



The informative role of trading volume in an expanding spot and futures market



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ABSTRACT

This paper investigates the information content of trading volume and its relationship with range-based volatility in the Indian stock market for the period 1995–2007. We examine the dynamics of the two variables and their respective uncertainties using a bivariate dual long-memory model. We distinguish between volume traded before and after the introduction of futures and options trading. We find that in all three periods the impact of both the number of trades and the value of shares traded on volatility is negative. This result is consistent with the argument that the activity of informed traders is inversely related to volatility when the marketplace has increased liquidity, an increasing number of active investors and high consensus among investors when new information is released. We also find that (i) the introduction of futures trading leads to a decrease in spot volatility, (ii) volume decreases after the introduction of option contracts and (iii) there are significant expiration day effects on both the value of shares traded and volatility series.

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1. Introduction

The rapid growth in the market for financial derivatives has resulted in continual exploration of the impact of these financial instruments on the volatility of the spot equity (or cash) market. The ability to trade a ‘derivative’ security is very likely to affect the underlying security’s liquidity and information flow and therefore its volume (Stein, 1987; Subrahmanyam, 1991). Trading on a new market, such as the index futures and options market, is initially very small but as more traders become aware of the market’s possibilities, its trading volume is likely to increase and more information to be impounded into futures prices. The question of interest that we try to address here is how does trading in index futures/options affects the trading in individual securities. Specifically, we examine the informative role of spot volume in terms of predicting cash volatility and how this role changes after the introduction of index futures and options. Market microstructure models predict volatility–volume relationships (simultaneous and feedback) which are sensitive to the type and quality of information, the expectations formed based on this information and the trading motives of investors.¹

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¹ A positive volatility–volume relationship is predicted by most information induced trading models while a negative one is also existent due to liquidity induced trading (Li and Wu, 2006), the extent to which new information affects the knowledge of and agreement between agents (Holthausen and Verrecchia, 1990), and the number of active traders in the market (Tauchen and Pitts, 1983). Daigler and Wiley (1999) find that the activity of informed

This study also contributes to the literature about the impact of derivatives trading on the volatility of cash markets in emerging market economies. The effect of derivatives trading on cash market volatility is theoretically ambiguous and depends on the specific assumptions of the model (Stein, 1987; Subrahmanyam, 1991; Mayhew, 2000). The empirical evidence is also mixed. While some researchers have found that the introduction of futures and options trading has not had any impact on stock volatility, others have found evidence of a positive effect in a number of countries including, Japan, the UK and the USA. The balance of evidence suggests that introduction of derivatives trading may have increased volatility in the cash market in Japan and the USA, but it had no impact on the other markets (Gulen and Mayhew, 2000).²

The volatility–volume relationship and the effect of derivatives trading on the cash market are analyzed together in this paper by estimating a bivariate ccc ARFI-FIGARCH model with lagged values of one variable included in the mean equation of the other one. The fractional integration applies to the mean and the variance specification and allows to capture the long memory characteristics of our data. Apart from using absolute values of the returns, their squares and conditional variances from a GARCH-type model as our measure of volatility, we also employ the range-based volatility estimator of Garman and Klass (1980) (hereafter GK). The GK estimator is more efficient than the traditional close-to-close estimator and exhibits very little bias, whereas the realized volatility constructed from high frequency data can possess inherent biases impounded by market microstructure factors (Alizadeh et al., 2002). Finally, we use two measures of volume, the number of trades and the value of shares traded, in order to capture differences in their information content over time and changes to it with the introduction of derivatives trading. Jones et al. (1994) find that on average the size of trades has no significant incremental information content and that any information in the trading behaviour of agents is almost entirely contained in the frequency of trades during a particular interval.

The sample period from November 3, 1995 to January 25, 2007 includes the introduction of (index) futures and (index) options trading on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India, at two different points in time. We, therefore, have three distinct sub-periods in our data, one in which financial derivatives were not traded, another during which only futures contracts were traded, and finally one in which both futures and options contracts were traded. The results suggest that the impact of the value of shares traded – one of our measures of volume – on volatility is sensitive to the introduction of derivatives trading. In all three periods, the impact is negative. However, the strength of this negative relationship was weakened after the introduction of options trading, perhaps because of a reduction in the flow of information in the cash market. Similarly, the impact of the number of trades – our second measure of volume – on volatility is negative in all three periods. Overall, increases in unexpected volume (proxy for information arrival) are related with lower range-based volatility over time. This supports the hypothesis that the activity of informed traders is inversely related to volatility when the marketplace has increased liquidity, an increasing number of active investors and high consensus among investors when new information is released. In sharp contrast, both measures of volume are not affected by past changes in volatility.

Our specification allows us to examine the direct impact of introduction of futures and options trading on volume and volatility in the cash market as well. We find that (i) the introduction of futures trading leads to a decrease in spot volatility as predicted by Stein (1987) and Hong (2000) and, (ii) volume decreases after the introduction of option contracts, offering support to the view that the migration of some speculators to options markets on the listing of options is accompanied by a decrease in trading volume in the underlying security. We also control for expiration day effects in our bivariate ccc ARFI-FIGARCH model. The results indicate that expiration of equity based derivatives has a significant positive impact on the value of shares traded on expiration days and a significant negative impact on the range-based volatility. The increased trading on expiration days can easily be explained by way of settlement of futures contracts (and exercise of options contracts) that necessitate purchase and sale of shares in the cash market.

The remainder of this article is organized as follows. In Section 2, we trace the post-reforms evolution of the secondary market for equities in India. Section 3 discusses the theory concerning the link between volume and volatility and the impact of futures/options trading on the latter. Section 4 outlines the data which are used in the empirical tests of this paper and we describe the time series model for the two variables. In Section 5 we report the empirical results and we discuss them within the context of the Indian market. Section 6 contains summary remarks and conclusions.

2. The Indian equity market

The choice of the National Stock Exchange (NSE hereafter) of India as the basis for our analysis can easily be justified. The market capitalisation in March 2007, the last month of the 2006–07 financial year, was Indian rupees (INR) 33,673.5 billion, more than 10 times the market capitalisation in March 1995 (INR 2926.4 billion), the last month of NSE's first (financial) year of operation. The number of trades executed at NSE's cash market during the corresponding months was 71 million and 0.1 million, respectively. The growth in the derivatives segment of the exchange has kept pace with the growth in the cash market. Of the 1098 listed securities, 123 act as underlying assets for futures and options contracts. In addition, three

traders is often inversely related to volatility. Moreover, Avramov et al. (2006) show that informed (or contrarian) trades lead to a reduction in volatility while non-informational (or herding) trades lead to an increase in volatility.

² It is only recently that the development and financial literature have started exploring the impact of phenomena like market participation by foreign portfolio investors and expiration of derivatives contracts in emerging economies (see, for example, Pok and Poshakwale, 2004; Vipul, 2006; Wang, 2007; Bhaumik and Bose, 2009).

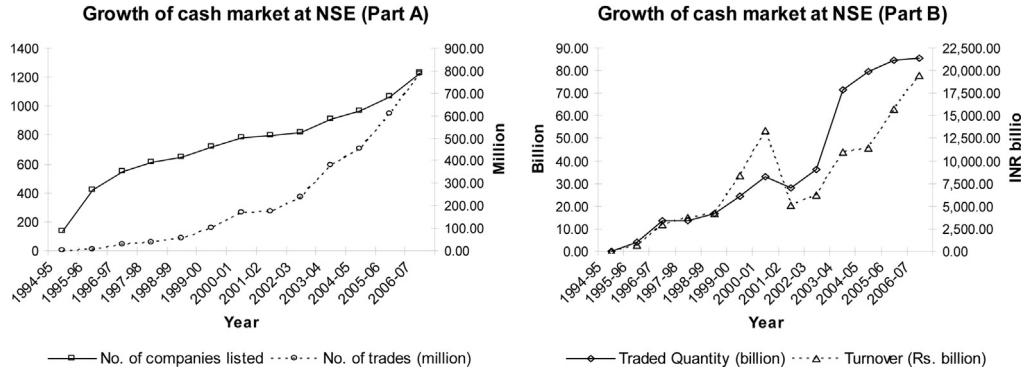


Fig. 1. Growth of the cash market at NSE.

