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Estimating Indirect Production Functions with a More General Specification: An Application of the Lewbel Model

Christiana E. Hilmer and Matthew T. Holt

Whereas consumer theory employs several different empirical specifications for estimating indirect utility functions, producer theory has relied on the Translog specification to estimate the indirect production function. In this paper, we apply Lewbel's more general functional specification and investigate its implications for the estimation of indirect production functions in productivity analysis. An attractive feature of the Lewbel model is that it nests both the Translog and the almost ideal supply system, offering a method to assess the empirical validity of all three specifications. Aggregate U.S. production data are used to examine the performance of the three models in an empirical application.

Key words: duality, indirect production function, nested test

JEL Classifications: C32, C52, Q12

A traditional undertaking in applied economics has been to understand and adequately characterize the structure of production for various industries at various stages of aggregation. Indeed, the motivation underlying some of the earliest quantitative work in economics was to relate productive inputs to output(s) in an empirically meaningful yet tractable way. Specifications such as the Cobb-Douglas and CES production functions were developed primarily to assist researchers in this process. Of course, the limitations of these models in terms of placing poten-

tially unwarranted a priori restrictions on the structure of the production process are now well known. In response, attempts have been made to posit functional specifications, such as Christensen, Jorgenson, and Lau's Translog model and Diewert's (1971) generalized Leontief, that place comparatively few a priori restrictions on the production function. These and similar functional specifications comprise the class of what are referred to as second-order (locally) flexible functional forms and have become the foundation of modern empirical production analysis (Chambers).

At much the same time that research on developing more realistic functional forms was taking place, another revolution was occurring in microeconomics. Specifically, the ability to adequately characterize production processes through the specification of appropriate dual formulations, such as the cost or profit functions, was fully realized and exploited (Blackorby, Primont, and Russell;

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Diewert 1971, 1974; Jorgensen and Lau 1974a,b). The advent of modern duality theory has also greatly affected the manner in which empirical production-related research has occurred, the result being that the cost function has become a mainstay of applied production economics research (see, e.g., Berndt and Khaled; Berndt and Wood; Christensen and Green).

Naturally the cost function is not the only dual relationship that can be fruitfully employed in production analysis. In recent years, the indirect production function, a function that is the inverse of the cost function, that is dual to the direct production function, and that has as its analog the indirect utility function in consumer theory, has also been explored. Empirical applications of the indirect production function have been reported (Appelbaum; Chambers and Lee; Gajanan and Ramaiah; Garofalo and Malhotra; Kim; Yuhn).

Although the assumptions embedded in an indirect production function (maximization of output subject to an expenditure constraint) differ from those implied by a cost function (minimization of expenditure subject to a production constraint), one advantage of the former is that both compensated and uncompensated factor demand elasticities can be readily obtained (Gajanan and Ramaiah). Another advantage of the indirect production function, at least where agricultural production is concerned, is that problems with including realized output in the cost function are effectively circumvented. As Pope and Just argue, the combination of biological lags and stochastic production inherent to agriculture makes including realized output in a cost function problematic. They propose a sophisticated scheme wherein the distance function that is dual to the cost function is utilized to obtain consistent estimates of expected output in a cost function framework. Their methodology is elegant and has appeal; however, production risk could also be handled directly by instead specifying a (stochastic) indirect production function, in which, as opposed to

cost minimization, output is endogenous and expenditure is exogenous.¹

Although progress has been made, all prior applications of indirect production functions have relied on the Translog specification, with the exception of Appelbaum.2 This general lack of functional "exploration" is, indeed, surprising. As noted previously, the indirect production function is the supply analog to the indirect utility function. As opposed to the single specification used to estimate most indirect production functions, numerous functional forms have been used to estimate indirect utility functions, including the Translog model. the almost ideal demand system (AIDS) of Deaton and Muellbauer, and Lewbel's hybrid model. The AIDS and Lewbel models have been embraced as appealing alternatives to the Translog in the consumer demand literature, in part because of their second-order flexibility, compatibility with demand theory, and relative ease of estimation. The properties that make these specifications appealing for estimating indirect utility functions should also make them appealing for estimating indirect production functions.

In this paper, we explore using Lewbel's model as an alternative specification for the indirect production function. An attractive feature of the Lewbel model is that it nests two additional models: the Translog and the supply analog to the AIDS, the almost ideal supply system (AISS). The nesting property of the Lewbel specification offers a method to assess the empirical validity of the Lewbel model relative to the Translog and the AISS. Similar to

¹ As Chambers and Lee suggest, there may be other valid reasons for using an indirect production function when agricultural data are employed. Specifically, because of the possibility of credit constraints, imperfect credit markets, or both, it may well be the case that agricultural producers maximize output subject to an input expenditure constraint, at least in the short run. See Kim for additional arguments in favor of using an indirect production function in lieu of a cost function.

² Appelbaum estimated a generalized Box-Cox specification of the indirect production function which, among other things, nests the generalized Leontief and the Translog as alternatives. This said, Appelbaum did not report any key parameter, elasticity, or other "structure of production" (e.g., total factor productivity) estimates for his model.

Chambers and Lee, and Pope and Just, we use aggregate U.S. time-series data for agricultural production in the empirical application. Although we find that the structural implications are similar across models, important discrepancies do exist, especially for expenditure elasticities (and, consequently, the elasticity of scale) and for implied rates of technical change, suggesting that in future, researchers might need to pay more attention to functional form when estimating indirect production functions.

The Indirect Production Function and Alternative Specifications

Consider a representative firm that uses an $n^* \times 1$ vector of productive inputs z in combination with a production function, $f(\cdot)$, to produce scalar (maximal) output y. Furthermore, assume that z can be portioned according to z = (x, K), in which x is an $n \times 1$ vector $(n = n^* - 1)$ of short-run variable inputs, and K denotes a scalar input (capital) that is fixed in the short run. The production process can then be more formally stated as

$$(1) y = f(x, K, t),$$

in which t is an index used to represent technological change. Some of the relevant regularity conditions associated with f(x, K, t) include that it is a nondecreasing, twice continuously differentiable, and quasi-concave function of x. Now, assume the vector of input prices associated with variable input vector x is given by w, a conformable $n \times 1$ vector. The linear relation

$$(2) e = \mathbf{w}^{\mathsf{T}} \mathbf{x}$$

then defines total expenditure e on short-run variable inputs x.

The indirect production function is obtained by maximizing output from Equation (1) subject to the outlay constraint in Equation (2). Specifically, the indirect production func-

tion dual to the direct production function of Equation (1) is given by

(3)
$$y = y(w, e, K, t)$$

= $\max_{x} [f(x, K, t) | w^{T}x \le e].$

Properties of y(w, e, K, t) include that it is continuous, nonincreasing in w and nondecreasing in e, and homogeneous of degree zero in w and e. By applying Roy's identity to the indirect production function of Equation (3), we obtain

(4)
$$x_i = -\frac{\partial y/\partial w_i}{\partial y/\partial e} = x_i^{\rm m}(w, e, K, t),$$
$$i = 1, \dots, n,$$

which is the set of Marshallian (uncompensated) factor demands. Among other things, the demands in Equation (4) will be homogeneous of degree zero in w and e. As Kim and others note, the cost function can be recovered from the indirect production function of Equation (3) by inversion—that is, by solving the indirect production function y = y(w, e, K, t) for e as

(5)
$$e = e(w, y, K, t)$$
.

