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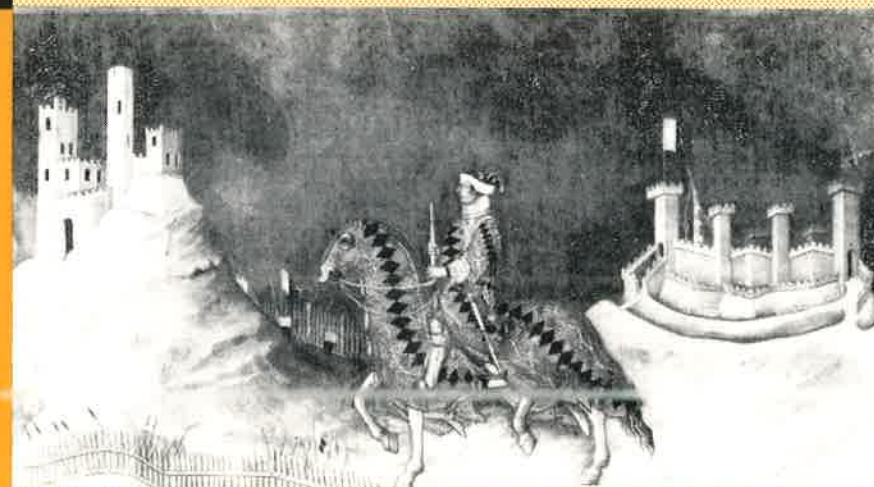


QUADERNI DEL DIPARTIMENTO
DI ECONOMIA POLITICA

Giancarlo Marini

Pasquale Scaramozzino

**ENVIRONMENTAL EXTERNALITIES,
DISCONNECTED GENERATIONS
AND POLICY**



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by

GIANCARLO MARINÌ and PASQUALE SCARAMOZZINO

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents a general equilibrium dynamic model with disconnected generations and externalities, where pollution is an input of production. It is demonstrated that the social planner can achieve the desired allocation of physical assets and environment by optimal choice of the available policy instruments. We characterise both the necessary transfers across generations alive at a given time and the optimal intertemporal distribution of resources.

Giancarlo Marini, Dipartimento di Economia Politica, Università di Siena.
Pasquale Scaramozzino, University College, Londra.

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1. Introduction

Environmental resources can be depleted at a socially sub-optimal rate in a decentralised economy with incomplete markets. Pollution is an inevitable consequence of the production process: hence, when markets for tradable pollution rights are missing, there is in principle a clear rôle for government intervention. In particular, the welfare of unborn generations can be seriously impaired by the production decisions of optimising egoistic agents.

The central policy issue is to investigate what governments should do and which instruments they should use in order to achieve a socially equitable intertemporal distribution of natural resources and consumption (see Dasgupta and Heal (1979), Pearce and Turner (1992)). A popular criterion is the so-called Solow-Hartwick rule, designed to preserve equal consumption opportunities over time. However, the representative agent models typically employed do not appear, as argued by Solow (1986), adequate to investigate intergenerational equity issues. Overlapping generations models, by contrast, naturally lend themselves to analyse intertemporal externalities among heterogeneous agents.

Another important line of research has focussed on the choice of the discount rate that the planner should optimally set to achieve her social objectives (see, among others, Musu (1991), van der Ploeg and Withagen (1991), Markandya and Pearce (1988)). No clear-cut answer has been provided, since the long-run built-in trade-off between environment and consumption of physical assets cannot be eased by manipulation of the social discount rate alone. Intergenerational equity is not, in fact, a cost-benefit problem but

depends on the intertemporal distribution of assets across disconnected generations, as clearly pointed out by Howarth and Norgaard (1992). The representative agent model is thus unsuitable, since it implicitly assumes away any form of heterogeneity across generations.

