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REGIONAL EQUALITY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA: IS THERE A TRADE-OFF?

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Abstract:
Despite high economic growth over the past 30 years, China’s substantial and persistent regional disparities have been the subject of continuing concern to policy makers, as well as the target of a wide variety of policies. An important issue in the policy debate about whether and how best to attack these disparities is whether measures designed to improve regional equality come at a cost to national development, i.e. whether there is a trade-off between the level of national output and the equality of its distribution across the regions. There is little analysis of this issue in the literature. We help fill this gap by setting up a two-region model designed to capture some of the salient features of the Chinese economy. We subject this model to a number of policy shocks and assess the effects on regional disparities in per capita output, on the one hand, and on aggregate output on the other to investigate the trade-off. We also consider income and welfare as alternatives to output. We find that disparities in per capita output, income and welfare often move in different directions so that it is important to specify which disparity is being targeted. Moreover, since both disparities and aggregate outcomes are endogenous, how they move together depends on the nature of the shock driving the model. Thus, some policies designed to reduce disparities face a trade-off and others do not. Only a reduction in internal migration restrictions unambiguously reduces all three disparity measures and increases aggregate output, income and welfare. All other policies considered face a trade-off in at least one dimension.

(265 words)

Key words: regional disparities, China, national output, trade-off, numerical modelling

JEL classifications: O18, O23, R11, R12, R13
1. Introduction

That aggregate growth in China has been high for several decades is well known. Even the recent “Global Financial Crisis” has had relatively little impact, with China being a central engine for world economic growth in the face of faltering economies around the globe. What is perhaps somewhat less well known is that the regional distribution of Chinese prosperity has been very uneven and is likely to continue to be so for the foreseeable future. This dark underside of the Chinese “economic miracle” has not gone unnoticed by Chinese policy makers at the highest level and central government policy to address this issue has been a continuing feature of macroeconomic policy.\(^1\)

Policy to reduce regional disparities are clearly desirable on the basis of equity and have also been supported on the basis of the danger of social unrest which might be caused by widening gaps between rich and poor regions. Yet, there has been a noticeable caution in the vigour with which such policies are pursued by policy makers who are reluctant to jeopardise the continuation of a high aggregate growth rate. Thus, there is, in some quarters at least, a perception that directing policy to improve regional equality may have a cost in terms of lower national performance; that is, there is the perception of a trade-off between national output and the equality of its distribution across the regions.

If there is such a trade-off, it is clearly an important constraint on the execution of policy. Yet there has been little analysis of this issue either at a theoretical or empirical level. This is not surprising since the resolution of the question is not likely to be simple; after all, in any reasonable macroeconomic model inter-regional per capita output disparities and aggregate output will both be endogenous so that whether they move

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\(^1\) See Groenewold et al. (2008), Chapter 2 and 3 for detailed information on Chinese regional disparities and regional policy since the founding of the People’s Republic of China.
together or not will, in general, depend on the nature of the shock driving the model. In policy terms, we would expect the existence of a trade-off to depend on the policy being used to pursue equality. If this is indeed the case, it is all the more important to investigate this issue since some policies may be constrained by a serious trade-off while others may not.

Of course, those familiar with the literature on economic development and on regional development in particular, will realise that the consideration of such a trade-off is not new. Indeed, it dates back at least to the work on the inverted-U curve between economic development and regional inequality; see particularly Williamson (1965) and earlier work by Kuznets (1955) and Myrdal (1957) and Hirschman (1958). The idea captured by the inverted-U curve is that in the early stages of development regional (and other) inequality rises but eventually falls as development (usually measured in terms of income or output per capita) proceeds. There is thus a relationship between inequality and development which has an inverted-U shape. A recent discussion by Golley (2007, Chapter 2) develops the relationship between these papers and explores possible underlying mechanisms.

While the original literature focused on the relationship between (per capita) output or income and disparities, many of the empirical applications came from growing economies. Moreover, policy applications were also often to growing economies so that in more recent literature the question is often cast in terms of the relationship between growth and inequality. A substantial theoretical and empirical literature has developed in this area but little consensus has been reached. Thus theoretical analysis in papers by

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2 But see Chang and Ram (2000) and Easterly (2007) for recent examples of analyses of the relationship between per capita income and inequality.

The literature on inequality and development in China is relatively sparse. Li and He (2006) recently predicted that China will continue to maintain rapid economic growth during the 11th Five-Year plan but that the income gap between regions will be further enlarged because of three factors: continuing structural adjustment, the deepening of administrative reforms and the enhancing of market forces. Kuijs and Wang (2005) argue that China can have a more balanced growth path with a sustainable reduction of income inequality if appropriate policies, such as reducing subsidies to industry and investment, encouraging the development of the services industry and reducing the barriers to labour mobility are implemented. Wan et al. (2006) explicitly tested the growth-inequality nexus in China, focusing on rural-urban income inequality and regional growth using a provincial-level panel data set. They found that an increase of inequality has negative effects on growth irrespective of time horizons. Finally, Qiao et al. (2008) find that fiscal decentralisation has resulted in more rapid economic growth accompanied by greater regional inequality.
To sum up, there is a substantial literature, both theoretical and empirical, in the broadly-defined area of inequality and development but no consensus on the direction of the relationship between them. Moreover, there is relatively little work which deals explicitly with China.

Our paper contributes to filling this gap. Our contribution to the literature is four-fold. First, we revert to the original question of the relationship between inequality and (per capita) output in contrast to much of the literature which has focused on the growth of output. Second, we extend the analysis from one of output to include income and welfare. We are thus able to look at inter-regional inequality and national development in terms of three alternative measures: output, income and welfare. Third, we focus on inter-regional disparities rather than household income or urban-rural inequality. This reflects, in part at least, an important policy focus in China. Fourth, we recognise the joint endogeneity of the two variables: the inter-regional gap and the national level of output (or income or welfare). This approach is in contrast to much of the empirical literature which tends to consider causation from inequality to growth or output and ignores the possibility of reverse causation. Our analysis follows arguments by Lundberg and Squire (2003) that a two-way relationship between these variables ought to be entertained.

Our approach is theoretical and we proceed by setting up a simple theoretical economic model which we subject to a variety of shocks designed to simulate policy actions. We then observe the effects on both inter-regional disparities and national variables to assess the trade-off question.
To keep the analysis tractable, we distinguish only two regions (based on the widely-used interior/coastal distinction in China), we allow inter-regional migration but with a cost to reflect the Chinese household registration or *hukou* system and we capture, in a rudimentary way, some of the features of the Chinese taxation and expenditure system. Naturally, we abstract from many other features of the economy.

Notwithstanding the simplicity of the model, it is non-linear and relatively intractable so that, before using it to address the trade-off question, we linearise it in terms of proportional changes and go on to solve it in numerical form, calibrating the linearised model using recent data for China. Our model can, therefore, be seen as a (very) small computable general-equilibrium (CGE) model, but one which, in contrast to commonly-used CGE models, is relatively transparent.

While the model is designed to capture some features of the Chinese economy and is calibrated with Chinese data, we argue that with some exceptions (such as a relaxation of the internal migration restrictions) many of the policies simulated are more widely applicable than just to China.

The structure of our model is most closely related to three recent theoretical papers on China which use numerical models, one by Hu (2002), one by Hertel and Zhai (2006) and a third by Whalley and Zhang (2007). While all these papers use small numerical models of (aspects of) the Chinese economy, none of them focuses on policy measures which might be used to reduce regional disparities and, moreover, none addresses the trade-off question.

The general nature of our findings can be briefly summarised as follows. First, different gaps (i.e. in per capita output, income or welfare) do not generally all move in
the same direction so that policy needs to be clear as to which gap is being targeted. Second, whether a narrowing of the gap between the interior and the coast comes at the expense of the national level of the relevant variable depends on the policy shock which drives the change. Third, whether there is a trade-off or not depends on the variable of interest. Fourth, most policies face a trade-off in at least one of the three dimensions examined.

