

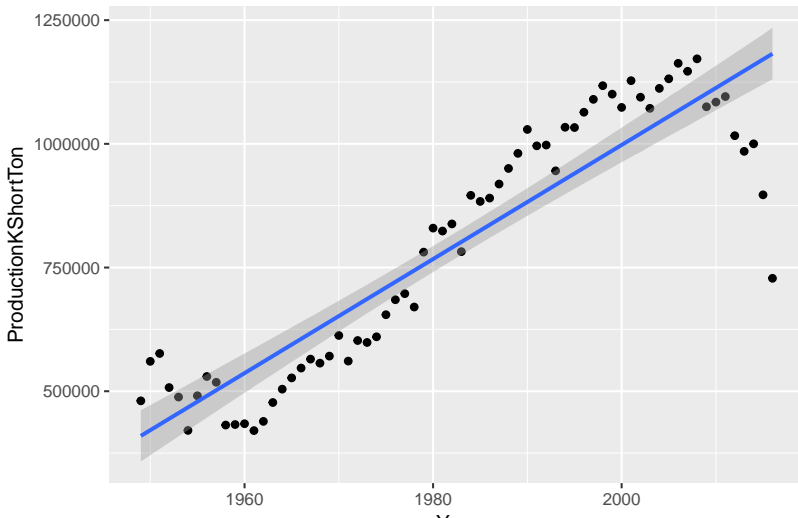
Energy Models

Overview of Energy Models

- ▶ Trend
- ▶ Time Series
- ▶ Guess based on experience
- ▶ Survey Based
- ▶ Scenario Planning
- ▶ I/O Models
- ▶ Energy Balance Models
- ▶ Game Theory
- ▶ Experimental/Behavioral

Trend

- ▶ Uses only patterns of the past to make forecasts about the future.
- ▶ Cram a line through the data.



Trend Comments

► General

- Regression with time as RHS variable. $Y = time + \epsilon$
- Other variables are often added, for example, weather variables. You can see this in some integrated resource planning models.
- EC469 shows you how to do this.
- Not everything is a line. You sometimes have to transform the data, logs and such are common.

► Problems

- Only uses the past and does not show turns in trend.
 - I was 90 lbs at 15, 110 at 17, 130 at 18 and 220 at 26.
 - Today?
- People don't react to prices and there is no change in technology.
 - See the coal data at the end. That is the natural gas fracking boom.
- Growth of a subset can only exceed that of a superset for a while.
 - Facebook can only grow faster than the US, or world, economy for so long.

Trend Comments (Con't)

- ▶ Advantages

- ▶ That said, it works for a lot of things and work when you have little time.
- ▶ Plenty of energy modeling looks like this.
 - ▶ “If you don’t have the time, throw in a trend line.”
- ▶ For looking a few periods into the future – it works. For longer term forecasts – don’t do it.

Time Series

- ▶ Similar to trend only
 - ▶ May have $Y = ARMA(p, q)$
 - ▶ or include a trend $Y = time + ARMA(p, q)$
 - ▶ the AR part is past values of LHS
 - ▶ the MA part is past values of error term.
- ▶ EC 472 shows you how to do this.
- ▶ Most energy data has a trend to it, which must be included in the model.
- ▶ Best thought of, for now, as a refinement to the trend regressions with better treatment of residuals.
 - ▶ More accurate confidence intervals on existing data.
 - ▶ Slightly better with near-term forecasts.
- ▶ Similar problems as pure regression on trend.

There is way more to time series

- ▶ Macro is heavy into this.
- ▶ You may see macro heavy energy papers with Vector Autoregressions (VARs) which looks at many time series at once.
- ▶ Nice example of quick use by Borenstein about the California Cap and Trade (<https://ei.haas.berkeley.edu/research/papers/WP281.pdf>)
 - ▶ They produced the key result that the price will not be at a bound, upper or lower, only 19% of the time.
 - ▶ Quick analysis.

