Use It Or Lose It: Efficiency Gains from Wealth Taxation

Fatih Guvenen, Gueorgui Kambourov, Burhan Kuruscu, Sergio Ocampo, Daphne Chen

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- **This paper:** Quantitative analysis in a rich OLG model calibrated to US data.
- Second paper: Theoretical analysis of optimal combination of wealth and capital income taxes.
- Short Answer: The two taxes have very different sometimes opposite implications.

Why Study Capital Taxation with Heterogeneous Returns?

At least 4 reasons:

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 - But: models struggle to generate plausible wealth inequality.
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- 3. Practical: Wealth taxation is a policy tool used by some governments.
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- 4. Theoretical: Interesting new economic mechanisms. Example next.

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- Government taxes to finance G = \$50.
- ► Two brothers, Fredo and Mike, each with \$1000 of wealth.
- Heterogeneity in investment/entrepreneurial ability.
 - (Fredo) Low ability: earns $r_f = 0\%$ return.
 - (Mike) High ability: earns $r_m = 20\%$ return.

Capital Income Tax

	$a_{i, ext{after-tax}} = a_i + (1 - au_k) r_i a_i$	
	Fredo (<i>rf</i> = 0%)	Mike (<i>r</i> _m = 20%)
Wealth	\$1000	\$1000
Before-tax Income	0	\$200
	$\tau_k = 255$	$\frac{50}{200}$
Tax liability		

After-tax return

After-tax wealth ratio

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► Taxing the book value breaks the link between tax liability and investment ability → "use-it-or-lose-it" effect.

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After-tax wealth ratio	1.15 (= 1150/1000)		$1.20~(pprox ^{1175}/_{975})$		

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- Negative (-): Higher wealth inequality
 - But: effect on consumption inequality ambiguous when wage income present.

Quantitative analysis of capital income and wealth taxation:

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- Persistent rate of return heterogeneity.
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Model generates:

- 1. Thick Pareto tail & extreme concentration of wealth unlike Aiyagari-style models.
- 2. Very fast wealth growth for super wealthy (1/2 of US billionaires are self made).
- 3. and a host of other features of data on returns, entrepreneurs, etc.

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 - Optimal wealth tax delivers both efficiency and distributional gains.
 - No equity-efficiency trade-off.
- 4. Gains from optimal wealth tax come from reallocation, not capital accumulation.
 - Hence, gains remain even after taking the transition into account.

Outline

1. Model

- 2. Parameterization
- 3. Quantitative results
 - Tax reform
 - Optimal taxation
- 4. Robustness
- 5. Conclusions

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Disclaimer: Focus on understanding new mechanisms. Nothing to say about implementation.

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Individuals:

- ► Have preferences over consumption, leisure and bequests
- Make three decisions:

consumption-savings || labor supply || entrepreneurial activity

► Two exogenous characteristics:

 y_{ih} (labor market productivity) $\| z_{ih}$ (entrepreneurial productivity)

Entrepreneurial Productivity *z*_{*ih*}: Key Source of Heterogeneity

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- Entrepreneurial productivity, z_{ih}, varies
 - 1. across individuals
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 - 3. across generations
- Individual i produces x_{ih} units of intermediate good i:

$$\mathbf{x}_{ih} = \mathbf{z}_{ih} \mathbf{k}_{ih},$$

using k_{ih} units of capital.

Entrepreneurial Productivity *z_{ih}*: Dynamics

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- Entrepreneurial productivity transitions between 3 phases of life: $I_{ih} \in \{H, L, \mathbf{0}\}$:

$$z_{ih} = f(z_i^p, \mathbb{I}_{ih}) = \begin{cases} \left(z_i^p\right)^{\lambda} & \text{if } \mathbb{I}_{ih} = H \qquad \text{where } \lambda > \mathbb{I} \\ z_i^p & \text{if } \mathbb{I}_{ih} = L \\ z_{min} & \text{if } \mathbb{I}_{ih} = \mathbf{0} \end{cases}$$

where λ is degree of superstar productivity.

