MAT 515 Financial Modeling Paper by Oguzcan Adabuk

Part 1

Baum-Welch 2 State Poisson HMM

```
%%% Baum Welch Poisson HMM v3.m
%%% Baum-Welch algorithm for Hidden Markov Model
%%% Estimate parameters for 2-state Poisson-HMM
%%% by using matrices and the Baum-Welch algorithm
%%% Created on: May 2, 2020
%%% Minor revision on: May 4, 2020
clear all;
%%% Get data for number of major earthquakes in the world
%%% counts of major earthquakes in the world from 1990 to 2006,
%%% a major earthquake is magnitude 7 or above,
%%% source of data is from US Geological Survey
응응응
row1 = [13 14 8 10 16 26 32 27 18 32 36 24 22 23 22 18 25 21 21 14];
row2 = [8 11 14 23 18 17 19 20 22 19 13 26 13 14 22 24 21 22 26 21];
row3 = [23 24 27 41 31 27 35 26 28 36 39 21 17 22 17 19 15 34 10 15];
row4 = [22 18 15 20 15 22 19 16 30 27 29 23 20 16 21 21 25 16 18 15];
row5 = [18 14 10 15 8 15 6 11 8 7 18 16 13 12 13 20 15 16 12 18];
row6 = [15 \ 16 \ 13 \ 15 \ 16 \ 11 \ 11];
gedata = [row1 row2 row3 row4 row5 row6];
% observed values of X(1), X(2), X(3), X(4), etc.
xvect = gedata;
% initialize parameters for 2-state Poisson-HMM
init lambda 1 = 10;
init lambda 2 = 30;
init dvect = [0.5 0.5]; %% initial distribution for Markov Chain
init Gmat = [0.9 0.1; 0.1 0.9]; %% transition probability matrix
% matrix to store alpha1 vect, alpha2 vect, etc.
% row 1 contains alpha1 vect
% row 2 contains alpha2 vect
alpha mat = zeros(107, 2);
% matrix to store betal vect, beta2 vect, etc.
beta mat = zeros(107, 2);
% tensor to store matrices Px1 mat, Px2 mat, etc.
Ptensor = zeros(2,2,108);
vhat = zeros(2, 2, 107);
uhat = zeros(2, 107);
% use initial parameters
lambda_1 = init_lambda_1;
lambda 2 = init lambda 2;
dvect = init dvect;
Gmat = init Gmat;
iter arr = int16.empty;
```

```
lambda 1 arr = double.empty;
lambda 2 arr = double.empty;
for iter = 1:31
   % make Px1 mat, Px2 mat, Px3 mat, etc.
   % Px1 mat is a 2 by 2 diagonal matrix for P(x1)
   % Px2 mat is a 2 by 2 diagonal matrix for P(x2)
   for t=1:107
      m = xvect(t);
      p11 = (lambda 1)^(m) *exp(-lambda 1)/factorial(m);
      p22 = (lambda 2)^(m) *exp(-lambda 2)/factorial(m);
      Pxt mat = diag( [p11, p22] );
      Ptensor(:,:,t) = Pxt mat;
   end
   % alpha1 vect = dvect*Px1 mat;
   % alpha2 vect = alpha1 vect*Gmat*Px2 mat;
   alpha mat(1,:) = dvect*Ptensor(:,:,1);
   for j = 2:107
      alpha mat(j,:) = alpha mat(j-1,:)*Gmat*Ptensor(:,:,j);
   % If there are only 7 observations, then these are the backward probabilities:
   % beta7 vect = ones(1,2);
   % beta6 vect = (Gmat*Px7 mat*ones(2,1))';
   % beta5 vect = ( Gmat*Px6 mat*beta6 vect' )';
   % beta4 vect = ( Gmat*Px5 mat*beta5 vect' )';
   %str = '';
   beta mat(107,:) = ones(1,2);
   for t=107:-1:2
      % students should write code here to make backward probabilities
      beta mat(t-1,:) = Gmat*Ptensor(:,:,t)*beta <math>mat(t,:)';
   end
   likelihood = alpha mat(2,:) *beta mat(2,:)';
   if (abs( likelihood - alpha mat(3,:)*beta mat(3,:)') > 0.01)
      disp('Warning: likelihood is wrong.');
   % E step
   % update values of vhat
   for j=1:2
      for k=1:2
         for t = 2:107
             expr1 = alpha mat(t-1,j)*Gmat(j,k)*Ptensor(k,k,t)*beta mat(t,k);
```

```
vhat(j,k,t) = expr1/likelihood;
               % remember to include p k(x t)
           end
       end
   end
   % update values of uhat
   for j=1:2
       for t=1:107
           uhat(j,t) = alpha mat(t,j)*beta mat(t,j)/likelihood;
   end
   % M step
   % maximize CDLL with respect to the three parmaters:
   % (1) dvect,
   % (2) entries in Gmat(j,k)
   % (3) lambda j for Poisson-Hmm
   % update dvect
   dvect(1) = uhat(1,1);
   dvect(2) = 1 - dvect(1); % sum of all delta j = 1
   % update Gmat(j,k)
   freq = zeros(2,2);
   for j=1:2
       for k=1:2
           freq(j,k) = sum(vhat(j,k,:));
       end
   end
   for j=1:2
       for k=1:2
           Gmat(j,k) = freq(j,k)/sum(freq(:,k));
       end
   end
   % update lambda j for Poisson-HMM
   total = 0;
   for t = 1:107
       total = total + uhat(1,t)*xvect(t);
   end
   lambda 1 = total/sum(uhat(1,:));
   total = 0;
   for t = 1:107
       total = total + uhat(2,t)*xvect(t);
   lambda 2 = total/sum(uhat(2,:));
   disp(['iter = ', num2str(iter)]);
   disp(['lambda_1 = ', num2str(lambda_1)]);
   disp(['lambda 2 = ', num2str(lambda 2)]);
   if(iter <= 5 || mod(iter,10) == 0)</pre>
      iter arr(length(iter arr) + 1)=iter;
      lambda 1 arr(length(lambda 1 arr) + 1) = lambda 1;
      lambda 2 arr(length(lambda 2 arr) + 1) = lambda 2;
   end
result = '';
s={ ' | ' };
disp(' i | lambda 1 | lambda 2 ');
```

