McGill

December 2007
Mid-Year Examination

Department of Economics

Economics Statistics – Honours

Econ 257D Section 001

Wednesday, December 12th, 2007

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Examiner: John W. Galbraith

Assoc Examiner: Dhanoos Sutthiphisal

Student Name:		McGill ID:									

INSTRUCTIONS:

- You have three hours in which to complete this exam. If you find any questions ambiguous, explain the difficulty, make a reasonable assumption about the intent, and go on. All questions have equal weight.
- Answer in the examination booklet.
- Calculators which do not store text or formulae are permitted.
- Crib sheets, textbooks/notes are not permitted.
- This exam comprises 6 pages, (2 pages questions and 4 pages tables) does not include this cover page.

McGill University
Department of Economics
Economics 257D

December examination 2007

John W. Galbraith

You have three hours in which to complete this exam. If you find any question ambiguous, explain the difficulty, make a reasonable assumption about the intent, and go on. All questions have equal weight.

Calculators which do not store text or formulae are OK.

Attached you will find tables of the standard normal, t- and χ^2 distributions. *If you need to interpolate, do it approximately and indicate where you obtained your numbers.*

1. [20 points] Define, explain and discuss each of the following:

(a) relative efficiency

(b) efficiency of the sample mean $\overline{X}$ which puts equal weight on each observation, versus an unequally-weighted estimator of the mean

(c) Weak law of large numbers

(d) loss function of an estimator

2. [30 points] A central bank sometimes acts on its current information (hereafter the 'signal') about economic growth by cutting interest rates if the signal suggests that growth is negative. Otherwise, they may keep interest rates constant, or increase them. However, the signal is not completely accurate. When economic growth is negative, the signal is negative 70% of the time; when growth is positive, the signal is positive 75% of the time. (There are no exact zeroes: growth, and the signal, are positive or negative.) Economic growth is negative 10% of the time.

When the signal is negative, the central bank cuts interest rates 80% of the time. It also cuts interest rates 15% of the time when the signal is positive.

The signal is measured four times a year (that is, every quarter). Growth in one quarter is independent of growth in quarters before and after, and the same is true of the signal.

a) What is the probability at any given time that the next three observed signals will all be negative?

b) If economic growth is negative in one quarter, what is the probability that it will be negative in the next quarter?

c) Private sector financial analysts are not told the signal, but they would like to infer what it is. What is the probability that the signal is negative (i) if there is, and (ii) if there is not, an interest rate cut?

3. [30 points] You survey 250 families in city A and find their family incomes. Your estimate of the mean is \$63,000, with standard error of \$8000. In city B you survey another 250 families–it is an independent sample– and you estimate the mean to be \$64,000, with standard error \$7800.

a) Give the estimated 90 and 99% confidence intervals for mean family income on both samples. Interpret your answers.

b) How would your answers be different if you had surveyed 1000 families instead of 250, and had obtained the same sample means and standard errors for the income data?

c) You learn that family X comes from one of these cities. Describe precisely the information that you would need in order to give a 99% confidence interval for family X's income (not the mean in the city, but family X per se).

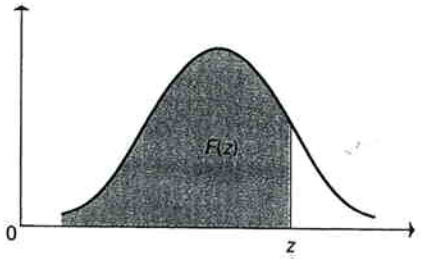
d) Test the hypothesis that mean income is the same in both cities. Give an approximate p-value for your test.

4. [20 points] In the same samples of 250 families, 72% in city A say that they will vote 'yes' in a referendum on banning smoking in restaurants, and 61% in city B.

a) give confidence intervals for the proportion who will vote 'yes' in each city.

b) test the hypothesis that the two true proportions are the same. Give an approximate p-value.

