# Volatility Modeling

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# **Defining Volatility**

#### **Basic Definition**

 Annualized standard deviation of the change in price or value of a financial security.

## **Estimation/Prediction Approaches**

- Historical/sample volatility measures.
- Geometric Brownian Motion Model
- Poisson Jump Diffusion Model
- ARCH/GARCH Models
- Stochastic Volatility (SV) Models
- Implied volatility from options/derivatives

# Historical Volatility

## Computing volatility from historical series of actual prices

- Prices of an asset at (T+1) time points  $\{P_t, t=0,1,2,\ldots,T\}$
- Returns of the asset for T time periods  $R_t = log(P_t/P_{t-1}), t = 1, 2, ..., T$
- $\{R_t\}$  assumed covariance stationary with  $\sigma = \sqrt{var(R_t)} = \sqrt{E[(R_t E[R_t])^2]}$  with sample estimate:

$$\hat{\sigma} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T-1}\sum_{t=1}^{T}(R_t - \bar{R})^2}$$
, with  $\bar{R} = \frac{1}{T}\sum_{t=1}^{T}R_t$ .

Annualized values

$$\widehat{vol} = \begin{cases} \sqrt{252} \hat{\sigma} & \text{(daily prices for 252 business days/year)} \\ \sqrt{52} \hat{\sigma} & \text{(weekly prices)} \\ \sqrt{12} \hat{\sigma} & \text{(monthly prices)} \end{cases}$$

# Prediction Methods Based on Historical Volatility

## **Definition** For time period t, define the sample volatility

 $\hat{\sigma}_t$ = sample standard deviation of period t returns

- If t indexes months with daily data, then  $\hat{\sigma}_t$  is the sample standard deviation of daily returns in month t.
- If t indexes days with daily data, then  $\hat{\sigma}_t^2 = R_t^2$ .
- With high-frequency data, daily  $\sigma_t$  is derived from cumulating squared intra-day returns.

Historical Average: 
$$\tilde{\sigma}_{t+1}^2 = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{1}^{t} \hat{\sigma}_{j}^2$$
(uses all available data)

Simple Moving Average: 
$$\tilde{\sigma}_{t+1}^2 = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{0}^{m-1} \hat{\sigma}_{t-i}^2$$

(uses last m single-period sample estimates)

Exponential Moving Average: 
$$\tilde{\sigma}_{t+1}^2 = (1-\beta)\hat{\sigma}_t^2 + \beta \tilde{\sigma}_t^2$$
  $0 \le \beta \le 1$ 

(uses all available data)

Exponential Weighted Moving Average:

$$\tilde{\sigma}_{t+1}^2 = \sum_{j=0}^{m-1} (\beta^j \hat{\sigma}_{t-j}^2) / [\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} \beta^j]$$
 (uses last *m*) single-period sample estimates).

# Predictions Based on Historical Volatility

### Simple Regression:

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\sigma}_{t+1}^2 &= \gamma_{1,t} \hat{\sigma}_t^2 + \gamma_{1,t} \hat{\sigma}_{t-1}^2 + \dots + \gamma_{p,t} \hat{\sigma}_{t-p+1}^2 + u_t \\ \text{Regression can be fit using all data or last } m \text{ (rolling-windows)}. \\ \text{Note: similar but different from auto-regression model of } \hat{\sigma}_t^2 \end{split}$$

#### Trade-Offs

- Use more data to increase precision of estimators
- Use data closer to time t for estimation of  $\sigma_t$ .

## **Evaluate out-of-sample performance**

- Distinguish assets and asset-classes
- Consider different sampling frequencies and forecast horizons
- Apply performance measures (MSE, MAE, MAPE, etc.)

