

On Persistence in Mutual Fund Performance

Mark M. Carhart
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Reviewer: Sungguk Cha

Most words are from the paper.

I will try my best to pretend
as if I am the author.



Any critique
comment
correction
question
are welcome.

Abstract

This paper demonstrates

common factors in stock returns and investment expenses

almost completely **explain**

persistence in equity mutual funds' mean and risk-adjusted **returns**.

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Introduction

1. Data
2. Models of Performance Measurement
3. Persistence in One-Year Return-Sorted Mutual Fund Portfolios
4. Interpreting the Performance on Past-Winner Mutual Funds
5. Longer-Term Persistence in Mutual Fund Portfolios
6. Conclusion

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Introduction



Lets say there is a persistently best performing fund.

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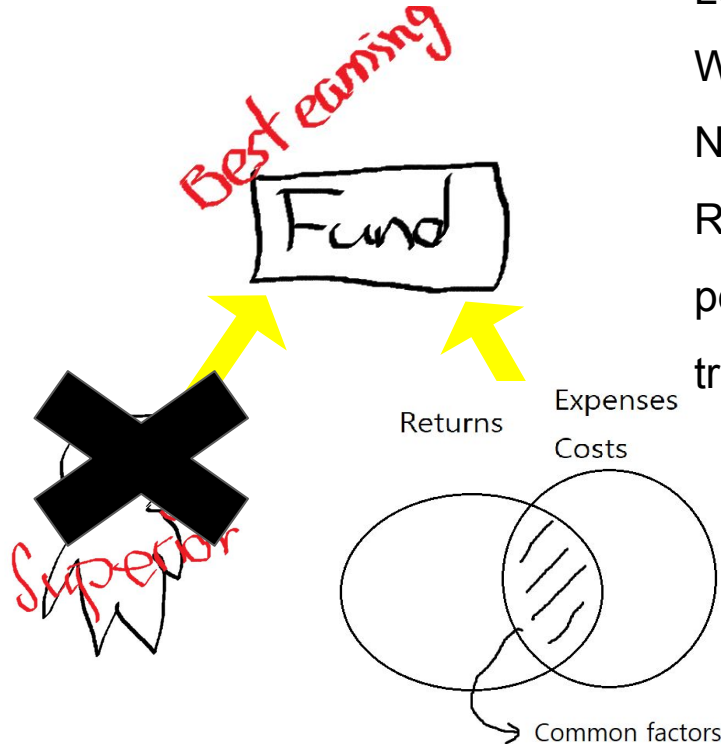
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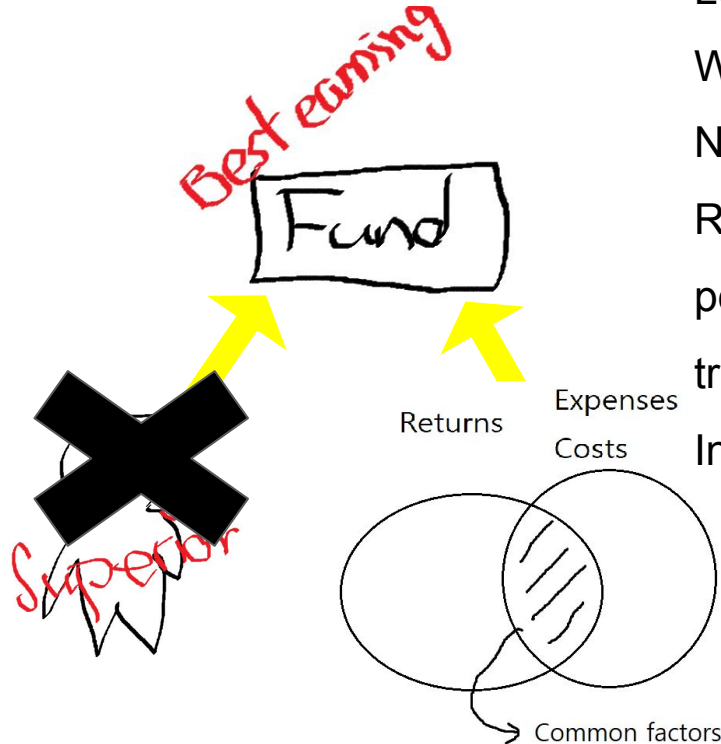
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Rather, common factors in stock returns and the persistent difference in fund expenses and transaction costs **explain** it.

