

Financial Econometrics Models and Methods

This is a thorough exploration of the models and methods of financial econometrics by one of the world's leading financial econometricians and is for students in economics, finance, statistics, mathematics, and engineering who are interested in financial applications.

Based on courses taught around the world, the up-to-date content covers developments in econometrics and finance over the past twenty years while ensuring a solid grounding in the fundamental principles of the field.

Care has been taken to link theory and application to provide real-world context for students, worked exercises and empirical examples have also been included to make sure complicated concepts are solidly explained and understood.

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Financial Econometrics

Models and Methods

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remain, accurate or appropriate.

To my wife, Jianghong Song.

Short Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> xv
<i>List of Tables</i>	xix
<i>Preface</i>	xxi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxv
<i>Notation and Conventions</i>	xxvii
1 Introduction and Background	1
2 Econometric Background	55
3 Return Predictability and the Efficient Markets Hypothesis	75
4 Robust Tests and Tests of Nonlinear Predictability of Returns	134
5 Empirical Market Microstructure	152
6 Event Study Analysis	201
7 Portfolio Choice and Testing the Capital Asset Pricing Model	238
8 Multifactor Pricing Models	279
9 Present Value Relations	314
10 Intertemporal Equilibrium Pricing	337
11 Volatility	358
12 Continuous Time Processes	422
13 Yield Curve	463
14 Risk Management and Tail Estimation	476
15 Exercises and Complements	497
16 Appendix	524
<i>Bibliography</i>	533
<i>Index</i>	553

Contents

<i>List of Figures</i>	<i>page</i> xv
<i>List of Tables</i>	xix
<i>Preface</i>	xxi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xxv
<i>Notation and Conventions</i>	xxvii

1 Introduction and Background	1
1.1 Why Do We Have Financial Markets?	1
1.2 Classification of Financial Markets	3
1.3 Types of Markets and Trading	8
1.4 Financial Returns	12
1.5 Risk Aversion	27
1.6 Mean Variance Portfolio Analysis	39
1.7 Capital Asset Pricing Model	45
1.8 Arbitrage Pricing Theory	49
1.9 Appendix	53
2 Econometric Background	55
2.1 Linear Regression	55
2.2 Time Series	61
3 Return Predictability and the Efficient Markets Hypothesis	75
3.1 Efficient Markets Hypothesis	75
3.2 The Random Walk Model for Prices	81
3.3 Testing of Linear Weak Form Predictability	85
3.4 Testing under More General Conditions than rw1	106
3.5 Some Alternative Hypotheses	118
3.6 Empirical Evidence regarding Linear Predictability based on Variance Ratios	121
3.7 Trading Strategy Based Evidence	124
3.8 Regression Based Tests of Semi-Strong Form Predictability	129
3.9 Summary of Chapter	132

4 Robust Tests and Tests of Nonlinear Predictability of Returns	134
4.1 Robust Tests	134
4.2 Nonlinear Predictability and Nonparametric Autoregression	146
4.3 Further Empirical Evidence on Semistrong and Strong Form EMH	148
4.4 Explanations for Predictability	150
4.5 Summary of Chapter	151
5 Empirical Market Microstructure	152
5.1 Stale Prices	152
5.2 Discrete Prices and Quantities	164
5.3 Bid, Ask, and Transaction Prices	168
5.4 What Determines the Bid–Ask Spread?	173
5.5 Strategic Trade Models	183
5.6 Electronic Markets	187
5.7 Summary of Chapter	196
5.8 Appendix	196
6 Event Study Analysis	201
6.1 Some Applications	201
6.2 Basic Structure of an Event Study	202
6.3 Regression Framework	218
6.4 Nonparametric and Robust Tests	221
6.5 Cross-sectional Regressions	222
6.6 Time Series Heteroskedasticity	223
6.7 Panel Regression for Estimating Treatment Effects	224
6.8 Matching Approach	228
6.9 Stock Splits	229
6.10 Summary of Chapter	237
6.11 Appendix	237
7 Portfolio Choice and Testing the Capital Asset Pricing Model	238
7.1 Portfolio Choice	238
7.2 Testing the Capital Asset Pricing Model	241
7.3 Maximum Likelihood Estimation and Testing	246
7.4 Cross-sectional Regression Tests	259
7.5 Portfolio Grouping	264
7.6 Time Varying Model	268
7.7 Empirical Evidence on the CAPM	270
7.8 Summary of Chapter	273
7.9 Appendix	274

