FREE BUT NOT POOR: BASIC ECONOMETRICS IN R USING THE LEARNING TO LEARN APPROACH

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The paper discusses the application of *R* base and contributed packages on the Computational Econometrics CRAN View in offering a demand- driven short training course to postgraduate students of Agricultural Economics at Bunda College of Agriculture. Most users of *R* and authors of R books point out that the major disadvantage of *R* is its steep learning curve. This problem has been tackled by different scholars using different methods. For example, the *R* Commander using the package **Rcmdr** was introduced to help beginners acquire the computing skills in a faster way. Nonetheless, the challenge still prevails.

This paper however introduces the Learning to Learn Approach (LLA) whose main philosophy lies in the concept of self-learning and the use of the problem solving approach to teaching of econometric computing using *R*. The Learning to Learning Approach (LLA) framework consists of four major steps in cracking the useful command for applying sophisticated econometric models. These are; research and statistics, CRAN Views and Package Selection, learning the package and testing and verifying. Illustrative demonstrations of how this approach is used to implement Limited Dependent Variable Models, time series modes, panel data models and models for impact evaluation using propensity score matching is provided in the paper.

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