# An Analysis of Long-Term Worldwide Economic Growth Data

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## Goals for the Project

What are the most significant factors which influence the growth of a country?

What are the best economic indicators of that growth?

EX: Trade, labor force, political stability, technological innovation

\*Able to be determined through data analysis

- EX: GDP per capita, country health, capital formation

\*Not able to be well determined through data analysis

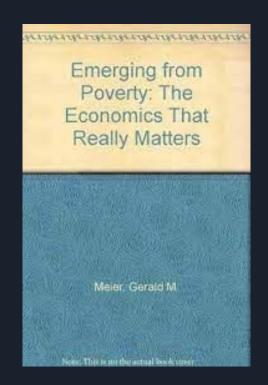
### Determining Economic Growth Indicators

\*Not easy to be done through my data analysis

- Actual growth is much more complex than any list of a few variables

Emerging from Poverty by Gerald Meier

 His advice was to look more towards improvements of country health, not just increases in Gross National Product (GNP)



#### Variables Used

#### **Influential Factors**

**Imports** 

**Exports** 

Net Exports (Exports-Imports)

Net migration

Labor force, total

Population

Urban population

Rural population

#### **Economic Indicators**

**Economy Based** 

**GDP Per Capita** 

GDP per capita (constant LCU)

GDP growth (annual %)

GDP (current LCU)

GDP (constant 2015 US\$)

Gross capital formation (% of GDP)

Consumer price index (2010 = 100)

Labor force, total

Population

#### Country Health

Life expectancy at birth, total (years)

Birth rate, crude (per 1,000 people)

Population ages 0-14 (% of total population)

Death rate, crude (per 1,000 people)

Other

CO2 emissions (kt)

#### Variables Used

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\*Note: Many of these can be both influencers and indicators (analysis is not causal)

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### Sourcing the Data

<u>Trade Data:</u> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

https://unstats.un.org/unsd/trade/data/tables.asp

GDP per Capita, Population Data: University of Groningen Maddison Project

https://www.rug.nl/ggdc/historicaldevelopment/maddison/releases/maddison-project-database-2020

Economy and Health Data: The World Bank World Development Indicators Dataset

https://databank.worldbank.org/reports.aspx?source=2&series=NY.GDP.PCAP.CD&country=#

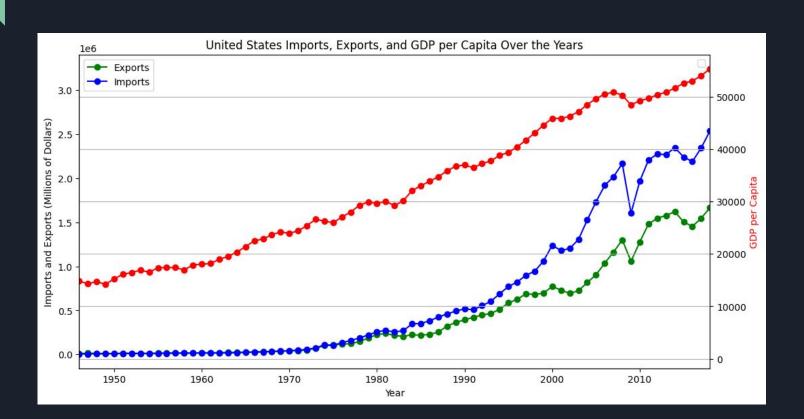
# Data Prep and Processing

- Done in python
- Different dataset formatting and convention
- Very large scale
- Quite difficult

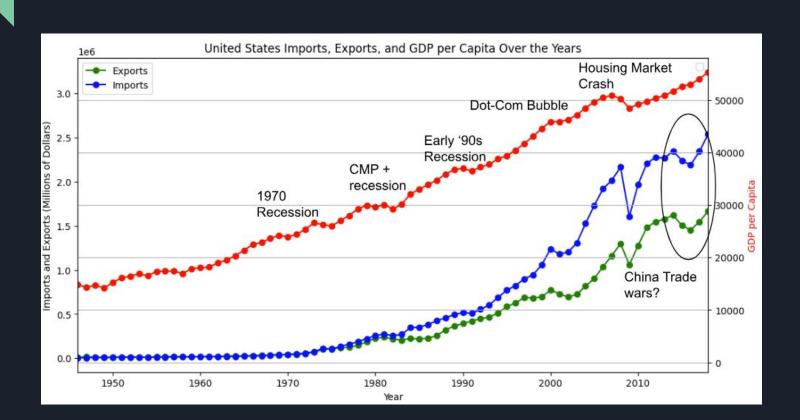
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# United States Imports, Exports, GDPPC



