**README File: How Much Should We Trust the Dictator's GDP Growth Estimates?**

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**Software requirements:**

- Operating System: Windows 10

- Stata MP version 17.0 for Windows (64 bit)

- R version 4.1.2

**Replication folder description**

- **Data:** Contains all raw and processed data used in the analysis. Includes three subfolders: raw, temp, master:
    - raw: Includes all raw data from original sources. These datasets are classified into subfolders indicating the source. The do-file "setup" includes additional detailed information on sources for each piece of data.
    - temp: Includes temporary datasets produced by the code (e.g. regression results used to draw graphs). This folder is initially empty, but includes the (also empty) subfolders ctrys, ctrys2, sigmas, simulations. The folder is populated by running the do-files "setup" and "estimations".
    - master: Includes the final dataset used in the analysis (Estimations.dta) as well as additional files used to produce maps and to draw additional figures. This folder is initially empty and is populated by running the do-file "setup".

- **Do-files:** Contains all the codes used in the analysis. The main folder contains the two main Stata do-files (setup.do and estimations.do), as well as an additional do-file used for Montecarlo simulations. The ZAM subfolder contains an additional R script used to produce an intermediate dataset:
    - Setup.do is a Stata do-file that combines and processes the raw data and produces the final dataset used in the analysis, as well as other additional files.
    - Estimations.do is a Stata do-file that produces all the tables and figures in the paper, except Figure C1.
    - montecarlo_simulations.do is a Stata do-file that produces Appendix Figure C1.
    - zam_v1.R is an R-script that produces the intermediate dataset used for the analysis in Table D16 and other Appendix figures.

- **Output:** Initially empty, except for two subfolders (Tables and Figures). These are also initially empty and are populated by running the do-file “estimations”.

**Replication instructions:**

1. Run setup.do do-file in Stata:
    a. Adjust global "dir" in line 40 to match the destination folder containing replication files.
    b. Ensure that Data folder includes the following subfolders: “raw”, “temp”, “master”.
    c. If you encounter an error due to an unrecognized command, remove stars (*) from lines 42-52 as needed to install required packages.
    d. Estimated running time < 10 minutes.

2. Run zam_v1.r script in R to produce “ZAM_sample_out.dta” dataset in temp folder.
    a. Adjust the path to “Data/temp” folder in line 19.
    b. If you encounter an error due to an unrecognized command, remove hashtag (#) from lines 4-6 as needed to install required libraries.
    c. Estimated running time < 2 minutes.

3. Run estimations.do do-file in Stata:
    a. Adjust global "dir" in line 50 to match the destination folder containing replication files.
    b. Ensure that Data/temp folder includes the following subfolders: “sigmas”, “ctrys”, “ctrys2”.
    c. Ensure that Output folder includes the following subfolders: “Figures”, “Tables”.
    d. Do-file must be run in its entirety to produce Figure 3 plotting all the estimated sigmas. Piecewise execution may also miss "if" conditions specified in locals before some tables or figures.
    e. If you encounter an error due to an unrecognized command, remove stars (*) from lines 41-51 in setup do-file and re-run to install required packages.
    f. Estimated running time: 8 hours.
4. Run montecarlo_simulations.do do-file in Stata:
    a. Adjust global "dir" in line 33 to match the destination folder containing replication files.
    b. Ensure that Data/temp folder includes the following subfolders: “simulations”.
    c. Ensure that Output folder includes the following subfolders: “Figures”.

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