

# Econophysics Research in India in the Last Two Decades

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## Abstract

We discuss here researches on econophysics done in India in the last two decades. The term ‘econophysics’ was formally coined in India (Kolkata) in 1995. Since then many research papers, books, reviews, etc., have been written by scientists. Many institutions are now involved in this research field and many conferences are being organized here. In this article we give an account (of papers, books, reviews, papers in proceedings volumes, etc.) of this research from India.

## Keywords

Econophysics, sociophysics, wealth distribution, interdisciplinary research in India

## Introduction

The subject econophysics is an interdisciplinary research field where the tools of physics are applied to understand the problem of economics. The term ‘econophysics’ was coined by H. Eugene Stanley in a Kolkata conference on statistical physics in 1995. The research on economics by physicists is not new. There were many physicists who contributed significantly in the development of economics. For example Daniel Bernoulli, who developed utility-based preferences, was a physicist. Similarly Irving Fisher, who was one of the founders of neo-classical economic theory, was a student of statistical physicist Josiah Willard Gibbs. Also Jan Tinbergen, who won the first Nobel Prize in economics, did his Ph.D. in statistical physics in Leiden university under Paul Ehrenfest. However these physicists (by training) eventually left physics and migrated to economics. The new feature of the developments for the last two decades is that physicists studying the problems of economics or sociology remain in their respective departments and publish their econophysics research results in almost all the major physics journals.

In India, works of such interdisciplinary nature are not new. The Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, is one of the oldest institutions in India (founded in 1931). The main motivation of this research institute was to promote interactions of natural and social sciences; in particular to advance the role of statistics. The work on econophysics in

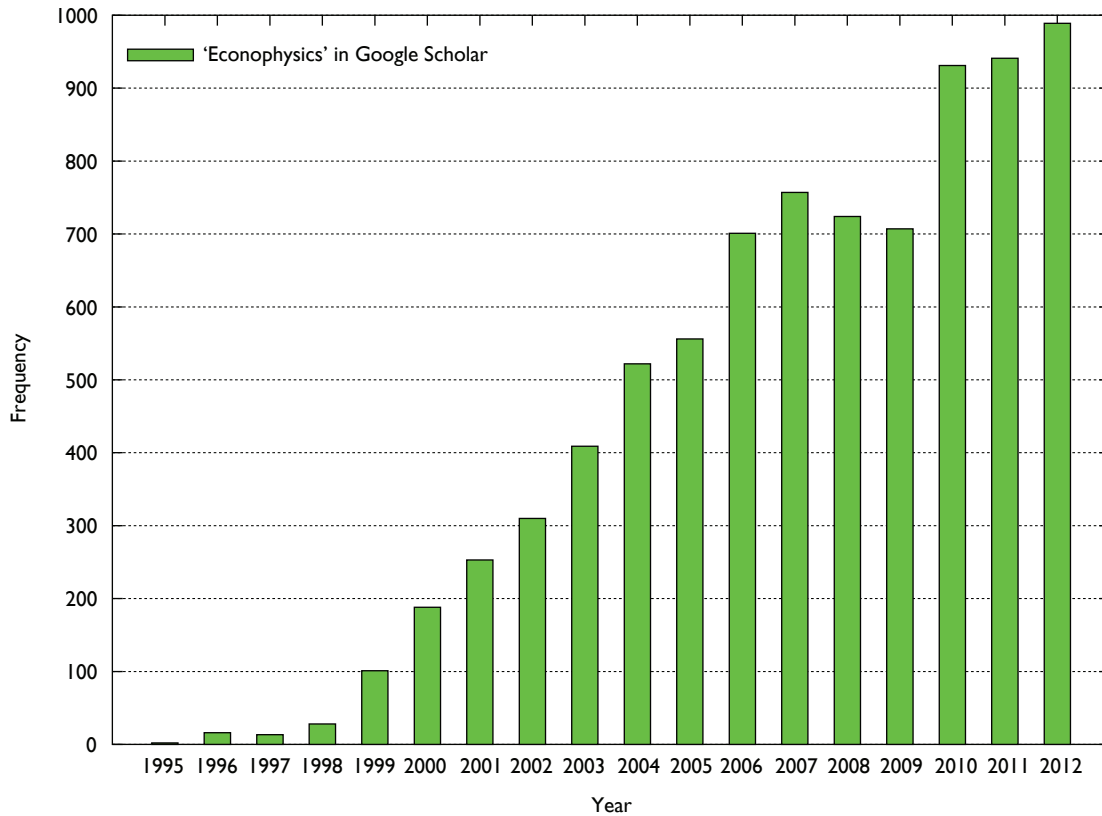
India started around 1990 from Saha Institute Nuclear Physics, Kolkata. Now-a-days many researchers from different universities and institutes from our country are also involved in this research field and international conferences are being organized here on a regular basis.

Over the last two decades many papers, books and reviews have been written by the Indian scientists in this field. We will analyze here the statistics of such publications and other endeavours.

