



# A discrete-time model for daily S & P500 returns and realized variations: Jumps and leverage effects

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## ABSTRACT

We develop an empirically highly accurate discrete-time daily stochastic volatility model that explicitly distinguishes between the jump and continuous-time components of price movements using nonparametric realized variation and Bipower variation measures constructed from high-frequency intraday data. The model setup allows us to directly assess the structural inter-dependencies among the shocks to returns and the two different volatility components. The model estimates suggest that the leverage effect, or asymmetry between returns and volatility, works primarily through the continuous volatility component. The excellent fit of the model makes it an ideal candidate for an easy-to-implement auxiliary model in the context of indirect estimation of empirically more realistic continuous-time jump diffusion and Lévy-driven stochastic volatility models, effectively incorporating the interdaily dependencies inherent in the high-frequency intraday data.

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## 1. Introduction

Modeling of financial market volatility has been one of the most active areas of research in empirical finance and time series econometrics over the past two decades. A current theme in this literature concerns the question of whether financial prices, and equity prices in particular, may be adequately described by continuous sample path processes, or whether the price movements exhibit discontinuities, or jumps.<sup>1</sup>

One strand of the literature has sought to answer the question through the estimation of specific parametric continuous time models. This literature dates back to the early work of Merton (1976), with more recent contributions allowing for both jumps and time-varying stochastic volatility including Andersen et al. (2002), Bates (2000), Chernov et al. (2003), Eraker (2004), Eraker et al. (2003), and Pan (2002), among others. Still, the estimation of parametric jump diffusion models remains difficult, and the existing empirical results based on daily or coarser frequency

data typically do not allow for a very clear distinction between pure diffusion multi-factor stochastic volatility models and lower-order models with jumps. Of course, given the often large within-day price movements, the daily data most often used in the estimation of the models may simply not be informative enough to provide a firm answer. At the same time, the direct estimation of specific parametric volatility models with large samples of high-frequency intraday data remains extremely challenging from a computational perspective and moreover requires that all of the market microstructure complications inherent in the high-frequency data be properly incorporated into the model.

This in turn has motivated a second more recent strand of the literature in which the intraday data is used in the construction of lower-frequency nonparametric daily volatility measurements. This literature, beginning with the work of Andersen and Bollerslev (1998), Andersen et al. (2001b) and Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2002b) builds on the general result that under ideal conditions the sum of successively finer sampled high-frequency squared returns converges to the quadratic variation of the price process.<sup>2</sup> The quadratic variation, of course, includes both the continuous sample path variation and the jumps. However, combining

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<sup>1</sup> In addition to the implications for the direct modeling of the price process pursued in the present paper, the answer to the question has important implications for risk management and asset pricing more generally.

<sup>2</sup> Earlier important related contributions include the work by Dacorogna et al. (1993) and Müller et al. (1990).

the realized variation with the realized Bipower variation measure first introduced by Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2004, 2005), allows for a direct nonparametric decomposition of the total price variation into its two separate components. Utilizing these ideas, Andersen et al. (2007) and Huang and Tauchen (2005) both report empirical evidence in support of non-trivial contributions to the overall daily price variation coming from the jump component.

The nonparametric volatility measures have also inspired the development of a series of new and simple-to-implement reduced form volatility forecasting models in which the realized volatilities are modeled by standard discrete-time time series procedures, examples of which include Andersen et al. (2003, 2007), Corsi (2004), Corsi et al. (2008), Deo et al. (2006), Koopman et al. (2005) and Martens et al. (2004), among others. By effectively incorporating the high-frequency data into the volatility measurements, these simple discrete-time models generally out-perform existing more complicated parametric volatility models based on the corresponding return observations only. The simplicity of these methods, however, comes at the cost of disregarding information about the different volatility components. With the exception of Andersen et al. (2007), who simply included lagged measures for the jump component into a univariate linear forecasting model for the total realized variation, none of the above listed studies have made use of the decomposition of the total variation into its separate continuous and jump components. Meanwhile, the apparent relevance of jumps along with the distinctly different distributional features of the continuous and jump components, supports the idea of a more structured approach to realized volatility modeling.

This is the main theme of the present paper, in which we develop an empirically highly accurate multivariate discrete-time volatility model for the returns and the realized continuous sample path and jump variation measures. Our joint modeling of the returns and the two volatility components in turn allows us to directly assess the importance of the often documented asymmetric relationship between returns and volatility, and whether the observed so-called “leverage effect” is caused by a negative correlation of the lagged returns with the current continuous volatility component and/or current jumps.<sup>3</sup> We initially estimate the model equation-by-equation under the implicit assumption that the disturbances are independent across the three equations. However, our univariate estimation results reveal important nonlinear contemporaneous dependencies among the residuals, and we go on to account for these in a general recursive simultaneous equation system, explicitly allowing for contemporaneous nonlinear interdependencies. Despite the general and very flexible structure of the model, full information maximum likelihood estimation remains relatively straightforward. The recursive structure also makes simulations from the model easy to implement, which we use in checking different aspects of our final preferred specification. Our model estimates are based on daily realized volatilities and returns constructed from high-frequency five-minute S&P500 index futures over the 1985 to 2004 sample period. As part of our analysis, we also highlight some of the key distributional features of the corresponding daily Bipower variation and relative jump measures that any satisfactory fully specified continuous or discrete-time model will have to account for.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides a short review of the relevant theory and construction of the pertinent volatility measures. Section 3 discusses the data and summary statistics for the different measures motivating the specification of our empirical model. The formulation of the

three basic model equations for the returns, Bipower variation and relative jump series is detailed in Section 4. The resulting equation-by-equation estimates are presented in Section 5, along with an assessment of the cross-equation dependencies in the disturbances. Section 6 describes the joint recursive model and corresponding maximum likelihood estimates. Simulations from the model are used in Section 7 to further investigate the adequacy of the fit. Section 8 concludes with a brief summary and some suggestions for future research.

## 2. Realized volatility, bipower variation and jumps

We begin by a brief review of the relevant theory underlying the different variation measures employed in our empirical model. A more thorough theoretical treatment can be found in Andersen et al. (2001b), Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2002a) and Protter (2004).

### 2.1. Quadratic variation

Our analysis builds on the theory of quadratic variation. Let  $p_t$  denote the logarithmic price of a financial asset. Assume that  $p_t$  follows the continuous-time semimartingale jump diffusion process:

$$p_t = \int_0^t \mu(s) ds + \int_0^t \sigma(s) dW(s) + \sum_{j=1}^{N(t)} \kappa(s_j), \quad (1)$$

where the mean process  $\mu(t)$  is continuous and of finite variation,  $\sigma(t) > 0$  denotes the càdlàg instantaneous volatility,  $W(t)$  is a standard Brownian Motion, and the  $N(t)$  process counts the number of jumps occurring with possibly time-varying intensity  $\lambda(t)$  and jump size  $\kappa(s_j)$ . The theory of quadratic variation then permits the derivation of nonparametric volatility measures that allow us to decompose the total price variation into its continuous and jump part. In particular, the quadratic variation process of (1),

$$[p]_t = \text{plim} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (p_{\tau_{j+1}} - p_{\tau_j})^2, \quad (2)$$

where  $\tau_0 = 0 \leq \tau_1 \leq \dots \leq \tau_n = t$  denotes a sequence of partitions with  $\sup_j \{\tau_{j+1} - \tau_j\} \rightarrow 0$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , may be expressed as,

$$[p]_t = \int_0^t \sigma^2(s) ds + \sum_{j=1}^{N(t)} \kappa^2(s_j), \quad (3)$$

that is, the *integrated variance* and the sum of the *squared jumps*. Of course, in the popular pure diffusion case where the  $N(t)$  counting process is identically equal to zero, the second term disappears and the quadratic variation is simply equal to the integrated variance.

