

Income Distribution and Macroeconomics

Oded Galor and Joseph Zeira

The Galor-Zeira Model

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 - $L^U \equiv$ Unskilled Labor

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Total output produced

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- Production in the unskilled-intensive sector:

$$Y_t^u = aL_t^u$$

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 \implies

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 \implies

$$(r_t, w_t^s, w_t^u) = (r, w^s, w^u) \quad \forall t$$

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- Differ in:
 - Parental income \Rightarrow Inv't in HC

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 - [work as unskilled / no inv't in HC] or [work as skilled / inv't in HC in 1st period]

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$$u^t = \alpha \ln c_{t+1} + (1 - \alpha) \ln b_{t+1} \quad \alpha \in (0, 1)$$

Member of Generation t: Budget Constraint

Second period budget constraint:

$$c_{t+1} + b_{t+1} \leq \omega_{t+1}$$

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$b_{t+1} \equiv$ transfers to offspring

$\omega_{t+1} \equiv$ wealth in period $t + 1$

Member of Generation t : Optimization

$$\{c_{t+1}, b_{t+1}\} = \arg \max[\alpha \ln c_{t+1} + (1 - \alpha) \ln b_{t+1}]$$

$$\text{s.t.} \quad c_{t+1} + b_{t+1} \leq \omega_{t+1}$$

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$\implies v^t$ is monotonic increasing in 2nd period wealth, ω_{t+1}

\implies maximization of ω_{t+1} , is the basis of occupational choices

Fundamental Assumptions

- Imperfect Capital Markets:

$$r < i \quad (A1)$$

$r \equiv$ interest rate for lender

$i \equiv$ interest rate for borrowers (for inv't in HC)

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- Fixed cost of education (Indivisibility of inv't in HC) Weighted average of the payments to teachers, administrators, and maintenance workers in the school system (i.e., weighted average of the wages skilled and unskilled workers):

$$C^H = \theta w^s + (1 - \theta) w^u \equiv h > 0 \quad \theta \in [0, 1] \quad (A2)$$

Income: Unskilled Individuals

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Income: Unskilled Individuals

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_{t+1}^u &= (w^u + b_t)(1 + r) + w^u \\ &= w^u(2 + r) + (1 + r)b_t\end{aligned}$$

Income: Skilled Individuals

$$\omega_{t+1}^s = \begin{cases} w^s - (h - b_t)(1 + i) & \text{if } b_t \leq h \\ w^s + (b_t - h)(1 + r) & \text{if } b_t \geq h \end{cases}$$

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 \Rightarrow

$$\omega_{t+1}^s = \begin{cases} w^s - (1 + i)h + (1 + i)b_t & \text{if } b_t \leq h \\ w^s - (1 + r)h + (1 + r)b_t & \text{if } b_t \geq h \end{cases}$$

Assumptions

- Investment in human capital is *not* beneficial for individuals who must finance the entire cost of education via borrowing

$$w^s - (1 + i)h < 0 \quad (\text{A3})$$

Assumptions

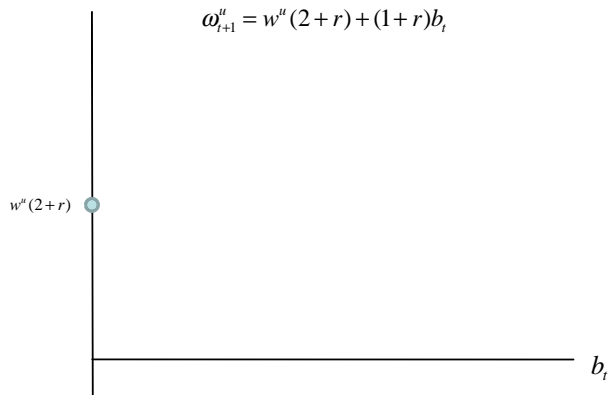
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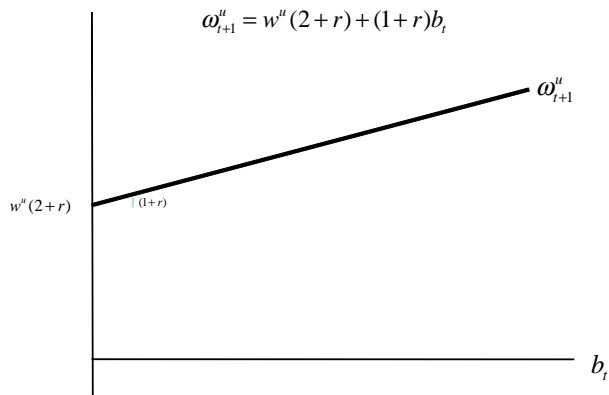
- Investment in human capital is beneficial for individuals who can finance the entire cost of education *without* borrowing

