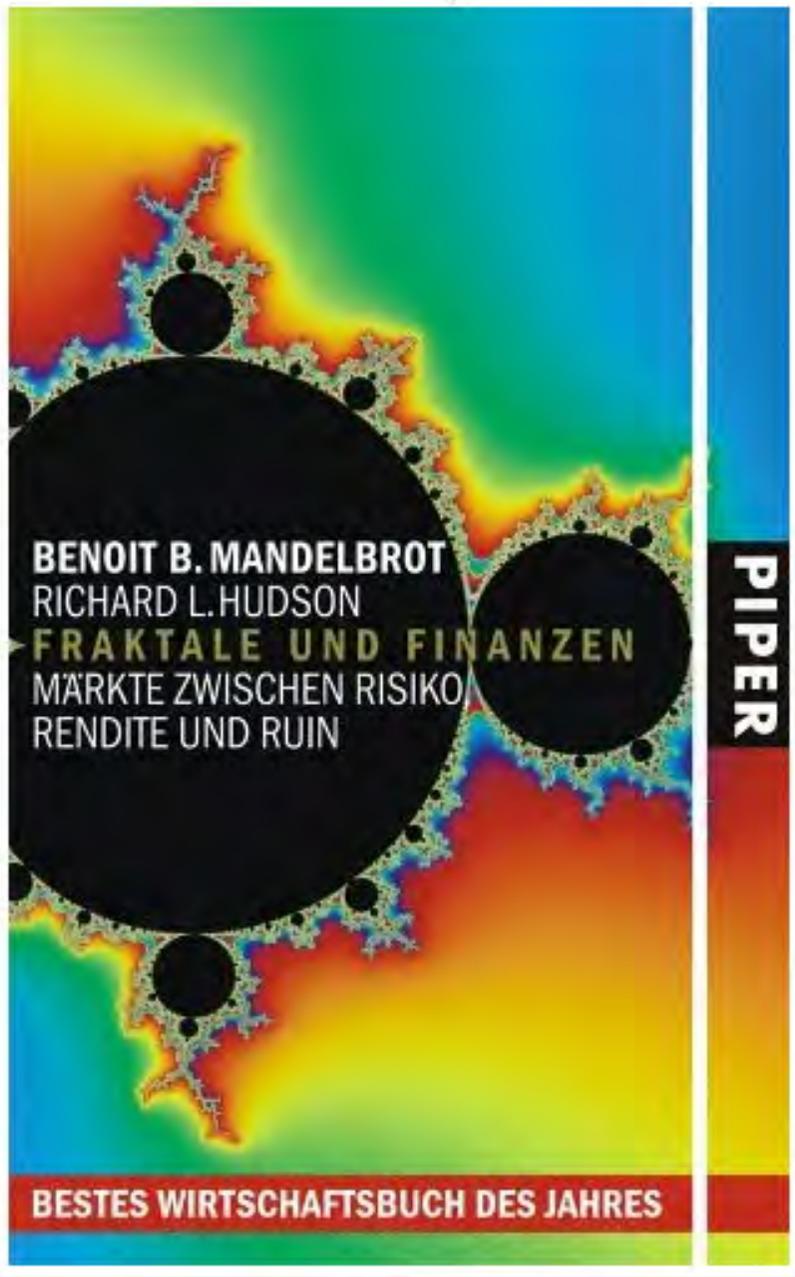


# **Wild Markets: The Fractal/Multifractal View of Risk, Ruin, and Reward**

**Benoit Mandelbrot**

**Sterling Professor of Mathematical Sciences  
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**BENOIT B. MANDELBROT**  
RICHARD L. HUDSON  
**FRAKTALE UND FINANZEN**  
MÄRKTE ZWISCHEN RISIKO  
RENDITE UND RUIN

**PIPER**

**BESTES WIRTSCHAFTSBUCH DES JAHRES**

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"The deepest and most realistic finance book  
ever published." —Nassim Nicholas Taleb,  
author of *The Black Swan*

**(MIS)BEHAVIOR  
OF MARKETS**

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*A Fractal View of*  
**Financial  
Turbulence**



WINNER  
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AWARD

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Author of *THE FRACTAL GEOMETRY OF NATURE*

**BENOIT MANDELBROT  
& RICHARD L. HUDSON**

Benoit B. Mandelbrot

FRACTALS *and*  
SCALING  
*in* FINANCE

*Discontinuity,  
Concentration, Risk*

 Springer

## On Rocks.

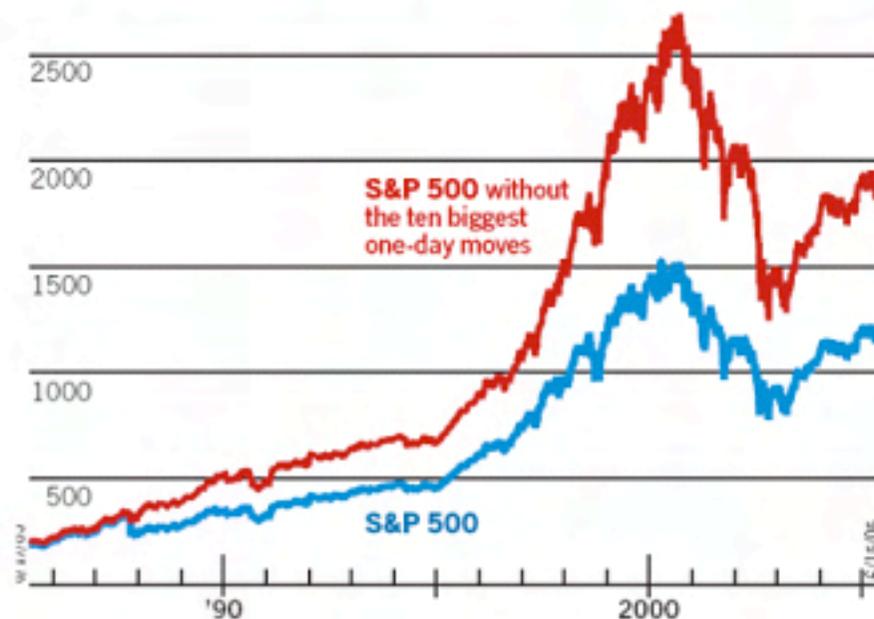
A stone, when it is examined will be found a mountain in miniature. The fineness of Nature's work is so great, that, into a single block, a foot or two in diameter, she can compress as many changes of form and structure, on a small scale, as she needs for her mountains on a large one.

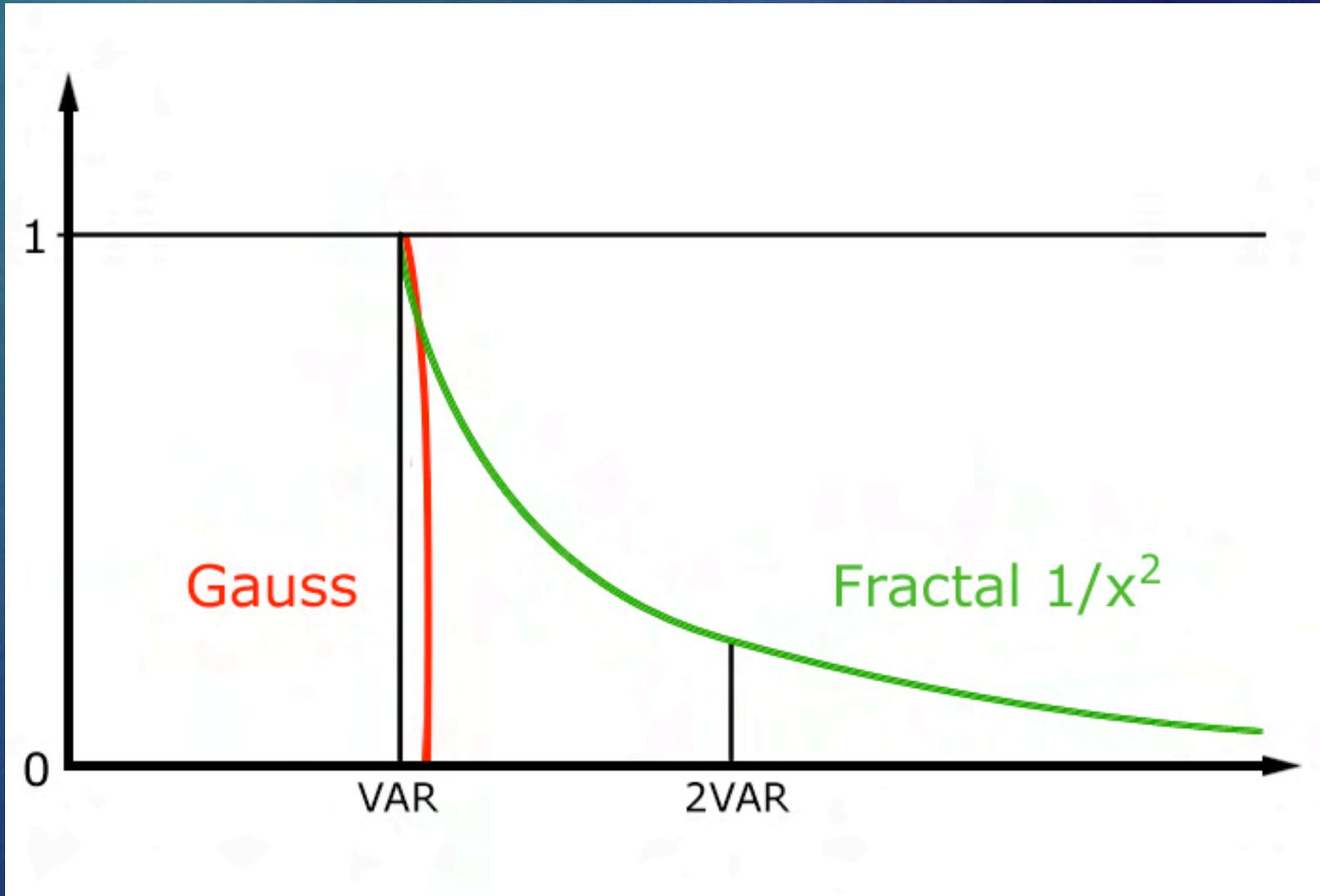
J. Ruskin, *Modern Painters* (1860)

