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LONG-TERM MEMORY IN STOCK MARKET PRICES

BY ANDREW W. LO¹

A test for long-run memory that is robust to short-range dependence is developed. It is an extension of the “range over standard deviation” or R/S statistic, for which the relevant asymptotic sampling theory is derived via functional central limit theory. This test is applied to daily and monthly stock returns indexes over several time periods and, contrary to previous findings, there is no evidence of long-range dependence in any of the indexes over any sample period or sub-period once short-range dependence is taken into account. Illustrative Monte Carlo experiments indicate that the modified R/S test has power against at least two specific models of long-run memory, suggesting that stochastic models of short-range dependence may adequately capture the time series behavior of stock returns.

KEYWORDS: Long-range dependence, R/S analysis, fractional differencing, $1/f$ noise, random walk, stock market prices.

1. INTRODUCTION

THAT ECONOMIC TIME SERIES can exhibit long-range dependence has been a hypothesis of many early theories of the trade and business cycles. Such theories were often motivated by the distinct but nonperiodic cyclical patterns that typified plots of economic aggregates over time, cycles of many periods, some that seem nearly as long as the entire span of the sample. In the frequency domain such time series are said to have power at low frequencies. So common was this particular feature of the data that Granger (1966) considered it the “typical spectral shape of an economic variable.” It has also been called the “Joseph effect” by Mandelbrot and Wallis (1968), a playful but not inappropriate biblical reference to the Old Testament prophet who foretold of the seven years of plenty followed by the seven years of famine that Egypt was to experience. Indeed, Nature’s predilection towards long-range dependence has been well-documented in hydrology, meteorology, and geophysics, and to the extent that the ultimate sources of uncertainty in economics are natural phenomena like rainfall or earthquakes, we might also expect to find long-term memory in economic time series.²

The presence of long-memory components in asset returns has important implications for many of the paradigms used in modern financial economics. For

¹ I am grateful to Joseph Haubrich for stimulating my interest in this area and for many enlightening discussions, and to Lars Hansen for extensive comments and suggestions. I also thank David Aldous, Buzz Brock, John Campbell, Yin-Wong Cheung, John Heaton, Blake LeBaron, Bruce Lehmann, Nancy Lo, Craig MacKinlay, Whitney Newey, Pierre Perron, Jim Poterba, Murad Taqq, Jean-Luc Vila, Lian Wang, Jeff Wooldridge, two referees, and participants at various seminars for useful comments. Sunghwan Shin provided excellent research assistance. Research support from the Batterymarch Fellowship, the International Financial Service Research Center at M.I.T., the National Science Foundation (Grant Nos. SES-8520054, SES-8821583), the John M. Olin Fellowship at the NBER, the Rodney L. White Fellowship at the Wharton School, and the University of Pennsylvania Research Foundation is gratefully acknowledged.

² Haubrich (1990) and Haubrich and Lo (1989) provide a less fanciful theory of long-range dependence in economic aggregates.

example, optimal consumption/savings and portfolio decisions may become extremely sensitive to the investment horizon if stock returns were long-range dependent. Problems also arise in the pricing of derivative securities (such as options and futures) with martingale methods, since the class of continuous time stochastic processes most commonly employed is inconsistent with long-term memory (see Maheswaran (1990), Maheswaran and Sims (1990), and Sims (1984), for example). Traditional tests of the capital asset pricing model and the arbitrage pricing theory are no longer valid since the usual forms of statistical inference do not apply to time series exhibiting such persistence. And the conclusions of more recent tests of “efficient” markets hypotheses or stock market rationality also hang precariously on the presence or absence of long-term memory.³

Among the first to have considered the possibility and implications of persistent statistical dependence in asset returns was Mandelbrot (1971). Since then, several empirical studies have lent further support to Mandelbrot’s findings. For example, Greene and Fielitz (1977) claim to have found long-range dependence in the daily returns of many securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange. More recent investigations have uncovered anomalous behavior in long-horizon stock returns;⁴ alternately attributed to speculative fads and to time-varying conditional expected returns, these long-run swings may be further evidence of the Joseph effect.

In this paper I develop a test for such forms of long-range dependence using a simple generalization of a statistic first proposed by the English hydrologist Harold Edwin Hurst (1951). This statistic, called the “rescaled range” or “range over standard deviation” or “ R/S ” statistic, has been refined by Mandelbrot (1972, 1975) and others in several important ways (see, for example, Mandelbrot and Taqqu (1979) and Mandelbrot and Wallis (1968, 1969a–1969c)). However, such refinements were not designed to distinguish between short-range and long-range dependence (in a sense to be made precise below), a severe short-coming in applications of R/S analysis to recent stock returns data since Lo and MacKinlay (1988, 1990) show that such data display substantial short-range dependence. Therefore, to be of current interest, any empirical investigation of long-term memory in stock returns must first account for the presence of higher frequency autocorrelation.

By modifying the rescaled range appropriately, I construct a test statistic that is robust to short-range dependence and derive its limiting distribution under both short-range and long-range dependence. Contrary to the findings of Greene and Fielitz (1977) and others, when this statistic is applied to daily and monthly stock return indexes over several different sample periods and sub-periods, there is no evidence of long-range dependence once the effects of short-range dependence are accounted for. Monte Carlo experiments indicate that the modified R/S test has reasonable power against at least two particular

³ See Leroy (1989) and Merton (1987) for excellent surveys of this recent literature.

⁴ See, for example, Fama and French (1988), Jegadeesh (1990a, 1990b), and Poterba and Summers (1988).

models of long-range dependence, suggesting that the time series behavior of stock returns may be adequately captured by more conventional models of short-range dependence.

The particular notions of short-term and long-term memory are defined in Section 2 and some illustrative examples are given. The test statistic is presented in Section 3 and its limiting distributions under the null and alternative hypotheses are derived via functional central limit theory. In Section 4 the empirical results are reported, and Monte Carlo simulations that illustrate the size and power of the test in finite samples are presented in Section 5. I conclude in Section 6.

2. LONG-RANGE VERSUS SHORT-RANGE DEPENDENCE

To develop a method for detecting long-term memory, the distinction between long-range and short-range statistical dependence must be made precise. One of the most widely used concepts of short-range dependence is the notion of “strong-mixing” due to Rosenblatt (1956), a measure of the decline in statistical dependence between events separated by successively longer spans of time. Heuristically, a time series is strong-mixing if the maximal dependence between events at any two dates becomes trivially small as the time span between those two dates increases. By controlling the rate at which the dependence between past and future events declines, it is possible to extend the usual laws of large numbers and central limit theorems to dependent sequences of random variables. I adopt strong-mixing as an operational definition of short-range dependence in the null hypothesis of Section 2.1. In Section 2.2, I give examples of alternatives to short-range dependence such as the class of fractionally-differenced processes proposed by Granger and Joyeux (1980), Hosking (1981), and Mandelbrot and Van Ness (1968).

2.1. The Null Hypothesis

Let P_t denote the price of an asset at time t and define $X_t \equiv \log P_t - \log P_{t-1}$ to be the continuously compounded single-period return of that asset from $t-1$ to t . With little loss in generality, let any dividend payments be reinvested in the asset so that X_t is indeed the total return of the asset between $t-1$ and t .⁵ It is assumed throughout that

$$(2.1) \quad X_t = \mu + \varepsilon_t$$

where μ is an arbitrary but fixed parameter and ε_t is a zero mean random variable. Let this stochastic process $\{X_t(\omega)\}$ be defined on the probability space (Ω, \mathcal{F}, P) and define

$$(2.2) \quad \alpha(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) \equiv \sup_{\{A \in \mathcal{A}, B \in \mathcal{B}\}} |P(A \cap B) - P(A)P(B)|,$$

$$\mathcal{A} \subset \mathcal{F}, \quad \mathcal{B} \subset \mathcal{F}.$$

⁵This is in fact how the stock returns data of Section 4 are constructed.

The quantity $\alpha(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ is a measure of the dependence between the two σ -fields \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} in \mathcal{F} . Denote by \mathcal{B}_s^t the Borel σ -field generated by $\{X_s(\omega), \dots, X_t(\omega)\}$, i.e., $\mathcal{B}_s^t \equiv \sigma(X_s(\omega), \dots, X_t(\omega)) \subset \mathcal{F}$. Define the coefficients α_k as

$$(2.3) \quad \alpha_k \equiv \sup_j \alpha(\mathcal{B}_{-\infty}^j, \mathcal{B}_{j+k}^{\infty}).$$

Then $\{X_t(\omega)\}$ is said to be *strong-mixing* if $\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \alpha_k = 0$.⁶ Such mixing conditions have been used extensively in the recent literature to relax the assumptions that ensure the consistency and asymptotic normality of various econometric estimators (see, for example, Chan and Wei (1988), Phillips (1987), White (1980), and White and Domowitz (1984)). As Phillips (1987) observes, these conditions are satisfied by a great many stochastic processes, including all Gaussian finite-order stationary ARMA models. Moreover, the inclusion of a moment condition also allows for heterogeneously distributed sequences, an especially important extension in view of the apparent instabilities of financial time series.

In addition to strong mixing, several other conditions are required as part of the null hypothesis in order to develop a sampling theory for the test statistic proposed in Section 3. In particular, the null hypothesis is composed of the following four conditions on ε_t :

$$(A1) \quad E[\varepsilon_t] = 0 \quad \text{for all } t;$$

$$(A2) \quad \sup_t E[|\varepsilon_t|^\beta] < \infty \quad \text{for some } \beta > 2;$$

$$(A3) \quad 0 < \sigma^2 = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E \left[\frac{1}{n} \left(\sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j \right)^2 \right] < \infty;$$

$$(A4) \quad \{\varepsilon_t\} \text{ is strong-mixing with mixing coefficients } \alpha_k \text{ that satisfy}$$

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \alpha_k^{1-(2/\beta)} < \infty.$$

Condition (A1) is standard. Conditions (A2) through (A4) are restrictions on the maximal degree of dependence and heterogeneity allowable while still permitting some form of the law of large numbers and the (functional) central limit theorem to obtain. Although (A2) rules out infinite variance marginal distributions of ε_t such as those in the stable family with characteristic exponent less than 2, the disturbances may still exhibit unconditional leptokurtosis via time-varying conditional moments (e.g., conditional heteroscedasticity). Moreover, since there is a trade-off between (A2) and (A4), the uniform bound on the moments can be relaxed if the mixing coefficients decline faster than (A4)

⁶ There are several other ways of measuring the degree of statistical dependence, giving rise to other notions of "mixing." For further details, see Eberlein and Taqqu (1986), Rosenblatt (1956), and White (1984).

requires.⁷ For example, if ε_t is required to have finite absolute moments of all orders (corresponding to $\beta \rightarrow \infty$), then α_k must decline faster than $1/k$. However, if ε_t is restricted to have finite moments only up to order 4, then α_k must decline faster than $1/k^2$. These conditions are discussed at greater length by Phillips (1987).

Of course, it is too much to hope that *all* forms of short-memory processes are captured by (A1)–(A4). For example, if ε_t were the first difference of a stationary process, its spectral density at frequency zero vanishes, violating (A3). Yet such a process certainly need not be long-range dependent. A more subtle example is given by Ibragimov and Rozanov (1978)—a stationary Gaussian process with spectral density function

$$(2.4) \quad f(\omega) = \exp \left\{ \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\cos k\omega}{k \log k + 1} \right\},$$

which is strong-mixing but has unbounded spectral density at the origin. The stochastic process with $1/f(\omega)$ for its spectral density is also strong-mixing, but $1/f(\omega)$ vanishes at the origin. Although neither process is long-range dependent, they both violate (A3). Unfortunately, a general characterization of the implications of such processes for the behavior of the test statistic proposed in Section 3 is currently unavailable. Therefore, a rejection of the null hypothesis does not necessarily imply that long-range dependence is present but merely that, if the rejection is not a type I error, the stochastic process does not satisfy all four conditions simultaneously. Whether or not the composite null (A1)–(A4) is a useful one must therefore depend on the particular application at hand.

