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Spillovers between Bitcoin and other assets during bear and bull markets

Elie Bouri , Mahamitra Das, Rangan Gupta & David Roubaud

Pages 5935-5949 | Published online: 29 Jun 2018

Cite this article <https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2018.1488075>

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ABSTRACT

This article contributes to the embryonic literature on the relations between Bitcoin and conventional assets. It examines the spillover between Bitcoin and the largest conventional assets, currencies, and commodities, using a VAR model based on a sample period from 2010 to 2018. The results show that there are significant spillovers between Bitcoin and conventional assets, and that the direction of the spillover is asymmetric. Bitcoin is more volatile than it was in 2010, and this volatility is transmitted to conventional assets. The results also show that Bitcoin is considered to be a hedge against conventional assets.

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concerned about the vulnerability that Bitcoin represents to the stability of the global financial system.

KEYWORDS: Bitcoin asset classes return and volatility spillovers asymmetry and smooth transition bivariate GARCH-M

JEL CLASSIFICATION: C11 G15

Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

Notes

¹ In a recent press release, Morgan Stanley indicated that the mining of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies could require approximately 140 terra watt-hours of electricity in 2018.

² For example, Luther and Salter ([2017](#)) indicated that the interest in Bitcoin increased considerably following the bailout deal between Cyprus and international lenders.

³ Before discussing the different hypotheses of interest pertaining to the STVAR-BTGARCH-M model, we tested for linearity versus non-linearity in the data generating process and A4 in the standard underlying transition model.



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