

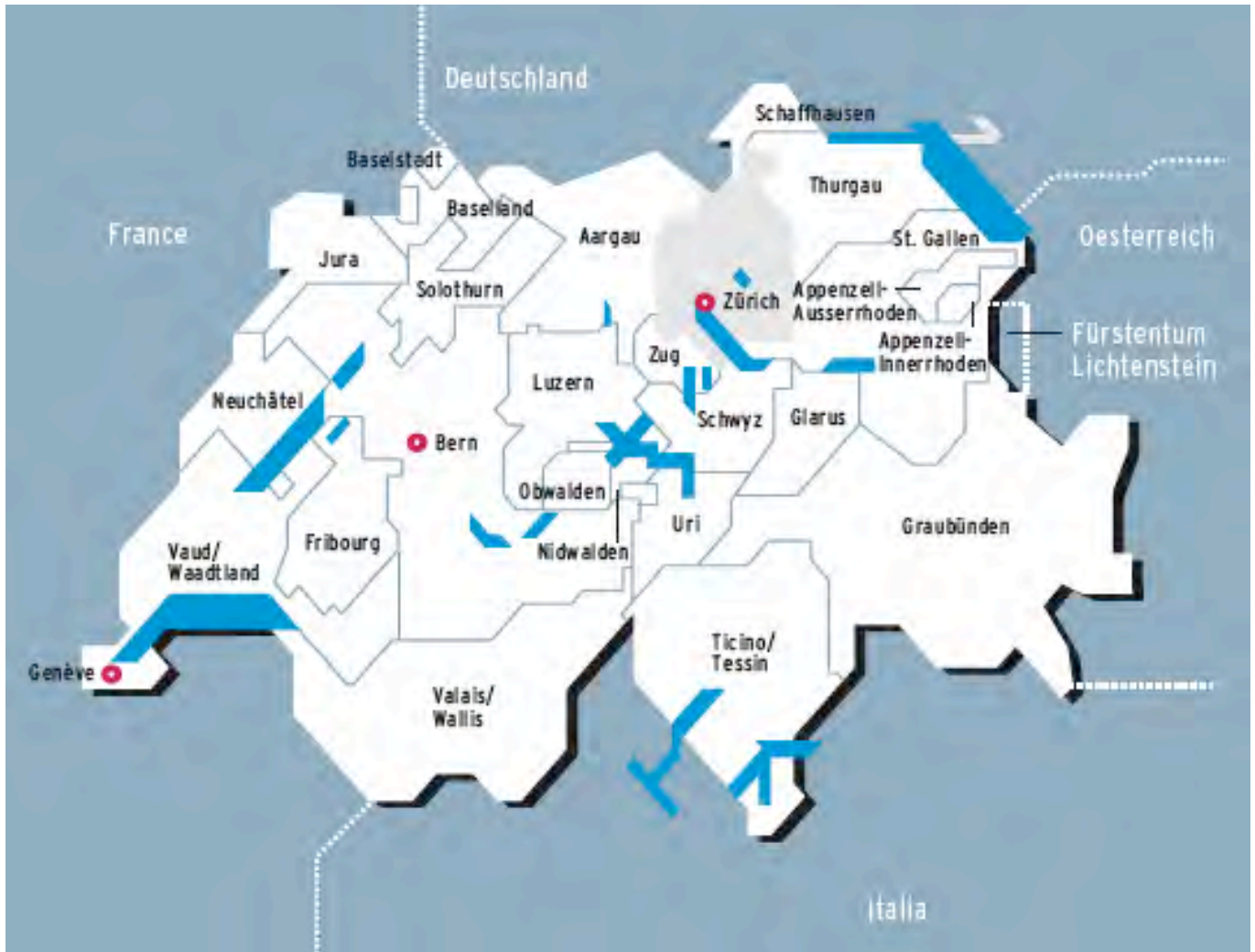
**ETH-Zurich**

Chair of Entrepreneurial Risks  
Department of Management, Technology  
and Economics (D-MTEC), ETH Zurich  
Switzerland  
<http://www.mtec.ethz.ch/>

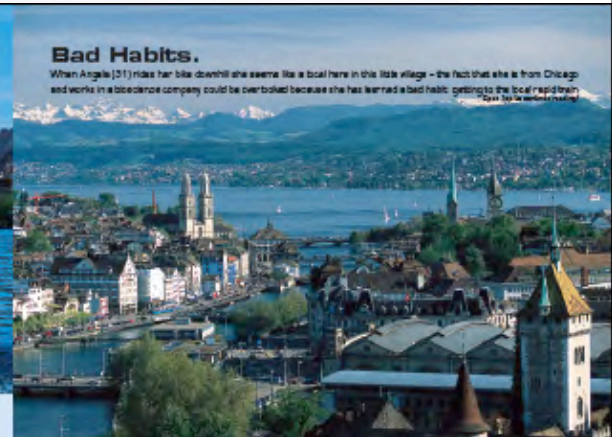
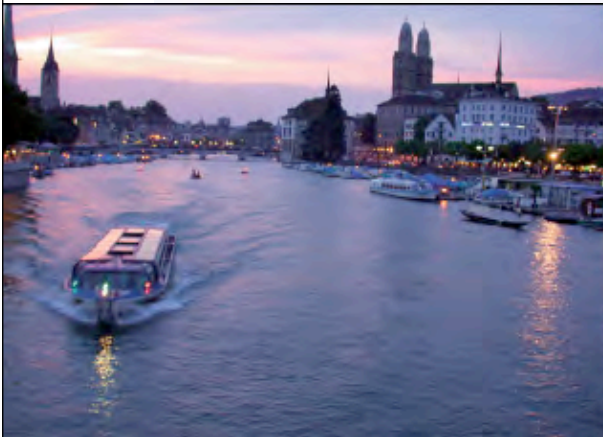
**Collaborators:**

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J. Andersen (CNRS, France)  
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K. Ide (UCLA)  
A. Johansen (Denmark)  
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W.-X. Zhou (UCLA)

3 hour lectures to the students of Physics and of  
Mathematics of ENS Cachan, organized by the director of  
the department of Mathematics Frederic DIAS,  
<http://www.cmla.ens-cachan.fr/Membres/dias>,  
11 Dec. 2007, Cachan (Paris, France).

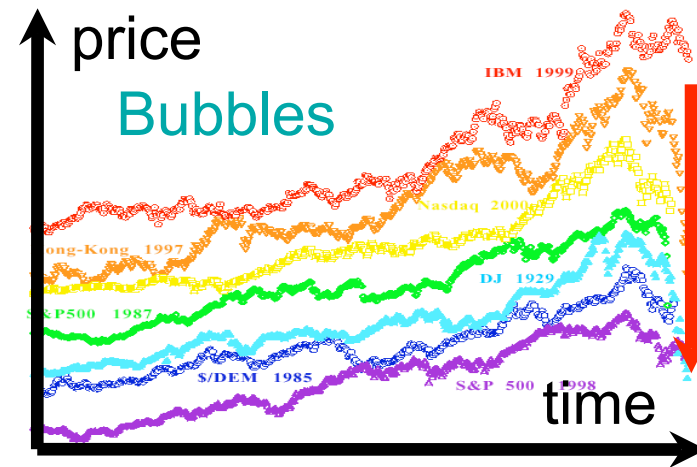
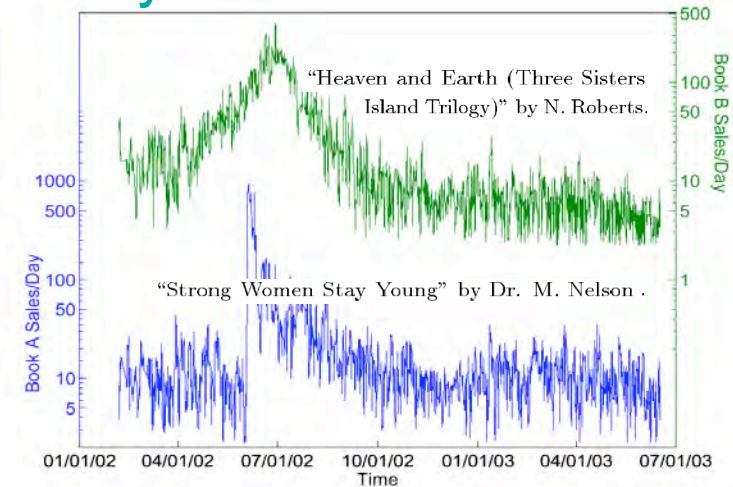


This is ETH Zurich → 12 700 students → 350 professors  
→ 3600 other teaching and research staff → 2 campuses  
→ 21 Nobel Prizes → 136 labs → 21% international students  
→ 90 nationalities → 36 languages



- Collective dynamics and organization of social agents (Commercial sales, YouTube, Open source softwares, Cyber risks)
- Agent-based models of bubbles and crashes, credit risks, systemic risks
- Prediction of complex systems, stock markets, social systems
- Asset pricing, hedge-funds, risk factors...
- Human cooperation for sustainability
- Natural and biological hazards (earthquakes, landslides, epidemics, critical illnesses...)  
(2 guest-professors, 5 foreign associate professors, 2 post-docs, 6 PhD students, 2-6 Master theses)

## Dynamics of success



# MOTIVATIONS

- What are bubbles?
- Do they exist really?
- Why do we care?
- Can they be detected?
- Can their end (the CRASH) be predicted?
- Systemic risks? Sub-prime mess...
- What is ahead of us?

What are bubbles?  
How do detect them?  
How to predict them?

**Academic Literature:**

No consensus on what is a bubble...

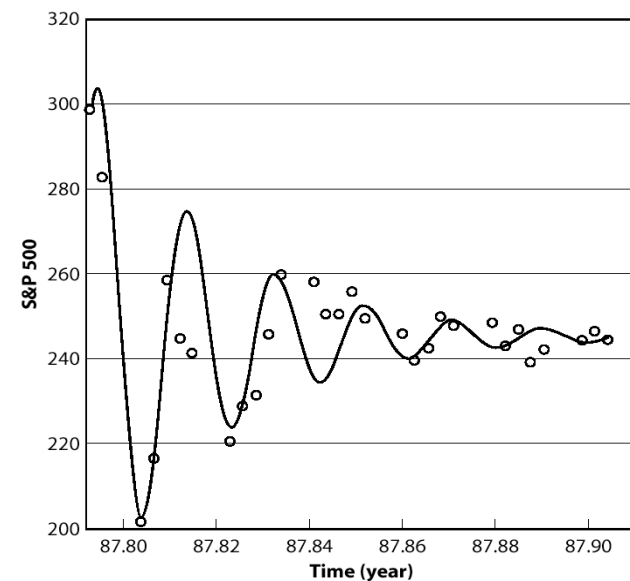
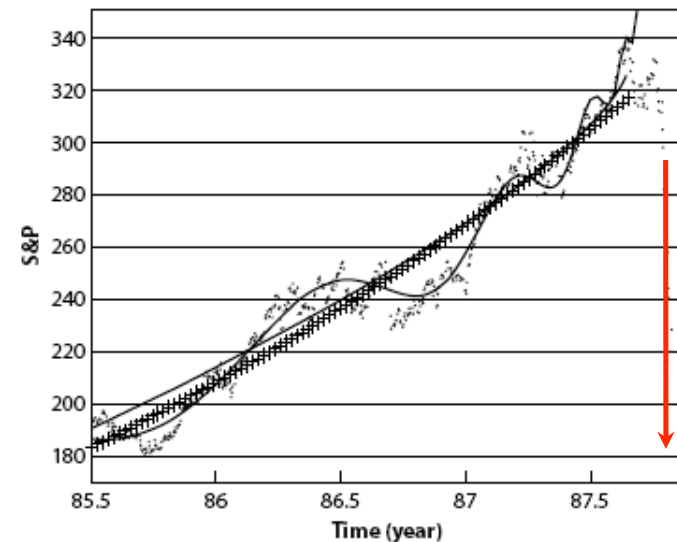
**The Fed: A. Greenspan (Aug., 30, 2002):**

“We, at the Federal Reserve...recognized that, despite our suspicions, it was **very difficult to definitively identify a bubble until after the fact, that is, when its bursting confirmed its existence...** Moreover, it was far from obvious that bubbles, even if identified early, could be preempted short of the Central Bank inducing a substantial contraction in economic activity, the very outcome we would be seeking to avoid.”

# THE CRASH OF OCTOBER 1987

## Proximate explanations after the fact!

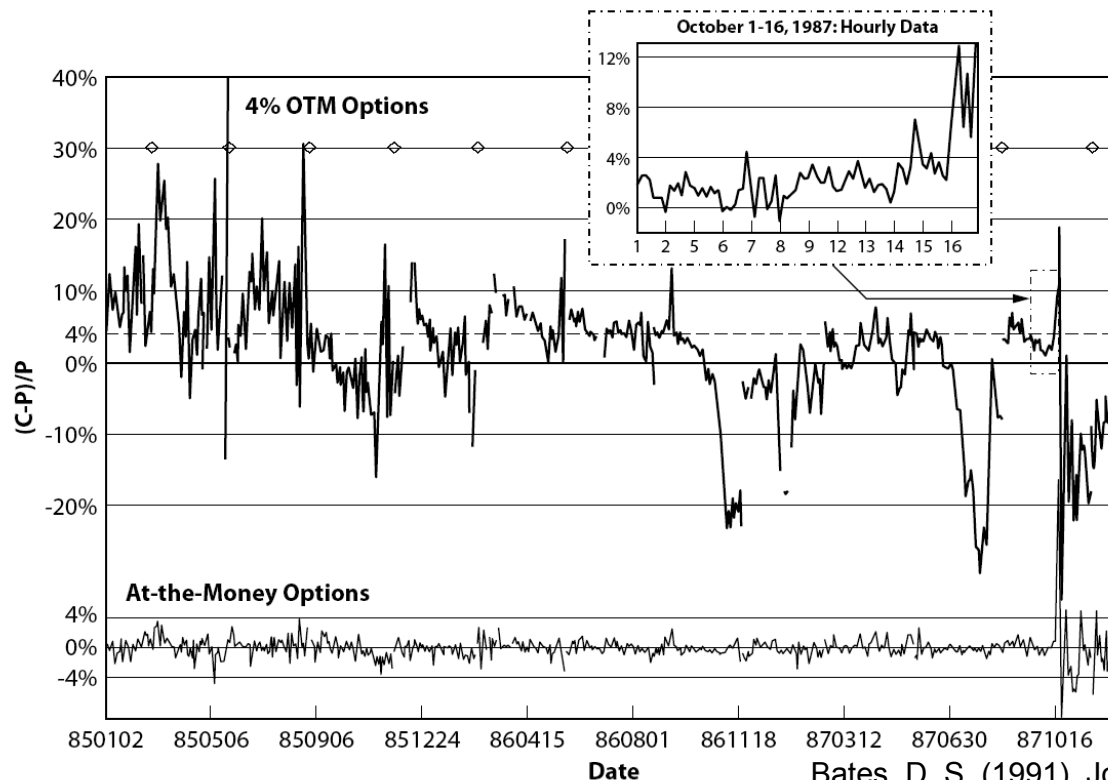
- ❑ Computer trading
- ❑ Derivatives
- ❑ Illiquidity
- ❑ Trade and budget deficits
- ❑ Over-valuation
- ❑ The auction system
- ❑ Off-market and off-hours trading
- ❑ Floor brokers
- ❑ Forward market effect
- ❑ Different investor styles



# THE CRASH OF OCTOBER 1987

The [Wall Street Journal](#) on August 26, 1987, the day after the 1987 market peak: “In a market like this, every story is a positive one. Any news is good news. It’s pretty much taken for granted now that the market is going to go up.”

## Intermittent anticipation of the crash reflected in out-of-the-money option prices



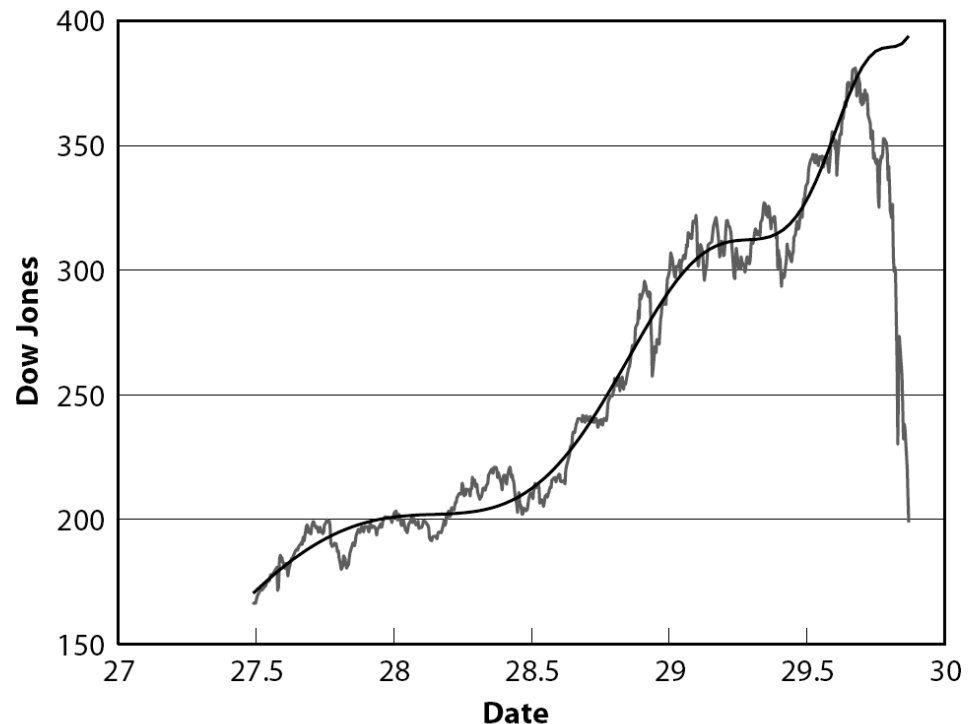
Percentage deviation  $(C-P)/P$  of call from put prices (skewness premium) for options at-the-money and 4% out-of-the-money, over 1985–87. The percentage deviation  $(C-P)/P$  is a measure of the asymmetry between the perceived distribution of future large upward moves compared to large downward moves of the S&P 500 index. Deviations above (below) 0% indicate optimism (fear) for a bullish market (of large potential drops). The inset shows the same quantity  $(C-P)/P$  calculated hourly during October 1987 prior to the crash: ironically, the market forgot its “fears” close to the crash.



# THE CRASH OF OCTOBER 1929

Stock market crashes are often unforeseen for most people, especially economists. “In a few months, I expect to see the stock market much higher than today.” Irving Fisher, famous economist and professor of economics at Yale University, 14 days before Wall Street crashed on Black Tuesday, October 29, 1929.

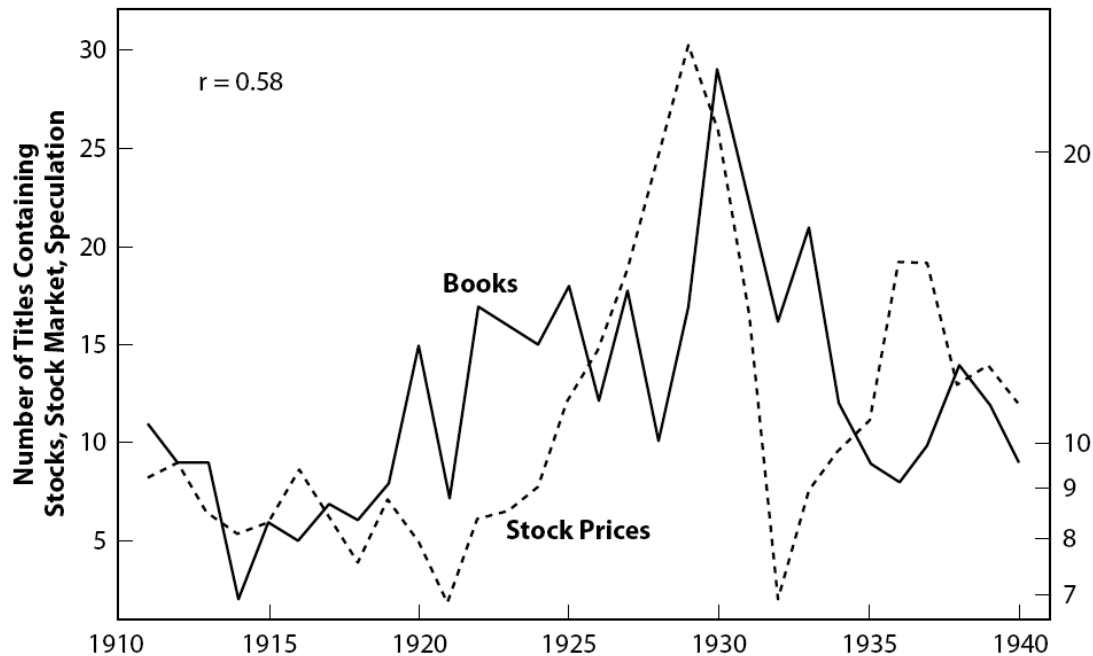
“A severe depression such as 1920–21 is outside the range of probability. We are not facing a protracted liquidation.” This was the analysis offered days after the crash by the Harvard Economic Society to its subscribers... It closed its doors in 1932.



The DJIA prior to the October 1929 crash on Wall Street.

## THE CRASH OF OCTOBER 1929

- A financial collapse has never happened when things look bad.
- Macroeconomic flows look good before crashes.
- Before every collapse, economists say the economy is in the best of all worlds.
- Everything looks rosy, stock markets go up...
- Macroeconomic flows (output, employment, etc.) appear to be improving further and further.
- A crash catches most people, especially economists, by surprise.
- The good times are **extrapolated linearly** into the future.
- Is it not perceived as senseless by most people in a time of general euphoria to talk about crash and depression?



growing interest in the public for the commodity in question, whether it consists of stocks, diamonds, or coins.

B.M. Roehner and D. Sornette, "Thermometers" of Speculative Frenzy", European Physical Journal B 16, 729-739 (2000)

# THE TULIP MANIA

- Between 1585 and 1650, Amsterdam became the chief commercial emporium, the center of the trade of the northwestern part of Europe, owing to the growing commercial activity in newly discovered America.
- The tulip as a cultivated flower was imported into western Europe from Turkey and it is first mentioned around 1554.
- The scarcity of tulips and their beautiful colors made them a must for members of the upper classes of society



FIG. 1.1. A variety of tulip (the Viceroy) whose bulb was one of the most expensive at the time of the tulip mania in Amsterdam, from *The Tulip Book* of P. Cos, including weights and prices from the years of speculative tulip mania (1637); Wageningen UR Library, Special Collections.

## THE TULIP MANIA

- What we now call the “tulip mania” of the seventeenth century was the “**sure thing**” investment during the period from the mid-1500s to 1636.
- Before its devastating end in 1637, those who bought tulips **rarely lost money**. People became too **confident** that this “sure thing” would always make them money.
- At the period’s peak, the participants **mortgaged** their houses and businesses **to trade tulips**.
- Some tulip bulbs of a rare variety sold for the equivalent of a few tens of thousands of dollars.
- Before the crash, any suggestion that the price of tulips was irrational was dismissed by all the participants.

## THE TULIP MANIA

- The conditions now generally associated with the first period of a boom were all present:
  - an increasing currency,
  - a new economy with novel colonial possibilities, and
  - an increasingly prosperous countrytogether had created the optimistic atmosphere in which booms are said to grow.
- The crisis came unexpectedly.
  - On February 4, 1637, the possibility of the tulips becoming definitely unsalable was mentioned for the first time.
  - From then until the end of May 1637, all attempts at coordination among florists, bulb growers, and the Netherlands government were met with failure.

# **Have We Learned the Lessons of Black Mondays?**

**19 October 1987**

**to**

**19 October 2007 to 2008...**

## THE NASDAQ CRASH OF APRIL 2000

- 1995-2000: growing divergence between **New Economy** and Old Economy stocks, between technology and almost everything else.
- Over 1998 and 1999, stocks in the Standard & Poor's technology sector rose nearly **fourfold**, while the S&P 500 index gained just 50%. And without technology, the benchmark would be **flat**.
- In January 2000 alone, 30% of net inflows into mutual funds went to **science and technology funds**, versus just 8.7% into S&P 500 index funds.
- The average price-over-earnings ratio (P/E) for Nasdaq companies was above **200**.
- New Economy** was also hot in the minds and mouths of investors in the 1920s and in the early 1960s. In 1929, it was utilities; in 1962, it was the electronic sector.



- The Nasdaq composite consists mainly of stock related to the New Economy, that is, the Internet, software, computer hardware, telecommunication.
- The Nasdaq composite index dropped precipitously, with a low of 3,227 on April 17, 2000, corresponding to a cumulative loss of 37% counted from its all-time high of 5,133 reached on March 10, 2000.
- A main characteristic of these companies is that their P/Es, and even more so their price-over-dividend ratios, often came in three digits prior to the crash. Some companies, such as VA LINUX, actually had a negative earnings/share of -1.68.

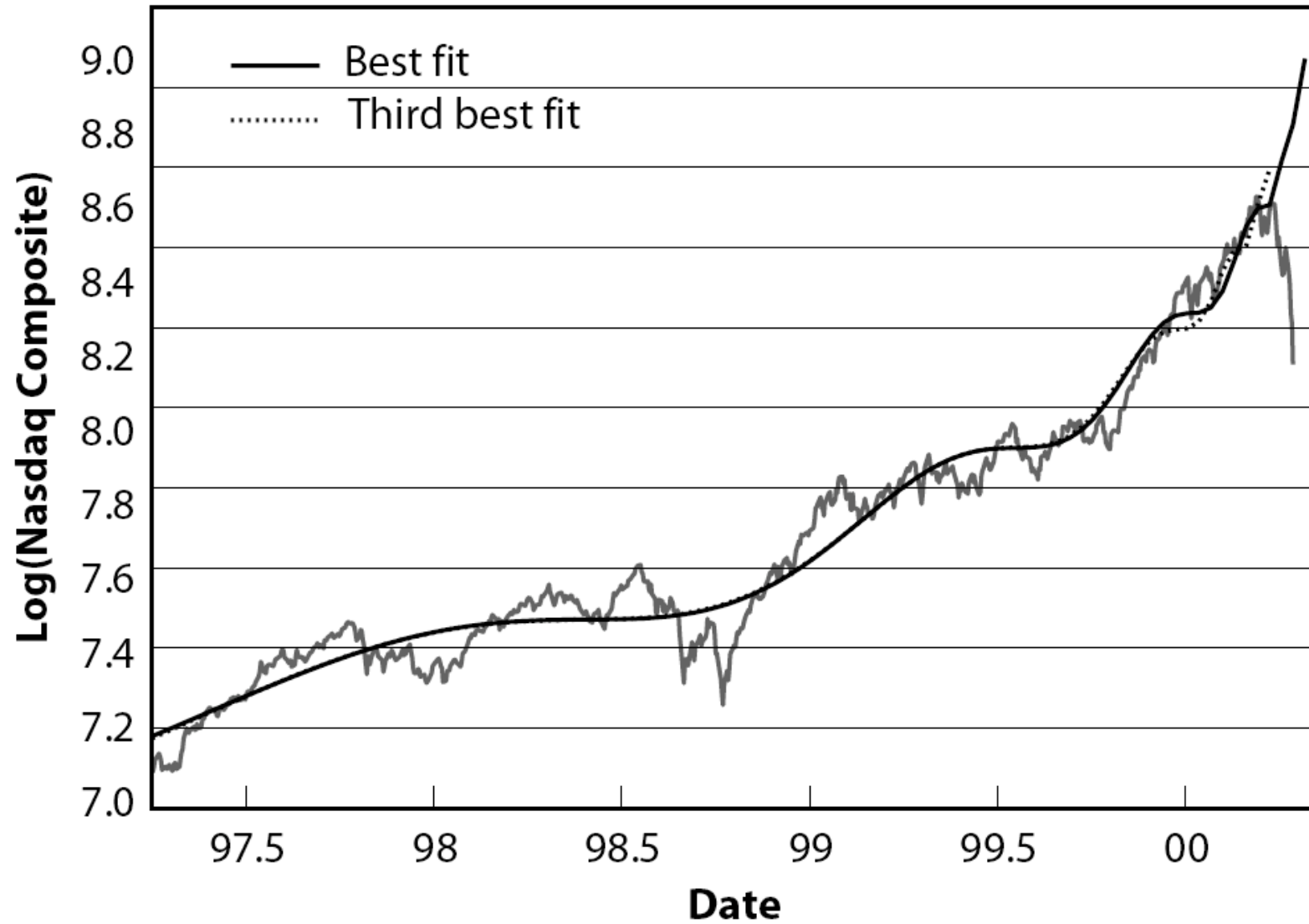
**EXPECTATIONS of strong future growth**

## Proposed justifications of PRICES

- better business models (small required capital, reduced delay in payments...)
- the network effect (positive returns and positive feedbacks)
- first-to-scale advantages
- real options (value of fast adaptation to grasp new opportunities)

**Probably true... but problem of timing...**

# THE NASDAQ CRASH OF APRIL 2000



# Foreign capital inflow

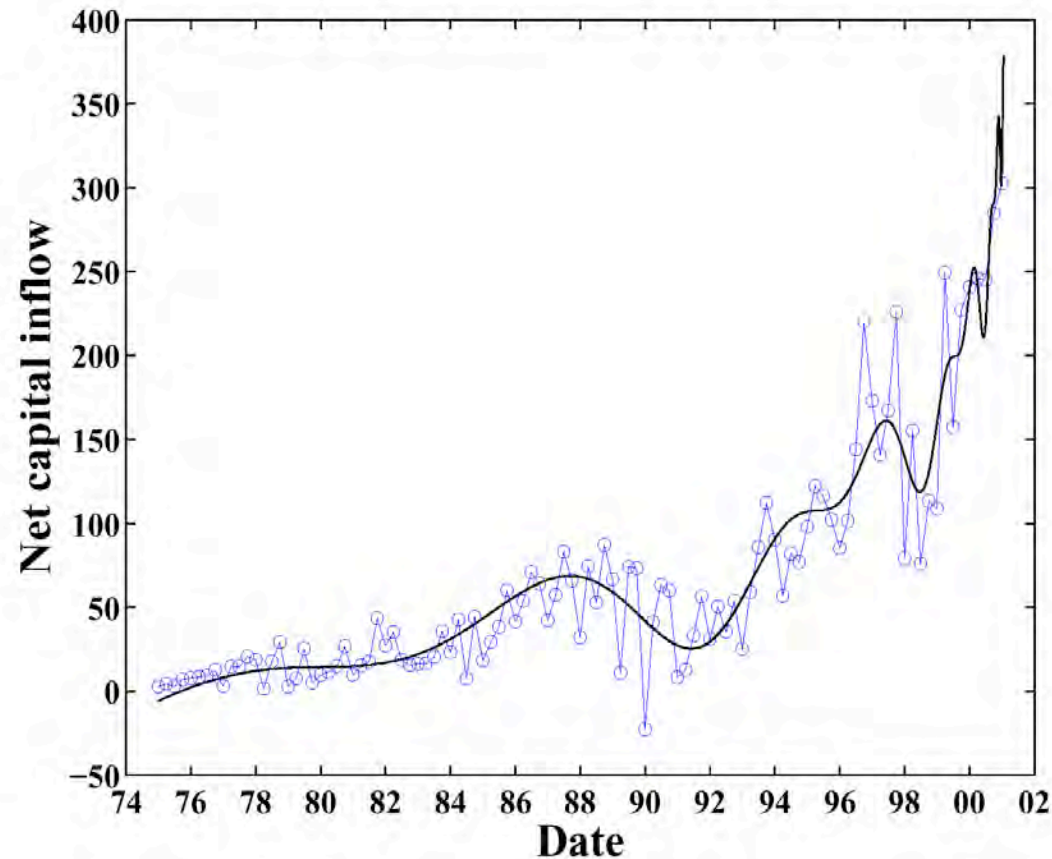
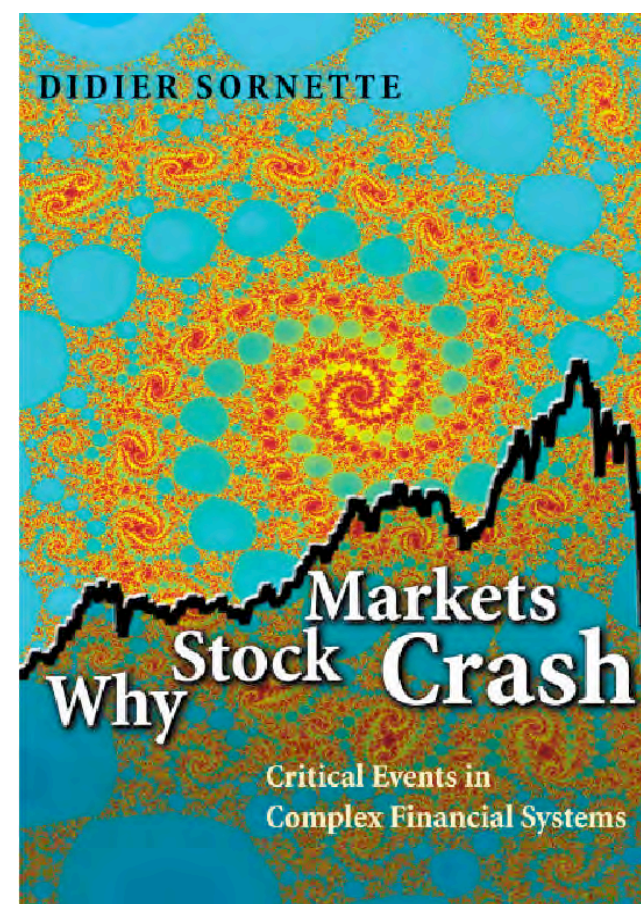


Fig. 2. Fit of the time evolution of the foreign net capital inflow  $I(t)$  in the USA from 1975 till the first quarter of 2001 when it reached its maximum, by a second-order Weierstrass-type function given by expression (1). The predicted critical time is  $t_c = 2001/03/12$ , the power-law exponent is  $m = 0.01$ , and the angular log-frequency is  $\omega = 4.9$ . The fitted linear parameters are  $A = 7355$ ,  $B = -6719$ ,  $C_1 = 21.5$  and  $C_2 = 16.2$ . The r.m.s. of the residuals of the fit is 22.810.

