

THE REPRODUCTION SCHEMES AND THE TPRF: A SIMULATION APPROACH

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- ▶ **General aim:** to revisit Marx's theories of crisis in the light of recent developments in non-neoclassical macro.

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- ▶ **Specific research question: does the 'original' TRPF story hold?** What is the significance of the Okishio's theorem? [to be developed with G. Bracci]

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- ▶ **Method:** quantitative, comparative dynamics exercises. Reaction to changes (shocks) in key exogenous variables.

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- ▶ **Specific research question: does the 'original' TRPF story hold?** What is the significance of the Okishio's theorem? [to be developed with G. Bracci]
- ▶ **Method:** quantitative, comparative dynamics exercises. Reaction to changes (shocks) in key exogenous variables.
- ▶ **Foundations:** Marx's accounting and complexity approach shows clear resemblance to recent techniques in non-neoclassical macro (notably, SFC and AB).

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- ▶ Economy as a **circular flow** of payments and revenues pioneered by François Quesnay. *Tableau Économique* (1758): physiology of a stylised agricultural economy = blood flow in the human body.

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- ▶ Economy as a **circular flow** of payments and revenues pioneered by François Quesnay. Tableau Économique (1758): physiology of a stylised agricultural economy = blood flow in the human body.
- ▶ One century later, Marx recovers and develops Quesnay's insights in the RS, defining the preconditions allowing a capitalist economy to **reproduce** over time.

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- ▶ Marx defines equilibrium conditions in terms of **interdependences** between industries: flows of goods which must be supplied by each industry to meet exactly other industries' demand for inputs.

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- ▶ One century later, Marx recovers and develops Quesnay's insights in the RS, defining the preconditions allowing a capitalist economy to **reproduce** over time.
- ▶ Marx defines equilibrium conditions in terms of **interdependences** between industries: flows of goods which must be supplied by each industry to meet exactly other industries' demand for inputs.
- ▶ RS do not aim to prove that capitalist economies meet equilibrium conditions. On the contrary, **disequilibrium** or sub-optimal equilibria are the normal state.

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- ▶ While Marx never provided a complete mathematical model of enlarged reproduction, he left several notes and **numerical examples** (system of difference/differential equations).

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- ▶ While Marx never provided a complete mathematical model of enlarged reproduction, he left several notes and **numerical examples** (system of difference/differential equations).
- ▶ Well-established tradition of dynamic modelling carried out by Marxist economists since the 1970s, who have been inspired by the Marxian reproduction schemes: **Harris 1972, Bronfenbrenner 1973, Morishima 1973**, etc.

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- ▶ Not many recent contributions though...
- ▶ A few exceptions: **Olsen 2015, Cockshott 2016, MVP 2016**.

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The investment in **variable capital** is:

$$V_{ij} - V_{ij,-1} = \frac{S_{ij,-1} \cdot \theta_{ij}}{1 + q_{ij}} \quad (1)$$

where $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_j$ identifies the individual capitalist and $j = C, I$ identifies the sector.

The value of **constant capital** is:

$$C_{ij} = V_{ij} \cdot q_{ij} \quad (2)$$

where q_{ij} is the OCC.

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The mass of **surplus-value** created in the production is:

$$S_{ij} = \epsilon_{ij} \cdot n_{ij} \cdot V_{ij,-1} \quad (3)$$

where ϵ_{ij} is the **exploitation rate** and n_{ij} is the (intra-period) turnover rate.

The (non-contestable) **sectoral profit rate** is:

$$r_j = \frac{S_j}{C_j + V_j} \quad (4)$$

where $x_j = \sum x_{ij}$. The **rate of growth** (accumulation) is:

$$g_{ij} = \frac{\frac{\theta_{ij} \cdot S_{ij}}{1+q_{ij}}}{V_{ij}} = \epsilon_{ij} \cdot \theta_{ij} \cdot n_{ij} \cdot \frac{1}{1+q_{ij}} \quad (5)$$

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The **accumulation of constant capital** in c-sector is:

$$S_{iC} \cdot \theta_{iC} \cdot \frac{q_{iC}}{1 + q_{iC}} + C_{iC} = Y_{iI} - C_{iI} - S_{iI} \cdot \theta_{iI} \cdot \frac{q_{iI}}{1 + q_{iI}} \quad (6)$$

where Y_{iI} is the i-sector output value (assumption: realised value = value created *in potentia* in the production).