# **Benchmark Methodology**: RiskMetrics, see Technical Document https://www.msci.com/documents/10199/

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# Geometric Brownian Motion (GBM)

For  $\{S(t)\}$  the price of a security/portfolio at time t:  $dS(t) = \mu S(t)dt + \sigma S(t)dW(t)$ ,

#### where

- $\sigma$  is the volatility of the security's price
- $\mu$  is mean return (per unit time).
- dS(t) infinitesimal increment in price
- dW(t) infinitesimal increment of a standard Brownian Motion/Wiener Process
  - Increments [W(t') W(t)] are Gaussian with mean zero and variance (t' t).
  - Increments on disjoint time intervals are independent. For  $t_1 < t_2 < t_3 < t_4$ ,  $[W(t_2) W(t_1)]$  and  $[W(t_4) W(t_3)]$  are independent

# Geometric Brownian Motion (GBM)

## Sample Data from Process:

- Prices:  $\{S(t), t = t_0, t_1, \dots, t_n\}$
- Returns:  $\{R_j = log[S(t_j)/S(t_{j-1})], j = 1, 2, \dots, n\}$  indep. r.v.'s:  $R_j \sim N(\mu_*\Delta_j, \sigma^2\Delta_j)$ , where  $\Delta_j = (t_j t_{j-1})$  and  $\mu_* = [\mu \sigma^2/2]$

 $(\{log[S(t)]\}\$ is Brownian Motion with drift  $\mu^*$  and volatility  $\sigma^2$ .)

#### **Maximum-Likelihood Parameter Estimation**

- If  $\Delta_j\equiv 1$ , then  $\hat{\mu}_*=ar{R}=rac{1}{n}\sum_1^nR_t\ \hat{\sigma}^2=rac{1}{n}\sum_1^n(R_t-ar{R})^2$
- If  $\Delta_i$  varies ... Exercise.

## Geometric Brownian Motion

#### Garman-Klass Estimator:

- Sample information more than period-close prices, also have period-high, period-low, and period-open prices.
- Assume  $\mu = 0$ ,  $\Delta_j \equiv 1$  (e.g., daily) and let  $f \in (0,1)$  denote the fraction of the day prior to the market open.

$$C_{j} = log[S(t_{j})]$$

$$O_{j} = log[S(t_{j-1} + f)]$$

$$H_{j} = \max_{t_{j-1} + f \le t \le t_{j}} log[S(t)]$$

$$L_{j} = \min_{t_{j-1} + f \le t \le t_{j}} log[S(t)]$$

## Using data from the first period:

• 
$$\hat{\sigma}_0^2 = (C_1 - C_0)^2$$
: Close-to-Close squared return  $E[\hat{\sigma}_0^2] = \sigma^2$ , and  $var[\hat{\sigma}_0^2] = 2(\sigma^2)^2 = 2\sigma^4$ .

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- $\hat{\sigma}_1^2 = \frac{(O_1 C_0)^2}{f}$ : Close-to-Open squared return  $E[\hat{\sigma}_1^2] = \sigma^2$ , and  $var[\hat{\sigma}_1^2] = 2(\sigma^2)^2 = 2\sigma^4$ .

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- $\hat{\sigma}_2^2 = \frac{(C_1 O_1)^2}{1 f}$ : Open-to-Close squared return  $E[\hat{\sigma}_2^2] = \sigma^2$ , and  $var[\hat{\sigma}_2^2] = 2(\sigma^2)^2 = 2\sigma^4$ .

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**Note:**  $\hat{\sigma}_1^2$  and  $\hat{\sigma}_2^2$  are independent!

• 
$$\hat{\sigma}_*^2 = \frac{1}{2}\hat{\sigma}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}\hat{\sigma}_2^2$$
  
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**Note:**  $\hat{\sigma}_1^2$  and  $\hat{\sigma}_2^2$  are independent!

• 
$$\hat{\sigma}_*^2 = \frac{1}{2}\hat{\sigma}_1^2 + \frac{1}{2}\hat{\sigma}_2^2$$
  
 $E[\hat{\sigma}_*^2] = \sigma^2$ , and  $var[\hat{\sigma}_*^2] = \sigma^4$ .  
 $\implies eff(\hat{\sigma}_*^2) = \frac{var(\hat{\sigma}_0^2)}{var(\hat{\sigma}_*^2)} = 2$ .

**Parkinson (1976):** With f = 0, defines  $\hat{\sigma}_3^2 = \frac{(H_1 - L_1)^2}{4(\log 2)}$  and shows  $eff(\hat{\sigma}_3^2) \approx 5.2$ .

