

Quantifying Optimal Policy in an Endogenous Growth Model: A Theoretical Analysis

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Abstract

This paper aims to characterize the optimal growth path of an endogenous growth model with domestic innovation, human capital and external technology spillovers through import of technologically advanced products and foreign direct investments. There are three sources of inefficiency in the model; monopolistic competition in the intermediate-goods sector, duplication externalities and spillovers in RD. This raises the question of whether an adequate government intervention can provide the required incentives to correct these inefficiencies and make the decentralized economy to replicate the first-best solution attainable by a social planner. In this study, we find that the first-best optimum can be decentralized by means of a tax on capital income at a constant rate combined with equality between the share of public spending in the total expenditure on education net of subsidy and the tax on labor income and a time-varying subsidy to RD. Unlike previous works that focus solely on the steady state, we take explicitly into account the transitional dynamics as well.

Index terms— endogenous growth, , social planner, monopolistic distortions, optimal policy.

There Fiscal policy has received much attention in the literature on taxation and growth. Numerous theoretical and empirical studies have been devoted to understanding the growth and welfare effects of various taxes and government expenditures and the optimal structure of tax systems (e.g., Chamley, 1986; Barro, 1990; Turnovsky, 1996; Judd and Kenneth, 1999; and Lansing, 1999; and Turnovsky, 2000). Almost all the theoretical studies in this literature use either neoclassical models or capital-based endogenous growth models. In the fully-industrialized phase three sectors are acting: the competitive final goods sector, the schooling sector where knowledge (human capital) is accumulated, and the intermediate goods sector which produces an increasing variety of goods due to R&D. In this sector there is monopolistic competition, so innovative firms charge a markup of price over cost and, therefore, production of intermediate goods is too low relative to its efficient value.

However, monopoly power is not the only plausible source of inefficiency in R&D-based growth models. Thus, empirical evidence reported, e.g., by Griliches (1992) and Porter and Stern (2000) also supports the existence of R&D spillovers in innovation -a "standing on shoulders" effect (e.g., Jones, 1995). Engelbrecht (1997) and Del Barrio-Castro, Lopez-Bazo and Serrano-Domingo (2002) find that R&D spillovers are actually statistically significant in empirical specifications that include human capital. Several authors have also pointed out that the R&D activity may be subject to an external effect associated to the duplication and overlap of research effort -a "stepping on toes" effect (e.g., Jones, 1995, Stokey, 1995). Intuitively, the larger the number of people searching for ideas is, the more likely it is that duplication of research would occur. Evidence of duplicative research has been found, e.g., by Kortum (1993) and Lambson and Phillips (2007).

According with this empirical evidence, Grossmann et al (2010), Gomez (2011) and Iacopetta (2011) have incorporated R&D spillovers in innovation and an externality associated to the duplication of research effort into the Arnold (2000a) and Funke and Strulik (2000) model. This raises the question of whether an adequate government intervention can provide the required incentives to correct these inefficiencies and make the

Quantifying Optimal Policy in an Endogenous Growth Model: A Theoretical Analysis

decentralized economy to replicate the first-best solution attainable by a social planner. However, only a little number of these previous contributions has analyzed this issue. The majority of studies focus on studying the equilibrium dynamics of the market economy only. This paper seeks to fill this gap.

In Arnold (2000b) studies the optimal combination of production and R&D subsidies in the Romer (1990) model. This model has been criticised because of the implied counterfactual scale effects and, furthermore, it does not include duplication externalities. Grossmann et al. (2010b) consider instead a semi-endogenous growth model à la Jones (1995), in which economic growth is driven solely by exogenous population growth. The introduction of human capital as an additional source of growth allows to overcome this shortcoming because economic growth is fully endogenous, Gomez and T. Sequeira (2011), i.e., ultimately driven by private incentives to invest in human capital. As argued by Strulik (2007), this also reduces the importance of R&D and, therefore, the role of externalities associated to innovation. Furthermore, Grossmann et al. (2010b) do not study analytically the stability of the centrally planned economy.

Other related research has been made by Jones and Williams (2000), Alvarez-Pelaez and Groth (2005), Steger (2005) and Strulik (2007). While these works study the optimality of investments in R&D, their focus is on the quantitative assessment of distortions on the steady state -disregarding the transitional phase. Hence, the dynamic optimal policy is not analyzed. Furthermore, aside from Strulik (2007), their models do not allow for human capital accumulation. Grossmann, Steger and Trimborn (2010a) compute numerically the optimal policy in a version of the Jones (1995) model with human capital accumulation calibrated to U.S. data. However, as it is subject to diminishing returns, human capital is not a true engine of growth and it assumes a stationary long-run value. Furthermore, the optimal fiscal policy is not characterized analytically. Grossmann et al. (2010a) take into account the transition dynamics in their numerical simulations, for tractability reasons they only consider policies in which the subsidy rates are constant over time.