## A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN TEN DAYS

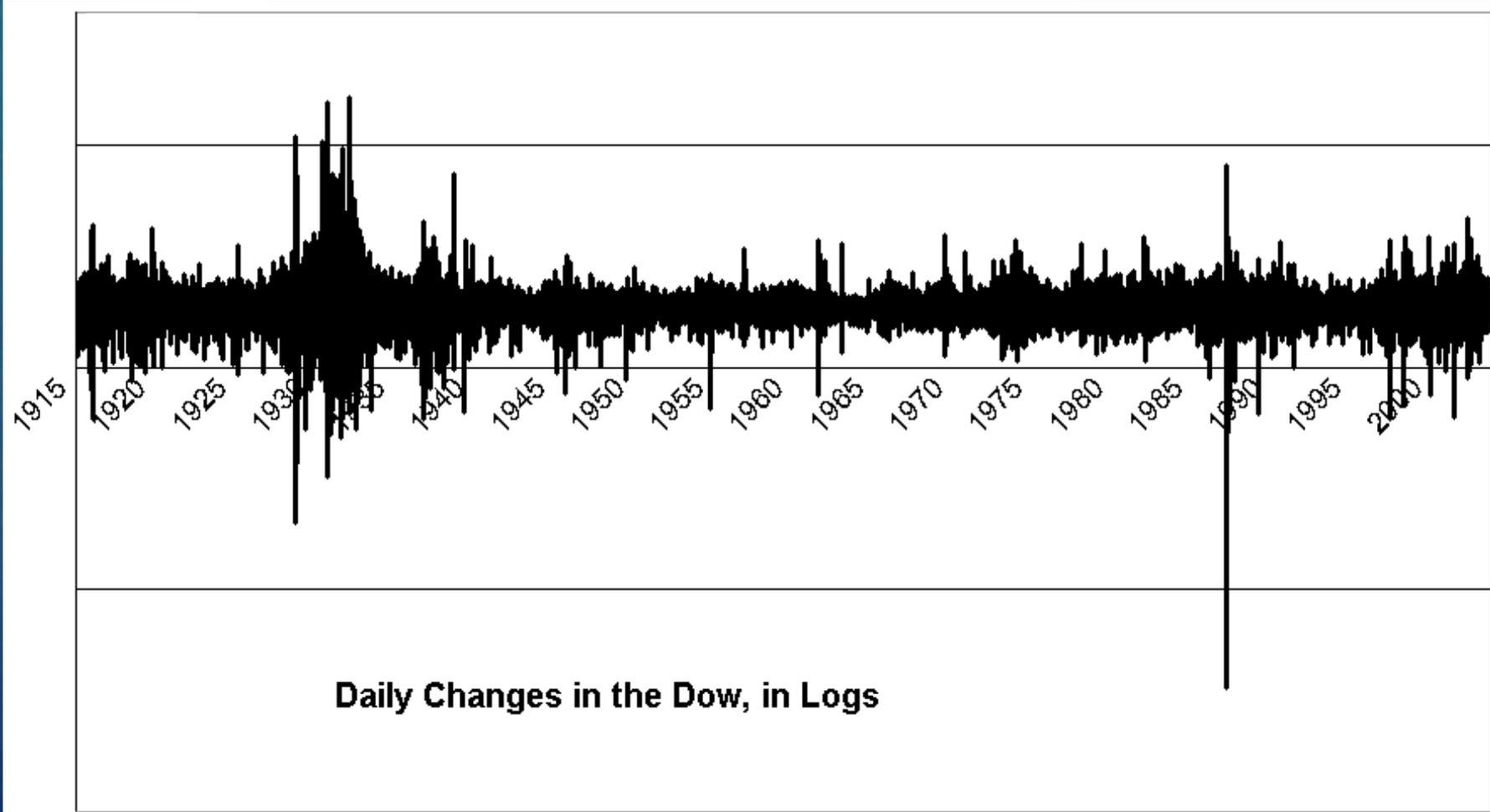
Conventional finance theory treats big one-day market jumps or drops as anomalies that can be safely ignored when gauging risk or forecasting returns. **But if you remove**

the ten biggest one-day moves (both up and down) from a chart of the S&P 500 over the past 20 years, you get a picture very different from market reality. **The big moves matter.**

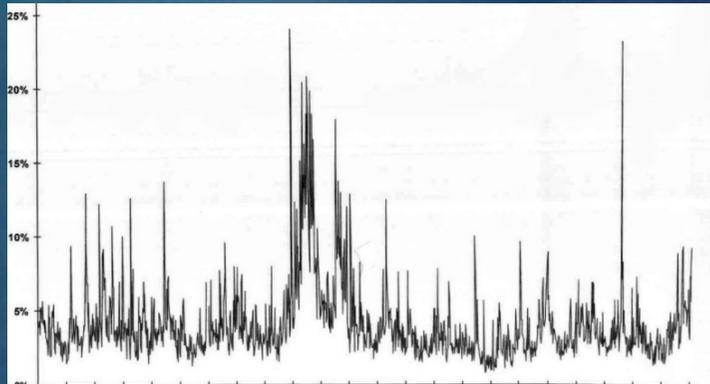




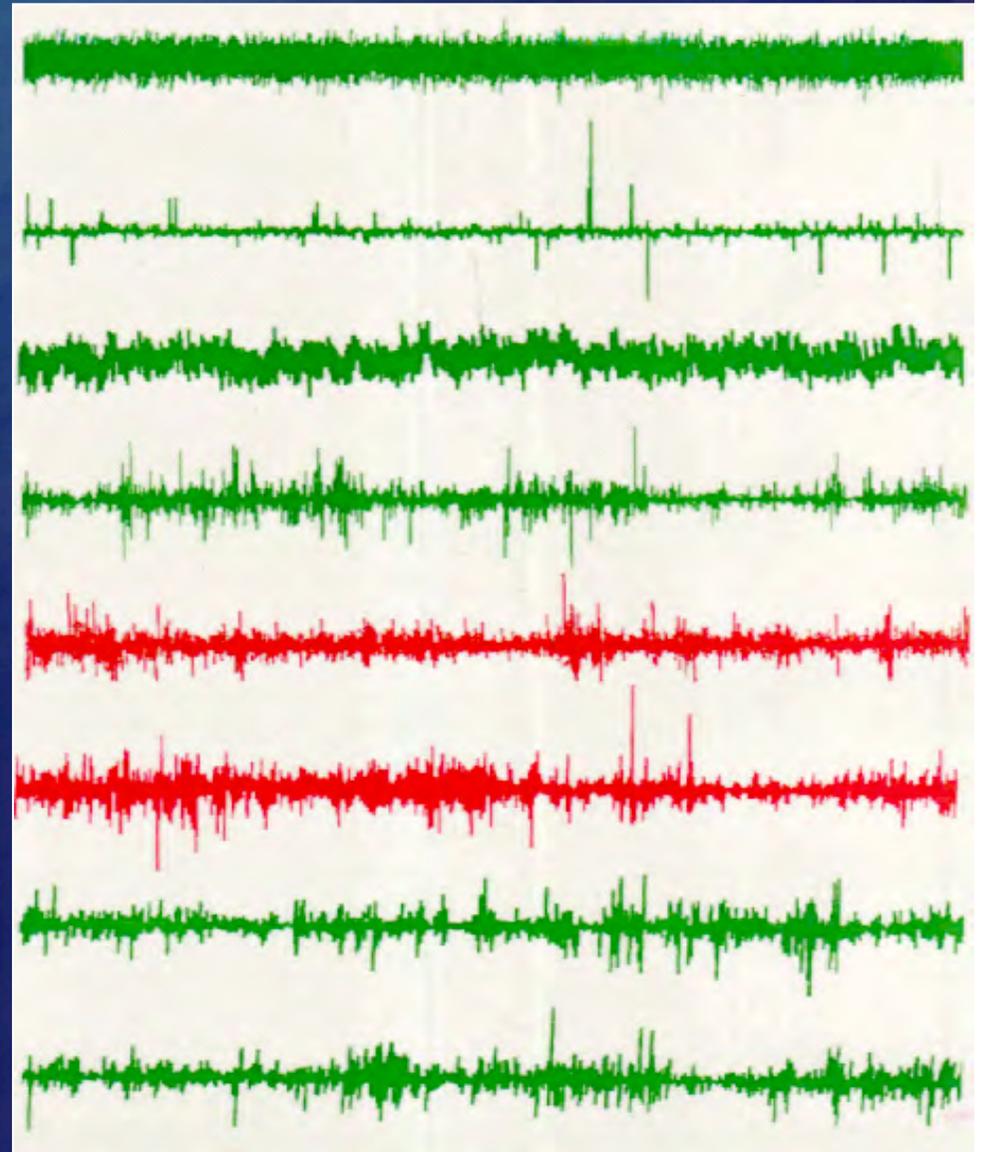
## VAR & Conditional Probabilities

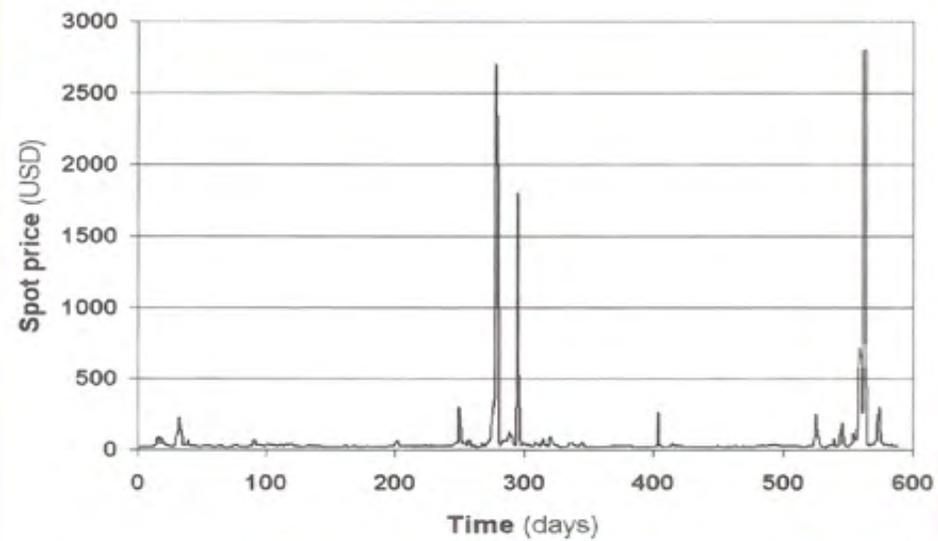


# The Variation of Financial Prices

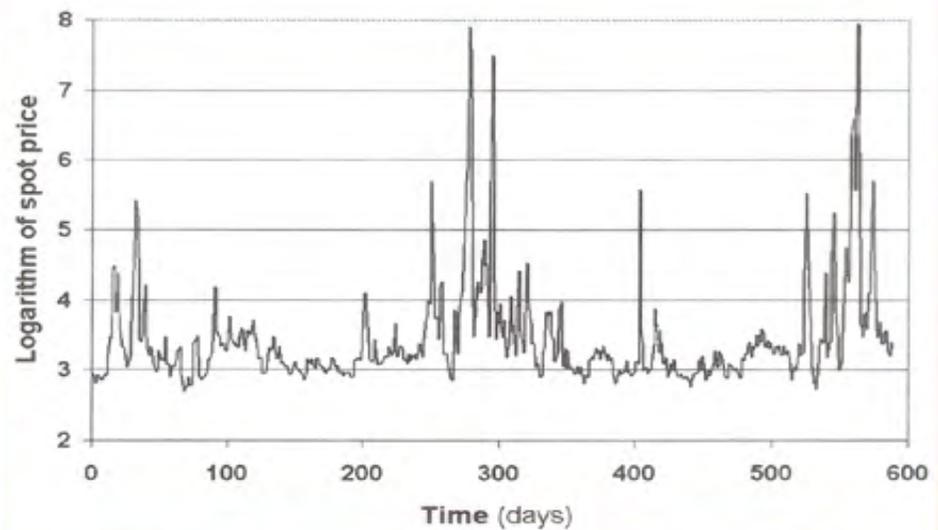


**Stack of price increments:  
actual data mixed with  
simulations: Brownian,  
unifractal, mesofractal,  
and multifractal**





