HANDBOOK OF ECONOMETRICS

VOLUME II

Edited by

ZVI GRILICHES

and

MICHAEL D. INTRILIGATOR

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PREFACE TO THE HANDBOOK

Purpose

The *Handbook of Econometrics* aims to serve as a source, reference, and teaching supplement for the field of econometrics, the branch of economics concerned with the empirical estimation of economic relationships. Econometrics is conceived broadly to include not only econometric models and estimation theory but also econometric data analysis, econometric applications in various substantive fields, and the uses of estimated econometric models. Our purpose has been to provide reasonably comprehensive and up-to-date surveys of recent developments and the state of various aspects of econometrics as of the early 1980s, written at a level intended for professional use by economists, econometricians, and statisticians and for use in advanced graduate econometrics courses.

Econometrics is the application of mathematics and statistical methods to the analysis of economic data. Mathematical models help us to structure our perceptions about the forces generating the data we want to analyze, while statistical methods help us to summarize the data, estimate the parameters of our models, and interpret the strength of the evidence for the various hypotheses that we wish to examine. The evidence provided by the data affects our ideas about the appropriateness of the original model and may result in significant revisions of such models. There is, thus, a continuous interplay in econometrics between mathematical-theoretical modeling of economic behavior, data collection, data summarizing, model fitting, and model evaluation. Theory suggests data to be sought and examined; data availability suggests new theoretical questions and stimulates the development of new statistical methods. The examination of theories in light of data leads to their revision. The examination of data in the light of theory leads often to new interpretations and sometimes to questions about its quality or relevance and to attempts to collect new and different data.

In this volume we review only a subset of what might be called "econometrics". The mathematical-theoretical tools required for model building are discussed primarily in the *Handbook of Mathematical Economics*. Issues of sampling theory, survey design, data collection and editing, and computer programming, all important aspects of the daily life of a practicing econometrician, had, by and large, to be left out of the scope of this *Handbook*. We concentrate, instead, on statistical problems and economic interpretation issues associated with the modeling and estimation of economic behavioral relationships from already assembled and often badly collected data. If economists had access to good experimental data, or were able to design and to perform the relevant economic experiments,

the topics to be covered in such a *Handbook* would be quite different. The fact that the generation and collection of economic data is mostly outside the hands of the econometrician is the cause of many of the inferential problems which are discussed in this *Handbook*.

Organization

The organization of the *Handbook* follows in relatively systematic fashion the way an econometric study would proceed, starting from basic mathematical and statistical methods and econometric models, proceeding to estimation and computation, through testing, and ultimately to applications and uses. The *Handbook* also includes a fairly detailed development of time series topics and many other special topics. In particular:

Part 1 summarizes some basic tools used repeatedly in econometrics, including linear algebra, matrix methods, and statistical theory.

Part 2 deals with econometric models, their relationship to economic models, their identification, and the question of model choice and specification analysis.

Part 3 takes up more advanced topics in estimation and computation theory such as non-linear regression methods, biased estimation, and computational algorithms in econometrics. This part also includes a series of chapters on simultaneous equations models, their specification and estimation, distribution theory for such models, and their Bayesian analysis.

Part 4 considers testing of econometric estimators, including Wald, likelihood ratio, and Lagrange multiplier tests; multiple hypothesis testing; distribution theory for econometric estimators and associated test statistics; and Monte Carlo experimentation in econometrics.

Part 5 treats various topics in time series analysis, including time series and spectral methods in econometrics, dynamic specification, inference and casuality in economic time series models, continuous time stochastic models, random and changing coefficient models, and the analysis of panel data.

Parts 6 and 7 present discussions of various special topics in econometrics, including latent variable, limited dependent variable, and discrete choice models; functional forms in econometric model building; economic data issues including longitudinal data issues; and disequilibrium, self selection, and switching models.

