

Impact: What Influences Finance Research?

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Abstract

We list the papers that were most highly cited by top-level finance journals during the 1990s. We identify the top papers overall, the most frequently cited paper published in each of the past thirty years, and the most frequently cited papers published by journal. We use the most influential papers to construct suggested doctoral course reading lists in five finance research areas. We use a comprehensive sample of journals, an extensive time period, and a new ranking method that avoids problems inherent in the existing literature.

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I. Introduction

Finance journals have impact because they publish papers that have impact. A single paper, frequently cited, can make a researcher famous and can put the journal that publishes that paper “on the map.” Citations are, however, endogenous. As with Keynes' beauty pageant, we read and cite what other researchers read and cite. A list of the most highly-cited papers is therefore very important. It tells us what to read, what to give our students to read, and what areas and which journals are influential (and which are not).

We rank journal articles by the number of times they are cited in *Journal of Business* (JB), *Journal of Finance* (JF), *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis* (JFQA), *Journal of Financial Economics* (JFE), *Financial Management* (FM), and *Review of Financial Studies* (RFS) during 1990–1999. We use the rankings to identify the most highly-cited articles overall, the most highly-cited articles published in each of the last 30 years, and the most highly-cited articles by journal. We also use the rankings to prepare suggested reading lists for Ph.D. courses in five different research areas.

Our rankings have additional uses. Finance faculties have been evaluated on the basis of their publication record, adjusted for quality (Borokhovich, et al. (1995a)). The impact of authors (Schwert (1993)), articles (*Journal of Financial Economics* Editorial Reports), subject areas (Schwert (1993), Borokhovich, et al. (1994) and Borokhovich, et al. (1998)), and the research impact of textbooks (Borokhovich, et al. (1995b)) are all possible applications of the rankings and other information we provide.

One direct consequence of ranking articles is that we are also able to rank journals. We do so using a new methodology that refines previous journal rankings. Journal rankings have typically been calculated as the average number of citations or total number of citations

(see Table 1), but such a method may give a distorted impression of the quality of a *typical* publication in a given journal. For example, if a journal that typically publishes lower-impact papers publishes one high-impact article, then the journal may appear to be above average if judged by total number of citations alone. The number of important papers (i.e., papers cited frequently) published by a journal gives a more accurate view of journal quality by mitigating the effects of highly-cited outliers. It also mitigates other problems arising from examining citations as a measure of quality or impact, such as negative citations (articles criticizing or disagreeing with earlier published work) and self-citations.¹

From our rankings of papers we deduce a pecking order among top-level journals that is broadly consistent with recent papers that rank only journals. The top three journals are JF, JFE, and RFS. Other high-impact journals include JB, JFQA, and *Econometrica* (which ranks third in terms of total citations). Top-level finance research is clearly interdisciplinary: more than half of our top 25 journals are not narrowly focused on finance (see Table 5). The remainder of the paper is as follows: Section II reviews previous literature; Section III explains our data and our methods; Section IV discusses interesting trends in finance research; and Section V offers our conclusion.

II. Prior literature on journal impact

We focus on the impact of individual journal articles rather than the impact of the journals themselves. As such, this study differs from almost all the prior literature on the impact of finance research. One notable exception is Alexander and Mabry (1994); we compare our rankings to theirs in Section IV. A by-product of our ranking of individual articles is that we have information that enables us to rank journals in a new and improved fashion. It is for this

reason that we now review briefly the literature on journal ranking methods and discuss our improvement upon those methods.

One commonly used criterion of journal quality for the social sciences journals (about 1,400 journals) is to measure the number of citations to a given journal by any other social science journal. Such measures are produced by *Social Sciences Citation Index* (SSCI) and are reported annually in *Journal Citation Record*. The measures most used are “cited half-life” and “impact factor.” *Cited half-life* is the number of years back from the current year it takes to account for half of the citations in the current year, which is a rough indication of the age of cited articles that were published in a journal (e.g., if in 1999 a journal was cited 500 times, and 40 of those citations were to 1999 papers, 80 were citations to 1998 papers, and 130 were to 1997 papers—a total of 250 citations to the last three years—the journal would have a cited half-life of three years). *Impact factor* is the number of citations to a given journal that date from the previous two years divided by the number of articles published in the said journal during the previous two years (e.g., if in 1999 a journal was cited 500 times for 200 articles published in 1997 and 1998, it would have a 1999 two-year impact factor of 2.5). The SSCI measures are widely used (see Table 1); however, these measures may be biased because the citation count includes citations made by non-finance journals and because some journals publish service articles such as book reviews.²

To avoid the non-finance bias in the SSCI measures, we follow the methodology used by Mabry and Sharplin (1985), Alexander and Mabry (1994), and Zivney and Richenstein (1994). These authors used citations produced only by finance journals over a given period rather than SSCI measures, which are generated from about 1,400 social science journals, many of which are unrelated to business disciplines. We update these studies using both a

more comprehensive sample (ten years and six journals) and a new ranking method (number of important papers published).

III. Data and Empirical Methods

To determine which articles influenced the field of finance most, we looked at all the citations made by papers published in six leading finance journals over a ten-year period. These data are much more comprehensive than those used in any prior study.³ We selected JB, JF, JFQA, JFE, FM, and RFS as our six source journals and the period 1990–1999 as our time frame. We selected JF, JFE, JFQA, and RFS because these journals are used in Alexander and Mabry (1994) as source journals. We included JB because Alexander and Mabry (1994) identify it as a highly influential journal in finance. We included FM because Borokhovich, et al. (1999) identify it as being a top finance journal. The extended time period we examine allows us to identify journals and articles that have stood the test of time. We use the citations listings from *Institute for Scientific Information's* citation database *Web of Science* as the source for our data.

We collected a list of all the works cited in every article published in our six source journals during the ten-year time frame. There are 67,944 citations in total. From this list of citations we compiled the number of citations each paper received, generating a list of 32,131 unique sources cited. We constructed a list of articles and their citation counts that we sorted to generate the list of top articles and a compilation of the 2,000 papers cited most often. The most-cited paper (see Table 2) had 396 cites; the 2,000th paper had five cites. These top 2,000 papers are deemed “important papers” for purposes of this study. We present a list of the top 50 of these articles in Table 2. We refer to papers published during or after 1990 as

“recent papers.” A top-2,000 paper published during or after 1990 is thus a “recent important” paper.

We list the top papers in each of the past 30 years in Table 3. With only three cites, Wermers (1999) was the most highly-cited paper of 1999. A paper that generates a few cites immediately may indicate a rising star. This information is useful for universities who want to hire up-and-coming stars before they are widely recognized as such. The number of citations to the most highly-cited paper of the year almost doubles year by year for the last seven years. Thus, Fama and French (1993) and Fama and French (1992) came out on top with 128 and 183 cites, respectively. Figures 3 and 4 show that citation counts peak for papers published 10 to 15 years ago. Figures 3 and 4 also demonstrate the “Hal White his 1980 *Econometrica* paper is such an oft-cited outlier that it distorts both plots.

We list the top papers in each of several selected journals in Table 4. We list the top 10 articles published in JF and JFE and the top 5 articles published in RFS, *Econometrica*, JB, JFQA, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review*, and *Journal of Political Economy*. The natural next step is to rank journals.

To assess the impact that journals have, we calculated the number of important papers (i.e., top 2,000) published in each journal (Table 5 and Figure 1). By this measure, JF and JFE are dominant with 517 and 406 important papers, respectively. Although *Econometrica* is second highest in terms of total number of citations, when ranking by number of important papers *Econometrica*, with 65, falls below RFS, JB, and JFQA, which have 124, 90, and 87, respectively. The contrast between total citations and number of important papers is readily apparent in the case of *Journal of Financial Research*, which has a large number of citations (407), but only one paper that is among the 2,000 most cited papers over our sample period

(Rozeff (1982)). Conversely, *The Journal of Accounting and Economics* makes it into the top 10 based on number of important papers, but it is 13th based on total number of cites.

Figure 2 shows the top 25 journals ranked by total number of citations. JF and JFE are very close in terms of total citations, with 11,392 and 11,051 citations, respectively. No other journal has more than 2,500 citations during the 10-year time period. The next group of finance journals includes RFS, JB, and JFQA with 2,327, 1,986, and 1,807 total citations, respectively. *Econometrica* had more citations than each of these three—2,457 total, but only 143 of these were citations to recent papers (i.e., 1990 or after).

To gain insight into recent trends among journals, Table 5 and Figure 1 show which journals have recent important papers (i.e., top-2,000 papers published since 1990).⁴ JF is again the clear leader with 229 recent important papers. JFE and RFS are substantially below that mark with 128 and 90 important recent papers, respectively. JB, with 26 recent important papers, falls below JFQA and FM, which have 35 and 29 recent important papers, respectively.

We can also look at recent papers that are not necessarily top-2,000 papers (Table 5 and Figure 2). JF has had substantially more citations of recently published papers than JFE (4,017 citations for JF; 2,240 for JFE). RFS has had 1,165 citations of recently published papers. JPE, JFQA, FM, *Journal of Econometrics*, and JB have also made substantial impact; they have 458, 284, 235, 223, and 222 citations of recent papers, respectively.

Based on citation count and an admittedly subjective assessment of topical areas of various papers, we developed reading lists for hypothetical graduate courses in finance. In Tables 6 through 10, we present these lists of highly-cited papers that could be included in courses on asset pricing and investments, banking and financial intermediation, corporate

finance, empirical finance, and market microstructure. Table 11 presents other finance and methodological papers that are frequently cited and could also be used in a graduate course in financial economics.

