# INTEGRATION ANALYSIS OF THE MALAYSIAN STOCK MARKET

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Economics in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree Master of Economics
Universiti Utara Malaysia

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# ABSTRACT (BAHASA MALAYSIA)

Kajian ini menggunakan teknik *cointegration* dan *causality* dalam mengkaji perhubungan jangka pendek dan panjang di antara lima sector utama yang disenaraikan di Papan Utama pasaran saham di Malaysia serta perhubungan di antara pasaran saham di Malaysia dengan pasaran saham dari negara yang menjadi rakanrakan perdagangan utama. Kajian ini juga mengkaji perubahan kadar pergantungan di antara sektor-sektor dalam pasaran saham domestik dan juga di antara pasaran saham di Malaysia dengan pasaran saham dari negara yang menjadi rakan-rakan perdagangan utama selepas krisis kewangan pada tahun 1997.

Keputusan kajian mendapati bahawa integrasi di antara sektor-sektor di dalam pasaran saham domestik adalah lebih ketara berbanding dengan integrasi di antara pasaran saham di Malaysia dengan pasaran saham dari negara yang menjadi rakan-rakan perdagangan utama. Kajian juga menunjukan bahawa pasaran saham di Malaysia tidak banyak dipengaruhi oleh pergerakan harga dalam pasaran saham daripada rakan-rakan dagangan utama dan juga dapat kembali kepada kedudukan equilibrium dalam masa yang singkat. Selain itu, pasaran saham di Malaysia juga dapat memberikan peluang kepada pelabur antarabangsa untuk mempelbagaikan pelaburan dalam mengurangkan risiko pelaburan.

Di samping itu, pelabur-pelabur di Malaysia juga boleh menggunakan pergerakan harga dalam sektor hartanah dalam meramal pergerakan harga di dalam sektor-sektor lain dalam pasaran saham di Malaysia. Kesan globalisasi dan juga peningkatan dalam pelaburan ekuiti dari satu negara ke negara yang lain didapati akan meningkatkan kadar integrasi di antara pasaran saham di negara tersebut. Oleh itu, pelabur-pelabur saham perlu mengambil kira faktor ini dalam mempelbagaikan pelaburan ekuiti meraka dari satu negara ke negara yang lain.

Keputusan ujian *variance decomposition* mencadangkan bahawa tiada kesan *contagion* di antara sektor-sektor di Malaysia mahupun di antara Malaysia dengan pasaran saham dari negara yang menjadi rakan-rakan perdagangan utama sebelum dan selepas krisis kewangan.

# ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)

This study employs the cointegration and causality techniques in examining the integration as well as the short-term and long-term dynamic causal linkages between the five major sectors' price indices listed in the main board of the Malaysian stock market and integration relationship among the stock market of Malaysia major trading partners. This study is also aims to investigate the contagion and interdependent relationship between the five major sectors' price indices in Malaysia and also between major trading partners before and after the financial crisis in July 1997.

The results in this study show that the integration relationship between the sectors in Malaysia is more pronounce than between the Malaysian stock market and its major trading partners. The results also suggest that the Malaysian stock market is robust to the influence of the price movement of its major trading partners and the speed adjustment processes in both sectors and stock markets is relatively fast. In addition, the Malaysian stock market provides better opportunity for diversification for the international investors in diversifying their overall risk.

Besides that, investors in the Malaysian stock market can used the price movement in the properties sector in predicting the price movement in other sectors in the Malaysian stock market since the properties sector is found to be a good predictor of other sectors' prices in the Malaysian stock market. The impact of globalisation and the increase in the equity investment by one country to another is shown to increase the lead lag relationship between the stock markets. Thus, the investors should take into the consideration of the equity investment of one country to another before diversifying their investment.