Transition matrix:
$$\Pi_{z^s} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 - p_1 - p_2 & p_1 & p_2 \\ 0 & 1 - p_2 & p_2 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

- $p_1 = \Pr \{ \text{losing superstar productivity} \}.$
- ▶ $p_2 = \Pr \{ \text{losing all productivity} \} \rightarrow \text{become a passive saver.}$

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- ▶ $p_2 = \Pr \{ \text{losing all productivity} \} \rightarrow \text{become a passive saver.}$
- Halvorsen, Hubmer, Ozkan, and Salgado (2021): Large fraction of rich household start relatively poor and experience fast growth early in life and in a few years.

Competitive Final Good Producer

Final good production combines efficiency adjusted capital and labor:

 $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{Q}^{\alpha} \mathbf{L}^{1-\alpha}$

Efficiency-adjusted capital:

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- Defines demand curve for individual entrepreneurs
- Aggregate labor supply (used by aggregate firm, not to produce x_{ih}):

$$L = \int (y_{ih}\ell_{ih}) didh$$

► Note: All entrepreneurs earn (monopoly) rents in the model.

Bond Market (within period):

- Individuals can lend and borrow (subject to collateral constraints).
- **•** Trade happens after z_{ih} is observed. No default risk.

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Entrepreneur's Problem

Without taxes, entrepreneur's capital choice:

$$\pi^{\star}(\boldsymbol{a}, \boldsymbol{z}) = \max_{\boldsymbol{k} \leq \vartheta(\boldsymbol{z}) \cdot \boldsymbol{a}} \left\{ \mathcal{R} \cdot (\boldsymbol{z} \cdot \boldsymbol{k})^{\mu} - (\boldsymbol{r} + \delta) \, \boldsymbol{k} \right\}$$

where borrowing capacity is nondecreasing in ability $\vartheta'(\mathbf{z}) \geq 0$

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After-tax wealth:

$$\Pi(a, z; \tau) = \begin{cases} a + [ra + \pi^*(a, z)] \times (1 - \tau_k) \\ a \times (1 - \tau_a) + [ra + \pi^*(a, z)] \end{cases}$$

Individuals:

During working life:

$$(1 + \tau_{\mathbf{c}}) \cdot \mathbf{c}_{ih} + \mathbf{a}'_{ih} = \Pi\left(\mathbf{a}_{ih}, \mathbf{z}_{ih}; \tau\right) + (1 - \tau_{\ell}) \cdot (\mathbf{w}\mathbf{y}_{ih}\ell_{ih}) \qquad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{a}'_{ih} \ge 0$$

During <u>retirement</u> labor income replaced with <u>SS pension</u>

Government budget balances:

- ► **Outlays:** Expenditure (G) + Social Security pensions
- **Revenues:** taxes on consumption (τ_c) , labor income (τ_ℓ) , bequests (τ_b) plus:
 - 1. tax on capital income (τ_k) , or
 - 2. tax on wealth (τ_a) .

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► Preferences:

$$u(\boldsymbol{c},\ell) = \frac{\left(\boldsymbol{c}^{\gamma}\ell^{1-\gamma}\right)^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} \qquad \boldsymbol{v}(\boldsymbol{b}) = \chi \frac{\left(\left(1-\tau_{\boldsymbol{b}}\right)\boldsymbol{b} + \underline{\boldsymbol{b}}\right)^{\gamma(1-\sigma)}}{1-\sigma}$$

Technology:

• Capital share $\alpha = 0.4$, curvature $\mu = 0.9$.

► Tax rates in benchmark US economy:

• $\tau_k = 25\%, \tau_\ell = 22.4\%$, and $\tau_c = 7.5\%$ (McDaniel, 2007), $\tau_b = 40\%$

Collateral constraint: ϑ (z̄) = 1 + φ (z̄ − z̄₀), with φ chosen to match business debt plus external funds /GDP ratio of 1.5.

