第二章 Chapter 2

像经济学家一样思考 Thinking Like an Economist

主要内容 Main Contents

- 经济学: 科学研究
- Economics as Science
- 经济学: 政策指导
- Economics as Policy

科学的研究方法 The Scientific Method

观察,理论,进一步观察

Observation, Theory, and More Observation

观察 To Observe

- · 著名例子 Examples
 - 牛顿的观察:苹果落到地上

Newton: Apple falling from the tree

科斯的观察:许多交易在企业内而非市场中进行

Coase: Many transactions are within the firms

- · 观察的多种途径 Many ways to observe
 - Experiences, investigation, media
 - Research literature
- · 值得注意的倾向 Be careful
 - Direct vs. indirect
 - Hot topics vs. general issues

科学的研究方法 The Scientific Method

①理论分析:解释现实经济的运作

Theoretical analysis: explain how real world operates.

Logic

MAC (或实证) 分析: 用数据检验理论 Empirical analysis: analyze data to test the theories.

讲证据 Evidence

科学的研究方法 The Scientific Method

- · 研究方法上像物理学 Methodology likes physics
 - 理论 (theoretical)
 - 经验实证 (empirical)
- · 经济学是社会科学 It is a social science
 - 社会的复杂性 complexity
 - 有限的可控实验 limited controlled experiment
- · 经济学是科学: 警惕两种倾向 Be aware of two extremes
 - 数学无用 mathematics is useless
 - 数学至上 mathematics is everything

假设的作用 The Role of Assumptions

作出假设是为了便于理解 Economists make assumptions in order to make the world easier to understand.

科学思维中的"艺术"成分是确定作出什么假设 The art in scientific thinking is deciding which assumptions to make.

作出不同的假设用来回答不同的问题 Economists use different assumptions to answer different questions.

关于假设和结论 On Assumptions and Conclusions

- · 假设是理论(即逻辑推理)的起点 Assumptions are the starting point of theory
 - 假设越接近现实越好吗? Is an assumption that is more realistic necessarily better?
 - ■假设应尽可能少 Fewer assumptions, the better

关于假设和结论 On Assumptions and Conclusions

- · 理论结论用经验数据来检验的含义
 The meaning of empirical tests of a theory:
 - 当经验数据与理论结论不一致时,理论被证明不成立(即"证伪") A theory is disapproved if evidence is inconsistent with the theory (to falsify a theory)
 - 经济数据与理论一致时,我们说理论没有被推翻,但不能说理论被"证明"了 A theory is supported by the evidence if evidence is consistent with the theory, but the theory is not proved by the evidence.

经济模型 Economic Models

□用模型来简化现实世界 Economists use models to simplify reality in order to improve our understanding of the world

模型省略细节,才使我们看请什么是真正重要的 Economic models omit many details to allow us to see what is truly important

所有的模型都是由假设构成的 All models are built with assumptions

经济模型 Economic Models

- 類型有不同形式 Models have different styles
 - 图形模型 Diagrams
 - 数学模型 Mathematical equations
- 各有利弊
 - 图形比较直观 (intuitive), 较易使用经济学直觉
 - 分数学模型严密 (rigorous),可以推导出与起初的直觉不一致的结论
- 学会用三种方式表达:话(words)、图 (diagrams)、数学 (math)

模型举例 1: 循环流向图 Model 1:The Circular-Flow Diagram

显示家庭和企业间的经济交易活动

The <u>circular-flow model</u> is a simple way to visually show the economic transactions that occur between households and firms in the economy.