$$w^s - (1 + r)h > w^u(2 + r) \quad (\text{A4})$$

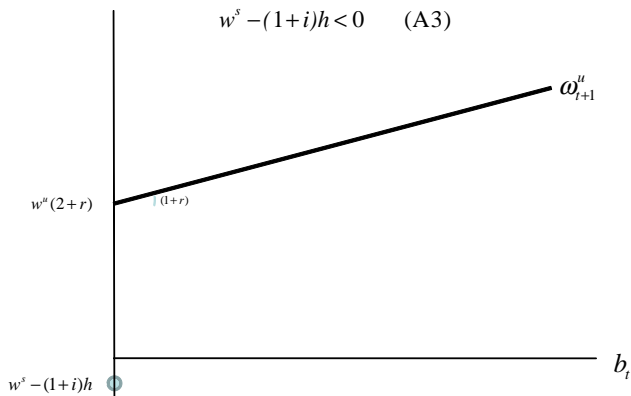
Income from Being Unskilled Worker



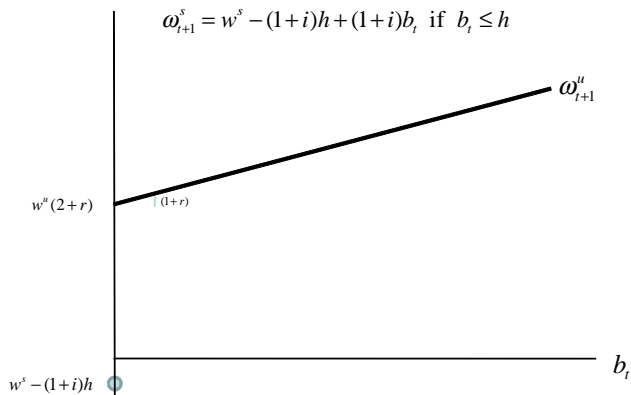
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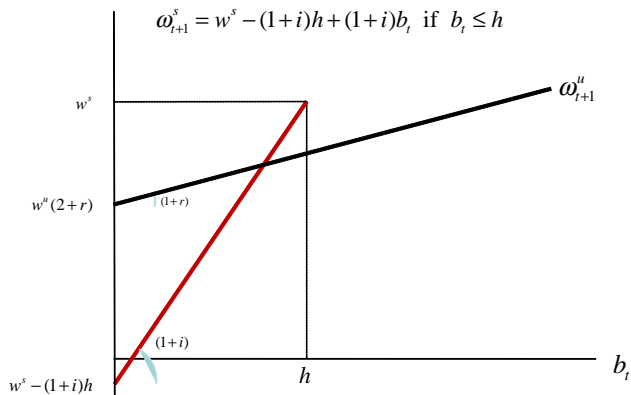
Income from Being Skilled Worker: Borrowers