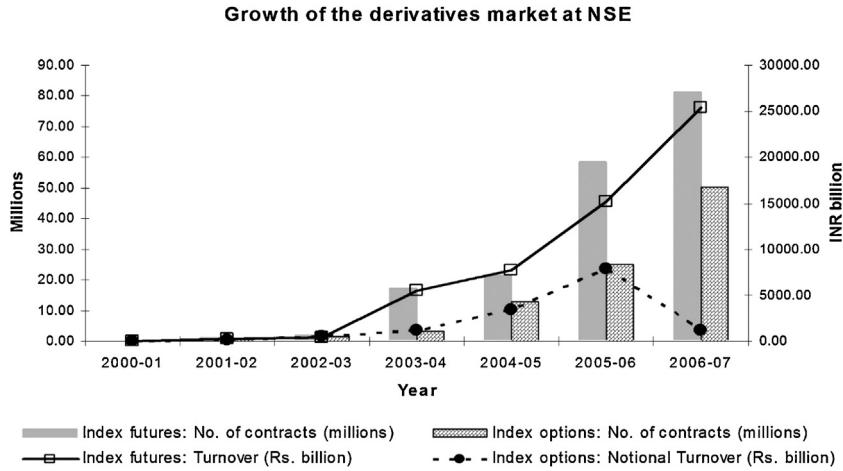


Fig. 2. Growth of the derivatives market at NSE.

indices are used as the underlying assets for futures and options trading at the exchange. The turnover in the derivatives segment increased from INR 3.81 billion in March 2001, the last month of the first (financial) year of derivatives trading at NSE, to INR 6937.63 billion in March 2007. The corresponding increase in the daily average turnover was from INR 0.18 billion to INR 330.36 billion. In March 2007, the daily turnover in the derivatives segment of the equity market was 413% of the average daily turnover in the cash segment of the market. The meteoric growth of the cash and derivatives segments of the NSE is graphically highlighted in Figs. 1–3.

The reform of India's capital market was initiated in 1994, with the establishment of the NSE, which pioneered nationwide electronic trading at its inception, a neutral counterparty for all trades in the form of a clearing corporation and paperless settlement of trades at the depository (in 1996). The consequence was greater transparency, lower settlement costs and fraud mitigation, and one-way transaction costs declined by 90% from an estimated 5–0.5%.

However, the crisis of 1994 had initiated a policy debate that resulted in significant structural changes in the Indian equity market by the turn of the century.³ In June 2000 the NSE (as well as its main rival, the Bombay Stock Exchange) introduced trading in stock index futures, based on its 50-stock market capitalisation weighted index, the Nifty (and, correspondingly, the 30-stock Sensex). Index options on the Nifty and individual stocks were introduced in 2001, on June 4 and July 2, respectively. Finally, on November 9, 2001, trading was initiated in futures contracts based on the prices of 41 NSE-listed

³ An important problem was the existence of leveraged futures-type trading within the spot or cash market. This was facilitated by the existence of trading cycles and, correspondingly, the absence of rolling settlement. Given a Wednesday–Tuesday trading cycle, for example, a trader could take a position on a stock at the beginning of the cycle, reverse her position towards the end of the cycle, and net out her position during the long-drawn settlement period. In addition, the market allowed traders to carry forward trades into following trading cycles, with financiers holding the stocks in their own names until the trader was able to pay for the securities and the intermediation cost, which was linked to money market interest rates (for details, see Gupta, 1997). The use of carry forward (or badla) trades was banned in March 1994, following a major stock market crash but was reintroduced in July 1995 in response to worries about decline in market liquidity and stock prices.

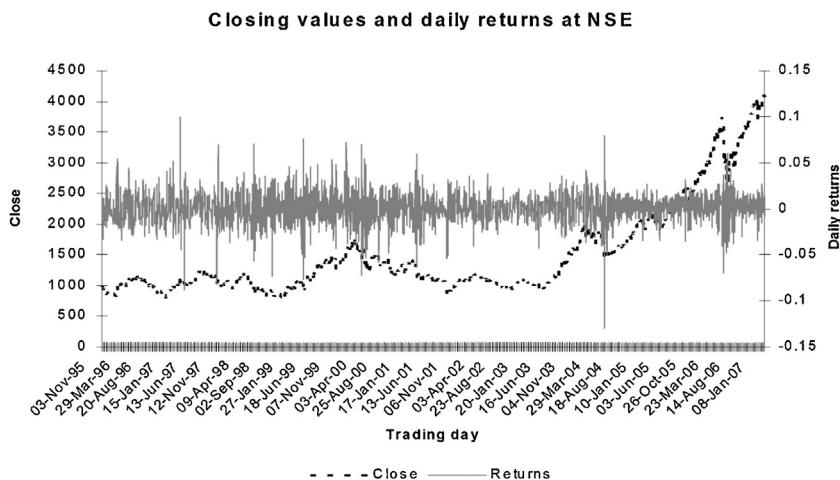


Fig. 3. Closing values and daily returns at NSE.

companies.⁴ However, in a blow to the price discovery process in the cash market, prior to the introduction of derivatives trading in India, the SEBI banned short sales of stocks listed on the exchanges.

3. Theoretical background

3.1. Information, liquidity and stock market volatility

The volatility–volume relationship has been the subject of theoretical and empirical research for many years. The models proposed either describe the full process by which information integrates into prices or by using a less structural approach such as the Mixture of Distribution Hypothesis (MDH). According to the mixture of distributions model, the variance of daily price changes is affected by the arrival of price-relevant new information proxied by trading volume (Clark, 1973; Epps and Epps, 1976; Tauchen and Pitts, 1983). Tauchen and Pitts (1983) find that the variance of the daily price change and the mean daily trading volume depend on the average daily rate at which new information flows to the market, the extent to which traders disagree when they respond to new information and the number of active traders in the market. They predict a positive volatility–volume relationship when the number of traders is fixed while a negative relation is predicted when the number of traders is growing, such as the case of T-bills futures market. Andersen (1996) suggests a modified MDH model in which informational asymmetries and liquidity needs motivate trade. The information flow is represented by a stochastic volatility process that drives the positive contemporaneous relationship between volatility and informed trading volume. Li and Wu (2006) introduce a negative effect of liquidity trading on return volatility into Andersen's (1996) model. They find that the positive volatility–volume relationship is mainly driven by informed trading and the information flow. More importantly they show that the price volatility is negatively related to the intensity of liquidity trading given the probabilities of news arrival and informed trading. This result is consistent with the contention that liquidity trading increases market depth and lowers price volatility.⁵

Another class of informational asset trading models that explain the volatility–volume (and potentially causal) relationship is the Sequential Information Arrival models of Copeland (1976, 1977), and Jennings et al. (1981). A testable prediction of the above models is that there will be a positive correlation between volume and the absolute value of price changes when information arrives sequentially and traders observe the path of trades, prices, and volume. Jennings et al. (1981) predict a rather complex relationship between absolute price changes and volume sensitive to the number of investors, how current information is being interpreted by the market (i.e., the mix of optimists and pessimists) and the actual level of the expectations of each class of investors.⁶

⁴ On January 10, 2000, rolling settlement was introduced for the first time, initially for ten stocks. By July 2, 2001, rolling settlement had expanded to include 200 stocks, and badla or carry forward trading was banned.

⁵ A market with higher liquidity-motivated trading volume tends to have more random buy and sell orders offsetting each other and thus causing no significant changes in prices. Moreover, liquidity trading absorbs the price impact of information-based trading and in this way higher intensity of liquidity trading helps lower volatility.

⁶ For example, if the mix of investors is restricted to a range between 20 and 60% optimists, the correlation coefficient is high and positive. For an empirical study on the causal relationship of volatility and trading volume see Smirlock and Starks (1988).

A positive volatility–volume relationship is also predicted by models of heterogeneous trader behaviour arising either because informed traders have different private information (Shalen, 1993)⁷ or because they simply interpret commonly known data in a different way (Harris and Raviv, 1993).⁸ However, in Holthausen and Verrecchia (1990), it is the extent to which agents become more knowledgeable (informedness) and the extent of agreement between agents (consensus), at the time of an information release, that affects unexpected price changes and trading volume. Their results imply that the variance of price changes and trading volume tend to be positively related when informedness effect dominates the consensus effect and tend to be negatively related when the consensus effect dominates the informedness effect. He and Wang (1994) find that new information, private or public, generates both high volume and large price changes, while existing private information can generate high volume with little price changes.

The empirical evidence about the volume–volatility relationship is largely consistent with the predictions of the theoretical literature. In the most part, the relationship between volume and volatility has been found to be positive. Such positive relationship between volume and volatility has been reported in empirical research for cash and futures markets (Karpoff, 1987; Bessembinder and Seguin, 1992; Andersen, 1996). A negative relationship between the two variables, though, is not precluded from economic theory (Holthausen and Verrecchia, 1990; Li and Wu, 2006) and empirical evidence (Daigler and Wiley, 1999; Kawaller et al., 2001). Daigler and Wiley (1999) find that the positive volatility–volume relationship is driven by the general public, a group of traders distant from the trading floor, less informed and with greater dispersion of beliefs. On the other hand, clearing members and floor traders often decrease volatility and this is attributed mainly to the informational advantage from holding a seat in the futures market. In addition, Avramov et al. (2006) show that informed (or contrarian) trades lead to a reduction in volatility while non-informational (or herding) trades lead to an increase in volatility. Shahzad et al. (2014) find that it is the number of trades of individual traders that has more influence on volatility compared to institutional traders.

