# Horizontal and Vertical Polarization: Task-Specific Technological Change in a Multi-Sector Economy*

Sang Yoon (Tim) Lee[†]       Yongseok Shin[‡]

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## Abstract

We analyze the effect of technological change in a novel framework that integrates an economy's skill distribution with its occupational and industrial structure. Individuals become managers or workers based on their managerial vs. worker skills, and workers further sort into a continuum of tasks (occupations) ranked by skill content. Our theory dictates that faster technological progress for middle-skill tasks not only raises the employment shares and relative wages of lower- and higher-skill occupations among workers (*horizontal* polarization), but also raises those of managers over workers as a whole (*vertical* polarization). Both dimensions of polarization are faster within sectors that depend more on middle-skill tasks and less on managers. This endogenously leads to faster TFP growth of such sectors, whose employment and value-added shares shrink if sectoral goods are complementary (structural change). We present several novel facts that support our model, followed by a quantitative analysis showing that task-specific technological progress—which was fastest for occupations embodying routine-manual tasks but not interpersonal skills—is important for understanding changes in the sectoral, occupational, and organizational structure of the U.S. economy since 1980.

[†]Toulouse School of Economics and CEPR: `sylee.tim@tse-fr.eu`.

[‡]Washington University in St. Louis, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis and NBER: `yshin@wustl.edu`.

# 1  Introduction

We develop a novel framework that integrates an economy's distribution of individual skills with its occupational and industrial structure. It enables an analysis of how changes in wage and employment shares across occupations and industrial sectors are interrelated, providing a comprehensive view on the economic forces that shape the occupational, sectoral, and organizational structure of an economy.

In our model, individuals are heterogeneous in two dimensions of skill—managerial talent and worker human capital—based on which they become a manager or a worker. Workers then select into a continuum of tasks (or occupations) based on their human capital.[1] Managers organize the workers' tasks, in addition to their own, to produce sector-specific goods. Sectors differ in how intensively different tasks are used in production. Individual skills are sector-neutral, so they only care about their occupation and are indifferent about which sector they work in.

We characterize the equilibrium assignment of occupations and sectors theoretically, and prove a series of comparative statics in response to task-specific technological progress that is sector- and factor-neutral. If different tasks are complementary in production, faster technological progress among middle-skill tasks—more precisely, those tasks chosen by middle-skill workers in equilibrium—leads to: (i) higher employment shares and wages for low- and high-skill occupations relative to middle-skill occupations—i.e. job and wage polarization among workers—in all sectors; (ii) a higher employment share and wage for managers relative to workers as a whole—which we dub *vertical* polarization to distinguish from the *horizontal* polarization across workers—in all sectors; (iii) faster horizontal and vertical polarization within sectors that depend more on middle-skill tasks and less on managers; and (iv) faster endogenous total factor productivity (TFP) growth of such sectors, shrinking their employment and value-added shares if sectoral goods are complementary (i.e., structural change).

The last result merits further discussion. First, because sector-level TFP in our model is endogenously determined by equilibrium occupational choices, task-specific technological progress—which is sector neutral—has differential impact across sectors, causing structural change. Second, as the employment share of sectors that rely less on middle-skill workers and more on managers rises, the overall degree of horizontal and vertical polarization is reinforced. Third, if all structural change is driven by sector-neutral task-specific technological progress, those occupations with faster technological progress may vanish asymptotically, but all sectors coexist: Once the employment

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[1]Technically, a task is the technology used by a certain occupation. Nonetheless, we will use "task" and "occupation" interchangeably throughout the paper.

shares of the occupations with faster progress become negligible, structural change ceases. This is in contrast to theories of structural change that rely on sector-specific forces, in which the shift of production factors from one sector to another continues until the shrinking sector vanishes.

Predictions (i) through (iv) are salient features of the U.S. economy since 1980: (i) job and wage polarization is well-documented in the literature, e.g., Autor and Dorn (2013), which we refer to as horizontal polarization; (ii) using the same data, we newly document vertical polarization; and (iii) we empirically establish that manufacturing is more reliant on middle-skill workers and less on managers than services, and also that, while both sectors polarized, the two dimensions of polarization are indeed faster within manufacturing than in services.[2] Finally, (iv) it is well understood that the faster growth of manufacturing TFP—which we show accelerated around 1980 in the data—is an important driver of structural change from manufacturing to services.

Our model shows that one common cause is driving all of the above empirical facts: faster technological progress for middle-skill tasks (which are more intensively used in manufacturing).

The theoretical model has one managerial task and a continuum of worker tasks. To quantify the model, we discretize the latter into 10 occupation categories. Our analysis confirms that task-specific technological progress alone—without sector- or factor-specific technological progress—can almost fully account for the changes in the sectoral, occupational, and organizational structure in the U.S. economy since 1980.

The next natural question to ask is what can explain such differential productivity improvements across tasks. Autor and Dorn (2013), Goos, Manning, and Salomons (2014) and others have hypothesized that "routinization," or faster technological advancement for tasks that are more routine in nature (which tend to be middle-skill occupations in the data), led to (horizontal) polarization. They test this empirically by constructing a routine-task intensity (RTI) index for each occupation from the Dictionary of Occupation Titles (DOT) and its successor O*NET.

We follow a similar route, but use more disaggregated indices than RTI that consider detailed characteristics of occupations. We find that the task-specific technological progress we quantify from the changes in the occupational structure is much more strongly correlated with the routine-manual index (a component of RTI) and with the inverse of the manual-interpersonal index than with RTI. In other words, technological

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[2]In addition, we provide evidence from establishment-level data that corroborates faster vertical polarization in manufacturing: Manufacturing establishments on average shrank faster in terms of employment and grew faster in terms of value-added than those in services, which is predicted by our model, if we assume that the number of managers per establishment was stable over time.

progress since 1980 is primarily embodied in those manual tasks that are repetitive in nature and require few interpersonal skills. This strongly suggests that the relatively easier automation of such tasks explains their faster productivity growth, which is consistent with the routinization hypothesis. On the other hand, the fact that polarization is observed even within the service sector suggests that trade may not have been the main driver.

**Related Literature**  The model we consider is of particular relevance for the U.S. and other advanced economies. The 1980s marks a starting point of rising labor market inequality, of which polarization is a salient feature. It coincided with the rise of low-skill service jobs (Autor and Dorn, 2013) and also a clear rise in manufacturing productivity. The latter was implicitly noted in Herrendorf, Rogerson, and Valentinyi (2014) and is further corroborated in our empirical analysis. Our main finding in this regard is that task-specific technological progress is of first-order importance for understanding the observed changes not only across occupations but also in the industrial structure of the economy.

Costinot and Vogel (2010) presents a task-based model in which workers with a continuum of one-dimensional skill sort into a continuum of tasks. The worker side of our model is similar to theirs (except that we include capital), but we gain new insights by incorporating two dimensional skills (managerial talent and worker human capital) and multiple sectors.

The only other paper we know of with a structure in which individuals with different skills sort into occupations, which are then used as production inputs in multiple sectors, is Stokey (2016). The within-sector side of its model can be described as a version of Costinot and Vogel (2010), in which skills are continuous but tasks are discrete. The latter assumption enables an analytic characterization of the effect of task-specific technological change, which is in turn used for demonstrating the broad range of phenomena that can be explained by such a model.

We take the same approach in our quantitative section (i.e., tasks are discretized), and use the U.S. data to quantify how relevant our model is for the employment and relative wage trends across occupations and sectors between 1980 and 2010. In particular, we emphasize the differential pace of polarization across sectors and explicitly relate polarization to structural change. In addition, since we treat managers as an occupation that is qualitatively different from workers, the model has implications for how production is organized in different sectors. We document several important new facts along these dimensions that validate our modeling assumptions.

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The manager-level technology in our model extends the span-of-control model of Lucas (1978), in which managers hire workers for production. Unlike all existing variants of the span-of-control model, our managers organize tasks instead of workers. That is, instead of deciding how many workers to hire, they decide on the quantities of each task to use in production, and for each task, how much skill to hire. Moreover, we assume a constant-elasticity-of-substitution (CES) technology between managerial and worker tasks.[3]

Goos et al. (2014) empirically finds that relative price changes in task-specific capital have driven employment polarization in Europe. It decomposes employment polarization into within- and between-industry components, but abstracts from changes in equilibrium wages and aggregate quantities. Our analysis shows that general equilibrium considerations have important implications for the estimation of the elasticity of substitution across tasks, a key parameter in such analyses. Dürnecker and Herrendorf (2017) also considers occupations and industries, and show that structural change from manufacturing to services can be represented by shifts at the occupation level in many countries. Its conclusion is based on classifying occupations in the data as (mutually-exclusive) manufacturing or service jobs. In contrast, we keep occupations and sectors conceptually separate, and analyze the effect of task-specific and sector-specific technologies for employment and wage inequalities across the skill distribution.

There is a growing literature in international trade that uses assignment models to explain inequality between occupations and/or industries (Burstein, Morales, and Vogel, 2015; Lee, 2015). The majority of such models follow the tradition of Roy: Workers have as many dimensions of skills as there are available industry-occupation combinations, and select themselves into the job in which they have a comparative advantage. To make the model tractable, a Fréchet distribution is utilized to collapse it into an empirically testable set of equations for each industry and/or occupation pair. The manager-worker division in our model is also due to Roy-selection (managerial talent vs. worker human capital), but workers sort into a continuum of tasks based on one-dimensional skill. Having only two skill dimensions facilitates mapping them to individual characteristics observable in the data, so we can explore occupation choices and (as an extension) skill formation using standard labor and macroeconomic models of human capital.

Structural change in our model occurs because sectoral productivities evolve differ-
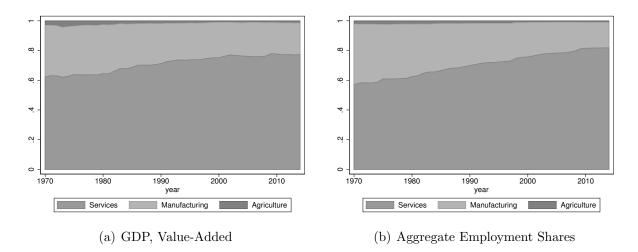
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[3]While Lucas's original model is based on a generic homogeneous-of-degree-one technology, virtually all papers that followed assume a Cobb-Douglas technology. We incorporate (i) non-unitary elasticity between managers and workers, (ii) heterogeneity in worker productivity as well as in managerial productivity, (iii) multiple worker tasks (or occupations), and (iv) multiple sectors.

entially over time, as in Ngai and Pissarides (2007) and most other production-driven models of structural change. What we add to this literature is a mechanism for sectoral productivities to evolve *endogenously*: the changing equilibrium occupational choice due to task-specific technological progress. Also related is Acemoglu and Guerrieri (2008), in which the capital-intensive sector vanishes in the limiting balanced growth path. In comparison, sectors in our model differ in how intensively they use different tasks. By contrasting different types of labor, rather than capital and labor, we can connect structural change across sectors to labor market inequality across occupations and skills. Moreover, unlike these papers, ours implies that it is certain occupations rather than broadly-defined sectors that may vanish in the limit.

Finally, we note that some recent papers consider the relationship between skill and structural change. Buera and Kaboski (2012) and Buera, Kaboski, and Rogerson (2015) feature multiple worker types as different inputs of production. Similarly, Bárány and Siegel (2017) argues that polarization may be explained by structural change, in a model where skills are occupation-specific and occupations are sector-specific. In these models, task-specific technology is ruled out, so all change must be either skill- or sector-specific. The addition of the task dimension in our model separates skills from the occupation in which they are used, thereby permitting technological changes specific to a task and also an analysis of their impact on the selection of skills into occupations. It also allows us to exploit data on occupational employment and wages *within* sectors as well as across sectors.[4] Equally important, the sectoral TFPs in our model are endogenously determined by equilibrium occupational choices.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we summarize the most relevant empirical facts: horizontal and vertical polarization in the overall economy, the faster speed of polarization within manufacturing than in services, and structural change. In Section 3, we present the model and solve for its equilibrium. In Section 4, we perform comparative statics showing that faster technological progress for middle-skill tasks leads to horizontal and vertical polarization, and to structural change. In Section 5 we calibrate a discrete-occupation version of the model, and in Section 6 quantify the importance of task-specific technological progress and map it to empirical measures of task characteristics. Section 7 concludes, outlining the broader applicability of our novel framework.

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[4] Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2006), Acemoglu and Autor (2011) and Lee, Shin, and Lee (2015) show that residual wage inequality controlling for education groups is much larger and has risen more since 1980 than between-group inequality.

(a) GDP, Value-Added

(b) Aggregate Employment Shares

**Fig. 1: Structural Change, 1970-2013.**

Source: BEA NIPA accounts. "Manufacturing" combines manufacturing, mining and construction, and services subsumes service and government. Sectoral output is computed via cyclical expansion from the industry accounts as in Herrendorf, Rogerson, and Valentinyi (2013). Employment is based on full-time equivalent number of persons in production in NIPA Table 6. Further details are in Section 5.2.
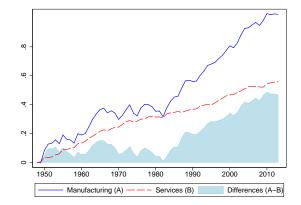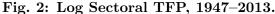
## 2  Facts

In this section we summarize known facts on structural change and polarization, and present novel evidence on how the two may be related. We also provide a new way of looking at managerial occupations by considering them as qualtitatively different from all other occupations, and relate them to establishments.