2. The model

To keep the regional structure of the model as simple as possible, we assume that there are two regions conventionally called the coastal and interior (or inland) regions. This two-region scheme has been widely used in policy discussion until the mid-1980s and continues to be widely used in empirical work on China. The two-region disaggregation we use is illustrated in Figure 1.

[Figure 1 about here]

The coastal region is relatively wealthy compared to the interior. Moreover, agriculture which has been central to the Chinese economy is still a major source of income and employment in the inland provinces while its importance has been supplanted by manufacturing in the coast. We capture these stylised facts starkly by assuming a poor interior region (denoted by $I$) which produces agricultural goods (denoted by $A$) and a wealthy coastal region (denoted by $C$) which produces manufactured goods (denoted by $M$).

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Each region has households, firms and regional governments. There is also a central government. Households supply labour to firms which produce output. Households receive wage and profit income which they use to purchase some of each region’s output; in addition, they receive a government-provided consumption good which is private in the rival sense. Firms produce output using three factors – labour, a fixed factor (land or capital) and a government-provided public good (which we call infrastructure). No factors are inter-regionally mobile in the short run but labour can migrate between regions in the long run although there are migration restrictions. In principle, it would be straightforward to introduce capital mobility but this would make the interpretation of the results more complicated and distract from our focus on labour migration, governments and relative price changes as connections between regions. Besides, there is recent evidence (Li, 2009) that capital mobility between China’s provinces is much lower than is consistent with free capital mobility.

We distinguish between central and regional governments, with the latter including all sub-national government levels although we recognise that, in practice, the latter level includes several layers (provincial, prefecture, county and township). This distinction between two levels of government is an important part of our model since both regional and central governments can be expected to implement policies which have regional objectives and effects.

In our model, both levels of government provide households with a consumption good. From the households’ perspective the government-provided consumption good is homogeneous. In addition to the consumption good, the regional governments are assumed to provide infrastructure which is an input into the production process.
On the taxation side, we assume three taxes in the model in a way which broadly reflects the stylised facts of the Chinese taxation system: (i) a national value-added tax (VAT), the rate for which is set by the central government at the same level for both regions and the proceeds from which are shared between the central government and the regions with the same shares for each region;\(^4\) (ii) a business tax levied by the coastal government which is assumed to be levied on the value of manufacturing output; (iii) an agricultural tax which we assume to be levied on the value of agricultural output by the interior government.\(^5\)

We assume that households supply labour inelastically to firms in their own region (each household supplying one unit) and choose consumption to maximise utility. In the coastal region, manufacturing firms choose employment and output to maximise profits, taking the real wage as a parameter and, in the interior, agricultural firms employ all labour and pay a wage equal to the average product of labour. Governments are assumed to behave exogenously apart from the fact that they need to satisfy their budget constraint.

We consider the behaviour of households, firms and governments in turn.\(^6\)

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\(^4\) Although in the simulations we allow these shares to differ so that we can use them to model a fiscal transfer.

\(^5\) While our structure drastically simplifies the structure of Chinese taxes, we would argue that it captures the salient features; see Zhang and Martinez-Vazquez (2003), Jin, Qian and Weingast (2005), Shen, Jin and Zou (2006), Jin and Zou (2005), Tochkov (2007), Zhang and Zou (1998), Zhang and Zou (2001) and Zhang (2006) for recent information on aspects of the Chinese public finances. It should be also noted that the tax on agriculture was abolished in 2006. We nevertheless include it in our model since for much of the postwar period it has been an important source of revenue for the interior provincial governments. But it would be possible to replace it with an alternative that falls more heavily on the interior provinces and is an important source of revenue for them. Indeed and ironically, our analysis will be useful to assess the likely effectiveness of the abolition of this tax in reducing the gap between the inland and the coast.

\(^6\) A list of variables is given in Appendix 1.
2.1 Households

Households derive utility from the consumption of the two privately-produced goods as well as from a good supplied by governments. We assume a representative household in each region and that the utility function for this household is of the constant-elasticity-of-substitution (CES) form:

\[
V_i = \beta_i \left( \gamma_{Ai} C_{Ai}^\rho + \gamma_{Mi} C_{Mi}^\rho + \delta_i G_{Hi}^\rho \right)^{\frac{1}{\rho}}, \quad i = I, C
\]

where

- \( V_i \) = utility of the representative household, region \( i \),
- \( C_{Ai} \) = real private consumption of agricultural output per household, region \( i \),
- \( C_{Mi} \) = real private consumption of manufactured good per household, region \( i \),
- \( G_{Hi} \) = real government-provided consumption per household, region \( i \),
- \( \beta_i \) = the scale parameter, region \( i \),
- \( \gamma_{ji} \) = the share parameters, region \( i \), good \( j \),
- \( \delta_i \) = the share parameter for the government consumption good, region \( i \) and
- \( \rho \) = the substitution elasticity parameter (the elasticity of substitution is \( 1/(1+\rho) \)),

with:

- \( \beta_i > 0 \), \quad i = I, C,
- \( 0 < \gamma_{ji} < 1 \), \quad j = A, M, \quad i = I, C,
- \( 0 < \delta_i < 1 \), \quad i = I, C,
- \( \gamma_{Ai} + \gamma_{Mi} + \delta_i = 1 \) \quad i = I, C, and
- \( \rho > -1 \).

To formulate the household budget constraint we need to combine quantities of the two goods in a single measure. We do this using the price of a composite good which
we will later also use to define national output and income as well as the government
good which, in the case of the central government, will also include both regional goods.\(^7\)

The (national) composite good has a price index:

\[
P_C = (P_A \lambda (P_M)^{1-\lambda}
\]

where \(P_j\) is the price of good \(j\) \((j = A, M)\) and \(\lambda\) is the share of agricultural output in total
output.

We assume that households “pay” the VAT which the central government collects
at a given rate \(T_V\). Since there are no intermediate goods in the model, the VAT is
equivalent to a tax on the value of final consumption and, since households spend all their
income, it is also equivalent to an income tax. We can model income, therefore, as net of
the VAT and account for the tax when we define income below. Using the price index
for the composite good, the household budget constraint for region \(i\) can be written as:

\[
(P_A C_{Ai} + P_M C_{Mi})/P_C = J_i
\]

or, using the definition of \(P_C\) and letting \(P\) denote the price of agricultural goods in terms
of manufacturing goods, \(P = P_A/P_M\), as

\[
P^{1-\lambda} C_{Ai} + P^{\lambda} C_{Mi} = J_i, \quad i = I, C
\]

where \(J_i\) = household income (net of VAT) in terms of the composite good in region \(i\).

Utility maximisation subject to the household budget constraint gives the demand
functions:

\[
(2a) \quad C_{Ai} = \frac{J_i P^{\lambda-1}}{P^{-1} (P_M^{\gamma \lambda} + (\frac{\gamma_A}{\gamma_M})_{\gamma + 1}^{\gamma + 1})}, \quad i = I, C,
\]

\(^7\) An alternative is to use one of the two goods as *numeraire*. But given the regional specialisation of
production, the choice of *numeraire* will have important effects on the regional comparisons if relative
prices change.
Wages and profits are measured in terms of each firm’s own output so that, given our assumptions about valuation of $J_i$, we have the following relationship between income, the sources of income (wages and profits) and the VAT rate:

\[
(3a) \quad (1+T_v)J_I = P_1 - \lambda \left( \Pi_{HR} + W_I \right), \\
(3b) \quad (1+T_v)J_C = P_2 - \lambda \left( \Pi_{HC} + W_C \right),
\]

where $\Pi_{HR}$ = profit distribution per household, region $i$, and 
$W_i$ = real wage income per household, region $i$.