## **Garman and Klass (1980)** show that for any 0 < f < 1:

- $\hat{\sigma}_4^2 = a \times \hat{\sigma}_1^2 + (1-a)\hat{\sigma}_3^2$ has minimum variance when  $a \approx 0.17$ , independent of f and  $Eff(\hat{\sigma}_4^2) \approx 6.2$ .
- "Best Analytic Scale-Invariant Estimator"  $\hat{\sigma}_{**}^2 = 0.511(u_1-d_1)^2 0.019\{c_1(u_1+d_1)-2u_1d_1\} 0.383c_1^2,$  where the normalized high/low/close are:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} u_j &=& H_j - O_j \\ d_j &=& L_j - O_j \\ c_j &=& C_j - O_j \end{array}$$
 and  $Eff(\hat{\sigma}^2_{**}) \approx 7.4$ 

• If 0 < f < 1 then the opening price  $O_1$  may differ from  $C_0$  and the composite estimator is

$$\hat{\sigma}_{GK}^2 = a \frac{(O_1 - C_0)^2}{f} + (1 - a) \frac{\sigma_{**}^2}{(1 - f)}$$
as minimum variance when  $a = 0$ 

which has minimum variance when  $\hat{a} = 0.12$  and

$$Eff(\hat{\sigma}_{GK}^2) \approx 8.4.$$

### References/ Extensions

- Garman Klass (1980): https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/fx/files/a\_estimation\_of\_security\_price.pdf
- Garman, M. B. and Klass, M. J. (1980) On the estimation of security price volatilities from historical data. Journal of business, pages 67-78
- Parkinson, M. (1980): The extreme value method for estimating the variance of the rate of return. Journal of business, pages 61-65.
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## Estimating Historical Volatility of the S&P 500 Index

(Case Study using R)

# Poisson Jump Diffusions

For  $\{S(t)\}$  the stochastic process for the price of the security/portfolio at time t,

$$\frac{dS(t)}{S(t)} = \mu dt + \sigma dW(t) + \gamma \sigma Z(t) d\Pi(t),$$

#### where

- dS(t) = infinitesimal increment in price.
- $\mu = \text{mean return (per unit time)}$
- ullet  $\sigma =$  diffusion volatility of the security's price process
- dW(t)= increment of standard Wiener Process
- dΠ(t) = increment of a Poisson Process with rate λ, modeling the jump process.
- $(\gamma \sigma) \times Z(t)$ , the magnitude a return jump/shock Z(t) i.i.d N(0,1) r.v.'s and  $\gamma = \text{scale}(\sigma \text{ units})$  of jump magnitudes.

# Poisson Jump Diffusions

#### Maximum-Likelihood Estimation of the PJD Model

- Model is a Poisson mixture of Gaussian Distributions.
- Moment-generating function derived as that of random sum of independent random variables.
- Likelihood function product of infinite sums
- EM Algorithm\* expressible in closed form
  - Jumps treated as latent variables which simplify computations
  - Algorithm provides a posteriori estimates of number of jumps per time period.
- \* See Pickard, Kempthorne, Zakaria (1987).

# Laplace Distribution: Brownian Motion With Exponential Time Increments

## **Laplace Distribution:** $X \sim Laplace(\mu, \sigma)$

• Probability density function:

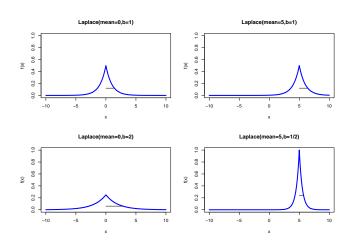
$$f(x \mid \mu, b) = \frac{1}{2b}e^{-\frac{|x - \mu|}{b}}, -\infty < x < \infty.$$

Two parameters:

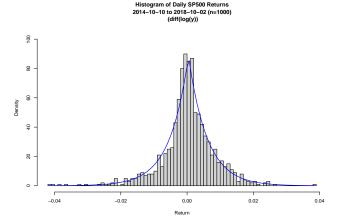
mean = 
$$E[X]$$
 =  $\mu$  =  $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} xf(x \mid \mu, b)dx$   
variance =  $Var[X]$  =  $2 \times b^2$  =  $\int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} (x - \mu)^2 f(x \mid \mu, b)dx$ 