## Many other bubbles and crashes

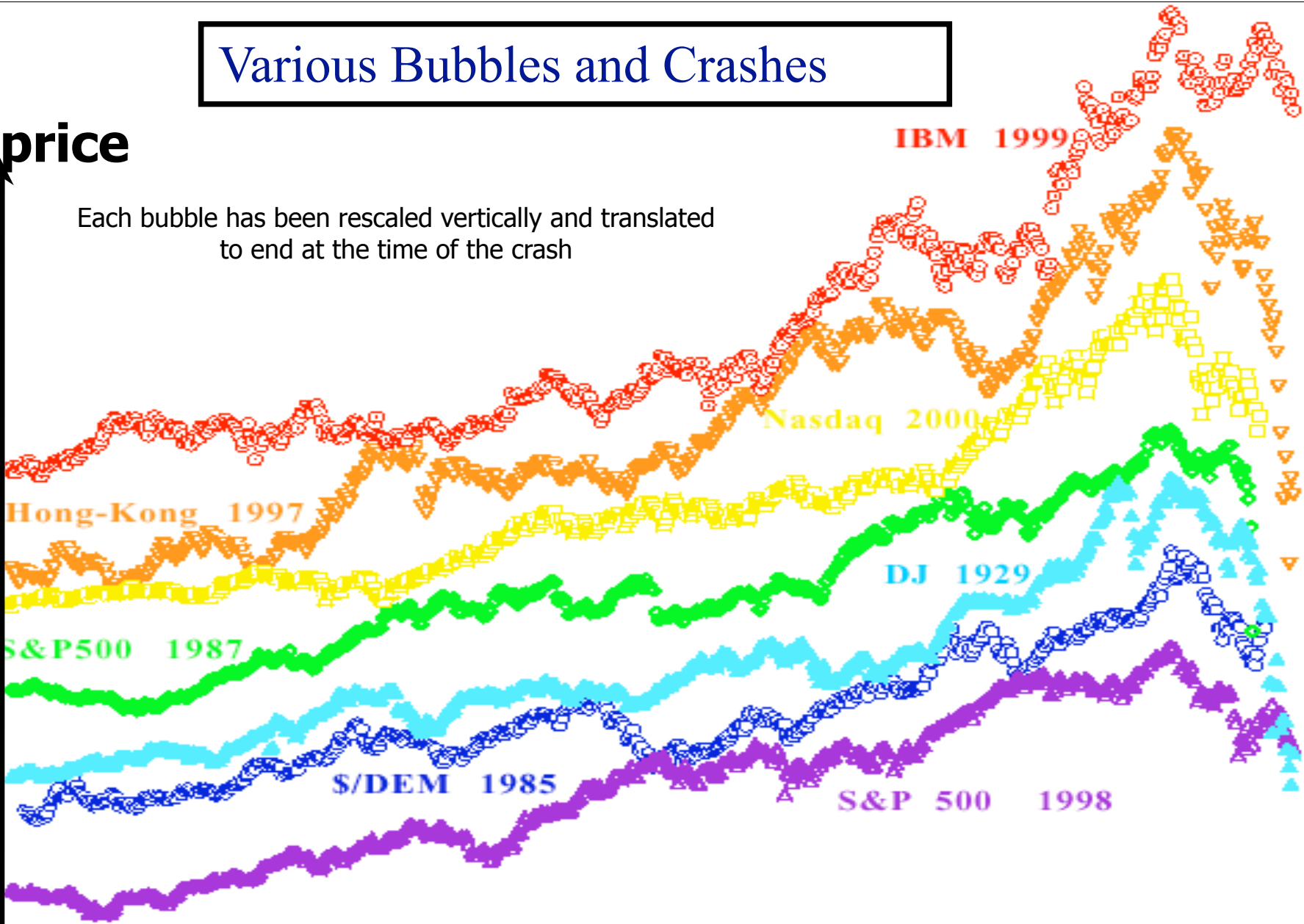
- ❑ Hong-Kong crashes: 1987, 1994, 1997 and many others
- ❑ October 1997 mini-crash
- ❑ August 1998
- ❑ Slow crash of spring 1962
- ❑ Latin-american crashes
- ❑ Asian market crashes
- ❑ Russian crashes
- ❑ Individual companies



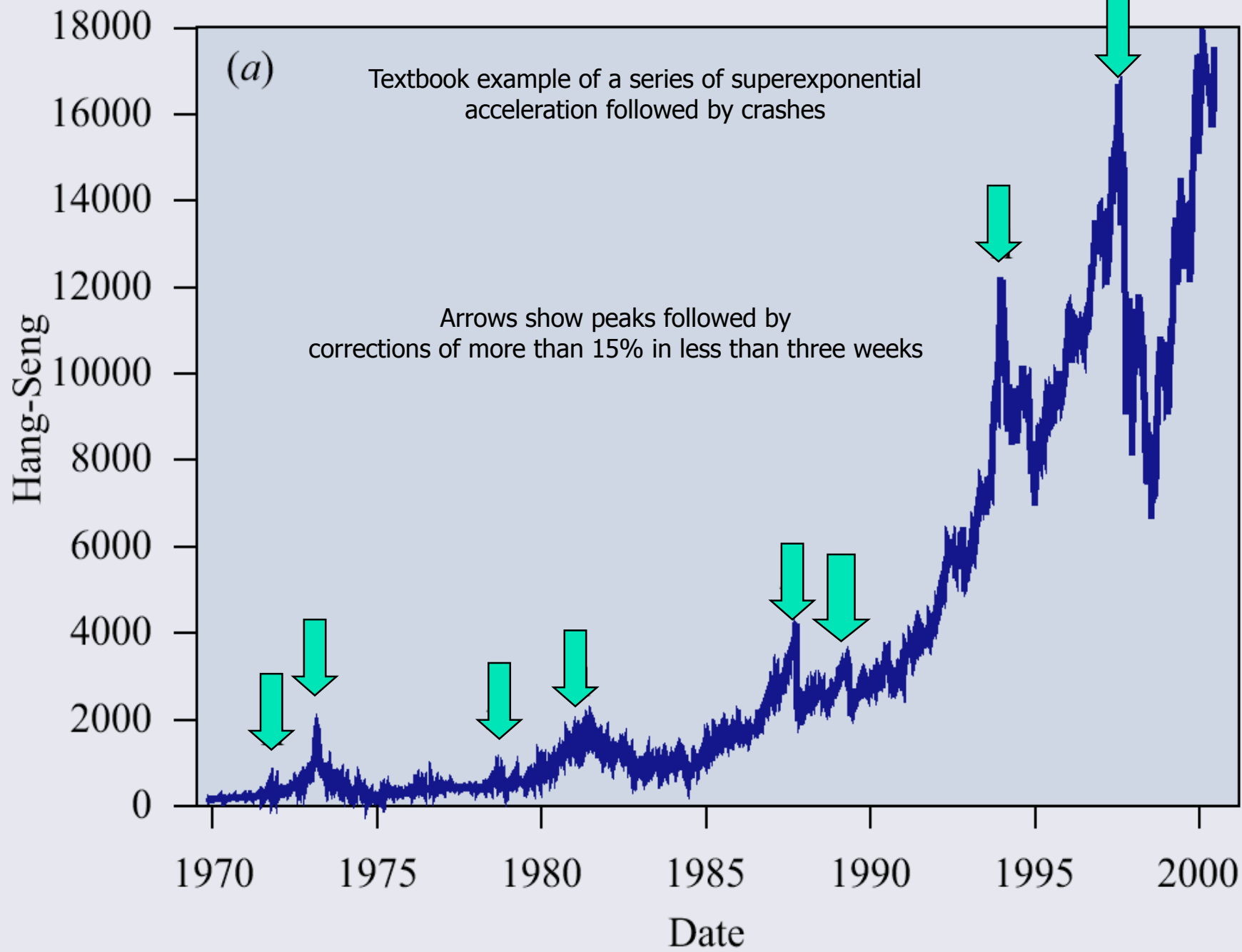
# Various Bubbles and Crashes

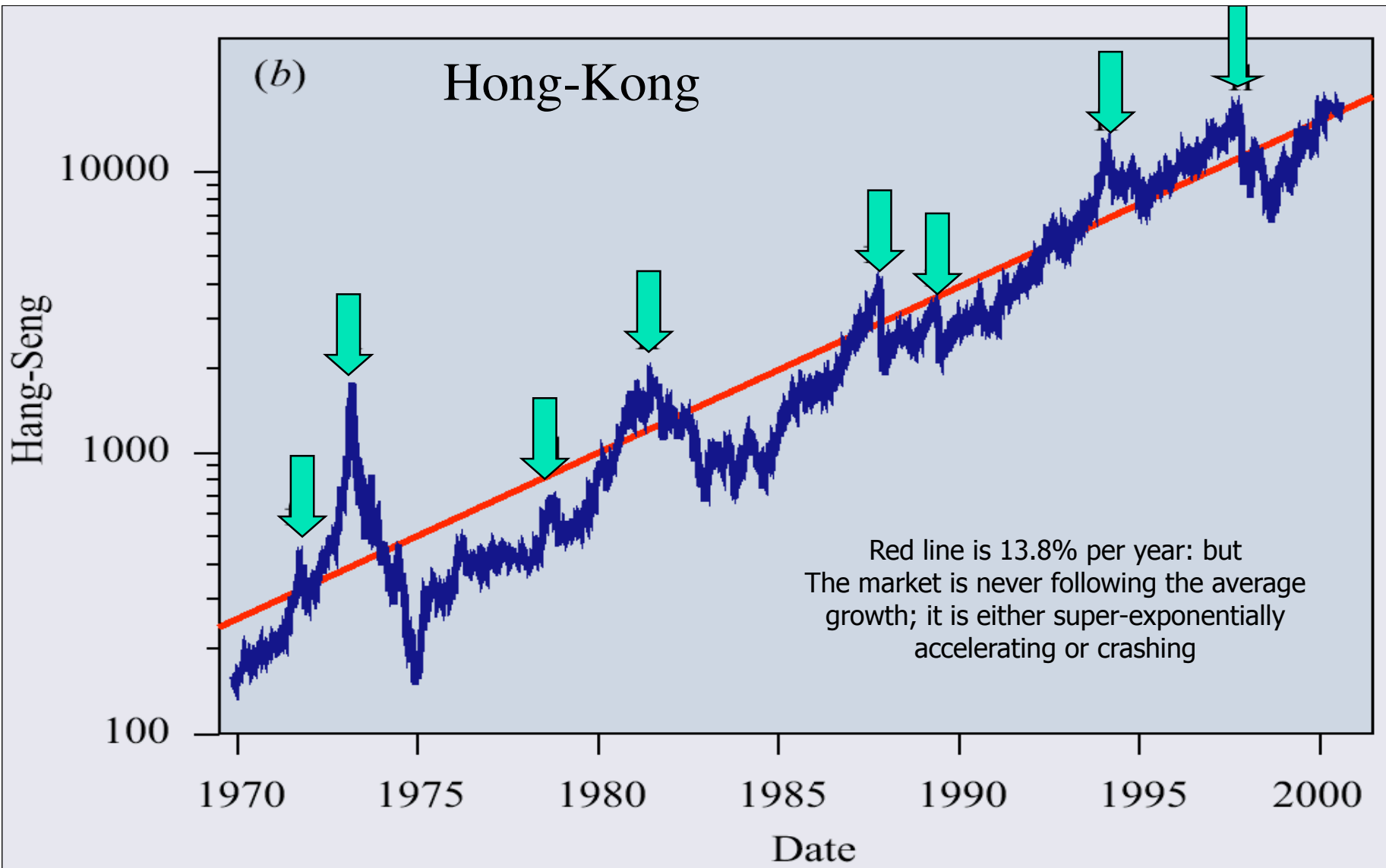
price

Each bubble has been rescaled vertically and translated to end at the time of the crash



time<sub>22</sub>





Patterns of price trajectory during 0.5-1 year before each peak: Log-periodic power law

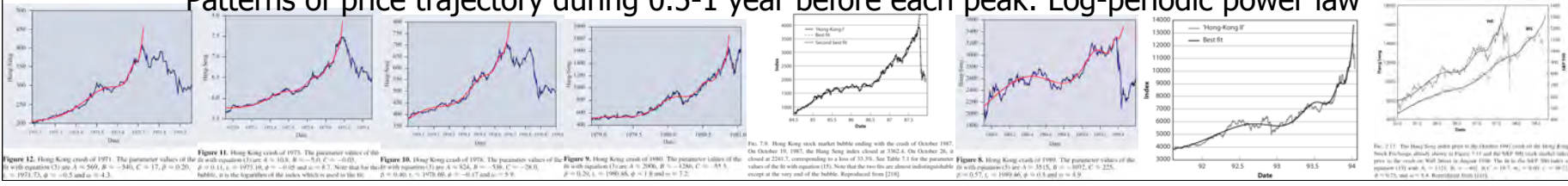


Figure 12. Hong Kong crash of 1971. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are  $A = 560$ ,  $B = -340$ ,  $C = 17$ ,  $\beta = 0.20$ ,  $\alpha = 0.72$ ,  $\delta = -0.2$ , and  $\omega = 4.2$ .  
 Figure 13. Hong Kong crash of 1975. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are  $A = 10.0$ ,  $B = -5.0$ ,  $C = -0.03$ ,  $\beta = 0.11$ ,  $\alpha = 0.75$ ,  $\delta = -0.02$ , and  $\omega = 8.7$ . Note that for the fit with equation (1) are  $A = 524$ ,  $B = -330$ ,  $C = -200$ ,  $\beta = 0.20$ ,  $\alpha = 0.72$ ,  $\delta = -0.2$ , and  $\omega = 4.2$ .  
 Figure 14. Hong Kong crash of 1976. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are  $A = 2000$ ,  $B = -1200$ ,  $C = -35$ ,  $\beta = 0.20$ ,  $\alpha = 0.72$ ,  $\delta = -0.2$ , and  $\omega = 4.2$ .  
 Figure 15. Hong Kong crash of 1980. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are  $A = 1000$ ,  $B = -500$ ,  $C = -100$ ,  $\beta = 0.20$ ,  $\alpha = 0.72$ ,  $\delta = -0.2$ , and  $\omega = 4.2$ .  
 Figure 16. Hong Kong stock market bubble ending with the crash of October 1987. On October 19, 1987, the Hong Kong index closed at 3324. On October 26, it closed at 2247, corresponding to a loss of 33.3%. See Table 3 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1). Note that the two fits are almost indistinguishable except at the very end of the bubble. Reprinted from [216].  
 Figure 17. Hong Kong crash of 1989. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are  $A = 1015$ ,  $B = -403$ ,  $C = -1072$ ,  $\beta = 0.225$ ,  $\alpha = 0.72$ ,  $\delta = -0.2$ , and  $\omega = 4.2$ .  
 Figure 18. Hong Kong stock market bubble ending with the crash of October 1997. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are  $A = 1125$ ,  $B = -403$ ,  $C = -1072$ ,  $\beta = 0.225$ ,  $\alpha = 0.72$ ,  $\delta = -0.2$ , and  $\omega = 4.2$ .  
 Figure 19. The Hong Kong index price in the October 1998 crash. The Hong Kong index price is shown in blue, and the best fit is shown in red. The fit is the best fit with equation (1) with  $A = 1125$ ,  $B = -403$ ,  $C = -1072$ ,  $\beta = 0.225$ ,  $\alpha = 0.72$ ,  $\delta = -0.2$ , and  $\omega = 4.2$ . Reprinted from [217].



# Universal Bubble and Crash Scenario

1. The bubble starts smoothly with some increasing production and sales (or demand for some commodity) in an otherwise relatively optimistic market.
2. The attraction to investments with good potential gains then leads to increasing investments, possibly with leverage coming from novel sources, often from international investors. This leads to price appreciation.
3. This in turn attracts less sophisticated investors and, in addition, leveraging is further developed with small downpayment (small margins), which leads to the demand for stock rising faster than the rate at which real money is put in the market.
4. At this stage, the behavior of the market becomes weakly coupled or practically uncoupled from real wealth (industrial and service) production.
5. As the price skyrockets, the number of new investors entering the speculative market decreases and the market enters a phase of larger nervousness, until a point when the instability is revealed and the market collapses.

# What is the cause of the crash?



- ✓ Proximate causes: many possibilities
- ✓ Fundamental cause: maturation towards an **instability**



An instability is characterized by

- large or diverging susceptibility to external perturbations or influences
- exponential growth of random perturbations leading to a change of regime, or selection of a new attractor of the dynamics.

# Complex Systems

-positive feedbacks

-non sustainable regimes

-rupture

Thomas Robert Malthus (1766–1834)



1798

autocatalytic proliferation:  $\frac{dx}{dt} = a \cdot x$

with  $a$  =birth rate - death rate

exponential solution:  $X(t) = X(0)e^{a t}$

contemporary estimations= doubling of the population every 30yrs

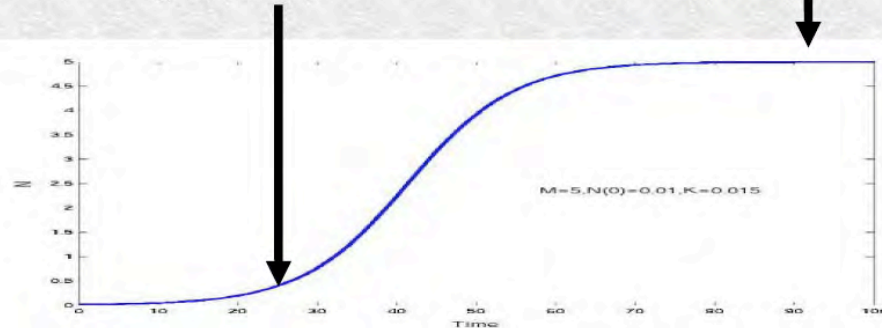
Pierre Franois Verhulst (1804-1849)



way out exponential explosion:

$dX/dt = a X - c X^2$  1838

Solution: exponential =====> saturation at  $X = a / c$



For humans data at the time could not discriminate between:

1. exponential growth of Malthus
2. logistic growth of Verhulst

But data fit on animal population: sheep in Tasmania

- exponential in the first 20 years after their introduction and completely saturated after about half a century. ==> Verhulst

## Positive feedbacks and finite-time singularity

**Conjecture:** Many systems exhibit transient FTS as “ghost-like” solutions that the system follows for a while before being attenuated.

Analogous to exponential sensitivity to initial condition with reinjection  $\rightarrow$  chaos **but** here FTS blow-up.

$$\frac{dp}{dt} = rp(t)[K - p(t)]$$

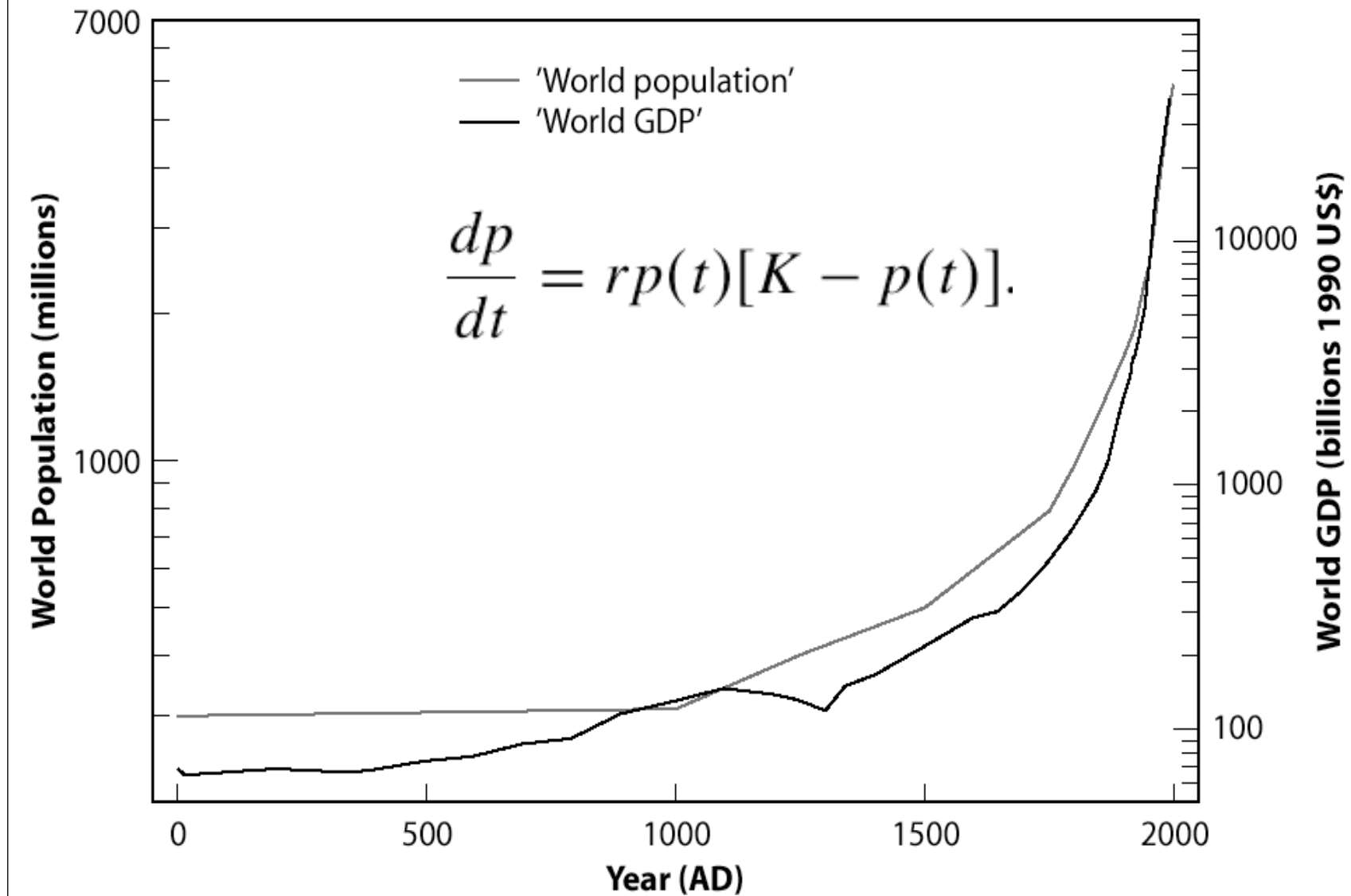
$$\frac{dp}{dt} = r[p(t)]^{1+\delta},$$

with  $K \propto p^\delta$

$$p(t) \propto (t_c - t)^z, \text{ with } z = -\frac{1}{\delta} \text{ and } t \text{ close to } t_c.$$

Multi-dimensional generalization: multi-variate positive feedbacks

# Super-exponential growth



## Faster than exponential growth

Suppose **GROWTH RATE** doubles when **POPULATION** doubles

POPULATION	GROWTH RATE	DOUBLING TIME
<input type="checkbox"/> 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> 1%	<input type="checkbox"/> 69y
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000	<input type="checkbox"/> 2%	<input type="checkbox"/> 69/2y
<input type="checkbox"/> 4000	<input type="checkbox"/> 4%	<input type="checkbox"/> 69/4y
<input type="checkbox"/> ...	<input type="checkbox"/> ...	<input type="checkbox"/> ...
<input type="checkbox"/> $2^n \times 1000$	<input type="checkbox"/> $2^n \%$	<input type="checkbox"/> $69/2^n \text{ y}$

**Population diverges in finite time**

$$69 + 69/2 + 69/4 + 69/8 \dots = 69 \times (1 + 1/2 + 1/4 + 1/8 + \dots) = 69 \times 2 = 138y$$

**Zeno paradox**

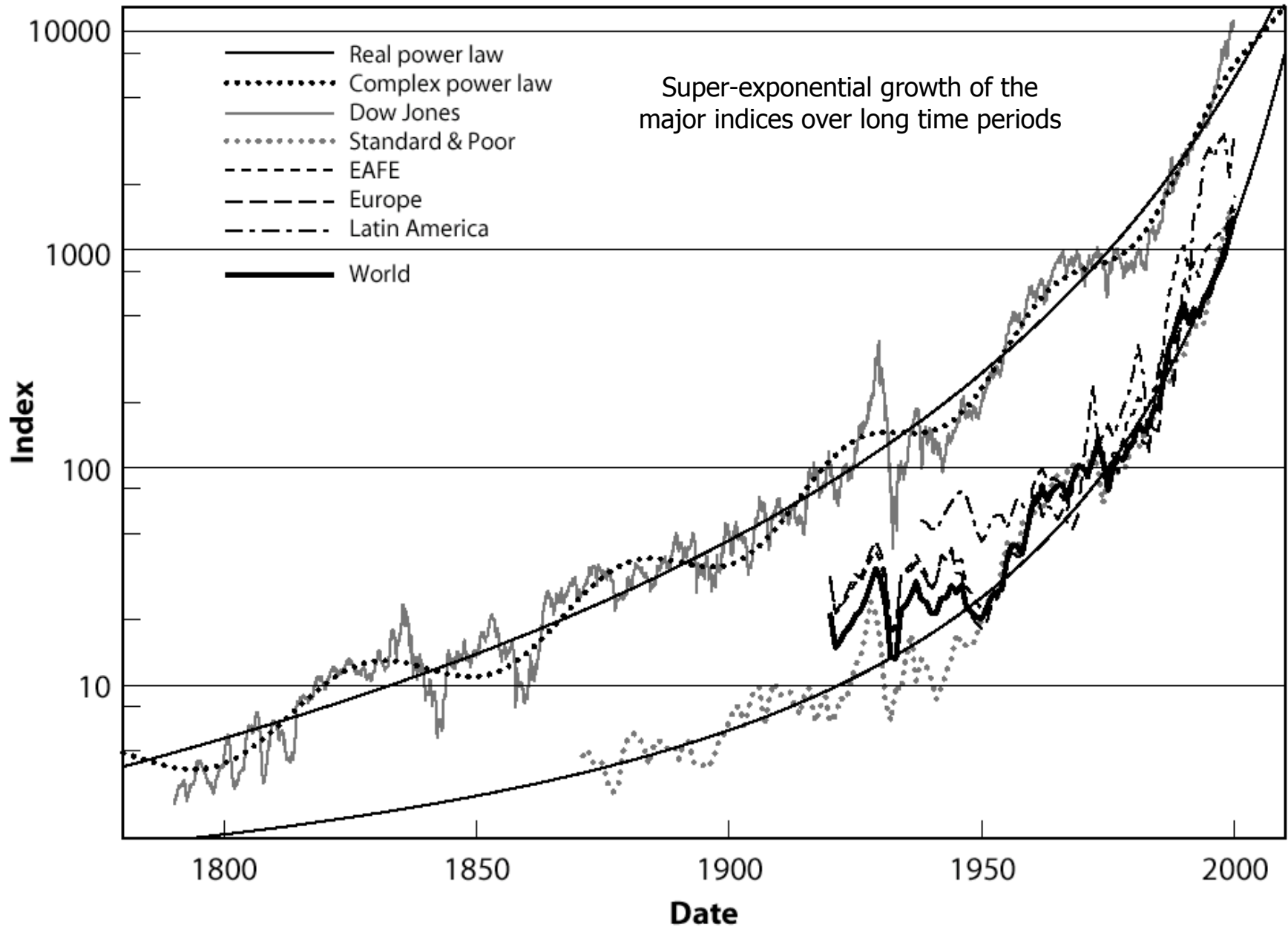
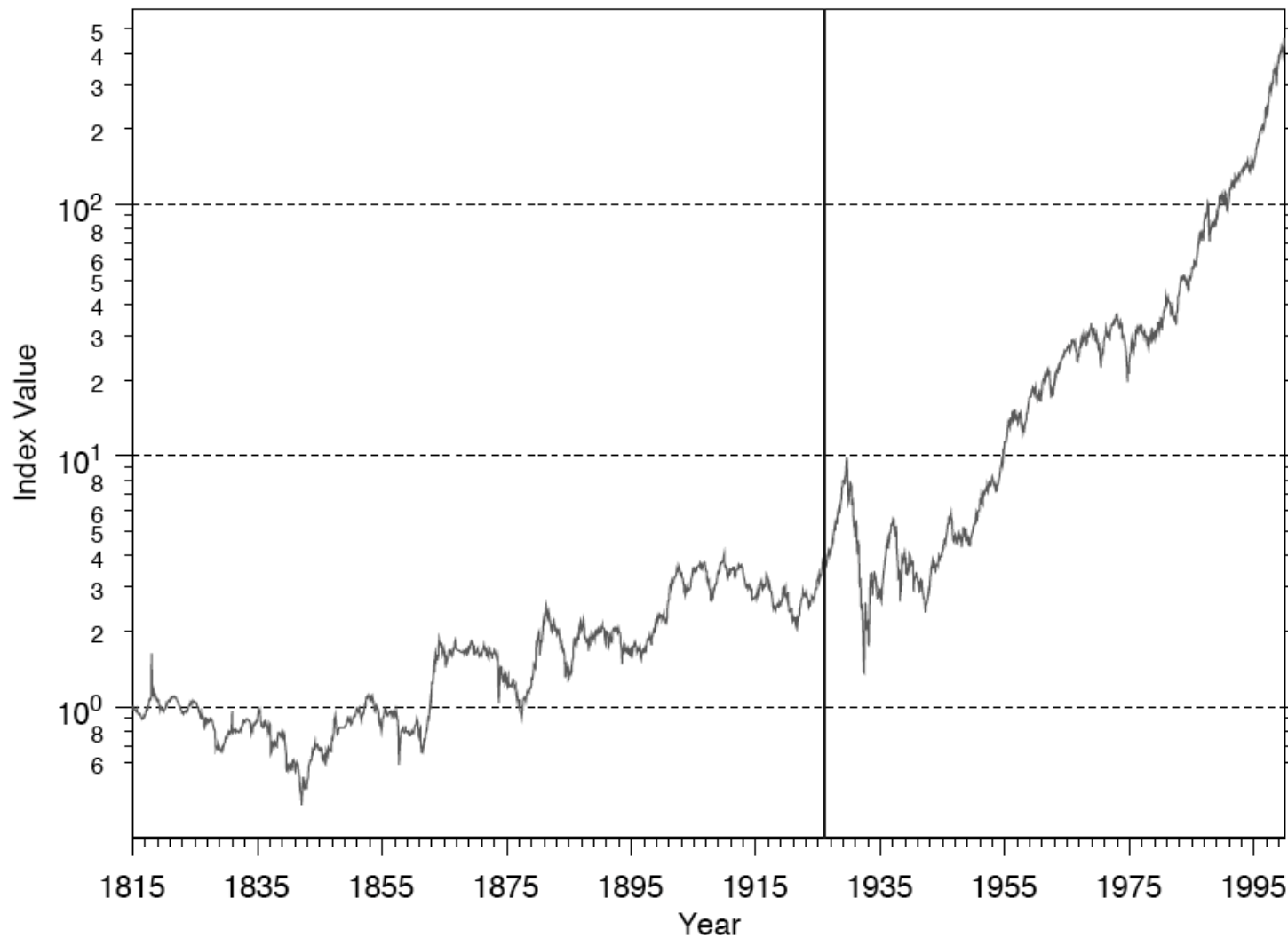




Figure 1: Monthly Capital Appreciation Index 1/1815-12/1999

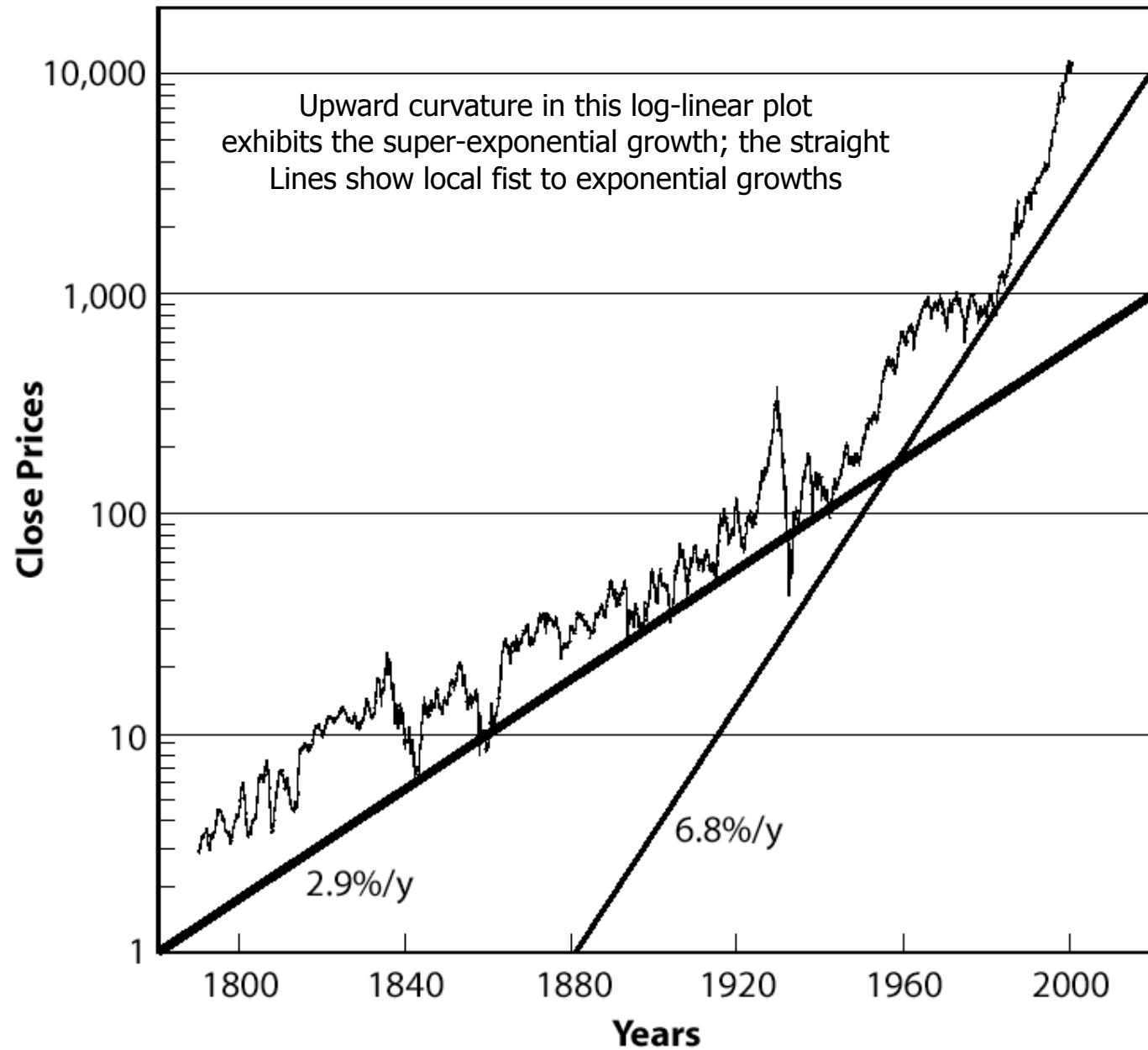


Price-weighted NYSE Index (1/1815-12/1925) with Ibbotson and Sinquefeld Index (1/1926-12/1999)

**A NEW HISTORICAL DATABASE FOR THE NYSE 1815 TO 1925:  
PERFORMANCE AND PREDICTABILITY**

W.N. Goetzmann, R.G. Ibbotson and L. Peng  
Yale School of Management, July 14, 2000

### Dow Jones Industrial Average Jan 1790–Sept 2000



# Finite-time Singularity



Artist's illustration of matter from a red giant star being pulled toward a black hole.