3.2. Derivatives trading and their impact on the spot/cash market

The impact of the opening of futures markets on the spot price volatility has received considerable attention in the finance literature. Researchers and practitioners have investigated the role that the introduction of futures trading played in the stock market crash of 1987 in the USA (Gammill and Marsh, 1988) and in the Asian financial crisis (Ghysels and Seon, 2005). Several studies have also examined the level of the stock market volatility before and after the introduction of futures contracts. However, the focus of this literature has largely been on the impact of derivatives trading on price volatility, and not on the impact on the volume–volatility relationship per se.

Theoretical studies on the impact of the futures trading on the spot market have produced interesting results. Stein (1987) demonstrates that introducing more speculators into the market, through the introduction of futures, leads to improved risk sharing but can also change the informational content of prices. In some cases the entry of new speculators lowers the informativeness (ability to make inferences based on current prices) of the price to existing traders. The net result can be one of price destabilization and welfare reduction if this “misinformation” effect is strong enough relative to the need for additional risk sharing.

Subrahmanyam (1991) presents a theory of trading in markets for stock index futures or, more generally, for baskets of securities. His model incorporates trading by strategic liquidity traders who realize their trades either in the individual securities or in a basket of these securities, depending on where their losses to informed traders are minimized. Markets in baskets are shown to be advantageous for such traders because the security-specific component of adverse selection tends to get diversified away in such markets. Moreover, when the factor sensitivities differ in sign across securities, the diversification of systematic information in the basket further reduces the adverse selection in the basket relative to that in the securities. This “diversification” benefit reduces the transaction costs of the discretionary liquidity traders when they trade in the basket (or index futures). Hence, the movement of discretionary traders to the basket, results in less liquidity and greater risk of informed trading of the individual securities.

A secondary effect, if the number of informed traders is endogenous, is to affect the number of factor informed and security specific informed traders. Subrahmanyam demonstrates that in general this change is expected, first, to increase the overall informativeness of the price of the underlying portfolio and make this price more responsive to new systematic information and, second, to make individual security prices (and the price of the portfolio) less informative in the security-specific component and more informative in the systematic component. The above result implies that the introduction of a basket has no effect on the variance of price changes in component securities.⁹

⁷ In Shalen's model speculators confuse price variation caused by changes in liquidity demand (assumed random) and price variation caused by private information. This dispersion of expectations can explain both excess volume and volatility associated with market noisiness and contributes to positive correlations between trading volume and contemporaneous and future absolute price changes.

⁸ Harris and Raviv (1993) consider a model of trading in speculative markets assuming that traders share common prior beliefs, receive common information but differ in the way they interpret this information. They show that absolute price changes and volume are positively correlated, consecutive price changes exhibit negative serial correlation and trading volume is positively autocorrelated.

⁹ The same results on price change variability also apply for nonbasket securities.

Although it has been suggested that the opening of a futures market may destabilize prices by encouraging irrational speculation (noise trading), Subrahmanyam argues that this need not necessarily be the case.¹⁰ In his model an increase in noise trading actually makes price more informative by increasing the returns on being informed and thereby facilitating the entry of more informed traders. Moreover, Hong (2000) develops an equilibrium model of competitive futures markets in which investors trade to hedge positions and to speculate on their private information. He finds that when a futures market is opened investors are able to better hedge spot price risk and hence are more willing to take on larger spot positions. As a result the introduction of futures contracts reduces spot price volatility.

Damodaran and Subrahmanyam (1992) survey a number of studies on the impact of futures trading on the spot market. They conclude that there is a consensus that listing futures on commodities reduces the variances of the latter. Edwards (1988) and Bessembinder and Seguin (1992) find that S&P 500 futures trading affects spot volatility negatively. Brown-Hruska and Kuserk (1995) also provide evidence, for the S&P 500 index, that an increase in futures volume (relative to spot volume) reduces spot volatility. The analysis in Board et al. (2001) suggests that in the UK futures trading does not destabilize the spot market. In general, mixed evidence is provided by studies that examine non-US markets. Gulen and Mayhew (2000) find that spot volatility is independent of changes in futures trading in eighteen countries. Moreover, Bae et al. (2004) find that the introduction of futures contracts in Korea is associated with greater spot price volatility. Overall, the impact of futures trading on the volatility of spot markets varies according to sample, data set and methodology chosen. In the specific case of India, the empirical evidence suggests that as early as 2002–2003 there was a reduction in the volatility of the cash market index after the introduction of index futures (Bandivadekar and Ghosh, 2003; Raju and Karande, 2003; Vipul, 2006). Vipul (2006) find evidence of a reduction in the volatility of the prices of underlying securities after the introduction of futures contracts for individual stocks.

3.3. The Indian context

The theoretical models above find volatility–volume relationships (simultaneous and feedback) which are sensitive to the type and quality of information, the expectations formed based on this information and the trading motives of investors. A positive volatility–volume relationship is predicted by most information induced trading (and dispersion of beliefs) models while a negative one is also existent due to liquidity induced trading (Li and Wu, 2006), the extent to which new information affects the knowledge of and agreement between agents (Holthausen and Verrecchia, 1990), and the number of active traders in the market (Tauchen and Pitts, 1983). Therefore, we would expect a market with an increasing number of active traders and liquidity, as is the case with the NSE (see Section 2), to be able to absorb the price impact of information-based trading especially if combined with increased consensus among investors when new information is released. If this is the case, an increase in trading volume will be associated with lower volatility (negative relation). However, if the increased (information induced) trading is accompanied with higher dispersion of beliefs and positive feedback trading it is likely to exacerbate volatility in the stock market (positive relation).

In markets such as the NSE, trading on the index futures and options markets is initially very thin but as more traders become aware of the market's possibilities, the trading volume of derivatives is increases and more information to be impounded into futures prices. An interesting question is how does trading in index futures/options affects the trading in individual securities. In line with arguments above, if the introduction of index futures/options results in migration of some (liquidity and informed) traders to the derivatives market, there would be lower liquidity or volume in the cash market, greater incidence of uninformed trading and less informative security prices in the cash market. The increase in the proportion of uninformed trading in the cash market can lead to frequent divergence of the stock prices from their fundamental values, and hence to an increase in volatility. On the other hand, if the introduction of futures/options facilitates risk sharing and attracts more informed investors, any increase in (information-induced) spot trading volume is likely to drive prices closer to fundamental values, and thus contribute to lower market volatility (negative relation).

4. Data and estimation procedure

The data set used in this study comprises 2814 daily trading volumes and prices (open, high, low, close) of the NSE index, running from 3rd of November 1995 to 25th of January 2007. The data were obtained from the Indian NSE. The NSE index is a market value weighted index for the 50 most liquid stocks.

¹⁰ John et al. (2003) find that the introduction of option trading improves the informational efficiency of stock prices irrespective of whether binding margin requirements are in place or not. Intuitively, even though the addition of option trading enhances the ability of informed traders to disguise and profit from their trades, the informativeness of the trading process is greater because the market can now infer private information from two sources – order flow in the stock and option markets.

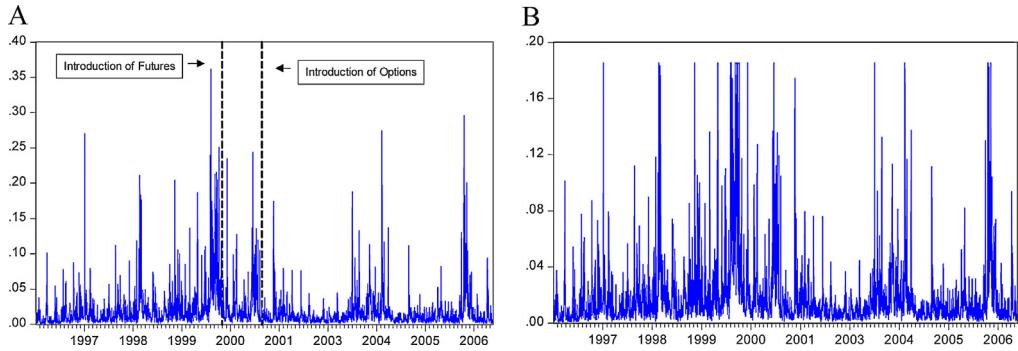


Fig. 4. (A) Garman–Klass volatility. (B) Garman–Klass volatility (outlier reduced).