循环流向图

The Circular-Flow Diagram



资、租金与利

循环流向图 The Circular-Flow Diagram 企业 Firms

全产和出售产品和服务 Produce and sell goods and services

確用和使用生产要素(劳动、土地、资本) Hire and use factors of production

家庭 Households

购买和消费产品和服务 Buy and consume goods and services

加加有和出售生产要素(劳动、土地、资本) Own and sell factors of production

循环流向图 The Circular-Flow Diagram

产品和服务市场 Markets for Goods & Services

企业卖 Firms sell

家庭买 Households buy

生产要素市场 Markets for Factors of Production

家庭卖 Households sell

企业买 Firms buy

循环流向图 The Circular-Flow Diagram

生产要素 Factors of Production

生产需要的投入品 Inputs used to produce goods and services

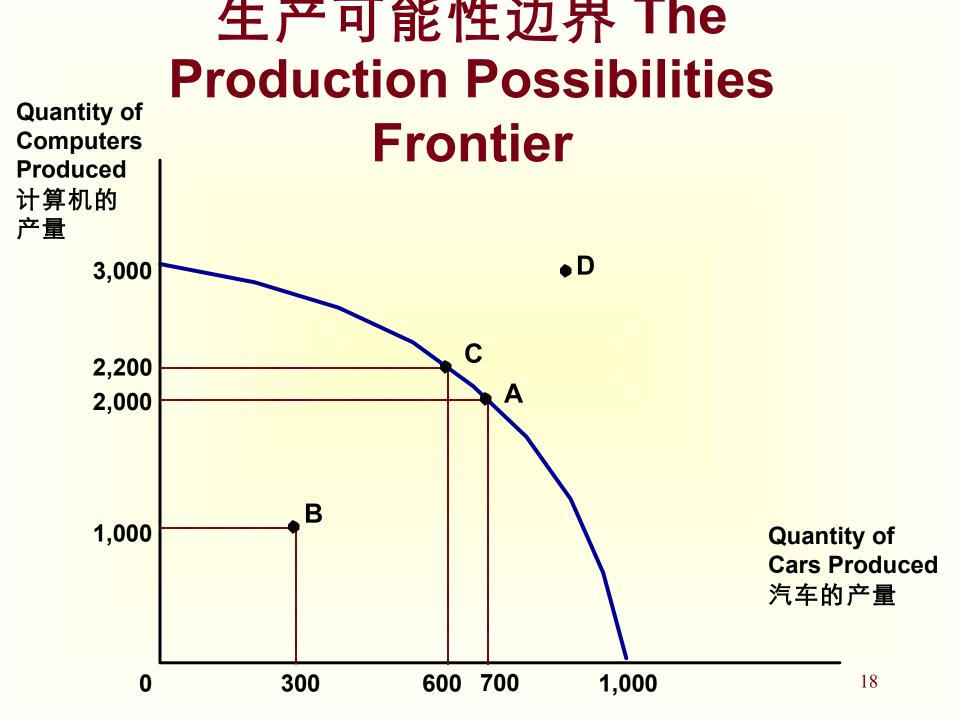
☆土地、劳动、资本 Land, labor, and capital

模型举例 2: 生产可能性边界 Model 2: The Production Possibilities Frontier

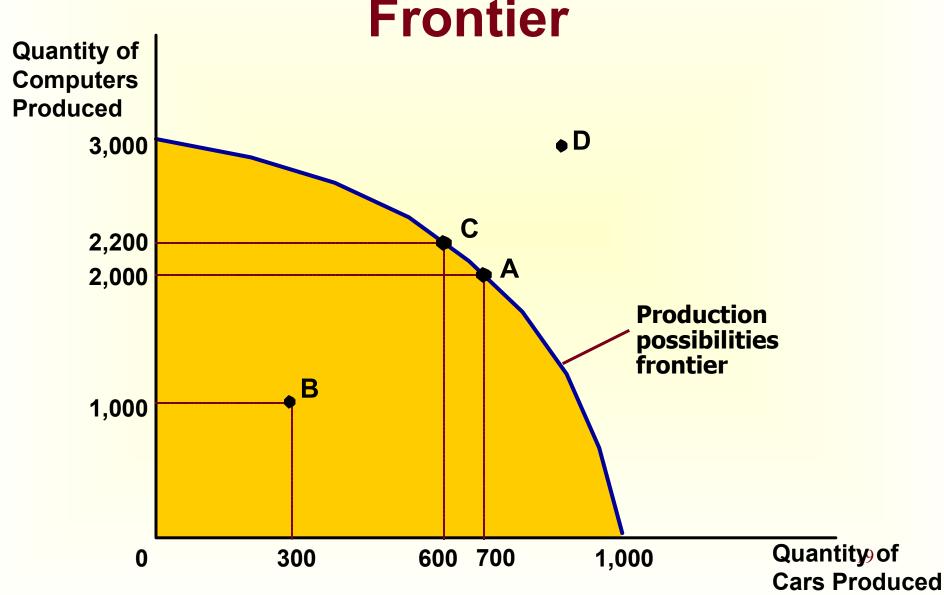
给定生产技术和要素,可能的产出组 合

The production possibilities frontier is a graph showing the various combinations of output that the economy can possibly produce given the available factors of production and technology.