Parameters of entrepreneurial productivity: λ, p₁, p₂, σ_{ε_z}, and ρ_z chosen to match five moments:

	Data	Benchmark	
Top 1% wealth share	0.36	0.36	
Self-made billionaires (fraction)	0.54	0.56	
Pop. share of entrepreneurs at top 1%	0.65	0.68	
Wealth share of entrepreneurs	0.42	0.39	
Intergenerational correlation of avg. return	0.1	0.1	

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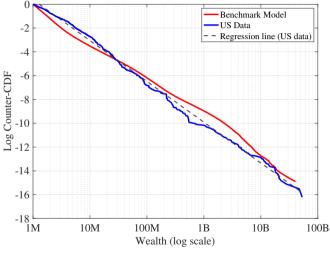
Note also: 53% of individuals earn NO business income (i.e., z_{ih} = 0), and only 7% earn majority of income from business (our definition of "entrepreneur")

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	Data	Benchmark	Low-Ineq.
			Calibration
Top 1% wealth share	0.36	0.36	0.20
Self-made billionaires (fraction)	0.54	0.56	0.26
Pop. share of entrepreneurs at top 1%	0.65	0.68	0.68
Wealth share of entrepreneurs	0.42	0.39	0.34
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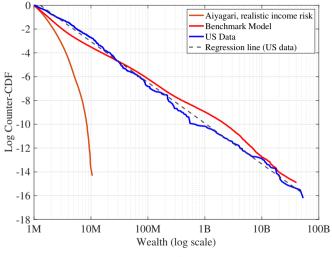
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Pareto Tail of Wealth Distribution: Model vs. Data



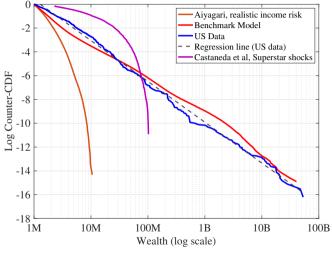
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Performance of the benchmark model: return heterogeneity

Table 1: Distribution of Rates of Return (Untargeted) in the Model and the Data

	Annual Returns			Persisten	t Compone	nt of Re	turns		
	Std dev	P90-P10	Kurtosis	Std dev	P90-P10	Kurtosis	P90	P99	P99.9
Data (Norway)	8.6	14.2	47.8	6.0	7.7	78.4	4.3	11.6*	23.4*
Data (Norway, bus. own.)	-	-	-	4.8	10.9	14.2	10.1	-	-
Data (US, private firms)	17.7	33.8	8.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benchmark Model	8.4	17.1	7.6	4.1	9.2	6.1	5.8	13.9	19.7
L-INEQ Calibration	6.7	13.1	9.2	3.8	9.2	4.3	5.6	11.2	15.8

Performance of the benchmark model: return heterogeneity

Table 1: Distribution of Rates of Return (Untargeted) in the Model and the Data

	Annual Returns			Persisten	t Compone	nt of Re	turns		
	Std dev	P90-P10	Kurtosis	Std dev	P90-P10	Kurtosis	P90	P99	P99.9
Data (Norway)	8.6	14.2	47.8	6.0	7.7	78.4	4.3	11.6*	23.4*
Data (Norway, bus. own.)	-	-	-	4.8	10.9	14.2	10.1	-	-
Data (US, private firms)	17.7	33.8	8.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Benchmark Model	8.4	17.1	7.6	4.1	9.2	6.1	5.8	13.9	19.7
L-INEQ Calibration	6.7	13.1	9.2	3.8	9.2	4.3	5.6	11.2	15.8



- 1. Model
- 2. Parameterization

3. Quantitative results

- Tax reform
- Optimal taxation
- 4. Robustness
- 5. Conclusions

Tax Reform

Start from the benchmark US economy...

RN Tax Reform: Replace τ_k with τ_a so as to keep government revenue constant.

► Note that this implies retiree pensions remain fixed after reform

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- Compare steady states.

