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## Stock market as temporal network

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- Time evolving stock markets have been analyzed by using temporal network representation.
- The temporal centrality has been used as portfolio selection tool.
- The well performed portfolios have proved the effectiveness of the temporal centrality measure.

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### ABSTRACT

Financial networks have become extremely useful in characterizing the structures of complex financial systems. Meanwhile, the time evolution property of the stock markets can be described by temporal networks. We utilize the temporal network framework to characterize the time-evolving correlation-based networks of stock markets. The market instability can be detected by the evolution of the topology structure of the financial networks. We then employ the temporal centrality as a portfolio selection tool. Those portfolios, which are composed of peripheral stocks with low temporal centrality scores, have consistently better performance under different portfolio optimization frameworks, suggesting that the temporal centrality measure can be used as new portfolio optimization and risk management tool. Our results reveal the importance of the temporal attributes of the stock markets, which should be taken serious consideration in real life applications.

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## 1. Introduction

The correlation-based network has become an effective tool to investigate the correlation of complex financial systems [1,2]. Different methods have been proposed to probe the complex correlation structures of financial systems including the threshold method, the minimum spanning tree(MST) [3], the planar maximum filtered graph(PMFG) [4] and a strand of other methods [5–11]. The common aim of all correlation-based networks is to seek for a sparse representation of the high dimensional correlation matrix of the complex financial system. Unlike other eigenvector-based methods (e.g., the principal

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component analysis) which decompose the variance of the system into a few dimensions, the correlation-based methods directly map the dense correlation matrix into sparse representation. The easy implementations and straightforward interpretations of those methods make them quite popular in complex system analysis, especially for complex financial systems.

Recently, the correlation-based network has been used for portfolio selection in which some risk diversified portfolios are constructed based on a hybrid centrality measure of the MST and PMFG networks of the stock return time series [12]. It is well known that the financial system has its own temporal property which makes it extremely hard or even impossible to forecast. Thus if we want to construct our portfolio in a proper way, we have to consider the temporal attribute of the financial system.

In this work, we study the correlation-based networks of stock markets by using the temporal network approach. Specifically we have analyzed the temporal evolution of three major stock markets of the world, namely, the US, the UK and China. Based on a centrality measure of temporal network, we also construct some portfolios that consistently perform the best under two portfolio optimization frameworks. Our work is the first research that incorporates the temporal network method into the study of complex financial system. The temporal evolution of the topological structures can be used to access the information of market instability. The effectiveness of the temporal centrality measure in portfolio selection depicts the importance of the temporal structure for the stock market analysis. The remainder of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 gives the data description and the methodology we use through the paper. Section 3 presents the main results of the paper including the topology analysis of the stock markets and the applications to the portfolio optimization problems. Section 4 provides our conclusion.

## 2. Data and methodology

### 2.1. Data

Our datasets include the daily returns of the constitute stocks of three major indexes in the world: S&P 500 (the US), FTSE 350 (the UK) and SSE 380 (China). After removing those stocks with very small sample size, we still have 401, 264, and 295 stocks for the three markets, respectively. In the S&P 500 dataset, each stock includes 4025 daily returns from 4 January 1999 to 31 December 2014. The FTSE 350 stocks include 3000 daily returns in the period between 10 October 2005 and 26 April 2017. The SSE 380 stocks consist of 2700 daily returns from 21 May 2004 to 19 November 2014.

### 2.2. Cross-correlation between stocks

We use the logarithm return defined as

$$r_i(t) = \ln p_i(t+1) - \ln p_i(t), \quad (1)$$

where  $p_i(t)$  is the adjusted closure price of stock  $i$  at time  $t$ . We then calculate the cross-correlation coefficients among all the return time series at time  $t$  by using the records sampled from a moving window with length  $\Delta$ . Then the similarity between stocks  $i$  and  $j$  at time  $t$  can be evaluated with the traditional Pearson correlation coefficient,

$$\rho_{ij}^{t,\Delta} = \frac{\langle R_i^t R_j^t \rangle - \langle R_i^t \rangle \langle R_j^t \rangle}{\sqrt{[\langle R_i^{t2} \rangle - \langle R_i^t \rangle^2] [\langle R_j^{t2} \rangle - \langle R_j^t \rangle^2]}}. \quad (2)$$

