

# **Profile Likelihood**

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# Setup

- ▶ **Objective:** Maximize the loglikelihood function  $\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{Y})$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\theta} \in \mathbb{R}^p$ .
- ▶ **Dimension Reduction:** Suppose that we have  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = (\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\phi})$ , where  $\boldsymbol{\eta} \in \mathbb{R}^q$  and  $q < p$ , such that for any value of  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$ , the **conditional MLE**

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\phi}} \ell(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\phi} | \mathbf{Y})$$

can be easily calculated.

- ▶ **Profile Likelihood:** Defined as the  $q$ -dimensional function

$$\ell_{\text{prof}}(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} | \mathbf{Y}).$$

- ▶ **Proposition:** Let  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} \ell_{\text{prof}}(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \mathbf{Y})$  and  $\hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}} = \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}}$ . Then

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} = (\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}) = \arg \max_{\boldsymbol{\theta}} \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{Y}).$$

*Proof:*

$$\begin{aligned}\ell(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\phi} | \mathbf{Y}) &\leq \ell(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell_{\text{prof}}(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \mathbf{Y}) \\ &\leq \ell_{\text{prof}}(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}} | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell(\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\phi}}_{\hat{\boldsymbol{\eta}}} | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell(\hat{\boldsymbol{\theta}} | \mathbf{Y}).\end{aligned}$$

# Example: Regression-Like Models

- **Generalized Regression Model:**  $M_R : \mathbf{y} \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{V})$ .

- **Loglikelihood:** Dropping only the  $(2\pi)^{n/2}$  term we have

$$\begin{aligned}\log p(\mathbf{y} | \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}) &= -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})' \mathbf{V}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})}{\sigma^2} + n \log(\sigma^2) + \log |\mathbf{V}| \right\} \\ &= g(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}).\end{aligned}$$

- **MLE:** For given  $\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}$  we have

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}} = (\mathbf{X}' \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{X})^{-1} \mathbf{X}' \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{y}, \quad \hat{\sigma}^2 = \frac{1}{n} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}})' \mathbf{V}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}).$$

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- **Loglikelihood:** 
$$\log p(\mathbf{y} | \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}) = -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ \frac{(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})' \mathbf{V}^{-1} (\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{X}\boldsymbol{\beta})}{\sigma^2} + n \log(\sigma^2) + \log |\mathbf{V}| \right\}$$
$$= g(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{X}, \mathbf{V}).$$

- **Regression-Like Model:**  $M : \mathbf{Y} \sim p(\mathbf{Y} | \boldsymbol{\theta})$ , for which the loglikelihood function can be written as

$$\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell(\boldsymbol{\eta}, \boldsymbol{\phi} | \mathbf{Y}) = g(\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma | \mathbf{y}_\eta, \mathbf{X}_\eta, \mathbf{V}_\eta),$$

for  $\boldsymbol{\phi} = (\boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma)$  and given functions  $\mathbf{y}_\eta$ ,  $\mathbf{X}_\eta$ , and  $\mathbf{V}_\eta$ .

- **Conditional MLE:** For fixed  $\boldsymbol{\eta}$  we have

$$\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_\eta = (\mathbf{X}'_\eta \mathbf{V}_\eta^{-1} \mathbf{X}_\eta)^{-1} \mathbf{X}'_\eta \mathbf{V}_\eta^{-1} \mathbf{y}_\eta, \quad \hat{\sigma}_\eta^2 = \frac{1}{n} (\mathbf{y}_\eta - \mathbf{X}_\eta \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_\eta)' \mathbf{V}_\eta^{-1} (\mathbf{y}_\eta - \mathbf{X}_\eta \hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_\eta).$$

- **Profile Likelihood:**  $\ell_{\text{prof}}(\boldsymbol{\eta} | \mathbf{Y}) = -\frac{1}{2} \left\{ n + n \log \hat{\sigma}_\eta^2 + \log |\mathbf{V}_\eta| \right\}.$

