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The journal game

Rob J Hyndman

29 October 2019

Outline

- 1 Authors
- 2 Journals
- 3 Reviewers
- 4 Editors

My expertise: rejection

- Author of ≈ 120 journal papers \Rightarrow more rejections than anyone else here.
- Reviewer for at least 50 different journals. Mostly recommended rejection.
- Handled 600+ papers per year as an editor. Rejected most of them.

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- Theory & Methods Editor, *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics*, 2001–2004
 - Associate Editor, *International Journal of Forecasting*, 2003–2004, 2019–
 - Editor-in-Chief, *International Journal of Forecasting*, 2005–2018
 - Editor, *Journal of Statistical Software*, 2011–

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Monash authorship policy

... in all cases authorship must be based on making a substantial intellectual contribution to the work described and taking sole or joint responsibility for that contribution or, where appropriate, the work as a whole. Accordingly, authorship must be based upon a substantial contribution and responsibility for at least one, and usually more than one, of the following activities:

- Conception and design of the project;
- Analysis and interpretation of research data;
- Drafting significant parts of the work or critically revising it so as to contribute to the interpretation.

Who should be listed as an author?

Unacceptable inclusions of authorship

- Being head of department, holding other positions of authority, or personal friendship with the authors;
- Providing a routine technical contribution;
- Providing routine assistance in some aspects of the project;
- Acquisition of funding;
- General supervision of the research team;
- Providing data that has already been published or materials obtained from third parties (including the routine collation and provision of research source material).

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Acknowledge everyone who helped but is not an author.

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- Discuss authorship early
- PhD students will need to allocate a percentage contribution to each author of any papers when they submit their thesis.

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Order of authors

- In statistics and econometrics: order of authors is usually in order of contribution. This is not true in all fields.
- In some fields, last place is a position of honour.

Order of authors

ALTERNATIVE OUTCOMES OF NATURAL AND EXPERIMENTAL HIGH POLLEN LOADS¹

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Center for Population Biology and Department of Botany, University of California, Davis, California 95616 USA

Abstract. Seed production is usually assumed to be a positive monotonic function of pollen deposition and/or pollinator visitation. If this assumption were correct, there would be only two outcomes of excess pollen levels: an increase in fruit or seed set, or no increase. However, a substantial minority of the studies reviewed here has found that seed production declines with increased pollen loads, both under experimental and natural conditions. To explain this decrease, we propose the following mechanisms: pollen tube crowding, pollen removal or stigma damage by pollen thieves or pollinators, stigma damage during hand-pollination, application of low-diversity or local pollen, effects of bagging flowers, missed stigma receptivity, and the application of inviable pollen. These mechanisms can be distinguished through more complete and more careful experimental designs and incremental pollen supplementation.

Key words: excess pollen; hand-pollination; overpollination; pollen limitation; pollination; reproductive success.

INTRODUCTION

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CHAPTER 2

THE MACROECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF DEVALUATION AND IMPORT RESTRICTION

by Wynne Godley and Robert M. May*

The main purpose of this paper is to set out a framework in terms of which a rigorous discussion of alternative trade strategies can proceed. It is not concerned with the legal, or what may broadly be called administrative, implications of the alternatives, but will demonstrate that on assumptions about macroeconomic relationships the gain in employment, real wages and prices brought about by import restriction is extremely large compared with a policy of devaluation, particularly in the first few years after the policy is introduced.

Introduction

Through the last few years the CEPG has suggested that large-scale and long-term restriction of imports may be necessary if the UK is to recover full employment; also that protection may well moderate the rate of inflation compared with a strategy of exchange rate depreciation. These suggestions have so far met with almost universal opposition, not least from professional economists.

The most influential modern works on international trade theory (for example Johnson (1971) and Corden (1974)) explicitly make and maintain the assumption that the quantity of output (and therefore presumably employment) is given. The core of their argument then concerns the response to alternative policies of the terms of trade, which alone can generate any puta-

When assumptions are not defined by precise equations, and mathematical theorems are absent, verbal argument can degenerate into something reminiscent of thirteenth century scholasticism; conversely, the absence of analytic understanding, the behaviour of a large computer model can be mistrusted, as depending on special choices of input data which are not necessarily acceptable and as being of course conditional on the model itself.

