The Global Rise of Asset Prices and the Decline of the Labor Share

Ignacio Gonzalez [1] Pedro Trivín [2]

[1] American University

[2] Universitat de Girona

Bank of Spain

Madrid, 11th April 2018

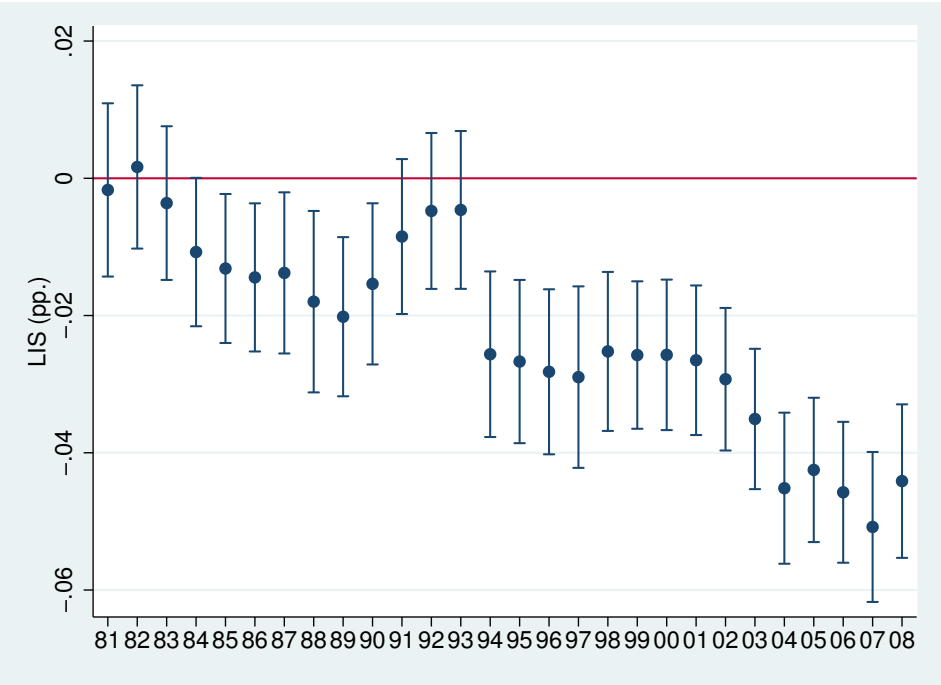
Motivation

- Labor share $\downarrow$
- Decoupling of $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{Equity wealth} \uparrow \\ \text{Corporate investment} \downarrow\end{array}\right\}$ puzzles standard theory
- Although wealth-income ratios $\uparrow$ the capital rate of return $\uparrow$ (Stiglitz, 2014)
- Potential drivers: Capital taxes, Market power, Short-termism

Motivation: Fact#1

- The global decline of the labor income share since the 1980s has sparked new interest in the functional distribution of income.

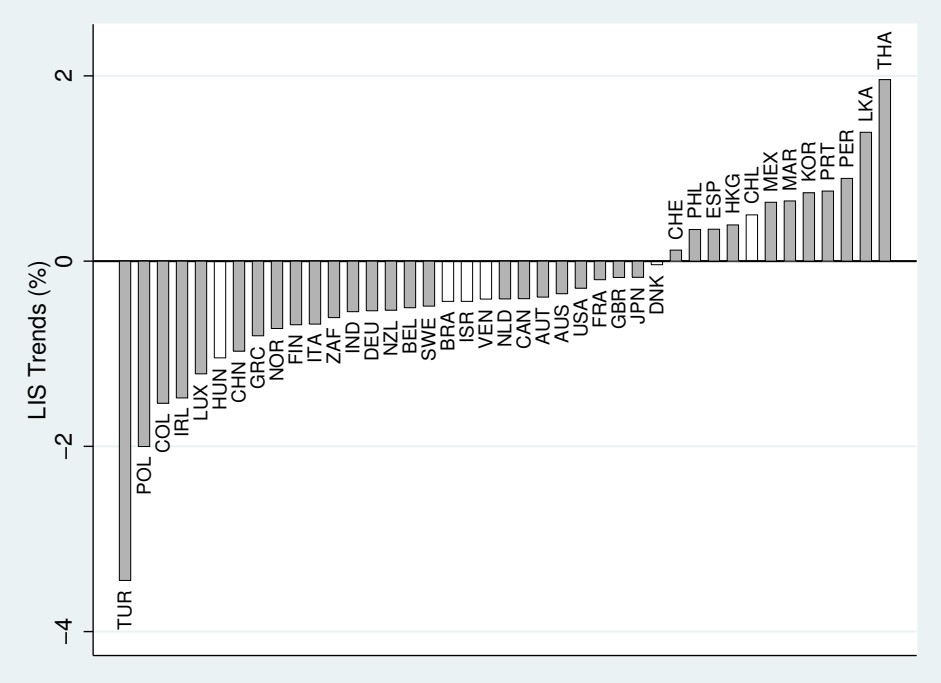
Figure 1: Labor income share, 1980-2008



Notes: Own calculations obtained as year fixed effects from a GDP weighted regression including country fixed effects to control for the entry and exit of countries throughout the sample.

Motivation: Fact#1

Figure 2: Trends in country labor income share, 1980-2008



Notes: Own calculations obtained from $\ln(X_t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 t + \epsilon_t$, where X represents the labor share, t is a linear trend, and *epsilon* is a classic disturbance term. The vertical axis show α_1 in %. Dark bars indicate that α_1 is significant at 5% level. The sample covers 41 countries (915 observations).

Motivation

Attempts to explain this trend:

- Globalization:
  - Esby *et al.* (2013)
- Institutional framework:
  - Kristal (2010)
  - Raurich *et al.* (2012)
- Structural causes:
  - Bentolila and Saint-Paul (2003)
  - Piketty and Zucman (2014)
  - Karabarbounis and Neiman (2014)

- Recent related literature: Eggertsson *et al.* (2018); Brun and Gonzalez (2017); Autor *et al.* (2017); Barkai (2017); Koh *et al.* (2016).

Motivation

- Attempts to explain this trend: The role of the capital-output ratio (k)
  - Bentolila and Saint-Paul (2003) CES technology $\Rightarrow lis = f(\frac{k}{y})$
  - Piketty and Zucman (2014) $s > g \Rightarrow\uparrow \frac{k}{y} \Rightarrow\downarrow lis \quad \text{if} \quad \sigma > 1$
  - Karabarbounis and Neiman (2014) $\downarrow rp \Rightarrow\uparrow \frac{k}{y} \Rightarrow\downarrow lis \quad \text{if} \quad \sigma > 1$
  - Koh *et al* (2016) $\uparrow k_{IPP} \Rightarrow\uparrow \frac{k}{y} \Rightarrow\downarrow lis \quad \text{if} \quad \sigma > 1$
- Secular increases in the capital-output ratio are the main cause of the long-run labor share decline. Graph
- This requires $\sigma > 1$, a value which has seldom been found in the literature (Chirinko and Mallick, 2014).

Our Contribution

- Finance and assets prices have developed since 1980s (Philippon, 2012; Greenwod and Scharfstein, 2013).

- The "accumulation view" has ignored the role of asset prices (although Piketty and Zucman (2014) document that part of the rise of wealth ratios comes from changes in asset prices).

- In this paper we explore a new mechanism that connects the rise of stock prices with the decline of the labor share (through lower capital-deepening).

- Panel Time Series.

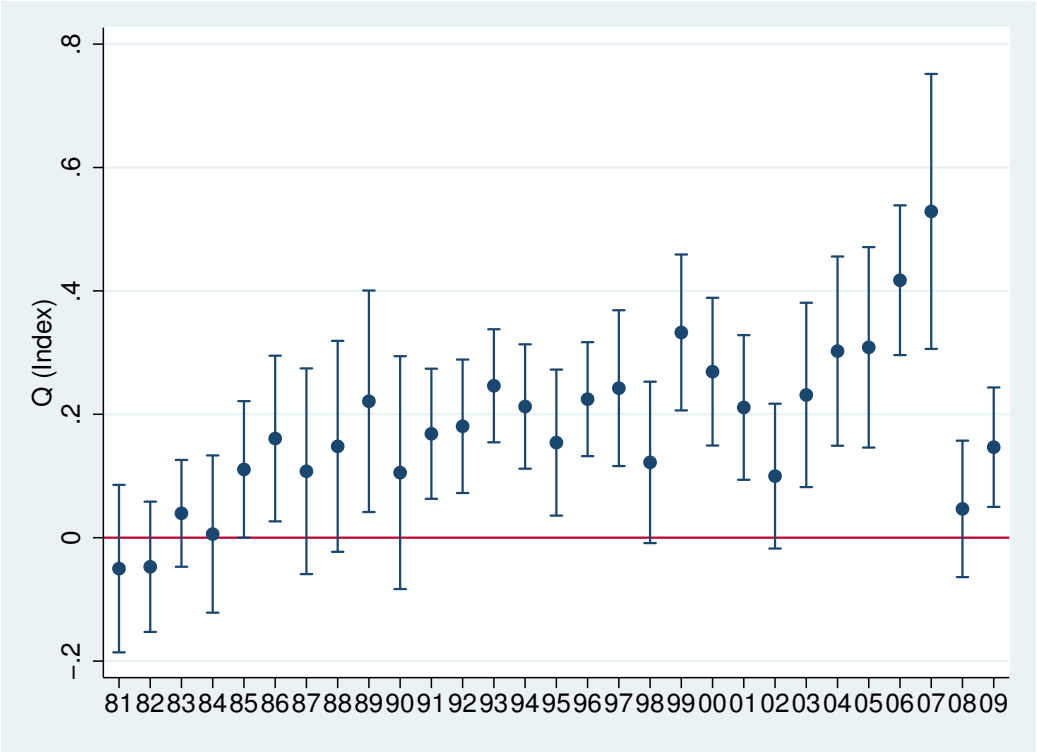
- We find evidence for several mechanisms that operate through the same channel: i) the rise of monopoly mark-ups, ii) the decline of dividend income taxes and iii) the rise of corporate short-termism.

Outline

Fact#2

- Steady increase in financial wealth with respect to productive capital.

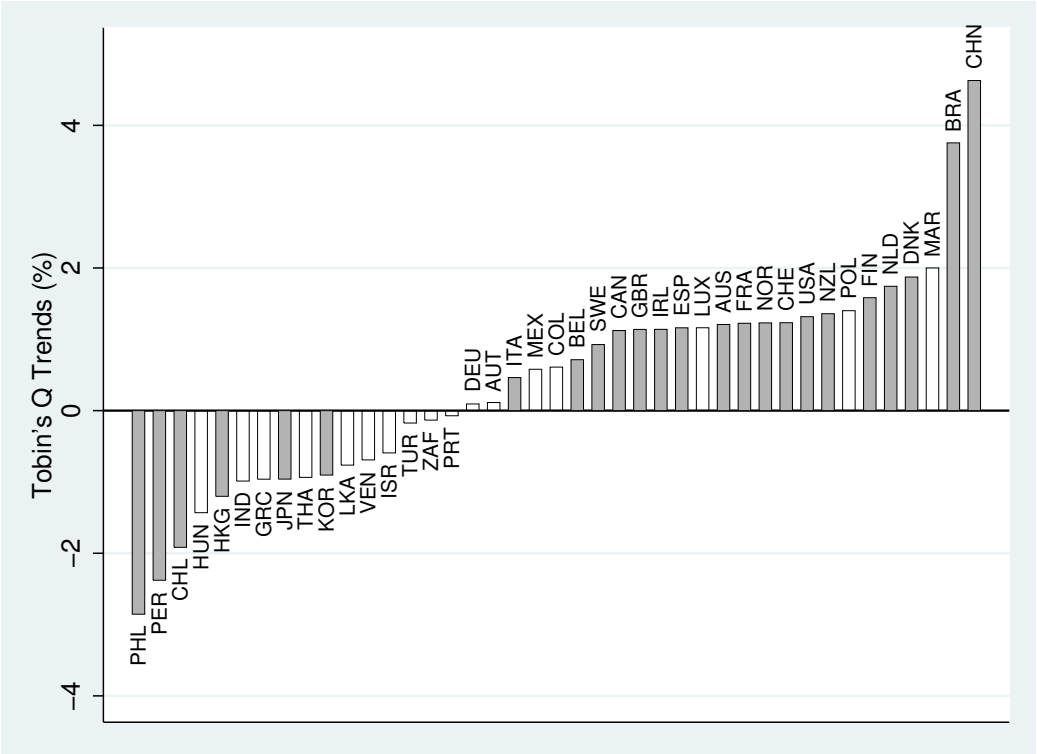
Figure 3: Tobin's Q, 1980-2009



Notes: Own calculations obtained as year fixed effects from a GDP weighted regression including country fixed effects to control for the entry and exit of countries throughout the sample.