**Structural change**    Figure 1 shows the (real) value-added output and employment share trends of three broadly defined sectors: agriculture, manufacturing and services, from 1970 to 2013. Following convention, e.g. Herrendorf et al. (2014), "manufacturing" is the aggregation of the manufacturing, mining and construction sectors and "services" the sum of all service and government sectors. The data are from the National Accounts published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). In particular, employment is based on National Income and Product Accounts (NIPA) Table 6 (persons involved in production), counted in terms of full-time equivalent workers.[5]

Two facts are well documented in the literature. First, starting from even before 1970, agriculture was a negligible share of the U.S. economy. For the remainder of this paper, we will drop the agricultural sector, and all moments will be computed as if the aggregate economy consisted only of manufacturing and services (e.g. the manufacturing and service shares sum up to one).

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[5]Computing employment shares from the decennial census yields more or less the same trend.
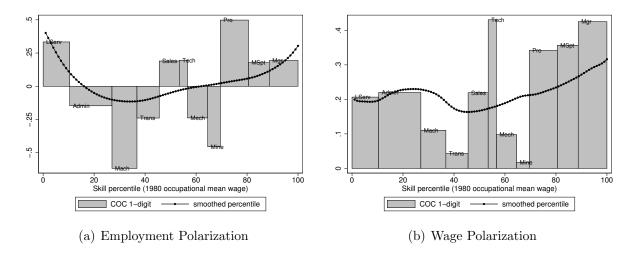
**Fig. 2: Log Sectoral TFP, 1947–2013.**
Source: BEA NIPA accounts. Sectoral output and capital are computed via cyclical expansion from the industry accounts as in Herrendorf et al. (2013). Employment is based on full-time equivalent number of persons in production in NIPA Table 6. Within each sector, TFP is measured as the Solow residual given a capital income share of 0.361, and log-TFP's are normalized to 0 in 1947.

Second, structural change—the shifting of GDP and employment from manufacturing to services—exhibits a smooth trend starting from at least the 1970s, as noted in Herrendorf et al. (2014). Moreover, either sector's GDP share and employment share are almost identical both in terms of levels and trends. This implies a nearly constant input share of labor across the two sectors, which we will assume in our theoretical model. Herrendorf et al. (2014) also notes that manufacturing's relative TFP has grown quicker than services post 1970s, but that such trends may not be stable over a longer horizon.

In Figure 2, we show TFP growth in manufacturing and services from 1948 assuming a capital income share of 0.361.[6] Note that manufacturing's TFP relative to services was more or less constant prior to the early 1980s, after which it exhibits a widening gap. In our quantitative model, we will relate this to faster task-specific technological progress among middle-skill jobs, so the timing of this rise is important: According to Autor and Dorn (2013), this is also the period in which such jobs began to show a distinct declining trend.

**Job and wage polarization** Most of the rest of our empirical analysis is based on the decennial U.S. Censuses 1980–2010, for which we closely follow Autor and Dorn (2013). We restrict our sample to 16–65 year-old non-farm employment. Figure

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[6]This is the longest time period allowed by the industry accounts, which we need to compute real GDP and capital at the sector level. Herrendorf, Herrington, and Valentinyi (2015) argues that Cobb-Douglas sectoral production functions with equal capital income shares can quantitatively capture the effect of differentially evolving sectoral TFP's. See Section 5.2 for details.
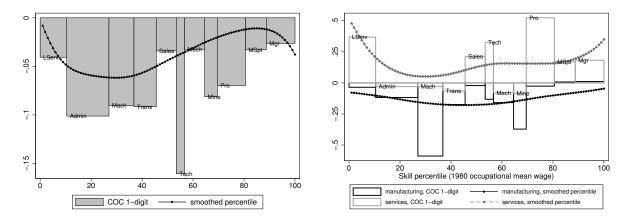
(a) Employment Polarization

(b) Wage Polarization

**Fig. 3: Job and Wage Polarization, 1980–2010.**
Source: U.S. Census (5%), extends Autor and Dorn (2013), which ends in 2005. Occupations are ranked by their 1980 mean wage for 11 one-digit groups and smoothed across 322 three-digit groups, separately. The widths of the bars are the employment share (in percent) in 1980. The $y$-axis measures the 30-year changes, of which units are in percentage points per percentile in panel (a). More details are in Appendix A.

3 plots employment and wage changes by occupation from 1980 to 2010, extending Figure 1 in Autor and Dorn (2013) who considered changes up to 2005. Occupations are sorted into employment share percentiles by skill along the $x$-axis, where skill is proxied by the mean (log) hourly wage of each occupation in 1980. We follow the three-digit `occ1990dd` occupation coding convention in Dorn (2009), which harmonizes the `occ1990` convention in Meyer and Osborne (2005). This results in 322 occupation categories for which employment is positive in all 4 censuses. Employment is defined as the product of weeks worked times usual weekly hours.

The data is presented in two ways. First, following Autor and Dorn (2013), each dot in Figure 3 represents one percent of employment in 1980. The $y$-axis in Panel (a) measures each skill percentile's employment change from 1980 to 2010 in percentage points, and in Panel (b) the change in its mean wage. The changes are smoothed into percentiles across neighboring occupations using a locally weighted smoothing regression. Despite the Great Recession happening between 2005 and 2010, the long-run patterns are virtually the same as in their study: employment has shifted from the middle toward both lower and higher skill jobs. Likewise, wages have risen the least in the middle, and much more toward the top.

Second, we group all occupations into 11 broad categories, vaguely corresponding to the one-digit Census Occupation Codes (COC). These groups are ordered by the mean wage of each broadly defined group. To represent the groups in skill percentiles,

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(a) Change in Manufacturing Employment Share  (b) Employment Polarization by Sector

**Fig. 4: Polarization and Structural Change, 1980–2010.**
Source: U.S. Census (5%). Left: Percentage point change in manufacturing employment share within occupation. Right: Percentage point change in occupation employment by sector. Occupations are ranked by their 1980 mean wage for 11 one-digit groups and smoothed across 322 three-digit groups, separately. The $x$-axis units are 1980 employment shares (in percent). The $y$-axis measures the 30-year change, of which units are in percentage points per percentile in Panel (b). Further details are in Appendix A.

the width of each group along the $x$-axis is set equal to its 1980 employment share.[7] In Figure 3(a), the percentage point change of a group's employment share is represented by the area of the bar,[8] while the height of each bar in Panel (b) measures the change in its mean wage. Except for sales and technician occupations, the patterns of polarization emphasized by Acemoglu and Autor (2011) and Autor and Dorn (2013) are intact.[9]
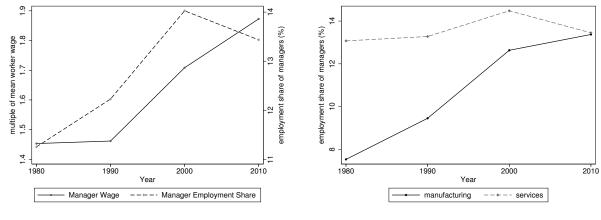
**Polarization and structural change**  We now ask whether polarization and structural change are interrelated. In Figure 4, we plot the same data but along two different dimensions. In Panel (a), occupations are ordered along the $x$-axis in the same way as we did in Figure 3. For each occupation, we compute the employment share of manufacturing in 1980 and 2010, and plot the difference.[10] The bars measure the percentage point change in the share of manufacturing employment within each COC occupation group, and the dots the smoothed percentage point change for each skill percentile. The entire plot is negative, which is structural change. More important,

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[7]See Appendix A for more details on wage, employment, and occupation definitions. The three-digit occupations in each group do not necessarily correspond to those used to generate the smooth graphs by percentile.

[8]By construction, the area of all bars must add up to 0. The smoothed graph should also integrate to 0 in theory, but does not due to the locally weighted regression errors.

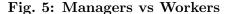[9]The exact numbers behind these graphs are summarized in Appendix A Table 5, which also form the basis for our calibration in Section 5.

[10]Appendix Figure 21(a) shows the share of manufacturing employment within each occupation in 1980, which shows manufacturing's reliance on middle-skill jobs.

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(a) Relative Employment and Wages

(b) Manager Employment Share

**Fig. 5: Managers vs Workers**

Source: U.S. Census (5%). Left: Relative wage and employment share of managers in aggregate. Right: Employment share of managers within manufacturing and services. See Appendix A for how we define managers in the census and Figure 20 for a detailed breakdown of the manager group.

manufacturing shrank the most in the middle (again, except technicians).[11]

In Panel (b) we plot the same changes as in Figure 3(a), but separate manufacturing (in dark) and services (in light).[12] Manufacturing lost employment across all jobs (except managers), which is structural change. Note that this is mostly pronounced in the middle, especially among machine operators and miners. In contrast, services gained employment in all jobs, but mostly among extreme occupation-skill percentiles, particularly among low-skill services and professionals.

What is important is that polarization is observed within both sectors, suggesting the importance of task-specific forces that affect both: With sector-specific forces alone, we would expect employment shifts across occupations to be flatter in both panels. More important, Panel (b) shows that manufacturing polarized by more than services.

**Vertical polarization**   In our model and quantitative analysis, we treat managers as a special occupation that organizes all other occupations. While many studies emphasize the organization of production (Garicano and Rossi-Hansberg, 2006), most focused on top CEO's of publicly traded companies (Tervio, 2008; Gabaix and Landier,

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[11]Technicians include software engineers and programmers, paralegals, and health technicians, which grew rapidly during this time period along with the service sector. Indeed, many of the smooth graphs are flatten due to occupations in this group. However, they comprise a very small fraction of the U.S. economy throughout the sample period.

[12]So the area of all bars for one sector represents structural change, while adding them across both sums to 0. Similarly the integrals of the smoothed graphs should sum to 0, subject to the locally weighted regression errors.

2008) or certain industries (Caliendo, Monte, and Rossi-Hansberg, 2015). We treat managers as a broader group including CEOs, middle managers, and the self-employed, and also connect them to a notion of establishment. Previous papers have shown top CEO wages rising astronomically compared to the median worker's, and Figure 5(a) shows that even with our broader definition, the "manager wage premium" over all other workers rose from 45 percent in 1980 to 90 percent in 2010. At the same time, the employment share of managers has also risen from 11 to 13.5 percent, although there is a small drop from 2000 to 2010.[13] We refer to this phenomenon throughout the paper as "vertical polarization," to distinguish from the horizontal polarization across workers discussed above.

More important for us, vertical polarization was faster in manufacturing: Managers' employment share rose mostly in manufacturing but barely at all in services; Appendix Figure 22 shows that managers' mean wages relative to workers' also grew much more quickly within manufacturing than in services. This again suggests task- or occupation-specific forces, since sector-specific forces would not create such differences across sectors.[14]

We now present a model which explains all these phenomena by a single force: task-specific technological progress among middle-skill worker occupations (Sections 3 and 4). We then proceed with a quantitative assessment and empirical investigation of where this progress stems from (Sections 5 and 6).

# 3    Model

There is a continuum of individuals endowed with two types of skill, $(h, z) \in \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{Z} \subset \mathbb{R}^2_+$. Worker human capital, $h$, is used to produce worker tasks. Managerial talent, $z$, is a skill for organizing tasks. Without loss of generality, we assume that the mass of individuals is 1, with associated cumulative distribution function $\mu(h, z)$.

There are two sectors $i \in \{m, s\}$.[15] In each sector, goods are produced by teams. A team is led by a manager who uses his managerial skill and physical capital to organize a continuum of worker tasks $j \in \mathcal{J} = [0, J]$, where $J$ is finite.

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[13]A separate analysis of the American Community Survey, not shown here, shows that managers' employment share continued to rise up to 14.5 percent by 2005, but then dropped by more than a percentage point, especially since the Great Recession.

[14]In Appendix Figure 23(a), we instead plot the manufacturing employment share among managers and workers, which shows that structural change was much more prevalent among workers than managers. This is further evidence against sector-specific forces.

[15]In our application, the two sectors indexed by $m$ and $s$ stand for "manufacturing" and "services," respectively. However, the analysis can be extended to any finite number $N$ of sectors.

