

# Using the Scaling Analysis to Characterize Financial Markets

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## Abstract

The scaling properties encompass in a simple analysis many of the volatility characteristics of financial markets. That is why we use them to probe the different degree of markets development. We empirically study the scaling properties of daily Foreign Exchange rates, Stock Market indices and fixed income instruments by using the generalized Hurst approach. The robustness of the results is tested by both Monte-Carlo studies and a computation of the scaling in the frequency-domain. We show that the scaling exponents are associated with characteristics of the specific markets and can be used to differentiate markets in their stage of development.

*Key words:* Scaling exponents; Time series analysis; Multi-fractals.

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## 1 Introduction

In a recent book [Dacorogna et al., 2001a], the hypothesis of heterogeneous market agents was developed and backed by empirical evidences. According to this view, the agents are essentially distinguished by the frequency at which they operate in the market. The scaling analysis, which looks at the volatility of returns measured at different time intervals, is a parsimonious way of assessing the relative impact of these heterogeneous agents on price movements. Viewing the market efficiency as the result of the interaction of these agents [Dacorogna et al., 2001b], brings naturally to think that it is the presence of many different agents that would characterize a mature market, while the absence of some type of agents should be a feature of less developed markets. Such a fact should then reflect in the measured scaling exponents. The study of the scaling behaviors must therefore be an ideal candidate to characterize markets.

The purpose of this article is to report on the identification of a strong relation between the scaling exponent and the development stage of the market. This conclusion is backed by a wide and unique empirical analysis of several financial markets (32 Stock market indices, 29 Foreign exchange rates and 28 fixed income instruments) at different development stage: mature and liquid markets, emerging and less liquid markets. Furthermore, the robustness and the reliability of the method is extensively tested through Monte Carlo simulations with a variety of random generators and the comparison with results obtained from a frequency domain computation of related exponents.

The scaling concept has its origin in physics but is increasingly applied out-

side its traditional domain [Müller et al., 1990] [Bouchaud and Potter, 1997] [Hull, 2000] [Mantegna and Stanley, 2000] [Dacorogna et al., 2001a]. In the recent years, its application to financial markets, initiated by Mandelbrot in the 1960 [Mandelbrot, 1963, Mandelbrot, 1997], has largely increased also in consequence of the abundance of available data [Müller et al., 1990]. Two types of scaling behaviors are studied in the finance literature:

- (1) The behavior of some forms of volatility measure (variance of returns, absolute value of returns) as a function of the *time interval* on which the returns are measured. (This study will lead to the estimation of a *scaling exponent* related to the Hurst exponent.)
- (2) The behavior of the tails of the distribution of returns as a function of *the size of the movement* but keeping the time interval of the returns constant. (This will lead to the estimation of the *tail index* of the distribution [Dacorogna et al., 2001a].)

Although related, these two analysis lead to different quantities and should not be confused as it is often the case in the literature as can be seen in the papers and debate published in the November 2001 issue of Quantitative Finance. For more explanations about this and the relation between the two quantities, the reader is referred to the excellent paper by [Groenendijk et al., 1998]. In this study, we are interested in the first type of analysis. Until now, most of the work has concentrated in studies of particular markets: Foreign Exchange [Müller et al., 1990] [Dacorogna et al., 2001a] [Corsi et al., 2001], US Stock Market (Dow Jones) [Mantegna and Stanley, 1995] or Fixed Income [Balocchi et al., 1999]. These studies showed that empirical scaling laws hold in all these markets and for a large range of frequencies: from few minutes to few months.

Recently, a controversy has erupted between [LeBaron, 2001] on one side and [Mandelbrot, 2001, Stanley and Plerou, 2001] on the other side with somewhere in the middle [Lux, 2001] to know if the processes that describe financial data are truly scaling or simply an artifact of the data. Moreover, these papers propose new scaling models or empirical analysis that better describe empirical evidences and one could add to these [Bouchaud et al., 2000]. It should be however noted that - as underlined by Stanley et al. [Stanley et al., 1996] - in statistical physics, when a large number of microscopic elements interact without characteristic scale, universal macroscopic scaling laws may be obtained independently of the microscopic details.

Here we address the question of the scaling properties of financial time series from another angle. We are not interested in fitting a new model but want to gather empirical evidences by analyzing daily data (described in Section 2). With the same methodology, we study very developed as well as emerging markets in order to see if the scaling properties differ between the two and if they can serve to characterize and measure the development of the market. Here the scaling law is not used to conclude anything on the theoretical process but to the contrary we use it as a “stylized fact” that any theoretical model should also reproduce. Our purpose is to show how a relatively simple statistics gives us indications on the market characteristics, very much along the lines of the review paper by Brock [Brock, 1999]. In Section 3, we recall the theoretical framework and we introduce the generalized Hurst exponents analysis. In Section 4 we describe the methodology utilized to empirically analyze the data. In Section 5 we compute and compare the scaling spectral exponents and the Hurst exponents. Finally some conclusions are given in Section 6.

## 2 Data Description and Studied Markets

We study several financial markets which are at different development stage: mature and liquid markets, emerging and less liquid markets. Moreover, we choose markets that deal with different instruments: equities, foreign exchange rates, fixed income futures. In particular, the data that we analyze are: twenty nine Foreign Exchange rates (FX) (see Table 1), thirty two Stock Market indices (SM) (see Table 2), Treasury rates corresponding to twelve different maturity dates (TR) (see Table 3) and Eurodollar rates having maturity dates ranging from 3 months to 4 years (ER) (see Table 4). Hereafter we give a brief description of the time-series studied in this paper.

**FX:** The Foreign Exchange rates (Table 1) are 29 daily spot rates of major currencies against the U.S. dollar. The time series that we study go from 1990 to 2001 and 1993 to 2001. These rates have been certified by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for customs purposes. The data are noon buying rates in New York for cable transfers payable in the listed currencies. These rates are also those required by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the integrated disclosure system for foreign private issuers. The information is based on data collected by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from a sample of market participants.

**SM:** The Stock Market indices (reported in Table 2) are 32 of the major indices of both very developed markets like the US or European markets and emerging markets. These daily time series range from 1990 or 1993 to 2001.

**TR:** The Treasury rates (Table 3) are daily time series going from 1990 to 2001. The yields on Treasury securities at ‘constant maturity’ are interpo-

lated by the U.S. Treasury from the daily yield curve. This curve, which relates the yield on a security to its time to maturity, is based on the closing market bid yields on actively traded Treasury securities in the over-the-counter market. These market yields are calculated from composites of quotations obtained by the FD Bank of New York. The constant maturity yield values are read from the yield curve at fixed maturities, currently 3 and 6 months and 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, and 30 years. The Treasury bill rates are based on quotes at the official close of the U. S. Government securities market for each business day. They have maturities of 3 and 6 months and 1 year.

**ER:** The Eurodollar interbank interest rates (Table 4) are bid rates with different maturity dates and they are daily data in the time period 1990-1996 [Di Matteo and Aste, 2002].

As an example, the behaviors of FX rates and the SM rates for Japan (JPY/USD and Nikkei 225) and Thailand (THB/USD and Bangkok SET) as a function of time  $t$  are shown in Fig. 1 in the time period 1997-2001. Another example is given in Fig. 2 that shows the TR time series as a function of  $t$  at different maturities dates in the time period 1997-2001 and the ER time series as a function of  $t$  at different maturities dates in the time period 1990-1996.

### 3 Theoretical Framework

The scaling properties in time series have been studied in the literature by means of several techniques. For the interested reader we mention here some of them such as the seminal work [Hurst, 1951] on rescaled range statistical analysis  $R/S$  with its complement [Hurst et al., 1965] and the modified  $R/S$  anal-

ysis of [Lo, 1991], the multiaffine analysis [Peng et al., 1994], the detrended fluctuation analysis (DFA) [Ausloos, 2000], the periodogram regression (GPH method) [Geweke and Porter-Hudak, 1983], the ARFIMA estimation by exact maximum likelihood [Sowell, 1992], the  $(m, k)$ -Zipf method [Zipf, 1949], the moving-average analysis technique [Ellinger, 1971], the Average Wavelet Coefficient Method in [Percival and Walden, 2000] and in [Gençay et al., 2001], and -in this respect- connection to multi-fractal/multi-affine analysis (the  $q$  order height-height correlation) have been made in various papers like [Ivanova and Ausloos, 1999].

