

Romain Lafarguette (Luo Zhewen)
romain.lafarguette@gmail.com
<https://romainlafarguette.github.io/>

Summary

- Lead macro quantitative strategist with 13+ years of experience across IMF, ECB, GIC & ADIA
- Machine learning & AI for macroeconomics and finance, team leadership and sovereign-level policy work

Professional Experience

GIC Lead Global Macro Quant Strategist, Senior Vice President	Singapore, since 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentor a team of six quants on macroeconomic modeling, global market analysis and asset allocation• Steer macro quant models using Machine Learning/AI/LLM on rates, FX, and credit markets• Design and oversee macro systems (early warning signals, forecasting, sovereign risk, debt projection, etc.)• Develop and implement portfolio analytics for \$100+ bn multi-asset portfolios	
ADIA Senior Global Macro Quant Strategist, Senior Researcher	Abu Dhabi, 2022-2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macro quant research on global rates, FX, credit and commodity markets, sovereign risk, inflation, growth• Asset allocation, risk and portfolio construction, supporting ADIA CIO's strategic and tactical allocation	
International Monetary Fund Quant Macroeconomist	Washington DC, 2016-2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macro analysis: sovereign risk, macro stress-tests, nowcasting, inflation forecasting, debt projections, etc.• Financial surveillance for EM & low-income countries and negotiations for IMF programs• Mission chief and technical contributor on technical assistance missions to 30+ countries<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Central banks' FX & liquidity management, debt projections, macro forecasting, risk modeling, etc.	
European Central Bank Macro Quant and Portfolio Manager	Frankfurt, 2013-2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed RMB and JPY reserve portfolios, QE implementation & Greek banks emergency liquidity• Global FX and rates models (inflation forecasting, FX fair value, curve and term premium, etc.)	

Education

Ph.D. Quantitative Macro & Finance , Peking University	Beijing 2013
<i>Entire curriculum completed in Chinese Mandarin in Beijing</i>	
M.Sc. Quantitative Macro & Finance , Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris-Saclay	Paris 2009
<i>First-ranked at France's national entrance exam (Normalien).</i>	
M.Sc. Mathematics and Statistics , ENSAE Paris	Paris 2007
Undergrad Mathematics (CPGE) Henri IV	
	Paris 2005

Skills

- **Analytics:** Statistics & machine learning, AI & LLM, convex optimization, bootstrapping, density models
- **Tech stack:** Python, Github CI/CD, cloud computing (AWS & Databricks), Airflow schedulers, big data
- **Data:** Bloomberg, Macrobond, Haver, CEIC, Wind, Factset, alternative datasets
- **Risk models:** VaR/CVaR, stress-test, early-warning signals, rates & FX risk, sovereign risk, FSI
- **Risk factors systems:** Blackrock BRS, MSCI Barra, Axioma, PCA-custom risk factors
- **Languages:** English (fluent), Chinese (conversational), French (native)

Python Packages

- Distributional GARCH model to design VaR-based FX Interventions for Central Banks, [varfxi repo](#)
- Density Forecasting and Risk Modeling for Macro Series, [gar repo](#)
- Conditional Density Projection via Quantile Regressions, Resampling and Multifit Models, [quantproj repo](#)
- Robust Density Estimation via Over-Parametrized Gaussian Skewed Models, [robustdensity repo](#)
- Partial Least Squares Wrapper for Data Reduction based on Scikit, [plswrapper repo](#)
- Quantile Spacing - solving for quantile crossing, from Schmidt and Zhu (2016), [quantilespacing repo](#)
- Quantile Local Projections, [quantileproj repo](#)
- Granular Instrumental Variables - from Gabaix and Koijen (2020), [granulariv repo](#)
- Cluster Analysis Wrapper with Performance Metrics and Visualization Tools, [clusterwrapper repo](#)

Academic Research

- *Financial Conditions in Europe: Dynamics, Drivers, and Macroeconomic Implications*, IMF WP (2024)
- *Technology and the Geography of FX Markets*, Journal of International Money and Finance (2023)
- *FX Interventions: A Risk-Based Framework*, IMF WP (2020)
- *Predictive Density for Global Growth*, IMF WP (2020)
- *Growth at Risk: Applications in IMF Surveillance*, IMF WP (2019)
- *Can Countries Manage Their Financial Conditions Amid Globalization?*, IMF WP (2018)
- *Trading Without a View: Fast Trading, Entropy and Underreaction in the FX Market*, ECB WP (2018)
- *Household Savings in China : The Role of the Housing Market and Borrowing Constraints*, BdF WP (2014)

Policy Research

- *United Arab Emirates: TA Report - Liquidity Management and Forecasting*: IMF TA report (2022)
- *Jordan: TA Report - Forecasting Framework for Currency in Circulation*: IMF TA Report (2022)
- *House Price Synchronization: What Role for Financial Factors?*: IMF GFSR (2018)
- *Financial Conditions and Growth at Risk*: IMF GFSR (2017)
- *High-Frequency Trading, Information and Market Volatility: the Role of Dark Pools*: ECB FSR (2017)
- *The Role of Currency Invoicing for the Transmission of Exchange Rate Movements*: ECB IRE (2015)

Country Missions

Policy experience with 30+ country missions on technical assistance, policy negotiations and financial surveillance

Asia, Europe & LATAM

- **P.R China:** Financial stress models (mission chief, 2019)
- **P.R China:** ECB negotiations, RMB Eurosystem portfolio (2015)
- **India:** Sovereign risk models (2019)
- **South Korea:** FX reserves management (2020)
- **Hong Kong SAR:** FSAP, systemic liquidity and stress-testing (2021)
- **Philippines:** Sovereign risk models (2019)
- **Malaysia:** Sovereign risk models (2019)
- **Singapore:** Sovereign risk models (2019)
- **Albania:** IMF Article IV and post-program (2018, 2019)
- **Bosnia:** FX management (mission chief, 2022)
- **Peru:** FSAP, systemic liquidity and stress-testing (2017, 2018)

Middle-East & Africa

- **Israel:** IMF Article IV, external sector (2019)
- **United Arab Emirates:** central bank operations (co-mission chief, 2021)
- **Jordan:** liquidity forecasting (mission chief, 2021)
- **Morocco:** FX interventions (2020)
- **Algeria:** central bank operations (mission chief, 2022)
- **Tunisia:** liquidity forecasting (2020)
- **WAEMU:** FSAP, stress-testing (2021)
- **Mauritania:** central bank operations (2023)
- **Namibia:** liquidity forecasting (mission chief, 2021)
- **Djibouti:** liquidity forecasting (mission chief, 2021)
- **D.R Congo:** IMF program negotiations (2020)
- **Burundi:** central bank operations (2022)

Teaching

I taught financial modeling and financial operations to countries officials and central bankers around the world, often via IMF technical assistance centers.

- **Singapore:** [FX Intervention Rules](#) (2023)
- **Singapore:** liquidity forecasting (2022)
- **Ghana:** liquidity forecasting (2022)
- **Kuwait:** liquidity forecasting (2021, 2022)
- **Slovenia:** liquidity forecasting (2022)
- **IMF Washington DC:** density modeling (2021)

- **Kazakhstan:** liquidity forecasting (2021)
- **Guatemala:** liquidity forecasting (2021)
- **Austria:** density modeling (2021)
- **Malaysia:** density modeling (2020)
- **IMF Washington DC:** Python (2019)
- **Sciences Po and ENSAE Paris:** Econometrics and macroeconomics (2010-2012)