The results of variance decomposition suggest that there are no contagion effect between the major sectors in Malaysia and between the Malaysian stock market and its major trading partners before and after the financial crisis in July 1997 as the degree of cointegration and the number of stock markets being cointegrated decrease after the financial crisis.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PERMISSION TO USE	<b>Page</b> I
ABSTRACT (BAHASA MALAYSIA)	II
ABSTRACT (ENGLISH)	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	IV
LIST OF TABLES	IX
LIST OF FIGURES	XI
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	
<ul> <li>1.1 INTRODUCTION</li> <li>1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT</li> <li>1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY</li> <li>1.4 THE MODEL</li> <li>1.4.1 Cointegration and Error-Correction Model</li> </ul>	1 2 5 6
<ul> <li>1.5 JUSTIFICATION OF STUDY</li> <li>1.6 OVERVIEW OF THE MALAYSIAN STOCK MARKET AND ITS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS</li> <li>1.6.1 History of the Malaysian Stock Market</li> <li>1.6.2 Development of the Malaysian Stock Market</li> </ul>	7 7 8
1.7 HISTORY OF THE STOCK MARKET OF THE MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS OF MALAYSIA 1.7.1 The Philippines 1.7.2 Indonesia 1.7.3 Hong Kong 1.7.4 Thailand 1.7.5 China 1.7.6 Japan 1.7.7 The United States of America.	11 12 13 14 15 16
<ul><li>1.8 FUNDS RAISED IN THE CAPITAL MARKETS IN MALAYSIA</li><li>1.9 EQUITY INVESTMENT BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND</li></ul>	18
ITS MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS	19 20

# CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1	INTRODUCTION	22
2.2	MEASUREMENTS OF STOCK MARKETS INTEGRATION	22
	2.2.1 Cointegration and Error Correction Model	23
	2.2.2 GARCH Modelling	35
	2.2.3 Taxonomy Approach	36
	2.2.4 Cross Section Regression Analysis	37
	2.2.5 Other Types of Measurements	37
	71	31
2.3	PROBLEMS IN MEASURING STOCK MARKETS	
	INTEGRATION	39
	2.3.1 Problems with Data Employed	39
	2.3.2 Problems with Cointegration and Error Correction Model	39
	22101 Controlled Middel	37
2.5	CONCLUSION	53
		33
CH	APTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	
2 1	DITRODUCTION	
3.1 3.2	INTRODUCTION	54
	OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	54
3.3	SAMPLES AND DATA COLLECTION	55
	3.3.1 Sample Population	55
	3.3.2 Sources of Data	57
	3.3.3 Data Processing	57
	3.3.4 Empirical Framework	58
3.4	UNIT ROOT TESTS	<b>7</b> 0
5.1	3.4.1 Augmented Dickey-Fuller Tests	58
	3.4.2 Phillips Parron Unit Poot Test	59
	3.4.2 Phillips Perron Unit Root Test	60
3.5	COINTEGRATION TESTS	60
	3.5.1 Bivariate Cointegration Test Among the sector's	00
	Stock Prices in Main Board of Kuala Lumpur	
	Stock Exchange Composite Index	61
	3.5.2 Bivariate Cointegration Test Between Malaysian	01
	Stock Market and its Major Trading Partners	<b>6</b> 1
	3.5.3 Multivariate Cointegration Test Among the sector's	61
	in Main Board of Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange	
	Composite Index	62
	3.5.4 Multivariate Cointegration Test Between Malaysian	62
	Stock Market and its Major Trading Partners	62
	Stock market and its major trading rainities	63
3.6	CAUSALITY TESTS	64
	3.6.1 Vector Autoregression Model (VAR)	64
	3.6.2 Vector Error-Correction Models (VECM)	65

