

Analysis of the Sector of Software & Computer Services with a New Carhart 4-Factor Model

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Abstract

In this paper, we analyze the sector of Software and Computer Services with a new Carhart four-factor model. The US is the leading world market for this sector and this sector is a source of significant economic opportunity in US. We compare this sector in US, UK and China to find out whether the US phenomenon has been replicated by other industrialized countries. LR, KS and AIC are used for testing parameter restrictions, residual check and model comparison, respectively. MLE is used to estimate parameters via Matlab. Empirical results show the Carhart 4 factors are still alive! The new 4-factor model fits the data well and has better in-sample fit than that of Carhart (1997) [1] and Fama-French (1993) [2]. This sector in these 3 countries can not earn statistically significant extra Alpha returns. And the Beta value in this sector of US is close to the market.

Keywords

Carhart (1997) 4-Factor (C), Standardized Standard Asymmetric Exponential Power Distribution (SSAEPD), EGARCH

1. Introduction

Fama and French (1993) add two more factors such as Size factor and Book-to-market factor into the CAPM model and create a 3-factor model, which is capable to explain the stock returns better than the CAPM. Carhart (1997) finds the momentum factor has great effect on stock returns.

After Carhart (1997), many researches about Carhart 4-factor model have been done. And these researches can be divided into two groups. One group apply this model to different countries and show that this model has powerful explanation (see Panel A of **Table 1**). For example, this model can explain the stock markets well for Europe in Otten and Bams (2002) [3], China in Guan

(2011) [4], Netherlands in Lopez (2014) [5].

Others extend this model by finding new factors (see Panel B of **Table 1**). Fama and French (2012) [6] introduce local and global factors into model. Connor, Hagmann and Linton (2012) [7] find an own-volatility factor. Chai, Fall and Garghori (2013) [8] add Illiquidity factor. Garyn-Tal and Lauterbach (2015) [9] suggest U.S. or global factors to the local model and create a hybrid model. Bradrania, Peat and Satchell (2015) [10] consider Illiquidity factor and Idiosyncratic

Table 1. Researches about the carhart 4-factor model.

Author (Year)	Research Purpose	Model	Estimation Method	Computer Algorithm	Data		
					Country	Variables	Frequency & Period
Panel A: Empirical Applications of Carhart 4-factor Model							
Otten <i>et al.</i> (2002)	Empirical Tests	C	OLS	-	Europe	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M1991:1-1998:12
Gallagher <i>et al.</i> (2006) [13]	Empirical Analysis	C	Regression	-	Australia	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M1994:1:2-2001:12:31
Trimech <i>et al.</i> (2009) [14]	Empirical Tests	C	Wavelet Analysis	-	France	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M1985:11-2006:10
ÖNDEŞ <i>et al.</i> (2010) [15]	Model Comparision	FF, C	FIML	-	Turkey	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M1996:7-2009:12
Behr <i>et al.</i> (2011) [16]	Empirical Analysis	C	-	-	US	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M1963:7-2008:12
Guan (2011)	Empirical Tests	C	-	Eviews	China	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M2008:7-2010:12
Lopez (2014)	Model Comparision	CAPM, FF, C	TSR,CSR	-	Netherlands	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M2004:1-2014:1
Panel B: Extensions for Carhart 4-factor Model							
Fama <i>et al.</i> (2012)	Model Comparision	Local and Global C	Regression	-	Four Regions	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M1990:11-2011:3
Connor (2012)	Model Extension	FF, C, C with volatility	Kernel	-	US	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML, VOL	M1970-2007
Chai <i>et al.</i> (2013)	Model Extension	C with Illiquidity	OLS	-	Australia	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML, IML	M1982:1-2010:12
Garyn-Tal <i>et al.</i> (2015)	Model Comparision	Local and Hybrid C	Regression	-	Israel	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M2002:6-2013:7
Bradrania (2015)	Model Extension	C with Illiquidity and IV	TSR	-	US	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML, IML	D1958:1:1-2008:12:31
Mu(2015) [17]	Model Extension	C-SSAEPD-EGARCH	MLE	Matlab	US	Mkt, SMB, HML, WML	M1927:1-2014:12

Notes: “-” means that no information is available in this paper. Mkt = Market Premium. SMB = Small Size Minus Big Size. HML = High Book-to-market Minus Low Book-to-market. WML = Past Winner portfolios Minus Past Loser portfolios. FF = Fama Frech 3-factor model. C = Carhart 4 factor model. FIML = Information Maximum Likelihood. Four Regions= North America, Europe, Japan, and Asia Pacific. IML = Illiquid portfolios Minus Liquid portfolios. Hybrid C is adding U.S. or global factors to the local model. IV = Idiosyncratic Volatility.

Table 2. Researches about the software sector.

Author (Year)	Research Purpose	Data		
		Country	Variables	Frequency & Period
Chatzoglou (2000) [18]	profile of firms	US	size, concentration, investment, profitability, risk	Y1980-1994
Rubin (2002) [19]	US software industry	US	spending, quality, process, staffing, employees, revenue, net income	Y1997-2001
Arora (2002) [20]	contribution of software to economic	India	growth of export and domestic revenues, salaries	Y1984-1998
Kshetri (2005) [21]	major indicators	China, India	export, back-office services, annual PC sales	Y1996-2004
Storz (2008) [22]	earnings	Japans	sales, employees, place, year of start-up, type	-
Uzzafer (2010) [23]	financial tool for risk measurement	-	financial position, cost, VaR, ES	-
Genuchten (2012) [24]	compound annual growth rate	US	-	-

Notes: “-” means that no information is available in this paper. VaR = Value-at Risk. ES = Expected Shortfall. CMMI = Capability Maturity Model Integration. ROA = Return on Assets.

Volatility (IV) in value-weighted portfolios.

Our research falls into the 2nd group and tries to extend the 4-factor model in Carhart (1997). But different from previous researches, instead of introducing different factors, we use a non-normal error of SSAEPD proposed by Zhu and Zinde-Walsh (2009) [11], and the EGARCH-type volatility of Nelson (1991) [12]. We denote our new model as C-SSAEPD-EGARCH. SSAEPD is capable to show the skewness, fat tails and asymmetric kurtosis of data. Based on the new Carhart 4-factor model, we try to test following hypotheses:

1) With EGARCH-type volatilities in Nelson (1991) and non-normal errors of SSAEPD in Zhu and Zinde-Walsh (2009), are the Carhart 4 factors still alive in the sector of Software & Computer Services?

2) Can this new 4-factor model beat that of Carhart (1997)?

To answer these questions, we run simulation to test the MatLab program used in this paper. Then, the industry of the software & computer services in US, UK and China are analyzed¹. Data are downloaded from the Investing.com, and the sample period is from Nov. 1st, 2012 to Sept. 30th, 2015. Method of Maximum Likelihood Estimation is used to estimate the parameters. Likelihood Ratio test (LR) and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (KS) are used for model diagnostics. Akaike Information Criterion (AIC) is used for model comparison.