As indicated earlier, inter-regional migration is possible in the long run but subject to migration restrictions (based on the household registration system, or hukou) which we model as increasing the costs of migration. Moreover, we assume that migration occurs only from the poor to the rich region and so avoid the discontinuities which results from two-way costly migration; see Mansoorian and Myers (1993) for an analysis of a model with such discontinuities and Woodland and Yashida (2006) for an approach similar to ours but applied to immigration from poor to rich countries.

In the models with free migration it is customary to assume that migration occurs until utility is equalised across regions. But under the hukou system, people will

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8. See Cheng and Selden (1994) for a general description and history of the hukou system. There have been various analyses of the effects of the hukou system. Apart from the analysis by Whalley and Zhang (2007) which we mentioned in the introductory section, they include Hertel and Zhai (2006) who analyse the hukou restrictions in the context of urban-rural inequality, Liu (2005) who uses individual record data to investigate the effects at the individual level and Poncet (2006) who uses data on inter-regional migration to consider the effects of a change in hukou over time on such flows.

9. Other authors (such as Boadway and Flatters, 1982, Myers, 1990, Petchey, 1993, 1995, Petchey and Shapiro, 2000, Groenewold, Hagger and Madden, 2000, 2003, and Groenewold and Hagger, 2005, 2007) have avoided the discontinuity by assuming migration to be costless but this will not do in our case since we will model the hukou restrictions in terms of migration costs.
be worse off in the interior since they will have to incur costs to obtain hukou for the coastal region. We model the migration equilibrium condition as:

\[ V_C = \left[ \frac{N_C / A_C}{N_I / A_I} \right]^\mu V_I, \ \mu > 0 \]

where \( N_i/A_i \) is the population density of region \( i \) with \( N_i \) being population and \( A_i \) being area and \( \mu \) can be thought of as the hukou parameter – the larger is \( \mu \) the greater will be the difference in utilities across the two regions (since the coastal population density exceeds that in the interior so that the term in brackets exceeds one).\(^{10}\) The intuition is that the higher the population density the more resistant will the coastal region be to further migration from the interior provinces. We use population density rather than population itself since the latter will depend on the number of provinces in a region and not capture the idea that it is the perceived capacity of the coastal region to absorb more population that is one of the factors behind the resistance to migration from the interior provinces.

2.2 Firms

We assume that the number of firms in each region is fixed. The \( F_A \) firms in the interior region engage in agriculture and the \( F_M \) firms in the coastal region engage in manufacturing. In each region, firms hire labour from households in their own region and combine it with a fixed factor and the infrastructure provided by the regional government to produce output using constant-returns-to-scale Cobb-Douglas technology.

\(^{10}\) Note that later \( N_i \) will be used to denote the number of households in region \( i \). Since we will assume that household size is the same for both regions, we can assume, without loss of generality, that household size is 1 and therefore use \( N \) to denote both the number of households and population and use “per capita” and “per household” interchangeably.
In the interior the fixed factor is called land and we assume that each firm (or farm in this case) is allocated the same amount of land of identical quality. Workers are assumed to choose a farm on which to work so as to achieve the highest wage. Firms, in turn, pay all workers the average product so that in equilibrium the average product of labour is equalised across all agricultural firms which requires that they are all of the same size. We can therefore analyse a representative agricultural firm which has the following production function:

\[ Y_{A} = B_{A} (LAND)^{(1-\alpha_{AL}-\alpha_{AG})} \left( \frac{L_{A}}{F_{A}} \right)^{\alpha_{AL}} (GRF_{A})^{\alpha_{AG}}, \quad 0 < \alpha_{AL}, \alpha_{AG}, (1-\alpha_{AL}-\alpha_{AG}) < 1 \]

where \( B_{A} \) is total factor productivity (TFP), \( L_{A} \) is the total labour in agriculture (also the total population in the inland region), \( F_{A} \) represents the number of agricultural firms and \( GRF_{A} \) represents regional government expenditure on infrastructure which benefits firms. Since we assume land to be an immobile factor in fixed supply, we can simplify and write:

\[ D_{A} = B_{A} (LAND)^{(1-\alpha_{AL}-\alpha_{AG})} \]

so that the production function becomes:

\[ Y_{A} = D_{A} (GRF_{A})^{\alpha_{AG}} \left( \frac{L_{A}}{F_{A}} \right)^{\alpha_{AL}}, \quad 0 < \alpha_{AL}, \alpha_{AG}, (1-\alpha_{AL}-\alpha_{AG}) < 1 \]

Hence shocks to \( D_{A} \) can be interpreted as changes in available agricultural land or changes in TFP. This will prove to be a useful interpretation when we shock this variable in the course of our simulation exercises since in the Chinese context an increase in TFP may be easier to imagine than an increase in the quantity of agricultural land.

We proceed along the same lines for firms in the coastal region which engage in manufacturing. In this region the fixed factor is capital which is not inter-regionally mobile and, again, it is assumed to be distributed in equal amounts amongst the fixed number of manufacturing firms. Since all firms maximise profits, they will be of the
same size and we can analyse the typical firm which has a production function of the form:

\[ Y_M = B_M (CAPITAL)^{(1-\alpha_{ML}-\alpha_{MG})} (L_M / F_M)^{\alpha_{ML}} (GRF_M)^{\alpha_{MG}}, \quad 0 < \alpha_{ML}, \alpha_{MG}, (1-\alpha_{ML}-\alpha_{MG}) < 1 \]

We can simplify as before by writing:

\[ D_M = B_M (CAPITAL)^{(1-\alpha_{ML}-\alpha_{MG})} \]

so that the production function for manufacturing becomes:

\[ Y_M = D_M (GRF_M)^{\alpha_{MG}} (L_M / F_M)^{\alpha_{ML}}, \quad 0 < \alpha_{ML}, \alpha_{MG}, (1-\alpha_{ML}-\alpha_{MG}) < 1 \]

Again, \( D_M \) can be interpreted as TFP as well as capital in manufacturing. We can write the production functions for both regions as:

(5) \[ Y_j = D_j (GRF_j)^{\alpha_{jG}} (L_j / F_j)^{\alpha_{jL}}, \quad 0 < \alpha_{jL}, \alpha_{jG}, (1-\alpha_{jL}-\alpha_{jG}) < 1, \quad j = A, M \]

Consider now firms’ behaviour. Profits (in terms of the firm’s own output) are defined as:

(6) \[ IIIF_j = (1-T_j)Y_j - W_j(L_j/F_j), \quad j = A, M \]

where \( T_A \) is the tax on agricultural output levied by the government of the interior region and \( T_M \) is the tax levied by the coastal region’s government on manufacturing output.\(^{11}\)

We assume many firms in each industry so that each firm takes the wage, the tax rate and the quantity of infrastructure as given. Hence the only choice variable in each case is the level of employment (which will also determine output via the production function).

Following a long tradition in the economic development literature (Lewis, 1954, Mellor

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\(^{11}\) Note that given our simplifying assumptions, the VAT imposed in the coastal region is equivalent to the manufacturing tax (they are both effectively levied on the value of output) and the VAT imposed in the interior is equivalent to the tax on agriculture except that the implications via the budget constraints differ – the VAT has implications for both regions via the central government’s budget constraint while the manufacturing tax has implications only for the coastal region and the agricultural tax only for the interior.
and Stevens, 1956, Gutman, 1957, Robinson, 1971, and Rey, 1998), we make different behavioural assumptions for the two sectors – manufacturing firms in the coastal region are assumed to choose employment to maximise profits but in the inland region all workers are assumed to find employment in agriculture with the farm output being shared equally among all workers. In agriculture, therefore, the wage is equal to the average product and profits are zero.