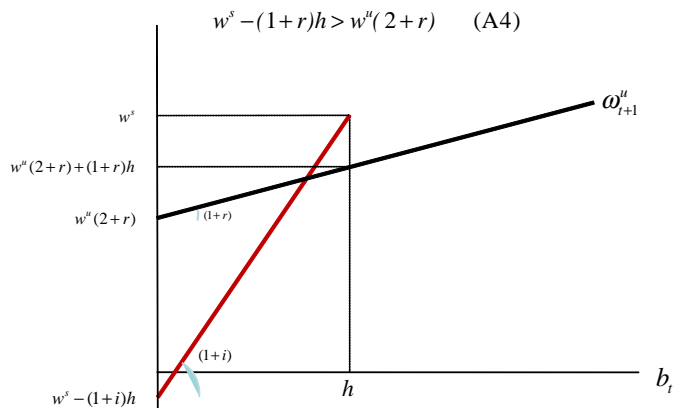
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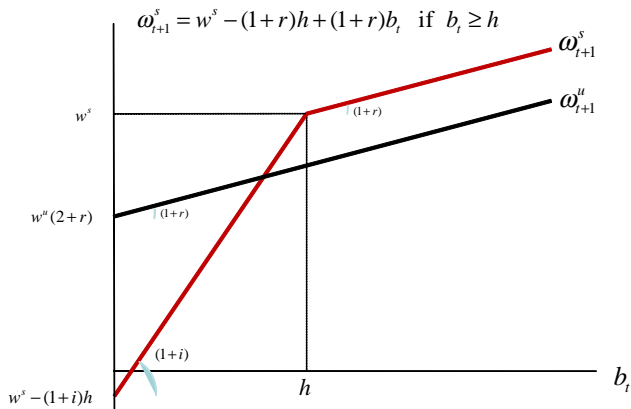
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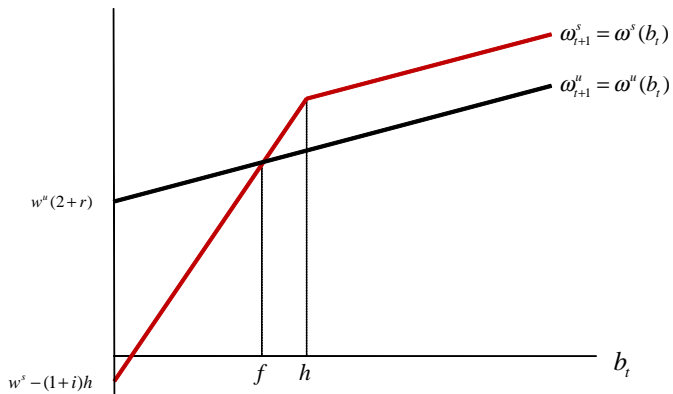
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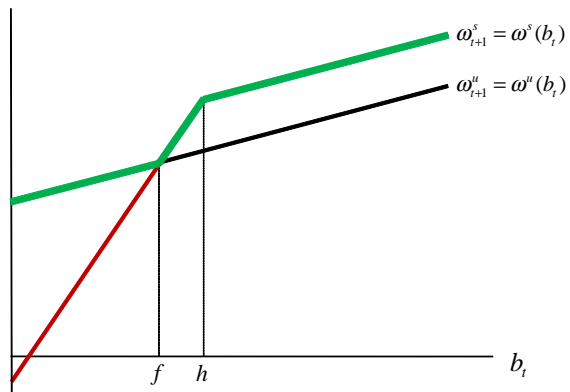
Income from Being Skilled Worker: Lenders



Bequest and Occupational Choice



Bequest and Occupational Choice



Bequest and Occupational Choice

$$b_t \begin{cases} < f & \rightarrow \omega_{t+1}^u > \omega_{t+1}^s \text{ (individual } t \text{ becomes unskilled)} \\ > f & \rightarrow \omega_{t+1}^u < \omega_{t+1}^s \text{ (individual } t \text{ becomes skilled)} \end{cases}$$