	Benchmark	RN Wealth Tax
$ au_k$	25.0%	0.00
$ au_a$	0.00	1.19%
Variable		% Change
К		
Q		
TFP _Q		
TFP		
Y		
W		
С		

	Benchmark	RN Wealth Tax
$ au_{k}$	25.0%	0.00
$ au_{a}$	0.00	1.19%
Variable		% Change
Κ		16.4
Q		22.6
TFPQ		5.3
TFP		2.1
Y		
W		
С		

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$ au_{k}$	25.0%	0.00			
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Variable		% Change			
К		16.4			
Q		22.6			
TFPQ		5.3			
TFP		2.1			
Y		9.2			
W		8.0			
С		9.5			

	RN	BB	RN
			(L-INEQ)
Average welfare change:			
\overline{CE}_1	6.8%	4.8%	4.9%
\overline{CE}_2	7.2%	4.3%	4.8%
% with welfare gain	<mark>68%</mark>	94%	64%

 $\overline{\textit{CE}}_1$: % consumption transfer to each newborn to be indifferent, averaged over newborns.

 $\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$: % consumption transfer to all newborns giving same average utility in both economies.

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Key: Tax reform **replaces** τ_k with τ_a . This is \neq from adding wealth taxes.

► Adding wealth taxes reduces welfare by -10% to -14%

Average (consumption equivalent) welfare gain by age-productivity groups:

		Productivity group (Percentile)										
Age	0-40	40-80	80-90	90-99	99-99.9	99.9+						
20	6.7	6.3	6.8	8.5	11.5	13.4						
21-34												
35-49												
50-64												
65+												

Average (consumption equivalent) welfare gain by age-productivity groups:

		Productivity group (Percentile)										
Age	0-40	40-80	80-90	90-99	99-99.9	99.9+						
20	6.7	6.3	6.8	8.5	11.5	13.4						
21-34	6.3	5.5	5.5	6.5	8.5	9.7						
35-49	4.9	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.1	2.8						
50-64	2.2	1.5	1.1	0.9	0.4	-0.2						
65+	-0.2	-0.3	-0.4	-0.4	-0.7	-1.0						

	RN	BB	RN
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Average welfare change:			
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- **Key:** Tax reform **replaces** τ_k with τ_a . This is \neq from adding wealth taxes.
 - Adding wealth taxes reduces welfare by -6% to -9%

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			(L-INEQ)
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Optimal taxation

Three experiments:

Gov't maximizes expected lifetime utility of newborns... by choosing

optimal labor income tax rate and:

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Three experiments:

Gov't maximizes expected lifetime utility of newborns... by choosing

optimal labor income tax rate and:

- 1. flat-rate wealth tax.
- 2. progressive wealth tax: no tax below exemption level.
- 3. capital income tax.

	Benchmark US Economy	RN Reform	OWT
Tax Rates			
$ au_{k}$	25.0	_	—
$ au_a$	_	1.19	3.03
$ au_\ell$	22.4	22.4	15.4
$\Delta Welfare$			
\overline{CE}_1	_	6.8	9.0
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$	_	7.2	8.7

Note: Percentage changes are computed with respect to the US benchmark.

• Most of the gain from optimal wealth tax is from replacing τ_k with τ_a .

	Benchmark US Economy	RN Reform	OWT	OWT L-INEQ
Tax Rates				
$ au_{k}$	25.0	_	_	—
$ au_a$	_	1.19	3.03	2.54
$ au_\ell$	22.4	22.4	15.4	18.1
$\Delta Welfare$				
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_1$	_	6.8	9.0	6.0
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$	_	7.2	8.7	5.2

Note: Percentage changes are computed with respect to the US benchmark.

• Most of the gain from optimal wealth tax is from replacing τ_k with τ_a .

	Benchmark US Economy	RN Reform	OWT	OWT OWT L-INEQ Opt. $\underline{a}_{ex} = 0.3\overline{y}$		
Tax Rates						
$ au_{k}$	25.0	_	—	—	_	
$ au_a$	_	1.19	3.03	2.54	3.80	
$ au_\ell$	22.4	22.4	15.4	18.1	14.4	
$\Delta Welfare$						
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_1$	_	6.8	9.0	6.0	9.1	
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$	_	7.2	8.7	5.2	8.8	

Note: Percentage changes are computed with respect to the US benchmark.

