ECON320
Econometrics Lab 1/2

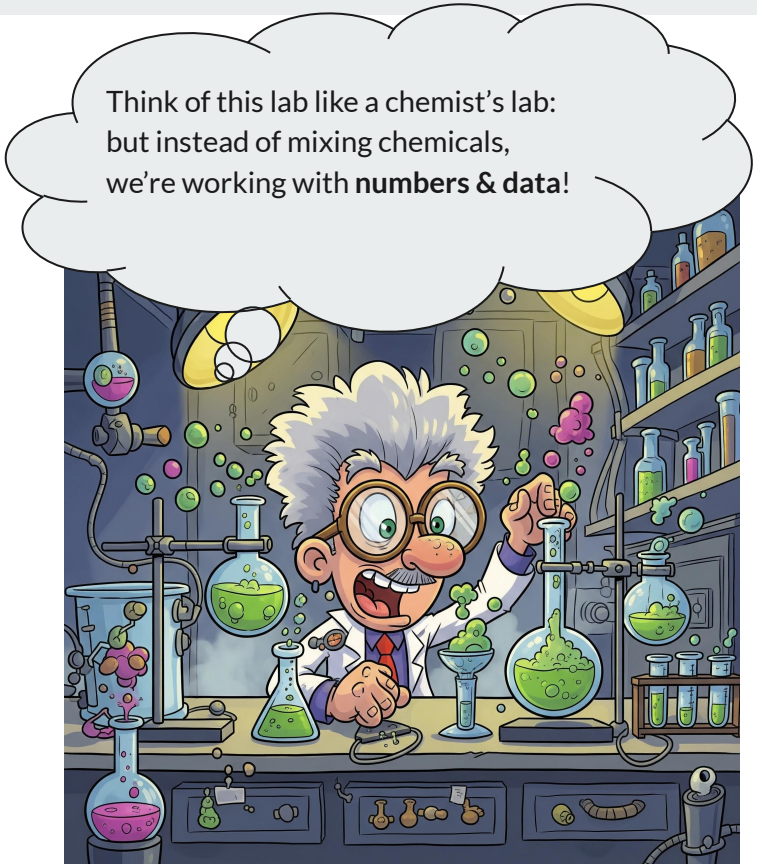
Fall 2025, Week 0

Welcome to ECON 320 Lab!

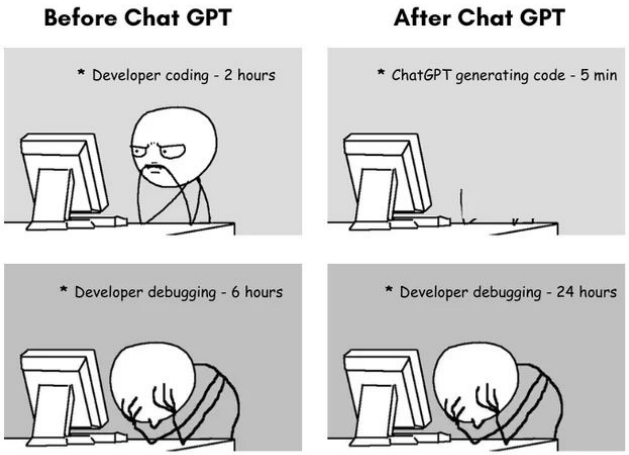
Goal for the lab session:

1. 🛠️ Implement
2. ✅ Verify
3. 📊 Apply

Econometrics tools & theories
learnt from ECON 320 lecture session



Emphasis of the class -
Thought process >>> Execution!



🧠 Critical Thinking!

When coding, ask yourself:

- Q1: Why am I doing this?
- Q2: What is it (the code) actually doing?
- Q3: Can the conclusion/result be wrong?

💡 Tools like ChatGPT can help execute —
but understanding is your superpower! 💡

Today's Roadmap 🧭

📍 Go Through the Syllabus

Syllabus

Communications

Instructor: Ka Yan Cheng

💼 Office:
Rich Building 310D-2

✉️ Email:
ka.yan.cheng@emory.edu*
***Please include your section number (i.e., Econ 320 LAB (1/2)) at the beginning of the subject of your email.**

🕐 Office Hours:
Friday 11:30 am – 2:00 pm on Zoom and by appointment.*
***To make the best use of office hours, please email the instructor to schedule a time block before attending. This ensures the instructor can allocate sufficient time for each student as needed. You are also encouraged toschedule office hours as a group when appropriate.**

Course Materials

All course materials will be prepared in the form of **Jupyter Notebooks (Python)**.