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where

$$f = \frac{w^u(2+r) - [w^s - (1+i)h]}{i-r} > 0$$

Bequest Dynamics

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$$b_{t+1} = \begin{cases} (1 - \alpha)[w^u(2 + r) + (1 + r)b_t] & b_t \in [0, f] \\ (1 - \alpha)[w^s - (1 + i)h + (1 + i)b_t] & b_t \in [f, h] \\ (1 - \alpha)[w^s - (1 + r)h + (1 + r)b_t] & b_t \in [h, \infty] \end{cases}$$

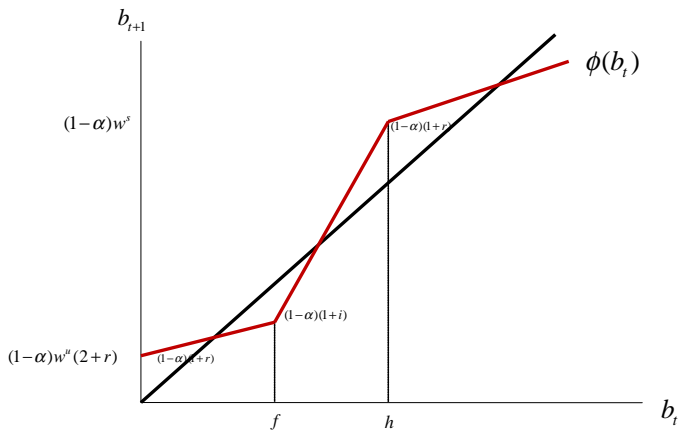
Bequest Dynamics: Sufficiet Conditions for Multiplicity of Steady-Sate

$$(1 - \alpha)(1 + r) < 1 \tag{A5}$$

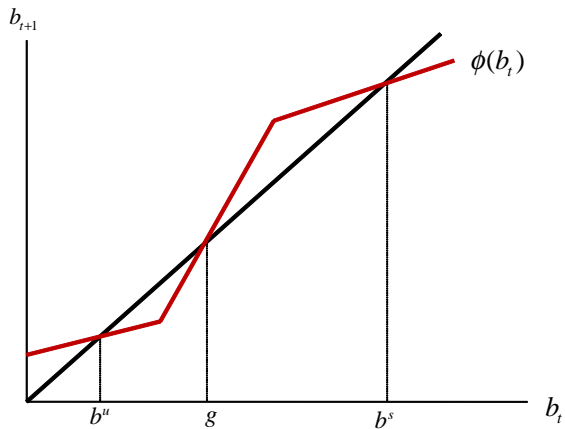
$$(1 - \alpha)(1 + i) > 1$$

$$(1 - \alpha)w^s > h \tag{A6}$$

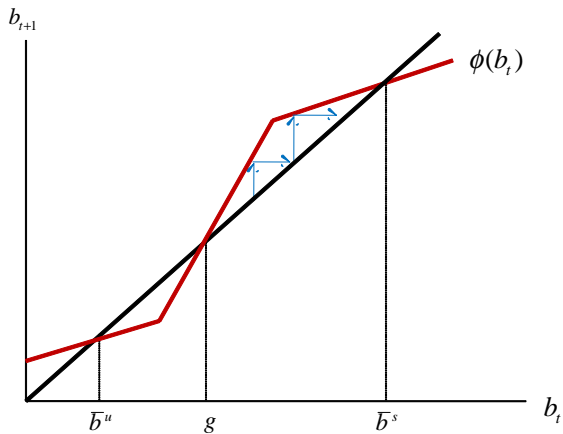
Bequest Dynamics



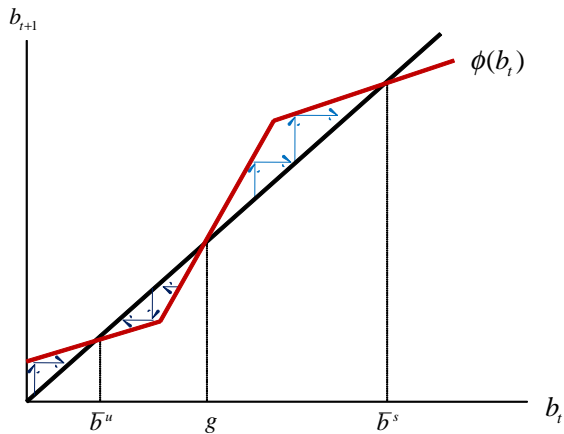
Bequest Dynamics: Multiple Steady-State Equilibrium

