

Doctoral Program in Economics



Academic year 2020/21

ECONOMETRICS I

Period:

First term: from November 2nd to January 29th

Course hours:

28

Teachers:

Sara Franceschi (4 hours)

Marzia Marcheselli (6 hours)

Caterina Pisani (8 hours)

Tiziano Razzolini (10 hours), course coordinator

Exam methods:

Written test

Prerequisites:

Knowledge of elementary mathematics. Basic notions of differential and integral calculus.

MODULE I: Elements of Probability Theory – Marzia Marcheselli, Sara Franceschi

Program

Probability space

Sample space, events and set theory. Probability. Conditional probability. Independence.

Random variables

Discrete random variables: probability mass function and cumulative distribution function. Continuous random variables: probability density function and cumulative distribution function. Examples of discrete and continuous random variables. Distribution of functions of a random variable

Expectation

Expected value. Expectation of a function of a random variable. Moments. Moment generating function.

Multiple random variables

Joint and marginal distributions. Conditional distributions and independence. Covariance and correlation
Basic concepts on distributions of functions of random variables.

Limit theorems and convergence concepts

Convergence in probability. Weak and strong law of large numbers. Almost sure convergence.
Convergence in distribution. The central limit theorem.

Educational objectives

The main objective of this module is to provide students with the foundations of probability theory. At the end of the module, students will be able to use probability models, to compute moments of random variables and to derive the marginal and conditional distributions of bivariate random variables. Students should also be familiar with convergence results.

Bibliographical references

Rinamann, W.C. (1993). *Foundations of Probability and Statistics*. Saunders College Publishing.

MODULE II: Statistical Inference – Caterina Pisani

Program

Point estimation

Point estimators. Finite sample properties of point estimators (unbiasedness, mean squared error, efficiency). Asymptotic properties of point estimators (asymptotic unbiasedness, consistency, asymptotic efficiency). Maximum likelihood estimators and their properties.

Interval estimation.

Interval estimator. Pivotal quantity method for building confidence intervals. Confidence intervals based on the asymptotic properties of maximum likelihood estimators.

Testing hypothesis

Hypothesis system, parametric hypothesis system. Test and test statistic. Rejection and acceptance region. Type I and type II errors. Power function. Test of prefixed significance level. Test properties. P-value. Likelihood ratio test.

Educational objectives

The aim of the module is to enhance the knowledge of the main statistical-inferential methods adopted in economic, social and financial analysis. At the end of the module, students will be able to properly deal with the main statistical inferential techniques, such as estimators, confidence intervals and hypothesis testing.

Bibliographical references

Rinamann, W.C. (1993). *Foundations of Probability and Statistics*. Saunders College Publishing.

MODULE III: OLS regression - Tiziano Razzolini

Program

The course will cover the following topics:

- Classical Linear Regression Model
 - o Least squares estimation

- Assumptions of OLS
- R-square
- Finite sample properties of OLS
- Large sample properties of OLS
- Violations of OLS assumption
 - Omitted variable bias
 - Measurement error
 - multicollinearity
 - Heteroskedasticity and GLS
- Inference and Predictions
- Instrumental variable regression

Educational objectives

The aim of the module is to introduce to regression methods and, in particular, to ordinary least square regression (OLS). The topics will show the properties of OLS regression, the assumptions needed and the methods to adopt in case of violation of these assumptions.

References:

Econometric Analysis, by William H Green, Ed. Prentice Hall, 7th edition.
Additional material and references will be provided during the lessons.