

# Income Differences, Productivity and Input-Output Networks

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## Abstract

We study the importance of input-output (IO) linkages and sectoral productivity (TFP) in determining cross-country income differences. We find that while highly connected sectors are more productive than the typical sector in poor countries, the opposite is true in rich ones. To assess the quantitative role of linkages and sectoral TFP differences in cross-country income differences, we decompose cross-country income variation using a multi-sector general equilibrium model. We find that (i) IO linkages substantially amplify fundamental sectoral TFP variation but (ii) this amplification is significantly weaker than the one suggested by a simple IO model with an aggregate intermediate good.

KEY WORDS: input-output structure, productivity, cross-country income differences, development accounting

JEL CLASSIFICATION: O11, O14, O47, C67, D85

The development accounting literature<sup>1</sup> has established that cross-country differences in income per capita come from two equally important sources: from aggregate productivity differences and from differences in physical production factors. This paper takes this a step further and investigates how sectoral TFP differences interact with countries' input-output (IO) structure to generate aggregate total factor productivity (TFP) differences. IO linkages between sectors can potentially amplify sectoral productivity differences, as noted by a literature in development economics initiated by Hirschman (1958). In this paper we show, theoretically and quantitatively, that IO structure

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<sup>1</sup>See, e.g., Klenow and Rodriguez-Clare (1997), Hall and Jones (1999), Caselli (2005).

and cross-country differences in the interaction of IO structure with sectoral TFP levels are indeed of first-order importance for explaining cross-country variation in aggregate TFP and income per worker. Our main findings are that: (i) IO linkages substantially amplify cross-country sectoral TFP variation; (ii) amplification is significantly weaker than the one suggested by an IO model with an aggregate intermediate good that abstracts from the details of countries' IO structure (e.g., Ciccone, 2002; Jones, 2011a).

We start from building a neoclassical multi-sector model with IO linkages that admits a closed-form solution for GDP per worker as a log-linear function of sectoral IO multipliers, sectoral TFP levels and the capital stock per worker.<sup>2</sup> Sectoral IO *multipliers* represent each sector's importance or "weight" in aggregate TFP due to intermediate goods linkages, thus summarizing the role of country's IO structure. The (first-order) IO multiplier of a sector depends on the value-added share of that sector, the number of sectors to which the sector supplies and the intensity with which its output is used as an input by other sectors.<sup>3</sup> It measures by how much aggregate income changes if productivity of a given sector changes by one percent. Relatedly, the *aggregate* IO multiplier determines by how much aggregate income changes if productivity in all sectors changes by the same amount. Since IO linkages induce propagation of shocks from one sector to another, IO multipliers tend to amplify the impact of productivity changes compared to a model without linkages. Moreover, TFP changes in sectors with high multipliers have a larger impact on aggregate income compared to sectors with low multipliers. Thus, higher aggregate IO multipliers, higher average TFP levels and a positive correlation between sectoral IO multipliers and TFP levels all have a positive effect on income per worker.

We then use data from the World Input-Output Database (Timmer et al., 2015) to construct a unique dataset of IO tables and sectoral TFP levels (relative to those of the U.S.) for 38 low and high-income countries and 35 sectors. The empirical distribution of sectoral multipliers has a fat right tail in all countries, so that the TFP levels of a few high-multiplier sectors have a large impact on aggregate outcomes. Aggregate multipliers are around two on average and are uncorrelated with countries' income. Finally, in low-income countries, sectoral IO multipliers and TFP levels are *positively* correlated, while they are *negatively* correlated in rich economies.

To understand the channels of cross-country income differences in our model, we then provide an exact variance decomposition of log real GDP per worker. The model splits income variation into variation in the capital stock per worker and variation in aggregate TFP. The latter can be

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<sup>2</sup>In our baseline model, we take variation in IO structure across countries as exogenous. Due to Cobb-Douglas technology, the IO coefficients correspond to the coefficients of the sectoral Cobb-Douglas production functions, which are independent of TFP levels. In robustness checks we account for possible endogeneity of IO linkages by: (i) allowing for sector-country-specific tax wedges; (ii) introducing CES production functions, which makes IO linkages endogenous to sectoral TFP levels.

<sup>3</sup>The intensity of input use is measured by the IO coefficient, which states the cents spent on that input per dollar of output produced. There are also higher-order effects, which depend on the IO coefficients of the sectors to which the sectors that use the initial sector's output as an input supply.

further decomposed into (i) variation in aggregate multipliers and average sectoral TFP levels and (ii) variation in the covariance between sectoral TFPs and multipliers across countries.<sup>4</sup> In line with the standard result from development accounting, variation in capital stocks per worker and in aggregate TFP each explain roughly half of the variation in income per worker. Here the role of IO linkages in amplifying sectoral productivity differences becomes clear when we compare this result to the one of a multi-sector model without linkages (and thus without amplification) but with the same sectoral TFP differences. Such a model would generate much smaller income differences than those present in the data and would counterfactually attribute 70% of income variation to differences in production factors and only 30% to variation in aggregate TFP. Thus, amplification through linkages is key to reconcile the relatively modest sectoral TFP differences in the data with the substantial observed aggregate TFP variation.

To understand how the details of countries' IO structure matter for aggregate TFP variation compared to a model with an aggregate intermediate good (e.g. Jones, 2011a), we go a step further: we decompose the 50% income variation due to aggregate TFP differences into 60% due to average sectoral TFP differences amplified by aggregate multipliers and an around *10% reduction* due to variation in the covariance term between TFP levels and multipliers.<sup>5</sup> Intuitively, the average sectoral TFP differences, amplified by aggregate multipliers, are mitigated by countries' IO structures: in low-income countries, low-productivity sectors tend to be poorly connected (have low multipliers) and are thus not too harmful for the economy, while sectors with high multipliers have relatively high productivity levels and thus boost aggregate income.<sup>6</sup> By contrast, in high-income countries, high-multiplier sectors tend to have below-average productivity levels, which reduces income of rich countries significantly.

In our baseline model, differences in IO structure across countries are exogenously given. However, one may be concerned that observed IO linkages are affected by (implicit) tax wedges. In an extension, we thus identify sector-country-specific wedges as deviations of sectoral intermediate input shares from their cross-country average value: a below-average intermediate input share in a given sector identifies a positive implicit tax wedge. We show that poor countries have higher average tax wedges and also tax their high-multiplier sectors relatively more, while the opposite

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<sup>4</sup>In the light of Hulten's (1978) results, one may be skeptical whether using a structural general equilibrium model and considering the features of the IO matrices adds much compared to computing aggregate TFP as a weighted average of sectoral TFPs (where the adequate 'Domar' weights correspond to the shares of sectoral gross output in GDP). Absent distortions, Domar weights equal sectoral IO multipliers and summarize the direct and indirect effect of IO linkages. However, such a reduced-form approach does not allow to assess which features of the IO structure matter for aggregate outcomes or to compute counter-factual outcomes due to changes in IO structure or productivities, as we do. Finally, as Basu and Fernald (2002) and Baqaee and Farhi (2020) show, in the presence of sector-specific distortions (that we consider in an extension) the simple reduced-form connection between sectoral productivities and aggregate TFP via Domar weights breaks down.

<sup>5</sup>In our baseline model we model sectoral TFP as Hicks neutral. If we alternatively consider TFP to augment primary production factors, the mitigation of cross-income differences due to the negative covariance term becomes substantially larger and amounts to up to 24% of income variation.

<sup>6</sup>An important exception is agriculture, which in low-income countries has a high IO multiplier and a below-average productivity level.

is the case in rich economies. The relatively larger wedges in poor countries tend to depress their income compared to the one of rich countries. The role of aggregate TFP variation thus increases to 60% of income variation compared to 50% in the baseline model. Productivity differences account for around two thirds of aggregate TFP variation, while the remainder is due to variation in wedges. The negative contribution of the covariance term between sectoral TFPs and sectoral multipliers to aggregate TFP variation remains similar to the baseline model.

In a further robustness check, we relax the assumption of a unit elasticity of substitution between intermediate inputs, so that IO linkages become endogenous to prices. We show that an elasticity of substitution between intermediate inputs different from unity is hard to reconcile with the data because – depending on whether intermediates are substitutes or complements – it implies that sectoral IO multipliers and TFP levels should either be positively or negatively correlated in *all* countries. Instead, we observe a positive correlation between these variables in poor economies and a negative one in rich economies.

We also extend our baseline model to incorporate trade in intermediate inputs. The variance decomposition of income in this model preserves the importance of aggregate TFP differences and the mitigating role of the covariance term between sectoral TFPs and multipliers. Additionally, it attributes around 10% of income variation to a terms-of-trade effect: imported intermediate inputs are relatively more expensive in poor countries and this additionally depresses their income compared to rich countries. Finally, in the Appendix we relax our previously maintained assumption that capital shares do not vary across sectors or countries and consider a model with sector-specific capital shares. We also include human capital as an additional production factor. We show that the results from the baseline model are robust to these changes.

We then carry out a number of simple counterfactuals with the model. First, we eliminate TFP differences between countries and set all sectoral TFP levels equal to those of the U.S. Not surprisingly, virtually all countries would gain if they had the U.S. productivity levels. Low-income countries would benefit most, with some of them almost doubling their income per worker. Second, we impose that sectoral IO multipliers and productivities are uncorrelated. This scenario would hurt low-income countries significantly: they would lose up to 20% of income per worker, because they would no longer experience the advantage of having above-average TFP levels in high-multiplier sectors. By contrast, high-income countries would benefit, since for them the correlation between multipliers and TFP levels would no longer be negative. In the last counterfactual we eliminate the correlation between sectoral wedges and multipliers. This would benefit a number of low-income countries and raise their income by around 10%. On the other hand, the income of rich countries would fall, since these countries tend to have below-average tax wedges in high-multiplier sectors.

# I Literature

We now turn to a discussion of the related literature.

Our work is related to the literature on development accounting, which aims at quantifying the importance of cross-country variation in factor endowments – such as physical, human or natural capital – relative to aggregate productivity differences in explaining disparities in income per capita across countries. This literature typically finds that both are roughly equally important in accounting for cross-country income differences.<sup>7</sup> The approach of development accounting is to specify an aggregate production function for value added (typically Cobb-Douglas) and to back out productivity differences as residual variation that reconciles the observed income differences with those predicted by the model given the observed variation in factor endowments. Thus, this aggregate production function subsumes cross-country differences in the underlying IO structure. We contribute to this literature by showing how sectoral TFP differences interact with IO structure to map into aggregate cross-country TFP variation.

The importance of linkages and IO multipliers for aggregate income differences has been highlighted by Fleming (1955), Hirschmann (1958), and, more recently, by Ciccone (2002) and Jones (2011 a,b). These authors point out theoretically that if the intermediate share in gross output is sizable, there exist large multiplier effects: small firm (or industry-level) productivity differences or distortions that lead to misallocation of resources across sectors or plants can add up to large aggregate effects. Our study confirms the empirical importance of amplification through IO multipliers, while also highlighting that cross-country differences in the interaction between sectoral productivities and IO structure mitigate amplification through aggregate multipliers substantially.

In terms of modeling approach, our paper adopts the framework of the multi-sector real business cycle model with IO linkages of Long and Plosser (1983); in addition, we model the input-output structure quite similarly to the setup of Acemoglu, Carvalho and Ozdaglar (2012).<sup>8</sup> In contrast to these studies, which deal with the relationship between sectoral productivity shocks and aggregate economic fluctuations, we are interested in the question how sectoral TFP *levels* interact with the IO structure to determine aggregate income *levels* and we provide corresponding empirical evidence.

Other recent related contributions are Oberfield (2018) and Carvalho and Voigtländer (2015), who develop an abstract theory of endogenous input-output network formation, and Boehm (2020), who focuses on the role of contract enforcement on aggregate productivity differences in a quantitative structural model with IO linkages. Differently from these papers, we do not try to model the IO structure as arising endogenously and we take sectoral productivity differences as exogenous. Instead, we aim at understanding how given differences in IO structure and sectoral productivities

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<sup>7</sup>See, e.g., Klenow and Rodriguez-Clare (1997), Hall and Jones (1999), Caselli (2005), Hsieh and Klenow (2010).

<sup>8</sup>Related to Acemoglu, Carvalho and Ozdaglar (2012) empirical work by Barrot and Sauvagnat (2016) provides reduced-form evidence for the short-run propagation of exogenous firm-specific shocks in the production network of U.S. firms.

translate into aggregate income differences.

The number of empirical studies investigating cross-country differences in IO structure is quite limited. In the most comprehensive study up to that date, Chenery, Robinson, and Syrquin (1986) find that the intermediate input share of manufacturing increases with industrialization and that IO matrices become denser as countries industrialize. Most closely related to our paper is the contemporaneous work by Bartelme and Gorodnichenko (2015). They also collect data on IO tables for many countries and investigate the relationship between IO linkages and aggregate income.<sup>9</sup> In reduced-form regressions of income per worker on the *average* multiplier, they find a positive correlation between the two variables. Moreover, they investigate how distortions affect IO linkages and income levels. Differently from the present paper, they do not use data on sectoral productivities nor disaggregated IO tables. As a consequence, they do not investigate how differences in the interaction of sectoral multipliers and productivities impact on aggregate income.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In the next section, we lay out our theoretical model and derive an expression for aggregate GDP per worker in terms of sectoral IO multipliers and TFP levels. In the following section, we describe our dataset and present some descriptive statistics. Subsequently, we turn to the empirical quantification of our model. We then present a number of robustness checks and the results of the counterfactuals. The final section presents our conclusions.

## II Theoretical Framework

### A Model

In this section we present a simple model of an economy with intersectoral linkages (based on Long and Plosser, 1983 and Jones, 2011b) that will be used in the remainder of our analysis. Consider a static multi-sector economy.  $n$  competitive sectors each produce a distinct good that can be used either for final consumption or as an input for production in any of the other sectors. The technology of sector  $i \in 1 : n$  is Cobb-Douglas with constant returns to scale. Namely, the output of sector  $i$ , denoted by  $q_i$ , is

$$(1) \quad q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i} k_i^\alpha l_i^{1-\alpha} \right)^{1-\gamma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \left( \frac{d_{2i}}{\gamma_{2i}} \right)^{\gamma_{2i}} \cdot \dots \cdot \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}}$$

where  $\Lambda_i$  is the exogenous Hicks-neutral total factor productivity of sector  $i$ ,  $k_i$  and  $l_i$  are the quantities of capital and labor used by sector  $i$  and  $d_{ji}$  is the quantity of good  $j$  used in production of good  $i$  (intermediate good produced by sector  $j$ ).<sup>10</sup> The exponent  $\gamma_{ji} \in [0, 1)$  represents the output elasticity of good  $j$  in the production technology of firms in sector  $i$ , which also corresponds to the

<sup>9</sup>Grobovsek (2018) performs a development accounting exercise in a more aggregate structural model with two final and two intermediate sectors.

<sup>10</sup>In Section V we consider the case of an open economy, where each sector's production technology employs both domestic and imported intermediate goods that are imperfectly substitutable.

cost share of sector  $j$ 's output,  $p_j d_{ji}/p_i q_i$ .  $\gamma_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \in (0, 1)$  is the total share of intermediate goods in gross output of sector  $i$ , and parameters  $\alpha, 1 - \alpha \in (0, 1)$  are the shares of capital and labor in the remainder of the inputs (value added). This specification allows for arbitrary asymmetries in linkages between sector pairs  $ij$  but fixes the ratio of the output elasticities of labor and capital to be the same across sectors.<sup>11</sup>

Given the Cobb-Douglas technology in (1) and competitive markets, the  $\gamma_{ji}$ s also correspond to the entries of the IO matrix, measuring the value of spending on input  $j$  per dollar of production of good  $i$ . We denote this IO matrix by  $\mathbf{\Gamma}$ . The entries of the  $j$ 'th row of matrix  $\mathbf{\Gamma}$  represent the values of spending on a given input  $j$  per dollar of production of each sector in the economy. By contrast, the elements of the  $i$ 'th column of matrix  $\mathbf{\Gamma}$  are the values of spending on inputs from each sector in the economy per dollar of production of a given good  $i$ .<sup>12</sup>

The output of sector  $i$  can be used either for final consumption,  $c_i$ , or as an input in sector  $j$ :

$$(2) \quad c_i + \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij} = q_i, \quad i = 1 : n$$

Consumers have Cobb-Douglas utility:

$$(3) \quad u(c_1, \dots, c_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{c_i}{\beta_i} \right)^{\beta_i},$$

where  $\beta_i \geq 0$  for all  $i$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i = 1$ .  $\beta_i$  corresponds to consumers' expenditure share on sector  $i$ . Consumers own all production factors and spend all their income on consumption. Aggregate expenditure of consumers can be written as  $\sum_i p_i c_i = P \cdot u$ , where  $u$  is a given utility level and  $P$  is the expenditure minimizing price index for this given utility (ideal price index). It is easy to show that  $P = \prod_{i=1}^n (p_i)^{\beta_i}$ .<sup>13</sup>

Finally, the total supply of capital and labor are exogenous and fixed at the levels of  $K$  and 1, respectively, implying that all aggregate variables can be interpreted in per-worker terms:

$$(4) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n k_i = K,$$

$$(5) \quad \sum_{i=1}^n l_i = 1.$$

To complete the description of the model, we provide a formal definition of a competitive equilibrium.

**Definition** A competitive equilibrium is a collection of quantities  $q_i, k_i, l_i, c_i, d_{ij}, Y$  and prices  $p_i$ ,

<sup>11</sup>We relax this assumption in Appendix A.1.

<sup>12</sup>According to our notation, the sum of elements in the  $i$ 'th column of matrix  $\mathbf{\Gamma}$  is equal to  $\gamma_i$ , the total intermediate goods' share of sector  $i$ .

