

Stochastic volatility, jumps and leverage in energy and stock markets: evidence from high frequency data

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Abstract

In this paper, we propose a model for futures returns that has the potential to provide both individual investors and firms who have positions in financial and energy commodity futures a valid tail risk management tool. In doing so, we also aim to explore the commonalities between these markets and the degree of financialization of energy commodities. While empirical studies in energy markets embed either leverage or jumps in the futures return dynamics, we show that the introduction of both features improves the ability to forecast volatility as an indicator for risk for both the S&P500 and natural gas futures markets. Unlike most of the existing studies in energy derivative markets based on daily data, our empirical analysis makes use of high-frequency (tick-by-tick) data from the futures markets, aggregated to 10-minute intervals during the trading day. The intraday variation is then utilized to generate daily time series of prices, returns and realized variance. Our analysis shows that overall, the introduction of both leverage and jumps in the SVJL model provides the best forecast for risk in both a VaR and a CVaR sense for investors who have any position in natural gas futures regardless of their degree of risk aversion. In the S&P500 market, the SVJL model provides the most precise forecast of risk in a CVaR sense for risk-averse investors with any position in futures, regardless of their degree of risk aversion.

Focusing on a firm's internal risk management, the introduction of both jumps and leverage in the SVJL model would benefit speculative firms who are short natural gas futures aiming at minimizing tail risk in a VaR sense, as well as speculative firms who are long S&P500 futures and use either VaR or CVaR as financial risk management criteria while wanting to minimize the opportunity cost of capital.

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1 Introduction

In this paper, we propose a model for futures returns that has the potential to provide both individual investors and firms who have positions in financial and energy commodity futures a valid tail risk management tool. In doing so, we also aim to explore the com-

2 Literature review

Traditionally, the term *leverage effect* indicates the negative correlation between asset returns and changes in their volatility (see Ait-Sahalia et al.(2013) for an extensive literature review). The interpretation of this effect is intuitive if events that have a negative impact on financial markets would eventually cause an increase in their volatility.

As mentioned by Kristoufek (2014), the original interpretation of the leverage effect was based on Black (1976) who related decreasing expected earnings of the company to a decrease of the market value of the company which drives up the leverage ratio between debt and equity. The negative relationship between returns and volatility was therefore

more efficiently than GARCH models. At the same time, they found a significant negative leverage effect in crude oil spot markets. Kristoufek (2014) focuses on the leverage effect in commodity futures markets and provides an extensive literature review in this area.

As a measure of market risk, VaR has been widely developed since its introduction in RiskMetrics by JP Morgan in 1994. It is defined as the maximum potential loss of an underlying asset at a specific probability level over a certain horizon. Despite its popularity, an obvious and distinctive limitation of the VaR approach is that it only specifies the maximum one can lose at a given risk level, but provides no indication for how much more than VaR one can lose if extreme tail events happen. A good alternative is conditional Value-at-Risk (CVaR), which is a coherent risk measure and retains the benefits of VaR in terms of the capability to define quantiles of the loss distribution.

Fan et al. (2008) estimate VaR for crude oil prices using a GED-GARCH approach with daily WTI and Brent prices from 1987 to 2006. They found that this type of model specification does as well as the standard normal distribution at a 95% confidence level. They retainn520Td396t(retainth)-1Tdhat thiel.

between inventories and prices: the smaller the inventories available for that specific natural gas, the higher its price volatility (see also Deaton and Leroque, 1992).

Schwartz (1997), Schwartz and Smith (2000), and Casassus and Collin-Dufresne (2005) propose multi-factor models for energy prices where returns are only affected by Gaussian shocks, but they constrain volatility to be constant. Pindyck (2004) examines the volatility of energy spot and futures prices, estimating the standard deviation of their first differences.

Mason and Wilmot (2014) investigate the potential presence of jumps in two key daily natural gas prices: the spot price at the Henry Hub in the US, and the spot price for natural gas at the National Balancing Point in the UK. They find compelling empirical evidence for the importance of jumps in both markets, though jumps appear to be more important in the UK. They fit the data using a GARCH(1,1) jump diffusion process where volatility is time-varying and show that the best fit for natural gas futures is a model with both stochastic volatility and leverage.

We contribute to the current debate by testing for the existence of the leverage effect and the presence of jumps in the context of a near-continuous observation of the processes with the ability to study their volatility in great detail by using high frequency futures returns in the S&P500, natural gas and crude oil markets and by studying the impact of the leverage effect on measures of risk such as VaR and CVaR.

In terms of tail risk management, in the crude oil spot market, it has been shown (see Chen, Zerilli and Baum (2019)) that the introduction of the leverage effect in the traditional stochastic volatility (SV) model with normally distributed errors is capable of

markets considered. Compared to Chen, Zerilli and Baum (2018) which presented evidence for *leverage* in the *crude oil spot market* using daily data by estimating the SV models using MCMC techniques, this new paper analyses evidence for both *jumps and leverage* in the *S&P500 and natural gas futures markets and evidence for leverage in the WTI crude oil futures market* using a GMM approach based on the moment conditions of the Integrated Volatility derived from high frequency data. Our paper also examines the impact of jumps and leverage on tail risk management for both individual investors and firms who are focused on managing risk in a VaR/CVaR sense while minimizing their cost of capital.

3 Data

The raw data used in this study are 10-minute aggregations¹ of natural gas, crude oil and S&P500 futures contract transactions-level data provided by TickData, Inc. Industry analysts have noted that to avoid market disruptions, major participants in the futures market roll over their positions from the near contract to the next-near contract over several days before the near contract's expiration date. A continuous price series over contracts, which expire monthly, is created by hypothetically rolling over a position from the near contract to the next-near contract three days prior to expiration of the near contract.

The time series of daily futures returns and the corresponding Realized Variance for these markets are given in Figs. 1 to 6.

S&P500 futures are traded on the CME Group's NYMEX exchange. According to the exchange, S&P 500 futures and options offer a capital-efficient means to manage exposure to the leading large-cap companies of the U.S. stock market. Based on the underlying Standard & Poor's 500 stock index, which is made up of 500 individual stocks representing the market capitalizations of large companies, the S&P 500 Index is a leading indicator of large-cap U.S. equities. S&P500 futures trade in units of \$250 x S&P 500 Index.

¹Jiang and Oomen (2007) apply the GMM method to estimate a SVJ model and similar results when using 10-minute and 5-minute aggregated data. Other research performed with these tick-level data aggregations for crude oil and natural gas have concluded that the choice of 10-minute, 15-minute and 20-minute intervals has minor effects on their findings: e.g., Wolfe and Rosenman (2014).

