Three essays on empirical finance: the alphas and betas
Lin, T.

Citation for published version (APA):
Acknowledgements

Time flies, especially when you are doing your PhD (or more precisely, when you are about to go on the job market). As a shy and quiet Taiwanese (oh yes, I am totally talking about myself), I would like to take the opportunity to thank people who made my fascinating five years in Amsterdam and those who made the completion of the thesis possible.

Confucius says that your boss largely determines your quality of life, again, especially when you are doing your PhD.¹ Intuitively, I owe most of my wonderful PhD life to Joost Driessen, my supervisor. Joost once made a joke about how I showed my worship to him in our first few email conversations at my M.Phil graduation. Yes, he has every reason to be worshiped as a thesis supervisor (not because I have not got my diploma when writing this paragraph). The best thing a PhD student can have is that you are always able to knock your supervisor’s door whenever you have an idea, a question or even just need a company for lunch. During these years, Joost has been available and encouraging all the time. He provides me a new perspective or a new twist when I thought I ran into dead ends of a project. “You are in good hands”, several people said that to me when they knew Joost is my supervisor. And they can say that again. Thank you, Joost.

I am also deeply indebted to Ludovic Phalippou, my second supervisor. Ludo is quite complementary to Joost. When I was “too happy” with my Amsterdam life, Ludo would be the one to pull me back such that I could finish what I had to do in time. He also showed me the “practical” side of this job, which might have saved me a lot of unnecessary wandering along the way. Besides, his humor and jokes made the conference or workshop dinner a pleasant and life-long memory. Thank you, Ludo.

I also have to thank Otto van Hemert, who made my visiting to NYU Stern possible. It was a fantastic two months, especially the restaurants you took me to around the campus. I look forward to more brainstorming for our current (and possibly future) project. I also benefited a lot from the atmosphere of the UvA Finance Group. The seminar series and the privilege to have individual meetings with the speakers both broadened and sharpened my understanding of the research. Thank you, Alessandro, Daniela, Enrico, Enrique, Ines, Jeroen, Jolinda, Raj, Stefan, Yolanda, Zach.
My special thanks go to my thesis committee members, Peter Boswijk, Jenke ter Horst, Marno Verbeek. Thank you for the detailed and constructive comments on the dissertation.

Now the fun part. This part is dedicated to those who I have lunch sandwich together at the park and who I get wasted together. Betty, Dion and Marcel, the E4.37 buddies, office life would be plain without you. Razvan, Christel and Mario, for all the beers you shared with me. The Real Estate boys, Frans, Erik and Liu, I miss your “free country”. Coffee is expansive here. At Tinbergen Institute, which was my de facto home for the first two years, I had lots of fun and support from Sumedha, Ronald, Michel, Jonneke, Brian, Fong Li, Pan Lei, Yin-Yen, Huang Jian, JiaJia, Yugo, Hung-Yao, Yang Nan, Yang Yang, Wang Ting, Tiantain, Meg.

The final thanks go to my parents, family and dear Jacey. If I am sum of all of the people that I have been with, my heart says that you are the most important factors, both statistically and emotionally significant.

---

¹ This is a privilege of being a Taiwanese. Whatever you want to say and do not know who says that, just quote the Confucius.