PS 1

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1 Understanding Real Outcomes Through Data

I am a senior double majoring in Economics and Information Science and Technology, and most of my interests sit at the intersection of data, technology, and real-world problems. I am especially interested in healthcare and development, mainly because I have seen how limited resources, weak systems, and poor information flows can shape people's outcomes long before individual choices even come into play. What draws me to economics is its ability to take these lived realities and turn them into questions that we can study, test, and hopefully improve.

I decided to take this class because I want to be more intentional about how I work with data from start to finish. Although I have used data tools in other courses, I wanted a stronger foundation in reproducible workflows, version control, and clear documentation. Learning tools like Git, GitHub and LaTeX feels important not just for this class, but for the kind of collaborative and transparent work I hope to do in the future.

For my course project, I am interested in exploring how digital capacity and health infrastructure work together to influence health outcomes, particularly in Southern African countries. I am curious whether technology strengthens existing health systems or whether its impact depends on having certain foundations already in place. I would like to use panel data to study these relationships over time and across countries, with the goal of asking questions that are empirically grounded and relevant for policy.

After graduation, I plan to work full-time to gain hands-on experience applying economic and data analysis in real-world settings. After a couple of years, I intend to pursue graduate studies in Health Economics to deepen my training and sharpen my research focus. In the long run, I hope to work in research or policy-oriented roles where I can use data and economic analysis to improve health outcomes, especially in resource-constrained settings.

Equation

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \tag{1}$$