### 2.2. Realized variation

Most of our analysis will be focused on daily returns and volatilities. Hence, for notational simplicity we normalize the daily time interval to unity, denoting the corresponding daily returns by:

$$r_t = p_t - p_{t-1}, \quad t = 1, \dots \quad (4)$$

To formally define our empirical volatility measures, denote the day  $t$ ,  $j$ th within-day return by:

$$r_{t,j} = p_{t-1+\frac{j}{M}} - p_{t-1+\frac{(j-1)}{M}}, \quad j = 1, \dots, M, \quad (5)$$

where  $M$  refers to the number of returns per day. The sum of the corresponding squared intraday returns:

<sup>3</sup> The recent empirical analysis in Bollerslev et al. (2006b) also points toward the existence of a contemporaneous leverage effect in the form of cross-correlated high-frequency returns and absolute returns.

$$RV_t = \sum_{j=1}^M r_{t,j}^2 \quad (6)$$

then affords a natural estimator of the *realized quadratic variation*. Following the recent literature we will interchangeably refer to this quantity as the *realized variance* or the *realized volatility*. The idea of measuring the ex-post variation of asset prices by summing over more frequently sampled squared returns dates back at least to Merton (1980), and was also applied by French et al. (1987), Hsieh (1991) and Poterba and Summers (1986), and more recently by Taylor and Xu (1997), inter alia. Meanwhile, the notion of realized variation was first formally related to the theory of quadratic variation within the context of finance and time-varying volatility modeling by Andersen and Bollerslev (1998), Andersen et al. (2001b), Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2002b) and Comte and Renault (1998).

In particular, it follows from the theory discussed above that the realized variance will generally converge uniformly in probability to the quadratic variation as the sampling frequency,  $M$ , of the underlying returns approaches infinity:

$$RV_t \rightarrow \int_{t-1}^t \sigma^2(s) ds + \sum_{j=N(t-1)+1}^{N(t)} \kappa^2(s_j). \quad (7)$$

In other words, the realized variance affords an ex-post measure of the true total price variation, including the discontinuous jump part.

In order to distinguish the continuous variation from the jump component, Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2004) first proposed the so-called *Bipower variation* measure, defined by:

$$BV_t = \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{j=2}^M |r_{t,j}| |r_{t,j-1}|. \quad (8)$$

Importantly, for increasingly finely sampled returns the Bipower variation measure becomes immune to jumps and consistently (for increasing values of  $M$ ) estimates the integrated variance:

$$BV_t \rightarrow \int_{t-1}^t \sigma^2(s) ds. \quad (9)$$

Consequently, the difference between the realized variance and the Bipower variation affords a simple nonparametric estimator of the contribution to total price variation coming from the jump component.

Meanwhile, the extensive simulation evidence in Huang and Tauchen (2005) suggests that an empirically more robust measure is provided by the relative jump statistic,  $RJ_t = (RV_t - BV_t)RV_t^{-1}$ , or the (approximate) logarithmic version<sup>4</sup>:

$$J_t = \log RV_t - \log BV_t. \quad (10)$$

Hence, in the empirical results reported on here, we will rely on a joint model for  $BV_t$  and  $J_t$  as a way of capturing the distinct components accounting for the total daily price variation. The  $J_t$  measure is in theory restricted to be non-negative. However, in practice for finite values of  $M$ ,  $BV_t$  may exceed  $RV_t$  so that  $J_t$  becomes negative. In the approach adopted here, we will simply treat these “measurement errors” as part of the  $J_t$  process. Alternatively, building on the asymptotic (for increasing  $M$ ) distribution theory in Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2004), it would be possible to truncate the  $J_t$  process, and only associate

the values beyond a certain threshold with the jump component. This is the approach adopted in Andersen et al. (2007), who rely on a large critical value for identifying only the most significant jumps entering a reduced form univariate forecasting model for  $RV_t$ . In contrast, by jointly modeling the returns, the relative jump measure and the Bipower variation, we avoid the arbitrary choice of any pre-specified significance level affecting the selection of “significant” jumps.

### 3. Data and stylized facts

The theory discussed in the preceding section underlying the consistency of the  $BV_t$  and  $J_t$  measures formally hinges on the notion of increasingly finer sampled high-frequency returns. In practice, however, the sampling frequency is invariably limited by the actual quotation, or transaction frequency. Moreover, the observed high-frequency prices are further “contaminated” by a host of market microstructure frictions, including price discreteness and bid-ask spreads. These effects combine to render the basic assumption of a semimartingale price process invalid at the tick-by-tick level. In response to this, a number of authors, including Andersen et al. (2001a,b, 2007), have advocated the use of coarser sampling frequencies as a simple way to alleviate these contaminating effects, while maintaining most of the relevant information in the high-frequency data. This is also the approach adopted here.<sup>5</sup>

Specifically, while our primary data consists of tick-by-tick transaction prices for the S&P500 Index futures contracts traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, ranging from January 1, 1985 to December 31, 2004, we follow Andersen et al. (2007) in computing our daily realized variance and jump measures from five-minute returns constructed using the nearest prices to each five-minute mark for the most actively traded contracts.<sup>6</sup> We also exclude all overnight returns.

The resulting daily series are displayed in Fig. 1. All of the series exhibit the widely-documented volatility clustering effect. Also, the variance of the logarithmic realized variance exceeds that of the logarithmic Bipower variation series. Consistent with this, the jump series depicted in the last panel exhibits many, mostly positive, small values. These small observations, including the small negative values, may be attributed to measurement, or discretization, errors due to the use of finitely many returns in the construction of the underlying measures. At the same time, the series also contains a number of more extreme observations indicative of genuine large-sized jumps on those days.

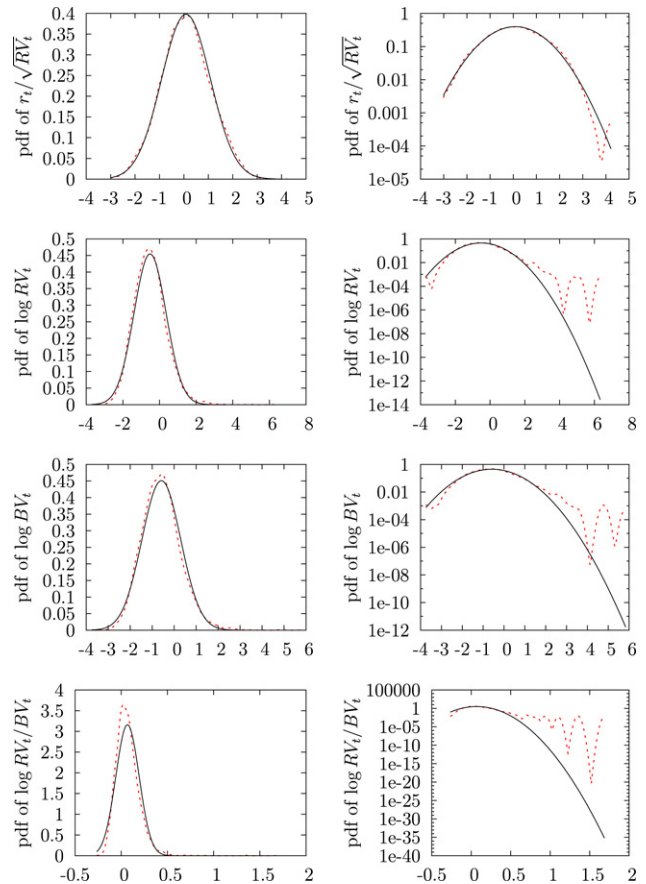
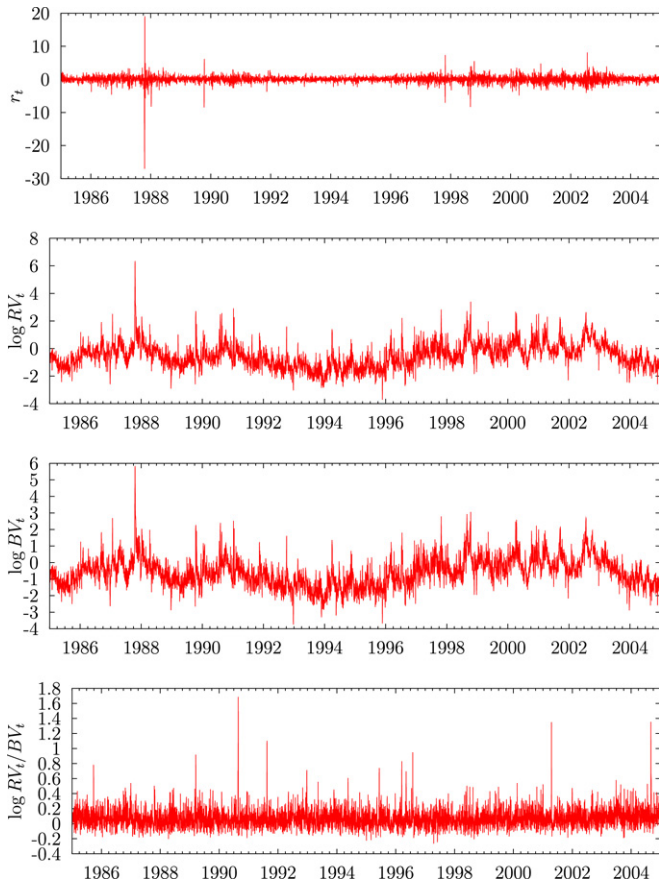
<sup>5</sup> Several recent studies have proposed alternative procedures to more effectively make use of all the tick-by-tick data including the notion of an optimal sampling frequency,  $M$ , in the sense of minimizing the MSE of the resulting realized volatility measure as suggested by Bandi and Russell (2005) and Ait-Sahalia et al. (2005), business type sampling schemes dictated by the activity of the market, as in, e.g., Andersen et al. (2001a), Bollen and Inder (2002), Corsi et al. (2001), Hansen and Lunde (2006), and Zhou (1996), along with sub-sampling schemes designed to adjust for the bias and inconsistency in the simple realized volatility estimator for increasing values of  $M$ , as first developed by Zhang et al. (2005). The recent paper by Barndorff-Nielsen et al. (2008) provides a unified theoretical framework for analyzing most of these estimators within a kernel based representation, along with a discussion of optimal kernel and bandwidth choices. Meanwhile, to the best of our knowledge none of these ideas has yet been formally extended to allow for similar measurements of the integrated variance in form of robust to market microstructure noise modified realized Bipower variation measures. Hence, in the empirical results reported on below, we simply rely on the same coarse sampling interval in the construction of both measures.