## A Statistical Survey on the Development of Econophysics (world wide)

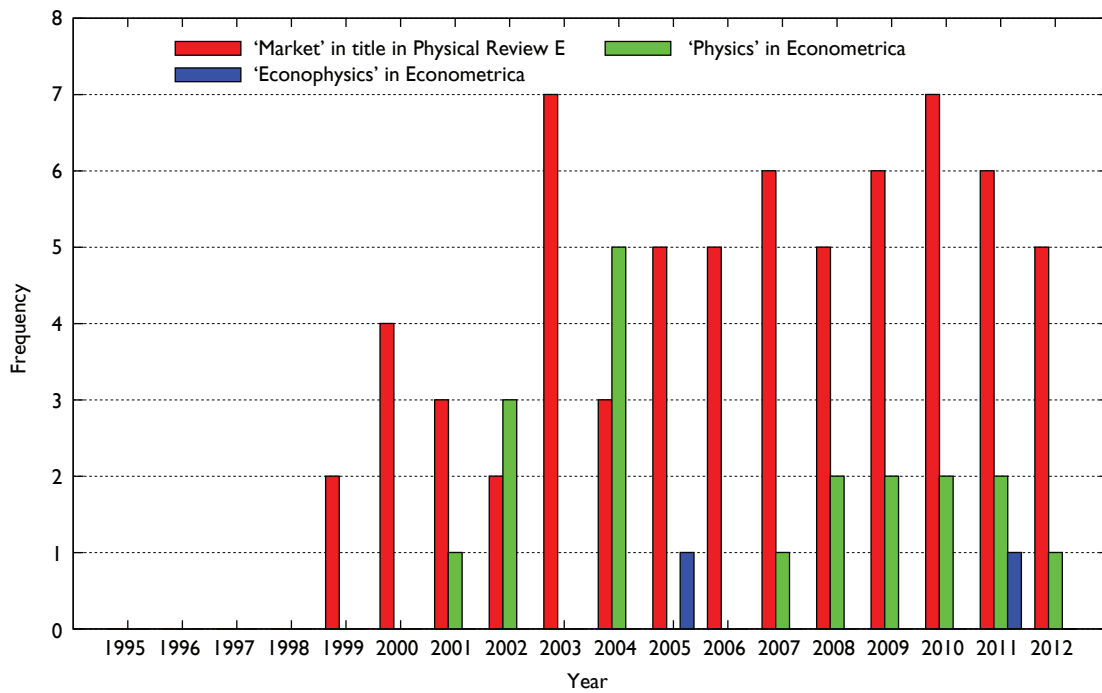
To see how the subject grew after introduction of this topic (term) in 1995 in scientific community all over the world, we have taken the statistics of the articles having ‘econophysics’ term any where in the articles from google scholar site. Figure 1 shows a histogram plot of the number of papers posted in google scholar over different years. The figure clearly indicates that the subject is growing quite fast, starting in around 1995.

To get an idea about the impact of econophysics research on physics as well as on economics, we give in Figure 2, the count of the papers having the term ‘market’ in the titles of a typical statistical physics journal, namely ‘Physical Review E’ (published by American Physical Society) and the number of papers having the term ‘physics’ or ‘econophysics’



**Figure 1.** Histogram plot of numbers of entries containing the term ‘econophysics’ versus the corresponding year

**Source:** The data are taken from google scholar site (<http://scholar.google.co.in/schhp>).



**Figure 2.** Histogram plot of numbers of papers containing the term ‘Market’ in the title of the journal ‘Physical Review E’, the terms ‘physics’ and ‘econophysics’ in the journal ‘Econometrica’ (data from respective journal website)

in a typical economics journal *Econometrica* (published by Econometric Society) for the same period.

## Books Published from India

We give below a list of books written by Indian scientists (Chakrabarti *et al.*, 2013; Guhathakurta *et al.*, 2012; Sen & Chakrabarti, 2013; Sinha *et al.*, 2010):

- S. Sinha, A. Chatterjee, A. Chakraborti and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Econophysics: An introduction*, Wiley-VCH, Berlin, 2010.  
[Book Chapters: • Introduction • The Random Walk • Beyond the Simple Random Walk • Understanding Interactions through Cross-Correlations Why care about a Power Law? • The Log-Normal Distribution • When a Single Distribution is not Enough • Explaining Complex Distributions with Simple Models • But Individuals are not Gas Molecules. . . • ...and Individuals don't Interact Randomly: Complex Networks • Outlook and Concluding Thoughts • Appendices: • Thermodynamics and Free Particle Statistics • Interacting Systems: Mean Field Models, Fluctuations and Scaling Theories • Renormalization Group Technique • Spin Glasses and Optimization Problems: Annealing • Nonequilibrium Phenomena.]
- K. Guhathakurta, B. Bhattacharya and A. Roychowdhury, *Examining stock markets: A non linear dynamics perspective: Examining the geometric Brownian motion model with respect to stock price movement in an emerging market*, LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing, 2012.  
[Book Chapters: • Introduction • Related literature • Theoretical frame-work of the models under study • Research methodology • Empirical mode decomposition analysis of financial time series • Recurrence analysis of critical regimes of stock market • Examining the geometric brownian motion and comparison with borland model • Concluding observations.]
- B. K. Chakrabarti, A. Chakraborti, S. R. Chakravarty and A. Chatterjee, *Econophysics of income and wealth distributions*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2013.  
[Book Chapters: • Introduction • Income and wealth distribution data for different countries • Major socio-economic modellings • Market exchanges

and scattering process • Analytic structure of the kinetic exchange market models • Microeconomic foundation of the kinetic exchange models • Dynamics: Generation of income, inequality and development • Outlook.]