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Instead, worst performing fund? I don't know.

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Grinblatt and Titman (1992), Elton, Gruber, Das, and Hlavka (1993), and Elton, Gruber, Das, and Blake (1996) document **mutual fund return predictability** over longer horizons of five to ten years, **attributing this to stock-picking talent**.

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Contrary evidence by Jensen (1969) who does not find that good subsequent performance follows good past performance.

Carhart (1992) shows that **persistence in expense ratios drives much of the long-term persistence.**

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Individual mutual funds that appear to follow the one-year momentum strategy earn significantly lower abnormal returns after expenses.

Thus, it concludes that **transaction costs consume the gains** from following a momentum strategy.

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Fund performance and **load fees are strongly and negatively related**.

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Thus, the best past-performance funds appear to **earn back their expenses and transaction costs**.

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The data are free of survivor bias, since they include all known equity funds over this period.

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Mutual Fund Database Summary Statistics

Time-Series Averages of Cross-Sectional Average Annual Attributes, 1962–1993

Group	Total Number	Avg Number	Avg TNA (\$ millions)	Avg Flow (%/year)	Avg Exp Ratio (%/year)	Avg Mturn (%/year)	Percentage with Load	Avg Max Load	Avg Age (years)
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Group	Total Number	Total Net Asset		Avg Flow (%/year)	Avg Exp Ratio (%/year)	Avg Mturn (%/year)	Percentage with Load	Avg Max Load	Avg Age (years)
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1. Capital Asset pricing Model (CAPM)
2. (Author's) 4-factor model

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and evaluates them on quantitatively-managed portfolios of New York Stock Exchange (**NYSE**), American Stock Exchange (**Amex**), and **Nasdaq** stocks.

Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM)

$$r_{it} = \alpha_{iT} + \beta_{iT} \text{VWRF}_t + e_{it} \quad t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

VWRF := the Center for Research in Security Prices (**CRSP**) value-weight **stock index minus** the one-month **treasury bill return**.

4-factor model

4-factor model := Fama and French's (1993) 3-factor model + JT one-year momentum

$$r_{it} = \alpha_{iT} + b_{iT}\text{RMRF}_t + s_{iT}\text{SMB}_t + h_{iT}\text{HML}_t + p_{iT}\text{PR1YR}_t + e_{it}$$
$$t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

4-factor model

4-factor model := Fama and French's (1993) 3-factor model + JT one-year momentum

$$r_{it} = \alpha_{iT} + b_{iT}\text{RMRF}_t + s_{iT}\text{SMB}_t + h_{iT}\text{HML}_t + p_{iT}\text{PR1YR}_t + e_{it}$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T$

RMRF := **the excess return** on a value-weighted **aggregate market proxy**

4-factor model

4-factor model := Fama and French's (1993) 3-factor model + JT one-year momentum

$$r_{it} = \alpha_{iT} + b_{iT}\text{RMRF}_t + s_{iT}\text{SMB}_t + h_{iT}\text{HML}_t + p_{iT}\text{PR1YR}_t + e_{it}$$

$t = 1, 2, \dots, T$

RMRF := the excess return on a value-weighted aggregate market proxy

SMB := corporate value

4-factor model

4-factor model := Fama and French's (1993) 3-factor model + JT one-year momentum

$$r_{it} = \alpha_{iT} + b_{iT}\text{RMRF}_t + s_{iT}\text{SMB}_t + h_{iT}\text{HML}_t + p_{iT}\text{PR1YR}_t + e_{it} \\ t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

