Gold Prices, Oil Prices and US Stock Market Indices: Volatility Transmissions and Hedging Strategies Using VAR-GARCH



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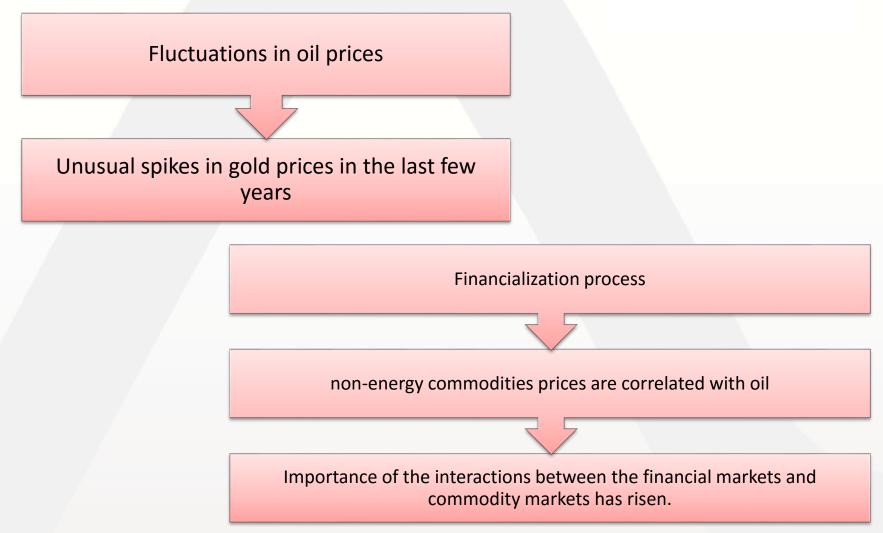
- Introduction
- Estimation Process
- Data
- Results
- Conclusion



- Role of Gold in Macroeconomic World
  - Central banks and international financial institutions maintain gold for:
    - Diversification
    - Economic Security
    - Insurance against market crisis
  - Inclusion of gold holdings for more balanced portfolios.
  - Widely accepted as an inflation hedge.

## Background

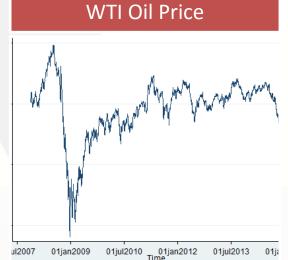




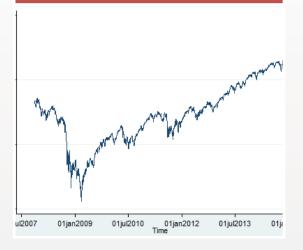
#### S&P500 stock index, WTI crude oil prices, Gold prices







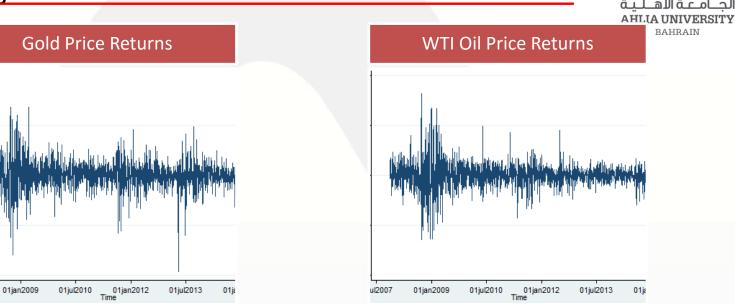
S&P 500 stock index



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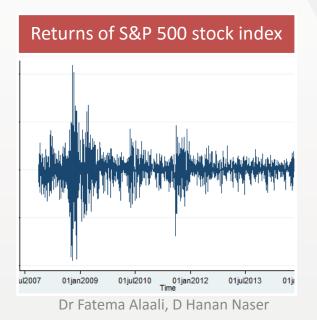
### Returns of S&P500 stock index, WTI crude oil prices and Gold prices

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- Portfolio Diversification and Hedging Strategies Literature
  - Stock market and gold prices

Hammoudeh et. al. (2010), Hood and Malik (2013), Mensi et. al. (2013), Arouri et. al. (2015), among others

Stock market and oil prices

Arouri et. al. (2011), Mensi et.al. (2013), Sadorsky (2014)

Oil prices and Gold prices

Ciner et. al. (2013) and Reboredo (2013)



# Objectives of the study:

- Examine the volatility transmissions between the different indices of stock market, oil prices and gold prices using VAR-GARCH model.
- Employ the results of the VAR-GARCH model in analyzing portfolio diversification and hedging effectiveness across stock market, oil and gold assets.

## **Empirical Model**



- VAR(1)-GARCH(1,1) model for stock market returns, gold returns and oil price returns
- Conditional mean equation:

$$R_t = \mu + \Psi R_{t-1} + \epsilon_t$$
$$\epsilon_t = H_t^{1/2} \nu_t$$

where:

- $R_{t} = (r_{t}^{stock}, r_{t}^{gold}, r_{t}^{oil})'$   $\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{1} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \psi_{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \psi_{3} \end{pmatrix}$   $\epsilon_{t} = (\epsilon_{t}^{stock}, \epsilon_{t}^{gold}, \epsilon_{t}^{oil})'$
- $v_t = \left(v_t^{stock}, v_t^{gold}, v_t^{oil}\right)'(i. i. d)$

• 
$$H_t = \begin{pmatrix} h_t^s & h_t^{sg} & h_t^{so} \\ h_t^{sg} & h_t^g & h_t^{go} \\ h_t^{so} & h_t^{go} & h_t^o \end{pmatrix}$$



- VAR(1)-GARCH(1,1) model for stock market returns, gold returns and oil price returns
- Conditional variance equation:

$$h_{t}^{i} = C_{i} + \sum_{m=1}^{3} a_{im} (\epsilon_{t-1}^{i})^{2} + \sum_{m=1}^{3} b_{im} h_{t-1}^{i} + \sum_{m=1}^{3} d_{im} (\epsilon_{t-1}^{i})^{2} I_{\epsilon < 0} (\epsilon_{t-1}^{i})$$



- S & P composite stock price index
- Dow & Jones Industrial Average
- NASDAQ
- Russell 200 stock price index
- WTI crude oil spot prices \$/BBL
- Gold prices of Handy & Harman Base \$/Troy Oz
- Period 15/11/2007 to 24/4/2015 with 1943 observations



- Significant volatility spillovers between oil price and stock market and oil price and gold.
- Optimal portfolios should have stocks outweigh oil assets and that the stock investment risk can be hedged with relatively low hedging.
- Optimal portfolios of stock and gold should have gold outweighs stock assets and that the stock investment risk can be hedged by relatively low hedging.
- The importance of diversifying investor portfolio to make it more effective.