We find out the Carhart 4 factors are still alive! The EGARCH-type volatility can capture the excess kurtosis. The new model fits the data well and has better in-sample fit than Fama-French (1993)'s 3-factor model and Carhart (1997)'s 4-factor model in most cases. The industry of software & computer services in US, UK and China all cannot earn extra Alpha returns since the constant term in this new model is not statistically significant. This industry in US is similar to the market because the Beta coefficient (β_1) is close to 1.

The organization of this paper is as follows. The model and methodology are discussed in section 2. Empirical results and the model comparisons will be presented in section 3. Section 4 is the conclusions and future extensions.

2. Model and Methodology

2.1. C-SSAEPD-EGARCH Model

A new 4-factor model² is used to analyze the sector of software & computer services sector (denoted as C-SSAEPD-EGARCH)³.

$$R_t - R_{ft} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (R_{mt} - R_{ft}) + \beta_2 \text{SMB}_t + \beta_3 \text{HML}_t + \beta_4 \text{WML}_t + u_t, \quad (1)$$

$$u_t = \sigma_t z_t, z_t \sim \text{SSAEPD}(\alpha, p_1, p_2), t = 1, 2, \dots, T, \quad (2)$$

$$\ln(\sigma_t^2) = a + \sum_{i=1}^s g(z_{t-i}) + \sum_{j=1}^m b_j \ln(\sigma_{t-j}^2), \quad (3)$$

¹Researches about the software sector are listed in **Table 2**.

²This new model is first suggested in Mu (2014). The EGARCH-type volatility in Nelson (1991) and non-Normal error of SSAEPD in Zhu and Zinde-Walsh (2009) are considered in the new model. We first check the simulation and the empirical results in Mu (2014). Then, we re-run the simulation by setting other true parameters. The results are listed in Appendix 4.

³SSAEPD errors with zero mean and unit variance, instead of AEPD errors, are used to better focus on the EGARCH-type volatility.

$$g(z_{t-i}) = c_i z_{t-i} + d_i \left[|z_{t-i}| - E(|z_{t-i}|) \right],$$

$$= \begin{cases} (c_i + d_i) z_{t-i} - d_i E(|z_{t-i}|), & \text{if } z_{t-i} \geq 0 \\ (c_i - d_i) z_{t-i} - d_i E(|z_{t-i}|), & \text{else.} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where $\theta = (\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \alpha, p_1, p_2, a, \{b_j\}_{j=1}^m, \{c_i\}_{i=1}^s, \{d_i\}_{i=1}^s)$ are parameters to be estimated.

R_t is the rate of return for US, UK and China indices of software & computer services industry at time t . R_{ft} is the rate of return for the risk-free asset at time t . R_{mt} is the rate of return for the market at time t . SMB_t is the size factor, and stands for small market capitalization minus big market capitalization. HML_t is the value factor, and stands for high book-to-market ratio minus low book-to-market ratio. WML_t is the momentum factor, and stands for high prior return portfolios minus low prior return portfolios at time t .

$\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4$ are the coefficient parameters in the regression model. T is the sample size. σ_t is the conditional standard deviation, i.e., volatility. The error term z_t is distributed as the Standardized Standard Asymmetric Exponential Power Distribution (SSAEPD) proposed in Zhu and Zinde-Walsh (2009).

2.2. Carhart (1997) 4-Factor Model (C Model)

The 4-factor model proposed in Carhart (1997) is:

$$R_t - R_{ft} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (R_{mt} - R_{ft}) + \beta_2 SMB_t + \beta_3 HML_t + \beta_4 WML_t + u_t, \quad (5)$$

$$u_t = \sigma_t z_t, z_t \sim \text{Normal}(\mu, \sigma^2), t = 1, 2, \dots, T. \quad (6)$$

where $\theta = (\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3, \beta_4, \mu, \sigma)$ are parameters to be estimated in this model. Definitions of variables are the same as before.

2.3. SSAEPD

In the new model, the error term z_t is distributed as the Standardized Standard Asymmetric Exponential Power Distribution (SSAEPD) proposed in Zhu and Zinde-Walsh (2009). The probability density function (PDF) of z_t is:

$$f(z_t) = \begin{cases} \delta \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha^*} \right) K(p_1) \exp \left(-\frac{1}{p_1} \left| \frac{\omega + \delta z_t}{2\alpha^*} \right|^{p_1} \right), & \text{if } z_t \leq -\frac{\omega}{\delta}, \\ \delta \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{1-\alpha^*} \right) K(p_2) \exp \left(-\frac{1}{p_2} \left| \frac{\omega + \delta z_t}{2(1-\alpha^*)} \right|^{p_2} \right), & \text{if } z_t > -\frac{\omega}{\delta}, \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$z_t = \frac{x_t - \omega}{\delta},$$

$$\omega = E(x_t) = \frac{1}{B} \left[(1-\alpha)^2 \frac{p_2 \Gamma(2/p_2)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_2)} - \alpha^2 \frac{p_1 \Gamma(2/p_1)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_1)} \right], \quad (8)$$

$$\delta^2 = \text{Var}(x_t) = \frac{1}{B^2} \left[(1-\alpha)^3 \frac{p_2^2 \Gamma(3/p_2)}{\Gamma^3(1/p_2)} + \alpha^3 \frac{p_1^2 \Gamma(3/p_1)}{\Gamma^3(1/p_1)} \right] - \frac{1}{B^2} \left[(1-\alpha)^2 \frac{p_2 \Gamma(2/p_2)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_2)} - \alpha^2 \frac{p_1 \Gamma(2/p_1)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_1)} \right]^2, \quad (9)$$

$$K(p_1) = \frac{1}{2p_1^{1/p_1} \Gamma(1+1/p_1)}, \quad (10)$$

$$K(p_2) = \frac{1}{2p_2^{1/p_2} \Gamma(1+1/p_2)}, \quad (11)$$

$$B = \alpha K(p_1) + (1-\alpha) K(p_2). \quad (12)$$

x_t is distributed as the standard AEPD(SAEPD). And $\Gamma(\cdot)$ is the gamma function. $\alpha \in (0,1)$ is the skewness parameter. $p_1 > 0$ and $p_2 > 0$ are the left and right tail parameters, respectively. When $\alpha = 0.5$, $p_1 = p_2 = 2$, SSAEPD will be reduced to Standard Normal, *i.e.*, Normal (0,1).