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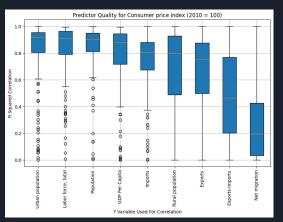


## Method for Large Scale Analysis

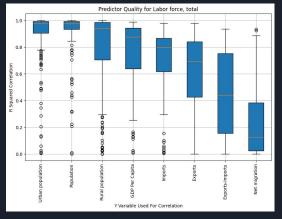
- 1) Choose indicator (EX: GDP Per Capita)
- 2) Loop through every influential factor (imports, exports, etc)
- 3) Loop through every country
- 4) Determined the R<sup>2</sup> correlation between the two variables
  - a) R<sup>2</sup>: The proportion of variance in the dependent variable which is predicted by the independent variable
- 5) Make results into boxplot

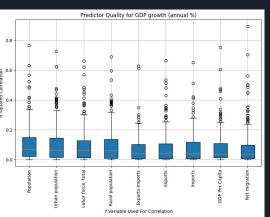
14 indicators \* 8 predictors \* ≈ 180 countries \* ≈ 70 years of data

### Economy-Based Economic Growth Results



Predictor Quality for CO2 emissions (kt)



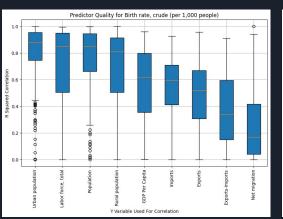


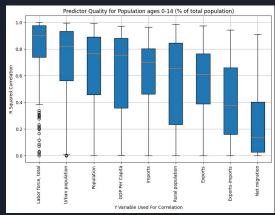
 Population based variables always most highly correlated

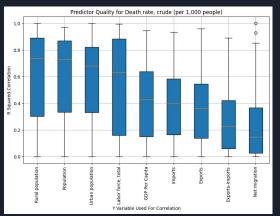
 GDPPC always right behind them

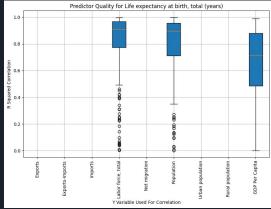
 Imports always slightly better than exports

### Health-Based Economic Growth Results









- Ignore population based variables
  - Correlation direction matters, not decipherable on large scale

GDPPC <u>always</u> has highest median R<sup>2</sup> otherwise

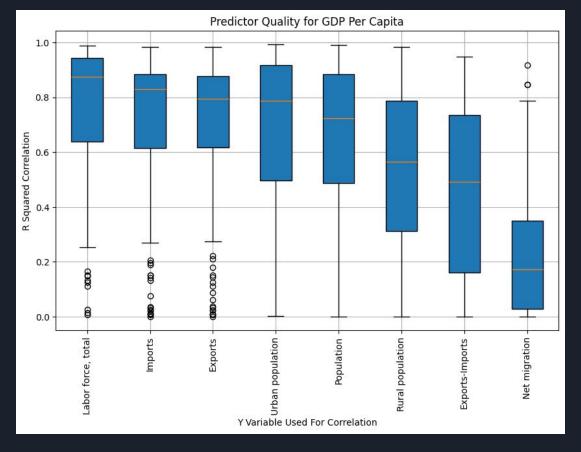
#### Note of Caution

- R<sup>2</sup> is <u>correlation</u>, not causation

- These correlations are extremely high
  - Gives us confidence in our data
  - But also reminds us that there are many variables at play

- This kind of analysis can help inform policy, but cannot explain the past

# Coolest Finding: GDPPC Results



- Labor force ≠ population
- Even more highly correlated than importing and exporting is getting more people employed
- Very often higher correlated

### Constraints

- Time available given amount of data

- Data conventions and overlap

- Correlation, no causation.
  - Year shift

- Weights not given for greater populated countries

Correlated but without direction

Thank you