- P. Sen, B. K. Chakrabarti, *Sociophysics: An introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2013.  
[Book Chapters: • Introduction • Basic features of social systems and modelling • Opinion formation in a society • Social choices and popularity • Crowd avoiding dynamical phenomena • Social phenomena on complex networks • Of flocks, flows and transports • Endnote • Appendices: • Phase transitions and critical phenomena • Magnetic systems: static and dynamical behaviour • Percolation and fractals • Random walks • Monte Carlo simulations • Some data analysis methods and useful tables.]

## Papers Published from India

Here we give the list of papers published by Indian scientists in international (refereed) journals from 1995–till date (the Indian cities, where the work was done, are indicated in the third bracket).

- 1995** • B.K. Chakrabarti and S. Marjit, *Self-organisation in Game of Life and economics*, Indian J. Phys. B **69** 681 (1995) [Kolkata].
- 2000** • A. Chakraborti and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Statistical mechanics of money: How saving propensity affects its distribution*, Eur. Phys. J., B **17** 167 (2000) [Kolkata].
- 2001** • A. Chakraborti, S. Pradhan and B.K. Chakrabarti, *A self-organising model of market with single commodity*, Physica A **297** 253 (2001) [Kolkata].
- 2003** • S. Sinha, *Stochastic maps, wealth distribution in random asset exchange models and the marginal utility of relative wealth*, Phys. Scripta T **106** 59 (2003) [Chennai].
  - A. Das and S. Yarlagadda, *Analytic treatment of a trading market model*, Phys. Scripta T **106** 39 (2003) [Kolkata].
  - A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti and S.S. Manna, *Money in gas-like markets: Gibbs and Pareto laws*, Phys. Scripta T **106** 36 (2003) [Kolkata].
- 2004** • A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti and S.S. Manna, *Pareto law in a kinetic model of market with random saving propensity*, Physica A **335** 155 (2004) [Kolkata].
  - S. Sinha and S. Raghavendra, *Hollywood blockbusters*

and long-tailed distributions: An empirical study of the popularity of movies, *Eur. Phys. J. B* **42** 293 (2004) [Chennai].

**2005** • A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti and R.B. Stinchcombe, *Master equation for a kinetic model of trading market and its analytic solution*, *Phys. Rev. E* **72** 026126 (2005) [Kolkata & Oxford]. • A. Chakraborti and M.S. Santhanam, *Financial and other multivariate time series: spectral and related properties*, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. C* **16** 1733 (2005) [New York & Ahmedabad]. • P. Manimaran, P.K. Panigrahi and J.C. Parikh, *Wavelet analysis and scaling properties of time series*, *Phys. Rev. E* **72** 046120 (2005) [Hyderabad & Ahmedabad].

**2006** • S. Sinha, *Evidence for power-law tail of the wealth distribution in India*, *Physica A* **359** 555 (2006) [Chennai]. • A. Chatterjee and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Kinetic market models with single commodity having price fluctuations*, *Eur. Phys. J. B* **54** 399 (2006) [Kolkata]. • P.K. Mohanty, *Generic features of the wealth distribution in ideal-gas-like markets*, *Phys. Rev. E* **74** 011117 (2006) [Kolkata]. • A. Kargupta, *Money exchange model and a general outlook*, *Physica A* **359** 634 (2006) [Panskura]. • M.S. Santhanam, J. Bandyopadhyay and D. Angom, *Quantum spectrum as a time series: Fluctuations and self-similarity*, *Phys. Rev. E* **73** 015201(R) (2006) [Ahmedabad]. • D.P. Ahalpara and J.C. Parikh, *Modeling time series data of the real systems*, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. C* **18** 235 (2007) [Ahmedabad].

**2007** • A. Chatterjee and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Kinetic exchange models for income and wealth distributions*, *Eur. Phys. J. B* **60** 135 (2007) [Kolkata]. • A. Chatterjee, S. Sinha and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Economic inequality: Is it natural?*, *Current Science* **92** 1383 (2007) [Kolkata & Chennai]. • V. Kulkarni and N. Deo, *Correlation and volatility in an Indian stock market: A random matrix approach*, *Eur. Phys. J. B* **60** 101 (2007) [Delhi]. • R.K. Pan and S. Sinha, *Collective behavior of stock price movements in an emerging market*, *Phys. Rev. E* **76** 046116 (2007) [Chennai]. • R.K. Pan and S. Sinha, *Self-organization of price fluctuation distribution in evolving markets*, *Europhys. Lett.* **77** 58004(2007) [Chennai]. • A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti, *Ideal-gas like market models with savings: Quenched and annealed cases*, *Physica A* **382** 36 (2007) [Kolkata]. • P. Bhattacharyya, A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti, *A common origin of the power law distributions in models of market and earthquake*, *Physica A* **381** 377 (2007) [Kolkata]. • M.A. Saif and P.M. Gade, *Emergence of power law in a market with mixed models*, *Physica A*, **384** 448 (2007) [Pune].

