FINBARR TIMBERS

f.timbers@lse.ac.uk
github.com/timbers
Citizenship: Canadian & Irish
Languages: English (native), French (near fluent)

Profile

Grad student in econometrics at LSE looking to apply economic/statistical knowledge in public service. Previously: research/policy analyst with Albertan political party, research assistant in mathematical economics. Co-author of machine learning paper under consideration for publication (SANER 2015).

Experience

Major Provincial Political Party — Edmonton, AB
Research/Policy Analyst — May 2014 — Present

- Conducted policy analysis for MLAs on topical subjects, including quarterly fiscal updates.
- Briefed senior MLAs on a variety of topics, including tax forecasting and foreign policy.
- Performed quantitative analysis on government data to produce cost estimates for a variety of political policies.

University of Alberta — Edmonton, AB
Research Assistant — May — August 2013

- Modelled the behaviour of the prisoner's dilemma in continuous time.
- Wrote simulation to find potential equilibria of the prisoner's dilemma (in Matlab).
- Awarded a NSERC USRA grant to pursue the work.

University of Alberta — Edmonton, AB
Research Assistant — Jan. — May 2013

- Wrote a paper on the efficiency of judicial decisions in antitrust cases.
- Supervisor was a Senior Research Scholar at Harvard Law School and an associate professor at the University of Alberta.
- Awarded a grant from the Undergraduate Research Initiative to do the work.

Education

London School of Economics — 2014 — 2015
M. Sc. Econometrics & Mathematical Economics

- Coursework included a second year Ph. D. course in theoretical econometrics.

University of Alberta — 2010 — 2014
B. Sc. (*Hons*) Mathematics & Economics, First class honors

- Silver medallist in Mathematics (2nd highest GPA out of all honors math students).
- Coursework included graduate courses in time series analysis (A), stochastic calculus (A-), and option pricing (A-).

Research

Bug Deduplication — Fall 2013

- As part of a graduate course in machine learning, worked with a team to build a system that automatically deduplicated bug reports in software projects.
- System used Python to create summary statistics out of the raw text from the bug reports. We then used the summary statistics as features to classify the data using Weka.
- Our system was entirely automated, and matched manual classification performance-wise.
- The paper we wrote up on the project is under consideration for publication at SANER 2015. Preprints are available by request. The code is available at github.com/tannner/dedup.