

Microeconometrics

Group assignment - paper replication project

Note. Upload your solutions on Moodle. The solutions should include a .pdf document with your assignment **including the code or a detailed description of the code used in your assignment** generated from the statistical software (feel free to use STATA or R, or other softwares). Please check the submission deadline on moodle, late assignments will not be accepted.

In the group assignment, you will have to replicate the main results of a paper published in the last 10 years from a top journal (some examples are provided at the bottom of this document). I do not impose any specific paper, you have the freedom to select the topic that most interest your group. Consider this assignment not only as an assignment, but also as a direct learning experience of how research is implemented in practice.

In your assignment, you will have to follow these steps:

1. **Find a paper with available data.** This is the most important step: many journals provide datasets and codes in the online page of the published article. I would recommend you check the Replication Wiki website. It facilitates your selection since it provides a list of papers that have or have not been replicated, together with data/code availability and the methods used. *It is important that you select a paper that follows one of the methods used in class!* You don't get extra credit by choosing more complicated methods, so choosing papers with OLS is totally fine.
2. **Write a short referee report (max 2 pages – 12pt, 1.5 spacing).** This is your critical assessment of the paper, not its summary: after having read the paper, write a brief and relatively self-contained summary, but then discuss the paper with a focus on the econometric analyses by highlighting weaknesses and strengths.¹ Some examples of questions you can address are: what are the assumptions in the econometric approach? Are the assumptions valid? Are there data limitations? Can you suggest alternative checks and analyses?
3. **Replicate the main tables using the provided data (max 10 pages – 12pt, 1.5 spacing).** Limit your analysis to methods covered in class, and to the most important tables (descriptive statistics + the main table is enough if they are carefully explained). Describe your replication by explaining the steps in your econometric analysis (including the code you use), and the results you obtain. It is not necessary to describe in detail the results as these are already explained in the original paper, so focus on your steps. You won't obtain credit for quality of formatting, so you can provide outputs as (readable) screenshots. You can also replicate descriptive figures. Some additional clarifications:
 - Notice that several journals provide code to replicate the results, I am happy for you to choose those articles, replicate the code provided and analyze in your assignment.
 - The assignment will be evaluated on the ability to critically analyze and describe the steps to replicate. For some of you this is the first experience with a replication, so you do not have to worry if you cannot replicate the exact numbers, it is important to describe the steps followed clearly.
 - You can also focus/extend/complement the analyses in the paper, by providing complementary descriptive analysis, or looking at subpopulations, or check the robustness of main tables to adding or removing control variables.

¹You can find some general guidelines on writing a referee report from Elisabeth Sadoulet and Alain de Janvry here.

Examples of journals that can be used (notice that not all of them provide data): Oxford Economic Papers, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Public Economics, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Land Economics, Econometrica, Journal of Urban Economics, Economic Journal, Games and Economic Behavior, Labour Economics, Energy Journal, International Economic Review, European Economic Review, The Rand Journal of Economics, Journal of International Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, The Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Economica, The Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Development Economics, The American Economic Review, Journal Labor Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Experimental economics, Journal of applied econometrics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of economic growth, The Journal of human resources, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.