# Introduction to Econometrics

ECON-UN3412 - Recitation 1

Matthew Davis

September 21, 2021



# **Outline**

# Recitation 1 (today)

- ► Introduction
- Organization of the course
- ► Why R?



# **Outline**

### Recitation 2 (next week)

- Submitting problem sets
- Recitation notes
- Getting started with R/Stata
- Preparing for the first problem set

### Recitation 3+ (rest of semester)

- Practice problems
- Relevant R and Stata commands
- Additional notes: applications or points of emphasis



## About me

- From Southeast Asia
- ► Research: environmental + development
- Recitations: Tue. 2:00-3:00pm, Knox 104
- ▶ Office Hours: Mon. 12:30-2:30pm, Zoom
- Email: wad2113@columbia.edu
  - Grad school, advice, research, etc.
  - Questions about course material: Ed
    Discussion or office hours



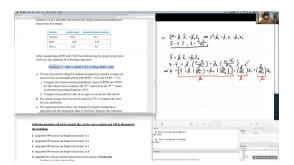


Davis found.

# Logistics

- Recitations
  - R/Stata instruction
  - Ungraded questions in the problem set
  - Uploads in Courseworks : Files : Recitations : Matthew Davis
- Office hours
  - Please come if you need help!







# Stata vs. R

#### Stata

- Used by most academic econs. especially seniors (and then passed down to their students and RAs)
- Lecture slides will feature Stata commands
- very simple one-liners No need to think about installing

Commands for regressions usually

- packages, all functions are in-built
- All eight TAs are familiar with Stata. only three with R

#### R

- Used by most statisticians, data scientists, younger econs
- ► Free (\$0/lifetime < \$90/year) and open source (very Google-able help)
- Stress-free pset and exam submission
  - Automatic and sleek pdfs
- Stata's log files and graphs have proven problematic for students ► A flexible programming language.
- not just a statistical software Handles multiple datasets and types of data
  - Better for data science, computer science, data viz. GIS, web design
  - Complements Python, Julia, Matlab

## Past student feedback

"I quickly just wanted to add a quick personal note: throughout the entire first half of the semester your recitations have been incredible, informative, clear, and a much-appreciated alternative to having to learn Stata. I wanted to personally say thank you for basically designing an entire parallel curriculum and for always responding to our questions and giving us feedback."

"Just wanted to say thank you for helping me and the rest of the students in Econometrics this semester. I know it definitely was not an easy (nor typical) year, but I'm so happy to have been able to do the class in R and I could not have done it without your help!"



# Recitations and office hours, R support underlined

#### Recitations

- Tuesday
  - ► Umar 8:00-9:00am
  - Matt 2:00-3:00pm
- Wednesday
  - ► Tushar 3:00-4:00pm
- Thursday
- Friday
  - Natalie 1:00-2:00
  - Xiao 1:00-2:00
- Saturday
  - Nadia 1:00-2:00
- Monday
  - Seung-hun 9:00-10:00am

#### Office Hours

- Tuesday
  - Umar 12:00-2:00pm
  - Katya 4:15-5:15pm
- Wednesday
  - ► Tushar 10:15-11:15am
  - Tushar 5:00-6:00pm
- Thursday
  - Natalie 10:00am-12:00pm
  - Katya 4:15-5:15pm
- Friday
  - Nadia 8:00-10:00am
  - ➤ Xiao 2:00-4:00pm
- Monday
  - Seung-hun 10:30am-12:30pm
  - Matt 12:30-2:30pm



# Miscellaneous

- Potential grad-student strike
- Can help facilitate a group chat among R users so you can help one another



## "Homework" for next week

- Download R: https://r-project.org
- Download RStudio: https://rstudio.com/products/rstudio
- Optional: bring your laptop