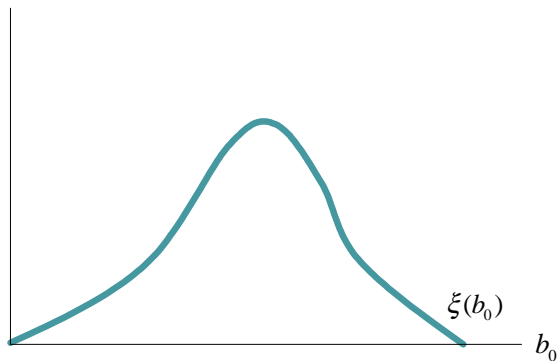


Bequest Dynamics: Stability of High Bequest Equilibrium



Bequest Dynamics: Stability of Steady- State Equilibria



The Distribution of the Inheritance in Period t 

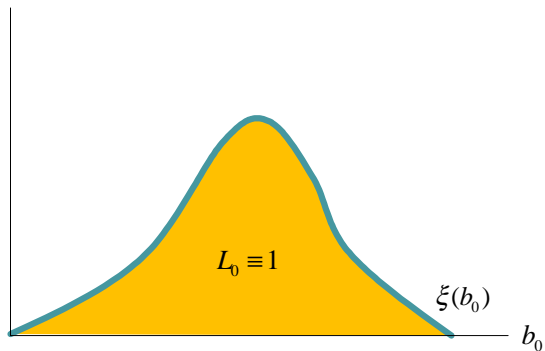
Income Distribution and the Long Run Decomposition of the Labor Force

$\xi_t(b_t) \equiv$ Distribution of inheritance at time t

\implies

$$L_t = \int_0^\infty \xi(b_t) db_t \equiv 1$$

The Distribution of the Inheritance in Period t



Income Distribution of the Long Run Decomposition of the Labor Force

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} l_t^u = \int_0^g \zeta_t(b_t) db_t \equiv \bar{l}^u$$

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$$\partial \bar{l}^s / \partial g < 0$$

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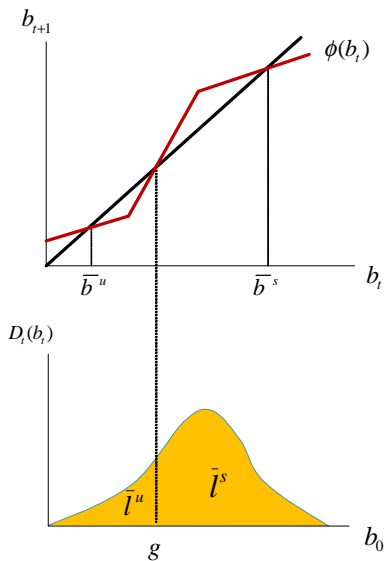
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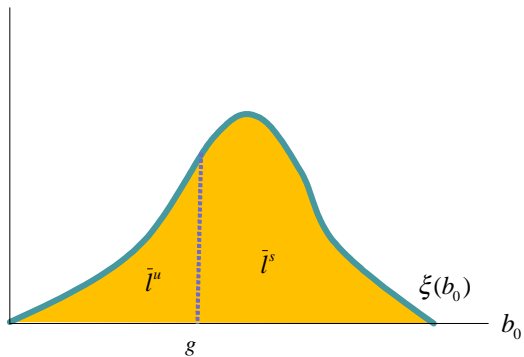
and

$$g = \frac{(1 - \alpha)[(1 + i)h - w^s]}{(1 - \alpha)(1 + i) - 1} > 0$$

Income Distribution of Skill Composition



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Income Per Capita in the Long Run

