

LUOFENG (EDWARD) ZHOU

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Education Background

Columbia University, Department of Industrial Engineering & Operations Research
Expecting M.S. in Financial Engineering

New York, US
Aug. 2019 – Dec. 2020

Wuhan University, Economic and Management School & School of Computer Science
B.A. in Economics, B.S. in Mathematics, B.Eng. in Computer Science & Technology

Wuhan, China
Sep. 2015 – Jun 2019

➤ Cumulative GPA: 3.85/4.0.

➤ Relevant Coursework: Mathematical Analysis, Linear Algebra, Probability Theory & Mathematical Statistics, Advanced Microeconomics, Advanced Econometrics, Time Series Analysis, Corporate Finance, Options, Futures and Derivatives, Object-Oriented Programming, Analysis and Design of Algorithms.

Academic Projects

Interdisciplinary Research Project

School of Computer Science, Wuhan University, China

Participated in an interdisciplinary research focusing on big data indicators for financial fraud Sep. 2017 - Dec. 2017

- We tried to use big data method to detect fraudulent financial statement of listed companies in US and China separately.
- We specified that sentimental elements gained by text mining instruments such as basic discrete bags of words model, modern Word2Vec model and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA) model in annual reports (10-Ks in US) have significant indicator effect of fraudulent financial statements in the same year clustered by the same accounting firm. Plus, traditional machine learning models like SVM also perform a good predicative power.
- We also found that before and after the accounting criteria changed, the effect of fraudulent financial statements on stock prices differs drastically both in scope and in scheme.
- Contribution: Leader of financial part; applied the output which text mining or machine learning models with financial intuitions and previous researches, combined the newly formed variables with pure financial ones to conduct regressions in financial markets and compare the effects before and after these variables are added.

Empirical Financial Research

Economics and Management School, Wuhan University, China

Led a financial research focusing on short sellers' information sources around trading halts Dec. 2017 – Jun. 2018

"Are Short Sellers Informed? Evidence from the Short-selling Activities before Stock Trading Halts", under review

- Informed trading appears before private information. Short-selling indicates confidence of investors stronger than normal selling actions. Abnormal short-selling then shows trades with private information, which might contribute to the market disorder and inefficiency.
- We found that the private information around trading halts explained much of the short-selling in Chinese listed company by comparing the abnormal short-selling with normal short-selling, in which information-abundant and moderate duration shows more insider trading and vice versa.
- Contribution: Second author; collected previous research to attest the contribution of the idea, did all the empirical experiments, wrote the draft paper.

Interdisciplinary Research Project

School of Computer Science, Wuhan University, China

Participated in an interdisciplinary research focusing on the empirical causal inference Jun. 2018 - Sep. 2018

"Compression and Causal Relations Around Macroeconomics: an Improved CUTE Model"

- Traditional Granger causality test preserves many demerits, so it is not always used in recent years. There are two ways to detect causality in time series data: use an appropriate instrument variable and structure equations; develop another model in detecting causality. In this project we used a newly developed model, CUTE, to do causal inference in Canadian macroeconomy.
- The original CUTE model is applied to binary time series while economic variables are multivalued. We perform a multi-value expansion to let the original one fit the macro-economy. Theoretical and robustness tests are done to show the benefits of improved CUTE model with respect to traditional Granger causality test.
- From empirical data, the improved CUTE model shows a somewhat different results, which may provide advises on macroeconomic policies from a different perspective.
- Contribution: Leader of the economic part; testified the contribution of the idea in macroeconomic scale, selected variables before tests are done according to previous research, drafted the paper.