These notebooks will be organized into three folders:

- Empty: Notebook templates with *no code filled in*, for use during class.
- Completed: *Fully worked examples* for reference after class.
- Lab exercises: Practice problems to reinforce concepts.

Materials will be available on both **Canvas** and **GitHub Classroom** for easy access.

Assessment Components

Component	Sub-component	Grade Distribution (%)	
Problem Sets	-	25	
Weekly Lab Exercises	-	25	
Attendance	-	10	
Final Group Project	Proposal	5	40
	Final Report & Presentation	35	

Grade Policy

- Please be aware that this lab represents **25% of your grade for Econ 320**.

- Instructor of the lab session will provide a total grade to your theory instructor.
  - **You need a grade above the passing grade set by your theory instructor for your lab component to be added to your overall grade (with its respective weight). If this required minimum is not achieved, your grade in the lab portion will not be added to your overall grade.**

Other Grading Policies

- Assignments Submission (Submission Plaform **[Canvas]** & Format **[PDF]**)
- Late Submission
- Regrade Policy
- Group Work Policy

Please refer to the Syllabus.

Problem Sets

- There will be four problem sets in total.
- The **lowest grade will be dropped automatically** to accommodate unexpected circumstances.

Weekly Lab Exercises & Attendance

Weekly Lab Exercise:

- Weekly lab exercises are based directly on the material covered during the lab session.
- Students must complete and submit these exercises **by the end of the same week** as the lab to reinforce learning while the material is fresh and to encourage regular attendance.
- Lab exercises will be **graded on completion rather than correctness.**
- (However, students are expected to make a genuine effort on all parts. The instructor reserves the right to assign a reduced grade or no credit if the work is incomplete or shows minimal effort.)
- To allow for unforeseen circumstances, the **lowest weekly lab grade will be dropped** from the final grade calculation.

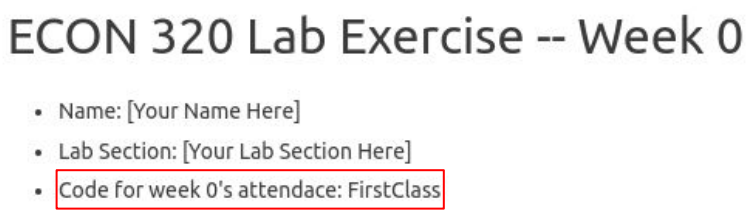
Weekly Lab Exercises & Attendance

Attendance & Starter(Attendance) Code:

- At the start of each lab session, a **short starter(Attendance) code will be provided**.
- Students must insert this code into their weekly lab exercise for that session to receive attendance credit.
- This code is distributed only during class and is intended solely for students who are present. Sharing the code with anyone who did not attend the lab is a violation of the academic integrity policy. **An incorrect or missing code will result in zero attendance.**
- To account for rare unavoidable absences, a **lab submission without the starter code will still be granted with the attendance credit for up to three times during the semester**. After this limit is reached, any lab submitted without the starter code will receive zero attendance credit.
- Student may still earn full completion credit for the lab itself, even without attendance credit.

Example of Lab Exercise Heading

Today's attendance code (Not graded!): FirstClass



Final Group Project

- Students will form groups of **4–5 members** to analyze an economic question of interest using the econometric skills learned in lecture and lab sessions.
- The project should involve:
  - Identifying a clear research question
  - Applying appropriate econometric methods
  - Interpreting results, and presenting findings in a clear and professional manner.
- Groups are encouraged to select topics that are relevant, data-driven, and feasible within the timeframe of the course.

Additional details and expectations of the project will be announced separately in class and on Canvas.

To Conclude the Weekly Session Structure

Recall: Each week you will provided with Jupyter Notebooks in form of: (1) Empty; (2) Completed; and (3)Lab exercises.

What you need to do:

During Class 🧑‍💻

- 📥 Insert the code into your lab exercises draft (3) (or save it somewhere safe)
- ⌨️ Type along with me in the empty Jupyter notebooks (1) — we'll learn together!
- 💻 Bring your laptop so you can follow along
- 🧭 If you get lost, feel free to check the completed version (2)

After Class ⏳

- ✅ Finish the lab exercise (3) and submit your completed work by the same Sunday, 11:59 PM
- ✅ Of course, also finish and submit Problem Sets/Final Project Proposal/Final Project Report on time!

Task for this week (Not graded)

- Either
  - (1) Register for GitHub, and get familiar with GitHub Classroom + GitHub Codespace (instruction will be provided), or
  - (2) Have (Python + Jupyter Notebooks) in your Laptop ready
- **Read the syllabus carefully** and email me if you have any question.
- Come to class next week with your Laptop!

Thank you! 👏