<sup>13</sup>Indeed, the solution of  $\min_{c_i} \sum_i p_i c_i$  s.t.  $\prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{c_i}{\beta_i} \right)^{\beta_i} = u$  is  $c_i = \beta_i u \prod_{j \neq i} \left( \frac{p_j}{p_i} \right)^{\beta_j}$ . Then  $\sum_i p_i c_i = P \cdot u$ .

$P$ ,  $w$ , and  $r$  for  $i \in 1 : n$  such that

1.  $\{c_i\}_{i \in 1:n}$  solve the utility maximization problem of a consumer subject to the budget constraint  $\sum_i p_i c_i = w + rK$ , taking prices  $\{p_i\}$ ,  $w$  and  $r$  as given.
2.  $\{d_{ij}\}$ ,  $k_i$ ,  $l_i$  solve the profit maximization problem of the representative firm in each perfectly competitive sector  $i$  for  $i \in 1 : n$ , taking  $\{p_i\}$  of all goods and prices of labor and capital,  $w$  and  $r$ , as given ( $\Lambda_i$  is exogenous).
3. Markets clear:
  - (a) capital market clearing:  $\sum_{i=1}^n k_i = K$ ,
  - (b) labor market clearing:  $\sum_{i=1}^n l_i = 1$ ,
  - (c) market clearing in sector  $i$ :  $c_i + \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij} = q_i$ , for  $i = 1, \dots, n - 1$ .
4. Numeraire:  $P = \prod_{i=1}^n (p_i)^{\beta_i} = 1$ .
5. Definition of real GDP per worker:  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i c_i = u$ .

The choice of the aggregate consumer price index  $P$  as numeraire converts nominal consumption expenditure into utility. Since consumption expenditure equals GDP per worker (total value added), we obtain that real GDP per worker  $Y$  is equal to utility:  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i c_i = u$ . We take it as our welfare measure.

## B Equilibrium

The system of optimality conditions for the utility and profit maximization problems together with the market clearing conditions can be solved analytically and lead to an explicit expression for welfare in terms of exogenous variables. The following proposition characterizes the equilibrium value of the logarithm of real GDP per worker.

**Proposition 1.** *There exists a unique competitive equilibrium. In this equilibrium, the logarithm of real GDP per worker,  $y = \ln(Y)$ , is given by*

$$(6) \quad y = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i}_{\text{aggregate log TFP}} + \alpha \ln K,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mu} &= \{\mu_i\}_i = [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta}, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of multipliers} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} &= \{\lambda_i\}_i = \{\ln \Lambda_i\}_i, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of sectoral log-productivity coefficients} \end{aligned}$$



*Proof.* The proof of Proposition 1 is provided in the Appendix.

Due to the Cobb-Douglas structure of our economy, log real GDP per worker can be represented by an aggregate log-linear production function akin to the one used in standard development accounting (see, e.g., Caselli, 2005). It depends in a log-linear fashion on (i) aggregate TFP and (ii) the capital share in GDP  $\alpha$  multiplied by the log capital stock per worker. In contrast to standard development accounting, aggregate log TFP is not a blackbox but instead depends on the underlying (exogenous) economic structure. It is given by a weighted sum of sectoral log TFPs  $\lambda_i$  with sectoral IO multipliers  $\mu_i$  as weights. Thus, the impact of each sector's productivity on aggregate output is proportional to the value of the sectoral IO multiplier  $\mu_i$ . This means that the positive effect of higher sectoral productivity on aggregate value added is stronger in sectors with larger multipliers. Moreover, IO linkages always (weakly) amplify sectoral productivities. Indeed, in a model without IO structure, where all elements of the IO matrix  $\mathbf{\Gamma}$  are zero, each sector's multiplier is equal to its expenditure share  $\beta_i$ . It is easy to show that  $\mu_i \geq \beta_i$  for all  $i$ .<sup>14</sup>

The vector of sectoral multipliers is determined by the features of the IO matrix through the Leontief inverse,<sup>15</sup>  $[\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}]^{-1}$ , and the vector of expenditure shares  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$ . A typical element  $l_{ji}$  of the Leontief inverse can be interpreted as the percentage increase in the output of downstream sector  $i$  following a one-percent increase in productivity of upstream sector  $j$ .<sup>16</sup> Intuitively, an increased productivity of sector  $j$  raises its output and leads to more intermediate inputs for the using sectors downstream, which raises their output and so on, until sector  $i$  is reached and its output increases. Multiplying the Leontief inverse by the vector of expenditure shares  $\boldsymbol{\beta}$  adds up the effects of sector  $j$  on all the other sectors in the economy, weighting each using sector by the share  $\beta_i$  of its final output in aggregate value added.<sup>17</sup> Thus, a typical element of the resulting vector of IO multipliers reveals how a one-percent increase in productivity of sector  $j$  affects the overall value added in the economy.

The vector of sectoral multipliers can be written as

$$(7) \quad \boldsymbol{\mu} = [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}]^{-1}\boldsymbol{\beta} = \left( \sum_{k=0}^{+\infty} \mathbf{\Gamma}^k \right) \boldsymbol{\beta} = \boldsymbol{\beta} + \mathbf{\Gamma}\boldsymbol{\beta} + (\mathbf{\Gamma})^2\boldsymbol{\beta} + \dots$$

where the  $j$ th element of  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  is the sector- $j$  multiplier. Each sectoral multiplier is an infinite sum:

<sup>14</sup>The latter follows from the definition of sectoral multipliers, as will be immediately clear from equation (7). Equation (7) also implies that the inequality  $\mu_i \geq \beta_i$  is strict whenever sector  $i$  provides inputs to at least one sector with a positive expenditure share. This makes the  $i$ 'th element of  $(\mathbf{\Gamma})^k \boldsymbol{\beta}$  positive for  $k \geq 1$ .

<sup>15</sup>Observe that in this model the Leontief inverse matrix is well-defined since CRS technology of each sector implies that  $\gamma_i < 1$  for any  $i \in 1 : n$ . According to the Frobenius theory of non-negative matrices, this means that the maximal eigenvalue of  $\mathbf{\Gamma}$  is bounded above by 1. This, in turn, implies the existence of  $[\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}]^{-1}$ .

<sup>16</sup>In general, sectoral shocks also affect upstream production through a price and a quantity effect. For instance, with a negative shock to a sector, (i) its output price increases, raising its demand for inputs; and (ii) its production decreases, reducing its demand for inputs. With Cobb-Douglas production technologies, however, these two effects cancel out.

<sup>17</sup>In a closed economy, aggregate expenditure is equal to aggregate value added.

the first term  $\beta_j$  is the direct impact of a shock to sector  $j$  on aggregate value added. Thus, *ceteris paribus*, sectors with higher expenditure shares have larger multipliers. The other terms of the infinite sum correspond to effects that travel through the IO network. In particular, the first-order term is the direct impact of the sector- $j$  shock on the using sectors:  $\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \beta_i$  is a weighted average of the  $i = 1, \dots, n$  using sectors' cost shares  $\gamma_{ji}$  for sector  $j$ 's output, with weights corresponding to the expenditure shares of the using sectors. Thus, sectors whose output is more important as an input of all other sectors have larger sectoral multipliers. The higher-order terms correspond to the indirect effects of productivity shocks: e.g., if sector  $j$  supplies to  $k$  which in turn supplies to  $l$ , the second-order effect of raising productivity in sector  $j$  is the impact on  $l$  (and all other sectors indirectly linked to  $j$ ):  $j$ 's productivity shock increases the output of the downstream sector  $k$  and hence raises the output in sector  $l$ , which uses  $k$ 's output as an input. The multiplication with  $\beta_l$  converts the increase in output of sector  $l$  into value added.

Let us now rewrite the log of real income per worker as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (8) \quad y &= \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mu_i + \alpha \ln(K) = n \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \cdot \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \right) + nCov(\lambda, \mu) + \alpha \ln(K) = \\
 &= \underbrace{\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i}_{\text{aggregate log TFP}} + nCov(\lambda, \mu) + \alpha \ln(K),
 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\bar{\lambda} = 1/n \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i$  is the arithmetic average of sectoral log TFPs,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$  is the aggregate multiplier, corresponding to the sum of sectoral multipliers, and  $Cov(\lambda, \mu)$  is the covariance between sectoral log TFPs and multipliers within a given country. In this formulation, it is explicit that the effect of the IO structure on aggregate log TFP has two components. The first component, captured by  $\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$ , reflects the *aggregate-multiplier* effect. It has been studied in the literature (see, e.g., Jones, 2011 a,b) and shows the elasticity of aggregate real income with respect to average sectoral TFP. Since  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$  is larger than unity, average sectoral TFP is amplified, capturing propagation through the IO network. Higher average TFP makes all downstream sectors more productive, which in turn increases the productivity of their using sectors, etc.

Note also that aggregate multipliers and average sectoral TFP levels are log supermodular: a given aggregate multiplier increases real income by more when average TFP is larger. This implies that if aggregate multipliers do not vary systematically by income level (or when they are lower in poor countries) and if average TFP is higher in rich countries, then aggregate multipliers amplify average TFP of rich countries by more. Consequently, relatively modest average TFP variation across countries may translate into large differences in real income per worker.

The second component, captured by  $nCov(\lambda, \mu)$ , is the *covariance effect* of the IO structure. It reflects that if productivity tends to be higher than average in precisely those sectors that have high multipliers (log TFP levels and multipliers are positively correlated), then the overall effect of the IO

structure on aggregate TFP is larger than the aggregate multiplier effect. In this case, income per worker increases by more because sectors that are particularly productive pass on their relatively high productivity levels to a particularly large number of downstream sectors by providing them with cheap inputs. By contrast, if log TFP levels and multipliers are negatively correlated, then the overall effect of the IO structure is dampened relative to the aggregate multiplier effect. In this case, sectors with high multipliers have below-average productivity levels, and this reduces income per worker because key inputs to downstream sectors are expensive. Thus, while the aggregate multiplier effect always leads to amplification of sectoral productivities, the covariance effect may either strengthen or weaken that effect.

To conclude the discussion in this section, it is instructive to compare our model with one where sectoral productivity is defined to augment primary production factors rather than all factors. It is easy to show that the predictions of both models for aggregate income per capita and aggregate log TFP are identical, though the split of aggregate log TFP into average TFP times aggregate multiplier and the covariance between sectoral TFPs and multipliers is not the same. Indeed, let

$$q_i = \left( \frac{1}{(1 - \gamma_i)} \tilde{\Lambda}_i k_i^\alpha l_i^{1-\alpha} \right)^{1-\gamma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \left( \frac{d_{2i}}{\gamma_{2i}} \right)^{\gamma_{2i}} \cdots \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}},$$

so that the primary-factor-augmenting TFP  $\tilde{\Lambda}_i$  and the Hicks-neutral TFP  $\Lambda_i$  are related by  $\Lambda_i = \tilde{\Lambda}_i^{1-\gamma_i}$ . The log of real income per worker in this model can be written as  $y = \sum_{i=1}^n \tilde{\mu}_i \tilde{\lambda}_i + \alpha \ln K$ , where sectoral multipliers are equal to  $\tilde{\mu}_i \equiv (1 - \gamma_i)\mu_i$  and  $\tilde{\lambda}_i = \ln \tilde{\Lambda}_i = \frac{1}{1-\gamma_i} \lambda_i$ . Thus,  $\tilde{\mu}_i \tilde{\lambda}_i = \mu_i \lambda_i$ , and the expression for aggregate income per capita turns out to be the same as in Proposition 1. At the same time, the decomposition of aggregate log TFP in the model with primary-factor-augmenting TFP is, in general, not the same as in the model with Hicks-neutral TFP. For the former,  $\sum_i \tilde{\mu}_i = 1$ , so the aggregate multiplier equals unity by construction and the aggregate-multiplier effect is absent. Instead, the average log TFP itself is larger in this model (because  $\tilde{\lambda}_i > \lambda_i$  for all  $i$ ). Similarly, the covariance effect  $nCov(\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\mu})$  can be different, too, due to the difference in the definitions of  $\lambda_i$  and  $\tilde{\lambda}_i$ ,  $\mu_i$  and  $\tilde{\mu}_i$ .

## C Conceptual Issues of Cross-country Welfare Comparisons

Recall from Section A that expenditure-based real GDP per worker  $Y_s$  of each country  $s = 1, \dots, m$  conceptually corresponds to an empirical measure of utility of consumers in this country:  $Y_s = u_s$  where  $u_s = \prod_i \left( \frac{c_{is}}{\beta_{is}} \right)^{\beta_{is}}$ . However, when consumers residing in different countries do not have the same utility function, welfare comparisons across countries become a tricky issue because cardinal utility comparisons across agents who do not share a common utility function are not meaningful. In fact, in order to measure the utility a country- $s$  consumer would get from residing in country  $k$ , we would need to deflate the expenditure of country  $k$  with the country- $s$  consumer's optimal price

index.<sup>18</sup> With  $m$  countries this procedure would give a different set of welfare levels (real GDPs) for each utility function ( $m$  different measures of real GDP for each country) whose ranking across countries is not necessarily the same.

Faced with the problem of welfare ranking under preference heterogeneity, we construct an artificial *reference* consumer as an average of the individual countries' consumers.<sup>19</sup> Of course, this leads to a discrepancy between the actual and constructed expenditure shares in each country and hence, will not allow fitting the data perfectly. However, we believe that this is an acceptable price to pay for making cross-country welfare comparisons possible, which is a key goal of this paper. Moreover, we show that our results are not sensitive to the precise way of constructing the preferences of the reference consumer.

In defining this reference consumer, it seems reasonable to give consumers in each country the same weight. We thus use, alternatively, the arithmetic  $\beta^* = 1/m \sum_s \beta_s$  and the geometric average  $\beta^* = \prod_s \beta_s^{1/m}$  of the expenditure shares  $\beta_s$  across countries.<sup>20</sup> This means that the expenditure share allocated to each given sector corresponds to the cross-country average of the expenditure shares for this sector. The so-defined  $\beta^*$  determines the preferences of the reference household and is used to construct multipliers  $\mu = [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}]^{-1} \beta^*$ .<sup>21</sup> Observe that the Penn World Table also uses implicitly the concept of a reference consumer when constructing PPP price indices of GDP with the Geary-Khamis methodology.<sup>22</sup> The Geary-Khamis approach uses each country's quantities as weights and thus gives more weight to consumers from larger economies. To match this approach, as a third alternative, we also use a quantity-weighted average of countries' expenditure shares to compute the expenditure shares of the reference consumer. In this average, the weight of each country corresponds to its share in world's expenditure for sector  $i$ .

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<sup>18</sup>To give an example, suppose there are two countries, Italy and Germany. Italians care more about food than about cars  $C_I = c^{1/3} f^{2/3}$ , while for Germans it's the other way round  $C_G = c^{2/3} f^{1/3}$ . Assume that Germany produces 3 cars and 2 tons of food, and Italy 3 tons of food and 2 cars. Then the utility of Germans residing in Germany  $C_{GG} = 3^{2/3} 2^{1/3}$ , which equals the utility of Italians residing in Italy  $C_{II}$ . If we want to compare welfare across countries, we would need to evaluate Germans' utility if they resided in Italy,  $U_{GI} = 2^{2/3} 3^{1/3} < U_{GG}$  (Germans don't care that much about food) and the utility Italians would derive from living in Germany  $U_{IG} = 2^{2/3} 3^{1/3} < U_{II}$  (Italians don't care that much about cars).

<sup>19</sup>In the Italian-German example above, a reference consumer has the utility function that equals an average of the preferences of each country:  $U_r = c^{1/2} f^{1/2}$ . This reference consumer would be indifferent between living in Germany and living in Italy since  $U_{rG} = 3^{1/2} 2^{1/2} = U_{rI} = 2^{1/2} 3^{1/2}$ .

<sup>20</sup>With geometric average, the expenditure shares  $\beta_i^*$  are also normalized to keep their sum equal to unity.

<sup>21</sup>To theoretically rationalize our approach of using average expenditure shares, we could assume that consumers in each country have a common utility function but that actual expenditure shares correspond to expected expenditure shares plus a random preference shock with mean zero. One could then use expected utility as a welfare measure. In this case (log-)utility is given by

$$(9) \quad \ln u = \sum_i (\beta_i^* + \varepsilon_i) \ln(c_i) - \sum_i \beta_i^* \ln(\beta_i^*),$$

where  $E(\varepsilon_i) = 0$ . The reference household maximizes expected utility  $E(\ln u) = \sum_i \beta_i^* \ln(c_i) - \sum_i \beta_i^* \ln(\beta_i^*)$ , where  $\beta_i^*$  is the expected expenditure share of sector  $i$ .

<sup>22</sup>See Feenstra et al. (2015) for a description of the the price indices used in the Penn World Table and Diewert (1999) for an in-depth discussion of the relationship between the different methodologies for international price comparisons and the existence of a reference consumer.

## D Decomposing Variation in Real GDP per Worker

Recall from Section B that our model generates the following expression for the log of real income per worker of a given country:

$$(10) \quad y_{model} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mu_i + \alpha \ln(K) = \bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i + nCov(\lambda, \mu) + \alpha \ln(K)$$

For a reference household with preferences  $u = \prod_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{c_i}{\beta_i^*}\right)^{\beta_i^*}$  the vector of multipliers in this expression employs expenditure shares  $\beta^*$ :  $\mu^* = [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}]^{-1} \beta^*$ .

