

Introductory Econometrics for Finance

This bestselling and thoroughly classroom-tested textbook is a complete resource for finance students. A comprehensive and illustrated discussion of the most common empirical approaches in finance prepares students for using econometrics in practice, while detailed case studies help them understand how the techniques are used in relevant financial contexts. Learning outcomes, key concepts and end-of-chapter review questions (with full solutions online) highlight the main chapter takeaways and allow students to self-assess their understanding. Building on the successful data- and problem-driven approach of previous editions, this fourth edition has been updated with new examples, additional introductory material on mathematics and dealing with data, as well as more advanced material on extreme value theory, the generalised method of moments and state space models. A dedicated website, with numerous student and instructor resources including videos and a set of companion manuals for various statistical software – all available free of charge – completes the learning package.

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Introductory Econometrics for Finance

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CHRIS BROOKS
The ICMA Centre, Henley Business School, University of Reading



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Preface to the Fourth Edition

All of the motivations for the first edition, described below, seem just as important today. Given that the book seems to have gone down well with readers, I have left the style largely unaltered but added a lot of new material. The main motivations for writing the first edition of the book were:

- To write a book that focused on *using and applying* the techniques rather than deriving proofs and learning formulae.
- To write an accessible textbook that required no prior knowledge of econometrics, but which also covered more recently developed approaches usually only found in more advanced texts.
- To use examples and terminology from finance rather than economics since there are many introductory texts in econometrics aimed at students of economics but none for students of finance.
- To populate the book with case studies of the use of econometrics in practice taken from the academic finance literature.
- To include sample instructions, screen dumps and computer output from a popular econometrics package. This enabled readers to see how the techniques can be implemented in practice. In this fourth edition, the EViews instructions have been separated off and are available free of charge on the book's web site along with parallel manuals for other packages including Stata, Python and R.
- To develop a companion web site containing answers to end of chapter questions, a multiple choice question bank with feedback, PowerPoint slides and other supporting materials.

What is New in the Fourth Edition

The fourth edition includes a number of important new features

- (1) Students of finance have enormously varying backgrounds, and in particular varying levels of training in elementary mathematics and statistics. In order to make the book more self-contained, the introductory chapter has again been expanded. So the material previously in Chapter 2 has been separated into introductory maths (Chapter 1) and introductory statistics/dealing with data (Chapter 2).

- (2) More new material has been added on state space models and their estimation using the Kalman filter in Chapter 10.
- (3) A chapter has been added which collects together a number of techniques often used in financial research, including event studies and the Fama MacBeth approach (previously elsewhere in the book) and new sections on using extreme value distribution to model the fat tails in financial series and on estimating models with the generalised method of moments.
- (4) The incorporation of EViews directly into the core of the book may have been a distraction for those using other packages. Thus, as stated above, in the new edition the EViews instructions have been separated off and are available free of charge on the book's web site along with parallel manuals for other packages including Stata, Python and R. This package should ensure that the book fits the bill whatever the reader's preferred software.

Motivations for the First Edition

This book had its genesis in two sets of lectures given annually by the author at the ICMA Centre (formerly the ISMA Centre), Henley Business School, University of Reading and arose partly from several years of frustration at the lack of an appropriate textbook. In the past, finance was but a small sub-discipline drawn from economics and accounting, and therefore it was generally safe to assume that students of finance were well grounded in economic principles; econometrics would be taught using economic motivations and examples.

However, finance as a subject has taken on a life of its own in recent years. Drawn in by perceptions of exciting careers in the financial markets, the number of students of finance has grown phenomenally all around the world. At the same time, the diversity of educational backgrounds of students taking finance courses has also expanded. It is not uncommon to find undergraduate students of finance even without advanced high-school qualifications in mathematics or economics. Conversely, many with PhDs in physics or engineering are also attracted to study finance at the Masters level. Unfortunately, authors of textbooks failed to keep pace with the change in the nature of students. In my opinion, the currently available textbooks fall short of the requirements of this market in three main regards, which this book seeks to address

- (1) Books fall into two distinct and non-overlapping categories: the introductory and the advanced. Introductory textbooks are at the appropriate level for students with limited backgrounds in mathematics or statistics, but their focus is too narrow. They often spend too long deriving the most basic results, and treatment of important, interesting and relevant topics (such as simulations methods, VAR modelling, etc.) is covered in only the last few pages, if at all. The more advanced textbooks, meanwhile, usually require a quantum leap

in the level of mathematical ability assumed of readers, so that such books cannot be used on courses lasting only one or two semesters, or where students have differing backgrounds. In this book, I have tried to sweep a broad brush over a large number of different econometric techniques that are relevant to the analysis of financial and other data.