In the present paper we set out an overlapping generations (OLG) model in order to characterise the fiscal policy required to achieve an equitable use of environmental resources. The demand side of the model we develop is a variant of the Blanchard-Yaari-Weil-Buiter set-up¹, where disconnected generations of individuals derive utility from consumption and from environmental quality. The supply sector is modelled as an aggregate constant returns to scale technology with labour, capital, and pollution as inputs. Pollution is in part endogenously assimilated by the environment. The absence of markets for pollution rights, which implies that the environmental resource has the nature of a public good, requires an active rôle for the government in enacting pollution abatement policies.

The structure of the paper is as follows. Section 2 outlines the model and discusses the steady state effects of government spending on pollution abatement. Section 3 addresses the social welfare issues and derives the optimal environmental tax. Section 4 concludes.

2. Overlapping generations and externalities

We consider a continuous-time overlapping generations framework in which individuals face a constant instantaneous death rate and a constant rate of (parthenogenetic) reproduction. There is a large number of agents who derive

utility from consumption of a physical commodity and from the enjoyment of an environment resource. The latter can however also be used directly as an input to production. This has a destructive impact on the remaining amount of the environmental resource. Since the environment available to each individual can be regarded as a public good, these externalities give rise to a socially suboptimal use of production inputs. Appropriate environmental taxes are required in order to correct such inefficiencies.

In addition to the above externalities, however, there are further market failures in the economy due to population heterogeneity and the disconnectedness across generations. Since no fully operative bequest motive is present, each generation will neglect the impact on the future generations of its own use of the environment. Hence, a fiscal policy directed at protecting the environment should be designed in such a way as to enact both the cross-sectional and the across-generations taxes and transfers which are required for achieving inter-generational equity and an optimal use of resources over time.

The objective function at time t of agents born at time $s \leq t$ is defined as

$$(1) \quad \max_{\{\bar{c}(s,v)\}} \int_t^{\infty} [\gamma \ln \bar{c}(s,v) + (1-\gamma) \ln \bar{\eta}(s,v)] e^{-(\rho+\lambda)(v-t)} dv$$

where $\bar{c}(s,v)$ and $\bar{\eta}(s,v)$ denote consumption of the physical commodity and of the environment respectively, ρ is the pure subjective rate of time preference, and λ is the instantaneous death rate. The probability of death is constant over time and independent of age². For simplicity, the instantaneous felicity function is assumed to be additively separable in its

arguments.

The individual budget constraint on non-human wealth follows the differential equation

$$(2) \quad \frac{d}{dt} \bar{a}(s,t) = [r(t) + \lambda] \bar{a}(s,t) + \bar{w}(s,t) - \bar{c}(s,t)$$

where $r(t)$ is the rate of interest and $\bar{w}(s,t)$ is labour income. In equation (2), the term $\lambda \bar{a}(s,t)$ reflects the existence of a perfectly competitive market for annuities. Since generations are not interconnected by an operative bequest motive, the optimal insurance contract prescribes that each consumer's estate be appropriated by the insurance company upon the agent's death. Each individual thus receives the actuarially fair insurance premium, $\lambda \bar{a}(s,t)$, whilst alive. Human capital is defined as the present discounted value of expected future labour earnings:

$$(3) \quad \bar{h}(s,t) = \int_t^{\infty} \bar{w}(s,v) e^{-\int_t^v [r(\mu) + \lambda] d\mu} dv$$

The appropriate discount rate must incorporate the instantaneous rate of death. The first-order conditions for an interior solution for consumption yield the usual Ramsey-type equation:

$$(4) \quad \frac{d\bar{c}(s,t)}{dt} = [r(t) - \rho] \bar{c}(s,t)$$

It is important to note that in the objective function of the consumer,

equation (1), the path describing the use of the environmental resource, $\{\bar{\eta}(s,v) | v \geq s\}$, is *not* a control variable. Since at each moment in time there is a large number of individuals, and since the individual enjoyment of the environmental resource is given by total environment per head, each consumer's decision about the use of the natural resource is bound to have a negligible impact upon the amount of resources available for personal use. Thus, the path $\{\bar{\eta}(s,v) | v \geq s\}$ will be taken as exogenously given by each individual consumer.

