

# Cointegration Method of Statistical Pairs Trading Arbitrage

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This paper discusses the implementation of statistical arbitrage in stock pairs trading using cointegration, Autogressive Moving Average model, Generalized Autoregressive Conditionally Heteroscedastic model and Vector Autoregressive model.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Pairs trading was first introduced in the mid-1980s by a group of technical analyst researchers that were employed by Morgan Stanley, the multinational investment bank and financial services company. The pairs trade strategy uses statistical and technical analysis to seek out potential market-neutral profits.

For example, Pepsi (PEP) and Coca-Cola (KO) are different companies that create a similar product, soda pop. Historically, the two companies have shared similar dips and highs, depending on the soda pop market. If the price of Coca-Cola were to go up a significant amount while Pepsi stayed the same, a pairs trader would buy Pepsi stock and sell Coca-Cola stock, assuming that the two companies would later return to their historical balance point. If the price of Pepsi rose to close that gap in price, the trader would make money on the Pepsi stock, while if the price of Coca-Cola fell, they would make money on having shorted the Coca-Cola stock.

The mathematical idea behind pairs trading is finding high correlated stocks which should track each other. When their spreads diverge, long the lower one and short the higher. Absolutely, if the spreads converge, you will earn the profit. As we know stock prices are usually non-stationary time series, using this pairs trading strategy we find the spreads are stationary. The reason behind is that these high correlated stocks usually have cointegration properties. And applying cointegration method can make a non-stationary series to a stationary series which avoids spurious regression problem. There are many ways to choose pairs, an easiest way is finding high correlated stocks, all stocks in this paper are selected by this method.

## **TWO STOCKS COINTEGRATION ANALYSIS**

For simplicity, we talk the simplest situation at the beginning, assume there are only two stocks. We denote them as  $y_{1,t}$  and  $y_{2,t}$ . They have cointegration relation if there exist a vector  $A$  such that,

$$y_{1,t} \sim I(d) \quad (1)$$

$$y_{2,t} \sim I(d) \quad (2)$$

$$Z_t = A'y_t \sim I(0) \quad (3)$$

Equation (1) & (2) tell us two stocks are difference stationary with the same of lag order, but their linear combination portfolio  $Z_t$  is a stationary time series. We will use spread to represent this kind of portfolio later. Take stock pairs Kroger (KR) and United Rentals (URI) as our example. By OLS regression and Augmented Dickey-Fuller (ADF) test,  $Z_t$  is stationary if  $A' = [1 \quad 0.08904]$ .

Then we will talk about cointegration for the Vector Autoregressive Representation. Suppose that  $y_t$  can be represented as a non-stationary  $p$ -th order vector autoregression,

$$\Phi(L)y_t = \alpha + \epsilon_t \quad (4)$$

By Granger Representation Theorem we can write down Error-Correction Representation of this system, where

$$\Delta y_t = \xi_1 y_{t-1} + \xi_2 y_{t-2} \dots + \xi_p y_{t-p+1} + \alpha + \xi_0 y_{t-1} + \epsilon_t \quad (5)$$

$$\xi_s = -[\Phi_{s+1} + \dots + \Phi_p], s = 1, 2, \dots, p-1 \quad (6)$$

$$\xi_0 = -\Phi(1) \quad (7)$$

With the data of KR & URI from 2015 to 2018, we solve the VAR (1) system below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t} \\ y_{2,t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3948 \\ 2.5918 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0.9895 & 0 \\ -0.06 & 0.9922 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{1,t} \\ \epsilon_{2,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

It is a special case where  $p = 1$ , we can derive its Error-Correction Representation as,

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t} \\ \Delta y_{2,t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.3948 \\ 2.5918 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0.0105 & 0 \\ 0.06 & 0.0078 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{1,t} \\ \epsilon_{2,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

another way to get this ECR form is running the VAR (1) between vector  $\Delta y_t$  &  $y_{t-1}$ , it should be the same with theoretical representation in (9) except computational error.

Using the same techniques in a different stock pair Paccar (PCAR) & Allstate (ALL), denote them as  $y_{3,t}$  &  $y_{4,t}$ .

