

The Chinese University of Hong Kong

ECON5170 Computational Methods in Economics Spring, 2015-2016

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1 Lecture Hours and Location

Time: January 11th - April 18th, every Monday 11:30am - 2:15pm
Venue: Chen Kou Bun Bldg 108
Office hours: By appointment

2 Course Description

In modern economic research, computers enhance our capacity of solving complex problems. Computation is particularly important in fields involving massive data. The objective of this course is to introduce graduate students to computational approaches for solving economic models, with an emphasis on dynamic programming and simulation-based econometric methods. We will formulate economic problems in computationally tractable form and use techniques from numerical analysis to solve them. The substantive applications will cover a wide range of problems including labor, industrial organization, macroeconomics, and international trade.

3 Learning outcomes

Computational economics has not been part of the core curriculum of postgraduate-level economics education, whereas programming skill is critical for a postgraduates success in academia and industry. This course intends to teach students computational methods for solving economic problems, and expose students to extensive programming exercises. We expect that at the end of the course a student would proficiently use at least one programming language (Stata, Matlab, R, etc). Moreover, we aim to equip the students with the computational ability to tackle problems of their own research areas.

4 Assessment

Midterm	30%	A small take-home exercise.
Final	70%	A group project. Form a group of 2-3 people. Write a computer program to solve one of the three problems (micro, macro, or metrics). Present the results on April 18th. Hand in the final codes by May 6th.

5 Class Schedule

Date	Content
11 Jan	Basic Stata (in Undergraduate Computer Lab ELB 916)
18 Jan	Advanced Stata (in Undergraduate Computer Lab ELB 916)
25 Jan	Basic R (in Undergraduate Computer Lab ELB 916)
1 Feb	Advanced R (in Undergraduate Computer Lab ELB 916)
8 Feb	No class (public holiday)
15 Feb	Linear Equations
22 Feb	Numerical Optimization
29 Feb	Nonlinear Equations
7 Mar	Approximation methods
14 Mar	Numerical Integration
21 Mar	Monte Carlo Simulation
28 Mar	No class (public holiday)
4 Apr	No class (public holiday)
11 Apr	Dynamic programming
18 Apr	Presentation of group projects

6 Required Readings

Judd, Kenneth (1998): Numerical Methods in Economics, the MIT Press
 Monahan, John (2001): Numerical Methods in Statistics, Cambridge University Press

7 Recommended Readings

Altonji, J. G., & Segal, L. M. (1996). Small-sample bias in GMM estimation of covariance structures. *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, 14(3), 353-366.
 Andrews, D. W. (2000). Inconsistency of the bootstrap when a parameter is on the boundary of the parameter space. *Econometrica*, 68(2), 399-405.
 Armstrong, T., Bertanha, M. & Hong, H.(2014) A Fast Bootstrap Method for Parametric and Semi-parametric Model, the *Journal of Econometrics*.179(2), 128-133.
 Bajari, P., Benkard, C. L., & Levin, J. (2007). Estimating dynamic models of imperfect competition. *Econometrica*, 75(5), 1331-1370.
 Berry, S., Levinsohn, J., & Pakes, A. (1995). Automobile prices in market equilibrium. *Econometrica: Journal of the Econometric Society*, 841-890.
 Chernozhukov, V., & Hong, H. (2003). An MCMC approach to classical estimation. *Journal of Econometrics*, 115(2), 293-346.
 Efron, B., & Tibshirani, R. J. (1994). An introduction to the bootstrap (Vol. 57). CRC press.
 Hansen, L. P., Heaton, J., & Yaron, A. (1996). Finite-sample properties of some alternative GMM estimators. *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*,14(3), 262-280.
 Koenker, R. (2005). Quantile regression (No. 38). Cambridge university press.
 Lehmann, E. L., (1999). Elements of large-sample theory, 1999 Springer-Verlag New York.
 Li, Q., & Racine, J. S. (2007). Nonparametric econometrics: Theory and practice. Princeton University Press.
 Owen, A. B. (2010). Empirical likelihood. CRC press.
 Paarsch, H. J., & Hong, H. (2006). An introduction to the structural econometrics of auction data. MIT Press Books, 1.

- Pakes, A., & Pollard, D. (1989). Simulation and the asymptotics of optimization estimators. *Econometrica: Journal of the Econometric Society*, 1027-1057.
- Phillips, P. C. (1986). Understanding spurious regressions in econometrics. *Journal of econometrics*, 33(3), 311-340.
- Phillips, P. C., & Perron, P. (1988). Testing for a unit root in time series regression. *Biometrika*, 75(2), 335-346.
- Su, C. L., & Judd, K. L. (2012). Constrained optimization approaches to estimation of structural models. *Econometrica*, 80(5), 2213-2230.