

Module 4: Market Efficiency

(BUSFIN 4221 - Investments)

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The Ohio State University

Fall 2016

Outline

Overview

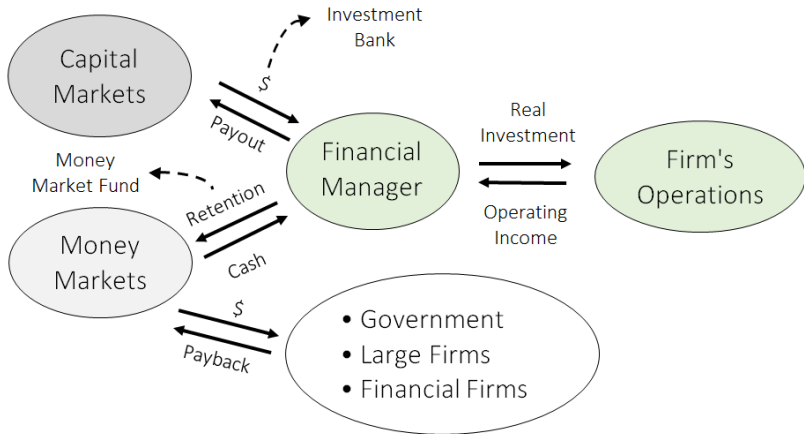
Efficient Market Hypothesis

EMH Tests: Return Predictability

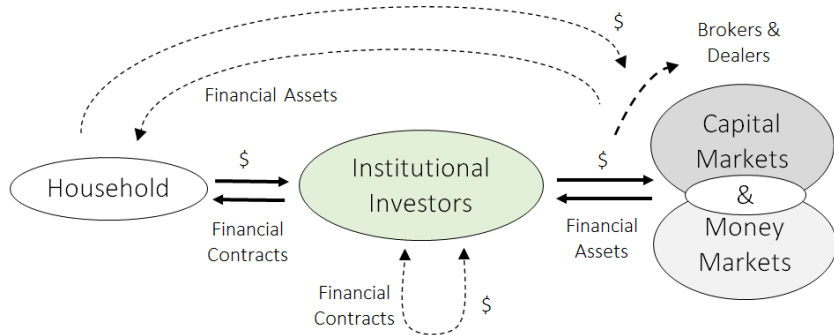
EMH Tests: Active Investing

Behavioral Finance

Module 1 - The Demand for Capital



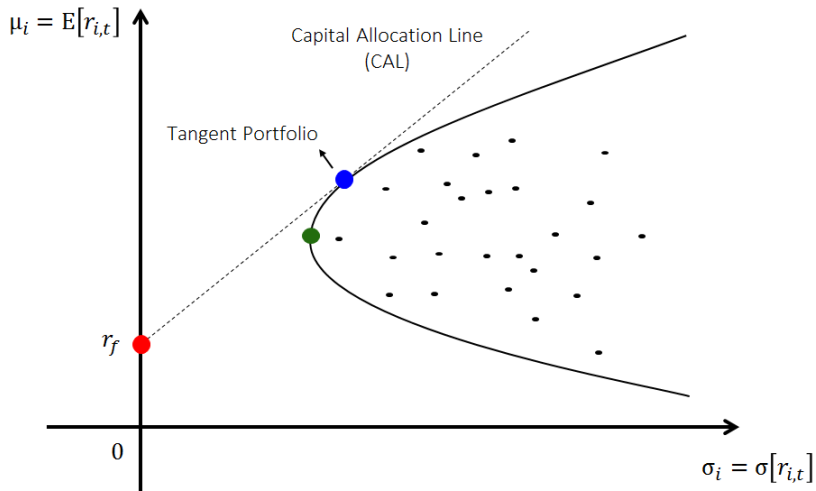
Module 1 - The Supply of Capital



Module 1 - Investment Principle

$$PV_t = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}_t [CF_{t+h}]}{(1 + dr_{t,h})^h}$$

Module 2 - Portfolio Theory

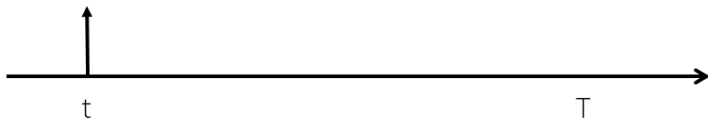


Module 3 - Factor Models

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{E}[r_i] &= r_f + \beta_i \cdot (\mathbb{E}[r_M] - r_f) \\ &+ \beta_{i,A} \cdot \mathbb{E}[r_A - r_a] \\ &+ \beta_{i,B} \cdot \mathbb{E}[r_B - r_b] \\ &+ \dots\end{aligned}$$

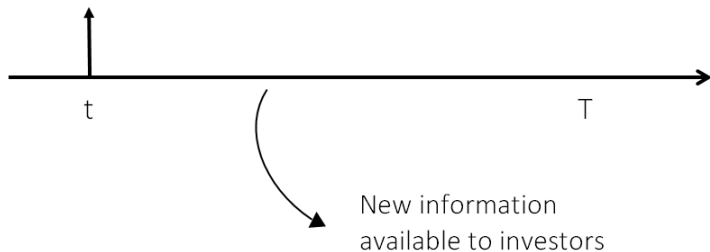
This Module: Market Efficiency

Prices incorporate all relevant information available up to time t



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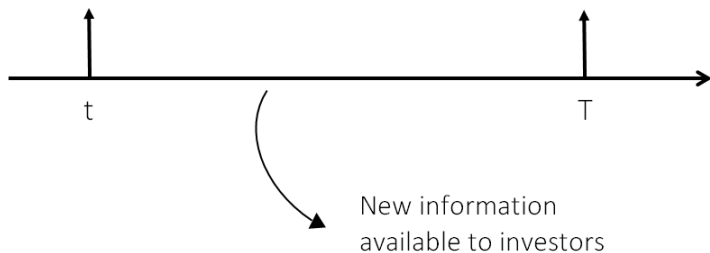
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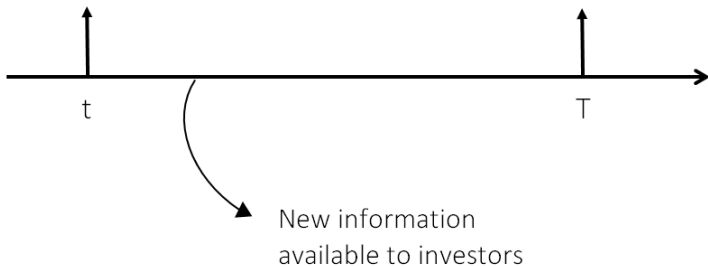
EMH Tests: Active Investing