RMRF := the excess return on a value-weighted aggregate market proxy

SMB := corporate value

HML := 1/PBR

4-factor model

4-factor model := Fama and French's (1993) 3-factor model + JT one-year momentum

$$r_{it} = \alpha_{iT} + b_{iT}\text{RMRF}_t + s_{iT}\text{SMB}_t + h_{iT}\text{HML}_t + p_{iT}\text{PR1YR}_t + e_{it}$$
$$t = 1, 2, \dots, T$$

PR1YR := one-year JT momentum model

Table II
Performance Measurement Model Summary Statistics, July 1963 to December 1993

Factor Portfolio	Monthly Excess Return	Std Dev	<i>t</i> -stat for Mean = 0	Cross-Correlations				
				VWRF	RMRF	SMB	HML	PR1YR
VWRF	0.44	4.39	1.93	1.00				
RMRF	0.47	4.43	2.01	1.00	1.00			
SMB	0.29	2.89	1.89	0.35	0.32	1.00		
HML	0.46	2.59	3.42	-0.36	-0.37	0.10	1.00	
PR1YR	0.82	3.49	4.46	0.01	0.01	-0.29	-0.16	1.00

3. Persistence in One-Year Return-Sorted Mutual Fund Portfolios

3. Persistence in One-Year Return-Sorted Mutual Fund Portfolios

- A. Common-Factor Explanations of One-Year Mutual Fund Persistence
- B. Characteristics of the Mutual Fund Portfolios
- C. Characteristics of Individual Mutual Funds
- ~~D. Cross Sectional Variation in Transaction Costs~~

A. Common-Factor Explanations of One-Year Mutual Fund Persistence

Table III

Portfolios of Mutual Funds Formed on Lagged 1-Year Return

Portfolio	Monthly Excess Return	Std Dev	CAPM			4-Factor Model					
			Alpha	VWRF	Adj R-sq	Alpha	RMRF	SMB	HML	PR1YR	Adj R-Sq
1A	0.75%	5.45%	0.27% (2.06)	1.08 (35.94)	0.777	-0.11% (-1.11)	0.91 (37.67)	0.72 (19.95)	-0.07 (-1.65)	0.33 (11.53)	0.891
1B	0.67%	4.94%	0.22% (2.00)	1.00 (39.68)	0.809	-0.10% (-1.08)	0.86 (40.66)	0.59 (18.47)	-0.05 (-1.38)	0.27 (10.63)	0.898
1C	0.63%	4.95%	0.17% (1.70)	1.02 (44.65)	0.843	-0.15% (-1.92)	0.89 (49.76)	0.56 (20.86)	-0.05 (-1.61)	0.27 (12.69)	0.927
1 (high)	0.68%	5.04%	0.22% (2.10)	1.03 (43.11)	0.834	-0.12% (-1.60)	0.88 (50.54)	0.62 (23.67)	-0.05 (-1.86)	0.29 (13.88)	0.933
2	0.59%	4.72%	0.14% (1.75)	1.01 (57.00)	0.897	-0.10% (-1.78)	0.89 (66.47)	0.46 (22.95)	-0.05 (-2.25)	0.20 (12.43)	0.955
3	0.43%	4.56%	-0.01% (-0.08)	0.99 (70.96)	0.931	-0.18% (-3.65)	0.90 (76.80)	0.34 (18.99)	-0.07 (-3.69)	0.16 (11.52)	0.963
4	0.45%	4.41%	0.02% (0.33)	0.97 (85.70)	0.952	-0.12% (-2.81)	0.90 (90.03)	0.27 (18.18)	-0.05 (-3.12)	0.11 (9.40)	0.971
5	0.38%	4.35%	-0.05% (-1.10)	0.96 (93.93)	0.960	-0.14% (-3.31)	0.90 (89.65)	0.22 (14.42)	-0.05 (-3.27)	0.07 (6.18)	0.970
6	0.40%	4.36%	-0.02% (-0.46)	0.96 (91.94)	0.958	-0.12% (-2.82)	0.90 (86.16)	0.22 (14.02)	-0.04 (-2.37)	0.08 (6.01)	0.968
7	0.36%	4.30%	-0.06% (-1.39)	0.95 (92.90)	0.959	-0.14% (-3.09)	0.90 (85.73)	0.21 (13.17)	-0.03 (-1.62)	0.04 (2.89)	0.967
8	0.34%	4.48%	-0.10% (-1.86)	0.98 (85.14)	0.951	-0.13% (-2.52)	0.93 (75.44)	0.20 (10.74)	-0.06 (-3.16)	0.01 (0.84)	0.958
9	0.23%	4.60%	-0.21% (-3.24)	1.00 (67.91)	0.926	-0.20% (-3.11)	0.93 (60.44)	0.22 (9.69)	-0.10 (-3.80)	-0.02 (-1.17)	0.938
10 (low)	0.01%	4.90%	-0.45% (-4.58)	1.02 (46.09)	0.851	-0.40% (-4.33)	0.93 (42.23)	0.32 (9.69)	-0.08 (-2.23)	-0.09 (-3.50)	0.887

