ECON6083 Final Project

Writing & LaTeX Practical Guide

Paper Structure · LaTeX Tables · Checklist

jasminehao.com/econ6083/final-project/ · Questions: haoyu@hku.hk

Today's Agenda

1. **Paper Structure**
   Two tracks, page limits, and section breakdown

2. **Writing Each Section**
   From abstract to conclusion, with examples

3. **LaTeX in Overleaf**
   Document setup, tables, figures, and code templates

4. **Submission Checklist**
   Final reminders before you submit

Everything you need to write and format your final project

Paper Structure: Two Tracks

Track 1: Replication + Extension

Abstract (150–200 words)

1. Introduction (1–2 pp.)

2. Literature Review (1–2 pp.)

3. Data (1–2 pp.)

4. Empirical Strategy (2–3 pp.)

5. Replication Results (3–4 pp.)

6. Extension (2–3 pp.)

7. Conclusion (0.5–1 pp.)

References

Appendix (optional)

Track 2: Literature Review

Abstract (150–200 words)

1. Introduction (1–2 pp.)

2. Conceptual Framework (2–3 pp.)

3. Literature Review (6–8 pp.)

4. Gap & Future Directions (2–3 pp.)

5. Conclusion (1 pp.)

References

Page Count Rule: 12–15 pages (excluding references & appendix)

< 12 pages → work not deep enough · > 15 pages → not concise enough

Writing the Abstract & Introduction

Abstract (150–200 words)

One paragraph, **four sentences**:

1. Which paper do you replicate?
2. What method do you use?
3. What is the core replication finding?
4. What is your extension and what do you find?

No citations, no details.

Introduction (1–2 pages)

Five-paragraph structure:

P1 Broad motivation

P2 Original paper (question, method)

P3 Your replication (confirmed? differences?)

P4 Your extension (new question, findings)

P5 Roadmap: "The rest of the paper is organized as follows..."

Good Abstract Example

"We replicate Chernozhukov et al. (2018) and estimate the effect of 401(k) eligibility on net financial assets using double machine learning. Our replication confirms a positive effect of approximately $8,000. We then extend the analysis to China using CFPS panel data and find that internet access raises household income by 71%, with heterogeneous effects by education level."

Common Mistake: Spending 2 pages on "AI is changing the world" fluff, but only 2 sentences on your own work.

Correct approach: Reverse pyramid — broad → specific → your contribution. Your work must occupy at least half the section.

Literature Review & Data Sections

Literature Review (1–2 pages)

WRONG

"Author A (2019) does X. Author B (2020) does Y." *No connection.*

CORRECT

Group by **theme**, use transition sentences:

"While X focuses on… Y extends this… Z introduces…"

Group	Content	# Papers	Track 1
Theme 1	Foundational literature of the original method	3–5	Required

Data (1–2 pages) — Must Include Table 1: Summary Statistics

Required elements for your Data section:

- Data source — e.g., "CFPS, waves 2010–2022, conducted by Peking University"
- Sample size, unit of observation, and exclusion rules
- **Only variables you actually use** — not all 50 variables in the dataset

Tip: The summary statistics table should be your Table 1. Report N, mean, std. dev., min, and max for each variable.

Empirical Strategy & Replication Results

Empirical Strategy (2–3 pages) — Four Things to Clarify

1. **Model:** Write the estimating equation; define every symbol
2. **Identification:** What assumption supports causal interpretation?
3. **Estimation:** Software/package? Tuning method?
4. **Standard errors:** Clustered / bootstrap / analytical?

Good Example: "Our DiD design relies on the parallel trends assumption: in the absence of treatment, treated and control cities would have followed similar trends in SO_2 emissions. We assess this with an event-study plot (Figure 2) and find no significant pre-trends."

Common mistake: Write the equation but don't explain each term or justify why the assumption holds.

Replication Results (3–4 pages) — Must Include

- **Main results table** — replicate the core table from the original paper
- **Comparison** — is your estimate close to the original? If not, why?
- **Robustness checks** — at least 2–3 alternative specifications
- **Figures** — event-study plot / CATE distribution / partial dependence plot

A report without robustness checks is incomplete.

Extension, Conclusion & LaTeX Setup

Extension (2–3 pages)

Must answer four questions:

1. **Motivation:** Why is this extension interesting?
2. **Method:** What differs from replication?
3. **Results:** 1–2 tables/figures
4. **Comparison:** Consistent with replication?

Key: Explain magnitudes from an **economic meaning** perspective — don't just report "significant at the 1% level."

Conclusion (0.5–1 page)

Four sentences:

1. One sentence summarizing replication findings
2. One sentence summarizing extension findings
3. **Explicitly state one limitation**
4. One future research direction

Synthesize, don't restate. Do not copy-paste from the Introduction.

Questions?

Email me at haoyu@hku.hk

Before You Submit

- ☐ Every table has a **caption above**; every figure has a **caption below**
- ☐ Axis labels are **readable** (no tiny font)
- ☐ Error bars / confidence intervals are **drawn**
- ☐ Regression tables report **N, R^2, fixed effects**
- ☐ Star notation defined: * p<0.1, ** p<0.05, *** p<0.01
- ☐ Main text contains **at least 1 table + 1 figure**
- ☐ PDF compiles with **no errors**

Course Website: jasminehao.com/econ6083/final-project/