Henry Hub Natural Gas (NG) futures, traded on the CME Group's NYMEX exchange, allow market participants significant hedging activity to manage risk in the highly volatile natural gas price, which is driven by weather-related demand. According to the exchange, the NG contract is the third-largest physical commodity futures contract in the world by volume.

The futures price is widely used as a national benchmark price for natural gas, which continues to grow as a global and U.S. energy source. Natural gas futures trade in units of 10,000 million British thermal units (mmBtu), which is approximately 10,000,000 cubic feet of gas. Futures prices are quoted in US dollars and cents, with a minimum price increment of \$0.001 per mmBtu. At present, 118 consecutive months' contracts may be traded.

Light, sweet crude oil (West Texas Intermediate) began futures trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) in 1983 and is the most heavily traded commodity future. Crude oil futures trade in units of 1,000 U.S. barrels (42,000 gallons), with contracts dated for 30 consecutive months plus long-dated futures initially listed 36, 48, 60, 72, and 84 months prior to delivery. Additionally, trading can be executed at an average differential to the previous day's settlement prices for periods of two to 30 consecutive months in a single transaction. Crude Oil Futures (CL) are quoted in dollars and cents per barrel.

3.1 Descriptive statistics

In this section we provide a detailed empirical characterization of futures returns and their variance. More specifically, we are interested in considering whether the data are normally distributed, behave in a white noise fashion and have a unit root.

Table 1 provides descriptive statistics for the futures contract returns and their realized variance. Both series exhibit excess kurtosis, while the realized variance series have large skewness coefficients. The Kolmogorov–Smirnov test (Table 2) for normality rejects its null for both series, while the Shapiro–Francia test for normality concurs with those judgements. The Box–Pierce portmanteau (or Q) test for white noise rejects its null for all the series

with exception of the natural gas futures returns. Using the Augmented Dickey–Fuller and Phillips-Perron tests, the null hypothesis of a unit root is rejected for all the futures daily returns and corresponding realized variances.

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics and P-values for the daily futures returns and realised variance for daily futures returns and realized variance 2001-2016

	mean	se	mean	min	max	stdev	skew	kurt
fut ret SP500	0:00	0:00	1:44	1:35	0:12	0:08	21:14	
fut ret NG	0:00	0:01	2:38	2:42	0:32	0:36	8:71	
fut ret WTI	0:00	0:00	1:64	1:73	0:23	0:09	7:33	
fut rv SP500	0:00	0:00	0:00	0:32	0:01	12:75	258:67	
fut rv NG	0:06	0:00	0:00	5:86	0:19	19:15	495:16	
fut rv WTI	0:03	0:00	0:00	2:68	0:08	20:95	648:12	

Table 2: Test Statistics and P-values for the daily futures returns and realised variance for daily futures returns and realized variance 2001-2016

	KSmirnov	p-val	SFrancia	p-val	Q	p-val	DFuller	p-val	PPerron	p-val
fut ret SP500	0.087	0.000	14.078	0.000	156.575	0.000	-64.543	0.000	-64.896	0.000
fut ret NG	0.056	0.000	11.640	0.000	42.208	0.376	-62.209	0.000	-62.221	0.000
fut ret WTI	0.046	0.000	11.097	0.000	79.113	0.000	-62.802	0.000	-62.895	0.000
fut rv SP500	0.354	0.000	18.339	0.000	1.4e+04	0.000	-38.290	0.000	-44.938	0.000
fut rv NG	0.385	0.000	18.618	0.000	766.446	0.000	-55.137	0.000	-57.911	0.000
fut rv WTI	0.360	0.000	18.458	0.000	1495.542	0.000	-52.641	0.000	-55.332	0.000

4 Estimation method

Following Bollerslev and Zhou (2002), who use continuously observed futures prices, we build a conditional moment estimator for stochastic volatility models based on matching the sample moments of *Realized Variance* with population moments of the *Integrated Variance* (see Appendix I for details). In this paper, realized variance is computed as the sum of high-frequency (10-minute interval) intraday squared returns. The returns on futures at time t over the interval $[t - k; t]$ can be decomposed as

$$r(t; k) = \ln F$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 dp &= d\ln(F) \\
 &= \bar{p} dW_1 + x d\text{Poisson}(t)
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3}$$

$$dV = (\bar{p} V) dt + \bar{p} dW_2
 \tag{4}$$

$$E(dW_1 dW_2) = dt
 \tag{5}$$

$$x \sim N(0);$$

As there are twelve moment conditions (for details see Appendix III) and ...ve estimated

We find that stochastic volatility models with leverage are effective in fitting the volatility of futures returns for all the three markets. More specifically, we find significant evidence of a *leverage effect* for S&P500 and crude oil markets: a negative shock to returns increases volatility in these markets. In contrast, we find evidence of *inverse leverage effect* for the natural gas market (in line with Kristoufek (2014)).

4.4 Stochastic Volatility model (SV)

This is a special case of the general model where there are no jumps and no leverage ($\lambda = 0$; $\alpha = 0$ and $\beta = 0$).

In this case, these are the two main moment conditions, augmented using four lagged counterparts (see Appendices I and III for details):

$$\begin{aligned} e_1 \\ e_2 \end{aligned}$$

As there are six moment conditions and three estimated parameters, there are three overidentifying restrictions that may be used to evaluate the model for each market. The Hansen's J statistic indicates that the overidentifying restrictions are valid. As shown in Tables 3 and 4 the three estimated parameters of the model are very precisely estimated (except for the WTI dataset) and take on sensible values from an analytical perspective.³

³In order to implement this estimation, we define the moment conditions and build specific t-tests on the moment conditions.

Table 3: GMM estimates for the SV, SVJ, SVL, SVJL models for the S&P500 futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	SV	SVJ	SVL	SVJL
	1.507*** (5.87)	0.0869*** (4.58)	0.0424*** (2.92)	0.227*** (29.99)
	0.00398*** (8.41)	0.00994*** (12.56)	0.00649*** (5.55)	0.00376*** (15.69)
	0.283*** (6.55)	0.338*** (19.62)	0.249*** (17.96)	0.12015172*** (54.75)
		0.979 (0.38)		0.156923006*** (10.09)
		0.0159 (0.77)		0.038120618*** (30.60)
			0.379*** (11.29)	0.490*** (29.11)
N	3708			

t statistics in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 4: GMM estimates for the SV, SVJ, SVL, SVJL models for Natural Gas futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	SV	SVJ	SVL	SVJL
	0.923** (2.19)	0.772*** (4.11)	0.760*** (3.45)	0.0556* (1.75)
	0.0483*** (4.36)	0.0568*** (6.15)	0.0460*** (5.60)	0.0545*** (4.97)
	1.139** (2.33)	1.041*** (6.23)	0.925*** (3.49)	0.24293*** (3.82)
		0.0101*** (4.03)		0.04345*** (18.52)
		0.932*** (32.63)		0.97814 (0.53)
			0.201*** (4.57)	0.0495** (2.14)
N	3708			