By substituting Equation (5) for the expenditure term in demand system Equation (4), we obtain

(6)
$$x_i = x_i^b(w, y, K, t), i = 1, ..., n,$$

which is the system of Hicksian (compensated) factor demands, which are consistent with cost minimization. By exploiting the relationship between the system in Equation (4) and that in Equation (6), it is possible to obtain Marshallian and Hicksian elasticities of factor demands, as well as expenditure elasticities.

For purposes of econometric estimation, it is necessary to specify a functional form for indirect production function y(w, e, K, t). Roy's identity may then be applied, and the system of Marshallian factor demands can be derived and estimated. As noted previously, prior research on indirect production functions

³ A superscripted "T" denotes vector (matrix) transposition.

has relied almost exclusively on the Translog form. Here, we use Lewbel's model as the elemental specification for the indirect production function—a model, as we shall show, that has nested within its specification the Translog and AISS models.

A Lewbel-type indirect production function can be defined as the logarithmic transformation

(7)
$$y(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t)$$

$$= \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} \left[\ln e \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} \right) - \ln g(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t) \right].$$

In Equation (7), $\ln g(w, e, K, t)$ is defined by

(8)
$$\ln g(w, e, K, t)$$

$$= \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i \ln w_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_{ij} \ln w_i \ln w_j$$

$$+ V_i t + t \sum_{i=1}^n V_i \ln w_i + B_{te} t \ln e$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} V_{tt} t^2 + H_k K + H_{kK} K^2$$

$$+ K \sum_{i=1}^n J_i \ln w_i + \chi_k K \ln e.$$

The indirect production function should, of course, be homogeneous of degree zero in factor prices and expenditure and symmetric in second-order price terms as well. Additionally, because we will be estimating share equations, adding-up restrictions are needed. These properties are satisfied by imposing the following parametric restrictions on Equations (7) and (8):

(9a)
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i = 1$$
, $\sum_{i=1}^{n} B_i = 0$, $\sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} = 0$,

(9b)
$$\beta_{ij} = \beta_{ji}$$
 for all i and j ,

(9c)
$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} V_i = B_i$$
, and $\sum_{i=1}^{n} J_i = \chi_k$.

Finally, to guarantee convergence, we use the additional identifying restriction that $\alpha_0 = 0$.

By imposing the restrictions in Equation (9) on the model in Equations (7) and (8) and by applying the logarithmic version of Roy's identity to the resulting model, the following share equation system is obtained:⁴

(10)
$$S_{i} = \left\{ \alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + tV_{i} + KJ_{i} - \ln e \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} + B_{i} \left[\ln e \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta_{jk} \ln w_{j} \right) - \ln g(w, e, K, t) \right] \right\}$$

$$\div \left(1 - B_{i}t - \chi_{k}K + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta_{jk} \ln w_{j} \right),$$

in which i = 1, ..., n, $\ln g(w, e, K, t)$ is as defined in Equation (8), and S_i is the expenditure share for the *i*th input. Because of adding up, $\sum_{i=1}^{n} S_i = 1$. The share equation system of Equation (10), the indirect production function in Equations (7) and (8), and the parameter restrictions in Equation (9) comprise the Lewbel indirect production function model. This system provides a flexible way of modeling factor demands that, moreover, allows for nonhomothetic technology.

As already noted, the Lewbel model nests within its parameterization both the AISS and Translog models. Specifically, the share equation system for the AISS is expressed as

(11)
$$S_{i} = \left\{ \alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + tV_{i} + KJ_{i} + B_{i} [\ln e - \ln g(w, e, K, t)] \right\}$$

$$\div (1 - B_{i}t - \chi_{k}K), \quad i = 1, \ldots, n.$$

The AISS in Equation (11) is derived from the Lewbel-type indirect production function in Equations (7) and (8) by imposing, along with the restrictions in Equation (9), the additional restrictions that $\sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{i,j} = 0$ for all *i*. Alternatively, the Translog model can be derived

⁴ Share equations are derived in Appendix 1.

⁵ Note that $S_i = w_i x_i / e = -\{\partial \ln g(w, C, K, t) / \partial \ln w_i \} / [\partial \ln g(w, C, K, t) / \partial \ln C].$

from Equations (7) and (8) by imposing the additional restrictions that $B_i = 0$ for all i. The resulting share equation system is then

(12)
$$S_{i} = \left(\alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + tV_{i} + KJ_{i} - \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln e\right)$$

$$\div \left(1 - B_{i}t - \chi_{k}K + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta_{jk} \ln w_{j}\right),$$

$$i = 1, \ldots, n.$$

The share equation system in Equation (12) is therefore similar to the Translog inverse production function system estimated by Chambers and Lee, Kim, and Gajanan and Ramaiah, among others.

To assess the implications of each model with respect to the underlying "structure of production," it is useful to examine various elasticity measures. As previously noted, it is possible to obtain from the inverse production function model estimates of Marshallian (uncompensated), Hicksian (compensated), and expenditure elasticities. We can relate expenditure elasticities to the elasticity of scale as well. The Hicksian (uncompensated) price elasticities of input demand are

(13)
$$\varepsilon_{ij}^{u} = -\delta_{ij} + \frac{\beta_{ij} + B_{i} \left(\sum_{k} \beta_{jk} \ln e - \alpha_{j} - \sum_{k} \beta_{jk} \ln w_{k} - tV_{j} - KJ_{j} \right) - S_{i} \sum_{k} B_{jk}}{S_{i} \left(1 - B_{T}t - X_{k}K + \sum_{k} \sum_{l} B_{kl} \ln w_{k} \right)},$$

(14)
$$\varepsilon_{ij}^{u} = -\delta_{ij} + \frac{B_{ij} - B_{i} \left(\alpha_{j} + \sum_{k} B_{jk} \ln w_{k} + tV_{j} + KJ_{j}\right)}{S_{i}(1 - B_{T}t - X_{k}K)},$$

(15)
$$\varepsilon_{ij}^{u} = -\delta_{ij} + \frac{B_{ij} - S_{i} \sum_{k} B_{jk}}{S_{i} \left(1 - B_{T}t - X_{k}K + \sum_{k} \sum_{l} B_{kl} \ln w_{k}\right)},$$

for, respectively, the Lewbel, AISS, and Translog models, in which δ_{ij} is a Kronecker delta such that its value equals 1 if i = j and 0

otherwise. The expenditure elasticities of input demand for the Lewbel, AISS, and Translog models are

(16)
$$\varepsilon_{iE} = 1 + \frac{B_i \left(1 + \sum_{k} \sum_{j} B_{jk} \ln w_j - B_T t - X_K K\right) - \sum_{k} B_{ik}}{S_i \left(1 - B_T t - X_k K + \sum_{k} \sum_{j} B_{kj} \ln w_k\right)},$$