TABLE 1 Cumulative Distribution Function of the Standard Normal Distribution



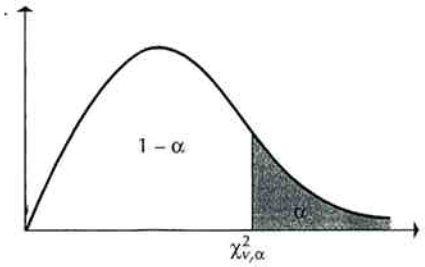
z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$
.00	.5000										
.01	.5040	.31	.6217	.61	.7291	.91	.8186	1.21	.8869	1.51	.9345
.02	.5080	.32	.6255	.62	.7324	.92	.8212	1.22	.8888	1.52	.9357
.03	.5120	.33	.6293	.63	.7357	.93	.8238	1.23	.8907	1.53	.9370
.04	.5160	.34	.6331	.64	.7389	.94	.8264	1.24	.8925	1.54	.9382
.05	.5199	.35	.6368	.65	.7422	.95	.8289	1.25	.8944	1.55	.9394
.06	.5239	.36	.6406	.66	.7454	.96	.8315	1.26	.8962	1.56	.9406
.07	.5279	.37	.6443	.67	.7486	.97	.8340	1.27	.8980	1.57	.9418
.08	.5319	.38	.6480	.68	.7517	.98	.8365	1.28	.8997	1.58	.9429
.09	.5359	.39	.6517	.69	.7549	.99	.8389	1.29	.9015	1.59	.9441
.10	.5398	.40	.6554	.70	.7580	1.00	.8413	1.30	.9032	1.60	.9452
.11	.5438	.41	.6591	.71	.7611	1.01	.8438	1.31	.9049	1.61	.9463
.12	.5478	.42	.6628	.72	.7642	1.02	.8461	1.32	.9066	1.62	.9474
.13	.5517	.43	.6664	.73	.7673	1.03	.8485	1.33	.9082	1.63	.9484
.14	.5557	.44	.6700	.74	.7704	1.04	.8508	1.34	.9099	1.64	.9495
.15	.5596	.45	.6736	.75	.7734	1.05	.8531	1.35	.9115	1.65	.9505
.16	.5636	.46	.6772	.76	.7764	1.06	.8554	1.36	.9131	1.66	.9515
.17	.5675	.47	.6803	.77	.7794	1.07	.8577	1.37	.9147	.167	.9525
.18	.5714	.48	.6844	.78	.7823	1.08	.8599	1.38	.9162	1.68	.9535
.19	.5753	.49	.6879	.79	.7852	1.09	.8621	1.39	.9177	1.69	.9545
.20	.5793	.50	.6915	.80	.7881	1.10	.8643	1.40	.9192	1.70	.9554
.21	.5832	.51	.6950	.81	.7910	1.11	.8665	1.41	.9207	1.71	.9564
.22	.5871	.52	.6985	.82	.7939	1.12	.8686	1.42	.9222	1.72	.9573
.23	.5910	.53	.7019	.83	.7967	1.13	.8708	1.43	.9236	1.73	.9582
.24	.5948	.54	.7054	.84	.7995	1.14	.8729	1.44	.9251	1.74	.9591
.25	.5987	.55	.7088	.85	.8023	1.15	.8749	1.45	.9265	1.75	.9599
.26	.6026	.56	.7123	.86	.8051	1.16	.8770	1.46	.9279	1.76	.9608
.27	.6064	.57	.7157	.87	.8078	1.17	.8790	1.47	.9292	1.77	.9616
.28	.6103	.58	.7190	.88	.8106	1.18	.8810	1.48	.9306	1.78	.9625
.29	.6141	.59	.7224	.89	.8133	1.19	.8830	1.49	.9319	1.79	.9633
.30	.6179	.60	.7257	.90	.8159	1.20	.8849	1.50	.9332	1.80	.9641