Daily electricity spot prices, February 6, 1997–June 9, 1999



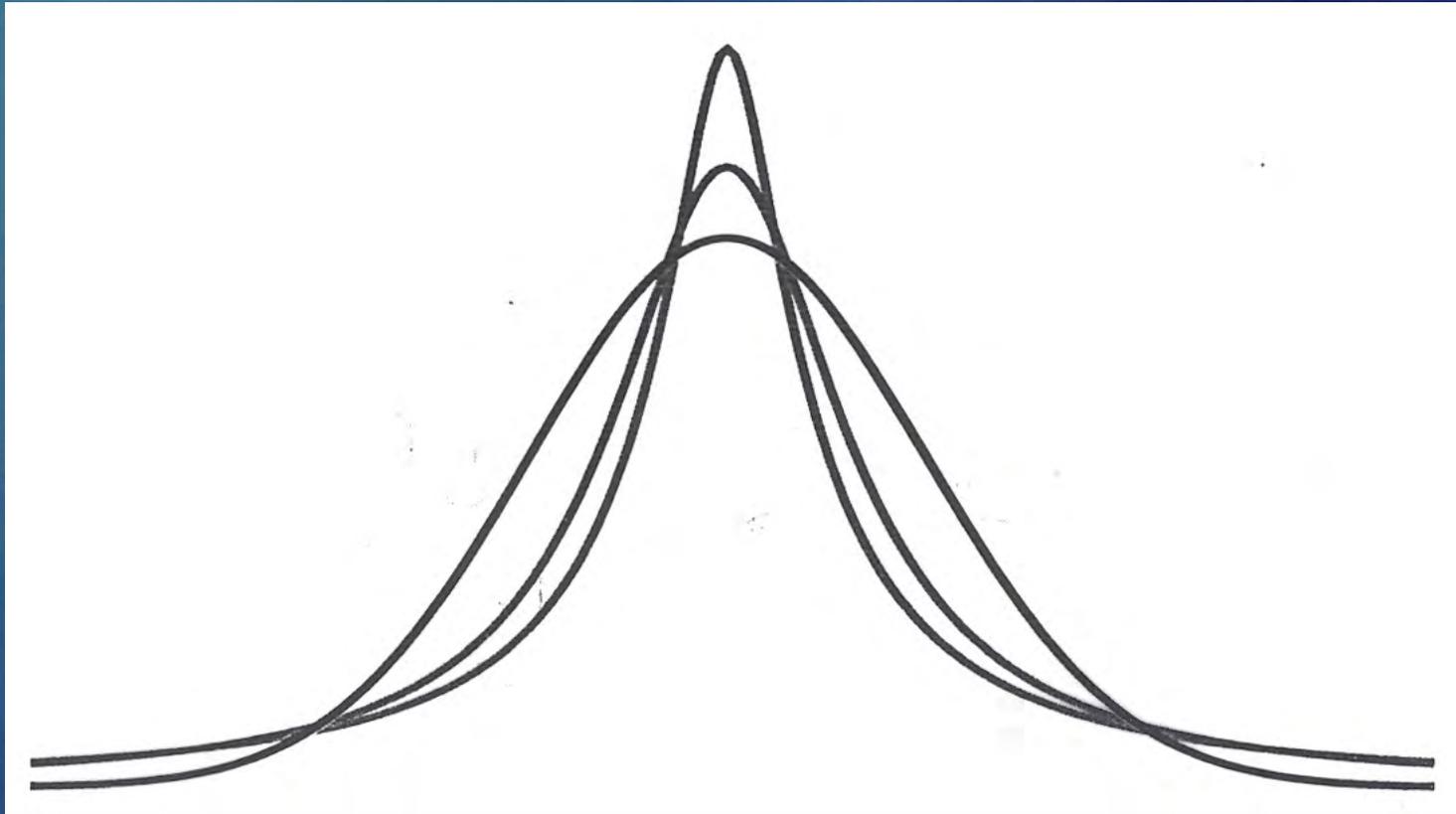
Logarithm of daily electricity spot prices, February 6, 1997–June 9, 1999

**“Ten sigma” events probability,  
according to the Gaussian distribution, is:  
a few millionths  
of a millionth  
of a millionth  
of a millionth**

**(Inverse of the Avogadro number!)**

**Absurd. The Gaussian is not a “norm.”**

**It grossly *fails* to fit reality.**

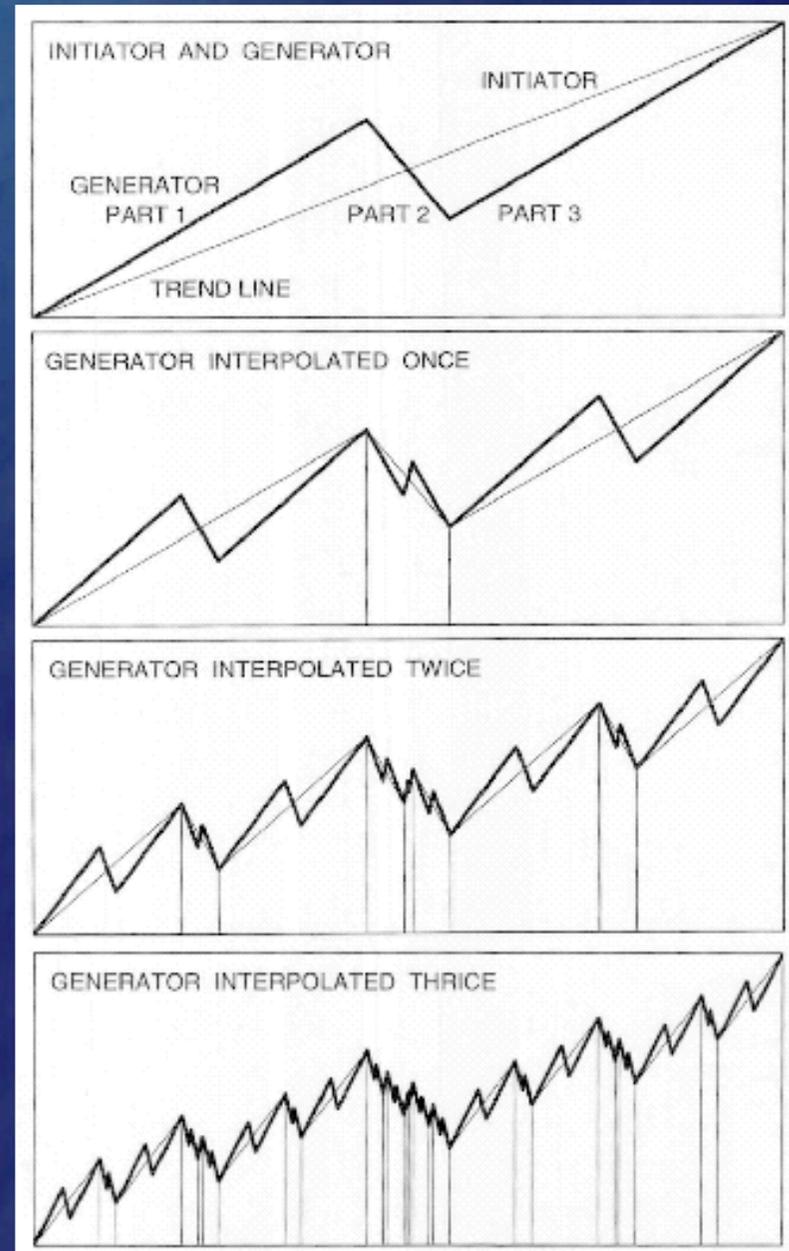


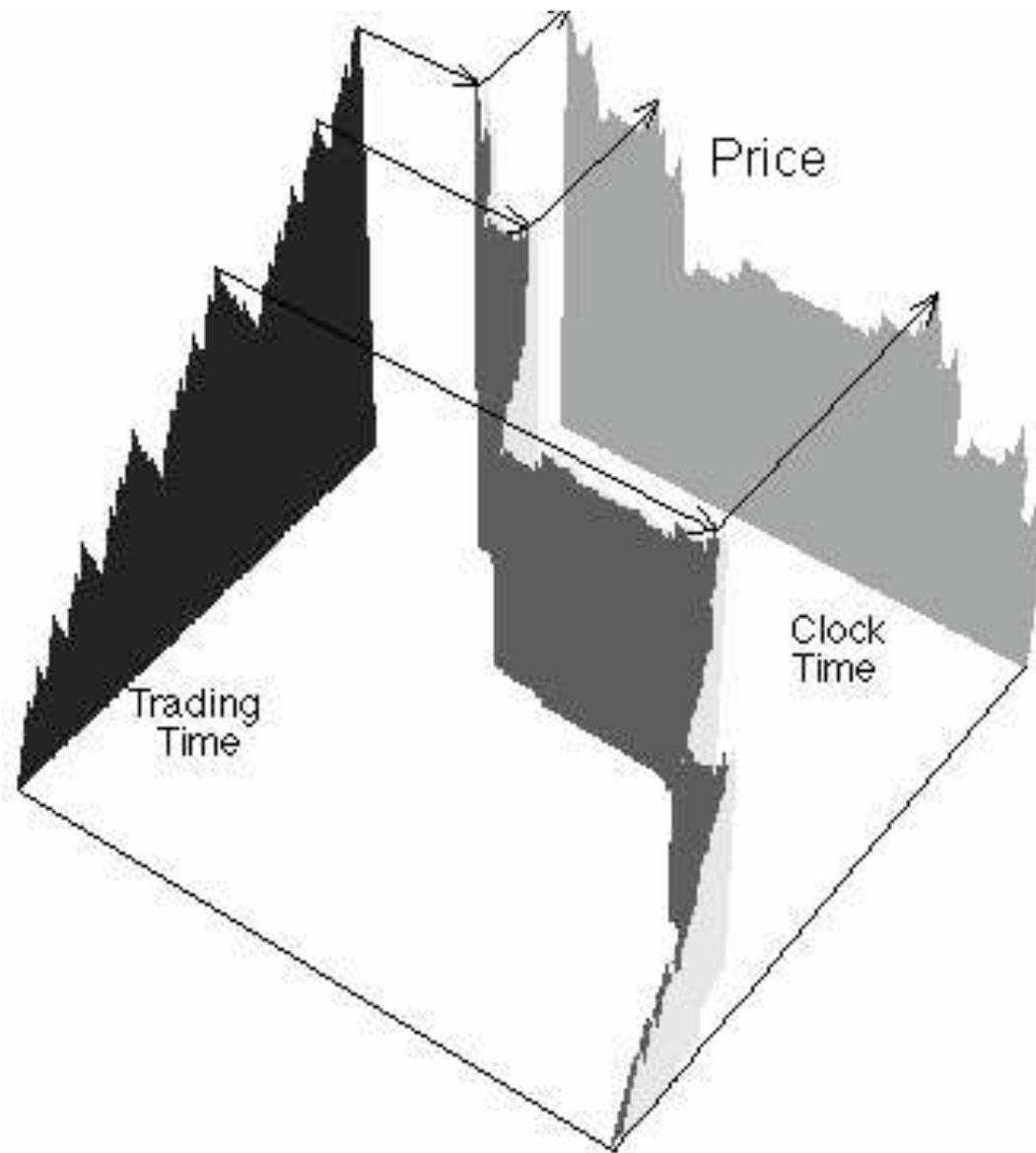
**Least peaked bell: Gaussian**  
**Most peaked bell: Cauchy**  
**In between bell: Lévy stable distribution.**

# Cartoons of Price Variation

Fractal model founded on scaling or self-affinity, a principle of invariance under reduction or dilation.

