

# THE PEER PERFORMANCE RATIOS OF HEDGE FUNDS

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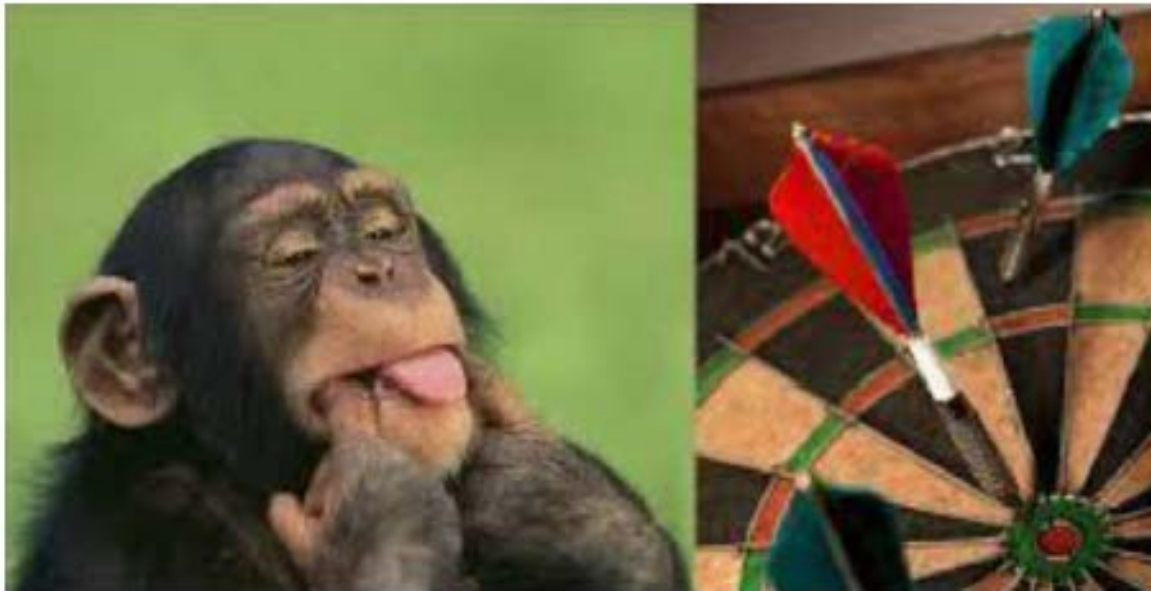
## PEER PERFORMANCE

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- In general terms, **peer performance** is the performance of an entity (individual, firm, country, fund, forecasting rule) compared with the performance of a group of **peer entities**.
- **Practitioner's** approach: **rank-based** measure.
- **Academic's** approaches:
  - Comparison of fund returns with returns of peer funds:
    - *Relative alpha* (Jagannathan et al., 2010).
    - *Peer alpha* (Hunter et al., 2014).
  - Part of fund performance that cannot be explained by peers/factors:
    - *Distinctiveness* (Sun et al., 2012).
    - *Selectivity* (Amihud and Govenko, 2013).

## DRAWBACKS OF RANK-BASED PEER PERFORMANCE

- If  $n$  funds have the **same risk-adjusted performance**, the rank based on the estimated performance is a **random number between 1 and  $n$** .
- The distinction between top funds within the peer group and across peer groups may therefore be an unreliable signal of the fund's peer performance.



## PEER PERFORMANCE RATIOS

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- Ideally, we would like to measure **three peer performance ratios**:
  - Equal**-performance ratio  $\pi_i^0$ : percentage of funds in the peer universe with equal performance as the focal fund  $i$ .
  - Out**performance ratio  $\pi_i^+$ : percentage of funds in the peer universe that are outperformed by the focal fund  $i$ .
  - Under**performance ratio  $\pi_i^-$ : percentage of funds in the peer universe that outperform the focal fund  $i$ .
- But how to **estimate** those three parameters?
- **What can we do** with these parameters, from a **practitioner & academic** viewpoint?

## OUR PAPER

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### Contribution 1

We propose an approach for the **estimation** of these **ratios**.

### Contribution 2

We investigate the **determinants** of the peer performance of hedge funds.

- **Life-cycle theory**: Fund size reduces the peer performance (Berk and Green, 2004; Getmansky, 2012; Chen et al., 2004).
- **Career hypothesis**: Large funds with a short track record tend to underperform more than their peers with same fund size but longer track record (Graham, 1999; Boyson, 2010).