Here  $\Delta$  is the moving window length, and  $\langle \dots \rangle$  represents the sample mean of stocks  $i$  and  $j$  in the logarithm return series vector  $R_i^t = \{r_i(t)\}$  and  $R_j^t = \{r_j(t)\}$ . Thus we have a  $N \times N$  matrix  $\mathbf{C}^{t,\Delta}$  at time  $t$  with moving windows  $\Delta$  days, and  $N$  is the number of stocks. The entries of the matrix  $\mathbf{C}^{t,\Delta}$  are Pearson correlation coefficients  $\rho_{ij}^{t,\Delta}$ . The moving window widths are  $\Delta = 500$  days for S&P 500 and  $\Delta = 300$  days for both FTSE 350 and SSE 380. The moving window widths are chosen to make the correlation matrix non-singular (with  $\Delta \geq N$ ). With moving window width  $\Delta$ , we shift the moving window with 25 days step, thus we obtain a strand of correlation matrices for three markets. Finally we have 142 correlation matrices for S&P 500, 109 correlation matrices for FTSE 350 and 97 correlation matrices for SSE 380, respectively.

### 2.3. PMFG network of stock market

Since the dense representation given by the cross-correlation matrix will induce lots of redundant information, thus it is very hard to discriminate the important information from noise. Here we employ the planar maximally filtered graph (PMFG) method [4] to construct sparse networks based on correlation matrices  $\mathbf{C}^{t,\Delta}$ . The algorithm is implemented as follows,

- (i) Sort all of the  $\rho_{ij}^{t,\Delta}$  in descending order in an ordered list  $l_{sort}$ .
- (ii) Add an edge between nodes  $i$  and  $j$  according to the order in  $l_{sort}$  if and only if the graph remains planar after the edge is added.
- (iii) Repeat the second step until all elements in  $l_{sort}$  are used up.

Finally a planar graph  $G^{t,\Delta}$  is formed with  $N_e = 3(N - 2)$  edges. It has been addressed in Ref. [4] that the PMFG retains the hierarchical organization of the MST and it also induce cliques. We then calculate such basic topological quantities as the clustering coefficient  $C$  and the shortest-path length  $L$  [13]. Meanwhile a heterogeneity index  $\gamma$  [14] is also used to measure the heterogeneity of PMFGs which is defined by

$$\gamma = \frac{N - 2 \sum_{ij \in \{e\}} (k_i k_j)^{-1/2}}{N - 2\sqrt{N - 1}}, \quad (3)$$

where  $k_i$  and  $k_j$  are the degrees of nodes  $i$  and  $j$  connected by edge  $\{e_{ij}\}$ . We also utilize the Jaccard index [15] to demonstrate the variability of the network structure from  $t$  to  $t + 1$ . The Jaccard index  $J_{G_1, G_2}$  between networks  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  is defined as

$$J_{G_1, G_2} = \frac{E_{G_1} \cap E_{G_2}}{E_{G_1} \cup E_{G_2}}, \quad (4)$$

where  $E_{G_1}$  and  $E_{G_2}$  are the edges of networks  $G_1$  and  $G_2$ , respectively.

#### 2.4. Supra-evolution matrix for temporal stock network

We use the moving window technique to construct time-varying correlation matrices and PMFG networks. Considering the temporal properties of the stock markets, it is impossible to fully describe the whole system with a single adjacency matrix. Previous studies try to resolve this problem by aggregating temporal networks into a static network [16]. However, the obvious drawback of this approach is that the information about the time evolution of the system is missing. Very recently, the research about temporal and multilayer networks have become the new frontiers of network science [17–19]. The mathematical formulation of the multilayer network provides us a possible way to describe the temporal network structure in a unified way. Since the only difference between temporal network and multilayer network is the direction of the coupling between two layers. Thus we treat the temporal stock network as a special case of multilayer network and analyze its properties based on the supra-adjacency matrix [19,20] Actually the supra-adjacency matrix concept has already been used to describe the temporal networks in Ref. [19,21].

Here a series of PMFG networks can be described as  $G^t = (V, E)^t$ ,  $t \in (1 \dots T)$ . The adjacency matrix of PMFG  $G^t$  at time  $t$  is denoted by  $A^t$ . For the temporal stock network, the network size  $N$  of each time slice is fixed. The coupling matrix between different time layers is an  $N \times N$  dimension matrix  $W_{t_a t_b}$ . Then the supra-adjacency matrix with dimension  $NT \times NT$  can be written as,

