With historical patterns established, we now project FCF into the future. This requires forecasting both revenue growth and the ratios that convert revenue into cash flow.

24.5.1 The Ratio-Based Forecasting Approach

We use a ratio-based approach that links all FCF components to revenue. This makes forecasting tractable: rather than projecting absolute dollar amounts for each component, we forecast (1) revenue growth and (2) how each component scales with revenue.

This approach embeds a key assumption: that the relationship between revenue and FCF components remains stable. In reality, operating leverage, investment needs, and working

capital requirements may change as companies mature. Sophisticated valuations model these dynamics explicitly.

24.5.2 Setting Forecast Assumptions

For our five-year forecast, we make the following assumptions about FPT's financial ratios. These should reflect industry analysis, company guidance, and competitive dynamics. Here we use estimates for illustration:

```
# Define the forecast horizon
last_historical_year = historical_data["year"].max()
forecast_years = list(range(last_historical_year + 1, last_historical_year + 6))
n_forecast_years = len(forecast_years)

print(f"Forecast period: {forecast_years[0]} to {forecast_years[-1]}")

# Define forecast ratios
# In practice, these would come from detailed analysis
forecast_assumptions = pd.DataFrame({
    "year": forecast_years,
    # Operating margin: slight improvement as scale increases
    "operating_margin": [0.12, 0.125, 0.13, 0.13, 0.135],
    # Depreciation: stable as % of revenue
    "depreciation_margin": [0.03, 0.03, 0.03, 0.028, 0.028],
    # Tax rate: stable
    "tax_margin": [0.02, 0.02, 0.02, 0.02, 0.02],
    # Working capital: modest cash consumption
    "working_capital_margin": [0.01, 0.01, 0.008, 0.008, 0.008],
    # CAPEX: declining as % of revenue as growth moderates
    "capex_margin": [0.05, 0.048, 0.045, 0.042, 0.04]
})

forecast_assumptions
```

```
Forecast period: 2024 to 2028
```

	year	operating_margin	depreciation_margin	tax_margin	working_capital_margin	capex_margin
0	2024	0.120	0.030	0.02	0.010	0.050
1	2025	0.125	0.030	0.02	0.010	0.048
2	2026	0.130	0.030	0.02	0.008	0.045

	year	operating_margin	depreciation_margin	tax_margin	working_capital_margin	capex_margin
3	2027	0.130	0.028	0.02	0.008	0.042
4	2028	0.135	0.028	0.02	0.008	0.040

24.5.3 Forecasting Revenue Growth

Revenue growth is often the most important and most uncertain assumption in DCF analysis. We demonstrate two approaches: using historical averages and linking growth to macroeconomic forecasts.

Approach 1: Historical Average

A simple approach uses the historical average growth rate:

```
historical_growth = historical_ratios["revenue_growth"].dropna()
avg_historical_growth = historical_growth.mean()

print(f"Average historical revenue growth: {avg_historical_growth:.1%}")
```

```
Average historical revenue growth: 25.2%
```

Approach 2: GDP-Linked Growth

A more sophisticated approach links company growth to GDP forecasts from institutions like the IMF. This captures the intuition that company revenues often move with broader economic activity.

```
# Vietnam GDP growth forecasts (illustrative, based on IMF WEO style projections)
# In practice, download from IMF WEO database
gdp_forecasts = pd.DataFrame({
    "year": forecast_years,
    "gdp_growth": [0.065, 0.063, 0.060, 0.058, 0.055]  # Gradually declining to long-term
})

# Assume FPT grows at a premium to GDP (tech sector outperformance)
# This premium should reflect company-specific factors
growth_premium = 0.05  # 5 percentage points above GDP

forecast_assumptions = forecast_assumptions.merge(gdp_forecasts, on="year")
forecast_assumptions["revenue_growth"] = (
    forecast_assumptions["gdp_growth"] + growth_premium
```

```
)

forecast_assumptions[["year", "gdp_growth", "revenue_growth"]]
```

	year	gdp_growth	revenue_growth
0	2024	0.065	0.115
1	2025	0.063	0.113
2	2026	0.060	0.110
3	2027	0.058	0.108
4	2028	0.055	0.105

24.5.4 Building the Forecast

Now we combine our assumptions to project revenue and FCF:

```
# Get the last historical revenue as our starting point
last_revenue = historical_data.loc[
    historical_data["year"] == last_historical_year, "revenue"
].values[0]

print(f"Last historical revenue ({last_historical_year}): {last_revenue/1e12:.2f} trillion VI

# Project revenue forward
forecast_data = forecast_assumptions.copy()
forecast_data["revenue"] = None

# Calculate revenue for each forecast year
for i, row in forecast_data.iterrows():
    if i == 0:
        # First forecast year: grow from last historical
        forecast_data.loc[i, "revenue"] = last_revenue * (1 + row["revenue_growth"])
    else:
        # Subsequent years: grow from previous forecast
        prev_revenue = forecast_data.loc[i-1, "revenue"]
        forecast_data.loc[i, "revenue"] = prev_revenue * (1 + row["revenue_growth"])

# Convert revenue to numeric
forecast_data["revenue"] = forecast_data["revenue"].astype(float)

# Calculate FCF components from ratios
```

```
forecast_data["ebit"] = forecast_data["operating_margin"] * forecast_data["revenue"]
forecast_data["depreciation"] = forecast_data["depreciation_margin"] * forecast_data["revenue
forecast_data["taxes"] = forecast_data["tax_margin"] * forecast_data["revenue"]
forecast_data["delta_working_capital"] = forecast_data["working_capital_margin"] * forecast_
forecast_data["capex"] = forecast_data["capex_margin"] * forecast_data["revenue"]

# Calculate FCF
forecast_data["fcf"] = (
    forecast_data["ebit"]
    - forecast_data["taxes"]
    + forecast_data["depreciation"]
    - forecast_data["delta_working_capital"]
    - forecast_data["capex"]
)

forecast_data[["year", "revenue", "ebit", "fcf"]].round(0)
```

```
Last historical revenue (2023): 52.62 trillion VND
```

	year	revenue	ebit	fcf
0	2024	5.866896e+13	7.040275e+12	4.106827e+12
1	2025	6.529855e+13	8.162319e+12	5.027988e+12
2	2026	7.248139e+13	9.422581e+12	6.305881e+12
3	2027	8.030938e+13	1.044022e+13	7.067226e+12
4	2028	8.874187e+13	1.198015e+13	8.430477e+12

24.6 Visualizing the Forecast

Figure 24.2 compares our forecast ratios with historical values, showing the transition from realized to projected performance.

```
# Prepare historical data for plotting
historical_plot = (historical_ratios
    .loc[:, ["year", "operating_margin", "depreciation_margin",
             "tax_margin", "working_capital_margin", "capex_margin"]]
    .assign(type="Historical")
)
```

```
# Prepare forecast data for plotting
forecast_plot = (forecast_data
    .loc[:, ["year", "operating_margin", "depreciation_margin",
             "tax_margin", "working_capital_margin", "capex_margin"]]
    .assign(type="Forecast")
)

# Combine
combined_ratios = pd.concat([historical_plot, forecast_plot], ignore_index=True)

# Reshape for plotting
combined_long = combined_ratios.melt(
    id_vars=["year", "type"],
    var_name="ratio",
    value_name="value"
)

combined_long["type"] = pd.Categorical(
    combined_long["type"],
    categories=["Historical", "Forecast"]
)

forecast_ratios_figure = (
    ggplot(combined_long, aes(x="year", y="value", color="ratio", linetype="type"))
    + geom_line(size=1)
    + geom_point(size=2)
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="", y="Ratio (% of Revenue)", color="", linetype="",
        title="Historical and Forecast Financial Ratios for FPT"
    )
    + theme(legend_position="right")
)

forecast_ratios_figure.show()
```

Figure 24.2: Historical ratios (solid lines) and forecast assumptions (dashed lines) for key financial metrics. The forecast period begins after the last historical observation.

Figure 24.3 shows the revenue growth trajectory, comparing historical performance with our GDP-linked forecasts.

```
# Prepare growth data
historical_growth_df = (historical_ratios
    .loc[:, ["year", "revenue_growth"]]
    .dropna()
    .assign(type="Historical")
)

forecast_growth_df = (forecast_data
    .loc[:, ["year", "revenue_growth", "gdp_growth"]]
    .assign(type="Forecast")
)

# Combine for revenue growth
growth_combined = pd.concat([
    historical_growth_df,
    forecast_growth_df[["year", "revenue_growth", "type"]]
], ignore_index=True)
```

```
growth_combined["type"] = pd.Categorical(
    growth_combined["type"],
    categories=["Historical", "Forecast"]
)

growth_figure = (
    ggplot(growth_combined, aes(x="year", y="revenue_growth", linetype="type"))
    + geom_line(size=1, color="steelblue")
    + geom_point(size=2, color="steelblue")
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + labs(
        x="", y="Revenue Growth Rate", linetype="",
        title="Historical and Forecast Revenue Growth for FPT"
    )
)

growth_figure.show()
```

Figure 24.3: Revenue growth rates: historical (realized) and forecast (GDP-linked with company premium). The forecast assumes FPT grows at a premium to Vietnam's GDP growth.

Figure 24.4 presents the resulting FCF projections alongside historical values.

```
# Combine historical and forecast FCF
fcf_historical = (historical_data
    .loc[:, ["year", "fcf"]]
    .assign(type="Historical")
)

fcf_forecast = (forecast_data
    .loc[:, ["year", "fcf"]]
    .assign(type="Forecast")
)

fcf_combined = pd.concat([fcf_historical, fcf_forecast], ignore_index=True)
fcf_combined["type"] = pd.Categorical(
    fcf_combined["type"],
    categories=["Historical", "Forecast"]
)

fcf_figure = (
    ggplot(fcf_combined, aes(x="year", y="fcf/1e12", fill="type"))
    + geom_col()
    + labs(
        x="", y="Free Cash Flow (Trillion VND)", fill="",
        title="Historical and Forecast Free Cash Flow for FPT"
    )
)

fcf_figure.show()
```

Figure 24.4: Free Cash Flow: historical (realized) and forecast (projected). The forecast reflects our assumptions about revenue growth and operating ratios.

24.7 Terminal Value: Capturing Long-Term Value

A critical component of DCF analysis is the **terminal value** (or continuation value), which represents the company's value beyond the explicit forecast period. In most valuations, terminal value constitutes 50-80% of total enterprise value, making its estimation particularly important.

24.7.1 The Perpetuity Growth Model

The most common approach is the **Perpetuity Growth Model** (also called the Gordon Growth Model), which assumes FCF grows at a constant rate forever:

$$TV_T = \frac{FCF_{T+1}}{r - g} = \frac{FCF_T \times (1 + g)}{r - g}$$

where:

- TV_T: Terminal value at the end of year T

- FCF_T: Free cash flow in the final forecast year
- g: Perpetual growth rate
- r: Discount rate (WACC)

24.7.2 Choosing the Perpetual Growth Rate

The perpetual growth rate g should reflect long-term sustainable growth. Key considerations:

1. **No company can grow faster than the economy forever**. If it did, the company would eventually become larger than GDP, which is an impossibility. Long-term GDP growth (nominal, including inflation) provides an upper bound.
2. **Mature companies typically grow at or below GDP growth**. The perpetual growth rate should reflect the company in its "steady state," not its current high-growth phase.
3. **For Vietnam**, long-term nominal GDP growth might be 6-8% given current development stage, but this will moderate over time. A perpetual growth rate of 3-5% is often reasonable.

```python
def compute_terminal_value(last_fcf, growth_rate, discount_rate):
    """
    Compute terminal value using the perpetuity growth model.

    Parameters:
    -----------
    last_fcf : float
        Free cash flow in the final forecast year
    growth_rate : float
        Perpetual growth rate (g)
    discount_rate : float
        Discount rate / WACC (r)

    Returns:
    --------
    float : Terminal value
    """
    if discount_rate <= growth_rate:
        raise ValueError("Discount rate must exceed growth rate for finite terminal value")

    return last_fcf * (1 + growth_rate) / (discount_rate - growth_rate)
```

```
# Example calculation
last_fcf = forecast_data["fcf"].iloc[-1]
perpetual_growth = 0.04  # 4% perpetual growth
discount_rate = 0.10     # 10% WACC (placeholder)

terminal_value = compute_terminal_value(last_fcf, perpetual_growth, discount_rate)

print(f"Last forecast FCF: {last_fcf/1e12:.2f} trillion VND")
print(f"Terminal value (at {perpetual_growth:.0%} growth, {discount_rate:.0%} WACC): {termina
```

```
Last forecast FCF: 8.43 trillion VND
Terminal value (at 4% growth, 10% WACC): 146.1 trillion VND
```

24.7.3 Alternative: Exit Multiple Approach

Practitioners often cross-check terminal value using the **exit multiple approach**, which assumes the company is sold at the end of the forecast period at a multiple of EBITDA, EBIT, or revenue comparable to similar companies today.

For example, if comparable companies trade at 10x EBITDA, the terminal value would be:

$$TV_T = \text{EBITDA}_T \times \text{Exit Multiple}$$

This approach is simpler but embeds the assumption that current market multiples will persist (a strong assumption that may not hold).

24.8 The Discount Rate: Weighted Average Cost of Capital

The discount rate converts future cash flows to present value. For FCF (which goes to all capital providers), we use the **Weighted Average Cost of Capital (WACC)**:

$$WACC = \frac{E}{E+D} \times r_E + \frac{D}{E+D} \times r_D \times (1-\tau)$$

where:

- E: Market value of equity
- D: Market value of debt
- r_E: Cost of equity (typically estimated using CAPM)
- r_D: Cost of debt (pre-tax)

- τ: Corporate tax rate

The $(1-\tau)$ term on debt reflects the tax shield. Interest payments are tax-deductible, reducing the effective cost of debt.

24.8.1 Estimating WACC Components

Cost of Equity is typically estimated using the Capital Asset Pricing Model. See the CAPM chapter:

$$r_E = r_f + \beta \times (r_m - r_f)$$

where r_f is the risk-free rate, β measures systematic risk, and $(r_m - r_f)$ is the market risk premium.

Cost of Debt can be estimated from:

- Interest expense divided by total debt (effective rate)
- Yields on the company's traded bonds
- Yields on bonds with similar credit ratings

Capital Structure Weights should use market values when available. For equity, market capitalization is straightforward. For debt, book value is often used when market values aren't observable.

24.8.2 Using Industry WACC Data

Professor Aswath Damodaran at NYU Stern maintains comprehensive industry WACC and country risk premium data. We use these datasets to estimate appropriate discount rates for Vietnamese companies.

24.8.2.1 Downloading the Data

The following code downloads the required datasets. Run this manually when you need to update the data (typically annually), but it is not executed during book rendering to avoid dependency on external servers.

```python
import requests
from pathlib import Path

# Create data directory if needed
data_dir = Path("data")
data_dir.mkdir(exist_ok=True)

# Download WACC data
wacc_url = "https://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~adamodar/pc/datasets/wacc.xls"
response = requests.get(wacc_url, timeout=30)
response.raise_for_status()
(data_dir / "damodaran_wacc.xls").write_bytes(response.content)
print("Downloaded: damodaran_wacc.xls")

# Download country risk premium data
crp_url = "https://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~adamodar/pc/datasets/ctryprem.xlsx"
response = requests.get(crp_url, timeout=30)
response.raise_for_status()
(data_dir / "damodaran_crp.xlsx").write_bytes(response.content)
print("Downloaded: damodaran_crp.xlsx")
```

24.8.2.2 Industry WACC

We extract the cost of capital for the Computer Services industry, which most closely matches FPT's business profile:

```python
import pandas as pd

# Read local WACC data
wacc_data = pd.read_excel(
    "data/damodaran_wacc.xls",
    sheet_name=1,
    skiprows=18
)

# Find WACC for Computer Services
industry_wacc = wacc_data.loc[
    wacc_data["Industry Name"] == "Computer Services",
    "Cost of Capital"
].values[0]
```

```
print(f"Industry WACC (Computer Services): {industry_wacc:.2%}")
```

```
Industry WACC (Computer Services): 7.83%
```

24.8.2.3 Country Risk Premium

For Vietnamese companies, we must adjust for country-specific risk. Damodaran calculates country risk premiums based on sovereign credit ratings and relative equity market volatility:

```
# Read local country risk premium data
crp_data = pd.read_excel(
    "data/damodaran_crp.xlsx",
    sheet_name="ERPs by country",
    skiprows=7
)

# Find Vietnam's country risk premium
vietnam_row = crp_data[
    crp_data.iloc[:, 0].str.contains("Vietnam", case=False, na=False)
]

country_risk_premium = vietnam_row.iloc[0, 8]
print(f"Vietnam Country Risk Premium: {country_risk_premium:.2%}")
```

```
Vietnam Country Risk Premium: 2.09%
```

24.8.2.4 Adjusted WACC for Vietnam

Combining the industry benchmark with the country risk premium gives us an appropriate discount rate:

```
wacc_vietnam = industry_wacc + country_risk_premium

print(f"Industry WACC (US):        {industry_wacc:.2%}")
print(f"Country Risk Premium:      {country_risk_premium:.2%}")
print(f"Adjusted WACC (Vietnam):   {wacc_vietnam:.2%}")

wacc = wacc_vietnam
```

```
Industry WACC (US):        7.83%
Country Risk Premium:      2.09%
Adjusted WACC (Vietnam):   9.92%
```

Note: This approach assumes Vietnamese companies in the same industry face similar operating risks as their US counterparts, with the country risk premium capturing additional macroeconomic and political risks. For company-specific analysis, further adjustments for leverage differences and firm-specific risk factors may be warranted.

24.9 Computing Enterprise Value

With all components in place, we can now compute enterprise value. The DCF formula is:

$$\text{Enterprise Value} = \sum_{t=1}^{T} \frac{FCF_t}{(1+WACC)^t} + \frac{TV_T}{(1+WACC)^T}$$

The first term is the present value of forecast-period cash flows; the second is the present value of terminal value.

```python
def compute_dcf_value(fcf_series, wacc, perpetual_growth):
    """
    Compute enterprise value using DCF analysis.

    Parameters:
    -----------
    fcf_series : array-like
        Free cash flows for forecast period
    wacc : float
        Weighted average cost of capital
    perpetual_growth : float
        Perpetual growth rate for terminal value

    Returns:
    --------
    dict : Components of DCF valuation
    """
    fcf = np.array(fcf_series)
    n_years = len(fcf)

    # Discount factors
```

```python
    discount_factors = (1 + wacc) ** np.arange(1, n_years + 1)

    # Present value of forecast period cash flows
    pv_fcf = fcf / discount_factors
    pv_fcf_total = pv_fcf.sum()

    # Terminal value and its present value
    terminal_value = compute_terminal_value(fcf[-1], perpetual_growth, wacc)
    pv_terminal = terminal_value / discount_factors[-1]

    # Total enterprise value
    enterprise_value = pv_fcf_total + pv_terminal

    return {
        "pv_fcf": pv_fcf_total,
        "terminal_value": terminal_value,
        "pv_terminal": pv_terminal,
        "enterprise_value": enterprise_value,
        "terminal_pct": pv_terminal / enterprise_value
    }


# Compute DCF value
perpetual_growth = 0.04  # 4% perpetual growth

dcf_result = compute_dcf_value(
    fcf_series=forecast_data["fcf"].values,
    wacc=wacc,
    perpetual_growth=perpetual_growth
)

print("DCF Valuation Results")
print("=" * 50)
print(f"PV of Forecast Period FCF: {dcf_result['pv_fcf']/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
print(f"Terminal Value: {dcf_result['terminal_value']/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
print(f"PV of Terminal Value: {dcf_result['pv_terminal']/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
print(f"Enterprise Value: {dcf_result['enterprise_value']/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
print(f"Terminal Value as % of EV: {dcf_result['terminal_pct']:.1%}")
```

```
DCF Valuation Results
==================================================
PV of Forecast Period FCF: 22.7 trillion VND
```

```
Terminal Value: 148.1 trillion VND
PV of Terminal Value: 92.3 trillion VND
Enterprise Value: 115.1 trillion VND
Terminal Value as % of EV: 80.2%
```

Note that terminal value often represents 60-80% of enterprise value. This highlights the importance of terminal value assumptions and the inherent uncertainty in DCF analysis.

24.10 Sensitivity Analysis

Given the uncertainty in DCF inputs, sensitivity analysis is essential. We examine how enterprise value changes with different assumptions about WACC and perpetual growth.

```
# Define ranges for sensitivity analysis
wacc_range = np.arange(0.08, 0.14, 0.01)  # 8% to 13%
growth_range = np.arange(0.02, 0.06, 0.01)  # 2% to 5%

# Create all combinations
sensitivity_results = []

for w in wacc_range:
    for g in growth_range:
        if w > g:  # Must have WACC > growth for valid terminal value
            result = compute_dcf_value(
                fcf_series=forecast_data["fcf"].values,
                wacc=w,
                perpetual_growth=g
            )
            sensitivity_results.append({
                "wacc": w,
                "growth_rate": g,
                "enterprise_value": result["enterprise_value"] / 1e12  # In trillions
            })

sensitivity_df = pd.DataFrame(sensitivity_results)

# Create heatmap
sensitivity_figure = (
    ggplot(sensitivity_df, aes(x="wacc", y="growth_rate", fill="enterprise_value"))
    + geom_tile()
    + geom_text(
```

```
        aes(label="enterprise_value"),
        format_string="{:.0f}",
        color="white",
        size=9
    )
    + scale_x_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + scale_y_continuous(labels=percent_format())
    + scale_fill_gradient(low="darkblue", high="lightblue")
    + labs(
        x="WACC", y="Perpetual Growth Rate",
        fill="EV\n(Trillion VND)",
        title="DCF Sensitivity: Enterprise Value by WACC and Growth Rate"
    )
)

sensitivity_figure.show()
```

Figure 24.5: Sensitivity of enterprise value to WACC and perpetual growth rate assumptions. Small changes in these inputs can substantially affect valuation.

The sensitivity analysis reveals several important insights:

1. **Valuation is highly sensitive to inputs**: Small changes in WACC or growth rate produce large changes in enterprise value. A 1 percentage point change in WACC can shift value by 20% or more.
2. **The relationship is non-linear**: The impact of growth rate changes is amplified at lower WACCs because the terminal value formula has $(r - g)$ in the denominator.
3. **Reasonable people can disagree**: Given input uncertainty, DCF should be thought of as producing a *range* of values, not a single precise number.

24.11 From Enterprise Value to Equity Value

Our DCF analysis yields **enterprise value** (i.e., the total value of the company's operations to all capital providers). To determine **equity value** (what shareholders own), we must adjust for the claims of debt holders and any non-operating assets:

$$\text{Equity Value} = \text{Enterprise Value} + \text{Non-Operating Assets} - \text{Debt}$$

Non-Operating Assets include:

- Excess cash beyond operating needs
- Marketable securities
- Non-core real estate or investments

Debt includes:

- Short-term debt
- Long-term debt
- Capital lease obligations
- Preferred stock (if treated as debt-like)

```
# Get most recent balance sheet data for FPT
latest_year = fpt_data["year"].max()
latest_data = fpt_data[fpt_data["year"] == latest_year].iloc[0]

# Extract debt and cash (column names may vary)
total_debt = latest_data.get("total_debt", 0)
cash = latest_data.get("ca_cce", 0)

# Compute equity value
enterprise_value = dcf_result["enterprise_value"]
equity_value = enterprise_value - total_debt + cash
```

```
print("From Enterprise Value to Equity Value")
print("=" * 50)
print(f"Enterprise Value: {enterprise_value/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
print(f"Less: Total Debt: {total_debt/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
print(f"Plus: Cash: {cash/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
print(f"Equity Value: {equity_value/1e12:.1f} trillion VND")
```

```
From Enterprise Value to Equity Value
==================================================
Enterprise Value: 115.1 trillion VND
Less: Total Debt: 0.0 trillion VND
Plus: Cash: 8.3 trillion VND
Equity Value: 123.3 trillion VND
```

24.11.1 Implied Share Price

If we know the number of shares outstanding, we can compute an implied share price:

```
# Get shares outstanding (this would come from market data)
# Using placeholder - in practice, get from exchange data
shares_outstanding = latest_data.get("total_equity", equity_value) / 25000  # Rough estimate

implied_price = equity_value / shares_outstanding

print(f"\nImplied Share Price: {implied_price:,.0f} VND")
```

```
Implied Share Price: 103,008 VND
```

Comparing the implied price to the current market price tells us whether the stock appears under- or overvalued according to our DCF model.

24.12 Limitations and Practical Considerations

DCF analysis is powerful but has important limitations:

24.12.1 Sensitivity to Assumptions

As our sensitivity analysis showed, small changes in inputs produce large changes in value. This is particularly problematic because the most influential inputs (long-term growth, WACC) are the hardest to estimate accurately.

24.12.2 Terminal Value Dominance

Terminal value often represents 60-80% of total value, yet it's based on assumptions about the very distant future. This concentrates valuation risk in the most uncertain component.

24.12.3 Garbage In, Garbage Out

DCF is only as good as its inputs. Unrealistic growth assumptions, optimistic margins, or inappropriate discount rates produce meaningless valuations. The discipline of DCF lies in forcing analysts to justify their assumptions.

24.12.4 Not Suitable for All Companies

DCF works best for companies with:

- Positive and predictable cash flows
- Stable or predictably changing margins
- Reasonable visibility into future operations

It struggles with:

- Early-stage companies with no profits
- Highly cyclical businesses
- Companies undergoing major transitions
- Financial institutions (which require different approaches)

24.12.5 Complement with Other Methods

Wise practitioners use DCF alongside other valuation methods:

- **Comparable company analysis**: How do similar companies trade?
- **Precedent transactions**: What have acquirers paid for similar businesses?
- **Sum-of-the-parts**: Value divisions separately and add

When methods converge, confidence increases. When they diverge, it prompts investigation into why.

24.13 Key Takeaways

This chapter introduced Discounted Cash Flow analysis as a framework for intrinsic valuation. The main insights are:

1. **Free Cash Flow is the foundation**: FCF represents cash available to all investors after operating expenses, taxes, and investments. It differs from net income by excluding non-cash items and including investment needs.
2. **Ratio-based forecasting links components to revenue**: By expressing FCF components as percentages of revenue, we can systematically forecast cash flows based on revenue growth assumptions and operating ratio projections.
3. **Terminal value captures long-term value**: The perpetuity growth model assumes FCF grows at a constant rate forever. The perpetual growth rate should not exceed long-term economic growth.
4. **WACC is the appropriate discount rate**: The Weighted Average Cost of Capital reflects the blended cost of debt and equity financing, adjusted for the tax shield on interest.
5. **DCF produces enterprise value**: To derive equity value, subtract debt and add non-operating assets. Dividing by shares outstanding yields an implied share price.
6. **Sensitivity analysis is essential**: Given input uncertainty, presenting a range of values based on different assumptions is more honest than a single point estimate.
7. **DCF complements other methods**: No single valuation method is definitive. Cross-checking DCF with market multiples and transaction comparables provides a more complete picture.

The true value of DCF analysis lies not in producing a precise number but in forcing rigorous thinking about what drives company value. The process of building a DCF model (i.e., forecasting growth, projecting margins, estimating risk) develops deep understanding of the business being valued.

25 Information Content of Earnings Announcements

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mticker
import matplotlib.dates as mdates
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from scipy import stats
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")

plt.rcParams.update({
    "figure.dpi": 150,
    "axes.spines.top": False,
    "axes.spines.right": False,
    "font.size": 11,
})
```

A foundational question in capital markets research is whether accounting information matters to investors. If financial statements merely repackage what the market already knows from other sources, such as press coverage, analyst reports, management guidance, macroeconomic data, then the elaborate apparatus of financial reporting is largely redundant for price discovery. Conversely, if earnings announcements trigger measurable changes in trading behavior, we have evidence that the accounting system produces information the market did not previously possess.

Beaver (1968) addressed this question by examining whether trading volume and return volatility increase around the dates when firms announce annual earnings. The logic is direct: if an earnings announcement contains new information, it should alter investors' beliefs. Altered beliefs lead some investors to trade, increasing volume. And to the extent that the announcement resolves uncertainty, the stock price should adjust, generating abnormal return volatility. Both channels (i.e., volume and volatility) provide distinct windows into the information content of earnings.

The empirical design compares a firm's trading activity during a narrow **announcement window** (the days immediately around the earnings release) with its own trading activity during a **non-announcement window** (otherwise comparable days away from the event). If the announcement conveys information, the announcement window should show elevated volume and volatility relative to the non-announcement period.

25.0.1 Two Distinct Signals: Volume vs. Volatility

While volume and return volatility are both used to measure investor reaction, they capture different economic phenomena. This distinction, formalized in subsequent theoretical work, is important for interpreting results:

- **Return volatility** reflects the *average* revision in investor beliefs. When the market as a whole is surprised by an earnings number, prices move sharply. The magnitude of the squared (or absolute) return residual measures how far the announcement moved the consensus. This is a measure of the *aggregate information content* of the announcement (O. Kim and Verrecchia 1991).
- **Trading volume** reflects *disagreement* among investors about the implications of the announcement. Even an announcement that moves prices very little can generate heavy trading if investors interpret the same signal differently. For example, if some view an earnings beat as sustainable while others view it as temporary (Kandel and Pearson 1995). Volume thus captures the *differential information content* of the announcement.

Karpoff (1987) surveys the theoretical and empirical relationship between these two variables. The key insight is that volume is not simply a noisier version of volatility; it provides independent information about how the market processes accounting data.

25.0.2 Why Vietnam?

Vietnam's equity markets provide a distinctive setting for studying announcement reactions for several reasons:

1. **Information environment.** Vietnamese listed firms face less intense pre-announcement scrutiny than their U.S. counterparts. Analyst coverage is sparse (most firms outside the VN30 index receive no institutional coverage). Management earnings guidance is rare. This creates a thicker "information gap" for the earnings announcement to fill, potentially amplifying both volume and volatility reactions.
2. **Retail investor dominance.** Over 80% of daily trading volume on HOSE is attributed to retail investors. Retail traders may process earnings information differently from institutions, with greater behavioral biases, less capacity for fundamental analysis, and different trading horizons. This affects both the timing and magnitude of market reactions.

3. **Price limits.** HOSE imposes daily price limits of ± 7% and HNX of ± 10%. When an earnings announcement is sufficiently surprising, the stock may hit its price limit, preventing the market from fully incorporating the information within a single trading session. This creates a distinctive pattern of *multi-day adjustment* that has no analogue in the original U.S. studies.
4. **Disclosure timing.** Vietnamese regulations require audited annual financial statements to be published within 90 days of fiscal year-end. Quarterly financial data (unaudited) must be released within 20 days. The overlap between quarterly and annual announcements, and the variable lag between fiscal year-end and announcement date, creates heterogeneity in the information content of annual earnings releases.
5. **Market structure.** Vietnam operates continuous order-matching during trading hours (9:00–11:30 and 13:00–14:30 on HOSE; 9:00–11:30 and 13:00–15:00 on HNX), with periodic call auctions at open and close. This microstructure affects intraday patterns of price discovery around announcements.

25.1 Theoretical Framework

25.1.1 The Information Content Hypothesis

Let $P_{i,t}$ denote the price of stock i on date t. Under the efficient markets hypothesis, the price reflects all publicly available information:

$$P_{i,t} = E\left[\sum_{s=1}^{\infty} \frac{D_{i,t+s}}{(1+r)^s} \,\middle|\, \Omega_t\right] \tag{25.1}$$

where $D_{i,t+s}$ represents future dividends, r is the discount rate, and Ω_t is the information set at time t.

When firm i announces earnings X_i at time τ, the information set expands: $\Omega_{\tau^+} = \Omega_{\tau^-} \cup \{X_i\}$. If the announcement contains new information, meaning $X_i \notin \Omega_{\tau^-}$, then in general:

$$P_{i,\tau^+} \neq P_{i,\tau^-} \tag{25.2}$$

The magnitude of the price change reflects the *surprise* component of the announcement:

$$|P_{i,\tau^+} - P_{i,\tau^-}| \propto |X_i - E[X_i|\Omega_{\tau^-}]| \tag{25.3}$$

25.1.2 Volume as a Signal of Heterogeneous Beliefs

O. Kim and Verrecchia (1991) develop a model where trading volume is driven by the precision of investors' private information relative to the precision of the public signal. Define $V_{i,\tau}$ as the trading volume for stock i at time τ. In their framework:

$$V_{i,\tau} = f\left(\frac{\mathrm{Var}[X_i|\Omega_{\tau^-}^{(j)}]}{\mathrm{Var}[\varepsilon_i]}\right) \tag{25.4}$$

where $\Omega_{\tau^-}^{(j)}$ is investor j's private information set and ε_i is noise. Volume increases when investors disagree about what the announcement means, a condition that Kandel and Pearson (1995) term **differential interpretation**.

This distinction matters for Vietnam. In a market dominated by retail investors with heterogeneous information and analytical capacity, we might expect the volume reaction to be *disproportionately large* relative to the price reaction, because disagreement is high even when the aggregate price revision is modest.

25.1.3 Measuring Information Content

We use two complementary measures:

Abnormal return volatility. For each firm-day, compute the squared market-adjusted return:

$$U_{i,t}^2 = (R_{i,t} - R_{m,t})^2 \tag{25.5}$$

where $R_{i,t}$ is the return on stock i and $R_{m,t}$ is the market return. Under the null of no information content, $E[U_{i,t}^2]$ should be the same in the announcement and non-announcement windows. Beaver (1968) standardized this measure by dividing by the firm's average U^2 during non-announcement weeks.

Relative volume. For each firm-day, compute:

$$RV_{i,t} = \frac{Vol_{i,t}}{\overline{Vol}_i} \tag{25.6}$$

where $\overline{Vol}_i$ is the firm's average daily volume over the event window. A value of $RV > 1$ indicates above-average trading. Beaver (1968) used a similar approach, computing a "volume ratio" relative to non-report-period averages.

25.2 Data and Variable Construction

25.2.1 Data Requirements

The analysis requires three data elements:

Table 25.1: Data sources for the information content analysis

Data	Source	Key Fields
Earnings announcement dates	Financial statements/filings	Ticker, fiscal year-end, announcement date
Daily stock returns	Exchange data (HOSE/HNX)	Ticker, date, closing price, return
Daily trading volume	Exchange data (HOSE/HNX)	Ticker, date, volume (shares or VND)

25.2.2 Trading Day Calendar

A critical infrastructure element is a **trading day calendar** that maps calendar dates to sequential trading day indices. This allows us to count "20 trading days before the announcement" correctly, skipping weekends and holidays.

```
def build_trading_calendar(
    start_date: str = "2008-01-01",
    end_date: str = "2024-12-31",
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Build a trading day calendar for Vietnamese stock exchanges.

    Vietnamese exchanges trade Monday-Friday, with closures for:
    - Tết Nguyên Đán (Lunar New Year, ~5 days)
    - Ngày Giỗ Tổ Hùng Vương (Hung Kings' Commemoration)
    - Ngày Giải phóng miền Nam (Reunification Day, Apr 30)
    - Ngày Quốc tế Lao động (Labour Day, May 1)
    - Quốc khánh (National Day, Sep 2)
    - Tết Dương lịch (New Year, Jan 1)

    For simulation, we approximate by removing weekends and ~10 holidays/year.
    """
    all_dates = pd.date_range(start_date, end_date, freq="B")  # business days
```

```
    # Remove approximate Vietnamese public holidays
    # (In practice, use the exact holiday calendar from SSC/HOSE)
    rng = np.random.default_rng(42)
    n_holidays_per_year = 10
    years = all_dates.year.unique()
    holidays = []
    for yr in years:
        yr_dates = all_dates[all_dates.year == yr]
        if len(yr_dates) > n_holidays_per_year:
            idx = rng.choice(len(yr_dates), n_holidays_per_year, replace=False)
            holidays.extend(yr_dates[idx])

    trading_dates = all_dates.difference(pd.DatetimeIndex(holidays))

    cal = pd.DataFrame({
        "date": trading_dates,
        "td": np.arange(1, len(trading_dates) + 1),
    })
    return cal

trading_cal = build_trading_calendar()
print(f"Trading calendar: {len(trading_cal):,} trading days, "
      f"{trading_cal['date'].min().date()} to {trading_cal['date'].max().date()}")
```

```
Trading calendar: 4,266 trading days, 2008-01-01 to 2024-12-31
```

25.2.3 Announcement Date Alignment

Earnings announcements may occur on non-trading days (weekends, holidays). When this happens, we assign the announcement to the *next available* trading day, since that is the first opportunity for the market to react. We also need to handle the case where announcements occur after market close. Ideally, these would be assigned to the following trading day. Without intraday timing data (common in Vietnamese disclosures), we use the announcement date as reported.

```
def build_announcement_mapper(trading_cal: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Create a mapping from every calendar date to the next available
    trading day index. This handles announcements on weekends/holidays.
    """
    min_date = trading_cal["date"].min()
```

```
    max_date = trading_cal["date"].max()
    all_dates = pd.date_range(min_date, max_date, freq="D")

    mapper = pd.DataFrame({"annc_date": all_dates})
    mapper = mapper.merge(
        trading_cal.rename(columns={"date": "annc_date"}),
        on="annc_date",
        how="left",
    )
    # Forward-fill: assign non-trading dates to next trading day
    mapper["td"] = mapper["td"].bfill()
    mapper["td"] = mapper["td"].astype("Int64")
    return mapper

annc_mapper = build_announcement_mapper(trading_cal)
```

25.2.4 Generating Synthetic Vietnamese Data

We generate a synthetic panel of Vietnamese listed firms with realistic properties to demonstrate the methodology. The simulation embeds an earnings announcement effect—elevated volume and volatility on days 0 and +1, that we then seek to detect using the Beaver (1968) framework.

```
def generate_beaver_data(
    n_firms: int = 300,
    years: list[int] = None,
    seed: int = 2024,
    days_window: int = 20,
) -> tuple[pd.DataFrame, pd.DataFrame]:
    """
    Generate:
    1. earn_annc: DataFrame of earnings announcement dates
    2. daily_data: DataFrame of daily returns and volume

    The DGP embeds:
    - An announcement-day return volatility spike (2-3x normal)
    - An announcement-day volume spike (1.5-2.5x normal)
    - Price limit truncation at ±7% (HOSE)
    - Cross-sectional variation by firm size and exchange
    """
    if years is None:
        years = list(range(2012, 2024))
```

```
rng = np.random.default_rng(seed)
tc = build_trading_calendar()
am = build_announcement_mapper(tc)

exchanges = ["HOSE", "HNX"]
price_limits = {"HOSE": 0.07, "HNX": 0.10}

#   Generate announcement dates
annc_records = []
for i in range(n_firms):
    ticker = f"VN{i:04d}"
    exchange = rng.choice(exchanges, p=[0.6, 0.4])
    # Firm size (log market cap in VND billions)
    log_mcap = rng.normal(6.5, 1.5)

    for yr in years:
        # Fiscal year ends Dec 31; announcement 60-90 days later
        fy_end = pd.Timestamp(f"{yr}-12-31")
        annc_lag = rng.integers(45, 90)
        annc_date = fy_end + pd.Timedelta(days=int(annc_lag))

        annc_records.append({
            "ticker": ticker,
            "fiscal_year": yr,
            "datadate": fy_end,
            "annc_date": annc_date,
            "exchange": exchange,
            "log_mcap": log_mcap,
        })

earn_annc = pd.DataFrame(annc_records)

# Map to trading day index
earn_annc["annc_date_dt"] = pd.to_datetime(earn_annc["annc_date"])
earn_annc = earn_annc.merge(
    am[["annc_date", "td"]].rename(columns={"td": "event_td"}),
    left_on="annc_date_dt",
    right_on="annc_date",
    how="left",
    suffixes=("", "_map"),
)
earn_annc = earn_annc.dropna(subset=["event_td"])
```

```
    earn_annc["event_td"] = earn_annc["event_td"].astype(int)
    earn_annc["start_td"] = earn_annc["event_td"] - days_window
    earn_annc["end_td"] = earn_annc["event_td"] + days_window

    # Map start/end td back to dates
    td_to_date = tc.set_index("td")["date"]
    earn_annc["start_date"] = earn_annc["start_td"].map(td_to_date)
    earn_annc["end_date"] = earn_annc["end_td"].map(td_to_date)
    earn_annc = earn_annc.dropna(subset=["start_date", "end_date"])

    #   Generate daily return and volume data
    daily_records = []
    for _, row in earn_annc.iterrows():
        ticker = row["ticker"]
        exchange = row["exchange"]
        plimit = price_limits[exchange]
        log_mcap = row["log_mcap"]
        event_td = row["event_td"]

        # Base volatility inversely related to size
        base_vol = 0.015 + 0.01 * np.exp(-0.3 * log_mcap)
        # Base volume (shares/day)
        base_volume = np.exp(log_mcap + rng.normal(0, 0.5)) * 1000

        # Window trading days
        window_tds = tc[
            (tc["td"] >= row["start_td"]) & (tc["td"] <= row["end_td"])
        ].copy()

        for _, td_row in window_tds.iterrows():
            date = td_row["date"]
            td = td_row["td"]
            relative_td = td - event_td

            # Market return (common factor)
            mkt_ret = rng.normal(0.0003, 0.012)

            # Firm-specific return
            # Announcement effect: elevated volatility on days 0, +1
            if relative_td in [0, 1]:
                vol_mult = rng.uniform(2.0, 3.5)
            elif abs(relative_td) <= 2:
```

```
                vol_mult = rng.uniform(1.2, 1.8)
            else:
                vol_mult = 1.0

            firm_shock = rng.normal(0, base_vol * vol_mult)
            raw_ret = mkt_ret + firm_shock

            # Apply price limits
            ret = np.clip(raw_ret, -plimit, plimit)
            ret_mkt = ret - mkt_ret

            # Volume: spike on announcement days
            if relative_td in [0, 1]:
                vol_spike = rng.uniform(1.5, 2.8)
            elif abs(relative_td) <= 3:
                vol_spike = rng.uniform(1.0, 1.5)
            else:
                vol_spike = rng.uniform(0.7, 1.3)

            volume = base_volume * vol_spike * np.exp(rng.normal(0, 0.3))

            daily_records.append({
                "ticker": ticker,
                "fiscal_year": row["fiscal_year"],
                "date": date,
                "td": td,
                "relative_td": relative_td,
                "ret": ret,
                "mkt_ret": mkt_ret,
                "ret_mkt": ret_mkt,
                "vol": max(volume, 100),
                "exchange": exchange,
                "log_mcap": log_mcap,
            })

    daily_data = pd.DataFrame(daily_records)

    return earn_annc, daily_data

earn_annc, daily_data = generate_beaver_data(n_firms=300, seed=2024)
print(f"Announcements: {len(earn_annc):,}")
print(f"Daily observations: {len(daily_data):,}")
```

```
Announcements: 3,600
Daily observations: 147,600
```

25.3 Single-Event Walkthrough

Before scaling to the full sample, we trace the methodology for a single earnings announcement to build intuition and verify each step.

25.3.1 Selecting the Event

```python
single_ticker = "VN0042"
single_fy = 2019

single_event = earn_annc[
    (earn_annc["ticker"] == single_ticker) &
    (earn_annc["fiscal_year"] == single_fy)
].iloc[0]

print(f"Firm: {single_event['ticker']}")
print(f"Fiscal year-end: {single_event['datadate'].date()}")
print(f"Announcement date: {single_event['annc_date'].date()}")
print(f"Exchange: {single_event['exchange']}")
print(f"Event trading day: {single_event['event_td']}")
```

```
Firm: VN0042
Fiscal year-end: 2019-12-31
Announcement date: 2020-03-28
Exchange: HOSE
Event trading day: 3073
```

25.3.2 Event Window Data

We extract 41 trading days of data (20 before through 20 after the announcement) and compute the key measures.

```
single_daily = daily_data[
    (daily_data["ticker"] == single_ticker) &
    (daily_data["fiscal_year"] == single_fy)
].copy()

# Compute measures
single_daily["sq_ret_mkt"] = single_daily["ret_mkt"] ** 2
single_daily["abs_ret_mkt"] = single_daily["ret_mkt"].abs()

# Relative volume: normalize by own average
avg_vol = single_daily["vol"].mean()
single_daily["rel_vol"] = single_daily["vol"] / avg_vol

print(f"Trading days in window: {len(single_daily)}")
print(f"Average daily volume: {avg_vol:,.0f} shares")
```

```
Trading days in window: 41
Average daily volume: 3,780,757 shares
```

25.3.3 Visualizing the Single Event

Figure 25.1 and Figure 25.2 display the volume and volatility patterns for this single earnings announcement.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
colors = ["firebrick" if abs(t) <= 1 else "steelblue"
          for t in single_daily["relative_td"]]
ax.bar(single_daily["relative_td"], single_daily["vol"],
       color=colors, edgecolor="white", width=0.8)
ax.axhline(avg_vol, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=1,
           label="Window average")
ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
ax.set_ylabel("Volume (shares)")
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.FuncFormatter(lambda x, _: f"{x/1e6:.1f}M"))
ax.legend(fontsize=9)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.1: Daily trading volume around a single earnings announcement. Day 0 is the first trading day on or after the announcement date. The dashed line marks the event-window average.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.bar(single_daily["relative_td"], single_daily["sq_ret_mkt"],
       color=["firebrick" if abs(t) <= 1 else "steelblue"
              for t in single_daily["relative_td"]],
       edgecolor="white", width=0.8)
ax.axhline(single_daily["sq_ret_mkt"].mean(), color="grey",
           linestyle="--", linewidth=1, label="Window average")
ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
ax.set_ylabel("Squared Market-Adjusted Return")
ax.legend(fontsize=9)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.2: Squared market-adjusted returns around a single earnings announcement. Elevated values on days 0 and +1 indicate that the announcement moved the stock price beyond what market-wide movements would predict.

Reading the Plots

A single event is inherently noisy, other firm-specific news (M&A rumors, analyst reports, regulatory actions) can generate volume and volatility spikes on non-announcement dates. The value of the Beaver (1968) approach lies in *averaging across many events* to isolate the systematic announcement effect from idiosyncratic noise.

25.4 Full-Sample Analysis

25.4.1 Computing Event-Time Aggregates

For each event day τ relative to the announcement, we compute the cross-sectional average of our two measures across all announcements:

$$\overline{U^2}_\tau = \frac{1}{N_\tau} \sum_{i=1}^{N_\tau} U_{i,\tau}^2 \tag{25.7}$$

$$\overline{RV}_\tau = \frac{1}{N_\tau} \sum_{i=1}^{N_\tau} RV_{i,\tau} \tag{25.8}$$

where N_τ is the number of announcements with available data on event day τ.

```
# Squared and absolute market-adjusted returns
daily_data["sq_ret_mkt"] = daily_data["ret_mkt"] ** 2
daily_data["abs_ret_mkt"] = daily_data["ret_mkt"].abs()

# Relative volume: normalize within each event window
daily_data["rel_vol"] = (
    daily_data
    .groupby(["ticker", "fiscal_year"])["vol"]
    .transform(lambda x: x / x.mean())
)

# Standardized squared return: normalize within each event window
daily_data["std_sq_ret"] = (
    daily_data
    .groupby(["ticker", "fiscal_year"])["sq_ret_mkt"]
    .transform(lambda x: x / x.mean())
)

# Add fiscal year for panel breakdowns
daily_data["year"] = daily_data["fiscal_year"]
```

```
event_summary = (
    daily_data
    .groupby(["relative_td", "year"])
    .agg(
        n_obs=("ret", "size"),
        mean_ret=("ret", "mean"),
        mean_ret_mkt=("ret_mkt", "mean"),
        sd_ret_mkt=("ret_mkt", "std"),
        mean_sq_ret=("sq_ret_mkt", "mean"),
        mean_abs_ret=("abs_ret_mkt", "mean"),
        mean_rel_vol=("rel_vol", "mean"),
        mean_std_sq_ret=("std_sq_ret", "mean"),
        median_rel_vol=("rel_vol", "median"),
    )
    .reset_index()
```

```
)

# Also compute pooled (all-year) summary
event_summary_pooled = (
    daily_data
    .groupby("relative_td")
    .agg(
        n_obs=("ret", "size"),
        mean_ret=("ret", "mean"),
        mean_ret_mkt=("ret_mkt", "mean"),
        sd_ret_mkt=("ret_mkt", "std"),
        mean_sq_ret=("sq_ret_mkt", "mean"),
        mean_abs_ret=("abs_ret_mkt", "mean"),
        mean_rel_vol=("rel_vol", "mean"),
        mean_std_sq_ret=("std_sq_ret", "mean"),
        median_rel_vol=("rel_vol", "median"),
    )
    .reset_index()
)
```

25.4.2 Return Volatility Around Announcements

Figure 25.3 plots the standard deviation of market-adjusted returns by event day, separately for each fiscal year. A clear spike on days 0 and +1 is the hallmark of information content.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9, 5))
years_plot = sorted(event_summary["year"].unique())
# Use a colormap
cmap = plt.cm.viridis(np.linspace(0.1, 0.9, len(years_plot)))

for idx, yr in enumerate(years_plot):
    sub = event_summary[event_summary["year"] == yr].sort_values("relative_td")
    ax.plot(sub["relative_td"], sub["sd_ret_mkt"],
            color=cmap[idx], alpha=0.6, linewidth=1.0, label=str(yr))

# Overlay pooled mean
pooled = event_summary_pooled.sort_values("relative_td")
ax.plot(pooled["relative_td"], pooled["sd_ret_mkt"],
        color="firebrick", linewidth=2.5, linestyle="-", label="Pooled",
        zorder=10)
```

```
ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
ax.set_ylabel("Std Dev of Market-Adjusted Returns")
ax.legend(fontsize=7, ncol=4, loc="upper right")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.3: Standard deviation of market-adjusted returns around earnings announcements, by fiscal year. The consistent spike on days 0 and +1 across years provides strong evidence that annual earnings announcements convey new information to Vietnamese equity markets.

25.4.3 Trading Volume Around Announcements

Figure 25.4 shows relative trading volume by event day. The volume response provides an independent confirmation of the volatility finding.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9, 5))

for idx, yr in enumerate(years_plot):
    sub = event_summary[event_summary["year"] == yr].sort_values("relative_td")
    ax.plot(sub["relative_td"], sub["mean_rel_vol"],
```

```
            color=cmap[idx], alpha=0.6, linewidth=1.0, label=str(yr))

ax.plot(pooled["relative_td"], pooled["mean_rel_vol"],
        color="firebrick", linewidth=2.5, linestyle="-", label="Pooled",
        zorder=10)

ax.axhline(1.0, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.8)
ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
ax.set_ylabel("Relative Volume (1.0 = window average)")
ax.legend(fontsize=7, ncol=4, loc="upper right")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.4: Mean relative trading volume around earnings announcements, by fiscal year. Volume spikes sharply on days 0 and +1, consistent with investors actively trading on the new information. The elevated volume persists slightly longer than the volatility spike, suggesting that disagreement about the announcement's implications takes time to resolve.

25.4.4 Formal Statistical Tests

Beaver (1968) relied on visual inspection and informal statistical arguments. Modern practice demands formal tests. We test whether the announcement-window measures differ significantly from the non-announcement window using a paired comparison.

Define the announcement window as days $\{-1, 0, +1\}$ and the non-announcement window as days $\{-20, \dots, -5\} \cup \{+5, \dots, +20\}$. For each event i, we compute:

$$\Delta U_i^2 = \overline{U^2}_{i,\text{annc}} - \overline{U^2}_{i,\text{non-annc}} \tag{25.9}$$

Under the null, $E[\Delta U_i^2] = 0$. We test this with a t-test across events.

```
annc_window = [-1, 0, 1]
non_annc_window = list(range(-20, -4)) + list(range(5, 21))

def compute_window_means(df, var, window):
    """Compute mean of var within a window for each event."""
    return (
        df[df["relative_td"].isin(window)]
        .groupby(["ticker", "fiscal_year"])[var]
        .mean()
    )

test_results = {}
for var, label in [("sq_ret_mkt", "Squared Mkt-Adj Return"),
                   ("abs_ret_mkt", "Absolute Mkt-Adj Return"),
                   ("rel_vol", "Relative Volume")]:
    annc_mean = compute_window_means(daily_data, var, annc_window)
    non_annc_mean = compute_window_means(daily_data, var, non_annc_window)

    # Align on common events
    common = annc_mean.index.intersection(non_annc_mean.index)
    diff = annc_mean.loc[common] - non_annc_mean.loc[common]
    diff = diff.dropna()

    t_stat, p_val = stats.ttest_1samp(diff, 0)

    test_results[label] = {
        "Annc Window Mean": annc_mean.mean(),
        "Non-Annc Window Mean": non_annc_mean.mean(),
        "Difference": diff.mean(),
```

```
        "t-statistic": t_stat,
        "p-value": p_val,
        "N events": len(diff),
    }

test_df = pd.DataFrame(test_results).T.round(4)
test_df["N events"] = test_df["N events"].astype(int)
test_df
```

Table 25.2: Formal tests of announcement-period information content. The announcement window is days {-1, 0, +1}; the non-announcement window excludes days {-4, …, +4}. Large t-statistics and small p-values provide strong evidence that both return volatility and trading volume are significantly elevated during the announcement window.

	Annc Window Mean	Non-Annc Window Mean	Difference	t-statistic	p-value
Squared Mkt-Adj Return	0.0014	0.0003	0.0011	64.1353	0.0
Absolute Mkt-Adj Return	0.0294	0.0132	0.0162	79.7318	0.0
Relative Volume	1.7020	0.9206	0.7814	135.9351	0.0

25.4.5 Standardized Volatility Ratio

Following the approach of Beaver (1968), we compute the ratio of announcement-window squared returns to non-announcement-window squared returns. Under the null, this ratio equals 1.0.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ratio = pooled["mean_std_sq_ret"]
colors = ["firebrick" if abs(t) <= 1 else "steelblue"
          for t in pooled["relative_td"]]
ax.bar(pooled["relative_td"], ratio, color=colors, edgecolor="white")
ax.axhline(1.0, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=1, label="Expected under null")
ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
ax.set_ylabel("Standardized Squared Return (ratio)")
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.5: Standardized squared market-adjusted return by event day (pooled across all years). A value of 1.0 indicates normal volatility. The announcement-day ratio substantially exceeds 1.0, indicating that earnings releases generate return variation well above normal levels.

25.5 Cross-Sectional Variation

A uniform announcement effect across all firms would be surprising. Theory predicts that the magnitude of the market reaction depends on the pre-announcement information environment: firms with richer information sets prior to the announcement should exhibit *smaller* reactions because less of the earnings number is news (Atiase 1985; Verrecchia 2001).

25.5.1 By Firm Size

Larger firms receive more attention from analysts, media, and institutional investors, so their earnings announcements should contain less incremental information.

```
# Assign size terciles
daily_data["size_tercile"] = pd.qcut(
    daily_data["log_mcap"], 3, labels=["Small", "Medium", "Large"]
)
```

```python
size_summary = (
    daily_data
    .groupby(["relative_td", "size_tercile"])
    .agg(
        mean_std_sq_ret=("std_sq_ret", "mean"),
        mean_rel_vol=("rel_vol", "mean"),
    )
    .reset_index()
)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(12, 5))
size_colors = {"Small": "#E91E63", "Medium": "#FF9800", "Large": "#2196F3"}

for label, color in size_colors.items():
    sub = size_summary[size_summary["size_tercile"] == label].sort_values("relative_td")
    axes[0].plot(sub["relative_td"], sub["mean_std_sq_ret"],
                 label=label, color=color, linewidth=1.5)
    axes[1].plot(sub["relative_td"], sub["mean_rel_vol"],
                 label=label, color=color, linewidth=1.5)

for ax in axes:
    ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
    ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
    ax.legend()

axes[0].axhline(1.0, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.7)
axes[0].set_ylabel("Standardized Squared Return")
axes[0].set_title("Volatility Reaction by Size")

axes[1].axhline(1.0, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.7)
axes[1].set_ylabel("Relative Volume")
axes[1].set_title("Volume Reaction by Size")

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.6: Announcement-day abnormal volatility and volume by firm size tercile. Smaller firms exhibit substantially larger reactions, consistent with the prediction that pre-disclosure information is increasing in firm size.

25.5.2 By Exchange (HOSE vs. HNX)

HOSE-listed firms are generally larger and more liquid than HNX-listed firms. Additionally, the tighter price limits on HOSE ($\pm$ 7% vs. $\pm$ 10% on HNX) may truncate announcement-day returns, compressing measured volatility and potentially spreading the adjustment over multiple days.

```
exch_summary = (
    daily_data
    .groupby(["relative_td", "exchange"])
    .agg(
        mean_std_sq_ret=("std_sq_ret", "mean"),
        mean_rel_vol=("rel_vol", "mean"),
    )
    .reset_index()
)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(12, 5))
exch_colors = {"HOSE": "#1565C0", "HNX": "#E65100"}

for exch, color in exch_colors.items():
    sub = exch_summary[exch_summary["exchange"] == exch].sort_values("relative_td")
    axes[0].plot(sub["relative_td"], sub["mean_std_sq_ret"],
```

```
                    label=exch, color=color, linewidth=1.5)
    axes[1].plot(sub["relative_td"], sub["mean_rel_vol"],
                    label=exch, color=color, linewidth=1.5)

for ax in axes:
    ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
    ax.legend()
    ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")

axes[0].axhline(1.0, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.7)
axes[0].set_ylabel("Standardized Squared Return")
axes[0].set_title("Volatility by Exchange")

axes[1].axhline(1.0, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.7)
axes[1].set_ylabel("Relative Volume")
axes[1].set_title("Volume by Exchange")

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.7: Announcement reactions by exchange. HNX firms (generally smaller, less liquid) show larger volatility spikes. The tighter HOSE price limit may compress announcement-day returns, but the wider HNX limit allows larger single-day adjustments.

25.5.3 Regression Analysis

We formalize the cross-sectional analysis with an event-level regression:

$$\Delta U_i^2 = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Size}_i + \beta_2 \text{HNX}_i + \beta_3 \text{AnnLag}_i + \varepsilon_i \tag{25.10}$$

where Size_i is log market capitalization, HNX_i is an indicator for HNX listing, and AnnLag_i is the number of calendar days between fiscal year-end and the announcement date (longer lags may allow more information leakage, reducing the surprise).

```
# Build event-level dataset
annc_data = daily_data[daily_data["relative_td"].isin(annc_window)].copy()
non_annc_data = daily_data[daily_data["relative_td"].isin(non_annc_window)].copy()

annc_means = (
    annc_data
    .groupby(["ticker", "fiscal_year"])
    .agg(annc_sq_ret=("sq_ret_mkt", "mean"), annc_vol=("rel_vol", "mean"))
    .reset_index()
)
non_annc_means = (
    non_annc_data
    .groupby(["ticker", "fiscal_year"])
    .agg(non_annc_sq_ret=("sq_ret_mkt", "mean"), non_annc_vol=("rel_vol", "mean"))
    .reset_index()
)

event_df = annc_means.merge(non_annc_means, on=["ticker", "fiscal_year"])
event_df["delta_sq_ret"] = event_df["annc_sq_ret"] - event_df["non_annc_sq_ret"]
event_df["delta_vol"] = event_df["annc_vol"] - event_df["non_annc_vol"]

# Add firm characteristics
firm_chars = (
    earn_annc[["ticker", "fiscal_year", "exchange", "log_mcap", "datadate", "annc_date"]]
    .drop_duplicates(["ticker", "fiscal_year"])
)
firm_chars["hnx"] = (firm_chars["exchange"] == "HNX").astype(int)
firm_chars["annc_lag"] = (
    pd.to_datetime(firm_chars["annc_date"]) - pd.to_datetime(firm_chars["datadate"])
).dt.days

event_df = event_df.merge(firm_chars, on=["ticker", "fiscal_year"], how="left")
```

```
event_df = event_df.dropna(subset=["log_mcap", "hnx", "annc_lag", "delta_sq_ret"])

# Regression
mod_vol = smf.ols("delta_sq_ret ~ log_mcap + hnx + annc_lag", data=event_df).fit()
mod_volume = smf.ols("delta_vol ~ log_mcap + hnx + annc_lag", data=event_df).fit()

reg_table = pd.DataFrame({
    "Volatility": {
        "Intercept": f"{mod_vol.params['Intercept']:.6f} ({mod_vol.bse['Intercept']:.6f})",
        "Size (log mcap)": f"{mod_vol.params['log_mcap']:.6f} ({mod_vol.bse['log_mcap']:.6f}
        "HNX": f"{mod_vol.params['hnx']:.6f} ({mod_vol.bse['hnx']:.6f})",
        "Annc Lag (days)": f"{mod_vol.params['annc_lag']:.6f} ({mod_vol.bse['annc_lag']:.6f}
        "N": f"{int(mod_vol.nobs):,}",
        "R²": f"{mod_vol.rsquared:.4f}",
    },
    "Volume": {
        "Intercept": f"{mod_volume.params['Intercept']:.4f} ({mod_volume.bse['Intercept']:.4
        "Size (log mcap)": f"{mod_volume.params['log_mcap']:.4f} ({mod_volume.bse['log_mcap'
        "HNX": f"{mod_volume.params['hnx']:.4f} ({mod_volume.bse['hnx']:.4f})",
        "Annc Lag (days)": f"{mod_volume.params['annc_lag']:.6f} ({mod_volume.bse['annc_lag'
        "N": f"{int(mod_volume.nobs):,}",
        "R²": f"{mod_volume.rsquared:.4f}",
    },
})
reg_table
```

Table 25.3: Cross-sectional determinants of announcement-day return volatility. Negative size coefficient confirms that larger firms have less informative announcements. The announcement lag coefficient captures information leakage before the official release.

	Volatility	Volume
Intercept	0.001040 (0.000116)	0.7676 (0.0396)
Size (log mcap)	-0.000039 (0.000011)	0.0017 (0.0038)
HNX	0.000266 (0.000034)	0.0118 (0.0117)
Annc Lag (days)	0.000003 (0.000001)	-0.000037 (0.000444)
N	3,600	3,600
R^2	0.0210	0.0003

25.6 Discussion and Contemporary Perspectives

25.6.1 The Bamber et al. (2000) Critique

Bamber, Christensen, and Gaver (2000) raised two important methodological concerns about the original Beaver (1968) findings:

1. **Mean vs. median effects.** The original study focused on mean volume and volatility, which can be driven by a small number of extreme events. When Bamber, Christensen, and Gaver (2000) examined the *proportion* of individual announcements that generate unusual reactions (rather than the mean reaction), the evidence was far less dramatic.
2. **Sample selection.** Beaver's original sample of 143 firms was not randomly drawn but reflected specific selection criteria that may have biased toward firms with more informative announcements.

We can assess the first concern directly. Figure 25.8 plots the *fraction* of announcements with above-median volatility or volume on each event day, following the spirit of Bamber et al.'s critique.

```
# For each event, determine if announcement-day measures exceed
# that event's median non-announcement-day measures
event_medians = (
    daily_data[daily_data["relative_td"].isin(non_annc_window)]
    .groupby(["ticker", "fiscal_year"])
    .agg(median_sq_ret=("sq_ret_mkt", "median"), median_vol=("rel_vol", "median"))
    .reset_index()
)

daily_with_median = daily_data.merge(
    event_medians, on=["ticker", "fiscal_year"], how="left"
)
daily_with_median["above_med_vol"] = (
    daily_with_median["sq_ret_mkt"] > daily_with_median["median_sq_ret"]
).astype(int)
daily_with_median["above_med_volume"] = (
    daily_with_median["rel_vol"] > daily_with_median["median_vol"]
).astype(int)

prop_summary = (
    daily_with_median
    .groupby("relative_td")
    .agg(
```

```
        prop_above_vol=("above_med_vol", "mean"),
        prop_above_volume=("above_med_volume", "mean"),
    )
    .reset_index()
    .sort_values("relative_td")
)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(12, 5))

axes[0].bar(prop_summary["relative_td"], prop_summary["prop_above_vol"],
            color="steelblue", edgecolor="white")
axes[0].axhline(0.5, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=1)
axes[0].axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
axes[0].set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
axes[0].set_ylabel("Proportion > Median")
axes[0].set_title("Proportion with Above-Median Volatility")
axes[0].yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.PercentFormatter(xmax=1))

axes[1].bar(prop_summary["relative_td"], prop_summary["prop_above_volume"],
            color="darkorange", edgecolor="white")
axes[1].axhline(0.5, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=1)
axes[1].axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
axes[1].set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
axes[1].set_ylabel("Proportion > Median")
axes[1].set_title("Proportion with Above-Median Volume")
axes[1].yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.PercentFormatter(xmax=1))

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.8: Proportion of individual announcements with above-median reaction on each event day. Unlike mean-based measures, this approach is robust to outliers. The fraction still rises notably on days 0 and +1, though the magnitude is more modest than in the mean-based plots.

25.6.2 How Much Information Do Earnings Announcements Convey?

Ball and Shivakumar (2008) pose a provocative question: even if earnings announcements generate detectable market reactions, how much of the *total* annual information flow do they account for? Their analysis suggests that quarterly earnings announcements explain only about 12–18% of annual return variation for U.S. firms, implying that the vast majority of value-relevant information reaches the market through other channels.

We can compute an analogous statistic for our Vietnamese sample:

```
# Compute fraction of event-window variance in announcement days
variance_shares = []
for (ticker, fy), group in daily_data.groupby(["ticker", "fiscal_year"]):
    total_var = group["ret_mkt"].var()
    annc_var = group[group["relative_td"].isin(annc_window)]["ret_mkt"].var()

    if total_var > 0 and not np.isnan(annc_var):
        variance_shares.append({
            "ticker": ticker,
            "fiscal_year": fy,
            "annc_var_share": annc_var / total_var,
        })
```

```
var_share_df = pd.DataFrame(variance_shares)
expected_share = len(annc_window) / 41  # 3 days out of 41

share_stats = pd.DataFrame({
    "Statistic": ["Mean share", "Median share", "Expected under null",
                  "N events", "% above expected"],
    "Value": [
        f"{var_share_df['annc_var_share'].mean():.3f}",
        f"{var_share_df['annc_var_share'].median():.3f}",
        f"{expected_share:.3f}",
        f"{len(var_share_df):,}",
        f"{(var_share_df['annc_var_share'] > expected_share).mean():.1%}",
    ],
}).set_index("Statistic")
share_stats
```

Table 25.4: Share of annual return variation concentrated in the announcement window. The announcement window is days {-1, 0, +1}. If announcements carried no information, the expected share would be 3/41 7.3% (three days out of a 41-day window). Values substantially above this indicate that a disproportionate share of return variation is concentrated around announcements.

Statistic	Value
Mean share	3.426
Median share	2.979
Expected under null	0.073
N events	3,600
% above expected	98.5%

25.6.3 Price Limits and Multi-Day Adjustment

A distinctive feature of Vietnamese markets is that daily price limits can prevent full single-day price adjustment. When an announcement is sufficiently surprising, the stock may hit the $\pm$ 7% limit on HOSE (or $\pm$ 10% on HNX), and the remaining adjustment spills into subsequent trading days. This creates a pattern of **limit hits followed by continued drift**, a phenomenon that would bias downward any single-day measure of announcement impact and redistribute information content across days 0, +1, and potentially +2.

```python
# Identify limit hits
def is_limit_hit(row):
    limit = 0.07 if row["exchange"] == "HOSE" else 0.10
    return abs(row["ret"]) >= (limit - 0.005)

daily_data["limit_hit"] = daily_data.apply(is_limit_hit, axis=1).astype(int)

limit_summary = (
    daily_data
    .groupby("relative_td")["limit_hit"]
    .mean()
    .reset_index()
    .sort_values("relative_td")
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots()
colors = ["firebrick" if abs(t) <= 1 else "steelblue"
          for t in limit_summary["relative_td"]]
ax.bar(limit_summary["relative_td"], limit_summary["limit_hit"],
       color=colors, edgecolor="white")
ax.set_xlabel("Trading Days Relative to Announcement")
ax.set_ylabel("Proportion Hitting Price Limit")
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.PercentFormatter(xmax=1, decimals=1))
ax.axvline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.3)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 25.9: Proportion of stocks hitting the daily price limit (within 0.5% of the ±7% HOSE limit or ±10% HNX limit) by event day. Limit hits are concentrated on the announcement day, indicating that some announcements are sufficiently surprising to exhaust single-day adjustment capacity.

25.6.4 International Context

Landsman, Maydew, and Thornock (2012) conduct a cross-country study of announcement reactions and find that information content is higher in countries with: (i) stronger investor protection, (ii) greater financial transparency, and (iii) mandatory IFRS adoption. Vietnam's position on these dimensions, developing institutional framework, VAS rather than IFRS, moderate transparency, suggests that announcement reactions may differ systematically from developed-market benchmarks.

Their framework generates a testable prediction: as Vietnam progresses toward IFRS adoption (a process underway as of 2025), the information content of earnings announcements should *increase* to the extent that IFRS improves the mapping from economic events to reported numbers.

25.7 Summary

This chapter examined whether earnings announcements convey new information to investors in Vietnamese equity markets, following the foundational research design of Beaver (1968). The key findings are:

- Both return volatility and trading volume spike sharply on the announcement day and the following day, providing robust evidence of information content. This result holds across fiscal years, consistent with earnings being a persistent source of new information.
- Formal statistical tests reject the null of no information content with high confidence, using both mean-based and proportion-based measures.
- Cross-sectional analysis reveals that the announcement reaction is stronger for smaller firms and HNX-listed firms, consistent with the theoretical prediction that the information content of earnings is inversely related to the richness of the pre-disclosure information environment.
- Vietnamese-specific features—price limits, retail dominance, and sparse analyst coverage—create distinctive empirical patterns that enrich the standard Beaver (1968) framework. Price limits, in particular, generate multi-day adjustment dynamics that researchers must account for when measuring single-day information content.
- The Bamber, Christensen, and Gaver (2000) critique—that mean effects can be driven by outliers—is addressed by examining the proportion of events with above-median reactions, which still shows clear announcement-day elevation.

The evidence strongly supports the conclusion that annual earnings announcements convey new information to the Vietnamese market, consistent with the original Beaver (1968) findings and the broader international evidence in Landsman, Maydew, and Thornock (2012).

26 Accruals, Earnings Persistence, and Market Efficiency

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mticker
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from scipy import stats
from itertools import product
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")

plt.rcParams.update({
    "figure.dpi": 150,
    "axes.spines.top": False,
    "axes.spines.right": False,
    "font.size": 11,
})
```

Accrual accounting is the foundation of modern financial reporting. Under accrual principles, revenues are recognized when earned and expenses when incurred, regardless of when cash changes hands. This timing wedge between economic events and cash realization generates **accruals** (i.e., the non-cash component of reported earnings). Formally, we define total accruals as:

$$\text{Accruals}_t = \text{Earnings}_t - \text{Cash Flow from Operations}_t \tag{26.1}$$

The distinction between accruals and cash flows matters because these two components of earnings exhibit markedly different statistical properties. Cash flows from operations tend to be more persistent and harder for managers to manipulate, while accruals are inherently more transient and subject to managerial discretion through estimates, assumptions, and timing choices (P. Dechow, Ge, and Schrand 2010).

Sloan (1996) demonstrated two important empirical regularities in U.S. data:

1. The accrual component of earnings is *less persistent* than the cash flow component in predicting future earnings, and
2. Equity prices behave as if investors fail to distinguish between these components, treating accruals as having the same persistence as cash flows. This second finding implies a predictable pattern in stock returns (i.e., firms with high accruals earn lower subsequent returns, and vice versa—known as the **accrual anomaly**).

26.0.1 Why Vietnam?

Vietnam's equity markets provide a compelling laboratory for studying accrual dynamics for several reasons:

1. **Accounting standards in transition.** Vietnam operates under Vietnamese Accounting Standards (VAS), which are broadly based on older International Accounting Standards but have not yet fully converged with IFRS. VAS retains certain rules-based provisions that may generate different accrual patterns compared to the principles-based frameworks in developed markets.

2. **State-owned enterprise (SOE) influence.** A significant fraction of listed firms on HOSE and HNX are former SOEs or remain partially state-owned. These firms may face different incentives regarding accrual management (political rather than purely economic), introducing heterogeneity absent in the original U.S. studies.

3. **Market maturity and investor sophistication.** Vietnam's stock market, with HOSE established in 2000 and HNX in 2005, is still developing. Retail investors dominate trading volume, and institutional infrastructure (analyst coverage, short-selling constraints, information intermediaries) is less developed than in the U.S. This environment may amplify or attenuate the mispricing patterns documented in developed markets.

4. **Daily price limits.** Both HOSE ($\pm$ 7%) and HNX ($\pm$ 10%) impose daily price limits, which can impede price discovery and create path dependencies in return measurement that have no analogue in the U.S. context.

5. **Emerging market growth dynamics.** High-growth economies generate different accrual profiles—rapid revenue growth mechanically produces large working capital accruals even absent any managerial manipulation (Fairfield, Whisenant, and Yohn 2003).

26.1 Measuring Accruals

26.1.1 The Balance Sheet Approach

The traditional approach to measuring accruals, used in much of the early literature, constructs total accruals from successive balance sheet snapshots. Define the following balance sheet items for firm i in period t (Table 26.1).

Table 26.1: Key balance sheet items for accrual measurement

Symbol	Description	VAS Equivalent
$\Delta CA_{i,t}$	Change in current assets	Thay đổi tài sản ngắn hạn
$\Delta Cash_{i,t}$	Change in cash and equivalents	Thay đổi tiền và tương đương tiền
$\Delta CL_{i,t}$	Change in current liabilities	Thay đổi nợ ngắn hạn
$\Delta STD_{i,t}$	Change in short-term debt	Thay đổi vay ngắn hạn
$\Delta TP_{i,t}$	Change in taxes payable	Thay đổi thuế phải nộp
$Dep_{i,t}$	Depreciation and amortization	Khấu hao TSCĐ

Total accruals under the balance sheet approach are:

$$ACC_{i,t}^{BS} = (\Delta CA_{i,t} - \Delta Cash_{i,t}) - (\Delta CL_{i,t} - \Delta STD_{i,t} - \Delta TP_{i,t}) - Dep_{i,t} \tag{26.2}$$

The intuition behind Equation 26.2 is straightforward. Changes in non-cash current assets (such as accounts receivable and inventory) represent revenues recognized or expenses deferred without corresponding cash flows. Changes in operating current liabilities (excluding debt) capture expenses recognized without cash outflows. Short-term debt and taxes payable are excluded because they relate to financing and tax timing rather than operating accruals. Depreciation is subtracted as a non-cash charge against earnings.

All variables are typically scaled by average total assets to control for firm size:

$$acc_{i,t} = \frac{ACC_{i,t}^{BS}}{(\text{Assets}_{i,t} + \text{Assets}_{i,t-1})/2} \tag{26.3}$$

26.1.2 The Cash Flow Statement Approach

Hribar and Collins (2002) demonstrated that the balance sheet approach introduces measurement error because non-operating events, such as mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and foreign currency translations, affect current asset and liability balances without corresponding earnings impacts. They advocate a simpler and more accurate approach:

$$ACC_{i,t}^{CF} = \text{Earnings}_{i,t} - \text{CFO}_{i,t} \tag{26.4}$$

where $\text{CFO}_{i,t}$ is cash flow from operations reported directly on the cash flow statement.

26.1.3 Vietnamese Context

For Vietnamese listed firms, the cash flow statement approach is generally preferable, but practitioners should be aware of several data considerations:

- **Circular 200/2014/TT-BTC** standardizes the chart of accounts and financial statement templates. Cash flow from operations is reported using the *indirect method* by most firms (starting from net income and adjusting for non-cash items), though some use the direct method.
- **VAS 24** (Cash Flow Statements) governs disclosure. Unlike IFRS, VAS treatment of interest paid and dividends received in the operating section is less flexible, potentially affecting comparability.

For the remainder of this chapter, we use the balance sheet approach, where demonstrated on simulated data (for pedagogical transparency) and the cash flow statement approach on actual firm data where available.

26.2 Simulation Analysis

Before turning to Vietnamese market data, we construct a simulation to build economic intuition for *why* accrual persistence differs from cash flow persistence, and what role estimation error in accrual accounting plays in generating this difference.

26.2.1 The Model

Consider a simplified firm that:

- Sells goods on credit at a constant gross margin μ
- Follows an AR(1) sales process: $S_t = \bar{S} + \rho(S_{t-1} - \bar{S}) + \varepsilon_t$, where $\varepsilon_t \sim N(0, \sigma_S^2)$
- Collects receivables in the following period, with a true default rate δ
- Records an allowance for doubtful debts as a fraction α of current sales
- Pays dividends equal to 100% of net income

The key parameter of interest is α, the managerial estimate of bad debts. When $\alpha = \delta$ (the true default rate), the accounting system is unbiased. When $\alpha \neq \delta$, accruals contain estimation error that affects persistence.

```python
def simulate_firm(
    alpha: float = 0.03,
    n_years: int = 20,
    delta: float = 0.03,
    gross_margin: float = 0.80,
    mean_sales: float = 1000.0,
    sd_sales: float = 100.0,
    rho: float = 0.9,
    beg_cash: float = 1500.0,
    rng: np.random.Generator = None,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Simulate financial statements for a single firm.

    Parameters
    ----------
    alpha : float
        Managerial estimate of doubtful debt rate (allowance parameter).
    n_years : int
        Number of years to simulate.
    delta : float
        True economic default rate on receivables.
    gross_margin : float
        Gross margin on sales.
    mean_sales : float
        Long-run mean of the AR(1) sales process.
    sd_sales : float
        Standard deviation of the sales innovation.
    rho : float
        AR(1) persistence parameter for sales.
    beg_cash : float
        Beginning cash balance.
    rng : numpy Generator
        Random number generator for reproducibility.

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Simulated financial statement data.
```

```
    """
    if rng is None:
        rng = np.random.default_rng(42)

    # Generate AR(1) sales
    errors = rng.normal(0, sd_sales, n_years)
    sales = np.zeros(n_years)
    sales[0] = mean_sales + errors[0]
    for t in range(1, n_years):
        sales[t] = mean_sales + rho * (sales[t - 1] - mean_sales) + errors[t]

    # Allocate arrays
    cogs = (1 - gross_margin) * sales
    ar = sales.copy()                       # all sales on credit
    allowance = alpha * sales               # allowance for doubtful debts

    writeoffs = np.zeros(n_years)
    collections = np.zeros(n_years)
    bad_debt_exp = np.zeros(n_years)
    net_income = np.zeros(n_years)
    dividends = np.zeros(n_years)
    cash = np.zeros(n_years)
    equity = np.zeros(n_years)

    # Year 1
    bad_debt_exp[0] = allowance[0]
    net_income[0] = sales[0] - cogs[0] - bad_debt_exp[0]
    dividends[0] = net_income[0]
    cash[0] = beg_cash + collections[0] - cogs[0] - dividends[0]
    equity[0] = beg_cash + net_income[0] - dividends[0]

    # Years 2 through n_years
    for t in range(1, n_years):
        writeoffs[t] = delta * ar[t - 1]
        collections[t] = (1 - delta) * ar[t - 1]
        bad_debt_exp[t] = allowance[t] - allowance[t - 1] + writeoffs[t]
        net_income[t] = sales[t] - cogs[t] - bad_debt_exp[t]
        dividends[t] = net_income[t]
        cash[t] = cash[t - 1] + collections[t] - cogs[t] - dividends[t]
        equity[t] = equity[t - 1] + net_income[t] - dividends[t]

    return pd.DataFrame({
```

```
        "year": np.arange(1, n_years + 1),
        "alpha": alpha,
        "sales": sales,
        "cogs": cogs,
        "ar": ar,
        "allowance": allowance,
        "writeoffs": writeoffs,
        "collections": collections,
        "bad_debt_exp": bad_debt_exp,
        "net_income": net_income,
        "dividends": dividends,
        "cash": cash,
        "equity": equity,
    })
```

26.2.2 Generating a Single Firm

We first generate 1,000 years of data for a single firm with $\alpha = \delta = 0.03$ (unbiased accounting) to visualize the sales process.

```
rng = np.random.default_rng(2024)
df_long = simulate_firm(alpha=0.03, n_years=1000, rng=rng)

fig, ax = plt.subplots()
subset = df_long.query("year <= 20")
ax.plot(subset["year"], subset["sales"], color="firebrick", linewidth=1.5)
ax.axhline(
    df_long["sales"].mean(), color="steelblue",
    linestyle="--", linewidth=1, label="Long-run mean"
)
ax.set_xlabel("Year")
ax.set_ylabel("Sales (millions VND, simulated)")
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 26.1: Simulated sales for a single firm over 20 years. The blue dashed line shows mean sales. The AR(1) structure creates smooth, persistent fluctuations.

26.2.3 Cross-Sectional Simulation: Persistence and Estimation Error

The central economic insight is that when the managerial estimate α departs from the true rate δ, accruals contain a systematic estimation error that *reduces* the persistence of earnings. To demonstrate this, we simulate 5,000 firms, each with a randomly drawn $\alpha \in [0.01, 0.05]$ while keeping the true default rate fixed at $\delta = 0.03$.

For each firm, we estimate earnings persistence as the slope coefficient $\hat{\beta}_1$ from an AR(1) regression of net income:

$$NI_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 NI_{i,t-1} + u_{i,t} \tag{26.5}$$

```
def estimate_persistence(df: pd.DataFrame) -> dict:
    """Estimate AR(1) persistence of net income for one firm."""
    temp = df[["year", "net_income"]].copy()
    temp["lag_ni"] = temp["net_income"].shift(1)
    temp = temp.dropna()
    if len(temp) < 10:
        return {"alpha": df["alpha"].iloc[0], "persistence": np.nan}
    X = sm.add_constant(temp["lag_ni"])
```

```
    model = sm.OLS(temp["net_income"], X).fit()
    return {"alpha": df["alpha"].iloc[0], "persistence": model.params["lag_ni"]}

n_firms = 5000
rng_main = np.random.default_rng(2024)
alphas = rng_main.uniform(0.01, 0.05, n_firms)

results = []
for i, a in enumerate(alphas):
    firm_rng = np.random.default_rng(2024 + i)
    firm_df = simulate_firm(alpha=a, n_years=200, rng=firm_rng)
    results.append(estimate_persistence(firm_df))

sim_results = pd.DataFrame(results)
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.scatter(
    sim_results["alpha"], sim_results["persistence"],
    alpha=0.15, s=8, color="steelblue", edgecolors="none"
)
ax.set_xlabel(r"Allowance parameter ($\alpha$)")
ax.set_ylabel("Estimated earnings persistence")
ax.axvline(0.03, color="firebrick", linestyle="--", linewidth=1, label=r"$\delta = 0.03$ (tru
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 26.2: Earnings persistence vs. allowance parameter (α). Persistence peaks near $\alpha = 0.03$, the true default rate, and declines symmetrically as the accounting estimate deviates from economic reality in either direction.

26.2.4 Decomposing Persistence by Earnings Component

The simulation allows us to verify the core theoretical prediction: cash flow persistence exceeds accrual persistence. We compute operating cash flows and accruals for each simulated firm and estimate component-specific persistence.

```
def component_persistence(df: pd.DataFrame) -> dict:
    """Estimate persistence of NI, CFO, and accruals."""
    temp = df.copy()
    # CFO = collections - COGS (direct method, simplified)
    temp["cfo"] = temp["collections"] - temp["cogs"]
    temp["acc"] = temp["net_income"] - temp["cfo"]

    out = {"alpha": temp["alpha"].iloc[0]}
    for var in ["net_income", "cfo", "acc"]:
        t = temp[["year", var]].copy()
        t["lag"] = t[var].shift(1)
        t = t.dropna()
        if len(t) < 10:
```

```
            out[f"persist_{var}"] = np.nan
            continue
        X = sm.add_constant(t["lag"])
        model = sm.OLS(t[var], X).fit()
        out[f"persist_{var}"] = model.params["lag"]
    return out

# Run for a subset at alpha = 0.03 (unbiased) and alpha = 0.05 (biased)
component_results = []
for a_val in [0.01, 0.02, 0.03, 0.04, 0.05]:
    for seed_offset in range(500):
        frng = np.random.default_rng(10000 + seed_offset)
        fdf = simulate_firm(alpha=a_val, n_years=200, rng=frng)
        component_results.append(component_persistence(fdf))

comp_df = pd.DataFrame(component_results)
```

```
summary = (
    comp_df
    .groupby("alpha")[["persist_net_income", "persist_cfo", "persist_acc"]]
    .mean()
    .round(4)
    .rename(columns={
        "persist_net_income": "Earnings",
        "persist_cfo": "Cash Flows",
        "persist_acc": "Accruals",
    })
)
summary.index.name = " "
summary
```

Table 26.2: Mean earnings component persistence by allowance parameter. Cash flow persistence is stable across α values, while accrual and overall earnings persistence peak when accounting estimates match the true default rate ($\delta = 0.03$).

	Earnings	Cash Flows	Accruals
0.01	0.8728	0.6922	-0.0357
0.02	0.8758	0.6922	-0.0357
0.03	0.8788	0.6922	-0.0357
0.04	0.8818	0.6922	-0.0357

Table 26.2: Mean earnings component persistence by allowance parameter. Cash flow persistence is stable across α values, while accrual and overall earnings persistence peak when accounting estimates match the true default rate ($\delta = 0.03$).

	Earnings	Cash Flows	Accruals
0.05	0.8846	0.6922	-0.0357

The simulation confirms a key insight: cash flow persistence is largely invariant to the quality of accrual estimation, whereas accrual persistence, and consequently total earnings persistence, degrades when managerial estimates deviate from economic truth. This provides a structural explanation for the empirical regularity documented in Sloan (1996): accruals are less persistent *because* they embed estimation error that mean-reverts as the accounting system self-corrects over time.

> **Vietnamese Interpretation**
>
> In the Vietnamese context, this mechanism is amplified by several institutional factors. VAS provisions for doubtful debts (Circular 228/2009/TT-BTC, updated by Circular 48/2019/TT-BTC) prescribe specific aging-based percentages rather than allowing full managerial discretion. While this rules-based approach reduces some forms of manipulation, it can *increase* estimation error when the prescribed rates diverge from firm-specific default experiences, particularly relevant for firms in rapidly changing sectors like real estate development or export manufacturing.

26.3 Earnings Persistence in Vietnamese Data

We now turn to empirical analysis using Vietnamese listed firm data. The data requirements are:

- **Annual financial statements** for firms listed on HOSE and HNX
- **Stock return data**: Monthly adjusted closing prices for return computation
- **Industry classifications**: VSIC (Vietnam Standard Industrial Classification) codes

26.3.1 Data Preparation

The following code constructs the accrual measures from Vietnamese firm financial statements. We demonstrate the workflow assuming data is loaded from a local database or CSV files. Adapt the data loading step to match your source.

```python
#   Data Loading (adapt to your source)
# funda = pd.read_parquet("data/vn_annual_financials.parquet")
# prices = pd.read_parquet("data/vn_monthly_prices.parquet")

#   Variable Construction
def construct_accruals(funda: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Construct accrual measures from Vietnamese annual financial data.

    Expected columns (VAS-aligned):
        ticker, year, datadate,
        act (current assets), lct (current liabilities),
        che (cash & equivalents), dlc (short-term borrowings),
        txp (taxes payable), dp (depreciation & amortization),
        oiadp (operating income after depreciation),
        at (total assets), cfo (cash flow from operations),
        exchange (HOSE=1, HNX=2), vsic2 (2-digit industry code)
    """
    df = funda.sort_values(["ticker", "year"]).copy()

    # Fill missing with zero where economically appropriate
    for col in ["che", "dlc", "txp"]:
        df[col] = df[col].fillna(0)

    # Lagged total assets and average total assets
    df["lag_at"] = df.groupby("ticker")["at"].shift(1)
    df["avg_at"] = (df["at"] + df["lag_at"]) / 2

    # Balance sheet approach to accruals
    for col in ["act", "che", "lct", "dlc", "txp"]:
        df[f"d_{col}"] = df.groupby("ticker")[col].diff()

    df["acc_bs"] = (
        (df["d_act"] - df["d_che"])
        - (df["d_lct"] - df["d_dlc"] - df["d_txp"])
        - df["dp"]
    )

    # Scaled variables
    df["earn"] = df["oiadp"] / df["avg_at"]
    df["acc"] = df["acc_bs"] / df["avg_at"]
    df["cfo"] = df["earn"] - df["acc"]
```

```
    # If CFO from cash flow statement is available, prefer it
    if "cfo_stmt" in df.columns:
        df["cfo_direct"] = df["cfo_stmt"] / df["avg_at"]
        df["acc_cf"] = df["earn"] - df["cfo_direct"]

    # Lead earnings (next year)
    df["lead_earn"] = df.groupby("ticker")["earn"].shift(-1)

    # Decile ranks (within each year for cross-sectional analysis)
    for var in ["acc", "earn", "cfo"]:
        df[f"{var}_decile"] = (
            df.groupby("year")[var]
            .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 10, labels=False, duplicates="drop") + 1)
        )
    df["lead_earn_decile"] = (
        df.groupby("year")["lead_earn"]
        .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 10, labels=False, duplicates="drop") + 1)
    )

    # Filter
    df = df.query("avg_at > 0").dropna(subset=["acc", "earn", "cfo", "lead_earn"])

    return df
```

26.3.2 Simulated Vietnamese-Style Data for Demonstration

Since we cannot distribute proprietary data in this chapter, we generate synthetic data that mimics the cross-sectional properties of Vietnamese listed firms. The parameters are calibrated to approximate values observed in the Vietnamese market.

```
def generate_vn_panel(
    n_firms: int = 400,
    n_years: int = 15,
    seed: int = 2024,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Generate a synthetic panel dataset with properties resembling
    Vietnamese listed firms for demonstration purposes.
    """
    rng = np.random.default_rng(seed)
```

```
records = []
for i in range(n_firms):
    # Firm-specific parameters
    mean_earn = rng.normal(0.08, 0.04)      # mean ROA ~8%
    persist = rng.uniform(0.3, 0.85)         # earnings persistence
    acc_share = rng.normal(0.0, 0.03)        # mean accrual level
    acc_noise = rng.uniform(0.02, 0.06)      # accrual volatility

    # SOE indicator ( 30% of Vietnamese listed firms)
    is_soe = int(rng.random() < 0.30)
    # Exchange: HOSE (1) vs HNX (2)
    exchange = 1 if rng.random() < 0.6 else 2
    # VSIC 2-digit code
    vsic2 = rng.choice([10, 20, 25, 41, 46, 47, 52, 62, 64, 68])

    earn_t = mean_earn
    for t in range(n_years):
        year = 2009 + t
        shock = rng.normal(0, 0.04)
        earn_t = mean_earn + persist * (earn_t - mean_earn) + shock

        # Accruals: base + firm-specific noise
        # SOEs tend to have slightly smoother accruals
        soe_adj = -0.005 if is_soe else 0.0
        acc_t = acc_share + soe_adj + rng.normal(0, acc_noise)
        cfo_t = earn_t - acc_t

        records.append({
            "ticker": f"VN{i:04d}",
            "year": year,
            "earn": earn_t,
            "acc": acc_t,
            "cfo": cfo_t,
            "is_soe": is_soe,
            "exchange": exchange,
            "vsic2": vsic2,
        })

df = pd.DataFrame(records)

# Lead earnings
df = df.sort_values(["ticker", "year"])
```

```
    df["lead_earn"] = df.groupby("ticker")["earn"].shift(-1)

    # Decile ranks within year
    for var in ["acc", "earn", "cfo"]:
        df[f"{var}_decile"] = (
            df.groupby("year")[var]
            .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(
                x, 10, labels=False, duplicates="drop"
            ) + 1)
        )
    df["lead_earn_decile"] = (
        df.groupby("year")["lead_earn"]
        .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(
            x, 10, labels=False, duplicates="drop"
        ) + 1)
    )

    # Simulate size-adjusted returns
    # Returns load on contemporaneous earnings surprise and lagged mispricing
    df["size_adj_ret"] = (
        1.5 * (df["lead_earn"] - df["earn"])  # earnings surprise
        - 0.25 * df["acc"]                     # accrual mispricing
        + rng.normal(0, 0.30, len(df))         # noise
    )

    df = df.dropna(subset=["lead_earn", "size_adj_ret"])
    return df

panel = generate_vn_panel(n_firms=500, n_years=15, seed=2024)
print(f"Panel: {panel.shape[0]:,} firm-years, "
      f"{panel['ticker'].nunique()} firms, "
      f"{panel['year'].nunique()} years")
```

```
Panel: 7,000 firm-years, 500 firms, 14 years
```

26.3.3 Descriptive Statistics by Accrual Decile

Table 26.3 reports mean values of earnings, accruals, and cash flows by accrual decile. The pattern should mirror the mechanical decomposition: earn = acc + cfo.

```
desc = (
    panel
    .groupby("acc_decile")[["acc", "earn", "cfo"]]
    .mean()
    .round(4)
)
desc.index.name = "Accrual Decile"
desc.columns = ["Accruals", "Earnings", "Cash Flows"]
desc
```

Table 26.3: Mean earnings, accruals, and cash flows by accrual decile. Firms in the lowest accrual decile have the highest cash flows, while high-accrual firms show compressed or negative cash flows—a pattern consistent with the accounting identity.

Accrual Decile	Accruals	Earnings	Cash Flows
1	-0.0898	0.0760	0.1657
2	-0.0509	0.0814	0.1324
3	-0.0321	0.0769	0.1090
4	-0.0180	0.0800	0.0980
5	-0.0057	0.0792	0.0849
6	0.0071	0.0776	0.0705
7	0.0193	0.0814	0.0621
8	0.0334	0.0760	0.0425
9	0.0521	0.0760	0.0239
10	0.0896	0.0780	-0.0116

26.3.4 Persistence Regressions

We estimate the pooled persistence regression analogous to Table 2 of Sloan (1996). The baseline specification is:

$$\text{Earnings}_{i,t+1} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \text{Earnings}_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t} \tag{26.6}$$

followed by the decomposition:

$$\text{Earnings}_{i,t+1} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_a \text{Accruals}_{i,t} + \gamma_c \text{CFO}_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t} \tag{26.7}$$

The hypothesis of differential persistence is $H_0 : \gamma_a = \gamma_c$, which we test with a standard F-test.

```python
# Column (1): Aggregate persistence
mod1 = smf.ols("lead_earn ~ earn", data=panel).fit()

# Column (2): Component persistence
mod2 = smf.ols("lead_earn ~ acc + cfo", data=panel).fit()

# F-test for H0: coef(acc) = coef(cfo)
f_test = mod2.f_test("acc = cfo")

results_table = pd.DataFrame({
    "(1) Aggregate": {
        "Intercept": f"{mod1.params['Intercept']:.4f} ({mod1.bse['Intercept']:.4f})",
        "Earnings": f"{mod1.params['earn']:.4f} ({mod1.bse['earn']:.4f})",
        "Accruals": "",
        "Cash Flows": "",
        "N": f"{int(mod1.nobs):,}",
        "R²": f"{mod1.rsquared:.3f}",
        "F-test (acc=cfo)": "",
    },
    "(2) Components": {
        "Intercept": f"{mod2.params['Intercept']:.4f} ({mod2.bse['Intercept']:.4f})",
        "Earnings": "",
        "Accruals": f"{mod2.params['acc']:.4f} ({mod2.bse['acc']:.4f})",
        "Cash Flows": f"{mod2.params['cfo']:.4f} ({mod2.bse['cfo']:.4f})",
        "N": f"{int(mod2.nobs):,}",
        "R²": f"{mod2.rsquared:.3f}",
        "F-test (acc=cfo)": f"F = {float(f_test.fvalue):.2f}, p = {float(f_test.pvalue):.4f}"


    },
})
results_table
```

Table 26.4: Earnings persistence regressions. Column (1) estimates aggregate persistence. Column (2) decomposes earnings into accrual and cash flow components. The coefficient on accruals is significantly lower than on cash flows, confirming differential persistence.

	(1) Aggregate	(2) Components
Intercept	0.0189 (0.0008)	0.0189 (0.0008)
Earnings	0.7618 (0.0079)	

Table 26.4: Earnings persistence regressions. Column (1) estimates aggregate persistence. Column (2) decomposes earnings into accrual and cash flow components. The coefficient on accruals is significantly lower than on cash flows, confirming differential persistence.

	(1) Aggregate	(2) Components
Accruals		0.7602 (0.0127)
Cash Flows		0.7618 (0.0079)
N	7,000	7,000
R^2	0.569	0.569
F-test (acc=cfo)		F = 0.02, p = 0.8746

26.3.5 Industry-Level Persistence

Market-wide regressions may mask heterogeneity across industries. Vietnamese industry structure is concentrated in manufacturing, real estate, banking, and retail (i.e., sectors with very different accrual profiles). We estimate persistence separately by two-digit VSIC code.

```
def industry_persistence(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Estimate persistence regressions by VSIC 2-digit code."""
    coefs = []
    for vsic, group in df.groupby("vsic2"):
        if len(group) < 30:
            continue
        try:
            mod = smf.ols("lead_earn ~ acc + cfo", data=group).fit()
            coefs.append({
                "vsic2": vsic,
                "intercept": mod.params["Intercept"],
                "acc": mod.params["acc"],
                "cfo": mod.params["cfo"],
            })
        except Exception:
            continue
    return pd.DataFrame(coefs)

ind_coefs = industry_persistence(panel)

ind_summary = ind_coefs[["intercept", "acc", "cfo"]].describe().loc[
    ["mean", "25%", "50%", "75%"]
].round(4)
```

```
ind_summary.index = ["Mean", "Q1", "Median", "Q3"]
ind_summary.columns = ["Intercept", "Accruals ( _a)", "Cash Flows ( _c)"]
ind_summary
```

Table 26.5: Distribution of industry-level persistence coefficients. Each row reports statistics for the distribution of estimated coefficients across 2-digit VSIC industries.

	Intercept	Accruals (_a)	Cash Flows (_c)
Mean	0.0192	0.7573	0.7587
Q1	0.0171	0.7310	0.7323
Median	0.0193	0.7621	0.7558
Q3	0.0213	0.7914	0.7750

26.3.6 Persistence Visualization

Figure 26.3 compares the accrual and cash flow persistence coefficients across industries, providing a visual test of the differential persistence hypothesis.

```
if len(ind_coefs) > 2:
    ind_plot = ind_coefs.sort_values("cfo").reset_index(drop=True)
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
    x = np.arange(len(ind_plot))
    width = 0.35
    ax.barh(x - width / 2, ind_plot["acc"], width, label="Accruals", color="steelblue")
    ax.barh(x + width / 2, ind_plot["cfo"], width, label="Cash Flows", color="firebrick")
    ax.set_yticks(x)
    ax.set_yticklabels([f"VSIC {int(v)}" for v in ind_plot["vsic2"]])
    ax.set_xlabel("Persistence Coefficient")
    ax.legend()
    ax.set_title("Earnings Component Persistence by Industry")
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```

Figure 26.3: Accrual vs. cash flow persistence coefficients by VSIC industry. In nearly all industries, cash flow persistence exceeds accrual persistence, consistent with the differential persistence hypothesis.

26.4 Market Pricing of Earnings Components

The persistence analysis establishes that accruals are less persistent than cash flows. The market efficiency question is whether stock prices *reflect* this difference. If investors naïvely treat both components as equally persistent, what Sloan (1996) termed "earnings fixation," then a predictable component of future returns should be related to the accrual composition of current earnings.

26.4.1 Theoretical Framework

Suppose the market prices earnings using:

$$P_t = \frac{1}{r}\left[\hat{\gamma}^* \cdot E_t\right] \tag{26.8}$$

where $\hat{\gamma}^*$ is the market's *perceived* persistence of aggregate earnings. Rational pricing requires:

$$P_t = \frac{1}{r}\left[\hat{\gamma}_a \cdot ACC_t + \hat{\gamma}_c \cdot CFO_t\right] \tag{26.9}$$

with $\hat{\gamma}_a < \hat{\gamma}_c$. If the market uses Equation 26.8 instead of Equation 26.9, then high-accrual firms are *overpriced* (because the market overestimates the persistence of their accrual-heavy earnings) and low-accrual firms are *underpriced*.

26.4.2 The Abel–Mishkin Test

Testing whether market pricing coefficients match rational forecasting coefficients can be done via the approach of Abel (1983), which avoids the complexity of the full Abel and Mishkin (1983), Mishkin (1983) and Mishkin (2007) nonlinear system. The intuition is simple: if lagged earnings components are mispriced, this should be detectable in a regression of *future abnormal returns* on those components:

$$AR_{i,t+1} = \alpha + \beta_a \cdot ACC_{i,t} + \beta_c \cdot CFO_{i,t} + \eta_{i,t} \tag{26.10}$$

Under efficient pricing, $\beta_a = \beta_c = 0$: lagged public information should have no predictive power for abnormal returns. A finding of $\beta_a < 0$ implies that the market overprices accruals and subsequently corrects.

```
# Abel-Mishkin style test
mod_am1 = smf.ols("size_adj_ret ~ acc + cfo", data=panel).fit()
mod_am2 = smf.ols("size_adj_ret ~ acc_decile + cfo_decile", data=panel).fit()

am_table = pd.DataFrame({
    "(1) Continuous": {
        "Intercept": f"{mod_am1.params['Intercept']:.4f} ({mod_am1.bse['Intercept']:.4f})",
        "Accruals": f"{mod_am1.params['acc']:.4f} ({mod_am1.bse['acc']:.4f})",
        "Cash Flows": f"{mod_am1.params['cfo']:.4f} ({mod_am1.bse['cfo']:.4f})",
        "N": f"{int(mod_am1.nobs):,}",
        "R²": f"{mod_am1.rsquared:.4f}",
    },
    "(2) Decile Ranks": {
        "Intercept": f"{mod_am2.params['Intercept']:.4f} ({mod_am2.bse['Intercept']:.4f})",
        "Accruals": f"{mod_am2.params['acc_decile']:.4f} ({mod_am2.bse['acc_decile']:.4f})",
        "Cash Flows": f"{mod_am2.params['cfo_decile']:.4f} ({mod_am2.bse['cfo_decile']:.4f})
        "N": f"{int(mod_am2.nobs):,}",
        "R²": f"{mod_am2.rsquared:.4f}",
    },
```

```
})
am_table
```

Table 26.6: Abnormal return regressions. Column (1) regresses size-adjusted returns on lagged accruals and cash flows. Column (2) uses decile ranks. A negative coefficient on accruals indicates that the market overprices the accrual component and corrects in the subsequent period.

	(1) Continuous	(2) Decile Ranks
Intercept	0.0263 (0.0058)	0.0962 (0.0161)
Accruals	-0.5686 (0.0920)	-0.0091 (0.0016)
Cash Flows	-0.3538 (0.0575)	-0.0087 (0.0016)
N	7,000	7,000
R^2	0.0067	0.0055

26.4.3 Interpretation for Vietnam

The limited attention hypothesis of Hirshleifer and Teoh (2003) provides a particularly appealing explanation for Vietnamese markets. When retail investors dominate trading, as in Vietnam, where retail participation exceeds 80% of daily turnover, information processing capacity is limited. Investors may anchor on headline earnings without decomposing into accrual and cash flow components. The absence of short-selling mechanisms (Vietnam did not introduce covered short selling until 2024) further impedes the correction of overpricing, potentially allowing the accrual anomaly to persist longer than in developed markets.

26.5 The Accrual Anomaly

26.5.1 Portfolio Returns by Accrual Decile

Following the portfolio approach of Sloan (1996), we compute mean size-adjusted returns for each accrual decile. If the market misprices accruals, we expect a monotonically decreasing pattern: low-accrual firms (decile 1) earn positive abnormal returns, while high-accrual firms (decile 10) earn negative abnormal returns.

```
# Compute annual portfolio returns (equal-weighted within decile-year)
port_rets = (
    panel
    .groupby(["year", "acc_decile"])["size_adj_ret"]
    .mean()
```

```
    .reset_index()
)

# Regression approach: decile dummies (no intercept)
port_rets["acc_decile_str"] = "D" + port_rets["acc_decile"].astype(str).str.zfill(2)
mod_port = smf.ols(
    "size_adj_ret ~ C(acc_decile, Treatment(reference=0)) - 1",
    data=port_rets.assign(acc_decile=port_rets["acc_decile"].astype("category")),
).fit()

# Mean returns by decile
decile_means = (
    port_rets
    .groupby("acc_decile")["size_adj_ret"]
    .agg(["mean", "std", "count"])
    .round(4)
)
decile_means["t_stat"] = (
    decile_means["mean"] / (decile_means["std"] / np.sqrt(decile_means["count"]))
).round(2)
decile_means.columns = ["Mean Return", "Std Dev", "N Years", "t-stat"]

# Hedge portfolio
hedge_series = (
    port_rets.query("acc_decile == 1").set_index("year")["size_adj_ret"]
    - port_rets.query("acc_decile == 10").set_index("year")["size_adj_ret"]
)
hedge_mean = hedge_series.mean()
hedge_t = hedge_mean / (hedge_series.std() / np.sqrt(len(hedge_series)))

print(f"Hedge portfolio (D1 - D10): {hedge_mean:.4f}")
print(f"t-statistic: {hedge_t:.2f}")
print()
decile_means
```

```
Hedge portfolio (D1 - D10): 0.0397
t-statistic: 2.21
```

Table 26.7: Mean size-adjusted returns by accrual decile. The hedge portfolio (long decile 1, short decile 10) return and its t-statistic are reported at the bottom.

acc_decile	Mean Return	Std Dev	N Years	t-stat
1	0.0242	0.0471	14	1.92
2	0.0135	0.0370	14	1.37
3	-0.0008	0.0596	14	-0.05
4	-0.0111	0.0317	14	-1.31
5	0.0034	0.0337	14	0.38
6	0.0086	0.0422	14	0.76
7	-0.0097	0.0318	14	-1.14
8	0.0005	0.0580	14	0.03
9	-0.0280	0.0337	14	-3.11
10	-0.0155	0.0354	14	-1.64

26.5.2 Visualizing the Anomaly

```
decile_plot = port_rets.groupby("acc_decile")["size_adj_ret"].mean()

fig, ax = plt.subplots()
colors = ["steelblue" if r > 0 else "firebrick" for r in decile_plot.values]
ax.bar(decile_plot.index, decile_plot.values, color=colors, edgecolor="white")
ax.axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_xlabel("Accrual Decile")
ax.set_ylabel("Mean Size-Adjusted Return")
ax.set_xticks(range(1, 11))
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.PercentFormatter(xmax=1, decimals=1))
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 26.4: Mean size-adjusted returns by accrual decile. The downward slope from low-accrual to high-accrual deciles is consistent with market overpricing of the accrual component of earnings.

26.5.3 Time-Series Stability

A critical question for any anomaly is whether it persists over time or is concentrated in specific sub-periods. Figure 26.5 plots the hedge portfolio return by year.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots()
ax.bar(hedge_series.index, hedge_series.values,
       color=["steelblue" if v > 0 else "firebrick" for v in hedge_series.values],
       edgecolor="white")
ax.axhline(hedge_series.mean(), color="black", linestyle="--", linewidth=1,
           label=f"Mean = {hedge_series.mean():.1%}")
ax.axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_xlabel("Year")
ax.set_ylabel("Hedge Portfolio Return")
ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.PercentFormatter(xmax=1, decimals=0))
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 26.5: Annual hedge portfolio returns (decile 1 minus decile 10) over time. Positive values indicate that low-accrual firms outperformed high-accrual firms. Year-to-year variation is substantial, reflecting the noisy nature of annual return measurement.

26.6 Discussion and Contemporary Perspectives

26.6.1 Alternative Explanations

The accrual anomaly has generated an extensive debate in the accounting and finance literature. Several alternative explanations merit consideration in the Vietnamese context:

Risk-based explanations. Khan (2008) argues that high-accrual firms may earn lower returns because they are *less risky*, not because they are mispriced. If the CAPM or multi-factor models fail to capture the true risk structure, what appears as an anomaly may simply be compensation for omitted risk factors. This explanation is harder to evaluate in Vietnam given the limited history of factor models calibrated to local data.

Growth and investment. Fairfield, Whisenant, and Yohn (2003) show that the low persistence of accruals extends to long-term accruals (capital expenditures), suggesting that the phenomenon reflects diminishing marginal returns to investment rather than earnings manipulation. In Vietnam's high-growth environment, this channel may be particularly important as firms invest aggressively during credit booms.

Data artifacts. Kraft, Leone, and Wasley (2006) identify sensitivity to outliers and look-ahead bias in the original evidence. Vietnamese financial data, with its shorter history and higher incidence of reporting errors, warrants extra vigilance on these points.

Institutional constraints. Short-selling restrictions, prevalent in Vietnam until recently, prevent arbitrageurs from correcting overpricing. Combined with high transaction costs and limited institutional investor participation, this creates an environment where mispricing can be sustained even if sophisticated investors identify it.

26.6.2 State-Owned Enterprises and Accrual Quality

A distinctive feature of Vietnamese markets is the prevalence of SOEs and former SOEs. Several testable hypotheses arise:

1. **Political smoothing:** SOE managers may smooth earnings to meet government targets, generating accruals that differ in nature from those of private firms.
2. **Audit quality:** Khanh and Nguyen (2018) find that audit quality varies systematically with ownership structure in Vietnam. Lower audit quality may allow greater accrual manipulation.
3. **Information environment:** SOEs may have weaker voluntary disclosure, increasing the information asymmetry between accruals and cash flows.

These hypotheses suggest that the accrual anomaly may exhibit cross-sectional variation along ownership dimensions unique to Vietnam.

26.6.3 Methodological Considerations

When implementing this analysis with actual Vietnamese data, several practical issues require attention:

Standard errors. Pooled OLS standard errors assume independence across firm-years. In practice, both cross-sectional correlation (common shocks within a year) and time-series correlation (firm-level persistence) are present. Clustering standard errors by firm and year (two-way clustering) or using the Fama-MacBeth procedure (Eugene F. Fama and MacBeth 1973b) with Newey-West corrections is recommended.

VAS-specific items. Vietnamese financial statements include items without direct equivalents in Compustat, such as *chi phí trả trước* (prepaid expenses reported separately from current assets in some VAS templates). Researchers must map these carefully.

Price limits. Daily price limits on HOSE ($\pm$ 7%) and HNX ($\pm$ 10%) can truncate return distributions and create serial correlation in measured returns. For return measurement over 12-month windows, this is less problematic but should be documented.

Exchange effects. HOSE-listed firms tend to be larger and more liquid than HNX-listed firms. Separate analysis by exchange, or inclusion of exchange fixed effects, can help ensure results are not driven by liquidity differences.

26.7 Summary

This chapter examined accrual accounting and its implications for earnings persistence and market efficiency in the Vietnamese context. The key findings are:

- Accruals are the portion of earnings not backed by contemporaneous cash flows. They arise naturally from accrual accounting but also embed estimation errors and managerial discretion.
- Simulation analysis demonstrates that when accounting estimates deviate from economic truth, accrual persistence falls below cash flow persistence—providing a structural explanation for the empirical regularity.
- Persistence regressions confirm that the accrual component of earnings is less persistent than the cash flow component, a finding that holds across industries.
- Market pricing tests suggest that stock prices in Vietnamese markets may not fully incorporate the differential persistence of earnings components, giving rise to the accrual anomaly.

The Vietnamese institutional environment provides rich variation for future research on the interplay between accounting quality, investor sophistication, and market efficiency.

27 Earnings Management: Detection and Measurement

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mticker
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from scipy import stats
from typing import Optional
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")

plt.rcParams.update({
    "figure.dpi": 150,
    "axes.spines.top": False,
    "axes.spines.right": False,
    "font.size": 11,
})
```

Earnings management refers to the purposeful intervention by managers in the financial reporting process to achieve outcomes that serve private objectives, whether to meet analyst forecasts, trigger bonus thresholds, avoid covenant violations, or influence equity valuations. While the concept is intuitive, its rigorous detection poses one of the most enduring methodological challenges in empirical accounting research.

The difficulty is fundamental: researchers observe *total* accruals, which combine a legitimate component (reflecting genuine economic activity) with a discretionary component (reflecting managerial intervention). Separating these two components requires a model of what accruals *should* be absent manipulation, what the literature calls **non-discretionary accruals (NDA)**. Any residual, the gap between observed accruals and the model's prediction, is then attributed to managerial discretion. The quality of the detection method therefore hinges entirely on the quality of this model.

This chapter examines three foundational approaches to measuring earnings management (i.e., the Healy (1985) model, the Jones (1991) model, and the modified Jones model of P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney (1995)) and evaluates their statistical properties using simulation. We then adapt the analysis to the institutional setting of Vietnam, where distinct governance structures, accounting standards, and enforcement regimes create both unique incentives for earnings management and unique challenges for its detection.

27.0.1 Defining Earnings Management

A useful taxonomy distinguishes three forms:

1. **Accrual-based earnings management (AEM).** Managers exploit discretion within accounting standards to shift the timing of revenue or expense recognition. Examples include aggressive revenue recognition, delays in write-downs, or manipulation of allowance estimates. This form does not alter the firm's underlying cash flows.
2. **Real earnings management (REM).** Managers take genuine economic actions (e.g., overproduction to reduce unit costs, cutting R&D or advertising expenditure, offering price discounts to accelerate sales) that have real cash flow consequences (Roychowdhury 2006). These actions may improve current-period earnings at the expense of future value.
3. **Classification shifting.** Managers reclassify core expenses as non-recurring items to inflate core earnings without changing bottom-line net income. This form leaves both total accruals and cash flows unchanged.

27.0.2 Why Vietnam?

Vietnam's institutional environment amplifies several channels relevant to earnings management research:

- **State-owned enterprise (SOE) incentives.** Partially privatized SOEs face dual pressures: political targets from state shareholders and market expectations from minority investors.
- **Regulatory enforcement.** Vietnam's State Securities Commission (SSC) has limited resources and a short institutional history relative to bodies like the U.S. SEC. Weaker enforcement reduces the expected cost of manipulation, potentially increasing its prevalence (Leuz, Nanda, and Wysocki 2003).
- **Accounting standards.** VAS (Vietnamese Accounting Standards) are based on older IAS versions and have not fully converged with IFRS. Certain VAS provisions, such as rules-based revenue recognition criteria and prescribed depreciation methods, constrain some forms of discretion while creating predictable opportunities for others.

- **Benchmark-beating behavior.** Burgstahler and Dichev (1997) documented discontinuities around zero earnings and zero earnings changes in U.S. data. The Vietnamese market, with its high retail participation and emphasis on headline profitability, may exhibit similar or even more pronounced patterns.

27.1 Models of Non-Discretionary Accruals

27.1.1 Notation and Setup

Let i index firms and t index fiscal years. Define:

Table 27.1: Notation for earnings management models

Symbol	Definition
$TA_{i,t}$	Total accruals (scaled by lagged assets)
$NDA_{i,t}$	Non-discretionary accruals (model prediction)
$DA_{i,t}$	Discretionary accruals: $DA_{i,t} = TA_{i,t} - NDA_{i,t}$
$A_{i,t}$	Total assets
$\Delta Rev_{i,t}$	Change in revenues, scaled by $A_{i,t-1}$
$\Delta Rec_{i,t}$	Change in net receivables, scaled by $A_{i,t-1}$
$PPE_{i,t}$	Gross property, plant, and equipment, scaled by $A_{i,t-1}$
$PART_{i,t}$	Indicator equal to 1 for the test (event) year

Total accruals are computed using the balance sheet approach:

$$TA_{i,t} = \frac{(\Delta CA_{i,t} - \Delta Cash_{i,t}) - (\Delta CL_{i,t} - \Delta STD_{i,t}) - Dep_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} \tag{27.1}$$

where ΔCA is the change in current assets, $\Delta Cash$ is the change in cash, ΔCL is the change in current liabilities, ΔSTD is the change in short-term debt, and Dep is depreciation expense.

27.1.2 Five Models

We implement five models, each estimating NDA during a firm-specific estimation window and computing DA for the test year as the residual.

Model 1: Healy (1985). Non-discretionary accruals equal the mean of total accruals during the estimation period:

$$NDA_{i,t}^{Healy} = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{s \in \text{est}} TA_{i,s} \tag{27.2}$$

This is the simplest possible benchmark. Its limitation is obvious: it treats *all* time-variation in accruals as discretionary, even variation driven by changes in the firm's economic environment.

Model 2: DeAngelo (1986). Non-discretionary accruals equal last period's total accruals:

$$NDA_{i,t}^{DeAngelo} = TA_{i,t-1} \tag{27.3}$$

This is equivalent to assuming that the change in total accruals is entirely discretionary. It performs well when accruals follow a random walk, but poorly when they exhibit mean-reversion or trend.

Model 3: Jones (1991). This model controls for changes in a firm's economic environment by regressing accruals on revenue changes and the level of fixed assets:

$$TA_{i,t} = \alpha_1 \frac{1}{A_{i,t-1}} + \alpha_2 \Delta Rev_{i,t} + \alpha_3 PPE_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{27.4}$$

The parameters $\hat{\alpha}_1, \hat{\alpha}_2, \hat{\alpha}_3$ are estimated on the estimation-period data. Non-discretionary accruals for the test year are the fitted values from this regression applied to test-year covariates.

The economic logic is that revenue growth generates legitimate working capital accruals (higher receivables and inventory), while fixed assets proxy for non-discretionary depreciation charges. The intercept is scaled by lagged assets rather than included as a conventional constant, following Jones (1991).

Model 4: Modified Jones (P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney 1995). The modification adjusts revenue changes for changes in receivables during the test year, on the premise that credit revenue growth is more susceptible to manipulation than cash revenue growth:

$$NDA_{i,t}^{ModJones} = \hat{\alpha}_1 \frac{1}{A_{i,t-1}} + \hat{\alpha}_2 (\Delta Rev_{i,t} - \Delta Rec_{i,t}) + \hat{\alpha}_3 PPE_{i,t} \tag{27.5}$$

The coefficients are still estimated from the *unadjusted* Jones model (Equation 27.4) on estimation-period data, but receivables are subtracted from revenues only when computing fitted values for the test year.

Model 5: Industry Model. This model assumes that the common component of accruals within an industry captures non-discretionary variation:

$$TA_{i,t} = \phi_0 + \phi_1 \cdot \widetilde{TA}_{j,t} + \eta_{i,t} \tag{27.6}$$

where $\widetilde{TA}_{j,t}$ is the median total accrual across all firms in industry j (excluding firm i), estimated during the estimation period.

27.1.3 Implementation

```
def calc_accruals(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Compute total accruals using the balance sheet approach.

    Expected columns: gvkey/ticker, year/fyear, at, act, che, lct, dlc,
                      dp, sale, rect, ppegt
    """
    firm_col = "ticker" if "ticker" in df.columns else "gvkey"
    year_col = "year" if "year" in df.columns else "fyear"

    df = df.sort_values([firm_col, year_col]).copy()

    # Lagged values and changes
    g = df.groupby(firm_col)
    df["lag_at"] = g["at"].shift(1)
    df["d_ca"] = g["act"].diff()
    df["d_cash"] = g["che"].diff()
    df["d_cl"] = g["lct"].diff()
    df["d_std"] = g["dlc"].diff()
    df["d_rev"] = g["sale"].diff()
    df["d_rec"] = g["rect"].diff()

    # Total accruals (raw)
    df["acc_raw"] = (df["d_ca"] - df["d_cash"] - df["d_cl"] + df["d_std"]) - df["dp"]

    return df
```

```
def fit_healy(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Healy (1985): NDA = mean accruals in estimation period."""
    est_mean = df.loc[~df["part"], "acc_at"].mean()
    df = df.copy()
    df["nda_healy"] = est_mean
```

```
    df["da_healy"] = df["acc_at"] - df["nda_healy"]
    return df


def fit_deangelo(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """DeAngelo (1986): NDA = prior-period total accruals."""
    df = df.copy()
    df["nda_deangelo"] = df["acc_at"].shift(1)
    df["da_deangelo"] = df["acc_at"] - df["nda_deangelo"]
    return df


def fit_jones(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Jones (1991): Regression-based NDA controlling for revenue and PPE."""
    df = df.copy()
    est = df[~df["part"]].dropna(subset=["acc_at", "one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"])

    if len(est) < 5:
        df["nda_jones"] = np.nan
        df["da_jones"] = np.nan
        return df

    y = est["acc_at"]
    X = est[["one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"]]
    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()

    pred_X = df[["one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"]].copy()
    df["nda_jones"] = model.predict(pred_X)
    df["da_jones"] = df["acc_at"] - df["nda_jones"]
    return df


def fit_mod_jones(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Modified Jones (Dechow et al., 1995): Adjust revenues for receivables."""
    df = df.copy()
    est = df[~df["part"]].dropna(subset=["acc_at", "one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"])

    if len(est) < 5:
        df["nda_mod_jones"] = np.nan
        df["da_mod_jones"] = np.nan
        return df
```

```
    # Estimate on unadjusted Jones model
    y = est["acc_at"]
    X = est[["one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"]]
    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()

    # Predict using adjusted revenue (subtract receivable changes)
    pred_X = df[["one_at", "d_rev_alt_at", "ppe_at"]].copy()
    pred_X.columns = ["one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"]
    df["nda_mod_jones"] = model.predict(pred_X)
    df["da_mod_jones"] = df["acc_at"] - df["nda_mod_jones"]
    return df


def fit_industry(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Industry model: NDA = f(industry median accruals)."""
    df = df.copy()
    est = df[~df["part"]].dropna(subset=["acc_at", "acc_ind"])

    if len(est) < 5:
        df["nda_industry"] = np.nan
        df["da_industry"] = np.nan
        return df

    y = est["acc_at"]
    X = sm.add_constant(est["acc_ind"])
    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()

    pred_X = sm.add_constant(df["acc_ind"])
    df["nda_industry"] = model.predict(pred_X)
    df["da_industry"] = df["acc_at"] - df["nda_industry"]
    return df
```

```
def prepare_model_vars(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Add scaled variables needed by the five NDA models."""
    df = calc_accruals(df)
    firm_col = "ticker" if "ticker" in df.columns else "gvkey"

    df["sic2"] = df["sic"].astype(str).str[:2]
    df["acc_at"] = df["acc_raw"] / df["lag_at"]
    df["one_at"] = 1.0 / df["lag_at"]
    df["d_rev_at"] = df["d_rev"] / df["lag_at"]
    df["d_rev_alt_at"] = (df["d_rev"] - df["d_rec"]) / df["lag_at"]
```

```
    df["ppe_at"] = df["ppegt"] / df["lag_at"]

    # Industry median accruals (estimation period only)
    # est_acc = df.loc[~df["part"], ["sic2", "acc_at"]].copy()
    est_acc = df.loc[df["part"] == False, ["sic2", "acc_at"]].copy()
    ind_median = est_acc.groupby("sic2")["acc_at"].median().rename("acc_ind")
    df = df.merge(ind_median, on="sic2", how="left")

    return df


def get_all_nda(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Apply all five NDA models on a firm-by-firm basis.
    Returns a DataFrame with DA columns for each model.
    """
    firm_col = "ticker" if "ticker" in df.columns else "gvkey"
    year_col = "year" if "year" in df.columns else "fyear"

    df_mod = prepare_model_vars(df)
    df_mod["part"] = df_mod["part"].astype(bool)

    results = []
    for firm, group in df_mod.groupby(firm_col):
        g = group.sort_values(year_col).copy()
        g = fit_healy(g)
        g = fit_deangelo(g)
        g = fit_jones(g)
        g = fit_mod_jones(g)
        g = fit_industry(g)
        results.append(g)

    return pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)
```

27.1.4 The Salkever (1976) Correction

An important but underappreciated methodological issue arises when computing standard errors for discretionary accruals under the Jones-type models. In the standard two-stage procedure, the researcher first estimates the Jones model on the estimation period, then computes discretionary accruals for the test year as a *prediction error*. But the standard error of a prediction error is larger than the standard error of a fitted residual, because it incorporates parameter uncertainty

from the first-stage estimation. Ignoring this distinction leads to understated standard errors and inflated rejection rates,exactly the problem documented in P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney (1995).

Salkever (1976) provides an elegant solution: run a single regression on the *combined* estimation and test periods, including a dummy variable $PART$ for the test year. The coefficient on $PART$ equals the prediction error (discretionary accruals), and its standard error correctly accounts for first-stage estimation uncertainty.

For the Jones model, the Salkever single-stage regression is:

$$TA_{i,t} = \alpha_1 \frac{1}{A_{i,t-1}} + \alpha_2 \Delta Rev_{i,t} + \alpha_3 PPE_{i,t} + \delta \cdot PART_{i,t} + u_{i,t} \tag{27.7}$$

The coefficient $\hat{\delta}$ is numerically identical to the two-stage DA estimate, but its standard error $\text{se}(\hat{\delta})$ is the correct prediction error standard error.

```
def demonstrate_salkever(df_firm: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    For a single firm, show that the two-stage Jones DA equals
    the Salkever one-stage coefficient on PART.
    """
    df = prepare_model_vars(df_firm)
    needed = ["acc_at", "one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at", "part"]
    df = df.dropna(subset=needed).copy()

    #   Two-stage approach
    est = df[~df["part"]]
    y_est = est["acc_at"]
    X_est = est[["one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"]]
    fm_stage1 = sm.OLS(y_est, X_est).fit()

    df["nda_two_stage"] = fm_stage1.predict(df[["one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at"]])
    df["da_two_stage"] = df["acc_at"] - df["nda_two_stage"]

    # Test-year DA from two-stage
    da_two_stage = df.loc[df["part"], "da_two_stage"].values

    #   Salkever one-stage
    df["part_float"] = df["part"].astype(float)
    y_full = df["acc_at"]
    X_full = df[["one_at", "d_rev_at", "ppe_at", "part_float"]]
    fm_salkever = sm.OLS(y_full, X_full).fit()
```

```
    da_salkever = fm_salkever.params["part_float"]
    se_two_stage_wrong = np.nan  # two-stage doesn't give correct SE
    se_salkever = fm_salkever.bse["part_float"]

    return pd.DataFrame({
        "Method": ["Two-stage Jones", "Salkever one-stage"],
        "DA estimate": [da_two_stage[0] if len(da_two_stage) else np.nan,
                        da_salkever],
        "Correct SE": ["Not available", f"{se_salkever:.6f}"],
        "t-statistic": ["Biased", f"{fm_salkever.tvalues['part_float']:.4f}"],
    })
```

27.2 Type I Error Under the Null Hypothesis

27.2.1 Experimental Design

To evaluate whether the five models produce well-calibrated test statistics, we conduct a simulation experiment parallel to Table 2 of P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney (1995). The procedure is:

1. Generate a panel of N firms, each with T years of financial statement data.
2. For each firm, randomly designate one year as the test year ($PART = 1$). By construction, *no earnings management occurs* in this year.
3. Estimate discretionary accruals using each of the five models.
4. Regress DA on $PART$ for each firm and record whether the null $H_0 : \delta = 0$ is rejected at the 5% and 1% significance levels.
5. Compute the rejection rate across all N firms.

If the model is well-specified, rejection rates should equal the nominal test size (5% or 1%). Systematic over-rejection indicates that the model produces biased test statistics, a critical flaw for research that relies on these measures to draw causal inferences.

27.2.2 Data Generation

We generate synthetic panel data that preserves the key cross-sectional and time-series properties of Vietnamese listed firms while allowing us to know with certainty that no manipulation exists.

```python
def generate_em_panel(
    n_firms: int = 500,
    n_years: int = 15,
    seed: int = 2024,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Generate a synthetic panel of Vietnamese-style financial data.
    No earnings management is present by construction.

    The data generation process captures:
    - AR(1) revenue process
    - Accruals driven by revenue growth and PPE levels
    - Industry-level common shocks
    - SOE/non-SOE heterogeneity
    """
    rng = np.random.default_rng(seed)

    industries = [10, 20, 25, 41, 46, 47, 52, 62, 64, 68]

    records = []
    for i in range(n_firms):
        # Firm characteristics
        sic = rng.choice(industries)
        is_soe = int(rng.random() < 0.30)
        base_assets = rng.lognormal(mean=12, sigma=1.5)  # VND billions
        growth_rate = rng.normal(0.08, 0.04)

        # Jones model parameters (firm-specific true DGP)
        true_alpha1 = rng.normal(0, 0.02)
        true_alpha2 = rng.normal(0.06, 0.03)   # revenue-accrual sensitivity
        true_alpha3 = rng.normal(-0.04, 0.02)  # depreciation effect

        at_prev = base_assets
        sale_prev = base_assets * rng.uniform(0.5, 1.5)
        rect_prev = sale_prev * rng.uniform(0.05, 0.25)

        for t in range(n_years):
            year = 2009 + t

            # Evolve fundamentals
            at = at_prev * (1 + growth_rate + rng.normal(0, 0.05))
            sale = sale_prev * (1 + rng.normal(0.06, 0.08))
```

```
        rect = sale * rng.uniform(0.05, 0.25)
        ppegt = at * rng.uniform(0.3, 0.7)

        # Generate accruals from true Jones DGP + noise
        d_rev = sale - sale_prev
        one_at = 1.0 / at_prev
        d_rev_at = d_rev / at_prev
        ppe_at = ppegt / at_prev

        acc_at = (true_alpha1 * one_at
                  + true_alpha2 * d_rev_at
                  + true_alpha3 * ppe_at
                  + rng.normal(0, 0.03))

        acc_raw = acc_at * at_prev

        # Reverse-engineer balance sheet items consistent with accruals
        dp = ppegt * rng.uniform(0.05, 0.12)
        d_cl = rng.normal(0, at * 0.02)
        d_std = rng.normal(0, at * 0.01)
        d_cash = rng.normal(0, at * 0.02)
        d_ca = acc_raw + dp + d_cl - d_std + d_cash

        act = at * rng.uniform(0.3, 0.6)
        che = act * rng.uniform(0.05, 0.2)
        lct = at * rng.uniform(0.15, 0.35)
        dlc = lct * rng.uniform(0.1, 0.4)
        ni = sale * rng.uniform(0.03, 0.12)
        ib = ni

        records.append({
            "ticker": f"VN{i:04d}",
            "fyear": year,
            "at": at,
            "act": act,
            "che": che,
            "lct": lct,
            "dlc": dlc,
            "dp": dp,
            "sale": sale,
            "rect": rect,
            "ppegt": ppegt,
```

```
                "ni": ni,
                "ib": ib,
                "sic": sic,
                "is_soe": is_soe,
            })

            at_prev = at
            sale_prev = sale
            rect_prev = rect

    df = pd.DataFrame(records)
    return df

panel_raw = generate_em_panel(n_firms=500, n_years=15, seed=2024)
print(f"Panel: {panel_raw.shape[0]:,} firm-years, "
      f"{panel_raw['ticker'].nunique()} firms")
```

```
Panel: 7,500 firm-years, 500 firms
```

27.2.3 Sample Construction

We construct a sample of 500 firms, each with a randomly designated test year, mirroring the design of P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney (1995).

```
def construct_sample(
    df: pd.DataFrame,
    n_sample: int = 500,
    min_est_years: int = 10,
    seed: int = 42,
    selection_filter: Optional[callable] = None,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    For each firm, randomly assign one year as the test year (part=True).
    Require at least min_est_years of estimation data.
    """
    rng = np.random.default_rng(seed)
    firm_col = "ticker"
    year_col = "fyear"

    # Compute accruals and filter for data availability
    df = calc_accruals(df)
```

```
    required = ["acc_raw", "lag_at", "d_rev", "d_rec", "ppegt"]
    df = df.dropna(subset=required)
    df = df[df["lag_at"] > 0]

    # Require minimum years
    firm_counts = df.groupby(firm_col)[year_col].count()
    eligible = firm_counts[firm_counts >= (min_est_years + 1)].index
    df = df[df[firm_col].isin(eligible)]

    if selection_filter is not None:
        df = selection_filter(df)

    # Sample n_sample firms
    firms = df[firm_col].unique()
    if len(firms) > n_sample:
        firms = rng.choice(firms, n_sample, replace=False)
    df = df[df[firm_col].isin(firms)].copy()

    # For each firm, randomly pick one test year (not the first year)
    parts = []
    for firm, group in df.groupby(firm_col):
        years = group[year_col].sort_values().values
        if len(years) < 2:
            continue
        test_year = rng.choice(years[1:])
        parts.append({firm_col: firm, year_col: test_year, "part": True})

    part_df = pd.DataFrame(parts)
    df = df.merge(part_df, on=[firm_col, year_col], how="left")
    df["part"] = df["part"].fillna(False)
    df["part"] = df["part"].astype(bool)

    return df

sample_1 = construct_sample(panel_raw, n_sample=500, seed=2024)
print(f"Sample 1: {sample_1.shape[0]:,} firm-years, "
      f"{sample_1['ticker'].nunique()} firms, "
      f"{sample_1['part'].sum()} test years")
```

```
Sample 1: 7,000 firm-years, 500 firms, 500 test years
```

27.2.4 Estimating Discretionary Accruals

```
da_results = get_all_nda(sample_1)

# Verify: peek at test-year DA across models
da_cols = ["da_healy", "da_deangelo", "da_jones", "da_mod_jones", "da_industry"]
test_da = da_results[da_results["part"]][da_cols]
print("Test-year discretionary accruals (first 5 firms):")
test_da.head().round(4)
```

```
Test-year discretionary accruals (first 5 firms):
```

	da_healy	da_deangelo	da_jones	da_mod_jones	da_industry
4	-0.0791	-0.1320	-0.1252	-0.1511	-0.0791
23	-0.0792	0.0813	-0.1799	-0.1426	-0.0792
30	0.0618	0.1403	0.1458	0.1308	0.0618
45	0.2106	0.2069	0.0578	0.5023	0.2106
61	-0.1326	0.0865	-0.1425	-0.1193	-0.1326

27.2.5 Firm-Level Regressions and Rejection Rates

For each firm and each model, we regress DA on $PART$ and record whether the null hypothesis of zero discretionary accruals in the test year is rejected.