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_{3,t} \\ y_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5069 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0.9812 & 0.0068 \\ 0 & 0.995 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{3,t-1} \\ y_{4,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{3,t} \\ \epsilon_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{3,t} \\ \Delta y_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0.5069 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0.0188 & -0.0068 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{3,t-1} \\ y_{4,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{3,t} \\ \epsilon_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

#### **FOUR STOCKS INTEGRATION ANALYSIS**

We have shown two different pairs stocks integration analysis,  $y_{1,t}$  &  $y_{2,t}$  has cointegration relation,  $y_{3,t}$  &  $y_{4,t}$  has cointegration relation. A natural question is whether  $y_{1,t}$  &  $y_{4,t}$  has a similar cointegration relation. An easy way to do that is run the regression between  $y_{1,t}$  &  $y_{4,t}$  like what we did in last part. Or equivalent, we can put

these 4 stocks in one vector, applying the same techniques to get the vector  $A'$ , VAR model and ECM. The only difference is the dimension becomes 4 instead of 2.

$$A'' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0.08904 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0.50848 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -0.40799 \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

Where  $A''$  is the matrix which makes their linear combination  $A''y_t$  stationary. By matrix transformation, we can easily know that:

$$A' = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0.2083 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2.3299 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -0.40799 \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

is the triangular form of matrix  $A''$ . We call  $A'$  a basis for the space of cointegrating vectors. Any linear combination based on this basis is stationary time series. We can easily check  $A'$  in last part is actually a combination of this basis. VAR (1) and VECM are:

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t} \\ y_{2,t} \\ y_{3,t} \\ y_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.4301 \\ 0 \\ 1.3103 \\ 1.8000 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0.9803 & 0.0025 & -0.0124 & -0.0063 \\ 0 & 0.9871 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.9768 & 0 \\ -0.0274 & 0.0035 & 0 & 0.9841 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \\ y_{4,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{1,t} \\ \epsilon_{2,t} \\ \epsilon_{3,t} \\ \epsilon_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

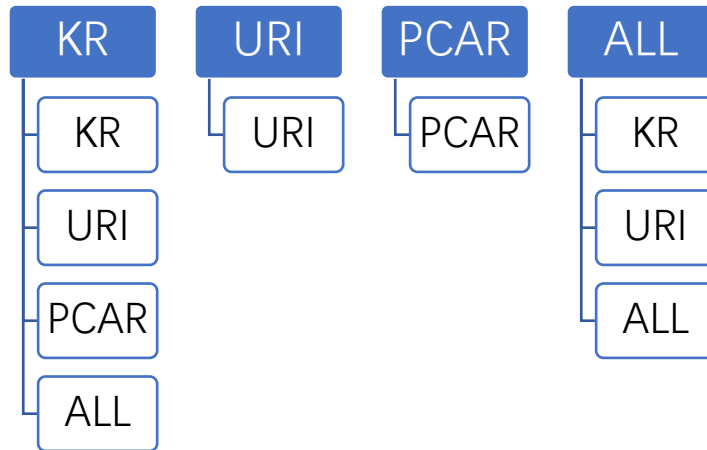
$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta y_{1,t} \\ \Delta y_{2,t} \\ \Delta y_{3,t} \\ \Delta y_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1.4301 \\ 0 \\ 1.3103 \\ 1.8000 \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} 0.0197 & -0.0025 & 0.0124 & 0.0063 \\ 0 & 0.0129 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0.0232 & 0 \\ 0.0274 & -0.0035 & 0 & 0.0159 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \\ y_{4,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{1,t} \\ \epsilon_{2,t} \\ \epsilon_{3,t} \\ \epsilon_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (15)$$

With triangular basis in (13), we can write its Phillips's Triangular Representation too.

$$\begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t} \\ y_{2,t} \\ y_{3,t} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -0.2083 \\ 2.3299 \\ 0.40799 \end{bmatrix} y_{4,t} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0.2083 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & -2.3299 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -0.40799 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} y_{1,t-1} \\ y_{2,t-1} \\ y_{3,t-1} \\ y_{4,t-1} \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \epsilon_{1,t} \\ \epsilon_{2,t} \\ \epsilon_{3,t} \\ \epsilon_{4,t} \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

### **GRANGER CASUALITY TEST**

As equation (14) we got, some of the coefficient are not significant different from 0, we can make a Granger casuality as below:



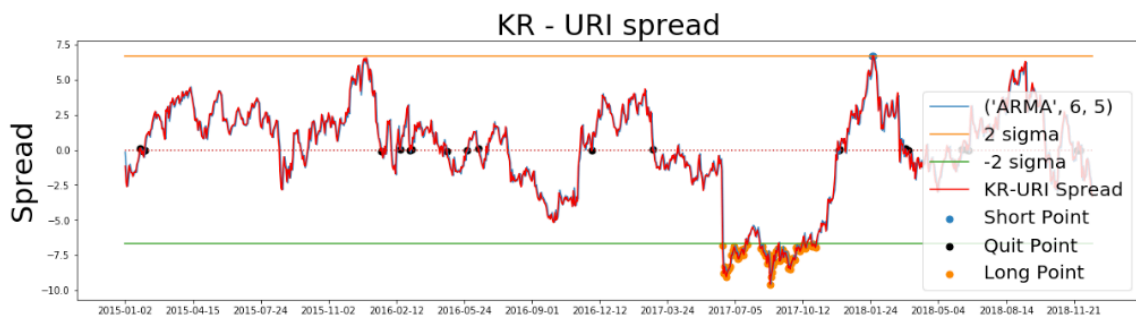
This Graph shows that the stock URI & PCAR are ‘independent’ with others, their stock prices are only determined by their past information. But stocks KR & ALL are different, their stock prices are not only determined by their past price information but also the past information of URI & PCAR, so we can say that URI & PCAR are some part reason which make KR & ALL changes.

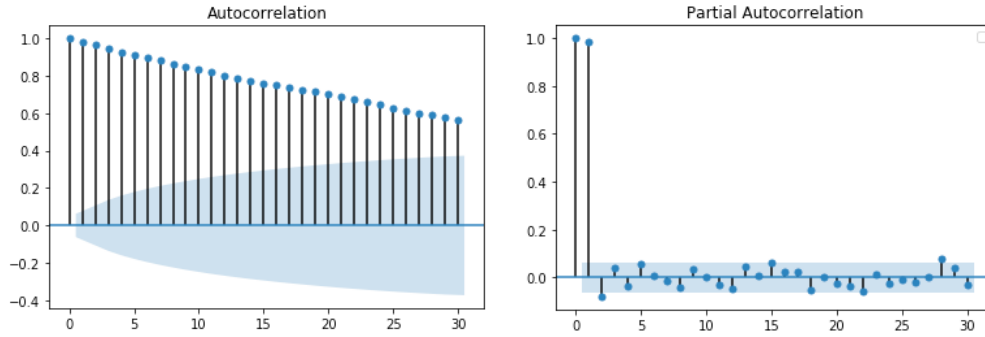
### AUTOREGRESSIVE MOVING AVERAGE MODEL

From the example of KR & URI cointegration analysis, we know if we set  $A' = [1 \ 0.08904]$ , then  $A'y_t$  becomes a stationary time series which means  $x_t \sim I(0)$  and

$$y_{1,t} + 0.08904y_{2,t} = 38.9733 + x_t \quad (17)$$

We also draw the graph of the past 3 years  $x_t$  in equation (17), its ACF & PACF:





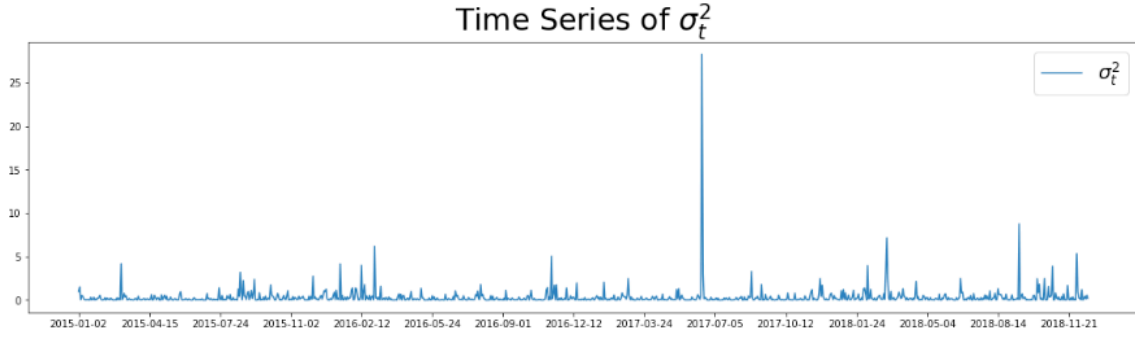
From the ACF, PACF and AIC criteria, we select ARMA (6, 5) as our regression model, and under 95% significance interval, our model of  $x_t$  is,

$$x_t = -1.1359x_{t-2} + 1.7162\sigma_{t-2} + 1.3047\sigma_{t-3} + 0.8378\sigma_{t-4} + 0.7788\sigma_{t-5} + \sigma_t \quad (18)$$