- Generator is symmetric, hence defined by its first break point
- Recursive roughening implemented by a cascade



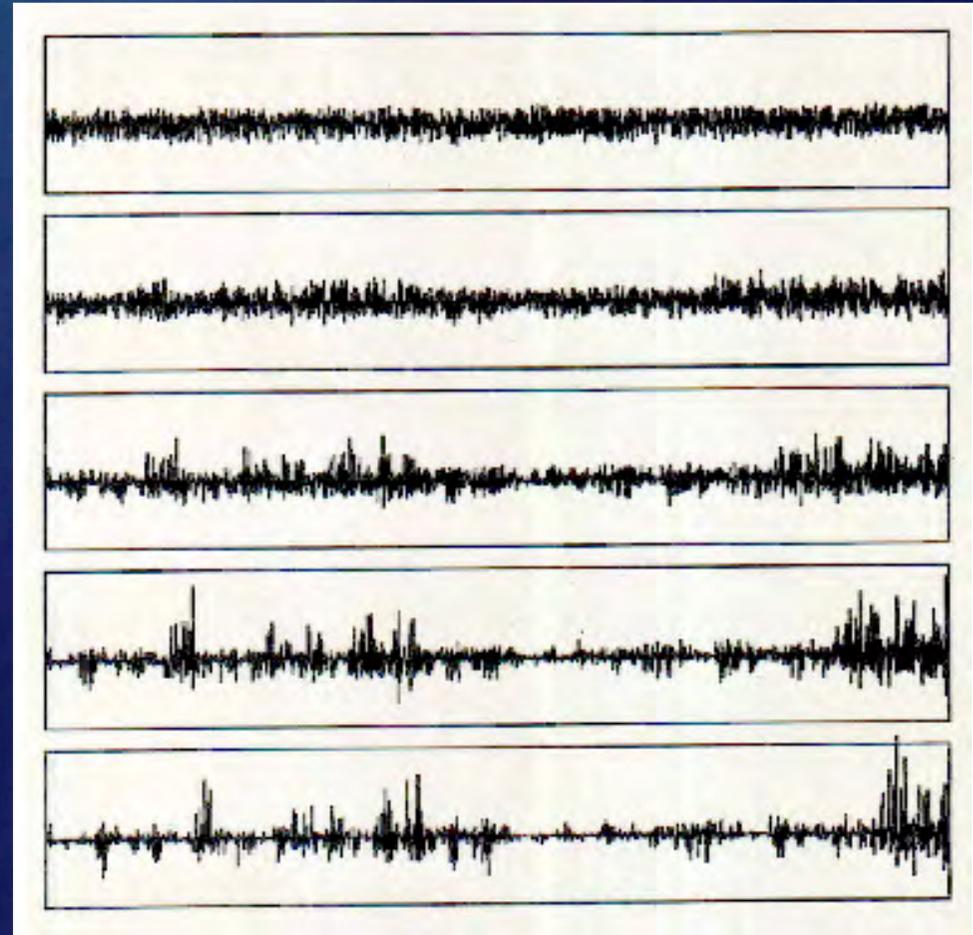


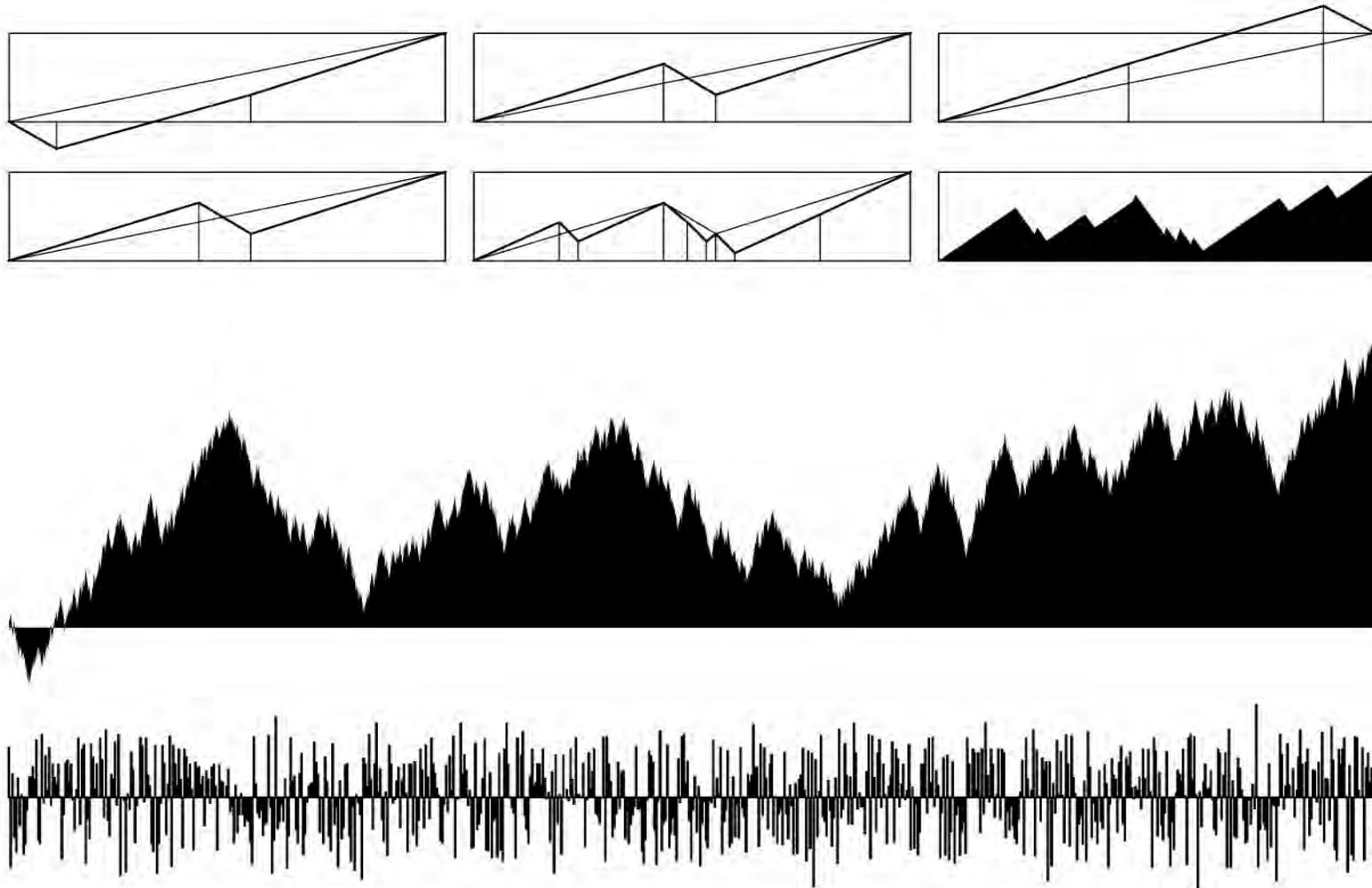
# Cartoons' Output: Simple to Complex

A cascade's outcome

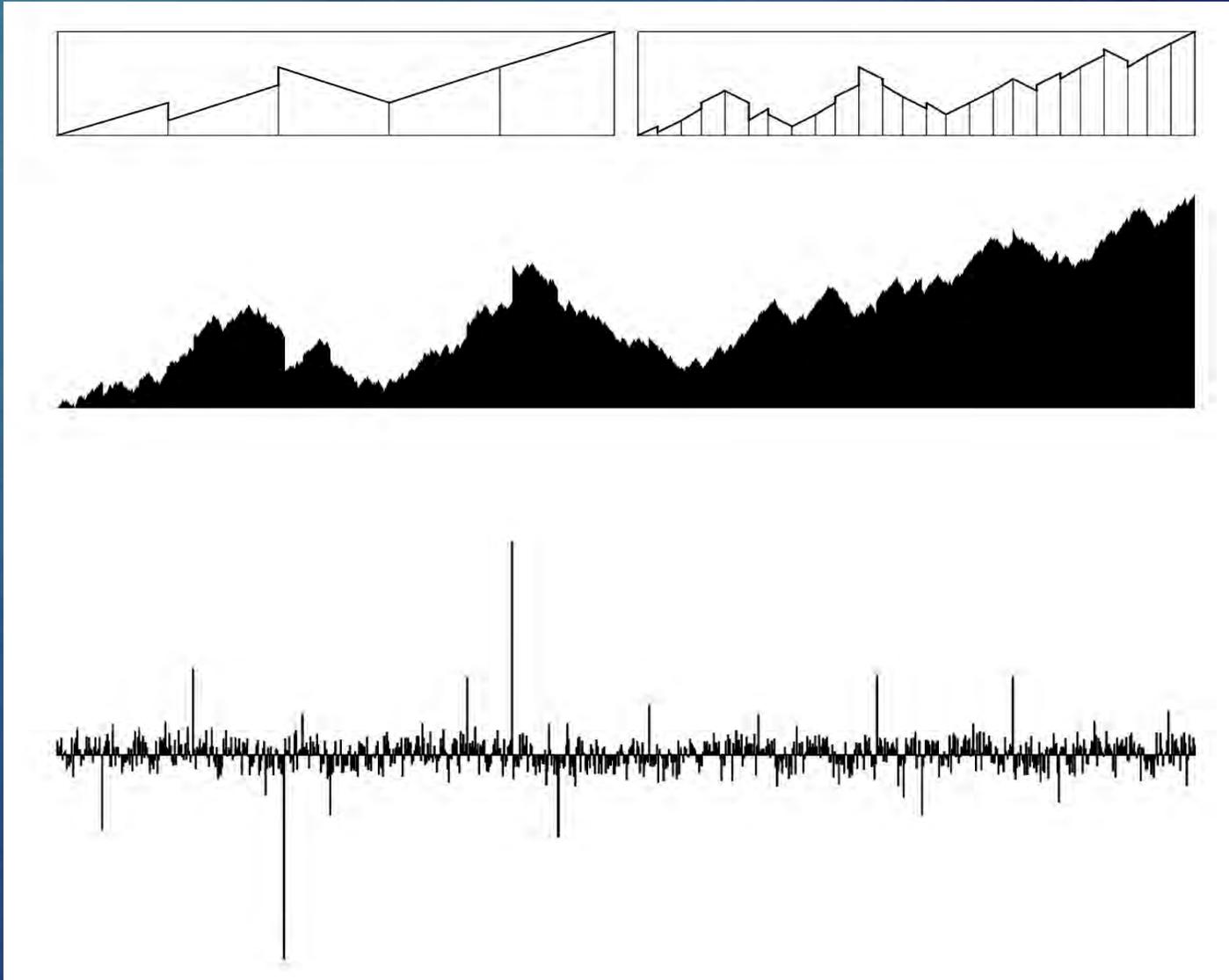
- is varied and variable
- is tunable from overly simple to overly complex