Behavioral Finance

This Section: Efficient Market Hypothesis (EMH)

Prices **correctly incorporate**
all **relevant information**
available up to time t

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Prices are Intrinsically Linked to Information*

$$P_t = f(\text{Information available at time } t)$$

- Example: After the recent presidential debate, the peso (Mexican currency) appreciated by 2% relative to the dollar
- What is the $f(\cdot)$ function?
- What does it mean for $f(\cdot)$ to “correctly incorporate” all information?
- What information is relevant for prices?

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Correctly Incorporating Information: Valuation Identity*

- In your “introduction to finance” class you used the definition of an interest rate to find:

$$PV = \frac{CF}{1+r} + \frac{CF}{(1+r)^2} + \frac{CF}{(1+r)^3} + \dots$$

- From the definition of a “financial return”, $r_t = \frac{(CF_t + P_t) - P_{t-1}}{P_{t-1}}$, we can isolate P_t and use recursive substitutions to show that (proof is in the appendix):

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* This is the “information set” at time t .

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- dr_t is the discount rate or "required rate of return". It is determined by investors aversion to the given security
- EMH Holds: $\widehat{CF}_{t+h} = \mathbb{E}_t [CF_{t+h}]$
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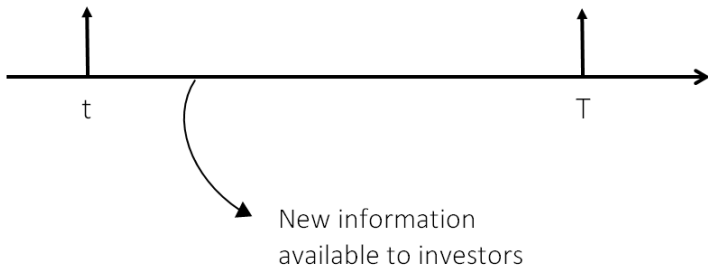
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Correctly Incorporating Information: Summary

Prices **correctly incorporate**
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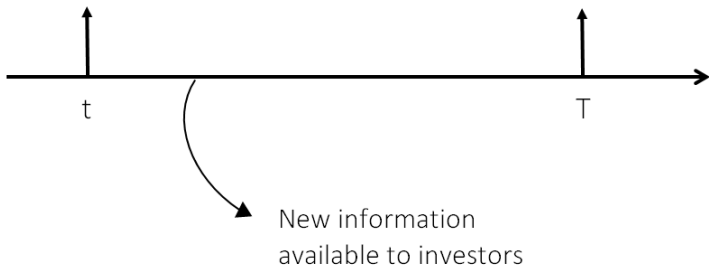
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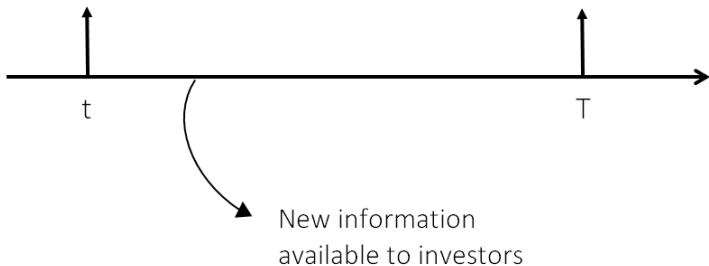
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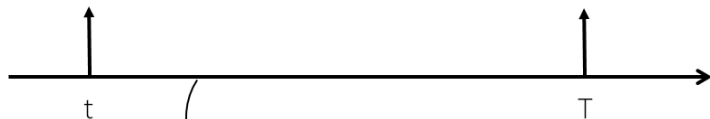
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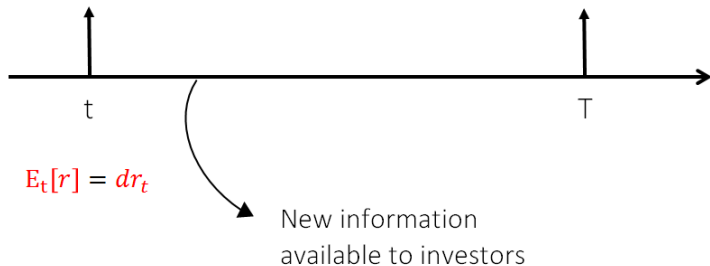
$$E_t[r] = dr_t$$

New information
available to investors

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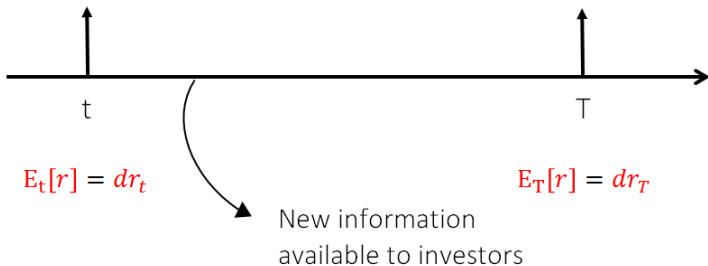
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Suppose investors forecast stock market dividend growth to be 6% per year. However, there is a new technology being introduced in the world and it will allow people to teleport from one place to another. This will make firms much more productive, which you know will induce a growth much higher than the 6% assumed by the market. What should you do?

- a) Nothing, EMH must hold in this scenario and, thus, the best action is to be passive
- b) You should increase your allocation to equities since they currently pay expected returns above market required rate of return
- c) You should decrease your allocation to equities since they currently pay expected returns above market required rate of return
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Correctly Incorporating Information: Why should you care?