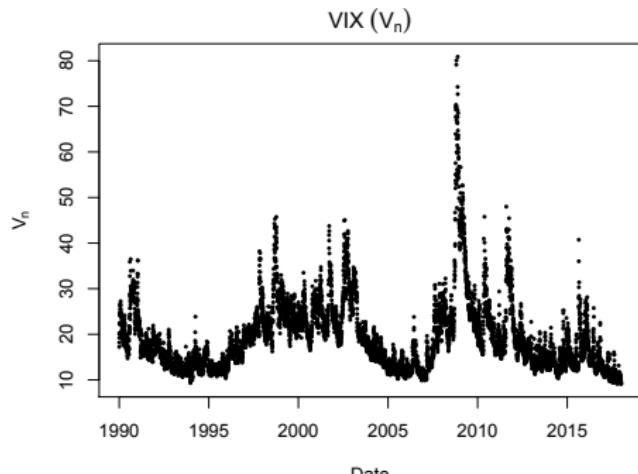
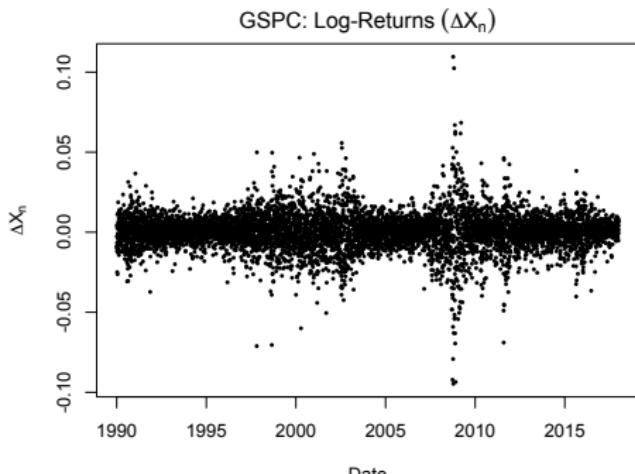
# Example: Stochastic Volatility Modeling

## ► Data:

- $X_i$ : log GSPC value on day  $i$
- $V_i$ : VIX value on day  $i$  (measure of implied volatility determined by CBOE)

## ► Stochastic Volatility Model:

$$\begin{aligned} dX_t &= (\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\tau V_t) dt + (\tau V_t)^{1/2} dB_{1t}, \\ dV_t &= -\gamma(V_t - \mu) dt + \sigma V_t^\lambda dB_{2t}. \end{aligned}$$



# Example: Stochastic Volatility Modeling

- **Data:**  $\mathbf{Y}_i = (X_i, V_i)$ : (log-GSPC, VIX) pair on day  $i$ .  $\mathbf{Y} = (\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_N)$ .
- **Loglikelihood:** Sum of normal log-PDFs obtained from Markov property + Euler approximation. Thus,  $\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta} | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell(\alpha, \tau | \mathbf{Y}) + \ell(\gamma, \mu, \sigma, \lambda | \mathbf{V})$ , where

$$\ell(\alpha, \tau | \mathbf{Y}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \log \varphi(\Delta X_i | \underbrace{(\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\tau V_i)\Delta t}_{\text{mean}}, \underbrace{\tau V_i \Delta t}_{\text{variance}}) \quad (1)$$

$$\ell(\gamma, \mu, \sigma, \lambda | \mathbf{V}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \log \varphi(\Delta V_i | \underbrace{-\gamma(V_i - \mu)\Delta t}_{\text{mean}}, \underbrace{\sigma^2 V_i^{2\lambda} \Delta t}_{\text{variance}}), \quad (2)$$

and  $\varphi(x | \mu, \sigma^2)$  is the PDF of  $x \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \sigma^2)$ .

# Example: Stochastic Volatility Modeling

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- **Profile Likelihood:** (1) and (2) are equivalent to two independent regression-like models:

$$\begin{aligned}(2) \quad \ell(\gamma, \mu, \sigma, \lambda | \mathbf{V}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \log \varphi(\Delta V_i | -\gamma(V_i - \mu)\Delta t, \sigma^2 V_i^{2\lambda} \Delta t) \\&= \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \log \varphi(\Delta V_i | \underbrace{\gamma(-V_i \Delta t) + (\gamma\mu)\Delta t}_{\beta=(\gamma, \gamma\mu)}, \sigma^2 V_i^{2\lambda} \Delta t) \\ \iff \quad \mathbf{y}_\lambda &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{X}_\lambda \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{V}_\lambda), \quad \text{where}\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_\lambda = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta V_1 \\ \vdots \\ \Delta V_{N-1} \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}_\lambda = \begin{bmatrix} -V_1 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ -V_{N-1} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \Delta t, \quad \mathbf{V}_\lambda = \begin{bmatrix} V_1^{2\lambda} & 0 & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ 0 & & V_{N-1}^{2\lambda} & \end{bmatrix} \Delta t, \quad \boldsymbol{\beta} = \begin{bmatrix} \gamma \\ \gamma\mu \end{bmatrix}.$$