8	Multifactor Pricing Models	279
8.1	Linear Factor Model	279
8.2	Diversification	280
8.3	Pervasive Factors	286
8.4	The Econometric Model	288
8.5	Multivariate Tests of the Multibeta Pricing Model with Observable Factors	290
8.6	Which Factors to Use?	293
8.7	Observable Characteristic Based Models	299
8.8	Statistical Factor Models	300
8.9	Testing the APT with Estimated Factors	312
8.10	The MacKinlay Critique	312
8.11	Summary of Chapter	312
8.12	Appendix	312
9	Present Value Relations	314
9.1	Fundamentals versus Bubbles	314
9.2	Present Value Relations	316
9.3	Rational Bubbles	319
9.4	Econometric Bubble Detection	321
9.5	Shiller Excess Volatility Tests	323
9.6	An Approximate Model of Log Returns	326
9.7	Predictive Regressions	329
9.8	Summary of Chapter	335
9.9	Appendix	336
10	Intertemporal Equilibrium Pricing	337
10.1	Dynamic Representative Agent Models	337
10.2	The Stochastic Discount Factor	338
10.3	The Consumption Capital Asset Pricing Model	339
10.4	The Equity Premium Puzzle and the Risk Free Rate Puzzle	345
10.5	Explanations for the Puzzles	346
10.6	Other Asset Pricing Approaches	353
10.7	Summary of Chapter	357
11	Volatility	358
11.1	Why is Volatility Important?	358
11.2	Implied Volatility from Option Prices	359
11.3	Intra Period Volatility	362
11.4	Cross-sectional Volatility	370
11.5	Empirical Studies	371

Contents

11.6	Discrete Time Series Models	374
11.7	Engle’s ARCH Model	377
11.8	The GARCH Model	380
11.9	Asymmetric Volatility Models and Other Specifications	389
11.10	Mean and Variance Dynamics	392
11.11	Estimation of Parameters	395
11.12	Stochastic Volatility Models	402
11.13	Long Memory	404
11.14	Multivariate Models	407
11.15	Nonparametric and Semiparametric Models	412
11.16	Summary of Chapter	419
11.17	Appendix	419

12	Continuous Time Processes	422
-----------	----------------------------------	------------

12.1	Brownian Motion	422
12.2	Stochastic Integrals	427
12.3	Diffusion Processes	428
12.4	Estimation of Diffusion Models	436
12.5	Estimation of Quadratic Variation Volatility from High Frequency Data	450
12.6	Levy Processes	459
12.7	Summary of Chapter	462

13	Yield Curve	463
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13.1	Discount Function, Yield Curve, and Forward Rates	463
13.2	Estimation of the Yield Curve from Coupon Bonds	464
13.3	Discrete Time Models of Bond Pricing	469
13.4	Arbitrage and Pricing Kernels	471
13.5	Summary of Chapter	475

14	Risk Management and Tail Estimation	476
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14.1	Types of Risks	476
14.2	Value at Risk	477
14.3	Extreme Value Theory	479
14.4	A Semiparametric Model of Tail Thickness	482
14.5	Dynamic Models and VAR	487
14.6	The Multivariate Case	489
14.7	Coherent Risk Measures	492
14.8	Expected Shortfall	493
14.9	Black Swan Theory	494
14.10	Summary of Chapter	496

15 Exercises and Complements	497
16 Appendix	524
16.1 Common Abbreviations	524
16.2 Two Inequalities	526
16.3 Signal Extraction	527
16.4 Lognormal Random Variables	528
16.5 Data Sources	529
16.6 A Short Introduction to Eviews	530
<i>Bibliography</i>	533
<i>Index</i>	553