2.4. MLE

We estimate the parameters in above models with the method of Maximum Likelihood Estimation (MLE). The maximum likelihood function of the model is

$$\begin{aligned} L\left(\{R_t - R_{ft}, R_{mt} - R_{ft}\}_{t=1}^T; \theta\right) \\ = \prod_{t=1}^T f(R_t - R_{ft}) \\ = \prod_{t=1}^T \begin{cases} \frac{\delta}{\sigma_t} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha^*}\right) K(p_1) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_1} \left|\frac{\omega + \delta z_t}{2\alpha^*}\right|^{p_1}\right), & z_t \leq -\frac{\omega}{\delta}, \\ \frac{\delta}{\sigma_t} \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{1-\alpha^*}\right) K(p_2) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_2} \left|\frac{\omega + \delta z_t}{2(1-\alpha^*)}\right|^{p_2}\right), & z_t > -\frac{\omega}{\delta}. \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

where

$$z_t = \frac{R_t - R_{ft} - \beta_0 - \beta_1(R_{mt} - R_{ft}) - \beta_2 \text{SMB}_t - \beta_3 \text{HML}_t - \beta_4 \text{WML}_t}{\sigma_t}, \quad (14)$$

$$\ln(\sigma_t^2) = a + \sum_{i=1}^s g(z_{t-i}) + \sum_{j=1}^m b_j \ln(\sigma_{t-j}^2), \quad (15)$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(z_{t-i}) &= c_i z_{t-i} + d_i \left[|z_{t-i}| - E(|z_{t-i}|) \right], \\ &= \begin{cases} (c_i + d_i) z_{t-i} - d_i E(|z_{t-i}|), & \text{if } z_{t-i} \geq 0, \\ (c_i - d_i) z_{t-i} - d_i E(|z_{t-i}|), & \text{else.} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

3. Empirical Analysis

3.1. Data

In this paper, the sector of Software and Computer Services (SCS) is analyzed. Daily data are downloaded from the Investing.com⁴. 4 factors are downloaded from French's Data Library⁵. Sample period is from Nov. 1st, 2012 to Sept. 30th, 2015. Three indices of Software and Computer Services (SCS) for US, UK and P. R. China are compared. To eliminate the heteroscedasticity we calculate the log returns of these indices by following formula:

⁴For more detail, one can refer to Appendix 1.

⁵Data source is http://mba.tuck.dartmouth.edu/pages/faculty/ken.french/data_library.html

$$r_i = 100 \left(\ln \frac{P_{i,t}}{P_{i,t-1}} \right), i = 1, 2, 3, \tag{17}$$

where $p_{i,t}$, $p_{i,t-1}$ are the prices of these indices i at time t and $t-1$, respectively.

Table 3 lists the descriptive statistics by Matlab⁶. The values of skewness are not equal to 0 and those of Kurtosis are not 3. Especially, kurtosis values are all greater than 3. P-values of JB tests are 0, which are smaller than 0.05. That mean, under 5% significance level, we can reject the null hypothesis and conclude that data do not follow Normal distribution and non-Normal error of SSAEPD may be proper.

3.2. Estimation Results

The estimates are listed in **Table 4**. For the new model, the Alpha returns for all

Table 3. Descriptive statistics (2012:11:01 to 2015:09:30, Daily).

	Mean	Med.	Max.	Min.	St.De.	Ske.	Kur.	P
US	0.06	0.06	5.03	-4.32	1.01	-0.25	5.31	0.00
China	0.12	0.21	8.37	-9.68	2.63	-0.54	4.64	0.00
UK	0.07	0.04	4.37	-3.16	0.98	0.37	4.62	0.00
ME	0.06	0.11	3.68	-3.90	0.81	-0.43	5.11	0.00
SMB	0.00	0.02	1.79	-1.57	0.47	0.03	3.92	0.00
HML	-0.01	-0.03	2.06	-1.32	0.39	0.52	5.43	0.00
WML	0.04	0.05	1.99	-2.64	0.58	-0.37	4.59	0.00

Notes: Med. = Median, Max. = Maximum, Min. = Minimum. St.De. = Standard Deviation, Ske. = Skewness, Kur. = Kurtosis, P = P-value of Jarque-Bera Test. ME = Market Excess Return, SMB=Small minus Big, HML = High minus Low, WML = Momentum Factor. The null hypothesis of JB test is $H_0\{0\}$: Data are distributed as Normal (0,1).

Table 4. Estimates.

	β_0	β_1	β_2	β_3	β_4	α	p_1	p_2	μ	σ	a	b	c	d
Panel A: C-SSAEPD-EGARCH														
UK	0.04*	0.44*	0.05*	0.07*	0.18*	0.42*	1.50*	1.50*	-	-	-0.09*	0.56*	0.05*	0.24*
US	-0.01*	1.08*	-0.09*	-0.37*	-0.03*	0.51*	1.50*	1.50*	-	-	-1.71*	-0.17*	-0.11*	0.48*
China	0.15*	0.21*	0.22*	-0.21*	-0.02*	0.51*	1.40*	1.80*	-	-	0.13*	0.93*	0.01*	0.31*
Panel B: C-Normal														
UK	0.04*	0.42*	0.09*	0.15*	0.20*	-	-	-	0.00	0.90	-	-	-	-
US	-0.01*	1.07*	-0.10*	-0.48*	-0.04*	-	-	-	0.00	0.48	-	-	-	-
China	0.11*	0.35*	0.20*	-0.26*	-0.35*	-	-	-	0.00	2.61	-	-	-	-
Panel C: FF-Normal														
UK	0.05*	0.44*	0.09*	0.01*	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.91	-	-	-	-
US	-0.01*	1.06*	-0.10*	-0.45*	-	-	-	-	0.00	0.48	-	-	-	-
China	0.10*	0.31*	0.21*	-0.03*	-	-	-	-	0.00	2.61	-	-	-	-

Notes: C-Normal is the model used in Carhart (1997). FF-Normal is the model used in Fama-French (1993).

⁶Excess returns are got by portfolio returns minus the risk free rate.

data are small. The Alpha return in China is 0.15, much higher than those in UK and US. And the values of Beta (β_1) for US are the largest and those for China are the smallest. Especially about US, the values of β_1 for all models are very close to 1, which indicates that US software and computer services sector is similar to the market. SSAEPD can capture the fat-tailness and asymmetric kurtosis in the data. All values of p_1, p_2 are smaller than 2 and that of α are not equal to 0.5. Furthermore, we find out the EGARCH term can better capture the excess kurtosis than non-Normal error. For 4 factor models, their estimates are very close to those of 3 factor models.

3.2.1. Carhart 4-Factor Still Alive

- Significant Tests for Parameter Restrictions

Likelihood Ratio test (LR)⁷ is used to test the significance of regressors in these models. The P-values for LR tests are listed in **Table 5**.

We find out with non-Normal errors such as SSAEPD and EGARCH-type volatilities, the Carhart 4 factors are still alive in the sector of Software & Computer Services. Panel A of **Table 5** lists the results for the C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model. For example, the null hypothesis of the joint significance test is $H_0 : \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$ and the P-values of the joint significance test for UK, US and China are all approximately equal to 0, which means the coefficient of $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ and β_4 are statistically joint significance under 5% level. The individual significance tests show UK and US coefficient β_1 is statistically significant. That is, market returns have significant effect on this sector returns of UK

Table 5. P-values of likelihood ratio test (LR).