end

```
for i=1: 8
    result = strcat(num2str(iter_arr(i)), s, num2str(lambda_1_arr(i)),s,
num2str(lambda_2_arr(i)));
    disp(result);
    result = '';
end

disp('output parameters of Poisson-HMM');
disp(['lambda_1 = ', num2str(lambda_1)]);
disp(['lambda_2 = ', num2str(lambda_2)]);
Gmat
```

Output:

```
i | lambda_1 | lambda_2
'1|13.7419|24.1691'

'2|14.0904|24.0611'

'3|14.2592|24.1545'

'4|14.4038|24.2875'

'5|14.5453|24.4502'

'10|15.1093|25.3575'

'20|15.3948|25.9618'

'30|15.4189|26.0141'

output parameters of Poisson-HMM lambda_1 = 15.4194 lambda_2 = 26.015

Gmat =

0.9284  0.1190
0.0716  0.8810
```

Part 2

Baum-Welch 3 State Poisson HMM

```
%%% Baum-Welch algorithm for Hidden Markov Model
%%% Estimate parameters for 2-state Poisson-HMM
%%% by using matrices and the Baum-Welch algorithm
%%% Created on: May 2, 2020
%%% Minor revision on: May 4, 2020
clear all;
%%% Get data for number of major earthquakes in the world
%%% counts of major earthquakes in the world from 1990 to 2006,
%%% a major earthquake is magnitude 7 or above,
%%% source of data is from US Geological Survey
row1 = [13 14 8 10 16 26 32 27 18 32 36 24 22 23 22 18 25 21 21 14];
row2 = [8 11 14 23 18 17 19 20 22 19 13 26 13 14 22 24 21 22 26 21];
row3 = [23 24 27 41 31 27 35 26 28 36 39 21 17 22 17 19 15 34 10 15];
row4 = [22 18 15 20 15 22 19 16 30 27 29 23 20 16 21 21 25 16 18 15];
row5 = [18 14 10 15 8 15 6 11 8 7 18 16 13 12 13 20 15 16 12 18];
row6 = [15 16 13 15 16 11 11];
gedata = [row1 row2 row3 row4 row5 row6];
% observed values of X(1), X(2), X(3), X(4), etc.
xvect = gedata;
% initialize parameters for 3-state Poisson-HMM
init lambda 1 = 10;
init lambda 2 = 20;
init lambda 3 = 30;
init dvect = [0.3333 0.3333, 0.3334]; %% initial distribution for Markov Chain
init Gmat = [0.8 0.1 0.1; 0.1 0.8 0.1; 0.1 0.1 0.8]; %% transition probability matrix
% matrix to store alphal vect, alpha2 vect, etc.
% row 1 contains alpha1 vect
% row 2 contains alpha2 vect
alpha mat = zeros(107, 3);
% matrix to store betal vect, beta2 vect, etc.
beta mat = zeros(107, 3);
% tensor to store matrices Px1 mat, Px2 mat, etc.
Ptensor = zeros(3,3,108);
vhat = zeros(3, 3, 107);
uhat = zeros(3, 107);
% use initial parameters
lambda 1 = init lambda 1;
lambda 2 = init lambda 2;
lambda 3 = init lambda 3;
dvect = init dvect;
Gmat = init Gmat;
iter arr = int16.empty;
lambda 1 arr = double.empty;
lambda 2 arr = double.empty;
lambda 3 arr = double.empty;
for iter = 1:31
   % make Px1 mat, Px2 mat, Px3 mat, etc.
```

```
% Px1 mat is a 2 by 2 diagonal matrix for P(x1)
   % Px2 mat is a 2 by 2 diagonal matrix for P(x2)
   for t=1:107
      m = xvect(t);
      p11 = (lambda 1)^(m) *exp(-lambda 1)/factorial(m);
      p22 = (lambda 2)^(m) *exp(-lambda 2)/factorial(m);
      p33 = (lambda 3)^(m) *exp(-lambda 3)/factorial(m);
      %disp(strcat('p11: ', num2str(p11), ' p22: ', num2str(p22), ' p33: ',