(17)
$$\varepsilon_{iE} = 1 + \frac{B_i}{S_i},$$

(18)
$$\varepsilon_{iE} = 1 + \frac{\sum_{k} B_{ik}}{S_i \left(1 - B_T t - X_k K + \sum_{k} \sum_{i} B_{ki} \ln w_k\right)}.$$

With the use of the Slutsky decomposition to combine these elasticities and the relevant factor share, the compensated own- and crossprice elasticities are

(19)
$$\varepsilon_{ij}^{c} = \varepsilon_{ij}^{u} + S_{j}\varepsilon_{iE}$$

Turning to the effect of technology on production, the rate of technical change for the Lewbel and AISS production functions is measured by

(20)
$$\varepsilon_{YT} = \prod_{k} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} \left(-V_{t} - \sum_{k} V_{k} \ln w_{k} - B_{t} \ln E - W_{tt} \right) \frac{t}{y},$$

and the rate of technical change for the Translog production function is measured by

(21)
$$\varepsilon_{\rm YT} = \left(-V_t - \sum_k V_k \ln w_k - B_t \ln E - V_{tt} t\right) \frac{t}{y}.$$

The input bias in technical change for the three models is measured by

(22)
$$b_{i} = \frac{t \left[V_{i} - B_{i} \left(V_{T} + \sum_{k} V_{k} \ln w_{k} + B_{t} \ln E + V_{TT} t \right) \right] + S_{i} B_{T}}{S_{i} \left(1 - B_{T} t - X_{k} K + \sum_{k} \sum_{i} B_{k} \ln w_{k} \right)},$$

(23)
$$b_{i} = \frac{t \left[V_{i} - B_{i} \left(V_{t} + \sum_{k} V_{k} \ln w_{k} + B_{t} \ln E + V_{tt} t \right) \right] + S_{i} B_{T} t}{S_{i} (1 - B_{T} t - X_{k} K)},$$

(24)
$$b_i = \frac{tV_i + S_i B_T t}{S_i \left(1 - B_T t - X_k K + \sum_k \sum_l B_{kl} \ln w_k\right)}$$

According to Kim, if technical change is occurring, $\varepsilon_{\rm YT}$ will be positive. Furthermore, if $b_i > 0$, input i is technology intensive; if $b_i = 0$, input i is technology neutral; and if $b_i < 0$, input i is technology saving.

Data Description and Empirical Results

To explore the potential usefulness of the three functional forms, we estimate the Lewbel, AISS, and Translog models with an updated version of the familiar data on U.S. agricultural production found in Ball et al.⁶ These data consist of time series observations on U.S. aggregate agricultural output that combine fuel and electricity (F); feed, seed, and

livestock (S); chemicals (C); other intermediate inputs (I); labor (L); and fixed input capital (K) for the period $1948-2002.^7$ Data are aggregated by the Divisia indexing method, with the base year defined as 1996.

Each model was estimated by maximum likelihood estimation subject to the parameter restrictions imposed by symmetry and homogeneity. Each variable also was normalized to unity at its respective mean. Because the full set of share equations sums to one, a singular variance-covariance matrix would result if all five equations were included in the estimation procedure. Consequently, during estimation, we dropped the labor equation so that five equations, the indirect production function,

⁶ We are indebted to Eldon Ball for providing us with additional years of data beyond that available in the 1997 paper.

⁷ See Ball et al. for an excellent description of the original data sources as well as the methods used to construct the subcategory indices.

Table 1. Estimated Compensated Elasticities^a

Lewbel Model			AISS Model			Translog Model		
Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error
$arepsilon_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.3729*	0.0469*	$\epsilon_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.3493*	0.0426*	$\epsilon_{ t FF}$	-0.2900*	0.0528
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{FS}}$	-0.0274	0.0945	$\varepsilon_{ ext{PS}}$	-0.0573	0.0572	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FS}}$	0.1662*	0.0698
$oldsymbol{arepsilon_{FC}}$	0.0481	0.1024	$arepsilon_{ ext{PC}}$	0.0247	0.0445	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FC}}$	0.0647	0.0535
$\epsilon_{ m FI}$	0.3396*	0.0546*	$\epsilon_{ m FI}$	0.3083*	0.0565*	$oldsymbol{arepsilon_{Fl}}$	0.2598*	0.0574
$\epsilon_{ t FL}$	0.0126	0.1886	$arepsilon_{ extsf{FL}}$	0.0736	0.0694	$arepsilon_{ extsf{FL}}$	0.1317	0.0837
$\epsilon_{ m SF}$	0.0179	0.0187	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SF}}$	-0.0095	0.0094	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SF}}$	-0.0271*	0.0114
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{SS}}$	-0.6447*	0.0543*	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SS}}$	-0.4488*	0.0274*	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{SS}}$	-0.4267*	0.0356
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SC}}$	-0.2044*	0.0491*	$\varepsilon_{ ext{SC}}$	-0.0053	0.0190	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SC}}$	-0.0599*	0.0264
$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SI}}$	0.4401*	0.0463*	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SI}}$	0.4781*	0.0205*	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SI}}$	0.5303*	0.0252
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{SL}}$	0.3912*	0.0958*	$\epsilon_{ m SL}$	-0.0144	0.0289	$arepsilon_{\mathrm{SL}}$	-0.0166	0.0501
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CF}}$	0.0679	0.0470	ϵ_{CF}	0.0144	0.0309	ϵ_{CF}	0.0443	0.0366
ε _{CS}	-0.3559	0.1702	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CS}}$	-0.0122	0.0783	ϵ_{CS}	-0.2516*	0.1109
$\varepsilon_{\rm CC}$	-1.1768*	0.3169*	ϵ_{cc}	-0.7218*	0.0821*	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CC}}$	-1.0244*	0.1160
$arepsilon_{ ext{CI}}$	0.1574	0.1423	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{CI}}$	0.5902*	0.0695*	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CI}}$	0.3892*	0.0934
$arepsilon_{ ext{CL}}$	1.3074*	0.4988*	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CL}}$	0.1295*	0.1055*	$arepsilon_{ ext{CL}}$	0.8425*	0.1838
$\varepsilon_{ ext{if}}$	0.0395*	0.0073*	$\varepsilon_{ ext{if}}$	0.0268*	0.0050*	$\epsilon_{ ext{if}}$	0.0229*	0.0050
$\epsilon_{ ext{IS}}$	0.2229*	0.0263*	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IS}}^-$	0.2595*	0.0111*	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IS}}$	0.2865*	0.0136
$\epsilon_{ m IC}$	-0.0351	0.0416	$\varepsilon_{ m iC}$	0.0751*	0.0085*	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IC}}$	0.0501*	0.0120
$\varepsilon_{_{\rm II}}$	-0.5037*	0.0319*	ε_{Π}	-0.4469*	0.0148*	επ	-0.4652*	0.0158
$arepsilon_{ m IL}$	0.2764*	0.0830*	επ	0.0857*	0.0192*	$arepsilon_{ ext{IL}}^-$	0.1057*	0.0274
$arepsilon_{ m LF}$	-0.0461	0.0327	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LF}}$	0.0133	0.0115	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LF}}$	0.0212	0.0135
ε_{LS}	0.3575*	0.0924*	$\varepsilon_{ ext{LS}}$	-0.0189	0.0298	$\varepsilon_{ ext{LS}}$	-0.0164	0.0495
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{IC}}$	0.5724*	0.1385*	$\epsilon_{ m ic}$	0.0339	0.0237	$\epsilon_{ m IC}$	0.1984*	0.0433
$\epsilon_{ ext{LI}}$	0.4292*	0.1317*	$\epsilon_{ ext{LI}}$	0.1565*	0.0367*	$\epsilon_{ ext{LI}}$	0.1933*	0.0502
$\varepsilon_{ ext{LL}}$	-1.3131*	0.2737*	$\epsilon_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.1848*	0.0602*	$\varepsilon_{ m LL}$	-0.3965*	0.1106

^{*} An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level.

and four remaining share equations are jointly estimated for each of the three models. As autocorrelation was found in the initial estimates, the models were re-estimated by Berndt-Savin, Moschini-Moro, and symmetric R autocorrelation correction methods. The results presented below are from the asymmetric R specification, which had the highest log likelihood values.

