

# **Effective Programming Practices for Economists**

## **Software engineering**

### **Introduction to error handling**

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# Motivation

- You have seen what good tracebacks and error messages give you:
  - Where did something go wrong?
  - What exactly went wrong?
  - Sometimes: How can you fix it
- You might also have seen some error messages that were not helpful at all

Goal: Learn how to add great error handling to your code

# Example

```
def create_markdown_table(data):  
    """Create a markdown table from a list of  
    dictionaries or a dictionary of lists.  
  
    """  
    if isinstance(data, dict):  
        lod = convert_dol_to_lod(data)  
    else:  
        lod = data  
  
    keys = list(lod[0])  
  
    lines = [  
        _create_header(keys),  
        _create_separator(len(keys)),  
    ]
```

```
def _create_header(keys):  
    header = "|"   
    for key in keys:  
        header += f" {key} |"  
    return header  
  
def _create_separator(n_cols):  
    separator = "|"   
    for _ in range(n_cols):  
        separator += " ----- |"  
    return separator  
  
def _create_data_row(row_dict):  
    row_string = "|"   
    for key in row_dict:
```