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**2012** • S. Biswas, A. Ghosh, A. Chatterjee, T. Naskar, B.K. Chakrabarti, *Continuous transition of social efficiencies in the stochastic-strategy minority game*, *Phys. Rev. E* **85** 031104 (2012) [Kolkata & Marseille]. • A. Ghosh, D.D. Martino, A. Chatterjee, M. Marsili, B.K. Chakrabarti, *Phase transitions in crowd dynamics of resource allocation*, *Phys. Rev. E* **85**, 021116 (2012) [Kolkata, Marseille, Trieste & Rome]. • A. Chakraborty, G. Mukherjee, S.S. Manna, *Conservative self-organized extremal model for wealth distribution*, *Fractals* **20** 163 (2012) [Kolkata]. • S. Kumar and N. Deo, *Correlation and network analysis of global financial indices*, *Phys. Rev. E* **86** 026101 (2012) [Delhi]. • S. Sinha and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Econophysics: An emerging discipline*, *Economic & Political Weekly* **46** 44 (2012) [Chennai & Kolkata]. • P. Sen, *Nonconservative kinetic exchange model of opinion dynamics with randomness and bounded confidence*, *Phys. Rev. E* **86** 016115 (2012) [Kolkata]. • A.K. Chandra, *Percolation in a kinetic opinion exchange model*, *Phys. Rev. E* **85** 021149 (2012) [Kolkata]. • S. Biswas, A. Chatterjee and P. Sen, *Disorder induced phase transition in kinetic models of opinion dynamics*, *Physica A* **391** 3257 (2012) [Kolkata & Marseille].

• R. Rahaman, P. Majumdar and B. Basu, *Quantum Cournot equilibrium for the Hotelling–Smithies model of product choice*, *J. Phys. A* **45** 455301 (2012) [Bergen & Kolkata].

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**2008** • Bikas K. Chakrabarti, Arnab Chatterjee, Pratip Bhattacharyya, *Two-fractal overlap time series: Earthquakes and market crashes*, *Pramana* **71** 203 (2008); *Proc. Statphys IITG 2008* [Kolkata].

**2009** • S. Sinha and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Towards a physics of economics*, *Physics News* **39** (no. 2) (2009) 33–46 [Kolkata & Chennai].

**2010** • S. Sinha, *Are large complex economic systems unstable?* *Science and Culture* (Special Issue on Econophysics) **76** 454–458 (2010) [Chennai]. • B.K. Chakrabarti and A. Chatterjee, *The story of econophysics*, *science and culture* (Special issue on econophysics) **76** 296–304 (2010) [Kolkata & Trieste]. • M. Lallouache, A. Chakraborti and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Kinetic exchange models for social opinion formation*, *Science and Culture* (Special issue on econophysics) **76** 296–304 (2010) [France & Kolkata].

[Other contributions in this Special Issue of *Science and Culture* (Chakrabarti & Chakraborti, 2010): France-5, Italy-5, Japan-3, USA-3, Switzerland-2, Argentina-1, Belgium-1, Brazil-1, China-1, Estonia-1, Finland-1, Germany-1, Ireland-1, Poland-1, Portugal-1, Spain-1 and UK-1.]

#### Edited Books and Conference Proceedings Volumes from India

Edited Book (Chakrabarti *et al.*, 2006):

- Eds. B.K. Chakrabarti, A. Chakraborti and A. Chatterjee, *Econophysics and sociophysics: Trends and perspectives*, Wiley-VCH, Berlin, 2006.

List of proceedings volumes (Abergel *et al.*, 2011; Abergel, *et al.*, 2012; Abergel *et al.*, 2013; Basu *et al.*, 2010; Chatterjee *et al.*, 2006; Chatterjee *et al.*, 2007; Chatterjee, A *et al.*, 2005):

- Eds. A. Chatterjee, S. Yarlagadda, B.K. Chakrabarti, *Econophysics of wealth distributions*, New Economic Windows, Springer-Verlag, Milan, 2005 [proceedings of ECONOPHYS-KOLKATA I: Econophysics of Wealth Distributions, 15–19 March 2005; Organized by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics].

- Eds. A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti, *Econophysics of stock and other markets*, New Economic Windows, Springer-Verlag, Milan, 2006 [proceedings of ECONOPHYS-KOLKATA II: Econophysics of Stock Markets and Minority Games, 14–17 February 2006; Organized by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics].
- Eds. A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti, *Econophysics of markets and business networks*, New Economic Windows, Springer-Verlag, Milan, 2007 [proceedings of ECONOPHYS-KOLKATA III: Econophysics & Sociophysics of Markets and Networks, 12–15 March 2007; Organized by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics].
- Eds. B. Basu, B.K. Chakrabarti, S.R. Chakravarty, K. Gangopadhyay, *Econophysics & economics of games, social choices and quantitative techniques*, New Economic Windows, Springer-Verlag, Milan, 2010 [proceedings of ECONOPHYS-KOLKATA IV: Econophysics of Games and Social Choices, 9–13 March 2009; Jointly organized by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata & Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata].
- Eds. F. Abergel, B.K. Chakrabarti, A. Chakraborti, Manipushpak Mitra, *Econophysics of order-driven markets*, New Economic Windows, Springer-Verlag, Milan, 2011 [proceedings of ECONOPHYS-KOLKATA V: Econophysics of Order-Driven Markets, 9–13 March 2010; Jointly organized by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Indian Statistical Institute and Ecole Centrale Paris].
- Eds. F. Abergel, B.K. Chakrabarti, A. Chakraborti, A. Ghosh, *Econophysics of systemic risk and network dynamics*, New Economic Windows, Springer-Verlag, Milan, 2012 [proceedings of ECONOPHYS-KOLKATA VI: Econophysics of Systemic Risk and Network Dynamics, 21–25 October 2011; Jointly organized by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Ecole Centrale Paris].
- Eds. F. Abergel, H. Aoyama, B.K. Chakrabarti, A. Chakraborti and A. Ghosh, *Econophysics of agent-based models*, to be published by Springer International Publishing Switzerland, 2013 [proceedings of ECONOPHYS-KOLKATA VII: Econophysics of Agent-based models, 8–12 November 2012; Jointly organized by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Ecole Centrale Paris and Kyoto University].

