



Lisbon School
of Economics
& Management
Universidade de Lisboa



Carlos J. Costa

BRIEF HISTORY OF FINANCE

Brief History of Finance

- Ancient Period (pre-1950)
- Classical Period (1950-1980)
- Modern Period (1980-2000)
- Computational Period (2000-2020)
- Artificial Intelligence Period (post-2020)

Brief History of Finance

Ancient Period (pre-1950)

- Informal reasoning
- Rules of thumb
- Experience of market practitioners

Brief History of Finance

Classical Period (1950-1980)

- Introduction of formal reasoning and mathematics
- Specialized Models (B&S)
- General frameworks (Harrison and Kreps, 1979 neutral risk approach)

Brief History of Finance

Modern Period (1980-2000)

- Many advances in subfields of finance
- Computational finance
- Stochastic interest rates
- Stochastic volatility

Brief History of Finance

Computational Period (2000-2020)

- Shift from theoretical focus to computational
- Use of computationally demanding algorithms

Brief History of Finance

Artificial Intelligence Period (post-2020)

- Shift to AI-first in finance
- Shift from simple linear models to advance models and algorithms from AI
- Use of deep neural networks or reinforcement learning to capture, describe and explain financial phenomena