Portfolio	Monthly Excess Return	Std Dev	CAPM			4-Factor Model					
			Alpha	VWRF	Adj R-sq	Alpha	RMRF	SMB	HML	PR1YR	Adj R-Sq
10A	0.25%	4.78%	-0.19% (-2.05)	1.00 (48.48)	0.864	-0.19% (-2.16)	0.91 (42.99)	0.33 (10.27)	-0.11 (-3.20)	-0.02 (-0.76)	0.891
10B	0.02%	4.92%	-0.42% (-3.84)	1.00 (40.67)	0.817	-0.37% (-3.45)	0.91 (35.52)	0.32 (8.24)	-0.09 (-2.16)	-0.09 (-2.99)	0.848
10C	-0.25%	5.44%	-0.74% (-5.06)	1.05 (32.16)	0.736	-0.64% (-4.49)	0.98 (28.82)	0.32 (6.29)	-0.04 (-0.73)	-0.17 (-4.09)	0.782
1-10 spread	0.67%	2.71%	0.67% (4.68)	0.01 (0.39)	-0.002	0.29% (2.13)	-0.05 (-1.52)	0.30 (6.30)	0.03 (0.53)	0.38 (10.07)	0.231
1A-10C spread	1.01%	3.87%	1.00% (4.90)	0.02 (0.42)	-0.002	0.53% (2.72)	-0.07 (-1.61)	0.40 (5.73)	-0.02 (0.32)	0.50 (8.98)	0.197
9-10 spread	0.22%	1.22%	0.23% (3.64)	-0.02 (-1.60)	0.004	0.20% (3.13)	-0.01 (-0.40)	-0.10 (-4.30)	-0.01 (-0.60)	0.07 (3.87)	0.118