In particular, although mixing conditions have been widely used in the recent literature, several other sets of assumptions might have served equally well as our short-range dependent null hypothesis. For example, if $\{\varepsilon_t\}$ is assumed to be stationary and ergodic, the moment condition (A2) can be relaxed and more temporal dependence than (A4) is allowable (see Hall and Heyde (1980)). Whether or not the assumption of stationarity is a restrictive one for financial time series is still an open question. There is ample evidence of changing variances in stock returns over periods longer than five years, but unstable volatilities can be a symptom of *conditional* heteroscedasticity which can manifest itself in stationary time series. Since the empirical evidence regarding changing conditional moments in asset returns is mixed, allowing for nonstationarities in our null hypothesis may still have value. Moreover, (A1)–(A4) may be weakened further, allowing for still more temporal dependence and heterogeneity, hence widening the class of processes contained in our null hypothesis.⁸

⁷ See Herrndorf (1985). One of Mandelbrot's (1972) arguments in favor of R/S analysis is that finite second moments are not required. This is indeed the case if we are interested only in the almost sure convergence of the statistic. But since for purposes of inference the *limiting distribution* is required, a stronger moment condition is needed here.

⁸ Specifically, that the sequence $\{\varepsilon_t\}$ is strong-mixing may be replaced by the weaker assumption that it is a near-epoch dependent function of a strong-mixing process. See McLeish (1977) and Wooldridge and White (1988) for further details.

Note, however, that conditions (A1)–(A4) are satisfied by many of the recently proposed stochastic models of persistence, such as those of Campbell and Mankiw (1987), Fama and French (1988), and Poterba and Summers (1988). Therefore, since such models of longer-term correlations are contained in our null, the kinds of long-range dependence that (A1)–(A4) were designed to exclude are quite different. Although the distinction between dependence in the short run and the long run may appear to be a matter of degree, strongly dependent processes behave so differently from weakly dependent time series that the dichotomy proposed in our null seems most natural. For example, the spectral densities at frequency zero of strongly dependent processes are either unbounded or zero whereas they are nonzero and finite for processes in our null. The partial sums of strongly dependent processes do not converge in distribution at the same rate as weakly dependent series. And graphically, their behavior is marked by cyclical patterns of all kinds, some that are virtually indistinguishable from trends.

2.2. Long-Range Dependent Alternatives

In contrast to the short-term memory of “weakly dependent” (i.e., mixing) processes, natural phenomena often display long-term memory in the form of nonperiodic cycles. This has lead several authors to develop stochastic models that exhibit dependence even over very long time spans, such as the fractionally-integrated time series models of Granger (1980), Granger and Joyeux (1980), Hosking (1981), and Mandelbrot and Van Ness (1968). These stochastic processes are not strong-mixing, and have autocorrelation functions that decay at much slower rates than those of weakly dependent processes. For example, let X_t satisfy the following difference equation:

$$(2.5) \quad (1 - L)^d X_t = \varepsilon_t, \quad \varepsilon_t \sim WN(0, \sigma_\varepsilon^2),$$

where L is the lag operator and ε_t is white noise. Granger and Joyeux (1980) and Hosking (1981) show that when the quantity $(1 - L)^d$ is extended to noninteger powers of d in the mathematically natural way, the result is a well-defined time series that is said to be “fractionally-differenced” of order d (or, equivalently, “fractionally-integrated” of order $-d$). Briefly, this involves expanding the expression $(1 - L)^d$ via the binomial theorem for noninteger powers:

$$(2.6) \quad (1 - L)^d = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \binom{d}{k} L^k,$$

$$\binom{d}{k} \equiv \frac{d(d-1)(d-2) \cdots (d-k+1)}{k!},$$

TABLE I
 COMPARISON OF AUTOCORRELATION FUNCTIONS OF FRACTIONALLY DIFFERENCED TIME SERIES $(1 - L)^d X_t = \varepsilon_t$ FOR $d = \frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}$ WITH THAT OF AN AR(1) $X_t = \rho X_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t$, $\rho = .5$. THE VARIANCE OF ε_t WAS CHOSEN TO YIELD A UNIT VARIANCE FOR X_t IN ALL THREE CASES.

Lag k	$\rho^{(k)}$ [$d = \frac{1}{3}$]	$\rho^{(k)}$ [$d = -\frac{1}{3}$]	$\rho^{(k)}$ [AR(1), $\rho = .5$]
1	0.500	-0.250	0.500
2	0.400	-0.071	0.250
3	0.350	-0.036	0.125
4	0.318	-0.022	0.063
5	0.295	-0.015	0.031
10	0.235	-0.005	0.001
25	0.173	-0.001	2.98×10^{-8}
50	0.137	-3.24×10^{-4}	8.88×10^{-16}
100	0.109	-1.02×10^{-4}	7.89×10^{-31}

and then applying the expansion to X_t :

$$(2.7) \quad (1 - L)^d X_t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} (-1)^k \binom{d}{k} L^k X_t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k X_{t-k} = \varepsilon_t$$

where the autoregressive coefficients A_k are often re-expressed in terms of the gamma function:

$$(2.8) \quad A_k = (-1)^k \binom{d}{k} = \frac{\Gamma(k - d)}{\Gamma(-d)\Gamma(k + 1)}.$$

X_t may also be viewed mechanically as an infinite-order MA process since

$$(2.9) \quad X_t = (1 - L)^{-d} \varepsilon_t = B(L) \varepsilon_t, \quad B_k = \frac{\Gamma(k + d)}{\Gamma(d)\Gamma(k + 1)}.$$

It is not obvious that such a definition of fractional-differencing might yield a useful stochastic process, but Granger (1980), Granger and Joyeux (1980), and Hosking (1981) show that the characteristics of fractionally-differenced time series are interesting indeed. For example, it may be shown that X_t is stationary and invertible for $d \in (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ (see Hosking (1981)), and exhibits a unique kind of dependence that is positive or negative depending on whether d is positive or negative, i.e., the autocorrelation coefficients of X_t are of the same sign as d . So slowly do the autocorrelations decay that when d is positive their sum diverges to infinity, and collapses to zero when d is negative.⁹ To develop a sense of this long-range dependence, compare the autocorrelations of a fractionally-differenced X_t with those of a stationary AR(1) in Table I. Although both the AR(1) and the fractionally-differenced ($d = \frac{1}{3}$) series have first-order autocorre-

⁹ Mandelbrot and others have called the $d < 0$ case "anti-persistence," reserving the term "long-range dependence" for the $d > 0$ case. However, since both cases involve autocorrelations that decay much more slowly than those of more conventional time series, I call both long-range dependent.

lations of 0.500, at lag 25 the AR(1) autocorrelation is 2.98×10^{-8} whereas the fractionally-differenced series has autocorrelation 0.173, declining only to 0.109 at lag 100.

In fact, the defining characteristic of long-range dependent processes has been taken by many to be this slow decay of the autocovariance function. Therefore, more generally, long-range dependent processes may be defined to be those processes with autocovariance functions γ_k such that

$$(2.10) \quad \gamma_k \sim \begin{cases} k^\nu L(k) & \text{for } \nu \in (-1, 0) \text{ or} \\ -k^\nu L(k) & \text{for } \nu \in (-2, -1), \end{cases} \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty,$$

where $L(k)$ is any slowly varying function at infinity.¹⁰ This is the definition I shall adopt in the analysis to follow. As an example, the autocovariance function of the fractionally-difference process (2.5) is

$$(2.11) \quad \gamma_k = \frac{\sigma_\varepsilon^2 \Gamma(1-2d) \Gamma(k+d)}{\Gamma(d) \Gamma(1-d) \Gamma(k+1-d)} \sim ck^{2d-1} \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty,$$

where $d \in (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ and c is some constant. Depending on whether d is negative or positive, the spectral density of (2.5) at frequency zero, given by

$$(2.12) \quad f(\lambda) \cong (1 - e^{-i\lambda})^{-d} (1 - e^{i\lambda})^{-d} \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \sim \sigma_\varepsilon^2 \lambda^{-2d} \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow 0,$$

will either be zero or infinite; thus such processes violate condition (A3).¹¹ Furthermore, the results of Helson and Sarason (1967) show that these processes are not strong-mixing; hence they also violate condition (A4) of our null hypothesis.¹²

3. THE RESCALED RANGE STATISTIC

To detect long-range or “strong” dependence, Mandelbrot has suggested using the range over standard deviation or R/S statistic, also called the “rescaled range,” which was developed by Hurst (1951) in his studies of river discharges. The R/S statistic is the range of partial sums of deviations of a time series from its mean, rescaled by its standard deviation. Specifically, consider a sample of returns X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n and let \bar{X}_n denote the sample mean $(1/n)\sum_j X_j$.

¹⁰ A function $f(x)$ is said to be *regularly varying at infinity with index ρ* if $\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} f(tx)/f(t) = x^\rho$ for all $x > 0$; hence regularly varying functions are functions that behave like power functions asymptotically. When $\rho = 0$, the function is said to be *slowly varying at infinity*, since it behaves like a constant for large x . An example of a function that is slowly varying at infinity is $\log x$. See Resnick (1987) for further properties of regularly varying functions.

¹¹ This has also been advanced as a definition of long-range dependence—see, for example, Mandelbrot (1972).

¹² Note, Helson and Sarason (1967) only consider the case of linear dependence; hence their conditions are sufficient to rule out strong-mixing but not necessary. For example, white noise may be approximated by a nonlinear deterministic time series (e.g. the tent map) and will have constant spectral density, but will be strongly dependent. I am grateful to Lars Hansen for pointing this out.

Then the classical rescaled range statistic, denoted by \tilde{Q}_n , is defined as

$$(3.1) \quad \tilde{Q}_n \equiv \frac{1}{s_n} \left[\text{Max}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) - \text{Min}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) \right],$$

where s_n is the usual (maximum likelihood) standard deviation estimator:

$$(3.2) \quad s_n \equiv \left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_j (X_j - \bar{X}_n)^2 \right]^{1/2}.$$

The first term in brackets in (3.1) is the maximum (over k) of the partial sums of the first k deviations of X_j from the sample mean. Since the sum of all n deviations of the X_j 's from their mean is zero, this maximum is always nonnegative. The second term in (3.1) is the minimum (over k) of this same sequence of partial sums; hence it is always nonpositive. The difference of the two quantities, called the "range" for obvious reasons, is therefore always nonnegative; hence $\tilde{Q}_n \geq 0$.¹³

In several seminal papers Mandelbrot, Taqqu, and Wallis demonstrate the superiority of R/S analysis to more conventional methods of determining long-range dependence, such as analyzing autocorrelations, variance ratios, and spectral decompositions. For example, Mandelbrot and Wallis (1969a) show by Monte Carlo simulation that the R/S statistic can detect long-range dependence in highly non-Gaussian time series with large skewness and kurtosis. In fact, Mandelbrot (1972, 1975) reports the almost-sure convergence of the R/S statistic for stochastic processes with infinite variances, a distinct advantage over autocorrelations and variance ratios which need not be well-defined for such processes. Further aspects of the R/S statistic's robustness are derived in Mandelbrot and Taqqu (1979). Mandelbrot (1972) also argues that, unlike spectral analysis which detects periodic cycles, R/S analysis can detect *nonperiodic* cycles, cycles with periods equal to or greater than the sample period.