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- **Profile Likelihood:** (1) and (2) are equivalent to two independent regression-like models:

$$\begin{aligned}(1) \quad \ell(\alpha, \tau | \mathbf{Y}) &= \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \log \varphi(\Delta X_i | (\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\tau V_i)\Delta t, \tau V_i \Delta t) \\&= \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} \log \varphi(\Delta X_i + \frac{1}{2}\tau V_i \Delta t | \alpha \Delta t, \tau V_i \Delta t) \\&\quad (\text{since } \varphi(x | \mu, \sigma^2) = \varphi(x + a | \mu - a, \sigma^2)) \\ \iff \quad \mathbf{y}_\lambda &\sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{X}_\lambda \boldsymbol{\beta}, \sigma^2 \mathbf{V}_\lambda), \quad \text{where}\end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbf{y}_\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta X_1 + \frac{1}{2}\tau V_1 \Delta t \\ \vdots \\ \Delta X_{N-1} + \frac{1}{2}\tau V_{N-1} \Delta t \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}_\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta t \\ \vdots \\ \Delta t \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{V}_\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \tau V_1 & 0 & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ 0 & & \ddots & \tau V_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \Delta t, \quad \begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\beta} &= \alpha, \\ \sigma &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

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$$\mathbf{y}_\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta X_1 + \frac{1}{2}\tau V_1 \Delta t \\ \vdots \\ \Delta X_{N-1} + \frac{1}{2}\tau V_{N-1} \Delta t \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{X}_\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \Delta t \\ \vdots \\ \Delta t \end{bmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{V}_\tau = \begin{bmatrix} \tau V_1 & 0 & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ 0 & & \ddots & \tau V_{N-1} \end{bmatrix} \Delta t, \quad \begin{array}{l} \boldsymbol{\beta} = \alpha, \\ \sigma = 1. \end{array}$$

⇒  $\ell_{\text{prof}}(\lambda, \tau | \mathbf{Y})$  reduces 6-d optimization to 2-d.

# Example: Stochastic Volatility Modeling

## ► Stochastic Volatility Model:

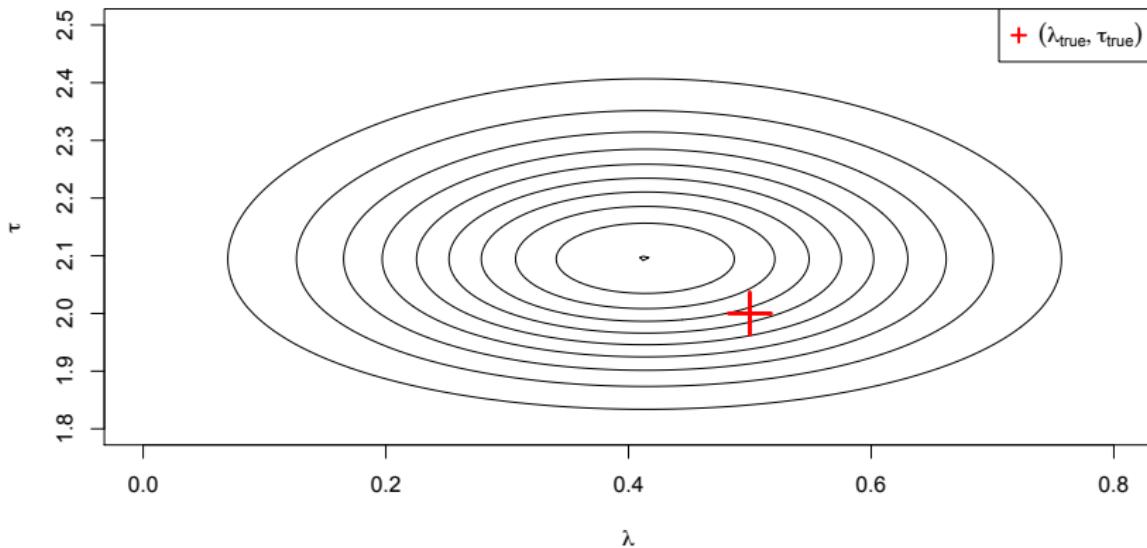
$$dX_t = (\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\tau V_t) dt + (\tau V_t)^{1/2} dB_{1t}$$