- If markets are efficient, then you can (correctly) expect to get the return you require when investing
- There is no way to “beat the market” consistently! If you find a security that is paying a great expected return, that is because markets dislike this security and, as such, require a high rate of return for holding it
- You should ask yourself what are the characteristics of a security that induce markets to dislike it (risk, illiquidity, ...??)
- Key implication for the practical world: you should not invest in active management
- Active managers cannot deliver returns above what you would require from them, but they charge high fees. Index funds provide a better alternative (low costs!)

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Correctly Incorporating Information: The Paradox

- Market efficiency requires smart investors to incorporate information into prices all the time
- But if markets are efficient, there is no benefit in doing so (you cannot beat the market)
- As such, if you are smart you should be a passive investor
- But if smart investors become passive, there is nobody incorporating information into prices! This implies markets cannot be efficient!
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Correctly Incorporating Information: The Paradox

- Market efficiency requires smart investors to incorporate information into prices all the time
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Relevant Information: the three versions of the EMH

$$P_t = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \frac{\mathbb{E}_t [CF_{t+h}]}{(1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r])^h} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{E}_t [r] = dr_t$$

- Weak-form EMH:

relevant information = trading data

- Semistrong-form EMH:

relevant information = all publicly available information

- Strong-form EMH:

relevant information = all information (even private information)

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Which of the following is a prediction of the Weak-form EMH?

- a) Analyzing the financial information of firms and investing accordingly cannot deliver expected returns above required rates of return
- b) If you work for Google and know that it will acquire Yahoo over the next year (which is a piece of information not released to the public yet), then there is no point in trading on this information (even if it was legal to do so)
- c) Observing prices going down over the last month should not give you any information on how to trade
- d) Cash flow estimates are identical to future realized cash flows, which rules out, for example, any possibility for surprises in earnings announcements
- e) Prices are always right in the sense that no matter which information one uses (of any source), he/she cannot reach a different price for any given security

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Outline

Overview

Efficient Market Hypothesis

EMH Tests: Return Predictability

EMH Tests: Active Investing

Behavioral Finance

EMH \Rightarrow Returns are Unpredictable

- Some tests of the EMH assume that the required rate of return is time invariant: $dr_t = dr$. Under this assumption:

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- If this is true, the EMH is equivalent to returns being unpredictable. Hence, prices follow a “Random Walk”
- EMH test \Rightarrow check whether returns are truly unpredictable
- Alternative versions of the EMH \Rightarrow No predictability by alternative sets of information

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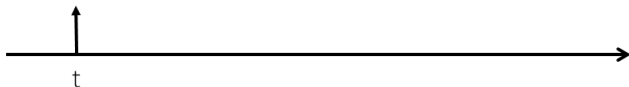
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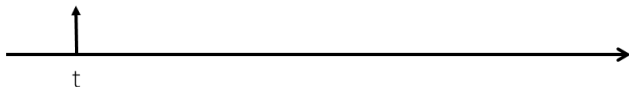
Event Studies: Logic

Event that is known
 to affect $E_t[CF_{t+h}]$



Event Studies: Logic

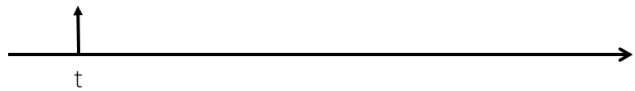
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Q: How long does it take
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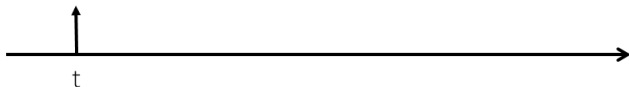
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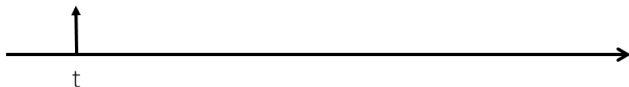
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If the answer is yes, then prices did not incorporate all information at time t

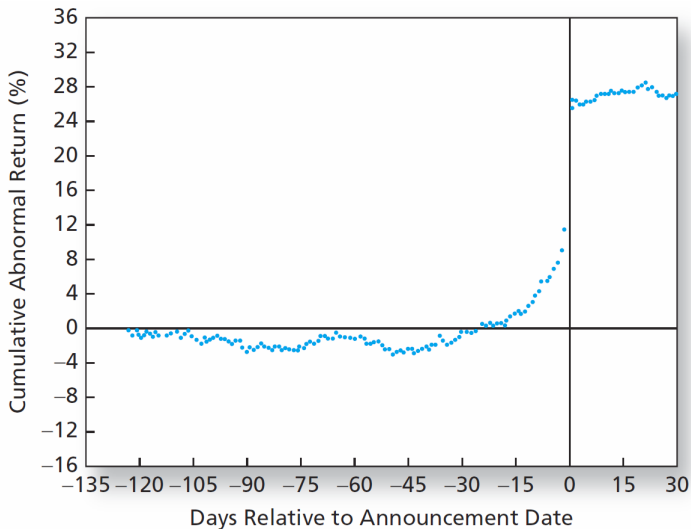
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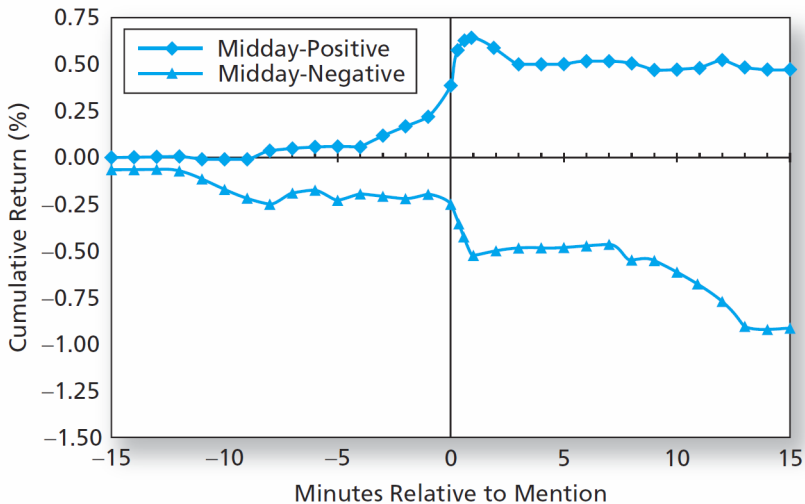
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Event Studies: Takeover Attempts*