The **accumulation of variable capital** in c-sector is:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{iC} \cdot \theta_{iC} \cdot \frac{1}{1 + q_{iC}} + C_{iC} &= \\ = \left(Y_{iI} - C_{iI} - S_{iI} \cdot \theta_{iI} \cdot \frac{q_{iI}}{1 + q_{iI}} - C_{iC} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{q_{iC}} \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

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The **equilibrium rate of growth** (accumulation) of c-sector's capitalists is:

$$g_{iC} = \frac{S_{iC} \cdot \theta_{iC} \cdot \frac{q_{iC}}{1+q_{iC}}}{C_{iC}} = \frac{Y_{iI} - C_{iI} - S_{iI} \cdot \theta_{iI} \cdot \frac{q_{iI}}{1+q_{iI}}}{C_{iC}} - 1 \quad (8)$$

This condition assures **consistency** of c-sector capitalists' investment plans with i-sector capitalists' production & accumulation plans.

So it guarantees **gravitation** of the economy towards the (enlarged) reproduction equilibrium.

But such a state is extremely **unlikely** to be matched and maintained in practice. RS allow Marx to argue that real-world capitalist economies are always in disequilibrium (or sub-optimal equilibria).

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The economy-wide **balanced growth rate** is:

$$g = g_C = g_I = \epsilon_I \cdot \theta_I \cdot n_I \cdot \frac{1}{1 + q_I} = \theta_I \cdot r_I \quad (9)$$

Using $g_C = \epsilon_C \cdot \theta_C \cdot n_C / (1 + q_I)$, one obtains the (reproduction) **equilibrium condition**:

$$\frac{\theta_C}{\theta_I} = \frac{\epsilon_I}{\epsilon_C} \cdot \frac{n_I}{n_C} \cdot \frac{1 + q_C}{1 + q_I} \quad (10)$$

The sectoral retention rate ratio must be a direct function of sectoral OCCs, given turnover and exploitation rates.

Since these variables are **independent** of each other, nothing ensures that condition (10) is met.

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- ▶ In principle, balanced growth is **possible**, as the expansion of production in one sector enlarges the market for the other.

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- ▶ In principle, balanced growth is **possible**, as the expansion of production in one sector enlarges the market for the other.
- ▶ However, 'The rate of growth of production in the various branches of production is determined [also] by the **uneven development** of the conditions of production, rather than by the different rates of growth of the markets for their products'. (Clarke 1990)

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- ▶ This leads to a **disproportional development** of the two sectors, which is the form taken by the inner tendency of capitalism to over-accumulation and crisis.

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- ▶ This leads to a **disproportional development** of the two sectors, which is the form taken by the inner tendency of capitalism to over-accumulation and crisis.
- ▶ ER conditions are matched if sectors grow all at the same pace. This bears resemblance to the **Cambridge distributive equation** $r = g/\theta$, interpreted as a dynamic investment function in a 2-sector economy.

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While i-sector retention rate is an exogenous, the c-sector retention rate(s) must behave like a **buffer** to ensure the equilibrium:

$$\theta_{iC} = \frac{g_{iC} \cdot (1 + q_{iC})}{\epsilon_{iC} \cdot n_{iC}} \quad (11)$$

Historically, this 'stabilising' role can be identified with **State** ('Big Government' and 'Big Bank') and the **foreign sector** (imperialism).

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- ▶ RS provide a simple but insightful explanation of **instability** (contradictions) which can possibly mark unregulated capitalist economies.

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- ▶ RS provide a simple but insightful explanation of **instability** (contradictions) which can possibly mark unregulated capitalist economies.
- ▶ Marx's grim predictions fit well with the history of early-industrialised countries from the end of the Victorian Era to the 2WW.