The profit-maximising condition for manufacturing firms will result in the usual marginal productivity condition:

\[(7a) \quad (1-T_M)\alpha ML D_M (GRF_M)^{\alpha MC} (L_M / F_M)^{\alpha ML-1} = W_M\]

In agriculture the assumption that labour is paid its average product results in the following condition:

\[(7b) \quad (1-T_A)D_A (GRF_A)^{\alpha AC} (L_A / F_A)^{\alpha AL-1} = W_A\]

On the labour supply side, each household in each region is assumed to provide one unit of labour inelastically to the firms in its own region so that labour force, labour supply, employment and the number of households are all equal.

2.3 Governments

There are three sources of government revenue. The central government levies a VAT at a uniform rate across the country and shares the revenue with the regional governments. In addition, each regional government has its own tax: the coastal government raises revenue through a business tax on manufacturing industry and the inland government levies an agricultural tax on the value of farm output. Each government (central, coastal and interior) receives tax revenue in the form of output and
costlessly transforms this output into a homogeneous government good. The central government provides this to households as a consumption good in both regions, in per capita amounts which are the same for all households within the region but may differ across regions. Each regional government provides some output to households as a consumption good (in equal per capita amounts) within its own region as well as providing some to firms as infrastructure.

There are no assets in the model so that neither households, nor firms nor governments can lend or borrow. Governments therefore must balance their budgets. Consider the central government first. It raises VAT of $N_I T_I J_I$ in region I and $N_C T_C J_C$ in region C. Of this, a proportion $(1-\theta)$ is transferred to the regional governments and the remainder is transformed costlessly into the government consumption good. In particular, we assume that one unit of the composite good can be transformed into a unit of the government good. The central government receives VAT revenue which is levied on incomes which are measured in terms of the composite good. Its budget constraint therefore has the simple form so that each unit of revenue is transformed into a unit of the government good:

\[ N_I G_C I + N_C G_C C = \theta T_V (N_I J_I + N_C J_C). \]

where $G_C i (i=I, C)$ is government good per household provided to residents of region $i$, $T_V$ is the VAT rate and $\theta$ is the central government’s share of the VAT proceeds.

The regional governments receive some revenue from the VAT which is measured in terms of the composite good but also some from local firms which is measured in terms of the firm’s own output and is therefore re-valued in terms of the
composite good before being transformed into the government good. The regional
governments’ budget constraints have the form:

\[
\begin{align*}
(9a) \quad N_I GRH_I + GRF_A &= F_A T_A P^{1-\lambda} Y_A + (1-\theta) T_V N_I J_I \\
(9b) \quad N_C GRH_C + GRF_M &= F_M T_M P^{1-\lambda} Y_M + (1-\theta) T_V N_C J_C
\end{align*}
\]

2.4 Aggregate variables and closure

It remains to introduce a number of important aggregate variables, definitions and
market-clearing conditions to complete the specification of the model.

First, the aggregate counterparts to the regional disparity variables are defined. We
begin with aggregate output.\textsuperscript{12} Recall that output is measured per firm so that to compute national output we first compute regional output for each region, convert each region’s output to the composite good before adding them:

\[
(10) \quad Y = F_A P^{1-\lambda} Y_A + F_M P^{1-\lambda} Y_M
\]

For income, we simply add total income (per capita income multiplied by population) of each region since they are already measured in terms of the composite good:

\[
(11) \quad J = N_I J_I + N_C J_C
\]

The appropriate procedure for welfare is less straightforward because of the problem of comparing utilities. We overcome this at the regional level by assuming identical households but households may differ across regions so that the same procedure is not obviously correct. We decide to treat all individuals equally and simply measure national

\textsuperscript{12} Note that in much of the development literature, national development is measured using per capita output or income. In our model, national population will be assumed to be constant so that per capita output will always change equi-proportionately with aggregate output and similarly for income and welfare so that aggregate and per capita variables may be used interchangeably to measure national development.
welfare as the population-weighted average of the utilities of the two types of identical households:

\[(12) \quad V = (N_I/N)V_I + (N_C/N)V_C.\]

Next, we introduce a number of definitions. First, the relationship between \(GH_i\) and its components is given by:

\[(13) \quad GH_i = GRH_i + GC_i, \quad i = I, C\]

Second, as a matter of definition, wages in manufacturing are the same as the wage received per household in the coastal region and the agricultural wage is the same as the wage received by the representative interior household:

\[(14a) \quad W_I = W_A\]
\[(14b) \quad W_C = W_M\]

Market-clearing conditions are imposed on goods and labour markets. Goods-markets clearing in each region implies:

\[(15a) \quad FA_YA = N_I C_{AI} + N_C C_{AC} + T_A F_A Y_A + T_I N_I P^{I-1} J_I,\]
\[(15b) \quad FM_YM = N_I C_{MI} + N_C C_{MC} + T_M F_M Y_M + T_V N_C P^V J_C\]

where we use the fact that in each case income is measured in terms of the composite good while consumption and output are measured in terms of output of agricultural and manufacturing goods. The labour market in each region clears so that employment in agriculture is equal to the number of households in the interior region (each household supplying one unit of labour) and the employment level in manufacturing is equal to the number of coastal households:

\[(16a) \quad L_A = N_I\]
\[(16b) \quad L_M = N_C\]
Firms are assumed to distribute all their profits to households in their own region in equal per capita amounts:

(17a) \( F_A \Pi_F = N_I \Pi_H \)

(17b) \( F_M \Pi_F = N_C \Pi_H \)

The trade between regions must balance:

(18) \( N_C PC_{AC} = N_I PC_{MI} \)

Finally, there is a given national population, \( N \), which we assume to be exogenous

(19) \( N_I + N_C = N \)

To summarise, the model consists of the 33 equations, (1) to (19) in 44 variables:

\[ V_i, C_{ji}, GH_i, P, J_i, IIH_i, W_i, F_j, D_j, Y_j, L_j, N_i, IIF_j, T_V, T_j, W_j, GRH_i, GRF_j, GC_i, \theta, N, \mu, Y, J, \]

and \( V \),

of which 13 are exogenous:

\[ F_j, D_j, T_j, \text{one of } (GRH_i, GRF_A), \text{one of } (GRH_C, GRF_M), \text{one of } (GC_I, GC_C), \theta, T_V, N, \text{and } \mu, \]

so that there are 31 endogenous variables:

\[ V_i, C_{ji}, GH_i, P, J_i, IIH_i, W_i, Y_j, L_j, N_i, IIF_j, W_j, Y, J, V, \text{one of } (GRH_i, GRF_A), \text{one of } (GRH_C, GRF_M) \text{ and one of } (GC_I, GC_C).^{13} \]

Two equations, however, are redundant since (3), (6), (14), (16), (17), (18) and the household budget constraint can be used to derive (15) so that the balance between number of equations and number of endogenous variables is restored.

\[ ^{13} \text{Note that which of } (GRH_i, GRF_A), \text{ for example, is chosen to be exogenous may affect the simulation results. In some cases the choice will be clear, such as when we wish to compute the effect of a change in } GRH_i \text{ which case it must be the exogenous one. When we have a choice, we choose } GRF_A, GRF_M \text{ and } GC_C \text{ to be the exogenous variable in the three pairs in the list above. We will comment on the effects of these choices in our discussion of the results. Note also that, strictly-speaking we should include the two } A_j \text{ as variables and declare them exogenous. But since they are areas of the two regions and there seems no possible exercise which would require shocks to them, we treat them as parameters.} \]
2.5 Short-run and long-run versions of the model

In the simulations to be reported below we distinguish between short-run and long-run versions of the model. Since the model is static rather than dynamic, the distinction is not based on the notion of equilibrium but corresponds, as in many CGE models, to differences in closure assumptions. In particular, we define the short run as the length of time before inter-regional migration begins to respond to the changes in $V_I$ and $V_C$. The distinction is based on the idea that migration is slow to respond fully to changes in economic incentives. Thus, for example, Pissarides and McMaster (1990) estimate that it takes as long as 20 years for reasonably complete adjustment of migration to labour-market shocks. In terms of the model, this simply involves suspending equations (4) and (19) and making $N_I$ and $N_C$ exogenous in the simulation. The long run is used to refer to the simulation results using the model as set out above.