¹³ The behavior of \tilde{Q}_n may be better understood by considering its origins in hydrological studies of reservoir design. To accommodate seasonalities in riverflow, a reservoir's capacity must be chosen to allow for fluctuations in the supply of water above the dam while still maintaining a relatively constant flow of water below the dam. Since dam construction costs are immense, the importance of estimating the reservoir capacity necessary to meet long term storage needs is apparent. The range is an estimate of this quantity. If X_j is the riverflow (per unit time) above the dam and \bar{X}_n is the desired riverflow below the dam, the bracketed quantity in (3.1) is the capacity of the reservoir needed to ensure this smooth flow given the pattern of flows in periods 1 through n . For example, suppose annual riverflows are assumed to be 100, 50, 100, and 50 in years 1 through 4. If a constant annual flow of 75 below the dam is desired each year, a reservoir must have a minimum total capacity of 25 since it must store 25 units in years 1 and 3 to provide for the relatively dry years 2 and 4. Now suppose instead that the natural pattern of riverflow is 100, 100, 50, 50 in years 1 through 4. To ensure a flow of 75 below the dam in this case, the minimum capacity must increase to 50 so as to accommodate the excess storage needed in years 1 and 2 to supply water during the "dry spell" in years 3 and 4. Seen in this context, it is clear that an increase in persistence will increase the required storage capacity as measured by the range. Indeed, it was the apparent persistence of "dry spells" in Egypt that sparked Hurst's life-long fascination with the Nile, leading eventually to his interest in the rescaled range.

TABLE II
FRACTILES OF THE DISTRIBUTION $F_V(v)$

$P(V < v)$.005	.025	.050	.100	.200	.300	.400	.500
v	0.721	0.809	0.861	0.927	1.018	1.090	1.157	1.223
$P(V < v)$.543	.600	.700	.800	.900	.950	.975	.995
v	$\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}}$	1.294	1.374	1.473	1.620	1.747	1.862	2.098

Although these claims may all be contested to some degree, it is a well-established fact that long-range dependence can indeed be detected by the “classical” R/S statistic. However, perhaps the most important shortcoming of the rescaled range is its sensitivity to short-range dependence, implying that any incompatibility between the data and the predicted behavior of the R/S statistic under the null hypothesis need not come from long-term memory, but may merely be a symptom of short-term memory.

To see this, first observe that under a simple i.i.d. null hypothesis, it is well-known (and is a special case of Theorem 4.1 below) that as n increases without bound, the rescaled range converges in distribution to a well-defined random variable V when properly normalized, i.e.,

$$(3.3) \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \tilde{Q}_n \Rightarrow V$$

where “ \Rightarrow ” denotes weak convergence and V is the range of a Brownian bridge on the unit interval.¹⁴

Now suppose, instead, that $\{X_j\}$ were short-range dependent—for example, let X_j be a stationary AR(1):¹⁵

$$(3.4) \quad \varepsilon_t = \rho \varepsilon_{t-1} + \eta_t, \quad \eta_t \sim WN(0, \sigma_\eta^2), \quad |\rho| \in (0, 1).$$

Although $\{\varepsilon_t\}$ is short-range dependent, it yields a \tilde{Q}_n that does not satisfy (3.3). In fact, it may readily be shown that for (3.4) the limiting distribution of \tilde{Q}_n/\sqrt{n} is ξV where $\xi \equiv \sqrt{(1+\rho)/(1-\rho)}$ (see Proposition 3.1 below). For some portfolios of common stock, $\hat{\rho}$ is as large as 50 percent, implying that the mean of \tilde{Q}_n/\sqrt{n} may be biased upward by 73 percent! Since the mean of V is $\sqrt{\pi}/2 \approx 1.25$, the mean of the classical rescaled range would be 2.16 for such an AR(1) process. Using the critical values of V reported in Table II, it is evident

¹⁴ See Billingsley (1968) for the definition of weak convergence. I discuss the Brownian bridge and V more formally below.

¹⁵ It is implicitly assumed throughout that white noise has a Lebesgue-integrable characteristic function to avoid the pathologies of Andrews (1984).

that a value of 2.16 would yield a rejection of the null hypothesis at any conventional significance level.

This should come as no surprise since the values in Table II correspond to the distribution of V , not ξV . Now by taking into account the “short-term” autocorrelations of the X_j 's—by dividing Q_n by ξ for example—convergence to V may be restored. But this requires knowledge of ξ which, in turn, requires knowledge of ρ . Moreover, if X_j follows a short-range dependent process other than an AR(1), the expression for ξ will change, as Proposition 3.1 below shows. Therefore, correcting for short-range dependence on a case-by-case basis is impractical. Ideally, we would like to correct for short-term memory without taking too strong a position on what form it takes. This is precisely what the modified rescaled range of Section 3.1 does—its limiting distribution is invariant to many forms of short-range dependence, and yet it is still sensitive to the presence of long-range dependence.

Although aware of the effects of short-range dependence on the rescaled range, Mandelbrot (1972, 1975) did not correct for this bias since his focus was the relation of the R/S statistic's logarithm to the logarithm of the sample size as the sample size increases without bound. For short-range dependent time series such as strong-mixing processes, the ratio $\log \tilde{Q}_n / \log n$ approaches $\frac{1}{2}$ in the limit, but converges to quantities greater or less than $\frac{1}{2}$ according to whether there is positive or negative long-range dependence. The limit of this ratio is often denoted by H and is called the “Hurst” coefficient. For example, the fractionally-differenced process (2.1) satisfies the simple relation: $H = d + \frac{1}{2}$.

Mandelbrot and Wallis (1969a) suggest estimating the Hurst coefficient by plotting the logarithm of \tilde{Q}_n against the logarithm of the sample size n . Beyond some large n , the slope of such a plot should settle down to H . However, although $H = \frac{1}{2}$ across general classes of short-range dependent processes, the finite-sample properties of the *estimated* Hurst coefficient are not invariant to the form of short-range dependence. In particular, Davies and Harte (1987) show that even though the Hurst coefficient of a stationary Gaussian AR(1) is precisely $\frac{1}{2}$, the 5 percent Mandelbrot regression test rejects this null hypothesis 47 percent of the time for an autoregressive parameter of 0.3. Additional Monte Carlo evidence is reported in Section 5.

3.1. The Modified R/S Statistic

To distinguish between long-range and short-range dependence, the R/S statistic must be modified so that its statistical behavior is invariant over a general class of short memory processes, but deviates for long memory processes. This is accomplished by the following statistic Q_n :

$$(3.5) \quad Q_n \equiv \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)} \left[\text{Max}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) - \text{Min}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) \right]$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 (3.6) \quad \hat{\sigma}_n^2(q) &\equiv \frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n (X_j - \bar{X}_n)^2 \\
 &\quad + \frac{2}{n} \sum_{j=1}^q \omega_j(q) \left\{ \sum_{i=j+1}^n (X_i - \bar{X}_n)(X_{i-j} - \bar{X}_n) \right\} \\
 (3.7) \quad &= \hat{\sigma}_x^2 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^q \omega_j(q) \hat{\gamma}_j, \quad \omega_j(q) \equiv 1 - \frac{j}{q+1}, \quad q < n,
 \end{aligned}$$

and $\hat{\sigma}_x^2$ and $\hat{\gamma}_j$ are the usual sample variance and autocovariance estimators of X .

Q_n differs from \tilde{Q}_n only in its denominator, which is the square root of a consistent estimator of the partial sum's variance. If $\{X_t\}$ is subject to short-range dependence, the variance of the partial sum is not simply the sum of the variances of the individual terms, but also includes the autocovariances. Therefore, the estimator $\hat{\sigma}_n^2(q)$ involves not only sums of squared deviations of X_j , but also its weighted autocovariances up to lag q . The weights $\omega_j(q)$ are those suggested by Newey and West (1987) and always yield a positive $\hat{\sigma}_n^2(q)$, an estimator of 2π times the (unnormalized) spectral density function of X_t at frequency zero using a Bartlett window. Theorem 4.2 of Phillips (1987) demonstrates the consistency of $\hat{\sigma}_n^2(q)$ under the following conditions:¹⁶

$$(A2') \quad \sup_t E[|\varepsilon_t|^{2\beta}] < \infty \quad \text{for some } \beta > 2.$$

$$(A5) \quad \text{As } n \text{ increases without bound, } q \text{ also increases without bound such that } q \sim o(n^{1/4}).$$

By allowing q to increase with (but at a slower rate than) the number of observations n , the denominator of Q_n adjusts appropriately for general forms of short-range dependence. Of course, although the conditions (A2') and (A5) ensure the consistency of $\hat{\sigma}_n^2(q)$, they provide little guidance in selecting a truncation lag q . Monte Carlo studies such as Andrews (1991) and Lo and MacKinlay (1989) have shown that when q becomes large relative to the sample size n , the finite-sample distribution of the estimator can be radically different from its asymptotic limit. However q cannot be chosen too small since the autocovariances beyond lag q may be substantial and should be included in the weighted sum. Therefore, the truncation lag must be chosen with some consideration of the data at hand. Andrews (1991) does provide a data-dependent rule for choosing q ; however its minimax optimality is still based on an asymptotic mean-squared error criterion—little is known about how best to pick q in finite samples. Some Monte Carlo evidence is reported in Section 5.

¹⁶ Andrews (1991) has improved the rate restriction in (A5) to $o(n^{1/2})$, and it has been conjectured that $o(n)$ is sufficient.

Since there are several other consistent estimators of the spectral density function at frequency zero, conditions (A2') and (A5) can be replaced with weaker assumptions if conditions (A1), (A3), and (A4) are suitably modified. If, for example, X_t is m -dependent (so that observations spaced greater than m periods apart are independent), it is well-known that the spectral density at frequency zero may be estimated consistently with a finite number of unweighted autocovariances (see, for example, Hansen (1982, Lemma 3.2)). Other weighting functions may be found in Hannan (1970, Chapter V.4) and may yield better finite-sample properties for Q_n than the Bartlett window without altering the limiting null distribution derived in the next section.¹⁷

3.2. The Asymptotic Distribution of Q_n

To derive the limiting distribution of the modified rescaled range Q_n under our null hypothesis, consider the behavior of the following standardized partial sum:

$$(3.8) \quad W_n(\tau) \equiv \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{n}} S_{[n\tau]}, \quad \tau \in [0, 1],$$

where S_k denotes the partial sum $\sum_{j=1}^k \varepsilon_j$ and $[n\tau]$ is the greatest integer less than or equal to $n\tau$. The sample paths of $W_n(\tau)$ are elements of the function space $\mathcal{D}[0, 1]$, the space of all real-valued functions on $[0, 1]$ that are right-continuous and possess finite left limits. Under certain conditions it may be shown that $W_n(\tau)$ converges weakly to a Brownian motion $W(\tau)$ on the unit interval, and that well-behaved functionals of $W_n(\tau)$ converge weakly to the same functionals of Brownian motion (see Billingsley (1968) for further details). Armed with these results, the limiting distribution of the modified rescaled range may be derived in three easy steps, summarized in the following theorem.¹⁸

THEOREM 3.1:¹⁹ *If $\{\varepsilon_t\}$ satisfies assumptions (A1), (A2'), (A3)–(A5), then as n increases without bound:*

- (a)
$$\text{Max}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) \Rightarrow \text{Max}_{0 \leq \tau \leq 1} W^\circ(\tau) \equiv M^\circ,$$
- (b)
$$\text{Min}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) \Rightarrow \text{Min}_{0 \leq \tau \leq 1} W^\circ(\tau) \equiv m^\circ,$$
- (c)
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} Q_n \Rightarrow M^\circ - m^\circ \equiv V.$$

¹⁷ For example, Andrews (1991) and Gallant (1987) both advocate the use of Parzen weights, which also yields a positive semi-definite estimator of the spectral density at frequency zero but is optimal in an asymptotic mean-square error sense.