t statistics in parentheses

* $p < 0.10$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

Table 5: GMM estimates for the SV, SVJ, SVL models for WTI futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	SV	SVJ	SVL
	0:117 (1:43)	0:0596* (1:77)	0:0963* (1:71)
	0:0247*** (5:75)	0:0224*** (3:45)	0:0242*** (6:43)
	0:176** (2:04)	0:131*** (2:60)	0:162** (2:50)
		0:0190** (2:44)	
		0:439*** (39:24)	
			0:276*** (3:64)
N	3708		

t statistics in parentheses

* $p < 0:10$, ** $p < 0:05$, *** $p < 0:01$

5 Robustness check for subsamples

In this section, we perform a robustness check by splitting the entire sample in two subsamples: before and after the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy in mid-September 2008. Within each subsample, the choice of the most appropriate model differs for the energy futures series, perhaps reflecting evolutionary forces in energy markets such as the widespread use of fracking and the resulting increases in natural gas supply. Given the underlying structural changes in the US energy sector, it is not surprising that a model that over the entire period may not be the best choice over a restricted subsample.

As shown in Table 6, the SVJL model provides the best fit for the S&P500 futures market on the overall sample and on the two subsamples. For the natural gas futures market, the SVJL model provides the best fit for the overall sample and for the pre-crisis subsample, while the SVL model is the most appropriate to fit the post-crisis subsample.

For the WTI crude oil futures market, the SVL model provides the best fit for the overall sample and for the pre-crisis subsample while the SVJL model performs best for the post-crisis subsample.

Table 6: GMM estimates for S&P500, Natural Gas and WTI futures before and after September 15, 2008 (Lehman Brothers bankruptcy)

	S&P500	NG	WTI
Before September 15, 2008 N = 1699	SVJL	SVJL	SVL
	0:137*** (13:27)	0:0871*** (5:55)	0:276*** (3:87)
	0:00331*** (16:47)	0:0836*** (11:69)	0:0328*** (8:33)
	0:0577*** (57:58)	0:5455*** (12:32)	0:343*** (6:36)
	0:1325*** (7:37)	0:0966*** (26:15)	
	0:0364*** (24:70)	0:4921*** (48:64)	
	0:440*** (18:40)	0:0137** (2:20)	0:262*** (6:66)
After September 15, 2008 N = 1990	SVJL	SVL	SVJL
	0:188*** (13:22)	0:0434 (1:46)	

6 Out-of-sample performance

errors coming from all the models. The Box–Pierce portmanteau (or Q) test for white noise rejects its null for all the series of forecast errors with the exception of the residuals for the S&P500 market.

Table 7: Out-of-sample performance of SV, SVL and SVJL models: July-December 2016 RMSE and MAE for the returns process.

	SV	SVJ	SVL	SVJL
RMSE				
S&P500	0:08014	0:19278	0:07757	0:1104
WTI	0:26398	0:28523	0:26231	
NG	0:34547	0:3652	0:33651	0:378
MAE				
S&P500	0:06134	0:12978	0:05884	0:07281
WTI	0:20573	0:22121	0:20444	
NG	0:26411	0:28076	0:25676	0:27043

Table 8: Out-of-sample performance of SV, SVL and SVJL models: July-December 2016 RMSE and MAE for the variance process.

	SV	SVJ	SVL	SVJL
RMSE				
S&P500	0:00447	0:013848	0:004074	0:003308
WTI	0:021026	0:019163	0:020501	
NG	0:066412	0:072497	0:057729	0:03341
MAE				
S&P500	0:003215	0:005822	0:002886	0:002195
WTI	0:015708	0:014377	0:015325	
NG	0:041425	0:046088	0:037161	0:023585

6.2 Diebold–Mariano test

This test calculates a measure of predictive accuracy proposed by Diebold and Mariano (1995). We ran the test for each of 350 simulations per model and present summary

Table 9: S&P500, natural gas and WTI futures: Engle's Lagrange multiplier test for autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity for standardized residuals and squared standardized residuals for SV, SVJ, SVL and SVJL models.

	1 lag	p-val	5 lags	p-val	10 lags	p-val	30 lags	p-val
SV SP res	4:80	0:03	5:20	0:39	6:07	0:81	17:64	0:96
SV SP res squ	0:66	0:42	0:97	0:97	1:31	1:00	12:81	1:00
SV SP J res	0:09	0:76	21:50	0:00	31:89	0:00	5:59	1:00
SV SP J res squ	0:05	0:83	27:44	0:00	36:50	0:00	0:67	1:00
SV SP L res	0:38	0:54	6:07	0:30	7:38	0:69	24:71	0:74
SV SP L res squ	0:00	0:96	1:65	0:90	2:21	0:99	9:59	1:00
SV SP JL res	0:17	0:68	5:11	0:40	7:67	0:66	23:01	0:81
SV SP JL res squ	0:27	0:61	4:30	0:51	5:96	0:82	22:44	0:84
SV NG res	0:01	0:93	0:04	1:00	0:10	1:00	20:19	0:91
SV NG res squ	0:01	0:93	0:04	1:00	0:10	1:00	18:55	0:95
SV NG J res	0:01	0:94	0:04	1:00	0:10	1:00	22:97	0:82
SV NG J res squ	0:01	0:93	0:04	1:00	0:10	1:00	19:40	0:93
SV NG L res	0:05	0:83	0:06	1:00	0:25	1:00	19:37	0:93
SV NG L res squ	0:01	0:92	0:05	1:00	0:11	1:00	13:84	0:99
SV NG JL res	6:68	0:01	7:15	0:21	11:43	0:32	22:10	0:85
SV NG JL res squ	4:05	0:04	4:37	0:50	4:29	0:93	4:76	1:00
SV CL res	0:00	1:00	1:91	0:86	4:71	0:91	17:86	0:96
SV CL res squ	0:15	0:69	0:76	0:98	1:52	1:00	15:42	0:99
SV CL J res	0:00	0:98	2:05	0:84	4:67	0:91	17:12	0:97
SV CL J res squ	0:10	0:75	0:65	0:99	1:30	1:00	10:38	1:00
SV CL L res	0:00	1:00	2:06	0:84	4:75	0:91	17:22	0:97
SV CL L res squ	0:11	0:74	0:75	0:98	1:60	1:00	10:23	1:00

