



APL Econometric Planning Language (EPLAN)  
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## ABSTRACT

The APL Econometric Planning Language (EPLAN) is an IBM Installed User Program providing features to assist the construction and application of econometric models in an interactive environment.

Its design takes into account the nature of the econometric modeling process, which ideally requires a man-machine dialogue. Main objectives have been: User-oriented terminology (model language), functional capabilities, generality and fast response.

The elements of the model language observe a hierarchical structure. The atomic items are the economic variables, i.e. time series or cross-sectional data, and constants. Subsequent stages comprise operations on economic variables, equations and models. This logical structure is maintained by the use of suited APL data structures.

The functional capabilities include several techniques of single equation parameter estimation, the solution of non-linear models and routines for data transformation, documentation and file handling.

Generality is ensured by defining EPLAN open and transparent. The various programs are considered building-stones for the user's specific application. He can optionally mix EPLAN programs with programs of his own or from the APL Public Library.

Fast response is automatically given by the excellent time-sharing characteristics of the APL host system.

The paper describes the design of EPLAN, with emphasis also on its relation to APL, and applications in the fields of economics and business planning.

## 1. Introduction

The APL Econometric Planning Language (EPLAN) was designed and implemented at the IBM Philadelphia Scientific Center to provide a medium within which a user would be able to manipulate economic variables and to construct and utilize econometric models. It has now been made available to a wide audience as an IBM product (Installed User Program #5796-PDW, see also the references) and is being used by a number of large industrial and governmental IBM customers.

In this paper we attempt to give an idea of our basic design objectives, which we believe to have some general validity and utility. Then we outline the system capabilities and characteristics. We can be relatively brief in view of the rather complete description available in the references.

However, it may now be a good time to add appendices which contain material not readily available elsewhere (in the form pertinent for EPLAN):

- A1. a concise but fairly complete survey of the basic statistical terms and techniques,
- A2. a tutorial for the uninitiated who wishes to demonstrate EPLAN to himself at a (real or imaginary) terminal.

While not a harmonious whole, these various materials should benefit potential users of EPLAN, or indeed other econometric packages. We hope also that the paper may stimulate the APL community to consider econometric techniques in areas where they have not yet found wide use, yet where they are clearly applicable, and to design and implement extensions of the system. Finally, we believe EPLAN to be a good prototype for other high technology application packages in APL, and hope that it will be viewed in such a light by some of our colleagues in the field.

## 2. Design of the System

A conscious effort was made to keep the design of the system simple by taking fullest advantage, wherever possible, of the inherent power of APL. As a consequence, the main effort could be devoted to the inherent elements and relationships of econometrics:

- economic variables (time-series, cross-sectional data)
- operations on and with economic variables
- estimation of functional relationships (regression)
- solution of nonlinear economic systems.

By contrast, the development of other econometric systems has been known to require great, sometimes overwhelming, expenditure of effort towards putting in place data manipulation capabilities which are essentially intrinsic to APL. And this is usually so even without full interactivity, which we feel is essential if the forecasting and case study capabilities of econometrics are to be brought within the grasp of the analyst and businessman in commerce and government.

We believe that it is desirable to bring similar design considerations to bear on other fields of engineering, applied science and applied mathematics, with the end effect of putting powerful tools where they belong, namely into the realm of practical and useful application by the single practitioner in industry. And we believe that APL is the development aid which is required if the development cost is to be kept within realistic bounds.

## 3. Economic Variables (see appendix 1)

The basic elements of econometrics, indeed of economics and business, are time series of equidistant data, i.e. data which are equispaced in time, with given "periodicity" and starting period (for example: 1,2,4,12,52 correspond to yearly, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly, weekly data, respectively). (Cross-sectional series can also be handled by EPLAN but we shall not dwell on them here).

In the system a time series is a named vector whose first element is a unique number (computed from the "header") which defines the origin and periodicity, the other "coefficients" being the time series values, themselves.

System functions DF and EC permit the transition between the "real object" and its APL representation:

```
COST←12 1973 5 DF 4 6 2 7 1

COST
2368112 4 6 2 7 1

EC COST[1]
12 1973 5
```

Multi-dimensional time series are multi-dimensional aggregates of vectors, all having the same header.

Display and tabulate functions are available for "pleasing" representation of the time series (see appendix 2 for some examples). The system provides for the insertion of user-constructed headers and row names. Plot functions are available for simultaneous graphic display of several time series.

#### 4. Operations on and between Time Series

The system contains a substantial number of operators, summarized in Table 1. Many of these operators are analogous to the APL primitives, except for special treatment of the header.

TABLE 1: Summary of operators defined in the APL ECONOMETRIC PLANNING LANGUAGE

	Operation	System Function Name
Dyadic	+	<u>P</u>
	-	<u>M</u>
	×	<u>T</u>
	÷	<u>D</u>
	*	<u>PW</u>
	<	<u>L</u>
	≤	<u>LE</u>
	=	<u>E</u>
	≥	<u>GE</u>
	>	<u>G</u>
	=	<u>NE</u>
	^	<u>AND</u>
	∨	<u>OR</u>
<u>Monadic</u>	log	<u>LOG</u>
	exp	<u>EXP</u>
	sin	<u>SIN</u>
	cos	<u>COS</u>
	tan	<u>TAN</u>
	abs value	<u>ABS</u>
	cumul value	<u>CUM</u>
	~	<u>NOT</u>
<u>Spec. Oper.</u>	shifts	<u>LAG</u>
	first diff.	<u>DEL</u>
	first quot.	<u>RTO</u>
	rect. distr.	<u>RECT</u>
	norm.distr.	<u>NORM</u>
	change period.	<u>CHANGE</u>

But there are also special operators of unique significance for economic data.

Much of the time the operators leave the headers unchanged, the operations being performed element by element on the coefficients of the time series. However, the special operators often involve a shift in the time series origin, thus affecting both coefficients and headers.

As almost always with APL, by far the easiest way of learning the operations is to sit down at the terminal and to try them out for simple examples. See appendix 2 for some illustrations.

Dyadic operators may involve a scalar left argument, as in

```
      2 T COST
2368112 8 12 4 14 2

      10 D COST
2368112 2.5 1.666666667 5 1.428571429 10
```

or, more frequently, time series for both arguments (as in the addition of time series, for example).

Logical operations on time series produce Boolean time series, which are used in turn to operate on other time series to produce logical effects, such as selection of designated coefficients.

```
      COST T COST G 5
2368112 0.6 0 7 0
```

When an operation involves two time series, such as (unit) cost and volume below, the time frame over which an operation is to be carried out, must be specified explicitly or is determined by default (see appendix 2).

```
      VOLUME←12 1972 11 DE 10 11 11 9 8 10 12 13
      DISPLAY 'VOLUME T COST'
```

```
      VARIABLE VOLUME T COST
```

```
      PERIODICITY = 12
      ORIGIN = 1973 5
      NO OF ENTRIES = 2
```

TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
1973 5	48.00000	1973 6	78.00000

## 5. Functional Relationships

The economic relationships can be specified by "definitorial equations", and by "structural equations" (to be estimated).