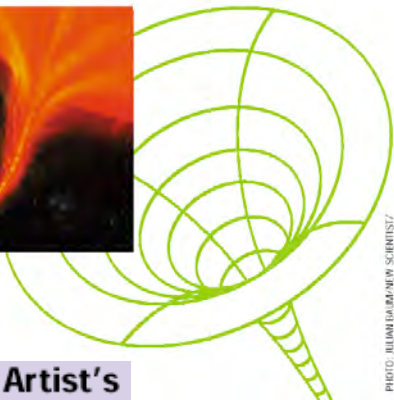


PHOTO: ALI HAJI-DAMJAN/NEW SCIENTIST/SPA, PHOTO RESEARCHERS, INC.

- Planet formation in solar system by run-away accretion of planetesimals
- PDE's: Euler equations of inviscid fluids and relationship with turbulence
- PDE's of General Relativity coupled to a mass field leading to the formation of black holes
- Zakharov-equation of beam-driven Langmuir turbulence in plasma
- rupture and material failure
- Earthquakes (ex: slip-velocity Ruina-Dieterich friction law and accelerating creep)
- Models of micro-organisms chemotaxis, aggregating to form fruiting bodies
- Surface instability spikes (Mullins-Sekerka), jets from a singular surface, fluid drop snap-off
- Euler's disk (rotating coin)
- Stock market crashes...

## Mechanisms for positive feedbacks in the stock market

- **Technical and rational mechanisms**
  1. Option hedging
  2. Insurance portfolio strategies
  3. Trend following investment strategies
  4. Asymmetric information on hedging strategies
- **Behavioral mechanisms:**
  1. Breakdown of “psychological Galilean invariance”
  2. Imitation(many persons)
    - a) It is rational to imitate
    - b) It is the highest cognitive task to imitate
    - c) We mostly learn by imitation
    - d) The concept of “CONVENTION” (Orléan)

## Utility theory

$$\sum_i p_i u(w_i) > \sum_i q_i u(w_i)$$

**Von Neumann and Morgenstern**

- Fear and Greed
- Over-confidence
- Anchoring
- Law of small numbers (gambler's fallacy)
- Representativeness (=>weight recent past too heavily)
- Availability and rational inattention
- Allais' paradox: relative reference level
- Subjective probabilities
- Procedure Utility

## Behavioral Finance:one person

$$\sum_i \pi(p_i) v(\Delta w_i) > \sum_i \pi(q_i) v(\Delta w_i)$$

\*Prospect theory

**Kahneman and Tversky**

# Are two heads better than one?

Yes IF:

1. Only one solution (otherwise "average of Nice and LA is in the Atlantic")
2. Independence between decisions (otherwise: inadequate sampling)
3. No feedbacks between people's decisions (otherwise: self-reinforcing bias)



Dresdner Kleinwort Wasserstein Seven Sins of Fund Management

Groupthink is often characterised by:

- ▶ A tendency to examine too few alternatives
- ▶ A lack of critical assessment of each other's ideas
- ▶ A high degree of selectivity in information gathering
- ▶ A lack of contingency plans
- ▶ Poor decisions are often rationalized
- ▶ The group has an illusion of invulnerability and shared morality
- ▶ True feelings and beliefs are suppressed
- ▶ An illusion of unanimity is maintained
- ▶ Mind guards (essentially information sentinels) may be appointed to protect the group from negative information

JUST A NORMAL DAY AT THE NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION...

Kal



CARTOONISTS & WRITERS SYNDICATE <http://CartoonWeb.com>

**THIS WAY TO THE  
Bull Market!**  
Almost there... 300 feet... Don't Miss The Fun!

I'm a  
trader.

Hey this Koolaid  
tastes great!

Must own  
Yahoo

Don't be negative.

Stoopid bears.

Take a  
deep  
breath!

El Cliffo

I'm flying  
mommy!





# Imitation



- Imitation is considered an efficient mechanism of social learning.

- Experiments in developmental psychology suggest that infants use imitation to get to know persons, possibly applying a 'like-me' test ('persons which I can imitate and which imitate me').

- Imitation is among the most complex forms of learning. It is found in highly socially living species which show, from a human observer point of view, 'intelligent' behavior and signs for the evolution of traditions and culture (humans and chimpanzees, whales and dolphins, parrots).

- In non-natural agents as robots, tool for easing the programming of complex tasks or endowing groups of robots with the ability to share skills without the intervention of a programmer. Imitation plays an important role in the more general context of interaction and collaboration between software agents and human users.

## Thy Neighbor's Portfolio: Word-of-Mouth Effects in the Holdings and Trades of Money Managers

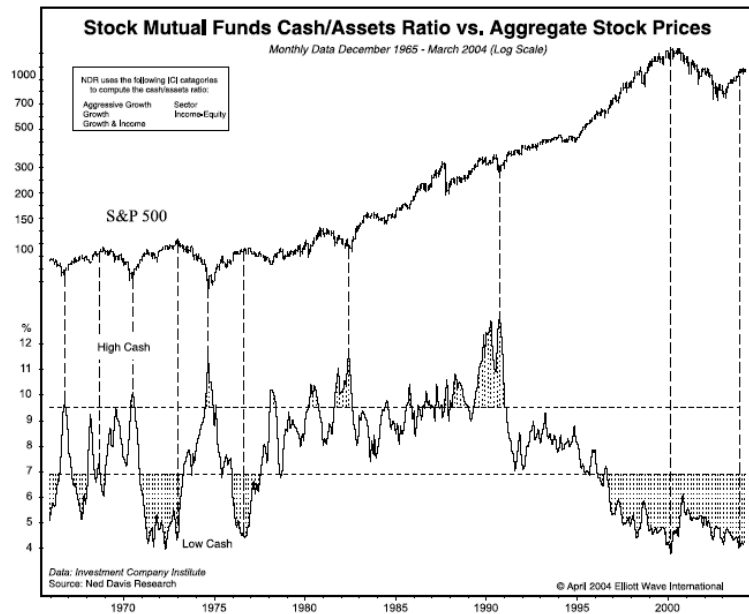
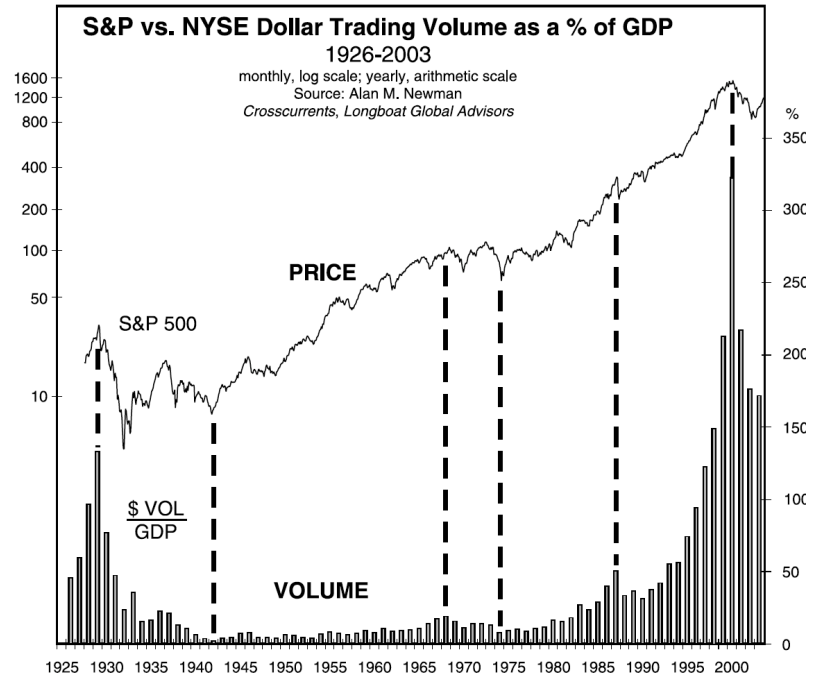
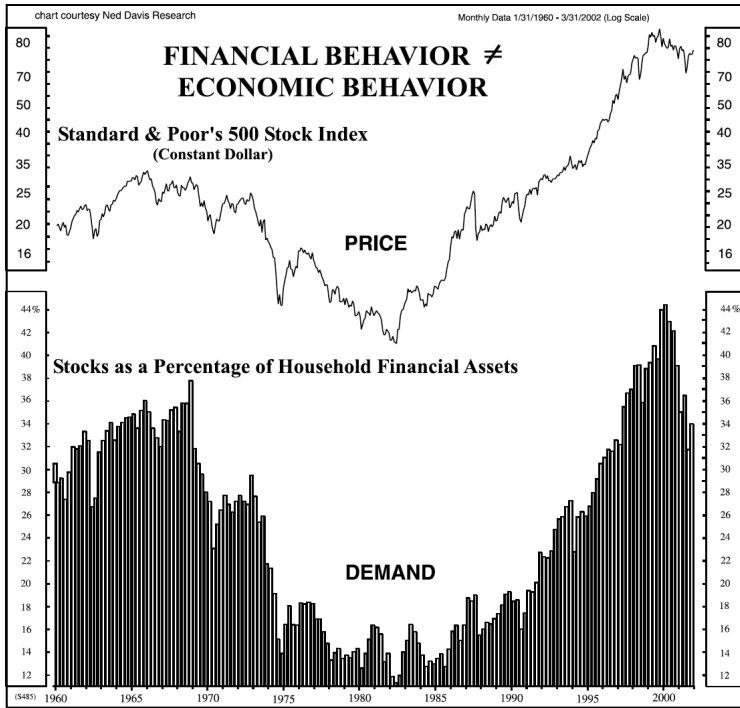
HARRISON HONG, JEFFREY D. KUBIK, and JEREMY C. STEIN\*

A mutual fund manager is more likely to buy (or sell) a particular stock in any quarter if other managers in the same city are buying (or selling) that same stock. This pattern shows up even when the fund manager and the stock in question are located far apart, so it is distinct from anything having to do with local preference. The evidence can be interpreted in terms of an epidemic model in which investors spread information about stocks to one another by word of mouth.

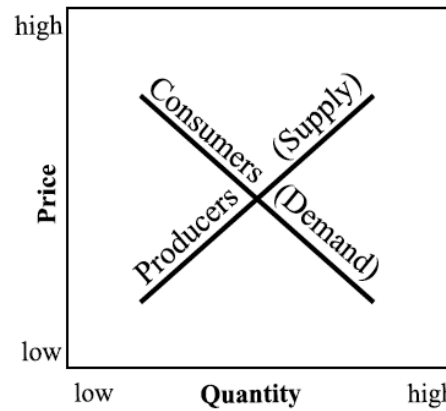
THE JOURNAL OF FINANCE • VOL. LX, NO. 6 • DECEMBER 2005

A fundamental observation about human society is that people who communicate regularly with one another think similarly. There is at any place and in any time a Zeitgeist, a spirit of the times. . . . Word-of-mouth transmission of ideas appears to be an important contributor to day-to-day or hour-to-hour stock market fluctuations. (pp. 148, 155)

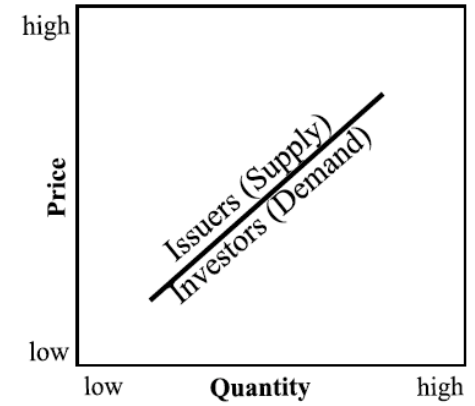
Shiller (2000)



### The Law of Supply & Demand in Utilitarian Economics

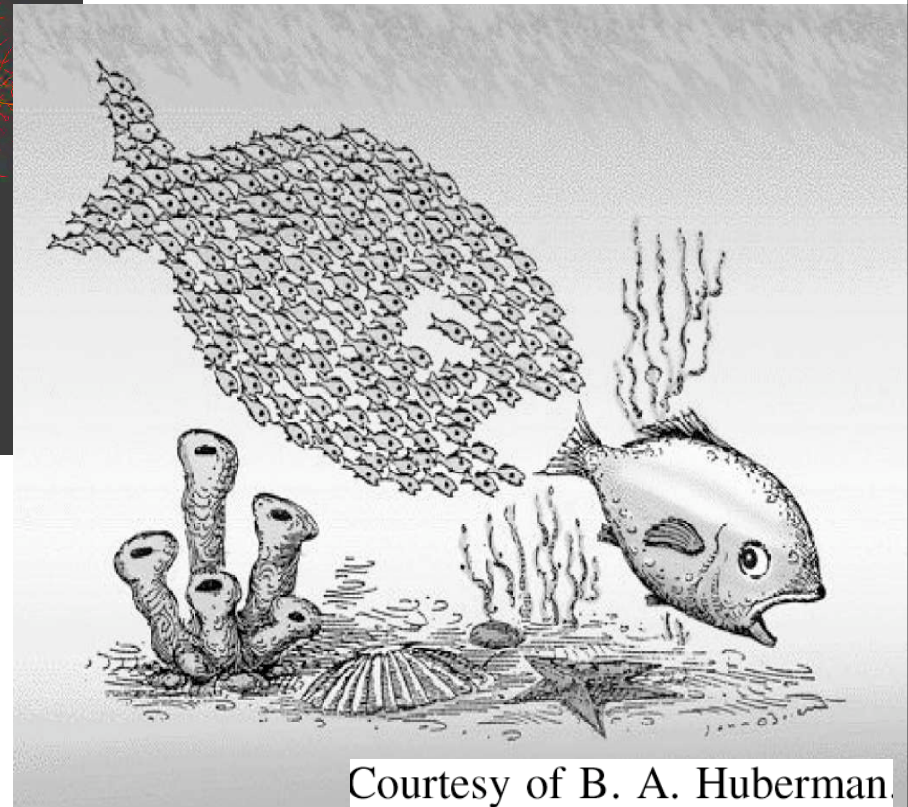
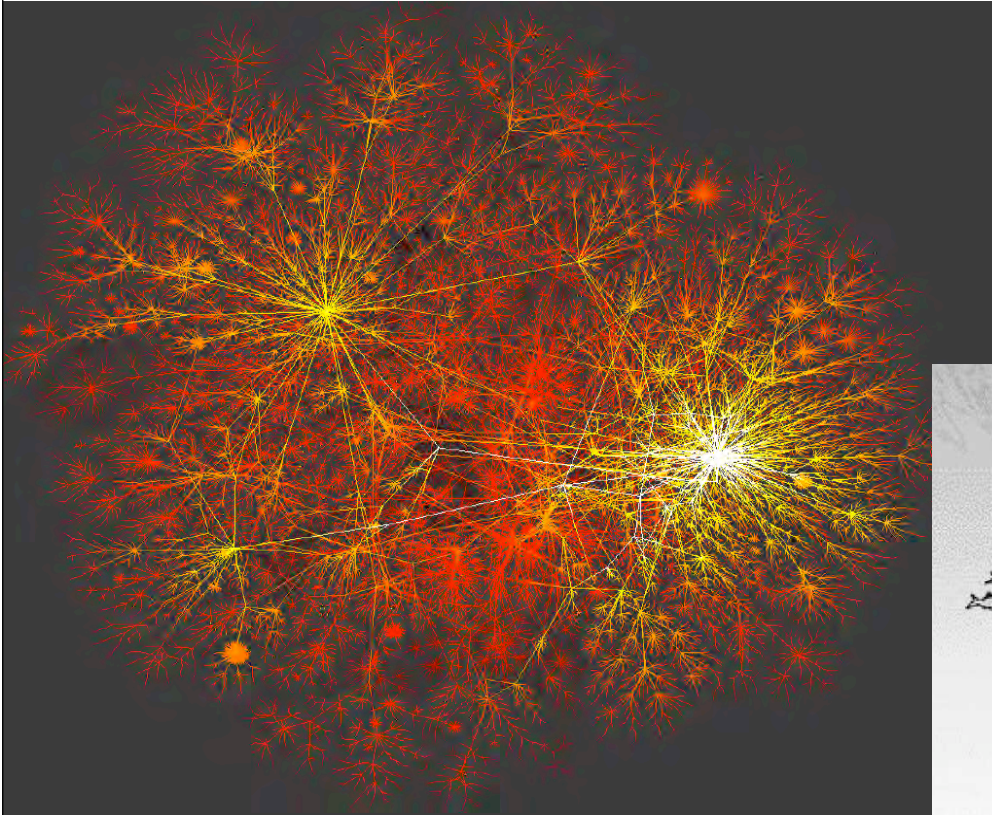


### Herding Impulse in Finance



© 2003 Robert R. Prechter, The Socionomics Institute

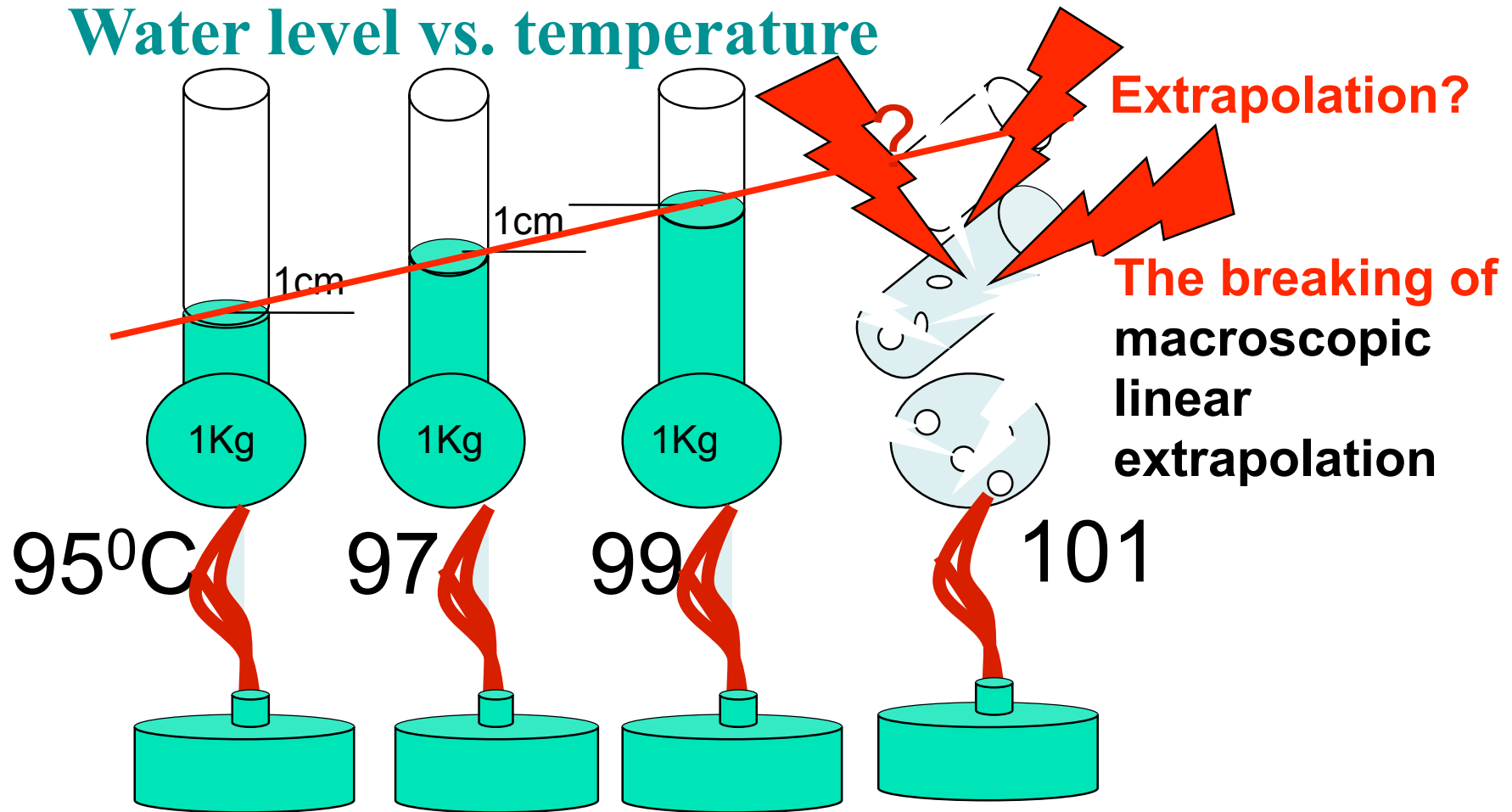
# Network effects and Collective behavior



Courtesy of B. A. Huberman.

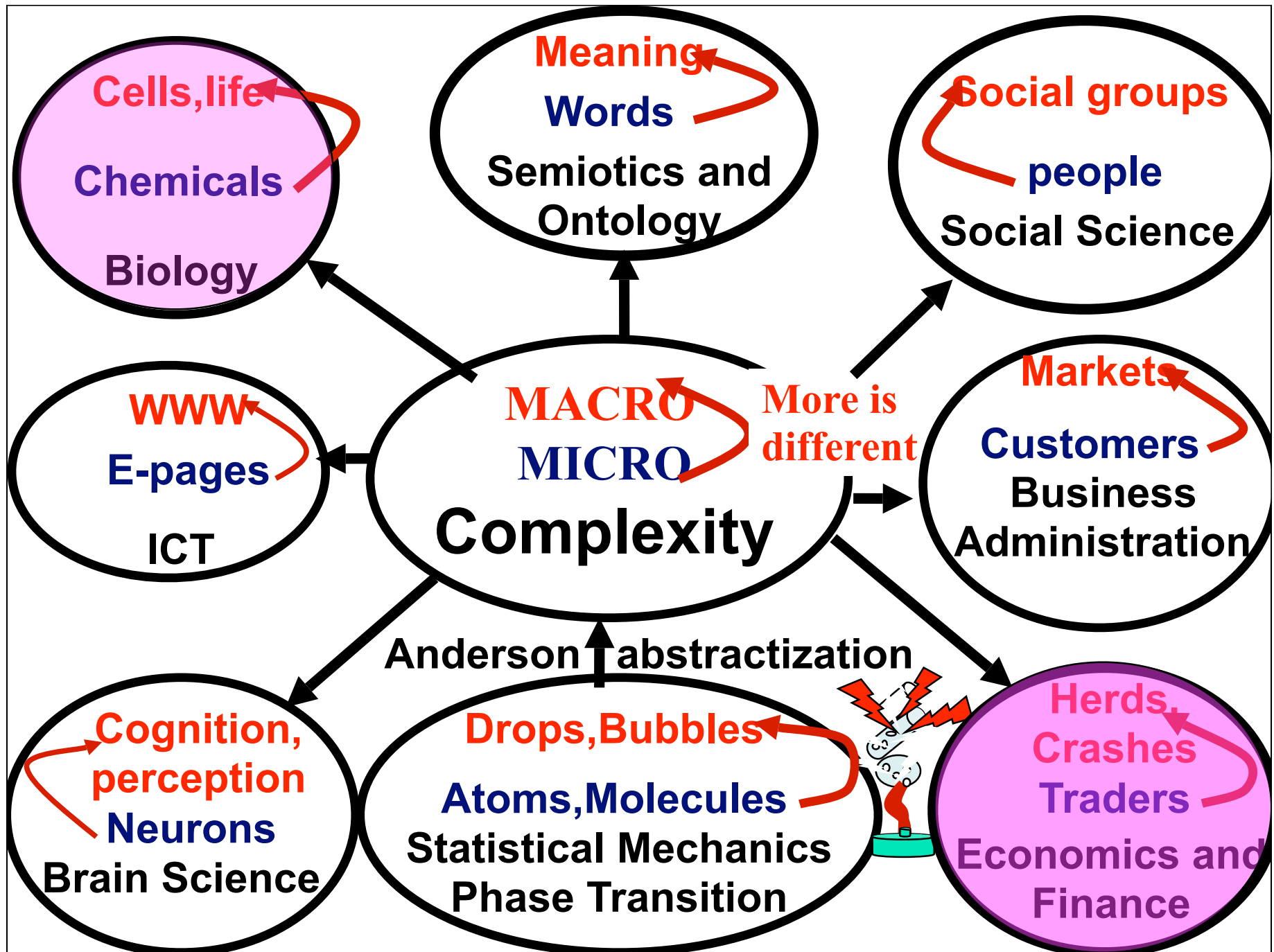
# Simplest Example of a “More is Different” Transition

## Water level vs. temperature



## BOILING PHASE TRANSITION

**More is different: a single molecule does not boil at 100C<sup>0</sup>**

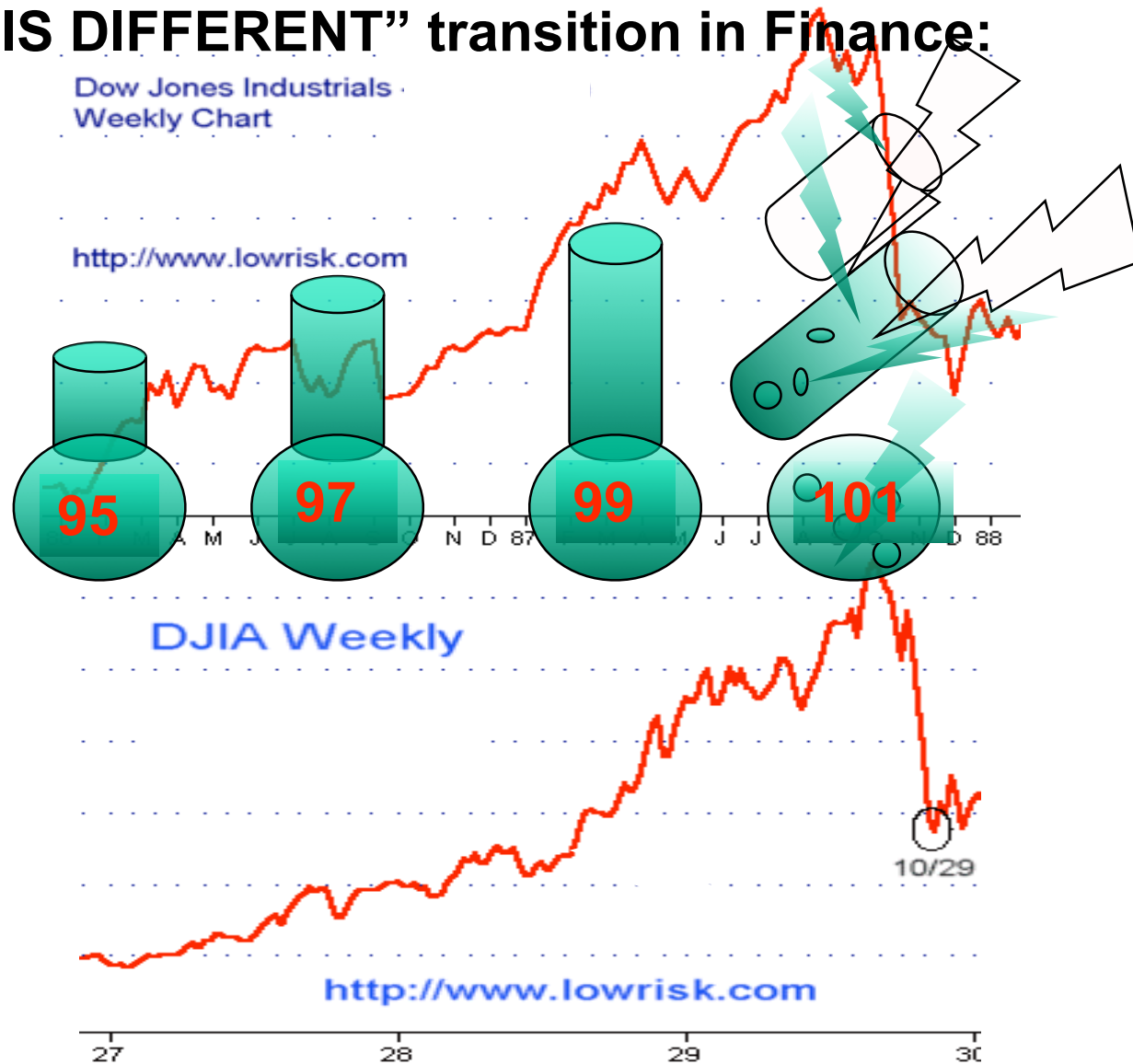


# Example of “MORE IS DIFFERENT” transition in Finance:

Dow Jones Industrials  
Weekly Chart

<http://www.lowrisk.com>

Instead of  
Water Level:  
-economic index  
(Dow-Jones etc...)