2.6 Linearising the model

The model as it stands is too complicated to solve analytically so that we linearise it in terms of proportional changes for which we use a process of log differentiation. This converts the model from one which is non-linear in the levels to one which is linear in the proportional rates of change of the variables. The resulting linearised versions of equations (1)-(19) are given in Appendix 2.

2.7 The numerical version of the linearised model

Having linearised the model in terms of proportional changes, we can solve the model for any one of the (changes in the) endogenous variables in terms of (the changes
in) the exogenous variables. However, given the number of endogenous variables, this is unlikely to lead to any interpretable results and we proceed to solve the model numerically using data for China’s regions to calibrate the key parameters of the model, detailed discussion of which we relegate to Appendix 3.

3. The Simulations

Given the number of exogenous variables in the model, there are many possible policies which might affect the regional distribution of output. We simulate four such policy actions, which the interior government and central government might undertake to reduce regional disparities and assess the effects on the disparities themselves and examine whether there is a trade-off between the reduction of disparities and national development. We examine three alternative disparity measures (output, income and welfare) and their corresponding aggregate levels to assess the nature of the trade-off.

We consider two policies carried out by the regional government. They are:

(i) A regional government fiscal policy. The model structure provides various possible balanced-budget fiscal policy combinations. We choose an increase in interior government-provided consumption aimed at increasing both welfare and expenditure and hence output via the usual multiplier effects in the region. We assume that the interior government’s budget is balanced by changing the provision of infrastructure. Alternatives involve the use of changes in taxation to balance the regional government’s budget constraint and we comment briefly on these as appropriate.
Measures which increase productive capacity in the agriculture sector, such as releasing more land for agriculture or improving agricultural technology. It might be argued that there is little additional land available for release to agriculture in China. However, the shock here may also be thought of as the implementation of policy which halts or slows down the alienation of farm land for non-agricultural purposes.

Policies which the central government might undertake to reduce disparities are:

(iii) A cut in hukou cost which makes migration from the interior to the coast cheaper. We note that originally the hukou system was instituted and administered by the central government but that since reforms began in the late 1970s it has increasingly been the wealthier coastal provinces which have maintained the force of the hukou restrictions, presumably to keep out low-wage workers from the poor inland provinces. Coastal provinces are, therefore, hardly likely to undertake reform or allow relaxation of the migration restrictions to benefit the poorer inland provinces and it must be assumed that only the central government is likely to apply pressure to reduce restrictions which make it costly for labour to move from the interior provinces to the more prosperous coastal region.

(iv) A fiscal redistribution in the form of an increase in expenditure on the consumption good in the interior region by the central government balanced by a reduction in that in the coastal region to balance the government’s budget. An alternative version of this policy is to change the VAT-sharing arrangements in favour of the interior. Given the simple model structure, this turns out to have the
same qualitative effects as the expenditure change and we do not consider it separately.

4. Results

4.1 Base case

A summary of the base case simulation results are included in Table 1. Detailed results for all variables are reported in Appendix 4. We discuss the four policies in turn.

[Table 1 about here]

Policy 1: An interior government fiscal policy

Table 1 shows that policy 1 has the desired effect of reducing the income and welfare gaps but that it increases the output per capita disparity in both the short and long runs. Moreover, while there is a reduction in the income and welfare gaps, this is obtained at the expense of a reduction in national welfare, income and output. Thus, in both short and long runs, there is a trade-off when the measure of interest is income or welfare while if policy targets output per capita, there is a deterioration in both the gap and the national level.

The mechanism underlying these results is that the increase in government-provided consumption expenditure in the interior region requires a decrease in expenditure on government-provided infrastructure if the government is to maintain its budgetary balance. The decrease in infrastructure reduces both output and per capita output in the interior, the direct result of which is an increase in the output per capita gap and a decrease in national output. The effect in the interior spills over into the coastal region via relative price changes and inter-regional trade. The fall in interior output
increases agricultural prices relative to manufacturing prices. This results in an increase in income in the interior region and a decrease in income in the coastal region (both of which are valued in terms of composite good). These income changes reinforce the direct effects of the policy of reducing the welfare gap between the interior and coastal regions. For the country as a whole, the increases in income and welfare in the interior region are not large enough to offset the corresponding decreases in the coastal region, so that the reduction of the income and welfare gaps comes at the expense of lower income and welfare nationally.

In the long run, the improvement in welfare in the interior relative to that in the coast induces migration from the coast to the interior. This causes a fall in the output in the coastal region and a further fall in output for the nation as a whole and partly reverses the original increase in the relative price of agricultural goods and so partly reverses the original effects on the welfare and income gaps. Indeed, welfare and income in the interior both fall by a small amount in the long run.\textsuperscript{14} However, these long-run changes are not large enough to reverse the direction of policy effects on the gaps: the income and welfare gaps still decrease in the long run (although not by as much as in the short run) and the gap in output per capita still increases while at the national level income, welfare and output all fall in the long run.

\textsuperscript{14} Note that output in the interior falls further in the long run even though there is migration from the coast to the interior. The full results for this case reported in the Appendix show that this is largely a government budget effect: as noted in the text, in modelling the present policy shock, we assume that infrastructure expenditure is the endogenous variable in the regional government’s budget constraint. An influx of population requires the interior government to increase consumption expenditure to maintain this at the new higher level, requiring a further fall in the level of infrastructure expenditure which reduces interior output by more than enough to offset the beneficial effects of the increase in labour input.
There is therefore a trade-off in the income and welfare dimensions in both the short and long runs and no trade-off in terms of output (in the sense that the policy worsens both the per capita output gap and national output).

As mentioned in the previous section, alternative forms of regional government fiscal policy are possible. An expansion of infrastructure spending balanced by a reduction in the amount of the consumption good provided will, not surprisingly, have the opposite effect of the policy just described – it will boost national levels of output, income and welfare and reduce the per capita output gap but all this comes at the cost of widening income and welfare gaps. Alternatively, increases in expenditure can be balanced by a rise in the agricultural tax. These alternatives will have effects not dissimilar to those just described with the dominant effect working through the change in infrastructure spending.

In summary, regional government fiscal policy generally faces a trade-off in the income and welfare dimensions but not in the output dimension.

Policy 2: An increase in agricultural productive capacity

Table 1 indicates that policy 2 is clearly effective in reducing the regional per capita output gap and that it is also beneficial for national output growth both in the short run and long run since the boost to agricultural productive capacity greatly increases agricultural output in the interior region while leaving manufacturing output unchanged in the short run and reducing it slightly in the long run. Thus, on the output front, there is no trade-off between tackling inter-regional disparities and maintaining the level of aggregate activity.
The increase in agricultural output, however, adversely affects its relative price which means that income in the interior region actually decreases while that in the coastal region increases, which worsens the income gap between the two regions. But the income fall in the interior region is smaller than the increase in the coast so that national income increases. Similarly, welfare in the interior falls while that in the coast increases so the welfare gap increases but national welfare also increases since the fall in the interior is more than offset by the change in the opposite direction in the coast. Thus, as with regional government fiscal policy, there is a trade-off when the government targets welfare or income.