### 5.1 Definitorial Equations

Econometric models often contain definitorial equations which can be viewed as mere variable transformations. In EPLAN all equations are stored as APL-character vectors:

```
      REVEQU←'DREV←DEL LOG VOLUME T COST'
      REVEQU
      DREV←DEL LOG VOLUME T COST
```

The specification ("equation") under the quotes can be executed by means of the APL primitive ⍤, provided that its right hand side part is completely specified. For example:

```
COST←12 1972 11 DF 3 2 2 1 4 5 4 6 2 7 1
⍤REVEQU
DREV
2.368F6 -0.3102 0 -0.8938 1.269 0.4463 -0.04082 0.4855
```

## 5.2 Structural (Stochastic) Equations

Most equations in econometrics contain unknown parameters to be determined ("estimated") from the given data by regression techniques. EPLAN provides a variety of regression options which can be combined in many ways during the estimation procedure.

The following examples have to do with a model which describes interrelations between sales and advertising expenditures for filter and non-filter cigarettes in the U.S. cigarette industry (see the program description manual of EPLAN).

Equations are estimated one by one. They are generally nonlinear in the variables, but are assumed to be linear in the unknown parameters B0, B1, B2 below.

```
MEQU3←'W1←B0 P (B1 T S1 D S2) P B2 T 1 LAG S1 D S2'
```

```
INVAR←'1,1 LAG S1,1 LAG S2,1 LAG S1 D S2,DI'
```

(1, LAG X defines a lag of one period in the time series X). An auxiliary variable INVAR is defined to be used in an invocation of the "instrumental variable technique" during regression. The regression technique phase is initiated by the function REGRESS and is characterized by a sequence of answers to "WITH:" requests of the regression function.

```
MEQU3←'W1' REGRESS '1,S1 D S2,1 LAG S1 D S2'
WITH: A1 10
RHO: -0.1732689385
```

```
WITH: INVAR INST 'S1 D S2'
WITH:
```

```
COEF/VALUE/ST ERR/T-STAT.....
```

```
1 0.30444 0.05852 5.20197
2 0.33337 0.26026 1.28091
3 -0.14827 0.21698 -0.68333
```

```
NO OF VARIABLES..... 2.00000
NO OF OBSERVATIONS..... 10.00000
SS DUE TO REGRESSION.... 0.03541
SS DUE TO RESIDUALS..... 0.00508
F-STATISTIC..... 24.38778
STANDARD ERROR..... 0.02694
R*2 -STATISTIC..... 0.87450
R*2 CORRECTED..... 0.83864
DURBIN WATSON STATISTIC. 1.98565
```

As is shown in the example, the user may invoke a first-order autoregressive correction of the error term by the request. A1 10, followed by an instrumental variables substitution for the variable S1 D S2 with the "instruments" which are the left hand argument in... INST... (For a description, see Theil, 1971). A void input (hitting of RETURN at the terminal) to the request WITH: terminates the selection of regression techniques. The techniques are executed in order of selection. At the end, an ordinary least square operation is performed on the observation data modified as indicated by previous requests. Ordinary least squares alone is initiated by a void input to the first WITH: request.

The explicit result of REGRESS is a well-defined estimated equation, i.e. an equation with numerical coefficients, of the same form as a definitorial equation. The totality of definitorial and estimated structural equations will finally constitute a complete econometric model.

```

MEQU3
W1+ ( 0.30444 T 1 ) P ( 0.33337 T S1 D S2 ) P ( -0.14827 T 1
LAG S1 D S2 )

```

## 6. MODELS

### 6.1 Definition

Models are a set of definitorial and structural equations. A complete model has as many dependent (endogenous) variables as there are equations. In EPLAN a model is represented by an APL-character matrix, where each row corresponds to one equation. The model may be assembled by means of the function DMODEL

```
EQULIST+'EQU1,MEQU2,MEQU3,EQU4,D1,D2,D3,D4,D5'
```

```
MODEL1+DMODEL EQULIST
```

```
MODEL1
```

```

S1+ ( 227.177 T WR ) P ( 0.546535 T SL1 ) P ( 0.120248 T DI )
S2+ ( -87.0728 T WR ) P ( 0.829077 T SL2 ) P ( 0.121466 T DI )
W1+ ( 0.304443 T 1 ) P ( 0.333374 T SR ) P ( -0.148266 T SRL )
W2+(0.385065 T 1 ) P ( -.291008 T SR ) P (.198681 T SRL)
SR+S1 D S2
SL1+1 LAG S1
SL2+1 LAG S2
SRL+SL1 D SL2
WR+W1 D W2

```

The right argument is a list of equation names; the sequence of these names indicates the sequence of the equations in the model (the example is again taken from the manual). The equations have to be written in normalized form, so that each endogenous variable occurs in exactly one equation of the model on the left-hand side. The same variable may not occur on the right-hand side of that equation, except in lagged form. However, it may occur on the right-hand side of other equations.

## 6.2 Solution

Models are solved in EPLAN by means of a multi-dimensional variant of the well-known GAUSS-SEIDEL technique. Essentially, this technique successively substitutes estimates for the endogenous variables into the right-hand side of the model, starting from "good" initial estimates (see e.g. Ortega and Rheinboldt, 1970). Note, that our model representation in character matrix form can be interpreted as the canonical representation of a valid APL-function. Thus, each iteration of the GAUSS-SEIDEL technique corresponds to one execution of that function. The solution process via the function SOLVE makes direct use of that fact.

Initially, it is usually desirable to reorder the sequence of equations so as to obtain an almost recursive model. This is done by the function ORDER, using VAN DER GIESSEN's substitution algorithm (1970). Convergence may be considerably accelerated by that procedure. Before executing SOLVE, initial estimates for only those endogenous variables must be supplied which are not recursively evaluated within the first iteration (in the example below S1 and S2 as indicated by the execution of ORDER). Also various convergence parameters may be set (not shown). After successful execution of SOLVE the solutions can be called by name.

```
MODEL2+ 'ORDER MODEL1

SEQUENCE OF EQUS:
SL1,SR ,SL2,SRL,W1 ,W2 ,WR ,S1 ,S2

GIVE INIT APPR FOR:
S1 ,S2

SALESMODORD
SL1+1 LAG S1
SR+S1 D S2
SL2+1 LAG S2
SRL+SL1 D SL2
W1+ ( 0.304443 T 1 ) P ( 0.333374 T SR ) P ( -0.148266 T SRL)
W2+(0.385065 T 1) P ( -.291008 T SR) P (.198681 T SRL)
WR+W1 D W2
S1+ ( 227.177 T WR ) P ( 0.546535 T SL1) P ( 0.120248 T DI )
S2+ ( -87.0728 T WR ) P ( 0.829077 T SL2) P ( 0.121466 T DI )

* INITIAL ESTIMATES FOR S1 AND S2:

S1
195401 250.328 398.658 690.081 952.423 1232.111 1414.718
      1526.195 1571.303 1613.578 1657.487 1731.53 1672.207
      1702.119

S2
195401 3196.318 2856.406 2668.824 2453.522 2178.211 2008.075
      2006.827 1991.59 1971.696 1900.684 1808.007 1590.523
      1633.202
```

'S1,S2,W1,W2' SOLVE MODEL2 \*  
 CONV AT IT: 9

A SOLUTIONS, E.G.