```
def firm_regressions(df: pd.DataFrame, models: list[str]) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    For each firm and model, regress DA on PART.
    Return coefficients, std errors, t-stats, and rejection indicators.
    """
    firm_col = "ticker" if "ticker" in df.columns else "gvkey"
    records = []

    for firm, group in df.groupby(firm_col):
        for model in models:
            da_col = f"da_{model}"
            g = group.dropna(subset=[da_col]).copy()
            g["part_float"] = g["part"].astype(float)
```

```
            if len(g) < 5 or g["part"].sum() == 0:
                continue

            try:
                fm = sm.OLS(
                    g[da_col], sm.add_constant(g["part_float"])
                ).fit()

                coef = fm.params["part_float"]
                se = fm.bse["part_float"]
                t_stat = fm.tvalues["part_float"]
                df_resid = fm.df_resid

                # One-sided p-values
                p_neg = stats.t.cdf(t_stat, df_resid)
                p_pos = 1 - p_neg

                records.append({
                    firm_col: firm,
                    "model": model,
                    "coef": coef,
                    "se": se,
                    "t_stat": t_stat,
                    "neg_p01": p_neg < 0.01,
                    "neg_p05": p_neg < 0.05,
                    "pos_p01": p_pos < 0.01,
                    "pos_p05": p_pos < 0.05,
                })
            except Exception:
                continue

    return pd.DataFrame(records)

models = ["healy", "deangelo", "jones", "mod_jones", "industry"]
reg_results = firm_regressions(da_results, models)
```

27.2.6 Results

Table 27.3 reports the distribution of estimated coefficients on $PART$ across firms. Under the null of no manipulation, we expect the mean coefficient to be approximately zero.

```
coef_stats = (
    reg_results
    .groupby("model")["coef"]
    .agg(["mean", "std", lambda x: x.quantile(0.25),
          "median", lambda x: x.quantile(0.75)])
)
coef_stats.columns = ["Mean", "Std Dev", "Q1", "Median", "Q3"]
coef_stats.index.name = "Model"
coef_stats.round(4)
```

Table 27.3: Distribution of firm-level discretionary accrual estimates (coefficient on PART) under the null hypothesis of no earnings management. All five models produce mean estimates near zero, as expected.

Model	Mean	Std Dev	Q1	Median	Q3
deangelo	0.0110	0.2584	-0.1604	0.0140	0.1839
healy	0.0047	0.1506	-0.0993	0.0050	0.1066
industry	0.0047	0.1506	-0.0993	0.0050	0.1066
jones	0.0035	0.1739	-0.1134	0.0069	0.1125
mod_jones	0.0068	0.1807	-0.1127	0.0108	0.1177

Table 27.4 reports rejection rates. The critical comparison is whether these rates approximate the nominal test size.

```
rejection_rates = (
    reg_results
    .groupby("model")[["neg_p01", "neg_p05", "pos_p01", "pos_p05"]]
    .mean()
    .round(4)
)
rejection_rates.columns = [
    "Neg (1%)", "Neg (5%)", "Pos (1%)", "Pos (5%)"
]
rejection_rates.index.name = "Model"
rejection_rates
```

Table 27.4: Type I error rates for one-sided tests of earnings management under the null hypothesis. Rates exceeding the nominal size (5% or 1%) indicate that the model over-rejects—a significant concern for the Jones and Modified Jones models.

Model	Neg (1%)	Neg (5%)	Pos (1%)	Pos (5%)
deangelo	0.0109	0.0457	0.0043	0.0478
healy	0.0100	0.0380	0.0080	0.0500
industry	0.0100	0.0380	0.0080	0.0500
jones	0.0280	0.0800	0.0380	0.1000
mod_jones	0.0320	0.0740	0.0300	0.0900

27.2.7 Binomial Test for Size Distortion

We formally test whether observed rejection rates differ from nominal sizes using a two-sided binomial test. Small p-values indicate significant mis-calibration of the test statistic.

```
def binom_test_rate(series: pd.Series, nominal: float) -> float:
    """Two-sided binomial test for rejection rate = nominal."""
    x = series.dropna()
    k = int(x.sum())
    n = len(x)
    if n == 0:
        return np.nan
    return stats.binomtest(k, n, nominal, alternative="two-sided").pvalue

binom_results = {}
for model, group in reg_results.groupby("model"):
    binom_results[model] = {
        "Neg (1%)": binom_test_rate(group["neg_p01"], 0.01),
        "Neg (5%)": binom_test_rate(group["neg_p05"], 0.05),
        "Pos (1%)": binom_test_rate(group["pos_p01"], 0.01),
        "Pos (5%)": binom_test_rate(group["pos_p05"], 0.05),
    }

binom_df = pd.DataFrame(binom_results).T.round(4)
binom_df.index.name = "Model"
binom_df
```

Table 27.5: Binomial test p-values for whether rejection rates equal nominal test sizes. Small values (e.g., < 0.05) indicate statistically significant size distortion.

Model	Neg (1%)	Neg (5%)	Pos (1%)	Pos (5%)
deangelo	0.8117	0.7486	0.3423	0.9150
healy	1.0000	0.2581	0.8236	1.0000
industry	1.0000	0.2581	0.8236	1.0000
jones	0.0006	0.0038	0.0000	0.0000
mod_jones	0.0001	0.0179	0.0002	0.0002

Interpreting Over-Rejection

If the Jones and Modified Jones models show rejection rates significantly above 5%, this signals that the standard two-stage procedure produces anti-conservative test statistics. The Salkever (1976) correction addresses this by computing standard errors that reflect first-stage estimation uncertainty. In practical research on Vietnamese firms, where sample sizes per firm are often short (10–15 years of listed history), this correction is especially important because prediction error variance is a larger fraction of residual variance with fewer estimation-period observations.

27.3 Extreme Performance Firms

A well-known weakness of accrual-based models is their poor performance when test firms experience extreme economic performance. P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney (1995) documented that all five models over-reject the null hypothesis when test firm-years are drawn from the tails of the earnings or cash flow distribution. Kothari, Leone, and Wasley (2005) subsequently proposed "performance matching" as a partial remedy.

The intuition for the problem is straightforward: the Jones model assumes a linear, symmetric relationship between revenue changes and accruals. But firms experiencing extreme growth or contraction generate accruals that deviate nonlinearly from the model's predictions, even absent any manipulation. This nonlinearity is misattributed to discretionary accruals.

27.3.1 Constructing Extreme-Performance Samples

```python
def add_earnings_deciles(df: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute firm-year earnings (scaled) and assign to deciles."""
```

```
    firm_col = "ticker" if "ticker" in df.columns else "gvkey"
    df = df.copy()
    g = df.groupby(firm_col)
    df["lag_at_earn"] = g["at"].shift(1)
    df["earn"] = df["ib"] / df["lag_at_earn"]
    df["earn_decile"] = pd.qcut(
        df["earn"], 10, labels=False, duplicates="drop"
    ) + 1
    return df

panel_with_earn = add_earnings_deciles(panel_raw)

# High-earners sample (top decile)
def filter_high_earn(df):
    df = add_earnings_deciles(df)
    return df[df["earn_decile"] == 10]

# Low-earners sample (bottom decile)
def filter_low_earn(df):
    df = add_earnings_deciles(df)
    return df[df["earn_decile"] == 1]

sample_high = construct_sample(
    panel_raw, n_sample=300, seed=100,
    selection_filter=filter_high_earn
)
sample_low = construct_sample(
    panel_raw, n_sample=300, seed=200,
    selection_filter=filter_low_earn
)

print(f"High-earnings sample: {sample_high['ticker'].nunique()} firms")
print(f"Low-earnings sample: {sample_low['ticker'].nunique()} firms")
```

```
High-earnings sample: 164 firms
Low-earnings sample: 203 firms
```

27.3.2 Performance Matching

Kothari, Leone, and Wasley (2005) propose adjusting discretionary accruals by subtracting the DA of a performance-matched firm (one in the same industry with similar ROA). This removes

Table 27.6: Type I error rates (5% one-sided) when test firm-years are drawn from extreme earnings deciles. Over-rejection is expected because accrual models misattribute performance-driven accrual variation to managerial discretion.

```
extreme_results = {}
for label, sample_df in [("High earners", sample_high), ("Low earners", sample_low)]:
    da = get_all_nda(sample_df)
    regs = firm_regressions(da, models)
    rates = regs.groupby("model")[["neg_p05", "pos_p05"]].mean().round(4)
    rates.columns = [f"{label} Neg(5%)", f"{label} Pos(5%)"]
    extreme_results[label] = rates

if extreme_results:
    extreme_df = pd.concat(extreme_results.values(), axis=1)
    extreme_df.index.name = "Model"
    extreme_df
```

the systematic component of accruals correlated with performance. The matched discretionary accrual is:

$$DA_{i,t}^{PM} = DA_{i,t} - DA_{i^*,t} \tag{27.8}$$

where i^* is the matched control firm. This approach is particularly relevant in Vietnam, where the cross-section of listed firms includes many high-growth firms alongside stagnant SOEs, which is performance heterogeneity that standard models may mischaracterize.

27.4 Power Analysis

27.4.1 Artificially Introducing Earnings Management

A model that never rejects is useless even if its Type I error rate is perfect. We need to evaluate **power**: the probability of detecting manipulation when it truly exists. Following P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney (1995), we introduce known artificial manipulation into test-year financial statements and measure detection rates.

We consider three forms of manipulation at varying magnitudes:

1. **Expense manipulation.** Decrease current liabilities by the manipulation amount (e.g., delaying recognition of accrued expenses):

$$LCT'_{i,t} = LCT_{i,t} - \lambda \cdot A_{i,t-1}$$

2. **Revenue manipulation.** Increase sales and receivables by the manipulation amount (e.g., premature revenue recognition or channel stuffing):

$$Sale'_{i,t} = Sale_{i,t} + \lambda \cdot A_{i,t-1}, \quad Rect'_{i,t} = Rect_{i,t} + \lambda \cdot A_{i,t-1}$$

3. **Margin manipulation.** Increase sales by the gross amount needed to inflate net income by $\lambda \cdot A_{i,t-1}$, increasing both receivables and current liabilities proportionally.

The parameter λ represents manipulation as a fraction of lagged total assets, ranging from 0% to 50%.

```
def manipulate(
    df: pd.DataFrame,
    level: float = 0.0,
    manip_type: str = "expense",
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Introduce artificial earnings management of a given type and level
    into test-year (part=True) observations.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : DataFrame with 'part' indicator and required financial variables.
    level : Manipulation as fraction of lagged total assets.
    manip_type : One of 'expense', 'revenue', 'margin'.
    """
    firm_col = "ticker" if "ticker" in df.columns else "gvkey"
    year_col = "fyear" if "fyear" in df.columns else "year"

    df = df.sort_values([firm_col, year_col]).copy()
    g = df.groupby(firm_col)
    lag_at = g["at"].shift(1)
    manip_amt = lag_at * level

    if manip_type == "expense":
        # Decrease current liabilities in test year
        df.loc[df["part"], "lct"] -= manip_amt[df["part"]]

    elif manip_type == "revenue":
        # Increase sales and receivables in test year
        df.loc[df["part"], "sale"] += manip_amt[df["part"]]
        df.loc[df["part"], "rect"] += manip_amt[df["part"]]
        df.loc[df["part"], "act"] += manip_amt[df["part"]]
```

```
        # Reverse in following year
        next_part = g["part"].shift(1).fillna(False)
        df.loc[next_part, "sale"] -= manip_amt[next_part]

    elif manip_type == "margin":
        # Compute net income ratio for scaling
        est_mask = ~df["part"]
        ni_ratio = g.apply(
            lambda x: (x.loc[~x["part"], "ni"] / x.loc[~x["part"], "sale"]).median()
        )
        df["_ni_ratio"] = df[firm_col].map(ni_ratio)
        gross_amt = np.where(
            df["_ni_ratio"] > 0, manip_amt / df["_ni_ratio"], 0
        )
        df.loc[df["part"], "sale"] += gross_amt[df["part"]]
        df.loc[df["part"], "rect"] += gross_amt[df["part"]]
        df.loc[df["part"], "act"] += gross_amt[df["part"]]
        net_effect = gross_amt - manip_amt
        df.loc[df["part"], "lct"] += net_effect[df["part"]]
        df.drop(columns=["_ni_ratio"], inplace=True)

    return df
```

```
levels = [0.0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.20, 0.30, 0.50]
manip_types = ["expense", "revenue", "margin"]

power_records = []

for level in levels:
    for mtype in manip_types:
        # Copy base sample and introduce manipulation
        manip_sample = sample_1.copy()
        if level > 0:
            manip_sample = manipulate(manip_sample, level=level, manip_type=mtype)

        # Estimate DA and run tests
        da = get_all_nda(manip_sample)
        regs = firm_regressions(da, models)

        # Power = positive one-sided rejection rate at 5%
        power = regs.groupby("model")["pos_p05"].mean()
        for model_name, pwr in power.items():
```

```
            power_records.append({
                "level": level,
                "type": mtype,
                "model": model_name,
                "power": pwr,
            })

power_df = pd.DataFrame(power_records)
```

```
levels = [0.0, 0.05, 0.10, 0.20, 0.30, 0.50]
manip_types = ["expense", "revenue", "margin"]

from joblib import Parallel, delayed
from itertools import product

def _run_one(level, mtype, base_sample, models):
    manip_sample = base_sample.copy()
    if level > 0:
        manip_sample = manipulate(manip_sample, level=level, manip_type=mtype)
    da = get_all_nda(manip_sample)
    regs = firm_regressions(da, models)
    power = regs.groupby("model")["pos_p05"].mean()
    return [
        {"level": level, "type": mtype, "model": m, "power": p}
        for m, p in power.items()
    ]

# Skip redundant level=0 runs (all manip_types identical when level=0)
combos = [(0.0, "expense")] + [
    (l, m) for l in levels if l > 0 for m in manip_types
]

results = Parallel(n_jobs=-1, verbose=1)(
    delayed(_run_one)(lvl, mt, sample_1, models)
    for lvl, mt in combos
)

# Expand level=0 result across all manip_types
flat = []
for (lvl, mt), batch in zip(combos, results):
    if lvl == 0:
```

```
        for mtype in manip_types:
            flat.extend([{**r, "type": mtype} for r in batch])
    else:
        flat.extend(batch)

power_df = pd.DataFrame(flat)
```

```
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Using backend LokyBackend with 4 concurrent workers.
[Parallel(n_jobs=-1)]: Done  16 out of  16 | elapsed:  2.1min finished
```

27.4.2 Power Functions

Figure 27.1 plots the estimated power functions. The key questions are: (i) which model has the highest power for a given manipulation level and type, and (ii) at what magnitudes does manipulation become reliably detectable?

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(14, 5), sharey=True)

model_colors = {
    "healy": "#2196F3",
    "deangelo": "#FF9800",
    "jones": "#4CAF50",
    "mod_jones": "#E91E63",
    "industry": "#9C27B0",
}

for idx, mtype in enumerate(manip_types):
    ax = axes[idx]
    subset = power_df[power_df["type"] == mtype]
    for model_name in models:
        m_data = subset[subset["model"] == model_name].sort_values("level")
        ax.plot(
            m_data["level"] * 100, m_data["power"],
            marker="o", markersize=4,
            label=model_name.replace("_", " ").title(),
            color=model_colors[model_name],
            linewidth=1.5,
        )
    ax.set_title(mtype.title(), fontweight="bold")
    ax.set_xlabel("Manipulation (% of assets)")
    ax.set_ylim(-0.02, 1.02)
```

```
    ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.PercentFormatter(xmax=1))
    ax.axhline(0.05, color="grey", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.7, label="5% size")

axes[0].set_ylabel("Rejection Rate (Power)")
axes[2].legend(fontsize=8, loc="center left", bbox_to_anchor=(1.02, 0.5))
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 27.1: Power functions for the five earnings management detection models across three manipulation types. Power increases with manipulation magnitude but remains low for economically plausible levels ($< 10\%$ of assets), highlighting the fundamental difficulty of detecting earnings management.

27.4.3 Summary Statistics

Table 27.7 reports power at selected manipulation levels for the Jones and Modified Jones models, which are most commonly used in applied research.

```
power_summary = (
    power_df[power_df["model"].isin(["jones", "mod_jones"])]
    .pivot_table(index=["model", "level"], columns="type", values="power")
    .round(3)
)
power_summary.index.names = ["Model", "Level (% assets)"]
power_summary
```

Table 27.7: Power of the Jones and Modified Jones models at selected manipulation
Even at 10% of assets—a large amount of manipulation—detection rates r
well below 50% for most manipulation types, underscoring the low statistical
of standard tests.

Model	type Level (% assets
jones	0.00
	0.05
	0.10
	0.20
	0.30
	0.50
mod_jones	0.00
	0.05
	0.10
	0.20
	0.30
	0.50

! Implications for Vietnamese Research

The power analysis has stark implications for earnings management research in Vietnam. The typical Vietnamese listed firm has been listed for 10–15 years, providing far fewer estimation-period observations than in the U.S. context where P. M. Dechow, Sloan, and Sweeney (1995) had decades of Compustat data. Shorter estimation windows increase parameter uncertainty in the Jones model, further reducing power. Combined with the noisier financial data common in emerging markets, researchers should interpret non-rejection of the null as uninformative rather than as evidence of clean financial reporting.

27.5 Vietnamese Institutional Context

27.5.1 Channels of Earnings Management

Several features of the Vietnamese institutional environment create distinctive earnings management incentives and opportunities:

Tax-driven manipulation. Vietnamese corporate income tax (CIT) rates have declined from 28% (pre-2009) to 20% (2016 onwards), with preferential rates for firms in Special

Economic Zones and high-tech sectors. The close alignment between VAS accounting and tax accounting creates incentives to manage earnings downward to reduce tax obligations—a pattern documented in developing economies with code-law accounting traditions (Ball, Robin, and Wu 2003).

IPO and seasoned equity offering (SEO) incentives. Vietnam has experienced several waves of SOE equitization (partial privatization). Managers have incentives to inflate earnings before share offerings to maximize proceeds. The SSC requires minimum profitability thresholds for listing eligibility, creating sharp incentives around these regulatory cutoffs, which is a natural setting for the discontinuity analysis of Burgstahler and Dichev (1997).

Real earnings management in manufacturing. Roychowdhury (2006) identifies overproduction, discretionary expenditure cuts, and sales manipulation as the three main channels of real earnings management. Vietnam's large manufacturing sector (textiles, electronics assembly, food processing) provides ample scope for overproduction-based REM, where unit costs are reduced by spreading fixed overhead across larger production runs.

Related-party transactions. Transactions with affiliated entities are a well-documented channel for earnings manipulation in Asian markets. Vietnamese conglomerates (*tập đoàn*) often feature complex cross-ownership structures where transfer pricing between subsidiaries can shift profits across reporting entities.

27.5.2 The Earnings Distribution Test

Burgstahler and Dichev (1997) observed a striking discontinuity in the distribution of reported earnings around zero: far more firms report small positive earnings than small losses, relative to what a smooth distribution would predict. This pattern is interpreted as evidence that firms manage earnings to avoid reporting losses.

We apply this test to Vietnamese-style data to illustrate the methodology.

```
# Generate earnings for a larger sample with benchmark-beating behavior
rng_dist = np.random.default_rng(2024)
n_firms_dist = 2000
n_years_dist = 10

earnings = []
for i in range(n_firms_dist):
    base_earn = rng_dist.normal(0.06, 0.08)
    for t in range(n_years_dist):
        e = base_earn + rng_dist.normal(0, 0.04)
        # Simulate benchmark-beating: firms near zero bump earnings up
        if -0.01 < e < 0.005:
            e += rng_dist.uniform(0.005, 0.015) * (rng_dist.random() < 0.6)
```

```
        earnings.append(e)

earn_array = np.array(earnings)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
bins = np.arange(-0.30, 0.35, 0.01)
ax.hist(earn_array, bins=bins, color="steelblue", edgecolor="white",
        alpha=0.85, density=True)
ax.axvline(0, color="firebrick", linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5, label="Zero threshold")
ax.set_xlabel("Earnings / Total Assets")
ax.set_ylabel("Density")
ax.set_title("Earnings Distribution Around Zero")
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 27.2: Distribution of scaled earnings around zero. A discontinuity—excess density just above zero and a deficit just below—would suggest benchmark-beating behavior. The red dashed line marks the zero threshold.

```
# Year-over-year changes
earn_changes = np.diff(earn_array.reshape(n_firms_dist, n_years_dist), axis=1).flatten()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
bins_chg = np.arange(-0.15, 0.15, 0.005)
ax.hist(earn_changes, bins=bins_chg, color="darkorange", edgecolor="white",
        alpha=0.85, density=True)
ax.axvline(0, color="firebrick", linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5, label="Zero change")
ax.set_xlabel("Change in Earnings / Total Assets")
ax.set_ylabel("Density")
ax.set_title("Earnings Change Distribution Around Zero")
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 27.3: Distribution of year-over-year earnings changes around zero. A discontinuity here suggests that firms manage earnings to avoid reporting declines, even when small.

27.5.3 Accrual-Based vs. Real Earnings Management

Cohen, Dey, and Lys (2008) document a shift from AEM to REM following the passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) in 2002, suggesting that tighter regulatory scrutiny redirects manipulation toward less detectable channels. Zang (2012) provides further evidence that firms trade off between AEM and REM based on their relative costs.

In Vietnam, where regulatory enforcement of accounting standards is weaker than in post-SOX America, we might expect AEM to remain the dominant channel. However, as Vietnam moves toward IFRS adoption and strengthens SSC oversight, the AEM-to-REM substitution hypothesis becomes testable.

We can measure REM using the Roychowdhury (2006) approach. Three proxies capture different manipulation channels:

Abnormal cash flow from operations. Estimate normal CFO as a function of sales and sales changes:

$$\frac{CFO_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{1}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_2 \frac{S_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_3 \frac{\Delta S_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{27.9}$$

Abnormal production costs. Production costs = COGS + change in inventory. Normal levels are modeled as:

$$\frac{PROD_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{1}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_2 \frac{S_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_3 \frac{\Delta S_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_4 \frac{\Delta S_{i,t-1}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{27.10}$$

Abnormal discretionary expenditures. R&D + advertising + SGA, modeled as:

$$\frac{DISC_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{1}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_2 \frac{S_{i,t-1}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{27.11}$$

Residuals from these regressions serve as proxies for real manipulation. A firm that overproduces will show abnormally *high* production costs and abnormally *low* CFO (cash tied up in inventory).

27.6 Summary

This chapter examined the measurement and detection of earnings management, with a focus on methodological rigor and adaptation to Vietnam's institutional environment. The key takeaways are:

- Detecting earnings management requires separating discretionary from non-discretionary accruals, which depends critically on the quality of the non-discretionary accrual model. All five canonical models have known weaknesses.
- Under the null hypothesis of no manipulation, the Jones and Modified Jones models over-reject when standard two-stage standard errors are used. The Salkever (1976) correction provides properly calibrated inference.
- When test firms experience extreme financial performance, all models exhibit severe size distortion, misattributing performance-driven accrual variation to managerial discretion. Performance matching (Kothari, Leone, and Wasley 2005) partially addresses this.
- Power analysis reveals that economically plausible levels of manipulation (below 10% of assets) are detected with very low probability. This casts doubt on studies that report null results as evidence of no manipulation.
- Vietnam's institutional features, such aSOE governance, VAS accounting rules, weak enforcement, and thin audit coverage—create a rich setting for earnings management research, but the methodological challenges are amplified by shorter time series and noisier data.

Researchers working with Vietnamese data should: (i) use the Salkever correction for proper inference, (ii) implement performance matching, (iii) consider multiple models and triangulate results, and (iv) supplement accrual-based approaches with real earnings management and distributional tests.

28 P/E Ratio

The systematic analysis of equity valuations in frontier and emerging markets requires a robust integration of high-fidelity financial data, rigorous mathematical modeling, and an acute understanding of local regulatory frameworks. In the context of the Vietnamese equity market, the Price-Earnings (P/E) ratio serves as a primary instrument for assessing corporate performance and market sentiment. This chapter provides an exploration of P/E valuation methodologies, ranging from firm-specific trailing and forward metrics to cyclically adjusted and unlevered variations.

28.0.1 Technical Schema and Variable Engineering

The primary identifier for equities is the symbol, typically a three-letter uppercase code, though special indices such as E1VFVN30 (ETF) or market indices like HNX-INDEX and UPCOM-INDEX follow unique naming conventions. Price data is categorized as OHLC type, encompassing 'open', 'high', 'low', and 'close'. For valuation purposes, the 'adjusted close' is preferred to account for corporate actions such as stock splits and dividend payments.

The accounting variables provided in the Vietnam Fundamentals product follow a standardized classification that reconciles different reporting standards across sectors. This reconciliation is vital because Vietnamese firms may have differing interpretations of revenue and net profit under Vietnamese Accounting Standards (VAS).

28.1 Firm-Specific P/E Valuation Metrics

At the individual firm level, the P/E ratio is the most fundamental measure of how much an investor is willing to pay for each unit of current or future profit. However, the calculation of "E" (Earnings) can take several forms, each offering a different insight into the company's value.

28.1.1 Trailing P/E and the TTM Methodology

The Trailing P/E ratio is calculated using the reported earnings from the last four quarters, known as Trailing Twelve Months (TTM). In the Vietnamese market, this is often the default metric reported by exchanges and financial news outlets.

The mathematical representation is:

$$P/E_{Trailing} = \frac{P_t}{\sum_{i=0}^{3} EPS_{q-i}}$$

Where P_t is the current market price and EPS_{q-i} represents the earnings per share for each of the four most recent quarters.

28.1.2 Forward P/E and Analyst Forecast Reliability

Forward P/E shifts the focus from historical performance to future expectations by using consensus earnings forecasts for the next fiscal year.

$$P/E_{Forward} = \frac{P_t}{EPS_{forecasted,t+1}}$$

In Vietnam, these forecasts are typically generated by research departments within major securities firms such as SSI, VCSC, MBS, and FPTS. These analysts rely on financial statements, projections, models, and subjective evaluations of market sentiment to generate their estimates. However, the accuracy of these forecasts is a significant area of research. However, analysts in Vietnam are often influenced by anchoring and adjustment bias, where they base future predictions heavily on past records and then make insufficient adjustments.

The accuracy of analyst earnings forecasts in Vietnam is significantly impacted by corporate governance characteristics. Specifically, state ownership has been found to have a negative impact on forecast accuracy, while institutional ownership has a positive effect. This implies that for firms with high state-controlled stakes, which are common in Vietnam's strategic industries, researchers should apply a higher discount or "fudge factor" to forward P/E estimates provided by consensus sources.

28.1.3 Cyclically Adjusted Price-Earnings (CAPE) Ratio

The Shiller P/E, or CAPE ratio, is designed to smooth out the volatility of the business cycle by using a 10-year average of inflation-adjusted earnings. For a market like Vietnam, which has seen periods of extreme growth followed by stabilization, the CAPE ratio provides a more tempered view of valuation than trailing metrics.

The calculation requires adjusting historical earnings by the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Vietnam's CPI data is updated monthly and is available from January 1996 through early 2026, with an average year-on-year growth rate of approximately 12.2%.

$$EPS_{real,t} = EPS_{nominal,t} \times \frac{CPI_{current}}{CPI_t}$$

$$CAPE = \frac{P_t}{\frac{1}{10}\sum_{i=0}^{9} EPS_{real,t-i}}$$

Historically, Vietnam's CPI has reached an all-time high of 28.3% YoY in August 2008 and a record low of -2.6% in July 2000. These extreme swings mean that nominal earnings in the mid-2000s are not comparable to earnings today without the Shiller adjustment. Researchers must be mindful of the different base years used by the National Statistics Office (GSO), such as 2024=100, 2019=100, and 2014=100.

28.1.4 Unlevered P/E and the Leibowitz Framework

The concept of the "Unlevered P/E" ratio attempts to view a company's valuation independent of its capital structure. This is particularly relevant in the Vietnamese market, where debt loads vary significantly between state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and private firms. Research by Leibowitz (2002) highlights that for the investment analyst, a company is already levered, and the task is to estimate its theoretical value by inferring the underlying structure of returns.

According to Leibowitz, leverage always moves the P/E toward a lower value than what would be obtained from a standard Gordon growth formula. As a company adds debt, the market discount rate for equity increases to compensate for the additional risk, which in turn compresses the P/E multiple. For example, a debt-free company with a theoretical P/E of 30 might see its P/E drop to 23 with a 40% debt ratio, and down to 20 with a 50% debt ratio.

The Unlevered P/E (often proxied by Enterprise Value to EBIT or EBITDA) can be calculated using fundamental variables:

$$EV = (\text{Shares Outstanding} \times \text{Price}) + \text{Total Debt} - \text{Cash}$$

$$P/E_{\text{Unlevered}} \approx \frac{EV}{EBIT \times (1-\tau)}$$

Where τ is the corporate income tax rate. The standard CIT rate in Vietnam is 20%, which has been stable since the mid-2010s but is subject to new revisions under the Law on CIT ratified in June 2025.

28.2 Market-Level Aggregation Techniques

Aggregating firm-specific metrics into a single market-level index P/E is a complex task that requires careful consideration of weighting and the inclusion of loss-making entities. In the Vietnamese market, two primary indices (i.e., the VN-Index and the VN30), provide the benchmarks for performance and valuation.

28.2.1 The VN-Index: Capitalization-Weighted Aggregation

The VN-Index is a capitalization-weighted index of all companies listed on HOSE. It serves as a broad indicator of market health, where an increase in the index reflects a general rise in the stock prices of listed companies.

The index value is calculated as:

$$\text{VN-Index} = \frac{\sum(Price_i \times Shares_i)}{\text{Base Factor}} \times \text{Adjustment Factor}$$

Similarly, the index-level P/E is typically calculated as the sum of all market capitalizations divided by the sum of all net incomes (earnings) of the constituents.

$$P/E_{Market} = \frac{\sum MarketCap_i}{\sum Earnings_i}$$

As of early 2026, the total market capitalization for 701 tracked companies was approximately 8,629.8 trillion VND, with total earnings of 588.9 trillion VND, yielding a median P/E of approximately 14.7x.

28.2.2 The VN30 and Free-Float Adjustments

The VN30 Index represents a basket of the 30 largest and most liquid stocks on HOSE, screened through layers of capitalization, free-float ratio, and transactional volume. Unlike the broad VN-Index, the VN30 applies a free-float adjustment to its capitalization weighting to ensure that only shares available for public trading affect the index movement.

The free-float ratio (f) is calculated as:

$f = \frac{N-N_l}{N}$

Where N is the total number of outstanding shares and N_l is the number of limited trading shares (held by founders, state, or strategic partners).

When aggregating P/E for the VN30, researchers must account for this adjustment, as it more accurately reflects the valuation of the investable universe. In the Vietnamese market, a handful of large-cap stocks can significantly skew the broad index. For instance, Vingroup (VIC) and its related companies have at times represented nearly a quarter of the VN-Index's total weighting, creating a "closet indexing" dilemma for fund managers. Removing these high-impact stocks can reveal a much different valuation profile; while the VN-Index might trade at 13x, the market excluding VIC-related stocks could be closer to 11x.

28.2.3 Median vs. Mean Aggregation

Quantitative researchers often prefer median P/E ratios over mean P/E ratios to mitigate the influence of extreme outliers (i.e., companies with either exceptionally high P/E ratios due to temporarily low earnings or those that are technically "expensive" because of high growth expectations). Table 28.1 shows different aggregation methods.

Table 28.1: Median vs. Mean Aggregation

Aggregation Method	**Mathematical Definition**	**Resilience to Outliers**
Simple Mean	$\frac{1}{n}\sum(P/E)_i$	Low (highly skewed by extreme values)
Weighted Mean	$\frac{\sum(Cap_i \times (P/E)_i)}{\sum Cap_i}$	Medium (skewed by large-cap valuation)
Median	$\text{Median}((P/E)_1, \dots, (P/E)_n)$	High (most robust for market sentiment)
Total-to-Total	$\frac{\sum MarketCap_i}{\sum Earnings_i}$	High (standard for index providers)

The Vietnamese market currently trades near its 3-year average P/E of 14.8x, suggesting that investors are relatively neutral on current valuations, expecting earnings to grow in line with historical rates.

28.3 Implementation

28.3.1 Data Ingestion and Processing

28.3.2 Shiller CAPE

The Shiller CAPE requires a more sophisticated approach, involving the merging of earnings data with monthly CPI series.

28.4 Macroeconomic and Regulatory Factors in Valuation

The P/E ratio does not exist in a vacuum; it is deeply influenced by the macroeconomic environment and the regulatory framework within which companies operate.

28.4.1 The Role of Corporate Income Tax (CIT)

The earnings component of the P/E ratio is a post-tax metric. In Vietnam, the standard CIT rate is 20%. However, there is a significant shift occurring with the ratification of the new Law on CIT in June 2025, taking effect on October 1, 2025. This law introduces:

- A 15% rate for enterprises with annual revenue not exceeding 3 billion VND.
- A 17% rate for enterprises with revenue between 3 and 50 billion VND.
- The maintenance of higher rates (up to 50%) for the oil, gas, and mineral resource sectors.

Furthermore, Vietnam has adopted the Global Minimum Tax (GMT) rules under Pillar Two, effective January 1, 2024, to protect its tax revenue from inbound and outbound investments. These changes mean that historical P/E ratios may not be directly comparable to future ratios for companies that previously benefited from generous tax incentives, as the effective tax rate is likely to rise for large multinational subsidiaries operating in Vietnam.

28.4.2 Macroeconomic Determinants: Inflation and Interest Rates

Stock price indices, and by extension P/E ratios, are heavily influenced by fundamental macroeconomic factors such as inflation, exchange rates, and interest rates. The interest rate serves as the cost of capital for enterprises. When interest rates fall, the cost of borrowing drops, increasing corporate profits and potentially raising the P/E that investors are willing to pay.

The Vietnamese dong (VND) exchange rate also plays a crucial role. In early 2025, the VND depreciated by 1.33% YTD, reflecting volatility in the timeline for Federal Reserve rate cuts. Exchange rate depreciation can be inflationary by default, which may prompt the State Bank of Vietnam to tighten monetary policy, thereby putting downward pressure on equity valuations.

28.5 Synthesis of Valuation Dynamics

The Vietnamese equity market is currently in a state of transition. While the market has seen robust growth—the VN-Index rose 38% in the year leading up to early 2026—investors remain neutral on overall valuations, as reflected by the market's alignment with its 3-year average P/E of 14.8x. This neutrality suggests that investors expect earnings growth (forecast at 14% annually) to keep pace with price appreciation.

The reliability of these valuations, however, remains dependent on the quality of non-financial disclosure. While companies are increasingly required by law to provide non-financial information, the level of transparency remains at a medium level (approximately 58.5% of required disclosures). Researchers must therefore balance quantitative P/E analysis with qualitative assessments of corporate governance and sustainability strategies. Companies that effectively integrate ESG principles have been shown to experience fewer negative impacts on abnormal stock returns during uncertain periods, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

28.6 Conclusions

The exploration of P/E ratio valuation and aggregation within the Vietnamese equity market reveals a sophisticated landscape where traditional metrics must be adapted to local realities. The reliance on trailing metrics, while common, fails to account for the cyclicality and high inflation history of the Vietnamese economy, a gap that the Shiller CAPE ratio effectively bridges through CPI-adjusted normalization. Furthermore, the sensitivity of P/E to capital structure, as defined in the Leibowitz framework, highlights the necessity of unlevered valuation metrics in a market with diverse corporate funding models.

The aggregation of these metrics into market-level indices like the VN-Index and VN30 requires an awareness of concentration risks and the importance of free-float adjustments. The "Vingroup Effect" demonstrates how a single corporate ecosystem can skew index-wide valuations, necessitating a "closet indexing" awareness for fund managers and researchers.

Looking forward, the evolution of the regulatory environment—specifically the CIT law of 2025 and the Global Minimum Tax—will introduce new variables into the valuation equation. The shift toward higher-quality non-financial disclosures and the increasing accuracy of analyst forecasts in institutionalized firms suggest that the Vietnamese equity market is steadily maturing, offering a more transparent and predictable environment for the application of advanced quantitative valuation techniques.

29 Firm Valuation, Financial Distress, and Company Maturity

Understanding firm valuation, financial health, and corporate maturity is fundamental to financial analysis and investment decision-making. Three widely used measures (e.g., Tobin's Q, the Altman Z-Score, and company age) capture distinct but complementary dimensions of a firm's economic standing. Tobin's Q reflects the market's assessment of a firm's value relative to its asset base, the Altman Z-Score predicts the likelihood of financial distress, and company age proxies for organizational maturity and operational stability.

While these measures have been extensively studied in developed markets, particularly the United States (see Lindenberg and Ross 1981; Altman 1968; Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick 2003), their application in emerging markets like Vietnam presents unique challenges and opportunities. The Vietnamese stock market has grown rapidly but retains structural features, such as ownership concentration, state-owned enterprise dominance, limited bond market depth, and evolving accounting standards, which necessitate careful adaptation of standard valuation and distress metrics.

29.1 Required Packages

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mticker
import seaborn as sns
from matplotlib.colors import LinearSegmentedColormap
import warnings

warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
plt.rcParams.update({
    "figure.figsize": (10, 6),
    "font.size": 12,
    "axes.titlesize": 14,
    "axes.labelsize": 12,
```

```
    "xtick.labelsize": 10,
    "ytick.labelsize": 10,
    "legend.fontsize": 10,
    "figure.dpi": 150,
    "axes.spines.top": False,
    "axes.spines.right": False,
})

# Color palette consistent with Tidy Finance style
colors = {
    "primary": "#1f77b4",
    "secondary": "#ff7f0e",
    "tertiary": "#2ca02c",
    "quaternary": "#d62728",
    "quinary": "#9467bd",
    "safe": "#2ca02c",
    "alert": "#ff7f0e",
    "danger": "#d62728",
    "distress": "#8b0000",
}
```

30 Theoretical Foundations

30.1 Tobin's Q: Market Valuation of the Firm

30.1.1 The Original Concept

Tobin's Q was introduced by Tobin (1969) as a theoretical link between financial markets and real investment decisions. The fundamental idea is elegant: if the market values a firm's assets at more than their replacement cost, the firm has an incentive to invest in new capital; if the market values them at less, the firm should not invest, and may even benefit from selling assets.

Formally, Tobin's Q is defined as:

$$Q = \frac{\text{Market Value of the Firm}}{\text{Replacement Cost of Assets}} \tag{30.1}$$

When $Q > 1$, the market perceives the firm as possessing valuable intangible assets, such as brand equity, managerial talent, proprietary technology, or growth opportunities, that exceed the cost of its tangible asset base. When $Q < 1$, the market effectively values the firm at less than what it would cost to reassemble its assets, suggesting potential undervaluation or the presence of agency costs and organizational inefficiencies.

30.1.2 Market Value Decomposition

The numerator of Tobin's Q represents the total market value of all claims on the firm:

$$MV = CS + PS + ST + LT \tag{30.2}$$

where:

- CS = Market value of common stock (shares outstanding $\times$ market price)
- PS = Market value of preferred stock
- ST = Market value of short-term debt
- LT = Market value of long-term debt

30.1.3 Replacement Cost of Assets

The denominator captures the replacement cost of the firm's asset base:

$$RC = TA + (RNP - HNP) + (RINV - HINV) \tag{30.3}$$

where:

- TA = Total assets as reported
- RNP = Replacement cost of net plant and equipment
- HNP = Historical (book) value of net plant and equipment
- $RINV$ = Replacement cost of inventories
- $HINV$ = Historical (book) value of inventories

The replacement cost adjustments for plant and equipment involve recursive calculations that account for depreciation rates and, in more detailed estimations, technical progress rates (Lindenberg and Ross 1981). For inventories, the adjustment depends on the inventory accounting method: LIFO (Last In, First Out), FIFO (First In, First Out), average cost, or retail cost.

30.1.4 Simplified Tobin's Q

In practice, the full replacement cost computation requires data that are often unavailable, particularly in emerging markets. Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) popularized a simplified version:

$$Q_{\text{simple}} = \frac{TA + ME - BE}{TA} \tag{30.4}$$

where ME is the market value of equity and BE is the book value of equity. This formulation assumes that the book values of debt and preferred stock approximate their market values, and that total assets approximate the replacement cost of the firm's asset base. Despite its simplicity, this measure has been shown to correlate well with more elaborate constructions and has become the standard in empirical corporate finance research.

30.1.5 Chung and Pruitt Approximation

Chung and Pruitt (1994) proposed another widely used approximation:

$$Q_{\text{CP}} = \frac{ME + PS + DEBT}{TA} \tag{30.5}$$

where $DEBT$ = Current Liabilities − Current Assets + Book Value of Inventories + Long-term Debt. This formulation captures the net debt position more precisely than the Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) version.

30.2 Altman Z-Score: Predicting Financial Distress

30.2.1 The Original Model

The Altman Z-Score, developed by Altman (1968), is a multivariate discriminant analysis model that predicts the probability of corporate bankruptcy within a two-year horizon. The model was originally estimated using a matched sample of bankrupt and non-bankrupt U.S. manufacturing firms and takes the form:

$$Z = 3.3 \cdot X_1 + 0.999 \cdot X_2 + 0.6 \cdot X_3 + 1.2 \cdot X_4 + 1.4 \cdot X_5 \tag{30.6}$$

where the five financial ratios are in Table 30.1

Table 30.1: Components of the Altman Z-Score

Variable	Formula	Interpretation
X_1	$\frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{Total Assets}}$	Earning power of assets
X_2	$\frac{\text{Net Sales}}{\text{Total Assets}}$	Total asset turnover
X_3	$\frac{\text{Market Value of Equity}}{\text{Total Liabilities}}$	Leverage ratio (inverse)
X_4	$\frac{\text{Working Capital}}{\text{Total Assets}}$	Short-term liquidity
X_5	$\frac{\text{Retained Earnings}}{\text{Total Assets}}$	Cumulative profitability

The interpretation zones are in Table 30.2

Table 30.2: Altman Z-Score interpretation zones

Z-Score Range	Interpretation
$Z > 2.99$	Safe zone-low probability of financial distress
$2.70 \leq Z \leq 2.99$	Grey zone-on alert, moderate risk
$1.80 \leq Z < 2.70$	Distress zone-significant bankruptcy risk within 2 years
$Z < 1.80$	High distress-very high probability of financial failure

30.2.2 The Z'-Score Model for Private Firms

Because the original model uses market value of equity in X_3, Altman and Hotchkiss (2010) developed the Z'-Score for private (non-publicly traded) firms by replacing market capitalization with book value of equity:

$$Z' = 0.717 \cdot X_1' + 0.847 \cdot X_2' + 3.107 \cdot X_3' + 0.420 \cdot X_4' + 0.998 \cdot X_5' \tag{30.7}$$

where $X_4' = \frac{\text{Book Value of Equity}}{\text{Total Liabilities}}$, and the remaining variables are defined as in the original model but with re-estimated coefficients.

30.2.3 The Z''-Score Model for Emerging Markets

Most relevant for Vietnam, Altman and Hotchkiss (2010) also developed the Z''-Score for non-manufacturing and emerging market firms:

$$Z'' = 3.25 + 6.56 \cdot X_1'' + 3.26 \cdot X_2'' + 6.72 \cdot X_3'' + 1.05 \cdot X_4'' \tag{30.8}$$

where:

- $X_1'' = \frac{\text{Working Capital}}{\text{Total Assets}}$
- $X_2'' = \frac{\text{Retained Earnings}}{\text{Total Assets}}$
- $X_3'' = \frac{\text{EBIT}}{\text{Total Assets}}$
- $X_4'' = \frac{\text{Book Value of Equity}}{\text{Total Liabilities}}$

Note that this model drops the sales/total assets ratio (X_2 in the original model) to minimize industry effects and adds an intercept. The classification zones shift accordingly (Table 30.3).

Table 30.3: Z' '-Score interpretation zones for emerging markets

Z' '-Score Range	Interpretation
$Z'' > 2.60$	Safe zone
$1.10 \leq Z'' \leq 2.60$	Grey zone
$Z'' < 1.10$	Distress zone

30.3 Company Age: Measuring Corporate Maturity

Company age captures the accumulated experience, reputation, and organizational capital of a firm. Older firms typically exhibit more stable operations, established competitive advantages, and predictable cash flow patterns (Coad et al. 2018). Age is commonly used as a control variable in corporate finance research, and its relationship with performance is theoretically ambiguous: older firms benefit from learning effects and reputation but may suffer from organizational rigidity and declining innovation (Huergo and Jaumandreu 2004).

The ideal measure is the number of years since founding. When founding dates are unavailable, common proxies include:

1. **Listing age**: Years since the first IPO or listing on a stock exchange.
2. **Data age**: Years since the first appearance in financial databases.
3. **Incorporation age**: Years since the date of legal incorporation.

In the Vietnamese context, we can use multiple proxies, including the date of first listing on HOSE or HNX, the first available financial statement date, and (when available) the founding date from company profiles.

31 The Vietnamese Market Context

31.1 Institutional Features Affecting Valuation Measures

The Vietnamese stock market has several institutional features that are important to consider when computing and interpreting Tobin's Q, Altman Z-Score, and company age.

31.1.1 State Ownership and Equitization

A significant proportion of Vietnamese listed firms are former state-owned enterprises (SOEs) that underwent equitization (cổ phần hóa). These firms often retain substantial state ownership, which can affect:

- **Tobin's Q**: State ownership may depress Q if markets perceive government influence as reducing efficiency, or it may elevate Q if state connections provide preferential access to resources and contracts.
- **Z-Score**: SOEs may have implicit government guarantees that reduce actual bankruptcy risk below what the Z-Score predicts.
- **Age**: The true operational age of equitized SOEs may far exceed their listing age, creating measurement challenges.

31.1.2 Foreign Ownership Limits

Vietnam imposes foreign ownership limits (FOL) on listed companies, typically capped at 49% for most sectors (with some exceptions). This constraint can create price premiums for stocks approaching the FOL ceiling, potentially inflating Tobin's Q for these firms (X. V. Vo 2015).

31.1.3 Accounting Standards

Vietnamese Accounting Standards (VAS) differ from International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) in several ways relevant to our measures:

- **Historical cost basis**: VAS relies more heavily on historical cost, which can cause book values to diverge substantially from replacement costs, affecting both Q and Z-Score calculations.

- **Limited fair value measurement**: Unlike IFRS, VAS limits fair value measurement for many asset classes, making book-value-based proxies less reliable.
- **Inventory methods**: Vietnamese firms use various inventory valuation methods (FIFO, weighted average), which affect the book value of inventories and hence the Z-Score's working capital component.

31.1.4 Market Microstructure

Vietnam's market features daily price limits (currently $\pm$ 7% on HOSE, $\pm$ 10% on HNX, $\pm$ 15% on UPCoM), which can prevent prices from reaching equilibrium values quickly. This means that market capitalization at any point may not fully reflect available information, introducing noise into market-value-based measures like Tobin's Q.

32 Data Preparation

32.1 Loading and Cleaning Financial Statement Data

We begin by loading the annual financial statement data and constructing the variables needed for our three measures.

```
# ==============================================================================
# In practice, replace this section with actual DataCore.vn API calls:
#
#   from datacore import DataCoreClient
#   client = DataCoreClient(api_key="your_api_key")
#   financials = client.get_financial_statements(
#       frequency="annual",
#       start_date="2005-01-01",
#       end_date="2024-12-31"
#   )
#   market = client.get_market_data(frequency="daily")
#   profiles = client.get_company_profiles()
#
# For demonstration purposes, we simulate realistic Vietnamese market data.
# ==============================================================================

np.random.seed(42)

n_firms = 300
years = range(2008, 2025)
exchanges = ["HOSE", "HNX", "UPCoM"]
industries = [
    "Bất động sản", "Ngân hàng", "Thực phẩm & Đồ uống",
    "Xây dựng & Vật liệu", "Công nghệ thông tin", "Bán lẻ",
    "Dầu khí", "Thép", "Dệt may", "Dược phẩm",
    "Điện lực", "Vận tải & Logistics", "Hóa chất",
    "Chứng khoán", "Bảo hiểm"
]
```

```python
# Generate firm profiles
firm_ids = [f"VN{str(i).zfill(4)}" for i in range(1, n_firms + 1)]
firm_profiles = pd.DataFrame({
    "ticker": firm_ids,
    "exchange": np.random.choice(exchanges, n_firms, p=[0.5, 0.3, 0.2]),
    "industry": np.random.choice(industries, n_firms),
    "founding_year": np.random.randint(1975, 2015, n_firms),
    "listing_year": np.random.randint(2000, 2020, n_firms),
    "state_ownership_pct": np.clip(
        np.random.beta(2, 5, n_firms) * 100, 0, 75
    ).round(1),
})
firm_profiles["listing_year"] = np.maximum(
    firm_profiles["listing_year"],
    firm_profiles["founding_year"] + 1
)

# Generate panel data
records = []
for _, firm in firm_profiles.iterrows():
    start_year = max(firm["listing_year"], 2008)
    # Base financial characteristics (firm fixed effects)
    base_ta = np.exp(np.random.normal(14, 1.5))  # Total assets in VND millions
    base_profitability = np.random.normal(0.08, 0.05)
    base_leverage = np.random.beta(3, 3)
    base_turnover = np.random.gamma(2, 0.4)

    for year in years:
        if year < start_year:
            continue
        if np.random.random() < 0.02:  # 2% chance of delisting
            break

        # Time-varying components with persistence
        shock = np.random.normal(0, 0.15)
        growth = np.random.normal(0.08, 0.05)

        ta = base_ta * (1 + growth) ** (year - start_year) * np.exp(shock)
        profitability = np.clip(base_profitability + np.random.normal(0, 0.03), -0.3, 0.5)
        leverage = np.clip(base_leverage + np.random.normal(0, 0.05), 0.05, 0.95)

        lt = ta * leverage * np.random.uniform(0.4, 0.7)
```

```
        total_liabilities = ta * leverage
        ct_liabilities = total_liabilities - lt

        seq = ta * (1 - leverage)
        sale = ta * np.clip(base_turnover + np.random.normal(0, 0.1), 0.1, 5)
        ebit = ta * profitability
        ni = ebit * np.random.uniform(0.6, 0.9)
        re = seq * np.random.uniform(-0.2, 0.8)
        act = ta * np.random.uniform(0.2, 0.7)
        lct = ct_liabilities

        # Market value with noise and sentiment
        market_premium = np.random.lognormal(0, 0.4)
        me = seq * market_premium
        prcc = me / max(np.random.uniform(50, 500), 1)
        csho = me / max(prcc, 0.01)

        # Preferred stock (rare in Vietnam, mostly zero)
        pstk = 0 if np.random.random() > 0.05 else seq * np.random.uniform(0, 0.1)

        # Net plant and equipment
        ppent = ta * np.random.uniform(0.1, 0.6)
        invt = ta * np.random.uniform(0.05, 0.3)

        # Deferred taxes and investment tax credit (typically small in VN)
        txdb = ta * np.random.uniform(0, 0.02)
        itcb = 0

        records.append({
            "ticker": firm["ticker"],
            "year": year,
            "datadate": pd.Timestamp(year, 12, 31),
            "at": ta,            # Total Assets
            "seq": seq,          # Stockholders' Equity
            "lt": lt,            # Long-term Debt
            "lct": lct,          # Current Liabilities
            "tlb": total_liabilities,  # Total Liabilities
            "sale": sale,        # Net Sales/Revenue
            "ebit": ebit,        # EBIT
            "ni": ni,            # Net Income
            "re_var": re,        # Retained Earnings
            "act": act,          # Current Assets
```

```
            "ppent": ppent,      # Net Plant & Equipment
            "invt": invt,        # Inventories
            "txdb": txdb,        # Deferred Taxes
            "itcb": itcb,        # Investment Tax Credit
            "pstk": pstk,        # Preferred Stock
            "me": me,            # Market Value of Equity
            "prcc": prcc,        # Price at Calendar Year End
            "csho": csho,        # Shares Outstanding
        })

df = pd.DataFrame(records)
df = df.merge(firm_profiles[["ticker", "exchange", "industry",
                             "founding_year", "listing_year",
                             "state_ownership_pct"]],
              on="ticker", how="left")

print(f"Panel dimensions: {df.shape[0]:,} firm-year observations")
print(f"Number of unique firms: {df['ticker'].nunique()}")
print(f"Year range: {df['year'].min()}-{df['year'].max()}")
print(f"Exchanges: {df['exchange'].value_counts().to_dict()}")
```

```
Panel dimensions: 3,484 firm-year observations
Number of unique firms: 297
Year range: 2008-2024
Exchanges: {'HOSE': 1701, 'HNX': 1118, 'UPCoM': 665}
```

32.2 Variable Definitions and Mapping

Table 32.1 provides the mapping between standard variable names and the corresponding fields.

```
variable_map = pd.DataFrame({
    "Compustat Variable": [
        "AT", "SEQ", "LT", "LCT", "SALE", "EBIT", "NI",
        "RE", "ACT", "PPENT", "INVT", "TXDB", "ITCB",
        "PSTK/PSTKRV/PSTKL", "PRCC_C", "CSHO", "DLDTE", "DLRSN"
    ],
    "Description": [
        "Total Assets", "Stockholders' Equity", "Long-term Debt",
        "Current Liabilities", "Net Sales/Revenue",
```

```
        "Earnings Before Interest & Taxes", "Net Income",
        "Retained Earnings", "Current Assets",
        "Net Plant & Equipment", "Total Inventories",
        "Deferred Taxes", "Investment Tax Credit",
        "Preferred Stock (various)", "Price Close (Calendar Year)",
        "Common Shares Outstanding", "Delisting Date",
        "Delisting Reason"
    ],
    "DataCore.vn Equivalent": [
        "tong_tai_san", "von_chu_so_huu", "no_dai_han",
        "no_ngan_han", "doanh_thu_thuan",
        "loi_nhuan_truoc_thue_va_lai_vay", "loi_nhuan_sau_thue",
        "loi_nhuan_chua_phan_phoi", "tai_san_ngan_han",
        "tai_san_co_dinh_huu_hinh", "hang_ton_kho",
        "thue_thu_nhap_hoan_lai", "N/A (not applicable in VAS)",
        "co_phieu_uu_dai", "gia_dong_cua_cuoi_nam",
        "so_luong_co_phieu_luu_hanh", "ngay_huy_niem_yet",
        "ly_do_huy_niem_yet"
    ],
    "VAS Account": [
        "BS.100", "BS.400", "BS.330", "BS.310",
        "IS.10", "Computed", "IS.60",
        "BS.421", "BS.100", "BS.221", "BS.141",
        "BS.262", "-", "BS.411b", "Market", "Market",
        "Profile", "Profile"
    ]
})

variable_map.style.set_properties(**{
    "text-align": "left",
    "font-size": "10pt"
}).set_table_styles([
    {"selector": "th", "props": [
        ("background-color", "#1f77b4"),
        ("color", "white"),
        ("font-weight", "bold"),
        ("text-align", "left"),
        ("padding", "8px")
    ]},
    {"selector": "td", "props": [("padding", "6px")]},
])
```

Table 32.1: Variable mapping

Table 32.1

	Compustat Variable	Description	DataCore.vn Equivalent	VA
0	AT	Total Assets	tong_tai_san	BS
1	SEQ	Stockholders' Equity	von_chu_so_huu	BS
2	LT	Long-term Debt	no_dai_han	BS
3	LCT	Current Liabilities	no_ngan_han	BS
4	SALE	Net Sales/Revenue	doanh_thu_thuan	IS.
5	EBIT	Earnings Before Interest & Taxes	loi_nhuan_truoc_thue_va_lai_vay	Co
6	NI	Net Income	loi_nhuan_sau_thue	IS.
7	RE	Retained Earnings	loi_nhuan_chua_phan_phoi	BS
8	ACT	Current Assets	tai_san_ngan_han	BS
9	PPENT	Net Plant & Equipment	tai_san_co_dinh_huu_hinh	BS
10	INVT	Total Inventories	hang_ton_kho	BS
11	TXDB	Deferred Taxes	thue_thu_nhap_hoan_lai	BS
12	ITCB	Investment Tax Credit	N/A (not applicable in VAS)	—
13	PSTK/PSTKRV/PSTKL	Preferred Stock (various)	co_phieu_uu_dai	BS
14	PRCC_C	Price Close (Calendar Year)	gia_dong_cua_cuoi_nam	Ma
15	CSHO	Common Shares Outstanding	so_luong_co_phieu_luu_hanh	Ma
16	DLDTE	Delisting Date	ngay_huy_niem_yet	Pro
17	DLRSN	Delisting Reason	ly_do_huy_niem_yet	Pro

32.3 Data Quality Checks

Before computing any measures, we perform essential data quality checks that are particularly important for Vietnamese data.

```
def data_quality_report(df):
    """Generate a comprehensive data quality report."""
    report = {}

    # Check for negative total assets
    report["Negative total assets"] = (df["at"] < 0).sum()

    # Check for negative equity (acceptable but noteworthy)
    report["Negative equity"] = (df["seq"] <= 0).sum()

    # Check for missing critical variables
    critical_vars = ["at", "seq", "sale", "ebit", "me"]
```

```python
    for var in critical_vars:
        report[f"Missing {var}"] = df[var].isna().sum()

    # Check for extreme values (potential data errors)
    report["Extreme leverage (>100%)"] = (df["tlb"] / df["at"] > 1.0).sum()
    report["Extreme sales/assets (>10)"] = (df["sale"] / df["at"] > 10).sum()

    return pd.Series(report, name="Count")

quality = data_quality_report(df)
print("Data Quality Report")
print("=" * 45)
for item, count in quality.items():
    status = " " if count == 0 else " "
    print(f"  {status} {item}: {count:,}")

# Apply filters
df_clean = df.copy()
df_clean = df_clean[df_clean["at"] > 0]  # Positive total assets
df_clean = df_clean[df_clean["seq"] > 0]  # Positive equity (for BE calculation)
print(f"\nObservations after cleaning: {len(df_clean):,} "
      f"(dropped {len(df) - len(df_clean):,})")
```

```
Data Quality Report
=============================================
    Negative total assets: 0
    Negative equity: 0
    Missing at: 0
    Missing seq: 0
    Missing sale: 0
    Missing ebit: 0
    Missing me: 0
    Extreme leverage (>100%): 0
    Extreme sales/assets (>10): 0

Observations after cleaning: 3,484 (dropped 0)
```

33 Computing Tobin's Q

33.1 Book Value of Equity

Following Daniel and Titman (1997), we compute the book value of equity as:

$$BE = SEQ + TXDB + ITCB - PREF \tag{33.1}$$

where $PREF$ is the preferred stock value, using the redemption value if available, otherwise the liquidating value, and finally the carrying value as a last resort. In the Vietnamese context, preferred stock is relatively rare among listed companies, so $PREF$ is often zero.

```python
def compute_book_equity(df):
    """
    Compute book value of equity following Daniel and Titman (1997).

    In Vietnam, preferred stock is uncommon among listed firms.
    The investment tax credit (ITCB) is not applicable under VAS,
    so we set it to zero when missing.
    """
    result = df.copy()

    # Preferred stock: use coalesce logic
    result["pref"] = result["pstk"].fillna(0)

    # Book equity = Shareholders' equity + Deferred taxes + ITC - Preferred
    result["be"] = (
        result["seq"]
        + result["txdb"].fillna(0)
        + result["itcb"].fillna(0)
        - result["pref"]
    )

    return result
```

```python
df_clean = compute_book_equity(df_clean)

print("Book Equity Summary Statistics (VND millions)")
print(df_clean["be"].describe().apply(lambda x: f"{x:,.0f}"))
```

```
Book Equity Summary Statistics (VND millions)
count          3,484
mean       3,521,607
std        9,055,435
min            4,633
25%          386,441
50%        1,112,062
75%        3,210,269
max      247,845,397
Name: be, dtype: str
```

33.2 Market Value of Equity

The market value of equity is computed using the calendar year-end stock price and shares outstanding:

$$ME = P_{\text{close}} \times \text{CSHO} \tag{33.2}$$

For Vietnamese firms, this is obtained from the closing price on the last trading day of the fiscal year. Most Vietnamese firms have a December 31 fiscal year end, though some (particularly in agriculture and banking) may differ.

```python
# ME is already computed in our simulated data as prcc * csho
# In practice with DataCore.vn:
#   me = df["gia_dong_cua_cuoi_nam"] * df["so_luong_co_phieu_luu_hanh"]

df_clean["me"] = df_clean["prcc"] * df_clean["csho"]

print("Market Equity Summary Statistics (VND millions)")
print(df_clean["me"].describe().apply(lambda x: f"{x:,.0f}"))
```

```
Market Equity Summary Statistics (VND millions)
count          3,484
mean       3,653,445
```

```
std        9,747,318
min            3,379
25%          370,119
50%        1,106,646
75%        3,029,093
max      286,258,816
Name: me, dtype: str
```

33.3 Simplified Tobin's Q

We implement the Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) simplified version:

$$Q_{\text{simple}} = \frac{AT + ME - BE}{AT} \tag{33.3}$$

This can be rewritten as:

$$Q_{\text{simple}} = 1 + \frac{ME - BE}{AT} \tag{33.4}$$

which makes the interpretation clear: Tobin's Q equals one plus the market-to-book premium (or discount) scaled by total assets.

```python
def compute_tobins_q(df):
    """
    Compute multiple variants of Tobin's Q.

    Variants:
    1. Simple Q (Gompers et al., 2003)
    2. Chung-Pruitt Q
    3. Market-to-Book ratio (for comparison)
    """
    result = df.copy()

    # --- Variant 1: Simple Q (Gompers, Ishii, Metrick 2003) ---
    result["tobin_q_simple"] = (result["at"] + result["me"] - result["be"]) / result["at"]

    # --- Variant 2: Chung-Pruitt Approximation ---
    # DEBT = Current Liabilities - Current Assets + Inventories + LT Debt
    result["debt_cp"] = (
        result["lct"].fillna(0)
```

```
        - result["act"].fillna(0)
        + result["invt"].fillna(0)
        + result["lt"].fillna(0)
    )
    result["tobin_q_cp"] = (
        (result["me"] + result["pstk"].fillna(0) + result["debt_cp"]) / result["at"]
    )

    # --- Market-to-Book Ratio ---
    result["mtb"] = np.where(result["be"] > 0, result["me"] / result["be"], np.nan)

    return result

df_clean = compute_tobins_q(df_clean)

# Summary statistics
q_vars = ["tobin_q_simple", "tobin_q_cp", "mtb"]
q_summary = df_clean[q_vars].describe(percentiles=[0.01, 0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95, 0.99])
q_summary = q_summary.round(3)
q_summary.columns = ["Simple Q", "Chung-Pruitt Q", "Market-to-Book"]

print("Tobin's Q Summary Statistics")
print(q_summary.to_string())
```

```
Tobin's Q Summary Statistics
       Simple Q  Chung-Pruitt Q  Market-to-Book
count  3484.000        3484.000        3484.000
mean      1.031           0.766           1.058
std       0.243           0.296           0.445
min       0.357           0.008           0.233
1%        0.602           0.189           0.382
5%        0.713           0.332           0.496
25%       0.886           0.568           0.742
50%       0.989           0.738           0.974
75%       1.132           0.926           1.287
95%       1.481           1.290           1.904
99%       1.916           1.668           2.492
max       2.804           2.433           3.189
```

33.4 Winsorizing Extreme Values

Tobin's Q values can be heavily influenced by outliers, particularly in emerging markets where data quality may be inconsistent. We winsorize at the 1st and 99th percentiles.

```
def winsorize(series, lower=0.01, upper=0.99):
    """Winsorize a pandas Series at specified percentiles."""
    low = series.quantile(lower)
    high = series.quantile(upper)
    return series.clip(lower=low, upper=high)

# Winsorize Q measures
for var in ["tobin_q_simple", "tobin_q_cp", "mtb"]:
    df_clean[f"{var}_w"] = winsorize(df_clean[var])

print("Effect of Winsorization on Simple Tobin's Q:")
print(f"  Before: mean={df_clean['tobin_q_simple'].mean():.3f}, "
      f"std={df_clean['tobin_q_simple'].std():.3f}")
print(f"  After:  mean={df_clean['tobin_q_simple_w'].mean():.3f}, "
      f"std={df_clean['tobin_q_simple_w'].std():.3f}")
```

```
Effect of Winsorization on Simple Tobin's Q:
  Before: mean=1.031, std=0.243
  After:  mean=1.030, std=0.233
```

33.5 Cross-Sectional Distribution of Tobin's Q

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Latest year distribution
latest_year = df_clean["year"].max()
latest_data = df_clean[df_clean["year"] == latest_year]

# Histogram
axes[0].hist(
    latest_data["tobin_q_simple_w"].dropna(),
    bins=50, color=colors["primary"], alpha=0.7, edgecolor="white"
)
axes[0].axvline(x=1, color=colors["quaternary"], linestyle="--", linewidth=2, label="Q = 1")
```

```
axes[0].set_xlabel("Tobin's Q (Simple)")
axes[0].set_ylabel("Number of Firms")
axes[0].set_title(f"Cross-Sectional Distribution ({latest_year})")
axes[0].legend()

# Box plot by exchange
exchange_data = latest_data[["exchange", "tobin_q_simple_w"]].dropna()
exchanges_sorted = exchange_data.groupby("exchange")["tobin_q_simple_w"].median().sort_values

box_data = [exchange_data[exchange_data["exchange"] == ex]["tobin_q_simple_w"].values
            for ex in exchanges_sorted]

bp = axes[1].boxplot(box_data, labels=exchanges_sorted, patch_artist=True,
                     medianprops=dict(color="black", linewidth=2))
box_colors = [colors["primary"], colors["secondary"], colors["tertiary"]]
for patch, color in zip(bp["boxes"], box_colors):
    patch.set_facecolor(color)
    patch.set_alpha(0.7)

axes[1].axhline(y=1, color=colors["quaternary"], linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5, alpha=0.7)
axes[1].set_ylabel("Tobin's Q (Simple)")
axes[1].set_title(f"Tobin's Q by Exchange ({latest_year})")

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 33.1: Distribution of Tobin's Q across Vietnamese listed firms (2024). The vertical dashed line at Q=1 indicates the theoretical threshold where market value equals replacement cost.

33.6 Time-Series Evolution of Tobin's Q

```
# Compute annual statistics by exchange
annual_q = (
    df_clean
    .groupby(["year", "exchange"])["tobin_q_simple_w"]
    .agg(["median", lambda x: x.quantile(0.25), lambda x: x.quantile(0.75)])
    .reset_index()
)
annual_q.columns = ["year", "exchange", "median", "q25", "q75"]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))

exchange_colors = {"HOSE": colors["primary"], "HNX": colors["secondary"],
                   "UPCoM": colors["tertiary"]}

for exchange, color in exchange_colors.items():
    data = annual_q[annual_q["exchange"] == exchange]
    ax.plot(data["year"], data["median"], color=color, linewidth=2.5,
            label=exchange, marker="o", markersize=4)
    ax.fill_between(data["year"], data["q25"], data["q75"],
                    color=color, alpha=0.15)

ax.axhline(y=1, color="gray", linestyle="--", linewidth=1, alpha=0.7, label="Q = 1")
ax.set_xlabel("Year")
ax.set_ylabel("Tobin's Q (Median)")
ax.set_title("Evolution of Tobin's Q in the Vietnamese Market")
ax.legend(loc="upper right")
ax.set_xlim(2008, latest_year)
ax.xaxis.set_major_locator(mticker.MultipleLocator(2))

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 33.2: Evolution of median Tobin's Q across Vietnamese exchanges (2008–2024). Shaded areas represent the interquartile range.

33.7 Tobin's Q by Industry

```
latest_industry_q = (
    latest_data
    .groupby("industry")["tobin_q_simple_w"]
    .agg(["median", "mean", "count"])
    .reset_index()
    .sort_values("median", ascending=True)
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 8))

bar_colors = [colors["quaternary"] if m < 1 else colors["primary"]
              for m in latest_industry_q["median"]]

ax.barh(
    latest_industry_q["industry"],
    latest_industry_q["median"],
    color=bar_colors, alpha=0.8, edgecolor="white"
)
```

```python
ax.axvline(x=1, color="gray", linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5, alpha=0.7)
ax.set_xlabel("Median Tobin's Q")
ax.set_title(f"Tobin's Q by Industry ({latest_year})")

# Add count annotations
for i, (_, row) in enumerate(latest_industry_q.iterrows()):
    ax.text(row["median"] + 0.02, i, f'n={int(row["count"])}',
            va="center", fontsize=9, color="gray")

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 33.3: Median Tobin's Q by industry in Vietnam (latest available year). Industries are sorted by median Q value.

34 Computing the Altman Z-Score

34.1 Original Z-Score for Listed Firms

```
def compute_altman_z(df):
    """
    Compute three variants of the Altman Z-Score:
    1. Original Z-Score (for listed manufacturing firms)
    2. Z'-Score (for private firms, using book equity)
    3. Z''-Score (for emerging markets / non-manufacturing)
    """
    result = df.copy()

    # Common components
    result["wc"] = result["act"].fillna(0) - result["lct"].fillna(0)  # Working Capital

    # --- Original Z-Score ---
    # Z = 3.3*(EBIT/TA) + 0.999*(Sales/TA) + 0.6*(ME/TL) + 1.2*(WC/TA) + 1.4*(RE/TA)
    x1 = result["ebit"] / result["at"]
    x2 = result["sale"] / result["at"]
    x3 = np.where(result["tlb"] > 0, result["me"] / result["tlb"], np.nan)
    x4 = result["wc"] / result["at"]
    x5 = result["re_var"].fillna(0) / result["at"]

    result["z_x1"] = x1  # Earning power
    result["z_x2"] = x2  # Asset turnover
    result["z_x3"] = x3  # Leverage (inverse)
    result["z_x4"] = x4  # Liquidity
    result["z_x5"] = x5  # Cumulative profitability

    result["altman_z"] = (3.3 * x1 + 0.999 * x2 + 0.6 * x3 + 1.2 * x4 + 1.4 * x5)

    # --- Z'-Score (Private firms) ---
    x3_prime = np.where(result["tlb"] > 0, result["be"] / result["tlb"], np.nan)
    result["altman_z_prime"] = (
```

```
        0.717 * x4 + 0.847 * x5 + 3.107 * x1 + 0.420 * x3_prime + 0.998 * x2
    )

    # --- Z''-Score (Emerging Markets) ---
    result["altman_z_em"] = (
        3.25
        + 6.56 * x4   # Working Capital / TA
        + 3.26 * x5   # Retained Earnings / TA
        + 6.72 * x1   # EBIT / TA
        + 1.05 * x3_prime  # Book Equity / TL
    )

    # Classify risk zones
    result["z_zone"] = pd.cut(
        result["altman_z"],
        bins=[-np.inf, 1.80, 2.70, 2.99, np.inf],
        labels=["High Distress", "Distress", "Grey Zone", "Safe"]
    )

    result["z_em_zone"] = pd.cut(
        result["altman_z_em"],
        bins=[-np.inf, 1.10, 2.60, np.inf],
        labels=["Distress", "Grey Zone", "Safe"]
    )

    return result

df_clean = compute_altman_z(df_clean)

# Winsorize Z-scores
for var in ["altman_z", "altman_z_prime", "altman_z_em"]:
    df_clean[f"{var}_w"] = winsorize(df_clean[var])

print("Z-Score Summary Statistics")
z_summary = df_clean[["altman_z", "altman_z_prime", "altman_z_em"]].describe().round(3)
z_summary.columns = ["Original Z", "Z' (Private)", "Z'' (Emerging)"]
print(z_summary.to_string())
```

```
Z-Score Summary Statistics
       Original Z  Z' (Private)  Z'' (Emerging)
count    3484.000      3484.000        3484.000
mean        2.610         2.042           7.467
```

```
std          1.896         1.194          3.137
min          0.059         0.155          1.578
25%          1.595         1.314          5.670
50%          2.212         1.806          6.987
75%          3.028         2.410          8.549
max         28.640        11.119         29.686
```

34.2 Z-Score Component Analysis

Understanding which components drive the Z-Score is particularly informative in the Vietnamese context, where certain ratios may behave differently than in developed markets.

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 3, figsize=(15, 9))

components = [
    ("z_x1", 3.3, "$3.3 \\times$ EBIT/TA\n(Earning Power)"),
    ("z_x2", 0.999, "$0.999 \\times$ Sales/TA\n(Asset Turnover)"),
    ("z_x3", 0.6, "$0.6 \\times$ ME/TL\n(Leverage)"),
    ("z_x4", 1.2, "$1.2 \\times$ WC/TA\n(Liquidity)"),
    ("z_x5", 1.4, "$1.4 \\times$ RE/TA\n(Cum. Profitability)"),
]

latest_z = df_clean[df_clean["year"] == latest_year]

for idx, (var, weight, label) in enumerate(components):
    ax = axes[idx // 3, idx % 3]
    weighted_vals = (latest_z[var] * weight).dropna()
    weighted_vals = weighted_vals[weighted_vals.between(
        weighted_vals.quantile(0.01), weighted_vals.quantile(0.99)
    )]
    ax.hist(weighted_vals, bins=40, color=colors["primary"], alpha=0.7, edgecolor="white")
    ax.axvline(x=weighted_vals.median(), color=colors["quaternary"],
               linestyle="--", linewidth=2, label=f"Median: {weighted_vals.median():.2f}")
    ax.set_title(label, fontsize=11)
    ax.legend(fontsize=9)

# Remove empty subplot
axes[1, 2].set_visible(False)

plt.suptitle(f"Z-Score Component Distributions ({latest_year})", fontsize=14, y=1.02)
```

```
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 34.1: Distribution of Altman Z-Score component ratios for Vietnamese listed firms. Each panel shows a component weighted by its coefficient in the original Z-Score formula.

34.3 Distribution of Risk Zones

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 6))

# --- Original Z-Score Zones ---
zone_counts = (
    df_clean
    .groupby(["year", "z_zone"])
    .size()
    .unstack(fill_value=0)
)
```

```
zone_pcts = zone_counts.div(zone_counts.sum(axis=1), axis=0) * 100

zone_colors = {
    "Safe": colors["safe"],
    "Grey Zone": colors["alert"],
    "Distress": colors["quaternary"],
    "High Distress": colors["distress"],
}

axes[0].stackplot(
    zone_pcts.index,
    *[zone_pcts[col] for col in ["Safe", "Grey Zone", "Distress", "High Distress"]
      if col in zone_pcts.columns],
    labels=[col for col in ["Safe", "Grey Zone", "Distress", "High Distress"]
            if col in zone_pcts.columns],
    colors=[zone_colors[col] for col in ["Safe", "Grey Zone", "Distress", "High Distress"]
            if col in zone_pcts.columns],
    alpha=0.8
)
axes[0].set_xlabel("Year")
axes[0].set_ylabel("Percentage of Firms")
axes[0].set_title("Original Z-Score Risk Zones")
axes[0].legend(loc="upper right", fontsize=9)
axes[0].set_ylim(0, 100)

# --- Emerging Market Z''-Score Zones ---
em_zone_counts = (
    df_clean
    .groupby(["year", "z_em_zone"])
    .size()
    .unstack(fill_value=0)
)
em_zone_pcts = em_zone_counts.div(em_zone_counts.sum(axis=1), axis=0) * 100

em_zone_colors = {"Safe": colors["safe"], "Grey Zone": colors["alert"],
                  "Distress": colors["quaternary"]}

axes[1].stackplot(
    em_zone_pcts.index,
    *[em_zone_pcts[col] for col in ["Safe", "Grey Zone", "Distress"]
      if col in em_zone_pcts.columns],
    labels=[col for col in ["Safe", "Grey Zone", "Distress"]
```

```
            if col in em_zone_pcts.columns],
    colors=[em_zone_colors[col] for col in ["Safe", "Grey Zone", "Distress"]
            if col in em_zone_pcts.columns],
    alpha=0.8
)
axes[1].set_xlabel("Year")
axes[1].set_ylabel("Percentage of Firms")
axes[1].set_title("Emerging Market Z''-Score Risk Zones")
axes[1].legend(loc="upper right", fontsize=9)
axes[1].set_ylim(0, 100)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 34.2: Proportion of Vietnamese listed firms in each Altman Z-Score risk zone over time. The figure shows both the original Z-Score zones and the emerging market Z' '-Score zones.

34.4 Comparing Z-Score Variants

An important practical question is which Z-Score variant is most appropriate for Vietnamese firms. The original model was calibrated on U.S. manufacturing firms, while the Z' '-Score was specifically designed for emerging markets and non-manufacturing sectors.

```python
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 8))

sample = latest_z.dropna(subset=["altman_z_w", "altman_z_em_w"]).sample(
    min(500, len(latest_z)), random_state=42
)

scatter = ax.scatter(
    sample["altman_z_w"], sample["altman_z_em_w"],
    c=sample["tobin_q_simple_w"], cmap="RdYlGn",
    alpha=0.6, s=30, edgecolor="white", linewidth=0.3
)

# Add reference lines
lims = [
    min(ax.get_xlim()[0], ax.get_ylim()[0]),
    max(ax.get_xlim()[1], ax.get_ylim()[1])
]
ax.plot(lims, lims, "k--", alpha=0.3, linewidth=1, label="45° line")

# Add zone boundaries
ax.axvline(x=1.80, color="red", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5, linewidth=1)
ax.axvline(x=2.99, color="green", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5, linewidth=1)
ax.axhline(y=1.10, color="red", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5, linewidth=1)
ax.axhline(y=2.60, color="green", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5, linewidth=1)

ax.set_xlabel("Original Z-Score")
ax.set_ylabel("Emerging Market Z''-Score")
ax.set_title("Z-Score vs Z''-Score for Vietnamese Firms")

cbar = plt.colorbar(scatter, ax=ax, shrink=0.8)
cbar.set_label("Tobin's Q")

ax.legend(loc="upper left")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 34.3: Comparison of original Z-Score and emerging market Z' '-Score for Vietnamese listed firms. Points above (below) the 45-degree line have higher Z' '-Scores (Z-Scores) than the other measure.

35 Computing Company Age

35.1 Multiple Age Proxies

For Vietnamese firms, we compute three age measures:

$$\text{Age}_{\text{founding}} = \text{Current Year} - \text{Founding Year} \tag{35.1}$$

$$\text{Age}_{\text{listing}} = \text{Current Year} - \text{Listing Year} \tag{35.2}$$

$$\text{Age}_{\text{data}} = \text{Current Year} - \text{First Year with Data} \tag{35.3}$$

```python
def compute_company_age(df):
    """
    Compute multiple proxies for company age.

    For Vietnamese firms:
    - Founding age: based on founding/incorporation date
    - Listing age: based on first listing on HOSE/HNX/UPCoM
    - Data age: based on first year with available financial data
    """
    result = df.copy()

    # Founding age
    result["age_founding"] = result["year"] - result["founding_year"]

    # Listing age
    result["age_listing"] = result["year"] - result["listing_year"]
    result["age_listing"] = result["age_listing"].clip(lower=0)

    # Data age (years since first available financial data)
    first_year = result.groupby("ticker")["year"].transform("min")
    result["age_data"] = result["year"] - first_year
```

```
    # Log of age (commonly used in regressions)
    result["ln_age_founding"] = np.log1p(result["age_founding"])
    result["ln_age_listing"] = np.log1p(result["age_listing"])

    return result

df_clean = compute_company_age(df_clean)

print("Company Age Summary Statistics")
age_summary = df_clean[df_clean["year"] == latest_year][
    ["age_founding", "age_listing", "age_data"]
].describe().round(1)
age_summary.columns = ["Founding Age", "Listing Age", "Data Age"]
print(age_summary.to_string())
```

```
Company Age Summary Statistics
       Founding Age  Listing Age  Data Age
count         232.0        232.0     232.0
mean           30.1         13.9      12.3
std            11.6          5.8       3.9
min            10.0          5.0       5.0
25%            20.0          9.0       9.0
50%            30.0         13.0      13.0
75%            40.0         19.0      16.0
max            49.0         24.0      16.0
```

35.2 Age Distribution

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15, 5))

age_vars = [
    ("age_founding", "Founding Age (years)", colors["primary"]),
    ("age_listing", "Listing Age (years)", colors["secondary"]),
    ("age_data", "Data Age (years)", colors["tertiary"]),
]

latest = df_clean[df_clean["year"] == latest_year]

for ax, (var, label, color) in zip(axes, age_vars):
```

```
    data = latest[var].dropna()
    ax.hist(data, bins=30, color=color, alpha=0.7, edgecolor="white")
    ax.axvline(x=data.median(), color="black", linestyle="--",
               linewidth=2, label=f"Median: {data.median():.0f}")
    ax.set_xlabel(label)
    ax.set_ylabel("Number of Firms")
    ax.legend()

axes[0].set_title("Founding Age")
axes[1].set_title("Listing Age")
axes[2].set_title("Data Age")

plt.suptitle(f"Company Age Distributions ({latest_year})", fontsize=14, y=1.02)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 35.1: Distribution of company age measures for Vietnamese listed firms. Founding age reflects true organizational maturity, while listing age captures capital market experience.

35.3 Age and the Equitization Effect

A distinctive feature of the Vietnamese market is the equitization of SOEs. Many firms have founding dates that predate the stock market by decades, creating a large gap between founding age and listing age.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 8))
```

```python
latest = df_clean[df_clean["year"] == latest_year].copy()
latest["soe_flag"] = latest["state_ownership_pct"] > 30  # SOE proxy

for soe, label, color, marker in [
    (True, "SOE (>30% state)", colors["quaternary"], "s"),
    (False, "Non-SOE", colors["primary"], "o"),
]:
    subset = latest[latest["soe_flag"] == soe]
    ax.scatter(
        subset["age_listing"], subset["age_founding"],
        c=color, alpha=0.5, s=25, marker=marker, label=label, edgecolor="white"
    )

# 45-degree line
max_age = max(latest["age_founding"].max(), latest["age_listing"].max())
ax.plot([0, max_age], [0, max_age], "k--", alpha=0.3, label="Founding = Listing age")

ax.set_xlabel("Listing Age (years)")
ax.set_ylabel("Founding Age (years)")
ax.set_title("Founding vs. Listing Age: The Equitization Gap")
ax.legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 35.2: Relationship between founding age and listing age for Vietnamese firms. The gap reflects years of pre-listing operations, which is especially large for equitized state-owned enterprises.

36 Joint Analysis: Valuation, Distress, and Maturity

36.1 The Relationship Between Q, Z-Score, and Age

These three measures capture different dimensions of a firm's financial standing, but they are not independent. Theoretically, we expect:

- **Q and Z**: Firms with high growth opportunities (high Q) tend to be financially healthier (high Z), but the relationship is not monotonic, very high Q values may indicate speculative overvaluation.
- **Q and Age**: Young firms may have higher Q (growth expectations) or lower Q (unproven business model). The relationship depends on the industry life cycle.
- **Z and Age**: Older firms typically have more stable earnings and higher retained earnings, contributing to higher Z-Scores, though very old firms may face declining competitiveness.

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(16, 5))

sample = latest.dropna(subset=["tobin_q_simple_w", "altman_z_w", "age_founding"])
sample = sample.sample(min(300, len(sample)), random_state=42)

# Q vs Z
axes[0].scatter(
    sample["altman_z_w"], sample["tobin_q_simple_w"],
    c=sample["age_founding"], cmap="viridis", alpha=0.6,
    s=np.log1p(sample["at"]) * 3, edgecolor="white", linewidth=0.3
)
axes[0].set_xlabel("Altman Z-Score")
axes[0].set_ylabel("Tobin's Q")
axes[0].set_title("Valuation vs. Distress Risk")
axes[0].axhline(y=1, color="gray", linestyle="--", alpha=0.5)
axes[0].axvline(x=1.80, color="red", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5)
axes[0].axvline(x=2.99, color="green", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5)

# Q vs Age
```

```
axes[1].scatter(
    sample["age_founding"], sample["tobin_q_simple_w"],
    c=sample["altman_z_w"], cmap="RdYlGn", alpha=0.6,
    s=np.log1p(sample["at"]) * 3, edgecolor="white", linewidth=0.3
)
axes[1].set_xlabel("Founding Age (years)")
axes[1].set_ylabel("Tobin's Q")
axes[1].set_title("Valuation vs. Maturity")
axes[1].axhline(y=1, color="gray", linestyle="--", alpha=0.5)

# Z vs Age
scatter = axes[2].scatter(
    sample["age_founding"], sample["altman_z_w"],
    c=sample["tobin_q_simple_w"], cmap="coolwarm", alpha=0.6,
    s=np.log1p(sample["at"]) * 3, edgecolor="white", linewidth=0.3
)
axes[2].set_xlabel("Founding Age (years)")
axes[2].set_ylabel("Altman Z-Score")
axes[2].set_title("Distress Risk vs. Maturity")
axes[2].axhline(y=1.80, color="red", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5)
axes[2].axhline(y=2.99, color="green", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 36.1: Relationship between Tobin's Q, Altman Z-Score, and company age for Vietnamese listed firms. Bubble size reflects total assets; color indicates the emerging market Z' '-Score risk zone.

36.2 Correlation Structure

```
corr_vars = [
    "tobin_q_simple_w", "mtb_w", "altman_z_w", "altman_z_em_w",
    "age_founding", "age_listing",
    "z_x1", "z_x2", "z_x3", "z_x4", "z_x5"
]
corr_labels = [
    "Tobin's Q", "M/B Ratio", "Z-Score", "Z'' (EM)",
    "Age (Found.)", "Age (List.)",
    "EBIT/TA", "Sales/TA", "ME/TL", "WC/TA", "RE/TA"
]

corr_matrix = df_clean[corr_vars].corr()
corr_matrix.index = corr_labels
corr_matrix.columns = corr_labels

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 10))

mask = np.triu(np.ones_like(corr_matrix, dtype=bool), k=1)
cmap = sns.diverging_palette(250, 15, s=75, l=40, n=9, center="light", as_cmap=True)

sns.heatmap(
    corr_matrix, mask=mask, cmap=cmap, center=0,
    annot=True, fmt=".2f", square=True,
    linewidths=0.5, cbar_kws={"shrink": 0.8},
    ax=ax, vmin=-1, vmax=1,
    annot_kws={"size": 9}
)
ax.set_title("Correlation Matrix of Key Financial Measures", fontsize=14, pad=20)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 36.2: Correlation matrix of key valuation, distress, and maturity measures for Vietnamese listed firms.

36.3 Cross-Sectional Regression Analysis

We estimate a simple cross-sectional model to examine the determinants of Tobin's Q in the Vietnamese market:

$$Q_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \ln(\text{Age}_i) + \beta_2 Z''_{i,t} + \beta_3 \text{SOE}_i + \beta_4 \ln(\text{TA}_{i,t}) + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{36.1}$$

```python
from numpy.linalg import lstsq

# Prepare regression data
reg_data = latest.dropna(
    subset=["tobin_q_simple_w", "ln_age_founding", "altman_z_em_w", "at"]
).copy()

reg_data["ln_at"] = np.log(reg_data["at"])
reg_data["soe_dummy"] = (reg_data["state_ownership_pct"] > 30).astype(int)
reg_data["constant"] = 1.0

# OLS estimation
y = reg_data["tobin_q_simple_w"].values
X = reg_data[["constant", "ln_age_founding", "altman_z_em_w",
              "soe_dummy", "ln_at"]].values

betas, residuals, rank, sv = lstsq(X, y, rcond=None)
y_hat = X @ betas
resid = y - y_hat
n, k = X.shape

# Standard errors (heteroskedasticity-robust would be better)
sigma2 = np.sum(resid**2) / (n - k)
var_beta = sigma2 * np.linalg.inv(X.T @ X)
se = np.sqrt(np.diag(var_beta))
t_stats = betas / se
r_squared = 1 - np.sum(resid**2) / np.sum((y - y.mean())**2)
adj_r2 = 1 - (1 - r_squared) * (n - 1) / (n - k - 1)

# Display results
var_names = ["Constant", "ln(Age)", "Z''-Score (EM)", "SOE Dummy", "ln(Total Assets)"]
print("=" * 65)
print("  Cross-Sectional Regression: Determinants of Tobin's Q")
print(f"  Dependent Variable: Tobin's Q (Simple, Winsorized)")
print(f"  Sample: {n} firms ({latest_year})")
print("=" * 65)
print(f"  {'Variable':<22} {'Coef':>10} {'Std.Err':>10} {'t-stat':>10}")
print("-" * 65)
for name, b, s, t in zip(var_names, betas, se, t_stats):
    sig = "***" if abs(t) > 2.576 else "**" if abs(t) > 1.96 else "*" if abs(t) > 1.645 else
    print(f"  {name:<22} {b:>10.4f} {s:>10.4f} {t:>8.2f} {sig}")
print("-" * 65)
```

```python
print(f"  R-squared: {r_squared:.4f}")
print(f"  Adjusted R-squared: {adj_r2:.4f}")
print(f"  Observations: {n}")
print("=" * 65)
print("  Significance: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.10")
```

```
=================================================================
  Cross-Sectional Regression: Determinants of Tobin's Q
  Dependent Variable: Tobin's Q (Simple, Winsorized)
  Sample: 232 firms (2024)
=================================================================
  Variable                      Coef    Std.Err     t-stat
-----------------------------------------------------------------
  Constant                    0.9686     0.1959     4.94 ***
  ln(Age)                    -0.0064     0.0365    -0.18
  Z''-Score (EM)              0.0067     0.0050     1.34
  SOE Dummy                   0.0327     0.0315     1.04
  ln(Total Assets)            0.0018     0.0096     0.19
-----------------------------------------------------------------
  R-squared: 0.0126
  Adjusted R-squared: -0.0092
  Observations: 232
=================================================================
  Significance: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.10
```

37 The Complete Pipeline

37.1 Putting It All Together

Here we provide a single, clean function that takes raw DataCore.vn financial data and produces a complete dataset with all three measures computed.

```
def compute_valuation_distress_age(df, firm_profiles=None):
    """
    Complete pipeline to compute Tobin's Q, Altman Z-Score variants,
    and Company Age for Vietnamese listed firms.

    Parameters
    ----------
    df : pd.DataFrame
        Panel of firm-year financial data with columns:
        at, seq, lt, lct, tlb, sale, ebit, ni, re_var, act,
        ppent, invt, txdb, itcb, pstk, me, prcc, csho, year, ticker
    firm_profiles : pd.DataFrame, optional
        Company profiles with founding_year, listing_year

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Input data augmented with computed measures
    """
    result = df.copy()

    # === Data Quality Filters ===
    result = result[result["at"] > 0]
    result = result[result["seq"] > 0]

    # === Book Value of Equity (Daniel & Titman 1997) ===
    result["pref"] = result["pstk"].fillna(0)
    result["be"] = (
        result["seq"]
```

```
        + result["txdb"].fillna(0)
        + result["itcb"].fillna(0)
        - result["pref"]
    )

    # === Market Value of Equity ===
    if "me" not in result.columns or result["me"].isna().all():
        result["me"] = result["prcc"] * result["csho"]

    # === Tobin's Q Variants ===
    # Simple Q (Gompers et al. 2003)
    result["tobin_q"] = (result["at"] + result["me"] - result["be"]) / result["at"]

    # Chung-Pruitt Q
    debt_cp = (
        result["lct"].fillna(0) - result["act"].fillna(0)
        + result["invt"].fillna(0) + result["lt"].fillna(0)
    )
    result["tobin_q_cp"] = (
        (result["me"] + result["pstk"].fillna(0) + debt_cp) / result["at"]
    )

    # Market-to-Book
    result["mtb"] = np.where(result["be"] > 0, result["me"] / result["be"], np.nan)

    # === Altman Z-Score Variants ===
    result["wc"] = result["act"].fillna(0) - result["lct"].fillna(0)

    x1 = result["ebit"] / result["at"]
    x2 = result["sale"] / result["at"]
    x3_market = np.where(result["tlb"] > 0, result["me"] / result["tlb"], np.nan)
    x3_book = np.where(result["tlb"] > 0, result["be"] / result["tlb"], np.nan)
    x4 = result["wc"] / result["at"]
    x5 = result["re_var"].fillna(0) / result["at"]

    # Original Z
    result["altman_z"] = 3.3 * x1 + 0.999 * x2 + 0.6 * x3_market + 1.2 * x4 + 1.4 * x5

    # Z' (private firms)
    result["altman_z_prime"] = (
        0.717 * x4 + 0.847 * x5 + 3.107 * x1 + 0.420 * x3_book + 0.998 * x2
    )
```

```
    # Z'' (emerging markets)
    result["altman_z_em"] = (
        3.25 + 6.56 * x4 + 3.26 * x5 + 6.72 * x1 + 1.05 * x3_book
    )

    # Risk zones
    result["z_zone"] = pd.cut(
        result["altman_z"],
        bins=[-np.inf, 1.80, 2.70, 2.99, np.inf],
        labels=["High Distress", "Distress", "Grey Zone", "Safe"]
    )
    result["z_em_zone"] = pd.cut(
        result["altman_z_em"],
        bins=[-np.inf, 1.10, 2.60, np.inf],
        labels=["Distress", "Grey Zone", "Safe"]
    )

    # === Company Age ===
    if firm_profiles is not None:
        result = result.merge(
            firm_profiles[["ticker", "founding_year", "listing_year"]],
            on="ticker", how="left", suffixes=("", "_profile")
        )
        result["age_founding"] = result["year"] - result["founding_year"]
        result["age_listing"] = (result["year"] - result["listing_year"]).clip(lower=0)

    first_year = result.groupby("ticker")["year"].transform("min")
    result["age_data"] = result["year"] - first_year

    # === Winsorize ===
    for var in ["tobin_q", "tobin_q_cp", "mtb", "altman_z", "altman_z_prime", "altman_z_em"]
        if var in result.columns:
            result[f"{var}_w"] = winsorize(result[var])

    return result

# Demonstrate the pipeline
final_df = compute_valuation_distress_age(df, firm_profiles)
print(f"Final dataset: {final_df.shape[0]:,} observations, {final_df.shape[1]} variables")
print(f"Firms: {final_df['ticker'].nunique()}")
print(f"\nKey variables computed:")
for var in ["tobin_q", "tobin_q_cp", "mtb", "altman_z", "altman_z_prime",
```

```
            "altman_z_em", "age_founding", "age_listing", "age_data"]:
    if var in final_df.columns:
        non_null = final_df[var].notna().sum()
        print(f"  {var}: {non_null:,} non-null values")
```

```
Final dataset: 3,484 observations, 48 variables
Firms: 297

Key variables computed:
  tobin_q: 3,484 non-null values
  tobin_q_cp: 3,484 non-null values
  mtb: 3,484 non-null values
  altman_z: 3,484 non-null values
  altman_z_prime: 3,484 non-null values
  altman_z_em: 3,484 non-null values
  age_founding: 3,484 non-null values
  age_listing: 3,484 non-null values
  age_data: 3,484 non-null values
```

37.2 Exporting Results

```
# Select key output variables
output_vars = [
    "ticker", "year", "datadate", "exchange", "industry",
    "at", "be", "me", "tobin_q", "tobin_q_w", "mtb", "mtb_w",
    "altman_z", "altman_z_w", "altman_z_em", "altman_z_em_w",
    "z_zone", "z_em_zone",
    "age_founding", "age_listing", "age_data",
    "state_ownership_pct"
]

export_cols = [v for v in output_vars if v in final_df.columns]
export_df = final_df[export_cols].copy()

# export_df.to_csv("vn_valuation_distress_age.csv", index=False)
# export_df.to_parquet("vn_valuation_distress_age.parquet", index=False)

print(f"Export dataset: {export_df.shape[0]:,} rows × {export_df.shape[1]} columns")
print(f"\nSample output (first 5 rows):")
```

```python
display_cols = ["ticker", "year", "tobin_q", "altman_z", "altman_z_em",
                "z_zone", "age_founding"]
display_cols = [c for c in display_cols if c in export_df.columns]
print(export_df[display_cols].head().to_string(index=False))
```

```
Export dataset: 3,484 rows × 22 columns

Sample output (first 5 rows):
ticker  year  tobin_q  altman_z  altman_z_em z_zone  age_founding
VN0001  2017 0.905928  3.345941     5.605169   Safe             4
VN0001  2018 1.270114  5.324082     9.228846   Safe             5
VN0001  2019 1.866493  5.478529     6.264178   Safe             6
VN0001  2020 1.016979  5.612289    10.445449   Safe             7
VN0001  2021 0.805818  4.220869     7.588273   Safe             8
```

38 Special Topics for the Vietnamese Market

38.1 State Ownership and Valuation

State ownership is a defining feature of the Vietnamese corporate landscape. We examine how state ownership affects both Tobin's Q and financial distress risk.

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 6))

latest = final_df[final_df["year"] == latest_year].dropna(
    subset=["tobin_q_w", "altman_z_em_w", "state_ownership_pct"]
)

# Q vs State Ownership
axes[0].scatter(
    latest["state_ownership_pct"], latest["tobin_q_w"],
    alpha=0.4, s=20, color=colors["primary"], edgecolor="white"
)

# Binned means
bins = pd.cut(latest["state_ownership_pct"], bins=10)
binned = latest.groupby(bins)["tobin_q_w"].mean()
bin_centers = [(b.left + b.right) / 2 for b in binned.index]
axes[0].plot(bin_centers, binned.values, color=colors["quaternary"],
             linewidth=3, label="Binned Mean")

axes[0].set_xlabel("State Ownership (%)")
axes[0].set_ylabel("Tobin's Q")
axes[0].set_title("State Ownership and Firm Valuation")
axes[0].axhline(y=1, color="gray", linestyle="--", alpha=0.5)
axes[0].legend()

# Z''-Score by SOE quartile
latest["soe_quartile"] = pd.qcut(
    latest["state_ownership_pct"],
    q=4, labels=["Q1 (Low)", "Q2", "Q3", "Q4 (High)"],
```

```
    duplicates="drop"
)

soe_groups = latest.groupby("soe_quartile")["altman_z_em_w"]
box_data = [group.values for name, group in soe_groups]
bp = axes[1].boxplot(
    box_data,
    labels=[name for name, _ in soe_groups],
    patch_artist=True,
    medianprops=dict(color="black", linewidth=2)
)

gradient_colors = plt.cm.Blues(np.linspace(0.3, 0.8, len(bp["boxes"])))
for patch, color in zip(bp["boxes"], gradient_colors):
    patch.set_facecolor(color)

axes[1].axhline(y=2.60, color="green", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5, label="Safe threshold")
axes[1].axhline(y=1.10, color="red", linestyle=":", alpha=0.5, label="Distress threshold")
axes[1].set_xlabel("State Ownership Quartile")
axes[1].set_ylabel("Z''-Score (Emerging Market)")
axes[1].set_title("Financial Health by State Ownership")
axes[1].legend(fontsize=9)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 38.1: Relationship between state ownership percentage and firm valuation/distress measures. The left panel shows Tobin's Q against state ownership, with a LOWESS smoother. The right panel shows the Z''-Score by state ownership quartile.

38.2 Exchange-Level Analysis

```
exchange_summary = (
    latest
    .groupby("exchange")
    .agg(
        n_firms=("ticker", "nunique"),
        median_q=("tobin_q_w", "median"),
        mean_q=("tobin_q_w", "mean"),
        median_z=("altman_z_w", "median"),
        mean_z_em=("altman_z_em_w", "mean"),
        pct_distress_z=("z_zone", lambda x: (x == "High Distress").mean() * 100),
        pct_distress_em=("z_em_zone", lambda x: (x == "Distress").mean() * 100),
        median_age=("age_founding", "median"),
        median_soe=("state_ownership_pct", "median"),
    )
    .round(2)
)

exchange_summary.columns = [
    "N Firms", "Median Q", "Mean Q", "Median Z", "Mean Z'' (EM)",
```

```
    "% Distress (Z)", "% Distress (Z'')", "Median Age", "Median SOE %"
]

exchange_summary.style.set_properties(**{
    "text-align": "center",
    "font-size": "10pt"
}).set_table_styles([
    {"selector": "th", "props": [
        ("background-color", "#1f77b4"),
        ("color", "white"),
        ("text-align", "center"),
        ("padding", "8px")
    ]},
]).format({
    "Median Q": "{:.2f}", "Mean Q": "{:.2f}",
    "Median Z": "{:.2f}", "Mean Z'' (EM)": "{:.2f}",
    "% Distress (Z)": "{:.1f}%", "% Distress (Z'')": "{:.1f}%",
    "Median Age": "{:.0f}", "Median SOE %": "{:.1f}%"
})
```

Table 38.1: Summary statistics by exchange for Vietnamese listed firms (latest year

Table 38.1

exchange	N Firms	Median Q	Mean Q	Median Z	Mean Z'' (EM)	% Distress (Z)	% Distress (Z'')
HNX	77	0.99	1.02	2.07	7.25	32.5%	0.0%
HOSE	113	1.00	1.04	2.06	7.24	40.7%	0.0%
UPCoM	42	0.98	1.05	2.13	7.80	30.9%	0.0%

38.3 Sector Heatmap: Valuation and Distress

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(16, 8))

# Tobin's Q heatmap
q_pivot = (
    final_df
    .groupby(["industry", "year"])["tobin_q_w"]
    .median()
```

```
    .unstack(fill_value=np.nan)
)

sns.heatmap(
    q_pivot, cmap="RdYlGn", center=1, ax=axes[0],
    cbar_kws={"label": "Median Q", "shrink": 0.8},
    linewidths=0.5, linecolor="white",
    xticklabels=2
)
axes[0].set_title("Tobin's Q by Industry and Year")
axes[0].set_xlabel("Year")
axes[0].set_ylabel("")

# Z''-Score heatmap
z_pivot = (
    final_df
    .groupby(["industry", "year"])["altman_z_em_w"]
    .median()
    .unstack(fill_value=np.nan)
)

sns.heatmap(
    z_pivot, cmap="RdYlGn", center=2.6, ax=axes[1],
    cbar_kws={"label": "Median Z''", "shrink": 0.8},
    linewidths=0.5, linecolor="white",
    xticklabels=2
)
axes[1].set_title("Z''-Score (EM) by Industry and Year")
axes[1].set_xlabel("Year")
axes[1].set_ylabel("")

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 38.2: Median Tobin's Q and Z' '-Score by industry and year for Vietnamese listed firms. Warmer colors indicate higher values.

38.4 Handling Delisted Firms: Survivorship Bias

A critical issue in measuring financial distress is survivorship bias. If we only analyze currently listed firms, we miss the very firms that the Z-Score is designed to identify, those that went bankrupt or were delisted.

```
# Simulate delisting data (replace with DataCore.vn delisting records)
np.random.seed(123)
n_delisted = 50
delisted_firms = pd.DataFrame({
    "ticker": [f"VN{str(i).zfill(4)}" for i in range(n_firms + 1, n_firms + n_delisted + 1)]
    "delist_year": np.random.randint(2010, 2024, n_delisted),
    "delist_reason": np.random.choice(
        ["Bankruptcy/Liquidation", "Merger/Acquisition", "Voluntary Delisting",
         "Regulatory Non-compliance", "Below Minimum Requirements"],
        n_delisted,
        p=[0.15, 0.25, 0.20, 0.20, 0.20]
    )
})

# Summary of delisting reasons
```

```python
print("Delisting Reasons Summary")
print("=" * 50)
reason_counts = delisted_firms["delist_reason"].value_counts()
for reason, count in reason_counts.items():
    print(f"  {reason}: {count} ({count/n_delisted*100:.0f}%)")
print(f"\nTotal delisted: {n_delisted}")
print(f"Currently listed: {final_df['ticker'].nunique()}")
print(f"\nSurvivorship rate: "
      f"{final_df['ticker'].nunique()/(final_df['ticker'].nunique()+n_delisted)*100:.1f}%")
```

```
Delisting Reasons Summary
==================================================
  Merger/Acquisition: 16 (32%)
  Voluntary Delisting: 14 (28%)
  Regulatory Non-compliance: 9 (18%)
  Below Minimum Requirements: 7 (14%)
  Bankruptcy/Liquidation: 4 (8%)

Total delisted: 50
Currently listed: 297

Survivorship rate: 85.6%
```

39 Robustness Checks and Extensions

39.1 Alternative Tobin's Q Specifications

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 7))

sample = latest.dropna(subset=["tobin_q_w", "tobin_q_cp"]).copy()
sample["tobin_q_cp_w"] = winsorize(sample["tobin_q_cp"])

ax.scatter(
    sample["tobin_q_w"], sample["tobin_q_cp_w"],
    alpha=0.4, s=15, color=colors["primary"], edgecolor="white"
)

# 45-degree line
lims = [
    min(ax.get_xlim()[0], ax.get_ylim()[0]),
    max(ax.get_xlim()[1], ax.get_ylim()[1])
]
ax.plot(lims, lims, "k--", alpha=0.3)

corr = sample["tobin_q_w"].corr(sample["tobin_q_cp_w"])
ax.text(0.05, 0.95, f"Correlation: {corr:.3f}",
        transform=ax.transAxes, fontsize=12,
        verticalalignment="top",
        bbox=dict(boxstyle="round", facecolor="wheat", alpha=0.5))

ax.set_xlabel("Simple Q (Gompers et al.)")
ax.set_ylabel("Chung-Pruitt Q")
ax.set_title("Comparison of Tobin's Q Variants")

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 39.1: Comparison of Tobin's Q variants: Simple Q (Gompers et al. 2003) vs. Chung-Pruitt approximation. High correlation supports the use of the simpler measure.

39.2 Industry-Adjusted Measures

Raw Tobin's Q and Z-Scores may reflect industry characteristics rather than firm-specific attributes. We compute industry-adjusted versions:

$$Q_{i,t}^{\text{adj}} = Q_{i,t} - \overline{Q}_{j(i),t} \tag{39.1}$$

where $\overline{Q}_{j(i),t}$ is the median Tobin's Q of the industry j to which firm i belongs in year t.

```
def industry_adjust(df, var, group_var="industry"):
    """Compute industry-adjusted measure (deviation from industry median)."""
    industry_median = df.groupby(["year", group_var])[var].transform("median")
    return df[var] - industry_median

final_df["tobin_q_adj"] = industry_adjust(final_df, "tobin_q_w")
final_df["altman_z_em_adj"] = industry_adjust(final_df, "altman_z_em_w")

latest_adj = final_df[final_df["year"] == latest_year]

print("Industry-Adjusted Measures (Latest Year)")
print(f"  Tobin's Q (adjusted): mean={latest_adj['tobin_q_adj'].mean():.4f}, "
      f"std={latest_adj['tobin_q_adj'].std():.3f}")
print(f"  Z''-Score (adjusted): mean={latest_adj['altman_z_em_adj'].mean():.4f}, "
      f"std={latest_adj['altman_z_em_adj'].std():.3f}")
```

```
Industry-Adjusted Measures (Latest Year)
  Tobin's Q (adjusted): mean=0.0352, std=0.226
  Z''-Score (adjusted): mean=0.4840, std=3.030
```

39.3 Panel Regression with Fixed Effects

For more rigorous analysis, we estimate a panel model with firm and year fixed effects:

$$Q_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \gamma_t + \beta_1 Z''_{i,t} + \beta_2 \ln(\text{Age}_{i,t}) + \beta_3 \text{Size}_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{39.2}$$

```
# Simplified within-estimator (year and industry demeaning)
panel = final_df.dropna(
    subset=["tobin_q_w", "altman_z_em_w", "age_founding", "at"]
).copy()

panel["ln_at"] = np.log(panel["at"])
panel["ln_age"] = np.log1p(panel["age_founding"])
```

```
# Demean by year-industry (proxy for fixed effects)
fe_vars = ["tobin_q_w", "altman_z_em_w", "ln_age", "ln_at"]
for var in fe_vars:
    group_mean = panel.groupby(["year", "industry"])[var].transform("mean")
    panel[f"{var}_dm"] = panel[var] - group_mean

# OLS on demeaned data
y = panel["tobin_q_w_dm"].values
X = np.column_stack([
    np.ones(len(panel)),
    panel["altman_z_em_w_dm"].values,
    panel["ln_age_dm"].values,
    panel["ln_at_dm"].values,
])

betas, _, _, _ = lstsq(X, y, rcond=None)
y_hat = X @ betas
resid = y - y_hat
n, k = X.shape

sigma2 = np.sum(resid**2) / (n - k)
var_beta = sigma2 * np.linalg.inv(X.T @ X)
se = np.sqrt(np.diag(var_beta))
t_stats = betas / se
r_squared = 1 - np.sum(resid**2) / np.sum((y - y.mean())**2)

var_names = ["Constant", "Z''-Score (EM)", "ln(Age)", "ln(Total Assets)"]
print("=" * 65)
print("  Panel Regression: Tobin's Q with Year-Industry FE")
print(f"  (Within estimator via year×industry demeaning)")
print("=" * 65)
print(f"  {'Variable':<22} {'Coef':>10} {'Std.Err':>10} {'t-stat':>10}")
print("-" * 65)
for name, b, s, t in zip(var_names, betas, se, t_stats):
    sig = "***" if abs(t) > 2.576 else "**" if abs(t) > 1.96 else "*" if abs(t) > 1.645 else
    print(f"  {name:<22} {b:>10.4f} {s:>10.4f} {t:>8.2f} {sig}")
print("-" * 65)
print(f"  R-squared (within): {r_squared:.4f}")
print(f"  Observations: {n:,}")
print("=" * 65)
```

```
=================================================================
```

```
  Panel Regression: Tobin's Q with Year-Industry FE
  (Within estimator via year×industry demeaning)
==================================================================
  Variable                      Coef    Std.Err     t-stat
------------------------------------------------------------------
  Constant                    0.0000     0.0038     0.00
  Z''-Score (EM)              0.0034     0.0014     2.45 **
  ln(Age)                    -0.0055     0.0063    -0.88
  ln(Total Assets)           -0.0031     0.0026    -1.16
------------------------------------------------------------------
  R-squared (within): 0.0024
  Observations: 3,484
==================================================================
```

40 Practical Considerations and Limitations

40.1 Known Limitations of Tobin's Q in Vietnam

Several issues affect the reliability of Tobin's Q estimates for Vietnamese firms:

1. **Book value as replacement cost proxy**: The simplified Q measure assumes that book value of assets approximates replacement cost. Under VAS's heavy reliance on historical cost, this assumption may be more problematic than in IFRS-adopting countries, particularly for firms with significant land use rights or long-lived tangible assets.
2. **Market microstructure effects**: Vietnam's daily price limits can prevent market prices from reaching equilibrium, potentially distorting the market value component. Foreign ownership limits may create artificial price premiums for certain stocks.
3. **Preferred stock rarity**: While this simplifies the computation (most Vietnamese firms have no preferred stock), it means the BE calculation is dominated by common equity, which may not capture all ownership claims.
4. **Cross-listing effects**: Some Vietnamese firms are listed on multiple venues (HOSE, HNX, UPCoM, or even foreign exchanges). Care must be taken to use consistent price and share data.

40.2 Known Limitations of Altman Z-Score in Vietnam

1. **Calibration sample**: The original Z-Score was estimated on mid-20th-century U.S. manufacturing firms. The Z' '-Score for emerging markets is more appropriate but was still estimated on a non-Vietnamese sample.
2. **Accounting differences**: VAS accounting standards produce financial ratios with different distributional properties than US GAAP or IFRS data, potentially affecting the discriminant function's classification accuracy.
3. **Banking and financial firms**: The Z-Score was not designed for financial institutions, which have fundamentally different balance sheet structures. Banks, insurance companies, and securities firms should be excluded or analyzed separately.

4. **Implicit guarantees**: SOEs and firms connected to major economic groups may have implicit support that reduces actual default risk below Z-Score predictions.

40.3 Recommendations for Researchers

Based on our analysis, we offer the following recommendations for researchers working with Vietnamese data:

1. **Use the Z' '-Score (Emerging Market) variant** as the primary distress measure for Vietnamese non-financial firms.
2. **Report multiple Q variants** (Simple and Chung-Pruitt) to demonstrate robustness.
3. **Winsorize at 1%/99%** to mitigate the impact of data errors and extreme outliers.
4. **Compute industry-adjusted measures** when making cross-sectional comparisons.
5. **Use founding age** rather than listing age when available, but report both to distinguish organizational maturity from capital market experience.
6. **Exclude financial firms** from Z-Score analysis.
7. **Account for state ownership** as a moderating variable in valuation and distress studies.

41 Summary

This chapter presented a treatment of three fundamental corporate finance measures (i.e., Tobin's Q, the Altman Z-Score, and Company Age). We covered the theoretical foundations of each measure and provided extensive visualizations of cross-sectional and time-series patterns.

Key findings from our analysis of Vietnamese listed firms include:

1. **Tobin's Q** varies substantially across industries and exchanges, with technology and consumer-facing sectors typically commanding higher valuations. HOSE-listed firms tend to have higher Q values than HNX or UPCoM firms, reflecting both firm quality differences and liquidity effects.

2. **The Altman Z-Score** reveals that a meaningful proportion of Vietnamese firms operate in or near the distress zone, though the appropriate variant matters; the emerging market Z' '-Score provides more nuanced classification than the original model. Financial health shows significant time-series variation, with notable deterioration during economic downturns.

3. **Company age** in Vietnam requires careful treatment due to the equitization of SOEs, which creates large gaps between founding age and listing age. This distinction is substantively important for understanding the relationship between maturity, valuation, and financial stability.

42 Disclosure Quality and Timing

Corporate disclosure is the primary mechanism through which firms communicate with capital markets. The quality, quantity, and timing of disclosures shape the information environment in which investors form expectations, price securities, and allocate capital. A large theoretical and empirical literature, surveyed by Healy and Palepu (2001) and Beyer et al. (2010), demonstrates that disclosure decisions have first-order effects on the cost of capital, liquidity, and investment efficiency.

This chapter brings two decades of disclosure research to the Vietnamese market, where several institutional features create a distinctive setting. First, Vietnam's regulatory framework, anchored by Circular 155/2015/TT-BTC (amended by Circular 96/2020/TT-BTC) and enforced by the State Securities Commission (SSC), mandates periodic and event-driven disclosures with specific deadlines that differ from U.S. and European norms. Second, the dominance of retail investors and relatively thin analyst coverage means that corporate disclosures are often the *primary* source of firm-specific information, amplifying their economic importance. Third, the ongoing transition from Vietnamese Accounting Standards (VAS) toward IFRS convergence introduces time-varying changes in disclosure requirements that create natural variation for empirical analysis.

42.1 Theoretical Foundations

42.1.1 Voluntary Disclosure Theory

The foundational model of voluntary disclosure is due to Verrecchia (1983), who shows that in a setting where investors know a manager possesses private information, an *unraveling* equilibrium emerges: silence is interpreted as bad news, so managers disclose unless the proprietary cost of disclosure exceeds its benefit. The key insight is that non-disclosure is informative because investors rationally infer that withheld information is unfavourable.

Diamond (1985) extends the analysis to a multi-period setting where the firm's disclosure policy affects the precision of public information and hence the incentives for private information acquisition. The central trade-off is between reducing information asymmetry (which lowers the cost of capital) and reducing the rents that informed traders earn (which may discourage monitoring). Diamond and Verrecchia (1991) formalize the link between disclosure and liquidity:

by reducing adverse selection, voluntary disclosure narrows bid-ask spreads and increases the willingness of uninformed investors to trade.

The empirical prediction is that firms with higher-quality disclosure should enjoy:

1. Lower cost of equity capital (Botosan 1997; Botosan and Plumlee 2002)
2. Lower cost of debt (Sengupta 1998)
3. Higher liquidity and lower bid-ask spreads (Diamond and Verrecchia 1991; Lang, Lins, and Maffett 2012)
4. More efficient investment decisions (Biddle, Hilary, and Verdi 2009)

42.1.2 Strategic Disclosure Timing

Not all disclosure is voluntary in timing, but managers retain discretion over *when,* within permissible windows, to release information. Patell and Wolfson (1982) document that firms tend to release good news during trading hours and bad news after market close. DellaVigna and Pollet (2009) show that earnings announced on Fridays (i.e., when investor attention is lower) generate smaller immediate reactions and larger post-announcement drift, consistent with limited attention. Hirshleifer, Lim, and Teoh (2009) generalize this finding: extraneous events that distract investors (such as a large number of concurrent announcements) reduce the immediate price response to earnings news.

In Vietnam, several features make strategic timing particularly relevant. The concentrated disclosure calendar, where many firms file near regulatory deadlines, creates natural variation in announcement congestion. The retail-dominated investor base may be more susceptible to attention effects than institutional investors. The regulatory structure, which imposes penalties for late filing but allows discretion within the permissible window, creates a setting in which the *choice* of filing date is informative.

42.1.3 Disclosure Quality in Emerging Markets

Ball, Robin, and Wu (2003) argue that accounting quality is shaped more by reporting *incentives* than by accounting *standards.* In institutional environments with weak enforcement, concentrated ownership, and close alignment between financial and tax reporting, firms may produce lower-quality disclosures even under nominally rigorous standards. Leuz, Nanda, and Wysocki (2003) confirm this pattern internationally: earnings management (an inverse proxy for disclosure quality) is highest in countries with weak investor protection, concentrated ownership, and less developed capital markets.

Vietnam exhibits several of these features. Bushman et al. (2004) classify determinants of transparency into governance factors (legal origin, judicial efficiency, minority protection) and political factors (state ownership, government intervention). Vietnam's civil-law tradition, significant state ownership in listed firms, and evolving enforcement capacity suggest that

disclosure quality may be lower on average than in developed markets, but with substantial cross-sectional variation driven by firm-level governance and ownership structures.

42.2 Regulatory Framework

42.2.1 Mandatory Disclosure Requirements

Vietnamese disclosure regulation operates through a hierarchy of legal instruments:

- **Securities Law (2019):** Establishes the general obligation of listed firms to disclose information truthfully, accurately, completely, and on time (Article 118).
- **Circular 155/2015/TT-BTC** (amended by **Circular 96/2020/TT-BTC**): Specifies the content, format, and deadlines for periodic and event-driven disclosures.
- **SSC decisions and guidance:** Provide implementation details and sector-specific requirements.

The key periodic reporting deadlines are in Table 42.1

Table 42.1: Periodic disclosure deadlines under Vietnamese securities regulation.

Report Type	Deadline	Audit Requirement
Annual financial statements	90 days after fiscal year-end	Audited
Semi-annual financial statements	45 days after period-end	Reviewed
Quarterly financial statements	20 days after quarter-end	Unaudited
Annual report	110 days after fiscal year-end	N/A (narrative)

Event-driven (ad hoc) disclosures must be filed within 24 hours for material events, including changes in ownership exceeding 1% by major shareholders, board resolutions on dividends or capital increases, and any event that may materially affect the share price.

42.2.2 Penalties for Non-Compliance

The SSC may impose administrative fines for late or incomplete disclosure, typically ranging from VND 50–100 million for minor violations and up to VND 500 million for material omissions. While these amounts are modest relative to firm size for large-cap companies, the reputational cost and the risk of trading suspension provide additional deterrence.

42.3 Data Construction

42.3.1 Loading Required Libraries

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
from scipy import stats
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from linearmodels.panel import PanelOLS
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

# Plotting defaults
plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (10, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

42.3.2 Retrieving Disclosure Data

We assume that we have structured data on filing dates, announcement timestamps, and the textual content of corporate disclosures for all firms.

```
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Filing metadata: announcement dates, filing dates, report types
filings = client.get_filings(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    report_types=['annual', 'semi_annual', 'quarterly'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
```

```
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'report_type', 'fiscal_year', 'fiscal_quarter',
        'fiscal_year_end', 'filing_date', 'announcement_date',
        'auditor', 'audit_opinion', 'file_url'
    ]
)

# Financial statement data
financials = client.get_fundamentals(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'fiscal_quarter',
        'total_assets', 'total_equity', 'revenue', 'net_income',
        'operating_cash_flow', 'total_accruals',
        'market_cap', 'book_to_market'
    ]
)

# Daily trading data for event studies
trading = client.get_daily_prices(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'date', 'close', 'volume', 'turnover',
        'bid_ask_spread', 'market_return'
    ]
)

# Ownership and governance
governance = client.get_governance(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'state_ownership_pct',
        'foreign_ownership_pct', 'board_size',
        'board_independence_pct', 'big4_auditor',
        'dual_listing'
    ]
)
```

```
print(f"Filings: {filings.shape[0]:,} records")
print(f"Financials: {financials.shape[0]:,} records")
print(f"Trading: {trading.shape[0]:,} records")
print(f"Governance: {governance.shape[0]:,} records")
```

42.3.3 Computing Filing Timeliness

We define **reporting lag** as the number of calendar days between the fiscal period-end and the date the firm's financial statements are made publicly available. For annual reports, the regulatory maximum is 90 days; firms that file earlier than the deadline reveal information sooner, while firms that file late face potential penalties and signal possible difficulties with their accounts.

```
filings['fiscal_year_end'] = pd.to_datetime(filings['fiscal_year_end'])
filings['filing_date'] = pd.to_datetime(filings['filing_date'])
filings['announcement_date'] = pd.to_datetime(filings['announcement_date'])

# Reporting lag = filing date - fiscal period end
filings['reporting_lag'] = (
    filings['filing_date'] - filings['fiscal_year_end']
).dt.days

# Regulatory deadline based on report type
deadline_map = {
    'annual': 90,
    'semi_annual': 45,
    'quarterly': 20
}
filings['deadline_days'] = filings['report_type'].map(deadline_map)

# Late filing indicator
filings['late_filing'] = (
    filings['reporting_lag'] > filings['deadline_days']
).astype(int)

# Days relative to deadline (negative = early, positive = late)
filings['days_relative_deadline'] = (
    filings['reporting_lag'] - filings['deadline_days']
)

# Summary statistics
```

```
annual_filings = filings[filings['report_type'] == 'annual'].copy()
print("Annual Report Filing Lag (calendar days):")
print(annual_filings['reporting_lag'].describe().round(1))
print(f"\nLate filing rate: {annual_filings['late_filing'].mean():.1%}")
```

42.3.4 Distribution of Filing Lags

42.4 Measuring Disclosure Quality

Disclosure quality is inherently multidimensional. Following P. Dechow, Ge, and Schrand (2010) and Beyer et al. (2010), we construct proxies along four dimensions: (i) timeliness, (ii) textual properties, (iii) accounting quality, and (iv) voluntary disclosure breadth.

42.4.1 Timeliness as a Quality Dimension

Timely disclosure reduces the duration of information asymmetry between insiders and outside investors. Chambers and Penman (1984) and Givoly and Palmon (1982) establish that early reporters tend to announce good news, while late reporters more often deliver bad news. We test this pattern in the Vietnamese context below.

We operationalize timeliness through two measures:

1. **Reporting lag** (continuous): Calendar days from fiscal period-end to filing date, as constructed in Section 42.3.3.
2. **Early/late classification** (categorical): We classify firm-years into terciles based on reporting lag within each fiscal year. This controls for secular trends in filing speed (e.g., driven by regulatory changes or COVID-19 disruptions).

```
annual_filings['lag_tercile'] = (
    annual_filings
    .groupby('fiscal_year')['reporting_lag']
    .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 3, labels=['Early', 'Middle', 'Late']))
)

# Tabulate
tercile_stats = (
    annual_filings
    .groupby('lag_tercile')['reporting_lag']
    .agg(['count', 'mean', 'median', 'std'])
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Histogram
axes[0].hist(
    annual_filings['reporting_lag'].dropna(),
    bins=60, range=(20, 150),
    color='#2C5F8A', edgecolor='white', alpha=0.85
)
axes[0].axvline(x=90, color='#C0392B', linestyle='--', linewidth=2,
                label='90-day deadline')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Reporting Lag (Calendar Days)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Number of Filings')
axes[0].set_title('Distribution of Annual Report Filing Lags')
axes[0].legend()

# Time trend: median lag by year
median_lag = (
    annual_filings
    .groupby('fiscal_year')['reporting_lag']
    .agg(['median', lambda x: x.quantile(0.25),
          lambda x: x.quantile(0.75)])
)
median_lag.columns = ['median', 'p25', 'p75']

axes[1].fill_between(
    median_lag.index, median_lag['p25'], median_lag['p75'],
    alpha=0.3, color='#2C5F8A', label='IQR'
)
axes[1].plot(
    median_lag.index, median_lag['median'],
    color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2, marker='o', label='Median'
)
axes[1].axhline(y=90, color='#C0392B', linestyle='--',
                linewidth=1.5, label='Deadline')
axes[1].set_xlabel('Fiscal Year')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Filing Lag (Calendar Days)')
axes[1].set_title('Median Annual Filing Lag Over Time')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.1

```
    .round(1)
)
tercile_stats.columns = ['N', 'Mean Lag', 'Median Lag', 'SD']
print(tercile_stats)
```

42.4.2 Textual Quality Measures

The textual properties of corporate disclosures convey information about quality beyond what is captured by accounting numbers alone. Li (2008) demonstrates that annual reports with lower readability are associated with lower earnings persistence, suggesting that complex language may obscure unfavourable information. Loughran and McDonald (2014) critique the application of general readability formulas (Fog index, Flesch-Kincaid) to financial text, arguing that these metrics confound complexity with technical terminology.

We construct three textual quality measures adapted for Vietnamese corporate disclosures:

42.4.2.1 Document Length and Specificity

Longer disclosures are not inherently better—length may reflect boilerplate or obfuscation. However, Dyer, Lang, and Stice-Lawrence (2017) show that the *informative* component of disclosure (as opposed to standard legal language) has increased over time in U.S. 10-K filings. We measure:

- **Total word count:** Raw length of the annual report narrative sections (MD&A equivalent)
- **Numerical density:** Proportion of tokens that are numbers, percentages, or currency amounts, which is a proxy for specificity.

```
import re
from underthesea import word_tokenize

def compute_textual_metrics(text):
    """Compute textual quality metrics for Vietnamese corporate text."""
    if not text or len(text.strip()) == 0:
        return {
            'word_count': 0, 'sentence_count': 0,
            'numerical_density': 0, 'avg_sentence_length': 0,
            'unique_word_ratio': 0, 'forward_looking_density': 0
        }

    # Vietnamese word segmentation
```

```
    tokens = word_tokenize(text)
    sentences = re.split(r'[.!?]', text)
    sentences = [s.strip() for s in sentences if len(s.strip()) > 5]

    word_count = len(tokens)
    sentence_count = max(len(sentences), 1)

    # Numerical density: proportion of tokens that are numeric
    num_pattern = re.compile(r'^[\d,.%]+$')
    numeric_tokens = sum(1 for t in tokens if num_pattern.match(t))
    numerical_density = numeric_tokens / max(word_count, 1)

    # Lexical diversity: unique words / total words
    unique_words = len(set(t.lower() for t in tokens))
    unique_word_ratio = unique_words / max(word_count, 1)

    # Forward-looking statement density
    forward_keywords = [
        'dự kiến', 'kế hoạch', 'mục tiêu', 'triển vọng',
        'định hướng', 'chiến lược', 'tương lai', 'sẽ',
        'dự báo', 'phấn đấu', 'cam kết', 'hướng tới'
    ]
    text_lower = text.lower()
    forward_count = sum(text_lower.count(kw) for kw in forward_keywords)
    forward_looking_density = forward_count / max(sentence_count, 1)

    return {
        'word_count': word_count,
        'sentence_count': sentence_count,
        'numerical_density': numerical_density,
        'avg_sentence_length': word_count / sentence_count,
        'unique_word_ratio': unique_word_ratio,
        'forward_looking_density': forward_looking_density
    }

# Retrieve annual report text from DataCore
annual_text = client.get_annual_report_text(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    sections=['mda', 'business_overview', 'risk_factors']
)
```

```python
# Apply textual metrics
textual_metrics = annual_text.apply(
    lambda row: compute_textual_metrics(row['text']),
    axis=1, result_type='expand'
)
annual_text = pd.concat([annual_text, textual_metrics], axis=1)

print("Textual Quality Summary Statistics:")
print(annual_text[['word_count', 'numerical_density',
                    'avg_sentence_length', 'unique_word_ratio',
                    'forward_looking_density']].describe().round(3))
```

42.4.2.2 Forward-Looking Statement Density

Forward-looking statements reveal management's expectations about future performance and are considered a higher-quality form of disclosure because they expose the manager to ex-post evaluation. In Vietnamese reports, forward-looking language typically appears in the form of phrases like *dự kiến* (expected), *kế hoạch* (plan), *mục tiêu* (target), and *triển vọng* (outlook).

Guay, Samuels, and Taylor (2016) show that managers use voluntary disclosure to "guide through the fog" when financial statements are complex. We operationalize forward-looking density as the number of forward-looking phrases per sentence, following the keyword approach in our `compute_textual_metrics` function above.

42.4.3 Accounting-Based Quality Proxies

We complement textual measures with accounting-based proxies that capture the reliability of reported financial information.

42.4.3.1 Accruals Quality

Following Francis et al. (2005), we measure accruals quality as the standard deviation of residuals from a regression of working capital accruals on past, current, and future operating cash flows:

$$\frac{WC_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} = \alpha + \beta_1 \frac{CFO_{i,t-1}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_2 \frac{CFO_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \beta_3 \frac{CFO_{i,t+1}}{A_{i,t-1}} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{42.1}$$

where $WC_{i,t}$ is working capital accruals, $CFO_{i,t}$ is operating cash flow, and $A_{i,t-1}$ is lagged total assets. The firm-level standard deviation of $\hat{\varepsilon}_{i,t}$ over a rolling window (typically 5 years) is the accruals quality measure, with higher values indicating lower quality.

```
def estimate_accruals_quality(df, min_obs=5):
    """
    Estimate accruals quality as std dev of DD residuals
    over a rolling 5-year window for each firm.
    """
    results = []

    for ticker, group in df.groupby('ticker'):
        group = group.sort_values('fiscal_year')

        # Construct leads/lags of CFO
        group['cfo_lag1'] = group['operating_cash_flow'].shift(1)
        group['cfo_lead1'] = group['operating_cash_flow'].shift(-1)

        # Scale by lagged assets
        group['lag_assets'] = group['total_assets'].shift(1)
        for col in ['total_accruals', 'operating_cash_flow',
                    'cfo_lag1', 'cfo_lead1']:
            group[f'{col}_scaled'] = group[col] / group['lag_assets']

        # Rolling 5-year residual std dev
        for idx in range(len(group)):
            window = group.iloc[max(0, idx - 4):idx + 1]
            window = window.dropna(subset=[
                'total_accruals_scaled', 'operating_cash_flow_scaled',
                'cfo_lag1_scaled', 'cfo_lead1_scaled'
            ])

            if len(window) >= min_obs:
                y = window['total_accruals_scaled']
                X = sm.add_constant(window[[
                    'cfo_lag1_scaled',
                    'operating_cash_flow_scaled',
                    'cfo_lead1_scaled'
                ]])
                try:
                    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
                    results.append({
                        'ticker': ticker,
```

```
                        'fiscal_year': group.iloc[idx]['fiscal_year'],
                        'accruals_quality': model.resid.std()
                    })
                except Exception:
                    pass

    return pd.DataFrame(results)

aq_df = estimate_accruals_quality(financials)
print(f"Accruals quality computed for {aq_df['ticker'].nunique()} firms")
print(aq_df['accruals_quality'].describe().round(4))
```

42.4.3.2 Earnings Persistence and Predictability

Persistent earnings are more useful for valuation. We estimate earnings persistence as the slope coefficient ϕ_1 from a first-order autoregression:

$$\frac{E_{i,t}}{A_{i,t-1}} = \phi_0 + \phi_1 \frac{E_{i,t-1}}{A_{i,t-2}} + \nu_{i,t} \tag{42.2}$$

Higher $\hat{\phi}_1$ indicates more persistent (and arguably higher-quality) earnings.

```
def estimate_persistence(df, min_obs=5):
    """Estimate earnings persistence via AR(1) model."""
    results = []

    for ticker, group in df.groupby('ticker'):
        group = group.sort_values('fiscal_year')
        group['earnings_scaled'] = group['net_income'] / group['total_assets'].shift(1)
        group['earnings_lag'] = group['earnings_scaled'].shift(1)

        clean = group.dropna(subset=['earnings_scaled', 'earnings_lag'])
        if len(clean) >= min_obs:
            y = clean['earnings_scaled']
            X = sm.add_constant(clean[['earnings_lag']])
            model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
            results.append({
                'ticker': ticker,
                'persistence': model.params['earnings_lag'],
                'persistence_se': model.bse['earnings_lag'],
                'r_squared': model.rsquared,
```

```
                'n_obs': model.nobs
            })

    return pd.DataFrame(results)

persistence_df = estimate_persistence(financials)
print(persistence_df[['persistence', 'r_squared']].describe().round(3))
```

42.4.4 Composite Disclosure Quality Index

Individual quality proxies capture different facets of the information environment. To aggregate them into a single score while avoiding arbitrary weighting, we follow Lang and Lundholm (1993) and use a rank-based composite. For each firm-year, we rank firms on each of the following dimensions (higher rank = higher quality) (Table 42.2).

Table 42.2: Components of the composite disclosure quality index.

Dimension	Proxy	Direction
Timeliness	Reporting lag	Lower is better
Specificity	Numerical density	Higher is better
Forward-looking	FLS density	Higher is better
Earnings quality	Accruals quality (DD)	Lower is better
Persistence	AR(1) coefficient	Higher is better

We convert each proxy to a percentile rank within each fiscal year (so each component ranges from 0 to 1), then average across components:

$$DQ_{i,t} = \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^{K} \text{Rank}_{k,i,t} \tag{42.3}$$

where K is the number of available components and $\text{Rank}_{k,i,t}$ is the percentile rank of firm i in year t on dimension k.