	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T7	T8	T9	T10	T11	T12	T13	T14	T15
Panel A: C-SSAEPD-EGARCH															
UK	0*	0.65	0*	0.98	0.81	0.66	0*	0.25	0*	0*	0.01*	0.09	0.13	0.92	0.03*
US	0*	0.99	0*	0.35	0*	0.87	0*	0.89	0*	0*	0*	0*	0.73	0.83	0*
China	0*	0.35	0.77	0.56	0.92	0.99	0*	0.99	0*	1	0*	0*	0*	0.99	0*
Panel B: C-Normal															
UK	0*	1	0*	0.84	0.74	0.09	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
US	0*	1	0*	0.19	0*	0.83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	0.02*	1	0.10	0.94	0.94	0.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panel C: FF-Normal															
UK	0*	1	1	1.00	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
US	1	1	0*	0.87	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	1	1	1	1.00	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes: T1 means $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$ for Panel A and B; T1 means $H_0: \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$ for Panel C; T2 means $H_0: \beta_0 = 0$; T3 means $H_0: \beta_1 = 0$; T4 means $H_0: \beta_2 = 0$; T5 means $H_0: \beta_3 = 0$; T6 means $H_0: \beta_4 = 0$; T7 means $H_0: \alpha = 0.5, p_1 = p_2 = 2$; T8 means $H_0: \alpha = 0.5$; T9 means $H_0: p_1 = 2$; T10 means $H_0: p_2 = 2$; T11 means $H_0: a = b = c = d = 0$; T12 means $H_0: a = 0$; T13 means $H_0: b = 0$; T14 means $H_0: c = 0$; T15 means $H_0: d = 0$; *means the null hypothesis is rejected under 5% significance level.

⁷LR formula is from Neyman and Pearson (1993). The equation is:
 $LR = -2 \ln(\text{likelihood for null}) + 2 \ln(\text{likelihood for alternative}).$

and US. This sector in these 3 countries all don't have a statistically significant coefficient β_0 under 5% significance level which means they cannot earn statistically significant Alpha returns. Non-Normality is confirmed (see column T7). ARCH and GARCH terms should be added into Carhart 4-factor model since they are all statistically significant (see column T11).

- Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test for Residuals

We check the residuals for models with Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (KS). The P-values of KS test are listed in **Table 6**, which shows only the residuals of the new Carhart 4-factor model passes the residual diagnostics.

3.2.2. Model Comparison

We compare the models with AIC (see **Table 7**). C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model have smaller values, which means the new model is better than Carhart 4-factor and Fama-French 3-factor.

Table 6. P-values of KS test.

model	C-SSAEPD-EGARCH	C-Normal	F-Normal
UK	0.62	0.00	0.00
US	0.37	0.00	0.00
China	0.91	0.00	0.00

Note: The null hypothesis of KS test is H0: Data follow a specified distribution. We set the significance level of all tests at 5%. If the P-value of KS test is bigger than 5%, then we do not reject the null hypothesis. Otherwise, we reject the null hypothesis. For example, we apply KS test for the C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model residuals with the null hypothesis of H0: C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model residuals are distributed as SSAEPD ($\hat{\alpha}, \hat{p}_1, \hat{p}_2$). For US, its P-value is 0.37, which is bigger than 0.05. That means, under 5% significance level, we cannot reject the null hypothesis and conclude that the residuals from C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model follow SSAEPD.

Table 7. AIC values.

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M8	M9	M10	M11	M12	M13	M14	M15	M16
Panel A: C-SSAEPD-EGARCH																
UK	2.59*	2.60	2.75	2.59	2.60	2.60	2.83	2.64	2.60	2.63	2.63	2.61	2.60	2.60	2.61	2.61
US	1.29*	1.29	2.74	1.30	1.41	1.29	3.17	1.38	1.29	1.38	1.34	1.81	1.30	1.29	2.59	1.48
China	4.50*	4.51	4.50	4.51	4.50	4.50	4.51	4.53	4.50	4.52	4.50	4.62	5.88	4.50	4.66	5.99
Panel B: C-Normal																
UK	2.65*	2.65	2.78	2.65	2.65	2.66	2.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
US	1.41*	1.41	2.79	1.42	1.51	1.41	2.88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	4.77*	4.77	4.78	4.77	4.77	4.78	4.79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panel C: FF-Normal																
UK	2.66*	2.66	2.80	2.66	2.66	-	2.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
US	1.41*	1.41	2.81	1.42	1.52	-	2.87	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
China	4.78*	4.78	4.78	4.78	4.78	-	4.79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes: *marks the smallest AIC value for each return. For Panel A, B and C, M1 means C-SSAEPD-EGARCH, C-Normal or FF-Normal. M2 means M1 with $\beta_0 = 0$. M3 means M1 with $\beta_1 = 0$. M4 means M1 with $\beta_2 = 0$. M5 means M1 with $\beta_3 = 0$. M6 means M1 with $\beta_4 = 0$. M7 means M1 with $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = \beta_4 = 0$ for Panel A and B. M7 means M1 with $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_3 = 0$ for Panel C. M8 means M1 with $\alpha = 0.5, p_1 = p_2 = 2$. M9 means M1 with $\alpha = 0.5$. M10 means M1 with $p_1 = 2$. M11 means M1 with $p_2 = 2$. M12 means M1 with $a = 0$. M13 means M1 with $b = 0$. M14 means M1 with $c = 0$. M15 means M1 with $d = 0$. M16 means M1 with $a = b = c = d = 0$.

4. Conclusion and Future Extensions

In this paper, sector of the software and computer services is studied. A new Carhart 4-factor model (denoted as C-SSAEPD-EGARCH) is empirically tested using data in US, UK and China. This new model uses the non-normal error term of SSAEPD of Zhu and Zinde-Walsh (2009) and EGARCH type volatility of Nelson (1991) to extend the 4 factor model of Carhart (1997). Software sector indices from Investing.com are analyzed. Sample period is Nov. 1st, 2012 to Sept. 30th, 2015. Likelihood Ratio test (LR) is used for parameter restriction test, Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (KS) for residual check and AIC for model comparison. Maximum Likelihood Estimation method (MLE) is used to estimate models via MatLab.

Empirical results show: 1) with EGARCH-type volatilities and non-normal errors, the Carhart 4 factors are still alive in US! 2) The new model fits the data well and has better in-sample fit than Fama-French (1993)'s 3-factor and Carhart(1997)'s 4-factor model. 4) Software & computer services sector cannot earn extra Alpha returns in US, UK and China. 5) The Beta coefficients of the US are close to 1.

Future extensions will include but not limited to follow. First, we can construct a new index for software & computer services sector. Secondly, the markets in other different countries can be compared. Lastly, the new model can be compared with other models such as Fama-French (2015) 5-factor.

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Appendix 1. Data Sources

The indices about Software and Computer Services are obtained from the Investing.com.

- 1) Dow Jones (DJUSSV), 2012:11:01-2015:09:30.
- 2) FTSE 350 (TRINMX9530), 2012:11:01-2015:09:30, 2003:10-2015:10.
- 3) FTSE China A 600 (FTXIN49530), 2012:11:01-2015:09:30.

US, UK and China have different festivals. For example, China stock market is closed during China Spring Festival while US and UK stock markets are still trading. Hence, we delete all the missing data and get 674 sets of data.

