**A TRANSFER FUNCTION-AUTOREGRESSIVE NOISE MODEL OF NAIRA EXCHANGE RATES FOR US DOLLAR AND SWISS FRANC**

by

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**ABSTRACT**

This work aims at modeling the Naira exchange rates for US Dollars and Swiss Franc using a transfer function (TF) technique. Data for the two currencies were obtained from the Central Bank of Nigeria (for a period of 53 years). After obtaining stationarity of the two series using appropriate transformation, the input series was pre-whitened to remove the spurious correlation effect. The output series was also pre-whitened and the cross correlation between the pre-whitened input) and output ) was examined. From the behavior of the cross correlation, rational polynomial representation of the dynamic transfer function was obtained. The estimated noise was found to be autocorrelated. Thus, the noise was modeled separately using Box and Jenkins autoregressive (AR) method. This provided the missing component of the TF model which was used to fit the overall model. The resulted model underwent a diagnostic check and was found to be appropriate .Hence forecast was generated.

**Keywords:** Transfer function, Pre-whitening, Cross correlation, rational polynomial, noise model, Stationarity.

**INTRODUCTION/REVIEW**

Basically, no country is completely economically independent. Every country must depend on one or several countries for her economic growth. All nations are inter-dependent, because they have limited resources and have to trade with each other to satisfy their wants. This implies that the analysis of economic variables such as gross domestic product (GDP), inflation, exchange rates etc. are of paramount importance to any nation’s growth. Unfortunately in most African countries, less attention is paid to the study and monitoring of the rise and falls of these essential and sensitive variables. A volatile or inappropriate exchange rate has been a major hindrance to the growth of many African countries which Ghana is inclusive Appiah and Adetunde (2011).

Exchange rates vary largely according to extent and nature of each country’s exposure to trade and global financial markets. In some stable economies, exchange rates of currencies compete favorably while the developing economies appear to be influenced heavily by the developed ones. This is because, the less developed countries receives less attention concerning exchange rate compared to the developed or industrialized economies [Kwame-poku (2010)].

The currencies of many sub-Saharan African countries faced depreciations with respect to US Dollar at the onset of the global financial crisis. According to Ltaifa *et al* (2009), five countries: Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia depreciated by at least 20% between June 2008 and March 2009; while Tanzania and Rwanda depreciated by10% or less during same period.

According to Jeffrey (2003), Argentina being the victim of the worst market financial crisis in 2001; experienced problems in the late 1990’s and the situation became severe because of its link with a particular currency, the US Dollar. The Dollar gained value over other major currencies beginning in the mid-1995, and caused the market for Argentina’s important agricultural export products (wheat, meat and soya beans) to decline sharply. Thus, the decline in the prices of these commodities expressed in Dollar was particularly dramatic. All these put together, led to sharp increase in the ratio of debt to exports.

Some earlier studies suggest that instability in exchange rate has the potential to affect a country’s economic performance. In Nigeria, the value of Naira has depreciated significantly compared with other currencies due to poor economic management, political system and other unknown factors. However, a close observation of the Naira exchange rate for US Dollar and Swiss Franc shows that the two currencies are highly related. Thus, studying the behavior and relationship of these two currencies in relation to Naira can provide useful information for the economy of the two Countries (United State of America and Switzer Land) and Nigeria at large. This work therefore, intends to build a model that establishes the relationship between the two currencies (US Dollar and Swiss Francc) in relation to Nigeria’s currency (Naira). The model is called the transfer function model.

Transfer function model (TFM) is a statistical model describing the relationship between an output variable and one or more input variables (Tsay, 2005).TFM can be a single equation or multiple equation model, which the latter could be referred to as a simultaneous transfer function (STF) model (Liu *et al* 1986, Liu 1987 and Liu 1991). Some authors will prefer to distinguish the two models as single-input and multiple-input transfer function models. In most applications, linear equation is used to describe the relationship resulting from the distributed-lag model.

Elkhtem *et al*, (2014) considered the nature of crude oil as a mixture of hydrocarbons with different boiling temperatures. Control became essential for the fractionation column to keep products at the limitations. The paper revealed the identification of transfer function for relevant different developed control strategy and relevant transfer function were identified using MATLAB Software.

A Work on forecasting foreign exchange by Znaczko (2013) investigated a transfer function model with multiple variables. The study revealed that the best forecast of foreign exchange rates depends on current and past prices.