We will refer to the manager's job as "task $z$," which is vertically differentiated (in a hierarchical sense) from tasks $j \in \mathcal{J}$, which are horizontally differentiated among workers. Each worker task requires both physical and worker human capital, and their allocations are decided by the manager. Specifically, we assume that

$$y_i(z) = \left[ \eta_i^{\frac{1}{\omega}} x_z(z)^{\frac{\omega-1}{\omega}} + (1-\eta_i)^{\frac{1}{\omega}} x_h(z)^{\frac{\omega-1}{\omega}} \right]^{\frac{\omega}{\omega-1}}, \tag{1a}$$

$$x_z(z) = M(z) k_{iz}(z)^{\alpha} z^{1-\alpha}, \qquad x_h(z) = \left[ \int_{j=0}^{J} \nu_i(j)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} \tau_i(j;z)^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} dj \right]^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}}, \tag{1b}$$

$$\tau_i(j;z) = M(j) k_{ih}(j;z)^{\alpha} \left[ \int_{\mathrm{h}_i(j;z)} b(h,j) d\mu \right]^{1-\alpha}, \tag{1c}$$

with $\{\nu_i(j), \eta_i\} \in (0,1)$ for all $i \in \{m,s\}$ and $j \in \mathcal{J}^z \equiv \mathcal{J} \cup \{z\}$, and $\int_j \nu_i(j) dj = 1$.[16] It is important to note that sectors are different in terms of how intensively they use each task in production—i.e., $\nu$ and $\eta$ have subscript $i$. The quantity $\tau_i(j;z)$ is the amount of task $j$ output produced for a manager of skill $z$ in sector $i$. This manager uses physical capital $k_{iz}(z)$ for himself, and allocates capital $k_{ih}(j;z)$ and a set of workers $\mathrm{h}_i(j;z)$ to task $j$. The function $b(h,j)$ is the productivity of a worker with human capital $h$ assigned to task $j$.

**Assumption 1 (Log-supermodularity)** *The function* $b : \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{J} \mapsto \mathbb{R}_+$ *is strictly positive and twice-differentiable, and log-supermodular. That is, for all* $h' > h$ *and* $j' > j$:

$$\log b(h', j') + \log b(h, j) > \log b(h', j) + \log b(h, j'). \tag{2}$$

Assumption 1 ensures that high-$h$ workers sort into high-$j$ tasks in equilibrium. Integrating $b(h,j)$ over $h$ of the workers in the set $\mathrm{h}_i(j;z)$ yields the total productivity of all workers assigned to task $j$ by a manager of skill $z$ in sector $i$.

The elasticity parameter $\sigma$ captures substitutability among tasks, while $\omega$ captures the elasticity between the composite worker output $x_h$ and managerial output $x_z$. The $M(j)$'s, $j \in \mathcal{J}^z$, are task-specific TFP's, which are sector-neutral.

Let $\mathcal{Z}_i$ denote the set of individuals working as managers in sector $i$. Aggregating over the output from all managers in sector $i$ yields sectoral output

$$Y_i = A_i \int_{\mathcal{Z}_i} y_i(z) d\mu, \quad i \in \{m,s\}, \tag{3}$$

where $A_i$ is an exogenous, sector-level productivity parameter. Final goods are produced by combining output from both sectors according to a CES aggregator:

$$Y = \left[ \gamma_m^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} Y_m^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} + \gamma_s^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} Y_s^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} \right]^{\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon-1}}, \tag{4}$$

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[16]A useful mnemonic is index $i$ for industry (sector) and $j$ for job (task).
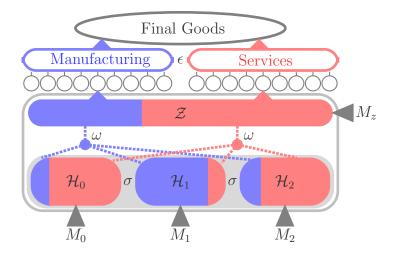
**Fig. 6: Model**

Individuals sort into managers and workers according to their skill $(z, h)$, and workers further sort into tasks. While the model has a continuum of skills and tasks, in the figure we depict the latter as three discrete groups. Tasks are complementary with each other according to $\sigma$, and workers' output is complementary with managers' according to $\omega$. Each team is led by a manager, and the collection of team output is sectoral output. The sectoral outputs form final output according to an elasticity parameter $\epsilon$. The shaded areas show that sectors differ in how intensively they use each task in production.

where $\gamma_m + \gamma_s = 1$. We will assume $\epsilon < 1$.[17]

The setup of our model is schematically visualized in Figure 6.[18]

## 3.1 Planner's Problem

Since our model has no frictions, the planner's allocation coincides with a competitive equilibrium allocation coincide.[19] A planner allocates aggregate capital $K$ and all individuals into sectors $i \in \{m, s\}$ and tasks $j \in \mathcal{J}^z$. Formally, define $h_i(j; z)$ as the amount of human capital the planner allocates to task $j$ in sector $i$ under a manager with $z$. Also define $l_{ih}(s, j)$ as the number of individuals with skill $s = (h, z)$ that the planner assigns to task $j$, and $l_{iz}(s)$ the number of individuals with skill $s$ the

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[17]The estimated $\epsilon$ between the manufacturing and the service sectors (broadly defined) is close to 0, as we show in section 5.2.

[18]Except Costinot and Vogel (2010), most task-based models assume that either tasks or skills are a continuum, but not both (Acemoglu and Autor, 2011; Stokey, 2016). The worker side of our model is similar to theirs, but includes capital as a production factor and is extended to multiple sectors. In contrast to all existing models, we add two-dimensional skills and consider managers as a special occupation, which generates additional insights both theoretically and quantitatively.

[19]Nancy Stokey shared with us the insight that solving for the competitive equilibrium is more intuitive than solving for the planner's problem. While we agree, the equilibrium approach necessitates introducing several implicit price functions due to the nested structure of production and the inclusion of capital, as shown in Appendix B. In the main text we solve the planner's problem and present how to solve for prices in Section 3.4.

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planner assigns as managers, in sector $i$. Then the planner's problem is to choose factor allocation rules $\{k_{iz}(z), k_{ih}(j; z), h_i(j; z)\}$ and assignment rules $\{l_{ih}(s, j), l_{iz}(s)\}$ to maximize current output (4) subject to

$$Y_i = A_i \int y_i(z) l_{iz}(s) ds, \quad \forall i \in \{m, s\},$$

$$K = K_m + K_s \equiv \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} \int \left\{ \left[ k_{iz}(z) + \int_j k_{ih}(j; z) dj \right] \cdot l_{iz}(s) \right\} ds \tag{5}$$

$$H_i(j) \equiv \int h_i(j; z) \cdot l_{iz}(s) ds = \int b(h, j) l_{ih}(s, j) ds \quad \forall i \text{ and } \forall j \in \mathcal{J},$$

$$d\mu(s) = \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} \left[ \int l_{ih}(s, j) dj + l_{iz}(s) \right] ds, \quad \forall s \in \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{Z}, \tag{6}$$

where $K_i$ is the capital allocated to sector $i$, and $H_i(j)$ the total productivity of workers allocated to task $j$ in sector $i$.

For uniqueness of a solution, we assume that

**Assumption 2** *The domain of skills $\mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{Z} = [0, h_M] \times [0, \infty)$, where $h_M < \infty$ is the upper bound of $h$. The measure $\mu(h, z)$ is differentiable and $d\mu(h, z) > 0$ is continuous on $\mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{Z}$.*

Assumption 2 implies that we can write

$$\mu(\tilde{h}, \tilde{z}) = \int^{\tilde{h}} \int^{\tilde{z}} dF(z|h) dG(h) = \int^{\tilde{h}} \left[ \int^{\tilde{z}} f(z|h) dz \right] g(h) dh,$$

where $(G, g)$, the marginal c.d.f. and p.d.f. of $h$, and $(F, f)$, the c.d.f and p.d.f. of $z$ conditional on $h$, are continuous.

The optimal factor allocation rules across managers, $\{k_{iz}(z), k_{ih}(j; z), h_i(j; z)\}$, are straightforward: They must equalize marginal products across managers with different $z$'s. Since we assume a constant returns to scale technology at the level of managers, we can aggregate over managers in (1) to write sectoral output as

$$Y_i = A_i \left[ \eta_i^{\frac{1}{\omega}} X_{iz}^{\frac{\omega-1}{\omega}} + (1 - \eta_i)^{\frac{1}{\omega}} X_{ih}^{\frac{\omega-1}{\omega}} \right]^{\frac{\omega}{\omega-1}}, \tag{7a}$$

$$X_{iz} = M(z) K_{iz}^{\alpha} Z_i^{1-\alpha}, \qquad X_{ih} = \left[ \int_j \nu_i(j)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} T_i(j)^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} dj \right]^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}}, \tag{7b}$$

where $K_{iz}$ is the total amount of capital allocated to managers and $Z_i \equiv \int z l_{iz}(s) ds$. Similarly, the sectoral task composite $X_{ih}$ combines sectoral task aggregates

$$T_i(j) = M(j) K_{ih}(j)^{\alpha} H_i(j)^{1-\alpha}, \tag{8}$$

where $K_{ih}(j)$ is the total amount of capital allocated to task $j$ in sector $i$.

In the remainder of this section, we characterize the solution to the planner's problem in the following order:

1. Optimal physical capital allocations across tasks within a sector.

2. Optimal worker assignment across tasks within a sector.

3. Optimal allocation of managers vs. workers within a sector.

We then solve for the within-sector solution in Section 3.2, which allows us to express the sectoral production function (3) only in terms of the optimal assignment rules and sectoral aggregates. Given this, we show in Section 3.3 that the two-sector equilibrium is unique, which enables comparative statics in Section 4. In what follows, most algebraic derivations are relegated to the appendix.

**Capital allocation within sectors**   The planner equalizes the marginal product of capital across tasks. Given the technologies in (7)-(8), this means that all capital decisions can be expressed as a linear function of the capital used in task 0. Specifically,

$$\pi_{ih}(j) \equiv \frac{K_{ih}(j)}{K_{ih}(0)} = \left[\frac{\nu_i(j)}{\nu_i(0)}\right]^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} \cdot \left[\frac{T_i(j)}{T_i(0)}\right]^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}}, \tag{9}$$

with which we can express the worker task composite $X_{ih}$ in (8) as

$$X_{ih} = \nu_i(0)^{\frac{1}{\sigma-1}} \Pi_{ih}^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}} T_{i0}, \quad \text{where } \Pi_{ih} \equiv \int_j \pi_{ih}(j)dj. \tag{10}$$

Of course, marginal products must also be equalized across the managerial task and the rest: Using (10) we can define

$$\pi_{iz} \equiv \frac{K_{iz}}{K_{ih}(0)} = \left(\frac{\eta_i}{1-\eta_i}\right)^{\frac{1}{\omega}} \cdot \left(\frac{X_{iz}}{X_{ih}}\right)^{\frac{\omega-1}{\omega}} \cdot \Pi_{ih}, \tag{11}$$

which does not vary with $j$. Equations (9) and (11) subsume the capital allocation decisions into the labor allocation rules through $\pi_{ih}(j)$ and $\pi_{iz}$.

**Sorting workers across tasks within sectors**   Since we assume $b(h,j)$ is strictly log-supermodular, Assumptions 1-2 imply that there exists a continuous assignment function $\hat{j} : [0, h_M] \mapsto \mathcal{J}$ s.t. $\hat{j}'(h) > 0$, and $\hat{j}(0) = 0$, $\hat{j}(h_M) = J$.[20] That is, there is positive sorting of workers into tasks, and workers of skill $h$ are assigned to job $\hat{j}(h)$. Since $\hat{j}'(h) > 0$, we can also define its inverse $\hat{h} : \mathcal{J} \mapsto [0, h_M]$.

It should be clear that $\hat{j}(h)$ and $\hat{h}(j)$ are identical across sectors, and hence not indexed by $i$. Otherwise, the planner would be able to reallocate $h$ across sectors and

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[20]For a more formal proof, refer to Lemma 1 in Costinot and Vogel (2010).

increase output. So the planner's problem of choosing $l_{ih}(s,j)$ has two parts: One of choosing $l_h(s,j)$, the number of individuals with skill $s$ assigned to task $j$ *regardless of sector*, and the other of choosing $q_{ih}(j)$, the fraction of task $j$ workers allocated to sector $i$, which satisfies $\sum_{i\in\{m,s\}} q_{ih}(j) = 1$. That is, we can write $l_{ih}(s,j) = q_{ih}(j) \cdot l_h(s,j)$.

**Sorting managers vs. workers within a sector** Standard Roy selection with two-dimensional heterogeneity implies a cutoff rule $\tilde{z}(h)$ such that for every $h$, individuals with $z$ above $\tilde{z}(h)$ become managers and the rest become workers. Since we know that workers sort positively into $j$, we can also define $\hat{z}(j) = \tilde{z}(\hat{h}(j))$ for all $j \in \mathcal{J}$. As was the case with workers, the manager selection rule must be identical across sectors.

Similar to Lucas (1978), $\hat{z}(j)$ is chosen so that the marginal product of the threshold manager is equalized between task $z$ and $j$, so

$$\hat{z}(j)\big/b(\hat{h}(j),j) = \pi_{ih}(j)Z_i\big/\pi_{iz}H_i(j), \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{J}. \tag{12}$$

Without loss of generality, we normalize $b(0,0) = 1$ to obtain

$$\hat{z} \equiv \hat{z}(0) = \tilde{z}(0) = Z_i\big/\pi_{iz}H_i(0) \tag{13}$$

which is the worker counterpart of (11): the total productivity of managers in sector $i$ is normalized in terms of the task-0 productivity, $H_i(0)$. In the next subsection, we normalize all other workers' productivities by $H_i(0)$ as well.