### Contribution 3

We analyze the informativeness of peer performance ratios when **predicting future performance** (economical & statistical viewpoints).

# AGENDA

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1. Constructing the ratios
2. Application to hedge funds
  - a. How can we use it in practice?
  - b. Are our hypotheses verified?
  - c. Does it help forecasting performance?
3. Digest

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## SETUP

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- We have  $n + 1$  funds in the universe.
- $\widehat{\Delta}_{i-j}$  denotes estimate of the performance's difference  $\Delta_{i-j}$  between the **focal** fund  $i$  and its peer  $j$  ( $j = 1, \dots, n; j \neq i$ ).
- Typically:

$$(r_{i,t} - r_{j,t}) = \Delta_{i-j} + \boldsymbol{\beta}'_{i-j} \mathbf{f}_t + \epsilon_{i-j,t}$$

for  $t = 1, \dots, T$ , where  $r_{i,t}$  is the return of fund  $i$  at time  $t$ ,  $\mathbf{f}_t$  is the  $(K \times 1)$  vector of risk factors at time  $t$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\beta}_{i-j}$  is  $(K \times 1)$  vector of factor exposures and  $\epsilon_{i-j,t}$  an error term.

- We use  $\hat{t}_{i-j} \equiv \widehat{\Delta}_{i-j} / \widehat{se}_{i-j}$  as the test-statistic such that the higher the absolute value, the higher is the evidence against the  $H_0$  of equal performance.
- **Each test leads to a  $p$ -value, denoted by  $\hat{p}_{i-j}$ .**



## ESTIMATION STRATEGY

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- **Two-step estimator:**
  1. Compute  $p$ -values of two sided tests of equal performance.
  2. Extrapolate  $\pi_i^0$ ,  $\pi_i^+$  and  $\pi_i^-$  from the obtained  $p$ -value distribution using **FDR** (Storey, 2002).
- **Advantages:**
  1. Parallel estimation possible:
    - ➔ Computationally **feasible**.
  2. No need to have concurrent data for the whole universe:
    - ➔ More **power**.

## RATIOS

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Built on the properties of the difference in distribution of  $p$ -values:

under  $H_0$ :  $p$ -values are **uniformly distributed** between 0 and 1.

under  $H_A$ :  $p$ -values are small.

- We can thus determine a threshold  $\lambda_i$  such that:  $p$ -values  $\hat{p}_{i-j}$  corresponding to  $H_A$  are smaller than  $\lambda_i$ .
- The number of equal performing funds can be estimated as the number of  $p$ -values exceeding  $\lambda_i$  divided by  $1 - \lambda_i$ :

$$\hat{n}_i^0 \equiv \min \left[ \frac{\sum_{j \neq i} I\{\hat{p}_{i-j} \geq \lambda_i\}}{1 - \lambda_i}, n \right].$$

- Then estimate  $\hat{\pi}_i^0 \equiv \hat{n}_i^0 / n$ .
- $\lambda_i$  is obtained by bootstrap (Barras et al., 2010).
- **Attribution rule** “à la Barras” to determine  $\hat{\pi}_i^+$  and  $\hat{\pi}_i^-$ .

# AGENDA

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1. Constructing the ratios
2. Application to hedge funds
  - a. How can we use it in practice?
  - b. Are our hypotheses verified?
  - c. Does it help forecasting performance?
3. Short digest

## DATA

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- Dataset composed of hedge funds taken from the HFR database.
- Peer performance **ratios** and **measures** are computed on **39 samples of five years** of net returns over the period 2000 to 2014.
- The **peer group** is defined as the set of hedge **funds pursuing the same investment style** (Equity Hedge, Event-Driven, Macro and Relative Value).
- Peer performance ratios are estimated using the **alpha-differential** in the 9-factor (Carhart, 1997 and Fung and Hsieh, 2004) model, using HAC standard errors.
- Research questions:
  - How to **use it in practice**?
  - Are our **hypotheses verified**?
  - Can we use it to **predict future performance**?

