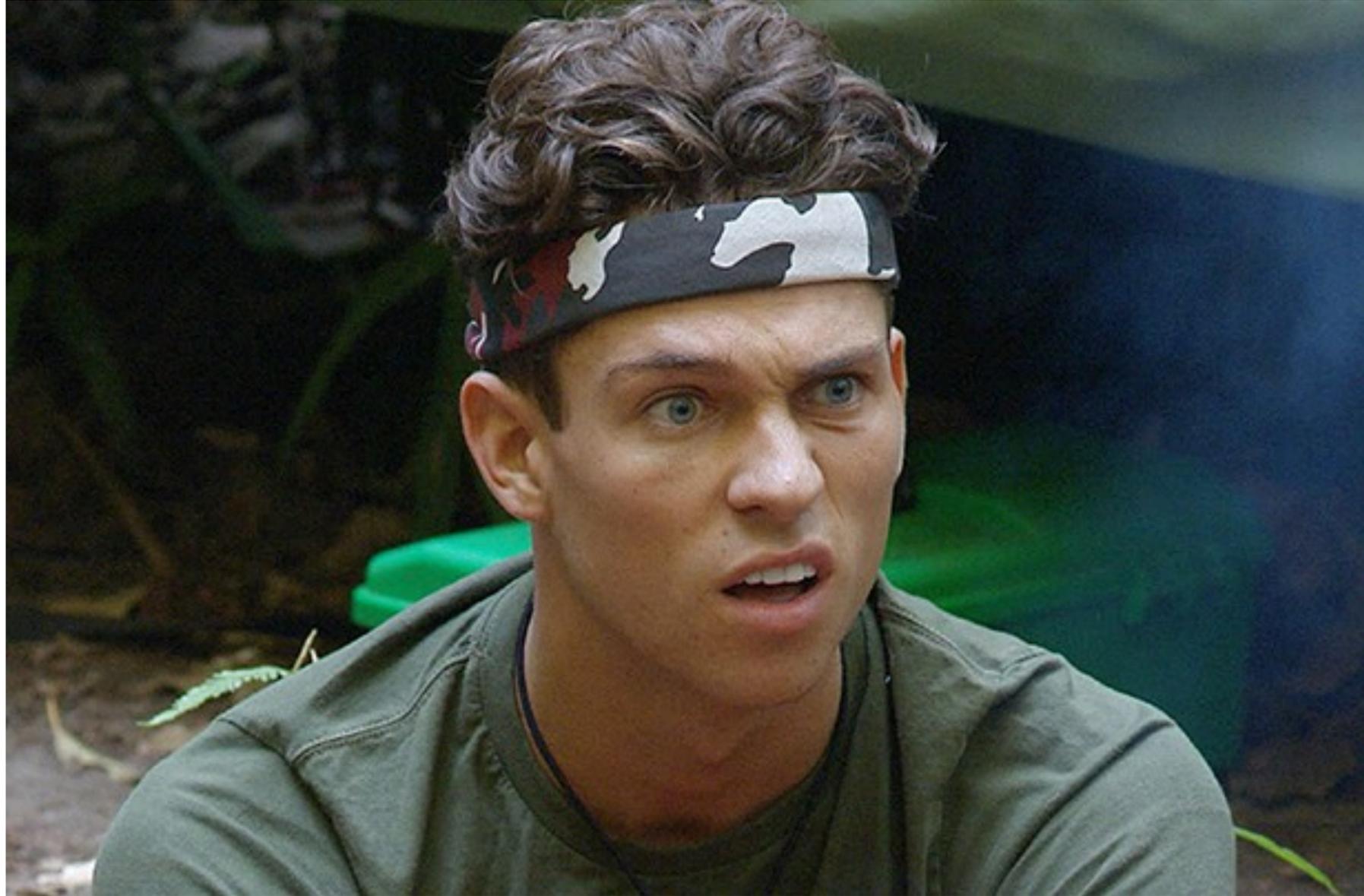


# Estimating Financial Risk with Spark

Sandy Ryza

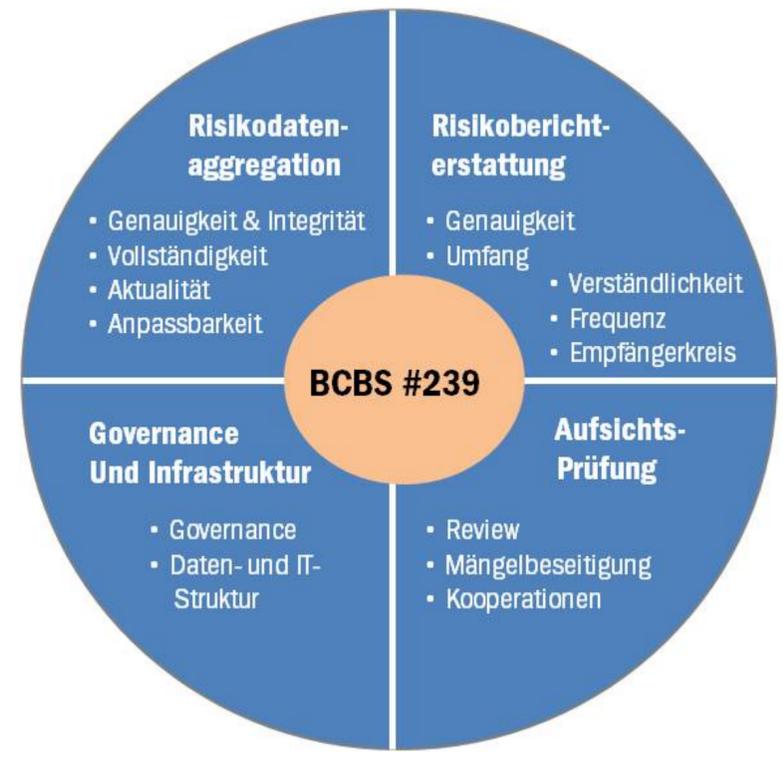