Fact#2

Figure 4: Trends in countries' Tobin's Q, 1980-2009



Notes: Own calculations obtained from $\ln(X_t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 t + \epsilon_t$, where X represents the Tobin's Q, t is a linear trend, and *epsilon* is a classic disturbance term. The vertical axis show α_1 in %. Dark bars indicate that α_1 is significant at 5% level. The sample covers 41 countries (915 observations).

Tobin's Q and LIS

Figure 5: Labor income share against Tobin's Q

Notes: Own calculation based on a sample of 41 countries and 911 observations. Variables are demeaned to control for country fixed-effects. Correlation coefficient= −0.28.

Theoretical Framework: Households

- Representative household accumulates financial assets.
- Direct utility from the ownership of wealth ($ps' = a'$) like in Carroll (1998), Piketty (2011) and Saez and Stantcheva (2017).

$$\begin{aligned} U(a) = &\max_{c,a'} \; u(c) + h(a) + \beta U(a') \\ &s.t. \quad c + a' = w + (1+r)a, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

- where $a' = ps'$
- and $1 + r = \frac{(1-\tau)d+p}{p_{-1}}$
- The demand of assets $a(r)$ is an increasing function.

Theoretical Framework: Firms

- CES Technology

$$y = \left[\phi k^{(\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma})} + (1-\phi) l^{(\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma})}\right]^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}}, \tag{2}$$

- Monopolistic competitive firms (elasticity for each variety is ξ) that maximize their market value, accumulate physical capital and distribute dividends to households.

- Symmetric FOC wrt to k'

$$F_k(k,l) = \left(\frac{\xi}{\xi-1}\right)(\delta + r), \tag{3}$$

Market

- Tobin's Q (at the steady state):

$$Q(r) = (1-\tau)\Big(1 + \frac{F(k(r),l)}{\xi r k(r)}\Big)$$

- Equity Wealth (at the steady state):

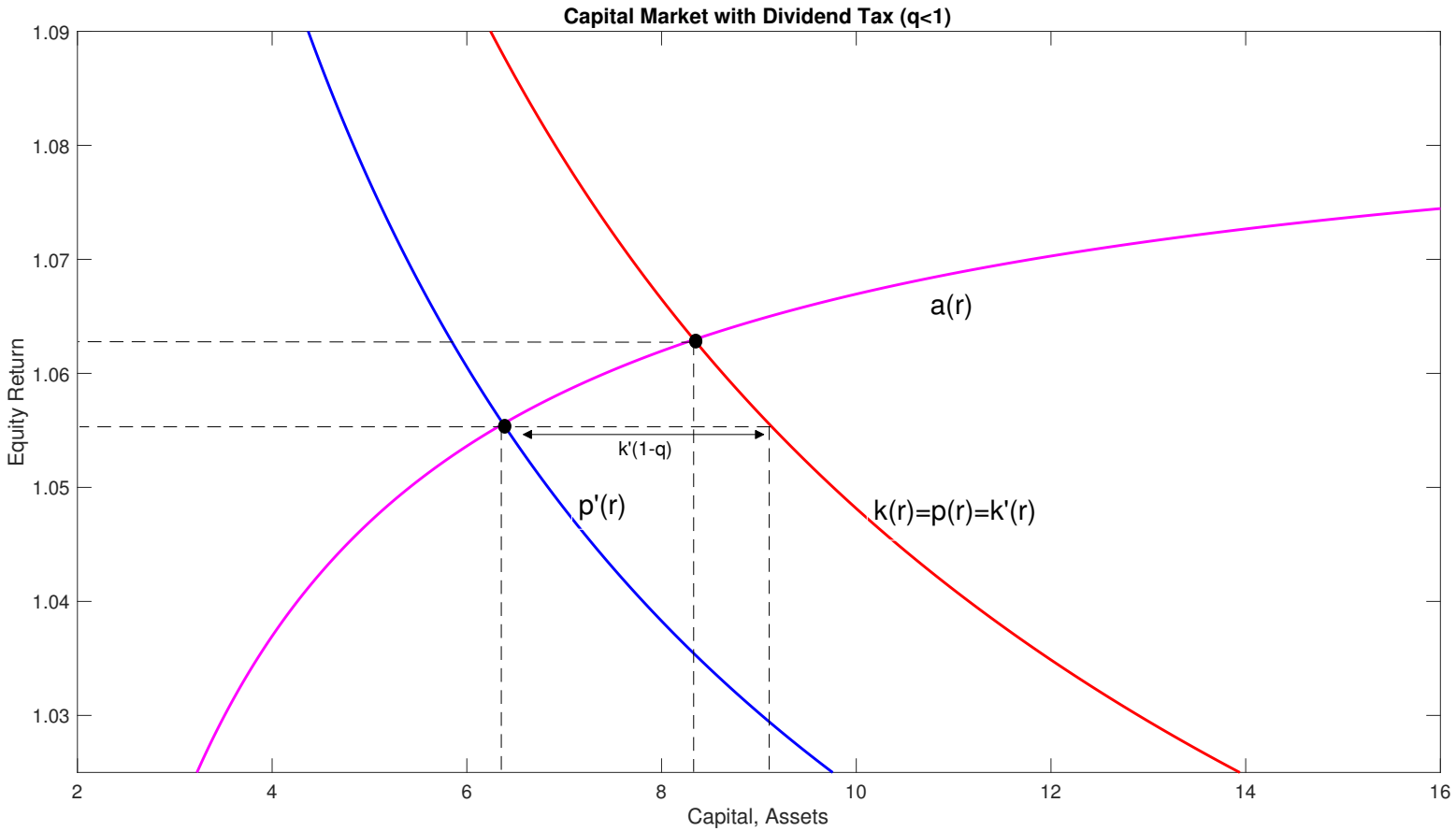
$$p(r) = Q(r)k(r) = (1-\tau)\Big(k(r) + \frac{F(k(r),l)}{\xi r}\Big)$$

- Market clearing

$$a(r^*) = p(\,r^*\,) \equiv Q(\,r^*|\,\tau,\,\xi\,)\,k(\,r^*\,)$$

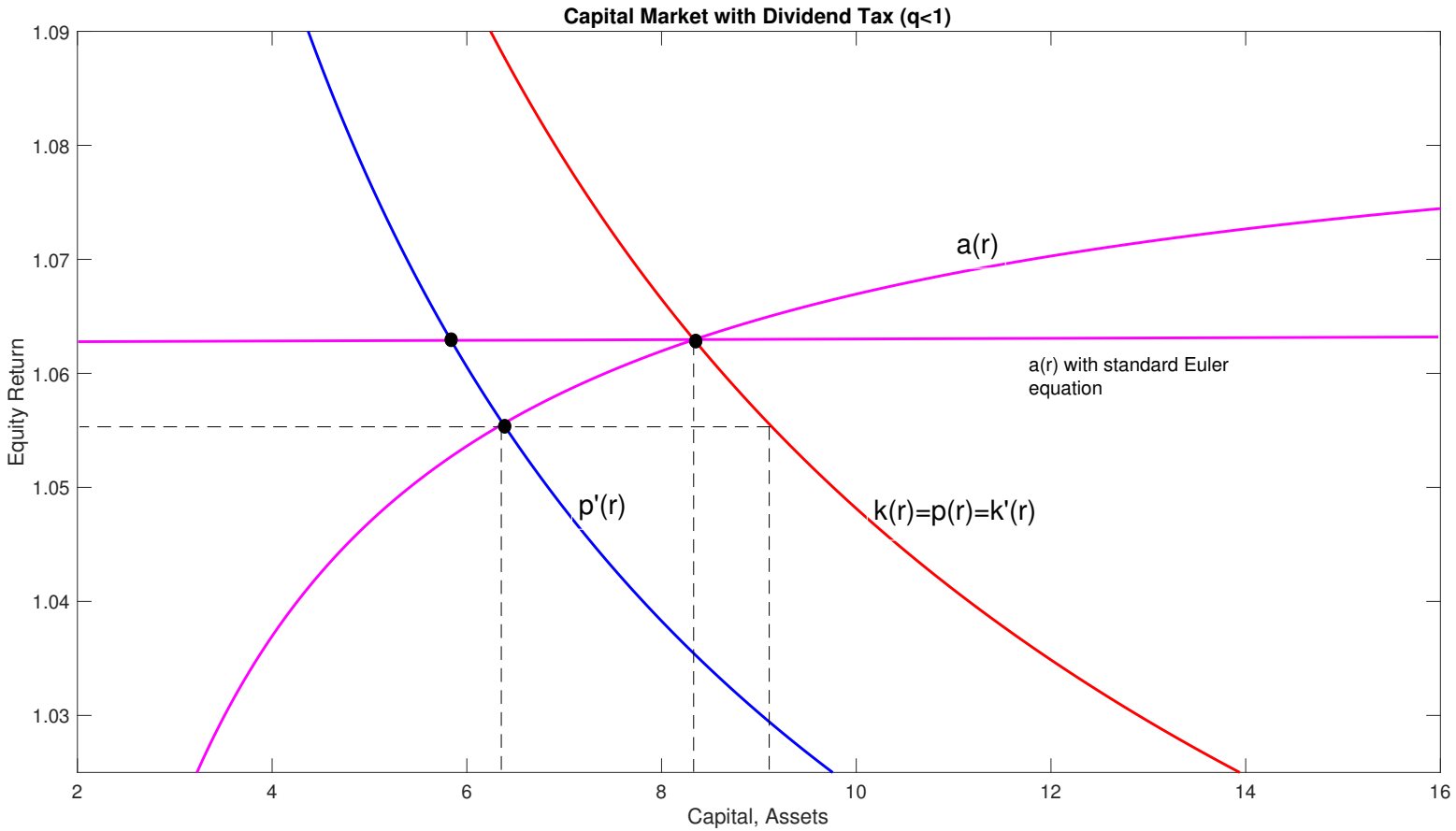
Asset Prices and Productive Capital

Figure 6: Market for capital



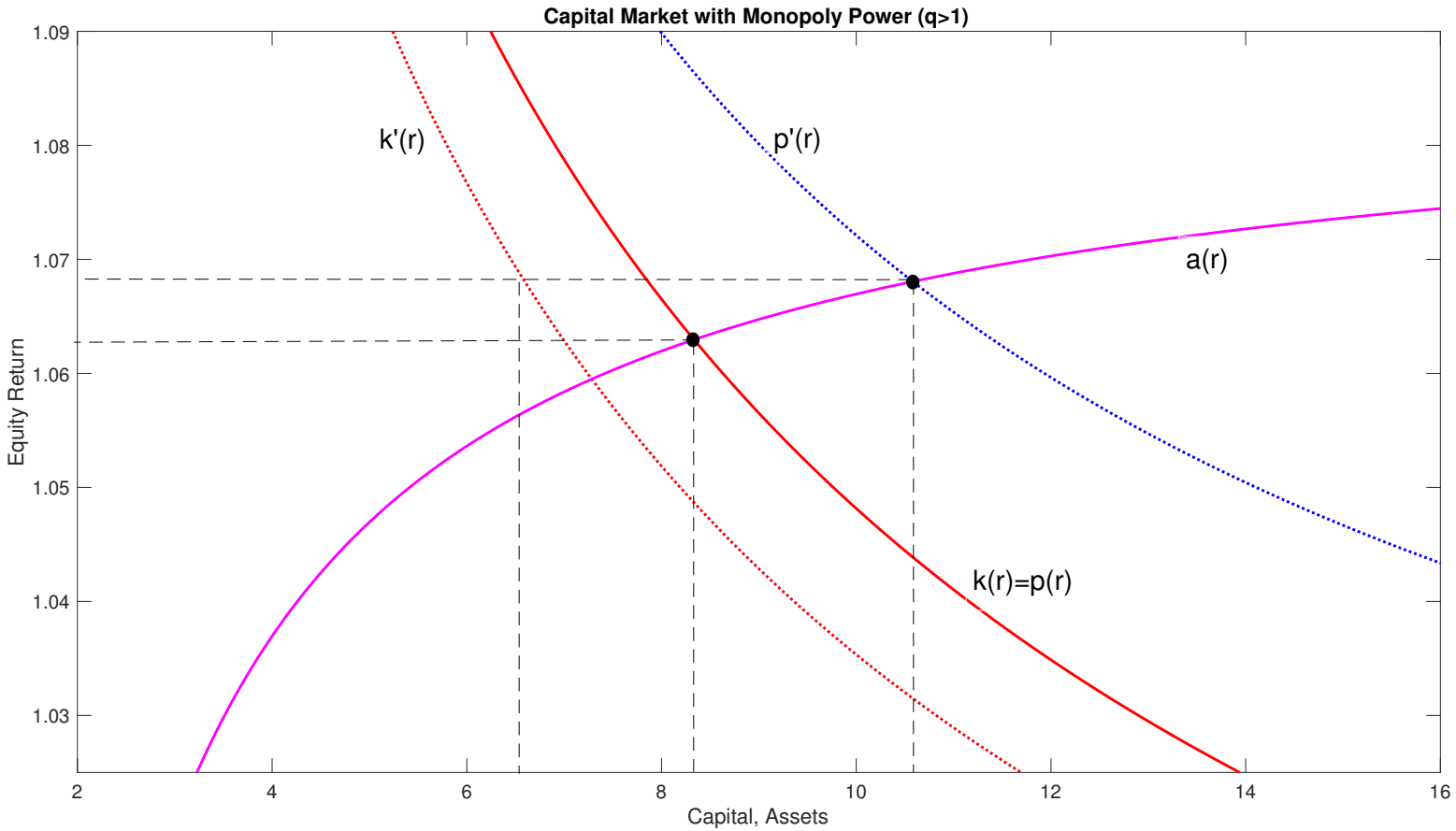
Asset Prices and Productive Capital

Figure 7: Market for capital



Asset Prices and Productive Capital

Figure 8: Market for capital



Impact on the Labor Share

- Assuming a CES production function, we have:

$$LIS = 1 - \phi\left(\frac{k}{y}\right)^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}}$$

