AI.conometrics

AI Rulebook

Rules for the preliminary and final rounds

1 Responsible use and conduct

This rulebook governs the use of AI throughout the competition, including AI features embedded in coding tools and other software. Teams may use AI for the support tasks listed in Section 2. The research question and substantive economic reasoning must be developed by the team. The restrictions in Section 3 apply regardless of the tool or interface used.

Human oversight and responsibility. Participants remain responsible for every part of their submission. Review AI outputs before using them, and include only material the team understands and can independently explain and justify. Every substantive research decision must remain under the team's control.

Accuracy and verification. Treat AI outputs as unverified until checked. Confirm factual statements against reliable original sources and check computations against the underlying data and code. Watch for plausible but incorrect statements, invented references, and unsupported claims. Rewriting an output does not remove the obligation to verify it.

Data integrity and reproducibility. Check dataset provenance, variable definitions, units, and coverage. Review merges, missing values, sample restrictions, and other transformations against the team's intended procedure. Confirm that graphs and tables match the computed results and that the replication package reproduces them. Do not accept changes to observations or analytical choices without checking and understanding them.

References and attribution. Consult the relevant original material before citing it. Verify that each reference exists, that its bibliographic details are correct, and that it supports the associated statement. Acknowledge borrowed ideas and methods, as well as data and written material. AI assistance does not remove these obligations.

Bias and critical judgment. Assess outputs for unsupported assumptions, stereotypes, and misleading representations of groups or results. Do not treat an AI system's agreement with the team's position as independent confirmation. Evaluate assumptions and alternative explanations through the team's own reasoning and independent sources.

Confidentiality and appropriate access. Respect the conditions governing datasets and third party materials, together with the applicable terms of the AI service. Do not upload personal, confidential, or restricted information unless the upload and processing are authorized under those conditions. Apply the same care to AI features embedded in other software.

Transparency. The paper's AI Use section must identify the tools used, their purposes, and the checks performed by the team. Include relevant uses of integrated AI features. If no AI was used, state this explicitly. The extent of permitted AI use does not itself affect the score.

2 What you CAN do with AI

The following uses are permitted subject to Section 1 and the restrictions in Section 3:

- **Coding.** Write, debug, or improve code implementing the empirical strategy, specification, and data processing decisions chosen by the team.
- **Replication package.** Assemble the package and prepare its README and execution instructions, checking that all instructions and files work correctly.
- **Literature assistance.** Locate relevant work and assist with summaries or organization, verifying all material used against the original sources.
- **Bibliography.** Create or correct BibTeX entries using bibliographic information verified by the team.
- **Graphs and tables.** Produce and format displays from verified data and results, following the team's decisions about their content and presentation.
- **Writing and expression.** Draft or rewrite final prose from substantive content and reasoning supplied by the team, preserving their meaning without introducing new arguments.
- **Paper organization.** Suggest a clearer structure for presenting the team's existing argument and findings.
- **Final formatting.** Prepare LaTeX, standardize notation and references, and improve the layout of the paper or presentation.

3 What you CANNOT do with AI

The following uses are prohibited, including when requested indirectly or as part of a broader permitted task:

- **Research question.** Generate, select, or develop the paper's research question or central hypotheses, including by asking for ideas from the competition prompt.
- **Economic intuition.** Generate, develop, or discuss the paper's economic intuition, central argument, or explanatory mechanisms.
- **Research decisions.** Delegate the choice of identification strategy, econometric specification, or analytical treatment of observations to AI.
- **Interpretation of results.** Ask AI to interpret the findings, supply the economic meaning of estimated coefficients, or explain why the results occur.
- **Understanding your own paper.** Ask AI to explain the paper's argument, methodological choices, or findings to the team.
- **Fabrication or concealment.** Invent sources, observations, or results; conceal borrowed contributions or AI use; or use rewriting to disguise a prohibited contribution.

4 Enforcement and assessment

Research question benchmark. The organizers will construct a benchmark of research questions and approaches suggested by AI in response to the competition prompt. This exercise will use a broad, documented range of models and prompt variations, including alternative ways of requesting or developing research ideas. It will provide a reference for identifying frequently suggested responses and will not be presented as an exhaustive catalogue of possible AI outputs.

Human review of similarities. Human reviewers may compare submitted research questions with this benchmark when assessing originality and considering possible violations of this rulebook. Similarity alone does not establish prohibited AI use: a team may independently develop a question that also appears in the benchmark. Absence from the benchmark does not establish compliance. Any concerns arising from the comparison will be considered by human reviewers in the context of the submitted work and the applicable rules.

No screening of prose for AI authorship. Submitted prose will not be screened to determine whether AI wrote or rewrote it. AI assistance with the final wording is permitted within Section 2. The relevant restrictions concern the intellectual contributions described in Section 3 and the team's compliance with its verification and disclosure obligations.

Human assessment and decisions. AI will not assess, grade, or rank papers or presentations. Its use by the organizers will be confined to constructing the research question benchmark. AI will not investigate suspected violations or make or recommend decisions about them. Human reviewers will conduct all assessment and any investigation, and will make the relevant decisions.

Originality and permitted assistance. Research questions and substantive contributions will be assessed for originality under the criteria in the relevant round's rulebook, independently of any determination about prohibited AI use. The extent of permitted assistance will not itself increase or reduce a team's score. Teams remain responsible for an accurate AI Use declaration and for compliance with this rulebook throughout their work.