Guess based on experience

- ▶ Don't laugh, this works.
- ▶ Old hands make very good guesses based on experience.
- ▶ GDP even has components that are based on analyst's best judgement.
- ▶ This can be combined with incentivised polls or parimutuel betting to make it work better.
- ▶ The Iowa Electronic Markets are a common example, though there are others.
<https://tippie.biz.uiowa.edu/iem/markets/>

Incentivized Polls

- ▶ Guess Jamie's BMI. Closest to the actual gets \$1.
- ▶ Skin in the game gives incentive for more thought.
- ▶ Only works when you will eventually find out actual.
- ▶ Oddly works better if you don't know how people are betting.
 - ▶ Can produce group-think bubbles, if you see how others are betting.
 - ▶ Easy to find the mode, but harder to tell if it is real.
- ▶ Can get expensive with many winners:
 - ▶ everyone guesses the same correct answer.
 - ▶ More expensive when there is less certainty.

Parimutuel Betting

- ▶ Guess Jamie's BMI. Correct answers split the pot with the others that got it right.
- ▶ Racetrack method.
- ▶ Less likely to get bubbles, but
 - ▶ Harder to see if there is a mode in the guess.
- ▶ Cheaper than incentivized poll if high probability of multiple winners.
- ▶ Cost does not increase with a priori certainty.

Survey Based

- ▶ Book gives some examples.
- ▶ Ask a bunch of experts about their best judgement and summarize
- ▶ Often expanded as a Delphi Survey
- ▶ For comically bad forecast see “Results of the Delphi IX Survey of Oil Forecasts” California Energy Commission, 1997.
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/reports/DELPHI-9.PDF>

Delphi Surveys

- ▶ Ask each person *in private* for best guess.
- ▶ Compile results.
- ▶ Ask outliers why they said what they did.
- ▶ Give everyone:
 - ▶ The distribution of guesses for each parameter
 - ▶ The reasons the outliers gave for the answer they gave.
- ▶ Ask for another guess.
- ▶ Report the new distribution or repeat if desired.

Scenario Planning

- ▶ Too much variation to give one description.
- ▶ General Steps:
 - ▶ Choose some parameters of interest, e.g., environmental activism, sea level rise, fracking shown to cause earthquakes, etc.
 - ▶ Package them into narratives that are possible. Some improbable and some likely.
 - ▶ Decide how you would act now given that you know that that future will exist.
 - ▶ ?
 - ▶ Profit
- ▶ Example by National Renewable Energy Research Laboratory (NREL) did one for Hawaii.
<http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy12osti/52442.pdf>
 - ▶ Contractor reports tend to go long.
 - ▶ See page 6 for summary of the scenarios.
 - ▶ Contractor reports tend to use lots of acronyms.
 - ▶ Plug in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV)

Frequent use and abuse of scenarios analysis

- ▶ Rigging scenarios so that only one is taken seriously. (abuse)
- ▶ Choosing actions that will “work” in all scenarios. (abuse)
- ▶ Actual plans if a scenario becomes more likely, “Plans are worthless, but planning is everything.” - Ike
- ▶ Creation of real options
 - ▶ Defer action until more information is available. Don't bring an umbrella everywhere, but have one near by if it starts to rain.
 - ▶ Create systems you can use when the situation is clearer. Think peaking power plants that only run a few days a year.

I/O Models

- ▶ Old school – 1920s Leontief
- ▶ Has an equilibrium concept
- ▶ Assumes fixed ratios are used in production
 - ▶ No reaction to price changes
 - ▶ No reaction to input price changes
 - ▶ Constant returns to scale.
- ▶ Often seen as part of a computable general equilibrium model to shorten run-times. REMI (<http://www.remi.com/>) and IMPLAN (<http://implan.com/>) use it in regional economic models.
- ▶ Will not ask you to do one unless you want to.
- ▶ Book has an overly long explanation.

Walk Through I/O model

$$x_1 = \alpha_{1,1}x_1 + \alpha_{1,2}x_2 + d_1$$

- ▶ x_1 is how much of good one that gets made.
- ▶ d_1 is how much final consumers want of good 1.
- ▶ $\alpha_{1,1}$ the amount of good 1 needed to produce good 1.
- ▶ $\alpha_{1,2}$ the amount of good 2 needed to produce good 1.
- ▶ Each good has an equation
- ▶ α s can be zero but there are restrictions on how many and where. The matrix needs to be invertible.