Next, we would like to decompose the variation of log GDP per worker generated by the model into the various components of (10). Since the terms on the right-hand side are correlated, there exists no unique variance decomposition. A convenient way to decompose the variance of log GDP per worker is to use regressions. In particular,<sup>23</sup>

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} Var(y_{model}) &= Cov\left(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mu_i, y_{model}\right) + Cov[\alpha \ln(K), y_{model}] \\ &= Cov\left(\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i, y_{model}\right) + Cov[nCov(\lambda, \mu), y_{model}] + Cov[\alpha \ln(K), y_{model}] \end{aligned}$$

Thus,

$$(12) \quad \begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{Cov(\sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i \mu_i, y_{model})}{Var(y_{model})} + \frac{Cov[\alpha \ln(K), y_{model}]}{Var(y_{model})} \\ &= \frac{Cov(\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i, y_{model})}{Var(y_{model})} + \frac{Cov[nCov(\lambda, \mu), y_{model}]}{Var(y_{model})} + \frac{Cov[\alpha \ln(K), y_{model}]}{Var(y_{model})} \end{aligned}$$

This decomposition is equivalent to looking at the coefficients obtained from independently regressing each term on the right-hand side of (10) on  $y_{model}$ . Since the terms on the right-hand side of (10) sum to  $y_{model}$  and OLS is a linear operator, the coefficients sum to one. So the decomposition amounts to asking, ‘‘When we see a one percent higher  $y_{model}$  in one country relative to the average of the countries in the sample, how much higher is our conditional expectation of  $\alpha \ln K$ , how much higher is our conditional expectation of  $\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$ , and how much does our conditional expectation of  $nCov(\lambda, \mu)$  change?’’

## E Measuring Sector-specific Productivity

By our assumption, production functions in a given sector vary across countries due to differences in the importance of sectoral linkages – the  $\gamma_{ji}$ s vary across countries for a given sector-pair  $ij$ . Computing a measure of productivity (TFP) that is comparable across countries when countries have different production functions in a given sector is methodologically challenging. A set of basic

<sup>23</sup>We use  $Var(X) = Cov(X, X)$  and  $Cov(X + Y, Z) = Cov(X, Z) + Cov(Y, Z)$ .

requirements for TFP comparisons across countries is the following: (i) the productivity measure should be unique when holding constant the reference country; (ii) it should be invariant to changes in units; (iii) it should be transitive, i.e., computing the productivity of country  $j$  relative to  $l$  should give the same number as the one obtained by first comparing  $j$  to  $k$  and then  $k$  to  $l$ . To provide an example for this problem, note that just taking ratios of outputs and inputs for a given pair of countries – like in the development-accounting literature (e.g. Caselli, 2005) – is not invariant to changes in units when the two countries have different output elasticities of inputs. Thus, productivity of any two countries in a given sector has to be compared while holding the production function constant. But this raises another problem: productivities can be computed with the production function of country  $k$ , the one of country  $l$  or the one of any other country. With  $m$  countries, this gives  $m$  productivity measures for a given country-sector pair, and thus, the so-obtained productivity is not unique. To address these problems, we borrow the approach from Caves, Christensen and Diewert (1982) who have devised a methodology that satisfies requirements (i)-(iii) for translog production functions. Since Cobb-Douglas is a special case of the translog function when the second-order terms are zero,<sup>24</sup> we can use their methodology and adapt it to our special case, so as to derive our measure of sector-specific productivity. The formal derivation is relegated to the Appendix, while here we only provide the final result.

Without loss of generality, consider for simplicity the Cobb-Douglas technology with a composite input  $X_{is}$ ,  $q_{is} = \Lambda_{is} \left( \frac{X_{is}}{\alpha_{X_{is}}} \right)^{\alpha_{X_{is}}}$ , where  $i$  denotes a sector and  $s$  denotes a country. Then the *multilateral productivity index* that represents log TFP of country  $k$  relative to country  $l$  in sector  $i$  is given by:

$$(13) \quad \ln \lambda_{ikl}^* = \ln q_{ik} - \ln q_{il} - \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_{X_{ik}} + \bar{\alpha}_{X_i})(\ln X_{ik} - \overline{\ln X_i}) + \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_{X_{il}} + \bar{\alpha}_{X_i})(\ln X_{il} - \overline{\ln X_i}),$$

where  $\bar{\alpha}_{X_i} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \alpha_{X_{is}}$ , and  $\overline{\ln X_i} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln X_{is}$ .

Generalizing the production function to many inputs, and assuming (i) constant returns to scale and (ii) perfect competition without distortions, we note that the output elasticities  $\alpha_{X_{is}}$  correspond to the cost shares  $\{\gamma_{ji}\}_j$ ,  $\alpha_i$  and  $1 - \alpha_i$  of individual inputs. These can be directly taken from the data: IO coefficients and sectoral factor shares in gross output. In our empirical application, we will take the U.S. as the reference country ( $l = U.S.$ ). Thus, the resulting set of productivity indices  $\{\ln \lambda_{isl}^*\}$  will represent log TFP of each country  $s \in 1 : m$  relative to the U.S. in each sector  $i \in 1 : n$ .

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<sup>24</sup>In general, the translog production function for an economic entity (country or sector)  $s$  that produces the vector of outputs  $\{q_k^s\}_{k=1}^K$  using the vector of inputs  $\{X_i^s\}_{i=1}^n$  can be written as

$$\alpha_0^s + \sum_{j=1}^J \alpha_j^s \ln q_j^s + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i^s \ln X_i^s + 2nd \text{ order terms} = 1.$$

### III Dataset and Descriptive Analysis

#### A Data Sources and Description

IO tables measure the flow of intermediate products between different plants, both within and between sectors. The  $ji$ 'th entry of the IO table is the value of output from establishments in industry  $j$  that is purchased by different establishments in industry  $i$  for use in production.<sup>25</sup> Dividing the flow of industry  $j$  to industry  $i$  in the IO table by gross output of industry  $i$ , one obtains the IO coefficient  $\gamma_{ji}$ , which states the cents of industry  $j$ 's output used in the production of each dollar of industry  $i$ 's output.

In order to construct a dataset of IO tables for a range of low- and high-income countries, to compute sectoral TFP levels, and to obtain information on countries' GDP per worker and factor endowments, we combine information from two datasets: the World Input-Output Database (WIOD), February 2012 release (Timmer et al., 2015), and the Penn World Table (PWT), Version 8.0 (Feenstra et al., 2015).

The first dataset, WIOD, contains IO data and sectoral socio-economic accounts for 38 countries classified into 35 sectors. We use WIOD data for the year 2005 because for this year we have PPP price indices. The list of countries and sectors is provided in Appendix Tables A.1 and A.2.<sup>26</sup>

WIOD IO tables are available in current national currency at basic prices.<sup>27</sup> In our main specification, we compute IO coefficients as the value of domestically produced plus imported intermediates divided by the value of gross output at basic prices.<sup>28</sup> Sectoral multipliers are computed as  $\boldsymbol{\mu} = \{\mu_i\}_i = [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}]^{-1}\boldsymbol{\beta}^*$ . The WIOD data also contain all the necessary information to compute gross-output-based sectoral total factor productivity for 35 sectors: nominal gross output and material use, sectoral capital stocks and labor inputs, sectoral factor payments to labor, capital and intermediates disaggregated into 35 inputs. Crucially, WIOD also provides purchasing power parity (PPP) deflators (in purchasers' prices) for sector-level gross output for the year 2005 that we use to convert nominal values of outputs and inputs into real units that are comparable internationally. This allows us to compute TFP levels at the sector level using the methodology explained above.<sup>29</sup> The PPP deflators have been constructed by Inklaar and Timmer (2014) and are consistent in methodology and outcome with the PWT 8.0. They combine expenditure prices and levels

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<sup>25</sup>Note that intermediate outputs must usually be traded between establishments in order to be recorded in the IO tables. Therefore, flows that occur within a given plant are not measured.

<sup>26</sup>We drop Indonesia from the sample because the data reported by WIOD for this country are problematic.

<sup>27</sup>Basic prices exclude taxes and transport margins.

<sup>28</sup>In a robustness check, we separate domestically produced from imported intermediates and define domestic IO coefficients as the value of domestically produced intermediates divided by the value of gross output, while IO coefficients for imported intermediates are defined as the value of imported intermediates divided by the value of gross output. We show in the robustness section that this choice does not affect our results .

<sup>29</sup>The WIOD data comprise socio-economic accounts that are defined consistently with the IO tables. We use sector-level data on gross output and physical capital stocks in constant 1995 prices, the price series for investment, and labor inputs (employment). Using the sector-level PPPs for gross output, we convert nominal gross output and inputs into constant 2005 PPP prices. Furthermore, using price series for investment from WIOD and the PPP price index for investment from PWT, we convert sector-level capital stocks from WIOD into constant 2005 PPP prices.

collected as part of the International Comparison Program (ICP) with data on industry output, exports and imports and relative prices of exports and imports from Feenstra and Romalis (2014). The authors use export and import values and prices to correct for the problem that the prices of goods consumed or invested domestically do not take into account the prices of exported products, while the prices of imported goods are included. To our knowledge, WIOD combined with these PPP deflators is the best available cross-country dataset for computing sector-level productivities using production data.

The second dataset, PWT, includes data on real GDP in PPP, the number of workers, as well as information on aggregate PPP price indices for exportables and importables for the same set of countries as WIOD in the year 2005. Our main measure of real GDP is RGDPE, real GDP in PPP prices computed from the expenditure side. This measure is most appropriate to compute welfare-relevant real GDP because it measures differences in the standard of living across countries (Feenstra, et al., 2015). Alternatively, we have used RGDPO, real GDP in PPP prices computed from the production side. This variable measures the production capacity of each country. For our sample, the difference between these measures is negligible and our results are basically identical with both measures. To construct aggregate physical capital stocks and employment of each country, we add up the sectoral capital stocks and employment numbers from WIOD. Results are very similar if information on the number of workers and capital stocks is instead taken directly from the PWT. We prefer aggregating information from WIOD since this guarantees that the sectoral values are consistent with the aggregate values. Finally, we use aggregate price indices for exports and imports in the open-economy extension of our model, which we discuss in a robustness check.

## B Descriptives of IO Structure

We now provide some descriptive statistics of IO structure, as summarized by the distributions of sectoral multipliers. We report these statistics by income level, classifying countries with a per-capita GDP of less than 5000 PPP Dollars as low-income, those with 5,000-20,000 PPP Dollars as medium-income, and those with more than 20,000 PPP Dollars as high-income. Figure 1 reports kernel density plots of the distribution of multipliers pooled across countries and sectors. For all income levels, the distributions are skewed with a long right tail: while most sectors have low multipliers, there are a few high-multiplier sectors. In addition, low-income countries' distribution has more mass in the right tail.<sup>30</sup> Table 1 reports moments of the distribution of multipliers. The mean sectoral multiplier is 0.057, the median multiplier is 0.049, and the 95th-percentile of multipliers is 0.133. In Appendix Figure A.1, we plot average multipliers by sector.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>30</sup>In the working paper version, we also report descriptive statistics for GTAP data, which comprises a larger sample and includes many more low-income countries. These features of the multipliers' distribution also hold in the larger GTAP sample and are even more pronounced.

<sup>31</sup>The high-multiplier sectors in all countries are mostly service sectors such as Business Services, Real Estate, Financial Services, Wholesale Trades that provide inputs to most other sectors of the economy.



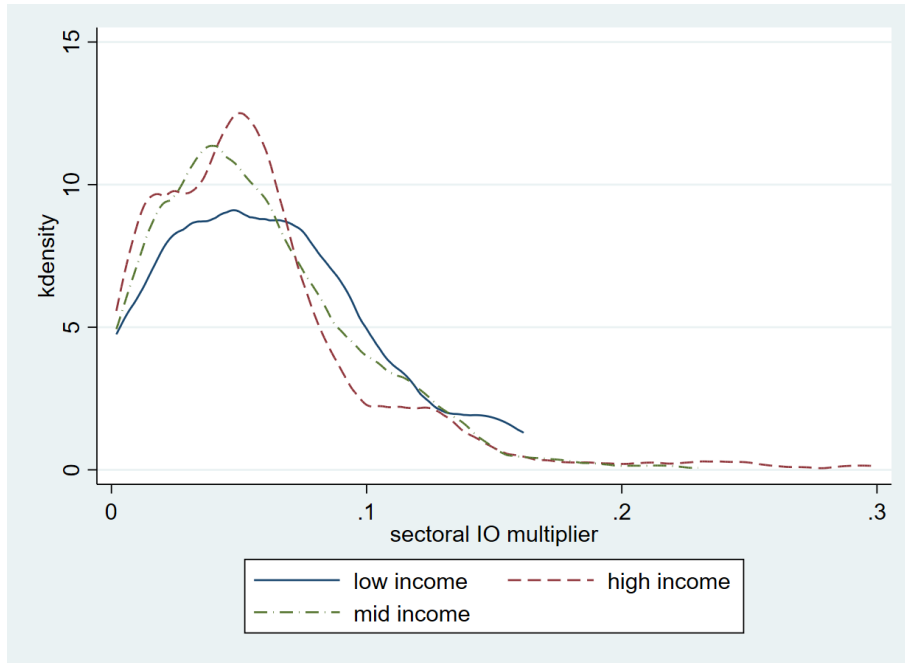


Figure 1: Distribution of sectoral IO multipliers by income level.

Sample	Mean	Std.	5th Pct.	10th Pct.	Median	90th Pct.	95th Pct.
all	0.057	0.042	0.003	0.011	0.049	0.112	0.133
low income	0.061	0.400	0.006	0.011	0.057	0.115	0.143
med income	0.057	0.039	0.004	0.011	0.049	0.110	0.130
high income	0.056	0.045	0.003	0.011	0.049	0.116	0.136

Table 1: Summary statistics of sectoral IO multipliers.

## C Descriptives of TFP

Next, we report descriptive statistics of sectoral TFP levels. Figure 2 provides kernel density plots of sectoral log TFP relative to the U.S. by income level. The distribution of log TFP is approximately normal. Moreover, low-income countries have a distribution of log TFPs with a significantly lower mean and a larger variation across sectors than high-income countries. Table 2 reports means and standard deviation of log TFP relative to the U.S., as well as the within-country correlation between log TFPs and multipliers. While in low-income countries mean TFP is around 60 percent of the U.S. level ( $0.6=\exp(-0.517)$ ), with a large standard deviation across sectors, mean sectoral TFP in high-income countries is around 90 percent of the U.S. level ( $0.9=\exp(-0.104)$ ) with much less dispersion across sectors. Interestingly, in low-income countries, log TFP levels of high-multiplier sectors are above their average TFP level relative to the U.S. (the correlation between log TFPs and multipliers is positive), while in rich countries log TFP levels are below average in high-multiplier sectors (the correlation between log TFPs and multipliers is negative).

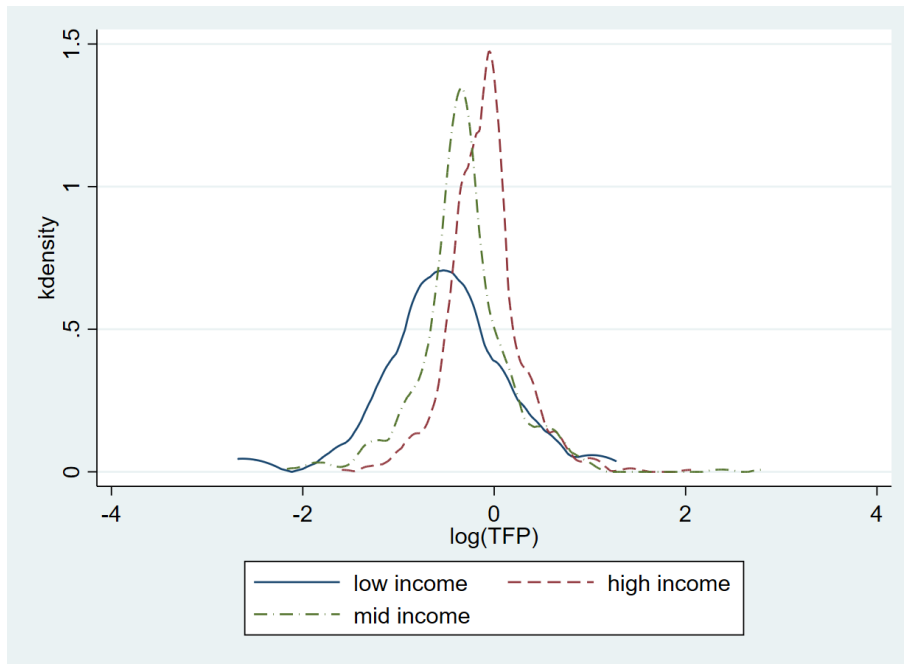


Figure 2: Distribution of log TFP by income level

Sample	Obs.	Mean log TFP	Std. log TFP (within)	Corr. log TFP, mult. (within)
all	1,295	-0.206	0.413	-0.060**
low income	70	-0.517	0.676	0.363***
mid income	490	-0.316	0.475	-0.015
high income	735	-0.104	0.347	-0.224***

Table 2: Summary statistics of sectoral log TFPs. \*\*\* (\*\*) indicates statistical significance at the 1-percent (5-percent) level.