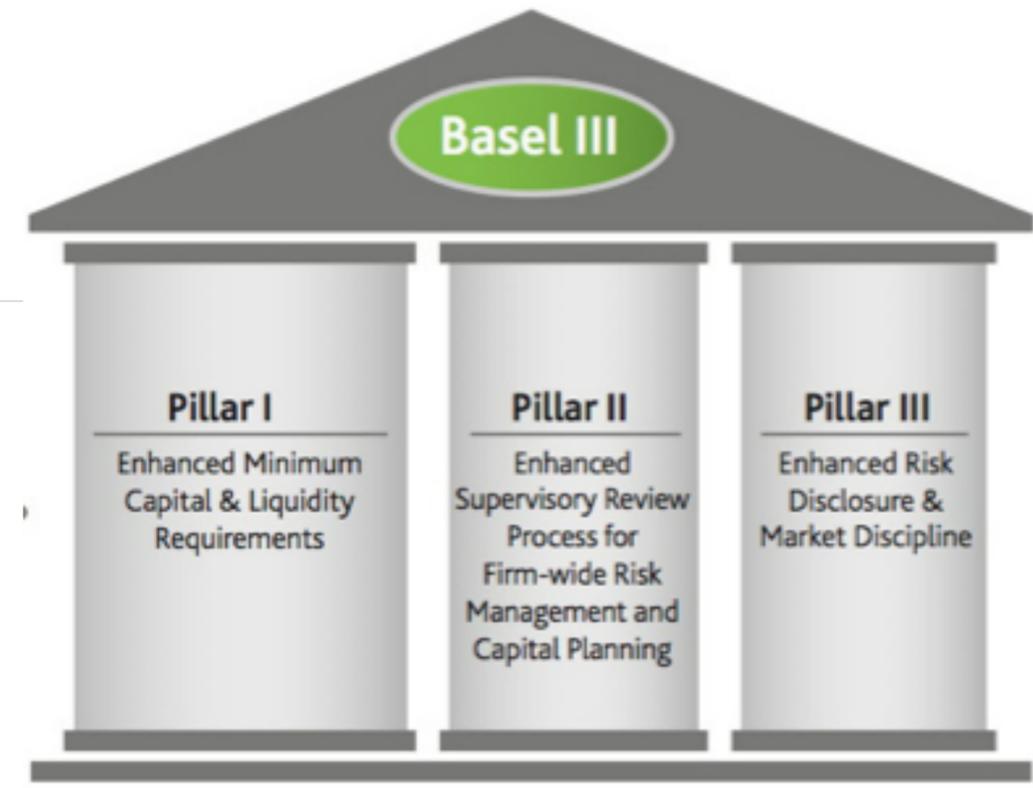
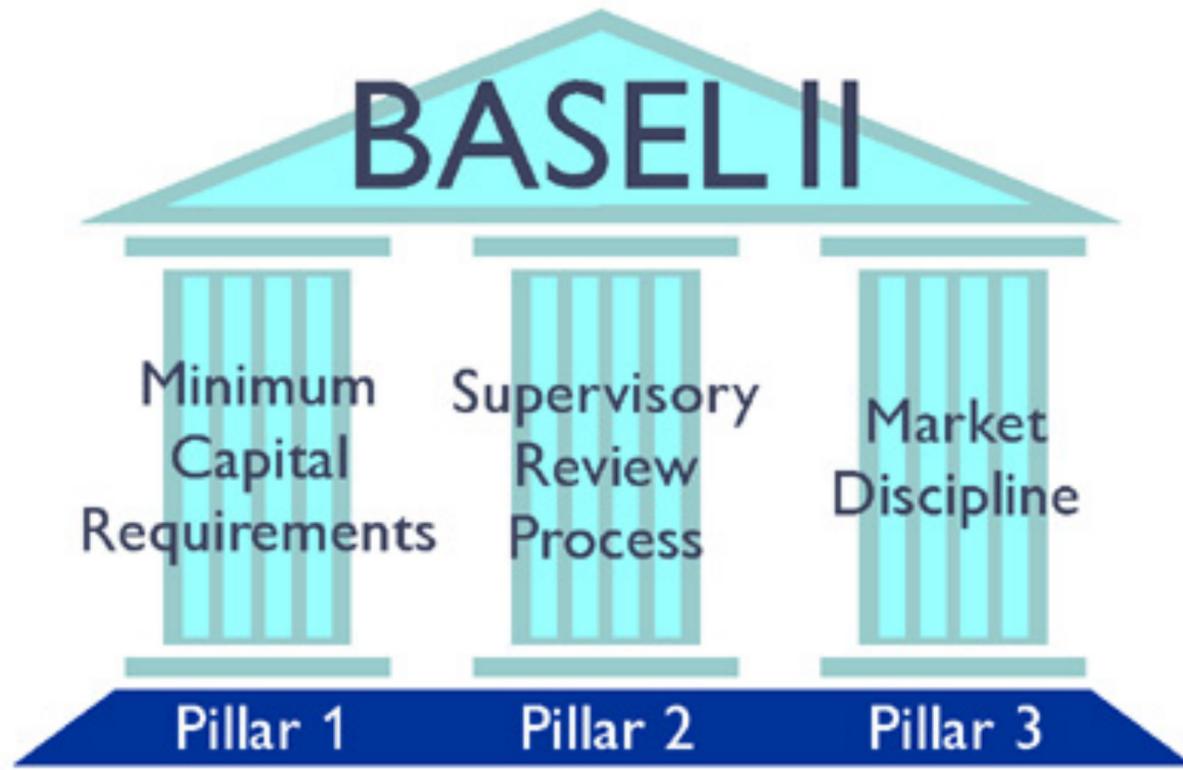
Senior Data Scientist, Cloudera