S1  
 195401 250.328 711.40429 1001.2352 1189.0217 1302.9291 1372.3554  
 1449.049 1521.7438 1587.4465 1653.2687 1709.2758 1764.6163  
 1818.5691

S2  
 195401 3196.318 2870.6459 2612.7354 2405.3939 2233.213 2088.7515  
 1978.954 1873.5413 1776.1248 1711.8389 1663.6987 1648.1199  
 1651.1821

\* A revised version of EPLAN requires initial estimates for exogenous variables only, with their names as left arguments of SOLVE (see appendix 2).

#### REFERENCES

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- APL CMS User's Guide, SC20-1846, IBM (EPLAN can be used with CMS)



1. Time Series and Model Language

**Time Series:** Deterministic or random data which may change and can be measured at different points in time. In economics and business planning equidistant time series are mostly used, which are defined at equidistant points in time (periods), e.g. yearly, quarterly, monthly series. The time characteristics of an equidistant time series can be fully described by the periodicity, i.e. the number of periods per year (12 = monthly series) and by the origin, i.e. the period of the "oldest" information (1975 2 = February 1975 for a monthly series or second quarter 1975 for a quarterly series). The period values of the series are thereby ordered with increasing time. A header in EPLAN gives compound information on periodicity and origin (12 1975 2 for a monthly series starting February 1975, 4 1975 2 for a quarterly series starting with the second quarter 1975). Internally, this header is transformed into a unique single number.

**Cross-sectional Data:** Deterministic or random data which are time independent or measured at the same point in time, e.g. a year's product sales in Belgium, France, UK, Germany, Italy, etc. They are defined in EPLAN by a zero header.

**Intersection:** of two or more time series: set of values for these series which refer to common periods.

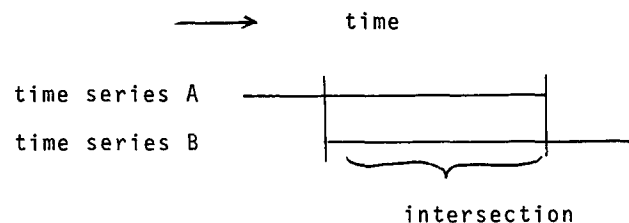


Figure 1.1

Figure 1.1 shows the largest possible intersection for series A and B, which is calculated by EPLAN if no explicit intersection control is assumed ( o ST 0 ). Via explicit intersection control (e.g. 4 1973 1 ST41974 4) the intersection can be reduced further (figure 1.2)

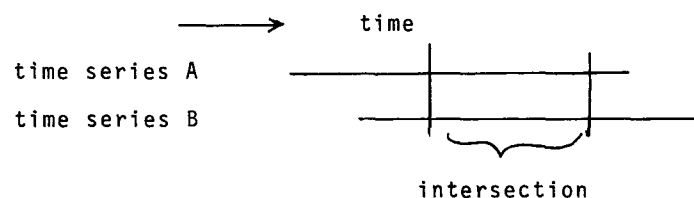


Figure 1.2

The intersection process is used in various situations, e.g. in the application of a dyadic operation such as "Plus"  $A \underline{P} B$ , or in the selection of periods for regression and model solution.

Special Operators: Operators with particular use in econometric modeling, for instance

lags and leads:	shifts of periods in a time series ( <u>LAG</u> )
first difference:	a period's value minus the previous period's value ( <u>DEL</u> )
first quotient:	a period's value divided by previous period's value ( <u>RTO</u> )
periodicity change:	aggregation or disaggregation of time series with respect to time, e.g. transformation of a monthly series into a yearly series by averaging, or vice versa by linear interpolation ( <u>CHANGE</u> )

rectangular distribution: generation of random variates with uniform distribution, zero mean and standard deviation one (NORM).

Endogenous Variable:

Variable evaluated by the model during solution phase (dependent variable)

Exogenous Variable:

Variable provided by the user before starting the model solution phase. Independent variable supplied from external sources. (policy variables).

## 2. Regression

Simple Correlation Coefficient: A measure for the correlation between two variables (time series). A value of +1 or -1 signals exact linear dependence (with probability one), a zero value the lack of correlation. Values close to +1 or -1 are usually interpreted as an indication for correlation (though no precise theory is available).

Ordinary Least Squares: The model has the following properties:

a) it is linear in the parameters  $b_0, b_1, \dots, b_n$ :

$$y_t = b_0 + b_1 \cdot x_{1t} + b_2 \cdot x_{2t} + \dots + b_n \cdot x_{nt} + u_t ;$$

(the constant term  $b_0$  may be suppressed)

b) the series  $x_{1t}, x_{2t}, \dots, x_{nt}$  are not collinear, i.e. no series can be expressed as a linear combination of the others; each series varies over time with certain limit properties,

- c) the series  $X_{1t}, X_{2t}, \dots, X_{kt}$  are deterministic, all random effects can be aggregated into a residual variable  $u_t$ ,
- d) The residuals are normally distributed with zero expectation and unknown standard deviation  $\sigma \geq 0$ , which is independent of time (homoscedasticity),
- e) there is no correlation between residuals of different periods (absence of auto-correlation)

The unknown parameters  $b_0, b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  and the standard deviation  $\sigma$  are estimated such that the sum of the squared residuals becomes minimal (therefore the name "least squares" technique).  $\sum u_t^2$

#### Regression Statistics:

##### a) Parameter Estimates:

STANDARD ERROR: Indicates accuracy of parameter estimate, e.g. estimate  $\pm x$

ST.ERR = interval within which true parameter value lies with 95.5 percent probability.

T-STATISTIC: Serves as a test for the hypothesis that the true parameter value is zero, i.e. term may be excluded from the equation. Hypothesis is rejected if absolute value of t is significantly large, typically greater than 1.73 (with 5 percent error in rejecting the true hypothesis that the parameter value is zero, indeed).

Covariance Matrix of parameter estimates (global variable B after regression): Gives further information on the statistical correlation between parameter estimates. Matrix is needed for calculation of other statistics, but may also be used for exploring the estimation accuracy.