4.1. Price volatility

Using daily high, low, opening, and closing prices of the index we generate a daily measure of price volatility. We employ the range-based estimator of [Garman and Klass \(1980\)](#) to construct the daily volatility ($y_t^{(g)}$) as follows

$$y_t^{(g)} = \frac{1}{2}u^2 - (2\ln 2 - 1)c^2, \quad t \in \mathbb{N},$$

where u and c are the differences in the natural logarithms of the high and low, and of the closing and opening prices respectively. Garman and Klass show that their range-based volatility measure is eight times more efficient than the daily squared return. The merits of using the high and low prices to estimate volatility are associated with [Parkinson \(1980\)](#). The log range (high minus low) is not only more efficient as a volatility proxy but also is very well approximated as Gaussian ([Alizadeh et al., 2002](#)). Parkinson's estimator has been improved in several ways, including combining the range (high–low) with opening and closing prices ([Garman and Klass, 1980; Rogers and Satchell, 1991; Yang and Zhang, 2000](#)). [Andersen and Bollerslev \(1998\)](#) show that the daily range is about as efficient a volatility proxy as the realized volatility based on returns sampled every three-four hours. Upon availability of high frequency data for the Indian stock market and to provide more robustness to our results, we aim to estimate realized volatility proxies either using minute-by-minute squared returns ([Andersen et al., 2001](#)) or squared ranges ([Martens and van Dijk, 2007; Christensen and Podolskij, 2007](#)). [Shu and Zhang \(2006\)](#) find that the range estimators are fairly robust towards microstructure effects and quite close to the daily integrated variance.¹¹ Various measures of range-based volatility have been employed in empirical finance research ([Daigler and Wiley, 1999; Kawaller et al., 2001; Chen and Daigler, 2008](#)).¹²

We also use an outlier reduced series for Garman–Klass volatility (see Fig. 4B).¹³ In particular, the variance of the raw data is estimated, and any value outside four standard deviations is replaced by four standard deviations.¹⁴ Chebyshev's inequality is used as it (i) gives a bound of what percentage ($1/k^2$) of the data falls outside of k standard deviations from the mean, (ii) holds no assumption about the distribution of the data, and (iii) provides a good description of the closeness to the mean, especially when the data are known to be unimodal as in our case. Fig. 4A plots the Garman–Klass volatility from 1995 to 2007.

4.2. Trading volume

[Jones et al. \(1994\)](#) find that on average the size of trades has no significant incremental information content and that any information in the trading behaviour of agents is almost entirely contained in the frequency of trades during a particular interval. We also use the value of shares traded and the number of trades as two alternative measures of volume as we

¹¹ Realized volatility is estimated as the sum of squared high-frequency returns over a given sampling period (e.g., five-minute returns) and is subject to microstructure biases due to uneven trading times, bid-ask bounces and stale prices ([Andersen et al., 2001](#)).

¹² [Chou \(2005\)](#) propose a Conditional Autoregressive Range (CARR) model for the range (defined as the difference between the high and low prices). In order to be in line with previous research ([Daigler and Wiley, 1999; Kawaller et al., 2001; Wang, 2007](#)) in what follows we model Garman–Klass volatility as an autoregressive type of process taking into account bidirectional feedback between volume and volatility, dual-long memory characteristics and GARCH effects.

¹³ In our study we use an outlier reduction method to minimize the impact of outliers in the estimation of parameters in the mean and variance equations ([Van Dijk et al., 1999; Verhoeven and McAleer, 2000](#)). [Carnero et al. \(2007\)](#) investigate the effects of outliers on the estimation of the underlying volatility when they are not taken into account. More importantly, the outlier reduction method is also consistent with reducing the price impact of extreme public news, often associated with big price jumps and increased volatility close to the announcement.

¹⁴ We find 19 outliers in our study and the majority of them does not exceed the value of 0.25. The outlier reduction method reduces all outliers to the value of 0.18 which is four standard deviations away from the mean. Overall, the results with the outlier reduction method are not qualitatively different compared to the normal ones, while their significance is stronger for the option introduction period and slightly less significant for the period up to the introduction of futures.

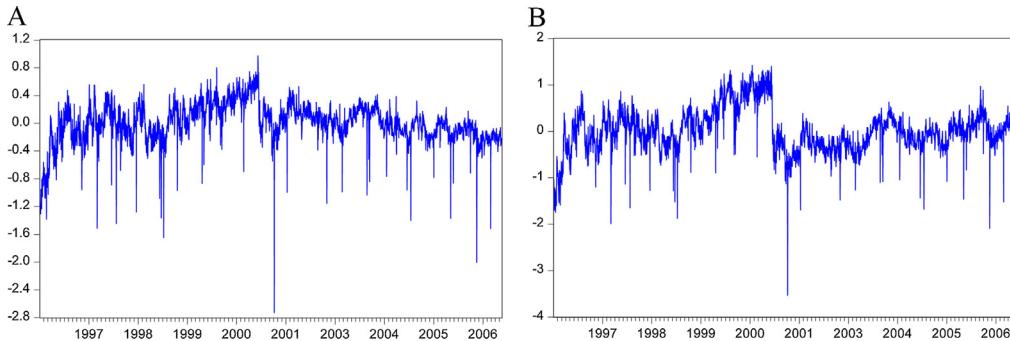


Fig. 5. (A) Number of trades. (B) Value of shares traded.

aim to capture and compare changes in the information content of trading activity over time and with the introduction of futures/options trading. Because trading volume is nonstationary several detrending procedures for the volume data have been considered in the empirical finance literature (Lo and Wang, 2000). Logarithmic transformations of trading activity are used in order to obtain better statistical inference and to linearize the near constant trend in trading volume evidenced in Fig. 1. We form a trend-stationary time series of volume ($y_t^{(v)}$) by fitting a linear trend (t) and subtracting the fitted values for the original series ($\hat{y}_t^{(v)}$) as follows

$$y_t^{(v)} = \hat{y}_t^{(v)} - (\hat{a} - \hat{b}t),$$

where v denotes volume. The linear detrending procedure is deemed to provide a very good approximation of trading activity associated with the arrival of new information in the market. It is also a reasonable compromise between computational ease and effectiveness. We also extract a moving average trend from the volume series resulting in a detrended volume with downsized seasonal spikes from badla trades and futures contacts expiration. As detailed below, the results (not reported) for the moving average detrending procedure are qualitatively similar to those reported for the linearly detrended volume series.¹⁵ In what follows, we will denote value of shares traded by v and number of trades by n . Fig. 5A and B and plot the number of trades and value of shares traded from November 1995 to January 2007.

4.3. Structural breaks in volatility and volume

We also examine whether there are any structural breaks in both volume and volatility and, if there are, whether they are associated with the introduction of futures and options contracts. We test for structural breaks by employing the methodology in Bai and Perron (2003), who address the problem of testing for multiple structural changes in a least squares context and under very general conditions on the data and the errors. In addition to testing for the presence of breaks, these statistics identify the number and location of multiple breaks. For a test of the null of no breaks against an alternative of l breaks, we employ an F-statistic to evaluate the null hypothesis that regime coefficients, δ_j , are the same across regimes ($\delta_0 = \delta_1 = \dots = \delta_{l+1}$).¹⁶ Particularly, in the case of log volume we use a partial structural change model where we test for a structural break in the mean while at same time allowing for a linear trend of the form t/T . Granger and Hyung (2004) show that occasional level shifts in the mean give rise to the observed long memory property. Research along this line of models has produced some very interesting results.¹⁷

Moreover, Bai and Perron (2003) form confidence intervals for the break dates under various hypotheses about the structure of the data and the errors across segments. This allows us to estimate models for different break dates within the 95% confidence interval and also evaluate whether our inferences are robust to these alternative break dates. Our results (not reported) seem to be invariant to break dates around the one which minimizes the sum of squared residuals.

¹⁵ Bollerslev and Jubinski (1999) find that neither the detrending method nor the actual process of detrending affected any of their qualitative findings (see also, Karanassos and Kartsaklas, 2009 and the references therein).

¹⁶ More specifically, we test the null of no structural change against an unknown number of breaks up to some upperbound, m . This type of testing is termed double maximum since it involves maximization both for a given l and across various values of the test statistic for l . The equal-weighted version of the test, termed UDmax, chooses the alternative that maximizes the statistic across the number of breakpoints. An alternative approach, denoted WDmax, applies weights to the individual statistics so that the implied marginal p -values are equal prior to taking the maximum.

¹⁷ Lu and Perron (2010) consider the estimation of a random level shift model for which the series of interest is the sum of a short-memory process and a jump or level shift component. Once few level shifts are taken into account, there is little evidence of serial correlation in the remaining noise and, hence, no evidence of long-memory. When the estimated shifts are introduced to a standard GARCH model applied to the returns series, any evidence of GARCH effects disappears. Perron and Qu (2010) analyze the properties of the autocorrelation function, the periodogram, and the log periodogram estimate of the memory parameter for the random level shift model. Using data on various indices and sample periods, they show that all stock market volatility proxies considered clearly follow a pattern that would obtain if the true underlying process was one of short-memory contaminated by level shifts.