Table 10: S&P500, natural gas and WTI futures: Test statistics and p-values for standardized residuals and squared standardized residuals for SV, SVJ, SVL and SVJL models

	KSmirnov	p-val	SFrancia	p-val	Qtest	p-val
SV SP res	0:094	0:231	3:253	0:001	65:850	0:006
SV SP res squ	0:303	0:000	7:853	0:000	37:832	0:568
SV SP J res	0:296	0:000	8:172	0:000	40:898	0:431
SV SP J res squ	0:452	0:000	9:018	0:000	34:394	0:720
SV SP L res	0:068	0:626	0:928	0:177	85:452	0:000
SV SP L res squ	0:259	0:000	7:420	0:000	43:723	0:316
SV SP JL res	0:072	0:554	0:799	0:212	87:346	0:000
SV SP JL res squ	0:249	0:000	7:090	0:000	39:267	0:503
SV NG res	0:311	0:000	8:799	0:000	6:095	1:000
SV NG res squ	0:483	0:000	9:252	0:000	0:421	1:000
SV NG J res	0:314	0:000	8:809	0:000	5:425	1:000
SV NG J res squ	0:494	0:000	9:254	0:000	0:397	1:000
SV NG L res	0:151	0:007	7:048	0:000	20:472	0:996
SV NG L res squ	0:431	0:000	9:126	0:000	1:917	1:000
SV NG JL res	0:052	0:888	2:377	0:009	34:724	0:706
SV NG JL res squ	0:303	0:000	8:145	0:000	21:069	0:994
SV CL res	0:046	0:958	1:521	0:064	42:030	0:383
SV CL res squ	0:276	0:000	7:644	0:000	34:788	0:704
SV CL J res	0:046	0:957	1:547	0:061	42:706	0:383

statistics from that set of test results. Given an actual series and two competing predictions, one can apply a loss criterion (such as mean squared error or mean absolute error) and then calculate a number of measures of predictive accuracy that allow the null hypothesis of equal accuracy to be tested. Table 11 reports the results for the futures returns and corresponding variance for all the markets. The test rejects the null that the two models are equally capable in terms of their MSEs at the 95% level of confidence. For the simulations in which the test rejects equal forecast accuracy, we can compare the mean MSE for the two models.

While the results are not conclusive for the futures returns series (see Table 11), in the case of the corresponding variance, we can observe an high number of rejections and for the S&P500 and WTI realized variance of the futures returns the SVL model compared to the SV model has the smaller MSE for all the markets. In summary, for the S&P500 and WTI realized variance of the futures returns, the SVL model has the smaller mean MSE for those simulations in which the Diebold–Mariano test rejects its null hypothesis of equal forecast accuracy. According to Table 12, the SVL model, compared to the SVJ model, shows an higher forecasting accuracy for the S&P500 futures returns and for the natural gas futures variance. Considering Table 13, for the S&P500 and NG realized variance of the futures returns, the SVJL model has the smaller mean MSE compared to the SVL model for those simulations in which the Diebold–Mariano test rejects its null hypothesis of equal forecast accuracy.

Table 11: Diebold–Mariano test for futures returns and their variance SV vs SVL: comparison of forecast accuracy over 350 out-of-sample predictions

	futures returns			variance of futures returns		
	SP500	WTI	NG	SP500	WTI	NG
SV beats SVL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SVL beats SV	39	31	70	196	223	166
Test inconclusive	311	319	280	154	127	184
Total	350	350	350	350	350	350

Table 12: Diebold–Mariano test for futures returns and their variance SVJ vs SVL: comparison of forecast accuracy over 350 out-of-sample predictions

	futures returns			variance of futures returns		
	SP500	WTI	NG	SP500	WTI	NG
SVJ beats SVL	0	0	0	0	0	0
SVL beats SVJ	336	45	60	165	69	304
Test inconclusive	14	305	290	185	281	46
Total	350	350	350	350	350	350

Table 13: Diebold–Mariano test for futures returns and their variance SVL vs SVJL: comparison of forecast accuracy over 350 out-of-sample predictions

	futures returns		variance of futures returns	
	SP500	NG	SP500	NG
SVL beats SVJL	0	0	0	0
SVJL beats SVL	71	8	258	199
Test inconclusive	279	342	92	151
Total	350	350	350	350

7 Forecasting VaR and CVaR

In this section we want to explore whether the forecasts provided by the two models are able to provide a financial investor with a valid tool for hedging risk. Therefore, we derive VaR and CVaR using the simulated volatility series when fixing the parameter values at the GMM estimates and we then backtest them against the actual market futures returns. We perform this analysis for the SV, SVJ, SVL and SVJL models only as they are the best contenders overall.

As a measure of market risk, VaR has been widely developed since its introduction in RiskMetrics by JP Morgan (1994). It is defined as the maximum potential loss of an underlying asset at a specific probability level over a certain horizon. Despite its popularity, an obvious and distinctive limitation of the VaR approach is that it only specifies the maximum one can lose at a given risk level, but provides no indication for how much more than VaR one can lose if extreme tail events happen. This may lead to an equivalent VaR estimate for two different positions, though they have completely different risk exposures. Artzner et al. (1999) proposed the concept of coherent risk measure, which has become the paradigm of risk measurement. A good alternative is conditional Value-at-Risk (CVaR), which is a coherent risk measure and retains the benefits of VaR in terms of the capability to define quantiles of the loss distribution.

Although the CVaR approach has been widely used for risk analysis, the implementation of backtesting for CVaR models is much harder than for VaR models. Nevertheless,

formal backtesting methods can be found in literature, such as the most commonly used approach zero-mean residual test by McNeil and Frey (2000) which relies on bootstrapping, the censored Gaussian method by Berkowitz (2001) and the functional delta approach by Kerkhol and Melenverg (2004).⁴ However, applying these methods tend to be difficult and overly complex. The application of these methods is based upon the realization of specific conditions, hence it is possible to backtest CVaR only under specific circumstances. Kerkhol and Melenverg (2004) suggest a viable and simpler alternative to backtesting CVaR on the basis of equal quantiles, after finding a nominal risk level b for CVaR.

We now focus on the models for which we have the most evidence of a substantial impact of the introduction of leverage and jumps on the prediction accuracy of the model. In order to classify the competing models, we follow a two-stage model evaluation procedure where in the first stage models are selected in terms of their statistical accuracy (the backtesting stage), while in the second stage the surviving models are evaluated in terms of their “efficiency” (the efficiency stage).⁵

Stage 1: *Backtesting the VaR and CVaR models*

In order to backtest the accuracy of the estimated VaRs, it is necessary to calculate the empirical failure rates for the estimates. The *Failure Rate (FR)* or *violation rate*, computes the ratio of the number of times returns exceed the estimated VaRs over the total number of observations. The model is said to be correctly specified if the calculated ratio is equal to the pre-specified VaR level (i.e. $\alpha = 5\%$ and $\beta = 1\%$). If the Failure Rate is higher than α , we can conclude that the model underestimates the risk, and vice versa.