Coursework Thesis

Economics and Management School, Wuhan University, China

Participating in a coursework thesis on the third party's behavior for principal-agent problem Jul. 2018 -Sep. 2018

"Information Disclosure and Competitive Equilibrium in Capital Market"

- Traditional principal-agent problem does not assume the existence of a third part or simply assume their utility to be the same with one of the two sides. However, lots of cases tell that the third part such as sales manager play an important part in principal-agent problem with a unique utility function, which determines the degree of information asymmetric.
- In this paper, we tried to form theoretical explanation of the mechanism where a third party with unique utility function is involved and then characterize the behavior boundaries through Monte Carlo simulation and numerical specification for the final equilibrium.
- Contribution: Second author; derived part of the theoretical proof and did all the empirical tests, drafted the paper.

Theoretical Data Mining Research

School of Computer Science, Wuhan University, China

Leading a data mining research focusing on theoretical model for dynamic causal inference

Sep. 2018- Feb. 2019

“DISC: Causal Discovery from Continuous Time Series by Compression”

- In general, Granger causality test needs a predetermined vector autoregressive (VAR) model to infer potential causality. If the VAR model is badly specified, the outcomes can be misleading. In this paper, we proposed DISC model which used another prediction strategy, namely sequential normalized maximum likelihood (sNML), to substitute VAR under the framework of Granger causality and tried to explain predictability from the perspective of information compression.
- Drawn by compression theory, the past information is utilized in a selective way for prediction and the statistics is additive, thus making it possible to analyze the dynamic causal relationships. Both experimental and empirical evidence show that DISC is consistent to Granger causality test in static causal graph and has a strong power for changing pattern.
- Contribution: First author and the leader of the whole research group; formed the idea and drafted the paper; designed the algorithms and proved the theorems used in this paper.

Interdisciplinary Research

Institute of Interdisciplinary Information Sciences, Tsinghua University, China

Leading an interdisciplinary research focusing on financial causal networks and AI traders

Jun. 2019 - Ongoing

- In the world of machine learning (ML) focusing on the accuracy of forecast, if the system is time-invariant, it seems no need for causality or causal graph to attain a good and stable performance. While the system is time-variant such as financial markets, ML always exhibits overfitting. Thus, when designing AI traders, a graphical causal convolutional network should be established to direct machine to learn "the rule of the rule".
- We first used simple instruments such as LASSO and XGBoost to form the dynamics in training set and implement reinforcement learning to evaluate test set's information coefficient (IC).
- Next, some features extracted through Fourier transform and other signal processing methods will be added to the original model. Attention mechanism will also be introduced to traditional recurrent neural network and the graphical causal convolutional network will substitute LASSO to evaluate the dynamic financial causality.

Internship Experience

Changjiang Securities

Wuhan, China

Quant Intern, Department of Asset Management

Jul. 2016 - Aug. 2016

- Researched on traditional multifactor model in security selection and its performance especially in Chinese pharmaceuticals industry.
- Researched on three biggest Chinese listed companies in pharmaceuticals industry; assessed entire pharmaceuticals industry by analyzing information from sentiments of media and investor.
- Added sentimental factors obtained by big data method to traditional multifactor model for better adaptation to Chinese market.

China Universal Asset Management Co., Ltd

Shanghai, China

Customer Analysis Intern, Department of Wealth Management

Jul. 2017 - Aug. 2017

- Analyzed concerns of high net worth clients (HNW clients) during the past decade, development of private banking service in Chinese market, and planning scheme to establish private banking group.
- Formed a modified multi-factored model by including special characteristics of HNW clients' concern and their changes to provide more favorable portfolios.

Panda Capital

Beijing, China

Investing Intern, Department of Investment

Jul. 2018 - Aug. 2018

- Investigated a series of entrepreneurship programs around AI and medical care.
- Parsed sales and remark data from e-commercial platforms in objective fields.
- Summarized founders' past experience of venture capital program to streamline decision making for a new program.

Miscellaneous

- **Languages:** Mandarin (native), TOEFL: 106/120.
- **Programming skills:** proficient in MATLAB, R, STATA, JAVA, PYTHON, SQL.
- **Hobbies:** Table Tennis and Music.

(Last revised: Aug. 1st, 2019)