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Chapter Author: Joel Popkin

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Workshop on the Matching and Merging of Data Sets

May 5, 1973

At the conclusion of the Conference on Prices and Consumer Expenditure Data (see previous note), a special one-day session on the Matching and Merging of Data Sets will be held. Interested individuals should contact Joel Popkin or Benjamin Okner.

Conference on Research and the Public Use Samples

March 23–24

Emory-Sheraton Inn. Atlanta, Georgia

The above conference will be co-sponsored by the Southern Regional Demographic Group and the NBER Conference on the Computer in Economic and Social Research. Individuals presenting papers include Paul Zeisset, Census Bureau; Hal Winsborough, University of Wisconsin; Richard Rockwell, University of North Carolina; Richard Ruggles, Yale University; Martin Levin and W. W. Pendleton, Emory University; Guy Orcutt, Yale University and Urban Institute; and Charles Laidlaw, Baltimore Regional Planning.

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NBER COMPUTER RESEARCH CENTER ABSTRACTS

The NBER Computer Research Center for Economics and Management Science has been engaged, since its formation in 1971, in developing new software systems for quantitative social science research. Prototype systems for mathematical programming, exploratory data analysis, and econometrics are now in various stages of design and implementation. General summaries of research in progress, as well as abstracts of specific Research Reports, will be a regular feature in the *Annals*, beginning with the two abstracts below. The full text of the reports are available in limited quantity, at $1.00 per copy, from the Computer Research Center, 575 Technology Square, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139 (Attention: Support Staff).

Hoaglin, David C. (Harvard University and NBER Computer Research Center), **An Analysis of the Loop Optimization Scores in Knuth's "Empirical Study of FORTRAN Programs"**, Research Report W0001 (November 1972), 21 pp.

The optimization scores for Knuth's random sample of inner loops are analyzed to provide a unified comparison of the five optimization levels. The techniques used are those of exploratory data analysis, and their role in the analysis is discussed. As a consequence of the analysis five rough groups of programs with different optimization behavior are identified and tentatively characterized.

Sarris, Alexander H. (NBER Computer Research Center), **A Bayesian Approach to Estimation on Non-Constant Regression Parameters**, Research Report W0007 (December 1972), 18 pp.

The problem of estimating non-constant regression parameters is formulated and its statistical difficulties are examined. A structure is imposed on some of the parameters that allows for a wide class of variations. This structure fixes the number of unknown parameters that must be estimated, and renders the problem amenable to a Bayesian analysis. The solution, with some differences, looks like the Kalman type of estimator. The analysis is also valid for autoregressive processes and random coefficient models. Maximum likelihood is suggested as a way of obtaining estimates of the remaining parameters, and an iterative estimation scheme is presented without numerical tests.

January 16, 1973