Global Frontier Reflection

Visiting platforms like AWS and Tencent highlighted how essential these tools have become for computational economics. They enable large-scale simulations, market testing, and analysis of massive datasets, accelerating research and improving decision-making. At the same time, the visit made me aware of important challenges, including data privacy concerns, potential algorithmic bias, and unequal access for different users. I observed that the U.S. model, exemplified by AWS, emphasizes scalability and open access for a broad user base, whereas Tencent builds around its own ecosystem, leveraging local data strengths and insights from regional data. While both platforms share advanced technological capabilities, they differ in governance, regulatory frameworks, and the ways they integrate social and economic contexts. From an ethical perspective, these tools have the potential to promote equity and accountability, but only if innovation is paired with fairness, oversight, and responsible deployment.

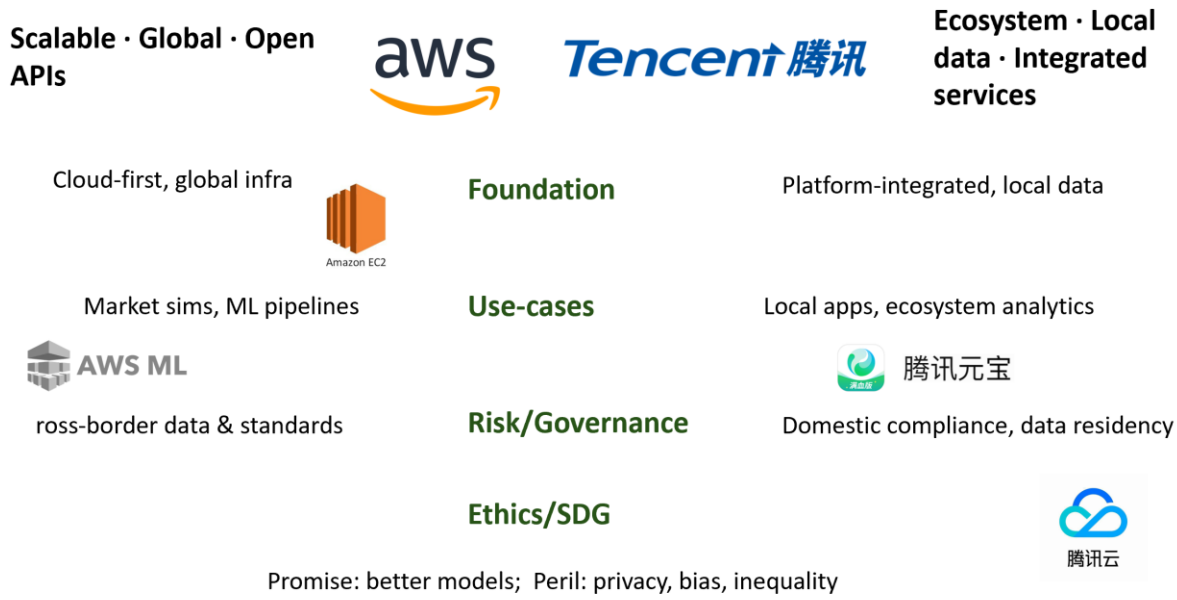

Figure 3: AWS vs Tencent platform relevant to computational economics. Created by Microsoft PowerPoint, exported as PNG.

The field trip also underscored the value of a liberal arts perspective in understanding technology and economics. Integrating interdisciplinary thinking, ethical reasoning, and critical reflection helps students assess the societal implications of computational tools and ensures that algorithms and simulations do not reinforce inequities or cause unintended harm. DKU's joint model encourages global leadership by combining U.S. and Chinese educational approaches, fostering cross-cultural collaboration, interdisciplinary study, and systems thinking. Engaging in diverse teams, tackling real-world economic challenges, and reflecting

on societal impacts allows students to design algorithms and market mechanisms that are both effective and socially responsible, bridging computational power with human-centered decision-making while promoting innovation for the public good.