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# Analysis of market efficiency and fractal feature of NASDAQ stock exchange: Time series modeling and forecasting of stock index using ARMA-GARCH model

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## Abstract

The multi-fractal analysis has been applied to investigate various stylized facts of the financial market including market efficiency, financial crisis, risk evaluation and crash prediction. This paper examines the daily return series of stock index of NASDAQ stock exchange. Also, in this study, we test the efficient market hypothesis and fractal feature of NASDAQ stock exchange. In the previous studies, most of the technical analysis methods for stock market, including K-line chart, moving average, etc. have been used. These methods are generally based on statistical data, while the stock market is in fact a nonlinear and chaotic system which depends on political, economic and psychological factors. In this research we modeled daily stock index in NASDAQ stock exchange using ARMA-GARCH model from 2000 until the end of 2016. After running the model, we found the best model for time series of daily stock index. In next step, we forecasted stock index values for 2017 and our findings show that ARMA-GARCH model can forecast very well at the error level of 1%. Also, the result shows that a correlation exists between the stock price indexes over time scales and NASDAQ stock exchange is efficient market and non-fractal market.

**Keywords:** Market efficiency, Fractal analysis, NASDAQ stock exchange, Stock index, ARMA-GARCH model

**JEL:** C01, C22, C53, C58

## Introduction

Stock price index was firstly used in the USA in 1884. This index was obtained in the railway industry from the simple average of eleven companies. Generally, stock price index in all financial markets of the world has great importance as one of the most important criteria for measuring performance of stock exchange. Perhaps the most important reason for this increasing attention is that the mentioned index is obtained from aggregation of stock price movements of all companies or a special category of the companies existing in the market, and

thus, makes it possible to investigate about the direction and size of price movements in stock market. In fact, expansion of financial theories and innovations over the last one to two decades has been associated with an increasing tendency toward calculation and examination of movement process of such indexes, based on the central role of attention to the general move of the market (Khosravi Nejad and Shabani Sadr Pishe, 2014; [3, 3, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 37, 48, 53, 55, 73, 90, 97]).

In countries where their capital market has been developed and the number of accepted companies in them is high relative to the number of active companies in the country, their capital market is fully representative of the economic situation of that country, and the stock exchange index is considered as an economic indicator, that by predicting this indicator, the status of the

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country's liquidity can be understood and managed and also appropriate investment strategies can be applied to it. For example, in periods when the index takes an ascending trend for a long time, it causes the liquidity to come from other parallel markets such as currency, gold coins, and housing, to this market. In this case, investors usually take purchase and maintenance strategies and invest with long-term views. On the contrary, when the index takes a descending trend for a long time, liquidity is usually transferred to markets parallel to the capital market, and investors in the capital market take short-term investment strategies. Therefore, forecasting of index as an economic indicator has always been paid attention by investors and economic officials of a country [4, 5, 7, 8, 13, 14, 16–18, 34, 40, 45, 57, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 79, 80, 82, 83, 89, 106].

In this study, we test time series method on daily return series of stock index of NASDAQ stock exchange. Time series are an important category of data in empirical analysis. These series are a series of data which are collected discretely in equal time intervals. Time series test are used in many fields, such as economics, business and commerce, engineering sciences, natural sciences and social sciences. Time series are modeled under different templates. These models are divided into two general categories. The first category is static models and the second one is non-static models. Static models are the models in which the mean and dispersion are constant over time; otherwise the model is considered non-static. In these models, the current data are defined based on previous data in addition to a random error factor.

Many series, such as business and industrial dependent data, show non-static behavior, especially in financial matters. This means that the data do not fluctuate around a constant mean. These series have trends in their data that the data fluctuate around them over time. These models can turn to static models by the  $d^{\text{th}}$  differentiation of the data [6]. A common category of non-static models of time series is the models of the moving average integrated auto-regression. This model consists of three main parameters including parameter of auto-regression  $p$ , parameter of moving average  $q$ , and parameter of differentiation  $d$ , and through putting the two parameters of  $q$  and  $d$  as equal to zero, they turn to static auto-regression model by [20].

In time series discussion, future observations and past observations are of the same type, and there are certain relationships between them. Predicting the future values of these series is of great importance. The estimated model of observations can be the basis for predicting future observations. This modeling approach in the issue of prediction of future observations is often useful when there is little information about the method

of production of observations in order for prediction. In recent years, several studies have been conducted in order to improve prediction of future observations. Most researchers believe that financial markets follow a non-linear trend [94]. Therefore, through linear predictions, appropriate results for examining future path of financial variables may not be obtained. In recent years, among the most important nonlinear models which has been used in financial markets and also achieved good results, is GARCH model. Furthermore, GARCH models have been used much in order to predict time series in non-static conditions of variables, lack of justification of classical methods, or complexity of time series.