##### b) Total Regression:

F-STATISTIC: Tests the hypothesis that all parameters associated with a real variable (excluding the constant parameter  $b_0$ ) are simultaneously zero, i.e. the regression reduces to the constant  $b_0$ . The hypothesis is rejected if F has a significantly large value (threshold value can be looked up in F-tables with n, T-n "degrees of freedom", n being the number of tested parameters, T the number of observations). A typical value for a three-variables equation would be  $F > 8.6$  (assuming 5 percent probability of rejecting a true hypothesis).

NO OF VARIABLES corresponds with number of parameters included in F-test, n.

NO OF OBSERVATIONS, Sum of Squares DUE TO REGRESSION, Sum of Squares DUE TO RESIDUALS are used for calculation of F and other statistics.

STANDARD ERROR is an estimate of the standard deviation of the residuals, see ordinary least squares, and may be used for further judgment of the quality of regression which is expected to produce a relatively small standard error. Note, that the size of the standard error alone gives no indication of the quality of forecasts from the regressed equation, since the errors in the parameter estimates add to uncertainty.

R2-STATISTIC (R2 should be read r-square) is a descriptive measure (similar to a simple correlation coefficient) of the correlation between the lefthand-side  $y_t$  and the right hand side  $\hat{y}_t = b_0 + b_1 x_{1t} + \dots + b_n x_{nt}$  (regressed values of the dependent variable).  $R^2=1$ , if and only if the observations coincide with the regressed values i.e. there is an exact linear relationship with zero residuals. Otherwise (as in all non-trivial applications)  $R^2$  lies between 0 and 1. Here, one associates a high  $R^2$ -value with high "goodness of fit" of the regressed equation. The  $R^2$ -statistic is increased with the addition of any further variable to the regression equation

R2 CORRECTED has the same interpretation. A slight correction involving "degrees of freedom" (i.e. number of variables, observations) is applied resulting in a small reduction compared to the uncorrected  $R^2$ -value above (if  $R^2$  is less than 1). It may happen, that  $R^2$  corrected becomes negative, whereupon it should be interpreted as zero.

DURBIN WATSON STATISTIC: Tests whether there is no autocorrelation (of order one, see below) between residuals of successive periods (see assumption e for ordinary Least Squares). A value close to 2 (e.g. between 1.65 and 2.35 for a three-variable equation) should be expected. Below and above these threshold points there is an interval of inconclusiveness, while for values beyond the thresholds the hypothesis of no autocorrelation is rejected.

RESIDUALS: Estimates of the residuals can be called in EPLAN by the global variable U after completion of regression.

#### Generalized Least Squares:

The assumptions of homoscedasticity and autocorrelation (see ordinary Least Squares) may be violated. This defect can be corrected if the covariance matrix  $x$  of the residuals is known in advance (which is seldom the case). A special and relatively simple, but important case is the assumption of first-order autocorrelated (autoregressive) residuals.

First-order Autocorrelated (Autoregressive) Residuals: It is assumed that the no-autocorrelation requirement of ordinary Least Squares is violated such that

$$u_t = \rho \cdot u_{t-1} + v_t \quad (-1 < \rho < +1)$$

with coefficient of autocorrelation  $\rho$  (RHO) and  $v_t$  being "well-behaved" residuals, i.e. fulfilling all the assumptions of ordinary Least Squares. Such a situation occurs quite frequently in econometric modeling, especially when dynamic feedback effects are not expressed in the equation (e.g. sales depending on sales of previous period). First-order autocorrelation is detected by a poor Durbin-Watson-Statistic in ordinary Least Squares. It may be corrected by either supplying a known value  $\rho$  to the EPLAN routine A 1 or, more frequently, by letting the routine calculate an estimate for  $\rho$ . Afterwards, the Durbin-Watson-Statistic should be definitely improved. Otherwise, a more complex autocorrelation scheme may distort the data; this can be handled by EPLAN only if the complete covariance matrix is known (via generalized Least Squares).

Instrumental Variables Substitution: This technique may be applied to multi-equation models with high interdependence between endogenous variables. For such models, one major assumption of ordinary Least Squares is violated, namely that all major random effects be expressed through the residuals. Endogenous variables of stochastic nature can now appear on the righthand-side of some equations and may be correlated with the residuals of that equation. In the latter case, the quality of the parameter estimates is distorted such that the estimates do not "converge" to their true values (as should definitely be expected from a good estimation technique) even with increasing number of observations. The estimation technique is said to produce non-consistent estimates. This deficiency can be relaxed by a two-stage procedure which first regresses the "problem" variables on a set of "auxiliary variables", called instrumental variables, and then substitutes the obtained regression results into the original regression.

Typically, the instrumental variables are taken from the set of all predetermined variables in the model, which are the exogenous and the lagged endogenous variables.

Two-stage Least Squares: Instrumental Variable Substitution, where all predetermined variables of the model are used as instruments. In this case it can be proven that the parameter estimates are consistent.

Principal Components Substitution: Has the same objective as Instrumental Variables Substitution. If many instruments are taken, problems of collinearity arise, i.e. various instruments may be almost linearly dependent and thus jeopardize the first-stage regression; see assumption b of ordinary Least Squares. In this case, a specific transformation process is applied to the instruments, before first-stage regression takes place. The results

from this transformation process are called principal components. The procedure further permits the user to reduce the number of transformed instruments in a systematic fashion, since the principal components are ordered by decreasing variance and, therefore influence, in explaining the variance of the regressed endogenous variable. A maximum amount of total variance (of all instruments) may be specified in advance; a typical value is 90 - 95 percent.

Polynomial Distributed Lags: Frequently it is suggested that the left-hand-side variable depends on subsequent lags of one variable (besides further variables on the right-hand-side), i.e.

$$Y_t = b_0 + \underbrace{b_1 \cdot X_{1t} + b_2 \cdot X_{1,t-1} + \dots + b_{\ell} \cdot X_{1,t-\ell+1}}_{\text{distributed lags}} + b_{\ell+1} \cdot X_{2,t} + \dots$$

If many lags are included, problems of collinearity as well as number of available observations arise. A popular way out assumes a-priori restrictions on the "weights" ( $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_{\ell}$ ) namely that they lie on a polynomial. Through this assumption, the above problems can be reduced, but only at the cost of a parameter distortion (due to the interpolation by a polynomial of a degree which should be selected smaller than the number of weights). The interpolation of parameters by polynomials has been suggested by ALMON.

### 3. Model Solution

#### Simulation:

The model is solved for its endogenous variables over a given number of periods (simulation horizon) assuming known values for the exogenous variables.

Gauss-Seidel Solution Technique: Initial guesses (solution estimates) for the endogenous variables (solutions) are provided. These guesses are "improved" through successive substitution into the model, until a solution has been found (i.e. the substitution process has converged, see convergence criterion). Each model evaluation with a set of solution estimates corresponds to one "iteration".

New estimates are immediately used in subsequent equations, even during the same iteration. This solution technique may not converge in general, but does often for econometric models (see recursive models, below).