In the long run, the utility difference induces migration from the interior region to the coast, which increases income in the interior (resulting both from the increase in wages and profits in the interior region and from the relative price change which is now in favour of the agricultural good) and welfare in the interior but not by enough to reverse the short-run adverse effects on the welfare and income gaps although national income and welfare continue to improve. Thus in the long run welfare, income and output all increase in both regions but output per capita falls in the coastal region due to a modest movement of population to the coast which increases output but, with decreasing marginal product of labour, reduces output per capita. Despite the generally beneficial effects on both regions, the inter-regional welfare and income gaps both widen (while difference between output per capita in the two regions narrows). As with regional fiscal policy, there is a trade-off between equality and national development in the income and welfare dimensions but not as far as output is concerned.
Policy 3: A relaxation of the hukou restrictions

Table 1 shows that policy 3 has no effects in the short run which is not surprising since the internal migration channel through which it operates is closed in the short run. However, in the long run the hukou relaxation induces substantial migration from the interior to the coastal region, which reduces the output in the interior while increasing both the coastal output and national output. Given declining marginal productivity of labour, the fall in output in the interior is less than the fall in labour inputs so that per capita output increases in the interior region. For the same reason, per capita output in the coastal region is falls. Therefore, policy 3 unambiguously narrows the regional per capita output gap. It also increases national output since the coastal expansion more than offsets the interior contraction. There is therefore no trade-off in the output dimension.

Policy 3 is also helpful in reducing the regional income and welfare gaps in the long run. The mechanism is that the outflow of labour from the interior region improves wages and profits in the interior region and the reduction in output in the interior region has a relative price effect in favour of the agricultural good, both of which serve to increase income in the interior. The increase in income in the interior has positive effects on welfare in this region, which also benefits from the outflow of labour since this results in an increase of the government-provided consumption good (both because of the rise in the per capita tax base and an increase in the tax revenue from the VAT). On the contrary, the inflow of migration into the coastal region is harmful for the utility and income of the representative household in this region. However, since the decrease in income and utility in the coastal region is smaller than the increase in the interior region, national income
and welfare both increase so that the government avoids a trade-off in the income and welfare dimensions.

Thus, policy 3 is the first of the three policies considered so far for which there is not trade-off for any of the three variables considered: income, welfare and output. However, while appearing beneficial in all dimensions, the coastal region becomes worse-off (per capita output, welfare and income all fall), making it likely that the coastal government(s) will strongly oppose relaxation of migration restrictions.

**Policy 4: A fiscal redistribution by the central government**

As stated in the previous section, the structure of the model allows us to define at least two fiscal redistribution policies, one an expansion of expenditure in the interior matched by a reduction in the coast and the other a change in the VAT-sharing arrangements in favour of the interior. Both have qualitatively similar effects and we focus on the first – a rise in the provision of the government consumption good to the interior with the central government’s budget being balanced by a fall in the provision of the good to the coastal residents.

Table 1 shows that policy 4 has short-run effects only on welfare. Its effects on the welfare in the interior is positive while its effect on the welfare in the coastal region is negative which simply reflects the redistribution from the coast to the interior. Although the coastal utility loss is smaller than the interior’s utility gain, national welfare falls because of the greater coastal population.

Over time, people move from the coast to the interior in response to the welfare gap. The inflow of labour into the interior increases the output in this region and
decreases that in the coastal region also decreasing national output. As in previous cases, per capita output moves in the opposite direction so that the regional per capita output gap increases. Relative prices move against agriculture which has a negative effect on income in the interior region and also on national income. The inflow of migration into the interior region also reduces the short-run welfare benefits to that region and so mitigates the short-run policy effects of reducing the regional welfare gap.

Therefore, policy 4 has some benefits in reducing the regional welfare gap but it enlarges the regional income and per capita output gaps and reduces national income, welfare and output. The central government therefore faces a trade-off in the welfare dimension in both the short and long runs but no trade-off in the output and income dimensions.

**4.2 Sensitivity to calibration of the substitution elasticity**

In CGE modelling in general the elasticity of substitution is an important parameter and, moreover, it is difficult to calibrate (see, e.g., Mansur and Whalley, 1984). In our analysis we use a CES utility function so that the elasticity of substitution in consumption between the agricultural and manufacturing goods is potentially an important parameter in the model since it is likely to influence relative price changes which have featured centrally in our explanation of the effects of policy shocks, particularly the effects on income. As pointed out in Appendix 3, in calibrating the model we use an average value of others’ econometric estimates of the substitution elasticity. To assess the sensitivity of the results reported above to this choice, we re-ran
the simulations with the low and high values for the substitution elasticity. Our base-case results use a value of 0.44 and Appendix 5 reports results for values of 0.2 and 0.68.

As expected, the value of substitution elasticity does have some effects on the results, particularly on the income effects which, in turn, affect utility and, in the long run, output though the channel of migration. The results reported in Appendix 5 show that the smaller the value of the substitution elasticity, the larger the effect of policy shocks on income. The mechanism is that the smaller the substitution elasticity, the more difficult is substitution between agricultural goods and manufacturing goods and so the larger the relative price change, which affects income in both regions. However, the direction of change in disparities (income, welfare and per capita output) and of the change in national variables (output, income and welfare) are not affected by the different elasticities experimented with so our main conclusions regarding the existence of trade-off are not undermined.

5. Conclusions

The focus of this paper is the tension between reducing inter-regional disparities and maintaining the level of aggregate activity – is there a cost in terms of national development foregone when policies to reduce inter-regional gaps are implemented? Our starting point was that both regional- and national-level variables are likely to be endogenous in any satisfactory regionally-disaggregated macro model so that whether an inter-regional gap and the corresponding national variable move together or in opposite directions will, in general, depend on the shock imposed on the model.
To explore this issue, we built a small two-region model capturing some of the characteristics of the Chinese economy and subjected it to a number of shocks of which we described four in detail. The effects of these shocks on inter-regional gaps in per capita output, income and welfare as well as on the corresponding national levels of these variables were analysed using simulations of a numerical version of the model.

Given that the signs of the effects of policy shocks are of most relevance for the question at hand, we summarise these signs in Table 2. We consider three gaps: in per capita output, income and welfare as well as the aggregate counterparts to these variables. Two broad conclusions may be drawn from the information in the table.

[Table 2 about here]

First, different gaps generally move in different directions so that policy-makers need to be clear as to which gap is being targeted. For the two policies initiated by the regional government the welfare and income gaps move together but in the opposite direction to the gap in per capita output. For the central government redistribution policy it is the gaps in per capita output and income which move together in the opposite direction to welfare. Finally, only in the policy which reduces inter-regional migration costs, do all three gaps move in the same direction.

Second, whether a narrowing of the gap between the interior and the coast comes at the expense of the national level of the relevant variable depends also on the shock. In particular, regional government fiscal and productivity policies face a trade-off in both welfare and income dimensions, central government redistribution policy faces a trade-off in the welfare dimension only and while the hukou policy alone faces no trade-off at all.
In summary, whether a trade-off exists generally depends on both the variable of interest and on the nature of the policy shock. Fiscal redistribution policies always face a trade-off in at least one dimension and often in two. Only a reduction of the costs of internal migration reduces the inter-regional disparities for all three variables considered – income, welfare and per capita output – and does so while increasing the national level of these variables, thus producing both inert-regional and national benefits. But even this policy comes at a cost – the coastal region loses in terms of welfare, income, and output per capita and can, on the basis of these results, be expected to continue to oppose a relaxation of the restrictions on internal migration in China.
References


Table 1: Summary of Base Case Simulation Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Policy 1</th>
<th>Policy 2</th>
<th>Policy 3</th>
<th>Policy 4</th>
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<td>LR</td>
<td>SR</td>
<td>LR</td>
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<td>-0.0908</td>
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</table>

Notes: since $y_j$ and $l_j$ are log differences of output and population respectively, $y_j-l_j$ is the log difference of output per capita. Policy 1 has $gh_i = 1$ and $grf_j$ endogenous; policy 2 has $d_j = 1$ and $grh_i$ endogenous, policy 3 has $\mu_i = 1$ and $grh_i$ endogenous, policy 4 has $gc_I = 1$ and $gc_C$ endogenous.