In Table 12 we present information on journal quality and submission fees. We find that of the journals that charge a submission fee, JF has the highest impact per dollar charged for submission fees.

IV. Observations and trends

There are many different ways for a paper to be successful. For example, several econometrics papers are cited very frequently. For the most part, however, these are “service papers” whose methodology or results are being used by others, but are rarely changed or improved upon (e.g., White (1980), Hansen (1982), Newey and West (1987)). This differs substantially from a high ranking generated by a paper like Black and Scholes (1973) that many researchers are actively trying to extend and improve.

Alexander and Mabry (1994) (hereafter referred to as “AM”) is the only other paper we are aware of that also ranks individual papers. Their rankings are based on data from the period 1987–1991 and thus overlap our 1990–1999 rankings by two years. AM's list of the top 50 papers (their Table IV) contains 27 papers also in our list of the top 50 (Table 2). The 23 new papers on our top-50 list and the changes in the rankings of the old papers that were also in AM's top 50 provide important information about changes in top-level finance research. The most striking change in the top 50 papers is a heavy swing toward microstructure with Kyle (1985), Admati and Pfleiderer (1988), Easley and O'Hara (1987), Amihud and Mendelson (1986), and Demsetz (1968) all new to the top 50. Kyle (1985)

comes in 7th, a placement that suggests that many recent papers are related to his model. Cox, et al. (1985) moved from 22nd to 8th place and Vasicek (1977), now 44th, did not make AM's list. This reflects the rising importance of term structure models. Two recent Fama-French papers (1992 and 1993) postdate AM's top 50, but make it into our top 20. They represent a resurgence of interest in the validity of the traditional CAPM. Two IPO papers (Ritter 1991; Rock 1986) are new on the top-50 list. Casual empiricism suggests that the markets experienced an IPO craze during the 1990s, and thus increased research on that topic is not unexpected. Newey-West (1987) extends White (1980) and did not appear on AM's top-50 list. Moreover, White (1980) jumps from 4th to 1st. Both observations suggest that top-level finance research is becoming more econometrically sophisticated.

Other interesting comparisons of AM's top-50 list and ours include the following: Black and Scholes (1973) fell from 2nd to 10th, Merton's 1973 option pricing paper fell from 6th to 25th, and Sharpe (1964) fell off the list completely (AM ranked Sharpe at 29th). We theorize that this is because the Black-Scholes-Merton and Sharpe papers are so widely known that authors simply refer to "Black-Scholes" or "CAPM" without actually citing the relevant paper in full. Oscar Wilde said "The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about," and the curse of fame here is that Black, Scholes, Merton, and Sharpe are talked about *so much* that, often, they are no longer cited in full.

Event study methodology has migrated away from traditional event studies toward long-run performance studies (e.g., Brown and Warner (1985) fell from 3rd to 22nd and Scholes and Williams (1977) fell from 9th to 41st). Ritter (1991), with 115 citations in our study and a rank in our top 25, was the first long-run performance study. Barber and Lyon's (1997) methodological improvement over Ritter (1991) is also highly cited. Finally, four papers that

moved very little in the top-50 rankings are Campbell (1987) going from 49th to 48th, Smith and Warner (1979) going from 40th to 39th, Banz (1981) going from 33rd to 29nd, and Myers and Majluf (1984) going from 5th to 4th.

Making inferences from the rankings of papers is more complicated than it might seem at first. For example, asking the question “is *Econometrica* a ‘hot’ or ‘cold’ journal?”, requires close examination of the data. From Table 2 we see that *Econometrica* has four of the top ten papers. Closer examination of this table (or of Panel D of Table 4) reveals, however, that none of these papers is recent. However, the same can be said for every journal panel in Table 4. The explanation is that the papers that are most often cited overall during the decade have to be, by definition, older papers. To get a better feel for which journals are hot or cold, Table 3 gives the most highly-cited paper for each of the last 30 years. It is clear from Table 3 that JF has dominated the 1990s and that *Econometrica* and JFE were dominant during the late 1970s and through the 1980s.

Some authors appear in the top 50 (see Table 2) more than once: Fama (5 papers; 601 cites), Jensen (4 papers; 675 cites), French (3 papers; 390 cites), Ross (3 papers; 294 cites), Smith (3 papers; 281 cites), Merton (2 papers; 208 cites), Myers (2 papers; 457 cites), Rock (2 papers; 223 cites), Scholes (2 papers; 269 cites), Shleifer (2 papers; 224 cites), and Warner (2 papers; 208 cites). Fama's papers in the top 50 are dated 1993, 1992, 1988, 1983, and 1973—a chronology that suggests a consistent ability to do work that will be important and highly cited. Many of the same authors appear more than once in the list of most highly-cited papers by year: Fama (4 papers; and note that two of these differ from those on the top-50 list), French (3 papers), Jensen (3 papers), Black (2 papers), Daniel (2 papers), Merton (2 papers), Myers (2 papers), and Ritter (2 papers). The top 50 papers are all-time winners and

have stood the test of time; the most highly-cited papers by year were stars in their day but have not yet made it into the top 50.

A comparison of our suggested Ph.D. readings lists in Tables 6 through 10 reveals some differences between finance sub-disciplines. Only two of the asset pricing papers are recent, and both are empirical. This is in contrast with the papers in banking and financial intermediation, where seven of the cites are recent and most of the papers are theoretical. This is consistent with a theory dry spell in asset pricing or with higher quality of data for testing asset pricing models (e.g., CRSP, TAQ) than for testing intermediation models.

V. Conclusion

We determine which journal articles influenced the field of finance most during the 1990s. By looking at the works cited by articles published in top finance journals, we are also able to assess journal quality both by the number of citations the journal receives and by the number of important papers each journal has published. This tells researchers where to publish, what to read, and which papers to include in course material. Our findings also identify trends in, and the most influential areas of, finance research. For example, JF had the most highly-cited paper of the year for eight of ten years in the 1990s. In the 1980s, however, only half of the most highly-cited papers of each year were published in a finance journal, and these were all in JFE.

JF and JFE have had the most unambiguous impact on finance research in the 1990s. RFS, JB, and JFQA are also among the strongest influences on finance research. Other than JB, non-finance journals that rate highly by our ranking criteria include *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, and *Econometrica*

(which had a particularly strong showing). The interdisciplinary nature of the finance field is made evident by the fact that a large proportion of our top journals are non-finance journals.

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Table 1
Citation Studies of Journal Rankings, 1983–2000

Year	Authors	Time span of study	Number of source journals	Citation measures used
1983	Coe and Weinstock	N/A	N/A	Survey ^a
1985	Mabry and Sharplin	1980–1985	4	SE ^b , AE ^c , IE ^d
1990	<i>Journal of Financial Economics</i> (JFE) Editorial	1988	SSJ ^e	SSCI Factors ^f
1994	Zivney and Richenstein	1990	18	SE, IF ^g , AIF ^h
1994	Alexander and Mabry ⁱ	1987–1991	4	SE, AE, IE
1995	Borokhovich, Bricker, Zivney, and Sundaram	Varies (1972–1994)	SSJ, 16 Textbooks	SSCI Impact Factor, SE for Textbooks, Circulation Figures
1999	Borokhovich, Bricker, and Simkins	1984–1997	SSJ	SSCI Factors with additional Factors ^j
2000	Borokhovich, Bricker, and Simkins	1990–1996	SSJ	SSCI Impact Factor
1997–2000	JFE Editorial Report for 1996–1999	Varies	SSJ	SSCI Impact Factor

^a Survey of 106 department chairpersons as to journal quality and perceived journal acceptance rates.

^b Simple Effectiveness = number of times cited.

^c Article Effectiveness = Simple Effectiveness divided by the average annual number of articles published.

^d Impact Efficiency = (Simple Effectiveness divided by the average number of words per year) times 10,000.

^e Refers to all Social Sciences Journals (about 1,400).

^f *Social Science Citation Index's* Journal Citation Record has two quality measures beyond simply the number of times an article/journal has been cited (SE): Impact Factor (number of citations that date from the two previous years over the number of articles published in the two previous years) and Cited Half-Life (the number of years in the past it takes to incorporate 50% of the citations in the current year).

^g Impact Factor = Simple Effectiveness divided by the number of articles published between 1980 and 1990.

^h Adjusted Impact Factor = Same as Impact Factor but the number of citations (SE) excludes self-citations.

ⁱ Also lists the 50 most cited authors and the 50 most cited articles.

^j Uses two more SSCI factors: Immediacy Index (number of citations in a year divided by the number of articles published in the same year) and the (1993) Deurenberg Index (product of the SSCI Impact Factor multiplied by the SSCI Cited Half-Life).

Table 2
Top 50 Most-cited Articles

This table lists the 50 articles that have been most often cited by top finance journals (JB, JF, JFE, JFQA, RFS) during the period 1990–1999. Journal abbreviations are as follows: ECMT = *Econometrica*, AER = *American Economic Review*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, JF = *Journal of Finance*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, RFS = *Review of Financial Studies*, RAND = *RAND/Bell Journal of Economics*, JET = *Journal of Economic Theory*, QJE = *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, JB = *Journal of Business*, JLE = *Journal of Law and Economics*. Recent papers are marked “*.”

	Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal	Number of citations
1	White, Halbert	1980	A Heteroskedasticity Consistent Covariance Matrix Estimator and a Direct Test for Heteroskedasticity	ECMT	396
2	Jensen, Michael C.	1986	Agency Costs of Free Cash Flow, Corporate Finance, and Takeovers	AER	268
3	Myers, Stewart C.	1977	Determinants of Corporate Borrowing	JFE	236
4	Myers, Stewart C.; Majluf, Nicholas S.	1984	Corporate Financing and Investment Decisions When Firms Have Information That Investors Do Not Have	JFE	221
5	Jensen, Michael C.; Meckling, William H.	1976	Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure	JFE	218
6	Hansen, Lars Peter	1982	Large Sample Properties of Generalized Method of Moments Estimators	ECMT	217
7	Kyle, Albert S.	1985	Continuous Auctions and Insider Trading	ECMT	216
8	Cox, John C.; Ingersoll, Jonathan E., Jr.; Ross, Stephen A.	1985	A Theory of the Term Structure of Interest Rates	ECMT	213
9	*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1992	The Cross-Section of Expected Stock Returns	JF	183
10	Black, Fischer; Scholes, Myron S.	1973	The Pricing of Options and Corporate Liabilities	JPE	178
11	Stulz, Rene M.	1988	Managerial Control of Voting Rights: Financing Policies and the Market for Corporate Control	JFE	162
12	Glosten, Lawrence R.; Milgrom, Paul R.	1985	Bid, Ask, and Transaction Prices in a Specialist Market with Heterogeneously Informed Traders	JFE	142
13	Asquith, Paul; Mullins, David W., Jr.	1986	Equity Issues and Offering Dilution	JFE	134
14	Miller, Merton H.; Rock, Kevin	1985	Dividend Policy under Asymmetric Information	JF	134
15	Fama, Eugene F., Macbeth, J.	1973	Risk, Return, and Equilibrium: Empirical Tests	JPE	130
16	Morck, Randall; Shleifer, Andrei; Vishny, Robert W.	1988	Management Ownership and Market Valuation: An Empirical Analysis	JFE	129
17	*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1993	Common Risk Factors in the Returns on Stock and Bonds	JFE	128
18	Newey, Whitney K.; West, Kenneth D.	1987	A Simple, Positive Semi-Definite, Heteroskedasticity and Autocorrelation Consistent Covariance Matrix	ECMT	121
19	Admati, Anat R.; Pfleiderer, Paul	1988	A Theory of Intraday Patterns: Volume and Price Variability	RFS	118
20	Easley, David; O'Hara, Maureen	1987	Price, Trade Size, and Information in Securities Markets	JFE	117
21	Leland, Hayne E.; Pyle, David H.	1977	Informational Asymmetries, Financial Structure, and Financial Intermediation	JF	117
22	Brown, Stephen J.; Warner, Jerold B.	1985	Using Daily Stock Returns: The Case of Event Studies	JFE	115

23	*Ritter, Jay R.	1991	The Long-Run Performance of Initial Public Offerings	JF	115
24	Kaplan, Steven	1989	The Effects of Management Buyouts on Operating Performance and Value	JFE	112
25	Merton, Robert C.	1973	Theory of Rational Option Pricing	RAND	111
26	Jensen, Michael C.; Ruback, Richard S.	1983	The Market for Corporate Control: The Scientific Evidence	JFE	108
27	Mikkelson, Wayne H.; Partch, M. Megan	1986	Valuation Effects of Security Offerings and the Issuance Process	JFE	108
28	*Smith, Clifford W., Jr.; Watts, Ross L.	1992	The Investment Opportunity Set and Corporate Financing, Dividend, and Compensation Policies	JFE	107
29	Banz, Rolf W.	1981	The Relationship between Return and Market Value of Common Stocks	JFE	104
30	De Bondt, Werner F. M.; Thaler, Richard	1985	Does the Stock Market Overreact?	JF	103
31	Masulis, Ronald W.; Korwar, Ashok N.	1986	Seasoned Equity Offerings: An Empirical Investigation	JFE	103
32	Ross, Stephen A.	1976	The Arbitrage Theory of Capital Asset Pricing	JET	101
33	Merton, Robert C.	1973	An Intertemporal Capital Asset Pricing Model	ECMT	97
34	*Gilson, Stuart C.; John, Kose; Lang, Larry H. P.	1990	Troubled Debt Restructurings: An Empirical Study of Private Reorganization of Firms in Default	JFE	96
35	Shleifer, Andrei	1986	Large Shareholders and Corporate Control	JPE	95
36	Weisbach, Michael S.	1988	Outside Directors and CEO Turnover	JFE	95
37	Bradley, Michael; Desai, Anand; Kim, E. Han	1988	Synergistic Gains from Corporate Acquisitions and Their Division between the Stockholders of Target and Acquiring Firms	JFE	93
38	Poterba, James M.; Summers, Lawrence H.	1988	Mean Reversion in Stock Prices	JFE	93
39	Smith, Clifford W., Jr.; Warner, Jerold B.	1979	On Financial Contracting: An Analysis of Bond Covenants	JFE	93
40	Amihud, Yakov; Mendelson, Haim	1986	Asset Pricing and the Bid Ask Spread	JFE	92
41	Scholes, Myron; Williams, Joseph T.	1977	Estimating Betas from Nonsynchronous Data	JFE	91
42	Rock, Kevin	1986	Why New Issues Are Underpriced	JFE	89
43	Chen, Nai Fu; Roll, Richard; Ross, Stephen A.	1986	Economic Forces and the Stock Market	JB	86
44	Vasicek, Oldrich	1977	An Equilibrium Characterization of the Term Structure	JFE	85
45	Demsetz, Harold	1968	The Cost of Transacting	QJE	82
46	Fama, Eugene F.; Jensen, Michael C.	1983	Separation of Ownership and Control	JLE	81
47	Smith, Clifford W., Jr.	1986	Investment Banking and the Capital Acquisition Process	JFE	81
48	Campbell, John Y.	1987	Stock Returns and the Term Structure	JFE	80
49	Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1988	Permanent and Temporary Components of Stock Prices	JPE	79
50	Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1988	Stock Market Prices Do Not Follow Random Walks: Evidence from a Simple Specification Test	RFS	77

Table 3
Most Frequently Cited Paper for Each of the Last 30 Years

This table lists the article from each publication year that has been most often cited by top finance journals (JB, JF, JFE, JFQA, RFS) during the period 1990–1999. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, ECMT = *Econometrica*, AER = *American Economic Review*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, JB = *Journal of Business*, JET = *Journal of Economic Theory*, QJE = *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Year	Author(s)	Paper title	Source	Number of citations
1999	Wermers, Russ	Mutual Fund Herding and the Impact on Stock Prices	JF	3
1998	Daniel, Kent; Hirshleifer, David; Subrahmanyam, Avanidhar	Investor Psychology and Security Market Under- and Overreactions	JF	7
1997	Daniel, Kent; Titman, Sheridan	Evidence on the Characteristics of Cross Sectional Variation in Stock Returns	JF	31
1996	Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	Multifactor Explanations of Asset Pricing Anomalies	JF	47
1995	Loughran, Tim; Ritter, Jay R.	The New Issues Puzzle	JF	59
1994	Lakonishok, Josef; Shleifer, Andrei ; Vishny, Robert	Contrarian Investment, Extrapolation, and Risk	JF	58
1993	Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	Common Risk Factors in the Returns on Stock and Bonds	JFE	128
1992	Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	The Cross-Section of Expected Stock Returns	JF	183
1991	Ritter, Jay R.	The Long-Run Performance of Initial Public Offerings	JF	115
1990	Gilson, Stuart C.; John, Kose; Lang, Larry H. P.	Troubled Debt Restructurings: An Empirical Study of Private Reorganization of Firms in Default	JFE	96
1989	Kaplan, Steven	The Effects of Management Buyouts on Operating Performance and Value	JFE	112
1988	Stulz, Rene M.	Managerial Control of Voting Rights: Financing Policies and the Market for Corporate Control	JFE	162
1987	Newey, Whitney K.; West, Kenneth D.	A Simple, Positive Semi-Definite, Heteroskedasticity and Autocorrelation Consistent Covariance Matrix	ECMT	121
1986	Jensen, Michael C.	Agency Costs of Free Cash Flow, Corporate Finance, and Takeovers	AER	268
1985	Kyle, Albert S.	Continuous Auctions and Insider Trading	ECMT	216
1984	Myers, Stewart C.; Majluf, Nicholas S.	Corporate Financing and Investment Decisions When Firms Have Information That Investors Do Not Have	JFE	221
1983	Jensen, Michael C.; Ruback, Richard S.	The Market for Corporate Control: The Scientific Evidence	JFE	108
1982	Hansen, Lars Peter	Large Sample Properties of Generalized Method of Moments Estimators	ECMT	217

1981	Banz, Rolf W.	The Relationship between Return and Market Value of Common Stocks	JFE	104
1980	White, Halbert	A Heteroskedasticity Consistent Covariance Matrix Estimator and a Direct Test for Heteroskedasticity	ECMT	396
1979	Smith, Clifford W., Jr.; Warner, Jerold B.	On Financial Contracting: An Analysis of Bond Covenants	JFE	93
1978	Lucas, Robert E., Jr.	Asset Prices in an Exchange Economy	ECMT	74
1977	Myers, Stewart C.	Determinants of Corporate Borrowing	JFE	236
1976	Jensen, Michael C.; Meckling, William H.	Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure	JFE	218
1975	Ibbotson, Roger G.	Price Performance of Common Stock New Issues	JFE	62
1974	Merton, Robert C.	On the Pricing of Corporate Debt: The Risk Structure of Interest Rates	JF	49
1973	Black, Fischer; Scholes, Myron S.	The Pricing of Options and Corporate Liabilities	JPE	178
1972	Black, Fischer	Capital Market Equilibrium with Restricted Borrowing	JB	43
1971	Merton, Robert C.	Optimum Consumption and Portfolio Rules in a Continuous-Time Model	JET	27
1970	Fama, Eugene F.	Efficient Capital Markets: A Review of Theory and Empirical Work	JF	28
pre-1970 (1968)	Demsetz, Harold	The Cost of Transacting	QJE	82

Table 4
Important Papers by Journal

This table lists the articles published in *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Econometrica*, *Journal of Business*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, *American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, and *Quarterly Journal of Economics* that have been most cited by top finance journals (*Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Business*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, and *Financial Management*) during the period 1990–1999. Recent papers are marked “*.”