Convergence Criterion serves for the detection of the solution. In EPLAN the solution process has converged if for all endogenous variables the relative difference between two subsequent iterations is less than a predefined value (set by SOLVECON. A typical value is 0.005 = 5 percent deviation or 0.001 = 1 percent relative deviation.)

Iteration Count: Maximum number of iterations before stopping an unsuccessful process (set by SOLVEIT).

Relaxation Parameter: A value  $\alpha$  with  $0 < \alpha \leq 1$  which effects a damping if the solution process oscillates, and in doing so speeds up conversion (reduces number of required iterations). The parameter should be set to 1, if no oscillation is assumed. It may be redefined during the solution process by interrupting the SOLVE function (the relaxation parameter is defined by SOLVEREL).

Recursive Models: There is no mutual interdependence between endogenous variables, but all endogenous variables are completely specified by the exogenous variables and endogenous variables from previous equations in the model (causal chain). In this case the solution process is trivial and terminates after the first iteration.

Reordering of Model Equations: Recursiveness of models can be hidden by the sequence of the equations in the model. Often, by reordering the equations, a model form can be arrived at which is "almost" recursive, i.e. there is mutual interdependence only for a few variables. Solving the model in this form can improve convergence speed considerably. EPLAN uses VAN DER GIESSEN's reordering algorithm.

#### 4. Suggested Literature:

Koutsoyiannis, A., Theory of Econometrics, Macmillan, London 1973

(quite complete and detailed treatment of regression techniques with examples and easy-to-reach mathematical notation)

Theil, H., Principles of Econometrics, J. Wiley, New York 1971

(more mathematically oriented treatment of regression techniques, including proof of theorems).

Van der Giessen, A.A., Solving Non-linear Systems by Computer: A New Method, in: Statistica Neerlandica 24 (1970) p.1-10

(treats Gauss-Seidel solution technique including reordering of equations).

## APPENDIX 2

### A DEMONSTRATION OF EPLAN

AA DESIGNATE APL COMMENTS  
AE DESIGNATE EPLAN COMMENTS

AA )LOAD 'NAME' ... LOADS A WORKSPACE

AE EPLAN IS USUALLY IN TWO WORKSPACES ... EPL1, EPL2  
AE (COMBINE INTO ONE WORKSPACE EPLAN, WHEN POSSIBLE)

)LOAD EPL1

SAVED 11.42.06 06/08/76

PROGRAM NO.5796-PDW. COPYRIGHT IBM CORP. 1974. REFER TO INSTRUCTI  
ONS ON COPYRIGHT NOTE FORM NO. 120-2083

AA CHANGE THE WORKSPACE NAME TO EPLANDEMO

)WSID EPLANDEMO

WAS EPL1

)WSID

EPLANDEMO

AA SAVE THE WORKSPACE UNDER ITS NEW NAME

)SAVE

WS NAME IS TOO LONG

)WSID EPLANDEM

WAS EPLANDEMO

)SAVE

11.51.17 06/08/76 EPLANDEM

AA EXHIBIT THE GROUPS OF FUNCTIONS IN THE WORKSPACE

)GRPS

BASEGRP DISPLAYGRP PLOTGRP

)LOAD EPL2

SAVED 11.41.33 06/08/76

PROGRAM NO.5796-PDW. COPYRIGHT IBM CORP. 1974. REFER TO INSTRUCTI  
ONS ON COPYRIGHT NOTE FORM NO. 120-2083

)GRPS

ADDENDUM BASEGRP FILEGRP FILEGRPC REGRESSGRP  
SOLVEGRP TRANSLATEGRP

)LOAD EPLANDEM

SAVED 11.51.17 06/08/76

PROGRAM NO.5796-PDW. COPYRIGHT IBM CORP. 1974. REFER TO INSTRUCTI  
ONS ON COPYRIGHT NOTE FORM NO. 120-2083



```

      AA IF OTHER GROUPS NEEDED FROM EPL2, USE COPY COMMAND

      )COPY EPL2 REGRESSGRP
SAVED  11.41.33 06/08/76

      )WSID
EPLANDEM

      )GRPS
BASEGRP DISPLAYGRP      PLOTGRP REGRESSGRP

      )SAVE
13.31.55 06/08/76 EPLANDEM

      AA WHEN GROUP NO LONGER NEEDED, DELETE IT BY ERASE COMMAND

      )ERASE REGRESSGRP

      )GRPS
BASEGRP DISPLAYGRP      PLOTGRP

```

```

      AA APL MAY INTERRUPT PROCESSING FOR A NUMER OF REASONS
      AA MOST OFTEN THE INTERRUPTS WILL BE CAUSED BY USER ERROR
      AA OCCASIONALLY THERE MAY BE RESOURCE LIMITATIONS

      AA OCCASIONALLY AN INTERRUPT WILL BE USER GENERATED (ATTN KEY)
      A  *****

      AA FOR SOME SUGGESTED ACTIONS YOU MAY WISH TO TURN TO PAGE 14

```

```

AA AN APL OBJECT (NUMBER, CHARACTER, VECTOR, MATRIX)
AA CAN BE SPECIFIED (ASSIGNED A VALUE) BY THE OPERATOR ←

A1← 3 5 6

A1
3 5 6

AA THE VECTOR A1 CAN BE EXTENDED BY CATENATION...USE OF COMMA

A1←A1,9 7

A1
3 5 6 9 7

AE A BABY FOOD MODEL
A *****

AE EPLAN DEALS WITH TIME SERIES, I.E. DATA OVER A TIME PERIOD

AE EXAMPLE ... BABIES FROM THIRD QUARTER 1960 ONWARD
AE QUARTERLY DEMAND, PRICE, UNITCOST FOR (OF) BABYFOOD

A AN ECONOMETRIC MODEL STUDIES THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN
A THESE QUANTITIES
A IT WILL BE ESTIMATED (CALIBRATED) FROM PAST DATA
A AND USED TO FORECAST DEMAND AND PRICE FOR FUTURE PERIODS

AE DATA INPUT
A *****

BABIES←22 30 31 35 36 32 34 31 31 36 41 43 41
DEMAND←33 39 38 39 41 36 39 34 33 36 37 38 37

AE IN THE SYSTEM, THE TIME SERIES ARE VECTORS WITH A HEADER
AE FOLLOWED BY THE DATA, THE HEADER 4 1960 3 SIGNIFIES
AE START OF THE TIME SERIES IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF 1960

BABIES←4 1960 3 DE BABIES

BABIES
784304 22 30 31 35 36 32 34 31 31 36 41 43 41

AE THE DECODE FUNCTION DE (ALL SYSTEMS FUNCTIONS USE
AE UNDERSTRUCK CHARACTERS) CHANGES THE HEADER TO ONE NUMER

DEMAND←4 1960 3 DE DEMAND

DEMAND
784304 33 39 38 39 41 36 39 34 33 36 37 38 37