The failure rate **FRVaR** for the downside risk of a long trading position, is calculated as the percentage of negative returns that are smaller than the left quantile VaRs, while the failure rate **FRVaR** for the upside risk of a short trading position is the ratio of positive

⁴A comprehensive discussion of various **CVaR** backtesting methodologies as well as their implementations at different circumstances is provided by Wimmerstedt (2015).

⁵For details see Sarma et al. (2003).

returns larger than the right quantile VaRs. We define $FRVaR$ and $FRVaR$ as follows:

$$FRVaR = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T I(y_t < VaR_t)$$

$$FRVaR = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T I(y_t > VaR_t)$$

where VaR_t and VaR_t are the estimated $VaRs$ for downside and upside risk at time t for a given confidence interval, T is the number of observations and $I(\cdot)$ is the indicator function which is defined as:

$$\text{Downside: } I = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y < VaR \\ 0 & \text{if } y \geq VaR \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Upside: } I = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } y > VaR \\ 0 & \text{if } y \leq VaR \end{cases}$$

There are three formal tests based on the above criteria to backtest the VaR estimates. The unconditional coverage test (LR), proposed by Kupiec (1995), examines whether the null hypothesis $H_0: FR = \alpha$ can be satisfied. A good performance of the VaR model should be accompanied by accurate unconditional coverage, that is, the failure rate is statistically expected to be equal to the prescribed VaR level α .

The method proposed by Kupiec (1995) is capable to test the overestimates or underestimates of a VaR model. It does not, however, consider whether the exceptions are scattered or if they appear in clusters.⁶ In order to examine whether the VaR violations are serially uncorrelated over time, Christoffersen (1998) proposes the independent likelihood ratio test (LR).

In addition, a more selective conditional coverage test (LR) which jointly examines the unconditional coverage and independence of violations has been developed by Christoffersen (1998). This test investigates if the failure rate is equal to the expected prescribed risk level and if the exceptions are independently distributed over time. The null hypothesis

⁶Kupiec's (1995) approach is an unconditional test. On the other hand, we need to conditionally examine

for this test is that the exceptions are independent and that the expected failure rate is

accuracy of the estimated VaRs and CVaRs, the three formal tests described in the previous section are applied to the model forecasts using empirical failure rate criteria.

Because the **LR** test is the most rigorous among the three tests considered, we will focus on the outcomes of this test. When all the models pass the **LR** test, they are also compared on the basis of the Failure rate (FR): the model whose FR is the closest to α for VaR or b

nor the SVL model adequately forecast risk in a CVaR sense.

Table 16 presents a summary of the main conclusions that we can draw from the out-of-sample VaR/CVaR backtesting results.

We classify the results of a test inconclusive when multiple models show the same results in terms of the statistical significance and the failure rate. We declare that none of the models is adequate in the cases where none of the models passes the **LR** test. Overall, the introduction of both leverage and jumps (SVJL model) provides the best forecast for risk in both a VaR and a CVaR sense for investors who have any position in natural gas futures regardless of their degree of risk aversion. In the S&P500 market, the SVJL model provides the most precise forecast of risk in a CVaR sense for risk-averse investors with any position in futures, regardless of their degree of risk aversion.

Table 14: Out of sample VaR backtesting results using Simulated Volatilities at different risk levels: equal to 5% and 1% represent prescribed VaR level corresponding to 95% and 99% CI respectively, LR columns show p-values of Kupiec's (1995) unconditional coverage test, LR columns are p values of Christoffersen's (1998) independent test and LR columns are p-values of Christoffersen's (1998) conditional coverage test, * denotes significance at its corresponding risk level.

		Failure rate								LR				LR			
		SP	CL	NG	SP	CL	NG	SP	CL	NG	SP	CL	NG	SP	CL	NG	
SV																	
5%	VaR	4:06%	7:32%	13:0%	0:69	0:24	0*	0:62	0:27	0*	0:51	0:23	0:93				
	VaR	7:32%	7:32%	14:63%	0:03*	0:24	0*	0:27	0:27	0*	0:6	0:23	0:02*				
1%	VaR	0:81%	0:81%	6:50%	0:96	0:96	0*	0:83	0:83	0*	0:9	0:9	0:52				
	VaR	3:25%	4:06%	6:50%	0*	0:03	0*	0:05	0:01	0*	0:06	0:51	0:45				
SVJ																	
5%	VaR	13:82%	8:13%	8:13%	0*	0:14	0:14	0:01*	0:18	0:83	0*	0:13	0:30				
	VaR	18:67%	9:76%	11:382%	0*	0:03*	0:01*	0:61	0:10	0:73	0*	0:02*	0:02*				
1%	VaR	8:94%	0:81%	3:252%	0*	0:83	0:05	0:01*	0:9	0:60	0*	0:96	0:12				
	VaR	13:01%	5:69%	4:878%	0*	0*	0*	0:13	0:35	0:27	0*	0*	0*				
SVL																	
5%	VaR	2:44%	7:32%	8:94%	0:32	0:24	0:17	0:15	0:27	0:07	0:7	0:23	0:99				
	VaR	4:88%	8:13%	11:38%	0:02*	0:13	0:01*	0:95	0:14	0*	0:21	0:18	0:63				
1%	VaR	0:81%	0:81%	5:69%	0:96	0:96	0*	0:83	0:83	0*	0:9	0:9	0:39				
	VaR	4:06%	4:06%	4:06%	0*	0:03	0:03	0:01	0:01	0:01	0:13	0:51	0:51				
SVJL																	
5%	VaR	2:44%	4:88%	4:88%	0:32		0:7	0:15		0:95	0:6973		0:43				
	VaR	8:13%	7:32%	6:50%	0:02*		0:40	0:14		0:4636	0:75		0:29				
1%	VaR	0:81%	0:81%	1:63%	0:96		0:77	0:83		0:5223	0:9		0:8				
	VaR	2:44%	4:06%	1:63%	0:01*		0:77	0:17		0:5223	0:75		0:8				

Stage 2: Efficiency measures.