**Crash = result of collective behavior of individual traders**

## Optimal strategy obtained under limited information

Equation showing optimal imitation solution of decision in absence of intrinsic information and in the presence of information coming from actions of connected "neighbors"

$$s_i(t + 1) = \text{sign} \left( K \sum_{j \in N_i} s_j + \varepsilon_i \right)$$

This equation gives rise to critical transition=bubbles and crashes

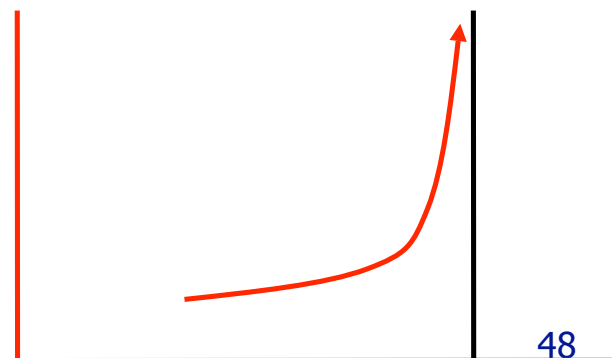
- Crash = coordinated sell-off of a large number of investors
- single cluster of connected investors to set the market off-balance
- Crash if 1) large cluster  $s > s^*$  and 2) active

-Proba(1) =  $n(s)$

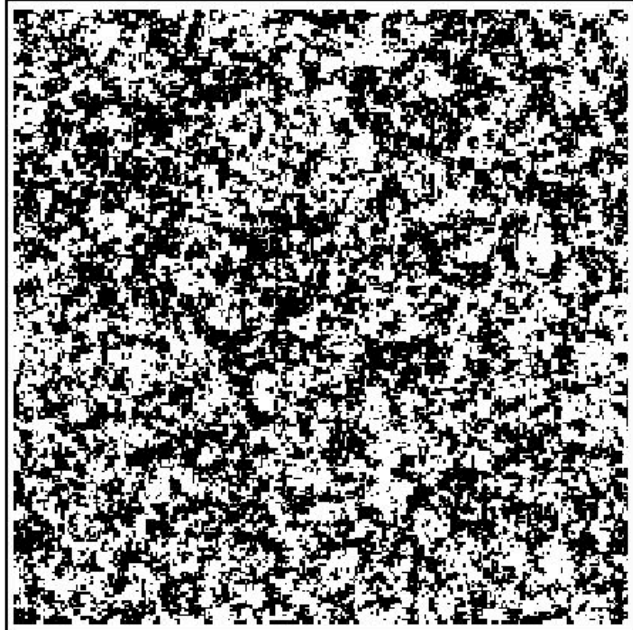
-Proba(2)  $\sim s^a$  with  $1 < a < 2$  (coupling between decisions)

$$\text{Proba}(\text{crash}) \sim \sum_{s > s^*} n(s) s^a$$

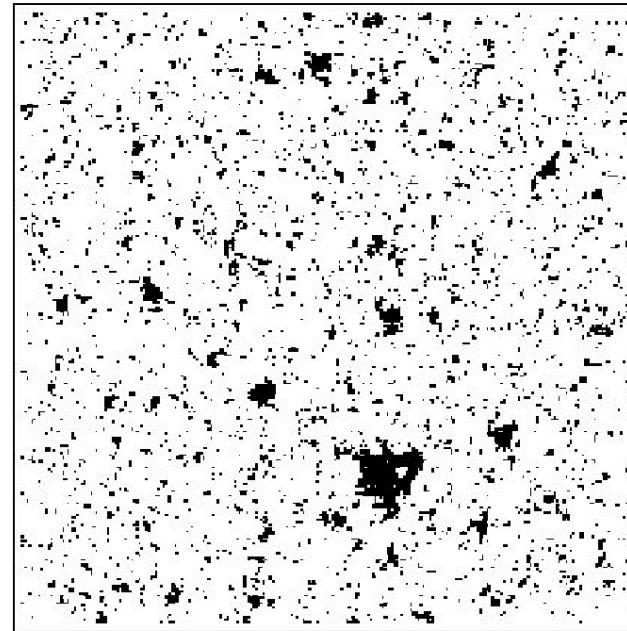
$$\text{If } a=2, \sum_{s > s^*} n(s) s^2 \sim |K - K_c|^{-\gamma}$$







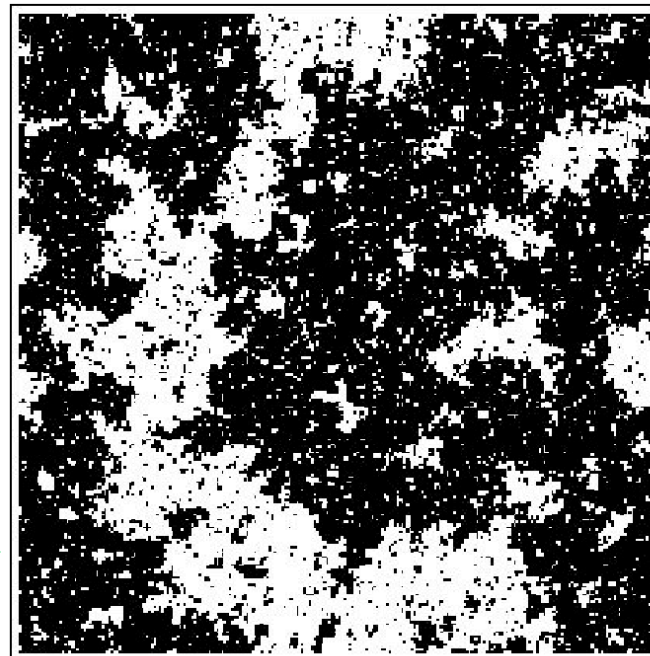
**Disorder : K small**



**Order  
K large**

**Renormalization group:  
Organization of the  
description scale by scale**

**Critical:  
K=critical  
value**



**INFORMATION: normal people's high level of general intelligence makes them too smart for their own good.**

In 1909, a broker using the pseudonym Don Guyon wrote a small book called One-Way Pockets. He was utterly mystified as to why, after a full cycle of rise and fall after which stocks were valued just where they were at the start, all his clients lost money. His answer, in a nutshell, is herding. His clients felt fearful at the start of bull markets and so traded in and out constantly. At the market's peak, they felt confidently bullish and held much more stock "for the long run,"

### **Rats beat humans:**

The rats and the humans had to look at a TV screen and press the lever anytime a dot appeared in the top half of the screen. The experimenters did not tell the human subjects that's what they were supposed to do; they had to figure it out for themselves the same way the rats did. The experiment was set up so that 70% of the time the dot was in the top of the screen. Since there was no punishment for a wrong response, the smartest strategy was just to push the bar 100% of the time. That way, you get the reward 70% of the time, even though you have not clue of what is the pattern.

That's what the rats did.

But the humans never figured this out!

They kept trying to come up with a rule, so sometimes they pressed the bar and sometimes they would not, trying to figure it out. Some of them thought they had come up with a rule. But they were of course deluded and their performance was much less than the rats.

People makes STORIES! Normal people have an "interpreter" in their left brain that takes all the random, contradictory details of whatever they are doing or remembering at the moment, and smoothes everything in one coherent story. If there are details that do not fit, they are edited out or revised!

# Importance of Positive Feedbacks and Over-confidence in a Self-Fulfilling Ising Model of Financial Markets

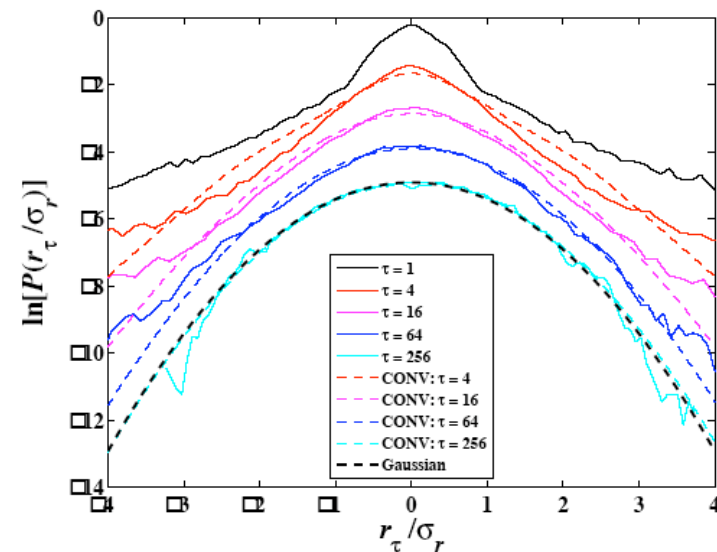
$$s_i(t) = \text{sign} \left[ \sum_{j \in \mathcal{N}} \underbrace{K_{ij}(t)}_{\text{Imitation}} E[s_j](t) + \underbrace{\sigma_i(t)G(t)}_{\text{News}} + \underbrace{\epsilon_i(t)}_{\text{Private information}} \right]$$

$$K_{ij}(t) = b_{ij} + \alpha_i K_{ij}(t-1) + \beta r(t-1)G(t-1)$$

$\beta < 0$ : rational agents

$\beta > 0$ : over-confident agents

Didier Sornette and Wei-Xing Zhou  
Physica A 370 (2), 704-726 (2006))



## Rational Expectation Bubbles and Crashes (Blanchard-Watson)

Martingale hypothesis (“no free lunch”):

$$\text{for all } t' > t \quad \mathbb{E}_t[p(t')] = p(t)$$

If crashes are depletions of bubbles:

$$dp = \mu(t) p(t) dt - \kappa[p(t) - p_1]dj$$

Martingale gives

$$\mu(t)p(t) = \kappa[p(t) - p_1]h(t) ,$$

*i.e.*, if crash hazard rate  $h(t)$  increases, so must the return (bounded rationality)

## Bubble with stochastic finite-time singularity

$$\frac{dB(t)}{B(t)} = \mu dt + \sigma dW_t - \kappa dj$$

$$\mu(B)B = \frac{m}{2B} [B\sigma(B)]^2 + \mu_0 [B(t)/B_0]^m$$

$$\sigma(B)B = \sigma_0 [B(t)/B_0]^m,$$

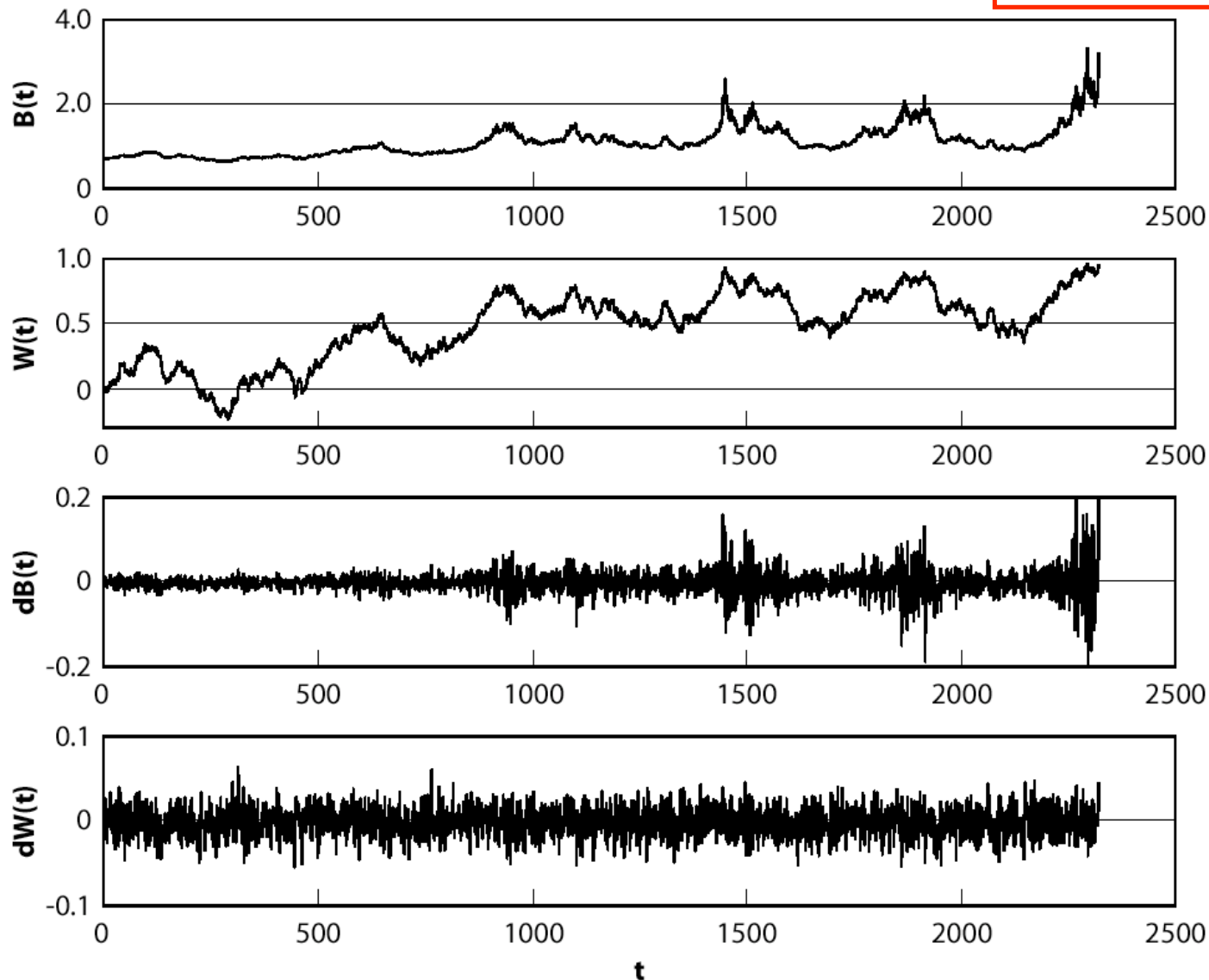
$$\frac{dB}{dt} = (a\mu_0 + b\eta) B^m - \kappa B dj \quad h(t) = \frac{\mu(B(t))}{\langle \kappa \rangle}$$

$$B(t) = \alpha^\alpha \frac{1}{\left( \mu_0 [t_c - t] - \frac{\sigma_0}{B_0^m} W(t) \right)^\alpha}, \quad \text{where } \alpha \equiv \frac{1}{m-1}$$

Stochastic finite-time singularity

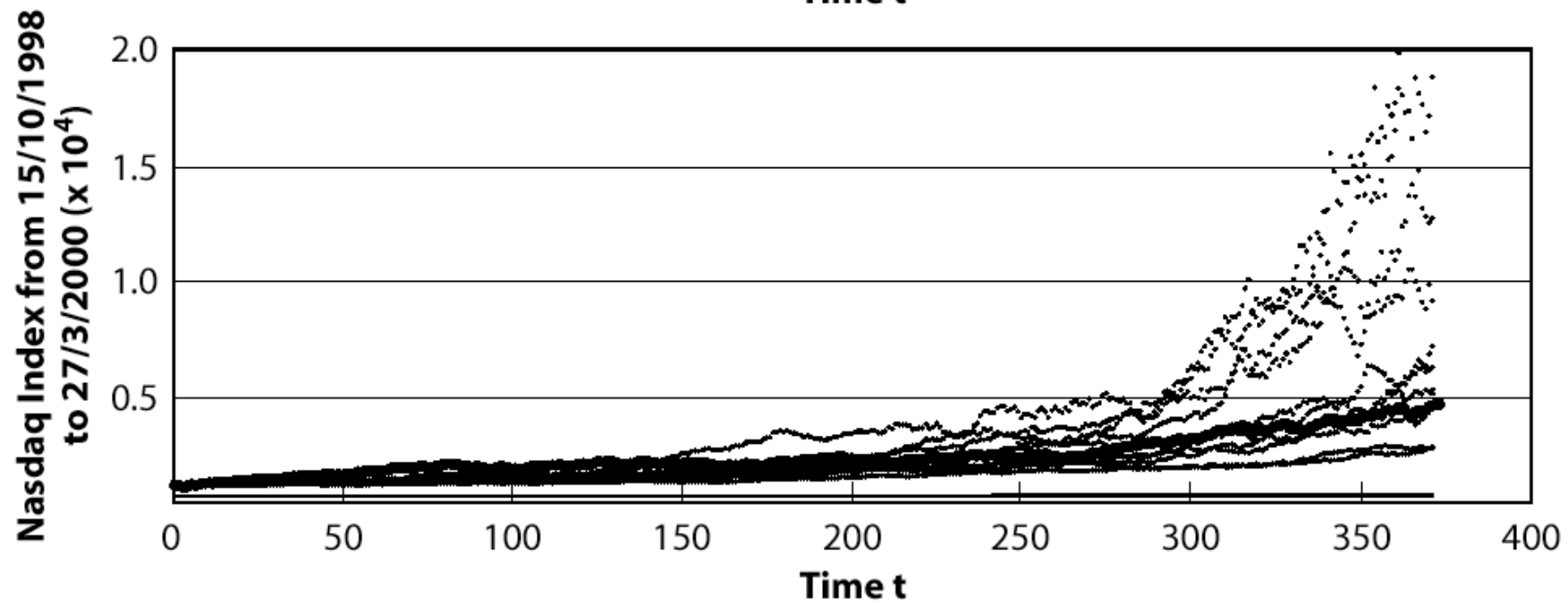
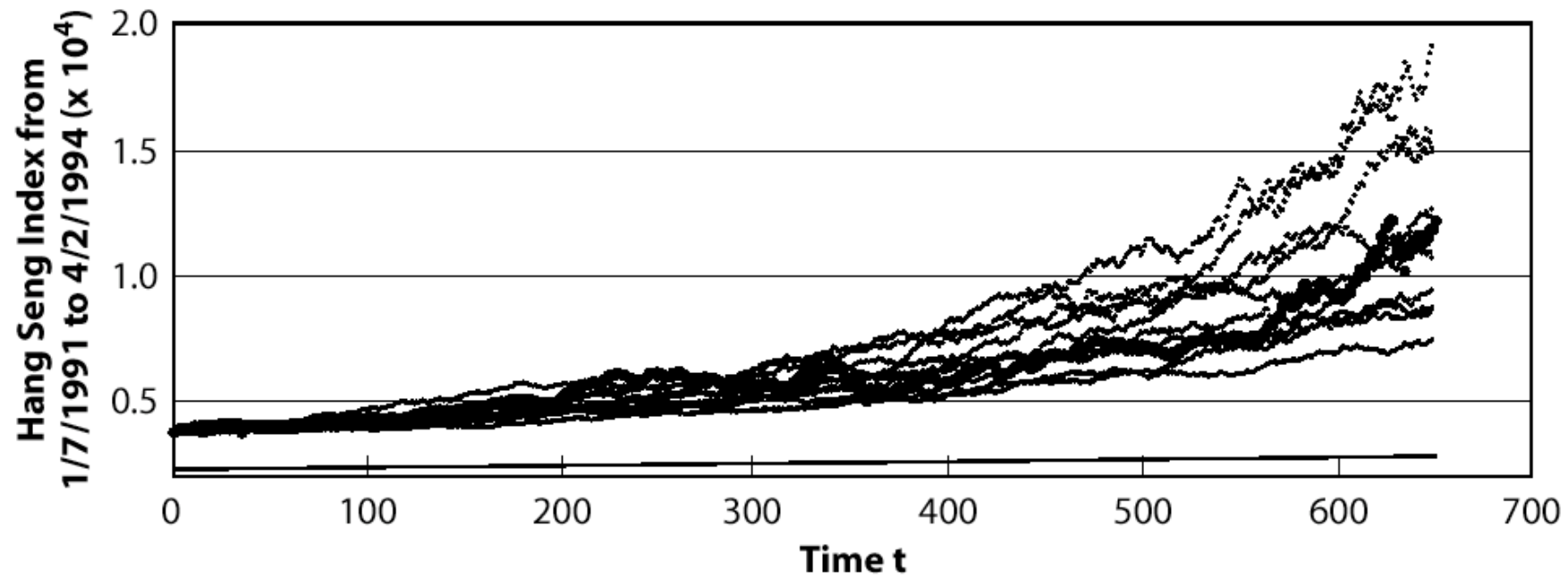
# Nonlinear Super-Exponential Rational Model of Speculative Financial Bubbles

$$B(t) = \alpha^\alpha \frac{1}{(\mu_0[t_c - t] - (\sigma_0/B_0^m)W(t))^\alpha}$$



**The price  
drives the  
crash hazard  
rate.**

D. Sornette and J.V. Andersen  
A Nonlinear Super-Exponential Rational Model of Speculative Financial Bubbles,  
Int. J. Mod. Phys. C 13 (2), 171-188 (2002)



$$B(t) = \alpha^\alpha \frac{1}{(\mu_0[t_c - t] - (\sigma_0/B_0^m)W(t))^\alpha} \quad \text{where } \alpha \equiv 1/m - 1$$

**Contains two ingredients:**

**(1) growth faster than exponential**

**(2) growth of volatility**

limit  $1/\alpha \rightarrow 0$  ( $m \rightarrow 1$ )

$$B_{\text{BS}}(t) = \exp(\mu_0 t + \sigma_0 W(t)) \quad \text{Standard Geometric random walk}$$

**Wilks' test of embedded hypotheses**

**Test of the existence of both ingredients**

*J.V. Andersen, D. Sornette / Physica A 337 (2004) 565–585*



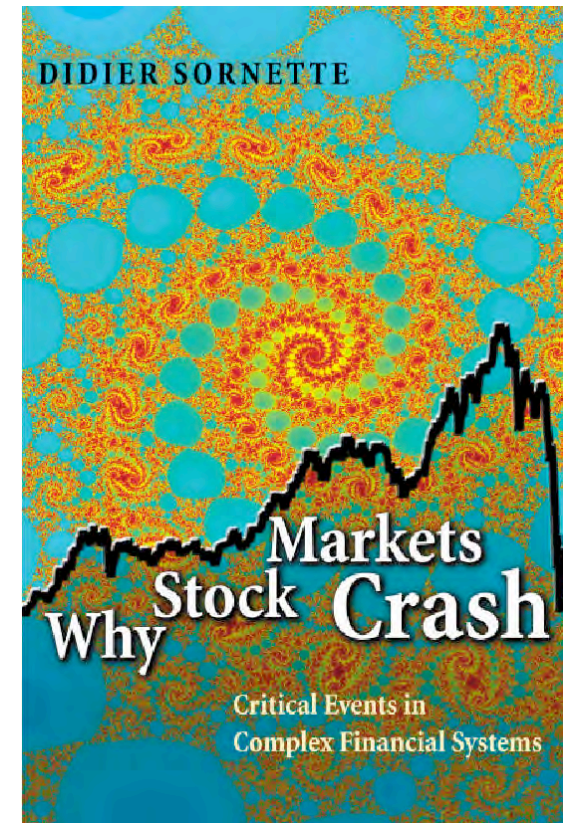
# DISCRETE HIERARCHY OF THE AGENT NETWORK

**Presentation of three different mechanisms leading to discrete scale invariance, discrete hierarchies and log-periodic signatures**

- ❑ Co-evolution of brain size and group size  
(Why do we have a big Brain?)
  
- ❑ Interplay between **nonlinear positive** and **negative feedbacks** and **inertia**
  
- ❑ Discrete scale invariance  
Complex fractal dimension  
Log-periodicity

# Conclusions

- Discrete social hierarchies may be deeply rooted in the cognitive processing abilities of human brains.
- We suggest that this has observable consequences, such as in financial markets.
- Implications for the optimization of
  - Corporate management
  - Politics
  - Departments and universities



# DISCRETE HIERARCHY OF THE AGENT NETWORK

**Presentation of three different mechanisms leading to discrete scale invariance, discrete hierarchies and log-periodic signatures**

- ❑ Co-evolution of brain size and group size  
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Complex fractal dimension  
Log-periodicity

# Oscillatory finite-time singularity

Another mechanism of LPPL (log-periodic power law)

The balance between supply and demand determines the price variation from  $p(t)$  to  $p(t + \delta t)$  over the time interval  $\delta t$  according to [Farmer, 1998]

$$\ln p(t + \delta t) - \ln p(t) = \frac{1}{L} [\Omega_{\text{value}}(t) + \Omega_{\text{tech}}(t)] \quad (10)$$

## Fundamental value strategies

$$\Omega_{\text{value}}(t) = -c \ln[p(t)/p_f] \left| \ln[p(t)/p_f] \right|^{n-1}$$

## Technical analysis strategies

$$\Omega_{\text{tech}}(t) = a_1 [\ln p(t) - \ln p(t - \delta t)] \\ + a_2 [\ln p(t) - \ln p(t - \delta t)] \left| \ln p(t) - \ln p(t - \delta t) \right|^{m-1}$$

## Inertia + NL negative feedback + NL positive feedback

The essential element is the nonlinear (NL) nature (threshold like) of the fundamental valuation-based and of the technical analysis-based strategies

The theory becomes critical when the “mass” term vanishes, i.e., when  $a_1 = L$ . Rescaling  $t$  and  $y_1$  by  $\alpha$  and posing  $y_2 = dY_1/dt$  and  $\gamma = \alpha^{-(n+1)}c/L(\delta t)^2$  where  $\alpha \equiv a_2(\delta t)^{m-2}/L$ , we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{dy_1}{dt} &= y_2, \\ \frac{dy_2}{dt} &= \alpha y_2 |y_2|^{m-1} - \gamma y_1 |y_1|^{n-1}\end{aligned}$$

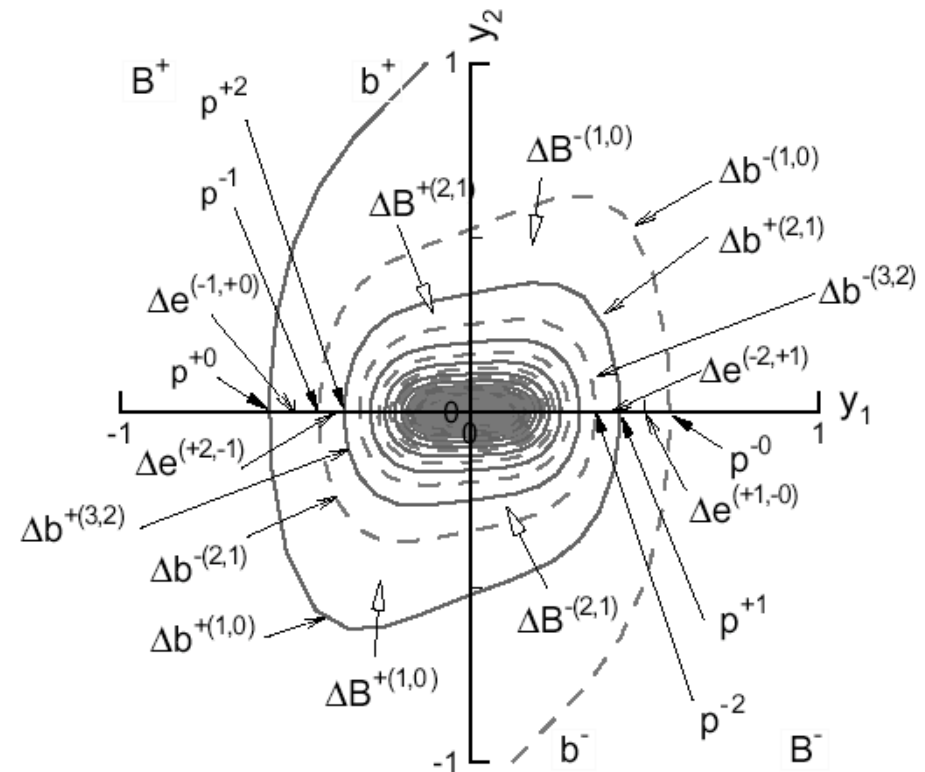
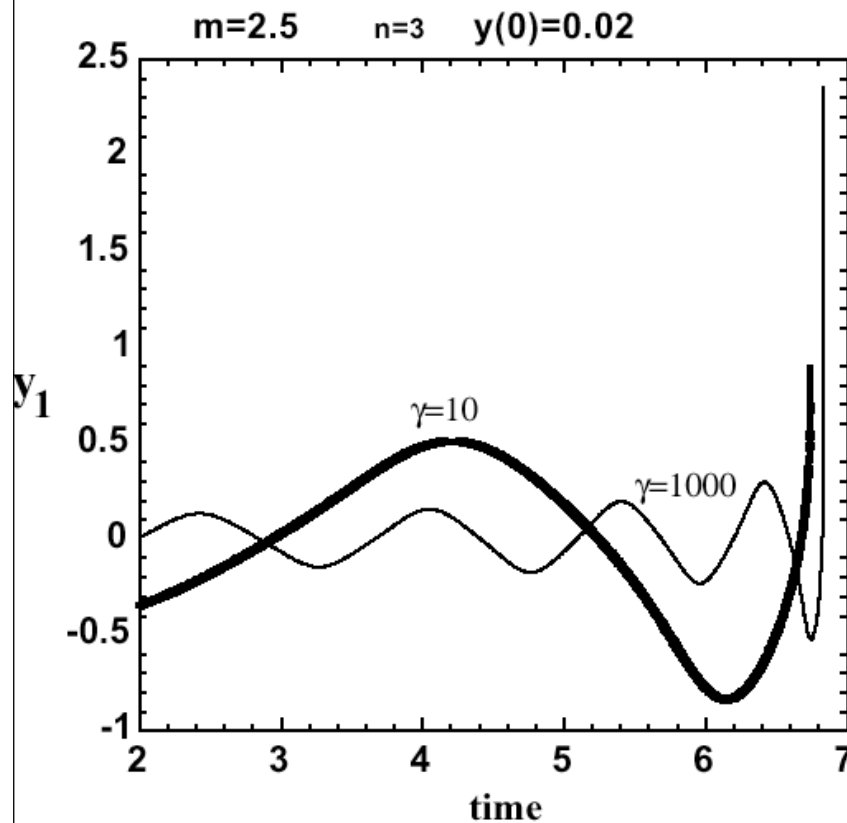
or

$$\frac{d^2y_1}{dt^2} = -\gamma y_1 |y_1|^{n-1} + \alpha \frac{dy_1}{dt} \left| \frac{dy_1}{dt} \right|^{m-1}$$

# Oscillatory finite-time singularity

- Non-linear fundamental value strategies
- Non-linear technical analysis strategies
- Inertia

K. Ide and D. Sornette  
Oscillatory Finite-Time Singularities  
in Finance, Population and Rupture,  
Physica A 307 (1-2), 63-106 (2002)



# DISCRETE HIERARCHY OF THE AGENT NETWORK

**Presentation of three different mechanisms leading to discrete scale invariance, discrete hierarchies and log-periodic signatures**

- ❑ Co-evolution of brain size and group size  
(Why do we have a big Brain?)
  
- ❑ Interplay between **nonlinear positive** and **negative feedbacks** and **inertia**
  
- ❑ Discrete scale invariance  
Complex fractal dimension  
Log-periodicity

# FRACTALS

1)  $d \in \mathbf{N}$  Euclid (ca. 325-270 BC)

2)  $d \in \mathbf{R}$  Mandelbrot (1960-1980)  
(Weierstrass, Hausdorff, Holder, ...)