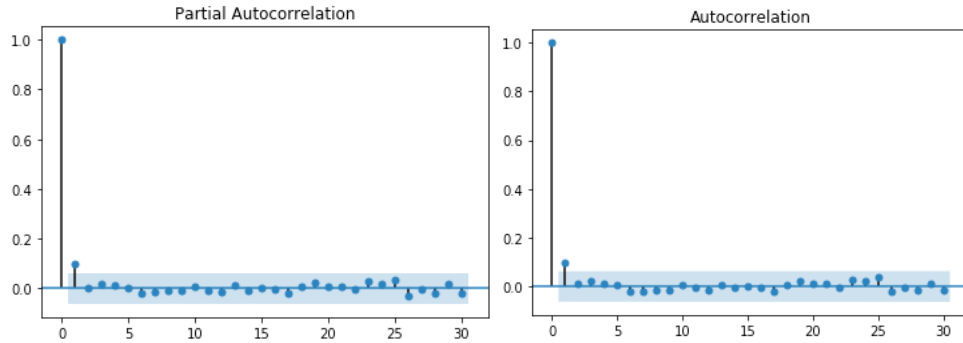
ARMA Model Results						
Dep. Variable:	y	No. Observations:	1000			
Model:	ARMA(6, 5)	Log Likelihood	-888.098			
Method:	csm-ml	S.D. of innovations	0.586			
Date:	Mon, 02 Nov 2020	AIC	1802.195			
Time:	13:44:46	BIC	1865.996			
Sample:	0	HQIC	1826.444			
	coef	std err	z	P> z	[0.025	0.975]
const	-0.1631	1.033	-0.158	0.874	-2.187	1.861
ar.L1.y	0.4249	0.375	1.134	0.257	-0.309	1.159
ar.L2.y	-1.1359	0.444	-2.557	0.011	-2.007	-0.265
ar.L3.y	0.5188	0.762	0.681	0.496	-0.975	2.013
ar.L4.y	0.2983	0.753	0.396	0.692	-1.177	1.773
ar.L5.y	0.1177	0.442	0.266	0.790	-0.749	0.985
ar.L6.y	0.6692	0.366	1.830	0.067	-0.047	1.386
ma.L1.y	0.6348	0.336	1.889	0.059	-0.024	1.294
ma.L2.y	1.7162	0.073	23.569	0.000	1.573	1.859
ma.L3.y	1.3047	0.624	2.090	0.037	0.081	2.528
ma.L4.y	0.8378	0.071	11.804	0.000	0.699	0.977
ma.L5.y	0.7788	0.335	2.326	0.020	0.122	1.435
Roots						
	Real	Imaginary	Modulus	Frequency		
AR.1	1.0186	-0.0000j	1.0186	-0.0000		
AR.2	0.2418	-0.9945j	1.0235	-0.2120		
AR.3	0.2418	+0.9945j	1.0235	0.2120		
AR.4	-0.1491	-0.9963j	1.0074	-0.2736		
AR.5	-0.1491	+0.9963j	1.0074	0.2736		
AR.6	-1.3799	-0.0000j	1.3799	-0.5000		
MA.1	-1.2516	-0.0000j	1.2516	-0.5000		
MA.2	0.2299	-0.9865j	1.0129	-0.2136		
MA.3	0.2299	+0.9865j	1.0129	0.2136		
MA.4	-0.1420	-0.9899j	1.0000	-0.2727		
MA.5	-0.1420	+0.9899j	1.0000	0.2727		

## **GENERALIZED AUTOREGRESSIVE CONDITIONALLY HETEROSCEDASTIC**

Next step is to check whether the  $\sigma_t$  is White Noise. According ACF, PACF of  $\sigma_t$  and Ljung-Box test, we conclude  $\sigma_t$  is a white noise series. But it's not enough, we should continue check whether there exists ARCH effect in  $\sigma_t$ . At first, we plot the graph of  $\sigma_t^2$ ,



