



**AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER
NEWSLETTER
April 3, 2012**



*****Tuesday, April 10, 2012*****

A Better Alternative to Long-Horizon Regressions

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In long-horizon regressions the dependent variable is aggregated over several future periods, i.e., $y_{t+1} + y_{t+2} + y_{t+3} + \dots + y_{t+H}$. Long-horizon regressions are often used to uncover long-run relations that are not detectable at higher frequencies. Such regressions are finding their applications in Macroeconomics and Finance. One example is the test of monetary-neutrality of the GDP growth, i.e., the independence of the long-run GDP dynamics from the current monetary policy. Such tests are performed using long-horizon regressions. The example in this presentation is the long-run predictability of the stock market that is also tested with long-horizon regressions. However, it is often found that long-horizon regressions are not sufficiently accurate to conclusively reject or confirm long-run predictability. We re-examine this evidence and suggest a new method of estimating the long-run relations that outperforms long-horizon regressions. Our suggestion is to consider the problem in the frequency domain which allows us to naturally separate long-run and short-run dynamics. The suggested method preserves the simplicity and intuitiveness of the simple linear regressions.

HACASA meetings are open to the public! Please pass on copies of this announcement to colleagues and friends and post on appropriate bulletin boards.

WHEN and WHERE: ***Tuesday April 10, 2012*** at Duncan Hall, Rice University
5:30pm - Social Time with snacks & drinks: Room 1049
6:30pm - Featured Presentation (Room 1049)



Duncan Hall (also known as the Computational Engineering Building) is on the northeast side of the Rice University Campus. For parking information and directions please refer to the Rice parking websites, the following have been found helpful:

<http://cohesion.rice.edu/campuservices/parktrans/parking/visitors.cfm>
<http://www.rice.edu/maps/maps.html>



Thank you to [Rice University](#) and the [Department of Statistics at Rice University](#) for their generous support of HACASA by allowing us the use of their facilities for our gatherings, **and sponsoring FREE PARKING. See Hadley Wickham for a voucher at the meeting.**

To help us cover cost of our weekly snacks, we are asking for small donations (\$5 or more). Also, please RSVP so we can bring enough snacks and drinks.

Introducing the officers!

The officers for the 2011-2012 academic year are:

President: Jose-Miguel Yamal (Jose-Miguel.Yamal@uth.tmc.edu)

President Elect: Hao Liu (haol@bcm.edu)

Past President: Abbas Jinnah (abbas.jinnah@gmail.com)

Secretary: Michael Swartz (Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu)

Treasurer: Myrna Khan (myrnakhan@gmail.com)

Science Fair Coordinator: Erin Hodgess (HodgessE@uhd.edu)

ASA Chapter Representative: Nancy Glenn (glennnl@tsu.edu)

Reminder!

Membership dues: Students: \$1, and non-students: \$8.

Welcome New Members!

Please take a moment at this month's meeting to welcome new members!



Mark Your Calendars!

This year we are still doing monthly meetings. **In the spring we return to Tuesdays.** Below are the official dates:

Wednesday, September 14, 2011

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

After Christmas we return to Tuesdays:

Tuesday February 7, 2012 *note February meeting is the first Tuesday of the month*

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

Let us know what you think!

Send comments to Michael Swartz at HoustonASA@gmail.com with the subject COMMENTS.
Or Send comments / additions / corrections concerning the HACASA newsletter to Michael Swartz at Michael.D.Swartz@uth.tmc.edu

Announcements

New Website is launched!

Our new website is launched! Please visit it for more information and announcements:
<http://sites.google.com/site/houstonasa/>

**Traveling Short course Saturday April 28, 2012 Applied Mixed Models:
Registration Now Open!**

Linda J. Young, PhD from the Department of Statistics at the University of Florida will be teaching a course on **Applied Mixed Models** on Saturday April 28, 2012. **The course will be held in the Auditorium at the School of Public Health (1200 Herman Pressler Dr.).** Registration is now open. Registration forms and Course flyers are attached and available at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/site/houstonasa/home/2012-short-course-applied-mixed-models>

Interface of Computing Sciences and Statistics May 16-18

Rice University Statistics Department is hosting the Interface of Computing Sciences and Statistics at Rice University May 16-May 18, 2012. Trevor Hastie is giving the keynote address. For more information see: <http://www.interfacesymposia.org/Interface2012/Interface2012.html>

Dixon Award Seeking nominations!

Contact: [Michael Chernick](#)

For the past few years the Dixon Award has been presented to a statistician who has done outstanding work in statistical consulting. This year I am the chairman of the Committee. I do statistical consulting part time. From participating in this eGroup I have met a number of statisticians that do consulting part time or full time. I was horrified the other day to find that there have been no nominations sent in to the ASA for this award this year. In looking over the past years it seems that only 4 new candidates were nominated last year and 7 in 2010. It seems that the committee has chosen to consider candidates nominated in previous years in order to have a good competitive list to choose from. The deadline for nominations is March 15th. I would think that many of you could think of a good candidate and should have the time to put in to make a nomination. This is an important award and there are many deserving candidates. But they will not get recognized if we do not go to the trouble to nominate them. I encourage everyone to think about nominating someone and hope that several of you will do so. For those of us that do statistical consulting this is our award and it is only recently that the Dixon family made the effort to create one in Will Dixon's honor. Let's take it seriously and nominate deserving candidates in the numbers that they are nominated for the other awards that ASA conveys.

Michael Chernick
Director of Biostatistical Services
Lankenau Institute for Medical Research