Guarantee: these cartoons hide no "additive" beyond shuffling

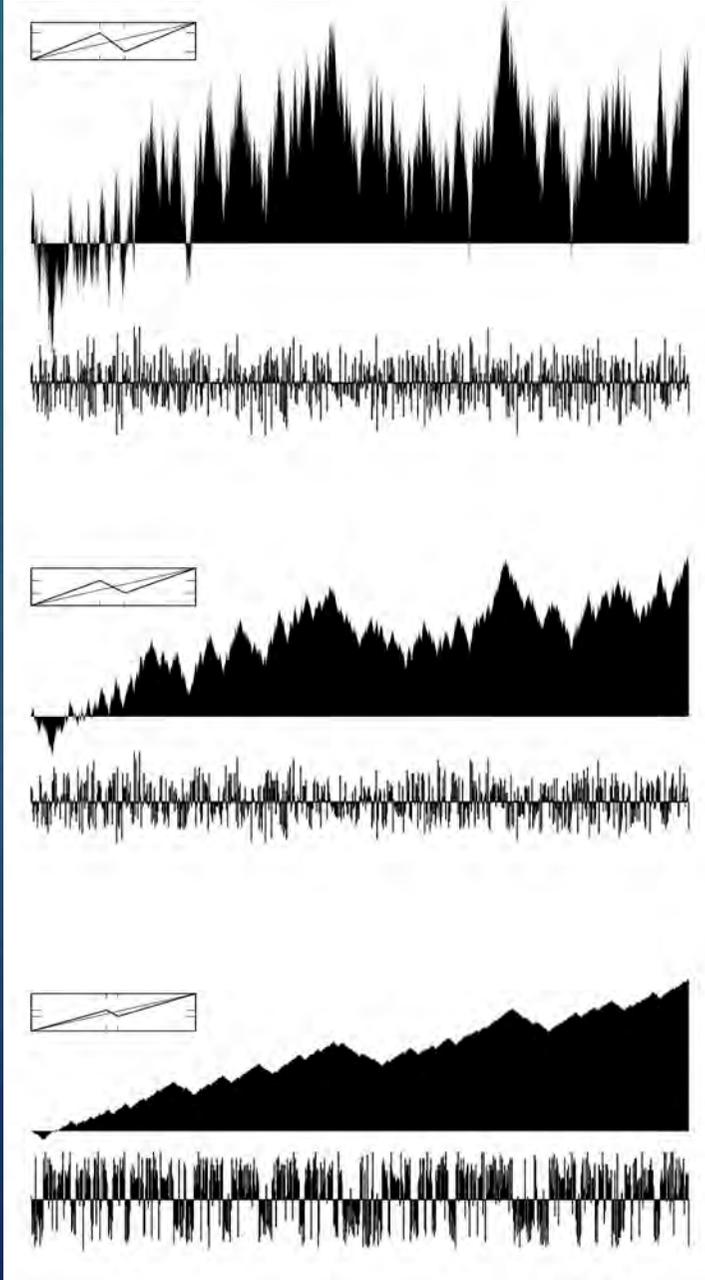




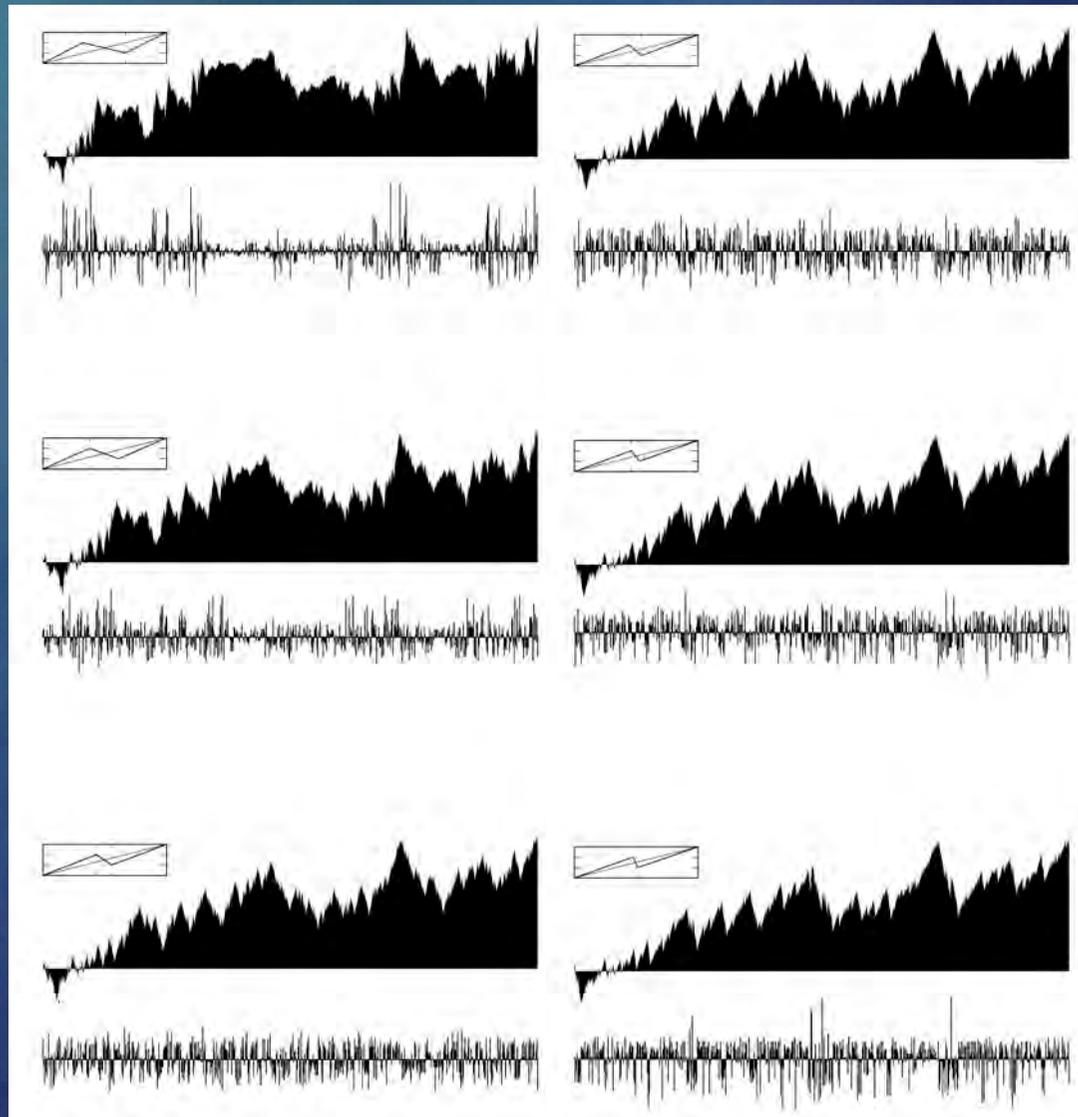
**Recursive fractal cartoon of Brownian motion**



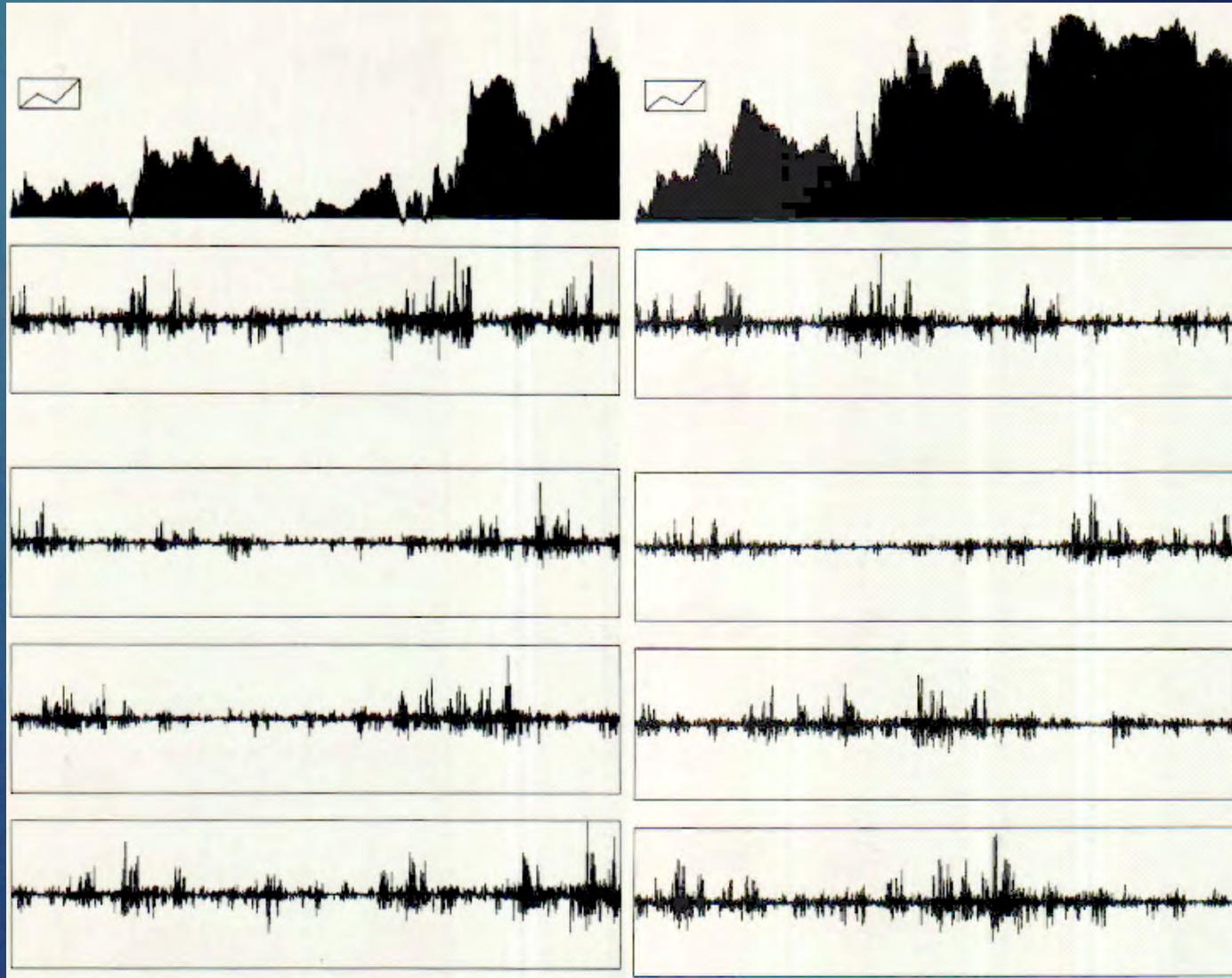
**Recursive fractal cartoon of Lévy stable motion**