The rescaled range statistical analysis ( $R/S$  analysis) was first introduced by Hurst to describe the long-term dependence of water levels in rivers and reservoirs. It provides a sensitive method for revealing long-run correlations in random processes. This analysis can distinguish random time series from correlated time series and gives a measure of a signal “roughness”. What mainly makes the Hurst analysis appealing is that all these information about a complex signal are contained in one parameter only: the *Hurst exponent*. It must be noted that the lack of robustness of the original Hurst  $R/S$  approach in the presence of short memory, heteroskedasticity, multiple scale behaviors has been largely discussed in the literature (see for instance [Lo, 1991, Teverovsky et al., 1999]) and therefore several alternative approaches have been proposed. Also the fact that the range relies on maxima and minima makes the method error-prone because any outlier present in the data would have a strong influence on the range. In this paper we use a different and alternative method: the generalized Hurst exponent method. This method, described in the following section, analyzes the scaling behavior of the  $q$ -order moments of the return distributions. The  $q$ -order moments are much less sensitive to the outliers than the maxima/minima and different exponents  $q$  are associated with different char-

acterizations of the multiscaling complexity of the signal. In the following we show that this method is indeed robust and it captures very well the scaling features of financial fluctuations. Through the use of a relatively simple statistics we give a wide view of the scaling behaviour across different markets.

### 3.1 Generalized Hurst exponent

The Hurst analysis examines if some statistical properties of time series  $X(t)$  (with  $t=\nu, 2\nu, \dots, k\nu, \dots, T$ ) scale with the observation-period ( $T$ ) and the time-resolution ( $\nu$ ). Such a scaling is characterized by an exponent  $H$  which is commonly associated with the long-term statistical dependence of the signal. A generalization of the approach proposed by Hurst should therefore be associated with the scaling behavior of statistically significant variables constructed from the time series. To this purpose we analyze the  $q$ -order moments of the distribution of the increments [Mandelbrot, 1997, Barabasi and Vicsek, 1991] which is a good characterization of the statistical evolution of a stochastic variable  $X(t)$ :

$$K_q(\tau) = \frac{\langle |X(t+\tau) - X(t)|^q \rangle}{\langle |X(t)|^q \rangle}, \quad (1)$$

where the time-interval  $\tau$  can vary between  $\nu$  and  $\tau_{max}$ . (Note that, for  $q = 2$ , the  $K_q(\tau)$  is proportional to the autocorrelation function  $a(\tau) = \langle X(t+\tau)X(t) \rangle$ .)

The generalized Hurst exponent  $H(q)$ <sup>1</sup> can be defined from the scaling behavior of  $K_q(\tau)$  [Barabasi and Vicsek, 1991], which can be assumed to be given

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<sup>1</sup> We use  $H$  without parenthesis as the original Hurst exponent and  $H(q)$  as the generalized Hurst exponent.

by the relation

$$K_q(\tau) \sim \left(\frac{\tau}{\nu}\right)^{qH(q)}. \quad (2)$$

Within this framework, we can distinguish between two kind of processes: (i) a process where  $H(q) = H$ , constant independent of  $q$ ; (ii) a process with  $H(q)$  not constant. The first case is characteristic of uni-scaling or uni-fractal processes and its scaling behavior is determined from a unique constant  $H$  that coincides with the Hurst exponent  $H$ . This is for instance the case for self-affine processes where  $qH(q)$  is linear ( $H(q) = H$ ) and fully determined by its index  $H$ . (Recall that, a transformation is called affine when it scales time and distance by different factors, while a behavior that reproduces itself under affine transformation is called self-affine [Mandelbrot, 1997]. A time-dependent self-affine function  $X(t)$  has fluctuations on different time scales that can be rescaled so that the original signal  $X(t)$  is statistically equivalent to its rescaled version  $\lambda^{-H}X(\lambda t)$  for any positive  $\lambda$ , i.e.  $X(t) \sim \lambda^{-H}X(\lambda t)$ . Brownian motion is self-affine by nature.) In the second case, when  $H(q)$  depends on  $q$ , the process is commonly called multi-scaling (or multi-fractal) and different exponents characterize the scaling of different  $q$ -moments of the distribution.

For some values of  $q$ , the exponents are associated with special features. For instance, when  $q = 1$ ,  $H(1)$  describes the scaling behavior of the absolute values of the increments. The value of this exponent is expected to be closely related to the original Hurst exponent,  $H$ , that is indeed associated with the scaling of the absolute spread in the increments. The exponent at  $q = 2$ , is associated with the scaling of the autocorrelation function and is related to the power spectrum [Flandrin, 1989]. A special case is associated with the

value of  $q = q^*$  at which  $q^*H(q^*) = 1$ . At this value of  $q$ , the moment  $K_{q^*}(\tau)$  scales linearly in  $\tau$  [Mandelbrot, 1997]. Since  $qH(q)$  is *in general* a monotonic growing function of  $q$ , we have that all the moments  $H_q(\tau)$  with  $q < q^*$  will scale slower than  $\tau$ , whereas all the moments with  $q > q^*$  will scale faster than  $\tau$ . The point  $q^*$  is therefore a threshold value. In this paper we focalize the attention on the case  $q = 1$  and  $2$ . Clearly in the uni-fractal case  $H(1) = H(2) = H(q^*)$ . Their values will be equal to  $1/2$  for the Brownian motion and they would be equal to  $H \neq 0.5$  for the fractional Brownian motion. However, for more complex processes, these coefficients do not in general coincide. We thus see that the non-linearity of the empirical function  $qH(q)$  is a solid argument against Brownian, fractional Brownian, Lévy, and fractional Lévy models, which are all additive models, therefore giving for  $qH(q)$  straight lines or portions of straight lines. The curves for  $qH(q)$  vs.  $q$  are reported in Fig. 3 for some of the data. One can observe that, for all these time series,  $qH(q)$  is not linear in  $q$  but slightly bending below the linear trend. The same behavior holds for the other data. This is a clear sign of deviation from Brownian, fractional Brownian, Lévy, and fractional Lévy models, as already seen in FX rates [Müller et al., 1990].

### 3.2 *Scaling Spectral Density and Hurst Exponent*

For financial time series, as well as for many other stochastic processes, the spectral density  $S(f)$  is empirically found to scale with the frequency  $f$  as a power law:  $S(f) \propto f^{-\beta}$ . Here we use a simple argument to show how this scaling in the frequency domain is related to the scaling in the time-domain. Indeed, it is known that the spectrum  $S(f)$  of the signal  $X(t)$  can be conve-

niently calculated from the Fourier transform of the autocorrelation function (Wiener-Khinchin theorem). On the other hand, the autocorrelation function of  $X(t)$  is proportional to the second moment of the distribution of the increments which, from Eq. 2, is supposed to scale as  $K_2 \sim \tau^{2H(2)}$ . But, the components of the Fourier transform of a function which behaves in the time-domain as  $\tau^\alpha$  are proportional to  $f^{-\alpha-1}$  in the frequency-domain. Therefore, we have that the power spectrum of a signal that scales as Eq. 2 must behave as:

$$S(f) \propto f^{-2H(2)-1} \quad . \quad (3)$$

Consequently, the slope  $\beta$  of the power spectrum is related to the generalized Hurst exponent for  $q = 2$  through:  $\beta = 1 + 2H(2)$ . Note that Eq. 3 is obtained only assuming that the signal  $X(t)$  has a scaling behavior in accordance to Eq. 2 without making any hypothesis on the kind of underlying mechanism that might lead to such a scaling behavior.