$$dV_t = -\gamma(V_t - \mu) dt + \sigma V_t^\lambda dB_{2t}.$$

## ► Simulation:

Parameter	$\alpha$	$\gamma$	$\mu$	$\sigma$	$\lambda$	$\tau$	$X_0$	$V_0$	$N$	$\Delta t$
Value	.1	.5	.2	.3	.5	2	6.5	.2	500	1/252

$$\ell_{\text{prof}}(\lambda, \tau | \mathbf{Y})$$



# Profile Likelihood (Continued)

## Confidence Intervals

- ▶ **Loglikelihood:**  $\ell(\theta | \mathbf{Y})$
- ▶ **Profile Likelihood:** For  $\theta = (\eta, \phi)$ ,

$$\ell_{\text{prof}}(\eta | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell(\eta, \hat{\phi}_\eta | \mathbf{Y}), \quad \hat{\phi}_\eta = \arg \max_\phi \ell(\eta, \phi | \mathbf{Y}).$$

- ▶ **MLE:**  $\hat{\theta} = (\hat{\eta}, \hat{\phi}_{\hat{\eta}})$ , where  $\hat{\eta} = \arg \max_\eta \ell_{\text{prof}}(\eta | \mathbf{Y})$ .
- ▶ **Confidence Intervals:** Suppose  $\theta = (\eta, \phi)$ . To construct the confidence interval  $\hat{\eta} \pm 1.96 \cdot s_{\hat{\eta}}$ , two options for the standard error  $s_{\hat{\eta}}$ :

1. Use *full likelihood* Fisher Information:  $\hat{\mathcal{I}} = -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2} \ell(\hat{\theta} | \mathbf{Y})$ ,  $s_{\hat{\eta}} = \sqrt{[\hat{\mathcal{I}}^{-1}]_{11}}$
2. Use *profile likelihood* Fisher Information:  $\hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\text{prof}} = -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \eta^2} \ell_{\text{prof}}(\hat{\eta} | \mathbf{Y})$ ,  $s_{\hat{\eta}} = \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\text{prof}}^{-1/2}$

**Question:** Which to use? Does it matter?

# Profile Likelihood: Confidence Intervals

## Example

- **Model:**  $Y_1, \dots, Y_n \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \text{Weibull}(\gamma, \lambda)$ , where

$$X \sim \text{Expo}(1) \implies Y = \lambda X^{1/\gamma} \sim \text{Weibull}(\gamma, \lambda).$$

- **Loglikelihood:**

$$\ell(\gamma, \lambda | \mathbf{Y}) = n[\log(\gamma) - \gamma \log(\lambda)] + \gamma \sum_{i=1}^n \log Y_i - \lambda^{-\gamma} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^\gamma.$$

- **Profile Likelihood:**  $\hat{\lambda}_\gamma = \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n Y_i^\gamma \right)^{1/\gamma}$ .

# Profile Likelihood: Confidence Intervals

- **Profile Likelihood:** For  $\ell(\theta | \mathbf{Y})$  and  $\theta = (\eta, \phi)$ ,  $\eta \in \mathbb{R}^q$ ,  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^p$ ,  $q < p$ ,

$$\ell_{\text{prof}}(\eta | \mathbf{Y}) = \ell(\eta, \hat{\phi}_\eta | \mathbf{Y}), \quad \hat{\phi}_\eta = \arg \max_\phi \ell(\eta, \phi | \mathbf{Y}).$$

$\implies$  MLE is  $\hat{\theta} = (\hat{\eta}, \hat{\phi}_{\hat{\eta}})$ , where  $\hat{\eta} = \arg \max_\eta \ell_{\text{prof}}(\eta | \mathbf{Y})$ .