num2str(p33)));
      Pxt mat = diag([p11, p22, p33]);
      Ptensor(:,:,t) = Pxt mat;
   end
   % alpha1 vect = dvect*Px1 mat;
   % alpha2 vect = alpha1 vect*Gmat*Px2 mat;
   alpha mat(1,:) = dvect*Ptensor(:,:,1);
   for j = 2:107
      alpha mat(j,:) = alpha mat(j-1,:)*Gmat*Ptensor(:,:,j);
   % If there are only 7 observations, then these are the backward probabilities:
   % beta7 vect = ones(1,2);
   % beta6 vect = (Gmat*Px7 mat*ones(2,1))';
   % beta5 vect = ( Gmat*Px6 mat*beta6 vect' )';
   % beta4 vect = ( Gmat*Px5 mat*beta5 vect' )';
   %str = '';
   beta mat(107,:) = ones(1,3);
   for t=107:-1:2
      % students should write code here to make backward probabilities
      beta mat(t-1,:) = Gmat*Ptensor(:,:,t)*beta <math>mat(t,:)';
   end
   likelihood = alpha mat(3,:) *beta mat(3,:)';
   if (abs( likelihood - alpha mat(4,:)*beta mat(4,:)' ) > 0.01)
      disp('Warning: likelihood is wrong.');
   응
   % E step
   % update values of vhat
   for j=1:3
      for k=1:3
          for t = 2:107
             expr1 = alpha mat(t-1,j)*Gmat(j,k)*Ptensor(k,k,t)*beta mat(t,k);
             vhat(j,k,t) = expr1/likelihood;
             % remember to include p k(x t)
          end
      end
```

```
end
% update values of uhat
for j=1:3
   for t=1:107
       uhat(j,t) = alpha mat(t,j)*beta mat(t,j)/likelihood;
end
% M step
응
% maximize CDLL with respect to the three parmaters:
% (1) dvect,
% (2) entries in Gmat(j,k)
% (3) lambda j for Poisson-Hmm
% update dvect
dvect(1) = uhat(1,1);
dvect(2) = uhat(2,1); % sum of all delta j = 1
dvect(3) = uhat(3,1);
% update Gmat(j,k)
freq = zeros(3,3);
for j=1:3
   for k=1:3
       freq(j,k) = sum(vhat(j,k,:));
   end
end
for j=1:3
   for k=1:3
       Gmat(j,k) = freq(j,k)/sum(freq(:,k));
end
% update lambda j for Poisson-HMM
total = 0;
for t = 1:107
   total = total + uhat(1,t)*xvect(t);
lambda 1 = total/sum(uhat(1,:));
total = 0;
for t = 1:107
   total = total + uhat(2,t)*xvect(t);
lambda 2 = total/sum(uhat(2,:));
total = 0;
for t = 1:107
   total = total + uhat(3,t)*xvect(t);
lambda 3 = total/sum(uhat(3,:));
disp(['iter = ', num2str(iter)]);
disp(['lambda_1 = ', num2str(lambda_1)]);
disp(['lambda 2 = ', num2str(lambda 2)]);
disp(['lambda 3 = ', num2str(lambda 3)]);
if(iter <= 5 || mod(iter,10) == 0)</pre>
   iter_arr(length(iter_arr) + 1)=iter;
   lambda 1 arr(length(lambda 1 arr) + 1) = lambda 1;
   lambda 2 arr(length(lambda 2 arr) + 1)=lambda 2;
   lambda 3 arr(length(lambda 3 arr) + 1) = lambda 3;
end
```

```
end
```

```
result = '';
s={'|'};
disp('i | lambda_1 | lambda_2 | lambda_3');

for i=1: length(iter_arr)
    result = strcat(num2str(iter_arr(i)), s, num2str(lambda_1_arr(i)),s,
num2str(lambda_2_arr(i)), s, num2str(lambda_3_arr(i)));
    disp(result);
    result = '';
end

disp('output parameters of Poisson-HMM');
disp(['lambda_1 = ', num2str(lambda_1)]);
disp(['lambda_2 = ', num2str(lambda_2)]);
Gmat
```