## 3.2 Within-Sector Solution

First consider the rule $l_{iz}(s)$. Since the rule $\tilde{z}(h) = \hat{z}(\hat{j}(h))$ does not depend on sector,

$$\int l_{iz}(s)ds = q_{iz} \int \left[1 - F(\tilde{z}(h)|h)\right]dG(h), \tag{14}$$

where $q_{iz}$ is a sectoral weight that satisfies $\sum_{i\in\{m,s\}} q_{iz} = 1$. Note that any solution that satisfies (14) such that $l_{iz}(s) = 0$ iff $z \leq \hat{z}(j)$ is optimal. Hence, even if the planner's choices of $\hat{z}(j)$ and $q_{iz}$ are unique, the rule $l_{iz}(s)$ is not: The planner does not care how managers are allocated between sectors for any particular $s \in \mathcal{S}$, and only about how the total $Z$ is divided between sectors, where

$$Z \equiv \int \int_{\tilde{z}(h)}^{\infty} z\,dF(z|h)dG(h) = \sum_{i\in\{m,s\}} q_{iz}Z_i.$$

Next consider the planner's choice of $l_h(s,j)$. The characterization is similar to Costinot and Vogel (2010) and summarized in Lemma 1.

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**Lemma 1** *Define*

$$B_j(j;\hat{h}) \equiv \exp\left[\int_0^j \frac{\partial \log b(\hat{h}(j'),j')}{\partial j'}dj'\right]. \tag{15}$$

*At the optimum, the productivity of all workers assigned to task $j$ can be expressed as*

$$H(j) = b(\hat{h}(j),j) \cdot F(\hat{z}(j)|\hat{h}(j))g(\hat{h}(j)) \cdot \hat{h}'(j), \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{J}, \tag{16}$$

*and their ratios across tasks in sector $i$ must satisfy*

$$q_{ih}(j)H(j) = H_i(j) = \pi_{ih}(j)H_i(0)B_j(j;\hat{h}), \tag{17}$$

**Proof** *See Appendix C.1.* ∎

The lemma expresses all other worker allocation decisions in terms of $H_i(0)$—just as we could normalize all other capital allocation by $K_i(0)$ in (9) and (11). Equation (16) simply states that total worker productivity in task $j$ is the product of the infinitesimal mass of individuals assigned to task $j$, times their effective productivity. Equation (17) is the counterpart of (9): the marginal products of labor are equated at every point along $\mathcal{J}$. Similarly, all manager allocations can also be normalized by $\hat{z}$.

**Corollary 1** *Define the counterpart of $B_j$ in (15):*

$$B_h(h;\hat{j}) \equiv \exp\left[\int_0^h \frac{\partial \log b(h',\hat{j}(h'))}{\partial h'}dh'\right]. \tag{18}$$

*At the optimum, the productivity of the cutoff rules $\hat{z}(j)$ and $\tilde{z}(h)$ can be expressed as*

$$\hat{z}(j) = \hat{z} \cdot b(\hat{h}(j),j)/B_j(j;\hat{h}) = \hat{z} \cdot B_h(\hat{h}(j);\hat{j}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \tilde{z}(h) = \hat{z} \cdot B_h(h;\hat{j}). \tag{19}$$

**Proof** *See Appendix C.1.* ∎

The corollary makes all manager cutoff rules except $\hat{z}$ (the threshold at $h = 0$) redundant, since they can be expressed only in terms of $\hat{z}$ in (13) and $\hat{h}(j)$. In what follows, we suppress the dependence of $B_j$ and $B_h$ on $\hat{h}$ and $\hat{j}$ unless necessary.

So far we have normalized all allocations only in terms of the task-0 capital and worker input, $K_i(0)$ and $H_i(0)$. Now we show that given a sectoral allocation rule for each task, $q_{ih}(j)$ and $q_{iz}$, the within-sector equilibrium is unique if

**Assumption 3** *For all $h \in \mathcal{H}$,*

1. *$\partial b(h,j)/\partial h > 0$ for all $j \in \mathcal{J}$, and*

2. *$g'(h) \leq 0$ and $f'(z|h) \leq 0$ for all $z \in \mathcal{Z}$.*

Assumption 3.1 captures the notion that higher-$h$ workers perform better in any task; in particular, under this assumption, $\tilde{z}(h)$ in (19) is a strictly increasing function. Assumption 3.2 means that there are fewer people at higher levels of skill, which is a common assumption and also consistent with empirical evidence.

Under these assumptions, the within-sector allocation is completely independent of sectoral capital and labor, which admits a sectoral production function in which sectoral TFP is solely determined by the optimal allocation rules.

**Proposition 1** *Suppose $q_{ih}(j)$ and $q_{iz}$ are given. Under Assumptions 1-3, the within-sector solution to the planner's problem $\left\{ [\hat{h}(j)]_{j=0}^{J}, \hat{z} \right\}$ exists, is unique, and is independent of sectoral aggregates $K_i$ and $L_i$.*

**Proof** *See Appendix C.2.* ∎

**Corollary 2** *At the planner's optimum, sectoral output can be expressed as*

$$Y_i = \Phi_i \cdot K_i^{\alpha} L_i^{1-\alpha}, \quad \text{where } \Phi_i \equiv M(0) \cdot \psi_i \cdot \Pi_{ih}^{\frac{\sigma-\omega}{(\sigma-1)(1-\omega)}} \Pi_{K_i}^{\frac{\omega}{\omega-1}-\alpha} \Pi_{L_i}^{\alpha-1} \tag{20}$$

*is the sectoral TFP, endogenously determined by the optimal allocation rules. Sectoral TFP can be decomposed into 3 parts:*

1. *$M(0)$, which is common across both sectors and exogenous;*

2. *$\psi_i \equiv A_i(1-\eta_i)^{\frac{1}{\omega-1}} \nu_{i0}^{\frac{1}{\sigma-1}}$, which is also exogenous but sector-specific;*

3. *the part determined by $(\Pi_{ih}, \Pi_{K_i}, \Pi_{L_i})$, which is sector-specific and endogenously determined by the allocation rules $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$, where*

$$\Pi_{K_i} \equiv \Pi_{ih} + \pi_{iz} = K_i/K_i(0) \text{ and } \Pi_{L_i} \equiv \Pi_{il} + (\hat{z}/\bar{z})\pi_{iz} = L_i/H_i(0) \tag{21}$$

*are the total amounts of capital and labor in sector $i$ in units of the task-0 capital and labor allocated to sector $i$, respectively, and $\Pi_{il} \equiv \int \left[ \pi_{ih}(j)/B_h(\hat{h}(j)) \right] dj$.*

**Proof** *See Appendix C.2.* ∎

Sectoral TFP's are independent of sectoral capital and labor shares because the rules $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$ depend only on the relative masses of individuals across tasks *within* a sector, and not on the employment shares *across* sectors. In fact, it is the sectoral TFP's that determine sectoral input shares. Since sectors only differ in how intensively they use each task, employment shares are determined so that the marginal products of capital and labor are equalized across sectors:

$$\kappa \equiv \frac{K_s}{K_m} = \frac{L_s}{L_m} = \left(\frac{\gamma_s}{\gamma_m}\right)^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} \left(\frac{Y_s}{Y_m}\right)^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} = \frac{\gamma_s}{\gamma_m} \cdot \left(\frac{\Phi_s}{\Phi_m}\right)^{\epsilon-1} \tag{22}$$

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where $\kappa$ is the capital input ratio between sector $s$ and $m$. Hence relative employment between the two sectors is completely determined by their endogenous TFP ratio. Since the $\Phi_i$'s are just functions of $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$, so are $\kappa$ and sectoral employment shares $L_i$:

$$L_m = 1/(1 + \kappa), \ L_s = \kappa/(1 + \kappa). \tag{23}$$

Consequently, the aggregate levels of $K$ or $L$ have no impact whatsoever on the assignment rules and employment shares.

## 3.3   Existence and Uniqueness of Full Solution

Since the planner's solution coincides with an equilibrium in our economy, existence and uniqueness of an equilibrium is equivalent to a unique solution to the planner's problem. As a final step, the planner needs to ensure that the within-sector allocations are consistent with the between-sector allocations. That is, the weights used to split the distribution $\mu$ between sectors, $q_{ih}(j)$ and $q_{iz}$, must be consistent with (22). These are equivalent to the the labor market clearing conditions for an equilibrium.

For ease of notation, let $q_h(j)$ and $q_z$ denote the service share of employment in tasks $j$ and $z$, respectively; so $q_{mh}(j) = 1 - q_h(j)$ and $q_{mz} = 1 - q_z$. Since $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$ must be equal across sectors, we can use the within-sector solutions from Proposition 1 to find the $q_h(j)$ and $q_z$ that ensure this. The proposition already showed that the within-sector solution is unique, but for uniqueness of the full solution we need additional assumptions on $\mu$ and $b(h, j)$ that will serve as sufficient conditions:

**Assumption 4** *For all* $(h, z) \in \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{Z}$,

1. $F(z|h)/\left[1 - F(z|h)\right] \leq z/\left[\int_z^\infty z' f(z'|h) dz'\right]$, *and*

2. $zf(z|h)/F(z|h) \geq (1 - \alpha)(1 - \omega)$.

Assumption 4 means that the conditional distribution of $z$ is declining but not too much, in the sense that it still has fat tails beyond any value of $h$.

**Assumption 5** *For all* $(h, j) \in \mathcal{H} \times \mathcal{J}$, $0 < \partial^2 \log b(h, j)/\partial h \partial j < \varepsilon$ *for all* $\varepsilon > 0$.

That the cross partial is larger than 0 is already in Assumption 1. Assumption 5 just means that there is just enough log-supermodularity so that workers positively sort into tasks. While this may be a strong restriction, it also means that our results will hold for any equilibria in the vicinity of no sorting.

**Theorem 1** *Under Assumptions 1-5, the solution to the planner's problem,* $[\hat{h}(j), q_h(j)]_{j=0}^J$ *and* $(\hat{z}, q_z)$, *exists and is unique.*
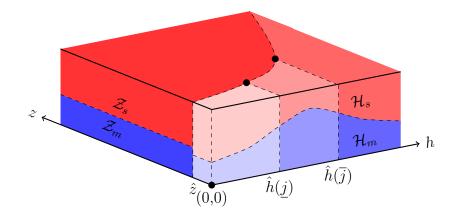
**Fig. 7: Equilibrium**

**Proof** *See Appendix C.3.* ∎

For illustrative purposes, the equilibrium skill allocation with a uniform $\mu(z,h)$ is depicted in Figure 7. Individuals in $\mathcal{Z}$ are managers, and those in $\mathcal{H}$ workers, while the subscripts $s$ and $m$ denote services and manufacturing. Workers sort into tasks indexed by $j$ according to $\hat{h}(j)$. The different masses of sectoral employment across tasks are due to the task intensity parameters $\nu_i(j)$ and $\eta_i$.

## 3.4 Equilibrium Wages and Prices

The solution $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$ give all the information needed to derive equilibrium prices (which are unique). The price of the final good can be normalized to 1:

$$P = 1 = \left[\gamma_m p_m^{1-\epsilon} + \gamma_s p_s^{1-\epsilon}\right]^{\frac{1}{1-\epsilon}}, \qquad p_i = \left[Y_i/\gamma_i Y\right]^{-\frac{1}{\epsilon}} \tag{24}$$

and sectoral output prices $p_i$ are obtained by plugging in the sectoral production function (20). Let $R$ denote the rental rate of capital and $w_h(h)$ the wage of a worker with skill $h$. Since capital and labor input ratios are equalized across sectors, $w_h(0)$ can be found from either sector:

$$w_h(0) = \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{RK_i(0)}{H_i(0) \cdot b(0,0)} = \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha} \cdot \frac{\Pi_{L_i}}{\Pi_{K_i}} \cdot RK,$$

where the second equality follows from (20)-(22), and also from our normalization of both $b(0,0)$ and the population size to 1. Similarly, all workers earn their marginal product, so we can write

$$w_h(h) = w_h(0) \cdot B_h(h). \tag{25}$$

Assumption 3.1 implies that $w(h)$ is strictly increasing in $h$.

For all $h \in \mathcal{H}$, threshold managers with skill $z = \tilde{z}(h)$ are indifferent between becoming a worker or manager, so we can determine a managerial wage rate or rental rate of $z$ (i.e., $w_z$) that satisfies

$$w_z \tilde{z}(h) = w_h(h) \quad \Rightarrow \quad w_z = w_h(0)/\hat{z}, \tag{26}$$

and (19) and (25) guarantee that the first equality holds for all $h$.

# 4 Comparative Statics

We now explore the implications of changes in task-specific TFP or $M(j)$.[21] In particular, we are interested in the effect of routinization, which we model as an increase in the TFP of middle-skill tasks (or, more precisely, those tasks that are chosen by workers in the middle of the $h$ distribution). We refer to this group of tasks as "routine jobs," which will be justified in Section 6. The impact of routinization modeled as such is illustrated in a series of comparative statics in this section, which is possible since the skill distribution is assumed to be continuous.