- From our model, equilibrium relation between Tobin's Q and LIS:

$$LIS^*(Q) = 1 - \phi\left(\frac{k^*(Q)}{y^*(Q)}\right)^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} \quad \text{where} \quad \frac{\partial LIS}{\partial \frac{K}{Y}} > 0 \quad \text{if } \sigma < 1; \quad (4)$$

- Therefore:

$$\frac{\partial LIS}{\partial Q} = \left(\frac{\partial LIS}{\partial \frac{k}{y}}\right)\left(\frac{\partial \frac{k}{y}}{\partial k}\right)\left(\frac{\partial k(Q)}{\partial Q}\right) < 0 \quad (5)$$

because:

$$\frac{\partial \frac{k}{y}}{\partial k} > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial k(Q)}{\partial Q} < 0$$

Data

41 countries, 1980-2009. Sample

- Tobin's Q:
  - Worldscope Database.
  - Doidge *et al.* (2013) methodology.
- Labor income share:
  - Extended Penn World Table 4.0.
  - No adjustment for mixed rents, no distinction of the corporate sector.
  - Correlation between 0.87 and 0.96 with Karabarbounis and Neiman (2014).
- Relative prices:
  - Extension of Karabarbounis and Neiman (2014) database.
  - Penn World Table 7.1 and BEA.

Empirical Implementation

We assume a general multiplicative form between our variables of interest:

$$LIS = g\left(\frac{k}{y}\right) = a\left(\frac{k}{y}\right)^{\alpha}, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{k}{y} = f(Q, RP) = Q^{\psi_1} RP^{\psi_2} \tag{6}$$

We use these two forms to obtain an estimable equation of the labor share in terms of Q and RP:

$$LIS = g\left(\frac{k}{y}\right) = g(f(Q, RP)) = a(Q^{\psi_1} RP^{\psi_2})^{\alpha} \tag{7}$$

or in logs:

$$lis_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 q_{it} + \beta_2 rp_{it} + \Omega_{it} \tag{8}$$

Empirical Methodology

- Macroeconomics panel data makes difficult the use of traditional panel data techniques:
  - Small N compared to T.
  - Parameter heterogeneity.
  - Cross-section dependence. Pesaran (2004) CD test
  - Nonstationary data. Pesaran (2007) CIPS test
- New Panel Time Series Techniques based on Common factor models:

$$y_{it} = \beta_i x_{it} + u_{it}, \qquad u_{it} = \varphi_i f_t + \psi_i + \varepsilon_{it}, \tag{9}$$

$$x_{it} = \delta_i f_t + \pi_i + e_{it}, \qquad f_t = \tau + \phi f_{t-1} + \omega_t, \tag{10}$$

where (f_t) represents unobserved time-variant heterogeneity and raises endogeneity problems which make difficult the estimation of β_i.

Empirical Methodology

- Common Correlated Effect estimators: Observed regressors are augmented with cross-sectional averages of the dependent variable and the individual-specific regressors (Pesaran, 2006). Intuition

$$lis_{it} = \beta_{i0} + \beta_{i1} q_{it} + \beta_{i2} rp_{it} + \beta_{i3} \overline{lis_{it}} + \beta_{i4} \overline{q_{it}} + \beta_{i5} \overline{rp_i t} + \Omega_{it}$$

- Our reference results are obtained from an ECM version using the Chudik and Pesaran (2015) Dynamic Common Correlated Effects Mean Group Estimator:

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta lis_{it} = {} & \beta_{i0} + \beta_{i1} lis_{i,t-1} + \beta_{i2} q_{i,t-1} + \beta_{i3} rp_{i,t-1} + \beta_{i4} \Delta q_{it} + \beta_{i5} \Delta rp_{it} \\ & + \beta_{i6} \overline{\Delta lis_t} + \beta_{i7} \overline{lis_{t-1}} + \beta_{i8} \overline{q_{t-1}} + \beta_{i9} \overline{rp_{t-1}} + \beta_{i10} \overline{\Delta q_t} + \beta_{i11} \overline{\Delta rp_t} \\ & + \sum_{l=1}^{p} \beta_{i12} \overline{\Delta lis_{t-p}} + \sum_{l=1}^{p} \beta_{i13} \overline{\Delta q_{t-p}} + \sum_{l=1}^{p} \beta_{i14} \overline{\Delta rp_{t-p}} + \Omega_{it},\end{aligned}$$

Table 1: Results: Error Correction Model

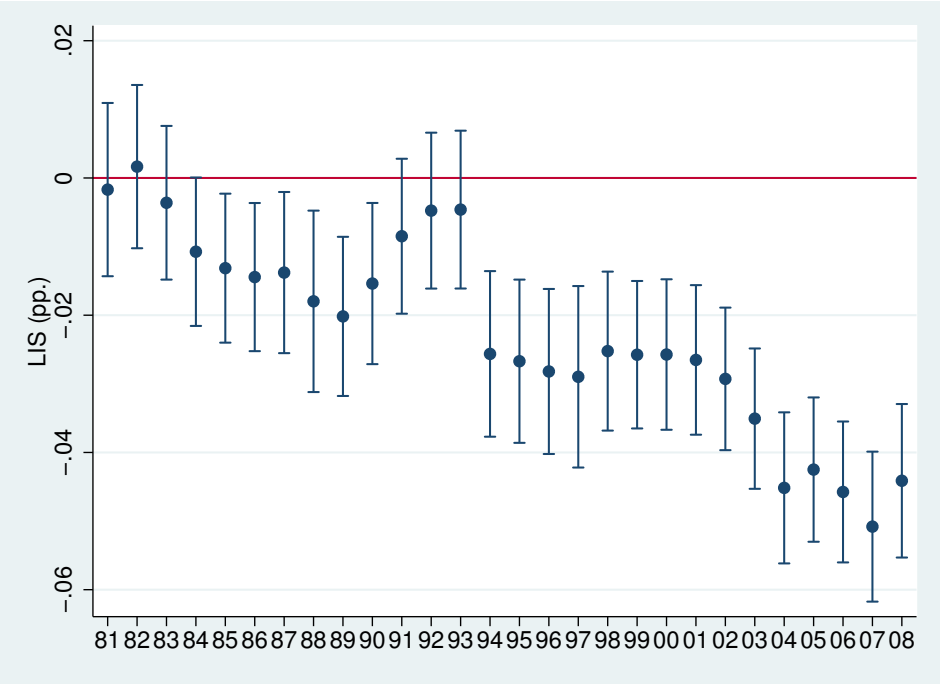
	[1] 2FE	[2] CCEP	[3] MG	[4] CMG	[5] CMGt	[6] CMGt1	[7] CMGt2
lis_{t-1}	-0.176	-0.395	-0.449	-0.5	-0.694	-0.72	-0.812
	(0.026)***	(0.049)***	(0.034)***	(0.053)***	(0.061)***	(0.085)***	(0.125)***
q_{t-1}	0.011	-0.012	-0.035	-0.039	-0.067	-0.076	-0.058
	(0.013)	(0.015)	(0.014)**	(0.018)**	(0.026)**	(0.028)***	(0.033)*
rp_{t-1}	-0.032	-0.016	0.064	0.15	0.092	0.129	-0.005
	(0.024)	(0.040)	(0.070)	(0.091)*	(0.115)	(0.166)	(0.186)
Δq	-0.031	-0.033	-0.038	-0.038	-0.051	-0.053	-0.058
	(0.014)**	(0.015)**	(0.009)***	(0.012)***	(0.017)***	(0.019)***	(0.018)***
Δrp	-0.141	-0.214	-0.021	0.049	0.093	0.05	-0.11
	(0.050)***	(0.056)***	(0.065)	(0.108)	(0.099)	(0.107)	(0.095)
t			0.001		0.001	0.001	0.001
			(0.001)		(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.004)
Constant	-0.106		-0.301	-0.273	-0.277	-0.431	-0.356
	(0.018)***		(0.033)***	(0.050)***	(0.084)***	(0.089)***	(0.124)***
Number of id	30	30	30	30	30	29	26
Observations	732	732	732	732	732	700	631
R-squared	0.26	0.59					
RMSE	0.0264	0.0224	0.0191	0.0142	0.0127	0.0101	0.0067
Trends			0.23		0.20	0.21	0.23
lr-q	0.0621	-0.0307	-0.0779	-0.0785	-0.0965	-0.1061	-0.0718
se-q	0.0739	0.0357	0.0327	0.0374	0.0388	0.0405	0.0422
lr-rp	-0.1826	-0.0405	0.1417	0.2999	0.1325	0.1796	-0.0063
se-rp	0.1306	0.1016	0.1573	0.185	0.1661	0.2312	0.2285
CD test	-2.4749	-1.5637	4.9547	-0.0134	-0.2654	1.0079	1.3218
Abs Corr	0.1884	0.217	0.2038	0.2189	0.2216	0.2393	0.2466
Int	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)