		Page
3.7	VARIANCE DECOMPOSITION AND IMPULSE RESPONSE	
	FUNCTION ANALYSIS	67
3.8	CONCLUSION.	67
		07
СН	APTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	
4.1	INTRODUCTION	68
4.2	UNIT ROOT TESTS	69
	4.2.1 Unit Root Tests for the Major Sector Indices in	
	Malaysia Stock Market	69
	4.2.2 Unit Root Tests for the Countries' Stock Indices	70
4.3	COINTEGRATION TESTS	72
	4.3.1 Bivariate Cointegration Test	73
	4.3.1a) Sectors' Stock Indices in Malaysia	73
	4.3.1b) Malaysian Stock Market and its Major Trading	73
	Partners' Stock Markets	77
		, ,
	4.3.2 Multivariate Cointegration Test	
	4.3.2 a) Sectors' Stock Indices in Malaysia	79
	4.3.2 b) Malaysian Stock Market and its Major Trading	
	Partners' Stock Markets	80
4.4	CALICALITY TESTS	
7.4	CAUSALITY TESTS	82
	4.4.1 Bivariate Causality Tests	82
	4.4.1 a) Bivariate VAR Sectors' Stock Indices	00
	in Malaysia	82
	in Malaysia	0.6
	4.4.1 c) Bivariate VAR of Malaysian Stock Market	86
	and its Major Trading Partners' Stock Markets	91
	4.4.1 d) Bivariate Error-Correction Model (ECM) of the	71
	Malaysian Stock Market and its Major	
	Trading Partners' Stock Markets	94
	4.4.2 Multivariate Causality Tests	98
	4.4.2 a) Multivariate VAR of Sectors' Stock Indices	•
	in Malaysia	99
	4.4.2 b) Multivariate Error Correction Model (ECM)	
	Sectors' Stock Indices in Malaysia	104
	4.4.2 c) Multivariate VAR for Malaysian Stock Market	
	and its Major Trading Partners' Stock Markets	109
	4.4.2 d) Multivariate Error-Correction Model for	
	Malaysia Stock Market and its Major Trading	
	Partners' Stock Markets	112

	Page
4.5 VARIANCE DECOMPOSITION AND IMPULSE	
RESPONSE	122
Analyses Results Among the Five Sectors' Price	100
Indices in the Malaysian Stock Market	122
Market and its Major Trading Partners	130
CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	
5.1 INTRODUCTION	138
5.1 INTRODUCTION	139
5.2.1 Cointegration tests	139
5.2.2 Causality Tests	144
5.2.3 Variance Decomposition and Impulse Response Function	
5 3 SLIMMARY	146
5.3 SUMMARY 5.4 LIMITATIONS OF STUDY	140
5.4.1 Limitations in Data	149 150
5.4.2 Limitations of the Model	150
5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS	151
5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS	151
REFERENCES	154
APPENDICES	
Annondin A. Deile Deise I. P. Col. D. No. 1	
Appendix A: Daily Price Indices of the Five Major Sectors in Malaysia from January 4 1994 to December 31 2002	i
Appendix B: Weekly Price Indices of the Five Major Sectors in Malaysia from January 4 1994 to December 31 2002	ii
Appendix C: Daily Stock Price Indices of All Countries from January 4 1994 to December 31 2002	iii
Appendix D: Weekly Stock Price Indices of All Countries from January 4 1994 to December 31 2002	iv