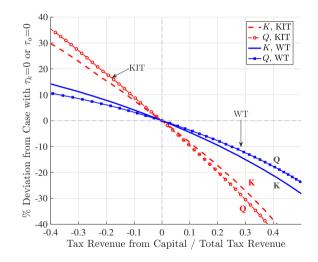
- Most of the gain from optimal wealth tax is from replacing τ_k with τ_a .
- Optimal threshold is 30% of av. income and exempts 32% of population.

	Benchmark US Economy	RN Reform	OWT	OWT OWT L-INEQ Opt. $\underline{a}_{ex} = 0.3\overline{y}$				ΟΚΙΤ
Tax Rates								
$ au_{k}$	25.0	_	—	_	_	-13.6%		
$ au_{a}$	_	1.19	3.03	2.54	3.80	—		
$ au_\ell$	22.4	22.4	15.4	18.1	14.4	31.2		
$\Delta Welfare$								
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_1$	_	6.8	9.0	6.0	9.1	4.2		
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$	_	7.2	8.7	5.2	8.8	5.1		

Note: Percentage changes are computed with respect to the US benchmark.

- Most of the gain from optimal wealth tax is from replacing τ_k with τ_a .
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Figure 1: How K and Q Vary with Revenue Raised from Taxing Capital



% change from US benchmark	ΔK	ΔQ	ΔTFP_Q	ΔL	ΔY	Δw	Δw (net)
Tax reform	16.4	22.6	5.3	1.2	9.2	8.0	8.0
Optimal $ au_a$							
Opt. τ_a + Threshold							
Optimal τ_k							

	ΔK	ΔQ	ΔTFP_Q	ΔL	$\Delta \mathbf{Y}$	Δw	Δw
% change from US benchmark							(net)
Tax reform	16.4	22.6	5.3	1.2	9.2	8.0	8.0
Optimal $ au_a$	2.6	10.5	7.7	3.3	6.1	2.8	12.0
Opt. τ_a + Threshold							
Optimal $ au_k$							

	ΔK	ΔQ	ΔTFP_Q	ΔL	$\Delta \mathbf{Y}$	$\Delta \mathbf{W}$	$\Delta \mathbf{W}$
% change from US benchmark							(net)
Tax reform	16.4	22.6	5.3	1.2	9.2	8.0	8.0
Optimal τ_a	2.6	10.5	7.7	3.3	6.1	2.8	12.0
Opt. τ_a + Threshold	-3.0	5.4	8.7	3.3	4.1	0.8	11.2
Optimal $ au_k$							

% change from US benchmark	ΔK	ΔQ	ΔTFP_Q	ΔL	ΔY	Δw	Δw (net)
Tax reform	16.4	22.6	5.3	1.2	9.2	8.0	8.0
Optimal $ au_a$	2.6	10.5	7.7	3.3	6.1	2.8	12.0
Opt. τ_a + Threshold	-3.0	5.4	8.7	3.3	4.1	0.8	11.2
Optimal τ_k	<mark>38.6</mark>	46.1	5.4	-1.0	15.7	16.8	3.6

- Welfare gain comes from changes in consumption (c) and $leisure(\ell)$.
- ► How much comes from changes in the **level** vs **distribution** of *c* and *l*?

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- ▶ How much comes from changes in the **level** vs **distribution** of *c* and *l*?

	Tax Reform	Opt. τ_a	Opt. τ_a +Threshold	Opt. τ_k
\textit{CE}_2 (NB)	7.2	8.7	8.8	5.1
Level $(\overline{c}, \overline{\ell})$	8.9			
Dist. (c, ℓ)	-1.5			

- Welfare gain comes from changes in consumption (c) and $leisure(\ell)$.
- ▶ How much comes from changes in the **level** vs **distribution** of *c* and *l*?

	Tax Reform	Opt. τ_a	Opt. τ_a +Threshold	Opt. τ_k
\textit{CE}_2 (NB)	7.2	8.7	8.8	5.1
Level $(\overline{c}, \overline{\ell})$	8.9	5.9		
Dist. (<i>c</i> , ℓ)	-1.5	2.6		

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- ▶ How much comes from changes in the **level** vs **distribution** of *c* and *l*?