Table 1: Results: Error Correction Model

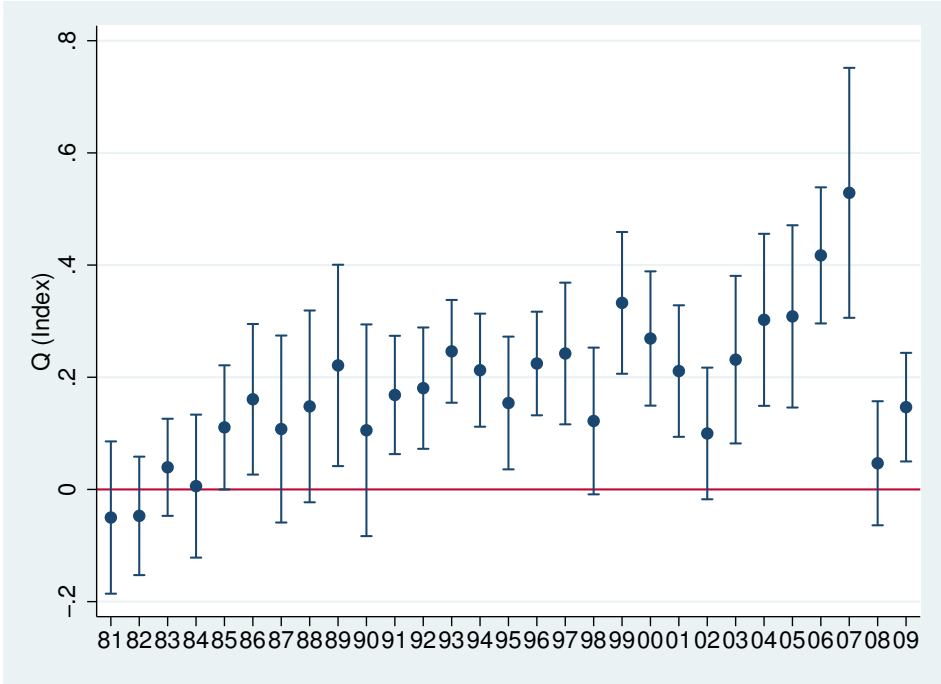
	[1] 2FE	[2] CCEP	[3] MG	[4] CMG	[5] CMGt	[6] CMGt1	[7] CMGt2
lis_{t-1}	-0.176	-0.395	-0.449	-0.5	-0.694	-0.72	-0.812
	(0.026)***	(0.049)***	(0.034)***	(0.053)***	(0.061)***	(0.085)***	(0.125)***
q_{t-1}	0.011	-0.012	-0.035	-0.039	-0.067	-0.076	-0.058
	(0.013)	(0.015)	(0.014)**	(0.018)**	(0.026)**	(0.028)***	(0.033)*
rp_{t-1}	-0.032	-0.016	0.064	0.15	0.092	0.129	-0.005
	(0.024)	(0.040)	(0.070)	(0.091)*	(0.115)	(0.166)	(0.186)
Δq	-0.031	-0.033	-0.038	-0.038	-0.051	-0.053	-0.058
	(0.014)**	(0.015)**	(0.009)***	(0.012)***	(0.017)***	(0.019)***	(0.018)***
Δrp	-0.141	-0.214	-0.021	0.049	0.093	0.05	-0.11
	(0.050)***	(0.056)***	(0.065)	(0.108)	(0.099)	(0.107)	(0.095)
t			0.001		0.001	0.001	0.001
			(0.001)		(0.002)	(0.003)	(0.004)
Constant	-0.106		-0.301	-0.273	-0.277	-0.431	-0.356
	(0.018)***		(0.033)***	(0.050)***	(0.084)***	(0.089)***	(0.124)***
Number of id	30	30	30	30	30	29	26
Observations	732	732	732	732	732	700	631
R-squared	0.26	0.59					
RMSE	0.0264	0.0224	0.0191	0.0142	0.0127	0.0101	0.0067
Trends			0.23		0.20	0.21	0.23
lr-q	0.0621	-0.0307	-0.0779	-0.0785	-0.0965	-0.1061	-0.0718
se-q	0.0739	0.0357	0.0327	0.0374	0.0388	0.0405	0.0422
lr-rp	-0.1826	-0.0405	0.1417	0.2999	0.1325	0.1796	-0.0063
se-rp	0.1306	0.1016	0.1573	0.185	0.1661	0.2312	0.2285
CD test	-2.4749	-1.5637	4.9547	-0.0134	-0.2654	1.0079	1.3218
Abs Corr	0.1884	0.217	0.2038	0.2189	0.2216	0.2393	0.2466
Int	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)

Quantification

Figure 9: Labor income share and Tobin's Q, 1980-2009



(a) Labor Income Share



(b) Tobin's Q

- Tobin's Q has increased (52%) from 1.15 (1980) to 1.68 (2007).
- LIS has evolved from 57% (1980) to 52% (2007) (-8.9%).
- Tobin's Q can explain between 41% and 57%.

Robustness Weak Exogeneity Test Intangible Assets

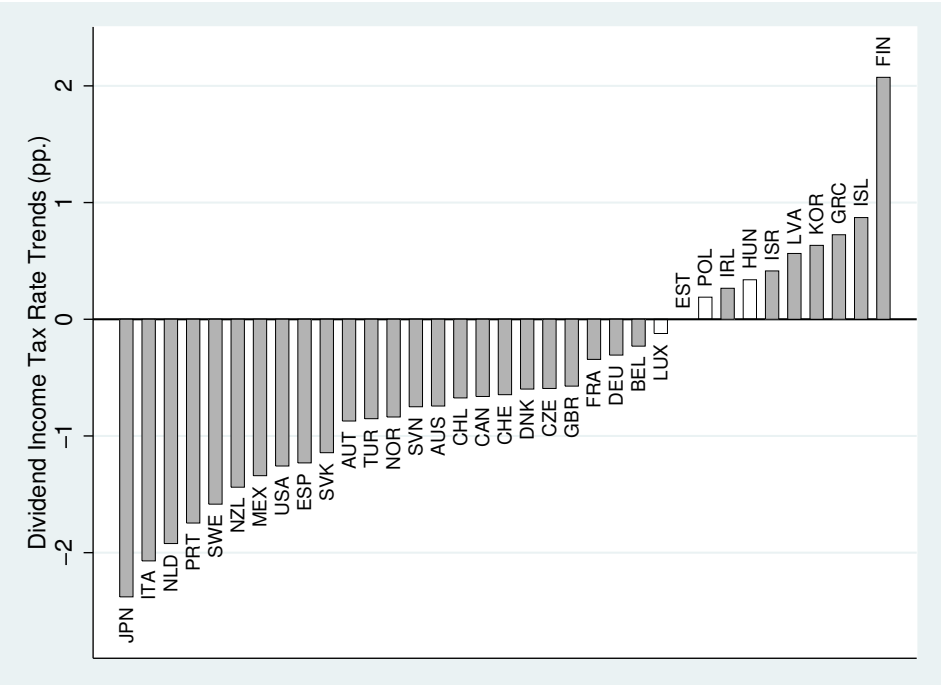
Beyond the Q: What is Behind?

- Dividend Income Tax Rate
- Market Power: The Industry Concentration Rate
- Corporate Governance

Dividend Income Tax Rate (I)

- Data (Max 1980-2014):
  - Dividend Income Tax Rate: OECD Tax Database
  - Capital-Output Ratio: AMECO
  - Tobin's Q: Worldscope

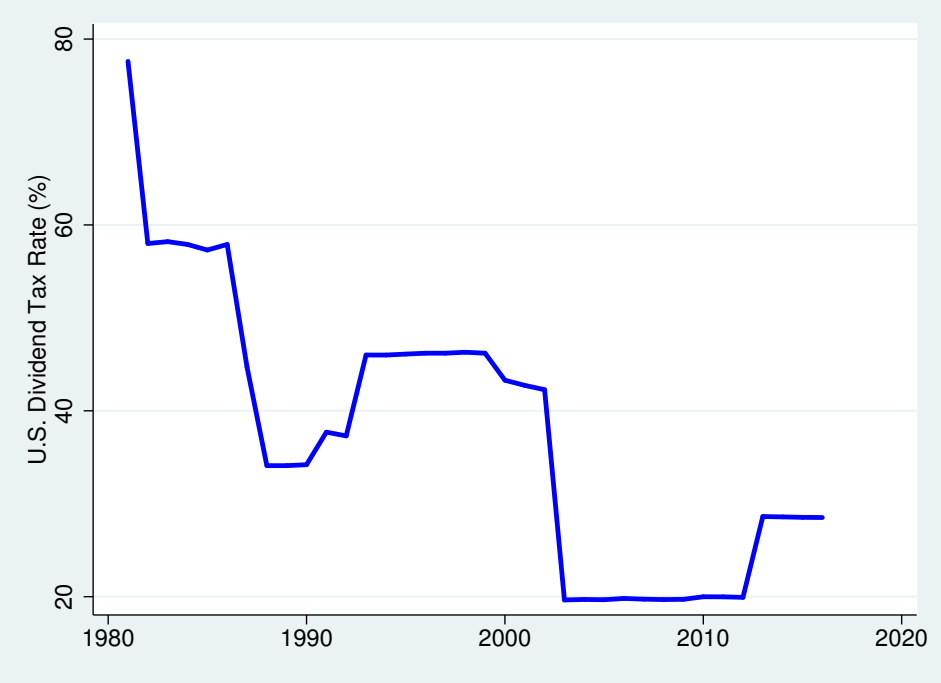
Figure 10: Country-specific Trends: Dividend Tax Rate



Notes: Own calculations obtained from $TAX_t = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 t + \epsilon_t$, where Tax is the dividend tax rate, t is a linear trend, and *epsilon* is a classic disturbance term. The vertical axis show α_1 in %. Dark bars indicate that α_1 is significant at 5% level. Each regression only includes countries which have at least 10 observations for the period 1980-2014.

Dividend Income Tax Rate: U.S.

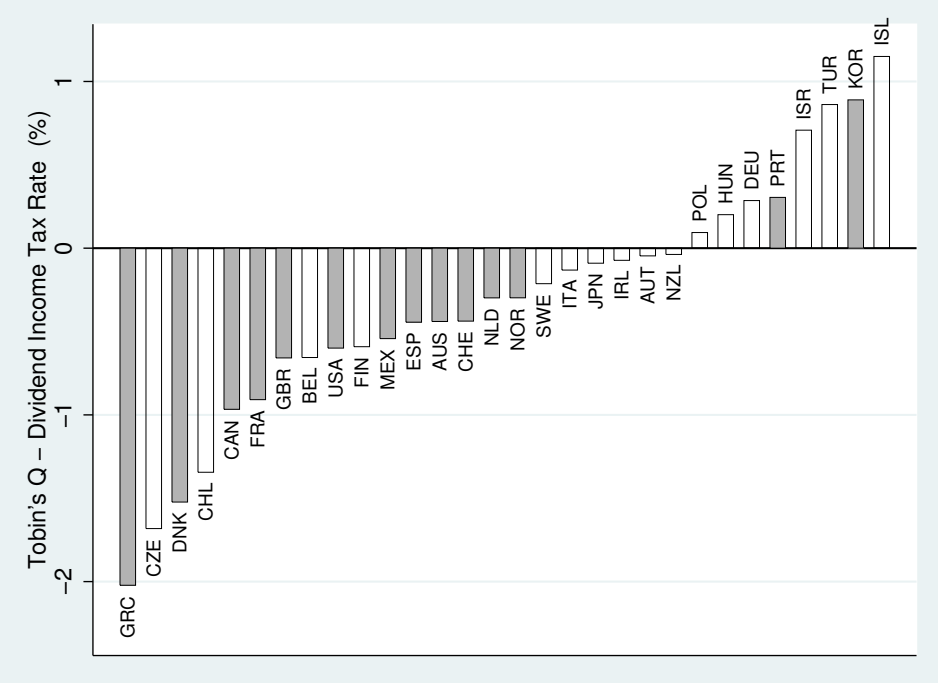
Figure 11: U.S. Dividend Tax Rate 1981-2014



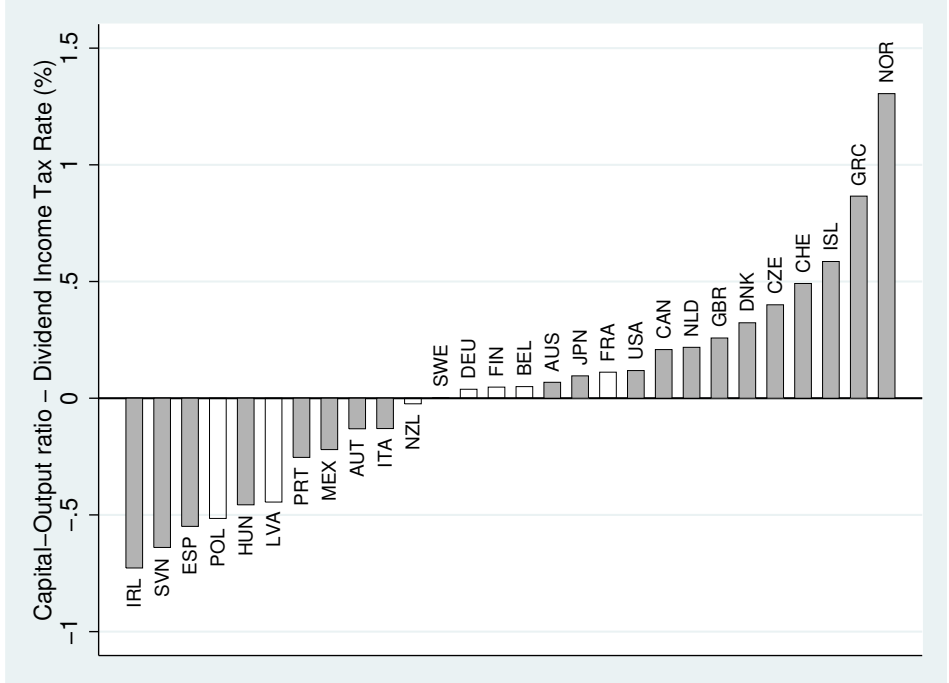
Notes: Net top statutory rate to be paid at the shareholder level. This rate takes into account all types of reliefs and gross-up provisions at the shareholder level.