## IV Empirical Analysis

We now decompose the variation of log real GDP per worker generated by the model into its different components and compare it to the data. In the calibration we set the capital share in GDP to  $\alpha = 1/3$ , as standard in the development accounting literature (see Caselli, 2005). Moreover, we set  $n$ , the number of sectors, equal to 35 because this corresponds to the number of sectors in WIOD. We first present plots of each of the components on the right-hand side of equation (10) against log real GDP per worker (relative to the U.S.). Figure 3 plots  $\alpha \ln K$  against log real GDP per worker relative to the U.S., while Figure 4 plots  $\bar{\lambda}$ , mean log TFP relative to the U.S. of each country, against log real GDP per worker. Not surprisingly, both capital stock per worker and average log TFP levels are strongly positively correlated with log GDP per worker. Figure 5 presents a similar plot for aggregate IO multipliers  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$ . Aggregate multipliers are close to 2 for most countries, which implies that countries' average TFP levels are substantially amplified. It is true that aggregate multipliers tend to be a bit larger in poor countries, reaching a level of 2.49 in China (CHN), but the relationship between aggregate multipliers and income per worker is quite weak and not statistically significant. There are also some low-income countries with low aggregate multipliers, such as Brazil (BRA) and India (IND). Since there are no systematic differences between aggregate multipliers of rich and poor countries, not only average TFP *levels* of individual countries but also cross-country *differences* in average TFP levels are substantially amplified (more on this below). Finally, Figure 6 plots the within-country covariance between log TFP and multipliers  $Cov(\lambda, \mu)$  against log real income per worker: this relationship is strongly negative. While low-income countries, such as China and India, tend to have higher than average TFP levels in high-multiplier sectors, in rich countries, sectors with high multipliers tend to have below-average TFP levels. This implies that the covariance term tends to mitigate TFP differences across countries: the income of poor countries is increased due to the amplified impact of their high-productivity sectors, and the reduced impact of their low-productivity sectors. The opposite is the case in high-income countries, whose low-productivity sectors pull down their aggregate income due to amplification via high multipliers.

Next, we quantify the ability of the model to generate cross-country income variation. While the model can hopefully explain a large part of the variation in GDP per worker across countries, it will certainly not be able to fit the data perfectly because final expenditure shares  $\beta^*$  and the capital share in GDP  $\alpha$  are assumed to be identical across countries. As explained above, the assumption of identical  $\beta^*$  is necessary to make real income generated by the model comparable across countries, while the assumption of homogeneous  $\alpha$  is imposed for simplicity and will be relaxed in a robustness check (see Appendix A.1).

Column (1) of Table 3 compares the variance of log GDP per worker generated by the model with

the one in the data according to  $\frac{Var(y_{model})}{Var(y_{data})}$ . In columns (2) - (3) the model-generated variance of log GDP per worker is decomposed using the relationship  $\frac{Cov(\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i, y_{model})}{Var(y_{model})} + \frac{Cov(\alpha \ln(K), y_{model})}{Var(y_{model})} = 1$ . The first row reports results for the case when  $\beta^*$  is defined by an arithmetic average of countries' expenditure shares, the second row reports the results for the geometric average and the third one for a weighted average where the weights correspond to each country's produced quantities.

Table 3: Variance decomposition of log real GDP per worker – baseline model

	$\frac{Var(y_{model})}{Var(y_{data})}$	share of $Var(y_{model})$ explained by variation in	
		$\alpha \ln K$	$\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i$
baseline, arithmetic mean	0.90	0.48	0.52
baseline, geometric mean	0.88	0.49	0.51
baseline, weighted mean	0.92	0.47	0.53
no linkages, arithmetic mean	0.68	0.74	0.26
no linkages geometric mean	0.67	0.75	0.25
no linkages, weighted mean	0.71	0.70	0.30

The model with the arithmetic-average expenditure shares explains 90% of the variance of log GDP per worker in the data. The model variance can be split into 48% due to variation in capital per worker and 52% due to variation in aggregate TFP ( $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i$ ). The model with  $\beta^*$  computed as geometric average gives similar results and attributes 49% of income variation to physical production factors and 51% to aggregate TFP. Finally, when  $\beta^*$  is computed as a quantity-weighted average, the split of income variation between physical production factors and TFP also remains similar.

The rough 50-50 split of cross-country income variation into physical production factors and aggregate TFP corresponds to the standard result in the development accounting literature.<sup>32</sup> This is reassuring, since our model has exactly the same aggregate production function as in standard development accounting. Crucially, rather than treating aggregate TFP as a residual, our model helps us to understand how the observed aggregate TFP differences emerge from the interaction between micro-level (sectoral) TFP variation and the IO structure.

To see to what extent sectoral TFP differences are amplified by IO structure, we compare our model with one without linkages in which sectoral multipliers correspond to expenditure shares  $\beta_i$  and aggregate TFP is given by  $\sum_i \beta_i \lambda_i$ . Rows (4)-(6) of Table 3 present results for this model. First, it explains only around 70% of income variation observed in the data compared to 90% for the model with IO structure. Moreover, it attributes only 25-30% of the model-generated income variation to aggregate TFP differences and the remainder is attributed to variation in physical production factors, which is not in line with the 50-50 split that we would expect from development accounting. Thus, without amplification from linkages the fundamental sector-level TFP differences across countries are too small to generate the substantial aggregate TFP and income differences

<sup>32</sup>Indeed, for our sample  $\frac{Var(\alpha \log K)}{Var(y_{data})} = 0.49$ .

that we observe.

Let us now investigate the role of IO structure in determining aggregate TFP differences in more detail. Table 4 presents the disaggregation of aggregate TFP variation into variation in  $\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$  and variation in  $nCov(\lambda, \mu)$ .

Table 4: Variance decomposition of log real GDP per worker in detail – baseline model

	share of $Var(y_{model})$ explained		
	by variation in		
	$\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i$	$\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$	$nCov(\lambda, \mu)$
Hicks-neutral TFP, arithmetic mean	0.52	0.60	-0.08
Hicks-neutral TFP, geometric mean	0.51	0.61	-0.10
Hicks-neutral TFP, weighted mean	0.53	0.58	-0.05
factor-augmenting TFP, arithmetic mean	0.52	0.73	-0.21
factor-augmenting TFP, geometric mean	0.51	0.75	-0.24
factor-augmenting TFP, weighted mean	0.53	0.71	-0.18

The 51-53% of income variation due to aggregate TFP differences in the baseline model with arithmetic-mean expenditure shares can be further split into variation in the product of average sectoral log TFP and aggregate multipliers and variation in the covariance term between sectoral log TFPs and multipliers. On the one hand, large aggregate multipliers of around 2 (uncorrelated with countries' income per worker) amplify average sectoral TFP differences substantially. On the other hand, the negative contribution to income differences of the covariance term significantly mitigates this amplification. For our baseline model with Hicks-neutral TFP, presented in rows 1 to 3, the magnitude of the negative covariance term implies that if poor countries did not have above average productivity levels and rich countries did not have below average productivity levels in high-multiplier sectors, variation in GDP per worker across countries would be up to 10% larger than it actually is. When considering instead primary-factor-augmenting TFP variation (rows 4 to 6), the contribution of the covariance term in compressing income variation is even larger. Without it, cross-country income differences would be up to 24% larger. Note that poor countries have a large variance of relative TFP levels across sectors compared to rich countries. The impact of extremely low TFP levels in some of their sectors is mitigated by the fact that these sectors have low multipliers, i.e., they are not very connected to the rest of the economy. At the same time, those sectors that are particularly important for other sectors (high-multiplier sectors) have above-average productivity levels, which boosts aggregate income. By contrast, in most rich countries (Western Europe and Japan), TFP levels relative to the U.S. are lower than average in high-multiplier sectors, which significantly reduces their real GDP per worker.

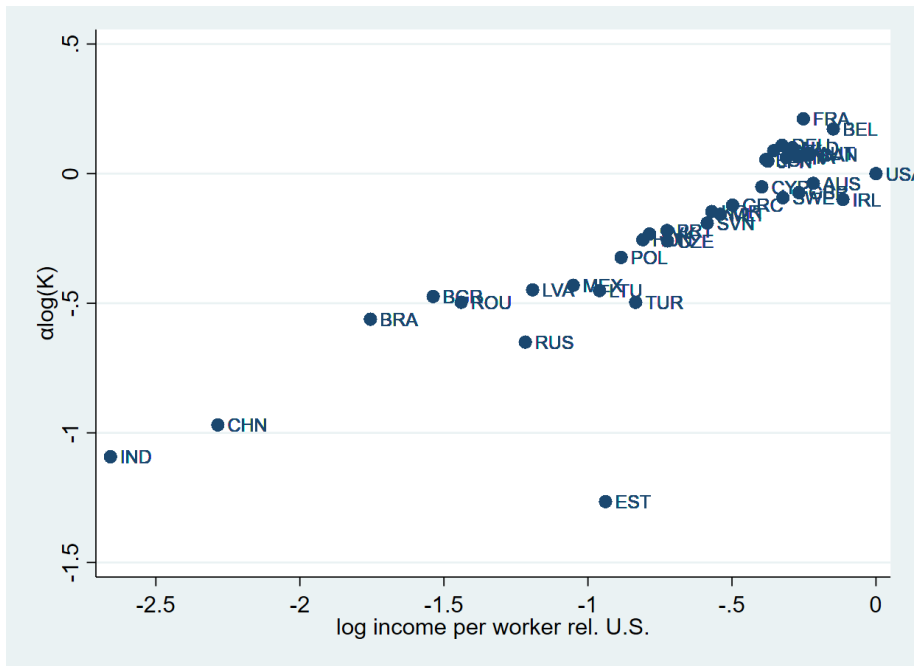


Figure 3:  $\alpha \ln(K)$  vs. log income per worker rel. U.S.

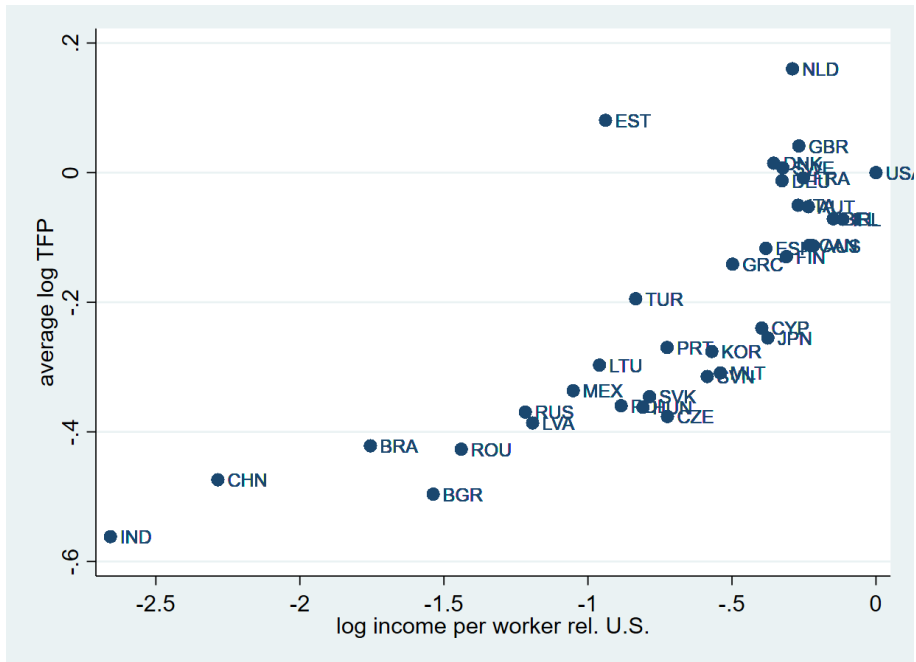


Figure 4:  $\bar{\lambda}$  vs. log income per worker rel. U.S.

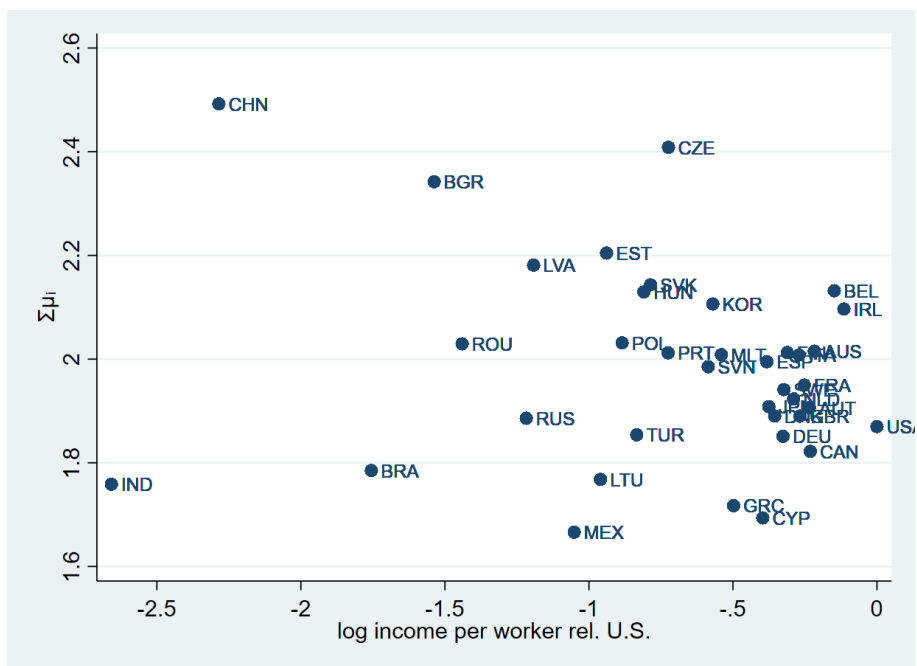


Figure 5: aggregate IO multiplier  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$  vs. log income per worker rel. U.S.

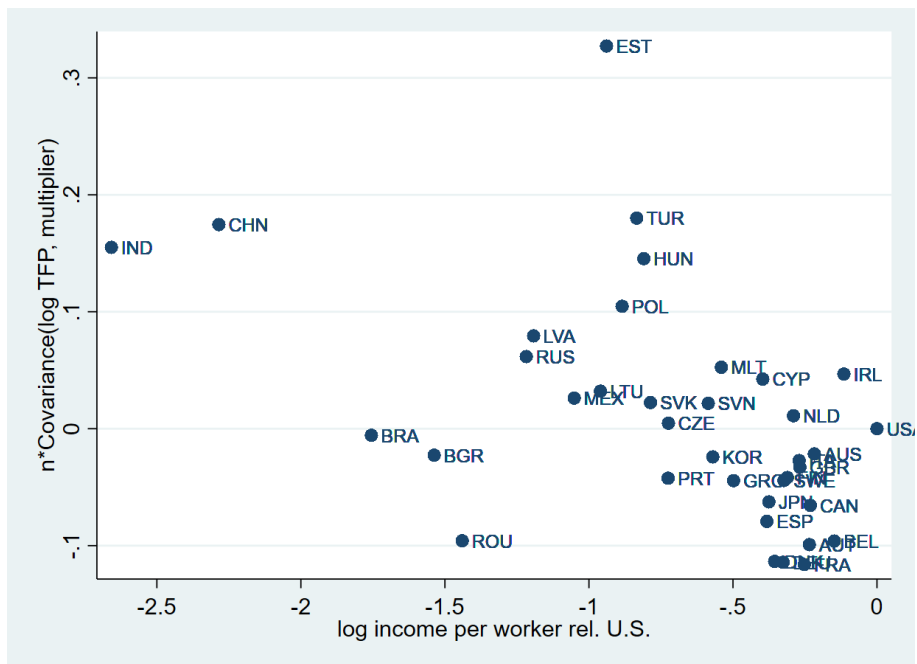


Figure 6:  $n * \text{Cov}(\lambda, \mu)$  vs. log income per worker rel. U.S.

## V Extensions and Robustness Checks

In this section, we report the results of a number of extensions and robustness checks order to show that our results do not hinge on the specific assumptions adopted in the model. We consider the following modifications of our baseline setup. First, we allow IO multipliers to depend on implicit tax wedges or distortions. Second, we account for imported intermediate inputs. Third, we extend our model to sectoral CES production functions. Finally, in the last two robustness checks presented in the Appendix, we allow capital shares to be sector-country-specific and we treat skilled and unskilled labor as separate production factors. We show that none of these modifications changes the basic conclusions of the baseline model.