Although technical and structural models have much been used in prediction of stock market, but the results of studies indicate that these methods have not been successful enough to predict stock market. With the advance of science, researchers have used time series and artificial neural networks models in order for better predictions [58]. In single-variable time series model, it is assumed that the examined variable is a sequence of observations over time that, according to its past values, and future values of the sequence can be predicted [87]. In this study for investigating market efficiency and fractal feature of NASDAQ stock exchange, we used ARMA-GARCH model. The advantage of GARCH model is that in some cases, we replace a GARCH model instead of a high-order ARCH model that in this case the principle of saving is observed more and its estimation is also easier.

## Literature review

In economic researches, the most used prediction models have been econometric methods, variance-auto-covariance, correlation analyses and, in general, causal analysis. In financial matters, Box-Jenkins methods and smoothing or multivariate regression for causal analyses in issues such as corporate profit prediction, companies' stock price, and prediction of balance sheet items have been mostly used in commercial matters and financial issues. In recent years, new approaches, such as neural networks and fuzzy neural networks methods have been used in various types of prediction issues and in various financial, economic, and commercial sciences, and they have been cited in various researches. Several studies have been proposed in order to compare prediction methods. Particularly in the last decade, this comparison has been proposed and made between neural networks, fuzzy neural networks, econometric or Box-Jenkins methods.

In recent years, in the area of time series forecasting, many studies investigated forecasting of time series of the economic and financial variables. Time series is a branch of statistics and probability science which is widely used in other fields of science. Using past information of

variables creates the possibility of predicting future values, that this is a key factor in planning, policy making, and management of financial and economic systems. Given that most of the series that are being analyzed are non-static, in order to fit a suitable pattern to them, the non-static factor in them must be eliminated [74].

An investigation for stock price forecasting started from the mid-1970s, and especially since 1980 began extensive efforts about prediction ability of stock prices using new mathematical methods, long time series, and a more advanced tool such as artificial intelligence, and performed many tests on price information and stock index in countries such as UK, USA, Canada, Germany, and Japan in order to show the existence or lack of a certain structure in stock price information, and in order to break the hypothesis of random steps in this way. Gujarati [42] in his econometrics book has pointed out to the uses of time series as a powerful and widely used tool in economic and financial data. Given the nature of time series data and importance of prediction in these issues, many researchers have predicted future observations of time series in financial issues.

Chan et al. [23] tried to predict financial time series using artificial neural networks of daily data of Shanghai stock exchanges. In order to have higher speed and convergence, they used descending gradient algorithm and multiple linear regressions in order to determine the weights. They concluded that neural network can predict time series better and satisfactorily, and the method of selecting the weights in their method led to lower computational costs.

Kim and Han [56] used a neural network modified by genetic algorithm (GA) to predict stock index. In this case, genetic algorithm was used in order to reduce future complexity of price time series.

Lendasse et al. [59] tried to predict the index using neural networks. Their data given to the network included two types of exogenous and endogenous data that exogenous economic data included international stock price indices, exchange rates, and interest rate, and endogenous data included historical values of index. They concluded from their research that using neural networks acts better than linear methods.

Egeli et al. [33] tried to predict the daily index of Istanbul stock market. Their network input included Dollar/Lire exchange rate on the previous day, the index value in the previous days, overnight interest rate, and five virtual variables for five days of a week. The result of their research was that neural networks do a more accurate prediction of 5-day and 10-day moving average.

Potvina et al. [77] using genetic programming capabilities have tried to recognize the relationships and

regulations of business and trade from information of companies existing in Canadian stock exchange, and using that, have modeled the fluctuations existing in financial markets.

Lensberg et al. [60] using genetic programming have tried to investigate and analyze financial bankruptcy. According to the research results, it has been observed that the model has a desirable accuracy in predicting and distinguishing between bankrupt and non-bankrupt enterprises.

Marcellino et al. [63] have examined repeated empirical prediction of one-variable and two-variable auto-regression models with economic time series data of USA in 170 months between 1959 and 2002.

Etemadi et al. [36] also has used modeling based on genetic programming to predict bankruptcy of stock companies, and according to the results, it has been observed that the model has a desirable accuracy in this regard.