Table 2: Summary of results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
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<th>Policy 2</th>
<th>Policy 3</th>
<th>Policy 4</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>LR</td>
<td>SR</td>
<td>LR</td>
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<td>0 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aggregate output</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>+ +</td>
<td>0 +</td>
<td>0 -</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Note: Policy 1 has $gh_i = 1$ and $grf_j$ endogenous; policy 2 has $d_j = 1$ and $grh_i$ endogenous, policy 3 has $\mu_i = 1$ and $grh_i$ endogenous, policy 4 has $gc_I = 1$ and $gc_C$ endogenous.
Figure 1 The two regions of mainland China
Appendix 1: Definition of variables

- \( V_i \) = utility of the representative household, region i,
- \( V \) = national welfare,
- \( C_{Ai} \) = real private consumption of agricultural output per household, region i,
- \( C_{Mi} \) = real private consumption of manufactured good per household, region i,
- \( GH_i \) = real government-provided consumption per household, region i,
- \( P \) = price of agricultural good in terms of manufactured good
- \( J_i \) = real household income (net of VAT), region i,
- \( J \) = national income,
- \( \Pi H_i \) = real profit distribution per household, region i
- \( W_i \) = real wage income per household, region i
- \( F_j \) = the number of firms, sector j
- \( D_j \) = productivity parameter, sector j
- \( Y_j \) = real output, sector j
- \( Y \) = national output,
- \( L_j \) = employment, sector j
- \( N_i \) = population, region i
- \( \Pi F_j \) = firm profit, sector j
- \( T_v \) = value added tax rate
- \( T_j \) = output tax rate, sector j
- \( W_j \) = real wage income, sector j
- \( GRH_i \) = real regional government-provided consumption good per household, region i
- \( GRF_i \) = real regional government-provided public good, region i
- \( GC_i \) = real central government-provided consumption good per household in region i
- \( \theta \) = share of valued tax to the central government
- \( N \) = national population
- \( \mu \) = hukou parameter

Appendix 2: Linearised version of the model

The model of section 2 is linearised in terms of proportional differences by taking logarithms and differentials of each equation. The linearised form of equations (1) to (19) (excluding equations (15) which are redundant) of the model are as follows, with the linearised form having the same number as the original equation but being distinguished by a prime.

The linearised utility function is:

\[
(1') \quad v_i = \sigma_{caiv} C_{Ai} + \sigma_{cmiv} C_{Mi} + \sigma_{ghiv} GH_i \quad i=I, C
\]

where lower-case letters represent the proportional changes (log differential) of their upper-case counterparts and

\[
\sigma_{caiv} = \frac{\gamma_{Ai} C_{Ai}^{-\rho}}{\gamma_{Ai} C_{Ai}^{-\rho} + \gamma_{Mi} C_{Mi}^{-\rho} + \delta GH_i^{-\rho}},
\]

\[
\sigma_{cmiv} = \frac{\gamma_{Mi} C_{Mi}^{-\rho}}{\gamma_{Ai} C_{Ai}^{-\rho} + \gamma_{Mi} C_{Mi}^{-\rho} + \delta GH_i^{-\rho}},
\]

\[
\sigma_{ghiv} = \frac{\delta GH_i^{-\rho}}{\gamma_{Ai} C_{Ai}^{-\rho} + \gamma_{Mi} C_{Mi}^{-\rho} + \delta GH_i^{-\rho}}.
\]
The linearised consumption demand functions are:

\[ (2a') \quad C_{ai} = j_i + \lambda p - \sigma_{cai}p - \sigma_{elas}p \quad i = I, C \]

where \( \sigma_{cai} = \frac{\rho}{1 + \rho} \), \( \sigma_{elas} = \frac{1}{\rho + 1} \), and

\[ (2b') \quad C_{mi} = j_i + \lambda p - \sigma_{cai}p \quad i = I, C. \]

The linearised definitions of real household income are:

\[ (3a') \quad \sigma_{v} t_v + j_i = (1 - \lambda)p + \sigma_{xhij} \pi h_i + \sigma_{wjC} w_i \]

where \( \sigma_{xhij} = \frac{\Pi H_i}{\Pi H_i + W_i} \), \( \sigma_{wjI} = \frac{W_i}{\Pi H_i + W_i} \), \( \sigma_v = \frac{T_v}{1 + T_v} \), and

\[ (3b') \quad \sigma_{v} t_v + j_c = -\lambda p + \sigma_{xhjc} \pi h_c + \sigma_{wjc} w_c \]

where \( \sigma_{xhjc} = \frac{\Pi H_c}{\Pi H_c + W_c} \), \( \sigma_{wjc} = \frac{W_c}{\Pi H_c + W_c} \).

The linearised migration equilibrium condition corresponding to equation (4) is:

\[ (4') \quad \log(\frac{M_{v}}{M_I}) + \log(\frac{C_{v}}{C_I}) = \mu \theta \]

where \( \mu^* = \frac{d\mu}{\mu} \) and we have used the obvious assumption that area is constant.

The linearised production functions are:

\[ (5') \quad y_j = d_j + \alpha_{jG} g_{rfj} + \alpha_{jL} (l_j - f_j) \quad j = A, M. \]

The linearised profit definitions are given by:

\[ (6') \quad \pi f_j = \sigma_{yj} Y_j - \sigma_{yj} \sigma_{xj} j_j - \sigma_{wj} (w_j + l_j - f_j) \quad j = A, M \]

where \( \sigma_{yj} = \frac{(1 - T_j) Y_j}{\Pi F_j} \), \( \sigma_{yj} = \frac{T_j}{1 - T_j} \), \( \sigma_{wj} = \frac{W_j (L_j / F_j)}{\Pi F_j} \).

The manufacturing sector’s profit-maximisation condition in linear form is:

\[ (7a') \quad \sigma_{mL} t_M - d_M - \alpha_{MG} g_{rfM} + (1 - \alpha_{ML})(l_M - f_M) = 0 \]

and that for agriculture is given by:

\[ (7b') \quad \sigma_{aL} t_A - d_A - \alpha_{AG} g_{rfA} + (1 - \alpha_{AL})(l_A - f_A) = 0. \]

The central government’s budget constraint is linearised as:

\[ (8') \quad \sigma_{gLC} (n_i + gc_i) + \sigma_{gCgc} (n_c + gc_c) = \theta^* t_v + \sigma_{jy} n_i + j_i + \sigma_{jy} n_c + j_c \]

where \( \sigma_{gLC} = \frac{N_I G_{CI}}{N_I G_{CI} + N_C G_{CI}} \), \( \sigma_{gCgc} = \frac{N_C G_{CI}}{N_I G_{CI} + N_C G_{CI}} \), \( \sigma_{jy} = \frac{N_I J_I}{N_I J_I + N_C J_C} \),

\( \sigma_{jy} = \frac{N_C J_C}{N_I J_I + N_C J_C} \), \( \theta^* = \frac{d\theta}{\theta} \).