- Income of a skilled individual in the second period of life (wage and capital income)

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$$I_2^u = w^u + (\bar{b}^u + w^u)r$$

- Income of an unskilled individual in the first period of life (only wage income)

$$I_1^u = w^u$$

Income Per Capita in the Long Run

- Aggregate income in the steady-state

$$\bar{Y} = l_2^s \bar{l}^s + l_2^u \bar{l}^u + l_1^u \bar{l}^u$$

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- Aggregate income (note: $\bar{l}^s + \bar{l}^u = 1$)

$$\begin{aligned} Y &= [w^s - rh + r\bar{b}^s] \bar{l}^s + [w^u(2+r) + r\bar{b}^u](1 - \bar{l}^s) \\ &= w^u(2+r) + r\bar{b}^u + [(w^s - rh) - w^u(2+r) + (\bar{b}^s - \bar{b}^u)] \bar{l}^s \end{aligned}$$

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- Income per capita

$$\bar{y} = \bar{Y}/2$$

Skill Composition and Income Per Capita in the Long Run

- An increase in the fraction of skilled workers increases income per capita in the steady-state

$$\frac{\partial \bar{y}}{\partial \bar{l}^s} = [(w^s - rh) - w^u(2 + r) + (\bar{b}^s - \bar{b}^u)]/2 > 0$$

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since

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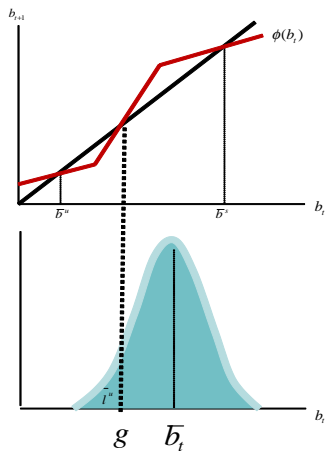
$$w^s - (1 + r)h > w^u(2 + r)$$

$$\bar{b}^s > \bar{b}^u$$

- An increase in g reduces income per capita in the steady-state

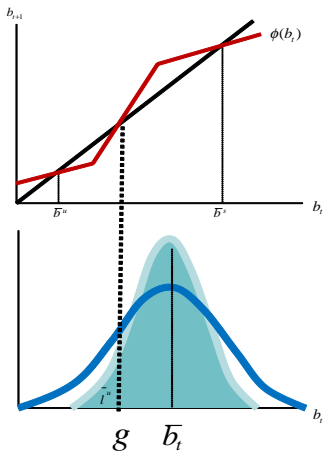
$$\frac{\partial \bar{y}}{\partial g} = \frac{\partial \bar{y}}{\partial \bar{l}^s} \frac{\partial \bar{l}^s}{\partial g} < 0$$

Inequality and Development: Rich Economies

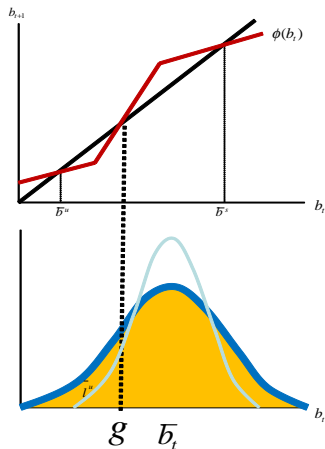


Rich Economies: Inequality is Harmful for Development

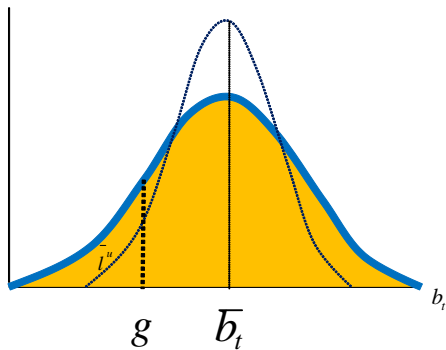
Inequality reduces human capital formation