- History/motivation
  - Laplace (1774) "First Law of Errors"
  - Brownian motion observed at exponential times
  - Geometric sum of normal random variables

# Four Laplace Models

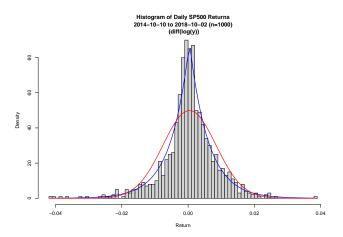


## Daily Returns of SP500 Index



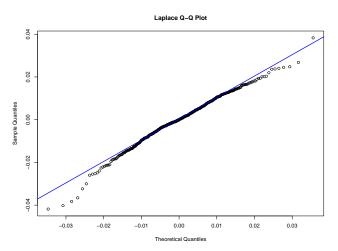
Laplace Model:  $\hat{\mu}=Mean=0.0004273$  and  $\hat{b}=\sqrt{Variance/2}=0.005652$  (Method-of-Moments estimates) Annualized Volatility:  $\hat{\sigma}=0.1268901$ 

# Daily Returns of SP500 Index



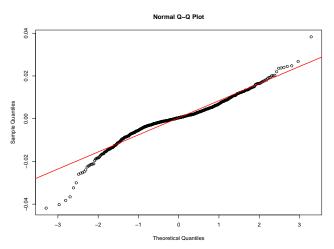
Laplace Model (Blue) versus Normal Model (Red)

## **Evaluating Goodness of Fit**



QQ-plot displays "Goodness-of-Fit"
Sorted Observations versus Theoretical Expected Values

## **Evaluating Goodness of Fit**



QQ-plot displays "Goodness-of-Fit" Sorted Observations versus Theoretical Expected Values for N(0,1)

## **ARCH Models**

ARCH models are specified relative to the discrete-time process for the price of the security/portfolio:  $\{S_t, t = 1, 2, ...\}$ 

Engle (1982) models the discrete returns of the process

$$y_t = log(S_t/S_{t-1})$$
 as  $y_t = \mu_t + \epsilon_t$ ,

where  $\mu_t$  is the mean return, conditional on  $\mathcal{F}_{t-1}$ , the information available through time (t-1), and

## **ARCH Models**

The ARCH model:

$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + \alpha_2 \epsilon_{t-2}^2 + \dots + \alpha_p \epsilon_{t-p}^2$$

implies an AR model in  $\epsilon_t^2$ . Add  $(\epsilon_t^2 - \sigma_t^2) = u_t$  to both sides:

$$\epsilon_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + \alpha_2 \epsilon_{t-2}^2 + \dots + \alpha_p \epsilon_{t-p}^2 + u_t$$

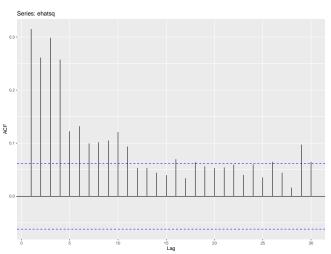
where  $u_t$ :  $E[u_t \mid \mathcal{F}_t] = 0$ , and  $var[u_t \mid \mathcal{F}_t] = var(\epsilon_t^2) = 2\sigma_t^4$ .

## Lagrange Multiplier Test

$$H_0: \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \cdots = \alpha_p = 0$$

- Fit linear regression on squared residuals  $\hat{\epsilon}_t = y_t \hat{\mu}_t$ . (i.e., Fit an AR(p) model to  $[\hat{\epsilon}_t^2]$ ,  $t = 1, 2, \dots, n$ )
- LM test statistic =  $nR^2$ , where  $R^2$  is the R-squared of the fitted AR(p) model. Under  $H_0$  the r.v.  $nR^2$  is approx.  $\chi^2$  (df = p)
- Note: the linear regression estimates of parameters are not MLEs under Gaussian assumptions; they correspond to quasi-maximum likelihood estimates (QMLE).