¹⁸ Mandelbrot (1975) derives similar limit theorems for the statistic \tilde{Q}_n under the more restrictive i.i.d. assumption, in which case the limiting distribution will coincide with that of Q_n . Since our null hypothesis includes weakly dependent disturbances, I extend his results via the more general functional central limit theorem of Herrndorf (1984, 1985).

¹⁹ Proofs of theorems are given in the Appendix.

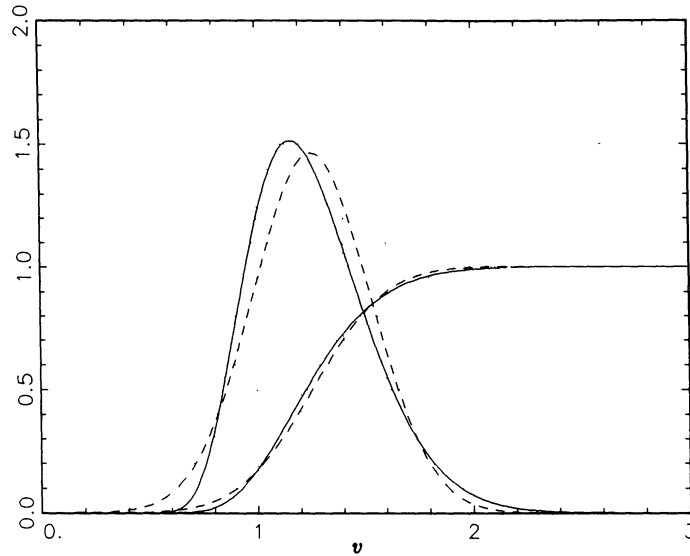
$F_V(v)$ and $f_V(v)$ 

FIGURE 1.—Distribution and density function of the range V of a Brownian bridge. Dashed curves are the normal distribution and density functions with mean and variance equal to those of V ($\sqrt{\pi}/2$ and $\pi^2/6$ respectively).

Parts (a) and (b) of Theorem 3.1 follow from Lemmas A.1 and A.2 of the Appendix, and Theorem 4.2 of Phillips (1987), and show that the maximum and minimum of the partial sum of deviations of X_j from its mean converge respectively to the maximum and minimum of the celebrated Brownian bridge $W^\circ(\tau)$ on the unit interval, also called “pinned” or “tied-down” Brownian motion because $W^\circ(0) = W^\circ(1) = 0$. That the limit of the partial sums is a Brownian bridge is not surprising since the summands are deviations from the mean and must therefore sum to zero at $k = n$. Part (c) of the theorem follows immediately from Lemma A.2 and is the key result, allowing us to perform large sample statistical inference once the distribution function for the range of the Brownian bridge is obtained. This distribution function is implicitly contained in Feller (1951), and is given explicitly by Kennedy (1976) and Siddiqui (1976) as²⁰

$$(3.9) \quad F_V(v) = 1 + 2 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (1 - 4k^2v^2) e^{-2(kv)^2}.$$

Critical values for tests of any significance level are easily obtained from this simple expression (3.9) for F_V . The values most commonly used are reported in Table II. The moments of V may also be readily computed from (3.9); a simple calculation shows that $E[V] = \sqrt{\pi}/2$ and $E[V^2] = \pi^2/6$, thus the mean and standard deviation of V are approximately 1.25 and 0.27 respectively. Plots of F_V and f_V are given in Figure 1, along with Gaussian distribution and density

²⁰ I am grateful to David Aldous and Yin-Wong Cheung for these last two references.

functions (with the same mean and variance as V) for comparison. The distribution of V is positively skewed and most of its mass falls between $\frac{3}{4}$ and 2.

3.3. The Relation Between Q_n and \tilde{Q}_n

Since Q_n and \tilde{Q}_n differ solely in how the range is normalized, the limiting behavior of our modified R/S statistic and Mandelbrot's original will only coincide when $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ and s_n are asymptotically equivalent. From the definitions of $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ and s_n , it is apparent that the two will generally converge in probability to different limits in the presence of autocorrelation. Therefore, under the weakly dependent null hypothesis the statistic \tilde{Q}_n/\sqrt{n} will converge to the range V of a Brownian bridge multiplied by some constant. More formally, we have the almost trivial result:

PROPOSITION 3.1: *If $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E[\sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j^2/n]$ is finite and positive, then under assumptions (A1)–(A4), $\tilde{Q}_n/\sqrt{n} \Rightarrow \xi V$ where*

$$(3.10) \quad \xi^2 \equiv \frac{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\left[\frac{1}{n} (\sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j)^2\right]}{\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} E\left[\frac{1}{n} \sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j^2\right]}.$$

Therefore, normalizing the range by s_n in place of $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ changes the limiting distribution of the rescaled range by the multiplicative constant ξ . This result was used above to derive the limiting distribution of \tilde{Q}_n in the AR(1) case, and closed-form expressions for ξ for general stationary ARMA(p, q) processes may readily be obtained using (3.10).

Since it is robust to many forms of heterogeneity and weak dependence, tests based on the modified R/S statistic Q_n cover a broader set of null hypotheses than those using \tilde{Q}_n . More to the point, the modified rescaled range is able to distinguish between short-range and long-range dependence—the classical rescaled range cannot. Whereas an extreme value for Q_n indicates the likelihood of long-range dependence, a rejection based on the \tilde{Q}_n statistic is also consistent with short-range dependence in the data. Of course, it is always possible to tabulate the limiting distribution of the classical R/S statistic under a particular model of short-range dependence, but this obviously suffers from the drawback of specificity. The modified rescaled range converges weakly to the range of a Brownian bridge under *general* forms of weak dependence.

Despite its sensitivity to short-range dependence, the classical R/S statistic may still be used to test for independently and identically distributed X_t 's. Indeed, the AR(1) example of Section 3 and the results of Davies and Harte (1987) suggest that such a test may have considerable power against non-i.i.d. alternatives. However, since there is already a growing consensus among finan-

cial economists that stock market prices are not independently and identically distributed, this null hypothesis is of less immediate interest. For example, it is now well-known that aggregate stock market returns exhibit significant serial dependence for short-horizon holding periods and are therefore not independently distributed.

3.4. The Behavior of Q_n Under Long Memory Alternatives

To complete the analysis of the modified rescaled range, its behavior under long-range dependent alternatives remains to be investigated. Although this depends of course on the specific alternative at hand, surprisingly general results are available based on the following result from Taqqu (1975).

THEOREM 3.2 (Taqqu): *Let $\{\varepsilon_t\}$ be a zero-mean stationary Gaussian stochastic process such that*

$$(3.11) \quad \sigma_n^2 \equiv \text{Var}[S_n] \sim n^{2H}L(n)$$

where S_n is the partial sum $\sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j$, $H \in (0, 1)$, and $L(n)$ is a slowly varying function at infinity. Define the following function on $\mathcal{D}[0, 1]$:

$$(3.12) \quad W_n(\tau) \equiv \frac{1}{\sigma_n} S_{[n\tau]}, \quad \tau \in (0, 1).$$

Then $W_n(\tau) \Rightarrow W_H(\tau)$, where $W_H(\tau)$ is a fractional Brownian motion of order H on $[0, 1]$.

Theorem 3.2 is a functional central limit theorem for strongly dependent processes, and is only a special case of Taqqu's (1975) considerably more general results. In contrast to the usual functional central limit theorem in which properly normalized partial sums converge to a standard Brownian motion, Theorem 3.2 states that long-range dependent partial sums converge weakly to a *fractional* Brownian motion, first defined by Mandelbrot and Van Ness (1968) as the following stochastic integral:

$$(3.13) \quad W_H(\tau) \equiv \frac{1}{\Gamma(H + \frac{1}{2})} \int_0^\tau (\tau - x)^{H - \frac{1}{2}} dW(x).$$

Observe that when $H = \frac{1}{2}$, $W_H(\tau)$ reduces to a standard Brownian motion. In that case, there is no long-range dependence, the variance of the partial sums grows at rate n , and the spectral density at frequency zero is finite and positive. If $H \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ ($H \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$), there is positive (negative) long-range dependence, the variance grows faster (slower) than n , hence the spectral density at frequency zero is infinite (zero).

In a fashion analogous to Theorem 3.1, the behavior of Q_n under long-range dependent alternatives may now be derived in several steps using Lemmas A.2, A.3, and Theorem 3.2:

THEOREM 3.3: *Let $\{\varepsilon_t\}$ be a zero-mean stationary Gaussian stochastic process with autocovariance function γ_k such that*

$$(3.14) \quad \gamma_k \sim \begin{cases} k^{2H-2}L(k) & \text{for } H \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1) \text{ or} \\ -k^{2H-2}L(k) & \text{for } H \in (0, \frac{1}{2}), \end{cases} \quad \text{as } k \rightarrow \infty,$$

where $L(k)$ is a slowly varying function at infinity. Then as n and q increase without bound such that $(q/n) \rightarrow 0$, we have:

$$(a) \quad \text{Max}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{\sigma_n} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) \Rightarrow \text{Max}_{0 \leq \tau \leq 1} W_H^\circ(\tau) \equiv M_H^\circ,$$

$$(b) \quad \text{Min}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{\sigma_n} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) \Rightarrow \text{Min}_{0 \leq \tau \leq 1} W_H^\circ(\tau) \equiv m_H^\circ,$$

$$(c) \quad R_n \equiv \frac{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)\sqrt{n}}{\sigma_n} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} Q_n \Rightarrow M_H^\circ - m_H^\circ \equiv V_H,$$

$$(d) \quad a_n \equiv \frac{\sigma_n}{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)\sqrt{n}} \xrightarrow{p} \begin{cases} \infty & \text{for } H \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1), \\ 0 & \text{for } H \in (0, \frac{1}{2}), \end{cases}$$

$$(e) \quad \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} Q_n = a_n R_n \xrightarrow{p} \begin{cases} \infty & \text{for } H \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1), \\ 0 & \text{for } H \in (0, \frac{1}{2}), \end{cases}$$

where $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ is defined in (3.6), σ_n is defined in Theorem 3.2, and $W_H^\circ(\tau) \equiv W_H(\tau) - \tau W_H(1)$.²¹

Theorem 3.3 shows that the modified rescaled range test is consistent against a class of long-range dependent stationary Gaussian alternatives. In the presence of positive strong dependence, the R/S statistic diverges in probability to infinity; in the presence of negative strong dependence, it converges in probability to zero. In either case, the probability of rejecting the null hypothesis approaches unity for all stationary Gaussian stochastic processes satisfying (3.14), a broad set of alternatives that includes all fractionally-differenced Gaussian ARIMA(p, d, q) models with $d \in (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$.

From (a) and (b) of Theorem 3.3 it is apparent that the normalized *population* rescaled, R_n/\sqrt{n} , converges to zero in probability. Therefore, whether or not Q_n/\sqrt{n} approaches zero or infinity in the limit depends entirely on the

²¹ Although it is tempting to call $W_H^\circ(\tau)$ a "fractional Brownian bridge," this is not the most natural definition despite the fact that it is "tied down." See Jonas (1983, Chapter 3.3) for a discussion.

limiting behavior of the ratio $\sigma_n/\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$. That is,

$$(3.15) \quad \frac{Q_n}{\sqrt{n}} = \frac{\sigma_n}{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)} \frac{R_n}{\sqrt{n}}$$

so that if the ratio $\sigma_n/\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ diverges fast enough to overcompensate for the convergence of R_n/\sqrt{n} to zero, then the test will reject in the upper tail, otherwise it will reject in the lower tail. This is determined by whether d lies in the interval $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ or $(-\frac{1}{2}, 0)$. When $d = 0$, the ratio $\sigma_n/\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ converges to unity in probability and, as expected, the normalized R/S statistic converges in distribution to the range of the standard Brownian bridge.