This paper aims to characterize analytically the optimal dynamic fiscal policy in R&Dbased endogenous growth model which incorporates domestic innovation, investment in education, distance to technology frontier and external technology spillovers through import of technologically advanced products and foreign direct investment as engines of growth. The model incorporates three sources of inefficiency: monopolistic competition in the intermediate-goods sector, duplication externalities and spillovers in R&D. To this end, we analyze the efficient growth path that a benevolent social planner would implement. We aim to provide conditions for the existence of a unique feasible optimal steady state with positive long-run growth. The optimal growth path can be decentralized by means of a tax on capital income at a constant rate combined with equality between the share of public spending in the total expenditure on education net of subsidy and the tax on labor income and a time-varying subsidy to R&D which addresses the duplication externalities and spillovers in R&D associated to the innovation process. Unlike previous works that rely solely on steady-state analysis, we take explicitly into account the transitional dynamics when evaluating the economic effect of removing the inefficiencies.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the decentralized economy. Section 3 analyzes the socially planned economy. Section 3 devises an optimal fiscal policy capable of decentralizing the optimal growth path and Section 4 concludes.

Consider an economy where total supply of labour is constant ($L = 1$). It consists of an education sector knowledge (human capital) is accumulated and three other productive sectors: a final goods sector, an intermediate goods sector, and finally, a research sector. While the final goods sector and the R&D sector are competitive, the intermediate goods sector is monopolistic. The endowment of time is normalized as a constant flow of one unit per period. A fraction of time is devoted to production of final goods, a fraction to education, and a fraction θ to innovation activities. The market for final goods is perfectly competitive and the price for final goods is normalized to one. Final output, Y , is produced with a Cobb-Douglas technology $Y = A K^\alpha H^{1-\alpha}$ ($\alpha + 1 = 1$).

Where, θ is the level of total human capital, $(1 - \theta)$ is the human capital's income share and θ is the amount used for each one of the 5 intermediate goods. To enter the intermediate sector, a firm must acquire a patent from the successful innovator which allows the firm to produce an improved differentiated intermediate by employing physical capital K and charge a monopoly price for the product. In the sector i , the production function of the quantity Y_i is specified as $Y_i = A_i K_i^\alpha H_i^{1-\alpha}$. Profit maximization delivers the factor demands as follow: The interest rate ($r = 4 - \theta$), the wage rate per unit of employed human capital $w = (1 - \theta) \theta$

& the price of the intermediate goods $p = 4\theta + 1$ ($\theta = 1 - \theta$).

Each firm in the intermediate goods sector owns an infinitely-lived patent for selling its variety Y_i , which costs 1 unit of θ to be produced. For each unit sold of the intermediate goods producers receive a unit price p_i . Producers act under monopolistic competition and maximize operating profits: $\pi_i = (p_i - r) Y_i$. Profit maximization in this sector implies that each firm charges a price of $p_i = 4 - \theta$. Under symmetric hypothesis, we have $\theta = 1 - \theta$ and $\theta = 1 - \theta$. Hence, the quantity of intermediates employed is $\theta = 4 - \theta$, firm profit is $\pi = (1 - \theta) \theta$

and $\theta = 1 - \theta$.

$\theta = 1 - \theta$. Substituting this expression into (1) yields $A = B$ $\theta = 1 - \theta$. Where, A , B and θ are the final output, physical capital and human capital per worker, respectively.

Year 2019 ()F

[illegible]

Where, $\gamma = \frac{1}{2}$;

The social planner possesses complete information and chooses all quantities directly, taking all the relevant information into account. Since the intermediate-goods sector is symmetric, the production function can be rewritten as $y = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N y_i$, and the economy's resources constraint is $\sum_{i=1}^N y_i = 1$. The planner's problem is to maximize $\sum_{i=1}^N u(y_i)$ subject to $\sum_{i=1}^N y_i = 1$. The first-order conditions are $u'(y_i) = \lambda$ for all i , where λ is the Lagrange multiplier on the resource constraint. This implies that $y_i = y$ for all i , where y is the symmetric allocation. The planner's problem then reduces to maximizing $N u(y)$ subject to $N y = 1$, or $y = \frac{1}{N}$. The planner's optimal allocation is $y = \frac{1}{N}$ for all i .