Panel A: *Journal of Finance*

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1992	The Cross-Section of Expected Stock Returns	183
Miller, Merton H.; Rock, Kevin	1985	Dividend Policy under Asymmetric Information	134
Leland, Hayne E.; Pyle, David H.	1977	Informational Asymmetries, Financial Structure, and Financial Intermediation	117
*Ritter, Jay R.	1991	The Long-Run Performance of Initial Public Offerings	115
De Bondt, Werner F. M.; Thaler, Richard	1985	Does the Stock Market Overreact?	103
Titman, Sheridan; Wessels, Roberto	1988	The Determinants of Capital Structure Choice	76
John, Kose; Williams, Joseph	1985	Dividends, Dilution, and Taxes: A Signalling Equilibrium	75
Sharpe, William F.	1964	Capital Asset Prices: A Theory of Market Equilibrium Under Conditions of Risk	73
Roll, Richard; Ross, Stephen A.	1984	A Simple Implicit Measure of the Effective Bid Ask Spread in an Efficient Market	71
*Lee, Charles M. C.; Ready, Mark J.	1991	Inferring Trade Direction from Intraday Data	67

Panel B: *Journal of Financial Economics*

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
Myers, Stewart C.	1977	Determinants of Corporate Borrowing	236
Myers, Stewart C.; Majluf, Nicholas	1984	Corporate Financing and Investment Decisions When Firms Have Information That Investors Do Not Have	221
Jensen, Michael C.; Meckling, William H.	1976	Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure	218
Stulz, Rene M.	1988	Managerial Control of Voting Rights: Financing Policies and the Market for Corporate Control	162
Glosten, Lawrence R.; Milgrom, Paul	1985	Bid, Ask, and Transaction Prices in a Specialist Market with Heterogeneously Informed Traders	142
Asquith, Paul; Mullins, David W., Jr.	1986	Equity Issues and Offering Dilution	134
Morck, Randall; Shleifer, Andrei; Vishny, Robert W.	1988	Management Ownership and Market Valuation: An Empirical Analysis	129
*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1993	Common Risk Factors in the Returns on Stock and Bonds	128
Easley, David; O'Hara, Maureen	1987	Price, Trade Size, and Information in Securities Markets	117
Brown, Stephen J.; Warner, Jerold B.	1985	Using Daily Stock Returns: The Case of Event Studies	115

Panel C: Review of Financial Studies

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
Admati, Anat R.; Pfleiderer, Paul	1988	A Theory of Intraday Patterns: Volume and Price Variability	118
Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1988	Stock Market Prices Do Not Follow Random Walks: Evidence from a Simple Specification Test	77
*Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1990	When Are Contrarian Profits Due to Stock Market Overreaction?	50
*Foster, F. Douglas; Viswanathan, S.	1990	A Theory of the Interday Variations in Volume, Variance, and Trading Costs in Securities Markets	41
*Stoll, Hans R.; Whaley, Robert E.	1990	Stock Market Structure and Volatility	40

Panel D: Econometrica

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
White, Halbert	1980	A Heteroskedasticity Consistent Covariance Matrix Estimator and a Direct Test for Heteroskedasticity	396
Hansen, Lars Peter	1982	Large Sample Properties of Generalized Method of Moments Estimators	217
Kyle, Albert S.	1985	Continuous Auctions and Insider Trading	216
Cox, John C.; Ingersoll, Jonathan E., Jr.; Ross, Stephen A.	1985	A Theory of the Term Structure of Interest Rates	213
Newey, Whitney K.; West, Kenneth D.	1987	A Simple, Positive Semi-Definite, Heteroskedasticity and Autocorrelation Consistent Covariance Matrix	121

Panel E: Journal of Business

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
Chen, Nai Fu; Roll, Richard; Ross, Stephen A.	1986	Economic Forces and the Stock Market	86
Miller, Merton H.; Modigliani, Franco	1961	Dividend Policy, Growth and the Valuation of Shares	60
Ritter, Jay R.	1984	The “Hot Issue” Market of 1980	48
Roll, Richard	1986	The Hubris Hypothesis of Corporate Takeovers	46
Lindenberg, Eric B.; Ross, Stephen A.	1981	Tobin's q Ratio and Industrial Organization	44

Panel F: Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
Karpoff, Jonathan M.	1987	The Relation between Price Changes and Trading Volume: A Survey	34
Vermaelen, Theo	1984	Repurchase Tender Offers, Signaling, and Managerial Incentives	28
Jain, Prem C.; Joh, Gun Ho	1988	The Dependence between Hourly Prices and Trading Volume	25
Mikkelson, Wayne H.; Partch, M. Megan	1988	Withdrawn Security Offerings	24
Smith, Clifford W.; Stulz, Rene M.	1985	The Determinants of Firms' Hedging Policies	21

Panel G: American Economic Review

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
Jensen, Michael C.	1986	Agency Costs of Free Cash Flow, Corporate Finance, and Takeovers	268
Modigliani Franco.; Miller, Merton H	1958	The Cost of Capital, Corporation Finance and the Theory of Investment	66
Grossman, Sanford J.; Stiglitz, Joseph E.	1980	On the Impossibility of Informationally Efficient Markets	54
Easterbrook, Frank H.	1984	Two Agency Cost Explanations of Dividends	44
Fama, Eugene F.	1981	Stock Returns, Real Activity, Inflation, and Money	37

Panel H: Journal of Political Economy

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
Black, Fischer; Scholes, Myron S.	1973	The Pricing of Options and Corporate Liabilities	178
Fama, Eugene F.	1973	Risk, Return, and Equilibrium: Empirical Tests	130
Shleifer, Andrei	1986	Large Shareholders and Corporate Control	95
Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1988	Permanent and Temporary Components of Stock Prices	79
Demsetz, Harold; Lehn, Kenneth	1985	The Structure of Corporate Ownership: Causes and Consequences	71

Panel I: Quarterly Journal of Economics

Author(s)	Year	Title	Number of citations
Demsetz, Harold	1968	The Cost of Transacting	82
*Hoshi, Takeo; Kashyap, Anil; Scharfstein, David	1991	Corporate Structure, Liquidity, and Investment: Evidence from Japanese Industrial Groups	40
McDonald, Robert; Siegel, Daniel	1986	The Value of Waiting to Invest	36
Cho, In Koo; Kreps, David M.	1987	Signaling Games and Stable Equilibria	30
*Lehmann, Bruce N.	1990	Fads, Martingales, and Market Efficiency	25

Table 5
Journal Rankings

“Total citations” is calculated as the number of citations made to these journals by papers published in *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Business*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, and *Financial Management* during the period 1990–1999. We constructed a list of the 2,000 most highly-cited papers; these top 2,000 are deemed “important papers.” Recent citations are citations to papers published in the period 1990–1999; recent important papers are papers in the top 2,000 list that were published between 1990 and 1999. “Percent recent citations” is calculated as the number of recent citations divided by the number recent papers” is calculated as the number of recent citations divided by the number of recent important papers divided by the total number of important papers.

	Journal	Important papers	Total citations	Recent citations	Recent important papers	Percent recent citations	Percent recent papers
1	Journal of Finance	517	11392	4017	229	35.3%	44.3%
2	Journal of Financial Economics	406	11051	2240	128	20.3%	31.5%
3	Review of Financial Studies	124	2327	1165	90	50.1%	72.6%
4	Journal of Business	90	1986	222	26	11.2%	28.9%
5	Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis	87	1807	284	35	15.7%	40.2%
6	Econometrica	65	2457	143	9	5.8%	13.8%
7	Journal of Political Economy	62	1804	458	22	25.4%	35.5%
8	American Economic Review	53	1713	190	16	11.1%	30.2%
9	Financial Management	46	1262	235	29	18.6%	63.0%
10	Journal of Accounting and Economics	35	669	129	11	19.3%	31.4%
11	RAND/Bell Journal of Economics	31	1245	29	14	2.3%	45.2%
12	Quarterly Journal of Economics	25	846	171	10	20.2%	40.0%
13	Journal of Economic Theory	17	729	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
14	Journal of Monetary Economics	17	544	19	3	3.5%	17.6%
15	Journal of Accounting Research	16	486	70	3	14.4%	18.8%
16	Journal of Law and Economics	16	461	23	2	5.0%	12.5%
17	Financial Analysts Journal	15	563	27	2	4.8%	13.3%
18	Review of Economic Studies	15	474	94	9	19.8%	60.0%
19	Journal of Econometrics	13	454	223	10	49.1%	76.9%
20	Journal of Banking and Finance	7	490	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
21	Review of Economics and Statistics	7	352	7	1	2.0%	14.3%
22	Journal of Portfolio Management	3	309	0	0	0.0%	0.0%
23	Journal of Financial Research	1	407	16	0	3.9%	0.0%
24	Unpublished manuscripts	n/a	1598				
25	Ph.D. theses	n/a	375				

Table 6
Asset Pricing and Investment Papers

This table identifies some top cited articles that could be appropriate for a doctoral level course in asset pricing and investments. The list is presented in descending order of number of citations. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, ECMT = *Econometrica*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, JB = *Journal of Business*, JET = *Journal of Economic Theory*, RAND = *Rand/Bell Journal of Economics*, RFS = *Review of Financial Studies*. Recent papers are marked “*.”

Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal	Number of citations
Kyle, Albert S.	1985	Continuous Auctions and Insider Trading	ECMT	216
Cox, John C.; Ingersoll, Jonathan E., Jr.; Ross, Stephen A.	1985	A Theory of the Term Structure of Interest Rates	ECMT	213
*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1992	The Cross-Section of Expected Stock Returns	JF	183
Black, Fischer; Scholes, Myron S.	1973	The Pricing of Options and Corporate Liabilities	JPE	178
Fama, Eugene F.	1973	Risk, Return, and Equilibrium: Empirical Tests	JPE	130
*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1993	Common Risk Factors in the Returns on Stock and Bonds	JFE	128
Merton, Robert C.	1973	Theory of Rational Option Pricing	RAND	111
Banz, Rolf W.	1981	The Relationship between Return and Market Value of Common Stocks	JFE	104
De Bondt, Werner F. M.; Thaler, Richard	1985	Does the Stock Market Overreact?	JF	103
Ross, Stephen A.	1976	The Arbitrage Theory of Capital Asset Pricing	JET	101
Merton, Robert C.	1973	An Intertemporal Capital Asset Pricing Model	ECMT	97
Poterba, James M.; Summers, Lawrence H.	1988	Mean Reversion in Stock Prices	JFE	93
Amihud, Yakov; Mendelson, Haim	1986	Asset Pricing and the Bid Ask Spread	JFE	92
Chen, Nai Fu; Roll, Richard; Ross, Stephen A.	1986	Economic Forces and the Stock Market	JB	86
Vasicek, Oldrich	1977	An Equilibrium Characterization of the Term Structure	JFE	85
Campbell, John Y.	1987	Stock Returns and the Term Structure	JFE	80
Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth R.	1988	Permanent and Temporary Components of Stock Prices	JPE	79
Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1988	Stock Market Prices Do Not Follow Random Walks: Evidence from a Simple Specification Test	RFS	77
Blume, Marshall E.; Stambaugh, Robert F.	1983	Biases in Computed Returns: An Application to the Size Effect	JFE	75
Roll, Richard	1977	A Critique of the Asset Pricing Theory's Tests: Part I: On Past and Potential Testability of the Theory	JFE	75
Lucas, Robert E., Jr.	1978	Asset Prices in an Exchange Economy	ECMT	74
Sharpe, William F.	1964	Capital Asset Prices: A Theory of Market Equilibrium Under Conditions of Risk	JF	73
Keim, Donald B.; Stambaugh, Robert F.	1986	Predicting Returns in the Stock and Bond Markets	JFE	72
Roll, Richard; Ross, Stephen A.	1984	A Simple Implicit Measure of the Effective Bid Ask Spread in an Efficient Market	JF	71
Harrison, J. Michael; Kreps, David M.	1979	Martingales and Arbitrage in Multiperiod Securities Markets	JET	69

Table 7
Banking and Financial Intermediation Papers

This table identifies some top cited articles that could be appropriate for a doctoral level course in banking and financial intermediation. The list is presented in descending order of number of citations. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, AER = *American Economic Review*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, JB = *Journal of Business*, QJE = *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, RESTUD = *Review of Economic Studies*, JME = *Journal of Monetary Economics*, JLE = *Journal of Law and Economics*. Recent papers are marked “*.”

Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal	Number of citations
Leland, Hayne E.; Pyle, David H.	1977	Informational Asymmetries, Financial Structure, and Financial Intermediation	JF	117
Smith, Clifford W., Jr.	1986	Investment Banking and the Capital Acquisition Process	JFE	81
Beatty, Randolph P.; Ritter, Jay R.	1986	Investment Banking, Reputation, and the Underpricing of Initial Public Offerings	JFE	71
James, Christopher	1987	Some Evidence on the Uniqueness of Bank Loans	JFE	63
Diamond, Douglas W.	1984	Financial Intermediation and Delegated Monitoring	RESTUD	60
*Rajan, Raghuram G.	1992	Insiders and Outsiders: The Choice between Informed and Arm's Length Debt	JF	45
Fama, Eugene F.	1985	What's Different about Banks?	JME	43
*Diamond, Douglas W.	1991	Monitoring and Reputation: The Choice between Bank Loans and Directly Placed Debt	JPE	38
*Hoshi, Takeo; Kashyap, Anil; Scharfstein, David	1990	The Role of Banks in Reducing the Costs of Financial Distress in Japan	JFE	37
Lummer, Scott L.; McConnell, John J.	1989	Further Evidence on the Bank Lending Process and the Capital Market Response to Bank Loan Agreements	JFE	33
Flannery, Mark J.	1986	Asymmetric Information and Risky Debt Maturity Choice	JF	28
*Barry, CB.; Muscarella, CJ; Peavy, JW; Vetsuypens, MR	1990	The Role of Venture Capital in the Creation of Public Companies: Evidence from the Going Public Process	JFE	24
Buser, Stephen A.; Chen, Andrew H.; Kane, Edward J.	1981	Federal Deposit Insurance, Regulatory Policy, and Optimal Bank Capital	JF	23
*Diamond, Douglas W.	1991	Debt Maturity Structure and Liquidity Risk	QJE	23
Brickley, James A.; James, Christopher M.	1987	The Takeover Market, Corporate Board Composition, and Ownership Structure: The Case of Banking	JLE	22
Campbell, Tim S.; Kracaw, William A.	1980	Information Production, Market Signalling, and the Theory of Financial Intermediation	JF	22
*Megginson, William L.; Weiss, Kathleen A.	1991	Venture Capitalist Certification in Initial Public Offerings	JF	22
Diamond, Douglas W.	1989	Reputation Acquisition in Debt Markets	JPE	21
*Petersen, Mitchell A.; Rajan, Raghuram G.	1994	The Benefits of Lending Relationships: Evidence from Small Business Data	JF	21
Stiglitz, Joseph E.; Weiss, Andrew	1981	Credit Rationing in Markets with Imperfect Information	AER	21

Table 8
Corporate Finance Papers

This table identifies some top cited articles that could be appropriate for a doctoral level course in corporate finance. The list is presented in descending order of number of citations. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, AER = *American Economic Review*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, JLE = *Journal of Law and Economics*. Recent papers are marked “*.”

Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal	Number of citations
Jensen, Michael C.	1986	Agency Costs of Free Cash Flow, Corporate Finance, and Takeovers	AER	268
Myers, Stewart C.	1977	Determinants of Corporate Borrowing	JFE	236
Myers, Stewart C.; Majluf, Nicholas S.	1984	Corporate Financing and Investment Decisions When Firms Have Information That Investors Do Not Have	JFE	221
Jensen, Michael C.; Meckling, William H.	1976	Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure	JFE	218
Stulz, Rene M.	1988	Managerial Control of Voting Rights: Financing Policies and the Market for Corporate Control	JFE	162
Asquith, Paul; Mullins, David W.	1986	Equity Issues and Offering Dilution	JFE	134
Miller, Merton H.; Rock, Kevin	1985	Dividend Policy under Asymmetric Information	JF	134
Morck, Randall; Shleifer, Andrei; Vishny, Robert W.	1988	Management Ownership and Market Valuation: An Empirical Analysis	JFE	129
Leland, Hayne E.; Pyle, David H.	1977	Informational Asymmetries, Financial Structure, and Financial Intermediation	JF	117
Brown, Stephen J.; Warner, Jerold	1985	Using Daily Stock Returns: The Case of Event Studies	JFE	115
*Ritter, Jay R.	1991	The Long-Run Performance of Initial Public Offerings	JF	115
Kaplan, Steven	1989	The Effects of Management Buyouts on Operating Performance and Value	JFE	112
Jensen, Michael C.; Ruback, Richard S.	1983	The Market for Corporate Control: The Scientific Evidence	JFE	108
Mikkelson, Wayne H.; Partch, M. Megan	1986	Valuation Effects of Security Offerings and the Issuance Process	JFE	108
*Smith, Clifford W., Jr.; Watts, Ross L.	1992	The Investment Opportunity Set and Corporate Financing, Dividend, and Compensation Policies	JFE	107
Masulis, Ronald W.; Korwar, Ashok	1986	Seasoned Equity Offerings: An Empirical Investigation	JFE	103
*Gilson, Stuart C.	1990	Troubled Debt Restructurings: An Empirical Study of Private Reorganization of Firms in Default	JFE	96
Shleifer, Andrei	1986	Large Shareholders and Corporate Control	JPE	95
Weisbach, Michael S.	1988	Outside Directors and CEO Turnover	JFE	95
Bradley, Michael; Desai, Anand; Kim, E. Han	1988	Synergistic Gains from Corporate Acquisitions and Their Division between the Stockholders of Target and Acquiring Firms	JFE	93
Smith, Clifford W., Jr.; Warner, Jerold B.	1979	On Financial Contracting: An Analysis of Bond Covenants	JFE	93
Rock, Kevin	1986	Why New Issues Are Underpriced	JFE	89
Fama, Eugene F.; Jensen, Michael	1983	Separation of Ownership and Control	JLE	81
Lang, Larry H. P.; Stulz, Rene M.; Walkling, Ralph A.	1989	Managerial Performance, Tobin's Q, and the Gains from Successful Tender Offers	JFE	76
Titman, Sheridan; Wessels, Roberto	1988	The Determinants of Capital Structure Choice	JF	76
John, Kose; Williams, Joseph	1985	Dividends, Dilution, and Taxes: A Signalling Equilibrium	JF	75
Allen, Franklin; Faulhaber, Gerald	1989	Signaling by Underpricing in the IPO Market	JFE	73
Demsetz, Harold; Lehn, Kenneth	1985	The Structure of Corporate Ownership: Causes and Consequences	JPE	71

Table 9
Empirical Finance Papers

This table identifies some top cited articles that could be appropriate for a doctoral level course in empirical finance. The list is presented in descending order of number of citations. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, ECMT = *Econometrica*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, JB = *Journal of Business*, RFS = *Review of Financial Studies*. Recent papers are marked “*.”

Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal	Number of citations
White, Halbert	1980	A Heteroskedasticity Consistent Covariance Matrix Estimator and a Direct Test for Heteroskedasticity	ECMT	396
Hansen, Lars Peter	1982	Large Sample Properties of Generalized Method of Moments Estimators	ECMT	217
*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth	1992	The Cross Section of Expected Stock Returns	JF	183
Fama, Eugene F.	1973	Risk, Return, and Equilibrium: Empirical Tests	JPE	130
*Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth	1993	Common Risk Factors in the Returns on Stock and Bonds	JFE	128
Newey, Whitney K.; West, Kenneth	1987	A Simple, Positive Semi definite, Heteroskedasticity and Autocorrelation Consistent Covariance Matrix	ECMT	121
Brown, Stephen J.; Warner, Jerold	1985	Using Daily Stock Returns: The Case of Event Studies	JFE	115
*Ritter, Jay R.	1991	The Long-Run Performance of Initial Public Offerings	JF	115
Mikkelson, Wayne H.; Partch, M. Megan	1986	Valuation Effects of Security Offerings and the Issuance Process	JFE	108
Banz, Rolf W.	1981	The Relationship between Return and Market Value of Common Stocks	JFE	104
De Bondt, Werner F. M.; Thaler, Richard	1985	Does the Stock Market Overreact?	JF	103
Bradley, Michael; Desai, Anand; Kim, E. Han	1988	Synergistic Gains from Corporate Acquisitions and Their Division between the Stockholders of Target and Acquiring Firms	JFE	93
Poterba, James M.; Summers, Lawrence H.	1988	Mean Reversion in Stock Prices	JFE	93
Amihud, Yakov; Mendelson, Haim	1986	Asset Pricing and the Bid Ask Spread	JFE	92
Scholes, Myron; Williams, Joseph	1977	Estimating Betas from Nonsynchronous Data	JFE	91
Chen, Nai Fu; Roll, Richard; Ross, Stephen A.	1986	Economic Forces and the Stock Market	JB	86
Campbell, John Y.	1987	Stock Returns and the Term Structure	JFE	80
Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth	1988	Permanent and Temporary Components of Stock Prices	JPE	79
Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1988	Stock Market Prices Do Not Follow Random Walks: Evidence from a Simple Specification Test	RFS	77
Blume, Marshall E.; Stambaugh, Robert F.	1983	Biases in Computed Returns: An Application to the Size Effect	JFE	75
Engle, Robert F.	1982	Autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity with Estimates of the Variance of United Kingdom Inflation	ECMT	75
Keim, Donald B.; Stambaugh, Robert F.	1986	Predicting Returns in the Stock and Bond Markets	JFE	72
French, Kenneth R.; Schwert, G. William; Stambaugh, Robert F.	1987	Expected Stock Returns and Volatility	JFE	67
Keim, Donald B.	1989	Trading Patterns, Bid Ask Spreads, and Estimated Security Returns: The Case of Common Stocks at Calendar Turning Points	JFE	67
*Lee, Charles M. C.; Ready, Mark J.	1991	Inferring Trade Direction from Intraday Data	JF	67
Stoll, Hans R.	1978	The Pricing of Security Dealer Services: An Empirical Study of NASDAQ Stocks	JF	66
Fama, Eugene F.; French, Kenneth	1988	Dividend Yields and Expected Stock Returns	JFE	64

Table 10
Microstructure Papers

This table identifies some top cited articles that could be appropriate for a doctoral level course in market microstructure. The list is presented in descending order of number of citations. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, ECMT = *Econometrica*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, QJE = *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, RFS = *Review of Financial Studies*. Recent papers are marked “*.”

Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal	Number of citations
Kyle, Albert S.	1985	Continuous Auctions and Insider Trading	ECMT	216
Glosten, Lawrence R.; Milgrom, Paul R.	1985	Bid, Ask, and Transaction Prices in a Specialist Market with Heterogeneously Informed Traders	JFE	142
Admati, Anat R.; Pfleiderer, Paul	1988	A Theory of Intraday Patterns: Volume and Price Variability	RFS	118
Easley, David; O'Hara, Maureen	1987	Price, Trade Size, and Information in Securities Markets	JFE	117
Amihud, Yakov; Mendelson, Haim	1986	Asset Pricing and the Bid Ask Spread	JFE	92
Demsetz, Harold	1968	The Cost of Transacting	QJE	82
Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1988	Stock Market Prices Do Not Follow Random Walks: Evidence from a Simple Specification Test	RFS	77
Blume, Marshall E.; Stambaugh, Robert F.	1983	Biases in Computed Returns: An Application to the Size Effect	JFE	75
Roll, Richard; Ross, Stephen A.	1984	A Simple Implicit Measure of the Effective Bid Ask Spread in an Efficient Market	JF	71
Keim, Donald B.	1989	Trading Patterns, Bid Ask Spreads, and Estimated Security Returns: The Case of Common Stocks at Calendar Turning Points	JFE	67
*Lee, Charles M. C.; Ready, Mark J.	1991	Inferring Trade Direction from Intraday Data	JF	67
Stoll, Hans R.	1978	The Pricing of Security Dealer Services: An Empirical Study of NASDAQ Stocks	JF	66
Hasbrouck, Joel	1988	Trades, Quotes, Inventories, and Information	JFE	62
French, Kenneth R.; Roll, Richard	1986	Stock Return Variances: The Arrival of Information and the Reaction of Traders	JFE	57
Stoll, Hans R.	1989	Inferring the Components of the Bid Ask Spread: Theory and Empirical Tests	JF	56
Glosten, Lawrence R.; Harris, Lawrence E.	1988	Estimating the Components of the Bid/Ask Spread	JFE	55
Harris, Lawrence	1986	A Transaction Data Study of Weekly and Intradaily Patterns in Stock Returns	JFE	55
*Christie, William G.; Schultz, Paul H.	1994	Why Do NASDAQ Market Makers Avoid Odd Eighth Quotes?	JF	54
Amihud, Yakov; Mendelson, Haim	1980	Dealership Market: Market Making with Inventory	JFE	53
Copeland, Thomas E.; Galai, Dan	1983	Information Effects on the Bid Ask Spread	JF	53
*Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1990	When Are Contrarian Profits Due to Stock Market Overreaction?	RFS	50
Black, Fischer	1986	Noise	JF	46
*Hasbrouck, Joel	1991	Measuring the Information Content of Stock Trades	JF	46
Ho, Thomas; Stoll, Hans R.	1981	Optimal Dealer Pricing under Transactions and Return Uncertainty	JFE	44
* De Long, J.B.; Shleifer, A; Summers, L.H.; Waldmann, R.J.	1990	Noise Trader Risk in Financial Markets	JPE	43
*Foster, F. Douglas; Viswanathan, S.	1990	A Theory of the Interday Variations in Volume, Variance, and Trading Costs in Securities Markets	RFS	41
Grossman, Sanford J.; Miller, Merton H.	1988	Liquidity and Market Structure	JF	41

Table 11
Other Finance Papers

This table identifies some top cited articles on methodology, econometrics, and game theory that could be appropriate for a doctoral level finance course. Articles are listed in descending order of number of citations. Abbreviations are as follows: JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, QJE = *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, RAND = *Rand/Bell Journal of Economics*, RESTUD = *Review of Economic Studies*, JET = *Journal of Economic Theory*, JECMT = *Journal of Econometrics*, ECMT = *Econometrica*, JF = *Journal of Finance*, RFS = *Review of Financial Studies*. Recent papers are marked “*.”