Dividend Income Tax Rate (II)

Figure 12: Tobins' Q, Capital-Output Ratios and Dividend Income Tax Rates



(a) Tobins' Q

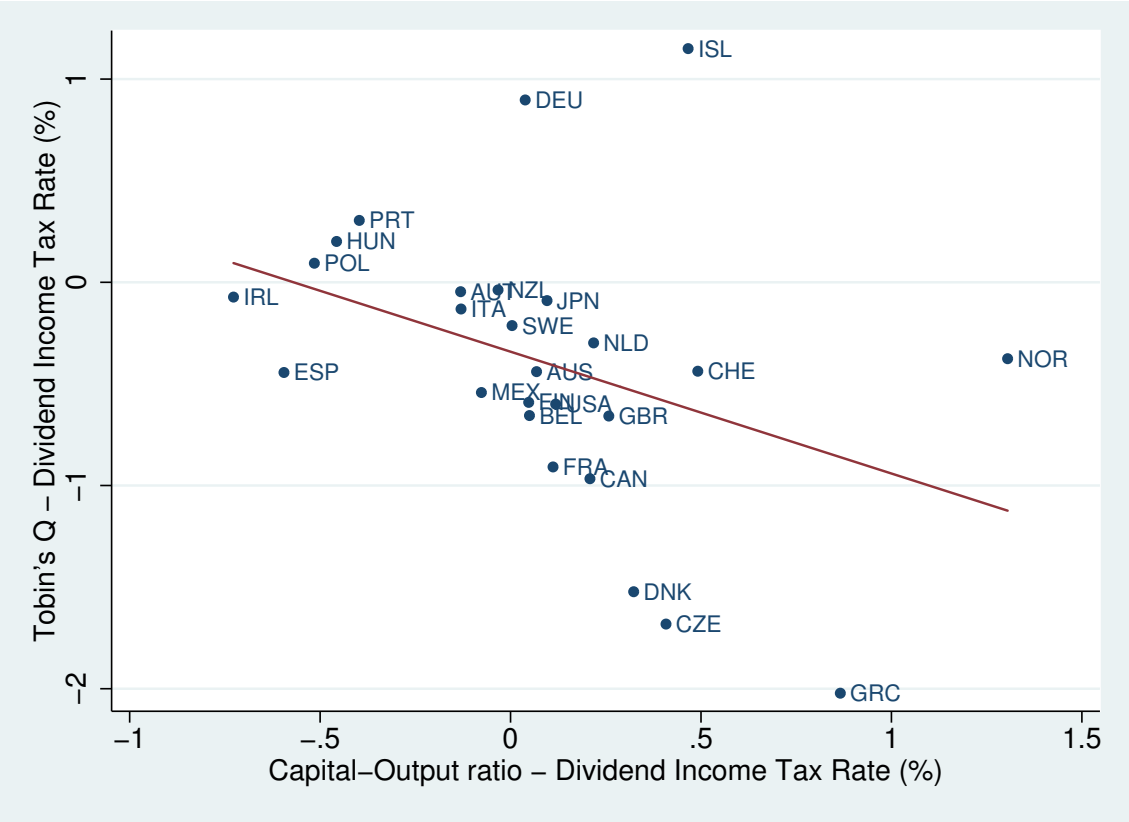


(b) Capital-Output ratio

Notes: Own calculations obtained from $\ln(X_t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 TAX_t + \epsilon_t$, where X represents the Tobin's Q or the capital-output ratio, TAX stands for the dividend income tax rate, and ϵ is a classic disturbance term. The vertical axis shows the coefficient α_1 in %. Dark bars indicate that α_1 is significant at 5% level. Each graph shows countries for which we have at least 10 observations for the period under analysis (Max. 1980-2014). Luxembourg is excluded from the graph due to be a clear outlier.

Dividend Income Tax Rate (III)

Figure 13: Tobin's Q, Capital-Output Ratios and Dividend Income Tax Rates



Notes: Own calculations obtained from $\ln(X_t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 TAX_t + \epsilon_t$, where X represents the Tobin's Q and the capital-output ratio in the vertical and the horizontal axis respectively. TAX is the dividend income tax rate, and ϵ is a classic disturbance term. Both axis show the coefficient α_1 in %. Both equations are constraint to have the same number of observations (Max. 1980-2014). The scatter plot is obtained after excluding outliers. An outlier is defined as an observation with a weight of 0 after using the *rreg* command in STATA.

Market Power: The Industry Concentration Rate (I)

- Data (U.S. Industry Data, 2002-2012):
  - Market Power: U.S. Economic Census
  - Capital-Output Ratio: NBER-CES Manufacturing Industry
  - Tobin's Q: Worldscope

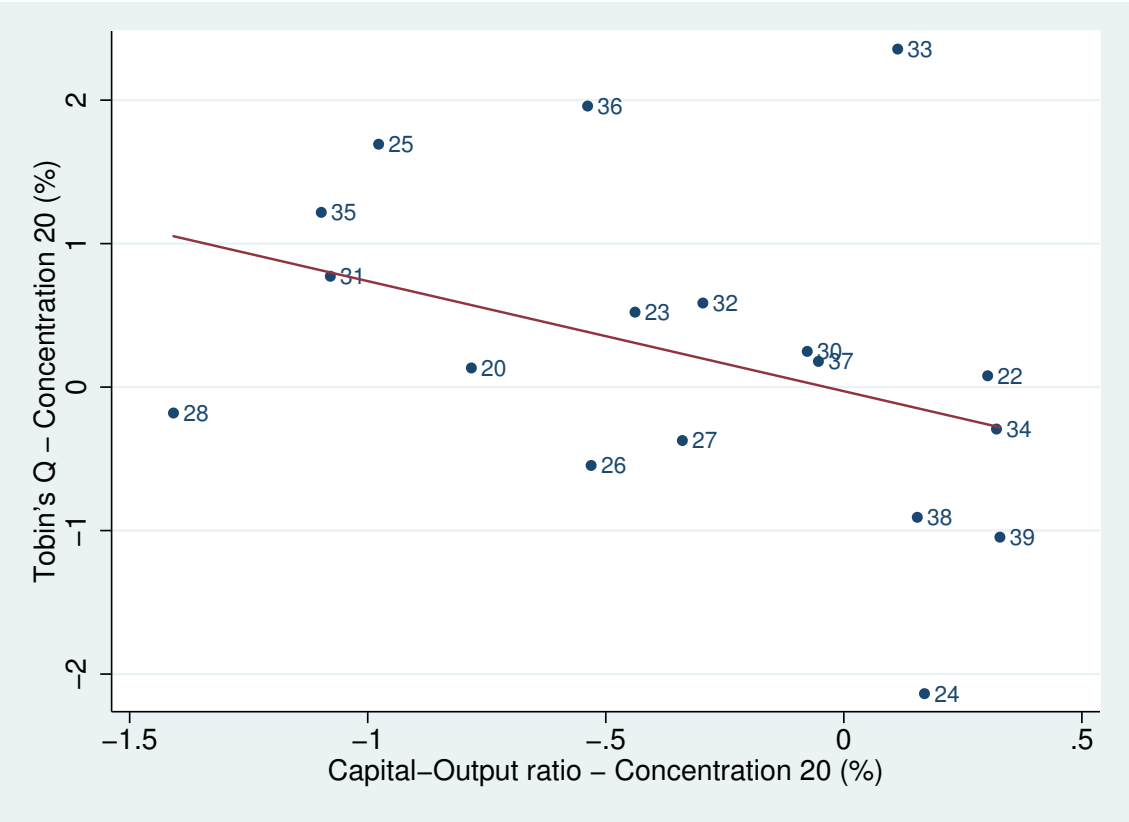
Table 2: Tobin's Q, Capital-Output Ratio and Industry Concentration

	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12]
	Dependent variable: Δq								Dependent variable: Δky			
$\Delta Con4$	0.066				0.087				-0.153			
	(0.078)				(0.083)				(0.068)**			
$\Delta Con8$		0.088				0.120				-0.172		
		(0.109)				(0.118)				(0.087)*		
$\Delta Con20$			0.271				0.332				-0.160	
			(0.126)**				(0.134)**				(0.097)	
$\Delta Con50$				0.340				0.413				-0.099
				(0.157)**				(0.174)**				(0.094)
Constant	0.28	0.28	0.278	0.28	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.317	-0.079	-0.082	-0.083	-0.083
	(0.031)***	(0.030)***	(0.030)***	(0.031)***	(0.027)***	(0.027)***	(0.027)***	(0.028)***	(0.014)***	(0.014)***	(0.014)***	(0.015)***
R-squared	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.16	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25
Observations	834	833	832	825	834	833	832	825	467	467	465	458
SIC4	480	480	480	473	480	480	480	473	280	280	280	273
SIC2	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	59	20	20	20	20
Sectors	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	1	1	1	1
Sector FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
SIC2 FE	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
TIME FE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Notes: Robust standard errors clustered at 2-digit SIC level in parenthesis. * significant at 10%; ** significant at 5%; *** significant at 1%. SIC4 and SIC2 indicate the number of groups included in the regressions classified at the 4 and 2-digit SIC level. Sectors indicates the number of groups included using the broader sector definition.

Market Power: The Industry Concentration Rate (II)

Figure 14: Tobins' Q, Capital-Output Ratios and Industry Concentration



Notes: Own calculations obtained from $\Delta \ln(X_{it}) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \Delta \ln(ConY_{it}) + \epsilon_{it},$, where X represents the Tobin's Q and the capital-output ratio in the vertical and the horizontal axis respectively. $Con20$ is the share of sales of the 20 largest companies in the industry, and ϵ is a classic disturbance term. Both axis show the coefficient α_1 in %. Both equations are constraint to have the same number of observations. The scatter plot is obtained after excluding outliers. An outlier is defined as an observation with a weight of 0 after using the *rreg* command in STATA.

Market Power: International Markups (I)

- We follow Rotemberg and Woodford (1993); Baso and Fernald (2002); Fernald and Neiman (2011); and Karabarbounis and Neiman (2014)
- The markup (μ) is defined as:

$$\mu = \frac{1}{1 - S_{\Pi}} = \frac{1}{S_L + S_K} \tag{11}$$

- The capital share is:

$$S_K = \frac{RK}{Y} = \left(\frac{\zeta X}{Y}\right)\left(\frac{\frac{1}{\beta} - 1 + \delta}{\delta}\right), \tag{12}$$

  where R is the capital rental rate, K is the stock of capital, and Y is the gross domestic product. The first term in the right hand side is composed by product of the relative price of investment (ζ) and the gross capital formation (X).
- Data: National Accounts.

Market Power: International Markups (II)

Table 3: Markups: International Comparison (1980-2014)

	[1] 2FE	[2] MG	[3] CMG	[4] CMGt	[5] 2FE	[6] MG	[7] CMG	[8] CMGt	[9] 2FE	[10] MG	[11] CMG	[12] CMGt
	Dependent variable: Δq				Dependent variable: Δky				Dependent variable: Δlis			
X_{t-1}	-0.293	-0.55	-0.558	-0.627	-0.031	-0.162	-0.086	-0.254	-0.206	-0.414	-0.351	-0.444
	(0.059)***	(0.049)***	(0.069)***	(0.070)***	(0.014)**	(0.034)***	(0.037)**	(0.040)***	(0.046)***	(0.044)***	(0.054)***	(0.067)***
$markup_{t-1}$	0.117	0.526	0.426	0.505	-0.066	-0.084	-0.112	-0.051	-0.133	-0.227	-0.229	-0.268
	(0.052)**	(0.135)***	(0.203)**	(0.238)**	(0.033)*	(0.040)**	(0.027)***	(0.030)*	(0.050)**	(0.045)***	(0.034)***	(0.056)***
$\Delta markup_t$	0.021	-0.094	0.005	0.088	0.158	0.363	0.175	0.15	-0.168	-0.015	-0.133	-0.139
	(0.106)	(0.222)	(0.229)	(0.272)	(0.045)***	(0.042)***	(0.028)***	(0.031)***	(0.070)**	(0.061)	(0.069)*	(0.071)*
t		-0.001		0.0001		0.0001		-0.001		-0.001		-0.001
		(0.002)		(0.002)		(0.000)		(0.001)		(0.000)		(0.001)
Constant	-0.147	-0.431	-0.215	-0.118	0.106	0.265	0.047	0.119	0.003	-0.037	0.004	-0.149
	(0.047)***	(0.167)***	(0.277)	(0.431)	(0.030)***	(0.043)***	(0.034)	(0.044)***	(0.028)	(0.053)	(0.033)	(0.086)*
Number of id	31	31	31	31	25	25	25	25	17	17	17	17
Observations	710	710	710	710	572	572	572	572	404	404	404	404
R-squared	0.43				0.61				0.4			
RMSE	0.1029	0.0982	0.0706	0.0652	0.0137	0.013	0.0082	0.0074	0.02	0.0173	0.0137	0.013
lr-*markup*	0.4009	0.9562	0.7644	0.8051	-2.099	-0.5162	-1.2963	-0.2011	-0.6487	-0.5494	-0.6526	-0.6039
se-*markup*	0.1838	0.2591	0.3751	0.3905	1.6899	0.268	0.6427	0.1216	0.1444	0.1231	0.1399	0.1562
Trend		0.29		0.1		0.32		0.36		0.12		0.29
CD test	-2.3471	28.0625	-0.4653	-0.9004	-2.5823	14.3125	-2.1381	-0.7576	-3.0758	3.6063	-1.5579	-1.6566
Abs Corr	0.2702	0.3476	0.238	0.2365	0.2708	0.2774	0.217	0.2357	0.2116	0.1994	0.2286	0.236

Corporate Governance (I)

- Data (U.S. Firm Level and Cross-Country, 2002-2014):
  - Corporate Governance: Asset4 ESG Database
  - Investment: Worldscope
  - Capital-Output Ratio: AMECO
  - Tobin's Q: Worldscope

Figure 15: Tobin's Q, Investment and Corporate Governance (U.S.)

