

Correction to “Leverage and volatility feedback effects in
high-frequency data” [J. Financial Econometrics 4 (2006)

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Abstract

Bollerslev *et al.* (2006) study the cross-covariances for squared returns under the Heston (1993) stochastic volatility model. In order to obtain these cross-covariances the authors use an incorrect expression for the distribution of the squared returns. Here we will obtain the correct distribution of the squared returns and check that, under this new distribution, the result in Appendix A.2 in Bollerslev *et al.* (2006) still holds.

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1. Correction to “Leverage and volatility feedback effects in high-frequency data”

Bollerslev *et al.* (2006) study the cross-covariances for squared returns under the Heston (1993) stochastic volatility model

$$\begin{aligned} dp_t &= (\mu + cV_t) dt + \sqrt{V_t} dB_t \\ dV_t &= \kappa(\theta - V_t) dt + \sigma\sqrt{V_t} dW_t, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where B_t and W_t are correlated Brownian motions with $\text{corr}(dB_t, dW_t) = \rho$. For simplicity, it is assumed that $\mu = c = 0$. If the continuously compounded returns from time t to time $t + \Delta$ are defined as $R_{t,t+\Delta} = p_{t+\Delta} - p_t = \int_t^{t+\Delta} \sqrt{V_u} dB_u$, then in Appendix A.2 of Bollerslev *et al.* (2006) it is proved that, for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$,

$$\text{cov}(R_{t+(n-1)\Delta,t+n\Delta}^2, R_{t-\Delta,t}) = (1 - \kappa a_\Delta)^{n-1} \rho \sigma \theta a_\Delta^2, \tag{2}$$

where $a_\Delta = (1 - e^{-\kappa\Delta})/\kappa$.

In order to obtain (2) these authors use the following distribution of the squared returns

$$R_{t,t+\Delta}^2 = 2 \int_t^{t+\Delta} R_{u,u+\Delta} \sqrt{V_u} dB_u + \int_t^{t+\Delta} V_u du. \tag{3}$$

Observe, however, that $R_{t,t+\Delta}^2 = (p_{t+\Delta} - p_t)^2$ cannot depend on the values of $R_{u,u+\Delta}$ with $u \in [t, t + \Delta]$, that is, on returns which are posterior to $t + \Delta$. Here we will obtain the correct expression for the distribution of the squared returns and check that, under this new distribution, result (2) in Bollerslev *et al.* (2006) still holds.

In order to obtain the distribution of the squared returns observe that $R_{t,t+\Delta}^2 = p_{t+\Delta}^2 + p_t^2 - 2p_t p_{t+\Delta}$. By Itô’s Lemma we have that

$$p_{t+\Delta}^2 = p_t^2 + 2 \int_t^{t+\Delta} p_u \sqrt{V_u} dB_u + \int_t^{t+\Delta} V_u du. \tag{4}$$

Using (1) and (4) we have that

$$R_{t,t+\Delta}^2 = 2 \int_t^{t+\Delta} R_{t,u} \sqrt{V_u} dB_u + \int_t^{t+\Delta} V_u du. \tag{5}$$

The only difference between (3) and (5) is the first integral. This is why a large part of the proof of (2) in Bollerslev *et al.* (2006) remains valid. More concretely, it is still true that

$$\text{cov}(R_{t+(n-1)\Delta, t+n\Delta}^2, R_{t-\Delta, t}) = E \left(\int_{t+(n-1)\Delta}^{t+n\Delta} V_u du, \int_{t-\Delta}^t \sqrt{V_u} dB_u \right).$$

To show this it may easily be checked that $E \left(\int_{t+(n-1)\Delta}^{t+n\Delta} R_{t+(n-1)\Delta, u} \sqrt{V_u} dB_u \mid F_{t+(n-1)\Delta} \right) = 0$.

References

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