Kannan and Farook (2013) fitted a transfer function model to global warming entities such as atmospheric temperature, and atmospheric emissions. A strong relationship was demonstrated between annual atmospheric emissions and present/past atmospheric temperature.

Practically, the output is not a deterministic function of the input. Transfer function model is quite different from the ARIMA model. The latter is a univariate time series model while the transfer function model is a multivariate time series model. The ARIMA model relates the series only to its past, but beyond this indication, the transfer function model will relate the series to other time series (Otok and Suhartono, 2009). Due to the close relationship with the regression models, the transfer function models are also referred to as dynamic regression models (Pankratz, 1983). The transfer function models can use more than one explanatory variable, but the explanatory variables must be linearly independent of each other (Jha, 2012).

Transfer function approach as a method of data analysis, has been in use for some decades.

Virtually every field of study has demonstrated the importance and relevance of the transfer function

approach especially in its ability to enhance forecast based on relating different series. In a stable

economic trend, such model can enable a researcher or planner to predict favorable chances an

indigenous economy stands amidst higher ones in the global market.

In time series analysis, the Box-Jenkins method describes the transfer function model as a model that predicts future values of a time series (output series) from past values of same series and one or more related series (input series).

In this work, however, we intend to apply the Box-Jenkins method and the pre-whitening approach to build a transfer function-AR noise model of Naira exchange rates for the US Dollar and Swiss Franc. In our method, the leading indicator is identified and the noise component is modeled separately and added to the dynamic relationship between the input and output series. The resulting noise is found to satisfy its basic assumptions [)] thus showing that the model is adequate.

**METHODOLOGY**

Let and be two time series.

**Stationarity**

The time series is said be stationary if the statistical properties are essentially constant through time. In other words, and . In this work, stationarity is obtain by differencing. That is, .

**Pre-Whitening**

Pre-whitening approach involves finding autoregressive integrated moving average (ARIMA) model for that yields white noise residuals while the functional relationship between the and is still maintained.

For this work, an ARIMA model is identified and we have

+…++

Rewriting the equation, the residuals or the pre-whitened input is obtained as

+}

The is substituted for to get the filtered equation for the pre-whitened output as:

By pre-whitening, cross correlation accurately reflects the structure of the impulse function (Box *et al*, 1994). Here, α and β represent the pre-whitened input and output series respectively.

**Cross Correlation**

The cross correlation for is given as

where and are the sample means of , and are the sample standard deviations respectively.

**Transfer Function Model**

The dynamic relationship between input series and output series is usually approximated by a linear transfer function

,

where are the transfer function weights and is a noise term. Estimates of the transfer function weights can be calculated from

; (3.13)

where and are the estimated standard deviations of the pre-whitened input and the output data respectively. is the estimated cross correlation between the pre-whitened input and output. Insignificant weights are rounded off to zero. denotes the backshift operator such that

. The function determines the impact of input on ; and

Thus, can be represented as

(3.15)

According to Box and Jenkins (1970), the parameters in are estimated by the equation

Explicitly, it can be expressed as,

The parameters , represent the order of the numerator polynomial , the delay parameter that indicates the time lag until input affects the output also called dead-time or delay time, and order of the denominator polynomial respectively .

**The Autoregressive (AR) – Noise Model**

In the model identification, parameters are obtained and fitted; and the noise term is added. In this concept, however, it is believed that the noise could be serially correlated; thus violating its assumption. The noise is then modeled separately using Box and Jenkins method as:

where,

and is the autoregressive order of and ’s are the autoregressive parameters.

Thus the resulting model is:

and is found to be serially uncorrelated as expected.

**Data Analysis and Results**

The analysis of the data available for this thesis was carried out using Minitab software. Data used was secondary data with fifty three observations each (1960-2013). We intend to build a transfer function –AR noise model which could be used for future forecast of the naira exchange rate for the two currencies. Let denotes the Naira exchange rate of US Dollar and , the Naira exchange rate of Swiss Franc

In the language of our study, is the input series and the output series.

***Raw Data Plot***

Figure 1(appendix) demonstrates the combined raw data plot for and .

From these plots, it is observed that the series are not stationary. This demanded for an appropriate transformation to make them stationary.

**Correlation of the Two Series**

The correlation between and gives 0.996 .This value indicates a strong positive relationship between the two series. This is also evident in figure 1.

**Differencing**

and were both differenced once to obtain stationarity.

