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Linear Programming: The Duality Theorem

by Masao Fukuoka

This is the second part of a series of introductory papers on Linear Programming. It intends to give an elementary proof of the so-called Duality Principle, and after then to apply the results for the analysis of comparative statics or the Le Chatelier Principle in Linear Programming. It is interesting to note that the meaningful theorems can be derived for the case of finite changes as well.

Economic Planning and Utilization of the Law of Value

by Hiroshi Kato

That the law of value is utilized in the economic planning of a socialistic society has become an accepted theory since Stalin's last thesis. Marx's law of value originally operates under commodity production society. Then, to know how this law is applicable to the economic planning of a socialistic economy one needs to understand what is involved in its application as well as to observe the process leading to the utilization of the law.

The law of value states that the labour-time socially necessary governs commodity exchange. We know that war, devastation and the urgent desire for the immediate realization of communism gave birth to War Communism without having developed the need for a rational calculation of the economy. Yet it was realized that the best means to rise above the devastation and appease the disgruntled farmers to great permission for the establishment of a commodity exchange market. While it was in part following the policy outlined by Lenin for the Transitional Period it was on the other hand more than he had advocated. Nevertheless, outside of such as the establishment of this market might imply that it is the revival of capitalism

or that it is the vestige of a commodity production society, the exchange through this market was a rational method to promote commodity circulation.

At the same time the purpose was self-accumulation by establishing the economic circulation system in the enterprises for the purpose of strengthening the forces of socialistic production and hastening its development. In this case the law of value operates through profitability (economic principle).

Although the law of value sees itself applied to the theory of economic calculation, the operational sphere of the law is limited to the compounds of economic planning. In this sense the law becomes as Stalin deemed, the means to be subject to a criterion for planning which is the basic economic law for modern socialism. Hence it follows that all economic calculation in the economic planning of a socialistic society does not depend solely on the utilization of the law. The exchange of commodities still remains and while it accepts the law of value it also limits the operation of the law. It aims to utilize the law for the purpose of expanding and developing socialistic production through profitability and from thereon proceed to a socialistic society where commodities do not exist. Consequently it is mistaken to understand the law of value as being utilized for the theory of economic calculation in a socialistic society where commodities do not exist. If a society without commodities should appear, we must believe that a different law will be taken then as the planning parameter.

Yet there is the problem of harmony between the criterion for planning which is the basic economic law and the means which is the application of the law of value upon which profitability depends. The importance of profitability and the criterion which denies it co-exists within the understanding of the basic economic law. The plural criteria in actual practice can of course be politically determined. Yet if an objective preference cannot be given between the two, it is conceivable that the rational system of planning itself will be instable. It is at this point that the results attained by Welfare Economics must be given consideration.