Output:

```
i | lambda_1 | lambda_2 | lambda_3
  '1|11.6987|19.0304|29.7408'
  '2|12.2657|19.0901|29.5818'
  '3|12.707|19.3329|29.495'
  '4|12.9661|19.5475|29.5264'
  '5|13.0693|19.6523|29.6082'
 '10|13.1316|19.7158|29.724'
 '20|13.1339|19.7138|29.7099'
 '30|13.1339|19.7137|29.7095'
output parameters of Poisson-HMM
lambda 1 = 13.1339
lambda_2 = 19.7137
Gmat =
 0.9395 0.0214 0.0503
 0.0605 0.9064 0.1399
 0.0000 0.0722 0.8098
```

Part 3

(a) Baum-Welch 3 State Normal HMM

Initially my code was producing NaN values. I figured this happened because of an undeflow in *beta_mat*. *Beta_mat* was getting filled with 0s after 400 something iterations. As a result this caused the *likelihood* to be 0 in line 108. Since *uhat* and *vhat* are calculated with *likelihood* as the denominator, a chain production of NaN values took over the program like Agent Smith took over the Matrix. I know the clean way to handle this to apply log function but in limited time I had left, I took the easy way of dealing with this problem and I dropped the first 25 rows of data(25 out of 450, I can live with that).

```
clear all;
fileID = fopen('ftse100.txt');
ftse100 = fscanf(fileID, '%f');
xvect = ftse100;
xvect = xvect(25:end); %Drop the first 25 rows because Underflow!
n = length(xvect);
disp(mean(xvect));
disp(std(xvect));
% initialize parameters for 3-state Normal-HMM
init mu 1 = -0.2;
init mu 2 = 0.025;
init mu 3 = 0.2;
init sigma 1 = 1.363257;
init_sigma 2 = 1.363257;
init_sigma 3 = 1.363257;
init dvect = [0.3333 0.3333, 0.3334]; %% initial distribution for Markov Chain
init Gmat = [0.8 0.1 0.1; 0.1 0.8 0.1; 0.1 0.1 0.8]; %% transition probability matrix
% matrix to store alpha1 vect, alpha2 vect, etc.
% row 1 contains alpha1 vect
% row 2 contains alpha2 vect
alpha mat = zeros(n, 3);
% matrix to store betal vect, beta2 vect, etc.
beta mat = zeros(n, 3);
% tensor to store matrices Px1 mat, Px2 mat, etc.
Ptensor = zeros(3,3,n+1);
vhat = zeros(3, 3, n);
uhat = zeros(3, n);
% use initial parameters
mu 1 = init mu 1;
mu 2 = init mu 2;
mu 3 = init mu 3;
sigma 1 = init sigma 1;
sigma 2 = init sigma 2;
sigma 3 = init sigma 3;
dvect = init dvect;
Gmat = init Gmat;
```

```
iter arr = int16.empty;
mu 1 arr = double.empty;
mu 2 arr = double.empty;
mu 3 arr = double.empty;
sigma 1 arr = double.empty;
sigma 2 arr = double.empty;
sigma 3 arr = double.empty;
for iter = 1:16
   % make Px1 mat, Px2 mat, Px3 mat, etc.
   % Px1 mat is a 2 by 2 diagonal matrix for P(x1)
   % Px2 mat is a 2 by 2 diagonal matrix for P(x2)
   for t=1:n
      m = xvect(t);
      p11 = normal_pdf(m,mu_1, sigma_1);
      p22 = normal pdf(m, mu 2, sigma 2);
      p33 = normal_pdf(m,mu_3,sigma_3);
      %disp(strcat('p11: ', num2str(p11), ' p22: ', num2str(p22), ' p33: ',
num2str(p33)));
      Pxt mat = diag([p11, p22, p33]);
      Ptensor(:,:,t) = Pxt mat;
   % alpha1 vect = dvect*Px1 mat;
   % alpha2 vect = alpha1 vect*Gmat*Px2 mat;
   alpha mat(1,:) = dvect*Ptensor(:,:,1);
   for j = 2:n
      alpha mat(j,:) = alpha mat(j-1,:)*Gmat*Ptensor(:,:,j);
   % If there are only 7 observations, then these are the backward probabilities:
   % beta7 vect = ones(1,2);
   % beta6 vect = ( Gmat*Px7 mat*ones(2,1) )';
   % beta5_vect = ( Gmat*Px6 mat*beta6 vect' )';
   % beta4 vect = ( Gmat*Px5 mat*beta5 vect' )';
   %str = '';
   beta mat(n,:) = ones(1,3);