Of course, if one is interested exclusively in fractionally-differenced alternatives, a more efficient means of detecting long-range dependence might be to estimate the fractional differencing parameter directly. In such cases, the approaches taken by Geweke and Porter-Hudak (1983), Sowell (1990b), and Yajima (1985, 1988) may be preferable. The modified R/S test is perhaps most useful for detecting departures into a broader class of alternative hypotheses, a kind of "portmanteau" test statistic that may complement a comprehensive analysis of long-range dependence.

4. R/S ANALYSIS FOR STOCK MARKET RETURNS

The importance of long-range dependence in asset markets was first considered by Mandelbrot (1971). More recently, the evidence uncovered by Fama and French (1988), Lo and MacKinlay (1988), and Poterba and Summers (1988) may be symptomatic of a long-range dependent component in stock market prices. In particular, Lo and MacKinlay (1988) show that the ratios of k -week stock return variances to k times the variance of one-week returns generally exceed unity when k is small (2 to 32). In contrast, Poterba and Summers (1988) find that this same variance ratio falls below one when k is much larger (96 and greater).

To see that such a phenomenon can easily be generated by long-range dependence, denote by X_t the time- t return on a stock and let it be the sum of two components X_{at} and X_{bt} where

$$(4.1) \quad (1-L)^d X_{at} = \varepsilon_t, \quad (1-\rho L) X_{bt} = \eta_t,$$

and assign the values $(-0.2, 0.25, 1, 1.1)$ to the parameters $(d, \rho, \sigma_\varepsilon^2, \sigma_\eta^2)$. Let the ratio of the k -period return variance to k times the variance of X_t be denoted by $VR(k)$. Then a simple calculation will show that for the parameter values chosen:

$$\begin{aligned} VR(2) &= 1.04, & VR(10) &= 10.4, \\ VR(3) &= 1.06, & VR(50) &= 0.97, \\ VR(4) &= 1.07, & VR(100) &= 0.95, \\ VR(5) &= 1.06, & VR(250) &= 0.92. \end{aligned}$$

The intuition for this pattern of variance ratios comes from observing that $VR(k)$ is a weighted sum of the first $k-1$ autocorrelation coefficients of X_t ,

with linearly declining weights (see Lo and MacKinlay (1988)). When k is small the autocorrelation of X_t is dominated by the positively autocorrelated AR(1) component X_{bt} . But since the autocorrelations of X_{bt} decay rapidly relative to those of X_{at} , as k grows the influence of the long-memory component eventually outweighs that of the AR(1), ultimately driving the variance ratio below unity.

4.1. *The Evidence for Weekly and Monthly Returns*

Greene and Fielitz (1977) were perhaps the first to apply R/S analysis to common stock returns. More recent applications include Booth and Kaen (1979) (gold prices), Booth, Kaen, and Koveos (1982) (foreign exchange rates), and Helms, Kaen, and Rosenman (1984) (futures contracts). These and earlier applications of R/S analysis by Mandelbrot and Wallis (1969a) have three features in common: (i) They provide no sampling theory with which to judge the statistical significance of their empirical results; (ii) they use the \tilde{Q}_n which is not robust to short-range dependence; and (iii) they do not focus on the R/S statistic itself, but rather on the regression of its logarithm on (sub)sample sizes. The shortcomings of (i) and (ii) are apparent from the discussion in the preceding sections. As for (iii), Davies and Harte (1987) show such regression tests to be significantly biased toward rejection even for a stationary AR(1) process with an autoregressive parameter of 0.3.

To test for long-term memory in stock returns, I use data from the Center for Research in Security Prices (CRSP) monthly and daily returns files. Tests are performed for the value- and equal-weighted CRSP indexes. Daily observations for the returns indexes are available from 3 July 1962 to 31 December 1987 yielding a sample size of 6,409 observations. Monthly indexes are each composed of 744 observations from 30 January 1926 to 31 December 1987. The following statistic is computed for the various returns indexes:

$$(4.2) \quad V_n(q) \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} Q_n \stackrel{a}{\sim} V,$$

where the distribution F_V of V is given in (3.9). Using the values in Table II a test of the null hypothesis may be performed at the 95 percent level of confidence by accepting or rejecting according to whether V_n is or is not contained in the interval [0.809, 1.862] which assigns equal probability to each tail.

$V_n(q)$ is written as a function of q to emphasize the dependence of the modified rescaled range on the truncation lag. To check the sensitivity of the statistic to the lag length, $V_n(q)$ is computed for several different values of q . The normalized classical Hurst-Mandelbrot rescaled range \tilde{V}_n is also computed for comparison, where

$$(4.3) \quad \tilde{V}_n \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \tilde{Q}_n \stackrel{a}{\sim} \xi V.$$

Table III reports results for the daily equal- and value-weighted returns indexes.

TABLE III
 R/S ANALYSIS OF DAILY EQUAL- AND VALUE-WEIGHTED CRSP STOCK RETURNS INDEXES FROM 3 JULY 1962 TO 31 DECEMBER 1987 USING THE CLASSICAL RESCALED RANGE \tilde{V}_n AND THE MODIFIED RESCALED RANGE $V_n(q)$. ENTRIES IN THE %-BIAS COLUMNS ARE COMPUTED AS $[(\tilde{V}_n/V_n(q)) - 1] \cdot 100$, AND ARE ESTIMATES OF THE BIAS OF THE CLASSICAL R/S STATISTIC IN THE PRESENCE OF SHORT-TERM DEPENDENCE. ASTERISKS INDICATE SIGNIFICANCE AT THE 5 PERCENT LEVEL.

Time Period	Sample Size	\tilde{V}_n	$V_n(90)$	%-Bias	$V_n(1980)$	%-Bias	$V_n(270)$	%-Bias	$V_n(360)$	%-Bias
Equal-Weighted:										
620703-871231	6409	2.63*	1.46	79.9	1.45	81.1	1.50	75.2	1.50	75.4
620703-750428	3204	3.18*	1.61	97.0	1.57	102.0	1.63	95.2	1.62	96.8
750429-871231	3205	1.45	0.92	57.2	0.97	49.0	1.05	38.5	1.14	27.3
620703-681217	1602	2.40*	1.39	72.2	1.46	64.7	1.72	39.7	1.78	34.8
681219-750428	1602	2.03*	1.07	90.7	1.10	84.9	1.19	70.6	1.23	65.3
750428-810828	1602	1.35	0.89	51.6	1.23	9.5	1.49	-9.2	1.71	-21.0
810831-871231	1603	1.79	1.15	55.8	1.10	62.4	1.18	51.6	1.27	41.4
Value-Weighted:										
620703-871231	6409	1.55	1.29	20.8	1.26	22.9	1.30	19.1	1.33	16.8
620703-750428	3204	1.97*	1.43	37.3	1.39	41.4	1.43	37.5	1.45	35.5
750429-871231	3205	1.29	1.22	5.8	1.24	4.1	1.32	-2.3	1.42	-9.4
620703-681217	1602	1.67	1.43	16.8	1.45	15.3	1.62	3.4	1.69	-1.3
681219-750428	1602	1.85	1.34	38.2	1.34	38.2	1.40	31.7	1.45	27.1
750428-810828	1602	1.08	1.12	-3.7	1.26	-14.7	1.34	-19.4	1.42	-24.2
810831-871231	1603	1.50	1.38	8.8	1.37	9.2	1.50	-0.3	1.63	-8.0

The panel labelled "Equal-Weighted" contains the $V_n(q)$ and \tilde{V}_n statistics for the equal-weighted index for the entire sample period (the first row), two equally-partitioned sub-samples (the next two rows), and four equally-partitioned sub-samples (the next four rows). The modified rescaled range is computed with q -values of 90, 180, 270, and 360 days. The columns labelled "%-Bias" report the estimated bias of the original rescaled range \tilde{V}_n , and is $100 \cdot (\hat{\xi} - 1)$ where $\hat{\xi} = \hat{\sigma}_n(q)/s_n = \tilde{V}_n/V_n$.

Although Table III shows that the classical R/S statistic \tilde{V}_n is statistically significant at the 5 percent level for the daily equal-weighted CRSP returns index, the modified R/S statistic V_n is not. While \tilde{V}_n is 2.63 for the entire sample period the modified R/S statistic is 1.46 with a truncation lag of 90 days, and 1.50 with a truncation lag of 360 days. The importance of normalizing by $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ is clear—dividing by s_n imparts a potential upward bias of 80 percent!

The statistical insignificance of the modified R/S statistics indicates that the data are consistent with the short-memory null hypothesis. The stability of the $V_n(q)$ across truncation lags q also supports the hypothesis that there is little dependence in daily stock returns beyond one or two months. For example, using 90 lags yields a V_n of 1.46 whereas 270 and 360 lags both yield 1.50, virtually the same point estimate. The results are robust to the sample period—none of the sub-period $V_n(q)$'s are significant. The classical rescaled range is significant only in the first half of the sample for the value-weighted index, and is insignificant when the entire sample is used.

Table IV reports similar results for monthly returns indexes with four values of q employed: 3, 6, 9, and 12 months. None of the modified R/S statistics are statistically significant at the 5 percent level in any sample period or sub-period for either index. The percentage bias is generally lower for monthly data, although it still ranges from -0.2 to 25.3 percent.

To develop further intuition for these results, Figure 2 contains the autocorrelograms of the daily and monthly equal-weighted returns indexes, where the maximum lag is 360 for daily returns and 12 for monthly. For both indexes only the lowest order autocorrelation coefficients are statistically significant. For comparison, alongside each of the index's autocorrelogram is the autocorrelogram of the fractionally-differenced process (2.1) with $d = .25$ and the variance of the disturbance chosen to yield a first-order autocorrelation of $\frac{1}{3}$. Although the general shapes of the fractionally-differenced autocorrelograms seem consistent with the data, closer inspection reveals that the index autocorrelations decay much more rapidly. Therefore, although short-term correlations are large enough to drive \tilde{Q}_n and Q_n apart, there is little evidence of long-range dependence in Q_n itself.

Additional results are available for weekly and annual stock returns data but since they are so similar to those reported here, I have omitted them to conserve space. Although the annual data spans 115 years (1872 to 1986), neither the classical nor the modified R/S statistics are statistically significant over this time span.

TABLE IV
 R/S ANALYSIS OF MONTHLY EQUAL- AND VALUE-WEIGHTED CRSP STOCK RETURNS INDEXES FROM 30 JANUARY 1926 TO 31 DECEMBER 1987
 USING THE CLASSICAL RESCALED RANGE \hat{V}_n AND THE MODIFIED RESCALED RANGE $V_n(q)$. ENTRIES IN THE %-BIAS COLUMNS ARE COMPUTED AS
 $[(\hat{V}_n/V_n(q)) - 1] \cdot 100$, AND ARE ESTIMATES OF THE BIAS OF THE CLASSICAL R/S STATISTIC IN THE PRESENCE OF SHORT-TERM DEPENDENCE.
 ASTERISKS INDICATE SIGNIFICANCE AT THE 5 PERCENT LEVEL.