z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$	z	$F(z)$
1.81	.9649	2.21	.9864	2.61	.9955	3.01	.9987	3.41	.9997	3.81	.9999
1.82	.9656	2.22	.9868	2.62	.9956	3.02	.9987	3.42	.9997	3.82	.9999
1.83	.9664	2.23	.9871	2.63	.9957	3.03	.9988	3.43	.9997	3.83	.9999
1.84	.9671	2.24	.9875	2.64	.9959	3.04	.9988	3.44	.9997	3.84	.9999
1.85	.9678	2.25	.9878	2.65	.9960	3.05	.9989	3.45	.9997	3.85	.9999
1.86	.9686	2.26	.9881	2.66	.9961	3.06	.9989	3.46	.9997	3.86	.9999
1.87	.9693	2.27	.9884	2.67	.9962	3.07	.9989	3.47	.9997	3.87	.9999
1.88	.9699	2.28	.9887	2.68	.9963	3.08	.9990	3.48	.9997	3.88	.9999
1.89	.9706	2.29	.9890	2.69	.9964	3.09	.9990	3.49	.9998	3.89	1.0000
1.90	.9713	2.30	.9893	2.70	.9965	3.10	.9990	3.50	.9998	3.90	1.0000
1.91	.9719	2.31	.9896	2.71	.9966	3.11	.9991	3.51	.9998	3.91	1.0000
1.92	.9726	2.32	.9898	2.72	.9967	3.12	.9991	3.52	.9998	3.92	1.0000
1.93	.9732	2.33	.9901	2.73	.9968	3.13	.9991	3.53	.9998	3.93	1.0000
1.94	.9738	2.34	.9904	2.74	.9969	3.14	.9992	3.54	.9998	3.94	1.0000
1.95	.9744	2.35	.9906	2.75	.9970	3.15	.9992	3.55	.9998	3.95	1.0000
1.96	.9750	2.36	.9909	2.76	.9971	3.16	.9992	3.56	.9998	3.96	1.0000
1.97	.9756	2.37	.9911	2.77	.9972	3.17	.9992	3.57	.9998	3.97	1.0000
1.98	.9761	2.38	.9913	2.78	.9973	3.18	.9993	3.58	.9998	3.98	1.0000
1.99	.9767	2.39	.9916	2.79	.9974	3.19	.9993	3.59	.9998	3.99	1.0000
2.00	.9772	2.40	.9918	2.80	.9974	3.20	.9993	3.60	.9998		
2.01	.9778	2.41	.9920	2.81	.9975	3.21	.9993	3.61	.9998		
2.02	.9783	2.42	.9922	2.82	.9976	3.22	.9994	3.62	.9999		
2.03	.9788	2.43	.9925	2.83	.9977	3.23	.9994	3.63	.9999		
2.04	.9793	2.44	.9927	2.84	.9977	3.24	.9994	3.64	.9999		
2.05	.9798	2.45	.9929	2.85	.9978	3.25	.9994	3.65	.9999		
2.06	.9803	2.46	.9931	2.86	.9979	3.26	.9994	3.66	.9999		
2.07	.9808	2.47	.9932	2.87	.9979	3.27	.9995	3.67	.9999		
2.08	.9812	2.48	.9934	2.88	.9980	3.28	.9995	3.68	.9999		
2.09	.9817	2.49	.9936	2.89	.9981	3.29	.9995	3.69	.9999		
2.10	.9821	2.50	.9938	2.90	.9981	3.30	.9995	3.70	.9999		
2.11	.9826	2.51	.9940	2.91	.9982	3.31	.9995	3.71	.9999		
2.12	.0830	2.52	.9941	2.92	.9982	3.32	.9996	3.72	.9999		
2.13	.9834	2.53	.9943	2.93	.9983	3.33	.9996	3.73	.9999		
2.14	.9838	2.54	.9945	2.94	.9984	3.34	.9996	3.74	.9999		
2.15	.9842	2.55	.9946	2.95	.9984	3.35	.9996	3.75	.9999		
2.16	.9846	2.56	.9948	2.96	.9985	3.36	.9996	3.76	.9999		
2.17	.9850	2.57	.9949	2.97	.9985	3.37	.9996	3.77	.9999		
2.18	.9854	2.58	.9951	2.98	.9986	3.38	.9996	3.78	.9999		
2.19	.9857	2.59	.9952	2.99	.9986	3.39	.9997	3.79	.9999		
2.20	.9861	2.60	.9953	3.00	.9986	3.40	.9997	3.80	.9999		