Boyacioglu and Avci [2] have developed a model based on adaptive neural fuzzy inference system in order to predict stock return in Istanbul stock exchanges. Using six macroeconomic variables and three stock indexes as input variables, they predicted stock return variable as the output and dependent variable. Examining the results shows desirable accuracy of the model.

Piscopo [75] in a study has modeled and predicted time series of bank deposits in Italy, and has used ARIMA time series model for this purpose. According to the research results, it has been observed that modeling of time series of bank deposits, using ARIMA, has been able to predict the changes and time trends of volume of deposits and their seasonal pattern, well.

Chen et al. [25] in a study has tries to predict gold price, using ARIMA and GARCH models. This research has been conducted during the period 1971 to 2010 using monthly data for predicting gold price. In other study, Giordani and Villani [41] have proposed a mixed dynamic non-Gaussian model for prediction in econometrics.

Guresen et al. [43] have used models based on artificial neural networks in order to predict stock index. They have used models based on multilayer artificial neural networks, and autoregressive correlation models, and according to the results of the research, it has been observed that artificial neural network model has had more accuracy than other combinative models.

Dai et al. [30] combining nonlinear components analysis and artificial neural networks, have predicted the indexes of Asian stock companies, and have used the data from Japan and China stocks for this purpose, and it has been observed that using the above modeling approach has increased the accuracy of predictions. Sermpinis et al. [88] using modeling based on genetic programming

have tried to predict Euro/Dollar exchange rate, and comparing the results of genetic programming model with neural networks and ARIMA time series model, have showed that modeling based on genetic programming has a better performance in this regard.

Wanga et al. [99] have used various types of combinative models of time series, artificial neural networks and genetic algorithm to predict stock index, and finally, by comparing the accuracy of different models, they have concluded that modeling based on hybrid and dual approach with different models, has improved the accuracy of results.

Araujo [10] has presented a sustained self-corrective approach to predict financial data sustainably. The mentioned approach has eliminated the problems of random stroke processes in financial time series.

Table 1 has provided a brief overview of the subject literature in order to clarify the status of this research among the recent researches in this area.

In financial time series, instability of changes in profit or return has an important role in economic decision-making. Autoregressive time series models with unstable conditional variance (or ARCH model), and autoregressive with generalized unstable conditional variance (or GARCH model) have been created in order for modeling the changes and instabilities of time series. GARCH model has many applications in the areas of risk management, securities management, asset allocation, and so on. Despite the wideness and variety of the existing models for prediction of time series, this area still has attracted the attention of many researchers. Existence of nonlinear behavior, noise nature of data, and non-static and chaotic behavior of time series makes it very difficult to obtain a proper model for the system and prediction of future behavior of system only by using its past information and behavior. In the meantime, the prediction accuracy of the series should also be very high and this is one of the important issues in the area of predicting financial time series.

In recent years, many researchers have predicted future observations of time series in financial issues by using GARCH type models.

Naseem et al. [69] have examined the volatility of Pakistani stock market over the period of 1 January 2008 to 30 June 2018 via different GARCH type model such as symmetric (GARCH & GARCH-M) and asymmetric (EGARCH & TGARCH) models. According to the research results, GARCH-M (1, 1) depicts a positive significant at 1% results in Std. and GED which indicates the existence of risk premium and insignificant in rest of the distribution on. Also, EGARCH and TGARCH both are found to leverage effect significant at 1% level.

Mohsin et al. [65] in a study has modeled the volatility of exchange rate using GARCH type models such as PGARCH, TGARCH, CGARCH and ACGARCH. According to the research results, it has been observed that except of PGARCH and TGARCH, the summation of ARCH and GARCH value is more than one.

Salamat et al. [85] have developed a model based on utilizing the symmetric (GARCH 1,1) and asymmetric (EGARCH, TGARCH, PGARCH) model of GARCH family for cryptocurrencies volatility. According to the research results, the results for an explicit set of currencies for entire period provide evidence of volatile nature of cryptocurrency and in most of the cases, the PGARCH is a better-fitted model with student's t distribution.

This paper used ARMA-GARCH model for forecasting daily return series of stock index of NASDAQ stock exchange. Furthermore, we investigate the efficiency and fractal feature of NASDAQ stock exchange to study its effects on efficiency and fractal perspectives in NASDAQ stock exchange, which has theoretical and practical significance in the application of effective market hypothesis (EMH) in NASDAQ stock exchange.