Looking first at overall goodness of fit, we find that each of the three models have R^2 values above .94 and system R^2 values due to Buse ranging from .9626 for the AISS system to .9715 for the Lewbel system. Given that the measures of fit are very similar, it is instructive to look for potential differences and similari-

ties in the three functional forms with the various elasticities mentioned above. Compensated own- and cross-price elasticities calculated at the data means by Equation (19) for each of the models are presented in Table 1.9 Estimated own-price elasticities for all three models are negative and significant, suggesting that the inputs all follow the law of factor demand. At the same time, the estimated cross-price elasticities are nearly all positive, suggesting that the five inputs are substitutes. The two statistically significant exceptions are found in the Translog specification, in which the demand for fuels and electricity decreases

⁸ Parameter estimates for each of the three models can be found in Appendix 2.

⁹ Allen elasticities of substitution were also estimated. However, these values are not reported because they contain the same information as the compensated elasticities.

Table 2.	Estimated	Own-Price	Compensated	Elasticities a	at Different	Normalizations ^a
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Lewbel Model			AISS Model			Translog Model			
Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	
Mean of 1	1948–1952								
$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.2643*	0.0559	$\epsilon_{ t FF}$	-0.1828*	0.0644	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.1472	0.0773	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SS}}$	-0.5861*	0.0432	$\epsilon_{ ext{SS}}$	-0.4525*	0.0246	$\varepsilon_{ ext{SS}}$	-0.4268*	0.0314	
$\epsilon_{ m cc}$	-1.5640*	0.7777	$arepsilon_{ ext{CC}}$	-0.4899*	0.1851	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{CC}}$	-1.2631*	0.2685	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{II}}$	-0.5357*	0.0383	ϵ_{II}	-0.4797*	0.0193	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{II}}$	-0.4925*	0.0189	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-1.3138*	0.2678	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ t LL}$	-0.2361*	0.0562	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.4247*	0.0983	
Mean of I	1973–1977								
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{FF}}$	-0.2822*	0.0536	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.2658*	0.0492	$arepsilon_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.1762*	0.0621	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{SS}}$	-0.6051*	0.0441	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{SS}$	-0.4551*	0.0246	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SS}}$	-0.4273*	0.0307	
ϵ_{CC}	-1.1200*	0.2626	$\epsilon_{\rm cc}$	-0.7384*	0.0716	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CC}}$	-0.9908*	0.0995	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\Pi}$	-0.4991*	0.0313	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{II}}$	-0.4492*	0.0144	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{II}}$	-0.4629	0.0160	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-1.3295*	0.2984	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{i.L}}$	-0.1515*	0.0664	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{LL}}$	-0.3460*	0.1225	
Mean of 1	1998–2002								
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.3775*	0.0459	$\epsilon_{ ext{\tiny FF}}$	-0.3498*	0.0414	$\epsilon_{ ext{\tiny FF}}$	-0.3220*	0.0493	
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{SS}}$	-0.7215*	0.0761	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SS}}$	-0.4248*	0.0375	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{SS}}$	-0.4131*	0.0489	
$\epsilon_{\rm cc}$	-1.0844*	0.2201	$\epsilon_{\rm CC}$	-0.7531*	0.0624	ε _{cc}	-0.9586*	0.0802	
$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\Pi}$	-0.4917*	0.0312	$\epsilon_{ ext{II}}$	-0.4330*	0.0149	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\mathrm{II}}$	-0.4496*	0.0142	
$arepsilon_{ m LL}$	-1.3235*	0.2716	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{LL}}$	-0.2077*	0.0741	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.4102*	0.1112	

^{*} An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level.

with respect to the price of feed, seed, and livestock, and the demand for feed, seed, and livestock decreases with respect to the price of fuels and electricity. In addition to testing whether the results conform to production theory, the compensated elasticities can be used to determine whether the indirect production function is quasi-convex. The eigenvalues of the matrix of substitution elasticities (calculated at the data means) for the Lewbel, AISS, and Translog models indicate that this matrix is negative semidefinite, suggesting that all three specifications satisfy the curvature restriction implied by supply theory (Chalfant, Gray, and White).

As already mentioned, the elasticity results discussed so far have been obtained at the data means. Because it is possible that the calculated elasticities differ at different points in the distribution, we renormalized the data at different points and recalculated the elasticities to check for potential cross-distribution differences. Specifically, instead of the mean, we normalized on the first five, the middle five,

and the last five data points. In interest of space, only the own-price compensated elasticities are presented in Table 2. As expected, the own-price elasticities are all negative and statistically significant with one exception, the own-price compensated elasticity for fuels and electricity at the beginning of the data for the Translog model. The magnitudes of the own-price elasticities across the different specifications are similar.

A well-known aspect of compensated elasticities is that they isolate input price effects without considering the expenditure effects that accompany changes in input prices. To jointly consider both effects, we calculate the uncompensated elasticities in Table 3. As expected, the estimated own-price elasticities are all negative for each of the three models. Turning to cross-price elasticities, the estimated uncompensated values in Table 3 differ markedly from their compensated counterparts in Table 1. Many of the uncompensated elasticities are negative, suggesting that when the expenditure effect is accounted for, the majority of inputs