   for t=n:-1:2
      % students should write code here to make backward probabilities
      beta mat(t-1,:) = Gmat * Ptensor(:,:,t) * beta <math>mat(t,:)';
   end
   likelihood = alpha mat(3,:) *beta mat(3,:)';
```

```
if (abs( likelihood - alpha mat(4,:)*beta mat(4,:)' ) > 0.01)
          disp('Warning: likelihood is wrong.');
응
% E step
% update values of vhat
for j=1:3
          for k=1:3
                     for t = 2:n
                               expr1 = alpha mat(t-1,j)*Gmat(j,k)*Ptensor(k,k,t)*beta mat(t,k);
                               vhat(j,k,t) = expr1/likelihood; %likelihood -> LT
                                % remember to include p k(x t)
                     end
          end
end
% update values of uhat
for j=1:3
          for t=1:n
                     uhat(j,t) = alpha mat(t,j)*beta mat(t,j)/likelihood;
end
% M step
% maximize CDLL with respect to the three parmaters:
% (1) dvect,
% (2) entries in Gmat(j,k)
% (3) lambda j for Poisson-Hmm
\(\frac{1}{2}\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}2\) \(\frac{1}
% update dvect
dvect(1) = uhat(1,1);
dvect(2) = uhat(2,1); % sum of all delta j = 1
dvect(3) = uhat(3,1);
% update Gmat(j,k)
freq = zeros(3,3);
for j=1:3
          for k=1:3
                     freq(j,k) = sum(vhat(j,k,:));
          end
end
for j=1:3
          for k=1:3
                     Gmat(j,k) = freq(j,k)/sum(freq(:,k));
          end
end
% update mu j for Normal-HMM
tot xt = 0;
for t = 1:n
          tot xt = tot xt + uhat(1,t)*xvect(t);
end
mu 1 = tot xt/sum(uhat(1,:));
tot xt = 0;
for t = 1:n
          tot xt = tot xt + uhat(2,t)*xvect(t);
mu 2 = tot xt/sum(uhat(2,:));
```

```
tot xt = 0;
    for t = 1:n
        tot xt = tot xt + uhat(3,t)*xvect(t);
    mu 3 = tot xt/sum(uhat(3,:));
    % update sigma j for Normal-HMM
    tot = 0;
    for t = 1:n
        tot = tot + uhat(1,t)*(xvect(t)-mu 1)^2;
    sigma 1 = sqrt(tot/sum(uhat(1,:)));
    tot = 0;
    for t = 1:n
        tot = tot + uhat(2,t) * (xvect(t)-mu 2)^2;
    sigma 2 = sqrt(tot/sum(uhat(2,:)));
    tot = 0;
    for t = 1:n
        tot = tot + uhat(3,t) * (xvect(t)-mu 3)^2;
    sigma 3 = sqrt(tot/sum(uhat(3,:)));
    disp(['iter = ', num2str(iter)]);
    disp(['mu 1 = ', num2str(mu_1)]);
    disp(['mu 2 = ', num2str(mu_2)]);
    disp(['mu 3 = ', num2str(mu 3)]);
    if(iter < 5 \mid | mod(iter, 5) == 0)
       iter arr(length(iter arr) + 1)=iter;
       mu 1 arr(length(mu 1 arr) + 1) = mu 1;
       mu 2 arr(length(mu 2 arr) + 1) = mu 2;
       mu \ 3 \ arr(length(mu \ 3 \ arr) + 1) = mu \ 3;
       sigma_1_arr(length(sigma_1_arr) + 1) = sigma 1;
       sigma 2 arr(length(sigma 2 arr) + 1) = sigma 2;
       sigma 3 arr(length(sigma 3 arr) + 1) = sigma 3;
    end
end
result = '';
s={ ' | ' };
disp('i | mu 1 | mu 2 | mu 3 | sigma 1 | sigma 2 | sigma 3');
for i=1: length(iter arr)
    result = strcat(num2str(iter arr(i)), s, num2str(mu 1 arr(i)),s,
num2str(mu_2_arr(i)), s, num2str(mu_3_arr(i)), s, num2str(sigma_1_arr(i)), s,
num2str(sigma 2 arr(i)), s, num2str(sigma 3 arr(i)));
    disp(result);
    result = '';
end
disp('output parameters of Poisson-HMM');
disp(['mu_1 = ', num2str(mu_1)]);
disp(['mu_2 = ', num2str(mu_2)]);
disp(['mu']3 = ', num2str(mu']3));
disp(['sigma 1 = ', num2str(sigma 1)]);
disp(['sigma 2 = ', num2str(sigma_2)]);
disp(['sigma 3 = ', num2str(sigma_3)]);
Gmat
```