Time Period	Sample Size	\hat{V}_n	$V_n(3)$	%-Bias	$V_n(6)$	%-Bias	$V_n(9)$	%-Bias	$V_n(12)$	%-Bias
Equal-Weighted:										
260130-871231	744	1.17	1.07	9.1	1.10	6.6	1.09	7.2	1.06	10.4
260130-561231	372	1.32	1.21	9.4	1.26	5.1	1.24	7.1	1.18	12.1
570131-871231	372	1.37	1.26	8.4	1.23	11.1	1.27	7.6	1.30	5.2
260130-410630	186	1.42	1.31	8.3	1.40	1.6	1.39	2.6	1.32	8.0
410731-561231	186	1.60	1.42	13.1	1.34	20.0	1.28	25.3	1.28	25.1
570131-720630	186	1.20	1.04	15.9	0.99	21.9	1.03	17.4	1.07	12.3
720731-871231	186	1.57	1.51	3.8	1.51	4.3	1.55	1.2	1.57	-0.2
Value-Weighted:										
260130-871231	744	1.33	1.27	4.5	1.26	5.5	1.22	8.4	1.19	11.1
260130-561231	372	1.57	1.51	4.5	1.51	4.3	1.44	9.5	1.38	14.5
570131-871231	372	1.28	1.22	4.4	1.18	7.9	1.21	5.6	1.24	2.7
260130-410630	186	1.57	1.52	3.2	1.55	1.0	1.49	5.5	1.42	10.6
410731-561231	186	1.26	1.18	6.4	1.11	12.9	1.07	17.1	1.08	16.1
570131-720630	186	1.05	0.96	9.3	0.92	14.7	0.95	10.9	1.01	4.7
720731-871231	186	1.51	1.48	1.6	1.45	4.0	1.47	2.4	1.49	1.1

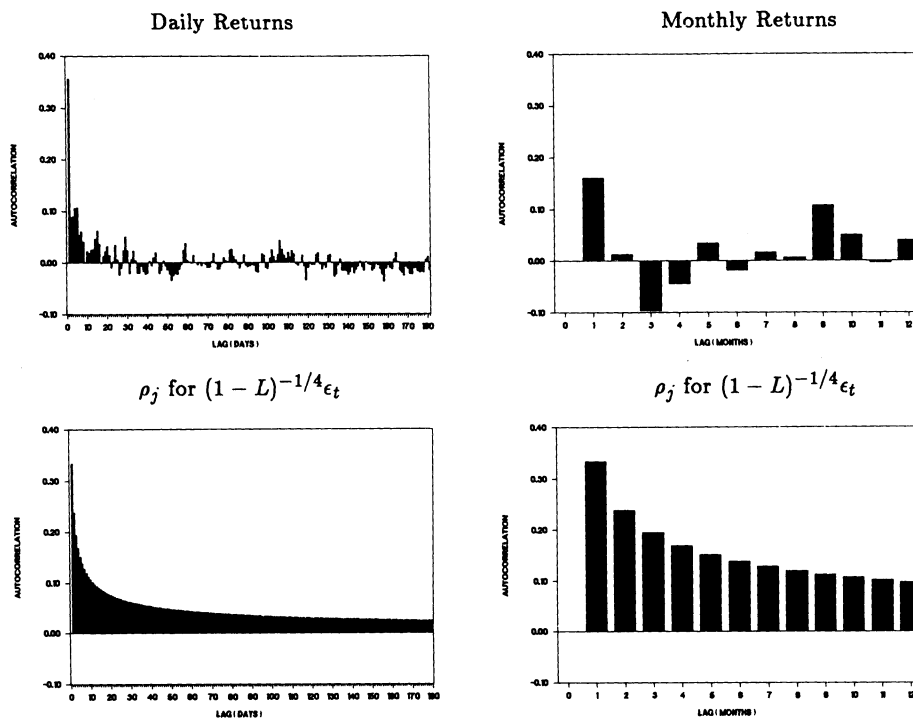


FIGURE 2.—Autocorrelagrams of equally-weighted CRSP daily and monthly stock returns indexes and fractionally-differenced process with $d = 1/4$. The sample period for the daily index is July 1962 to December 1987, and is January 1926 to December 1987 for the monthly index.

The evidence in Tables III and IV shows that the null hypothesis of short-range dependence cannot be rejected by the data—there is little support for long-term memory in U.S. stock returns. With adjustments for autocorrelation at lags up to one calendar year, estimates of the modified rescaled range are consistent with the null hypothesis of weak dependence. This reinforces Kandel and Stambaugh's (1989) contention that the long-run predictability of stock returns uncovered by Fama and French (1988) and Poterba and Summers (1988) may not be “long-run” in the time series sense, but may be the result of more conventional models of short-range dependence.²² Of course, since our inferences rely solely on asymptotic distribution theory, we must check our approximations before dismissing the possibility of long-range dependence altogether. The finite-sample size and power of the modified rescaled range test are considered in the next sections.

5. SIZE AND POWER

To explore the possibility that the inability to reject the null hypothesis of short-range dependence is merely a symptom of low power, and to check the

²² Moreover, several papers have suggested that these long-run results may be spurious. See, for example, Kim, Nelson, and Startz (1991), Richardson (1989), and Richardson and Stock (1990).

quality of Section 3's asymptotic approximations for various sizes, I perform several illustrative Monte Carlo experiments. Section 5.1 reports the empirical size of the test statistic under two Gaussian null hypotheses: i.i.d. and AR(1) disturbances. Section 5.2 presents power results against the fractionally-differenced process (2.1) for $d = \frac{1}{3}$ and $-\frac{1}{3}$.

5.1. The Size of the R/S Test

Table Va contains simulation results for the modified R/S statistic with sample sizes of 100, 250, 500, 750, and 1,000 under the null hypothesis of independently and identically distributed Gaussian errors. All simulations were performed on an IBM 4381 in double precision using the random generator G05DDF from the Numerical Algorithms Group Fortran Library Mark 12. For each sample size the statistic $V_n(q)$ is computed with $q = 0, 5, 10, 25, 50$, and with q chosen by Andrews' (1991) data-dependent formula:

$$(5.1) \quad q = [k_n], \quad k_n \equiv \left(\frac{3n}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot \left(\frac{2\hat{\rho}}{1-\hat{\rho}^2}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}},$$

where $[k_n]$ denotes the greatest integer less than or equal to k_n , and $\hat{\rho}$ is the estimated first-order autocorrelation coefficient of the data.²³ (Note that this is an optimal truncation lag only for an AR(1) data-generating process—a different expression obtains if, for example, the data-generating process were assumed to be an ARMA(1,1). See Andrews (1991) for further details.) In this case, the entry reported in the column labelled “ q ” is the mean of the q 's chosen, with the population standard deviation reported in parentheses below the mean. When $q = 0$, $V_n(q)$ is identical to Mandelbrot's classical R/S statistic \tilde{V}_n .

The entries in the last three columns of Table Va show that the classical R/S statistic tends to reject too frequently—even for sample sizes of 1,000 the empirical size of a 5 percent test based on \tilde{V}_n is 5.9 percent. The modified R/S statistic tends to be conservative for values of q that are not too large relative to the sample size. For example, with 100 observations and 5 lags the empirical size of the 5 percent test using $V_n(q)$ is 2.1 percent. However, with 50 lags this test has a rejection rate of 31 percent! That the sampling properties worsen with the number of lags is not surprising—the imprecision with which the higher-order autocovariances are estimated can introduce considerable noise into the statistic (see, for example, Lo and MacKinlay (1989)). But for 1,000 observations and 5 lags, the size of a 5 percent test based on $V_n(q)$ is 5.1 percent. Andrews' procedure yields intermediate results, with sizes in between those of the classical R/S statistic and the closest of the modified R/S statistics.

²³ For this procedure, the Newey-West autocorrelation weights (3.7) are replaced by those suggested by Andrews (1991):

$$\omega_j = 1 - \left| \frac{j}{k_n} \right|.$$

TABLE Va

FINITE SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MODIFIED R/S STATISTIC UNDER AN I.I.D. NULL HYPOTHESIS. EACH SET OF ROWS OF A GIVEN SAMPLE SIZE n CORRESPONDS TO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT MONTE CARLO EXPERIMENT BASED ON 10,000 REPLICATIONS. A LAG q OF 0 CORRESPONDS TO MANDELBROT'S CLASSICAL R/S STATISTIC, AND A NONINTEGER LAG VALUE INDICATES THE MEAN LAG (STANDARD DEVIATION GIVEN IN PARENTHESES) CHOSEN VIA ANDREWS' (1991) DATA-DEPENDENT PROCEDURE ASSUMING AN AR(1) DATA-GENERATING PROCESS. STANDARD ERRORS FOR THE EMPIRICAL SIZE MAY BE COMPUTED USING THE USUAL NORMAL APPROXIMATION; THEY ARE 9.95×10^{-4} , 2.18×10^{-3} , AND 3.00×10^{-3} FOR THE 1%, 5%, AND 10% TESTS RESPECTIVELY.

n	q	Min	Max	Mean	S.D.	Size 1%-Test	Size 5%-Test	Size 10%-Test
100	0	0.534	2.284	1.144	0.263	0.029	0.095	0.153
100	5	0.649	1.913	1.179	0.207	0.002	0.021	0.050
100	10	0.710	1.877	1.223	0.175	0.000	0.003	0.012
100	25	0.858	2.296	1.383	0.186	0.001	0.014	0.039
100	50	0.918	3.119	1.694	0.360	0.137	0.313	0.414
100	0.97 (0.83)	0.557	2.164	1.150	0.247	0.019	0.070	0.127
250	0	0.496	2.527	1.183	0.270	0.021	0.075	0.133
250	5	0.580	2.283	1.196	0.243	0.008	0.041	0.089
250	10	0.654	2.048	1.211	0.221	0.003	0.021	0.054
250	25	0.757	1.905	1.264	0.176	0.000	0.001	0.006
250	50	0.877	2.206	1.372	0.169	0.000	0.005	0.020
250	0.97 (0.83)	0.497	2.442	1.185	0.263	0.017	0.064	0.120
500	0	0.518	2.510	1.201	0.267	0.015	0.061	0.117
500	5	0.589	2.357	1.207	0.252	0.008	0.047	0.094
500	10	0.630	2.227	1.215	0.240	0.004	0.032	0.073
500	25	0.677	2.051	1.240	0.210	0.000	0.008	0.029
500	50	0.709	1.922	1.285	0.176	0.000	0.001	0.005
500	0.96 (0.82)	0.549	2.510	1.202	0.263	0.014	0.057	0.112
750	0	0.558	2.699	1.207	0.270	0.014	0.061	0.120
750	5	0.597	2.711	1.212	0.260	0.009	0.049	0.101
750	10	0.615	2.553	1.217	0.251	0.006	0.039	0.087
750	25	0.677	2.279	1.235	0.228	0.001	0.017	0.052
750	50	0.758	1.971	1.266	0.198	0.000	0.002	0.015
750	0.96 (0.83)	0.558	2.670	1.208	0.268	0.013	0.058	0.117
1000	0	0.542	2.577	1.211	0.270	0.014	0.059	0.113
1000	5	0.566	2.477	1.214	0.262	0.011	0.051	0.103
1000	10	0.570	2.405	1.218	0.256	0.008	0.045	0.089
1000	25	0.616	2.203	1.231	0.237	0.003	0.025	0.061
1000	50	0.716	2.036	1.253	0.211	0.000	0.007	0.029
1000	0.96 (0.81)	0.549	2.546	1.212	0.268	0.012	0.056	0.111

Table Vb reports the results of simulations under the null hypothesis of a Gaussian AR(1) with autoregressive coefficient 0.5 (recall that such a process is weakly dependent). The last three columns confirm the example of Section 3 and accord well with the results of Davies and Harte (1987): tests based on the classical R/S statistic have considerable power against an AR(1) null. In samples of only 100 observations the empirical size of the 5 percent test based

TABLE Vb

FINITE SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MODIFIED R/S STATISTIC UNDER AN AR(1) NULL HYPOTHESIS WITH AUTOREGRESSIVE COEFFICIENT 0.5. EACH SET OF ROWS OF A GIVEN SAMPLE SIZE n CORRESPONDS TO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT MONTE CARLO EXPERIMENT BASED ON 10,000 REPLICATIONS. A LAG q OF 0 CORRESPONDS TO MANDELBROT'S CLASSICAL R/S STATISTIC, AND A NONINTEGER LAG VALUE INDICATES THE MEAN LAG (STANDARD DEVIATION GIVEN IN PARENTHESES) CHOSEN VIA ANDREWS' (1991) DATA-DEPENDENT PROCEDURE, ASSUMING AN AR(1) DATA-GENERATING PROCESS. STANDARD ERRORS FOR THE EMPIRICAL SIZE MAY BE COMPUTED USING THE USUAL NORMAL APPROXIMATION; THEY ARE 9.95×10^{-4} , 2.18×10^{-3} , AND 3.00×10^{-3} FOR THE 1%, 5%, AND 10% TESTS RESPECTIVELY.