It was as a compromise between these two extremes that Cripps and Godley (1976, hereafter referred to as CG) recently presented a formal analysis of a relatively simple and highly aggregated model, which incorporates the essential assumptions of the full CEPG model. They were thus able to give relatively simple, and mathematically exact, formulae for the

***The order of authorship was determined by the outcome of a backgammon contest lasting two days. One of us (RMM) is indebted to the King's College Research Centre for its hospital**

in the study 'Import controls as devaluation' by Meurs, Corden, Little and Scott (CLS) which contested the views put forward by the CEPG in its first *Economic Policy Review* in February 1975. The intention here is not merely to answer the main points made by CLS, but as a matter of methodology to fill a gap between verbal argument (such as used by CLS and by Corden (1977)) and the crude presentation of

the long-term behaviour of their model, the present paper is focused on short-term dynamics, and particularly on the short-run dynamical differences in real national output, real national income, and real disposable wages under various policy options.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the purpose of this paper is to describe precisely how the CEPG would work under well defined assumptions. To the extent that the assumptions are artificial so are the theoretical or mathematical results. It will only be in the last section that some tentative speculations will be made as to the operational significance of this work; and even in this section artificial assumptions about what may broadly be termed administrative feasibility have been retained.

Aims and policy instruments

We assume that the object of policy is simultaneously to achieve target values for employment and for the

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See Chapter 2 of *On how to cope with Britain's trade position*, Trade Policy Research Centre, January 1977. Corden's contribution has no restriction because it is inoffensive and pragmatic; those by Hugh Cribben and Brian Howley contain a large number of errors, particularly on the properties of the CEPG model, that are best answered by referring readers to the technical manual by Fetherston (April 1976) of which there will be a revised version in the Spring of 1977.

Order of authors

AGGREGATION OF PREDATORS AND INSECT PARASITES AND ITS EFFECT ON STABILITY

BY M. P. HASSELL AND R. M. MAY*

Department of Zoology and Applied Entomology, Imperial College, London, S.W.7 and
Department of Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., U.S.A.

INTRODUCTION

Searching animals, such as predators and insect parasites, usually spend more time where their requisites are more plentiful, a behaviour that has an obvious selective advantage. Despite this, it is only from relatively recent work that aggregative responses to uneven prey distributions have been adequately quantified in terms of predator numbers, or the time spent by a predator, per unit areas of different prey density. This in turn is reflected in the relatively few predator-prey models that have allowed for such aggregative behaviour (Royama 1971; Hassell & Rogers 1972; Hassell & May 1973; Murdoch & Oaten 1974). These are in contrast to the many models (e.g. Lotka 1925; Volterra 1928; Thompson 1924; Nicholson & Bailey 1935; Watt 1959; Hassell & Varley 1969) where search is random, which effectively implies an even distribution of predators throughout the whole prey area and makes the particular types of prey distribution irrelevant to the model outcome.

In an attempt to show how predator aggregation could affect stability, Hassell & May (1973) considered a simple modification of the Nicholson-Bailey model in which the prey survival was given by

$$f(H_i, P_i) = \sum_{j=1}^n [z_j \exp(-a \beta_j P_i)] \quad (1)$$

where α_i and β_i are the proportion of total prey (H_i) and predators (P_i) in the i th area, a is the searching efficiency and n is the total number of unit areas over which prey and predators are distributed. To make a general stability analysis easier, the prey population was divided between the n unit areas with a single area of high density and the remainder of equal low density. The distribution of predators was achieved by a single parameter characterization (μ) such that

$$\beta_i = c \alpha_i^\mu \quad (2)$$

where c is a normalization constant and μ is the 'relative aggregation index'.

Eqn (2) was not intended to be a realistic description of how predators aggregate. It was chosen for its simplicity and because it conveniently spans the behaviours of random search ($\mu = 0$) to complete aggregation in the highest density area, making the remainder effective prey refuges ($\mu \rightarrow \infty$). The predators were also taken to respond only to the proportion of prey in each area and not to the number per unit area. Moreover, the particular distribution of prey was chosen to make a general stability analysis easier and not to represent accurately prey distributions in the field. This model did, however,

* The order of authorship was determined from a twenty-five-game croquet series held at Imperial College Field Station during summer 1973.

† Henceforth, we refer to both as 'predators' unless otherwise stated.

CHAPTER 2 THE MACROECONOMIC DEVALUATION AND

by Wynne Godley and Robert M. May

The main purpose of this paper is to set out strategies can proceed. It is not concerned with the alternatives, but will demonstrate that employment, real wages and prices through devaluation, particularly in the first few years

Introduction
Through the last few years the CEPG has that large-scale and long-term restriction may be necessary if the UK is to recover ment; also that protection may well mode of inflation compared with a strategy of e-depreciation. These suggestions have so almost universal opposition, not least f signal economists.

