Applied Economics Research using R: Session 1

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Intro

- ▶ Research requires many things.
- ▶ Coding is a not sufficient but necessary and essential skill set for research.
- ▶ Curse of abundance
    - ▶ Data
    - ▶ Programming Languages
    - ▶ Methodologies
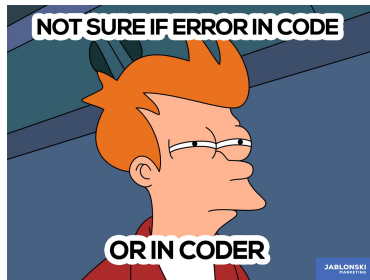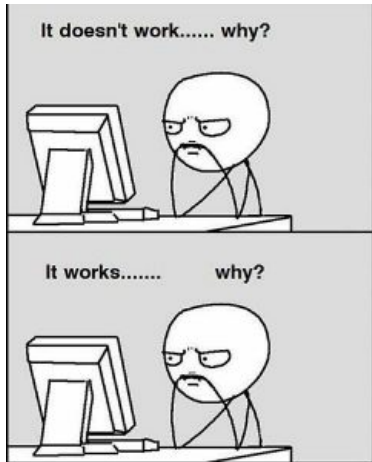- ▶ Too much information is no information

So, where should we go and how?

What was your coding experience like ?

Mine was like..

Mindsets

- Focus on positive experiences
- Keep making small achievements
- No one is born a programmer
- Do you know how to use Google? Then you are ready to become a good programmer

Coding

- ▶ Coding is more than executing things with some lines of code.
- ▶ It encompasses general workflows
    - ▶ folder/file management
    - ▶ documentation
    - ▶ version control
- ▶ Some important qualities are
    - ▶ readability
    - ▶ modifiability
    - ▶ reproducibility
    - ▶ efficiency (space + time)

Things you need to know when using R

- ▶ R has multiple packages that do similar things.
  - ▶ Different packages might have very different syntax styles.
  - ▶ e.g., base vs tidyverse vs data.table (*nice summary here*)
  - ▶ In the first session, I stick to tidyverse style. In the second session, I will use data.table style.
- ▶ Some packages are more reliable than others.
  - ▶ Do some research or play around with it when you start using a new package especially if not widely used.

Start with some fun things

Shortcuts

Snippets

Table of contents in R script

Formatter