And from the graph we can find there exists clustering problems, large  $\sigma_t^2$  usually appears in same horizons. We also check the ACF & PACF of  $\sigma_t^2$ :



We decided to use GARCH(1, 1) model to estimate  $\sigma_t$ , GARCH summary is below:

Constant Mean - GARCH Model Results					
=====					
Dep. Variable:	None	R-squared:	-0.000		
Mean Model:	Constant Mean	Adj. R-squared:	-0.000		
Vol Model:	GARCH	Log-Likelihood:	-871.230		
Distribution:	Normal	AIC:	1750.46		
Method:	Maximum Likelihood	BIC:	1770.09		
		No. Observations:	1000		
Date:	Mon, Nov 02 2020	Df Residuals:	996		
Time:	17:37:47	Df Model:	4		
Mean Model					
=====					
	coef	std err	t	P> t	95.0% Conf. Int.
-----					
mu	4.0157e-03	1.880e-02	0.214	0.831	[-3.284e-02,4.087e-02]
Volatility Model					
=====					
	coef	std err	t	P> t	95.0% Conf. Int.
-----					
omega	0.1335	5.040e-02	2.650	8.058e-03	[3.475e-02, 0.232]
alpha[1]	0.1753	0.110	1.598	0.110	[-3.967e-02, 0.390]
beta[1]	0.4568	0.163	2.798	5.143e-03	[ 0.137, 0.777]
=====					

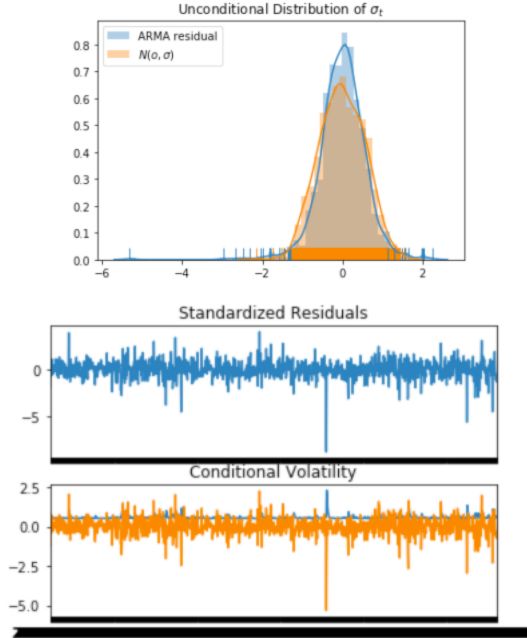
and with 90% confidence interval, our model is:

$$\sigma_t = \sqrt{h_t} v_t \quad (19)$$

$$v_t \sim N(0,1) \quad (20)$$

$$h_t = 0.1335 + 0.1753\sigma_{t-1}^2 + 0.4568h_{t-1}^2 \quad (21)$$

We also draw the PDF of  $\sigma_t$  and compare it with samples from normal distribution with zero mean and same unconditional variance. Our PDF of  $\sigma_t$  has a heavy tail and Kurtosis  $>3$ , these properties verify our GARCH model is reasonable to explain these phenomenons. In the second graph high conditional volatility  $h_t$  appears with large  $\sigma_t^2$  which is coordinate with the equation (21).



## **TRADING STRATEGY MODEL**

This part we will talk about our trading strategy of spreads. Like before, we use cointegration method to get the spread  $x_t$  and model  $x_t$  as an ARMA(6, 5)- GARCH(1, 1):

$$\begin{aligned}
 y_{1,t} + 0.08904y_{2,t} &= 38.9733 + x_t \\
 x_t &= -1.1359x_{t-2} + 1.7162\sigma_{t-2} + 1.3047\sigma_{t-3} + 0.8378\sigma_{t-4} + 0.7788\sigma_{t-5} + \sigma_t \\
 \sigma_t &= \sqrt{h_t}v_t \\
 h_t &= 0.1335 + 0.1753\sigma_{t-1}^2 + 0.4568h_{t-1}^2
 \end{aligned}$$