Portfolio	Monthly Excess Return	Std Dev	CAPM			4-Factor Model					
			Alpha	VWRF	Adj R-sq	Alpha	RMRF	SMB	HML	PR1YR	Adj R-Sq
1A	0.75%	5.45%	0.27% (2.06)	1.08 (35.94)	0.777	-0.11% (-1.11)	0.91 (37.67)	0.72 (19.95)	-0.07 (-1.65)	0.33 (11.53)	0.891
1B	0.67%	4.94%	0.22% (2.00)	1.00 (39.68)	0.809	-0.10% (-1.08)	0.86 (40.66)	0.59 (18.47)	-0.05 (-1.38)	0.27 (10.63)	0.898
1C	0.63%	4.95%	0.17% (1.70)	1.02 (44.65)	0.843	-0.15% (-1.92)	0.89 (49.76)	0.56 (20.86)	-0.05 (-1.61)	0.27 (12.69)	0.927
1 (high)	0.68%	5.04%	0.22% (2.10)	1.03 (43.11)	0.834	-0.12% (-1.60)	0.88 (50.54)	0.62 (23.67)	-0.05 (-1.86)	0.29 (13.88)	0.933
2	0.59%	4.72%	0.14% (1.75)	1.01 (57.00)	0.897	-0.10% (-1.78)	0.89 (66.47)	0.46 (22.95)	-0.05 (-2.25)	0.20 (12.43)	0.955
3	0.43%	4.56%	-0.01% (-0.08)	0.99 (70.96)	0.931	-0.18% (-3.65)	0.90 (76.80)	0.34 (18.99)	-0.07 (-3.69)	0.16 (11.52)	0.963
4	0.45%	4.41%	0.02% (0.33)	0.97 (85.70)	0.952	-0.12% (-2.81)	0.90 (90.03)	0.27 (18.18)	-0.05 (-3.12)	0.11 (9.40)	0.971
5	0.38%	4.35%	-0.05% (-1.10)	0.96 (93.93)	0.960	-0.14% (-3.31)	0.90 (89.65)	0.22 (14.42)	-0.05 (-3.27)	0.07 (6.18)	0.970
6	0.40%	4.36%	-0.02% (-0.46)	0.96 (91.94)	0.958	-0.12% (-2.82)	0.90 (86.16)	0.22 (14.02)	-0.04 (-2.37)	0.08 (6.01)	0.968
7	0.36%	4.30%	-0.06% (-1.39)	0.95 (92.90)	0.959	-0.14% (-3.09)	0.90 (85.73)	0.21 (13.17)	-0.03 (-1.62)	0.04 (2.89)	0.967
8	0.34%	4.48%	-0.10% (-1.86)	0.98 (85.14)	0.951	-0.13% (-2.52)	0.93 (75.44)	0.20 (10.74)	-0.06 (-3.16)	0.01 (0.84)	0.958
9	0.23%	4.60%	-0.21% (-3.24)	1.00 (67.91)	0.926	-0.20% (-3.11)	0.93 (60.44)	0.22 (9.69)	-0.10 (-3.80)	-0.02 (-1.17)	0.938
10 (low)	0.01%	4.90%	-0.45% (-4.58)	1.02 (46.09)	0.851	-0.40% (-4.33)	0.93 (42.23)	0.32 (9.69)	-0.08 (-2.23)	-0.09 (-3.50)	0.887

Portfolio	Monthly Excess Return	Std Dev	CAPM			CAPM explains nothing					Adj R-Sq
			Alpha	VWRF	Adj R-sq	Alpha	RMRF	SMB	HML	PRIYR	
1A	0.75%	5.45%	0.27% (2.06)	1.08 (35.94)	0.777	-0.11% (-1.11)	0.91 (37.67)	0.72 (19.95)	-0.07 (-1.65)	0.33 (11.53)	0.891
1B	0.67%	4.94%	0.22% (2.00)	1.00 (39.68)	0.809	-0.10% (-1.08)	0.86 (40.66)	0.59 (18.47)	-0.05 (-1.38)	0.27 (10.63)	0.898
1C	0.63%	4.95%	0.17% (1.70)	1.02 (44.65)	0.843	-0.15% (-1.92)	0.89 (49.76)	0.56 (20.86)	-0.05 (-1.61)	0.27 (12.69)	0.927
1 (high)	0.68%	5.04%	0.22% (2.10)	1.03 (43.11)	0.834	-0.12% (-1.60)	0.88 (50.54)	0.62 (23.67)	-0.05 (-1.86)	0.29 (13.88)	0.933
2	0.59%	4.72%	0.14% (1.75)	1.01 (57.00)	0.897	-0.10% (-1.78)	0.89 (66.47)	0.46 (22.95)	-0.05 (-2.25)	0.20 (12.43)	0.955
3	0.43%	4.56%	-0.01% (-0.08)	0.99 (70.96)	0.931	-0.18% (-3.65)	0.90 (76.80)	0.34 (18.99)	-0.07 (-3.69)	0.16 (11.52)	0.963
4	0.45%	4.41%	0.02% (0.33)	0.97 (85.70)	0.952	-0.12% (-2.81)	0.90 (90.03)	0.27 (18.18)	-0.05 (-3.12)	0.11 (9.40)	0.971
5	0.38%	4.35%	-0.05% (-1.10)	0.96 (93.93)	0.960	-0.14% (-3.31)	0.90 (89.65)	0.22 (14.42)	-0.05 (-3.27)	0.07 (6.18)	0.970
6	0.40%	4.36%	-0.02% (-0.46)	0.96 (91.94)	0.958	-0.12% (-2.82)	0.90 (86.16)	0.22 (14.02)	-0.04 (-2.37)	0.08 (6.01)	0.968
7	0.36%	4.30%	-0.06% (-1.39)	0.95 (92.90)	0.959	-0.14% (-3.09)	0.90 (85.73)	0.21 (13.17)	-0.03 (-1.62)	0.04 (2.89)	0.967
8	0.34%	4.48%	-0.10% (-1.86)	0.98 (85.14)	0.951	-0.13% (-2.52)	0.93 (75.44)	0.20 (10.74)	-0.06 (-3.16)	0.01 (0.84)	0.958
9	0.23%	4.60%	-0.21% (-3.24)	1.00 (67.91)	0.926	-0.20% (-3.11)	0.93 (60.44)	0.22 (9.69)	-0.10 (-3.80)	-0.02 (-1.17)	0.938
10 (low)	0.01%	4.90%	-0.45% (-4.58)	1.02 (46.09)	0.851	-0.40% (-4.33)	0.93 (42.23)	0.32 (9.69)	-0.08 (-2.23)	-0.09 (-3.50)	0.887