The overall picture dates two change points for volatility. The first break is detected in July 2000 and the next one is in May 2006. As regards trading volume, both value of shares traded and the number of trades, have a common break dated in March 2001¹⁸. Recall that the index futures and options trading started in June 2000 and June 2001 respectively. These dates fall within the confidence intervals estimated for volatility and volume. This allows us to associate structural breaks in volatility and volume with the introduction of index futures and options and accordingly to construct dummy variables to capture their effect on the volatility–volume relationship. Accordingly, we break our entire sample into three sub-periods. The first period is the period up to the introduction of futures trading (3rd November 1995–12th June 2000). The second period is the period from the introduction of futures contracts until the introduction of options trading (13th June 2000–2nd July 2001). Finally, the third period is the one which starts with the introduction of option contracts until the end of our sample (3rd July 2001–25th January 2007).¹⁹

4.4. Bivariate ARFI-FIGARCH model

The MDH posits a joint dependence of both volatility and volume on new informational arrival and, thus, a bivariate model would better capture lagged and simultaneous correlations among the two variables. Several multivariate GARCH models have been proposed in the literature allowing for richer structures on the variable dynamics and time-varying correlations (see Bauwens et al., 2006, for a survey). Long memory conditional mean and variance models are desirable in light of the observed covariance structure of many economic and financial time series (Baillie, 1996; Baillie et al., 1996; Giraitis et al., 2000; Mikosch and Starica, 2003). For example, Chen and Daigler (2008) emphasize that both volume and volatility possess long memory characteristics. Baillie et al. (1996) show that the FIGARCH process combines many of the features of the fractionally integrated process for the mean together with the regular GARCH process for the conditional variance. The corresponding impulse response weights derived from the FIGARCH model also appear to be more realistic from an economic perspective when compared to the fairly rapid rate of decay associated with the estimated covariance stationary GARCH model or the infinite persistence for the IGARCH formulation.²⁰

Therefore we focus our attention on the topic of long-memory and persistence in terms of the first two moments of the two variables. Consequently, we utilize a bivariate ccc ARFI-FIGARCH model to test for causality between volume and volatility.²¹ Within the framework of this dual long-memory model we will analyze the dynamic adjustments of both the conditional means and variances of volume and volatility, as well as the implications of these dynamics for the direction of causality between the two variables. The estimates of the various formulations were obtained by quasi maximum likelihood estimation (QMLE). To check for the robustness of our estimates we used a range of starting values and hence ensured that the estimation procedure converged to a global maximum.

Next let us define the column vector of the two variables \mathbf{y}_t as $\mathbf{y}_t = (y_{1t} y_{2t})'$ and the residual vector $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t$ as $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t = (\varepsilon_{1t} \varepsilon_{2t})'$. In order to make our analysis easier to understand we will introduce the following notation. $D_{t,f}$ is a dummy defined as: $D_{t,f} = 1$ during the period from the introduction of futures trading (that is 13th June 2000) until the end of the sample and $D_{t,f} = 0$ otherwise; similarly $D_{t,o}$ is a dummy indicating approximately the period which starts with the introduction of option contracts. That is, $D_{t,o} = 1$ in the period between 3rd July 2001 and 25th January 2007 and $D_{t,o} = 0$ otherwise. In addition, $D_{t,e}$ is a dummy defined as: $D_{t,e} = 1$ the last Thursday of every month -starting from the introduction of futures trading- and $D_{t,e} = 0$ otherwise.

In the expressions below the subscripts 1 and 2 mean that the first equation represents the GK volatility and the second one stands for the volume. When the value of shares traded is used as a measure of volume we will refer to the expressions in Eq. (1) as model 1. Similarly, when we use the number of trades we will have model 2.

The best fitting specification (see Eq. (1) below) is chosen according to the minimum value of the information criteria (not reported). Ljung–Box test statistics for autocorrelation in normal and squared residuals are also used. For the conditional mean of volatility (y_{1t}), we choose an ARFI(0, d) process for both measures of volume. For the conditional means of value of shares traded and number of trades, we choose an ARFI(10, d) process. That is, $\Phi_2(L) = 1 - \sum_{j=1}^{10} \phi_2^{(j)} L^j$, with $\phi_2^{(4)} = \phi_2^{(6)} = \phi_2^{(7)} = \phi_2^{(9)} = 0$, for the value of shares traded, and only $\phi_2^{(4)} \neq \phi_2^{(5)} \neq \phi_2^{(9)} \neq \phi_2^{(10)} \neq 0$ for the number of trades. We do not report the estimated AR coefficients for space considerations.

¹⁸ In the case of volatility, the UDmax and WDmax statistics achieve their global max in the case of two breaks, while their test statistics are 49.36 and 58.08 respectively. The corresponding critical values are 11.70 and 12.81. On the other hand, for trading volume (number of trades, value of shares traded) the UDmax and WDmax statistics achieve their global max in the case of one break with test statistics (critical values) of 88.75 (8.88) and 118.69 (9.91) respectively.

¹⁹ The results in Lavielle and Moulaines (2000) are valid under a wide class of strongly dependent processes, including long memory, GARCH-type and non-linear models. Our results show that there is no change in the number of break points estimated when we allow for long memory.

²⁰ Tsay and Chung (2000) have shown that regressions involving fractionally integrated regressors can lead to spurious results. Moreover, in the presence of conditional heteroskedasticity, Vilasuso (2001) suggests that causality tests can be carried out in the context of an empirical specification that models both the conditional means and conditional variances.

²¹ Karanasos and Kartsaklas (2009) applied the bivariate dual long-memory process to model the volume–volatility link in Korea.

The chosen estimated bivariate ARFI model is given by

$$(1-L)^{d_{1,m}}[y_{1t} - (\varphi_{12}^{(3)} + \varphi_{12,f}^{(3)}D_{t,f} + \varphi_{12,o}^{(3)}D_{t,o})L^3y_{2t} - (\mu_1 + \mu_{1,e}D_{t,e} + \mu_{1,f}D_{t,f} + \mu_{1,o}D_{t,o})] = \varepsilon_{1,t}, \quad (1)$$

$$(1-L)^{d_{2,m}}\Phi_2(L)[y_{2t} - (\varphi_{21}^{(1)} + \varphi_{21,f}^{(1)}D_{t,f} + \varphi_{21,o}^{(1)}D_{t,o})Ly_{1t} - (\mu_2 + \mu_{2,e}D_{t,e} + \mu_{2,f}D_{t,f} + \mu_{2,o}D_{t,o})] = \varepsilon_{2t}.$$

where L is the lag operator, $0 < d_{i,m} < 1$ and $\mu_i, \mu_{i,e}, \mu_{i,f}, \mu_{i,o}$ are finite for $i = 1, 2$ (recall that 1 and 2 mean that the first equation represents the GK volatility and the second one stands for the volume).

The $\varphi_{12}^{(s)}$ coefficient captures the effect from volume on volatility while $\varphi_{21}^{(s)}$ represents the impact on the opposite direction. The information criteria (not reported) choose the model with the $\varphi_{12}^{(3)}$ and $\varphi_{21}^{(1)}$. Similarly, $\varphi_{12,f}^{(3)}$ and $\varphi_{21,f}^{(1)}$, correspond to the cross effects from the introduction of futures contracts onwards, while $\varphi_{12,o}^{(3)}$ and $\varphi_{21,o}^{(1)}$ stand for the volume–volatility feedback after the introduction of options trading. Thus, the link between the two variables is captured by $\varphi_{12}^{(3)}$ and $\varphi_{21}^{(1)}$, in the period up to the introduction of futures trading, by $\varphi_{12}^{(3)} + \varphi_{12,f}^{(3)}$ and $\varphi_{21}^{(1)} + \varphi_{21,f}^{(1)}$ in the second period, and by $\varphi_{12}^{(3)} + \varphi_{12,f}^{(3)} + \varphi_{12,o}^{(3)}, \varphi_{21}^{(1)} + \varphi_{21,f}^{(1)} + \varphi_{21,o}^{(1)}$ in the period which starts with the introduction of options contracts. The coefficients $\mu_{1,e}, \mu_{2,e}$ capture the impact of the expiration of derivatives contracts on the two variables.²²

We assume ε_t is conditionally normal with mean vector $\mathbf{0}$, variance vector $\mathbf{h}_t = (h_{1t} h_{2t})'$ and ccc $\rho = h_{12,t}/\sqrt{h_{1t}h_{2t}}$ ($-1 \leq \rho \leq 1$), where 1 and 2 mean that the first equation represents the GK volatility and the second one stands for the volume. We also choose an ARCH(1) process for the volume and a FIGARCH(0, d , 0) one for the volatility:

$$\begin{bmatrix} h_{1t} - \omega_1 \\ h_{2t} - \omega_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - (1-L)^{d_{1,v}} & 0 \\ 0 & \alpha_2 L \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{1t}^2 \\ \varepsilon_{2t}^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

where $\omega_i \in (0, \infty)$ for $i = 1, 2$, and $0 < d_{1,v} < 1$.²³ Although we consider CCC between volatility and volume, we reestimate the ARFI-FIGARCH model using dynamic conditional correlations (DCC). A comparison of the results (not reported) with those obtained when the ccc model is used reveals that the results are qualitatively similar. Note that the FIGARCH model is not covariance stationary. The question whether it is strictly stationary or not is still open at present. In the FIGARCH model, conditions on the parameters have to be imposed to ensure the non-negativity of the conditional variances (Conrad and Haag, 2006).