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} A^1 & W_{12} & \cdots & W_{1T} \\ W_{21} & A^2 & \cdots & W_{2T} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ W_{T1} & W_{T2} & \cdots & A^T \end{pmatrix}, \quad (5)$$

here  $\mathbf{A}$  is the supra-adjacency matrix with bidirectional coupling. However, for temporal network the coupling is directional. So the upper triangle of the supra-adjacency matrix should be zero. As described in Ref. [21], the supra-adjacency is named as supra-evolution matrix with a time directional coupling. The adjacency matrix  $A^t$  is easy to obtain. The big challenge here is how to determine the coupling matrix  $W_{t_a t_b}$ . The temporal stock network is different from the real multilayer network, for which the coupling between each layer is well defined. Thus we employ the time series analysis method to model the evolution of the stock networks. The coupling between two networks at successive time slices can be obtained from time series modeling. We use the autoregressive moving average model (ARMA) to fit the correlation strength time series of each stock. Considering the non-stationarity of the correlation strength time series, before the ARMA model is fitted to the data, those time series are first differenced to make them stationary. Thus the actual correlation strength time series  $s_{i,t}$  can be fitted with the ARIMA( $p, d, q$ ) with differencing order  $d$ . The ARMA( $p, q$ ) model is described as [22]:

$$s_{i,t} = \phi_{i,1} s_{i,t-1} + \phi_{i,2} s_{i,t-2} + \cdots + \phi_{i,p} s_{i,t-p} + e_t - \theta_{i,1} e_{t-1} - \theta_{i,2} e_{t-2} - \cdots - \theta_{i,q} e_{t,q}, \quad (6)$$

where  $s_{i,t} = \sum_{j=1}^N \rho_{ij}^t$  is the correlation strength of stock  $i$  at time  $t$ .  $e_t$  is Gaussian noise. Whilst  $\Phi_{i,p} = (\phi_{i,1}, \phi_{i,2}, \dots, \phi_{i,p})$  and  $\Theta_{i,q} = (\theta_{i,1}, \theta_{i,2}, \dots, \theta_{i,q})$  are the model parameters (AR and MA parts) with model orders  $p$  and  $q$ .

The autoregressive parameters  $\Phi_{i,p}$  specify that the correlation strength  $s_{i,t}$  of node  $i$  depends linearly on its own previous  $p$ th values. Thus the coupling matrix  $W_{t_a, t_b}$  for  $t_a > t_b$  can be written as

$$W_{2,1} = \cdots = W_{t,t-1} = (\phi_{i,1})_{N \times N} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_{1,1} & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & \phi_{2,1} & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & \phi_{N,1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 W_{t,t-2} &= (\phi_{i,2})_{N \times N}, i = 1, 2, \dots, N, \\
 &\dots \\
 W_{t,t-1} &= (\phi_{i,1})_{N \times N}, i = 1, 2, \dots, N.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{8}$$

While for  $t_a < t_b$ , we set  $W_{t_a,t_b}$  to zero matrix. So the supra-evolution matrix is a lower triangle block matrix

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{pmatrix} A^1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ W_{2,1} & A^2 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ W_{T,1} & W_{T,2} & \dots & A^T \end{pmatrix}.
 \tag{9}$$

Using the supra-evolution matrix, we can define a centrality measure to quantify the importance of different stocks. Many centrality measures are based on the element of leading eigenvectors correspond to the largest eigenvalues of different matrices (e.g., adjacency matrix). The temporal centrality can be defined by the largest eigenvalue and corresponding eigenvector of the supra-evolution matrix,

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{v}_1 = \lambda_1\mathbf{v}_1,
 \tag{10}$$

where  $\mathbf{v}_1$  is the eigenvector corresponding to the largest eigenvalue  $\lambda_1$  with dimension  $NT \times 1$ ,  $\mathbf{v}_1 = (v_i^t)_{NT \times 1}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$ ;  $t = 1, 2, \dots, T$ . The element  $v_i^t$  represents the centrality value of node  $i$  at time  $t$ . Thus for node  $i$  in temporal stock network, the eigenvector centrality  $c_i$  can be defined as the summation of the value of  $v_i^t$  in different time slices, namely,

$$c_i = \sum_{t=1}^T v_i^t, i = 1, 2, \dots, N.
 \tag{11}$$

### 3. Results and application

#### 3.1. Topology analysis of temporal stock networks

In Fig. 1, we present the time evolution of the topological parameters of PMFG networks for the three markets. For the US stock market, the topology structures of the PMFG networks respond to the 2008 sub-prime crisis during which the Jaccard index decreased dramatically. It means the market suffered from extremely unstable period with drastic structure variation. For the UK market, during the European debt crisis, the clustering coefficient  $C$  and shortest path length  $L$  both decreased. The heterogeneity index  $\gamma$  of the PMFG network increases significantly during the crisis. The US and UK markets share very common patterns after the 2008 sub-prime crisis. Especially during the European sovereign debt crisis begin at 2009, which is exactly the aftermath of 2008 global financial crisis. The decrease of clustering coefficient and shortest path length make these two markets very heterogeneous. This is in line with the previous research which shows that the markets tend to form a local clustering and global expansion structure [23]. The reaction of the correlation-based networks during financial crisis has been systematically investigated [23–29].