<sup>6</sup> The volatility signature plot for the same data depicted in Corsi et al. (2008) suggests that the returns are largely immune to the contaminating influences of the market microstructure noise at that frequency. In particular, the ratios of the sample means of the five-minute based realized measures to the ones based on 15- and 30-min sampling, equal 0.9936 and 0.9746 for the realized variance, and 0.9732 and 0.9660 for the Bipower variation, respectively.

<sup>4</sup> The empirical evidence in Huang and Tauchen (2005) for the S&P500 index also suggests that the relative contribution of jumps to the total price variation based upon the  $RJ_t$  measure amounts to roughly 7%.

**Table 1**  
Descriptive statistics.

Series	Mean	Std. dev.	Median	Skewness	Exc. kurt.	Ljung – Box(10)
$\sqrt{RV_t}$	0.8627	0.5935	0.7586	15.3509	496.7651	10155.72
$\log RV_t$	-0.5139	0.8775	-0.5527	0.5950	1.7981	22023.20
$\sqrt{BV_t}$	0.8340	0.5359	0.7348	11.1561	288.4633	12223.28
$\log BV_t$	-0.5817	0.8845	-0.6163	0.5418	1.4807	21715.55
$\log\left(\frac{RV_t}{BV_t}\right)$	0.0678	0.1263	0.0538	1.7766	12.2675	51.44
$r_t$	0.0254	1.0946	0.0511	-2.1655	96.2483	117.29
$r_t/\sqrt{RV_t}$	0.0866	1.0027	0.0739	0.0503	-0.1497	14.86



**Fig. 1.** Time Series of returns, logarithmic realized variance, logarithmic Bivariate variation and jumps.

**Fig. 2.** Unconditional distributions of standardized returns, logarithmic realized variance, logarithmic Bivariate variation and jumps. The left panel of the figure shows the kernel density estimates of the series (dashed line) and the normal density (solid line) for reference purposes. The right panel shows the same in log scale.

These visual impressions are confirmed by the summary statistics reported in Table 1. In particular, the mean and variance of the realized volatility both exceed the corresponding statistics for the square-root Bivariate variation. It follows also from the table that the unconditional distribution of both volatility measures are highly skewed and leptokurtic. However, the logarithmic transform renders both approximately normal. This approximate log-normality is further supported by the kernel density plots presented in Fig. 2. Similar results for the realized volatility from other markets have previously been reported in Andersen et al. (2001a,b) among others. Meanwhile, the descriptive statistics and the corresponding kernel density plots for the relative jump measure,  $J_t$ , clearly indicate a positively skewed and leptokurtic distribution.<sup>7</sup> The unconditional distribution of the daily returns

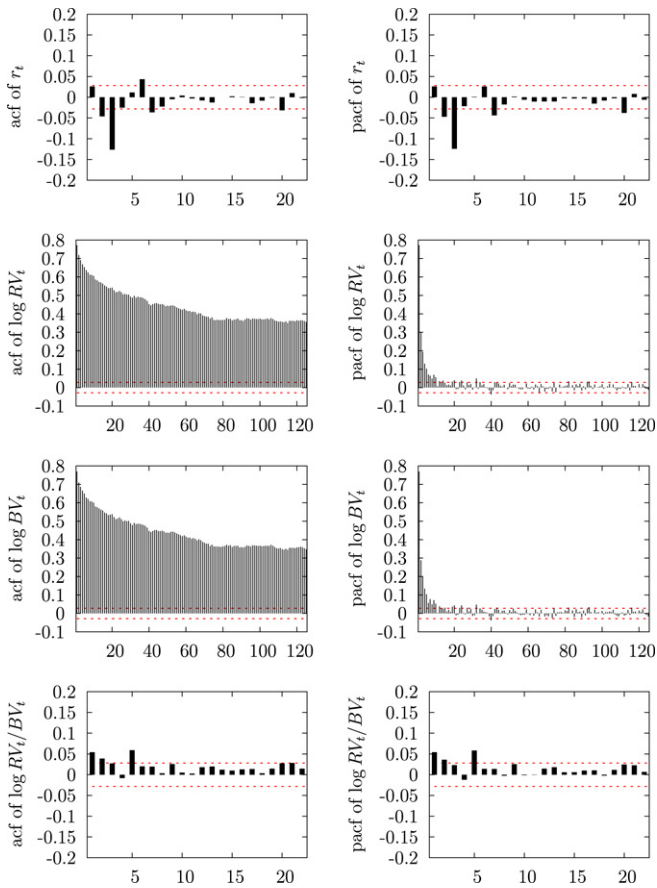
also show the expected excess kurtosis and negative skewness. At the same time, the distribution of the returns standardized by the realized volatility is surprisingly close to Gaussian, as previously documented by Andersen et al. (2001a).<sup>8</sup>

Turning to the last column in the table, all of the volatility measures exhibit highly significant own serial dependencies, as evidenced by the Ljung-Box test statistics for up to tenth order autocorrelation.<sup>9</sup> Furthermore, the sample autocorrelation functions in Fig. 3 for the two logarithmic volatility measures show the characteristic hyperbolic decay with autocorrelation coefficients being significant (compared to the conservative

<sup>7</sup> Note that the sign of the skewness is determined by the specific definition of our jump measure as the logarithmic ratio of  $RV_t$  divided by  $BV_t$ . Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2004) in contrast consider the inverse ratio resulting in a negatively skewed distribution.

<sup>8</sup> In the absence of jumps and independence between the innovation processes driving the returns and the volatility, the standardized returns defined by the stylized model in Eq. (1) should be normally distributed.

<sup>9</sup> The critical value of this test is 18.31.



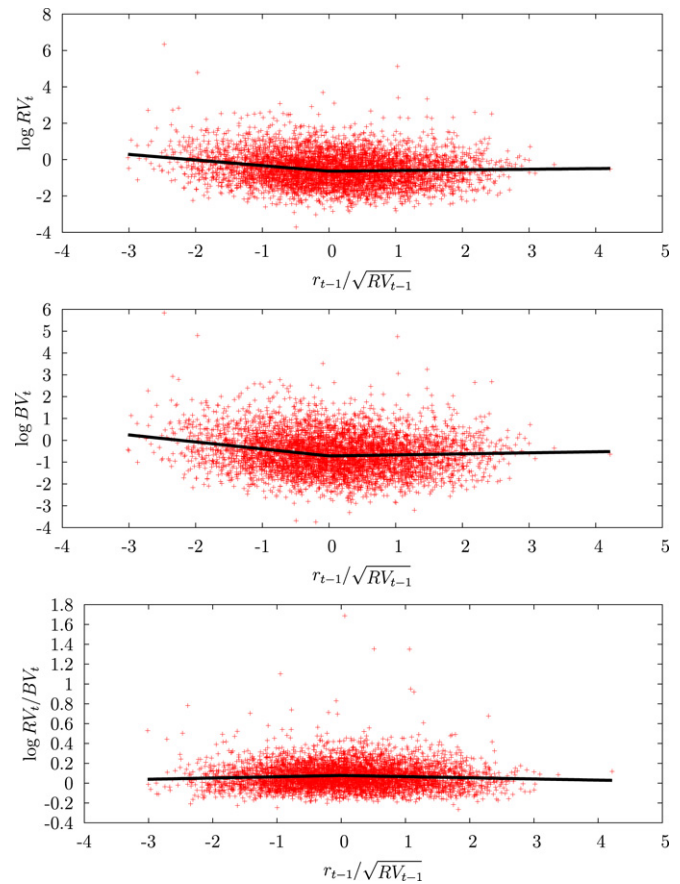
**Fig. 3.** Sample autocorrelations and partial autocorrelations of returns, logarithmic realized variance, logarithmic Bipower variation and jumps. The dashed lines give the upper and lower ranges of the conventional Bartlett 95% confidence band.