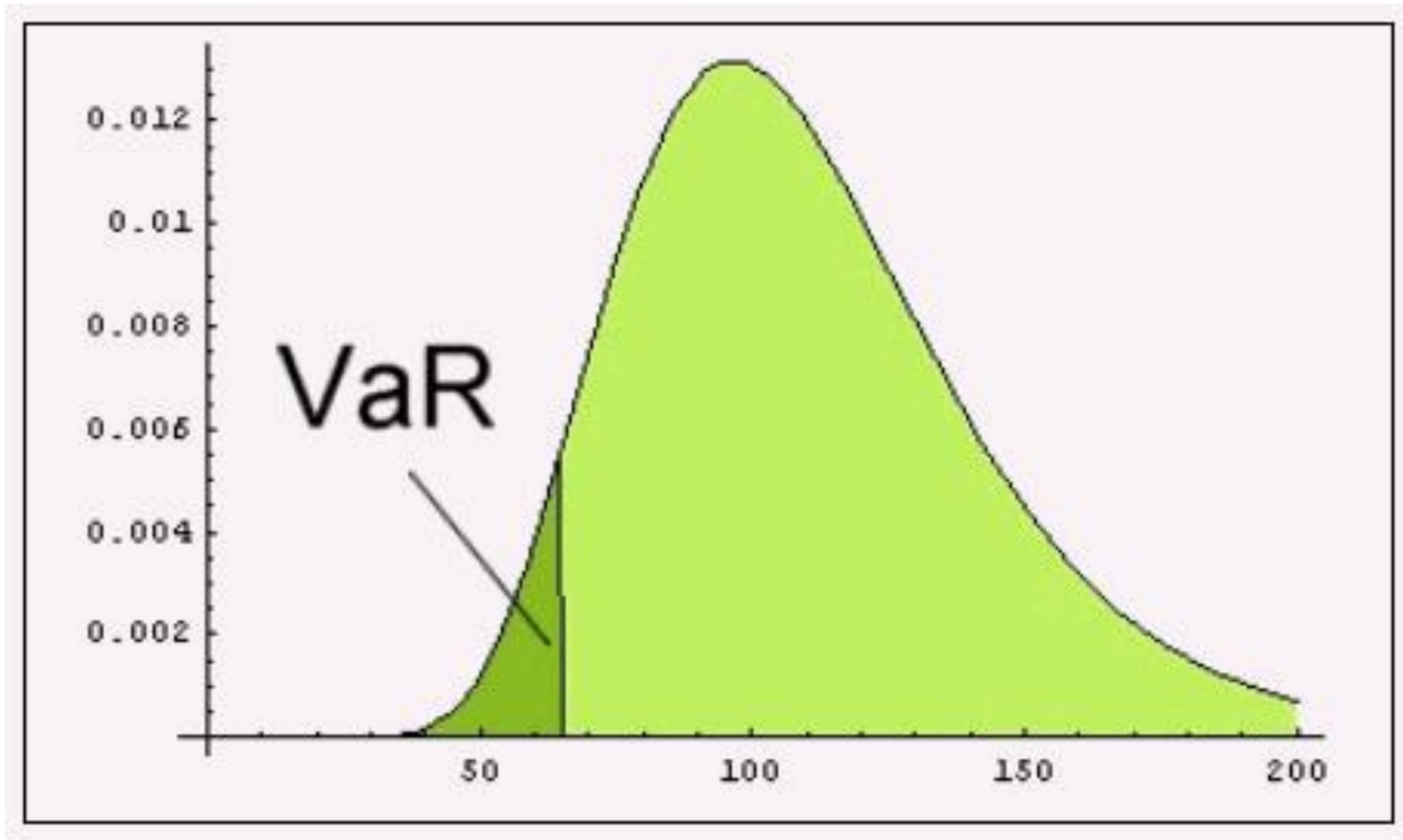
In reasonable  
circumstances, what's  
the most you can expect  
to lose?



```
def valueAtRisk(  
    portfolio,  
    timePeriod,  
    pValue  
): Double = { ... }
```

```
def valueAtRisk(  
    portfolio,  
    2 weeks,  
    .05  
) : = $1,000,000
```

Probability density



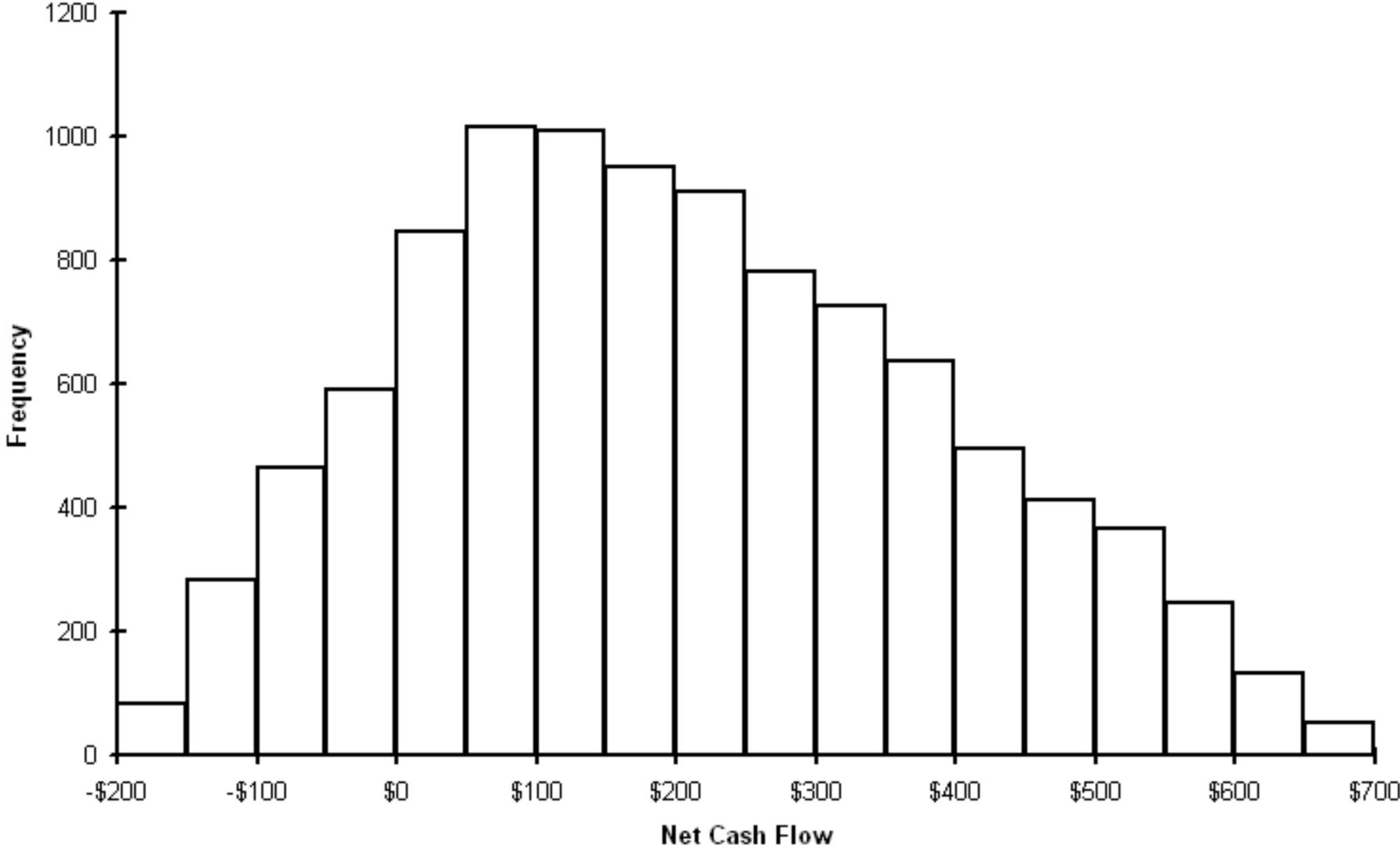
Portfolio return (\$) over time period

# VaR estimation approaches

- Variance-covariance
- Historical
- Monte Carlo



### RiskSim Monte Carlo Simulation



# Market Risk Factors

- Indexes (S&P 500, NASDAQ)
- Prices of commodities
- Currency exchange rates
- Treasury bonds

# Predicting Instrument Returns from Factor Returns

- Train a linear model on the factors for each instrument

$$r_{it} = c_i + \sum_{j=1}^{|w_i|} w_{ij} \cdot m_{tj}$$

# Fancier

- Add features that are non-linear transformations of the market risk factors
- Decision trees
- For options, use Black-Scholes

```
import org.apache.commons.math3.stat.regression.OLSMultipleLinearRegression
```

```
// Load the instruments and factors
```

```
val factorReturns: Array[Array[Double]] = ...
```

```
val instrumentReturns: RDD[Array[Double]] = ...
```

```
// Fit a model to each instrument
```

```
val models: Array[Array[Double]] =
```

```
  instrumentReturns.map { instrument =>
```

```
    val regression = new OLSMultipleLinearRegression()
```

```
    regression.newSampleData(instrument, factorReturns)
```