## 4 Methodology

### 4.1 Preparation of the Data

Let us here recall that the theoretical framework we presented in the previous section is based on the assumption that the process has the scaling property described in Eq. 2. Moreover, we have implicitly assumed that the scaling properties associated with a given time series stay unchanged across the observation time window  $T$ . On the other hand, it is well known that financial time series show evidences of variation of their statistical properties with time,

and depend on the observation time window  $T$ . The simplest case which shows such a dependence is the presence of a linear drift ( $\eta t$ ) added to a stochastic variable ( $X(t) = \tilde{X}(t) + \eta t$ ) with  $\tilde{X}(t)$  satisfying Eq. 2 and the above mentioned properties of stability within the time window. Clearly, the scaling analysis described in the previous section must be applied to the stochastic component  $\tilde{X}(t)$  of the process. This means that we must subtract the drift  $\eta t$  from the variable  $X(t)$ . To this end one can evaluate  $\eta$  from the following relation:

$$\langle X(t + \tau) - X(t) \rangle = \eta \tau \quad . \quad (4)$$

Other more complex deviations from the stationary behavior might be present in the financial data that we analyze. In this context, the subtraction of the linear drift can be viewed as a first approximation. The accuracy of this approximation has been verified by varying the observation time window. We verify that the results obtained for different time window sizes are all comparable, with fluctuations within a range of 10%.

Our empirical analysis is performed on the daily time series TR, ER, FX and SM (described in Section 2) which span typically over periods between 1000 and 3000 days. In particular, we analyze the time series themselves for the TR and ER, whereas we compute the returns from the logarithmic price  $X(t) = \ln(P(t))$  for FX and SM. Moreover, all of these variables are ‘detrended’ by eliminating the linear drift (if there is one) as described in (Eq. 4).

We compute the  $q$ -order moments  $K_q(\tau)$  (defined in Eq. 1) of the ‘detrended’ variables and their logarithms with  $\tau$  in the range between  $\nu = 1$  day and  $\tau_{max}$  days. In order to test the robustness of our empirical approach, for each series

we analyze the scaling properties varying  $\tau_{max}$  between 5 and 19 days. The resulting exponents computed using these different  $\tau_{max}$  are stable in their values within a range of 10%.

We verify that the scaling behavior given in Eq. 2 is well followed and we compute the associated generalized Hurst exponent  $H(q)$  whose values are given in Section 5.

#### *4.2 Monte Carlo Test of the Method*

The scaling analysis has been criticized for being biased. In order to test that our method is not biased we estimate the generalized Hurst exponents for simulated random walks. We produce the synthetic time series by using three different random number generators. We perform 100 simulations of random walks with the same number of data points as in our samples (991 and 3118) and estimate the generalized Hurst exponents  $H(1)$  and  $H(2)$  and the power spectra exponents  $\beta$ . The results are reported in Table 5.

In all the cases,  $H(1)$  and  $H(2)$  have values of 0.5 within the errors. Only when we consider uniformly distributed random numbers in the interval (0,1) (Rand uses a lagged Fibonacci generator combined with a shift register random integer generator, based on the work of Marsaglia [Marsaglia and Zaman, 1994].) we obtain for  $H(1)$  of  $0.47 \pm 0.01$ , but also in this case  $H(2)$  is 0.5 within the errors. On one hand, this shows that our method is powerful and robust and is not biased as other methods are. On the other hand, the estimations of  $\beta$  from the power spectrum have values around 1.8 (instead of 2), showing therefore that this other method is affected by a certain bias.

## 5 Results and Discussion

### 5.1 Computation of the generalized Hurst exponent

In this section we report and discuss the results for the scaling exponents  $H(q)$  computed for  $q = 1$  and  $q = 2$ . These exponents  $H(1)$  and  $H(2)$  for all the assets and different markets (presented in Section 2) are reported in Figs. 4 and 5 respectively. Figures 4 (a) and 5 (a) refer to the Treasury and Eurodollar rates in the time period from 1990 to 1996. Whereas Figures 4 (b) and 5 (b) are relative to the Stock Market indices and Foreign Exchange rates in the time period reported in Tables 1 and 2. The data points are the average values of  $H(1)$  and  $H(2)$  computed from a set of values corresponding to different  $\tau_{max}$  and the error bars are their standard deviations. Let us first notice that, for fixed income instruments (Figs. 4(a) and 5(a)),  $H(2)$  is close to 0.5 while  $H(1)$  is rather systematically above 0.5 (with the 3 months Eurodollar rate that shows a more pronounced deviation because it is directly influenced by the actions of central banks). On the other hand, as far as Stock markets are concerned, we find that the generalized Hurst exponents  $H(1)$ ,  $H(2)$  show remarkable differences between developed and emerging markets. In particular, the values of  $H(1)$ , plotted in Fig. 4(b), present a differentiation across 0.5 with high values of  $H(1)$  associated with the emerging markets and low values of  $H(1)$  associated with developed ones. The ordering of the stock markets in Fig. 4(b) corresponds very much to the order one would intuitively give in terms of maturity of the markets. Moreover, we can see from Fig. 5(b) that the different assets can be classified into three different categories:

- (1) First those that have an exponent  $H(2) > 0.5$  which includes all indices

of the emerging markets and the BCI 30 (Italy), IBEX 35 (Spain) and the Hang Seng (Hong Kong).

- (2) A second category concerns the data exhibiting  $H(2) \sim 0.5$  (within the error bars). This category includes: FTSE 100 (UK), *AEX* (Netherlands), *DAX* (Germany), Swiss Market (Switzerland), Top 30 Capital (New Zealand), Tel Aviv 25 (Israel), Seoul Composite (South Korea) and Toronto SE 100 (Canada).
- (3) A third category is associated with  $H(2) < 0.5$  and includes the following data: Nasdaq 100 (US), *S&P500* (US), Nikkei 225 (Japan), Dow Jones Industrial Average (US), CAC 40 (France) and All Ordinaries (Australia).

We find therefore that all the emerging markets have  $H(2) \geq 0.5$  whereas all the well developed have  $H(2) \leq 0.5$ .

We find that the Foreign Exchange rates show  $H(1) > 0.5$  quite systematically. This is consistent with previous results computed with high frequency data [Müller et al., 1990], although the values here are slightly lower. An exception with pronounced  $H(1) < 0.5$  is the HKD/USD (Hong Kong) (Fig. 4 (b)). This FX rate is or has been at one point pegged to the USD, that is why its exponent differs from the others. Whereas in the class  $H(1) \sim 0.5$  we have: *ITL/USD* (Italy), *PHP/USD* (Philippines), *AUD/USD* (Australia), NZD/USD (New Zealand), ILS/USD (Israel), *CAD/USD* (Canada), *SGD/USD* (Singapore), *NLG/USD* (Netherlands) and *JPY/USD* (Japan). On the other hand, the values of  $H(2)$  (Fig. 5 (b)) show a much larger tendency to be  $< 0.5$  with some stronger deviations such as: *HKD/USD* (Hong Kong), *PHP/USD* (Philippines), *KRW/USD* (South Korea), *PEN/USD* (Peru) and *TRL/USD* (Turkey). Whereas values of  $H(2) > 0.5$  are found in: *GBP/USD* (United Kingdom), *PESO/USD* (Mexico), *INR/USD* (India), *IDR/USD* (Indone-

sia), *TWD/USD* (Taiwan) and *BRA/USD* (Brazil).

## 5.2 *Checking the Temporal and Numerical Stability of the Results*

In order to check the temporal stability of the results, these analysis are done also over different time periods and the values are reported in Table 6 for the exponents  $H(1)$  and  $H(2)$  for the time period from 1997 to 2001 for Foreign Exchange rates, Stock Market indices and Treasury rates. These results are to be compared to those obtained on the whole time period (shown in Table 2) and to time periods of 250 days. Moreover, we tested the numerical robustness of our results by using the Jackknife method [Kunsch, 1989] which consists of taking out randomly 1/10 of the sample and iterates the procedure 10 times (every time taking out data which were not taken out in the previous runs). On one hand, we observe (see Fig. 6) that the generalized Hurst exponents computed on these Jackknife-reduced time series are very close to those computed on the entire series with deviations inside the errors estimated by varying  $\tau_{max}$  (as described in Section 4). This indicates a strong numerical stability. On the other hand, the analysis on sub-periods of 250 days shows fluctuations that are larger than the previous estimated errors (and larger than the variations with the Jackknife method) indicating therefore that there are significant changes in the market behaviors over different time periods (Fig. 6 (a)). This indicates that on short time period the exponents can vary substantially and there is no real temporal stability. This phenomenon was also detected in [Dacorogna et al., 2001a] when studying Exchange rates that were part of the European Monetary System. It seems that  $H(1)$  is particularly sensitive to institutional changes on the market. This study confirms it for Stock indices.