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- ▶ RS also accounts for the stabilising function performed by the government since the 1930s.

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- ▶ RS also accounts for the stabilising function performed by the government since the 1930s.
- ▶ However, three aspects are not fully developed:

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 - 1) Role of banks and finance.

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 - 1) Role of banks and finance.
 - 2) Cross-sector investment, prices and uniform r .

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- ▶ However, three aspects are not fully developed:
 - 1) Role of banks and finance.
 - 2) Cross-sector investment, prices and uniform r .
 - 3) Granularity necessary to analyse interaction between and within classes. Laws of motion as emerging behaviour of complex system (e.g. TPRF).

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- ▶ Focus on point 3. **Main features** of the new model:

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 - A simple interacting agent-based approach is used. Workers' saving, capital depreciation and government are assumed away. Endogenous money and no interest rate & rent. (Marx's assumptions)

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 - Size: $100+100=200$ capitalists; 250 periods; 200 MC simulations/scenarios.

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 - Capital as driving force (revolutionary subject).

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 - Initial values and parameters 'calibrated' using Marx's own examples (and literature).

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- ▶ The model also deals partially with point 2 (see Appendix).

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- ▶ **Stochastic matching mechanism:** each c-capitalist selects a partner (i-capitalist) based on minimum price in $t - 1$.

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- ▶ c-capitalists then adjust their own production plans correspondingly.

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- ▶ **Stochastic matching mechanism:** each c-capitalist selects a partner (i-capitalist) based on minimum price in $t - 1$.
- ▶ c-capitalists then adjust their own production plans correspondingly.
- ▶ In each period prices are set in such a way to clear each individual market, but real production adjust to demand in the long run.

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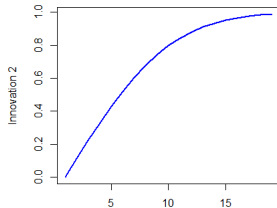
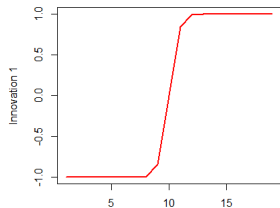
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Innovation spread is defined as the percentage of i-capitalists who get aware of and use the new technique of production:

$$\rho = \rho_0 + ERF\left(\frac{t - t_0}{\rho_1}\right) \quad (12)$$

where $\rho_0 = 0.05$, $\rho_1 > 0$, $ERF(\cdot)$ is the error function and t_0 is the shock period.

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Experiment 1's features & hypotheses:

- ▶ i-sector capitalists **reduce their profit retention rate**

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- ▶ i-sector capitalists **reduce their profit retention rate**
- ▶ c-sector must adjust to meet new demand for consumer goods

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- ▶ Same exploitation rates but different OCCs (taken from Marx's examples)
- ▶ Tendency for equalisation within sectors but not across sectors ($r_c \neq r_i$), i.e. non-contestability (Ch. 9 vs. Ch. 10 issue stressed by Fineschi; what is the mechanism anyway?)

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- ▶ As for the rest, *ceteris paribus*

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- ▶ As for the rest, *ceteris paribus*
- ▶ Just for calibration & check

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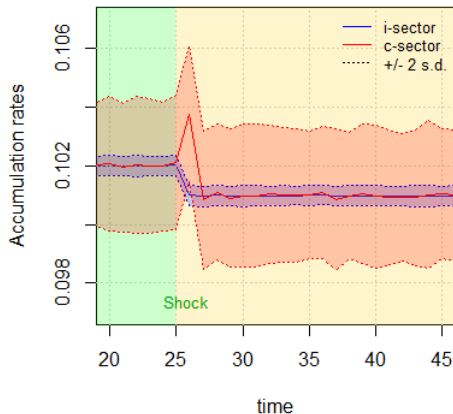
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Fig.1 - Shock to 'theta': impact on growth