Reproduced, with permission of the trustees of Biometrika, from *Biometrika Tables for Statisticians*, vol. 1 (1966).

TABLE 7 Cutoff Points of the Chi-Square Distribution Function

3/4



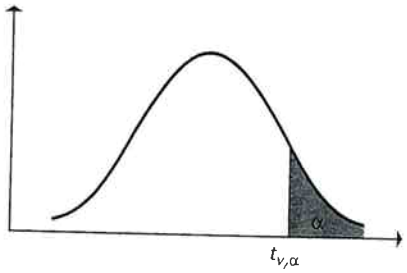
For selected probabilities α, the table shows the values $\chi^2_{\nu,\alpha}$ such that $\alpha = P(\chi^2_\nu > \chi^2_{\nu,\alpha})$, where χ^2_ν is a chi-square random variable with ν degrees of freedom. For example, the probability is .100 that a chi-square random variable with 10 degrees of freedom is greater than 15.99.

ν	α									
	.995	.990	.975	.950	.900	.100	.050	.025	.010	.005
1	0.0^4393	0.0^3157	0.0^3982	0.0^2393	0.0158	2.71	3.84	5.02	6.63	7.88
2	0.0100	0.0201	0.0506	0.103	0.211	4.61	5.99	7.38	9.21	10.60
3	0.072	0.115	0.216	0.352	0.584	6.25	7.81	9.35	11.34	12.84
4	0.207	0.297	0.484	0.711	1.064	7.78	9.49	11.14	13.28	14.86
5	0.412	0.554	0.831	1.145	1.61	9.24	11.07	12.83	15.09	16.75
6	0.676	0.872	1.24	1.64	2.20	10.64	12.59	14.45	16.81	18.55
7	0.989	1.24	1.69	2.17	2.83	12.02	14.07	16.01	18.48	20.28
8	1.34	1.65	2.18	2.73	3.49	13.36	15.51	17.53	20.09	21.96
9	1.73	2.09	2.70	3.33	4.17	14.68	16.92	19.02	21.67	23.59
10	2.16	2.56	3.25	3.94	4.87	15.99	18.31	20.48	23.21	25.19
11	2.60	3.05	3.82	4.57	5.58	17.28	19.68	21.92	24.73	26.76
12	3.07	3.57	4.40	5.23	6.30	18.55	21.03	23.34	26.22	28.30
13	3.57	4.11	5.01	5.89	7.04	19.81	22.36	24.74	27.69	29.82
14	4.07	4.66	5.63	6.57	7.79	21.06	23.68	26.12	29.14	31.32
15	4.60	5.23	6.26	7.26	8.55	22.31	25.00	27.49	30.58	32.80
16	5.14	5.81	6.91	7.96	9.31	23.54	26.30	28.85	32.00	34.27
17	5.70	6.41	7.56	8.67	10.09	24.77	27.59	30.19	33.41	35.72
18	6.26	7.01	8.23	9.39	10.86	25.99	28.87	31.53	34.81	37.16
19	6.84	7.63	8.91	10.12	11.65	27.20	30.14	32.85	36.19	38.58
20	7.43	8.26	9.59	10.85	12.44	28.41	31.41	34.17	37.57	40.00
21	8.03	8.90	10.28	11.59	13.24	29.62	32.67	35.48	38.93	41.40
22	8.64	9.54	10.98	12.34	14.04	30.81	33.92	36.78	40.29	42.80
23	9.26	10.20	11.69	13.09	14.85	32.01	35.17	38.08	41.64	44.18
24	9.89	10.86	12.40	13.85	15.66	33.20	36.42	39.36	42.98	45.56
25	10.52	11.52	13.12	14.61	16.47	34.38	37.65	40.65	44.31	46.93
26	11.16	12.20	13.84	15.38	17.29	35.56	38.89	41.92	45.64	48.29
27	11.81	12.88	14.57	16.15	18.11	36.74	40.11	43.19	46.96	49.64
28	12.46	13.56	15.31	16.93	18.94	37.92	41.34	44.46	48.28	50.99
29	13.12	14.26	16.05	17.71	19.77	39.09	42.56	45.72	49.59	52.34
30	13.79	14.95	16.79	18.49	20.60	40.26	43.77	46.98	50.89	53.67
40	20.71	22.16	24.43	26.51	29.05	51.81	55.76	59.34	63.69	66.77
50	27.99	29.71	32.36	34.76	37.69	63.17	67.50	71.42	76.15	79.49
60	35.53	37.48	40.48	43.19	46.46	74.40	79.08	83.30	88.38	91.95
70	43.28	45.44	48.76	51.74	55.33	85.53	90.53	95.02	100.4	104.2
80	51.17	53.54	57.15	60.39	64.28	96.58	101.9	106.6	112.3	116.3
90	59.20	61.75	65.65	69.13	73.29	107.6	113.1	118.1	124.1	128.3
100	67.33	70.06	74.22	77.93	82.36	118.5	124.3	129.6	135.8	140.2