Matrix Form $x = Ax + d$ is solved as $x = (I - A)^{-1}d$

d is what you need to fight the war. X is what you need to produce to get d .

Warnings about the next models in book

- ▶ They are an unholy mix of estimates, in engineering sense, and estimates, in the statistical sense.
- ▶ They can be huge. The national energy modeling system has many modules and sub-modules.
 - ▶ <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/nems/overview/electricity.html>
- ▶ The approaches are frequently combined.

“Estimate” to an Engineer and Statistician

- ▶ To an engineer, an estimate means taking some known or assumed values for parameters then performing some calculations to find a parameter of interest.
 - ▶ Example, building energy simulations like EnergyPlus. Put in windows, screens, walls, assume some values human behavior, and weather and out pops annual energy use.
 - ▶ Can work with very complex models, but is usually shaky with uncertainty.
- ▶ To a statistician, an estimate means taking data, repeated observations of a physical data generating process and calculating a summary statistic.
 - ▶ Example, estimate implied thermostat settings from gas use and R values of walls from a survey.
 - ▶ Treats uncertainty well but often lack the complexity of the engineering style models.

Combining Engineering and Statistician Style Estimates

- ▶ A typical Example is estimates of Unit Energy Consumption (UECs)
 - ▶ The EIA Residential Energy Consumption Survey (RECS)
<http://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/reports/2009/methodology-end-use.cfm>
 - ▶ California Residential Appliance Saturation Study (RASS)
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/appliances/rass/>
- ▶ Check the details for RASS and see how they combine engineering estimates with regression analysis.
 - ▶ <http://www.energy.ca.gov/2010publications/CEC-200-2010-004/CEC-200-2010-004-V1.PDF>.
 - ▶ Often called a statistically adjusted engineering model.

Game Theory

- ▶ Not a full, all economy, model but a tool used to deal with decisions where:
 - ▶ There is not a monopoly or monopsony.
 - ▶ Not perfect competition.
- ▶ Also used for:
 - ▶ Dynamic interactions of firms, think how gasoline prices go up fast but down slow.
 - ▶ Auction and bidding, technically mechanism design which is game theory backwards, to get people to tell the truth or do the right thing.
 - ▶ Basis for a lot of modern “regulation” which focuses on encouraging competition to reach goals.
- ▶ Probably did some in EC 201 or EC 311, but we have a full class EC 321 and math has several.

Experimental/Behavioral

- ▶ The behavioral part is admitting that people and firms do not act rationally.
- ▶ Old school experiments, A/B testing and more, run on people
- ▶ Field experiments are common in economics now
 - ▶ Esther Duflo received the Bates Clark Award 2010
 - ▶ Bluffstone in Econ is running two now in Ethiopia and Nepal.
- ▶ Typical Issues
 - ▶ Internal validity
 - ▶ Can you really connect cause to effect?
 - ▶ Did you avoid bias and control for everything?
 - ▶ External validity
 - ▶ Does it work in real life?
 - ▶ Does it work on other people?
 - ▶ Ecological validity
 - ▶ Did the experiment look like the real world?

Overarching

- ▶ Every model is wrong
 - ▶ By definition they are simplifications of reality and they leave out details.
 - ▶ The real question is, “Did they leave out the right details?”
- ▶ Don't be deluded into, “Just look at the data”.
 - ▶ You come to data with a model, you just don't know it.
 - ▶ The data never speak for themselves. You use data to test/support/refute hypotheses/theories.
- ▶ Using more than one model or technique and getting the same general result helps. It shows that your conclusion about reality is resilient to the implicit modeling assumptions.

Overarching (Con't)

- ▶ Keep in mind that modeling is an iterative process often driven by the researcher.
 - ▶ You try a model and then refine it based on the results.
 - ▶ It is an iterative process.
 - ▶ Your choices are molded by your objectives. “Get published” is common.
 - ▶ Great working paper on this by Gelman that expands on this idea “The garden of forking paths: Why multiple comparisons can be a problem, even when there is no “fishing expedition” or “p-hacking” and the research hypothesis was posited ahead of time” (http://www.stat.columbia.edu/~gelman/research/unpublished/p_hacking.pdf)