### Efficient market hypothesis (EMH)

The efficient market hypothesis suggests that stock prices reflect all available information and in this market a stock price is equal to its intrinsic value [51]. Under the efficient market hypothesis, option-implied forward variance forms a martingale and changes in forward variance follow a random walk [50]. Most empirical evidence suggests that the efficient market hypothesis, stating that spot and futures prices should cointegrate with a unit slope on futures prices, does not hold [100]. In its fundamental formation, the EMH states that the price of an actively traded asset is an optimal forecast of the asset's fundamental value. Thus, in an EMH, change in asset prices cannot be predicted [26]. But there is striking evidence that stock prices do not follow random walks and possess some degree of predictability, and there is a lack of strong alternative theoretical explanations to the EMH [62].

The main implication of the EMH is that traders should not be able to "beat" the market and make abnormal profits [22]. In weak-form efficiency, future prices cannot be predicted based on the analysis of their past performance [98]. The markets that cannot reject the EMH may be just less inefficient [46]. The relatively less inefficient markets are mainly located in Europe and America, and the relatively more inefficient mainly in the Middle East [66]. To relate the research on survivability to issues with respect to the efficient markets hypothesis, it is better to endow agents with the ability to forecast market prices

**Table 1** A brief overview of the literature of time series forecasting

Authors	Sustainable regression for time series	Forecasting of time series	Sustainable forecasting of time series	Forecasting of financial time series
Denby and Martin [31]	Auto-regression sustainable model			
Rousseeuw and Yohai [84]	S estimator			
Martin and Yohai [64]	Auto-regression combinative sustainable model of moving average			
Karmarkar [52]	Combinative model		Sustainable forecasting	
Wu [101]				Forecasting of financial data with neural network
Salibian -Barrera and Yohai [86]	Algorithm of fast calculation of S estimator			
Marcellino et al. [63]	Auto-regression model	Repetitive and direct forecasting		
Hyndman and Ullah [47]	LC model	Forecasting of birth and death rates	Sustainable forecasting	
Gagne and Duchesne [38]			Multivariate auto-regression model with exogenous variables	
Chao et al. [24]	Updating auto-regression model	Forecasting of flood time	Sustainable recursive forecasting approach	
Authors	Sustainable regression for time series	Forecasting of time series	Sustainable forecasting of time series	Forecasting of financial time series
Croux et al. [28]	Using of M estimator in expansive smoothing method and Holt-winters algorithm			
Yu et al. [105]				Artificial neural networks and PCA
Gelper et al. [39]	Expansive smoothing method and Holt-winters algorithm		Sustainable forecasting	
Giordani and villani [41]		Combination of neural network and the combinative model of auto-regression of moving average		
Croux et al. [29]	MM estimator without filter		Sustainable forecasting for non-static series	
Kharin [54]			Sustainable forecasting statistics	
Araujo [10]				Forecasting with automatic self-correction approach
Tzouras et al. [96]				Hurst exponent
Ying Wei [104]				Hybrid ANFIS model
Podsiadlo and Rybinski [76]				Rough sets with time-weighted rule voting
Ye et al. [103]				Genetic algorithm
Jiang et al. [49]				Permutation entropy
Pradeepkumar and Ravi [78]				Particle Swarm optimization trained quantile regression neural network
Stratimirovic et al. [91]				Wavelet analysis
Xu and Shang [102]				Multiscale entropy

**Table 1** (continued)

Authors	Sustainable regression for time series	Forecasting of time series	Sustainable forecasting of time series	Forecasting of financial time series
Abbaszadeh et al. [1]				Using Lyapunov’s method for analysing of chaotic behavior on financial time series data
Moradi et al. [67]				Using L-Co-R algorithm for forecasting time series stock returns

and dividends [95]. In mathematical finance the efficient market hypothesis is formulated as the martingale property of price processes of tradable assets such as stocks [27, 32, 44, 92].

**Fractal market hypothesis (FMH)**

Fractal markets hypothesis is a hypothesis for analysing financial time series based on the principles of fractal geometry, specifically the self-affine properties of stochastic fields.

The Fractal market hypothesis uses fractals and other chaos theories to explain the behaviors of the stock market given the daily randomness and turbulence. Due to the movement of stock prices in fractals (fragments), and the repeatable attributes of fractals, FMH analyzes and gives explanation to stock market trends.

Fractal markets hypothesis analyzes the daily randomness of the market—a glaring absence in the widely utilized efficient market hypothesis. Fractal market hypothesis is tightly connected to multifractality and long-range dependence in financial time series [21]. Financial market time series exhibit high degrees of non-linear variability, and frequently have fractal properties. When the fractal dimension of a time series is non-integer, this is associated with two features [81]: (1) inhomogeneity—extreme fluctuations at irregular intervals, and (2) scaling symmetries—proportionality relationships between fluctuations over different separation distances.