List of Figures

1.1	Level of the S&P500 index	19
1.2	Daily return on the S&P500 daily index	23
1.3	Euro/dollar daily exchange rate	25
1.4	Return on the euro/dollar daily exchange rate	26
1.5	Daily Tbill Rates	26
1.6	Daily Federal Funds rate annualized	27
1.7	Price of West Texas Oil, monthly frequency	27
1.8	Daily return on West Texas Oil	28
3.1	Shows “Head and Shoulders” pattern in artificial dataset	79
3.2	Correlogram of S&P500 daily returns	92
3.3	Correlogram of S&P500 daily returns by decade	93
3.4	Correlogram of FTSE100 daily returns from 1984–2017	93
3.5	Correlogram of FTSE100 daily returns long horizon	94
3.6	ACF(1) of daily Dow stock returns against market capitalization	95
3.7	Average ACF of Dow stocks daily returns	97
3.8	Daily return on the Malaysian Ringgit	104
3.9	Variance ratio of S&P500 daily returns, 1950–2017	123
3.10	Variance ratio of FTSE100 daily returns, 1984–2017	123
3.11	ACF of the winner and loser stocks in sample	127
3.12	ACF of winner and loser stocks in and out of sample	128
3.13	ACF of the max versus max of the ACF	129
4.1	Cowles–Jones statistic with standard errors	139
4.2	Quantilogram of daily S&P500 returns	142
4.3	Fraction of positive returns on the stocks of the S&P500 index	143
4.4	The AD line on the daily S&P500 return	144
4.5	Length of daily runs on the S&P500	145
5.1	Prices and discretization	166
5.2	Histogram of integer remainders	166
5.3	Price changes on S&P500 Emini contract	170
5.4	Autocovariance of daily Dow	172
5.5	Efficient price volatility of the daily Dow	172
5.6	Price trajectory 1	180
5.7	Price trajectory 2	181
5.8	Daily Amihud illiquidity on S&P500	186
5.9	Daily Amihud illiquidity of S&P500 index since 2008	186
5.10	FTSE100 one minute data during nonfarm payroll announcement	191
5.11	Flash crash	192

List of Figures

5.12	Feedback loop	192
6.1	Shows examples of price trajectories around event at time 0	205
6.2	Dow Jones stock splits	232
6.3	Exxon stock splits CAR	233
6.4	Exxon splits average CAR	233
6.5	Exxon splits, longer window	234
6.6	Exxon splits average CAR over splits	234
6.7	Exxon splits, shorter window	235
6.8	Exxon splits, shorter window average CAR	235
7.1	Efficient frontier of Dow stocks	241
7.2	Skewness of Dow Jones returns by sampling frequency	245
7.3	Kurtosis of Dow Jones returns by frequency	245
7.4	Risk return relation	264
7.5	Time varying betas of IBM	269
7.6	Time varying alphas of IBM	269
7.7	SMB portfolio beta with market return	270
8.1	Quantiles of ordered (absolute) cross-correlations between S&P500 stocks	283
8.2	Quantiles of ordered (absolute) cross-correlations between S&P500 stocks idiosyncratic errors	284
8.3	Solnik curve of Dow stocks	285
8.4	GMV of Dow stocks	286
8.5	Rolling window correlation between the FTSE100 and FTSE250	287
8.6	Fama–French factors returns and implied prices	295
8.7	Variance ratios of Fama–French factors	297
8.8	US monthly CPI percentage change	298
8.9	Eigenvalues of $\hat{\Sigma}$ for daily S&P500 stocks, $N = 441$ and $T = 2732$	309
8.10	Eigenvalues of $\hat{\Psi}$ for monthly S&P500 returns	309
8.11	Dominant principal component for monthly data	310
9.1	NASDAQ price level	315
9.2	Bitcoin price level from 2010–2017	315
9.3	Bubble time series	320
9.4	The logarithm of S&P500 index with trend line fitted from 1950 to 2017	325
9.5	Gross return on S&P500	333
9.6	Dividend yield on the S&P500	333
9.7	Rolling window (± 20 years) R^2 of predictive regression	334
9.8	Rolling window (± 20 years) slope coefficient of predictive regression	335
9.9	Overlapping daily 5 year returns on the S&P500	335
10.1	Growth rate of annual real PCE in 2009 dollars	346
10.2	Rolling window trailing 10 year gross nominal returns on the CRSP value weighted index	347
10.3	Distribution of the annual risk premium on the FF market factor from ten years of daily data	349
10.4	Quarterly US differenced log of PCE (seasonally adjusted)	349
10.5	Autocorrelation of quarterly US differenced log of PCE	350