### A Wedges

One important concern is that the empirically observed IO coefficients do not just reflect technological input requirements but also sector-specific distortions or wedges  $\tau_i$  in the production of intermediates. As in Jones (2011b), we consider these wedges as representing any kind of policy that favors one sector over another (regulations, special consideration for credit, theft, and so on), that is, as implicit subsidies and taxes. Consider the following maximization problem of an intermediate producer:

$$\max_{\{d_{ji}, k_i, l_i\}} (1 - \tau_i) p_i \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i} k_i^\alpha l_i^{1-\alpha} \right)^{1-\gamma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \left( \frac{d_{2i}}{\gamma_{2i}} \right)^{\gamma_{2i}} \cdots \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}} - \sum_{j=1}^n p_j d_{ji} - r k_i - w l_i,$$

where prices  $\{p_i\}$ ,  $r$  and  $w$  are taken as given ( $\tau_i$  and  $\Lambda_i$  are exogenous). Sector-specific wedges are assumed to reduce the value of sector  $i$ 's production by a factor  $(1 - \tau_i)$ , so that  $\tau_i > 0$  implies an implicit tax and  $\tau_i < 0$  corresponds to an implicit subsidy on the production of sector  $i$ .<sup>33</sup>The first-order condition w.r.t.  $d_{ji}$  is given by

$$(1 - \tau_i) \gamma_{ji} = \frac{p_j d_{ji}}{p_i q_i}, \quad j \in 1 : n$$

Thus, a larger wedge in sector  $i$  implies lower observed IO coefficients in this sector since firms in sectors facing larger implicit taxes demand less inputs from all other sectors. Separately identifying wedges  $\tau_i$  and technological IO coefficients  $\gamma_{ji}$  is an empirical challenge, which requires imposing additional restrictions on the data. Observe that  $\tau_i$  is the same for all inputs  $j$  demanded by a given sector  $i$ . Thus, introducing a country index  $s$  and summing across inputs  $j$  for a given country, we

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<sup>33</sup>For simplicity, we assume that taxes/subsidies do not generate any revenue or expenditure for the government. If  $\tau_i$ 's were instead modelled as giving rise to lump-sum transfers to consumers, there would be an additional term  $\ln(1 + \sum_i \tau_i \bar{\mu}_i)$  in the expression for the logarithm of real GDP per worker (see Proposition 2), where  $\bar{\mu}$  is a vector of multipliers associated with matrix  $\bar{\Gamma} = \{\bar{\gamma}_{ij}\}_{ij} = \{\beta_i \tau_j + \gamma_{ij}(1 - \tau_j)\}_{ij}$ . In unreported empirical analysis, we confirm that this term is indeed close to zero, which lends support to our assumption of wedges being pure waste.



obtain

$$(1 - \tau_{is}) \sum_j \gamma_{jis} \equiv (1 - \tau_{is}) \gamma_{is} = \sum_j \frac{p_{js} d_{jis}}{p_{is} q_{is}}, \quad i \in 1 : n$$

Now, if we restrict the total technological intermediate share of a given sector  $i$ ,  $\gamma_{is}$ , to be the same across countries, we can identify country-sector-specific wedges as

$$(14) \quad (1 - \tau_{is}) = \sum_j \frac{p_{js} d_{jis}}{p_{is} q_{is}} \frac{1}{\gamma_i}, \quad i \in 1 : n$$

Observe that individual IO coefficients  $\gamma_{jis}$  are still allowed to differ across countries in an arbitrary way. According to equation (14), countries with below-average intermediate shares  $\sum_j \frac{p_{js} d_{jis}}{p_{is} q_{is}}$  in a certain sector face an implicit tax in this sector, while countries with above-average intermediate shares receive an implicit subsidy. Taking logs of equation (14), we obtain:

$$(15) \quad \ln \left( \sum_j \frac{p_{js} d_{jis}}{p_{is} q_{is}} \right) = \ln(\gamma_i) + \ln(1 - \tau_{is})$$

Now, given (15), we regress log intermediate input shares of each country-sector pair on a set of sector-specific dummies to obtain estimates of the technological intermediate shares  $\ln(\gamma_i)$ . We then back out  $\ln(1 - \tau_{is})$  as the residual, which hinges on the assumption that  $\tau_{is}$  has zero mean across countries. Average intermediate shares are slightly lower for low-income countries. Also, low-income countries have a larger fraction of sectors with very low intermediate shares. Consequently, they have a larger fraction of sectors with relatively high wedges, which corresponds to more mass in the left tail of the distribution of  $\ln(1 - \tau_{is})$ . This is clear from Figure 7, which plots the distribution of  $\ln(1 - \tau_{is})$  by income level for the WIOD sample. Given wedges  $\tau_{is}$ , we construct IO coefficients adjusted for wedges as  $\gamma_{jis} = \frac{p_{js} d_{jis}}{p_{is} q_{is}} \frac{1}{(1 - \tau_{is})}$ . We then use these adjusted coefficients to recompute sectoral productivities and IO multipliers.

In the presence of wedges the expression for log GDP per worker also needs to be modified since wedges distort decisions and thus reduce income per worker. In particular, there is now an additional term  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i)$ . Higher distortions  $\tau_i > 0$  (lower values of  $\ln(1 - \tau_i)$ ) reduce income per worker, especially if they occur in high-multiplier sectors.

**Proposition 2.** *In the unique competitive equilibrium the logarithm of real GDP per worker,  $y$ , is given by*

$$(16) \quad y = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i)}_{\text{aggregate log TFP}} + \alpha \ln K,$$

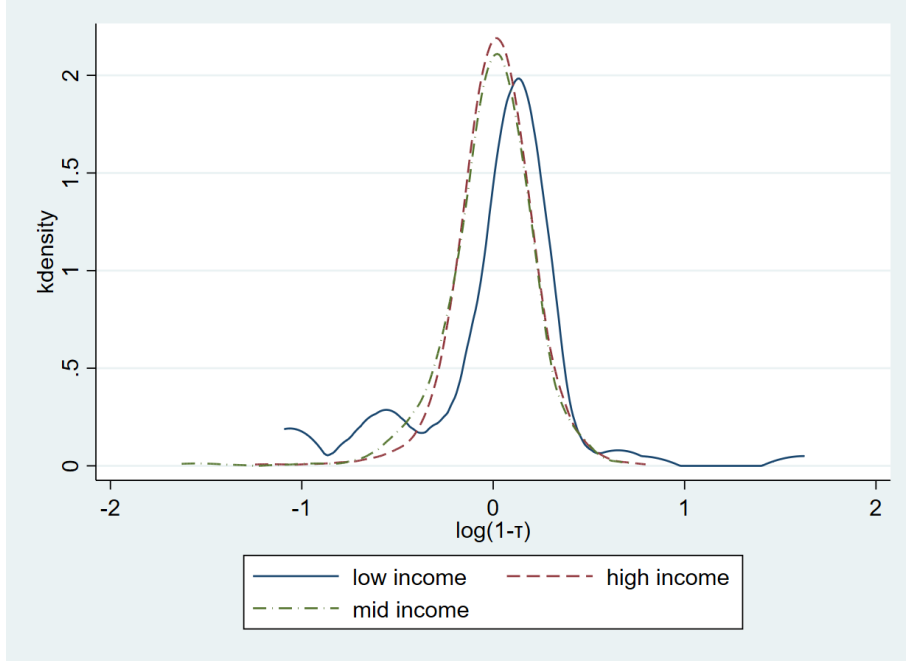


Figure 7: Distribution of  $\log(1-\tau)$  by income level

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 \boldsymbol{\mu} &= \{\mu_i\}_i = [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta}^*, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of multipliers} \\
 \boldsymbol{\lambda} &= \{\lambda_i\}_i = \{\ln \Lambda_i\}_i, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of sectoral log-productivity coefficients} \\
 \boldsymbol{\tau} &= \{\tau_i\}_i, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of sectoral wedges}
 \end{aligned}$$

This expression can be further decomposed as:

$$(17) \quad y_{model} = \underbrace{\bar{\lambda} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i + nCov(\lambda, \mu)}_{\text{productivity}} + \underbrace{\ln \overline{(1-\tau)} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i + nCov(\ln(1-\tau), \mu)}_{\text{distortions}} + \alpha \ln(K)$$

Aggregate log TFP now has a component capturing sectoral productivities and a component stemming from distortions. This expression makes clear that both higher average wedges – corresponding to more negative values of  $\ln \overline{(1-\tau)}$  – and a positive covariance between wedges and multipliers, implying  $nCov(\ln(1-\tau), \mu) < 0$ , are detrimental to income. Intuitively, positive wedges and thus, also positive average wedges, always reduce aggregate income per worker because they distort the decision between intermediate input demand and final use. This detrimental impact is further amplified by the aggregate multiplier  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$ . In addition, when larger wedges occur precisely in those sectors that have high multipliers, their negative effect on aggregate income is particularly strong.

Figure 8 plots the term  $\ln \overline{(1-\tau)} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$  against log GDP per worker. With the exception

of China, which provides large average production subsidies, poor economies tend to have large implicit tax rates. Brazil, Greece (GRC), Mexico (MEX) and India are countries where average distortions are particularly severe.

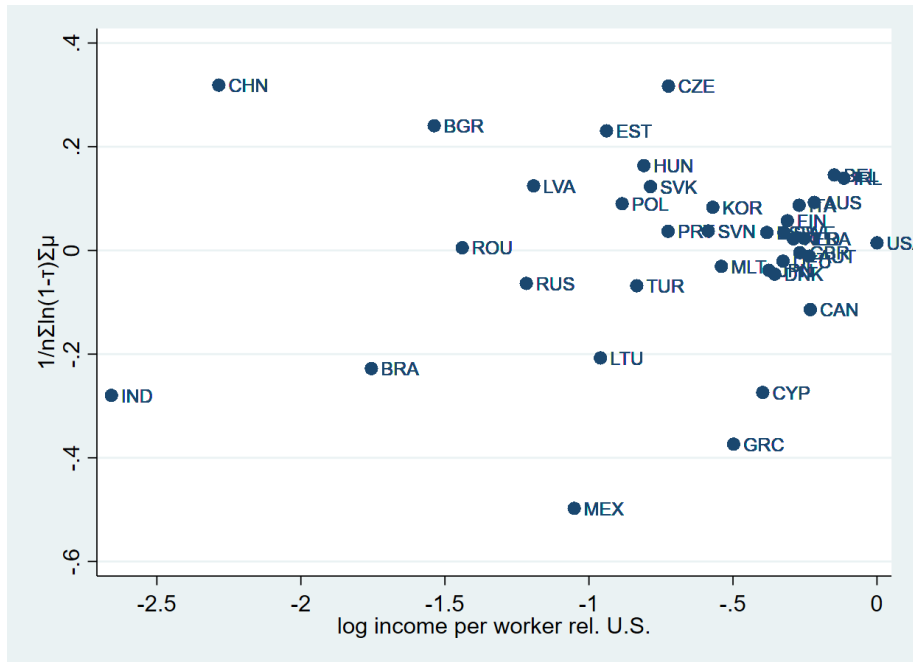


Figure 8:  $\ln \overline{(1-\tau)} \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i$  vs. log income per worker rel. U.S.

Figure 9 plots the covariance of  $\ln(1-\tau)$  and multipliers  $\mu$  against log GDP per worker: while rich countries tend to have lower implicit taxes or even provide implicit subsidies to their high-multiplier sectors, low-income countries tend to have high implicit taxes in these sectors.

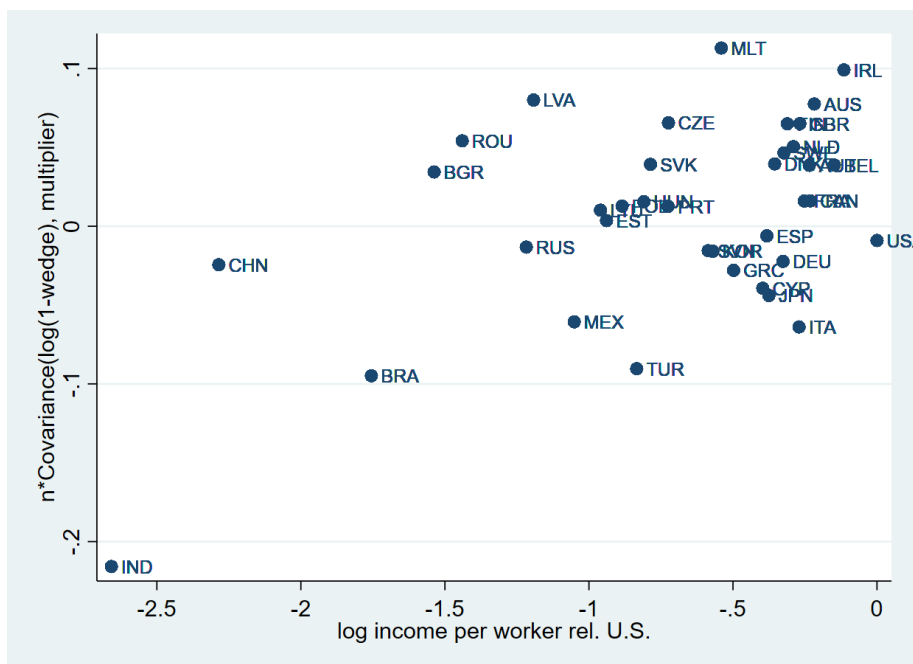


Figure 9:  $n * Cov(\ln(1-\tau), \mu)$  vs. log income per worker rel. U.S.

Finally, let us consider a variance decomposition of model income similar to (11), with some

additional terms that account for the role of wedges. To start with, column (1) of Table 5 shows that the model with wedges accounts for 89-94 percent of the income variation in the data. Then, columns (2)-(8) present the various terms in the decomposition. We concentrate on the case where the reference consumer’s expenditure shares are given by the arithmetic average of countries’ expenditure shares (see row one), since the results for the other cases are very similar (see rows two and three). Compared to the baseline model, the presence of wedges increases the role of aggregate TFP differences in explaining the variance of model income significantly: now 40% of income variation is due to variation in physical production factors and 60% due to variation in aggregate TFP (compared to roughly 50-50 split for the baseline). The 60% due to aggregate TFP differences can be further split into 44% due to variation in weighted sum of sectoral TFPs  $\sum \mu_i \lambda_i$  and 16% due to variation in distortions  $\sum \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i)$ . Thus, distortions account for roughly a third of aggregate TFP variation. Finally, we can decompose the 44% of income variation due to sectoral TFPs into 50% due to average TFP variation amplified by average multipliers, and minus 6% mitigation due to variation in the covariance between sectoral TFPs and multipliers. Hence, mitigation is quantitatively a bit smaller than in the baseline model. Similarly, the 16% of income variation due to distortions can be decomposed as 10% due to variation in average distortions amplified by average multipliers and 6 % due to variation in the covariance term between distortions and multipliers. Thus, variation in both average distortions and their covariance with multipliers amplify income differences.

Table 5: Variance decomposition of log GDP per worker – model with wedges

	$\frac{Var(y_{model})}{Var(y_{data})}$	share of $Var(y_{model})$ explained by variation in						
		$\alpha \ln K$	$\sum \mu \lambda$	$\sum \mu \ln(1 - \tau)$	$\bar{\lambda} \sum_i \mu_i$	$nCov(\lambda, \mu)$	$\overline{\ln(1 - \tau)} \sum \mu$	$nCov(\ln(1 - \tau), \mu)$
arith. mean	0.91	0.40	0.44	0.16	0.50	-0.06	0.10	0.06
geo. mean	0.89	0.40	0.43	0.17	0.50	-0.07	0.11	0.05
w. mean	0.94	0.40	0.45	0.15	0.49	-0.04	0.10	0.05

## B CES Production Function

Another potential concern is that sectoral production functions are not Cobb-Douglas, but instead feature an elasticity of substitution between intermediate inputs different from unity. If this were the case, IO coefficients would no longer be sector-country-specific constants  $\gamma_{jis}$  but would instead be endogenous to equilibrium prices, which would reflect the underlying productivities of the upstream sectors. While it has been observed that for the U.S. the IO matrix has been remarkably stable over the last decades despite large shifts in relative prices (Acemoglu et al., 2012) – an indication of a unit elasticity, – in this robustness check we briefly discuss the implications of considering a more

general CES sectoral production function. The sectoral production functions are now given by:

$$(18) \quad q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i} k_i^\alpha l_i^{1-\alpha} \right)^{1-\gamma_i} M_i^{\gamma_i},$$

where  $M_i \equiv \left( \sum_{j=1}^N \gamma_{ji} d_{ji}^{\frac{(\sigma-1)}{\sigma}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma}{(\sigma-1)}}$ . The rest of the model is specified as in section A.

With CES production functions the equilibrium cannot be solved analytically, so one has to rely on numerical solutions. However, it is straightforward to show how IO multipliers are related to sectoral productivities in this case. From the first-order conditions it follows that the relative expenditure of sector  $i$  on inputs produced by sector  $j$  relative to sector  $k$  is given by:

$$(19) \quad \frac{p_j d_{ji}}{p_k d_{ki}} = \left( \frac{p_j}{p_k} \right)^{1-\sigma} \left( \frac{\gamma_{ji}}{\gamma_{ki}} \right)$$

Thus, if  $\sigma > 1$  ( $\sigma < 1$ ), each sector  $i$  spends relatively more on the inputs provided by sectors that charge lower (higher) prices. Recall that sectors whose output accounts for a larger fraction of other sectors' spending have higher multipliers (see equation (7)). Moreover, since prices are inversely proportional to productivities, sectors with higher productivity levels charge lower prices. Consequently, when  $\sigma > 1$ , sectoral multipliers and productivities should be positively correlated in *all* countries, while when  $\sigma < 1$ , the opposite should be true. We confirm these results in unreported simulations. However, these predictions are not consistent with our empirical finding that multipliers and productivities are positively correlated in low-income countries, while they are negatively correlated in high-income ones. Consequently – unless the elasticity of substitution differs systematically across countries – the data on IO tables and sectoral productivities are difficult to reconcile with CES production functions with Hicks-neutral productivity.

## C Traded Intermediate Goods

So far, we have treated all intermediate inputs as being domestically produced. Here, we extend our model and differentiate between domestically produced and imported intermediate inputs, while keeping the Cobb-Douglas structure of sectoral production functions. The technology of sector  $i$  is now given by

$$q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i} k_i^\alpha l_i^{1-\alpha} \right)^{1-\gamma_i-\sigma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \cdot \dots \cdot \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}} \cdot \left( \frac{f_{1i}}{\sigma_{1i}} \right)^{\sigma_{1i}} \cdot \dots \cdot \left( \frac{f_{ni}}{\sigma_{ni}} \right)^{\sigma_{ni}},$$

where  $d_{ji}$  is the quantity of the domestic good  $j$  used in the production of sector  $i$  and  $f_{ji}$  is the quantity of imported good  $j$  used by sector  $i$ .  $\gamma_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji}$  and  $\sigma_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{ji}$  are the respective shares of domestic and imported intermediate goods in the total input use of sector  $i$  and  $\alpha$  is the share of capital in sectoral value added. We assume that output of sector  $i$  can be used either for

final consumption,  $c_i$ , as a domestic intermediate input  $d_{ij}$ , or as an exportable  $x_i$ :

$$q_i = c_i + \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij} + x_i \quad i = 1 : n$$

We impose balanced trade, so that the value of exported intermediates must be equal to the value of imported intermediates:

$$\sum_{j=1}^n p_j x_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{p}_j f_{ji},$$

where  $p_j$  is the domestic and export price of intermediate good  $j$  and  $\bar{p}_j$  is the import price of intermediate good  $j$ . Because the domestic economy is assumed to be small, these prices are exogenous. Let us denote by  $\rho_j = \frac{\bar{p}_j}{P}$  the ratio of the import price of intermediate good  $j$  relative to the aggregate consumer price index.<sup>34</sup> Because we only have data on the aggregate import price index from the Penn World Table, we assume that import prices do not vary across sectors:  $\rho_j = \rho$ . In the Appendix, we show that with these modifications the aggregate production function for log GDP per worker can be expressed as follows:

**Proposition 3.** *In the unique competitive equilibrium, the logarithm of real GDP per worker,  $y$ , is*

$$(20) \quad y = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \sigma_i - \gamma_i)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i - \ln \rho \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_i \right) + \alpha \ln K,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mu} &= \{\mu_i\}_i = [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta}^*, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of multipliers} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} &= \{\lambda_i\}_i = \{\ln \Lambda_i\}_i, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of sectoral log-productivity coefficients} \\ \boldsymbol{\Gamma} &= \{\gamma_{ji}\}_{ji}, & n \times n \text{ input-output matrix for domestic intermediates} \\ \boldsymbol{\sigma} &= \{\sigma_i\}, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of imported intermediate shares} \\ \boldsymbol{\gamma} &= \{\gamma_i\}, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of domestic intermediate shares} \\ \rho & & \text{relative price of imported intermediates} \end{aligned}$$

Compared to the baseline model, there are a few modifications. First, sectoral multipliers  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$  depend only on the domestic IO coefficients  $\gamma_{ji}$ , since foreign production is unaffected by changes in domestic productivity. Second, while  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i) = 1$  in the model with only domestic intermediates, the new term  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \sigma_i - \gamma_i)$  is smaller than one,<sup>35</sup> and this amplifies the effect of sectoral multipliers  $\boldsymbol{\mu}$ . The intuition for this is as follows. What matters for the effect of multipliers

<sup>34</sup>We continue to normalize  $P$  to unity. In the empirical analysis we use the price index of imports relative to the aggregate consumer price index, as provided in the data.