**Methods**

The population of this research includes all firms listed in NASDAQ stock exchange from 2000 until the end of 2016. The current study modeled time series stock index in NASDAQ stock exchange over a period from 2000 to 2016 using ARMA-GARCH model. In next step, we forecasted stock index values for 2017 and then compared it with real values. Also, in this study, we investigate the efficiency and fractal feature of NASDAQ stock exchange over a period from 2000 to 2016 using ARMA-GARCH model.

**ARMA model**

ARMA model is a linear model for static time series. This model was proposed by Box–Jenkins [93]. In this model, estimation is based on the previous observations and the previous estimation errors.  $X_t$  process is an ARMA(p,q) process, if  $X_t$  is static and for each t we have:

$$X_t - \theta_1 X_{t-1} - \dots - \theta_p X_{t-p} = Z_t + \theta_1 Z_{t-1} + \dots + \theta_q Z_{t-q} \tag{1}$$

So that  $\{Z_t\} \sim WN(0, \sigma^2)$  and  $\theta(z) = 1 - \theta_1 z - \dots - \theta_p z^p$ ,  $\theta(z) = 1 + \theta_1 z + \dots + \theta_q z^q$  polynomials would not have a common factor. ARMA(p,q) illustration based on these polynomials is as follows:

$$\theta(B)X_t = \theta(B)Z_t$$

B is the backshift operator ( $B^j X_t = X_{t-j}$ ;  $B^j Z_t = Z_{t-j}$ ). If  $\theta(z) = 1$ , then  $X_t$  time series is the p order auto regression process or AR(p) and if  $\theta(z) = 1$ ,  $X_t$  time series is the q order moving average process or MA(q).

The static series is important in using ARMA model for a time series. This model has the appropriate applicability for modeling the series if the time series observations are static. In other words if the assumed rules of the process are changed during its transfer in time, these changes will not change the model and as a result the system applicability in time series estimations will decrease considerably. Therefore before the practice of an ARMA model to the data of a time series, being static is always investigated [61].

**GARCH model**

The process  $\{y_t\}$  follows the generalized autoregressive model conditioned to variance instability GARCH (p,q), if:

$$y_t = f(t - 1, X) + \varepsilon_t \quad t = 1, 2, \dots \tag{2}$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \alpha + \sum_{i=1}^p b_i y_{t-i}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^q c_j \sigma_{t-j}^2 \tag{3}$$

In the above equations  $f(t-1, X)$  represents the predictable and definite part of the model;  $\varepsilon_t$  denotes the random part of the model;  $\sigma_t^2$  is observation conditional variance in the condition of previous observations at the moment  $t$ .  $\{\varepsilon_t\} \sim \text{IID}(0, 1)$  and also  $\varepsilon_t$  is independent for each  $t$  of  $\{y_{t-k}, k \geq 1\}$ . In order to ensure that the conditional variance of the model is positive, the following constraints must be considered:

$$\alpha \geq 0, b_i \geq 0, c_j \geq 0$$

Also, in order for the model to be static, it is necessary that the sum of  $b_i$  and  $c_j$  is less than one.

This model was firstly introduced in 1986 by Bollerslev as the generalization of ARCH model. ARCH model or conditional autoregressive model with non-sustainable dispersion was introduced by Engle in 1982. In this model, conditional variance of observations is a linear function of the second exponent of past observations of the series.

$$\sigma_t^2 = a + b_1 y_{t-1}^2 + \dots + b_p y_{t-p}^2 \tag{4}$$

In this model also in order to be sure about positivity of the model's conditional variance, the coefficients must be  $a \geq 0, b_i \geq 0$ . As can be seen, the difference between the ARCH model and the GARCH model is in the method of modeling the conditional variance of time series observations.

This model, in particular the simpler GARCH (1,1) model, has become widely used in financial time series modeling and is implemented in most statistics and econometric software packages. GARCH (1,1) models are favored over other stochastic volatility models by many economists due to their relatively simple implementation: since they are given by stochastic difference equations in discrete time, the likelihood function is easier to handle than continuous-time models, and since financial data are generally gathered at discrete intervals.

