

## **Overlapping Leontief: A Boolean approach to economic thought**

Topic: Important issues in IO theory and practice

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With the language of matrix algebra and vector spaces, the ‘theory of production’ has blown up as much as to become a distinctive body of mathematical economics. Frequently, it is used as yardstick to classify a number of economic models. In particular, the theory of production may be considered as the foundation stone to measure mathematical and conceptual equivalences between models. Among them, Leontief’s model is used to be inserted in a group of models where its peculiarities tend to fade away behind the veil of prevailing theoretical assumptions. Sraffa and von Neuman models described in their seminal papers and the Leontief model are outlined in their scientific environment which indicates their place in the field of economic thought. This paper will discuss a questionable practice which can be defined as Boolean approach to economic thought. The intersection of these three models is generally detected in the ‘theory of production’. This paper emphasizes the importance of the historical, academic and scientific program behind any identifiable ‘model’ such as those referred to Sraffa, von Neuman and Leontief. In particular, the Boolean approach mentioned in the title refers to the practice to adopt an intersection – in this case, the theory of production – to move from a theoretical field to another one ignoring the observable economy they refer to which makes these models basically not comparable .