```
# Merge all quality proxies
quality_panel = (
    annual_filings[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'reporting_lag']]
    .merge(
        annual_text[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'numerical_density',
                     'forward_looking_density']],
        on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left'
```

```
    )
    .merge(aq_df, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
    .merge(persistence_df[['ticker', 'persistence']],
           on='ticker', how='left')
)

# Rank each component within fiscal year (higher = better quality)
def year_percentile_rank(series):
    """Convert to percentile rank within group."""
    return series.rank(pct=True)

rank_cols = {}
for col, ascending in [
    ('reporting_lag', False),       # lower lag = better → invert
    ('numerical_density', True),    # higher = better
    ('forward_looking_density', True),
    ('accruals_quality', False),    # lower volatility = better → invert
    ('persistence', True)           # higher = better
]:
    col_to_rank = quality_panel[col] if ascending else -quality_panel[col]
    rank_cols[f'rank_{col}'] = (
        quality_panel
        .groupby('fiscal_year')[col]
        .transform(lambda x: x.rank(pct=True) if ascending
                   else (-x).rank(pct=True))
    )

rank_df = pd.DataFrame(rank_cols)
quality_panel = pd.concat([quality_panel, rank_df], axis=1)

# Composite index: average of available ranks
rank_columns = [c for c in quality_panel.columns if c.startswith('rank_')]
quality_panel['dq_index'] = quality_panel[rank_columns].mean(axis=1)

print("Disclosure Quality Index Distribution:")
print(quality_panel['dq_index'].describe().round(3))
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))
ax.hist(quality_panel['dq_index'].dropna(), bins=50,
        color='#2C5F8A', edgecolor='white', alpha=0.85)
ax.axvline(quality_panel['dq_index'].median(), color='#E67E22',
           linestyle='--', linewidth=2, label='Median')
ax.set_xlabel('Disclosure Quality Index')
ax.set_ylabel('Number of Firm-Years')
ax.set_title('Distribution of Composite Disclosure Quality')
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.2

42.5 Determinants of Disclosure Quality

What drives variation in disclosure quality across Vietnamese firms? We estimate a cross-sectional regression of the composite DQ index on firm characteristics and governance variables:

$$DQ_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \ln(\text{Size}_{i,t}) + \beta_2 \text{ROA}_{i,t} + \beta_3 \text{Lev}_{i,t} + \beta_4 \text{StateOwn}_{i,t} + \beta_5 \text{ForeignOwn}_{i,t} + \beta_6 \text{Big4}_{i,t} + \beta_7 \text{BoardInd} \tag{42.4}$$

where γ_t are year fixed effects.

The theoretical predictions, drawing on Lang and Lundholm (1993), Hope (2003), and Bushman et al. (2004), are:

- **Size (+):** Larger firms face greater public scrutiny and have lower proprietary costs relative to the benefits of disclosure.
- **ROA (+/−):** Profitable firms may disclose more to signal quality, but firms managing earnings downward (for tax purposes) may reduce disclosure to avoid scrutiny.
- **Leverage (+):** Sengupta (1998) argues that firms with more debt have stronger incentives to maintain disclosure quality to lower borrowing costs.
- **State ownership (−):** SOEs may face weaker market discipline and political incentives to limit transparency.
- **Foreign ownership (+):** Foreign institutional investors demand higher transparency.
- **Big 4 auditor (+):** High-quality auditors constrain earnings management and indirectly improve disclosure quality.
- **Board independence (+):** Independent directors improve monitoring and encourage more informative disclosure.

```python
# Merge quality index with financials and governance
det_panel = (
    quality_panel[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'dq_index']]
    .merge(financials, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
    .merge(governance, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
)

# Construct variables
det_panel['log_size'] = np.log(det_panel['total_assets'])
det_panel['roa'] = det_panel['net_income'] / det_panel['total_assets']
det_panel['leverage'] = (
    (det_panel['total_assets'] - det_panel['total_equity'])
    / det_panel['total_assets']
)

# Panel regression with year FE
det_panel = det_panel.set_index(['ticker', 'fiscal_year'])

model_det = PanelOLS(
    dependent=det_panel['dq_index'],
    exog=sm.add_constant(det_panel[[
        'log_size', 'roa', 'leverage',
        'state_ownership_pct', 'foreign_ownership_pct',
        'big4_auditor', 'board_independence_pct'
    ]]),
    entity_effects=False,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type='clustered', cluster_entity=True)

print(model_det.summary)
```

42.6 Strategic Disclosure Timing

42.6.1 Day-of-Week Effects

DellaVigna and Pollet (2009) document that Friday earnings announcements receive less immediate market attention. We test whether this pattern holds in Vietnam, where the trading week runs Monday through Friday but the retail-dominated investor base may exhibit different attention patterns.

```
coefs = model_det.params.drop('const')
ci = model_det.conf_int().drop('const')

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
y_pos = range(len(coefs))
labels = [
    'ln(Assets)', 'ROA', 'Leverage', 'State Own %',
    'Foreign Own %', 'Big 4 Auditor', 'Board Indep %'
]

colors = ['#2C5F8A' if c > 0 else '#C0392B' for c in coefs.values]
ax.barh(y_pos, coefs.values, color=colors, alpha=0.8, height=0.6)
ax.errorbar(
    coefs.values, y_pos,
    xerr=[coefs.values - ci.iloc[:, 0].values,
          ci.iloc[:, 1].values - coefs.values],
    fmt='none', color='black', capsize=3
)
ax.axvline(x=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.8, linestyle='-')
ax.set_yticks(y_pos)
ax.set_yticklabels(labels)
ax.set_xlabel('Coefficient Estimate')
ax.set_title('Determinants of Disclosure Quality')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.3

```python
annual_filings['announcement_dow'] = (
    annual_filings['announcement_date'].dt.dayofweek
)
annual_filings['day_name'] = (
    annual_filings['announcement_date'].dt.day_name()
)

# Compute surprise: actual earnings minus naive expectation (last year's earnings)
annual_filings = annual_filings.merge(
    financials[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'net_income', 'total_assets']],
    on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left'
)
annual_filings['earnings_scaled'] = (
    annual_filings['net_income'] / annual_filings['total_assets']
)
annual_filings['earnings_surprise'] = (
    annual_filings
    .groupby('ticker')['earnings_scaled']
    .diff()
)

# Classify as good/bad news
annual_filings['bad_news'] = (
    annual_filings['earnings_surprise'] < 0
).astype(int)

# Day-of-week distribution by news type
dow_crosstab = pd.crosstab(
    annual_filings['day_name'],
    annual_filings['bad_news'].map({0: 'Good News', 1: 'Bad News'}),
    normalize='columns'
)
# Reorder days
day_order = ['Monday', 'Tuesday', 'Wednesday', 'Thursday', 'Friday']
dow_crosstab = dow_crosstab.reindex(day_order)

print("Proportion of Announcements by Day and News Type:")
print(dow_crosstab.round(3))
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))
x = np.arange(len(day_order))
width = 0.35

bad_pct = dow_crosstab['Bad News'].values
good_pct = dow_crosstab['Good News'].values

ax.bar(x - width/2, good_pct, width, label='Good News',
       color='#27AE60', alpha=0.8)
ax.bar(x + width/2, bad_pct, width, label='Bad News',
       color='#C0392B', alpha=0.8)
ax.set_xticks(x)
ax.set_xticklabels(day_order)
ax.set_ylabel('Proportion of Announcements')
ax.set_title('Strategic Timing: Day-of-Week Announcement Patterns')
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.4

42.6.2 Announcement Congestion

When many firms announce on the same day, each announcement receives less attention. We measure **announcement congestion** as the number of other firms making earnings announcements on the same date:

$$\text{Congestion}_{i,t} = \sum_{j \neq i} \mathbf{1}\{\text{AnnDate}_j = \text{AnnDate}_i\} \tag{42.5}$$

Hirshleifer, Lim, and Teoh (2009) predict that firms burying bad news will choose high-congestion days. We test this by regressing the congestion variable on the sign of earnings news:

```
# Count announcements per date
ann_counts = (
    annual_filings
    .groupby('announcement_date')
    .size()
    .reset_index(name='n_announcements')
)
```

```
annual_filings = annual_filings.merge(
    ann_counts, on='announcement_date', how='left'
)
annual_filings['congestion'] = annual_filings['n_announcements'] - 1

# Regression: congestion ~ bad_news + controls
congestion_model = smf.ols(
    'congestion ~ bad_news + log_size + roa + C(fiscal_year)',
    data=annual_filings.assign(
        log_size=np.log(annual_filings['total_assets']),
        roa=annual_filings['net_income'] / annual_filings['total_assets']
    )
).fit(cov_type='cluster', cov_kwds={'groups': annual_filings['ticker']})

print("Congestion Regression:")
print(congestion_model.summary().tables[1])
```

42.6.3 After-Hours and Weekend Announcements

Vietnamese regulations require disclosure within 24 hours of material events, but firms retain discretion over the exact timing. Announcements made after the trading session closes (after 3:00 PM on HOSE/HNX) or on weekends delay the market's opportunity to react by at least one trading day.

```
# Assume announcement timestamps are available
annual_filings['ann_hour'] = (
    annual_filings['announcement_date'].dt.hour
)
annual_filings['after_hours'] = (
    (annual_filings['ann_hour'] >= 15) |
    (annual_filings['announcement_dow'] >= 5)  # Saturday/Sunday
).astype(int)

# Cross-tabulate after-hours by news type
afterhours_crosstab = pd.crosstab(
    annual_filings['after_hours'].map({0: 'During Hours', 1: 'After Hours'}),
    annual_filings['bad_news'].map({0: 'Good News', 1: 'Bad News'}),
    normalize='index'
)
print("News Distribution by Announcement Timing:")
print(afterhours_crosstab.round(3))
```

```
# Chi-squared test
contingency = pd.crosstab(
    annual_filings['after_hours'], annual_filings['bad_news']
)
chi2, p_val, _, _ = stats.chi2_contingency(contingency)
print(f"\nChi-squared = {chi2:.2f}, p-value = {p_val:.4f}")
```

42.7 Market Consequences of Disclosure Quality

42.7.1 Disclosure Quality and the Cost of Equity

The central prediction of Diamond and Verrecchia (1991) and Botosan (1997) is that higher-quality disclosure lowers the cost of equity capital by reducing information asymmetry. We test this using the implied cost of capital (ICC) approach, where we estimate the discount rate that equates the current price to the present value of expected future earnings.

We use the PEG ratio approach as a simple ICC estimate:

$$r_{PEG,i,t} = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{E}_{i,t+2} - \hat{E}_{i,t+1}}{P_{i,t}}} \tag{42.6}$$

where $\hat{E}_{i,t+k}$ is the consensus earnings forecast (or, in the absence of analyst coverage, a model-based forecast) and $P_{i,t}$ is the current stock price.

```
# Construct earnings forecasts using a simple random walk with drift
forecasts = financials.sort_values(['ticker', 'fiscal_year']).copy()
forecasts['eps'] = forecasts['net_income'] / forecasts['market_cap']
forecasts['eps_growth'] = forecasts.groupby('ticker')['eps'].pct_change()

# Simple forecast: E[t+1] = E[t] * (1 + avg_growth)
forecasts['avg_growth'] = (
    forecasts.groupby('ticker')['eps_growth']
    .transform(lambda x: x.rolling(3, min_periods=2).mean())
)
forecasts['eps_f1'] = forecasts['eps'] * (1 + forecasts['avg_growth'])
forecasts['eps_f2'] = forecasts['eps_f1'] * (1 + forecasts['avg_growth'])

# PEG-based ICC
forecasts['icc_peg'] = np.sqrt(
    np.maximum(forecasts['eps_f2'] - forecasts['eps_f1'], 0)
```

```
    / np.maximum(forecasts['market_cap'] / 1e6, 1e-6)
)

# Merge with disclosure quality
icc_panel = (
    forecasts[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'icc_peg']]
    .merge(quality_panel[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'dq_index']].reset_index(drop=True),
           on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='inner')
    .merge(governance, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
    .merge(financials[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'total_assets',
                       'book_to_market', 'market_cap']],
           on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
)

icc_panel['log_size'] = np.log(icc_panel['market_cap'])
icc_panel = icc_panel.set_index(['ticker', 'fiscal_year'])

# Panel regression: ICC ~ DQ + controls
icc_model = PanelOLS(
    dependent=icc_panel['icc_peg'],
    exog=sm.add_constant(icc_panel[[
        'dq_index', 'log_size', 'book_to_market'
    ]]),
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type='clustered', cluster_entity=True)

print("Implied Cost of Capital ~ Disclosure Quality:")
print(icc_model.summary)
```

42.7.2 Disclosure Quality and Liquidity

Diamond and Verrecchia (1991) predict that better disclosure reduces adverse selection and improves liquidity. We measure liquidity through bid-ask spreads and the Amihud illiquidity ratio:

$$\text{Amihud}_{i,t} = \frac{1}{D_{i,t}} \sum_{d=1}^{D_{i,t}} \frac{|R_{i,d}|}{\text{Volume}_{i,d}} \tag{42.7}$$

where $R_{i,d}$ is the daily return and $\text{Volume}_{i,d}$ is the daily trading volume in VND.

```python
# Compute annual Amihud illiquidity
trading['abs_return'] = trading['close'].pct_change().abs()
trading['amihud_daily'] = trading['abs_return'] / (trading['volume'] * trading['close'])

amihud_annual = (
    trading
    .assign(fiscal_year=trading['date'].dt.year)
    .groupby(['ticker', 'fiscal_year'])
    .agg(
        amihud=('amihud_daily', 'mean'),
        avg_spread=('bid_ask_spread', 'mean'),
        avg_turnover=('turnover', 'mean')
    )
    .reset_index()
)

# Log transform for better distributional properties
amihud_annual['log_amihud'] = np.log(amihud_annual['amihud'] + 1e-10)
amihud_annual['log_spread'] = np.log(amihud_annual['avg_spread'] + 1e-6)

# Merge and run regression
liq_panel = (
    amihud_annual
    .merge(quality_panel[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'dq_index']].reset_index(drop=True),
           on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='inner')
    .merge(financials[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'market_cap', 'total_assets']],
           on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
)
liq_panel['log_size'] = np.log(liq_panel['market_cap'])
liq_panel = liq_panel.set_index(['ticker', 'fiscal_year'])

liq_model = PanelOLS(
    dependent=liq_panel['log_amihud'],
    exog=sm.add_constant(liq_panel[['dq_index', 'log_size']]),
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type='clustered', cluster_entity=True)

print("Amihud Illiquidity ~ Disclosure Quality:")
print(liq_model.summary)
```

```
liq_panel_plot = liq_panel.reset_index()
liq_panel_plot['dq_quintile'] = pd.qcut(
    liq_panel_plot['dq_index'], 5, labels=['Q1\n(Low)', 'Q2', 'Q3', 'Q4', 'Q5\n(High)']
)

quintile_liq = (
    liq_panel_plot
    .groupby('dq_quintile')['log_amihud']
    .agg(['mean', 'sem'])
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
bars = ax.bar(
    range(5), quintile_liq['mean'],
    yerr=1.96 * quintile_liq['sem'],
    color=['#C0392B', '#E67E22', '#F1C40F', '#27AE60', '#2C5F8A'],
    alpha=0.85, capsize=4, edgecolor='white'
)
ax.set_xticks(range(5))
ax.set_xticklabels(quintile_liq.index)
ax.set_xlabel('Disclosure Quality Quintile')
ax.set_ylabel('Log Amihud Illiquidity')
ax.set_title('Disclosure Quality and Market Liquidity')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.5

42.7.3 Event Study: Market Reaction to Filing Lag

We examine whether the market reacts differently to early vs. late filers by computing cumulative abnormal returns (CARs) around the filing date:

$$CAR_i[\tau_1, \tau_2] = \sum_{t=\tau_1}^{\tau_2} (R_{i,t} - \hat{R}_{i,t}) \tag{42.8}$$

where $\hat{R}_{i,t}$ is the expected return from a market model estimated over a pre-event window $[-250, -30]$.

```
def compute_car(ticker, event_date, trading_df,
                est_window=(-250, -30), event_window=(-5, 10)):
    """Compute CAR around an event date using market model."""
    firm_data = trading_df[trading_df['ticker'] == ticker].copy()
    firm_data = firm_data.sort_values('date')

    # Find event date index
    event_idx = firm_data[firm_data['date'] >= event_date].index
    if len(event_idx) == 0:
        return None
    event_idx = event_idx[0]
    event_pos = firm_data.index.get_loc(event_idx)

    # Check sufficient data
    if event_pos + est_window[0] < 0:
        return None

    # Estimation window
    est_start = event_pos + est_window[0]
    est_end = event_pos + est_window[1]
    est_data = firm_data.iloc[est_start:est_end + 1]

    firm_ret = est_data['close'].pct_change()
    mkt_ret = est_data['market_return']

    valid = firm_ret.notna() & mkt_ret.notna()
    if valid.sum() < 100:
        return None

    # Market model
    X = sm.add_constant(mkt_ret[valid])
```

```
    model = sm.OLS(firm_ret[valid], X).fit()

    # Event window
    ev_start = event_pos + event_window[0]
    ev_end = event_pos + event_window[1]
    ev_data = firm_data.iloc[ev_start:ev_end + 1]

    ev_ret = ev_data['close'].pct_change()
    ev_mkt = ev_data['market_return']
    expected_ret = model.params['const'] + model.params['market_return'] * ev_mkt
    abnormal_ret = ev_ret - expected_ret

    return abnormal_ret.cumsum().values

# Sample: compute CARs for annual filings
car_results = []
for _, row in annual_filings.sample(min(2000, len(annual_filings))).iterrows():
    car = compute_car(row['ticker'], row['filing_date'], trading)
    if car is not None and len(car) == 16:  # -5 to +10
        car_results.append({
            'ticker': row['ticker'],
            'fiscal_year': row['fiscal_year'],
            'lag_tercile': row['lag_tercile'],
            'car': car
        })

car_df = pd.DataFrame(car_results)
print(f"Computed CARs for {len(car_df)} firm-year events")
```

42.8 Filing Timeliness and Earnings Quality

Givoly and Palmon (1982) and Chambers and Penman (1984) establish that the content of disclosed information is correlated with its timing. We test this link formally: do late filers have worse earnings quality?

We formalize this with a regression that controls for firm characteristics:

```
tq_panel_reg = tq_panel.merge(
    financials[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'total_assets', 'net_income',
                'total_equity']],
```

```
event_days = range(-5, 11)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))
colors = {'Early': '#27AE60', 'Middle': '#F1C40F', 'Late': '#C0392B'}

for tercile in ['Early', 'Middle', 'Late']:
    subset = car_df[car_df['lag_tercile'] == tercile]
    if len(subset) > 0:
        avg_car = np.mean(np.stack(subset['car'].values), axis=0)
        se_car = np.std(np.stack(subset['car'].values), axis=0) / np.sqrt(len(subset))
        ax.plot(event_days, avg_car, color=colors[tercile],
                linewidth=2, label=tercile)
        ax.fill_between(event_days,
                        avg_car - 1.96 * se_car,
                        avg_car + 1.96 * se_car,
                        color=colors[tercile], alpha=0.15)

ax.axvline(x=0, color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=0.8)
ax.axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_xlabel('Event Day (Relative to Filing Date)')
ax.set_ylabel('Cumulative Abnormal Return')
ax.set_title('Market Reaction Around Filing Date by Timeliness')
ax.legend(title='Filing Tercile')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.6

```
tq_panel = (
    annual_filings[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'lag_tercile', 'reporting_lag']]
    .merge(aq_df, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='inner')
    .merge(persistence_df[['ticker', 'persistence']], on='ticker', how='left')
)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Accruals quality by tercile
aq_by_tercile = tq_panel.groupby('lag_tercile')['accruals_quality'].mean()
axes[0].bar(
    range(3), aq_by_tercile.values,
    color=['#27AE60', '#F1C40F', '#C0392B'], alpha=0.85,
    edgecolor='white'
)
axes[0].set_xticks(range(3))
axes[0].set_xticklabels(['Early', 'Middle', 'Late'])
axes[0].set_ylabel('Accruals Quality (  of DD Residuals)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Accruals Quality by Filing Tercile')
axes[0].text(0.05, 0.95, 'Higher = lower quality',
             transform=axes[0].transAxes, fontsize=9,
             verticalalignment='top', style='italic', color='gray')

# Panel B: Persistence by tercile
per_by_tercile = tq_panel.groupby('lag_tercile')['persistence'].mean()
axes[1].bar(
    range(3), per_by_tercile.values,
    color=['#27AE60', '#F1C40F', '#C0392B'], alpha=0.85,
    edgecolor='white'
)
axes[1].set_xticks(range(3))
axes[1].set_xticklabels(['Early', 'Middle', 'Late'])
axes[1].set_ylabel('Earnings Persistence (AR(1) Coefficient)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Earnings Persistence by Filing Tercile')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.7

```
    on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left'
).merge(governance, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')

tq_panel_reg['log_size'] = np.log(tq_panel_reg['total_assets'])
tq_panel_reg['roa'] = tq_panel_reg['net_income'] / tq_panel_reg['total_assets']
tq_panel_reg['late'] = (tq_panel_reg['lag_tercile'] == 'Late').astype(int)

model_tq = smf.ols(
    'accruals_quality ~ late + log_size + roa + state_ownership_pct '
    '+ big4_auditor + C(fiscal_year)',
    data=tq_panel_reg
).fit(cov_type='cluster', cov_kwds={'groups': tq_panel_reg['ticker']})

print("Accruals Quality ~ Late Filing:")
print(model_tq.summary().tables[1])
```

Endogeneity Caveat

The association between filing timeliness and earnings quality is likely endogenous: firms with complex accounting issues take longer to prepare financial statements, and the same complexity drives lower earnings quality. The filing lag is thus best interpreted as an *observable signal* of underlying accounting difficulty rather than a causal determinant. Instrumental variable approaches (e.g., using auditor busyness during peak filing season as an instrument for filing lag) can partially address this concern.

42.9 Disclosure Quality and Investment Efficiency

Biddle, Hilary, and Verdi (2009) demonstrate that higher financial reporting quality is associated with more efficient investment. Specifically, it reduces both over-investment (in firms with excess cash) and under-investment (in firms that are financially constrained). The mechanism is that better disclosure reduces information asymmetry between managers and capital providers, improving the allocation of capital.

We test this prediction in Vietnam using the Biddle, Hilary, and Verdi (2009) framework:

$$\text{Investment}_{i,t+1} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{SalesGrowth}_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t+1} \tag{42.9}$$

The residual $\hat{\varepsilon}_{i,t+1}$ measures deviation from expected investment. Positive residuals indicate over-investment; negative residuals indicate under-investment. We then test whether the absolute value of this residual is lower for firms with higher disclosure quality.

```python
inv_panel = financials.sort_values(['ticker', 'fiscal_year']).copy()

# Investment = change in total assets / lagged total assets
inv_panel['investment'] = (
    inv_panel.groupby('ticker')['total_assets'].pct_change()
)
inv_panel['sales_growth'] = (
    inv_panel.groupby('ticker')['revenue'].pct_change()
)

# Expected investment model
inv_model = smf.ols(
    'investment ~ sales_growth',
    data=inv_panel
).fit()
inv_panel['inv_residual'] = inv_model.resid
inv_panel['abs_inv_residual'] = inv_panel['inv_residual'].abs()

# Merge with disclosure quality
inv_eff = (
    inv_panel[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'abs_inv_residual',
               'investment', 'total_assets']]
    .merge(quality_panel[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'dq_index']].reset_index(drop=True),
           on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='inner')
)
inv_eff['log_size'] = np.log(inv_eff['total_assets'])
inv_eff = inv_eff.set_index(['ticker', 'fiscal_year'])

# Panel regression
inv_eff_model = PanelOLS(
    dependent=inv_eff['abs_inv_residual'],
    exog=sm.add_constant(inv_eff[['dq_index', 'log_size']]),
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type='clustered', cluster_entity=True)

print("Investment Inefficiency ~ Disclosure Quality:")
print(inv_eff_model.summary)
```

A negative coefficient on `dq_index` indicates that higher disclosure quality is associated with lower investment inefficiency: firms with better disclosure make investment decisions closer to

what their growth opportunities warrant.

42.10 Vietnamese Institutional Context

42.10.1 State Ownership and Disclosure

SOEs account for a substantial share of Vietnamese market capitalization. The relationship between state ownership and disclosure quality is theoretically ambiguous. On one hand, political connections may reduce the pressure to disclose transparently; government shareholders may tolerate opacity that private shareholders would not. On the other hand, post-equitization monitoring by multiple stakeholders (MOF, SCIC, minority shareholders) may create competing disclosure demands.

```
soe_panel = (
    quality_panel[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'dq_index',
                   'reporting_lag']].reset_index(drop=True)
    .merge(governance[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'state_ownership_pct']],
           on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='inner')
)

soe_panel['soe'] = (soe_panel['state_ownership_pct'] >= 50).astype(int)
soe_panel['soe_label'] = soe_panel['soe'].map(
    {1: 'SOE ( 50%)', 0: 'Private (<50%)'}
)

# Compare means
comparison = (
    soe_panel
    .groupby('soe_label')
    .agg(
        n=('dq_index', 'count'),
        mean_dq=('dq_index', 'mean'),
        median_dq=('dq_index', 'median'),
        mean_lag=('reporting_lag', 'mean'),
        median_lag=('reporting_lag', 'median')
    )
    .round(3)
)
print("SOE vs Private Firm Disclosure Comparison:")
print(comparison)
```

```
# Formal t-test
soe_dq = soe_panel[soe_panel['soe'] == 1]['dq_index']
priv_dq = soe_panel[soe_panel['soe'] == 0]['dq_index']
t_stat, p_val = stats.ttest_ind(soe_dq.dropna(), priv_dq.dropna())
print(f"\nt-test: t = {t_stat:.3f}, p = {p_val:.4f}")
```

42.10.2 IFRS Convergence and Disclosure Quality

Vietnam has been pursuing a phased convergence toward IFRS, with the Ministry of Finance issuing a roadmap for voluntary adoption by large listed firms. The transition from VAS to IFRS-aligned standards is expected to expand disclosure requirements—particularly for financial instruments (IFRS 9), revenue recognition (IFRS 15), and leases (IFRS 16). Barth, Landsman, and Lang (2008) provide evidence that IFRS adoption is associated with improvements in earnings quality and disclosure, though the effect depends on enforcement strength.

We can exploit the staggered timing of voluntary IFRS adoption across Vietnamese firms as a natural experiment:

```
# Assume DataCore provides IFRS adoption dates
ifrs_adoption = client.get_ifrs_adoption(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    fields=['ticker', 'ifrs_adoption_year']
)

# Merge with quality panel
ifrs_panel = (
    quality_panel[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'dq_index']].reset_index(drop=True)
    .merge(ifrs_adoption, on='ticker', how='left')
)

# Treatment indicator
ifrs_panel['post_ifrs'] = (
    ifrs_panel['fiscal_year'] >= ifrs_panel['ifrs_adoption_year']
).astype(int).fillna(0)

ifrs_panel['treated'] = ifrs_panel['ifrs_adoption_year'].notna().astype(int)

# Simple DiD
ifrs_panel = ifrs_panel.set_index(['ticker', 'fiscal_year'])
did_model = PanelOLS(
    dependent=ifrs_panel['dq_index'],
    exog=sm.add_constant(ifrs_panel[['post_ifrs']]),
```

```
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type='clustered', cluster_entity=True)

print("DiD: IFRS Adoption and Disclosure Quality:")
print(did_model.summary)
```

> **Identification Concern**
>
> Voluntary IFRS adoption is endogenous because firms that choose to adopt early may already have higher-quality disclosure. The two-way fixed effects DiD absorbs time-invariant firm characteristics and common time trends, but cannot fully address selection on time-varying unobservables. Researchers should consider matching estimators (e.g., propensity score matching on pre-adoption characteristics) or instrumental variable approaches as robustness checks.

42.11 Predicting Late Filings

Can we predict which firms will file late? This is valuable for portfolio construction (avoiding potential bad-news firms) and for regulators (targeting enforcement resources). We use a logistic model with financial and governance predictors:

$$\Pr(\text{Late}_{i,t} = 1) = \Lambda\left(\alpha + \beta' \mathbf{X}_{i,t-1}\right) \tag{42.10}$$

where $\Lambda(\cdot)$ is the logistic function and $\mathbf{X}_{i,t-1}$ are lagged predictors.

```
from sklearn.metrics import roc_auc_score, classification_report
from sklearn.model_selection import cross_val_score
from sklearn.linear_model import LogisticRegression

pred_panel = (
    annual_filings[['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'late_filing']]
    .merge(financials, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
    .merge(governance, on=['ticker', 'fiscal_year'], how='left')
)

# Lagged predictors
pred_panel = pred_panel.sort_values(['ticker', 'fiscal_year'])
for col in ['total_assets', 'net_income', 'operating_cash_flow',
```

```
            'total_equity', 'revenue']:
    pred_panel[f'{col}_lag'] = pred_panel.groupby('ticker')[col].shift(1)

pred_panel['log_size_lag'] = np.log(pred_panel['total_assets_lag'])
pred_panel['roa_lag'] = (
    pred_panel['net_income_lag'] / pred_panel['total_assets_lag']
)
pred_panel['leverage_lag'] = (
    (pred_panel['total_assets_lag'] - pred_panel['total_equity_lag'])
    / pred_panel['total_assets_lag']
)
pred_panel['cfo_ratio_lag'] = (
    pred_panel['operating_cash_flow_lag'] / pred_panel['total_assets_lag']
)

# Previous late filing indicator
pred_panel['prev_late'] = (
    pred_panel.groupby('ticker')['late_filing'].shift(1)
)

features = [
    'log_size_lag', 'roa_lag', 'leverage_lag', 'cfo_ratio_lag',
    'state_ownership_pct', 'foreign_ownership_pct',
    'big4_auditor', 'board_independence_pct', 'prev_late'
]

clean = pred_panel.dropna(subset=features + ['late_filing'])
X = clean[features]
y = clean['late_filing']

# Standardize
scaler = StandardScaler()
X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X)

# Logistic regression with cross-validation
lr = LogisticRegression(max_iter=1000, penalty='l2', C=1.0)
cv_scores = cross_val_score(lr, X_scaled, y, cv=5, scoring='roc_auc')

print(f"5-Fold Cross-Validated AUC: {cv_scores.mean():.3f} ± {cv_scores.std():.3f}")

# Fit on full sample for coefficient interpretation
lr.fit(X_scaled, y)
```

```
coef_df = pd.DataFrame({
    'Feature': features,
    'Coefficient': lr.coef_[0],
    'Odds Ratio': np.exp(lr.coef_[0])
}).sort_values('Coefficient', ascending=False)

print("\nLogistic Regression Coefficients:")
print(coef_df.to_string(index=False))
```

```
from sklearn.metrics import roc_curve, auc

lr.fit(X_scaled, y)
y_prob = lr.predict_proba(X_scaled)[:, 1]
fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(y, y_prob)
roc_auc = auc(fpr, tpr)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(7, 7))
ax.plot(fpr, tpr, color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2,
        label=f'Logistic Model (AUC = {roc_auc:.3f})')
ax.plot([0, 1], [0, 1], color='gray', linestyle='--', linewidth=1)
ax.set_xlabel('False Positive Rate')
ax.set_ylabel('True Positive Rate')
ax.set_title('Late Filing Prediction: ROC Curve')
ax.legend(loc='lower right')
ax.set_aspect('equal')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 42.8

42.12 Summary

This chapter has examined corporate disclosure quality and timing in Vietnam along several dimensions. The key findings and methodological contributions are in Table 42.3

Table 42.3: Summary of findings by theme.

Theme	Key Result	Reference
Good news early	Early filers earn positive CARs around filing dates	Givoly and Palmon (1982)
Textual quality	Forward-looking density and numerical specificity vary substantially	Li (2008)
Composite DQ index	Foreign ownership and Big 4 auditors are strongest determinants	Botosan (1997)
Cost of capital	Higher DQ is associated with lower implied cost of equity	Diamond and Verrecchia (1991)
Liquidity	Higher DQ firms have lower Amihud illiquidity	Lang, Lins, and Maffett (2012)
Investment efficiency	Higher DQ reduces absolute investment residuals	Biddle, Hilary, and Verdi (2009)
Strategic timing	Evidence of bad-news clustering on high-congestion days	Hirshleifer, Lim, and Teoh (2009)
IFRS adoption	Preliminary evidence of DQ improvement post-adoption	Barth, Landsman, and Lang (2008)

The Vietnamese disclosure environment is shaped by a combination of regulatory mandates (Circular 155, Securities Law 2019), enforcement capacity (SSC penalties and trading suspensions), and firm-level incentives (ownership structure, auditor choice, governance quality). As Vietnam continues its IFRS convergence and capital market development, the information environment is expected to evolve, creating opportunities for researchers to study the dynamics of disclosure quality in a rapidly changing institutional setting.

43 Standardized Earnings Surprises (SUE)

In the context of the Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE) and the Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX), earnings announcements represent critical information events. Investors and quantitative analysts continuously monitor the deviation between reported earnings and market expectations. This deviation is quantified as the Standardized Earnings Surprise (SUE).

This chapter details the methodology for calculating SUE using three distinct approaches frequently utilized in academic literature and institutional research. We apply these methods to a dataset of Vietnamese large-cap equities to illustrate the mechanics of the calculation. The goal is to isolate the "surprise" component of earnings, which is a known predictor of post-earnings announcement drift (PEAD) (Bernard and Thomas 1989; Livnat and Mendenhall 2006).

43.1 Methodology

We define three primary methods for calculating SUE. Each method differs in how it establishes the "expected" earnings value.

43.1.1 Method 1: Seasonal Random Walk

This method assumes that earnings follow a seasonal pattern. The best predictor for the current quarter's earnings per share (EPS) is the EPS from the same quarter in the previous year. This controls for the seasonality often seen in Vietnamese sectors like retail and agriculture.

$$SUE_1 = \frac{EPS_t - EPS_{t-4}}{P_t}$$

Where:

- EPS_t is the current quarterly Earnings Per Share.
- EPS_{t-4} is the Earnings Per Share from the same quarter of the prior fiscal year.
- P_t is the stock price at the end of the quarter (used as a deflator).

43.1.2 Method 2: Exclusion of Special Items

Reported earnings often contain non-recurring items (e.g., asset sales, one-time write-offs) that distort the true operating performance. This method adjusts the reported EPS by removing the after-tax impact of special items.

In Vietnam, the standard Corporate Income Tax (CIT) rate is generally 20%. We adjust special items to reflect their impact on net income.

$$Adjusted\ EPS = Reported\ EPS - \frac{Special\ Items \times (1 - CIT)}{Shares\ Outstanding}$$

The SUE calculation then follows the seasonal logic but uses the adjusted EPS figures:

$$SUE_2 = \frac{Adj\ EPS_t - Adj\ EPS_{t-4}}{P_t}$$

43.1.3 Method 3: Analyst Consensus

This method relies on market consensus rather than historical time series. It compares the actual reported earnings against the median analyst forecast provided prior to the announcement.

$$SUE_3 = \frac{Actual\ EPS - Median\ Estimate}{P_t}$$

43.2 Data Description

For this analysis, we utilize a dataset covering the fiscal years 2023 through 2025. The data includes quarterly financial statements and analyst consensus estimates for a selection of VN30 index constituents.

The dataset, `vietnam_fin_data.csv`, contains the following columns:

- **ticker**: Stock symbol (e.g., VNM, VCB, HPG).
- **fiscal_year**: The financial year.
- **fiscal_qtr**: The financial quarter (1-4).
- **eps_basic**: Basic Earnings Per Share (VND).
- **price_close**: Closing price at quarter end (VND).
- **special_items**: Pre-tax special items value (VND millions). (i.e., `is_other_profit` in DataCore).

- **shares_out**: Shares outstanding (millions).
- **analyst_med**: Median analyst EPS estimate (VND).

43.2.1 Visualizing the Core Data

Below is a tabular representation of the raw data we have ingested for the analysis.

ticker	fiscal_year	fiscal_qtr	eps_basic	price_close	special_items	shares_out	analyst_med
VNM	2023	1	1200	68000	0	2090	1150
VNM	2023	2	1350	71000	50000	2090	1300
VNM	2023	3	1400	74000	0	2090	1450
VNM	2023	4	1100	69000	-20000	2090	1150
VNM	2024	1	1300	72000	0	2090	1250
VNM	2024	2	1500	75000	0	2090	1400
VCB	2023	1	1800	85000	10000	5500	1700
VCB	2024	1	2100	92000	0	5500	2000

43.3 Implementation

43.3.1 Python Setup and Data Loading

First, we establish our environment and load the dataset. We ensure the data is sorted by ticker and time to allow for accurate lag calculations.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

# Creating the dataset directly for this chapter's demonstration
data = {
    'ticker': ['VNM']*8 + ['VCB']*8 + ['HPG']*8,
    'fiscal_year': [2023, 2023, 2023, 2023, 2024, 2024, 2024, 2024] * 3,
    'fiscal_qtr': [1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4] * 3,
    'eps_basic': [
        1200, 1350, 1400, 1100, 1300, 1500, 1450, 1250, # VNM
        1800, 1900, 2000, 2200, 2100, 2300, 2400, 2600, # VCB
        500, 600, 550, 400, 700, 800, 750, 600          # HPG
    ],
```

```
    'price_close': [
        68000, 71000, 74000, 69000, 72000, 75000, 73000, 70000, # VNM
        85000, 88000, 90000, 95000, 92000, 96000, 98000, 102000, # VCB
        20000, 22000, 21000, 19000, 25000, 28000, 27000, 24000 # HPG
    ],
    'special_items': [
        0, 50000, 0, -20000, 0, 0, 10000, 0, # VNM (VND Millions)
        10000, 0, 0, 50000, 0, 20000, 0, 0, # VCB
        0, 0, -50000, 0, 100000, 0, 0, 0 # HPG
    ],
    'shares_out': [2090]*8 + [5580]*8 + [5810]*8, # In Millions
    'analyst_med': [
        1150, 1300, 1450, 1150, 1250, 1400, 1480, 1200, # VNM
        1700, 1850, 1950, 2150, 2000, 2250, 2450, 2550, # VCB
        450, 550, 600, 450, 650, 750, 800, 650 # HPG
    ]
}

df = pd.DataFrame(data)

# Sort strictly to ensure shift operations work on correct temporal sequence
df = df.sort_values(by=['ticker', 'fiscal_year', 'fiscal_qtr'])
print(df.head())
```

```
   ticker  fiscal_year  fiscal_qtr  eps_basic  price_close  special_items  \
16    HPG         2023           1        500        20000              0
17    HPG         2023           2        600        22000              0
18    HPG         2023           3        550        21000         -50000
19    HPG         2023           4        400        19000              0
20    HPG         2024           1        700        25000         100000

    shares_out  analyst_med
16        5810          450
17        5810          550
18        5810          600
19        5810          450
20        5810          650
```

43.3.2 Calculation Logic

We now apply the functions to calculate the three variations of SUE.

Step 1: Handling Seasonality (Lags)

For Methods 1 and 2, we require the data from the same quarter of the previous year (lag 4).

```
# Group by ticker to ensure we don't shift data between companies
df['eps_lag4'] = df.groupby('ticker')['eps_basic'].shift(4)
```

Step 2: Adjusting for Special Items

For Method 2, we must strip out non-recurring items. We apply the Vietnamese Corporate Income Tax (CIT) rate of 20%.

The formula for the adjustment per share is:

$$\text{Adjustment} = \frac{\text{Special Items} \times (1 - 0.20)}{\text{Shares Outstanding}}$$

```
# Constants
CIT_RATE_VN = 0.20

# Calculate impact per share
# Note: special_items are in millions, shares_out are in millions
# The units cancel out, leaving the result in VND per share.
df['spi_impact_per_share'] = (df['special_items'] * (1 - CIT_RATE_VN)) / df['shares_out']

# Calculate Adjusted EPS
df['eps_adjusted'] = df['eps_basic'] - df['spi_impact_per_share']

# Create lag for Adjusted EPS
df['eps_adj_lag4'] = df.groupby('ticker')['eps_adjusted'].shift(4)
```

Step 3: Computing SUE Variants

We finalize the calculation by computing the difference between actual (or adjusted) and expected values, deflated by the stock price.

```
# Method 1: Seasonal Random Walk (Standard EPS)
df['sue_1'] = (df['eps_basic'] - df['eps_lag4']) / df['price_close']

# Method 2: Seasonal Random Walk (Excluding Special Items)
df['sue_2'] = (df['eps_adjusted'] - df['eps_adj_lag4']) / df['price_close']

# Method 3: Analyst Forecasts (IBES Equivalent)
df['sue_3'] = (df['eps_basic'] - df['analyst_med']) / df['price_close']
```

```
# Scaling for readability (converting to percentage)
df['sue_1_pct'] = df['sue_1'] * 100
df['sue_2_pct'] = df['sue_2'] * 100
df['sue_3_pct'] = df['sue_3'] * 100
```

43.4 Results and Analysis

We present the calculated standardized earnings surprises for the fiscal year 2024. Positive values indicate a positive surprise (beating expectations), while negative values indicate a miss.

43.4.1 Tabular Results (FY 2024)

```
# Filter for 2024 results where lag data exists
results_2024 = df[df['fiscal_year'] == 2024][['ticker', 'fiscal_qtr', 'sue_1_pct', 'sue_2_pct

# Display formatted table
from IPython.display import display, Markdown
markdown_table = results_2024.to_markdown(index=False, floatfmt=".4f")
display(Markdown(markdown_table))
```

ticker	fiscal_qtr	sue_1_pct	sue_2_pct	sue_3_pct
HPG	1	0.8000	0.7449	0.2000
HPG	2	0.7143	0.7143	0.1786
HPG	3	0.7407	0.7152	-0.1852
HPG	4	0.8333	0.8333	-0.2083
VCB	1	0.3261	0.3276	0.1087
VCB	2	0.4167	0.4137	0.0521
VCB	3	0.4082	0.4082	-0.0510
VCB	4	0.3922	0.3992	0.0490
VNM	1	0.1389	0.1389	0.0694
VNM	2	0.2000	0.2255	0.1333
VNM	3	0.0685	0.0632	-0.0411
VNM	4	0.2143	0.2033	0.0714

43.4.2 Visualization

The following figure plots the Analyst-based SUE (Method 3) for the selected tickers over the 2024 fiscal year.

```
pivot_sue = results_2024.pivot(index='fiscal_qtr', columns='ticker', values='sue_3_pct')

plt.figure(figsize=(10, 6))
for column in pivot_sue.columns:
    plt.plot(pivot_sue.index, pivot_sue[column], marker='o', label=column)

plt.title('Method 3: Analyst Based SUE (FY 2024)')
plt.xlabel('Fiscal Quarter')
plt.ylabel('SUE (%)')
plt.axhline(0, color='black', linestyle='--', linewidth=0.8)
plt.legend(title='Ticker')
plt.grid(True, linestyle=':', alpha=0.6)
plt.xticks([1, 2, 3, 4])
plt.show()
```

Figure 43.1

43.5 Conclusion

In this chapter, we have formalized the calculation of Standardized Earnings Surprises for the Vietnamese market. By implementing three distinct methods using Python, we demonstrated that relying solely on raw EPS growth (Method 1) can be misleading in the presence of non-recurring items. Furthermore, analyst-based surprises (Method 3) often provide a cleaner signal of new information reaching the market.

For robust quantitative modeling in Vietnam, we recommend using Method 2 when analyst data is sparse (common in small-cap stocks) and Method 3 for VN30 constituents where analyst coverage is deep and liquid.

44 Measuring Divergence of Investor Opinion

A foundational question in financial economics concerns how differences in investor beliefs affect asset prices and trading activity. In markets where investors hold heterogeneous expectations about a firm's future cash flows, the aggregation of these divergent views into a single market price becomes a non-trivial exercise with profound implications for asset valuation, return predictability, and market efficiency. The concept of **divergence of investor opinion** (hereafter DIVOP) has emerged as a central construct in both the accounting and finance literatures, serving as a lens through which researchers examine the information environment of firms, the dynamics of uncertainty resolution, and the nature of market reactions to news.

The theoretical foundations of the DIVOP literature trace back to E. M. Miller (1977), who proposed that when investors disagree about the value of a security and short-sale constraints prevent pessimistic investors from fully expressing their views, the market price will reflect the valuation of the most optimistic investors. This leads to systematic overpricing that is increasing in the degree of opinion divergence. The overpricing persists until information events, such as earnings announcements, reduce disagreement and prices converge toward fundamental values (Berkman et al. 2009). Varian (1985) offers an alternative perspective in which divergence of opinion represents an additional risk factor, leading to *higher* rather than lower expected returns, creating a theoretical tension that has motivated extensive empirical investigation.

The empirical literature on DIVOP has expanded considerably since these seminal contributions. Researchers have documented that divergence of opinion helps explain a range of asset pricing anomalies, including post-earnings announcement drift (Garfinkel and Sokobin 2006; K. L. Anderson, Harris, and So 2007), the cross-sectional return difference between value and growth stocks (Doukas, Kim, and Pantzalis 2004), short- and long-run post-IPO returns (Houge et al. 2001), pre- and post-acquisition stock returns (Alexandridis, Antoniou, and Petmezas 2007), takeover premia (Chatterjee, John, and Yan 2012), and the broad cross-section of stock returns (Diether, Malloy, and Scherbina 2002; Doukas, Kim, and Pantzalis 2006). The explanatory power of DIVOP has been demonstrated using a rich set of empirical proxies, ranging from analyst forecast dispersion and abnormal trading volume to bid-ask spreads and idiosyncratic volatility.

Despite the maturity of the DIVOP literature in developed markets, particularly the United States, its application to emerging markets remains remarkably thin. This gap is especially notable given that the theoretical conditions under which divergence of opinion matters most (namely, binding short-sale constraints, information asymmetry, and heterogeneous investor sophistication) are arguably *more* prevalent in emerging markets than in their developed

counterparts. The Vietnamese equity market presents a compelling laboratory for studying investor disagreement. The market is characterized by several features that amplify the relevance of the DIVOP framework:

1. **Binding short-sale constraints.** Short selling was not permitted in Vietnam until January 2025, and even after its introduction, the mechanism remains restricted to a limited set of securities with significant regulatory constraints on execution. This closely mirrors the theoretical setting of E. M. Miller (1977), where pessimistic investors are unable to fully express their views through short positions.

2. **Dominance of retail investors.** Individual investors account for approximately 80-85% of daily trading volume on HOSE and HNX, compared to roughly 25% in the United States. Retail investors are more susceptible to behavioral biases, sentiment-driven trading, and information processing limitations that naturally give rise to heterogeneous beliefs (Phan et al. 2023).

3. **Information asymmetry and transparency challenges.** Despite improvements in disclosure standards, Vietnam's regulatory framework for corporate reporting remains less stringent than those in developed markets. Selective disclosure, delayed filing of financial statements, and limited enforcement of insider trading regulations create an environment in which investors operate with substantially different information sets (X. V. Vo and Phan 2017).

4. **Foreign ownership limits.** Caps on foreign ownership (currently 49% for most sectors, with exceptions) create a segmented market where domestic and foreign investors may hold systematically different views about firm value, amplifying the divergence of opinion.

5. **Thin analyst coverage.** Whereas a typical S&P 500 firm is followed by 15-25 sell-side analysts, coverage of Vietnamese equities is concentrated among a relatively small number of domestic brokerages and a handful of international research houses. This limits the informativeness of traditional analyst-based DIVOP measures and necessitates greater reliance on market-based proxies.

This chapter provides a methodology for constructing multiple proxies for divergence of investor opinion adapted to the institutional characteristics of the Vietnamese market. We draw on the methodological frameworks established by Garfinkel (2009) and Diether, Malloy, and Scherbina (2002), while introducing modifications that account for the microstructure of Vietnamese exchanges, the $T + 2$ settlement cycle, the absence (until recently) of short selling, and the availability of data through domestic financial platforms. Specifically, we construct and analyze the following DIVOP proxies:

- **Unexplained Volume (DTO):** Market-adjusted turnover detrended by its rolling median, capturing abnormal trading activity attributable to disagreement after controlling for liquidity and market-wide effects.

- **Standardized Unexplained Volume (SUV):** A regression-based measure that explicitly controls for the informedness and liquidity components of volume by modeling turnover as a function of signed returns.
- **Stock Return Volatility (VOLATILITY):** The standard deviation of daily returns over a rolling estimation window, serving as a proxy for the dispersion of investor valuations.
- **Bid-Ask Spread (BASPREAD):** The proportional quoted spread, reflecting the adverse selection component associated with heterogeneous information among market participants.
- **Analyst Forecast Dispersion (DISP):** The cross-sectional standard deviation of individual analyst earnings forecasts, directly measuring disagreement among informed market participants.
- **Idiosyncratic Volatility (IVOL):** The residual volatility from a factor model regression, isolating the firm-specific component of return variation that reflects divergent investor interpretations of firm-level information.
- **Amihud Illiquidity (ILLIQ):** The price impact ratio proposed by Amihud (2002), which captures the information asymmetry dimension of disagreement through the price response to order flow.

For each proxy, we describe the theoretical motivation, the data requirements, the construction methodology adapted for Vietnamese data, the empirical properties observed in the Vietnamese cross-section, and the practical considerations that researchers should bear in mind when employing these measures. We pay particular attention to issues that are specific to emerging markets, including thin trading, corporate action adjustments, exchange-specific microstructure effects, and the interplay between foreign ownership constraints and measures of investor disagreement.

---

45 Theoretical Framework

45.1 The Miller (1977) Overpricing Hypothesis

The canonical model of divergence of opinion and asset pricing begins with E. M. Miller (1977). Miller's central insight is simple: in a market where investors hold heterogeneous beliefs about the future payoffs of a risky asset and short-sale constraints prevent some investors from acting on their pessimistic views, the equilibrium price will be set by the subset of investors who are most optimistic about the asset's value. The severity of overpricing is increasing in both the degree of opinion divergence and the stringency of short-sale constraints. Formally, if investor i assigns a valuation V_i to a security, the market price P satisfies:

$$P = E[V_i \mid V_i \geq V^*]$$

where V^* is the marginal investor's valuation, which exceeds the unconditional mean valuation $E[V_i]$ whenever short-sale constraints bind for some investors. The degree of overpricing is:

$$\text{Overpricing} = P - E[V_i] = E[V_i \mid V_i \geq V^*] - E[V_i]$$

which is positive and increasing in the dispersion of the distribution of V_i (i.e., divergence of opinion) and in V^* (i.e., the severity of short-sale constraints).

Miller's model generates several testable predictions:

- **Cross-sectional prediction:** Stocks with **higher divergence of opinion should have *lower* subsequent returns** as prices gradually correct toward fundamental values.
- **Time-series prediction:** Information events that reduce disagreement (e.g., earnings announcements) should be associated with negative abnormal returns for high-DIVOP stocks, as the "optimism premium" dissipates.
- **Interaction prediction:** The overpricing effect should be strongest among stocks that simultaneously exhibit high divergence of opinion *and* binding short-sale constraints.

45.2 Alternative Theoretical Perspectives

Varian (1985) proposes an alternative framework in which divergence of opinion acts as a risk factor. If investors are risk-averse and disagreement represents genuine uncertainty about future payoffs, then **higher dispersion of beliefs should be associated with *higher* expected returns** as compensation for bearing the additional risk. This creates a sharp empirical dichotomy: the Miller hypothesis predicts a negative DIVOP-return relation, whereas the Varian model predicts a positive relation.

The distinction between these theories hinges critically on the market microstructure and institutional setting (@tbl-divop-theories).

Table 45.1: Summary of theoretical predictions for the DIVOP-return relation under different assumptions

Theoretical Framework	Short-Sale Constraints	DIVOP-Return Relation	Key Mechanism
E. M. Miller (1977)	Binding	Negative	Optimistic bias in price
Varian (1985)	Non-binding	Positive	Risk premium for uncertainty
Hong and Stein (2003)	Binding, gradual info	Negative, time-varying	Slow diffusion of bearish views
Scheinkman and Xiong (2003)	Binding, overconfidence	Negative	Speculative bubble premium

Hong and Stein (2003) extend Miller's framework by incorporating gradual information diffusion. In their model, bearish information is impounded into prices more slowly than bullish information because short-sale constraints raise the cost of acting on negative views. This generates momentum-like patterns in which high-DIVOP stocks exhibit positive short-run returns (as optimists push prices up) followed by negative long-run returns (as bearish information eventually reaches the market).

Scheinkman and Xiong (2003) introduce an additional dimension by noting that when investors are overconfident about their private signals *and* short-sale constraints bind, stock prices contain a "speculative bubble" component that reflects the option value of reselling the asset to a future investor who may be even more optimistic. This model predicts that both high trading volume and high price volatility should be associated with overpricing, providing a theoretical basis for using volume-based and volatility-based DIVOP proxies.

45.3 Relevance to the Vietnamese Market

The Vietnamese equity market provides an unusually clean setting for testing the Miller hypothesis. Vietnam's equity market operated without any short-selling mechanism from its inception in 2000 through January 2025, which was a full quarter-century in which the first necessary condition of Miller's model (binding short-sale constraints) was satisfied by regulation rather than by market frictions. Even after the introduction of covered short selling in 2025, the mechanism remains restricted to securities meeting specific liquidity and market capitalization thresholds, and the regulatory environment imposes borrowing requirements that significantly raise the cost of shorting relative to developed markets.

The dominance of retail investors amplifies the second necessary condition (i.e., heterogeneous beliefs). Research on the Vietnamese market has documented significant herding behavior (X. V. Vo and Phan 2017; X. V. Vo 2015), sentiment-driven trading (Phan et al. 2023; D. D. Nguyen and Pham 2018), and information asymmetry between domestic and foreign investors (X. V. Vo 2017). These behavioral characteristics naturally generate wider dispersion of investor valuations compared to markets dominated by institutional investors with access to similar analytical frameworks and information sources.

Table 45.2 compares key institutional features relevant to the DIVOP framework between Vietnam and the United States.

Table 45.2: Institutional comparison of Vietnam and the United States relevant to divergence of opinion

Feature	Vietnam (HOSE/HNX)	United States (NYSE/NASDAQ)
Short selling	Introduced Jan 2025 (limited)	Permitted (Reg SHO since 2005)
Retail investor share of volume	~80-85%	~25%
Settlement cycle	T+2 (T+1 planned for 2026)	T+1 (since May 2024)
Daily price limits	± 7% (HOSE), ± 10% (HNX)	None
Foreign ownership cap	49% (most sectors)	None
Average analyst coverage (VN30)	5-10 analysts	15-25 analysts
Mandatory quarterly reporting	Yes (since 2012)	Yes
Options/derivatives market	VN30 Index Futures (since 2017)	Extensive options/futures

The presence of daily price limits (± 7% on HOSE and ± 10% on HNX) creates an additional mechanism through which divergence of opinion can be amplified. When a stock hits its price

limit, investors who wish to trade in the direction of the limit are unable to do so, leading to accumulated unfilled orders and delayed price discovery. This institutional feature may create short-term spikes in measured DIVOP that reflect limit-induced friction rather than genuine disagreement. We address this issue in our empirical methodology by flagging limit-hit days and conducting robustness checks that exclude these observations.

46 Data Sources and Sample Construction

46.1 Data Sources

The construction of DIVOP proxies for the Vietnamese market requires daily stock-level trading data and, for the analyst dispersion measures, individual analyst forecast data. We source all data from DataCore.vn, which provides coverage of all securities listed on HOSE, HNX, and the UPCoM (Unlisted Public Company Market) exchange. Table 46.1 summarizes the datasets and key variables used in this study.

Table 46.1: Data sources and key variables for DIVOP proxy construction

Dataset	Key Variables	Frequency
Daily Stock Trading	Close price, high, low, open, volume, shares outstanding, adjusted price, bid, ask	Daily
Corporate Actions	Dividends, stock splits, bonus issues, rights offerings	Event-based
Company Information	Exchange code, industry classification (ICB), listing date, delisting date	Static/Periodic
Analyst Forecasts	Individual analyst EPS forecasts, announcement dates, fiscal period end, analyst ID, broker name	Per estimate
Market Index	VN-Index daily returns, VN30 returns, HNX-Index returns	Daily
Foreign Ownership	Foreign buy/sell volume, foreign ownership percentage, remaining foreign room	Daily

46.2 Sample Construction

We construct our sample using the following filters, applied sequentially:

```python
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression
from scipy import stats as scipy_stats
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.dates as mdates
import seaborn as sns
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

# ==============================================================================
# Configuration Parameters
# ==============================================================================
# Users can modify these parameters to adjust the methodology
CONFIG = {
    # Sample period
    'beg_date': '2007-01-01',
    'end_date': '2024-12-31',

    # Estimation windows (in trading days)
    'est_window': 60,          # Rolling window for SUV and volatility
    'detrend_window': 180,     # Window for DTO detrending median
    'lag': 7,                  # Lag for DTO detrending
    'gap': 5,                  # Gap between estimation period and event date

    # Filters
    'min_price': 1000,         # Minimum price in VND
    'min_volume_days': 0.8,    # Min fraction of non-zero volume days in window
    'min_analysts': 3,         # Minimum number of analysts for DISP
    'max_spread_pct': 0.50,    # Maximum bid-ask spread as fraction of midpoint
    'forecast_carry_days': 105,# Days to carry forward stale analyst forecasts

    # Exchange identifiers
    'exchanges': ['HOSE', 'HNX'],

    # Price limit thresholds (for flagging)
    'price_limit_hose': 0.07,
    'price_limit_hnx': 0.10,
}

print("Configuration parameters loaded successfully.")
```

```python
print(f"Sample period: {CONFIG['beg_date']} to {CONFIG['end_date']}")
print(f"Estimation window: {CONFIG['est_window']} trading days")
print(f"Detrending window: {CONFIG['detrend_window']} trading days")
```

```
Configuration parameters loaded successfully.
Sample period: 2007-01-01 to 2024-12-31
Estimation window: 60 trading days
Detrending window: 180 trading days
```

The sample universe includes all common stocks (ordinary shares) listed on HOSE and HNX during the period January 2007 through December 2024. We begin in 2007 rather than at market inception (2000 for HOSE, 2005 for HNX) for two reasons. First, the early years of the Vietnamese market were characterized by an extremely small number of listed firms (fewer than 30 on HOSE through 2005), making cross-sectional analysis unreliable. Second, data quality and consistency improve substantially after the market expansion of 2006-2007, during which the number of listed firms on HOSE grew from approximately 40 to over 100.

We apply the following filters to construct the analysis sample:

1. **Security type filter.** We retain only common stocks (ordinary shares), excluding preferred shares, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), covered warrants, and certificates of deposit. This is analogous to the standard filter in the U.S. literature that restricts to CRSP share codes 10 and 11.

2. **Exchange filter.** We include stocks listed on HOSE and HNX but exclude UPCoM securities in our baseline analysis. UPCoM is a registration-based trading venue with less stringent listing requirements and substantially lower liquidity, which may introduce noise into volume-based and spread-based measures. We include UPCoM in robustness checks.

3. **Price filter.** We exclude stock-day observations with closing prices below 1,000 VND. This threshold serves the same purpose as the "penny stock" exclusion common in U.S. studies (typically $1 or $5 thresholds) and helps mitigate the influence of extreme percentage returns and spreads at very low price levels.

4. **Minimum trading activity.** For volume-based measures, we require that a stock has non-zero trading volume on at least 80% of trading days within each estimation window. This filter eliminates the most thinly traded securities for which turnover-based measures would be unreliable.

```python
def load_daily_data(config):
    """
    Load daily stock trading data from DataCore.vn.

    In practice, this function connects to the DataCore API or reads
    from a local database/CSV. Here we document the expected schema.

    Expected columns:
    - ticker: str, stock ticker symbol (e.g., 'VCB', 'HPG', 'VNM')
    - date: datetime, trading date
    - open, high, low, close: float, daily OHLC prices (VND)
    - volume: int, trading volume (shares)
    - shares_outstanding: int, total shares outstanding
    - adjusted_close: float, price adjusted for corporate actions
    - adj_factor: float, cumulative adjustment factor
    - bid, ask: float, best bid/ask at close
    - exchange: str, exchange code ('HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCOM')
    - industry_icb: str, ICB industry classification code
    - foreign_buy_vol, foreign_sell_vol: int, foreign investor volumes
    - foreign_ownership_pct: float, foreign ownership percentage
    """
    # ==========================================================================
    # Replace with actual DataCore API call:
    # from datacore import Client
    # client = Client(api_key='YOUR_KEY')
    # df = client.daily_stock(
    #     start=config['beg_date'], end=config['end_date'],
    #     exchanges=config['exchanges']
    # )
    # ==========================================================================
    print("Connect to DataCore.vn and load daily stock data.")
    print("Expected schema: ticker, date, open, high, low, close, volume,")
    print("  shares_outstanding, adjusted_close, adj_factor, bid, ask,")
    print("  exchange, industry_icb, foreign_buy_vol, foreign_sell_vol,")
    print("  foreign_ownership_pct")
    return None  # Replace with actual data


def apply_sample_filters(df, config):
    """Apply sequential sample construction filters."""
    print("\n=== Sample Construction ===")
    n0 = len(df)
```

```
    # Date filter
    df = df[(df['date'] >= config['beg_date']) &
            (df['date'] <= config['end_date'])].copy()
    print(f"[1] Date filter: {len(df):,} obs (from {n0:,})")

    # Exchange filter
    df = df[df['exchange'].isin(config['exchanges'])].copy()
    print(f"[2] Exchange filter ({config['exchanges']}): {len(df):,} obs")

    # Price filter
    df = df[df['close'] >= config['min_price']].copy()
    print(f"[3] Price >= {config['min_price']:,} VND: {len(df):,} obs")

    # Compute daily return from adjusted prices
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])
    df['ret'] = df.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close'].pct_change()

    # Flag price limit hits
    df['limit_hit'] = (
        ((df['exchange'] == 'HOSE') &
         (df['ret'].abs() >= config['price_limit_hose'] - 0.001)) |
        ((df['exchange'] == 'HNX') &
         (df['ret'].abs() >= config['price_limit_hnx'] - 0.001))
    )

    n_tickers = df['ticker'].nunique()
    print(f"\nFinal sample: {len(df):,} stock-day obs, "
          f"{n_tickers} unique tickers")
    print(f"Limit-hit days: {df['limit_hit'].sum():,} "
          f"({100*df['limit_hit'].mean():.2f}%)")
    return df
```

46.3 Corporate Action Adjustments

Proper adjustment for corporate actions is critical for volume-based DIVOP measures, as events such as stock splits, bonus share issues, and rights offerings change the number of shares outstanding and can create artificial spikes in measured turnover. We need to use cumulative adjustment factors that account for stock dividends (bonus shares), stock splits, rights offerings, and cash dividends (price adjustment only). We use these to construct adjusted volume and adjusted shares outstanding:

$$\text{AdjVolume}_{i,t} = \text{Volume}_{i,t} \times \text{CumAdjFactor}_{i,t}$$

$$\text{AdjSharesOut}_{i,t} = \text{SharesOut}_{i,t} \times \text{CumAdjFactor}_{i,t}$$

This ensures that the turnover ratio is consistent across corporate action events.

```
def adjust_for_corporate_actions(df):
    """Apply cumulative adjustment factors to volume and shares outstanding."""
    df = df.copy()
    df['adj_volume'] = df['volume'] * df['adj_factor']
    df['adj_shares_out'] = df['shares_outstanding'] * df['adj_factor']

    # Daily turnover ratio
    df['turnover'] = np.where(
        df['adj_shares_out'] > 0,
        df['adj_volume'] / df['adj_shares_out'],
        np.nan
    )

    # Flag extreme turnover (> 50% of float)
    extreme = df['turnover'] > 0.50
    if extreme.any():
        print(f"Warning: {extreme.sum()} obs with turnover > 50%, set to NaN")
        df.loc[extreme, 'turnover'] = np.nan

    return df
```

46.4 Trading Calendar Construction

The rolling regression approach for SUV and volatility requires a trading calendar that ensures each estimation window contains exactly the specified number of trading days. We construct this directly from observed trading dates.

```
def build_trading_calendar(df, config):
    """
    Map each trading date to its estimation window [est_start, est_end].

    For date t, the estimation window runs from
    t - gap - est_window to t - gap - 1 (in trading-day terms).
```

```
    """
    trading_dates = sorted(df['date'].unique())
    trading_dates = pd.Series(trading_dates)

    est_window = config['est_window']
    gap = config['gap']
    offset = est_window + gap

    records = []
    for i in range(offset, len(trading_dates)):
        records.append({
            'date': trading_dates.iloc[i],
            'est_start': trading_dates.iloc[i - gap - est_window],
            'est_end': trading_dates.iloc[i - gap - 1]
        })

    calendar = pd.DataFrame(records)
    print(f"Trading calendar: {len(calendar)} dates, "
          f"{calendar['date'].min()} to {calendar['date'].max()}")
    return calendar
```

47 Volume-Based DIVOP Proxies

47.1 Theoretical Motivation

Trading volume has long been recognized as a natural proxy for divergence of investor opinion. In the rational expectations framework of Milgrom and Stokey (1982), trade occurs only when investors disagree about the value of a security (i.e., a "no-trade theorem" that implies, by contrapositive, that observed trading volume must reflect some form of heterogeneous beliefs). Harris and Raviv (1993) and Kandel and Pearson (1995) formalize this intuition, showing that trading volume is positively related to the dispersion of investors' prior beliefs and to the degree to which public information is differentially interpreted.

The challenge in using raw trading volume as a DIVOP proxy is that volume is also driven by factors unrelated to disagreement, including portfolio rebalancing, liquidity needs, tax-loss selling, and index reconstitution effects. Garfinkel (2009) proposes two approaches to extract the disagreement component from raw volume. The first, **Unexplained Volume (DTO)**, removes market-wide volume effects and secular trends. The second, **Standardized Unexplained Volume (SUV)**, additionally controls for the information content of returns through a cross-sectional regression, isolating the "pure disagreement" component of trading activity.

47.2 Unexplained Volume (DTO)

47.2.1 Construction Methodology

The construction of the Unexplained Volume measure proceeds in four steps.

Step 1: Compute firm-level daily turnover. For each stock i on day t:

$$\text{Turn}_{i,t} = \frac{\text{AdjVolume}_{i,t}}{\text{AdjSharesOut}_{i,t}}$$

Step 2: Compute market-wide turnover. We calculate aggregate turnover across all common stocks as a value-weighted average:

$$\text{MktTurn}_t = \frac{\sum_i \text{AdjVolume}_{i,t}}{\sum_i \text{AdjSharesOut}_{i,t}}$$

Unlike the U.S. methodology that computes market turnover across NYSE/AMEX stocks only and applies a scaling adjustment for NASDAQ securities (following A.-M. Anderson and Dyl 2005), we compute market turnover across all HOSE and HNX common stocks without any exchange-specific volume scaling. Both Vietnamese exchanges operate as order-driven markets (HOSE uses continuous order matching; HNX uses a combination of continuous matching and periodic call auctions) without the dealer-market double-counting issue that necessitates the NASDAQ volume adjustment in U.S. studies.

Step 3: Compute market-adjusted turnover.

$$\text{MATO}_{i,t} = \text{Turn}_{i,t} - \text{MktTurn}_t$$

Step 4: Detrend by rolling median. To remove secular trends in firm-specific trading activity:

$$\text{DTO}_{i,t} = \text{MATO}_{i,t} - \text{Median}_{180}(\text{MATO}_{i,t-7})$$

where $\text{Median}_{180}(\text{MATO}_{i,t-7})$ is the median of market-adjusted turnover over the 180-trading-day window ending 7 days before date t. The 7-day lag prevents the current day's turnover from influencing its own detrending baseline.

```
def compute_market_turnover(df):
    """Compute daily market-wide turnover across all stocks."""
    mkt_turn = df.groupby('date').apply(
        lambda x: x['adj_volume'].sum() / x['adj_shares_out'].sum()
        if x['adj_shares_out'].sum() > 0 else np.nan
    ).reset_index()
    mkt_turn.columns = ['date', 'market_turnover']
    return mkt_turn


def compute_dto(df, config):
    """
    Construct Unexplained Volume (DTO).

    Steps:
    1. Subtract market turnover -> MATO
    2. Rolling 180-day median of MATO (lagged 7 days) -> trend
```

```
    3. DTO = MATO - trend
    """
    detrend_window = config['detrend_window']
    lag = config['lag']

    # Market turnover
    mkt_turn = compute_market_turnover(df)
    df = df.merge(mkt_turn, on='date', how='left')

    # Market-adjusted turnover
    df['mato'] = df['turnover'] - df['market_turnover']

    # Rolling median with lag, computed per stock
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

    def _rolling_median_lagged(group):
        mato = group['mato']
        med = mato.rolling(
            window=detrend_window,
            min_periods=int(detrend_window * 0.5)
        ).median()
        return med.shift(lag)

    df['mato_trend'] = (
        df.groupby('ticker', group_keys=False)
          .apply(lambda g: _rolling_median_lagged(g))
    )

    # DTO
    df['dto'] = df['mato'] - df['mato_trend']

    print("DTO construction complete.")
    print(f"  Non-missing: {df['dto'].notna().sum():,}")
    print(f"  Mean: {df['dto'].mean():.6f}, Std: {df['dto'].std():.6f}")
    return df
```

47.2.2 Vietnam-Specific Considerations for DTO

Several features of the Vietnamese market require attention when constructing DTO:

1. **No NASDAQ-type volume adjustment needed.** Both HOSE and HNX are order-driven auction markets. The double-counting adjustment applied to NASDAQ securities

in the U.S. literature is not necessary.

2. **Thinly traded stocks.** A substantial fraction of listed Vietnamese stocks, particularly on HNX, may have zero volume on many trading days. For stocks with intermittent trading, the rolling median may be biased toward zero, making DTO less informative. We require at least 80% non-zero volume days in each estimation window.

3. **Price limit effects on volume.** When a stock hits its daily price limit, unfilled orders accumulate and recorded volume may understate true clearing volume. The following day often shows a "catch-up" effect. Researchers should consider flagging limit-hit days.

4. **Foreign investor trading decomposition.** DataCore provides volume by investor type (foreign versus domestic). Researchers may wish to construct separate DTO measures for foreign and domestic volume, or use the foreign-to-domestic volume ratio as an additional dimension of disagreement.

47.3 Standardized Unexplained Volume (SUV)

47.3.1 Construction Methodology

The Standardized Unexplained Volume measure, proposed by Garfinkel (2009), isolates the disagreement component of volume by explicitly controlling for the information content of returns. The insight is that trading volume has both a **liquidity** component and an **informedness** component correlated with the magnitude and sign of returns. By regressing turnover on signed returns and extracting the standardized residual, SUV captures volume attributable to disagreement after controlling for both liquidity trends and information-driven trading.

For each stock i, on each trading date t, we estimate using data from the estimation window $[\tau_1, \tau_2]$:

$$\text{Turn}_{i,s} = \alpha_i + \beta_i^+ \cdot \text{RetPos}_{i,s} + \beta_i^- \cdot \text{RetNeg}_{i,s} + \epsilon_{i,s}, \quad s \in [\tau_1, \tau_2] \tag{47.1}$$

where $\text{RetPos}_{i,s} = |r_{i,s}| \cdot \mathbf{1}(r_{i,s} > 0)$ and $\text{RetNeg}_{i,s} = |r_{i,s}| \cdot \mathbf{1}(r_{i,s} < 0)$.

The Standardized Unexplained Volume on date t is:

$$\text{SUV}_{i,t} = \frac{\text{Turn}_{i,t} - \widehat{\text{Turn}}_{i,t}}{\hat{\sigma}_{\epsilon,i}} \tag{47.2}$$

where $\widehat{\text{Turn}}_{i,t}$ is the predicted turnover and $\hat{\sigma}_{\epsilon,i}$ is the RMSE from Equation 47.1.

The asymmetric specification with separate coefficients for positive and negative returns reflects that the volume-return relation differs by return sign. In the U.S., buying pressure tends to

generate more volume than selling pressure due to short-sale frictions. In Vietnam, where short selling was unavailable until 2025, this asymmetry should be even more pronounced because all selling activity was constrained to existing shareholders.

```
def compute_suv(df, calendar, config):
    """
    Compute Standardized Unexplained Volume via rolling regressions.

    For each stock-date, regress Turn on RetPos and RetNeg over the
    estimation window, then compute SUV = (actual - predicted) / RMSE.
    """
    est_window = config['est_window']
    min_obs = int(est_window * config['min_volume_days'])

    # Prepare signed return components
    df = df.copy()
    df['ret_pos'] = np.where(df['ret'] > 0, np.abs(df['ret']), 0.0)
    df['ret_neg'] = np.where(
        (df['ret'] < 0) & df['ret'].notna(), np.abs(df['ret']), 0.0
    )

    results = []
    grouped = {t: g for t, g in df.groupby('ticker')}

    for _, cal_row in calendar.iterrows():
        dt = cal_row['date']
        est_s, est_e = cal_row['est_start'], cal_row['est_end']

        for ticker, tdata in grouped.items():
            # Estimation window
            est = tdata[
                (tdata['date'] >= est_s) & (tdata['date'] <= est_e)
            ].dropna(subset=['turnover', 'ret_pos', 'ret_neg'])

            if len(est) < min_obs:
                continue

            # Event date
            evt = tdata[tdata['date'] == dt]
            if evt.empty or evt['turnover'].isna().all():
                continue

            # OLS: Turn = alpha + beta_pos * RetPos + beta_neg * RetNeg
```

```
            X = est[['ret_pos', 'ret_neg']].values
            y = est['turnover'].values

            reg = LinearRegression().fit(X, y)
            y_hat = reg.predict(X)
            rmse = np.sqrt(np.mean((y - y_hat) ** 2))

            if rmse <= 0:
                continue

            # Predict and standardize for event date
            X_evt = evt[['ret_pos', 'ret_neg']].values
            pred = reg.predict(X_evt)[0]
            actual = evt['turnover'].values[0]
            suv = (actual - pred) / rmse

            results.append({
                'ticker': ticker, 'date': dt,
                'suv': suv,
                'predicted_turnover': pred,
                'rmse_turn': rmse,
                'n_est': len(est),
                'alpha_turn': reg.intercept_,
                'beta_pos': reg.coef_[0],
                'beta_neg': reg.coef_[1],
            })

    suv_df = pd.DataFrame(results)
    print(f"SUV: {len(suv_df):,} stock-date obs")
    print(f"  Mean: {suv_df['suv'].mean():.4f}, "
          f"Median: {suv_df['suv'].median():.4f}")
    return suv_df
```

47.3.2 Interpreting the SUV Regression Coefficients

The estimated coefficients from Equation 47.1 are informative about market microstructure. Garfinkel (2009) reports $\hat{\beta}^+ > \hat{\beta}^-$ for most U.S. stocks. In Vietnam, we expect this asymmetry to be even stronger because:

- **No short selling (pre-2025):** All selling is by existing shareholders, limiting volume response to negative returns.

- **T+2 settlement:** Investors cannot immediately reinvest sale proceeds, further dampening sell-side volume.
- **Price limits:** The $\pm$ 7% (HOSE) and $\pm$ 10% (HNX) daily limits truncate the return distribution, compressing the range of both regressors.

Researchers should report summary statistics of $(\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}^+, \hat{\beta}^-, R^2)$ across the cross-section and over time.

```
def suv_diagnostics(suv_df):
    """Report cross-sectional summary of SUV regression parameters."""
    print("\n=== SUV Regression Diagnostics ===")

    params = ['alpha_turn', 'beta_pos', 'beta_neg']
    print(suv_df[params].describe(
        percentiles=[.05, .25, .50, .75, .95]
    ).T.to_string(float_format='{:.6f}'.format))

    # Asymmetry test
    diff = suv_df['beta_pos'] - suv_df['beta_neg']
    print(f"\nbeta_pos - beta_neg: mean = {diff.mean():.6f}, "
          f"frac > 0 = {(diff > 0).mean():.3f}")
```

48 Volatility-Based DIVOP Proxies

48.1 Total Return Volatility

48.1.1 Theoretical Motivation

Stock return volatility serves as a proxy for divergence of opinion through several channels. Shalen (1993) develops a model in which both volume and volatility are increasing in the dispersion of investor beliefs. Scheinkman and Xiong (2003) predict that higher volatility reflects the speculative trading component driven by overconfident investors who disagree about value. Empirically, Boehme, Danielsen, and Sorescu (2006) and Chatterjee, John, and Yan (2012) use idiosyncratic volatility as a DIVOP proxy and find it positively correlated with other disagreement measures and negatively associated with subsequent returns when short-sale constraints bind.

48.1.2 Construction

Total return volatility is the standard deviation of daily returns over the rolling estimation window:

$$\text{VOLATILITY}_{i,t} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N_i - 1} \sum_{s \in [\tau_1, \tau_2]} (r_{i,s} - \bar{r}_i)^2} \tag{48.1}$$

where N_i is the number of non-missing return observations for stock i in the window $[\tau_1, \tau_2]$.

48.2 Idiosyncratic Volatility (IVOL)

Idiosyncratic volatility isolates firm-specific return variation by removing the systematic component explained by market movements. We compute IVOL from the residuals of a market model:

$$r_{i,s} = \alpha_i + \beta_i \cdot r_{m,s} + \epsilon_{i,s}, \quad s \in [\tau_1, \tau_2] \tag{48.2}$$

$$\text{IVOL}_{i,t} = \text{Std}(\hat{\epsilon}_{i,s}) \tag{48.3}$$

Researchers may extend this to a Eugene F. Fama and French (1993b) three-factor or five-factor model using Vietnamese factor portfolios constructed elsewhere in this book. A richer factor model yields IVOL estimates that better isolate truly idiosyncratic disagreement, at the cost of requiring factor portfolio construction.

```
def compute_volatility(df, calendar, config):
    """
    Compute total return volatility and idiosyncratic volatility
    via rolling estimation windows.

    Total vol = std(returns) in window.
    IVOL = std(residuals) from market model regression.
    """
    est_window = config['est_window']
    min_obs = int(est_window * config['min_volume_days'])

    # Value-weighted market return
    def _vw_ret(g):
        valid = g.dropna(subset=['ret'])
        if valid.empty:
            return np.nan
        w = valid['adj_shares_out'] * valid['close']
        return np.average(valid['ret'], weights=w)

    mkt_ret = df.groupby('date').apply(_vw_ret).reset_index()
    mkt_ret.columns = ['date', 'mkt_ret']
    df = df.merge(mkt_ret, on='date', how='left')

    results = []
    grouped = {t: g for t, g in df.groupby('ticker')}

    for _, cal_row in calendar.iterrows():
        dt = cal_row['date']
        est_s, est_e = cal_row['est_start'], cal_row['est_end']

        for ticker, tdata in grouped.items():
            est = tdata[
                (tdata['date'] >= est_s) & (tdata['date'] <= est_e)
            ].dropna(subset=['ret', 'mkt_ret'])
```

```
        if len(est) < min_obs:
            continue

        # Total volatility
        total_vol = est['ret'].std()

        # Market model -> IVOL
        X = est[['mkt_ret']].values
        y = est['ret'].values
        reg = LinearRegression().fit(X, y)
        resid = y - reg.predict(X)
        ivol = np.std(resid, ddof=1)

        results.append({
            'ticker': ticker, 'date': dt,
            'total_volatility': total_vol,
            'idio_volatility': ivol,
            'market_beta': reg.coef_[0],
            'market_alpha': reg.intercept_,
            'r_squared_mm': reg.score(X, y),
            'n_vol': len(est),
        })

vol_df = pd.DataFrame(results)
print(f"Volatility: {len(vol_df):,} stock-date obs")
print(f"  Total vol (ann. mean): "
      f"{vol_df['total_volatility'].mean() * np.sqrt(252):.4f}")
print(f"  IVOL (ann. mean): "
      f"{vol_df['idio_volatility'].mean() * np.sqrt(252):.4f}")
return vol_df
```

48.2.1 Vietnam-Specific Considerations for Volatility

1. **Price limits compress measured volatility.** Daily limits of $\pm$ 7% (HOSE) and $\pm$ 10% (HNX) mechanically truncate the return distribution, leading to underestimation of true volatility. On limit-hit days, the true equilibrium return may exceed the observed return. Researchers should be aware that volatility-based DIVOP measures may be downward-biased for stocks that frequently hit limits.

2. **VN-Index concentration.** The VN-Index is highly concentrated, the top 10 stocks often account for 50-60% of index weight. For small- and mid-cap stocks, an equal-weighted

market return or a composite HOSE+HNX index may provide a better market factor in Equation 48.2.

3. **Thin trading and non-synchronous returns.** For thinly traded stocks, consecutive zero-return days can depress measured volatility. The Dimson (1979) adjustment (including lagged and lead market returns in the market model) may help correct for non-synchronous trading bias in the beta estimate, though its effect on IVOL is typically small.

49 Spread-Based and Liquidity DIVOP Proxies

49.1 Bid-Ask Spread (BASPREAD)

49.1.1 Theoretical Motivation

The bid-ask spread reflects the adverse selection costs faced by limit order providers. When investors hold heterogeneous beliefs, each trade is more likely to convey private information, raising the adverse selection component of the spread. Handa, Schwartz, and Tiwari (2003) show that in order-driven markets the spread widens when divergence of opinion increases because limit order providers face greater risk of being picked off by informed traders. Chung and Zhang (2014) demonstrate that closing bid-ask spreads from daily data provide a reliable approximation to intraday effective spreads.

49.1.2 Construction

We compute the proportional bid-ask spread using end-of-day quote data:

$$\text{BASPREAD}_{i,t} = \frac{\text{Ask}_{i,t} - \text{Bid}_{i,t}}{\text{Midpoint}_{i,t}} \tag{49.1}$$

where $\text{Midpoint}_{i,t} = (\text{Ask}_{i,t} + \text{Bid}_{i,t})/2$. When end-of-day bid and ask are unavailable, we use the daily high-low range as a fallback. Following Chung and Zhang (2014), we delete observations where both Bid and Ask are zero, and where the spread exceeds 50% of the midpoint.

49.2 Amihud Illiquidity (ILLIQ)

The Amihud (2002) ratio measures the price impact of order flow:

$$\text{ILLIQ}_{i,t} = \frac{|r_{i,t}|}{\text{DolVol}_{i,t}} \tag{49.2}$$

where $\text{DolVol}_{i,t} = \text{Volume}_{i,t} \times \text{Price}_{i,t}$ (in billions VND for scaling). Higher ILLIQ reflects greater information asymmetry. We average daily ratios over monthly horizons and use the log transformation due to heavy right skew.

```
def compute_spread_and_illiq(df, config):
    """Compute bid-ask spread (BASPREAD) and Amihud illiquidity."""
    df = df.copy()

    # --- Bid-Ask Spread ---
    df['midpoint_ba'] = (df['ask'] + df['bid']) / 2
    df['baspread_ba'] = np.where(
        (df['ask'] > 0) & (df['bid'] > 0) & (df['midpoint_ba'] > 0),
        (df['ask'] - df['bid']) / df['midpoint_ba'], np.nan
    )

    # Fallback: high/low range
    df['midpoint_hl'] = (df['high'] + df['low']) / 2
    df['baspread_hl'] = np.where(
        (df['high'] > 0) & (df['low'] > 0) & (df['midpoint_hl'] > 0),
        (df['high'] - df['low']) / df['midpoint_hl'], np.nan
    )

    df['baspread'] = df['baspread_ba'].fillna(df['baspread_hl'])
    df['midpoint'] = df['midpoint_ba'].fillna(df['midpoint_hl'])

    # Chung & Zhang (2009) filters
    bad = (df['baspread'].isna()) | \
          (df['baspread'] > config['max_spread_pct']) | \
          (df['baspread'] < 0)
    df.loc[bad, 'baspread'] = np.nan

    # --- Amihud Illiquidity ---
    df['dollar_vol'] = df['volume'] * df['close'] / 1e9
    df['amihud_daily'] = np.where(
        df['dollar_vol'] > 0,
        np.abs(df['ret']) / df['dollar_vol'], np.nan
    )

    print(f"BASPREAD: {df['baspread'].notna().sum():,} valid obs, "
          f"mean = {df['baspread'].mean():.6f}")
    print(f"AMIHUD: {df['amihud_daily'].notna().sum():,} valid obs, "
          f"mean = {df['amihud_daily'].mean():.6f}")
    return df
```

```python
def compute_amihud_monthly(df):
    """Monthly Amihud = mean daily |ret|/dollar_vol (min 15 days)."""
    df = df.copy()
    df['ym'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')
    agg = df.groupby(['ticker', 'ym']).agg(
        illiq_mean=('amihud_daily', 'mean'),
        n_days=('amihud_daily', 'count'),
    ).reset_index()
    agg = agg[agg['n_days'] >= 15].copy()
    agg['log_illiq'] = np.log(agg['illiq_mean'] + 1e-10)
    return agg
```

49.2.1 Vietnam-Specific Considerations for Spread and Liquidity

1. **Tick size schedule.** Vietnam uses variable tick sizes: 10 VND (prices $<$ 10,000), 50 VND (10,000–49,950), and 100 VND (50,000) on HOSE. These impose a floor on quoted spreads for low-priced stocks. Researchers should be cautious interpreting cross-price-decile spread variation as reflecting opinion divergence rather than tick-size mechanics.

2. **Order-driven market structure.** Both HOSE and HNX are pure order-driven markets where public limit orders provide liquidity. This makes the Chung and Zhang (2014) CRSP-based spread approximation appropriate.

3. **Lot size requirements.** HOSE requires 100-share standard lots for continuous trading. For high-priced stocks, the standard lot represents a large capital commitment, potentially inflating quoted spreads relative to effective trading costs.

4. **Call auction effects.** Opening and closing sessions on HOSE use periodic call auctions, which can produce bid-ask quotes that differ substantially from continuous-trading spreads.

50 Analyst Forecast Dispersion

50.1 Theoretical Motivation

Analyst forecast dispersion, the cross-sectional standard deviation of individual analysts' earnings forecasts, is the most direct measure of divergence of opinion. Unlike market-based proxies that capture disagreement indirectly, forecast dispersion directly measures disagreement among informed market participants. Abarbanell, Lanen, and Verrecchia (1995) establish the theoretical basis, and Diether, Malloy, and Scherbina (2002) demonstrate that stocks with higher analyst forecast dispersion earn lower subsequent returns, consistent with the Miller overpricing hypothesis.

50.2 Data Challenges in Vietnam

Constructing analyst forecast dispersion in Vietnam presents substantial challenges relative to the U.S.:

- **Coverage breadth.** While I/B/E/S covers over 4,000 U.S. companies, only 100–150 Vietnamese firms typically have coverage by at least 3 analysts, concentrated among VN30 constituents.
- **Data sources.** Analyst forecasts are available from DataCore.vn, FiinPro, Bloomberg, and Refinitiv. The choice of source affects coverage and timeliness.
- **Forecast staleness.** With limited coverage, forecasts may go unrevised for months. Following I/B/E/S methodology, we carry each forecast forward for a maximum of 105 days.

50.3 Construction Methodology

The construction proceeds as follows:

1. **Clean individual forecasts.** Remove observations where the announcement date precedes the review date. Keep only annual EPS forecasts. For each analyst-ticker-fiscal period, retain only the latest forecast per calendar month.

2. **Handle stopped and excluded estimates.** Remove forecasts where the analyst has left the brokerage or the estimate has been excluded from consensus.
3. **Carry forward with staleness control.** Each forecast is valid until the earlier of: (a) the next forecast by the same analyst, (b) 105 days after the announcement, or (c) the actual earnings announcement date.
4. **Expand to monthly frequency.** For each ticker-month, identify all valid outstanding forecasts and compute dispersion.
5. **Compute scaled measures:**

$$\text{DISP1}_{i,m} = \frac{\text{Std}(\hat{\text{EPS}}_{i,m}^{(a)})}{|\text{Mean}(\hat{\text{EPS}}_{i,m}^{(a)})|} \qquad \text{DISP2}_{i,m} = \frac{\text{Std}(\hat{\text{EPS}}_{i,m}^{(a)})}{\bar{P}_{i,m}}$$

```python
def construct_analyst_dispersion(forecasts_df, price_df, config):
    """
    Construct analyst forecast dispersion measures.

    Parameters
    ----------
    forecasts_df : pd.DataFrame
        Individual analyst forecasts with: ticker, analyst_id, broker,
        fpedats, anndats, revdats, value (EPS), anndats_act.
    price_df : pd.DataFrame
        Monthly price: ticker, month, mean_price.
    config : dict
        With min_analysts, forecast_carry_days.
    """
    carry_days = config['forecast_carry_days']
    min_analysts = config['min_analysts']

    df = forecasts_df.copy()
    df = df[df['anndats'] <= df['revdats']].copy()
    df = df.dropna(subset=['fpedats', 'anndats', 'value'])

    # Latest forecast per analyst-month
    df['ym'] = df['anndats'].dt.to_period('M')
    df = df.sort_values(
        ['ticker', 'fpedats', 'analyst_id', 'ym', 'anndats', 'revdats']
    )
    df = df.groupby(['ticker', 'fpedats', 'analyst_id', 'ym']).tail(1)

    # Carry-forward end date
```

```
    df = df.sort_values(
        ['ticker', 'analyst_id', 'fpedats', 'anndats'],
        ascending=[True, True, True, False]
    )
    df['next_ann'] = df.groupby(
        ['ticker', 'analyst_id', 'fpedats']
    )['anndats'].shift(-1)

    def _carry_end(row):
        candidates = [row['anndats'] + pd.Timedelta(days=carry_days)]
        if pd.notna(row.get('next_ann')):
            candidates.append(row['next_ann'])
        if pd.notna(row.get('anndats_act')):
            candidates.append(row['anndats_act'])
        return min(candidates)

    df['carry_end'] = df.apply(_carry_end, axis=1)

    # Monthly expansion
    months = pd.period_range(config['beg_date'], config['end_date'], freq='M')
    records = []
    for month in months:
        me = month.to_timestamp(how='end')
        valid = df[(df['anndats'] <= me) & (df['carry_end'] > me)].copy()
        valid = valid[valid['fpedats'] > me]
        valid = valid.sort_values(['ticker', 'analyst_id', 'anndats'])
        valid = valid.groupby(['ticker', 'analyst_id']).tail(1)

        disp = valid.groupby('ticker').agg(
            n_analysts=('analyst_id', 'nunique'),
            mean_fcst=('value', 'mean'),
            std_fcst=('value', 'std'),
        ).reset_index()
        disp['month'] = month
        records.append(disp)

    if not records:
        return pd.DataFrame()
    disp_df = pd.concat(records, ignore_index=True)

    # Scaled measures
    disp_df['disp1'] = np.where(
```

```
        disp_df['mean_fcst'].abs() > 0,
        disp_df['std_fcst'] / disp_df['mean_fcst'].abs(), np.nan
    )
    disp_df = disp_df.merge(price_df, on=['ticker', 'month'], how='left')
    disp_df['disp2'] = np.where(
        disp_df['mean_price'] > 0,
        disp_df['std_fcst'] / disp_df['mean_price'], np.nan
    )
    disp_df['disp_raw'] = disp_df['std_fcst']

    out = disp_df[disp_df['n_analysts'] >= min_analysts].copy()
    print(f"DISP: {len(out):,} ticker-months (>= {min_analysts} analysts)")
    print(f"  Mean analysts: {out['n_analysts'].mean():.1f}")
    return out
```

50.4 Scaling Considerations

Following Cheong and Thomas (2011), we note that each scaling choice has pitfalls. DISP1 (scaled by absolute mean forecast) can produce extreme values when the mean forecast approaches zero—common for Vietnamese firms near breakeven. DISP2 (scaled by price) introduces a mechanical negative correlation between price and scaled dispersion. We recommend reporting all three versions (DISP1, DISP2, and unscaled DISP_RAW with ln(Price) as an additional control), and winsorizing DISP1 at the 1st and 99th percentiles.

> ⚠ Caution on Analyst Dispersion in Thin-Coverage Markets
>
> With typical coverage of 5–10 analysts per firm in Vietnam (versus 15–25 in the U.S.), forecast dispersion is estimated with substantially greater noise. A dispersion measure from 3 analysts has a very different sampling distribution than one from 20. Always include the number of analysts as a control and test robustness with varying minimum-analyst thresholds (3, 5, 7).

51 Cross-Sectional Correlations Among DIVOP Proxies

An important empirical question is the degree to which the various DIVOP proxies capture the same underlying construct. If divergence of opinion is a well-defined latent variable, we expect positive correlations among all proxies, though correlations need not be high since each captures a different facet of disagreement.

```
def compute_divop_correlations(merged_df, proxies=None):
    """
    Compute and visualize Spearman correlations among DIVOP proxies.
    We use rank correlations because many proxies are right-skewed.
    """
    if proxies is None:
        proxies = [
            'dto', 'suv', 'total_volatility', 'idio_volatility',
            'baspread', 'amihud_daily', 'disp1', 'disp2'
        ]
    available = [p for p in proxies if p in merged_df.columns]
    data = merged_df[available].dropna()

    n = len(available)
    rho_mat = np.eye(n)
    p_mat = np.zeros((n, n))
    for i in range(n):
        for j in range(i + 1, n):
            rho, p = scipy_stats.spearmanr(
                data[available[i]], data[available[j]]
            )
            rho_mat[i, j] = rho_mat[j, i] = rho
            p_mat[i, j] = p_mat[j, i] = p

    labels = {'dto': 'DTO', 'suv': 'SUV',
              'total_volatility': 'VOL', 'idio_volatility': 'IVOL',
              'baspread': 'SPREAD', 'amihud_daily': 'ILLIQ',
              'disp1': 'DISP1', 'disp2': 'DISP2'}
```

```
    pretty = [labels.get(c, c) for c in available]
    corr_df = pd.DataFrame(rho_mat, index=pretty, columns=pretty)

    # Heatmap
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9, 7))
    mask = np.triu(np.ones_like(corr_df, dtype=bool), k=1)
    sns.heatmap(
        corr_df, mask=mask, annot=True, fmt='.3f',
        cmap='RdBu_r', center=0, vmin=-0.4, vmax=0.7,
        square=True, linewidths=0.5,
        cbar_kws={'shrink': 0.8, 'label': 'Spearman  '}, ax=ax
    )
    ax.set_title('Spearman Correlations Among DIVOP Proxies\n'
                 'Vietnamese Equity Market', fontsize=13, fontweight='bold')
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.savefig('divop_correlations.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
    plt.show()

    return corr_df
```

51.0.1 Expected Correlation Patterns

Based on U.S. evidence and theory, we expect:

Table 51.1: Expected correlation structure among DIVOP proxies

Pair	Expected	Rationale
DTO × SUV	High positive	Both capture abnormal volume; SUV refines DTO
VOL × IVOL	High positive	IVOL is a subset of total volatility
SPREAD × ILLIQ	Moderate-high positive	Both capture information asymmetry
Volume × Volatility	Moderate positive	Shalen (1993) links both to belief dispersion
Analyst × Market-based	Weak-moderate positive	Different investor populations

52 Descriptive Statistics and Cross-Sectional Properties

52.1 Summary Statistics

```
def descriptive_statistics(merged_df):
    """Comprehensive descriptive statistics for DIVOP proxies."""
    proxies = {
        'dto': 'Unexplained Volume (DTO)',
        'suv': 'Std Unexplained Volume (SUV)',
        'total_volatility': 'Total Return Volatility',
        'idio_volatility': 'Idiosyncratic Volatility',
        'baspread': 'Bid-Ask Spread',
        'amihud_daily': 'Amihud Illiquidity',
        'disp1': 'Analyst Disp (mean-scaled)',
        'disp2': 'Analyst Disp (price-scaled)',
    }
    avail = {k: v for k, v in proxies.items() if k in merged_df.columns}
    rows = []
    for col, label in avail.items():
        s = merged_df[col].dropna()
        rows.append({
            'Proxy': label, 'N': f'{len(s):,}',
            'Mean': f'{s.mean():.6f}', 'Std': f'{s.std():.6f}',
            'P5': f'{s.quantile(.05):.6f}',
            'Median': f'{s.median():.6f}',
            'P95': f'{s.quantile(.95):.6f}',
            'Skew': f'{s.skew():.2f}',
            'Kurt': f'{s.kurtosis():.2f}',
        })
    stats = pd.DataFrame(rows).set_index('Proxy')
    print("\n" + "=" * 90)
    print("Descriptive Statistics of DIVOP Proxies")
    print("Vietnamese Equity Market, HOSE and HNX")
```

```
    print("=" * 90)
    print(stats.to_string())
    return stats
```

52.2 DIVOP by Firm Characteristics

```
def divop_by_size(merged_df):
    """Mean DIVOP proxies by market-cap quintile."""
    df = merged_df.copy()
    df['mkt_cap'] = df['close'] * df['shares_outstanding']
    df['size_q'] = df.groupby('date')['mkt_cap'].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5,
            labels=['Q1 Small','Q2','Q3','Q4','Q5 Large'],
            duplicates='drop')
    )
    proxies = ['dto','suv','total_volatility','idio_volatility',
               'baspread','amihud_daily']
    avail = [p for p in proxies if p in df.columns]
    tab = df.groupby('size_q')[avail].mean()
    print("\n=== Mean DIVOP by Size Quintile ===")
    print(tab.to_string(float_format='{:.6f}'.format))
    return tab

def divop_by_exchange(merged_df):
    """Compare mean DIVOP across HOSE and HNX."""
    proxies = ['dto','suv','total_volatility','idio_volatility',
               'baspread','amihud_daily']
    avail = [p for p in proxies if p in merged_df.columns]
    tab = merged_df.groupby('exchange')[avail].mean()
    print("\n=== Mean DIVOP by Exchange ===")
    print(tab.to_string(float_format='{:.6f}'.format))
    return tab
```

52.3 Time-Series Evolution

```
def plot_divop_timeseries(merged_df):
    """Plot monthly cross-sectional median DIVOP with crisis shading."""
```

```
df = merged_df.copy()
df['ym'] = df['date'].dt.to_period('M')
proxies = ['dto','suv','total_volatility','baspread']
avail = [p for p in proxies if p in df.columns]
monthly = df.groupby('ym')[avail].median()
monthly.index = monthly.index.to_timestamp()

fig, axes = plt.subplots(len(avail), 1,
    figsize=(13, 3.5*len(avail)), sharex=True)
if len(avail) == 1: axes = [axes]

labels = {'dto':'DTO','suv':'SUV',
          'total_volatility':'Volatility','baspread':'Spread'}
colors = ['#1976D2','#388E3C','#F57C00','#D32F2F']

for i, (proxy, ax) in enumerate(zip(avail, axes)):
    ax.plot(monthly.index, monthly[proxy],
            color=colors[i], linewidth=1.3)
    ax.set_ylabel(labels.get(proxy, proxy), fontsize=10)
    ax.grid(True, alpha=0.25)
    for s, e, c in [('2008-01','2009-06','red'),
                    ('2020-01','2020-12','orange'),
                    ('2022-09','2023-06','purple')]:
        ax.axvspan(pd.Timestamp(s), pd.Timestamp(e),
                   alpha=0.1, color=c)

axes[0].set_title(
    'Time-Series of DIVOP Proxies\n'
    'Monthly Cross-Sectional Median, HOSE & HNX',
    fontsize=13, fontweight='bold')
from matplotlib.patches import Patch
axes[-1].legend(handles=[
    Patch(facecolor='red', alpha=.2, label='GFC 2008-09'),
    Patch(facecolor='orange', alpha=.2, label='COVID-19'),
    Patch(facecolor='purple', alpha=.2, label='Bond Crisis 2022-23'),
], loc='upper right', fontsize=8)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.savefig('divop_timeseries.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
plt.show()
```

53 Putting It All Together

```python
def build_divop_dataset(config):
    """
    Master pipeline: load data, construct all DIVOP proxies,
    merge into a single stock-date panel.
    """
    df = load_daily_data(config)
    df = apply_sample_filters(df, config)
    df = adjust_for_corporate_actions(df)
    calendar = build_trading_calendar(df, config)

    df = compute_dto(df, config)
    suv_df = compute_suv(df, calendar, config)
    vol_df = compute_volatility(df, calendar, config)
    df = compute_spread_and_illiq(df, config)

    # Merge
    base = df[['ticker','date','ret','close','volume',
                'shares_outstanding','exchange','industry_icb',
                'foreign_ownership_pct','turnover',
                'mato','dto','baspread','amihud_daily','limit_hit']].copy()

    if not suv_df.empty:
        base = base.merge(
            suv_df[['ticker','date','suv','predicted_turnover']],
            on=['ticker','date'], how='left')
    if not vol_df.empty:
        base = base.merge(
            vol_df[['ticker','date','total_volatility',
                     'idio_volatility','market_beta']],
            on=['ticker','date'], how='left')

    print(f"\n=== Final DIVOP Dataset ===")
    print(f"Shape: {base.shape}")
```

```
    print(f"Tickers: {base['ticker'].nunique()}")
    return base
```

54 Empirical Applications

54.1 Application 1: DIVOP and the Cross-Section of Returns

The fundamental test of the Miller hypothesis is whether stocks with higher divergence of opinion earn lower subsequent returns. We implement Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regressions:

$$r_{i,t+1:t+h} = \gamma_{0,t} + \gamma_{1,t} \cdot \text{DIVOP}_{i,t} + \gamma_{2,t}' \mathbf{X}_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t}$$

where $\mathbf{X}_{i,t}$ includes controls for market beta, log market capitalization, and log book-to-market ratio. The Miller hypothesis predicts $\bar{\gamma}_1 < 0$.

```
def fama_macbeth_divop(merged_df, divop_proxy='suv',
                       controls=None, horizon=21):
    """
    Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regressions.
    Miller predicts gamma_1 < 0; Varian predicts gamma_1 > 0.
    """
    if controls is None:
        controls = ['market_beta', 'log_mktcap']

    df = merged_df.copy()
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])
    df['fwd_ret'] = df.groupby('ticker')['ret'].transform(
        lambda x: x.shift(-1).rolling(horizon).sum().shift(-(horizon-1))
    )
    df['log_mktcap'] = np.log(
        df['close'] * df['shares_outstanding'] + 1
    )

    reg_vars = ['fwd_ret', divop_proxy] + \
               [c for c in controls if c in df.columns]
    df_reg = df[['ticker','date'] + reg_vars].dropna()

    from numpy.linalg import lstsq
```

```
    results = []
    for date, cross in df_reg.groupby('date'):
        if len(cross) < 30: continue
        y = cross['fwd_ret'].values
        X_cols = [divop_proxy] + [c for c in controls if c in cross.columns]
        X = np.column_stack([np.ones(len(cross)), cross[X_cols].values])
        try:
            coefs, _, _, _ = lstsq(X, y, rcond=None)
            results.append({
                'date': date, 'intercept': coefs[0],
                f'gamma_{divop_proxy}': coefs[1], 'n': len(cross),
            })
        except Exception: continue

    fm = pd.DataFrame(results)
    gc = f'gamma_{divop_proxy}'
    mu = fm[gc].mean()
    se = fm[gc].std() / np.sqrt(len(fm))
    t = mu / se

    print(f"\n=== Fama-MacBeth: {divop_proxy} -> "
          f"{horizon}-day fwd returns ===")
    print(f"  Mean gamma: {mu:.6f}, t-stat: {t:.3f}")
    if t < -1.96:   print("  -> Supports Miller (1977)")
    elif t > 1.96:   print("  -> Supports Varian (1985)")
    else:            print("  -> Inconclusive at 5%")
    return fm
```

54.2 Application 2: DIVOP and Earnings Announcements

Following Berkman et al. (2009), we test whether high-DIVOP stocks experience negative abnormal returns around earnings announcements, as uncertainty resolution reduces the optimism premium.

```
def divop_earnings_event(merged_df, ea_dates_df,
                         divop_proxy='suv', window=(-1, 3)):
    """
    Sort stocks into DIVOP quintiles pre-EA, compute CAR in window.
    Miller predicts: Q5 (high DIVOP) has lower CAR than Q1 (low DIVOP).
    """
    df = merged_df.copy()
```

```
    ea = ea_dates_df.copy()

    # Pre-EA DIVOP value (5 days before)
    ea['pre_date'] = ea['ea_date'] - pd.Timedelta(days=5)
    ea = ea.merge(
        df[['ticker','date',divop_proxy]].rename(
            columns={'date':'pre_date'}),
        on=['ticker','pre_date'], how='inner'
    )
    ea['divop_q'] = pd.qcut(
        ea[divop_proxy], 5,
        labels=['Q1 Low','Q2','Q3','Q4','Q5 High'],
        duplicates='drop'
    )

    print(f"\n=== EA Event Study by {divop_proxy} quintile ===")
    print(f"  Window: ({window[0]}, {window[1]}) days")
    print(f"  Miller predicts: Q5 has lower CAR than Q1")
    return ea
```

54.3 Application 3: Composite DIVOP Index via PCA

When a single summary measure of disagreement is needed, PCA on the battery of standardized proxies extracts the common "disagreement factor."

```
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.decomposition import PCA

def composite_divop_pca(merged_df, proxies=None):
    """Extract first principal component from standardized DIVOP proxies."""
    if proxies is None:
        proxies = ['dto','suv','total_volatility','idio_volatility',
                   'baspread','amihud_daily']
    avail = [p for p in proxies if p in merged_df.columns]
    data = merged_df[['ticker','date'] + avail].dropna()

    scaler = StandardScaler()
    X = scaler.fit_transform(data[avail])

    pca = PCA(n_components=3)
    factors = pca.fit_transform(X)
```

```
    data['divop_composite'] = factors[:, 0]

    # Ensure positive correlation with inputs
    for col in avail:
        if data['divop_composite'].corr(data[col]) < 0:
            data['divop_composite'] *= -1
            break

    loadings = pd.DataFrame(
        pca.components_.T, index=avail,
        columns=['PC1','PC2','PC3']
    )

    print(f"\n=== PCA Composite DIVOP ===")
    print(f"Variance explained: "
          f"{pca.explained_variance_ratio_[:3].round(3)}")
    print(f"\nLoadings:\n{loadings.to_string(float_format='{:.4f}'.format)}")
    return data[['ticker','date','divop_composite']], loadings
```

55 Conclusion and Practical Recommendations

This chapter has provided a comprehensive methodology for constructing seven distinct proxies for divergence of investor opinion adapted to the Vietnamese equity market. We conclude with practical recommendations:

1. Prefer multiple proxies. No single DIVOP measure is without limitations. We recommend constructing and reporting results for at least three proxies spanning different economic channels (volume, volatility, spreads or analyst-based).

2. Account for Vietnam-specific microstructure. Daily price limits, T+2 settlement, foreign ownership constraints, and the order-driven market structure all affect DIVOP properties. Flag limit-hit days, include exchange fixed effects, and control for foreign ownership.

3. Vietnam as a natural laboratory for Miller (1977). The absence of short selling through 2024 and the dominance of retail investors create conditions that closely match Miller's theoretical setting. The introduction of short selling in 2025 creates a natural experiment for examining how relaxation of short-sale constraints affects the DIVOP-return relation.

4. Control for analyst coverage when using DISP measures. With typical coverage of 5–10 analysts per firm, forecast dispersion is estimated with greater noise than in developed markets. Always include the number of analysts as a control variable and conduct robustness checks with varying minimum-analyst thresholds.

5. Consider constructing a composite index. When researchers need a single summary measure of disagreement, the PCA-based composite index described in Chapter 54 provides a principled approach to aggregating information across the individual proxies. The first principal component typically explains 30-50% of the common variation in the battery of DIVOP measures.

6. Winsorize aggressively. Several DIVOP proxies (particularly DISP1, Amihud ILLIQ, and SUV) exhibit extreme outliers in the Vietnamese data. Winsorization at the 1st and 99th percentiles (or even 2nd and 98th for DISP1) is essential for obtaining reliable regression results.

7. Be cautious about causal inference. DIVOP proxies are endogenous, they respond to the same firm characteristics (size, leverage, growth) that also affect returns. Researchers should use appropriate controls, consider instrumental variables where feasible, and be explicit about the limitations of their identification strategy.

The DIVOP framework is particularly relevant for the Vietnamese market at this point in its development. As the market matures toward potential FTSE Emerging Market reclassification, as short selling becomes more widely available, and as institutional investor participation grows, the dynamics of opinion divergence and its pricing implications are likely to evolve significantly. The methodology presented in this chapter provides researchers with the tools to document and analyze these changes as they unfold.

Part V

Ownership, Market Frictions, and International Exposure

56 Institutional Ownership Analytics in Vietnam

56.1 Institutional Ownership in Vietnam: A Distinct Landscape

Vietnam's equity market presents a fundamentally different institutional ownership landscape from the mature markets of the US, Europe, or Japan. Since the Ho Chi Minh City Securities Trading Center (now HOSE) opened on July 28, 2000 with just two listed stocks, the market has grown to over 1,700 listed companies across three exchanges (HOSE, HNX, and UPCOM) with a combined market capitalization exceeding 200 billion USD. Yet the ownership structure remains distinctive in several critical ways:

- **Retail dominance.** Individual investors account for approximately 85% of trading value on Vietnamese exchanges, far exceeding the institutional share. This contrasts sharply with the US, where institutional investors dominate both ownership and trading (Bao Dinh and Tran 2024). The implications for market efficiency, price discovery, and volatility are profound.
- **State ownership legacy.** Vietnam's equitization (privatization) program, initiated under Đổi Mới reforms in 1986, means that the state remains a significant or controlling shareholder in many listed companies. As of 2022, SOEs (firms with state ownership > 50%) account for approximately 30% of total market capitalization despite representing less than 10% of listed firms (X. Huang, Liu, and Shu 2023). State ownership introduces unique agency problems, governance dynamics, and liquidity constraints.
- **Foreign Ownership Limits (FOLs).** Vietnam imposes sector-specific caps on aggregate foreign ownership, typically 49% for most sectors, 30% for banking, and varying limits for aviation, media, and telecommunications. When a stock reaches its FOL, foreign investors can only buy from other foreign sellers, creating a segmented market with distinct pricing dynamics and a well-documented "FOL premium" (X. V. Vo 2015).
- **Disclosure regime.** Unlike the US quarterly 13F filing system, Vietnam's ownership disclosure is event-driven and periodic. Major shareholders (5%) must disclose within 7 business days of crossing thresholds. Annual reports contain detailed shareholder registers. Semi-annual fund reports provide portfolio snapshots. This creates a patchwork of disclosure frequencies that require careful handling.

56.2 Data Infrastructure: DataCore.vn

DataCore.vn is a comprehensive Vietnamese financial data platform that provides academic-grade datasets for the Vietnamese market. Throughout this chapter, we assume all data is sourced exclusively from DataCore.vn, which provides:

Table 56.1: DataCore.vn Data Tables Used in This Chapter

DataCore.vn Dataset	Content	Key Variables
Stock Prices	Daily/monthly OHLCV for HOSE, HNX, UPCOM	`ticker`, `date`, `close`, `adjusted_close`, `volume`, `shares_outstanding`
Ownership Structure	Shareholder composition snapshots	`ticker`, `date`, `shareholder_name`, `shares_held`, `ownership_pct`, `shareholder_type`
Major Shareholders	Detailed 5% holders	`ticker`, `date`, `shareholder_name`, `shares_held`, `is_foreign`, `is_state`, `is_institution`
Corporate Actions	Dividends, stock splits, bonus shares, rights issues	`ticker`, `ex_date`, `action_type`, `ratio`, `record_date`
Company Profile	Sector, exchange, listing date, charter capital	`ticker`, `exchange`, `industry_code`, `listing_date`, `fol_limit`
Financial Statements	Quarterly/annual financials	`ticker`, `period`, `revenue`, `net_income`, `total_assets`, `equity`
Foreign Ownership	Daily foreign ownership tracking	`ticker`, `date`, `foreign_shares`, `foreign_pct`, `fol_limit`, `foreign_room`
Fund Holdings	Semi-annual fund portfolio disclosures	`fund_name`, `report_date`, `ticker`, `shares_held`, `market_value`

```
class DataCoreReader:
    """
    Unified data reader for DataCore.vn datasets.

    Assumes data has been downloaded from DataCore.vn and stored locally.
    Supports both Parquet (recommended for performance) and CSV formats.

    Parameters
```

```
    ----------
    data_dir : str or Path
        Root directory containing DataCore.vn data files
    file_format : str
        'parquet' or 'csv' (default: 'parquet')
    """

    # Expected file names in the data directory
    FILE_MAP = {
        'prices': 'stock_prices',
        'ownership': 'ownership_structure',
        'major_shareholders': 'major_shareholders',
        'corporate_actions': 'corporate_actions',
        'company_profile': 'company_profile',
        'financials': 'financial_statements',
        'foreign_ownership': 'foreign_ownership_daily',
        'fund_holdings': 'fund_holdings',
    }

    def __init__(self, data_dir: Union[str, Path], file_format: str = 'parquet'):
        self.data_dir = Path(data_dir)
        self.fmt = file_format
        self._cache = {}

        # Verify data directory exists
        if not self.data_dir.exists():
            raise FileNotFoundError(
                f"Data directory not found: {self.data_dir}\n"
                f"Please download data from DataCore.vn and place it in this directory."
            )

        print(f"DataCore.vn reader initialized: {self.data_dir}")
        available = [f.stem for f in self.data_dir.glob(f'*.{self.fmt}')]
        print(f"Available datasets: {available}")

    def _read(self, key: str) -> pd.DataFrame:
        """Read and cache a dataset."""
        if key in self._cache:
            return self._cache[key]

        fname = self.FILE_MAP.get(key, key)
        filepath = self.data_dir / f"{fname}.{self.fmt}"
```

```
        if not filepath.exists():
            raise FileNotFoundError(
                f"Dataset not found: {filepath}\n"
                f"Expected file: {fname}.{self.fmt} in {self.data_dir}"
            )

        if self.fmt == 'parquet':
            df = pd.read_parquet(filepath)
        else:
            df = pd.read_csv(filepath, parse_dates=True)

        # Auto-detect and parse date columns
        for col in df.columns:
            if 'date' in col.lower() or col.lower() in ['period', 'ex_date', 'record_date']:
                try:
                    df[col] = pd.to_datetime(df[col])
                except (ValueError, TypeError):
                    pass

        self._cache[key] = df
        print(f"Loaded {key}: {len(df):,} rows, {len(df.columns)} columns")
        return df

    @property
    def prices(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('prices')

    @property
    def ownership(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('ownership')

    @property
    def major_shareholders(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('major_shareholders')

    @property
    def corporate_actions(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('corporate_actions')

    @property
    def company_profile(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('company_profile')
```

```python
    @property
    def financials(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('financials')

    @property
    def foreign_ownership(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('foreign_ownership')

    @property
    def fund_holdings(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('fund_holdings')

    def clear_cache(self):
        """Clear all cached datasets to free memory."""
        self._cache.clear()

# Initialize reader - adjust path to your local DataCore.vn data
# dc = DataCoreReader('/path/to/datacore_data', file_format='parquet')
```

This chapter proceeds as follows. Section 56.3 builds the complete data pipeline from raw DataCore.vn extracts to clean, analysis-ready datasets, with particular attention to corporate action adjustments. Section 56.4 defines Vietnam's unique ownership taxonomy. Section 56.5 computes institutional ownership ratios, concentration, and breadth for the Vietnamese market. Section 56.6 develops specialized foreign ownership analytics including FOL utilization and room premium. Section 56.7 derives institutional trades from ownership disclosure snapshots. Section 56.8 computes fund-level flows and turnover. Section 56.9 analyzes state ownership dynamics. Section 56.10 introduces network analysis, ML classification, and event-study frameworks. Section 56.11 presents complete empirical applications, and Section 56.12 concludes.

56.3 Data Pipeline

56.3.1 Stock Price Data and Corporate Action Adjustments

Vietnam's equity market is notorious for frequent corporate actions, particularly stock dividends and bonus share issuances, that dramatically alter share counts. A company issuing a 30% stock dividend means every 100 shares become 130 shares, and the reference price adjusts downward proportionally. Failure to properly adjust historical shares and prices for these events is the single most common source of error in Vietnamese equity research.

```python
# ==============================================================================
# Step 1: Corporate Action Adjustment Factors
# ==============================================================================

def build_adjustment_factors(corporate_actions: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Build cumulative adjustment factors from the corporate actions history.

    In Vietnam, the most common share-altering corporate actions are:
    1. Stock dividends (cổ tức bằng cổ phiếu): e.g., 30% → ratio = 0.30
       Effect: shares × (1 + 0.30), price × (1 / 1.30)
    2. Bonus shares (thưởng cổ phiếu): mechanically identical to stock dividends
    3. Stock splits (chia tách): e.g., 2:1 → ratio = 2.0
       Effect: shares × 2, price × 0.5
    4. Rights issues (phát hành thêm): dilutive, but not all shareholders exercise
       We approximate with the subscription ratio
    5. Reverse splits (gộp cổ phiếu): rare in Vietnam
       Effect: shares ÷ ratio, price × ratio

    We construct a FORWARD-LOOKING cumulative adjustment factor such that:
       adjusted_shares = raw_shares × cum_adj_factor(from_date, to_date)
       adjusted_price = raw_price / cum_adj_factor(from_date, to_date)

    This is analogous to CRSP's cfacshr in the US context.

    Parameters
    ----------
    corporate_actions : pd.DataFrame
        DataCore.vn corporate actions with columns:
        ticker, ex_date, action_type, ratio

        action_type values:
        - 'stock_dividend': ratio = dividend rate (e.g., 0.30 for 30%)
        - 'bonus_shares': ratio = bonus rate (e.g., 0.20 for 20%)
        - 'stock_split': ratio = split factor (e.g., 2.0 for 2:1)
        - 'reverse_split': ratio = merge factor (e.g., 5.0 for 5:1 merge)
        - 'rights_issue': ratio = subscription rate (e.g., 0.10 for 10:1)
        - 'cash_dividend': ratio = VND per share (no share adjustment needed)

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
```

```
    Adjustment factors: ticker, ex_date, point_factor, cum_factor
"""
# Filter to share-altering events only
share_events = ['stock_dividend', 'bonus_shares', 'stock_split',
                'reverse_split', 'rights_issue']
ca = corporate_actions[
    corporate_actions['action_type'].isin(share_events)
].copy()

if len(ca) == 0:
    print("No share-altering corporate actions found.")
    return pd.DataFrame(columns=['ticker', 'ex_date', 'point_factor', 'cum_factor'])

# Compute point adjustment factor for each event
def compute_point_factor(row):
    atype = row['action_type']
    ratio = row['ratio']

    if atype in ['stock_dividend', 'bonus_shares']:
        # 30% stock dividend: 100 shares → 130 shares
        return 1 + ratio
    elif atype == 'stock_split':
        # 2:1 split: 100 shares → 200 shares
        return ratio
    elif atype == 'reverse_split':
        # 5:1 reverse: 500 shares → 100 shares
        return 1.0 / ratio
    elif atype == 'rights_issue':
        # Approximate: assume all rights exercised
        # In practice, this overestimates the adjustment
        return 1 + ratio
    else:
        return 1.0

ca['point_factor'] = ca.apply(compute_point_factor, axis=1)

# Sort chronologically within each ticker
ca = ca.sort_values(['ticker', 'ex_date']).reset_index(drop=True)

# Cumulative factor: product of all point factors from listing to date
# This gives us a running "total adjustment" for each ticker
ca['cum_factor'] = ca.groupby('ticker')['point_factor'].cumprod()
```

```python
    # Summary statistics
    n_tickers = ca['ticker'].nunique()
    n_events = len(ca)
    avg_events = n_events / n_tickers if n_tickers > 0 else 0

    print(f"Corporate action adjustment factors built:")
    print(f"  Tickers with adjustments: {n_tickers:,}")
    print(f"  Total share-altering events: {n_events:,}")
    print(f"  Average events per ticker: {avg_events:.1f}")
    print(f"\nEvent type distribution:")
    print(ca['action_type'].value_counts().to_string())

    return ca[['ticker', 'ex_date', 'action_type', 'ratio',
               'point_factor', 'cum_factor']]


def adjust_shares(shares: float, ticker: str, from_date, to_date,
                  adj_factors: pd.DataFrame) -> float:
    """
    Adjust a share count from one date to another for corporate actions.

    Example: If a company had a 30% stock dividend with ex_date between
    from_date and to_date, then 1000 shares at from_date = 1300 shares
    at to_date.

    Parameters
    ----------
    shares : float
        Number of shares at from_date
    ticker : str
        Stock ticker
    from_date, to_date : pd.Timestamp
        Period for adjustment
    adj_factors : pd.DataFrame
        Output of build_adjustment_factors()

    Returns
    -------
    float
        Adjusted shares at to_date
    """
    events = adj_factors[
```

```
        (adj_factors['ticker'] == ticker) &
        (adj_factors['ex_date'] > pd.Timestamp(from_date)) &
        (adj_factors['ex_date'] <= pd.Timestamp(to_date))
    ]

    if len(events) == 0:
        return shares

    total_factor = events['point_factor'].prod()
    return shares * total_factor


# Example usage:
# adj_factors = build_adjustment_factors(dc.corporate_actions)
```

❗ The Stock Dividend Problem in Vietnam

Vietnamese companies issue stock dividends with remarkable frequency, many growth companies do so 2-3 times per year. Consider **Vinhomes (VHM)** or **FPT Corporation**: their share counts may double or triple over a 5-year period purely from stock dividends. If you compare raw ownership shares from 2019 to 2024 without adjustment, you will obtain nonsensical ownership ratios. **Every time-series analysis of Vietnamese ownership data must use adjusted shares.** This is the Vietnamese equivalent of the CRSP cfacshr adjustment factor problem in US data, but more severe because the events are more frequent and larger in magnitude.

```
# ============================================================================
# Step 2: Process Stock Price Data
# ============================================================================

def process_price_data(prices: pd.DataFrame,
                       adj_factors: pd.DataFrame,
                       company_profile: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Process DataCore.vn stock price data:
    1. Align dates to month-end and quarter-end
    2. Merge company metadata (exchange, sector, FOL limit)
    3. Compute adjusted prices and shares outstanding
    4. Compute market capitalization
    5. Create quarter-end snapshots

    Parameters
```

```
    ----------
    prices : pd.DataFrame
        Daily/monthly price data from DataCore.vn
    adj_factors : pd.DataFrame
        Corporate action adjustment factors
    company_profile : pd.DataFrame
        Company metadata including exchange, sector, FOL

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Quarter-end processed stock data
    """
    df = prices.copy()

    # Standardize date
    df['date'] = pd.to_datetime(df['date'])
    df['month_end'] = df['date'] + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(0)
    df['quarter_end'] = df['date'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(0)

    # Merge company profile
    profile_cols = ['ticker', 'exchange', 'industry_code', 'fol_limit',
                    'listing_date', 'company_name']
    profile_cols = [c for c in profile_cols if c in company_profile.columns]
    df = df.merge(company_profile[profile_cols], on='ticker', how='left')

    # Build cumulative adjustment factor for each ticker-date
    # For each observation, compute the total adjustment from listing to that date
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

    # Merge adjustment events
    # For each ticker-date, find the cumulative factor as of that date
    def get_cum_factor_at_date(group):
        ticker = group.name
        ticker_adj = adj_factors[adj_factors['ticker'] == ticker].copy()

        if len(ticker_adj) == 0:
            group['cum_adj_factor'] = 1.0
            return group

        # For each date, find cumulative factor (product of all events up to that date)
        group = group.sort_values('date')
```

```
        group['cum_adj_factor'] = 1.0

        for _, event in ticker_adj.iterrows():
            mask = group['date'] >= event['ex_date']
            group.loc[mask, 'cum_adj_factor'] *= event['point_factor']

        return group

    df = df.groupby('ticker', group_keys=False).apply(get_cum_factor_at_date)

    # Adjusted price and shares
    # adjusted_close should already be provided by DataCore.vn
    # But we compute our own for consistency
    if 'adjusted_close' not in df.columns:
        df['adjusted_close'] = df['close'] / df['cum_adj_factor']

    # Adjusted shares outstanding
    df['adjusted_shares'] = df['shares_outstanding'] * df['cum_adj_factor']

    # Market capitalization (in billion VND)
    df['market_cap'] = df['close'] * df['shares_outstanding'] / 1e9

    # Monthly returns
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])
    df['ret'] = df.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close'].pct_change()

    # Keep quarter-end observations
    # For daily data: keep last trading day of each quarter
    df_quarterly = (df.sort_values(['ticker', 'quarter_end', 'date'])
                      .groupby(['ticker', 'quarter_end'])
                      .last()
                      .reset_index())

    print(f"Processed price data:")
    print(f"  Total records (daily): {len(df):,}")
    print(f"  Quarter-end records: {len(df_quarterly):,}")
    print(f"  Unique tickers: {df_quarterly['ticker'].nunique():,}")
    print(f"  Date range: {df_quarterly['quarter_end'].min()} to "
          f"{df_quarterly['quarter_end'].max()}")
    print(f"\nExchange distribution:")
    print(df_quarterly.groupby('exchange')['ticker'].nunique().to_string())
```

```
    return df_quarterly

# prices_q = process_price_data(dc.prices, adj_factors, dc.company_profile)
```

56.3.2 Ownership Structure Data

Vietnamese ownership data captures the composition of shareholders as disclosed in annual reports, semi-annual reports, and event-driven disclosures. The key distinction from US 13F data is that Vietnamese disclosures provide a **complete ownership decomposition**, not just institutional long positions, but the full breakdown into state, institutional, foreign, and individual ownership.

```
# ============================================================================
# Step 3: Process Ownership Structure Data
# ============================================================================

class OwnershipType:
    """
    Vietnam's ownership taxonomy.

    Unlike the US where 13F captures only institutional long positions,
    Vietnamese disclosure provides a complete ownership decomposition.
    We classify shareholders into five mutually exclusive categories.
    """
    STATE = 'state'                     # Nhà nước (government entities, SOE parents)
    FOREIGN_INST = 'foreign_inst'       # Tổ chức nước ngoài
    DOMESTIC_INST = 'domestic_inst'     # Tổ chức trong nước (non-state)
    INDIVIDUAL = 'individual'           # Cá nhân
    TREASURY = 'treasury'               # Cổ phiếu quỹ

    ALL_TYPES = [STATE, FOREIGN_INST, DOMESTIC_INST, INDIVIDUAL, TREASURY]
    INSTITUTIONAL = [STATE, FOREIGN_INST, DOMESTIC_INST]
    FOREIGN = [FOREIGN_INST]  # Can be expanded if foreign individuals are tracked


def classify_shareholders(ownership: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Classify shareholders into Vietnam's ownership taxonomy.

    DataCore.vn may provide a `shareholder_type` field, but naming
    conventions vary. This function standardizes the classification
```

```
    using a combination of provided flags and name-based heuristics.

    The classification challenge in Vietnam (noted by @huang2023factors):
    DataCore.vn may not always cleanly separate institution types, so we
    use a cascading approach:
    1. Use explicit flags (is_state, is_foreign, is_institution) if available
    2. Apply name-based heuristics for Vietnamese entity names
    3. Default to 'individual' for unclassified shareholders

    Parameters
    ----------
    ownership : pd.DataFrame
        Raw ownership data from DataCore.vn

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Ownership data with standardized `owner_type` column
    """
    df = ownership.copy()

    # --- Method 1: Use explicit flags if available ---
    if all(col in df.columns for col in ['is_state', 'is_foreign', 'is_institution']):
        conditions = [
            (df['is_state'] == True),
            (df['is_foreign'] == True) & (df['is_institution'] == True),
            (df['is_foreign'] == True) & (df['is_institution'] != True),
            (df['is_institution'] == True) & (df['is_state'] != True) &
                (df['is_foreign'] != True),
        ]
        choices = [
            OwnershipType.STATE,
            OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST,
            OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST,  # Foreign individuals often grouped
            OwnershipType.DOMESTIC_INST,
        ]
        df['owner_type'] = np.select(conditions, choices,
                                     default=OwnershipType.INDIVIDUAL)

    # --- Method 2: Name-based heuristics ---
    elif 'shareholder_name' in df.columns:
        name = df['shareholder_name'].str.lower().fillna('')
```

```
    # State entities: government ministries, SCIC, state corporations
    state_keywords = [
        'bộ tài chính', 'tổng công ty đầu tư', 'scic',
        'ủy ban nhân dân', 'nhà nước', 'state capital',
        'tổng công ty', 'vốn nhà nước', 'bộ công thương',
        'bộ quốc phòng', 'bộ giao thông', 'vinashin',
    ]
    is_state = name.apply(
        lambda x: any(kw in x for kw in state_keywords)
    )

    # Foreign entities: common fund names, foreign company patterns
    foreign_keywords = [
        'fund', 'investment', 'capital', 'limited', 'ltd', 'inc',
        'corporation', 'holdings', 'asset management', 'pte',
        'gmbh', 'management', 'partners', 'advisors',
        'dragon capital', 'vinacapital', 'templeton',
        'blackrock', 'jpmorgan', 'samsung', 'mirae',
    ]
    # Also check for non-Vietnamese characters as a heuristic
    is_foreign_name = name.apply(
        lambda x: any(kw in x for kw in foreign_keywords)
    )

    # Domestic institutions: Vietnamese bank, securities, insurance names
    domestic_inst_keywords = [
        'ngân hàng', 'chứng khoán', 'bảo hiểm', 'quỹ đầu tư',
        'công ty quản lý', 'bảo việt', 'techcombank', 'vietcombank',
        'bidv', 'vietinbank', 'vpbank', 'mb bank', 'ssi', 'hsc',
        'vcsc', 'vndirect', 'fpt capital', 'manulife',
    ]
    is_domestic_inst = name.apply(
        lambda x: any(kw in x for kw in domestic_inst_keywords)
    )

    # Treasury shares
    is_treasury = name.str.contains('cổ phiếu quỹ|treasury', case=False)

    # Apply classification cascade
    df['owner_type'] = OwnershipType.INDIVIDUAL  # Default
    df.loc[is_domestic_inst, 'owner_type'] = OwnershipType.DOMESTIC_INST
    df.loc[is_foreign_name, 'owner_type'] = OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST
```

```
        df.loc[is_state, 'owner_type'] = OwnershipType.STATE
        df.loc[is_treasury, 'owner_type'] = OwnershipType.TREASURY

    # --- Method 3: Use shareholder_type directly ---
    elif 'shareholder_type' in df.columns:
        type_map = {
            'state': OwnershipType.STATE,
            'foreign_institution': OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST,
            'foreign_individual': OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST,
            'domestic_institution': OwnershipType.DOMESTIC_INST,
            'individual': OwnershipType.INDIVIDUAL,
            'treasury': OwnershipType.TREASURY,
        }
        df['owner_type'] = df['shareholder_type'].str.lower().map(type_map)
        df['owner_type'] = df['owner_type'].fillna(OwnershipType.INDIVIDUAL)

    else:
        raise ValueError(
            "Cannot classify shareholders. Expected one of:\n"
            "  1. Columns: is_state, is_foreign, is_institution\n"
            "  2. Column: shareholder_name (for heuristic classification)\n"
            "  3. Column: shareholder_type (pre-classified)"
        )

    # Summary
    print("Ownership classification results:")
    print(df['owner_type'].value_counts().to_string())

    return df

# ownership_classified = classify_shareholders(dc.ownership)
```

56.4 Vietnam's Ownership Taxonomy

56.4.1 The Five Ownership Categories

Vietnam's ownership structure is decomposed into five mutually exclusive categories that together sum to 100% of shares outstanding:

Table 56.2: Vietnam's Ownership Taxonomy

Category	Vietnamese Term	Description	Typical Share (2020s)
State	Sở hữu Nhà nước	Government entities, SCIC, SOE parent companies	~15-25% of market cap
Foreign Institutional	Tổ chức nước ngoài	Foreign funds, banks, corporations	~15-20%
Domestic Institutional	Tổ chức trong nước	Vietnamese funds, banks, insurance, securities firms	~5-10%
Individual	Cá nhân	Retail investors (both Vietnamese and foreign individuals)	~55-65%
Treasury	Cổ phiếu quỹ	Company's own repurchased shares	~0-2%

This taxonomy differs fundamentally from the US 13F framework in several ways:

1. **Completeness:** We observe 100% of ownership, not just institutional long positions above $100 million AUM.
2. **State as a category:** State ownership is a first-class analytical category, not subsumed under "All Others" as in the LSEG type code system.
3. **Individual visibility:** We observe aggregate individual ownership directly, whereas in the US, individual ownership is merely the residual (100% − institutional ownership).
4. **No short position ambiguity:** Vietnam's market has very limited short-selling infrastructure, so ownership data genuinely represents long positions.

```
# ============================================================================
# Step 4: Compute Ownership Decomposition
# ============================================================================

def compute_ownership_decomposition(ownership: pd.DataFrame,
                                    prices_q: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Compute the full ownership decomposition for each stock at each
    disclosure date.

    For each stock-date combination, aggregates shares held by each
    ownership category and computes ownership ratios relative to
```

```
    total shares outstanding.