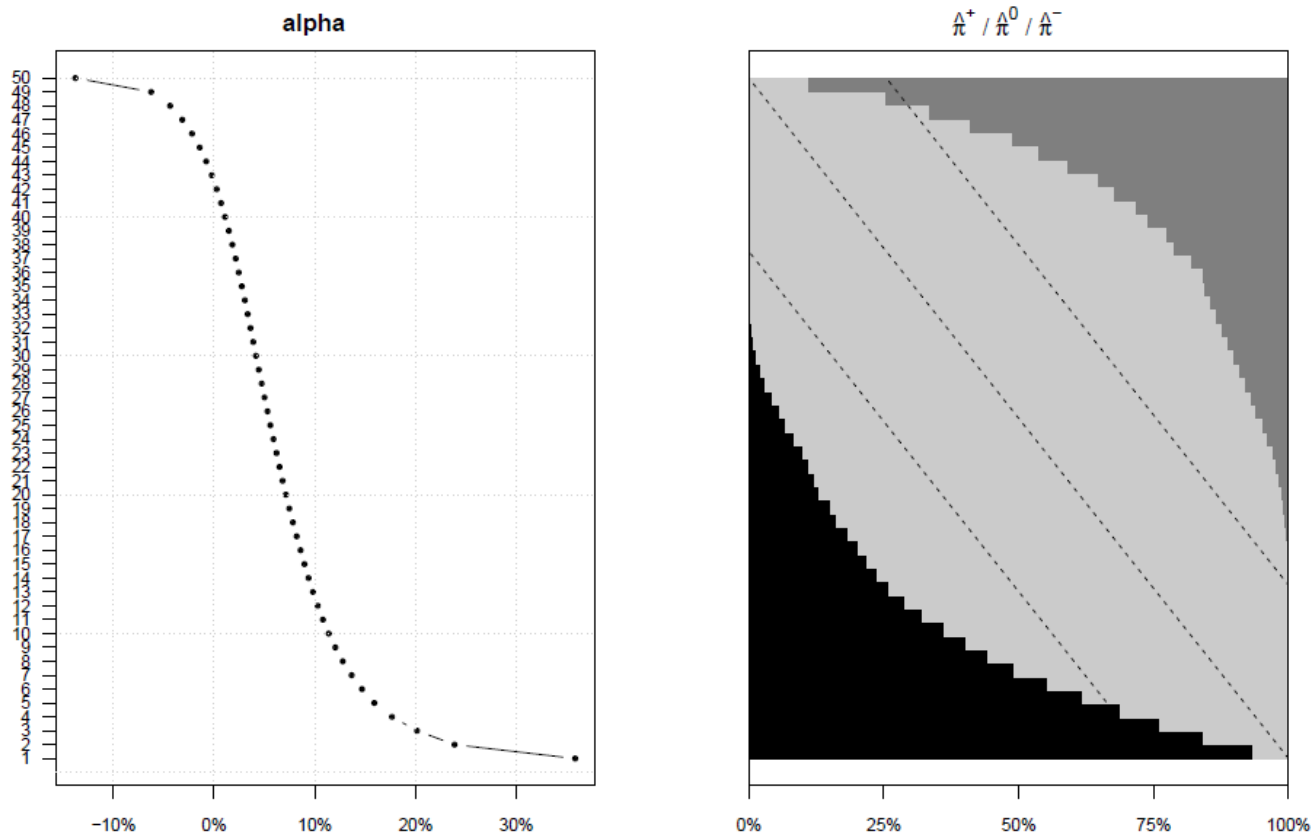
## RANKING & PEER PERFORMANCE

- Type a table a **practitioners** could use.

Fund	Strategy	Equity Hedge	Event-Driven	Macro	Relative Value
A	Relative Value	1[0.99;0.00]	1[1.00;0.00]	1[1.00;0.00]	1[1.00;0.00]
B	Equity Hedge	1[0.98;0.00]	1[1.00;0.00]	1[0.97;0.00]	2[0.94;0.00]
C	Macro	2[0.97;0.00]	1[1.00;0.00]	1[0.97;0.00]	2[0.93;0.00]
D	Relative Value	2[0.98;0.00]	1[1.00;0.00]	2[0.97;0.00]	2[0.95;0.00]
E	Equity Hedge	2[0.67;0.00]	1[0.09;0.00]	2[0.46;0.00]	3[0.00;0.00]
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
K	Equity Hedge	234[0.00;0.00]	94[0.00;0.00]	115[0.00;0.00]	158[0.00;0.00]
L	Equity Hedge	235[0.21;0.00]	94[0.00;0.26]	115[0.17;0.05]	158[0.00;0.38]
M	Equity Hedge	236[0.25;0.04]	94[0.00;0.26]	115[0.22;0.08]	158[0.00;0.37]
N	Equity Hedge	237[0.00;0.00]	94[0.00;0.00]	115[0.00;0.00]	158[0.00;0.08]
O	Event-Driven	238[0.30;0.06]	94[0.07;0.46]	115[0.24;0.13]	158[0.00;0.53]
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮
V	Macro	616[0.00;0.98]	136[0.00;1.00]	254[0.00;0.99]	202[0.00;1.00]
W	Equity Hedge	616[0.00;0.99]	136[0.00;1.00]	255[0.00;0.98]	202[0.00;1.00]
X	Equity Hedge	617[0.00;0.99]	136[0.00;1.00]	255[0.00;0.99]	202[0.00;1.00]
Y	Equity Hedge	618[0.00;0.99]	136[0.00;1.00]	255[0.00;1.00]	202[0.00;1.00]
Z	Equity Hedge	619[0.00;0.99]	136[0.00;1.00]	255[0.00;1.00]	202[0.00;1.00]