- (2) Many of the currently available textbooks with broad coverage are too theoretical in nature and students can often, after reading such a book, still have no idea of how to tackle real-world problems themselves, even if they have mastered the techniques in theory. This book and the accompanying software manuals should assist students who wish to learn how to estimate models for themselves – for example, if they are required to complete a project or dissertation. Some examples have been developed especially for this book, while many others are drawn from the academic finance literature. In my opinion, this is an essential but rare feature of a textbook that should help to show students how econometrics is really applied. It is also hoped that this approach will encourage some students to delve deeper into the literature, and will give useful pointers and stimulate ideas for research projects. It should, however, be stated at the outset that the purpose of including examples from the academic finance print is not to provide a comprehensive overview of the literature or to discuss all of the relevant work in those areas, but rather to illustrate the techniques. Therefore, the literature reviews may be considered deliberately deficient, with interested readers directed to the suggested readings and the references therein.
- (3) With few exceptions, almost all textbooks that are aimed at the introductory level draw their motivations and examples from economics, which may be of limited interest to students of finance or business. To see this, try motivating regression relationships using an example such as the effect of changes in income on consumption and watch your audience, who are primarily interested in business and finance applications, slip away and lose interest in the first ten minutes of your course.

Who Should Read this Book?

The intended audience is undergraduates or Masters/MBA and PhD students who require a broad knowledge of modern econometric techniques commonly employed in the finance literature. It is hoped that the book will also be useful for researchers (both academics and practitioners), who require an introduction to the statistical tools commonly employed in the area of finance. The book can be used for courses covering financial time-series analysis or financial econometrics in undergraduate or post-graduate programmes in finance, financial economics, securities and investments.

Although the applications and motivations for model-building given in the book are drawn from finance, the empirical testing of theories in many other disciplines,

such as management studies, business studies, real estate, economics and so on, may usefully employ econometric analysis. For this group, the book may also prove useful.

Finally, while the present text is designed mainly for students at the undergraduate or Masters level, it could also provide introductory reading in financial modelling for finance doctoral programmes where students have backgrounds which do not include courses in modern econometric techniques.

Pre-Requisites for Good Understanding of This Material

In order to make the book as accessible as possible, no prior knowledge of statistics, econometrics or algebra is required, although those with a prior exposure to calculus, algebra (including matrices) and basic statistics will be able to progress more quickly. The emphasis throughout the book is on a valid application of the techniques to real data and problems in finance.

In the finance and investment area, it is assumed that the reader has knowledge of the fundamentals of corporate finance, financial markets and investment. Therefore, subjects such as portfolio theory, the capital asset pricing model (CAPM) and arbitrage pricing theory (APT), the efficient markets hypothesis, the pricing of derivative securities and the term structure of interest rates, which are frequently referred to throughout the book, are not explained from first principles in this text. There are very many good books available in corporate finance, in investments and in futures and options, including those by Brealey and Myers (2013), Bodie, Kane and Marcus (2014) and Hull (2017) respectively.

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Outline of the Remainder of this Book

Chapter 1

This covers the key mathematical techniques that readers will need some familiarity with to be able to get the most out of the remainder of this book. It starts with a discussion of what econometrics is about and how to set up an econometric model, then moves on to present the mathematical material on functions, and powers, exponents and logarithms of numbers. It then proceeds to explain the basics of differentiation and matrix algebra, which is illustrated via the construction of optimal portfolio weights.

Chapter 2

This chapter presents the statistical foundations of econometrics and the beginnings of how to work with financial data. It covers key results in statistics, discusses probability distributions, how to summarise data and different types of data. The chapter then moves on to discuss the calculation of present and future values, compounding and discounting, and how to calculate nominal and real returns in various ways.

Chapter 3

This introduces the classical linear regression model (CLRM). The ordinary least squares (OLS) estimator is derived and its interpretation discussed. The conditions for OLS optimality are stated and explained. A hypothesis testing framework is developed and examined in the context of the linear model. Examples employed include Jensen's classic study of mutual fund performance measurement and tests of the 'overreaction hypothesis' in the context of the UK stock market.

Chapter 4

This continues and develops the material of Chapter 3 by generalising the bivariate model to multiple regression – i.e., models with many variables. The framework for testing multiple hypotheses is outlined, and measures of how well the model fits the data are described. Case studies include modelling rental values and an application of principal components analysis (PCA) to interest rates.

Chapter 5

Chapter 5 examines the important but often neglected topic of diagnostic testing. The consequences of violations of the CLRM assumptions are described, along with plausible remedial steps. Model-building philosophies are discussed, with particular reference to the general-to-specific approach. Applications covered in this chapter include the determination of sovereign credit ratings.