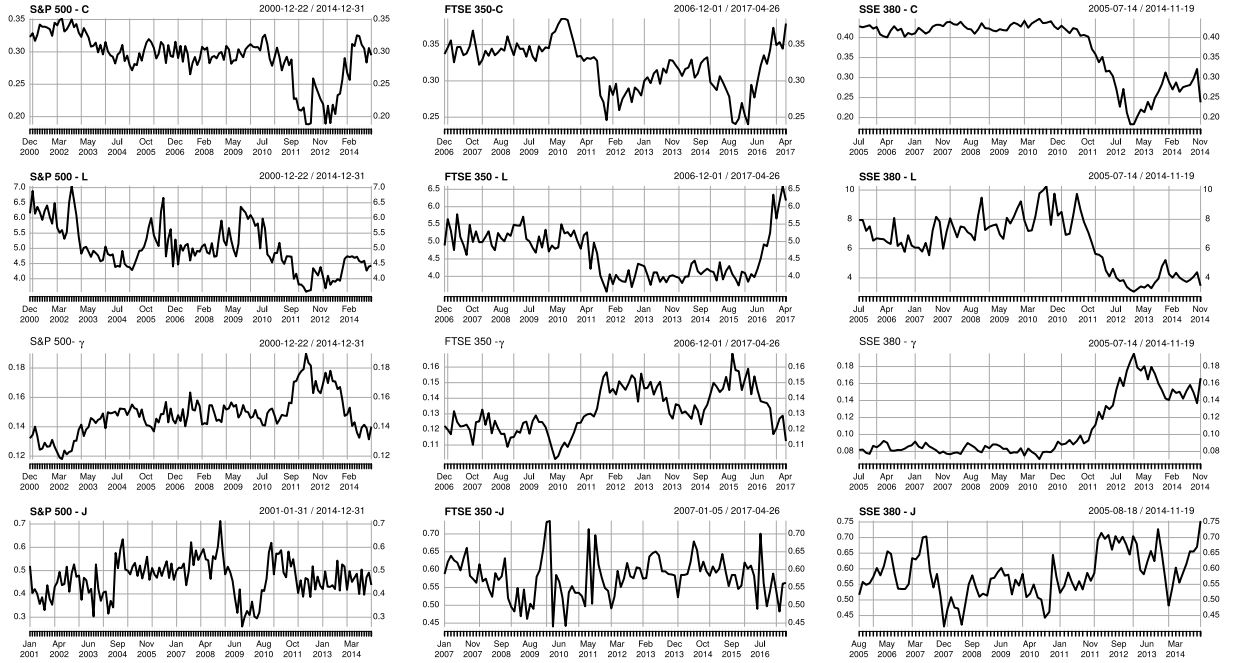
Here we also find that the heterogeneity index of China stock market is apparently small before 2012 with higher clustering coefficient  $C$  and longer shortest path length  $L$ . It is known that the heterogeneity value  $\gamma$  of the scale-free network is 0.11. The western markets are more heterogeneous than the scale-free network and they are considerably more heterogeneous than China market. The homogeneous structure of Chinese market before 2012 indicates that the Chinese market has totally different structure compared to the western markets. During the period between 2011 and 2014, the Chinese stock market suffered from a long term bear market. The market heterogeneity increased dramatically during that period. This means that the market try to get rid of the domination of the index or the market trend, which maybe resulted from the risk diversification of the investors or the market became mature.

Although we can obtain some information from the variation of those topological parameters, but those quantities suffer from the very unstable market states and strong noises. The evolution of those topology quantities indicates that the markets are always evolving over time. The temporal properties of the stock markets should be considered and incorporated into real life applications. In the next section, we try to utilize the temporal attributes of the stock markets to improve the performance of the portfolio optimization procedures.