Table 3. Estimated Uncompensated Elasticities^a

Lewbel Model			AISS Model			Translog Model			
Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	
ε _{FF}	-0.4179*	0.0447	$\varepsilon_{ m FF}$	-0.3882*	0.0417	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.3323*	0.0525	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{FS}}$	-0.3036	0.1607	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{FS}}$	-0.2963*	0.0727	$arepsilon_{ ext{FS}}$	-0.4263*	0.0941	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FC}}$	-0.0177	0.1179	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FC}}$	-0.0322	0.0442	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FC}}$	0.0028	0.0576	
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{FI}}$	-0.1715	0.1553	$oldsymbol{arepsilon_{FI}}$	-0.1339*	0.0558	$\epsilon_{ m FI}$	-0.2216*	0.0738	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FL}}$	-0.2667*	0.1304	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FL}}$	-0.1681*	0.0800	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{FL}}$	-0.1314	0.0735	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SF}}$	-0.0439*	0.0168	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SF}}$	-0.0496*	0.0090	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SF}}$	-0.0668*	0.0109	
$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SS}}$	-1.0241*	0.0778	$\epsilon_{ m ss}$	-0.6951*	0.0340	$\varepsilon_{ ext{SS}}$	-0.6710*	0.0443	
ϵ_{SC}	-0.2948*	0.0539	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon_{\mathrm{SC}}}$	-0.0639*	0.0189	$\varepsilon_{ ext{SC}}$	-0.1181*	0.0279	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SI}}$	-0.2619*	0.0661	$arepsilon_{ ext{SI}}$	0.0222	0.0258	$\varepsilon_{ ext{SI}}$	0.0782*	0.0362	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SL}}$	0.0076	0.0803	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{SL}}$	-0.2636*	0.0303	$arepsilon_{ ext{SL}}$	-0.2637*	0.0432	
$arepsilon_{ ext{CF}}$	-0.0034	0.0370	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CF}}$	-0.0539	0.0295	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CF}}$	-0.0313	0.0374	
ϵ_{CS}	-0.7938*	0.3133	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CS}}$	-0.4317*	0.1049	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CS}}$	-0.7155*	0.1474	
$\epsilon_{\rm cc}$	-1.2811*	0.3521	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CC}}$	-0.8217*	0.0808	$arepsilon_{ ext{CC}}$	-1.1349*	0.1255	
$\varepsilon_{ ext{CI}}$	-0.6531*	0.3507	$\epsilon_{ ext{CI}}$	-0.1861*	0.0925	$arepsilon_{ ext{CI}}$	-0.4692*	0.1500	
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{CL}}$	0.8646*	0.3604	$\epsilon_{ m CL}$	-0.2948*	0.1187	$\epsilon_{ ext{CL}}$	0.3733*	0.1473	
$\epsilon_{ ext{IF}}$	-0.0101	0.0062	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IF}}$	-0.0157*	0.0048	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IF}}$	-0.0149*	0.0051	
$\epsilon_{ ext{IS}}$	-0.0816	0.0513	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{IS}}$	-0.0012	0.0165	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IS}}$	0.0548*	0.0203	
$\epsilon_{ m iC}$	-0.1076*	0.0477	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IC}}$	0.0130	0.0088	$\epsilon_{ ext{iC}}$	-0.0051	0.0132	
ϵ_{Π}	-1.0672*	0.0703	$\varepsilon_{ m II}$	-0.9294*	0.0201	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\mathrm{II}}$	-0.8941*	0.0246	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IL}}$	-0.0315	0.0617	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IL}}$	-0.1780*	0.0201	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{IL}}$	-0.1288*	0.0226	
$\varepsilon_{ ext{LF}}^-$	-0.0313	0.0315	$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{LF}}$	-0.0080	0.0113	$arepsilon_{ ext{LF}}$	-0.0068	0.0132	
$\varepsilon_{ ext{LS}}$	0.4485*	0.1450	ε_{LS}	0.1498*	0.0408	$arepsilon_{ ext{LS}}$	-0.1884*	0.0696	
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ m IC}$	0.5941*	0.1516	$arepsilon_{ m IC}$	0.0027	0.0249	$\epsilon_{ m IC}$	0.1574*	0.0480	
$arepsilon_{ ext{LI}}$	0.5976*	0.2074	$\varepsilon_{ ext{LI}}$	-0.0858	0.0539	$\epsilon_{\rm LI}$	-0.1250	0.0871	
$\varepsilon_{ ext{LL}}$	-1.2211*	0.2263	$arepsilon_{ m LL}$	-0.3173*	0.0602	$arepsilon_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.5704*	0.0898	

^a An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level.

are complements. The difference in sign between the compensated and uncompensated elasticities is consistent with previous findings by Gajanan and Ramaiah and Kim. 10 There are three statistically significant positive crossprice uncompensated elasticities in the Lewbel specification and two statistically significant positive cross-price uncompensated elasticities in the Translog specification. As with the compensated elasticities, we obtained uncompensated elasticities for three different normalizations of the data. The results are recorded in Table 4. All of the own-price uncompensated elasticities are negative and statistically significant, which implies that the Marshallian demands slope downward.

Table 5 presents the estimated expenditure elasticities for the Lewbel, AISS, and Translog models of Equations (16), (17), and (18), respectively. Economic theory suggests that most of these elasticities should be positive because firms should increase the amount of all inputs used in response to increases in expenditure. Over each of the three models, all inputs have a positive sign and are generally statistically significant. The one exception is for labor in the Lewbel specification, which is not statistically different from zero. The expenditure elasticity for labor is less than one in the AISS and Translog specification, suggesting that labor is expenditure inelastic. Conversely, the expenditure elasticities for fuels and electricity; feed, seed, and livestock; and chemicals are all greater than one, suggesting that those inputs are expenditure elas-

On the basis of the sign differences, Gajanan and Ramaiah caution policy makers to consider uncompensated rather than compensated elasticities.

Table 4. Estimated Own-Price Uncompensated Elasticities at Different Normalizations^a

Lewbel Model			AISS Model			Translog Model		
Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error
Mean of 1	1948–1952							
$\epsilon_{ m FF}$	-0.3048*	0.0542	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.2135*	0.0634	$\epsilon_{ m FF}$	-0.1833*	0.0774
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{SS}}$	-1.0218*	0.0706	ϵ_{SS}	-0.7345*	0.0317	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{SS}}$	-0.7019*	0.0389
ε _{cc}	-1.6408*	0.8199	ϵ_{CC}	-0.5594*	0.1836	$\epsilon_{ m cc}$	-1.3458*	0.2794
$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\mathrm{II}}$	-1.0811*	0.0825	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\mathrm{H}}$	-0.9166*	0.0231	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\Pi}$	-0.8800*	0.0282
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-1.2156*	0.2089	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.4399*	0.0558	$arepsilon_{ m LL}$	-0.6434*	0.0770
Mean of 1	1973–1977							
$arepsilon_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.3220*	0.0519	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{PF}}$	-0.2998*	0.0482	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.2133*	0.0621
ϵ_{ss}	-1.0165*	0.0680	ϵ_{SS}	-0.7276*	0.0317	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ extsf{SS}}$	-0.6983*	0.0389
ε _{CC}	-1.2333*	0.2987	$arepsilon_{ ext{CC}}$	-0.8464*	0.0702	$\epsilon_{ m cc}$	-1.1110*	0.1088
ε_{π}	-1.0666*	0.0700	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\Pi}$	-0.9335*	0.0204	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\Pi}$	-0.8924*	0.0250
$arepsilon_{ m LL}$	-1.1975*	0.2523	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.2599*	0.0656	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.4880*	0.1016
Mean of 1	1998-2002							
$\epsilon_{ m FF}$	-0.4211*	0.0441	$\epsilon_{ m FF}$	-0.3885*	0.0405	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{FF}}$	-0.3646*	0.0487
$\varepsilon_{\mathrm{ss}}$	-1.0357*	0.0962	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\mathrm{SS}}$	-0.6278*	0.0435	$\epsilon_{ m ss}$	-0.6134*	0.0577
$\varepsilon_{\rm CC}$	-1.2061*	0.2493	$\epsilon_{ m cc}$	-0.8708*	0.0605	ϵ_{cc}	-1.0851*	0.0886
ε_{Π}	-1.0612*	0.0651	$\boldsymbol{arepsilon}_{\Pi}$	-0.9377*	0.0195	$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon_{\Pi}}$	-0.9040*	0.0227
$arepsilon_{ m LL}$	-1.2746*	0.2303	$arepsilon_{ ext{LL}}^{ ext{}}$	-0.3325*	0.0789	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{LL}}$	-0.5863*	0.0914