## Recursive fractal cartoon of fractional Brownian motions



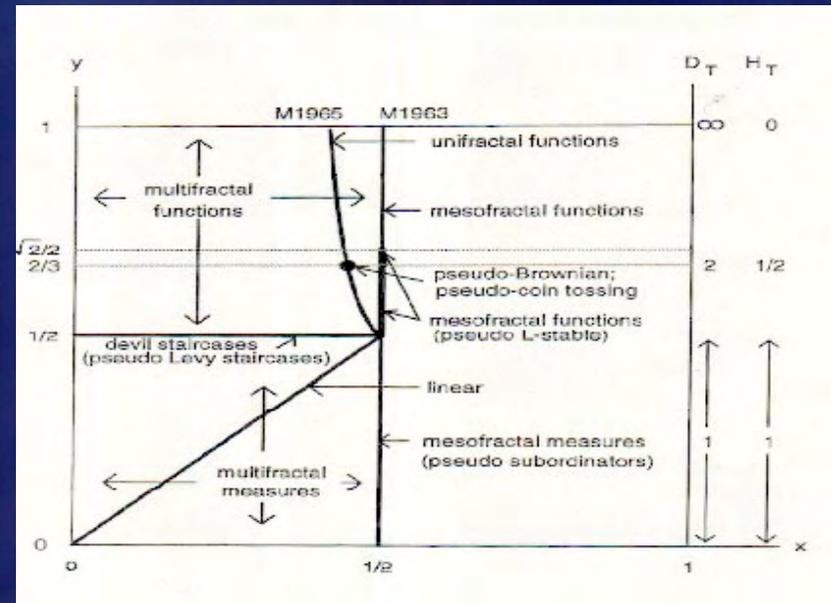
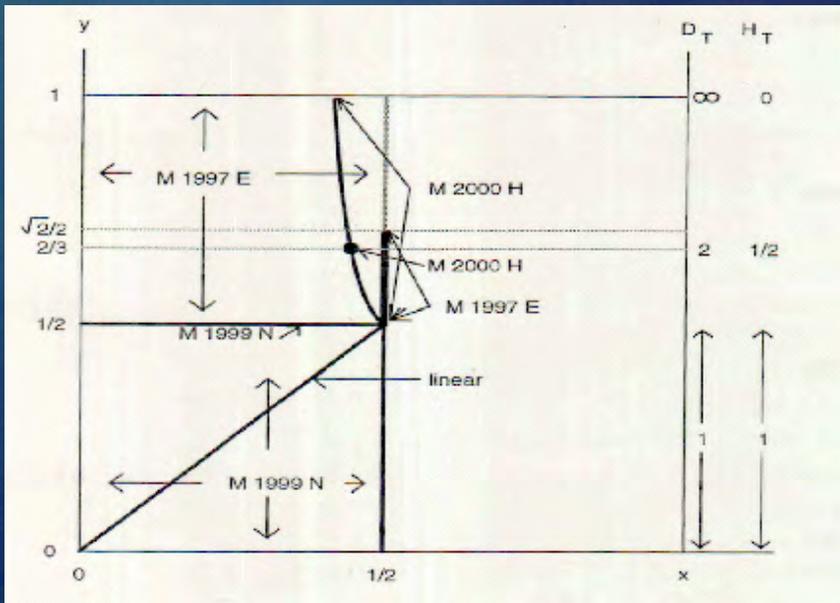
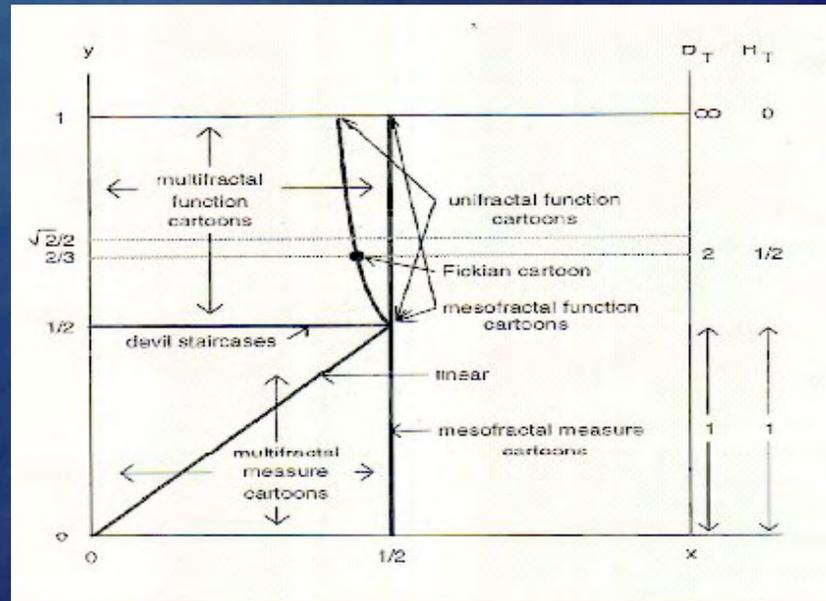
**Recursive cartoons of multifractal functions**



**Eight samples from one multifractal population**

# Cartoons' Phase Diagram

The plot's coordinates define the first break of the cartoon generator



# **States of Randomness/Variability: The “Mild State”**

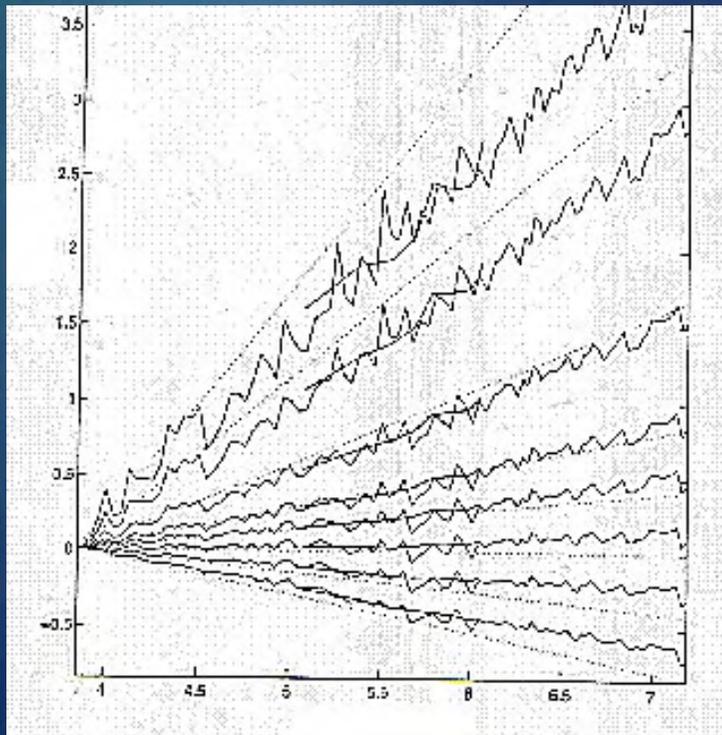
- **The common apparatus of probability/statistics: law of large numbers, central limit theorem, asymptotically negligible addends and correlation**
- **Constitutes a “mild” or “passive” “state” of randomness/variability, patterned on the Brownian**
- **Implemented by the isolated Fickian point**
- **This state cannot “create” structure, only blurs existing structure**
- **Mild randomness was the first stage of indeterminism but does not exhaust it; indeterminism extends beyond this first stage.**

# States Of Randomness/Variability: The “Wild” State

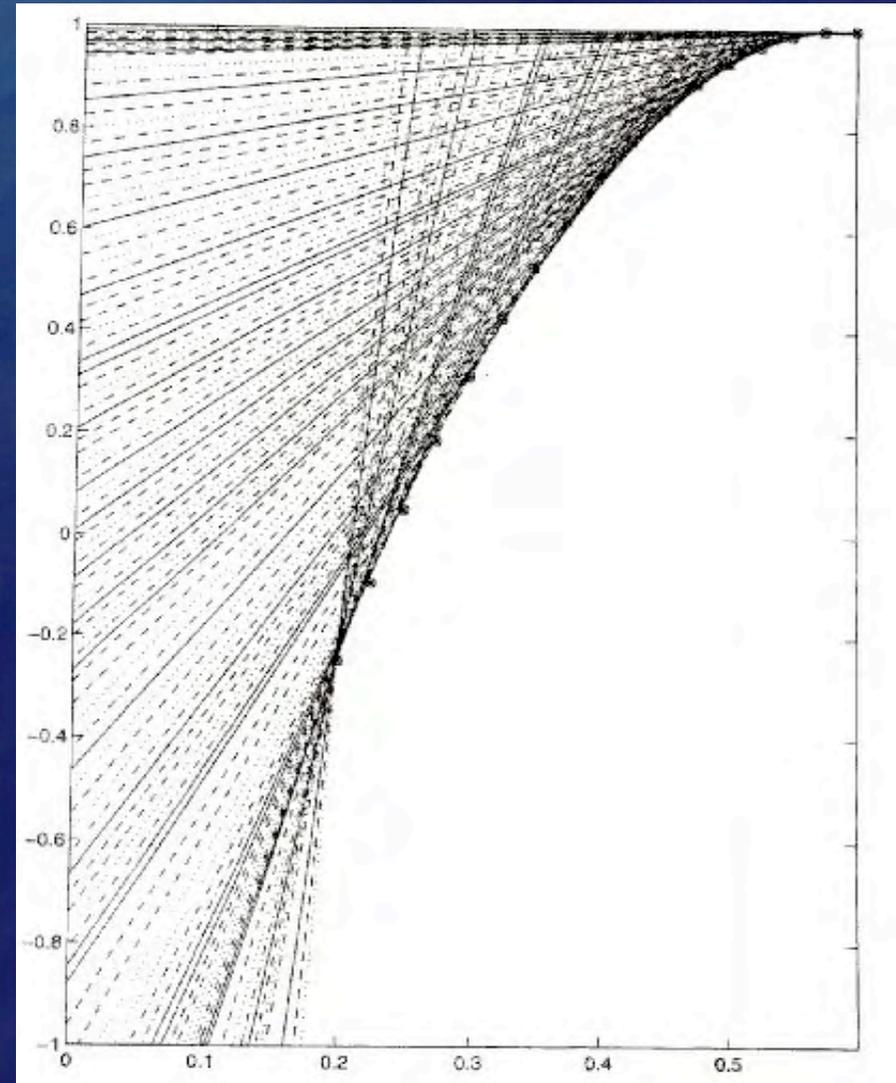
- Non-Fickian cartoons exhibit long tails and/or long dependence
- As a result, the common apparatus *does not* apply
- The “wild,” “active” or “creative” randomness *does not* average out
- It actually *mimics* structure- or *creates* its appearance
- Concentration: absent, mesofractal or multifractal
- Cartoons, models, and three-state representations

# Emperical Test of the Prices' Multifractality

determination of  $t(q)$



determination of  $f(a)$  as an envelope



- **The step from mild to wild variability, from the first to the second stage of indeterminism, marks a sharp increase in complexity; a frontier for science**
- **For the reductionist: the chastening examples of turbulence and  $1/f$  noises**

**Roughness is a frontier that science long ignored; now it must be faced**

- **The rms measures of volatility (in finance, metallurgy, etc.) assume mild variability**
- **Surprising riches: “fractals everywhere!”**
- **Legitimate concern: “too good to be true”**
- **Resolution: roughness must be faced; it clearly contradicts mild variability; wildly variable fractals often face it**

# RESEARCH NOTE

Thomas J. Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights

NC-87

THE VARIATION OF CERTAIN SPECULATIVE PRICES

by

Benoit Mandelbrot

March 26, 1962

ABSTRACT: A new theory of the variation of prices is presented; it is based upon three successive modifications of the classical stochastic model due to Louis Bachelier (1900). The mathematical background is restated, many empirical data are presented, and a variety of statistical problems are raised.

This is a preliminary report, replacing RC-470.

**IBM**

CALCUL DES PROBABILITÉS ET ÉCONOMIE STATISTIQUE. — *Sur certains prix spéculatifs : faits empiriques et modèle basé sur les processus stables additifs non gaussiens de Paul Lévy.* Note (\*) de M. **BENOIT MANDELBROT**, présentée par M. Joseph Kampé de Fériet.

1. *Une nouvelle observation empirique.* — Commençons par examiner la variation temporelle de certains prix spéculatifs. Les figures 1 et 2 se réfèrent aux prix du coton, livrable immédiatement, sur divers marchés américains; mais des résultats très analogues tiennent pour d'autres produits bruts et certaines actions industrielles.  $Z(t)$  étant le prix de clôture au jour  $t$ , soit  $L(t, T) = \log Z(t+T) - \log Z(t)$ . Les figures 1 a et 2 a donnent  $\text{Fr}[L(t, 1) > u]$  et  $\text{Fr}[L(t, 1) < -u]$  pour 1900-1904. Les figures 1 b et 2 b donnent  $\text{Fr}[L(t, 1) > u]$  et  $\text{Fr}[L(t, 1) < -u]$  pour 1944-1958. Les figures 1 c et 2 c donnent  $\text{Fr}[L(t, \text{un mois}) > u]$  et  $\text{Fr}[L(t, \text{un mois}) < -u]$  pour 1880-1940. Les coordonnées sont bilogarithmiques (il nous paraît étonnant que — tout au moins à notre connaissance — les variations des prix n'aient pas été présentées de cette façon jusqu'ici). Fr = fréquence relative.

Il est clair que ces diverses courbes deviennent très vite des droites de pentes égales et voisines de  $\alpha = 1,7$ . Donc, on peut écrire :

$$\begin{aligned} \log \{ \text{Fr}[L(t, T) > u] \} &\sim -\alpha \log u - \log C^+(T), \\ \log \{ \text{Fr}[L(t, T) < -u] \} &\sim -\alpha \log u - \log C^-(T). \end{aligned}$$

Ainsi la loi de Pareto est asymptotiquement satisfaite par les deux « queues »;  $C^+ \neq C^-$ , donc il y a une légère asymétrie; la valeur moyenne de  $L(t, T)$  est pratiquement nulle.