5. Empirical results

5.1. Long-memory in volatility and volume

Empirical evidence supports the conjecture that daily volatility and trading volume are best described by mean-reverting long memory type processes (Bollerslev and Jubinski, 1999; Lobato and Velasco, 2000; Chen and Daigler, 2008). These empirical findings are consistent with a modified version of the MDH, in which the dynamics of volatility and volume are determined by a latent informational arrival structure characterized by long range dependence (Andersen and Bollerslev, 1997).

Estimates of the fractional mean parameters are shown in Table 1. Several findings emerge from this table. Volatility and number of trades generated very similar long-memory parameters $d_{1,m}$: 0.43 and 0.47 respectively (see Eqs. (1) and (2) in model 2 in panel A). The estimated value of $d_{2,m}$, for value of shares traded, 0.60, is greater than the corresponding values for number of trades and volatility. In the mean equation for the volatility the long-memory coefficient $d_{1,m}$ is robust to the measures of volume used. In other words, the bivariate ARFI models 1 and 2 generated very similar $d_{1,m}$'s fractional parameters, 0.47 and 0.43 (see Eqs. (1) in panel A).²⁴

Moreover, $d_{1,v}$'s govern the long-run dynamics of the conditional heteroscedasticity of volatility. The fractional parameter $d_{1,v}$ is robust to the measures of volume used. In other words, the two bivariate FIGARCH models generated very similar estimates of $d_{1,v}$: 0.57 and 0.58. All four mean long-memory coefficients are robust to the presence of outliers in volatility. When we take into account these outliers the estimated value of $d_{1,v}$ falls from 0.57 to 0.44 but remains highly significant.

²² Contracts of three different durations, expiring in one, two and three months, respectively, are traded simultaneously. On each trading day, they are traded simultaneously with the underlying stocks, between 8.55 am and 3.30 pm. The closing price for a trading day is the weighted-average of prices during the last hour and a half of the day, and this price is the basis for the settlement of these contracts. The futures and options contracts on the indices as well as those on individual stocks expire on the last Thursday of every month, resulting in a quadruple witching hour.

²³ Brandt and Jones (2006) use the approximate result that if log returns are conditionally Gaussian with mean 0 and volatility h_t then the log range is a noisy linear proxy of log volatility. In this paper we model the GK volatility as an AR-FI-GARCH process.

²⁴ It is worth mentioning that there is a possibility that, at least, part of the long-memory may be caused by the presence of neglected breaks in the series (see, for example, Granger and Hyung, 2004). Therefore, the fractional integration parameters are estimated taking into account the 'presence of breaks' by including the dummy variables for introduction of futures and option trading. Interestingly enough, the long-memory character of the series remain strongly evident.

Table 1

Long memory in mean and variance.

Long memory and CCC	$d_{i,m}$	$d_{1,v}$	ρ
<i>Panel A. Garman-Klass volatility</i>			
Model 1 – Value of shares traded			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	0.47 (0.10) ^{***}	0.57 (0.08) ^{***}	–
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.60 (0.04) ^{***}	–	0.28 (0.03) ^{***}
Model 2 – Number of trades			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	0.43 (0.09) ^{***}	0.58 (0.09) ^{***}	–
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.47 (0.03) ^{***}	–	0.30 (0.03) ^{***}
<i>Panel B. Garman-Klass volatility (outlier reduced)</i>			
Model 1 – Value of shares traded			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	0.42 (0.04) ^{***}	0.44 (0.08) ^{***}	–
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.60 (0.04) ^{***}	–	0.30 (0.03) ^{***}
Model 2 – Number of trades			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	0.39 (0.04) ^{***}	0.44 (0.08) ^{***}	–
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.48 (0.03) ^{***}	–	0.31 (0.03) ^{***}

Notes: The table reports parameter estimates of the long-memory and the ccc coefficients. $d_{i,m}$, $d_{1,v}$, $i=1, 2$, and ρ are defined in Eqs. (1) and (2) respectively. ***, **, * denote significance at 0.05, 0.10, 0.15 level respectively. The number in parentheses are standard errors.

Table 2

Mean equation: cross-effects.

Cross-effects	$\varphi_{ij}^{(s)}$ (1)	$\varphi_{ij,f}^{(s)}$ (2)	$\varphi_{ij,o}^{(s)}$ (3)
<i>Panel A. Garman-Klass volatility</i>			
Model 1 – Value of shares traded			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1, j=2, s=3$)	-0.013 (0.006) ^{***}	0.003 (0.008)	0.009 (0.006)*
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2, j=1, s=1$)	-0.110 (0.259)	-0.161 (0.507)	0.117 (0.461)
Model 2 – Number of trades			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1, j=2, s=3$)	-0.014 (0.008) ^{***}	0.006 (0.010)	0.008 (0.007)
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2, j=1, s=1$)	0.120 (0.177)	-0.006 (0.330)	-0.255 (0.317)
<i>Panel B. Garman-Klass volatility (outlier reduced)</i>			
Model 1 – Value of shares traded			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1, j=2, s=3$)	-0.008 (0.004)**	-0.001 (0.006)	0.009 (0.005)**
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2, j=1, s=1$)	-0.065 (0.302)	-0.340 (0.586)	-0.558 (0.694)
Model 2 – Number of trades			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1, j=2, s=3$)	-0.009 (0.005)**	0.001 (0.008)	0.008 (0.007)
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2, j=1, s=1$)	0.195 (0.201)	-0.031 (0.365)	-1.006 (0.523)***

Notes: The table reports parameter estimates of the cross effects. $\varphi_{ij}^{(s)}$, $\varphi_{ij,f}^{(s)}$, and $\varphi_{ij,o}^{(s)}$, are defined in equation (1). s is the order of the lag. *, **, *** denote significance at the 0.15, 0.10, and 0.05 level respectively. The numbers in parentheses are standard errors.

The variances of the two measures of volume generated very similar conditional correlations with the variance of volatility: 0.28, 0.30. Finally, the estimated values of the ARCH coefficients in the conditional variances of the value of shares and number of trades are 0.12 and 0.13 respectively. Note that in all cases the necessary and sufficient conditions for the non-negativity of the conditional variances are satisfied (see Conrad and Haag, 2006).

5.2. The relationship between volatility and volume

To recapitulate, we employ the bivariate ccc ARFI-FIGARCH model with lagged values of volume or volatility included in the mean equation of the other variable to test for bidirectional causality. The estimated coefficients $\varphi_{ij}^{(s)}$, $(\varphi_{12}^{(3)}, \varphi_{21}^{(1)})$ that are defined in Eq. (1), which capture the possible feedback between the two variables, are reported in the first column of Table 2. All four $\varphi_{12}^{(3)}$ estimates are significant and negative (see Eq. (1) in panels A and B). Note that both measures of volume have a similar impact on GK volatility (-0.013, -0.014). On the other hand, in all cases the $\varphi_{21}^{(1)}$ coefficients are insignificant, indicating that lagged volatility does not have an impact on current volume (see Eq. (2) in panels A and B). In other words, in the period before the introduction of futures trading volume affects volatility negatively whereas there is no effect in the opposite direction.

This negative volume–volatility link is in line with theoretical models which associate price movements to an increasing number of active traders and consensus among investors when new information arrives in the markets (Tauchen and Pitts, 1983; Holthausen and Verrecchia, 1990). It is also consistent with the empirical evidence of Daigler and Wiley (1999) and Avramov et al. (2006) which associate informed trading with a reduction in volatility.

We cannot argue with certainty that liquidity is a contributing factor to the above negative relation because we use the detrended volume which is often related to informed trading. Though, liquidity trading absorbs the price impact of information-based trading and in this way higher intensity of liquidity trading helps lower volatility. By 1996–1997, i.e.,

within two years of initiation of trading at the NSE, more than 100,000 trades were being executed per day, leading to an exchange of more than 13 billion shares over the course of the year. The corresponding figures at the turn of the century, in 1999–2000, were about 400,000 – a four-fold increase – and 24 billion. These are fairly large numbers given that fewer than 1000 companies were listed at the exchange during this period. Therefore, a market with an increasing number of active traders and liquidity is more able to absorb the price impact of information-based trading especially if combined with increased consensus among investors when new information is released.