Bartlett 95% confidence bands) up to the 125th order, or roughly half-a-year.<sup>10</sup> In contrast, the relative jump measure exhibit much less autocorrelation, with most of the dependency attributable to the first and the fifth lag, corresponding to jumps that are one day and one week apart, respectively.

In addition to the serial correlation in the individual series, any interactions among the series will also be important in the formulation of a fully satisfactory joint model. In this regard, a number of previous studies have pointed toward a negative correlation between past return shocks and current volatility, so that “bad” news tend to be associated with a larger increase in volatility than “good” news of the same absolute magnitude.<sup>11</sup> A common approach for empirically visualizing this asymmetric relationship is provided by the news-impact curve originally suggested by Engle and Ng (1993). Indeed, the corresponding plots for the logarithmic realized variance and Bipower variation in Fig. 4 both exhibit the expected slight asymmetric response to past

<sup>10</sup> This long-memory pattern in equity return volatility has, of course, been observed by many earlier studies in the ARCH and stochastic volatility literature. Several different parametric models based on the notion of fractional integration have also been proposed to best account for these dependencies.

<sup>11</sup> Although this phenomenon could be explained through financial leverage, the magnitude for equity index returns is typically too large, and alternative explanations based on a time-varying volatility risk-premium have been pursued by Bekaert and Wu (2000), Campbell and Hentschel (1992), Bollerslev et al. (forthcoming), among others. However, the causal directions of the leverage and volatility feedback effects are fundamentally different, and the recent high-frequency data analysis in Bollerslev et al. (2006b) point toward a “leverage” type causality. We will return to this issue below.



**Fig. 4.** News impact curves for logarithmic realized variance, logarithmic Bipower variation and jumps. The figure shows the scatter points between the respective variable and lagged standardized returns. The solid lines refer to the news impact curves, i.e. the linear regression lines for negative and positive values of standardized returns.

standardized returns. The jumps, meanwhile, seem to be almost unaffected by the past return shocks, and if anything they respond negatively to the standardized returns. This also explains, why the asymmetric effect is more pronounced for the pure continuous volatility  $BV_t$  component in the second panel, in comparison with the total realized variation  $RV_t$  depicted in the first panel.

We next present our discrete-time model designed to account for these different distributional features in the daily return, Bipower variation, and relative jump series.

#### 4. Model

A burgeoning literature dating back to Bollerslev (1987) and French et al. (1987) has been concerned with the modeling of daily speculative returns using GARCH and related stochastic volatility models; see, e.g., the review in Bollerslev et al. (1994). More recently, several studies, including Andersen et al. (2003), Martens et al. (2004), Martens et al. (2004), Pong et al. (2004), and Thomakos and Wang (2003) among others, have advocated the use of ARFIMA type models, along with approximate long-memory component type structures in Andersen et al. (2007) and Corsi (2004), for modeling the dynamic dependencies in realized volatilities. With the exception of Andersen et al. (2009) we are not aware of any other studies which have applied these same ideas to the Bipower variation, nor the relative jump measure considered here. More importantly, we are not aware of any attempts at jointly modeling the daily  $r_t$ ,  $BV_t$  and  $J_t$  series within a coherent multivariate framework. We begin our discussion by considering the specification for the integrated volatility process as measured

by the daily Bipower variation, followed by a discussion of our models for the relative jump component and the daily returns, respectively.

4.1. The bipower variation equation

The realized variation only differs from the Bipower variation (by more than measurement errors) in the presence of jumps. Hence, guided by the recent empirical literature pertaining to the modeling of  $RV_t$  cited above, we will here rely on the Heterogenous Autoregressive, or HAR-RV, type model originally proposed by Corsi (2004), and successfully employed in closely related contexts by Andersen et al. (2007) and Andersen et al. (2009), for describing the dynamic dependencies in the  $BV_t$  series. However, in contrast to the least squares estimates for the HAR-RV model reported in all of these previous studies, we shall here rely on more efficient maximum likelihood estimation techniques explicitly accounting for the time-dependent conditional heteroskedasticity in the residuals from the  $BV_t$  model through a separate GARCH type specification for the volatility-of-volatility.<sup>12</sup>

More specifically, to set up the model we define the logarithmic multiperiod Bipower variation measures by the sum of the corresponding daily logarithmic measures:

$$(\log BV)_{t+1-k:t} = \frac{1}{k} \sum_{j=1}^k \log BV_{t-j}, \tag{11}$$

where  $k = 5$  and  $k = 22$  correspond to (approximately) one week and one month, respectively.<sup>13</sup> Our HAR-GARCH-BV model then takes the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \log BV_t = & \alpha_0 + \alpha_d \log BV_{t-1} + \alpha_w (\log BV)_{t-5:t-1} \\ & + \alpha_m (\log BV)_{t-22:t-1} + \theta_1 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} \\ & + \theta_2 I[r_{t-1} < 0] + \theta_3 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} I[r_{t-1} < 0] + \sqrt{h_t} u_t \end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

$$\begin{aligned} h_t = & \omega + \sum_{j=1}^q \alpha_j (\log BV_{t-1} - x'_{BV} \beta_{BV})^2 \\ & + \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j h_{t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^s \lambda_j BV_{t-j}, \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

where  $x_{BV}$  denotes the regressors in the logarithmic Bipower variation equation and  $\beta_{BV}$  are the corresponding coefficients. The lagged daily, weekly and monthly realized variation measures on the right-hand-side of the  $\log BV_t$  equation could, of course, be augmented with additional terms to account for the possibility of even longer-run dependencies. However, the combination of relatively few volatility components often provide a remarkably close approximation to true long-memory dependencies. The remaining, new vis-a-vis the original HAR-RV model in Corsi (2004), terms explicitly allow for a leverage effect in the continuous volatility component through the inclusion of the lagged signed returns. Moreover, motivated by the observation in Barndorff-Nielsen and Shephard (2005) that the volatility of realized volatility tends to be high when the volatility is high, the model also permits a level effect in the GARCH model for the volatility-of-volatility. Lastly, since our descriptive analysis suggests that the logarithmic Bipower variation is only

<sup>12</sup> A similar estimation approach has also recently been implemented by Corsi et al. (2008).

<sup>13</sup> We follow Corsi (2004) in defining the multi-period logarithmic volatility by the sum of the corresponding one-period logarithmic measures. Almost identical empirical results obtain by using the logarithm of the multi-period realized variances in place of the sum of the logarithms.

approximately normally distributed, we allow the errors to follow a normal-mixture distribution<sup>14</sup>:

$$u_t \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \begin{cases} \mathbb{N}_1(0, 1) & \text{with probability } (1 - p_{u,2}) \\ \mathbb{N}_2(\mu_{u,2}, \sigma_{u,2}^2) & \text{with probability } p_{u,2}. \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

Having defined the model for the continuous volatility component, we next turn our attention to the specification of the jump component.

4.2. The jump equation

Consistent with the results in Andersen et al. (2007) pertaining to the time series of significant squared jumps, the descriptive statistics in Section 3 point toward fairly weak, albeit not zero, own serial dependencies in the relative jump series. To best accommodate this we specify a standard autoregressive model augmented with the same leverage type terms used in the  $BV_t$  equation:

$$\begin{aligned} \log \left( \frac{RV_t}{BV_t} \right) = & \delta_0 + \psi_1 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} + \psi_2 I[r_{t-1} < 0] \\ & + \psi_3 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} I[r_{t-1} < 0] + \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_j \log \left( \frac{RV_{t-j}}{BV_{t-j}} \right) + v_t. \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

This in turn allows us to disentangle whether the well-documented asymmetric negative relationship between total volatility and return innovations is primarily driven by the response of the continuous volatility component and/or the reaction of the jump component.