	Tax Reform	Opt. τ_a	Opt. τ_a +Threshold	Opt. τ_k
\textit{CE}_2 (NB)	7.2	8.7	8.8	5.1
Level $(\overline{c},\overline{\ell})$	8.9	5.9	4.3	
Dist. (<i>c</i> , ℓ)	-1.5	2.6	4.3	

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	Tax Reform	Opt. τ_a	Opt. τ_a +Threshold	Opt. τ_k
<i>CE</i> ₂ (NB)	7.2	8.7	8.8	5.1
Level $(\overline{c},\overline{\ell})$	8.9	5.9	4.3	14.7
Dist. (<i>c</i> , ℓ)	-1.5	2.6	4.3	-8.3

Optimal taxes with transition

- Fix opt. tax level (τ_a or τ_k) and solve transition to new steady state
- Use labor income tax (τ_{ℓ}) to finance debt from deficits during transition

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- Use labor income tax (τ_ℓ) to finance debt from deficits during transition

	$ au_{a}$ Transition	$ au_{m k}$ Transition
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$ (newborn)	6.0 (8.7)	
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$ (all)	3.5 (4.3)	

Dbn. of Welfare Gains

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	$ au_{a}$ Transition	$ au_{m k}$ Transition
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$ (newborn)	6.0 (8.7)	-8.4 (5.1)
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$ (all)	3.5 (4.3)	-6.1 (4.5)

- Capital income taxes $(\tau_{\mathbf{k}})$: Gains turned to large losses with transition
- Wealth taxes (τ_a): Large gains achieved through reallocation not accumulation

Outline

- 1. Model
- 2. Parameterization
- 3. Quantitative Results
 - Tax reform
 - Optimal taxation

4. Robustness

5. Conclusions

Robustness

- Pure rents: no heterogeneity in entrepreneurial productivity.
- Alternative modeling of financial frictions
 - No collateral constraints. Unlimited borrowing subject to a credit spread.
 - Introducing public firms with increased credit access.
 - Increased credit access for all, constant ϑ,...
- ► A model with a corporate sector
- ▶ Reconcile capital income tax results with Conesa, Kitao, and Krueger (AER, 2009)
- Nonlinear capital income taxes
- Other Robustness and Extensions
 - Higher mark-up ($\mu = 0.8$)
 - Eliminate stochastic variation over lifecycle $(z_{ih} = \overline{z}_i)$
 - Everybody starts life in middle lane ($z_{i0} = \overline{z}_i$ for all *i*) but can move up to fast lane

	Baseline	Pure rents	Credit S	Spread	Public	Corp.	Conesa et al	Non-line	ar OKIT
	OWT	model	10.1%	6%	- Firms	Sector	version	$y_{after-tax} = (1)$	$(- au_k) y^{1-\eta}$
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
$ au_a$	3.03	1.40	2.33	2.46	2.76	3.85			_
$ au_{\ell}$	15.4	27.0	13.6	15.5	17.6	12.8	15.0	15.0 22.4 (fixed)	
τ_k	-	-	_	—	_		42.3	$(0.27, -0.022) \ _{(au_k, \eta)}$	$(-0.2, 0.008) \atop _{(au_k, \eta)}$
					Change	in Welfaı	re (%)		
\overline{CE}_1	9.0	-1.7	6.1	4.3	5.9	9.5	1.6	0.9	4.2
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$	8.7	-1.4	5.6	3.5	4.8	8.8	1.4 0.8		5.4