Table 17 compares the best performing models within the VaR backtesting process using the Regulatory loss function (RLF) and Firm's loss function (FLF) as ranking criteria. Panel A presents the average loss values for the RLF and the FLF for the competing models at various risk levels in the three markets. The models with the lowest average loss values are underlined. Panel B reports the standardized sign statistics values. S_{SVL} denotes the standardized sign statistics with null of "non-superiority" of the SVL model over the SVJL model while S_{SVJL} represents the standardized sign statistics with null of "non-superiority" of the SVJL model over the SVL model. S_{SVL} denotes the standardized sign statistics with null of "non-superiority" of the SVL model over the SVJ model while S_{SVJ} represents the standardized sign statistics with null of "non-superiority" of the SVJ model over the SVL model. "*" denotes significance at the corresponding level.

SVL vs SVJL

The results in Panel A show that the SVL model achieves a lower average loss than the SVJL model under the RLF approach while the SVJL model scores a lower average loss under the FLF approach. To address the statistical significance of the losses, we report the values of the standardized sign test in Panel B. For the RLF criterion, the competing models are not significantly different from each other. Under the FLF criterion, the SVJL model is significantly better than the SVL model for firms who are long S&P500 futures and for firms who are short natural gas futures at a 95% confidence level. The SVL model outperforms the SVJL model only for firms who are short S&P500 futures at a 95% confidence level.

SVL vs SVJ

The results in Panel A indicate that, under the RLF criterion, the SVL model is more likely to achieve lower average losses than the SVJ model for financial regulators who focus on the risk affecting long positions in futures, while the SVJ model has the potential to achieve a smaller average loss compared to the SVL model for financial regulators who focus on the risk affecting short positions in futures. Considering the FLF approach, firms

who use the VaR criterion for tail risk management while minimizing the opportunity cost of capital in the S&P500 and WTI crude oil futures markets should prefer the SVJ model while firms operating in the natural gas futures market would be better off adopting the SVL model.

In order to examine the statistical significance of the losses, we report the values of the standardized sign test in Panel B. For the RLF criterion, the competing models are not significantly different from each other. Under FLF criterion, the SVJ model is significantly better than the SVL model for firms who are long futures in the SP&500 and WTI markets at both 95% and 99% confidence level. On the contrary, the SVL model is significantly

SVJL model is more likely to perform better than SVL only for traders who are long S&P500 futures at a 1.96% nominal level while SVL scores better for traders who are short S&P500 futures at a 1.96% nominal level.

SVL vs SVJ

There is no absolute advantage of one over the other under the RLF criterion. Under the FLF criterion, the SVJ model performs better than the SVL model for traders who hold any positions in the SP&500 and the WTI futures markets. Similarly, the standardized sign test values for the RLF criterion in Panel B indicate that there are no significant differences between the two models. Under the FLF criterion, the SVJ model is significantly better than the SVL model for traders who are long futures in the SP&500 and WTI markets at both the 95% and 99% confidence levels. On the contrary, the SVL model is significantly

Table 17: Out of sample RLF and FLF loss function approach applied to the models surviving the VaR Backtesting stage.

Volatility models and VaR methods	RLF			FLF		
	5%	1%	1%	5%	1%	1%
Panel A: Average loss values						
SVL	Long	S&P500 0	CL 0	NG 0:03	CL 0	NG 0:02
	Short	0	0	0:07	0:11	0:01
				S&P500 0:01	CL 0	NG 0:02
				0:01	S&P500 0	CL 0:01
				0:01	0	NG 0:01
						0:01

Table 18: Out of sample RLF and FLF loss function approach applied to the models surviving the CVaR Backtesting stage

Volatility models

aversion. Focusing on a firm's internal risk management, the introduction of both jumps and leverage in the SVJL model would benefit speculative firms who are short natural gas futures aiming at minimizing tail risk in a VaR sense, as well as speculative firms who are long S&P500 futures and use either VaR or CVaR as financial risk management criteria while wanting to minimize the opportunity cost of capital.

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Appendix I: Realized Variance and Moment conditions

Following Bollerslev and Zhou (2002), who use continuously observed futures prices, we build a conditional moment estimator for stochastic variance models based on matching the sample moments of *Realized Variance* with population moments of the *Integrated Variance*. In this paper, realized variance is computed as the sum of high-frequency (10-minute interval) intraday squared returns.

8.1 No jumps

The returns on futures at time t over the interval $[t-k; t]$ can be decomposed as

$$r(t; k) = \ln F_t - \ln F_{t-k} = \int_{t-k}^t \sigma(s) dW(s) + \int_{t-k}^t \lambda(s) ds$$

When no jumps are considered, the Quadratic Variation coincides with Integrated Variance from the population and it is defined as

$$QV(t; k) = IV(t; k) = \int_{t-k}^t \sigma^2(s) ds$$

The *Realized Variance* from the sample is defined as:

$$RV(t; k; n) = \sum_{j=1}^n r(t-k + \frac{j}{n}; \frac{1}{n})^2$$

$$RV(t; k; n) \rightarrow IV(t; k)$$

as $n \rightarrow \infty$

$$I = 1$$

8.2 Jumps

When we allow for discrete jumps, the returns on futures at time t over the interval $[t-k; t]$ can be decomposed as

$$r(t; k) = \ln F_t - \ln F_{t-k} = \int_{t-k}^t \alpha(s) ds + \int_{t-k}^t \sigma(s) dW(s) + \sum_{t-k \leq s \leq t} x(s) dN(s)$$

In this case, Integrated Variance and Quadratic Variation do not coincide:

$$\begin{aligned} IV(t; k) &= \int_{t-k}^t \sigma^2(s) ds + \sum_{t-k \leq s \leq t} (x(s) dN(s))^2 \\ &= QV(t; k) + \sum_{t-k \leq s \leq t} (x(s) dN(s))^2 \end{aligned}$$

Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2004) proposed the Realized Bipower Variation as a consistent estimate of integrated variance component in the presence of jumps:

$$BV(t; k; n) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=2}^n \dots \text{can be decomposed as}$$