Finally, *Part 8* covers selected applications and uses of econometrics. Because of the extremely wide range of applications of econometrics, we could select only a few of the more prominent applications. (Other applications will be treated in later volumes in the "Handbooks in Economics" Series.) Applications discussed here include demand analysis, production and cost analysis, and labor economics. This part includes also chapters on evaluating the predictive accuracy of models, econometric approaches to stabilization policy, the formulation and estimation of

models with actors having rational expectations, and the use of econometric models for economic policy formation.

A brief history of econometrics

A brief review of the history of econometrics will put this *Handbook* in perspective. The historical evolution of econometrics was driven both by the increased availability of data and by the desire of generations of scientists to analyze such data in a rigorous and coherent fashion. There are many historical precursors to that which became "econometrics" in this century. Attempts to interpret economic data "scientifically" go back at least as far as Sir William Petty's "political arithmetic" in the seventeenth century and Engel's studies of household expenditures in the nineteenth. The results of the latter became known as Engel's Law, stating that the proportion of total expenditures devoted to food falls as income rises. This "Law" has been tested extensively for many countries over various time periods, as discussed in Houthakker's (1957) centenary article.

The development of statistical theory has played a critical role in the history of econometrics since econometric techniques are, to a large extent, based on multivariable statistics. Modern statistical theory starts with the work of Legendre and Gauss on least squares, motivated by the attempt to remove errors of observation in astronomy and geodesy. The next great impulse from biology, in particular from evolutionary theory with, among others, Galton's work on regression (a term he invented). Later developments in mathematical statistics included Yule's work on multiple regression, Karl Pearson's formulation of the notions of probable error and of testing hypotheses, the more parsimonious small-sample theory of Student and R. A. Fisher, R. A. Fisher's work on the foundations of statistical inference, and the Neyman–Pearson theory of hypothesis testing. All of these developments in mathematical statistics had a significant influence on the development of econometrics.

In the first half of the twentieth century the increased availability of price and quantity data and the interest in price indexes aided by the development of family expenditure surveys generated interest both in theoretical modeling of demand structures and their empirical estimation. Particularly noteworthy were the demand studies of Moore (1914, 1917), Marschak (1931), and Schultz (1928, 1938) and studies of family expenditure by Allen and Bowley (1935). This period also witnessed the initial formulation of the identification problem in econometrics in E. Working (1927); studies of production functions by Cobb and Douglas (1928) [see also Douglas (1948)], and Marschak and Andrews (1944); studies of price determination in agricultural markets by H. Working (1922), Wright (1925), Hanau (1928), Bean (1928), and Waugh (1929), among others; and the statistical modeling of business cycles by Slutsky (1927) and Frisch (1933). Macroeconomet-

ric modeling also began in the 1930s by Tinbergen (1935, 1939) and was given additional impetus by the development of National Income Accounts in the United States and other countries and by Keynes' theoretical work.

The growth of data availability and the development of economic and statistical theory generated a demand for more extensive, more rigorous and higher quality data analysis efforts, stimulating significant research into the methodology of economic data analysis. Of great importance in this respect was the founding of the Econometric Society in 1930 and the publication, starting in 1933, of its journal *Econometrica*. Ragnar Frisch played a key role as the first editor of this Journal.

There was a great flourishing of econometric theory and applications in the period after World War II, particularly due to the work of the Cowles Commission at the University of Chicago. The development of the simultaneous equations model in Haavelmo (1943, 1944, 1947), Koopmans (1950), Hood and Koopmans (1953), Theil (1954) and Basmann (1957) provided econometricians with tools designed specifically for them, rather than for by biologists and psychologists. The estimation of simultaneous equations and macroeconometric models in Klein (1950) and Klein and Goldberger (1955) started economic forecasting on a new path. This period also witnessed the important demand studies by Stone (1954a, 1954b) for the United Kingdom and Wold and Jureen (1953) for Sweden and the influential studies by Friedman (1957) of the consumption function and by Theil (1958) of economic forecasts and policy. [For collections of historically important papers in econometrics see Zellner (1968), Hooper and Nerlove (1970), and Dowling and Glahe (1970).]

