
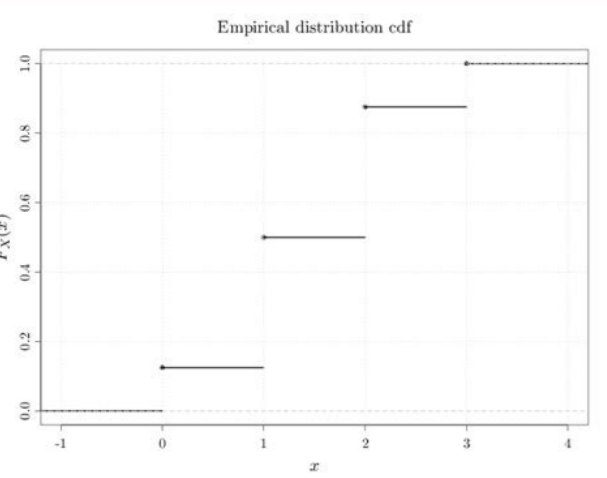
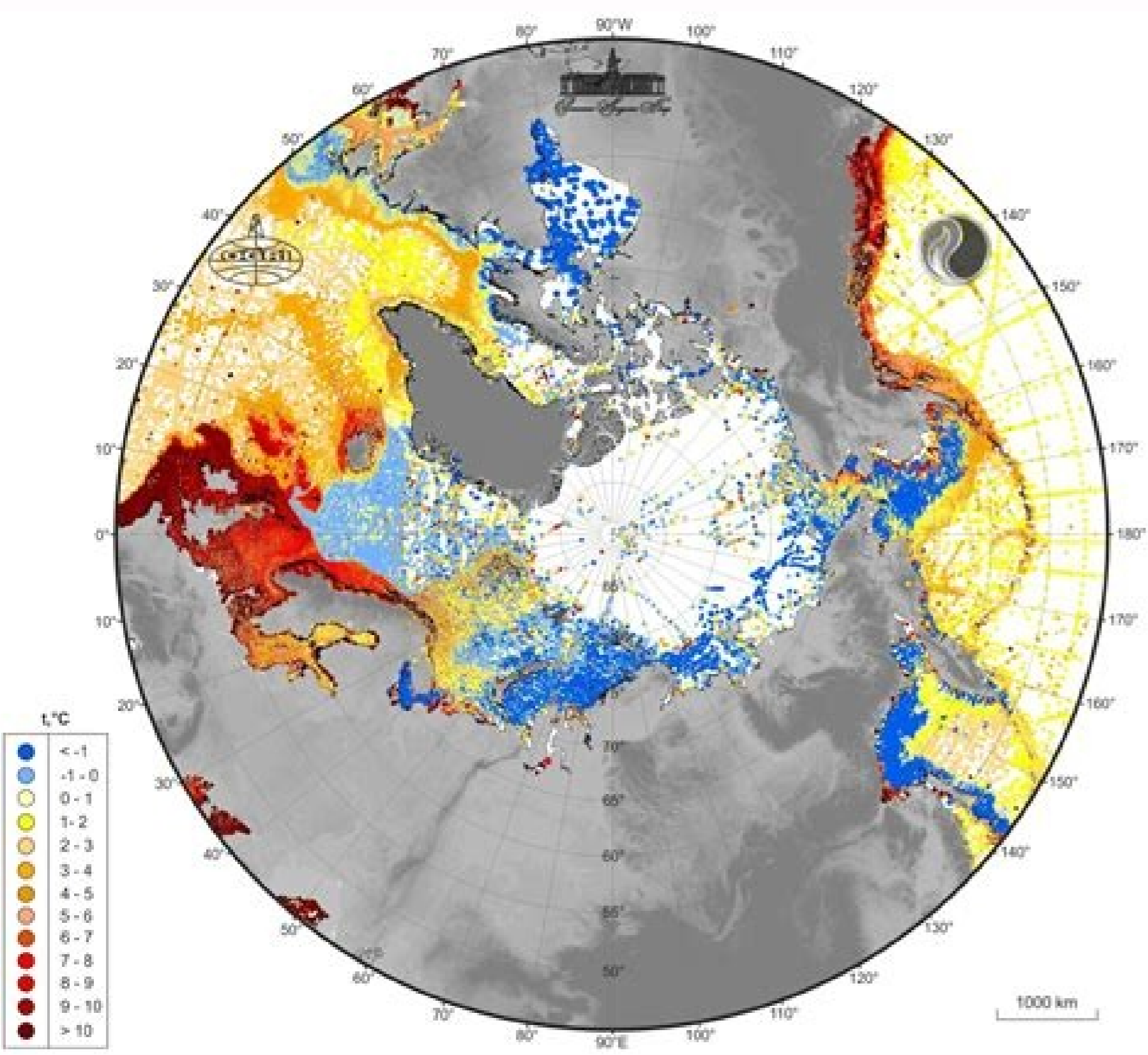