#### 3.2. Portfolio optimization

##### 3.2.1. Mean–variance portfolio optimization

We first employ the PMFG networks to improve the performance of portfolio optimization under the Markowitz portfolio optimization framework [30]. There are lots of works trying to establish connections between the correlation-based networks and the portfolio optimization problems [31–33]. We now give an brief introduction about the Markowitz



**Fig. 1.** The time evolution of the topological quantities of the PMFG networks for three markets. The first column is the topological quantities of the PMFG networks for S&P 500 constituent stocks. The second column is the topological quantities of the PMFG networks for the FTSE 350 constituent stocks. The third column is the topological quantities of the PMFG networks for the SSE 380 constituent stocks. The first row is the clustering coefficient  $C$  for three markets. The second row is the shortest path length  $L$  for three markets. The third row is the heterogeneity index  $\gamma$  for three markets. The last row is the Jaccard index  $J$  for three markets.

portfolio theory. Consider a portfolio of  $m$  stocks with return  $r_i$ ,  $i = 1 \dots m$ . The return  $\Phi(t)$  of the portfolio is

$$\Phi(t) = \sum_{i=1}^m \omega_i r_i(t), \quad (12)$$

where  $\omega_i$  is the investment weight of stock  $i$ .  $\omega_i$  is normalized such that  $\sum_{i=1}^m \omega_i = 1$ . The risk of the portfolio can be simply quantified by the variance of the return

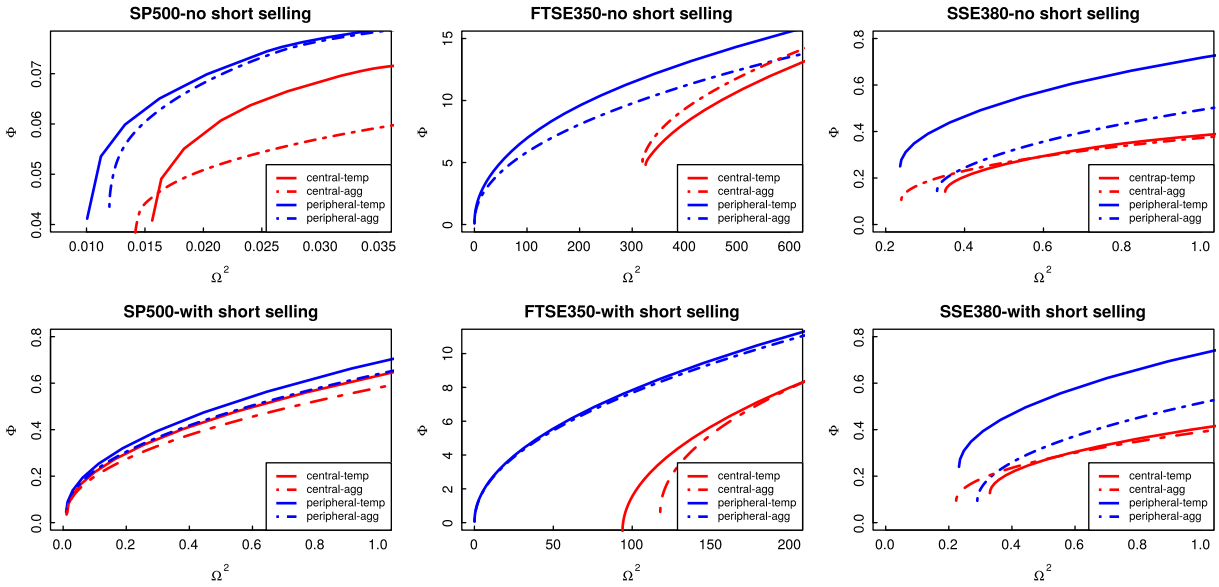
$$\Omega^2 = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^m \omega_i \omega_j \rho_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j. \quad (13)$$

Here  $\rho_{ij}$  is the Pearson cross-correlation between  $r_i$  and  $r_j$ , and  $\sigma_i$  and  $\sigma_j$  are the standard deviations of the return time series  $r_i$  and  $r_j$ . The optimal portfolio weights are determined via maximizing the portfolio return  $\Phi = \sum_{t=1}^T \Phi(t)$  under the constraint that the risk of the portfolio equals to some fixed value  $\Omega^2$ . Maximizing  $\Phi$  subject to those constraints above can be formulated as a quadratic optimization problem:

$$\omega^T \Sigma \omega - q * R^T \omega, \quad (14)$$

where  $\Sigma$  is the covariance matrix of the return time series. The parameter  $q$  is the risk tolerance parameter with  $q \in [0, \infty)$ . Large  $q$  indicates that the investors have strong tolerance to the risk which may give large expected return. Whilst, small  $q$  represents that the investors are extremely risk aversion. The optimal portfolios at different risk and return levels can be presented as the efficient frontier which is a plot of the return  $\Phi$  as a function of risk  $\Omega^2$ .