$$e_1 = E[BP_{+1j}G] + \sigma^2 dt RV_{+1}$$

since

$$E[RV_{+1j}G] = E[BP_{+1j}G] + \sigma^2 dt$$

combining with equation (A:3) on page 56, *Appendix A.1*

Residual 2

At time $(t + 1; t + 2)$

$$e_2 = E[RV_{+1}$$

$E V_{+1}^2$ can be observed from the realized variance

V_{+1}^2 is the realized variance in the next period

Appendix II: Figures

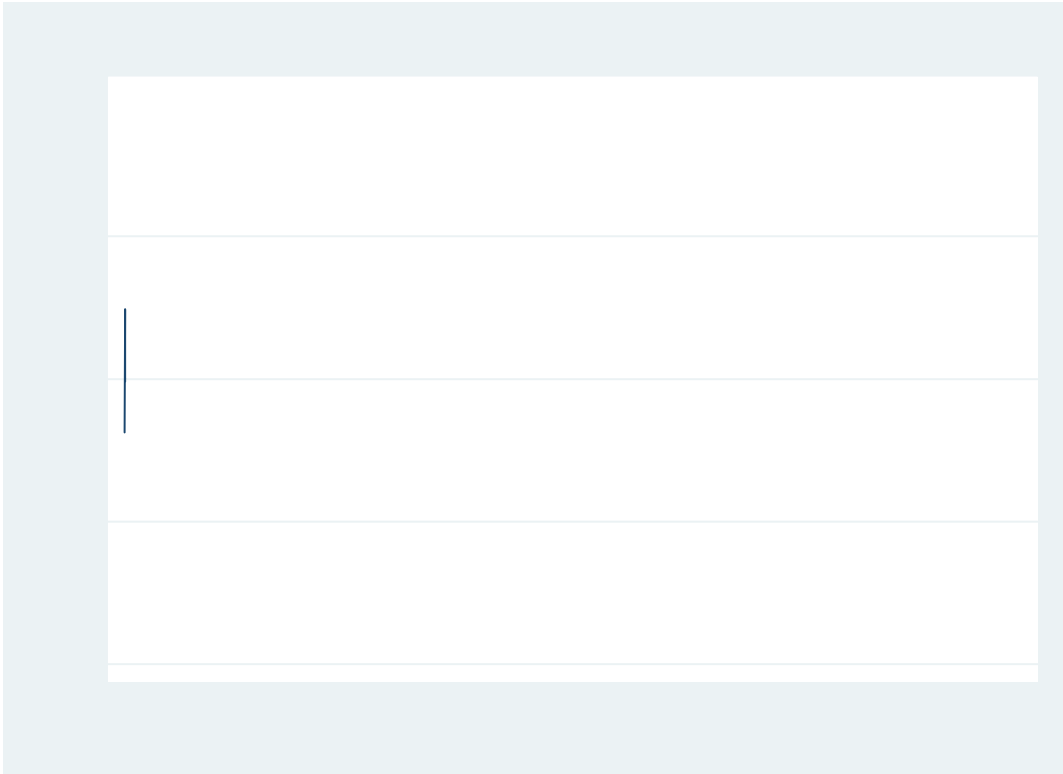


Figure 1

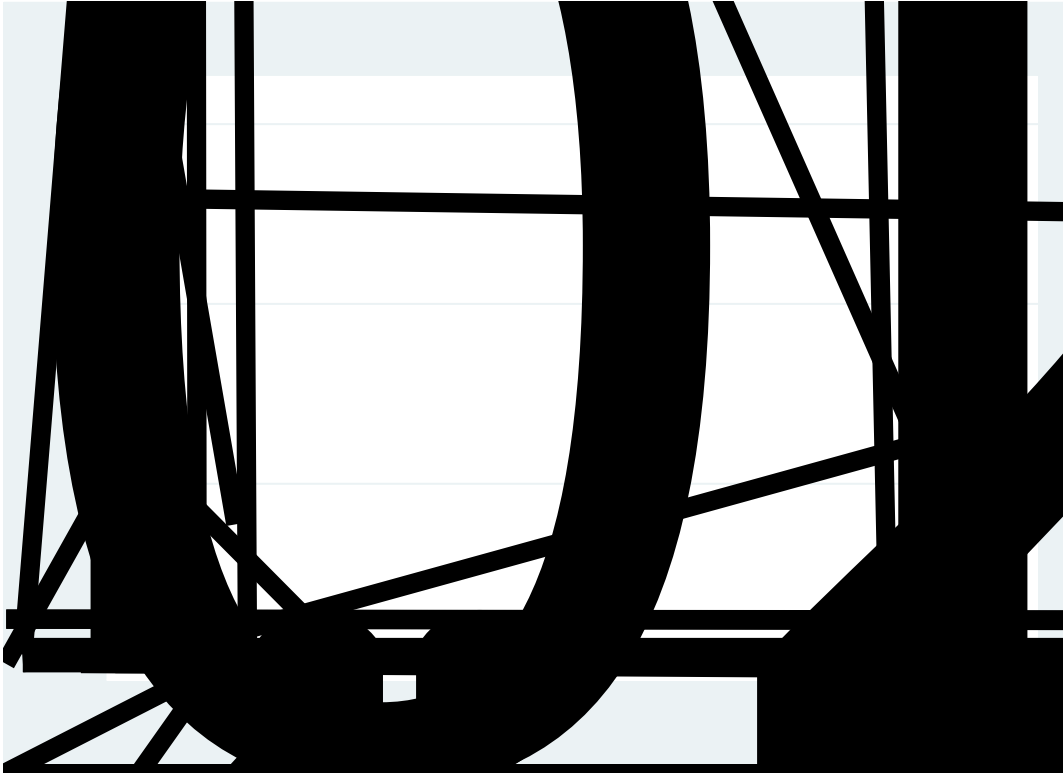


Figure 2

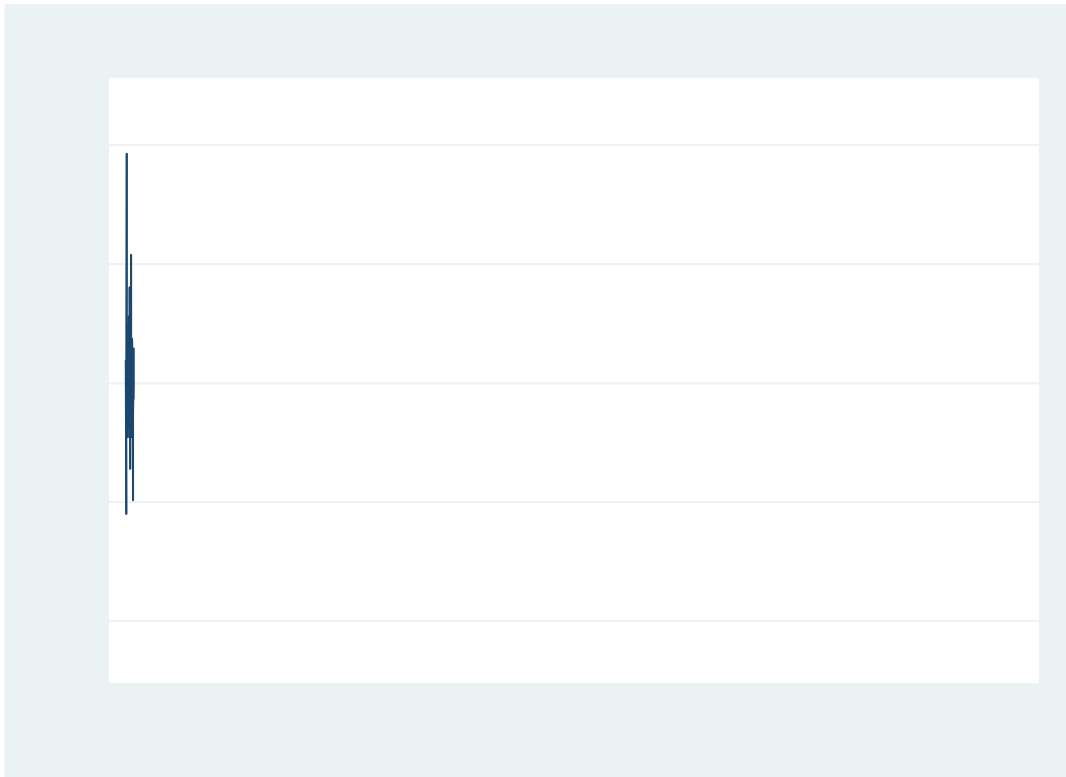


Figure 3



Figure 4

Figure 5



Figure 6

Appendix III: t and J tests on the moment conditions

Table 19: GMM estimates for SV model for the S&P500 futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	MuMoments	tstat	pval
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:00271	0:997841
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15$	0:00844	0:993267
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16$	0:05157	0:958872
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:00735	0:994135
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$	0:01141	0:9909
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-}$			

Table 20: GMM estimates for SVJ model for the S&P500 futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	MuMoments	pval
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:999994
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15$	0:999995
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16$	0:999950
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:999991
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$	0:999930
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17$	0:999938
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	V_{+1}	0:999498
$E[V_{+1} BP_{-16}^2]$	$V_{+1} BP_{-16}^2$	0:999712
$E[V_{+1} BP_{-2}^2]$	$V_{+1} BP_{-2}^2$	0:993492
$E[V_{+1} G]$	V_{+1}	0:000559
$E[V_{+1} V_{-10}^2]$	$V_{+1} V_{-10}^2$	0:000559
$E[V_{+1} BP_{-18}^2]$	$V_{+1} BP_{-18}^2$	0:000559
Hansen's J	$J = 6:96664$	0:4324

p-values and J test on the moment conditions

Table 21: GMM estimates for SVL model for the S&P500 futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	MuMoments	tstat	pval
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0	1
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15$	0	1
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16$	0	1
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-20} -19jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-20} -19$	0:000025	0:99998
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0	1
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-20} -19G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-20} -19$	0	1
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17$	0	1
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-22} -21G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-22} -21$	0:000025	0:99998
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2$	0	1
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-15} -14V_{-15} -14G]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-15} -14V_{-15} -14$	0:00023	1
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-12} -11V_{-12} -11G]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-12} -11V_{-12} -11$	0:00023	1
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-18} -17V_{-18} -17G]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-18} -17V_{-18} -17$	0:00023	0:999977

Hansen's J $\frac{2}{8}$ 11:177 0:1919

.t statistics, p-values and J test on the moment conditions

Table 23:

Table 24: GMM estimates for SVJ model for the Natural Gas futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	Mu	Moments	pval
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	$V_{+1} +2$		0:999994
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15$		0:999995
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16$		0:999950
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	$V_{+1} +2$		0:999991
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$		0:999930
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17$		0:999938
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	V_{+1}		0:999498
$E[V_{+1} +2BP_{-16} -15G]$	$V_{+1} +2BP_{-16} -15$		0:999712
