Tech Setup Checklist

Methods of Macroeconomic Forecasting

Autumn 2025

Introduction

A key part of this class will be to apply the discussed methods in empirical applications. Both within the lab sessions, as well as in your presentation projects. To ensure everyone has the same technical setup and is ready to start forecasting, please check off all items on this list before we meet for the first class on 2 October 2025.

Coding

☐ Install the latest version (4.5.1) of R.

☐ Install R Studio (alternatively, you can also use a different IDE (Integrated Development Environment) of your preference (e.g. Visual Studio Code)).

Collaboration

☐ Learn about Git.

- Easy introduction to Git: Research Software Engineering - Git Version Control.
- Video (incl. idea, installation, basic commands, Git vs. GitHub):
  A brief introduction to Git for Beginners [video 9'].
- Blogpost on setting up Git: Set up Git.
- Install Git.

☐ Setup a GitHub Account.

- Blogpost on how version control, Git, and GitHub work together: About Git.
- Sign up to GitHub.

☐ Authenticate local Git on your GitHub Account

- To push and pull from GitHub, you need authentication. SSH is recommended because you'll authenticate once with a key pair instead of entering passwords repeatedly, and it's more secure.
- You'll generate a public/private key pair, add the public key to GitHub, and Git will use your private key automatically.
- Follow these resources:
  * GitHub Documentation for all systems: Generating a new SSH key and adding it to the ssh-agent
  * GitHub SSH Key Setup [video 8']

☐ Additional resources: Get familiar with GitHub.

– Step-by-step guide: from a local repository to a remote repository on GitHub: How to create your first GitHub repository: A beginner's guide [video 9'].

– Pull requests: How to create a pull request in 4 min [video 4'].

– Merging: How to merge a pull request [video 4'].

– Common commands: Beginner Git commands you need to know [video 14'].

Course GitHub

For this course, we will use GitHub to provide the materials, publish updates and collaborate on your presentation projects: https://github.com/KOF-fbp/methods-for-macro-forecasting-2025.git.