- **Confidence Intervals:** To construct variance estimate  $\widehat{\text{var}}(\hat{\eta}) \approx \text{var}(\hat{\eta})$ :

1. *Full likelihood* Fisher Information: denoting  $\hat{\mathcal{I}}_{ab} = -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial a \partial b} \ell(\hat{\theta} | \mathbf{Y})$ ,  $a, b \in \{\eta, \phi\}$ ,

$$\hat{\mathcal{I}} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\eta\eta} & \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\eta\phi} \\ \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\phi\eta} & \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\phi\phi} \end{bmatrix} \implies \widehat{\text{var}}_{\text{full}}(\hat{\eta}) = \text{top left } q \times q \text{ corner of } \hat{\mathcal{I}}^{-1} \\ = [\hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\eta\eta} - \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\eta\phi} \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\phi\phi}^{-1} \hat{\mathcal{I}}_{\phi\eta}]^{-1}.$$

2. *Profile likelihood* Fisher Information:  $\widehat{\text{var}}_{\text{prof}}(\hat{\eta}) = \left[ -\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \eta^2} \ell_{\text{prof}}(\hat{\eta} | \mathbf{Y}) \right]^{-1}$ .

- **Theorem:**  $\widehat{\text{var}}_{\text{full}}(\hat{\eta}) = \widehat{\text{var}}_{\text{prof}}(\hat{\eta})$ .

$\implies$  If  $\phi$  are **nuisance parameters**, i.e., only  $\eta$  are **parameters of interest**, then profile likelihood is more efficient for calculating both MLE and confidence intervals for  $\eta$ .

# Stochastic Volatility Modeling (Continued)

## Goodness-of-Fit

- **Data:**  $\mathbf{Y}_i = (X_i, V_i)$ : (log-GSPC, VIX) pair on day  $i$ .  $\mathbf{Y} = (\mathbf{Y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{Y}_N)$ .

- **Stochastic Volatility Model:** 
$$\begin{aligned} dX_t &= (\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\tau V_t) dt + (\tau V_t)^{1/2} dB_{1t} \\ dV_t &= -\gamma(V_t - \mu) dt + \sigma V_t^\lambda dB_{2t}. \end{aligned}$$

- **Euler Approximation:** Given an initial value  $\mathbf{Y}_0$ , data simulated as

$$\Delta X_n = \underbrace{(\alpha - \frac{1}{2}\tau V_n)\Delta t}_{\mu_{1n}(\theta)} + \underbrace{(\tau V_n)^{1/2}}_{\sigma_{1n}(\theta)} \Delta B_{1n}, \quad \Delta V_n = \underbrace{-\gamma(V_n - \mu)\Delta t}_{\mu_{2n}(\theta)} + \underbrace{\sigma V_n^\lambda}_{\sigma_{2n}(\theta)} \Delta B_{2n}.$$