3)  $d \in \mathbf{C}$

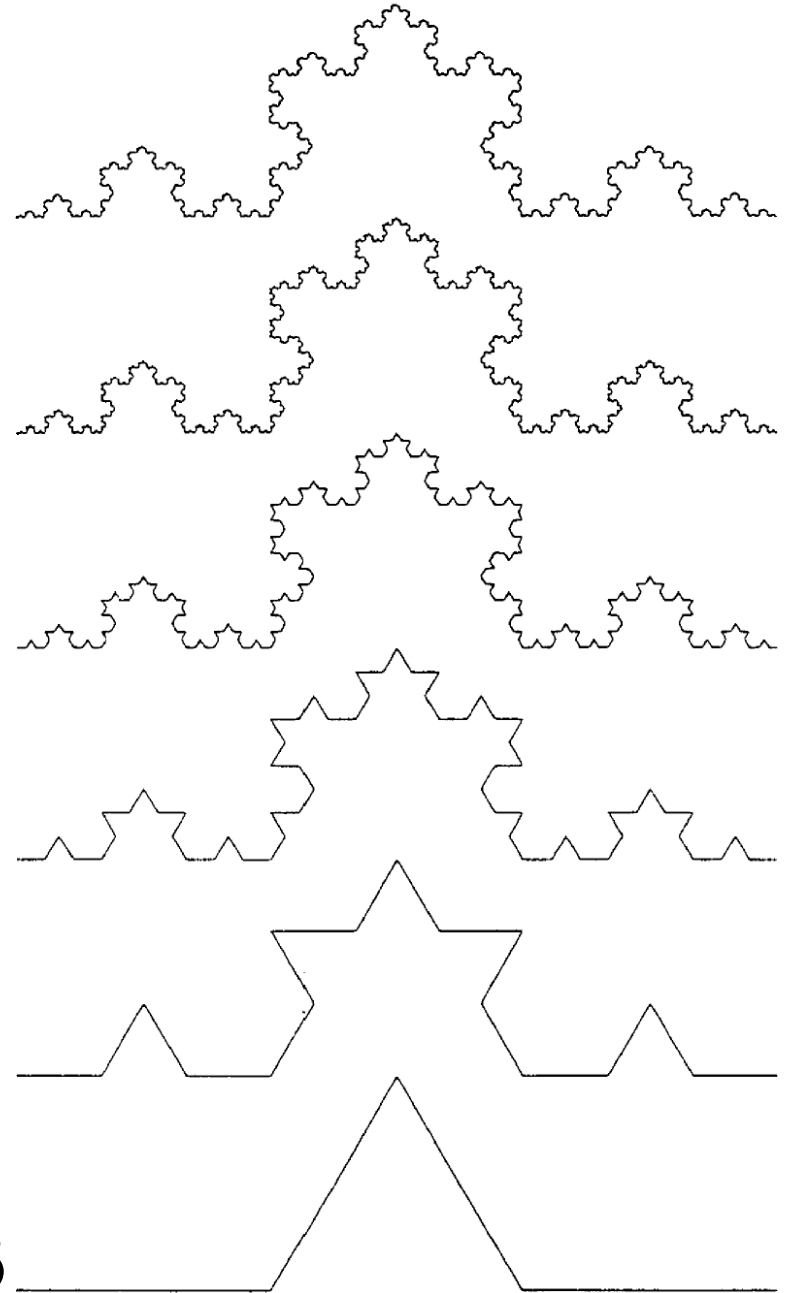
**Discrete scale invariance**

**Complex fractal  
dimension**

**Log-periodicity**

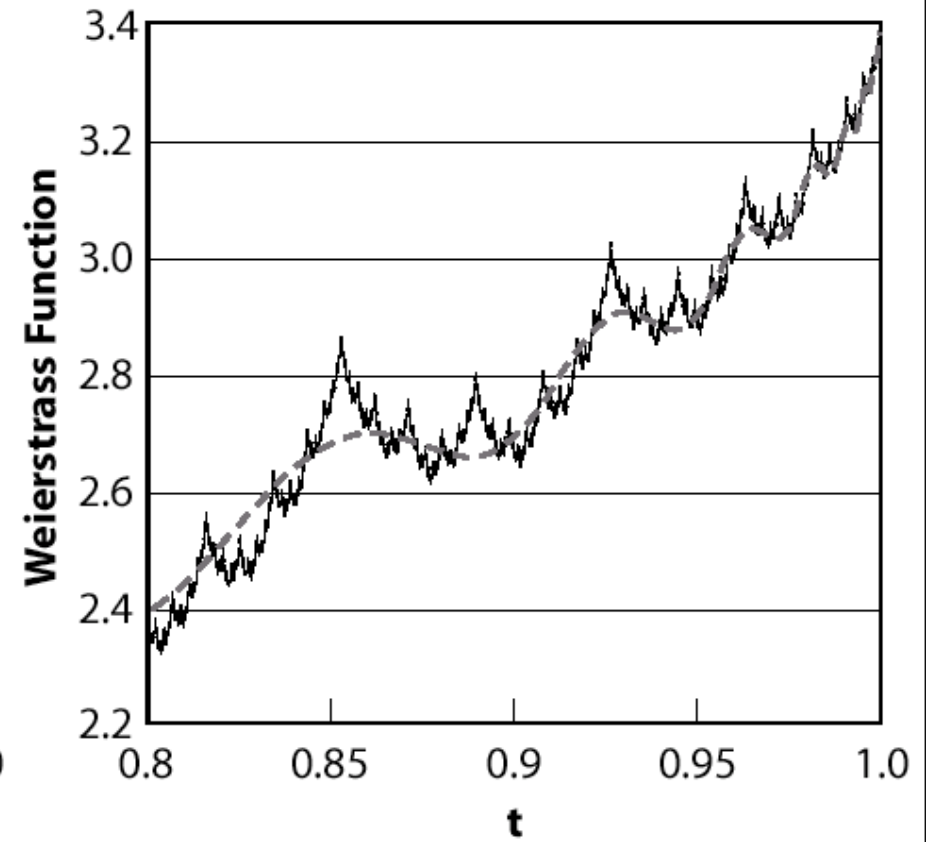
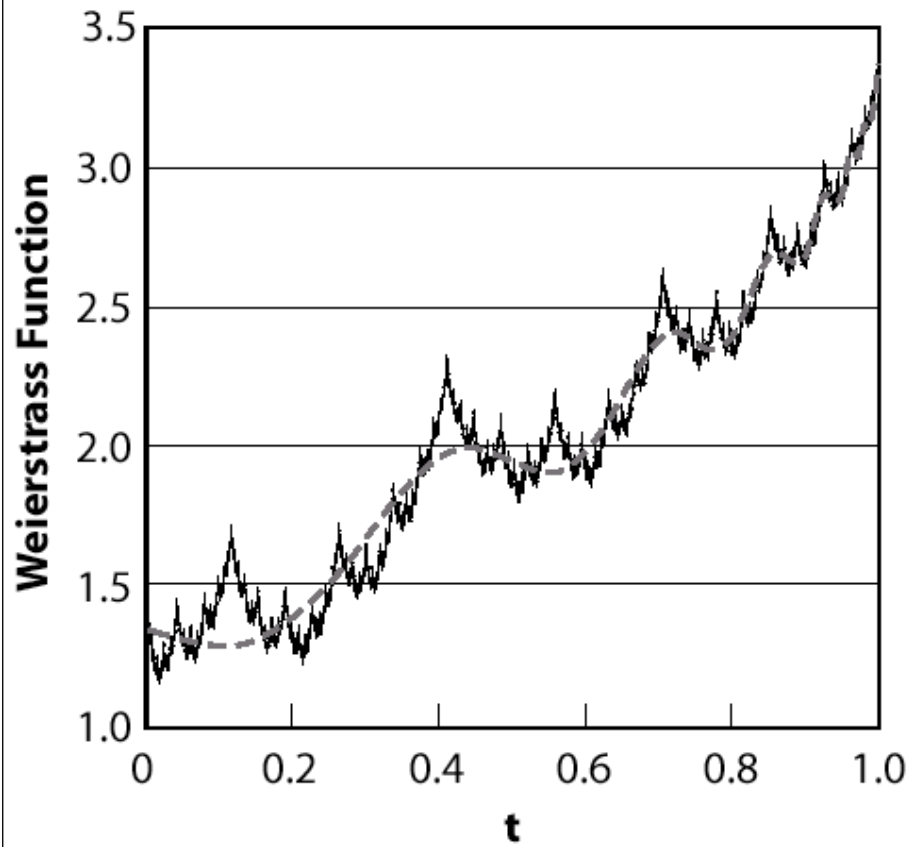
Preferred scaling ratio is **3**

$$D(n) = \ln 4 / \ln 3 + i 2\pi n / \ln 3$$





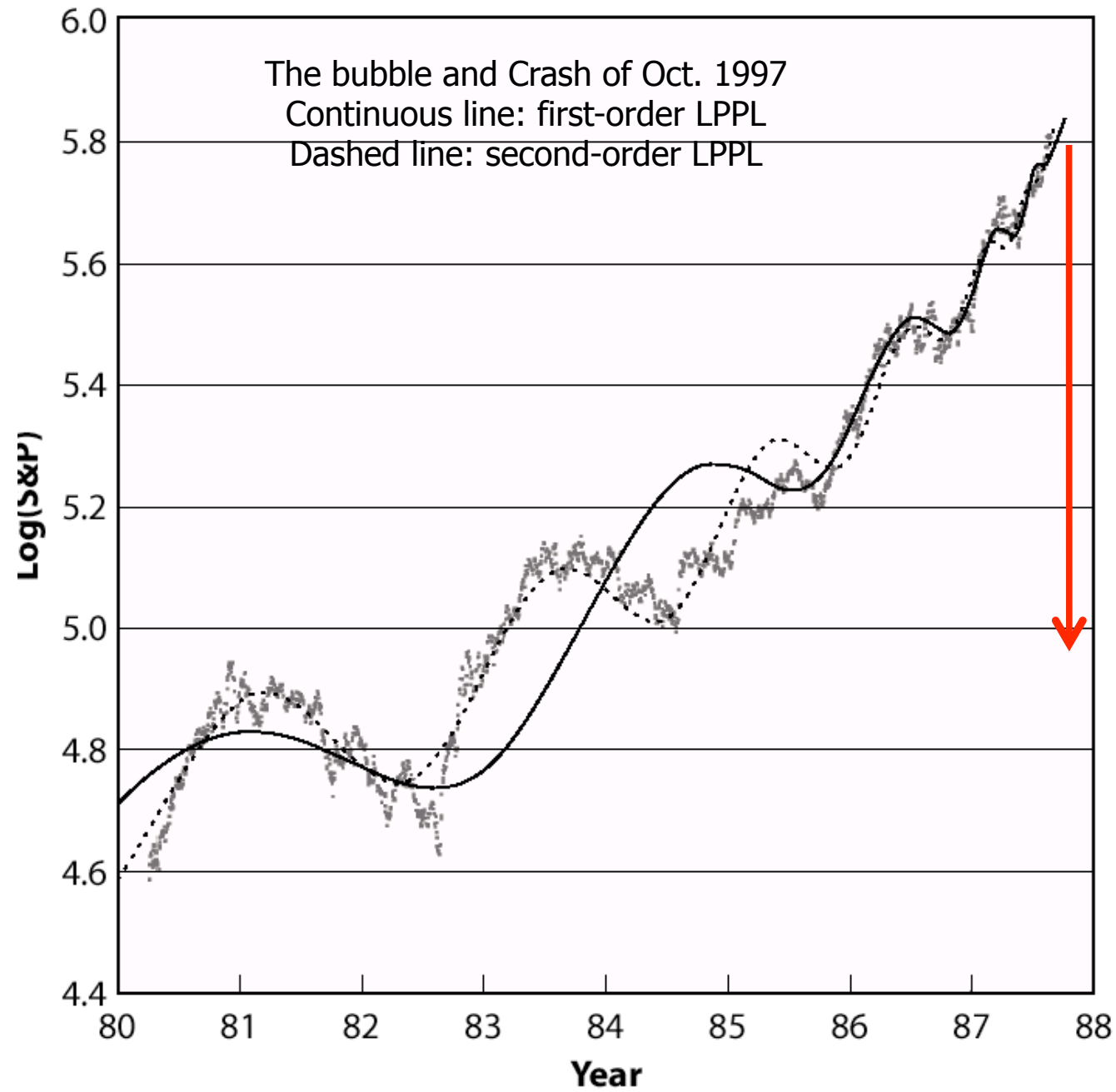
# Fractal function (Weierstrass)

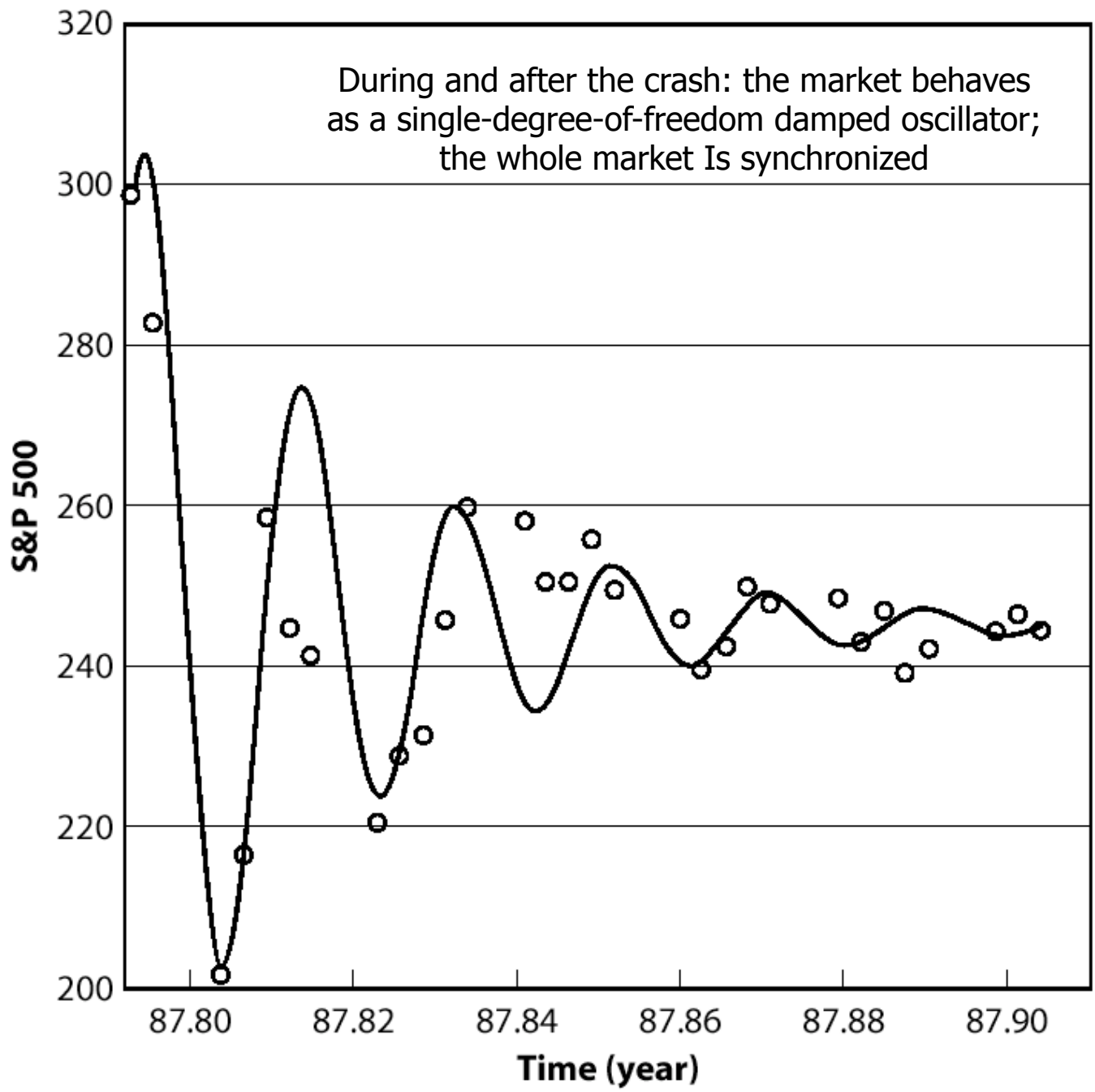


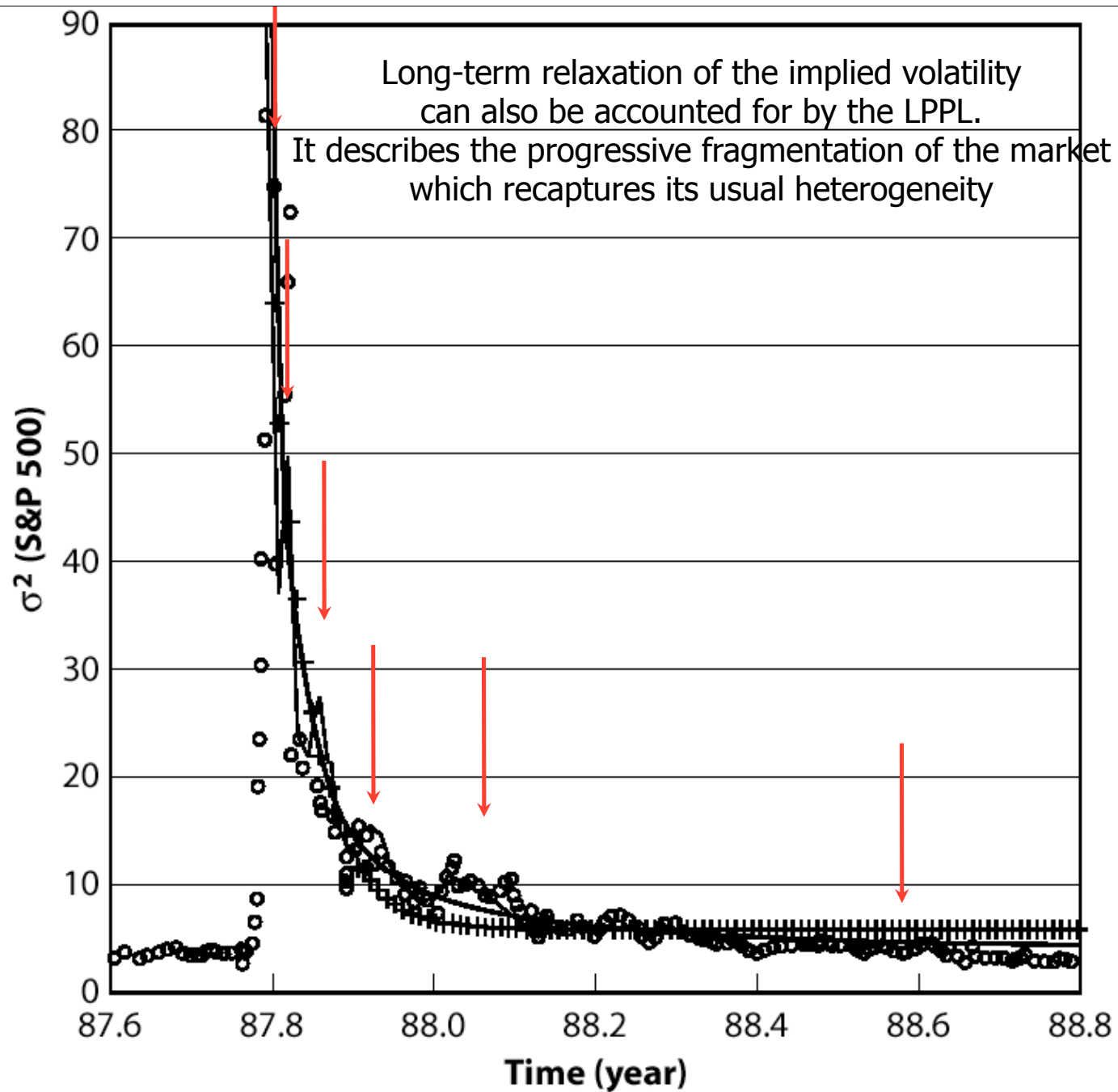
Positive feedbacks + hierarchies



New theory of bubbles and crashes  
(Log-periodic power law)







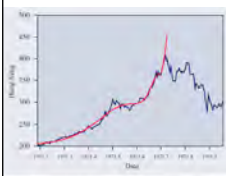
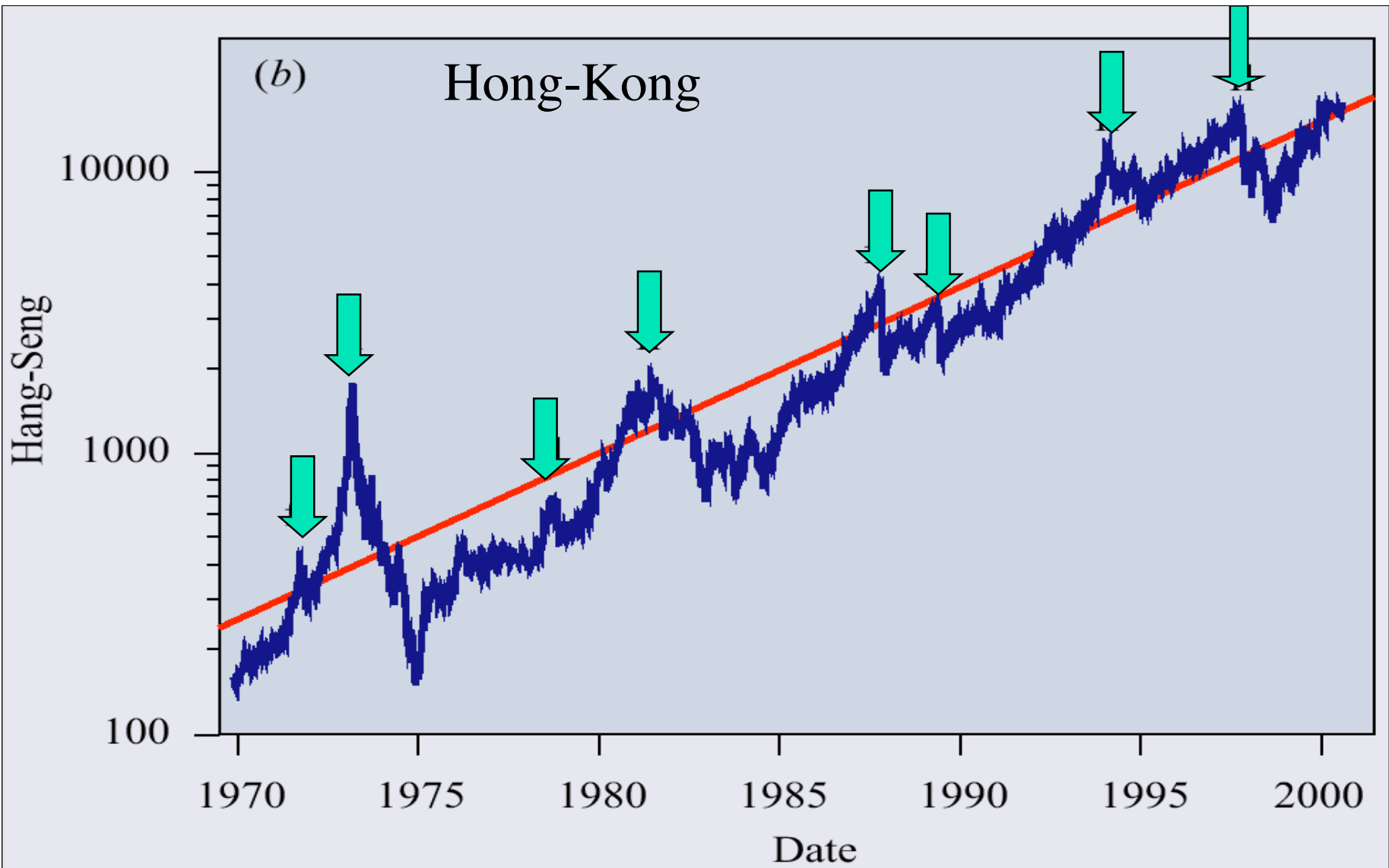


Figure 12. Hong-Kong crash of 1971. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are:  $A = 569$ ,  $B = -346$ ,  $C = 17$ ,  $\beta = 0.20$ ,  $\delta = 0.11$ ,  $\epsilon = 1975.19$ ,  $\phi = -0.12$  and  $\omega = 8.7$ . Note that for bubble fits with equation (1),  $\phi$  is  $\leq 0$ ,  $C$  is  $\leq 0$ ,  $\delta$  is  $\leq 0$ , and  $\omega$  is  $\leq 1$ .

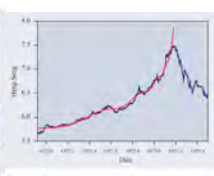


Figure 11. Hong-Kong crash of 1973. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are:  $A = 103$ ,  $B = -53$ ,  $C = -0.03$ ,  $\beta = 0.11$ ,  $\epsilon = 1975.19$ ,  $\phi = -0.12$  and  $\omega = 8.7$ . Note that for bubble fits with equation (1),  $\phi$  is  $\leq 0$ ,  $C$  is  $\leq 0$ ,  $\delta$  is  $\leq 0$ , and  $\omega$  is  $\leq 1$ .

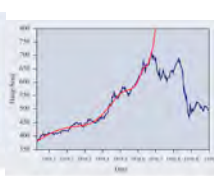


Figure 10. Hong-Kong crash of 1975. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are:  $A = 524$ ,  $B = -338$ ,  $C = -280$ ,  $\beta = 0.40$ ,  $\epsilon = 1979.89$ ,  $\phi = -0.17$  and  $\omega = 9.9$ .

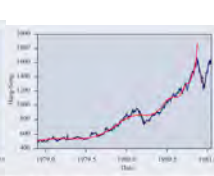


Figure 9. Hong-Kong crash of 1980. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are:  $A = 2008$ ,  $B = -1296$ ,  $C = -35.9$ ,  $\beta = 0.26$ ,  $\epsilon = 1980.68$ ,  $\phi = -1.8$  and  $\omega = 7.2$ .

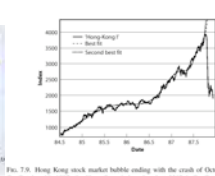


Fig. 7. Hong-Kong stock market bubble ending with the crash of October 1987. On October 19, 1987, the Hang-Seng index closed at 382.4. On October 26, it closed at 224.7, corresponding to a loss of 33.3%. See Table 3 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1). Note that the red line is almost indistinguishable except at the very end of the bubble. Reproduced from [216].

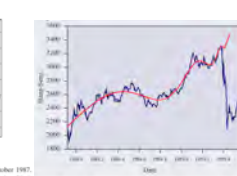


Figure 8. Hong-Kong crash of 1989. The parameter values of the fit with equation (1) are:  $A = 3515$ ,  $B = -1072$ ,  $C = 225$ ,  $\beta = 0.57$ ,  $\epsilon = 1989.66$ ,  $\phi = 0.5$  and  $\omega = 6.9$ .

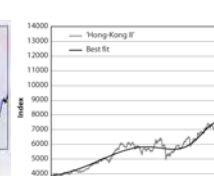


Fig. 6. Hong-Kong stock market bubble ending with the crash of October 1994. The Hang-Seng index closed at 1125.8 on October 14, 1994, and at 649.4 on October 19, 1994, corresponding to a loss of 42.6%. See Table 3 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1). Note that the red line is almost indistinguishable except at the very end of the bubble. Reproduced from [216].

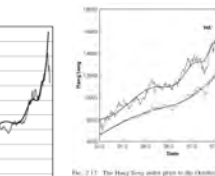
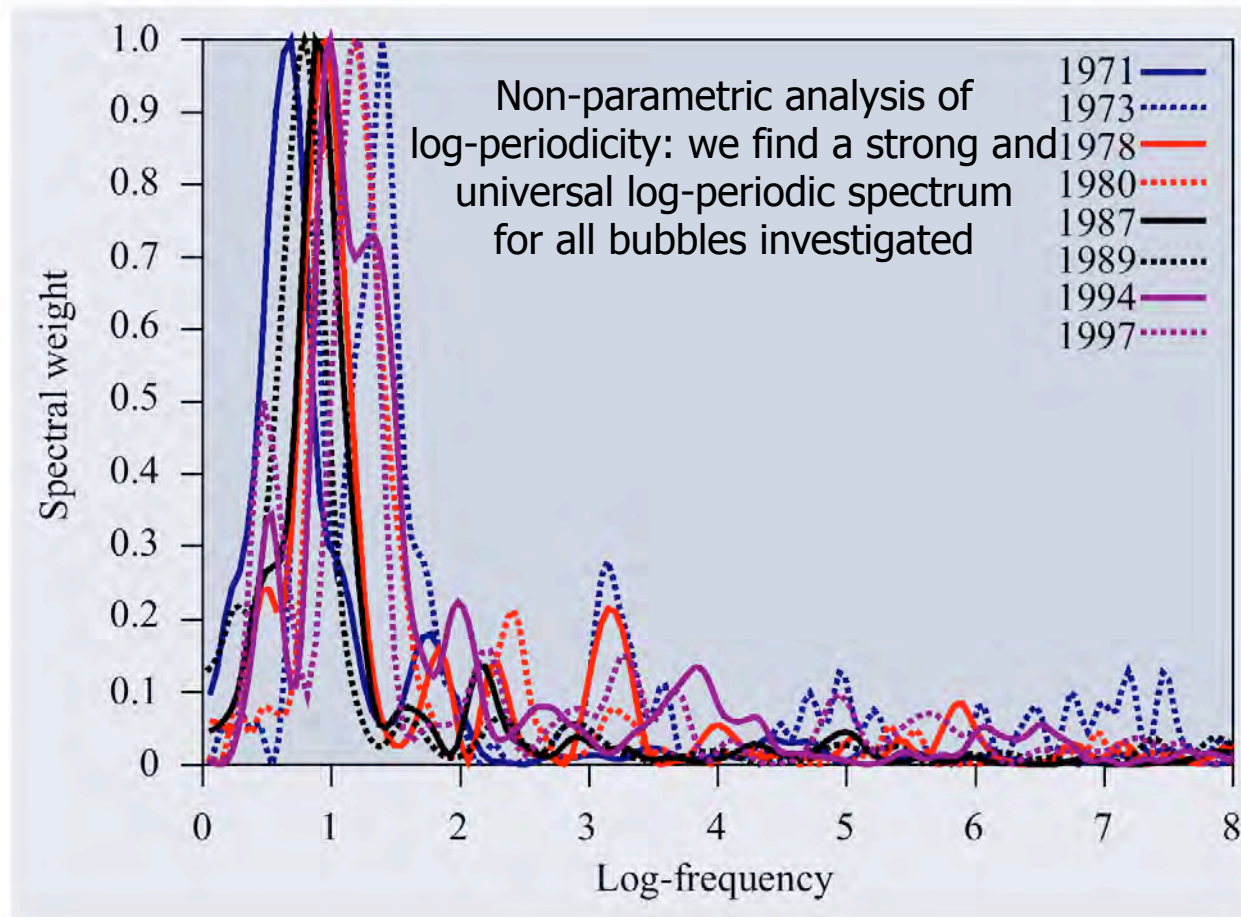


Fig. 5. The Hang-Seng index price in the October 1994 crash on the Hong-Kong Stock Exchange. Although shown as Figure 5, it is the HSI 100 stock market index price in the crash on Wall Street in August 1998. The fit is the 'Best fit' with a parameter (1) with  $A = 1125$ ,  $B = -403$ ,  $C = 18.7$ ,  $\beta = 0.61$ ,  $\epsilon = 1994.72$ ,  $\phi = 0.5$ , and  $\omega = 6.6$ . Reproduced from [216].



**Figure 1.** The Lomb periodogram of the log-periodic component of the Hang-Seng price index (Hong Kong) for the eight bubbles followed by crashes observed in figure 13, ending in October 1971, in February 1973, in September 1978, in October 1980, in October 1987, in April 1989, in January 1994 and in October 1997. See Johansen *et al* (1999) for details on how to calculate the Lomb periodogram.

## Out-of-sample test over 20 years of the Heng Seng

Alarms were produced in the following nine time intervals containing the date of the last point used in the fit:

- (a) 1981.60 to 1981.68. This was followed by a  $\approx 30\%$  decline.
- (b) 1984.36 to 1984.41. This was followed by a  $\approx 30\%$  decline.
- (c) 1985.20 to 1985.30; false alarm.
- (d) 1987.66 to 1987.82. This was followed by a  $\approx 50\%$  decline.
- (e) 1989.32 to 1989.38. This was followed by a  $\approx 35\%$  decline.
- (f) 1991.54 to 1991.69. This was followed by a  $\approx 7\%$  single day decline; considered a false alarm, nevertheless.
- (g) 1992.37 to 1992.58. This was followed by a  $\approx 15\%$  decline. This is a marginal case.
- (h) 1993.79 to 1993.90. This was followed by a  $\approx 20\%$  decline. This can also be considered as a marginal case, if we want to be conservative.
- (i) 1997.58 to 1997.74. This was followed by  $\approx 35\%$  decline.