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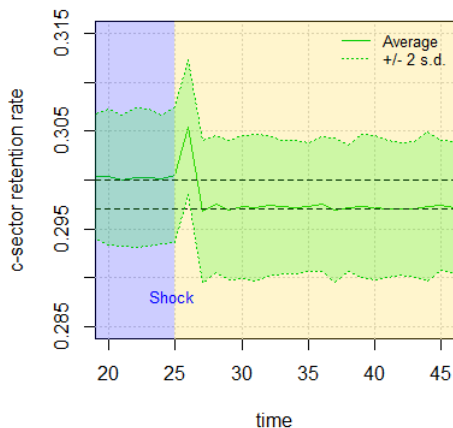
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Fig.2 - Shock to 'theta': c-sector adjustment



Experiment 2's features & hypotheses

- ▶ Same OCCs across sectors, except for innovators (same C , lower V)

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- ▶ Same OCCs across sectors, except for innovators (same C , lower V)
- ▶ **Innovation spreads** like an error function

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Experiment 2's features & hypotheses

- ▶ Same OCCs across sectors, except for innovators (same C , lower V)
- ▶ **Innovation spreads** like an error function
- ▶ Real individual supplies keep growing in line with competitors

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- ▶ So higher productivity of labour for innovators

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- ▶ Two scenarios for real wages and exploitation rates:

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- ▶ Real individual supplies keep growing in line with competitors
- ▶ So higher productivity of labour for innovators
- ▶ Two scenarios for real wages and exploitation rates:
 - A. **Higher RWs** for employees, unchanged RW for the class / unchanged exploitation

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 - A. **Higher RWs** for employees, unchanged RW for the class / unchanged exploitation
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- ▶ Note:

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- ▶ Note:
 - No counteracting factors / implications (OCC only!)

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- ▶ Note:
 - No counteracting factors / implications (OCC only!)
 - Neither supply side constraints nor lack of demand

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- ▶ Two scenarios for real wages and exploitation rates:
 - A. **Higher RWs** for employees, unchanged RW for the class / unchanged exploitation
 - B. **Unchanged RWs** for employees, lower RW for the class / higher exploitation
- ▶ Note:
 - No counteracting factors / implications (OCC only!)
 - Neither supply side constraints nor lack of demand
 - Prices adjust to clear the market in the S/R

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In formal terms, innovators' **constant capital** is:

$$C_{ij}^* = C_{ij} \quad (13)$$

Innovators' **variable capital** is:

$$V_{ij}^* = \frac{C_{ij}^*}{q_{ij}^*} \quad (14)$$

where $q_{ij}^* > q_{ij}$, and **surplus value** 'created' by innovators is:

$$S_{ij}^* = \epsilon_{ij} \cdot n_{ij} \cdot V_{ij}^* \quad (15)$$

Note: X_{ij} keeps growing at the same pace. Innovation entails a **higher labour productivity**: $a_{ij}^* > a_{ij}$, where $a_{ij} = X_{ij}^*/L_{ij}^*$ and $L_{ij} = (V_{ij} + S_{ij})/m_0$.

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A. What if a **class-based** definition of subsistence is used?
(constant wage share)

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Fig.3 - Innovators' profit: OCC shock phases

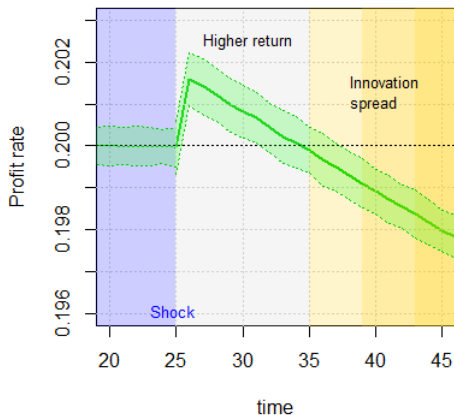
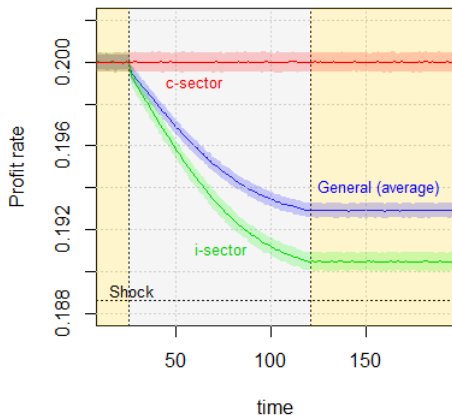