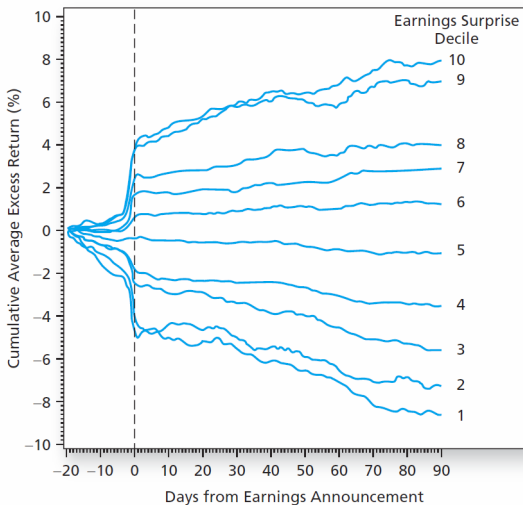


Source: Keown and Pinkerton (1981) - *Merger Announcements and Insider Trading Activity*

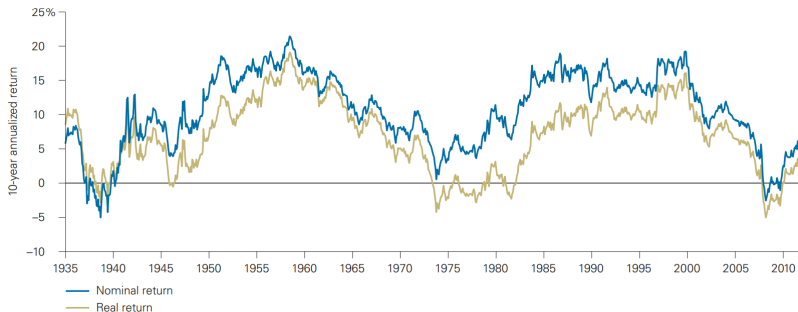
Event Studies: CNBC (Mentioned on “Midday Call”)*



Event Studies: Earnings Announcement*



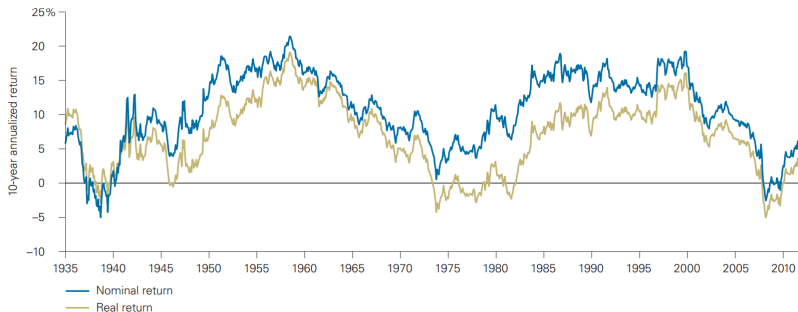
Systematic Return Forecast: Motivation



Source: Vanguard Group (2012) - *Forecasting Stock Returns: what Signals Matters and what do they say now?*

- This graph shows (at each point in time) the equity market average return over the previous 10 years
 - It is clear that there is substantial variation in average returns
 - This motivates us to check whether long-run returns are predictable by variables known ahead of time