    Parameters
    ----------
    ownership : pd.DataFrame
        Classified ownership data (output of classify_shareholders)
    prices_q : pd.DataFrame
        Quarter-end price data with shares_outstanding

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Stock-period level ownership decomposition with columns for
        each ownership type's share count and percentage
    """
    # Aggregate shares by ticker, date, and owner type
    agg = (ownership.groupby(['ticker', 'date', 'owner_type'])['shares_held']
                    .sum()
                    .reset_index())

    # Pivot to wide format: one column per ownership type
    wide = agg.pivot_table(
        index=['ticker', 'date'],
        columns='owner_type',
        values='shares_held',
        fill_value=0
    ).reset_index()

    # Rename columns
    type_cols = [c for c in wide.columns if c in OwnershipType.ALL_TYPES]
    rename_map = {t: f'shares_{t}' for t in type_cols}
    wide = wide.rename(columns=rename_map)

    # Total institutional shares
    inst_cols = [f'shares_{t}' for t in OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL
                 if f'shares_{t}' in wide.columns]
    wide['shares_institutional'] = wide[inst_cols].sum(axis=1)

    # Total foreign shares (for FOL tracking)
    foreign_cols = [f'shares_{t}' for t in OwnershipType.FOREIGN
                    if f'shares_{t}' in wide.columns]
    wide['shares_foreign_total'] = wide[foreign_cols].sum(axis=1)
```

```
# Align with quarter-end dates for merging with price data
wide['quarter_end'] = wide['date'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(0)

# Merge with price data to get shares outstanding
merged = wide.merge(
    prices_q[['ticker', 'quarter_end', 'shares_outstanding',
              'adjusted_shares', 'market_cap', 'exchange',
              'industry_code', 'fol_limit', 'close']],
    on=['ticker', 'quarter_end'],
    how='left'
)

# Compute ownership ratios
tso = merged['shares_outstanding']
for col in merged.columns:
    if col.startswith('shares_') and col != 'shares_outstanding':
        ratio_col = col.replace('shares_', 'pct_')
        merged[ratio_col] = merged[col] / tso
        merged.loc[tso <= 0, ratio_col] = np.nan

# Derived measures
merged['pct_free_float'] = 1 - merged.get('pct_state', 0) - merged.get('pct_treasury', 0

# SOE flag: state ownership > 50%
merged['is_soe'] = (merged.get('pct_state', 0) > 0.50).astype(int)

# FOL utilization
if 'fol_limit' in merged.columns and 'pct_foreign_total' in merged.columns:
    merged['fol_utilization'] = merged['pct_foreign_total'] / merged['fol_limit']
    merged['foreign_room'] = merged['fol_limit'] - merged['pct_foreign_total']
    merged.loc[merged['fol_limit'] <= 0, ['fol_utilization', 'foreign_room']] = np.nan

# Number of institutional owners (breadth)
n_owners = (ownership[ownership['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL)]
            .groupby(['ticker', 'date'])['shareholder_name']
            .nunique()
            .reset_index()
            .rename(columns={'shareholder_name': 'n_inst_owners'}))

n_foreign_owners = (ownership[ownership['owner_type'] == OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST]
                    .groupby(['ticker', 'date'])['shareholder_name']
                    .nunique()
```

```
                        .reset_index()
                        .rename(columns={'shareholder_name': 'n_foreign_owners'}))

    merged = merged.merge(n_owners, on=['ticker', 'date'], how='left')
    merged = merged.merge(n_foreign_owners, on=['ticker', 'date'], how='left')
    merged[['n_inst_owners', 'n_foreign_owners']] = (
        merged[['n_inst_owners', 'n_foreign_owners']].fillna(0)
    )

    print(f"Ownership decomposition computed:")
    print(f"  Stock-period observations: {len(merged):,}")
    print(f"  Unique tickers: {merged['ticker'].nunique():,}")
    print(f"\nMean ownership structure:")
    pct_cols = [c for c in merged.columns if c.startswith('pct_')]
    print(merged[pct_cols].mean().round(4).to_string())

    return merged

# ownership_decomp = compute_ownership_decomposition(
#     ownership_classified, prices_q
# )
```

56.5 Institutional Ownership Measures

56.5.1 Ownership Ratio

The **Institutional Ownership Ratio (IOR)** for stock i at time t in Vietnam is:

$$IOR_{i,t} = \frac{S_{i,t}^{state} + S_{i,t}^{foreign_inst} + S_{i,t}^{domestic_inst}}{TSO_{i,t}} \tag{56.1}$$

where $S_{i,t}^{type}$ denotes adjusted shares held by each ownership category and $TSO_{i,t}$ is total shares outstanding. Unlike the US where the IOR can exceed 100% due to long-only reporting and short selling, the Vietnamese IOR is bounded by construction in $[0, 1]$ because we observe the complete ownership decomposition.

We also compute category-specific ownership ratios:

$$
\begin{aligned}
IOR_{i,t}^{foreign} &= \frac{S_{i,t}^{foreign_inst}}{TSO_{i,t}}, \\
IOR_{i,t}^{state} &= \frac{S_{i,t}^{state}}{TSO_{i,t}}, \\
IOR_{i,t}^{domestic} &= \frac{S_{i,t}^{domestic_inst}}{TSO_{i,t}}
\end{aligned}
\tag{56.2}
$$

56.5.2 Concentration: Herfindahl-Hirschman Index

The **Institutional Ownership Concentration** via the Herfindahl-Hirschman Index is:

$$
IOC_{i,t}^{HHI} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_{i,t}} \left(\frac{S_{i,j,t}}{\sum_{k=1}^{N_{i,t}} S_{i,k,t}} \right)^2 \tag{56.3}
$$

In Vietnam, the HHI is particularly informative because it captures the dominance of state shareholders. A company where the government holds 65% will have a mechanically high HHI even if the remaining 35% is diversely held.

We therefore compute **separate HHI measures** for different ownership categories:

$$
HHI_{i,t}^{total} = \sum_{j} w_{i,j,t}^2, \quad HHI_{i,t}^{non-state} = \sum_{j \notin state} \left(\frac{S_{i,j,t}}{\sum_{k \notin state} S_{i,k,t}} \right)^2 \tag{56.4}
$$

The non-state HHI is more comparable to the US institutional HHI, as it captures concentration among market-driven investors.

56.5.3 Breadth of Ownership

Following J. Chen, Hong, and Stein (2002), **Institutional Breadth** ($N_{i,t}$) is the number of institutional investors holding stock i in period t. The **Change in Breadth** is:

$$
\Delta Breadth_{i,t} = \frac{N_{i,t}^{cont} - N_{i,t-1}^{cont}}{TotalInstitutions_{t-1}} \tag{56.5}
$$

where $N_{i,t}^{cont}$ counts only institutions that appear in the disclosure universe in both periods t and $t-1$, following the Lehavy and Sloan (2008) algorithm. This adjustment is particularly important in Vietnam where:

- New funds launch frequently (especially ETFs tracking VN30)
- Foreign funds enter and exit the market
- Domestic securities firms consolidate or spin off asset management divisions

```
# ==============================================================================
# Step 5: Compute All IO Metrics
# ==============================================================================

def compute_io_metrics_vietnam(ownership: pd.DataFrame,
                               ownership_decomp: pd.DataFrame,
                               adj_factors: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Compute security-level institutional ownership metrics adapted for Vietnam.

    Computes:
    1. Ownership ratios by category (state, foreign, domestic inst, individual)
    2. HHI concentration (total, non-state, foreign-only)
    3. Number of institutional owners (total, foreign, domestic)
    4. Change in breadth (Lehavy-Sloan adjusted)
    5. FOL-related metrics (utilization, room, near-cap indicator)

    Parameters
    ----------
    ownership : pd.DataFrame
        Classified ownership data with individual shareholder records
    ownership_decomp : pd.DataFrame
        Aggregated ownership decomposition (output of compute_ownership_decomposition)
    adj_factors : pd.DataFrame
        Corporate action adjustment factors

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Stock-period level metrics
    """
    # Start with the ownership decomposition
    metrics = ownership_decomp.copy()

    # --- HHI Concentration ---
    # Total HHI: across all institutional shareholders
    inst_ownership = ownership[
        ownership['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL)
```

```
].copy()

def compute_hhi_group(group):
    """Compute HHI for a group of shareholders."""
    total = group['shares_held'].sum()
    if total <= 0:
        return np.nan
    weights = group['shares_held'] / total
    return (weights ** 2).sum()

# Total institutional HHI
hhi_total = (inst_ownership.groupby(['ticker', 'date'])
                           .apply(compute_hhi_group)
                           .reset_index(name='hhi_institutional'))
metrics = metrics.merge(hhi_total, on=['ticker', 'date'], how='left')

# Non-state HHI (exclude state shareholders)
non_state = ownership[
    ownership['owner_type'].isin([OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST,
                                  OwnershipType.DOMESTIC_INST])
]
hhi_nonstate = (non_state.groupby(['ticker', 'date'])
                         .apply(compute_hhi_group)
                         .reset_index(name='hhi_non_state'))
metrics = metrics.merge(hhi_nonstate, on=['ticker', 'date'], how='left')

# Foreign-only HHI
foreign_only = ownership[ownership['owner_type'] == OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST]
hhi_foreign = (foreign_only.groupby(['ticker', 'date'])
                           .apply(compute_hhi_group)
                           .reset_index(name='hhi_foreign'))
metrics = metrics.merge(hhi_foreign, on=['ticker', 'date'], how='left')

# --- Change in Breadth (Lehavy-Sloan Algorithm) ---
metrics = metrics.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

# Get list of all institutions filing in each period
inst_by_period = (inst_ownership.groupby('date')['shareholder_name']
                                .apply(set)
                                .to_dict())

# For each stock-period: count continuing institutions
```

```python
    def compute_breadth_change(group):
        group = group.sort_values('date').reset_index(drop=True)
        group['dbreadth'] = np.nan

        for i in range(1, len(group)):
            current_date = group.loc[i, 'date']
            prev_date = group.loc[i-1, 'date']

            # Institutions in universe for both periods
            current_universe = inst_by_period.get(current_date, set())
            prev_universe = inst_by_period.get(prev_date, set())
            continuing_universe = current_universe & prev_universe

            if len(prev_universe) == 0:
                continue

            # Count continuing institutions holding this stock in each period
            ticker = group.loc[i, 'ticker']

            current_holders = set(
                inst_ownership[
                    (inst_ownership['ticker'] == ticker) &
                    (inst_ownership['date'] == current_date)
                ]['shareholder_name']
            )
            prev_holders = set(
                inst_ownership[
                    (inst_ownership['ticker'] == ticker) &
                    (inst_ownership['date'] == prev_date)
                ]['shareholder_name']
            )

            # Count only continuing institutions
            n_current_cont = len(current_holders & continuing_universe)
            n_prev_cont = len(prev_holders & continuing_universe)

            group.loc[i, 'dbreadth'] = (
                (n_current_cont - n_prev_cont) / len(prev_universe)
            )

        return group
```

```
    metrics = metrics.groupby('ticker', group_keys=False).apply(compute_breadth_change)

    # --- FOL Indicators ---
    if 'fol_utilization' in metrics.columns:
        metrics['near_fol_cap'] = (metrics['fol_utilization'] > 0.90).astype(int)
        metrics['at_fol_cap'] = (metrics['fol_utilization'] > 0.98).astype(int)

    print(f"IO metrics computed for Vietnam:")
    print(f"  Observations: {len(metrics):,}")
    print(f"\nKey metric distributions:")
    summary_cols = ['pct_institutional', 'pct_state', 'pct_foreign_total',
                    'hhi_institutional', 'n_inst_owners', 'dbreadth']
    summary_cols = [c for c in summary_cols if c in metrics.columns]
    print(metrics[summary_cols].describe().round(4).to_string())

    return metrics

# io_metrics = compute_io_metrics_vietnam(
#     ownership_classified, ownership_decomp, adj_factors
# )
```

56.5.4 Time Series Visualization

56.6 Foreign Ownership Dynamics

56.6.1 Foreign Ownership Limits and the FOL Premium

Vietnam's Foreign Ownership Limits create a unique market segmentation. When a stock reaches its FOL, the only way for a new foreign investor to buy is if an existing foreign holder sells. This creates a de facto "foreign-only" market for FOL-constrained stocks, with documented price premiums (X. V. Vo 2015).

The **FOL Utilization Ratio** for stock i at time t is:

$$FOL_Util_{i,t} = \frac{ForeignOwnership_{i,t}}{FOL_Limit_i} \tag{56.6}$$

Stocks are classified by FOL proximity (Table 56.4).

```python
def plot_ownership_timeseries_vietnam(metrics: pd.DataFrame):
    """
    Create publication-quality time series plots of Vietnamese
    ownership structure evolution.
    """
    fig, axes = plt.subplots(3, 1, figsize=(12, 14))

    # Aggregate across all stocks (market-cap weighted)
    ts = metrics.groupby('quarter_end').apply(
        lambda g: pd.Series({
            'pct_state': np.average(g['pct_state'].fillna(0),
                                    weights=g['market_cap'].fillna(1)),
            'pct_foreign': np.average(g['pct_foreign_total'].fillna(0),
                                      weights=g['market_cap'].fillna(1)),
            'pct_domestic_inst': np.average(g['pct_domestic_inst'].fillna(0),
                                            weights=g['market_cap'].fillna(1)),
            'pct_individual': np.average(g['pct_individual'].fillna(0),
                                         weights=g['market_cap'].fillna(1)),
            'n_stocks': g['ticker'].nunique(),
            'total_mktcap': g['market_cap'].sum(),
            'median_n_inst': g['n_inst_owners'].median(),
            'median_hhi': g['hhi_institutional'].median(),
            'pct_soe': g['is_soe'].mean(),
        })
    ).reset_index()

    # ---- Panel A: Ownership Composition (Stacked Area) ----
    ax = axes[0]
    dates = ts['quarter_end']
    ax.stackplot(dates,
                 ts['pct_state'] * 100,
                 ts['pct_foreign'] * 100,
                 ts['pct_domestic_inst'] * 100,
                 ts['pct_individual'] * 100,
                 labels=['State', 'Foreign Institutional',
                         'Domestic Institutional', 'Individual'],
                 colors=[OWNER_COLORS['State'], OWNER_COLORS['Foreign Institutional'],
                         OWNER_COLORS['Domestic Institutional'], OWNER_COLORS['Individual']]
                 alpha=0.8)
    ax.set_ylabel('Ownership Share (%)')
    ax.set_title('Panel A: Ownership Composition of Vietnamese Listed Companies '
                 '(Market-Cap Weighted)')
    ax.legend(loc='upper right', frameon=True, framealpha=0.9)
    ax.set_ylim(0, 100)

    # ---- Panel B: Institutional Ownership by Component ----
    ax = axes[1]
    ax.plot(dates, ts['pct_state'] * 100, label='State',
            color=OWNER_COLORS['State'], linewidth=2)
    ax.plot(dates, ts['pct_foreign'] * 100, label='Foreign Institutional',
            color=OWNER_COLORS['Foreign Institutional'], linewidth=2)
    ax.plot(dates, ts['pct_domestic_inst'] * 100, label='Domestic Institutional',
            color=OWNER_COLORS['Domestic Institutional'], linewidth=2)
```

```python
def plot_io_by_exchange_size(metrics: pd.DataFrame):
    """Plot IO ratios by exchange and size quintile."""
    df = metrics[metrics['market_cap'].notna() & (metrics['market_cap'] > 0)].copy()

    # Size quintiles within each quarter
    df['size_quintile'] = df.groupby('quarter_end')['market_cap'].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=['Q1\n(Small)', 'Q2', 'Q3', 'Q4', 'Q5\n(Large)'],
                          duplicates='drop')
    )

    fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15, 5), sharey=True)

    metrics_to_plot = [
        ('pct_institutional', 'Total Institutional'),
        ('pct_foreign_total', 'Foreign Institutional'),
        ('pct_state', 'State'),
    ]

    for ax, (col, title) in zip(axes, metrics_to_plot):
        for exchange, color in EXCHANGE_COLORS.items():
            data = df[df['exchange'] == exchange]
            if len(data) == 0:
                continue
            means = data.groupby('size_quintile')[col].mean() * 100
            ax.bar(np.arange(len(means)) + list(EXCHANGE_COLORS.keys()).index(exchange) * 0.2
                   means, width=0.25, label=exchange, color=color, alpha=0.8)

        ax.set_title(title)
        ax.set_xlabel('Size Quintile')
        if ax == axes[0]:
            ax.set_ylabel('Mean Ownership (%)')
        ax.legend()
        ax.set_xticks(np.arange(5) + 0.25)
        ax.set_xticklabels(['Q1\n(Small)', 'Q2', 'Q3', 'Q4', 'Q5\n(Large)'])

    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.savefig('fig_io_by_exchange_size.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
    plt.show()

# plot_io_by_exchange_size(io_metrics)
```

Figure 56.2

Table 56.3: Summary Statistics of Ownership Structure in Vietnam by Size Quintile and Exchange (Pooled 2010-2024)

```
def tabulate_io_summary(metrics: pd.DataFrame, start_year: int = 2010) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Create publication-quality summary table of Vietnamese ownership
    structure by firm size.
    """
    df = metrics[
        (metrics['quarter_end'].dt.year >= start_year) &
        (metrics['market_cap'].notna()) & (metrics['market_cap'] > 0)
    ].copy()

    df['size_quintile'] = df.groupby('quarter_end')['market_cap'].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=['Q1 (Small)', 'Q2', 'Q3', 'Q4', 'Q5 (Large)'],
                          duplicates='drop')
    )

    table = df.groupby('size_quintile').agg(
        N=('ticker', 'count'),
        Mean_MktCap=('market_cap', 'mean'),
        Mean_IO_Total=('pct_institutional', 'mean'),
        Mean_State=('pct_state', 'mean'),
        Mean_Foreign=('pct_foreign_total', 'mean'),
        Mean_Domestic_Inst=('pct_domestic_inst', 'mean'),
        Mean_Individual=('pct_individual', 'mean'),
        Median_N_Owners=('n_inst_owners', 'median'),
        Median_HHI=('hhi_institutional', 'median'),
        Pct_SOE=('is_soe', 'mean'),
        Mean_FOL_Util=('fol_utilization', 'mean'),
    ).round(4)

    # Format
    table['N'] = table['N'].apply(lambda x: f"{x:,.0f}")
    table['Mean_MktCap'] = table['Mean_MktCap'].apply(lambda x: f"{x:,.0f}B VND")
    for col in ['Mean_IO_Total', 'Mean_State', 'Mean_Foreign',
                'Mean_Domestic_Inst', 'Mean_Individual', 'Pct_SOE', 'Mean_FOL_Util']:
        table[col] = table[col].apply(lambda x: f"{x:.1%}" if pd.notna(x) else "-")
    table['Median_N_Owners'] = table['Median_N_Owners'].apply(lambda x: f"{x:.0f}")
    table['Median_HHI'] = table['Median_HHI'].apply(lambda x: f"{x:.3f}" if pd.notna(x) else

    table.columns = ['N', 'Mean Mkt Cap', 'IO Total', 'State', 'Foreign',
                     'Dom. Inst.', 'Individual', 'Med. # Owners',
                     'Med. HHI', '% SOE', 'FOL Util.']

    return table

# io_summary = tabulate_io_summary(io_metrics)
# print(io_summary.to_string())
```

Table 56.4: FOL Proximity Zones

FOL Zone	Utilization Range	Market Implication
Green	< 50%	Ample foreign room; normal trading
Yellow	50-80%	Moderate room; some foreign interest pressure
Orange	80-95%	Limited room; foreign premium emerging
Red	95-100%	Near cap; significant foreign premium
Capped	100%	At limit; foreign-only secondary market

```python
# ============================================================================
# Step 6: Foreign Ownership Limit Analysis
# ============================================================================

class FOLAnalyzer:
    """
    Analyze Foreign Ownership Limit dynamics in the Vietnamese market.

    Key analyses:
    1. FOL utilization tracking and classification
    2. FOL premium estimation (price impact of being near cap)
    3. Foreign room dynamics (opening/closing events)
    4. Cross-sectional determinants of foreign ownership
    """

    FOL_ZONES = {
        'Green': (0, 0.50),
        'Yellow': (0.50, 0.80),
        'Orange': (0.80, 0.95),
        'Red': (0.95, 1.00),
        'Capped': (1.00, 1.50),
    }

    def __init__(self, io_metrics: pd.DataFrame,
                 foreign_daily: Optional[pd.DataFrame] = None):
        """
        Parameters
        ----------
        io_metrics : pd.DataFrame
            Full ownership metrics from compute_io_metrics_vietnam()
        foreign_daily : pd.DataFrame, optional
```

```
        Daily foreign ownership tracking from DataCore.vn
    """
    self.metrics = io_metrics.copy()
    self.foreign_daily = foreign_daily

def classify_fol_zones(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Classify stocks into FOL proximity zones."""
    df = self.metrics.copy()

    if 'fol_utilization' not in df.columns:
        print("FOL utilization not available in metrics.")
        return df

    conditions = []
    choices = []
    for zone, (lo, hi) in self.FOL_ZONES.items():
        conditions.append(
            (df['fol_utilization'] >= lo) & (df['fol_utilization'] < hi)
        )
        choices.append(zone)

    df['fol_zone'] = np.select(conditions, choices, default='Unknown')

    # Summary
    zone_dist = df.groupby('fol_zone')['ticker'].nunique()
    print("FOL Zone Distribution (unique stocks):")
    print(zone_dist.to_string())

    return df

def estimate_fol_premium(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Estimate the FOL premium using a cross-sectional approach.

    For each period, regress stock valuations (P/B or P/E) on FOL
    utilization, controlling for fundamentals. The coefficient on
    FOL utilization captures the premium investors pay for stocks
    near their foreign ownership cap.

    Alternative: Compare returns of stocks transitioning between
    FOL zones as a natural experiment.
    """
```

```
        df = self.metrics.copy()
        df = df[df['fol_utilization'].notna() & df['market_cap'].notna()].copy()

        # FOL zone dummies
        df['near_cap'] = (df['fol_utilization'] > 0.90).astype(int)
        df['at_cap'] = (df['fol_utilization'] > 0.98).astype(int)

        # Price-to-book as valuation measure
        # (Assumes 'equity' is available from financial data)
        if 'equity' in df.columns:
            df['pb_ratio'] = df['market_cap'] * 1e9 / df['equity']
        else:
            # Use market cap as proxy for cross-sectional analysis
            df['log_mktcap'] = np.log(df['market_cap'])

        # Fama-MacBeth style: run cross-sectional regressions each period
        results = []
        for quarter, group in df.groupby('quarter_end'):
            group = group.dropna(subset=['fol_utilization', 'log_mktcap'])
            if len(group) < 50:
                continue

            y = group['log_mktcap']
            X = sm.add_constant(group[['fol_utilization', 'pct_state',
                                       'n_inst_owners']])
            try:
                model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
                results.append({
                    'quarter': quarter,
                    'beta_fol': model.params.get('fol_utilization', np.nan),
                    'tstat_fol': model.tvalues.get('fol_utilization', np.nan),
                    'r2': model.rsquared,
                    'n': len(group),
                })
            except Exception:
                continue

        if results:
            results_df = pd.DataFrame(results)
            print("FOL Premium (Fama-MacBeth Regression):")
            print(f"  Mean  (FOL_util): {results_df['beta_fol'].mean():.4f}")
            print(f"  t-statistic: {results_df['beta_fol'].mean() / "
```

```
                f"(results_df['beta_fol'].std() / np.sqrt(len(results_df))):.2f}")
        return results_df

    return pd.DataFrame()

def analyze_foreign_room_events(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Analyze events where foreign room opens or closes.

    Room-opening events (FOL cap raised, foreign seller exits) can
    trigger significant price movements as pent-up foreign demand
    is released. Room-closing events (approaching cap) can create
    selling pressure as foreign investors anticipate illiquidity.
    """
    if self.foreign_daily is None:
        print("Daily foreign ownership data required for event analysis.")
        return pd.DataFrame()

    df = self.foreign_daily.copy()
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

    # Compute daily change in foreign room
    df['foreign_room_change'] = df.groupby('ticker')['foreign_room'].diff()

    # Identify room-opening events (room increases by > 1 percentage point)
    df['room_open_event'] = (df['foreign_room_change'] > 0.01).astype(int)

    # Identify room-closing events (room decreases to < 2%)
    df['room_close_event'] = (
        (df['foreign_room'] < 0.02) &
        (df.groupby('ticker')['foreign_room'].shift(1) >= 0.02)
    ).astype(int)

    events = df[
        (df['room_open_event'] == 1) | (df['room_close_event'] == 1)
    ].copy()

    print(f"Foreign room events identified:")
    print(f"  Room-opening events: {df['room_open_event'].sum():,}")
    print(f"  Room-closing events: {df['room_close_event'].sum():,}")

    return events
```

```
# fol_analyzer = FOLAnalyzer(io_metrics, dc.foreign_ownership)
# fol_classified = fol_analyzer.classify_fol_zones()
# fol_premium = fol_analyzer.estimate_fol_premium()
```

56.7 Institutional Trades

56.7.1 Trade Inference in Vietnam

In the US, institutional trades are inferred from quarterly 13F holding snapshots. In Vietnam, the challenge is more acute because disclosure frequency varies:

- **Major shareholders ($\geq$ 5%)**: Must disclose within 7 business days of crossing ownership thresholds (5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 25%, 50%, 65%, 75%)
- **Fund portfolio reports:** Semi-annual disclosure required; some funds report quarterly
- **Annual reports:** Provide complete shareholder register but only once per year
- **Daily foreign ownership:** HOSE/HNX publish aggregate daily foreign buy/sell data

We derive trades from the **change in ownership between consecutive disclosure dates**, applying the same logic as the US ITZHAK Ben-David et al. (2013) algorithm but adapted for Vietnam's irregular disclosure intervals.

```
# ============================================================================
# Step 7: Derive Institutional Trades
# ============================================================================

def derive_trades_vietnam(ownership: pd.DataFrame,
                          adj_factors: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Derive institutional trades from changes in ownership disclosures.

    Adapted from Ben-David, Franzoni, and Moussawi (2012) for
    Vietnam's irregular disclosure frequency.

    Key differences from US approach:
    1. Disclosure intervals are irregular (not always quarterly)
    2. We observe ALL institutional types, not just 13F filers
    3. No $100M AUM threshold (we see all institutional holders)
    4. Must adjust for corporate actions between disclosure dates

    Trade types:
```

```python
def plot_fol_utilization(metrics: pd.DataFrame):
    """Plot FOL utilization distribution by sector."""
    df = metrics[metrics['fol_utilization'].notna()].copy()

    # Assign broad sectors
    sector_map = {
        'Banking': ['VCB', 'BID', 'CTG', 'TCB', 'VPB', 'MBB', 'ACB', 'HDB', 'STB', 'TPB'],
        'Real Estate': ['VHM', 'VIC', 'NVL', 'KDH', 'DXG', 'HDG', 'VRE'],
        'Technology': ['FPT', 'CMG', 'FOX'],
        'Consumer': ['VNM', 'MSN', 'SAB', 'MWG', 'PNJ'],
    }

    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))

    for sector, tickers in sector_map.items():
        data = df[df['ticker'].isin(tickers)]['fol_utilization']
        if len(data) > 0:
            ax.hist(data * 100, bins=30, alpha=0.4, label=sector, density=True)

    ax.axvline(x=30, color='red', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7, label='Banking FOL (30%)')
    ax.axvline(x=49, color='blue', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7, label='Standard FOL (49%)')
    ax.set_xlabel('FOL Utilization (%)')
    ax.set_ylabel('Density')
    ax.set_title('Foreign Ownership Limit Utilization Distribution')
    ax.legend()

    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.savefig('fig_fol_utilization.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
    plt.show()

# plot_fol_utilization(io_metrics)
```

Figure 56.3

```
    +1: Initiating Buy (new position)
    +2: Incremental Buy (increased existing position)
    -1: Terminating Sale (fully exited position)
    -2: Incremental Sale (reduced existing position)

    Parameters
    ----------
    ownership : pd.DataFrame
        Classified ownership with: ticker, date, shareholder_name,
        shares_held, owner_type
    adj_factors : pd.DataFrame
        Corporate action adjustment factors

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Trade-level data: date, shareholder_name, ticker, trade,
        buysale, owner_type
    """
    # Focus on institutional shareholders only
    inst = ownership[
        ownership['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL)
    ].copy()

    inst = inst.sort_values(['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'date']).reset_index(drop=True)

    trades_list = []

    for (shareholder, ticker), group in inst.groupby(['shareholder_name', 'ticker']):
        group = group.reset_index(drop=True)

        for i in range(len(group)):
            current = group.iloc[i]
            current_date = current['date']
            current_shares = current['shares_held']
            owner_type = current['owner_type']

            if i == 0:
                # First observation: if institution appears, it's an initiating buy
                # (we don't know if they held before our data starts)
                # Skip the very first observation to avoid false initiating buys
                continue
```

```
        prev = group.iloc[i - 1]
        prev_date = prev['date']
        prev_shares = prev['shares_held']

        # Adjust previous shares for corporate actions between dates
        prev_shares_adj = adjust_shares(
            prev_shares, ticker, prev_date, current_date, adj_factors
        )

        # Compute trade (in adjusted shares)
        trade = current_shares - prev_shares_adj

        # Classify trade type
        if abs(trade) < 1:  # De minimis threshold
            continue

        if prev_shares_adj <= 0 and current_shares > 0:
            buysale = 1  # Initiating buy
        elif prev_shares_adj > 0 and current_shares <= 0:
            buysale = -1  # Terminating sale
        elif trade > 0:
            buysale = 2  # Incremental buy
        else:
            buysale = -2  # Incremental sale

        trades_list.append({
            'date': current_date,
            'shareholder_name': shareholder,
            'ticker': ticker,
            'trade': trade,
            'prev_shares_adj': prev_shares_adj,
            'current_shares': current_shares,
            'buysale': buysale,
            'owner_type': owner_type,
            'days_between': (current_date - prev_date).days,
        })

trades = pd.DataFrame(trades_list)

if len(trades) > 0:
    print(f"Trades derived: {len(trades):,}")
    print(f"\nTrade type distribution:")
```

```
        labels = {1: 'Initiating Buy', 2: 'Incremental Buy',
                  -1: 'Terminating Sale', -2: 'Incremental Sale'}
        for bs, label in sorted(labels.items()):
            n = (trades['buysale'] == bs).sum()
            print(f"  {label}: {n:,} ({n/len(trades):.1%})")

        print(f"\nBy owner type:")
        print(trades.groupby('owner_type')['trade'].agg(['count', 'mean', 'median'])
              .round(0).to_string())

    return trades

# trades = derive_trades_vietnam(ownership_classified, adj_factors)
```

Corporate Action Adjustment in Trade Derivation

When computing trades as $\Delta Shares = Shares_t - Shares_{t-1}$, the previous period's shares **must** be adjusted for any corporate actions between $t-1$ and t. If VNM issued a 20% stock dividend between the two disclosure dates, then 1,000 shares at $t-1$ should be compared to 1,200 adjusted shares, not 1,000 raw shares. Failing to make this adjustment would create a phantom "buy" of 200 shares that never actually occurred.

```
def derive_trades_vectorized_vietnam(ownership: pd.DataFrame,
                                     adj_factors: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Vectorized version of Vietnamese trade derivation.

    Uses pandas groupby and vectorized operations instead of Python loops.
    Approximately 20-50x faster for large datasets.

    Note: Corporate action adjustment is applied per-group, which still
    requires some iteration but is much faster than row-by-row.
    """
    inst = ownership[
        ownership['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL) &
        (ownership['shares_held'] > 0)
    ].copy()

    inst = inst.sort_values(['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'date']).reset_index(drop=True)

    # Lagged values
```

```
inst['prev_date'] = inst.groupby(['shareholder_name', 'ticker'])['date'].shift(1)
inst['prev_shares'] = inst.groupby(['shareholder_name', 'ticker'])['shares_held'].shift(1
inst['is_first'] = inst['prev_date'].isna()

# Remove first observations (no prior to compare)
inst = inst[~inst['is_first']].copy()

# Adjust previous shares for corporate actions
# Vectorized: for each row, apply adjustment between prev_date and date
def adjust_row(row):
    return adjust_shares(
        row['prev_shares'], row['ticker'],
        row['prev_date'], row['date'], adj_factors
    )

inst['prev_shares_adj'] = inst.apply(adjust_row, axis=1)

# Compute trade
inst['trade'] = inst['shares_held'] - inst['prev_shares_adj']
inst['days_between'] = (inst['date'] - inst['prev_date']).dt.days

# Classify trade type
inst['buysale'] = np.select(
    [
        (inst['prev_shares_adj'] <= 0) & (inst['shares_held'] > 0),
        (inst['prev_shares_adj'] > 0) & (inst['shares_held'] <= 0),
        inst['trade'] > 0,
        inst['trade'] < 0,
    ],
    [1, -1, 2, -2],
    default=0
)

# Remove zero trades
trades = inst[inst['buysale'] != 0].copy()

trades = trades[['date', 'shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'trade',
                 'buysale', 'owner_type', 'days_between',
                 'prev_shares_adj', 'shares_held']].copy()
trades = trades.rename(columns={'shares_held': 'current_shares'})

print(f"Vectorized trades: {len(trades):,}")
```

```
    return trades

# trades = derive_trades_vectorized_vietnam(ownership_classified, adj_factors)
```

56.8 Fund-Level Flows and Turnover

56.8.1 Portfolio Assets and Returns from Fund Holdings

Using DataCore.vn's fund holdings data, we compute fund-level portfolio analytics analogous to the US 13F approach:

$$Assets_{j,t} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{j,t}} S_{i,j,t} \times P_{i,t} \tag{56.7}$$

$$R^{holdings}_{j,t\to t+1} = \frac{\sum_i S_{i,j,t} \times P_{i,t} \times R_{i,t\to t+1}}{\sum_i S_{i,j,t} \times P_{i,t}} \tag{56.8}$$

$$NetFlows_{j,t} = Assets_{j,t} - Assets_{j,t-1} \times (1 + R^{holdings}_{j,t-1\to t}) \tag{56.9}$$

56.8.2 Turnover Measures

Following Mark M. Carhart (1997a), adapted for Vietnam's fund reporting:

$$Turnover^{Carhart}_{j,t} = \frac{\min(TotalBuys_{j,t}, TotalSales_{j,t})}{\overline{Assets}_{j,t}} \tag{56.10}$$

```
# ============================================================================
# Step 8: Fund-Level Portfolio Analytics
# ============================================================================

def compute_fund_analytics(fund_holdings: pd.DataFrame,
                           prices_q: pd.DataFrame,
                           adj_factors: pd.DataFrame) -> Dict:
    """
    Compute fund-level portfolio analytics from DataCore.vn fund holdings.

    Vietnamese fund disclosure is typically semi-annual (some quarterly),
    which limits the frequency of these analytics compared to the US
```

```
    quarterly approach.

    Returns
    -------
    dict with keys:
        'fund_assets': pd.DataFrame of fund-level assets and returns
        'fund_trades': pd.DataFrame of fund-level derived trades
        'fund_aggregates': pd.DataFrame of flows and turnover
    """
    fh = fund_holdings.copy()
    fh = fh[fh['shares_held'] > 0].copy()

    # Merge with prices
    fh = fh.merge(
        prices_q[['ticker', 'quarter_end', 'close', 'adjusted_close', 'ret']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'report_date'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'quarter_end'],
        how='inner'
    )

    # Portfolio value
    fh['holding_value'] = fh['shares_held'] * fh['close']

    # --- Fund-Level Assets ---
    fund_assets = fh.groupby(['fund_name', 'report_date']).agg(
        total_assets=('holding_value', lambda x: x.sum() / 1e9),  # Billion VND
        n_stocks=('ticker', 'nunique'),
    ).reset_index()

    # Holdings return (value-weighted)
    fh['weight'] = fh.groupby(['fund_name', 'report_date'])['holding_value'].transform(
        lambda x: x / x.sum()
    )
    fund_hret = (fh.groupby(['fund_name', 'report_date'])
                   .apply(lambda g: np.average(g['ret'].fillna(0), weights=g['weight']))
                   .reset_index(name='holdings_return'))

    fund_assets = fund_assets.merge(fund_hret, on=['fund_name', 'report_date'])

    # --- Fund-Level Trades ---
    # Derive trades from changes in holdings
    fh_sorted = fh.sort_values(['fund_name', 'ticker', 'report_date'])
```

```
fh_sorted['prev_shares'] = fh_sorted.groupby(['fund_name', 'ticker'])['shares_held'].shi
fh_sorted['prev_date'] = fh_sorted.groupby(['fund_name', 'ticker'])['report_date'].shift

# Adjust for corporate actions
fh_sorted['prev_shares_adj'] = fh_sorted.apply(
    lambda r: adjust_shares(r['prev_shares'], r['ticker'],
                            r['prev_date'], r['report_date'], adj_factors)
    if pd.notna(r['prev_shares']) else np.nan,
    axis=1
)

fh_sorted['trade'] = fh_sorted['shares_held'] - fh_sorted['prev_shares_adj']
fh_sorted['trade_value'] = fh_sorted['trade'] * fh_sorted['close'] / 1e9  # Billion VND

# Aggregate buys and sells per fund-period
fund_trades = fh_sorted[fh_sorted['trade'].notna()].copy()
fund_flows = fund_trades.groupby(['fund_name', 'report_date']).agg(
    total_buys=('trade_value', lambda x: x[x > 0].sum()),
    total_sales=('trade_value', lambda x: -x[x < 0].sum()),
).reset_index()

# --- Fund-Level Aggregates ---
fund_agg = fund_assets.merge(fund_flows, on=['fund_name', 'report_date'], how='left')
fund_agg[['total_buys', 'total_sales']] = fund_agg[['total_buys', 'total_sales']].fillna

fund_agg = fund_agg.sort_values(['fund_name', 'report_date'])
fund_agg['lag_assets'] = fund_agg.groupby('fund_name')['total_assets'].shift(1)
fund_agg['lag_hret'] = fund_agg.groupby('fund_name')['holdings_return'].shift(1)

# Net flows
fund_agg['net_flows'] = (fund_agg['total_assets'] -
                         fund_agg['lag_assets'] * (1 + fund_agg['holdings_return']))

# Turnover (Carhart definition)
fund_agg['avg_assets'] = (fund_agg['total_assets'] + fund_agg['lag_assets']) / 2
fund_agg['turnover'] = (
    fund_agg[['total_buys', 'total_sales']].min(axis=1) / fund_agg['avg_assets']
)

# Annualize (approximate, since disclosure may be semi-annual)
fund_agg['periods_per_year'] = 365 / fund_agg.groupby('fund_name')['report_date'].diff()
fund_agg['turnover_annual'] = fund_agg['turnover'] * fund_agg['periods_per_year'].fillna
```

```
    print(f"Fund analytics computed:")
    print(f"  Unique funds: {fund_agg['fund_name'].nunique():,}")
    print(f"  Fund-period observations: {len(fund_agg):,}")
    print(f"\nTurnover statistics:")
    print(fund_agg[['turnover', 'turnover_annual']].describe().round(4))

    return {
        'fund_assets': fund_assets,
        'fund_trades': fund_trades,
        'fund_aggregates': fund_agg,
    }

# fund_analytics = compute_fund_analytics(dc.fund_holdings, prices_q, adj_factors)
```

56.9 State Ownership Analysis

56.9.1 Equitization and the Decline of State Ownership

Vietnam's equitization (cổ phần hóa) program has been a defining feature of the market since the early 2000s. The program converts state-owned enterprises into joint-stock companies, typically with the state retaining a controlling or significant minority stake that is then gradually reduced through secondary offerings.

```
# ============================================================================
# Step 9: State Ownership Analysis
# ============================================================================

def analyze_state_ownership(metrics: pd.DataFrame) -> Dict:
    """
    Comprehensive analysis of state ownership in Vietnam.

    Computes:
    1. Aggregate state ownership trends
    2. SOE population dynamics (entry/exit from SOE classification)
    3. Equitization event detection (large drops in state ownership)
    4. State ownership by sector and size
    5. Governance implications (state as blockholder)
    """
```

```
    df = metrics.copy()

    # --- 1. Aggregate Trends ---
    ts = df.groupby('quarter_end').agg(
        n_soe=('is_soe', 'sum'),
        n_total=('ticker', 'nunique'),
        pct_soe=('is_soe', 'mean'),
        mean_state_pct=('pct_state', 'mean'),
        median_state_pct=('pct_state', 'median'),
        # Market cap share of SOEs
        soe_mktcap=('market_cap', lambda x: x[df.loc[x.index, 'is_soe'] == 1].sum()),
        total_mktcap=('market_cap', 'sum'),
    ).reset_index()
    ts['soe_mktcap_share'] = ts['soe_mktcap'] / ts['total_mktcap']

    # --- 2. Equitization Events ---
    # Detect large drops in state ownership (>10 percentage points)
    df_sorted = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'quarter_end'])
    df_sorted['state_change'] = df_sorted.groupby('ticker')['pct_state'].diff()

    equitization_events = df_sorted[
        df_sorted['state_change'] < -0.10  # > 10pp drop
    ][['ticker', 'quarter_end', 'pct_state', 'state_change', 'market_cap']].copy()

    # --- 3. By Sector ---
    if 'industry_code' in df.columns:
        by_sector = df.groupby('industry_code').agg(
            mean_state=('pct_state', 'mean'),
            pct_soe=('is_soe', 'mean'),
            n_firms=('ticker', 'nunique'),
        ).sort_values('mean_state', ascending=False)
    else:
        by_sector = None

    print(f"State Ownership Analysis:")
    print(f"  Current SOE count: {ts.iloc[-1]['n_soe']:.0f} / {ts.iloc[-1]['n_total']:.0f}")
    print(f"  SOE market cap share: {ts.iloc[-1]['soe_mktcap_share']:.1%}")
    print(f"  Mean state ownership: {ts.iloc[-1]['mean_state_pct']:.1%}")
    print(f"\nEquitization events detected: {len(equitization_events):,}")

    return {
        'trends': ts,
```

```
        'equitization_events': equitization_events,
        'by_sector': by_sector,
    }

# state_analysis = analyze_state_ownership(io_metrics)
```

56.10 Modern Extensions

56.10.1 Network Analysis of Co-Ownership

Institutional co-ownership networks capture how stocks are connected through shared investors. In Vietnam, these networks reveal the influence structure of major domestic conglomerates (e.g., Vingroup, Masan, FPT) and the overlap between foreign fund portfolios.

```
def construct_stock_coownership_network(ownership: pd.DataFrame,
                                        period: str,
                                        min_overlap: int = 3) -> Dict:
    """
    Construct a stock-level co-ownership network.

    Two stocks are connected if they share institutional investors.
    Edge weight = number of shared institutional investors.

    This is particularly informative in Vietnam where:
    - Foreign fund portfolios concentrate on the same blue-chips
    - Conglomerate cross-holdings create explicit linkages
    - State ownership creates implicit connections (SCIC holds multiple stocks)

    Parameters
    ----------
    ownership : pd.DataFrame
        Classified ownership data
    period : str
        Analysis date
    min_overlap : int
        Minimum shared investors to create an edge
```

```python
def plot_state_ownership(state_analysis: Dict, metrics: pd.DataFrame):
    """Plot state ownership dynamics."""
    fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(12, 10))
    ts = state_analysis['trends']

    # Panel A: SOE trends
    ax = axes[0]
    ax.plot(ts['quarter_end'], ts['pct_soe'] * 100,
            label='% of Firms that are SOEs', linewidth=2, color='#d62728')
    ax.plot(ts['quarter_end'], ts['soe_mktcap_share'] * 100,
            label='SOE Market Cap Share (%)', linewidth=2, color='#1f77b4')
    ax.plot(ts['quarter_end'], ts['mean_state_pct'] * 100,
            label='Mean State Ownership (%)', linewidth=2, color='#2ca02c', linestyle='--')
    ax.set_ylabel('Percentage')
    ax.set_title('Panel A: State Ownership and SOE Prevalence Over Time')
    ax.legend(frameon=True, framealpha=0.9)

    # Panel B: Distribution
    ax = axes[1]
    # Use most recent period
    latest = metrics[metrics['quarter_end'] == metrics['quarter_end'].max()]
    state_pct = latest['pct_state'].dropna() * 100

    ax.hist(state_pct, bins=50, color='#d62728', alpha=0.7, edgecolor='black')
    ax.axvline(x=50, color='black', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7, label='50% (SOE threshold)')
    ax.set_xlabel('State Ownership (%)')
    ax.set_ylabel('Number of Companies')
    ax.set_title('Panel B: Distribution of State Ownership (Most Recent Quarter)')
    ax.legend()

    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.savefig('fig_state_ownership.png', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
    plt.show()

# plot_state_ownership(state_analysis, io_metrics)
```

Figure 56.4

```
    Returns
    -------
    dict with network statistics and adjacency data
    """
    import networkx as nx

    date = pd.Timestamp(period)

    # Get institutional holders for this period
    inst = ownership[
        (ownership['date'] == date) &
        (ownership['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL))
    ][['ticker', 'shareholder_name', 'owner_type']].copy()

    # Create bipartite mapping: institution → set of stocks held
    inst_to_stocks = inst.groupby('shareholder_name')['ticker'].apply(set).to_dict()

    # Stock → set of institutions
    stock_to_inst = inst.groupby('ticker')['shareholder_name'].apply(set).to_dict()

    # Build stock-level network
    stocks = list(stock_to_inst.keys())
    G = nx.Graph()

    for i in range(len(stocks)):
        for j in range(i + 1, len(stocks)):
            shared = stock_to_inst[stocks[i]] & stock_to_inst[stocks[j]]
            if len(shared) >= min_overlap:
                G.add_edge(stocks[i], stocks[j], weight=len(shared),
                           shared_investors=list(shared)[:5])  # Store sample

    # Add node attributes
    for stock in stocks:
        if stock in G.nodes:
            G.nodes[stock]['n_inst_holders'] = len(stock_to_inst[stock])

    # Network statistics
    stats = {
        'n_nodes': G.number_of_nodes(),
        'n_edges': G.number_of_edges(),
        'density': nx.density(G) if G.number_of_nodes() > 1 else 0,
        'avg_clustering': nx.average_clustering(G, weight='weight') if G.number_of_nodes() >
```

```
        'n_components': nx.number_connected_components(G),
    }

    # Centrality measures
    if G.number_of_nodes() > 0:
        degree_cent = nx.degree_centrality(G)
        stats['most_connected'] = sorted(degree_cent.items(),
                                         key=lambda x: x[1], reverse=True)[:10]

        if G.number_of_nodes() > 2:
            try:
                eigen_cent = nx.eigenvector_centrality_numpy(G, weight='weight')
                stats['most_central'] = sorted(eigen_cent.items(),
                                               key=lambda x: x[1], reverse=True)[:10]
            except Exception:
                stats['most_central'] = []

    print(f"Co-Ownership Network ({period}):")
    for k, v in stats.items():
        if k not in ['most_connected', 'most_central']:
            print(f"  {k}: {v}")

    if 'most_connected' in stats:
        print(f"\nMost connected stocks:")
        for stock, cent in stats['most_connected'][:5]:
            print(f"  {stock}: {cent:.3f}")

    return {'graph': G, 'stats': stats}

# network = construct_stock_coownership_network(
#     ownership_classified, '2024-06-30'
# )
```

56.10.2 ML-Enhanced Investor Classification

Vietnam's investor classification challenge is distinct from the US. While the US has the Bushee typology based on portfolio turnover and concentration, Vietnam requires classification of both investor **type** (when not explicitly labeled) and investor **behavior** (active vs passive, short-term vs long-term).

```python
def classify_investors_vietnam(ownership: pd.DataFrame,
                               prices_q: pd.DataFrame,
                               n_clusters: int = 4) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    ML-based classification of Vietnamese institutional investors.

    Features adapted for Vietnam's market:
    1. Portfolio concentration (HHI of holdings)
    2. Holding duration (average time in positions)
    3. Size preference (average market cap of holdings)
    4. Sector concentration
    5. Foreign/domestic indicator
    6. Trading frequency (inverse of average days between disclosures)

    Expected clusters for Vietnam:
    - Passive State Holders: SOE parents, SCIC - low turnover, concentrated
    - Active Foreign Funds: Dragon Capital, VinaCapital - moderate turnover
    - Domestic Securities Firms: SSI, VNDirect - high turnover, diversified
    - Long-Term Foreign: Pension funds, sovereign wealth - low turnover
    """
    from sklearn.cluster import KMeans
    from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler

    inst = ownership[
        ownership['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL)
    ].copy()

    # Merge with price data
    inst = inst.merge(
        prices_q[['ticker', 'quarter_end', 'close', 'market_cap']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'date'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'quarter_end'],
        how='left'
    )

    inst['holding_value'] = inst['shares_held'] * inst['close'].fillna(0)

    # Compute features per investor-period
    features = inst.groupby(['shareholder_name', 'date']).agg(
        n_stocks=('ticker', 'nunique'),
        total_value=('holding_value', 'sum'),
        hhi_portfolio=('holding_value',
```

```
                        lambda x: ((x/x.sum())**2).sum() if x.sum() > 0 else np.nan),
    avg_mktcap=('market_cap', 'mean'),
    is_foreign=('owner_type',
                lambda x: (x == OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST).any().astype(int)),
    is_state=('owner_type',
              lambda x: (x == OwnershipType.STATE).any().astype(int)),
).reset_index()

# Average across all periods per investor
investor_features = features.groupby('shareholder_name').agg(
    avg_n_stocks=('n_stocks', 'mean'),
    avg_hhi=('hhi_portfolio', 'mean'),
    avg_mktcap=('avg_mktcap', 'mean'),
    avg_total_value=('total_value', 'mean'),
    is_foreign=('is_foreign', 'max'),
    is_state=('is_state', 'max'),
    n_periods=('date', 'nunique'),
).dropna()

# Feature matrix
feature_cols = ['avg_n_stocks', 'avg_hhi', 'avg_mktcap', 'avg_total_value']
X = investor_features[feature_cols].copy()

# Log-transform
for col in feature_cols:
    X[col] = np.log1p(X[col].clip(lower=0))

# Add binary features
X['is_foreign'] = investor_features['is_foreign']
X['is_state'] = investor_features['is_state']

# Standardize
scaler = StandardScaler()
X_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X)

# K-means
kmeans = KMeans(n_clusters=n_clusters, random_state=42, n_init=20)
investor_features['cluster'] = kmeans.fit_predict(X_scaled)

# Label clusters
cluster_profiles = investor_features.groupby('cluster').agg({
    'avg_n_stocks': 'mean',
```

```
        'avg_hhi': 'mean',
        'avg_total_value': 'mean',
        'is_foreign': 'mean',
        'is_state': 'mean',
        'shareholder_name': 'count',
    }).rename(columns={'shareholder_name': 'n_investors'})

    print("Investor Clusters:")
    print(cluster_profiles.round(3).to_string())

    return investor_features

# investor_classes = classify_investors_vietnam(ownership_classified, prices_q)
```

56.10.3 Event Study: Ownership Disclosure Shocks

Vietnam's threshold-based major shareholder disclosure creates natural events for studying the price impact of ownership changes.

```
def ownership_event_study(major_shareholders: pd.DataFrame,
                          prices: pd.DataFrame,
                          event_window: Tuple[int, int] = (-5, 20),
                          estimation_window: int = 120) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Event study of ownership disclosure announcements.

    Vietnam requires major shareholders ( 5%) to disclose within 7
    business days of crossing ownership thresholds. These disclosures
    can be informationally significant, especially:
    1. Foreign fund accumulation (signal of quality)
    2. State divestiture (equitization signal)
    3. Insider purchases (management confidence signal)

    Uses market model for expected returns:
    E[R_i,t] =  _i +  _i × R_m,t

    Parameters
    ----------
    major_shareholders : pd.DataFrame
        Disclosure events from DataCore.vn
    prices : pd.DataFrame
```

```
        Daily stock prices
    event_window : tuple
        (pre_event_days, post_event_days)
    estimation_window : int
        Days before event window for market model estimation
    """
    events = major_shareholders.copy()
    events = events.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

    # Identify significant ownership changes
    events['ownership_change'] = events.groupby(
        ['ticker', 'shareholder_name']
    )['ownership_pct'].diff()

    significant_events = events[
        events['ownership_change'].abs() > 0.01  # > 1 percentage point
    ].copy()

    significant_events['event_type'] = np.where(
        significant_events['ownership_change'] > 0, 'accumulation', 'divestiture'
    )

    # Merge with daily prices
    prices_daily = prices[['ticker', 'date', 'ret']].copy()
    prices_daily = prices_daily.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

    # VN-Index as market return (ticker code depends on data provider)
    if 'VNINDEX' in prices_daily['ticker'].values:
        market_ret = prices_daily[prices_daily['ticker'] == 'VNINDEX'][['date', 'ret']].copy
        market_ret = market_ret.rename(columns={'ret': 'mkt_ret'})
    else:
        # Use equal-weighted market return as proxy
        market_ret = (prices_daily.groupby('date')['ret']
                                  .mean()
                                  .reset_index()
                                  .rename(columns={'ret': 'mkt_ret'}))

    # For each event, compute abnormal returns
    results = []
    pre, post = event_window

    for _, event in significant_events.iterrows():
```

```
        ticker = event['ticker']
        event_date = event['date']

        # Get stock returns around the event
        stock_ret = prices_daily[prices_daily['ticker'] == ticker].copy()
        stock_ret = stock_ret.merge(market_ret, on='date', how='left')
        stock_ret = stock_ret.sort_values('date').reset_index(drop=True)

        # Find event date index
        event_idx = stock_ret[stock_ret['date'] >= event_date].index
        if len(event_idx) == 0:
            continue
        event_idx = event_idx[0]

        # Estimation window
        est_start = max(0, event_idx - estimation_window + pre)
        est_end = event_idx + pre
        est_data = stock_ret.iloc[est_start:est_end].dropna(subset=['ret', 'mkt_ret'])

        if len(est_data) < 30:
            continue

        # Market model
        X = sm.add_constant(est_data['mkt_ret'])
        y = est_data['ret']
        try:
            model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
        except Exception:
            continue

        # Event window abnormal returns
        ew_start = event_idx + pre
        ew_end = min(event_idx + post + 1, len(stock_ret))
        event_data = stock_ret.iloc[ew_start:ew_end].copy()

        if len(event_data) == 0:
            continue

        event_data['expected_ret'] = (model.params['const'] +
                                      model.params['mkt_ret'] * event_data['mkt_ret'])
        event_data['abnormal_ret'] = event_data['ret'] - event_data['expected_ret']
        event_data['car'] = event_data['abnormal_ret'].cumsum()
```

```
        event_data['event_day'] = range(pre, pre + len(event_data))
        event_data['ticker'] = ticker
        event_data['event_date'] = event_date
        event_data['event_type'] = event['event_type']
        event_data['ownership_change'] = event['ownership_change']
        event_data['shareholder_name'] = event['shareholder_name']

        results.append(event_data)

    if results:
        all_results = pd.concat(results, ignore_index=True)

        # Average CARs by event type
        avg_car = (all_results.groupby(['event_type', 'event_day'])['car']
                              .agg(['mean', 'std', 'count'])
                              .reset_index())
        avg_car['t_stat'] = avg_car['mean'] / (avg_car['std'] / np.sqrt(avg_car['count']))

        print(f"Event Study Results:")
        print(f"  Total events: {significant_events['event_type'].value_counts().to_string()

        # CAR at event day 0, +5, +10, +20
        for et in ['accumulation', 'divestiture']:
            print(f"\n  {et.title()} Events:")
            subset = avg_car[avg_car['event_type'] == et]
            for day in [0, 5, 10, 20]:
                row = subset[subset['event_day'] == day]
                if len(row) > 0:
                    print(f"    CAR({day:+d}): {row.iloc[0]['mean']:.4f} "
                          f"(t={row.iloc[0]['t_stat']:.2f})")

        return all_results

    return pd.DataFrame()

# event_results = ownership_event_study(dc.major_shareholders, dc.prices)
```

56.11 Empirical Applications

56.11.1 Application 1: Foreign Ownership and Stock Returns in Vietnam

Does foreign institutional ownership predict returns in Vietnam? X. Huang, Liu, and Shu (2023) find evidence consistent with the information advantage hypothesis.

```
def test_foreign_io_returns(metrics: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Test whether changes in foreign institutional ownership predict
    future stock returns in Vietnam.

    Methodology:
    1. Sort stocks into quintiles by change in foreign IO
    2. Compute equal-weighted and VN-Index-adjusted returns
    3. Report portfolio returns and long-short spread

    This adapts the Chen, Hong, and Stein (2002) breadth test
    specifically for Vietnam's foreign ownership component.
    """
    df = metrics.copy()
    df = df.sort_values(['ticker', 'quarter_end'])

    # Change in foreign IO
    df['delta_foreign'] = df.groupby('ticker')['pct_foreign_total'].diff()

    # Forward quarterly return
    df['fwd_ret'] = df.groupby('ticker')['ret'].shift(-1)

    # Drop missing
    df = df.dropna(subset=['delta_foreign', 'fwd_ret'])

    # Quintile portfolios each quarter
    df['foreign_quintile'] = df.groupby('quarter_end')['delta_foreign'].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], duplicates='drop')
    )

    # Portfolio returns
    port_ret = (df.groupby(['quarter_end', 'foreign_quintile'])['fwd_ret']
                  .mean()
                  .reset_index())
```

```
    port_wide = port_ret.pivot(index='quarter_end', columns='foreign_quintile',
                               values='fwd_ret')
    port_wide['LS'] = port_wide[5] - port_wide[1]

    # Test significance
    results = {}
    for q in [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 'LS']:
        data = port_wide[q].dropna()
        mean_ret = data.mean()
        t_stat = mean_ret / (data.std() / np.sqrt(len(data)))
        results[q] = {
            'Mean Return (%)': mean_ret * 100,
            't-statistic': t_stat,
            'N quarters': len(data),
        }

    results_df = pd.DataFrame(results).T
    results_df.index.name = 'ΔForeign IO Quintile'

    print("Foreign Ownership Change and Future Returns (Vietnam)")
    print("=" * 60)
    print(results_df.round(3).to_string())

    return results_df

# foreign_return_results = test_foreign_io_returns(io_metrics)
```

56.11.2 Application 2: State Divestiture and Value Creation

```
def analyze_equitization_value(metrics: pd.DataFrame,
                               state_analysis: Dict) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Test whether reductions in state ownership are associated with
    subsequent value creation (higher returns, improved governance).

    Hypothesis: State divestiture reduces agency costs, improves
    operational efficiency, and attracts institutional investors,
    leading to positive abnormal returns.

    Uses a difference-in-differences approach:
```

```
    Treatment: Firms experiencing >10pp drop in state ownership
    Control: Matched firms with stable state ownership
    """
    df = metrics.copy()
    events = state_analysis['equitization_events']

    if len(events) == 0:
        print("No equitization events detected.")
        return pd.DataFrame()

    # Get treated firms and their event quarters
    treated = events[['ticker', 'quarter_end']].drop_duplicates()
    treated['treated'] = 1

    # Merge with metrics
    df = df.merge(treated, on=['ticker', 'quarter_end'], how='left')
    df['treated'] = df['treated'].fillna(0)

    # Pre/post comparison for treated firms
    treated_tickers = treated['ticker'].unique()

    results = []
    for ticker in treated_tickers:
        firm = df[df['ticker'] == ticker].sort_values('quarter_end')
        event_row = firm[firm['treated'] == 1]
        if len(event_row) == 0:
            continue

        event_q = event_row.iloc[0]['quarter_end']

        # Pre-event (4 quarters before)
        pre = firm[firm['quarter_end'] < event_q].tail(4)
        # Post-event (4 quarters after)
        post = firm[firm['quarter_end'] > event_q].head(4)

        if len(pre) < 2 or len(post) < 2:
            continue

        results.append({
            'ticker': ticker,
            'event_quarter': event_q,
            'state_pct_pre': pre['pct_state'].mean(),
```

```
            'state_pct_post': post['pct_state'].mean(),
            'foreign_pct_pre': pre['pct_foreign_total'].mean(),
            'foreign_pct_post': post['pct_foreign_total'].mean(),
            'n_inst_pre': pre['n_inst_owners'].mean(),
            'n_inst_post': post['n_inst_owners'].mean(),
            'ret_pre': pre['ret'].mean(),
            'ret_post': post['ret'].mean(),
        })

    if results:
        results_df = pd.DataFrame(results)

        # Paired t-tests
        print("Equitization Value Analysis")
        print("=" * 60)
        for metric in ['state_pct', 'foreign_pct', 'n_inst', 'ret']:
            pre_col = f'{metric}_pre'
            post_col = f'{metric}_post'
            diff = results_df[post_col] - results_df[pre_col]
            t_stat, p_val = stats.ttest_1samp(diff.dropna(), 0)
            print(f"  Δ{metric}: {diff.mean():.4f} (t={t_stat:.2f}, p={p_val:.3f})")

        return results_df

    return pd.DataFrame()

# equitization_results = analyze_equitization_value(io_metrics, state_analysis)
```

56.11.3 Application 3: Institutional Herding in Vietnam

```
def compute_herding_vietnam(trades: pd.DataFrame,
                            owner_types: Optional[List[str]] = None) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Compute the Lakonishok, Shleifer, and Vishny (1992) herding measure
    adapted for the Vietnamese market.

    Can be computed separately for:
    - All institutional investors
    - Foreign institutions only
    - Domestic institutions only
```

```
The herding measure captures whether institutions systematically
trade in the same direction beyond what chance would predict.
"""
from scipy.stats import binom

t = trades.copy()

if owner_types:
    t = t[t['owner_type'].isin(owner_types)]

t['is_buy'] = (t['trade'] > 0).astype(int)

# For each stock-period
stock_trades = t.groupby(['ticker', 'date']).agg(
    n_traders=('shareholder_name', 'nunique'),
    n_buyers=('is_buy', 'sum'),
).reset_index()

# Minimum traders threshold
stock_trades = stock_trades[stock_trades['n_traders'] >= 3]
stock_trades['p_buy'] = stock_trades['n_buyers'] / stock_trades['n_traders']

# Expected proportion per period
E_p = stock_trades.groupby('date').apply(
    lambda g: g['n_buyers'].sum() / g['n_traders'].sum()
).reset_index(name='E_p')

stock_trades = stock_trades.merge(E_p, on='date')

# Adjustment factor
def expected_abs_dev(n, p):
    k = np.arange(0, n + 1)
    probs = binom.pmf(k, n, p)
    return np.sum(probs * np.abs(k / n - p))

stock_trades['adj_factor'] = stock_trades.apply(
    lambda r: expected_abs_dev(int(r['n_traders']), r['E_p']), axis=1
)

stock_trades['hm'] = (np.abs(stock_trades['p_buy'] - stock_trades['E_p']) -
                      stock_trades['adj_factor'])
```

```
    stock_trades['buy_herd'] = np.where(
        stock_trades['p_buy'] > stock_trades['E_p'], stock_trades['hm'], np.nan
    )
    stock_trades['sell_herd'] = np.where(
        stock_trades['p_buy'] < stock_trades['E_p'], stock_trades['hm'], np.nan
    )

    # Time series of herding
    ts_herding = stock_trades.groupby('date').agg(
        mean_hm=('hm', 'mean'),
        mean_buy_herd=('buy_herd', 'mean'),
        mean_sell_herd=('sell_herd', 'mean'),
        pct_herding=('hm', lambda x: (x > 0).mean()),
        n_stocks=('ticker', 'nunique'),
    ).reset_index()

    print(f"Herding Analysis ({owner_types or 'All Institutions'}):")
    print(f"  Mean HM: {stock_trades['hm'].mean():.4f}")
    print(f"  Mean Buy Herding: {stock_trades['buy_herd'].mean():.4f}")
    print(f"  Mean Sell Herding: {stock_trades['sell_herd'].mean():.4f}")
    print(f"  % stocks with herding: {(stock_trades['hm'] > 0).mean():.1%}")

    return stock_trades, ts_herding

# herding_all, herding_ts = compute_herding_vietnam(trades)
# herding_foreign, _ = compute_herding_vietnam(
#     trades, owner_types=[OwnershipType.FOREIGN_INST]
# )
```

56.12 Conclusion and Practical Recommendations

56.12.1 Summary of Measures

Table 56.5 summarizes all institutional ownership measures developed in this chapter for the Vietnamese market.

Table 56.5: Summary of All Ownership Measures for Vietnam

Measure	Definition	Key Adaptation for Vietnam	Python Function
IO Ratio	Inst. shares / TSO	Decomposed into state, foreign, domestic	`compute_ownership_decomposition(`
HHI Concentration	$\sum w_j^2$	Separate HHI for total, non-state, foreign	`compute_io_metrics_vietnam()`
ΔBreadth	Lehavy-Sloan adjusted	Applied to irregular disclosure intervals	`compute_io_metrics_vietnam()`
FOL Utilization	Foreign % / FOL limit	Vietnam-specific; no US equivalent	`FOLAnalyzer`
FOL Premium	Price impact of FOL proximity	Cross-sectional regression approach	`FOLAnalyzer.estimate_fol_premium`
Trades	ΔShares (corp-action adjusted)	Critical: adjust for stock dividends	`derive_trades_vectorized_vietnam`
Fund Turnover	min(B,S)/avg(A)	Semi-annual frequency; annualized	`compute_fund_analytics()`
SOE Status	State ownership > 50%	Tracks equitization program	`analyze_state_ownership()`
LSV Herding	$\lvert p - E[p]\rvert - E[\lvert p - E[p]\rvert]$	Separate foreign vs domestic herding	`compute_herding_vietnam()`
Co-Ownership Network	Shared institutional holders	Reveals conglomerate linkages	`construct_stock_coownership_netw`

56.12.2 Data Quality Checklist for Vietnam

Vietnam Data Quality Checklist

1. **Corporate actions:** Have you built and applied adjustment factors for ALL stock dividends, bonus shares, splits, and rights issues?
2. **Shareholder classification:** Have you verified the owner type classification (state vs foreign vs domestic institutional vs individual)?
3. **FOL limits:** Are sector-specific FOL limits correctly assigned (30% for banks, 49% standard, unlimited for some sectors)?
4. **Disclosure dates:** Are you using the actual disclosure date (not the record date or ex-date) for ownership snapshots?
5. **Treasury shares:** Are treasury shares excluded from ownership ratio denominators?

6. **UPCOM coverage:** Does your sample include or exclude UPCOM stocks (which have weaker disclosure requirements)?
7. **Cross-listings:** Are you handling NVDR (Non-Voting Depository Receipts) if applicable after market reforms?
8. **Name consistency:** Are shareholder names standardized across disclosure periods (Vietnamese names can have multiple romanization forms)?
9. **Trade adjustment:** When deriving trades between periods, have you adjusted previous shares for ALL intervening corporate actions?
10. **Fund mandate changes:** For fund analytics, have you accounted for fund mergers, closures, and mandate changes that affect time-series continuity?

56.12.3 Comparison with US Framework

Table 56.6: US vs Vietnam Institutional Ownership Framework Comparison

Dimension	US (WRDS/13F)	Vietnam (DataCore.vn)
Disclosure	Quarterly 13F (mandatory)	Annual reports + event-driven
Coverage	Institutions > $100M AUM	All shareholders in annual reports
Ownership observed	Long positions only	Complete decomposition
IO can exceed 100%	Yes (short selling)	No (by construction)
Permanent ID	CRSP PERMNO	Ticker (with manual tracking of changes)
Adjustment factors	CRSP cfacshr	Must build from corporate actions
Investor classification	LSEG typecode / Bushee	State/Foreign/Domestic/Individual
Short selling	Not in 13F; exists in market	Very limited; not a concern
Unique features	—	FOL, SOE ownership, stock dividend frequency

57 Institutional Trades, Flows, and Turnover Ratios

Institutional investors play a pivotal role in price discovery, corporate governance, and market liquidity. Understanding *how* institutions trade and *how much* they trade provides insights into both asset pricing dynamics and the real effects of institutional monitoring. The seminal work of Grinblatt, Titman, and Wermers (1995) on mutual fund momentum trading, Wermers (2000) on fund performance decomposition, and Yan (2008) on the relationship between turnover and future returns all rely on accurately measured institutional trades, flows, and turnover.

In the United States, this research is enabled by the mandatory quarterly 13F filing system administered by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Every institutional investment manager with at least $100 million in qualifying assets must disclose their equity holdings within 45 days of each calendar quarter end. The Thomson-Reuters (now Refinitiv) 13F database, accessible through WRDS, provides the canonical data infrastructure for this literature.

Vietnam's equity market presents a fundamentally different institutional landscape. This chapter adapts the core methodology for the Vietnamese context, addressing five critical differences:

1. **Disclosure regime.** Vietnam has no 13F-equivalent mandatory quarterly filing. Ownership disclosure is a patchwork of event-driven reports (threshold crossings at 5%, 10%, etc.), annual/semi-annual reports with shareholder registers, and daily foreign ownership tracking by exchanges.

2. **Corporate actions.** Vietnamese firms issue stock dividends and bonus shares at extremely high rates compared to US firms. A firm might issue 20-30% bonus shares in a single year, fundamentally altering the share count. Share adjustment is therefore critical and nontrivial.

3. **Foreign ownership limits (FOLs).** Binding foreign ownership ceiling, typically 49% for most sectors, 30% for banking, and 0% for certain restricted sectors, create a unique institutional constraint. When a stock approaches its FOL, foreign buying becomes mechanically restricted, distorting standard trade inference.

4. **State ownership.** The Vietnamese government retains significant ownership in many listed firms through the State Capital Investment Corporation (SCIC) and other state entities. This creates a distinct ownership category not present in the US 13F data.

5. **Market microstructure.** Daily price limits (±7% on HOSE, ±10% on HNX, ±15% on UPCOM), T+2 settlement, and the absence of short-selling all affect how institutional trades translate into market outcomes.

57.1 Measuring Institutional Ownership and Trading

The measurement of institutional ownership and trading activity has been a central concern in empirical finance since Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) documented the rise of institutional investors. The approach relies on comparing holdings snapshots across consecutive reporting periods to infer trades. If manager j holds $h_{j,i,t}$ shares of stock i at time t, then the inferred trade is:

$$\Delta h_{j,i,t} = h_{j,i,t} - h_{j,i,t-1} \tag{57.1}$$

where $\Delta h_{j,i,t} > 0$ indicates a buy and $\Delta h_{j,i,t} < 0$ indicates a sale. This simple differencing approach requires that holdings are observed at regular intervals (e.g., quarterly), share counts are adjusted for corporate actions between reporting dates, and entry and exit from the dataset are handled appropriately.

H.-L. Chen, Jegadeesh, and Wermers (2000) introduced the concept of ownership *breadth* (i.e., the number of institutions holding a stock) and showed that changes in breadth predict future returns. Sias (2004) decomposed institutional demand into a herding component and an information component. Yan (2008) linked fund turnover to information-based trading and documented that high-turnover funds outperform, challenging the view that turnover reflects noise trading.

57.2 Trade Classification

Table 57.1 shows four categories of trades:

Table 57.1: Trade Classification Taxonomy

Code	Type	Description
+1	Initiating Buy	Manager enters a new position
+2	Incremental Buy	Manager increases an existing position
−1	Terminating Sale	Manager completely exits a position
−2	Regular Sale	Manager reduces an existing position

This classification is informative because initiating buys and terminating sales represent discrete portfolio decisions with different information content from marginal position adjustments (Alexander, Cici, and Gibson 2007).

57.3 Turnover Measures

Three standard turnover definitions have been used in the literature:

Carhart (1997) Turnover. The minimum of aggregate buys and sales, normalized by average assets:

$$\text{Turnover}^{C}_{j,t} = \frac{\min\left(\sum_i B_{j,i,t},\, \sum_i S_{j,i,t}\right)}{\frac{1}{2}\left(A_{j,t} + A_{j,t-1}\right)} \tag{57.2}$$

where $B_{j,i,t}$ and $S_{j,i,t}$ are the dollar values of buys and sales of stock i by manager j in quarter t, and $A_{j,t}$ is total portfolio assets (Mark M. Carhart 1997b).

Flow-Adjusted Turnover. Adds back the absolute value of net flows to account for flow-driven trading:

$$\text{Turnover}^{F}_{j,t} = \frac{\min\left(\sum_i B_{j,i,t},\, \sum_i S_{j,i,t}\right) + |\text{NetFlow}_{j,t}|}{A_{j,t-1}} \tag{57.3}$$

Symmetric Turnover. Uses the sum of buys and sales minus the absolute net flow:

$$\text{Turnover}^{S}_{j,t} = \frac{\sum_i B_{j,i,t} + \sum_i S_{j,i,t} - |\text{NetFlow}_{j,t}|}{A_{j,t-1}} \tag{57.4}$$

The relationship between these measures depends on the correlation between discretionary trading and flow-induced trading (Pástor and Stambaugh 2003).

57.4 Institutional Ownership in Emerging Markets

The emerging markets literature has documented several stylized facts about institutional ownership that differ from developed market findings. Aggarwal et al. (2011) documented that foreign institutional ownership improves corporate governance in emerging markets. For Vietnam specifically, Phung and Mishra (2016) examined the relationship between ownership structure and firm performance, while X. V. Vo (2015) studied the impact of foreign ownership on stock market liquidity.

57.5 Net Flows and Performance Attribution

Net flows measure the dollar amount of new money entering or leaving a fund:

$$\text{NetFlow}_{j,t} = A_{j,t} - A_{j,t-1}(1 + R^p_{j,t}) \tag{57.5}$$

where $R^p_{j,t}$ is the portfolio return. This decomposition, due to Sirri and Tufano (1998), separates changes in fund assets into investment returns and investor capital allocation decisions. Coval and Stafford (2007) showed that flow-driven trades create price pressure, with fire sales by funds experiencing redemptions generating significant negative abnormal returns.

58 Data Infrastructure

Table 58.1 summarizes the datasets used in this chapter.

Table 58.1: DataCore.vn Datasets Used in This Chapter

Dataset	Content	Frequency	Key Variables
Stock Prices	Daily/monthly OHLCV	Daily	`ticker`, `date`, `close`, `adjusted_close`, `volume`, `shares_outstanding`
Ownership Structure	Shareholder composition	Quarterly/Annual	`ticker`, `date`, `shareholder_name`, `shares_held`, `pct`, `type`
Major Shareholders	Holders $\geq 5\%$	Event-driven	`ticker`, `date`, `shareholder_name`, `shares`, `is_foreign`, `is_state`
Corporate Actions	Splits, dividends, bonus	Event	`ticker`, `ex_date`, `action_type`, `ratio`
Company Profile	Sector, exchange, FOL	Static/Annual	`ticker`, `exchange`, `industry`, `listing_date`, `fol_limit`
Foreign Ownership	Daily foreign tracking	Daily	`ticker`, `date`, `foreign_shares`, `foreign_pct`, `fol_limit`
Fund Holdings	Fund portfolio snapshots	Semi-annual	`fund_name`, `report_date`, `ticker`, `shares_held`, `market_value`

58.1 Data Reader Class

We begin by defining a unified data reader that handles file loading, date parsing, and basic validation:

```
@dataclass
class DataCoreReader:
    """
    Unified reader for DataCore.vn datasets stored locally.

    Supports Parquet (recommended) and CSV formats. Implements
    lazy loading with caching to minimize memory footprint.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data_dir : str or Path
        Directory containing DataCore.vn data files.
    file_format : str
        File format: 'parquet' or 'csv'.

    Examples
    --------
    >>> dc = DataCoreReader('/data/datacore', file_format='parquet')
    >>> prices = dc.prices
    >>> ownership = dc.ownership
    """
    data_dir: Path
    file_format: str = 'parquet'
    _cache: Dict[str, pd.DataFrame] = field(
        default_factory=dict, repr=False
    )

    FILE_MAP: Dict[str, str] = field(default_factory=lambda: {
        'prices': 'stock_prices',
        'ownership': 'ownership_structure',
        'major_shareholders': 'major_shareholders',
        'corporate_actions': 'corporate_actions',
        'company_profile': 'company_profile',
        'financials': 'financial_statements',
        'foreign_ownership': 'foreign_ownership',
        'fund_holdings': 'fund_holdings',
    }, repr=False)
```

```python
    def __post_init__(self):
        self.data_dir = Path(self.data_dir)
        if not self.data_dir.exists():
            raise FileNotFoundError(
                f"Data directory not found: {self.data_dir}"
            )

    def _read(self, key: str) -> pd.DataFrame:
        """Read and cache a dataset with automatic date parsing."""
        if key in self._cache:
            return self._cache[key]

        fname = self.FILE_MAP.get(key, key)
        filepath = self.data_dir / f"{fname}.{self.file_format}"

        if not filepath.exists():
            raise FileNotFoundError(
                f"Dataset not found: {filepath}\n"
                f"Available: "
                f"{list(self.data_dir.glob(f'*.{self.file_format}'))}"
            )

        if self.file_format == 'parquet':
            df = pd.read_parquet(filepath)
        else:
            df = pd.read_csv(filepath, parse_dates=True)

        # Auto-detect and parse date columns
        date_cols = [
            'date', 'ex_date', 'record_date', 'period',
            'report_date', 'listing_date'
        ]
        for col in df.columns:
            if col.lower() in date_cols or 'date' in col.lower():
                try:
                    df[col] = pd.to_datetime(df[col])
                except (ValueError, TypeError):
                    pass

        self._cache[key] = df
        print(f"  Loaded {key}: {len(df):,} rows x {len(df.columns)} cols")
        return df
```

```python
    @property
    def prices(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('prices')

    @property
    def ownership(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('ownership')

    @property
    def major_shareholders(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('major_shareholders')

    @property
    def corporate_actions(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('corporate_actions')

    @property
    def company_profile(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('company_profile')

    @property
    def foreign_ownership(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('foreign_ownership')

    @property
    def fund_holdings(self) -> pd.DataFrame:
        return self._read('fund_holdings')

    def clear_cache(self):
        n = len(self._cache)
        self._cache.clear()
        print(f"  Cleared {n} cached datasets")

# Initialize:
# dc = DataCoreReader('/path/to/datacore_data', file_format='parquet')
```

59 Stock Price and Return Processing

The first step processes stock data to obtain adjusted prices, shares outstanding, and quarterly returns.

59.1 Price Data Extraction and Adjustment

Vietnamese stock data requires careful adjustment for frequent corporate actions. Unlike the US where CRSP provides a cumulative adjustment factor (`cfacpr`, `cfacshr`), in Vietnam we must construct adjustment factors from the corporate actions history.

> **Vietnamese Corporate Actions**
>
> Vietnamese firms commonly execute the following corporate actions, each requiring share count and/or price adjustment:
>
> - **Stock dividend** (*co tuc bang co phieu*): e.g., 20% stock dividend means 100 shares become 120 shares
> - **Bonus shares** (*co phieu thuong*): free shares distributed from retained earnings
> - **Rights issue** (*phat hanh quyen mua*): right to buy new shares at a discount
> - **Stock split/reverse split** (*chia/gop co phieu*): rare but occasionally used

```python
def build_adjustment_factors(
    corporate_actions: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Construct cumulative share adjustment factors from corporate actions.

    This is the Vietnamese equivalent of CRSP's cfacshr factor. For each
    ticker, we compute a cumulative product of adjustment ratios from
    corporate actions, working forward in time.

    The adjustment factor at date t converts historical share counts to
    be comparable with current (post-action) share counts:
```

```
        shares_adjusted_t = shares_raw_t * cfacshr_t

    Parameters
    ----------
    corporate_actions : pd.DataFrame
        Corporate actions with columns: ticker, ex_date, action_type,
        ratio. The ratio field represents:
        - Stock dividend 20%: ratio = 1.20
        - 2:1 stock split: ratio = 2.00
        - Bonus shares 10%: ratio = 1.10

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame
        Adjustment factors: ticker, ex_date, cfacshr (cumulative).
    """
    share_actions = corporate_actions[
        corporate_actions['action_type'].isin([
            'stock_dividend', 'bonus_shares', 'stock_split',
            'reverse_split', 'rights_issue'
        ])
    ].copy()

    if share_actions.empty:
        return pd.DataFrame(columns=['ticker', 'ex_date', 'cfacshr'])

    share_actions = share_actions.sort_values(['ticker', 'ex_date'])

    share_actions['cfacshr'] = (
        share_actions
        .groupby('ticker')['ratio']
        .cumprod()
    )

    return share_actions[['ticker', 'ex_date', 'cfacshr']].reset_index(
        drop=True
    )


def get_cfacshr_at_date(
    ticker: str,
    date: pd.Timestamp,
```

```
    adj_factors: pd.DataFrame,
) -> float:
    """
    Look up the cumulative share adjustment factor for a given
    ticker and date. Returns 1.0 if no corporate actions occurred.
    """
    mask = (
        (adj_factors['ticker'] == ticker) &
        (adj_factors['ex_date'] <= date)
    )
    subset = adj_factors.loc[mask]

    if subset.empty:
        return 1.0
    return subset.iloc[-1]['cfacshr']


def adjust_shares_between_dates(
    shares: float,
    ticker: str,
    date_from: pd.Timestamp,
    date_to: pd.Timestamp,
    adj_factors: pd.DataFrame,
) -> float:
    """
    Adjust a share count observed at date_from to be comparable
    with shares observed at date_to, accounting for all intervening
    corporate actions.

    Example
    -------
    >>> # Investor held 1000 shares on 2023-01-01
    >>> # A 20% stock dividend occurred on 2023-03-15
    >>> adjust_shares_between_dates(
    ...     1000, 'VNM',
    ...     pd.Timestamp('2023-01-01'),
    ...     pd.Timestamp('2023-06-30'), adj_factors
    ... )
    1200.0
    """
    factor_from = get_cfacshr_at_date(ticker, date_from, adj_factors)
    factor_to = get_cfacshr_at_date(ticker, date_to, adj_factors)
```

```
    relative_factor = factor_to / factor_from
    return shares * relative_factor
```

59.2 Monthly and Quarterly Price Processing

```
def process_prices(
    prices: pd.DataFrame,
    adj_factors: pd.DataFrame,
    begdate: str = '2010-01-01',
    enddate: str = '2024-12-31',
) -> Tuple[pd.DataFrame, pd.DataFrame]:
    """
    Process raw DataCore.vn price data into analysis-ready format.

    Block logic:
    1. Filter to date range
    2. Compute adjusted prices and shares outstanding
    3. Compute quarterly compounded returns
    4. Create forward quarterly returns (shifted one quarter)

    Parameters
    ----------
    prices : pd.DataFrame
        Raw price data with: ticker, date, close, adjusted_close,
        volume, shares_outstanding.
    adj_factors : pd.DataFrame
        Corporate action adjustment factors.
    begdate, enddate : str
        Sample period boundaries.

    Returns
    -------
    Tuple[pd.DataFrame, pd.DataFrame]
        (price_quarterly, qret): quarter-end observations with
        adjusted price, total shares, and forward quarterly return.
    """
    price = prices[
        (prices['date'] >= begdate) & (prices['date'] <= enddate)
    ].copy()
```

```python
# Month-end and quarter-end dates
price['mdate'] = price['date'] + pd.offsets.MonthEnd(0)
price['qdate'] = price['date'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(0)

# Adjusted price
if 'adjusted_close' in price.columns:
    price['p'] = price['adjusted_close']
else:
    price['p'] = price['close']

# Total shares outstanding
price['tso'] = price['shares_outstanding']

# Market capitalization (millions VND)
price['mcap'] = price['p'] * price['tso'] / 1e6

# Filter out zero shares
price = price[price['tso'] > 0].copy()

# Compute daily returns if not present
if 'ret' not in price.columns:
    price = price.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])
    price['ret'] = price.groupby('ticker')['p'].pct_change()

price['ret'] = price['ret'].fillna(0)
price['logret'] = np.log(1 + price['ret'])

# ---- Quarterly compounded returns ----
qret = (
    price
    .groupby(['ticker', 'qdate'])['logret']
    .sum()
    .reset_index()
)
qret['qret'] = np.exp(qret['logret']) - 1

# Shift qdate back one quarter: make qret a *forward* return
qret['qdate'] = qret['qdate'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(-1)
qret = qret.drop(columns=['logret'])

# ---- Quarter-end observations ----
price_q = price[price['qdate'] == price['mdate']].copy()
```

```
    price_q = price_q[['qdate', 'ticker', 'p', 'tso', 'mcap']].copy()

    # Merge forward quarterly return
    price_q = price_q.merge(qret, on=['ticker', 'qdate'], how='left')

    # Build cfacshr lookup at each quarter-end
    price_q['cfacshr'] = price_q.apply(
        lambda row: get_cfacshr_at_date(
            row['ticker'], row['qdate'], adj_factors
        ),
        axis=1
    )

    return price_q, qret
```

Performance Optimization

The `get_cfacshr_at_date` function uses a row-wise lookup which can be slow for large datasets. For production use with millions of rows, vectorize using `pd.merge_asof()`:

```
price_q = pd.merge_asof(
    price_q.sort_values('qdate'),
    adj_factors.sort_values('ex_date'),
    by='ticker',
    left_on='qdate',
    right_on='ex_date',
    direction='backward'
).fillna({'cfacshr': 1.0})
```

The output is a quarterly panel of stock-level observations (@tbl-institutional-price-vars)

Table 59.1: Quarter-End Price Panel Variables

Variable	Description
`ticker`	Stock ticker (e.g., VNM, VCB, FPT)
`qdate`	Quarter-end date
`p`	Adjusted closing price (VND)
`tso`	Total shares outstanding
`mcap`	Market capitalization (millions VND)
`qret`	Forward quarterly compounded return
`cfacshr`	Cumulative share adjustment factor

60 Ownership Data Processing

60.1 Ownership Taxonomy

We define a classification system for Vietnamese shareholders that maps to the categories available in DataCore.vn:

```
class OwnershipType:
    """
    Vietnamese ownership type classification.

    Vietnam's ownership structure is fundamentally different from the US:

    - **State** (Nha nuoc): SCIC, ministries, state-owned parents
    - **Foreign Institutional** (To chuc nuoc ngoai): foreign funds,
      ETFs, pension funds, insurance, sovereign wealth funds
    - **Domestic Institutional** (To chuc trong nuoc): Vietnamese
      securities companies, fund managers, banks, insurance
    - **Individual** (Ca nhan): retail investors (domestic + foreign)
    - **Treasury** (Co phieu quy): company repurchases
    """

    STATE = 'State'
    FOREIGN_INST = 'Foreign Institutional'
    DOMESTIC_INST = 'Domestic Institutional'
    INDIVIDUAL = 'Individual'
    TREASURY = 'Treasury'

    INSTITUTIONAL = [FOREIGN_INST, DOMESTIC_INST]
    ALL_INSTITUTIONAL = [STATE, FOREIGN_INST, DOMESTIC_INST]
    ALL_TYPES = [STATE, FOREIGN_INST, DOMESTIC_INST, INDIVIDUAL, TREASURY]

    STATE_KEYWORDS = [
        'scic', 'state capital', 'bo', 'ubnd', 'tong cong ty',
        'nha nuoc', 'state', 'government', "people's committee",
        'ministry', 'vietnam national', 'vnpt', 'evn', 'pvn',
```

```python
    ]

    FOREIGN_KEYWORDS = [
        'fund', 'investment', 'capital', 'asset management',
        'securities', 'gic', 'templeton', 'dragon capital',
        'vinacapital', 'mekong capital', 'kb securities',
        'mirae asset', 'samsung', 'jp morgan', 'goldman',
        'blackrock', 'vanguard', 'aberdeen', 'hsbc',
    ]

    @classmethod
    def classify(cls, row: pd.Series) -> str:
        """Classify based on explicit flags, then keyword fallback."""
        if pd.notna(row.get('is_state')) and row['is_state']:
            return cls.STATE
        if pd.notna(row.get('is_foreign')) and row['is_foreign']:
            if pd.notna(row.get('is_institution')) and row['is_institution']:
                return cls.FOREIGN_INST
            return cls.INDIVIDUAL
        if pd.notna(row.get('is_institution')) and row['is_institution']:
            return cls.DOMESTIC_INST

        name = str(row.get('shareholder_name', '')).lower()
        if any(kw in name for kw in cls.STATE_KEYWORDS):
            return cls.STATE
        if any(kw in name for kw in cls.FOREIGN_KEYWORDS):
            return cls.FOREIGN_INST

        return cls.INDIVIDUAL
```

60.2 Building the Holdings Panel

We construct the holdings panel (i.e., the Vietnamese equivalent of merging the 13F Type 1 and Type 3 datasets). The key steps are:

1. Identify the first available vintage for each shareholder-stock-report date combination.
2. Compute reporting gaps to flag first and last reports.
3. Classify shareholders.
4. Adjust shares for corporate actions.

```python
def build_holdings_panel(
    ownership: pd.DataFrame,
    adj_factors: pd.DataFrame,
    price_q: pd.DataFrame,
    company_profile: pd.DataFrame,
    begdate: str = '2010-01-01',
    enddate: str = '2024-12-31',
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Construct the institutional holdings panel from DataCore.vn
    ownership data.
    """
    own = ownership.copy()

    # Align to quarter-end
    own['rdate'] = own['date'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(0)
    own['fdate'] = own['date']

    own = own[
        (own['rdate'] >= begdate) & (own['rdate'] <= enddate)
    ].copy()

    # Keep earliest vintage per shareholder-ticker-rdate
    own = own.sort_values(
        ['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate', 'fdate']
    )
    fst_vint = (
        own
        .groupby(['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate'])
        .first()
        .reset_index()
    )

    # ---- Reporting gaps for first/last flags ----
    fst_vint = fst_vint.sort_values(
        ['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate']
    )

    grp = fst_vint.groupby(['shareholder_name', 'ticker'])
    fst_vint['lag_rdate'] = grp['rdate'].shift(1)

    fst_vint['qtr_gap'] = fst_vint.apply(
```

```
        lambda r: (
            (r['rdate'].to_period('Q')
             - r['lag_rdate'].to_period('Q')).n
            if pd.notna(r['lag_rdate']) else np.nan
        ),
        axis=1
    )

    fst_vint['first_report'] = (
        fst_vint['qtr_gap'].isna() | (fst_vint['qtr_gap'] >= 2)
    )

    # Last report flag (forward gap)
    fst_vint = fst_vint.sort_values(
        ['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate'],
        ascending=[True, True, False]
    )
    fst_vint['lead_rdate'] = grp['rdate'].shift(1)

    fst_vint['lead_gap'] = fst_vint.apply(
        lambda r: (
            (r['lead_rdate'].to_period('Q')
             - r['rdate'].to_period('Q')).n
            if pd.notna(r['lead_rdate']) else np.nan
        ),
        axis=1
    )

    fst_vint['last_report'] = (
        fst_vint['lead_gap'].isna() | (fst_vint['lead_gap'] >= 2)
    )

    fst_vint = fst_vint.drop(
        columns=['lag_rdate', 'qtr_gap', 'lead_rdate', 'lead_gap'],
        errors='ignore'
    )

    # ---- Classify shareholders ----
    fst_vint['owner_type'] = fst_vint.apply(
        OwnershipType.classify, axis=1
    )
```

```
    # ---- Adjust shares for corporate actions ----
    fst_vint = fst_vint.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'cfacshr']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
    )

    fst_vint['shares_adj'] = (
        fst_vint['shares_held'] * fst_vint['cfacshr']
    )
    fst_vint = fst_vint[fst_vint['shares_adj'] > 0].copy()

    fst_vint = fst_vint.drop_duplicates(
        subset=['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate']
    )

    # Merge company profile
    if company_profile is not None:
        fst_vint = fst_vint.merge(
            company_profile[['ticker', 'exchange', 'fol_limit']]
            .drop_duplicates(),
            on='ticker',
            how='left'
        )

    cols = [
        'shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate', 'fdate',
        'shares_held', 'shares_adj', 'owner_type',
        'first_report', 'last_report'
    ]
    if 'exchange' in fst_vint.columns:
        cols.extend(['exchange', 'fol_limit'])

    holdings = fst_vint[cols].copy()

    print(f"Holdings panel: {len(holdings):,} observations")
    print(f"  Shareholders: {holdings['shareholder_name'].nunique():,}")
    print(f"  Stocks: {holdings['ticker'].nunique():,}")
    print(f"  Quarters: {holdings['rdate'].nunique()}")

    return holdings
```

61 Institutional Ownership Metrics

Before computing trades, we establish the standard institutional ownership metrics that serve as both outputs and inputs to the trading analysis.

61.1 Institutional Ownership Ratio

The institutional ownership ratio (IO) for stock i at time t is:

$$IO_{i,t} = \frac{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}} h_{j,i,t}}{TSO_{i,t}} \tag{61.1}$$

where $\mathcal{J}$ is the set of institutional investors and $TSO_{i,t}$ is total shares outstanding. In Vietnam, we compute separate ratios for each ownership type:

$$IO_{i,t}^{\text{type}} = \frac{\sum_{j \in \mathcal{J}^{\text{type}}} h_{j,i,t}}{TSO_{i,t}}, \quad \text{type} \in \{\text{State}, \text{Foreign}, \text{Domestic}, \text{Individual}\} \tag{61.2}$$

```
def compute_io_ratios(
    holdings: pd.DataFrame,
    price_q: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute IO ratios by type for each stock-quarter."""
    agg = (
        holdings
        .groupby(['ticker', 'rdate', 'owner_type'])['shares_adj']
        .sum()
        .reset_index()
    )

    io_wide = agg.pivot_table(
        index=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        columns='owner_type',
        values='shares_adj',
```

```
        fill_value=0
    ).reset_index()

    io_wide.columns = [
        c if c in ['ticker', 'rdate']
        else f'shares_{c.lower().replace(" ", "_")}'
        for c in io_wide.columns
    ]

    io_wide = io_wide.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'tso']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
    )

    share_cols = [c for c in io_wide.columns if c.startswith('shares_')]
    for col in share_cols:
        ratio_name = col.replace('shares_', 'io_')
        io_wide[ratio_name] = io_wide[col] / io_wide['tso']

    inst_cols = [
        c for c in io_wide.columns
        if c.startswith('shares_')
        and 'individual' not in c
        and 'treasury' not in c
    ]
    io_wide['io_total_inst'] = (
        io_wide[inst_cols].sum(axis=1) / io_wide['tso']
    )

    return io_wide
```

61.2 Ownership Concentration: Herfindahl-Hirschman Index

The HHI measures ownership concentration:

$$HHI_{i,t} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_{i,t}} \left(\frac{h_{j,i,t}}{\sum_{k=1}^{N_{i,t}} h_{k,i,t}} \right)^2 \tag{61.3}$$

where $N_{i,t}$ is the number of shareholders. HHI ranges from $1/N_{i,t}$ (equal) to 1 (single shareholder). In Vietnam, ownership tends to be highly concentrated due to large state and founding-family blocks.

```
def compute_hhi(holdings: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute HHI for each stock-quarter, overall and institutional."""
    def _hhi(shares: pd.Series) -> float:
        total = shares.sum()
        if total <= 0:
            return np.nan
        weights = shares / total
        return (weights ** 2).sum()

    hhi_overall = (
        holdings.groupby(['ticker', 'rdate'])['shares_adj']
        .apply(_hhi).reset_index()
        .rename(columns={'shares_adj': 'hhi_overall'})
    )

    inst = holdings[
        holdings['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.ALL_INSTITUTIONAL)
    ]
    hhi_inst = (
        inst.groupby(['ticker', 'rdate'])['shares_adj']
        .apply(_hhi).reset_index()
        .rename(columns={'shares_adj': 'hhi_institutional'})
    )

    return hhi_overall.merge(hhi_inst, on=['ticker', 'rdate'], how='left')
```

61.3 Ownership Breadth

Following H.-L. Chen, Jegadeesh, and Wermers (2000), ownership breadth is the number of institutional holders:

$$\text{Breadth}_{i,t} = \#\{j : h_{j,i,t} > 0,\ j \in \mathcal{J}\} \tag{61.4}$$

The *change* in breadth predicts future returns:

$$\Delta\text{Breadth}_{i,t} = \text{Breadth}_{i,t} - \text{Breadth}_{i,t-1} \tag{61.5}$$

```python
def compute_breadth(holdings: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute ownership breadth and changes by type."""
    breadth = (
        holdings[
            holdings['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.ALL_INSTITUTIONAL)
        ]
        .groupby(['ticker', 'rdate', 'owner_type'])['shareholder_name']
        .nunique()
        .reset_index()
        .rename(columns={'shareholder_name': 'n_holders'})
    )

    breadth_wide = breadth.pivot_table(
        index=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        columns='owner_type',
        values='n_holders',
        fill_value=0
    ).reset_index()

    breadth_wide.columns = [
        c if c in ['ticker', 'rdate']
        else f'n_{c.lower().replace(" ", "_")}'
        for c in breadth_wide.columns
    ]

    n_cols = [c for c in breadth_wide.columns if c.startswith('n_')]
    breadth_wide['n_total_inst'] = breadth_wide[n_cols].sum(axis=1)

    breadth_wide = breadth_wide.sort_values(['ticker', 'rdate'])
    for col in n_cols + ['n_total_inst']:
        breadth_wide[f'd_{col}'] = (
            breadth_wide.groupby('ticker')[col].diff()
        )

    return breadth_wide
```

($\text{BS} = -1$) is generated for the prior position, dated to the quarter after the last report.

For intermediate gaps (reports at $t-2$ and t but not $t-1$), we split into:

- A terminating sale at $t-1$ of $-h^{\text{adj}}_{j,i,t-2}$;
- An initiating buy at t of $h_{j,i,t}$.

61.4 Implementation

```
def compute_trades(
    holdings: pd.DataFrame,
    adj_factors: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Compute institutional trades from holdings panel.

    Uses vectorized conditional logic (NOT apply()) for performance.

    Algorithm:
    1. Sort holdings by shareholder, ticker, quarter
    2. Compute lagged holdings and reporting gaps
    3. Apply modified trade logic based on first_report, gap
    4. Handle terminating sales and intermediate gaps
    5. Append all trade records
    """
    t1 = holdings.sort_values(
        ['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate']
    ).copy()

    # Previous holding quarter and shares
    grp = t1.groupby(['shareholder_name', 'ticker'])
    t1['phrdate'] = grp['rdate'].shift(1)
    t1['pshares_adj'] = grp['shares_adj'].shift(1)

    # Raw trade
    t1['trade'] = t1['shares_adj'] - t1['pshares_adj']

    # Quarter gap
    t1['qtrgap'] = t1.apply(
        lambda r: (
            (r['rdate'].to_period('Q')
             - r['phrdate'].to_period('Q')).n
            if pd.notna(r['phrdate']) else np.nan
        ),
        axis=1
    )

    # Boundary detection keys
```

```
t1['l_key'] = (
    t1['shareholder_name'] + '_' + t1['ticker']
).shift(1)
t1['n_key'] = (
    t1['shareholder_name'] + '_' + t1['ticker']
).shift(-1)
t1['curr_key'] = t1['shareholder_name'] + '_' + t1['ticker']

# ---- Vectorized trade classification ----
is_new = (t1['curr_key'] != t1['l_key'])
not_first = ~t1['first_report']
consec = (t1['qtrgap'] == 1)
gap = (t1['qtrgap'] != 1) & t1['qtrgap'].notna()

cond1   = is_new
cond1_1 = is_new & not_first
cond2_1 = (~is_new) & not_first & consec
cond2_2 = (~is_new) & not_first & gap

# Modified trade amounts
t1['modtrade'] = t1['trade']
t1.loc[cond1, 'modtrade'] = np.nan
t1.loc[cond1_1, 'modtrade'] = t1.loc[cond1_1, 'shares_adj']
t1.loc[cond2_1, 'modtrade'] = t1.loc[cond2_1, 'trade']
t1.loc[cond2_2, 'modtrade'] = t1.loc[cond2_2, 'shares_adj']

# Buy/sale classification
t1['buysale'] = np.nan
t1.loc[cond1_1, 'buysale'] = 1
t1.loc[cond2_1, 'buysale'] = (
    2 * np.sign(t1.loc[cond2_1, 'trade'])
)
t1.loc[cond2_2, 'buysale'] = 1.5  # placeholder for split

# ---- Handle intermediate gaps (buysale == 1.5) ----
t2 = t1[t1['buysale'] == 1.5].copy()
t2['rdate'] = t2['phrdate'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(1)
t2['buysale'] = -1
t2['modtrade'] = -t2['pshares_adj']

t1.loc[t1['buysale'] == 1.5, 'buysale'] = 1
```

```
    # ---- Terminating sales ----
    is_last_combo = (t1['curr_key'] != t1['n_key'])
    not_last_rpt = ~t1['last_report']

    t3 = t1[is_last_combo & not_last_rpt].copy()
    t3['rdate'] = t3['rdate'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(1)
    t3['modtrade'] = -t3['shares_adj']
    t3['buysale'] = -1

    # ---- Combine ----
    trades = pd.concat([t1, t2, t3], ignore_index=True)
    trades = trades[
        (trades['modtrade'] != 0) &
        trades['modtrade'].notna() &
        trades['buysale'].notna()
    ].copy()

    trades = trades[[
        'rdate', 'shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'modtrade',
        'buysale', 'owner_type', 'first_report', 'last_report'
    ]].rename(columns={'modtrade': 'trade'})

    print(f"\nTrade computation complete:")
    print(f"  Total records: {len(trades):,}")
    print(f"  Initiating buys:  {(trades['buysale'] == 1).sum():,}")
    print(f"  Incremental buys: {(trades['buysale'] == 2).sum():,}")
    print(f"  Terminating sales:{(trades['buysale'] == -1).sum():,}")
    print(f"  Regular sales:    {(trades['buysale'] == -2).sum():,}")

    return trades
```

61.4.1 Trade Visualization

```python
def plot_trade_distribution(trades: pd.DataFrame):
    """Plot time series of trade types by quarter."""
    bs_labels = {
        1: 'Initiating Buy', 2: 'Incremental Buy',
        -1: 'Terminating Sale', -2: 'Regular Sale'
    }
    trades = trades.copy()
    trades['trade_type'] = trades['buysale'].map(bs_labels)

    counts = (
        trades
        .groupby([pd.Grouper(key='rdate', freq='QE'), 'trade_type'])
        .size()
        .unstack(fill_value=0)
    )

    fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(12, 8), sharex=True)

    buy_cols = [c for c in counts.columns if 'Buy' in c]
    counts[buy_cols].plot(
        kind='bar', stacked=True, ax=axes[0],
        color=['#1f77b4', '#aec7e8'], width=0.8
    )
    axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Institutional Purchases', fontweight='bold')
    axes[0].set_ylabel('Number of Trades')

    sale_cols = [c for c in counts.columns if 'Sale' in c]
    counts[sale_cols].plot(
        kind='bar', stacked=True, ax=axes[1],
        color=['#d62728', '#ff9896'], width=0.8
    )
    axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Institutional Sales', fontweight='bold')
    axes[1].set_ylabel('Number of Trades')

    for ax in axes:
        ax.tick_params(axis='x', rotation=45)
        for i, label in enumerate(ax.get_xticklabels()):
            if i % 4 != 0:
                label.set_visible(False)

    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()

# plot_trade_distribution(trades)
```

Figure 1.1

```python
def plot_net_trading_by_type(trades: pd.DataFrame, price_q: pd.DataFrame):
    """Plot net trading volume by owner type over time."""
    _t = trades.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'p']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
    )
    _t['trade_vnd'] = _t['trade'] * _t['p'] / 1e9

    net = (
        _t
        .groupby([pd.Grouper(key='rdate', freq='QE'), 'owner_type'])
        ['trade_vnd'].sum()
        .unstack(fill_value=0)
    )

    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
    for col in net.columns:
        ax.plot(net.index, net[col], label=col,
                color=OWNER_COLORS.get(col, '#333'), linewidth=1.5)
    ax.axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
    ax.set_title('Net Institutional Trading by Ownership Type',
                 fontweight='bold')
    ax.set_ylabel('Net Trading (Billions VND)')
    ax.legend(loc='best')
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()

# plot_net_trading_by_type(trades, price_q)
```

Figure 61.2

62 Portfolio Assets, Flows, and Returns

This section computes total portfolio assets, aggregates buys and sales, and portfolio-level returns for each institutional investor.

62.1 Total Assets and Portfolio Returns

For each manager j and quarter t, portfolio assets are:

$$A_{j,t} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{j,t}} h_{j,i,t} \cdot P_{i,t} \tag{62.1}$$

The portfolio return assuming buy-and-hold is:

$$R^p_{j,t} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{j,t}} h_{j,i,t} \cdot P_{i,t} \cdot r_{i,t+1}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{j,t}} h_{j,i,t} \cdot P_{i,t}} \tag{62.2}$$

```
def compute_assets_and_returns(
    holdings: pd.DataFrame,
    price_q: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute total portfolio assets and buy-and-hold returns."""
    _assets = holdings[
        ['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate', 'shares_adj']
    ].merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'p', 'qret']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
    )

    _assets['hold_per_stock'] = _assets['shares_adj'] * _assets['p'] / 1e6
    _assets['next_value'] = (
        _assets['shares_adj'] * _assets['p'] * _assets['qret']
```

```
    )
    _assets['curr_value'] = _assets['shares_adj'] * _assets['p']

    assets = (
        _assets
        .groupby(['shareholder_name', 'rdate'])
        .agg(
            assets=('hold_per_stock', 'sum'),
            total_next=('next_value', 'sum'),
            total_curr=('curr_value', 'sum'),
        )
        .reset_index()
    )

    assets['pret'] = assets['total_next'] / assets['total_curr']
    assets = assets.drop(columns=['total_next', 'total_curr'])
    return assets
```

62.2 Aggregate Buys and Sales

Total buys and sales for manager j in quarter t:

$$B_{j,t} = \sum_{i:\Delta h>0} \Delta h_{j,i,t} \cdot P_{i,t}, \qquad S_{j,t} = \sum_{i:\Delta h<0} |\Delta h_{j,i,t}| \cdot P_{i,t} \tag{62.3}$$

The trade gain is:

$$G_{j,t} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{j,t}} \Delta h_{j,i,t} \cdot P_{i,t} \cdot r_{i,t+1} \tag{62.4}$$

```
def compute_buys_sales(
    trades: pd.DataFrame,
    price_q: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute aggregate buys, sales, trade gains per manager-quarter."""
    _flows = trades.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'p', 'qret']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
```

```
    )

    _flows['tbuys'] = (
        _flows['trade'] * (_flows['trade'] > 0).astype(float)
        * _flows['p'] / 1e6
    )
    _flows['tsales'] = (
        (-1) * _flows['trade'] * (_flows['trade'] < 0).astype(float)
        * _flows['p'] / 1e6
    )
    _flows['tgain'] = (
        _flows['trade'] * _flows['p'] * _flows['qret'] / 1e6
    )

    flows = (
        _flows
        .groupby(['shareholder_name', 'rdate'])
        .agg(
            tbuys=('tbuys', 'sum'),
            tsales=('tsales', 'sum'),
            tgain=('tgain', 'sum'),
        )
        .reset_index()
    )
    return flows
```

63 Net Flows and Turnover Ratios

63.1 Net Flows

Net flows separate capital allocation decisions from investment returns:

$$\text{NetFlow}_{j,t} = A_{j,t} - A_{j,t-1}(1 + R^p_{j,t}) \tag{63.1}$$

Interpreting Net Flows in Vietnam

For state entities or corporate cross-holders, "net flows" do not necessarily reflect investment decisions. State ownership changes often result from government policy (equitization, divestment programs). Interpretation should account for institutional context.

63.2 Three Turnover Measures

```
def compute_aggregates(
    holdings: pd.DataFrame,
    assets: pd.DataFrame,
    flows: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Compute net flows and three turnover measures.

    1. Carhart (1997): min(buys, sales) / avg(assets)
    2. Flow-adjusted: [min(buys, sales) + |net flows|] / lag assets
    3. Symmetric: [buys + sales - |net flows|] / lag assets
    """
    report_flags = (
        holdings
        .groupby(['shareholder_name', 'rdate'])
        .agg(first_report=('first_report', 'any'),
```

```
            last_report=('last_report', 'any'))
        .reset_index()
    )

    agg = report_flags.merge(
        assets, on=['shareholder_name', 'rdate'], how='inner'
    )
    agg = agg.merge(
        flows, on=['shareholder_name', 'rdate'], how='left'
    )

    agg = agg.sort_values(['shareholder_name', 'rdate'])

    agg['assets_comp'] = agg['assets'] * (1 + agg['pret'].fillna(0))

    grp = agg.groupby('shareholder_name')
    agg['lassets_comp'] = grp['assets_comp'].shift(1)
    agg['lassets'] = grp['assets'].shift(1)

    # Trade gain return
    agg['tgainret'] = agg['tgain'] / (agg['tbuys'] + agg['tsales'])

    # Net flows
    agg['netflows'] = agg['assets'] - agg['lassets_comp']

    # Turnover 1: Carhart (1997)
    agg['turnover1'] = (
        agg[['tbuys', 'tsales']].min(axis=1) /
        agg[['assets', 'lassets']].mean(axis=1)
    )

    # Turnover 2: Flow-adjusted
    agg['turnover2'] = (
        (agg[['tbuys', 'tsales']].min(axis=1)
         + agg['netflows'].abs().fillna(0))
        / agg['lassets']
    )

    # Turnover 3: Symmetric
    agg['turnover3'] = (
        (agg['tbuys'].fillna(0) + agg['tsales'].fillna(0)
         - agg['netflows'].abs().fillna(0))
```

```
        / agg['lassets']
    )

    # Missing for first report
    first_mask = agg['first_report']
    for col in ['netflows', 'tgainret',
                'turnover1', 'turnover2', 'turnover3']:
        agg.loc[first_mask, col] = np.nan

    agg = agg.drop(columns=['assets_comp', 'lassets_comp', 'lassets'])

    print(f"\nAggregates: {len(agg):,} manager-quarters")
    print(f"  Turnover1 mean: {agg['turnover1'].mean():.4f}")
    print(f"  Turnover2 mean: {agg['turnover2'].mean():.4f}")
    print(f"  Turnover3 mean: {agg['turnover3'].mean():.4f}")

    return agg
```

63.2.1 Turnover Summary Statistics

Table 63.1: Summary statistics for three turnover measures across institutional investor types in Vietnam. Turnover 1 follows Mark M. Carhart (1997b), Turnover 2 adds back absolute net flows, and Turnover 3 uses the symmetric definition.

```python
def turnover_summary_table(
    aggregates: pd.DataFrame,
    holdings: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Publication-quality turnover summary statistics table."""
    owner_map = (
        holdings.groupby('shareholder_name')['owner_type']
        .first().reset_index()
    )
    agg = aggregates.merge(owner_map, on='shareholder_name', how='left')

    turnover_cols = ['turnover1', 'turnover2', 'turnover3']
    results = []

    for otype in ['All'] + OwnershipType.ALL_TYPES:
        subset = agg if otype == 'All' else agg[agg['owner_type'] == otype]
        row = {'Owner Type': otype, 'N': len(subset)}
        for col in turnover_cols:
            s = subset[col].dropna()
            row[f'{col}_mean'] = s.mean()
            row[f'{col}_median'] = s.median()
            row[f'{col}_std'] = s.std()
        results.append(row)

    return pd.DataFrame(results).round(4)

# turnover_summary_table(aggregates, holdings)
```

```python
def plot_turnover_timeseries(
    aggregates: pd.DataFrame, holdings: pd.DataFrame
):
    """Plot turnover time series by ownership type."""
    owner_map = (
        holdings.groupby('shareholder_name')['owner_type']
        .first().reset_index()
    )
    agg = aggregates.merge(owner_map, on='shareholder_name', how='left')

    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
    for otype in OwnershipType.ALL_INSTITUTIONAL:
        subset = agg[agg['owner_type'] == otype]
        qtr_mean = (
            subset
            .groupby(pd.Grouper(key='rdate', freq='QE'))['turnover1']
            .mean()
        )
        ax.plot(qtr_mean.index, qtr_mean.values, label=otype,
                color=OWNER_COLORS.get(otype, '#333'), linewidth=1.5)

    ax.set_title('Quarterly Average Turnover (Carhart)',
                 fontweight='bold')
    ax.set_ylabel('Turnover Ratio')
    ax.legend(loc='best')
    ax.yaxis.set_major_formatter(mticker.PercentFormatter(1.0))
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()

# plot_turnover_timeseries(aggregates, holdings)
```

Figure 63.1

64 Foreign Ownership Analytics

Vietnam's foreign ownership limits create unique analytical dimensions absent from developed market studies.

64.1 FOL Utilization

$$\text{FOL_Util}_{i,t} = \frac{FO_{i,t}}{FOL_i} \tag{64.1}$$

Stocks with $\text{FOL_Util}_{i,t} \to 1$ face mechanical foreign buying restrictions.

```
def compute_fol_analytics(
    foreign_ownership: pd.DataFrame,
    company_profile: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute FOL utilization and related metrics."""
    fo = foreign_ownership.copy()
    fo = fo.merge(
        company_profile[['ticker', 'fol_limit']].drop_duplicates(),
        on='ticker', how='left'
    )

    fo['fol_utilization'] = fo['foreign_pct'] / fo['fol_limit']
    fo['foreign_room'] = fo['fol_limit'] - fo['foreign_pct']
    fo['fol_binding'] = (fo['fol_utilization'] >= 0.98)
    fo['fol_category'] = pd.cut(
        fo['fol_utilization'],
        bins=[0, 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 0.95, 1.0, float('inf')],
        labels=['<25%', '25-50%', '50-75%', '75-95%',
                '95-100%', '>100%']
    )
    return fo
```

64.2 Room Premium Regression

When foreign ownership approaches the FOL, remaining "room" becomes scarce. We model:

$$r_{i,t+1} = \alpha + \beta_1 \cdot \text{FOL_Util}_{i,t} + \beta_2 \cdot \text{FOL_Util}_{i,t}^2 + \gamma \cdot X_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{64.2}$$

The quadratic term captures nonlinear acceleration of the premium as ownership approaches the limit.

```
def estimate_room_premium(
    fol_analytics: pd.DataFrame,
    price_q: pd.DataFrame,
) -> dict:
    """Estimate foreign ownership room premium via panel regression."""
    fol_q = (
        fol_analytics
        .assign(qdate=lambda x: x['date'] + pd.offsets.QuarterEnd(0))
        .groupby(['ticker', 'qdate'])
        .agg(fol_utilization=('fol_utilization', 'last'),
             foreign_room=('foreign_room', 'last'))
        .reset_index()
    )

    panel = fol_q.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'mcap', 'qret']],
        on=['ticker', 'qdate'], how='inner'
    )

    panel['log_mcap'] = np.log(panel['mcap'] + 1)
    panel['fol_util_sq'] = panel['fol_utilization'] ** 2
    panel = panel.dropna(subset=['qret', 'fol_utilization', 'log_mcap'])

    X = panel[['fol_utilization', 'fol_util_sq', 'log_mcap']]
    X = sm.add_constant(X)
    y = panel['qret']

    model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit(
        cov_type='cluster', cov_kwds={'groups': panel['ticker']}
    )
    return {'model': model, 'n_obs': len(panel)}

# results = estimate_room_premium(fol_analytics, price_q)
```

```python
def plot_fol_utilization(fol_analytics: pd.DataFrame):
    """Plot FOL utilization distribution."""
    latest = (
        fol_analytics.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])
        .groupby('ticker').last().reset_index()
    )

    fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

    axes[0].hist(latest['fol_utilization'].dropna(), bins=50,
                 color='#1f77b4', alpha=0.7, edgecolor='white')
    axes[0].axvline(x=0.95, color='red', linestyle='--',
                    label='95% threshold')
    axes[0].set_title('Panel A: FOL Utilization Distribution',
                      fontweight='bold')
    axes[0].set_xlabel('FOL Utilization Ratio')
    axes[0].set_ylabel('Number of Stocks')
    axes[0].legend()

    for exch in ['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCOM']:
        sub = latest[latest.get('exchange') == exch]
        if len(sub) > 0:
            axes[1].hist(sub['fol_utilization'].dropna(), bins=30,
                         alpha=0.5, label=exch,
                         color=EXCHANGE_COLORS.get(exch, '#333'))
    axes[1].set_title('Panel B: By Exchange', fontweight='bold')
    axes[1].set_xlabel('FOL Utilization Ratio')
    axes[1].legend()

    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()

# plot_fol_utilization(fol_analytics)
```

Figure 64.1

65 Complete Pipeline

We integrate all steps into a single end-to-end function:

```
def run_complete_pipeline(
    dc: 'DataCoreReader',
    begdate: str = '2010-01-01',
    enddate: str = '2024-12-31',
) -> Dict[str, pd.DataFrame]:
    """
    Execute the complete institutional ownership analytics pipeline.

    Steps:
    1. Build corporate action adjustment factors
    2. Process stock prices
    3. Construct holdings panel (Steps 2-4)
    4. Compute IO metrics
    5. Compute institutional trades (Step 5)
    6. Compute portfolio assets and returns (Step 6a)
    7. Compute aggregate buys, sales, trade gains (Step 6b)
    8. Compute net flows and turnover (Step 7)
    9. Compute foreign ownership analytics

    Returns dict of all output DataFrames.
    """
    print("=" * 60)
    print("INSTITUTIONAL TRADES, FLOWS, AND TURNOVER PIPELINE")
    print(f"Sample: {begdate} to {enddate}")
    print("=" * 60)

    print("\n[1/9] Building adjustment factors...")
    adj_factors = build_adjustment_factors(dc.corporate_actions)

    print("\n[2/9] Processing stock prices...")
    price_q, qret = process_prices(
        dc.prices, adj_factors, begdate, enddate
    )
```

```
    print("\n[3/9] Building holdings panel...")
    holdings = build_holdings_panel(
        dc.ownership, adj_factors, price_q,
        dc.company_profile, begdate, enddate
    )

    print("\n[4/9] Computing ownership metrics...")
    io_ratios = compute_io_ratios(holdings, price_q)
    hhi = compute_hhi(holdings)
    breadth = compute_breadth(holdings)

    print("\n[5/9] Computing institutional trades...")
    trades = compute_trades(holdings, adj_factors)

    print("\n[6/9] Computing portfolio assets...")
    assets = compute_assets_and_returns(holdings, price_q)

    print("\n[7/9] Computing aggregate buys and sales...")
    flows = compute_buys_sales(trades, price_q)

    print("\n[8/9] Computing net flows and turnover...")
    aggregates = compute_aggregates(holdings, assets, flows)

    print("\n[9/9] Computing foreign ownership analytics...")
    fol_analytics = compute_fol_analytics(
        dc.foreign_ownership, dc.company_profile
    )

    print("\n" + "=" * 60)
    print("PIPELINE COMPLETE")
    print("=" * 60)

    return {
        'price_q': price_q, 'holdings': holdings,
        'io_ratios': io_ratios, 'hhi': hhi,
        'breadth': breadth, 'trades': trades,
        'assets': assets, 'flows': flows,
        'aggregates': aggregates, 'fol_analytics': fol_analytics,
    }

# dc = DataCoreReader('/path/to/datacore_data', file_format='parquet')
# results = run_complete_pipeline(dc, '2010-01-01', '2024-12-31')
```

66 Advanced Extensions

66.1 Herding Measures

Following Sias (2004), the Lakonishok-Shleifer-Vishny herding measure is:

$$HM_{i,t} = \left| \frac{B_{i,t}}{B_{i,t} + S_{i,t}} - p_t \right| - E\left[\left| \frac{B_{i,t}}{B_{i,t} + S_{i,t}} - p_t \right| \right] \tag{66.1}$$

where $B_{i,t}$ is the number of managers buying stock i in quarter t, $S_{i,t}$ the number selling, and p_t the expected buyer proportion under independent trading.

```
def compute_lsv_herding(
    trades: pd.DataFrame,
    min_traders: int = 5,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute LSV herding measure for each stock-quarter."""
    tc = (
        trades.groupby(['ticker', 'rdate'])
        .apply(lambda g: pd.Series({
            'n_buyers': (g['trade'] > 0).sum(),
            'n_sellers': (g['trade'] < 0).sum(),
            'n_traders': len(g),
        }))
        .reset_index()
    )

    tc = tc[tc['n_traders'] >= min_traders].copy()
    tc['buy_prop'] = tc['n_buyers'] / tc['n_traders']
    tc['p_t'] = tc.groupby('rdate')['buy_prop'].transform('mean')
    tc['raw_hm'] = (tc['buy_prop'] - tc['p_t']).abs()

    def expected_abs_deviation(row):
        n = int(row['n_traders'])
        p = row['p_t']
        if n == 0 or p == 0 or p == 1:
```

```
            return 0
        from scipy.stats import binom
        k = np.arange(0, n + 1)
        probs = binom.pmf(k, n, p)
        return np.sum(np.abs(k / n - p) * probs)

    tc['expected_hm'] = tc.apply(expected_abs_deviation, axis=1)
    tc['herding'] = tc['raw_hm'] - tc['expected_hm']

    tc['buy_herding'] = np.where(
        tc['buy_prop'] > tc['p_t'], tc['herding'], np.nan
    )
    tc['sell_herding'] = np.where(
        tc['buy_prop'] < tc['p_t'], tc['herding'], np.nan
    )

    return tc[['ticker', 'rdate', 'n_buyers', 'n_sellers',
               'n_traders', 'herding', 'buy_herding', 'sell_herding']]
```

66.2 Demand Persistence

Sias (2004) showed institutional demand is persistent:

$$\rho_t = \text{Corr}\left(\Delta IO_{i,t},\, \Delta IO_{i,t-1}\right) \tag{66.2}$$

```
def compute_demand_persistence(io_ratios: pd.DataFrame) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Rolling cross-sectional correlation of IO changes."""
    io = io_ratios[['ticker', 'rdate', 'io_total_inst']].copy()
    io = io.sort_values(['ticker', 'rdate'])
    io['dio'] = io.groupby('ticker')['io_total_inst'].diff()
    io['lag_dio'] = io.groupby('ticker')['dio'].shift(1)

    persistence = (
        io.dropna(subset=['dio', 'lag_dio'])
        .groupby('rdate')
        .apply(lambda g: g['dio'].corr(g['lag_dio']))
        .reset_index()
        .rename(columns={0: 'persistence'})
    )
```

```
    persistence = persistence.sort_values('rdate')
    persistence['persistence_ma'] = (
        persistence['persistence'].rolling(window=20, min_periods=4).mean()
    )
    return persistence
```

```
def plot_demand_persistence(persistence: pd.DataFrame):
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 5))
    ax.bar(persistence['rdate'], persistence['persistence'],
           width=80, alpha=0.3, color='#1f77b4', label='Quarterly')
    ax.plot(persistence['rdate'], persistence['persistence_ma'],
            color='#d62728', linewidth=2, label='Rolling Average')
    ax.axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
    ax.set_title('Persistence of Institutional Demand', fontweight='bold')
    ax.set_ylabel('Cross-Sectional Correlation')
    ax.legend()
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```

Figure 66.1

66.3 Information Content of Trades

Following Alexander, Cici, and Gibson (2007), the InfoTrade ratio measures the proportion of dollar trading from entry/exit decisions vs. position adjustments:

$$\text{InfoTrade}_{i,t} = \frac{\sum_{j:BS\in\{+1,-1\}} |\Delta h_{j,i,t}| \cdot P_{i,t}}{\sum_j |\Delta h_{j,i,t}| \cdot P_{i,t}} \tag{66.3}$$

```
def compute_info_trade_ratio(
    trades: pd.DataFrame, price_q: pd.DataFrame
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compute info trade ratio for each stock-quarter."""
    _t = trades.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'p']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
```

```
    )
    _t['dollar_trade'] = _t['trade'].abs() * _t['p'] / 1e6
    _t['is_discrete'] = _t['buysale'].isin([1, -1])

    info = _t.groupby(['ticker', 'rdate']).apply(
        lambda g: pd.Series({
            'discrete_vol': g.loc[g['is_discrete'], 'dollar_trade'].sum(),
            'total_vol': g['dollar_trade'].sum(),
        })
    ).reset_index()

    info['info_trade_ratio'] = (
        info['discrete_vol'] / info['total_vol']
    ).clip(0, 1)
    return info
```

67 Empirical Applications

67.1 Application 1: Institutional Ownership Changes and Future Returns

We test whether changes in institutional ownership predict future stock returns (H.-L. Chen, Jegadeesh, and Wermers 2000) via Fama-MacBeth regressions:

$$r_{i,t+1} = \alpha_t + \beta_{1,t} \cdot \Delta IO_{i,t} + \beta_{2,t} \cdot \Delta \text{Breadth}_{i,t} + \gamma_t \cdot X_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{67.1}$$

```
def fama_macbeth_io_returns(
    io_ratios: pd.DataFrame,
    breadth: pd.DataFrame,
    price_q: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Run Fama-MacBeth regressions of future returns on IO changes."""
    panel = io_ratios[['ticker', 'rdate', 'io_total_inst']].merge(
        breadth[['ticker', 'rdate', 'n_total_inst', 'd_n_total_inst']],
        on=['ticker', 'rdate'], how='inner'
    ).merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'mcap', 'qret']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
    )

    panel = panel.sort_values(['ticker', 'rdate'])
    panel['dio'] = panel.groupby('ticker')['io_total_inst'].diff()
    panel['log_mcap'] = np.log(panel['mcap'] + 1)
    panel['mom'] = panel.groupby('ticker')['qret'].shift(1)

    reg_vars = ['qret', 'dio', 'd_n_total_inst', 'log_mcap', 'mom']
    panel = panel.dropna(subset=reg_vars)

    quarters = sorted(panel['rdate'].unique())
```

```
    results = []

    for q in quarters:
        qdata = panel[panel['rdate'] == q]
        if len(qdata) < 30:
            continue
        X = sm.add_constant(
            qdata[['dio', 'd_n_total_inst', 'log_mcap', 'mom']]
        )
        try:
            model = sm.OLS(qdata['qret'], X).fit()
            coefs = model.params.to_dict()
            coefs['rdate'] = q
            coefs['n_obs'] = len(qdata)
            results.append(coefs)
        except Exception:
            continue

    fm = pd.DataFrame(results)

    # Time-series averages with Newey-West t-statistics
    print("\nFama-MacBeth Results:")
    print("=" * 50)
    for var in ['const', 'dio', 'd_n_total_inst', 'log_mcap', 'mom']:
        coefs = fm[var].dropna()
        mean_c = coefs.mean()
        nw_se = sm.OLS(
            coefs - mean_c, np.ones(len(coefs))
        ).fit(cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 4}).bse[0]
        t = mean_c / nw_se if nw_se > 0 else np.nan
        print(f"  {var:20s}: coef={mean_c:8.4f}, t={t:6.2f}")

    return fm
```

67.2 Application 2: Turnover and Performance

Yan (2008) documented a positive turnover-performance relationship. We test in Vietnam:

$$\alpha_{j,t} = a + b \cdot \text{Turnover}_{j,t-1} + c \cdot \log(A_{j,t-1}) + d \cdot \text{Flow}_{j,t} + \varepsilon_{j,t} \tag{67.2}$$

```python
def turnover_performance_regression(
    aggregates: pd.DataFrame,
) -> dict:
    """Test turnover-performance relationship."""
    agg = aggregates.sort_values(['shareholder_name', 'rdate']).copy()
    agg['lag_turnover1'] = (
        agg.groupby('shareholder_name')['turnover1'].shift(1)
    )
    agg['log_assets'] = np.log(agg['assets'] + 1)
    agg['flow_ratio'] = agg['netflows'] / agg['assets'].shift(1)

    panel = agg.dropna(
        subset=['pret', 'lag_turnover1', 'log_assets', 'flow_ratio']
    )

    for col in ['pret', 'lag_turnover1', 'flow_ratio']:
        lo, hi = panel[col].quantile([0.01, 0.99])
        panel[col] = panel[col].clip(lo, hi)

    X = sm.add_constant(
        panel[['lag_turnover1', 'log_assets', 'flow_ratio']]
    )
    model = sm.OLS(panel['pret'], X).fit(
        cov_type='cluster',
        cov_kwds={'groups': panel['shareholder_name']}
    )
    return {'model': model, 'n': len(panel)}
```

67.3 Application 3: Foreign vs. Domestic Trading

```python
def compare_foreign_domestic(
    trades: pd.DataFrame, price_q: pd.DataFrame,
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Compare trading patterns between foreign and domestic institutions."""
    _t = trades.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'p']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
```

```
    )
    _t['dollar_trade'] = _t['trade'] * _t['p'] / 1e6
    _t['is_buy'] = _t['trade'] > 0

    return (
        _t[_t['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL)]
        .groupby('owner_type')
        .agg(
            n_trades=('trade', 'count'),
            n_buys=('is_buy', 'sum'),
            avg_dollar=('dollar_trade', lambda x: x.abs().mean()),
            net_buying=('dollar_trade', 'sum'),
            pct_initiating=('buysale', lambda x: (x.abs() == 1).mean()),
        )
        .reset_index()
    )
```

```python
def plot_cumulative_net_buying(
    trades: pd.DataFrame, price_q: pd.DataFrame
):
    _t = trades.merge(
        price_q[['ticker', 'qdate', 'p']],
        left_on=['ticker', 'rdate'],
        right_on=['ticker', 'qdate'],
        how='inner'
    )
    _t['trade_vnd'] = _t['trade'] * _t['p'] / 1e9

    inst = _t[_t['owner_type'].isin(OwnershipType.INSTITUTIONAL)]
    net = (
        inst.groupby(
            [pd.Grouper(key='rdate', freq='QE'), 'owner_type']
        )['trade_vnd'].sum().unstack(fill_value=0)
    )
    cum = net.cumsum()

    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
    for col in cum.columns:
        ax.plot(cum.index, cum[col], label=col,
                color=OWNER_COLORS.get(col, '#333'), linewidth=2)
    ax.axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
    ax.set_title('Cumulative Net Institutional Buying', fontweight='bold')
    ax.set_ylabel('Billions VND')
    ax.legend(loc='best')
    plt.tight_layout()
    plt.show()
```

Figure 67.1

68 Data Quality and Robustness

68.1 Common Pitfalls

68.1.1 Corporate Action Misadjustment

Example: Phantom Trade from Unadjusted Stock Dividend

Vinamilk (VNM) issues a 20% stock dividend with ex-date March 15, 2023.

- Q4 2022: Fund X holds 1,000,000 shares of VNM
- Q1 2023: Fund X holds 1,200,000 shares of VNM

Without adjustment: Inferred buy of +200,000 shares (BS = +2) **With adjustment:** Prior holdings become 1,200,000 adjusted shares, trade = 0
This phantom trade inflates measured turnover and creates spurious buying signals.

68.1.2 Disclosure Timing Mismatches

Vietnamese ownership disclosure dates may not align with calendar quarter ends. Our pipeline addresses this by aligning all disclosures to the nearest quarter-end.

68.1.3 Name Changes and Entity Mergers

Vietnamese institutions frequently rename. Without a stable identifier, the same entity may appear as two different shareholders, creating phantom entries/exits. We recommend maintaining a master entity mapping table.

68.2 Validation Checks

```python
def validate_pipeline_outputs(
    results: Dict[str, pd.DataFrame],
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Run comprehensive validation on pipeline outputs."""
    checks = []
    h = results['holdings']
    t = results['trades']
    a = results['aggregates']

    checks.append({
        'Check': 'No negative adjusted shares',
        'Result': 'PASS' if (h['shares_adj'] < 0).sum() == 0 else 'FAIL',
        'Detail': f'{(h["shares_adj"] < 0).sum()} negative obs'
    })

    checks.append({
        'Check': 'No duplicate holdings',
        'Result': 'PASS' if h.duplicated(
            subset=['shareholder_name', 'ticker', 'rdate']
        ).sum() == 0 else 'FAIL',
    })

    checks.append({
        'Check': 'Valid buysale codes only',
        'Result': 'PASS' if t['buysale'].isin([1, 2, -1, -2]).all()
        else 'FAIL',
    })

    checks.append({
        'Check': 'No zero trades',
        'Result': 'PASS' if (t['trade'] == 0).sum() == 0 else 'FAIL',
    })

    t1 = a['turnover1'].dropna()
    checks.append({
        'Check': 'Turnover1 in [0, 10]',
        'Result': 'PASS' if ((t1 < 0) | (t1 > 10)).sum() == 0
        else 'WARNING',
        'Detail': f'{((t1<0)|(t1>10)).sum()} extreme values'
    })

    first_rpt = a[a['first_report']]
```

```
    checks.append({
        'Check': 'First report -> missing netflows',
        'Result': 'PASS' if first_rpt['netflows'].isna().all()
        else 'FAIL',
    })

    return pd.DataFrame(checks)

# validate_pipeline_outputs(results)
```

69 Summary

This chapter developed a framework for computing institutional trades, flows, and turnover ratios in the Vietnamese equity market. The key contributions include:

1. **Corporate action adjustment** for Vietnam's frequent stock dividends and bonus shares, preventing phantom trades that contaminate standard differencing.
2. **Four-way ownership taxonomy** (state, foreign institutional, domestic institutional, individual) capturing Vietnam's unique ownership landscape.
3. **FOL utilization analytics** for studying foreign ownership constraints absent from developed markets.
4. **Irregular disclosure handling** with correct gap splitting into terminating sales and initiating buys.
5. **Advanced extensions** including herding, demand persistence, and information content decomposition.

The pipeline produces several output datasets (Table 69.1)

Table 69.1: Summary of Pipeline Output Datasets

Output	Grain	Key Variables	Use Cases
`holdings`	Shareholder x Ticker x Quarter	`shares_adj`, `owner_type`	Cross-sectional ownership
`io_ratios`	Ticker x Quarter	`io_state`, `io_foreign`, etc.	Governance, liquidity
`trades`	Shareholder x Ticker x Quarter	`trade`, `buysale`	Informed trading, herding
`aggregates`	Shareholder x Quarter	`assets`, `turnover`, `netflows`	Fund performance, flows
`fol_analytics`	Ticker x Date	`fol_utilization`, `foreign_room`	FOL premium, foreign investment

70 Corporate Governance

Corporate governance (i.e., the system of rules, practices, and processes by which firms are directed and controlled) has been one of the most actively studied determinants of equity returns since the early 2000s. The insight is simple yet powerful: firms that grant shareholders stronger rights tend to outperform firms in which management is entrenched by anti-takeover provisions. This chapter applies that insight to the Vietnamese market, where governance quality varies considerably across listed firms and institutional development remains evolving.

70.1 Theoretical Background

70.1.1 The Governance-Return Nexus

The theoretical motivation for a link between corporate governance and stock returns rests on agency theory (M. C. Jensen and Meckling 1976). Managers, as agents of shareholders, may pursue private benefits at the expense of firm value. Anti-takeover provisions, staggered boards, poison pills, and other defensive mechanisms insulate management from the disciplining force of the market for corporate control. When shareholders cannot easily replace underperforming managers, agency costs rise, investment efficiency falls, and firm value declines.

Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) formalized this intuition by constructing a **Governance Index (G-Index)** based on 24 governance provisions tracked by the Investor Responsibility Research Center (IRRC) in the United States. Each provision that restricts shareholder rights increments the index by one. Thus:

$$G\text{-Index}_i = \sum_{k=1}^{24} \mathbf{1}\{\text{Provision } k \text{ is present for firm } i\} \tag{70.1}$$

where $\mathbf{1}\{\cdot\}$ is the indicator function. Higher values of the G-Index correspond to weaker shareholder rights.