Experimentation suggests that the innovations in the jump equation are well described by a mixture of a zero mean Normal Inverse Gaussian (NIG) distribution and an Inverse Gaussian (IG) distribution:

$$v_t \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \begin{cases} \text{NIG}_0(\alpha_{NIG}, \beta_{NIG}, \delta_{NIG}) & \text{with probability } (1 - p_{v,2}) \\ \text{IG}(\lambda_{IG}, \mu_{IG}) & \text{with probability } p_{v,2}. \end{cases} \tag{16}$$

Given the prevalent skewness and fat right tail of the unconditional distribution of the relative jumps, other asymmetric distributions, e.g., a skewed Student- $t$ , could, of course, be considered as well. However, the mixture of distributions based on one distribution having support on the whole real line and the other being defined only on the positive domain provides a particularly appealing interpretation. Intuitively, the NIG distribution may be seen as primarily accounting for the small day-to-day fluctuations in the logarithmic realized variance around the logarithmic Bipower variation attributable to measurement errors and small jumps, while the positive IG distribution captures the innovations associated with large genuine jumps, or the right tail of the distribution. Moreover, the NIG and IG distributions both have very flexible shapes, and the superior fit afforded by this particular mixture of distributions is indeed confirmed by our model estimates discussed below.

4.3. The return equation

Our final model for the distribution of the daily returns relies on the nonparametric  $RV_t$  measure for capturing the total price variability. This same idea has previously been used in the context

<sup>14</sup> We also experimented with the use of a standard normal distribution. This distribution, however, was decisively rejected against the normal-mixture distribution by a standard Likelihood-Ratio test.

of modeling daily returns by Forsberg and Bollerslev (2002).<sup>15</sup> Specifically, allowing for up to  $d$ 'th order serial correlation, we postulate the following simple autoregressive model for the daily return process:

$$r_t = \gamma_0 + \sum_{j=1}^d \gamma_j r_{t-j} + \sqrt{RV_t} \epsilon_t, \quad (17)$$

where the innovations are assumed to be standard normally distributed:

$$\epsilon_t \stackrel{iid}{\sim} N(0, 1). \quad (18)$$

As discussed further below, we also experimented with alternative more flexible mixtures-of-distributions to allow for deviations from conditional normality. However, broadly consistent with the summary statistics in Table 1, we found that the standard normal distribution provided as good a fit as any of these more complicated distributions.

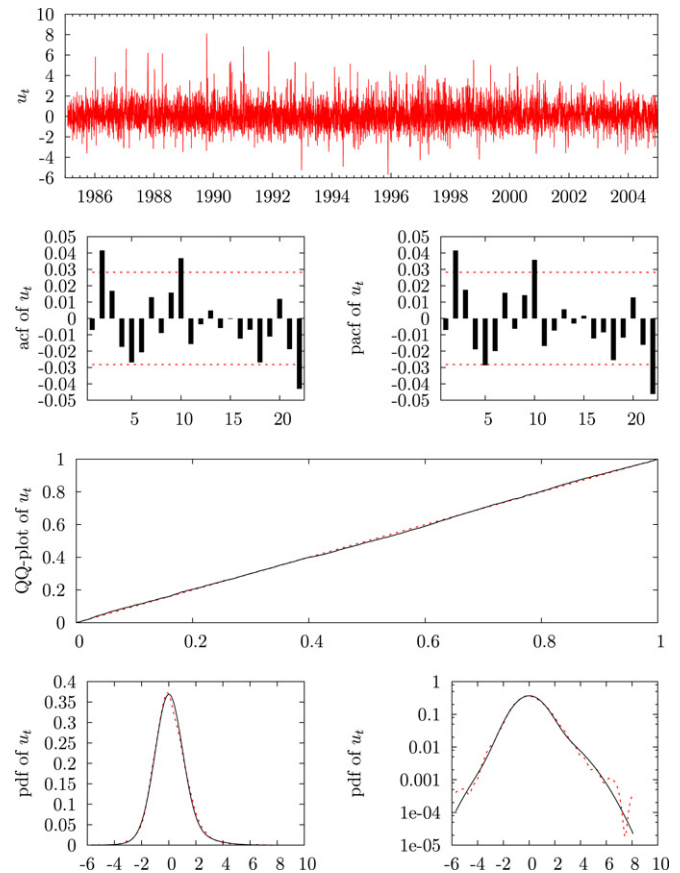
We next turn to a discussion of the univariate estimation results for this particularly simple return equation along with the other two sets of equations for the realized variation measures making up our complete system.

### 5. Equation-by-Equation estimation

The recursive structure of the three equation system defined in the preceding sections, means that as long as the disturbances are independent across equations, each of the three models may be estimated efficiently in isolation using standard maximum-likelihood methods. The assumption of independent disturbances is, of course, questionable, and we will explicitly investigate the validity of this assumption based upon the single equation estimates.

The parameter estimates for each of the three equations, along with the corresponding asymptotic standard errors, are reported in Table 2.<sup>16</sup> Figs. 5–7 show the resulting residuals, their autocorrelation and partial autocorrelation functions, as well as the QQ plots and kernel density estimates. The selection of the autoregressive lags in the different models is based on the Schwarz Bayesian information Criterion (BIC), and all of the lags are kept the same in the subsequent models.

Starting with the results in the first column and the  $BV_t$  equation, the estimates directly mirror earlier results in the literature for the HAR-RV realized volatility model. The daily, weekly and monthly volatility components are all highly statistically significant, while the inclusion of the logarithmic Bipower variation measures over biweekly and other horizons do not improve the fit according to the BIC criteria. A standard GARCH(1,1) model without any level effects emerges as the preferred specification for the conditional variance. The estimated GARCH parameters easily satisfy the corresponding stationarity condition  $\alpha_1 \sigma_u^2 + \beta_1 < 1$ , where  $\sigma_u^2 = 1 + p_{u,2} (\sigma_{u,2}^2 - 1)$ . The asymmetry, or leverage effect, in the continuous volatility component is directly manifest by the highly significant estimates for the  $\theta_1$  and  $\theta_3$  parameters. As expected, the point estimates imply that a lagged negative return shock leads to a much larger increase in the volatility than does a positive shock



**Fig. 5.** Residual analysis of the (log.) Bipower variation equation. The upper graph of the figure represents the time evolution of the innovations of the Bipower variation equation. The second line of graphs shows their sample autocorrelations and partial autocorrelations. The third is the corresponding Quantile–Quantile plot. The lower left panel of the figure shows the kernel density estimates of the residuals (dashed line) and the density of the estimated normal mixture (solid line). The right panel shows the same in log scale.

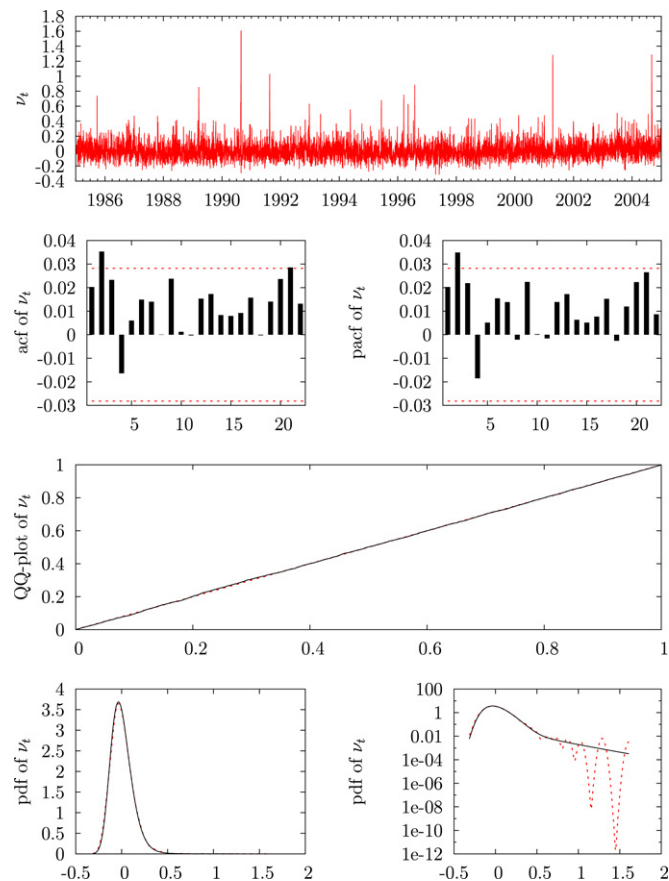
of the same magnitude. In contrast, the level shift in the volatility equation due to negative news is not significant. This latter result mirrors earlier findings for the realized volatility in Martens et al. (2004). The QQ and kernel density plots in Fig. 5 also indicate that the mixture of two normal distributions does a very good job of capturing the slight skewness and kurtosis inherent in the innovations from the model. Moreover, the autocorrelation and partial autocorrelation functions for the estimated residuals do not reveal any remaining systematic serial correlation within a monthly horizon.