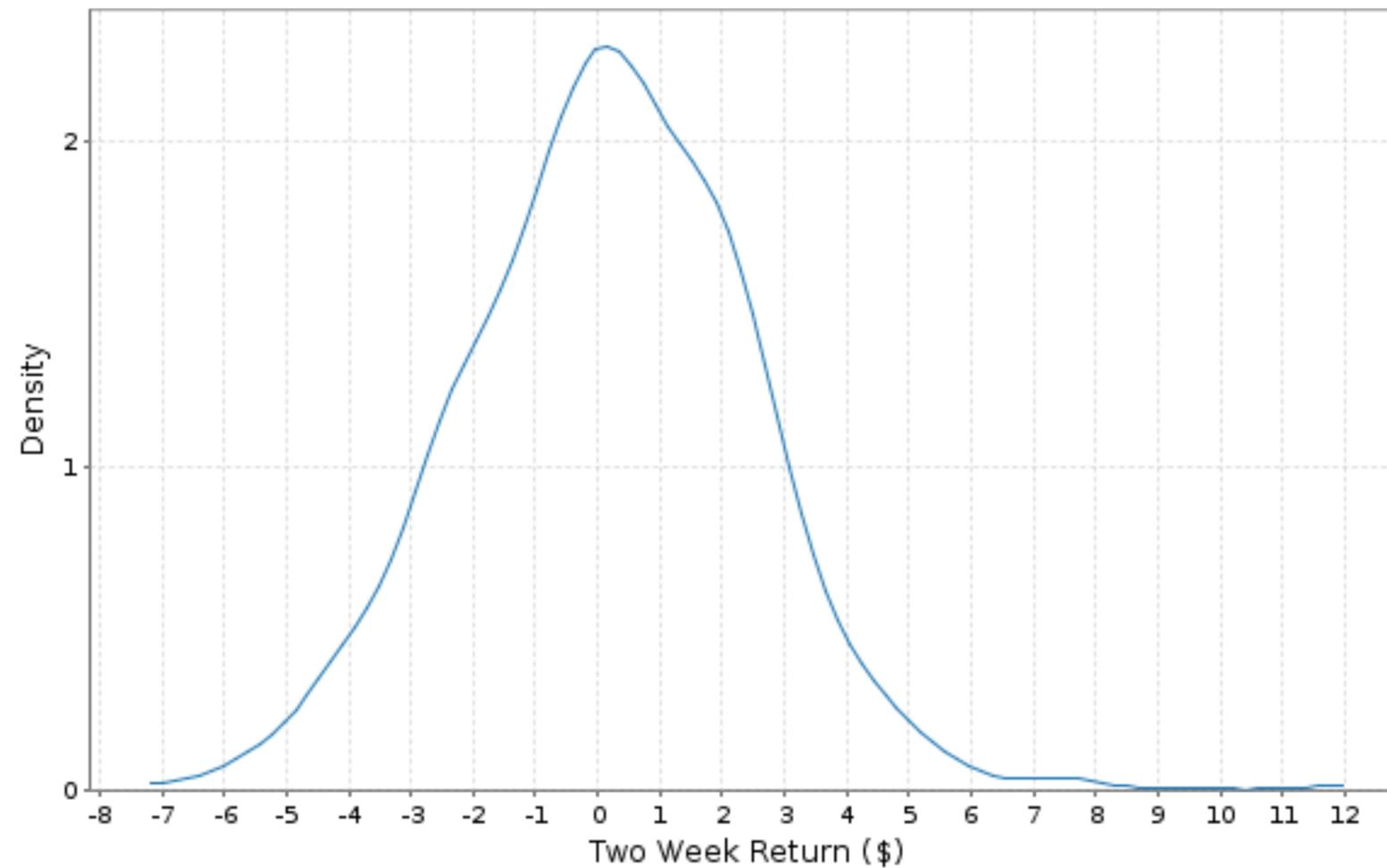
```
    regression.estimateRegressionParameters()
```

```
  }.collect()
```

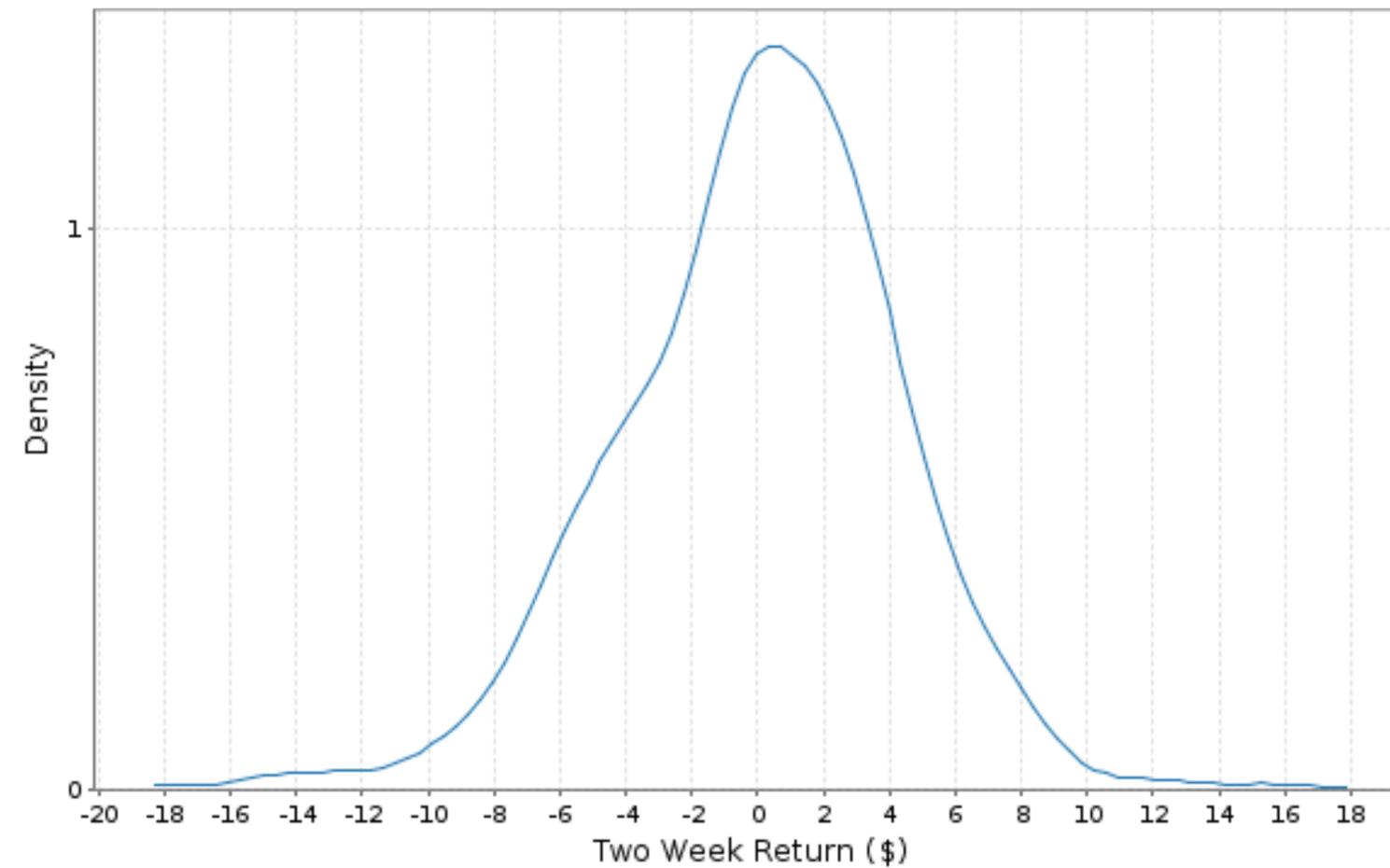
# How to sample factor returns?

