

## Problem Set 4 - Final Project

Due on May 19th 17:00

### General instruction

- This problem set is a final project that require you to write a complete **empirical** article. You have three choices:
  1. Replicate an existing academic article using the data set that is used in that article. Restate its main result clearly and provide your view and comment.  
Nowadays, most article journal provide data sets, if the article is new enough. You free to consider any academic journal in the field of Economics and Business, for example in these journals: [https://scholar.google.com.hk/citations?view\\_op=top\\_venues&hl=en&vq=bus](https://scholar.google.com.hk/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en&vq=bus).  
For example, Review of Economics and Statistics <http://www.mitpressjournals.org/loi/rest>, or Journal of Applied Econometrics [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1099-1255](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1099-1255) (data archive: <http://qed.econ.queensu.ca/jae/>).
  2. Gather a new data set and study the research question of an existing empirical article. You may use the idea and methodology from the existing work, but the data set needs to be new. For example, the existing study uses data from 1980s, while you use data from 2000s; or the existing study uses data from United States, while you use data from Hong Kong or China. Check whether the result in the old paper holds with a new data set.
  3. Conduct a new and innovative research project. Find you own research question, gather a relevant data set, and use a proper methodology to study it.
- Student can choose whether or not to do this problem set with attempting to fulfill ECON 4670's paper/project requirement.
  - If a student chooses **not** for the 4670 option, then can submit it by individual or as a group with maximum three students.
  - If a student chooses **yes** for the 4670 option, then must submit it by individual. Moreover, you cannot choose option 1 above, i.e. you cannot merely replicate a paper using its data set. **You shall inform the TA about your choice before Apr. 25th.**
- The due day of the complete research article is **May 19th, 2017**.

## Content of the article

1. Title  
short and informative
2. Abstract  
less than 100 words, concise and informative
3. Introduction
  - state the research question clearly
  - overview the empirical strategy
  - review some key articles in the literature
4. Data
  - source of the data set
  - summary statistics table
  - key graphs that visualize the data
5. Empirical analysis
  - identification strategy if endogeneity is an issue
  - econometric model
  - estimation results in tables and words
6. Conclusion
7. Reference

## Evaluation

- Submit your article (in Microsoft Word or PDF format), data set, your code, and the paper you replicated. Your article shall be well written. Graph and Table shall be well-formatted. Your code shall be easy for TA to run and check. Your grade will be affected if your code does not provide proper output, or it is confusing so that TA cannot run it.
- The grade counts 25% of this course. For those who try to fulfill ECON 4670, it will be evaluated by PASS or FAIL. Your article will be evaluated by the following criteria:
  - words, tables, figures, code, and reference are well-written
  - contains all required contents
  - present the research topic and main results clearly
  - meet the standard
  - originality and importance of the topic
  - quality of the data set and empirical analysis
- Please note that, you must study an **Economics** related topic.
- The project must be an empirical one. You are not suppose to replicate or write a theoretical article.
- Recommended formats: 11 or 12 points font; one-half line-space, 1-inch page margin. The overall length of the article shall be around 8 to 15 pages, including reference, figures, and tables.
- In replication, you only need to replicate **part of** the paper, as long as one of the main results is shown.