Turning to the jump equation, the autoregressive parameter estimates associated with the first, or daily, and fifth, or weekly, lags are both significant. Still, the magnitude of both coefficients is very small, thus supporting the aforementioned weak own predictability in the jump series. Interestingly, and in sharp contrast to the results for the continuous volatility component, the parameter estimates for  $\psi_2$  and  $\psi_3$  related to the leverage effect suggest that jumps are *not* asymmetrically affected by lagged return shocks.<sup>17</sup> In fact, if anything the estimate for  $\psi_1$  points to a

<sup>15</sup> Note that even though we do not directly model  $RV_t$ , the conditional distribution of the total price variation is readily inferred from our models for the logarithmic Bipower variation and the relative jumps based upon the definition in Eq. (10); i.e.,  $RV_t \equiv \exp(J_t + \log BV_t)$ .

<sup>16</sup> Although mixtures of distributions can sometimes be difficult to estimate, we did not encounter any convergence problems. Also, to ensure proper convergence we estimated each of the equations based upon a range of different starting values.

<sup>17</sup> The findings of a negative leverage effect in the diffusion volatility component only, is directly in line with most of the parametric jump diffusion models estimated in the recent literature, in which the leverage effect is typically incorporated by allowing for a negative correlation between the two Brownian motions driving the price and continuous volatility processes; see, e.g., the models in Bates (2000), Eraker et al. (2003) and Pan (2002).

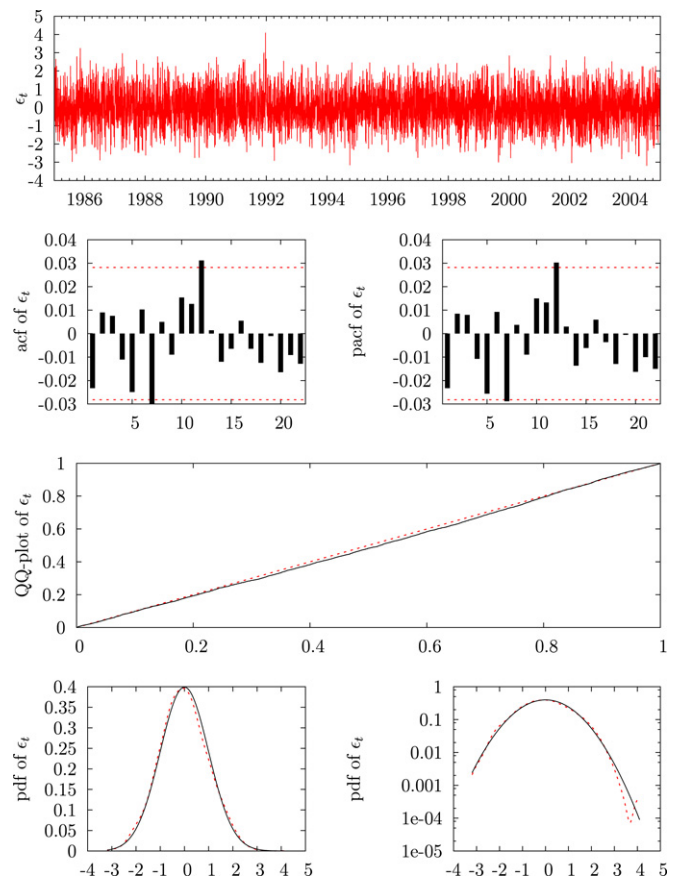


**Fig. 6.** Residual analysis of the jump equation. The upper graph of the figure represents the time evolution of the innovations of the jump equation. The second line of graphs shows their sample autocorrelations and partial autocorrelations. The third is the corresponding Quantile–Quantile plot. The lower left panel of the figure shows the kernel density estimates of the residuals (dashed line) and the density of the estimated NIG–IG mixture (solid line). The right panel shows the same in log scale.

symmetric, but dampening impact of news on future jumps.<sup>18</sup> The QQ-Plot for the residuals from the  $J_t$  equation as well as the kernel density plots in Fig. 6 also show that the distribution of the jump innovations is well described by the NIG–IG mixture.

The estimates for the return equation, reported in the last column, reveal statistically significant, but economically very small, second and third order autocorrelations. As already noted, the standard normal distribution appears to fit the data well, and it is generally preferred over other specifications by the BIC criteria, including a normal distribution with a freely estimated variance as well as a freely estimated zero-mean NIG distribution. We also experimented with the inclusion of a risk premia, or GARCH-in-Mean type effect, by allowing the conditional mean to depend on the realized variance. Consistent with existing results in the literature suggesting that reliable estimates for this risk premium parameter requires longer return horizons and time-spans of data

<sup>18</sup> In the context of a representative agent general equilibrium model, Bollerslev et al. (forthcoming) has recently shown that a positive leverage effect can occur depending on the magnitude of the intertemporal marginal rate of substitution and the degree of risk aversion. It is possible that by explicitly differentiating between the two sources of risk, an extension of this model could help explain our empirical findings of a “standard” negative leverage effect in the diffusion component but a positive correlation between returns and jumps.



**Fig. 7.** Residual analysis of the return equation. The upper graph of the figure represents the time evolution of the innovations of the return equation. The second line of graphs shows their sample autocorrelations and partial autocorrelations. The third is the corresponding Quantile–Quantile plot. The lower left panel of the figure shows the kernel density estimates of the residuals (dashed line) and the density of a standard normal (solid line). The right panel shows the same in log scale.

(see e.g. Lundblad (2004) and Ghysels et al. (2005)), we found the GARCH-in-Mean effect to be insignificant at the daily level.

### 5.1. Residual inter-dependencies

The separate estimation of the three equations discussed above implicitly assumes that the disturbances are independent. However, based upon existing results in the stochastic volatility literature, we might naturally expect that the disturbances in the return and volatility equations are correlated due to contemporaneous (at the daily level) leverage and/or volatility feedback effects; see, e.g., the recent empirical analysis in Bollerslev et al. (2006b). Moreover, the innovations to the two volatility equations might naturally be expected to be correlated as well. Such inter-dependencies would obviously have to be taken into account in a fully efficient estimation of the joint system, and could in principle result in inconsistent equation-by-equation estimates.

To begin, consider the sample correlation matrix for the estimated residuals from the Bipower variation, jump and return equations:

$$\hat{\rho} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -0.1847 & -0.2008 \\ \cdot & 1 & 0.0283 \\ \cdot & \cdot & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