```

PRICE+4 1960 3 DE 16.6 16.6 17.1 17.3 17.5 17.5

PRICE+PRICE,17.9 18.5 18.5 19 20.6 20.6 21.6

PRICE

784304 16.6 16.6 17.1 17.3 17.5 17.5 17.9 18.5 18.5 19 20.6 20.6  
21.6

UNITC+4 1960 3 DE 14.4 13.7 14.1 14.2 14.1 14.8 14.2 15.5 15.7

UNITC+UNITC,15.6 16.45 16.5 16.25

DISPLAY BA

v

'BABIES'

VARIABLE BABIES

PERIODICITY = 4

ORIGIN = 1960 3

NO OF ENTRIES = 13

TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
1960 3	22.00000	1962 2	31.00000
1960 4	30.00000	1962 3	31.00000
1961 1	31.00000	1962 4	36.00000
1961 2	35.00000	1963 1	41.00000
1961 3	36.00000	1963 2	43.00000
1961 4	32.00000	1963 3	41.00000
1962 1	34.00000		

DISPLAY 'PRICE'

VARIABLE PRICE

PERIODICITY = 4

ORIGIN = 1960 3

NO OF ENTRIES = 13

TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
1960 3	16.60000	1962 2	18.50000
1960 4	16.60000	1962 3	18.50000
1961 1	17.10000	1962 4	19.00000
1961 2	17.30000	1963 1	20.60000
1961 3	17.50000	1963 2	20.60000
1961 4	17.50000	1963 3	21.60000
1962 1	17.90000		

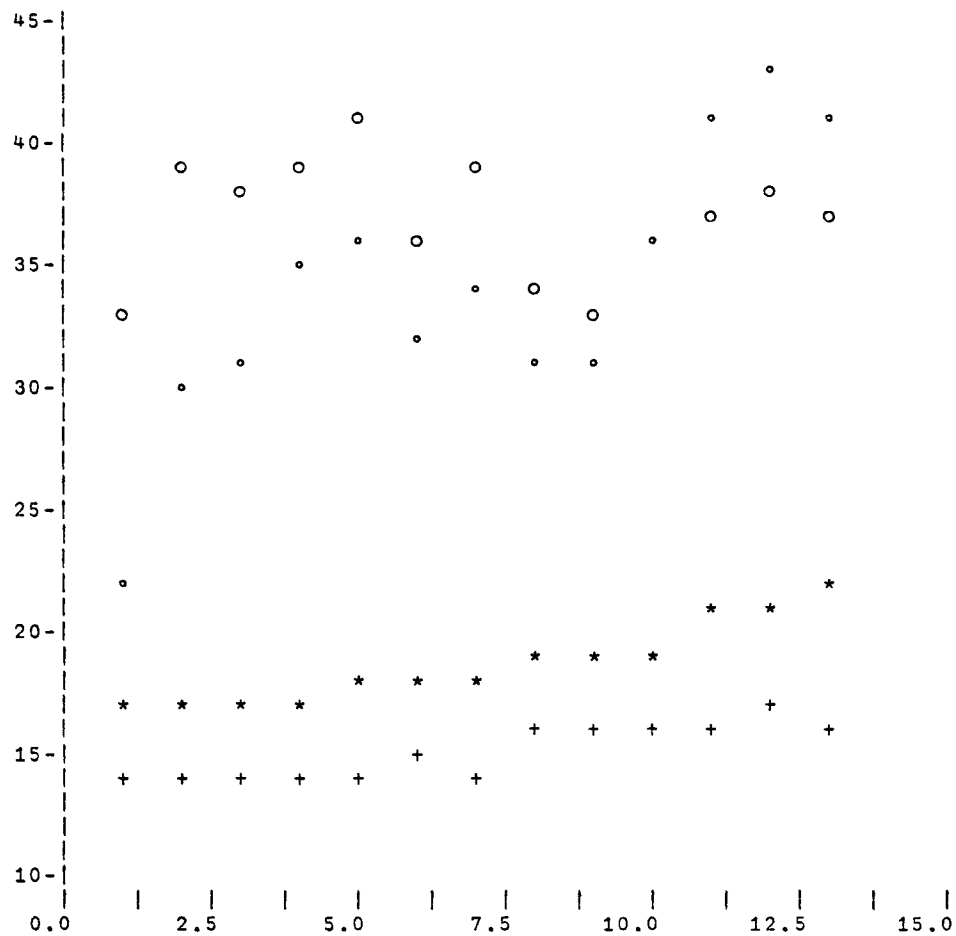
10 5 9 3 TABULATE 'DEMAND,PRICE,,BABIES,UNITC,,VOL+DEMAND T PRICE'

	1960 3	1960 4	1961 1	1961 2	1961 3
DEMAND	33.000	39.000	38.000	39.000	41.000
PRICE	16.600	16.600	17.100	17.300	17.500
BABIES	22.000	30.000	31.000	35.000	36.000
UNITC	14.400	13.700	14.100	14.200	14.100
VOL+DEMAND <u>T</u> PRICE	547.800	647.400	649.800	674.700	717.500

	1961 4	1962 1	1962 2	1962 3	1962 4
DEMAND	36.000	39.000	34.000	33.000	36.000
PRICE	17.500	17.900	18.500	18.500	19.000
BABIES	32.000	34.000	31.000	31.000	36.000
UNITC	14.800	14.200	15.500	15.700	15.600
VOL+DEMAND <u>T</u> PRICE	630.000	698.100	629.000	610.500	684.000

	1963 1	1963 2	1963 3
DEMAND	37.000	38.000	37.000
PRICE	20.600	20.600	21.600
BABIES	41.000	43.000	41.000
UNITC	16.450	16.500	16.250
VOL+DEMAND <u>T</u> PRICE	762.200	782.800	799.200

50 50 2 PLOT 'DEMAND,PRICE,BABIES,UNITC'



ABSCISSA = TIME STARTING FROM 1960 3

○ = DEMAND

\* = PRICE

• = BABIES

+ = UNITC

```

AE SUPPOSE THE BABYFOOD PEOPLE KNOW THAT
AE DEMAND DEPENDS ON (NO. OF) BABIES AND INVERSELY ON PRICE
AE AND AT THE SAME TIME
A PRICE DEPENDS ON DEMAND UND UNITCOST
AE (A CONSTANT TERM 1 IS OFTEN INCLUDED)
A *****

AE THE COEFFICIENTS IN THE RELATIONS ARE DETERMINED FROM THE DATA
AE BY REGRESSION TECHNIQUES

```

```

AE WORK WITH 5 DIGIT PRECISION

```

```

PRECISION 5

```

```

AE ANSWER REGRESSION REQUEST WITH: BY HITTING RETURN
AE (THE SYSTEM PROVIDES MANY OTHER OPTIONS, SUCH AS
A MULTIPLE REGRESSION FEATURES)

```

```

)COPY EPL2 REGRESSGRP
SAVED 11.41.33 06/08/76

```

```

EQ1+ 'DEMAND' REGRESS 'BABIES, 1 D PRICE, 1'
WITH:

```

```

COEF/VALUE/ST ERR/T-STAT.....