n	q	Min	Max	Mean	S.D.	Size 1%-Test	Size 5%-Test	Size 10%-Test
100	0	0.764	3.418	1.764	0.402	0.203	0.382	0.486
100	5	0.634	1.862	1.201	0.220	0.003	0.027	0.059
100	10	0.693	1.805	1.178	0.176	0.000	0.010	0.030
100	25	0.779	2.111	1.290	0.175	0.000	0.005	0.015
100	50	0.879	3.013	1.571	0.341	0.074	0.198	0.284
100	5.61 (1.25)	0.636	1.974	1.195	0.219	0.004	0.028	0.063
250	0	0.865	3.720	1.913	0.432	0.309	0.505	0.614
250	5	0.597	2.478	1.268	0.262	0.005	0.038	0.086
250	10	0.615	2.137	1.212	0.228	0.003	0.023	0.063
250	25	0.734	1.811	1.218	0.177	0.000	0.004	0.015
250	50	0.809	2.119	1.304	0.166	0.000	0.003	0.010
250	8.07 (1.07)	0.603	2.357	1.227	0.242	0.004	0.030	0.071
500	0	0.836	4.392	1.980	0.456	0.363	0.559	0.665
500	5	0.622	2.557	1.302	0.285	0.012	0.055	0.109
500	10	0.579	2.297	1.236	0.256	0.007	0.039	0.085
500	25	0.627	1.980	1.214	0.215	0.001	0.015	0.041
500	50	0.734	1.894	1.243	0.178	0.000	0.002	0.009
500	10.40 (0.99)	0.577	2.353	1.236	0.256	0.007	0.039	0.085
750	0	0.839	4.211	2.017	0.459	0.389	0.592	0.696
750	5	0.567	2.637	1.323	0.291	0.011	0.062	0.118
750	10	0.557	2.429	1.253	0.265	0.007	0.043	0.091
750	25	0.614	2.114	1.222	0.232	0.003	0.022	0.058
750	50	0.702	1.891	1.235	0.200	0.000	0.005	0.022
750	12.03 (0.93)	0.556	2.324	1.244	0.260	0.007	0.041	0.088
1000	0	0.926	4.327	2.045	0.465	0.414	0.617	0.716
1000	5	0.625	2.768	1.340	0.296	0.014	0.065	0.125
1000	10	0.592	2.622	1.268	0.272	0.009	0.047	0.096
1000	25	0.608	2.350	1.231	0.244	0.004	0.030	0.072
1000	50	0.636	1.997	1.236	0.217	0.001	0.011	0.038
1000	13.30 (0.89)	0.590	2.548	1.252	0.265	0.008	0.043	0.090

on \bar{V}_n is 38 percent and increases to 62 percent for sample sizes of 1,000. In contrast, the empirical sizes of tests based on $V_n(q)$ are much closer to their nominal values since the geometrically declining autocorrelations are taken into account by the denominator $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ of $V_n(q)$. When q is chosen via Andrews' procedure, this yields conservative test sizes, ranging from 2.8 percent for a sample of 100, to 4.3 percent for a sample of 1,000.

TABLE VIa

POWER OF THE MODIFIED R/S STATISTIC UNDER A GAUSSIAN FRACTIONALLY DIFFERENCED ALTERNATIVE WITH DIFFERENCING PARAMETER $d = 1/3$. THE VARIANCE OF THE PROCESS HAS BEEN NORMALIZED TO UNITY. EACH SET OF ROWS OF A GIVEN SAMPLE SIZE n CORRESPONDS TO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT MONTE CARLO EXPERIMENT BASED ON 10,000 REPLICATIONS. A LAG q OF 0 CORRESPONDS TO MANDELBROT'S CLASSICAL R/S STATISTIC, AND A NONINTEGER LAG VALUE INDICATES THE MEAN LAG (STANDARD DEVIATION GIVEN IN PARENTHESES) CHOSEN VIA ANDREWS' (1991) DATA-DEPENDENT PROCEDURE ASSUMING AN AR(1) DATA-GENERATING PROCESS.

n	q	Min	Max	Mean	S.D.	Power 1%-Test	Power 5%-Test	Power 10%-Test
100	0	0.729	4.047	2.025	0.513	0.429	0.600	0.680
100	5	0.635	2.089	1.361	0.242	0.001	0.014	0.065
100	10	0.686	1.746	1.237	0.171	0.000	0.005	0.015
100	25	0.723	2.148	1.208	0.156	0.000	0.002	0.008
100	50	0.823	2.803	1.399	0.328	0.035	0.096	0.154
100	4.27 (1.43)	0.650	2.330	1.411	0.257	0.003	0.040	0.104
250	0	0.938	5.563	2.678	0.709	0.774	0.878	0.918
250	5	0.713	2.924	1.699	0.364	0.153	0.335	0.442
250	10	0.705	2.304	1.475	0.277	0.006	0.091	0.186
250	25	0.681	1.852	1.264	0.175	0.000	0.003	0.012
250	50	0.756	1.971	1.208	0.140	0.000	0.002	0.007
250	6.63 (1.36)	0.711	2.596	1.619	0.317	0.067	0.240	0.360
500	0	1.061	7.243	3.336	0.929	0.924	0.967	0.980
500	5	0.731	3.726	2.055	0.491	0.450	0.628	0.709
500	10	0.692	2.944	1.750	0.384	0.197	0.385	0.494
500	25	0.623	2.164	1.429	0.258	0.001	0.045	0.123
500	50	0.687	1.763	1.271	0.178	0.000	0.003	0.009
500	8.96 (1.37)	0.709	3.201	1.809	0.384	0.242	0.447	0.557
750	0	1.228	8.059	3.799	1.052	0.972	0.990	0.995
750	5	0.838	4.280	2.313	0.565	0.620	0.766	0.830
750	10	0.769	3.421	1.955	0.447	0.370	0.557	0.655
750	25	0.734	2.478	1.569	0.310	0.042	0.195	0.304
750	50	0.722	1.925	1.359	0.223	0.000	0.005	0.036
750	10.58 (1.33)	0.798	3.324	1.942	0.421	0.363	0.559	0.657
1000	0	1.398	8.615	4.174	1.174	0.985	0.996	0.998
1000	5	0.898	4.672	2.521	0.635	0.720	0.846	0.892
1000	10	0.779	3.766	2.121	0.504	0.494	0.669	0.747
1000	25	0.641	2.734	1.686	0.354	0.135	0.322	0.431
1000	50	0.628	2.118	1.441	0.259	0.001	0.052	0.138
1000	11.87 (1.31)	0.766	3.613	2.044	0.454	0.446	0.630	0.718

5.2. Power Against Fractionally-Differenced Alternatives

Tables VIa and b report the power of the R/S tests against the Gaussian fractionally-differenced alternative:

$$(5.2) \quad (1 - L)^d \varepsilon_t = \eta_t, \quad \eta_t \text{ i.i.d. } N(0, \sigma_\eta^2),$$

with $d = \frac{1}{3}$ and $-\frac{1}{3}$, and $\sigma_\eta^2 = \Gamma^2(1 - d)/\Gamma(1 - 2d)$ so as to yield a unit

variance for ε_t . For sample sizes of 100, tests based on $V_n(q)$ have very little power, but when the sample size reaches 250 the power increases dramatically. According to Table 6a, the power of the 5 percent test with $q = 5$ against the $d = \frac{1}{3}$ alternative is 33.5 percent with 250 observations, 62.8 percent with 500 observations, and 84.6 percent with 1,000 observations. Although Andrews' automatic truncation lag procedure is generally less powerful, its power is still 63.0 percent for a sample size of 1,000. Also, the rejections are generally in the

TABLE VIb

POWER OF THE MODIFIED R/S STATISTIC UNDER A GAUSSIAN FRACTIONALLY DIFFERENCED ALTERNATIVE WITH DIFFERENCING PARAMETER $d = -1/3$. THE VARIANCE OF THE PROCESS HAS BEEN NORMALIZED TO UNITY. EACH SET OF ROWS OF A GIVEN SAMPLE SIZE n CORRESPONDS TO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT MONTE CARLO EXPERIMENT BASED ON 10,000 REPLICATIONS. A LAG q OF 0 CORRESPONDS TO MANDELBROT'S CLASSICAL R/S STATISTIC, AND A NONINTEGER LAG VALUE INDICATES THE MEAN LAG (STANDARD DEVIATION GIVEN IN PARENTHESES) CHOSEN VIA ANDREWS' (1991) DATA-DEPENDENT PROCEDURE ASSUMING AN AR(1) DATA-GENERATING PROCESS.

n	q	Min	Max	Mean	S.D.	Power 1%-Test	Power 5%-Test	Power 10%-Test
100	0	0.367	1.239	0.678	0.120	0.670	0.858	0.923
100	5	0.637	1.710	1.027	0.153	0.006	0.054	0.134
100	10	0.762	2.030	1.217	0.161	0.000	0.001	0.005
100	25	0.953	2.638	1.587	0.207	0.014	0.095	0.211
100	50	1.052	3.478	2.033	0.354	0.425	0.679	0.785
100	2.94 (0.99)	0.478	1.621	0.889	0.155	0.131	0.331	0.466
250	0	0.303	1.014	0.561	0.089	0.951	0.991	0.997
250	5	0.549	1.479	0.851	0.128	0.146	0.409	0.571
250	10	0.632	1.752	1.005	0.143	0.007	0.065	0.152
250	25	0.833	1.936	1.292	0.157	0.000	0.001	0.004
250	50	0.977	2.357	1.594	0.186	0.007	0.078	0.198
250	4.20 (0.86)	0.448	1.437	0.796	0.129	0.301	0.578	0.716
500	0	0.292	0.819	0.479	0.071	0.997	1.000	1.000
500	5	0.458	1.244	0.728	0.105	0.517	0.794	0.888
500	10	0.555	1.489	0.861	0.121	0.111	0.366	0.543
500	25	0.706	1.735	1.105	0.143	0.000	0.004	0.022
500	50	0.881	2.089	1.356	0.157	0.000	0.002	0.011
500	5.45 (0.77)	0.443	1.318	0.725	0.108	0.529	0.793	0.887
750	0	0.276	0.700	0.433	0.063	1.000	1.000	1.000
750	5	0.422	1.070	0.659	0.094	0.764	0.932	0.973
750	10	0.499	1.262	0.779	0.109	0.325	0.641	0.789
750	25	0.689	1.570	1.001	0.132	0.003	0.049	0.138
750	50	0.837	1.802	1.227	0.148	0.000	0.000	0.002
750	6.34 (0.73)	0.424	1.133	0.682	0.099	0.679	0.892	0.951
1000	0	0.257	0.775	0.403	0.057	1.000	1.000	1.000
1000	5	0.401	1.149	0.613	0.085	0.895	0.978	0.993
1000	10	0.487	1.376	0.725	0.099	0.525	0.809	0.907
1000	25	0.633	1.596	0.930	0.121	0.020	0.154	0.306
1000	50	0.778	1.820	1.139	0.139	0.000	0.000	0.006
1000	7.01 (0.70)	0.412	1.235	0.651	0.092	0.789	0.945	0.978

right tail of the distribution, as the entries in the “Max” column indicate. This is not surprising in light of Theorem 3.3, which shows that under this alternative the modified R/S statistic diverges in probability to infinity.

