PRODUCTIVITY LAWS

Parkinson's law

Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion

Corollaries

Stock–Sanford corollary	If you wait until the last minute, it only takes a minute to do
Horstman's corollary	Work contracts to fit in the time we give it
Asimov corollary	In ten hours a day you have time to fall twice as far behind your commitments as in five hours a day
Computers corollary	Data expands to fill the space available for storage

Generalization Induced Demand

The demand upon a resource tends to expand to match the supply of the resource	The reverse is not true
Law of demand	the lower the price of a service or commodity, the greater the quantity demanded
Law's Time Form	The amount of time that one has to perform a task is the amount of time it will take to complete the task.

Coefficient of inefficiency

Size of a committee or other decision-making body at which it becomes completely inefficient.

Optimal Size	3 to 20 members
Inefficient	21 or more

Parkinson's law is a reference to the self-satisfying uncontrolled growth of the bureaucratic apparatus in an organization.
Parkinson's Law: The Pursuit of Progress (London, John Murray, 1958)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parkinson's_law

Hofstadter's law

It always takes longer than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law

Douglas Hofstadter's 1979
Gödel, Escher, Bach: An Eternal Golden Braid

Murphy's Second Law

Everything takes longer than you expect

Corollary to the law: *Everything takes longer than it should, except obviously sex*
Corollary to Corollary *As the desire increases, so does the number of interruptions and the time available decreases*

Sturgeon's law

Ninety percent of everything is crap

Corollary: *Stupid persons and stupidity acts reach as high as 99% of crap's causes*

Carlson's Law

If you focus on a task without any break or interruption, it will take you less time to finish it

Once you start doing something finish it!
Avoid interruptions and be focused!

Fraisse's Law

Time is a subjective variable depending on our own interest in the activity performed

Put your hand on a hot stove for a minute, and it seems like an hour. Sit with a pretty girl for an hour, and it seems like a minute. That's relativity. Albert Einstein

DeCaprio's Law

Everything takes more time and money

So, be aware if you have enough

Annie DeCaprio, Highbridge N.J., Harper's August 1974

Drazens Law of Restitution

The time it takes to rectify a situation is inversely proportional to the time it took to do the damage

Louis D. Rubin

Hendricksons Law

If you have enough meetings over a long enough period of time, the meetings become more important than the problem the meetings were intended to solve

Stigler's law of eponymy

No scientific discovery is named after its original discoverer

Mark Twain	It takes a thousand men to invent a (...) important thing—and the last man gets the credit and we forget the others
Matthew effect	This pattern of recognition, skewed in favor of the established scientist, appears principally (i) in cases of collaboration and (ii) in cases of independent multiple discoveries made by scientists of distinctly different rank.
Boyer's law	Mathematical formulas and theorems are usually not named after their original discoverers
Mathilda Effect	The effect applies specifically to women.
Alfred N. Whitehead's Corollary	Everything of importance has been said before by somebody who did not discover it
Terentius (190-159 BC)	Nothing has yet been said that's not been said before

Examples: Hubble's law derived by Lemaître. The Pythagorean theorem to Babylonian mathematicians. Halley's comet observed by astronomers since at least 240 BC. Stigler himself named the sociologist Robert K. Merton as the discoverer of "Stigler's law"

Lance's Law

If it aint broke, don't fix it

Equivalent form: *Don´t touch it if it works*
Machine at work: *Experiments with soda water*

Lowerys Law

Just when you get really good at something you don't need it anymore

Corollary: *Or simply you don't like anymore*

Pym's Law

Actions speak louder than words

Corollary: *Although actions speak loud there is always someone who is deaf, or simply too stupid to understand*

Newton's Law

Every object at rest will stay at rest, and every object in motion will remain in motion

if you are procrastinating, you are at rest, so it will be difficult for you to move

If you are working you are moving, it is hard to stop because you feel happy when you accomplish your tasks

Illich's Law

After a certain time, personal productivity tends to decrease, even reaching negative values

Consider this: we have limited work capacity and can't be completely focused too long.
Everybody needs breaks and sleep. And Love, of course.

Jevons' paradox

Technological progress increases the efficiency with which a resource is used (reducing the amount necessary for any one use), but the rate of consumption of that resource rises because of increasing demand

Jevons' Complementary Corollary (Edward Glaeser)

Improvements in information technology lead to more demand for face-to-face contact, because face time complements time spent communicating electronically

Productivity Laws Cheat Sheet

by Jorge Juan (jorgejuan007) via cheatography.com/35958/cs/11590/

Downs–Thomson paradox

The equilibrium speed of car traffic on a road network is determined by the average door-to-door speed of equivalent journeys taken by public transport

Improvements in the road network will not reduce traffic congestion

In fact, improvements in the road network can make congestion worse if the improvements make public transport more inconvenient or if it shifts investment, causing disinvestment in the public transport system

aka the Pigou–Knight–Downs paradox

Pareto's Principle

80% of the outputs come from 20% of the inputs

We spend most of the day working on tasks that don't get us closer to our goals

Principle of factor sparsity

Laborit Principle

We have got a natural tendency towards those tasks that require less effort from us

We are far from be objective when choosing tasks

Habits that ruins productivity

Over / Under Planning	Sit down and come up with a plan but do not waste too much time
Multitasking	Do not do too many things at a time
Over-cluttered to-do lists	Prioritise what's most important and only include those tasks on your list
Avoid delegate	Delegate some work to skilled professionals and partners you can trust
Working without protocols	You need to establish a set of practices to kick your productivity
Taking many meetings	Unless it's absolutely necessary avoid meetings

Habits that ruins productivity (cont)

Do not say 'NO'	Do no let others decide for you. Not important? Then say 'NO'
Not taking breaks	Break big tasks into smaller pieces and plan breaks in between
Checking your email constantly	Save some time every day to check your mail, the rest to work
Being overconnected	Being too available raises your chances of being interrupted and distracted
Not measuring your results	Do you know what the actual results of your efforts are?
Remember that rules – even productivity rules – are made to be broken	Breaking habits offers new perspective and helps recharge us

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