Romain Lafarguette (Luo Zhewen)
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https://romainlafarguette.github.io/

Summary

Quantitative researcher in macro-economics finance, fluent in Chinese Mandarin, English and French.

Part of ADIA's "Q" team, where we develop systematic trading strategies, leveraging big data, statistics, and machine learning. Alpha generation via systematic trading and multi-assets allocation/total portfolio management for ADIA.

Combination of technical skills in modeling, programming, and finance with a 10-year international policy experience with the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank. Missions to 25 countries. Mission chief, leading teams of 3 to 7 people on technical assistance missions.

Design open-source statistical models and algorithms, available on romainlafarguette.github.io/

Professional Experience

Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Quantitative Researcher   Since 2022

Buy-side macro-quant, sovereign wealth fund of Abu Dhabi (ADIA), "Q team"

Alpha generation and asset allocation for total portfolio management

Multi-assets class, mid-frequency trading

Signal generation, features analysis, data curation

Forecasting, nowcasting, risk modeling, big data, machine learning, etc.

International Monetary Fund, Economist & Technical Assistance Mission Chief   2016-2022

Monetary and Capital Markets Department

Mission chief, leading teams of 3 to 7 people on technical assistance missions

Missions to 25 countries: macrofinancial surveillance and modeling, IMF lending programs and technical assistance to central banks

European Central Bank, Economist & Portfolio Manager   2013-2016

Foreign reserves portfolio manager, Eurosystem Asian currencies portfolio

Negotiations with the People's Bank of China

Mathematical portfolio optimization, risk modeling, exchange rate forecasting

Education

Ph.D. in Financial Economics, Peking University and Paris School of Economics
Six years in Beijing, entire curriculum taught in Chinese Mandarin

M.Sc. Quantitative Financial Economics, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris-Saclay

Normalien, ranked first at France's national competition entrance exam

M.A. in Philosophy of Sciences & Epistemology, Paris Sorbonne University

M.Eng. in Statistics and Applied Mathematics, ENSAE Paris

Master thesis on density modeling, numerical simulations, resampling and bootstrapping

Undergrad - CPGE, Henri IV Paris

Teaching Missions

Singapore , IMF Singapore Training Institute (STI) (2023)
IMF 1-week training on FX Intervention Rules: A Risk-Based Framework

29 participants from 14 central banks

Singapore IMF Singapore Training Institute (STI) (2022)
IMF 1-week training on Forecasting Framework Central Bank Systemic Liquidity

16 participants from 12 central banks

Country Missions

Bosnia and Herzegovina Mission chief, team of six people (2022)

Technical assistance to the central bank on foreign reserves and risk management, risk modeling

Burundi (2022)

Technical assistance to the central bank on liquidity forecasting, monetary framework, monetary operations

Algeria Mission chief, team of five people (2022)

Technical assistance to the central bank on liquidity forecasting

United Arab Emirates Co-mission chief, team of seven people (2021)

Technical assistance on the calibration of monetary operations, financial modeling and liquidity forecasting

Namibia Mission chief, team of four people (2021)

Technical assistance to the central bank on liquidity forecasting

Jordan Mission chief, team of four people (2021)

Technical assistance to the central bank on liquidity forecasting

Djibouti Mission chief, team of four people (2021)

Technical assistance to the central bank on liquidity forecasting

Hong-Kong SAR (2021)

Financial Sector Assessment Program: systemic liquidity modeling and stress-testing

West African Economic and Monetary Union (2021)

Financial Sector Assessment Program: scenario design, solvency stress-tests, etc.

Tunisia (2020)

Technical assistance to the central bank on liquidity forecasting

South Korea (2020)

Technical assistance to the central bank on foreign reserves management and portfolio management

Morocco (2020)

Technical assistance to the central bank on foreign exchange interventions and FX modeling

Democratic Republic of Congo (2020)

IMF program negotiations: monetary economist for the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) program

People's Republic of China, mission chief (2019)

Technical assistance to the PBoC on financial modeling and risk analysis

Hong Kong SAR (2019)

Financial Sector Assessment Program: systemic liquidity modeling and stress-testing

India, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore (2019)

Teaching density modeling to staff of central banks and the Asian Development Bank

Israel (2019)

IMF Article IV, dealing with the balance of payments and teaching density modeling to the Bank of Israel

Albania (2018-2019)

IMF Post-Program Monitoring and Article IV, dealing with the monetary, financial and real sectors

Peru (2018)

Financial Sector Assessment Program: systemic liquidity modeling, stress-testing and financial modeling

People's Republic of China (2015)

ECB negotiations with the People's Bank of China to build the RMB portfolio of the Eurosystem

Academic Research

A Comprehensive Framework for Central Banks Liquidity Forecasting (2022)

with A. Panagiotelis (Univ. Sydney) and K. Moriya (IMF) - *soon*

Macrofinancial Feedback, Bank Stress Testing and Capital Surcharges (2021)
with T. Adrian (IMF) and J. Berrospide (US Federal Reserve Board) - *soon*

Foreign Exchange Interventions Rules for Central Banks: A Risk-Based Framework (2020)
IMF Working Paper No. 21/32, with R. Veyrune (IMF)