Papers in **Econophysics and Sociophysics** by Indian scientists are:

- A.K. Gupta, *Models of Wealth Distributions—A Perspective*, pp. 161–189 [Panskura].
- S. Sinha and R.K. Pan, *How a ‘hit’ is born: The emergence of popularity from the dynamics of collective choice*, pp. 417–448 [Chennai].
- P. Sen, *Complexities of social networks: A physicist’s perspective*, pp. 473–506 [Kolkata].
- S. Jain and S. Krishna, *Can we recognize an innovation?: Perspective from an evolving network model*, pp. 561–591 [Delhi].

Other contributions from: Germany-5, Japan-4, France-3, UK-2, Belgium-1, Chain-1, Denmark-1, USA-1.

The list of papers published in the above proceedings volumes written by Indian scientists:

#### Papers in **Econophysics of Wealth Distributions**:

- S. Sinha, R.K. Pan, Blockbusters, *Bombs and sleepers: The income distribution of movies*, pp. 43–47 [Chennai].
- A. Chatterjee and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Ideal-gas like markets: Effect of savings*, pp. 79–92 [Kolkata].
- K. Bhattacharya, G. Mukherjee and S.S. Manna, *Detailed simulation results for some wealth distribution models in econophysics*, pp. 111–119 [Kolkata].
- S. Yarlagadda and Arnab Das, *A Stochastic trading model of wealth distribution*, pp. 137–148 [Kolkata].
- S. Sinha, *The rich are different! Pareto law from asymmetric interactions in asset exchange models*, pp. 177–183 [Chennai].
- I. Bose and S. Banerjee, *A stochastic model of wealth distribution*, pp. 195–198 [Kolkata].
- A. Mehta, A.S. Majumdar and J.M. Luck, *How the rich get richer*, pp. 199–204 [Kolkata & France].
- D. Bagchi, *Power-law distribution in an emerging capital market*, pp. 205–209 [Kolkata].
- A. Sarkar and P. Barat, *Statistical analysis on Bombay stock market*, pp. 210–213 [Kolkata].
- D.P. Pal and H.K. Pal, *Income distribution in the Boltzmann-Pareto framework*, pp. 218–222 [Kolkata].
- B.K. Chakrabarti, *Econophys-Kolkata: A short story*, pp. 225–228 [Kolkata].

Other contributions from: Germany-5, Japan-4, Argentina-2, Italy-2, UK-2, USA-2, Brazil-1, China-1, Finland-1, France-1.

#### Papers in **Econophysics of Stock and other Markets:**

- A. Chakraborti, *An Outlook on Correlations in Stock Prices*, pp. 13–23 [Kolkata].
- S. Sinha and R.K. Pan, *The power (Law) of Indian markets: Analysing NSE and BSE trading statistics*, pp. 24–34 [Chennai].
- V. Kulkarni and N. Deo, *A random matrix approach to volatility in an Indian financial market*, pp. 35–48 [Delhi].
- A. Sarkar and P. Barat, *Fluctuation dynamics of exchange rates on Indian financial market* [Kolkata], pp. 67–76.
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- U.K. Basu, *How random is the walk: Efficiency of Indian stock and futures markets*, pp. 85–97 [Kolkata].
- B.K. Chakrabarti, A. Chatterjee and P. Bhattacharyya, *Two fractal overlap time series and anticipation of market crashes*, pp. 153–158 [Kolkata].
- S. Sinha, *The apparent madness of crowds: Irrational collective behavior emerging from interactions among rational agents*, pp. 158–162 [Chennai].
- M. Mitra, *Information extraction in scheduling problems with non-identical machines*, pp. 175–182 [Kolkata].
- P. Manimaran, J.C. Parikh, P.K. Panigrahi S. Basu, C.M. Kishtawal and M.B. Porecha, *Modelling financial time series*, pp. 183–191 [Kanpur].
- M.S. Santhanam, *Random matrix approach to fluctuations and scaling in complex systems*, pp. 192–200 [Ahmedabad].
- A. Sarkar, *Regional Inequality*, pp. 208–218 [Kolkata].
- B.K. Chakrabarti, *A brief history of economics: An outsider's account*, pp. 219–24 [Kolkata].