The scaling exponents cannot be assumed to be constant over time if a market is experiencing major institutional changes. Nevertheless, well developed markets have values of  $H(2)$  that are on average smaller than the emerging ones. Moreover, the weakest markets have oscillation bands that stay above 0.5 whereas the strongest have oscillation bands that contain 0.5.

Numerical stability gives us confidence in our method for determining the exponent and temporal variability is a sign that the exponents are sensitive to institutional changes in the market reinforcing our idea to use them as indicators of the maturity of the market.

### 5.3 *Spectral analysis*

In order to empirically investigate the statistical properties of the time series in the frequency domain we perform a spectral analysis computing the power spectral density (PSD) [Kay and Marple, 1981] by using the periodogram approach, that is currently one of the most popular and computationally efficient PSD estimator. This is a sensitive way to estimate the limits of the scaling regime of the data increments. The results for some SM, FX, TR and ER data in the time periods 1997-2001 and 1990-1996, are shown in Figs. 7, 8, 9. For SM and FX we compute the power spectra of the logarithm of these time series. As one can see the power spectra show clear power law behaviors:  $S(f) \sim f^{-\beta}$ . This behavior holds for all the other data.

The non-stationary features have been investigated by varying the window-size on which the spectrum is calculated from 100 days up to the entire size of the time series. The power spectra coefficients are calculated through a mean

square regression in log-log scale. The values reported in Fig. 10 are the average of the evaluated  $\beta$  over different windows and the error bars are their standard deviations. Fig. 10(a) refers to a time period between 1990 to 1996 whereas the Stock Market indices and Foreign Exchange rates (Fig. 10(b)) are analyzed over the time periods reported in Tables 1 and 2. Moreover, the averaged  $\beta$  values in a different time period, namely from 1997 to 2001 are reported in Table 7 for Foreign Exchange rates, Stock Market indices and Treasury rates. These values differ from the spectral density exponent expected for a pure Brownian motion ( $\beta = 2$ ). However, we have shown in Section 4.2 that this method is biased and we indeed found power spectra exponents around 1.8 for random walks using three different random numbers generators.

It must be noted that, the power spectrum is only a second order statistic and its slope is not enough to validate a particular scaling model: it gives only partial information about the statistics of the process.

#### *5.4 Comparison between the generalized Hurst exponent and the power spectra*

We here compare the behavior of the power spectra  $S(f)$  with the function  $f^{2H(2)-1}$  which - according to Eq. 3 - is the scaling behavior expected in the frequencies domain for a time series which scales in time with a generalized Hurst exponent  $H(2)$ . We performed such a comparison for all the financial data and we report in Figs. 7, 8 those for Foreign Exchange rates and Stock Market indices for Thailand and JAPAN (in the time period 1997-2001). In Fig. 9, we report the comparison for the Treasury and the Eurodollar rates having maturity dates  $\theta = 10$  years and  $\theta = 1$  year respectively. As one can

see the agreement between the power spectra behavior and the prediction from the generalized Hurst analysis is very satisfactory. This result holds also for all the other data. Note that the values of  $2H(2) + 1$  do not in general coincide with the values of the power spectral exponents evaluated by means of the mean square regression. The method through the generalized Hurst exponent appears to be more powerful in catching the scaling behavior even in the frequency domain.

## 6 Conclusion

By applying the same methodology to a wide variety of markets and instruments (89 in total), this study confirms that empirical scaling behaviors are rather universal across financial markets. By analyzing the scaling properties of the  $q$ -order moments (Eq. 1) we show that the generalized Hurst exponent  $H(q)$  (Eq. 2) is a powerful tool to characterize and differentiate the structure of such scaling properties. Our study also confirms that the product  $qH(q)$  exhibits a non-linear dependence on  $q$  which is a clear signature of deviations from pure Brownian motion and other additive or uni-scaling models.

The novelty of this work resides in the empirical analysis across a wide variety of stock indices that shows the sensitivity of the exponent  $H(2)$  to the degree of development of the market. At one end of the spectrum, we find: the Nasdaq 100 (US), the *S&P*500 (US), the Nikkei 225 (Japan), the Dow Jones Industrial Average (US), the CAC 40 (France) and the All Ordinaries index (Australia); all with  $H(2) < 0.5$ . Whereas, at the other end, we find the Russian AK&M, the Indonesian JSXC, the Peruvian LSEG, etc. (Fig. 5(b)); all with  $H(2) > 0.5$ . Moreover, we observe emerging structures in the scaling

behaviors of interest rates and exchange rates that are related to specific conditions of the markets. For example, a strong deviation of the scaling exponent for the 3 months maturity, which is strongly influenced by the central bank decisions. This sensitivity of the scaling exponents to the market conditions provides a new and simple way of empirically characterizing the development of financial markets.

The robustness of the present empirical approach is tested in several ways: by first comparing theoretical exponents with the results of Monte Carlo simulations using three distinct random generators, second by varying the maximum time-step ( $\tau_{max}$ ) in the analysis, third by applying the Jackknife method to produce several samples and fourth by varying the time-window sizes to analyze the temporal stability. We verify that the observed differentiation among different degrees of market development is clearly emerging well above the numerical fluctuations. Finally, from the comparison between the empirical power spectra and the prediction from the scaling analysis (Eq. 3, Figs. 7, 8 and 9) we show that the method through the generalized Hurst exponent describes well the scaling behavior even in the frequency domain.

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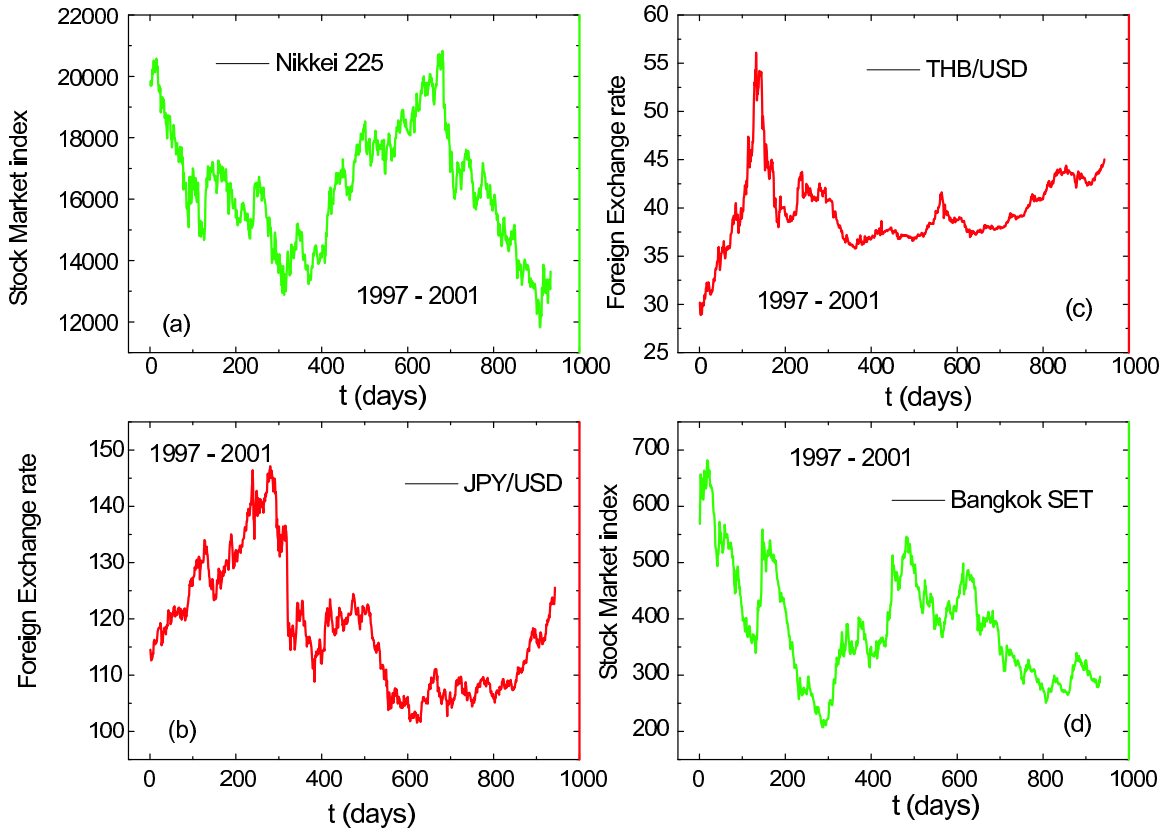