Chapter 6

This presents an introduction to time-series models, including their motivation and a description of the characteristics of financial data that they can and cannot capture. The chapter commences with a presentation of the features of some standard models of stochastic (white noise, moving average, autoregressive and mixed ARMA) processes. The chapter continues by showing how the appropriate model can be chosen for a set of actual data, how the model is estimated and how model adequacy checks are performed. The generation of forecasts from such models is discussed, as are the criteria by which these forecasts can be evaluated. Examples include model-building for UK house prices, and tests of the exchange rate covered and uncovered interest parity hypotheses.

Chapter 7

This extends the analysis from univariate to multivariate models. Multivariate models are motivated by way of explanation of the possible existence of bi-directional causality in financial relationships, and the simultaneous equations bias that results if this is ignored. Estimation techniques for simultaneous equations models are outlined. Vector autoregressive (VAR) models, which have become extremely popular in the empirical finance literature, are also covered. The interpretation of VARs is explained by way of joint tests of restrictions, causality tests, impulse responses and variance decompositions. Relevant examples discussed in this chapter are the simultaneous relationship between bid–ask spreads and trading volume in the context of options pricing, and the relationship between property returns and macroeconomic variables.

Chapter 8

The first section of the chapter discusses unit root processes and presents tests for non-stationarity in time-series. The concept of and tests for cointegration, and the formulation of error correction models, are then discussed in the context of both the single equation framework of Engle–Granger, and the multivariate framework of Johansen. Applications studied in Chapter 8 include spot and futures markets, tests for cointegration between international bond markets and tests of the purchasing power parity (PPP) hypothesis and of the expectations hypothesis of the term structure of interest rates.

Chapter 9

This covers the important topic of volatility and correlation modelling and forecasting. This chapter starts by discussing in general terms the issue of non-linearity in financial time series. The class of ARCH (autoregressive conditionally heteroscedastic) models and the motivation for this formulation are then discussed. Other models are also presented, including extensions of the basic model such as GARCH, GARCH-M, EGARCH and GJR formulations. Examples of the huge number of applications are discussed, with particular reference to stock returns. Multivariate GARCH and conditional correlation models are described, and applications to the estimation of conditional betas and time-varying hedge ratios, and to financial risk measurement, are given.

Chapter 10

This begins by discussing how to test for and model regime shifts or switches of behaviour in financial series that can arise from changes in government policy, market trading conditions or microstructure, among other causes. This chapter then introduces the Markov switching approach to dealing with regime shifts. Threshold autoregression is also discussed, along with issues relating to the estimation of such models. Examples include the modelling of exchange rates within a managed floating environment, modelling and forecasting the gilt–equity yield ratio and models of movements of the difference between spot and futures prices. Finally, the second part of the chapter moves on to examine how to specify models with time-varying parameters using the state space form and how to estimate them with the Kalman filter.

Chapter 11

This chapter focuses on how to deal appropriately with longitudinal data – that is, data having both time-series and cross-sectional dimensions. Fixed effect and random effect models are explained and illustrated by way of examples on banking competition in the UK and on credit stability in Central and Eastern Europe. Entity fixed and time-fixed effects models are elucidated and distinguished.

Chapter 12

This chapter describes various models that are appropriate for situations where the dependent variable is not continuous. Readers will learn how to construct, estimate and interpret such models, and to distinguish and select between alternative specifications. Examples used include a test of the pecking order hypothesis in corporate finance and the modelling of unsolicited credit ratings.

Chapter 13

This presents an introduction to the use of simulations in econometrics and finance. Motivations are given for the use of repeated sampling, and a distinction is drawn

between Monte Carlo simulation and bootstrapping. The reader is shown how to set up a simulation, and examples are given in options pricing and financial risk management to demonstrate the usefulness of these techniques.

Chapter 14

This chapter presents a collection of techniques that are particularly useful for conducting research in finance. It begins with detailed illustrations of how to conduct event studies, which are commonly used in corporate finance applications, and how to use the Fama-French factor model approach to asset pricing. The chapter then proceeds to present the families of extreme value models that are used to accurately capture the fat tails of asset return distributions and as the basis for value at risk calculations. Finally, the chapter covers the generalised method of moments (GMM) technique, which has become increasingly popular in recent years for estimating a range of different types of models in finance.

Chapter 15

This offers suggestions related to conducting a project or dissertation in empirical finance. It introduces the sources of financial and economic data available on the internet and elsewhere, and recommends relevant online information and literature on research in financial markets and financial time series. The chapter also suggests ideas for what might constitute a good structure for a dissertation on this subject, how to generate ideas for a suitable topic, what format the report could take, and some common pitfalls.

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