Fig.5 - Profit rates: shock to OCC



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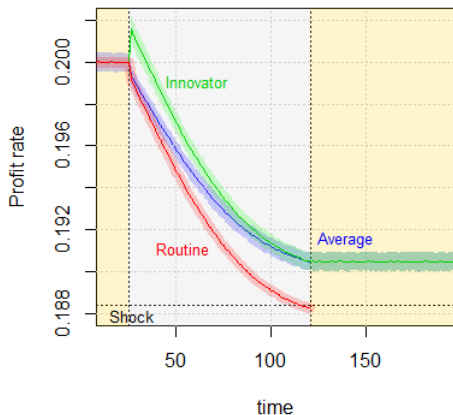
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Fig.6 - Profit rates in i-sector: shock to OCC



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Model's findings using **class-based** definition of subsistence:

- ▶ Individual incentive to innovate (mechanisation)

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Model's findings using **class-based** definition of subsistence:

- ▶ Individual incentive to innovate (mechanisation)
- ▶ Innovation assures a higher individual profit rate in the short run (due to lower wage costs)

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Model's findings using **class-based** definition of subsistence:

- ▶ Individual incentive to innovate (mechanisation)
- ▶ Innovation assures a higher individual profit rate in the short run (due to lower wage costs)
- ▶ The increase in innovators' profit is only temporary

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- ▶ Innovation assures a higher individual profit rate in the short run (due to lower wage costs)
- ▶ The increase in innovators' profit is only temporary
- ▶ As innovation spreads, innovators' profit rate declines

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- ▶ Innovation assures a higher individual profit rate in the short run (due to lower wage costs)
- ▶ The increase in innovators' profit is only temporary
- ▶ As innovation spreads, innovators' profit rate declines
- ▶ *Given the exploitation rate*, the general rate of profit declines, due to higher OCC

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- ▶ The increase in innovators' profit is only temporary
- ▶ As innovation spreads, innovators' profit rate declines
- ▶ *Given the exploitation rate*, the general rate of profit declines, due to higher OCC
- ▶ Employed workers enjoy a higher real wage (due to higher productivity and lower prices)

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- ▶ Innovation assures a higher individual profit rate in the short run (due to lower wage costs)
- ▶ The increase in innovators' profit is only temporary
- ▶ As innovation spreads, innovators' profit rate declines
- ▶ *Given the exploitation rate*, the general rate of profit declines, due to higher OCC
- ▶ Employed workers enjoy a higher real wage (due to higher productivity and lower prices)
- ▶ But no improvement for working class as a whole!

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B. What if **individual-based** definition of subsistence?
(capitalists can get up to 100% of productivity earnings, so
declining wage share)

Fig.11 - General profit rate: individual subsistence

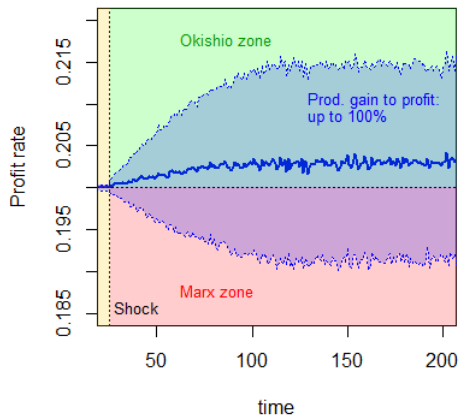
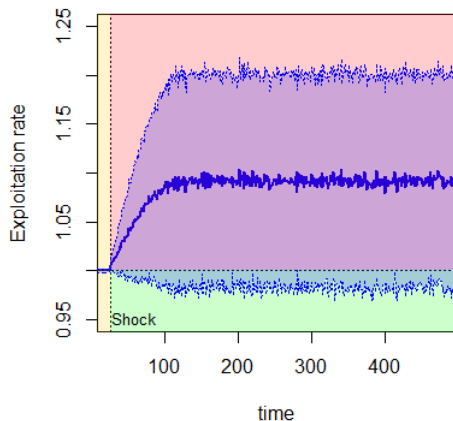


