

Intermediate Macroeconomics: Short Paper

Lun Li

Due Friday, May 30, 2025

Instructions

So far we have learned about many models in this course, some of which related to macroeconomic questions concerning our daily life. In this project, you have the chance to apply the knowledge you learned from class to questions that you believe are important.

To start, try to look for an interesting question from recent news or your personal experience that relates to macroeconomics, **in a very broad sense**. Some sample topics from last year include:

- 旷课的抉择——基于两期学习模型的学生旷课问题研究
- 养老保险对居民消费结构的影响
- 体制内还是体制外？效用最大化视角下的职业与购房选择
- Intergenerational Caregiving and Savings Rate of Middle-aged and Elderly Households
- Research on installment without interest: from the perspective of behavioral economics
- Single Economy: The effect of marriage and parenting on consumption and saving
- The Impact of Lockdown Policies on Gaming Firms: A Brief Analysis of the Chinese Context
- Ticket Troubles: Navigating the World of Scalpers in Peking University Performances

After finding the question that interests you the most, try to provide an answer to this question that you think is reasonable. You could use economic models or data to complement your argument. The goal is not to give a complete and definitive solution to the question, but rather provide your perspective and convince the readers that your explanation is plausible.

Rules

- You may choose to work in a group of 2 or less. Group members can submit one write-up for the entire group.
- **The write-up should not exceed 5 pages in length**, excluding charts and tables. You may attach an appendix of less than 5 pages, if needed. The font size should be no smaller than 10pt (in English) or #5 (in Chinese).
- **Cite all works** (papers, book chapters, reports, databases, etc) you refer to. Do not plagiarize – any instances of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for this assignment.
- **Guidelines on Generative AI:** You can use generative AI for certain purposes in this project, such as helping you summarize a difficult paper or assisting you with coding questions. You should not, however, ask AI to generate entire paragraphs of text, or fabricate any data or regression results. If you plan to use generative AI, please attach a one-page document that summarizes the usage and your overall evaluation of the AI tool’s effectiveness. Make sure to also attach an excel spreadsheet containing your entire chat history with the AI.
- The completed project should be emailed to Junxi Yi (2100015490@stu.pku.edu.cn) before **17:00 PM Friday, May 30**, as a single compressed zip file. Make sure to name your file "MacroPaper2024_中文姓名1中文姓名2.zip/rar", and include all documents, codes, and raw data into the zipped file. **Also include an anonymized version of your paper¹ for the *peer review* process.**

Grading Guidelines

This paper has a total of 10 points, and will be graded based on the following “3Cs”:

- **Clarity** (30%): Is the research question clearly stated? Can the readers understand your main argument easily?
- **Creativity** (40%): Is the research question interesting? Is your answer to this question innovative and intuitive?
- **Coherence** (30%): Is the the main argument consistent with data/model you provided? Is the explanation convincing enough? Can you explain your answer with clear economic intuition?

The paper will not be graded based on the following “2Cs”:

- **Complexity of the model.** Your arguments can be supported by empirical evidence (i.e. data) only, and your write-up may not even include any equations at all.

¹The same document with all names/student IDs removed.

- **Completeness of your argument.** You don't have to provide a comprehensive list of all possible reasons that could explain the question you have in mind. Pick one or two reasons and focus on them.

The peer review process: your paper will be evaluated by the instructor, two TAs, and two groups of students from the previous year, based on the three dimensions above (clarity, creativity, coherence). The raw grade is then calculated using the average of all scores, removing the highest and lowest scores in each dimension. **The top 5 papers with the highest raw scores will be invited to present their work in the last class; if the invitation is accepted, all members will receive an additional 1 point to their overall grades.**

Finally, your raw score will be multiplied by a “difficulty score”, depending on which of the following achievements you accomplish.

- **[Lone Wolf]:** Work in a group of one (+0.1)
- **[Fast Learner]:** Use \LaTeX to organize the paper (+0.15)
- **[Linguist]:** Write the paper in English (+0.15)
- **[AI Explorer]:** Use AI tools to assist with some tasks in this project, and submit a one-page report as well as the entire chat history, following the guidelines above (+0.05).
- **[One of a Kind]:** Pick a unique topic (that no other groups work on) (+0.1)
- **[Multitasking]:** Include both theoretical models and data in your project (+0.15)
- **[Early Bird]:** Submit your paper at least one week before the deadline (+0.15)
- **[Non-technical Report]:** Have no equations in the main body of the paper (+0.1)
- **[Shortest Paper Award]:** Turn in the shortest paper in the entire class (+0.15)
- **[Best Paper Award]:** Receive the highest raw grades (+0.15)

For example, if the difficulty score is 1.3 and the raw grade is 7/10, then your final grade will be 9.1/10. Any points above 10 will be converted 1 to 1 into your class participation score, or 2 to 1 into your overall grades as extra credit (if you already received 5 points in class participation).

Finally, whenever you feel stuck with the project, discuss with me or other TAs – we will be happy to provide our feedback and/or advice.

Have Fun!