For a fixed sample size, the power of the $V_n(q)$ -based test declines as the number of lags is increased. This is due to the denominator $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$, which generally increases with q since there is positive dependence when $d = \frac{1}{3}$. The increase in the denominator decreases the mean and variance of the statistic, shifting the distribution towards the left and pulling probability mass from both tails, thereby reducing the frequency of draws in the right tail’s critical region, where virtually all the power is coming from.

Against the $d = -\frac{1}{3}$ alternative, Table VIb shows that the test seems to have somewhat higher power. However, in contrast to Table VIa the rejections are now coming from the left tail of the distribution, as Theorem 3.3 predicts. Although less powerful, tests based on Andrews’ procedure still exhibit reasonable power, ranging from 33.1 percent in samples of 100 observations to 94.5 percent in samples of 1,000.

For the larger sample sizes the power again declines as the number of lags increases, due to the denominator $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$, which declines as q increases because the population autocorrelations are all negative when $d = -\frac{1}{3}$. The resulting increase in the mean of $V_n(q)$ ’s sampling distribution overwhelms the increase in its variability, leading to a lower rejection rate from the left tail.

Table VIa and b show that the modified R/S statistic has reasonable power against at least two specific models of long-term memory. However, these simulations are merely illustrative—a more conclusive study would include further simulations with several other values for d , and perhaps with short-range dependence as well.²⁴ Moreover, since our empirical work has employed data sampled at different frequencies (implying different values of d for different sample sizes), the trade-off between the time span of the data and the frequency of observation for the test’s power may be an important issue. Nevertheless, the

²⁴ The very fact that the modified R/S statistic yields few rejections under the null simulations of Section 5.1 shows that the test may have low power against *some* long-range dependent alternatives, since the pseudo-random number generator used in those simulations is, after all, a long-range dependent process. A more striking example is the “tent” map, a particularly simple nonlinear deterministic map (it has a correlation dimension of 1) which yields sequences that are virtually uncorrelated but long-range dependent. In particular, the tent map is given by the following recursion:

$$X_t = \begin{cases} 2X_{t-1} & \text{if } X_{t-1} < \frac{1}{2}, \\ 2(1 - X_{t-1}) & \text{if } X_{t-1} \geq \frac{1}{2}, \end{cases} \quad t = 1, \dots, T, \quad X_0 \in (0, 1).$$

As an illustration, I performed two Monte Carlo experiments using the tent map to generate samples of 500 and 1,000 observations (each with 10,000 replications) with an independent uniform $(0, 1)$ starting value for each replication. Neither the Mandelbrot rescaled range, nor its modification with fixed or automatic truncation lags have any power against the tent map. In fact, the finite sample distributions are quite close to the null distribution. Of course, one could argue that if the dynamics and the initial condition were unknown, then even if a deterministic system *were* generating the data, the resulting time series would be short-range dependent “for all practical purposes” and *should* be part of our null. I am grateful to Lars Hansen for suggesting this analysis.

simulation results suggest that short-range dependence may be the more significant feature of recent stock market returns.

6. CONCLUSION

Using a simple modification of the Hurst-Mandelbrot rescaled range that accounts for short-term dependence, and contrary to previous studies, I find little evidence of long-term memory in historical U.S. stock market returns. If the source of serial correlation is lagged adjustment to new information, the absence of strong dependence in stock returns should not be surprising from an economic standpoint, given the frequency with which financial asset markets clear. Surely financial security prices must be immune to persistent informational asymmetries, especially over longer time spans. Perhaps the fluctuations of aggregate economic output are more likely to display such long-run tendencies, as Kondratiev and Kuznets have suggested, and this long-memory in output may eventually manifest itself in the return to equity. But if some form of long-range dependence is indeed present in stock returns, it will not be easily detected by any of our current statistical tools, especially in view of the optimality of the R/S statistic in the Mandelbrot and Wallis (1969) sense. Direct estimation of particular parametric models may provide more positive evidence of long-term memory and is currently being pursued by several investigators.²⁵

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APPENDIX

Proofs of the theorems rely on the following three lemmas:

LEMMA A.1. (Herrndorf (1984)): *If $\{\varepsilon_t\}$ satisfies assumptions (A1)–(A4) then as n increases without bound, $W_n(\tau) \Rightarrow W(\tau)$.*

LEMMA A.2. (Extended Continuous Mapping Theorem):²⁶ *Let h_n and h be measurable mappings from $\mathcal{D}[0, 1]$ to itself and denote by E the set of $x \in \mathcal{D}[0, 1]$ such that $h_n(x_n) \rightarrow h(x)$ fails to hold for some sequence x_n converging to x . If $W_n(\tau) \Rightarrow W(\tau)$ and E is of Wiener-measure zero, i.e., $P(W \in E) = 0$, then $h_n(W_n) \Rightarrow h(W)$.*

LEMMA A.3: *Let $R_n \Rightarrow R$ where both R_n and R have nonnegative support, and let $P(R = 0) = P(R = \infty) = 0$. If $a_n \xrightarrow{p} \infty$, then $a_n R_n \xrightarrow{p} \infty$. If $a_n \xrightarrow{p} 0$, then $a_n R_n \xrightarrow{p} 0$.*

²⁵ See, for example, Boes et al. (1989), Diebold and Rudebusch (1989), Fox and Taqqu (1986), Geweke and Porter-Hudak (1983), Porter-Hudak (1990), Sowell (1990a, b), and Yajima (1985, 1988).

²⁶ See Billingsley (1968) for a proof.

PROOF OF THEOREM 3.1: Let $S_n = \sum_{j=1}^n \varepsilon_j$ and define the following function $Y_n(\tau)$ on $\mathcal{D}[0, 1]$:

$$(A.1) \quad Y_n(\tau) = \frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{n}} S_{[n\tau]}, \quad \tau \in [0, 1],$$

where $[n\tau]$ denotes the greatest integer less than or equal to $n\tau$, and σ is defined in condition (A3) of the null hypothesis. By convention, set $Y_n(0) \equiv 0$. Under conditions (A1), (A2'), (A3), and (A4) Herrndorf (1984) has shown that $Y_n(\tau) \Rightarrow W(\tau)$. But consider:

$$(A.2a) \quad \text{Max}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)\sqrt{n}} \sum_{j=1}^k (X_j - \bar{X}_n) = \text{Max}_{1 \leq k \leq n} \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_n(q)\sqrt{n}} \left(S_k - \frac{k}{n} S_n \right)$$

$$(A.2b) \quad = \text{Max}_{0 \leq \tau \leq 1} Z_n(\tau)$$

where

$$(A.2c) \quad Z_n(\tau) \equiv Y_n(\tau) - \frac{[n\tau]}{n} Y_n(1).$$

Since the sequence of functions h_n that map $Y_n(\tau)$ to $Z_n(\tau)$ satisfies the conditions of Lemma A.2, where the limiting mapping h takes $Y_n(\tau)$ to $Y_n(\tau) - \tau Y_n(1)$, it may be concluded that

$$(A.3) \quad h_n(Y_n(\tau)) = Z_n(\tau) \Rightarrow h(W(\tau)) = W(\tau) - \tau W(1) = W^0(\tau).$$

If the estimator $\hat{\sigma}_n(q)$ is substituted in place of σ in the construction of $Z_n(\tau)$, then under conditions (A2') and (A5), Theorem 4.2 of Phillips (1987) shows that (A.3) still obtains. The rest of the theorem follows directly from repeated application of Lemma A.2. Q.E.D.

PROOF OF THEOREM 3.2: See Davydov (1970) and Taqqu (1975).

PROOF OF THEOREM 3.3: Parts (a)–(c) follow directly from Theorem 3.2 and Lemma A.2, and part (e) follows immediately from Lemma A.3. Therefore, we need only prove (d). Let $H \in (\frac{1}{2}, 1)$ so that $\gamma(k) \sim k^{2H-2}L(k)$. This implies that

$$(A.4) \quad \text{Var}[S_n] \sim n^{2H}L(n).$$

Therefore, to show that $a_n \xrightarrow{p} \infty$, it suffices to show that

$$(A.5) \quad \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2(q)}{n^{2H-1}L(n)} \xrightarrow{p} 0.$$

Consider the population counterpart to (A.5):

$$(A.6) \quad \frac{\sigma^2(q)}{n^{2H-1}L(n)} = \frac{1}{n^{2H-1}L(n)} \left(\sigma_\varepsilon^2 + 2 \sum_{j=1}^q \omega_j \gamma_j \right)$$

where $\omega_j = 1 - j/(q + 1)$. Since by assumption $\gamma_j \sim j^{2H-2}L(j)$, there exists some integer q_a and $M > 0$ such that for $j > q_a$, $\gamma_j < Mj^{2H-2}L(j)$. Now it is well known that a slowly-varying function satisfies the inequality $j^{-\varepsilon} < L(j) < j^\varepsilon$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$ and $j > q_b$, for some $q_b(\varepsilon)$. Choose $\varepsilon < 2 - 2H$, and observe that

$$(A.7) \quad \gamma_j < Mj^{2H-2}j^\varepsilon, \quad j > q_0 \equiv \max(q_a, q_b),$$

which implies

$$(A.8) \quad 2 \sum_{j=1}^q \omega_j \gamma_j < 2 \sum_{j=1}^{q_0} \omega_j \gamma_j + 2M \sum_{j=q_0+1}^q \omega_j j^{2H-2+\varepsilon}$$

where, without loss of generality, we have assumed that $q > q_0$. As q increases without bound, the first sum of the right-side of (A.8) remains finite, and the second sum may be bounded by observing that its summands are positive and decreasing, hence (see, for example, Buck (1978, Chapter 5.5)):

$$(A.9a) \quad 2M \sum_{j=q_0+1}^q \omega_j j^{2H-2+\varepsilon} \leq 2M \int_{q_0}^q \left(1 - \frac{x}{q+1}\right) x^{2H-2+\varepsilon} dx$$

$$(A.9b) \quad \sim 0(q^{2H-1+\varepsilon})$$

where the asymptotic equivalence follows by direct integration. If $q \sim O(n^\delta)$ where $\delta \in (0, 1)$, a weaker condition than required by our null hypothesis, then the ratio $\sigma^2(q)/(n^{2H-1}L(n))$ is at most of order $O(n^{(2H-1+\varepsilon)\delta-1})$, which converges to zero. If we can now show that (A.6) and its sample counterpart are equal in probability, then we are done. This is accomplished by the following sequence of inequalities:

$$(A.10a) \quad E \left| \frac{\hat{\sigma}^2(q)}{n^{2H-1}} - \frac{\sigma^2(q)}{n^{2H-1}} \right| = \frac{1}{n^{2H-1}} E \left| (\hat{\sigma}_\varepsilon^2 - \sigma_\varepsilon^2) + 2 \sum_{j=1}^q \omega_j (\hat{\gamma}_j - \gamma_j) \right|$$

$$(A.10b) \quad \leq \frac{E|\hat{\sigma}_\varepsilon^2 - \sigma_\varepsilon^2|}{n^{2H-1}} + \frac{2}{n^{2H-1}} \sum_{j=1}^q \omega_j E|\hat{\gamma}_j - \gamma_j|$$

$$(A.10c) \quad \leq \frac{E|\hat{\sigma}_\varepsilon^2 - \sigma_\varepsilon^2|}{n^{2H-1}} + \frac{2}{n^{2H-1}} \sum_{j=1}^q \omega_j \sqrt{E(\hat{\gamma}_j - \gamma_j)^2}.$$

But since Hosking (1984, Theorem 2) provides rates of convergence for sample auto-covariances of stationary Gaussian processes satisfying (3.14), an integral evaluation similar to that in (A.9) shows that the sum in (A.10c) vanishes asymptotically when $q \sim o(n)$. This completes the proof. Since the proof for $H \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ is similar, it is left to the reader. Q.E.D.

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