## Discussion of "Environmental subsidies to mitigate transition risk"

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ECB workshop on "Fiscal policy and climate change" Frankfurt am Main, September 20, 2022 Usual disclaimers apply: the views expressed here are those of the author and should not be attributed to Banca d'Italia or the Eurosystem.

# Goal and results

Goal and results	Comments	To conclude
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Goal of the paper		

• Evaluate macroeconomic, welfare, and climate effects of subsidies to abatement goods sector.

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- Evaluate macroeconomic, welfare, and climate effects of subsidies to abatement goods sector.
- Environmental DSGE for the world economy with an endogenous market structure for green products.

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- Evaluate macroeconomic, welfare, and climate effects of subsidies to abatement goods sector.
- Environmental DSGE for the world economy with an endogenous market structure for green products.
- Bayesian estimation.
- Solved under perfect foresight with extended path.

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- Optimal (welfare maximizing) distribution of subsidy consistent with temperature increase < 2°C:</li>
  - 60% to startups;
  - 40% to existing companies.
- The subsidy will save nearly US \$2.9 trillion in world GDP each year by 2060.

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#### In a nutshell

• Environmental DSGE + Bilbiee, Ghironi and Melitz (2012).

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#### In a nutshell

- Environmental DSGE + Bilbiee, Ghironi and Melitz (2012).
- Subsidies to firms' entry into the abatement goods market favor green transition.

#### Carbon tax and subsidies to green energy sources



Bartocci et al. (2022) "Green" fiscal policy measures and non-standard monetary policy in the euro area, Bank of Italy Working Papers, n. 1377.

## Comments

Comments

## Uncertainty of policy outcomes and optimal policy



Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014).

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• High uncertainty surrounds parameters and scenarios ("risk" in the title of the paper).

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- Is optimal policy robust?
- Consumption equivalent variation?

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#### Investment in the model

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- The number of firms that produce in each period can be interpreted as the capital stock of the economy.
- The decision of households to finance entry of new firms is a decision to accumulate capital, that is, to invest.
- If so, in the model, should investment appear in the relevant definition of GDP (no double-counting)?

### No investment in physical capital

• Long-term (growth) scenarios.



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- Long-term (growth) scenarios.
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#### No investment in physical capital

- Long-term (growth) scenarios.
- Physical capital can be a shock-amplifier and can affect productivity dynamics.
- Public and private investments seem to be relevant for green transition.

Table 1: Additional Cumulative Investment Needs for the Decade 2021 to 2030					
Source	Sectors	Period considered	Public investment need (percent GDP)	Total investment need (percent GDP)	Climate target
OECD (2017)	All	2016-2030	1.9	6.3	2.0 °C
McCollum et al. (2018)	Energy	2016-2050	2.1	7.1	1.5 °C
Range of mode	els		0.4 to 4.4	1.3 to 14.6	
IEA (2021b)	Energy+	2021-2030	2.7	9.9	NZE by 2050
EIB (2021)-EU only	All	2021-2030	2. 1	4.7	55% reduction by 2030

Source: OECD (2017), McCollum et al. (2018), IEA (2021b), EIB (2021) and IMF staff calculations.

Note: The investment need is the difference between the investment required for the climate change scenario less investment in the baseline. The share of public investments in total investments is based on the historical average split. The estimate of average GDP for the denominator is taken from the G-Cubed baseline scenario (IMF (2020a)). Percent of GDP for IEA (2021b) are calculated with each year's GDP separately. For the other sources average estimated GDP for 2021 to 2030 is used. (McCollum et al. 2018) compares six Integrated Assessment Models for which the average and, below, the range are reported. EIB (2021) refers to investment needs in the EU; all other publications refer to global investment needs.

#### Source: IMF (2021), Reaching net zero emissions, June.

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#### Extended path, perfect foresight

• Does the model have large non-linearities? Which ones?

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#### Extended path, perfect foresight

- Does the model have large non-linearities? Which ones?
- Data are transformed in growth rates and changes.

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### Extended path, perfect foresight

- Does the model have large non-linearities? Which ones?
- Data are transformed in growth rates and changes.
  - Would the Kalman filter produce results and have a computational performance dramatically different from the inversion filter?

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#### Further model validation 1

• Forecast error variance decomposition.

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- Forecast error variance decomposition.
- Historical decomposition (possible "disconnect"?).

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- Forecast error variance decomposition.
- Historical decomposition (possible "disconnect"?).
- Translog preferences (increasing elasticity of substitution in the number of products)?

Goal	and	results

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### Further model validation 2

• Empirically, new products could be introduced not only by new firms but also by existing firms.

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  - data on product creation, development, and destruction;

- Empirically, new products could be introduced not only by new firms but also by existing firms.
- Ideally, further tests of the suggested theory (e.g., relevance of sunk costs) should be based on:
  - data on product creation, development, and destruction;
  - a fine disaggregation of products.

## To conclude

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• Interesting paper.

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#### Overall

- Interesting paper.
- Some theoretical and quantitative aspects of the paper deserve further analysis and discussion.

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# Thanks!