^a An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level.

tic. The expenditure elasticity for other inputs is expenditure elastic for the Lewbel and AISS models, whereas it is unit elastic in the Translog model. These results differ from those of Chambers and Lee, who find that all expenditure elasticities are positive and close to one.¹¹

Table 6 investigates the effect of techno-

logical innovation by computing the rates of technical change in Equations (20) and (21) and the input bias terms in Equations (22), (23), and (24). The estimated rate of technical change is positive and significant for the Lewbel and Translog specification, implying that, on average, technology increased during the period from 1948 to 2002, whereas it is not statistically different from zero for the AISS specification. The bottom panel of Table 6 suggests that fuels and electricity were technology neutral and that labor was technology saving for all three models. Finally, the AISS

Table 5. Estimated Expenditure Elasticities^a

		Estimate						
Elasticity	Lewbel Model	AISS Model	Translog Model					
Fuels and electricity	1.1774* (0.3132)	1.0188* (0.1122)	1.1089* (0.1502)					
Feed, seed, and livestock	1.6170* (0.1181)	1.0500* (0.0486)	1.0413* (0.0542)					
Chemicals	1.8669* (0.6547)	1.7882* (0.1901)	1.9775* (0.2519)					
Other inputs	1.2979* (0.1167)	1.1113* (0.0355)	0.9881* (0.0361)					
Labor	-0.3878 (0.2801)	0.5582* (0.0883)	0.7332* (0.1084)					

An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level. Standard errors are in parentheses.

Our results are not directly comparable to the findings in Chambers and Lee because we treat capital as a fixed input and estimate a short-run model, whereas they allow capital to vary and hence estimate a long-run model.

	Estimate						
Elasticity	Lewbel Model	AISS Model	Translog Model				
Technical change Bias	0.3070* (0.0590)	0.0434 (0.1971)	0.2128* (0.0671)				
Fuels and electricity	0.0757 (0.2495)	0.0230 (0.1005)	-0.1033 (0.2579)				
Feed, seed, and livestock	0.0739 (0.0909)	0.1510* (0.0455)	0.2574 (0.1309)				
Chemicals	-0.9862 (0.6558)	0.2958* (0.1506)	-0.6277 (0.9228)				
Other inputs	-0.0249 (0.1246)	0.2421* (0.0448)	0.7155* (0.1359)				
Labor	-0.8214* (0.3110)	-0.7315* (0.2787)	-1.2108* (0.3693)				

Table 6. Estimated Technical Change and Technical Bias Elasticities^a

model indicates that feed, seed, and livestock; chemicals; and other inputs were technology intensive, whereas the Lewbel model indicates that these inputs were technology neutral. The Translog model suggests that fuels and electricity; feed, seed, and livestock; and chemicals were technology neutral, whereas other inputs were technology intensive. Table 7 presents rates of technical change and input bias for the Lewbel, AISS, and Translog models that have been normalized on the beginning. middle, and end sections of the data. The three models generally do not agree regarding statistical significance over the different normalizations. In this case, the conclusions drawn about the effect of technology depend critically on which specification is chosen.

The empirical results from the three potential indirect production functions are generally consistent with production theory. This suggests that the Lewbel and AISS models are indeed potentially attractive alternatives to the Translog model for future work in production economics. As previously mentioned, the Lewbel model nests both the AISS and the Translog indirect production functions, thereby providing a simple likelihood ratio test of the relative goodness of fit of the three models. This test is based on comparing the log-likelihood functions for each of the three models to determine whether any are statistically superior to the others. Evaluated at the data means, the log-likelihood functions for the Lewbel, AISS, and Translog models, respectively, are 1,111.25, 1,102.16, and 1,105.6. Because the Lewbel specification has four more parameters than the AISS and the Tran-

slog, there are four degrees of freedom for the likelihood ratio tests. Hence, likelihood ratio tests reject the null hypothesis of equality between the Lewbel and AISS models at the 1% significance level and the Lewbel and Translog models at the 5% significance level. In other words, our results provide evidence to suggest that although all three models are consistent with production theory, the Lewbel model might be statistically superior to the AISS and Translog models. These results are consistent with expectations given the additional flexibility of the Lewbel specification and that studies in the demand literature find that the Lewbel model is statistically superior to the AIDS and Translog models (see Eales; Wang, Halbrendt, and Johnson; Yen and Chern).

Conclusion

Although consumer theory employs several different empirical specifications for estimating indirect utility functions, producer theory has relied on the Translog specification to estimate the analogous indirect production function. In this study, we are the first to employ two alternative specifications, the Lewbel and AISS, to estimate a standard indirect production function. Using time series data on U.S. agricultural production, we find that all three models produce estimated elasticities that generally conform to production theory. Thus, we conclude that all three are potentially valuable approaches to estimating indirect production functions. However, likelihood ratio tests, because the Lewbel model nests the remaining

^{*} An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level. Standard errors are in parentheses.

Table 7. Estimated Technical Change and Technical Bias Elasticities at Different Normalizations^a