So far we have not illustrate how to determine the constitute stocks of a specific portfolio. As mentioned in the previous context, we use some centrality metrics to choose portfolio from the PMFG networks. It has shown that the performance of the portfolio selected by using some compound centrality measures for the static PMFG networks is quite good [12,34]. Here we try to select the portfolio guided by the temporal eigenvector centrality measure of the temporal PMFG networks for different stock markets. A portfolio constructed by using the central (peripheral) stocks is the one that consists of stocks with higher (lower) centrality values. For comparison, we also perform the portfolio optimization procedure based on aggregated network [16]. For the aggregated network, we use the compound centrality measure from Ref. [12] to rank the stocks. In contrast, in the temporal stock networks, the stocks are ranked according to the temporal centrality given by Eq. (11). To



**Fig. 2.** The in sample efficient frontiers for three different stock markets. The left, center and right columns are the results for S&P 500, FTSE 350 and SSE 380, respectively. The red lines are the results for those portfolios constructed from stocks with high centrality scores(central) for both temporal(suffix -temp) and aggregated(suffix -agg) networks. The blue lines are the results for those portfolios constructed from stocks with low centrality scores(peripheral). Here the portfolio size  $m = 30$ . We have tested the portfolio size from  $m = 5$  up to  $m = 60$ , the results are consistent. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

verify the robustness of the portfolios’ performances, we performed both in sample and out of sample tests for those temporal portfolios.

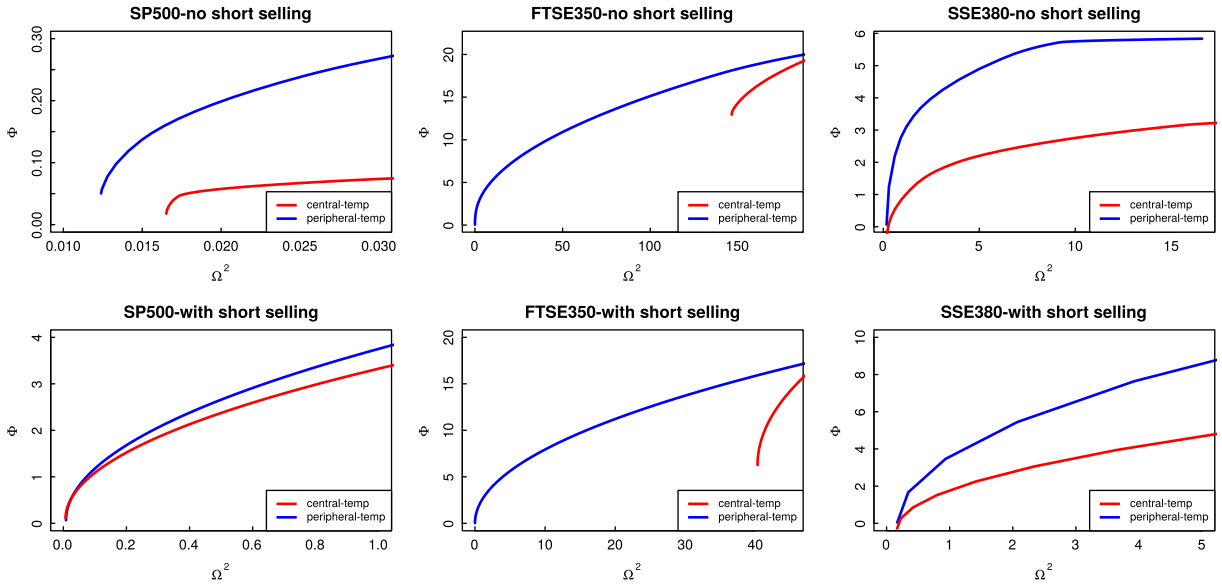
Fig. 2 shows the in sample efficient frontiers of a portfolio constructed by those stocks with 30 highest centrality and 30 lowest centrality stocks for both aggregated and temporal stock networks. The first row represents the efficient frontiers for three markets without short selling. The second row represents the efficient frontiers for three markets for which the short selling is allowed. Here during the in sample tests, the whole datasets(with 4205, 3000 and 2700 records for the US, the UK and China, respectively) have been used to construct the temporal networks and the portfolio optimization is also performed with the whole datasets. The solid lines are those portfolios selected guided by the eigenvector centrality of temporal PMFG networks. The dashed lines are those portfolios for aggregated networks. The aggregated networks are constructed by combining all the vertices and edges in all the time slices of temporal networks [16]. The solid and dashed red (blue) lines are those portfolios of central(peripheral) stocks. It is very clear that the performance of the peripheral portfolios are much better than those central ones for three markets. That is exactly in line with the previous research. Meanwhile, the in sample performance of portfolios for temporal networks(solid lines) are also better than those constructed from aggregate networks(dashed lines). The overall best in sample performance comes from those portfolios constructed based on temporal networks and peripheral stocks(solid blue lines). Those portfolios have the highest return and the lowest risk compared with other portfolios.