## DISTRIBUTION OF PEER PERFORMANCE

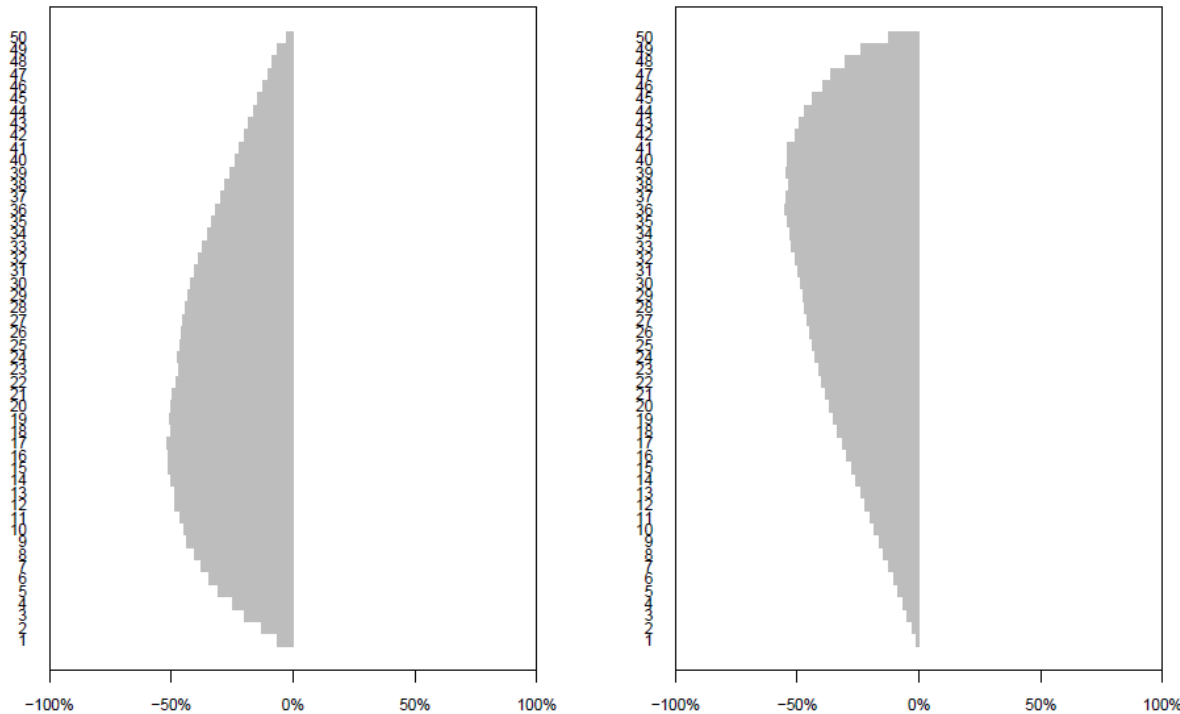
- Alpha and outperformance ratio are **strongly positively dependent** but the **relationship is highly nonlinear**.
- **Middle performing funds** out- or underperform a **minority of their peers**.