## Generalization and application to emergent markets: test of a systematic procedure to detect bubbles

A. Johansen and D.  
Sornette Bubbles and  
anti-bubbles in  
Latin-American, Asian  
and Western stock  
markets: An empirical  
study, *International  
Journal of Theoretical  
and Applied Finance*  
4 (6), 853-920 (2001)

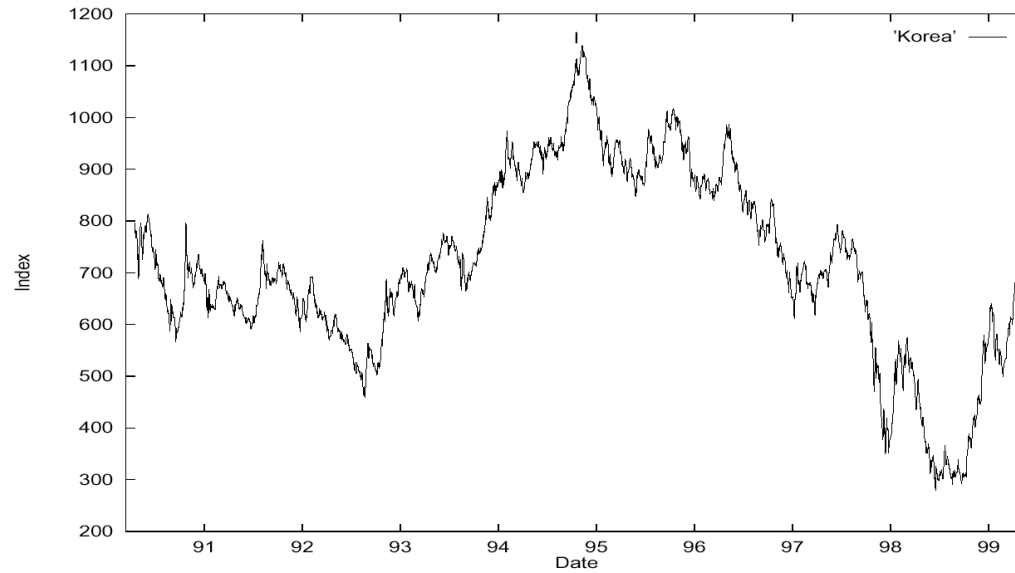


Figure 30: The Korean stock market index as a function of date. 1 bubble with a subsequent very large draw down can be identified. The approximate date is late 94.

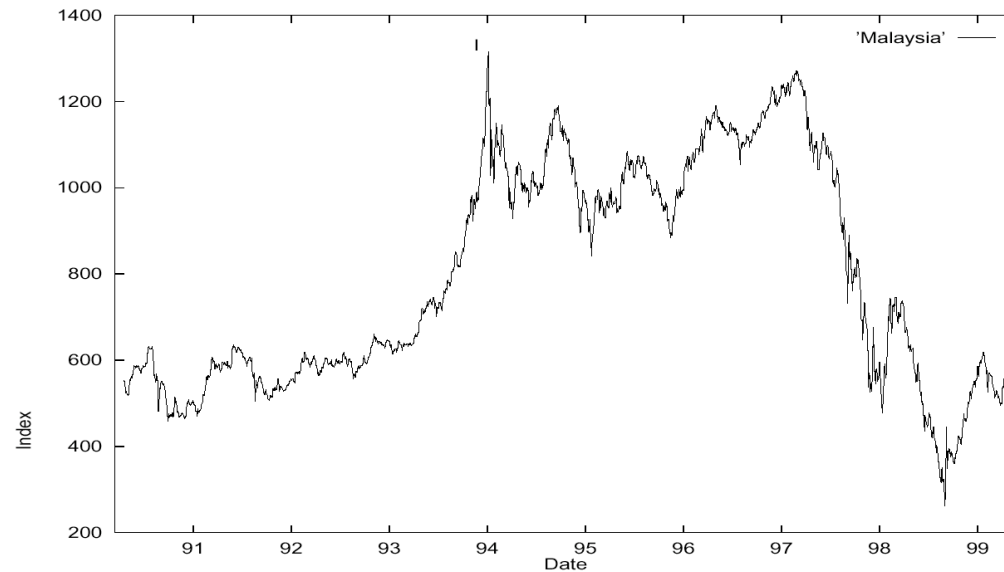


Figure 31: The Malaysian stock market index as a function of date. 1 extended bubble with a subsequent very large draw down can be identified. The approximate date for the draw down is early 94.

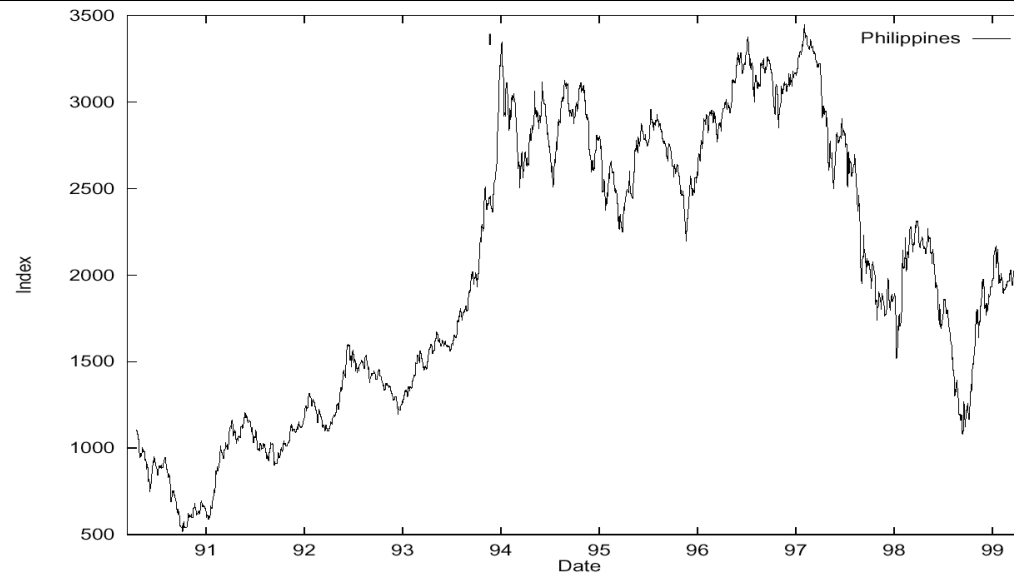


Figure 32: The Philippines stock market index as a function of date. 1 bubble with a subsequent very large draw down can be identified. The approximate date for the draw down is early 94.

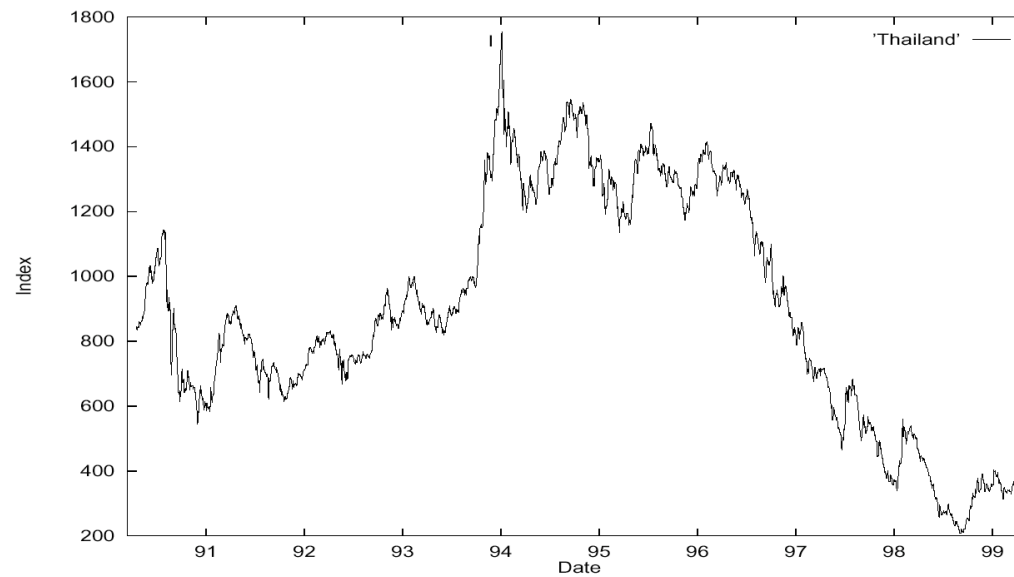


Figure 33: The Thai stock market index as a function of date. 1 bubble with a subsequent very large draw down can be identified. The approximate date for the draw down is early 94. 4

**We show the parametric LPPL fits (left panels) and the non-parametric log-periodic spectral analyses (right panels)**

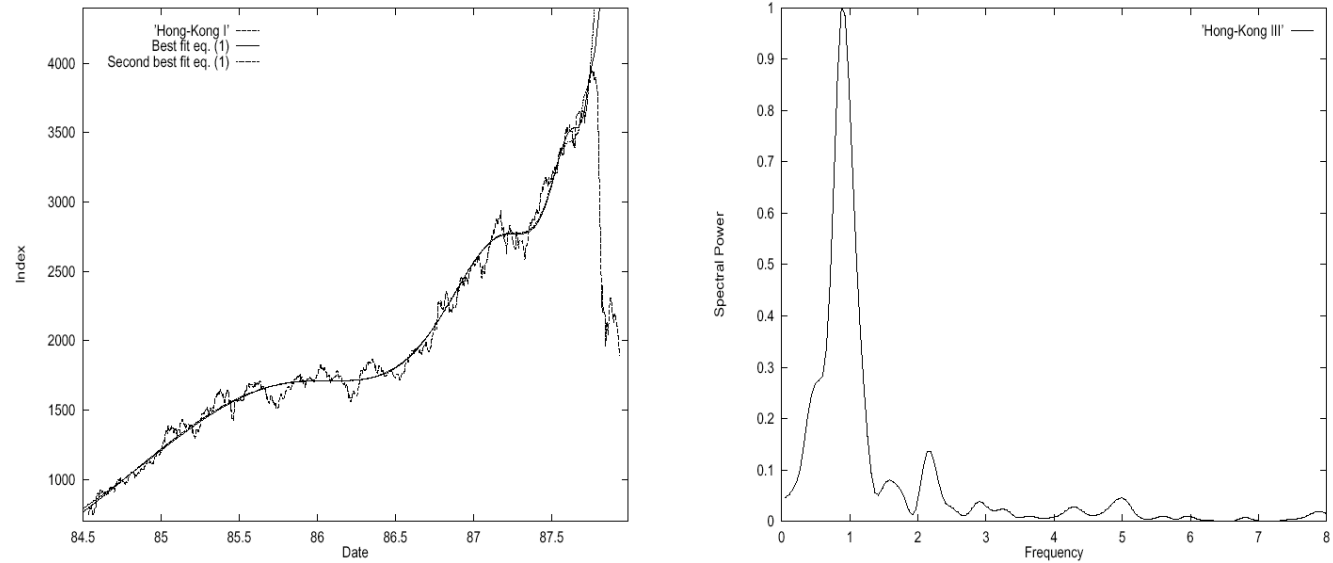


Figure 34: Hong Kong stock market bubble ending with the crash of Oct. 87. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1). Only the best fit is used in the Lomb periodogram.

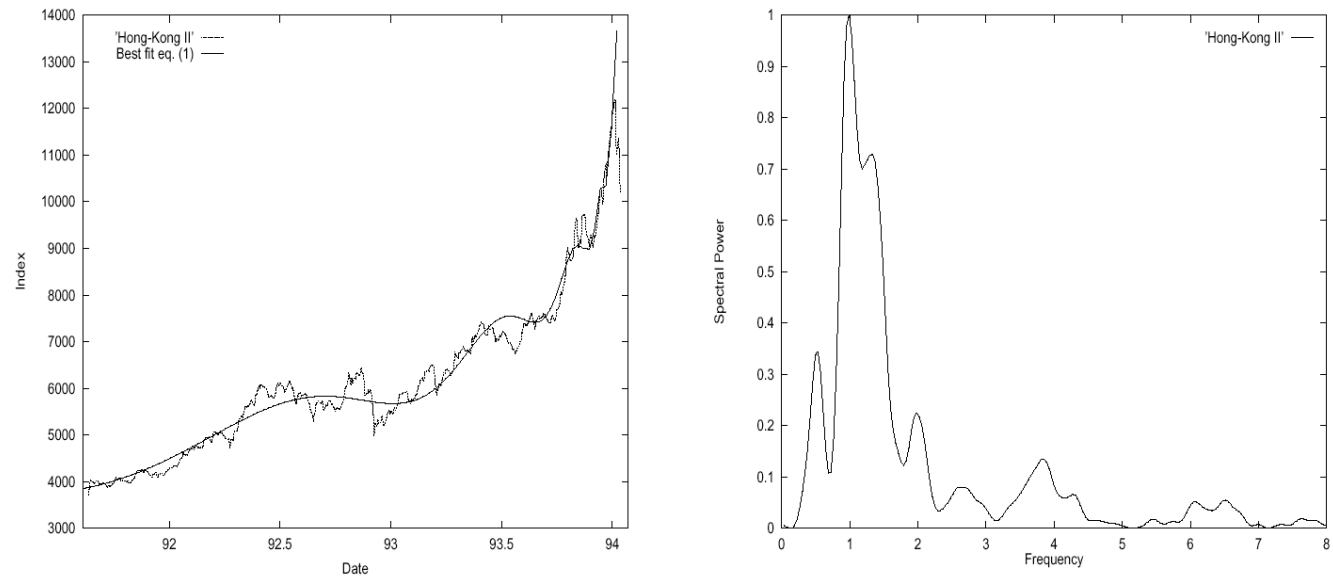


Figure 35: Hong Kong stock market bubble ending with the crash of Jan. 94. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1).

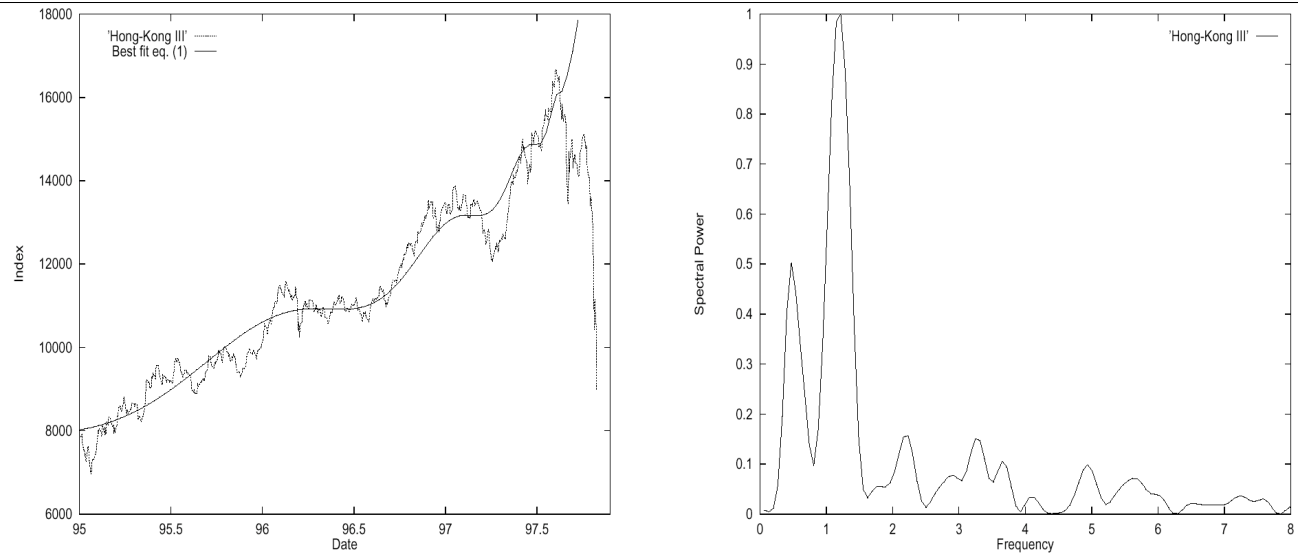


Figure 36: Hong Kong stock market bubble ending with the crash of Oct. 97. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1).

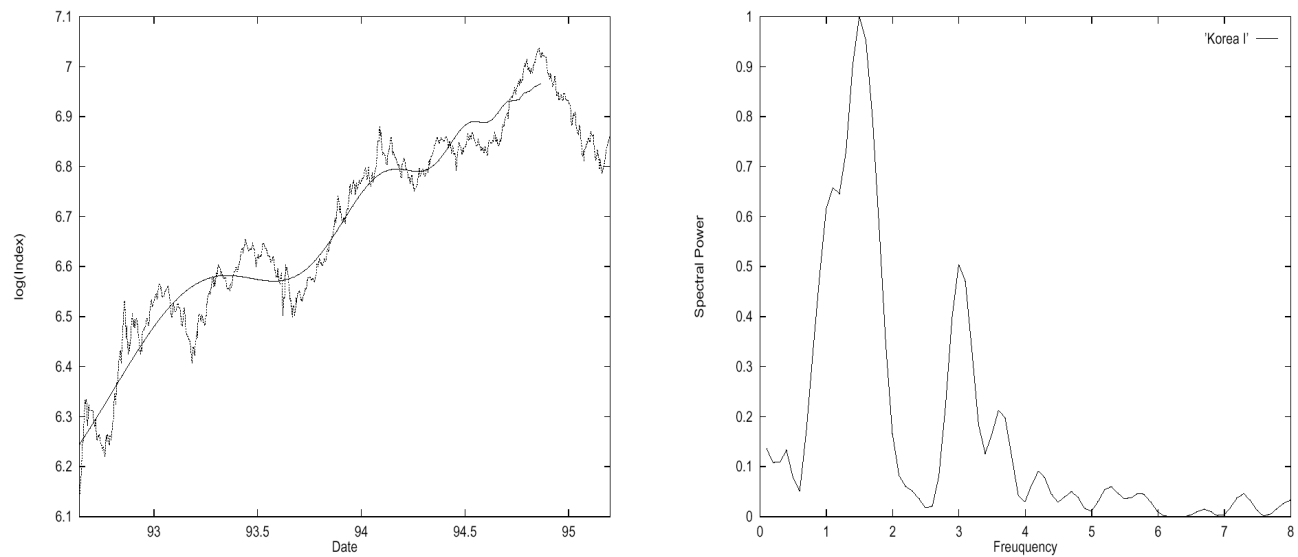


Figure 37: Korean stock market bubble ending in 1994. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1). The data set of the residue had to be truncated in order to eliminate a severe drift in the last part of the data close to  $t_c$ .

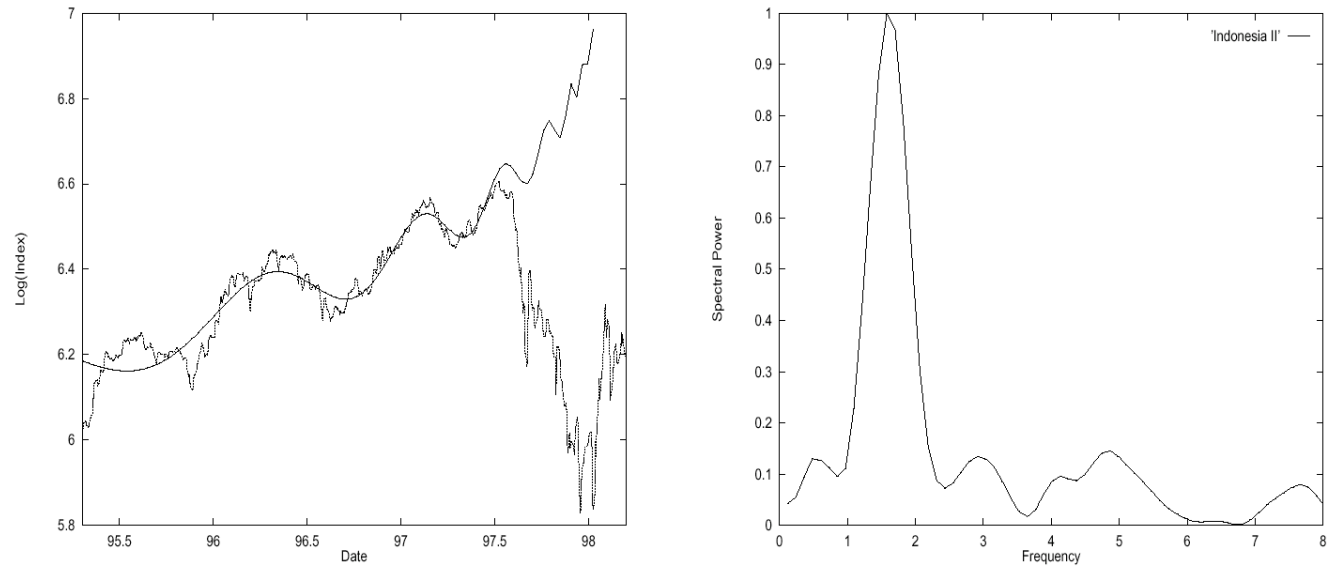


Figure 38: Indonesian stock market bubble ending in 1997. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1).

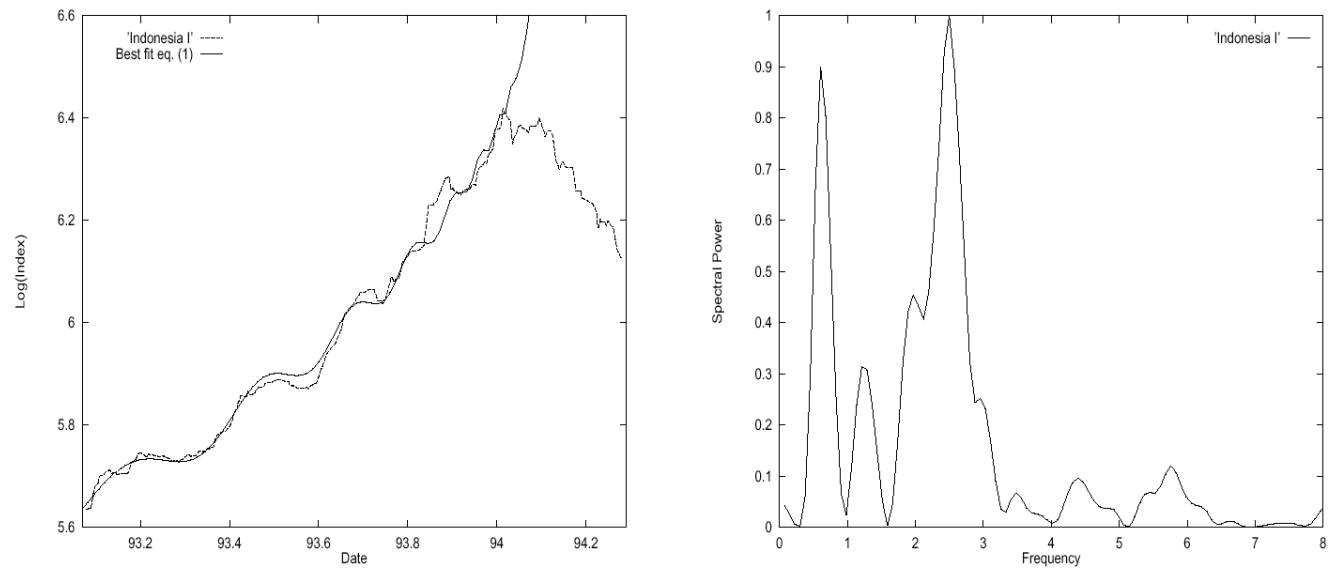


Figure 39: Indonesian stock market bubble ending in Jan. 1994. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1).

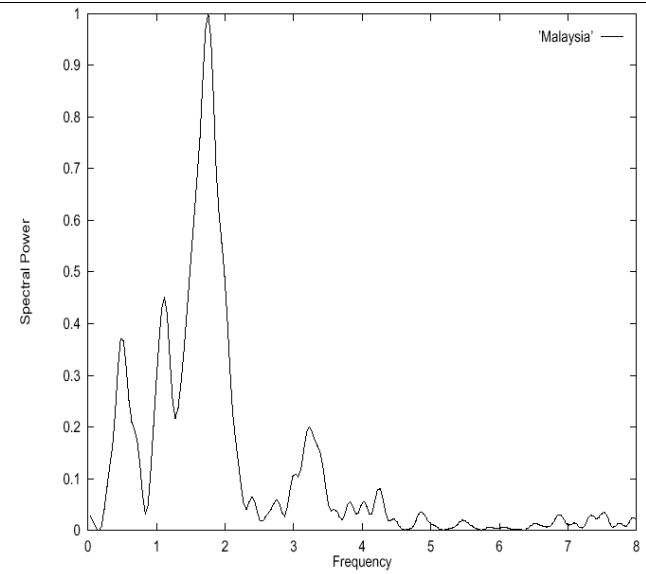
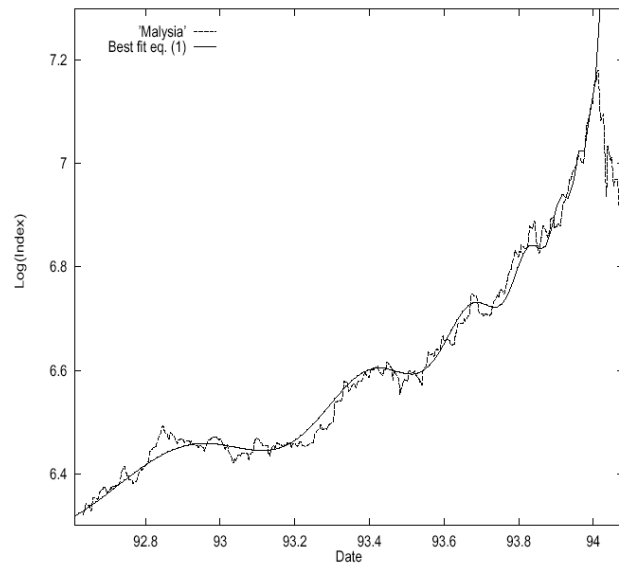


Figure 40: Malaysian stock market bubble ending with the crash of Jan. 94. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1).

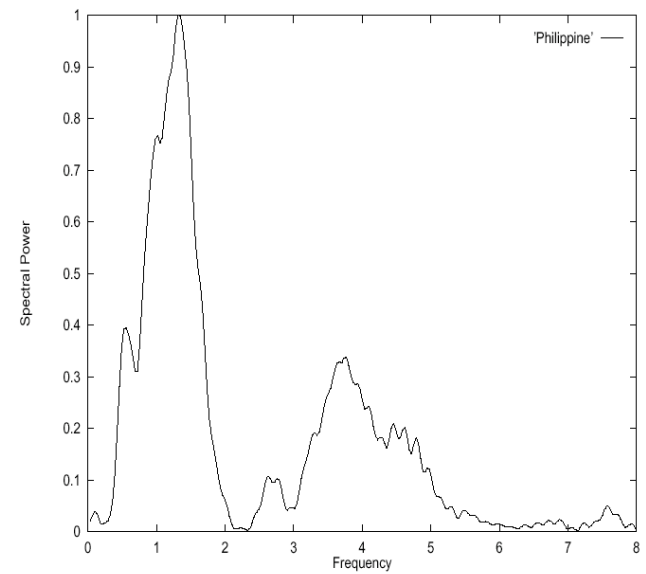
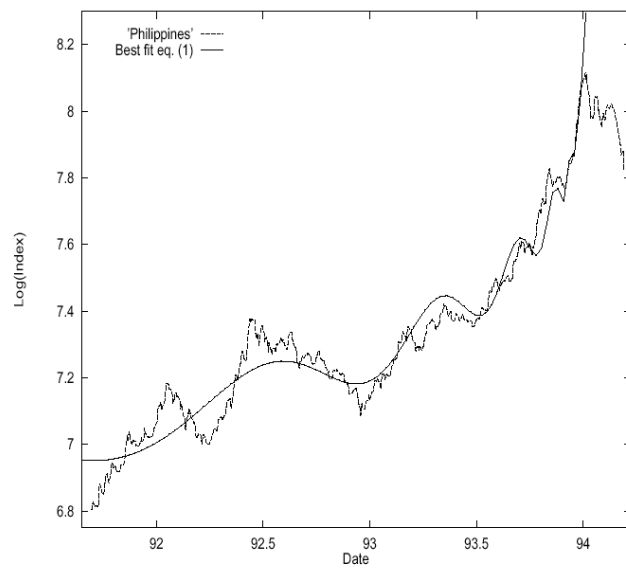


Figure 41: Philippine stock market bubble ending in Jan. 1994. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1).

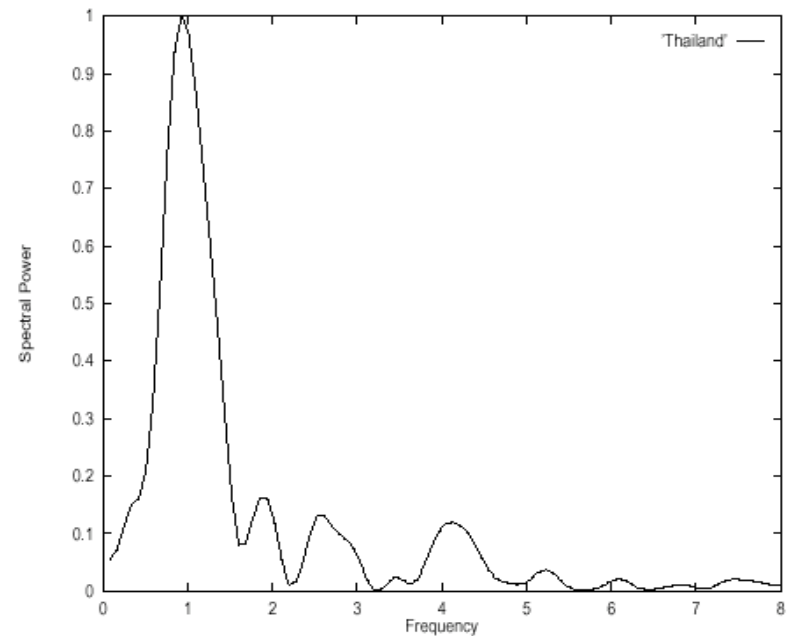
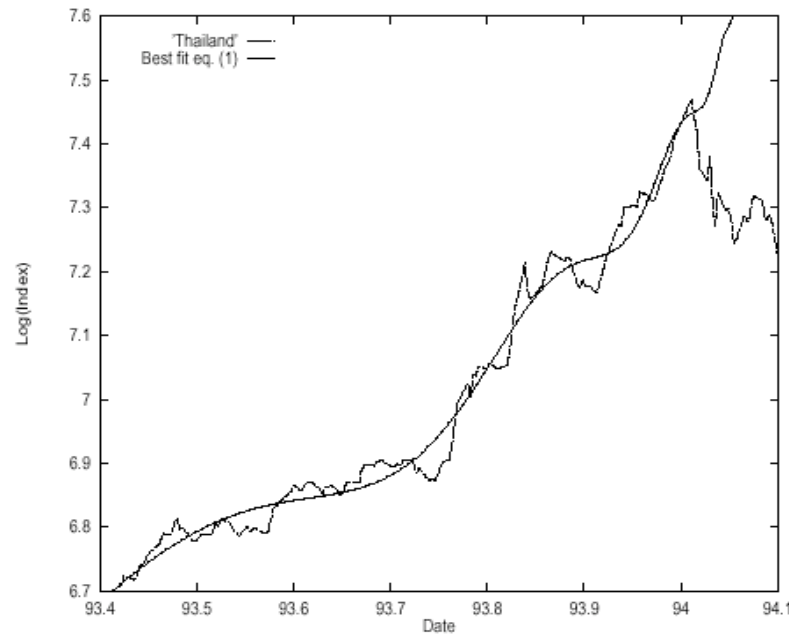


Figure 42: Thai stock market bubble ending with the crash of Jan. 94. See table 5 for the parameter values of the fit with equation (1).

$$I(t) = A + B(t_c - t)^z + C(t_c - t)^z \cos(\omega \log(t_c - t) - \phi)$$

**Parameters of the log-periodic fits; z= critical exponent; omega=log-periodic frequency**

Stock market	A	B	C	z	t <sub>c</sub>	ω	φ
Hong-Kong I	5523; 4533	-3247; -2304	171; -174	0.29; 0.39	87.84; 87.78	5.6; 5.2	-1.6; 1.1
Hong-Kong II	21121	-15113	-429	0.12	94.02	6.3	-0.6
Hong-Kong III	20077	-8241	-397	0.34	97.74	7.5	0.8
Indonesia I	6.76	-1.11	0.039	0.44	94.09	15.6	-1.3
Indonesia II	7.38	-0.92	-0.06	0.23	98.05	10.08	5.8
Korea I	6.97	-0.28	-0.05	1.05	94.87	8.15	1.1
Malaysia I	7.61	-1.16	0.038	0.24	94.02	10.9	1.4
Philippines I	9.00	-1.74	-0.078	0.16	94.02	8.2	0.2
Thailand I	7.81	-1.41	-0.086	0.48	94.07	6.1	-0.2

$$I(t) = A + B(t_c - t)^z + C(t_c - t)^z \cos(\omega \log(t_c - t) - \phi)$$

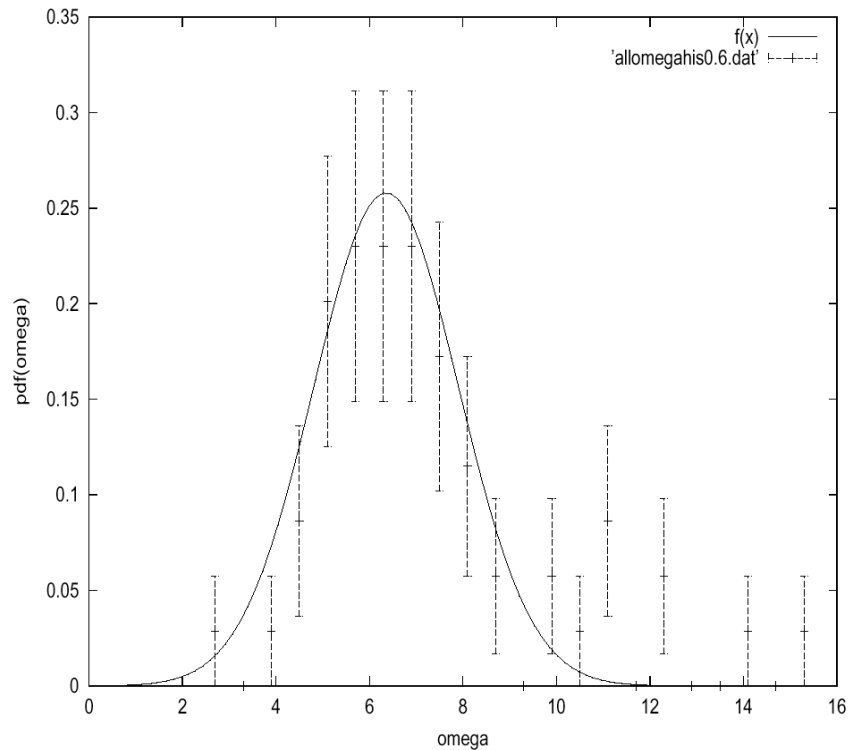


Figure 5: Empirical distribution of the log-periodic angular frequency  $\omega$  in eq. (1) for over thirty case studies. The fit with a Gaussian distribution gives  $\omega \approx 6.36 \pm 1.55$ . The smaller peak centered on 11 – 12 suggests the existence of a second discernable harmonics at  $2\omega \approx 12$ .

