

# Awesome thesis



uOttawa

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A thesis submitted for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy  
at the University of Ottawa in 2024  
Department of Biology



# **Abstract**

The abstract should outline the main approach and findings of the thesis and must not be more than 500 words.

# Sommaire

The abstract but in french this time.

# Declaration

## Reproducibility statement

This thesis is written using Quarto with renv (Ushey 2022) to create a reproducible environment. All materials (including the data sets and source files) required to reproduce this document can be found at the Github repository [github.com/youraccount/thesis](https://github.com/youraccount/thesis).

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## Thesis including published works declaration

I hereby declare that this thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma at any university or equivalent institution and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference is made in the text of the thesis.

This thesis includes ?? original papers published in peer reviewed journals and ?? submitted publications. The core theme of the thesis is ?. The ideas, development and writing up of all the papers in the thesis were the principal responsibility of myself, the student, working within the Department of Econometrics & Business Statistics under the supervision of ??

(The inclusion of co-authors reflects the fact that the work came from active collaboration between researchers and acknowledges input into team-based research.)

In the case of (??insert chapter numbers) my contribution to the work involved the following:

## Declaration

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Thesis chap- ter	Publication title	Status	Nature of student contribution	Nature coauthors' contribution
2	The life cycle of Mongolian crickets	Submitted	Concept and data analysis, writing first draft	Shu Xu, input into manuscript; Eddie Betts, input into manuscript

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I have renumbered sections of submitted or published papers in order to generate a consistent presentation within the thesis.

Student name:

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I hereby certify that the above declaration correctly reflects the nature and extent of the student's and co-authors' contributions to this work. In instances where I am not the responsible author I have consulted with the responsible author to agree on the respective contributions of the authors.

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# Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my pet goldfish for . . .

If you have engaged the services of a professional editor, you must provide their name and a brief description of the service rendered. If the professional editor's current or former area of academic specialisation is similar your own, this too should be stated as it may suggest to examiners that the editor's advice to the student has extended beyond guidance on English expression to affect the substance and structure of the thesis.

If you have used generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, you must include a written acknowledgment of the use and its extent. Your acknowledgement should at a minimum specify which technology was used, include explicit description on how the information was generated, and explain how the output was used in your work. Below is a suggested format:

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You may also wish to acknowledge significant and substantial contribution made by others to the research, work and writing represented and/or reported in the thesis. These could include significant contributions to: the conception and design of the project; non-routine technical work; analysis and interpretation of research data; drafting significant parts of the work or critically revising it so as to contribute to the interpretation.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

This is where you introduce the main ideas of your thesis, and an overview of the context and background.

In a PhD, Chapter 2 would normally contain a literature review. Typically, Chapters 3–5 would contain your own contributions. Think of each of these as potential papers to be submitted to journals. Finally, Chapter 6 provides some concluding remarks, discussion, ideas for future research, and so on. Appendixes can contain additional material that don't fit into any chapters, but that you want to put on record. For example, additional tables, output, etc.

### 1.1. Quarto

In this template, the rest of the chapter shows how to use quarto. The big advantage of using quarto is that it allows you to include your R or Python code directly into your thesis, to ensure there are no errors in copying and pasting, and that everything is reproducible. It also helps you stay better organized.

For details on using Quarto, see <http://quarto.org>.

### 1.2. Data

Included in this template is a file called `sales.csv`. This contains quarterly data on Sales and Advertising budget for a small company over the period 1981–2005. It also contains the GDP (gross

domestic product) over the same period. All series have been adjusted for inflation. We can load in this data set using the following code:

```
sales <- readr::read_csv(here::here("data/sales.csv")) |>
  rename(Quarter = `...1`) |>
  mutate(
    Quarter = as.Date(paste0("01-", Quarter), "%d-%b-%y"),
    Quarter = yearquarter(Quarter)
  ) |>
  as_tsibble(index = Quarter)
```

Any data you use in your thesis can go into the **data** directory. The data should be in exactly the format you obtained it. Do no editing or manipulation of the data prior to including it in the **data** directory. Any data munging should be scripted and form part of your thesis files (possibly hidden in the output).

## 1.3. Figures

Figure 1.1 shows time plots of the data we just loaded. Notice how figure captions and references work. Chunk names can be used as figure labels with **fig-** prefixed. Never manually type figure numbers, as they can change when you add or delete figures. This way, the figure numbering is always correct.

## 1.4. Results from analyses

We can fit a regression model to the sales data.

If  $y_t$  denotes the sales in quarter  $t$ ,  $x_t$  denotes the corresponding advertising budget and  $z_t$  denotes the GDP, then the resulting model is:

$$y_t = \beta x_t + \gamma z_t + \varepsilon_t \tag{1.1}$$

where  $\hat{\beta} = 1.85$ , and  $\hat{\gamma} = 1.04$ . We can reference this equation using Equation 1.1.