Subject to the usual condition that households are solvent, the consumption function takes the form

$$(5) \quad \bar{c}(s,t) = (\lambda + \rho) [\bar{a}(s,t) + \bar{h}(s,t)]$$

For simplicity, wages are constant for all agents alive at time t , irrespective of their age: thus,

$$(6) \quad \bar{w}(s,t) = \bar{w}(t)$$

It follows that human capital is independent of age.

If we normalise population size by setting $L(0)=1$, we obtain

$$(7) \quad L(t) = e^{nt} = \beta e^{-\lambda t} \int_{-\infty}^t e^{\beta s} ds$$

where β is the instantaneous birth rate and $n = \beta - \lambda$ is the population growth rate. The value of the other aggregate variables can be obtained in an analogous fashion (see for instance Buiter (1988)). Total human capital and

assets are respectively given by

$$(8) \quad H(t) = \beta e^{-\lambda t} \int_{-\infty}^t \bar{h}(s) e^{\beta s} ds$$

$$= \bar{h}(t) e^{nt}$$

$$(9) \quad A(t) = \beta e^{-\lambda t} \int_{-\infty}^t \bar{a}(s, t) e^{\beta s} ds$$

Upon aggregation of (5) and using (8) and (9), aggregate consumption is seen to be proportional to total wealth:

$$(10) \quad C(t) = (\lambda + \rho) [A(t) + H(t)]$$

On the production side, output can be obtained by combining capital input, $K(t)$, a flow of environmental resources, $Z(t)$, and labour, $L(t)$.

$$(11) \quad Y(t) = F[K(t), Z(t), L(t)] = L(t) f[k(t), z(t)]$$

The production function exhibits constant returns to scale and can therefore be written in the usual labour intensive form. We assume that $F_K, F_Z, F_L > 0$, $F_{KK}, F_{ZZ}, F_{LL} < 0$, $F_{KZ} > 0$, and $F_{ZZ} F_{LL} - F_{KZ}^2 > 0$. In particular, an increased use of the environmental resource raises the marginal product of capital. The use of natural resources in the production process directly adds to the cumulative stock of pollution, $P(t)$:

$$(12) \quad \frac{dP(t)}{dt} = -mP(t) + Z(t) - \psi[G(t)]$$

where m is the assimilation rate at which the environment endogenously absorbs the stock of pollution, $G(t)$ is government spending on pollution abatement activities, and $\psi(\cdot)$ represents the impact of such expenditures. It is assumed that pollution abatement by the government exhibits decreasing returns: $\psi'(\cdot) > 0$, $\psi''(\cdot) < 0$. The formulation in (12) is consistent with the absolute effect model of pollution stock accumulation (see Ulph, Ulph and Pezzey (1991) for a motivation and a discussion). The stock of environment is given by

$$(13) \quad E(t) = \hat{E} - P(t)$$

where $\hat{E}$ is a constant. By combining (12) and (13) one obtains the evolution over time of the environmental resource:

$$(14) \quad \frac{dE(t)}{dt} = -mE(t) + m\hat{E} - Z(t) + \psi[G(t)]$$

The government levies taxes on the use of the environment as a production input:

$$(15) \quad T(t) = \tau(t)Z(t)$$

where $\tau(t)$ is the (time-varying) tax rate. This form of taxation would be close in spirit to a carbon tax, discussed amongst others by Pearce (1991)

and Bovenberg and van der Ploeg (1992). The budget deficit is financed by issuing loans. The government instantaneous budget constraint is therefore

$$(16) \quad \frac{dB(t)}{dt} = r(t)B(t) + G(t) - T(t)$$

Public sector solvency requires that the current stock of debt, plus the present value of the future exhaustive spending programmes, does not exceed the present value of future taxation:

$$(17) \quad B(t) + \int_t^{\infty} G(v) e^{-\int_t^v r(\mu) d\mu} dv = \int_t^{\infty} T(v) e^{-\int_t^v r(\mu) d\mu} dv$$