The regional government’s budget constraint in linear form is given by:

\[ (9a') \quad \sigma_{gRhr} (n_i + ghr_i) + \sigma_{gRgr} g_{rfA} + \sigma_{gRgh} (f_A + t_A + p - \lambda p + y_A) + \sigma_{gRg} (-\sigma_{g} \theta^* + t_v + n_i + j_i) \]
where $\sigma_{grh} = \frac{N_iGRH_i}{N_iGRH_i + GRF_A}$, $\sigma_{grf} = \frac{GRF_A}{N_iGRH_i + GRF_A}$, $\sigma_\theta = \frac{\theta}{1 - \theta}$.

$$\sigma_{skr} = \frac{F_A T_A N \cdot \lambda}{N_iGRH_i + GRF_A}, \quad \sigma_{nrk} = \frac{1 - \theta T_v N_i J_i}{N_iGRH_i + GRF_A}, \quad \text{and}$$

$$(9b') \quad \sigma_{grhCgr} (n_c + grh_c) + \sigma_{grfMgr} grf_M^r = \sigma_{Mgr} (f_m + t_m - \lambda p + y_M) + \sigma_{nCgr} (-\sigma_\theta + t_v + n_c + j_c)$$

where $\sigma_{grhCgr} = \frac{N_cGRH_c + GRF_M}{N_cGRH_c + GRF_M}$, $\sigma_{grfMgr} = \frac{GRF_M}{N_cGRH_c + GRF_M}$.

$$(10') \quad y = \sigma_{yA} (f_A + y_A) + \sigma_{ym} (f_M + y_M)$$

The definition of national output is linearised as:

where $\sigma_{yA} = \frac{Y_A}{Y_A + Y_M}$, $\sigma_{ym} = \frac{Y_M}{Y_A + Y_M}$ and we assume that $\lambda = \sigma_{yA}$.

The definition of national income is linearised as:

$$(11') \quad j = \sigma_{nI} (j_i + n_i) + \sigma_{nC} (j_c + n_c)$$

where $\sigma_{nI} = \frac{N_i J_i}{N_i J_i + N_c J_c}$, $\sigma_{nC} = \frac{N_c J_c}{N_i J_i + N_c J_c}$.

The definition of national welfare is linearised as:

$$(12') \quad v = \sigma_{nV} (v_i + n_i - n) + \sigma_{nCV} (v_c + n_c - n)$$

where $\sigma_{nV} = \frac{N_i V_i}{N_i V_i + N_c V_c}$, $\sigma_{nCV} = \frac{N_c V_c}{N_i V_i + N_c V_c}$.

The definition of $GH_i$ is linearised as:

$$(13') \quad gh_i = \sigma_{grh} grh_i + \sigma_{gc} gc_i \quad i = I, C$$

where $\sigma_{grh} = \frac{GRH_i}{GH_i}$, $\sigma_{gc} = \frac{GC_i}{GH_i}$.

The equalities between interior and agricultural wage and between coastal and manufacturing wage imply:

$$(14a') \quad w_I = w_A,$$

$$(14b') \quad w_C = w_M.$$

Equations (15), the goods markets clearing conditions, are dropped from the model due to the redundancy result explained in section 2.

The employment market clearing conditions imply:

$$(16a') \quad l_I = n_I,$$

$$(16b') \quad l_M = n_C.$$

The profit distribution conditions can be linearised to give:

$$(17a') \quad f_A + \pi f_A = n_I + \pi h_i,$$

$$(17b') \quad f_M + \pi f_M = n_C + \pi h_c.$$

The balance of trade condition in linear form is:
(18') \( n_c + p + c_{AC} = n_i + c_{ML} \).

The national employment constraint results in the following linearised condition:

(19') \( \sigma_{nl} n_i + \sigma_{nc} n_c = n \)

where \( \sigma_{nl} = N_i / N, \sigma_{nc} = N_c / N \).

**Appendix 3: Calibrating the linearised model**

The linearised model contains a number of parameters which have to be evaluated before the model can be put to work to simulate the effects of various shocks. These parameters fall into two groups. The first are parameters which appear in model relationships; \( \gamma_{ji}, \delta_i \) and \( \rho \) appear in the utility function (1) and \( \alpha_{jG} \) and \( \alpha_{jL} \) appear in the production function (5). The remainder, on the other hand, are linearisation parameters which are all shares of some sort.

The model parameters were evaluated as follows. For the parameters of the utility function we broadly followed the method set out in Mansur and Whalley (1984) in which the substitution elasticity \( \sigma = 1/(1+\rho) \) is derived from the equation:

\[
\sigma = \frac{\eta_i - \gamma_i^\rho}{1 - \gamma_i^\rho}
\]

where \( \eta_i \) is the (uncompensated) own-price elasticity, values for which were derived as averages from Table 4 in Mansur and Whalley, and \( \gamma_i^\rho \) can be derived from ratios of consumption expenditure and our assumption that \( \gamma_{Ai} + \gamma_{Mi} + \delta_i = 1 \).

The manufacturing sector production parameters, \( \alpha_{MG} \) and \( \alpha_M \), were calibrated as follows. Using the firm’s first-order condition for profit-maximisation, equation (7a), and the assumption that the firm can choose the government expenditure to maximize profit, we can write:

\[
\alpha_{MG} = \frac{GRF_M}{Y_M (1-T_M)}, \quad \text{and}
\]

\[
\alpha_M = \frac{GRF_M}{Y_M (1-T_M)}
\]

and use data for the wage bill, government infrastructure expenditure and manufacturing output net of tax to compute the parameters.

Since we assume that firms in the interior region (the agricultural sector) pay all workers the average product rather than their marginal product, we can not use the profit-maximisation condition to derive production parameters for agricultural sector. Instead, we rely on previous work which has estimated agricultural production functions of the Cobb-Douglas type from which we obtain parameter values. In particular, we use a value of 0.25 for the labour parameter \( (\alpha_{AL}) \) and 0.35 for the land parameter \( (1- \alpha_{AL} - \alpha_{GL}) \), based on values reported in Fan (1991) and use the constant-returns-to-scale assumption to derive a value of 0.4 for the government expenditure parameter \( (\alpha_{GL}) \).

The linearisation parameters can be evaluated directly from their definitions, given values for \( P, \theta, \mu, IIH_i, W_i, T_j, Y_j, IIF_j, L_j, N_i, GC_i, J_i, GRH_i, GRF_i, GH_i, F_j \) and \( N_j \). We normalise \( P \) at unity and also set the immigration parameter, \( \mu \), at unity (although we ran experiments with different values for \( \mu \)); \( \theta \) is set at 0.75 to reflect the current division of VAT revenue between the central and regional governments. We then use
these assumed values and the data for $C_i$, $GRH_i$, $GRF_j$, $GC_i$, $N_i$, $W_i$ together with the model definitions to calculate the value of all other variables. The use of the model definitions ensures that the parameter values used in the simulations are consistent with the model constraints.

We therefore need data for two regions, the interior and the coast, for the variables $C_i$, $GRH_i$, $GRF_j$, $GC_i$, $N_i$, $W_i$. The data we use are based on those for the Chinese provinces which we have allocated to the two regions as follows. The coastal region consists of Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Guangdong, Hainan, Shandong, Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Liaoning and Guangxi with the remaining provinces being allocated to the interior region. The interior therefore consist of: Shanxi, Inner Mongolia, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Anhui, Jiangxi, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Sichuan, Chongqing, Guizhou, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Tibet, Xinjiang. A map of the two regions is provided in Figure 1.

For each region we use data averaged over the seven-year period 2000-2006 to avoid cyclical influences on the share parameters. All the data come from *China Statistics Year Book* (SSB, various issues) except for data on area used to compute population density for the migration equilibrium condition, equation (4'), which come from *China Civil Affairs Statistical Yearbook 2005* (SSB, 2005).
### Appendix 4: Base Case Results

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<th>Policy 1: $grhi=1$</th>
<th>Policy 2: $d_A = 1$</th>
<th>Policy 3: $\mu = -1$</th>
<th>Policy 4: $gc_1 = 1$</th>
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Appendix 5: Sensitivity Results (sigma=0.20)

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### Appendix 5: Sensitivity Results (sigma=0.68)

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