The key empirical finding was striking: during the 1990s, a portfolio that bought firms with the strongest shareholder rights (G-Index ≤ 5, labeled the **Democracy Portfolio**) and sold firms with the weakest shareholder rights (G-Index ≥ 14, labeled the **Dictatorship Portfolio**) earned an abnormal return of approximately 8.5% per year.

70.1.2 Adapting the Framework to Vietnam

Vietnam's corporate governance landscape differs fundamentally from that of the United States. The Vietnamese market is characterized by:

1. **State ownership**: Many listed firms retain significant government ownership stakes, which creates a distinct agency problem where the state acts as a controlling shareholder rather than dispersed minority shareholders facing entrenched management.
2. **Concentrated ownership**: Family and controlling-group ownership is prevalent, shifting the primary agency conflict from manager-shareholder to controlling-majority vs. minority shareholders (Claessens, Djankov, and Lang 2000).
3. **Evolving legal framework**: Vietnam's corporate governance code has been progressively strengthened through Decree 71/2017/ND-CP and subsequent circulars, but enforcement remains uneven.
4. **Dual listing and foreign ownership caps**: Foreign ownership limits create segmented investor bases with potentially different governance preferences.

Despite these differences, the core economic logic applies: firms with better governance (i.e., greater board independence, stronger audit committees, more transparent disclosure, better minority shareholder protections) should command higher valuations and deliver superior risk-adjusted returns, all else equal.

For the Vietnamese market, we construct a governance index analogous to the G-Index using governance provisions. While the specific provisions differ from the 24 IRRC items used in the US context, the methodology is identical: count the number of provisions that restrict shareholder rights or entrench management.

70.1.3 The Vietnamese Governance Index (VN-GIndex)

We define the Vietnamese Governance Index based on the following categories of provisions (Table 70.1)

Table 70.1: Categories of governance provisions for the VN-GIndex

Category	Provisions	Direction
Board Structure	Staggered board, CEO duality, board size < 5	$\uparrow$ restricts rights
Ownership	State ownership $> 50\%$, no independent directors	$\uparrow$ restricts rights
Shareholder Rights	Supermajority requirements, limited voting rights	$\uparrow$ restricts rights

Category	Provisions	Direction
Transparency	No English-language annual report, delayed filings	↑ restricts rights
Anti-takeover	Poison pill equivalents, golden parachutes	↑ restricts rights
Audit	No independent audit committee, related-party auditor	↑ restricts rights

The VN-GIndex for firm i at time t is:

$$\text{VN-GIndex}_{i,t} = \sum_{k=1}^{K} \mathbf{1}\{\text{Provision } k \text{ is present for firm } i \text{ at time } t\} \tag{70.2}$$

where K is the total number of governance provisions tracked. Higher values indicate weaker governance.

70.2 Data Preparation

We use three primary datasets:

1. **Governance data**: Firm-level governance provisions, updated annually or when material changes occur.
2. **Stock market data**: Monthly returns, prices, and shares outstanding for all firms listed on HOSE and HNX.
3. **Factor data**: Vietnamese Fama-French factors (market, size, value) and a momentum factor.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import statsmodels.api as sm
from statsmodels.regression.linear_model import OLS
from scipy import stats
import warnings
import sqlite3

warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")

pd.options.display.float_format = "{:.4f}".format
```

Table 70.2: First observations of the governance dataset

```
governance_raw.head(10)
```

```
tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(
    database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite"
)
```

70.2.1 Loading Governance Data

The governance dataset contains firm-level governance characteristics. Each observation corresponds to a firm-year, with binary indicators for the presence of each governance provision.

```
governance_raw = pd.read_csv(
    "data/datacore_governance.csv",
    parse_dates=["date_effective", "date_expires"]
)

governance_raw.info()
```

The key variables are:

- `symbol`: The stock symbol on HOSE or HNX.
- `date_effective`: The date when the governance data became effective (analogous to the rebalancing date).
- `date_expires`: The last date for which this governance vintage is valid.
- `year`: The governance data vintage year.

70.2.2 Computing the VN-GIndex

We compute the governance index by summing the binary indicators of governance provision. The provision columns are identified by the prefix `gov_`.

```
# Identify governance provision columns
gov_columns = [
    col for col in governance_raw.columns if col.startswith("gov_")
]
```

Table 70.3: Summary statistics of the VN-GIndex by vintage year

```
gindex_summary = (
    governance
    .groupby("year")["gindex"]
    .describe()
    .round(2)
)

gindex_summary
```

```
print(f"Number of governance provisions tracked: {len(gov_columns)}")
print(f"Provisions: {gov_columns}")

# Compute VN-GIndex as sum of all provision indicators
governance = governance_raw.assign(
    gindex=lambda x: x[gov_columns].sum(axis=1)
)

governance[["symbol", "year", "gindex"]].describe()
```

70.2.3 Distribution of the VN-GIndex

Understanding the cross-sectional distribution of the governance index is essential for defining portfolio cutoffs. In the US, Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) used fixed cutoffs of ≤ 5 for Democracy and ≥ 14 for Dictatorship. For Vietnam, we examine the empirical distribution and set cutoffs at appropriate percentiles.

70.2.4 Classifying Firms: Democracy, Neutral, and Dictatorship

Rather than using fixed cutoffs (which may be inappropriate given varying index ranges across markets), we use percentile-based classification. Firms in the bottom quintile of the VN-GIndex distribution within each vintage year are classified as **Democracy** firms, and firms in the top quintile are classified as **Dictatorship** firms.

```
def classify_governance(group):
    """Classify firms into Democracy, Neutral, or Dictatorship
    within each governance vintage year."""
    p20 = group["gindex"].quantile(0.20)
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(
    2, 3, figsize=(12, 7), sharey=True, sharex=True
)
axes = axes.flatten()

years = sorted(governance["year"].unique())

for idx, yr in enumerate(years[:6]):
    ax = axes[idx]
    data_yr = governance.query(f"year == {yr}")["gindex"]

    p20 = data_yr.quantile(0.20)
    p80 = data_yr.quantile(0.80)

    ax.hist(data_yr, bins=range(0, int(data_yr.max()) + 2),
            edgecolor="white", color="#2c5f8a", alpha=0.85)
    ax.axvline(p20, color="#d63e2a", linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5,
               label=f"P20={p20:.0f}")
    ax.axvline(p80, color="#e8a317", linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5,
               label=f"P80={p80:.0f}")
    ax.set_title(f"{yr}", fontsize=11, fontweight="bold")
    ax.legend(fontsize=8)
    ax.set_xlabel("VN-GIndex")

for idx in range(len(years), len(axes)):
    axes[idx].set_visible(False)

axes[0].set_ylabel("Number of Firms")
axes[3].set_ylabel("Number of Firms")

fig.suptitle(
    "Distribution of VN-GIndex by Governance Vintage Year",
    fontsize=13, fontweight="bold", y=1.01
)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 70.1

Table 70.4: Number of firms in each governance category by vintage year

```
classification_counts
```

```
    p80 = group["gindex"].quantile(0.80)

    conditions = [
        group["gindex"] <= p20,
        group["gindex"] >= p80
    ]
    choices = ["Democracy", "Dictatorship"]

    group = group.assign(
        gx=np.select(conditions, choices, default="Neutral"),
        gx_code=np.select(
            conditions, [1, 3], default=2
        )
    )
    return group

governance_classified = (
    governance
    .groupby("year", group_keys=False)
    .apply(classify_governance)
)

# Summary of classification
classification_counts = (
    governance_classified
    .groupby(["year", "gx"])
    .size()
    .unstack(fill_value=0)
    [["Democracy", "Neutral", "Dictatorship"]]
)

classification_counts
```

We exclude firms with dual-class share structures, as these create a distinct governance arrangement that conflates voting rights with economic ownership. In the US, Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) similarly excluded dual-class firms.

```python
# Exclude dual-class firms if flagged in the data
if "dual_class" in governance_classified.columns:
    governance_classified = governance_classified.query(
        "dual_class == 0"
    )
    print("Dual-class firms excluded.")
else:
    print("No dual_class indicator found; proceeding with all firms.")

# Keep only Democracy and Dictatorship firms for the long-short strategy
portfolio_firms = governance_classified.query(
    "gx in ['Democracy', 'Dictatorship']"
).copy()

print(f"\nFirms in portfolio universe: {len(portfolio_firms)}")
print(portfolio_firms["gx"].value_counts())
```

70.2.5 Loading Stock Market Data

We merge the governance classifications with monthly stock return data.

```python
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret, ret_excess, mktcap, mktcap_lag, risk_free
        FROM prices_monthly
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
).dropna()

prices_monthly.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.DataFrame'>
Index: 165499 entries, 1 to 209477
Data columns (total 7 columns):
 #   Column      Non-Null Count   Dtype
---  ------      --------------   -----
 0   symbol      165499 non-null  str
 1   date        165499 non-null  datetime64[us]
 2   ret         165499 non-null  float64
 3   ret_excess  165499 non-null  float64
```

```
 4   mktcap      165499 non-null  float64
 5   mktcap_lag  165499 non-null  float64
 6   risk_free   165499 non-null  float64
dtypes: datetime64[us](1), float64(5), str(1)
memory usage: 10.6 MB
```

The stock market data contains:

- `symbol`: Stock symbol.
- `date`: End-of-month date.
- `ret`: Monthly total return (including dividends).
- `retx`: Monthly return excluding dividends (price return only).
- `price`: End-of-month closing price (adjusted).
- `shares_outstanding`: Number of shares outstanding (in thousands).

```
prices_monthly[["symbol", "date", "ret", "mktcap"]].describe()
```

	date	ret	mktcap
count	165499	165499.0000	165499.0000
mean	2018-05-18 13:20:13.109444	0.0042	2183.1646
min	2010-02-28 00:00:00	-0.9900	0.3536
25%	2015-06-30 00:00:00	-0.0703	60.3728
50%	2018-12-31 00:00:00	0.0000	180.6224
75%	2021-07-31 00:00:00	0.0553	660.0000
max	2023-12-31 00:00:00	12.7500	463886.6454
std	NaN	0.1862	13983.9977

70.2.6 Linking Governance and Stock Data

Each governance vintage is valid from `date_effective` through `date_expires`. We assign monthly stock returns to the appropriate governance vintage. This is the portfolio rebalancing logic: portfolios are reformed when new governance data becomes available and held until the next vintage.

```
# Merge: each stock-month gets its governance classification
# if the month falls within [date_effective, date_expires]
merged = pd.merge(
    portfolio_firms[
        ["symbol", "year", "gindex", "gx", "gx_code",
         "date_effective", "date_expires"]
```

```
    ],
    prices_monthly[["symbol", "date", "ret", "retx", "mktcap"]],
    on="symbol",
    how="inner"
)

# Keep only months within the governance validity window
merged = merged.query(
    "date >= date_effective and date <= date_expires"
).sort_values(["symbol", "date"])

print(f"Total firm-month observations: {len(merged):,}")
merged.head()
```

70.2.7 Computing Lagged Market Capitalization for Weighting

Value-weighted portfolio returns require weighting each stock by its beginning-of-period market capitalization. We use the previous month's market capitalization as the weight. For the first observation of each stock in a given vintage, we estimate the beginning-of-period market value by dividing the current market value by $(1 + r_{x,t})$, where $r_{x,t}$ is the price return.

The value-weighted return of portfolio p in month t is:

$$r_{p,t}^{vw} = \sum_{i \in p} w_{i,t-1} \cdot r_{i,t}, \quad w_{i,t-1} = \frac{\mathrm{MV}_{i,t-1}}{\sum_{j \in p} \mathrm{MV}_{j,t-1}} \tag{70.3}$$

where $\mathrm{MV}_{i,t-1}$ is the market capitalization of stock i at the end of month $t-1$.

```
merged = merged.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])

# Lagged market value (previous month)
merged["mktcap_lag"] = merged.groupby("symbol")["mktcap"].shift(1)

# For first observation: estimate beginning-of-month market cap
first_obs = merged.groupby("symbol")["date"].transform("min")
mask_first = merged["date"] == first_obs

merged.loc[mask_first, "mktcap_lag"] = (
    merged.loc[mask_first, "mktcap"]
    / (1 + merged.loc[mask_first, "retx"])
)
```

```
# Handle any remaining missing weights
mask_missing = merged["mktcap_lag"].isna()
merged.loc[mask_missing, "mktcap_lag"] = (
    merged.loc[mask_missing, "mktcap"]
    / (1 + merged.loc[mask_missing, "retx"])
)

# Drop observations with missing returns or weights
merged = merged.dropna(subset=["ret", "mktcap_lag"])
merged = merged.query("mktcap_lag > 0")

print(f"Clean firm-month observations: {len(merged):,}")
```

70.3 Portfolio Construction

70.3.1 Value-Weighted Portfolio Returns

We now compute the value-weighted monthly returns for the Democracy and Dictatorship portfolios.

```
def value_weighted_return(group):
    """Compute value-weighted return for a group of stocks."""
    weights = group["mktcap_lag"]
    total_weight = weights.sum()
    if total_weight == 0:
        return np.nan
    vw_ret = (group["ret"] * weights).sum() / total_weight
    return vw_ret

# Compute VW returns by date and governance group
portfolio_returns = (
    merged
    .groupby(["date", "gx"])
    .apply(value_weighted_return, include_groups=False)
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={0: "ret_vw"})
)

# Also compute equal-weighted returns for robustness
portfolio_returns_ew = (
```

```
    merged
    .groupby(["date", "gx"])["ret"]
    .mean()
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={"ret": "ret_ew"})
)

# Merge EW returns
portfolio_returns = portfolio_returns.merge(
    portfolio_returns_ew, on=["date", "gx"], how="left"
)

portfolio_returns.head(10)
```

70.3.2 Long-Short Portfolio: Democracy minus Dictatorship

The trading strategy goes long the Democracy portfolio and short the Dictatorship portfolio. The monthly return of this long-short strategy is:

$$r_t^{D-D} = r_t^{\text{Democracy}} - r_t^{\text{Dictatorship}} \tag{70.4}$$

```
# Pivot to wide format
returns_wide = portfolio_returns.pivot(
    index="date", columns="gx", values=["ret_vw", "ret_ew"]
)

# Flatten column names
returns_wide.columns = [
    f"{val}_{grp}" for val, grp in returns_wide.columns
]
returns_wide = returns_wide.reset_index()

# Compute long-short returns
returns_wide = returns_wide.assign(
    ret_diff_vw=lambda x: (
        x["ret_vw_Democracy"] - x["ret_vw_Dictatorship"]
    ),
    ret_diff_ew=lambda x: (
        x["ret_ew_Democracy"] - x["ret_ew_Dictatorship"]
    )
```

Table 70.6: Portfolio characteristics by governance group and year

```
portfolio_chars = (
    merged
    .assign(year_month=lambda x: x["date"].dt.to_period("Y"))
    .groupby(["year_month", "gx"])
    .agg(
        n_firms=("symbol", "nunique"),
        avg_gindex=("gindex", "mean"),
        avg_mktcap=("mktcap", "mean"),
        median_mktcap=("mktcap", "median")
    )
    .round(2)
)

portfolio_chars
```

```
)

returns_wide = returns_wide.sort_values("date").reset_index(drop=True)

print(f"Monthly return series: {len(returns_wide)} months")
returns_wide.head()
```

70.3.3 Portfolio Characteristics Over Time

Before examining returns, we document the number of firms and average governance scores in each portfolio over time.

70.4 Empirical Results

70.4.1 Summary Statistics of Portfolio Returns

The **Sharpe ratio** is computed as:

$$\text{SR} = \frac{\bar{r}_p}{\sigma_p} \times \sqrt{12} \tag{70.5}$$

Table 70.7: Summary statistics of monthly portfolio returns (in percent)

```
return_cols = [
    "ret_vw_Democracy", "ret_vw_Dictatorship", "ret_diff_vw",
    "ret_ew_Democracy", "ret_ew_Dictatorship", "ret_diff_ew"
]

summary_stats = (
    returns_wide[return_cols]
    .mul(100)  # Convert to percent
    .describe()
    .T
    .assign(
        skewness=returns_wide[return_cols].mul(100).skew(),
        sharpe=lambda x: x["mean"] / x["std"] * np.sqrt(12)
    )
    .round(3)
)

summary_stats.index = [
    "Democracy (VW)", "Dictatorship (VW)", "Long-Short (VW)",
    "Democracy (EW)", "Dictatorship (EW)", "Long-Short (EW)"
]

summary_stats[["mean", "std", "min", "25%", "50%", "75%", "max",
               "skewness", "sharpe"]]
```

Table 70.8: T-test for the mean difference between Democracy and Dictatorship portfolio returns

```
def perform_ttest(series, label):
    """Perform a one-sample t-test and return results."""
    clean = series.dropna()
    t_stat, p_value = stats.ttest_1samp(clean, 0)
    return {
        "Portfolio": label,
        "Mean (%)": clean.mean() * 100,
        "Std (%)": clean.std() * 100,
        "T-statistic": t_stat,
        "P-value": p_value,
        "N months": len(clean),
        "Significant (5%)": "Yes" if p_value < 0.05 else "No"
    }

ttest_results = pd.DataFrame([
    perform_ttest(returns_wide["ret_diff_vw"], "VW Long-Short"),
    perform_ttest(returns_wide["ret_diff_ew"], "EW Long-Short"),
    perform_ttest(returns_wide["ret_vw_Democracy"], "VW Democracy"),
    perform_ttest(returns_wide["ret_vw_Dictatorship"], "VW Dictatorship")
])

ttest_results.round(4)
```

where $\bar{r}_p$ and σ_p are the sample mean and standard deviation of monthly portfolio returns, and the $\sqrt{12}$ scaling annualizes the ratio.

70.4.2 T-Test: Is the Long-Short Return Statistically Significant?

The null hypothesis is that the mean monthly return difference between the Democracy and Dictatorship portfolios is zero:

$$H_0 : \mathbb{E}[r_t^{\text{Democracy}} - r_t^{\text{Dictatorship}}] = 0 \tag{70.6}$$

70.4.3 Cumulative Returns: The Visual Case for Governance

One of the most compelling ways to present the governance effect is through cumulative wealth plots. We track the growth of $1 invested in each portfolio at the beginning of the sample period.

The cumulative return at time T is:

$$W_T = \prod_{t=1}^{T}(1 + r_{p,t}) \tag{70.7}$$

70.4.4 Rolling Performance

The governance premium may not be constant over time. We examine 12-month rolling average returns and rolling Sharpe ratios to assess stability.

70.5 Risk-Adjusted Performance: Factor Model Analysis

70.5.1 The Four-Factor Model

Raw returns alone do not tell us whether the governance strategy generates **abnormal** returns (i.e., returns that cannot be explained by exposure to common risk factors). We estimate the following four-factor model:

$$r_t^{D-D} - r_{f,t} = \alpha + \beta_1(r_{m,t} - r_{f,t}) + \beta_2 \text{SMB}_t + \beta_3 \text{HML}_t + \beta_4 \text{UMD}_t + \varepsilon_t \tag{70.8}$$

where:

- r_t^{D-D} is the long-short governance portfolio return,
- $r_{f,t}$ is the risk-free rate,
- $r_{m,t} - r_{f,t}$ is the market excess return (MKTRF),
- SMB_t is the size factor (Small Minus Big),
- HML_t is the value factor (High Minus Low book-to-market),
- UMD_t is the momentum factor (Up Minus Down),
- α is the abnormal return (the intercept of interest).

The **alpha** (α) represents the average monthly return that cannot be attributed to exposure to the four systematic risk factors. A statistically significant positive alpha indicates that the governance strategy generates genuine abnormal returns.

```
returns_wide = returns_wide.sort_values("date")

cum_democracy = (1 + returns_wide["ret_vw_Democracy"]).cumprod()
cum_dictatorship = (1 + returns_wide["ret_vw_Dictatorship"]).cumprod()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))

ax.plot(
    returns_wide["date"], cum_democracy,
    color="#1a6b3c", linewidth=2, label="Democracy Portfolio"
)
ax.plot(
    returns_wide["date"], cum_dictatorship,
    color="#c0392b", linewidth=1.5, linestyle="--",
    label="Dictatorship Portfolio"
)
ax.fill_between(
    returns_wide["date"],
    cum_democracy, cum_dictatorship,
    where=cum_democracy >= cum_dictatorship,
    alpha=0.15, color="#1a6b3c", label="Outperformance"
)
ax.fill_between(
    returns_wide["date"],
    cum_democracy, cum_dictatorship,
    where=cum_democracy < cum_dictatorship,
    alpha=0.15, color="#c0392b"
)

ax.set_xlabel("Date", fontsize=11)
ax.set_ylabel("Cumulative Value of $1 Invested", fontsize=11)
ax.set_title(
    "Democracy vs. Dictatorship Portfolios: Cumulative Returns",
    fontsize=13, fontweight="bold"
)
ax.legend(fontsize=10, loc="upper left")
ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
ax.set_xlim(returns_wide["date"].min(), returns_wide["date"].max())

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 70.2

```
cum_longshort = (1 + returns_wide["ret_diff_vw"]).cumprod()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 4))

ax.plot(
    returns_wide["date"], cum_longshort,
    color="#2c5f8a", linewidth=2
)
ax.axhline(y=1.0, color="gray", linestyle=":", linewidth=1)
ax.fill_between(
    returns_wide["date"], 1.0, cum_longshort,
    where=cum_longshort >= 1.0, alpha=0.2, color="#2c5f8a"
)
ax.fill_between(
    returns_wide["date"], 1.0, cum_longshort,
    where=cum_longshort < 1.0, alpha=0.2, color="#c0392b"
)

ax.set_xlabel("Date", fontsize=11)
ax.set_ylabel("Cumulative Long-Short Return", fontsize=11)
ax.set_title(
    "Long-Short Governance Strategy: Cumulative Performance",
    fontsize=13, fontweight="bold"
)
ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 70.3

```
rolling_mean = (
    returns_wide["ret_diff_vw"]
    .rolling(window=12, min_periods=6)
    .mean() * 12 * 100  # Annualized
)

rolling_std = (
    returns_wide["ret_diff_vw"]
    .rolling(window=12, min_periods=6)
    .std() * np.sqrt(12) * 100
)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(10, 7), sharex=True)

# Rolling annualized return
axes[0].plot(
    returns_wide["date"], rolling_mean,
    color="#2c5f8a", linewidth=1.5
)
axes[0].axhline(0, color="gray", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.8)
axes[0].set_ylabel("Annualized Return (%)")
axes[0].set_title(
    "12-Month Rolling Annualized Return: Long-Short Governance Strategy",
    fontweight="bold"
)
axes[0].grid(True, alpha=0.3)

# Rolling annualized volatility
axes[1].plot(
    returns_wide["date"], rolling_std,
    color="#c0392b", linewidth=1.5
)
axes[1].set_ylabel("Annualized Volatility (%)")
axes[1].set_xlabel("Date")
axes[1].set_title(
    "12-Month Rolling Annualized Volatility",
    fontweight="bold"
)
axes[1].grid(True, alpha=0.3)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 70.4

70.5.2 Loading Factor Data

```
factors_ff5_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM factors_ff5_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

factors_ff5_monthly.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 150 entries, 0 to 149
Data columns (total 7 columns):
 #   Column      Non-Null Count  Dtype
---  ------      --------------  -----
 0   date        150 non-null    datetime64[us]
 1   smb         150 non-null    float64
 2   hml         150 non-null    float64
 3   rmw         150 non-null    float64
 4   cma         150 non-null    float64
 5   mkt_excess  150 non-null    float64
 6   risk_free   150 non-null    float64
dtypes: datetime64[us](1), float64(6)
memory usage: 8.3 KB
```

```
momentum_factor = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM momentum_factor_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
)

factors_ff3_monthly = (
    factors_ff5_monthly
    .merge(momentum_factor, on="date")
    .rename(columns={"mkt_excess": "mktrf", "wml": "umd"})
)
```

```
factor_cols = ["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd", "risk_free"]

(
```

```
    factors_ff3_monthly[factor_cols]
    .mul(100)
    .describe()
    .T
    .round(3)
)
```

Table 70.9: Summary statistics of Vietnamese Fama-French-Carhart factors (monthly, in percent)

	count	mean	std	min	25%	50%	75%	max
mktrf	150.0000	-1.0080	5.8580	-21.4910	-3.8030	-0.9510	2.1450	16.7680
smb	150.0000	0.7660	4.1900	-15.2200	-1.3730	1.0400	3.1610	12.8380
hml	150.0000	1.1460	5.1820	-12.8300	-1.2620	0.4610	3.2270	15.0970
umd	150.0000	-2.0910	4.8090	-16.3870	-4.8840	-2.1650	0.6190	15.6040
risk_free	150.0000	0.3330	0.0000	0.3330	0.3330	0.3330	0.3330	0.3330

70.5.3 Merging Portfolio Returns with Factor Data

```
# Merge on year-month
returns_wide["ym"] = returns_wide["date"].dt.to_period("M")
factors_ff3_monthly["ym"] = factors_ff3_monthly["date"].dt.to_period("M")

analysis_data = returns_wide.merge(
    factors_ff3_monthly[["ym", "mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd", "rf"]],
    on="ym",
    how="inner"
)

# Compute excess returns
analysis_data = analysis_data.assign(
    ret_excess_democracy=lambda x: x["ret_vw_Democracy"] - x["rf"],
    ret_excess_dictatorship=lambda x: x["ret_vw_Dictatorship"] - x["rf"],
    ret_excess_longshort=lambda x: x["ret_diff_vw"]
    # Long-short is already excess (self-financing)
)

print(f"Observations for regression: {len(analysis_data)}")
```

70.5.4 CAPM Regression

We start with the single-factor CAPM to understand the market exposure of each portfolio:

$$r_{p,t} - r_{f,t} = \alpha_p + \beta_p(r_{m,t} - r_{f,t}) + \varepsilon_{p,t} \tag{70.9}$$

70.5.5 Three-Factor Fama-French Model

The three-factor model (Eugene F. Fama and French 1993a) augments the CAPM with size (SMB) and value (HML) factors:

$$r_{p,t} - r_{f,t} = \alpha_p + \beta_1 \text{MKTRF}_t + \beta_2 \text{SMB}_t + \beta_3 \text{HML}_t + \varepsilon_{p,t} \tag{70.10}$$

70.5.6 Four-Factor Carhart Model

Adding the momentum factor (Mark M. Carhart 1997b) controls for the well-documented tendency of past winners to continue outperforming past losers:

```
# Detailed regression output for the long-short portfolio
X = sm.add_constant(analysis_data[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]])
y = analysis_data["ret_excess_longshort"]

model_ls = OLS(y, X).fit(
    cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6}
)

print(model_ls.summary())
```

70.5.7 Interpreting the Factor Loadings

The factor loadings reveal important characteristics of the governance portfolios:

1. **Market beta** (β_{MKTRF}): If the long-short portfolio has a near-zero market beta, the governance strategy is approximately market-neutral. A positive beta would indicate that Democracy firms are more sensitive to market movements than Dictatorship firms.
2. **Size factor** (β_{SMB}): A positive loading suggests the strategy tilts toward smaller firms. If Democracy firms tend to be smaller (or Dictatorship firms larger), the size factor captures this differential.

Table 70.10: CAPM regression results for Democracy, Dictatorship, and Long-Short portfolios

```
def run_regression(y, X, hac=True):
    """Run OLS regression with optional HAC standard errors."""
    X_const = sm.add_constant(X)
    model = OLS(y, X_const).fit(
        cov_type="HAC" if hac else "nonrobust",
        cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6} if hac else {}
    )
    return model

portfolios = {
    "Democracy": analysis_data["ret_excess_democracy"],
    "Dictatorship": analysis_data["ret_excess_dictatorship"],
    "Long-Short": analysis_data["ret_excess_longshort"]
}

capm_results = {}
for name, y in portfolios.items():
    X = analysis_data[["mktrf"]]
    model = run_regression(y, X, hac=True)
    capm_results[name] = {
        "Alpha (%)": model.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha t-stat": model.tvalues["const"],
        "Beta (MKTRF)": model.params["mktrf"],
        "Beta t-stat": model.tvalues["mktrf"],
        "R-squared": model.rsquared,
        "N": int(model.nobs)
    }

pd.DataFrame(capm_results).T.round(4)
```

Table 70.11: Fama-French three-factor model results with Newey-West standard errors

```
ff3_results = {}
for name, y in portfolios.items():
    X = analysis_data[["mktrf", "smb", "hml"]]
    model = run_regression(y, X, hac=True)
    ff3_results[name] = {
        "Alpha (%)": model.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha t-stat": model.tvalues["const"],
        "MKTRF": model.params["mktrf"],
        "SMB": model.params["smb"],
        "HML": model.params["hml"],
        "R-squared": model.rsquared
    }

pd.DataFrame(ff3_results).T.round(4)
```

3. **Value factor** (β_{HML}): A positive loading indicates a value tilt. Governance and value may be related if poorly governed firms also tend to have high book-to-market ratios (i.e., they are "cheap" because of governance risk).
4. **Momentum factor** (β_{UMD}): The momentum loading captures whether the governance effect overlaps with price momentum. In the US, Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) found a near-zero momentum loading, suggesting the governance effect is distinct from momentum.

70.5.8 Robustness: White Heteroskedasticity-Consistent Standard Errors

As a robustness check, we also report results with White (HC1) standard errors, following the original methodology:

70.6 Deeper Analysis

70.6.1 Governance Quintile Portfolios

Rather than focusing solely on the extreme portfolios, we examine returns across all five governance quintiles. This allows us to assess whether the governance-return relationship is monotonic.

Table 70.12: Four-factor Carhart model results for governance portfolios. Standard errors are Newey-West adjusted with 6 lags.

```
ff4_results = {}
for name, y in portfolios.items():
    X = analysis_data[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]]
    model = run_regression(y, X, hac=True)
    ff4_results[name] = {
        "Alpha (%)": model.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha t-stat": model.tvalues["const"],
        "Alpha p-value": model.pvalues["const"],
        "MKTRF": model.params["mktrf"],
        "MKTRF t": model.tvalues["mktrf"],
        "SMB": model.params["smb"],
        "SMB t": model.tvalues["smb"],
        "HML": model.params["hml"],
        "HML t": model.tvalues["hml"],
        "UMD": model.params["umd"],
        "UMD t": model.tvalues["umd"],
        "R-squared": model.rsquared,
        "Adj R-sq": model.rsquared_adj,
        "N": int(model.nobs)
    }

ff4_df = pd.DataFrame(ff4_results).T
ff4_df.round(4)
```

Table 70.13: Four-factor model with White heteroskedasticity-consistent standard errors (HC1)

```
white_results = {}
for name, y in portfolios.items():
    X = sm.add_constant(analysis_data[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]])
    model = OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type="HC1")
    white_results[name] = {
        "Alpha (%)": model.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha t-stat": model.tvalues["const"],
        "Alpha p-value": model.pvalues["const"],
        "R-squared": model.rsquared
    }

pd.DataFrame(white_results).T.round(4)
```

```
def assign_quintile(group):
    """Assign governance quintile within each vintage year."""
    group = group.copy()
    group["gindex_quintile"] = pd.qcut(
        group["gindex"], q=5, labels=[1, 2, 3, 4, 5],
        duplicates="drop"
    )
    return group

governance_quintiles = (
    governance
    .groupby("year", group_keys=False)
    .apply(assign_quintile)
)

# Merge with stock data
if "dual_class" in governance_quintiles.columns:
    governance_quintiles = governance_quintiles.query("dual_class == 0")

merged_q = pd.merge(
    governance_quintiles[
        ["symbol", "year", "gindex", "gindex_quintile",
         "date_effective", "date_expires"]
    ],
    prices_monthly[["symbol", "date", "ret", "retx", "mktcap"]],
```

```
    on="symbol",
    how="inner"
)

merged_q = merged_q.query(
    "date >= date_effective and date <= date_expires"
).sort_values(["symbol", "date"])

# Compute lagged market value
merged_q = merged_q.sort_values(["symbol", "date"])
merged_q["mktcap_lag"] = merged_q.groupby("symbol")["mktcap"].shift(1)

first_obs_q = merged_q.groupby("symbol")["date"].transform("min")
mask_first_q = merged_q["date"] == first_obs_q
merged_q.loc[mask_first_q, "mktcap_lag"] = (
    merged_q.loc[mask_first_q, "mktcap"]
    / (1 + merged_q.loc[mask_first_q, "retx"])
)

mask_missing_q = merged_q["mktcap_lag"].isna()
merged_q.loc[mask_missing_q, "mktcap_lag"] = (
    merged_q.loc[mask_missing_q, "mktcap"]
    / (1 + merged_q.loc[mask_missing_q, "retx"])
)

merged_q = merged_q.dropna(subset=["ret", "mktcap_lag"])
merged_q = merged_q.query("mktcap_lag > 0")
```

70.6.2 Subsample Analysis

The governance premium may vary across market regimes. We split the sample at the midpoint and examine whether the effect is concentrated in a particular subperiod.

70.6.3 Equal-Weighted Robustness

Value-weighting may cause the results to be driven by a few large firms. We verify robustness with equal-weighted portfolios.

70.6.4 Factor Loading Stability: Rolling Regressions

```python
# Compute VW returns by quintile and date
quintile_returns = (
    merged_q
    .groupby(["date", "gindex_quintile"])
    .apply(
        lambda g: np.average(g["ret"], weights=g["mktcap_lag"])
        if g["mktcap_lag"].sum() > 0 else np.nan,
        include_groups=False
    )
    .reset_index()
    .rename(columns={0: "ret_vw"})
)

# Average across time
quintile_avg = (
    quintile_returns
    .groupby("gindex_quintile")["ret_vw"]
    .agg(["mean", "std", "count"])
    .assign(
        se=lambda x: x["std"] / np.sqrt(x["count"]),
        ci95=lambda x: 1.96 * x["std"] / np.sqrt(x["count"])
    )
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))

quintiles = quintile_avg.index.astype(int)
means = quintile_avg["mean"] * 100 * 12  # Annualized
ci = quintile_avg["ci95"] * 100 * 12

bars = ax.bar(
    quintiles, means, yerr=ci,
    color=["#1a6b3c", "#5fa35f", "#b0b0b0", "#d4836a", "#c0392b"],
    edgecolor="white", linewidth=0.5, capsize=5,
    error_kw={"linewidth": 1.5}
)

ax.axhline(0, color="gray", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.8)
ax.set_xlabel("VN-GIndex Quintile\n(1 = Strongest Rights → 5 = Weakest Rights)",
              fontsize=10)
ax.set_ylabel("Annualized Return (%)", fontsize=10)
ax.set_title(
    "Average Annualized Returns by Governance Quintile",
    fontsize=12, fontweight="bold"
)
ax.set_xticks(quintiles)
ax.grid(axis="y", alpha=0.3)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```


Figure 70.5

Table 70.14: Average monthly returns and four-factor alphas by governance quintile

```
# Merge quintile returns with factors
quintile_wide = quintile_returns.pivot(
    index="date", columns="gindex_quintile", values="ret_vw"
)
quintile_wide.columns = [f"Q{int(c)}" for c in quintile_wide.columns]
quintile_wide = quintile_wide.reset_index()

quintile_wide["ym"] = quintile_wide["date"].dt.to_period("M")
quintile_analysis = quintile_wide.merge(
    factors_ff3_monthly[["ym", "mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd", "rf"]],
    on="ym", how="inner"
)

quintile_factor_results = {}
for q in range(1, 6):
    col = f"Q{q}"
    if col in quintile_analysis.columns:
        y = quintile_analysis[col] - quintile_analysis["rf"]
        X = sm.add_constant(
            quintile_analysis[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]]
        )
        model = OLS(y.dropna(), X.loc[y.dropna().index]).fit(
            cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6}
        )
        quintile_factor_results[f"Quintile {q}"] = {
            "Mean Return (%)": y.mean() * 100,
            "Alpha (%)": model.params["const"] * 100,
            "Alpha t-stat": model.tvalues["const"],
            "MKTRF Beta": model.params["mktrf"],
            "R-squared": model.rsquared
        }

# Add 5-1 spread
if "Q1" in quintile_analysis.columns and "Q5" in quintile_analysis.columns:
    y_spread = quintile_analysis["Q1"] - quintile_analysis["Q5"]
    X = sm.add_constant(
        quintile_analysis[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]]
    )
    model_spread = OLS(
        y_spread.dropna(), X.loc[y_spread.dropna().index]
    ).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})
    quintile_factor_results["Q1 - Q5"] = {
        "Mean Return (%)": y_spread.mean() * 100,
        "Alpha (%)": model_spread.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha t-stat": model_spread.tvalues["const"],
        "MKTRF Beta": model_spread.params["mktrf"],
        "R-squared": model_spread.rsquared
    }

pd.DataFrame(quintile_factor_results).T.round(4)
```

Table 70.15: Four-factor alpha of the long-short governance strategy across subperiods

```
midpoint = analysis_data["date"].quantile(0.5)

subperiods = {
    "Full Sample": analysis_data,
    "First Half": analysis_data.query(f"date <= '{midpoint}'"),
    "Second Half": analysis_data.query(f"date > '{midpoint}'")
}

subsample_results = {}
for period_name, df in subperiods.items():
    if len(df) < 12:
        continue
    y = df["ret_excess_longshort"]
    X = sm.add_constant(df[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]])
    model = OLS(y, X).fit(
        cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6}
    )
    subsample_results[period_name] = {
        "Alpha (% monthly)": model.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha (% annual)": model.params["const"] * 100 * 12,
        "T-statistic": model.tvalues["const"],
        "P-value": model.pvalues["const"],
        "N months": int(model.nobs),
        "Date Range": f"{df['date'].min().strftime('%Y-%m')} to "
                      f"{df['date'].max().strftime('%Y-%m')}"
    }

pd.DataFrame(subsample_results).T
```

Table 70.16: Four-factor model results: Equal-weighted vs. Value-weighted long-short portfolio

```
ew_y = analysis_data["ret_diff_ew"]
vw_y = analysis_data["ret_excess_longshort"]
X = sm.add_constant(analysis_data[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]])

model_ew = OLS(ew_y, X).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})
model_vw = OLS(vw_y, X).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})

comparison = pd.DataFrame({
    "Value-Weighted": {
        "Alpha (% monthly)": model_vw.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha t-stat": model_vw.tvalues["const"],
        "MKTRF": model_vw.params["mktrf"],
        "SMB": model_vw.params["smb"],
        "HML": model_vw.params["hml"],
        "UMD": model_vw.params["umd"],
        "R-squared": model_vw.rsquared
    },
    "Equal-Weighted": {
        "Alpha (% monthly)": model_ew.params["const"] * 100,
        "Alpha t-stat": model_ew.tvalues["const"],
        "MKTRF": model_ew.params["mktrf"],
        "SMB": model_ew.params["smb"],
        "HML": model_ew.params["hml"],
        "UMD": model_ew.params["umd"],
        "R-squared": model_ew.rsquared
    }
}).T

comparison.round(4)
```

```python
window = 24
rolling_alpha = []

for i in range(window, len(analysis_data)):
    subset = analysis_data.iloc[i - window:i]
    y = subset["ret_excess_longshort"]
    X = sm.add_constant(subset[["mktrf", "smb", "hml", "umd"]])
    try:
        model = OLS(y, X).fit()
        rolling_alpha.append({
            "date": subset["date"].iloc[-1],
            "alpha": model.params["const"] * 100 * 12,
            "alpha_se": model.bse["const"] * 100 * 12,
            "t_stat": model.tvalues["const"]
        })
    except Exception:
        pass

rolling_alpha_df = pd.DataFrame(rolling_alpha)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))

ax.plot(
    rolling_alpha_df["date"],
    rolling_alpha_df["alpha"],
    color="#2c5f8a", linewidth=1.5
)
ax.fill_between(
    rolling_alpha_df["date"],
    rolling_alpha_df["alpha"] - 1.96 * rolling_alpha_df["alpha_se"],
    rolling_alpha_df["alpha"] + 1.96 * rolling_alpha_df["alpha_se"],
    alpha=0.2, color="#2c5f8a"
)
ax.axhline(0, color="gray", linestyle="--", linewidth=0.8)

ax.set_xlabel("Date", fontsize=11)
ax.set_ylabel("Annualized Alpha (%)", fontsize=11)
ax.set_title(
    "24-Month Rolling Four-Factor Alpha: Governance Long-Short Strategy",
    fontsize=12, fontweight="bold"
)
ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 70.6

70.7 Comparison with International Evidence

70.7.1 The US Experience

In the United States, Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) documented an annualized abnormal return of approximately 8.5% for the Democracy-minus-Dictatorship strategy during the 1990s. Subsequent research has provided important nuances:

- L. Bebchuk, Cohen, and Ferrell (2009) refined the G-Index to a more parsimonious **Entrenchment Index (E-Index)** based on only six provisions that matter most for firm value: staggered boards, limits to shareholder bylaw amendments, poison pills, golden parachutes, and supermajority requirements for mergers and charter amendments. The E-Index explained the governance-return relationship at least as well as the full G-Index.
- Cremers and Nair (2005) found that the governance effect was strongest in firms where external governance mechanisms (the takeover market) were active, suggesting complementarity between internal and external governance.
- The governance premium in the US has largely disappeared in more recent periods (L. A. Bebchuk, Cohen, and Wang 2013), potentially because the market has learned to price governance differences. This "learning hypothesis" has implications for whether similar strategies can persist in less efficient markets like Vietnam.

70.7.2 Emerging Market Context

The governance-return relationship in emerging markets remains an active area of research. Several features of emerging markets suggest the premium may be larger and more persistent:

1. **Information asymmetry**: Weaker disclosure requirements and less analyst coverage mean governance quality is harder to observe, creating larger mispricings (Klapper and Love 2004).
2. **Weaker legal enforcement**: Where legal protections for minority shareholders are weak, firm-level governance becomes more important as a substitute (La Porta et al. 2000a).
3. **Concentrated ownership**: The presence of controlling shareholders creates opportunities for tunneling and related-party transactions that good governance mechanisms can mitigate (S. Johnson et al. 2000).

Vietnam, as a frontier-to-emerging market with all three characteristics, is a particularly interesting laboratory for testing whether governance generates abnormal returns.

70.8 Drawdown and Risk Analysis

70.8.1 Maximum Drawdown

```
def compute_drawdown(cumulative_returns):
    """Compute drawdown series from cumulative returns."""
    running_max = cumulative_returns.cummax()
    drawdown = (cumulative_returns - running_max) / running_max
    return drawdown

cum_dem = (1 + returns_wide["ret_vw_Democracy"]).cumprod()
cum_dic = (1 + returns_wide["ret_vw_Dictatorship"]).cumprod()

dd_dem = compute_drawdown(cum_dem)
dd_dic = compute_drawdown(cum_dic)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))

ax.fill_between(
    returns_wide["date"], dd_dem * 100, 0,
    alpha=0.4, color="#1a6b3c", label="Democracy"
)
ax.fill_between(
    returns_wide["date"], dd_dic * 100, 0,
    alpha=0.4, color="#c0392b", label="Dictatorship"
)
ax.set_xlabel("Date", fontsize=11)
ax.set_ylabel("Drawdown (%)", fontsize=11)
ax.set_title("Portfolio Drawdowns", fontsize=12, fontweight="bold")
ax.legend()
ax.grid(True, alpha=0.3)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 70.7

Table 70.17: Risk metrics for governance portfolios

```
def compute_risk_metrics(returns, name, rf=None):
    """Compute standard risk metrics."""
    r = returns.dropna()
    if rf is not None:
        excess = r - rf
    else:
        excess = r

    ann_return = (1 + r.mean()) ** 12 - 1
    ann_vol = r.std() * np.sqrt(12)
    sharpe = excess.mean() / r.std() * np.sqrt(12) if r.std() > 0 else np.nan

    cum = (1 + r).cumprod()
    max_dd = compute_drawdown(cum).min()

    # Sortino ratio (downside deviation)
    downside = r[r < 0].std() * np.sqrt(12)
    sortino = excess.mean() * 12 / downside if downside > 0 else np.nan

    # Skewness and kurtosis
    skew = r.skew()
    kurt = r.kurtosis()

    return {
        "Portfolio": name,
        "Ann. Return (%)": ann_return * 100,
        "Ann. Volatility (%)": ann_vol * 100,
        "Sharpe Ratio": sharpe,
        "Sortino Ratio": sortino,
        "Max Drawdown (%)": max_dd * 100,
        "Skewness": skew,
        "Excess Kurtosis": kurt,
        "% Positive Months": (r > 0).mean() * 100
    }

rf_series = analysis_data.set_index("date")["rf"].reindex(
    returns_wide["date"]
).fillna(0)

risk_table = pd.DataFrame([
    compute_risk_metrics(
        returns_wide["ret_vw_Democracy"], "Democracy (VW)",
        rf_series.values
    ),
    compute_risk_metrics(
        returns_wide["ret_vw_Dictatorship"], "Dictatorship (VW)",
        rf_series.values
    ),
    compute_risk_metrics(
        returns_wide["ret_diff_vw"], "Long-Short (VW)"
    )
```

70.9 Discussion and Interpretation

70.9.1 Why Might Governance Predict Returns in Vietnam?

Several channels may explain a governance premium in the Vietnamese market:

The risk channel: Poorly governed firms may be riskier in ways not captured by standard factor models. Investors require a higher expected return to hold these firms, but the return difference reverses (i.e., the governance premium is positive for well-governed firms) if the market overestimates the risk of poorly governed firms or if governance risk is partially diversifiable.

The mispricing channel: If the market is slow to incorporate governance information into prices, perhaps because governance quality is costly to assess or because many Vietnamese investors are retail traders with limited analytical capacity, then a systematic strategy that buys good governance and sells bad governance can profit from the gradual correction of mispricings.

The cash flow channel: Better-governed firms may generate genuinely higher cash flows because they waste less on empire-building, related-party transactions, and other value-destroying activities. To the extent that these superior cash flows are not fully anticipated by the market, good governance firms deliver positive return surprises.

70.9.2 State Ownership and the Governance Effect

A distinctive feature of the Vietnamese market is the prevalence of state-owned enterprises (SOEs). The interaction between state ownership and governance quality creates an interesting dynamic:

- SOEs may have weak governance by conventional metrics (limited board independence, political appointments) but benefit from implicit government guarantees and preferential access to land, capital, and contracts.
- The governance premium may therefore differ between SOEs and private firms. We encourage readers to extend the analysis by interacting the governance index with a state ownership indicator.

70.9.3 Limitations

Several caveats apply to this analysis:

1. **Survivorship bias**: If poorly governed firms are more likely to delist (due to financial distress or regulatory action), the Dictatorship portfolio's returns may be biased upward, attenuating the true governance premium.

2. **Transaction costs**: The long-short strategy requires short selling, which is restricted in Vietnam. Implementation via a long-only tilt toward Democracy firms may be more practical.
3. **Governance data frequency**: Unlike daily stock prices, governance data is updated infrequently (typically annually). The portfolio rebalancing frequency is therefore low, which limits the strategy's responsiveness to governance changes.
4. **Index construction**: The specific provisions included in the VN-GIndex and their equal weighting may not optimally capture governance quality. Future work could explore weighted indices, following L. Bebchuk, Cohen, and Ferrell (2009).

70.10 Exercises

1. **Entrenchment Index**: Following L. Bebchuk, Cohen, and Ferrell (2009), identify the subset of governance provisions in the Vietnamese data that have the strongest association with firm value (measured by Tobin's Q or market-to-book ratio). Construct a Vietnamese E-Index using only these provisions and compare its predictive power for returns to the full VN-GIndex.
2. **Fama-MacBeth regressions**: Instead of sorting firms into portfolios, estimate the governance-return relationship using Fama-MacBeth cross-sectional regressions (Eugene F. Fama and MacBeth 1973a):

$$r_{i,t} - r_{f,t} = \gamma_{0,t} + \gamma_{1,t}\text{VN-GIndex}_{i,t-1} + \gamma_{2,t}\mathbf{X}_{i,t-1} + \epsilon_{i,t}$$

where $\mathbf{X}_{i,t-1}$ includes controls for size, book-to-market, and momentum. Report the time-series averages of $\hat{\gamma}_{1,t}$ with Newey-West standard errors.

3. **State ownership interaction**: Split the sample into SOEs (state ownership $> 50\%$) and private firms. Does the governance premium differ between these groups? Estimate:

$$r_t^{D-D} = \alpha + \beta_1\text{MKTRF}_t + \beta_2\text{SMB}_t + \beta_3\text{HML}_t + \beta_4\text{UMD}_t + \varepsilon_t$$

separately for SOE and non-SOE subsamples.

4. **Transaction cost analysis**: Compute the portfolio turnover at each rebalancing date (when new governance data becomes available). Estimate how much of the abnormal return would be consumed by transaction costs at realistic bid-ask spreads for Vietnamese equities.

5. **Governance changes**: Do firms that improve their governance (declining VN-GIndex) earn higher subsequent returns than firms whose governance deteriorates? Construct portfolios based on ΔVN-GIndex and test.
6. **Comparison with market-wide governance reforms**: Vietnam has implemented several governance reform waves (e.g., Circular 121/2012/TT-BTC, Decree 71/2017/ND-CP). Test whether the governance premium narrows after these regulatory changes using a structural break or interaction approach.

70.11 Summary

This chapter adapts the influential Gompers, Ishii, and Metrick (2003) governance investment strategy to the Vietnamese equity market. The key methodological steps are:

1. Construct a governance index (VN-GIndex) from firm-level governance provisions available through DataCore.vn.
2. Classify firms into Democracy (strong rights) and Dictatorship (weak rights) portfolios based on the cross-sectional distribution of the index.
3. Compute value-weighted monthly portfolio returns, rebalancing when new governance data becomes available.
4. Evaluate the long-short (Democracy minus Dictatorship) strategy using t-tests and Fama-French-Carhart four-factor regressions.
5. Examine robustness across subperiods, quintile portfolios, and alternative weighting schemes.

71 Return Gap: Measuring Unobserved Actions of Fund Managers

Mutual fund managers possess considerable discretion in their investment decisions between mandatory portfolio disclosure dates. While regulatory frameworks require periodic disclosure of holdings, the actions taken between these disclosure dates (e.g., trading, market timing, securities lending, and strategic cash management) remain largely unobservable to investors. These *unobserved actions* can significantly affect fund performance, either positively through skilled interim trading or negatively through agency costs and hidden behavior.

Kacperczyk, Sialm, and Zheng (2008) developed the **Return Gap** measure to capture the aggregate impact of these unobserved actions on fund returns. The Return Gap is defined as the difference between a fund's actual reported return and the hypothetical return of a portfolio that mechanically invests in the fund's most recently disclosed holdings. Formally:

$$\text{Return Gap}_{i,t} = R_{i,t}^{\text{Actual}} - R_{i,t}^{\text{Holdings}} \tag{71.1}$$

where $R_{i,t}^{\text{Actual}}$ is the net-of-expense return reported by fund i in month t, adjusted for expenses to obtain the gross return, and $R_{i,t}^{\text{Holdings}}$ is the hypothetical buy-and-hold return computed from the most recently disclosed portfolio holdings.

A positive Return Gap indicates that the fund manager's unobserved actions (e.g., interim trading, cash management, or other activities) added value beyond what a passive replication of disclosed holdings would have generated. Conversely, a persistently negative Return Gap suggests value-destroying interim activity, potentially driven by agency costs, poor trading execution, or hidden fees.

71.1 Why Return Gap Matters

The Return Gap is economically significant for several reasons:

1. **Performance persistence**: Funds in the highest Return Gap decile tend to outperform those in the lowest decile by 1-2% annually on a risk-adjusted basis, and this spread persists over time (Kacperczyk, Sialm, and Zheng 2008).

2. **Detecting agency problems**: A persistently negative Return Gap can signal hidden costs such as excessive trading, market impact costs, soft-dollar arrangements, or stale-price exploitation.
3. **Complementing traditional measures**: Unlike alpha-based metrics that blend stock selection skill with interim trading skill, the Return Gap isolates the component of performance attributable to actions taken *between* disclosure dates.
4. **Regulatory implications**: In emerging markets like Vietnam, where disclosure frequency and regulatory oversight may differ from developed markets, the Return Gap can serve as an early warning system for investor protection.

71.2 Application to the Vietnamese Market

The Vietnamese mutual fund industry, while relatively young compared to the United States, has experienced rapid growth since the establishment of the first domestic equity funds in the early 2000s. As of 2024, Vietnam's open-ended fund industry manages assets exceeding 100 trillion VND, with dozens of equity-oriented funds operated by both domestic and foreign-affiliated asset management companies.

Several characteristics of the Vietnamese market make the Return Gap analysis particularly interesting:

- **Disclosure frequency**: Vietnamese funds are required to disclose their top holdings periodically, but the frequency and completeness of disclosure may differ from the quarterly SEC requirements in the U.S.
- **Market microstructure**: The HOSE (Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange) and HNX (Hanoi Stock Exchange) feature daily price limits (plus or minus 7% on HOSE, plus or minus 10% on HNX), T+2 settlement, and foreign ownership limits that may constrain or enable certain interim trading strategies.
- **Information asymmetry**: In an emerging market with less analyst coverage, the scope for informed interim trading and hence positive Return Gap may be larger than in more efficient markets.
- **Regulatory environment**: Vietnam's State Securities Commission (SSC) has progressively strengthened disclosure and governance requirements, making temporal analysis of Return Gap especially informative.

72 Theoretical Framework

72.1 Decomposing Fund Returns

Consider a mutual fund i that discloses its portfolio holdings at discrete dates $\tau_1, \tau_2, \ldots$ As disclosed at date τ_k, the fund holds N_k securities with weights $\{w_{j,\tau_k}\}_{j=1}^{N_k}$, where w_{j,τ_k} represents the portfolio weight of security j.

Between disclosure dates τ_k and τ_{k+1}, the fund's *actual gross return* in month t can be decomposed as:

$$R_{i,t}^{\text{Gross}} = R_{i,t}^{\text{Holdings}} + \underbrace{R_{i,t}^{\text{Gross}} - R_{i,t}^{\text{Holdings}}}_{\text{Return Gap}} \tag{72.1}$$

The hypothetical holdings return $R_{i,t}^{\text{Holdings}}$ is computed as the value-weighted return of the buy-and-hold portfolio based on the most recent disclosure:

$$R_{i,t}^{\text{Holdings}} = \sum_{j=1}^{N_k} \tilde{w}_{j,t-1} \cdot r_{j,t} \tag{72.2}$$

where $r_{j,t}$ is the return of security j in month t, and $\tilde{w}_{j,t-1}$ is the *evolved* portfolio weight at the end of month $t-1$, reflecting the buy-and-hold drift from the original disclosure weights:

$$\tilde{w}_{j,t-1} = \frac{w_{j,\tau_k} \prod_{s=\tau_k+1}^{t-1}(1 + r_{j,s})}{\sum_{\ell=1}^{N_k} w_{\ell,\tau_k} \prod_{s=\tau_k+1}^{t-1}(1 + r_{\ell,s})} \tag{72.3}$$

In practice, rather than tracking evolved weights explicitly, we use dollar values of holdings positions (shares held times price) as the natural weighting scheme.

72.2 The Return Gap Measure

72.2.1 Gross Return Gap

The Return Gap as originally defined by Kacperczyk, Sialm, and Zheng (2008) uses the *gross* (before-expense) return:

$$\mathrm{RG}_{i,t} = R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Gross}} - R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Holdings}} = \left(R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Net}} + \frac{\text{Expense Ratio}_{i,t}}{12} \right) - R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Holdings}} \tag{72.4}$$

where $R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Net}}$ is the reported net-of-expense return and the annual expense ratio is divided by 12 to approximate the monthly expense charge.

72.2.2 Sources of Return Gap

The Return Gap captures several components (Kacperczyk, Sialm, and Zheng 2008; Elton, Gruber, and Blake 2011):

$$\mathrm{RG}_{i,t} = \underbrace{\Delta_{\mathrm{trade}}}_{\text{Interim trading}} + \underbrace{\Delta_{\mathrm{cash}}}_{\text{Cash drag/return}} + \underbrace{\Delta_{\mathrm{fees}}}_{\text{Hidden fees}} + \underbrace{\Delta_{\mathrm{lend}}}_{\text{Securities lending}} + \underbrace{\varepsilon_t}_{\text{Noise}} \tag{72.5}$$

where:

- Δ_{trade}: The return impact of buying and selling securities between disclosure dates. Skilled managers generate positive Δ_{trade} by timing trades.
- Δ_{cash}: The effect of holding cash or cash equivalents not captured in equity holdings disclosures. In rising markets, cash creates a drag (negative contribution); in falling markets, cash provides a cushion.
- Δ_{fees}: Transaction costs, brokerage commissions, and any hidden fees not reflected in the stated expense ratio.
- Δ_{lend}: Revenue from securities lending programs, which generates positive Return Gap.
- ε_t: Measurement noise from timing differences, stale prices, or data errors.

72.2.3 Predictive Return Gap

To form tradeable portfolios and avoid look-ahead bias, Kacperczyk, Sialm, and Zheng (2008) use the *trailing 12-month average* Return Gap, lagged by one quarter to account for the reporting delay:

$$\overline{\mathrm{RG}}_{i,t}^{12} = \frac{1}{12}\sum_{s=1}^{12} \mathrm{RG}_{i,t-s} \tag{72.6}$$

The additional 3-month (one quarter) lag ensures that the Return Gap signal is based only on information available to investors at the time of portfolio formation. This is particularly important in Vietnam, where fund reporting may involve delays.

72.3 Risk-Adjusted Performance Evaluation

To evaluate whether Return Gap-sorted portfolios generate genuine risk-adjusted returns, we employ several factor models.

72.3.1 CAPM Alpha

$$R_{p,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_p + \beta_p(R_{m,t} - R_{f,t}) + \epsilon_{p,t} \tag{72.7}$$

72.3.2 Fama-French Three-Factor Model

$$R_{p,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_p + \beta_{1,p} \cdot \mathrm{MKT}_t + \beta_{2,p} \cdot \mathrm{SMB}_t + \beta_{3,p} \cdot \mathrm{HML}_t + \epsilon_{p,t} \tag{72.8}$$

72.3.3 Carhart Four-Factor Model

$$R_{p,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_p + \beta_{1,p} \cdot \mathrm{MKT}_t + \beta_{2,p} \cdot \mathrm{SMB}_t + \beta_{3,p} \cdot \mathrm{HML}_t + \beta_{4,p} \cdot \mathrm{UMD}_t + \epsilon_{p,t} \tag{72.9}$$

where UMD_t is the momentum factor (up minus down).

72.3.4 Fama-French Five-Factor Model

For a more comprehensive risk adjustment relevant to the Vietnamese market:

$$R_{p,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha_p + \beta_1\mathrm{MKT}_t + \beta_2\mathrm{SMB}_t + \beta_3\mathrm{HML}_t + \beta_4\mathrm{RMW}_t + \beta_5\mathrm{CMA}_t + \epsilon_{p,t} \tag{72.10}$$

where RMW_t (robust minus weak) captures profitability and CMA_t (conservative minus aggressive) captures investment patterns.

72.4 Newey-West Standard Errors

Since portfolio returns may exhibit serial correlation, we use Whitney K. Newey and West (1987b) standard errors with L lags:

$$\hat{V}(\hat{\alpha}) = T\left(\sum_{t=1}^{T}\mathbf{x}_t\mathbf{x}_t'\right)^{-1}\hat{S}\left(\sum_{t=1}^{T}\mathbf{x}_t\mathbf{x}_t'\right)^{-1} \tag{72.11}$$

where the HAC covariance estimator is:

$$\hat{S} = \hat{\Gamma}_0 + \sum_{\ell=1}^{L}\left(1-\frac{\ell}{L+1}\right)\left(\hat{\Gamma}_\ell + \hat{\Gamma}_\ell'\right) \tag{72.12}$$

and $\hat{\Gamma}_\ell = \frac{1}{T}\sum_{t=\ell+1}^{T}\hat{\epsilon}_t\hat{\epsilon}_{t-\ell}\mathbf{x}_t\mathbf{x}_{t-\ell}'$. The standard lag choice is $L = \lfloor 4(T/100)^{2/9}\rfloor$.

73 Data and Sample Construction

73.1 Data Sources

Table 73.1 shows the sources used in the construction of return gaps.

Table 73.1: Data sources for the Return Gap analysis in Vietnam

Data Category	Source	Description
Fund holdings	DataCore Fund Holdings	Disclosed portfolio positions including ticker, shares held, report date, and vintage (filing) date
Fund returns	DataCore Fund Performance	Monthly NAV-based net returns, total net assets, and expense ratios
Fund characteristics	DataCore Fund Master	Fund objective codes, inception dates, management company, investment style
Stock prices and returns	DataCore Equity Market	Daily and monthly adjusted prices, returns, shares outstanding, and corporate actions for HOSE and HNX listed securities
Risk factors	DataCore / Constructed	Vietnamese market factor portfolios (MKT, SMB, HML, UMD, RMW, CMA)

73.2 Setting Up the Environment

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
```

```python
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from statsmodels.regression.linear_model import OLS
from scipy import stats
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
from dateutil.relativedelta import relativedelta
import warnings

warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")

plt.rcParams.update({
    "figure.figsize": (10, 6),
    "font.size": 12,
    "axes.titlesize": 14,
    "axes.labelsize": 12,
    "xtick.labelsize": 10,
    "ytick.labelsize": 10,
    "legend.fontsize": 10,
    "figure.dpi": 150,
    "savefig.dpi": 300,
    "font.family": "serif",
})

sns.set_style("whitegrid")
np.random.seed(42)
```

73.3 Loading and Preparing Stock Market Data

The first step is to load the stock-level data, which provides the foundation for computing hypothetical holdings returns.

```python
# ============================================================
# In production, replace with actual DataCore API calls:
#   from datacore import DataCoreClient
#   client = DataCoreClient(api_key="YOUR_KEY")
#   stock_data = client.get_equity_monthly(
#       exchange=["HOSE", "HNX"],
#       start_date="2010-01-01",
#       end_date="2024-12-31",
#       fields=["ticker", "date", "close_adj", "return_monthly",
#               "shares_outstanding", "market_cap"]
```

```
#   )
# ============================================================

def generate_stock_data(
    n_stocks: int = 300,
    start_date: str = "2012-01-01",
    end_date: str = "2024-12-31",
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
    Generate simulated monthly stock data mimicking Vietnamese
    equity market characteristics.
    """
    dates = pd.date_range(start_date, end_date, freq="ME")
    tickers = [f"VN{str(i).zfill(4)}" for i in range(1, n_stocks + 1)]

    records = []
    for ticker in tickers:
        list_offset = np.random.randint(0, max(1, len(dates) // 3))
        available_dates = dates[list_offset:]
        mu = np.random.normal(0.008, 0.005)
        sigma = np.random.uniform(0.06, 0.15)
        beta = np.random.uniform(0.5, 1.8)
        market_shocks = np.random.normal(0.005, 0.06, len(available_dates))
        idio_shocks = np.random.normal(0, sigma, len(available_dates))
        returns = mu + beta * market_shocks + idio_shocks
        returns = np.clip(returns, -0.30, 0.40)
        price = np.random.uniform(10, 150)
        prices = [price]
        for r in returns[:-1]:
            price = price * (1 + r)
            prices.append(price)
        shares = np.random.uniform(50, 500) * 1e6
        shares_series = np.full(len(available_dates), shares)
        for i, d in enumerate(available_dates):
            records.append({
                "ticker": ticker, "date": d,
                "close_adj": prices[i], "ret": returns[i],
                "shares_outstanding": shares_series[i],
                "market_cap": prices[i] * shares_series[i] / 1e9,
            })

    df = pd.DataFrame(records)
```

```
    df["date"] = pd.to_datetime(df["date"])
    df = df.sort_values(["ticker", "date"])
    df["close_adj_lag"] = df.groupby("ticker")["close_adj"].shift(1)
    return df

stock_data = generate_stock_data()
print(f"Stock data: {stock_data.shape[0]:,} stock-months")
print(f"Unique stocks: {stock_data['ticker'].nunique()}")
print(f"Date range: {stock_data['date'].min():%Y-%m} to "
      f"{stock_data['date'].max():%Y-%m}")
stock_data.head(10)
```

```
Stock data: 38,865 stock-months
Unique stocks: 300
Date range: 2012-01 to 2024-12
```

	ticker	date	close_adj	ret	shares_outstanding	market_cap	close_adj_lag
0	VN0001	2015-03-31	45.035190	0.110630	6.747563e+07	3.038778	NaN
1	VN0001	2015-04-30	50.017423	-0.066939	6.747563e+07	3.374957	45.035190
2	VN0001	2015-05-31	46.669311	0.047021	6.747563e+07	3.149041	50.017423
3	VN0001	2015-06-30	48.863751	-0.152745	6.747563e+07	3.297112	46.669311
4	VN0001	2015-07-31	41.400073	-0.057519	6.747563e+07	2.793496	48.863751
5	VN0001	2015-08-31	39.018788	0.228286	6.747563e+07	2.632817	41.400073
6	VN0001	2015-09-30	47.926227	0.079232	6.747563e+07	3.233852	39.018788
7	VN0001	2015-10-31	51.723515	-0.300000	6.747563e+07	3.490077	47.926227
8	VN0001	2015-11-30	36.206461	0.192114	6.747563e+07	2.443054	51.723515
9	VN0001	2015-12-31	43.162239	0.294336	6.747563e+07	2.912399	36.206461

73.4 Loading Fund Holdings Data

```
def generate_holdings_data(
    stock_data: pd.DataFrame,
    n_funds: int = 50,
    start_date: str = "2012-06-30",
    end_date: str = "2024-12-31",
) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """
```

```
    Generate simulated fund holdings data. Each fund holds 15-80
    stocks, disclosed semi-annually or quarterly.
    """
    dates = pd.date_range(start_date, end_date, freq="ME")
    tickers = stock_data["ticker"].unique()
    fund_ids = [f"FUND{str(i).zfill(3)}" for i in range(1, n_funds + 1)]
    records = []
    for fund_id in fund_ids:
        inception_idx = np.random.randint(0, max(1, len(dates) // 4))
        freq = 3 if np.random.random() < 0.7 else 6
        n_stocks_held = np.random.randint(15, 80)
        core_stocks = np.random.choice(tickers, size=n_stocks_held, replace=False)
        report_dates = dates[inception_idx::freq]
        for rdate in report_dates:
            filing_delay = np.random.randint(1, 4)
            fdate = rdate + pd.DateOffset(months=filing_delay)
            turnover = np.random.uniform(0.05, 0.20)
            n_replace = max(1, int(n_stocks_held * turnover))
            replace_idx = np.random.choice(len(core_stocks), size=n_replace, replace=False)
            new_stocks = np.random.choice(tickers, size=n_replace, replace=False)
            core_stocks[replace_idx] = new_stocks
            for ticker in core_stocks:
                shares = np.random.uniform(100_000, 5_000_000)
                records.append({
                    "fund_id": fund_id, "report_date": rdate,
                    "filing_date": fdate, "ticker": ticker,
                    "shares_held": shares,
                })
    df = pd.DataFrame(records)
    df["report_date"] = pd.to_datetime(df["report_date"])
    df["filing_date"] = pd.to_datetime(df["filing_date"])
    return df

holdings_raw = generate_holdings_data(stock_data)
print(f"Holdings records: {holdings_raw.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Unique funds: {holdings_raw['fund_id'].nunique()}")
holdings_raw.head(10)
```

```
Holdings records: 89,269
Unique funds: 50
```

	fund_id	report_date	filing_date	ticker	shares_held
0	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0289	4.918132e+06
1	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0297	4.322425e+05
2	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0259	2.383117e+05
3	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0215	1.140891e+06
4	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0262	1.104603e+06
5	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0292	1.665416e+06
6	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0132	4.625400e+06
7	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0049	3.447053e+06
8	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0008	1.525004e+05
9	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	VN0189	2.527258e+06

73.5 Loading Fund Returns and Characteristics

```
def generate_fund_returns(holdings, start_date="2012-01-01", end_date="2024-12-31"):
    """Generate monthly fund-level net returns, TNA, and expense ratios."""
    fund_ids = holdings["fund_id"].unique()
    dates = pd.date_range(start_date, end_date, freq="ME")
    records = []
    for fund_id in fund_ids:
        fund_start = holdings.loc[holdings["fund_id"] == fund_id, "report_date"].min() - pd.
        fund_dates = dates[dates >= fund_start]
        exp_ratio = np.random.uniform(0.010, 0.025)
        base_tna = np.random.uniform(50, 2000)
        mu = np.random.normal(0.007, 0.003)
        sigma = np.random.uniform(0.04, 0.09)
        tna = base_tna
        for d in fund_dates:
            ret = np.clip(np.random.normal(mu, sigma), -0.25, 0.35)
            tna = max(tna * (1 + ret) + np.random.normal(0, base_tna * 0.02), 10)
            records.append({"fund_id": fund_id, "date": d, "net_return": ret,
                            "tna": tna, "expense_ratio": exp_ratio + np.random.normal(0, 0.0
    df = pd.DataFrame(records)
    df["date"] = pd.to_datetime(df["date"])
    df["expense_ratio"] = df["expense_ratio"].clip(0.005, 0.035)
    return df

fund_returns = generate_fund_returns(holdings_raw)
```

```
print(f"Fund-month observations: {fund_returns.shape[0]:,}")
fund_returns.head(10)
```

```
Fund-month observations: 6,808
```

	fund_id	date	net_return	tna	expense_ratio
0	FUND001	2012-08-31	0.045634	568.611866	0.022429
1	FUND001	2012-09-30	0.106959	631.630643	0.021461
2	FUND001	2012-10-31	-0.063495	612.614200	0.020634
3	FUND001	2012-11-30	-0.087247	563.095634	0.023795
4	FUND001	2012-12-31	-0.006777	545.547597	0.021886
5	FUND001	2013-01-31	-0.029553	532.221482	0.021999
6	FUND001	2013-02-28	-0.002767	538.411988	0.021567
7	FUND001	2013-03-31	-0.138187	477.997478	0.022189
8	FUND001	2013-04-30	0.045137	484.711443	0.022058
9	FUND001	2013-05-31	0.095518	523.213577	0.021911

73.6 Sample Selection: Domestic Equity Funds

Following the approach of Kacperczyk, Sialm, and Zheng (2008), we restrict our sample to domestic equity funds.

```
equity_objectives = [
    "EQUITY_DOMESTIC", "EQUITY_GROWTH", "EQUITY_VALUE",
    "EQUITY_BLEND", "EQUITY_LARGE_CAP", "EQUITY_MID_CAP",
    "EQUITY_SMALL_CAP",
]

fund_ids = fund_returns["fund_id"].unique()
fund_master = pd.DataFrame({
    "fund_id": fund_ids,
    "objective": np.random.choice(
        equity_objectives + ["BOND", "BALANCED", "MONEY_MARKET"],
        size=len(fund_ids),
        p=[0.08, 0.08, 0.06, 0.10, 0.08, 0.06, 0.06, 0.15, 0.18, 0.15],
    ),
})
```

```python
equity_fund_ids = fund_master.loc[
    fund_master["objective"].isin(equity_objectives), "fund_id"
].values

print(f"Total funds: {len(fund_ids)}")
print(f"Equity funds: {len(equity_fund_ids)} ({len(equity_fund_ids)/len(fund_ids)*100:.1f}%)
print("\nObjective distribution:")
print(fund_master["objective"].value_counts().to_string())
```

```
Total funds: 50
Equity funds: 29 (58.0%)

Objective distribution:
objective
BALANCED            9
EQUITY_VALUE        9
EQUITY_GROWTH       6
BOND                6
MONEY_MARKET        6
EQUITY_BLEND        5
EQUITY_LARGE_CAP    3
EQUITY_SMALL_CAP    2
EQUITY_MID_CAP      2
EQUITY_DOMESTIC     2
```

74 Computing the Return Gap

74.1 Step 1: Prepare Holdings Vintages

A critical first step is to correctly handle the *vintage* structure of holdings data. Each holdings report has two key dates: the **report date** (τ, the as-of date) and the **filing date** (f, when it becomes public). We keep only the first vintage per fund-report date.

```
def prepare_holdings_vintages(holdings, max_holding_months=6):
    """Process holdings vintages and compute next report dates."""
    first_vintage = (
        holdings.sort_values(["fund_id", "report_date", "filing_date"])
        .groupby(["fund_id", "report_date"])
        .agg(filing_date=("filing_date", "first"))
        .reset_index()
    )
    first_vintage = first_vintage.sort_values(["fund_id", "report_date"])
    first_vintage["next_report_date"] = first_vintage.groupby("fund_id")["report_date"].shift
    max_date = first_vintage["report_date"] + pd.DateOffset(months=max_holding_months)
    first_vintage["next_report_date"] = first_vintage["next_report_date"].fillna(max_date)
    first_vintage["next_report_date"] = first_vintage[["next_report_date"]].min(axis=1).clip
    first_vintage["next_report_date"] = first_vintage["next_report_date"] + pd.offsets.Month
    result = holdings.merge(first_vintage, on=["fund_id", "report_date", "filing_date"], how=
    return result

holdings_vintaged = prepare_holdings_vintages(holdings_raw)
print(f"Holdings after vintage processing: {holdings_vintaged.shape[0]:,} records")
sample_fund = holdings_vintaged["fund_id"].iloc[0]
(holdings_vintaged.loc[holdings_vintaged["fund_id"] == sample_fund]
 [["fund_id", "report_date", "filing_date", "next_report_date"]]
 .drop_duplicates().head(8))
```

```
Holdings after vintage processing: 89,269 records
```

	fund_id	report_date	filing_date	next_report_date
0	FUND001	2012-11-30	2012-12-30	2013-02-28
52	FUND001	2013-02-28	2013-03-28	2013-05-31
104	FUND001	2013-05-31	2013-08-31	2013-08-31
156	FUND001	2013-08-31	2013-11-30	2013-11-30
208	FUND001	2013-11-30	2014-02-28	2014-02-28
260	FUND001	2014-02-28	2014-04-28	2014-05-31
312	FUND001	2014-05-31	2014-08-31	2014-08-31
364	FUND001	2014-08-31	2014-10-31	2014-11-30

74.2 Step 2: Adjust Shares for Corporate Actions

```
def adjust_holdings_shares(holdings, stock_data):
    """Adjust shares for splits, bonuses, rights. Simulated: factor=1."""
    holdings["shares_adj"] = holdings["shares_held"]
    return holdings

holdings_adj = adjust_holdings_shares(holdings_vintaged, stock_data)
```

74.3 Step 3: Compute Hypothetical Holdings Returns

This is the core computation. For each fund, we take the disclosed holdings as of report date τ, and for each month t in $(\tau, \tau_{\text{next}}]$, compute the value-weighted return using lagged dollar values as weights.

```
def compute_holdings_returns(holdings, stock_data, min_stocks=10, min_assets_bn=5.0):
    """Compute monthly hypothetical buy-and-hold portfolio returns."""
    merged = holdings.merge(stock_data, on="ticker", how="inner")
    mask = (merged["date"] > merged["report_date"]) & (merged["date"] <= merged["next_report_
    merged = merged.loc[mask].copy()
    merged["hvalue_lag"] = merged["shares_adj"] * merged["close_adj_lag"]
    merged = merged.loc[merged["hvalue_lag"] > 0].copy()
    merged = merged.drop_duplicates(subset=["fund_id", "date", "report_date", "ticker"], keep

    def weighted_return(group):
        weights = group["hvalue_lag"]
        total_weight = weights.sum()
```

```
        if total_weight <= 0:
            return pd.Series({"hret": np.nan, "n_stocks": 0, "assets_lag_bn": 0})
        wret = np.average(group["ret"], weights=weights)
        return pd.Series({"hret": wret, "n_stocks": len(group), "assets_lag_bn": total_weight

    portfolio_returns = (
        merged.groupby(["fund_id", "date"])
        .apply(weighted_return, include_groups=False).reset_index()
    )
    portfolio_returns["assets_bn"] = portfolio_returns["assets_lag_bn"] * (1 + portfolio_retu
    mask = (portfolio_returns["n_stocks"] >= min_stocks) & (portfolio_returns["assets_bn"] >=
    return portfolio_returns.loc[mask].copy()

holdings_returns = compute_holdings_returns(holdings_adj, stock_data)
print(f"Fund-month observations (hypothetical returns): {holdings_returns.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Unique funds: {holdings_returns['fund_id'].nunique()}")
print(f"\nSummary:")
print(holdings_returns[["hret", "n_stocks", "assets_bn"]].describe().round(4).to_string())
```

```
Fund-month observations (hypothetical returns): 6,170
Unique funds: 50

Summary:
            hret   n_stocks  assets_bn
count  6170.0000  6170.0000  6170.0000
mean      0.0149    42.7476    27.8827
std       0.0426    14.5061    20.1749
min      -0.1997    13.0000     5.0241
25%      -0.0111    31.0000    13.3775
50%       0.0146    41.0000    22.6388
75%       0.0411    53.0000    35.6065
max       0.2209    74.0000   167.3511
```

74.4 Step 4: Compute Gross Fund Returns

```
def prepare_fund_returns(fund_returns, equity_fund_ids):
    """Prepare fund-level gross returns."""
    df = fund_returns.loc[fund_returns["fund_id"].isin(equity_fund_ids)].copy()
    df["expense_ratio"] = df["expense_ratio"].fillna(df.groupby("fund_id")["expense_ratio"].t
```

```
    df["gross_return"] = df["net_return"] + df["expense_ratio"] / 12
    df = df.sort_values(["fund_id", "date"])
    df["tna_lag"] = df.groupby("fund_id")["tna"].shift(1).fillna(df["tna"])
    return df

fund_ret_clean = prepare_fund_returns(fund_returns, equity_fund_ids)
print(f"Equity fund-months: {fund_ret_clean.shape[0]:,}")
```

```
Equity fund-months: 3,993
```

74.5 Step 5: Merge and Compute Return Gap

```
def compute_return_gap(holdings_returns, fund_returns):
    """Compute Return Gap and trailing averages."""
    merged = holdings_returns.merge(
        fund_returns[["fund_id", "date", "net_return", "gross_return", "expense_ratio", "tna
        on=["fund_id", "date"], how="inner",
    )
    merged["return_gap"] = merged["gross_return"] - merged["hret"]
    merged = merged.sort_values(["fund_id", "date"])
    merged["rg_12m"] = merged.groupby("fund_id")["return_gap"].transform(
        lambda x: x.rolling(12, min_periods=8).mean()
    )
    merged["rg_12m_lag4"] = merged.groupby("fund_id")["rg_12m"].shift(4)
    return merged

return_gap_data = compute_return_gap(holdings_returns, fund_ret_clean)
print(f"Return Gap observations: {return_gap_data.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"\nSummary:")
print(return_gap_data[["return_gap", "rg_12m", "rg_12m_lag4"]].describe().round(6).to_string
```

```
Return Gap observations: 3,592

Summary:
        return_gap       rg_12m  rg_12m_lag4
count  3592.000000  3389.000000  3273.000000
mean     -0.005734    -0.005349    -0.005329
std       0.080211     0.022955     0.022864
min      -0.307136    -0.094187    -0.094187
```

```
25%      -0.058760    -0.019080    -0.019057
50%      -0.006127    -0.005284    -0.005242
75%       0.047785     0.008620     0.008653
max       0.277137     0.079589     0.079589
```

74.6 Distribution of the Return Gap

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(12, 5))

rg = return_gap_data["return_gap"].dropna()
rg_trimmed = rg.clip(rg.quantile(0.01), rg.quantile(0.99))
axes[0].hist(rg_trimmed, bins=80, density=True, alpha=0.7, color="#2C5F8A", edgecolor="white
axes[0].axvline(rg.mean(), color="#D32F2F", linestyle="--", linewidth=2, label=f"Mean = {rg.m
axes[0].axvline(rg.median(), color="#FF8F00", linestyle="-.", linewidth=2, label=f"Median = 
axes[0].set_xlabel("Monthly Return Gap")
axes[0].set_ylabel("Density")
axes[0].set_title("Panel A: Monthly Return Gap")
axes[0].legend(frameon=True)

rg12 = return_gap_data["rg_12m"].dropna()
rg12_trimmed = rg12.clip(rg12.quantile(0.01), rg12.quantile(0.99))
axes[1].hist(rg12_trimmed, bins=80, density=True, alpha=0.7, color="#1B5E20", edgecolor="whi
axes[1].axvline(rg12.mean(), color="#D32F2F", linestyle="--", linewidth=2, label=f"Mean = {rg
axes[1].axvline(rg12.median(), color="#FF8F00", linestyle="-.", linewidth=2, label=f"Median =
axes[1].set_xlabel("Trailing 12-Month Average Return Gap")
axes[1].set_ylabel("Density")
axes[1].set_title("Panel B: 12-Month Average Return Gap")
axes[1].legend(frameon=True)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 74.1: Distribution of monthly Return Gap across all fund-month observations.

74.7 Time Series of Cross-Sectional Return Gap

```
ts_stats = (
    return_gap_data.groupby("date")["return_gap"]
    .agg(["mean", "median", lambda x: x.quantile(0.25), lambda x: x.quantile(0.75)])
    .rename(columns={"<lambda_0>": "p25", "<lambda_1>": "p75"}).reset_index()
)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 5))
ax.fill_between(ts_stats["date"], ts_stats["p25"], ts_stats["p75"], alpha=0.3, color="#2C5F8
ax.plot(ts_stats["date"], ts_stats["median"], color="#2C5F8A", linewidth=2, label="Median")
ax.plot(ts_stats["date"], ts_stats["mean"], color="#D32F2F", linestyle="--", linewidth=1.5, l
ax.axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.8)
ax.set_xlabel("Date")
ax.set_ylabel("Monthly Return Gap")
ax.set_title("Cross-Sectional Distribution of Return Gap Over Time")
ax.legend(frameon=True)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 74.2: Time series of cross-sectional Return Gap statistics. Solid: median, shaded: IQR, dashed: mean.

75 Portfolio Sorting Analysis

75.1 Forming Return Gap Decile Portfolios

Each month t, we sort funds into decile portfolios based on their lagged 12-month average Return Gap ($\overline{\text{RG}}^{12}_{i,t-4}$). Portfolio 1 contains funds with the lowest Return Gap.

```
def form_return_gap_portfolios(data, n_portfolios=10, sort_var="rg_12m_lag4"):
    """Form portfolios by sorting funds into quantile groups."""
    df = data.dropna(subset=[sort_var]).copy()
    df["portfolio"] = (
        df.groupby("date")[sort_var]
        .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, n_portfolios, labels=False, duplicates="drop"))
    ) + 1
    return df

n_portfolios = 10
portfolio_data = form_return_gap_portfolios(return_gap_data, n_portfolios=n_portfolios)
print(f"Observations with portfolio assignment: {portfolio_data.shape[0]:,}")
```

```
Observations with portfolio assignment: 3,273
```

75.2 Portfolio Returns

```
def compute_portfolio_returns(data, n_portfolios=10):
    """Compute equal- and value-weighted monthly returns."""
    ew = data.groupby(["date", "portfolio"]).agg(
        ew_ret=("net_return", "mean"), n_funds=("fund_id", "count")).reset_index()
    def vw_func(group):
        w = group["tna"].clip(lower=0)
        return np.average(group["net_return"], weights=w) if w.sum() > 0 else group["net_retu
    vw = data.groupby(["date", "portfolio"]).apply(vw_func, include_groups=False).reset_index
    return ew.merge(vw, on=["date", "portfolio"], how="left")
```

```
port_returns = compute_portfolio_returns(portfolio_data)
port_wide = port_returns.pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values=["ew_ret", "vw
port_wide[("ew_ret", "LS")] = port_wide[("ew_ret", n_portfolios)] - port_wide[("ew_ret", 1)]
port_wide[("vw_ret", "LS")] = port_wide[("vw_ret", n_portfolios)] - port_wide[("vw_ret", 1)]

print("EW portfolio returns (annualized, %):")
print((port_wide["ew_ret"].mean() * 12 * 100).round(2).to_string())
```

```
EW portfolio returns (annualized, %):
portfolio
1.0      4.42
2.0     12.09
3.0     15.52
4.0      8.35
5.0     10.31
6.0     14.38
7.0      1.18
8.0     10.99
9.0      1.33
10.0    15.19
LS      10.77
```

75.3 Characteristics of Return Gap Portfolios

75.4 Cumulative Returns of Extreme Portfolios

```
cum_ret = pd.DataFrame(index=port_wide.index)
cum_ret["P1 (Low RG)"] = (1 + port_wide[("ew_ret", 1)]).cumprod()
cum_ret["P10 (High RG)"] = (1 + port_wide[("ew_ret", n_portfolios)]).cumprod()
cum_ret["L/S (P10-P1)"] = (1 + port_wide[("ew_ret", "LS")]).cumprod()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
colors = {"P1 (Low RG)": "#D32F2F", "P10 (High RG)": "#1B5E20", "L/S (P10-P1)": "#1565C0"}
styles = {"P1 (Low RG)": "--", "P10 (High RG)": "-", "L/S (P10-P1)": "-."}
for col in cum_ret.columns:
    ax.plot(cum_ret.index, cum_ret[col], label=col, color=colors[col], linestyle=styles[col]
ax.axhline(1, color="black", linewidth=0.8, alpha=0.5)
```

Table 75.1: Characteristics of Return Gap-sorted decile portfolios.

```
chars = portfolio_data.groupby("portfolio").agg(
    avg_rg=("return_gap", "mean"), avg_rg12=("rg_12m_lag4", "mean"),
    avg_net_ret=("net_return", "mean"), avg_gross_ret=("gross_return", "mean"),
    avg_hret=("hret", "mean"), avg_expense=("expense_ratio", "mean"),
    avg_tna=("tna", "mean"), avg_nstocks=("n_stocks", "mean"), n_obs=("fund_id", "count"),
).round(4)
dc = chars.copy()
dc.columns = ["Avg RG", "Avg RG(12m)", "Net Ret", "Gross Ret", "Hold Ret", "Expense", "TNA(Bn
for col in ["Avg RG", "Avg RG(12m)", "Net Ret", "Gross Ret", "Hold Ret", "Expense"]:
    dc[col] = (dc[col] * 100).round(3)
dc["TNA(Bn)"] = dc["TNA(Bn)"].round(1)
dc["#Stocks"] = dc["#Stocks"].round(1)
print(dc.to_string())
```

```
           Avg RG  Avg RG(12m)  Net Ret  Gross Ret  Hold Ret  Expense  TNA(Bn)  #Stocks  #Obs
portfolio
1.0         -0.81        -4.32     0.50       0.66      1.48     1.91   1395.7     41.9   353
2.0          0.16        -2.73     1.02       1.18      1.02     1.86   1941.3     43.9   333
3.0          0.06        -1.85     1.27       1.42      1.36     1.79   2042.0     45.5   335
4.0         -1.11        -1.22     0.51       0.66      1.78     1.81   2052.1     47.6   325
5.0         -0.57        -0.69     0.61       0.76      1.33     1.83   2010.7     46.8   341
6.0          0.04        -0.20     1.23       1.39      1.35     1.86   2138.9     44.8   243
7.0         -1.53         0.22    -0.09       0.07      1.60     1.86   2184.0     44.2   322
8.0         -0.51         0.85     1.14       1.30      1.82     1.93   2340.3     43.7   338
9.0         -1.30         1.61     0.09       0.25      1.54     1.87   2552.9     41.9   330
10.0         0.11         3.17     1.31       1.46      1.35     1.83   2864.7     40.2   351
```

```
ax.set_xlabel("Date")
ax.set_ylabel("Cumulative Return (Growth of 1 VND)")
ax.set_title("Cumulative Performance of Return Gap Portfolios")
ax.legend(frameon=True, loc="upper left")
ax.set_yscale("log")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 75.1: Cumulative returns of Return Gap-sorted portfolios: P10 (highest RG) vs P1 (lowest), and the long-short spread.

76 Risk-Adjusted Performance

76.1 Risk Factors

```
def generate_factor_returns(start_date="2012-01-01", end_date="2024-12-31"):
    """Generate simulated Vietnamese market factor returns."""
    dates = pd.date_range(start_date, end_date, freq="ME")
    n = len(dates)
    return pd.DataFrame({
        "date": dates,
        "rf": np.random.normal(0.004, 0.001, n).clip(0.001, 0.008),
        "mkt_rf": np.random.normal(0.008, 0.055, n),
        "smb": np.random.normal(0.003, 0.035, n),
        "hml": np.random.normal(0.002, 0.030, n),
        "umd": np.random.normal(0.005, 0.045, n),
        "rmw": np.random.normal(0.002, 0.025, n),
        "cma": np.random.normal(0.001, 0.020, n),
    })

factors = generate_factor_returns()
print("Factor summary (monthly %):")
print((factors.drop(columns="date").describe() * 100).round(3).to_string())
```

```
Factor summary (monthly %):
              rf     mkt_rf        smb        hml        umd        rmw        cma
count  15600.000  15600.000  15600.000  15600.000  15600.000  15600.000  15600.000
mean       0.399      0.789      0.454     -0.073      0.396      0.076     -
0.043
std        0.099      5.276      3.744      2.899      4.615      2.400      1.940
min        0.132    -12.061     -9.021     -6.937    -11.322     -6.592     -
5.971
25%        0.344     -2.929     -1.830     -2.036     -2.440     -1.425     -
1.554
50%        0.397      0.844      0.611     -0.056      0.632      0.033      0.003
75%        0.464      3.844      2.981      1.976      3.597      1.707      1.317
```

```
max        0.653     15.678      9.744      8.316     13.215      6.142      4.607
```

76.2 Alpha Estimation

```python
def estimate_portfolio_alphas(port_returns, factors, n_portfolios=10, nw_lags=6):
    """Estimate alphas using multiple factor models."""
    ew_wide = port_returns.pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values="ew_ret")
    if n_portfolios in ew_wide.columns and 1 in ew_wide.columns:
        ew_wide["LS"] = ew_wide[n_portfolios] - ew_wide[1]
    merged = ew_wide.merge(factors, on="date", how="inner")
    results = []
    portfolios = list(range(1, n_portfolios + 1)) + ["LS"]
    for port in portfolios:
        if port not in merged.columns: continue
        y_raw = merged[port].dropna()
        idx = y_raw.index
        rf = merged.loc[idx, "rf"]; mkt = merged.loc[idx, "mkt_rf"]
        smb = merged.loc[idx, "smb"]; hml = merged.loc[idx, "hml"]
        umd = merged.loc[idx, "umd"]; rmw = merged.loc[idx, "rmw"]
        cma = merged.loc[idx, "cma"]
        y_ex = y_raw - rf
        models = {
            "Raw Mean": (y_raw, None),
            "Excess Return": (y_raw - rf - mkt, None),
            "CAPM": (y_ex, sm.add_constant(mkt)),
            "FF3": (y_ex, sm.add_constant(pd.concat([mkt, smb, hml], axis=1))),
            "Carhart": (y_ex, sm.add_constant(pd.concat([mkt, smb, hml, umd], axis=1))),
            "FF5": (y_ex, sm.add_constant(pd.concat([mkt, smb, hml, rmw, cma], axis=1))),
        }
        for mname, (y, X) in models.items():
            if X is None:
                mean_val = y.mean(); se = y.std() / np.sqrt(len(y))
                t_stat = mean_val / se if se > 0 else np.nan
                p_val = 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t_stat), len(y)-1))
                alpha = mean_val
            else:
                try:
                    reg = OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": nw_lags})
                    alpha = reg.params.iloc[0]; t_stat = reg.tvalues.iloc[0]; p_val = reg.pva
                except: alpha, t_stat, p_val = np.nan, np.nan, np.nan
```

```
            results.append({"portfolio": port, "model": mname, "alpha": alpha, "t_stat": t_st
    return pd.DataFrame(results)

alpha_results = estimate_portfolio_alphas(port_returns, factors, n_portfolios)
print(f"Alpha estimates: {len(alpha_results)}")
```

```
Alpha estimates: 66
```

76.3 Alpha Table

76.4 Alpha Plot

```
models_plot = ["Excess Return", "CAPM", "FF3", "Carhart", "FF5"]
colors_m = {"Excess Return": "#D32F2F", "CAPM": "#FF8F00", "FF3": "#1B5E20", "Carhart": "#156

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 7))
for model in models_plot:
    md = alpha_results.loc[(alpha_results["model"]==model) & (alpha_results["portfolio"]!="LS
    ax.plot(md["portfolio"], md["alpha"]*100, marker="o", linewidth=2.5, markersize=8, label=
ax.axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.8, alpha=0.5)
ax.set_xlabel("Return Gap Portfolio (1=Lowest, 10=Highest)")
ax.set_ylabel("Monthly Alpha (%)")
ax.set_title("Abnormal Returns of Return Gap-Sorted Portfolios\nVietnamese Domestic Equity Fu
ax.legend(frameon=True, title="Risk Model")
ax.set_xticks(range(1, 11))
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Table 76.1: Risk-adjusted monthly alphas (%) for Return Gap decile portfolios. t-stats (NW, 6 lags) in parentheses.

```
def stars(p):
    if pd.isna(p): return ""
    if p < 0.01: return "***"
    if p < 0.05: return "**"
    if p < 0.10: return "*"
    return ""

models_list = ["Raw Mean", "Excess Return", "CAPM", "FF3", "Carhart", "FF5"]
rows = []
for model in models_list:
    md = alpha_results.loc[alpha_results["model"] == model]
    for _, row in md.iterrows():
        a = row["alpha"] * 100
        rows.append({"Portfolio": row["portfolio"], "Model": model,
                     "Alpha (%)": f"{a:.3f}{stars(row['p_value'])}", "t-stat": f"({row['t_sta
pivot = pd.DataFrame(rows).pivot_table(index="Portfolio", columns="Model", values="Alpha (%)'
pivot = pivot.reindex(columns=models_list)
print(pivot.to_string())
```

```
Model      Raw Mean Excess Return      CAPM       FF3   Carhart       FF5
Portfolio
1             0.368        -0.817    -0.126    -0.098    -0.183    -0.058
2           1.007**        -0.266     0.596     0.518     0.251     0.561
3          1.293***         0.017  0.902***  0.956***  0.995***  0.925***
4            0.696*        -0.577     0.345     0.344     0.270     0.283
5           0.859**        -0.347     0.615     0.604    0.721*     0.590
6          1.198***        -0.036    0.779*   0.837**    0.819*    0.782*
7             0.099       -1.128*    -0.274    -0.231    -0.119    -0.203
8           0.916**        -0.405     0.515     0.566     0.603     0.555
9             0.111       -1.116*    -0.357    -0.320    -0.318    -0.345
10         1.266***         0.080   0.765**    0.699*    0.784*    0.733*
LS            0.897        -0.289     0.492     0.398     0.567     0.392
```

Figure 76.1: Risk-adjusted alphas of Return Gap-sorted decile portfolios under different factor models.

76.5 Long-Short Portfolio Analysis

Table 76.2: Performance of the long-short Return Gap strategy (P10 minus P1).

```
def long_short_analysis(port_returns, factors, n_portfolios=10):
    wide = port_returns.pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values="ew_ret")
    ls = (wide[n_portfolios] - wide[1]).dropna()
    merged = pd.DataFrame({"ls_ret": ls}).merge(factors, on="date", how="inner")
    ann_ret = ls.mean() * 12; ann_vol = ls.std() * np.sqrt(12)
    sharpe = ann_ret / ann_vol if ann_vol > 0 else np.nan
    cum = (1 + ls).cumprod(); max_dd = (cum / cum.cummax() - 1).min()
    sd = {"Ann. Return (%)": ann_ret*100, "Ann. Volatility (%)": ann_vol*100, "Sharpe Ratio"
          "Max Drawdown (%)": max_dd*100, "% Positive Months": (ls>0).mean()*100}
    y = merged["ls_ret"] - merged["rf"]
    for mn, fc in {"CAPM":["mkt_rf"],"FF3":["mkt_rf","smb","hml"],"Carhart":["mkt_rf","smb",
                   "FF5":["mkt_rf","smb","hml","rmw","cma"]}.items():
        X = sm.add_constant(merged[fc])
        reg = OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})
        sd[f"{mn} Alpha (%ann.)"] = reg.params.iloc[0]*12*100
        sd[f"{mn} t-stat"] = reg.tvalues.iloc[0]
    return pd.DataFrame(list(sd.items()), columns=["Statistic", "Value"]).round(3)

print(long_short_analysis(port_returns, factors).to_string(index=False))
```

```
            Statistic   Value
      Ann. Return (%)  10.766
  Ann. Volatility (%)  21.431
         Sharpe Ratio   0.502
     Max Drawdown (%) -35.849
    % Positive Months  58.400
   CAPM Alpha (%ann.)   5.905
          CAPM t-stat   1.062
    FF3 Alpha (%ann.)   4.777
           FF3 t-stat   0.781
Carhart Alpha (%ann.)   6.810
        Carhart t-stat   1.112
    FF5 Alpha (%ann.)   4.699
           FF5 t-stat   0.780
```

77 Cross-Sectional Determinants

77.1 Fama-MacBeth Regressions

$$\mathrm{RG}_{i,t} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \mathrm{Size}_{i,t-1} + \gamma_2 \mathrm{Expense}_{i,t} + \gamma_3 \mathrm{NStocks}_{i,t} + \epsilon_{i,t} \tag{77.1}$$

```
def fama_macbeth_regression(data, y_var, x_vars, nw_lags=6):
    """Fama-MacBeth (1973) regression with Newey-West SEs."""
    dates = sorted(data["date"].unique())
    all_coefs = []
    for d in dates:
        cross = data.loc[data["date"]==d, [y_var]+x_vars].dropna()
        if len(cross) < 10: continue
        try:
            reg = OLS(cross[y_var], sm.add_constant(cross[x_vars])).fit()
            coefs = reg.params.to_dict(); coefs["date"] = d; all_coefs.append(coefs)
        except: continue
    coef_df = pd.DataFrame(all_coefs).set_index("date")
    results = []
    for col in ["const"] + x_vars:
        s = coef_df[col].dropna(); mean = s.mean(); T = len(s)
        g = s - mean; v0 = (g**2).mean()
        for lag in range(1, nw_lags+1):
            w = 1 - lag/(nw_lags+1)
            v0 += 2*w*(g.iloc[lag:].values*g.iloc[:-lag].values).mean()
        se = np.sqrt(v0/T); t = mean/se if se>0 else np.nan
        results.append({"Variable": col, "Coeff": f"{mean:.6f}", "NW SE": f"{se:.6f}",
                        "t-stat": f"{t:.3f}", "p-value": f"{2*(1-stats.t.cdf(abs(t),T-1)):.4
    return pd.DataFrame(results)

reg_data = return_gap_data.copy()
reg_data["log_tna"] = np.log(reg_data["tna"].clip(lower=1))
reg_data["log_nstocks"] = np.log(reg_data["n_stocks"].clip(lower=1))
reg_data["expense_pct"] = reg_data["expense_ratio"] * 100

print("Fama-MacBeth: Determinants of Return Gap")
```

```python
print("=" * 60)
print(fama_macbeth_regression(reg_data, "return_gap", ["log_tna","expense_pct","log_nstocks"]
```

```
Fama-MacBeth: Determinants of Return Gap
============================================================
   Variable     Coeff    NW SE t-stat p-value
      const -0.061641 0.018159 -3.395  0.0009
    log_tna  0.009955 0.001553  6.410  0.0000
expense_pct -0.003321 0.002839 -1.170  0.2443
log_nstocks -0.003203 0.003508 -0.913  0.3629
```

78 Persistence

```
def compute_transition_matrix(data, n_groups=5, sort_var="rg_12m_lag4", horizon=12):
    df = data.dropna(subset=[sort_var]).copy()
    df["quintile"] = df.groupby("date")[sort_var].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, n_groups, labels=False, duplicates="drop") + 1)
    df = df.sort_values(["fund_id","date"])
    df["future_q"] = df.groupby("fund_id")["quintile"].shift(-horizon)
    df = df.dropna(subset=["future_q"])
    df["future_q"] = df["future_q"].astype(int)
    trans = pd.crosstab(df["quintile"], df["future_q"], normalize="index") * 100
    trans.index.name = "Current Q"; trans.columns.name = "Future Q"
    return trans.round(1)

trans = compute_transition_matrix(return_gap_data)
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 6))
sns.heatmap(trans, annot=True, fmt=".1f", cmap="YlGnBu", linewidths=1, linecolor="white",
            cbar_kws={"label": "Probability (%)"}, ax=ax)
ax.set_xlabel("Future Quintile (t+12m)"); ax.set_ylabel("Current Quintile (t)")
ax.set_title("Return Gap Quintile Transition Probabilities")
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 78.1: Return Gap quintile transition probability matrix (12-month horizon).

79 Robustness Checks

79.1 Alternative Holding Periods

79.2 Subperiod Analysis

79.3 EW vs VW

```
ls_ew = port_wide[("ew_ret", n_portfolios)] - port_wide[("ew_ret", 1)]
ls_vw = port_wide[("vw_ret", n_portfolios)] - port_wide[("vw_ret", 1)]

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))
axes[0].plot((1+ls_ew.dropna()).cumprod(), label="EW", color="#1565C0", linewidth=2)
axes[0].plot((1+ls_vw.dropna()).cumprod(), label="VW", color="#D32F2F", linewidth=2, linesty
axes[0].axhline(1, color="black", linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_title("Cumulative L/S Returns"); axes[0].legend()

axes[1].plot(ls_ew.rolling(12).mean()*12*100, label="EW", color="#1565C0", linewidth=2)
axes[1].plot(ls_vw.rolling(12).mean()*12*100, label="VW", color="#D32F2F", linewidth=2, lines
axes[1].axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.5)
axes[1].set_title("Rolling 12M Ann. L/S Returns (%)"); axes[1].legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Table 79.1: Long-short strategy under different maximum holding periods.

```
hp_results = {}
for hp in [3, 6, 9]:
    hv = prepare_holdings_vintages(holdings_raw, max_holding_months=hp)
    ha = adjust_holdings_shares(hv, stock_data)
    hr = compute_holdings_returns(ha, stock_data)
    rg = compute_return_gap(hr, fund_ret_clean)
    pd_data = form_return_gap_portfolios(rg)
    pr = compute_portfolio_returns(pd_data)
    pw = pr.pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values="ew_ret")
    if 10 in pw.columns and 1 in pw.columns:
        ls = pw[10] - pw[1]
        hp_results[hp] = {"Ann.Ret(%)": ls.mean()*12*100,
            "Sharpe": ls.mean()/ls.std()*np.sqrt(12) if ls.std()>0 else np.nan, "#Months": le

print(pd.DataFrame(hp_results).T.round(3).to_string())
```

```
   Ann.Ret(%)  Sharpe  #Months
3       4.601   0.200    125.0
6      10.766   0.502    125.0
9      10.766   0.502    125.0
```

Table 79.2: Subperiod analysis of the long-short strategy.

```
wide = port_returns.pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values="ew_ret")
ls = (wide[n_portfolios] - wide[1]).dropna()
ds = sorted(ls.index); n = len(ds); bp1 = ds[n//3]; bp2 = ds[2*n//3]
periods = {"Full": (ls.index.min(), ls.index.max()),
           f"Early-{bp1:%Y}": (ls.index.min(), bp1),
           f"{bp1:%Y}-{bp2:%Y}": (bp1, bp2),
           f"{bp2:%Y}-Late": (bp2, ls.index.max())}
sub = []
for pn, (s, e) in periods.items():
    ss = ls.loc[(ls.index>=s)&(ls.index<=e)]
    if len(ss)<12: continue
    sub.append({"Period": pn, "Ann.Ret(%)": ss.mean()*12*100, "Ann.Vol(%)": ss.std()*np.sqrt
                "Sharpe": ss.mean()/ss.std()*np.sqrt(12) if ss.std()>0 else np.nan, "#Mo": le
print(pd.DataFrame(sub).round(3).to_string(index=False))
```

```
    Period  Ann.Ret(%)  Ann.Vol(%)  Sharpe  #Mo
      Full      10.766      21.431   0.502  125
Early-2018      19.756      24.313   0.813   42
 2018-2021      -6.730      20.551  -0.327   43
 2021-Late      18.572      18.506   1.004   42
```

Figure 79.1: Equal-weighted vs value-weighted Return Gap long-short strategies.

80 Extensions Beyond the Standard Framework

80.1 Extension 1: Decomposing Return Gap by Source

Following Elton, Gruber, and Blake (2011), we approximate cash-drag and trading components:

$$\mathrm{RG}_{i,t} \approx \underbrace{(1-\omega_t^{\mathrm{eq}}) \cdot (r_t^{\mathrm{cash}} - R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Holdings}})}_{\text{Cash Effect}} + \underbrace{\omega_t^{\mathrm{eq}} \cdot (R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Traded}} - R_{i,t}^{\mathrm{Holdings}})}_{\text{Trading Effect}} \tag{80.1}$$

80.2 Extension 2: Conditional Return Gap

```
wide2 = port_returns.pivot_table(index="date", columns="portfolio", values="ew_ret")
ls2 = (wide2[n_portfolios] - wide2[1]).dropna()
cond = pd.DataFrame({"ls": ls2}).merge(factors[["date","mkt_rf"]], on="date", how="inner")
cond["bull"] = cond["mkt_rf"] > 0
cond["vol6"] = cond["mkt_rf"].rolling(6).std() * np.sqrt(12)
cond["hi_vol"] = cond["vol6"] > cond["vol6"].median()

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(12, 5))
m_a = [cond.loc[cond["bull"],"ls"].mean()*12*100, cond.loc[~cond["bull"],"ls"].mean()*12*100
bars = axes[0].bar(["Bull","Bear"], m_a, color=["#1B5E20","#D32F2F"], width=0.5)
axes[0].axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.8)
axes[0].set_ylabel("Ann. L/S Ret (%)")
axes[0].set_title("Bull vs Bear")
for b, v in zip(bars, m_a):
    axes[0].text(b.get_x()+b.get_width()/2, v, f"{v:.2f}%", ha="center", va="bottom" if v>0 

cv = cond.dropna(subset=["hi_vol"])
m_b = [cv.loc[~cv["hi_vol"],"ls"].mean()*12*100, cv.loc[cv["hi_vol"],"ls"].mean()*12*100]
bars2 = axes[1].bar(["Low Vol","High Vol"], m_b, color=["#1565C0","#FF8F00"], width=0.5)
axes[1].axhline(0, color="black", linewidth=0.8)
axes[1].set_ylabel("Ann. L/S Ret (%)")
```

Table 80.1: Return Gap decomposition by quintile (monthly %).

```
df_d = return_gap_data.copy()
monthly_cash = 0.05 / 12
df_d["equity_frac"] = (df_d["assets_bn"] / df_d["tna"].clip(lower=1)).clip(0, 1)
df_d["cash_effect"] = (1 - df_d["equity_frac"]) * (monthly_cash - df_d["hret"])
df_d["trading_effect"] = df_d["return_gap"] - df_d["cash_effect"]
df_d["quintile"] = df_d.groupby("date")["rg_12m_lag4"].transform(
    lambda x: pd.qcut(x.dropna(), 5, labels=False, duplicates="drop")+1 if len(x.dropna())>=5

decomp = (df_d.groupby("quintile")[["return_gap","cash_effect","trading_effect"]].mean()*100)
decomp.columns = ["Return Gap (%)", "Cash Effect (%)", "Trading Effect (%)"]
print(decomp.to_string())
```

```
          Return Gap (%)  Cash Effect (%)  Trading Effect (%)
quintile
1.0               -0.3548          -0.7989              0.4441
2.0               -0.5181          -1.1191              0.6010
3.0               -0.3266          -0.9025              0.5760
4.0               -1.0100          -1.2648              0.2548
5.0               -0.6057          -1.0115              0.4058
```

```
axes[1].set_title("Low vs High Volatility")
for b, v in zip(bars2, m_b):
    axes[1].text(b.get_x()+b.get_width()/2, v, f"{v:.2f}%", ha="center", va="bottom" if v>0 
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 80.1: L/S performance in bull vs bear markets and volatility regimes.

80.3 Extension 3: Return Gap and Fund Flows

An important question is whether investors respond to the Return Gap signal:

$$\text{Flow}_{i,t+1} = \delta_0 + \delta_1 \overline{\text{RG}}^{12}_{i,t} + \delta_2 R^{\text{Net}}_{i,t} + \delta_3 \ln(\text{TNA}_{i,t}) + \epsilon_{i,t+1} \tag{80.2}$$

```
flow_data = return_gap_data.sort_values(["fund_id","date"]).copy()
flow_data["tna_lag"] = flow_data.groupby("fund_id")["tna"].shift(1)
flow_data["flow"] = ((flow_data["tna"] - flow_data["tna_lag"]*(1+flow_data["net_return"])) /
flow_data["flow"] = flow_data["flow"].clip(flow_data["flow"].quantile(0.01), flow_data["flow
flow_data["log_tna"] = np.log(flow_data["tna"].clip(lower=1))
flow_data["flow_lead"] = flow_data.groupby("fund_id")["flow"].shift(-1)

print("Fama-MacBeth: Return Gap and Future Fund Flows")
print("=" * 60)
print(fama_macbeth_regression(
    flow_data.dropna(subset=["flow_lead","rg_12m","net_return"]),
```

Table 80.2: Characteristic selectivity by Return Gap quintile.

```
cs_data = return_gap_data[["fund_id","date","rg_12m_lag4"]].dropna(subset=["rg_12m_lag4"]).co
cs_data["cs_score"] = 0.3 * cs_data["rg_12m_lag4"] + np.random.normal(0, 0.005, len(cs_data))
cs_data["rg_q"] = cs_data.groupby("date")["rg_12m_lag4"].transform(
    lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=False, duplicates="drop")+1)
cs_by_q = cs_data.groupby("rg_q")["cs_score"].agg(["mean","std","count"])
cs_by_q["t"] = cs_by_q["mean"] / (cs_by_q["std"] / np.sqrt(cs_by_q["count"]))
cs_by_q["Mean CS (%)"] = (cs_by_q["mean"]*100).round(4)
print(cs_by_q[["Mean CS (%)","t"]].round(3).to_string())
```

```
      Mean CS (%)       t
rg_q
1.0        -1.090 -44.079
2.0        -0.475 -23.265
3.0        -0.111  -4.733
4.0         0.180   8.615
5.0         0.748  29.016
```

```
    "flow_lead", ["rg_12m","net_return","log_tna"]
).to_string(index=False))
```

```
Fama-MacBeth: Return Gap and Future Fund Flows
==============================================================
  Variable     Coeff    NW SE t-stat p-value
     const  0.006440 0.003466  1.858  0.0656
    rg_12m -0.025341 0.013819 -1.834  0.0692
net_return  0.007547 0.006567  1.149  0.2527
   log_tna -0.000863 0.000450 -1.917  0.0576
```

80.4 Extension 4: Return Gap and Stock Selection Skill

Does Return Gap predict future stock-picking ability? We test using characteristic-adjusted selectivity:

$$\mathrm{CS}_{i,t} = \sum_{j=1}^{N} w_{j,t-1} \left(r_{j,t} - r_t^{\mathrm{bench}(j)} \right) \tag{80.3}$$

Table 80.3: Double sort: Fund Size (rows) x Return Gap (columns). Monthly net returns (%).

```
ds = return_gap_data.copy()
ds["log_tna"] = np.log(ds["tna"].clip(lower=1))
ds2 = ds.dropna(subset=["log_tna","rg_12m_lag4"]).copy()
for s, name in [("log_tna","g1"),("rg_12m_lag4","g2")]:
    ds2[name] = ds2.groupby("date")[s].transform(
        lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 3, labels=False, duplicates="drop")+1)
result = (ds2.groupby(["g1","g2"])["net_return"].mean()*100).unstack().round(3)
result.index.name = "Size Tercile"; result.columns.name = "RG Tercile"
print(result.to_string())
```

```
RG Tercile      1.0    2.0    3.0
Size Tercile
1.0           0.254  0.250 -0.773
2.0           1.206  0.551  0.745
3.0           1.708  1.051  1.494
```

80.5 Extension 5: Double Sorts

81 Vietnamese Market Considerations

81.1 Institutional Features Affecting Return Gap

Several institutional features of the Vietnamese market require special attention when interpreting Return Gap:

81.1.1 Foreign Ownership Limits (FOL)

Vietnamese regulations impose foreign ownership limits on listed companies (typically 49% for most sectors, with lower limits in banking and media). When a stock approaches its FOL, it trades at a premium through "pre-funded" transactions. A fund manager who anticipates FOL-driven price movements through interim trading may generate positive Return Gap.

81.1.2 Daily Price Limits

HOSE imposes plus or minus 7% daily price limits, and HNX plus or minus 10%. These limits can prevent full price discovery within a single day, creating opportunities for informed interim trading over multi-day horizons.

81.1.3 T+2 Settlement and Margin Trading

Vietnam's T+2 settlement cycle and the evolving margin trading framework affect the speed and leverage with which fund managers can execute interim trades.

81.1.4 Disclosure Norms

Vietnamese fund disclosure norms differ from the U.S. quarterly mandate. The SSC requires periodic reports, but detailed position-level disclosure may be less frequent, expanding the window for unobserved actions.

81.2 Comparison with Developed Market Evidence

Table 81.1 shows a comparison between developed and emerging markets.

Table 81.1: Comparison of Return Gap context between developed and Vietnamese markets

Dimension	Developed Markets (U.S.)	Vietnamese Market
Disclosure frequency	Quarterly (mandatory)	Semi-annual to quarterly
Reporting lag	~60 days	Variable, potentially longer
Market efficiency	High	Moderate/emerging
Analyst coverage	Dense	Sparse
Price limits	None	Plus or minus 7% (HOSE), plus or minus 10% (HNX)
Foreign ownership	Generally unrestricted	Capped (49% typical)
Securities lending	Mature market	Limited/nascent
Expected RG magnitude	Smaller	Potentially larger
Expected RG persistence	Moderate	Potentially higher

82 Conclusion

This chapter has presented an implementation of the Return Gap measure for the Vietnamese mutual fund industry. The Return Gap, defined as the difference between a fund's actual gross return and the hypothetical return implied by its most recently disclosed holdings, provides a uniquely informative window into the value (or cost) of fund managers' unobserved actions.

Our analysis pipeline demonstrates how to:

1. **Prepare and align** fund holdings vintages with stock-level data, correctly handling Vietnamese market features such as corporate actions and disclosure timing.
2. **Compute hypothetical holdings returns** as value-weighted buy-and-hold portfolio returns using lagged dollar values as weights.
3. **Construct the Return Gap** by differencing gross fund returns from hypothetical holdings returns, and form a predictive signal using the trailing 12-month average with appropriate lags.
4. **Sort funds into decile portfolios** and evaluate risk-adjusted performance using CAPM, Fama-French, and Carhart models with Newey-West standard errors.
5. **Examine persistence, determinants, and extensions** including decomposition, conditional analysis, fund flows, stock selection, and double-sorted portfolios.

The evidence from developed markets, where high Return Gap funds outperform low Return Gap funds by approximately 1-2% annually on a risk-adjusted basis, provides a natural benchmark. Given the lower market efficiency, sparser analyst coverage, and unique microstructure of the Vietnamese market, we may expect even larger Return Gap spreads, reflecting both greater scope for skilled interim trading and larger agency costs.

For practitioners, the Return Gap offers an actionable tool for fund selection. For regulators at Vietnam's SSC, persistent negative Return Gaps could signal systemic agency problems warranting enhanced disclosure. For academic researchers, the Vietnamese setting provides a natural laboratory to test whether the mechanisms underlying Return Gap operate differently in an emerging market.

Future extensions might include daily holdings data, transaction-cost estimates from order-book data, interaction between Return Gap and fund governance quality, or machine learning approaches to improve predictive power.

83 Price Limits and Volatility

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we examine how Vietnam's daily price limit regime distorts observed return distributions, biases volatility estimates, and affects the validity of standard asset pricing tests. We develop corrections that allow researchers to work with censored returns and present volatility estimation methods robust to price limits.

Vietnam is one of a handful of active equity markets that still enforce daily price limits on individual stocks. HOSE imposes a $\pm$ 7% limit, HNX imposes $\pm$ 10%, and UPCoM imposes $\pm$ 15%, each measured relative to the prior day's closing (or reference) price. When a stock's equilibrium price change exceeds the limit, the observed return is censored at the boundary. The stock closes at the limit price, but the unobserved "true" return—the price change that would have occurred without the constraint—remains unknown.

This censoring has pervasive consequences for empirical finance. Return distributions are truncated, biasing mean and variance estimates. Volatility models that ignore censoring understate true risk. Factor betas are attenuated. Event study abnormal returns are compressed. Bid-ask spread estimators that rely on return serial correlation are distorted. Any researcher working with Vietnamese equity data must understand these effects and either correct for them or demonstrate that they do not materially affect conclusions.

Price limits exist for a stated policy purpose: to prevent panic selling and speculative excess, thereby "cooling" the market during periods of stress (Brennan 1986). Whether they achieve this objective—or merely delay price discovery and create magnet effects—is an empirical question with a large international literature and no consensus. We examine the Vietnamese evidence.

83.1 The Vietnamese Price Limit Regime

83.1.1 Institutional Details

```python
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy import stats, optimize
from arch import arch_model
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

The price limit structure has evolved over time. HOSE began trading in July 2000 with a $\pm$ 2% limit, which was widened to $\pm$ 5% in 2002 and to $\pm$ 7% in 2013. HNX has operated at $\pm$ 10% since its current form, and UPCoM at $\pm$ 15% Table 83.1. The limits apply to the adjusted closing price relative to the reference price (typically the prior day's close, adjusted for corporate actions).

Table 83.1: Vietnamese daily price limit regime by exchange.

Exchange	Current Limit	Effective Date	Prior Limits
HOSE	$\pm$ 7%	June 2013	$\pm$ 2% (2000), $\pm$ 5% (2002)
HNX	$\pm$ 10%	—	Various, stabilized at $\pm$ 10%
UPCoM	$\pm$ 15%	—	Wider limits reflecting OTC nature

Importantly, the limits are *asymmetric in practice*: they apply equally to up and down moves, but the economic consequences differ. A stock hitting the upper limit prevents buyers from bidding higher (excess demand persists), while hitting the lower limit prevents sellers from offering lower (excess supply persists). Both create unfilled orders that spill over to subsequent trading days.

```python
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Daily data with high, low, open, close, volume, and limit indicators
daily = client.get_daily_prices(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCoM'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    include_delisted=True,
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'date', 'exchange',
        'open', 'high', 'low', 'close', 'adjusted_close',
        'reference_price', 'ceiling_price', 'floor_price',
        'volume', 'turnover_value',
        'limit_up_hit', 'limit_down_hit'
    ]
)

daily['date'] = pd.to_datetime(daily['date'])
daily = daily.sort_values(['ticker', 'date'])

# Compute daily returns
daily['daily_return'] = daily.groupby('ticker')['adjusted_close'].pct_change()

# Flag limit hits from price data if not provided
if 'limit_up_hit' not in daily.columns or daily['limit_up_hit'].isna().all():
    daily['limit_up_hit'] = (daily['close'] >= daily['ceiling_price'])
    daily['limit_down_hit'] = (daily['close'] <= daily['floor_price'])

# Exchange-specific limits
exchange_limits = {'HOSE': 0.07, 'HNX': 0.10, 'UPCoM': 0.15}
daily['limit_pct'] = daily['exchange'].map(exchange_limits)

print(f"Daily observations: {len(daily):,}")
print(f"Date range: {daily['date'].min()} to {daily['date'].max()}")
print(f"Unique tickers: {daily['ticker'].nunique()}")
```

83.2 Prevalence of Limit Hits

83.2.1 Aggregate Frequency

How often do Vietnamese stocks hit their price limits? The answer varies dramatically by exchange, market capitalization, and market conditions.

```
# Overall frequencies
limit_stats = daily.groupby('exchange').agg(
    n_obs=('daily_return', 'count'),
    n_up=('limit_up_hit', 'sum'),
    n_down=('limit_down_hit', 'sum'),
).assign(
    pct_up=lambda x: x['n_up'] / x['n_obs'] * 100,
    pct_down=lambda x: x['n_down'] / x['n_obs'] * 100,
    pct_either=lambda x: (x['n_up'] + x['n_down']) / x['n_obs'] * 100
)

print("Limit Hit Frequencies by Exchange:")
print(limit_stats[['pct_up', 'pct_down', 'pct_either']].round(2).to_string())

# Monthly aggregate: fraction of stock-days hitting limits
daily['year_month'] = daily['date'].dt.to_period('M')
monthly_limit = (
    daily.groupby(['year_month', 'exchange'])
    .agg(
        n_obs=('daily_return', 'count'),
        n_up=('limit_up_hit', 'sum'),
        n_down=('limit_down_hit', 'sum')
    )
    .assign(
        pct_up=lambda x: x['n_up'] / x['n_obs'] * 100,
        pct_down=lambda x: x['n_down'] / x['n_obs'] * 100,
        pct_any=lambda x: (x['n_up'] + x['n_down']) / x['n_obs'] * 100
    )
    .reset_index()
)
monthly_limit['date'] = monthly_limit['year_month'].dt.to_timestamp()
```

83.2.2 By Market Capitalization

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 8), sharex=True,
                          gridspec_kw={'height_ratios': [3, 1]})

hose_monthly = monthly_limit[monthly_limit['exchange'] == 'HOSE']

axes[0].fill_between(hose_monthly['date'], 0, hose_monthly['pct_up'],
                      color='#27AE60', alpha=0.6, label='Upper limit hits')
axes[0].fill_between(hose_monthly['date'], 0, -hose_monthly['pct_down'],
                      color='#C0392B', alpha=0.6, label='Lower limit hits')
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_ylabel('% of Stock-Days')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: HOSE Daily Price Limit Hits')
axes[0].legend(loc='upper left')

# VN-Index for context
vnindex = client.get_index_returns(
    index='VNINDEX', start_date='2008-01-01', end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly'
)
vnindex['date'] = pd.to_datetime(vnindex['date'])
axes[1].bar(vnindex['date'], vnindex['return'] * 100,
            color=np.where(vnindex['return'] > 0, '#27AE60', '#C0392B'),
            width=25, alpha=0.7)
axes[1].set_ylabel('VN-Index (%)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: VN-Index Monthly Returns')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 83.1

```python
# Merge with lagged market cap
monthly_mcap = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=['ticker', 'month_end', 'market_cap']
)
monthly_mcap['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(monthly_mcap['month_end'])

# Assign size quintiles each month
monthly_mcap['size_quintile'] = (
    monthly_mcap.groupby('month_end')['market_cap']
    .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x.rank(method='first'), 5,
                                  labels=['Q1\n(Small)', 'Q2', 'Q3', 'Q4',
                                          'Q5\n(Big)']))
)

# Map to daily
daily_hose = daily[daily['exchange'] == 'HOSE'].copy()
daily_hose['month_end'] = daily_hose['date'].dt.to_period('M').dt.to_timestamp('M')
daily_hose = daily_hose.merge(
    monthly_mcap[['ticker', 'month_end', 'size_quintile']],
    on=['ticker', 'month_end'], how='left'
)

size_limit = (
    daily_hose.dropna(subset=['size_quintile'])
    .groupby('size_quintile')
    .agg(
        pct_up=('limit_up_hit', 'mean'),
        pct_down=('limit_down_hit', 'mean'),
        n=('daily_return', 'count')
    )
)
size_limit[['pct_up', 'pct_down']] *= 100

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 5))

x = np.arange(len(size_limit))
width = 0.35
ax.bar(x - width / 2, size_limit['pct_up'], width,
       color='#27AE60', alpha=0.85, label='Upper limit', edgecolor='white')
ax.bar(x + width / 2, size_limit['pct_down'], width,
       color='#C0392B', alpha=0.85, label='Lower limit', edgecolor='white')

ax.set_xticks(x)
ax.set_xticklabels(size_limit.index)
ax.set_ylabel('% of Stock-Days')
ax.set_title('Price Limit Hit Frequency by Size Quintile (HOSE)')
ax.legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

83.2.3 Consecutive Limit Days

A single limit hit might simply reflect a large information event that is absorbed within one day. Consecutive limit hits in the same direction are more problematic because they indicate that the limit is actively preventing price discovery over multiple days.

```
def count_consecutive_limits(group):
    """Count consecutive limit-up and limit-down sequences."""
    up_runs = []
    down_runs = []

    up_count = 0
    down_count = 0

    for _, row in group.iterrows():
        if row['limit_up_hit']:
            up_count += 1
            if down_count > 0:
                down_runs.append(down_count)
                down_count = 0
        elif row['limit_down_hit']:
            down_count += 1
            if up_count > 0:
                up_runs.append(up_count)
                up_count = 0
        else:
            if up_count > 0:
                up_runs.append(up_count)
            if down_count > 0:
                down_runs.append(down_count)
            up_count = 0
            down_count = 0

    if up_count > 0:
        up_runs.append(up_count)
    if down_count > 0:
        down_runs.append(down_count)

    return up_runs, down_runs

# Sample: compute for HOSE stocks
hose_tickers = daily_hose['ticker'].unique()
all_up_runs = []
```

```
all_down_runs = []

for ticker in hose_tickers:
    group = daily_hose[daily_hose['ticker'] == ticker].sort_values('date')
    up_runs, down_runs = count_consecutive_limits(group)
    all_up_runs.extend(up_runs)
    all_down_runs.extend(down_runs)

print("Consecutive Limit Hit Distribution (HOSE):")
for direction, runs in [('Upper', all_up_runs), ('Lower', all_down_runs)]:
    if not runs:
        continue
    runs_series = pd.Series(runs)
    print(f"\n  {direction} limit sequences:")
    print(f"    Total sequences: {len(runs_series):,}")
    print(f"    1 day:  {(runs_series == 1).sum():,} ({(runs_series == 1).mean():.1%})")
    print(f"    2 days: {(runs_series == 2).sum():,} ({(runs_series == 2).mean():.1%})")
    print(f"    3 days: {(runs_series == 3).sum():,} ({(runs_series == 3).mean():.1%})")
    print(f"    4+ days: {(runs_series >= 4).sum():,} ({(runs_series >= 4).mean():.1%})")
    print(f"    Max consecutive: {runs_series.max()}")
```

83.3 Return Distribution Distortion

83.3.1 Censoring Mechanics

Price limits create *Type I censoring* (also called "truncation at a known point"): the latent (unobserved) return r^* is generated from some continuous distribution, but the observed return is:

$$r^{\text{obs}} = \begin{cases} \bar{L} & \text{if } r^* \geq \bar{L} \quad \text{(upper limit hit)} \\ r^* & \text{if } \underline{L} < r^* < \bar{L} \quad \text{(interior)} \\ \underline{L} & \text{if } r^* \leq \underline{L} \quad \text{(lower limit hit)} \end{cases} \tag{83.1}$$

where $\bar{L}$ and $\underline{L}$ are the upper and lower limits. For HOSE, $\bar{L} = +0.07$ and $\underline{L} = -0.07$.

The censoring has predictable effects on the observed distribution:

1. **Mean bias.** If the uncensored distribution is symmetric, censoring from both sides preserves the mean approximately. But if the distribution is skewed (as stock returns are, with negative skewness), the bias can go either way.

2. **Variance underestimation.** Censoring always reduces the observed variance relative to the true variance, because extreme returns are compressed to the limit values.
3. **Kurtosis distortion.** Probability mass piles up at the limit values, creating spikes in the distribution.

83.3.2 Comparing HOSE vs. HNX vs. UPCoM

The three Vietnamese exchanges have different limit widths, creating a natural experiment: if limits distort the distribution, wider limits should produce distributions closer to the uncensored benchmark.

83.4 Variance Bias from Censoring

83.4.1 Analytical Bias

If the true return follows $r^* \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$, the variance of the censored return can be derived analytically. Let $a = (\underline{L} - \mu)/\sigma$ and $b = (\bar{L} - \mu)/\sigma$:

$$\mathrm{Var}(r^{\mathrm{obs}}) = \sigma^2 \left[1 - \frac{b\phi(b) - a\phi(a)}{\Phi(b) - \Phi(a)} - \left(\frac{\phi(a) - \phi(b)}{\Phi(b) - \Phi(a)} \right)^2 \right] + \text{boundary terms} \tag{83.2}$$

where ϕ and Φ are the standard normal PDF and CDF. The key result is that $\mathrm{Var}(r^{\mathrm{obs}}) < \sigma^2$ always—censoring systematically underestimates variance.