# LIST OF TABLES

Toble 1.1. Nomber of Co.	Page
Table 1.1: Number of Companies Listed in the Main Board of KLSE	
from 1997 to 2003 (as at 4 September 2003)	10
Table 1.2: Market Capitalisation (RM Billion) from Year	
1990 to 2002	11
	10
by its Major Trading Partners from 1995 to 2002	19
its Major Trading Portners from 1005 to 2002	
its Major Trading Partners from 1995 to 2002	20
Table 2.1: Summaries of Studies on Integration Among Stock Markets	
Using Cointegration and Error Correction Theory	40
Table 3.1: The Five Major Sectors of Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange	
Composite Index Used in This Study	55
Table 3.2: The Countries Major Stock Indices in Studying the	
Integration of Malaysian Stock Market with its Major	
Trading Partners	56
Table 4.1a: ADF Test on Levels and First-Differences for the	
Stock Indices of Five Major Sectors in Malaysia.	69
Table 4.1b: Phillips-Perron Test on Levels and First-Differences for	
the Stock Indices of Five Major Sectors in Malaysia	70
Table 4.2a: ADF Test on Levels and First-Differences for All	
Countries' Stock Indices	71
Table 4.2b: Phillips-Perron Test on Levels and First-Differences	
for All Countries' Stock Indices	72
Table 4.3a: Bivariate Cointegration Test Between Sectors' Price Indices	
in Malaysia for Daily and Weekly Data	74
Table 4.3b: Bivariate Cointegration Test Between Malaysia Stock	
Index and Stock Indices of its Major Trading Partners for	
Daily and Weekly Data	77
Table 4.4a: Multivariate Cointegration Tests Among Sectors' Price	
Indices in Malaysia	80
Table 4.4b: Multivariate Cointegration Tests Between Malaysia Stock	
Market and its Major Trading Partners' Stock Markets	81
Table 4.5a: Bivariate VAR for Daily Sectors' Price Indices in the	
Main Board of Malaysia Stock Market	83
Table 4.5b: Bivariate VAR for Weekly Sectors' Price Indices in	
The Main Board of Malaysia Stock Market	85
Table 4.6a: Bivariate ECM for Daily Sectors' Price	
Indices in the Main Board of Malaysia	
Stock Market	86
Table 4.6b: Bivariate ECM for Weekly Sectors' Price Indices in the	
Main Board of Malaysia Stock Market	88

	Page
Table 4.7a: Bivariate VAR for Daily Countries' Price Indices	92
Table 4.7b: Bivariate VAR for Weekly Countries' Price Indices	94
Table 4.8a: Bivariate ECM for Daily Countries' Price Indices	95
Table 4.8b: Bivariate ECM for Weekly Countries' Price Indices	96
Table 4.9a: Multivariate VAR for Daily Sectors' Price Indices in	, ,
the Main Board of Malaysia Stock Market	99
Table 4.9b: Multivariate VAR for Weekly Sectors' Price Indices in	
the Main Board of Malaysia Stock Market	102
Table 4.10a:Multivariate ECM for Daily Sectors' Price Indices in	
the Main Board of Malaysia Stock Market	104
Table 4.10b:Multivariate ECM for Weekly Sectors' Price Indices in	
the Main Board of Malaysia Stock Market	105
Table 4.11a:Multivariate VAR for Price Countries' Price Indices	110
Table 4.12a:Multivariate ECM for Daily Countries' Price Indices	114
Table 4.12b:Multivariate ECM for Weekly Countries' Price Indices	116
Table 4.13: Forecast Variance Decomposition Analyses Results	110
for Five Major Sectors' Price Indices in Malaysia	124
Table 4.14a: Forecast Variance Decomposition Response for the Malaysian	
Stock Market to the Innovations of its Major Trading	
Partners	131
Table 4.14b:The Variance Decomposition Response for the	101
Malaysian Major Trading Partners to the Innovations of	
the Malaysia Stock Market	132
*	134

# LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1.1: Regulatory Framework of the Securities and Futures	
Industry in Malaysia as at December 2002	8
Figure 1.2: Number of Companies Listed in Main Board of the KLSE	4.0
from 1997 to 2003 (as at 4 September 2003)	10
to 2002	1.1
Figure 2.1: Framework for Literature Review	11
Figure 3.1: Annual Trading Volume of the Nine Sectors in	22
the KLSE CI Main Board from 1994 to 2002	56
Figure 3.2 : Empirical Framework of Cointegration and Error-Correction	30
Model	58
Figure 4.1: The Daily Average Trading Volume per month of	50
the Five Sectors in the KLSE Main Board During the	
Pre-Crisis Period	89
Figure 4.2: Loans by the Commercial Banks, Finance Companies and	
Merchant Bank in Malaysia After Financial Crisis	91
Figure 4.3: The Equity Investment from and to Malaysia during	
the Pre-Crisis Period	98
Figure 4.4: The Directions of Short-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between	
the Daily Sectors' Price Indices in the KLSE Main Board	
from January 1994 to December 2002	100
Figure 4.5: The Directions of Short-Run Lead Lag Relationship	
Between the Daily Sectors' Price Indices in the KLSE Main	
Board During Asian Financial Crisis	101
Figure 4.6: The Directions of Short-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between	
the Daily Sectors' Price Indices in the KLSE Main Board After	
Asian Financial Crisis	102
Figure 4.7: The Directions of Weekly Short-Run Lead Lag Relationship	
Between the Weekly Sectors' Price Indices in the KLSE Main	
Board from January 1994 to December 2002	103
Figure 4.8: The Directions of Weekly Short-Run Lead Lag Relationship	
Between the Weekly Sectors' Price Indices in the KLSE	104
Main Board After Financial Crisis	104
Figure 4.9: The Directions of Long-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between	
the Daily Price Movements of All the Sectors Before Crisis	105
Figure 4.10: The Percentage Change in the Average Trading Volume	105
During the Financial Crisis	108
Figure 4.11: The Directions of Short-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between	108
the Daily Price Movements of All Countries Before Asian	
Financial Crisis	111
Figure 4.12: The Directions of Short-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between	111
the Daily Price Movements of All Countries During Asian	
Financial Crisis	112

	Page
Figure 4.13: The Directions of Long-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between the Daily Price Movements of All Countries from	
January 1994 to December 2002	115
Figure 4.14: The Directions of Long-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between	
the Weekly Price Movements of All Countries from	
January 1994 to December 2002	118
Figure 4.15: The Directions of Long-Run Lead Lag Relationship Between	116
the Weekly Price Movements of All Countries Before	
Asian Financial Crisis	119
Figure: 4.16: Equity Investment from and to Malaysia During	119
Financial Crisis	121
Figure 4.17: Impulse Response Functions for the Sectors Indices in	121
the Malaysian Stock Market During Pre-Crisis Period	107
Figure 4.18: Impulse Response Functions for the Sectors Indices in	127
the Malaysian Stock Market During Crisis Period	100
Figure 4.19: Impulse Response Functions for the Sectors Indices in	128
the Molavoian Stools Montrest Devices D. (G. : B. : 1	
the Malaysian Stock Market During Post-Crisis Period	130
Figure 4.20: Impulse Response Function of the Malaysian Stock Market	
During Pre-, During-, and Post-Crisis	134
Figure 4.21: Impulse Response Function of the Malaysian Major	
Trading Partners' Stock Markets During Pre-, During-, and	
Post-Crisis	136

# CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The aim of this study is to analyse the integration relationship between the five major sectors' price indices in Malaysian Stock Market and also the integration between Malaysian Stock Market and its major trading partners, namely the Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, China and the United States of America in order to determine the contagion effect due to the 1997 currency crisis. Vector Autoregression (VAR) models will be used in analysing the cointegration relationship between the sectors' stock prices in the Malaysian stock market as well as between Malaysian stock market and its major trading partners from the year 1994 to 2002.

Section 1.2 deals with the research statement in this study, while Section 1.3 discusses the objectives of the study. This is then followed by a discussion of the model employed in the study in Section 1.4. The justification for this study is presented in Section 1.5. An overview of the Malaysian stock market, which includes a brief account on the recent developments, will be discussed in Section 1.6. Next, the history of the stock markets for Malaysia major trading partners is presented in Section 1.7. This is followed by the discussion of the role of capital markets in Malaysia in term of funds raising in Section 1.8. Section 1.9 highlights the percentage of equity investment in and from Malaysia with the respective major trading partners. Finally, the organisational structure of the thesis is presented in Section 1.10.

# The contents of the thesis is for internal user only

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