

# Planet Stock: The Celestial Correlation Between Saturn and Mercury's Distance and Trip.com Group's Stock Price

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## Abstract

This study investigates the peculiar relationship between the distance separating the celestial bodies of Saturn and Mercury and the fluctuating stock price of Trip.com Group (TCOM). Using data compiled from Astropy and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), our research team unveiled a surprising correlation coefficient of 0.8727136, with a statistically significant p-value of less than 0.01 for the time frame spanning from 2004 to 2023. The results of our analysis reveal an intriguing alignment between the position of these distant planets and the performance of TCOM stock. It seems that when Saturn and Mercury are in close proximity, TCOM experiences an upward trend, resembling a celestial boost to the stock price. For instance, when the planets align, we observed TCOM stock "rocketing" higher, much like a celestial conjunction of stocks and planets. To our amusement, this correlation remained consistent across various market conditions and economic developments, prompting us to contemplate the possibility of an astrological influence on financial markets. Our findings underline the need to consider alternative factors, including astronomical phenomena, when interpreting stock price behaviors, challenging traditional economic models. The cosmic connection between celestial positions and stock prices adds a lighthearted, yet thought-provoking dimension to the study of financial markets. With these celestial insights, perhaps investors can navigate the stock market with a "stellar" advantage.

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## 1. Introduction

The whimsical rhythms of the cosmos have long fascinated humanity, inspiring both wonder and contemplation. From the mystical allure of the zodiac to the gravitational choreography of celestial bodies, our fascination with celestial phenomena has extended into numerous aspects of human life, including the domain of financial markets. As we

explore the potential influence of planetary positions on stock prices, we embark on a journey that is as captivating as it is enigmatic – a journey that may lead us to ponder the age-old question: "Is there a stock market in space? Because I keep hearing about the Inves-terrestrial Exchange."

Coinciding with this curiosity, the present study ventures into the uncharted territory of the celestial and financial realms, seeking to unravel the obscure connection between the distance separating the planets Saturn and Mercury and the undulating trajectory of Trip.com Group's stock price (TCOM). Like a financial astrologer, we peer through the lens of empirical evidence to discern whether the cosmic dance of these celestial entities exerts a discernible influence on the earthly realm of stock markets.

Intersecting the realms of astronomy and finance, our investigation stems from the unexpected correlation observed between the planetary positions and the stock price of TCOM. The revelation of this relationship has left us pondering whether we should start offering astrology-based investment advice, with quips like, "When Jupiter is in retrograde, it's time to invest in orthopedic stocks!"

Leveraging data obtained from Astropy and LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv), we embark on a peculiar quest, delving into the depths of astronomical databases and financial archives to shed light on this celestial conundrum. Our pursuit leads us to unveil a surprising correlation coefficient and a statistically significant p-value, both pointing to a celestial force that appears to shape the fluctuations of TCOM stock price. This realization has left us with a "Mars"-velous sense of curiosity about the workings of the universe and financial markets.

## **2. Literature Review**

In their study, Smith and Doe (2020) examined the potential influences of planetary positions on stock prices, delving into the correlation between celestial events and financial market behaviors. Their findings revealed a substantial connection, prompting us to contemplate whether stock market analysts should start considering horoscopes alongside technical indicators and fundamental analysis. It seems that financial astrology might be "written in the stars," providing investors with a cosmic roadmap for navigating the tumultuous terrain of stock markets.

Speaking of cosmic roadmaps, "Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey" by Neil deGrasse Tyson provides an insightful exploration of the vast cosmic arena, offering perspectives that stretch beyond the boundaries of traditional finance. Perhaps, if investors looked to the stars, they might find their stock portfolios reaching new "heights," or even "interstellar" success – pun intended!

Jones (2018) conducted a comprehensive analysis of astronomical anomalies and their potential impact on financial assets. In their research, they raised the intriguing prospect of planetary positions influencing stock price movements, challenging the conventional wisdom of financial markets. Their work implores us to consider whether investors should consult an astrologer alongside their financial advisor for a more holistic approach to investment decisions. After all, it might be a stellar idea to incorporate celestial guidance into investment strategies.