	Looser	Constant ϑ	Higher	Constant	No Start	Add $ au_a$ to B		Benchmark	
	Constraints		Markups	Productivity	in Fast Lane	2% We	alth Tax	OWT W	ealth Tax
	debt/GDP = 2.5	$\vartheta\left(z\right)=\overline{\vartheta}$	$\mu = 0.8$	$z_{ih} = \overline{z}_i$	$z_{ih} = \overline{z}_i$	$ au_\ell$ fixed	Adjust $ au_\ell$	$ au_\ell$ fixed	Adjust $ au_\ell$
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)
$ au_{a}$	2.34	3.66	2.45	2.16	2.8	2.00		3.03	
$ au_\ell$	19.5	12.4	18.0	19.4	16.1	22.4 14.9		22.4	12.0
				Change in	Welfare (%	.)			
\overline{CE}_1	4.4	11.8	8.2	6.0	8.5	-8.3	0.9	-11.9	0.3
$\overline{\textit{CE}}_2$	4.2	11.2	7.6	5.5	8.2	-9.9 0.0		-14.2	-1.0

- Many countries currently have or have had wealth taxes:
 - France, Spain, Norway, Switzerland, Italy, Denmark, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Colombia, among others.
- However, the rationale for wealth taxes are often vague:
 - fairness, reducing inequality, etc.
 - and not studied formally
- Here, we are proposing a case for wealth taxes based on efficiency (and distributional benefits) and quantitatively evaluating its impact.

Tax reform from τ_k **to** τ_a **:** Substantial welfare gains

- **Reallocates capital:** less productive wealthy \rightarrow more productive agents
- Gives the right incentives to the right people to save
- Increases output, consumption, and wages

Optimal taxes: Welfare gain substantially larger under wealth taxes

- Capital income taxes (τ_k) : smaller gains that go away with transition
- Wealth taxes (τ_a) : <u>large</u> gains act through <u>reallocation not accumulation</u>

Thanks!

Labor Market Productivity y_{ih}

Labor market efficiency of household i at age h is

$$\log y_{ih} = \underbrace{\kappa_h}_{\text{life cycle}} + \underbrace{\theta_i}_{\text{permanent}} + \underbrace{\eta_{ih}}_{\text{AR(1)}}$$

• Permanent component θ_i is <u>imperfectly inherited</u> from parents:

$$\theta_{i}^{child} = \rho_{\theta} \theta_{i}^{parent} + \varepsilon_{\theta}$$

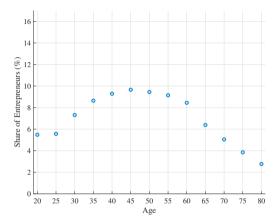


Entrepreneurship in the Model

- Not all individuals are active entrepreneurs:
 - Only 47% of working-age population have positive productivity.
- ▶ 7% of of individuals earn more than half of their income from their business:
 - These entrepreneurs account for 68% (39%) of the top 1% (10%) of wealth holders
 - They hold 40% of aggregate wealth (and 50% within top 1%)
 - Most of them are 35-64 years old (in the model)
- ► These are in line with SCF:

Pass-through business owners are ~12% of households, account for 46% of wealth and constitute 70% of top 1% wealth holders.

Fraction of Entrepreneurs over the Life Cycle, Benchmark Model



Notes: The figure plots the fraction of entrepreneurs over the life cycle for our baseline economy. All numbers are in percentage points. An entrepreneur is defined as someone who earns more than 50% of their income from their business.

Entrepreneurship over lifecycle is hump-shaped as documented in the data (see, e.g., Kelley, Singer, and Herrington (2011); Liang, Wang, and Lazear JPE, 2018). Inequality in the model

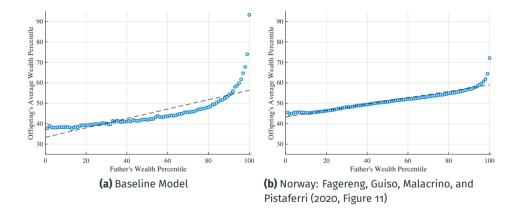
Concentration of Capital Income and Wealth in the Model

Top x% of Wealth Dbn.	Wealth Share (%)	Capital Income Share (%)	Top x% of Capital Income Dbn.	Capital Income Share (%)
0.1	22.3	32.0	0.1	34.3
0.5	30.5	43.0	0.5	45.7
1	35.1	48.2	1	51.9
10	64.9	73.1	10	78.9
50	96.4	97.0	50	98.1

Notes: The table reports wealth and capital income shares for individuals at the top of the wealth distribution (first three columns) and at the top of the capital income distribution (last two columns). All numbers are in percentage points.