The out of sample tests are also performed to check the robustness of the temporal network portfolios. Here in Fig. 3, we perform the out of sample tests for temporal portfolios. First we construct the temporal networks by using the first 3500, 1650 and 1500 data points for the US, the UK and China markets, respectively. With the guidance of temporal centrality, we can construct the central and peripheral portfolios. Then the next 225 data points are used to perform the portfolio optimization procedure. The results are very similar to the in sample tests. The temporal peripheral portfolios have consistent good performance over the central portfolios. A very interesting phenomena is that the central portfolios of the UK market always have very high risk for both in sample and out of sample tests. The central portfolios cannot attain risks lower than some specific risk level even for very small risk tolerance parameter  $q$ . This implies that the central stocks of the UK market are extremely risky which should definitely be avoided by investors.

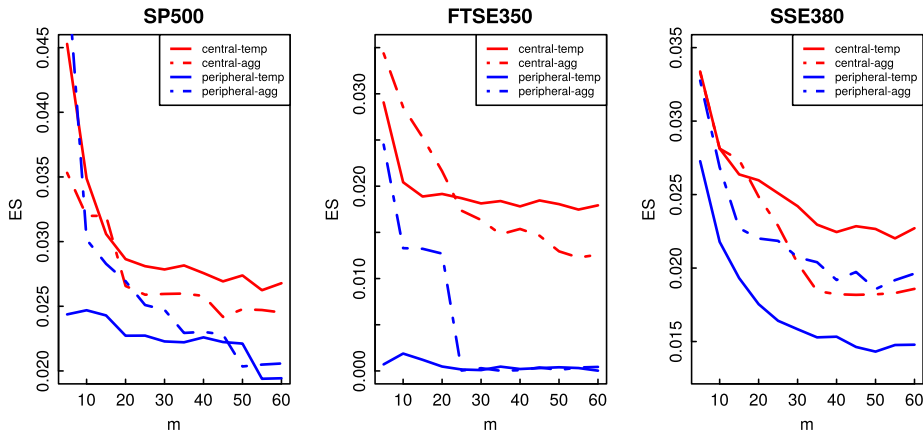
The above portfolio optimization results evidence the usefulness of temporal centrality metric. The temporal attributes of the correlation-based networks should be taken into consideration when dealing with time evolving systems.

### 3.2.2. Expected shortfall approach

Apart from the mean–variance framework, the expected shortfall(ES) is a more modern tool for quantifying the performance of a portfolio, which is a coherent risk measure [35–37]. Let  $X$  be the profit loss of a portfolio within a specified time horizon  $(0, T)$  and let  $\alpha = \eta\% \in (0, 1)$  be some specified probability level. The expected  $\eta\%$  shortfall of the portfolio



**Fig. 3.** The out of sample efficient frontiers of three different stock markets. The left, center and right columns are the results for SP500, FTSE350 and SSE380, respectively. The red lines are the results for those portfolios constructed from stocks with high centrality scores(central) for both temporal(suffix -temp) and aggregated(suffix -agg) networks. The blue lines are the results for those portfolios constructed from stocks with low centrality scores(peripheral). Here the portfolio size  $m = 30$ . We have tested the portfolio size from  $m = 5$  up to  $m = 60$ , the results are consistent. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)



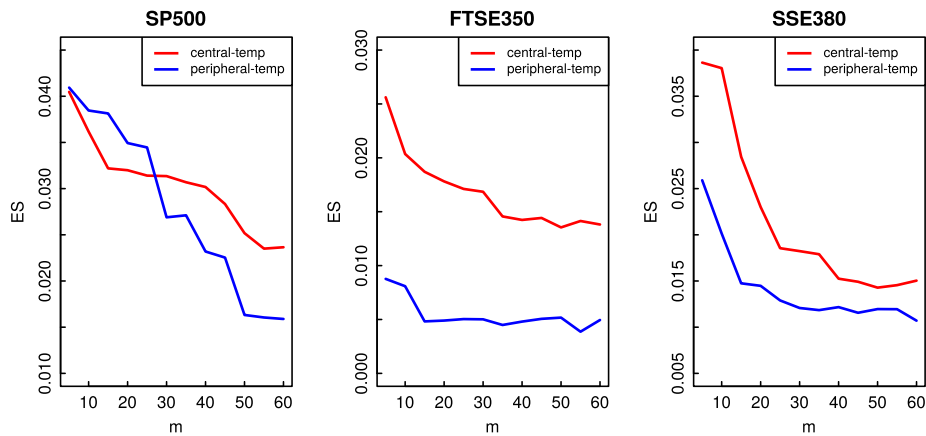
**Fig. 4.** The in sample expected shortfalls for three stock markets. The left, center and right columns are the results for S&P 500, FTSE 350 and SSE 380, respectively. The red(blue) lines are the expected shortfalls for the portfolios constructed by central(peripheral) stocks. The solid lines are the expected shortfalls for temporal networks. The dashed lines are those for aggregated(suffix -agg) networks and the solid liens are those for temporal(suffix -temp) networks. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