Other Contributions from: China-3, UK-3, Italy-2, Japan-2, USA-2, Finland-1, France-1, Hungary-1, Ireland-1.

#### Papers in **Econophysics of Markets and Business Networks:**

- S. Sinha and R.K. Pan, *Uncovering the internal structure of the Indian financial market: Large cross-correlation behavior in the NSE*, pp. 3–20 [Chennai].

- A. Chakraborti, M. Patriarca and M.S. Santhanam, *Financial time-series analysis: A brief overview*, pp. 51–68 [Banaras, Estonia & Ahmedabad].
- K.B.K. Mayya and M.S. Santhanam, *Correlations, delays and financial time series*, pp. 69–76 [Ahmedabad].
- K. Bhattacharya, G. Mukherjee and S.S. Manna, *The international trade network*, pp. 139–148 [Kolkata].
- S. Sinha and N. Srivastava, *Is inequality inevitable in society? Income distribution as a consequence of resource flow in hierarchical organizations*, pp. 215–226 [Kolkata].
- A. Sarkar, *Knowledge sharing and R&D investment*, pp. 227–232 [Kolkata].
- M. Mitra, *Preferences lower bound in the queueing model*, pp. 233–238 [Kolkata].
- B.K. Chakrabarti, *Kolkata restaurant problem as a generalised El Farol bar problem*, pp. 239–246 [Kolkata].

Other contributions from: Italy-3, China-2, Japan-2, UK-2, Canada-1, Estonia-1, Poland-1, USA-1.

#### Papers in **Econophysics and Economics of Games, Social Choices and Quantitative Techniques:**

- A. Ghosh, A.S. Chakrabarti and B.K. Chakrabarti, *Kolkata paise restaurant problem in some uniform learning strategy limits*, pp. 3–9 [Kolkata].
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- V.S. Vijayaraghavan and S. Sinha, *A mean-field model of financial markets: reproducing long tailed distributions and volatility correlations*, pp. 98–109 [Chennai].
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- K. Gangopadhyay and K. Guhathakurta, *Agent based modeling of Housing asset bubble: A simple utility function based investigation* [Kozhikode].



- A. Ghosh, A.S. Chakrabarti, A.K. Chandra and A. Chakrabarti, *An (n+1)-th look at kinetic exchange models* [Kolkata, Boston & Paris].
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- A. Ghosh and A.S. Chakrabarti, *Econophysics and sociophysics: Problems and prospects* [Kolkata & Boston].

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**2004** • B.K. Chakrabarti and A. Chatterjee, *Ideal gas-like distributions in economics: Effects of saving propensity*, in ‘Applications of Econophysics’, Ed. H. Takayasu, pp. 280–285 (2004), Conference proceedings of Second Nikkei Symposium on Econophysics, Tokyo, Japan, 2002, by Springer-Verlag, Tokyo [Kolkata].

**2005** • A. Chatterjee, B.K. Chakrabarti, R.B. Stinchcombe, *Analyzing money distributions in ‘ideal gas’ models of markets* in ‘Practical fruits of econophysics’, Ed. H. Takayasu, pp. 333–338 (2005), Springer-Verlag, Tokyo; Conference proceedings of Third Nikkei Symposium on Econophysics, Tokyo, Japan, 2004 [Kolkata & UK]. • B.K. Chakrabarti, A. Chatterjee, P. Bhattacharyya, *Time series of stock price and of two fractal overlap: Anticipating market crashes?* in ‘Practical fruits of econophysics’, Ed. H. Takayasu, pp. 107–110 (2005), Springer-Verlag, Tokyo; Conference proceedings of Third Nikkei Symposium on Econophysics, Tokyo, Japan, 2004 [Kolkata].

**2006** • S. Sinha and S. Raghavendra, *Market polarization in presence of individual choice volatility*, *Advances in ‘artificial economics: The economy as a complex dynamic system’*, Ed. C. Bruun, 177 (2006), Springer [Chennai]. • S. Sinha and S. Raghavendra, *Emergence of two-phase behavior in markets through interaction and learning in agents with bounded rationality*, ‘Practical fruits of econophysics’, Ed. H. Takayasu, 200 (2006), Springer [Chennai].

**2012** • K. Guhathakurta, S. Bhattacharya, S. Banerjee and B. Bhattacharya, *Examining the relative Nonlinear dynamics of stock and commodity indices in emerging and developed market* in ‘chaos & complexity theory for management’, Ed. S. Banerjee, pp. 63–88, (2012), IGI Global [Kolkata & Kozhikode].