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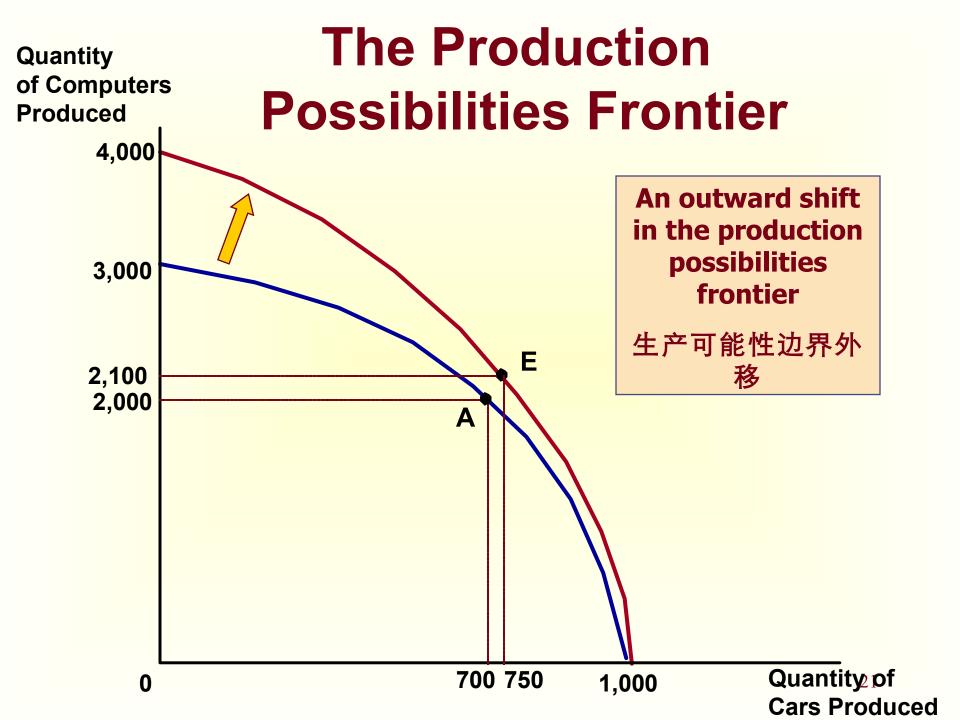


生产可能性边界 The Production Possibilities Frontier



生产可能性边界说明的概念 Concepts Illustrated by the Production Possibilities Frontier

(生产)效率 Efficiency
 (得失交换 Tradeoffs
 加付金成本 Opportunity Cost
 (財才进步导致经济增长 Economic Growth



对数据的经验(实证)分析 Empirical Analysis of Data

- How to present single variable data
 - 圆形图 Pie Chart
 - 柱形图 Bar Graph
 - 时间序列图 Time Series Graph

坐标系中的双变量 Two Variables in the Coordinate System

- · 理论预测变量之间的关系 Theory predicts a causality relationship between variables
- · 从数据中检验变量间的关系 test the theory from data
 - 相关性 Correlation
 - 因果关系 Causality (cause and effect)
 - · 被忽略的变量 Omitted variables
 - 反向因果关系 Reverse causality
 - · 人的预期的影响 Expectations
 - 时间先后 (Time lag) 与因果关系 (causality)

经济模型中的因果关系 Causalities In Economic Models

如果一组事件引起(cause)了另一组事件,就构成了因果关系(causality),前者是因(cause),后者是果(effect)。 过找出事件之间的因果关系是科学研究的基本问题。

经济模型经常被用来说明经济变量之间的因果关系,其中*外生变量*是因, *内生变量*是果。

内生变量与外生变量 Endogenous v. Exogenous Variables

- ☆ 经济模型中通常有两类变量。
 Models usually have two types of variables.
- 一些变量取决于模型中的其他变量,并因此在模型内得到解释。这是内生变量。(方程的解,solution) Some variables depend on other variables in the models, and are therefore explained within the model. Such variables are called endogenous.
- ☆ 其他变量在模型内没有得到解释,而是作为给定的。这是外生变量。(方程的参数, parameters) Other

variables are not explained within the model but are instead taken as given. Such variables are called