Author(s)	Year	Title	Journal	Number of citations
White, Halbert	1980	A Heteroskedasticity Consistent Covariance Matrix Estimator and a Direct Test for Heteroskedasticity	ECMT	396
Hansen, Lars Peter	1982	Large Sample Properties of Generalized Method of Moments Estimators	ECMT	217
Brown, Stephen J.; Warner, Jerold	1985	Using Daily Stock Returns: The Case of Event Studies	JFE	115
Scholes, Myron; Williams, Joseph	1977	Estimating Betas from Nonsynchronous Data	JFE	91
Engle, Robert F.	1982	Autoregressive Conditional Heteroscedasticity with Estimates of the Variance of United Kingdom Inflation	ECMT	75
Bollerslev, Tim	1986	Generalized Autoregressive Conditional Heteroskedasticity	JECMT	52
Cox, John C.; Ross, Stephen A.; Rubinstein, Mark	1979	Option Pricing: A Simplified Approach	JFE	49
*Bollerslev, Tim; Chou, Ray Y.; Kroner, Kenneth F.	1992	ARCH Modeling in Finance: A Review of the Theory and Empirical Evidence	JECMT	42
Brown, Stephen J.; Warner, Jerold	1980	Measuring Security Price Performance	JFE	39
Dimson, Elroy	1979	Risk Measurement When Shares are Subject to Infrequent Trading	JFE	39
Hansen, Lars Peter; Richard, Scott	1987	The Role of Conditioning Information in Deducing Testable Restrictions Implied by Dynamic Asset Pricing Models	ECMT	38
*Nelson, Daniel B.	1991	Conditional Heteroskedasticity in Asset Returns: A New Approach	ECMT	37
Kreps, David M.; Wilson, Robert	1982	Sequential Equilibria	ECMT	36
*Lo, Andrew W.; MacKinlay, A. Craig	1990	Data Snooping Biases in Tests of Financial Asset Pricing Models	RFS	36
Engle, Robert F.; Lilien, David M.; Robins, Russell P.	1987	Estimating Time Varying Risk Premia in the Term Structure: The Arch M Model	ECMT	31
Milgrom, Paul; Roberts, John	1982	Predation, Reputation, and Entry Deterrence	JET	31
Cho, In Koo; Kreps, David M.	1987	Signaling Games and Stable Equilibria	QJE	30
Holmstrom, Bengt	1979	Moral Hazard and Observability	RAND	28
Hellwig, Martin F.	1980	On the Aggregation of Information in Competitive Markets	JET	27
Akerlof, George A.	1970	The Market for 'Lemons': Quality Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism	QJE	25
Bollerslev, Tim; Engle, Robert F.; Wooldridge, Jeffrey M.	1988	A Capital Asset Pricing Model with Time Varying Covariances	JPE	25
Tauchen, George E.; Pitts, Mark	1983	The Price Variability Volume Relationship on Speculative Markets	ECMT	23
Engle, Robert F.; Granger, Clive W.	1987	Co-integration and Error Correction: Representation, Estimation, and Testing	ECMT	22
Gibbons, Michael R.; Ferson, Wayne	1985	Testing Asset Pricing Models with Changing Expectations and an Unobservable Market Portfolio	JFE	22
*Kothari, S. P.; Shanken, Jay	1997	Measuring Long Horizon Security Price Performance	JFE	22
*Aghion, Philippe; Bolton, Patrick	1992	An Incomplete Contracts Approach to Financial Contracting	RESTUD	21

Table 12
Submission Fees

This table presents journal submission fees. Information on citations and important papers is reproduced from Table 5. Impact per dollar is calculated as number of important papers divided by submission fee.

Journal	Number of important papers	Total citations	Submission fee to members or subscribers (\$)	Impact per dollar
Journal of Finance	517	11392	70	7.39
Journal of Financial Economics	406	11051	350	1.16
Review of Financial Studies	124	2327	75	1.65
Journal of Business	90	1986	50	1.80
Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis	87	1807	100	0.87
Econometrica	65	2457	Zero	N/A
Journal of Political Economy	62	1804	50	1.24
American Economic Review	53	1713	50	1.06
Financial Management	46	1262	70	0.66
Journal of Accounting and Economics	35	669	150	0.23
Rand/Bell Journal of Economics	31	1245	45	0.69
Quarterly Journal of Economics	25	846	Zero	N/A
Journal of Economic Theory	17	729	Zero	N/A
Journal of Monetary Economics	17	544	100	0.17
Journal of Accounting Research	16	486	75	0.21
Journal of Law and Economics	16	461	Zero	N/A
Financial Analysts Journal	15	563	100	0.15
Review of Economic Studies	15	474	Zero	N/A
Journal of Econometrics	13	454	50	0.26
Journal of Banking and Finance	7	490	130	0.05
Review of Economics & Statistics	7	352	50	0.14
Journal of Portfolio Management	3	309	Zero	N/A
Journal of Financial Research	1	407	50	0.02

Figure 1
Important Articles by Journal

We constructed a list of the 2,000 papers most cited in *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Business*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, and *Financial Management* during the period 1990–1999; these top 2,000 are deemed “important papers.” Recent important papers are papers in the top 2,000 list that were published between 1990 and 1999. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, ECMT = *Econometrica*, RFS = *Review of Financial Studies*, JB = *Journal of Business*, JFQA = *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, AER = *American Economic Review*, RAND = *Rand/Bell Journal of Economics*, QJE = *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, JET = *Journal of Economic Theory*, JAE = *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, FAJ = *Financial Analysts Journal*, JME = *Journal of Monetary Economics*, JBF = *Journal of Banking and Finance*, JAR = *Journal of Accounting Research*, RESTUD = *Review of Financial Studies*, JLE = *Journal of Law and Economics*, JECMT = *Journal of Econometrics*, JFR = *Journal of Financial Research*, RESTAT = *Review of Economics and Statistics*, JPM = *Journal of Portfolio Management*.

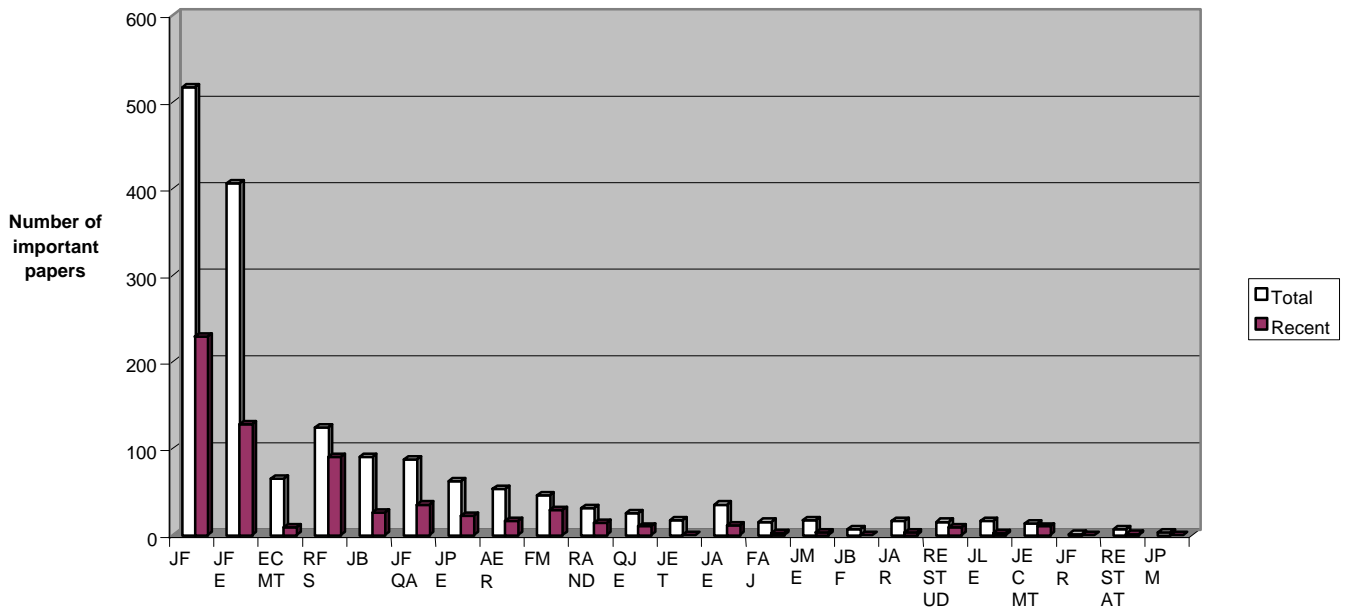


Figure 2
Citations per Journal

Number of citations is calculated as the number of citations made by papers published in *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Business*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, and *Financial Management* during the period 1990–1999. Recent citations are citations of those papers published in the period 1990–1999. Journal abbreviations are as follows: JF = *Journal of Finance*, JFE = *Journal of Financial Economics*, ECMT = *Econometrica*, RFS = *Review of Financial Studies*, JB = *Journal of Business*, JFQA = *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, JPE = *Journal of Political Economy*, AER = *American Economic Review*, RAND = *Rand/Bell Journal of Economics*, QJE = *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, JET = *Journal of Economic Theory*, JAE = *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, FAJ = *Financial Analysts Journal*, JME = *Journal of Monetary Economics*, JBF = *Journal of Banking and Finance*, JAR = *Journal of Accounting Research*, RESTUD = *Review of Financial Studies*, JLE = *Journal of Law and Economics*, JECMT = *Journal of Econometrics*, JFR = *Journal of Financial Research*, RESTAT = *Review of Economics and Statistics*, JPM = *Journal of Portfolio Management*.

