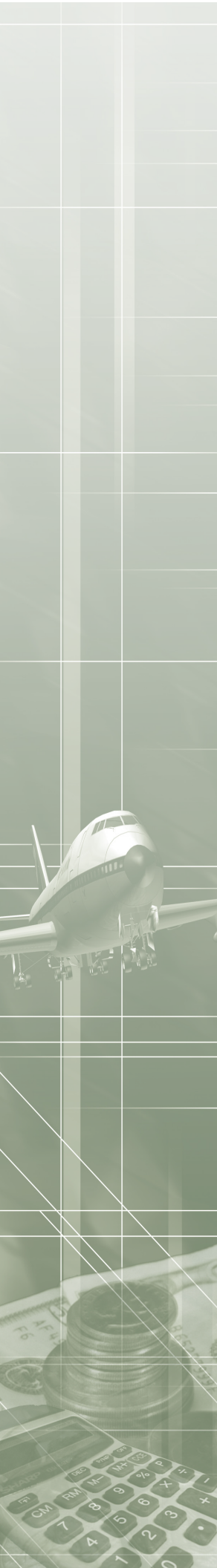


# 18. THE LEARNING CURVE

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## 18.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 15, “Quantitative Analysis Techniques”, introduced the concept of the learning curve. (Cost improvement is also used to refer to learning curve theory.) Learning curves are useful both to cost estimators and analysts. While estimators may concentrate on deriving a learning curve, analysts focus efforts on critiquing a learning curve submitted by a contractor. The fundamental concepts do not differ, only the application of concepts differ.

See GAO Cost Estimating and Assessment Guide: Best Practices for Developing and Managing Capital Program Costs. (Supersedes GAO-07-1134SP) GAO-09-3SP, Mar 2, 2009.

Website address: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-09-3SP>