We now turn to the impact of the introduction of derivatives trading on the volume–volatility link. Estimated values of the dummy coefficients for the cross-effects are presented in the last two columns of [Table 2](#). Recall that the relation between the two variables in the second period is captured by the sum of the coefficients in the first two columns, ($\varphi_{ij}^{(s)} + \varphi_{ij,f}^{(s)}$), while the sum of the coefficients in all three columns, ($\varphi_{ij}^{(s)} + \varphi_{ij,f}^{(s)} + \varphi_{ij,o}^{(s)}$), captures the link commencing with the introduction of options contracts. All $\varphi_{ij,f}^{(s)}$ ($\varphi_{12,f}^{(3)}, \varphi_{21,f}^{(1)}$) estimates are insignificant (see the second column in [Table 2](#)). Thus, it appears that the introduction of futures trading does not influence the volume–volatility link. As far as the introduction of options contracts is concerned, there seems to be a change in the influence of the value of shares traded on volatility. In particular, when we have the value of shares traded, the estimated $\varphi_{12,o}^{(3)}$ coefficient is positive and significant (0.009). However, it is less than the estimate of $|\varphi_{12}^{(3)}|$: (0.013). Thus in the period which starts with the introduction of options trading the impact of the value of shares traded on volatility is still negative but much smaller in size $\varphi_{12}^{(3)} + \varphi_{12,o}^{(3)} = -0.004$. As can be seen from Panels A and B of [Table 2](#) the volume–volatility link is, in general, robust to the presence of outliers in volatility.

Our empirical results indicate that the introduction of the futures trading does not induce a significant migration of informed trading, but the introduction of the option trading does. This weakening of the volume–volatility link after the introduction of options contracts is consistent with the possibility that options trading may have weakened the impact volume has on volatility through the information route. The argument is as follows: In the Indian context, in keeping with the arguments of [Kumar et al. \(1995\)](#), the introduction of derivatives trading may have led to a migration of informed or sophisticated traders from the cash to the derivatives markets. It has been argued that badla trades pooled together characteristics of cash and futures trading.²⁵ However, while badla traders had to pay interest to the financiers who provided the mezzanine finance to facilitate this roll over, there was no daily mark to market and margin call, unlike in a futures market. Hence, it can also be argued that badla trading worked quite similarly to options markets, with the interest paid to the financiers acting as the price for the implicit call option on the underlying shares. In other words, in the aftermath of introduction of futures trading, badla traders, who were generally more sophisticated and informed than smaller/retail investors, were likely to have migrated from the cash to the derivatives market.²⁶ There is some evidence to suggest that much of this migration may have been to the options market.²⁷ It is also worth mentioning here that badla trades were banned when index and individual options (as well as rolling settlement) were introduced and this may have partly caused this migration of informed investors to the options market. Additionally, options contracts are more leveraged than futures contracts and share similar characteristics with badla trades. The issue of migration is also supported by the significantly lower value of shares traded and number of trades in the cash market after the introduction of options (see results in [Table 4](#)).

In the event of such a migration, private information of the sophisticated traders in the options markets may not have reached the relatively less sophisticated traders in the cash market, given the informational inefficiency in the Indian stock market ([Sarkar and Mukhopadhyay, 2005](#)). In any event, the retail investors, who are presumably counterparties to a very significant proportion of the trades, are possibly not sophisticated enough to interpret information signals given out by trades involving options contracts. [Table 3](#) below gives an overview of the volume–volatility link over the three different periods considered.

Overall, in most of the cases volume is not affected from past changes in volatility. In the case, though, of outlier reduced volatility we find that there is negative feedback effect from volatility on the number of trades. In other words, past changes in volatility reduces the number of trades today, especially after the introduction of options trading.²⁸ Causality runs mainly

²⁵ Recall that in the pre-derivatives era, week-long trading cycles co-existed with badla trading whereby take a position on a stock, not take delivery at the end of the trading cycle, and roll it over to the following trading cycle.

²⁶ Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that after the introduction of derivatives trading, price discovery was more likely to take place in the futures market than in the cash market ([Raju and Karande, 2003](#)). There is also evidence to suggest that in the post-derivatives era a large proportion of traders in the cash market were unsophisticated. The Economic Survey for 2005–2006, published by the Government of India, as of 2005, states that the number of accounts held by retail investors at the two depositories in the country, NSDL and CDSL, stood at 8.5 million, confirming that a large proportion of cash market traders were unsophisticated. Support for the preponderance of retail investors in the cash market in the post-derivatives regime can also be found by way of a comparison between the percentage changes in the number of trades and those in the number of shares traded in the cash market since 2001–2002. The number of trades kept increasing at a rapid pace, but since 2004–2005 the number of stocks changing hands has increased at a much slower rate. In other words, since the introduction of derivatives trading in general, and options trading in particular, an increasing proportion of the trades in the cash market possibly involved retail investors.

²⁷ Between 2004–2005 and 2006–2007, the number of options contracts traded at the NSE quadrupled from 12.94 million to 50.49 million.

²⁸ After the introduction of options, any period of a sharp increase in volatility might temporarily stop investors from trading, as reflected in the number of trades, in order to reevaluate their expectations and portfolios. On the other hand, it seems that, in periods of increase volatility, investors concentrate their investments in value or blue chip stocks leaving the value of shares traded unaffected. This is also consistent with the view that in crisis periods investors mitigate the market risk by investing in high value stocks and derivative products (options in this study).

Table 3

Summary of the volatility–volume relation.

Period	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3
<i>Panel A. The effect of volume on volatility</i>			
Value of shares traded	Negative	Negative	Negative (smaller)
Number of trades	Negative	Negative	Negative
<i>Panel B. The impact of volatility on volume</i>			
Value of shares traded	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant
Number of trades	Insignificant	Insignificant	Insignificant

Table 4

Mean equation: dummy effects for constants.

Constant effects	$\mu_{i,e}$ (1)	$\mu_{i,f}$ (2)	$\mu_{i,o}$ (3)
<i>Panel A. Garman–Klass volatility</i>			
Model 1 – Value of shares traded			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	−0.003 (0.002)**	−0.12 (0.009)*	−0.003 (0.005)
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.108 (0.022)***	−0.030 (0.154)	−0.746 (0.344)***
Model 2 – Number of trades			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	−0.003 (0.002)**	−0.014 (0.009)*	−0.003 (0.002)
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.004 (0.015)	−0.073 (0.106)	−0.503 (0.295)**
<i>Panel B. Garman–Klass volatility (outlier reduced)</i>			
Model 1 – Values of shares traded			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	−0.003 (0.002)**	−0.013 (0.007)***	−0.004 (0.005)
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.105 (0.022)***	−0.033 (0.154)	−0.743 (0.342)***
Model 2 – Number of trades			
Eq. (1) Volatility ($i=1$)	−0.003 (0.002)**	−0.014 (0.006)***	−0.004 (0.005)
Eq. (2) Volume ($i=2$)	0.001 (0.016)	0.065 (0.105)	−0.505 (0.299)**

Notes: The table reports parameter estimates of the constant dummy effects. $\mu_{i,e}$, $\mu_{i,f}$ and $\mu_{i,o}$, $i=1, 2$, are defined in equation (1). *, **, *** denote significance at the 0.15, 0.10 and 0.05 level respectively. The numbers in parentheses are standard errors.

from volume—whether value of shares traded or number of trades— to volatility (see Eq. (2) in Table 2). In particular, in all three periods the number of trades affects volatility negatively with the introduction of derivatives trading leaving the sign and the magnitude of this relationship unaltered (see Eq. (1) in model 2 in Table 2). In other words, the introduction of the two financial instruments is not affecting the information role of the number of trades in terms of predicting future volatility. One possible explanation is that the use of number of trades as a proxy for volume does not reflect the fact that traders might take larger spot positions after the introduction of derivatives trading due to increased risk sharing opportunities. Similarly, in all three periods the value of shares traded has a negative effect on volatility (see Eq. (1) in model 1 in Table 2). This result is consistent with the views that the activity of informed traders is inversely related to volatility when the marketplace has increased liquidity, an increasing number of active investors, and high consensus among investors when new information is released. It is noteworthy that in the period from the opening of the options market until the end of the sample the impact of volume on volatility, although still significantly negative, is much smaller in size. Hence, introduction of options trading may have weakened this impact through the information route.

5.3. Expiration and other effects of derivatives trading

In this section we investigate whether the opening of the futures and options markets affects spot price volatility and trading volume. Recall that the coefficients $\mu_{i,f}$, $\mu_{i,o}$, $i=1, 2$, capture the effects of derivatives trading on spot volatility and volume. The estimate $\mu_{1,f}$ is negative and significant, indicating that the introduction of futures trading leads to a decrease in spot volatility (see Eq. (1) in the second column of Table 4). Our result is in line with the empirical findings of Bessembinder and Seguin (1992) and the theoretical argument of Stein (1987). Once futures are introduced increases in the number of uninformed traders are beneficial even though such increases lower the average informedness of market participants. The latter is mitigated by the increase in risk sharing and the fact that spot traders tend to offset any mistakes the secondary traders make.²⁹

On the other hand, options trading has no significant impact on spot volatility since the coefficient $\mu_{1,o}$ is insignificant in all cases (see Eq. (1) in the third column of Table 4). This result is consistent with that of Bollen (1998), who did not find any impact of options trading on the volatility of the underlying stock. But it is at odds with Kumar et al. (1995, 1998)

²⁹ Subrahmanyam (1991) and Hong (2000) also argue in favour of introducing a futures market in terms of reducing or stabilizing spot price volatility.