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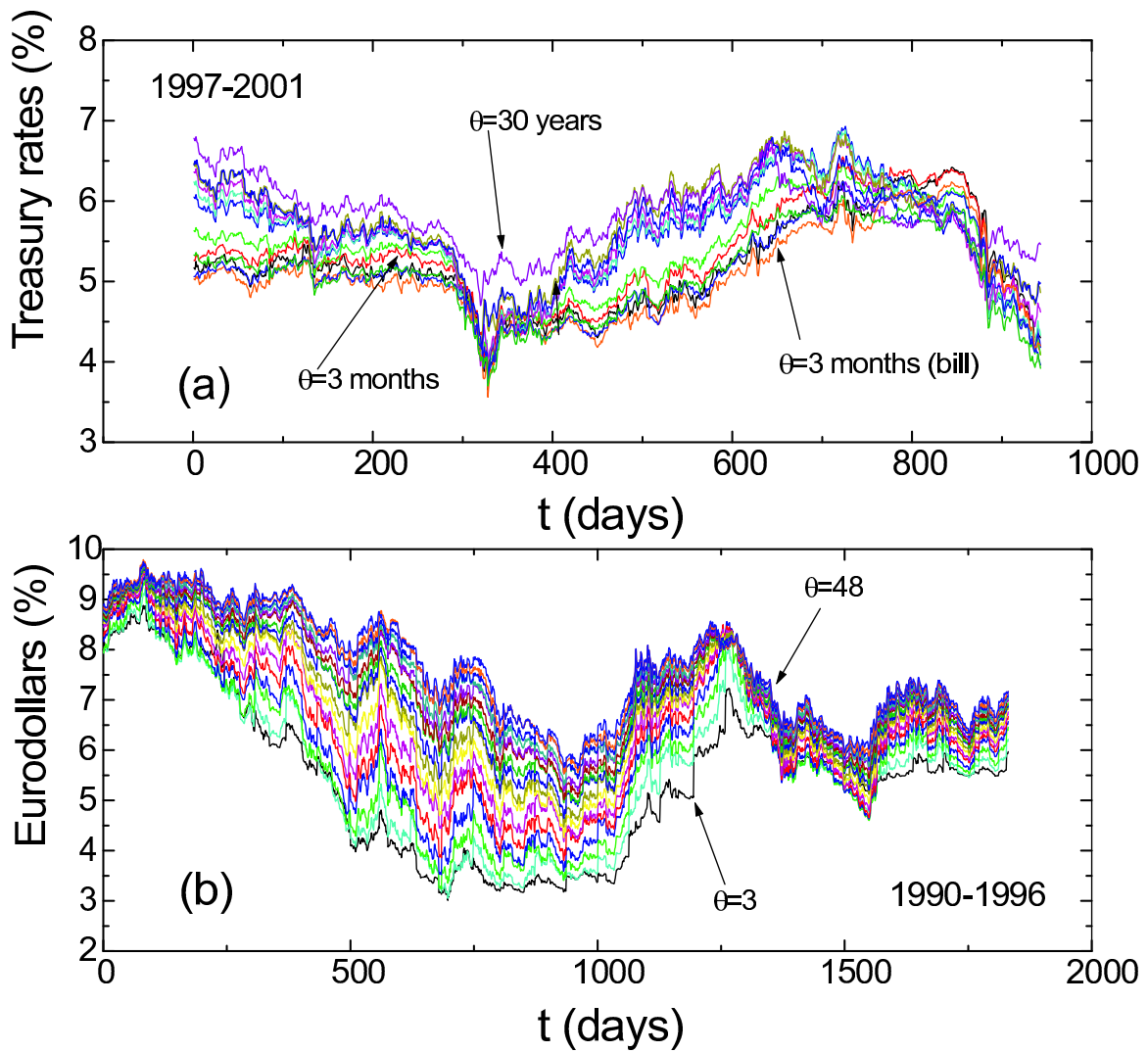


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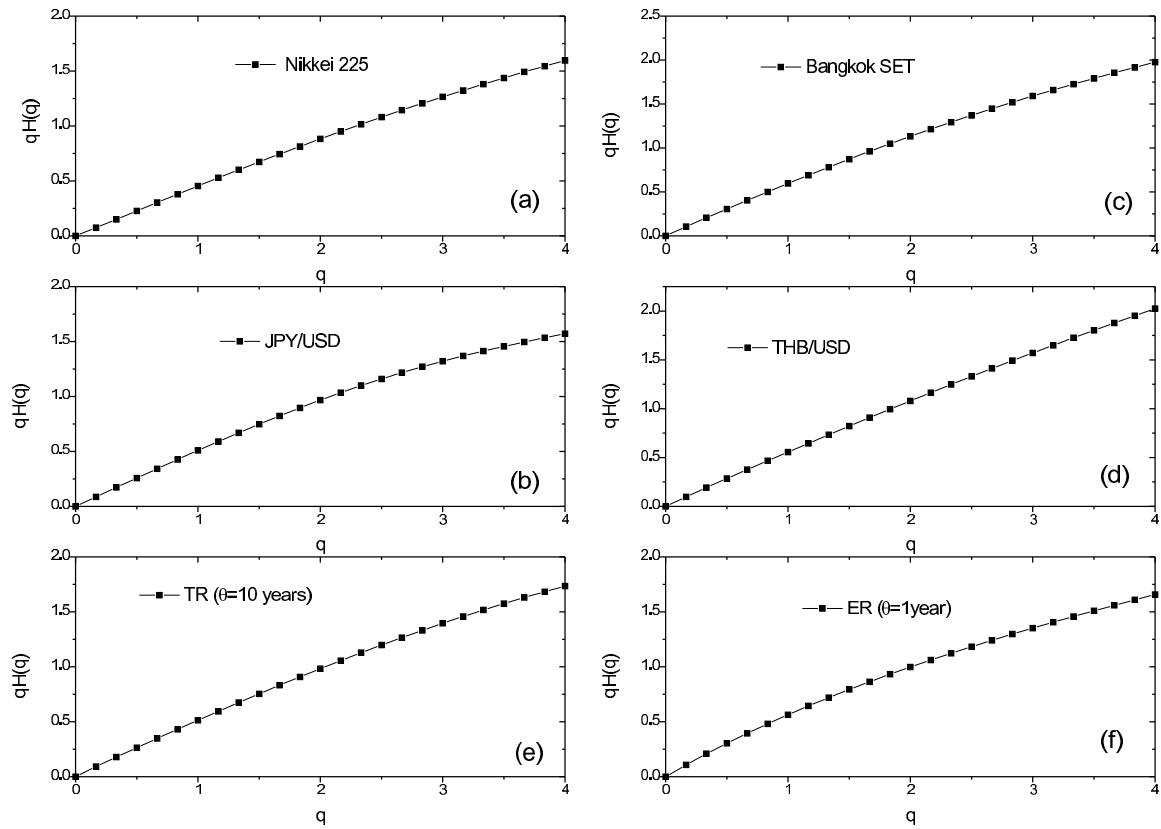