**ARMA-GARCH model**

ARMA-GARCH model is a combination of ARMA and GARCH models. In this model the conditional average if the observations has ARMA model and the conditional variance of the observations has GARCH model which is conditional to the previous observations [6]. In other words if the  $\{y_t\}$  process is true in these relations, this process has ARMA-GARCH model:

$$y_t = \theta_1 y_{t-1} + \dots + \theta_p y_{t-p} + \theta_1 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \dots + \theta_q \varepsilon_{t-q} + \varepsilon_t \tag{5}$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = a + \sum_{i=1}^p b_i y_{t-i}^2 + \sum_{j=1}^q c_j \sigma_{t-j}^2 \tag{6}$$

All the GARCH model terms are considered here.

**Results**

Table 2 shows the descriptive statistics of daily stock index on annual basis for firms that listed on NASDAQ Stock Exchange over a period 2000 to 2016.

Figures 1 and 2 present the time series plots of stock index and stock index changes for 17 years from 2000 until 2016.

In regression modeling, if an autoregressive moving average model (ARMA) is assumed for the error variance, the model is a generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity (GARCH) model. Consider the following regression model for the index value:

$$y_t = \mu + \varepsilon_t \tag{7}$$

For  $t = 1, \dots, n$  (number of observations). The GARCH (1,1) model is the regression model with the following specification:

$$\varepsilon_t | \sigma_t^2 \sim N(0, \sigma_t^2), \sigma_t^2 = \omega + \alpha \varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta \sigma_{t-1}^2 \tag{8}$$

Now consider an ARMA model with GARCH errors. Specifically, we consider an ARMA(1,1) + GARCH(1,1) which has form:

$$y_t = \mu + \theta_1 (y_{t-1} - \mu) + \theta_2 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_t | \sigma_t^2 \sim N(0, \sigma_t^2), \tag{9}$$

$$\sigma_t^2 = \omega + \alpha \varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta \sigma_{t-1}^2$$

where  $\theta_1$  is the autoregressive (AR) component parameter, and  $\theta_2$  is the moving average (MA) component parameter.

When specifying the error distribution, in above, we took normal distribution. However, there are situations where a heavier tail alternative to the normal, such as the student-t distribution must be used. In such cases an ARMA(1,1) + GARCH(1,1) model with student-t error term has form:

$$y_t = \mu + \theta_1 (y_{t-1} - \mu) + \theta_2 \varepsilon_{t-1} + \varepsilon_t, \varepsilon_t | \sigma_t^2 \sim t(0, \sigma_t^2, \nu), \tag{10}$$

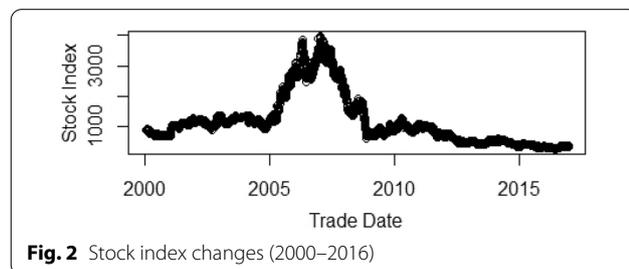
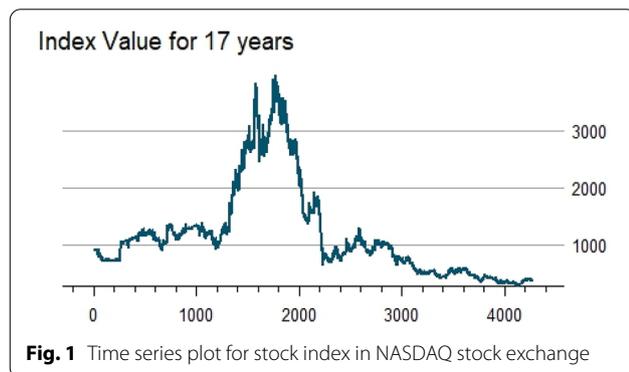
$$\sigma_t^2 = \omega + \alpha \varepsilon_{t-1}^2 + \beta \sigma_{t-1}^2$$

where  $\nu$  is the shape parameter and shows the degrees of freedom of the error model.

Output of fitting ARMA(1,1) + GARCH(1,1) with student-t distributed error term using fGarch package in R, we extracted Table 3.

