

2.10. Benefits and costs.

2.10.1. Trends.

A trend measures a statistical process in data. A distribution of data, say in a graph, will in general be inconsistent with a given curve of known characteristics, say given by a function generated by a known polynomial. We can measure precisely the nearness or distance away the data is from the curve and this gives an indication of how certain we can be of finding a hidden mechanism in the data. We might say, for instance, if the polynomial had n coefficients to fit data with m points, if n is close to m it is unlikely that we have found a true correlation, but if n is small compared with m , then the likelihood is increased if the correlation is great.

In general a persistent trend will have some reason why it is there, even if the reason is unknown. But we know that if there is a mechanism, in a finite world the mechanism cannot be infinite, so if the trend indicates an infinite mechanism, it will break down, and the trend will not accurately represent what is happening at some point.

Moore's law.

Costs of PV systems – by basket of currencies.

Percentage efficiency of PV systems – from baseline.

Is PV now economic without subsidy?

2.10.2. Benefits and costs of reflector systems.

2.10.3. Benefits and costs of non-warranty compliance.

*** = omitted in the first edition**