<sup>35</sup>Note that (a) this term is positive, and (b) by definition of multipliers,  $\sum_i \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i) = 1$ . Thus,  $\sum_i \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i) = 1 - \sum_i \mu_i \sigma_i < 1$ .

is not just the share of domestic intermediates  $\gamma_i$  but the total share of intermediates  $\sigma_i + \gamma_i$ . Indeed, imported intermediates do not dilute multipliers because of our assumption of balanced trade: an increase in productivity of a given sector increases exports, which in turn increases imports. Third, income now depends negatively on  $\rho$ , the relative price of imported intermediates. When imported intermediates become more expensive, GDP is reduced because an increase in their price acts effectively as a negative supply shock. The magnitude of this effect depends on the weighted average of imported intermediate shares  $\sigma_i$ , with multipliers  $\mu_i$  as weights.

Figure 10 plots the new term  $-\ln \rho \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_i$  against log GDP per worker: poor countries have a much higher relative price of imported intermediates, leading to a positive correlation between this term and log GDP per worker.

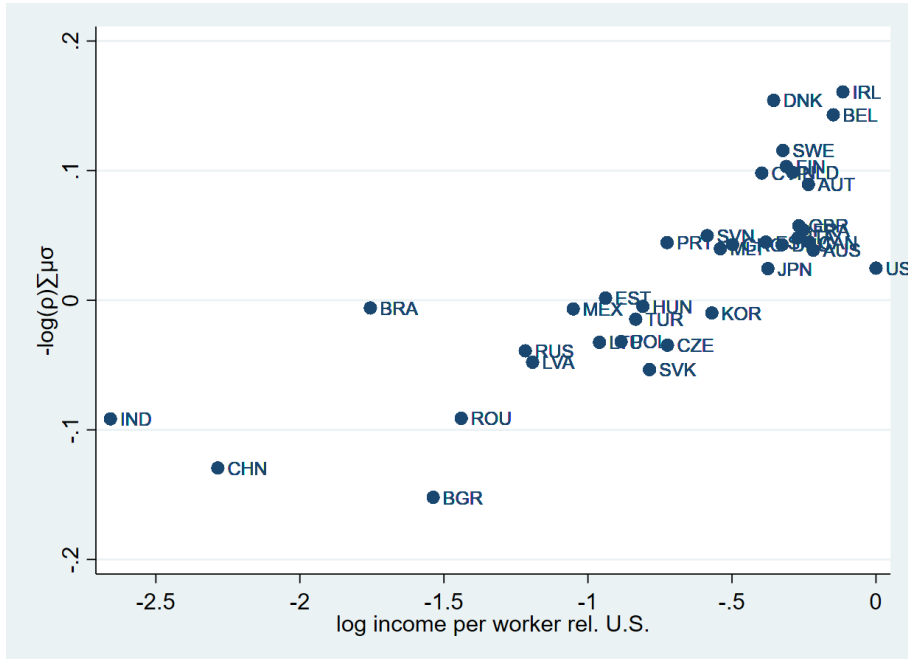


Figure 10:  $-\ln(\rho) \sum_i \mu_i \sigma_i$  vs. log income per worker rel. U.S.

In Table 6 we report the results of our variance decomposition. It now has an additional term which accounts for the effect of imported intermediates. We focus on the case of arithmetic-average expenditure shares, since the other cases are very similar. The model explains 94% of the variance of GDP per worker in the data, which is 4% more than the baseline model. The fraction of model variance explained by variation in capital per worker (45%) is slightly smaller than in the baseline model (48%). Variation in aggregate TFP ( $\sum \mu_i \lambda_i$ ) now accounts for 45% of income variation (compared to 52% in the baseline model), while variation in the term reflecting the price of intermediates,  $-\ln \rho \sum_i \sigma_i \mu_i$ , increases the variance of GDP per worker across countries by an additional 10%. This is due to the fact that for low-income countries the relative price of imports is much higher than for rich countries, which depresses their GDP per worker significantly. The 45% of income variation explained by aggregate TFP can be further split into 56% due to variation

in aggregate multiplier times average productivity and -11% due to variation in the covariance between sectoral TFPs and multipliers. Observe that the role of the covariance term is a bit larger in absolute terms than in the baseline case.

Table 6: Variance decomposition of log GDP per worker – model with traded intermediates

	$\frac{Var(y_{model})}{Var(y_{data})}$	share of $Var(y_{model})$ explained by variation in				
		$\alpha \ln(K)$	$A \sum \mu \lambda$	$A \bar{\lambda} \sum \mu$	$AnCov(\lambda, \mu)$	$-A \ln \rho \sum \sigma \mu$
arith. mean	0.94	0.45	0.45	0.56	-0.11	0.10
geo. mean	0.91	0.47	0.43	0.56	-0.13	0.10
w. mean	0.97	0.44	0.46	0.54	-0.08	0.10

$A = [\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \sigma_i - \gamma_i)]^{-1}$

## VI Counterfactual Experiments

We now present the results of a number of counterfactual experiments. We first investigate how differences in TFP levels affect cross-country income differences before turning to the effects of differences in IO linkages. For the first two counterfactuals we use our baseline model, while for the third counterfactual we employ the model with wedges.

In our first counterfactual exercise we eliminate all TFP differences between countries by setting all sectoral productivities equal to the U.S. level. The result of this experiment is shown in Figure 11. It plots the counterfactual percentage change in income per worker of each country against log GDP per worker. As can be seen from the figure, virtually all countries would gain if they had the U.S. TFP levels. While gains are relatively modest for most high-income countries, bringing sectoral TFPs to U.S. levels would almost double income per worker in countries like China (CHN) or Romania (ROU).

In the second counterfactual exercise, we hold sectoral productivity levels fixed and instead set the covariance between multipliers and log productivities,  $Cov(\mu, \lambda)$ , to zero in all countries. Figure 12 makes clear that a number of low-income countries, such as India and China would lose more than 15% of their income, with a number of Eastern European countries, like Poland (POL), Hungary (HUN) and Estonia (EST) also affected very negatively. Instead many rich countries would gain up to 10% of GDP per worker from this change. Why is this the case? Poor countries tend to have a positive covariance between multipliers and log TFPs, while rich countries tend to have a negative one. This implies that poor countries are doing relatively well despite their low average productivity levels, because they perform significantly better than average precisely in those sectors that have a large impact on aggregate performance. The opposite is true in rich countries, where highly connected sectors perform below average. Eliminating this link improves aggregate outcomes in rich economies further, while hurting poor countries. The main reason for negative correlations in rich countries is that they tend to have particularly large productivity gaps with the U.S. in



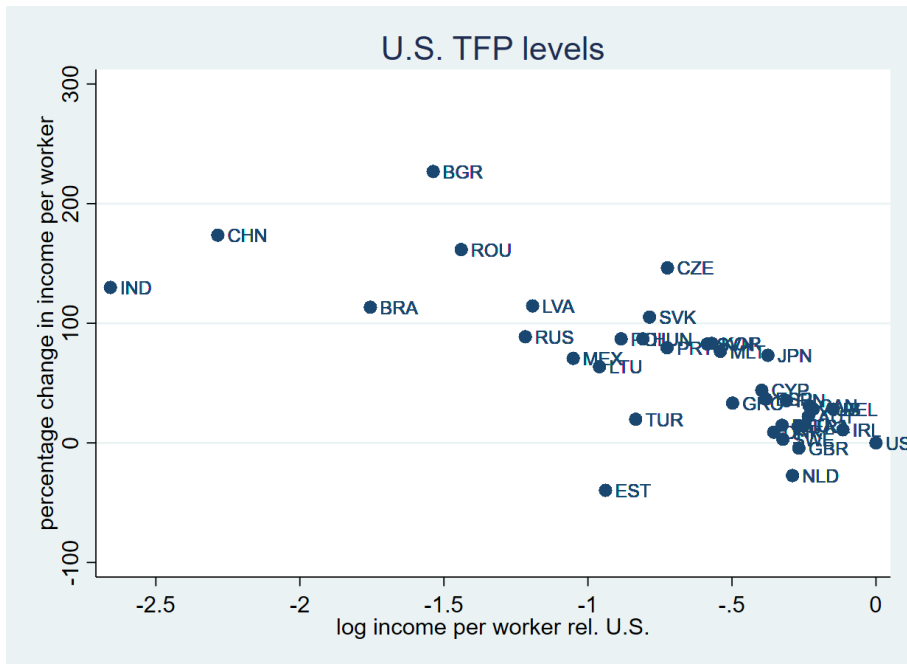


Figure 11: Counterfactuals 1

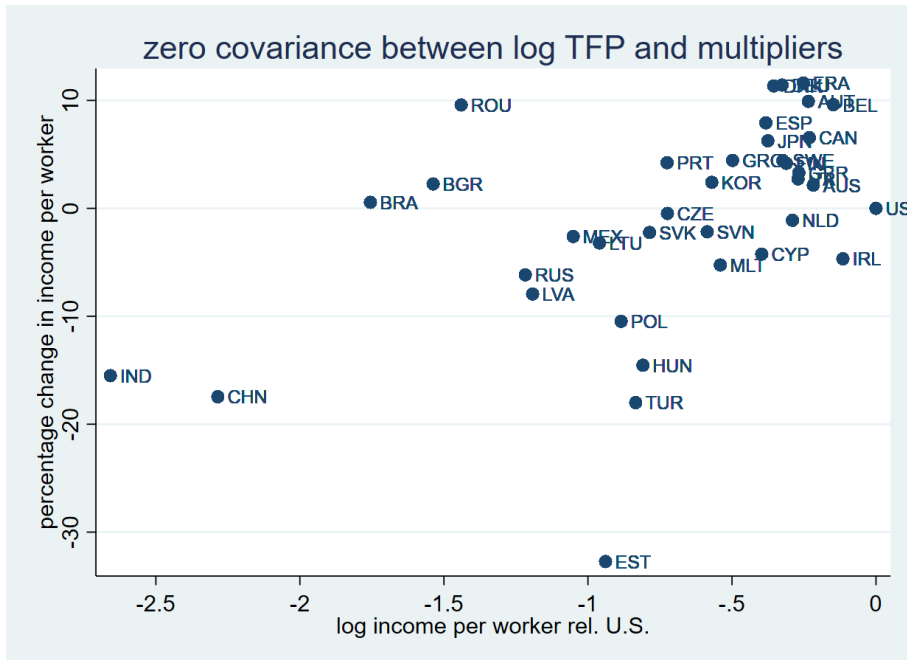


Figure 12: Counterfactuals 2

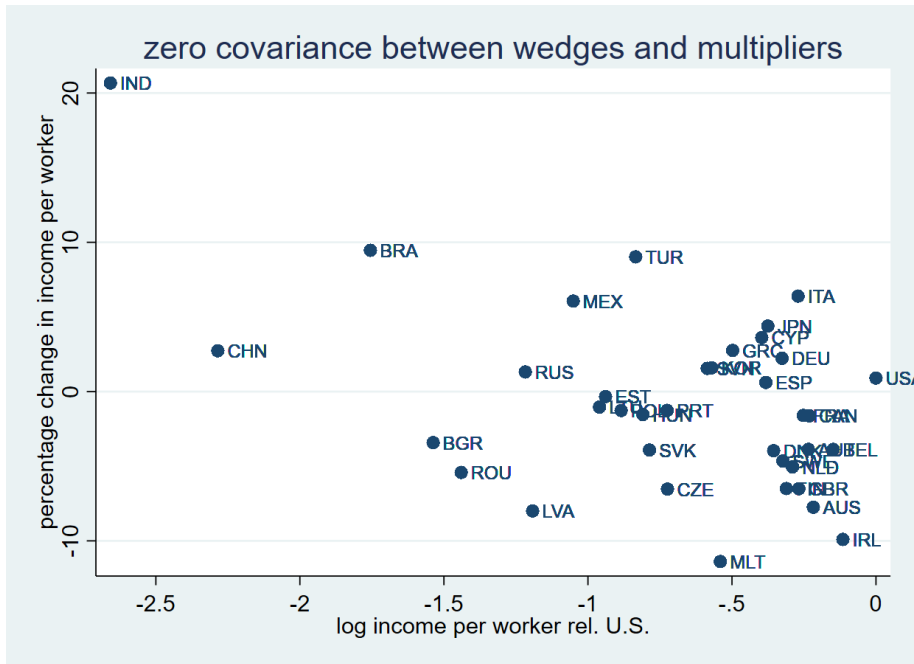


Figure 13: Counterfactuals 3

high-multiplier sectors, such as services. Setting the covariance between TFP and multipliers to zero then effectively means bringing European productivity levels in the service sectors to the U.S. level.

Finally, in the last counterfactual we use the model with wedges (see subsection A of section V) and set the covariance between sectoral wedges and multipliers to zero. Figure 13 describes the result of this exercise. On average low-income countries would gain in this counterfactual. In particular, countries like India, Brazil, Mexico and Turkey (TUR) would see their income improve significantly because they have large wedges in high-multiplier sectors that are very distortive. By contrast, a number of high-income countries, such as Australia (AUS) and Ireland (IRL), would see a significant reduction of their income because these countries currently provide implicit subsidies to high-multiplier sectors that vanish in the counterfactual.<sup>36</sup>

## VII Conclusions

In this paper we have studied the role of IO structure and its interaction with sectoral productivity levels in explaining differences in aggregate TFP and income levels across countries. We have described and formally modeled cross-country differences in the interaction of sectoral IO multipliers and productivities and shown that they are important for understanding variation in real GDP per worker across countries. Our main finding is that IO linkages have two contrasting effects in determining how micro-level (sectoral) TFP variation translates into aggregate TFP differences. On

<sup>36</sup>This positive effect of subsidies has to be interpreted cautiously because for simplicity wedges are modeled as a pure waste, which implies that subsidies do not reduce resources available to other sectors.

the one hand, IO linkages substantially amplify the underlying sectoral TFP differences due to an aggregate-multiplier effect. On the other hand, they also prevent this amplification from being as large as would be suggested by models with an aggregate intermediate good that ignores the details of countries' IO structure. This is because poor countries rely on a few highly connected sectors, which tend to have higher-than-average productivity levels, while their typical, low-productivity sectors are not strongly linked to the rest of the economy, mitigating their impact on aggregate TFP and income. By contrast, in rich countries highly connected sectors tend to have below-average productivity levels, which has a disproportionately negative effect on aggregate TFP and income of these countries. Thus, there is a positive correlation between sectoral productivities and IO multipliers in low-income countries, but a negative one in high-income countries, which mitigates the large cross-country income differences.

At the same time, we find that in low-income countries highly connected sectors tend to be more distorted through high implicit tax rates, while the opposite is the case in rich countries. This significantly reduces aggregate income of poor countries and improves aggregate income of rich ones. These insights have important consequences for the design of development policies, which should focus on increasing productivity and reducing distortions in key sectors.

## Appendix A: Further Robustness Checks

### A.1 Sector-country-specific Capital Shares

We now relax one last simplification of our baseline model, namely the assumption that capital shares do not vary across sectors and countries. We thus consider our benchmark economy, but assume that capital shares in sectoral production functions can vary along both dimensions. The technology of sector  $i$  is now as follows:

$$q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i} k_i^{\alpha_i} l_i^{1 - \alpha_i} \right)^{1 - \gamma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \left( \frac{d_{2i}}{\gamma_{2i}} \right)^{\gamma_{2i}} \cdots \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}}$$

Then the following statement holds.

**Proposition A1.** *In the unique competitive equilibrium, the logarithm of real GDP per worker,  $y$ , is given by*

$$(A1) \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i) \alpha_i \right) \ln K + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \omega_i,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mu} &= \{\mu_i\}_i = [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta}, \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} &= \{\lambda_i\}_i = \{\ln \Lambda_i\}_i, \\ \boldsymbol{\omega} &= \{\omega_i\}_i = \{(1 - \gamma_i) (\alpha_i \ln \theta_{k_i} + (1 - \alpha_i) \ln \theta_{l_i} - \ln(1 - \gamma_i) - \ln \mu_i)\}_i, \\ \theta_{k_i} &= \frac{\alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i}, \\ \theta_{l_i} &= \frac{(1 - \alpha_i) (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (1 - \alpha_i) (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i} \end{aligned}$$

The key difference compared to the baseline model is the term  $(\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i) \alpha_i)$  in front of  $\ln K$ . It makes the elasticity of income per worker to the capital stock per worker country-specific. This elasticity is now given by an IO-multiplier-weighted mean of capital shares in sectoral value added  $\alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i)$ . The term  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \omega_i$  is a country-specific constant.<sup>37</sup>

Table A.1 reports the results for this model. First, this model performs significantly worse than the baseline model in terms of predicting income per worker. It explains only around 75% of income variation in the data. The reason is that in the WIOD data, capital income shares are systematically higher in poor economies than in rich ones. This somewhat depresses the role of variation in capital per worker in explaining income differences in the data.<sup>38</sup> However, the result that the income variance generated by the model is split roughly 50-50 between capital per worker and aggregate TFP is unaffected. Moreover, the negative contribution of the covariance term is also very similar to the one in the baseline model. Thus, allowing for variation in capital income shares introduces some additional noise in the model, without affecting any key results.