Portfolio	Monthly		CAPM			4-Factor Model					Adj R-Sq
	Excess	Std	Adi			Alpha	RMRF	SMB	HML	PR1YR	
1A	Size and momentum are sensitive to the return					-0.11%	0.91	0.72	-0.07	0.33	0.89
						-1.11)	(37.67)	(19.95)	(-1.65)	(11.53)	
1B	0.67%	4.94%	0.22%	1.00	0.809	-0.10%	0.86	0.59	-0.05	0.27	0.898
			(2.00)	(39.68)		(-1.08)	(40.66)	(18.47)	(-1.38)	(10.63)	
1C	0.63%	4.95%	0.17%	1.02	0.843	-0.15%	0.89	0.56	-0.05	0.27	0.927
			(1.70)	(44.65)		(-1.92)	(49.76)	(20.86)	(-1.61)	(12.69)	
1 (high)	0.68%	5.04%	0.22%	1.03	0.834	-0.12%	0.88	0.62	-0.05	0.29	0.933
			(2.10)	(43.11)		(-1.60)	(50.54)	(23.67)	(-1.86)	(13.88)	
2	0.59%	4.72%	0.14%	1.01	0.897	-0.10%	0.89	0.46	-0.05	0.20	0.955
			(1.75)	(57.00)		(-1.78)	(66.47)	(22.95)	(-2.25)	(12.43)	
3	0.43%	4.56%	-0.01%	0.99	0.931	-0.18%	0.90	0.34	-0.07	0.16	0.963
			(-0.08)	(70.96)		(-3.65)	(76.80)	(18.99)	(-3.69)	(11.52)	
4	0.45%	4.41%	0.02%	0.97	0.952	-0.12%	0.90	0.27	-0.05	0.11	0.971
			(0.33)	(85.70)		(-2.81)	(90.03)	(18.18)	(-3.12)	(9.40)	
5	0.38%	4.35%	-0.05%	0.96	0.960	-0.14%	0.90	0.22	-0.05	0.07	0.970
			(-1.10)	(93.93)		(-3.31)	(89.65)	(14.42)	(-3.27)	(6.18)	
6	0.40%	4.36%	-0.02%	0.96	0.958	-0.12%	0.90	0.22	-0.04	0.08	0.968
			(-0.46)	(91.94)		(-2.82)	(86.16)	(14.02)	(-2.37)	(6.01)	
7	0.36%	4.30%	-0.06%	0.95	0.959	-0.14%	0.90	0.21	-0.03	0.04	0.967
			(-1.39)	(92.90)		(-3.09)	(85.73)	(13.17)	(-1.62)	(2.89)	
8	0.34%	4.48%	-0.10%	0.98	0.951	-0.13%	0.93	0.20	-0.06	0.01	0.958
			(-1.86)	(85.14)		(-2.52)	(75.44)	(10.74)	(-3.16)	(0.84)	
9	0.23%	4.60%	-0.21%	1.00	0.926	-0.20%	0.93	0.22	-0.10	-0.02	0.938
			(-3.24)	(67.91)		(-3.11)	(60.44)	(9.69)	(-3.80)	(-1.17)	
10 (low)	0.01%	4.90%	-0.45%	1.02	0.851	-0.40%	0.93	0.32	-0.08	-0.09	0.887
			(-4.58)	(46.09)		(-4.33)	(42.23)	(9.69)	(-2.23)	(-3.50)	