List of Figures

10.6	Quarterly time series CAY_t	355
11.1	US commercial airline fatalities per mile	359
11.2	Daily VIX index	361
11.3	Histogram of the VIX index	361
11.4	ACF of the VIX	362
11.5	Annual volatility of the S&P500	364
11.6	Parkinson estimator of daily volatility	368
11.7	ACF of intraday volatility	368
11.8	Histogram of intraday volatility	369
11.9	Cross-section volatility	371
11.10	Correlogram of returns (first panel) and absolute returns (second panel)	375
11.11	Conditional standard deviation of daily returns	382
11.12	Standardized residuals	383
11.13	S&P500 daily return cross autocovariance $cov(Y_t^2, Y_{t-j}), j = -10, \dots, 10$	389
11.14	Comparison of the estimated news impact curves from GARCH(1,1) and GJR(1,1) for daily S&P500 returns	392
11.15	Density of S&P500 returns	413
11.16	Shows the nonparametrically estimated conditional comulants $cum_j(y_t y_{t-k})$, for $j = 1, 2, 3, 4$ and $k = 1, \dots, 50$	415
11.17	Time varying cumulants of S&P500 returns	418
12.1	Crossing time density	425
12.2	ACF of daily federal funds rate 1954–2017	434
12.3	Conditional mean of exponential	435
12.4	Volatility signature plot	454
13.1	Time series of one month and ten year yields since 2000	470
13.2	Conditional cumulants of T-bill	474
13.3	Conditional cumulants of 10-year bonds	475
14.1	Estimated tail index of daily S&P500 returns 1950–2017	487
14.2	Expected shortfall	495
14.3	Daily S&P500 stock return events exceeding 6σ	496

List of Tables

1.1	Stock exchanges ranked by value traded	11
1.2	Descriptive statistics 1950–2017	23
1.3	Daily CRSP market returns descriptive statistics	24
1.4	Daily returns on individual stocks descriptive statistics, 1995–2017	25
3.1	Dow Jones stocks with market capitalization in January 2013	94
3.2	Parameter estimates of AR(22) model	104
3.3	Autocorrelation of squared returns and kurtosis of returns	113
3.4	The off-diagonal terms	113
3.5	Variance ratios for weekly small-size portfolio returns	114
3.6	Variance ratios for weekly medium-size portfolio returns	115
3.7	Variance ratios for weekly large-size portfolio returns	116
3.8	Day of the week effect	131
5.1	Tick size on the LSE	165
5.2a	Limit order book example	188
5.2b	Limit order book example	188
5.3	Round trip speed of the LSE	193
6.1	Recent stock splits on NASDAQ	230
6.2	Dow stocks split size distribution	232
7.1	Tangency and GMV portfolio weights for Dow Stocks	240
7.2	Market model estimates of Dow Stocks, daily data	247
7.3	Market model estimates of Dow Stocks, monthly data	248
8.1	Fama–French factors, mean and std	296
8.2	Fama–French factors correlation matrix	296
9.1	Dividend yield on the Dow stocks	336
10.1	Market risk premium	348
11.1	The FTSE100 top 20 most volatile days since 1984	369
11.2	The S&P500 top 20 most volatile days since 1960	370
11.3	Idiosyncratic volatility of Dow stocks	374
11.4	GARCH(1,1) parameter estimates	382
11.5	Estimated EGARCH model	391
11.6	Estimation of asymmetric GJR GARCH model	391
11.7	Estimates of GARCH in mean model	394
11.8	Correlation Matrix of estimated parameters from GARCH model	399
11.9	Daily GARCH in mean t-error	400
11.10	Estimated d by frequency	406
11.11	Estimated GARCH model by decade	417
13.1	Summary statistics of daily yields	471
13.2	Autocorrelation of daily yields	471

Preface

This work grew out of my teaching and research. It started from my considerable admiration of the seminal financial econometrics book Campbell, Lo, and MacKinlay (1997), henceforth CLM, and my teaching of that material to Master's students. I have kept along a similar line to that work in terms of selection of material and development, and have updated the material in several places. I have tried to adapt the material to a Master's audience by reducing the peerless literature review that is in that book and by amplifying some of the econometric discussions. I have included some theorems of varying degrees of rigor, meaning that I have not in every case specified all the required regularity conditions. I apologize for any upset this may cause, but the interests of time and space kept me from doing this. I hope the use of theorems can help to focus the material and make it easier to teach.

Financial econometrics has grown enormously as a discipline in the 20 years since CLM was published, and the range of authors engaged in its development has also increased. Computer scientists and so-called econo-physicists have taken an interest in the field and made major contributions to our understanding of financial markets. Mathematicians and statisticians have established rigorous proofs of many important results for our field and developed new tools for analyzing and understanding big financial data. The academic landscape has also become more international with a big expansion in the study of finance and financial statistics in China.