```

1	0.71825	0.09427	7.61944
2	766.61721	116.01833	6.60773
3	-29.48305	9.18503	-3.20990

NO OF VARIABLES.....	2.00000
NO OF OBSERVATIONS.....	13.00000
SS DUE TO REGRESSION....	62.25542
SS DUE TO RESIDUALS.....	10.66766
F-STATISTIC.....	29.17951
STANDARD ERROR.....	1.03284
R*2 -STATISTIC.....	0.85371
R*2 CORRECTED.....	0.82446
DURBIN WATSON STATISTIC.	2.31903

```

AE THE STATISTICS (T-STAT, F-STAT, R*2 - STAT)
AE INDICATE THAT THE RESULTS ARE SIGNIFICANT (STANDARD TEXTS)

```

EQ2+'PRICE' REGRESS 'DEMAND,UNITC,1'  
WITH:

COEF/VALUE/ST ERR/T-STAT.....

1	0.21940	0.05673	3.86759
2	1.68975	0.13992	12.07639
3	-15.10435	3.48257	-4.33713

NO OF VARIABLES..... 2.000000  
NO OF OBSERVATIONS..... 13.000000  
SS DUE TO REGRESSION.... 29.53114  
SS DUE TO RESIDUALS..... 2.01809  
F-STATISTIC..... 73.16589  
STANDARD ERROR..... 0.44923  
R\*2 -STATISTIC..... 0.93603  
R\*2 CORRECTED..... 0.92324  
DURBIN WATSON STATISTIC. 1.83016

AE THE MODEL EQUATIONS CAN BE GROUPED TOGETHER AS A MODEL

BABYFOODMODEL+DMODEL 'EQ1,EQ2'

BABYFOODMODEL

DEMAND+ ( 0.71825 T BABIES ) P ( 766.62 T 1 D PRICE ) P ( -29.483  
T 1 )  
PRICE+ ( 0.2194 T DEMAND ) P ( 1.6898 T UNITC ) P ( -15.104 T 1 )

AE ERASE THE REGRESSGRP WHICH IS NO LONGER NEEDED  
)ERASE REGRESSGRP

)SAVE

14.44.04 06/08/76 EPLANDEM

AE THERE ARE TRANSLATION AND RETRANSLATION FACILITIES

)COPY EPL2 ADDENDUM

SAVED 11.41.33 06/08/76

AA CHANGE WIDTH FOR BETTER PRINTOUT

)WIDTH 70

WAS 65

RETRANS BABYFOODMODEL

DEMAND+ ( 0.71825 × BABIES ) + ( 766.62 × 1 ÷ PRICE ) + ( -29.483 × 1 )  
PRICE+ ( 0.2194 × DEMAND ) + ( 1.6898 × UNITC ) + ( -15.104 × 1 )

```

AE FORECASTING REQUIRES ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE
AE      EXOGENOUS VARIABLES (BABIES, UNITCOST)

AE FOLLOWED BY THE SOLUTION OF THE ESTIMATED MODEL FOR THE
AE      ENDOGENOUS VARIABLES (DEMAND, PRICE)

AE OVER THE FORECASTING HORIZON, SAY 4 QUARTERS STARTING
AE      IN 4TH QUARTER OF 1963
AE *****

AE RETAIN ONLY BASEGRP (OTHERWISE SYMBOL TABLE MAY HAVE TO
AE      BE ENLARGED)

)ERASE DISPLAYGRP PLOTGRP ADDENDUM

)COPY EPL2 SOLVEGRP
SAVED 11.41.33 06/08/76

)GRPS
BASEGRP SOLVEGRP

AE LET ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE NEXT YEAR BE
AE      BABIES...40 37 41 42
AE      UNITC ...16.6 17.1 17.3 17.6
AE THE FOUR QUARTERLY VALUES FOR DEMAND, PRICE WILL BE COMPUTED
AE      FROM THE MODEL


BABIES←BABIES,40 37 41 42
UNITC←UNITC,16.6 17.1 17.3 17.6

AA USE 6 DIGITS FOR PRINTING

)DIGITS 6
WAS 10
AE SAVE INITIAL DEMAND AND PRICE DATA
DEMAND0←DEMAND
PRICE0←PRICE


BABIES
784304 22 30 31 35 36 32 34 31 31 36 41 43 41 40 37 41 42

UNITC
784304 14.4 13.7 14.1 14.2 14.1 14.8 14.2 15.5 15.7 15.6 16.45 16.5
16.25 16.6 17.1 17.3 17.6

```



```

AE BEFORE INVOKING SOLUTION PROCEDURE, SET
AE CONVERGENCE, ITERATION, RELAXATION PARAMETERS
AE SUPPRESS SOLVE OUTPUT PARTIALLY

SOLVECON .005
SOLVEIT 500
SOLVEREL 1

OUTPUT 0

AE SOLVE BABYMODEL FOR DEMAND AND PRICE (WITH EXOGENOUS VARIABLES
AE BABIES AND UNITC) FOR NEXT FOUR QUARTERS
AE SET TIME FRAME BY MEANS OF ST

4 1963 4 ST 4 1964 3

'BABIES,UNITC' SOLVE BABYFOODMODEL
PER 4 1963 4 CONVERGED AT ITERATION 5

PER 4 1964 1 CONVERGED AT ITERATION 4

PER 4 1964 2 CONVERGED AT ITERATION 5

PER 4 1964 3 CONVERGED AT ITERATION 4

AE THE COMPUTATIONS (GAUSS-SEIDEL METHOD) WERE EXECUTED
AE TIME PERIOD BY TIME PERIOD, AND CONVERGED TO A SOLUTION

AE THE RESULTS ARE IN DEMAND AND PRICE

DEMAND
785604 35.9884 33.3681 35.1052 34.9984

PRICE
785604 20.8425 21.1125 21.8316 22.3151

)ERASE SOLVEGRP
)COPY EPL1 DISPLAYGRP PLOTGRP
INCORRECT COMMAND
)COPY EPL1 DISPLAYGRP
SAVED 11.42.06 06/08/76

10 5 9 3 TABULATE 'PRICE,DEMAND'

1963 4 1964 1 1964 2 1964 3

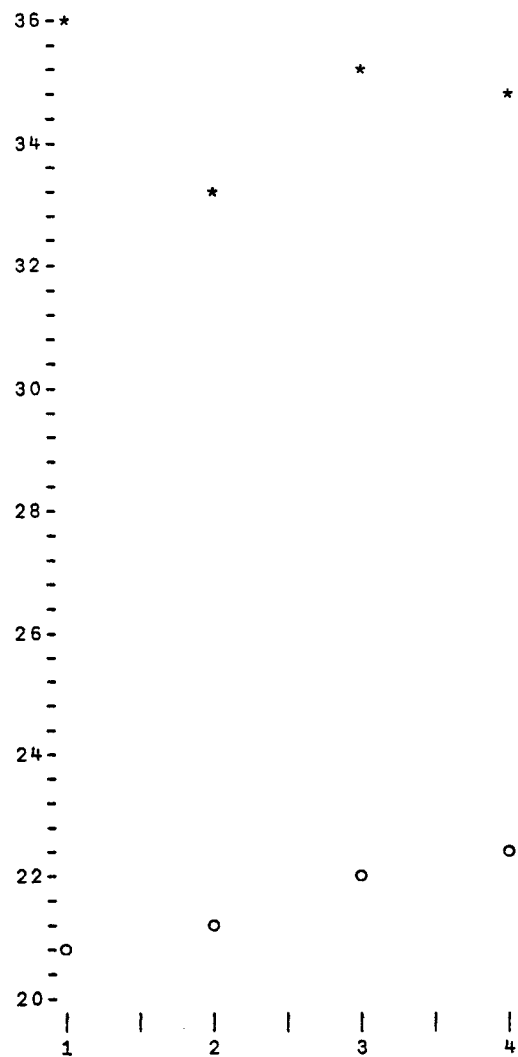
PRICE 20.843 21.113 21.832 22.315
DEMAND 35.988 33.368 35.105 34.998