## 4.1 Wage and Job Polarization

First, we focus on the comparative statics for $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$ within a sector $i$, ignoring sectoral reallocation. Our exercise assumes that there is an increase in the exogenous productivity, $M(j)$, of middle-skill $j$-tasks.[22]

**Proposition 2 (Routinization and Polarization)** *Let* $\mathcal{J}^1 \equiv (\underline{j}, \overline{j}) \subset \mathcal{J}$, *where* $0 < \underline{j} < \overline{j} < J$. *Suppose* $q_h(j)$ *and* $q_z$ *are held constant, and that* $M(j)$ *uniformly grows to* $M^1(j) = M(j)e^{\tilde{m}}$ *for all* $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$, *where* $\tilde{m} > 0$. *Then under Assumptions 1-4,*

1. *if* $\sigma < 1$, *there exists* $j^* \in \mathcal{J}^1$ *such that* $\hat{h}^1(j) > \hat{h}(j)$ *for all* $j \in (0, j^*)$ *and* $\hat{h}^1(j) < \hat{h}(j)$ *for all* $j \in (j^*, J)$, *and*

2. *if* $\omega < \sigma < 1$ *and Assumption 5 holds, there exists some* $\varepsilon > 0$ *s.t.* $\tilde{z}^1(h) < \tilde{z}(h)$ *for all* $0 < \tilde{m} < \varepsilon$ *and* $h \in \mathcal{H}$.

**Proof** *See Appendix C.4.* ∎ ∎

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[21] A change in factor-neutral task-TFP, $M(j)$, is different from an increase in the amount of skill working in any given task. Since we model worker skill as human capital, the qualitative effect of a change in task-TFP is the same as if it were only capital-augmenting—e.g., a fall in the price of task-specific capital.

[22] This *within-sector* exercise is similar to Lemma 6 in Costinot and Vogel (2010), except that we have capital and, more important, the vertically differentiated manager.
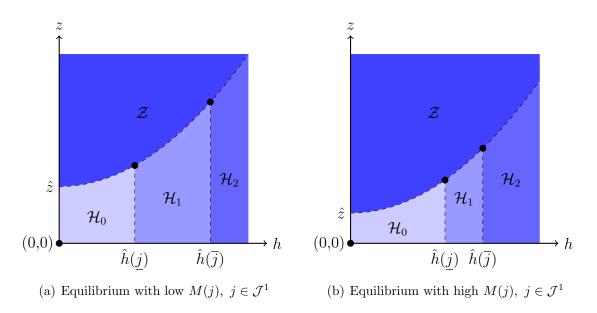
(a) Equilibrium with low $M(j)$, $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$    (b) Equilibrium with high $M(j)$, $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$

**Fig. 8: Comparative Static, Within-Sector.**

Part 1 implies that among worker tasks, capital and labor flow out of middle-skill tasks into the extremes (horizontal job polarization). The relative wages of the middle-skill tasks decline (horizontal wage polarization), since from (25),

$$\log\left[\frac{w^1(h)}{w^1(h^*)}\right] - \log\left[\frac{w(h)}{w(h^*)}\right] = \int_{h^*}^{h}\left[\frac{\partial \log b(h, \hat{j}^1(h))}{\partial h} - \frac{\partial \log b(h, \hat{j}(h))}{\partial h}\right] dh$$

is positive for all $j \neq j^* \in \mathcal{J}^1$. Part 2 implies that capital and labor flow into management from *all* worker tasks, and (26) means that each manager earns a higher wage per managerial skill (vertical polarization). The within-sector comparative static for employment shares is depicted in Figure 8, and are consistent with the data we saw in Figures 3 and 5(a).

The mechanism for part 1 is the same as in Goos et al. (2014): when $\sigma < 1$, the exogenous rise in productivity causes factors to flow out to other tasks since tasks are complementary, and we get employment polarization. As in Costinot and Vogel (2010), this also leads to wage polarization in the presence of positive sorting. What is new in our model is that this happens even in the presence of the vertically differentiated management task, and that with stronger complementarity between workers and managers than among workers (i.e., $\omega < \sigma < 1$), similar forces drive vertical polarization in terms of both wages and employment. The most novel feature is the impact of such task-specific technological progress on sectoral allocations, which we now explain.

## 4.2 Structural Change

Previous models of structural change either rely on a non-homogeneous form of demand (rise in income shifting demand toward service products) or relative technology differences across sectors (rise in manufacturing productivity relative to services, combined with complementarity between the two, shifting production factors toward services). Our model is also technology driven, but structural change arises from a skill- and sector-neutral increase in task productivities that endogenously determines sectoral TFP's. In contrast to recent papers arguing that sectoral productivity differences can generate broadly-measured skill premia or polarization (Buera et al., 2015; Bárány and Siegel, 2017), we argue that routinization can explain not only job and wage polarization but also structural change. In addition, those papers cannot address within-sector changes.

**Decomposing Polarization**   Define the "unnormalized" total worker productivity

$$V_{L_i} = (1 - \eta_i)\nu_i(0)M(0)^{\sigma-1}\Pi_{L_i} = V_{il} + V_i(z), \quad \text{where } V_{il} = \int V_i(j)dj \tag{27}$$

and the weights $V_i(j)$ for each task $j \in \mathcal{J}^z$ are

$$V_i(j) = (1 - \eta_i)\nu_i(j) \left[ M_h(j)B_j(j)^{1-\alpha} \right]^{\sigma-1} \big/ B_h(\hat{h}(j)) \tag{28a}$$

$$V_i(z) = \eta_i M_z^{\omega-1} \cdot V_{ih}^{\frac{\sigma-\omega}{\sigma-1}} \cdot \hat{z}^{\alpha+\omega(1-\alpha)} \big/ \bar{z}, \tag{28b}$$

$$V_{ih} \equiv \nu_i(0)M(0)^{\sigma-1}\Pi_{ih} = \int \left\{ \nu_i(j) \cdot \left[ \tilde{M}(j) \cdot B_j(j)^{1-\alpha} \right]^{\sigma-1} \right\} dj. \tag{29}$$

These are simply the marginal products of task $j$ unnormalized by $H_i(0)$, so we know that taking the ratio between any pair yields the labor input ratio between the two tasks; (29) is the unnormalized counterpart of $\Pi_{ih}$ in (10). So the definition of $\Pi_{L_i}$ in (21) implies that the amount of labor (or worker human capital) in each task across both sectors can be expressed as

$$L(j) = \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} \frac{L_i(j)}{L_i} \cdot L_i = \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} \frac{V_i(j)}{V_{L_i}} \cdot L_i.$$

We consider the same exercise as in Proposition 2, that $M(j)$ grows to $M^1(j) = \exp\{\tilde{m}\}M(j)$ for $\tilde{m} > 0$ and all $j \in \mathcal{J}^1 \equiv (\underline{j}, \bar{j})$. Let $\Delta_X$ denote the log-derivative of $X$ w.r.t. $\tilde{m}$, then

$$\Delta_{L(j)} = \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} \frac{L_i(j)}{L(j)} \cdot \left[ \Delta_{V_i(j)} - \Delta_{V_{L_i}} + \Delta_{L_i} \right]$$

$$= \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} \frac{L_i(j)}{L(j)} \cdot \left\{ \underbrace{\Delta_{V_i(j)} - \int_{\mathcal{J}^z} \left[ \frac{V_i(j')}{V_{L_i}} \cdot \Delta_{V_i(j')} \right] dj'}_{W_{ij}} + \Delta_{L_i} \right\}. \tag{30}$$

A change in the $V_i(j)$'s occurs even holding $L_i$'s constant, shifting the term $W_{ij}$. This leads to within-sector polarization, as we saw in Proposition 2. To compare the sectoral differences in its impact, we compare the $\Delta_{V_{il}}$ and $\Delta_{V_i(z)}$ across the two sectors, which represent, respectively, the change in workers and managers. Then we can sign $\Delta_{V_{L_i}}$, the change in sectoral employment shares which determines structural change.

**Lemma 2** *Suppose $\omega < \sigma < 1$ in Proposition 2, so that we get both horizontal and vertical polarization within sectors. Then both horizontal and vertical polarization is faster in manufacturing in the sense that $\Delta_{V_{ml}} < \Delta_{V_{sl}} < 0$ and $\Delta_{V_m(z)} > \Delta_{V_s(z)} > 0$ if $L_m(j)/L_m > L_s(j)/L_s$.*

**Proof** *See Appendix C.5.* ■                                                                   ∎

When the lemma holds, both horizontal and vertical polarization is faster in manufacturing, as we saw in the data in Figures 4 and 5. The assumptions in the lemma mean that the manufacturing sector is more dependent on middle-skill or routine jobs ($j \in \mathcal{J}^1$) relative to services, and services more on managers relative to manufacturing, which is evident in the data shown in Figures 5(b) and 21(a). Of course, these are assumptions on endogenous variables: Because we do not know the value of task productivities $M(j)$, $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$, this holds in general if there exists $\bar{\nu} \in (0,1)$ such that $\nu_m(j) - \nu_s(j) \geq \bar{\nu}$ for all $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$.

Note that the lemma holds regardless of the value of $q_h(0)$, which determines the between-sector equilibrium. So $W_{ij}$ in (30) gives the equilibrium change in within-sector employment shares coming only from a change in the selection rules $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}$. Clearly, a change in the rules will also alter the last term, $\Delta_{L_i}$, which captures between-sector allocation, or structural change. Lemma 3 summarizes when structural change is in the direction of shifting capital and labor from manufacturing to services.

**Lemma 3 (Structural Change)** *Suppose $\omega < \sigma < 1$ in Proposition 2, so that routinization causes both horizontal and vertical polarization within both sectors. Further suppose that $\epsilon < 1$. Then there exists $(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\eta}) \in (0,1)$ such that for all $\nu_m(j) - \nu_s(j) \geq \bar{\nu}$, $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$, and $\eta_s - \eta_m \geq \bar{\eta}$,*

$$(\Delta_{V_{Ls}} = \Delta_{\Pi_{Ls}}) > (\Delta_{V_{Lm}} = \Delta_{\Pi_{Lm}}), \quad \Delta_{\Pi_{Ks}} > \Delta_{\Pi_{Km}}, \quad and \quad \Delta_{L_s} > 0$$

*where the equalities follow from (27).*

**Proof** *See Appendix C.5.* ∎

The additional assumption on $\eta_i$ ensures that Lemma 2 holds even as the within-sector share of managers increase and routine jobs decrease, as the sectoral employment share of manufacturing declines.

It is subtle but structural change in fact has two parts. As a task becomes more productive than others, selection on skills ensures that less resources are allocated to it when we have complementarity across tasks (Proposition 2). If one sector uses the task that has become more productive more intensively, resources reallocate across sectors even holding fixed the sectoral allocation rule (Lemma 2). This is the first part.

The second part is that, as the manufacturing sector becomes more productive—endogenously because it uses the task that has become more productive more intensively than services—the equilibrium price of its output falls relative to services. The strength of this force is governed by the elasticity between manufacturing and service outputs, and with complementarity ($\epsilon < 1$), more resources are allocated to services, as in Ngai and Pissarides (2007). These two forces are formalized in Appendix C.5.

The appendix also formalizes that structural change depends differently on the productivity of capital and labor, as is apparent from (20)-(21). In contrast to both Ngai and Pissarides (2007) and Goos et al. (2014), capital is homogenous in our model but labor is not, which is measured in two different types of skills. Since labor productivity is determined by sorting individuals of heterogeneous skills, how changes in task-specific TFP leads to changes in sectoral capital and labor input ratios depends not only on the task intensity of sectors, but also on changes in the selection rules.

Of course from (30), it is clear that structural change (change in $\Delta_{L_i}$) also contributes to polarization. To see this more precisely, rewrite (30) using (23) as

$$\Delta_{L(j)} = \Delta_{V_i(j)} - \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} \frac{L_i(j)}{L(j)} \cdot \Delta_{V_{L_i}} + \left[ \frac{L_s(j)}{L(j)} \cdot L_m - \frac{L_m(j)}{L(j)} \cdot L_s \right] \Delta_\kappa \quad (31)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad L(j) \left( \Delta_{L(j)} - \Delta_{V_i(j)} \right) = - \sum_{i \in \{m,s\}} L_i(j) \Delta_{V_{L_i}} + \left[ \frac{V_s(j)}{V_s} - \frac{V_m(j)}{V_m} \right] L_m L_s \Delta_\kappa.$$

**Lemma 4** *Suppose Lemma 2 holds. Then structural change also contributes to polarization.*

**Proof** *Under Lemma 2, the term in the square brackets in (31) is negative for $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$, and positive for $j = z$.* ∎

This is intuitive. If manufacturing is more reliant on middle-skill tasks (that is, if it is more routine-intense), and shrinks as a result of polarization, this leads to even more
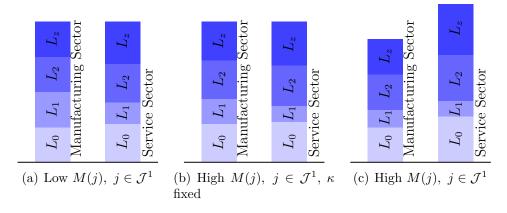
26

Fig. 9: **Comparative Statics, Across Sectors.**

horizontal polarization in the aggregate economy. The fact that manufacturing is less reliant on managers at the same time implies even more vertical polarization in the aggregate economy.