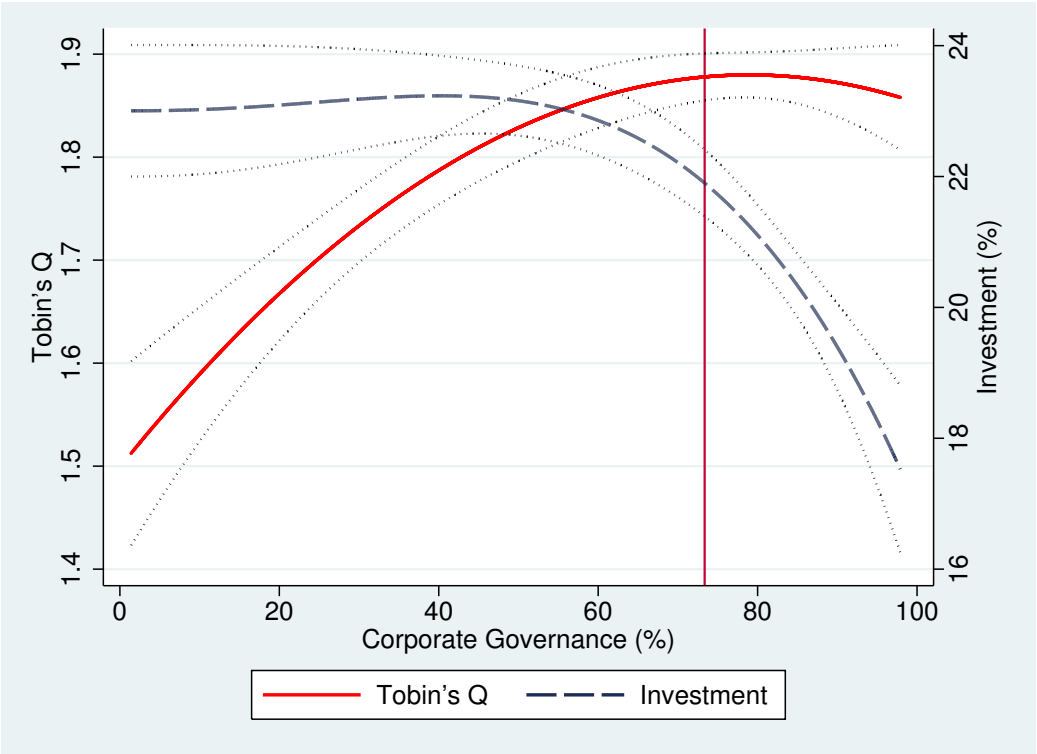
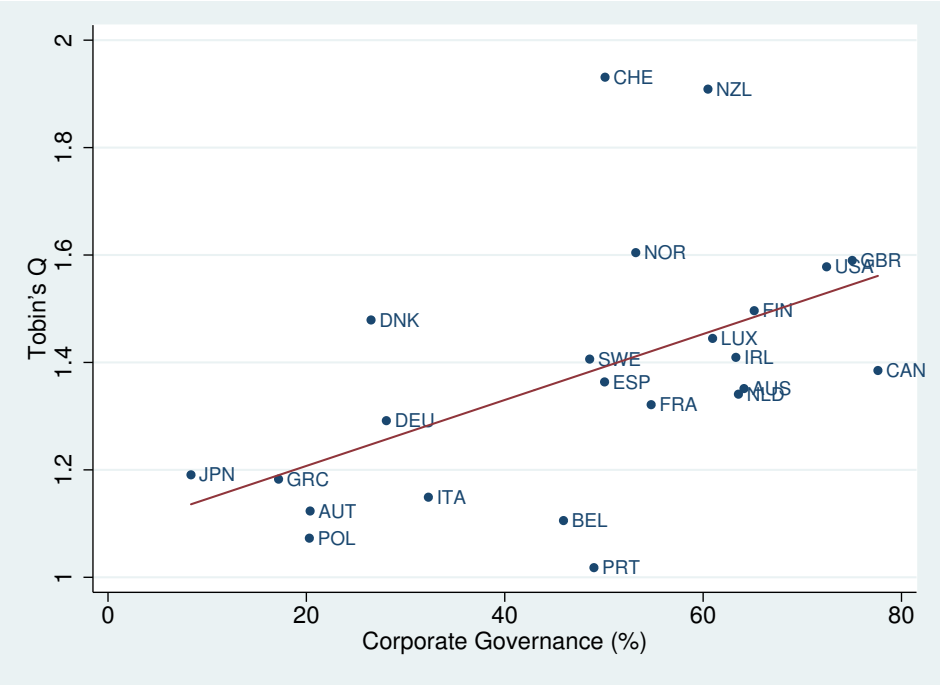


Table 4: Tobin's Q, Investment and Corporate Governance (U.S.)

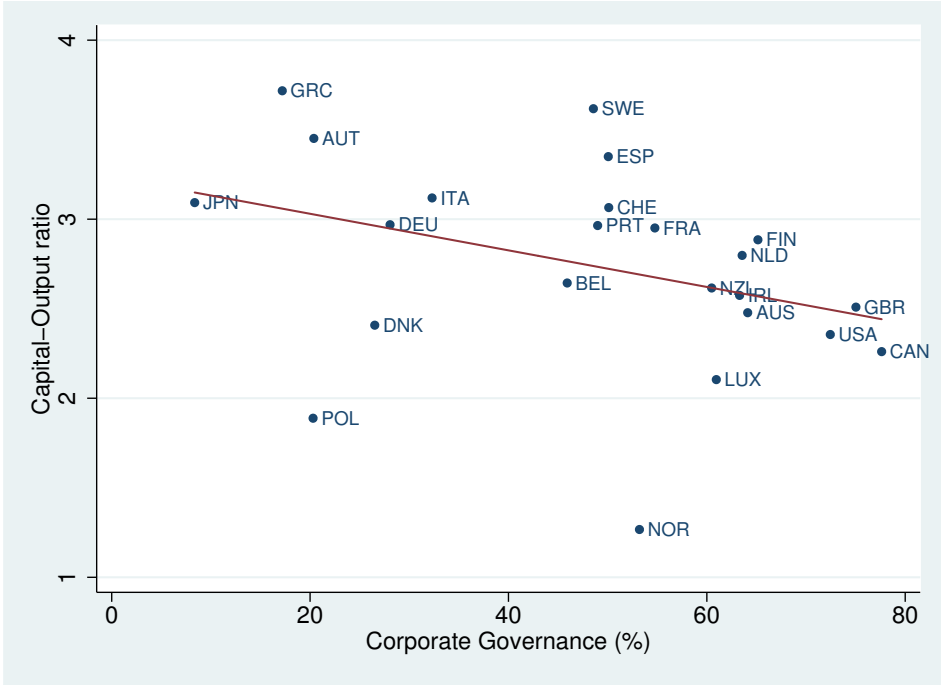
Panel A	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
	Dependent variable: q						
GOV_{t-1}	0.170	0.178	0.187	0.160	0.083	0.151	0.112
	(0.044)***	(0.047)***	(0.048)***	(0.051)***	(0.036)**	(0.045)***	(0.040)***
Constant	0.350	0.446	0.340	0.358	0.409	0.377	0.446
	(0.029)***	(0.029)***	(0.032)***	(0.034)***	(0.024)***	(0.031)***	(0.026)***
R-squared	0.25	0.28	0.33	0.48	0.42	0.44	0.5
Panel B	[1]	[2]	[3]	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7]
	Dependent variable: INV						
GOV_{t-1}	-0.042	-0.044	-0.046	-0.039	-0.044	-0.043	-0.050
	(0.019)**	(0.019)**	(0.019)**	(0.018)**	(0.018)**	(0.017)**	(0.019)***
Constant	0.242	0.218	0.245	0.241	0.244	0.245	0.261
	(0.013)***	(0.014)***	(0.013)***	(0.012)***	(0.012)***	(0.011)***	(0.012)***
R-squared	0.09	0.1	0.14	0.25	0.18	0.19	0.22
Observations	12574	12574	12574	12574	12574	12574	12574
Firms	1683	1683	1683	1683	1683	1683	1683
SIC4	365	365	365	365	365	365	365
SIC3	212	212	212	212	212	212	212
SIC2	62	62	62	62	62	62	62
SIC2 FE	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
SIC3 FE	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
SIC4 FE	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES
Time FE	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
SIC2*Time	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES
SIC3*Time	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO

Corporate Governance (III)

Figure 16: Tobin's Q, Capital-Output ratio and Corporate Governance (I)



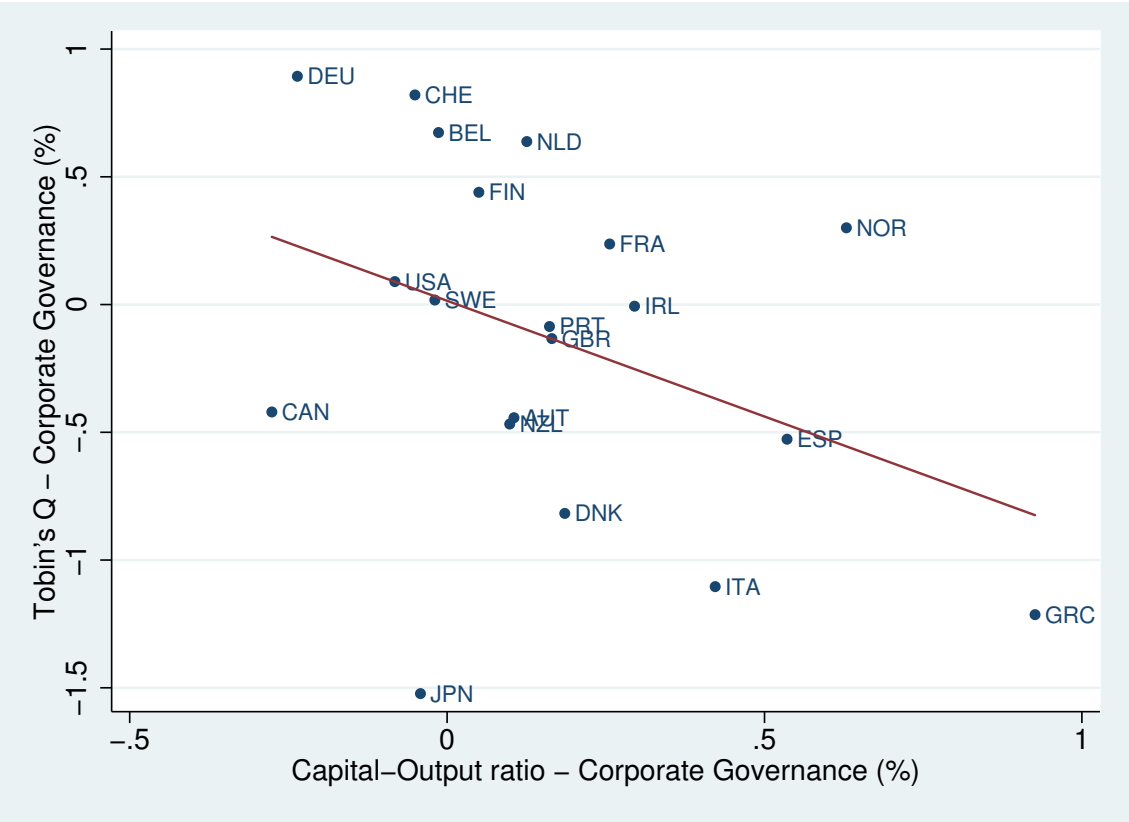
(a) Tobin's Q



(b) Capital-Output ratio

Corporate Governance (IV)

Figure 17: Tobin's Q, Capital-Output ratio and Corporate Governance (II)



Notes: Own calculations obtained from $\ln(X_t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 GOV_t + \epsilon_t$, where X represents the Tobin's Q and the capital-output ratio in the vertical and the horizontal axis respectively. GOV is the corporate governance index, and ϵ is a classic disturbance term. Both axis show the coefficient α_1 in %. Both equations are constraint to have the same number of observations. Each regression only includes countries which have at least 10 observations for the period 2002-2014. The scatter plot is obtained after excluding outliers. An outlier is defined as an observation with a weight of 0 after using the *rreg* command in STATA.