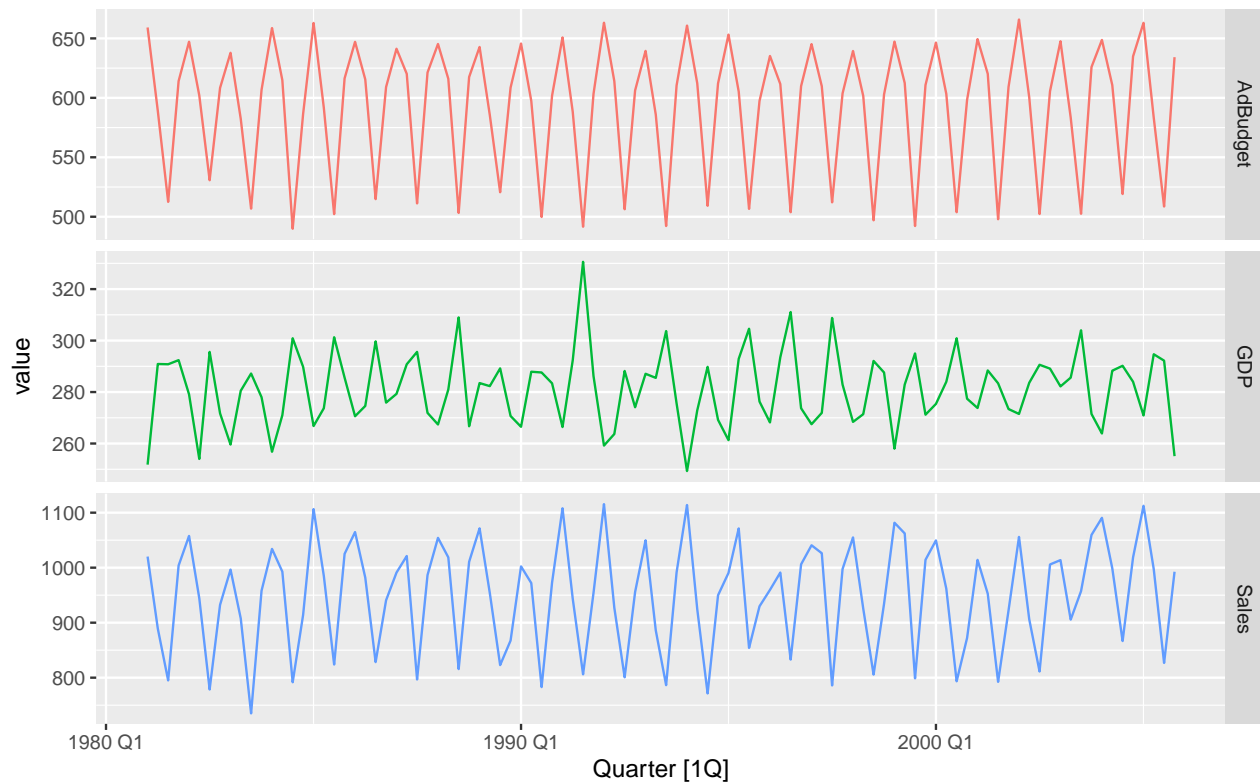


Figure 1.1.: Quarterly sales, advertising and GDP data.

## 1.5. Tables

We can also make a nice summary table of the coefficients, as shown in Table 1.1

Table 1.1.: Coefficients from the fitted model.

Coefficient	Estimate	P value
(Intercept)	-438.98	0.02
GDP	1.04	0.02
AdBudget	1.85	0.00

Again, notice the use of labels and references to automatically generate table numbers.

# Chapter 2

## Literature Review

This chapter contains a summary of the context in which your research is set.

Imagine you are writing for your fellow PhD students. Topics that are well-known to them do not have to be included here. But things that they may not know about should be included.

Resist the temptation to discuss everything you've read in the last few years. And you are not writing a textbook either. This chapter is meant to provide the background necessary to understand the material in subsequent chapters. Stick to that.

You will need to organize the literature review around themes, and within each theme provide a story explaining the development of ideas to date. In each theme, you should get to the point where your ideas will fit in. But leave your ideas to later chapters. This way it is clear what has been done beforehand, and what new contributions you are making to the research field.

All citations should be done using markdown notation as shown below. This way, your bibliography will be compiled automatically and correctly.

### 2.1. Exponential smoothing

Exponential smoothing methods were originally developed in the late 1950s (Brown 1959, 1963; Holt 1957; Winters 1960). Because of their computational simplicity and interpretability, they became widely used in practice.

Empirical studies by Makridakis and Hibon (1979) and Makridakis et al. (1982) found little difference in forecast accuracy between exponential smoothing and ARIMA models. This made the family of exponential smoothing procedures an attractive proposition (see Chatfield et al. 2001).

The methods were less popular in academic circles until Ord et al. (1997) introduced a state space formulation of some of the methods, which was extended in Hyndman et al. (2002) to cover the full range of exponential smoothing methods.

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# Appendix A

## R Packages

This thesis was produced using all the following R packages

Table A.1.: Table of packages used in this book

Package	Version	Citation
base	4.3.2	R Core Team (2023)
fable	0.3.3	O’Hara-Wild et al. (2023a)
feasts	0.3.1	O’Hara-Wild et al. (2023b)
fs	1.6.3	Hester et al. (2023)
grateful	0.2.4	Francisco Rodriguez-Sanchez and Connor P. Jackson (2023)
here	1.0.1	Müller (2020)
kableExtra	1.4.0	Zhu (2024)
knitr	1.45	Xie (2014); Xie (2015); Xie (2023)
magick	2.8.3	Ooms (2024)
quarto	1.3	Allaire (2023)
rmarkdown	2.25	Xie et al. (2018); Xie et al. (2020); Allaire et al. (2023)
tidyverse	2.0.0	Wickham et al. (2019)
tsibble	1.1.4	Wang et al. (2020)

# Appendix B

## Additional stuff

You might put some computer output here, or maybe additional tables. It is possible to have multiple appendices. Just list them in the appropriate place within `_quarto.yml`.