The most influential modern works on i trade theory (for example Johnson (1971) (1974) explicitly make and maintain the that the quantity of output (and therefore employment) is given. The core of the then concerns the response to alternative the terms of trade, which alone can generate

*The order of authorship a backgammon contest is indebted to the King's College

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* Order of authorship determined by brownie bake-off.

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Outline

- 1 Authors
- 2 Journals
- 3 Reviewers
- 4 Editors

Finding the right journal

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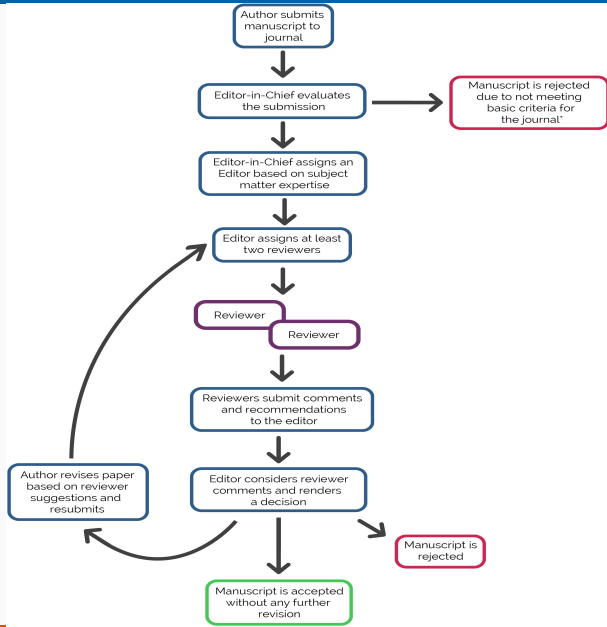
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- Check impact factors and journal rankings.
- Aim as high as possible, but be realistic.
- Sometimes you might trade high ranking for fast response.

Journal rankings

- A proxy for quality of paper
- ABDC rankings
- ERA 2010 rankings
- Scimago rankings
- Other countries

How do journals work?

Editor-in-Chief
Editors
Associate Editors
Reviewers

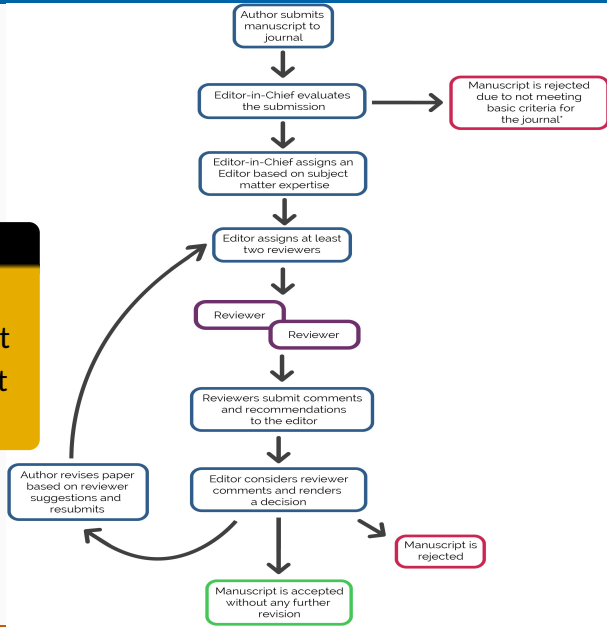


How do journals work?

Editor-in-Chief
Editors
Associate Editors
Reviewers

Possible outcomes

- 1 Accept
- 2 Revise and resubmit
- 3 Reject and resubmit
- 4 Reject



Submitting to journals

- Don't be too fussed about journal styles. Most journals are much more lenient than the guide to authors suggests.
- Use biblatex which makes it easy to change bibliographic styles if necessary.
- Don't bother with long cover letters.
- Don't grovel.
- Check the submission when requested.

An IJF rejection letter

Thank you for this submission, but as it consists entirely of the IJF author guidelines, it is not suitable for publication in the IJF. We publish original research, not author guidelines. Perhaps the *Journal for Guidelines* would be an appropriate outlet.

In future, when you are asked to check the pdf of your paper, you might find it useful to actually do so, rather than just claim to have done so. That way, you will avoid this kind of mistake.

Common reasons for rejection at the IJF

As IJF Editor-in-Chief, I received over 600 papers per year and desk-rejected about 20–30% of them.

- Sending it to the wrong journal.
- Poor literature review
- No new ideas
- Limited empirical evaluation
- Outrageous claims

Things that annoy me as an editor

- Careless referencing, missing references, gratuitous references
- An abstract that doesn't convey the main idea
- An intro or literature review that assumes the reader knows nothing/everything.
- Bad graphics
- Bad English

Open access and fees

- **Gold:** published article open access.
- **Green:** pre-print open-access (e.g., RePEc or arXiv).

