Luis Damiano

Rosario, 2000, Argentina

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Education

Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Department of Statistics   2014-2017

Master of Science in Applied Statistics. GPA 9.2/10 ($\sim$ 3.9/4).[1]

Thesis: "*Evaluating Forecast Accuracy of GARCH Volatility Models Applied to Daily Stock Prices in Argentina.*" (Thesis; Slides)

Research performed while working full-time.

Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina, Department of Administration   2006-2010

Bachelor of Business Administration, *summa cum laude*. GPA 8.9/10 ($\sim$ 3.9/4).[1]

Additional Ph.D.-level Coursework

Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Department of Statistics   2016-2017

Completed three courses: Bayesian Statistics, Measure Theory and Probability, and Panel Data Econometrics.[2]

Additional Master-level Coursework

Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Department of Administration   2011-2014

Master of Science in Finance. GPA 8.5/10 ($\sim$ 3.7/4). [1]

Completed coursework requirements for M.Sc. in Finance.

Research Interests

Bayesian inference, time series analysis, state-space models (continuous and discrete latent states), dynamic linear models, hierarchical models, Bayesian regularization, quantitative finance.

Publications

Conditionally Accepted

- **Damiano L.**, Peterson B., Weylandt M. "*A Tutorial on Hidden Markov Models using Stan.*" Submitted to StanCon 2018 and invited to present. (Link)

In Preparation

- **Damiano L.**, Peterson B., Weylandt M. "*A Replication Analysis of 'Stock Market Forecasting Using Hidden Markov Model: A New Approach' by Hassan and Nath.*" (Intended for ReScience Journal.) Work completed as part of GSoC 2017. (Link)

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[1]The U.S. equivalence, which is self-reported based on WES Country Resources, is provided for indicative purposes only.
[2]Students are allowed to complete all Ph.D.-level coursework prior to formal application to the Ph.D. program. After admission, candidates focus exclusively on their thesis and do not take additional courses.

Published Software

In Preparation

- **Damiano L.**, Peterson B., Weylandt M. "*BHHMM: Frequentist and Bayesian Inference for Hierarchical Hidden Markov Models Using Stan.*" Work performed as part of GSoC 2017.

Presentations

Inter-American Statistical Conference 2017, Rosario, Argentina   October 2017

- Daily Stock Price Forecasts in Argentina Using Hidden Markov Models.

Artificial Intelligence in Industry and Finance, Winterthur, Switzerland   September 2017

- Brian Peterson presented "*Regime Switching and Technical Trading with Dynamic Bayesian Networks in High-Frequency Stock Markets.*" (Link) as part of his keynote talk "*Machine Learning in Trading*".

R/Finance 2017, Chicago, IL   May 2017

- A Quick Introduction to Hidden Markov Models Applied to Stock Volatility. (Slides; Notebook)

Research Experience

Universidad Nacional de Rosario   2016-2017

Graduate thesis for the M.Sc. in Applied Statistics program.

- Title: "*Evaluating Forecast Accuracy of GARCH Volatility Models Applied to Daily Stock Prices in Argentina.*" (Thesis; Slides)
- Advisor: María Teresa Blaconá.

GSoC Student for R Project for Statistical Computing   Summer 2017

- Title: "*Bayesian Hierarchical Hidden Markov Models applied to financial time series.*"

- Mentors: Brian Peterson and Michael Weylandt.

  Investigation of full Bayesian posterior inference (MCMC) for Hierarchical Hidden Markov Models (HHMM) with applications to financial time series. Contributions included: Development of specialized priors to smooth posterior geometry and improve MCMC convergence; Adaptation of forward-backward and Viterbi algorithms to HHMM; Efficient implementation of Hamiltonian Monte Carlo for HHMM, suitable for high-frequency financial time series. (GitHub repository; Link)

Teaching Experience

Pontificia Universidad Católica Argentina, Department of Administration   Fall 2010

Finance II: Valuation and Capital Budgeting, Return and Risk, Capital Structure and Dividend Policy. Instructor: G. Messina.

Professional Experience

FIRST Capital Markets, Head of Asset Management, Buenos Aires, Argentina   2015-Present

Development of quantitative strategies and deployment of GARCH for foreign exchange volatility, PCA of the yield curve, cross-sectional and time-series analysis on currency futures, Monte Carlo simulation to model delta-neutral commodity trading strategies, and hierarchical linear models for cohort analysis of credit portfolios.

FIRST Corporate Finance, Lead Structurer for ABS, Rosario, Argentina   2010-2015

Deloitte & Touche Corporate Finance Advisors prior to the spin-off in 2013. Primary responsibilities included structuring Asset-Backed Securities (ABS) as well as producing all the technical documents for the initial public offering. Quantitative aspects of the daily work included the statistical analysis of the historical performance of assets, handling databases with 100 million records, and forecasting cash flows.

Personal Details

Citizenship

- Argentinian, Italian (dual).

Languages

- *Spanish*: Native.

- *English*: Full professional proficiency.
  TOEFL Internet-based test: Reading 30, Listening 30, Writing 27, Speaking 24, Total 111 (2017).
  Certificate in Advanced English, Council of Europe Level C1 (2009).
  First Certificate in English, Council of Europe Level B2 (2008).

- *Italian*: Limited working proficiency.
  PLIDA Certificate, Council of Europe Level B1 (2005).

- *French*: Limited working proficiency.
  More than 700 hours of coursework in the Alliance Française, Rosario.

References

María Teresa Blaconá (Master's Thesis Advisor)

Lead Researcher, Former Department Chair
Department of Statistics
Universidad Nacional de Rosario

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Brian Peterson (GSoC 2017 Mentor)

Lecturer
Department of Computational Finance & Risk Management
University of Washington

Partner & Head of Automated Trading
DV Trading, Chicago IL

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Michael Weylandt (GSoC 2017 Mentor)

Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Statistics
Rice University

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