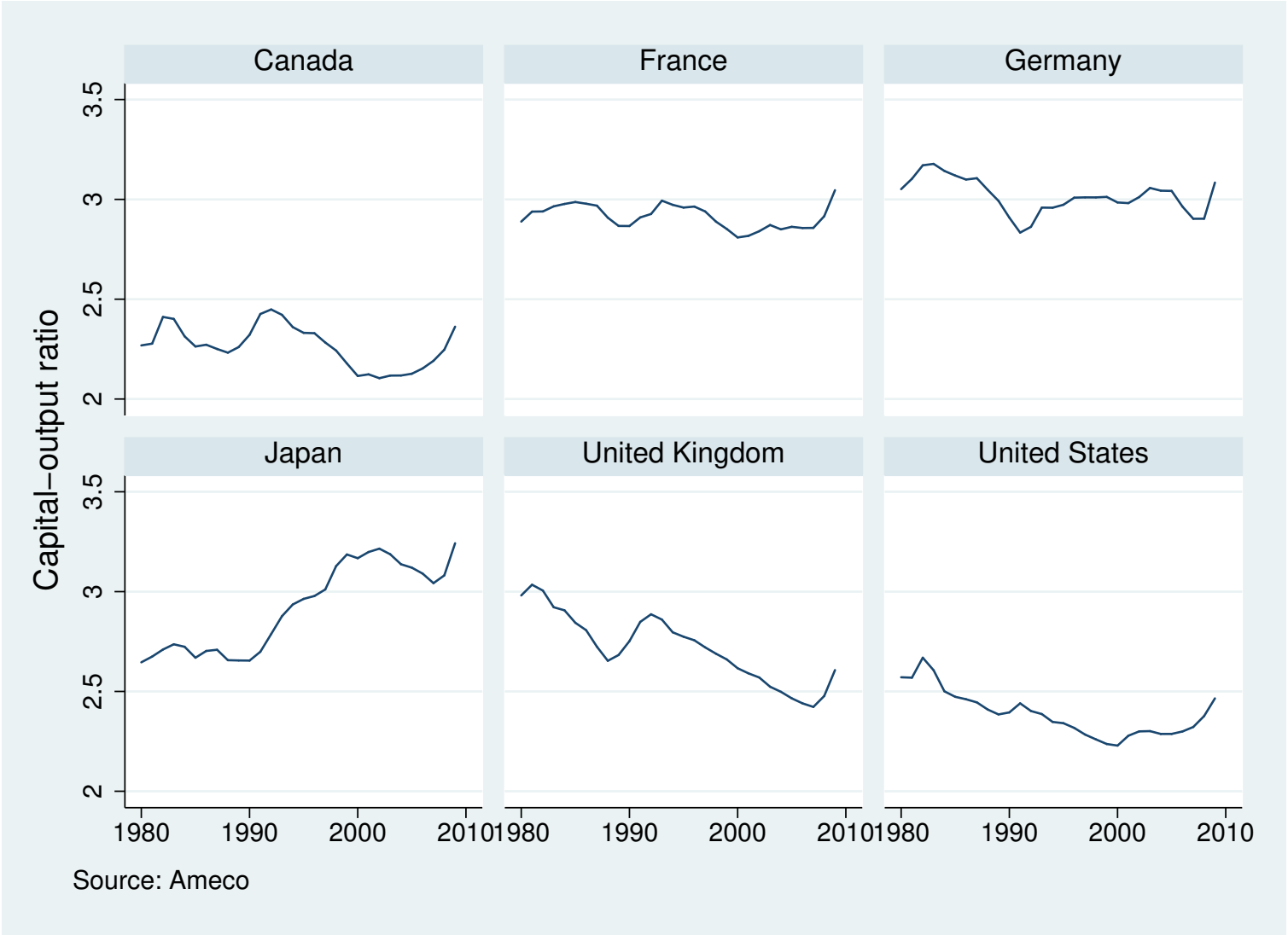
Conclusions

- We find that the increase in Tobin's Q can explain between 41% and 57% of the labor income share decline.
- Our model emphasises the role of asset prices in explaining the decline of the labor share within a standard capital-output framework.
- Relative prices of investment are not relevant.
- Indeed, our model suggests that the problem is not too much physical capital, but the increase of financial wealth with respect to productive capital.
  - Compatible with standard values of σ (survey Chirinko, 2008).
- Policies aiming at reversing the trend should target incentives on corporate investment, even if this is at the expense of equity valuation and equity returns.

Additional Materials

Capital-Output ratio

Figure A.1: Capital-Output ratio 1980-2009



back

Table A.1: Selected economies and sample period

id	Country	Sample period	id	Country	Sample period
1	Australia**	1980-2008	22	Luxembourg*	1991-2008
2	Austria**	1980-2008	23	Mexico**	1988-2008
3	Belgium**	1980-2008	24	Morocco	1998-2007
4	Brazil*	1992-2008	25	Netherlands**	1980-2008
5	Canada**	1980-2008	26	New Zealand**	1986-2008
6	Chile*	1990-2008	27	Norway**	1980-2007
7	China	1995-2007	28	Peru	1992-2003
8	Colombia	1993-2007	29	Philippines**	1988-2008
9	Denmark**	1980-2009	30	Poland	1995-2008
10	Finland**	1987-2009	31	Portugal**	1988-2009
11	France**	1980-2009	32	South Africa**	1980-2008
12	Germany**	1983-2008	33	Spain**	1986-2008
13	Greece**	1988-2009	34	Sri Lanka	1994-2008
14	Hong Kong**	1980-2003	35	Sweden**	1982-2009
15	Hungary	1995-2008	36	Switzerland**	1980-2007
16	India*	1991-2008	37	Thailand	1988-2003
17	Ireland**	1981-2008	38	Turkey	1990-2003
18	Israel	1993, 1995-2008	39	UK**	1980-2008
19	Italy**	1980-2008	40	US**	1980-2008
20	Japan**	1980-2007	41	Venezuela	1992-2006
21	Korea**	1980-2003			

back

Pesaran (2004) CD test

Table A.2: Cross-section dependence tests

a) Levels:				b) Diff:			
Variable	lis	q	rp	Variable	Δlis	Δq	Δrp
CD-test	16.73	29.76	42.37	CD-test	12.99	34.45	6.66
p-value	0.00	0.00	0.00	p-value	0.00	0.00	0.00
corr	0.132	0.250	0.345	corr	0.11	0.296	0.049
abs(corr)	0.472	0.394	0.558	abs(corr)	0.235	0.349	0.223

c) Het. AR(2)				d) Het. AR(2) CCE			
Variable	lis	q	rp	Variable	lis	q	rp
CD-test	9.93	33.58	3.40	CD-test	-0.24	-0.66	-2.38
p-value	0.00	0.00	0.00	p-value	0.81	0.51	0.02
corr	0.088	0.301	0.027	corr	-0.006	-0.011	-0.023
abs(corr)	0.243	0.344	0.213	abs(corr)	0.220	0.237	0.213

Notes: CD-test shows the Pesaran (2004) cross-section dependence statistic, which follows a $N(0,1)$ distribution. H_0 = cross-section independence. corr, and abs(corr) report, respectively, the average and average absolute correlation coefficients across the $N(N-1)$ set of correlations.

back

Pesaran (2007) CIPS Unit Root Test

Table A.3: Unit root tests

a) Pesaran (2007) CIPS test: Constant						
Lags	*lis*	(*p*)	*q*	(*p*)	*rp*	(*p*)
0	0.431	0.667	-2.744	0.003	-0.118	0.453
1	-0.207	0.418	-2.405	0.008	-0.141	0.444
2	-1.199	0.115	0.103	0.541	0.655	0.744
3	1.802	0.964	2.942	0.998	2.254	0.988
4	5.477	1.000	6.091	1.000	7.211	1.000

b) Pesaran (2007) CIPS test: Constant and deterministic trend						
Lags	*lis*	(*p*)	*q*	(*p*)	*rp*	(*p*)
0	1.044	0.852	-2.068	0.019	2.483	0.993
1	0.390	0.652	-1.628	0.052	2.052	0.980
2	-0.033	0.487	1.304	0.904	0.998	0.841
3	5.280	1.000	6.785	1.000	6.006	1.000
4	8.090	1.000	8.949	1.000	9.127	1.000

Notes: Pesaran (2007) CIPS test values are obtained from the standardised Z-tbar statistic. H_0 = nonstationarity. Lags indicates the number of lags included in the ADF regression.

back

Intuition

$$y_{it} = \beta_i x_{it} + \phi_i f_t + \psi_i + \varepsilon_{it}, \tag{A.1}$$

$$\overline{y_t} = \overline{\beta}\overline{x_t} + \overline{\phi} f_t + \overline{\psi}, \qquad \overline{\varepsilon_t} \to 0 \quad \text{as} \quad N \to \infty \tag{A.2}$$

$$f_t = \overline{\phi}^{-1}(\overline{y_t} - \overline{\psi} - \overline{\beta}\overline{x_t}) \tag{A.3}$$

Substitution for f_t in equation (A.1):

$$y_{it} = \beta_i x_{it} + \phi_i \overline{\phi}^{-1}(\overline{y_t} - \overline{\psi} - \overline{\beta}\overline{x_t}) + \varepsilon_{it}, \tag{A.4}$$

$$y_{it} = \beta_i x_{it} + \Pi_{1i}\overline{y_t} + \Pi_{2i}\overline{x_t} + \Pi_{3i} + \varepsilon_{it} \tag{A.5}$$

back

Table A.4: Error Correction Model: WID Q

	[1] 2FE	[2] CCEP	[3] MG	[4] CMG	[5] CMGt	[6] CMGt1	[7] CMGt2
lis_{t-1}	-0.136	-0.192	-0.461	-0.442	-0.579	-0.714	-0.958
	(0.047)***	(0.068)***	(0.111)***	(0.112)***	(0.155)***	(0.181)***	(0.337)***
q_{t-1}	-0.001	-0.003	-0.039	-0.001	-0.05	-0.066	-0.135
	(0.009)	(0.012)	(0.036)	(0.007)	(0.029)*	(0.038)*	(0.078)*
rp_{t-1}	0.043	0.075	0.151	0.108	-0.019	-0.044	0.296
	(0.032)	(0.055)	(0.108)	(0.093)	(0.054)	(0.124)	(0.461)
Δq	-0.039	-0.052	-0.061	-0.043	-0.042	-0.049	-0.091
	(0.018)**	(0.022)**	(0.039)	(0.018)**	(0.010)***	(0.020)**	(0.036)**
Δrp	0.088	0.078	-0.062	0.038	0.02	0.158	0.094
	(0.076)	(0.080)	(0.104)	(0.077)	(0.075)	(0.054)***	(0.297)
t			0.001		0.002	0.001	-0.002
			(0.001)		(0.003)	(0.004)	(0.004)
Constant	-0.066		-0.349	0.048	0.143	0.273	0.181
	(0.034)*		(0.082)***	(0.129)	(0.130)	(0.179)	(0.253)
Number of id	9	9	9	7	7	7	6
Observations	199	199	199	175	175	171	149
R-squared	0.51	0.75					
RMSE	0.0124	0.0098	0.0106	0.0067	0.0061	0.0051	0.0039
Trends			0.22		0.43	0.14	0
lr-q	-0.0052	-0.0164	-0.0847	-0.0011	-0.0863	-0.0919	-0.1404
se-q	0.065	0.0599	0.0799	0.0149	0.0556	0.0576	0.0949
lr-rp	0.3149	0.3911	0.3266	0.2434	-0.0324	-0.062	0.3092
se-rp	0.2716	0.3177	0.247	0.2199	0.0938	0.1747	0.4931
CD test	-3.8732	-2.7485	3.7987	-2.0474	-2.347	-2.4567	-1.9305
Abs Corr	0.2378	0.2169	0.3325	0.2104	0.2141	0.2757	0.2229
Int	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)	I(0)

back

Weak Exogeneity Test

We estimate an informal causality test based on the Granger Representation Theorem (GRT), which states that cointegrated series can be represented in the form of an ECM, which in our case is:

$$\Delta lis_{it} = \alpha_{1i} + \lambda_{11}\hat{u}_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{11ij}lis_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{12ij}q_{i,t-j}\sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{13ij}rp_{i,t-j} + \epsilon_{1it},$$

$$\Delta q_{it} = \alpha_{2i} + \lambda_{21}\hat{u}_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{21ij}lis_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{22ij}q_{i,t-j}\sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{23ij}rp_{i,t-j} + \epsilon_{2it},$$

$$\Delta rp_{it} = \alpha_{3i} + \lambda_{31}\hat{u}_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{31ij}lis_{i,t-j} + \sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{32ij}q_{i,t-j}\sum_{j=1}^{K}\phi_{33ij}rp_{i,t-j} + \epsilon_{3it},$$

where $\hat{u}_{it} = lis_{it} - \hat{\beta}_{1i}q_{it} + \hat{\beta}_{2i}rp_{it}$ is the disequilibrium term.