Lemmas 2-4 are depicted in the first 3 subplots of Figure 9. In Panel (a), manufacturing is depicted as having a higher share in intermediate tasks, and services in managers. As we move from (a) to (b), sectoral employment shares are held fixed, and intermediate tasks shrink in both sectors. The change in employment shares is larger in manufacturing due to Lemma 2. This leads to structural change in (c), according to Lemma 3. Because manufacturing uses intermediate tasks more intensively and managerial tasks less intensively than services, shrinking its size contributes to the horizontal and vertical polarization for the overall economy (not separately depicted).

In the model, task-specific technological progress—changes in $M(j)$—shifts relative employment shares as if the weights $\nu_i(j)$ and $\eta_i$ were changing, so the two are not separately identified in our comparative statics. However, since the model is constructed so that the time-invariant weights capture an initial distribution of employment shares while task-specific TFP's drive the changes over time, the assumptions we made in the lemmas are valid insofar as they hold throughout our observation period in the data.[23]

---

[23]When we calibrate the model to the 1980 data—for which we assume that $M(j) = M$ for all $j$—the calibration naturally admits that $\eta_m < \eta_s$ and $\nu_m(j) > \nu_s(j)$ for a wide range of middle-skill jobs. Furthermore, since occupational employment ratios between sectors are never flipped for most occupations up to 2010, the quantitative analysis is robust to the choice of normalization year.

## 4.3 Polarization or Structural Change?

One may wonder if it is not task-specific productivities that lead to structural change, but advances in sector-specific productivities that lead to polarization, considering Lemma 4 in isolation.

One important fact is that, in the context of our model, sector-specific productivity changes do not lead to polarization *within* sectors. To see this, consider a change in the manufacturing sector's exogenous productivity, $A_m$. As in Ngai and Pissarides (2007), a rise in $A_m$ changes $\kappa$ at a rate of $1 - \epsilon > 0$; that is, manufacturing shrinks. It can easily be seen that none of the thresholds change, and hence neither do the $\Phi_i$'s (the endogenous sectoral TFP's). So polarization in the overall economy can only arise by the reallocation of labor across sectors *but while preserving their ratios within each sector*. To be precise, from (30),

$$\frac{d \log L(j)}{d \log A_m} = (1 - \epsilon) \cdot \frac{d \log L(j)}{d \log \kappa} = (1 - \epsilon) \left[ \frac{L_s(j)}{L(j)} L_m - \frac{L_m(j)}{L(j)} L_s \right] < 0. \tag{32}$$

Note that $d \log L(j) / d \log \kappa$ is equal to the term in square brackets in (31), and negative for $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$. Hence, there is no within-sector polarization. The reason is that, in our model, tasks are aggregated up to sectoral output, not the other way around.

Even if one were to ignore within-sector polarization, our model—specifically (32)—provides an upper bound on how much job polarization can be accounted for by structural change. For example, in the data, the manufacturing employment share fell from 33 percent to 19 percent between 1980 and 2010. If this were solely due to an exogenous change in $A_m$, denoting empirical values with hats:

$$\frac{d \log \hat{\kappa}}{d \log A_m} \approx \frac{0.14}{0.67} + \frac{0.14}{0.33} \approx 0.63.$$

Now denote all routine jobs as $j = 1$, then we can approximate

$$\frac{d \hat{L}_1}{d \log A_m} \approx 0.63 \cdot \left[ \hat{L}_{s1} \hat{L}_m - \hat{L}_{m1} \hat{L}_s \right] = 0.63 \cdot \left[ \frac{\hat{L}_{s1}}{\hat{L}_1} \cdot 0.33 - \frac{\hat{L}_{m1}}{\hat{L}_1} \cdot 0.67 \right].$$

In Appendix Table 5, we measure the share of routine jobs in manufacturing and in services as a share of total employment—that is, $\hat{L}_{m1}$ and $\hat{L}_{s1}$—to be 26 and 33 percent in 1980, respectively. So

$$\frac{d \hat{L}_1}{d \log A_m} \approx 0.63 \left[ 0.33 \cdot 0.33 - 0.26 \cdot 0.67 \right] = -0.04,$$

which means that a change in $A_m$ alone implies a 4-percentage-point drop in routine jobs from 1980 to 2010 in the overall economy. As shown in Table 5, the actual drop is 13 percentage points. In other words, an exogenous structural change can explain at best 30 percent of the polarization in the overall economy—and none within sectors.

# 5 Calibration

In our quantitative analysis, we will find out how much of the observed changes in employment and wage shares of occupations and sectors from 1980 to 2010 can be explained by task-level productivity growth, and relate such productivity growth to empirically measurable sources. Whenever possible, we fix parameters to their empirical counterparts, and separately estimate the aggregate technology (4) from the time series of sectoral price and output ratios. Then we choose most model parameters to fit the 1980 data exactly, including a parametric skill distribution of $(h, z)$. The rest of the model parameters, which include the between-task elasticity parameters $\sigma$ and $\omega$, are calibrated to empirical trends from 1980 to 2010, without any sector-specific moments.

## 5.1 Parametrization

**Discrete log-supermodularity**   In the quantitative analysis, we collapse the continuum of horizontally differentiated worker tasks into 10 groups, corresponding to the one-digit occupation groups in the census in Section 2 and Appendix A Table 5. (There is still only one management task.) The 10 worker occupation groups are further categorized into low/medium/high skill tasks, or manual/routine/abstract jobs, according to the mean wages of each occupation group.

To discretize the model, we index occupations by $j = 0, \ldots, 9$ and assume the following log-supermodular technology:

$$b(h,j) = \begin{cases} \bar{h} = 1 & \text{for } j = 0, \\ h - \chi_j & \text{for } j \in \{1, \ldots, 9\}, \end{cases} \quad 0 = \chi_1 < \chi_2 < \ldots < \chi_9.$$

The characterization of the equilibrium is exactly the same, but we now obtain closed-form solutions. This technology implies that, for the lowest-skill task 0, the worker's skill does not matter and everyone performs the task with equal efficiency. All skills are used in task 1, but for tasks $j \in \{2, \ldots, 9\}$ there is a "skill loss," which increases with higher-order tasks.[24] With 10 discrete tasks, we only need to solve for 10 manager-worker thresholds $\hat{h}_j$, as opposed to Proposition 1 in which we have to solve a differential equation—(40) in the appendix.[25]

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[24]This can be interpreted as low-order skills not being used in high-order tasks, or high-order tasks requiring a fixed cost of preparation to perform the task, resulting in less skills utilized. By assuming task 0 productivity to be constant, we can normalize all other tasks by task 0, as we did for the continuous model.

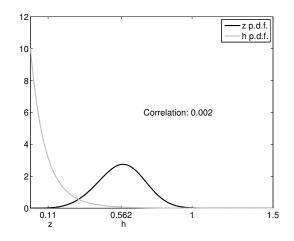[25]Characterization of the discrete model is summarized in Appendix D.

**Fig. 10: Calibrated Skill Distribution**
We use a type IV bivariate Pareto distribution to model the distribution over worker and manager skills $(h, z)$. The figure depicts the marginal distributions of each skill, and also their mean below the $x$-axis.

**Bidimensional skill distribution** For the quantitative analysis, we assume a skill distribution that is type IV bivariate Pareto (Arnold, 2014), with the c.d.f.

$$\mu(h, z) = 1 - \left[ 1 + h^{1/\gamma_h} + z^{1/\gamma_z} \right]^{-a}.$$

We normalize $\gamma_z = 1$, since we cannot separately identify both skills from the skill-specific TFP's. This distribution is consistent with an establishment size distribution that is Pareto, and a wage distribution that is hump-shaped and has a thinner tail. Figure 10 shows the marginal distributions of $h$ and $z$.

## 5.2 Aggregate Production Function

The aggregate production function (4) is estimated outside of the model. For the estimation, we only look at manufacturing (inclusive of mining and construction) and services (inclusive of government). We estimate the parameters $\gamma_m$ and $\epsilon$ from:

$$\log \left( \frac{p_m Y_m}{PY} \right) = \log \gamma_m + (1 - \epsilon) \log p_m - \log \left[ \gamma_m p_m^{1-\epsilon} + \gamma_s p_s^{1-\epsilon} \right] + u_1$$

$$\log(Y) \quad = c + \frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon - 1} \log \left[ \gamma_m^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} Y_m^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} + \gamma_s^{\frac{1}{\epsilon}} Y_s^{\frac{\epsilon-1}{\epsilon}} \right] + u_2$$

where $\gamma_s \equiv 1 - \gamma_m$, using non-linear seemingly unrelated regression on all years of real and nominal sectoral output observed in the BEA Industry Accounts.[26] Real production by sector is computed by a cyclical expansion procedure as in Herrendorf et al. (2013) using production value-added to merge lower-digit industries (as opposed to consumption value-added in their analysis).

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[26]The constant $c$ is included since it is not levels but relative changes that identify $\epsilon$.

|  | (1) | (2) | (3) |
|---|---|---|---|
| $\gamma_m$ | $0.371^{**}$ | $0.346^{**}$ | $0.258^{**}$ |
|  | (0.003) | (0.005) | (0.004) |
| $\epsilon$ | $0.003^{**}$ | $0.002^{**}$ | 0.003 |
|  | (0.000) | (0.000) | (0.004) |
| AIC | -550.175 | -551.264 | -550.866 |
| $RMSE_1$ | 0.106 | 0.106 | 0.106 |
| $RMSE_2$ | 0.039 | 0.039 | 0.039 |

Standard errors in parentheses

[†] $p < 0.10$, [*] $p < 0.05$, [**] $p < 0.01$

**Table 1: Aggregate Production Function**

The manufacturing share parameter $\gamma_m$ and the manufacturing-services elasticity parameter $\epsilon$ are estimated from the time series of output and price ratios from 1947 to 2013, from the National Industry Accounts. For details of the estimation, we closely follow Herrendorf et al. (2013).

Sectoral prices are implied from nominal versus real sectoral quantities, which may depend on the choice of base year. For robustness, we check results using three different base years, corresponding to columns (1)-(3) in Table 1. For each column, respectively, 1947 is the first year the required data is available, 1980 is the first year in our model, and 2005 is chosen as a year close to the present but before the Great Recession. The values are in a similar range as in Herrendorf et al. (2013). For the calibration, we use the values of $(\gamma_m, \epsilon)$ in column (1).

The capital income share $\alpha$ is computed as the average of 1-(labor income/total income), and fixed at 0.361, and assumed to be equal across sectors.[27] Total income is GDI net of Mixed Income and Value-Added Tax from NIPA and Industry Accounts, and labor income is from NIPA. For the calibration we also need total capital stock (for manufacturing and services) for each decade, which we take from the Fixed Assets Account Table 3 and directly plug into the model.[28] Since we do not model population growth, in practice we normalize output per worker in 1980, $y_{1980}$, to one, and plug in $K_t = k_t/y_{1980}$ for $t \in \{1980, 1990, 2000, 2010\}$, where $k_t$ is capital per worker in year $t$.

## 5.3 Setting Parameters

All parameters are in Table 2, except for the skill loss parameters $\chi_j$, task intensity parameters $(\eta_i, \nu_{ij})$, and task-TFP growth rates $m_j$, which are tabulated in Table 3.

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[27]The difference between the $\alpha$'s when we let them differ between the two sectors was negligible. Herrendorf et al. (2015) compares this assumption against sectoral production functions that are CES in capital and labor, and finds that both specifications capture the effect of differential productivity growth across sectors equally well.

[28]Real capital stock is aggregated using the same cyclical expansion procedure used for value-added.

|  |  | Parameter | Value | Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (A) | Fixed from data | $K_{1980}$ | 2.895 | Computed from BEA NIPA data |
|  |  | $K_{2010}$ | 4.235 |  |
|  |  | $\alpha$ | 0.361 |  |
|  |  | $\gamma$ | 0.371 | Estimated in Section 5.2 |
|  |  | $\epsilon$ | 0.003 |  |
| (B) | Fit to 1980 | $M_j \equiv M$ | 0.985 | Output per worker, normalization |
|  |  | $A_m$ | 1.112 | Manufacturing employment share |
|  |  | $A_s$ | 1.000 | Normalization |
|  |  | $\nu_{ij}$ (18) | Table 3 | Witin-sector employment shares by occupation |
|  |  | $\eta_i$ (2) |  | Within-sector manager share |
|  |  | $\chi_j$ (8) | Table 3 |  |
|  |  | $a$ | 10.087 | Relative wages by occupation |
|  |  | $\gamma_h$ | 0.216 |  |
|  |  | $\gamma_z$ | 1.000 | Normalizations; |
|  |  | $\bar{h}$ | 1.000 | Not separately identified from $M_j$ |
| (C) | Fit to 2010 | $\sigma$ | 0.704 | Witin-sector employment shares by occupation |
|  |  | $\omega$ | 0.341 |  |
|  |  | $m_j$ | Table 3 | Output per worker growth and within-sector employment shares by occupation |

**Table 2: Parameters**

The population size is normalized, so $K_t$ is capital per capita. All employment share and relative wage targets are from the census, tabulated in Appendix A Table 5.

Below, we explain how these parameters are recovered. Appendix D has more detail.