Data is the plural of anecdote, and happily there has recently been a massive increase in the amount of data, which has in itself stimulated research. Simultaneously computer power, both hardware and software, has increased substantially, allowing the analysis of much larger and more complex datasets than was previously possible. Econometric methodology has also expanded in many relevant areas, notably: volatility measurement and modelling; bounteous variate statistics where the size of the cross-section and time series is large; tools for extreme risk management; and quantifying causal effects. Despite the improvement in tools, the Global Financial Crisis following 2008, led to some skepticism about the value of economic theory and econometrics in predicting the armageddon that then ensued and in managing its aftermath, but this has in turn led to development of more relevant methodology, and hopefully some humility. Has all this attention and development improved our understanding of how financial markets work and how to change them for the better? I think so, but the subject is far from complete or satisfactory. The quantity and quality of empirical work and its presentation has improved substantially over time, but this has to some extent just made it harder for the reader to tell where the "bodies are buried" and what is the permanent value added of a particular study. Statistical methods are vital in this endeavor and in many cases their contribution is

to provide a framework for acknowledging the limitations of our knowledge. Some of the empirical regularities that were cited in CLM have not stood the test of time, or at least they had to be qualified and their limitations acknowledged. This makes it hard to give a clear and simple picture that one could explain to a teenager.

This book is intended to be used as a text for advanced undergraduates and graduate students in economics, finance, statistics, mathematics, and engineering who are interested in financial applications and the methodology needed to understand and interpret those applications. I have taught part of this material at Yale University, the London School of Economics, the University of Cambridge, Humboldt University, Shandong University, SHUFE, and Renmin University. I provide two introductory chapters on financial institutions, financial economics, and econometrics, which provide some essential background that will be drawn on in later chapters. The main material begins with the efficient markets hypothesis and the predictability of asset returns, which is a central question of financial economics. I provide some updates on the empirical regularities found in CLM. I then provide a separate chapter on robust methods, which are important because large observations such as the October 1987 stock market crash can have an undue influence on estimation and hypothesis tests. I then cover some topics in market microstructure, which is a very active area struggling with new developments in market structure, technology, and regulation. I cover the classical topics of stale and discrete prices as well as the models for adverse selection and market impact that form the language of this area. I use some matrix algebra in Chapters 6 to 8; it is hard if not impossible to present this material cogently without these tools, and to understand big data without the basics of linear algebra is like trying to assemble an IKEA cupboard in the dark without an Allen key. Luckily there are many excellent books that provide suitable coverage of the necessary material, for example Linton (2016). The material on event studies has been expanded to include recent work coming from microeconometrics that can be used to evaluate the effects of policy changes on outcomes other than stock returns. I also include the standard methodology based on the market model but provide a more detailed discussion of the effects of overlapping estimation and event windows. I cover the CAPM next with some discussion of portfolio grouping methods and the two main testing methodologies. The chapter on multifactor models covers the main approaches including the Fama–French approach, which was still in its early days when CLM was published but is now one of the dominant methodologies. I also cover statistical factor models and characteristic based models. The next two chapters consider some intertemporal asset pricing material and the associated econometrics such as predictive regressions, volatility tests, and generalized method of moments (GMM). The chapter on volatility describes the three main approaches to measuring and defining volatility based on option prices, high frequency data, and dynamic time series modelling. The chapter on continuous time models develops some of this material further, but also introduces the models and methods widely used in this area. I cover some material on yield curve estimation and its application to pricing. The final chapter considers risk management including extreme value theory and dynamic modelling approaches. I use a number of datasets of different frequencies in the book to illustrate various points and to report on the main features of financial data. As usual, results can vary.

Preface

I have included short biographies of authors who have influenced me regarding financial econometrics particularly. My prediction is that at least one of them will win the Nobel Prize in economics.

The book contains many terms in bold face, which can then be investigated further by internet search. I have provided some computer code in different languages, such as MATLAB, GAUSS, and R, pertinent to various parts of the book. I am told that STATA can accomplish many things, but I have yet to see the light. A lot of analysis can be done by EVIEWS, and I provide a short introduction to its use in handling daily stock return data. I also provide a link to a number of data sources that can help with student projects and the like.

Acknowledgments

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Notation and Conventions

In this book I use the dating convention `yyyymmddhhmmss`. A visiting time traveller would surely prefer to know the year before the month or day, although he might ask why we have chosen 24 hours in a day and 60 minutes in an hour, etc. I use $\xrightarrow{P}$ to denote convergence in probability and $\implies$ to denote convergence in distribution. $\log(x)$ is the natural logarithm unless otherwise stated. $\mathbb{R}$ is the set of real numbers, $'$ denotes differentiation, and $^{\top}$ denotes matrix transpose. We use $X_n = O(n)$ to mean that X_n/n is bounded for a deterministic sequence X_n . I use $\simeq$ to generically denote an approximation and $\sim$ to mean to have the same distribution as. I do not have a bracketing convention like some journals, but I do have a preference for round curved brackets over square ones. Dollars or \$ are US unless otherwise specified.