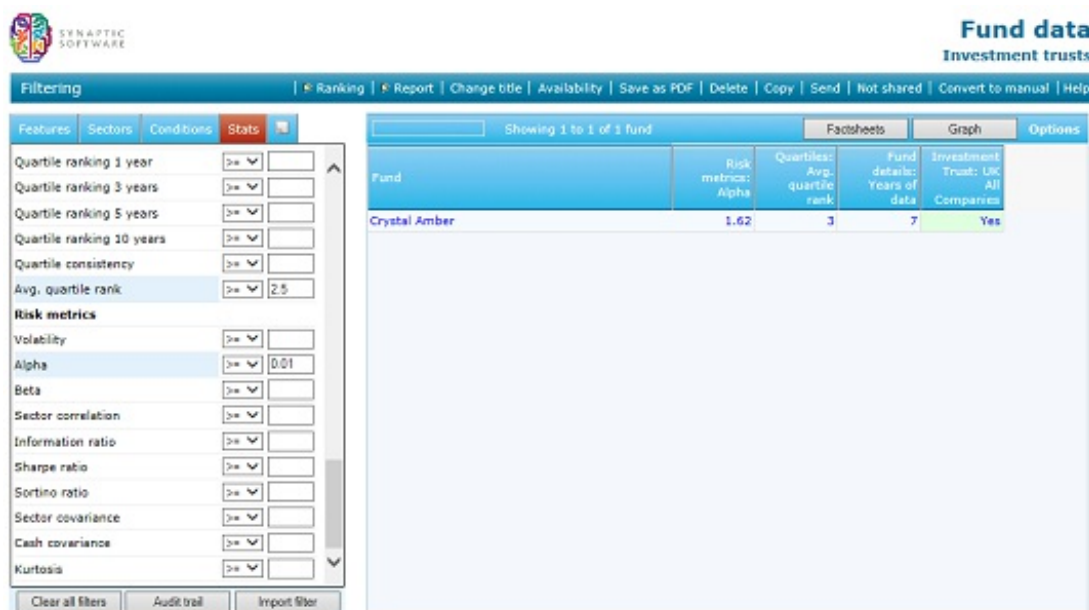


Are there any tips when using fund research?

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Synaptic Research obviously responds faster if there are fewer funds which it needs to display in the grid. Therefore, wherever possible, it's best to set up filtering, using the **Features** and **Stats** tabs, **before** you add funds to the grid using the **Sectors** tab. Let's say that you are going to research all unit trusts in the UK All Companies sector, and you are only interested in funds with positive alpha, whose average quartile ranking is 2.5 or better, and which have been around for at least five years. It's more efficient to set up this filtering first (using the Stats tab as illustrated by the screenshot below) and then add the sectors using the Sectors tab, rather than selecting the sectors first and then filtering the grid down.



The screenshot shows the Synaptic Research Fund data interface. The 'Stats' tab is active, displaying a list of filters on the left and a table of fund data on the right. The filters include:

- Quartile ranking 1 year
- Quartile ranking 3 years
- Quartile ranking 5 years
- Quartile ranking 10 years
- Quartile consistency
- Avg. quartile rank (set to 2.5)
- Risk metrics:
 - Volatility
 - Alpha (set to 0.01)
 - Beta
 - Sector correlation
 - Information ratio
 - Sharpe ratio
 - Sortino ratio
 - Sector covariance
 - Cash covariance
 - Kurtosis

The table on the right shows the following data for the fund 'Crystal Amber':

Fund	Risk metrics: Alpha	Quartiles: Avg. quartile rank	Fund details: Years of data	Investment Trust: UK All Companies
Crystal Amber	1.62	3	7	Yes

Fund features

The Features tab of fund research includes a number of items which are quick ways of filtering out funds based on minimum performance requirement. The Top Crown rating field eliminates contracts unless they are top-ranked (i.e. 5 Crowns)

by FE; the quartile features eliminate funds unless they have been top-quartile performers over the chosen period. All of these are simply quick ways of imposing conditions which can also be set via the Stats tab. The first screenshot below shows filtering on the features for the FE Crown rating, and on quartile ranking over 3 years.

The screenshot shows the 'Fund data' interface with the 'Features' tab selected. A list of funds is displayed, filtered by 'FE Crown rating' and 'Quartile ranking over 3 years'. The table includes columns for Fund, Annual perf. AP 5, Dividend Annual Growth, Fund Assets, and FE Crown rating. The 'Stats' tab is also visible, showing various filtering options.

The second screenshot shows the equivalent filtering on the Stats tab.

The screenshot shows the 'Fund data' interface with the 'Stats' tab selected. The 'Stats' tab provides more flexible filtering options, including 'AP 6 years', 'AP 7 years', 'AP 8 years', 'AP 9 years', 'AP 10 years', 'Annual Quartiles', 'Best/worst', 'Best 12-months', 'Worst 12-months', 'Gain years', and 'Loss years'. The table displays a list of funds with columns for Fund, Risk metrics: Alpha, Quartiles: Avg. quartile rank, Fund details: Years of data, Investment Trust: UK All Companies, and Financial Express rating: Crown.

The fields on the Stats tab are obviously more flexible – for example, you can say that you want a quartile ranking of 2 or better, rather than just top-quartile performers. The fields on

the Features tab are simply intended for convenience and speed.

Finding funds within a grid.

If you are looking at a grid which contains lots of funds (e.g. hundreds of funds) and you want to find a specific fund within the grid, you can simply use the find functionality built into your web browser. Simply press **Ctrl+F**.