Predictive Density for Global Growth (2020)
IMF Working Paper No. 20/78, with F. Caselli, F. Grigoli and C. Wang (all IMF)

Growth at Risk: Concept and Application in IMF Country Surveillance (2019)
IMF Working Paper No. 19/36

Can Countries Manage Their Financial Conditions Amid Globalization? (2018)
IMF Working Paper No. 18/15, with N. Arregui, S. Elekdag, G. Gelos and D. Seneviratne (all IMF)

Trading Without a View: Fast Trading, Entropy and Underreaction in the FX Market (2018)
ECB Working Paper No. 2300 with G. Corsetti (Cambridge) and A. Mehl (ECB)

Thick vs. Thin-Skinned: Technology, News, and Financial Market Reaction (2016)
IMF working paper No. 17/91, with B. Eichengreen (Uni. Berkeley) and A. Mehl (ECB)

Cables, Sharks and Servers: Technology and the Geography of the Foreign Exchange Market (2016)
NBER Working Paper No. 21884, with B. Eichengreen (Uni. Berkeley) and A. Mehl (ECB)

Understanding Household Savings in China : The Role of the Housing Market and Borrowing Constraints
(2014)
MPRA Paper No. 44611 with M. Bussiere, Y. Kalantzis (Banque de France) and T. Sicular (Uni. Western Ontario)

Policy Publications

United Arab Emirates: TA Report - Liquidity Management and Forecasting (2022)
UAE: IMF TA Report, July 2022

Jordan: TA Report - Forecasting Framework for Currency in Circulation (2022)
Jordan: IMF TA Report, April 2022

House Price Synchronization: What Role for Financial Factors? (2018)
IMF Global Financial Stability Report, April 2018

Financial Conditions and Growth at Risk (2017)
IMF Global Financial Stability Report, October 2017

Are Countries Losing Control of Domestic Financial Conditions? (2017)
IMF Global Financial Stability Report, April 2017

High-Frequency Trading, Information and Market Volatility: the Role of High-Frequency Quoting and Dark Pools (2016)
ECB Macroprudential Bulletin, October 2016

The Role of Currency Invoicing for the Transmission of Exchange Rate Movements (2015)
ECB, The International Role of the Euro Report, July 2015 (with J. Grab)

Teaching

FX Intervention Rules: A Risk-Based Framework (2023)

IMF Singapore Training Center (STI), Singapore

Forecasting Framework Central Bank Systemic Liquidity (2022)
IMF Singapore Training Center (STI), Singapore

Advanced Statistical Methods to Forecast Systemic Liquidity (2022)
IMF Technical Assistance Center in West Africa, AFRITAC West, Accra

Advanced Statistical Methods to Forecast Systemic Liquidity (2022)
IMF Center of Excellence in Finance, Kuwait

Advanced Statistical Methods to Forecast Systemic Liquidity (2022)
IMF Center of Excellence in Finance, Ljubljana

Advanced Statistical Methods to Forecast Systemic Liquidity (2022)
Caucasus, Central Asia, and Mongolia IMF Regional Capacity Development Center, Almaty

Density Forecasting and Modeling (2021)
IMF Institute of Capacity and Development, Washington D.C.

Advanced Statistical Methods to Forecast Systemic Liquidity (2021)
IMF Technical Assistance Center in Central America, Guatemala

Liquidity Forecasting for Central Banks Operating Fixed Exchange Rate Arrangements (2021)
IMF Middle East Center for Economics and Finance, Kuwait

Foreign Exchange Interventions Strategies for Central Banks (2021)
IMF Joint Vienna Institute (Caucasus, Central Asia, Belarus, Moldova and Mongolia Practionners), Vienna

Forecasting with Quantile Regressions (2020)
South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN) Research and Training Centre, Kuala Lumpur

Density Forecasting and Modeling (2019)
IMF Institute of Capacity and Development, Washington D.C.

Introduction to Python for IMF economists (2019)
IMF, European Department, Washington D.C.

Linear and Non-Linear Econometrics, Statistics, Macroeconomics (2010-2012)
ENSAE and Sciences Po, Paris

Open-Source Statistical Applications under Python

Full description: https://romainlafarguette.github.io/software/

Distributional GaRCH model to design VaR-based FX Interventions for Central Banks
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/varfxi

Density Forecasting Using Growth At Risk: Python Codes and Excel Interface
https://github.com/IMFGAR/GaR. With technical appendix and documentation

Conditional Density Projection via Quantile Regressions, Resampling and Multifit Models
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/gar

Robust Density Estimation via Over-Parametrized Gaussian Skewed Models
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/robustdensity

Partial Least Squares Wrapper for Data Reduction based on Scikit
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/plswrapper

Quantile Spacing - from Schmidt and Zhu (2016)
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/quantilespacing

Quantile Local Projections
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/quantileproj

Granular Instrumental Variables - from Gabaix and Koijen (2020)
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/granulariv

Cluster Analysis Wrapper with Performance Metrics and Visualization Tools
https://github.com/romainlafarguette/clusterwrapper

Languages

Human: Chinese Mandarin (fluent), English (fluent), French (native)

Computer: Python, R, Matlab, SQL, Git