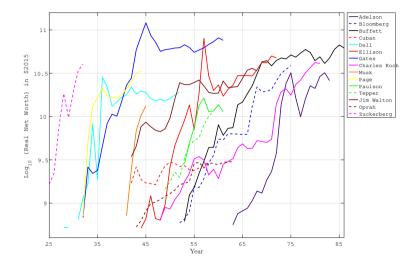
- The top 0.1% share by capital income varies between 30% and 41% since 2000 according to Saez and Zucman (QJE, fig 3).
- Smith, Zidar, Zwick (2021, fig A5) report shares sorted by individual components of capital income and the top 1% share for interest, dividend, and capital gains income are all above 60% since 2000

Intergenerational Rank Correlation of Wealth



Notes: The figures show rank-rank plots for the wealth distribution of parents and children.

Evolution of Net Worth Among Forbes 400



	Optimal Wealth Tax					Optimal Capital Income Tax							
	Distribution of Welfare Gains and Losses					Distribution of Welfare Gains and Losses							
	Ability Groups (\overline{z}_i Percentiles)						Abil	ity Group	s (īz _i Perc	entiles)			
	0-40	40-80	80-90	90-99	99-99.9	99.9+	0-40	40-80	80-90	90-99	99-99.9	99.9+	
20	9.4	8.3	8.3	10.1	13.9	16.3	3.4	3.8	5.1	7.5	11.4	13.8	
21-34	8.7	6.8	5.8	6.4	8.0	8.6	3.3	3.6	4.7	7.0	11.2	13.9	
35-49	6.3	4.1	2.4	1.6	-0.4	-2.3	2.9	2.8	3.5	4.8	7.1	8.7	
50-64	2.5	1.0	-0.1	-1.2	-3.4	-5.2	1.6	1.5	1.9	2.7	3.8	4.6	
65+	-0.5	-0.9	-1.3	-1.9	-3.1	-4.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.9	1.6	1.9	

Back to Optimal Taxes

			Optimal	Wealth	Тах			Opti	mal Cap	ital Inco	me Tax		
	Optimal Wealth Tax Distribution of Welfare Gains and Losses Ability Groups (\overline{z}_i Percentiles) 0-40 40-80 80-90 90-99 99-99.9 99.9+ 5.4 4.9 5.6 8.4 13.5 16.7 4.8 3.8 3.9 6.0 10.0 12.1					es	Distribution of Welfare Gains and Losses						
	0-40 40-80 80-90 90-99 99-99.9 99.9+						Ability Groups (īz _i Percentiles)						
	0-40	40-80	80-90	90-99	99-99.9	99.9+	0-40	40-80	80-90	90-99	99-99.9	99.9+	
20	5.4	4.9	5.6	8.4	13.5	16.7	-8.8	-7.5	-4.8	0.2	8.7	13.8	
21-34	4.8	3.8	3.9	6.0	10.0	12.1	-8.2	-5.9	-1.9	5.7	19.8	30.2	
35-49	2.9	1.7	1.1	1.5	1.6	1.0	-6.3	-3.9	0.0	6.5	18.5	27.1	
50-64	0.5	-0.3	-0.8	-1.1	-2.2	-3.4	-3.1	-1.3	1.3	5.2	12.2	17.0	
65+	-0.7	-0.9	-1.1	-1.4	-2.5	-3.7	0.6	1.2	2.2	4.0	7.0	9.1	

Back to Transitional Analysis

	U.S. Data	Gaussian	GS benchmark		
Parametrizatior	1:	$\rho = 0.985, \sigma^2 = 0.0234$	Rich process		
Gini	0.85	0.58	0.66		
Top 0.1%	14.8%	1.1%	2.2%		
Frac > \$10M	0.4-0.5%	≈ 0	0.02%		
Тор 1%	35.5%	7.0%	9.2%		
Top 10%	75.0%	37.9%	41.6%		
Top 20%	87.0%	48.2%	52.8%		