# Autocorrelations of $\hat{\epsilon}_t^2$ for SP500 Log Returns



 $\hat{\epsilon}_t = diff(log(SP500)) - mean$ Autocorrelations of  $\hat{\epsilon}_t^2$ 

#### **Maximum Likelihood Estimation**

#### ARCH Model:

$$y_t = c + \epsilon_t$$

$$\epsilon_t = z_t \sigma_t$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + \dots + \alpha_p \epsilon_{t-p}^2$$

$$t = 0, 1, \dots, T$$

#### Likelihood:

$$L(c,\alpha) = p(y_1, \dots, y_n \mid c, \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p)$$

$$= \prod_{t=1}^n p(y_t \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}, c, \alpha)$$

$$= \prod_{t=1}^n \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_t^2}} exp(\frac{-1}{2} \frac{\epsilon_t^2}{\sigma_t^2}) \right]$$
where  $\epsilon_t = y_t - c$  and
$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + \cdots \alpha_p \epsilon_{t-n}^2.$$

#### Constraints:

- $\alpha_i \geq 0, i = 1, 2, \ldots, p$
- $(\alpha_1 + \cdots + \alpha_p) < 1$ .

## **GARCH Models**

Bollerslev (1986) extended ARCH models to:

## GARCH(p,q) Model

$$\begin{array}{c} \sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^p \alpha_i \epsilon_{t-i}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^q \beta_j \sigma_{t-j}^2 \\ \text{Constraints: } \alpha_i \geq 0, \forall i, \text{ and } \beta_j \geq 0, \forall j \end{array}$$

## GARCH(1,1) Model

$$\hat{\sigma}_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta_1 \sigma_{t-1}^2$$

- Parsimonious
- Fits many financial time seriies

## **GARCH Models**

The GARCH(1,1) model:

$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta_1 \sigma_{t-1}^2$$

implies an ARMA model in  $\epsilon_t^2$ . Eliminate  $\sigma_{t'}^2$  using  $(\epsilon_{t'}^2 - \sigma_{t'}^2) = u_{t'}$ 

$$\begin{array}{rcl}
\epsilon_t^2 - u_t & = & \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta_1 (\epsilon_{t-1}^2 - u_{t-1}) \\
\epsilon_t^2 & = & \alpha_0 + (\alpha_1 + \beta_1) \epsilon_{t-1}^2 + u_t - \beta_1 u_{t-1}
\end{array}$$

where  $u_t$ :  $E[u_t \mid \mathcal{F}_t] = 0$ , and  $var[u_t \mid \mathcal{F}_t] = var(\epsilon_t^2) = 2\sigma_t^4$ .

 $\Longrightarrow$   $\mathit{GARCH}(1,1)$  implies an  $\mathit{ARMA}(1,1)$  with

$$u_t = (\epsilon_t^2 - \sigma_t^2) \sim WN(0, 2\sigma^4)$$

Stationarity of GARCH model deduced from ARMA model

$$A(L)\epsilon_t^2 = B(L)u_t$$
  
 $\epsilon_t^2 = [A(L)]^{-1}B(L)u_t.$ 

Covariance stationary:roots of A(z) outside  $\{|z| \le 1\}$ ,i.e.,

$$|\alpha_1 + \beta_1| < 1$$

## **GARCH Models**

## Unconditional Volatility / Long-Run Variance

$$\begin{split} \mathsf{GARCH}(1,1): \ \mathsf{Assuming \ stationarity,} \ 0 &< \left(\alpha_1 + \beta_1\right) < 1 \\ \sigma_*^2 &= \alpha_0 + \left(\alpha_1 + \beta_1\right) \sigma_*^2 \\ \implies \ \sigma_*^2 &= \frac{\alpha_0}{\left(1 - \alpha_1 - \beta_1\right)} \end{split}$$

GARCH(p,q) implies ARMA(max(p,q), q) model

- Stationary if  $0 < (\sum_{1}^{p} \alpha_i + \sum_{1}^{q} \beta_j) < 1$
- Long-Run Variance:

$$\sigma_*^2 = \alpha_0 + \left(\sum_{1}^{p} \alpha_j + \sum_{1}^{q} \beta_1\right) \sigma_*^2$$

$$\Longrightarrow \sigma_*^2 = \frac{\alpha_0}{[1 - \sum_{1}^{max(p,q)} (\alpha_i + \beta_j)]}$$