#### Institutions Where the Researches Have So Far Been Carried Out

The researches on interdisciplinary research fields in India is not any recent trend. In 1931 Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis established the Statistical Laboratory at Kolkata. Later the institution was named to Indian Statistical Institute. The main motivation of the institution was research and training of Statistics, development of theoretical statistics and its applications in various natural and social sciences. In the last two decades the major developments on such interdisciplinary research (on econophysics or sociophysics) have come from Saha Institution Nuclear Physics. This is also the place where the term ‘econophysics’ was coined in 1995. A large number of papers on econophysics have been published from this institution and significant research activities are also being continued. A major international conference series on econophysics, namely ‘Econophys–Kolkata’ is being organized regularly here (seven events since 2005; see the fifth section ‘Edited Books and Conference Proceedings Volumes from India’). Other places where econophysics research is being actively pursued are: universities like Calcutta University, Delhi University, Pune University, etc. and institutions like Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Chennai), S N Bose National Centre for Basic Science (Kolkata), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (Mumbai), Indian Institute of Management (Kozhikode), etc. National level conferences on econophysics are now being held in several places; in particular, Institute of Mathematical Sciences holds them quite regularly since 2004: The first one was ‘Workshop on The Economy as a Complex System’, Dec 6–7, 2004, the second one was discussion meeting on ‘The Economy as a Complex System II: Economic Dynamics’, Dec 27–29, 2010 and the third one was ‘Brainstorming Meeting on Econophysics: Science for the Economy’, July 30, 2013.<sup>1</sup>

We give in Figure 3, a graphical presentation of the Indian cities where the major econophysics researches have been carried out so far (data taken from the fourth and fifth sections ‘Papers Published from India’ and ‘Edited Books and Conference Proceedings Volumes from India’, Tables 1 and 2).



**Figure 3.** The dots represent the locations where major researches on econophysics have so far been carried out (see Table 1)

**Table 1.** (Top) Numbers of econophysics papers (in journals and conf. proc. vol. given in the fourth and fifth sections 'Papers Published from India' and 'Edited Books and Conference Proceedings Volumes from India') by Indian scientists; (Bottom) Total contribution of papers, books, edited books and conference proceedings volumes from India (published internationally)

Name of the City	No. of Papers
Kolkata	97
Chennai	26
Delhi	12
Ahmedabad/Gandhinagar	9
Kozhikode	5
Panskura (East Midnapore)	4
Hyderabad	3
Mumbai	3
Pune	3
Kanpur	2
Rourkela	2
Banaras	1
Pilani	1

Item	Total Count
Papers	148
Books	4
Conf. Proc. Vol.	7
Edited Books	1

## Impact of Indian Researches

The term 'econophysics' has now been included (Durlauf & Blume, 2008) in 'The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics'. The entry (written by economist J. Barkley Rosser Jr) starts with 'According to Bikas Chakrabarti (...), the term econophysics was neologized in 1995 at the second Statphys-Kolkata conference in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India. . .' Another note (Battersby, 2012) 'The physics of our finances' published in *New Scientist* in July 2012 highlighted the contributions from India (see Figure 4). Recently an entry on econophysics has also been included in *Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences* published by SAGE Publications (2013) and the entry on it has been written by Bikas K. Chakrabarti (Kaldis, 2013).

The International conference series 'Econophys-Kolkata' had started in 2005 and have already seven events held in Kolkata. It is now jointly sponsored by Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Ecole Centrale Paris and Kyoto University. Also, the contributions by foreign researchers in the proceedings volumes (seven so far: Proc. volumes have all been published in *New Economic Windows*, Springer-Verlag, given in the fifth section 'Edited Books and Conference Proceedings Volumes from India', Table 2) indicate the impact of Indian researches in econophysics and sociophysics internationally.

The first text book (in physics) on econophysics entitled *Econophysics: An Introduction* has been written by Indian scientists (see the third section 'Books Published from India'). This book is already being followed by many universities outside India for their graduate courses (see Figure 5 for the econophysics course in Leiden university).

**Table 2.** Number of papers contributed by the researchers of different countries in the proceedings volumes of *Econophys-Kolkata* conference series (I-VII so far; the fifth section 'Edited Books and Conference Proceedings Volumes from India')

Country name	Papers	Country name	Papers
India	73	Switzerland	3
France	20	Canada	2
USA	18	Poland	2
Japan	17	Austria	1
Italy	15	Belgium	1
UK	10	Brazil	1
Germany	8	Estonia	1
China	6	Ireland	1
Argentina	3	Netherlands	1
Finland	3	Russia	1
Hungary	3	Sweden	1