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### The trouble with empirical distribution

$$f_G(t) = \frac{t^{k-1} e^{-t/\theta}}{\Gamma(k)\theta^k} \quad T_{avg} = k\theta$$

increase v

Alan ECE 695

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## Capital Structure and Speed of Adjustment in U.S. Firms. A Comparative Study in Microeconomic and Macroeconomic Conditions-A Quantile Regression Approach

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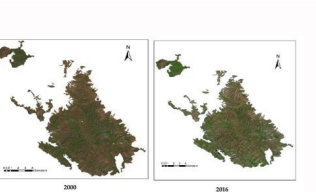
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**Abstract**  
 The major perspective of this paper is to provide more evidence regarding how “quickly”, in different macroeconomic states, firms adjust their capital structure to their leverage targets. This study extends the empirical research on the topic of capital structure by focusing on a quantile regression model to investigate the behavior of firm-specific and macroeconomic factors across all quantiles of distribution of leverage (book leverage and market leverage). Therefore, depending on a partial adjustment model, we find that the adjustment speed fluctuates in different stages of book versus market leverage. Furthermore, while macroeconomic states change, we detect clear differentiations of the contribution and the effects of the firm-specific and the macroeconomic variables between market leverage and book leverage debt ratios. Consequently, we deduce that across different macroeconomic states the nature and maturity of borrowing influence the persistence and endurance of the relation between determinants and borrowing.

**Keywords:** capital structure, quantile regression, macroeconomy, firm characteristics, econometry, total debt, U.S., panel data, hausman test, fixed effects model, unbalanced sample

**1. Introduction**  
 Plausible questions have been triggered in the scientific area of capital structure dynamic determination prompted by the recent global financial crisis, regarding how “quickly”, in different macroeconomic states, companies adjust their capital structure to their book leverage targets. In an effort to broaden the debate scope, we focus on SMEs and discuss the relative importance of macroeconomic and firm-specific variables, in changing macroeconomic conditions. Therefore, depending on a partial adjustment model, we obtain that book and market debt follow different patterns concerning their adjustment speeds. A scientific area that has drawn research interest during the last two decades is capital structure determination of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and the reason is partly the recognition of the importance of SMEs for the economy in terms of employment and value added as well as numbers of enterprises and partly the acknowledgement that SMEs financing exhibits considerable differences compared to large enterprises. Hence, during the last twenty years, a series of research has emerged which focuses on investigating the particularities of small enterprises in their capital structure determination. Particularly, this issue is tackled in Torres and Julien (2005) research from a managerial perspective, where they describe the main findings of researchers over the last three decades, which have led to the recognition of SMEs specificities. Thus, in this wide recognition where research has shed light on the fact that large firms’ theory has limited applicability to SMEs, the theory of capital structure cannot be an exemption. Ang (1991) was the first that highlighted this approach by pointing out that the theory of finance was not developed with the small business in mind, whereas Cressy and Olofsson (1997) declare that small businesses are not scaled-down versions of large businesses and Michaelas et al. (1999) endeavors to relate the different theoretical attributes to small enterprises. On the contrary, in his research Hackbarth et al. (2006) indicated that little attention has been paid to the macroeconomic conditions’ effects on capital structure choices and credit risk, notwithstanding the substantial development of the capital structure literature. Plausible questions have been triggered in the scientific area of capital structure determination by the recent global financial crisis





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