The social planner seeks to maximize (2) in aggregate form subject to the resources' constraint $\sum N > 0$, knowledge formation $\sum N > 0$, and technologies $\sum N > 0$. Let π be the current value Hamiltonian of the planner's maximization problem, and let λ , μ and ϵ be the R multipliers for the three constraints, respectively: $\dot{\epsilon} = \pi'(E + \pi \pi' F + \pi \pi' \dot{A}) - \pi'(5) - \pi'(6) - \pi'(1 + \pi \pi')Q$, $\dot{\mu} = \pi'(4 \pm \pi' \pi' 4 - \pi' Q - \pi' \pi' \pi' n \pi' n) - \pi' n - \pi' Q - \pi' p - \pi' 5 d - \pi' 5 d \pi' c - \pi' 5 - \pi' \dot{O} + \pi' \dot{n} O \pi' 1 - \pi' \pi' \pi' ae P \pi' \pi' Q$, $\dot{\lambda} = \pi'(P - \pi' R R$

Here, the control variables are α , Q , δ , γ and η , and the state variables, K , H and D . We focus on a fully industrialized economy characterized by the presence of physical capital accumulation, human capital formation and R&D.

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$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(J_i \leq 6) = 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(J_i \leq 5) = 0, \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbb{I}(J_i \leq 4) = 0 \quad (\forall)$$

4

is taken into account when choosing the optimal fraction of time devoted to innovation and when setting the optimal shadow value of an innovation.

In balanced growth path (or steady state) all variables grow at constant but possibly different rates, and the shares of labor in its different uses are constant. We can state the following proposition. We associate the index $(\sim)$ to indicate social equilibrium's solutions. The consumption to physical capital ratio $(\bar{c}) = \frac{J}{E + P} \frac{J(E(\cdot))}{E(\cdot)}$; $\bar{c} \times \hat{a}^{??} \times \hat{a}^{??} \times \bar{E} w \times \bar{P}^{??})^{\circ} E(\cdot)^{(2)} E + (\cdot)(P)n | w | \bar{E} p P + \sim + \sim ? 1$

6 Fractions of time devoted to education, R&D and final production, respectively

(vii) $= P? E(\cdot)(\bar{N}1 ? J P (\cdot))^{??} ; ??? ? ?^{??} ; \hat{a}^{??} ? \hat{a}^{??} ?^{??} ; \bar{E} w ?^{??} \bar{O} R R R$ And (viii) $= (\bar{c} ? ? ? ?) \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{O} (\cdot ? ? ?)^{??} n^{??} ? p^{??} ; \hat{a}^{??} ? \hat{a}^{??} ?^{??} n \bar{E} w p^{??} \bar{O} \times \times \times \bar{O} ' ? \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{O} E(\cdot)(\cdot)^{\circ} (\cdot ? ?)^{??} ? (\cdot ?)^{??} n^{??} ? p^{??} ; \hat{a}^{??} ? \hat{a}^{??} ?^{??} n \bar{E} w p^{??} ? \bar{c} n \bar{I} \bar{A} \bar{I} \bar{A}$
 $p(\bar{c} \times \times \times \bar{O} (ix) = 1 ? ? R$

Comparing the optimal steady-state values in Proposition 1 with their corresponding equilibrium values in the market economy given by (??6) -(23) in the absence of government intervention, $\bar{c} = \bar{c} = Y : = Y B = 0$, we observe that the long-run equilibrium growth rates of consumption, output, physical capital, human capital and the number of product varieties, as well as the time devoted to education, in the market economy coincide with their stationary optimal values. Long-run distortions only arise in the ratio of consumption to physical capital, $\bar{c}$, the interest rate, and the fractions of time devoted to production and innovation, and $\cdot$. The steady-state ratio of consumption to physical capital is too high in the market equilibrium, reflecting the fact that the production of intermediate goods is too low due to monopolistic competition in this sector. However, the relationship between the long-run equilibrium and optimal shares of labor devoted to production and innovation is ambiguous. R&D spillovers cause the equilibrium share of labor devoted to innovation to be too low relative to its optimum value. The suboptimal low production of intermediates due to markup pricing has a similar effect. However, duplication externalities have the opposite effect and would make the market economy to overinvest in R&D. Thus, the overall effect depends on the relative values of the externalities associated to the R&D process, as well as on the size of the markup.