**Calibrating the distribution**  For given $\gamma_h$, $a$, and $\{\chi_j\}_{j=2}^9$, we can numerically compute the thresholds $\{\hat{h}_j\}_{j=1}^9$ and $\hat{z}$ that exactly match observed employment shares by occupation in 1980, by integrating over the skill distribution. With these thresholds, we can compute model-implied relative wages using the discrete version of (25), which is (59) in Appendix D:

$$\frac{w_1 \bar{h}_1}{w_0} = \frac{\bar{h}_1}{\hat{h}_1}, \quad \frac{w_z \bar{z}}{w_0} = \frac{\bar{z}}{\hat{z}}, \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{w_{j+1}(\bar{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1})}{w_j(\bar{h}_j - \chi_j)} = \frac{\bar{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1}}{\bar{h}_j(1 - \chi_{j+1}/\hat{h}_{j+1})}.$$

Here, $\bar{h}_j$ and $\bar{z}$ denote the mean skills in each task. The left-hand side is the ratio of mean wages by occupation, which we observe in the data. The right-hand side is a function only of the thresholds, which themselves are functions of $(\gamma_h, a, \chi_j)$. Hence, we iterate over $\gamma_h$, $a$, and $\{\chi_j\}_{j=2}^9$ so that the model-implied ratios match observed mean wage ratios exactly, while at the same time computing the implied thresholds

| Ranked by mean wage | $\chi_j$ | Emp Wgts $(\nu_{ij}, \eta_i)$ Manu. | Serv. | $m_j$ (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Low Skill Services** | - | **0.016** | **0.136** | **-0.731** |
| **Middle Skill** | | **0.816** | **0.524** | |
| Administrative Support | - | 0.088 | 0.173 | 2.930 |
| Machine Operators | 0.001 | 0.256 | 0.015 | 9.122 |
| Transportation | 0.002 | 0.119 | 0.081 | 4.348 |
| Sales | 0.003 | 0.026 | 0.123 | 0.012 |
| Technicians | 0.005 | 0.034 | 0.040 | -1.144 |
| Mechanics & Construction | 0.006 | 0.159 | 0.065 | 2.315 |
| Miners & Precision Workers | 0.007 | 0.134 | 0.027 | 6.328 |
| **High Skill** | | **0.168** | **0.340** | |
| Professionals | 0.009 | 0.070 | 0.195 | -2.248 |
| Management Support | 0.010 | 0.098 | 0.146 | -0.489 |
| **Management** | - | **0.076** | **0.130** | **-0.017** |

**Table 3: Calibrated Employment Weights and Growth Rates**

$\{\hat{h}_j\}_{j=1}^{9}$ and $\hat{z}$ that exactly fit 1980 employment shares by occupation.[29]

Similarly, once the skill distribution is fixed, we can compute the implied thresholds that fit 2010 employment shares by occupation. Denote these two sets of thresholds as $\mathbf{x}_{1980}$ and $\mathbf{x}_{2010}$, respectively. These thresholds are determined solely by the exogenously assumed skill distribution and the data, independently of our model equilibria, so they are fixed for the rest of the calibration. We then calibrate the other parameters so that the implied thresholds $\mathbf{x}_{1980}$ and $\mathbf{x}_{2010}$ are consistent with the 1980 and 2010 equilibria, respectively.

**Calibrated within the model** We have already normalized $(\gamma_z, \bar{h}) = 1$ and $\chi_1 = 0$. We also normalize $A_s = 1$, since the model only implies a relative TFP between sectors, and $M_j \equiv M$ for all $j \in \{0, 1, \ldots, z\}$ for 1980, since they are not separately identified from $(\eta_i, \nu_{ij})$ in a static equilibrium. This follows from the production technology we assume in (7)-(8). We denote the 1980 levels of the TFP's by $(M, A_i)$ and their 2010 levels by multiplying them by their respective growth rates. For example, the manager-task TFP in 2010 is $M(1 + m_z)^{30}$ and similarly sector $i$'s TFP in 2010 is $A_i(1 + a_i)^{30}$.

This leaves us with 35 parameters to be calibrated: the elasticity parameters $(\sigma, \omega)$, TFP parameters $(M, A_m)$, task intensities $\eta_i$ and $\{\nu_{ij}\}_{j=1}^{9}$ for $i \in \{m, s\}$, and the task-

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[29]The calibration yields a near linear increase in the skill loss parameters $\chi_j$ with $j$.

TFP growth rates $\{m_j\}_{j=z,0}^9$.[30] Since we can solve for the discrete version of the model equilibrium in closed form, most parameters are chosen so that our 1980 equilibrium exactly fits the 1980 data moments in Appendix Table 5 exactly.

Then except for capital per worker, which we plug in from the data, all other parameters are held fixed and only $M_j$, the exogenous task-TFP's, grow from 1980 to 2010 at rate $m_j$. In particular, our benchmark scenario assumes that $a_m = a_s = 0$.

The 11 constant task-TFP growth rates $\{m_j\}_{j=z,0}^9$ and elasticity parameters $(\sigma, \omega)$ are chosen to fit the time trends of aggregate output per worker growth and employment shares *within sectors* from 1980 to 2010 (13 parameter, 21 moments).[31] All resulting parameters are tabulated in Tables 2-3.

**Discussion**  As implied by the data in Figure 21(a) and Appendix Table 5, the manufacturing sector has higher intensity parameters among middle skill jobs and a lower intensity in managers.[32] Since the estimated elasticity between manufacturing and services is less than one, for structural change to occur, productivity needs to rise by relatively more in those occupations used more intensively by manufacturing, which are the middle-skill jobs. This is evident from the last column in Table 3.

The calibrated values for $\omega = 0.34 < \sigma = 0.70 < 1$ are important both for Section 4 and our quantitative results to follow. While this was a sufficient condition in Section 4, it is validated by the data. The only other paper we know of that recovers the elasticity across tasks is Goos et al. (2014). Their point estimate for $\sigma$ is around 0.9, which is much closer to 1 than ours.[33] However, theirs is an empirical framework that does not take into account general equilibrium or aggregate effects. Both in their model and ours, the employment share change of occupation $j$ is determined by $(1 - \sigma)m_j$ (Appendix C.4). If we were to set $\sigma = \omega = 0.9$, we would recover much higher values for $m_j$ to explain the employment share changes in the data. This would result in sectoral and aggregate TFP growth rates that are unrealistically high.

## 6   Quantitative Analysis

We first assess how well the model fits empirical trends in within-sector occupation employment shares, which were targeted, and then its performance in terms of occupation employment shares in aggregate (i.e., manufacturing and services combined),

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[30]There are only 9 horizontal intensity parameters to calibrate per sector, since $\sum_{j=0}^9 \nu_{ij} = 1$.

[31]We target the linear trend from 1980 to 2010 rather than their exact values. However, since most trends are in fact linear, using the exact values barely change our results.

[32]Since we normalize $M_j \equiv M$ in 1980, the parameters correspond to skill-adjusted employment weights.

[33]Since manager is not a special occupation in that paper, it lacks a counter part to our $\omega$.
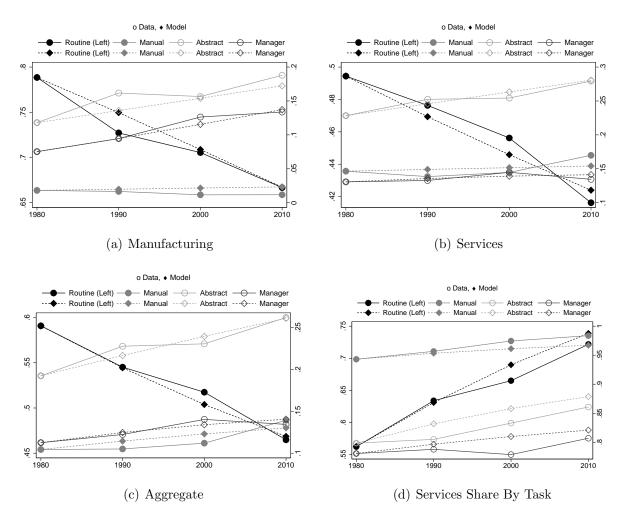
**Fig. 11: Data vs. Model, Employment Shares by Task.**
The quantitative model has 11 one-digit occupation groups. For graphical representation only, we re-group the 10 worker occupations into the 3 broader categories of manual, routine, and abstract as in Table 3. The vertical axes in (a)-(c) are employment shares for each occupation group, routine on the left and the rest on the right. The vertical axes in (d) are the fraction working in services for each occupation group.

which were not targeted. We also explore the model's predictions in other untargeted dimensions (time trends in relative wages, within-occupation wage dispersion, and average establishment size by sector). Then, to contrast task-specific against sector-specific technological changes, we compare the benchmark model against versions that also allow exogenous growth in sectoral TFP's. Finally, we relate the task-specific TFP growth rates quantified from our model to empirical measures of occupational characteristics.

## 6.1 Model Fit

**Employment shares** Figure 11 plots the model implied trends in employment shares across tasks, in aggregate and by sector, against the data. When computing the simulated paths for 1990 and 2000, we plug in the empirical values of $K_t = k_t/y_{1980}$ and the task-specific TFP's implied by the calibrated growth rates, and solve for the respective equilibrium allocations. For ease of graphical representation, the figure groups the 10 worker occupations ranked by their 1980 mean wage into 3 broader categories summarized in Table 3: manual, routine, and abstract.

At first glance, it may not be so surprising that we obtain a more or less exact fit as seen in Figure 11(c)-(d), since the discrete model equilibrium can be solved in closed form for any given year, as we explain in Appendix D. However, while we target the starting points for all the shares (services employment share, and within-sector employment shares by task), we calibrated 21 trends using only 13 parameters: the 2 elasticity parameters $(\sigma, \omega)$ and 11 task-specific (and sector-neutral) growth rates, as shown in Panel (C) of Table 2. The quantitative model predicts that both horizontal and vertical polarization are faster in the manufacturing sector, as we saw in the data and as implied by our theory: The routine employment share falls by 13 percentage points in manufacturing vs. 8 in services, while the manager employment share rises by 6 percentage points in manufacturing vs. 1 in services.

Furthermore, we did not target any aggregate or sectoral employment shares, so the fact that aggregate occupation shares and structural change by occupation (i.e., the rise in service share for each occupation group) are almost exactly replicated, as seen in Figure 11(c)-(d), is also a success of the quantitative model. This suggests that the consequences of task-specific TFP growth implied by Lemmas 2-4 should be sufficient for explaining structural change.

## 6.2 Implications for Moments Not Targeted

**Relative wages** Although we target the 1980 average wages of the 11 occupation groups in our calibration, we do not exploit any other wage-related moments. Before we further discuss the model's implications for wage moments, two clarifications are in order. First, in our model, individuals' earnings depends only on their skills and occupation, not on sectors. In the data, the average wage even for a narrowly-defined occupation is somewhat higher in manufacturing than in services—for example, see Appendix Figure 23(b).[34] We do not directly address this fact, and the average wages

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[34]However, the sectoral difference in the average wage of an occupation is stable throughout the observation period, so we consider the indifference assumption to be valid up to a constant.
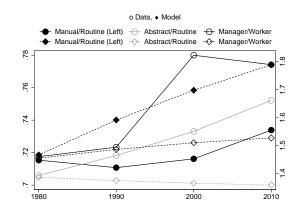
**Fig. 12: Data vs. Model, Relative Wages by Task.**
The quantitative model has 11 one-digit occupation groups. For graphical representation only, we re-group the 10 worker occupations into the 3 broader categories of manual, routine, and abstract as in Table 3. The vertical axes are the ratios between the average wages of occupation groups, manual-to-routine on the left and all the others on the right.
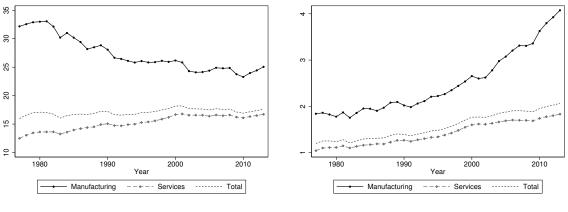
of broad occupation groups (e.g., workers as a whole or the manual, routine, abstract categories) are different between the two sectors only to the extent that they differ in how intensely they use the 10 underlying worker occupations in Table 3.[35]

Second, Proposition 2 leads to polarization cast in terms of wage per skill ($w_z$ and $w_h$). Our unit of observation is now wages, which equal (wage per skill)×(amount of skill). Accordingly, the average wage of an occupation changes not only because of changes in its per-skill wage, but also because of selection on skill by occupation.

Figure 12 plots the relative mean wages of occupations (in aggregate). Manual and abstract wages are relative to routine jobs, and manager wages are relative to all workers. While the model trends are qualitatively consistent with the data, i.e., horizontal and vertical wage polarization, the quantitative fit is not tight. In particular, the rise in the relative wage of the manager and abstract occupations is more muted than in the data, which is explained by *negative* selection. As shown by Proposition 2 and Figure 8, barring a change in the underlying distributions of skills, vertical polarization dictates that new managers have less managerial skill $z$ than existing ones. This brings down the mean skill level of managers, countering the positive impact on the average wage of managers coming from the rise in wage per managerial skill $w_z$. Likewise, horizontal polarization necessarily implies lower-$h$ workers in the highest-paying abstract jobs, attenuating the positive impact on their average wage from the higher wage per skill ($w_j$ for $j = 8, 9$).[36]

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[35]In this version of the model with discretized worker occupations, we only consider those equilibria in which mean skill levels within occupations are equal across sectors.