The dynamics of the system can be expressed in *pro capite* form as

$$(18) \quad \frac{dk(t)}{dt} = f[k(t), z(t)] - nk(t) - g(t) - c(t)$$

$$(19) \quad \frac{db(t)}{dt} = \{f_k[k(t), z(t)] - n\} b(t) + g(t) - \tau(t)z(t)$$

$$(20) \quad \frac{dc(t)}{dt} = \{f_k[k(t), z(t)] - \rho\}c(t) - (\lambda + \rho)\beta k(t) - (\lambda + \rho)\beta b(t)$$

$$(21) \quad \frac{d\eta(t)}{dt} = - (m+n)\eta(t) + m\hat{\eta} + \psi[g(t)] - z(t)$$

where small letters denote variables per head (we use the notation $\eta(t) =$

$E(t)/L(t)$). Equation (18) requires that net investment in the economy be equal to total saving. Equation (19) gives the evolution of public debt per head. Use has been made of the first-order condition on capital, which prescribes that, in the absence of adjustment costs, its marginal product be equal to its rental cost. The interest rate must be corrected for the demographic growth rate, because of the dilution in debt per head as population grows. Equation (20) is the usual Ramsey-Blanchard condition, and equation (21) gives the dynamics of environment per head.

The conditions for the steady state of the economy are given by the following equations (22)-(26):

$$(22) \quad f(k, z) = nk + g + c$$

$$(23) \quad [f_k(k, z) - n]b + g = \tau z$$

$$(24) \quad [f_k(k, z) - \rho]c = (\rho + \lambda)\beta k + (\rho + \lambda)\beta b$$

$$(25) \quad (m+n)\eta = m\hat{\eta} - z + \psi g$$

$$(26) \quad f_z(k, z) = \alpha + \tau$$

Equations (22)-(25) are obtained by setting $\dot{k} = \dot{b} = \dot{c} = \dot{\eta} = 0$ respectively, whereas (26) is the first-order condition on the use of the environmental resource. The marginal product of the latter must be equal to its marginal cost, which is here assumed to be given by the technological constant α plus the environmental tax, τ . The system of steady state conditions is block

recursive: equations (22)-(24) and (26) determine k , b , z , and c , whilst equation (25) determines η .

A useful policy exercise is to consider the steady-state implications of a balanced budget increase in government spending on pollution abatement. Formally, we set $dg = \tau dz + z d\tau$ and log-linearise the sub-system formed of (22)-(24) and (26) in a neighbourhood of the steady-state equilibrium to obtain, in compact notation:

$$(27) \quad \begin{bmatrix} r-n & -1 & f_z - \tau & 0 \\ f_{kk} c - \nu & r-\rho & f_{kz} c & -\nu \\ f_{kz} & 0 & f_{zz} & 0 \\ f_{kk} b & 0 & f_{kz} b & r-n \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} dk \\ dc \\ dz \\ db \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} z \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} d\tau$$

where we have set $r=f_k$ and $\nu \equiv (\rho+\lambda)\mu$. There is one predetermined variable, k , and three jump variables: c , z , and b . The determinant of the system (27) is given by

$$\Delta = f_{kz} \Delta_1 + f_{zz} \Delta_2 < 0$$

where

$$\Delta_1 \equiv -(f_{kz} [\nu b + (r-n)c] + \alpha(r-n)(r-\rho)) < 0$$

$$\Delta_2 \equiv f_{kk} [\nu b + (r-n)c] + (r-n)[(r-n)(r-\rho) - \nu] \geq 0$$

and where the sign on Δ follows from assuming that the system is locally stable around its steady state equilibrium³. The main comparative statics

results of interest are:

$$(28) \quad \frac{dk}{d\tau} = \frac{1}{\Delta} \{ \Delta_1 + z f_{zz} (r-\rho)(r-n) \} > 0$$

$$(29) \quad \frac{dc}{d\tau} = -\frac{1}{\Delta} \{ [\nu b + (r-n)c] \{ z(f_{kk} f_{zz} - f_{kz}^2) + [(r-n)f_{kz} - \alpha f_{kk}] \} + \nu(r-n)(\alpha - z f_{zz}) \} > 0$$

$$(30) \quad \frac{dz}{d\tau} = \frac{1}{\Delta} \{ \Delta_2 - f_{kz} (r-\rho)(r-n) \} \geq 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad f_{kz} (r-\rho)(r-n) \leq \Delta_2$$