B. Characteristics of the Mutual Fund Portfolios

Table IV

**Characteristics of the Portfolios of Mutual Funds Formed on Lagged
1-Year Return**

Average Annual Portfolio Attributes

Portfolio	Age (years)	TNA (\$ millions)	Expense Ratio	Mturn	Maximum Load
1A	11.7	110.0	1.38	116.2	3.93
1B	14.0	148.8	1.16	86.9	3.99
1C	16.5	127.4	1.11	75.8	4.62
1 (high)	14.1	128.7	1.22	92.9	4.18
2	16.6	190.8	1.08	75.3	4.97
3	17.3	194.3	1.10	76.3	4.72
4	17.6	183.7	1.11	67.2	4.82
5	18.3	185.9	1.09	68.4	4.71
6	17.5	199.1	1.15	65.8	4.33
7	18.3	169.7	1.14	62.2	4.50
8	17.5	149.3	1.13	65.3	4.76
9	15.8	145.6	1.22	75.1	4.59
10 (low)	13.6	77.1	1.92	81.4	4.38
10A	14.5	91.9	1.55	76.8	4.55
10B	14.4	87.4	1.71	76.7	4.57
10C	11.9	52.0	2.51	88.8	4.02

Average Annual Portfolio Attributes

Portfolio	Age (years)	TNA (\$ millions)	Expense Ratio	Mturn	Maximum Load
1A	11.7	110.0	1.38	116.2	3.93
1B	14.0	148.8	1.16	86.9	3.99
1C	16.5	127.4	1.11	75.8	4.62
1 (high)	14.1	128.7	1.22	92.9	4.18
2	16.6	190.8	1.08	75.3	4.97
3	17.3	194.3	1.10	76.3	4.72
4	17.6	183.7	1.11	67.2	4.82
5	18.3	185.9	1.09	68.4	4.71
6	17.5	199.1	1.15	65.8	4.33
7	18.3	169.7	1.14	62.2	4.50
8	17.5	149.3	1.13	65.3	4.76
9	15.8	145.6	1.22	75.1	4.59
10 (low)	13.6	77.1	1.92	81.4	4.38
10A	14.5	91.9	1.55	76.8	4.55
10B	14.4	87.4	1.71	76.7	4.57
10C	11.9	52.0	2.51	88.8	4.02



C. Characteristics of Individual Mutual Fund

Table IV

**Characteristics of the Portfolios of Mutual Funds Formed on Lagged
1-Year Return**

Relation between alphas (performance) and following variables.

Independent Variables (Coefficients $\times 100$)	Estimate	<i>t</i> -statistic
Expense ratio (t)	−1.54	(−5.99)
Turnover (t) (Mturn)	−0.95	(−2.36)
ln TNA (t-1)	−0.05	(−0.66)
Maximum Load (t-1)	−0.11	(−3.55)
Buy turnover (t)	−0.43	(−1.16)
Sell turnover (t)	−1.26	(−3.00)

Syncopation

Conclusion

Three Important Rules-of-Thumb

Three Important Rules-of-Thumb

1. Avoid funds with persistently poor performance.

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2. Funds with high returns last year have higher-than-average expected returns next year, but not in years thereafter.

Three Important Rules-of-Thumb

1. Avoid funds with persistently poor performance.
2. Funds with high returns last year have higher-than-average expected returns next year, but not in years thereafter.
3. The investment costs of expense ratios, transaction costs, and load fees all have a direct, negative impact on performance.

Thanks for listening

critique

comment

Any

are welcome.

correction

question