**Model Identification for the Input Series**

An ARIMA (1, 1, 0) was identified for the resulting in the model:

**Pre-Whitening of and**

From the above model, the pre-whitened is:

and that of

**Cross Correlation Function for and**

The cross correlation of the pre-whitened series are seen in figure 2 below. Since the at lag and are not statistically significant, the weights are systematically equal to zero. Thus from

the figure; and .In addition, since are not statistically different from zero; it

means the present values of are related to the past values of and not otherwise. Hence, is the

leading indicator. The four transfer function significant weights are shown in table 1 below with their

respective cross correlations and lags.

**Table 1: Cross Correlation and Transfer Function Weight**

**Lag Cross Correlation Weight**

0 0 0

1 0 0

2 0.837 0.5750

3 0.998 0.6856

4 0.776 0.5331

5 0.629 0.4321

6 0 0

**Identification of the Transfer Function Parameters**

We had earlier expressed in methodology that:

.

That is,

Substituting and , we have

Solving the above equation, we have

,,

**Estimation of the Noise**

The noise is estimated as

)

**Model Identification for the Noise Series**

***Autocorrelation and PartialAutocorrelation function for***

The autocorrelation function decays exponentially to 0, while the partial

autocorrelation function cut off after lag 1 (see figure 3 and 4).

Thus the identified model is ARIMA (1,0,0) which is equivalent to AR(1)

Writing the model explicitly, we have

so that

and

**The Transfer Function-AR Noise Model**

Combining the two models, we have

The final transfer function-AR noise model is obtained as;

where

**Table 2: The Parameter Estimates for the Model**

Parameters Estimate

0.52 0.000

0.04 0.003

0.000

**Diagnosis**

To check for model adequacy, the following diagnostic check was applied.

***Autocorrelation Function for the Residual***

The autocorrelation function of the residual term (see figure 5) below demonstrates no particular pattern or spikes. No autocorrelation is significant. This indicates that the residual follows a white noise process. Hence the fitted model is adequate.

**Forecasting**

Having tested the adequacy of the transfer function AR noise model and was found to be appropriate; next is to generate forecasts. The forecasts of the next ten years are presented in table 3.

**Table 3: Forecasts from period 54 at 95 Percent Limits**

Period Forecast Lower Upper

54 148.103 132.110 163.096

55 148.152 127.194 168.110

56 148.270 124.189 170.351

57 149.101 121.117 176.085

58 149.206 121.260 176.152

59 149.281 121.401 176.161

60 149.474 121.672 176.276

61 150,690 119.310 181.070

62 152.215 119.517 183.913

63 152.410 119.708 184.112

**Summary/Conclusion**

This work provides a solution to a dynamic relationship where the residual fails to follow a white noise process or violate its usual assumptions. The work modeled the residual obtained from fitting the transfer function (TF) model seprarately. The ARIMA model obtained from the TF noise is added to the major component of the model resulting in transfer function autoregressive-noise model. Data from naira exchange rate of US Dollars and Swiss Franc (1970-2013) was used to demonstrate the workability of the model. The model was found to be appropriate and forecasts for the Naira exchange of Swiss Franc were generated using the model.

**Appendix**



*figure 1: Raw Data Plot of and*

CCF - correlates and

-1.0 -0.8 -0.6 -0.4 -0.2 0.0 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

+----+----+----+----+----+----+----+----+----+----+

-17 -0.017 X

-16 -0.028 XX

-15 -0.058 XX

-14 -0.040 XX

-13 0.029 XXX

-12 -0.071 XXXX

-11 -0.044 XX

-10 -0.013 X

-9 -0.039 XX

-8 -0.079 XXX

-7 0.157 XXXXX

-6 0.233 XXXXXX

-5 0.228 XXXXX

-4 -0.086 XXX

-3 -0.049 XX

-2 -0.024 XX

-1 -0.071 XXX

0 -0.067 XXX

1 0.023 XX

2 0.837 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

3 0.998 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

4 0.776 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

5 0.629 XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

6 0.191 XXXX

7 -0.137 XXX

8 -0.220 XXXXXX

9 -0.164 XXXX

10 0.074 XXX

11 0.036 XX

12 -0.013 X

13 -0.044 XX

14 -0.074 XXX

15 0.023 XX

16 -0.004 X

17 -0.060 XXX

*Figure 2: Cross Correlation function(CCF) for ,*

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*figure 3: Autocorrelation function for nt*

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*figure 4: Partial autocorrelation function for nt*

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*figure 5: Partial autocorrelation function for*

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