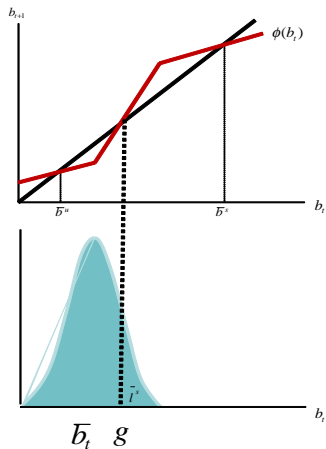
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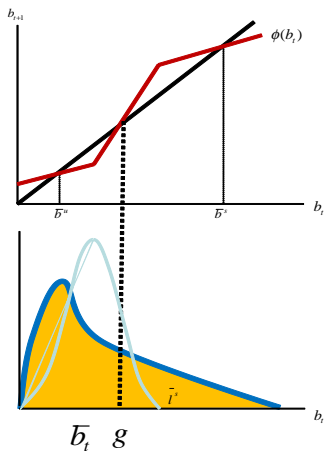


Inequality and Development: Poor Economies

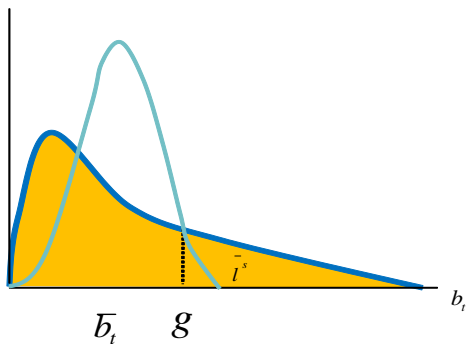


Poor Economies: Inequality may Benefit Development

Inequality stimulates human capital formation



Poor Economies: Inequality may Benefit Development



Robustness

The qualitative results are robust to:

- Education cost that is indexed to wages

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Robustness

The qualitative results are robust to:

- Education cost that is indexed to wages
- Labor augmenting technical change
- Shocks the outcome of investment in human capital, as long as wages are endogenous
- Concave production function of human capital (Moav (EL, 2002), Galor-Moav (RES, 2004))

Robustness: Technological Progress and Endogenous Education Cost

Labor Augmenting Technological Progress: increases the productivity of workers in both the skilled-intensive and the unskilled intensive sector.

- Production in the skilled-intensive sector

$$Y_t^s = F(K_t, A_t L_t^s) \equiv A_t L_t^s f(k_t); \quad k_t \equiv K_t / A_t L_t^s$$

Robustness: Technological Progress and Endogenous Education Cost

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$$Y_t^s = F(K_t, A_t L_t^s) \equiv A_t L_t^s f(k_t); \quad k_t \equiv K_t / A_t L_t^s$$

- Production in the unskilled-intensive sector

$$Y_t^u = A_t a L_t^u$$

Robustness: Technological Progress and Endogenous Education Cost

Labor Augmenting Technological Progress: increases the productivity of workers in both the skilled-intensive and the unskilled intensive sector.

- Production in the skilled-intensive sector

$$Y_t^s = F(K_t, A_t L_t^s) \equiv A_t L_t^s f(k_t); \quad k_t \equiv K_t / A_t L_t^s$$

- Production in the unskilled-intensive sector

$$Y_t^u = A_t a L_t^u$$

- Technological progress

$$A_{t+1} = (1 + \lambda) A_t \quad \lambda > 0.$$

Robustness: Technological Progress and Endogenous Education Cost

Factor Prices

$$w_t^s = A_t[f(k) - f'(k)k] \equiv A_t w^s$$

$$w_t^u = A_t a \equiv A_t w^u$$

$$r_t = r$$

Cost of Education

- Weighted average of the payments to teachers, administrators, and maintenance workers in the school system

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$$C_t^H = \theta A_t w^s + (1 - \theta) A_t w^u \equiv A_t h$$