1 a et 1 b étant parallèles, la distribution de  $L(t, 1)$ , n'a bougé pendant la guerre que par changement d'échelle. Nous avons vérifié que — de 1816 à 1940 — la distribution de  $L(t, 1)$  a très peu changé. Donc le parallélisme de 1 a et 1 c, et de 2 a et 2 c, montre que la distribution de  $L(t, \text{un mois})$  ne diffère de celle de  $L(t, 1)$  que par un changement d'échelle : on peut dire que la loi de distribution de  $L(t, T)$  est « stable par changement de T ». Notons aussi que,  $\alpha$  étant plus petit que 2,  $L(t, 1)$  ne possède pas de moment au-delà du premier (fig. 3); donc, la plupart des « recettes » statistiques sont inapplicables.

2. *Modèle additif des changements des prix.* — Modifiant une hypothèse classique de Bachelier, supposons que les changements successifs de  $\log Z(t)$  sont indépendants. Dans ce cas, la stabilité du n° 1 se confondrait avec la stabilité au sens de Paul Lévy, et la fonction caractéristique de  $L(t, T)$  devrait nécessairement être de la forme

$$\varphi(\zeta) = \exp \left\{ iM\zeta - (T|\zeta|^\alpha \left[ 1 - i\beta \frac{\zeta}{|\zeta|} \text{tg} \left( \frac{1}{\alpha} 2\pi \right) \right] \right\},$$



« confirmé » par la stabilité; il a aussi été confirmé d'autres façons (voir n<sup>o</sup> 4).

On doit aussi avoir  $C'(T) = T C'(1)$  et  $C''(T) = T C''(1)$ . Cette prédiction de la théorie de Lévy est aussi très proche des faits.

3. *Sur la théorie de la spéculation.* — Le modèle ci-dessus peut être interpolé en faisant du temps une variable continue. On sait que les fonctions engendrées par le processus correspondant sont presque sûrement presque partout discontinues. Ceci a les conséquences les plus étendues du point de vue de la théorie de la spéculation. La probabilité de ruine ne s'annule que si l'on spéculé à 100 % de marge.

4. Une forme détaillée des résultats que nous venons d'annoncer constitue le rapport n<sup>o</sup> NC-87 du Centre de Recherches de la Compagnie I.B.M., à Yorktown Heights, New York, U. S. A. Notre théorie des prix spéculatifs présente les liens les plus étroits avec notre théorie des revenus, exposée précédemment (\*).

(\*) Séance du 21 mai 1962.

(1) *International Economic Review*, 1, 1960, p. 79-106 et 3, 1962 (sous presse); *Econometrica*, 29, 1961, p. 517-553; *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 76, 1962, p. 57-85.

Extrait des *Comptes rendus des séances de l'Académie des Sciences*.

t. 254, p. 3968-3970, séance du 4 Juin 1962.

GAUTHIER-VILLARS & C<sup>ie</sup>,

55, Quai des Grands-Augustins, Paris (6<sup>e</sup>),

Éditeur-Imprimeur-Libraire.

161922

Imprimé en France.

THE FRACTAL GEOMETRY OF NATURE

Benoit B. Mandelbrot

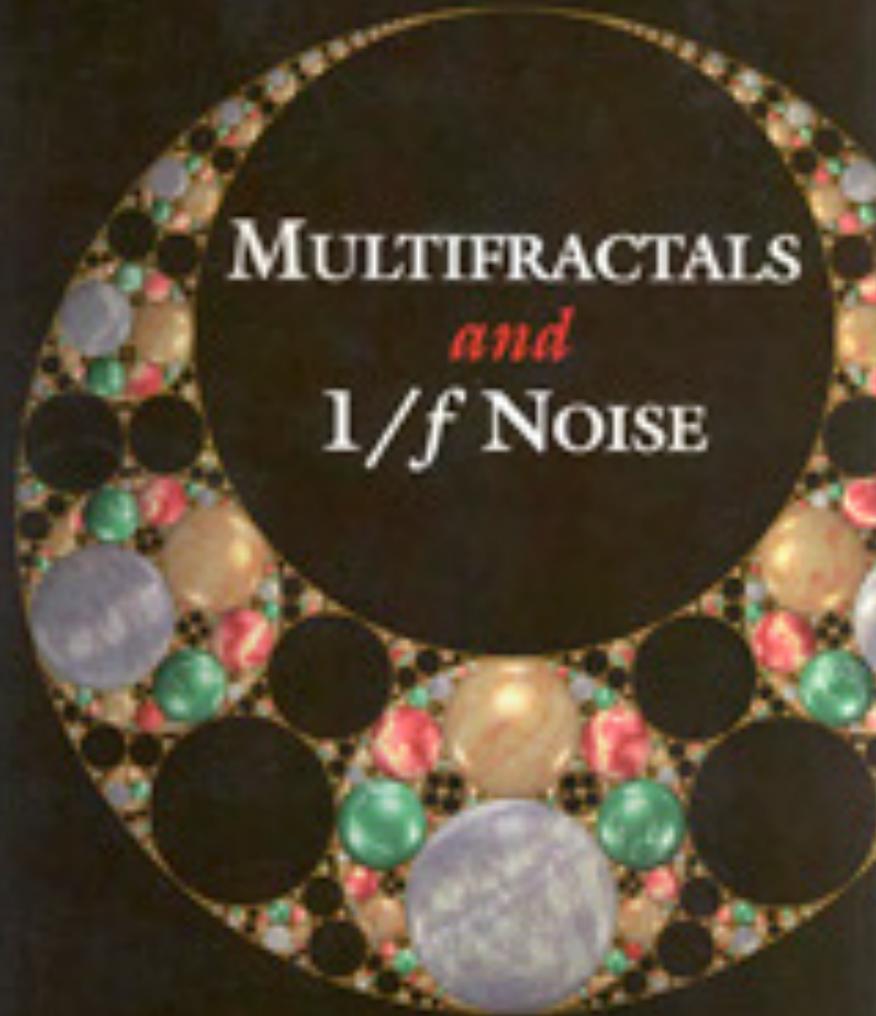


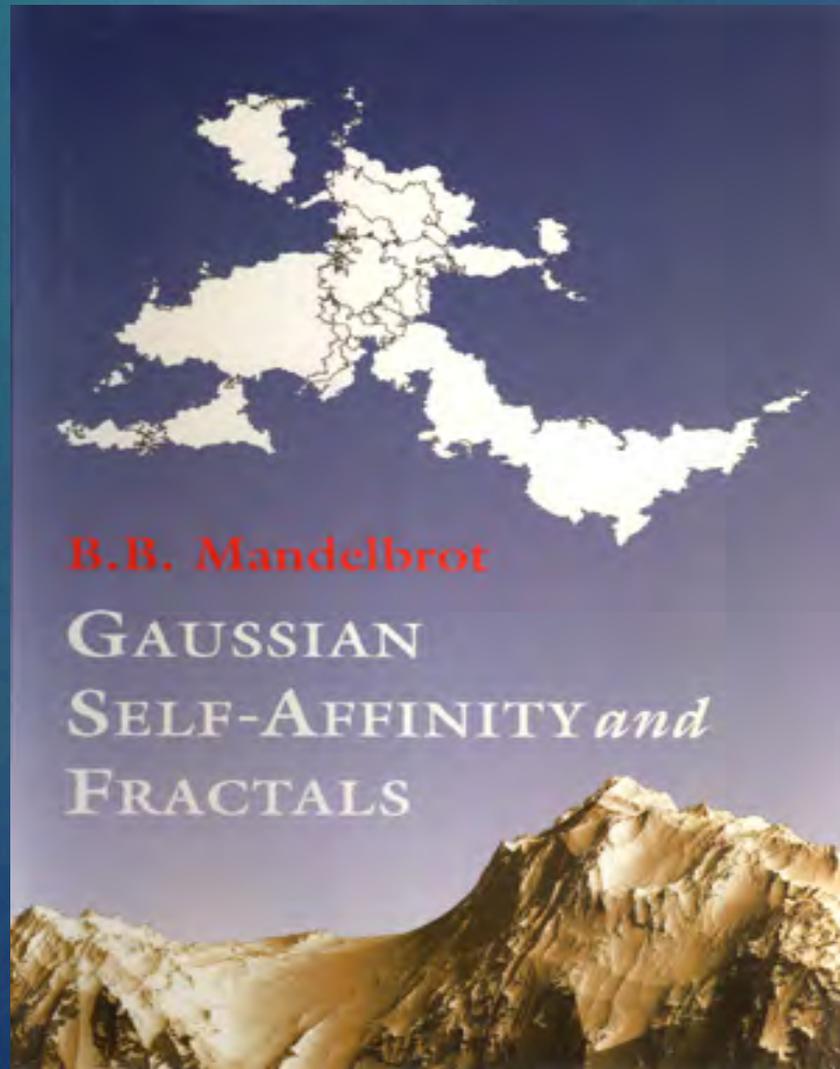
W. H. Freeman & Co., 1982.