Fig.12 - Actual exploitation rate: individual subsistence



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Fig.13 - Actual OCC: individual subsistence

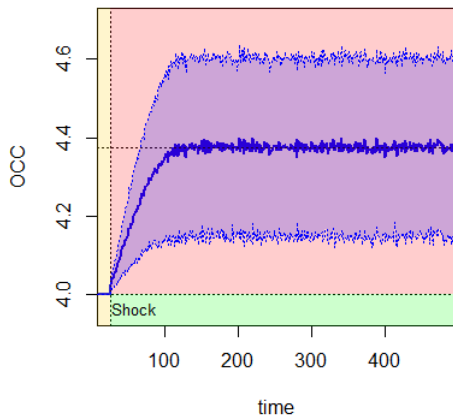
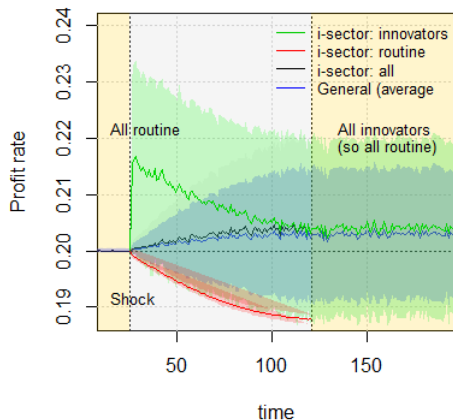


Fig.14 - Profit rates: shock to OCC (ind. subs.)



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Findings using **individual-based** definition of subsistence:

- ▶ The actual exploitation rate increases, thereby supporting profitability

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Findings using **individual-based** definition of subsistence:

- ▶ The actual exploitation rate increases, thereby supporting profitability
- ▶ Two sub-scenarios:

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Findings using **individual-based** definition of subsistence:

- ▶ The actual exploitation rate increases, thereby supporting profitability
- ▶ Two sub-scenarios:
 - If capitalists get a large share of productivity gains, tendency to increase (rather than fall)

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- ▶ Two sub-scenarios:
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 - If capitalists get a small share of productivity gains, the profit rate increases for innovators but not for the rest

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 - If capitalists get a small share of productivity gains, the profit rate increases for innovators but not for the rest
- ▶ Routine capitalists (and late-innovators) are likely to be affected anyway

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 - If capitalists get a small share of productivity gains, the profit rate increases for innovators but not for the rest
- ▶ Routine capitalists (and late-innovators) are likely to be affected anyway
- ▶ General r affected by market 'contestability' (c-sector)

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 - If capitalists get a small share of productivity gains, the profit rate increases for innovators but not for the rest
- ▶ Routine capitalists (and late-innovators) are likely to be affected anyway
- ▶ General r affected by market 'contestability' (c-sector)
- ▶ Employed workers enjoy the same real wage (no benefit from higher productivity)

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 - If capitalists get a small share of productivity gains, the profit rate increases for innovators but not for the rest
- ▶ Routine capitalists (and late-innovators) are likely to be affected anyway
- ▶ General r affected by market 'contestability' (c-sector)
- ▶ Employed workers enjoy the same real wage (no benefit from higher productivity)
- ▶ If close to subsistence threshold, **working-class' reproduction conditions are endangered!**

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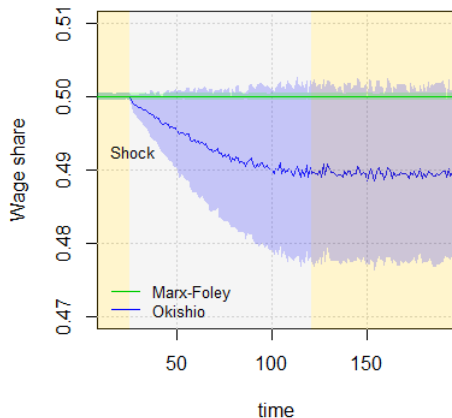
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Fig.15 - Wages to net income ratio