IV.

7 Market Inefficiencies and Optimal Policies: Theoretical Analyzes

Theoretical analyzes show the existence of some market distortions. The first one is linked to the presence of imperfect competition in the intermediate goods sector. The second inefficiency results from the knowledge externality that affects technology. While innovation is a source of social surplus in the R&D sector, this surplus is not entirely appropriate by innovators. However, the existence of non-internalized externalities by the decision-makers can lead to non optimal solutions. To correct these imperfections, the intervention of the state by an effective fiscal policy is necessary. More specifically, the state must choose the appropriate policy variables that allow the decentralized economy to achieve sustainable optimal growth. To better understand this phenomenon, several theoretical analyzes need to be developed.

At equilibrium, the demand function of the intermediate good is defined by: $+ , * = ? 4 9 8 \bar{c} ' (\cdot) > \%$

This latter relationship shows that a high real interest rate discouraged the demand for intermediate goods by the producer of the final good. In other hand, a strong monopolistic competition ($\bar{c}$ is low), the cost of using intermediate goods in final production $;\bar{c} , = a)$

$\bar{c}$ is so higher. This can lead to a decrease in their demand. In the long run, this phenomenon can lead to a reduced investment rate (underinvestment in $\bar{c}$), which in turn leads to a decrease in final output. However, monopolistic competition can have negative effects on the accumulation of physical capital and, in turn, on economic growth.

To correct this negative effect, the state can act through several effective policies. Any policy that reduces the cost of using physical capital or motivates households to save more will be beneficial for growth. Empirical studies show that the attraction of FDI, economic openness, an important subsidy of school expenses and a reduced tax on incomes are some of the most favorable policies. Our main objective here is to understand the role that the state can play in dealing with monopoly distortions through optimal tax policy. At market equilibrium, the real interest rate is defined by: $\bar{c} = 1 (1 ? Y Z) \times \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{A}^{??} \bar{O} F(\cdot + 1) T 9 O(1 ? 4) ' (P ; 1 ? T T ? ' (P ; 1 ? Y \setminus 1 ? ?) \wedge ? (P n A H ? H p ' (P ? K F(\cdot + 1) ? 1 \bar{O} \times \times \times \bar{O}$

This expression shows that the two tax variables $Y \setminus$ and $Y Z$ have opposite impacts on the real interest rate. An increase in $Y Z$ creates an augmentation in the cost of the physical capital, whereas the taxation of wages has opposite effects. This theoretical result was explained by Judd (1987).

We denote by $+ \ll$, the optimal solutions of the laissez-faire equilibrium. They are exactly the solutions found at market equilibrium but with zero fiscal variables. Based on this definition, our analytical results show that the ratio $;\hat{a} ?$ is found less than unity. However, without the intervention of the state through an effective policy, the real interest rate remains very higher than its optimal value. At the decentralized equilibrium, if we

replace δ by its expression in the investment rate defined by $\dot{N} = \dot{N} - \delta N$, we obtain the following expression: This expression shows that the subsidy of education can have an indirect positive effect on the rate of investment in physical capital but all types of taxation have a negative impact. In other words, education subsidy motivates households to save more but high taxes discourage physical capital accumulation. Companies will therefore have limited access to new technologies that require less labor. As a result, labor productivity will fall, which reduces the growth rate of output per worker.

For zero tax variables, the investment rate in physical capital is expressed as: It is the optimal Tax-Mix to achieve optimal level of this type of capital.

Our theoretical results also show that the subsidy of education can improve the rate of investment in physical capital in an indirect way through the reduction of school expenses supported by households. Thus, the state can react through this type of subsidy to correct imperfections of underinvestment in physical capital and technology. This idea is also identified in the following aggregate constraint:

These results constitute to my knowledge a contribution in the literature of endogenous growth.

At the decentralized equilibrium, the fraction of time devoted to education is expressed by:

This equation shows that an increase in the tax rate τ has negative effect on the investment in education (under-investment in human capital), while education subsidy encourages households to devote more time to education.

At the market equilibrium, the growth rate of human capital is expressed as follows:

From this equation, we remark that taxation of wages has a negative impact on the accumulation of skills and, in turn, on economic growth. These negative repercussions can be on education. In other words, the negative impact caused by the taxation of wages must be offset by the education subsidy.