```
def simulate_censored_variance(true_sigma, limit, n_sim=100000, mu=0):
    """Simulate observed vs true variance under censoring."""
    rng = np.random.default_rng(42)
    r_star = rng.normal(mu, true_sigma, n_sim)
    r_obs = np.clip(r_star, -limit, limit)

    var_true = np.var(r_star)
    var_obs = np.var(r_obs)

    pct_censored = ((r_star >= limit) | (r_star <= -limit)).mean()

    return {
        'true_sigma': true_sigma,
        'true_var': var_true,
        'obs_var': var_obs,
```

```
hose_returns = daily_hose['daily_return'].dropna()
hose_returns = hose_returns[hose_returns.abs() < 0.15]  # Remove data errors

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Full distribution
axes[0].hist(hose_returns, bins=200, density=True,
             color='#2C5F8A', alpha=0.7, edgecolor='none')
axes[0].axvline(x=0.07, color='#C0392B', linewidth=2, linestyle='--',
                label='$\pm$ 7% limit')
axes[0].axvline(x=-0.07, color='#C0392B', linewidth=2, linestyle='--')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Daily Return')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Density')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: HOSE Daily Return Distribution')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: Zoom on tails
bins_tail = np.linspace(-0.09, -0.05, 40)
bins_tail_up = np.linspace(0.05, 0.09, 40)

axes[1].hist(hose_returns[hose_returns < -0.04], bins=80, density=True,
             color='#C0392B', alpha=0.6, label='Left tail')
axes[1].hist(hose_returns[hose_returns > 0.04], bins=80, density=True,
             color='#27AE60', alpha=0.6, label='Right tail')
axes[1].axvline(x=0.07, color='black', linewidth=2)
axes[1].axvline(x=-0.07, color='black', linewidth=2)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Daily Return')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Density')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Tail Behavior at Limits')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

# Quantify the spike
n_at_upper = ((hose_returns >= 0.069) & (hose_returns <= 0.071)).sum()
n_at_lower = ((hose_returns >= -0.071) & (hose_returns <= -0.069)).sum()
n_total = len(hose_returns)
print(f"Observations at upper limit ($\pm$ 0.1% of 7%): {n_at_upper:,} "
      f"({n_at_upper/n_total:.2%})")
print(f"Observations at lower limit: {n_at_lower:,} "
      f"({n_at_lower/n_total:.2%})")
```

Figure 83.3

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(16, 4.5))

for i, (exchange, limit, color) in enumerate([
    ('HOSE', 0.07, '#2C5F8A'),
    ('HNX', 0.10, '#C0392B'),
    ('UPCoM', 0.15, '#27AE60')
]):
    rets = daily[daily['exchange'] == exchange]['daily_return'].dropna()
    rets = rets[rets.abs() < limit + 0.05]

    axes[i].hist(rets, bins=150, density=True,
                 color=color, alpha=0.7, edgecolor='none')
    axes[i].axvline(x=limit, color='black', linewidth=1.5, linestyle='--')
    axes[i].axvline(x=-limit, color='black', linewidth=1.5, linestyle='--')
    axes[i].set_title(f'{exchange} ($\pm$ {limit*100:.0f}%)')
    axes[i].set_xlabel('Daily Return')
    if i == 0:
        axes[i].set_ylabel('Density')

    # Stats
    pct_at_limit = ((rets.abs() >= limit - 0.001).sum() / len(rets) * 100)
    axes[i].text(0.95, 0.95, f'At limit: {pct_at_limit:.2f}%',
                 transform=axes[i].transAxes, ha='right', va='top',
                 fontsize=9, bbox=dict(boxstyle='round', facecolor='white',
                                       alpha=0.8))

plt.suptitle('Return Distributions by Exchange', fontsize=13)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 83.4

```
        'var_ratio': var_obs / var_true,
        'bias_pct': (1 - var_obs / var_true) * 100,
        'pct_censored': pct_censored * 100
    }

# Sweep across volatility levels for each exchange limit
results_bias = []
sigmas = np.linspace(0.005, 0.08, 50)

for limit_name, limit in [('HOSE $\pm$ 7%', 0.07), ('HNX $\pm$ 10%', 0.10),
                           ('UPCoM $\pm$ 15%', 0.15)]:
    for sigma in sigmas:
        res = simulate_censored_variance(sigma, limit)
        res['exchange'] = limit_name
        results_bias.append(res)

bias_df = pd.DataFrame(results_bias)
```

83.4.2 Empirical Variance Bias by Size

```
# Cross-listed stocks or transfer events provide a natural experiment:
# Same stock, different limit regime
# Alternative: compare variance of HOSE returns to variance of the same
# stock's returns implied from intraday data (not censored by closing limit)

# Approach: Tobit-based variance estimation
# Model observed returns as censored normal
def tobit_variance(returns, limit):
    """
    Estimate true variance via Tobit MLE under censored normal.
    """
    r = returns.dropna().values
    upper = limit
    lower = -limit

    # Classify observations
    at_upper = r >= (upper - 1e-6)
    at_lower = r <= (lower + 1e-6)
    interior = ~at_upper & ~at_lower
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

colors_exch = {'HOSE $\pm$ 7%': '#2C5F8A', 'HNX $\pm$ 10%': '#C0392B',
                'UPCoM $\pm$ 15%': '#27AE60'}

for exch in colors_exch:
    subset = bias_df[bias_df['exchange'] == exch]
    axes[0].plot(subset['true_sigma'] * 100, subset['var_ratio'],
                  color=colors_exch[exch], linewidth=2, label=exch)

axes[0].axhline(y=1, color='gray', linewidth=0.5, linestyle='--')
axes[0].set_xlabel('True Daily Volatility (%)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Observed / True Variance')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Variance Ratio')
axes[0].legend()
axes[0].set_ylim([0.5, 1.05])

for exch in colors_exch:
    subset = bias_df[bias_df['exchange'] == exch]
    axes[1].plot(subset['true_sigma'] * 100, subset['pct_censored'],
                  color=colors_exch[exch], linewidth=2, label=exch)

axes[1].set_xlabel('True Daily Volatility (%)')
axes[1].set_ylabel('% of Returns Censored')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Censoring Rate')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 83.5

```
    if interior.sum() < 20:
        return np.nan, np.nan

    def neg_loglik(params):
        mu, log_sigma = params
        sigma = np.exp(log_sigma)

        ll = 0
        # Interior observations
        if interior.sum() > 0:
            ll += np.sum(stats.norm.logpdf(r[interior], mu, sigma))
        # Upper censored
        if at_upper.sum() > 0:
            ll += np.sum(np.log(1 - stats.norm.cdf(upper, mu, sigma) + 1e-15))
        # Lower censored
        if at_lower.sum() > 0:
            ll += np.sum(np.log(stats.norm.cdf(lower, mu, sigma) + 1e-15))

        return -ll

    # Initial values
    mu0 = r[interior].mean() if interior.sum() > 0 else 0
    sigma0 = r[interior].std() if interior.sum() > 0 else r.std()

    try:
        result = optimize.minimize(
            neg_loglik, [mu0, np.log(max(sigma0, 1e-6))],
            method='Nelder-Mead', options={'maxiter': 5000}
        )
        mu_hat = result.x[0]
        sigma_hat = np.exp(result.x[1])
        return mu_hat, sigma_hat
    except Exception:
        return np.nan, np.nan

# Estimate for each HOSE stock
hose_stocks = daily_hose.groupby('ticker').filter(
    lambda x: len(x) >= 250
)['ticker'].unique()

tobit_results = []
for ticker in hose_stocks[:500]:  # Sample for speed
```

```
    rets = daily_hose[daily_hose['ticker'] == ticker]['daily_return'].dropna()
    if len(rets) < 250:
        continue

    naive_sigma = rets.std()
    mu_hat, sigma_hat = tobit_variance(rets, 0.07)

    if np.isfinite(sigma_hat) and sigma_hat > 0:
        tobit_results.append({
            'ticker': ticker,
            'naive_sigma': naive_sigma,
            'tobit_sigma': sigma_hat,
            'bias_pct': (sigma_hat - naive_sigma) / naive_sigma * 100
        })

tobit_df = pd.DataFrame(tobit_results)

print("Tobit vs Naive Volatility Estimation (HOSE):")
print(f"  Mean naive  :  {tobit_df['naive_sigma'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Mean Tobit  :  {tobit_df['tobit_sigma'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Mean bias:     {tobit_df['bias_pct'].mean():.1f}%")
print(f"  Median bias:   {tobit_df['bias_pct'].median():.1f}%")
print(f"  Max bias:      {tobit_df['bias_pct'].max():.1f}%")
```

83.5 Volatility Estimation Under Price Limits

83.5.1 Range-Based Estimators

Range-based volatility estimators use the daily high and low prices rather than close-to-close returns, making them partially robust to closing-price censoring (since intraday prices may approach but not be censored at the same points). However, they are biased when the *intraday* price trajectory itself is constrained by the limits.

```
def parkinson_vol(high, low, n_periods=20):
    """
    Parkinson (1980) range-based volatility estimator.
     ² = (1/4ln2) * E[(ln(H/L))²]
    """
    log_hl = np.log(high / low)
    var = (1 / (4 * np.log(2))) * (log_hl ** 2)
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

axes[0].scatter(tobit_df['naive_sigma'] * 100,
                 tobit_df['tobit_sigma'] * 100,
                 s=15, alpha=0.5, color='#2C5F8A', edgecolors='none')
lim = max(tobit_df['tobit_sigma'].max(), tobit_df['naive_sigma'].max()) * 100 + 0.5
axes[0].plot([0, lim], [0, lim], 'k--', linewidth=1)
axes[0].set_xlabel('Naive   (% daily)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Tobit   (% daily)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Tobit vs Naive Volatility')

axes[1].hist(tobit_df['bias_pct'], bins=50, color='#C0392B',
             alpha=0.7, edgecolor='white', density=True)
axes[1].axvline(x=0, color='black', linewidth=1)
axes[1].axvline(x=tobit_df['bias_pct'].median(), color='#2C5F8A',
                linewidth=2, linestyle='--',
                label=f"Median: {tobit_df['bias_pct'].median():.1f}%")
axes[1].set_xlabel('Bias (%): (Tobit - Naive) / Naive')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Density')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Distribution of Correction')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 83.6

```
    return np.sqrt(var.rolling(n_periods).mean())

def garman_klass_vol(open_p, high, low, close, n_periods=20):
    """
    Garman-Klass (1980) OHLC volatility estimator.
    More efficient than Parkinson by using open and close.
    """
    log_hl = np.log(high / low)
    log_co = np.log(close / open_p)
    var = 0.5 * log_hl ** 2 - (2 * np.log(2) - 1) * log_co ** 2
    return np.sqrt(var.rolling(n_periods).mean())

def yang_zhang_vol(open_p, high, low, close, n_periods=20):
    """
    Yang-Zhang (2000) drift-independent estimator.
    Combines overnight, Rogers-Satchell, and open-to-close components.
    """
    log_oc = np.log(open_p / close.shift(1))  # Overnight
    log_co = np.log(close / open_p)
    log_ho = np.log(high / open_p)
    log_lo = np.log(low / open_p)

    # Rogers-Satchell component
    rs = log_ho * (log_ho - log_co) + log_lo * (log_lo - log_co)

    k = 0.34 / (1.34 + (n_periods + 1) / (n_periods - 1))

    var_overnight = log_oc.rolling(n_periods).var()
    var_open_close = log_co.rolling(n_periods).var()
    var_rs = rs.rolling(n_periods).mean()

    var = var_overnight + k * var_open_close + (1 - k) * var_rs
    return np.sqrt(var.clip(lower=0))

# Compute for HOSE sample
sample_ticker = 'VNM'  # Large, liquid stock
sample = daily_hose[daily_hose['ticker'] == sample_ticker].copy()
sample = sample.sort_values('date').set_index('date')

# Close-to-close realized vol
sample['cc_vol'] = sample['daily_return'].rolling(20).std() * np.sqrt(252)
```

```
# Range-based
sample['parkinson'] = parkinson_vol(
    sample['high'], sample['low'], 20
) * np.sqrt(252)

sample['garman_klass'] = garman_klass_vol(
    sample['open'], sample['high'], sample['low'], sample['close'], 20
) * np.sqrt(252)

sample['yang_zhang'] = yang_zhang_vol(
    sample['open'], sample['high'], sample['low'], sample['close'], 20
) * np.sqrt(252)
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 5))

ax.plot(sample.index, sample['cc_vol'], color='#BDC3C7',
        linewidth=1, label='Close-to-Close', alpha=0.8)
ax.plot(sample.index, sample['parkinson'], color='#2C5F8A',
        linewidth=1.5, label='Parkinson')
ax.plot(sample.index, sample['yang_zhang'], color='#C0392B',
        linewidth=1.5, label='Yang-Zhang')

ax.set_ylabel('Annualized Volatility')
ax.set_title(f'Volatility Estimators: {sample_ticker}')
ax.legend(ncol=3)
ax.set_ylim([0, ax.get_ylim()[1]])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 83.7

83.5.2 GARCH Models with Censored Returns

Standard GARCH models assume returns are fully observed. When returns are censored, the log-likelihood must account for the probability mass at the limit values. We implement a censored GARCH(1,1):

$$r_t = \mu + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t = \sigma_t z_t, \quad z_t \sim N(0, 1) \tag{83.3}$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \omega + \alpha\varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta\sigma_{t-1}^2 \tag{83.4}$$

The censored log-likelihood replaces the standard normal density for limit-hit observations:

$$\ell_t = \begin{cases} \log\phi\left(\frac{r_t-\mu}{\sigma_t}\right) - \log\sigma_t & \text{if interior} \\ \log\Phi\left(\frac{\underline{L}-\mu}{\sigma_t}\right) & \text{if lower limit} \\ \log\left[1-\Phi\left(\frac{\bar{L}-\mu}{\sigma_t}\right)\right] & \text{if upper limit} \end{cases} \tag{83.5}$$

```python
def censored_garch11(returns, limit, max_iter=500):
    """
    GARCH(1,1) with censored normal likelihood.

    Parameters
    ----------
    returns : array-like
        Observed daily returns (censored at $\pm$ limit).
    limit : float
        Price limit (e.g., 0.07 for HOSE).

    Returns
    -------
    Dictionary with estimated parameters and conditional variances.
    """
    r = np.array(returns, dtype=float)
    T = len(r)
    upper = limit
    lower = -limit

    at_upper = r >= (upper - 1e-6)
    at_lower = r <= (lower + 1e-6)
    interior = ~at_upper & ~at_lower

    def neg_loglik(params):
        mu, omega, alpha, beta = params

        if omega <= 0 or alpha < 0 or beta < 0 or (alpha + beta) >= 1:
            return 1e10

        sigma2 = np.zeros(T)
        sigma2[0] = omega / (1 - alpha - beta) if (alpha + beta) < 1 else r.var()
```

```
        ll = 0
        for t in range(T):
            if t > 0:
                eps = r[t - 1] - mu
                sigma2[t] = omega + alpha * eps ** 2 + beta * sigma2[t - 1]

            sigma2[t] = max(sigma2[t], 1e-10)
            sigma = np.sqrt(sigma2[t])

            if interior[t]:
                ll += stats.norm.logpdf(r[t], mu, sigma)
            elif at_upper[t]:
                prob = 1 - stats.norm.cdf(upper, mu, sigma)
                ll += np.log(max(prob, 1e-15))
            elif at_lower[t]:
                prob = stats.norm.cdf(lower, mu, sigma)
                ll += np.log(max(prob, 1e-15))

        return -ll

    # Initial values from standard GARCH
    mu0 = r[interior].mean() if interior.any() else 0
    var0 = r[interior].var() if interior.any() else r.var()

    try:
        result = optimize.minimize(
            neg_loglik,
            [mu0, var0 * 0.05, 0.10, 0.85],
            method='Nelder-Mead',
            options={'maxiter': max_iter, 'xatol': 1e-8}
        )
        mu, omega, alpha, beta = result.x

        # Reconstruct conditional variance
        sigma2 = np.zeros(T)
        sigma2[0] = omega / max(1 - alpha - beta, 0.01)
        for t in range(1, T):
            eps = r[t - 1] - mu
            sigma2[t] = omega + alpha * eps ** 2 + beta * sigma2[t - 1]

        return {
            'mu': mu, 'omega': omega, 'alpha': alpha, 'beta': beta,
```

```
            'persistence': alpha + beta,
            'uncond_var': omega / max(1 - alpha - beta, 0.01),
            'sigma2': sigma2,
            'loglik': -result.fun,
            'converged': result.success,
            'n_censored': at_upper.sum() + at_lower.sum(),
            'pct_censored': (at_upper.sum() + at_lower.sum()) / T * 100
        }
    except Exception as e:
        return None

# Compare standard vs censored GARCH for a volatile stock
volatile_stock = daily_hose.groupby('ticker')['limit_up_hit'].mean()
volatile_stock = volatile_stock.sort_values(ascending=False).head(20)
test_ticker = volatile_stock.index[0]

test_returns = (
    daily_hose[daily_hose['ticker'] == test_ticker]
    .sort_values('date')['daily_return']
    .dropna()
    .values
)

# Standard GARCH (arch library)
std_garch = arch_model(test_returns * 100, vol='GARCH', p=1, q=1,
                        mean='Constant', dist='normal')
std_result = std_garch.fit(disp='off')

# Censored GARCH
cens_result = censored_garch11(test_returns, limit=0.07)

print(f"Stock: {test_ticker}")
print(f"Observations: {len(test_returns)}, "
      f"Censored: {cens_result['pct_censored']:.1f}%\n")

print(f"{'Parameter':<12} {'Standard':>12} {'Censored':>12}")
print("-" * 36)
print(f"{' ':<12} {std_result.params['mu']/100:>12.6f} "
      f"{cens_result['mu']:>12.6f}")
print(f"{' ':<12} {std_result.params['omega']/10000:>12.8f} "
      f"{cens_result['omega']:>12.8f}")
print(f"{' ':<12} {std_result.params['alpha[1]']:>12.4f} "
```

```
      f"{cens_result['alpha']:>12.4f}")
print(f"{' ':<12} {std_result.params['beta[1]']:>12.4f} "
      f"{cens_result['beta']:>12.4f}")
print(f"{' + ':<12} "
      f"{std_result.params['alpha[1]']+std_result.params['beta[1]']:>12.4f} "
      f"{cens_result['persistence']:>12.4f}")
print(f"{'Uncond  ':<12} "
      f"{np.sqrt(std_result.params['omega']/(1-std_result.params['alpha[1]']-std_result.para
      f"{np.sqrt(cens_result['uncond_var']):>12.4f}")
```

83.6 Effects on Asset Pricing Tests

83.6.1 Beta Attenuation

Price limits attenuate the covariance between stock returns and factor returns, biasing beta estimates toward zero. The intuition is simple: on days when the market moves 3% but a stock's true return would have been 6%, the observed return is capped at 7%, understating the stock's sensitivity.

```
# Compare betas estimated with all days vs excluding limit-hit days
# Also compare betas from HOSE stocks vs same stocks if they were on HNX

daily_hose_merged = daily_hose.merge(
    client.get_index_returns('VNINDEX', frequency='daily',
                             start_date='2008-01-01',
                             end_date='2024-12-31')[['date', 'return']],
    on='date', how='left'
).rename(columns={'return': 'mkt_return'})

# For each stock, estimate beta:
# (a) Using all days
# (b) Excluding limit-hit days
# (c) Tobit-corrected (censored regression)
beta_comparison = []

for ticker in hose_stocks[:300]:
    stock = daily_hose_merged[daily_hose_merged['ticker'] == ticker].dropna(
        subset=['daily_return', 'mkt_return']
    )
    if len(stock) < 250:
```

```
test_data = daily_hose[daily_hose['ticker'] == test_ticker].sort_values('date')
dates = test_data['date'].values[-len(test_returns):]

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 8), sharex=True,
                         gridspec_kw={'height_ratios': [1, 2]})

# Panel A: Returns with limit hits highlighted
axes[0].plot(dates, test_returns, color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=0.5, alpha=0.7)
limit_up_mask = test_returns >= 0.069
limit_down_mask = test_returns <= -0.069
axes[0].scatter(dates[limit_up_mask], test_returns[limit_up_mask],
                color='#27AE60', s=10, zorder=3, label='Upper limit')
axes[0].scatter(dates[limit_down_mask], test_returns[limit_down_mask],
                color='#C0392B', s=10, zorder=3, label='Lower limit')
axes[0].axhline(y=0.07, color='gray', linewidth=0.5, linestyle='--')
axes[0].axhline(y=-0.07, color='gray', linewidth=0.5, linestyle='--')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Return')
axes[0].set_title(f'Panel A: Daily Returns ({test_ticker})')
axes[0].legend(fontsize=8)

# Panel B: Conditional volatility
std_sigma = std_result.conditional_volatility / 100  # Convert from % to decimal
cens_sigma = np.sqrt(cens_result['sigma2'])

axes[1].plot(dates, std_sigma * np.sqrt(252), color='#BDC3C7',
             linewidth=1, label='Standard GARCH')
axes[1].plot(dates, cens_sigma * np.sqrt(252), color='#C0392B',
             linewidth=1.5, label='Censored GARCH')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Annualized Conditional  ')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Conditional Volatility')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 83.8

```
        continue

    # (a) All days
    X_all = sm.add_constant(stock['mkt_return'])
    model_all = sm.OLS(stock['daily_return'], X_all).fit()
    beta_all = model_all.params['mkt_return']

    # (b) Exclude limit-hit days
    interior = stock[~stock['limit_up_hit'] & ~stock['limit_down_hit']]
    if len(interior) < 200:
        continue
    X_int = sm.add_constant(interior['mkt_return'])
    model_int = sm.OLS(interior['daily_return'], X_int).fit()
    beta_interior = model_int.params['mkt_return']

    # Limit hit frequency for this stock
    pct_limit = (stock['limit_up_hit'].sum() + stock['limit_down_hit'].sum()) / len(stock) *

    beta_comparison.append({
        'ticker': ticker,
        'beta_all': beta_all,
        'beta_interior': beta_interior,
        'beta_diff_pct': (beta_interior - beta_all) / abs(beta_all) * 100,
        'pct_limit_hits': pct_limit
    })

beta_df = pd.DataFrame(beta_comparison)

print("Beta Attenuation from Price Limits:")
print(f"  Mean   (all days):      {beta_df['beta_all'].mean():.3f}")
print(f"  Mean   (interior only): {beta_df['beta_interior'].mean():.3f}")
print(f"  Mean difference:        {beta_df['beta_diff_pct'].mean():.1f}%")
print(f"  Correlation(diff, limit_freq): "
      f"{beta_df['beta_diff_pct'].corr(beta_df['pct_limit_hits']):.3f}")
```

83.6.2 Effect on Factor Premia

If betas are attenuated by censoring, then cross-sectional Fama-MacBeth risk premia estimates are biased upward (because the denominator of the slope coefficient is too small). We quantify this effect:

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

axes[0].scatter(beta_df['beta_all'], beta_df['beta_interior'],
                 s=15, alpha=0.5, color='#2C5F8A', edgecolors='none')
lim = max(beta_df['beta_all'].abs().max(),
           beta_df['beta_interior'].abs().max()) + 0.2
axes[0].plot([-0.5, lim], [-0.5, lim], 'k--', linewidth=1)
axes[0].set_xlabel('  (all days)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('  (interior only)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Beta with vs without Limit Days')

axes[1].scatter(beta_df['pct_limit_hits'], beta_df['beta_diff_pct'],
                 s=15, alpha=0.5, color='#C0392B', edgecolors='none')
# Add regression line
z = np.polyfit(beta_df['pct_limit_hits'], beta_df['beta_diff_pct'], 1)
x_line = np.linspace(0, beta_df['pct_limit_hits'].max(), 100)
axes[1].plot(x_line, np.polyval(z, x_line), 'k-', linewidth=1.5)
axes[1].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Limit Hit Frequency (%)')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Beta Increase When Excluding Limit Days (%)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Attenuation vs Limit Frequency')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 83.9

```
# Monthly returns: compute with all days vs excluding limit-hit days
# Then construct factors under each definition

monthly_all = (
    daily_hose.groupby(['ticker', daily_hose['date'].dt.to_period('M')])
    .agg(
        ret_all=('daily_return', lambda x: (1 + x).prod() - 1),
        ret_interior=('daily_return',
                      lambda x: (1 + x[~x.name.map(
                          lambda idx: daily_hose.loc[idx, 'limit_up_hit'] |
                                      daily_hose.loc[idx, 'limit_down_hit']
                      ).values]).prod() - 1 if len(x) > 0 else np.nan),
        n_limit_days=('limit_up_hit',
                      lambda x: x.sum() + daily_hose.loc[x.index, 'limit_down_hit'].sum()),
        n_trading_days=('daily_return', 'count')
    )
    .reset_index()
)

print("Impact on Monthly Returns:")
print(f"  Mean monthly return (all days):     "
      f"{monthly_all['ret_all'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Mean monthly return (interior):     "
      f"{monthly_all['ret_interior'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Avg limit days per stock-month:     "
      f"{monthly_all['n_limit_days'].mean():.2f}")
```

83.7 The Magnet Effect

83.7.1 Do Limits Attract Prices?

The *magnet effect* hypothesis posits that price limits, rather than cooling the market, actually attract prices to the limit as traders rush to execute before the stock becomes locked (**cho2003price?**). If a stock is approaching the upper limit, buyers accelerate their orders to avoid being shut out, creating a self-fulfilling rush to the boundary.

We test for the magnet effect by examining the speed of price movement toward the limit conditional on approaching it:

```python
# Approach: for days that eventually hit the limit,
# compare the return in the last hour vs the first hour
# relative to non-limit days with similar initial trajectories

# Without intraday data, we use a cross-day approach:
# On day t, if the stock is within X% of the limit at some point,
# what is the probability of hitting the limit on day t vs day t+1?

# Simpler test: return continuation after near-limit days
def magnet_test(daily_df, limit, proximity_threshold=0.8):
    """
    Test for the magnet effect.

    For each stock-day, classify:
    - 'near_limit_up': return in [proximity_threshold * limit, limit)
    - 'near_limit_down': return in (-limit, -proximity_threshold * limit]
    - 'hit_limit_up': return = limit
    - 'hit_limit_down': return = -limit
    - 'normal': all others

    Then examine next-day behavior.
    """
    df = daily_df.copy()
    df['abs_ret'] = df['daily_return'].abs()

    df['near_up'] = (df['daily_return'] >= proximity_threshold * limit) & \
                    (df['daily_return'] < limit - 0.001)
    df['near_down'] = (df['daily_return'] <= -proximity_threshold * limit) & \
                      (df['daily_return'] > -limit + 0.001)

    df['next_return'] = df.groupby('ticker')['daily_return'].shift(-1)
    df['next_limit_up'] = df.groupby('ticker')['limit_up_hit'].shift(-1)
    df['next_limit_down'] = df.groupby('ticker')['limit_down_hit'].shift(-1)

    results = {}

    # Near upper limit
    near_up = df[df['near_up']]
    if len(near_up) > 100:
        results['near_up'] = {
            'n': len(near_up),
            'next_day_return': near_up['next_return'].mean(),
```

```
        'prob_next_limit_up': near_up['next_limit_up'].mean(),
        'prob_next_limit_down': near_up['next_limit_down'].mean()
    }

# At upper limit
at_up = df[df['limit_up_hit']]
if len(at_up) > 100:
    results['at_up'] = {
        'n': len(at_up),
        'next_day_return': at_up['next_return'].mean(),
        'prob_next_limit_up': at_up['next_limit_up'].mean(),
        'prob_next_limit_down': at_up['next_limit_down'].mean()
    }

# Near lower limit
near_down = df[df['near_down']]
if len(near_down) > 100:
    results['near_down'] = {
        'n': len(near_down),
        'next_day_return': near_down['next_return'].mean(),
        'prob_next_limit_up': near_down['next_limit_up'].mean(),
        'prob_next_limit_down': near_down['next_limit_down'].mean()
    }

# At lower limit
at_down = df[df['limit_down_hit']]
if len(at_down) > 100:
    results['at_down'] = {
        'n': len(at_down),
        'next_day_return': at_down['next_return'].mean(),
        'prob_next_limit_up': at_down['next_limit_up'].mean(),
        'prob_next_limit_down': at_down['next_limit_down'].mean()
    }

# Normal days (benchmark)
normal = df[~df['near_up'] & ~df['near_down'] &
            ~df['limit_up_hit'] & ~df['limit_down_hit']]
results['normal'] = {
    'n': len(normal),
    'next_day_return': normal['next_return'].mean(),
    'prob_next_limit_up': normal['next_limit_up'].mean(),
    'prob_next_limit_down': normal['next_limit_down'].mean()
```

```
    }

    return pd.DataFrame(results).T

magnet = magnet_test(daily_hose, 0.07, proximity_threshold=0.8)
print("Magnet Effect Test (HOSE):")
print(magnet.round(4).to_string())
```

83.8 The Delayed Price Discovery Hypothesis

83.8.1 Volatility Spillover

If limits prevent full price adjustment on day t, the residual adjustment spills over to day $t+1$ (and possibly further). This predicts higher volatility on the day *after* a limit hit, and positive return autocorrelation (continuation in the direction of the limit hit). (**kim2013price?**) find strong evidence of this in the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

```
# Compare volatility and return on limit-hit days vs day after
spillover_data = daily_hose.copy()
spillover_data['prev_limit_up'] = (
    spillover_data.groupby('ticker')['limit_up_hit'].shift(1)
)
spillover_data['prev_limit_down'] = (
    spillover_data.groupby('ticker')['limit_down_hit'].shift(1)
)
spillover_data['abs_return'] = spillover_data['daily_return'].abs()

# Classify days
conditions = {
    'After upper limit': spillover_data['prev_limit_up'] == True,
    'After lower limit': spillover_data['prev_limit_down'] == True,
    'Normal day': (spillover_data['prev_limit_up'] == False) &
                  (spillover_data['prev_limit_down'] == False)
}

print("Volatility Spillover After Limit Hits:")
print(f"{'Condition':<25} {'Mean |r|':>10} {'Mean r':>10} "
      f"{' (r)':>10} {'N':>12}")
print("-" * 67)
```

```
# More granular: bin today's return and compute next-day statistics
bins = np.arange(-0.075, 0.08, 0.005)
daily_hose_next = daily_hose.copy()
daily_hose_next['next_return'] = (
    daily_hose_next.groupby('ticker')['daily_return'].shift(-1)
)
daily_hose_next['ret_bin'] = pd.cut(daily_hose_next['daily_return'],
                                    bins=bins, labels=False)

bin_stats = (
    daily_hose_next.dropna(subset=['ret_bin', 'next_return'])
    .groupby('ret_bin')
    .agg(
        mean_ret=('daily_return', 'mean'),
        next_ret=('next_return', 'mean'),
        n=('next_return', 'count')
    )
)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Next-day return by today's return
axes[0].bar(bin_stats['mean_ret'] * 100, bin_stats['next_ret'] * 100,
            width=0.4,
            color=np.where(bin_stats['next_ret'] > 0, '#27AE60', '#C0392B'),
            alpha=0.7, edgecolor='white')
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].axvline(x=7, color='gray', linewidth=1, linestyle='--')
axes[0].axvline(x=-7, color='gray', linewidth=1, linestyle='--')
axes[0].set_xlabel("Today's Return (%)")
axes[0].set_ylabel('Next-Day Return (%)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Next-Day Return by Current Return')

# Panel B: Continuation probability
# Probability of same-direction move next day
daily_hose_next['continuation'] = (
    np.sign(daily_hose_next['daily_return']) ==
    np.sign(daily_hose_next['next_return'])
)

cont_by_bin = (
    daily_hose_next.dropna(subset=['ret_bin', 'continuation'])
    .groupby('ret_bin')
    .agg(
        mean_ret=('daily_return', 'mean'),
        cont_prob=('continuation', 'mean'),
        n=('continuation', 'count')
    )
)

axes[1].scatter(cont_by_bin['mean_ret'] * 100, cont_by_bin['cont_prob'] * 100,
                color='#2C5F8A', s=40, alpha=0.7)
axes[1].axhline(y=50, color='gray', linewidth=0.5, linestyle='--')
```

```
for label, mask in conditions.items():
    subset = spillover_data[mask].dropna(subset=['daily_return'])
    print(f"{label:<25} "
          f"{subset['abs_return'].mean()*100:>10.3f}% "
          f"{subset['daily_return'].mean()*100:>10.3f}% "
          f"{subset['daily_return'].std()*100:>10.3f}% "
          f"{len(subset):>12,}")

# Statistical test: is variance higher after limit days?
normal = spillover_data[conditions['Normal day']]['daily_return'].dropna()
after_up = spillover_data[conditions['After upper limit']]['daily_return'].dropna()
after_down = spillover_data[conditions['After lower limit']]['daily_return'].dropna()

f_up = after_up.var() / normal.var()
f_down = after_down.var() / normal.var()
print(f"\nVariance ratios (vs normal days):")
print(f"  After upper limit: {f_up:.3f} "
      f"(p = {1 - stats.f.cdf(f_up, len(after_up)-1, len(normal)-1):.4f})")
print(f"  After lower limit: {f_down:.3f} "
      f"(p = {1 - stats.f.cdf(f_down, len(after_down)-1, len(normal)-1):.4f})")
```

83.8.2 Multi-Day Return Reconstruction

To recover the "true" return that would have occurred without price limits, we can compound returns over consecutive limit-hit days until the stock resumes normal trading:

```
def reconstruct_returns(group, limit):
    """
    For each limit-hit sequence, compound returns until
    the stock resumes normal trading (first non-limit day).
    Returns the compound return and the number of days.
    """
    sequences = []
    in_sequence = False
    seq_start = None
    seq_returns = []
    seq_direction = None

    for _, row in group.iterrows():
        if row['limit_up_hit'] or row['limit_down_hit']:
            if not in_sequence:
```

```
                in_sequence = True
                seq_start = row['date']
                seq_returns = [row['daily_return']]
                seq_direction = 'up' if row['limit_up_hit'] else 'down'
            else:
                seq_returns.append(row['daily_return'])
        else:
            if in_sequence:
                # Include the first non-limit day (the "resolution" day)
                seq_returns.append(row['daily_return'])
                compound_ret = np.prod([1 + r for r in seq_returns]) - 1
                sequences.append({
                    'ticker': group.name if hasattr(group, 'name') else group['ticker'].iloc
                    'start_date': seq_start,
                    'n_limit_days': len(seq_returns) - 1,
                    'compound_return': compound_ret,
                    'direction': seq_direction,
                    'limit_return': sum(seq_returns[:-1]),
                    'resolution_return': seq_returns[-1]
                })
                in_sequence = False

    return sequences

# Run for all HOSE stocks
all_sequences = []
for ticker, group in daily_hose.sort_values('date').groupby('ticker'):
    seqs = reconstruct_returns(group, 0.07)
    all_sequences.extend(seqs)

seq_df = pd.DataFrame(all_sequences)

if len(seq_df) > 0:
    print("Limit-Hit Sequence Analysis:")
    print(f"  Total sequences: {len(seq_df):,}")
    print(f"  Mean limit days: {seq_df['n_limit_days'].mean():.1f}")
    print(f"\nCompound Returns by Direction:")
    for direction in ['up', 'down']:
        subset = seq_df[seq_df['direction'] == direction]
        print(f"  {direction.upper()} sequences: {len(subset):,}")
        print(f"    Mean compound return: {subset['compound_return'].mean()*100:.2f}%")
        print(f"    Mean resolution-day return: "
```

```
              f"{subset['resolution_return'].mean()*100:.2f}%")
        print(f"    Max compound return: {subset['compound_return'].max()*100:.1f}%")
```

83.9 The Idiosyncratic Volatility Puzzle Under Price Limits

Ang et al. (2006) document that stocks with high idiosyncratic volatility earn low subsequent returns—the IVOL puzzle. In Vietnam, price limits contaminate IVOL estimation: stocks that frequently hit limits have *understated* IVOL (because their returns are censored), which could create a mechanical relation between measured IVOL and returns.

```
# Compute monthly IVOL two ways:
# (a) Naive: std of daily residuals from FF3
# (b) Corrected: excluding limit-hit days

# Merge daily data with market returns for IVOL estimation
daily_ff = daily_hose_merged.copy()

monthly_ivol = []
for (ticker, month), group in daily_ff.groupby(
    ['ticker', daily_ff['date'].dt.to_period('M')]
):
    if len(group) < 15:
        continue

    y = group['daily_return'].dropna()
    x = group['mkt_return'].reindex(y.index).dropna()
    common = y.index.intersection(x.index)
    if len(common) < 15:
        continue

    # Naive IVOL
    model = sm.OLS(y[common], sm.add_constant(x[common])).fit()
    ivol_naive = model.resid.std() * np.sqrt(252)

    # Interior-only IVOL
    interior = group[~group['limit_up_hit'] & ~group['limit_down_hit']]
    y_int = interior['daily_return'].dropna()
    x_int = interior['mkt_return'].reindex(y_int.index).dropna()
    common_int = y_int.index.intersection(x_int.index)
```

```
    if len(common_int) >= 10:
        model_int = sm.OLS(y_int[common_int],
                           sm.add_constant(x_int[common_int])).fit()
        ivol_corrected = model_int.resid.std() * np.sqrt(252)
    else:
        ivol_corrected = np.nan

    n_limit = group['limit_up_hit'].sum() + group['limit_down_hit'].sum()

    monthly_ivol.append({
        'ticker': ticker,
        'month': month.to_timestamp(),
        'ivol_naive': ivol_naive,
        'ivol_corrected': ivol_corrected,
        'n_limit_days': n_limit,
        'pct_limit': n_limit / len(group) * 100,
        'next_return': group['daily_return'].iloc[-1]  # Placeholder
    })

ivol_df = pd.DataFrame(monthly_ivol)

print("IVOL Estimation: Naive vs Corrected:")
print(f"  Mean naive IVOL:     {ivol_df['ivol_naive'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Mean corrected IVOL: {ivol_df['ivol_corrected'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Mean difference:     "
      f"{(ivol_df['ivol_corrected'] - ivol_df['ivol_naive']).mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Correlation:         "
      f"{ivol_df['ivol_naive'].corr(ivol_df['ivol_corrected']):.3f}")
```

83.10 Practical Recommendations

For researchers working with Vietnamese equity data:

Always report limit-hit frequency. Any study using Vietnamese daily returns should document the fraction of observations at the price limits, broken down by exchange and market cap quintile. This tells the reader the severity of the censoring problem in the specific sample.

Use Tobit-corrected variance estimates. For volatility-related analyses (IVOL sorts, GARCH, risk modeling), the naive sample variance underestimates true variance by 5–20% depending on the stock's limit-hit frequency. The Tobit MLE provides a consistent estimator under the censored normal assumption.

Consider range-based estimators. The Yang and Zhang (2000) estimator using OHLC prices is partially robust to closing-price censoring and does not require distributional assumptions. It is a good default for individual-stock volatility estimation.

Exclude limit-hit days for beta estimation. Interior-only betas are less biased than all-day betas, though noisier. Report both and discuss the difference. For stocks with >5% limit-hit frequency, the attenuation is economically meaningful.

Compound multi-day returns for event studies. When studying events that coincide with limit hits (earnings announcements, M&A, regulatory changes), use the compound return from the limit-hit sequence start to the first non-limit day. Single-day returns are censored and understate the market's reaction.

Be cautious interpreting short-term return predictability. The delayed price discovery effect creates positive return autocorrelation at the daily frequency. This is a mechanical consequence of censoring, not a market inefficiency. Monthly returns are largely free of this artifact because the censoring within a month averages out.

Test robustness to HNX and UPCoM. If a result is driven by limit-related distortions, it should appear differently (or not at all) on HNX (± 10%) and UPCoM (± 15%). Cross-exchange comparison is a natural placebo test.

83.11 Summary

Table 83.2: Summary of price limit effects on empirical estimates.

Issue	Bias Direction	Magnitude (HOSE)	Recommended Fix
Return variance	Understated	5–20% for volatile stocks	Tobit MLE or range-based
GARCH vol	Understated	10–30% during crises	Censored GARCH
Market beta	Attenuated (toward 0)	3–10% for small-caps	Interior-only estimation
IVOL	Understated	Varies; correlated with size	Corrected IVOL
Return autocorrelation	Positive (spurious)	Significant at daily freq	Use weekly/monthly
Event study CARs	Understated	Up to 50% of true effect	Compound multi-day
Distribution shape	Pile-up at limits	2–5% of obs at limits	Acknowledge or correct

Price limits are not a minor institutional detail—they are a pervasive data-generating process that affects nearly every empirical quantity computed from Vietnamese daily returns. The corrections developed in this chapter—Tobit variance estimation, censored GARCH, interior-only betas, range-based volatility, and multi-day return compounding—form a toolkit that should be applied routinely. Ignoring censoring does not make it go away; it merely makes the resulting estimates quietly wrong.

84 Market Integration and Segmentation

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we measure the degree to which the Vietnamese equity market is integrated with or segmented from global capital markets. We construct multiple integration metrics, including correlation-based, factor-based, and pricing-error-based, trace their evolution through Vietnam's liberalization timeline, and quantify the cost of segmentation for Vietnamese firms.

A market is *fully integrated* when its assets are priced by a global stochastic discount factor: risk premia reflect only exposures to global risk factors, and identical cash flow streams command the same expected return regardless of where the issuer is domiciled. A market is *fully segmented* when domestic risk factors alone determine prices, and the country's risk-return trade-off is independent of the rest of the world. Reality sits somewhere between these poles, and the location shifts over time.

Vietnam is a particularly interesting case. It opened its stock exchange in July 2000 with heavy restrictions on foreign participation. Foreign ownership limits (initially 20%, raised to 30% in 2003, 49% in 2015, and selectively removed for some firms) have been gradually relaxed. Vietnam joined the WTO in 2007. FTSE Russell upgraded Vietnam from "unclassified" to "secondary emerging" in its frontier index in 2018 and has been evaluating further upgrades. Each of these events has potentially shifted the degree of integration.

Bekaert and Harvey (1995) and Bekaert and Harvey (2002) establish the modern framework for measuring time-varying integration. Errunza and Losq (1985) develop the "mild segmentation" model in which foreign investors face barriers but can partially replicate emerging market returns through global securities. Pukthuanthong and Roll (2009) propose a factor-model-based measure that avoids the pitfalls of simple correlation analysis. This chapter implements all three approaches and applies them to Vietnam's integration trajectory.

84.1 Integration in Theory

84.1.1 The Integrated and Segmented Benchmarks

Under full integration, the expected excess return of Vietnamese stock i is:

$$E[R_{i,t} - R_{f,t}] = \beta_{i,\text{world}} \cdot \lambda_{\text{world},t} \tag{84.1}$$

where $\beta_{i,\text{world}}$ is the stock's loading on the global market factor and $\lambda_{\text{world},t}$ is the global risk premium. Only global systematic risk is priced; country-specific risk is diversifiable and commands no premium.

Under full segmentation:

$$E[R_{i,t} - R_{f,t}] = \beta_{i,\text{local}} \cdot \lambda_{\text{local},t} \tag{84.2}$$

where $\beta_{i,\text{local}}$ is the stock's loading on the Vietnamese market and $\lambda_{\text{local},t}$ is the domestic risk premium. The domestic market is effectively a closed economy for pricing purposes.

Bekaert and Harvey (1995) model the transition between these states as a regime-switching process where the mixing weight $\omega_t \in [0, 1]$ evolves over time:

$$E[R_{i,t} - R_{f,t}] = \omega_t \cdot \beta_{i,\text{world}}\lambda_{\text{world},t} + (1 - \omega_t) \cdot \beta_{i,\text{local}}\lambda_{\text{local},t} \tag{84.3}$$

The weight ω_t is the *degree of integration*: $\omega_t = 1$ is full integration, $\omega_t = 0$ is full segmentation.

84.1.2 The Segmentation Premium

When a market transitions from segmented to integrated, its cost of capital falls because the relevant risk for pricing narrows from total domestic risk to only the portion correlated with the global market (Henry 2000; Bekaert, Harvey, and Lundblad 2005). The *segmentation premium* is the excess expected return that investors in a segmented market require:

$$\text{Segmentation premium} = (1 - \omega_t) \cdot (\lambda_{\text{local}} - \beta_{\text{local,world}} \cdot \lambda_{\text{world}}) \tag{84.4}$$

This premium represents a deadweight cost: it raises the cost of capital for Vietnamese firms, reduces investment, and lowers welfare relative to the integrated benchmark.

84.2 Data Construction

```python
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy import stats, optimize
from arch import arch_model
from arch.univariate import ConstantMean, GARCH
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

```python
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Vietnamese market returns
vn_index = client.get_index_returns(
    index='VNINDEX',
    start_date='2000-07-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly',
    fields=['date', 'return', 'total_return_index']
)
vn_index['date'] = pd.to_datetime(vn_index['date'])
vn_index = vn_index.set_index('date')

# Global and regional indices (USD-denominated for comparability)
global_indices = client.get_global_indices(
    indices=[
        'MSCI_WORLD', 'MSCI_EM', 'MSCI_ASIA_PAC_EX_JP',
        'MSCI_FM',  # Frontier markets
        'SP500', 'STOXX600',
        'MSCI_CHINA', 'MSCI_THAILAND', 'MSCI_INDONESIA',
        'MSCI_PHILIPPINES', 'MSCI_MALAYSIA'
```

```
    ],
    start_date='2000-07-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly',
    currency='USD'
)
global_indices['date'] = pd.to_datetime(global_indices['date'])
global_indices = global_indices.pivot(index='date', columns='index', values='return')

# Vietnam returns in USD for apples-to-apples comparison
vn_usd = client.get_index_returns(
    index='VNINDEX',
    start_date='2000-07-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly',
    currency='USD'
)
vn_usd['date'] = pd.to_datetime(vn_usd['date'])
global_indices['VIETNAM'] = vn_usd.set_index('date')['return']

# VND/USD exchange rate
fx = client.get_exchange_rates(
    pair='USD_VND',
    start_date='2000-07-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly'
)
fx['date'] = pd.to_datetime(fx['date'])
fx = fx.set_index('date')

# Global factor returns (Fama-French global)
global_factors = client.get_global_factor_returns(
    start_date='2000-07-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    frequency='monthly',
    factors=['mkt_excess_world', 'smb_world', 'hml_world',
             'rmw_world', 'cma_world', 'wml_world']
)
global_factors['date'] = pd.to_datetime(global_factors['date'])
global_factors = global_factors.set_index('date')

# Vietnamese factor returns (local)
```

```
local_factors = client.get_factor_returns(
    market='vietnam',
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    factors=['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma', 'wml']
)
local_factors['date'] = pd.to_datetime(local_factors['date'])
local_factors = local_factors.set_index('date')

print(f"Vietnam index: {len(vn_index)} months")
print(f"Global indices: {global_indices.shape}")
print(f"Global factors: {len(global_factors)} months")
```

84.2.1 Vietnam's Liberalization Timeline

```
liberalization_events = pd.DataFrame([
    ('2000-07-28', 'HOSE opens', 'Institutional'),
    ('2002-03-01', 'FOL raised to 30%', 'Ownership'),
    ('2005-03-01', 'HNX opens', 'Institutional'),
    ('2006-01-01', 'Securities Law enacted', 'Legal'),
    ('2007-01-11', 'WTO accession', 'Trade'),
    ('2007-06-01', 'FOL raised to 49%', 'Ownership'),
    ('2009-06-24', 'UPCoM opens', 'Institutional'),
    ('2012-01-01', 'SSC restructuring', 'Regulatory'),
    ('2015-09-01', 'FOL selectively removed', 'Ownership'),
    ('2017-08-01', 'Derivatives market opens', 'Institutional'),
    ('2018-09-01', 'FTSE Frontier Secondary', 'Index'),
    ('2021-01-01', 'New Securities Law', 'Legal'),
    ('2023-06-01', 'KRX trading system', 'Infrastructure'),
], columns=['date', 'event', 'category'])
liberalization_events['date'] = pd.to_datetime(liberalization_events['date'])

print("Vietnam Liberalization Timeline:")
for _, row in liberalization_events.iterrows():
    print(f"  {row['date'].strftime('%Y-%m')}: {row['event']} [{row['category']}]")
```

84.3 Correlation-Based Integration Measures

84.3.1 Rolling Correlations

The simplest integration metric is the correlation between Vietnamese and global market returns. Higher correlation implies more integration (returns are driven by the same global factors). However, simple correlation is confounded by volatility changes (i.e., correlations tend to increase mechanically during high-volatility periods (Longin and Solnik 2001)).

```
# Align all series
indices_aligned = global_indices.dropna(subset=['VIETNAM', 'MSCI_WORLD']).copy()

# Rolling 36-month correlations
rolling_window = 36

corr_series = {}
for idx in ['MSCI_WORLD', 'MSCI_EM', 'MSCI_ASIA_PAC_EX_JP',
            'SP500', 'MSCI_CHINA', 'MSCI_THAILAND']:
    if idx in indices_aligned.columns:
        corr = (
            indices_aligned[['VIETNAM', idx]]
            .rolling(rolling_window)
            .corr()
            .unstack()['VIETNAM'][idx]
        )
        corr_series[idx] = corr

corr_df = pd.DataFrame(corr_series)
```

84.3.2 DCC-GARCH Dynamic Correlations

To separate changes in correlation from changes in volatility, we estimate a Dynamic Conditional Correlation (DCC) model (Engle 2002). The DCC decomposes the time-varying covariance matrix into time-varying volatilities and a time-varying correlation matrix:

$$H_t = D_t R_t D_t \tag{84.5}$$

where $D_t = \text{diag}(\sigma_{1,t}, \dots, \sigma_{n,t})$ and R_t is the conditional correlation matrix that evolves according to:

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))

colors_idx = {
    'MSCI_WORLD': '#2C5F8A', 'MSCI_EM': '#C0392B',
    'MSCI_ASIA_PAC_EX_JP': '#27AE60', 'SP500': '#8E44AD',
    'MSCI_CHINA': '#E67E22', 'MSCI_THAILAND': '#1ABC9C'
}

for idx, color in colors_idx.items():
    if idx in corr_df.columns:
        ax.plot(corr_df.index, corr_df[idx], color=color,
                linewidth=1.5, label=idx.replace('MSCI_', '').replace('_', ' '),
                alpha=0.85)

# Add liberalization events
for _, event in liberalization_events.iterrows():
    if event['date'] >= corr_df.index.min():
        ax.axvline(x=event['date'], color='gray', linewidth=0.5,
                   linestyle=':', alpha=0.6)

ax.axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_ylabel('Correlation with Vietnam')
ax.set_title('Rolling 36-Month Correlation: Vietnam vs Global Markets')
ax.legend(fontsize=8, ncol=3)
ax.set_ylim([-0.3, 0.8])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 84.1

$$Q_t = (1 - a - b)\bar{Q} + a\epsilon_{t-1}\epsilon'_{t-1} + bQ_{t-1} \tag{84.6}$$

$$R_t = \text{diag}(Q_t)^{-1/2} Q_t \text{diag}(Q_t)^{-1/2} \tag{84.7}$$

```
def estimate_dcc(y1, y2, p=1, q=1):
    """
    Two-step DCC-GARCH estimation.
    Step 1: Univariate GARCH for each series.
    Step 2: DCC parameters from standardized residuals.
    """
    # Step 1: Univariate GARCH(1,1) for each series
    models = []
    std_resids = []
    cond_vols = []

    for y in [y1, y2]:
        am = arch_model(y * 100, vol='GARCH', p=p, q=q,
                        mean='Constant', dist='normal')
        res = am.fit(disp='off')
        models.append(res)
        std_resids.append(res.std_resid)
        cond_vols.append(res.conditional_volatility / 100)

    # Align residuals
    e1 = std_resids[0]
    e2 = std_resids[1]
    common = e1.dropna().index.intersection(e2.dropna().index)
    e1 = e1[common].values
    e2 = e2[common].values
    T = len(e1)

    # Step 2: DCC estimation
    # Q_bar = unconditional correlation of standardized residuals
    Q_bar = np.corrcoef(e1, e2)

    def dcc_loglik(params):
        a, b = params
        if a < 0 or b < 0 or a + b >= 1:
            return 1e10
```

```
        Q = np.zeros((T, 2, 2))
        R = np.zeros((T, 2, 2))
        Q[0] = Q_bar.copy()

        ll = 0
        for t in range(T):
            if t > 0:
                et = np.array([[e1[t-1]], [e2[t-1]]])
                Q[t] = (1 - a - b) * Q_bar + a * (et @ et.T) + b * Q[t-1]

            # Normalize
            d = np.sqrt(np.diag(Q[t]))
            if d[0] > 0 and d[1] > 0:
                R[t] = Q[t] / np.outer(d, d)
            else:
                R[t] = np.eye(2)

            # Clip correlation
            R[t, 0, 1] = np.clip(R[t, 0, 1], -0.999, 0.999)
            R[t, 1, 0] = R[t, 0, 1]

            # Log-likelihood contribution
            det_R = 1 - R[t, 0, 1] ** 2
            if det_R > 0:
                et_vec = np.array([e1[t], e2[t]])
                ll += -0.5 * (np.log(det_R) +
                              et_vec @ np.linalg.inv(R[t]) @ et_vec -
                              et_vec @ et_vec)

        return -ll

    result = optimize.minimize(dcc_loglik, [0.05, 0.90],
                               method='Nelder-Mead',
                               options={'maxiter': 5000})
    a_hat, b_hat = result.x

    # Reconstruct dynamic correlations
    Q = np.zeros((T, 2, 2))
    dcc_corr = np.zeros(T)
    Q[0] = Q_bar.copy()

    for t in range(T):
```

```
        if t > 0:
            et = np.array([[e1[t-1]], [e2[t-1]]])
            Q[t] = (1 - a_hat - b_hat) * Q_bar + a_hat * (et @ et.T) + b_hat * Q[t-1]

        d = np.sqrt(np.diag(Q[t]))
        if d[0] > 0 and d[1] > 0:
            dcc_corr[t] = Q[t, 0, 1] / (d[0] * d[1])
        else:
            dcc_corr[t] = 0

    return {
        'a': a_hat, 'b': b_hat,
        'persistence': a_hat + b_hat,
        'dcc_corr': pd.Series(dcc_corr, index=common),
        'cond_vol_1': cond_vols[0],
        'cond_vol_2': cond_vols[1]
    }

# Estimate DCC: Vietnam vs MSCI World
vn_ret = indices_aligned['VIETNAM'].dropna()
world_ret = indices_aligned['MSCI_WORLD'].dropna()
common_dates = vn_ret.index.intersection(world_ret.index)

dcc_result = estimate_dcc(vn_ret[common_dates], world_ret[common_dates])

print(f"DCC Parameters:")
print(f"  a (news): {dcc_result['a']:.4f}")
print(f"  b (persistence): {dcc_result['b']:.4f}")
print(f"  a + b: {dcc_result['persistence']:.4f}")
print(f"\nDCC Correlation with MSCI World:")
print(f"  Mean: {dcc_result['dcc_corr'].mean():.3f}")
print(f"  Min:  {dcc_result['dcc_corr'].min():.3f}")
print(f"  Max:  {dcc_result['dcc_corr'].max():.3f}")
```

84.3.3 Asymmetric Integration

Integration may be state-dependent: co-movement often increases during global crises (contagion) but not during local booms. Longin and Solnik (2001) and Ang and Chen (2002) show that equity correlations are higher during market downturns. We test for asymmetry:

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 8), sharex=True,
                         gridspec_kw={'height_ratios': [2, 1]})

# Panel A: DCC correlation
axes[0].plot(dcc_result['dcc_corr'].index, dcc_result['dcc_corr'].values,
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=1.5)
axes[0].fill_between(dcc_result['dcc_corr'].index,
                     dcc_result['dcc_corr'].values, 0,
                     alpha=0.2, color='#2C5F8A')

# Liberalization events
event_colors = {'Ownership': '#C0392B', 'Trade': '#27AE60',
                'Institutional': '#E67E22', 'Legal': '#8E44AD',
                'Index': '#1ABC9C', 'Regulatory': '#F1C40F',
                'Infrastructure': '#3498DB'}

for _, event in liberalization_events.iterrows():
    if event['date'] in dcc_result['dcc_corr'].index or True:
        color = event_colors.get(event['category'], 'gray')
        axes[0].axvline(x=event['date'], color=color, linewidth=1.5,
                        linestyle='--', alpha=0.7)
        axes[0].text(event['date'], axes[0].get_ylim()[1] * 0.95,
                     event['event'][:15], rotation=90, fontsize=6,
                     va='top', color=color)

axes[0].set_ylabel('Dynamic Conditional Correlation')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: DCC-GARCH Correlation (Vietnam-World)')
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)

# Panel B: Conditional volatilities
vol1 = dcc_result['cond_vol_1'] * np.sqrt(12)  # Annualized
vol2 = dcc_result['cond_vol_2'] * np.sqrt(12)
common_vol = vol1.index.intersection(vol2.index)

axes[1].plot(common_vol, vol1[common_vol], color='#C0392B',
             linewidth=1, label='Vietnam', alpha=0.8)
axes[1].plot(common_vol, vol2[common_vol], color='#2C5F8A',
             linewidth=1, label='World', alpha=0.8)
axes[1].set_ylabel('Annualized Cond. Vol')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Conditional Volatility')
axes[1].legend(fontsize=9)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 34.2

```
# Classify global market regimes
world_ret_aligned = world_ret[common_dates]
vn_ret_aligned = vn_ret[common_dates]

# Bear: world return in bottom 25th percentile
# Bull: world return in top 25th percentile
q25 = world_ret_aligned.quantile(0.25)
q75 = world_ret_aligned.quantile(0.75)

bear = world_ret_aligned <= q25
bull = world_ret_aligned >= q75
normal = ~bear & ~bull

regimes = {
    'Bear (bottom 25%)': bear,
    'Normal (middle 50%)': normal,
    'Bull (top 25%)': bull,
    'All': pd.Series(True, index=world_ret_aligned.index)
}

print("Asymmetric Correlation:")
print(f"{'Regime':<25} {'Correlation':>12} {'N months':>10}")
print("-" * 47)

for name, mask in regimes.items():
    r_vn = vn_ret_aligned[mask]
    r_w = world_ret_aligned[mask]
    corr = r_vn.corr(r_w)
    print(f"{name:<25} {corr:>12.3f} {mask.sum():>10}")

# Test: is bear correlation > bull correlation?
r_bear_vn = vn_ret_aligned[bear]
r_bear_w = world_ret_aligned[bear]
r_bull_vn = vn_ret_aligned[bull]
r_bull_w = world_ret_aligned[bull]

# Fisher z-transformation test
def fisher_z_test(r1, n1, r2, n2):
    z1 = np.arctanh(r1)
    z2 = np.arctanh(r2)
    se = np.sqrt(1 / (n1 - 3) + 1 / (n2 - 3))
    z_stat = (z1 - z2) / se
```

```
    p_val = 2 * (1 - stats.norm.cdf(abs(z_stat)))
    return z_stat, p_val

z, p = fisher_z_test(
    r_bear_vn.corr(r_bear_w), len(r_bear_vn),
    r_bull_vn.corr(r_bull_w), len(r_bull_vn)
)
print(f"\nFisher z-test (bear vs bull): z = {z:.2f}, p = {p:.4f}")
```

84.4 Factor-Based Integration Measures

84.4.1 The Pukthuanthong-Roll R² Measure

Pukthuanthong and Roll (2009) propose measuring integration as the R^2 from regressing a country's returns on a set of global principal components. The intuition: if a market is fully integrated, global factors should explain all of its systematic return variation.

```
def pukthuanthong_roll_integration(country_returns, global_returns_matrix,
                                   n_components=10, rolling_window=36):
    """
    Pukthuanthong-Roll (2009) R²-based integration measure.

    1. Extract principal components from global returns.
    2. Regress country returns on these PCs.
    3. R² = degree of integration.
    """
    common = country_returns.dropna().index.intersection(
        global_returns_matrix.dropna().index
    )

    dates = sorted(common)
    T = len(dates)

    integration = []

    for t in range(rolling_window, T):
        window = dates[t - rolling_window:t]

        # Global returns in window
        G = global_returns_matrix.loc[window].dropna(axis=1)
```

```
        if G.shape[1] < n_components:
            continue

        # Standardize
        G_std = (G - G.mean()) / G.std()

        # PCA
        cov = G_std.T @ G_std / len(G_std)
        eigenvalues, eigenvectors = np.linalg.eigh(cov.values)

        # Sort descending
        idx = np.argsort(-eigenvalues)
        eigenvalues = eigenvalues[idx]
        eigenvectors = eigenvectors[:, idx]

        # Project onto top K PCs
        PCs = G_std.values @ eigenvectors[:, :n_components]

        # Regress country returns on PCs
        y = country_returns.loc[window].values
        X = sm.add_constant(PCs)

        try:
            model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
            integration.append({
                'date': dates[t],
                'r_squared': model.rsquared,
                'adj_r_squared': model.rsquared_adj,
                'var_explained_pc1': eigenvalues[0] / eigenvalues.sum(),
                'n_countries': G.shape[1]
            })
        except Exception:
            pass

    return pd.DataFrame(integration)

# Build global returns matrix from multiple country indices
global_matrix = global_indices.drop(columns=['VIETNAM'], errors='ignore')

pr_result = pukthuanthong_roll_integration(
    indices_aligned['VIETNAM'],
    global_matrix,
```

```
    n_components=5,
    rolling_window=36
)

if len(pr_result) > 0:
    pr_result['date'] = pd.to_datetime(pr_result['date'])
    print(f"Pukthuanthong-Roll Integration (R²):")
    print(f"  Mean: {pr_result['r_squared'].mean():.3f}")
    print(f"  2008-2012: {pr_result[(pr_result['date'] >= '2008') & (pr_result['date'] < '20
    print(f"  2013-2018: {pr_result[(pr_result['date'] >= '2013') & (pr_result['date'] < '20
    print(f"  2019-2024: {pr_result[pr_result['date'] >= '2019']['r_squared'].mean():.3f}")
```

84.4.2 Global vs. Local Factor Pricing

Griffin (2002) tests whether global or local versions of the Fama-French factors better explain country-level returns. We implement this horse race for Vietnam:

```
# Align global and local factors
common_factor_dates = (
    global_factors.index
    .intersection(local_factors.index)
    .intersection(vn_index.index)
)

vn_excess = vn_index.loc[common_factor_dates, 'return']

# Model 1: Global FF5
X_global = sm.add_constant(
    global_factors.loc[common_factor_dates,
                        ['mkt_excess_world', 'smb_world', 'hml_world',
                         'rmw_world', 'cma_world']]
)
model_global = sm.OLS(vn_excess, X_global).fit(
    cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6}
)

# Model 2: Local FF5
X_local = sm.add_constant(
    local_factors.loc[common_factor_dates,
                       ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']]
)
```

```
model_local = sm.OLS(vn_excess, X_local).fit(
    cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6}
)

# Model 3: Both global and local
X_both = sm.add_constant(pd.concat([
    global_factors.loc[common_factor_dates,
                       ['mkt_excess_world', 'smb_world', 'hml_world']],
    local_factors.loc[common_factor_dates,
                      ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml']]
], axis=1))
model_both = sm.OLS(vn_excess, X_both).fit(
    cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 6}
)

print("Global vs Local Factor Models for VN-Index:")
print(f"{'Model':<20} {'R²':>8} {'Adj R²':>8} {'  (ann)':>10} {'  t-stat':>10}")
print("-" * 56)
for name, mod in [('Global FF5', model_global),
                  ('Local FF5', model_local),
                  ('Global + Local', model_both)]:
    print(f"{name:<20} {mod.rsquared:>8.3f} {mod.rsquared_adj:>8.3f} "
          f"{mod.params['const']*12:>10.4f} {mod.tvalues['const']:>10.2f}")
```

84.5 Pricing-Error-Based Integration

84.5.1 The Bekaert-Harvey Approach

Bekaert and Harvey (1995) measure integration as the ability of a global CAPM to price local assets. Under integration, the local market alpha (intercept) in a regression on the global market should be zero, and the global risk premium should explain the local expected return. Under segmentation, the local alpha captures the segmentation premium.

```
def bekaert_harvey_integration(local_return, global_return,
                               rolling_window=36):
    """
    Rolling alpha from regressing local on global market.
    Under integration, alpha -> 0.
    """
    common = local_return.dropna().index.intersection(global_return.dropna().index)
```

```python
rolling_r2 = []
rw = 36

for t in range(rw, len(common_factor_dates)):
    window = common_factor_dates[t - rw:t]
    y = vn_excess[window]

    # Global
    X_g = sm.add_constant(global_factors.loc[window,
                          ['mkt_excess_world', 'smb_world', 'hml_world',
                           'rmw_world', 'cma_world']])
    try:
        r2_g = sm.OLS(y, X_g).fit().rsquared
    except:
        r2_g = np.nan

    # Local
    X_l = sm.add_constant(local_factors.loc[window,
                          ['mkt_excess', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma']])
    try:
        r2_l = sm.OLS(y, X_l).fit().rsquared
    except:
        r2_l = np.nan

    rolling_r2.append({
        'date': common_factor_dates[t],
        'r2_global': r2_g,
        'r2_local': r2_l,
        'ratio': r2_g / r2_l if r2_l > 0 else np.nan
    })

r2_df = pd.DataFrame(rolling_r2)

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 8), sharex=True)

axes[0].plot(r2_df['date'], r2_df['r2_global'], color='#2C5F8A',
             linewidth=1.5, label='Global FF5')
axes[0].plot(r2_df['date'], r2_df['r2_local'], color='#C0392B',
             linewidth=1.5, label='Local FF5')
axes[0].set_ylabel('R²')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Global vs Local Factor R²')
axes[0].legend()

axes[1].plot(r2_df['date'], r2_df['ratio'], color='#27AE60', linewidth=1.5)
axes[1].axhline(y=1, color='gray', linewidth=1, linestyle='--',
                label='Full integration (ratio = 1)')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Global R² / Local R²')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Integration Ratio')
axes[1].legend()
axes[1].set_ylim([0, 1.5])

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

```
    results = []
    for t in range(rolling_window, len(common)):
        window = common[t - rolling_window:t]
        y = local_return[window]
        X = sm.add_constant(global_return[window])

        model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()

        results.append({
            'date': common[t],
            'alpha': model.params['const'],
            'alpha_t': model.tvalues['const'],
            'beta_global': model.params.iloc[1],
            'r_squared': model.rsquared
        })

    return pd.DataFrame(results)

bh_result = bekaert_harvey_integration(
    indices_aligned['VIETNAM'],
    indices_aligned['MSCI_WORLD'],
    rolling_window=36
)

# The absolute alpha is the segmentation premium
bh_result['abs_alpha_ann'] = bh_result['alpha'].abs() * 12

print("Bekaert-Harvey Integration Diagnostic:")
print(f"  Mean |α| (ann.): {bh_result['abs_alpha_ann'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"  Mean β_world: {bh_result['beta_global'].mean():.3f}")
print(f"  Mean R²: {bh_result['r_squared'].mean():.3f}")
```

84.5.2 Composite Integration Index

We combine all measures into a single composite index of Vietnamese market integration:

```
# Standardize each measure to [0, 1] using historical percentile ranks
measures = pd.DataFrame(index=bh_result['date'])

# 1. DCC correlation (higher = more integrated)
dcc_aligned = dcc_result['dcc_corr'].reindex(measures.index).interpolate()
```

```
measures['dcc_corr'] = dcc_aligned

# 2. PR R² (higher = more integrated)
pr_aligned = pr_result.set_index('date')['r_squared'].reindex(measures.index).interpolate()
measures['pr_r2'] = pr_aligned

# 3. Global/Local R² ratio (higher = more integrated)
r2_aligned = r2_df.set_index('date')['ratio'].reindex(measures.index).interpolate()
measures['gl_ratio'] = r2_aligned

# 4. |Alpha| from global CAPM (lower = more integrated)
# Invert: 1 - percentile rank of |alpha|
measures['inv_alpha'] = bh_result.set_index('date')['abs_alpha_ann']
measures['inv_alpha'] = 1 - measures['inv_alpha'].rank(pct=True)

# 5. Global beta (higher = more integrated, up to a point)
measures['global_beta'] = bh_result.set_index('date')['beta_global']

# Standardize to percentile ranks
for col in ['dcc_corr', 'pr_r2', 'gl_ratio', 'inv_alpha', 'global_beta']:
    measures[f'{col}_rank'] = measures[col].rank(pct=True)

# Composite = equal-weighted average of ranks
rank_cols = [c for c in measures.columns if c.endswith('_rank')]
measures['composite'] = measures[rank_cols].mean(axis=1)

# Smooth with 6-month moving average
measures['composite_smooth'] = measures['composite'].rolling(6).mean()
```

84.6 Structural Break Detection

84.6.1 Bai-Perron Tests for Integration Regime Shifts

We test whether Vietnam's integration trajectory contains discrete structural breaks (i.e., sudden shifts in the integration level) rather than a smooth trend:

```
def detect_breaks_cusum(series, significance=0.05):
    """
    CUSUM-based structural break detection.
    """
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))

ax.fill_between(measures.index, measures['composite_smooth'],
                 alpha=0.3, color='#2C5F8A')
ax.plot(measures.index, measures['composite_smooth'],
        color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2)

# Add event markers
for _, event in liberalization_events.iterrows():
    if event['date'] >= measures.index.min():
        color = event_colors.get(event['category'], 'gray')
        ax.axvline(x=event['date'], color=color,
                   linewidth=1.5, linestyle='--', alpha=0.6)

ax.set_ylabel('Integration Index (0 = segmented, 1 = integrated)')
ax.set_title('Vietnam Equity Market Integration: Composite Index')
ax.set_ylim([0, 1])

# Legend for event categories
from matplotlib.patches import Patch
legend_patches = [Patch(facecolor=c, label=cat)
                   for cat, c in event_colors.items() if cat in
                   liberalization_events['category'].values]
ax.legend(handles=legend_patches, fontsize=7, loc='lower right', ncol=2)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 84.4

```
    y = series.dropna().values
    T = len(y)

    # Recursive residuals from rolling mean
    cumsum = np.cumsum(y - y.mean()) / (y.std() * np.sqrt(T))

    # Brown-Durbin-Evans critical values (approximate)
    # At 5%: ±0.948
    critical = 0.948

    breaks = []
    for t in range(1, T - 1):
        if abs(cumsum[t]) > critical:
            breaks.append(t)

    return cumsum, breaks

# Apply to composite index
composite_clean = measures['composite_smooth'].dropna()
cusum, break_points = detect_breaks_cusum(composite_clean)

# Alternative: Chow test at key liberalization dates
def chow_test(y, breakpoint_idx):
    """Simple Chow test for structural break."""
    T = len(y)
    y1 = y[:breakpoint_idx]
    y2 = y[breakpoint_idx:]

    # Full sample regression (on constant)
    rss_full = np.sum((y - y.mean()) ** 2)

    # Split samples
    rss1 = np.sum((y1 - y1.mean()) ** 2)
    rss2 = np.sum((y2 - y2.mean()) ** 2)
    rss_split = rss1 + rss2

    k = 1  # Number of parameters
    f_stat = ((rss_full - rss_split) / k) / (rss_split / (T - 2 * k))
    p_val = 1 - stats.f.cdf(f_stat, k, T - 2 * k)

    return f_stat, p_val
```

```
print("Chow Tests for Structural Breaks at Key Dates:")
print(f"{'Event':<30} {'Date':>12} {'F-stat':>10} {'p-value':>10}")
print("-" * 62)

for _, event in liberalization_events.iterrows():
    if event['date'] < composite_clean.index.min():
        continue
    # Find nearest date
    nearest = composite_clean.index.searchsorted(event['date'])
    if nearest < 12 or nearest > len(composite_clean) - 12:
        continue

    f_stat, p_val = chow_test(composite_clean.values, nearest)
    sig = '***' if p_val < 0.01 else '**' if p_val < 0.05 else '*' if p_val < 0.1 else ''
    print(f"{event['event']:<30} {event['date'].strftime('%Y-%m'):>12} "
          f"{f_stat:>10.2f} {p_val:>10.4f} {sig}")
```

84.7 The Segmentation Premium for Vietnam

84.7.1 Cross-Sectional Evidence

Under partial segmentation, stocks with higher foreign ownership should have lower expected returns (because foreign investors can diversify away local risk). This yields a testable prediction: foreign ownership should be negatively associated with expected returns, controlling for global risk exposure.

```
# Get monthly stock returns with foreign ownership
stock_data = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2008-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap',
            'foreign_ownership_pct']
)
stock_data['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(stock_data['month_end'])

# Fama-MacBeth: regress returns on lagged foreign ownership
stock_data = stock_data.sort_values(['ticker', 'month_end'])
stock_data['fol_lag'] = (
    stock_data.groupby('ticker')['foreign_ownership_pct'].shift(1)
```

```
)
stock_data['log_mcap'] = np.log(stock_data['market_cap'].clip(lower=1))

# Monthly cross-sectional regressions
gamma_fol = []
for month, group in stock_data.dropna(subset=['fol_lag', 'monthly_return']).groupby('month_en
    if len(group) < 100:
        continue

    y = group['monthly_return'].values
    X = sm.add_constant(group[['fol_lag', 'log_mcap']].values)

    try:
        model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
        gamma_fol.append({
            'month': month,
            'gamma_fol': model.params[1],
            'gamma_size': model.params[2],
            'n': len(group)
        })
    except:
        pass

gamma_fol_df = pd.DataFrame(gamma_fol)

mean_gamma = gamma_fol_df['gamma_fol'].mean()
se_gamma = gamma_fol_df['gamma_fol'].std() / np.sqrt(len(gamma_fol_df))
t_gamma = mean_gamma / se_gamma

print(f"Fama-MacBeth: Foreign Ownership and Expected Returns")
print(f"   _FOL (monthly):  {mean_gamma:.6f}")
print(f"   _FOL (ann.):     {mean_gamma * 12:.4f}")
print(f"  t-statistic:      {t_gamma:.2f}")
print(f"  Interpretation:   A 10pp increase in foreign ownership is "
      f"associated with a {mean_gamma * 12 * 10:.2f}% change in "
      f"annual expected returns")
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Quintile returns by foreign ownership
fol_quintiles = stock_data.dropna(subset=['fol_lag', 'monthly_return']).copy()
fol_quintiles['fol_q'] = (
    fol_quintiles.groupby('month_end')['fol_lag']
    .transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x.rank(method='first'), 5,
                                     labels=['Q1\n(Low FOL)', 'Q2', 'Q3', 'Q4',
                                             'Q5\n(High FOL)']))
)

q_returns = (
    fol_quintiles.groupby('fol_q')['monthly_return']
    .mean() * 12 * 100
)

colors_q = plt.cm.RdYlGn_r(np.linspace(0.2, 0.8, 5))
axes[0].bar(range(5), q_returns.values, color=colors_q,
            edgecolor='white', alpha=0.85)
axes[0].set_xticks(range(5))
axes[0].set_xticklabels(q_returns.index)
axes[0].set_ylabel('Ann. Return (%)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Returns by Foreign Ownership Quintile')
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)

# Panel B: Rolling FM coefficient
gamma_fol_df['date'] = pd.to_datetime(gamma_fol_df['month'])
rolling_gamma = gamma_fol_df.set_index('date')['gamma_fol'].rolling(24).mean() * 12

axes[1].plot(rolling_gamma.index, rolling_gamma.values,
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=1.5)
axes[1].axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
axes[1].set_ylabel(' _FOL (annualized)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Rolling Segmentation Premium')
axes[1].fill_between(rolling_gamma.index, rolling_gamma.values, 0,
                     where=rolling_gamma.values < 0,
                     alpha=0.3, color='#27AE60', label='Negative (integration)')
axes[1].fill_between(rolling_gamma.index, rolling_gamma.values, 0,
                     where=rolling_gamma.values >= 0,
                     alpha=0.3, color='#C0392B', label='Positive (segmentation)')
axes[1].legend(fontsize=8)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 4.5

84.8 Exchange Rate Risk and Integration

84.8.1 Is Currency Risk Priced?

In a partially integrated market, exchange rate risk may carry a separate premium. Jorion (1991) and Dumas and Solnik (1995) test whether currency exposure is priced beyond global equity risk. For Vietnam, the VND/USD exchange rate is managed (a crawling peg with occasional step devaluations), creating a specific risk that is neither fully diversifiable nor fully priced by global equity factors.

```
# VND depreciation
fx_return = fx['rate'].pct_change()
fx_return.name = 'fx_return'

# Merge with stock data
stock_fx = stock_data.merge(
    fx_return.to_frame().reset_index().rename(columns={'date': 'month_end'}),
    on='month_end', how='left'
)

# Estimate FX beta for each stock (rolling 60-month)
# Then test in Fama-MacBeth whether FX beta is priced
fx_betas = {}
for ticker, group in stock_fx.groupby('ticker'):
    if len(group) < 60:
        continue
    group = group.sort_values('month_end')
    y = group['monthly_return']
    x = group[['fx_return']].dropna()
    common = y.dropna().index.intersection(x.index)
    if len(common) < 48:
        continue
    model = sm.OLS(y[common], sm.add_constant(x.loc[common])).fit()
    fx_betas[ticker] = model.params.get('fx_return', np.nan)

fx_beta_series = pd.Series(fx_betas, name='fx_beta')

# Cross-sectional test: do stocks with higher FX beta earn different returns?
stock_fx_beta = stock_fx.merge(
    fx_beta_series.to_frame().reset_index().rename(columns={'index': 'ticker'}),
    on='ticker', how='left'
)
```

```
# Quintile sort on FX beta
fx_q = stock_fx_beta.dropna(subset=['fx_beta', 'monthly_return'])
fx_q['fx_quintile'] = pd.qcut(fx_q['fx_beta'].rank(method='first'),
                                5, labels=False)

fx_premium = fx_q.groupby('fx_quintile')['monthly_return'].mean() * 12
print("Returns by FX Beta Quintile:")
for q, ret in fx_premium.items():
    print(f"  Q{q+1}: {ret*100:.2f}% ann.")
print(f"  Q5-Q1: {(fx_premium.iloc[-1] - fx_premium.iloc[0])*100:.2f}% ann.")
```

84.9 Contagion vs. Interdependence

During global crises, correlations between Vietnam and world markets spike. The question is whether this represents *contagion* (a structural change in the transmission mechanism) or simply *interdependence* (normal co-movement amplified by higher volatility). Longin and Solnik (2001) show that correlation increases mechanically with volatility even without any change in the underlying dependence structure.

```
def forbes_rigobon_test(r_local, r_global, crisis_dates, tranquil_dates):
    """
    Forbes-Rigobon (2002) contagion test.
    Adjusts for heteroskedasticity-induced bias in correlation.

    H0: No contagion (correlation increase is explained by volatility)
    H1: Contagion (correlation increase exceeds what volatility explains)
    """
    r_l_crisis = r_local[crisis_dates]
    r_g_crisis = r_global[crisis_dates]
    r_l_tranquil = r_local[tranquil_dates]
    r_g_tranquil = r_global[tranquil_dates]

    # Unadjusted correlations
    rho_crisis = r_l_crisis.corr(r_g_crisis)
    rho_tranquil = r_l_tranquil.corr(r_g_tranquil)

    # Volatility ratio
    delta = r_g_crisis.var() / r_g_tranquil.var() - 1

    # Adjusted correlation
```

```
    rho_adj = rho_crisis / np.sqrt(1 + delta * (1 - rho_crisis ** 2))

    # Fisher z-test on adjusted vs tranquil
    z_adj = np.arctanh(rho_adj)
    z_tranquil = np.arctanh(rho_tranquil)
    se = np.sqrt(1 / (len(r_l_crisis) - 3) + 1 / (len(r_l_tranquil) - 3))
    z_stat = (z_adj - z_tranquil) / se
    p_val = 2 * (1 - stats.norm.cdf(abs(z_stat)))

    return {
        'rho_crisis_raw': rho_crisis,
        'rho_crisis_adj': rho_adj,
        'rho_tranquil': rho_tranquil,
        'delta': delta,
        'z_stat': z_stat,
        'p_value': p_val,
        'contagion': p_val < 0.05
    }

# Define crisis and tranquil periods
crises = {
    'GFC (2008-09)': (pd.Timestamp('2008-09-01'), pd.Timestamp('2009-03-31')),
    'European Debt (2011-12)': (pd.Timestamp('2011-06-01'), pd.Timestamp('2012-06-30')),
    'COVID (2020)': (pd.Timestamp('2020-02-01'), pd.Timestamp('2020-06-30')),
    'Fed Tightening (2022)': (pd.Timestamp('2022-01-01'), pd.Timestamp('2022-12-31')),
}

# Tranquil = 24 months before each crisis
vn_aligned = indices_aligned['VIETNAM']
world_aligned = indices_aligned['MSCI_WORLD']

print("Contagion Tests (Forbes-Rigobon):")
print(f"{'Crisis':<28} {' (raw)':>8} {' (adj)':>8} {' (calm)':>8} "
      f"{'z-stat':>8} {'p-val':>8} {'Result':>12}")
print("-" * 80)

for name, (start, end) in crises.items():
    crisis_mask = (vn_aligned.index >= start) & (vn_aligned.index <= end)
    tranquil_start = start - pd.DateOffset(months=24)
    tranquil_mask = ((vn_aligned.index >= tranquil_start) &
                     (vn_aligned.index < start))
```

```
    crisis_dates = vn_aligned.index[crisis_mask]
    tranquil_dates = vn_aligned.index[tranquil_mask]

    if len(crisis_dates) < 3 or len(tranquil_dates) < 12:
        continue

    result = forbes_rigobon_test(vn_aligned, world_aligned,
                                 crisis_dates, tranquil_dates)

    verdict = 'CONTAGION' if result['contagion'] else 'Interdependence'
    print(f"{name:<28} {result['rho_crisis_raw']:>8.3f} "
          f"{result['rho_crisis_adj']:>8.3f} {result['rho_tranquil']:>8.3f} "
          f"{result['z_stat']:>8.2f} {result['p_value']:>8.3f} "
          f"{verdict:>12}")
```

84.10 ASEAN Peer Comparison

Vietnam's integration trajectory is best understood in the context of its ASEAN peers, which share similar starting conditions but have followed different liberalization paths:

84.11 Practical Implications

The degree of integration determines which asset pricing model is appropriate for Vietnamese equities. The evidence in this chapter supports several practical conclusions:

Vietnam is partially integrated and trending toward integration. The composite index shows a clear upward trajectory, with the post-2015 period representing the highest sustained integration in the market's history. However, Vietnam remains less integrated than Thailand or Malaysia, and far from fully integrated with global markets.

Local factors dominate global factors for pricing Vietnamese stocks. The rolling R^2 comparison shows that local Vietnamese factors consistently explain more return variation than global factors. This means that researchers studying Vietnamese cross-sectional returns should use local factor models (Vietnamese FF5) rather than global factors. Global factors are useful primarily for international investors assessing co-movement risk.

The segmentation premium is shrinking but not zero. The Fama-MacBeth evidence shows that stocks with higher foreign ownership earn lower returns, consistent with partial segmentation. The magnitude has declined over time as foreign ownership limits have been relaxed, but a residual premium persists—likely driven by remaining ownership caps in banking and strategic sectors.

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))

asean_markets = {
    'VIETNAM': '#C0392B',
    'MSCI_THAILAND': '#2C5F8A',
    'MSCI_INDONESIA': '#27AE60',
    'MSCI_PHILIPPINES': '#E67E22',
    'MSCI_MALAYSIA': '#8E44AD'
}

for market, color in asean_markets.items():
    if market not in global_indices.columns:
        continue

    corr = (
        global_indices[['MSCI_WORLD', market]]
        .rolling(36)
        .corr()
        .unstack()['MSCI_WORLD'][market]
    )

    label = market.replace('MSCI_', '').replace('_', ' ').title()
    if market == 'VIETNAM':
        ax.plot(corr.index, corr.values, color=color,
                linewidth=2.5, label=label, zorder=5)
    else:
        ax.plot(corr.index, corr.values, color=color,
                linewidth=1.5, label=label, alpha=0.7)

ax.set_ylabel('Correlation with MSCI World')
ax.set_title('ASEAN Market Integration: Rolling 36-Month Correlation')
ax.legend(fontsize=9)
ax.set_ylim([-0.2, 0.9])
ax.axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 84.6

Crisis-period co-movement is mostly interdependence, not contagion. The Forbes-Rigobon adjusted correlations show that the spike in Vietnam-World correlation during crises is largely explained by increased global volatility, not a structural change in the transmission mechanism. This is reassuring for diversification: Vietnam continues to offer meaningful diversification benefits even during global stress.

The FTSE/MSCI upgrade path matters. Vietnam's potential upgrade from frontier to emerging market status would trigger mandatory index rebalancing by passive funds, increasing foreign flows and likely accelerating integration. Researchers and investors should monitor upgrade criteria and their implications for the cost of capital.

84.12 Summary

Table 84.1: Summary of integration measures for the Vietnamese equity market.

Measure	What It Captures	Vietnam Range	Current Level	Trend
DCC correlation (World)	Co-movement	0.0–0.5	~0.35–0.45	Rising
PR R^2 (global PCs)	Global factor exposure	0.05–0.50	~0.30–0.40	Rising
Global/Local R^2 ratio	Relative pricing power	0.1–0.8	~0.5–0.6	Rising
Global CAPM	Pricing error	0–15% ann.	~3–5% ann.	Falling
FOL premium ( )	Segmentation cost	-5% to +2%	~-1% to 0%	Shrinking

85 Exchange Rate Dynamics

> **Note**
>
> In this chapter, we construct a comprehensive exchange rate database for the Vietnamese Dong (VND) against major currencies, analyze the statistical properties of VND returns, test covered and uncovered interest rate parity, estimate the currency exposure of Vietnamese listed firms, model volatility regimes using GARCH, and evaluate hedging strategies for international investors.

Exchange rates sit at the intersection of macroeconomics and finance. For international investors considering Vietnamese equities, the VND/USD exchange rate is not a secondary concern; it is a first-order determinant of dollar-denominated returns. A Vietnamese stock portfolio that earns 15% in VND terms but coincides with a 5% VND depreciation delivers only about 10% in USD terms. Conversely, periods of VND stability or appreciation amplify returns for foreign investors. Understanding exchange rate dynamics is therefore essential for anyone working with Vietnamese financial data in an international context.

Vietnam presents a distinctive exchange rate regime. Unlike freely floating currencies such as the USD/EUR or USD/JPY, the VND operates under a managed float. The State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) sets a daily reference rate and allows trading within a band (currently $\pm$ 3% on the interbank market and $\pm$ 5% against the official rate for commercial banks). This regime creates specific patterns in VND returns that differ fundamentally from those observed in freely floating pairs: clustered movements near band boundaries, discrete adjustments when the SBV shifts the reference rate, and periods of near-zero volatility punctuated by sharp moves during policy changes.

This chapter develops tools for working with these dynamics. We progress from data construction through statistical characterization to economic applications: interest rate parity tests, firm-level exposure estimation, GARCH volatility modeling, and hedging strategy evaluation.

85.1 Theoretical Foundations

85.1.1 Exchange Rate Determination

The modern theory of exchange rate determination rests on several building blocks. Dornbusch (1976) provides the canonical "overshooting" model: because goods prices are sticky while asset prices adjust instantly, a monetary shock causes the exchange rate to overshoot its long-run equilibrium. Frankel (1979) extends this to a real interest differential model where the exchange rate depends on relative money supplies, income levels, and interest rates across countries.

Despite elegant theory, Meese and Rogoff (1983) delivered a devastating empirical result: no structural model of exchange rates consistently outperforms a random walk in out-of-sample forecasting. This finding, confirmed repeatedly over four decades and surveyed by Rossi (2013), means that exchange rate changes are, to a first approximation, unpredictable. For practical purposes, the best forecast of tomorrow's VND/USD rate is today's rate.

85.1.2 Interest Rate Parity

Two parity conditions link exchange rates to interest rates:

Covered Interest Rate Parity (CIP): Arbitrage between spot and forward markets should equalize the forward premium with the interest rate differential:

$$F_{t,t+k} = S_t \cdot \frac{(1 + r_{t,k}^{VND})}{(1 + r_{t,k}^{USD})} \tag{85.1}$$

where S_t is the spot rate (VND per USD), $F_{t,t+k}$ is the k-period forward rate, and $r_{t,k}^{VND}$ and $r_{t,k}^{USD}$ are the domestic and foreign interest rates for maturity k. CIP should hold exactly in the absence of transaction costs, credit risk, and capital controls. Du, Tepper, and Verdelhan (2018) document that CIP violations have widened significantly in major currency pairs since 2008, driven by post-crisis bank balance sheet constraints. In Vietnam, capital controls and limited forward market liquidity create additional CIP deviations.

Uncovered Interest Rate Parity (UIP): The expected depreciation should equal the interest rate differential:

$$\mathbb{E}_t[\Delta s_{t+k}] = r_{t,k}^{VND} - r_{t,k}^{USD} \tag{85.2}$$

where $\Delta s_{t+k} = \ln(S_{t+k}/S_t)$. UIP is an equilibrium condition, not an arbitrage condition, it requires risk-neutral investors. Eugene F. Fama (1984) famously showed that the forward premium predicts exchange rate changes with the *wrong sign*: high-interest-rate currencies

tend to appreciate rather than depreciate, contradicting UIP. This "forward premium anomaly" is the foundation of the carry trade.

85.1.3 The Carry Trade

The carry trade exploits UIP violations by borrowing in low-interest-rate currencies and investing in high-interest-rate currencies. Lustig and Verdelhan (2007) show that a portfolio of carry trade positions earns a significant risk premium, which they link to consumption growth risk. Menkhoff et al. (2012) identify global FX volatility as the key risk factor: carry trades lose money precisely when global volatility spikes, a "crash risk" documented by Brunnermeier, Nagel, and Pedersen (2008).

Vietnam, with interest rates typically 3-8 percentage points above U.S. rates, is a natural candidate for carry trade inflows. The managed exchange rate regime provides an additional attraction: the SBV's implicit defense of the band reduces short-term volatility, increasing the Sharpe ratio of the carry position, until a band adjustment or devaluation erases accumulated gains in a single move.

85.1.4 The Trilemma

Obstfeld, Shambaugh, and Taylor (2005) formalize the "impossible trinity": a country cannot simultaneously maintain (i) a fixed exchange rate, (ii) an independent monetary policy, and (iii) free capital mobility. Vietnam navigates this trilemma by maintaining partial capital controls alongside its managed float, allowing some degree of monetary policy independence. Understanding where Vietnam sits on the trilemma at any given time is essential for interpreting exchange rate data: periods of tighter capital controls produce artificially low exchange rate volatility that does not reflect true economic uncertainty.

85.2 The VND Exchange Rate Regime

85.2.1 Historical Evolution

The VND/USD exchange rate has evolved through several distinct phases:

Table 85.1: Evolution of the VND/USD exchange rate regime.

Period	Regime	Key Features
Pre-1999	Narrow band	SBV set the rate with minimal flexibility

Period	Regime	Key Features
1999-2007	Gradual crawl	Slow, controlled depreciation (~1-2% per year)
2008-2011	Crisis adjustments	Multiple discrete devaluations (2008, 2010, 2011)
2012-2015	Stabilization	Tight band, rare adjustments, building reserves
2016-present	Reference rate mechanism	Daily reference rate based on a basket; ± 3% band

The 2016 reform, shifting from a fixed peg to a daily reference rate influenced by a currency basket, was a significant structural change. The reference rate now incorporates the previous day's closing interbank rate, supply-demand conditions, and movements in currencies of major trading partners (USD, EUR, CNY, JPY, KRW).

85.2.2 Band Mechanics

The SBV announces a daily reference rate each morning. Commercial banks may quote rates within a band around this reference. The interbank market operates with a narrower ± 3% band. When the spot rate approaches the band ceiling, the SBV may intervene by selling USD from reserves, widening the band, or adjusting the reference rate.

This regime creates distinctive statistical properties:

1. **Return clustering near zero:** On most days, the VND/USD rate barely moves, producing a spike at zero in the return distribution.
2. **Discrete jumps:** Reference rate adjustments create large single-day moves that appear as outliers.
3. **Bounded volatility:** The band constrains daily moves, producing a return distribution with thinner tails than a freely floating currency.
4. **Asymmetric adjustment:** Depreciation pressure (VND weakening) is more common than appreciation, reflecting persistent inflation differentials.

85.3 Data Construction

85.3.1 Loading Libraries

```python
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from scipy import stats
from arch import arch_model
from linearmodels.panel import PanelOLS
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')

plt.rcParams.update({
    'figure.figsize': (12, 6),
    'figure.dpi': 150,
    'font.size': 11,
    'axes.spines.top': False,
    'axes.spines.right': False
})
```

85.3.2 Retrieving Exchange Rate Data

We extract daily spot rates for the VND against all major currencies, along with the SBV reference rate and forward rates where available.

```python
from datacore import DataCoreClient

client = DataCoreClient()

# Spot exchange rates: VND per unit of foreign currency
fx_spot = client.get_exchange_rates(
    base_currency='VND',
    quote_currencies=['USD', 'EUR', 'JPY', 'CNY', 'KRW',
                      'SGD', 'THB', 'GBP', 'AUD'],
    start_date='2005-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=['date', 'from_currency', 'to_currency', 'rate',
            'bid', 'ask', 'reference_rate']
)

# Forward rates (VND/USD)
```

```
fx_forward = client.get_fx_forwards(
    pair='VND/USD',
    start_date='2010-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    tenors=['1M', '3M', '6M', '12M'],
    fields=['date', 'tenor', 'forward_rate', 'forward_points']
)

# Interest rates for parity tests
interest_rates = client.get_interest_rates(
    countries=['VN', 'US'],
    start_date='2005-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    instruments=['interbank_overnight', 'deposit_3m',
                 'government_bond_1y', 'government_bond_10y']
)

print(f"Spot observations: {fx_spot.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Forward observations: {fx_forward.shape[0]:,}")
print(f"Interest rate observations: {interest_rates.shape[0]:,}")
```

85.3.3 Constructing the VND/USD Time Series

We focus primarily on the VND/USD pair, the dominant bilateral rate for Vietnam, while using other pairs for cross-rate analysis.

```
# Filter VND/USD
vnd_usd = fx_spot[
    (fx_spot['from_currency'] == 'VND') &
    (fx_spot['to_currency'] == 'USD')
].copy()

vnd_usd['date'] = pd.to_datetime(vnd_usd['date'])
vnd_usd = vnd_usd.sort_values('date').set_index('date')

# Log returns: positive = VND depreciation, negative = VND appreciation
vnd_usd['log_return'] = np.log(vnd_usd['rate'] / vnd_usd['rate'].shift(1))

# Bid-ask spread as fraction of mid rate
vnd_usd['spread_pct'] = (vnd_usd['ask'] - vnd_usd['bid']) / vnd_usd['rate']
```

```
# Distance from reference rate (in %)
vnd_usd['deviation_from_ref'] = (
    (vnd_usd['rate'] - vnd_usd['reference_rate'])
    / vnd_usd['reference_rate'] * 100
)

# Rolling volatility measures
vnd_usd['vol_30d'] = vnd_usd['log_return'].rolling(30).std() * np.sqrt(252)
vnd_usd['vol_90d'] = vnd_usd['log_return'].rolling(90).std() * np.sqrt(252)

vnd_usd = vnd_usd.dropna(subset=['log_return'])

print(f"VND/USD series: {len(vnd_usd)} daily observations")
print(f"Date range: {vnd_usd.index.min()} to {vnd_usd.index.max()}")
print(f"\nSummary of daily log returns:")
print(vnd_usd['log_return'].describe().round(6))
```

85.3.4 Multi-Currency Panel

For cross-rate analysis and ASEAN comparisons, we construct a panel of log returns for all currency pairs.

```
# Pivot to wide format: one column per currency pair
fx_wide = fx_spot.pivot_table(
    index='date', columns='to_currency', values='rate'
)
fx_wide.index = pd.to_datetime(fx_wide.index)
fx_wide = fx_wide.sort_index()

# Compute log returns for all pairs
fx_returns = np.log(fx_wide / fx_wide.shift(1)).dropna()

# Summary statistics
fx_summary = pd.DataFrame({
    'Mean (ann.)': fx_returns.mean() * 252,
    'Vol (ann.)': fx_returns.std() * np.sqrt(252),
    'Skewness': fx_returns.skew(),
    'Kurtosis': fx_returns.kurtosis(),
    'Min': fx_returns.min(),
    'Max': fx_returns.max()
})
```

```
print("VND Cross-Rate Return Statistics (Daily):")
print(fx_summary.round(4))
```

85.4 Statistical Properties of VND Returns

85.4.1 Return Distribution

The distribution of VND/USD log returns deviates sharply from normality. The managed float regime produces a return distribution that is leptokurtic (fat-tailed) and concentrated near zero, with occasional large discrete jumps from reference rate adjustments.

85.4.2 Autocorrelation Structure

Freely floating exchange rate returns are approximately uncorrelated (consistent with the random walk result of Meese and Rogoff (1983)). Managed exchange rates, however, may exhibit serial correlation because the central bank smooths adjustments over multiple days.

85.4.3 Reference Rate Adjustments and Structural Breaks

The SBV periodically adjusts the reference rate or the trading band width, events that create structural breaks in the exchange rate series. Identifying these breaks is essential for accurate modeling.

85.4.4 Cross-Currency Correlations

Understanding how VND co-moves with other currencies is important for diversification and for identifying common drivers (e.g., USD strength affects all Asian currencies).

85.5 Interest Rate Parity Tests

85.5.1 Testing Covered Interest Rate Parity

CIP deviations are measured as the gap between the forward premium and the interest rate differential:

$$\text{CIP Deviation}_t = f_{t,k} - s_t - (r_{t,k}^{VND} - r_{t,k}^{USD}) \tag{85.3}$$

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Histogram with normal overlay
returns = vnd_usd['log_return']
mu, sigma = returns.mean(), returns.std()

axes[0].hist(returns, bins=100, density=True, color='#2C5F8A',
             alpha=0.7, edgecolor='white', label='Empirical')
x_range = np.linspace(returns.min(), returns.max(), 200)
axes[0].plot(x_range, stats.norm.pdf(x_range, mu, sigma),
             color='#C0392B', linewidth=2, label='Normal fit')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Daily Log Return')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Density')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Return Distribution')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: QQ plot
stats.probplot(returns, dist='norm', plot=axes[1])
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Normal Q-Q Plot')
axes[1].get_lines()[0].set_color('#2C5F8A')
axes[1].get_lines()[0].set_markersize(3)
axes[1].get_lines()[1].set_color('#C0392B')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

# Formal tests
jb_stat, jb_p = stats.jarque_bera(returns)
print(f"\nJarque-Bera test: statistic = {jb_stat:.1f}, p-value = {jb_p:.2e}")
print(f"Skewness: {returns.skew():.4f}")
print(f"Excess Kurtosis: {returns.kurtosis():.4f}")
```

Figure 85.1

```python
from statsmodels.graphics.tsaplots import plot_acf

fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(12, 8))

# ACF of returns
plot_acf(vnd_usd['log_return'].dropna(), lags=40, ax=axes[0],
         color='#2C5F8A', vlines_kwargs={'color': '#2C5F8A'})
axes[0].set_title('Autocorrelation of Daily Returns')
axes[0].set_ylabel('ACF')

# ACF of squared returns (volatility clustering)
plot_acf(vnd_usd['log_return'].dropna() ** 2, lags=40, ax=axes[1],
         color='#C0392B', vlines_kwargs={'color': '#C0392B'})
axes[1].set_title('Autocorrelation of Squared Returns (Volatility Clustering)')
axes[1].set_ylabel('ACF')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()

# Ljung-Box test
from statsmodels.stats.diagnostic import acorr_ljungbox
lb_returns = acorr_ljungbox(returns, lags=10, return_df=True)
lb_squared = acorr_ljungbox(returns ** 2, lags=10, return_df=True)
print("Ljung-Box Test (Returns, lag 10):")
print(f"  Statistic: {lb_returns['lb_stat'].iloc[-1]:.2f}, "
      f"p-value: {lb_returns['lb_pvalue'].iloc[-1]:.4f}")
print("Ljung-Box Test (Squared Returns, lag 10):")
print(f"  Statistic: {lb_squared['lb_stat'].iloc[-1]:.2f}, "
      f"p-value: {lb_squared['lb_pvalue'].iloc[-1]:.4f}")
```

Figure 85.2

```
# Detect large daily moves (proxy for policy adjustments)
threshold = vnd_usd['log_return'].std() * 3
large_moves = vnd_usd[vnd_usd['log_return'].abs() > threshold].copy()

# Known major adjustment dates (approximate)
policy_events = pd.DataFrame({
    'date': pd.to_datetime([
        '2008-06-10', '2008-12-25', '2009-11-25',
        '2010-02-11', '2010-08-18', '2011-02-11',
        '2011-08-10', '2015-08-12', '2015-08-19',
        '2016-01-04'
    ]),
    'event': [
        'Band widened to +/-1%', 'Band widened to +/-3%',
        'Devaluation ~5.4%', 'Devaluation ~3.4%',
        'Band narrowed to +/-1%', 'Devaluation ~8.5%',
        'Band widened to +/-1%', 'Devaluation ~1%',
        'Devaluation ~1%', 'New reference rate mechanism'
    ]
})

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))
ax.plot(vnd_usd.index, vnd_usd['rate'], color='#2C5F8A',
        linewidth=1.5, label='VND/USD Spot')

if 'reference_rate' in vnd_usd.columns:
    ref_clean = vnd_usd['reference_rate'].dropna()
    if len(ref_clean) > 0:
        ax.plot(ref_clean.index, ref_clean, color='#E67E22',
                linewidth=1, alpha=0.7, label='SBV Reference Rate')

# Mark policy events
for _, event in policy_events.iterrows():
    if event['date'] >= vnd_usd.index.min():
        rate_at_event = vnd_usd['rate'].asof(event['date'])
        ax.annotate(
            event['event'],
            xy=(event['date'], rate_at_event),
            xytext=(0, 30), textcoords='offset points',
            fontsize=7, rotation=45, ha='left',
            arrowprops=dict(arrowstyle='->', color='#C0392B',
                            lw=0.8),
            color='#C0392B'
        )

ax.set_ylabel('VND per USD')
ax.set_title('VND/USD Exchange Rate with Policy Events')
ax.legend(loc='upper left')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```


Figure 85.3

```
# Correlation matrix of daily returns
corr_matrix = fx_returns.corr()

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9, 8))
mask = np.triu(np.ones_like(corr_matrix, dtype=bool), k=1)
sns.heatmap(
    corr_matrix, mask=mask, annot=True, fmt='.2f',
    cmap='RdBu_r', center=0, vmin=-1, vmax=1,
    square=True, linewidths=0.5, ax=ax,
    cbar_kws={'label': 'Correlation'}
)
ax.set_title('Cross-Rate Return Correlations (VND Base)')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.4

where $f_{t,k} = \ln F_{t,t+k}$ and $s_t = \ln S_t$ are log forward and spot rates. Under exact CIP, this deviation is zero.

```
# Merge spot, forward, and interest rate data
vnd_usd_monthly = vnd_usd['rate'].resample('M').last().to_frame('spot')
vnd_usd_monthly.index = vnd_usd_monthly.index.to_period('M').to_timestamp()

# Forward rates (3-month tenor)
fwd_3m = fx_forward[fx_forward['tenor'] == '3M'].copy()
fwd_3m['date'] = pd.to_datetime(fwd_3m['date'])
fwd_3m = fwd_3m.set_index('date').resample('M').last()

# Interest rate differential
vn_rates = interest_rates[
    (interest_rates['country'] == 'VN') &
    (interest_rates['instrument'] == 'deposit_3m')
].set_index('date')['rate'].resample('M').last()

us_rates = interest_rates[
    (interest_rates['country'] == 'US') &
    (interest_rates['instrument'] == 'deposit_3m')
].set_index('date')['rate'].resample('M').last()

# Align and compute CIP deviation
cip_data = pd.DataFrame({
```

```
    'spot': vnd_usd_monthly['spot'],
    'forward': fwd_3m['forward_rate'],
    'r_vnd': vn_rates / 100,
    'r_usd': us_rates / 100
}).dropna()

# CIP deviation (annualized, in basis points)
cip_data['log_spot'] = np.log(cip_data['spot'])
cip_data['log_forward'] = np.log(cip_data['forward'])
cip_data['forward_premium'] = (
    (cip_data['log_forward'] - cip_data['log_spot']) * 4
)
cip_data['rate_diff'] = cip_data['r_vnd'] - cip_data['r_usd']
cip_data['cip_deviation'] = (
    (cip_data['forward_premium'] - cip_data['rate_diff']) * 10000
)

print("CIP Deviation Summary (basis points, annualized):")
print(cip_data['cip_deviation'].describe().round(1))
print(f"\nMean deviation: {cip_data['cip_deviation'].mean():.1f} bps")
t_stat, p_val = stats.ttest_1samp(cip_data['cip_deviation'].dropna(), 0)
print(f"One-sample t-test: t = {t_stat:.2f}, p = {p_val:.4f}")
```

85.5.2 Testing Uncovered Interest Rate Parity

The standard UIP regression is:

$$\Delta s_{t+k} = \alpha + \beta(r_{t,k}^{VND} - r_{t,k}^{USD}) + \varepsilon_{t+k} \tag{85.4}$$

Under UIP, $\alpha = 0$ and $\beta = 1$. The Eugene F. Fama (1984) anomaly corresponds to $\beta < 1$ (often $\beta < 0$), implying that high-interest-rate currencies appreciate rather than depreciate.

```
# Monthly exchange rate changes
cip_data['delta_s'] = (
    np.log(cip_data['spot'].shift(-3) / cip_data['spot'])
)

# Fama regression
uip_data = cip_data[['delta_s', 'rate_diff']].dropna()
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 8), height_ratios=[2, 1])

# Panel A: CIP deviation time series
axes[0].fill_between(
    cip_data.index, 0, cip_data['cip_deviation'],
    where=cip_data['cip_deviation'] > 0,
    color='#C0392B', alpha=0.4, label='Positive (VND forward expensive)'
)
axes[0].fill_between(
    cip_data.index, 0, cip_data['cip_deviation'],
    where=cip_data['cip_deviation'] <= 0,
    color='#27AE60', alpha=0.4, label='Negative'
)
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_ylabel('CIP Deviation (bps)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: CIP Deviations for VND/USD')
axes[0].legend()

# Panel B: Interest rate differential
axes[1].plot(cip_data.index, cip_data['r_vnd'] * 100,
             color='#C0392B', label='Vietnam 3M')
axes[1].plot(cip_data.index, cip_data['r_usd'] * 100,
             color='#2C5F8A', label='US 3M')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Interest Rate (%)')
axes[1].set_xlabel('Date')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Interest Rate Differential')
axes[1].legend()

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.5

```
uip_model = sm.OLS(
    uip_data['delta_s'],
    sm.add_constant(uip_data['rate_diff'])
).fit(cov_type='HAC', cov_kwds={'maxlags': 4})

print("UIP (Fama) Regression: delta_s_{t+3m} = alpha + beta(r_VND - r_USD) + eps")
print(f"\nalpha = {uip_model.params['const']:.4f} "
      f"(t = {uip_model.tvalues['const']:.2f})")
print(f"beta = {uip_model.params['rate_diff']:.4f} "
      f"(t = {uip_model.tvalues['rate_diff']:.2f})")
print(f"R-squared = {uip_model.rsquared:.4f}")
print(f"\nH0: beta = 1 (Wald test):")
wald_stat = ((uip_model.params['rate_diff'] - 1) /
             uip_model.bse['rate_diff']) ** 2
print(f"  Chi2 = {wald_stat:.2f}, p = {1 - stats.chi2.cdf(wald_stat, 1):.4f}")
```

Interpreting UIP Failures in Vietnam

A managed exchange rate complicates UIP tests. When the SBV successfully defends the VND within a narrow band, realized exchange rate changes are artificially compressed regardless of interest rate differentials. The resulting beta estimate reflects the credibility of the peg as much as it reflects the risk premium. Periods of active SBV intervention should be treated separately from periods of relative flexibility.

85.5.3 Carry Trade Returns

We construct a simple VND carry trade strategy: borrow USD at the U.S. short rate, convert to VND, invest at the Vietnamese short rate, and convert back at maturity. The excess return is:

$$\text{Carry}_{t \to t+k} = (r_{t,k}^{VND} - r_{t,k}^{USD}) - \Delta s_{t+k} \tag{85.5}$$

A positive carry return means the interest rate differential more than compensated for any VND depreciation.

```
carry = cip_data.copy()
carry['carry_return'] = carry['rate_diff'] / 4 - carry['delta_s']
carry = carry.dropna(subset=['carry_return'])

# Annualize
```

```
ann_carry = carry['carry_return'].mean() * 4
ann_vol = carry['carry_return'].std() * 2
sharpe = ann_carry / ann_vol

print("VND/USD Carry Trade Performance (3-Month Rolling):")
print(f"Annualized return: {ann_carry:.4f} ({ann_carry*100:.2f}%)")
print(f"Annualized volatility: {ann_vol:.4f} ({ann_vol*100:.2f}%)")
print(f"Sharpe ratio: {sharpe:.2f}")
print(f"Skewness: {carry['carry_return'].skew():.2f}")
print(f"Kurtosis: {carry['carry_return'].kurtosis():.2f}")
print(f"\nMax quarterly loss: {carry['carry_return'].min():.4f}")
print(f"Max quarterly gain: {carry['carry_return'].max():.4f}")
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=(14, 8), height_ratios=[2, 1])

# Panel A: Cumulative return
cum_carry = (1 + carry['carry_return']).cumprod()
axes[0].plot(carry.index, cum_carry, color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2)
axes[0].fill_between(carry.index, 1, cum_carry,
                     where=cum_carry > 1, color='#27AE60', alpha=0.2)
axes[0].fill_between(carry.index, 1, cum_carry,
                     where=cum_carry < 1, color='#C0392B', alpha=0.2)
axes[0].axhline(y=1, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_ylabel('Cumulative Return (VND 1 invested)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: VND/USD Carry Trade Cumulative Return')

# Panel B: Quarterly returns
axes[1].bar(carry.index, carry['carry_return'] * 100,
            color=['#27AE60' if x > 0 else '#C0392B'
                   for x in carry['carry_return']],
            alpha=0.7, width=60)
axes[1].axhline(y=0, color='black', linewidth=0.5)
axes[1].set_ylabel('Quarterly Return (%)')
axes[1].set_xlabel('Date')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Quarterly Carry Returns')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.6

85.6 Volatility Modeling

85.6.1 GARCH Estimation

The strong autocorrelation in squared VND/USD returns (Figure 85.2) motivates GARCH modeling (Bollerslev 1986). We estimate a GARCH(1,1) model for daily VND/USD log returns:

$$r_t = \mu + \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t = \sigma_t z_t, \quad z_t \sim D(0,1) \tag{85.6}$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \omega + \alpha\varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta\sigma_{t-1}^2 \tag{85.7}$$

where α captures the ARCH effect (impact of yesterday's shock on today's variance) and β captures persistence (how slowly volatility reverts to its long-run mean). The unconditional variance is $\bar{\sigma}^2 = \omega/(1-\alpha-\beta)$.

```
returns_bps = vnd_usd['log_return'] * 10000  # Scale to basis points

# GARCH(1,1) with normal innovations
garch_norm = arch_model(
    returns_bps, vol='Garch', p=1, q=1, dist='normal'
)
res_norm = garch_norm.fit(disp='off')

# GARCH(1,1) with Student-t innovations
garch_t = arch_model(
    returns_bps, vol='Garch', p=1, q=1, dist='t'
)
res_t = garch_t.fit(disp='off')

# GJR-GARCH (asymmetric: depreciation shocks may increase vol more)
gjr = arch_model(
    returns_bps, vol='Garch', p=1, o=1, q=1, dist='t'
)
res_gjr = gjr.fit(disp='off')

print("=" * 60)
print("GARCH(1,1) - Normal Innovations")
print("=" * 60)
print(res_norm.summary().tables[1])
```

```
print("\n" + "=" * 60)
print("GARCH(1,1) - Student-t Innovations")
print("=" * 60)
print(res_t.summary().tables[1])

print("\n" + "=" * 60)
print("GJR-GARCH(1,1,1) - Student-t Innovations")
print("=" * 60)
print(res_gjr.summary().tables[1])

# Model comparison
print("\nModel Comparison:")
print(f"{'Model':<25} {'AIC':>10} {'BIC':>10} {'LogLik':>12}")
for name, res in [('GARCH-Normal', res_norm),
                  ('GARCH-t', res_t),
                  ('GJR-GARCH-t', res_gjr)]:
    print(f"{name:<25} {res.aic:>10.1f} {res.bic:>10.1f} "
          f"{res.loglikelihood:>12.1f}")
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))

# GARCH conditional volatility (annualized, from basis points)
cond_vol = res_t.conditional_volatility / 10000 * np.sqrt(252)

ax.plot(vnd_usd.index[-len(cond_vol):], cond_vol,
        color='#C0392B', linewidth=1.2, alpha=0.9,
        label='GARCH(1,1) Conditional Vol')
ax.plot(vnd_usd.index, vnd_usd['vol_30d'],
        color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=1, alpha=0.6,
        label='30-Day Realized Vol')

ax.set_ylabel('Annualized Volatility')
ax.set_xlabel('Date')
ax.set_title('VND/USD Volatility: GARCH vs Realized')
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.7

85.6.2 Volatility Regime Identification

We classify the VND/USD market into volatility regimes using the GARCH conditional volatility:

```
# Merge conditional volatility back to main DataFrame
vol_series = pd.Series(
    cond_vol.values,
    index=vnd_usd.index[-len(cond_vol):]
)
vnd_usd['cond_vol'] = vol_series

# Classify regimes based on percentiles
vnd_usd['vol_regime'] = pd.cut(
    vnd_usd['cond_vol'],
    bins=[0, vnd_usd['cond_vol'].quantile(0.33),
          vnd_usd['cond_vol'].quantile(0.67), np.inf],
    labels=['Low', 'Medium', 'High']
)

# Regime statistics
regime_stats = (
    vnd_usd.groupby('vol_regime')
    .agg(
        n_days=('log_return', 'count'),
        mean_return=('log_return', lambda x: x.mean() * 252),
        volatility=('log_return', lambda x: x.std() * np.sqrt(252)),
        mean_spread=('spread_pct', 'mean'),
        skewness=('log_return', 'skew')
    )
    .round(4)
)
print("Volatility Regime Characteristics:")
print(regime_stats)
```

85.7 Exchange Rate Exposure of Vietnamese Firms

85.7.1 The Jorion Framework

Jorion (1990) introduced the standard two-factor model for estimating firm-level exchange rate exposure:

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 6))

colors_regime = {'Low': '#27AE60', 'Medium': '#F1C40F', 'High': '#C0392B'}
for regime in ['Low', 'Medium', 'High']:
    subset = vnd_usd[vnd_usd['vol_regime'] == regime]
    ax.scatter(
        subset['cond_vol'] * 100,
        subset['log_return'] * 100,
        color=colors_regime[regime], alpha=0.3, s=8, label=regime
    )

ax.axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_xlabel('Conditional Volatility (% annualized)')
ax.set_ylabel('Daily Return (%)')
ax.set_title('VND/USD Returns by Volatility Regime')
ax.legend(title='Regime')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.8

$$R_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_i^{MKT} R_{m,t} + \gamma_i \Delta s_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{85.8}$$

where $R_{i,t}$ is the stock return of firm i, $R_{m,t}$ is the market return, and Δs_t is the exchange rate change (VND/USD log return, where positive = VND depreciation). The coefficient γ_i is the **residual exchange rate exposure**, the sensitivity of firm i's returns to currency movements after controlling for market-wide effects.

A positive γ_i means the firm benefits from VND depreciation (typical for exporters), while a negative γ_i means the firm is hurt by depreciation (typical for importers or firms with USD-denominated debt).

```
# Load equity returns
equity = client.get_monthly_returns(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    start_date='2012-01-01',
    end_date='2024-12-31',
    fields=['ticker', 'month_end', 'monthly_return', 'market_cap']
)

# Market return (VW)
```

```python
market_ret = (
    equity
    .groupby('month_end')
    .apply(lambda g: np.average(g['monthly_return'],
                                weights=g['market_cap']))
    .reset_index(name='market_return')
)

# Monthly VND/USD returns
fx_monthly = (
    vnd_usd['log_return']
    .resample('M').sum()
    .to_frame('fx_return')
)
fx_monthly.index = fx_monthly.index.to_period('M').to_timestamp()

# Merge all data
exposure_data = (
    equity
    .merge(market_ret, on='month_end')
    .merge(fx_monthly, left_on='month_end', right_index=True, how='inner')
)

# Estimate exposure for each firm
def estimate_exposure(group, min_obs=36):
    """Estimate Jorion exposure model for a single firm."""
    if len(group) < min_obs:
        return None

    y = group['monthly_return']
    X = sm.add_constant(group[['market_return', 'fx_return']])

    try:
        model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit(cov_type='HC1')
        return pd.Series({
            'gamma': model.params['fx_return'],
            'gamma_se': model.bse['fx_return'],
            'gamma_t': model.tvalues['fx_return'],
            'gamma_p': model.pvalues['fx_return'],
            'beta_mkt': model.params['market_return'],
            'r_squared': model.rsquared,
            'n_obs': model.nobs
```

```
        })
    except Exception:
        return None

exposures = (
    exposure_data
    .groupby('ticker')
    .apply(estimate_exposure)
    .dropna()
)

print(f"Estimated exposure for {len(exposures)} firms")
print(f"\nExposure (gamma) Summary:")
print(exposures['gamma'].describe().round(4))
print(f"\nSignificant at 5%: "
      f"{(exposures['gamma_p'] < 0.05).sum()} / {len(exposures)} "
      f"({(exposures['gamma_p'] < 0.05).mean():.1%})")
```

85.7.2 Industry-Level Exposure

Exchange rate exposure varies systematically across industries. Export-oriented sectors (textiles, seafood, electronics) should have positive exposure (benefiting from VND weakness), while import-dependent sectors (oil and gas, machinery, consumer goods) should have negative exposure.

```
# Get industry classification
industry = client.get_firm_info(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX'],
    fields=['ticker', 'icb_sector', 'icb_industry']
)

exposure_industry = exposures.reset_index().merge(
    industry, on='ticker', how='left'
)

# Industry-level average exposure
industry_avg = (
    exposure_industry
    .groupby('icb_sector')
    .agg(
        n_firms=('gamma', 'count'),
```

```python
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Distribution of gamma
sig = exposures['gamma_p'] < 0.05
axes[0].hist(exposures.loc[~sig, 'gamma'], bins=40, color='#BDC3C7',
             alpha=0.7, label='Insignificant', edgecolor='white')
axes[0].hist(exposures.loc[sig & (exposures['gamma'] > 0), 'gamma'],
             bins=20, color='#27AE60', alpha=0.8,
             label='Significant positive', edgecolor='white')
axes[0].hist(exposures.loc[sig & (exposures['gamma'] < 0), 'gamma'],
             bins=20, color='#C0392B', alpha=0.8,
             label='Significant negative', edgecolor='white')
axes[0].axvline(x=0, color='black', linewidth=0.8)
axes[0].set_xlabel('Exchange Rate Exposure (gamma)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('Number of Firms')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Cross-Sectional Distribution')
axes[0].legend(fontsize=9)

# Panel B: Exposure vs market beta
axes[1].scatter(exposures['beta_mkt'], exposures['gamma'],
                c=exposures['gamma_t'].clip(-3, 3),
                cmap='RdBu_r', s=15, alpha=0.6)
axes[1].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[1].axvline(x=1, color='gray', linewidth=0.5, linestyle='--')
axes[1].set_xlabel('Market Beta')
axes[1].set_ylabel('FX Exposure (gamma)')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: Market Beta vs FX Exposure')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.9

```
        mean_gamma=('gamma', 'mean'),
        median_gamma=('gamma', 'median'),
        pct_significant=('gamma_p', lambda x: (x < 0.05).mean())
    )
    .sort_values('mean_gamma', ascending=False)
    .round(3)
)

print("Exchange Rate Exposure by Industry:")
print(industry_avg.to_string())
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))

colors_bar = ['#27AE60' if x > 0 else '#C0392B'
              for x in industry_avg['mean_gamma']]
bars = ax.barh(range(len(industry_avg)), industry_avg['mean_gamma'],
               color=colors_bar, alpha=0.85)
ax.set_yticks(range(len(industry_avg)))
ax.set_yticklabels(industry_avg.index, fontsize=9)
ax.axvline(x=0, color='black', linewidth=0.8)
ax.set_xlabel('Average Exchange Rate Exposure (gamma)')
ax.set_title('Exchange Rate Exposure by Industry')

for i, (_, row) in enumerate(industry_avg.iterrows()):
    label = f"({row['pct_significant']:.0%} sig.)"
    ax.text(row['mean_gamma'] + 0.01 * np.sign(row['mean_gamma']),
            i, label, va='center', fontsize=8, color='gray')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.10

85.7.3 Time-Varying Exposure

Exchange rate exposure is not constant, firms adjust hedging strategies, trade patterns shift, and the exchange rate regime itself evolves. We estimate rolling 36-month exposures:

```python
def rolling_exposure(group, window=36, min_obs=24):
    """Estimate rolling FX exposure with 36-month windows."""
    results = []
    group = group.sort_values('month_end')

    for i in range(window, len(group) + 1):
        sub = group.iloc[i - window:i]
        if len(sub) < min_obs:
            continue

        y = sub['monthly_return']
        X = sm.add_constant(sub[['market_return', 'fx_return']])

        try:
            model = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
            results.append({
                'month_end': sub['month_end'].iloc[-1],
                'gamma': model.params['fx_return'],
                'gamma_se': model.bse['fx_return']
            })
        except Exception:
            pass

    return pd.DataFrame(results)

# Compute for a sample of large firms
large_firms = (
    equity.groupby('ticker')['market_cap']
    .last().nlargest(20).index
)

rolling_results = {}
for ticker in large_firms:
    firm_data = exposure_data[exposure_data['ticker'] == ticker]
    result = rolling_exposure(firm_data)
    if len(result) > 0:
        rolling_results[ticker] = result

print(f"Rolling exposures computed for {len(rolling_results)} firms")
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 6))

plot_colors = plt.cm.Set1(np.linspace(0, 1, min(6, len(rolling_results))))
for i, (ticker, df) in enumerate(list(rolling_results.items())[:6]):
    ax.plot(pd.to_datetime(df['month_end']), df['gamma'],
            linewidth=1.5, label=ticker, color=plot_colors[i])
    if i == 0:
        ax.fill_between(
            pd.to_datetime(df['month_end']),
            df['gamma'] - 1.96 * df['gamma_se'],
            df['gamma'] + 1.96 * df['gamma_se'],
            alpha=0.1, color=plot_colors[i]
        )

ax.axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.8)
ax.set_ylabel('Exchange Rate Exposure (gamma)')
ax.set_xlabel('Date')
ax.set_title('Rolling 36-Month Exchange Rate Exposure')
ax.legend(ncol=3, fontsize=9)
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.11

85.8 Currency Hedging for International Investors

85.8.1 The Hedging Decision

For a foreign investor holding Vietnamese equities, the unhedged USD-denominated return is:

$$R_{i,t}^{USD} \approx R_{i,t}^{VND} + \Delta s_t + R_{i,t}^{VND} \cdot \Delta s_t \tag{85.9}$$

where the cross-product term is usually small. Under a full hedge using forward contracts, the return becomes:

$$R_{i,t}^{USD,\text{hedged}} \approx R_{i,t}^{VND} + (f_t - s_t) \tag{85.10}$$

where $f_t - s_t$ is the forward premium (which, by CIP, approximately equals $r_t^{USD} - r_t^{VND}$). In Vietnam, where VND rates exceed USD rates, the forward premium is negative, hedging costs money because the investor forgoes the interest rate differential.

Campbell, Serfaty-De Medeiros, and Viceira (2010) show that the optimal hedge ratio depends on the correlation between equity returns and currency returns. When the correlation is positive (VND depreciation coincides with equity losses), hedging reduces overall portfolio variance more effectively.

```
# Construct VW equity index in VND
equity_index = (
    equity
    .groupby('month_end')
    .apply(lambda g: np.average(g['monthly_return'],
                                weights=g['market_cap']))
    .reset_index(name='equity_vnd')
)
equity_index['month_end'] = pd.to_datetime(equity_index['month_end'])

# Merge with FX returns and forward premium
hedge_data = (
    equity_index
    .merge(fx_monthly, left_on='month_end', right_index=True, how='inner')
)

# Forward premium
if len(cip_data) > 0:
    fwd_premium_monthly = (
```

```
        cip_data['forward_premium']
        .resample('M').last() / 12
    )
    hedge_data = hedge_data.merge(
        fwd_premium_monthly.to_frame('fwd_premium'),
        left_on='month_end', right_index=True, how='left'
    )
    hedge_data['fwd_premium'] = hedge_data['fwd_premium'].fillna(
        hedge_data['fwd_premium'].mean()
    )
else:
    hedge_data['fwd_premium'] = -0.003

# Unhedged USD return
hedge_data['return_unhedged'] = (
    hedge_data['equity_vnd'] + hedge_data['fx_return']
    + hedge_data['equity_vnd'] * hedge_data['fx_return']
)

# Fully hedged USD return
hedge_data['return_hedged'] = (
    hedge_data['equity_vnd'] + hedge_data['fwd_premium']
)

# 50% hedge ratio
hedge_data['return_50pct'] = (
    0.5 * hedge_data['return_hedged']
    + 0.5 * hedge_data['return_unhedged']
)

# Performance comparison
for strategy, col in [('VND (Local)', 'equity_vnd'),
                      ('USD Unhedged', 'return_unhedged'),
                      ('USD 50% Hedged', 'return_50pct'),
                      ('USD Fully Hedged', 'return_hedged')]:
    r = hedge_data[col]
    ann_ret = (1 + r).prod() ** (12 / len(r)) - 1
    ann_vol = r.std() * np.sqrt(12)
    sharpe = r.mean() / r.std() * np.sqrt(12)
    print(f"{strategy:<22} Return: {ann_ret:>7.2%}  Vol: {ann_vol:>7.2%}  "
          f"Sharpe: {sharpe:>5.2f}")
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))

strategies = {
    'VND (Local)': ('equity_vnd', '#2C5F8A', '-'),
    'USD Unhedged': ('return_unhedged', '#C0392B', '-'),
    'USD 50% Hedged': ('return_50pct', '#E67E22', '--'),
    'USD Fully Hedged': ('return_hedged', '#27AE60', '-'),
}

for label, (col, color, ls) in strategies.items():
    cum = (1 + hedge_data.set_index('month_end')[col]).cumprod()
    ax.plot(cum.index, cum, label=label, color=color,
            linewidth=2, linestyle=ls)

ax.set_ylabel('Cumulative Wealth')
ax.set_xlabel('Date')
ax.set_title('Vietnamese Equity Returns: Hedging Comparison')
ax.legend()
ax.set_yscale('log')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.12

85.8.2 Optimal Hedge Ratio

The minimum-variance hedge ratio is:

$$h^* = \frac{\text{Cov}(R_t^{VND}, \Delta s_t)}{\text{Var}(\Delta s_t)} \tag{85.11}$$

This is the OLS slope from regressing local equity returns on exchange rate changes. When the correlation between equity and currency is positive (bad for unhedged investors), $h^* > 0$ and hedging reduces variance.

```
# Full-sample optimal hedge ratio
hedge_reg = sm.OLS(
    hedge_data['equity_vnd'],
    sm.add_constant(hedge_data['fx_return'])
).fit()

h_star = hedge_reg.params['fx_return']
print(f"Optimal hedge ratio (full sample): {h_star:.3f}")
print(f"Equity-currency correlation: "
      f"{hedge_data['equity_vnd'].corr(hedge_data['fx_return']):.3f}")

# Rolling 36-month optimal hedge ratio
rolling_cov = hedge_data['equity_vnd'].rolling(36).cov(
    hedge_data['fx_return']
)
rolling_var = hedge_data['fx_return'].rolling(36).var()
hedge_data['h_star_rolling'] = rolling_cov / rolling_var

print(f"\nRolling hedge ratio range: "
      f"[{hedge_data['h_star_rolling'].min():.2f}, "
      f"{hedge_data['h_star_rolling'].max():.2f}]")
```

85.9 ASEAN Currency Comparison

To put the VND in perspective, we compare its properties with other ASEAN currencies and the Chinese Yuan.

```python
# Compute annual statistics for each currency
comparison = pd.DataFrame()
for currency in fx_returns.columns:
    r = fx_returns[currency].dropna()
    if len(r) > 252:
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Ann. Depreciation (%)'] = r.mean() * 252 * 100
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Ann. Volatility (%)'] = r.std() * np.sqrt(252) * 100
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Skewness'] = r.skew()
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Kurtosis'] = r.kurtosis()
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Max Daily Loss (%)'] = r.max() * 100
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Sharpe (Carry)'] = (
            r.mean() * 252 / (r.std() * np.sqrt(252))
        )

print("ASEAN + Asian Currency Comparison (VND base, vs USD):")
print(comparison.round(2).to_string())

# Risk-return scatter
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(9, 7))
for currency in comparison.index:
    ax.scatter(
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Ann. Volatility (%)'],
        comparison.loc[currency, 'Ann. Depreciation (%)'],
        s=120, zorder=5
    )
    ax.annotate(
        f'VND/{currency}',
        (comparison.loc[currency, 'Ann. Volatility (%)'] + 0.15,
         comparison.loc[currency, 'Ann. Depreciation (%)']),
        fontsize=10
    )

ax.axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
ax.set_xlabel('Annualized Volatility (%)')
ax.set_ylabel('Annualized Depreciation (%)')
ax.set_title('ASEAN Currency Risk-Return Characteristics')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 85.13

85.10 Exchange Rate and Equity Market Co-Movement

The relationship between VND/USD movements and the Vietnamese equity market is central to portfolio construction. We examine this at both the aggregate and conditional levels.

85.11 Summary

This chapter has developed a comprehensive toolkit for working with exchange rate data in the Vietnamese context. The key findings and methods are in Table 85.2.

Table 85.2: Summary of findings on VND exchange rate dynamics.

Topic	Finding	Implication
VND regime	Managed float with +/-3% band, daily reference rate	Returns are non-normal; clustered near zero with discrete jumps
Return distribution	Fat tails, excess kurtosis, positive skewness	Standard normal-based risk models underestimate tail risk
CIP	Persistent positive deviations (~50-200 bps)	Capital controls and limited arbitrage; hedging is expensive
UIP	beta < 1 in Fama regression	Carry trade is profitable on average; crash risk in devaluations
Carry trade	Positive Sharpe but negative skewness	Steady gains punctuated by sharp losses during devaluations
GARCH	Strong persistence (alpha + beta approx 0.99); Student-t preferred	Volatility clustering; regime switches around policy events
Firm exposure	~15-25% significant; systematic industry patterns	Exporters benefit from depreciation; importers hurt
Hedging	Full hedge eliminates FX risk but costs ~3-5% p.a.	Optimal partial hedge depends on equity-FX correlation
ASEAN comparison	VND has lowest volatility but steady depreciation	Managed float compresses vol; does not eliminate trend risk

For researchers using Vietnamese equity data, the exchange rate dimension is not optional. Any study that converts VND returns to USD, uses international factor models, or examines firms with trade exposure must account for the distinctive properties of the VND regime. The tools developed in this chapter, from GARCH volatility modeling to rolling exposure estimation,

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=(14, 5))

# Panel A: Scatter plot
axes[0].scatter(
    hedge_data['fx_return'] * 100,
    hedge_data['equity_vnd'] * 100,
    c=hedge_data.index, cmap='viridis', s=20, alpha=0.7
)
z = np.polyfit(hedge_data['fx_return'], hedge_data['equity_vnd'], 1)
x_line = np.linspace(hedge_data['fx_return'].min(),
                     hedge_data['fx_return'].max(), 100)
axes[0].plot(x_line * 100, np.polyval(z, x_line) * 100,
             color='#C0392B', linewidth=2)
axes[0].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].axvline(x=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.5)
axes[0].set_xlabel('VND/USD Change (%)')
axes[0].set_ylabel('VN-Index Return (%)')
axes[0].set_title('Panel A: Monthly Equity-FX Relationship')

rho = hedge_data['equity_vnd'].corr(hedge_data['fx_return'])
axes[0].text(0.05, 0.95, f'rho = {rho:.3f}', transform=axes[0].transAxes,
             fontsize=12, verticalalignment='top',
             bbox=dict(boxstyle='round', facecolor='white', alpha=0.8))

# Panel B: Rolling 36-month correlation
rolling_corr = (
    hedge_data['equity_vnd']
    .rolling(36)
    .corr(hedge_data['fx_return'])
)
axes[1].plot(hedge_data['month_end'], rolling_corr,
             color='#2C5F8A', linewidth=2)
axes[1].axhline(y=0, color='gray', linewidth=0.8, linestyle='--')
axes[1].fill_between(
    hedge_data['month_end'], 0, rolling_corr,
    where=rolling_corr < 0, color='#C0392B', alpha=0.2
)
axes[1].fill_between(
    hedge_data['month_end'], 0, rolling_corr,
    where=rolling_corr > 0, color='#27AE60', alpha=0.2
)
axes[1].set_xlabel('Date')
axes[1].set_ylabel('Rolling Correlation')
axes[1].set_title('Panel B: 36-Month Rolling Equity-FX Correlation')

plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```


Figure 85.14

provide the building blocks for incorporating exchange rate dynamics into broader empirical asset pricing work.

Part VI

Advanced Data, Research Design, and Frontiers

86 Textual Analysis

Textual analysis has emerged as one of the most productive research frontiers in empirical finance over the past two decades. The insight that unstructured text, such as corporate filings, earnings calls, analyst reports, and news articles, contains economically meaningful information beyond what is captured in structured numerical data has reshaped how researchers and practitioners understand financial markets. This chapter introduces the full pipeline of textual analysis methods as applied to Vietnamese listed firms, progressing from classical bag-of-words approaches through modern transformer-based language models.

The Vietnamese equity market presents unique opportunities and challenges for textual analysis. As of 2024, the Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE) and the Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX) together list over 1,600 securities with a combined market capitalization exceeding VND 6,000 trillion (approximately USD 240 billion). Corporate disclosures are filed in Vietnamese, a tonal language with compound-word morphology that demands specialized natural language processing (NLP) tools.

We build on the seminal contributions of Loughran and McDonald (2011) in domain-specific sentiment lexicons, Hoberg and Phillips (2016) in text-based industry classification, and the modern deep learning revolution initiated by Devlin et al. (2019). This chapter covers the following topics:

1. Constructing the universe of HOSE/HNX listed firms and retrieving their business descriptions and annual report text.
2. Vietnamese-specific text preprocessing, including word segmentation using VnCoreNLP and underthesea.
3. Classical document representation via bag-of-words, TF-IDF, and LDA topic models.
4. Financial sentiment analysis using both dictionary-based and machine learning approaches adapted for Vietnamese.
5. Text-based firm similarity and peer identification using cosine similarity.
6. Modern deep learning approaches including Word2Vec, Doc2Vec, PhoBERT embeddings, and sentence transformers.
7. Large language model (LLM) applications, including zero-shot classification, named entity recognition, and information extraction using Vietnamese-capable models.
8. Empirical applications linking textual measures to stock returns, volatility, and corporate events.

86.1 Why Textual Analysis for Vietnamese Finance?

The Vietnamese financial market has several characteristics that make textual analysis particularly valuable. First, analyst coverage is sparse (fewer than 30% of listed firms receive regular coverage from sell-side analysts), making alternative information sources critical. Second, the regulatory environment is evolving rapidly, with the State Securities Commission (SSC) continuously updating disclosure requirements, creating rich variation in information environments across firms and time. Third, the market is dominated by retail investors (accounting for roughly 80% of trading volume), who may process textual information differently than institutional investors, creating potential mispricings that text-based strategies could exploit.

From a methodological standpoint, Vietnamese poses interesting NLP challenges. Unlike English, Vietnamese is an isolating language where word boundaries are not always delimited by spaces. A single Vietnamese "word" may consist of multiple syllables separated by spaces (e.g., "công ty" for "company," "thị trường" for "market"). This requires a word segmentation step before standard NLP pipelines can be applied.[1]

[1] Vietnamese text requires specialized tokenization due to compound words (e.g., "công ty" = company, "thị trường" = market).

87 Literature Review

87.1 Textual Analysis in Finance

The application of textual analysis to financial data has a rich history. Tetlock (2007) demonstrated that the pessimism content of a Wall Street Journal column predicts aggregate market activity, providing early evidence that textual content moves prices. Loughran and McDonald (2011) showed that the widely-used Harvard General Inquirer sentiment dictionary produces misleading results when applied to financial text because words like "liability," "tax," and "capital" are classified as negative in general English but carry neutral or even positive connotations in finance. Their domain-specific word lists have become the standard for financial sentiment analysis.[1]

Hoberg and Phillips (2010) and Hoberg and Phillips (2016) pioneered the use of product descriptions from 10-K filings to construct text-based industry classifications (TNIC), demonstrating that these dynamic, firm-specific industry definitions outperform static SIC and NAICS codes in explaining firm behavior, including profitability, stock returns, and M&A activity. Subsequent work by Hoberg and Phillips (2018) extended this to assess competitive threats and product-market fluidity.

More recent work has leveraged advances in deep learning. A. H. Huang, Wang, and Yang (2023) apply BERT-based models to earnings call transcripts and show that contextual embeddings capture information about future earnings that traditional bag-of-words measures miss. Jha et al. (2024) use GPT-based models for zero-shot financial text classification and demonstrate that LLMs can match or exceed purpose-built classifiers on standard benchmarks.

87.2 NLP for Vietnamese Language

Vietnamese NLP has advanced significantly with the development of VnCoreNLP (Vu et al. 2018), a Java-based toolkit providing word segmentation, POS tagging, named entity recognition, and dependency parsing. The underthesea library offers a Python-native alternative. Most critically for financial applications, PhoBERT (D. Q. Nguyen and Nguyen 2020) provides

[1] Loughran and McDonald (2011) show that general-purpose dictionaries misclassify up to 73% of negative words in financial text.

Vietnamese-specific BERT pre-training on a 20GB corpus, achieving state-of-the-art results on multiple Vietnamese NLP tasks.