Appendix 2. SSAEPD

According to Zhu and Zinde-Walsh (2009), the AEPD density has following form⁸:

$$f_{\text{AEPD}}(x) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha^*}\right) \frac{1}{\sigma} K(p_1) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_1} \left|\frac{x-\mu}{2\alpha^*\sigma}\right|^{p_1}\right), & \text{if } x \leq \mu, \\ \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{1-\alpha^*}\right) \frac{1}{\sigma} K(p_2) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_2} \left|\frac{x-\mu}{2(1-\alpha^*)\sigma}\right|^{p_2}\right), & \text{if } x > \mu. \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

where $\theta = (\alpha, p_1, p_2, \mu, \sigma)$ is the parameter vector. $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ and $\sigma > 0$ represent location and scale, respectively⁹. $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ is the skewness parameter. $p_1 > 0$ and $p_2 > 0$ are the left and the right tail parameters, respectively. $K(p)$ and α^* are defined as

$$K(p) = \frac{1}{2p^{1/p}\Gamma(1+1/p)}, \quad (20)$$

$$\alpha^* = \frac{\alpha K(p_1)}{\alpha K(p_1) + (1-\alpha)K(p_2)}. \quad (21)$$

If we set the location parameter $\mu = 0$ and the scale parameter $\sigma = 1$, then we say X is a random variable distributed as Standard AEPD, denote it as $X \sim \text{SAEPD}(\alpha, p_1, p_2, 0, 1)$. Its PDF¹⁰, mean and variance are

⁸A convenient reparametrization of Equation (19) is obtained by rescaling, where

$$f_{\text{AEPD}}(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_1} \left|\frac{x-\mu}{2\alpha\sigma K(p_1)}\right|^{p_1}\right), & \text{if } x \leq \mu, \\ \frac{1}{\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_2} \left|\frac{x-\mu}{2(1-\alpha)\sigma K(p_2)}\right|^{p_2}\right), & \text{if } x > \mu. \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

$$\theta = (\alpha, p_1, p_2, \mu, \sigma)$$

⁹In this case, μ and σ are not the notations for the population mean and the population standard variance.

¹⁰A convenient reparametrization of Equation (19) is obtained by rescaling, where

$$f_{\text{SAEPD}}(x) = \begin{cases} \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_1} \left|\frac{x}{2\alpha K(p_1)}\right|^{p_1}\right), & \text{if } x \leq 0, \\ \exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_2} \left|\frac{x}{2(1-\alpha)K(p_2)}\right|^{p_2}\right), & \text{if } x > 0. \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

$$\theta = (\alpha, p_1, p_2, 0, 1)$$

$$f_{\text{SAEPD}}(x) = \begin{cases} \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha^*}\right)K(p_1)\exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_1}\left|\frac{x}{2\alpha^*}\right|^{p_1}\right), & \text{if } x \leq 0, \\ \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{1-\alpha^*}\right)K(p_2)\exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_2}\left|\frac{x}{2(1-\alpha^*)}\right|^{p_2}\right), & \text{if } x > 0, \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

$$E(X) = \frac{1}{B} \left[(1-\alpha)^2 \frac{p_2 \Gamma(2/p_2)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_2)} - \alpha^2 \frac{p_1 \Gamma(2/p_1)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_1)} \right], \quad (24)$$

$$\text{Var}(X) = \frac{1}{B^2} \left\{ (1-\alpha)^3 \frac{p_2^2 \Gamma(3/p_2)}{\Gamma^3(1/p_2)} + \alpha^2 \frac{p_1^2 \Gamma(3/p_1)}{\Gamma^3(1/p_1)} - \left[(1-\alpha) \frac{p_2 \Gamma(2/p_2)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_2)} - \alpha^2 \frac{p_1 \Gamma(2/p_1)}{\Gamma^2(1/p_1)} \right]^2 \right\}. \quad (25)$$

Then, if we standardize X with its mean and standard deviation, We can get $Z = \frac{X - E(X)}{\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}}$, which we call Standardized Standard AEPD (SSAEPD). The PDF of Z can be got by transformation.

$$f_{\text{SSAEPD}}(Z) = |J| f_{\text{SAEPD}}\left(E(X) + Z\sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}\right), \quad (26)$$

$$= \delta f_{\text{SAEPD}}(\omega + Z\delta). \quad (27)$$

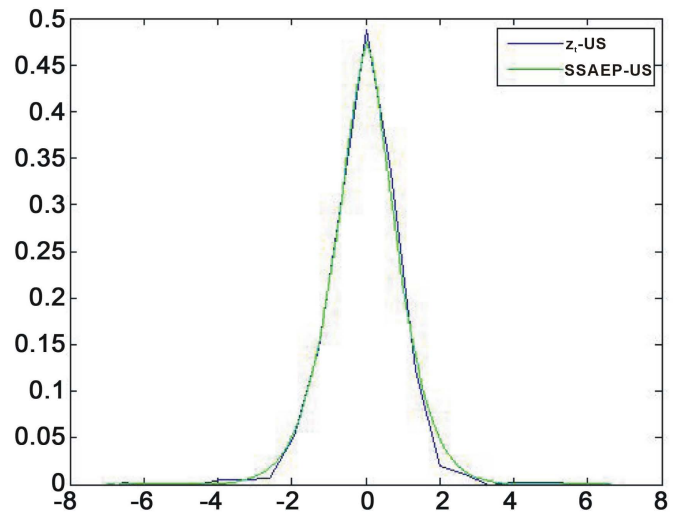
where $\omega = E(X), \delta = \sqrt{\text{Var}(X)}$. We can get the probability density function (PDF) of the SSAEPD

$$f_{\text{SSAEPD}}(z) = \begin{cases} \delta \left(\frac{\alpha}{\alpha^*}\right)K(p_1)\exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_1}\left|\frac{\omega + z\delta}{2\alpha^*}\right|^{p_1}\right), & \text{if } z \leq -\frac{\omega}{\delta}, \\ \delta \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{1-\alpha^*}\right)K(p_2)\exp\left(-\frac{1}{p_2}\left|\frac{\omega + z\delta}{2(1-\alpha^*)}\right|^{p_2}\right), & \text{if } z > -\frac{\omega}{\delta}. \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

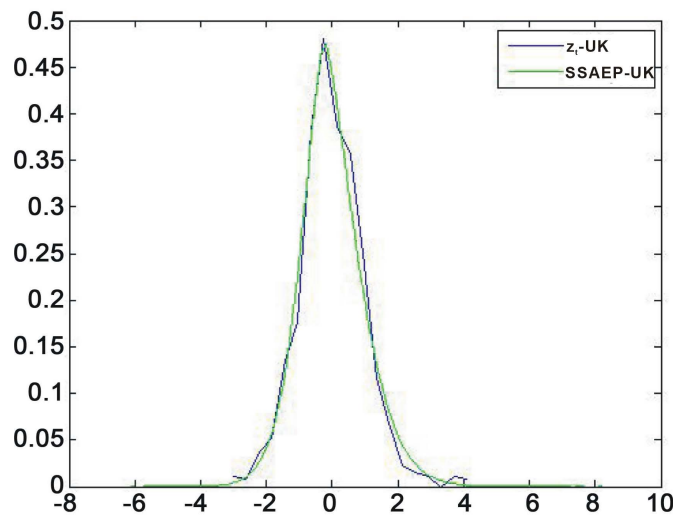
$E(z) = 0, \text{Var}(z) = 1$. With $\alpha = 0.5, p_1 = p_2 = 2$, SSAEPD reduces to Normal (0,1).