normal pdf.m

```
function np = normal_pdf(x, mu, sigma)

f = @(m,s,x) 1/sqrt(2*pi*s^2) * exp(-(x-m).^2 / (2*s^2));

np = feval(f, mu, sigma, x);
```

Output:

```
i | mu_1 | mu_2 | mu_3 | sigma_1 | sigma_2 | sigma_3
  '1|-0.23828|0.083807|0.19654|1.8218|1.1296|1.0464'
  '2|-0.60399|0.088299|0.1868|2.7149|0.87916|0.8155'
  '3|-1.0957|0.051016|0.19529|3.4904|0.89608|0.80394'
  '4|-1.3925|-0.006185|0.21529|4.0608|0.93377|0.79598'
  '5|-1.5048|-0.059942|0.24925|4.2844|0.95764|0.77232'
  '10|-1.5254|-0.21905|0.33762|4.3769|0.9823|0.71585'
  '15|-1.5207|-0.26194|0.35078|4.3814|0.97719|0.71345'
output parameters of Poisson-HMM
mu 1 = -1.5198
mu 2 = -0.2673
mu_3 = 0.3525
sigma 1 = 4.3813
sigma_2 = 0.97649
sigma 3 = 0.71289
Gmat =
 0.9179 0.0094 0.0015
  0.0821 0.8533 0.0919
  0.0000 0.1373 0.9065
```

(b) Why normal distribution is not good for modeling stock price returns?