# CORRECTION FOR LUCK

- Since **equal-performance dominates**, the usual ranking is thus **too optimistic** or **pessimistic**.
- **Correction** for luck should therefore be **negative**.

$$\hat{\delta}^+ \equiv \hat{\pi}_i^+ - \left( \frac{n - k + 1}{n} \right) \quad \hat{\delta}^- \equiv \hat{\pi}_i^- - \left( \frac{k - 1}{n} \right)$$



## EFFECTS OF FUND SIZE & AGE ON PEER PERFORMANCE

- We test our hypotheses in our longitudinal time series of quarterly updated peer performance ratios  $\hat{\pi}_{i,q}^+$ ,  $\hat{\pi}_{i,q}^-$  and  $\hat{\pi}_{i,q}^0$ , with  $q = 1, \dots, 39$ .
- The determinants of the peer performance ratios are analyzed through a **nonlinear regression** model.

$$\hat{\pi}_{i,q} = G(\beta_{0,q} + \beta_{1,q}LAUM_{i,q-1} + \beta_{2,q}AGE_{i,q-1} + \beta_{3,q}IT_{i,q-1} + \boldsymbol{\gamma}'_q \mathbf{CTRL}_i) + \epsilon_{i,q}$$

$G(\cdot)$  is the logistic function,  $\boldsymbol{\gamma}_q$  is a  $(8 \times 1)$  vector of parameter for the controls:

$$\mathbf{CTRL}_i \equiv (EH_i, MA_i, RV_i, MF_i, PF_i, LEV_i, HUR_i, HWM_i)'$$



## FUND SIZE & AGE ON OUTPERFORMANCE

- In 79% of the samples the coefficient of fund size is significantly negative.
- Since the interaction effect between fund size and fund age is in 85% of the samples not significantly different from zero, we conclude that fund size leads to a deterioration in the outperformance ratio.

Panel A: Peer ratios computed with same strategy funds as peers

	$\hat{\pi}^+$				$\hat{\pi}^-$				$\hat{\pi}^0$			
	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$
<i>Constant</i>	-1.93	100	0	100	-0.77	79	0	82	0.12	21	23	15
<i>LAUM<sub>q-1</sub></i>	-0.10	72	0	79	0.08	46	62	5	0.04	36	49	0
<i>AGE<sub>q-1</sub></i>	-0.04	28	0	36	0.07	92	97	0	-0.01	8	3	13
<i>IT<sub>q-1</sub></i>	0.00	15	15	0	-0.01	46	0	69	0.00	5	5	3
<i>EH</i>	-0.25	56	5	62	-0.44	85	0	85	0.48	82	85	0
<i>MA</i>	-0.65	54	0	59	-0.54	56	0	64	0.65	72	69	8
<i>RV</i>	0.08	31	23	18	-0.13	23	10	38	0.01	54	31	26
<i>MF</i>	38.37	79	87	0	-31.77	69	0	69	-3.71	13	3	28
<i>PF</i>	1.67	49	46	10	-1.69	41	0	51	0.03	8	8	8
<i>LEV</i>	-0.07	33	10	33	-0.01	5	0	10	0.05	23	21	3
<i>HUR</i>	0.11	33	31	10	0.11	3	13	0	-0.11	31	3	31
<i>HWM</i>	0.32	26	31	0	-0.21	26	0	38	0.02	0	0	0
Pseudo $R^2$		96.65				97.11				96.33		

# FUND SIZE & AGE ON EQUAL-PERFORMANCE

- Fund **size** has a **positive impact**.
- **Interaction** is almost **never significant**.
- ➔ Empirical **support to life-cycle theory**: Because of decreasing returns of scale in active investment strategies, larger funds have less opportunities to outperform their smaller peers.

Panel A: Peer ratios computed with same strategy funds as peers

	$\hat{\pi}^+$				$\hat{\pi}^-$				$\hat{\pi}^0$			
	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$
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<i>HWM</i>	0.32	26	31	0	-0.21	26	0	38	0.02	0	0	0
Pseudo $R^2$	96.65				97.11				96.33			

# FUND SIZE & AGE ON UNDERPERFORMANCE

- Effects of fund size and fund age are both significantly positive.
- Moreover, they interact negatively.
- ➔ Empirical support to carrier hypothesis: Large funds with a long track tend to underperform less than their younger peers with same fund size.