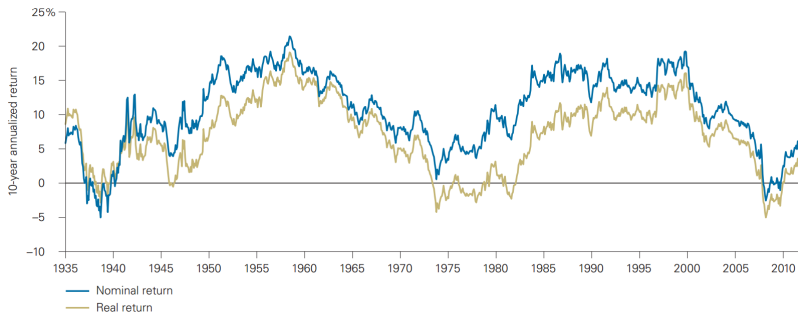
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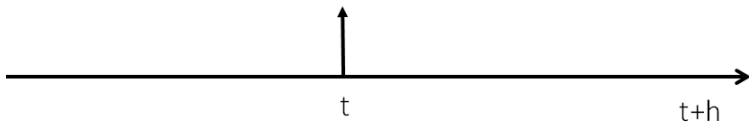
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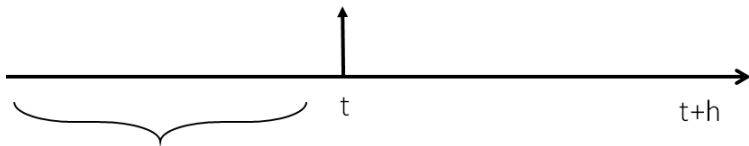
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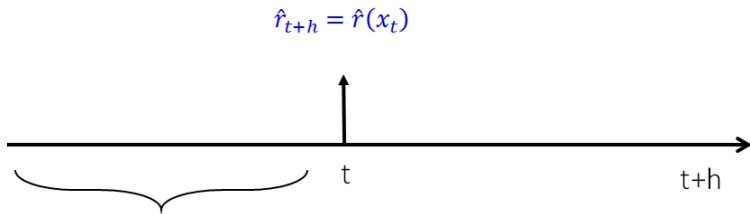
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Use data to find best
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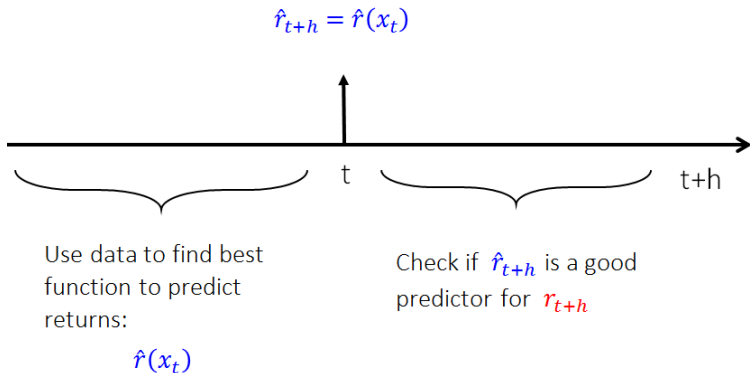
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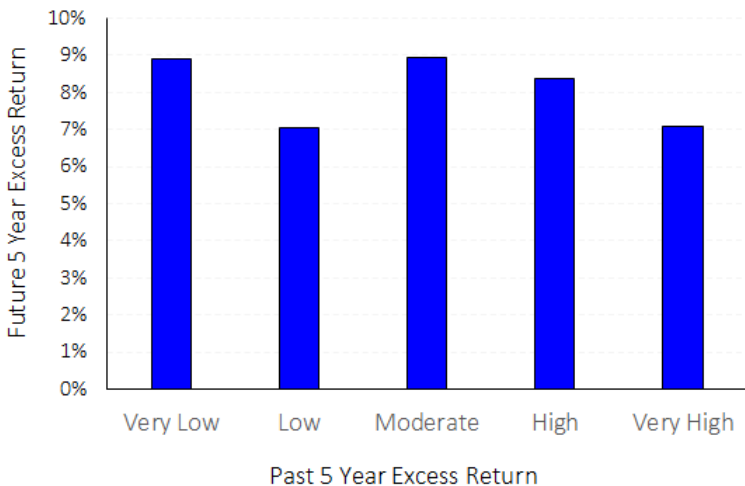
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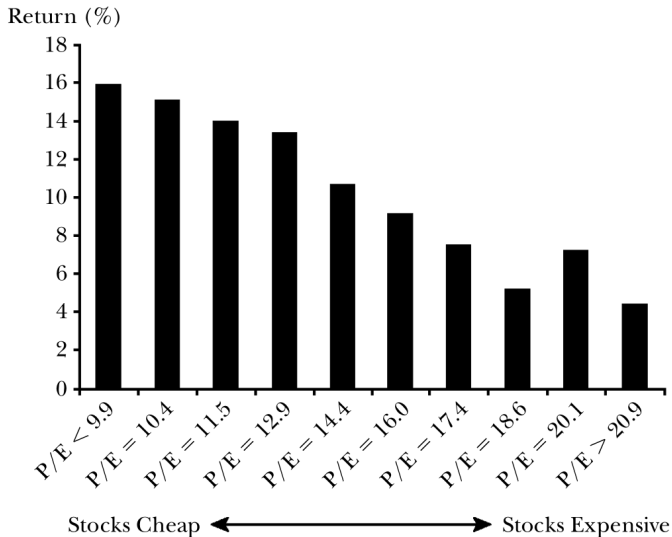
Systematic Return Forecast: Logic



Systematic Return Forecast: Past Returns*



Systematic Return Forecast: Price-to-Earnings (P/E)*



Which of the following is valid?

- a) All event studies presented provide evidence in support of the EMH
- b) There is substantial evidence of return predictability, which contradicts the EMH
- c) Returns do not vary over time and, thus, there is no point in looking for predictability in returns
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- Strong-form EMH:

no active investing based on any information cannot generate α

(includes all information)

no active investing based on all data, including insider information, can generate α

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Source: Berkowitz and Giorgianni (2001)

◦ This is consistent with the fact that active trading generates an average return of 1.5% per year, which is lower than the average return of 2.5% for the S&P 500 index.

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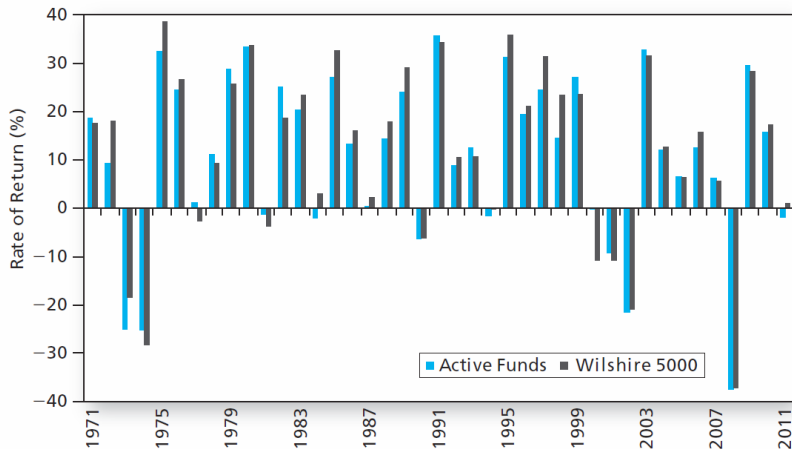
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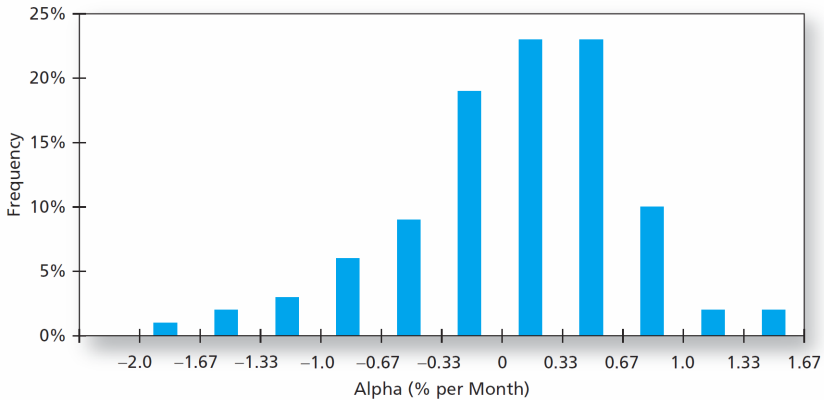
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Mutual Funds: Returns*