**Table 2** Descriptive statistics of stock index

STDEV	MEDIAN	MEAN	Year
68.34	734.05	771.12	2000
93.83	1093.44	1087.96	2001
108.09	1150.15	1139.89	2002
67.41	1256.90	1246.40	2003
113.16	1190.92	1173.02	2004
535.29	2012.24	1955.18	2005
326.77	2908.85	2997.09	2006
441.74	3059.42	3040.64	2007
363.09	1560.51	1500.82	2008
MEAN	MEDIAN	STDEV	Year
90.16	821.32	837.04	2009
106.16	992.43	994.04	2010
127.72	954.30	898.48	2011
94.86	549.09	594.63	2012
45.74	495.64	492.88	2013
64.28	510.31	499.55	2014
43.01	402.51	388.71	2015
32.89	338.50	344.59	2016
814.78	992.43	1174.25	Total (2000–2016)



According to the p-values, all parameters are significant at level 0.001, except the mean parameters  $\mu$  and  $\omega$ . Hence, the final time series model has for:

$$y_t = y_{t-1} - 0.06\epsilon_{t-1} + \epsilon_t, \sigma_t^2 = 0.19\epsilon_{t-1}^2 + 0.86\sigma_{t-1}^2$$

In order to check the goodness of fit, the Q-Q plot is shown in Fig. 3.

Standardized residual (stresi) tests also confirm the goodness of our fit. The stres plot is also displayed in Fig. 4.

The results indicate an overall improvement in forecasting of stock index using ARMA-GARCH model from 2000 until the end of 2016. Based on our results, the new measure of capital market efficiency is introduced. The efficiency measure is taken as a distance from an ideal efficient market situation. Hypothetically, the methods for describing correlations and hierarchical relationships between stock indexes presented in this review could be used to construct investment portfolios and reduce exposure to risk.

### Discussion

In this study, in the literature review we have reviewed many studies about financial time series forecasting and modeling, and we have discussed about efficient market hypothesis (EMH) and fractal market hypothesis (FMH) and have showed that how the stock markets could be efficient. In recent years, researchers have found some empirical evidences about the importance of financial time series variables in explaining the

abnormal returns on portfolios consisting of various diversified assets in it. Therefore, financial time series forecasting and modeling are an important category in empirical analysis of financial time series variables. Also, by comparison different studies about market efficiency and fractal feature of the stock markets, the results show that predominantly in developed stock markets, it is found that developed stock markets are efficient.

The main contribution of this paper is to shed light on the question whether the NASDAQ stock exchange efficient and non-fractal. For response to this question, we have focused on time series of daily return series of stock index from 2000 until the end of 2016, and forecasted stock index values for 2017 and then compared it with real values.

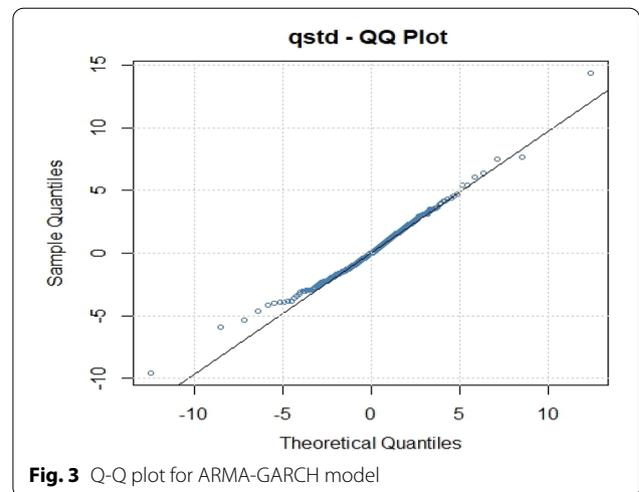
Based our results, in the previous sections, the proposed model that named ARMA-GARCH model, it can forecast very well the time series of daily return series of stock index at the error level of 1%. The results of ARMA(1,1)+GARCH(1,1) model that we have shown in Table 3, show that all parameters are significant at level 0.001.

The goodness of fit ARMA-GARCH model have shown in Fig. 3, and further statistical analysis of our model with standardized residual (stresi) tests, also confirm the goodness of fit ARMA-GARCH model, is shown in Fig. 4.

Consequently, our findings suggest that investors should view the trend of time series of daily return series of stock index for each market independently since different markets experience contrasting levels of predictability, which are related to market conditions. Also, our findings provide important implications regarding the evolution of market efficiency in the stock markets and the associated fractal structure and dynamics of the stock prices over time. Furthermore, the study findings imply that there is a high importance for considering efficiency feature of the stock market while considering investment decision in the NASDAQ stock exchange.