- Need to be able to generate sample vectors where each component is a factor return.
- Factors returns are usually correlated.

# Distribution of US treasury bond two-week returns



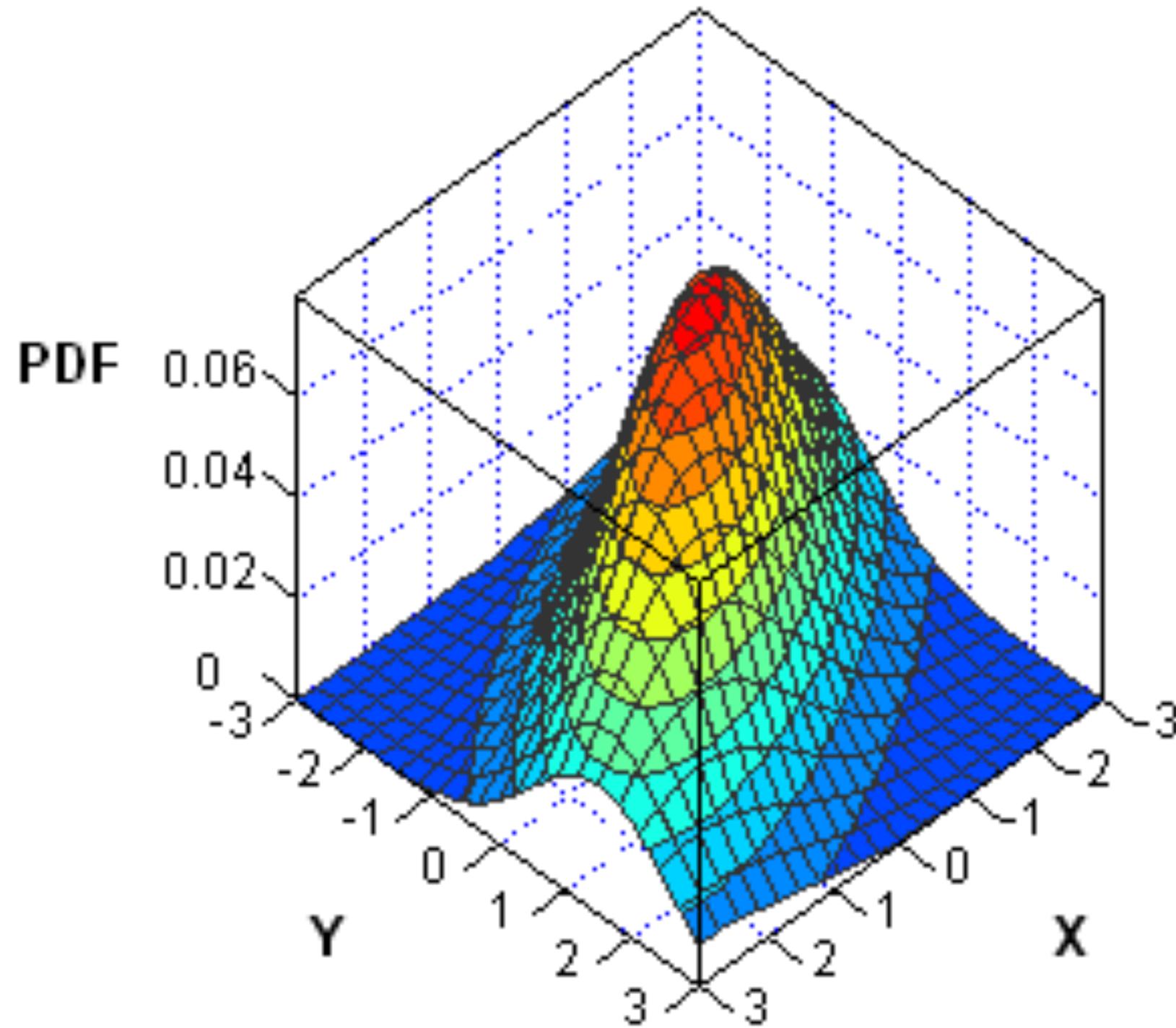
# Distribution of crude oil two-week returns



# The Multivariate Normal Distribution

$$m_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mu, \Sigma)$$

- Probability distribution over vectors of length N
- Given all the variables but one, that variable is distributed according to a univariate normal distribution
- Models correlations between variables



```
import org.apache.commons.math3.stat.correlation.Covariance

// Compute means
val factorMeans: Array[Double] = transpose(factorReturns)
    .map(factor => factor.sum / factor.size)

// Compute covariances
val factorCovs: Array[Array[Double]] = new Covariance(factorReturns)
    .getCovarianceMatrix().getData()
```

# Fancier

- Multivariate normal often a poor choice compared to more sophisticated options
- Fatter tails: Multivariate T Distribution
- Filtered historical simulation
  - ARMA
  - GARCH

# Running the Simulations

- Create an RDD of seeds
- Use each seed to generate a set of simulations
- Aggregate results

```
def trialReturn(factorDist: MultivariateNormalDistribution, models: Seq[Array[Double]]): Double = {  
  val trialFactorReturns = factorDist.sample()  
  var totalReturn = 0.0  
  
  for (model <- models) {  
    // Add the returns from the instrument to the total trial return  
    for (i <- until trialFactorReturns.length) {  
      totalReturn += trialFactorReturns(i) * model(i)  
    }  
  }  
  totalReturn  
}
```