Income: Unskilled Individuals

$$x_{t+1}^u = (A_t w^u + b_t)(1 + r) + A_{t+1} w^u$$

Income: Unskilled Individuals

$$\begin{aligned}x_{t+1}^u &= (A_t w^u + b_t)(1 + r) + A_{t+1} w^u \\ &= A_t w^u (2 + r + \lambda) + (1 + r) b_t\end{aligned}$$

Income: Skilled Individuals

$$x_{t+1}^s = \begin{cases} A_{t+1}w^s - (A_t h - b_t)(1+i) & \text{if } b_t \leq A_t h \\ A_{t+1}w^s + (b_t - A_t h)(1+r) & \text{if } b_t \geq A_t h \end{cases}$$

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 \implies

$$x_{t+1}^s = \begin{cases} A_t[w^s(1+\lambda) - (1+i)h] + (1+i)b_t & \text{if } b_t \leq A_t h \\ A_t[w^s(1+\lambda) - (1+r)h] + (1+r)b_t & \text{if } b_t \geq A_t h \end{cases}$$

Threshold level of Bequest for Becoming Skilled Worker in Period t

$$f = \frac{A_t \{ w^u (2 + r) - [w^s - (1 + i)h] - \lambda(w^s - w^u) \}}{(i - r)}$$

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for

$$w^u(2+r) > [w^s - (1+i)h] + \lambda(w^s - w^u)$$

Bequest Dynamics

$$b_{t+1} = \begin{cases} (1 - \alpha)\{A_t w^u(2 + r + \lambda) + (1 + r)b_t\} & b_t \in [0, f] \\ (1 - \alpha)\{A_t[w^s(1 + \lambda) - (1 + i)h] + (1 + i)b_t\} & b_t \in [f, A_t h] \\ (1 - \alpha)\{A_t[w^s(1 + \lambda) - (1 + r)h] + (1 + r)b_t\} & b_t \in [A_t h, \infty] \end{cases}$$

Bequest Dynamics

Let $\hat{b}_{t+1} \equiv b_{t+1}A_{t+1}$

$$\hat{b}_{t+1} = \begin{cases} \left[\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\lambda} \right] \{ w^u(2+r+\lambda) + (1+r)\hat{b}_t \} & \hat{b}_t \in [0, (\hat{f})] \\ \left[\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\lambda} \right] \{ [w^s(1+\lambda) - (1+i)h] + (1+i)\hat{b}_t \} & \hat{b}_t \in [\hat{f}, h] \\ \left[\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\lambda} \right] \{ [w^s(1+\lambda) - (1+r)h] + (1+r)\hat{b}_t \} & \hat{b}_t \in [h, \infty] \end{cases}$$

Bequest Dynamics

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$$\hat{b}_{t+1} = \begin{cases} \left[\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\lambda} \right] \{w^u(2+r+\lambda) + (1+r)\hat{b}_t\} & \hat{b}_t \in [0, (\hat{f})] \\ \left[\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\lambda} \right] \{[w^s(1+\lambda) - (1+i)h] + (1+i)\hat{b}_t\} & \hat{b}_t \in [\hat{f}, h] \\ \left[\frac{1-\alpha}{1+\lambda} \right] \{[w^s(1+\lambda) - (1+r)h] + (1+r)\hat{b}_t\} & \hat{b}_t \in [h, \infty] \end{cases}$$

\Rightarrow The dynamical system is unaffected qualitatively by labor-augmenting technological progress

Sufficient Conditions for Multiple Steady-States

$$(1 - \alpha)(1 + r) < (1 + \lambda)$$

$$(1 - \alpha)(1 + i) > (1 + \lambda)$$

$$w^s(1 + \lambda) - (1 + i)h < 0$$

⇒ The system is characterized by multiple steady-state, where the unstable equilibrium

$$\hat{g} = \frac{(1 - \alpha)[(1 + i)h - w^s(1 + \lambda)]}{[(1 - \alpha)(i + i) - (1 + \lambda)]} > 0$$