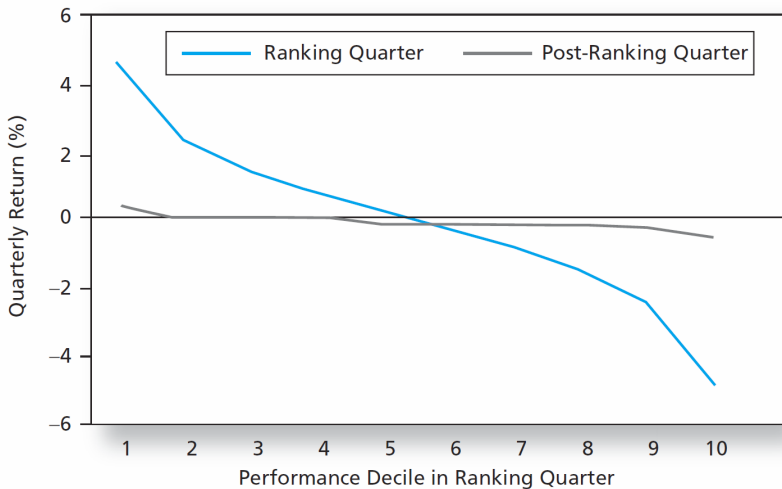
Source: Bodie, Kane and Marcus (10th ed) - *Investments*

Mutual Funds: α^*



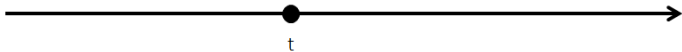
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Mutual Funds: α Persistence*

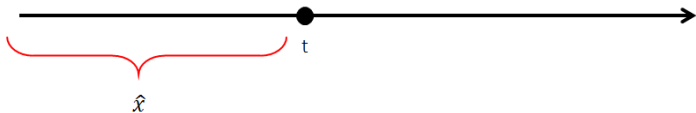


Source: Bollen and Busse (2004) - *Short-Term Persistence in Mutual Fund Performance*

Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Logic



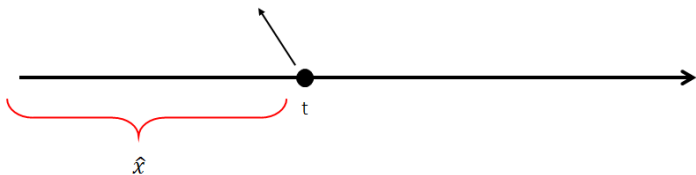
Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Logic



\hat{x} : any characteristic of interest

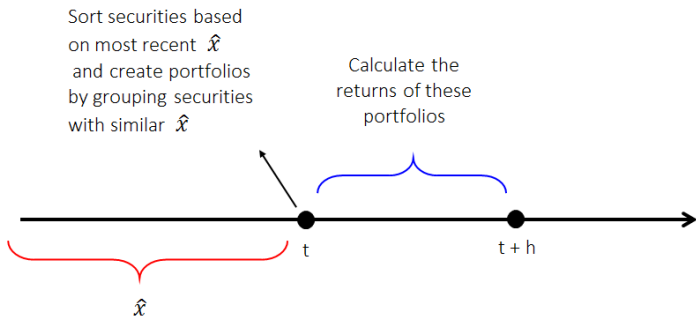
Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Logic

Sort securities based
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Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Logic

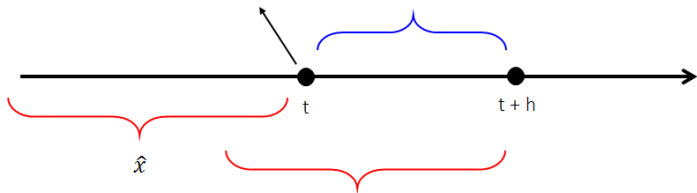


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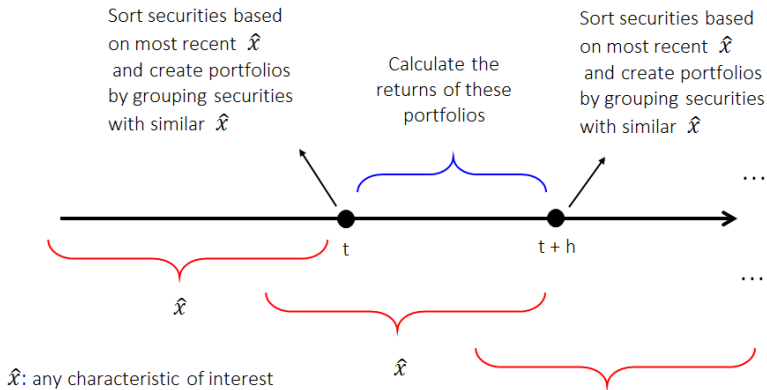
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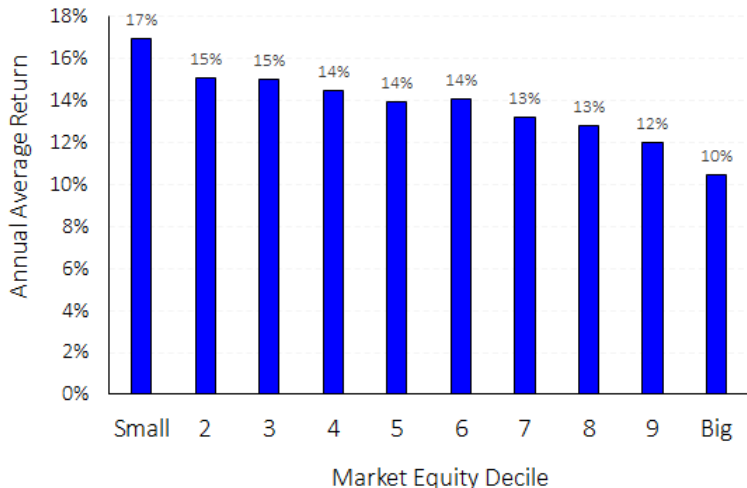
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\hat{x}