内生变量与外生变量 Endogenous v. Exogenous Variables

- 外生变量与内生变量的划分依据经济模型的不同而不同。 The choice between endogenous and exogenous variables depends on the issue and model
- ☆在研究现实问题时,选用正确的经济模型对于理解经济变量之间的因果关系至关重要。 The choice of a model is essential to understand a particular relationship between economic variables

因果关系中的问题之一:被忽略的变量 (Omitted Variables)

淨內生变量之间的联系(相关性, correlations)当成是外生变量与内生变量之间的因果关系,常常是因为存在被忽略的变量 (Omitted variables)。

测例子:

癌症是由于打火机引起的吗?

实病是肥胖引起的吗?

因果关系中的问题之二:反向因果关系 (Reverse Causality)

- ☆在不同的经济模型中,某些内生变量和外生变量可能互换,即存在双向因果关系。
- ☆错误的选择经济模型可能导致反向因果关系 (reverse causality) 的错误。

匆9子:

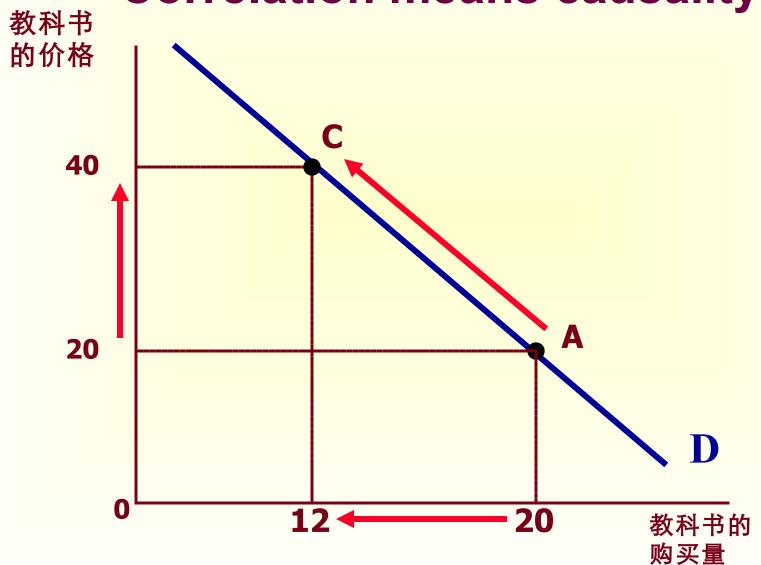
- 警察增加引起了暴力犯罪上升吗?
- ☆献血有利于人体健康吗?

时间先后与因果关系 Time lag and causality

- ☆先发生的事情不一定是后发生事情的原因。
- 可能仅是相关(被忽略的变量 omitted variable)
 - 例子: 闪电在打雷之前(被忽略的变量
- ☆甚至可能是反向因果关系: 预期 (expectation)的影响
 - 例子: 夫妇购买旅行车先于小孩的出生

(预期 expectation)