Benoit B. Mandelbrot

MULTIFRACTALS  
*and*  
 $1/f$  NOISE

*Wild Self-Affinity in Physics*

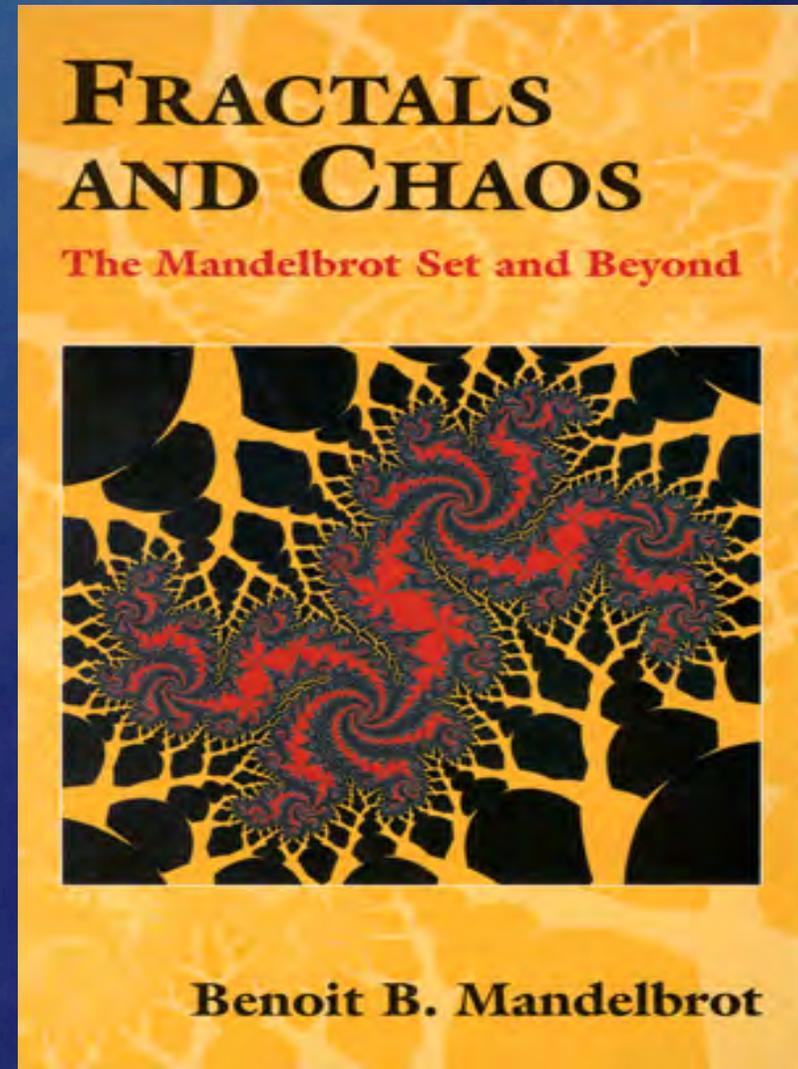




**B.B. Mandelbrot**

GAUSSIAN  
SELF-AFFINITY *and*  
FRACTALS

**Springer, 2002**



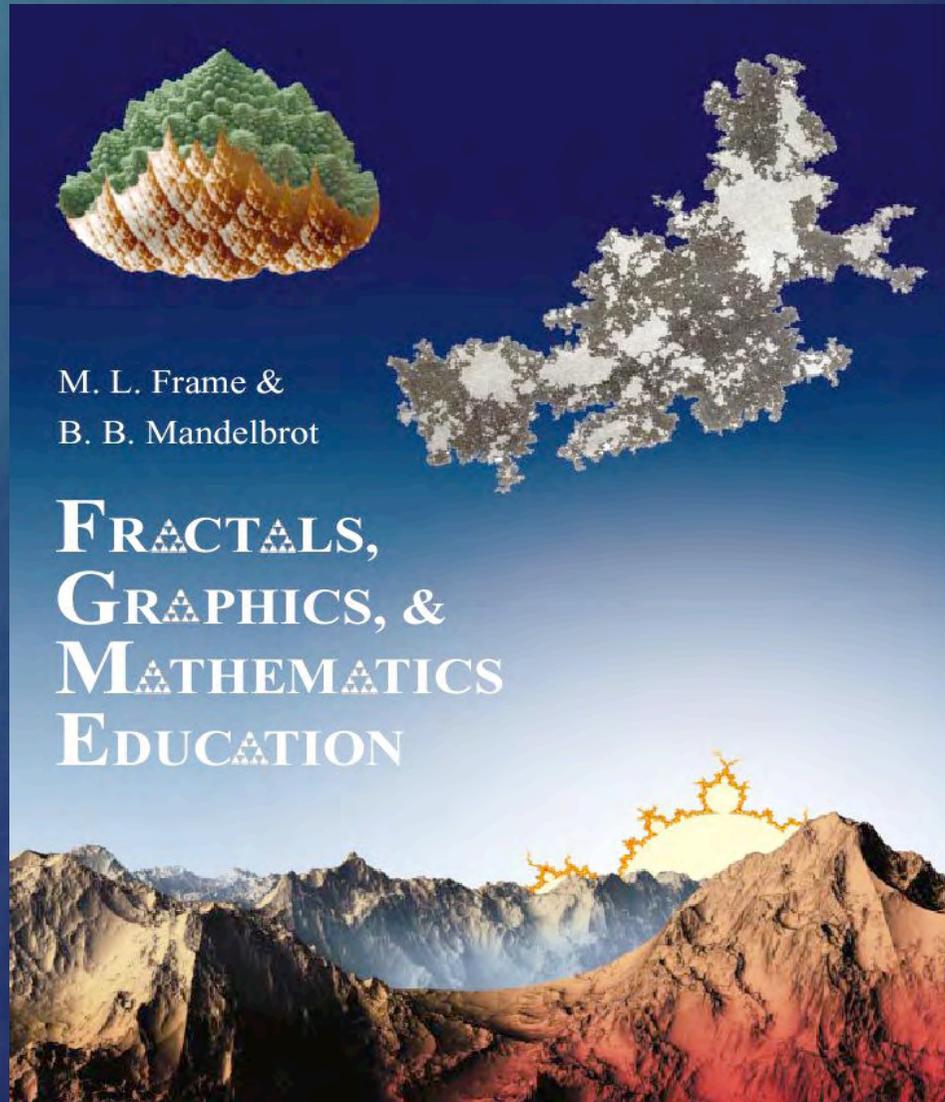
**FRACTALS  
AND CHAOS**

**The Mandelbrot Set and Beyond**

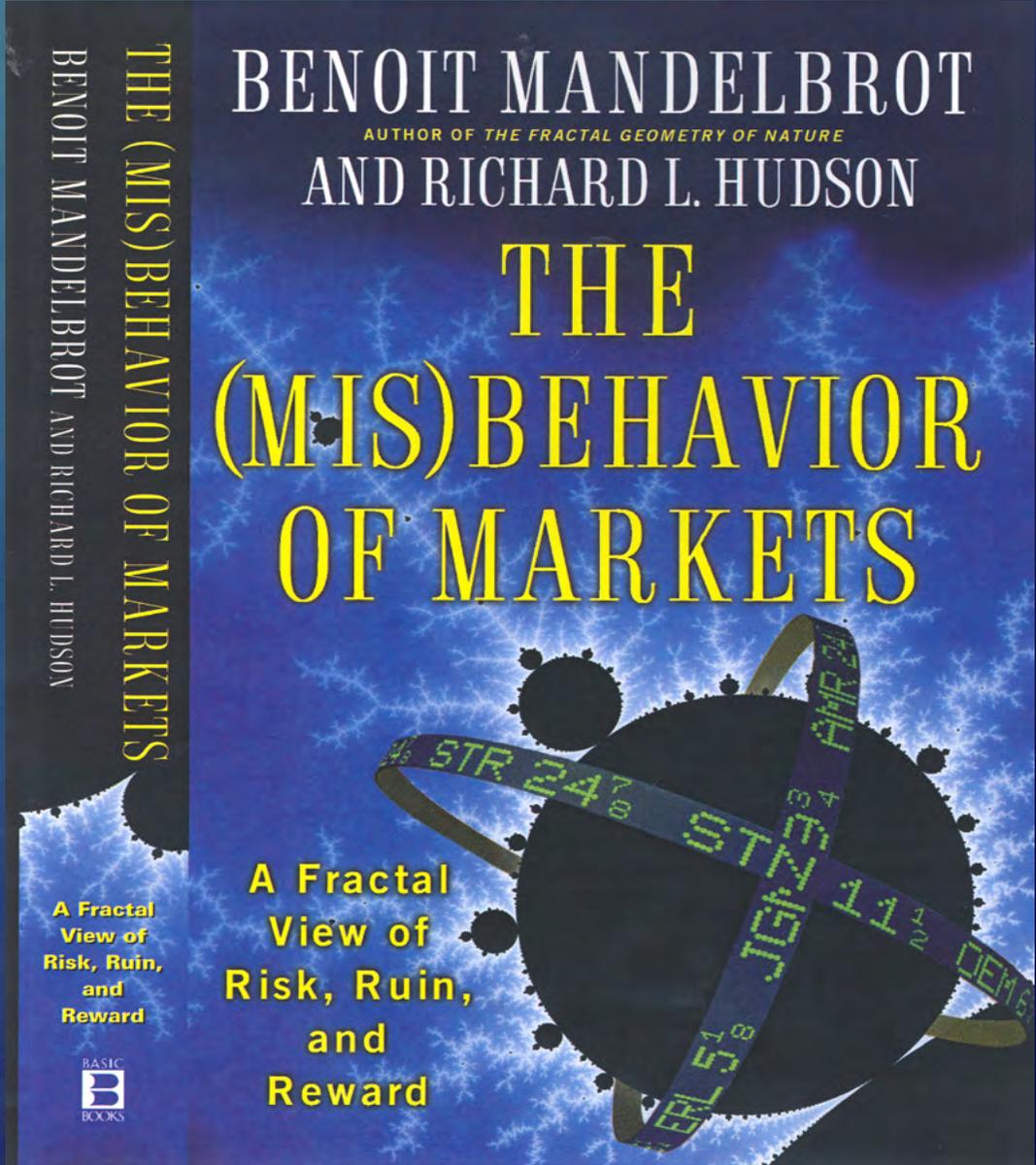


**Benoit B. Mandelbrot**

**Springer, 2004**



**Mathematical Association of America, 2002**



THE (MIS) BEHAVIOR OF MARKETS  
BENOIT MANDELBROT AND RICHARD L. HUDSON

BENOIT MANDELBROT  
AUTHOR OF *THE FRACTAL GEOMETRY OF NATURE*  
AND RICHARD L. HUDSON

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A Fractal  
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Basic Books, 2004

**THE**

"The deepest and most realistic finance book  
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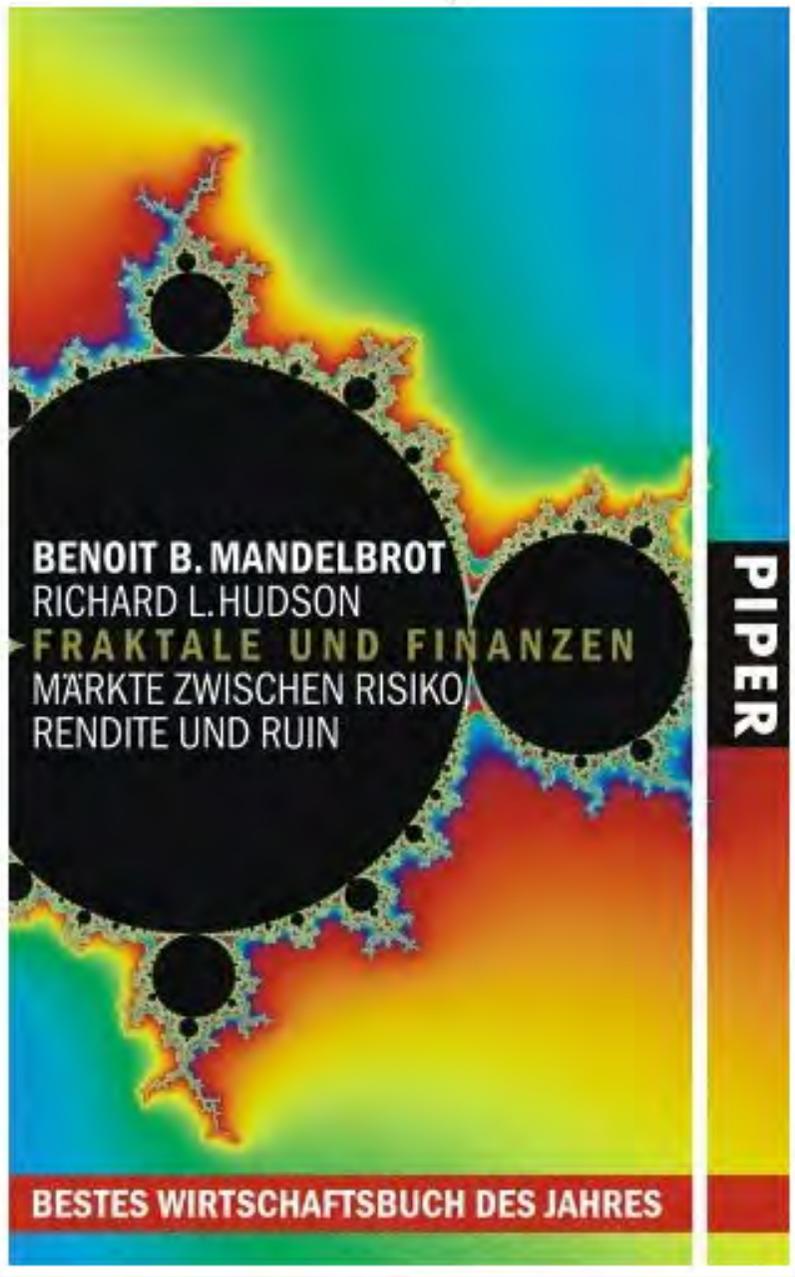


WINNER  
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