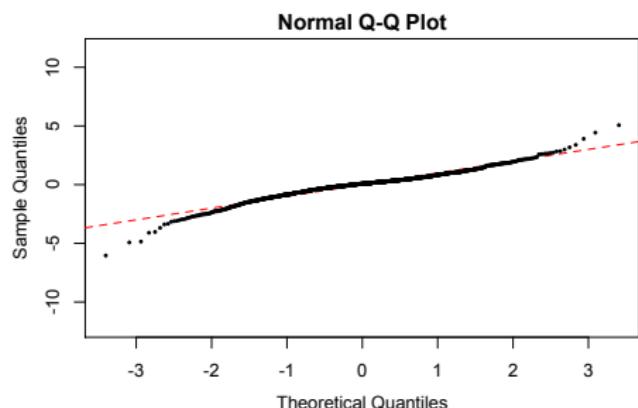
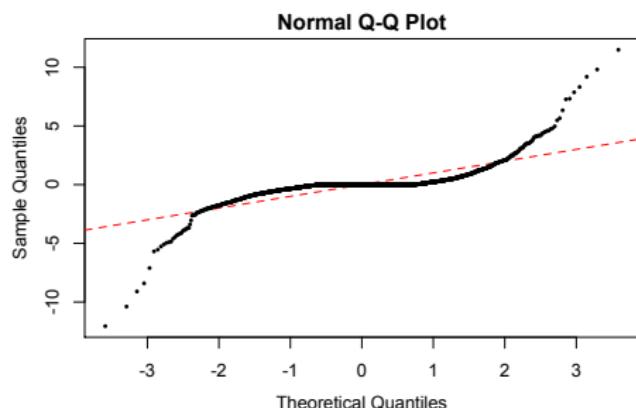
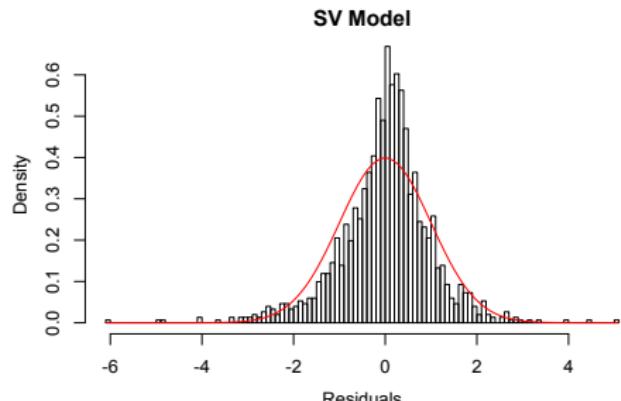
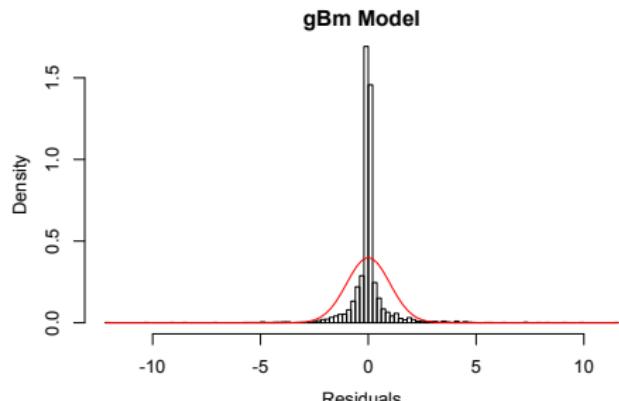
- **Model Residuals:** Assuming Euler approximation, define

$$Z_{1n}(\theta) = \frac{\Delta X_n - \mu_{1n}(\theta)}{\sigma_{1n}(\theta)\Delta t^{1/2}} = \frac{\Delta B_{1n}}{\Delta t^{1/2}}, \quad Z_{2n}(\theta) = \frac{\Delta V_n - \mu_{2n}(\theta)}{\sigma_{2n}(\theta)\Delta t^{1/2}} = \frac{\Delta B_{2n}}{\Delta t^{1/2}}.$$

By independent increments of Brownian motion,  $Z_{in}(\theta) \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

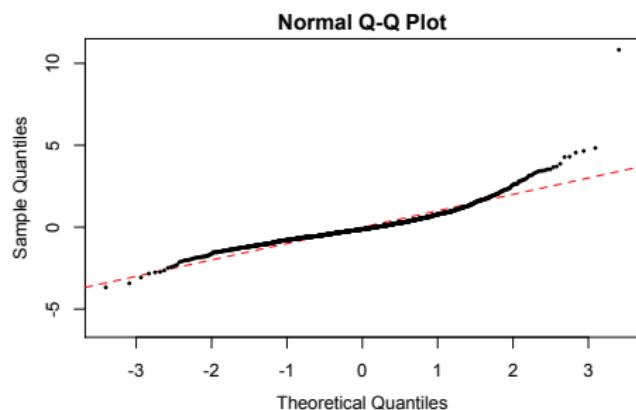
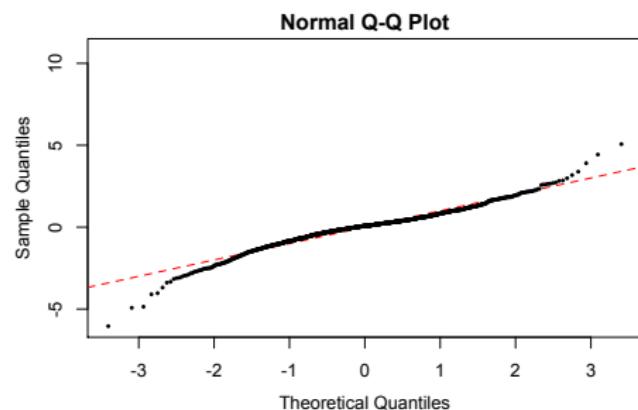
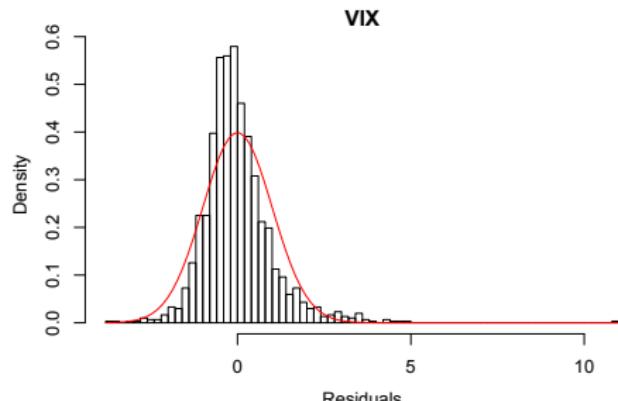
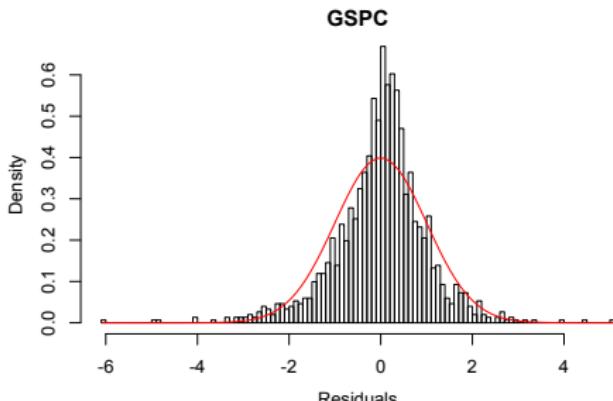
Defining the **residuals**  $\hat{Z}_{in} = Z_{in}(\hat{\theta})$  where  $\hat{\theta}$  is the MLE, approximately we have  $\hat{Z}_{in} \stackrel{\text{iid}}{\sim} \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ .

# Stochastic Volatility: Goodness-of-Fit



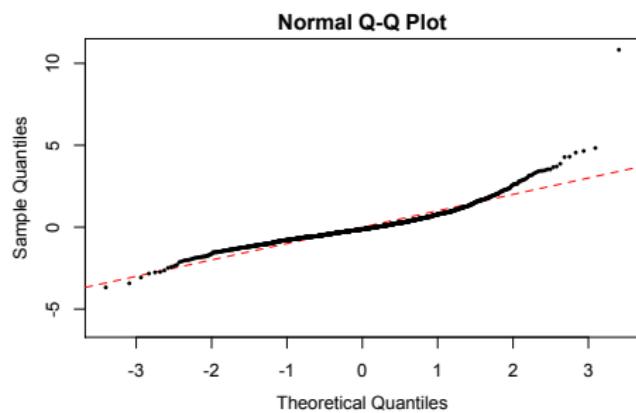
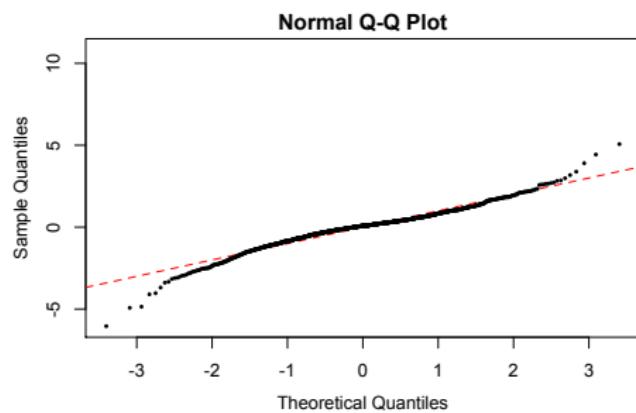
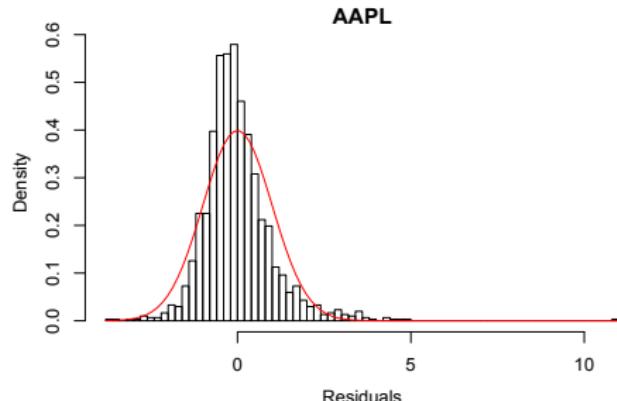
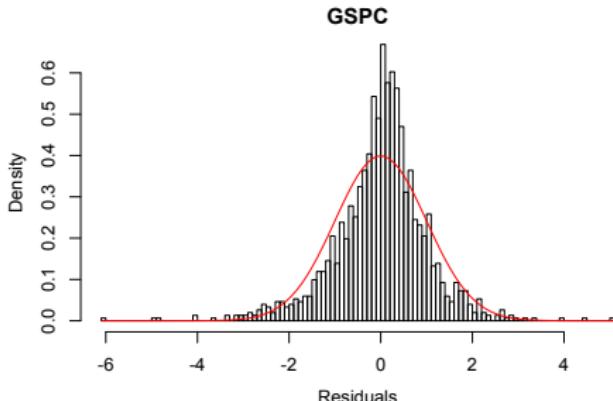
GSPC residuals for gBM and SV models.

