

## Tutorial – Econ 452

- Term Paper
  - How to structure a paper? Summary of Cochrane.
    - What are you doing?
    - How are you doing it
    - Why are you doing it?
    - What are you contributing to the literature?
  - What are you doing?
    - Analysis of time series with usually the objective of forecasting
    - Where to get the data?
      - Statistics Canada (google: cansim and Queen`s)
      - Eurostat: short time series
      - Whatever you find with enough observations
  - Why are you doing it?
    - In your paper, you will need to justify why anybody should care about your topic
    - Before you choose a topic, think of reasons why somebody would be interested in it. If you cannot interest a friend, change topic.
    - Try to convince your boss that he should spend some resources on your work. Why is this important? For your goals/company's goals?
  - What is your contribution?
    - What has been done before?
    - Example: google scholar, EBSCO Host, IDEAS Economics, and JSTOR
    - What are you doing differently? Other country? Other time frame? What's special about your work?
    - Don't worry too much about your contribution, but try to find something.
- Structure of a paper:
  - Five broad sections:
    - Introduction
    - Review of past works
    - Methodology and data
    - Analysis of results
    - Conclusions
  - Introduction
    - What are you doing?
    - Why should we care reading your work?
    - A summary of your main findings/forecast.
  - Review of past works
    - What has been said on the topic?
    - What was their approach/methodology/finding ?
    - How does it relate to the economic literature?
    - How what you do brings something new/relevant to the question?

- Methodology and data
  - What is your global approach in terms of methodology (Box & Jenkins)?
  - What are the broad steps of your approach ?
  - How will you implement this methodology (use of a software, etc)?
  - What does your dataset looks like? (graphs, main statistics)
  - Where was your dataset taken?
  - Do you intend to modify the data somehow? Why?
  - Anything out of the ordinary in the dataset?
- Main analysis and results?
  - State first what are your main and “best” results.
    - How do they help you accomplish what you stated as important in the introduction?
    - Do they allow you to test/invalidate a particular hypothesis you had in mind?
    - What is the meaning of your results? How should you interpret your coefficients/etc?
  - How are your results robust to different specifications?
    - What were your alternate findings? Why did you discard them?
    - Are your results changing by much when you change some hypothesis made on the data?
    - Have you tested your model to perform forecasts on some data you already have? What are the results?
  - What were the main challenges encountered in your work? How did you tackled them?
  - Does your findings helps to explain something? Does it lead to new research ideas? What should be done next? What particular test can you think of that would verify your analysis more thoroughly?
- Conclusion
  - Summarize your paper and findings. State again your main results.
  - How does your work relate to past papers about it?
  - What could improve your findings?
  - Have you reached your goals?