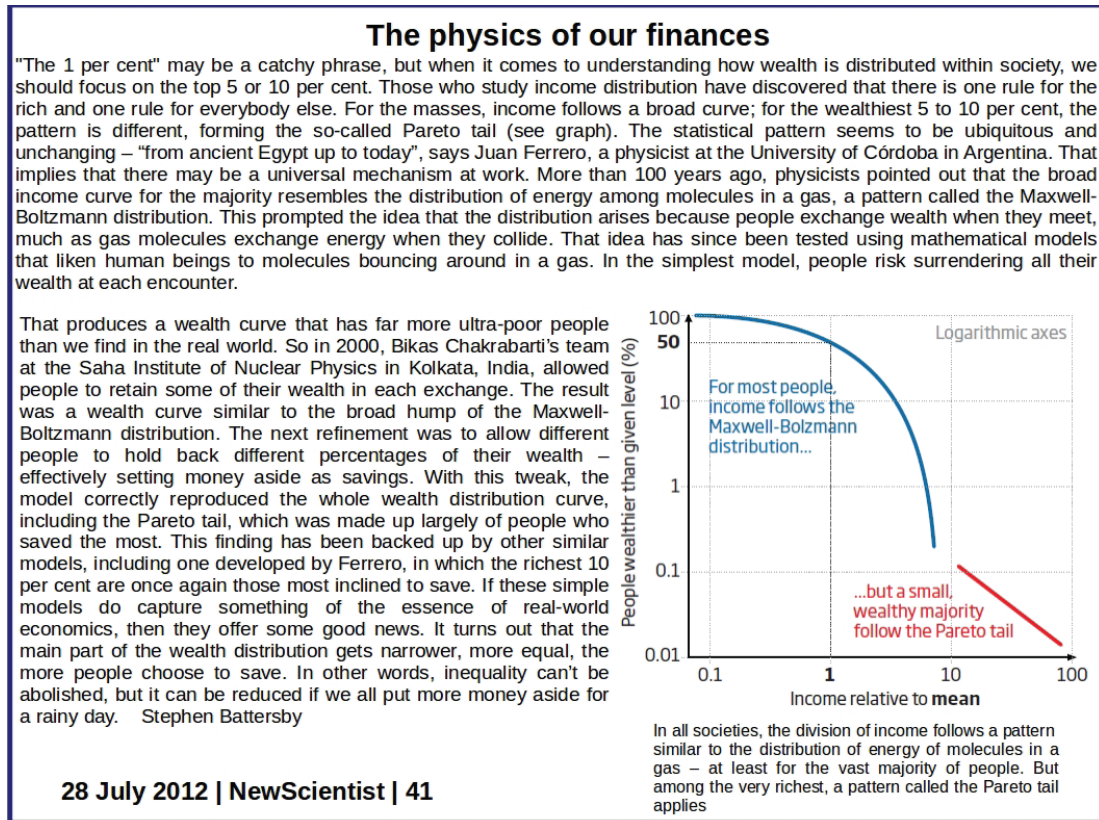


Figure 4. One of the recent reporting on econophysics research from India

Source: Reprinted with permission from *New Scientist*.

## Econophysics

Course description Econophysics

<b>Year:</b>	2012-2013
<b>Prospectus number:</b>	
<b>Teacher(s):</b>	Dhr Dr. D. Garlaschelli
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Blackboard:</b>	Yes
<b>EC:</b>	6
<b>Level:</b>	300
<b>Period:</b>	Semester 1 (#part-of)

Universiteit Leiden

**Description**

- Introduction to Econophysics (historical background, interaction between Physics and Economics, past and present aims of the field).
- Stochastic processes and time series.
- Stylised facts of single financial time series.
- Cross-correlations among multiple time series.
- Complex networks and interactions among economic agents.
- Network models of wealth distribution and market behaviour.
- International economic interactions: the World Trade Web

**Literature**

Obligatory: "Econophysics: An Introduction" by S. Sinha, A. Chatterjee, A. Chakraborti, B.K. Chakrabarti (Publisher: Wiley-VCH, 2010; ISBN: 978-3-527-40815-3)

**Schedule**

Year 3; 5-th semester

Figure 5. Reproduced from web page of the Econophysics course in Leiden University<sup>a</sup>

Source: <sup>a</sup><https://studiegids.leidenuniv.nl/en/courses/show/34804/econofysica>. For their econophysics courses in the last three years, 'Econophysics: An Introduction', a book from India, is being followed (obligatory literature).

In fact among the formal courses on econophysics, the one offered by the Physics Department of the Leiden University is particularly noteworthy: From this department, the first Nobel-laureate (in 1969) in economics Jan Tinbergen came. Also here the first professor chair for econophysics had been created in 2010.

## Concluding Remarks

Here we have given the statistics on the development of econophysics by Indian researchers. Many researchers from India have been involved in econophysics research from the formal beginning of the subject in 1995 and many Indian research institutes and universities are involved in this research area (see Table 1). Apart from publications of important papers (the fourth section 'Papers Published from India'), several important conference proceedings volumes and edited volumes (the fifth section 'Edited Books and Conference Proceedings Volumes from India')

research monographs and text books (the third section ‘Books Published from India’) on econophysics have been published from India. Some of these papers have made good impact and some of these books are being widely used in econophysics and sociophysics courses started in many well known universities in Europe and elsewhere (see e.g., Figure 5). There have also been some attempts to initiate such formal research groups or centres in India. In particular, the ‘Policy Planning & Evaluation Committee’ (PPEC) of the Indian Statistical Institute, in its June 22 (2011) meeting considered a ‘Proposal for building a Center for Econophysics & Quantitative Finance Research’ and recommended that

PPEC recognizes this to be an important proposal, but considering the availability of manpower and the current focus of ERU (Economic Research Unit), it recommends that the proposal be carried as a plan research project, but not as a full-fledged centre at this point of time. However, the recruitment of faculty members in the area of econophysics or related disciplines may be made in ERU if need.<sup>2</sup>

We are also happy to learn that similar endeavours are being made in other important institutions of the country.

## Notes

1. Other (University Grant Commission sponsored) national level conferences on econophysics include ‘Physics of Financial Markets—Challenges and Opportunities’, September 17–18, 2011, at Neelashaila Mahavidyalaya, Rourkela (Sambalpur University, Odisha) and ‘Econophysics’, August 18–19, 2012, at Hindol College, Khajuriakata (Utkal University, Odisha).
2. Private communication: Satya Ranjan Chakravarty (Indian Statistical Institute) and Bikas K. Chakrabarti (Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics).

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