```

AE PLOT NEWLY OBTAINED VALUES

A \*\*\*\*\*

40 50 10 PLOT 'PRICE, DEMAND'



ABSCISSA = TIME STARTING FROM 1963 4

o = PRICE

\* = DEMAND

AE USE TABULTEXT FOR TABLES WITH ROW AND COLUMN TEXT  
 A \*\*\*\*\*

TABHEAD+ 'VALUES OF TIME SERIES OVER FORECAST '  
 TABHEAD+TABHEAD, 'HORIZON'  
 TEXTDEMAND+ 'DEMAND'  
 TEXTPRICE+ 'PRICE'  
 TEXTBABIES+ 'BABIES'  
 TEXTUNITC+ 'UNIT-COST'

)COPY EPL2 TABULTEXT  
 SAVED 11.41.33 06/08/76

10 5 9 3 TABULTEXT 'DEMAND,PRICE,.,BABIES,UNITC'

VALUES OF TIME SERIES OVER FORECAST HORIZON

	1963 4	1964 1	1964 2	1964 3
DEMAND	35.988	33.368	35.105	34.998
PRICE	20.843	21.113	21.832	22.315
BABIES	40.000	37.000	41.000	42.000
UNIT-COST	16.600	17.100	17.300	17.600

AE CONSTRUCT DEMAND AND PRICE TIME SERIES FROM THIRD  
 AE QUARTER 1960 TO THIRD QUARTER 1964  
 AE BY CATENATION OF INITIAL SERIES WITH FINAL SERIES  
 AA (THE HEADER OF THE FINAL SERIES BEING DROPPED)

DEMAND+DEMAND0,1+DEMAND  
 PRICE+PRICE0,1+PRICE

DEMAND  
 784304 33 39 38 39 41 36 39 34 33 36 37 38 37 35.9884 33.3681 35.1052  
 34.9984  
 PRICE  
 784304 16.6 16.6 17.1 17.3 17.5 17.5 17.9 18.5 18.5 19 20.6 20.6 21.6  
 20.8425 21.1125 21.8316 22.3151

```

AE USE THE COMMAND CHANGE FOR CHANGING OF PERIODICITIES
AE THERE ARE THREE OPTIONS FOR COMPRESSION
AE TEN OPTIONS FOR EXPANDING OF PERIODICITY
A *****

```

```

AE COMPRESS TIME SERIES DEMAND TO ANNUAL SERIES
AE USING OPTION 1...AVERAGE VALUES

```

```
DEMA+1 1 CHANGE DEMAND
```

```
DISPLAY 'DEMA'
```

VARIABLE DEMA

PERIODICITY = 1

ORIGIN = 1960 1

NO OF ENTRIES = 5

TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
1960 1	36.00000	1963 1	36.99710
1961 1	38.50000	1964 1	34.49052
1962 1	35.50000		

```
AE CREATE A SEMI+ANNUAL TIME SERIES BY LINEAR INTERPOLATION
```

```
DEMSA+2 2 CHANGE DEMA
```

```
DISPLAY 'DEMSA'
```

VARIABLE DEMSA

PERIODICITY = 2

ORIGIN = 1960 1

NO OF ENTRIES = 10

TIME	VALUE	TIME	VALUE
1960 1	34.75000	1962 2	35.50000
1960 2	36.00000	1963 1	36.24855
1961 1	37.25000	1963 2	36.99710
1961 2	38.50000	1964 1	35.74381
1962 1	37.00000	1964 2	34.49052

AA POSSIBLE INTERRUPTS OF THE SYSTEM: SUGGESTIONS

A \*\*\*\*\*

AA SOME ERRORS LEAD TO A MESSAGE, BUT REQUIRE MERELY  
AA A CORRECT RESTATEMENT (IN THE FOLLOWING THE LEFT HAND  
AA ARGUMENT OF A FUNCTION IS MISSING)

TABULATE 'PRICE'  
SYNTAX ERROR  
TABULATE 'PRICE'  
^

---

AA OTHER ERRORS LEAD TO SUSPENSION OF EXECUTION WITHIN  
AA A FUNCTION, OR SEQUENCE OF FUNCTIONS  
AA ACTION: QUERY WITH )SI, CLEAR WITH : →

40 60 20 PLOT 'DEMAND'  
UNACCEPTABLE WIDTH  
DOMAIN ERROR  
ARGUMENT[4] →[+B[A-~\1;]  
^  
)SI  
ARGUMENT[4] \*  
PLOT[153]  
MPLOT[3]  
PLOT[5]

→  
)SI

---

AA COPYING MAY LEAD TO WORKSPACE OVERFLOW OR 'SYMBOL TABLE FULL'  
AA ACTION: REMOVE UNNEEDED GROUPS BY )ERASE  
AA OR: INCREASE SIZE OF SYMBOL TABLE IN CLEAR WS)

AE THE FOLLOWING PERTAINS TO APL/SV ONLY

)GRPS  
BASEGRP DISPLAYGRP PLOTGRP

)COPY EPL2 SOLVEGRP REGRESSGRP ADDENDUM  
SYMBOL TABLE FULL

)SAVE  
13.36.50 06/08/76 EPLANDEM  
)CLEAR

CLEAR WS  
)SYMBOLS 500  
WAS 256

)COPY EPLANDEM  
SAVED 13.36.50 06/08/76  
)COPY EPL2 SOLVEGRP REGRESSGRP ADDENDUM  
SAVED 7.08.31 03/02/76  
)WSID EPLANDEM

WAS CLEAR WS

)GRPS  
ADDENDUM BASEGRP DISPLAYGRP PLOTGRP REGRESSGRP SOLVEGRP