- ▶ Model's cons:

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- ▶ Model's cons:
 - Low interaction

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► Model's cons:

- Low interaction
- No financial assets (endogenous money, but implicit)

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► Model's cons:

- Low interaction
- No financial assets (endogenous money, but implicit)
- Prices & competition just sketched, normal utilisation

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- ▶ Model's cons:
 - Low interaction
 - No financial assets (endogenous money, but implicit)
 - Prices & competition just sketched, normal utilisation
- ▶ Model's pros:

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 - ▶ **non-contestability** as additional counteracting factor

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 - ▶ Foley-Marx and Okishio as poles of a **spectrum**...

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 - Two contributions:
 - ▶ **non-contestability** as additional counteracting factor
 - ▶ Foley-Marx and Okishio as poles of a **spectrum**...
- ▶ Marx's simple OCC story shows that there is no necessary contradiction between individual incentive to innovate, TPRF & inequality. On the contrary, TPRF as unintended consequence of **two-fold class struggle**.

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Thank You

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Download presentation's material from *marxianomics*:

www.marcopassarella.it/en/

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The individual real supply of i-goods gradually adjusts to nominal demand:

$$X_{il} = X_{il,-1} + \sigma_{li} \cdot (Y_{il} - P_l^0 \cdot X_{il}) \quad (16)$$

Similarly, the individual real supply of c-goods is:

$$X_{ic} = X_{ic,-1} + \sigma_{ci} \cdot (Y_{ic} - P_c^0 \cdot X_{ic}) \quad (17)$$

where $P_l^0 = P_c^0 = 1$. The individual price of i-goods must clear the market in the short run:

$$P_{il}^m \cdot X_{il} = C_{il} + C_{ic} + \theta_{il} \cdot S_{il} + \theta_{ic} \cdot S_{ic} \quad (18)$$

Similarly, the individual price of c-goods is derived by:

$$P_{ic}^m \cdot X_{ic} = V_{il} + V_{ic} + (1 - \theta_{ic}) \cdot S_{ic} + (1 - \theta_{il}) \cdot S_{il} \quad (19)$$

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Fig.7 - Market price of c-goods