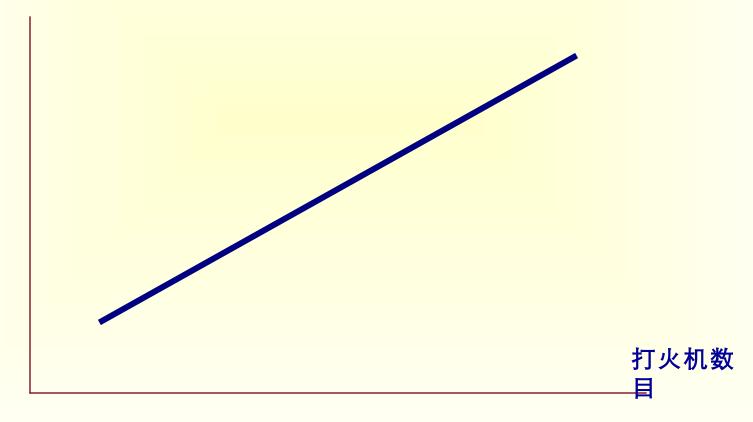
相关性意味着因果关系 Correlation means causality



相关性不意味着因果关系(被忽略的变量

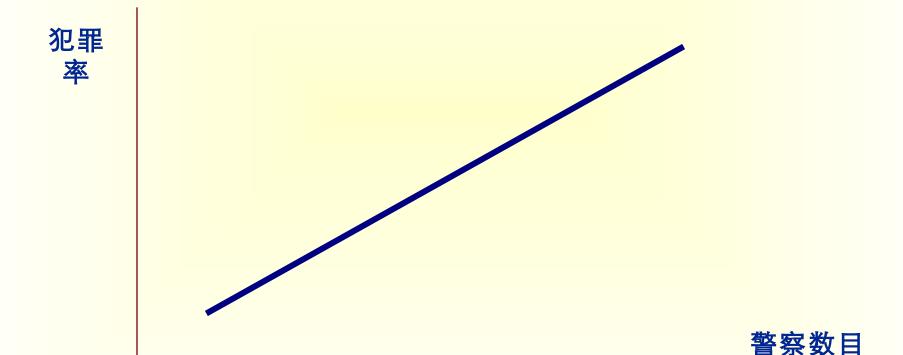
Correlation does not mean causality (omitted variables)





相关性不意味着因果关系(反向因果关系

Correlation does not mean causality (reverse causality)



经济学家的两种作用 Two Roles of Economists

作为科学家的经济学家:解释世界 As a scientist: to explain the world 作为政策顾问的经济学家:改变世界 As a policy advisor: to change the world

实证分析与规范分析 Positive versus Normative Analysis

实证表述: 世界是怎样的

Positive statements are statements that describe the world as it is.



Normative statements are statements about how the world should be.

实证表述还是规范表述? Positive or Normative Statements?

- ·最低工资的增加导致非熟练工人就业的下降
- •Minimum wage reduces employment of unskilled workers
- ·政府应该提高最低工资
- •The government should raise the minimum wage.

实证表述还是规范表述? Positive or Normative Statements?

- ·政府财政赤字将导致利率上升
- •Government deficit makes interest rate to rise.
- ·政府应该运用财政赤字预算来扩大需求
- •The government should use budget deficit to increase demand.

实证与规范的关系 Positive vs. normative analysis

- · 实证表述可以用数据证伪 Positive analysis can be falsified by data
- · 规范结论需要基于实证分析
 Normative conclusions should be based on positive analysis
- · 实证结论往往会改变人们的规范结论 Positive analysis often change people's normal conclusions.

经济学家通过公共政策 改变世界的渠道 Economists **Change the World in Many Different** Ways

- 直接 direct
 - Work in the government 政府中任职(决 策、研究)
- · 间接 indirect
 - Non-governmental organization 非政府机 构中从事政策研究
 - Seminars and forums 研讨会/论坛
 - Private communications 私下交流
 - Media 大众传媒

政府中的经济学家: 中国

- 党中央
 - 中央财经领导小组办公室
- ・国务院
 - ■各部委(发改委、财政部、人民银行、银 监会、证监会、保监会、人力资源和社会 保障部、工信部、国资委等)
 - 政府研究机构(国务院发展研究中心等)

政府中的经济学家:美国

- The White House 白宫
 - National Economic Council 国家经济委员会
 - Council of Economic Advisors 经济顾问委员会
- · Federal Government Agencies 联邦政府机构
 - Treasury Department 财政部
 - Justice Department (anti-trust division) 司法部
 - Commissions (SEC, FCC, FTC, etc.)
- The Federal Reserve System 美联储

为什么经济学家们意见分歧 Why Economists Disagree

科学判断不同: 具有不同的描述现实的实证理论

They may disagree on theories about how the world works.

具有不同的价值观

They may hold different values and, thus, different normative views.

经济学家们意见一致的例子 Examples of What Most Economists Agree On

一房租限价会减少住房的供应和质量 A ceiling on rents reduces the quantity

and quality of housing available.

进口关税和额度降低整体的经济福利

Tariffs and import quotas usually reduce general economic welfare.