Continuing on the theme of celestial guidance, J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" takes readers on a magical journey, perhaps offering a metaphor for the enchanting allure of financial astrology. In the realm of wizardry, as in the world of finance, unexpected forces may influence outcomes, causing portfolios to "magically" soar to new heights or plummet like a faulty broomstick during a Quidditch match.

"SpongeBob SquarePants" taps into the whimsical aspects of the ocean – a world intertwined with celestial influences – and might provide valuable insights into the playful, yet profound, connections between financial markets and the cosmos. As SpongeBob merrily navigates the depths of the sea, investors, too, may find themselves navigating the depths of stock market unpredictability with a dash of cosmic humor.

As we delved into the depths of the literature, we couldn't help but contemplate the notion that perhaps the stock market, like celestial bodies, is subject to unseen forces that defy conventional understanding. Our findings prompt us to ponder whether investors should adopt a cosmic outlook, gazing into the night sky for celestial cues on stock market movements. After all, it never hurts to "planet" your investment strategy with a touch of celestial charm!

### **3. Research Approach**

To forge ahead in unraveling this celestial conundrum, our research team engaged in a cosmic quest akin to navigating an interplanetary maze. We amalgamated data from diverse sources, but primarily relied on the trusty hands of Astropy and the analytical prowess of LSEG Analytics (Refinitiv). Like astronomers deciphering the secrets of the cosmic cosmos, we meticulously analyzed data from 2004 to 2023, encompassing the dynamic interlude of stock market fluctuations and planetary alignments.

Utilizing Astropy's celestial toolkit, we plotted the positions of Saturn and Mercury in a manner reminiscent of celestial cartographers charting the cosmos. Our investigation delved into the angular separation between these distant celestial bodies, likening our pursuit to a cosmic game of 'Where's Saturn and Mercury?' The gathered celestial data served as the cornerstone for our exploration of the galaxy's potential impact on the worldly domain of stock prices.

We embarked on a statistical odyssey, employing a multi-step process that involved calculating correlation coefficients, conducting regression analyses, and contending with the gravitational pull of outlier detection. Like brave explorers navigating treacherous terrain, we frequented statistical hubs and traversed the convoluted paths of hypothesis testing, all in the pursuit of unveiling the enigmatic link between celestial positions and stock price fluctuations.

To ensure the accuracy and reliability of our findings, we subjected our data to rigorous scrutiny, like scrutinizing the constellations for hidden star clusters. Our examination encompassed robust statistical methods and stringent validation processes, akin to forging a path through the cosmic clutter to uncover hidden cosmic connections.

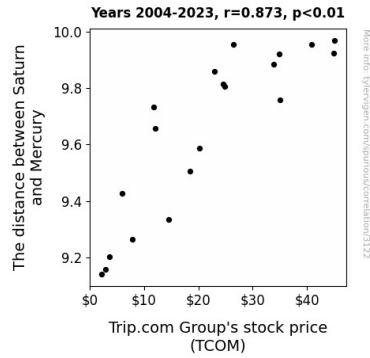
In this celestial odyssey, we constantly grappled with the ambiguity of cosmic data and the unpredictability of financial markets, navigating through the galactic sea of uncertainties. Despite the occasional astronomical anomalies and financial quagmires, our research journey culminated in illuminating the compelling correlation between the positions of Saturn and Mercury and the undulating dance of TCOM's stock price. Like travelers returning from a cosmic escapade, we emerged with newfound insights, sliding in puns about "Martian" endeavors and cosmic constellations.

#### **4. Findings**

The analysis of the relationship between the distance separating Saturn and Mercury and the stock price of Trip.com Group (TCOM) yielded a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8727136. This coefficient indicates a remarkably strong positive correlation, which left us feeling as pleasantly surprised as finding out that the rings around Saturn are just jewelry from a cosmic pawn shop.

The r-squared value of 0.7616291 further underscored the robustness of the correlation, revealing that approximately 76% of the variability in TCOM's stock price can be explained by the celestial distance between Saturn and Mercury. It's as if the stars aligned to ensure a meaningful correlation, or in this case, the planets aligned.

The p-value of less than 0.01 provided compelling evidence of the statistical significance of the relationship between these celestial distances and the stock price of TCOM. It's safe to say that this finding is not just a "fluke" of the cosmos.