$E[V_{+1} +2BP_{-2} -1G]$	$V_{+1} +2BP_{-2} -1$		0:993492
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	V_{+1}		0:999998
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$		0:999986
$E[V_{+1} +2BP_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1} +2BP_{-18} -17$		0:999803
Hansen's J			
	$J = 5.81155$		0:5619
p-values and J test on the moment conditions			

Table 25: GMM estimates for SVL model for the Natural Gas futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	MuMoments	tstat	pval
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:0058	0:00262
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-16} -15$	0:0058	0:00277
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16$	0:0058	0:0678
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:01161	0:01107
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$	0:01161	0:0099
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17$	0:01161	0:18512
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2$	0:00281	0:00116
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-15} -14V_{-15} -14jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-15} -14V_{-15} -14$	0:00281	0:00544
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-18} -17V_{-18} -17jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-18} -17V_{-18} -17$	0:00281	0:02369

Hansen's J

Table 26: GMM estimates for SVJL model for the Natural Gas futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	MuMoments	tstat	pval
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:00061	0:999771
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$	0:00061	0:998452
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17$	0:00061	0:999809
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:00602	0:995417
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$	0:00602	0:882232
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-25} -24G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-25} -24$	0:00602	0:99029
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2$	0:000105	0:999976
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-15} -14V_{-15} -14jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-15} -14V_{-15} -14jG]$	0:000105	0:999988
$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-15} -14V_{-15} -14$			
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-12} -11V_{-12} -11jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-12} -11V_{-12} -11jG]$	0:000105	0:999789
$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-12} -11V_{-12} -11$			
$E[V_{+1}jG]$	V_{+1}	0:052523	0:953858
$E[V_{+1}V_{-6} -5G]$	$V_{+1}V_{-6} -5$	0:052523	0:000016
$E[V_{+1}V_{-2} -1G]$	$V_{+1}V_{-2} -1$	0:052523	0:730547
$E[V_{+1}G]$	V_{+1}	0:00536	0:998747
$E[V_{+1}V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1}V_{-10} -9$	0:00536	0:998795
$E[V_{+1}V_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1}V_{-18} -17$	0:00536	0:994051
Hansen's J			
$\hat{\beta} = 6:00869$			0:7390

p-values and J test on the moment conditions

Table 28:

Table 29: GMM estimates for SVL model for the WTI futures: 09/2001–06/2016

	MuMoments	tstat	pval
$E[V_{+1} +2jG]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:000017	0:999987
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-19} -18jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-19} -18$	0:00002	0:999984
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16jG]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-17} -16$	0:000548	0:999563
$E[V_{+1} +2G]$	$V_{+1} +2$	0:000007	0:999994
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-10} -9$	0:000024	0:999981
$E[V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17G]$	$V_{+1} +2V_{-18} -17$	0:001058	0:999156
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2$	0:000006	0:999995
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-18} -17V_{-18} -17jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-18} -17V_{-18} -17$	0:000001	0:999999
$E[p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-16} -15V_{-16} -15jG]$	$p_{+1}V_{+1} +2p_{-16} -15V_{-16} -15$	0:000097	0:999923
Hansen's J			
	χ^2	1:37354	0:9272

.t statistics, p-values and J test on the moment conditions