<sup>37</sup>It is straightforward to verify that when  $\alpha_i = \alpha$  for all  $i$ , equation (A1) reduces to (6) in our baseline model.

<sup>38</sup>Note that capital income is derived as a residual and defined as gross value added minus labor income. Even though WIOD imputes labor income of self-employed and family workers to adjust for the underestimation of the labor income share in low-income countries, a positive correlation between the labor income share and income per worker remains present. This contrasts with the findings of Gollin (2002) who shows that the labor share is uncorrelated with countries' income level.

Table A.1: Variance decomposition of log real GDP per worker – model with sector-country-specific capital shares

	$\frac{Var(y_{model})}{Var(y_{data})}$	share of $Var(y_{model})$ explained by variation in				
		$(\sum \mu(1 - \gamma)\alpha) \ln K$	$\sum \mu\lambda$	$\sum \mu\omega$	$n\bar{\lambda} \sum \mu$	$nCov(\lambda, \mu)$
arithmetic mean	0.75	0.50	0.48	0.02	0.55	-0.07
geometric mean	0.74	0.50	0.47	0.03	0.55	-0.08
weighted mean	0.79	0.48	0.49	0.02	0.53	-0.04

## A.2 Human Capital

In a final robustness check, we account for variation in human capital levels across countries and sectors to make sure that our results are not biased by the omission of this factor. We thus modify the sectoral production functions as follows:

$$(A2) \quad q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i} k_i^\alpha u_i^\delta s_i^{1-\alpha-\delta} \right)^{1-\gamma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \left( \frac{d_{2i}}{\gamma_{2i}} \right)^{\gamma_{2i}} \cdot \dots \cdot \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}},$$

where  $u_i$  is the number of unskilled workers and  $s_i$  is the number of skilled workers in sector  $i$ , and where  $\delta$  and  $1 - \alpha - \delta$  are, respectively, the income shares of unskilled and skilled workers in sectoral value added. The rest of the model is assumed to be the same as in the baseline case. Denoting the aggregate amount of unskilled workers by  $U$ , the aggregate amount of skilled workers by  $S$  and normalizing the total size of the workforce to unity, we obtain the following expression for log real GDP per worker:

**Proposition A2.** *In the unique competitive equilibrium, the logarithm of real GDP per worker,  $y = \ln(Y)$ , is*

$$(A3) \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \alpha \ln K + \delta \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S.$$

In order to assess how the introduction of skilled and unskilled labor as separate production factors affects our results quantitatively, we proceed as follows. We follow Caselli, Coleman and John (2006) and define unskilled labor as workers with primary and lower secondary education and skilled labor as workers with more than lower secondary education. WIOD provides for each sector and country the factor inputs and income shares of workers separated by education category. We recompute sectoral TFP levels with the methodology exposed in section E but we now separate labor inputs of each sector into skilled and unskilled workers. To calibrate  $\delta$  and  $(1 - \alpha - \delta)$ , we first compute for each country the income share of unskilled and skilled workers in GDP and then take the arithmetic average across countries. Assuming that  $\alpha = 1/3$ , this gives  $\delta = 0.22$  and  $1 - \alpha - \delta = 0.44$ . We also calculate aggregate stocks of unskilled and skilled workers by aggregating sectoral labor inputs by skill level from WIOD.

Table A.2 presents the results for variance decomposition of log real GDP per worker in this model. Here,  $y_{kth} = \alpha \ln K + \delta \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S$  and represents the fraction of variance of log real GDP per worker explained by variation in the amount of physical production factors per worker. The remaining terms are the same as in the baseline model. Using arithmetic averages of expenditure shares for the reference consumer, we obtain that the model with human capital can explain 92% of the variance in GDP per worker, a bit more than the baseline model. Compared to the baseline model, the fraction of income variation explained by production factors also increases from 48 to 54%. By contrast, the fraction of variation explained by average productivity times aggregate multiplier is reduced a bit, from 52 to 46%. Finally, the negative contribution of the covariance term between sectoral productivities and multipliers remains practically unaffected: similarly to the baseline model, this term reduces the variance in log GDP per worker by 7%. The other

rows report results for the model with expenditure shares obtained as the geometric mean and the quantity weighted mean. Results remain very similar. We conclude that our findings are robust to accounting for variation in human capital across countries.

Table A.2: Variance decomposition of log real GDP per worker – model with human capital

	$\frac{Var(y_{model})}{Var(y_{data})}$	share of $Var(y_{model})$ explained by variation in			
		$ykh$	$\sum \mu_i \lambda_i$	$\bar{\lambda} \sum \mu$	$nCov(\lambda, \mu)$
arithmetic mean	0.92	0.54	0.46	0.53	-0.07
geometric mean	0.91	0.55	0.45	0.54	-0.09
weighted mean	0.95	0.52	0.48	0.52	-0.04

## Appendix B: Proofs for the Baseline Model and its Extensions

Propositions 1 – 3 and Proposition A2 are particular cases of Proposition A3 that applies in a generic setting – with sector-specific wedges, traded intermediates and division of labor into skilled and unskilled labor inputs. Here we first provide a brief description of this economy, together with Proposition A3, its proof and conditions on parameters that result in each of the particular cases (Propositions 1 – 3 and A2). After that we prove Proposition A1 for the economy with sector-specific capital shares, which relies on a different argument.

- The technology of each of  $n$  competitive sectors is Cobb-Douglas with constant returns to scale. Namely, the output of sector  $i$ , denoted by  $q_i$ , is

$$q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i} k_i^\alpha u_i^\delta s_i^{1 - \alpha - \delta} \right)^{1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \cdots \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}} \cdot \left( \frac{f_{1i}}{\sigma_{1i}} \right)^{\sigma_{1i}} \cdots \left( \frac{f_{ni}}{\sigma_{ni}} \right)^{\sigma_{ni}},$$

where  $s_i$  and  $u_i$  are the amounts of skilled and unskilled labor,  $d_{ji}$  is the quantity of the domestic good  $j$  and  $f_{ji}$  is the quantity of the imported good  $j$  used by sector  $i$ .  $\gamma_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji}$  and  $\sigma_i = \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{ji}$  are the respective shares of domestic and imported intermediate goods in the total input use of sector  $i$  and  $\alpha$ ,  $\delta$ ,  $1 - \alpha - \delta$  are the respective shares of capital, unskilled and skilled labor in the remainder of the inputs.

- A good produced by sector  $i$  can be used for final consumption,  $c_i$ , as an intermediate good or exported abroad:

$$c_i + \sum_{j=1}^n d_{ij} + x_i = q_i \quad i = 1 : n$$

- Exports pay for the imported intermediate goods, and we impose a balanced trade condition:

$$\sum_{j=1}^n p_j x_j = \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{p}_j f_{ji},$$

where  $p_j$  is the domestic and export price of intermediate good  $j$  and  $\bar{p}_j$  is the import price of intermediate good  $j$ .

- Consumers have Cobb-Douglas utility:

$$u(c_1, \dots, c_n) = \prod_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{c_i}{\beta_i} \right)^{\beta_i},$$

where  $\beta_i \geq 0$  for all  $i$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i = 1$ .

- Consumers own all production factors, and use their income to finance consumption:<sup>39</sup>

$$\sum_i p_i c_i = w_U U + w_S S + rK.$$

- Consumers maximize utility subject to their budget constraint  $\sum_i p_i c_i = I$ , taking prices taking prices  $\{p_i\}$ ,  $w_U$ ,  $w_S$  and  $r$  as given.
- Intermediate good producers maximize profits:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{d_{ji}\}, \{f_{ji}\}, k_i, u_i} (1-\tau_i) p_i \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1-\gamma_i-\sigma_i} k_i^\alpha u_i^\delta s_i^{1-\alpha-\delta} \right)^{1-\gamma_i-\sigma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \cdots \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}} \cdot \left( \frac{f_{1i}}{\sigma_{1i}} \right)^{\sigma_{1i}} \cdots \left( \frac{f_{ni}}{\sigma_{ni}} \right)^{\sigma_{ni}} \\ - \sum_{j=1}^n p_j d_{ji} - \sum_{j=1}^n \bar{p}_j f_{ji} - r k_i - w_U u_i - w_S s_i, \quad i \in 1:n \end{aligned}$$

taking prices  $\{p_j\}$ ,  $\{\bar{p}_j\}$  of all goods and prices of labor and capital,  $w_U$ ,  $w_S$  and  $r$ , as given ( $\tau_i$  and  $\Lambda_i$  are exogenous).  $\tau_i$  is a sector-specific wedge that reduces the value of sector  $i$ 's production by a factor  $(1 - \tau_i)$ .

- The total supply of physical capital, unskilled and skilled labor are fixed at the exogenous levels of  $K$ ,  $U$  and  $S$ , respectively, and we normalize  $U + S = 1$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{i=1}^n k_i &= K, \\ \sum_{i=1}^n u_i &= U, \\ \sum_{i=1}^n s_i &= S. \end{aligned}$$

- Numeraire:  $P = \prod_{i=1}^n (p_i)^{\beta_i} = 1$ .
- Definition of real GDP:  $Y = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i c_i = u$ .

For this “generic” economy, the competitive equilibrium is described by the following proposition.

**Proposition A3.** *There exists a unique competitive equilibrium. In this equilibrium, the logarithm of GDP per capita,  $y = \ln(Y)$ , is given by*

$$(A4) \quad y = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i) \right] + \alpha \ln K + \delta \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \boldsymbol{\mu} &= \{\mu_i\}_i = [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta}, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of multipliers} \\ \boldsymbol{\Gamma} &= \{\gamma_{ji}\}_{ji}, & n \times n \text{ input-output matrix for domestic intermediates} \\ \boldsymbol{\lambda} &= \{\lambda_i\}_i = \{\ln \Lambda_i\}_i, & n \times 1 \text{ vector of sectoral log-productivity coefficients} \end{aligned}$$

<sup>39</sup>Lump-sum transfers  $\sum_i \tau_i p_i q_i$  to consumers are absent as discussed in subsection A of section V.

*Proof of Proposition A3. Part I: Calculation of  $\ln w_U$ .*

Consider a profit maximization problem of the representative firm in each sector  $i$ . The FOCs are:

$$(A5) \quad \alpha(1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)(1 - \tau_i) \frac{p_i q_i}{r} = k_i$$

$$(A6) \quad \delta(1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)(1 - \tau_i) \frac{p_i q_i}{w_U} = u_i$$

$$(A7) \quad (1 - \alpha - \delta)(1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)(1 - \tau_i) \frac{p_i q_i}{w_S} = s_i$$

$$(A8) \quad \gamma_{ji}(1 - \tau_i) \frac{p_i q_i}{p_j} = d_{ji} \quad j \in 1 : n$$

$$(A9) \quad \sigma_{ji}(1 - \tau_i) \frac{p_i q_i}{\bar{p}_j} = f_{ji} \quad j \in 1 : n$$

Substituting the left-hand side of these equations for the values of  $k_i$ ,  $u_i$ ,  $s_i$ ,  $\{d_{ji}\}$  and  $\{f_{ji}\}$  in firm  $i$ 's log-production technology and simplifying the obtained expression, we derive:

$$(A10) \quad \begin{aligned} \delta \ln w_U &= \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i} \left( \lambda_i + \ln p_i - \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln p_j - \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j + \ln(1 - \tau_i) \right) - \\ &- \alpha \ln r - (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln(w_S) + \alpha \ln \alpha + \delta \ln \delta + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln(1 - \alpha - \delta). \end{aligned}$$

Next, we use FOCs (A5) – (A9) and market clearing conditions for labor and capital to express  $r$  and  $w_S$  in terms of  $w_U$ :

$$(A11) \quad w_U = \frac{1}{U} \delta \sum_{i=1}^n (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)(1 - \tau_i)(p_i q_i)$$

$$(A12) \quad w_S = \frac{1}{S} (1 - \alpha - \delta) \sum_{i=1}^n (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)(1 - \tau_i)(p_i q_i) = \frac{w_U U}{S} \frac{1 - \alpha - \delta}{\delta}$$

$$(A13) \quad r = \frac{1}{K} \alpha \sum_{i=1}^n (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)(1 - \tau_i)(p_i q_i) = \frac{w_U U}{K} \frac{\alpha}{\delta}$$

Substituting these values of  $r$  and  $w_S$  in (A10) we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln w_U &= \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i} \left( \lambda_i + \ln p_i - \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln p_j - \sum_{j=1}^n \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j + \ln(1 - \tau_i) \right) + \\ &+ \alpha \ln K - (1 - \delta) \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S + \ln \delta \end{aligned}$$

Multiplying this equation by the  $i$ th element of the vector  $\boldsymbol{\mu}' \mathbf{D} = \boldsymbol{\beta}' [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}]^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{D}$ , where  $\mathbf{D}$  is a diagonal matrix with  $D_{ii} = 1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i$ , and summing over all sectors  $i$  gives

$$\begin{aligned} \ln w_U \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i) &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln p_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i) + \\ &+ \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i) \left( \alpha \ln K - (1 - \delta) \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S + \ln \delta \right) \end{aligned}$$

Next, we use the price index normalization  $P = \prod_{i=1}^n (p_i)^{\beta_i} = 1$ , which implies that  $\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln p_i = 0$ . Then we can write the above equation as follows:

$$(A14) \quad \begin{aligned} \ln w_U &= \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i) \right] + \\ &+ \alpha \ln K - (1 - \delta) \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S + \ln \delta \end{aligned}$$



*Part II: Calculation of  $y$ .*

Recall that our ultimate goal is to find  $y = \ln(Y) = \ln(\sum_i p_i c_i)$ . Since consumers' expenditure is financed through income,  $Y = \sum_i p_i c_i = w_U U + w_S S + rK$ .

Using (A12) and (A13), this leads to

$$Y = \frac{w_U U}{\delta}.$$

so that

$$y = \ln Y = \ln w_U + \ln U - \ln \delta.$$

Finally, substituting (A14) for  $\ln w_U$  yields our result:

$$y = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i) \right] + \alpha \ln K - (1 - \delta) \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S + \ln \delta + \ln U - \ln \delta$$

that is,

$$y = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i - \sigma_i)} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i) \right] + \alpha \ln K + \delta \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S.$$

This completes the proof.  $\square$

*Application of Proposition A3 to the case of the baseline economy (Proposition 1) and extensions (Propositions 2, 3 and A2):*

- *Baseline economy, Proposition 1:* In case of our baseline economy, we assume that: i) there is no distinction between skilled and unskilled labor, so that  $\delta = 1 - \alpha$  and the total supply of labor is normalized to 1; ii) the economies are closed, so that no imported intermediate goods are used in sectors' production, that is,  $\sigma_{ji} = 0$  for all  $i, j \in 1 : n$  and  $\sigma_i = 0$  for all  $i$ ; iii) there are no wedges, that is,  $\tau_i = 0$  for all  $i$ . This simplifies the expression for  $y$  in Proposition A3 and produces the result of Proposition 1:<sup>40</sup>

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \alpha \ln K.$$

- *Wedges, Proposition 2:* For the economy with sector-specific wedges, we assume, in addition to the benchmark model, that there exist non-zero distortions, or wedges  $\tau_i \neq 0$ . Then the expression for  $y$  in Proposition A3 turns into

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \ln(1 - \tau_i) + \alpha \ln K.$$

- *Traded intermediate goods, Proposition 3:* In the economy, where we differentiate between domestically produced and imported intermediates,  $\sigma_{ji} \neq 0$  and  $\sigma_i \neq 0$ . But, as in the benchmark model, there is no distinction between skilled and unskilled labor, and no wedges. In addition, due to restrictions imposed by the data, we assume that import prices do not vary across sectors, that is,  $\rho_j = \rho$ , where  $\rho_j = \bar{p}_j/P$ , and  $P$  is normalized to 1. Then

<sup>40</sup>Note that  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i) = \mathbf{1}'[\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}] \cdot [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta} = \mathbf{1}' \boldsymbol{\beta} = 1$ .

$\sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_{ji} \ln \bar{p}_j = \ln \rho \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_i$ , and the expression for  $y$  in Proposition A3 becomes:

$$y = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \sigma_i - \gamma_i)} \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i - \ln \rho \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \sigma_i \right) + \alpha \ln K,$$

- *Human capital, Proposition A2:* The model where we introduce two types of labor, skilled and unskilled, is identical to the benchmark model in all other respects. So, the expression for  $y$  is

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \alpha \ln K + \delta \ln U + (1 - \alpha - \delta) \ln S.$$

*Proof of Proposition A1.* Consider an economy that is identical to the one in our baseline model with the exception of a sectoral production function which now involves sector-specific capital shares. Namely, let the technology of sector  $i$  be described by:

$$q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i} k_i^{\alpha_i} l_i^{1 - \alpha_i} \right)^{1 - \gamma_i} \left( \frac{d_{1i}}{\gamma_{1i}} \right)^{\gamma_{1i}} \left( \frac{d_{2i}}{\gamma_{2i}} \right)^{\gamma_{2i}} \cdots \left( \frac{d_{ni}}{\gamma_{ni}} \right)^{\gamma_{ni}}$$

The following two-step argument delivers the expression for the logarithm of aggregate income per worker in this economy.