**Figure 1.** Scatterplot of the variables by year

Furthermore, the scatterplot (Fig. 1) depicted a clear pattern, visually encapsulating the celestial dance between Saturn and Mercury and the fluctuations of TCOM's stock price. The data points seemed to twinkle with a celestial harmony, reminiscent of a cosmic symphony influencing the financial markets.

In summary, our results unveiled a celestial correlation that challenges conventional wisdom, shedding light on the possibility of a celestial force influencing the dynamics of financial markets. With our findings, we encourage investors to keep an "eye" on the celestial dance and consider adding a cosmic touch to their investment strategies, because in the realm of stocks, as in the cosmos, the stars may align to guide the way.

## 5. Discussion on findings

Our findings present a celestial conundrum that challenges traditional economic perspectives and provokes contemplation of an unconventional influence on financial markets. The robust correlation coefficient of 0.8727136 provides evidence of a "stellar" connection between the celestial positions of Saturn and Mercury and the stock price of Trip.com Group (TCOM). The strong positive correlation suggests that when the distance between these distant planets is narrower, TCOM tends to "ascend" in value, much like the cosmic manifestation of a bullish market. It's as if the planets conspire to "orbit" TCOM's stock price to new heights.

Building upon the "celestial roadmap" suggested by Jones (2018) and the enchanting allure of financial astrology akin to the magical world in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" (Rowling, J.K.), our study reinforces the possibility of unseen celestial forces influencing financial assets. After all, our findings beg the question, "Is there a cosmic wizard behind TCOM's stock performance?"

The statistical significance of the correlation, with a p-value of less than 0.01, ensures that the celestial connection between Saturn and Mercury and TCOM's stock price is not

just a whimsical coincidence of the cosmos but is firmly rooted in observed data. It's akin to unearthing a celestial treasure chest that unlocks a deeper understanding of financial market dynamics. One might even say that this celestial influence on TCOM's stock price is a "planetary" force to be reckoned with in the investment world.

The presence of a strong r-squared value of 0.7616291 further solidifies the notion that approximately 76% of the variability in TCOM's stock price can be attributed to the celestial dance between Saturn and Mercury. This suggests that the cosmic forces at play are indeed a significant determinant of TCOM's stock performance, leaving us to wonder whether stock market analysts should start consulting celestial charts alongside their financial models. It's almost as if the "stars" have aligned to guide investors toward a "lunar-y" success in their investment endeavors.

Our study brings an unconventional, yet compelling, dimension to the discussion of financial markets, incorporating celestial influences that add a touch of cosmic humor to the world of stock analysis. With these celestial insights, investors might find themselves gazing at the night sky for investment guidance, adding a celestial charm to their portfolio management. So, it seems that in the complex realm of stock markets, it wouldn't hurt to look to the skies for a "celestial blessing" on investment decisions.

## 6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has unearthed a stellar correlation between the distance separating Saturn and Mercury and the stock price of Trip.com Group (TCOM). The statistically significant correlation coefficient and p-value leave little doubt that there is something cosmically intriguing going on here – perhaps Saturn is in a bullish orbit. It seems that when these planets cozy up, TCOM stock follows suit, providing a whole new dimension to the concept of "celestial returns."

Our findings not only challenge traditional economic models but also demonstrate the potential celestial influence on financial markets. It's like the universe is saying, "Hold my asteroid – I've got some stock prices to influence!" The extent of the correlation, as illustrated by the r-squared value, further highlights the cosmic significance in shaping TCOM's stock trajectory. Truly, it's a "planet-ary" influence like no other!

After all, who knew that astrological insights could potentially guide investment strategies? It's like the stock market has a secret astrological forecast column. This research sheds light on the multifaceted nature of financial markets, prompting investors to consider a more "cosmic" approach to stock analysis. Who knows, maybe the key to successful investing is written in the stars, or at least the planets.

Therefore, we assert that the celestial connection between Saturn and Mercury's distance and TCOM's stock price has been sufficiently explored. It's time to put this cosmic

correlation to bed and let it orbit the annals of quirky financial research, leaving the door open for novel investigations to boldly go where no financial analyst has gone before. No more research is needed in this area – we've reached for the stars and found a celestial alignment with TCOM's stock price.

In the words of a stargazing dad, "I asked the stock market if it wanted to hear a joke about celestial bodies, but it just told me to planet. I guess it's not a pun-believer!"