Panel A: Peer ratios computed with same strategy funds as peers

	$\hat{\pi}^+$				$\hat{\pi}^-$				$\hat{\pi}^0$			
	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$	$\bar{\beta}$	$\neq 0$	$> 0$	$< 0$
<i>Constant</i>	-1.93	100	0	100	-0.77	79	0	82	0.12	21	23	15
<i>LAUM<sub>q-1</sub></i>	-0.10	72	0	79	0.08	46	62	5	0.04	36	49	0
<i>AGE<sub>q-1</sub></i>	-0.04	28	0	36	0.07	92	97	0	-0.01	8	3	13
<i>IT<sub>q-1</sub></i>	0.00	15	15	0	-0.01	46	0	69	0.00	5	5	3
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<i>HWM</i>	0.32	26	31	0	-0.21	26	0	38	0.02	0	0	0
Pseudo $R^2$	96.65				97.11				96.33			

## **FUND SIZE & AGE ON PEER PERFORMANCE**

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- **Effects** are still observed but **less strong** with **full universe of funds as peer group**.
- Consistent with the view that **controlling for investment style** leads to **more accurate proxies** for the hedge fund managers' **skill** (Hunter et al., 2014).

## PEER PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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- We assess the **economic gains** of selecting funds based on the peer performance ratios compared with alternative (peer) performance measures.
- We measure the performance of **quarterly rebalanced strategies** which invest in the **top quintile funds** in terms of the various measures.
- We consider:
  1. **Alpha of the nine-factor model.**
    - Comparison of fund returns with returns of peer funds:
      2. **Relative alpha** (Jagannathan et al., 2010).
      3. **Peer alpha** (Hunter et al., 2014).
    - Part of fund performance that cannot be explained by peers/factors:
      4. **Distinctiveness** (Sun et al., 2012).
      5. **Selectivity** (Amihud and Govenko, 2013).
  6. **Outperformance ratio.**

# CAPTURING THE SAME THING?

- Even though the different measures claim a commonality in what they proxy (fund's talent), **they are complementary in terms of what exactly is captured.**

	$\hat{\alpha}$	$\hat{\alpha}^{rel}$	$\hat{\alpha}^{peer}$	$\hat{D}$	$\hat{S}$	$\hat{\pi}^+$	$\hat{\pi}^{**}$
$\hat{\alpha}$		43.4	74.5	11.9	25.0	76.7	79.1
$\hat{\alpha}^{rel}$	62.2		61.5	20.6	13.2	34.3	33.1
$\hat{\alpha}^{peer}$	70.9	87.8		34.4	22.2	58.5	56.9
$\hat{D}$	17.2	37.9	41.8		53.7	8.6	9.9
$\hat{S}$	28.5	24.8	27.3	68.3		20.2	23.0
$\hat{\pi}^+$	75.6	55.7	63.1	11.8	19.8		96.0
$\hat{\pi}^{**}$	77.4	54.7	62.1	14.6	22.5	87.1	

# QUINTILE PORTFOLIOS PERFORMANCE

- The **outperformance ratio** is a **valuable** metric for fund selection.

Criterion	Quintile	Equally-weighted portfolios				Value-weighted portfolios			
		Mean	Std	Sharpe	Alpha	Mean	Std	Sharpe	Alpha
Panel A: Portfolio sorts using the outperformance ratio computed with same strategy funds as peers									
$\hat{\pi}^+$	Bottom	5.30	11.63	0.46	0.16	3.22	9.20	0.35	-0.03
	Top	9.88	8.47	1.17	6.00***	7.29	7.97	0.91	4.10**

# QUINTILE PORTFOLIOS PERFORMANCE

- Top quintile portfolio based on **outperformance** ratio has the **best risk-adjusted performance** of all portfolios considered.
- **Distinctiveness** and **selectivity fail** (maybe due to absolute nature of the measures).

Criterion	Quintile	Equally-weighted portfolios				Value-weighted portfolios			
		Mean	Std	Sharpe	Alpha	Mean	Std	Sharpe	Alpha
Panel A: Portfolio sorts using the outperformance ratio computed with same strategy funds as peers									
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	Top	9.88	8.47	1.17	6.00***	7.29	7.97	0.91	4.10**
Panel B: Portfolio sorts using alternative indicators									
$\hat{\alpha}$	Bottom	6.57	12.96	0.51	0.25	5.03	11.06	0.45	0.75
	Top	9.51	9.13	1.04	5.25**	6.43	8.47	0.76	2.72
$\hat{\alpha}^{rel}$	Bottom	6.68	12.67	0.53	0.57	6.09	10.52	0.58	1.70
	Top	8.95	8.66	1.03	5.25***	6.91	8.45	0.82	4.08**
$\hat{\alpha}^{peer}$	Bottom	6.89	13.13	0.52	0.35	6.45	10.93	0.59	1.02
	Top	9.03	7.60	1.19	5.76***	6.87	7.46	0.92	4.41**
$\hat{D}$	Bottom	9.00	14.34	0.63	2.29	8.68	11.53	0.75	3.65**
	Top	4.53	2.47	1.84	3.85***	2.45	3.53	0.69	1.29**
$\hat{S}$	Bottom	8.62	14.11	0.61	1.42	8.74	12.37	0.71	2.78**
	Top	5.42	4.08	1.33	3.86***	3.53	4.89	0.72	1.99*