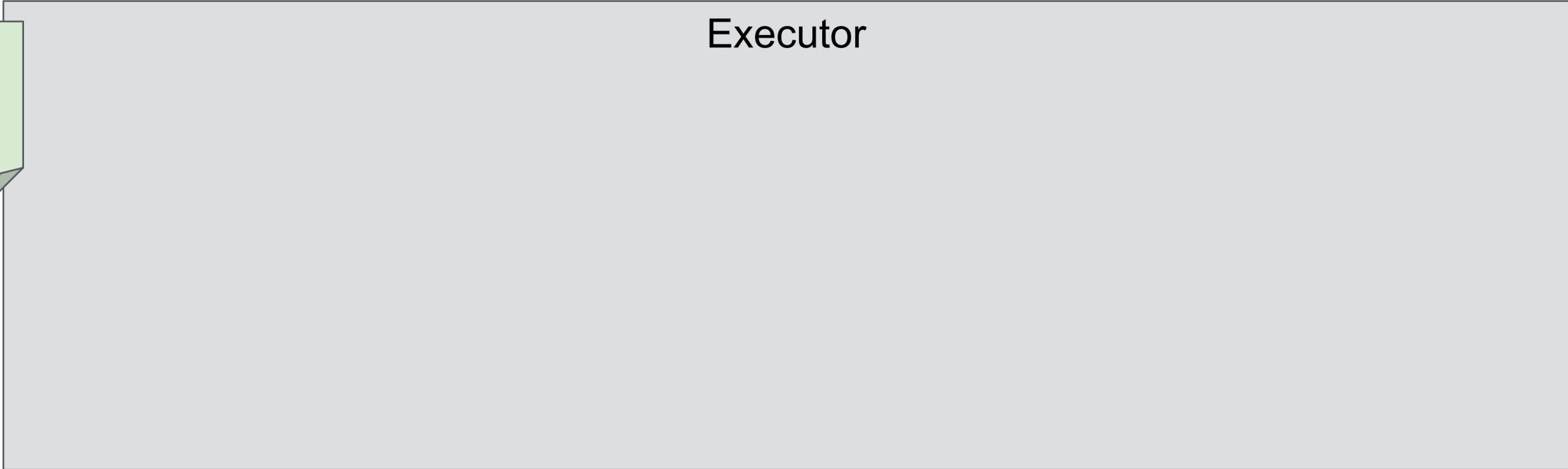
```
// Broadcast the factor return -> instrument return models
val bModels = sc.broadcast(models)

// Generate a seed for each task
val seeds = (baseSeed until baseSeed + parallelism)
val seedRdd = sc.parallelize(seeds, parallelism)

// Create an RDD of trials
val trialReturns: RDD[Double] = seedRdd.flatMap { seed =>
  trialReturns(seed, trialsPerTask, bModels.value, factorMeans, factorCovs)
}
```