At first glance, the stock market returns seem like normally distributed but they are not.

Main reason is that the outliers that are caused by extreme events happen more often than the normal distribution accounts for. This causes return distribution curve to have "fat tails".

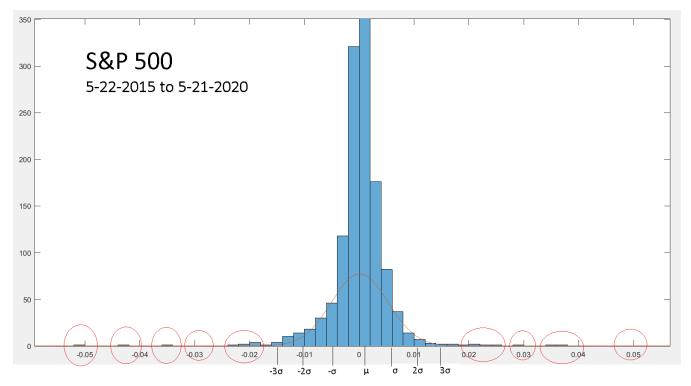
Plain normal distribution models trivialize the risk of extreme events.

In the graph below I used daily returns for the **S&P 500** index for the last 5 years.

The data is from 5-22-2015 to 5-21-2020. I overlayed normal distribution curve over the returns histogram.

Many outliers can be seen far away from the mean that are left out by the normal distribution curve.

It is also obvious that substantial amount of returns are way above the curve.

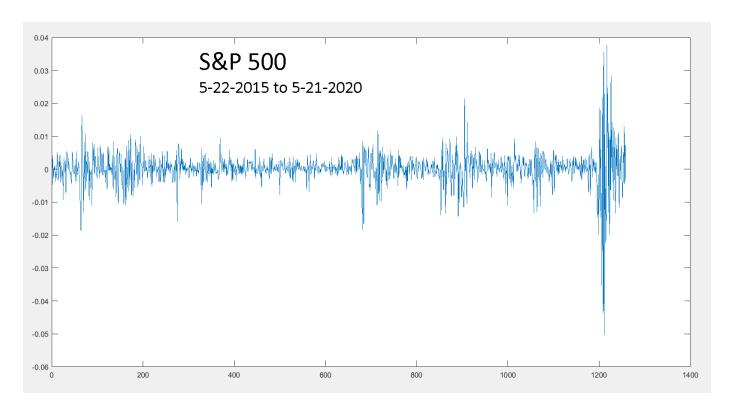


Second problem is that normal distribution cannot take trends into consideration.

In the second figure you can see different trends in separate time intervals.

It is not a good idea to discard these trends and cramp all data from very different times under one curve. In the graph below you can see the COVID19 crash that happened in March 2020 (Around 1200).

A model such as HMM that takes time series and trends into consideration is much superior compared to normal distribution for modeling stock returns. It mathematically doesn't make sense to give the same weight to data from a year ago as the data from a week ago.



S&P 500 Analysis Code

```
% Analyzing 5 year SPY 500 daily returns between 5-22/2015 and 5-21-2020
% Oguzcan Adabuk
clear all;
fileID = fopen('spy500.txt');
ftse100 = fscanf(fileID, '%f');
xvect = ftse100;
n = length(xvect);
histogram (xvect);
%plot(xvect);
hold on
mu = mean(xvect);
sigma = std(xvect);
disp(mu);
disp(sigma);
sds=[-3*sigma+mu, -2*sigma+mu, -1*sigma+mu, 0, sigma+mu, 2*sigma+mu, 3*sigma+mu];
disp('standard deviations');
disp(sds);
iter = -0.15 + mu;
x=double.empty;
x(1) = iter;
while iter < 0.15
   iter = iter + 0.00001;
   x(length(x) + 1) = iter;
end
y = \exp(-0.5 * ((x - mu) / sigma) .^2) / (sigma * sqrt(2 * pi));
plot(x, y);
```

S&P 500 index 5 year daily return data is attached.

(c)

Unfortunately I ran out of time for this section, I probably should have spent less time playing with S&P 500 data and completed this part. However, this paper was very interesting and a lot of fun, you can be sure that I will apply this model to all kinds of financial data with different configurations, thank you!