A increase in public spending financed by the environmental tax leads to an increased use of capital input in production and to higher consumption per head. There is therefore a *trade-in* between pollution abatement and individual consumption. On the other hand, the impact of the environmental tax τ on the use of the environmental resource as a production input, z , is in principle ambiguous. If f_{kz} is large, i.e. if an increase in k is able to raise substantially the marginal product of the environmental resource, then a higher τ could be associated to a higher steady state value of z : the relevant condition at the margin, equation (26), would still be met if both k and z increase as τ is raised. However, provided that $f_{kz} < \Delta_2 / [(r-\rho)(r-n)]$ the environmental tax unambiguously brings about a reduction in the input of z in production.

The impact on the steady state stock of environment can be inferred by totally differentiating equation (25): under balanced budget,

$$(31) \quad \frac{d\eta}{d\tau} = -\frac{1 - \psi\tau}{m + n} \frac{dz}{d\tau} + \psi z$$

which is positive for $\tau < 1/\psi$ and $dz/d\tau < 0$. Thus, for plausible values of the

underlying "technological" parameters ψ and f_{kz} , a tax on the use of pollutants in production would indeed lead to an improvement in the quality of the environment per head.

3. Fiscal transfers across generations and the optimal environmental tax

Optimal setting of taxes and government expenditures requires that the welfare of both current and future generations be adequately taken into account. Since consumers alive at a given time are heterogeneous, equity considerations require that their individual utilities are appropriately weighted in the social welfare function. Calvo and Obstfeld (1988) have shown that, in the Blanchard-Yaari overlapping generations framework in which agents differ in their date of birth, the requirement that fiscal policy be time consistent prescribes that each consumer's welfare be discounted back to her birth date, rather than to the present. In accordance to this rule, the different generations are treated in a perfectly symmetric fashion and the government would have no incentive to renege *ex post* on its previous transfer and spending commitments.

The appropriate objective functional for the social planner is given by⁴

$$(32) \quad \Omega(t) = \int_t^\infty \left\{ \int_0^\infty u[\bar{c}(v-h, v), \bar{\eta}(v)] e^{[(\delta-n)-(\rho+\lambda)]h} dh \right\} e^{-(\delta-n)v} dv$$

where δ is the social rate of pure time preference and where the index h denotes age. Time consistency of the fiscal policy programme requires that

the utility of each generation is discounted back to its birth date. The functional (32) must be maximised subject to the dynamic constraints on capital accumulation, the stock of debt, consumption, and to the first-order condition on environmental use:

$$(33) \quad \frac{dK}{dt} = F[K(t), Z(t), L(t)] - G(t) - C(t)$$

$$(34) \quad \frac{dB}{dt} = F_K[K(t), Z(t), L(t)]B(t) + G(t) - T(t)$$

$$(35) \quad \frac{dC}{dt} = (F_K + n - \rho) C(t) - (\rho + \lambda)\beta K(t) - (\rho + \lambda)\beta B(t)$$

$$(36) \quad F_Z[K(t), Z(t), L(t)] \geq \alpha + \tau(t)$$

In addition, the differential equation on the evolution of the environmental resource, equation (14), must be met. The social planner can be thought of as seeking to achieve an optimal allocation of resources across all agents alive at a given time, and then maximising over time for the given cross-sectional allocations⁵. The problem therefore consists of maximising the following objective functional

$$(37) \quad \max_t \Omega(t) = \int_t^\infty U^*[C(\mu), E(\mu)] e^{-(\delta-n)\mu} d\mu$$