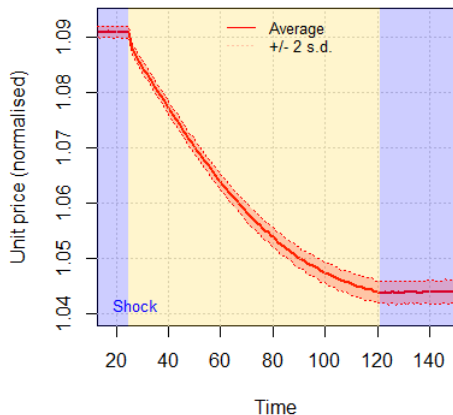


Fig.8 - Market price of i-goods

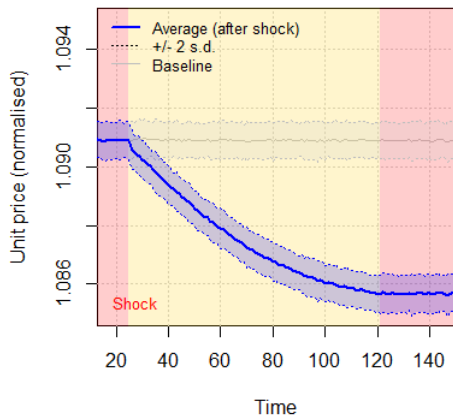


Fig.9 - Labour productivity in i-sector

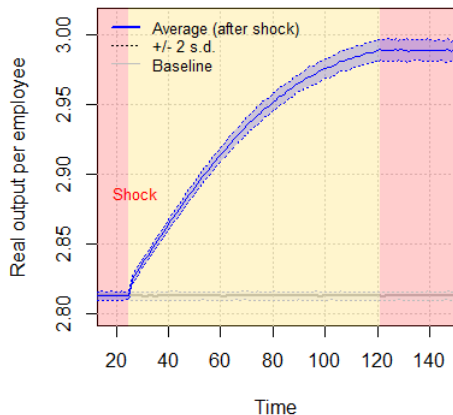
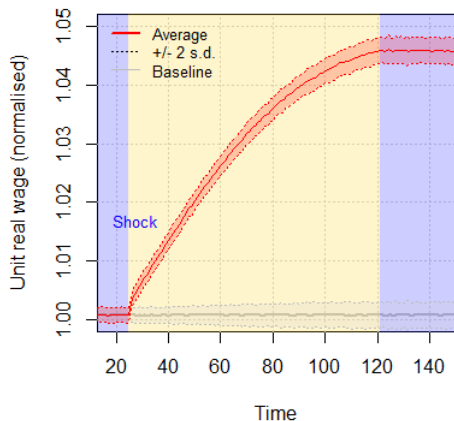


Fig.10 - Real wages received by employees



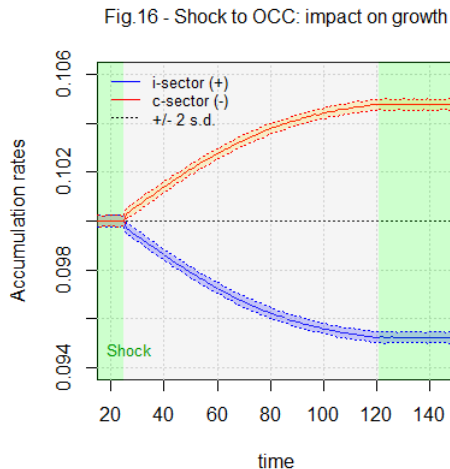


Fig.17 - Shock to OCC: c-sector adjustment

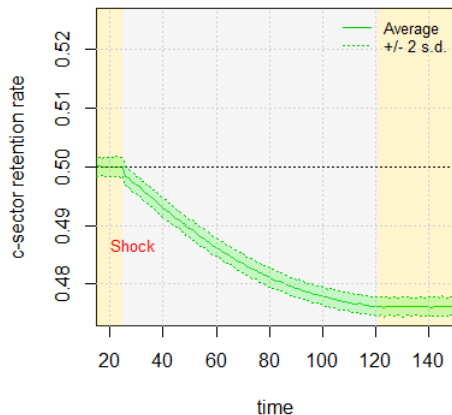


Fig.18 - Real supply of i-goods

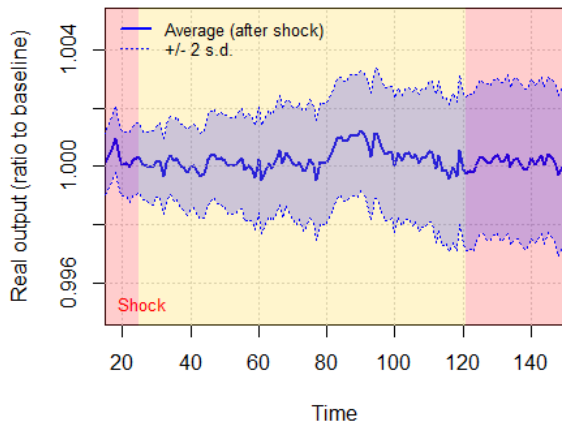
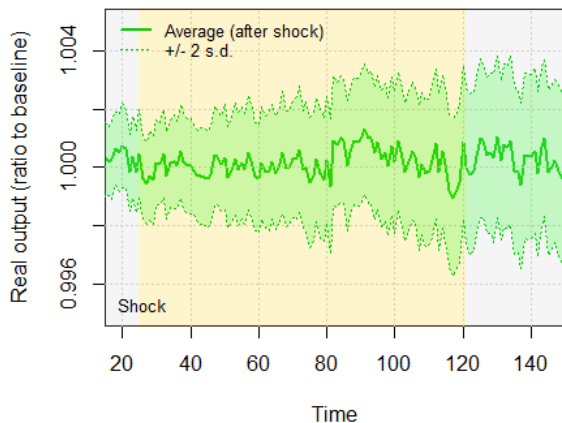


Fig.19 - Real supply of c-goods

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