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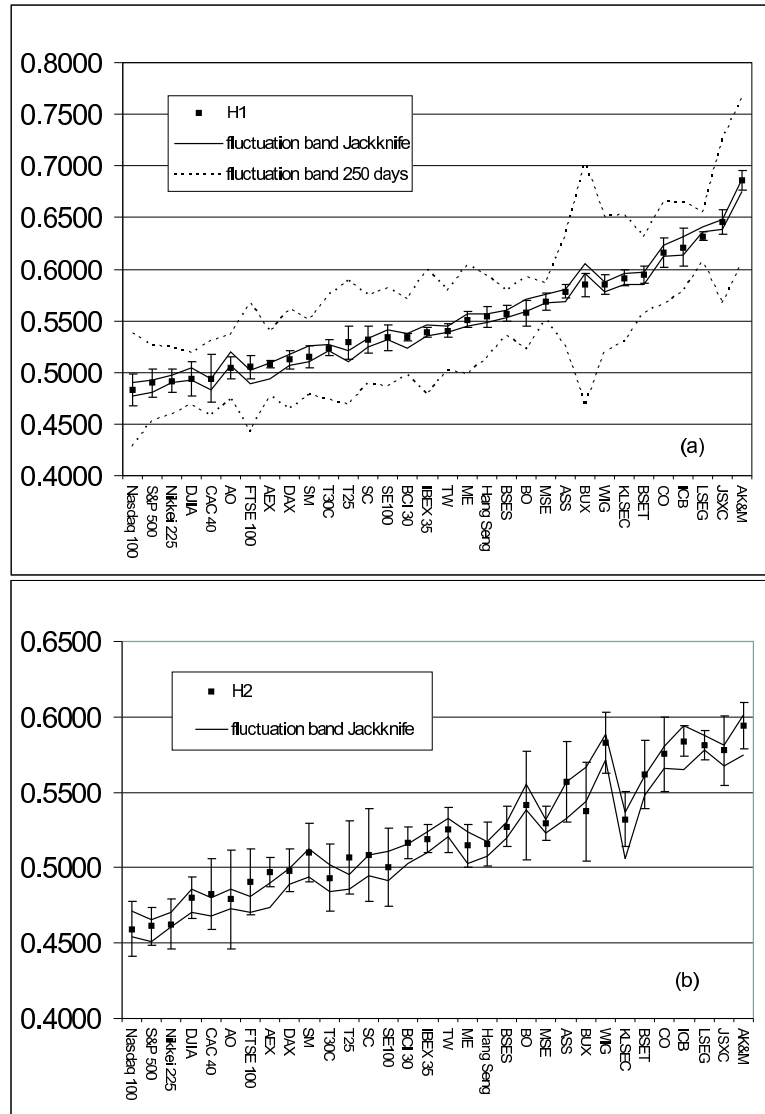


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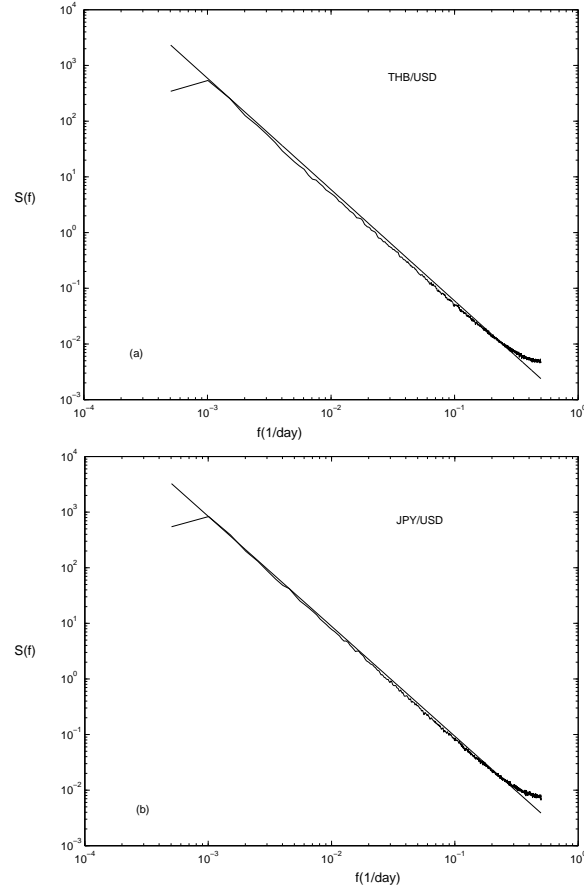


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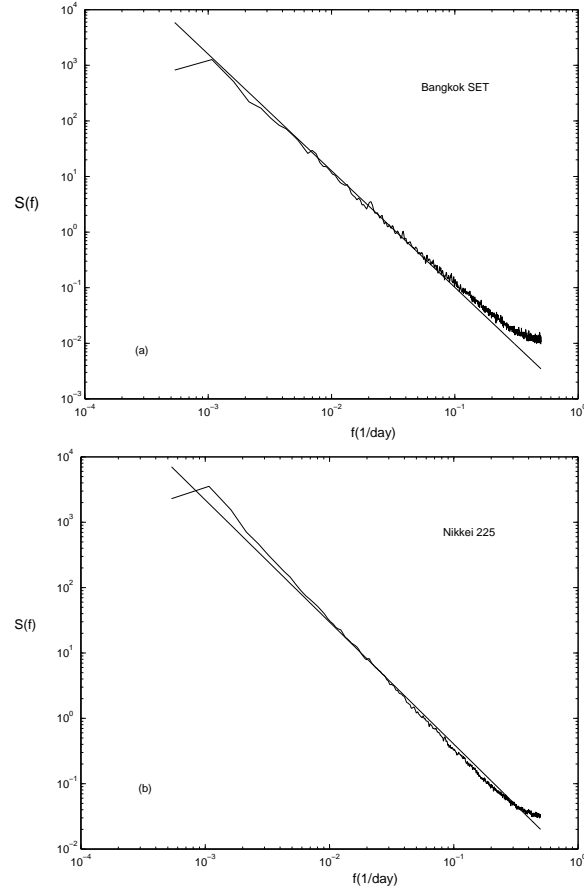


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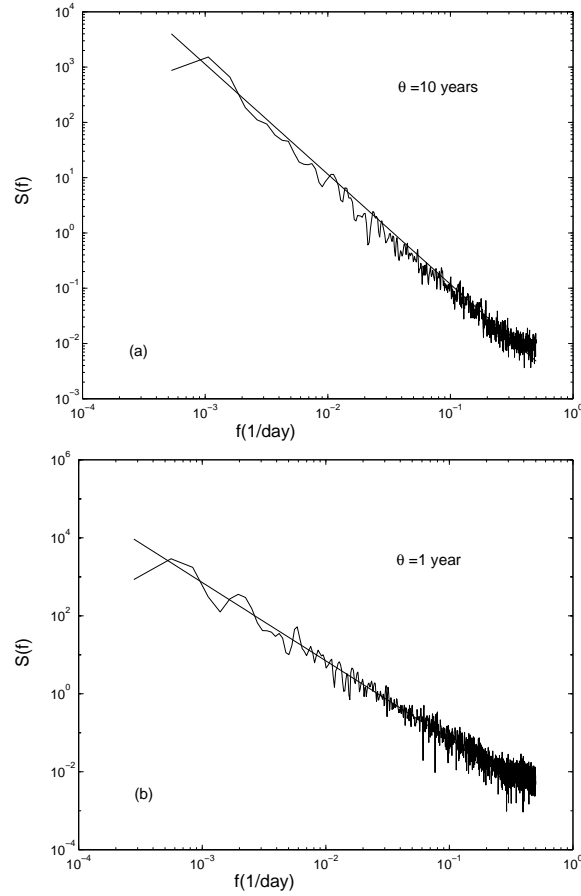