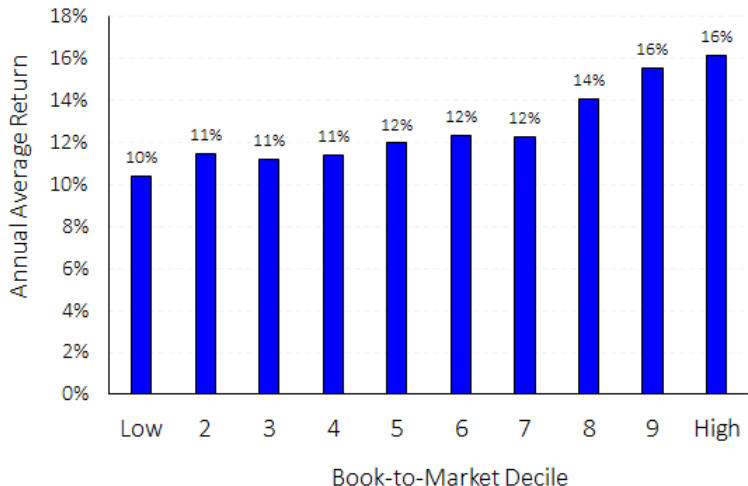
Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Logic



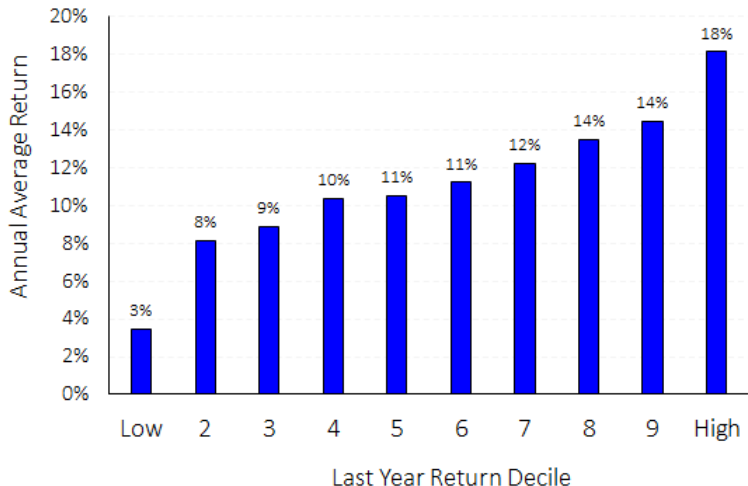
Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Size Effect*



Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Value Effect*



Dynamic Strategies (“Anomalies”): Momentum*



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- a) If the Semistrong EMH is true, then any two strategies based on public information should have identical expected return
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- c) Insider trading does not generate α , which is evidence in favor of the Strong-form EMH
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- The EMH fails whenever $\mathbb{E}_t[r] \neq dr_t$
- For this to happen, investors need to make similar mistakes (if each investor makes a different mistake, they average to zero and prices are not affected)
- Moreover, smart investors must be unable to profit from the mistakes of other investors without taking a lot of risk (otherwise they would adjust prices)
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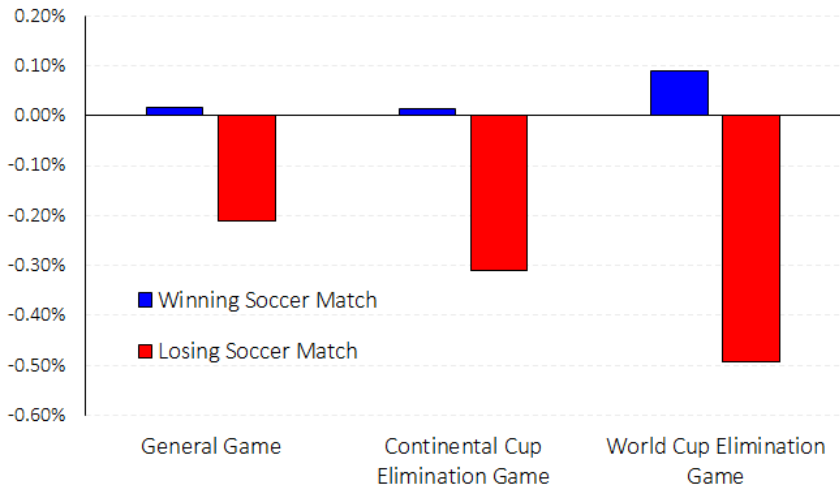
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Evidence: Abnormal Return one Day after Soccer Match*



Evidence: Adding “.com” on Company Name*

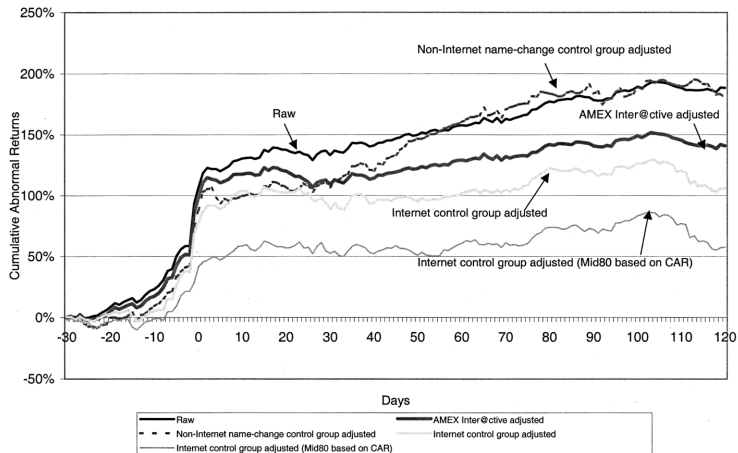
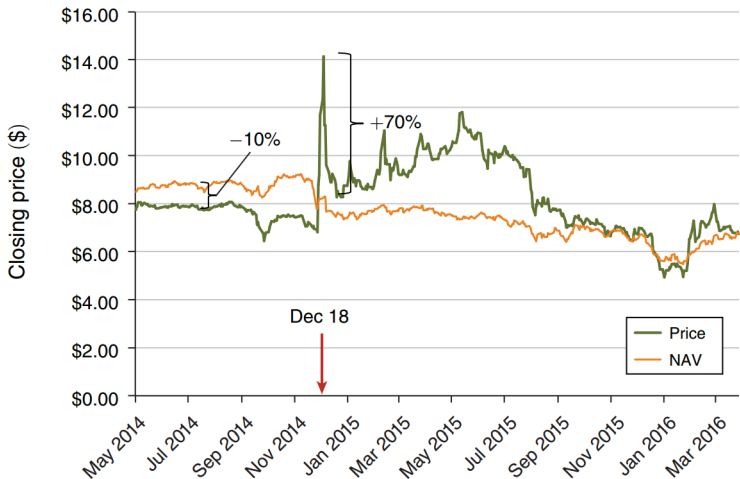