Model parameters

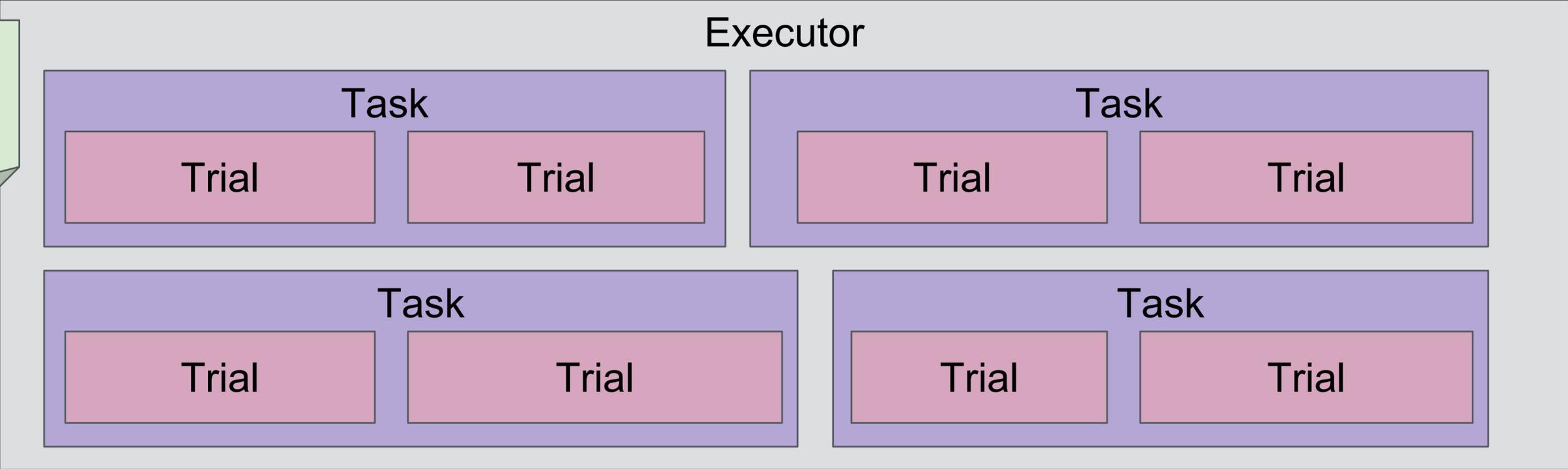


Model parameters

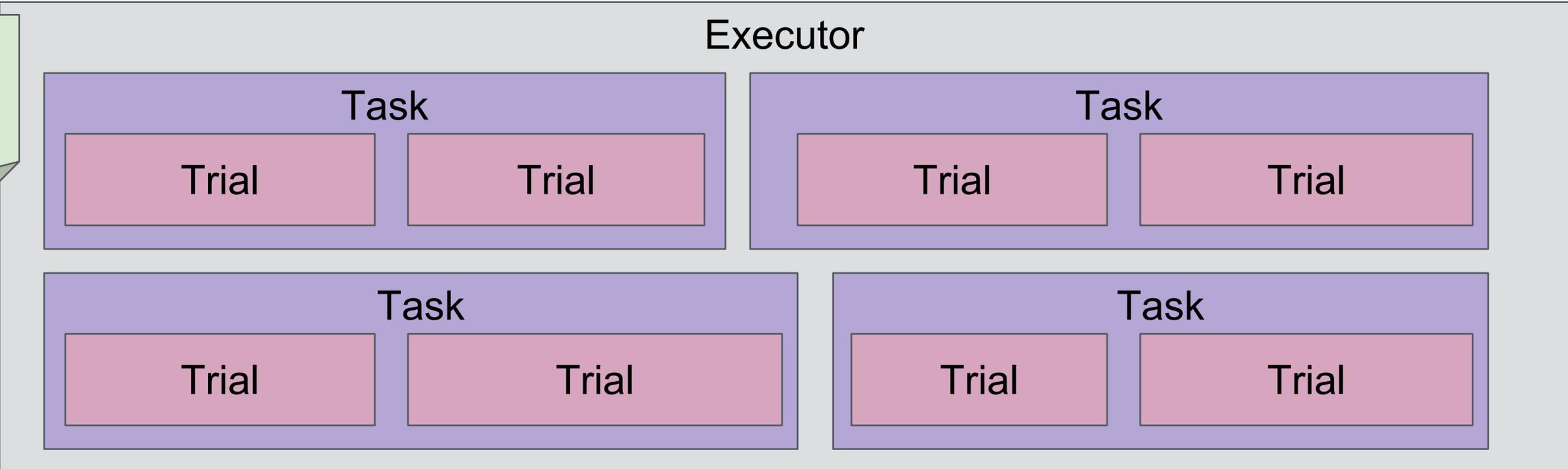




Model parameters



Model parameters

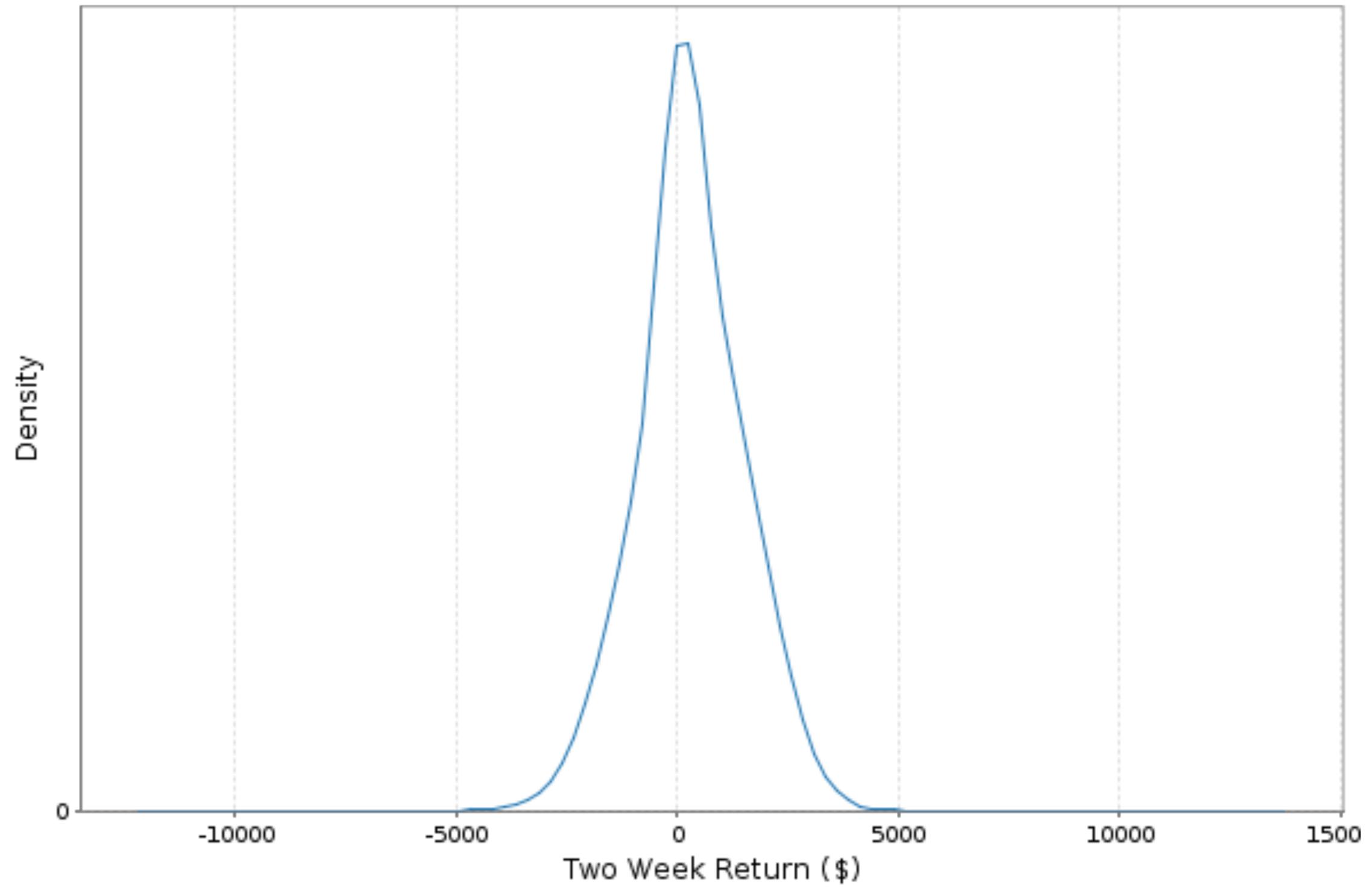


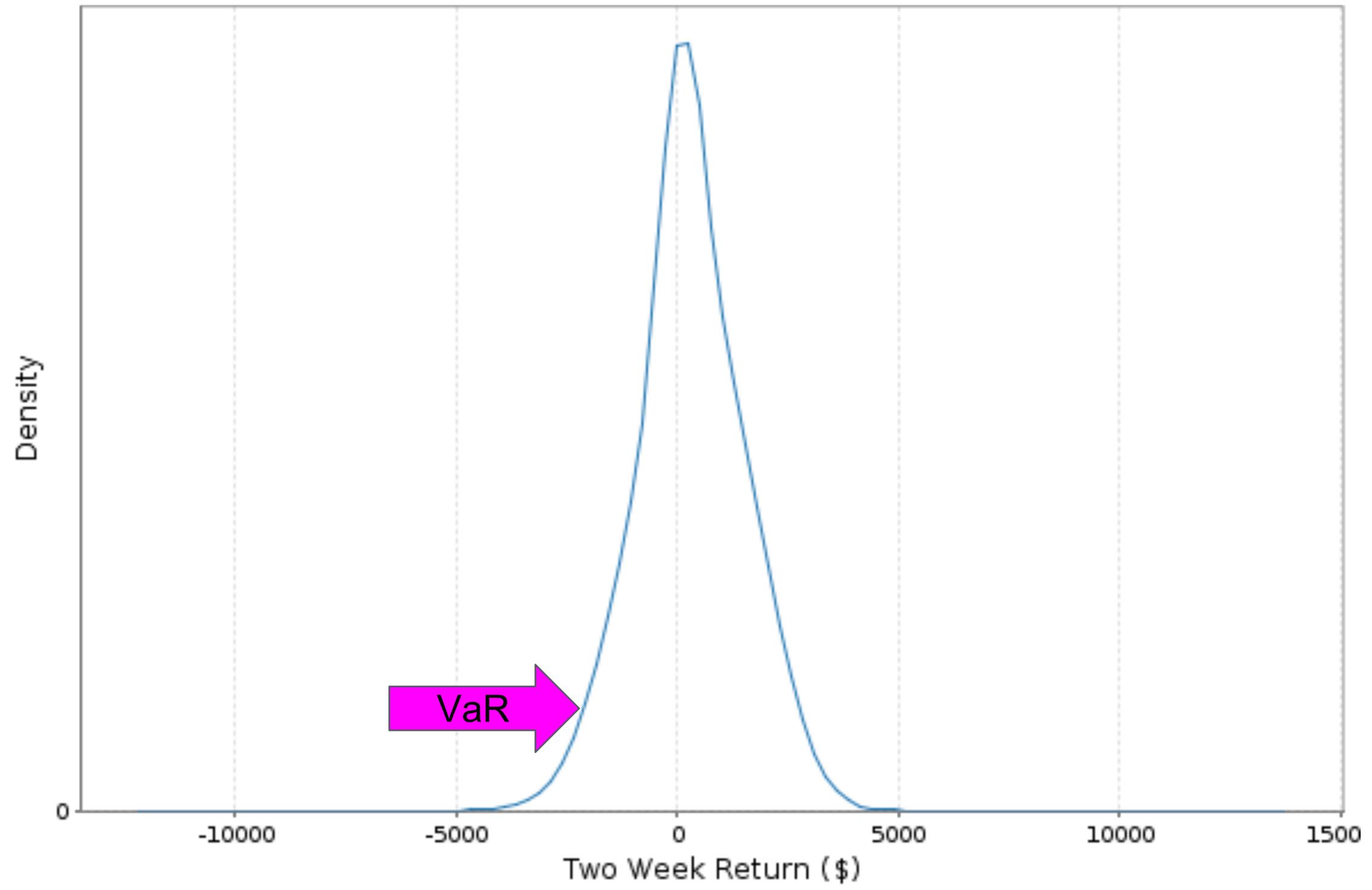
```
// Cache for reuse
trialReturns.cache()

val numTrialReturns = trialReturns.count().toInt

// Compute value at risk
val valueAtRisk = trials.takeOrdered(numTrialReturns / 20).last

// Compute expected shortfall
val expectedShortfall =
    trials.takeOrdered(numTrialReturns / 20).sum / (numTrialReturns / 20)
```







**Platform**  
**Symphony**



**RiskMetrics Group**

**MOODY'S**  
**ANALYTICS**

So why Spark?