Appendix 3. Probability Density Function (PDF) for Model Reduals

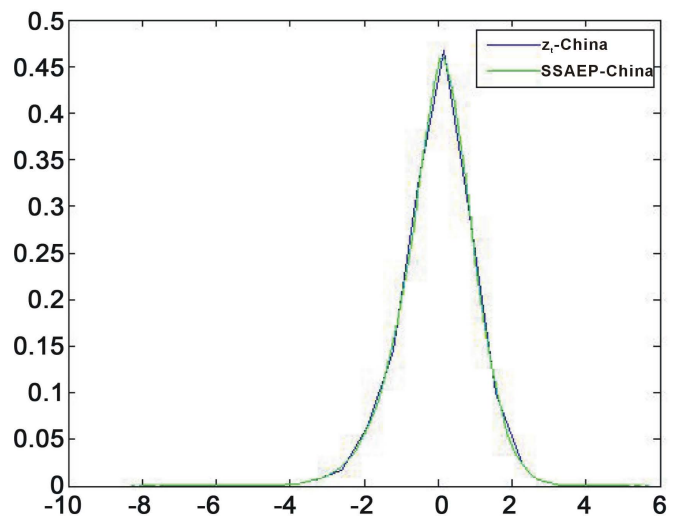
We draw PDFs of model residuals and compare them with theoretical PDFs such as SSAEPD and Normal, respectively. For C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model, the comparisons of PDFs between reduals \hat{z}_t and SSAEPD ($\hat{\alpha}, \hat{p}_1, \hat{p}_2$) are plotted in **Figure 1**. These two curves are very close to each others for UK, China and US, respectively. Therefore, by method of “eye-rolling”, we conclude the new model fit data well. **Figure 2** and **Figure 3** show the comparisons of PDFs between reduals \hat{u}_t and Normal ($\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma}$) for Carhart 4-factor model and Fama-French 3-factor model respectively. These differences are larger than those in **Figure 1**, which further show that the new model fit data better.



(a) PDF for US

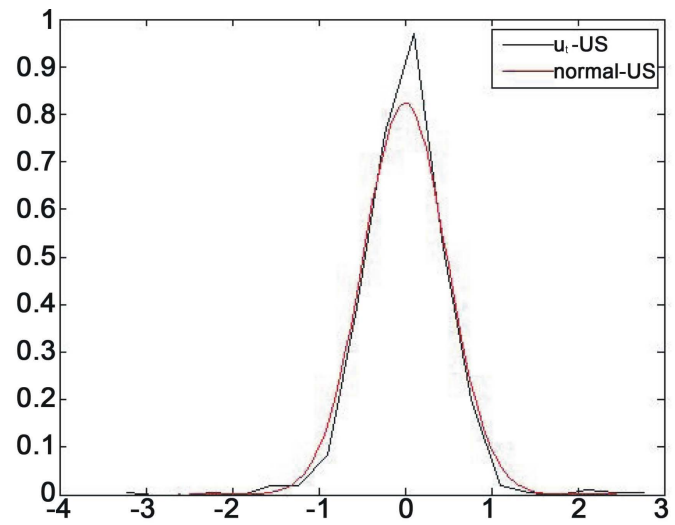


(b) PDF for UK

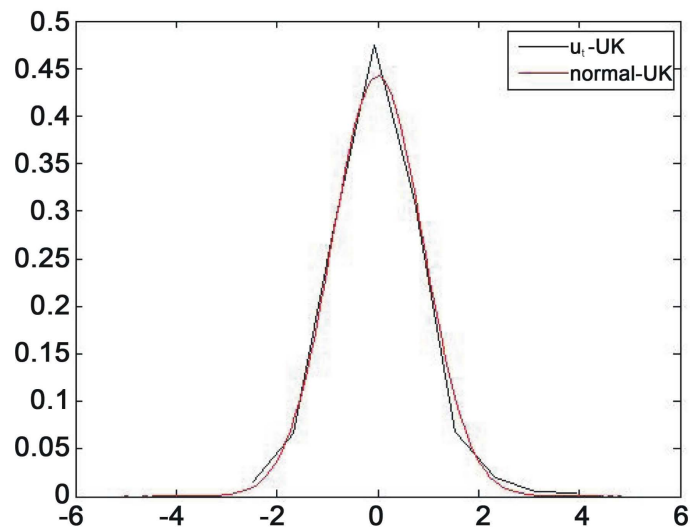


(c) PDF for China

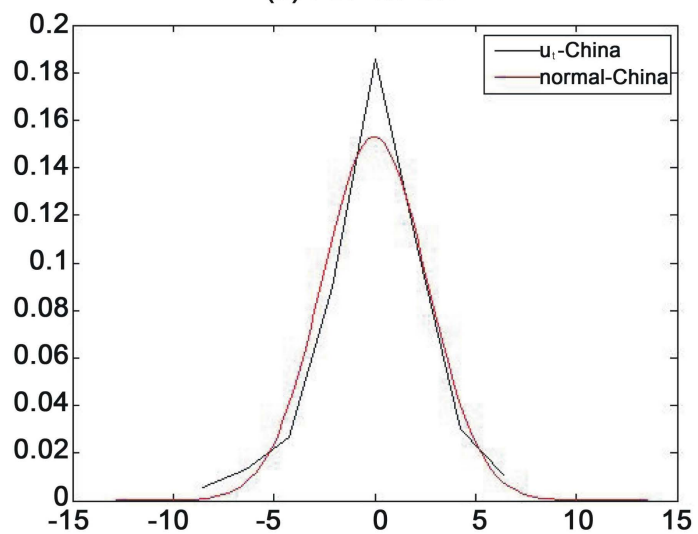
Figure 1. PDFs for reduals \hat{z}_t and SSAEPD $(\hat{\alpha}, \hat{\rho}_1, \hat{\rho}_2)$, C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model.



(a) PDF for US



(b) PDF for UK



(c) PDF for China

Figure 2. PDFs for residuals \hat{u}_i and Normal $(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma})$, Carhart 4-factor model.