**Table 3** Results of ARMA-GARCH model

Parameter	Estimate	Std. Error	t Value	Pr(> t )
$\mu$	-0.2960718	0.2892862	-1.023	0.306
$\theta_1$	1.0000000	0.0003844	2601.617	<2e-16
$\theta_2$	-0.0639492	0.0156287	-4.092	4.28e-05
$\omega$	2.6707021	15.2581437	0.175	0.861
$\alpha$	0.1908938	0.0263213	7.252	4.09e-13
$\beta$	0.8677709	0.0120312	72.127	<2e-16
$\nu$	2.9467093	0.1538744	19.150	<2e-16

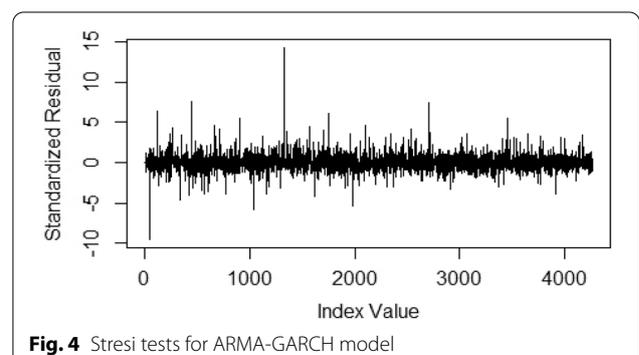


**Fig. 3** Q-Q plot for ARMA-GARCH model

### Conclusions

With continuous development of economy in the society, a rapid rise has happened in emergence of capital markets in the world. Today, investing in stock market forms an important part of economy of the society. This is why prediction of stock price has become of great importance to the shareholders, so that they can gain the highest return on their investment. Sustainable prediction is very important in financial data, since accurate predictions will have significant effects on profits. Therefore, using traditional analysis tools to make accurate decisions about stocks is very difficult. In addition, there is a significant difference in analysis of the results obtained by individuals using the same tools, which indicates that all of them are not suitable to be used by ordinary investors without professional knowledge and experience.

In this research, we modeled daily return series of stock index in NASDAQ stock exchange using ARMA-GARCH model from 2000 until the end of 2016. After running the model, we found the best model for time series of daily return series of stock index. In next step, we forecasted daily return series of stock index values for 2017 and our



**Fig. 4** Stresi tests for ARMA-GARCH model

findings show that ARMA-GARCH model can forecast very well at the error level of 1%. Also, the result shows that a correlation exists between the stock price indexes over time scales and based on our results about efficiency and fractal feature of NASDAQ stock exchange, we found that NASDAQ stock exchange is efficient market and non-fractal market.

Based on our finding, from a practical view, improving the general apprehending of multifractal behavior and time-varying efficiency in emerging stock markets permits investors to optimize their decision-making process. As well, it may be of great interest for policymakers to enhance the financial market infrastructure and curtail speculative tendencies in stock market which in turn spurs investment and economic growth.

Additionally, the findings of the study may also provide important implications for further study on the dynamic mechanism and efficiency in stock market and help regulators and policymakers effectively control the market risk and achieve more effective resource allocation. Also, these findings have several important implications for asset allocations by investors in US stock markets. As a technical recommendation, the model capability based on genetics algorithm, neural network, and nonlinear regression models and fractal models as common types of nonlinear models for predicting chaotic series could be investigated.

#### Abbreviations

ARMA: Autoregressive moving average; GARCH: Generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity; GA: Genetic algorithm; ARIMA: Autoregressive integrated moving average; PCA: Principal component analysis; GARCH-M: Generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity in mean; EGARCH: Exponential general autoregressive conditional heteroskedastic; TGARCH: Threshold generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity; PGARCH: Periodic generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity; CGARCH: Component generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity; ACGARCH: Asymmetric component generalized autoregressive conditional heteroskedasticity; EMH: Efficient market hypothesis; FMH: Fractal market hypothesis; STDEV: Standard deviation; Std. Error: Standard error.

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Note applicable.

#### Author contributions

MA contributed the central idea, conceived and designed this research, supervised the study, provided mathematical and model derivation, and wrote the initial draft of the paper. MMR contributed to refining the ideas, performed the data and statistical analysis, wrote the initial draft of the paper, carrying out additional analyses and coordination and finalizing this manuscript. Both authors wrote, corrected and agreed to the published version of the manuscript. Both authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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#### Availability of data and materials

The datasets used or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

## Declarations

#### Ethical approval and consent to participate

Note applicable.

#### Consent for Publication

Note applicable.

#### Competing interests

All authors declare no conflicts of interest in this paper.

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