Reproduced with permission from C. M. Thompson, "Tables of percentage points of the chi-square distribution," *Biometrika*, *32* (1941).

4/4

TABLE 8 Cutoff Points for the Student's t Distribution



For selected probabilities, α, the table shows the values $t_{\nu,\alpha}$ such that $P(t_\nu > t_\alpha) = \alpha$, where t_ν is a Student's t random variable with ν degrees of freedom. For example, the probability is .10 that a Student's t random variable with 10 degrees of freedom exceeds 1.372.

ν	α				
	0.100	**0.050**	**0.025**	**0.010**	**0.005**
1	3.078	6.314	12.706	31.821	63.657
2	1.886	2.920	4.303	6.965	9.925
3	1.638	2.353	3.182	4.541	5.841
4	1.533	2.132	2.776	3.747	4.604
5	1.476	2.015	2.571	3.365	4.032
6	1.440	1.943	2.447	3.143	3.707
7	1.415	1.895	2.365	2.998	3.499
8	1.397	1.860	2.306	2.896	3.355
9	1.383	1.833	2.262	2.821	3.250
10	1.372	1.812	2.228	2.764	3.169
11	1.363	1.796	2.201	2.718	3.106
12	1.356	1.782	2.179	2.681	3.055
13	1.350	1.771	2.160	2.650	3.012
14	1.345	1.761	2.145	2.624	2.977
15	1.341	1.753	2.131	2.602	2.947
16	1.337	1.746	2.120	2.583	2.921
17	1.333	1.740	2.110	2.567	2.898
18	1.330	1.734	2.101	2.552	2.878
19	1.328	1.729	2.093	2.539	2.861
20	1.325	1.725	2.086	2.528	2.845
21	1.323	1.721	2.080	2.518	2.831
22	1.321	1.717	2.074	2.508	2.819
23	1.319	1.714	2.069	2.500	2.807
24	1.318	1.711	2.064	2.492	2.797
25	1.316	1.708	2.060	2.485	2.787
26	1.315	1.706	2.056	2.479	2.779
27	1.314	1.703	2.052	2.473	2.771
28	1.313	1.701	2.048	2.467	2.763
29	1.311	1.699	2.045	2.462	2.756
30	1.310	1.697	2.042	2.457	2.750
40	1.303	1.684	2.021	2.423	2.704
60	1.296	1.671	2.000	2.390	2.660
∞	1.282	1.645	1.960	2.326	2.576