# QUINTILE PORTFOLIOS PERFORMANCE

- What if we correct alternative measures for luck, using a **two-pass ranking** with the outperformance ratio?
- Leads to a **significant increase** in **risk-adjusted performance**.

Panel B: Portfolio sorts using alternative indicators									
$\hat{\alpha}$	Bottom	6.57	12.96	0.51	0.25	5.03	11.06	0.45	0.75
	Top	9.51	9.13	1.04	5.25**	6.43	8.47	0.76	2.72
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$\hat{\alpha}^{peer}$	Bottom	6.89	13.13	0.52	0.35	6.45	10.93	0.59	1.02
	Top	9.03	7.60	1.19	5.76***	6.87	7.46	0.92	4.41**
$\hat{D}$	Bottom	9.00	14.34	0.63	2.29	8.68	11.53	0.75	3.65**
	Top	4.53	2.47	1.84	3.85***	2.45	3.53	0.69	1.29**
$\hat{S}$	Bottom	8.62	14.11	0.61	1.42	8.74	12.37	0.71	2.78**
	Top	5.42	4.08	1.33	3.86***	3.53	4.89	0.72	1.99*
Panel C: Portfolio sorts using the outperformance ratio, after sorting on the alternative indicators									
$\hat{\pi}^+   \hat{\alpha}$	Top	9.89	8.52	1.16	5.99***	7.28	7.98	0.91	4.09**
$\hat{\pi}^+   \hat{\alpha}^{rel}$	Top	9.54	7.85	1.22	5.79***	6.57	7.78	0.84	3.45**
$\hat{\pi}^+   \hat{\alpha}^{peer}$	Top	9.71	8.02	1.21	6.09***	6.88	7.57	0.91	3.94**
$\hat{\pi}^+   \hat{D}$	Top	6.84	3.89	1.76	5.21***	5.09	5.53	0.92	3.50**
$\hat{\pi}^+   \hat{S}$	Top	6.56	5.47	1.20	4.49***	4.97	6.13	0.81	2.82**

# QUINTILE PORTFOLIOS PERFORMANCE

- Using the **outperformance** ratio computed **with all funds as peers** leads to a significant performance, but **less pronounced**.

Criterion	Quintile	Equally-weighted portfolios				Value-weighted portfolios			
		Mean	Std	Sharpe	Alpha	Mean	Std	Sharpe	Alpha
Panel A: Portfolio sorts using the outperformance ratio computed with same strategy funds as peers									
$\hat{\pi}^+$	Bottom	5.30	11.63	0.46	0.16	3.22	9.20	0.35	-0.03
	Top	9.88	8.47	1.17	6.00***	7.29	7.97	0.91	4.10**
Panel D: Portfolio sorts using the outperformance ratio computed with all funds as peers									
$\hat{\pi}^{++}$	Bottom	6.15	11.84	0.52	0.60	4.78	9.37	0.51	1.18
	Top	9.25	8.21	1.13	5.43***	6.33	7.69	0.82	3.13*

## MULTIVARIATE REGRESSION

- We **control for other influences** in the analysis of predictive power of the outperformance ratio for forecasting fund performance one quarter in the future.

$$R_{i,q} = \zeta_q + \beta_1 \hat{\pi}_{i,q-1}^+ + \beta_2 \hat{\alpha}_{i,q-1}^{\text{rel}} + \beta_3 \hat{\alpha}_{i,q-1}^{\text{peer}} + \beta_4 IT_{i,q-1}^{\text{rel}} + \beta_5 IT_{i,q-1}^{\text{peer}} + \boldsymbol{\gamma}' \mathbf{CTRL}_{i,q-1} + \epsilon_{i,q}$$

$$IT_{i,q-1}^{\text{rel/peer}} \equiv \hat{\alpha}_{i,q-1}^{\text{rel/peer}} \times \hat{\pi}_{i,q-1}^+$$

$$\mathbf{CTRL}_i \equiv (R_{i,q-1}, LAU_{i,q-1}, AGE_{i,q-1}, F_{i,q-1}, VOL_{i,q-1}, \dots)'$$