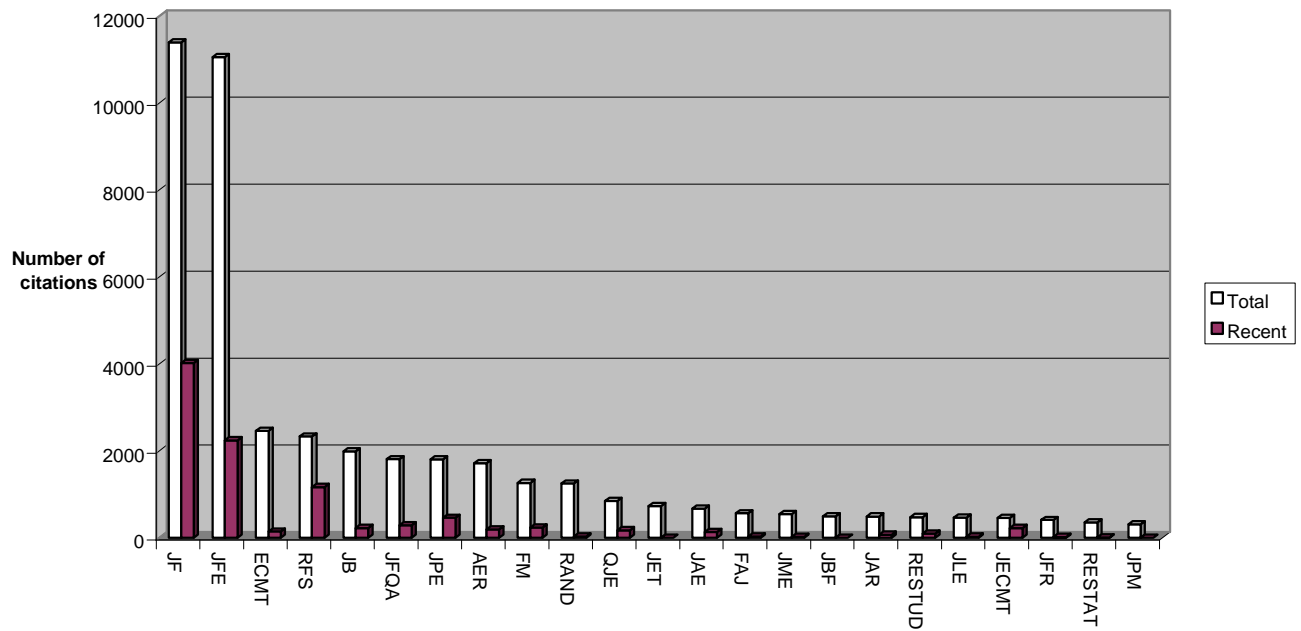


Figure 3
Total Citations to Papers Published in Each of the Last Twenty Years

We constructed a list of all papers cited in *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Business*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, and *Financial Management* during the period 1990–1999. For all papers with two or more citations to them (there are 6,130 such papers) we plotted the total number of citations these papers received versus the year in which the cited paper was published. White (1980) is so highly cited that it creates a distortion in the plot at 1980.

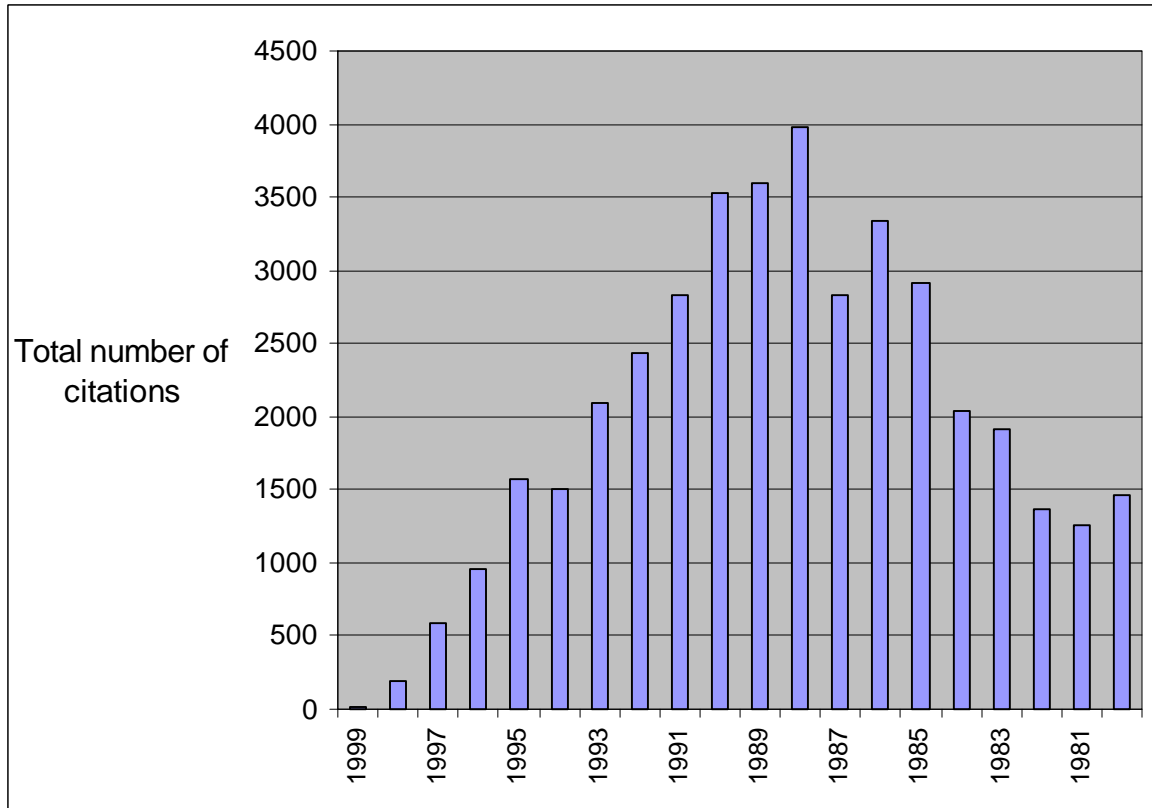
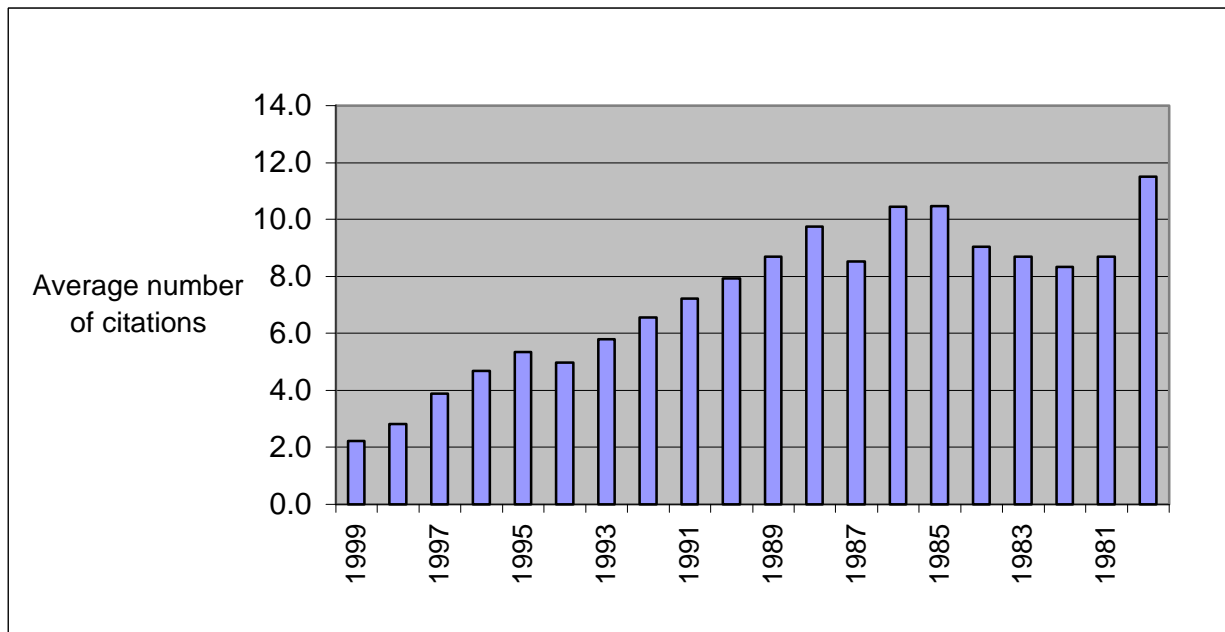


Figure 4
Average Number of Citations to Papers Published in Each of the Last Twenty Years

We constructed a list of all papers cited in *Journal of Finance*, *Journal of Financial Economics*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Business*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, and *Financial Management* during the period 1990–1999. For all papers with two or more citations to them (there are 6,130 such papers) we divided the number of citations to papers published that year by the number of papers published that year to obtain the average number of citations to papers published each year. The peak of the plot in 1980 is caused by the heavily-cited White (1980).



End notes

¹ Brown and Gardner (1985) describe some limitations of using citations as a measure of impact.

² A recent study by Borokhovich, Bricker, and Simkins (2000) asserts that the impact factor is unbiased in determining journal quality. However, that study uses SSCI citation information for only three journals (JF, JFE, and RFS). JFE uses the SSCI impact factor almost exclusively (Editorial Reports 1996–1999, Editorial 1990). Borokhovich, Bricker, and Simkins (1999) use both SSCI measures: cited half-life and impact factor. Other studies rely almost solely on the SSCI impact factor.

³ We have 60 “journal-years” (six journals times ten years). Alexander and Mabry (1994) have 19 journal-years (three journals for five years and one journal for four years). Zivney and Reichenstein (1994) have 18 journal-years (eighteen journals for one year).

⁴ E.g., a citation to Fama and French (1992) increases by one the count of total cites and *recent* cites for JF. A citation to DeBondt and Thaler (1985) increases the count of total cites, but does not affect the count of *recent* cites for JF.