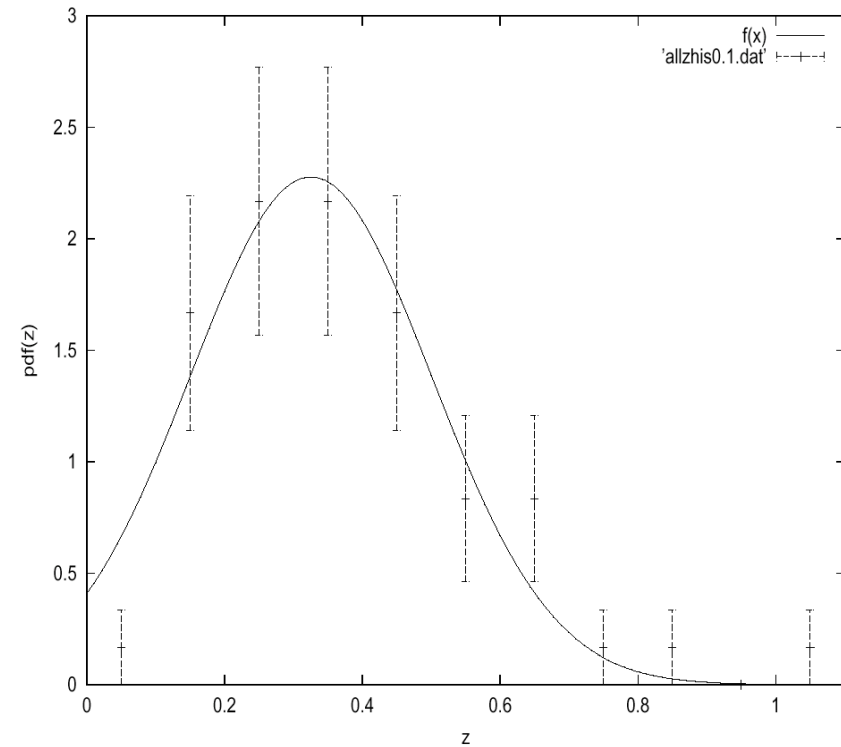


Figure 6: Empirical distribution of the exponent  $z$  of the power law in eq. (1) for over thirty case studies. The fit with a Gaussian distribution gives  $\beta \approx 0.33 \pm 0.18$ .

**Demonstration of universal values of  $z$  and  $\omega$  across many different bubbles at different epochs and different markets**

A. Johansen and D. Sornette, Shocks, Crashes and Bubbles in Financial Markets, Brussels Economic Review (Cahiers économiques de Bruxelles), 49 (3/4), (2006)



# Endogenous vs exogenous crashes

- 1. Systematic qualification of outliers/kings in pdfs of drawdowns**
- 2. Existence or absence of a “critical” behavior by LPPL patterns found systematically in the price trajectories preceding this outliers**

**Results: In worldwide stock markets + currencies + bonds**

- 21 endogenous crashes**
- 10 exogenous crashes**

A. Johansen and D. Sornette,  
Endogenous versus Exogenous Crashes in Financial Markets,  
in press in "Contemporary Issues in International Finance"  
(Nova Science Publishers, 2004)  
(<http://arXiv.org/abs/cond-mat/0210509>)

What are bubbles?  
How do detect them?  
How to predict them?

**Academic Literature:**

No consensus on what is a bubble...

**The Fed: A. Greenspan (Aug., 30, 2002):**

“We, at the Federal Reserve...recognized that, despite our suspicions, it was **very difficult to definitively identify a bubble until after the fact, that is, when its bursting confirmed its existence...** Moreover, it was far from obvious that bubbles, even if identified early, could be preempted short of the Central Bank inducing a substantial contraction in economic activity, the very outcome we would be seeking to avoid.”

What are bubbles?  
How do detect them?  
How to predict them?

**Our proposition to the Academic Literature:**

**“Super exponential price acceleration” and “king” effect**

**Our proposition to the Fed:**

**Complex system approach with emphasis on**

**(i) positive and negative feedback interplay**

**(ii) collective behavior and organization lead to “EMERGENCE”**

# Towards a methodology to identify crash risks

- ❑ Development of methods to diagnose bubbles
- ❑ Crashes are not predictable
- ❑ Only the end of bubbles can be forecasted
- ❑ 2/3 ends in a crash
- ❑ Multi-time-scales
- ❑ Probability of crashes; alarm index
  - Successful forward predictions: Oct. 1997; Aug. 1998, April 2000
  - False alarms: Oct. 1997
  
- ❑ Towards an OBSERVATORY OF CRISES

# Real-estate

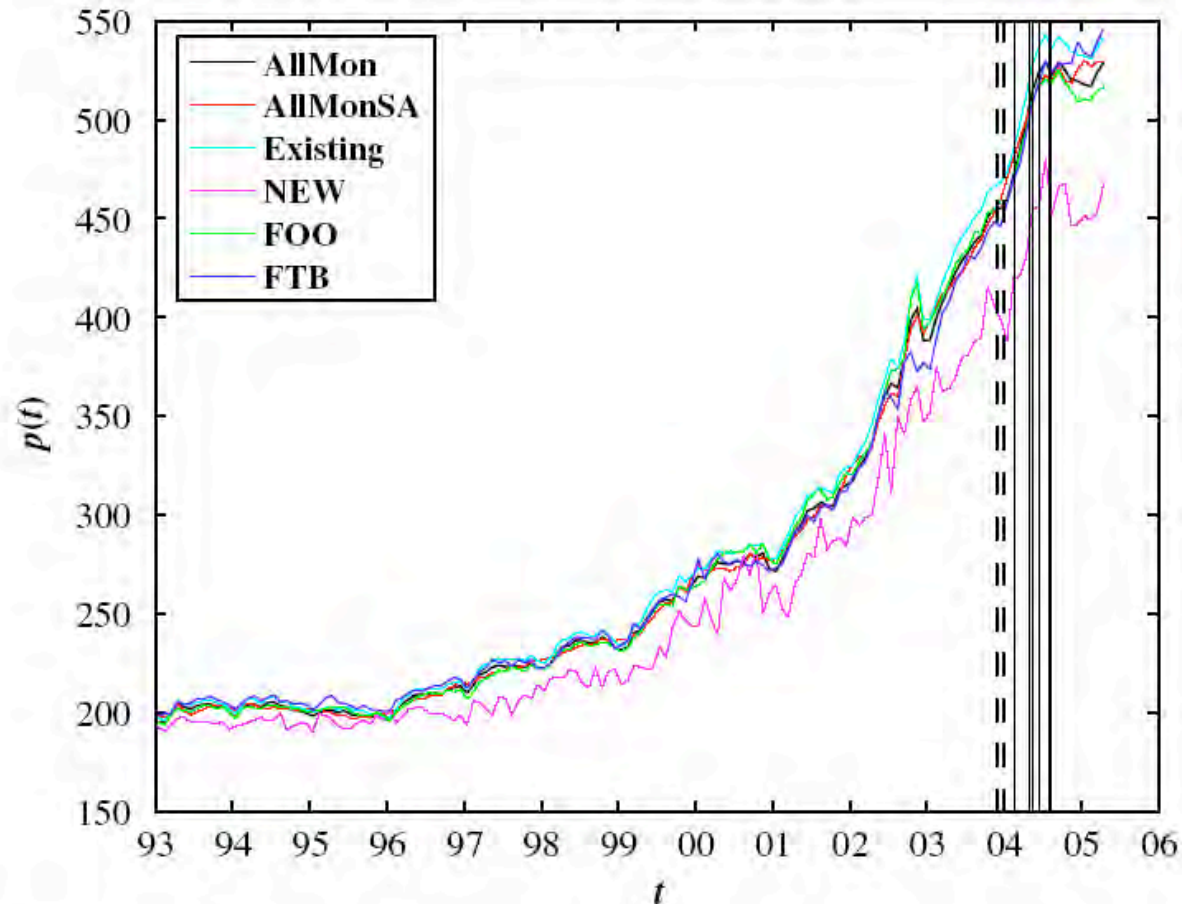


Fig. 1. (Color online) Plot of the UK Halifax house price indices from 1993 to April 2005 (the latest available quote at the time of writing). The two groups of vertical lines correspond to the two predicted turning points reported in Tables 2 and 3 of [1]: end of 2003 and mid-2004. The former (resp. later) was based on the use of formula (2) (resp. (3)). These predictions were performed in February 2003.

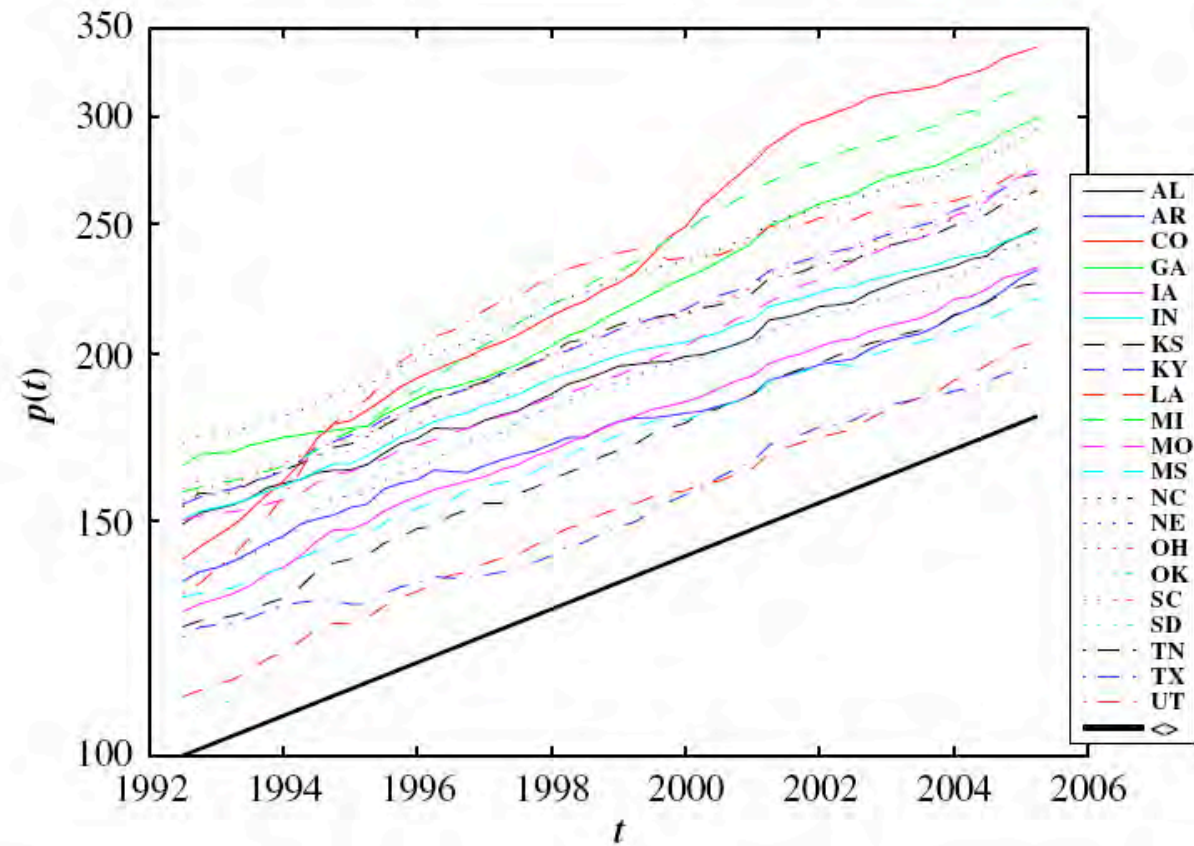


Fig. 3. (Color online) Quarterly HPI in the 21 states which have an approximately constant exponential growth, qualified by a linear trend in a linear-logarithmic scale. The thick straight line at the bottom of the figure indicates the average over all 21 states corresponding to an annual growth rate of 4.6% over the last 13 years. The corresponding states are given in the legend. Note that Colorado seems to be on a faster trend.

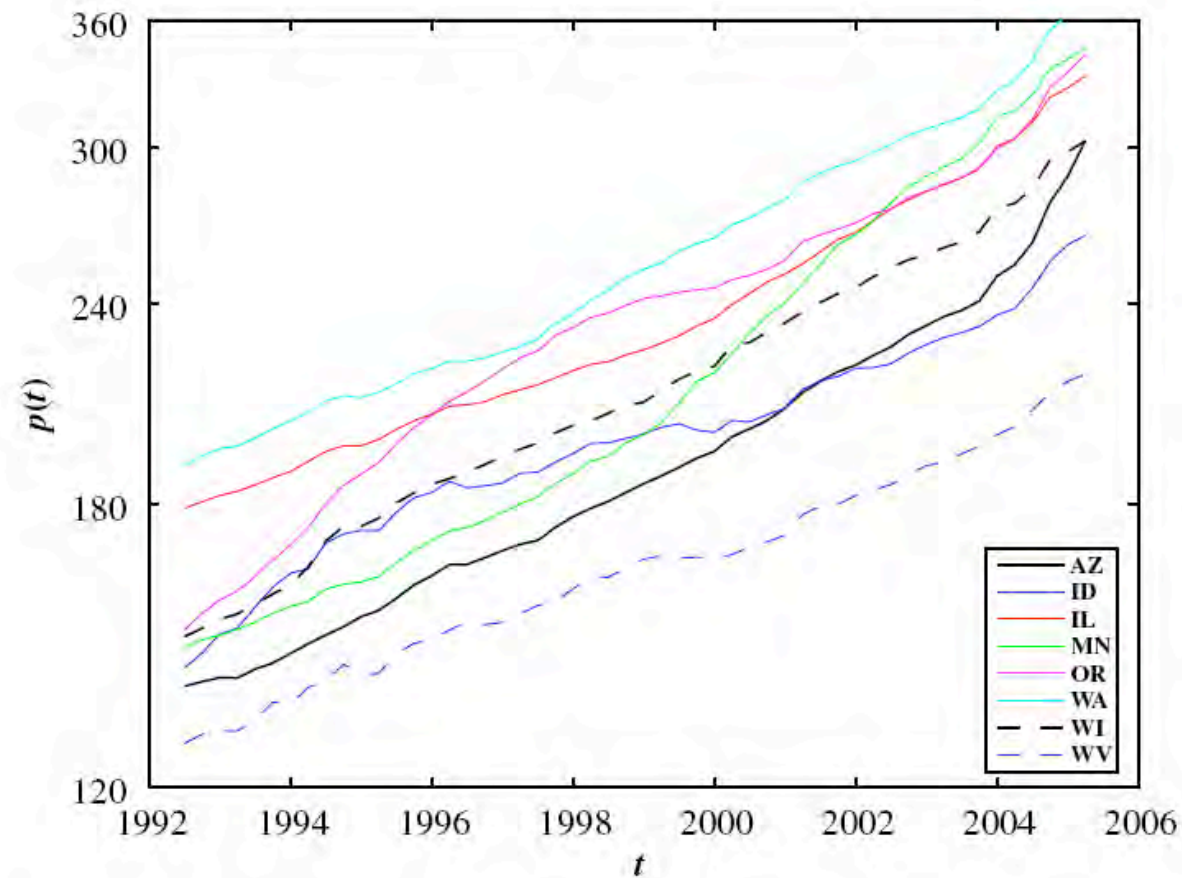


Fig. 4. (Color online) Quarterly HPI in the 8 states exhibiting a recent upward acceleration following an approximately constant exponential growth rate. The corresponding states are given in the legend.

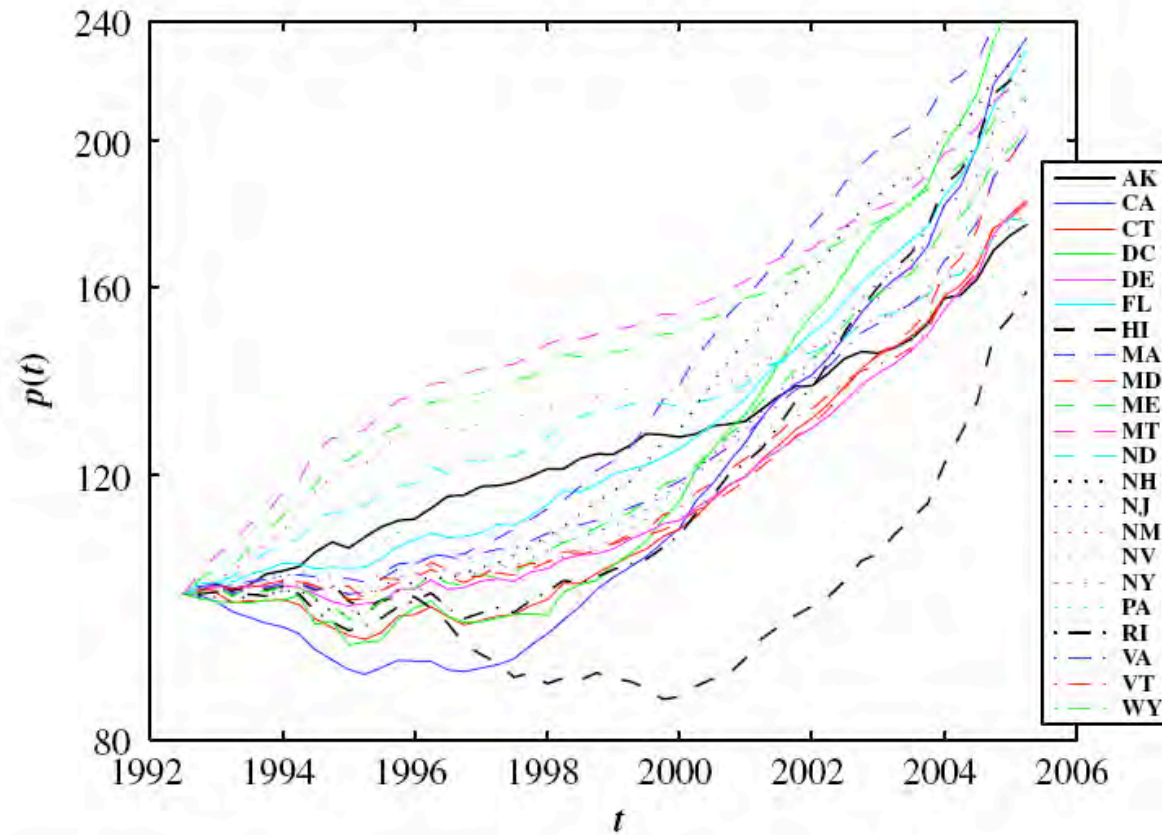
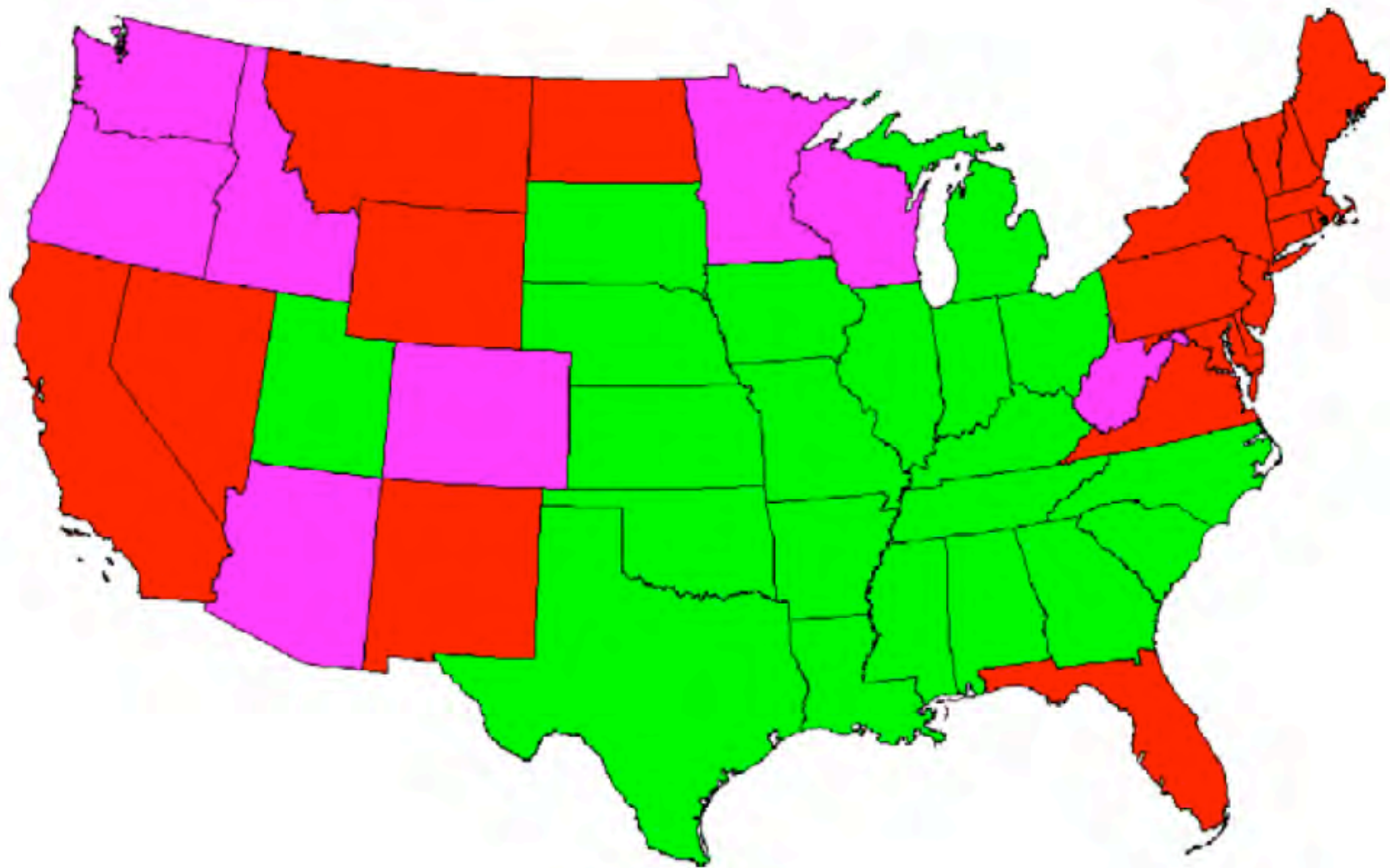


Fig. 5. (Color online) Quarterly average HPI in the 21 states and in the District of Columbia (DC) exhibiting a clear upward faster-than-exponential growth. For better representation, we have normalized the house price indices for the second quarter of 1992 to 100 in all 22 cases. The corresponding states are given in the legend.





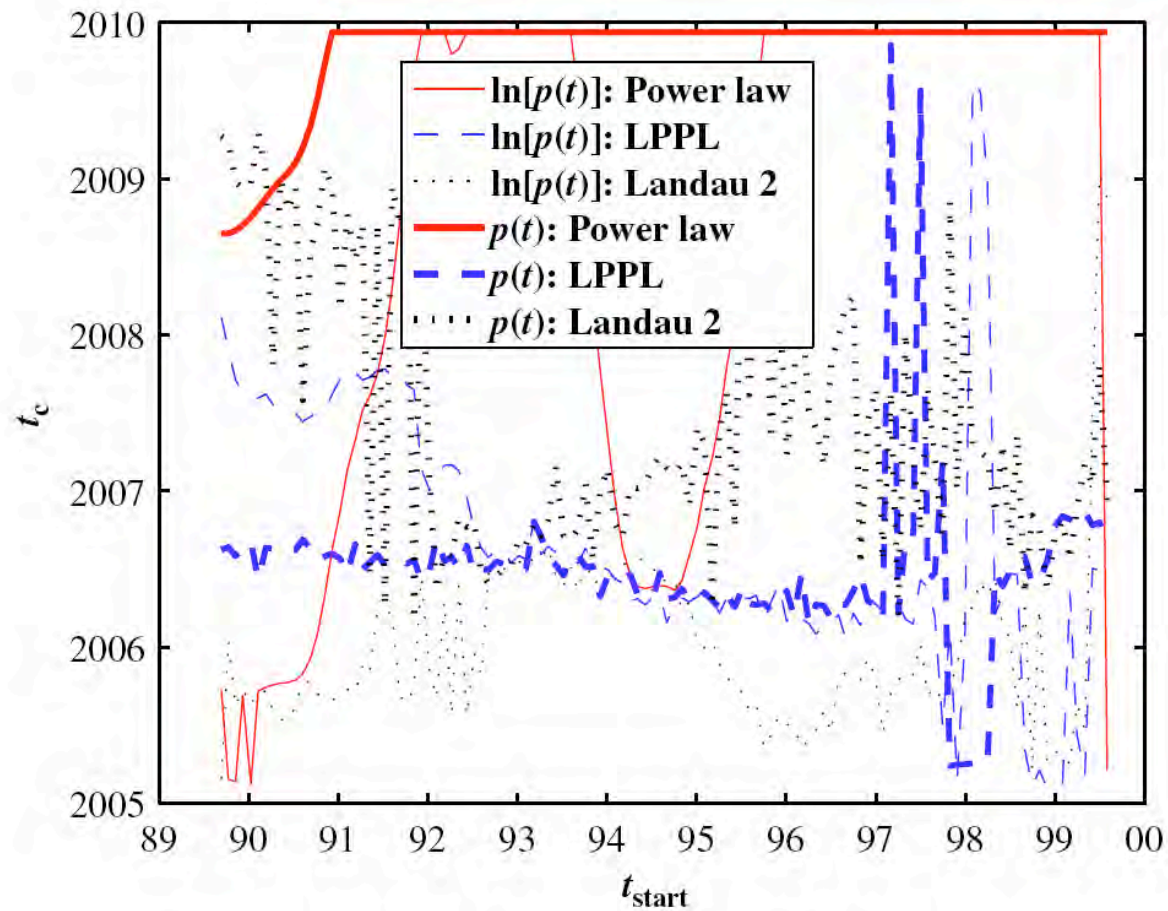


Fig. 9. (Color online) Predicted critical time  $t_c$  as a function of  $t_{\text{start}}$  obtained from the fits with the LPPL and the 2nd-order Landau LPPL models as in Fig. 8.

**717 VERNON WY  
BURLINGAME, CA 94010**



**(2005)**

**2 Bedrooms, 1 Bath(s)  
1,310 Estimated Sq. Ft.**

**Listing #: 620130**

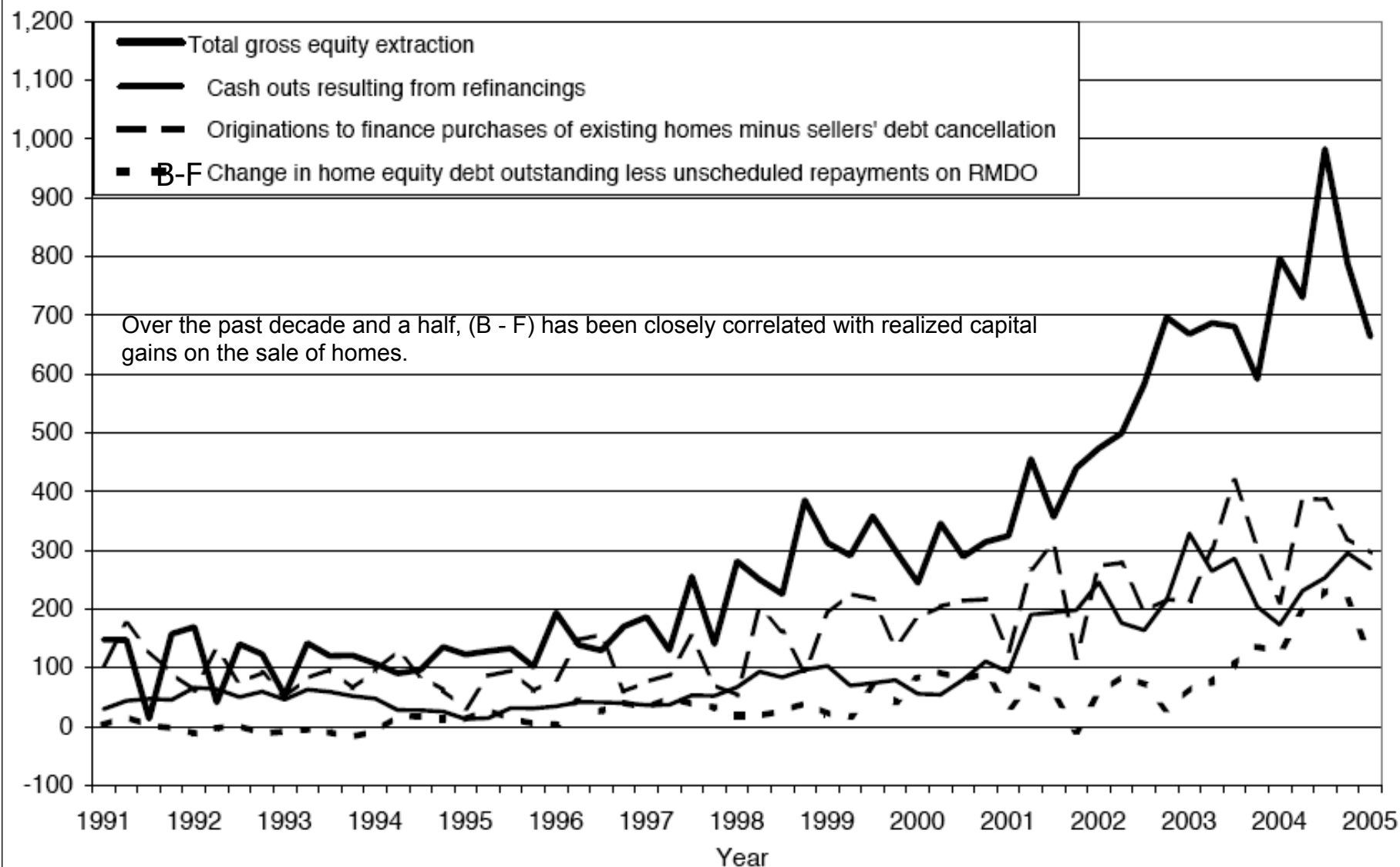
**\$1,049,000**

And this with the median household income in San Mateo County of ~\$70,000. With 20% down, the mortgage for a "starter" \$1M house would be 11-12 times the median income. Even if one were "buying up" to one of these houses, say, with equity of 50%, the mortgage/median income ratio would be 7:1!!!

From late '02 and early '03 to date--the bubbliest phase--the value of the property below is estimated to have more than DOUBLED, peaking at an estimated \$1.16M in summer-fall '05, an annualized increase in value of ~14% from '96. However, before the one order of magnitude of exponential growth of the bubble commenced in late '02, the rate of growth of the value of this property was ~6.9%/yr. Were the value to regress to the pre-bubble trend, the estimated value would be \$620,000-\$820,000 over the course of the next 4 years or a 30% to 40-45% nominal decline and -11% to -18%/yr. in real terms (at the trend 2.7% CPI).