Lewbel Model				AISS Model			Translog Model			
Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error	Elasticity	Estimate	Standard Error		
Mean of 1	1948–1952									
$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{YT}}$	0.0860*	0.0296	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{YT}}$	0.1335*	0.0401	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{YT}}$	0.0230	0.0280		
$b_{ m F}$	0.0217	0.0561	$b_{\scriptscriptstyle m F}$	0.0055	0.0154	$b_{ m F}$	-0.0215	0.0448		
$\dot{b_{\mathrm{S}}}$	0.0103	0.0134	b_{s}	0.0180*	0.0040	b_{s}	0.0308	0.0177		
$b_{\rm C}$	-0.3567	0.2506	b_{C}	0.2286*	0.0511	$m{b}_{ extsf{C}}$	-0.1963	0.2806		
$b_{\rm I}$	-0.0023	0.0263	$b_{\rm I}$	0.0408*	0.0076	$oldsymbol{b}_{ ext{ iny I}}$	0.1122*	0.0193		
$b_{\rm L}$	-0.1329*	0.0439	$oldsymbol{b}_{ t L}$	-0.0958*	0.0322	$m{b}_{\mathtt{L}}$	-0.1501*	0.0444		
Mean of	1973–1977									
$oldsymbol{arepsilon_{YT}}$	0.3389*	0.0665	$oldsymbol{arepsilon}_{ ext{YT}}$	0.0401	0.2025	$oldsymbol{arepsilon_{ m YT}}$	0.2250*	0.0711		
$oldsymbol{b_{ ext{F}}}$	0.1131	0.2969	$b_{ m F}$	0.0274	0.1154	$b_{ m F}$	-0.1254	0.3034		
b_{s}	0.0576	0.0844	b_{s}	0.1350*	0.0415	b_{S}	0.2375*	0.1190		
b_{C}	-0.8960	0.5829	$b_{ m c}$	0.2536	0.1317	$m{b}_{ m C}$	-0.5489	0.8103		
$b_{\rm I}$	-0.0243	0.1278	$b_{\scriptscriptstyle m I}$	0.2409*	0.0449	$oldsymbol{b}_{ ext{I}}$	0.7271*	0.1374		
$b_{ m L}$	-0.9667*	0.3707	$b_{\scriptscriptstyle m L}$	-0.8324*	0.3152	$oldsymbol{b}_{\mathtt{L}}$	-1.4194*	0.4287		
Mean of	1998-2002									
$\varepsilon_{ m YT}$	0.4023*	0.1203	$\epsilon_{ m YT}$	-0.9821*	0.3765	$\epsilon_{ m YT}$	0.4424*	0.1365		
$b_{\scriptscriptstyle extsf{F}}$	0.0998	0.3622	b_{F}	0.0152	0.2953	$oldsymbol{b_{ extsf{F}}}$	-0.1493	0.4737		
b_s	0.1436	0.2053	b_{s}	0.2587	0.1673	$b_{ m S}$	0.6028*	0.2953		
$b_{\rm C}$	-1.1441	0.7465	$b_{\rm C}$	-0.4801	0.3307	b_{C}	-0.8167	1.2596		
$b_{\rm I}$	-0.0564	0.1712	$b_{\scriptscriptstyle m I}$	0.2718*	0.0947	$oldsymbol{b_{\mathrm{I}}}$	1.2695*	0.2915		
$\dot{b_{ m L}}$	-1.1740*	0.5307	$b_{\mathtt{L}}^{'}$	-0.7119	0.4439	$oldsymbol{b_{\mathtt{L}}}$	-2.1706*	0.6879		

^{*} An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level.

specifications, suggest that the Lewbel specification might be the statistically superior specification in this application.

Although the Lewbel, AISS, and, Translog models conform to production theory, the policy implications drawn from the results differ depending on which specification is chosen. One example occurs in the estimation of the compensated elasticities in which the Translog model suggests that demand for feed, seed, and livestock and the price of fuel are complements, whereas the Lewbel and AISS specifications suggest that the demand for feed, seed, and livestock is not related to the price of fuel. Another example occurs in the estimated expenditure elasticities in which the AISS and Translog specifications suggest that labor is inelastic, whereas the Lewbel specification suggests labor is not statistically different from zero. The most notable difference between specifications occurs when examining the rate of technical change by year. The AISS Lewbel and Translog models suggest that technology has been slowly increasing from 1948 to 2002, whereas the AISS model suggests that technology has been neutral. These differences suggest that it is important to consider alternative specifications of the indirect production function in case the implications drawn from the results differ between model choices.

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Appendix 1. Parameter Estimates^a

Lewbel Model			AISS Model			Translog Model		
Parameter	Estimate	Standard Error	Parameter	Estimate	Standard Error	Parameter	Estimate	Standard Error
$\alpha_{\rm F}$	-0.0454	0.0297	$\alpha_{\rm F}$	-0.0010	0.0097	$\alpha_{\rm p}$	0.0032	0.0283
α_{s}	0.4183*	0.0510	α_{s}	0.0841*	0.0261	α_{s}	0.3362*	0.0476
$\alpha_{\rm c}$	0.5197*	0.0640	$\alpha_{\mathbf{C}}$	-0.0671*	0.0315	α_{C}	0.4480*	0.0589
$\alpha_{\rm I}$	0.5054*	0.0996	$\alpha_{\rm I}$	0.1287	0.0704	$\alpha_{\rm I}$	0.2588*	0.0925
B_{pp}	0.0223*	0.0016	$B_{ m FF}$	0.0239*	0.0020	$B_{ m FF}$	0.0209*	0.0019
B_{PS}	-0.0109*	0.0035	$B_{ m FS}$	-0.0114*	0.0024	B_{FS}	-0.0137*	0.0028
$B_{\rm PC}$	-0.0002	0.0022	B_{PC}	-0.0013	0.0017	$B_{ m PC}$	-0.0016	0.0019
$B_{\rm FI}$	-0.0050	0.0026	B_{Fl}	-0.0050	0.0021	$B_{ m FI}$	-0.0068*	0.0023
B_{SS}	0.0230	0.0120	B_{SS}	0.0756*	0.0078	B_{SS}	0.0617*	0.0110
$B_{\rm SC}$	-0.0451*	0.0085	B_{SC}	-0.0152*	0.0045	$B_{ m SC}$	-0.0334*	0.0071
$B_{\rm SI}$	-0.0217	0.0097	B_{SI}	0.0098	0.0051	$B_{ m SI}$	0.0161*	0.0091
$B_{\rm CC}$	-0.0165	0.0112	$B_{\rm CC}$	0.0106*	0.0047	$B_{\rm CC}$	-0.0087	0.0063
B_{CI}	-0.0363*	0.0099	$B_{\rm CI}$	0.0062	0.0039	B_{CI}	-0.0214*	0.0072
B_{II}	-0.0037	0.0188	B_{u}	0.0498*	0.0079	B_{II}	0.0397*	0.0141
$B_{\rm F}$	-0.0050	0.0067	$B_{\rm F}$	0.0008	0.0045	_		
$B_{\rm S}$	-0.0753*	0.0157	B_{s}	0.0123	0.0121			
	-0.0043	0.0208	$B_{\rm C}$	0.0461*	0.0102			
$B_{\rm I}$	-0.0684*	0.0275	$B_{\rm I}$	0.0506*	0.0148			
$\vec{V_{\mathrm{F}}}$	0.0078	0.0073	$\dot{V_{ m F}}$	0.0012	0.0042	V_{F}	-0.0040	0.0081
$V_{\rm s}$	0.0612*	0.0213	$v_{\rm s}$	0.0376*	0.0139	$\dot{V_{ m s}}$	0.0454	0.0272
$v_{\rm c}$	-0.0389	0.0284	$v_{\rm c}$	0.0153	0.0108	$V_{\rm c}$	-0.0299	0.0427
$V_{\rm I}$	0.0556	0.0383	v_{i}	0.1087*	0.0308	$V_{\rm I}$	0.2479*	0.0460
V_{T}	-0.6158*	0.1841	$\dot{V_{\mathrm{T}}}$	-1.1788*	0.3025	$V_{\mathtt{T}}$	-0.4591*	0.2033
V_{TT}	0.3300	0.1773	$\dot{V_{ ext{Tf}}}$	1.0805*	0.2839	$V_{\rm TT}$	0.1283	0.1933
B_{T}	-0.1000*	0.0273	B_{T}	-0.0080	0.0319	B_{T}	0.0184	0.0267
$J_{\mathtt{F}}$	0.0323*	0.0095	$J_{\mathtt{F}}$	0.0395*	0.0074	$J_{ m F}$	0.0240*	0.0101
$J_{\mathtt{S}}$	-0.0708*	0.0187	J_{S}	0.0830*	0.0192	$\hat{J_{ m S}}$	-0.0384*	0.0193
$J_{\rm C}$	-0.1095*	0.0263	$J_{ m c}$	0.0599*	0.0236	$\widetilde{J_{ m C}}$	-0.1030*	0.0220
$J_{\rm t}$	-0.0364	0.0383	$J_{ m I}$	0.1271*	0.0474	$J_{ m I}$	-0.0101	0.0355
X _K	0.2276*	0.0240	$\dot{X_{K}}$	-0.0146	0.0488	$X_{\mathbf{K}}$	0.1460*	0.0238
H _K	-1.1390*	0.2285	H_{K}	-3.0244*	0.7735	H_{K}	-1.0495*	0.2223
H _{KK}	1.1219*	0.2903	H_{KK}	4.8114*	1.1480	H_{KK}	0.8451*	0.2643
B_{FL}	-0.0062	0.0034		-		$B_{\rm FL}$	-0.0021	0.0023
$B_{\rm SL}$	0.0084	0.0151				B_{SL}	-0.0387*	0.0127
B _{CL}	0.0533*	0.0147				$B_{\rm CL}$	0.0201*	0.0075
$B_{\rm IL}$	0.0267	0.0193				$B_{\rm IL}$	-0.0234	0.0149