# Easier to use

- Scala and Python REPLs
- Single platform for
  - Cleaning data
  - Fitting models
  - Running simulations
  - Analyzing results

# New powers

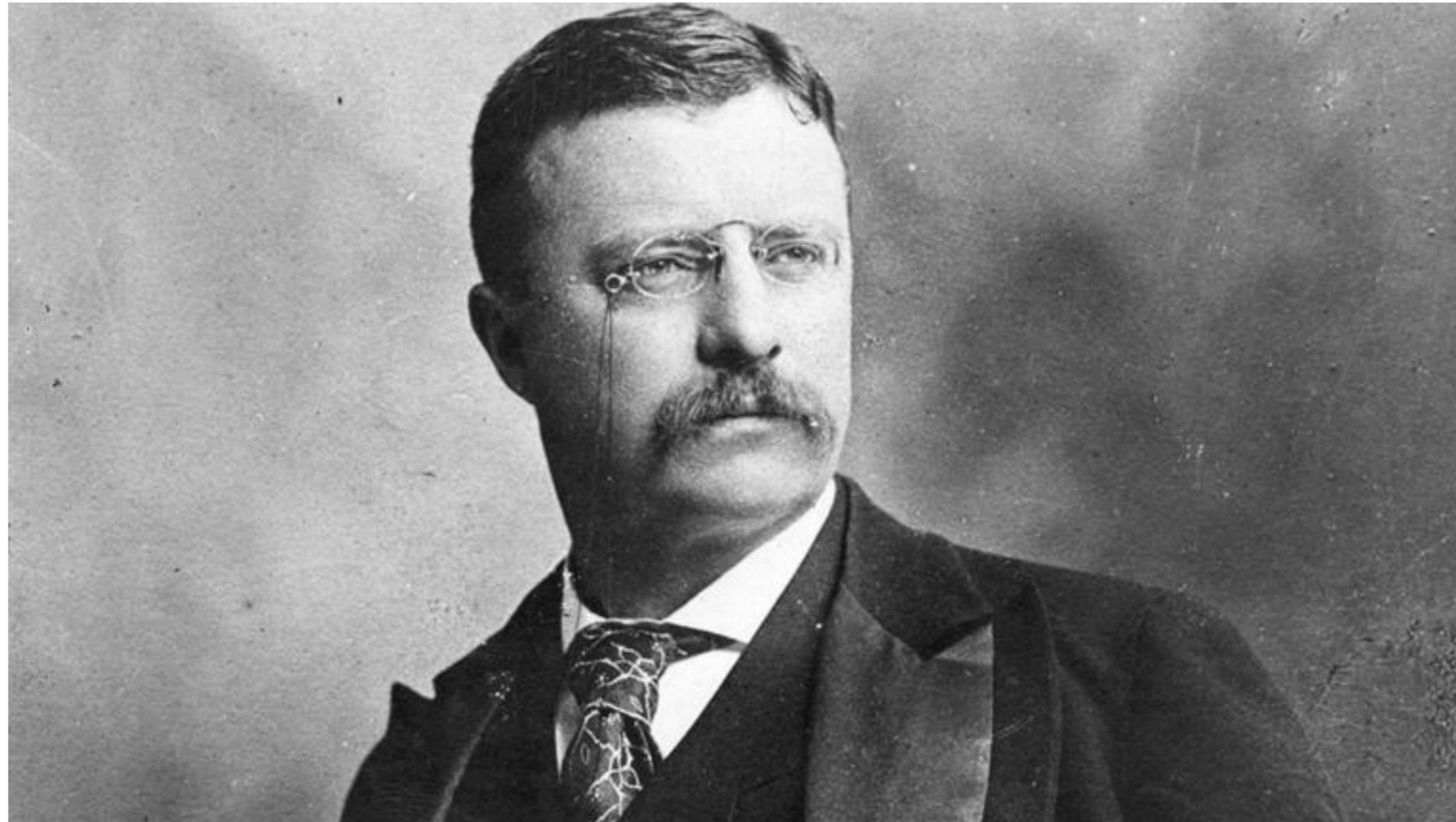
- Save full simulation-loss matrix in memory (or disk)
  - Run deeper analyses
  - Join with other datasets



# But it's CPU bound and we're using Java?

- Computational bottlenecks are normally in matrix operations, which can be BLAS-ified
- Can call out to GPUs just like in C++
- Memory access patterns aren't high-GC inducing

# Want to do this yourself?



# spark-finance

- <https://github.com/cloudera/spark-finance>
- Everything here + the fancier stuff
- Patches welcome!