where

$$(38) \quad U[C(\mu), E(\mu)] = U[C(\mu)] + V[E(\mu)]$$

The functions $U[C(\cdot)]$ and $V[E(\cdot)]$ are respectively defined as

$$(39) \quad U[C(\mu)] = \max_{\{\bar{c}(\mu-h, \mu)\}_{h=0}^{\infty}} \int_0^{\infty} u[\bar{c}(\mu-h, \mu), \bar{\eta}(\mu)] e^{[(\delta-n)-(\rho+\lambda)]h} dh$$

subject to

$$(40) \quad \beta e^{-\lambda\mu} \int_0^{\infty} \bar{c}(\mu-h, \mu) e^{\beta(\mu-h)} dh \leq C(\mu)$$

and

$$(41) \quad V[E(\mu)] = \int_0^{\infty} (1-\gamma) \ln \bar{\eta}(\mu) e^{[(\delta-n)-(\rho+\lambda)]h} dh$$

The first-order conditions for the optimal cross-sectional allocations yield

$$(42) \quad u_c[\bar{c}(t-h), \bar{\eta}(t)] e^{(\delta-n-\rho)h} = U'[C(t)]$$

that is, the age-weighted marginal utility of consumption must be equalised across all generations alive at a given time. For our choice of functional forms, equation (42) can be expressed as

$$(43) \quad \frac{\gamma}{\bar{c}(t-h, t)} e^{(\delta-n-\rho)h} = U'[C(t)]$$

When $\delta=\rho+n$, i.e. when the social intertemporal discount rate is equal to the growth-augmented private discount rate, consumption must be the same for all generations irrespective of their age. When $\delta=\rho$, by contrast, consumption must be a decreasing function of age: if the social planner discounts the future at exactly the same rate as private individuals, then time consistency requires that the younger generations be allocated a greater amount of consumption *pro capite* than the older ones.

The generalised Hamiltonian function for the dynamic programme⁶, which has an immediate interpretation as the net national product of the economy, can be written as

$$(44) \quad H = U[C(t)] + V[E(t)] \\ + \mu_K(t) \{F[K(t), Z(t), L(t)] - G(t) - C(t)\} \\ + \mu_B(t) \{F_K[K(t), Z(t), L(t)]B(t) + G(t) - \tau(t)Z(t)\} \\ + \mu_C(t) \{(F_K[K(t), Z(t), L(t)] + n - \rho)C(t) - (\rho + \lambda)BK(t) - (\rho + \lambda)\beta B(t)\} \\ + \mu_E(t) \{-mE(t) + m\bar{E}(t) - Z(t) + \psi[G(t)]\} \\ + \lambda_Z(t) \{F_Z[K(t), Z(t), L(t)] - \alpha - \tau(t)\}$$

where $\mu_K(t)$, $\mu_B(t)$, $\mu_C(t)$, and $\mu_E(t)$ are the dynamic co-state variables pertaining to $K(t)$, $B(t)$, $C(t)$, and $E(t)$ respectively, and where $\lambda_Z(t)$ is the Kuhn-Tucker multiplier associated to the constraint (36) on the use of the environmental resource in production. In our formulation of the planner's programme $G(t)$, $Z(t)$, and $\tau(t)$ are the control variables whereas $K(t)$, $B(t)$, $C(t)$, and $E(t)$ are the state variables.

The necessary Hamilton-Jacobi-Bellman conditions for an interior solution are:

$$(45) \quad \lambda_Z = -Z\mu_B$$

$$(46) \quad \psi'(G)\mu_E + \mu_B = \mu_K$$

$$(47) \quad F_Z\mu_K - F_{ZZ}\lambda_Z + F_{KZ}(B\mu_B + C\mu_C) - \tau\mu_B = \mu_E$$