^{*}An asterisk (*) denotes significance at the 5% level.

Appendix 2: Proof of Specification

A Lewbel-type indirect production function can be defined as the logarithmic transformation

(A.1)
$$y(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t) = \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_k^{-B_k} \left[\ln e \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_j \right) - \ln g(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t) \right].$$

In Equation (7), $\ln g(w, e, K, t)$ is defined by

(A.2)
$$\ln g(w, e, K, t) = \alpha_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \alpha_i \ln w_i + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_i \ln w_j + V_i t + t \sum_{i=1}^{n} V_i \ln w_i + B_{ie} t \ln e + \frac{1}{2} V_{ii} t^2 + H_K K + K \sum_{i=1}^{n} J_i \ln w_i + \chi_k K \ln e + \frac{1}{2} H_{KK} K^2.$$

To obtain the input demand function, we use Roy's identity:

(A.3)
$$\frac{\partial y(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t)}{\partial w_{i}} = -B_{i} \frac{1}{w_{i}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{B_{k}} \left[\ln e \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} \right) - \ln g(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t) \right]$$

$$- \frac{1}{w_{i}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{B_{k}} \left(\alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + V_{i}t + J_{i}K - \ln e \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \right),$$
(A.4)
$$\frac{\partial y(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t)}{\partial e} = \frac{1}{e} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{B_{k}} \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} - B_{ie}t - \chi_{k}K \right).$$

The Lewbel factor demands are

(A.5)
$$x_{i} = -\frac{\partial y/\partial w_{i}}{\partial y/\partial e} = \frac{\frac{1}{w_{i}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} \left(\alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + V_{i}t + J_{i}K - \ln e \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \right)}{\frac{1}{e} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} - B_{ie}t - \chi_{k}K \right)}$$

$$- \frac{B_{i} \frac{1}{w_{i}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} \left[\ln e \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} \right) - \ln g(w, e, K, t) \right]}{\frac{1}{e} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} - B_{ie}t - \chi_{k}K \right)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n.$$

The share equations are obtained by multiplying Equation (A.5) by w,le and canceling obvious terms,

(A.6)
$$S_{i} = \frac{\alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{i} + V_{i}t + J_{i}K - \ln e \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} + B_{i} \left[\ln e \left(1 + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta_{jk} \ln w_{j} \right) - \ln g(w, e, K, t) \right]}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \sum_{k=1}^{n} \beta_{jk} \ln w_{j} - B_{ie}t - \chi_{k}K}$$

$$i = 1, \ldots, n.$$

The AISS is derived from the Lewbel-type indirect production function in Equation (A.1) by imposing, along with the adding up and homogeneity restrictions, the additional restrictions that $\sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} = 0$ for all *i*. Imposing this restriction yields the AISS indirect production function

(A.7)
$$y(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t) = \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_k^{-B_k} [\ln e - \ln g(\mathbf{w}, e, K, t)],$$

where $\ln g(w, e, K, t)$ is defined in Equation (A.2). To obtain the input demand functions, we follow the same procedure used above for

$$(A.8) \quad \frac{\partial y(w, e, K, t)}{\partial w_i} = -B_i \frac{1}{w_i} \prod_{k=1}^n w_k^{-B_k} [\ln e - \ln g(w, e, K, t)] - \frac{1}{w_i} \prod_{k=1}^n w_k^{-B_k} \left(\alpha_i + \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_{ij} \ln w_j + V_i t + J_i K \right),$$

(A.9)
$$\frac{\partial y(w, e, K, t)}{\partial e} = \frac{1}{e} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_k^{-B_k} (1 - B_{te}t - \chi_k K).$$

The AISS factor demands are

(A.10)
$$x_{i} = -\frac{\partial y/\partial w_{i}}{\partial y/\partial e} = \frac{\frac{1}{w_{i}} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} \left\{ \alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + V_{i}t + J_{i}K + B_{i}[\ln e - \ln g(w, e, K, t)] \right\}}{\frac{1}{e} \prod_{k=1}^{n} w_{k}^{-B_{k}} (1 - B_{ie}t - \chi_{k}K)}$$

The share equations are obtained by multiplying Equation (A.10) by $w_i le$ and canceling obvious terms

(A.11)
$$S_{i} = \frac{\alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + tV_{i} + KJ_{i} + B_{i} [\ln e - \ln g(w, e, K, t)]}{1 - B_{n}t - \chi_{i}K}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n.$$

Alternatively, the Translog model can be derived from Equation (A.1) by imposing the restrictions that $B_i = 0$ for all i along with the homogeneity and adding up restrictions. The indirect production function is

(A.12)
$$y(w, e, K, t) = \ln e \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_j\right) - \ln g(w, e, K, t),$$

where $\ln g(w, e, K, t)$ is defined in Equation (A.2). To obtain the Translog input demand functions, we yet again use Roy's identity

$$(\mathbf{A}.13) \quad \frac{\partial y(\mathbf{w}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{K}, t)}{\partial w_i} = \frac{1}{w_i} \left[\ln \mathbf{e} \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_{ij} - \left(\alpha_i + \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_{ij} \ln w_j + V_i t + J_i \mathbf{K} \right) \right],$$

(A.14)
$$\frac{\partial y(w, e, K, t)}{\partial e} = \frac{1}{e} \left(1 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} w_{j} - B_{te}t - \chi_{k}K \right).$$

The Translog factor demands are

(A.15)
$$x_{i} = -\frac{\partial y/\partial w_{i}}{\partial y/\partial e} = \frac{\frac{1}{w_{i}} \left(\alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + V_{i}t + J_{i}K - \ln e \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij}\right)}{\frac{1}{e} \left(1 - B_{te}t - \chi_{k}K + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j}\right)}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n.$$

The resulting share equation system is then

(A.16)
$$S_{i} = \frac{\alpha_{i} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j} + V_{i}t + JK_{i} - \ln e \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij}}{1 - B_{i}t - \chi_{k}K + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sum_{j=1}^{n} \beta_{ij} \ln w_{j}}, \quad i = 1, \ldots, n.$$