# Stochastic Volatility: Goodness-of-Fit



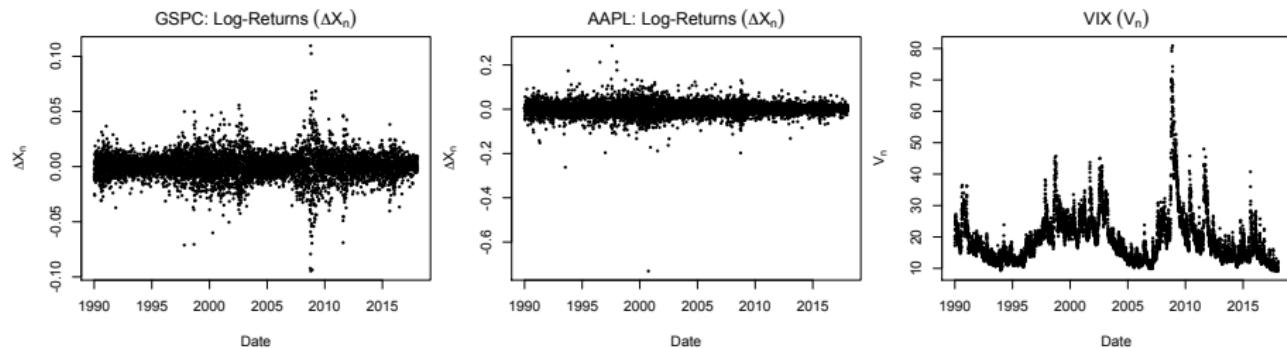
GSPC vs. VIX residuals. (Usually volatility is harder to model than price.)

# Stochastic Volatility: Goodness-of-Fit



GSPC vs. AAPL residuals. (VIX is better proxy for volatility of aggregate than individual asset.)

# Stochastic Volatility: Goodness-of-Fit



GSPC, AAPL, and VIX time series. (Huge drop in AAPL circa 2001 is due to 7-way stock split.)

# Resources

- ▶ `quantmod`: R package to easily scrape web for financial data.
- ▶ `nloptr`: An R wrapper to `NLopt`, to nloptr an extremely powerful C++ library for nonlinear (possibly constrained) optimization.
- ▶ `LMN`: R package for profiling matrix-normal regression models of the form

$$\mathbf{Y} \sim \text{MatNorm}(\mathbf{X}_\eta \boldsymbol{\beta}, \mathbf{V}_\eta, \boldsymbol{\Sigma}),$$

that is, for efficiently calculating  $\ell_{\text{prof}}(\boldsymbol{\eta} \mid \mathbf{Y})$  and  $\hat{\phi}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}} = (\hat{\boldsymbol{\beta}}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}}, \hat{\boldsymbol{\Sigma}}_{\boldsymbol{\eta}})$ .

- ▶ `TMB`: R wrapper to C++ library for `automatic differentiation` (autodiff), i.e., automatically get  $\nabla \ell(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathbf{y})$  from  $\ell(\boldsymbol{\theta} \mid \mathbf{y})$  without extra programming. TMB is extremely fast, well-documented, and the best way to do autodiff in R.
- ▶ `Autograd`: Excellent autodiff library for (pure) Python. An even faster (but less mature) library for this is `JAX`.