The complementary slackness conditions pertaining to the inequality constraint (36) are:

$$(48) \quad \lambda_Z(F_Z[K, Z, L] - \alpha - \tau) = 0$$

$$(49) \quad \lambda_Z \geq 0, \quad F_Z[K, Z, L] - \alpha - \tau \geq 0$$

Equation (45) requires that the marginal social benefit of using the environment as a production input be equal to the marginal social benefit of a decrease in public debt. Since $\lambda_Z \geq 0$ from (49), it follows that $\mu_B \leq 0$: the use of a distortionary tax instruments implies that the marginal social benefit of issuing public debt must be non-positive. Equation (46) prescribes that, at the margin, the benefit from an increase in abatement spending, net of the effect on public debt, exactly balances the loss from the displacement of private investment. Equation (47) says that the marginal benefit on the environment from a reduced use of pollutant Z must be balanced by the effects of a higher Z on capital accumulation, on consumption and debt service (via a

higher interest rate), and on tax revenue.

The co-state equation associated to the stock of the environmental resource can be expressed as:

$$(50) \quad \dot{\mu}_E = (\delta - n + m)\mu_E - V'[E(t)]$$

If one integrates the differential equation (50) forward, one obtains the following expression for the dynamic multiplier pertaining to the environmental resource:

$$(51) \quad \mu_E(t) = \int_t^{\infty} e^{-(\delta + m - n)(s - t)} V'[E(s)] ds$$

Along the optimal path, the marginal social benefit of the environment must be equal to the present discounted value of marginal private utility. The growth-corrected discount rate must be augmented by the assimilation rate, m, which measures the capacity of the environment to endogenously absorb the stock of pollution.

In the above framework, the optimal Pigovian tax must equalise the marginal social benefit of the environment to the marginal private cost of pollution emissions. Thus, the government must set

$$(52) \quad \mu_E(t) = \alpha + \tau(t) = F_Z[K(t), Z(t), L(t)]$$

By making use of (51) and (52) one obtains the optimal environmental tax as

$$(53) \quad \tau(t) = \int_t^{\infty} e^{-(\delta+m-n)(s-t)} V'[E(s)] ds - \alpha$$

Finally, by rearranging equation (46), the optimal level of public spending on pollution abatement is

$$(54) \quad G(t) = \Phi \left[\frac{\mu_K(t) - \mu_B(t)}{\mu_E(t)} \right]$$

where $\Phi(\cdot) \equiv (\psi')^{-1}(\cdot)$, with $\Phi'(\cdot) < 0$ since $\psi'' < 0$. The optimal government expenditure on abatement is therefore an increasing function of the marginal social benefit of the environment net of public debt, and a decreasing function of the marginal social benefit of physical capital accumulation.

It is important to note that, if heterogeneity is assumed away - i.e. $\beta = \lambda = n = 0$ - then the problem of the social planner coincides with the maximisation of the individual objective function, equation (1), where the discount factor is given by δ instead of ρ . It thus appears that the exclusive focus on the choice of the discount rate as the key policy decision is only justified in the restrictive case of perfect homogeneity across economic agents, that is in the representative consumer paradigm.

4. Conclusions

The present paper examines the issue of intergenerational redistribution in a general equilibrium model with disconnected generations and environmental externalities, where pollution directly enters a constant returns to scale production function. Extending the utilitarian criterion proposed by Calvo and Obstfeld (1988), a social planner can achieve the optimal allocation of physical assets and environmental resources across generations. Social optimality requires, in particular, that the marginal social benefit of a positive public debt be equal to the marginal social benefit of the environmental resource, weighted by the total amount employed in the production process. Also, the optimal government spending on pollution abatement should be an increasing function of the ratio between the marginal social benefit of the environment and of physical capital accumulation.

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Notes

¹The original references are Yaari (1965), Blanchard (1985), Weil (1989), and Buiter (1988).

²Blanchard and Fischer (1989, chapter 3) describe this set-up as the "perpetual youth" model.

³Note that, if $f_{kz}=0$, stability requires that $\Delta_2 > 0$ since $f_{zz} < 0$.

⁴See Marini and Scaramozzino (1991) for a more extensive motivation and discussion of the planner's programme.

⁵The two-stage optimisation procedure in a similar framework is described in detail in Marini and Scaramozzino (1991).

⁶See for instance Takayama (1985), chapter 8, section C.

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