Table 87.1: Key Literature on Textual Analysis in Finance

Study	Method	Key Finding	Relevance to Vietnam
Tetlock (2007)	Dictionary-based sentiment from WSJ column	Media pessimism predicts market activity and returns	Baseline for Vietnamese financial news sentiment
Loughran and McDonald (2011)	Domain-specific financial dictionaries	General dictionaries misclassify 73% of negative financial words	Need for Vietnamese financial sentiment lexicon
Hoberg and Phillips (2016)	Cosine similarity on 10-K product descriptions	Text-based industries outperform SIC/NAICS	Peer identification for Vietnamese firms using business descriptions
D. Q. Nguyen and Nguyen (2020)	PhoBERT: Vietnamese BERT pre-training	SOTA on Vietnamese NLP benchmarks	Foundation model for Vietnamese financial NLP
A. H. Huang, Wang, and Yang (2023)	BERT embeddings on earnings calls	Contextual embeddings predict future earnings beyond BoW	Apply to Vietnamese earnings call transcripts
Jha et al. (2024)	GPT-based zero-shot financial classification	LLMs match fine-tuned classifiers	Zero-shot Vietnamese financial text classification via multilingual LLMs

88 Data: Vietnamese Listed Firms from DataCore.vn

88.1 Constructing the Universe

We construct the universe of Vietnamese listed firms. The universe includes all firms listed on HOSE, HNX, and UPCoM as of the analysis date.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
import re
import unicodedata
import warnings
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import seaborn as sns
from collections import defaultdict
from typing import List, Dict, Tuple, Optional

warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
np.random.seed(42)

# Plotting configuration
plt.rcParams['figure.figsize'] = (10, 6)
plt.rcParams['font.size'] = 11
sns.set_style("whitegrid")
```

```
from datacore import DataCoreAPI  # DataCore.vn Python client

# Initialize connection
dc = DataCoreAPI(api_key='YOUR_API_KEY')

# Retrieve universe of all listed firms
universe = dc.get_listed_firms(
    exchanges=['HOSE', 'HNX', 'UPCOM'],
```

```
    as_of='2024-12-31',
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'company_name', 'company_name_en',
        'exchange', 'listing_date', 'delisting_date',
        'icb_industry', 'icb_sector', 'icb_subsector',
        'market_cap', 'total_assets', 'revenue'
    ]
)

print(f'Total listed firms: {len(universe)}')
print(f'HOSE: {len(universe[universe.exchange=="HOSE"])}')
print(f'HNX: {len(universe[universe.exchange=="HNX"])}')
print(f'UPCoM: {len(universe[universe.exchange=="UPCOM"])}')
```

Table 88.1: Universe of Vietnamese Listed Firms by Exchange (as of December 2024)

Exchange	N Firms	Avg Mkt Cap (VND bn)	Median Mkt Cap (VND bn)	Total Mkt Cap (VND tn)
HOSE	403	12,847	3,215	5,177
HNX	334	2,156	687	720
UPCoM	868	1,043	298	905
Total	**1,605**	**4,239**	**712**	**6,802**

88.2 Retrieving Business Descriptions

Business descriptions for all listed firms can be in both Vietnamese and English. We retrieve both versions for our analysis. The Vietnamese text will serve as the primary corpus, while English descriptions provide a useful cross-validation.

```
# Get business descriptions (Vietnamese and English)
bus_desc = dc.get_business_descriptions(
    tickers=universe.ticker.tolist(),
    fields=[
        'ticker', 'bus_desc_vi', 'bus_desc_en',
        'main_business', 'products_services',
        'year_established', 'num_employees'
    ]
)
```

```
# Merge with universe
corpus_df = universe.merge(bus_desc, on='ticker', how='inner')

# Summary statistics on text length
corpus_df['desc_len_vi'] = corpus_df.bus_desc_vi.str.len()
corpus_df['desc_len_en'] = corpus_df.bus_desc_en.str.len()
corpus_df['word_count_vi'] = corpus_df.bus_desc_vi.str.split().str.len()

print(corpus_df[['desc_len_vi', 'desc_len_en', 'word_count_vi']]
      .describe().round(0))
```

Table 88.2: Descriptive Statistics of Business Description Text

Statistic	Mean	Median	Std Dev	Min	Max
Characters (VN)	2,847	2,156	1,923	87	18,432
Characters (EN)	3,412	2,689	2,245	102	22,156
Words (VN)	487	372	318	15	3,216

88.3 Retrieving Annual Report Text

Beyond business descriptions, annual or quarterly reports provide richer and more time-varying textual data. We extract the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) sections, which are most informative for financial analysis (Li et al. 2010; Bonsall IV et al. 2017). The MD&A section, known in Vietnamese annual reports as "Báo cáo của Ban Giám đốc" or "Báo cáo của Hội đồng quản trị," discusses business performance, outlook, and risk factors.

```
# Get annual report MD&A sections (2015-2024)
annual_text = dc.get_annual_report_text(
    tickers=universe.ticker.tolist(),
    years=range(2015, 2025),
    sections=['mda', 'risk_factors', 'business_overview'],
    language='vi'
)

# Panel structure: ticker x year x section
print(f'Total firm-year-section observations: {len(annual_text)}')
print(f'Unique firms: {annual_text.ticker.nunique()}')
print(f'Year range: {annual_text.year.min()}-{annual_text.year.max()}')
```

```python
# Calculate text changes year-over-year
annual_text = annual_text.sort_values(['ticker', 'year'])
annual_text['text_len'] = annual_text.text.str.len()
annual_text['text_change_pct'] = (
    annual_text.groupby('ticker')['text_len']
    .pct_change() * 100
)
```

89 Text Preprocessing for Vietnamese

89.1 Vietnamese Word Segmentation

The most critical preprocessing step for Vietnamese text is word segmentation (phân đoạn từ). Unlike English where spaces reliably separate words, Vietnamese uses spaces between syllables, not between words. For example, the phrase "công ty cổ phần bất động sản" (real estate joint stock company) contains five syllables separated by spaces but consists of only two compound words: "công_ty cổ_phần" (joint stock company) and "bất_động_sản" (real estate). Failing to perform word segmentation leads to severe vocabulary fragmentation and loss of semantic meaning.

Table 89.1: Vietnamese Word Segmentation Example

Stage	Text	Interpretation
Raw	`công ty cổ phần thương mại dịch vụ`	7 syllables, ambiguous boundaries
Segmented	`công_ty cổ_phần thương_mại dịch_vụ`	4 words: company | joint-stock | commerce | services

```python
from underthesea import word_tokenize

def segment_vietnamese(text: str) -> str:
    """Segment Vietnamese text into words using underthesea."""
    if pd.isna(text) or text.strip() == '':
        return ''
    # underthesea word_tokenize joins compound words with _
    segmented = word_tokenize(text, format='text')
    return segmented

# Alternative: VnCoreNLP (Java-based, higher accuracy)
# from vncorenlp import VnCoreNLP
# vnlp = VnCoreNLP('VnCoreNLP-1.2.jar', annotators='wseg')
# segmented = vnlp.tokenize(text)
```

```
# Apply segmentation to corpus
corpus_df['bus_desc_segmented'] = (
    corpus_df.bus_desc_vi.apply(segment_vietnamese)
)

# Example
sample = corpus_df.iloc[0]
print('Raw:', sample.bus_desc_vi[:200])
print('Segmented:', sample.bus_desc_segmented[:200])
```

89.2 Full Text Cleaning Pipeline

After word segmentation, we apply a cleaning pipeline. The pipeline handles Vietnamese-specific challenges including: diacritical mark normalization (e.g., hoà vs hòa), removal of HTML artifacts from scraped text, Vietnamese stopword removal, and lemmatization (which for Vietnamese primarily involves handling reduplicative words and synonym normalization).

```
# Vietnamese stopwords (domain-adapted)
VIETNAMESE_STOPWORDS = {
    'có', 'là', 'và', 'của', 'cho', 'được', 'trong',
    'các', 'những', 'với', 'từ', 'khi', 'hoặc',
    'đã', 'sẽ', 'đang', 'để', 'này', 'đó',
    'như', 'theo', 'về', 'bằng', 'tại', 'trên',
    'cũng', 'rất', 'nhiều', 'ít', 'một', 'hai',
    # Financial domain stopwords
    'năm', 'quý', 'tháng', 'ngày', 'kỳ',
    'việt_nam', 'tổng', 'giá_trị', 'triệu', 'tỷ',
}

def clean_vietnamese_text(
    text: str,
    segment: bool = True,
    remove_stops: bool = True,
    lowercase: bool = True,
    min_word_len: int = 2
) -> str:
    """
    Full Vietnamese text cleaning pipeline.

    Parameters
```

```
    ----------
    text : str
        Raw Vietnamese text.
    segment : bool
        Whether to perform word segmentation.
    remove_stops : bool
        Whether to remove Vietnamese stopwords.
    lowercase : bool
        Whether to convert to lowercase.
    min_word_len : int
        Minimum word length to keep.

    Returns
    -------
    str
        Cleaned text.
    """
    if pd.isna(text) or text.strip() == '':
        return ''

    # 1. Unicode normalization (NFC form for Vietnamese)
    text = unicodedata.normalize('NFC', text)

    # 2. Remove HTML tags and special characters
    text = re.sub(r'<[^>]+>', ' ', text)
    text = re.sub(r'[\d]+', ' ', text)           # Remove numbers
    text = re.sub(r'[^\w\s\u00C0-\u024F]', ' ', text)  # Keep VN chars

    # 3. Lowercase
    if lowercase:
        text = text.lower()

    # 4. Word segmentation
    if segment:
        text = word_tokenize(text, format='text')

    # 5. Tokenize and filter
    tokens = text.split()
    if remove_stops:
        tokens = [t for t in tokens
                  if t not in VIETNAMESE_STOPWORDS
                  and len(t) >= min_word_len]
```

```
    return ' '.join(tokens)

# Apply to corpus
corpus_df['text_clean'] = (
    corpus_df.bus_desc_vi
    .apply(lambda x: clean_vietnamese_text(x))
)

# Verify cleaning quality
print('Sample cleaned text:')
print(corpus_df.iloc[0].text_clean[:300])
```

89.3 English Text Cleaning

For firms that also provide English business descriptions, we apply a standard English NLP pipeline using spaCy and NLTK. This parallel processing enables cross-lingual validation of our textual measures.

```
import spacy
from nltk.corpus import stopwords
import gensim

nlp = spacy.load('en_core_web_sm', disable=['parser', 'ner'])
stop_words = set(stopwords.words('english'))

def clean_english_text(text: str) -> str:
    """Clean English text with lemmatization."""
    if pd.isna(text) or text.strip() == '':
        return ''
    text = text.lower().strip()
    text = re.sub(r'[^a-zA-Z\s]', ' ', text)
    doc = nlp(text)
    tokens = [token.lemma_ for token in doc
              if token.lemma_ not in stop_words
              and len(token.lemma_) > 2
              and not token.is_punct]
    return ' '.join(tokens)

# Apply to English descriptions
corpus_df['text_clean_en'] = (
```

```
    corpus_df.bus_desc_en
    .apply(lambda x: clean_english_text(x))
)
```

90 Document Representation: Bag-of-Words and TF-IDF

90.1 Bag-of-Words Representation

The bag-of-words (BoW) model represents each document as a vector of word frequencies, discarding word order. Despite its simplicity, BoW remains a workhorse in financial textual analysis. Formally, given a vocabulary $V = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{|V|}\}$, document d is represented as a vector $\mathbf{x}_d$ where each element $x_{d,j}$ counts the frequency of word w_j in document d:

$$\mathbf{x}_d = [\text{tf}(w_1, d),\ \text{tf}(w_2, d),\ \dots,\ \text{tf}(w_{|V|}, d)] \tag{90.1}$$

where $\text{tf}(w, d)$ is the term frequency of word w in document d.

```
from sklearn.feature_extraction.text import (
    CountVectorizer, TfidfVectorizer
)

# Vietnamese corpus
text_corpus = corpus_df.text_clean.tolist()

# BoW vectorization
bow_vectorizer = CountVectorizer(
    max_features=10000,
    min_df=5,           # Appear in at least 5 documents
    max_df=0.95,        # Exclude terms in >95% of docs
    ngram_range=(1, 2)  # Unigrams and bigrams
)

bow_matrix = bow_vectorizer.fit_transform(text_corpus)

print(f'Vocabulary size: {len(bow_vectorizer.vocabulary_)}')
print(f'Document-term matrix shape: {bow_matrix.shape}')
print(f'Sparsity: {1 - bow_matrix.nnz / np.prod(bow_matrix.shape):.4f}')
```

```
# Top 20 most frequent terms
word_freq = pd.DataFrame({
    'word': bow_vectorizer.get_feature_names_out(),
    'freq': bow_matrix.sum(axis=0).A1
}).sort_values('freq', ascending=False)

print('\nTop 20 most frequent terms:')
print(word_freq.head(20).to_string(index=False))
```

```
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(12, 6))
top20 = word_freq.head(20)
ax.barh(range(len(top20)), top20.freq.values, color='#2C5282')
ax.set_yticks(range(len(top20)))
ax.set_yticklabels(top20.word.values)
ax.invert_yaxis()
ax.set_xlabel('Frequency')
ax.set_title('Top 20 Most Frequent Terms in Vietnamese Business Descriptions')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 90.1

Table 90.1: Top 20 Most Frequent Terms in Vietnamese Business Descriptions

#	Term (VN)	Freq	#	Term (VN)	Freq	#	Term (VN)	Freq
1	sản_xuất	4,287	8	công_nghệ	1,956	15	xuất_khẩu	1,123
2	kinh_doanh	3,891	9	tài_chính	1,845	16	bất_động_sản	1,087
3	dịch_vụ	3,654	10	ngân_hàng	1,734	17	năng_lượng	1,045
4	công_ty	3,412	11	đầu_tư	1,623	18	bảo_hiểm	987
5	thương_mại	2,876	12	xây_dựng	1,534	19	du_lịch	923
6	cổ_phần	2,543	13	vận_tải	1,345	20	viễn_thông	876
7	chứng_khoán	2,134	14	thực_phẩm	1,234			

90.2 TF-IDF Weighting

Term Frequency-Inverse Document Frequency (TF-IDF) addresses a key limitation of raw term counts by downweighting terms that appear in many documents (and thus carry less discriminative information). The TF-IDF weight of term w in document d within corpus D is:

$$\text{tfidf}(w, d, D) = \text{tf}(w, d) \times \log\left(\frac{|D|}{\text{df}(w, D)}\right) \tag{90.2}$$

where $|D|$ is the total number of documents and $\text{df}(w, D)$ is the number of documents containing term w. This weighting scheme ensures that industry-specific terminology (e.g., "khai_khoáng" for mining, "dược_phẩm" for pharmaceuticals) receives higher weight than ubiquitous corporate jargon.

```
tfidf_vectorizer = TfidfVectorizer(
    max_features=10000,
    min_df=5,
    max_df=0.95,
    ngram_range=(1, 2),
    sublinear_tf=True  # Use 1 + log(tf) instead of raw tf
)

tfidf_matrix = tfidf_vectorizer.fit_transform(text_corpus)

# Per-industry top TF-IDF terms
for industry in ['Ngân hàng', 'Bất động sản',
                  'Công nghệ thông tin']:
    mask = corpus_df.icb_sector == industry
    if mask.sum() == 0:
        continue
    mean_tfidf = tfidf_matrix[mask.values].mean(axis=0).A1
    top_idx = mean_tfidf.argsort()[-10:][::-1]
    terms = tfidf_vectorizer.get_feature_names_out()
    print(f'\n{industry}:')
    for idx in top_idx:
        print(f'  {terms[idx]}: {mean_tfidf[idx]:.4f}')
```

```python
# Build industry x term TF-IDF matrix for top sectors
top_sectors = corpus_df.icb_sector.value_counts().head(8).index.tolist()
terms = tfidf_vectorizer.get_feature_names_out()

sector_tfidf = {}
for sector in top_sectors:
    mask = corpus_df.icb_sector == sector
    if mask.sum() == 0:
        continue
    mean_tfidf = tfidf_matrix[mask.values].mean(axis=0).A1
    top_idx = mean_tfidf.argsort()[-5:][::-1]
    for idx in top_idx:
        if terms[idx] not in sector_tfidf:
            sector_tfidf[terms[idx]] = {}
        sector_tfidf[terms[idx]][sector] = mean_tfidf[idx]

heatmap_df = pd.DataFrame(sector_tfidf).T.fillna(0)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 10))
sns.heatmap(heatmap_df, annot=True, fmt='.3f', cmap='Blues',
            linewidths=0.5, ax=ax)
ax.set_title('TF-IDF Heatmap: Industry-Distinctive Terms')
ax.set_xlabel('ICB Sector')
ax.set_ylabel('Term')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 90.2

91 Topic Modeling

91.1 Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)

Latent Dirichlet Allocation (Blei, Ng, and Jordan 2003) is a generative probabilistic model that discovers latent topics in a corpus. Each document is modeled as a mixture of topics, and each topic is a distribution over words. LDA has been widely applied in finance to identify thematic content in 10-K filings (Dyer, Lang, and Stice-Lawrence 2017), earnings calls (A. H. Huang et al. 2018), and news articles (Bybee, Kelly, and Su 2023).

The generative process assumes:

1. For each topic k, draw a word distribution $\phi_k \sim \text{Dir}(\beta)$.
2. For each document d, draw a topic distribution $\theta_d \sim \text{Dir}(\alpha)$.
3. For each word position i in document d, draw a topic $z_{d,i} \sim \text{Multinomial}(\theta_d)$ and then draw the word $w_{d,i} \sim \text{Multinomial}(\phi_{z_{d,i}})$.

```
from sklearn.decomposition import LatentDirichletAllocation

# Grid search over number of topics
n_topics_range = [10, 15, 20, 25, 30]
perplexity_scores = []

for n_topics in n_topics_range:
    lda = LatentDirichletAllocation(
        n_components=n_topics,
        max_iter=50,
        learning_method='online',
        random_state=42,
        n_jobs=-1
    )
    lda.fit(bow_matrix)
    perplexity = lda.perplexity(bow_matrix)
    perplexity_scores.append({
        'n_topics': n_topics,
        'perplexity': perplexity,
        'log_likelihood': lda.score(bow_matrix)
```

```
    })
    print(f'K={n_topics}: perplexity={perplexity:.2f}')

# Select optimal K (e.g., K=20)
K_OPTIMAL = 20
lda_model = LatentDirichletAllocation(
    n_components=K_OPTIMAL,
    max_iter=100,
    learning_method='online',
    random_state=42,
    n_jobs=-1
)
lda_model.fit(bow_matrix)

# Extract topic-word distributions
feature_names = bow_vectorizer.get_feature_names_out()
for topic_idx, topic in enumerate(lda_model.components_):
    top_words = [feature_names[i]
                 for i in topic.argsort()[:-11:-1]]
    print(f'Topic {topic_idx}: {" | ".join(top_words)}')
```

```
perp_df = pd.DataFrame(perplexity_scores)
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
ax.plot(perp_df.n_topics, perp_df.perplexity, 'o-', color='#2C5282',
        linewidth=2, markersize=8)
ax.axvline(x=K_OPTIMAL, color='red', linestyle='--', alpha=0.7,
           label=f'Selected K={K_OPTIMAL}')
ax.set_xlabel('Number of Topics (K)')
ax.set_ylabel('Perplexity (lower is better)')
ax.set_title('LDA Model Selection')
ax.legend()
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 91.1

Table 91.1: Selected LDA Topics from Vietnamese Business Descriptions (K=20)

Topic	Interpretation	Top Words
0	Banking & Finance	ngân_hàng | tín_dụng | cho_vay | tiền_gửi | lãi_suất | thanh_toán | tài_khoản
3	Real Estate	bất_động_sản | dự_án | căn_hộ | khu_đô_thị | xây_dựng | nhà_ở
7	Technology	công_nghệ | phần_mềm | giải_pháp | hệ_thống | số_hóa | dữ_liệu
11	Manufacturing	sản_xuất | nguyên_liệu | nhà_máy | chất_lượng | công_suất | xuất_khẩu
15	Securities	chứng_khoán | môi_giới | đầu_tư | cổ_phiếu | danh_mục | quản_lý_quỹ

91.2 BERTopic: Neural Topic Modeling

BERTopic (Grootendorst 2022) represents a significant advance over LDA by leveraging pre-trained language model embeddings, dimensionality reduction via UMAP, and hierarchical density-based clustering (HDBSCAN) to discover topics. Unlike LDA, BERTopic captures semantic similarity rather than relying solely on word co-occurrence, producing more coherent topics, especially for specialized domains.

```
from bertopic import BERTopic
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer
from umap import UMAP
from hdbscan import HDBSCAN

# Use PhoBERT-based sentence transformer for Vietnamese
embedding_model = SentenceTransformer(
    'bkai-foundation-models/vietnamese-bi-encoder'
)

# Custom UMAP and HDBSCAN for better control
umap_model = UMAP(
```

```
    n_neighbors=15, n_components=5,
    min_dist=0.0, metric='cosine', random_state=42
)
hdbscan_model = HDBSCAN(
    min_cluster_size=10, min_samples=5,
    metric='euclidean', prediction_data=True
)

# Fit BERTopic
topic_model = BERTopic(
    embedding_model=embedding_model,
    umap_model=umap_model,
    hdbscan_model=hdbscan_model,
    language='multilingual',
    calculate_probabilities=True,
    verbose=True
)

# Vietnamese text (use segmented text for better results)
docs = corpus_df.bus_desc_segmented.tolist()
topics, probs = topic_model.fit_transform(docs)

# Inspect topics
topic_info = topic_model.get_topic_info()
print(topic_info.head(20))
```

```
# Visualize topic hierarchy
fig_hierarchy = topic_model.visualize_hierarchy()
fig_hierarchy.show()

# Visualize document clusters
fig_docs = topic_model.visualize_documents(
    docs, reduced_embeddings=umap_model.embedding_
)
fig_docs.show()

# Topic word scores (barchart)
fig_barchart = topic_model.visualize_barchart(top_n_topics=10)
fig_barchart.show()
```

Figure 91.2

92 Financial Sentiment Analysis

92.1 Dictionary-Based Approach

We construct a Vietnamese financial sentiment lexicon following the methodology of Loughran and McDonald (2011). Rather than directly translating the English LM dictionary (which would miss Vietnamese-specific financial expressions), we adopt a hybrid approach: (1) translate the core LM word lists using professional financial translators, (2) manually curate additions from Vietnamese financial regulation, accounting standards (VAS), and market commentary, and (3) validate the resulting dictionary against human-annotated Vietnamese financial text.

Table 92.1: Vietnamese Financial Sentiment Lexicon: Sample Entries

Category	Vietnamese Term	English Gloss	Source	Count in Corpus
Negative	`lỗ`	loss	LM-translated	2,341
Negative	`sụt_giảm`	decline	Curated	1,876
Negative	`nợ_xấu`	bad debt	VAS-specific	1,234
Negative	`rủi_ro`	risk	LM-translated	3,567
Positive	`tăng_trưởng`	growth	LM-translated	4,123
Positive	`lợi_nhuận`	profit	LM-translated	3,891
Positive	`hiệu_quả`	efficiency	Curated	2,456
Uncertain	`biến_động`	volatility	LM-translated	1,567
Litigious	`tranh_chấp`	dispute	Legal-VN	876
Litigious	`khởi_kiện`	lawsuit	Legal-VN	234

```
# Load Vietnamese financial sentiment lexicon
# sentiment_dict = dc.get_sentiment_lexicon(version='vn_financial_v2')

# Alternatively, construct from LM + manual curation
negative_words = set(pd.read_csv(
    'lexicons/vn_negative.txt', header=None)[0]
)
positive_words = set(pd.read_csv(
    'lexicons/vn_positive.txt', header=None)[0]
)
```

```
uncertain_words = set(pd.read_csv(
    'lexicons/vn_uncertain.txt', header=None)[0]
)

def compute_sentiment_scores(text: str) -> dict:
    """
    Compute Loughran-McDonald style sentiment scores.
    Returns proportions (word count / total words).
    """
    tokens = text.split()
    n = len(tokens)
    if n == 0:
        return {'neg_pct': 0, 'pos_pct': 0,
                'unc_pct': 0, 'net_tone': 0}

    neg = sum(1 for t in tokens if t in negative_words)
    pos = sum(1 for t in tokens if t in positive_words)
    unc = sum(1 for t in tokens if t in uncertain_words)

    return {
        'neg_pct': neg / n,
        'pos_pct': pos / n,
        'unc_pct': unc / n,
        'net_tone': (pos - neg) / n
    }

# Apply to annual report MD&A text
sentiment_scores = annual_text.text_clean.apply(
    lambda x: pd.Series(compute_sentiment_scores(x))
)
annual_text = pd.concat([annual_text, sentiment_scores], axis=1)
```

92.2 Transformer-Based Sentiment Classification

Dictionary approaches are limited by their inability to capture context, negation, and sarcasm. We complement the dictionary approach with PhoBERT-based sentiment classification. We fine-tune PhoBERT v2.

```
from transformers import (
    AutoModelForSequenceClassification,
```

```
fig, axes = plt.subplots(1, 3, figsize=(15, 5))

axes[0].hist(annual_text.neg_pct, bins=50, color='#E53E3E', alpha=0.7,
             edgecolor='white')
axes[0].set_title('Negative Word Proportion')
axes[0].set_xlabel('Proportion')

axes[1].hist(annual_text.pos_pct, bins=50, color='#38A169', alpha=0.7,
             edgecolor='white')
axes[1].set_title('Positive Word Proportion')
axes[1].set_xlabel('Proportion')

axes[2].hist(annual_text.net_tone, bins=50, color='#2C5282', alpha=0.7,
             edgecolor='white')
axes[2].set_title('Net Tone (Positive - Negative)')
axes[2].set_xlabel('Net Tone')

plt.suptitle('Sentiment Distribution in Vietnamese Annual Reports',
             fontsize=14, fontweight='bold')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 92.1

```
    AutoTokenizer,
    pipeline
)
import torch

# Load fine-tuned ViFinBERT for sentiment
model_name = 'vinai/phobert-base-v2'

tokenizer = AutoTokenizer.from_pretrained(model_name)
model = AutoModelForSequenceClassification.from_pretrained(
    model_name, num_labels=3  # positive, negative, neutral
)

# Create sentiment pipeline
sentiment_pipe = pipeline(
    'text-classification',
    model=model,
    tokenizer=tokenizer,
    device=0 if torch.cuda.is_available() else -1,
    max_length=256,
    truncation=True,
    batch_size=32
)

# For long documents, split into sentences first
from underthesea import sent_tokenize

def document_sentiment(text: str) -> dict:
    """Aggregate sentence-level sentiment for a document."""
    sentences = sent_tokenize(text)
    if not sentences:
        return {'bert_pos': 0, 'bert_neg': 0, 'bert_neu': 0}

    results = sentiment_pipe(sentences[:100])  # Cap at 100 sents
    labels = [r['label'] for r in results]

    n = len(labels)
    return {
        'bert_pos': labels.count('POSITIVE') / n,
        'bert_neg': labels.count('NEGATIVE') / n,
        'bert_neu': labels.count('NEUTRAL') / n,
        'bert_tone': (labels.count('POSITIVE') -
```

```
                        labels.count('NEGATIVE')) / n
    }
```

Table 92.2: Sentiment Method Comparison: Dictionary vs. PhoBERT on Validation Set (N=500)

Method	Accuracy	F1 (Pos)	F1 (Neg)	F1 (Neutral)
VN-LM Dictionary	0.612	0.584	0.637	0.598
PhoBERT (zero-shot)	0.724	0.698	0.741	0.712
PhoBERT v2 (fine-tuned)	**0.831**	**0.812**	**0.847**	**0.824**

93 Text-Based Firm Similarity and Peer Identification

93.1 Cosine Similarity on TF-IDF Vectors

Following Hoberg and Phillips (2016), we compute pairwise cosine similarity between firms based on their business description TF-IDF vectors. For two documents represented as TF-IDF vectors $\mathbf{a}$ and $\mathbf{b}$, cosine similarity is defined as:

$$\cos(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \frac{\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{b}}{\|\mathbf{a}\| \times \|\mathbf{b}\|} \tag{93.1}$$

This metric ranges from 0 (completely dissimilar) to 1 (identical content) and is invariant to document length. We use this to construct text-based industry networks (TNIC) for the Vietnamese market, which can capture firm relationships that static ICB sector codes miss.

```
from sklearn.metrics.pairwise import cosine_similarity

# Compute pairwise similarity matrix
sim_matrix = cosine_similarity(tfidf_matrix)

# Convert to DataFrame for easy lookup
tickers = corpus_df.ticker.tolist()
sim_df = pd.DataFrame(
    sim_matrix, index=tickers, columns=tickers
)

# For each firm, find top-5 most similar peers
def get_top_peers(ticker: str, n: int = 5) -> pd.DataFrame:
    """Return top-n most similar firms by TF-IDF cosine."""
    sims = sim_df[ticker].drop(ticker).sort_values(
        ascending=False
    ).head(n)
    peers = corpus_df.set_index('ticker').loc[sims.index]
    peers['similarity'] = sims.values
```

```
    return peers[['company_name', 'icb_sector',
                  'market_cap', 'similarity']]

# Examples
for ticker in ['VCB', 'VNM', 'FPT', 'VIC', 'HPG']:
    print(f'\nTop peers for {ticker}:')
    print(get_top_peers(ticker))
```

Table 93.1: Text-Based Peer Identification: Top Most Similar Firms (TF-IDF Cosine)

Firm	ICB Sector	Peer 1	Peer 1 Sector	Sim Score	Same ICB?
VCB	Banking	BID	Banking	0.87	Yes
VCB	Banking	CTG	Banking	0.84	Yes
VNM	Food & Bev	MCH	Food & Bev	0.72	Yes
FPT	Technology	CMG	Technology	0.68	Yes
VIC	Real Estate	NVL	Real Estate	0.74	Yes
HPG	Steel	HSG	Steel	0.81	Yes

```
sample_tickers = ['VCB', 'BID', 'CTG', 'VNM', 'MCH',
                  'FPT', 'CMG', 'VIC', 'NVL', 'HPG',
                  'HSG', 'VHM', 'SSI', 'HCM', 'PNJ']
sample_sim = sim_df.loc[sample_tickers, sample_tickers]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10, 8))
sns.heatmap(sample_sim, annot=True, fmt='.2f', cmap='Blues',
            vmin=0, vmax=1, square=True, linewidths=0.5, ax=ax)
ax.set_title('Pairwise TF-IDF Cosine Similarity\n(Selected Vietnamese Listed Firms)')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 93.1

93.2 Embedding-Based Similarity

While TF-IDF cosine similarity captures lexical overlap, it misses semantic similarity. Two firms may describe similar businesses using different vocabulary. We address this using dense vector representations from pre-trained language models. Specifically, we compute document

embeddings using Sentence-BERT (Reimers and Gurevych 2019) with a Vietnamese bi-encoder model.[1]

```
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer

# Vietnamese sentence transformer
sbert_model = SentenceTransformer(
    'bkai-foundation-models/vietnamese-bi-encoder'
)

# Compute embeddings for all firms
docs_segmented = corpus_df.bus_desc_segmented.tolist()
embeddings = sbert_model.encode(
    docs_segmented,
    batch_size=64,
    show_progress_bar=True,
    normalize_embeddings=True
)

# Pairwise similarity
embed_sim = cosine_similarity(embeddings)
embed_sim_df = pd.DataFrame(
    embed_sim, index=tickers, columns=tickers
)

# Compare TF-IDF vs embedding similarity
for ticker in ['VCB', 'FPT', 'VIC']:
    tfidf_peers = sim_df[ticker].drop(ticker).nlargest(5)
    embed_peers = embed_sim_df[ticker].drop(ticker).nlargest(5)
    print(f'\n{ticker} - TF-IDF peers: {tfidf_peers.index.tolist()}')
    print(f'{ticker} - Embed peers:  {embed_peers.index.tolist()}')
```

93.3 Doc2Vec

We also implement Doc2Vec (Le and Mikolov 2014), which learns fixed-length dense vectors for documents of variable length. Unlike averaging word embeddings, Doc2Vec jointly learns document and word vectors, allowing it to capture document-level semantics. We train Doc2Vec on the Vietnamese business description corpus using the concatenated DBOW+DM approach recommended by Lau and Baldwin (2016).

[1] Reimers and Gurevych (2019) demonstrate that sentence-BERT embeddings reduce computation for similarity tasks from 65 hours to 5 seconds on 10,000 sentence pairs.

```python
from sklearn.manifold import TSNE

# t-SNE projection
tsne = TSNE(n_components=2, perplexity=30, random_state=42,
            metric='cosine')
embeddings_2d = tsne.fit_transform(embeddings)

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 10))
sectors = corpus_df.icb_sector.values
unique_sectors = corpus_df.icb_sector.value_counts().head(10).index
colors = plt.cm.tab10(range(10))

for i, sector in enumerate(unique_sectors):
    mask = sectors == sector
    ax.scatter(embeddings_2d[mask, 0], embeddings_2d[mask, 1],
               c=[colors[i]], label=sector, alpha=0.6, s=30)

ax.legend(bbox_to_anchor=(1.05, 1), loc='upper left', fontsize=9)
ax.set_title('t-SNE of PhoBERT Embeddings by ICB Sector')
ax.set_xlabel('t-SNE 1')
ax.set_ylabel('t-SNE 2')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 93.2

```python
from gensim.models.doc2vec import Doc2Vec, TaggedDocument

# Prepare tagged documents
tagged_docs = [
    TaggedDocument(
        words=text.split(),
        tags=[ticker]
    )
    for text, ticker in zip(
        corpus_df.text_clean.tolist(),
        corpus_df.ticker.tolist()
    )
]

# PV-DBOW: paragraph vector with distributed bag of words
d2v_dbow = Doc2Vec(
    vector_size=100, dm=0, min_count=5,
    window=5, epochs=40, workers=4, seed=42
)
d2v_dbow.build_vocab(tagged_docs)
d2v_dbow.train(
    tagged_docs,
    total_examples=d2v_dbow.corpus_count,
    epochs=d2v_dbow.epochs
)

# PV-DM: paragraph vector with distributed memory
d2v_dm = Doc2Vec(
    vector_size=100, dm=1, min_count=5,
    window=10, epochs=40, workers=4, seed=42
)
d2v_dm.build_vocab(tagged_docs)
d2v_dm.train(
    tagged_docs,
    total_examples=d2v_dm.corpus_count,
    epochs=d2v_dm.epochs
)

# Concatenate DBOW + DM vectors (Lau & Baldwin, 2016)
d2v_vectors = np.hstack([
    [d2v_dbow.dv[t] for t in tickers],
    [d2v_dm.dv[t] for t in tickers]
```

```
])

# Most similar firms
for ticker in ['VCB', 'FPT', 'VIC']:
    sims = d2v_dbow.dv.most_similar(ticker, topn=5)
    print(f'{ticker}: {[(s[0], f"{s[1]:.3f}") for s in sims]}')
```

94 Deep Learning Approaches

94.1 PhoBERT Embeddings for Financial Text

PhoBERT (D. Q. Nguyen and Nguyen 2020), pre-trained on 20GB of Vietnamese text, provides contextualized word embeddings that capture meaning based on surrounding context. Unlike static Word2Vec embeddings where "bảo" always has the same vector regardless of whether it means "insurance" (bảo hiểm) or "protect" (bảo vệ), PhoBERT produces context-dependent representations. We extract `[CLS]` token embeddings as document representations.

```
from transformers import AutoModel, AutoTokenizer
import torch

# Load PhoBERT
phobert_tokenizer = AutoTokenizer.from_pretrained(
    'vinai/phobert-base-v2'
)
phobert_model = AutoModel.from_pretrained(
    'vinai/phobert-base-v2'
)
phobert_model.eval()
device = torch.device('cuda' if torch.cuda.is_available()
                      else 'cpu')
phobert_model.to(device)

def get_phobert_embedding(text: str, max_len: int = 256):
    """Extract [CLS] embedding from PhoBERT."""
    inputs = phobert_tokenizer(
        text, return_tensors='pt',
        max_length=max_len, truncation=True,
        padding=True
    ).to(device)

    with torch.no_grad():
        outputs = phobert_model(**inputs)
```

```
    # [CLS] token embedding
    cls_embedding = outputs.last_hidden_state[:, 0, :]
    return cls_embedding.cpu().numpy().flatten()

# For long documents: chunk + average strategy
def get_long_doc_embedding(
    text: str, chunk_size: int = 256, stride: int = 128
):
    """Handle long documents via chunked averaging."""
    tokens = phobert_tokenizer.tokenize(text)
    embeddings = []

    for i in range(0, len(tokens), stride):
        chunk = tokens[i:i + chunk_size]
        chunk_text = phobert_tokenizer.convert_tokens_to_string(
            chunk
        )
        emb = get_phobert_embedding(chunk_text)
        embeddings.append(emb)

    return np.mean(embeddings, axis=0)

# Compute embeddings for all firms
phobert_embeddings = np.array([
    get_long_doc_embedding(text)
    for text in corpus_df.bus_desc_segmented.tolist()
])
```

94.2 Large Language Model Applications

Recent advances in LLMs open new possibilities for financial textual analysis. We demonstrate three applications using Vietnamese-capable LLMs: zero-shot financial text classification, structured information extraction from annual reports, and automated ESG scoring from corporate disclosures.

94.2.1 Zero-Shot Financial Classification

```
import anthropic  # Or openai, etc.
```

```python
client = anthropic.Anthropic()

def classify_financial_text(
    text: str,
    categories: list = [
        'Growth outlook', 'Risk warning',
        'Operational update', 'Financial performance',
        'Strategic initiative', 'Regulatory compliance'
    ]
) -> dict:
    """Zero-shot classify Vietnamese financial text."""
    prompt = f"""
    Classify the following Vietnamese financial text into
    one or more of these categories: {categories}

    Also provide:
    1. Sentiment: positive / negative / neutral
    2. Confidence: 0-1
    3. Key entities mentioned

    Text: {text[:2000]}

    Respond in JSON format.
    """

    response = client.messages.create(
        model='claude-sonnet-4-20250514',
        max_tokens=500,
        messages=[{'role': 'user', 'content': prompt}]
    )
    return response.content[0].text
```

94.2.2 Structured Information Extraction

```python
import json

def extract_financial_info(annual_report_text: str) -> dict:
    """Extract structured data from Vietnamese annual report."""
    prompt = f"""
    From the following Vietnamese annual report excerpt,
```

```
    extract structured information in JSON format:

    {{
        "revenue_mentioned": true/false,
        "revenue_direction": "increase"/"decrease"/"stable",
        "key_products": [list of main products/services],
        "competitors_mentioned": [list],
        "expansion_plans": "description or null",
        "risk_factors": [list of mentioned risks],
        "esg_mentions": {{
            "environmental": [topics],
            "social": [topics],
            "governance": [topics]
        }},
        "forward_looking_statements": [list],
        "capex_plans": "description or null"
    }}

    Text: {annual_report_text[:3000]}
    """

    response = client.messages.create(
        model='claude-sonnet-4-20250514',
        max_tokens=1000,
        messages=[{'role': 'user', 'content': prompt}]
    )
    return json.loads(response.content[0].text)
```

94.2.3 Automated ESG Scoring

```
def compute_esg_scores(text: str) -> dict:
    """Score ESG dimensions from Vietnamese corporate disclosure."""
    prompt = f"""
    Analyze the following Vietnamese corporate disclosure text
    and score each ESG dimension on a scale of 0-100 based on
    the depth and quality of disclosure:

    Return JSON:
    {{
        "environmental_score": 0-100,
```

```
        "environmental_topics": [list of specific topics discussed],
        "social_score": 0-100,
        "social_topics": [list],
        "governance_score": 0-100,
        "governance_topics": [list],
        "overall_esg_score": 0-100,
        "assessment_confidence": 0-1,
        "notable_commitments": [list of specific commitments],
        "gaps_identified": [list of missing ESG disclosures]
    }}

    Text: {text[:4000]}
    """

    response = client.messages.create(
        model='claude-sonnet-4-20250514',
        max_tokens=800,
        messages=[{'role': 'user', 'content': prompt}]
    )
    return json.loads(response.content[0].text)

# Apply to all firms' annual reports
esg_results = []
for _, row in annual_text.iterrows():
    try:
        scores = compute_esg_scores(row.text)
        scores['ticker'] = row.ticker
        scores['year'] = row.year
        esg_results.append(scores)
    except Exception as e:
        print(f"Error for {row.ticker} {row.year}: {e}")

esg_df = pd.DataFrame(esg_results)
```

95 Empirical Applications

95.1 Textual Sentiment and Stock Returns

We examine whether textual sentiment from annual reports predicts subsequent stock returns, following the methodology of Tetlock, Saar-Tsechansky, and Macskassy (2008). We regress monthly stock returns on lagged sentiment measures while controlling for standard risk factors (market, size, value, momentum) adapted for the Vietnamese market:

$$R_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{Tone}_{i,t-1} + \beta_2 \text{Uncertainty}_{i,t-1} + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{i,t-1} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{95.1}$$

where $R_{i,t}$ is the monthly excess return of firm i in month t, Tone is the net sentiment score (positive minus negative word proportion), Uncertainty is the proportion of uncertain words, and $\mathbf{X}$ is a vector of controls including the Fama-French-Carhart factors adapted for Vietnam (see Chapter on Factor Models).

```
import statsmodels.api as sm
from linearmodels.panel import PanelOLS

# Merge sentiment scores with return data
returns = dc.get_monthly_returns(
    tickers=universe.ticker.tolist(),
    start='2016-01-01', end='2024-12-31'
)

# Panel regression with firm and time fixed effects
panel = annual_text.merge(
    returns, on=['ticker', 'year', 'month']
)
panel = panel.set_index(['ticker', 'date'])

# Model 1: Dictionary-based sentiment
model1 = PanelOLS(
    dependent=panel.ret_excess,
    exog=sm.add_constant(
```

```
        panel[['net_tone', 'unc_pct', 'mkt_rf',
               'smb', 'hml', 'wml']]
    ),
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True
)
res1 = model1.fit(cov_type='clustered',
                  cluster_entity=True,
                  cluster_time=True)

# Model 2: BERT-based sentiment
model2 = PanelOLS(
    dependent=panel.ret_excess,
    exog=sm.add_constant(
        panel[['bert_tone', 'mkt_rf',
               'smb', 'hml', 'wml']]
    ),
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True
)
res2 = model2.fit(cov_type='clustered',
                  cluster_entity=True,
                  cluster_time=True)

# Model 3: Combined
model3 = PanelOLS(
    dependent=panel.ret_excess,
    exog=sm.add_constant(
        panel[['net_tone', 'unc_pct', 'bert_tone',
               'mkt_rf', 'smb', 'hml', 'wml']]
    ),
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True
)
res3 = model3.fit(cov_type='clustered',
                  cluster_entity=True,
                  cluster_time=True)

print(res1.summary)
print(res2.summary)
print(res3.summary)
```

Table 95.1: Textual Sentiment and Stock Returns: Panel Regression Results

Variable	(1) Dictionary	(2) PhoBERT	(3) Combined
Net Tone (Dict)	0.0234**		0.0187*
	(0.0098)		(0.0102)
Uncertainty (Dict)	−0.0312***		−0.0278**
	(0.0087)		(0.0091)
BERT Tone		0.0456***	0.0389***
		(0.0112)	(0.0118)
MKT-RF	0.9123***	0.9118***	0.9115***
	(0.0234)	(0.0233)	(0.0234)
SMB	0.1245**	0.1238**	0.1241**
	(0.0456)	(0.0455)	(0.0456)
HML	0.0876*	0.0871*	0.0873*
	(0.0512)	(0.0511)	(0.0512)
Firm FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Time FE	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clustering	Two-way	Two-way	Two-way
N	12,456	12,456	12,456
R^2 (within)	0.142	0.148	0.153

95.2 Text-Based Industry Classification

We construct Vietnamese Text-Based Network Industries (VN-TNIC) analogous to Hoberg and Phillips (2016). For each firm-year, we identify the set of firms with cosine similarity above a threshold τ as the firm's text-based industry peers. We then compare the explanatory power of VN-TNIC versus ICB sector codes for various financial outcomes.

```
# Construct TNIC network
TAU = 0.20  # Similarity threshold

tnic_edges = []
for i in range(len(tickers)):
    for j in range(i+1, len(tickers)):
        sim = sim_matrix[i, j]
        if sim >= TAU:
            tnic_edges.append({
                'firm1': tickers[i],
                'firm2': tickers[j],
                'similarity': sim
```

```
            })

tnic_df = pd.DataFrame(tnic_edges)
print(f'TNIC edges (tau={TAU}): {len(tnic_df)}')
print(f'Avg degree: {2*len(tnic_df)/len(tickers):.1f}')

# Compare TNIC vs ICB for return comovement
from linearmodels.asset_pricing import FamaMacBeth

# Peer return = avg return of TNIC peers
# vs ICB sector average return
def compute_tnic_peer_return(group, tnic_edges_df):
    """Compute average return of TNIC peers for each firm."""
    peer_returns = {}
    for ticker in group.index:
        peers = tnic_edges_df[
            (tnic_edges_df.firm1 == ticker) |
            (tnic_edges_df.firm2 == ticker)
        ]
        peer_tickers = set(
            peers.firm1.tolist() + peers.firm2.tolist()
        ) - {ticker}
        peer_mask = group.index.isin(peer_tickers)
        if peer_mask.sum() > 0:
            peer_returns[ticker] = group.loc[peer_mask, 'ret'].mean()
        else:
            peer_returns[ticker] = np.nan
    return pd.Series(peer_returns)

panel['icb_peer_ret'] = panel.groupby(
    ['date', 'icb_sector']
)['ret'].transform('mean')
```

95.3 Measuring Textual Similarity Changes Around Corporate Events

We examine how firms' textual similarity changes around major corporate events such as M&A announcements, industry reclassifications, and strategic pivots. This analysis leverages the time-varying nature of annual report text to capture real business changes that static industry codes may lag in reflecting.

```python
import networkx as nx

# Build network graph (subsample for visualization)
G = nx.Graph()
sample_edges = tnic_df.nlargest(500, 'similarity')

for _, row in sample_edges.iterrows():
    G.add_edge(row.firm1, row.firm2, weight=row.similarity)

# Color by ICB sector
sector_map = corpus_df.set_index('ticker')['icb_sector'].to_dict()
node_colors = [hash(sector_map.get(n, 'Unknown')) % 10
               for n in G.nodes()]

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(14, 12))
pos = nx.spring_layout(G, k=0.5, seed=42)
edges = G.edges(data=True)
weights = [e[2]['weight'] * 3 for e in edges]

nx.draw_networkx_nodes(G, pos, node_size=100, node_color=node_colors,
                       cmap='tab10', alpha=0.7, ax=ax)
nx.draw_networkx_edges(G, pos, width=weights, alpha=0.3,
                       edge_color='gray', ax=ax)
nx.draw_networkx_labels(G, pos, font_size=6, ax=ax)

ax.set_title('VN-TNIC Network (Top 500 Edges by Similarity)')
ax.axis('off')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 95.1

```python
# Get M&A announcements from DataCore
ma_events = dc.get_corporate_events(
    event_type='M&A',
    start='2016-01-01', end='2024-12-31'
)

# For each M&A event, compute text similarity between
# acquirer and target before and after the event
def text_similarity_around_event(
    acquirer: str, target: str, event_year: int,
    annual_text_df: pd.DataFrame,
    vectorizer: TfidfVectorizer
) -> dict:
    """Compare text similarity pre vs post M&A."""
    pre_texts = annual_text_df[
        (annual_text_df.ticker.isin([acquirer, target])) &
        (annual_text_df.year == event_year - 1)
    ]
    post_texts = annual_text_df[
        (annual_text_df.ticker.isin([acquirer, target])) &
        (annual_text_df.year == event_year + 1)
    ]

    if len(pre_texts) < 2 or len(post_texts) < 2:
        return None

    pre_vecs = vectorizer.transform(pre_texts.text_clean)
    post_vecs = vectorizer.transform(post_texts.text_clean)

    pre_sim = cosine_similarity(pre_vecs[0:1], pre_vecs[1:2])[0, 0]
    post_sim = cosine_similarity(post_vecs[0:1], post_vecs[1:2])[0, 0]

    return {
        'acquirer': acquirer,
        'target': target,
        'event_year': event_year,
        'pre_similarity': pre_sim,
        'post_similarity': post_sim,
        'delta_similarity': post_sim - pre_sim
    }

# Apply to all M&A events
```

```
event_results = []
for _, event in ma_events.iterrows():
    result = text_similarity_around_event(
        event.acquirer, event.target, event.event_year,
        annual_text, tfidf_vectorizer
    )
    if result:
        event_results.append(result)

event_df = pd.DataFrame(event_results)
print(f'Average similarity change post-M&A: '
      f'{event_df.delta_similarity.mean():.4f}')
print(f't-stat: {event_df.delta_similarity.mean() / '
      f'(event_df.delta_similarity.std() / '
      f'np.sqrt(len(event_df))):.3f}')
```

96 Method Comparison and Best Practices

Table 96.1: Comparison of Textual Analysis Methods for Vietnamese Financial Text

Method	Interpretability	Semantic	Speed	VN Support	Data Req.	Best Use Case
BoW/TF-IDF	High	Low	Fast	Good*	None	Peer groups, lexical similarity
LDA	Medium	Low	Medium	Good*	None	Topic discovery
Doc2Vec	Low	Medium	Medium	Good*	Corpus	Document similarity
BERTopic	High	High	Slow	Excellent	None	Coherent topics
PhoBERT	Low	High	Slow	Excellent	Fine-tune	Sentiment, NER, classification
Sentence-BERT	Low	High	Medium	Good	None	Semantic similarity
LLM (zero-shot)	High	High	Slow	Good	None	Extraction, classification

> **Note**
>
> *Requires Vietnamese word segmentation as a preprocessing step. VN Support rates how well the method handles Vietnamese text natively.

For researchers beginning textual analysis of Vietnamese firms, we recommend the following workflow:

1. **Start with TF-IDF cosine similarity** for peer identification because it is fast, interpretable, and provides a strong baseline.

2. **Use BERTopic with PhoBERT embeddings** for topic discovery because it produces more coherent topics than LDA for Vietnamese text.
3. **For sentiment analysis**, use ViFinBERT if fine-tuning data is available; otherwise, LLM zero-shot classification provides competitive results.
4. **For production systems** requiring real-time analysis, sentence-BERT embeddings offer the best speed-accuracy tradeoff.

```
# Evaluate: what fraction of top-5 peers share ICB sector?
methods = {
    'TF-IDF': sim_df,
    'Sentence-BERT': embed_sim_df,
    'Doc2Vec': pd.DataFrame(
        cosine_similarity(d2v_vectors),
        index=tickers, columns=tickers
    ),
}

accuracy_results = {}
sector_map = corpus_df.set_index('ticker')['icb_sector'].to_dict()

for method_name, sim_matrix_df in methods.items():
    matches = 0
    total = 0
    for ticker in tickers:
        true_sector = sector_map.get(ticker)
        peers = sim_matrix_df[ticker].drop(ticker).nlargest(5)
        for peer in peers.index:
            total += 1
            if sector_map.get(peer) == true_sector:
                matches += 1
    accuracy_results[method_name] = matches / total

fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 5))
methods_list = list(accuracy_results.keys())
accs = list(accuracy_results.values())
bars = ax.bar(methods_list, accs, color=['#2C5282', '#38A169', '#D69E2E'])
ax.set_ylabel('ICB Sector Match Rate')
ax.set_title('Peer Identification Accuracy by Method')
ax.set_ylim(0, 1)
for bar, acc in zip(bars, accs):
    ax.text(bar.get_x() + bar.get_width()/2., bar.get_height() + 0.02,
            f'{acc:.1%}', ha='center', fontweight='bold')
plt.tight_layout()
plt.show()
```

Figure 96.1

97 Conclusion

This chapter has demonstrated the full pipeline of textual analysis methods applied to Vietnamese listed firms, from classical bag-of-words approaches to state-of-the-art large language models. The key takeaways for practitioners and researchers are:

First, Vietnamese text preprocessing requires a word segmentation step that has no parallel in English-language NLP. Using tools like VnCoreNLP or underthesea for this step is essential and significantly affects downstream analysis quality.

Second, domain-specific sentiment lexicons substantially outperform general-purpose dictionaries for Vietnamese financial text, consistent with Loughran and McDonald (2011) findings for English.

Third, PhoBERT-based embeddings capture semantic similarity that TF-IDF misses, identifying industry peers that share business models even when they use different vocabulary.

Fourth, LLMs enable new applications, including structured information extraction from Vietnamese annual reports that would be prohibitively expensive with manual coding.

The empirical applications demonstrate that textual measures contain economically meaningful information for the Vietnamese market. Net sentiment from annual reports predicts subsequent stock returns even after controlling for standard risk factors, and BERT-based sentiment measures have incremental predictive power beyond dictionary-based measures. Text-based industry classifications capture firm relationships that static ICB codes miss, and textual similarity changes around corporate events reflect real business transformations.

98 Event Studies in Finance

Event studies constitute one of the most enduring and widely deployed empirical methodologies in financial economics. At their core, event studies measure the impact of a specific event on the value of a firm by examining **abnormal security returns** around the time the event occurs. The methodology rests on a simple premise: if capital markets are informationally efficient, the effect of an event will be reflected immediately in security prices, and any deviation from "normal" expected returns can be attributed to the event itself.

Since the pioneering work of Eugene F. Fama et al. (1969), who studied how stock prices adjust to new information around stock splits, event studies have become a cornerstone of empirical research across finance, accounting, economics, and law. Ball and Brown (2013) demonstrated that accounting earnings announcements convey information to the market, a finding that launched decades of research in accounting and disclosure. The methodology has since been refined through contributions by Brown and Warner (1980) and Brown and Warner (1985), who established the statistical properties of event study methods, and MacKinlay (1997) codified best practices that remain standard today.

The breadth of applications is remarkable. Event studies have been used to examine the wealth effects of mergers and acquisitions (M. C. Jensen and Ruback 1983; Andrade, Mitchell, and Stafford 2001), earnings announcements (Bernard and Thomas 1989), dividend changes (Aharony and Swary 1980), regulatory changes (Schwert 1981), executive turnover (Warner, Watts, and Wruck 1988), and macroeconomic announcements (Flannery and Protopapadakis 2002). In law and economics, event studies serve as the primary tool for measuring damages in securities fraud litigation (Mitchell and Netter 1993) and assessing the impact of regulatory interventions (Binder 1998). Kothari and Warner (2007) documented over 500 published event studies in the top five finance journals alone between 1974 and 2000.

98.0.1 Why Event Studies Matter

The enduring popularity of event studies stems from several compelling properties:

- **Direct measurement of economic significance.** Unlike regression-based approaches that estimate associations, event studies directly quantify the dollar impact of events on firm value. A cumulative abnormal return (CAR) of 3% for a firm with $10 billion market capitalization translates to $300 million in wealth creation, which is a tangible, economically meaningful magnitude.

- **Minimal maintained assumptions.** The methodology requires only semi-strong market efficiency (i.e., prices reflect publicly available information), a weaker assumption than many alternatives.
- **Statistical power.** Daily event studies have remarkable power to detect abnormal performance, even with modest sample sizes. Brown and Warner (1985) demonstrated that the market model detects abnormal returns of 1% or more with high reliability using samples as small as 20 securities.
- **Versatility.** The basic framework accommodates events that are firm-specific or market-wide, anticipated or surprising, and can be adapted to various asset classes and market structures.

98.1 Literature Review and Methodological Evolution

98.1.1 The Classical Framework (1969-1985)

The modern event study traces its origins to Eugene F. Fama et al. (1969), hereafter FFJR, who examined monthly stock returns around 940 stock splits between 1927 and 1959. Their key innovation was the use of the **market model** to decompose returns into expected (normal) and unexpected (abnormal) components.

Ball and Brown (2013) independently developed a similar approach to study earnings announcements, establishing the information content of accounting data. It was a finding with profound implications for both the efficient markets hypothesis and the relevance of financial reporting.

Brown and Warner (1980) provided the first systematic analysis of event study methodology using simulation. Their study of monthly data established several important results: (i) the simple market model performs at least as well as more complex models, (ii) value-weighted market indices can lead to misspecification when the sample is tilted toward smaller firms, and (iii) the standard cross-sectional test has well-specified size under the null hypothesis. Their follow-up study (Brown and Warner 1985) extended the analysis to daily data, documenting the importance of non-normality in daily returns and the increased power of daily versus monthly studies.

98.1.2 Risk Model Refinements (1992-2015)

The advent of the **Fama-French three-factor model** (Eugene F. Fama and French 1993a) represented a major advance in modeling expected returns. Adding size (SMB) and value (HML) factors to the market model improved the cross-sectional fit of expected returns considerably.

Mark M. Carhart (1997b) augmented this with a momentum factor (UMD), yielding the four-factor model that became standard in event studies through the 2000s. Eugene F. Fama and French (2015) subsequently introduced profitability (RMW) and investment (CMA) factors in their five-factor model.

The choice of risk model matters for event studies primarily in **long-horizon settings**. Kothari and Warner (2007) showed that for short-window studies (3-5 days), the market model and multi-factor models produce virtually identical results because the incremental factors explain very little daily return variation for individual firms. However, for event windows exceeding 20 trading days, model choice can materially affect inferences.

98.1.3 Testing for Abnormal Returns (1976-2010)

The statistical testing of abnormal returns has evolved considerably:

Table 98.1: Summary of major event study test statistics

Test	Year	Key Property	Reference
Patell Z	1976	Standardizes by estimation-period σ; weights firms inversely by volatility	Patell (1976)
Cross-Sectional t	1980	Allows event-induced variance change	Brown and Warner (1980)
BMP	1991	Robust to event-induced variance	Boehmer, Masumeci, and Poulsen (1991)
Corrado Rank	1989	Non-parametric; robust to non-normality	Corrado (1989)
Generalized Sign	1992	Non-parametric; uses estimation-window baseline	Cowan (1992)
Kolari-Pynnönen	2010	Accounts for cross-sectional dependence	Kolari and Pynnönen (2010)
Skewness-Adjusted	1992	Corrects for BHAR skewness	Hall (1992)

98.1.4 CARs versus BHARs

Cumulative abnormal returns (CARs) sum daily abnormal returns, while buy-and-hold abnormal returns (BHARs) compound returns and subtract the compounded benchmark. Barber and Lyon (1997) demonstrated that BHARs better capture the actual investor experience, since investors earn compound, not cumulative, returns. However, Eugene F. Fama (1998) and Mitchell and Stafford (2000) showed that BHARs exhibit severe cross-sectional dependence and positive skewness. For **short event windows** (under 10 days), the difference between CARs and BHARs is negligible. For longer windows, both should be reported.

98.1.5 Emerging Market Considerations

Event studies in emerging markets face distinct challenges:

- **Thin trading.** Many emerging market securities trade infrequently, inducing bias in market model beta estimates. Scholes and Williams (1977) and Dimson (1979) proposed corrections using leading and lagging market returns.
- **Factor availability.** While Fama-French factors are readily available for developed markets, emerging market factors must often be constructed locally.
- **Market microstructure.** Price limits ($\pm$ 7% on HOSE, $\pm$ 10% on HNX, $\pm$ 15% on UPCOM in Vietnam), T+2 settlement, and the absence of short-selling affect the speed of price adjustment. Researchers should consider wider event windows to accommodate slower information incorporation (U. Bhattacharya et al. 2000; Griffin, Kelly, and Nardari 2010).

98.2 Mathematical Framework

This section presents the complete mathematical specification of the event study methodology. We follow the notation conventions of Campbell et al. (1998) and Kothari and Warner (2007).

98.2.1 Timeline and Windows

The event study timeline is defined relative to the event date, denoted $\tau = 0$. All dates are measured in **trading days**:

$$\underbrace{T_0 + 1, \dots, T_1}_{\text{Estimation Window (L days)}} \quad \underbrace{\quad}_{\text{Gap (G days)}} \quad \underbrace{\tau_1, \dots, 0, \dots, \tau_2}_{\text{Event Window (L days)}}$$

where:

- **Estimation window**: L_1 trading days over which the risk model parameters are estimated
- **Gap**: G trading days separating estimation and event windows, preventing contamination by pre-event information leakage
- **Event window**: $L_2 = \tau_2 - \tau_1 + 1$ trading days centered around the event date

For example, with $L_1 = 150$, $G = 15$, $\tau_1 = -10$, $\tau_2 = +10$: the estimation window covers trading days $[-175, -25]$ relative to the event, and the event window covers $[-10, +10]$.

98.2.2 Normal Return Models

Let R_{it} denote the return on security i on trading day t, R_{ft} the risk-free rate, and R_{mt} the market return. We implement six models:

Model 0: Market-Adjusted Returns. Assumes $\beta_i = 1$ and $\alpha_i = 0$ for all firms:

$$AR_{it}^{MA} = R_{it} - R_{mt}$$

Model 1: Market Model (Sharpe 1964):

$$R_{it} = \alpha_i + \beta_i R_{mt} + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad E[\varepsilon_{it}] = 0, \quad \mathrm{Var}[\varepsilon_{it}] = \sigma_{\varepsilon_i}^2$$

$$AR_{it}^{MM} = R_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_i - \hat{\beta}_i R_{mt}$$

Model 2: Fama-French Three-Factor (Eugene F. Fama and French 1993a):

$$R_{it} - R_{ft} = \alpha_i + \beta_{i,1}(R_{mt} - R_{ft}) + \beta_{i,2} \cdot SMB_t + \beta_{i,3} \cdot HML_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Model 3: Carhart Four-Factor (Mark M. Carhart 1997b):

$$R_{it} - R_{ft} = \alpha_i + \beta_{i,1}(R_{mt} - R_{ft}) + \beta_{i,2} \cdot SMB_t + \beta_{i,3} \cdot HML_t + \beta_{i,4} \cdot UMD_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Model 4: Fama-French Five-Factor (Eugene F. Fama and French 2015):

$$R_{it} - R_{ft} = \alpha_i + \beta_{i,1}(R_{mt} - R_{ft}) + \beta_{i,2} \cdot SMB_t + \beta_{i,3} \cdot HML_t + \beta_{i,4} \cdot RMW_t + \beta_{i,5} \cdot CMA_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Model 5: User-Specified Factor Model:

$$R_{it} - R_{ft} = \alpha_i + \sum_{k=1}^{K} \beta_{i,k} F_{k,t} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

98.2.3 Aggregation: CARs and BHARs

Cumulative Abnormal Returns sum daily abnormal returns:

$$CAR_i(\tau_1, \tau_2) = \sum_{t=\tau_1}^{\tau_2} AR_{it}, \qquad \overline{CAR}(\tau_1, \tau_2) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} CAR_i(\tau_1, \tau_2)$$

Buy-and-Hold Abnormal Returns compound returns:

$$BHAR_i(\tau_1, \tau_2) = \prod_{t=\tau_1}^{\tau_2} (1 + R_{it}) - \prod_{t=\tau_1}^{\tau_2} (1 + \hat{E}[R_{it}])$$

98.2.4 Standardized Returns

The **standardized abnormal return** for firm i on day t is:

$$SAR_{it} = \frac{AR_{it}}{\hat{\sigma}_{\varepsilon_i}}$$

The **standardized cumulative abnormal return** is:

$$SCAR_i(\tau_1, \tau_2) = \frac{CAR_i(\tau_1, \tau_2)}{\hat{\sigma}_{\varepsilon_i} \sqrt{L_2}}$$

98.2.5 Test Statistics

Let N denote the number of firm-event observations.

Test 1: Cross-Sectional t-Test. Allows event-induced variance; assumes cross-sectional independence:

$$t_{CS} = \frac{\overline{CAR}}{s_{CAR}/\sqrt{N}}, \quad s_{CAR} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N-1} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (CAR_i - \overline{CAR})^2}$$

Test 2: Patell Z-Test (Patell 1976). Weights firms inversely by volatility:

$$Z_{Patell} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N} SCAR_i}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{K_i - 2}{K_i - 4}}}$$

Test 3: BMP Test (Boehmer, Masumeci, and Poulsen 1991). Robust to event-induced variance:

$$t_{BMP} = \frac{\overline{SCAR}}{s_{SCAR}/\sqrt{N}}$$

Test 4: Kolari-Pynnönen Adjusted BMP (Kolari and Pynnönen 2010). Accounts for cross-sectional dependence:

$$t_{KP} = t_{BMP} \times \sqrt{\frac{1}{1 + (N-1)\bar{r}}}$$

where $\bar{r}$ is the mean pairwise cross-correlation of estimation-period residuals.

Test 5: Generalized Sign Test (Cowan 1992):

$$Z_{GSign} = \frac{\hat{p} - \hat{p}_0}{\sqrt{\hat{p}_0(1-\hat{p}_0)/N}}$$

Test 6: Sign Test:

$$Z_{Sign} = \frac{N^+ - 0.5N}{\sqrt{0.25N}}$$

Test 7: Skewness-Adjusted t-Test (Hall 1992):

$$t_{SA} = \sqrt{N}\left(\bar{z} + \frac{1}{3}\hat{\gamma}\bar{z}^2 + \frac{1}{27}\hat{\gamma}^2\bar{z}^3 + \frac{1}{6N}\hat{\gamma}\right)$$

Test 8: Wilcoxon Signed-Rank Test: A non-parametric test of whether the median CAR differs from zero.

The table below summarizes the assumptions of each test:

Table 98.2: Assumption requirements for event study test statistics

Test	Event-Induced Variance	Cross-Sectional Independence	Normality
Cross-Sectional t	Robust	Assumes	Assumes
Patell Z	Assumes no change	Assumes	Assumes
BMP	Robust	Assumes	Assumes
Kolari-Pynnönen	Robust	Robust	Assumes

Test	Event-Induced Variance	Cross-Sectional Independence	Normality
Generalized Sign	Robust	Assumes	Robust
Corrado Rank	Robust	Assumes	Robust
Skewness-Adjusted	Robust	Assumes	Partially
Wilcoxon	Robust	Assumes	Robust

98.3 Python Implementation

98.3.1 Design Philosophy

Our implementation follows these principles:

1. **Modularity**: Each component (calendar, estimation, AR computation, testing) is a separate function.
2. **Vectorization**: All operations use pandas/numpy for performance on large datasets.
3. **Configurability**: All parameters are user-configurable via a dataclass.
4. **Transparency**: Intermediate outputs are preserved for inspection.
5. **Production-ready**: Comprehensive input validation, missing data handling, and edge cases.

98.3.2 Setup and Imports

```
import numpy as np
import pandas as pd
import statsmodels.api as sm
from scipy import stats
from dataclasses import dataclass, field
from typing import Optional, List, Tuple
from enum import Enum
import warnings
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import matplotlib.ticker as mticker

warnings.filterwarnings('ignore')
pd.set_option('display.float_format', '{:.6f}'.format)
print("All libraries loaded.")
```

```
All libraries loaded.
```

```python
import pandas as pd
import sqlite3

tidy_finance = sqlite3.connect(database="data/tidy_finance_python.sqlite")

factors_ff3_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM factors_ff3_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates=["date"]
)

factors_ff5_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM factors_ff5_daily",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates=["date"]
)

factors_ff3_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM factors_ff3_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates=["date"]
)

factors_ff5_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="SELECT * FROM factors_ff5_monthly",
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates=["date"]
)
```

```python
prices_monthly = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess, mktcap, mktcap_lag, risk_free
        FROM prices_monthly
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
).dropna()

prices_daily = pd.read_sql_query(
    sql="""
        SELECT symbol, date, ret_excess, mktcap, mktcap_lag, risk_free
        FROM prices_daily
```

```
    """,
    con=tidy_finance,
    parse_dates={"date"}
).dropna()
```

98.3.3 Configuration

```
class RiskModel(Enum):
    """Supported risk models for expected return computation."""
    MARKET_ADJ = "market_adjusted"
    MARKET_MODEL = "market_model"
    FF3 = "ff3"
    CARHART = "carhart"
    FF5 = "ff5"
    CUSTOM = "custom"

@dataclass
class EventStudyConfig:
    """Complete configuration for an event study.

    Attributes
    ----------
    estimation_window : int
        Length of estimation period in trading days. Brown and Warner (1985)
        suggest  100 days; MacKinlay (1997) recommends 120 as standard.
    event_window_start : int
        Start of event window relative to event date (e.g., -10).
    event_window_end : int
        End of event window relative to event date (e.g., +10).
    gap : int
        Trading days between estimation and event windows. Prevents
        contamination from pre-event information leakage.
    min_estimation_obs : int
        Minimum non-missing returns required in estimation period.
    risk_model : RiskModel
        Risk model for computing expected returns.
    custom_factors : list
        Column names for user-specified factors (CUSTOM model only).
    thin_trading_adj : str or None
        None, 'scholes_williams', or 'dimson'.
```

```
    dimson_lags : int
        Number of leads/lags for Dimson (1979) correction.
    """
    estimation_window: int = 150
    event_window_start: int = -10
    event_window_end: int = 10
    gap: int = 15
    min_estimation_obs: int = 120
    risk_model: RiskModel = RiskModel.MARKET_MODEL
    custom_factors: List[str] = field(default_factory=list)
    thin_trading_adj: Optional[str] = None
    dimson_lags: int = 1

    @property
    def event_window_length(self) -> int:
        return self.event_window_end - self.event_window_start + 1

    def validate(self):
        assert self.estimation_window > 0
        assert self.event_window_start <= self.event_window_end
        assert self.gap >= 0
        assert self.min_estimation_obs <= self.estimation_window
        if self.risk_model == RiskModel.CUSTOM:
            assert len(self.custom_factors) > 0
        return True

# Demonstrate
config_demo = EventStudyConfig(
    estimation_window=150, event_window_start=-10, event_window_end=10,
    gap=15, min_estimation_obs=120, risk_model=RiskModel.FF3
)
config_demo.validate()
print(f"Event window length: {config_demo.event_window_length} days")
print(f"Model: {config_demo.risk_model.value}")
```

```
Event window length: 21 days
Model: ff3
```

98.3.4 Step 1: Trading Calendar Construction

A correct trading calendar is fundamental. It maps any event date to the exact calendar dates for the start/end of estimation and event windows, accounting for weekends, holidays, and non-trading days.

```python
def build_trading_calendar(trading_dates, config):
    """Build a trading calendar mapping event dates to window boundaries.

    For each potential event date, identifies the calendar dates for the
    start/end of the estimation period and event window using only actual
    trading days.

    Parameters
    ----------
    trading_dates : array-like
        Sorted unique trading dates in the market.
    config : EventStudyConfig

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with columns: estper_beg, estper_end, evtwin_beg,
        evtdate, evtwin_end, cal_index
    """
    dates = pd.Series(sorted(pd.to_datetime(trading_dates).unique()))
    n = len(dates)

    L1 = config.estimation_window
    G = config.gap
    s = config.event_window_start
    L2 = config.event_window_length

    # Offsets (FIRSTOBS logic)
    o0 = 0                      # estper_beg
    o1 = L1 - 1                 # estper_end
    o2 = L1 + G                 # evtwin_beg
    o3 = L1 + G - s             # evtdate
    o4 = L1 + G + L2 - 1        # evtwin_end

    max_offset = o4
    valid = n - max_offset
    if valid <= 0:
        raise ValueError(f"Need {max_offset+1} trading dates, have {n}")
```

```
    cal = pd.DataFrame({
        'estper_beg': dates.iloc[o0:o0+valid].values,
        'estper_end': dates.iloc[o1:o1+valid].values,
        'evtwin_beg': dates.iloc[o2:o2+valid].values,
        'evtdate':    dates.iloc[o3:o3+valid].values,
        'evtwin_end': dates.iloc[o4:o4+valid].values,
    })
    cal['cal_index'] = range(1, len(cal)+1)

    # Validate window lengths using a sample row
    idx = min(10, len(cal)-1)
    row = cal.iloc[idx]
    est_n = dates[(dates >= row['estper_beg']) & (dates <= row['estper_end'])].shape[0]
    evt_n = dates[(dates >= row['evtwin_beg']) & (dates <= row['evtwin_end'])].shape[0]
    assert est_n == L1, f"Estimation window: {est_n}  {L1}"
    assert evt_n == L2, f"Event window: {evt_n}  {L2}"

    return cal

# Demo
demo_dates = pd.bdate_range('2018-01-01', '2023-12-31', freq='B')
demo_cal = build_trading_calendar(demo_dates, config_demo)
print(f"Calendar: {len(demo_cal)} potential event dates")
print(demo_cal.head(3).to_string(index=False))
```

```
Calendar: 1380 potential event dates
estper_beg estper_end evtwin_beg    evtdate evtwin_end  cal_index
2018-01-01 2018-07-27 2018-08-20 2018-09-03 2018-09-17          1
2018-01-02 2018-07-30 2018-08-21 2018-09-04 2018-09-18          2
2018-01-03 2018-07-31 2018-08-22 2018-09-05 2018-09-19          3
```

98.3.5 Step 2: Event Date Alignment

When an event occurs on a non-trading day, align to the **next** available trading day.

```
def align_events(events, calendar, id_col='symbol', date_col='event_date'):
    """Align event dates to trading calendar.

    Non-trading-day events are shifted forward to the next trading day.
```

```
    Parameters
    ----------
    events : pd.DataFrame with [id_col, date_col] and optional 'group'
    calendar : pd.DataFrame from build_trading_calendar()

    Returns
    -------
    pd.DataFrame with window boundaries for each firm-event
    """
    events = events.copy()
    events[date_col] = pd.to_datetime(events[date_col])

    cal_dates = calendar[['evtdate']].drop_duplicates().sort_values('evtdate')

    merged = pd.merge_asof(
        events.sort_values(date_col),
        cal_dates.rename(columns={'evtdate': 'aligned_date'}),
        left_on=date_col, right_on='aligned_date',
        direction='forward'
    )

    result = merged.merge(calendar, left_on='aligned_date', right_on='evtdate', how='inner')

    shifted = (result[date_col] != result['evtdate']).sum()
    if shifted > 0:
        print(f"  {shifted} event(s) shifted to next trading day")

    result = result.rename(columns={date_col: 'original_date'})
    result = result.drop_duplicates(subset=[id_col, 'evtdate'])

    return result
```

98.3.6 Step 3: Data Extraction and Factor Merging

Extract returns for each security-event across the full estimation + event window and merge risk factors.

```
def extract_returns(aligned_events, prices, factors, config,
                    id_col='symbol', date_col='date', ret_col='ret',
                    mkt_col='mkt_excess', rf_col='risk_free'):
    """Extract stock returns and merge risk factors for each event.
```

```
    For each security-event, retrieves daily returns from estper_beg
    through evtwin_end and merges appropriate risk factors.
    """
    prices = prices.copy()
    factors = factors.copy()
    prices[date_col] = pd.to_datetime(prices[date_col])
    factors[date_col] = pd.to_datetime(factors[date_col])

    # Recover raw return from excess return if needed
    if ret_col not in prices.columns and 'ret_excess' in prices.columns:
        if rf_col in factors.columns:
            prices = prices.merge(factors[[date_col, rf_col]].drop_duplicates(),
                                  on=date_col, how='left')
        prices[ret_col] = prices['ret_excess'] + prices[rf_col]

    # Factor columns based on model
    model = config.risk_model
    fac_cols = [mkt_col] if mkt_col in factors.columns else []
    if rf_col in factors.columns:
        fac_cols.append(rf_col)

    model_factors = {
        RiskModel.FF3: ['smb', 'hml'],
        RiskModel.CARHART: ['smb', 'hml', 'umd'],
        RiskModel.FF5: ['smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma'],
        RiskModel.CUSTOM: config.custom_factors,
    }
    for f in model_factors.get(model, []):
        if f in factors.columns:
            fac_cols.append(f)

    fac_cols = list(set([date_col] + fac_cols))

    # Vectorized merge approach: join events with prices on id + date range
    frames = []
    for _, evt in aligned_events.iterrows():
        mask = ((prices[id_col] == evt[id_col]) &
                (prices[date_col] >= evt['estper_beg']) &
                (prices[date_col] <= evt['evtwin_end']))
        fd = prices.loc[mask, [id_col, date_col, ret_col]].copy()
        if len(fd) == 0:
            continue
```

```
        fd['evtdate'] = evt['evtdate']
        fd['estper_beg'] = evt['estper_beg']
        fd['estper_end'] = evt['estper_end']
        fd['evtwin_beg'] = evt['evtwin_beg']
        fd['evtwin_end'] = evt['evtwin_end']
        if 'group' in evt.index:
            fd['group'] = evt['group']
        frames.append(fd)

    if not frames:
        raise ValueError("No return data found for any events")

    result = pd.concat(frames, ignore_index=True)
    result = result.merge(factors[fac_cols].drop_duplicates(), on=date_col, how='left')

    # Excess and market-adjusted returns
    if rf_col in result.columns:
        result['ret_excess'] = result[ret_col] - result[rf_col]
    else:
        result['ret_excess'] = result[ret_col]
    if mkt_col in result.columns:
        result['ret_mktadj'] = result['ret_excess'] - result[mkt_col]

    result = result.sort_values([id_col, 'evtdate', date_col]).reset_index(drop=True)
    n_evts = result.groupby([id_col, 'evtdate']).ngroups
    print(f"  Extracted {len(result):,} obs for {n_evts} firm-events")
    return result
```

98.3.7 Step 4: Risk Model Estimation

Estimate risk model parameters over the estimation window.

```
def estimate_model(
    event_returns, config, id_col="symbol", date_col="date", ret_col="ret"
):
    """Estimate risk model parameters for each firm-event.

    Runs OLS over the estimation window. Returns alpha, betas, sigma,
    R^2, nobs, and residuals for cross-correlation computation.
    """
    model = config.risk_model
```

```
# Define regression specification
dep_var_map = {
    RiskModel.MARKET_ADJ: "ret_mktadj",
    RiskModel.MARKET_MODEL: ret_col,
    RiskModel.FF3: "ret_excess",
    RiskModel.CARHART: "ret_excess",
    RiskModel.FF5: "ret_excess",
    RiskModel.CUSTOM: "ret_excess",
}
indep_var_map = {
    RiskModel.MARKET_ADJ: [],
    RiskModel.MARKET_MODEL: ["mkt_excess"],
    RiskModel.FF3: ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml"],
    RiskModel.CARHART: ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "umd"],
    RiskModel.FF5: ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"],
    RiskModel.CUSTOM: config.custom_factors,
}

dep_var = dep_var_map[model]
indep_vars = indep_var_map[model]

est = event_returns[
    (event_returns[date_col] >= event_returns["estper_beg"])
    & (event_returns[date_col] <= event_returns["estper_end"])
].copy()

params_list = []

for (firm, evtdate), grp in est.groupby([id_col, "evtdate"]):
    valid = grp.dropna(subset=[dep_var] + indep_vars)
    nobs = len(valid)
    if nobs < config.min_estimation_obs:
        continue

    y = valid[dep_var].values

    if len(indep_vars) == 0:
        # Market-adjusted: intercept-only for variance
        p = {
            id_col: firm,
            "evtdate": evtdate,
            "alpha": y.mean(),
```

```
                "sigma": y.std(ddof=1),
                "variance": y.var(ddof=1),
                "nobs": nobs,
                "r_squared": 0.0,
                "_residuals": y - y.mean(),
            }
        else:
            X = sm.add_constant(valid[indep_vars].values)
            res = sm.OLS(y, X).fit()
            p = {
                id_col: firm,
                "evtdate": evtdate,
                "alpha": res.params[0],
                "sigma": np.sqrt(res.mse_resid),
                "variance": res.mse_resid,
                "nobs": nobs,
                "r_squared": res.rsquared if np.isfinite(res.rsquared) else np.nan,
                "_residuals": res.resid,
            }
            for j, var in enumerate(indep_vars):
                p[f"beta_{var}"] = res.params[j + 1]

        # Skip degenerate firms (zero or near-zero variance)
        if p["sigma"] < 1e-6:
            continue

        params_list.append(p)

    if not params_list:
        raise ValueError("No firm-events passed minimum observation filter")

    params_df = pd.DataFrame(params_list)
    n_total = event_returns.groupby([id_col, "evtdate"]).ngroups
    print(
        f"  Estimated {len(params_df)}/{n_total} firm-events "
        f"(mean R^2 = {params_df['r_squared'].dropna().mean():.4f})"
    )
    return params_df
```

98.3.8 Step 5: Abnormal Return Computation

Compute AR, CAR, BHAR, SAR, SCAR for each firm-event-date.

```
def compute_abnormal_returns(
    event_returns, params, config, id_col="symbol", date_col="date", ret_col="ret"
):
    """Compute abnormal returns and aggregate to CARs/BHARs.

    Returns
    -------
    daily_ar : pd.DataFrame - daily AR/SAR/CAR/BHAR per firm-event-date
    event_ar : pd.DataFrame - event-level CAR/BHAR/SCAR per firm-event
    """
    model = config.risk_model

    factor_map = {
        RiskModel.MARKET_ADJ: [],
        RiskModel.MARKET_MODEL: ["mkt_excess"],
        RiskModel.FF3: ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml"],
        RiskModel.CARHART: ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "umd"],
        RiskModel.FF5: ["mkt_excess", "smb", "hml", "rmw", "cma"],
        RiskModel.CUSTOM: config.custom_factors,
    }
    factor_cols = factor_map[model]

    # Filter to event window
    evt = event_returns[
        (event_returns[date_col] >= event_returns["evtwin_beg"])
        & (event_returns[date_col] <= event_returns["evtwin_end"])
    ].copy()

    # Merge params (drop residuals column for merge)
    merge_cols = [c for c in params.columns if c != "_residuals"]
    evt = evt.merge(params[merge_cols], on=[id_col, "evtdate"], how="inner")

    # Expected returns
    if model == RiskModel.MARKET_ADJ:
        evt["expected_ret"] = evt.get("mkt_excess", 0) + evt.get("risk_free", 0)
        evt["AR"] = evt[ret_col] - evt["expected_ret"]
    else:
        evt["expected_ret"] = evt["alpha"]
        for fc in factor_cols:
```

```
            bcol = f"beta_{fc}"
            if bcol in evt.columns:
                evt["expected_ret"] += evt[bcol] * evt[fc]

        if model == RiskModel.MARKET_MODEL:
            evt["AR"] = evt[ret_col] - evt["expected_ret"]
        else:
            evt["AR"] = evt["ret_excess"] - evt["expected_ret"]

    evt["SAR"] = evt["AR"] / evt["sigma"]
    evt = evt.sort_values([id_col, "evtdate", date_col])

    # Compute event time
    all_dates = sorted(event_returns[date_col].unique())
    d2i = {d: i for i, d in enumerate(all_dates)}
    evt["evttime"] = evt[date_col].map(d2i) - evt["evtdate"].map(d2i)

    # Cumulative measures per firm-event
    daily_recs = []
    event_recs = []

    for (firm, evtdate), g in evt.groupby([id_col, "evtdate"]):
        g = g.sort_values(date_col).copy()
        nd = len(g)

        g["CAR"] = g["AR"].cumsum()
        g["cum_ret"] = (1 + g[ret_col]).cumprod() - 1
        g["cum_expected"] = (1 + g["expected_ret"]).cumprod() - 1
        g["BHAR"] = g["cum_ret"] - g["cum_expected"]
        g["SCAR"] = g["CAR"] / (g["sigma"].iloc[0] * np.sqrt(np.arange(1, nd + 1)))

        daily_recs.append(g)

        last = g.iloc[-1]
        sigma = g["sigma"].iloc[0]
        nobs = g["nobs"].iloc[0]

        rec = {
            id_col: firm,
            "evtdate": evtdate,
            "CAR": last["CAR"],
            "BHAR": last["BHAR"],
```

```
            "cum_ret": last["cum_ret"],
            "SCAR": last["CAR"] / (sigma * np.sqrt(nd)),
            "sigma": sigma,
            "variance": g["variance"].iloc[0],
            "nobs": nobs,
            "n_event_days": nd,
            "alpha": g["alpha"].iloc[0],
            "pat_scale": (nobs - 2) / (nobs - 4) if nobs > 4 else np.nan,
            "pos_car": int(last["CAR"] > 0),
        }

        for fc in factor_cols:
            bcol = f"beta_{fc}"
            if bcol in g.columns:
                rec[bcol] = g[bcol].iloc[0]
        if "group" in g.columns:
            rec["group"] = g["group"].iloc[0]

        event_recs.append(rec)

    daily_ar = pd.concat(daily_recs, ignore_index=True)
    event_ar = pd.DataFrame(event_recs)

    print(
        f"  {len(event_ar)} firm-events | Mean CAR: {event_ar['CAR'].mean():.6f} | "
        f"Mean BHAR: {event_ar['BHAR'].mean():.6f} | "
        f"% positive: {event_ar['pos_car'].mean():.1%}"
    )
    return daily_ar, event_ar
```

98.3.9 Step 6: Comprehensive Test Statistics

Eight tests covering parametric, non-parametric, and cross-correlation-robust approaches.

```
def compute_test_statistics(event_ar, params=None, group_col=None):
    """Compute comprehensive test statistics for abnormal returns.

    Implements 8 tests with varying assumptions about variance,
    cross-dependence, and distributional form.
    """
    def _stats(data, label=None):
```

```
        N = len(data)
        if N < 3:
            return None

        cars = data['CAR'].values
        bhars = data['BHAR'].values
        scars = data['SCAR'].values
        pos = data['pos_car'].values

        m_car, s_car = np.mean(cars), np.std(cars, ddof=1)
        m_scar, s_scar = np.mean(scars), np.std(scars, ddof=1)

        r = {'group': label or 'All', 'N': N,
             'mean_CAR': m_car, 'median_CAR': np.median(cars),
             'std_CAR': s_car, 'mean_BHAR': np.mean(bhars),
             'pct_positive': np.mean(pos)}

        # 1. Cross-sectional t
        t1 = m_car / (s_car / np.sqrt(N)) if s_car > 0 else np.nan
        r['t_CS'] = t1
        r['p_CS'] = 2 * (1 - stats.t.cdf(abs(t1), N-1)) if np.isfinite(t1) else np.nan

        # 2. Patell Z
        if 'pat_scale' in data.columns:
            ps = data['pat_scale'].dropna().values
            z2 = np.sum(scars[:len(ps)]) / np.sqrt(np.sum(ps)) if len(ps) > 0 else np.nan
        else:
            z2 = m_scar * np.sqrt(N)
        r['Z_Patell'] = z2
        r['p_Patell'] = 2*(1-stats.norm.cdf(abs(z2))) if np.isfinite(z2) else np.nan

        # 3. BMP
        t3 = m_scar / (s_scar / np.sqrt(N)) if s_scar > 0 else np.nan
        r['t_BMP'] = t3
        r['p_BMP'] = 2*(1-stats.t.cdf(abs(t3), N-1)) if np.isfinite(t3) else np.nan

        # 4. Kolari-Pynnönen
        rbar = 0.0
        if params is not None and '_residuals' in params.columns:
            resids = [row['_residuals'] for _, row in params.iterrows()
                      if isinstance(row.get('_residuals'), np.ndarray)]
            if len(resids) > 1:
```

```
            ml = min(len(x) for x in resids)
            aligned = np.column_stack([x[:ml] for x in resids])
            cm = np.corrcoef(aligned.T)
            np.fill_diagonal(cm, 0)
            rbar = cm.sum() / (len(resids) * (len(resids)-1))

    adj = np.sqrt(1/(1+(N-1)*rbar)) if (1+(N-1)*rbar) > 0 else 1
    t4 = t3 * adj if np.isfinite(t3) else np.nan
    r['t_KP'] = t4
    r['p_KP'] = 2*(1-stats.t.cdf(abs(t4), N-1)) if np.isfinite(t4) else np.nan
    r['r_bar'] = rbar

    # 5. Generalized sign test
    p_hat = np.mean(pos)
    z5 = (p_hat - 0.5) / np.sqrt(0.25 / N)
    r['Z_GSign'] = z5
    r['p_GSign'] = 2*(1-stats.norm.cdf(abs(z5)))

    # 6. Sign test
    r['Z_Sign'] = z5  # Same formula with p0=0.5
    r['p_Sign'] = r['p_GSign']

    # 7. Skewness-adjusted t
    if s_scar > 0:
        zb = m_scar / s_scar
        gam = stats.skew(scars)
        t7 = np.sqrt(N) * (zb + gam*zb**2/3 + gam**2*zb**3/27 + gam/(6*N))
        r['t_SkAdj'] = t7
        r['p_SkAdj'] = 2*(1-stats.t.cdf(abs(t7), N-1)) if np.isfinite(t7) else np.nan

    # 8. Wilcoxon signed-rank
    try:
        w, pw = stats.wilcoxon(cars, alternative='two-sided')
        r['W_Wilcoxon'] = w
        r['p_Wilcoxon'] = pw
    except:
        r['W_Wilcoxon'] = r['p_Wilcoxon'] = np.nan

    return r

results = [_stats(event_ar)]
if group_col and group_col in event_ar.columns:
```

```
        for gv, gd in event_ar.groupby(group_col):
            s = _stats(gd, label=gv)
            if s:
                results.append(s)

    return pd.DataFrame([r for r in results if r is not None])


def compute_daily_stats(daily_ar, id_col='symbol'):
    """Compute test statistics at each event time t."""
    rows = []
    for t, g in daily_ar.groupby('evttime'):
        n = g[id_col].nunique()
        if n < 2:
            continue
        m_ar = g['AR'].mean()
        s_ar = g['AR'].std(ddof=1)
        t_ar = m_ar / (s_ar/np.sqrt(n)) if s_ar > 0 else np.nan
        rows.append({'evttime': t, 'N': n, 'mean_AR': m_ar,
                     'mean_CAR': g['CAR'].mean(), 'mean_BHAR': g['BHAR'].mean(),
                     'mean_cum_ret': g.get('cum_ret', pd.Series()).mean(),
                     't_AR': t_ar})
    return pd.DataFrame(rows).sort_values('evttime')
```

98.3.10 Step 7: Publication-Ready Visualization

```
def plot_event_study(daily_stats, title="Cumulative Abnormal Returns Around Event Date",
                     figsize=(12, 7), save_path=None):
    """Publication-ready event study plot with CAR, BHAR, and daily AR panels."""
    fig, axes = plt.subplots(2, 1, figsize=figsize, height_ratios=[3, 1],
                             gridspec_kw={'hspace': 0.05})
    ds = daily_stats.sort_values('evttime')
    t = ds['evttime'].values

    # Top: cumulative returns
    ax = axes[0]
    ax.plot(t, ds['mean_CAR']*100, color='#2166AC', lw=2.5, label='Mean CAR')
    ax.plot(t, ds['mean_BHAR']*100, color='#B2182B', lw=2, ls='--', label='Mean BHAR')
    if 'mean_cum_ret' in ds.columns:
        ax.plot(t, ds['mean_cum_ret']*100, color='#666', lw=1.5, ls=':',
```

```
                 label='Mean Cum. Return', alpha=0.7)
    ax.axvline(0, color='k', lw=0.8, alpha=0.5)
    ax.axhline(0, color='k', lw=0.5, alpha=0.3)
    ax.set_ylabel('Cumulative Return (%)', fontsize=12)
    ax.set_title(title, fontsize=14, fontweight='bold')
    ax.legend(loc='upper left', fontsize=10)
    ax.grid(True, alpha=0.2)
    ax.set_xticklabels([])

    # Bottom: daily AR bars
    ax2 = axes[1]
    colors = ['#2166AC' if v >= 0 else '#B2182B' for v in ds['mean_AR']]
    ax2.bar(t, ds['mean_AR']*100, color=colors, alpha=0.7, width=0.8)
    if 't_AR' in ds.columns:
        sig = np.abs(ds['t_AR'].values) > 1.96
        if sig.any():
            ax2.scatter(t[sig], ds['mean_AR'].values[sig]*100,
                        color='gold', s=40, marker='*', zorder=4, label='p<0.05')
            ax2.legend(fontsize=9)
    ax2.axvline(0, color='k', lw=0.8, alpha=0.5)
    ax2.axhline(0, color='k', lw=0.5, alpha=0.3)
    ax2.set_xlabel('Event Time (Trading Periods)', fontsize=12)
    ax2.set_ylabel('Mean AR (%)', fontsize=10)
    ax2.grid(True, alpha=0.2)

    for a in axes:
        a.spines['top'].set_visible(False)
        a.spines['right'].set_visible(False)
    plt.tight_layout()
    if save_path:
        fig.savefig(save_path, dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
    return fig


def plot_car_distribution(event_ar, var='CAR', figsize=(12, 5)):
    """Cross-sectional distribution of CARs with histogram and QQ plot."""
    fig, (ax1, ax2) = plt.subplots(1, 2, figsize=figsize)
    data = event_ar[var].dropna() * 100

    ax1.hist(data, bins=50, density=True, alpha=0.6, color='#2166AC', edgecolor='white')
    ax1.axvline(data.mean(), color='k', ls='--', lw=1.5,
                label=f'Mean={data.mean():.2f}%')
```

```
    ax1.axvline(data.median(), color='gray', ls=':', lw=1.5,
                label=f'Median={data.median():.2f}%')
    ax1.set_xlabel(f'{var} (%)')
    ax1.set_ylabel('Density')
    ax1.set_title(f'Distribution of {var}', fontweight='bold')
    ax1.legend()
    ax1.spines['top'].set_visible(False)
    ax1.spines['right'].set_visible(False)

    # QQ plot
    (osm, osr), (slope, intercept, r) = stats.probplot(data, dist='norm')
    ax2.scatter(osm, osr, alpha=0.4, s=10, color='#2166AC')
    ax2.plot(osm, slope*np.array(osm)+intercept, 'r--', lw=1)
    ax2.set_xlabel('Theoretical Quantiles')
    ax2.set_ylabel('Sample Quantiles')
    ax2.set_title('Q-Q Plot (Normal)', fontweight='bold')
    ax2.spines['top'].set_visible(False)
    ax2.spines['right'].set_visible(False)

    plt.tight_layout()
    return fig
```

98.3.11 The Master Pipeline

Combine all components into one function:

```
def run_event_study(events, prices, factors, config,
                    id_col='symbol', date_col='date', ret_col='ret',
                    event_date_col='event_date', mkt_col='mkt_excess',
                    rf_col='risk_free', group_col=None, verbose=True):
    """Run a complete event study from raw inputs to test statistics.

    This is the main entry point. Provide your events, price data,
    factor data, and configuration-get back everything you need.

    Parameters
    ----------
    events : pd.DataFrame
        Columns: [id_col, event_date_col], optional 'group'.
    prices : pd.DataFrame
        Daily returns: [id_col, date_col, ret_col or 'ret_excess', rf_col].
```

```
    factors : pd.DataFrame
        Factor returns: [date_col, mkt_col, 'smb', 'hml', ...].
    config : EventStudyConfig

    Returns
    -------
    dict with keys: 'config', 'daily_ar', 'event_ar', 'daily_stats',
        'test_stats', 'params'
    """
    config.validate()

    if verbose:
        print(f"   Event Study: {config.risk_model.value} model   ")
        print(f"  Windows: estimation={config.estimation_window}, "
              f"gap={config.gap}, event=({config.event_window_start},{config.event_window_en
        print(f"  Min obs: {config.min_estimation_obs}\n")

    # 1. Trading calendar
    if verbose: print("Step 1: Building trading calendar...")
    trading_dates = pd.Series(sorted(prices[date_col].unique()))
    calendar = build_trading_calendar(trading_dates, config)
    if verbose: print(f"  {len(calendar)} potential event dates\n")

    # 2. Align events
    if verbose: print("Step 2: Aligning events to trading calendar...")
    aligned = align_events(events, calendar, id_col, event_date_col)
    if verbose: print(f"  {len(aligned)} aligned events\n")

    # 3. Extract returns
    if verbose: print("Step 3: Extracting returns and merging factors...")
    evt_rets = extract_returns(aligned, prices, factors, config,
                               id_col, date_col, ret_col, mkt_col, rf_col)
    if verbose: print()

    # 4. Estimate model
    if verbose: print("Step 4: Estimating risk model parameters...")
    params = estimate_model(evt_rets, config, id_col, date_col, ret_col)
    if verbose: print()

    # 5. Compute abnormal returns
    if verbose: print("Step 5: Computing abnormal returns...")
    daily_ar, event_ar = compute_abnormal_returns(
```

```
        evt_rets, params, config, id_col, date_col, ret_col)
    if verbose: print()

    # 6. Test statistics
    if verbose: print("Step 6: Computing test statistics...")
    test_stats = compute_test_statistics(event_ar, params, group_col)
    daily_stats = compute_daily_stats(daily_ar, id_col)
    if verbose:
        print(f"  Done.\n")
        print("   Results Summary   ")
        cols = ['group', 'N', 'mean_CAR', 'mean_BHAR', 'pct_positive',
                't_CS', 'p_CS', 't_BMP', 'p_BMP', 't_KP', 'p_KP']
        avail = [c for c in cols if c in test_stats.columns]
        print(test_stats[avail].to_string(index=False))

    return {
        'config': config,
        'params': params,
        'daily_ar': daily_ar,
        'event_ar': event_ar,
        'daily_stats': daily_stats,
        'test_stats': test_stats,
        'calendar': calendar,
    }

print("Master pipeline ready.")
```

```
Master pipeline ready.
```

98.4 Demonstration with Simulated Data

Since we are building a general-purpose framework (the actual event data will be supplied later), we demonstrate the full pipeline with **realistic simulated data**.

```
np.random.seed(2024)

# --- Simulated trading calendar (Vietnamese market: ~245 days/year) ---
dates = pd.bdate_range('2019-01-01', '2023-12-31', freq='B')
# Remove Tet + national holidays (simplified)
tet_holidays = pd.to_datetime([
```

```
    '2019-02-04','2019-02-05','2019-02-06','2019-02-07','2019-02-08',
    '2020-01-23','2020-01-24','2020-01-27','2020-01-28','2020-01-29',
    '2021-02-10','2021-02-11','2021-02-12','2021-02-15','2021-02-16',
    '2022-01-31','2022-02-01','2022-02-02','2022-02-03','2022-02-04',
    '2023-01-20','2023-01-23','2023-01-24','2023-01-25','2023-01-26',
])
dates = dates.difference(tet_holidays)
T = len(dates)

# --- Simulated factors (realistic Vietnamese market parameters) ---
rf_daily = 0.04 / 252  # ~4% annual risk-free
mkt_excess = np.random.normal(0.0003, 0.012, T)  # ~7.5% annual, ~19% vol
smb = np.random.normal(0.0001, 0.006, T)
hml = np.random.normal(0.0001, 0.005, T)
rmw = np.random.normal(0.00005, 0.004, T)
cma = np.random.normal(0.00005, 0.004, T)

factors_sim = pd.DataFrame({
    'date': dates, 'mkt_excess': mkt_excess, 'smb': smb, 'hml': hml,
    'rmw': rmw, 'cma': cma, 'risk_free': rf_daily
})

# --- 100 simulated stocks ---
n_stocks = 100
symbols = [f'SIM{i:03d}' for i in range(n_stocks)]
betas = np.random.uniform(0.5, 1.5, n_stocks)
alphas = np.random.normal(0, 0.0002, n_stocks)
idio_vols = np.random.uniform(0.015, 0.035, n_stocks)

price_rows = []
for i, sym in enumerate(symbols):
    eps = np.random.normal(0, idio_vols[i], T)
    rets = alphas[i] + betas[i] * mkt_excess + 0.3*smb + 0.2*hml + eps
    for j in range(T):
        price_rows.append({
            'symbol': sym, 'date': dates[j], 'ret': rets[j],
            'ret_excess': rets[j] - rf_daily,
            'risk_free': rf_daily,
            'mktcap': np.random.uniform(100, 5000),
        })

prices_sim = pd.DataFrame(price_rows)
```

```
# --- Simulated events: 50 random firm-dates with KNOWN positive AR ---
event_indices = np.random.choice(range(250, T-50), 50, replace=False)
event_firms = np.random.choice(symbols, 50, replace=True)
event_dates_sim = [dates[i] for i in event_indices]

# Inject abnormal returns on event date (2% positive shock)
for firm, edate in zip(event_firms, event_dates_sim):
    mask = (prices_sim['symbol'] == firm) & (prices_sim['date'] == edate)
    prices_sim.loc[mask, 'ret'] += 0.02
    prices_sim.loc[mask, 'ret_excess'] += 0.02

events_sim = pd.DataFrame({
    'symbol': event_firms,
    'event_date': event_dates_sim,
    'group': np.random.choice([1, 2], 50)
})

print(f"Simulated data: {n_stocks} stocks × {T} days = {len(prices_sim):,} obs")
print(f"Events: {len(events_sim)} firm-event pairs")
print(f"Injected abnormal return: +2% on event date")
```

```
Simulated data: 100 stocks × 1279 days = 127,900 obs
Events: 50 firm-event pairs
Injected abnormal return: +2% on event date
```

98.4.1 Running the Full Pipeline

```
config = EventStudyConfig(
    estimation_window=150,
    event_window_start=-10,
    event_window_end=10,
    gap=15,
    min_estimation_obs=120,
    risk_model=RiskModel.FF3
)

results = run_event_study(
    events=events_sim,
    prices=prices_sim,
```

```
    factors=factors_sim,
    config=config,
    group_col='group'
)
```

```
   Event Study: ff3 model
  Windows: estimation=150, gap=15, event=(-10,10)
  Min obs: 120

Step 1: Building trading calendar...
  1094 potential event dates

Step 2: Aligning events to trading calendar...
  50 aligned events

Step 3: Extracting returns and merging factors...
  Extracted 9,300 obs for 50 firm-events

Step 4: Estimating risk model parameters...
  Estimated 50/50 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2368)

Step 5: Computing abnormal returns...
  50 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.033009 | Mean BHAR: 0.032498 | % positive: 60.0%

Step 6: Computing test statistics...
  Done.

   Results Summary
group  N  mean_CAR  mean_BHAR  pct_positive     t_CS     p_CS    t_BMP    p_BMP     t_KP
  All 50  0.033009   0.032498      0.600000 2.288362 0.026468 2.157106 0.035929 2.161291 0.03
    1 20  0.030704   0.028326      0.650000 1.568676 0.133227 1.248382 0.227056 1.249320 0.22
    2 30  0.034545   0.035280      0.566667 1.688848 0.101975 1.734699 0.093413 1.736689 0.09
```

98.4.2 Visualizing Results

```
fig1 = plot_event_study(
    results['daily_stats'],
    title="Event Study: FF3 Model - Simulated Vietnamese Market"
)
plt.show()
```

Figure 98.1: Dynamics of cumulative abnormal returns (CARs) and buy-and-hold abnormal returns (BHARs) around the event date. The positive jump at t=0 reflects the injected 2% abnormal return.

```
fig2 = plot_car_distribution(results['event_ar'], 'CAR')
plt.show()
```

Figure 98.2: Cross-sectional distribution of cumulative abnormal returns. The rightward shift from zero and positive skewness are consistent with the injected positive event effect.

98.4.3 Complete Test Statistics

98.4.4 Running Multiple Models for Robustness

A key best practice is to report results across multiple risk models. If conclusions are robust across models, this strengthens the findings:

```
models_to_run = [
    ("Market-Adjusted", RiskModel.MARKET_ADJ),
    ("Market Model", RiskModel.MARKET_MODEL),
    ("Fama-French 3", RiskModel.FF3),
    ("Fama-French 5", RiskModel.FF5),
]

robustness = []
for name, mdl in models_to_run:
    cfg = EventStudyConfig(
        estimation_window=150, event_window_start=-10, event_window_end=10,
        gap=15, min_estimation_obs=120, risk_model=mdl
    )
    res = run_event_study(events_sim, prices_sim, factors_sim, cfg, verbose=False)
    ts = res['test_stats']
```

Table 98.3: Event study test statistics for the full sample and by subgroup

```python
# Format for display
ts = results['test_stats'].copy()

# Select key columns
display_cols = ['group', 'N', 'mean_CAR', 'mean_BHAR', 'pct_positive',
                't_CS', 'p_CS', 'Z_Patell', 'p_Patell',
                't_BMP', 'p_BMP', 't_KP', 'p_KP',
                'Z_GSign', 'p_GSign', 't_SkAdj', 'p_SkAdj']
avail = [c for c in display_cols if c in ts.columns]
display_df = ts[avail].copy()

# Format
for c in display_df.columns:
    if c in ['N']:
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].astype(int)
    elif c.startswith('p_'):
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.4f}' if pd.notna(x) else '')
    elif c in ['mean_CAR', 'mean_BHAR']:
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.4%}' if pd.notna(x) else '')
    elif c == 'pct_positive':
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.1%}' if pd.notna(x) else '')
    elif isinstance(display_df[c].iloc[0], (int, float, np.floating)):
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.3f}' if pd.notna(x) else '')

print(display_df.to_string(index=False))
```

```
group  N mean_CAR mean_BHAR pct_positive  t_CS   p_CS Z_Patell p_Patell t_BMP  p_BMP  t_KP
  All 50  3.3009%   3.2498%        60.0% 2.288 0.0265    1.832   0.0669 2.157 0.0359 2.161 0
    1 20  3.0704%   2.8326%        65.0% 1.569 0.1332    1.020   0.3075 1.248 0.2271 1.249 0
    2 30  3.4545%   3.5280%        56.7% 1.689 0.1020    1.532   0.1255 1.735 0.0934 1.737 0
```

```
    full = ts[ts['group'] == 'All'].iloc[0]
    robustness.append({
        'Model': name,
        'N': int(full['N']),
        'Mean CAR': f"{full['mean_CAR']:.4%}",
        'Mean BHAR': f"{full['mean_BHAR']:.4%}",
        '% Positive': f"{full['pct_positive']:.1%}",
        't (CS)': f"{full['t_CS']:.2f}",
        't (BMP)': f"{full['t_BMP']:.2f}",
        't (KP)': f"{full.get('t_KP', np.nan):.2f}",
    })

rob_df = pd.DataFrame(robustness)
print("Robustness Across Risk Models:")
print(rob_df.to_string(index=False))
```

```
  Extracted 9,300 obs for 50 firm-events
  Estimated 50/50 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.0000)
  50 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.029672 | Mean BHAR: 0.026468 | % positive: 62.0%
  Extracted 9,300 obs for 50 firm-events
  Estimated 50/50 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2198)
  50 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.033785 | Mean BHAR: 0.029974 | % positive: 62.0%
  Extracted 9,300 obs for 50 firm-events
  Estimated 50/50 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2368)
  50 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.033009 | Mean BHAR: 0.032498 | % positive: 60.0%
  Extracted 9,300 obs for 50 firm-events
  Estimated 50/50 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2516)
  50 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.036479 | Mean BHAR: 0.036000 | % positive: 64.0%
Robustness Across Risk Models:
          Model  N Mean CAR Mean BHAR % Positive t (CS) t (BMP) t (KP)
Market-Adjusted 50  2.9672%   2.6468%      62.0%   2.12    2.03   2.01
   Market Model 50  3.3785%   2.9974%      62.0%   2.37    2.26   2.28
  Fama-French 3 50  3.3009%   3.2498%      60.0%   2.29    2.16   2.16
  Fama-French 5 50  3.6479%   3.6000%      64.0%   2.51    2.36   2.41
```

98.5 How to Use This Framework with Your Data

98.5.1 Required Data Format

To run the event study on real Vietnamese market data, prepare three inputs:

1. **Stock Returns** (`prices` DataFrame):

Column	Description	Example
`symbol`	Stock ticker	`'VNM'`
`date`	Trading date	`2023-06-15`
`ret` or `ret_excess`	Daily return (decimal)	`0.0123`
`risk_free`	Daily risk-free rate	`0.000159`

2. **Factor Returns** (`factors` DataFrame):

Column	Description
`date`	Trading date
`mkt_excess`	Market excess return
`smb`	Size factor (FF3/FF5)
`hml`	Value factor (FF3/FF5)
`rmw`	Profitability factor (FF5)
`cma`	Investment factor (FF5)
`risk_free`	Risk-free rate

3. **Event File** (`events` DataFrame):

Column	Description	Example
`symbol`	Stock ticker	`'VNM'`
`event_date`	Event date	`2023-03-15`
`group`	(Optional) subgroup	`1`

98.5.2 Minimal Usage Example

```
# Load your data
prices = pd.read_csv('prices_daily.csv', parse_dates=['date'])
factors = pd.read_csv('factors_ff3_daily.csv', parse_dates=['date'])
events = pd.read_csv('my_events.csv', parse_dates=['event_date'])

# Configure
config = EventStudyConfig(
    estimation_window=150,
    event_window_start=-5,
```

```
    event_window_end=5,
    gap=15,
    min_estimation_obs=120,
    risk_model=RiskModel.FF3
)

# Run
results = run_event_study(events, prices, factors, config)

# Access outputs
results['test_stats']    # Test statistics
results['event_ar']      # Firm-level CARs/BHARs
results['daily_ar']      # Daily abnormal returns
results['daily_stats']   # Event-time aggregates

# Plot
plot_event_study(results['daily_stats'], title="My Event Study")
```

98.6 Demonstration with Vietnamese Market Data

We now demonstrate the full event study pipeline using actual Vietnamese stock market data. The datasets available are:

- `prices_daily`: `symbol`, `date`, `ret_excess`, `mktcap`, `mktcap_lag`, `risk_free`
- `prices_monthly`: same structure
- `factors_ff3_daily`: `date`, `smb`, `hml`, `mkt_excess`, `risk_free`
- `factors_ff3_monthly` — monthly frequency version
- `factors_ff5_daily`: `date`, `smb`, `hml`, `mkt_excess`, `risk_free`, `rmw`, `cma`
- `factors_ff5_monthly`

Since our data provides `ret_excess` rather than raw returns, we recover raw returns as $R_{it} = R^e_{it} + R_{f,t}$, and the market return as $R_{m,t} = R^e_{m,t} + R_{f,t}$. The `extract_event_returns()` function handles this automatically.

98.6.1 Loading the Data

```
# --- Recover raw returns ---
# ret = ret_excess + risk_free
prices_daily['ret'] = prices_daily['ret_excess'] + prices_daily['risk_free']
```

```python
prices_monthly['ret'] = prices_monthly['ret_excess'] + prices_monthly['risk_free']

# --- Inspect the data ---
print("=" * 70)
print("VIETNAMESE MARKET DATA SUMMARY")
print("=" * 70)
print(f"\nprices_daily: {prices_daily.shape[0]:,} rows, "
      f"{prices_daily['symbol'].nunique()} stocks, "
      f"{prices_daily['date'].min().date()} to {prices_daily['date'].max().date()}")
print(f"prices_monthly: {prices_monthly.shape[0]:,} rows, "
      f"{prices_monthly['symbol'].nunique()} stocks")
print(f"\nfactors_ff3_daily: {factors_ff3_daily.shape[0]:,} trading days")
print(f"  Columns: {list(factors_ff3_daily.columns)}")
print(f"factors_ff5_daily: {factors_ff5_daily.shape[0]:,} trading days")
print(f"  Columns: {list(factors_ff5_daily.columns)}")
print(f"\nSample daily returns:")
print(prices_daily[['symbol', 'date', 'ret_excess', 'ret', 'risk_free', 'mktcap']]
      .head(5).to_string(index=False))
print(f"\nSample daily factors:")
print(factors_ff3_daily.head(5).to_string(index=False))
```

```
======================================================================
VIETNAMESE MARKET DATA SUMMARY
======================================================================

prices_daily: 3,462,157 rows, 1459 stocks, 2010-01-05 to 2023-12-29
prices_monthly: 165,499 rows, 1457 stocks

factors_ff3_daily: 3,126 trading days
  Columns: ['date', 'smb', 'hml', 'mkt_excess', 'risk_free']
factors_ff5_daily: 3,126 trading days
  Columns: ['date', 'smb', 'hml', 'rmw', 'cma', 'mkt_excess', 'risk_free']

Sample daily returns:
symbol       date  ret_excess      ret  risk_free     mktcap
   A32 2018-10-24   -0.000159 0.000000   0.000159 176.120000
   A32 2018-10-25   -0.000159 0.000000   0.000159 176.120000
   A32 2018-10-26   -0.000159 0.000000   0.000159 176.120000
   A32 2018-10-29   -0.000159 0.000000   0.000159 176.120000
   A32 2018-10-30   -0.000159 0.000000   0.000159 176.120000

Sample daily factors:
```

```
      date       smb       hml  mkt_excess  risk_free
2011-07-01  0.008587  0.000967   -0.019862   0.000159
2011-07-04  0.005099 -0.001099   -0.000633   0.000159
2011-07-05 -0.009088  0.010152    0.013314   0.000159
2011-07-06  0.004875 -0.003918   -0.008045   0.000159
2011-07-07 -0.011239 -0.000584    0.003391   0.000159
```

98.6.2 Creating Sample Events

For this demonstration, we create a sample event file. In practice, events would come from corporate announcements (earnings, M&A, dividends), regulatory changes, or other information shocks. Here we select 50 large-cap Vietnamese stocks and assign random event dates from the most recent two years of data to illustrate the pipeline mechanics.

```python
np.random.seed(2024)

# Select the 50 largest stocks by median market cap
largest = (prices_daily.groupby('symbol')['mktcap']
           .median()
           .nlargest(50)
           .index.tolist())

# Date range for events: last 2 years of data, with buffer for windows
date_range = prices_daily['date'].sort_values().unique()
n_dates = len(date_range)
# Events from the middle portion (need room for estimation + event windows)
event_eligible = date_range[int(n_dates * 0.3):int(n_dates * 0.85)]

# Generate 50 random firm-event pairs
event_firms = np.random.choice(largest, 50, replace=True)
event_dates = np.random.choice(event_eligible, 50, replace=False)

events_demo = pd.DataFrame({
    'symbol': event_firms,
    'event_date': pd.to_datetime(event_dates),
    'group': np.random.choice(['Group_A', 'Group_B'], 50)
})

# Remove any duplicate firm-date pairs
events_demo = events_demo.drop_duplicates(subset=['symbol', 'event_date'])

print(f"Sample event file: {len(events_demo)} firm-event observations")
```

```
print(f"Unique firms: {events_demo['symbol'].nunique()}")
print(f"Date range: {events_demo['event_date'].min().date()} to "
      f"{events_demo['event_date'].max().date()}")
print(f"\nGroup distribution:")
print(events_demo['group'].value_counts().to_string())
print(f"\nFirst 10 events:")
print(events_demo.sort_values('event_date').head(10).to_string(index=False))
```

```
Sample event file: 50 firm-event observations
Unique firms: 35
Date range: 2014-06-25 to 2021-10-29

Group distribution:
group
Group_B    26
Group_A    24

First 10 events:
symbol event_date   group
   MCH 2014-06-25 Group_B
   SIP 2014-10-23 Group_B
   VRE 2014-11-14 Group_B
   QNS 2014-12-25 Group_A
   FOX 2015-01-16 Group_B
   THD 2015-01-26 Group_A
   QNS 2015-02-12 Group_A
   HNG 2015-05-07 Group_B
   MML 2015-08-17 Group_B
   ACV 2015-10-15 Group_A
```

98.6.3 Daily Event Study: Fama-French 3-Factor Model

```
config_ff3 = EventStudyConfig(
    estimation_window=150,
    event_window_start=-10,
    event_window_end=10,
    gap=15,
    min_estimation_obs=120,
    risk_model=RiskModel.FF3
)
```

```
results_ff3 = run_event_study(
    events=events_demo,
    prices=prices_daily,
    factors=factors_ff3_daily,
    config=config_ff3,
    group_col='group'
)
```

```
   Event Study: ff3 model
  Windows: estimation=150, gap=15, event=(-10,10)
  Min obs: 120

Step 1: Building trading calendar...
  3308 potential event dates

Step 2: Aligning events to trading calendar...
  50 aligned events

Step 3: Extracting returns and merging factors...
  Extracted 5,421 obs for 30 firm-events

Step 4: Estimating risk model parameters...
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2245)

Step 5: Computing abnormal returns...
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.021513 | Mean BHAR: 0.024885 | % positive: 61.5%

Step 6: Computing test statistics...
  Done.

   Results Summary
  group  N  mean_CAR  mean_BHAR  pct_positive     t_CS     p_CS    t_BMP    p_BMP     t_KP
    All 26  0.021513   0.024885      0.615385 0.774999 0.445609 0.726797 0.474101 0.699973 0
Group_A 13  0.008601   0.006783      0.538462 0.211606 0.835966 0.577574 0.574229 0.567041 0
Group_B 13  0.034425   0.042987      0.692308 0.879892 0.396197 0.437902 0.669236 0.429917 0
```

98.6.4 Visualizing Daily Results

```
fig1 = plot_event_study(
    results_ff3['daily_stats'],
```

```
    title="Event Study: Fama-French 3-Factor Model - Vietnamese Market (Daily)"
)
plt.show()
```

Figure 98.3: Cumulative abnormal returns around event dates for Vietnamese stocks using the Fama-French 3-factor model. The event window spans [-10, +10] trading days.

```
fig2 = plot_car_distribution(results_ff3['event_ar'], 'CAR')
plt.show()
```

Figure 98.4: Cross-sectional distribution of cumulative abnormal returns (CARs) across firm-events. The histogram and Q-Q plot assess normality assumptions underlying parametric tests.

98.6.5 Complete Test Statistics (Daily)

98.6.6 Robustness: Multiple Risk Models (Daily)

98.6.7 Robustness: Multiple Event Windows

A key practice is to examine sensitivity to the event window specification:

98.6.8 Monthly Event Study: Fama-French 3-Factor Model

For longer-horizon studies, monthly frequency is appropriate. Note that the estimation window is specified in months rather than days:

```
# Create monthly events aligned to the monthly data
# Map daily event dates to the corresponding month-end
events_monthly = events_demo.copy()
events_monthly['event_date'] = events_monthly['event_date'].dt.to_period('M').dt.to_timestamp

# Use month-end dates from monthly prices
monthly_dates = prices_monthly['date'].sort_values().unique()
```

Table 98.7: Event study test statistics for the full sample and by subgroup — Daily frequency, FF3 model

```
ts = results_ff3['test_stats'].copy()

display_cols = ['group', 'N', 'mean_CAR', 'median_CAR', 'mean_BHAR', 'pct_positive',
                't_CS', 'p_CS', 'Z_Patell', 'p_Patell',
                't_BMP', 'p_BMP', 't_KP', 'p_KP',
                'Z_GSign', 'p_GSign', 't_SkAdj', 'p_SkAdj',
                'W_Wilcoxon', 'p_Wilcoxon']
avail = [c for c in display_cols if c in ts.columns]
display_df = ts[avail].copy()

for c in display_df.columns:
    if c in ['N']:
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].astype(int)
    elif c == 'group':
        continue
    elif c.startswith('p_'):
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.4f}' if pd.notna(x) else '')
    elif c in ['mean_CAR', 'median_CAR', 'mean_BHAR']:
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.4%}' if pd.notna(x) else '')
    elif c == 'pct_positive':
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.1%}' if pd.notna(x) else '')
    elif isinstance(display_df[c].iloc[0], (int, float, np.floating)):
        display_df[c] = display_df[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.3f}' if pd.notna(x) else '')

print(display_df.to_string(index=False))
```

```
  group  N mean_CAR median_CAR mean_BHAR pct_positive  t_CS   p_CS Z_Patell p_Patell t_BMP  p
    All 26  2.1513%    1.5701%   2.4885%        61.5% 0.775 0.4456    0.961   0.3364 0.727 0
Group_A 13  0.8601%    2.5330%   0.6783%        53.8% 0.212 0.8360    0.739   0.4596 0.578 0
Group_B 13  3.4425%    1.4169%   4.2987%        69.2% 0.880 0.3962    0.620   0.5352 0.438 0
```

Table 98.8: Robustness of event study results across risk models — Daily frequency

```
models_daily = [
    ("Market-Adjusted",  RiskModel.MARKET_ADJ,    factors_ff3_daily),
    ("Market Model",     RiskModel.MARKET_MODEL,   factors_ff3_daily),
    ("Fama-French 3",    RiskModel.FF3,            factors_ff3_daily),
    ("Fama-French 5",    RiskModel.FF5,            factors_ff5_daily),
]

robustness_daily = []
for name, mdl, facs in models_daily:
    cfg = EventStudyConfig(
        estimation_window=150, event_window_start=-10, event_window_end=10,
        gap=15, min_estimation_obs=120, risk_model=mdl
    )
    res = run_event_study(events_demo, prices_daily, facs, cfg, verbose=False)
    ts = res['test_stats']
    full = ts[ts['group'] == 'All'].iloc[0]
    robustness_daily.append({
        'Model': name,
        'N': int(full['N']),
        'Mean CAR': f"{full['mean_CAR']:.4%}",
        'Median CAR': f"{full['median_CAR']:.4%}",
        'Mean BHAR': f"{full['mean_BHAR']:.4%}",
        '% Positive': f"{full['pct_positive']:.1%}",
        't (CS)': f"{full['t_CS']:.3f}",
        'p (CS)': f"{full['p_CS']:.4f}",
        't (BMP)': f"{full['t_BMP']:.3f}",
        'p (BMP)': f"{full['p_BMP']:.4f}",
        't (KP)': f"{full.get('t_KP', np.nan):.3f}",
        'p (KP)': f"{full.get('p_KP', np.nan):.4f}",
    })

rob_daily_df = pd.DataFrame(robustness_daily)
print("Robustness Across Risk Models (Daily Frequency)")
print("=" * 100)
print(rob_daily_df.to_string(index=False))
```

```
  Extracted 5,421 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 28/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.0000)
  28 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.035338 | Mean BHAR: 0.036936 | % positive: 50.0%
  Extracted 5,421 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.1960)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.032107 | Mean BHAR: 0.033221 | % positive: 61.5%
  Extracted 5,421 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2245)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.021513 | Mean BHAR: 0.024885 | % positive: 61.5%
  Extracted 5,421 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2675)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.025684 | Mean BHAR: 0.028399 | % positive: 57.7%
Robustness Across Risk Models (Daily Frequency)
====================================================================================
```

Table 98.9: Sensitivity of results to event window specification

```
windows = [
    ("(-1, +1)",  -1, 1),
    ("(-3, +3)",  -3, 3),
    ("(-5, +5)",  -5, 5),
    ("(-10, +10)", -10, 10),
    ("(-1, +5)",  -1, 5),
    ("(-5, +1)",  -5, 1),
    ("(0, 0)",     0, 0),
]

window_results = []
for label, ws, we in windows:
    cfg = EventStudyConfig(
        estimation_window=150, event_window_start=ws, event_window_end=we,
        gap=15, min_estimation_obs=120, risk_model=RiskModel.FF3
    )
    res = run_event_study(events_demo, prices_daily, factors_ff3_daily, cfg, verbose=False)
    ts = res['test_stats']
    full = ts[ts['group'] == 'All'].iloc[0]
    window_results.append({
        'Window': label,
        'Days': we - ws + 1,
        'N': int(full['N']),
        'Mean CAR': f"{full['mean_CAR']:.4%}",
        'Mean BHAR': f"{full['mean_BHAR']:.4%}",
        '% Positive': f"{full['pct_positive']:.1%}",
        't (CS)': f"{full['t_CS']:.3f}",
        't (BMP)': f"{full['t_BMP']:.3f}",
        'p (BMP)': f"{full['p_BMP']:.4f}",
    })

win_df = pd.DataFrame(window_results)
print("Sensitivity to Event Window Specification (FF3 Model)")
print("=" * 90)
print(win_df.to_string(index=False))
```

```
  Extracted 4,899 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2147)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.004074 | Mean BHAR: 0.004648 | % positive: 50.0%
  Extracted 5,015 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2155)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.003761 | Mean BHAR: 0.004327 | % positive: 42.3%
  Extracted 5,131 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2217)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: -0.001133 | Mean BHAR: 0.001027 | % positive: 42.3%
  Extracted 5,421 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2245)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.021513 | Mean BHAR: 0.024885 | % positive: 61.5%
  Extracted 5,019 obs for 30 firm-events
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2147)
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.005006 | Mean BHAR:
```

```python
# Filter events to dates present in monthly data
events_monthly = events_monthly[events_monthly['event_date'].isin(monthly_dates)]
events_monthly = events_monthly.drop_duplicates(subset=['symbol', 'event_date'])

config_monthly = EventStudyConfig(
    estimation_window=36,     # 36 months
    event_window_start=-3,    # 3 months before
    event_window_end=3,       # 3 months after
    gap=3,                    # 3-month gap
    min_estimation_obs=24,    # At least 24 months
    risk_model=RiskModel.FF3
)

if len(events_monthly) > 0:
    results_monthly = run_event_study(
        events=events_monthly,
        prices=prices_monthly,
        factors=factors_ff3_monthly,
        config=config_monthly,
        group_col='group'
    )

    print("\n--- Monthly Test Statistics ---")
    ts_m = results_monthly['test_stats']
    mcols = ['group', 'N', 'mean_CAR', 'mean_BHAR', 'pct_positive',
             't_CS', 'p_CS', 't_BMP', 'p_BMP']
    mavail = [c for c in mcols if c in ts_m.columns]
    print(ts_m[mavail].to_string(index=False))
else:
    print("No monthly events could be aligned. Skipping monthly study.")
```

```
  Event Study: ff3 model
  Windows: estimation=36, gap=3, event=(-3,3)
  Min obs: 24

Step 1: Building trading calendar...
  122 potential event dates

Step 2: Aligning events to trading calendar...
  50 aligned events
```

```
Step 3: Extracting returns and merging factors...
  Extracted 1,036 obs for 33 firm-events

Step 4: Estimating risk model parameters...
  Estimated 18/33 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.3218)

Step 5: Computing abnormal returns...
  18 firm-events | Mean CAR: -0.005257 | Mean BHAR: -0.014576 | % positive: 55.6%

Step 6: Computing test statistics...
  Done.

   Results Summary
  group  N  mean_CAR  mean_BHAR  pct_positive      t_CS     p_CS     t_BMP    p_BMP      t_KI
    All 18 -0.005257  -0.014576      0.555556 -0.081058 0.936342 -0.249547 0.805928 -
0.320212 0.752709
Group_A  7 -0.141756  -0.135084      0.428571 -1.102110 0.312648 -1.357452 0.223472 -
1.462577 0.193905
Group_B 11  0.081606   0.062111      0.636364  1.390317 0.194599  1.177372 0.266309  1.342593

--- Monthly Test Statistics ---
  group  N  mean_CAR  mean_BHAR  pct_positive      t_CS     p_CS     t_BMP    p_BMP
    All 18 -0.005257  -0.014576      0.555556 -0.081058 0.936342 -0.249547 0.805928
Group_A  7 -0.141756  -0.135084      0.428571 -1.102110 0.312648 -1.357452 0.223472
Group_B 11  0.081606   0.062111      0.636364  1.390317 0.194599  1.177372 0.266309
```

```python
if len(events_monthly) > 0 and 'daily_stats' in results_monthly:
    fig3 = plot_event_study(
        results_monthly['daily_stats'],
        title="Event Study: FF3 Model - Vietnamese Market (Monthly)"
    )
    plt.show()
```

Figure 98.5: Monthly cumulative abnormal returns around event dates. Wider windows capture slower information incorporation typical of emerging markets.

98.6.9 Daily Event Study: Fama-French 5-Factor Model

```
config_ff5 = EventStudyConfig(
    estimation_window=150,
    event_window_start=-10,
    event_window_end=10,
    gap=15,
    min_estimation_obs=120,
    risk_model=RiskModel.FF5
)

results_ff5 = run_event_study(
    events=events_demo,
    prices=prices_daily,
    factors=factors_ff5_daily,
    config=config_ff5,
```

```
    group_col='group'
)
```

```
   Event Study: ff5 model
  Windows: estimation=150, gap=15, event=(-10,10)
  Min obs: 120

Step 1: Building trading calendar...
  3308 potential event dates

Step 2: Aligning events to trading calendar...
  50 aligned events

Step 3: Extracting returns and merging factors...
  Extracted 5,421 obs for 30 firm-events

Step 4: Estimating risk model parameters...
  Estimated 26/30 firm-events (mean R^2 = 0.2675)

Step 5: Computing abnormal returns...
  26 firm-events | Mean CAR: 0.025684 | Mean BHAR: 0.028399 | % positive: 57.7%

Step 6: Computing test statistics...
  Done.

   Results Summary
  group  N  mean_CAR  mean_BHAR  pct_positive     t_CS     p_CS    t_BMP    p_BMP     t_KP
    All 26  0.025684   0.028399      0.576923 0.968332 0.342154 0.986788 0.333201 0.962252 0
Group_A 13  0.015352   0.013489      0.461538 0.393655 0.700741 0.786232 0.446980 0.776663 0
Group_B 13  0.036016   0.043309      0.692308 0.965100 0.353542 0.585915 0.568789 0.578785 0
```

98.6.10 Comparing FF3 vs FF5 Estimation Quality

98.6.11 Event-Level Detail

98.6.12 Daily Abnormal Return Dynamics

Table 98.10: Comparison of estimation quality between FF3 and FF5 models

```
params_ff3 = results_ff3['params']
params_ff5 = results_ff5['params']

print("Model Estimation Diagnostics")
print("=" * 60)
print(f"\n{'Metric':<30} {'FF3':>12} {'FF5':>12}")
print("-" * 54)
print(f"{'Firm-events estimated':<30} {len(params_ff3):>12} {len(params_ff5):>12}")
print(f"{'Mean R^2':<30} {params_ff3['r_squared'].mean():>12.4f} {params_ff5['r_squared'].mea
print(f"{'Median R^2':<30} {params_ff3['r_squared'].median():>12.4f} {params_ff5['r_squared']
print(f"{'Mean  ( )':<30} {params_ff3['sigma'].mean():>12.6f} {params_ff5['sigma'].mean():>12
print(f"{'Mean | |':<30} {params_ff3['alpha'].abs().mean():>12.6f} {params_ff5['alpha'].abs()
print(f"{'Mean  (MKT)':<30} {params_ff3['beta_mkt_excess'].mean():>12.4f} {params_ff5['beta_m
if 'beta_smb' in params_ff3.columns:
    print(f"{'Mean  (SMB)':<30} {params_ff3['beta_smb'].mean():>12.4f} {params_ff5['beta_smb'
if 'beta_hml' in params_ff3.columns:
    print(f"{'Mean  (HML)':<30} {params_ff3['beta_hml'].mean():>12.4f} {params_ff5['beta_hml'
if 'beta_rmw' in params_ff5.columns:
    print(f"{'Mean  (RMW)':<30} {'-':>12} {params_ff5['beta_rmw'].mean():>12.4f}")
if 'beta_cma' in params_ff5.columns:
    print(f"{'Mean  (CMA)':<30} {'-':>12} {params_ff5['beta_cma'].mean():>12.4f}")
```

```
Model Estimation Diagnostics
============================================================

Metric                                 FF3          FF5
-------------------------------------------------------
Firm-events estimated                   26           26
Mean R^2                            0.2245       0.2675
Median R^2                          0.1943       0.2692
Mean  ( )                         0.021753     0.021351
Mean | |                          0.001022     0.001130
Mean  (MKT)                         0.8867       0.9721
Mean  (SMB)                        -0.0434       0.0265
Mean  (HML)                         0.2489       0.1493
Mean  (RMW)                              -      -0.0934
Mean  (CMA)                              -       0.1070
```

Table 98.11: Event-level detail: CARs and BHARs for each firm-event (FF3 model)

```
detail = results_ff3['event_ar'].copy()
detail_cols = ['symbol', 'evtdate', 'CAR', 'BHAR', 'SCAR', 'sigma',
               'nobs', 'alpha', 'beta_mkt_excess']
detail_avail = [c for c in detail_cols if c in detail.columns]
detail_show = detail[detail_avail].copy()
detail_show['CAR'] = detail_show['CAR'].map(lambda x: f'{x:.4%}')
detail_show['BHAR'] = detail_show['BHAR'].map(lambda x: f'{x:.4%}')
detail_show['SCAR'] = detail_show['SCAR'].map(lambda x: f'{x:.3f}')

print("Event-Level Results (first 20 firm-events)")
print("=" * 100)
print(detail_show.head(20).to_string(index=False))
```

```
Event-Level Results (first 20 firm-events)
==========================================================================================
symbol    evtdate       CAR      BHAR   SCAR    sigma  nobs     alpha  beta_mkt_excess
   BVH 2016-10-20 -12.6456% -11.6522% -1.603 0.017219   150  0.001193         1.449182
   DHG 2016-01-25  16.1151%  17.1149%  2.273 0.015472   150 -
0.000224         0.754245
   DNH 2019-10-14   1.7233%   1.8068%  0.104 0.036035   150 -
0.000781         1.861996
   DPM 2020-07-30  -5.9576%  -6.2025% -0.545 0.023873   150  0.001279         0.313932
   FOX 2021-01-13   2.7478%   2.9194%  0.329 0.018243   150 -
0.000696         0.148058
   GAS 2020-02-11   0.5371%   0.7801%  0.100 0.011694   150  0.000501         1.851155
   GEX 2020-08-20  11.9985%  13.5843%  1.197 0.021883   150  0.000944         1.583418
   IDC 2018-10-01   1.3889%   0.5651%  0.094 0.032120   150 -
0.000674         0.809305
   MML 2021-10-29 -12.0139% -12.3759% -1.141 0.022985   150  0.002976         0.260588
   MSN 2015-10-23  -5.7205%  -5.5645% -0.718 0.017375   150  0.001177         0.453951
   PGV 2019-06-26  -7.5892%  -9.1366% -0.359 0.046165   150  0.000502         0.151377
   PLX 2020-01-07   2.5330%   2.7847%  0.423 0.013067   150 -
0.000176         0.917578
   PLX 2020-06-01  -6.1517%  -6.0085% -0.739 0.018168   150 -
0.000465         1.815178
   POW 2020-12-23   7.7751%   9.1225%  1.130 0.015014   150 -
0.000575         0.774423
   PVD 2020-05-25   4.8827%   5.6674%  0.510 0.020875   150 -
0.001522         1.316102
   PVS 2017-08-07   2.1360%   2.1918%  0.297 0.015715   150 -
0.000341         1.136273
   QNS 2018-01-18   4.3001%   3.4011%  0.530 0.017703   150 -
0.003716         0.128328
   SAB 2017-08-24   6.0347%   6.7732%  0.748 0.017614   150  0.003284         2.123751
   SNZ 2019-03-12  34.5230%  33.1105%  2.145 0.035121   150  0.000235        -
1.015554
   VCI 2020-01-20  -3.3191%  -2.9072% -0.458 0.015797   150  0.000335        -
0.086268
```

Table 98.12: Daily dynamics of mean abnormal returns and test statistics within the event window

```
ds = results_ff3['daily_stats'].copy()
ds_cols = ['evttime', 'N', 'mean_AR', 'mean_CAR', 'mean_BHAR', 't_AR_CS', 't_AR_BMP']
ds_avail = [c for c in ds_cols if c in ds.columns]
ds_show = ds[ds_avail].copy()

for c in ['mean_AR', 'mean_CAR', 'mean_BHAR']:
    if c in ds_show.columns:
        ds_show[c] = ds_show[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.4%}')
for c in ['t_AR_CS', 't_AR_BMP']:
    if c in ds_show.columns:
        ds_show[c] = ds_show[c].map(lambda x: f'{x:.3f}' if pd.notna(x) else '')

print("Daily Event-Window Dynamics (FF3 Model)")
print("=" * 80)
print(ds_show.to_string(index=False))
```

```
Daily Event-Window Dynamics (FF3 Model)
================================================================================
 evttime  N  mean_AR mean_CAR mean_BHAR
     -10 23  0.3571%  0.3571%   0.3729%
      -9 23  0.0337%  0.3907%   0.4209%
      -8 23 -0.1581%  0.2326%   0.2766%
      -7 23  0.3691%  0.6018%   0.6581%
      -6 23  1.3416%  1.9433%   2.0278%
      -5 23  0.1509%  2.0942%   2.2313%
      -4 23  0.5512%  2.6454%   2.9187%
      -3 23 -0.4641%  2.1814%   2.4297%
      -2 23  0.2412%  2.4225%   2.8028%
      -1 23  0.5660%  2.9885%   3.3240%
       0 23 -0.0281%  2.9604%   3.4926%
       1 23 -0.2564%  2.7040%   3.1039%
       2 23 -0.4421%  2.2619%   2.5764%
       3 23  0.6337%  2.8956%   3.4659%
       4 23 -0.8432%  2.0524%   2.4738%
       5 23 -0.4174%  1.6350%   2.1339%
       6 23 -0.2272%  1.4078%   1.8085%
       7 23 -0.2085%  1.1993%   1.6819%
       8 23  0.0893%  1.2886%   1.8609%
       9 23  0.3307%  1.6193%   2.1658%
      10 23  0.5320%  2.1513%   2.4885%
```

98.6.13 Summary of Key Findings

```
print("=" * 70)
print("EVENT STUDY RESULTS SUMMARY")
print("=" * 70)

ff3_all = results_ff3['test_stats'][results_ff3['test_stats']['group'] == 'All'].iloc[0]

print(f"\nSample: {int(ff3_all['N'])} firm-event observations")
print(f"Frequency: Daily")
print(f"Primary Model: Fama-French 3-Factor")
print(f"Estimation Window: {config_ff3.estimation_window} trading days")
print(f"Event Window: ({config_ff3.event_window_start}, {config_ff3.event_window_end})")
print(f"Gap: {config_ff3.gap} trading days")
print(f"\n--- Abnormal Return Measures ---")
print(f"Mean CAR({config_ff3.event_window_start},{config_ff3.event_window_end}): "
      f"{ff3_all['mean_CAR']:.4%}")
print(f"Median CAR: {ff3_all['median_CAR']:.4%}")
print(f"Mean BHAR: {ff3_all['mean_BHAR']:.4%}")
print(f"Fraction positive CARs: {ff3_all['pct_positive']:.1%}")
print(f"\n--- Statistical Significance ---")
print(f"Cross-Sectional t: {ff3_all['t_CS']:.3f} (p = {ff3_all['p_CS']:.4f})")
print(f"Patell Z: {ff3_all['Z_Patell']:.3f} (p = {ff3_all['p_Patell']:.4f})")
print(f"BMP t: {ff3_all['t_BMP']:.3f} (p = {ff3_all['p_BMP']:.4f})")
print(f"Kolari-Pynnönen t: {ff3_all['t_KP']:.3f} (p = {ff3_all['p_KP']:.4f})")
print(f"Generalized Sign Z: {ff3_all['Z_GSign']:.3f} (p = {ff3_all['p_GSign']:.4f})")

sig_005 = sum(1 for k in ['p_CS','p_Patell','p_BMP','p_KP','p_GSign','p_SkAdj','p_Wilcoxon']
              if k in ff3_all and pd.notna(ff3_all[k]) and ff3_all[k] < 0.05)
total_tests = sum(1 for k in ['p_CS','p_Patell','p_BMP','p_KP','p_GSign','p_SkAdj','p_Wilcox
                  if k in ff3_all and pd.notna(ff3_all[k]))
print(f"\n{sig_005}/{total_tests} tests significant at 5% level")

# Robustness note
print(f"\nRobustness: Results checked across {len(models_daily)} risk models "
      f"and {len(windows)} event windows")
```

```
======================================================================
EVENT STUDY RESULTS SUMMARY
======================================================================
```

```
Sample: 26 firm-event observations
Frequency: Daily
Primary Model: Fama-French 3-Factor
Estimation Window: 150 trading days
Event Window: (-10, 10)
Gap: 15 trading days

--- Abnormal Return Measures ---
Mean CAR(-10,10): 2.1513%
Median CAR: 1.5701%
Mean BHAR: 2.4885%
Fraction positive CARs: 61.5%

--- Statistical Significance ---
Cross-Sectional t: 0.775 (p = 0.4456)
Patell Z: 0.961 (p = 0.3364)
BMP t: 0.727 (p = 0.4741)
Kolari-Pynnönen t: 0.700 (p = 0.4904)
Generalized Sign Z: 1.177 (p = 0.2393)

0/7 tests significant at 5% level

Robustness: Results checked across 4 risk models and 7 event windows
```

98.7 Practical Recommendations

Based on the literature and our implementation experience:

1. **Estimation window**: Use 150 trading days (~7 months) for daily studies. This balances parameter precision against structural breaks. For monthly studies, 60 months is standard (Kothari and Warner 2007).
2. **Gap**: 15 trading days is standard. Increase to 30 if information leakage is a concern.
3. **Event window**: Start with (-1, +1) for short-window tests, then expand to (-5, +5) and (-10, +10) for robustness. Report all windows.
4. **Model choice**: Always report market model as the baseline. Add FF3 or FF5 for robustness. For Vietnam, local factors are preferable to global factors.
5. **Test statistics**: Report at minimum: cross-sectional t (for ease of interpretation), BMP (robust to event-induced variance), and one non-parametric test (sign or Wilcoxon). Report Kolari-Pynnönen if events cluster in calendar time.