*Part I: Calculation of  $\ln q_i$ .*

Consider a profit maximization problem of the representative firm in each sector  $i$ . The FOCs are:

$$(A15) \quad \alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i) \frac{p_i q_i}{r} = k_i$$

$$(A16) \quad (1 - \alpha_i) (1 - \gamma_i) \frac{p_i q_i}{w} = l_i$$

$$(A17) \quad \gamma_{ji} \frac{p_i q_i}{p_j} = d_{ji} \quad j \in 1 : n$$

$$(A18)$$

We will now use these FOCs to solve for some allocations.

First, consider the market clearing condition for sector  $j$ :

$$q_j = c_j + \sum_{i=1}^n d_{ji}$$

Using equation (A17) and rearranging it slightly, we obtain:

$$(A19) \quad p_j q_j = p_j c_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{ji} p_i q_i$$

From the expenditure minimization problem it follows that  $\beta_j = \frac{p_j c_j}{PY}$ , so that  $p_j = \frac{\beta_j PY}{c_j}$ . Using this expression for  $p_j$  and cancelling  $PY$  from both sides of the equation gives:

$$(A20) \quad \frac{\beta_j q_j}{c_j} = \beta_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \frac{\beta_i q_i}{c_i}$$

Now, define  $v_j \equiv \frac{\beta_j q_j}{c_j}$  and let  $v$  denote the  $n \times 1$  vector of  $v_j$ . Then we can stack the  $n$  equations in (A20) to get an equation in matrix form:

$$v = \beta + \Gamma v,$$

where  $\Gamma$  is our matrix of intermediate goods shares with a typical element  $\gamma_{ji}$ . Solving this equation

for  $\mathbf{v}$ , we obtain:

$$\mathbf{v} = [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}]^{-1} \boldsymbol{\beta} \equiv \boldsymbol{\mu}$$

Notice that this defines the solution for  $\frac{\beta_j q_j}{c_j}$  as  $\mu_j$ . It is easy to show that it is also a solution to  $\mu_j = \frac{p_j q_j}{PY}$ , so that  $\mu_j$  is the Domar weight (the ratio of total spending on intermediate good  $j$  to  $PY$ ).

Next, we use this solution  $\mu_j = \frac{\beta_j q_j}{c_j}$ , together with  $\beta_j = \frac{p_j c_j}{PY}$ , to obtain:

$$\frac{p_i}{p_j} = \frac{c_j}{c_i} \frac{\beta_i}{\beta_j} = \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j} \frac{q_j}{q_i}$$

Substituting this into the FOC for  $d_{ji}$  in (A17) leads to:

$$(A21) \quad d_{ji} = \gamma_{ji} \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j} q_j$$

The FOCs for  $k_i, l_i$  similarly yield:

$$(A22) \quad \frac{k_i}{K} = \frac{\alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i) p_i q_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i) p_i q_i} = \frac{\alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n \alpha_i (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i} \equiv \theta_{k_i}$$

$$(A23) \quad \frac{l_i}{1} = \frac{(1 - \alpha_i) (1 - \gamma_i) p_i q_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (1 - \alpha_i) (1 - \gamma_i) p_i q_i} = \frac{(1 - \alpha_i) (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i}{\sum_{i=1}^n (1 - \alpha_i) (1 - \gamma_i) \mu_i} \equiv \theta_{l_i}$$

Now we can substitute (A21) -(A23) back into the sectoral production function:

$$(A24) \quad q_i = \Lambda_i \left( \frac{1}{1 - \gamma_i} (K \theta_{k_i})^{\alpha_i} (\theta_{l_i})^{1 - \alpha_i} \right)^{1 - \gamma_i} \prod_{j=1}^n \left( \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j} q_j \right)^{\gamma_{ji}}$$

Taking logs of this expression gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln q_i &= \lambda_i + (1 - \gamma_i) (\alpha_i \ln(K \theta_{k_i}) + (1 - \alpha_i) \ln(\theta_{l_i}) - \ln(1 - \gamma_i)) + \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \left( \ln \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j} + \ln q_j \right) \\ &= \lambda_i + \delta_i^k \ln K + \omega_i^q + \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln q_j, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\delta_i^k = (1 - \gamma_i) \alpha_i$  and  $\omega_i^q = (1 - \gamma_i) (\alpha_i \ln \theta_{k_i} + (1 - \alpha_i) \ln \theta_{l_i} - \ln(1 - \gamma_i)) + \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j}$ . In vector form this can be written as:

$$\ln \mathbf{q} = \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \boldsymbol{\delta}^k \ln K + \boldsymbol{\omega}^q + \boldsymbol{\Gamma}' \ln \mathbf{q},$$

where  $\ln \mathbf{q} = \{\ln q_i\}_i$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\delta}^k = \{\delta_i^k\}_i$  and  $\boldsymbol{\omega}^q = \{\omega_i^q\}_i$  are  $n \times 1$  vectors and  $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}'$  is the transpose of matrix  $\boldsymbol{\Gamma}$ . This equation can be solved to yield:

$$(A25) \quad \ln \mathbf{q} = [\mathbf{I} - \boldsymbol{\Gamma}']^{-1} \left( \boldsymbol{\lambda} + \boldsymbol{\delta}^k \ln K + \boldsymbol{\omega}^q \right)$$

*Part II: Calculation of  $y$ .*

We will now use the expression for  $\ln \mathbf{q}$  in (A25) to derive the expression for  $y = \ln(Y)$ . Recall that  $\mu_i = \frac{p_i q_i}{PY}$ , where  $P$  is normalized to 1, so that  $Y = \frac{p_i q_i}{\mu_i}$ . Taking logs, we obtain  $y = \ln(p_i q_i) - \ln \mu_i$ . Now, let us multiply both sides of this expression by  $\beta_i$  and sum across all  $i$ . This gives:

$$(A26) \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln p_i + \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln q_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln \mu_i = \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln q_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln \mu_i,$$

where the second equality uses the fact that  $P = \prod_{i=1}^n (p_i)^{\beta_i} = 1$ , i.e.,  $\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln p_i = 0$ .

Using vector notation and the expression for  $\ln \mathbf{q}$  in (A25), equation (A26) can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} y = \beta' \ln \mathbf{q} - \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln \mu_i &= \beta' [\mathbf{I} - \mathbf{\Gamma}']^{-1} (\boldsymbol{\lambda} + \boldsymbol{\delta}^k \ln K + \boldsymbol{\omega}^q) - \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln \mu_i = \\ &= \boldsymbol{\mu}' (\boldsymbol{\lambda} + \boldsymbol{\delta}^k \ln K + \boldsymbol{\omega}^q) - \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln \mu_i \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the definition of  $\boldsymbol{\delta}^k$  and going back to notation without vectors, we obtain:

$$(A27) \quad y = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i) \alpha_i \right) \ln K + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \omega_i^q - \sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln \mu_i$$

This can be further simplified by observing that  $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \omega_i^q$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^n \beta_i \ln \mu_i$  contain identical terms that cancel out. To see this, note first that from  $\mu_j = \frac{p_j q_j}{PY}$ , equation (A19) and  $\beta_j = \frac{p_j c_j}{PY}$ , we can establish the following relationship between  $\mu_j$  and  $\beta_j$ :

$$\mu_j = \frac{p_j q_j}{PY} = \frac{p_j c_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{ji} p_i q_i}{PY} = \beta_j + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \mu_i$$

Equivalently,  $\beta_j = \mu_j - \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \mu_i$ . This implies that

$$(A28) \quad \sum_{j=1}^n \beta_j \ln \mu_j = \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \ln \mu_j - \sum_{j=1}^n \sum_{i=1}^n (\gamma_{ji} \mu_i) \ln \mu_j = \sum_{j=1}^n \mu_j \ln \mu_j - \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln \mu_j$$

On the other hand,

$$\sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln \frac{\mu_i}{\mu_j} = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i \ln \mu_i - \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln \mu_j,$$

so that

$$(A29) \quad \begin{aligned} &\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \omega_i^q = \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \left[ (1 - \gamma_i) (\alpha_i \ln \theta_{k_i} + (1 - \alpha_i) \ln \theta_{l_i} - \ln(1 - \gamma_i)) + \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i \mu_i \ln \mu_i - \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \sum_{j=1}^n \gamma_{ji} \ln \mu_j \right] \end{aligned}$$

Note that the last terms in (A28) and (A29) are the same. This allows rewriting the expression for  $y$  in (A27) as follows:

$$y = \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \lambda_i + \left( \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i (1 - \gamma_i) \alpha_i \right) \ln K + \sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i \omega_i,$$

where  $\omega_i = (1 - \gamma_i) (\alpha_i \ln \theta_{k_i} + (1 - \alpha_i) \ln \theta_{l_i} - \ln(1 - \gamma_i) - \ln \mu_i)$ . This produces our result.  $\square$

## Appendix C: Derivation of the productivity index

In section E, the multilateral sector-specific Cobb-Douglas productivity index  $\ln \lambda_{ikl}^*$  in (13) is obtained as follows. Consider the Cobb-Douglas technology with a composite input  $X_{is}$ ,  $q_{is} = \Lambda_{is} \left( \frac{X_{is}}{\alpha_{X_{is}}} \right)^{\alpha_{X_{is}}}$ , where  $i$  denotes a sector and  $s$  denotes a country. Let us define the productivity of country  $k$  relative to  $s$  in sector  $i$  using the production function of country  $s$  as a base as follows:  $\lambda_{is} = \Lambda_{iks} / \Lambda_{iss}$ , where  $\Lambda_{iks}$  is defined by  $q_{ik} = \Lambda_{iks} (X_{ik} / \alpha_{X_{is}})^{\alpha_{X_{is}}}$ , and  $\Lambda_{iss} = \Lambda_{is}$ . Essentially,  $\Lambda_{iks}$  is a TFP parameter that makes the sector  $i$ 's output of country  $k$  producible with own input

levels of country  $k$  and the production function of  $s$ . Similarly, we can define  $\lambda_{ik} = \Lambda_{ikk}/\Lambda_{isk}$ , the productivity of country  $k$  relative to  $s$  in sector  $i$  using country  $k$ 's production function as a base. Then  $\ln \lambda_{is} \equiv (\ln q_{ik} - \ln q_{is}) - \alpha_{Xis}(\ln X_{ik} - \ln X_{is})$  and  $\ln \lambda_{ik} = (\ln q_{ik} - \ln q_{is}) - \alpha_{Xik}(\ln X_{ik} - \ln X_{is})$ . In this way, for each sector-country pair  $ik$  we can construct  $m$  pairs of different productivity indices  $(\lambda_{ik}, \lambda_{is})$ , each representing productivity of country  $k$  relative to  $s$  in sector  $i$  using country  $k$  and country  $s$  as a base,  $s \in 1 : m$ . Next, for each of these pairs we define  $\lambda_{iks}$  as the geometric mean of  $\lambda_{ik}$  and  $\lambda_{is}$ . This is then the *bilateral base-country invariant* definition of the productivity of  $k$  relative to  $s$  in sector  $i$ :

$$\ln \lambda_{iks} = (\ln \lambda_{ik} + \ln \lambda_{is})/2$$

Plugging in the defined  $\ln \lambda_{ik}$  and  $\ln \lambda_{is}$ , we obtain:

$$(A30) \quad \ln \lambda_{iks} = (\ln q_{ik} - \ln q_{is}) - \frac{1}{2}(\alpha_{Xis} + \alpha_{Xik})(\ln X_{ik} - \ln X_{is})$$

However, the so-defined  $\lambda_{iks}$  is not transitive, i.e.  $\ln \lambda_{iks} \neq \ln \lambda_{ikl} - \ln \lambda_{isl}$ . Therefore, we next define  $\overline{\ln \lambda_{ik}}$  – the average of log productivities of country  $k$  in sector  $i$  relative to all other countries  $s = 1, \dots, m$ :

$$(A31) \quad \overline{\ln \lambda_{ik}} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln \lambda_{iks}$$

Finally, we define the *multilateral productivity index* as:

$$(A32) \quad \ln \lambda_{ikl}^* \equiv \overline{\ln \lambda_{ik}} - \overline{\ln \lambda_{il}} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln \lambda_{iks} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln \lambda_{ils} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln \left( \frac{\lambda_{iks}}{\lambda_{ils}} \right)$$

This multilateral productivity index corresponds to log TFP of country  $k$  relative to country  $l$  in sector  $i$ , and it is equal to the simple average (across all  $s$ ) of log ratios of productivity of country  $k$  relative to  $s$  to productivity of country  $l$  relative to  $s$  in sector  $i$ ,  $\ln(\lambda_{iks}/\lambda_{ils})$ .

Plugging (A30) into this definition gives:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \lambda_{ikl}^* &\equiv \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln \lambda_{iks} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln \lambda_{ils} = \\ &= (\ln q_{ik} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln q_{is}) - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \alpha_{Xik} \left( \ln X_{ik} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln X_{is} \right) + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \alpha_{Xis} (\ln X_{ik} - \ln X_{is}) \right] - \\ &\quad - (\ln q_{il} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln q_{is}) + \frac{1}{2} \left[ \alpha_{Xil} \left( \ln X_{il} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln X_{is} \right) + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \alpha_{Xis} (\ln X_{il} - \ln X_{is}) \right] = \\ &= (\ln q_{ik} - \ln q_{il}) - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \alpha_{Xik} \left( \ln X_{ik} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln X_{is} \right) - \alpha_{Xil} \left( \ln X_{il} - \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln X_{is} \right) + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \alpha_{Xis} (\ln X_{ik} - \ln X_{il}) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Combining the terms, we derive (13):

$$\ln \lambda_{ikl}^* = \ln q_{ik} - \ln q_{il} - \frac{1}{2} (\alpha_{Xik} + \bar{\alpha}_{Xi}) (\ln X_{ik} - \overline{\ln X}_i) + \frac{1}{2} (\alpha_{Xil} + \bar{\alpha}_{Xi}) (\ln X_{il} - \overline{\ln X}_i),$$

where  $\bar{\alpha}_{Xi} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \alpha_{Xis}$  and  $\overline{\ln X}_i = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{s=1}^m \ln X_{is}$ .

## Appendix D: Additional Tables

Table A.3: Countries: WIOD Sample

countries	
AUS	IND
AUT	IRL
BEL	ITA
BGR	KOR
BRA	JPN
CAN	LTU
CHN	LVA
CYP	MEX
CZE	MLT
DEU	NLD
DNK	POL
ESP	PRT
EST	ROM
FIN	RUS
FRA	SVK
GBR	SVN
GRC	SWE
HUN	TUR
IDN	USA

Table A.4: Sector List

WIOD sectors	
1	Agriculture
2	Mining
3	Food
4	Textiles
5	Leather
6	Wood
7	Paper
8	Refining
9	Chemicals
10	Plastics
11	Minerals
12	Metal products
13	Machinery
14	Elec. equip.
15	Transport equip.
16	Manufacturing nec
17	Electricity
18	Construction
19	Car retail.
20	Wholesale trade
21	Retail trade
22	Restaurants
23	Inland transp.
24	Water transp.
25	Air transp.
26	Transp. nec.
27	Telecomm.
28	Fin. serv.
29	Real est.
30	Business serv.
31	Pub. admin.
32	Education
33	Health
34	Social serv.
35	Household empl.

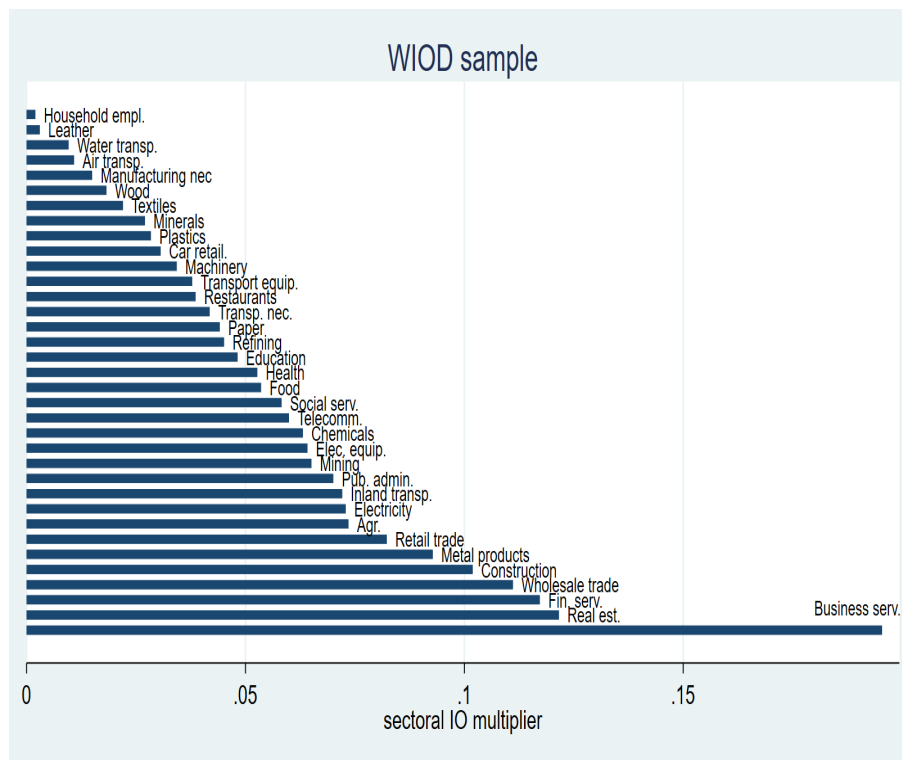


Figure A.1: Sectoral IO multipliers

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