How can we use the properties of this ARMA-GARCH model to make our trading decisions? We use AR(1) model to state the mean-reverting nature. If a time series  $X_t \sim AR(1)$ :

$$X_t = \phi_0 + \phi_1 X_{t-1} + \eta_t \quad (22)$$



We can rewrite it as the following form:

$$X_t = X_{t-1} + \rho(\mu - X_{t-1}) + \eta_t \quad (23)$$

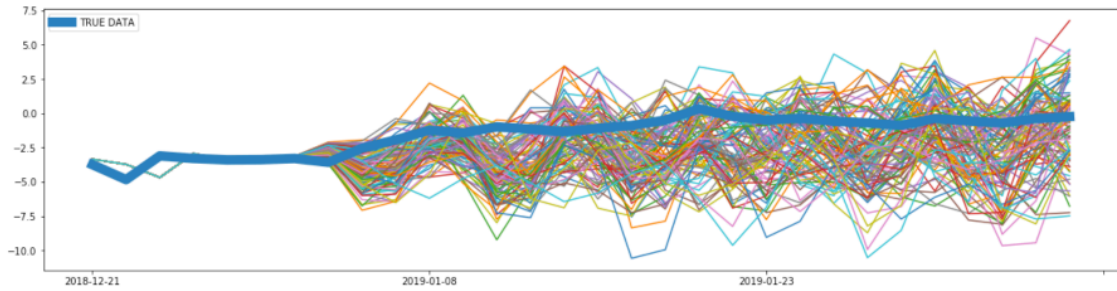
where  $\mu = \frac{\phi_0}{1-\phi_1}$  and  $\rho = (1 - \phi_1)$ . This makes clear the mean-reverting nature of this process, and our ARMA-GARCH model also has a similar mean-reverting nature. This nature is the motivation of arbitrage in pairs trading. We use two investment strategies to make decision, one is long-term strategy, another is short-term strategy.

- (1) Long-term strategy (Convergence Probability): Let  $S_t$  denote the spread. We use  $I_t$  represent the filtration generated by  $\{S_t\}$ . Then use Monte Carlo simulation to estimate  $P[\text{Convergence at terminal time}|I_t]$ . We enter a trade of the spread at time  $t$  if

$$P[\text{Convergence at terminal time}|I_t] > 0.5 \quad (24)$$

This simply means that we should trade only if the spread is likely to converge before the terminal time.

We use the first 30 trading day's data of 2019 as our forecast time window and run 1000 times Monte Carlo simulation to calculate its convergence probability at terminal time. Because our model is ARMA (6,5), we also need the last 6 prices data in 2018 as our initial price information  $I_t$ .



After calculation, our converge rate  $P[\text{Convergence at terminal time}|I_t] = 0.79 > 0.5$ . We decide to buy this spread because we think it has higher convergence probability than divergence probability. And the real situation is shown as the blue bold line, we can see that spread of KR & URI really converges at terminal time. This strategy works in the beginning of 2019.

- (2) Short-term strategy (Growth Threshold): As stated earlier, a trade made at time  $t$  and closed at time  $t+1$  will make profit if:

$$\begin{cases} S_t > S_{t+1}, & \text{when } S_t > 0 \\ S_t < S_{t+1}, & \text{when } S_t < 0 \end{cases} \quad (25)$$

Though it is impossible to know what will happen in time t+1, given the ARMA-GARCH model, we can compute the probability that it will converge at time t+1. If the probability is more than 0.8. We have high confidence that the spread will converge in next day. It is easy to see that given fitted model parameters,

$$S_t|I_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\phi_p + \sum_{i=1}^6 \phi_i S_{t-i} + \sum_{i=1}^5 \theta_i S_{t-i}, h_t) \quad (26)$$

We will make a trade at time t if:

$$\begin{cases} P[S_t > S_{t+1}|I_t] > 0.8, \text{when } S_t > 0 \\ P[S_t < S_{t+1}|I_t] > 0.8, \text{when } S_t < 0 \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

Following the method we can make a decision table:

Date	Original Data	Static Predict	error	ht	upper	lower	decision	real converge
2018-12-21	-3.75490406705822	-3.360618497162453	-0.394285569895767	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2018-12-24	-4.8459177074877005	-3.733582738767058	-1.1123349687206425	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2018-12-26	-3.1160102538992405	-4.689120659784024	1.5731104058847833	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2018-12-27	-3.303998083822634	-2.9501755061338604	-0.3538225776887738	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2018-12-28	-3.40455061543139	-3.4373969819058714	0.03284636647448158	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2018-12-31	-3.3898001557941058	-3.1929553268980033	-0.19684482889610244	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
2019-01-02	-3.3070463580383347	3.9510365659346833	0.0714544848215466	0.14029250453204772	4.3255929762817065	3.57648015558766	1	1
2019-01-03	-3.5830641636767595	4.260668106247324	-0.3458020230884822	0.1433857684011882	4.6393312393896835	3.8820049731049644	1	0
2019-01-04	-2.5591564630402814	1.7209426316149665	1.056973111702658	0.1638537753822105	2.1257311880023853	1.3161540752275478	1	1
2019-01-07	-1.9537668354999482	4.227195381990702	0.37085871671460735	0.341607979122738	4.811667775797918	3.6427229881834857	1	1
2019-01-08	-1.2437586234815825	5.8346457667789755	0.6974004556396336	0.21091683172255654	6.293902592229133	5.375388941328818	1	1
2019-01-09	-1.4413777698652908	4.058100080108544	-0.30207334437133815	0.23908136807986538	4.547059554993596	3.5691406052234926	1	0
2019-01-10	-1.0001318633378986	1.8420156864308548	0.5062459422767229	0.17560647051020983	2.26106994366995	1.4229614291917594	1	1
2019-01-11	-1.166660258064887	3.3018842974543703	-0.29851749443750053	0.19251338296793205	3.7406477678663133	2.8631208270424273	1	0
2019-01-14	-1.3549358149361197	5.5193614596326235	-0.09213740300523288	0.16605110406088203	5.926855145547979	5.111867773717268	1	0
2019-01-15	-1.0996398781872543	2.909973195770105	0.17387160220309106	0.14758350678321974	3.29413918435215	2.52580720718806	1	1
2019-01-16	-0.9024727433229884	0.4007233510759587	0.17963209027429716	0.1487490640849539	0.7864033532603523	0.015043348891565056	1	1
2019-01-17	-0.5138240632475259	3.0353534199958636	0.317447201039893	0.1492638122426289	3.421700171299183	2.6490066686925444	1	1
2019-01-18	0.3179881722315727	5.3728948646701715	0.8654918984868578	0.16134281917377394	5.774569881535515	4.971219847804828	1	1
2019-01-22	-0.24016676086684186	3.3365555545441086	-0.625024204766752	0.2767042540990777	3.862582411367102	2.8105286977211152	1	1
2019-01-23	-0.514799392093849	1.6746953098103183	-0.26820381716298597	0.2369568700394632	2.1614774685214435	1.1879131510991932	1	0
2019-01-24	-0.3746273368016233	2.6027870641528166	0.1096283929488373	0.1717585667185667	3.0172247153364014	2.188349412969232	1	1
2019-01-25	-0.5913514019816972	3.026547616098352	-0.08891740842464302	0.1490828820041451	3.4126601411530895	2.640435091043615	1	0
2019-01-28	-0.715093694889525	2.096655531694069	-0.17636011517645023	0.145038677246265	2.47749496994151	1.7158160934466278	1	0
2019-01-29	-0.8916198576808938	2.0685862612450343	-0.2631301609976895	0.14856168105534556	2.4540232613570443	1.6831492611330243	1	0
2019-01-30	-0.39346090065246386	2.913149654281529	0.5157278101173897	0.15571916831118118	3.3077623356682038	2.5185369728948546	1	1
2019-01-31	-0.5674276242612422	2.2041870307452047	-0.13365383107653844	0.19120214426928972	2.641453704834701	1.7669203566557086	1	0
2019-02-01	-0.7213726381840004	1.1400697994776732	-0.17094336854436887	0.15333125780796572	1.5316451534109432	0.7484944455444031	1	0
2019-02-04	-0.40169067069906106	5.757358698800033	0.23311727509425406	0.149362137466062	6.143832679122204	5.370884718477861	1	1
2019-02-05	-0.2508060544257731	4.5460312338695115	0.18831521641630933	0.1532172174659052	4.93746094335246	4.154601524386563	1	1

At the beginning of each day, we use past data to calculate an confidence interval of

today's spread, if yesterday spread is out of the interval, we will buy or sell this spread. In 'decision' column, we use 1 represents we open the position, 0 means we don't invest. In 'real converge' column, 1 means today's spread converges, 0 means it diverges. So if both columns are equal to 1, we will make profit from this trade. As the table shown, at the beginning of 2019, we make 20 pairs trade, 14 of them are profitable, our correct rate is 70% which is similar with our converge probability in last part. So this strategy also works in a short-term period investment.

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