can be defined as

$$ES^\alpha(X) = -\frac{1}{\alpha} (E[X \mathbf{1}_{X \leq x^\alpha}] - x^\alpha (P[X \leq x^\alpha] - \alpha)). \tag{15}$$

The  $ES^\alpha$  gives the expected loss incurred in the  $\eta\%$  worst situations of the portfolio. It satisfies all the requirements of a risk measure. For a portfolio  $\{\omega_i, i = 1, \dots, m\}$  of  $m$  stocks with return  $\{r_i, i = 1, \dots, m\}$ , we want to minimize the  $ES^\alpha$  of the portfolio under the constraint of normalization  $\sum_{i=1}^m \omega_i = 1$ . Here we set the confidence level  $\alpha = 95\%$  for the expected shortfall  $ES^\alpha$  of the portfolio and assume that the short selling is prohibited. After ranking the stocks according to the centrality scores described in the previous subsection, we choose the portfolio size  $m = 5, 10, \dots, 55, 60$ , namely,  $m$  central(peripheral) stocks with the largest(smallest) centrality scores.

Fig. 4 gives the in sample expected shortfalls for three stock markets. The red(blue) lines represent the expected shortfalls for central(peripheral) portfolios. The solid(dashed) lines corresponds to the temporal(aggregated) networks. It is obvious



**Fig. 5.** The out of sample expected shortfalls for three stock markets. The left, center and right columns are the results for S&P 500, FTSE 350 and SSE 380, respectively. The red(blue) lines are the expected shortfalls for the portfolios constructed by central(peripheral) stocks. (For interpretation of the references to color in this figure legend, the reader is referred to the web version of this article.)

that the expected shortfalls for peripheral portfolios are much smaller than the central ones. An argument has been given in Ref. [33] in which the correlation matrix can be recognized as an weighted fully connected network. There exists a negative correlation between the weights of the optimal portfolio and the network's eigenvector centralities. The lower expected shortfalls of peripheral portfolios have verified this argument. Whilst, the temporal centrality as a portfolio selection tool performs even better than the static aggregated network centrality up to  $m = 60$  portfolio size.

In Fig. 5, the out of sample tests are also performed for three markets. The datasets used for the out of sample tests are exactly the same as in previous subsection. Except for the temporal portfolios with relatively small size  $m$  of the US market, the peripheral portfolios for the three markets with portfolio size up to  $m = 60$  all have better performances with lower expected shortfalls. We argue that the consistent good performance of the temporal portfolio rooted in the time average attribute of the temporal centrality. It can weaken the influence of large fluctuations of the market, thus it can be used to construct more robust and risk diversified portfolio [34,38,39].

#### 4. Conclusion

In conclusion, we have used the temporal network framework to analyze the temporal evolution of three major stock markets. The topology evolution of the correlation-based networks for three markets give some signals of corresponding financial turbulences in each market. With the help of temporal centrality measure, we can construct some risk diversified portfolios with high return and low risk. Under both the mean–variance and expected shortfall frameworks, the portfolios constructed with those peripheral stocks in both temporal and static centrality measures outperform those portfolios constructed with central stocks. Moreover, those peripheral portfolios selected with the guidance of temporal centrality measure performed way better than other portfolios(temporal central portfolios and aggregated peripheral portfolios) under both mean–variance and expected shortfall evaluation criterion. The in sample and out of sample tests have verified the robustness of the temporal peripheral portfolios. This is the first study to analyze the time evolving correlation-based networks with temporal network theory. The application of temporal centrality measure on portfolio selection has revealed the importance of the temporal attributes of the correlation-based networks of stock markets. Thus it should be quite interesting to investigate the temporal structure of the correlation-based networks with other tools developed for temporal network [16]. At the same instant, the investigation about the correlation-based networks of financial systems by using other tools from complex network theory, such as community detection [23,40–43] and network percolation theory [44], are also very promising directions. Those should subject to future researches.

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