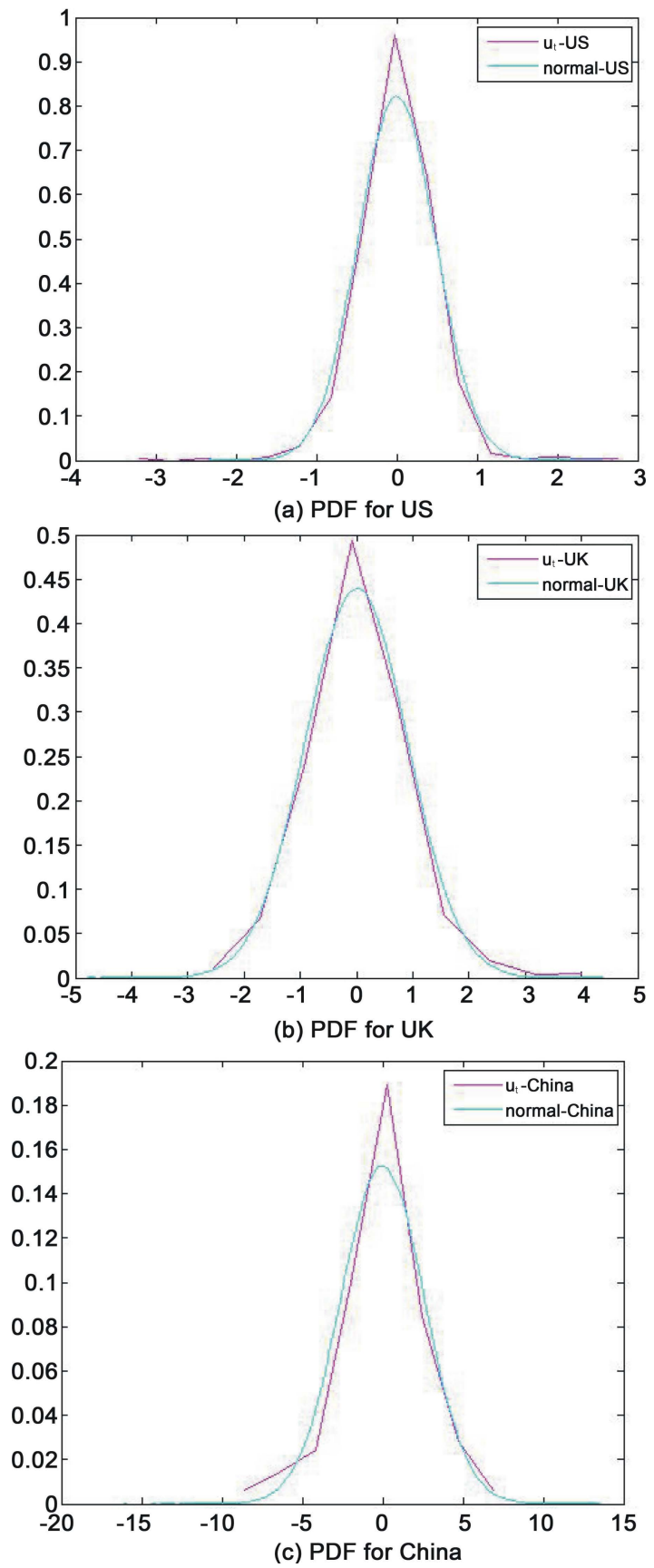


Figure 3. PDFs for residuals \hat{u}_t and Normal $(\hat{\mu}, \hat{\sigma})$, Fama-French 3-factor model.

Appendix 4. Simulation Results for C-SSAEPD-EGARCH Model

In this section, we simulate the data and analyze the results to confirm that the program in MatLab is valid¹¹. The C-SSAEPD-EGARCH (1,1) model is simulated as follows.

$$R_t - R_{ft} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (R_{mt} - R_{ft}) + \beta_2 \text{SMB}_t + \beta_3 \text{HML}_t + \beta_4 \text{WML}_t + u_t, t = 1, 2, \dots, T, \quad (29)$$

$$u_t = \sigma_t z_t, z_t \sim \text{SSAEPD}(\alpha, p_1, p_2), \quad (30)$$

$$\ln(\sigma_t^2) = a + g(z_{t-1}) + b \ln(\sigma_{t-1}^2), \quad (31)$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(z_{t-1}) &= cz_{t-1} + d \left[|z_{t-1}| - E(|z_{t-1}|) \right] \\ &= \begin{cases} (c+d)z_{t-1} - dE(|z_{t-1}|), & \text{if } z_{t-1} \geq 0 \\ (c-d)z_{t-1} - dE(|z_{t-1}|), & \text{else.} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

We choose $\beta_0 = 0.4, \beta_1 = 0.4, \beta_2 = 0.6, \beta_3 = 0.8, \beta_4 = 0.5, \alpha = 0.5, p_1 = p_2 = 2, a = 0.8, b = 0.2, c = 0.5, d = 0.5$ as the true values of the parameters. The data generation process (DGP) has following steps.

1) Given $\alpha = 0.5, p_1 = p_2 = 2$, we can generate SSAEPD random number series $\{z_t\}_{t=1}^T$ ¹².

2) Set the initial value $\sigma_0^2 = 1, z_t = 1$, and given $a = 0.8, b = 0.2, c = 0.5, d = 0.5$, we can generate $\{\sigma_t^2\}_{t=1}^T$ and $\{u_t\}_{t=1}^T$, with the following formula:

$$\begin{aligned} g(z_{t-1}) &= cz_{t-1} + d \left[|z_{t-1}| - E(|z_{t-1}|) \right] \\ &= \begin{cases} (c+d)z_{t-1} - dE(|z_{t-1}|), & \text{if } z_{t-1} \geq 0 \\ (c-d)z_{t-1} - dE(|z_{t-1}|), & \text{else.} \end{cases} \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

$$\ln(\sigma_t^2) = a + g(z_{t-1}) + b \ln(\sigma_{t-1}^2), \quad (34)$$

$$u_t = \sigma_t z_t. \quad (35)$$

3) Generate random number series $\{X_{1t}\}_{t=1}^T, \{X_{2t}\}_{t=1}^T, \{X_{3t}\}_{t=1}^T, \{X_{4t}\}_{t=1}^T$ from Uniform(0,1).

4) Set $\beta_0 = 0.4, \beta_1 = 0.4, \beta_2 = 0.6, \beta_3 = 0.8, \beta_4 = 0.5$, and we can get $\{Y_t\}_{t=1}^T$, with the following formula:

$$Y_t = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_{1t} + \beta_2 X_{2t} + \beta_3 X_{3t} + \beta_4 X_{4t} + u_t, t = 1, 2, \dots, T. \quad (36)$$

After getting the simulated data $\{X_{1t}, X_{2t}, X_{3t}, X_{4t}, Y_t\}_{t=1}^T$, we estimate the parameters in the C-SSAEPD-EGARCH model. The simulation results are reported in **Table 8**. The estimates from MatLab program are

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_0 = 0.3726, \beta_1 = 0.3988, \beta_2 = 0.5841, \beta_3 = 0.8607, \beta_4 = 0.4932, \alpha = 0.5000, \\ p_1 = 2.0004, p_2 = 2.0003, a = 0.8178, b = 0.1894, c = 0.5224, d = 0.5334 \end{aligned}$$

which are very close to the true values of the parameters. For robustness exam, we also change the true values of the parameters and redo the simulation and estimation. All the simulation and estimation show the estimates are very closed to the true values of the parameters, since all error are equal to or less than -25%.

¹¹This MatLab program is written by Mu (2014).

¹²For the method to generate SSAEPD random variable, one can refer to Li, Tian and Zhen (2011).