The analytical development of the expression of $\dot{N}$ shows that the growth rate of human capital can be expressed as a function of the investment rate as follows:

This new expression shows that the rate of growth of human capital depends positively on the rate of investment in physical capital. A high investment rate is a favorable condition for skill accumulation. This theoretical result confirms the empirical evidence found by Judson (2002) that in rich countries, the level of human capital is relatively higher than in poor countries. This proves the strong complementarity between the two types of capitals.

To understand the imperfections related to monopolistic competition and the role that the state can play by its own policies to stimulate investment in R&D, we will take as a starting point the non-arbitrage condition in the R&D sector.

Let π / the profit research firm. It is defined by the following equation:

Although innovation is a source of social surplus, innovators may not internalize this positive externality in their decisions. This distortion linked to the externality of knowledge can affect the production of technology and lead to suboptimal solutions. At market equilibrium, the optimal fraction of the time devoted to R & D is expressed by:

This expression shows that an increase in the R&D subsidy (τ) has a positive impact on $\dot{N}$ while tax on capital income discourages investment in technology. The effects of the subsidy on education and the tax labor income are ambiguous. For a low level of τ , the fraction π is reduced. This explains the market imperfection problem related to monopolistic competition. Thus, a powerful monopoly favors underinvestment in technology. To overcome this imperfection, the state can act through several policies to stimulate investment in R&D.

At the laissez-faire-equilibrium, the part of the time devoted to research and development is expressed by: The level is the optimal value that we want to achieve. To detect the sources of economic and fiscal imperfections, we will start from the most preferred situation, for which the laissez-faire equilibrium solution coincides with the optimal value. Theoretical analyzes show that the ratio ;

8 Conclusion

This paper aims to characterize analytically the optimal dynamic fiscal policy in R&Dbased endogenous growth model which incorporates domestic innovation, investment in education, distance to technology frontier and external technology spillovers through import of technologically advanced products and foreign direct investment as engines of growth. The model incorporates three sources of inefficiency: monopolistic competition in the intermediate-goods sector, duplication externalities and spillovers in R&D. To correct these imperfections, the intervention of the state by an effective fiscal policy is necessary. More specifically, the state must choose the appropriate policy variables that allow the decentralized economy to achieve sustainable optimal growth. To better understand this phenomenon, several theoretical analyzes were developed. To this end, we analyzed the efficient growth path that a benevolent social planner would implement. We provided conditions for the

346 existence of a unique feasible optimal steady state with positive long-run growth. The optimal growth path can
 347 be decentralized by means of a tax on capital income at a constant rate combined with equality between the
 348 share of public spending in the total expenditure on education net of subsidy and the tax on labor income and a
 349 time-varying subsidy to R&D which addresses the duplication externalities and spillovers in R&D associated to
 350 the innovation process.

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Quantifying Optimal Policy in an Endogenous Growth Model: A Theoretical
 Analysis

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Year 2019

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The economic surplus resulting from R&D is defined theoretically by $\hat{\pi} = \frac{1}{4} \hat{\pi}^*$ while the profit of a monopoly is expressed $\pi^* = 4(1 - \frac{1}{4}) \frac{1}{4} < (1 - \frac{1}{4}) \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$. This inequation shows that for a $\frac{1}{4}$ / $\frac{3}{4}$?, by very small 4 Global Journal of Management and Business Research

Figure 1:

351

.1 ' (?)

Long-run growth rate of technology γ is high. Pushed to the extreme, this implies that the fraction α is less than its optimal value. This implies that without state intervention, monopolistic competition can lead to underinvestment in technology. We note also that for a reduced value of the term $n / (3\beta)$ (β a high technological gap), the quotient γ innovating and absorbing foreign technologies. It is also important to note that the introduction of a well-harmonized and simplified tax system to further support innovation. More specifically, the state must choose the appropriate policy variables that allow the decentralized economy to achieve optimal growth.

Our theoretical analyzes identify that the first-best optimum can be decentralized by means of a tax on capital income at a constant rate $\tau_k = 1 - \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + \delta}$, combined with an equality between the share of public spending in the total expenditure on education net of subsidy and the tax on labor income τ_l . The following proposition determines the optimal subsidy β and its variation over time. $\square$ Proposition 2. In the conditions of Proposition 1, the first-best optimal solution attainable by a central planner can be decentralized by means of a tax on capital income at a constant rate $\tau_k = 1 - \frac{\gamma}{\gamma + \delta}$, combined with an equality between the share of public spending in the total expenditure on education net of subsidy and the tax on labor income τ_l ; which is financed by means of taxation.

The effect of externalities associated to R&D on the long-run value of the subsidy to R&D is stated in the following proposition.

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