The more recent period of the 1960s and 1970s has witnessed many important developments in econometric theory and applications. Econometric theory has been refined and extended in many ways. Of particular note is the Bayesian approach to econometrics and the study of special features of econometric models, such as limited dependent variables, latent variables, and non-linear models. Great progress was also made in the statistical analysis of time series. In addition, the development of electronic computers, the great increase in computing power, and the development of sophisticated econometric software packages made it possible to pursue much more ambitious data analysis strategies. These developments expanded the range of applications of econometric methods greatly beyond the earlier applications to household expenditure, demand functions, production and cost functions, and macroeconometric models. Econometrics is now used in virtually every field of economics, including public finance, monetary economics, labor economics, international economics, economic history, health economics, studies of fertility, and studies of criminal behavior, just to mention a few. In all of these fields the greater use of econometric techniques, based in part on increased data availability and more powerful estimation techniques, has led to greater precision in the specification, estimation, and testing of economic data-based models.

Most of the important developments in econometric methods during the 1960s and 1970s are discussed in this *Handbook*. The significant topics under development in this period and the chapters treating them include:

(1) *Bayesian econometrics*, using Bayesian methods in the specification and estimation of econometric models. These topics are discussed in Chapter 2 by Zellner and Chapter 9 by Drèze and Richard.

(2) *Time series methods*, including specialized techniques and problems arising in the analysis of economic time series, such as spectral methods, dynamic specification, and causality. These techniques and problems are discussed in Part 5 on "Time Series Topics," including Chapter 17 by Granger and Watson; Chapter 18 by Hendry, Pagan and Sargan; Chapter 19 by Geweke; Chapter 20 by Bergstrom; and Chapter 21 by Chow. Related issues are discussed in Chapter 33 by Fair.

(3) *Discrete choice models*, in which there is a discrete choice of alternatives available, e.g. buy/don't buy decisions, yes/no responses, or alternative possibilities for urban transportation. Such models are discussed specifically in Chapter 27 by Dhrymes and Chapter 24 by McFadden and are also treated in Chapter 22 by Chamberlain, Chapter 28 by Maddala, and Chapter 29 by Heckman and Singer.

(4) *Latent variables models*, in which certain unmeasurable variables systematically influence measured phenomena, such as ability influencing earnings. This topic is treated in Chapter 23 by Aigner, Hsiao, Kapteyn, and Wansbeek and reappears in various guises in Chapter 22 by Chamberlain and Chapter 32 by Heckman and MaCurdy, among others.

(5) *Specification analysis*, involving problems of model choice and their specification and identification. These issues are treated in Chapter 3 by Intriligator, Chapter 4 by Hsiao, Chapter 5 by Leamer, Chapter 26 by Lau, and Chapter 28 by Maddala. This topic, of course, pervades many other chapters in this *Handbook* and overlaps with chapters which deal with testing and distribution theory.

(6) *Non-linear models and methods*, in which models that are intrinsically nonlinear are specified and estimated. Such models are discussed in Chapter 6 by Amemiya and Chapter 12 by Quandt and surface also in many of the other chapters of this *Handbook*.

(7) *Data analysis issues*, involving various problems with data and how they can be treated. These issues are treated in Chapter 10 by Judge and Bock, in Chapter 11 by Krasker, Kuh, and Welsch, Chapter 22 by Chamberlain, Chapter 25 by Griliches, and Chapter 29 by Heckman and Singer, among others.

(8) *Testing and small sample theory*, including various test procedures and Monte Carlo experimentation. These topics are treated in Part 4 on "Testing," including Chapter 13 by Engle, Chapter 14 by Savin, Chapter 15 by Rothenberg, and Chapter 16 by Hendry. Related issues are discussed in Chapter 8 by Phillips.

(9) *Rational expectations* models which treat economic agents as forming expectations in an optimal fashion, given the information available to them,

impose cross-equation constraints on parameters and lead to new problems of identification and estimation. This topic is discussed in Chapter 34 by Taylor.

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