Figure 1. Cumulative abnormal returns earned around the announcement date by firms changing their names to dotcom names.

Evidence: "CUBA" Fund*



Source: Thaler (2016) - *Behavioral Economics: Past, Present, and Future*

Systematic Mistakes: Mental Accounting

- Did your parents create a “College Fund” for you?
- Mental Accounting bias:
 - “Tendency for people to separate their money into separate accounts based on a variety of subjective criteria, like the source of the money and intent for each account”
- Application to Investments:
 - Investors are more likely to sell stocks with gains than the ones with loss (“disposition effect”)
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- Choose 6 numbers from 1 to 60 to play in the lottery:

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“The probability that event X belongs to set Y is judged on the basis of how similar X is to the stereotype of Y”

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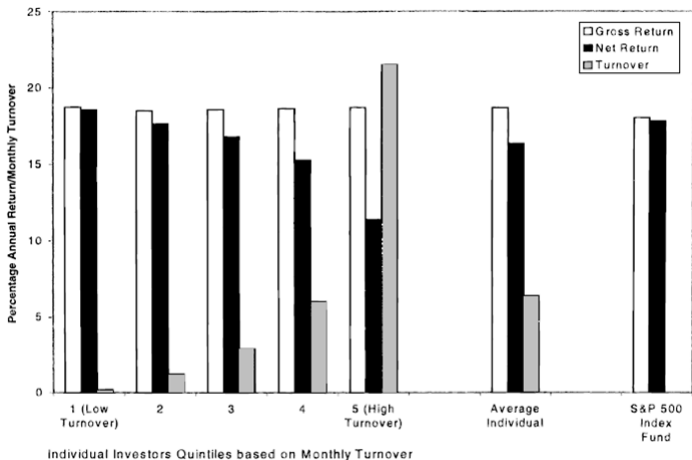
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Systematic Mistakes: Trading Activity x Returns*



Source: Barber and Odean (2001) - *Boys will be boys: gender, overconfidence, and common stock investment*

Limits to Arbitrage

- Grinblatt et al (2011): High IQ investors are not as biased
- If “arbitrageurs” can easily take advantage of other investor’s mistakes, then cognitive biases cannot have an effect on prices
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$$= \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]} + \frac{CF_{t+2}}{(1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]) \cdot (1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1}[r_{t+2}])} + \dots \right]$$

$$P_t = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+h}}{\prod_{k=t}^{t+h-1} (1 + \mathbb{E}_k[r_{k+1}])} \right]$$

Appendix: Proof of Valuation Identity (Not Required)

$$1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}] = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{P_{t+1} + CF_{t+1}}{P_t} \right]$$

↓

$$P_t = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]} + \frac{P_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]} \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]} + \frac{1}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]} \cdot \left(\frac{CF_{t+2}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1}[r_{t+2}]} + \frac{P_{t+2}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1}[r_{t+2}]} \right) \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]} + \frac{CF_{t+2}}{(1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]) \cdot (1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1}[r_{t+2}])} + \frac{P_{t+2}}{(1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]) \cdot (1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1}[r_{t+2}])} \right]$$

⋮

$$= \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]} + \frac{CF_{t+2}}{(1 + \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}]) \cdot (1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1}[r_{t+2}])} + \dots \right] + \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{P_{t+\infty}}{\prod_{k=t}^{\infty} (1 + \mathbb{E}_k[r_{k+1}])} \right]$$

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$$P_t = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+h}}{\prod_{k=t}^{t+h-1} (1 + \mathbb{E}_k[r_{k+1}])} \right]$$

Appendix: Proof of Valuation Identity (Not Required)

$$1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}] = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{P_{t+1} + CF_{t+1}}{P_t} \right]$$

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$$P_t = \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}]} + \frac{P_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}]} \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}]} + \frac{1}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}]} \cdot \left(\frac{CF_{t+2}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1} [r_{t+2}]} + \frac{P_{t+2}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1} [r_{t+2}]} \right) \right]$$

$$= \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+1}}{1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}]} + \frac{CF_{t+2}}{(1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}]) \cdot (1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1} [r_{t+2}])} + \frac{P_{t+2}}{(1 + \mathbb{E}_t [r_{t+1}]) \cdot (1 + \mathbb{E}_{t+1} [r_{t+2}])} \right]$$

⋮

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$$P_t = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+h}}{\prod_{k=t}^{t+h-1} (1 + \mathbb{E}_k [r_{k+1}])} \right]$$

Appendix: Proof of Valuation Identity (Not Required)

$$P_t = \sum_{h=1}^{\infty} \mathbb{E}_t \left[\frac{CF_{t+h}}{\prod_{k=t}^{t+h-1} (1 + \mathbb{E}_k[r_{k+1}])} \right]$$

- If we assume that (i) $\mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+1}] = \mathbb{E}_t[r_{t+2}] \equiv \mathbb{E}_t[r]$ and (ii) shocks to cash flows are independent of shocks to expected returns, then we have:

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Appendix: Proof of Valuation Identity (Not Required)

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Appendix: Proof of Valuation Identity (Not Required)

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