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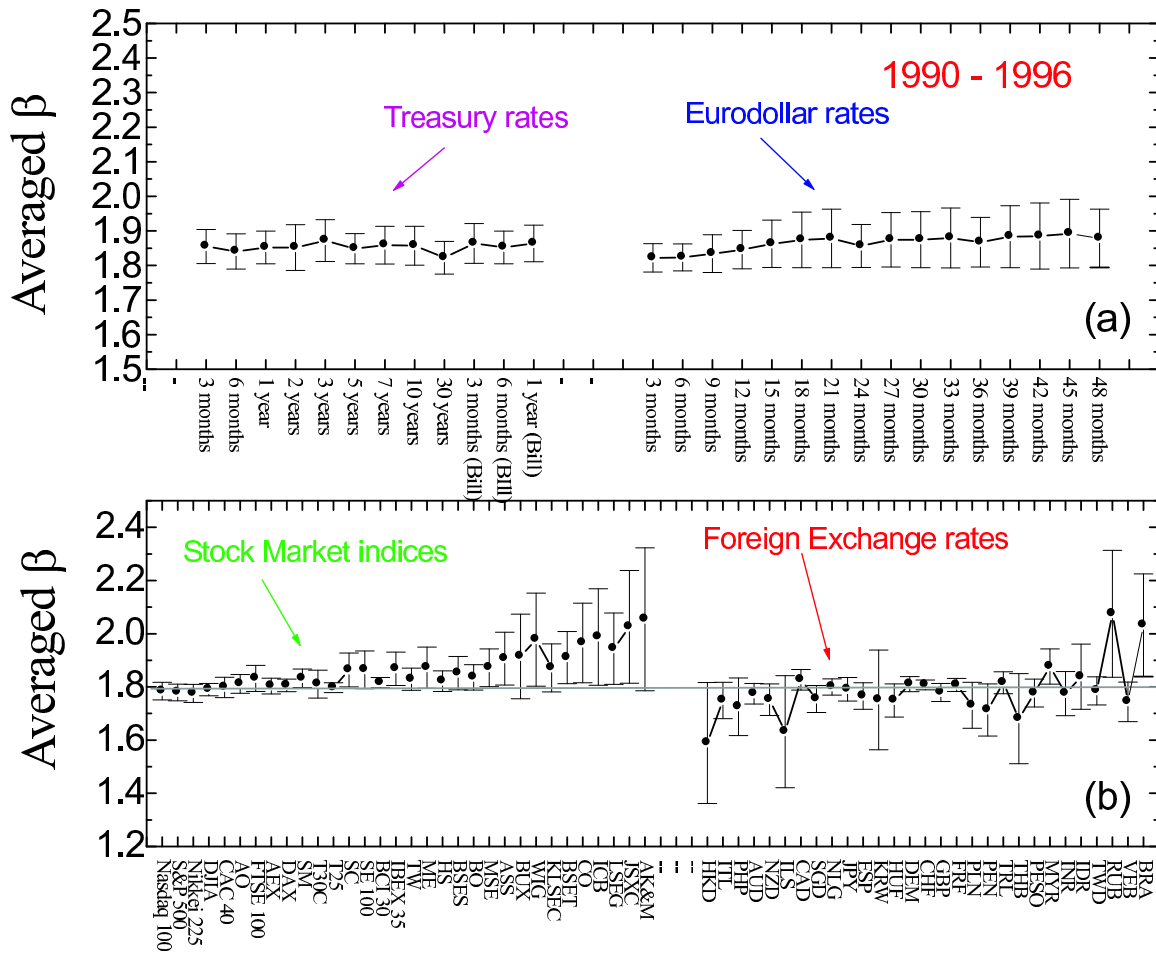


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Table 1

Foreign Exchange rates (FX/USD).

<i>Country</i>	<i>FX</i>	Time period	<i>Country</i>	<i>FX</i>	Time period
Hong Kong	HKD	1990-2001	United Kingdom	GBP	1990-2001
Italy	ITL	1993-2001	France	FRF	1993-2001
Philippines	PHP	1991-2001	Poland	PLN	1993-2001
Australia	AUD	1990-2001	Peru	PEN	1993-2001
New Zealand	NZD	1990-2001	Turkey	TRL	1992-2001
Israel	ILS	1990-2001	Thailand	THB	1990-2001
Canada	CAD	1993-2001	Mexico	PESO	1993-2001
Singapore	SGD	1990-2001	Malaysia	MYR	1990-2001
Netherlands	NLG	1993-2001	India	INR	1990-2001
Japan	JPY	1990-2001	Indonesia	IDR	1991-2001
Spain	ESP	1990-2001	Taiwan	TWD	1990-2001
South Korea	KRW	1990-2001	Russia	RUB	1993-2001
Hungary	HUF	1993-2001	Venezuela	VEB	1993-2001
Germany	DEM	1990-2001	Brazil	BRA	1993-2001
Switzerland	CHF	1993-2001			

Table 2

Stock Market indices (SM).

<i>Country</i>	<i>SM</i>	Time period
United States	Nasdaq 100	1990-2001
United States	S&P 500	1987-2001
Japan	Nikkei 225	1990-2001
United States	Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA)	1990-2001
France	CAC 40	1993-2001
Australia	All Ordinaries (AO)	1992-2001
United Kingdom	FTSE 100	1990-2001
Netherlands	AEX	1993-2001
Germany	DAX	1990-2001
Switzerland	Swiss Market (SM)	1993-2001
New Zealand	Top 30 Capital (T30C)	1992-2001
Israel	Telaviv 25 (T25)	1992-2001
South Korea	Seoul Composite (SC)	1990-2001
Canada	Toronto SE 100 (SE 100)	1993-2001
Italy	BCI 30	1993-2001
Spain	IBEX 35	1990-2001
Taiwan	Taiwan Weighted (TW)	1990-2001

Table 2 (continued)

<i>Country</i>	<i>SM</i>	Time period
Argentina	Merval (ME)	1993-2001
Hong Kong	Hang Seng (HS)	1990-2001
India	Bombay SE Sensex (BSES)	1990-2001
Brazil	Bovespa (BO)	1993-2001
Mexico	Mexico SE (MSE)	1993-2001
Singapore	All Singapore Shared (ASS)	1990-2001
Hungary	Budapest BUX (BUX)	1993-2001
Poland	Wig (WIG)	1991-2001
Malaysia	KLSE Composite (KLSEC)	1990-2001
Thailand	Bangkok SET (BSET)	1990-2001
Philippines	Composite (CO)	1990-2001
Venezuela	Indice de Cap. Bursatil (ICB)	1993-2001
Peru	Lima SE General (LSEG)	1993-2001
Indonesia	JSX Composite (JSXC)	1990-2001
Russia	AK&M Composite (AK&M)	1993-2001

Table 3

Treasury rates ( $TR_i(\theta)$ ).

$i$	$\theta$	$i$	$\theta$
1	3 months	7	7 years
2	6 months	8	10 years
3	1 year	9	30 years
4	2 years	10	3 months (Bill)
5	3 years	11	6 months (Bill)
6	5 years	12	1 year (Bill)

Table 4

Eurodollar rates ( $ER_i(\theta)$ ).

$i$	$\theta$	$i$	$\theta$
1	3 months	9	27 months
2	6 months	10	30 months
3	9 months	11	33 months
4	12 months	12	36 months
5	15 months	13	39 months
6	18 months	14	42 months
7	21 months	15	45 months
8	24 months	16	48 months

Table 5

Hurst exponents  $H(1)$  and  $H(2)$  and averaged  $\beta$  values computed for random walks simulated by using three different random numbers generators: 1) Randn=Normally distributed random numbers with mean 0 and variance 1; 2) Rand=Uniformly distributed random numbers in the interval  $(0, 1)$  and 3) Normrnd=Random numbers from the normal distribution with mean 0 and standard deviation 1. These are average values on 100 simulations of random walks with 991 and 3118 numbers of data points.

$N$	$H(1)$	$H(2)$	$\beta$
1) Randn			
991	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
3118	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$1.80 \pm 0.03$
2) Rand			
991	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
3118	$0.47 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$1.80 \pm 0.03$
3) Normrnd			
991	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
3118	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$1.80 \pm 0.03$

Table 6

Hurst exponents  $H(1)$  and  $H(2)$  for Foreign Exchange rates, Stock Market indices and Treasury rates in the time period from 1997 to 2001.