Open access and fees

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Fee models

- No fees for authors or readers
- Fees for readers but not authors
- Fees for authors but not readers
- Fees for authors and readers

Open access and fees

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Fee models

- No fees for authors or readers
 - Fees for readers but not authors
 - Fees for authors but not readers
 - Fees for authors and readers
-
- When the fee is optional, you need to fund it from your own grants.
 - When the fee is mandatory, the department will usually fund it for a Group 1 or Group 1+ journal.

Outline

- 1 Authors
- 2 Journals
- 3 Reviewers
- 4 Editors

Dealing with reviewer reports

- Put the reviews aside for a couple of days until you calm down.
- Poor reviews indicate poor editors.
- The best journals have the best reviewers.
- If the reviewers misunderstood your paper, then it is not explained clearly enough.
- Unless you strongly disagree, do what the reviewers have requested.
- Make the changes, even if the paper has been rejected and you are sending it to a new journal.

Writing responses to reviewer reports

If the journal allows a resubmission, you need to write a response to the reviewers.

Author responses to Associate Editor comments

1. In Section 2.1: the notion of a reconciliation matrix P is introduced. This will not be clear to a majority of the readership of JASA. I suggest that a specific example of P . I would also like to see an expanded discussion of the remark that “ $SPS = S$ is required for unbiased forecasts”. This would be helpful to the general readership. Its not obvious (at least, not to me). It also seems to be important since it was used in page 5 to explain why Σ_h is not identifiable.

We have now included on page 7 examples for two choices of P which lead to the commonly used bottom-up and top-down approaches and a detailed explanation as to why $SPS = S$ is required for unbiased reconciled forecasts assuming that the base forecasts are unbiased.

2. On Equation (2) [now (3)]: What conditions do we need about dependence between y_1, \dots, y_T and ε_h ? Is Σ_h the unconditional covariance matrix of ε_h or is it the conditional covariance (given y_1, \dots, y_T)? Of course both will be equivalent under independence between ε_h and y_1, \dots, y_T .

It is assumed that ε_h is independent of observations y_1, \dots, y_T . We explicitly state this now right after equation (3).

3. From the definition of W_h in Lemma 1, the errors in Equations (5) and (6) have mean 0. How is this expectation computed? Is this conditional on y_1, \dots, y_T ?

As you have correctly anticipated, in Equations (5) and (6) errors have mean zero as the

Writing responses to reviewer reports

If the journal allows a resubmission, you need to write a response to the reviewers.

- No grovelling
- Cut and paste reviewer comments into response, then add your own comments beneath in a different colour/font.
- Give page/paragraph numbers for all changes.
- Respond to *all* the points with a simple but specific explanation of what you have done.
- If you strongly disagree, you need to persuade the editor (not the reviewer) of your perspective.
- Exception: bad editors sometimes act as rubber stamps for reviewers.
- Keep your response as short as possible. Respect the editor's time.

Becoming a reviewer

1

Write good articles

2

Get them published



Becoming a reviewer

- 1 Write good articles
- 2 Get them published



Why review?

- You learn a lot.
- You get better known by the research leaders in your area.
- You get to see the latest research before everyone else.
- The scholarly publishing system depends on it.

Writing a good review

- 1 What is the paper about?
- 2 What is the gap that it is trying to solve?
- 3 How does it address the gap? Do the methods/theory work, check what is promised
- 4 What sort of application is discussed? Is it contemporary, and interesting data problem, or data pulled from another paper, and a bit tired?
- 5 How well does the title/abstract describe the main contributions of the paper?
- 6 Is the introduction readable? If you have trouble understanding the problem from the intro there will be many other readers in the same situation
- 7 Is the solution original? Are there other published papers on the same problem? Have they been cited appropriately? Are they missing major existing work?

Writing a good review

- 1 Provide a general summary of the paper and its contribution.
 - 2 Describe the major problems that need addressing.
 - 3 List minor corrections required.
- Do not include a recommendation about whether to publish in the report itself.
 - Be the reviewer you would like to have.

Outline

- 1 Authors
- 2 Journals
- 3 Reviewers
- 4 Editors

Becoming an (associate) editor

- 1 Write good papers
- 2 Write good reviews
- 3 Get to know the editors
- 4 Wait

Becoming an (associate) editor

- 1 Write good papers
- 2 Write good reviews
- 3 Get to know the editors
- 4 Wait

Why be an (associate) editor

- You learn a lot.
- You get better known by the research leaders in your area.
- You get to see the latest research before everyone else.
- The scholarly publishing system depends on it.
- You get to shape the field.