**Table 2**  
Single equation estimation results.

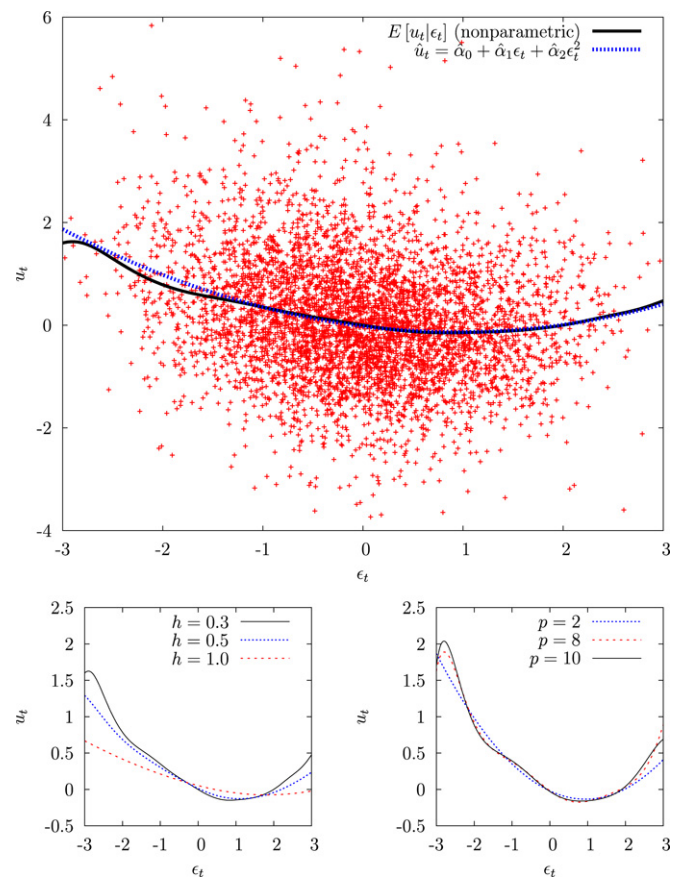
	BV equation		Jump equation		Return equation			
	Estimate	Std. Error	Estimate	Std. Error	Estimate	Std. Error		
$\alpha_0$	-0.1978	(0.0170)	$\delta_0$	0.0704	(0.0067)	$\gamma_0$	0.0858	(0.0098)
$\alpha_d$	0.2548	(0.0169)	$\delta_1$	0.0347	(0.0089)	$\gamma_2$	-0.0254	(0.0139)
$\alpha_w$	0.4370	(0.0265)	$\delta_5$	0.0516	(0.0116)	$\gamma_3$	-0.0351	(0.0133)
$\alpha_m$	0.2416	(0.0215)	$\psi_1$	-0.0143	(0.0032)			
$\theta_1$	0.0571	(0.0144)	$\psi_2$	-0.0026	(0.0050)			
$\theta_2$	0.0384	(0.0217)	$\psi_3$	0.0014	(0.0049)			
$\theta_3$	0.1247	(0.0218)	$p_{v,2}$	0.0072	(0.0329)			
$\omega$	0.0228	(0.0053)	$\alpha_{NIG}$	71.5659	(52.7253)			
$\alpha_1$	0.0419	(0.0077)	$\beta_{NIG}$	54.0383	(47.7732)			
$\beta_1$	0.8048	(0.0378)	$\delta_{NIG}$	0.2637	(0.0367)			
$p_{u,2}$	0.1451	(0.0304)	$\lambda_{IG}$	0.5247	(0.3198)			
$\mu_{u,2}$	0.7688	(0.1306)	$\mu_{IG}$	1.1804	(5.2968)			
$\sigma_{u,2}$	1.9278	(0.0688)						
log L:	-3464.75		log L:	3775.22		log L:	-5839.63	

Reported are the parameter estimates and corresponding standard errors of our joint model for logarithmic Bipower variation, jumps and returns. The estimates are obtained by estimating the model equation by equation.

Consistent with the discussion above, the continuous volatility innovations appear to be negatively correlated with both the relative jump residuals and the return innovations. Meanwhile, the correlation between the relative jumps and the return residuals appears negligible.

In addition to the linear contemporaneous relationships suggested by the sample correlations, there might also exist non-linear dependencies due to, e.g., asymmetric volatility effects. Figs. 8–10 present the pairwise scatter plots of the residual series along with a fitted quadratic polynomial, as well as a Rosenblatt-Parzen Gaussian-based kernel estimator. The conjecture of a nonlinear relationship between the residuals is seemingly evident for at least two of the three combinations. Most obviously, there is an asymmetric negative relation between the residuals of the Bipower equation and the return shocks in Fig. 8.<sup>19</sup> In fact, this relationship is very similar to the commonly assumed lagged leverage effect. In contrast, there is no apparent non-linear relation between the residuals from the jump and return equations. Interestingly, Fig. 10 reveals a smirk-like relation between the innovations to the continuous volatility and jump components.<sup>20</sup>

To further visualize the inter-dependencies between the estimated residuals, Fig. 11 shows the scatter plot of the respective pairwise probability integral transform, or PIT, series defined as the cumulative distribution function (cdf) evaluated at the realized innovations.<sup>21</sup> In the absence of any inter-dependencies and for correctly specified marginal innovation densities, the points should be uniformly distributed over the whole scatter surface. Consistent with the aforementioned smile-like pattern



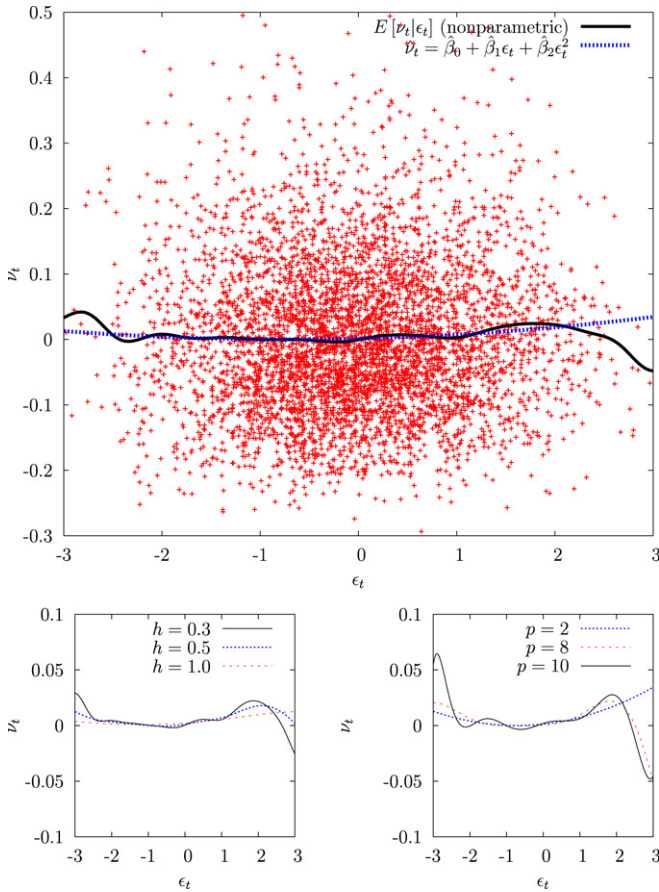
**Fig. 8.** Dependency analysis of the residuals between the return equation and Bipower variation equation. The lower left and right panels include additional different polynomial and nonparametric specifications, respectively.

in the residual scatter plot for the Bipower variation and return equations, the first panel shows that low (high) cdf values of the return innovations tend to be associated with higher cdf values of the diffusion volatility innovations. A similar pattern emerge in the cdf scatter for the jump and continuous volatility innovations in the bottom panel, but with high cdf values of the

<sup>19</sup> The estimated parameters of the fitted quadratic polynomials, with corresponding HAC robust standard errors in parenthesis, equal -0.0199 (0.0210), -0.2430 (0.0179) and 0.1288 (0.0143), respectively, indicating highly statistically significant asymmetric relationships.

<sup>20</sup> This effect should, of course, be carefully interpreted in light of the definitions of the underlying variation measures. In particular, a negative shock to the (logarithmic) Bipower variation corresponds to an overestimation of the continuous volatility component, which in turn is associated with a larger jump component. In contrast, a positive shock to the Bipower variation equation, and a larger than expected continuous volatility component, does not directly affect the relative jump measure.

<sup>21</sup> In the forecasting literature, the probability integral transforms are often used to assess the accuracy of density forecasts, see e.g., Diebold et al. (1998).