<i>Data</i>	$H(1)$	$H(2)$	<i>Data</i>	$H(1)$	$H(2)$
Foreign Exchange rates					
HKD	$0.41 \pm 0.01$	$0.34 \pm 0.01$	GBP	$0.50 \pm 0.02$	$0.48 \pm 0.02$
ITL	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	FRF	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$
PHP	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.43 \pm 0.02$	PLN	$0.54 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$
AUD	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.502 \pm 0.002$	PEN	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.41 \pm 0.03$
NZD	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$	TRL	$0.56 \pm 0.01$	$0.44 \pm 0.04$
ILS	$0.48 \pm 0.02$	$0.47 \pm 0.02$	THB	$0.53 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.02$
CAD	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$	PESO	$0.53 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$
SGD	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.47 \pm 0.03$	MYR	$0.51 \pm 0.03$	$0.45 \pm 0.05$
NLG	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	INR	$0.58 \pm 0.02$	$0.53 \pm 0.01$
JPY	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	IDR	$0.56 \pm 0.03$	$0.53 \pm 0.03$
ESP	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	TWD	$0.58 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$
KRW	$0.50 \pm 0.03$	$0.39 \pm 0.06$	RUB	$0.64 \pm 0.02$	$0.47 \pm 0.03$
HUF	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	VEB	$0.54 \pm 0.04$	$0.49 \pm 0.02$
DEM	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	BRA	$0.59 \pm 0.02$	$0.60 \pm 0.01$
CHF	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$			

Table 6 (continued)

<i>Data</i>	<i>H(1)</i>	<i>H(2)</i>	<i>Data</i>	<i>H(1)</i>	<i>H(2)</i>
Stock Market indices					
Nasdaq 100	$0.47 \pm 0.01$	$0.45 \pm 0.01$	TW	$0.53 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$
S&P 500	$0.47 \pm 0.02$	$0.44 \pm 0.01$	ME	$0.57 \pm 0.01$	$0.53 \pm 0.01$
Nikkei 225	$0.46 \pm 0.01$	$0.43 \pm 0.01$	HS	$0.53 \pm 0.01$	$0.49 \pm 0.01$
DJIA	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$0.464 \pm 0.004$	BSES	$0.54 \pm 0.01$	$0.52 \pm 0.01$
CAC 40	$0.47 \pm 0.02$	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	BO	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$
AO	$0.49 \pm 0.02$	$0.46 \pm 0.03$	MSE	$0.57 \pm 0.01$	$0.52 \pm 0.01$
FTSE 100	$0.46 \pm 0.02$	$0.44 \pm 0.01$	ASS	$0.57 \pm 0.01$	$0.54 \pm 0.02$
AEX	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$0.47 \pm 0.02$	BUX	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.49 \pm 0.01$
DAX	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.47 \pm 0.01$	WIG	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$0.44 \pm 0.01$
SM	$0.50 \pm 0.02$	$0.48 \pm 0.02$	KLSEC	$0.60 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.02$
T30C	$0.49 \pm 0.01$	$0.46 \pm 0.01$	BSET	$0.59 \pm 0.01$	$0.55 \pm 0.01$
T25	$0.53 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	CO	$0.59 \pm 0.01$	$0.54 \pm 0.01$
SC	$0.53 \pm 0.01$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	ICB	$0.61 \pm 0.02$	$0.55 \pm 0.02$
SE 100	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$	LSEG	$0.61 \pm 0.01$	$0.58 \pm 0.01$
BCI 30	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$	JSXC	$0.57 \pm 0.02$	$0.53 \pm 0.02$
IBEX 35	$0.50 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$	AK&M	$0.65 \pm 0.03$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$

Table 6 (continued)

<i>Data</i>	<i>H(1)</i>	<i>H(2)</i>
Treasury rates		
$TR_1$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$	$0.44 \pm 0.02$
$TR_2$	$0.55 \pm 0.01$	$0.52 \pm 0.02$
$TR_3$	$0.54 \pm 0.01$	$0.52 \pm 0.02$
$TR_4$	$0.53 \pm 0.01$	$0.52 \pm 0.02$
$TR_5$	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.01$
$TR_6$	$0.51 \pm 0.02$	$0.49 \pm 0.01$
$TR_7$	$0.49 \pm 0.02$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$
$TR_8$	$0.52 \pm 0.01$	$0.50 \pm 0.02$
$TR_9$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.01$
$TR_{10}$	$0.51 \pm 0.01$	$0.48 \pm 0.02$
$TR_{11}$	$0.56 \pm 0.01$	$0.54 \pm 0.02$
$TR_{12}$	$0.55 \pm 0.01$	$0.53 \pm 0.02$

Table 7

The averaged  $\beta$  values computed from the power spectra of the Foreign Exchange rates, Stock Market indices and Treasury rates in the time period from 1997 to 2001.

<i>Data</i>	Averaged $\beta$	<i>Data</i>	Averaged $\beta$
Foreign Exchange rates			
HKD	$1.6 \pm 0.2$	GBP	$1.79 \pm 0.03$
ITL	$1.80 \pm 0.03$	FRF	$1.81 \pm 0.04$
PHP	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	PLN	$1.79 \pm 0.04$
AUD	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	PEN	$1.6 \pm 0.2$
NZD	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	TRL	$1.7 \pm 0.1$
ILS	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	THB	$1.83 \pm 0.03$
CAD	$1.80 \pm 0.03$	PESO	$1.81 \pm 0.04$
SGD	$1.81 \pm 0.02$	MYR	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
NLG	$1.81 \pm 0.04$	INR	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
JPY	$1.9 \pm 0.1$	IDR	$1.83 \pm 0.04$
ESP	$1.80 \pm 0.04$	TWD	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
KRW	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	RUB	$2.1 \pm 0.3$
HUF	$1.80 \pm 0.03$	VEB	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
DEM	$1.81 \pm 0.03$	BRA	$2.0 \pm 0.2$
CHF	$1.8 \pm 0.1$		

Table 7 (continued)

<i>Data</i>	Averaged $\beta$	<i>Data</i>	Averaged $\beta$
Stock Market indices			
Nasdaq 100	$1.7 \pm 0.1$	TW	$1.9 \pm 0.1$
S&P 500	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	ME	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
Nikkei 225	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	HS	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
DJIA	$1.80 \pm 0.03$	BSES	$1.82 \pm 0.03$
CAC 40	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	BO	$1.80 \pm 0.02$
AO	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	MSE	$1.9 \pm 0.1$
FTSE 100	$1.81 \pm 0.03$	ASS	$1.9 \pm 0.1$
AEX	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	BUX	$1.82 \pm 0.04$
DAX	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	WIG	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
SM	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	KLSEC	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
T30C	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	BSET	$1.9 \pm 0.1$
T25	$1.9 \pm 0.1$	CO	$2.0 \pm 0.2$
SC	$1.9 \pm 0.1$	ICB	$2.0 \pm 0.2$
SE 100	$1.9 \pm 0.1$	LSEG	$2.0 \pm 0.2$
BCI 30	$1.9 \pm 0.1$	JSXC	$1.9 \pm 0.1$
IBEX 35	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	AK&M	$1.9 \pm 0.2$

Table 7 (continued)

<i>Data</i>	Averaged $\beta$	<i>Data</i>	Averaged $\beta$
Treasury rates			
$TR_1$	$1.8 \pm 0.1$	$TR_7$	$1.9 \pm 0.1$
$TR_2$	$1.83 \pm 0.04$	$TR_8$	$1.9 \pm 0.1$
$TR_3$	$1.86 \pm 0.05$	$TR_9$	$1.8 \pm 0.1$
$TR_4$	$1.88 \pm 0.06$	$TR_{10}$	$1.82 \pm 0.04$
$TR_5$	$1.9 \pm 0.1$	$TR_{11}$	$1.85 \pm 0.04$
$TR_6$	$1.9 \pm 0.1$	$TR_{12}$	$1.9 \pm 0.1$