Table 8. Simulation results.

	β_0	β_1	β_2	β_3	β_4	α	p1	p2	a	b	c	d
T	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	2	2	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.5
E	0.3726	0.3988	0.5841	0.8607	0.4932	0.5000	2.0004	2.0003	0.8178	0.1894	0.5224	0.5334
P	6.86%	0.29%	2.65%	-7.59%	1.35%	0.00%	-0.02%	-0.01%	-2.23%	5.29%	-4.48%	-6.67%
T	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	2.2	2.2	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.5
E	0.3812	0.4139	0.6067	0.8207	0.5078	0.5000	2.0000	2.0000	0.8040	0.2072	0.4997	0.4969
P	4.69%	-3.47%	-1.11%	-2.59%	-1.56%	0.00%	9.09%	9.09%	-0.50%	-3.59%	-0.06%	0.61%
T	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	2	2	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.5
E	0.4352	0.3886	0.6135	0.8003	0.4273	0.5000	2.0000	2.0000	0.8010	0.2015	0.5078	0.4854
P	-8.80%	-2.85%	-2.26%	-0.04%	14.55%	16.67%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.13%	-0.76%	-1.56%	2.92%
T	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.4	2	2	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.5
E	0.3410	0.5027	0.5344	0.5232	0.8461	0.5000	2.0000	1.9994	0.7919	0.2042	0.5122	0.4891
P	14.75%	-0.53%	-6.89%	-4.64%	-5.76%	-25.00%	0.00%	0.03%	1.01%	-2.10%	-2.44%	2.17%
T	0.6	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	2	2	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.5
E	0.5850	0.4194	0.6900	0.8004	0.4666	0.5000	1.9999	2.0000	0.8129	0.1944	0.5110	0.5046
P	2.50%	-4.86%	-15.00%	-0.05%	6.68%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-1.62%	2.79%	-2.20%	-0.91%
T	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	2	2	1.5	0.2	0.5	0.5
E	0.3022	0.4876	0.5881	0.8504	0.5868	0.5000	2.0000	1.9999	1.5154	0.1904	0.4940	0.4798
P	24.46%	-21.91%	-1.99%	-6.30%	-17.35%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-1.02%	4.82%	1.20%	4.03%
T	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	2	2	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.5
E	0.4304	0.3809	0.6067	0.7838	0.5133	0.5000	2.0002	2.0001	0.8090	0.6013	0.5165	0.5135
P	-7.59%	4.77%	-1.12%	2.03%	-2.65%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-1.33%	-0.22%	-3.31%	-2.70%
T	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	2	2	0.8	0.2	0.6	0.5
E	0.3313	0.3850	0.6394	0.8438	0.5452	0.5000	2.0000	2.0000	0.8041	0.1906	0.6023	0.4796
P	17.19%	3.75%	-6.57%	-5.47%	-9.04%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.51%	4.71%	-0.38%	4.08%
T	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.5	2	2	0.8	0.2	0.5	0.6
E	0.4011	0.4294	0.5951	0.7737	0.4767	0.5001	2.0003	2.0004	0.7940	0.1974	0.5099	0.5715
P	-0.28%	-7.36%	0.82%	3.29%	4.65%	-0.01%	-0.01%	-0.02%	0.74%	1.29%	-1.99%	4.75%

Notes: T means the true value of parameters. E means the estimates. P means the error in percentage.

Hence, we conclude the MatLab program can be applied to estimate and analyze empirical data for C-SSAEPD-EGARCH.

Appendix 5. US 4 Factors and Global 4 Factors

In this section, we compare the US 4 factors and the Global 4 factors. Data are downloaded from the French Data Library. Because of data availability, we only analyze the monthly data for UK software & computer services sector. **Table 9** shows the descriptive statistics of US 4 factors are close to those of Global 4 factors, which shows the strong global effects of US stock market. Estimates in the

Table 9. Descriptive statistics.

	Mean	Med.	Max.	Min.	St.De.	Ske.	Kur.	P
Panel A: 2003:10 to 2015:10, monthly								
UK	0.97	1.10	14.35	-19.51	5.53	-0.60	4.65	0.00
Global ME	0.66	1.24	11.42	-19.46	4.50	-0.87	5.51	0.00
Global SMB	0.04	-0.16	3.84	-3.52	1.51	0.04	2.60	0.50
Global HML	0.10	0.10	4.34	-4.79	1.58	-0.12	3.44	0.40
Global WML	0.48	0.66	9.22	-23.89	3.40	-2.80	20.74	0.00
US ME	0.69	1.35	11.35	-17.23	4.19	-0.72	4.94	0.00
US SMB	0.12	-0.03	5.79	-4.25	2.29	0.15	2.50	0.29
US HML	0.09	-0.03	7.65	-9.67	2.31	-0.33	5.30	0.00
US WML	0.13	0.35	12.45	-34.58	4.66	-2.98	23.28	0.00

Note: The null hypothesis of JB test is H0: Data are distributed as Normal (0, 1).

Table 10. Estimates.

	β_0	β_1	β_2	β_3	β_4	α	p1	p2	μ	σ	a	b	c	d
Panel A: C-SSAEPD-EGARCH														
UK in Global	0.59*	0.72*	0.44*	-0.39*	-0.14*	0.45*	1.79*	1.78*	-	-	0.60*	0.79*	0.12*	0.16*
UK in US	0.36*	0.78*	0.20*	-0.31*	-0.08*	0.49*	1.70*	1.70*	-	-	0.51*	0.41*	0.13*	0.32*
Panel B: C-Normal														
UK in Global	0.44*	0.76*	0.45*	-0.40*	-0.12*	-	-	-	0.00	4.25	-	-	-	-
UK in US	0.33*	0.81*	0.26*	-0.45*	-0.13*	-	-	-	0.00	4.11	-	-	-	-
Panel C: FF-Normal														
UK in Global	0.36*	0.78*	0.43*	-0.33*	-	-	-	-	0.00	4.27	-	-	-	-
UK in US	0.28*	0.85*	0.23*	-0.37*	-	-	-	-	0.00	4.14	-	-	-	-

Note: C-Normal is the model used in Carhart (1997). FF-Normal is the model used in Fama-French (1993).

Table 11. P-values of KS test.

model	C-SSAEPD-EGARCH	C-Normal	F-Normal
UK in Global	0.48	0.00	0.00
UK in US	0.58	0.00	0.00

Note: The null hypothesis of KS test is H0: Data follow a specified distribution. We set the significance level of all tests at 5%. If the P-value of KS test is bigger than 5%, then we do not reject the null hypothesis. Otherwise, we reject the null hypothesis.

Table 12. AIC values.

model	C-SSAEPD-EGARCH	C-Normal	F-Normal
UK in Global	6.15	5.83	5.82*
UK in US	5.88	5.76*	5.76*

Note: *marks the smallest AIC value for each return.

mean equation (Table 10) are all statistically significant. P-value of KS test (Table 11) results shows all models pass the residual test. Table 12 shows Fama-French (1993)'s 3 factor model is better with the lowest AIC values.

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