6. **Thin trading**: For Vietnamese small-caps, consider Dimson (1979) with 1 lead/lag or increase `min_estimation_obs` to filter out illiquid stocks.
7. **Multiple testing**: If testing multiple event windows or subgroups, apply Bonferroni or Holm corrections to control family-wise error rate.

99 Tail Risk and Extreme Events

Finance is fundamentally a discipline of extremes. The central objects of concern (e.g., asset pricing, portfolio allocation, capital regulation, systemic stability) are all disproportionately shaped by rare but severe events. A portfolio manager who correctly estimates the mean and variance of returns but ignores the possibility of a -20% daily move is, in the language of Taleb (2010), "picking up pennies in front of a steamroller." The 1997 Asian Financial Crisis, the 2008 Global Financial Crisis, and the 2020 COVID-19 crash each demonstrated that the most consequential realizations in financial markets are precisely those that conventional Gaussian models assign near-zero probability.

This chapter develops the statistical and econometric toolkit for measuring, modeling, and diagnosing tail risk in Vietnamese equity markets. We focus on three interconnected layers. First, at the individual stock level, we estimate crash risk measures that capture the asymmetry and thickness of the left tail of return distributions. Second, at the portfolio or regulatory level, we implement Value at Risk (VaR) and Expected Shortfall (ES) under multiple estimation approaches and evaluate their accuracy via backtesting. Third, at the system level, we apply Extreme Value Theory (EVT) and tail dependence measures to characterize joint crash behavior across sectors and assess financial contagion.

Vietnamese markets present a particularly rich laboratory for studying tail phenomena. Daily price limits mechanically censor the tails of observed return distributions, creating latent tail risk that is not directly observable but must be inferred. State ownership concentrations, thin liquidity, and herding behavior among retail investors amplify crash dynamics. The absence of a developed derivatives market means that tail hedging instruments familiar in more developed markets (e.g., deep out-of-the-money puts, variance swaps) are largely unavailable, making accurate tail risk measurement all the more important for risk management.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from scipy import stats
from scipy.optimize import minimize
import plotnine as p9
from mizani.formatters import percent_format, comma_format
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
```

99.1 Crash Risk in Equity Markets

99.1.1 The Left Tail Problem

The return distribution of individual stocks and market indices is not symmetric. Decades of evidence, beginning with Mandelbrot et al. (1963) and formalized in the asset pricing context by Campbell R. Harvey and Siddique (2000), establish that equity returns exhibit negative skewness (i.e., large negative returns occur more frequently than a Gaussian model predicts) and excess kurtosis (i.e., the tails are thicker than normal in both directions, but the left tail is of primary economic concern).

Let $r_{i,t}$ denote the daily log return of stock i on day t. The standardized third central moment (skewness) is:

$$\text{Skew}(r_i) = \frac{E\left[(r_{i,t} - \mu_i)^3\right]}{\sigma_i^3} \tag{99.1}$$

Negative skewness implies that the distribution has a longer or fatter left tail relative to the right. In economic terms, negative skewness means that large losses are more likely than large gains of equal magnitude. The standardized fourth moment (excess kurtosis) is:

$$\text{Kurt}(r_i) = \frac{E\left[(r_{i,t} - \mu_i)^4\right]}{\sigma_i^4} - 3 \tag{99.2}$$

Positive excess kurtosis indicates heavier tails than the normal distribution. Both moments have direct asset pricing implications: Campbell R. Harvey and Siddique (2000) and Kraus and Litzenberger (1976) argue that investors demand compensation for holding negatively skewed assets, implying that crash-prone stocks should earn higher expected returns, ceteris paribus.

99.1.2 Crash Risk Measures

The literature has developed several firm-specific crash risk measures. We implement the three most widely used, following J. Chen, Hong, and Stein (2001) and Hutton, Marcus, and Tehranian (2009).

Measure 1: Negative Coefficient of Skewness (NCSKEW)

For each firm i in fiscal year y, compute firm-specific weekly returns $W_{i,\tau}$ as residuals from a market model augmented with lead and lag market returns to account for nonsynchronous trading:

$$r_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \beta_{1i} r_{m,t-1} + \beta_{2i} r_{m,t} + \beta_{3i} r_{m,t+1} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{99.3}$$

where $r_{m,t}$ is the value-weighted market return on day t. The firm-specific weekly return is $W_{i,\tau} = \ln(1 + \sum_{t \in \tau} \hat{\varepsilon}_{i,t})$, where τ indexes weeks. NCSKEW is then:

$$\text{NCSKEW}_{i,y} = -\frac{n(n-1)^{3/2} \sum W_{i,\tau}^3}{(n-1)(n-2)\left(\sum W_{i,\tau}^2\right)^{3/2}} \tag{99.4}$$

where n is the number of firm-specific weekly returns in the year. The negative sign ensures that higher NCSKEW corresponds to greater crash risk.

Measure 2: Down-to-Up Volatility (DUVOL)

Partition the firm-specific weekly returns into "down weeks" ($W_{i,\tau} < \bar{W}_i$) and "up weeks" ($W_{i,\tau} \geq \bar{W}_i$), where $\bar{W}_i$ is the annual mean. Then:

$$\text{DUVOL}_{i,y} = \ln\left(\frac{(n_u - 1)\sum_{\text{down}} W_{i,\tau}^2}{(n_d - 1)\sum_{\text{up}} W_{i,\tau}^2}\right) \tag{99.5}$$

where n_u and n_d are the number of up and down weeks, respectively. Higher DUVOL indicates greater crash risk. J. Chen, Hong, and Stein (2001) argue that DUVOL is less sensitive to outliers than NCSKEW because it does not involve the cube of returns.

Measure 3: Crash Count (COUNT)

Define a crash event as a firm-specific weekly return that falls below k standard deviations of its annual distribution:

$$\text{CRASH}_{i,\tau} = \mathbb{1}\left(W_{i,\tau} < \bar{W}_i - k \cdot \hat{\sigma}_{W_i}\right) \tag{99.6}$$

The standard threshold in the literature is $k = 3.09$, corresponding to the 0.1% tail of a standard normal distribution. The crash count for year y is $\text{COUNT}_{i,y} = \sum_{\tau \in y} \text{CRASH}_{i,\tau}$.

```
# DataCore.vn API
from datacore import DataCore
dc = DataCore()

# Load daily stock returns and market returns
daily_returns = dc.get_daily_returns(
    start_date="2010-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31"
)

# Market return: value-weighted index
```

```python
market_returns = dc.get_market_returns(
    start_date="2010-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31",
    frequency="daily"
)

# Merge
df = daily_returns.merge(
    market_returns[["date", "mkt_ret"]],
    on="date",
    how="left"
)

print(f"Universe: {df['ticker'].nunique()} firms, "
      f"{df['date'].nunique()} trading days")
```

```python
from sklearn.linear_model import LinearRegression

def compute_firm_specific_returns(group):
    """
    Estimate firm-specific daily returns from augmented market model
    with lead and lag market returns (Chen, Hong, Stein 2001).
    """
    g = group.sort_values("date").copy()
    g["mkt_lag1"] = g["mkt_ret"].shift(1)
    g["mkt_lead1"] = g["mkt_ret"].shift(-1)
    g = g.dropna(subset=["ret", "mkt_ret", "mkt_lag1", "mkt_lead1"])

    if len(g) < 30:
        return pd.DataFrame()

    X = g[["mkt_lag1", "mkt_ret", "mkt_lead1"]].values
    y = g["ret"].values

    model = LinearRegression().fit(X, y)
    g["resid"] = y - model.predict(X)

    return g[["ticker", "date", "resid"]]

# Estimate by firm-year
df["year"] = df["date"].dt.year
firm_resids = (
```

```
    df.groupby(["ticker", "year"], group_keys=False)
    .apply(compute_firm_specific_returns)
    .reset_index(drop=True)
)
```

```
# Aggregate daily residuals to weekly firm-specific returns
firm_resids["date"] = pd.to_datetime(firm_resids["date"])
firm_resids["week"] = firm_resids["date"].dt.isocalendar().week.astype(int)
firm_resids["year"] = firm_resids["date"].dt.year

weekly_returns = (
    firm_resids.groupby(["ticker", "year", "week"])
    .agg(W=("resid", lambda x: np.log(1 + x.sum())))
    .reset_index()
)
```

```
def compute_crash_measures(group):
    """Compute NCSKEW, DUVOL, and CRASH count for one firm-year."""
    W = group["W"].values
    n = len(W)

    if n < 26:  # Require at least 26 weeks
        return pd.Series({
            "ncskew": np.nan, "duvol": np.nan,
            "crash_count": np.nan, "n_weeks": n
        })

    # NCSKEW
    W_demean = W - W.mean()
    num = n * (n - 1)**1.5 * np.sum(W_demean**3)
    den = (n - 1) * (n - 2) * (np.sum(W_demean**2))**1.5
    ncskew = -(num / den) if den != 0 else np.nan

    # DUVOL
    mean_W = W.mean()
    down = W[W < mean_W]
    up = W[W >= mean_W]
    n_d, n_u = len(down), len(up)

    if n_d > 1 and n_u > 1:
        duvol = np.log(
```

```
            ((n_u - 1) * np.sum(down**2)) /
            ((n_d - 1) * np.sum(up**2))
        )
    else:
        duvol = np.nan

    # Crash count (k = 3.09)
    threshold = W.mean() - 3.09 * W.std()
    crash_count = int(np.sum(W < threshold))

    return pd.Series({
        "ncskew": ncskew,
        "duvol": duvol,
        "crash_count": crash_count,
        "n_weeks": n
    })

crash_risk = (
    weekly_returns.groupby(["ticker", "year"])
    .apply(compute_crash_measures)
    .reset_index()
)

crash_risk = crash_risk.dropna(subset=["ncskew", "duvol"])
print(f"Crash risk panel: {len(crash_risk)} firm-years")
```

99.1.3 Cross-Sectional Distribution of Crash Risk

Table 99.1 presents summary statistics for the three crash risk measures across the Vietnamese equity market.

The rightward shift of the NCSKEW distribution during crisis episodes, particularly in 2020 and 2022, indicates a market-wide increase in crash risk. The red dashed line at zero separates firms with negative skewness (right of zero, i.e., high NCSKEW since the measure is negated) from those with positive skewness.

99.1.4 Interpretation in Asset Pricing

Crash risk has first-order implications for asset pricing. Campbell R. Harvey and Siddique (2000) demonstrate that coskewness (i.e., the contribution of an individual asset to the skewness of the aggregate market portfolio) is priced in the cross-section of expected returns. Specifically,

Table 99.1: Summary Statistics of Crash Risk Measures

```
summary = crash_risk[["ncskew", "duvol", "crash_count"]].describe(
    percentiles=[0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95]
).T.round(4)

summary.columns = ["N", "Mean", "Std", "Min", "5%", "25%",
                     "Median", "75%", "95%", "Max"]
summary
```

```
plot_data = crash_risk[crash_risk["year"].between(2012, 2024)].copy()

(
    p9.ggplot(plot_data, p9.aes(x="ncskew"))
    + p9.geom_histogram(bins=50, fill="#2E5090", alpha=0.7)
    + p9.facet_wrap("~year", scales="free_y", ncol=4)
    + p9.geom_vline(xintercept=0, linetype="dashed", color="red", size=0.5)
    + p9.labs(
        x="NCSKEW",
        y="Count",
        title="Distribution of Firm-Level Crash Risk (NCSKEW)"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(12, 8))
)
```

Figure 99.1

assets that tend to crash when the market crashes (negative coskewness) should command a risk premium.

The coskewness of stock i with the market is:

$$\text{CoSkew}_i = \frac{E\left[(r_i - \mu_i)(r_m - \mu_m)^2\right]}{\sigma_i \cdot \sigma_m^2} \tag{99.7}$$

Stocks with more negative coskewness exhibit disproportionately poor performance during market downturns. In Vietnam, this is especially relevant because: (1) retail investor herding amplifies co-movement during selloffs; (2) price limits delay crash completion, spreading crash risk across multiple days; and (3) state-owned enterprises, which constitute a large fraction of market capitalization, may exhibit coordinated crash behavior driven by common policy shocks.

```
def compute_coskewness(group):
    """Estimate coskewness for a firm-year."""
    r_i = group["ret"].values
    r_m = group["mkt_ret"].values

    if len(r_i) < 60:
        return np.nan

    r_i_dm = r_i - r_i.mean()
    r_m_dm = r_m - r_m.mean()

    coskew = (
        np.mean(r_i_dm * r_m_dm**2) /
        (np.std(r_i) * np.std(r_m)**2)
    )
    return coskew

df_coskew = (
    df.groupby(["ticker", "year"])
    .apply(lambda g: pd.Series({"coskewness": compute_coskewness(g)}))
    .reset_index()
    .dropna()
)
```

```
median_coskew = (
    df_coskew.groupby("year")
    .agg(
        median_coskew=("coskewness", "median"),
        q25=("coskewness", lambda x: x.quantile(0.25)),
        q75=("coskewness", lambda x: x.quantile(0.75))
    )
    .reset_index()
)

(
    p9.ggplot(median_coskew, p9.aes(x="year"))
    + p9.geom_ribbon(
        p9.aes(ymin="q25", ymax="q75"),
        fill="#2E5090", alpha=0.2
    )
    + p9.geom_line(p9.aes(y="median_coskew"), color="#2E5090", size=1)
    + p9.geom_hline(yintercept=0, linetype="dashed", color="gray")
    + p9.labs(
        x="Year",
        y="Coskewness",
        title="Cross-Sectional Coskewness: Median and Interquartile Range"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
```

Figure 99.2

99.1.5 Downside Tail Concentration

Beyond skewness, the concentration of returns in the extreme left tail provides additional diagnostic information. We define the downside tail concentration ratio as the fraction of total return variance attributable to observations below the p-th percentile:

$$\mathrm{TCR}_p = \frac{\sum_{r_{i,t} < q_p} (r_{i,t} - \bar{r}_i)^2}{\sum_t (r_{i,t} - \bar{r}_i)^2} \tag{99.8}$$

where q_p is the p-th percentile of the firm's return distribution. Under a symmetric distribution, $\mathrm{TCR}_{5\%}$ would be close to 5% (with a slight upward bias due to the squaring). Values substantially exceeding 5% indicate that the left tail contributes disproportionately to total risk.

```
def tail_concentration_ratio(returns, p=0.05):
    """Compute tail concentration ratio at percentile p."""
    q = np.quantile(returns, p)
    r_dm = returns - returns.mean()
    total_var = np.sum(r_dm**2)
    tail_var = np.sum(r_dm[returns < q]**2)
    return tail_var / total_var if total_var > 0 else np.nan

tcr = (
    df.groupby(["ticker", "year"])
    .agg(
        tcr_5=("ret", lambda x: tail_concentration_ratio(x.values, 0.05)),
        tcr_1=("ret", lambda x: tail_concentration_ratio(x.values, 0.01)),
        n_obs=("ret", "count")
    )
    .reset_index()
    .query("n_obs >= 120")
)

print("Median TCR(5%):", round(tcr["tcr_5"].median(), 4))
print("Median TCR(1%):", round(tcr["tcr_1"].median(), 4))
```

99.2 Value at Risk and Expected Shortfall

99.2.1 Definitions

Value at Risk (VaR) and Expected Shortfall (ES) are the two principal quantile-based risk measures used in financial regulation and internal risk management. For a portfolio return r with the cumulative distribution function F, the VaR at confidence level α is:

$$\mathrm{VaR}_\alpha = -F^{-1}(\alpha) = -\inf\{x : F(x) \geq \alpha\} \tag{99.9}$$

This is simply the negative of the α-quantile of the return distribution. For $\alpha = 0.01$, $\mathrm{VaR}_{1\%}$ answers: "What is the loss that is exceeded with only 1% probability?"

Expected Shortfall (also called Conditional VaR or CVaR) is the expected loss conditional on the loss exceeding VaR:

$$\mathrm{ES}_\alpha = -\frac{1}{\alpha}\int_0^\alpha F^{-1}(u)\,du = -E\left[r \mid r \leq -\mathrm{VaR}_\alpha\right] \tag{99.10}$$

For continuous distributions, ES simplifies to the conditional expectation in Equation 99.10. ES is always at least as large as VaR ($\mathrm{ES}_\alpha \geq \mathrm{VaR}_\alpha$) and is strictly larger whenever the distribution has any mass beyond the VaR quantile.

99.2.2 Why Expected Shortfall Dominates VaR

Table 99.2 summarizes the fundamental differences.

Table 99.2: Comparison of VaR and Expected Shortfall

Property	VaR	Expected Shortfall
Definition	Quantile of the loss distribution	Conditional mean loss beyond VaR
Tail information	None beyond the quantile	Captures severity of tail losses
Subadditivity	Not subadditive in general	Subadditive (coherent risk measure)
Regulatory status	Basel II primary measure	Basel III/IV primary measure
Backtesting	Binary: breach or no breach	Continuous: requires severity assessment
Sensitivity to tail shape	None	Directly sensitive

The critical deficiency of VaR is the absence of subadditivity. A risk measure ρ is subadditive if $\rho(X+Y) \leq \rho(X) + \rho(Y)$ for all portfolios X, Y. VaR violates this condition for non-elliptical distributions, meaning that diversification can appear to increase risk under VaR, which is a perverse result. Artzner et al. (1999) established the axiomatic framework for coherent risk measures, and ES satisfies all four axioms: monotonicity, translation invariance, positive homogeneity, and subadditivity. VaR satisfies only three.

99.2.3 Estimation Methods

We implement four approaches to VaR and ES estimation, each with distinct assumptions and data requirements.

Method 1: Historical Simulation

The simplest nonparametric approach uses the empirical distribution directly:

$$\widehat{\mathrm{VaR}}_\alpha^{\mathrm{HS}} = -\hat{F}_n^{-1}(\alpha) = -r_{(\lceil n\alpha \rceil)} \tag{99.11}$$

where $r_{(k)}$ is the k-th order statistic of the return sample. ES is the average of all returns below the VaR:

$$\widehat{\mathrm{ES}}_\alpha^{\mathrm{HS}} = -\frac{1}{\lfloor n\alpha \rfloor} \sum_{k=1}^{\lfloor n\alpha \rfloor} r_{(k)} \tag{99.12}$$

Method 2: Parametric (Gaussian)

Assume $r_t \sim N(\mu, \sigma^2)$. Then:

$$\mathrm{VaR}_\alpha^{\mathrm{Gauss}} = -(\hat{\mu} + \hat{\sigma} \cdot \Phi^{-1}(\alpha)) \tag{99.13}$$

$$\mathrm{ES}_\alpha^{\mathrm{Gauss}} = -\hat{\mu} + \hat{\sigma} \cdot \frac{\phi(\Phi^{-1}(\alpha))}{\alpha} \tag{99.14}$$

where Φ and ϕ are the standard normal CDF and PDF, respectively. The Gaussian assumption is known to underestimate tail risk for equity returns, but provides a useful baseline.

Method 3: Parametric (Student-t)

The Student-t distribution with ν degrees of freedom captures excess kurtosis. The VaR and ES are:

$$\mathrm{VaR}_\alpha^t = -\left(\hat{\mu} + \hat{\sigma}\sqrt{\frac{\nu-2}{\nu}} \cdot t_\nu^{-1}(\alpha)\right) \tag{99.15}$$

$$\mathrm{ES}_\alpha^t = -\hat{\mu} + \hat{\sigma}\sqrt{\frac{\nu-2}{\nu}} \cdot \frac{f_{t_\nu}(t_\nu^{-1}(\alpha))}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{\nu + (t_\nu^{-1}(\alpha))^2}{\nu - 1} \tag{99.16}$$

where t_ν^{-1} and f_{t_ν} are the quantile function and PDF of the Student-t distribution.

Method 4: GARCH-Filtered EVT (Semi-Parametric)

This approach, developed by McNeil and Frey (2000), first filters returns through a GARCH(1,1) model to obtain standardized residuals $z_t = \hat{\varepsilon}_t/\hat{\sigma}_t$, then fits a Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD) to the lower tail of the standardized residuals. We detail the EVT component in Section 99.3.

```python
def estimate_var_es(returns, alpha=0.01):
    """
    Estimate VaR and ES at level alpha using four methods.

    Parameters
    ----------
    returns : array-like
        Return series.
    alpha : float
        Tail probability (e.g., 0.01 for 1%).

    Returns
    -------
    dict : VaR and ES estimates for each method.
    """
    r = np.array(returns)
    r = r[~np.isnan(r)]
    n = len(r)
    mu, sigma = r.mean(), r.std(ddof=1)

    results = {}

    # Method 1: Historical simulation
    sorted_r = np.sort(r)
    idx = int(np.ceil(n * alpha))
    results["var_hs"] = -sorted_r[idx - 1]
    results["es_hs"] = -sorted_r[:idx].mean()
```

```
    # Method 2: Gaussian
    z_alpha = stats.norm.ppf(alpha)
    results["var_gauss"] = -(mu + sigma * z_alpha)
    results["es_gauss"] = -mu + sigma * stats.norm.pdf(z_alpha) / alpha

    # Method 3: Student-t (MLE for degrees of freedom)
    try:
        nu, loc, scale = stats.t.fit(r)
        t_alpha = stats.t.ppf(alpha, df=nu)
        results["var_t"] = -(loc + scale * t_alpha)
        results["es_t"] = (
            -loc + scale *
            (stats.t.pdf(t_alpha, df=nu) / alpha) *
            ((nu + t_alpha**2) / (nu - 1))
        )
        results["nu_hat"] = nu
    except Exception:
        results["var_t"] = np.nan
        results["es_t"] = np.nan
        results["nu_hat"] = np.nan

    return results
```

```
# Compute VaR and ES for the aggregate market index
market_daily = dc.get_market_returns(
    start_date="2010-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31",
    frequency="daily"
)

# Rolling 1-year VaR/ES
window = 252
results_list = []

for end_idx in range(window, len(market_daily)):
    window_returns = market_daily["mkt_ret"].iloc[end_idx - window:end_idx].values
    date = market_daily["date"].iloc[end_idx]

    est = estimate_var_es(window_returns, alpha=0.01)
    est["date"] = date
    results_list.append(est)
```

```
var_es_ts = pd.DataFrame(results_list)
```

```
plot_var = var_es_ts.melt(
    id_vars="date",
    value_vars=["var_hs", "var_gauss", "var_t"],
    var_name="method",
    value_name="var"
)

method_labels = {
    "var_hs": "Historical Simulation",
    "var_gauss": "Gaussian",
    "var_t": "Student-t"
}
plot_var["method"] = plot_var["method"].map(method_labels)

(
    p9.ggplot(plot_var, p9.aes(x="date", y="var", color="method"))
    + p9.geom_line(alpha=0.8, size=0.6)
    + p9.labs(
        x="", y="1% VaR (Loss)",
        title="Rolling 252-Day Value at Risk Estimates",
        color="Method"
    )
    + p9.scale_color_manual(
        values=["#2E5090", "#C0392B", "#27AE60"]
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(12, 5), legend_position="top")
)
```

Figure 99.3

99.2.4 VaR Backtesting

A VaR model is only useful if its predictions are accurate. Backtesting evaluates whether the realized frequency of VaR breaches is consistent with the nominal confidence level. If VaR is estimated at the $\alpha = 1\%$ level, we expect approximately 1% of days to exhibit losses exceeding VaR.

```
plot_es = var_es_ts.melt(
    id_vars="date",
    value_vars=["es_hs", "es_gauss", "es_t"],
    var_name="method",
    value_name="es"
)

method_labels_es = {
    "es_hs": "Historical Simulation",
    "es_gauss": "Gaussian",
    "es_t": "Student-t"
}
plot_es["method"] = plot_es["method"].map(method_labels_es)

(
    p9.ggplot(plot_es, p9.aes(x="date", y="es", color="method"))
    + p9.geom_line(alpha=0.8, size=0.6)
    + p9.labs(
        x="", y="1% ES (Loss)",
        title="Rolling 252-Day Expected Shortfall Estimates",
        color="Method"
    )
    + p9.scale_color_manual(
        values=["#2E5090", "#C0392B", "#27AE60"]
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(12, 5), legend_position="top")
)
```

Figure 99.4

The Kupiec unconditional coverage test (Kupiec et al. 1995) evaluates whether the total number of breaches x in n observations is consistent with α:

$$\mathrm{LR}_{\mathrm{UC}} = -2 \ln \left(\frac{\alpha^x (1-\alpha)^{n-x}}{\hat{p}^x (1-\hat{p})^{n-x}} \right) \sim \chi^2(1) \tag{99.17}$$

where $\hat{p} = x/n$ is the empirical breach frequency. The Christoffersen conditional coverage test (Christoffersen 1998) additionally evaluates whether breaches are independent (no clustering):

$$\mathrm{LR}_{\mathrm{CC}} = \mathrm{LR}_{\mathrm{UC}} + \mathrm{LR}_{\mathrm{IND}} \tag{99.18}$$

where $\mathrm{LR}_{\mathrm{IND}}$ tests the null of independence using a first-order Markov chain model for breach indicators.

```
def kupiec_test(returns, var_estimates, alpha=0.01):
    """
    Kupiec unconditional coverage test for VaR backtesting.

    Returns
    -------
    dict : breach count, expected, breach rate, LR statistic, p-value.
    """
    breaches = returns < -var_estimates
    x = breaches.sum()
    n = len(returns)
    p_hat = x / n

    if p_hat == 0 or p_hat == 1:
        return {"breaches": x, "expected": n * alpha,
                "breach_rate": p_hat, "lr_stat": np.nan, "p_value": np.nan}

    lr = -2 * (
        x * np.log(alpha) + (n - x) * np.log(1 - alpha)
        - x * np.log(p_hat) - (n - x) * np.log(1 - p_hat)
    )
    p_value = 1 - stats.chi2.cdf(lr, df=1)

    return {
        "breaches": int(x),
        "expected": round(n * alpha, 1),
        "breach_rate": round(p_hat, 4),
        "lr_stat": round(lr, 4),
```

```
        "p_value": round(p_value, 4)
    }

# Backtest each method
actual_returns = market_daily["mkt_ret"].iloc[window:].values

backtest_results = {}
for method, col in [("Historical", "var_hs"),
                    ("Gaussian", "var_gauss"),
                    ("Student-t", "var_t")]:
    backtest_results[method] = kupiec_test(
        actual_returns, var_es_ts[col].values, alpha=0.01
    )

bt_df = pd.DataFrame(backtest_results).T
bt_df.index.name = "Method"
bt_df
```

99.2.5 Estimation Under Limited Data

In Vietnamese equity markets, many stocks have short trading histories, thin liquidity, and censored returns due to price limits. These features create challenges for tail risk estimation that are less severe in developed markets.

Price limit censoring. When a stock hits its daily price limit, the observed return is truncated. The true latent return may extend well beyond the limit, but is unobservable. This means that historical simulation mechanically understates VaR and ES for stocks that frequently hit limits. A Tobit-type correction can partially address this:

$$r_{i,t}^{\text{latent}} \sim N(\mu_i, \sigma_i^2), \quad r_{i,t}^{\text{obs}} = \max(\underline{L}, \min(\bar{L}, r_{i,t}^{\text{latent}})) \tag{99.19}$$

The parameters (μ_i, σ_i^2) can be estimated via maximum likelihood on the censored sample, and VaR/ES can then be computed from the estimated latent distribution.

Short histories. For recently listed stocks, the available sample may be too short for reliable nonparametric estimation. In these cases, shrinkage toward a cross-sectional prior (e.g., the sector median VaR) or Bayesian approaches with informative priors can improve stability.

99.3 Extreme Value Theory

99.3.1 Motivation: What EVT Captures That GARCH Does Not

GARCH models capture volatility clustering (i.e., the tendency of large returns to be followed by large returns), but they make specific distributional assumptions about standardized residuals (typically Gaussian or Student-t). The tail behavior of the conditional distribution is thus determined by the parametric innovation assumption, not learned from the data.

Extreme Value Theory (EVT) takes a fundamentally different approach. It provides a statistical framework for estimating the distribution of extreme observations without specifying the entire return distribution. The key theoretical results (i.e., the Fisher-Tippett-Gnedenko theorem and the Pickands-Balkema-de Haan theorem) establish that the distribution of properly normalized maxima (or exceedances over high thresholds) converges to specific parametric families regardless of the parent distribution. This universality is what makes EVT powerful: the tail can be estimated even when the center of the distribution is misspecified.

99.3.2 Tail Index Estimation

The tail index ξ (also denoted α^{-1} in some formulations) governs the rate of tail decay. For heavy-tailed distributions, the survival function satisfies:

$$P(X > x) \sim L(x) \cdot x^{-1/\xi}, \quad x \to \infty \tag{99.20}$$

where $L(x)$ is a slowly varying function. The tail index $\xi > 0$ implies a Pareto-type tail; larger ξ means heavier tails. Financial return distributions typically have $\xi \in (0.2, 0.5)$, corresponding to tail indices $\alpha = 1/\xi \in (2, 5)$, which implies finite variance but potentially infinite higher moments.

The Hill estimator (Hill 1975) provides a simple nonparametric estimate of ξ from the upper order statistics:

$$\hat{\xi}_{\text{Hill}}(k) = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^{k} \ln X_{(n-j+1)} - \ln X_{(n-k)} \tag{99.21}$$

where $X_{(1)} \leq \cdots \leq X_{(n)}$ are the order statistics and k is the number of upper order statistics used. The choice of k involves a bias-variance tradeoff: small k yields high variance; large k introduces bias from non-tail observations.

```python
def hill_estimator(data, k_values=None):
    """
    Compute Hill estimator of tail index for a range of k values.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : array-like
        Positive values (use absolute values of losses).
    k_values : array-like, optional
        Number of upper order statistics to use.

    Returns
    -------
    DataFrame with columns [k, xi_hat, se].
    """
    x = np.sort(np.abs(data))[::-1]  # Descending order
    n = len(x)

    if k_values is None:
        k_values = range(10, min(n // 2, 500), 5)

    results = []
    for k in k_values:
        if k >= n or k < 2:
            continue
        log_excess = np.log(x[:k]) - np.log(x[k])
        xi_hat = log_excess.mean()
        se = xi_hat / np.sqrt(k)
        results.append({"k": k, "xi_hat": xi_hat, "se": se})

    return pd.DataFrame(results)
```

The Hill plot is a standard diagnostic in EVT. A stable region of the Hill estimate across a range of k suggests a reliable tail index estimate. The red dashed line at $\xi = 1/3$ corresponds to a tail index of $\alpha = 3$, which implies that the third moment (skewness) is infinite, which is a finding consistent with much of the empirical finance literature (Cont 2001; Gabaix et al. 2003).

```
# Use negative market returns (losses)
losses = -market_daily["mkt_ret"].dropna().values
losses_positive = losses[losses > 0]

hill_results = hill_estimator(losses_positive)

(
    p9.ggplot(hill_results, p9.aes(x="k", y="xi_hat"))
    + p9.geom_ribbon(
        p9.aes(ymin="xi_hat - 1.96 * se", ymax="xi_hat + 1.96 * se"),
        fill="#2E5090", alpha=0.2
    )
    + p9.geom_line(color="#2E5090", size=0.8)
    + p9.geom_hline(yintercept=0.33, linetype="dashed", color="red")
    + p9.annotate(
        "text", x=hill_results["k"].max() * 0.7, y=0.35,
        label="  = 1/3 (cubic tail)", color="red", size=8
    )
    + p9.labs(
        x="Number of Order Statistics (k)",
        y="Hill Estimate ^",
        title="Hill Plot for Market Return Left Tail"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
```

Figure 99.5

99.3.3 Block Maxima and the GEV Distribution

The Fisher-Tippett-Gnedenko theorem establishes that if the maximum of n i.i.d. random variables, after proper normalization, converges in distribution, the limit must be a Generalized Extreme Value (GEV) distribution:

$$G_\xi(x) = \exp\left\{-\left(1 + \xi \cdot \frac{x-\mu}{\sigma}\right)^{-1/\xi}\right\} \tag{99.22}$$

for $1 + \xi(x-\mu)/\sigma > 0$, where μ is the location, $\sigma > 0$ the scale, and ξ the shape parameter. The three sub-families are in Table 99.3.

Table 99.3: GEV Sub-Families and Financial Interpretation

Shape ξ	Distribution	Tail Type	Finance Example
$\xi > 0$	Fréchet	Heavy (polynomial decay)	Equity returns, credit losses
$\xi = 0$	Gumbel	Light (exponential decay)	Normal/lognormal models
$\xi < 0$	Weibull	Bounded upper tail	Bounded loss distributions

For the block maxima approach, we divide the return series into non-overlapping blocks (typically months or quarters) and extract the minimum return (maximum loss) from each block. The GEV is then fitted to these block minima.

```
from scipy.stats import genextreme

# Monthly block minima (maximum losses)
market_daily["month"] = market_daily["date"].dt.to_period("M")
block_minima = (
    market_daily.groupby("month")
    .agg(min_ret=("mkt_ret", "min"))
    .reset_index()
)

# Fit GEV to negated block minima (so we model maxima of losses)
block_losses = -block_minima["min_ret"].values
xi_hat, loc_hat, scale_hat = genextreme.fit(block_losses)

print(f"GEV fit to monthly block maxima of losses:")
```

```
print(f"  Shape ( ):    {xi_hat:.4f}")
print(f"  Location ( ): {loc_hat:.4f}")
print(f"  Scale ( ):    {scale_hat:.4f}")
```

99.3.4 Peaks Over Threshold and the GPD

The Peaks Over Threshold (POT) approach is generally preferred over block maxima because it uses tail data more efficiently. The Pickands-Balkema-de Haan theorem establishes that for a sufficiently high threshold u, the distribution of exceedances $Y = X - u \mid X > u$ converges to a Generalized Pareto Distribution (GPD):

$$H_{\xi,\beta}(y) = \begin{cases} 1 - \left(1 + \frac{\xi y}{\beta}\right)^{-1/\xi} & \text{if } \xi \neq 0 \\ 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{y}{\beta}\right) & \text{if } \xi = 0 \end{cases} \tag{99.23}$$

for $y > 0$ and $1 + \xi y/\beta > 0$, where $\beta > 0$ is the scale parameter and ξ is the shape parameter (identical to the GEV shape). The POT-based VaR and ES at level α are:

$$\mathrm{VaR}_\alpha^{\mathrm{GPD}} = u + \frac{\hat{\beta}}{\hat{\xi}} \left[\left(\frac{n}{N_u} \cdot \alpha \right)^{-\hat{\xi}} - 1 \right] \tag{99.24}$$

$$\mathrm{ES}_\alpha^{\mathrm{GPD}} = \frac{\mathrm{VaR}_\alpha^{\mathrm{GPD}}}{1 - \hat{\xi}} + \frac{\hat{\beta} - \hat{\xi} u}{1 - \hat{\xi}} \tag{99.25}$$

where N_u is the number of observations exceeding u and n is the total sample size. These formulae are valid for $\hat{\xi} < 1$.

```
from scipy.stats import genpareto

def fit_gpd_pot(returns, threshold_quantile=0.95):
    """
    Fit GPD to exceedances over threshold using POT approach.

    Parameters
    ----------
    returns : array-like
        Return series (losses should be positive).
    threshold_quantile : float
        Quantile for threshold selection.
```

```
x_grid = np.linspace(
    block_losses.min() * 0.8,
    block_losses.max() * 1.2,
    200
)
gev_pdf = genextreme.pdf(x_grid, xi_hat, loc=loc_hat, scale=scale_hat)

plot_data = pd.DataFrame({
    "x": np.concatenate([block_losses, x_grid]),
    "source": (["Empirical"] * len(block_losses) +
               ["GEV Fit"] * len(x_grid)),
    "density": np.concatenate([
        np.full(len(block_losses), np.nan),
        gev_pdf
    ]),
    "value": np.concatenate([block_losses, np.full(len(x_grid), np.nan)])
})

empirical = plot_data[plot_data["source"] == "Empirical"]
fitted = plot_data[plot_data["source"] == "GEV Fit"]

(
    p9.ggplot()
    + p9.geom_histogram(
        data=empirical, mapping=p9.aes(x="value", y="..density.."),
        bins=30, fill="#2E5090", alpha=0.5
    )
    + p9.geom_line(
        data=fitted, mapping=p9.aes(x="x", y="density"),
        color="#C0392B", size=1
    )
    + p9.labs(
        x="Monthly Maximum Loss",
        y="Density",
        title="GEV Distribution Fit to Monthly Block Maxima"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
```

Figure 99.6

```
    Returns
    -------
    dict : Threshold, GPD parameters, VaR, ES estimates.
    """
    losses = -np.array(returns)
    losses = losses[~np.isnan(losses)]
    n = len(losses)

    u = np.quantile(losses, threshold_quantile)
    exceedances = losses[losses > u] - u
    N_u = len(exceedances)

    # Fit GPD
    xi_hat, _, beta_hat = genpareto.fit(exceedances, floc=0)

    # VaR and ES at 1%
    alpha = 0.01
    var_gpd = u + (beta_hat / xi_hat) * (
        (n / N_u * alpha)**(-xi_hat) - 1
    )
    es_gpd = var_gpd / (1 - xi_hat) + (beta_hat - xi_hat * u) / (1 - xi_hat)

    return {
        "threshold": u,
        "n_exceedances": N_u,
        "xi_hat": xi_hat,
        "beta_hat": beta_hat,
        "var_1pct": var_gpd,
        "es_1pct": es_gpd
    }

# Fit GPD to market losses
gpd_results = fit_gpd_pot(market_daily["mkt_ret"].dropna().values, 0.95)

print("GPD-POT Results (1% level):")
for k, v in gpd_results.items():
    if isinstance(v, float):
        print(f"  {k}: {v:.6f}")
    else:
        print(f"  {k}: {v}")
```

99.3.5 Threshold Selection

The choice of threshold u is the key practical decision in POT analysis. Too low a threshold violates the asymptotic approximation; too high wastes data. The mean residual life plot provides a graphical diagnostic: if the GPD approximation holds above u_0, the mean excess function $e(u) = E[X - u \mid X > u]$ is linear in u for $u > u_0$:

$$e(u) = \frac{\beta + \xi u}{1 - \xi} \tag{99.26}$$

A threshold in the region where the mean residual life plot is approximately linear is appropriate. In practice, we also compare GPD parameter stability across a range of thresholds and select the lowest threshold at which estimates stabilize.

99.3.6 What EVT Captures That GARCH Does Not

Table 99.4 summarizes the complementary roles of these two modeling frameworks.

Table 99.4: GARCH vs. EVT: Complementary Frameworks

Feature	GARCH	EVT
What is modeled	Conditional variance dynamics	Unconditional tail distribution
Distributional assumption	Full distribution (Gaussian or t)	Only the tail (GPD or GEV)
Time dependence	Explicit (volatility clustering)	None (i.i.d. or filtered)
Tail shape	Determined by innovation distribution	Estimated from data
Extreme quantiles	Extrapolation from parametric assumption	Principled extrapolation via EVT theorems
Best use	Short-horizon risk forecasting	Extreme quantile estimation, stress testing

The GARCH-filtered EVT approach of McNeil and Frey (2000) combines both: GARCH captures the time-varying volatility, and EVT models the residual tail. This hybrid approach is considered best practice for financial risk management (McNeil, Frey, and Embrechts 2015).

```
losses = -market_daily["mkt_ret"].dropna().values
losses_sorted = np.sort(losses)

thresholds = np.quantile(losses, np.linspace(0.80, 0.99, 50))
mean_excess = []

for u in thresholds:
    exceedances = losses[losses > u] - u
    if len(exceedances) > 5:
        mean_excess.append({
            "threshold": u,
            "mean_excess": exceedances.mean(),
            "se": exceedances.std() / np.sqrt(len(exceedances)),
            "n_exceed": len(exceedances)
        })

mrl_df = pd.DataFrame(mean_excess)

(
    p9.ggplot(mrl_df, p9.aes(x="threshold", y="mean_excess"))
    + p9.geom_ribbon(
        p9.aes(
            ymin="mean_excess - 1.96 * se",
            ymax="mean_excess + 1.96 * se"
        ),
        fill="#2E5090", alpha=0.2
    )
    + p9.geom_line(color="#2E5090", size=0.8)
    + p9.geom_point(color="#2E5090", size=1.5)
    + p9.labs(
        x="Threshold (u)",
        y="Mean Excess e(u)",
        title="Mean Residual Life Plot"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
```

Figure 99.7

99.4 Tail Dependence and Contagion

99.4.1 Why Correlation Breaks Down in Crises

Perhaps the most important practical fact about multivariate tail risk is that correlations estimated from the body of the distribution systematically understate dependence in the tails. Longin and Solnik (2001) demonstrate this using extreme value theory: for bivariate normal returns, the correlation of extreme realizations converges to zero as the threshold moves further into the tail. Yet empirically, the correlation of crash returns remains large and often increases (a phenomenon incompatible with multivariate normality).

Formally, the coefficient of lower tail dependence between two return series X and Y is:

$$\lambda_L = \lim_{q \to 0^+} P(Y \leq F_Y^{-1}(q) \mid X \leq F_X^{-1}(q)) \tag{99.27}$$

If $\lambda_L > 0$, the two series exhibit asymptotic tail dependence (i.e., extreme losses tend to occur jointly). For the bivariate normal distribution, $\lambda_L = 0$ for all $|\rho| < 1$ (asymptotic tail independence). This means that any model built on multivariate normality will structurally underestimate the probability of joint crashes. The Student-t copula, by contrast, has $\lambda_L > 0$ for $\rho > -1$, which is why it has become the workhorse model for joint tail risk in finance (Demarta and McNeil 2005).

99.4.2 Co-Crash Measures

We implement several empirical measures of joint crash behavior.

Exceedance Correlation. Following Longin and Solnik (2001), compute the correlation of returns conditional on both returns falling below a threshold θ:

$$\rho^-(\theta) = \mathrm{Corr}(r_i, r_j \mid r_i < \theta, r_j < \theta) \tag{99.28}$$

If returns are bivariate normal, $\rho^-(\theta) \to 0$ as $\theta \to -\infty$. Empirically, $\rho^-(\theta)$ typically increases as θ decreases, indicating tail dependence beyond what the normal model implies.

Co-Exceedance Count. For each day t, count the number of stocks or sectors whose returns fall below the q-th percentile of their respective marginal distributions:

$$C_t(q) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \mathbb{1}\left(r_{i,t} < F_i^{-1}(q)\right) \tag{99.29}$$

Days with high $C_t(q)$ represent system-wide stress events.

```python
def empirical_tail_dependence(x, y, quantiles=None):
    """
    Estimate lower tail dependence coefficient at various quantiles.

    Uses the empirical copula approach: transform to uniform margins,
    then estimate P(V <= q | U <= q) for decreasing q.
    """
    if quantiles is None:
        quantiles = [0.20, 0.15, 0.10, 0.05, 0.03, 0.01]

    # Transform to uniform margins via empirical CDF
    from scipy.stats import rankdata
    n = len(x)
    u = rankdata(x) / (n + 1)
    v = rankdata(y) / (n + 1)

    results = []
    for q in quantiles:
        mask_u = u <= q
        mask_both = mask_u & (v <= q)

        n_u = mask_u.sum()
        n_both = mask_both.sum()

        lambda_hat = n_both / n_u if n_u > 0 else np.nan

        results.append({
            "quantile": q,
            "lambda_L": lambda_hat,
            "n_below_x": int(n_u),
            "n_co_crash": int(n_both)
        })

    return pd.DataFrame(results)
```

```python
# Load sector-level daily returns
sector_returns = dc.get_sector_returns(
    start_date="2010-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31",
    frequency="daily"
)
```

```python
# Compute pairwise tail dependence for major sectors
sectors = sector_returns["sector"].unique()[:8]  # Top 8 sectors

import itertools

pairwise_td = []
for s1, s2 in itertools.combinations(sectors, 2):
    r1 = sector_returns.loc[
        sector_returns["sector"] == s1, ["date", "ret"]
    ].set_index("date")["ret"]
    r2 = sector_returns.loc[
        sector_returns["sector"] == s2, ["date", "ret"]
    ].set_index("date")["ret"]

    # Align dates
    aligned = pd.concat([r1, r2], axis=1, join="inner").dropna()
    if len(aligned) < 500:
        continue

    td = empirical_tail_dependence(
        aligned.iloc[:, 0].values,
        aligned.iloc[:, 1].values,
        quantiles=[0.05]
    )

    pairwise_td.append({
        "sector_1": s1,
        "sector_2": s2,
        "lambda_L_5pct": td["lambda_L"].iloc[0],
        "pearson_corr": aligned.iloc[:, 0].corr(aligned.iloc[:, 1])
    })

td_df = pd.DataFrame(pairwise_td)
```

The ratio column in Table 99.5 is particularly informative. When $\lambda_L/\rho \gg 1$, the sectors exhibit disproportionately high co-crash frequency relative to their overall correlation. This is the hallmark of tail dependence that Gaussian models miss.

Table 99.5: Pairwise Tail Dependence vs. Linear Correlation Across Sectors

```
td_display = td_df.copy()
td_display["lambda_L_5pct"] = td_display["lambda_L_5pct"].round(4)
td_display["pearson_corr"] = td_display["pearson_corr"].round(4)
td_display["ratio"] = (
    td_display["lambda_L_5pct"] / td_display["pearson_corr"]
).round(3)

td_display.sort_values("lambda_L_5pct", ascending=False).head(15)
```

99.4.3 System-Wide Stress Transmission

To assess system-wide contagion dynamics, we construct daily co-exceedance counts and examine their time-series properties.

```
# Compute daily co-exceedance count at the 5% level
sector_wide = sector_returns.pivot_table(
    index="date", columns="sector", values="ret"
)

# Rolling 252-day quantile thresholds
quantile_thresholds = sector_wide.rolling(252, min_periods=60).quantile(0.05)

# Indicator: return below rolling 5th percentile
exceedance_indicators = (sector_wide < quantile_thresholds).astype(int)
co_exceedance = exceedance_indicators.sum(axis=1)
co_exceedance.name = "co_exceedance"

co_exceed_df = co_exceedance.reset_index()
co_exceed_df.columns = ["date", "co_exceedance"]
co_exceed_df["n_sectors"] = exceedance_indicators.notna().sum(axis=1).values
```

Peaks in the co-exceedance series correspond to system-wide stress episodes. The smoothed trend (red line) reveals the evolving baseline level of systemic fragility.

99.4.4 Financial Contagion Mechanisms

The literature distinguishes several channels through which stress propagates across assets, sectors, and markets (Forbes and Rigobon 2002; Kaminsky, Reinhart, and Vegh 2002):

```
(
    p9.ggplot(co_exceed_df.dropna(), p9.aes(x="date", y="co_exceedance"))
    + p9.geom_line(color="#2E5090", alpha=0.5, size=0.3)
    + p9.geom_smooth(method="lowess", color="#C0392B", size=1, se=False)
    + p9.labs(
        x="",
        y="Number of Sectors in Left Tail",
        title="System-Wide Stress: Daily Co-Exceedance Count"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(12, 5))
)
```

Figure 99.8

Direct linkages. Balance sheet interconnections, interbank lending, and cross-holdings create direct transmission channels. When institution A holds assets issued by institution B, losses at B directly impair A's balance sheet.

Information contagion. Adverse news about one firm triggers reassessment of similarly exposed firms. King and Wadhwani (1990) and Kodres and Pritsker (2002) formalize this via Bayesian updating: investors cannot distinguish idiosyncratic from systematic shocks, so a crash in one asset leads them to update beliefs about common risk factors.

Liquidity contagion. Fire sales by distressed institutions depress prices of commonly held assets, creating losses for other holders. Brunnermeier (2009) model this as a liquidity spiral: declining prices trigger margin calls, which force further sales, further depressing prices. In Vietnamese markets, the absence of circuit breakers beyond price limits and the concentration of holdings among a few large institutional investors amplify this channel.

Behavioral contagion. Herding behavior (i.e., investors mimicking others' trades) generates correlated selling pressure even in the absence of fundamental linkages. Bikhchandani, Hirshleifer, and Welch (1992) and Banerjee (1992) provide theoretical foundations. Choe, Kho, and Stulz (2005) document herding in emerging markets specifically.

We can test for contagion (as distinct from interdependence) using the Forbes and Rigobon (2002) framework. The null hypothesis is that the co-movement observed during a crisis period is fully explained by the increase in volatility (which mechanically inflates correlations). The adjusted correlation is:

$$\rho^* = \frac{\rho_{\text{crisis}}}{\sqrt{1 + \delta[1 - \rho^2_{\text{crisis}}]}} \tag{99.30}$$

where $\delta = \sigma^2_{\text{crisis}}/\sigma^2_{\text{tranquil}} - 1$ is the relative increase in variance. If $\rho^* > \rho_{\text{tranquil}}$, the increase in co-movement exceeds what volatility adjustment alone predicts, which is evidence of contagion.

```
def forbes_rigobon_test(returns_df, crisis_start, crisis_end):
    """
    Forbes-Rigobon adjusted correlation test for contagion.

    Parameters
    ----------
    returns_df : DataFrame
        Columns are sector returns, index is date.
    crisis_start, crisis_end : str
        Crisis period boundaries.

    Returns
    -------
    DataFrame : Pairwise contagion test results.
    """
    tranquil = returns_df[returns_df.index < crisis_start].dropna()
    crisis = returns_df[
        (returns_df.index >= crisis_start) &
        (returns_df.index <= crisis_end)
    ].dropna()

    sectors = returns_df.columns.tolist()
    results = []

    for s1, s2 in itertools.combinations(sectors, 2):
        if s1 not in tranquil.columns or s2 not in crisis.columns:
            continue

        rho_t = tranquil[s1].corr(tranquil[s2])
        rho_c = crisis[s1].corr(crisis[s2])

        var_t = tranquil[s1].var()
        var_c = crisis[s1].var()

        if var_t == 0:
            continue

        delta = var_c / var_t - 1
        rho_adj = rho_c / np.sqrt(1 + delta * (1 - rho_c**2))
```

Table 99.6: Forbes-Rigobon Contagion Test: COVID-19 Crisis Period

```
contagion_covid.sort_values(
    "rho_adjusted", ascending=False
).head(15)
```

```
        results.append({
            "sector_1": s1,
            "sector_2": s2,
            "rho_tranquil": round(rho_t, 4),
            "rho_crisis": round(rho_c, 4),
            "rho_adjusted": round(rho_adj, 4),
            "contagion": rho_adj > rho_t
        })

    return pd.DataFrame(results)
```

```
# Test for contagion during COVID-19 crash
contagion_covid = forbes_rigobon_test(
    sector_wide,
    crisis_start="2020-02-01",
    crisis_end="2020-04-30"
)

n_pairs = len(contagion_covid)
n_contagion = contagion_covid["contagion"].sum()
print(f"COVID-19 contagion test: {n_contagion}/{n_pairs} sector pairs "
      f"show evidence of contagion ({100*n_contagion/n_pairs:.1f}%)")
```

99.5 Applications to Financial Stability

99.5.1 Market-Wide Stress Indicators

We construct several market-wide stress indicators that aggregate the individual-level and sectoral tail risk measures developed above into a comprehensive system-level diagnostic.

Aggregate Crash Risk Index. The cross-sectional average of firm-level NCSKEW provides a market-wide measure of crash risk that is forward-looking (it captures the buildup of negative skewness before a crash materializes):

$$\text{ACRI}_y = \frac{1}{N_y} \sum_{i=1}^{N_y} \text{NCSKEW}_{i,y} \tag{99.31}$$

Market Tail Risk (MTR). Following Kelly and Jiang (2014), we estimate the time-varying tail risk of the market portfolio using option-implied or realized tail measures. In the absence of a liquid options market in Vietnam, we use the realized version based on the Hill tail index estimated from rolling windows:

$$\text{MTR}_t = \hat{\xi}_t^{\text{Hill}} \cdot \hat{\sigma}_t \tag{99.32}$$

where $\hat{\xi}_t^{\text{Hill}}$ is the Hill estimator computed from a trailing 252-day window and $\hat{\sigma}_t$ is the conditional volatility (e.g., from GARCH). This interaction captures both the thickness of the tail and the current scale of volatility.

```
# Aggregate Crash Risk Index
acri = (
    crash_risk.groupby("year")
    .agg(
        acri=("ncskew", "mean"),
        median_ncskew=("ncskew", "median"),
        pct_high_crash=("ncskew", lambda x: (x > x.quantile(0.75)).mean()),
        n_firms=("ncskew", "count")
    )
    .reset_index()
)

# Market Tail Risk: rolling Hill estimator x rolling volatility
mkt_returns = market_daily["mkt_ret"].dropna().values
dates = market_daily["date"].dropna().values

mtr_list = []
for end_idx in range(504, len(mkt_returns)):
    window_ret = mkt_returns[end_idx - 252:end_idx]
    losses_pos = -window_ret[window_ret < 0]

    if len(losses_pos) < 30:
        continue

    # Hill estimator at k = 50
    sorted_losses = np.sort(losses_pos)[::-1]
    k = min(50, len(sorted_losses) - 1)
```

```
    if k < 10:
        continue
    log_excess = np.log(sorted_losses[:k]) - np.log(sorted_losses[k])
    xi_hat = log_excess.mean()

    sigma_hat = window_ret.std()
    mtr = xi_hat * sigma_hat

    mtr_list.append({
        "date": dates[end_idx],
        "xi_hat": xi_hat,
        "sigma_hat": sigma_hat,
        "mtr": mtr
    })

mtr_df = pd.DataFrame(mtr_list)
mtr_df["date"] = pd.to_datetime(mtr_df["date"])
```

```
(
    p9.ggplot(mtr_df, p9.aes(x="date", y="mtr"))
    + p9.geom_line(color="#2E5090", alpha=0.5, size=0.4)
    + p9.geom_smooth(method="lowess", color="#C0392B", size=1, se=False)
    + p9.labs(
        x="",
        y="MTR ( × )",
        title="Market Tail Risk: Rolling Hill Index × Conditional Volatility"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(12, 5))
)
```

Figure 99.9

99.5.2 Sectoral Fragility

Not all sectors are equally vulnerable to tail events. We decompose system-wide tail risk into sectoral contributions to identify the most fragile parts of the market.

```
# Sector-level tail statistics
sector_tail_stats = []
```

```
for sector in sectors:
    sector_data = sector_returns[sector_returns["sector"] == sector]["ret"].dropna()

    if len(sector_data) < 500:
        continue

    s_data = sector_data.values

    # Skewness and kurtosis
    skew = stats.skew(s_data)
    kurt = stats.kurtosis(s_data)

    # VaR and ES at 1%
    var_1 = -np.quantile(s_data, 0.01)
    es_1 = -s_data[s_data <= np.quantile(s_data, 0.01)].mean()

    # Hill tail index (k=50)
    losses_pos = -s_data[s_data < 0]
    sorted_l = np.sort(losses_pos)[::-1]
    k = min(50, len(sorted_l) - 1)
    if k >= 10:
        log_exc = np.log(sorted_l[:k]) - np.log(sorted_l[k])
        xi = log_exc.mean()
    else:
        xi = np.nan

    sector_tail_stats.append({
        "sector": sector,
        "skewness": round(skew, 3),
        "excess_kurtosis": round(kurt, 3),
        "var_1pct": round(var_1, 4),
        "es_1pct": round(es_1, 4),
        "tail_index_xi": round(xi, 3) if not np.isnan(xi) else np.nan,
        "n_obs": len(s_data)
    })

fragility_df = pd.DataFrame(sector_tail_stats)
```

Sectors in the upper-right quadrant of Figure 99.10 exhibit both high expected shortfall (large average losses in the tail) and high tail index (heavier-than-typical tails). These represent the most fragile components of the market from a systemic stability perspective.

Table 99.7: Sectoral Tail Risk Profile

```
fragility_df.sort_values("es_1pct", ascending=False)
```

```
(
    p9.ggplot(
        fragility_df.dropna(),
        p9.aes(x="tail_index_xi", y="es_1pct", label="sector")
    )
    + p9.geom_point(color="#2E5090", size=3)
    + p9.geom_text(nudge_y=0.002, size=7)
    + p9.labs(
        x="Tail Index ( , Hill)",
        y="1% Expected Shortfall",
        title="Sector Fragility Map"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 7))
)
```

Figure 99.10

99.5.3 Crisis Diagnostics

We construct a comprehensive crisis diagnostic framework that combines the indicators developed above to identify, characterize, and compare stress episodes in Vietnamese financial markets.

```
# Identify extreme co-exceedance days (system-wide stress events)
threshold_high_stress = co_exceed_df["co_exceedance"].quantile(0.99)

stress_events = co_exceed_df[
    co_exceed_df["co_exceedance"] >= threshold_high_stress
].copy()

# Add market return on stress days
stress_events = stress_events.merge(
    market_daily[["date", "mkt_ret"]], on="date", how="left"
)

print(f"System-wide stress days (top 1%): {len(stress_events)}")
print(f"Average market return on stress days: "
      f"{stress_events['mkt_ret'].mean():.4f}")
print(f"Average co-exceedance on stress days: "
      f"{stress_events['co_exceedance'].mean():.1f}")
```

99.6 Summary

This chapter developed a comprehensive toolkit for measuring and diagnosing tail risk in Vietnamese equity markets. The key objects estimated (crash risk measures, VaR and Expected Shortfall, tail indices, and tail dependence coefficients) capture distinct but complementary aspects of extreme event behavior.

At the individual stock level, the NCSKEW, DUVOL, and crash count measures quantify asymmetry in firm-specific return distributions, providing forward-looking indicators of crash vulnerability. At the portfolio level, EVT-based approaches to VaR and ES estimation avoid the parametric misspecification that plagues Gaussian and even Student-t models in the deep tails. At the system level, tail dependence and co-exceedance measures reveal the extent to which crashes propagate across sectors, and the Forbes-Rigobon contagion test distinguishes genuine contagion from the mechanical increase in co-movement driven by higher volatility.

Several features of Vietnamese markets deserve emphasis. Price limits censor the observed return distribution, causing systematic underestimation of true tail risk. The concentration

Table 99.8: Major Stress Episodes: Clustering of System-Wide Tail Events

```
# Cluster stress days into episodes (within 10 trading days)
stress_events = stress_events.sort_values("date").reset_index(drop=True)
stress_events["gap"] = stress_events["date"].diff().dt.days
stress_events["episode"] = (stress_events["gap"] > 15).cumsum()

episode_summary = (
    stress_events.groupby("episode")
    .agg(
        start_date=("date", "min"),
        end_date=("date", "max"),
        n_stress_days=("date", "count"),
        avg_market_return=("mkt_ret", "mean"),
        min_market_return=("mkt_ret", "min"),
        avg_coexceedance=("co_exceedance", "mean")
    )
    .reset_index(drop=True)
    .sort_values("min_market_return")
)

episode_summary["avg_market_return"] = episode_summary["avg_market_return"].round(4)
episode_summary["min_market_return"] = episode_summary["min_market_return"].round(4)
episode_summary["avg_coexceedance"] = episode_summary["avg_coexceedance"].round(1)

episode_summary.head(10)
```

of trading among retail investors amplifies herding-driven crash dynamics. State ownership of large firms creates correlated exposure to policy shocks that is not captured by standard diversification. And the absence of deep derivatives markets limits the hedging instruments available for tail risk management, making accurate measurement all the more critical.

100 Corporate Finance Estimators and Identification

Corporate finance is the study of how firms make investment, financing, and payout decisions under real-world frictions (e.g., taxes, asymmetric information, agency conflicts, transaction costs, and financial constraints). Unlike asset pricing, where the primary objects of interest are expected returns and risk premia estimated from market data, corporate finance estimators are tied to firm-level accounting and governance data, and their economic interpretation depends critically on the institutional environment in which the firm operates.

This chapter develops the core econometric toolkit for empirical corporate finance and applies it to Vietnamese listed firms. The estimators we cover (including investment-Q regressions, cash flow sensitivity tests, capital structure determinants, payout smoothing models, and agency cost proxies) form the backbone of the modern corporate finance literature. Each estimator embeds specific theoretical assumptions, and each has been the subject of substantial methodological debate. We pay careful attention to identification challenges: the conditions under which a regression coefficient admits a causal or structural interpretation versus merely a descriptive association.

Vietnamese firms present distinctive features that interact with these estimators in economically meaningful ways. State ownership remains pervasive and creates agency problems qualitatively different from the dispersed-ownership setting of the Anglo-American literature. Concentrated family ownership, pyramidal structures, and cross-holdings generate tunneling incentives documented by S. Johnson et al. (2000) and Claessens et al. (2002). The banking system is dominated by state-owned commercial banks whose lending decisions may reflect political rather than purely economic criteria, complicating the interpretation of financing constraint measures. And dividend policy is shaped by regulatory requirements, including minimum payout ratios for state-owned enterprises, that have no parallel in more developed markets.

```
import pandas as pd
import numpy as np
from scipy import stats
import statsmodels.api as sm
import statsmodels.formula.api as smf
from linearmodels.panel import PanelOLS, PooledOLS
import plotnine as p9
from mizani.formatters import percent_format, comma_format
```

```python
import warnings
warnings.filterwarnings("ignore")
```

```python
# DataCore.vn API
from datacore import DataCore
dc = DataCore()

# Load annual firm-level financial data
firm_annual = dc.get_firm_financials(
    start_date="2008-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31",
    frequency="annual"
)

# Load ownership data
ownership = dc.get_ownership_data(
    start_date="2008-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31"
)

# Load stock returns (monthly)
monthly_returns = dc.get_monthly_returns(
    start_date="2008-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31"
)

# Load market and factor returns
factors = dc.get_factor_returns(
    start_date="2008-01-01",
    end_date="2024-12-31"
)

print(f"Firm-year observations: {len(firm_annual)}")
print(f"Unique firms: {firm_annual['ticker'].nunique()}")
print(f"Year range: {firm_annual['year'].min()}-{firm_annual['year'].max()}")
```

100.1 Investment-Q Regressions

100.1.1 Tobin's Q: Intuition and Theory

The investment-Q framework is the canonical structural model of corporate investment. The core insight, formalized by Hayashi (1982), is elegant: under perfect capital markets and constant returns to scale in the production and adjustment cost technologies, a firm's investment rate should be a sufficient statistic of a single observable (i.e., the ratio of the market value of installed capital to its replacement cost).

Let V_t denote the market value of the firm's assets at time t and K_t the replacement cost of its capital stock. Tobin's Q is:

$$Q_t = \frac{V_t}{K_t} \tag{100.1}$$

When $Q > 1$, the market values a unit of installed capital above its replacement cost, signaling that the firm should invest. When $Q < 1$, the firm should disinvest. In the frictionless Hayashi (1982) environment, the marginal Q (the shadow value of an additional unit of capital) equals the average Q (the ratio of total market value to total replacement cost), and the optimal investment policy is:

$$\frac{I_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} = \frac{1}{\alpha}\left(Q_{i,t} - 1\right) \tag{100.2}$$

where α governs the convexity of adjustment costs. The empirical counterpart is the regression:

$$\frac{I_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Q_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.3}$$

Under the structural interpretation, $\beta_1 = 1/\alpha > 0$ and Q is the sole explanatory variable. Any additional variable that enters significantly implies a violation of the underlying assumptions (e.g., financial frictions, agency problems, measurement error in Q, or departures from constant returns to scale).

100.1.2 Measurement Issues

The theoretical object is marginal Q (i.e., the value of the next dollar of investment) which is unobservable. The empirical proxy is average Q, typically constructed as:

$$Q_{i,t}^{\text{avg}} = \frac{\text{Market Value of Equity} + \text{Book Value of Debt}}{\text{Book Value of Total Assets}} \tag{100.4}$$

This proxy introduces several problems that are well-documented in the literature.

Problem 1: Marginal $\neq$ Average. The equality $q^{\text{marginal}} = Q^{\text{average}}$ requires constant returns to scale in both production and adjustment costs (Hayashi 1982). With decreasing returns to scale (empirically relevant for most firms), average Q overstates marginal Q for high-Q firms and understates it for low-Q firms. Abel and Eberly (1994) derive the wedge analytically.

Problem 2: Measurement error in numerator. The market value of equity reflects market sentiment, bubbles, and noise-trader demand in addition to fundamentals. P. Bond, Edmans, and Goldstein (2012) provide a comprehensive treatment. In Vietnamese markets, where retail investors dominate and price limits constrain daily adjustment, market prices may deviate persistently from fundamental value.

Problem 3: Measurement error in denominator. Book values of assets reflect historical cost, depreciation schedules, and accounting conventions that may poorly approximate replacement cost. This is especially problematic in Vietnam, where revaluation of fixed assets is infrequent and inflation has historically been volatile, creating wedges between historical and replacement cost.

Problem 4: Errors-in-variables bias. Because the empirical Q is a noisy proxy for the true Q, OLS estimates of β_1 in Equation 100.3 suffer from classical attenuation bias (i.e., $hat\beta_1$ is biased toward zero). Erickson and Whited (2012) develop a higher-order cumulant estimator that corrects for this bias without requiring external instruments.

```
# Construct Tobin's Q and investment variables
panel = firm_annual.copy()

# Tobin's Q: (Market cap + Book debt) / Total assets
panel["tobins_q"] = (
    (panel["market_cap"] + panel["total_debt"]) /
    panel["total_assets"]
)

# Investment rate: Capital expenditure / Lagged total assets
panel = panel.sort_values(["ticker", "year"])
panel["lag_assets"] = panel.groupby("ticker")["total_assets"].shift(1)
panel["lag_ppe"] = panel.groupby("ticker")["ppe_net"].shift(1)
```

Table 100.1: Summary Statistics: Investment and Q Variables

```
summary_vars = ["inv_rate", "tobins_q", "cf_assets", "sales_growth"]
summary = panel_clean[summary_vars].describe(
    percentiles=[0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95]
).T.round(4)

summary.columns = ["N", "Mean", "Std", "Min", "5%", "25%",
                    "Median", "75%", "95%", "Max"]
summary
```

```
panel["inv_rate"] = panel["capex"] / panel["lag_assets"]
panel["inv_rate_ppe"] = panel["capex"] / panel["lag_ppe"]

# Cash flow / Assets
panel["cf_assets"] = panel["operating_cf"] / panel["lag_assets"]

# Sales growth
panel["lag_revenue"] = panel.groupby("ticker")["revenue"].shift(1)
panel["sales_growth"] = (
    (panel["revenue"] - panel["lag_revenue"]) / panel["lag_revenue"]
)

# Winsorize at 1st and 99th percentiles
def winsorize(s, lower=0.01, upper=0.99):
    return s.clip(s.quantile(lower), s.quantile(upper))

for col in ["tobins_q", "inv_rate", "cf_assets", "sales_growth"]:
    panel[col] = winsorize(panel[col])

panel_clean = panel.dropna(
    subset=["tobins_q", "inv_rate", "cf_assets"]
).copy()

print(f"Clean panel: {len(panel_clean)} firm-years, "
      f"{panel_clean['ticker'].nunique()} firms")
```

```
# Baseline investment-Q regression with firm and year fixed effects
panel_clean = panel_clean.set_index(["ticker", "year"])
```

```
# Model 1: Q only
model1 = PanelOLS(
    panel_clean["inv_rate"],
    panel_clean[["tobins_q"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

# Model 2: Q + Cash Flow
model2 = PanelOLS(
    panel_clean["inv_rate"],
    panel_clean[["tobins_q", "cf_assets"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

# Model 3: Q + Cash Flow + Sales Growth
model3 = PanelOLS(
    panel_clean["inv_rate"],
    panel_clean[["tobins_q", "cf_assets", "sales_growth"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

panel_clean = panel_clean.reset_index()
```

100.1.3 Interpretation Under Market Frictions

The coefficient on Q in Table 100.2 admits multiple interpretations depending on the maintained assumptions:

Structural interpretation. If the Hayashi conditions hold, $\hat{\beta}_1$ estimates the inverse of the adjustment cost parameter: $\hat{\beta}_1 = 1/\hat{\alpha}$. A larger coefficient implies lower adjustment costs. However, measurement error in Q biases $\hat{\beta}_1$ downward, so the raw OLS estimate provides a lower bound on $1/\alpha$.

Reduced-form interpretation. Without the Hayashi conditions, $\hat{\beta}_1$ captures the association between market valuation and investment intensity. This association reflects a mixture of

Table 100.2: Investment-Q Regressions with Firm and Year Fixed Effects

```
results_table = pd.DataFrame({
    "Q Only": {
        "Tobin's Q": f"{model1.params['tobins_q']:.4f}",
        "": f"({model1.std_errors['tobins_q']:.4f})",
        "Cash Flow/Assets": "",
        " ": "",
        "Sales Growth": "",
        "  ": "",
        "R² (within)": f"{model1.rsquared_within:.4f}",
        "N": f"{int(model1.nobs)}"
    },
    "Q + CF": {
        "Tobin's Q": f"{model2.params['tobins_q']:.4f}",
        "": f"({model2.std_errors['tobins_q']:.4f})",
        "Cash Flow/Assets": f"{model2.params['cf_assets']:.4f}",
        " ": f"({model2.std_errors['cf_assets']:.4f})",
        "Sales Growth": "",
        "  ": "",
        "R² (within)": f"{model2.rsquared_within:.4f}",
        "N": f"{int(model2.nobs)}"
    },
    "Q + CF + SG": {
        "Tobin's Q": f"{model3.params['tobins_q']:.4f}",
        "": f"({model3.std_errors['tobins_q']:.4f})",
        "Cash Flow/Assets": f"{model3.params['cf_assets']:.4f}",
        " ": f"({model3.std_errors['cf_assets']:.4f})",
        "Sales Growth": f"{model3.params['sales_growth']:.4f}",
        "  ": f"({model3.std_errors['sales_growth']:.4f})",
        "R² (within)": f"{model3.rsquared_within:.4f}",
        "N": f"{int(model3.nobs)}"
    }
})

results_table
```

genuine investment opportunities (the Q-theory channel), market mispricing that managers exploit (the market timing channel of Baker, Stein, and Wurgler (2003)), and reverse causality (investment announcements that move market values).

The cash flow coefficient puzzle. The significance of $\hat{\beta}_2$ on cash flow has been the subject of a 35-year debate. Fazzari, Hubbard, and Petersen (1987) interpret it as evidence that firms face financing constraints: controlling for investment opportunities (Q), cash flow should be irrelevant in a frictionless world, so its significance implies that internal funds relax binding constraints. Kaplan and Zingales (1997) counter that cash flow proxies for investment opportunities not captured by the noisy Q measure, making the cash flow coefficient an artifact of measurement error rather than evidence of constraints. Erickson and Whited (2012) show that correcting for measurement error in Q substantially reduces (but does not eliminate) the cash flow coefficient, supporting a middle ground.

100.1.4 Limitations in Emerging Markets

The investment-Q framework faces amplified challenges in Vietnamese markets.

Thin trading and price limits. Market prices adjust slowly to information, so Q measured at fiscal year-end may not reflect the firm's current investment opportunity set. Price limits of $\pm 7\%$ (HOSE) and $\pm 10\%$ (HNX) mechanically compress the numerator of Q, attenuating the investment-Q relationship.

State ownership. For state-owned enterprises (SOEs), investment decisions may be driven by policy directives rather than Q-theoretic optimality. Including SOEs in the regression without interactions confounds the structural relationship.

Related-party transactions. Tunneling through related-party transactions means that measured investment may include capital expenditures that benefit controlling shareholders rather than maximizing firm value. The investment-Q coefficient in tunneling firms reflects the relationship between market valuation and expropriation, not efficient capital allocation.

```
# Merge ownership data
panel_with_own = panel_clean.merge(
    ownership[["ticker", "year", "state_ownership_pct",
               "foreign_ownership_pct", "insider_ownership_pct"]],
    on=["ticker", "year"],
    how="left"
)

panel_with_own["soe_dummy"] = (
    panel_with_own["state_ownership_pct"] > 50
).astype(int)
```

```python
# Create Q-decile bins for clean visualization
plot_data = panel_clean.copy()
plot_data["q_bin"] = pd.qcut(
    plot_data["tobins_q"], q=20, duplicates="drop"
)

binned = (
    plot_data.groupby("q_bin", observed=True)
    .agg(
        mean_q=("tobins_q", "mean"),
        mean_inv=("inv_rate", "mean"),
        se_inv=("inv_rate", lambda x: x.std() / np.sqrt(len(x)))
    )
    .reset_index()
)

(
    p9.ggplot(binned, p9.aes(x="mean_q", y="mean_inv"))
    + p9.geom_pointrange(
        p9.aes(ymin="mean_inv - 1.96*se_inv",
               ymax="mean_inv + 1.96*se_inv"),
        color="#2E5090", size=0.5
    )
    + p9.geom_smooth(method="lm", color="#C0392B", se=False, size=0.8)
    + p9.labs(
        x="Tobin's Q (Vingtile Mean)",
        y="Investment Rate (I/A)",
        title="Investment-Q Relationship: Binned Scatter"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 6))
)
```

Figure 100.1

Table 100.3: Investment-Q Regression with State Ownership Interactions

```
soe_results = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": model_soe.params.round(4),
    "Std Error": model_soe.std_errors.round(4),
    "t-stat": model_soe.tstats.round(3),
    "p-value": model_soe.pvalues.round(4)
})

soe_results
```

```
panel_with_own["q_x_soe"] = (
    panel_with_own["tobins_q"] * panel_with_own["soe_dummy"]
)
panel_with_own["cf_x_soe"] = (
    panel_with_own["cf_assets"] * panel_with_own["soe_dummy"]
)

# Regression with SOE interactions
panel_soe = panel_with_own.dropna(
    subset=["inv_rate", "tobins_q", "cf_assets", "soe_dummy"]
).set_index(["ticker", "year"])

model_soe = PanelOLS(
    panel_soe["inv_rate"],
    panel_soe[["tobins_q", "cf_assets", "soe_dummy",
               "q_x_soe", "cf_x_soe"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

panel_soe = panel_soe.reset_index()
```

A negative coefficient on $Q \times$ SOE indicates that the investment-Q sensitivity is attenuated for state-owned enterprises, consistent with SOE investment being driven by non-market factors. The interaction of cash flow with SOE status reveals whether state firms face tighter or looser financing constraints. This is a question with direct policy implications for SOE reform.

100.1.5 The Erickson-Whited Measurement Error Correction

Erickson and Whited (2012) develop a GMM estimator that uses higher-order moments of the data to identify the investment-Q slope in the presence of measurement error, without requiring external instruments. The key insight is that if the measurement error η in Q is independent of the true Q^* and the structural error ε, then the third-order cumulants identify the signal-to-noise ratio.

The model is:

$$\frac{I_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Q^*_{i,t} + \gamma X_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t}, \qquad Q_{i,t} = Q^*_{i,t} + \eta_{i,t} \tag{100.5}$$

where $Q^*_{i,t}$ is unobserved true Q and $\eta_{i,t}$ is measurement error. The OLS estimator $\hat{\beta}_1^{\text{OLS}}$ converges to $\beta_1 \cdot \lambda$ where $\lambda = \text{Var}(Q^*)/(\text{Var}(Q^*) + \text{Var}(\eta)) < 1$ is the signal-to-noise ratio. The Erickson-Whited estimator recovers β_1 and λ simultaneously.

```
def erickson_whited_gmm(y, Q_obs, X=None, order=3):
    """
    Simplified Erickson-Whited (2012) measurement error correction
    using third-order cumulants.

    Parameters
    ----------
    y : array
        Dependent variable (investment rate).
    Q_obs : array
        Observed (mismeasured) Q.
    X : array or None
        Additional controls (partialled out first).
    order : int
        Cumulant order for identification (3 or 5).

    Returns
    -------
    dict : Corrected beta, signal-to-noise ratio, OLS beta.
    """
    if X is not None:
        # Partial out controls via OLS
        X_aug = sm.add_constant(X)
        y = y - X_aug @ np.linalg.lstsq(X_aug, y, rcond=None)[0]
        Q_obs = Q_obs - X_aug @ np.linalg.lstsq(X_aug, Q_obs, rcond=None)[0]
```

```
    # Demean
    y_dm = y - y.mean()
    q_dm = Q_obs - Q_obs.mean()
    n = len(y)

    # Second moments
    m_yq = np.mean(y_dm * q_dm)
    m_qq = np.mean(q_dm**2)

    # OLS beta
    beta_ols = m_yq / m_qq

    # Third-order cumulants for identification
    k3_q = np.mean(q_dm**3)
    k2y_q = np.mean(y_dm * q_dm**2)

    if abs(k3_q) < 1e-10:
        return {
            "beta_corrected": np.nan,
            "lambda_snr": np.nan,
            "beta_ols": beta_ols,
            "note": "Insufficient skewness for identification"
        }

    # Corrected beta: beta = kappa_{y,q,q} / kappa_{q,q,q}
    beta_ew = k2y_q / k3_q

    # Signal-to-noise ratio
    # lambda = kappa_{q,q,q}^2 / (kappa_{q,q} * kappa_{q,q,q,q,q})
    # Simplified: lambda = beta_ols / beta_ew
    lambda_snr = beta_ols / beta_ew if abs(beta_ew) > 1e-10 else np.nan

    return {
        "beta_corrected": beta_ew,
        "lambda_snr": lambda_snr,
        "beta_ols": beta_ols,
        "attenuation_pct": round((1 - lambda_snr) * 100, 1) if not np.isnan(lambda_snr) else
    }

# Apply to Vietnamese data
ew_data = panel_clean.dropna(subset=["inv_rate", "tobins_q", "cf_assets"])
```

```python
ew_result = erickson_whited_gmm(
    y=ew_data["inv_rate"].values,
    Q_obs=ew_data["tobins_q"].values,
    X=ew_data["cf_assets"].values.reshape(-1, 1)
)

print("Erickson-Whited Measurement Error Correction:")
for k, v in ew_result.items():
    if isinstance(v, float):
        print(f"  {k}: {v:.4f}")
    else:
        print(f"  {k}: {v}")
```

100.2 Cash Flow Sensitivity of Investment

100.2.1 The Financing Constraints Hypothesis

The cash flow sensitivity of investment (CFSI) literature tests whether firms' investment decisions are constrained by the availability of internal funds. In a Modigliani-Miller world, internal and external funds are perfect substitutes, so cash flow should be irrelevant for investment after controlling for investment opportunities. The CFSI approach, pioneered by Fazzari, Hubbard, and Petersen (1987), classifies firms as financially constrained or unconstrained using observable characteristics and tests whether constrained firms exhibit higher sensitivity of investment to cash flow.

The augmented investment regression is:

$$\frac{I_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 Q_{i,t} + \beta_2 \frac{CF_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.6}$$

The CFSI hypothesis predicts $\beta_2^{\text{constrained}} > \beta_2^{\text{unconstrained}} > 0$: constrained firms rely more heavily on internal cash flow to fund investment because external finance is costly or unavailable.

100.2.2 The FHP-KZ Debate

Fazzari, Hubbard, and Petersen (1987) (FHP) classify firms by dividend payout ratios and find that low-payout firms (presumed constrained) exhibit significantly higher cash flow sensitivity. Kaplan and Zingales (1997) (KZ) challenge this interpretation on two grounds:

Critique 1: Q measurement error. If Q is a noisy proxy for true investment opportunities, and cash flow is correlated with the measurement error (because both respond to demand shocks), then the cash flow coefficient captures omitted investment opportunities, not financing constraints.

Critique 2: Monotonicity failure. KZ show that the firms FHP classify as "most constrained" (low-payout firms) are often rapidly growing firms that choose to retain earnings for investment, not firms that are denied external financing. Using qualitative information from annual reports, KZ reclassify firms and find that the CFSI ranking reverses: firms judged to be truly constrained by their own disclosures exhibit lower CFSI than unconstrained firms.

The resolution, as argued by Farre-Mensa and Ljungqvist (2016), is that no single proxy reliably identifies financially constrained firms. Each proxy (size, age, payout ratio, bond rating, KZ index, WW index, SA index) captures a different dimension of the financing environment, and the CFSI test is not a clean test of any single theory.

100.2.3 Constraint Indices

We implement the three most widely used composite constraint measures.

KZ Index (Kaplan and Zingales 1997; Lamont, Polk, and Saaá-Requejo 2001):

$$\mathrm{KZ}_{i,t} = -1.002 \cdot \frac{CF_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} + 0.283 \cdot Q_{i,t} + 3.139 \cdot \frac{D_{i,t}}{A_{i,t}} - 39.368 \cdot \frac{\mathrm{Div}_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} - 1.315 \cdot \frac{C_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} \tag{100.7}$$

WW Index (Whited and Wu 2006):

$$\mathrm{WW}_{i,t} = -0.091 \cdot \frac{CF_{i,t}}{A_{i,t}} - 0.062 \cdot \mathbb{1}(\mathrm{Div} > 0) + 0.021 \cdot \frac{D_{i,t}}{A_{i,t}} - 0.044 \cdot \ln(A_{i,t}) + 0.102 \cdot \mathrm{ISG}_{i,t} - 0.035 \cdot \mathrm{SG}_{i,t} \tag{100.8}$$

where ISG is industry sales growth and SG is firm sales growth.

SA Index (Hadlock and Pierce 2010):

$$\mathrm{SA}_{i,t} = -0.737 \cdot \mathrm{Size}_{i,t} + 0.043 \cdot \mathrm{Size}_{i,t}^2 - 0.040 \cdot \mathrm{Age}_{i,t} \tag{100.9}$$

where Size = ln(Total Assets) and Age is years since listing. Hadlock and Pierce (2010) argue that the SA index is preferable because it uses only exogenous firm characteristics (size and age), avoiding the endogeneity inherent in cash flow and leverage-based indices.

```python
# Compute financial constraint indices
panel_fc = panel_clean.copy()

# Lagged PPE for KZ scaling
panel_fc["lag_ppe"] = panel_fc.groupby("ticker")["ppe_net"].shift(1)

# KZ Index
panel_fc["kz_index"] = (
    -1.002 * panel_fc["cf_assets"]
    + 0.283 * panel_fc["tobins_q"]
    + 3.139 * (panel_fc["total_debt"] / panel_fc["total_assets"])
    - 39.368 * (panel_fc["dividends"] / panel_fc["lag_assets"])
    - 1.315 * (panel_fc["cash"] / panel_fc["lag_assets"])
)

# SA Index
panel_fc["log_assets"] = np.log(panel_fc["total_assets"])
panel_fc["listing_age"] = panel_fc["year"] - panel_fc["listing_year"]

panel_fc["sa_index"] = (
    -0.737 * panel_fc["log_assets"]
    + 0.043 * panel_fc["log_assets"]**2
    - 0.040 * panel_fc["listing_age"]
)

# WW Index (simplified: using firm-level variables)
panel_fc["div_dummy"] = (panel_fc["dividends"] > 0).astype(int)
panel_fc["leverage"] = panel_fc["total_debt"] / panel_fc["total_assets"]

# Industry sales growth
panel_fc["isg"] = panel_fc.groupby(
    ["industry", "year"]
)["sales_growth"].transform("median")

panel_fc["ww_index"] = (
    -0.091 * panel_fc["cf_assets"]
    - 0.062 * panel_fc["div_dummy"]
    + 0.021 * panel_fc["leverage"]
    - 0.044 * panel_fc["log_assets"]
    + 0.102 * panel_fc["isg"]
    - 0.035 * panel_fc["sales_growth"]
)
```

Table 100.4: Distribution of Financial Constraint Indices

```
constraint_vars = ["kz_index", "sa_index", "ww_index"]
constraint_summary = (
    panel_fc[constraint_vars]
    .describe(percentiles=[0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9])
    .T.round(4)
)
constraint_summary
```

100.2.4 Split-Sample CFSI Tests

We classify firms into constrained and unconstrained groups using each index and compare the cash flow sensitivity of investment across groups.

```
def cfsi_by_group(data, group_var, threshold="median"):
    """
    Estimate cash flow sensitivity of investment by constraint group.

    Parameters
    ----------
    data : DataFrame
        Panel data with inv_rate, tobins_q, cf_assets, group_var.
    group_var : str
        Variable used for classification.
    threshold : str
        "median" for sample split or "tercile" for top/bottom third.

    Returns
    -------
    dict : Coefficient estimates by group.
    """
    df = data.dropna(subset=["inv_rate", "tobins_q", "cf_assets", group_var])

    if threshold == "median":
        median_val = df[group_var].median()
        df["constrained"] = (df[group_var] >= median_val).astype(int)
    elif threshold == "tercile":
        t33 = df[group_var].quantile(0.33)
        t67 = df[group_var].quantile(0.67)
        df = df[(df[group_var] <= t33) | (df[group_var] >= t67)]
```

```
        df["constrained"] = (df[group_var] >= t67).astype(int)

    results = {}
    for group_name, group_label in [(0, "Unconstrained"), (1, "Constrained")]:
        subset = df[df["constrained"] == group_name].copy()
        if len(subset) < 100:
            continue

        subset = subset.set_index(["ticker", "year"])
        model = PanelOLS(
            subset["inv_rate"],
            subset[["tobins_q", "cf_assets"]],
            entity_effects=True,
            time_effects=True,
            check_rank=False
        ).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

        results[group_label] = {
            "beta_Q": model.params["tobins_q"],
            "se_Q": model.std_errors["tobins_q"],
            "beta_CF": model.params["cf_assets"],
            "se_CF": model.std_errors["cf_assets"],
            "R2_within": model.rsquared_within,
            "N": int(model.nobs)
        }

    return pd.DataFrame(results).T

# Run for each constraint index
cfsi_kz = cfsi_by_group(panel_fc, "kz_index", "median")
cfsi_sa = cfsi_by_group(panel_fc, "sa_index", "median")
cfsi_ww = cfsi_by_group(panel_fc, "ww_index", "median")
```

100.2.5 Alternative Specifications

The baseline CFSI test has been augmented in several directions:

Dynamic investment models. S. Bond et al. (2003) argue that the static regression Equation 100.6 omits the autoregressive component of investment. The Euler equation approach, which derives directly from the firm's dynamic optimization problem, yields:

Table 100.5: Cash Flow Sensitivity by Financial Constraint Classification

```
# Combine results
cfsi_all = pd.concat({
    "KZ Index": cfsi_kz,
    "SA Index": cfsi_sa,
    "WW Index": cfsi_ww
})

cfsi_display = cfsi_all[["beta_CF", "se_CF", "beta_Q", "se_Q", "N"]].round(4)
cfsi_display
```

$$\frac{I_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} = \gamma_1 \frac{I_{i,t-1}}{K_{i,t-2}} + \gamma_2 \left(\frac{Y_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} \right) + \gamma_3 \frac{CF_{i,t}}{K_{i,t-1}} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.10}$$

This specification avoids the need for Q entirely, sidestepping the measurement error problem.

External finance dependence. Rajan and Zingales (1998) propose using the industry-level technological demand for external finance as an instrument for financing constraints. Industries that technologically require more external funding should be disproportionately affected by financial development and firm-level constraints.

```
# Euler equation investment model (dynamic panel)
panel_euler = panel_fc.copy().sort_values(["ticker", "year"])

panel_euler["lag_inv_rate"] = panel_euler.groupby("ticker")["inv_rate"].shift(1)
panel_euler["revenue_assets"] = panel_euler["revenue"] / panel_euler["lag_assets"]

euler_data = panel_euler.dropna(
    subset=["inv_rate", "lag_inv_rate", "revenue_assets", "cf_assets"]
).set_index(["ticker", "year"])

model_euler = PanelOLS(
    euler_data["inv_rate"],
    euler_data[["lag_inv_rate", "revenue_assets", "cf_assets"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

euler_data = euler_data.reset_index()
```

Table 100.6: Euler Equation Investment Model

```
euler_results = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": model_euler.params.round(4),
    "Std Error": model_euler.std_errors.round(4),
    "t-stat": model_euler.tstats.round(3),
    "p-value": model_euler.pvalues.round(4)
})
euler_results
```

100.3 Financing Choice Models

100.3.1 Capital Structure Determinants

The two dominant theories of capital structure (i.e., trade-off theory and pecking order theory) generate distinct predictions about the determinants of leverage. Frank and Goyal (2009) provide the most comprehensive empirical synthesis, identifying six "core" variables that reliably predict leverage across samples and specifications.

The baseline capital structure regression is:

$$\text{Lev}_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta' \mathbf{X}_{i,t} + \alpha_i + \delta_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.11}$$

where $\text{Lev}_{i,t}$ is either book leverage (D/A) or market leverage ($D/(D + E^{\text{mkt}})$), and $\mathbf{X}_{i,t}$ includes the core determinants.

Table 100.7 summarizes the theoretical predictions.

Table 100.7: Capital Structure Predictions by Theory

Determinant	Trade-Off	Pecking Order	Measurement
Profitability	+ (tax shield)	− (less need for external)	EBITDA / Assets
Size	+ (lower distress costs)	+ (less information asymmetry)	ln(Total Assets)
Tangibility	+ (collateral value)	+ (less adverse selection)	PPE / Assets
Growth (MTB)	− (underinvestment)	+ (financing needs)	Market-to-Book
Industry median leverage	+ (target)	ambiguous	Industry median

Determinant	Trade-Off	Pecking Order	Measurement
Profitability volatility	− (distress risk)	ambiguous	Rolling (EBITDA/A)

```
# Construct capital structure variables
cs = panel_fc.copy()

# Book leverage
cs["book_leverage"] = cs["total_debt"] / cs["total_assets"]

# Market leverage
cs["market_leverage"] = cs["total_debt"] / (
    cs["total_debt"] + cs["market_cap"]
)

# Profitability
cs["profitability"] = cs["ebitda"] / cs["total_assets"]

# Tangibility
cs["tangibility"] = cs["ppe_net"] / cs["total_assets"]

# Size
cs["size"] = np.log(cs["total_assets"])

# Market-to-Book
cs["mtb"] = cs["market_cap"] / cs["book_equity"]

# Industry median leverage
cs["ind_median_lev"] = cs.groupby(
    ["industry", "year"]
)["book_leverage"].transform("median")

# Rolling profitability volatility (3-year)
cs = cs.sort_values(["ticker", "year"])
cs["profit_vol"] = (
    cs.groupby("ticker")["profitability"]
    .transform(lambda x: x.rolling(3, min_periods=2).std())
)

# Winsorize
for col in ["book_leverage", "market_leverage", "profitability",
```

```
            "tangibility", "mtb", "profit_vol"]:
    cs[col] = winsorize(cs[col])

cs_clean = cs.dropna(
    subset=["book_leverage", "profitability", "size",
            "tangibility", "mtb", "ind_median_lev"]
)
```

```
# Capital structure regressions
cs_panel = cs_clean.set_index(["ticker", "year"])

regressors = ["profitability", "size", "tangibility",
              "mtb", "ind_median_lev"]

# Book leverage
model_book = PanelOLS(
    cs_panel["book_leverage"],
    cs_panel[regressors],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

# Market leverage
model_mkt = PanelOLS(
    cs_panel["market_leverage"],
    cs_panel[regressors],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

cs_panel = cs_panel.reset_index()
```

100.3.2 Pecking Order Tests

The pecking order theory (Myers 1984) predicts that firms prefer internal finance, then debt, then equity. Shyam-Sunder and Myers (1999) propose a direct test: if the pecking order holds strictly, the financing deficit (investment minus internal funds) should be financed dollar-for-dollar by debt:

Table 100.8: Capital Structure Determinants: Book and Market Leverage

```
cs_table = pd.DataFrame({
    "Book Leverage": [
        f"{model_book.params[v]:.4f} ({model_book.std_errors[v]:.4f})"
        for v in regressors
    ] + [f"{model_book.rsquared_within:.4f}", str(int(model_book.nobs))],
    "Market Leverage": [
        f"{model_mkt.params[v]:.4f} ({model_mkt.std_errors[v]:.4f})"
        for v in regressors
    ] + [f"{model_mkt.rsquared_within:.4f}", str(int(model_mkt.nobs))]
}, index=regressors + ["R² (within)", "N"])

cs_table
```

$$\Delta D_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_{\text{PO}} \cdot \text{DEF}_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.12}$$

where $\text{DEF}_{i,t} = \text{Div}_{i,t} + \text{Capex}_{i,t} + \Delta W_{i,t} - CF_{i,t}$ is the financing deficit and $\Delta D_{i,t}$ is net debt issuance. A strict pecking order implies $\hat{\alpha} = 0$ and $\hat{\beta}_{\text{PO}} = 1$. Frank and Goyal (2003) show that the coefficient is typically well below 1, especially for large firms and equity issuers.

```
# Construct financing deficit
po = cs.copy().sort_values(["ticker", "year"])
po["lag_debt"] = po.groupby("ticker")["total_debt"].shift(1)
po["net_debt_issuance"] = po["total_debt"] - po["lag_debt"]

# Financing deficit = Div + Capex + ΔWC - CF
po["delta_wc"] = po["working_capital"] - po.groupby(
    "ticker"
)["working_capital"].shift(1)

po["fin_deficit"] = (
    po["dividends"] + po["capex"]
    + po["delta_wc"].fillna(0) - po["operating_cf"]
)

# Scale by lagged assets
for col in ["net_debt_issuance", "fin_deficit"]:
    po[col] = po[col] / po["lag_assets"]
```

```
po_clean = po.dropna(
    subset=["net_debt_issuance", "fin_deficit"]
)

# Winsorize
for col in ["net_debt_issuance", "fin_deficit"]:
    po_clean[col] = winsorize(po_clean[col])

# Pecking order regression
po_panel = po_clean.set_index(["ticker", "year"])

model_po = PanelOLS(
    po_panel["net_debt_issuance"],
    po_panel[["fin_deficit"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

po_panel = po_panel.reset_index()

print(f"Pecking order coefficient: {model_po.params['fin_deficit']:.4f}")
print(f"  (se = {model_po.std_errors['fin_deficit']:.4f})")
print(f"  H0:   = 1, t = "
      f"{(model_po.params['fin_deficit'] - 1) / model_po.std_errors['fin_deficit']:.3f}")
```

100.3.3 Market Timing Measures

Baker and Wurgler (2002) argue that capital structure is largely the cumulative outcome of market timing (i.e., firms issue equity when valuations are high and repurchase when valuations are low). Their key variable is the external-finance-weighted average market-to-book ratio:

$$\left(\frac{M}{B}\right)_{i,t}^{efwa} = \sum_{s=\text{IPO}}^{t-1} \frac{e_s + d_s}{\sum_{r=\text{IPO}}^{t-1}(e_r + d_r)} \cdot \left(\frac{M}{B}\right)_{i,s} \tag{100.13}$$

where e_s and d_s are net equity and net debt issuance in year s. This variable captures the historical valuations at which the firm raised capital. The market timing hypothesis predicts that higher $(M/B)^{efwa}$ is associated with lower current leverage (i.e., firms that historically issued equity at high valuations have persistently lower leverage).

```python
# External-Finance-Weighted Average M/B
def compute_efwa_mtb(group):
    """Compute Baker-Wurgler EFWA M/B for one firm."""
    g = group.sort_values("year").copy()

    # Net issuance each year
    g["net_equity"] = g["equity_issuance"].fillna(0)
    g["net_debt"] = g["net_debt_issuance"].fillna(0)
    g["total_issuance"] = (
        g["net_equity"].abs() + g["net_debt"].abs()
    ).replace(0, np.nan)

    efwa_values = []
    for idx in range(1, len(g)):
        past = g.iloc[:idx]
        weights = past["total_issuance"] / past["total_issuance"].sum()
        weights = weights.fillna(0)
        efwa = (weights * past["mtb"]).sum()
        efwa_values.append(efwa)

    g = g.iloc[1:].copy()
    g["efwa_mtb"] = efwa_values
    return g[["ticker", "year", "efwa_mtb"]]

mt = po_clean.copy()
mt["equity_issuance"] = mt["market_cap"] - mt.groupby(
    "ticker"
)["market_cap"].shift(1) - mt["net_income"]

efwa_data = (
    mt.groupby("ticker", group_keys=False)
    .apply(compute_efwa_mtb)
    .reset_index(drop=True)
)

# Merge and regress
mt_merged = cs_clean.merge(efwa_data, on=["ticker", "year"], how="left")
mt_clean = mt_merged.dropna(
    subset=["market_leverage", "efwa_mtb", "profitability",
            "size", "tangibility", "mtb"]
)
```

Table 100.9: Market Timing and Capital Structure

```
mt_results = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": model_mt.params.round(4),
    "Std Error": model_mt.std_errors.round(4),
    "t-stat": model_mt.tstats.round(3),
    "p-value": model_mt.pvalues.round(4)
})
mt_results
```

```
mt_panel = mt_clean.set_index(["ticker", "year"])

model_mt = PanelOLS(
    mt_panel["market_leverage"],
    mt_panel[["efwa_mtb", "mtb", "profitability", "size", "tangibility"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

mt_panel = mt_panel.reset_index()
```

A negative coefficient on $\text{EFWA}_{M/B}$ after controlling for the current M/B (which captures current investment opportunities) supports the market timing hypothesis: firms that historically raised capital at high valuations maintain persistently lower leverage.

100.4 Payout Policy Estimators

100.4.1 Dividend Smoothing

Lintner (1956) established the foundational model of dividend behavior: firms target a payout ratio and partially adjust dividends toward the target each year. The partial adjustment model is:

$$\Delta D_{i,t} = \alpha_i + \lambda(\tau \cdot E_{i,t} - D_{i,t-1}) + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.14}$$

where $D_{i,t}$ is the dividend per share, $E_{i,t}$ is earnings per share, τ is the target payout ratio, and $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ is the speed of adjustment. Low λ implies strong smoothing (i.e., firms adjust dividends slowly toward the target). Rearranging:

$$D_{i,t} = \alpha_i + (1-\lambda)D_{i,t-1} + \lambda\tau \cdot E_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.15}$$

The coefficient on lagged dividends, $(1-\lambda)$, measures the degree of smoothing. Values close to 1 indicate near-complete smoothing; values close to 0 indicate no smoothing (full adjustment).

```
# Construct dividend and earnings variables
div = panel_fc.copy().sort_values(["ticker", "year"])

div["lag_dps"] = div.groupby("ticker")["dividends_per_share"].shift(1)
div["delta_dps"] = div["dividends_per_share"] - div["lag_dps"]

# Only firms with positive dividends in both periods
div_clean = div.dropna(
    subset=["dividends_per_share", "lag_dps", "eps"]
).query("lag_dps > 0 and dividends_per_share > 0")

# Lintner regression
div_panel = div_clean.set_index(["ticker", "year"])

model_lintner = PanelOLS(
    div_panel["dividends_per_share"],
    div_panel[["lag_dps", "eps"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)

div_panel = div_panel.reset_index()

# Extract structural parameters
lambda_hat = 1 - model_lintner.params["lag_dps"]
tau_hat = model_lintner.params["eps"] / lambda_hat

print(f"Lintner Model Estimates:")
print(f"  Speed of adjustment ( ): {lambda_hat:.4f}")
print(f"  Target payout ratio ( ): {tau_hat:.4f}")
print(f"  Smoothing coefficient (1- ): {model_lintner.params['lag_dps']:.4f}")
```

```
payout = panel_fc.copy()
payout["payout_ratio"] = payout["dividends"] / payout["net_income"]
payout = payout[
    (payout["net_income"] > 0) &
    (payout["payout_ratio"].between(0, 2))
]

payout_ts = (
    payout.groupby("year")
    .agg(
        median_payout=("payout_ratio", "median"),
        mean_payout=("payout_ratio", "mean"),
        q25=("payout_ratio", lambda x: x.quantile(0.25)),
        q75=("payout_ratio", lambda x: x.quantile(0.75)),
        pct_payers=("payout_ratio", lambda x: (x > 0).mean())
    )
    .reset_index()
)

(
    p9.ggplot(payout_ts, p9.aes(x="year"))
    + p9.geom_ribbon(
        p9.aes(ymin="q25", ymax="q75"),
        fill="#2E5090", alpha=0.2
    )
    + p9.geom_line(
        p9.aes(y="median_payout"),
        color="#2E5090", size=1
    )
    + p9.geom_line(
        p9.aes(y="mean_payout"),
        color="#C0392B", linetype="dashed", size=0.7
    )
    + p9.labs(
        x="Year",
        y="Dividend Payout Ratio",
        title="Payout Ratio: Median (Solid) and Mean (Dashed)"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 5))
)
```

Figure 100.2

Table 100.10: Lintner Partial Adjustment Model

```
lintner_table = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": model_lintner.params.round(4),
    "Std Error": model_lintner.std_errors.round(4),
    "t-stat": model_lintner.tstats.round(3),
    "p-value": model_lintner.pvalues.round(4)
})
lintner_table
```

100.4.2 Smoothing Heterogeneity: SOEs vs. Private Firms

Dividend policy in Vietnam is shaped by regulatory mandates. The State Capital Investment Corporation (SCIC) and line ministries have historically required SOEs to distribute minimum dividend amounts, sometimes at the expense of reinvestment. This creates a fundamental asymmetry: SOE dividends are partially policy-determined rather than the outcome of the Lintner optimization.

```
# Merge SOE indicator
div_with_soe = div_clean.merge(
    ownership[["ticker", "year", "state_ownership_pct"]],
    on=["ticker", "year"],
    how="left"
)
div_with_soe["soe"] = (div_with_soe["state_ownership_pct"] > 50).astype(int)

# Estimate Lintner model separately for SOEs and private firms
lintner_results = {}
for label, soe_val in [("Private", 0), ("SOE", 1)]:
    subset = div_with_soe[div_with_soe["soe"] == soe_val].copy()
    if len(subset) < 100:
        continue

    subset_panel = subset.set_index(["ticker", "year"])
    model = PanelOLS(
        subset_panel["dividends_per_share"],
        subset_panel[["lag_dps", "eps"]],
        entity_effects=True,
        time_effects=True,
        check_rank=False
    ).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)
```

```
    lam = 1 - model.params["lag_dps"]
    tau = model.params["eps"] / lam if abs(lam) > 0.01 else np.nan

    lintner_results[label] = {
        "Smoothing (1- )": round(model.params["lag_dps"], 4),
        "Speed of adj ( )": round(lam, 4),
        "Target payout ( )": round(tau, 4),
        "N": int(model.nobs)
    }

pd.DataFrame(lintner_results).T
```

100.4.3 Share Repurchases

Share repurchases are a relatively new phenomenon in Vietnamese markets, gradually gaining traction as regulations have evolved. Unlike dividends, repurchases are more flexible and do not create expectations of future payments. The decision to repurchase can be modeled as:

$$\text{Repurchase}_{i,t} = \mathbb{1}\left(\beta_0 + \beta_1 \frac{CF_{i,t}}{A_{i,t}} + \beta_2 Q_{i,t} + \beta_3 \text{Lev}_{i,t} + \beta_4 \frac{\text{Cash}_{i,t}}{A_{i,t}} + \gamma' \mathbf{Z}_{i,t} + \varepsilon_{i,t} > 0\right) \tag{100.16}$$

```
# Identify repurchase years
repurchase = panel_fc.copy()
repurchase["repurchase_dummy"] = (
    repurchase["share_repurchases"] > 0
).astype(int)

repurchase["cash_assets"] = repurchase["cash"] / repurchase["total_assets"]

# Probit model for repurchase decision
rep_clean = repurchase.dropna(
    subset=["repurchase_dummy", "cf_assets", "tobins_q",
            "book_leverage", "cash_assets", "log_assets"]
)

probit_model = smf.probit(
    "repurchase_dummy ~ cf_assets + tobins_q + book_leverage "
    "+ cash_assets + log_assets + C(year)",
```

Table 100.11: Probit Model: Determinants of Share Repurchase Decision

```
# Extract non-year-dummy coefficients
main_vars = ["cf_assets", "tobins_q", "book_leverage",
             "cash_assets", "log_assets"]

probit_results = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": probit_model.params[main_vars].round(4),
    "Std Error": probit_model.bse[main_vars].round(4),
    "z-stat": probit_model.tvalues[main_vars].round(3),
    "p-value": probit_model.pvalues[main_vars].round(4),
    "Marginal Effect": (
        probit_model.get_margeff().margeff[:len(main_vars)]
    ).round(4)
})
probit_results
```

```
    data=rep_clean
).fit(disp=False, cov_type="cluster", cov_kwds={"groups": rep_clean["ticker"]})
```

100.4.4 Agency and Signaling Interpretations

Payout policy is interpreted through two competing lenses:

Agency view (M. C. Jensen 1986; La Porta et al. 2000b): Dividends are a mechanism for disgorging free cash flow that managers would otherwise waste on empire-building or perquisite consumption. In this view, firms with weaker governance should face greater pressure to pay dividends as a bonding device. La Porta et al. (2000b) distinguish the "outcome" model (dividends are the result of effective minority shareholder pressure) from the "substitute" model (firms with weak governance pay high dividends to build reputation for fair treatment).

Signaling view (S. Bhattacharya 1979; M. H. Miller and Rock 1985): Dividends convey private information about future earnings. Because dividends are costly to fake (they require actual cash), they serve as a credible signal. The signaling interpretation predicts that dividend changes should predict future earnings changes.

```
# Test dividend signaling: do dividend changes predict future earnings?
signal = panel_fc.copy().sort_values(["ticker", "year"])

signal["delta_div"] = signal.groupby("ticker")["dividends"].diff()
```

```
signal["div_increase"] = (signal["delta_div"] > 0).astype(int)
signal["div_decrease"] = (signal["delta_div"] < 0).astype(int)

# Future earnings change
signal["lead_earnings"] = signal.groupby("ticker")["net_income"].shift(-1)
signal["delta_earnings_lead"] = (
    (signal["lead_earnings"] - signal["net_income"]) /
    signal["total_assets"]
)

# Current earnings change (control)
signal["lag_earnings"] = signal.groupby("ticker")["net_income"].shift(1)
signal["delta_earnings_curr"] = (
    (signal["net_income"] - signal["lag_earnings"]) /
    signal["total_assets"]
)

signal_clean = signal.dropna(
    subset=["delta_earnings_lead", "div_increase",
            "div_decrease", "delta_earnings_curr"]
)

# Regression: future earnings change on dividend change indicators
signal_model = smf.ols(
    "delta_earnings_lead ~ div_increase + div_decrease "
    "+ delta_earnings_curr + C(year) + C(industry)",
    data=signal_clean
).fit(cov_type="cluster", cov_kwds={"groups": signal_clean["ticker"]})

print("Dividend Signaling Test:")
for var in ["div_increase", "div_decrease", "delta_earnings_curr"]:
    print(f"  {var}: {signal_model.params[var]:.4f} "
          f"(t = {signal_model.tvalues[var]:.3f})")
```

100.5 Agency Cost Proxies

100.5.1 Ownership Concentration and Agency Problems

The agency framework of M. C. Jensen and Meckling (2019) identifies the separation of ownership and control as the fundamental source of corporate agency costs. In concentrated-

ownership economies like Vietnam, the dominant agency conflict is not between dispersed shareholders and professional managers (Berle-Means agency problem) but between controlling and minority shareholders (principal-principal agency problem, Young et al. (2008)).

The key mechanisms through which controlling shareholders extract private benefits include: tunneling via related-party transactions (S. Johnson et al. 2000), diversion of corporate opportunities, excessive compensation, and dilutive equity issuances. The extent of these costs depends on the ownership structure, legal protections for minorities, and monitoring intensity.

```
# Merge ownership data comprehensively
agency = panel_fc.merge(
    ownership[["ticker", "year", "state_ownership_pct",
               "foreign_ownership_pct", "insider_ownership_pct",
               "largest_shareholder_pct", "top5_shareholder_pct",
               "board_size", "independent_directors_pct",
               "ceo_duality"]],
    on=["ticker", "year"],
    how="left"
)

# Ownership concentration measures
# Herfindahl of top-5 shareholdings
agency["ownership_hhi"] = agency["top5_shareholder_pct"]**2

# Excess control rights (proxy: difference between
# largest shareholder and second largest)
agency["control_wedge"] = (
    agency["largest_shareholder_pct"] -
    (agency["top5_shareholder_pct"] - agency["largest_shareholder_pct"]) / 4
)
```

100.5.2 Free Cash Flow Measures

M. C. Jensen (1986) argues that the agency cost of free cash flow is the central problem in firms that generate cash in excess of positive-NPV investment opportunities. The standard measure is:

$$\text{FCF}_{i,t} = \frac{\text{Operating CF}_{i,t} - \text{Depreciation}_{i,t} - \text{Required Capex}_{i,t}}{\text{Total Assets}_{i,t}} \tag{100.17}$$

In practice, "required capex" is unobservable, so researchers use operating cash flow minus capital expenditures as a proxy, or add the interaction of cash flow with low Q (which identifies firms with cash flow but without investment opportunities):

$$\text{FCF Overinvestment} = \frac{CF_{i,t}}{A_{i,t}} \times \mathbb{1}(Q_{i,t} < 1) \tag{100.18}$$

```
# Free cash flow measures
agency["fcf"] = (agency["operating_cf"] - agency["capex"]) / agency["total_assets"]

agency["low_q"] = (agency["tobins_q"] < 1).astype(int)
agency["fcf_low_q"] = agency["fcf"] * agency["low_q"]

# Asset utilization (inverse proxy for agency costs)
agency["asset_turnover"] = agency["revenue"] / agency["total_assets"]

# SGA ratio (proxy for discretionary spending / empire building)
agency["sga_ratio"] = agency["sga_expenses"] / agency["revenue"]
```

100.5.3 Monitoring Mechanisms and Governance Variables

We construct a governance quality composite based on observable monitoring mechanisms:

```
# Governance quality indicators
agency["foreign_monitor"] = (
    agency["foreign_ownership_pct"] > 20
).astype(int)

agency["board_independence"] = agency["independent_directors_pct"]

agency["no_duality"] = (1 - agency["ceo_duality"]).astype(int)

# Related-party transaction intensity (if available)
# agency["rpt_ratio"] = agency["related_party_transactions"] / agency["revenue"]
```

100.5.4 Agency Costs and Firm Value

We test whether agency cost proxies are associated with firm value (Tobin's Q) and operating performance (ROA), controlling for standard determinants:

Table 100.12: Summary Statistics: Agency Cost Proxies and Governance Variables

```
agency_vars = [
    "largest_shareholder_pct", "state_ownership_pct",
    "foreign_ownership_pct", "fcf", "fcf_low_q",
    "asset_turnover", "board_independence"
]

agency_summary = (
    agency[agency_vars].dropna()
    .describe(percentiles=[0.1, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9])
    .T.round(4)
)
agency_summary
```

$$Q_{i,t} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Own}_{i,t} + \beta_2 \text{Own}_{i,t}^2 + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{i,t} + \alpha_i + \delta_t + \varepsilon_{i,t} \tag{100.19}$$

The quadratic in ownership captures the Morck, Shleifer, and Vishny (1988) nonlinearity: at low levels, managerial ownership aligns incentives (positive effect on Q); at high levels, entrenchment dominates (negative effect).

```
# Agency cost and valuation regression
agency["largest_sq"] = agency["largest_shareholder_pct"]**2

val_data = agency.dropna(
    subset=["tobins_q", "largest_shareholder_pct", "foreign_ownership_pct",
            "fcf", "size", "profitability", "leverage"]
).copy()

val_panel = val_data.set_index(["ticker", "year"])

model_val = PanelOLS(
    val_panel["tobins_q"],
    val_panel[["largest_shareholder_pct", "largest_sq",
               "foreign_ownership_pct", "fcf",
               "size", "profitability", "leverage"]],
    entity_effects=True,
    time_effects=True,
    check_rank=False
).fit(cov_type="clustered", cluster_entity=True)
```

Table 100.13: Agency Proxies and Firm Value (Tobin's Q)

```
val_results = pd.DataFrame({
    "Coefficient": model_val.params.round(4),
    "Std Error": model_val.std_errors.round(4),
    "t-stat": model_val.tstats.round(3),
    "p-value": model_val.pvalues.round(4)
})
val_results
```

```
val_panel = val_panel.reset_index()
```

The inverted-U pattern, if present, would be consistent with the Morck-Shleifer-Vishny incentive-alignment/entrenchment tradeoff. In Vietnamese markets, the pattern may differ because the dominant controlling shareholder is often the state, whose objective function includes non-value-maximizing goals (employment, regional development, strategic sector control).

100.6 Linking Corporate Decisions to Returns

100.6.1 Investment-Based Anomalies

The asset pricing literature has documented that corporate investment decisions predict cross-sectional return differences (i.e., the "investment anomalies"). The theoretical foundation is the q-theory of investment applied to asset pricing (Cochrane 1991; Liu, Whited, and Zhang 2009): firms invest more when the discount rate on their projects is lower. High investment therefore signals low expected returns.

The investment effect. Titman, Wei, and Xie (2004) and Cooper, Gulen, and Schill (2008) document that firms with high asset growth earn lower subsequent returns. The asset growth variable is:

$$\mathrm{AG}_{i,t} = \frac{A_{i,t} - A_{i,t-1}}{A_{i,t-1}} \tag{100.20}$$

The investment-to-assets effect. Eugene F. Fama and French (2006) and Hou, Xue, and Zhang (2015) show that capital expenditure scaled by assets negatively predicts returns.

The profitability effect. Novy-Marx (2013) shows that gross profitability (revenue minus COGS, scaled by assets) positively predicts returns. This is consistent with q-theory: controlling

```python
# Binned scatter: largest shareholder vs Q
own_bins = val_data.copy()
own_bins["own_bin"] = pd.qcut(
    own_bins["largest_shareholder_pct"], q=20, duplicates="drop"
)

own_binned = (
    own_bins.groupby("own_bin", observed=True)
    .agg(
        mean_own=("largest_shareholder_pct", "mean"),
        mean_q=("tobins_q", "mean"),
        se_q=("tobins_q", lambda x: x.std() / np.sqrt(len(x)))
    )
    .reset_index()
)

(
    p9.ggplot(own_binned, p9.aes(x="mean_own", y="mean_q"))
    + p9.geom_pointrange(
        p9.aes(ymin="mean_q - 1.96*se_q",
               ymax="mean_q + 1.96*se_q"),
        color="#2E5090", size=0.5
    )
    + p9.geom_smooth(method="loess", color="#C0392B", se=False, size=0.8)
    + p9.labs(
        x="Largest Shareholder Ownership (%)",
        y="Tobin's Q",
        title="Ownership Concentration and Firm Value"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(10, 6))
)
```

Figure 100.3

for investment, more profitable firms must have higher discount rates (otherwise they would invest more).

```
# Construct anomaly variables
anomaly = panel_fc.copy().sort_values(["ticker", "year"])

# Asset growth
anomaly["asset_growth"] = (
    (anomaly["total_assets"] - anomaly["lag_assets"]) /
    anomaly["lag_assets"]
)

# Investment-to-assets
anomaly["inv_to_assets"] = anomaly["capex"] / anomaly["lag_assets"]

# Gross profitability
anomaly["gross_profit"] = (
    (anomaly["revenue"] - anomaly["cogs"]) / anomaly["total_assets"]
)

# ROE
anomaly["roe"] = anomaly["net_income"] / anomaly["book_equity"]

# Winsorize
for col in ["asset_growth", "inv_to_assets", "gross_profit", "roe"]:
    anomaly[col] = winsorize(anomaly[col])
```

```
# Portfolio sorts: quintiles on asset growth
# Merge with monthly returns (using June rebalancing)
anomaly_june = anomaly.copy()
anomaly_june["formation_year"] = anomaly_june["year"]

# Create quintile assignments
anomaly_june["ag_quintile"] = anomaly_june.groupby("year")[
    "asset_growth"
].transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=[1, 2, 3, 4, 5],
                                duplicates="drop"))

# Merge with forward returns
monthly_with_signal = monthly_returns.copy()
monthly_with_signal["formation_year"] = np.where(
    monthly_with_signal["date"].dt.month >= 7,
```

```
    monthly_with_signal["date"].dt.year,
    monthly_with_signal["date"].dt.year - 1
)

portfolios = monthly_with_signal.merge(
    anomaly_june[["ticker", "formation_year", "ag_quintile",
                  "asset_growth", "gross_profit"]],
    on=["ticker", "formation_year"],
    how="inner"
)

# Compute equal-weighted quintile returns
ag_returns = (
    portfolios.groupby(["date", "ag_quintile"])
    .agg(port_ret=("ret", "mean"))
    .reset_index()
)

# Long-short: Q1 (low growth) - Q5 (high growth)
ag_wide = ag_returns.pivot(
    index="date", columns="ag_quintile", values="port_ret"
)
ag_wide["L-S"] = ag_wide[1] - ag_wide[5]
```

100.6.2 Financing Anomalies

Firms' financing decisions also predict returns. Pontiff and Woodgate (2008) document that net stock issuance negatively predicts returns: firms that issue equity earn lower future returns, while firms that repurchase shares earn higher returns. This is consistent with both managerial market timing and an issuance-based risk factor.

The net stock issuance variable is typically measured as:

$$\text{NSI}_{i,t} = \ln\left(\frac{\text{Split-Adjusted Shares}_{i,t}}{\text{Split-Adjusted Shares}_{i,t-1}}\right) \tag{100.21}$$

Positive NSI indicates net equity issuance; negative NSI indicates net repurchases.

Table 100.14: Asset Growth Quintile Portfolio Returns

```
quintile_summary = ag_wide.describe().T[["mean", "std"]].copy()
quintile_summary["mean_ann"] = quintile_summary["mean"] * 12
quintile_summary["std_ann"] = quintile_summary["std"] * np.sqrt(12)
quintile_summary["sharpe"] = (
    quintile_summary["mean_ann"] / quintile_summary["std_ann"]
)

# t-statistics
for col in ag_wide.columns:
    t_stat = ag_wide[col].mean() / (ag_wide[col].std() / np.sqrt(len(ag_wide)))
    quintile_summary.loc[col, "t_stat"] = t_stat

quintile_summary = quintile_summary[
    ["mean_ann", "std_ann", "sharpe", "t_stat"]
].round(4)

quintile_summary.columns = [
    "Ann. Return", "Ann. Vol", "Sharpe Ratio", "t-stat"
]
quintile_summary
```

```
cumret = ag_wide[["L-S"]].copy()
cumret.columns = ["Long-Short"]
cumret = cumret.dropna()
cumret["cumulative"] = (1 + cumret["Long-Short"]).cumprod()
cumret = cumret.reset_index()

(
    p9.ggplot(cumret, p9.aes(x="date", y="cumulative"))
    + p9.geom_line(color="#2E5090", size=0.8)
    + p9.geom_hline(yintercept=1, linetype="dashed", color="gray")
    + p9.labs(
        x="",
        y="Cumulative Return (Growth of $1)",
        title="Investment Anomaly: Low - High Asset Growth"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(12, 5))
)
```

Figure 100.4

```
# Net Stock Issuance
fin_anomaly = anomaly.copy()
fin_anomaly["lag_shares"] = fin_anomaly.groupby(
    "ticker"
)["shares_outstanding"].shift(1)

fin_anomaly["nsi"] = np.log(
    fin_anomaly["shares_outstanding"] / fin_anomaly["lag_shares"]
)
fin_anomaly["nsi"] = winsorize(fin_anomaly["nsi"])

# Net debt issuance (change in total debt / assets)
fin_anomaly["ndi"] = (
    (fin_anomaly["total_debt"] -
     fin_anomaly.groupby("ticker")["total_debt"].shift(1)) /
    fin_anomaly["lag_assets"]
)
fin_anomaly["ndi"] = winsorize(fin_anomaly["ndi"])

# Portfolio sorts on NSI
```

```
fin_anomaly["nsi_quintile"] = fin_anomaly.groupby("year")[
    "nsi"
].transform(lambda x: pd.qcut(x, 5, labels=[1, 2, 3, 4, 5],
                                duplicates="drop"))

port_nsi = monthly_with_signal.merge(
    fin_anomaly[["ticker", "formation_year", "nsi_quintile"]],
    on=["ticker", "formation_year"],
    how="inner"
)

nsi_returns = (
    port_nsi.groupby(["date", "nsi_quintile"])
    .agg(port_ret=("ret", "mean"))
    .reset_index()
)

nsi_wide = nsi_returns.pivot(
    index="date", columns="nsi_quintile", values="port_ret"
)
nsi_wide["L-S"] = nsi_wide[1] - nsi_wide[5]
```

100.6.3 Valuation Implications: Fama-French Factor Regressions

We evaluate whether the investment and financing anomalies represent compensation for systematic risk by regressing the long-short portfolios on standard factor models:

$$R_{p,t} - R_{f,t} = \alpha + \beta_{\text{MKT}}\text{MKT}_t + \beta_{\text{SMB}}\text{SMB}_t + \beta_{\text{HML}}\text{HML}_t + \varepsilon_t \tag{100.22}$$

Significant positive α after controlling for known risk factors would indicate that the anomaly is not explained by size and value exposures.

```
# Merge long-short returns with factor data
factor_data = factors.set_index("date")

# Asset growth anomaly alpha
ag_ls = ag_wide[["L-S"]].dropna().rename(columns={"L-S": "excess_ret"})
ag_merged = ag_ls.join(factor_data[["mkt_rf", "smb", "hml"]], how="inner")

model_ag_ff3 = sm.OLS(
```

Table 100.15: Net Stock Issuance Quintile Portfolio Returns

```
nsi_summary = nsi_wide.describe().T[["mean", "std"]].copy()
nsi_summary["mean_ann"] = nsi_summary["mean"] * 12
nsi_summary["sharpe"] = (
    nsi_summary["mean_ann"] /
    (nsi_summary["std"] * np.sqrt(12))
)

for col in nsi_wide.columns:
    t_stat = nsi_wide[col].mean() / (
        nsi_wide[col].std() / np.sqrt(len(nsi_wide))
    )
    nsi_summary.loc[col, "t_stat"] = t_stat

nsi_summary = nsi_summary[["mean_ann", "sharpe", "t_stat"]].round(4)
nsi_summary.columns = ["Ann. Return", "Sharpe", "t-stat"]
nsi_summary
```

```
    ag_merged["excess_ret"],
    sm.add_constant(ag_merged[["mkt_rf", "smb", "hml"]])
).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})

# NSI anomaly alpha
nsi_ls = nsi_wide[["L-S"]].dropna().rename(columns={"L-S": "excess_ret"})
nsi_merged = nsi_ls.join(factor_data[["mkt_rf", "smb", "hml"]], how="inner")

model_nsi_ff3 = sm.OLS(
    nsi_merged["excess_ret"],
    sm.add_constant(nsi_merged[["mkt_rf", "smb", "hml"]])
).fit(cov_type="HAC", cov_kwds={"maxlags": 6})
```

100.7 Summary

This chapter implemented the core econometric toolkit of empirical corporate finance for Vietnamese listed firms. The estimators span four interconnected domains: investment decisions (investment-Q regressions and their measurement-error-corrected variants), financing decisions (capital structure determinants, pecking order tests, and market timing measures), payout

Table 100.16: Fama-French Three-Factor Alphas for Corporate Decision Anomalies

```
alpha_table = pd.DataFrame({
    "Asset Growth L-S": {
        "Alpha (monthly)": f"{model_ag_ff3.params['const']:.4f}",
        "  t-stat": f"{model_ag_ff3.tvalues['const']:.3f}",
        "MKT": f"{model_ag_ff3.params['mkt_rf']:.4f}",
        "SMB": f"{model_ag_ff3.params['smb']:.4f}",
        "HML": f"{model_ag_ff3.params['hml']:.4f}",
        "R²": f"{model_ag_ff3.rsquared:.4f}"
    },
    "Net Issuance L-S": {
        "Alpha (monthly)": f"{model_nsi_ff3.params['const']:.4f}",
        "  t-stat": f"{model_nsi_ff3.tvalues['const']:.3f}",
        "MKT": f"{model_nsi_ff3.params['mkt_rf']:.4f}",
        "SMB": f"{model_nsi_ff3.params['smb']:.4f}",
        "HML": f"{model_nsi_ff3.params['hml']:.4f}",
        "R²": f"{model_nsi_ff3.rsquared:.4f}"
    }
})
alpha_table
```

```python
# Combine asset growth and NSI long-short for comparison
combined = pd.DataFrame({
    "Asset Growth": ag_wide["L-S"],
    "Net Issuance": nsi_wide["L-S"]
}).dropna()

combined_cum = (1 + combined).cumprod().reset_index()
combined_long = combined_cum.melt(
    id_vars="date",
    var_name="Anomaly",
    value_name="Cumulative Return"
)

(
    p9.ggplot(combined_long, p9.aes(
        x="date", y="Cumulative Return", color="Anomaly"
    ))
    + p9.geom_line(size=0.8)
    + p9.geom_hline(yintercept=1, linetype="dashed", color="gray")
    + p9.scale_color_manual(values=["#2E5090", "#C0392B"])
    + p9.labs(
        x="",
        y="Cumulative Return (Growth of $1)",
        title="Investment vs. Financing Anomalies: Long-Short Portfolios"
    )
    + p9.theme_minimal()
    + p9.theme(figure_size=(12, 5), legend_position="top")
)
```

Figure 100.5

policy (Lintner smoothing, repurchase models, and dividend signaling tests), and agency costs (ownership-value relationships, free cash flow measures, and governance variables).

Several findings deserve emphasis. The investment-Q relationship in Vietnam is attenuated relative to developed-market benchmarks, reflecting both the severity of measurement error in Q (thin trading, price limits, volatile inflation) and the prevalence of non-market-driven investment by SOEs. Cash flow remains a significant predictor of investment across constraint classifications, though the FHP-KZ debate about interpretation applies with full force. Capital structure is strongly predicted by profitability (negatively, consistent with the pecking order) and tangibility (positively, consistent with trade-off theory). Dividend smoothing is pronounced, but the smoothing parameter differs systematically between SOEs and private firms, reflecting the distinct institutional forces governing each group's payout policy.

The chapter also linked corporate decisions to asset returns through portfolio sorts on asset growth and net stock issuance. Whether these anomalies survive risk adjustment and persist out of sample in Vietnamese markets is an important open question for future research.

101 Conclusion

Empirical finance in emerging and frontier markets is often judged less by the elegance of an estimator than by the credibility of its inputs and the transparency of its decisions. Vietnam makes this point vividly: trading venues and regulatory regimes have evolved quickly, firm coverage can be uneven across time, corporate actions need careful treatment, and accounting conventions require close attention to timing and comparability. Those features do not prevent high-quality research; they simply shift the center of gravity toward *reproducible data engineering*, *auditable transformations*, and *clear identification of assumptions*.

101.1 What you should take away

101.1.1 Reproducibility is an identification strategy

In textbook settings, identification focuses on variation and exogeneity. In real-world market data, identification also depends on whether your dataset is *the same dataset* when you rerun the work next month or next year. The practical discipline of versioned inputs, deterministic transformations, and documented filters reduces the scope for accidental p-hacking and silent sample drift (e.g., survivorship bias from symbol changes or late-arriving delistings). Reproducible workflows are not administrative overhead; they are a commitment device that makes results more trustworthy and easier to challenge constructively (Peng 2011; Sandve et al. 2013).

101.1.2 Vietnam rewards "microstructure humility"

The chapters on returns, beta estimation, and factor construction emphasized that naïve carryover of developed-market defaults can be costly. Thin trading, price limits, lot-size rules, and regime changes mean that decisions like (i) return interval, (ii) stale-price handling, (iii) corporate-action adjustment, and (iv) portfolio formation frequency can materially change inference. This is not a Vietnam-only phenomenon, but it is more visible there, and therefore a useful laboratory for best practices in emerging markets.

101.2 A reproducibility checklist you can actually use

The list below is designed to be operational: each item can be verified in a repository review.

Table 101.1: Reproducibility deliverables for research

Deliverable	What "done" looks like	Where it lives
Deterministic transforms	Same raw inputs yield identical normalized outputs	`R/transform_*.R` (or `python/transform_*.py`)
Test suite	Coverage, identity, and corporate-action tests run in CI	`tests/` + CI config
Data dictionary	Tables/fields documented with units, timing, and keys	`docs/dictionary.qmd`
Research log	All key design choices recorded (filters, winsorization, periods)	`notes/research_log.md`
Artifact registry	Every figure/table has a script and a checksum	`artifacts/manifest.json`

102 Closing perspective

Vietnam is not "hard mode" finance; it is *real mode* finance. The market's growth, institutional evolution, and data idiosyncrasies force the habits that modern empirical finance increasingly requires everywhere: transparent datasets, careful treatment of identities and corporate actions, and codebases that can be rerun and audited.

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