Table 5

Effects of derivatives trading.

	Futures trading	Option trading	Expiration effects
Volatility	Decrease	Unchanged	Decrease
Value of shares traded	Unchanged	Decrease	Increase
Number of trades	Unchanged	Decrease	Unchanged

and [Skinner \(1989\)](#), who point out that options reduce the volatility of the underlying stock because (i) they improve the efficiency of incomplete asset markets by expanding the opportunity set facing investors, (ii) speculative traders migrate from the underlying market to the options market since they view options as superior speculative vehicles. As a result the amount of noise trading in the spot market is reduced.³⁰ Many of the possible ways in which the introduction of options contracts might have increased the quality of the underlying cash markets were unlikely to have worked out in the Indian context. If speculators with superior information migrate to the options (and generally speaking derivatives) market, and with the consequent preponderance of retail investors in the cash market, noise trading in the latter market may have actually increased.

By contrast, since the estimates $\mu_{2,f}$ are insignificant, it appears that the average levels of value of shares traded and of number of trades remain the same before and after the introduction of futures trading (see Eq. (2) in the second column of [Table 4](#)). However, the negative and significant estimated values of $\mu_{2,o}$ indicate that on average the value of shares traded and the number of trades decrease after the introduction of option contracts. This result is in line with the theoretical argument in [Kumar et al. \(1995\)](#). They argue that the migration of some speculators to options markets on the listing of options is accompanied by a decrease in trading volume in the underlying security. We have already noted above that there is evidence to suggest that this may have happened in the Indian market.

Finally, we examine the impact of derivatives contracts expiration on trading volume and range-based volatility.³¹ The volatility and volume constant dummies indicate that there are significant expiration day effects. In both equations of model 1 the estimates of $\mu_{i,e}$, $i = 1, 2$, are statistically significant (when we use the value of shares traded), albeit with opposite signs (see the first column of model 1 in [Table 4](#)). The value of shares traded on expiration days is higher, on average, than their value on non-expiration days. By contrast there is no evidence that the expiration of derivatives contract affects the number of trades; the estimated value of $\mu_{2,e}$ is insignificant (see the first column-second row figures of panels A and B in [Table 4](#)). Index futures are cash settled with investors paying any losses or collecting any profits on the expiration day. As a result, the value of shares traded will better reflect investors effort to accommodate losses and profits through the rebalancing of their portfolios in the spot market. For example, investors who have incurred a loss in the futures market will try to cover it, in the cash market, with a few rather than a big number of trades. On the other hand, volatility is lower on expiration days compared to normal trading days. Our estimates from the bivariate dual long-memory model also suggest that the impact of derivatives expiration on volatility is negative. This, is consistent with the results in [Bhaumik and Bose \(2009\)](#), who found that derivatives contract expiration affects GARCH volatility negatively. Overall, we obtain significant negative and positive expiration effects on volatility and value of shares traded, respectively, while the number of trades during expiration days is not affected. [Table 5](#) below gives an overview of the expiration and other effects of derivatives trading.

6. Conclusion

This paper has investigated the issue of temporal ordering of the range-based volatility and trading volume in the NSE, the largest cash and derivatives exchange in India, from 1995 to 2007. The volatility–volume link and the effect of derivatives trading on the cash market are analyzed together in an effort to unravel how the information content of trading volume has changed in an expanding spot/cash market and with the introduction of index futures/options trading. Our results suggest the following.

First, in all three periods the impact of trading volume, proxied by the number of trades or the value of shares traded, on volatility is negative. This result is consistent with the views that the activity of informed traders is inversely related to volatility when the marketplace has increased liquidity ([Li and Wu, 2006](#)), an increasing number of active investors ([Tauchen and Pitts, 1983](#)) and high consensus among investors when new information is released ([Holthausen and Verrecchia, 1990](#)). However, the magnitude of this negative impact of volume on volatility was much reduced after the introduction of options trading. By contrast, volume is not affected by changes in lagged volatility in most of the cases.

The general implication for the Indian stock market is that it has informed traders. In other words, to the extent that inefficiencies exist in the market, it is less likely to be on account on unsophisticated traders and more on account of structural

³⁰ They also argue that liquidity in the underlying market improves because informed traders, since they view options as superior investment vehicles, shift to the options market. Finally, they argue that options may improve the efficiency of the underlying market by increasing the level of public information in the market.

³¹ We have also explored the effect of the expiration of derivatives contracts on some aspects of the underlying cash market using simple parametric and non-parametric tests (results are not reported).

problems that create frictions through, for example, transactions cost or restrictions on information sharing mechanisms such as short sales. This is consistent with the argument that informational asymmetry between informed and uninformed traders in informationally opaque markets may lead to adverse selection whereby uninformed traders require greater risk premium to trade and, in the absence of such risk premium, may exit the market altogether (Lai et al., 2014).³² It also brings into focus the role that market stakeholders such as stock analysts, especially domestic stock analysts, play in increasing the information sophistication of the traders (Bae et al., 2008; Cekauskas et al., 2012). It also raises interesting questions about the impact of participation of overseas investors on the informational sophistication of the average trader.

The results are consistent with the view that introduction of options trading may lead to migration of informed traders to the options market, thereby weakening the impact volume has on volatility. Note that cash market volume decrease after the introduction of option contracts. While this does not in itself guarantee that the migrants are informed traders, given the relative complexity of options trading and in light of the extant literature, it is reasonable to consider this as observation as being supportive of the view that the migration of some speculators to options markets on the listing of options. Volume, however, is unaffected by the introduction of futures trading. This is reasonable given the stylized cash-and-carry relationships that link cash and futures markets, whereby investors often have a foot each in both the cash and futures markets, and is consistent with the result that expirations of equity based derivatives have significant impact on the value of shares traded on expiration days.

Second, the introduction of futures trading leads to a decrease in spot volatility. This finding offers support to the theoretical arguments of Stein (1987) and Hong (2000), and to the available empirical evidence in the Indian context (Bandivadekar and Ghosh, 2003; Raju and Karande, 2003; Vipul, 2006). However, option listings have a negative but insignificant effect on spot volatility. Since the introduction of options trading at the NSE closely followed the introduction of options trading, we have to be careful about interpreting the relative impotence of options trading in reducing cash price volatility. It is entirely possible that both these markets are inhabited by largely the same investors such that the marginal impact of options trading on the spot market is insignificant. This result suggests that there is at least a possibility that the possible ways (more information, higher liquidity, better risk sharing) in which the introduction of options might have increased the quality of the underlying cash markets may not have worked out in the Indian context.³³

What lessons do these results about the Indian stock market have for capital market reform in emerging market economies? Arguably, stock market reform in emerging market economies involves two related objectives. In part, the reforms aim at reducing transactions cost that adversely affect depth and width of these markets. In part, they also aim at increasing information flows within markets and the share of informed trading. This paper does not address the transactions cost issue as such, but its results have implications for the information content of trades and, as such, the implications for the Indian market is favourable. Allied evidence suggests that this increase in information content may have been driven by substitution of retail investors by institutional investors and substitution of domestic investors by overseas investors. Given the time period of this study, the former possibly affects the results much more than the latter; foreign participation in Indian equity as a proportion of total number of trades has increased rapidly since 2008. The dominance of institutional investors is not new and is a feature of developed capital markets as well. Emerging market economies may benefit from such a transition, but if the transition has to be triggered by the unfortunate experiences of Indian retail investors in the 1990s, the associated cost can be fairly high. These economies should, however, be careful about relying too much on participation of foreign investors in raising the information content of trades, given the macroeconomic risks associated with cross-border capital flows. Finally, the Indian experience suggests that emerging market economies can be much more sanguine about the introduction of derivative products for their stock exchanges.

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³² According to a recent Bloomberg report, the proportion of trades attributable to retail investors declined from over 80% in 2003 in less than 35% in 2013 (<http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2015-04-09/india-stock-rally-needs-more-domestic-retail-investors>). The report suggests that this is at least in part attributable to the perception that the market is manipulated by large (informed) investors, a perception that can arguably traced back to major asset bubbles and scams in the Indian stock market in the nineties.

³³ Our results also imply that, more information, like access to order flow data, would motivate investors to trade more in the cash market and help them to better distinguish between the noisy liquidity demand and changes in fundamental characteristics of the assets. Secondly, allowing futures and options on individual securities to be traded in the NSE is likely to increase the company-specific information content of security prices resulting on better informed investors and more efficient asset prices.

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