Table A.5: Weak exogeneity test

Model		no CA			CA		
		lis	*q*	*rp*	*lis*	*q*	*rp*
MG	Avg. λ	-0.52	-0.45	0.02	-0.50	-0.41	-0.04
	ρ	0.00	0.03*	0.48	0.00	0.21	0.60
CMG	Avg. λ	-0.57	-0.40	-0.01	-0.51	-0.54	0.00
	ρ	0.00	0.15	0.83	0.00	0.18	0.94
CMGt	Avg. λ	-0.75	-0.65	0.00	-0.69	-0.74	-0.04
	ρ	0.00	0.01*	0.98	0.00	0.12	0.72
CMG1	Avg. λ	-0.59	-0.23	0.04	-0.51	-0.58	0.03
	ρ	0.00	0.52	0.24	0.00	0.13	0.61
CMGt1	Avg. λ	-0.77	-0.12	0.06	-0.75	-0.60	0.05
	ρ	0.00	0.75	0.19	0.00	0.19	0.38
CMG2	Avg. λ	-0.73	-0.42	-0.07	-0.64	-1.04	-0.05
	ρ	0.00	0.32	0.09*	0.00	0.04*	0.56
CMGt2	Avg. λ	-0.93	-0.46	0.06	-0.82	-1.20	0.05
	ρ	0.00	0.29	0.25	0.00	0.01*	0.44

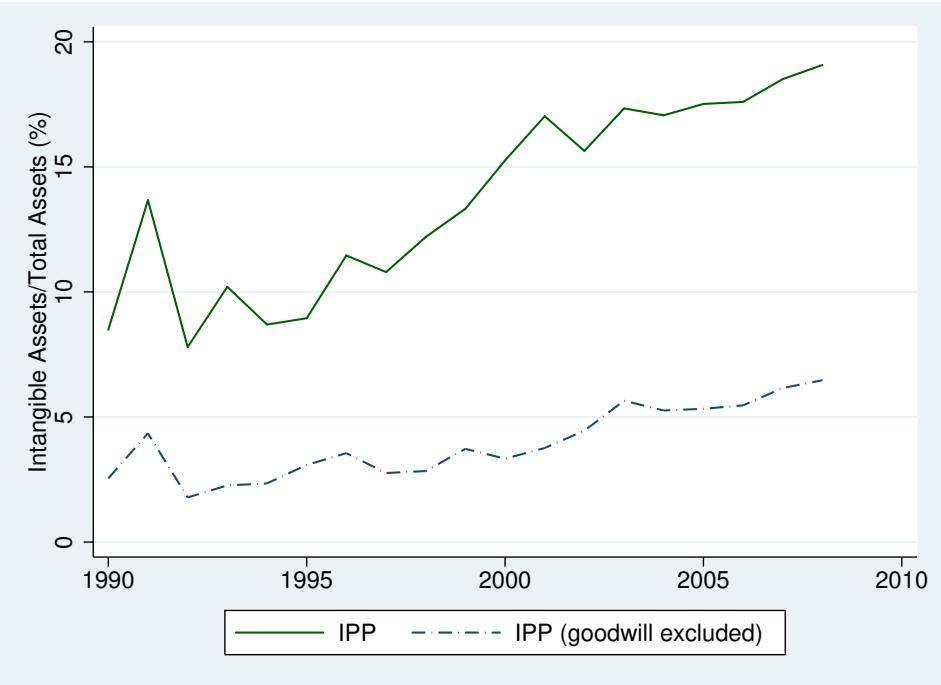
Notes: Avg. λ shows the robust mean coefficient for the disequilibrium term on the ECM. Asterisks highlight cases which do not support a causality relationship for our analysis.

back

Intangible Assets

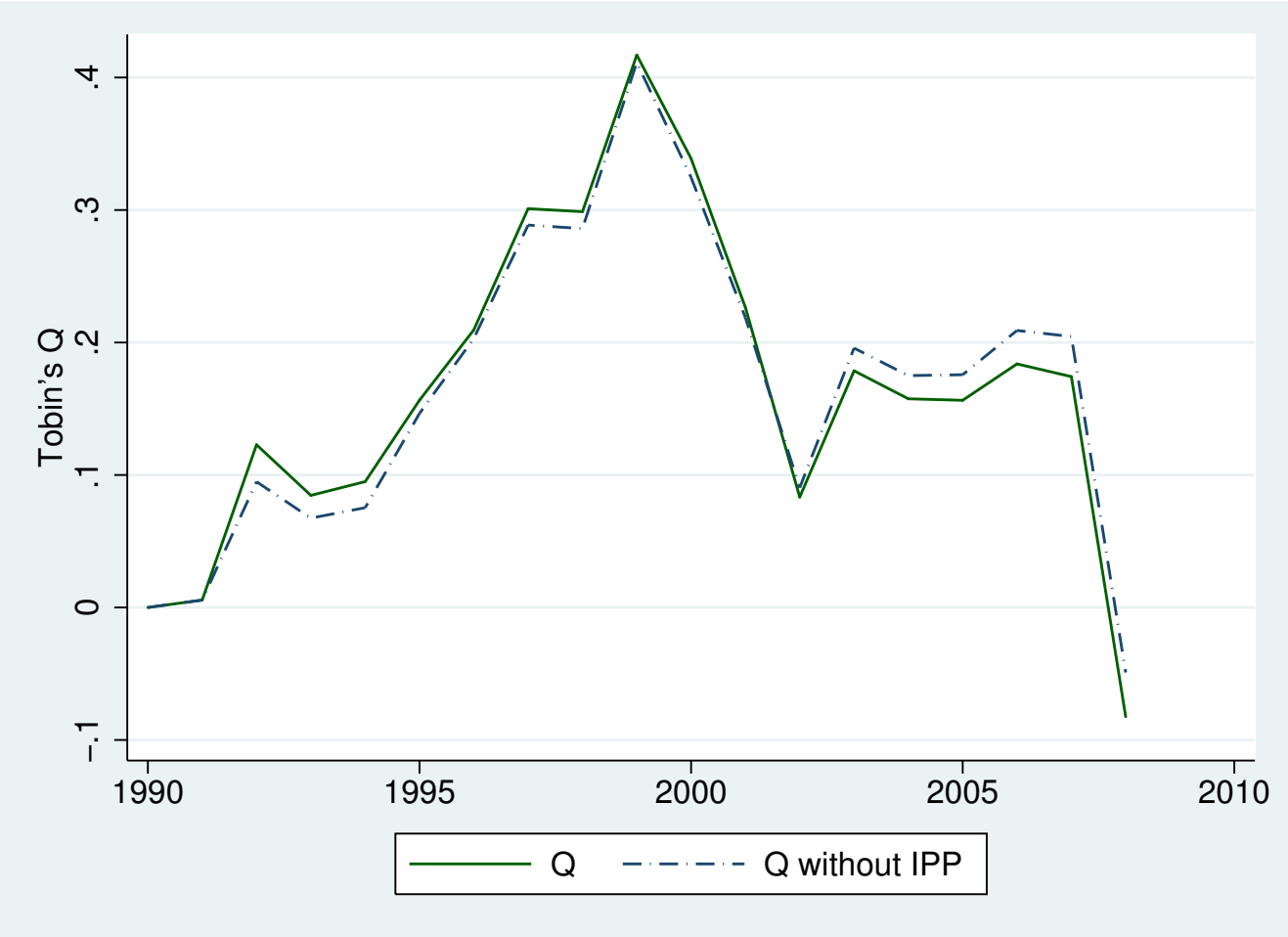
- Koh *et al.* (2016) claim that IPP products can explain 100% of the U.S. labor share decline.
- IPP assets can bias the Tobin's Q if there are measurement problems (but also through equilibrium mechanisms Gutierrez and Philippon, 2016).
- Tobin's Q raise could be accounting for the increasing importance of IPP products.

Figure A.2: Intangible Assets Intensity (1990-2008)



Intangible Assets

Figure A.3: U.S. Tobin's Q with and without IPP

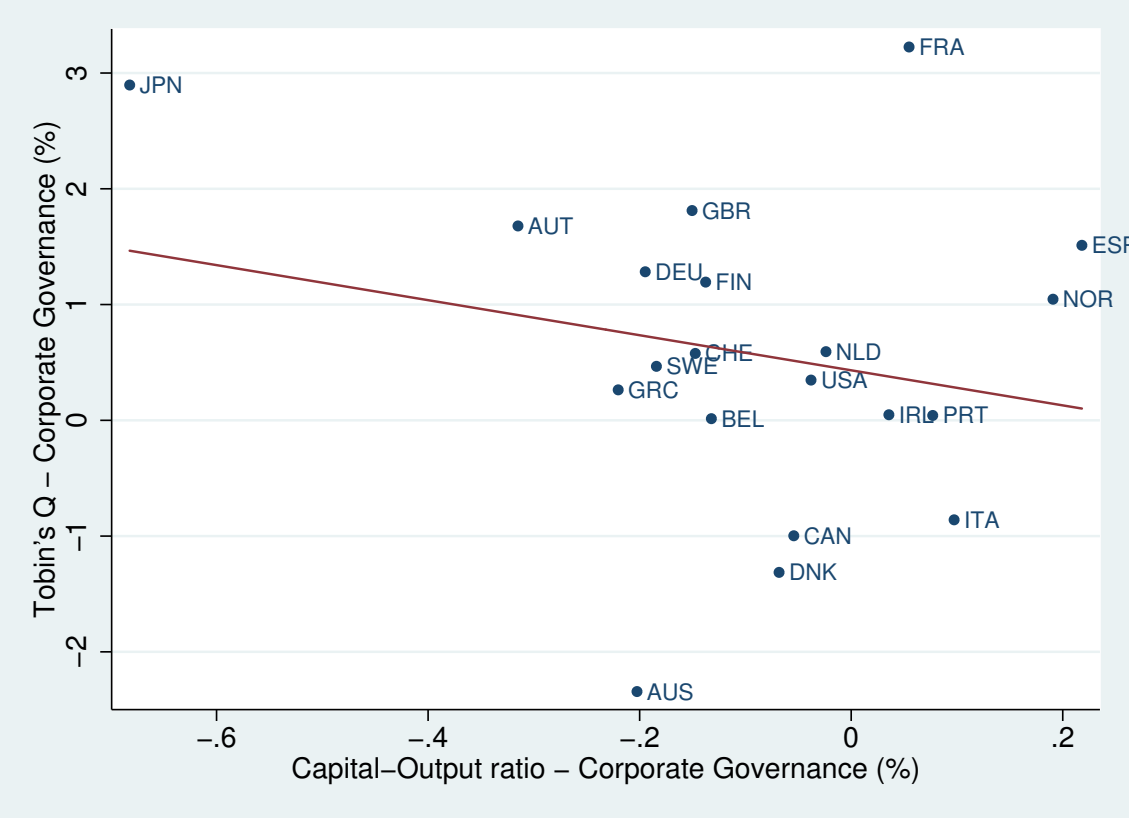


Notes: Market value weighted average Q. 4-digit SIC industry fixed effects.

back

Corporate Governance (IV): 2002-2007

Figure A.4: Tobin's Q, Capital-Output ratio and Corporate Governance: 2002-2007



Notes: Own calculations obtained from $\ln(X_t) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 GOV_t + \epsilon_t$, where X represents the Tobin's Q and the capital-output ratio in the vertical and the horizontal axis respectively. GOV is the corporate governance index, and ϵ is a classic disturbance term. Both axis show the coefficient α_1 in %. Both equations are constraint to have the same number of observations. The scatter plot is obtained after excluding outliers. An outlier is defined as an observation with a weight of 0 after using the *rreg* command in STATA.

Asset Prices and Productive Capital

Figure A.5: Market for capital