**The Components of Gross Equity Extraction**  
 (1991:Q1-2005:Q1, seasonally adjusted annual rate)

Billions of dollars



# LAS VEGAS

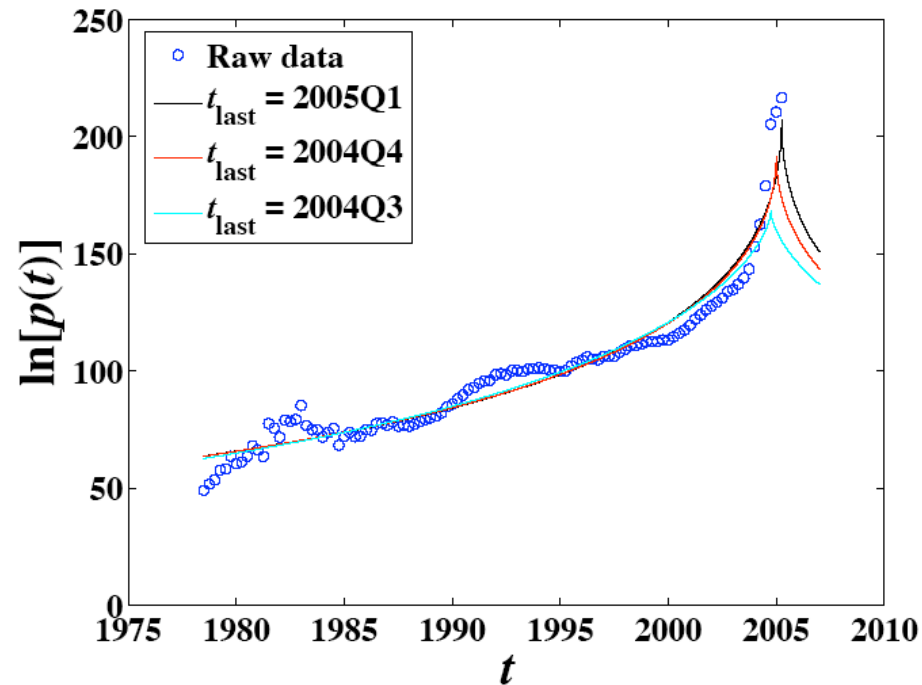
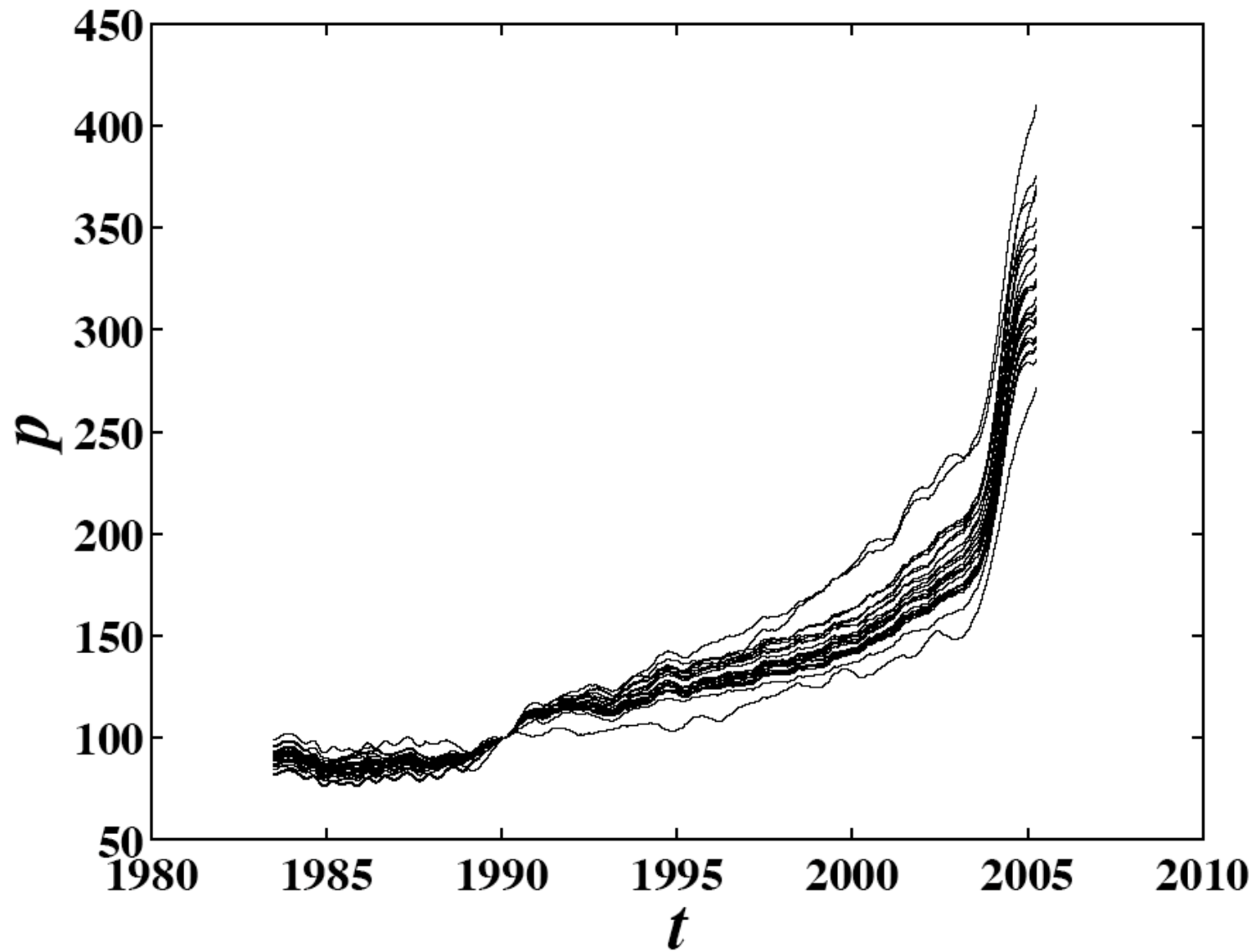


Figure 1: Three fits of the quarterly data of Las Vegas house price index from 1978Q2 to 2004Q3, to 2004Q4, and to 2005Q1, respectively, using the pure power model (9). The fit parameters for 2004Q3 are  $t_c = 2004.75$  and  $m = 0.63$  with the r.m.s. of the fit residuals being 0.0686. The fit parameters for 2004Q4 are  $t_c = 2005.0$  and  $m = 0.54$  with the r.m.s. of the fit residuals being 0.0709. The fit parameters for 2005Q1 are  $t_c = 2005.25$  and  $m = 0.48$  with the r.m.s. of the fit residuals being 0.0725.

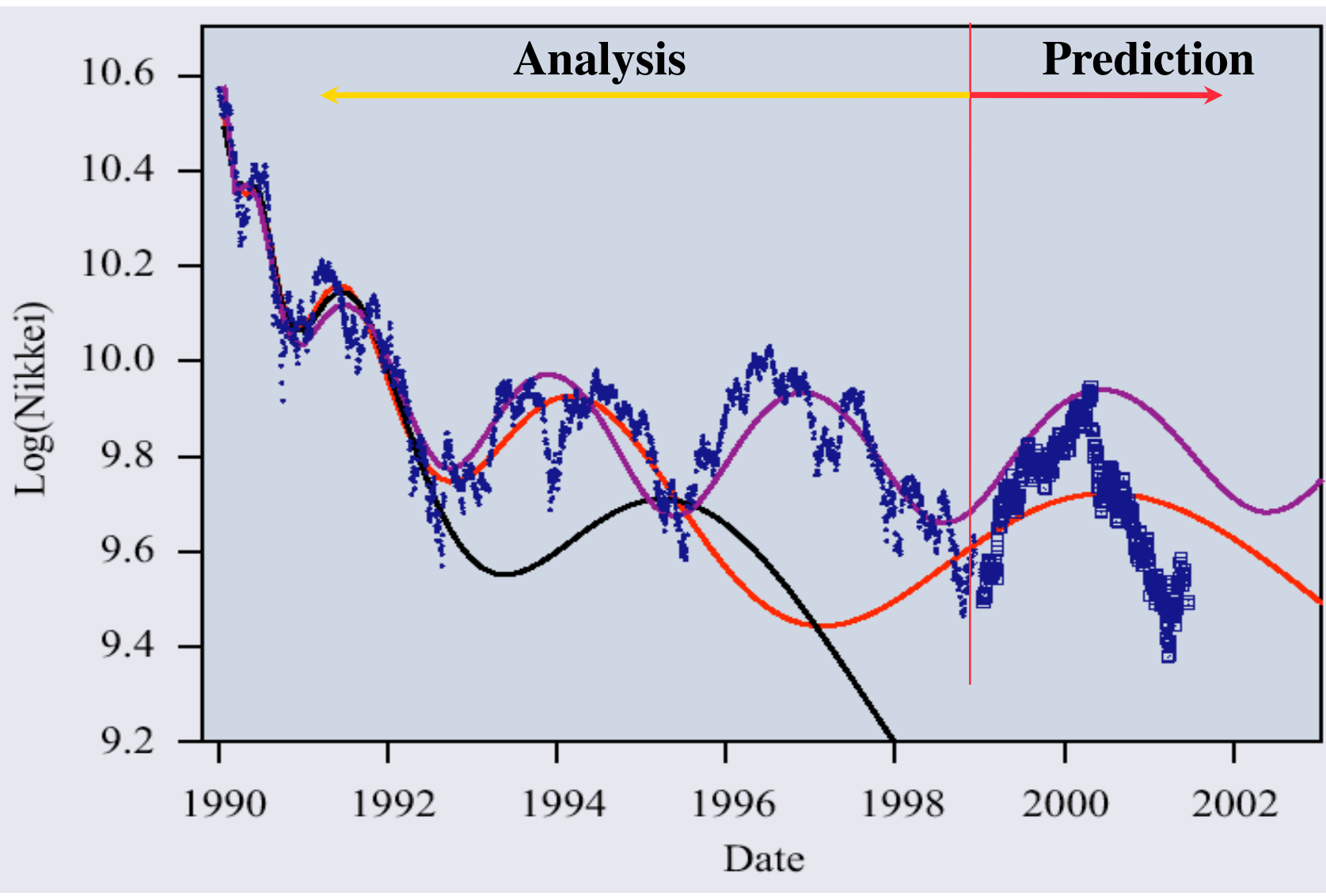
## Regional Case-Shiller-Weiss Indices of Las Vegas



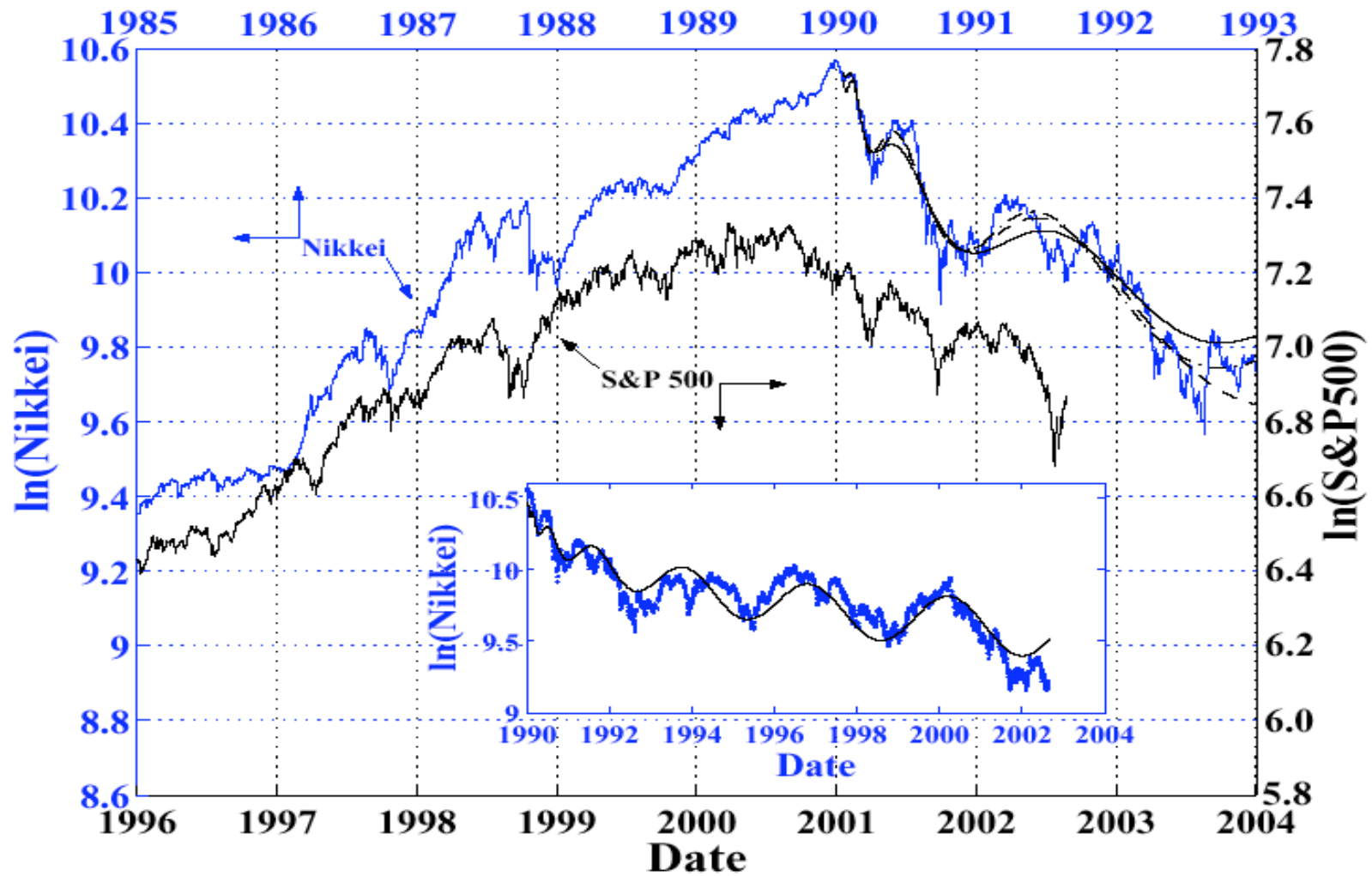
Time evolution of the Case-Shiller-Weiss (CSW) indices of 27 Las Vegas zip codes

# ANTIBUBBLES

Japanese Index: model and prediction

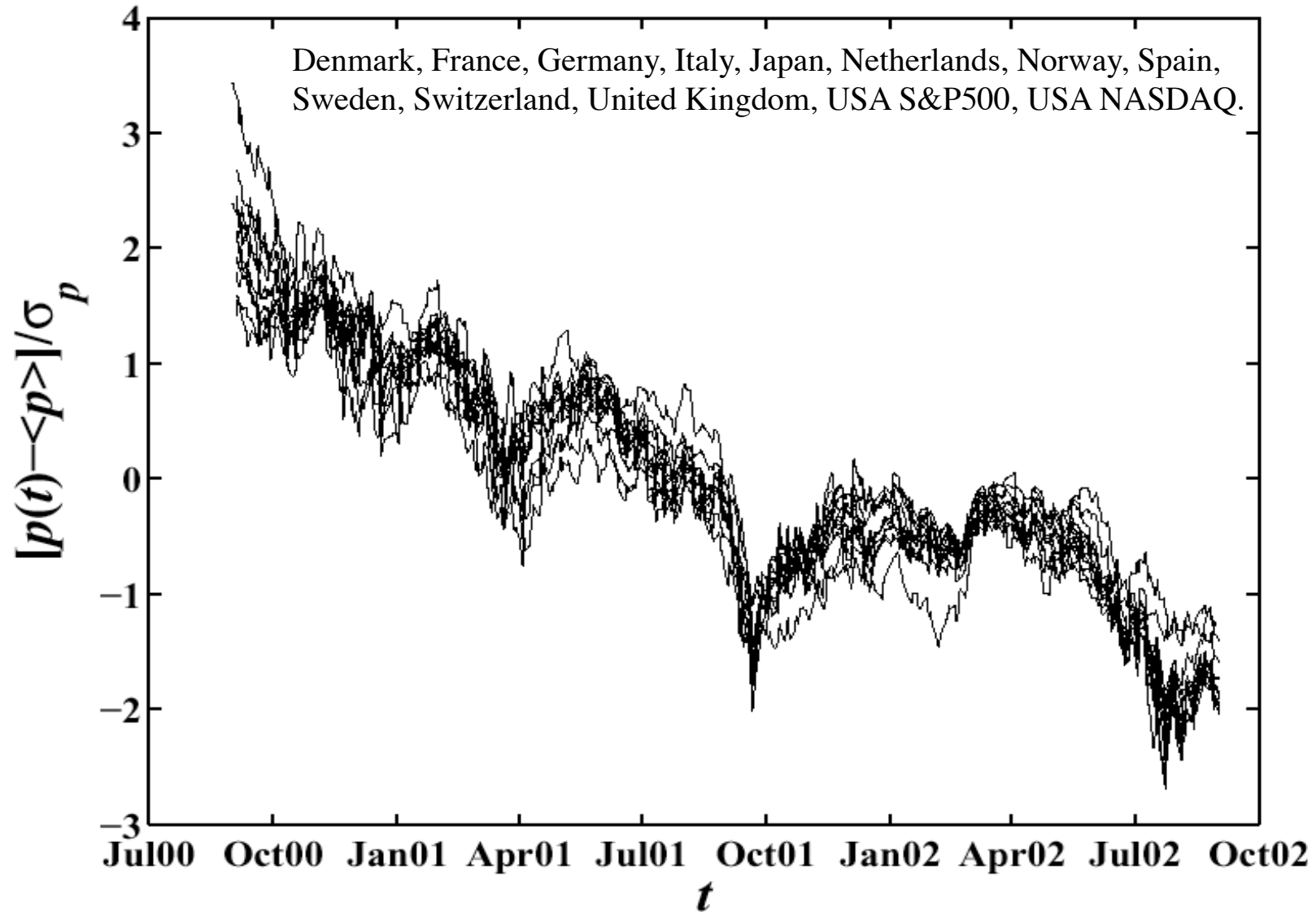


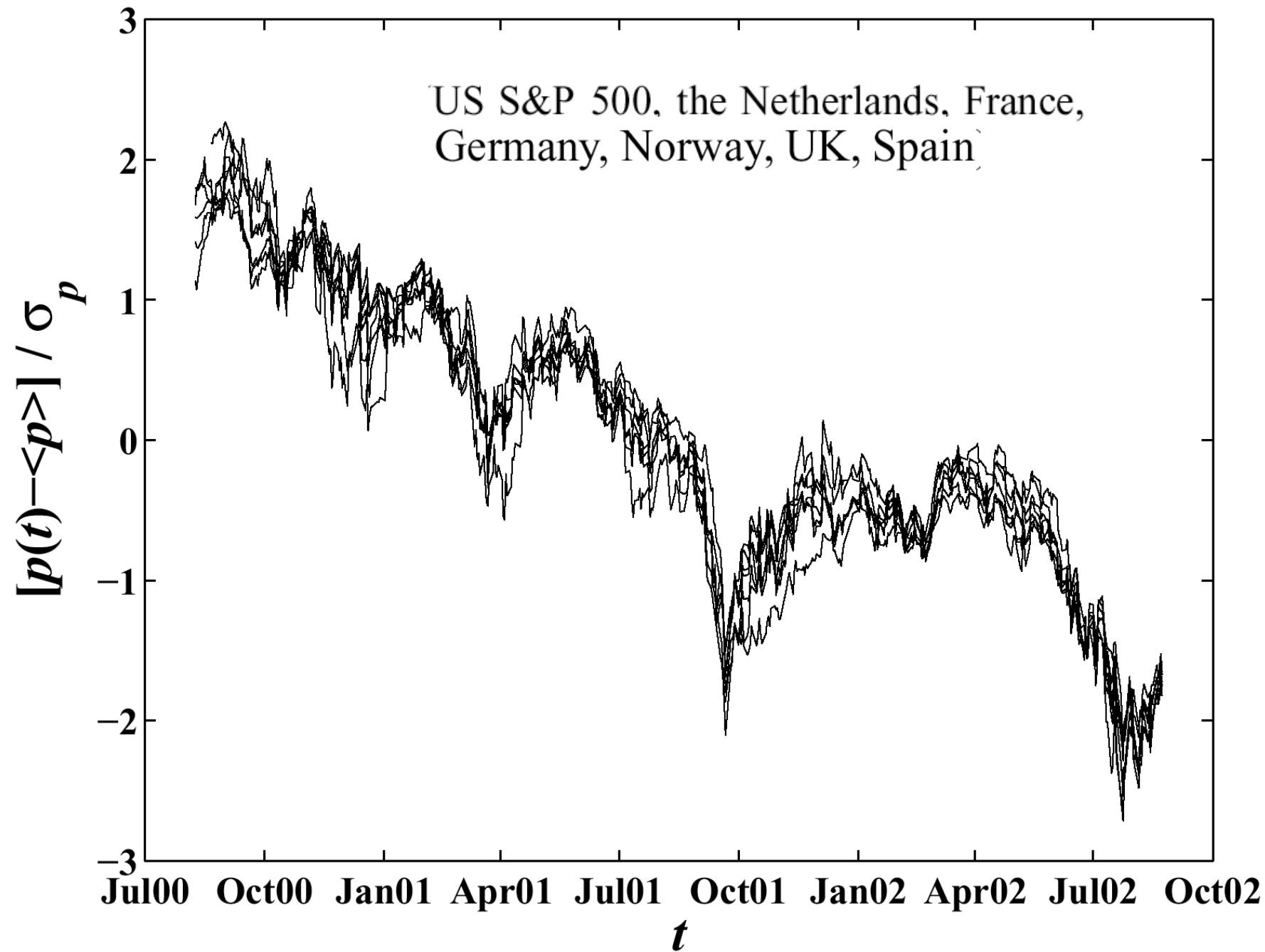
# S&P vs Nikkei





# Inter-market Correlations





Does knowledge of all this change the future? Forecasts?

Learning from the Oct. 1987 Crash: implied volatility has changed dramatically, and in Bates' opinion permanently, since the 1987 crash.

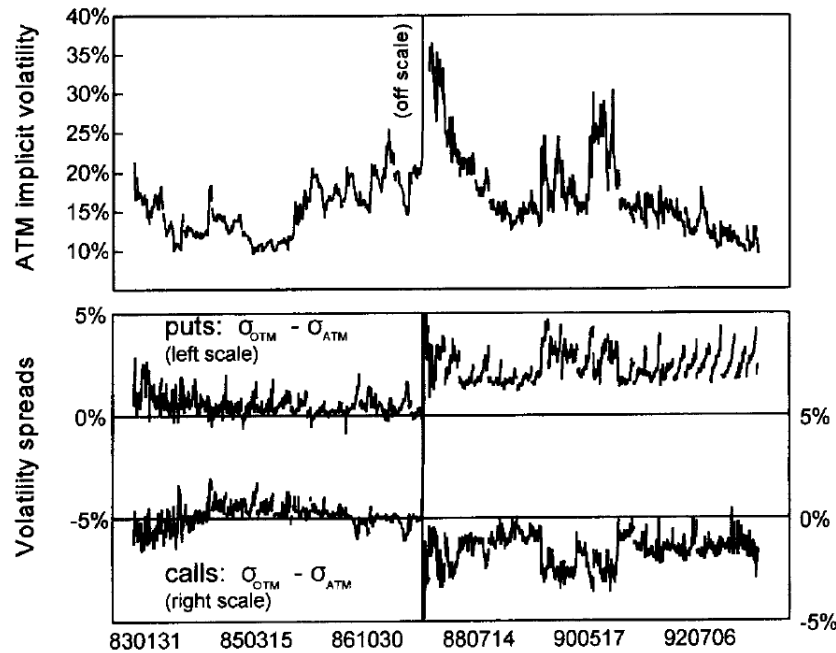


Fig. 2. Upper panel: implicit volatilities from at-the-money S&P 500 futures options, 1983-93. Lower panel: Volatility spreads for calls and puts.

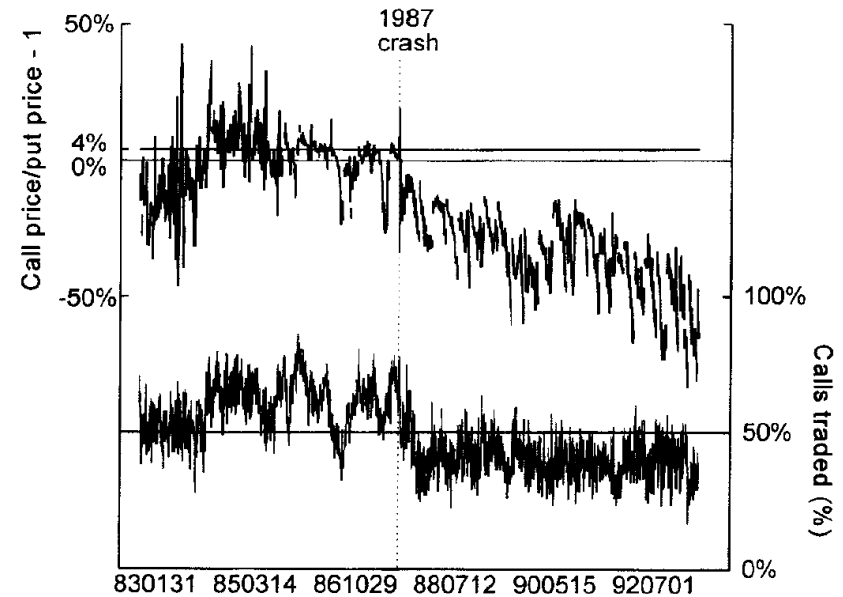


Fig. 3. 4% OTM skewness premium (upper line), and call transactions as a percentage of total reported call and put transactions (lower line).

## **COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR** between AGENTS (with negative and positive feedbacks)

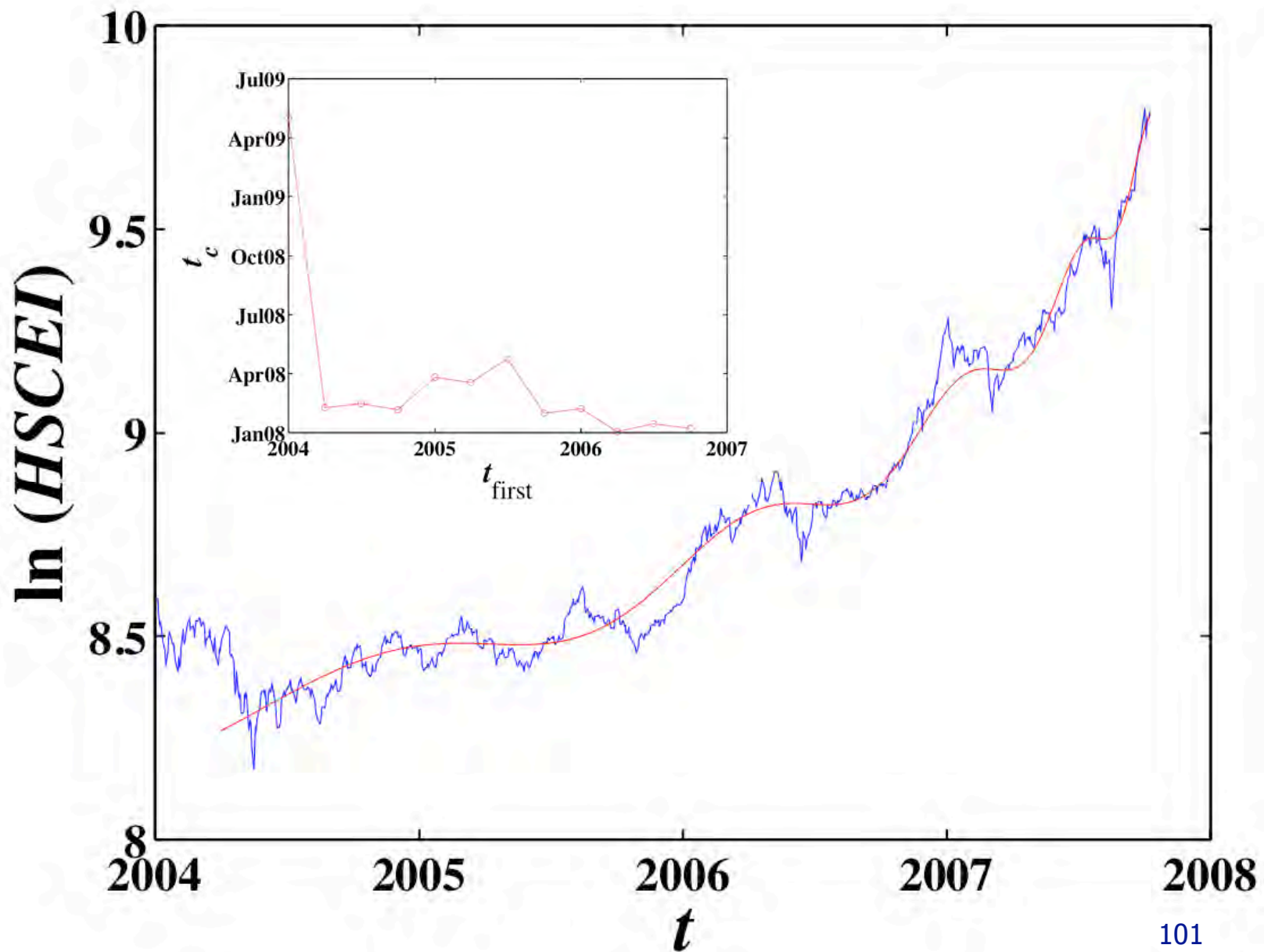
**Basle Committee on Banking Supervision:** “In handling systemic issues, it will be necessary to address, on the one hand, risks to confidence in the financial system and contagion to otherwise sound institutions, and, on the other hand, the need to minimize the distortion of market signals and discipline.”

**A. Greenspan** (Aug., 30, 2002):

“We, at the Federal Reserve...recognized that, despite our suspicions, it was very difficult to definitively identify a bubble until after the fact, that is, when its bursting confirmed its existence... Moreover, it was far from obvious that bubbles, even if identified early, could be preempted short of the Central Bank inducing a substantial contraction in economic activity, the very outcome we would be seeking to avoid.”

**Our conclusion is that the presence of the bubble and its approximate end was predictable.**

# Hang Seng China Enterprises Index (HSCEI)



# 14 factors to propel a market bubble

1. the capitalist explosion and the ownership society,
2. cultural and political changes favoring business success,
3. new information technology,
4. supportive monetary policy and the Greenspan put,
5. the baby boom and their perceived effects on the markets,
6. an expansion in media reporting of business news,
7. analysts' optimistic forecasts,
8. the expansion of defined contribution pension plans,
9. the growth of mutual funds,
10. the decline of inflation and the effects of money illusion,
11. the expansion of the volume of trade due to discount brokers,
12. day traders,
13. twenty-four-hour trading,
14. the rise of gambling opportunities.

# Why bubbles are not arbitrated away?

1. limits to arbitrage caused by noise traders (DeLong et, 1990)
2. limits to arbitrage caused by synchronization risk (Abreu and Brunnermeier, 2002 and 2003)
3. short-sale constraints (many papers)
4. lack of close substitutes for hedging (many papers)
5. heterogenous beliefs (many papers)
6. lack of higher-order mutual knowledge (Allen, Morris and Postlewaite, 1993)
7. delegated investments (Allen and Gorton, 1993)
8. psychological biases (observed in many experiments)
9. positive feedback bubbles

# Conclusion

- ❑ Regularities in bubbles and crashes
- ❑ Kings and black swans
- ❑ Positive and negative feedbacks
- ❑ RE bubble models and imitation/herding
- ❑ Empirical case studies
- ❑ Endogenous versus Exogenous
- ❑ Foreign capital flows, Fed's feedback and macroeconomic feedbacks (not shown here)
- ❑ Anti-bubbles and the recent 2000-05 phase (not shown here)
- ❑ Towards routine predictions

All papers and much more at <http://www.ess.ucla.edu/faculty/sornette/>



## Main Messages

Investors, stock market regulators and macro-economic policy cannot ignore **COLLECTIVE BEHAVIOR** between **AGENTS** (with negative and positive feedbacks).

Imitation and herding behaviors lead to **Positive and negative feedbacks** AND vice-versa : the stock markets and the economy have never been more a **CONFIDENCE** “game”.

**Predictions and Preparation:** complexity theory applied to such collective processes provides clues for precursors and suggests steps for precaution and preparation.

**DIDIER SORNETTE**

Princeton  
University  
Press  
Jan. 2003



Critical Events in  
Complex Financial Systems

D. Sornette

## Critical Phenomena in Natural Sciences

Chaos, Fractals,  
Selforganization and Disorder:  
Concepts and Tools

**First edition  
2000**

**Second  
enlarged edition  
2004**

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Malevergne · Sornette



Extreme Financial Risks

Y. Malevergne  
D. Sornette

## Extreme Financial Risks

From Dependence  
to Risk Management

**Nov 2005**

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