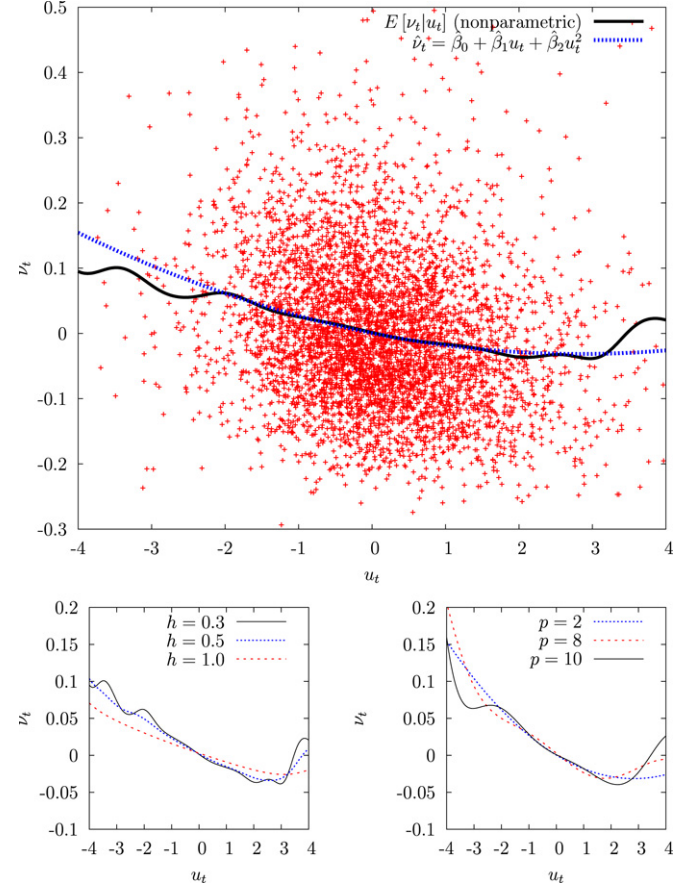
**Fig. 9.** Dependency analysis of the residuals between the return equation and jump equation. The lower left and right panels include additional different polynomial and nonparametric specifications, respectively.

continuous volatility innovations being associated with smaller values of the jump innovation cdf due to the dampening (smirk-like) behavior. Meanwhile, the cdf scatter between the jump and return innovations in the middle panel exhibits nearly uniformly distributed scatter points.

In summary, our analysis points to the existence of important asymmetric dependencies among the three innovation series. These effects should be incorporated into a joint modeling framework in order to, firstly, more systematically quantify and test for their significance, secondly, guard against any biases in the single equation estimates, and thirdly, enhance the efficiency of the individual model parameter estimates. The unified system approach explicitly allowing for non-linear functional forms of residual dependencies presented in the next section accomplishes these goals.

### 6. System estimation

The results of the equation-by-equation estimations suggest that the proposed model specifications provide an adequate description of the dynamic dependencies in the two volatility and return processes, but that it does not fully account for the nonlinear contemporaneous dependencies among the innovations. We therefore retain our basic three equation set up, but additionally model the nonlinear inter-dependencies based on the following system of equations:



**Fig. 10.** Dependency analysis of the residuals between the Bipower variation equation and the jump equation. The lower left and right panels include additional different polynomial and nonparametric specifications, respectively.

$$\begin{aligned}
 r_t &= \gamma_0 + \sum_{j=1}^d \gamma_j r_{t-j} + \sqrt{RV_t} \epsilon_t \\
 \log BV_t &= \alpha_0 + \alpha_d \log BV_{t-1} + \alpha_w (\log BV)_{t-5:t-1} \\
 &\quad + \alpha_m (\log BV)_{t-22:t-1} + \theta_1 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} + \theta_2 I[r_{t-1} < 0] \\
 &\quad + \theta_3 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} I[r_{t-1} < 0] + \sqrt{h_t} (u_t + g(\epsilon_t)) \\
 h_t &= \omega + \sum_{j=1}^q \alpha_j (\log BV_{t-j} - x'_{BV} \beta_{BV})^2 \\
 &\quad + \sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j h_{t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^s \lambda_j BV_{t-j} \\
 \log \left( \frac{RV_t}{BV_t} \right) &= \delta_0 + \sum_{j=1}^n \delta_j \log \left( \frac{RV_{t-j}}{BV_{t-j}} \right) \\
 &\quad + \psi_1 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} + \psi_2 I[r_{t-1} < 0] \\
 &\quad + \psi_3 \frac{|r_{t-1}|}{\sqrt{RV_{t-1}}} I[r_{t-1} < 0] \\
 &\quad + (v_t + m(u_t) + k(\epsilon_t)).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{19}$$

In comparison with the individual equations, the system explicitly allows the innovations in the continuous volatility and relative jump equations to depend nonlinearly on the return innovations via the general functions  $g(\epsilon_t)$  and  $k(\epsilon_t)$ , respectively. Similarly, the jump innovations are allowed to depend on the continuous

$$\begin{aligned} & \times f_u \left( \underbrace{\frac{\log BV_t - x'_{BV} \beta_{BV}}{\sqrt{h_t}} - g \left( \frac{r_t - x'_r \beta_r}{\exp \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \log RV_t \right\}} \right)}_{u_t}; \theta_u \right) \\ & \times f_v \left( \underbrace{\log \left( \frac{RV_t}{BV_t} \right) - x'_{RV} \beta_{RV} - m(u_t) - k(\epsilon_t)}_{v_t}; \theta_v \right), \end{aligned}$$

where  $z_{t-1}$  subsumes past observations of  $y_t$ , while  $x_{BV}$ ,  $x_r$  and  $x_{RV}$  denote the regressors of the logarithmic Bipower variation equation, the return and the jump equations, respectively. Moreover,  $f_\epsilon$ ,  $f_u$  and  $f_v$  are the densities of the innovations of these equations and  $\theta_\epsilon$ ,  $\theta_u$  and  $\theta_v$  denote the parameters of these densities.

Here, we assume as before:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_t & \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \mathbb{N}(0, 1) \\ u_t & \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \begin{cases} \mathbb{N}_1(0, 1) & \text{with probability } (1 - p_{u,2}) \\ \mathbb{N}_2(\mu_{u,2}, \sigma_{u,2}^2) & \text{with probability } p_{u,2} \end{cases} \\ v_t & \stackrel{iid}{\sim} \begin{cases} \text{NIG}_0(\alpha_{NIG}, \beta_{NIG}, \delta_{NIG}) & \text{with probability } (1 - p_{v,2}) \\ \text{IG}(\lambda_{IG}, \mu_{IG}) & \text{with probability } p_{v,2}. \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

To complete the specification, we assume that the nonlinear contemporaneous dependencies among the individual equation innovations may be adequately captured by a set of second order degree polynomials<sup>22</sup>:

$$g(\epsilon_t) = g_1 \epsilon_t + g_2 \epsilon_t^2 \tag{20}$$

$$k(\epsilon_t) = k_1 \epsilon_t + k_2 \epsilon_t^2 \tag{21}$$

$$m(u_t) = m_1 u_t + m_2 u_t^2, \tag{22}$$

where for identification purposes we have restricted the three constants to be zero. Fully efficient maximum likelihood estimation of the complete system may now proceed in a standard manner by maximizing the log likelihood function defined by the summation of the logarithmic transition densities over the sample observations.<sup>23</sup>

Comparing the system estimation results reported in Table 3 to the equation-by-equation results in Table 2, the estimates for most of the individual parameters obviously do not change by much.<sup>24</sup> In particular, our previous conclusions regarding the lagged leverage effect in the continuous volatility component and the positive correlation between jump and return innovations all remain intact.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, as expected the asymptotic standard errors for the estimated parameters are generally smaller for the system estimates in Table 3, highlighting the gain in (asymptotic) efficiency obtained by jointly estimating the three equations.

Fig. 11. Realized CDF scatter plot of the single equation innovations.

volatility shocks via the  $m(u_t)$  function. Thus, by choosing an adequate functional form for each of these functions, we seek to render the underlying three innovation series to be pairwise independent.

Now, utilizing the recursive structure of the basic model equations along with the contemporaneous independence of the transformed innovations, the transition density for the joint system,  $y_t = (\log BV_t, \log \left( \frac{RV_t}{BV_t} \right), r_t)'$ , may be readily expressed as:

$$f_y(y_t | z_{t-1}; \theta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{h_t} \sqrt{RV_t}} f_\epsilon \left( \frac{r_t - x'_r \beta_r}{\sqrt{RV_t}}; \theta_\epsilon \right)$$

<sup>22</sup> We also experimented with higher order polynomials, but found the simple quadratic representations to be sufficient in capturing the smirk-like dependencies over the required range.

<sup>23</sup> The model was initially estimated using the estimates from the last section as starting values, but to ensure proper convergence we also estimated the model with a series of different starting values, resulting in identical numerical values.

<sup>24</sup> Further analysis related to the dynamic dependencies and unconditional distributional properties of the system residuals also yield almost identical results to the ones for the single-equation residuals in Figs. 5–7. These results are available upon request.

<sup>25</sup> Importantly, the system GARCH parameter estimates for the  $BV_t$  equations also satisfy the corresponding second-order stationarity condition:  $\alpha (\sigma_u^2 + g_1^2 + 2g_2^2) + \beta < 1$ , where  $\sigma_u^2 = 1 + p_{u,2} (\sigma_{u,2}^2 - 1)$  and  $\alpha \geq 0, \beta \geq 0$ .