# MULTIVARIATE REGRESSION

- For all specifications, the **outperformance ratio** has a **positive** and **significant predictive power**.
- Forecasting performance is **improved** when including an **interaction**.
- **Positive** and significant effect of **past returns** and **past volatility**.
- **Older** and **larger funds** tend to have **smaller returns**.

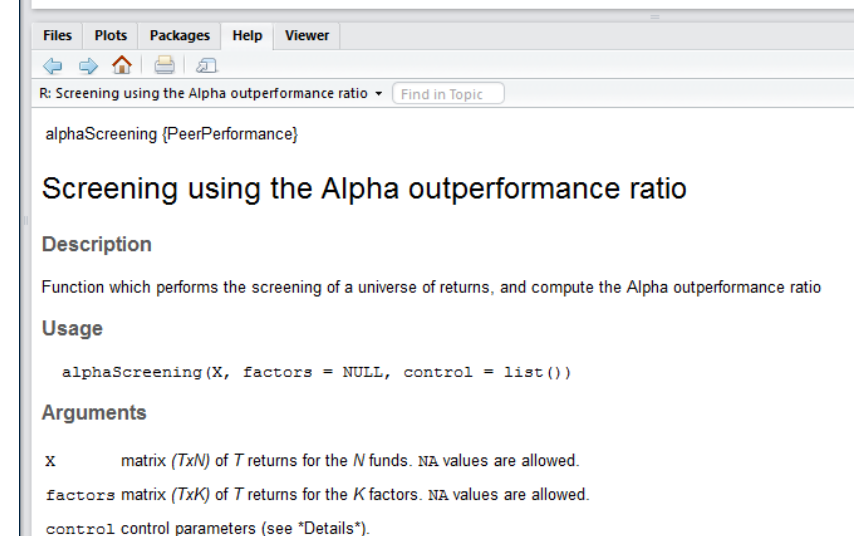
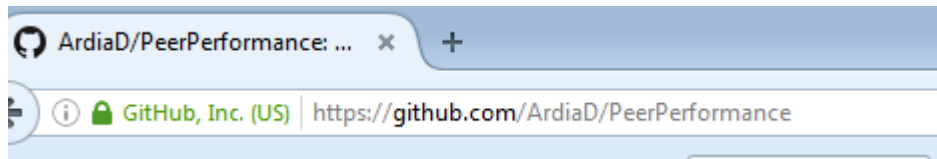
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
$\hat{\pi}_{i,q-1}^+$		0.0075*** (0.0015)	0.0071*** (0.0016)	0.0056*** (0.0018)	0.0056*** (0.0018)	0.0061*** (0.0017)	0.0061*** (0.0017)
$\hat{\alpha}_{i,q-1}^{rel}$			0.0327 (0.0388)		0 (0.0464)	-0.0096 (0.0456)	
$\hat{\alpha}_{i,q-1}^{peer}$				0.1259* (0.0694)	0.1259 (0.0834)		-0.0096 (0.0456)
$IT_{i,q-1}^{rel}$						0.0021* (0.0011)	
$IT_{i,q-1}^{peer}$							0.0021* (0.0011)
$R_{i,q-1}$	0.1102*** (0.0047)	0.1073*** (0.0048)	0.1069*** (0.0048)	0.1062*** (0.0048)	0.1062*** (0.0048)	0.1071*** (0.0048)	0.1071*** (0.0048)

# AGENDA

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1. Constructing the ratios
2. Application to hedge funds
  - a. How can we use it in practice?
  - b. Are our hypotheses verified?
  - c. Does it help forecasting performance?
- 3. Digest**

- We define the **peer performance ratios** that characterizes for each fund the peer performance in three numbers:  $\hat{\pi}_i^+$ ,  $\hat{\pi}_i^-$  and  $\hat{\pi}_i^0$ .
- Find support for the **life-cycle theory** and the **career hypothesis**.
- **Better out-of-sample performance of quintile portfolios** constructed from the peer performance ratios.
- The R package **PeerPerformance** is available online.



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