## **GARCH Model Estimation**

#### Maximum Likelihood Estimation

#### GARCH Model:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} y_t &=& c + \epsilon_t \\ \epsilon_t &=& z_t \sigma_t \\ \sigma_t^2 &=& \alpha_0 + \sum_{1}^{p} \alpha_i \epsilon_{t-i}^2 + \sum_{1}^{q} \beta_j \sigma_{t-j}^2 \\ && t = 0, 1, \dots, T \end{array}$$

#### Likelihood:

$$L(c, \alpha, \beta) = p(y_1, \dots, y_T \mid c, \alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p, \beta_1, \dots, \beta_q)$$

$$= \prod_{t=1}^T p(y_t \mid \mathcal{F}_{t-1}, c, \alpha, \beta)$$

$$= \prod_{t=1}^T \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_t^2}} exp(\frac{-1}{2}\frac{\epsilon_t^2}{\sigma_t^2}) \right]$$
where  $\epsilon_t = y_t - c$  and
$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha_0 + \sum_{1}^p \alpha_i \epsilon_{t-i}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^q \beta_j \sigma_{t-j}^2.$$

Constraints:  $\alpha_i \geq 0, \forall i, \beta_j \geq 0, \forall j, \text{ and } 0 < (\sum_{1}^{p} \alpha_u + \sum_{1}^{1} \beta_j) < 1.$ 

# GARCH Model Estimation/Evaluation/Model-Selection

• Maximum-Likelihood Estimates:  $\hat{c}, \hat{\alpha}, \hat{\beta}$  $\implies \hat{\epsilon}_t$  and  $\hat{\sigma}_t^2$  (t = T, T - 1, ...)

Standardized Residuals

 $\hat{\epsilon}_t/\hat{\sigma}_t$ : should be uncorrelated

• Squared Standardized Residuals  $(\hat{\epsilon}_t/\hat{\sigma}_t)^2$ : should be uncorrelated

## **Testing Normality of Residuals**

- Normal QQ Plots
- Jarque-Bera test
- Shapiro-Wilk test
- MLE Percentiles Goodness-of-Fit Test
- Kolmogorov-Smirnov Goodness-of-Fit Test

## Model Selection: Apply model-selection critera

- Akaike Information Criterion (AIC)
- Bayes Information Criterion (BIC)

# Stylized Features of Returns/Volatility

## Volatility Clustering

- Large  $\epsilon_t^2$  follow large  $\epsilon_{t-1}^2$
- Small  $\epsilon_t^2$  follow small  $\epsilon_{t-1}^2$

### GARCH models can prescribe

- Large  $\sigma_t^2$  follow large  $\sigma_{t-1}^2$
- Small  $\sigma_t^2$  follow small  $\sigma_{t-1}^2$

## Heavy Tails / Fat Tails

- Returns distribution has heavier tails (higher Kurtosis) than Gaussian
- GARCH(p,q) models are stochastic mixture of Gaussian distributions with higher kurtosis.

Engle, Bollerslev, and Nelson (1994)

## Stylized Features of Returns/Volatility

## Volatility Mean Reversion

GARCH(1,1) Model

- Long-run average volatility:  $\sigma_*^2 = \frac{\alpha_0}{1 \alpha_1 \beta_1}$
- Mean-Reversion to Long-Run Average  $\epsilon_t^2 = \alpha_0 + (\alpha_1 + \beta_1)\epsilon_{t-1}^2 + u_t \beta_1 u_{t-1}$  Substituting:  $\alpha_0 = (1 \alpha_1 \beta_1)\sigma_*^2$   $(\epsilon_t^2 \sigma_*^2) = (\alpha_1 + \beta_1)(\epsilon_{t-1}^2 \sigma_*^2) + u_t \beta_1 u_{t-1}$

$$0 < (\alpha_1 + \beta_1) < 1 \Longrightarrow$$
 Mean Reversion!

Extended Ornstein-Uhlenbeck(OU) Process for  $\epsilon_t^2$  with MA(1) errors.

## Extensions of GARCH Models

```
EGARCH Nelson (1992)
TGARCH Glosten, Jagannathan, Runkler (1993)
PGARCH Ding, Engle, Granger
GARCH-In-Mean
Non-Gaussian Distributions
```

Generalized Error Distributions (GED)

t—Distributions

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