[36]Such selection does not matter for manual jobs ($j = 0$), because our discretized model assumes that all

|(a) Average No. of Workers|(b) Average Value-added Output|

**Fig. 13: Establishment Size by Sector**

Source: BDS and NIPA. Left: Average number of workers per establishment, in aggregate and by sector. Right: Real value-added output by establishment (millions of 2010 USD), in aggregate and by sector.

**Average size of establishments**    In our model, the production technology has constant returns to scale, and the size distribution of establishments is not pinned down. However, because we model managers as a special occupation qualitatively separate from workers, the model does have implications on the average size of establishments as long as we assume a stable relationship between managers and establishments. With such an assumption, e.g., a constant number of managers per establishment over time, the faster vertical polarization in manufacturing, Figure 5(b), implies that the number of workers per establishment should fall faster in manufacturing than in services. This is confirmed in Figure 13(a), which plots the average number of workers per establishment in the Business Dynamics Statistics (BDS) from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Furthermore, since the model generates vertical polarization by faster productivity growth of routine jobs, which are more intensively used in manufacturing, the faster vertical polarization in manufacturing is accompanied by higher productivity and output growth among manufacturing establishments. In Figure 13(b), we divide value-added in the NIPA by the number of establishments in the BDS, which confirms the model prediction.

An inconsistency is that, while the employment share of managers has grown in the data, the number of employees per establishment overall has stayed more or less constant throughout the observation period. This suggests a need for modeling differentiated managerial occupations and hierarchies of management, which can capture

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workers contribute $\bar{h} = 1$ toward task-0 production regardless of their $h$. The increase in the manual job wage is entirely due to the higher wage per effective skill, $w_0$.
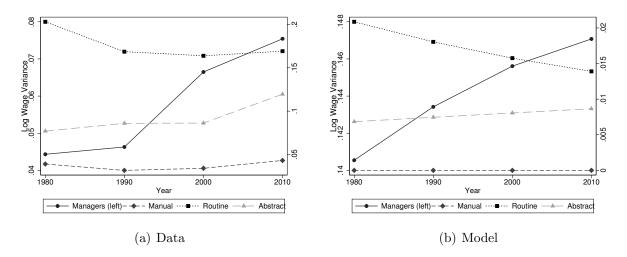
(a) Data

(b) Model

**Fig. 14: Within-Occupation Wage Inequality**
Log wage variance within the 4 occupation groups in the data and the model. Left scale for managers and right scale for the rest.

the rise of middle managers since 1980.

**Within-group wage inequality**    Because our quantitative model has a continuum of skills and discrete occupations, it has implications for wage inequality *within* occupation groups as well. As shown in Figure 14(a), log wage variances rose substantially among managers, slightly among abstract workers, dropped among routine workers and remained more or less constant among manual workers.

These qualitative patterns are replicated in our model, but the magnitudes of the changes are too small compared to the data. One way to address this is to increase the variance of the underlying skill distribution over time, which we decided against in order to isolate task specific forces: We would be unable to separate the change in the skill distribution that is task-specific as opposed to task-neutral, without further assumptions on how skill is accumulated.

## 6.3    Polarization, Structural Change and TFP's

The preceding subsections show that the model targeted only to within-sector employment shares delivers a good fit in terms of employment shares in the overall economy, albeit less in terms of relative wages. Other non-targeted moments such as establishment size and wage inequality within occupations are also qualitatively consistent with the data. We now focus on sectoral employment shares and TFP's.

To be more specific, we analyze the role of task-specific TFP's on structural change in relation to two counterfactuals.
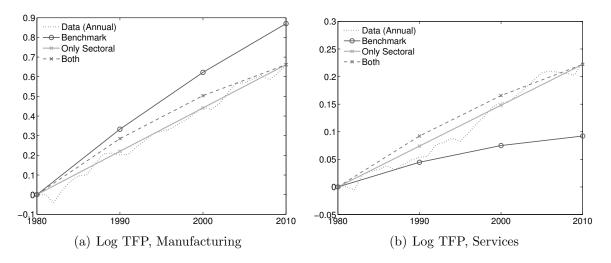
39

(a) Log TFP, Manufacturing          (b) Log TFP, Services

**Fig. 15: Benchmark vs. Counterfactuals, Sectoral TFP.**
Data: NIPA. Log 1980 levels are normalized to 0, so the slopes of the lines are the growth rates.

(1) We restrict all task-specific TFP growth to be equal, $m_j = m$ for all $j$, and instead let the exogenous sector-specific TFPs $(A_m, A_s)$ grow at rates $a_m$ and $a_s$, respectively. We jointly recalibrate $m$, $a_m$, and $a_s$ to match the empirical growth rate of the aggregate and sectoral TFP's from 1980 to 2010. This version only has exogenous sector-specific TFP growth but no task-specific TFP growth.[37]

(2) We allow both exogenous task- and sector-specific TFP growth, and recalibrate $\{m_j\}_{j=z,0}^9$, $a_m$, and $a_s$ to match the change in employment shares *and* the empirical growth rates of the aggregate and sectoral TFP's from 1980 to 2010. Recall that our benchmark calibration of Section 5 restricted $a_m$ and $a_s$ to be 0 but did not target sectoral TFPs.

In both cases, we keep all other parameters at their benchmark values of Tables 2-3, and only recalibrate the TFP growth rates.

We focus on sectoral TFP's since in our model structural change results from the differential TFP growth between sectors—expressed in closed form in (20)—whether it is exogenous (caused by $a_m$ and $a_s$) or endogenous (as in Section 4.2). The recalibrated parameters for the counterfactual exercises are in Appendix Table 6.

**TFP and output growth**    Figure 15 shows the paths of sectoral log TFP's in the data, in our benchmark calibration, and in the two counterfactuals. By construction,

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[37]Sectoral TFP is constructed from the NIPA accounts. Real value-added and capital are computed via cyclical expansion from the industry accounts, labor is computed from full-time equivalent persons in production in NIPA Table 6, and TFP is the Solow residual by sector.
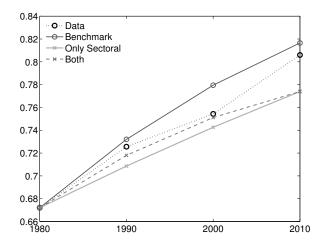
**Fig. 16: Benchmark vs. Counterfactuals, Service Employment Share.**
Vertical axis is the services share of overall employment.

all four match aggregate TFP and GDP growth over time (Appendix Figure 24).[38]

Instead, we focus on the evolution of sectoral TFP's. Note that the calibrated task-specific TFP growth rates are higher among routine jobs, on which manufacturing is more reliant. Since the elasticity between sectors ($\epsilon$) is less than 1, we know from Lemma 3 that the higher endogenous TFP growth in manufacturing leads to structural change. However, our benchmark calibration did not target sectoral TFP's, so the question is whether their growth can be explained by our benchmark with only task-specific TFP growth.

In our benchmark, we overshoot the growth rate of manufacturing TFP by about half a percentage point per annum, while undershooting the services TFP growth rate by the same magnitude. However, when we look at the growth rates of sectoral output (Figure 25), these gaps nearly disappear. This is because while the model assumes that capital and labor input ratios are equal across sectors, as shown in (22), in the data they are not. In fact, counterfactuals (1) and (2) in Appendix Figure 25 show that when sectoral TFP growth is matched exactly, manufacturing output grows more slowly, and services output more quickly, than in the data. This implies that the capital input ratio between manufacturing and services grew faster than the labor input ratio, although the differences are small. Consequently, once we include exogenous sector-specific TFP growth and target the empirical sectoral TFP's, both counterfactuals under-predict manufacturing output and over-predict services output.

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[38]Denoting aggregate TFP as $Z_t$, since $Y_t = Z_t K_t^\alpha$ (labor is normalized to one) and we plug in the empirical values of $K_t$ for all calibrations, it is the same whether we match aggregate TFP or GDP.

**Structural change and polarization**   Since structural change from manufacturing to services is solely determined by sectoral TFP ratios (Lemma 3), the fact that endogenous sectoral TFP growth in our benchmark closely tracks the data implies that our model will also explain structural change in terms of employment shares. As shown in Figure 16, our benchmark overshoots the 13-percentage-point rise in the service employment share in the data by 1 percentage point, while both counterfactuals (1) and (2) undershoot by 3 percentage points. Moreover, Appendix Figure 26 shows that when we look at structural change within occupation groups, the benchmark outperforms both counterfactuals (1) and (2), especially for managers.

The benchmark better fits employment shares than the counterfactuals, despite overshooting manufacturing's relative TFP growth, because it has a better fit to sectoral output growth. As explained above, in the counterfactuals, sectoral output growth is too low in manufacturing and too high in services. To the extent that all structural change in our model is due to differential growth in sectoral TFP's, we do not intend to emphasize too much that the benchmark explains employment shares better than the counterfactuals that explicitly target sectoral TFP's.

We do emphasize that exogenous changes in sectoral TFP's cannot cause *within-*sector polarization. We still investigate their effect on aggregate employment shares by occupation (Lemma 4). In Figure 17, we see that sectoral forces alone can account for 15-20 percent of horizontal and vertical polarization in aggregate. This is slightly smaller than the back-of-the-envelope calculation in Section 4.3, which showed that the effect of sector-specific TFP's on polarization is modest because both sectors use routine jobs.

In contrast, task-specific TFP's ($m_j$'s) can account for almost all of the changes in both occupational *and* sectoral employment shares. At first glance, it may seem that the effect of task-specific TFP growth on sectoral TFP's—which drive structural change—should also be modest since services also benefits from the faster TFP growth of routine tasks. However, differential task-specific TFP growth is accompanied by a reallocation of heterogeneous individuals across occupations, which endogenously reinforces the exogenous shifts.[39]

To summarize, task-specific TFP growth can more or less fully account for sectoral TFP growth and hence structural change observed between 1980 and 2010. Due to the vertical and horizontal polarization induced by task-specific TFP growth, employ-

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[39]In Lemma 3, this is shown as the faster growth rates of the endogenous TFP components ($\Pi_{K_i}, \Pi_{L_i}$) in *services*, which implies faster TFP growth in *manufacturing*, given the expression for TFP (20) and assumed values of elasticities. Details are in Appendix C.5.
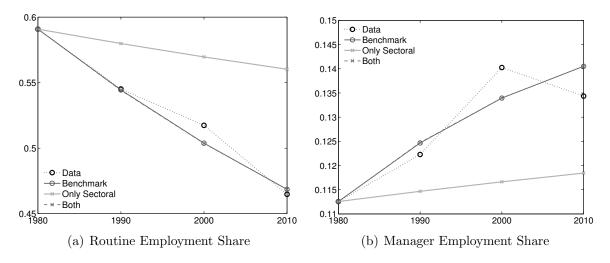
(a) Routine Employment Share      (b) Manager Employment Share

**Fig. 17: Benchmark vs. Counterfactuals, Polarization**
Vertical axes are the routine occupation share of total employment (left) and the manager share of total employment (right). The declining routine share represents horizontal polarization and the rising manger share vertical polarization.
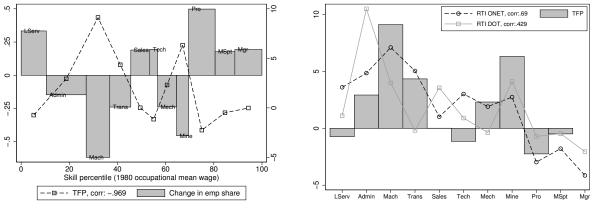
ment shifts to the sector that relies less on routine tasks and more on management. Conversely, sector-specific productivities can only account for 15-20 percent of polarization in the overall economy; more important, we have shown both analytically and quantitatively that they cannot cause polarization within sectors, contrary to the data.

## 6.4   What Explains Task-Specific Productivity Growth?

Even with skill selection, horizontally and vertically differentiated occupations, and multiple sectors, Figure 18(a) shows that the bulk of the changes in occupational employment shares are directly accounted for by task-specific TFP's, with a correlation coefficient of -0.97. This is also confirmed by the regression in the top panel of Appendix Table 7. This leads us to conclude that in order to understand changes in the employment structure, it is important to identify what these task-TFP's represent.

How much of the variation in the task-specific TFP growth rates can be explained by the widely-accepted routinization hypothesis—that routine jobs were more easily automated and hence now employ fewer workers? As a first pass, in Figure 18(b) we correlate the task-TFP growth rates with the RTI index used in Autor and Dorn (2013), which aggregates indices used in Autor, Levy, and Murnane (2003), which in turn were constructed by aggregating over task requirements for specific jobs in the DOT.[40] We also correlate them with the RTI index from Acemoglu and Autor (2011),

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[40]Figure 21(b), replicated from Autor and Dorn (2013), shows where the top employment-weighted third of occupations in terms of RTI are along the skill percentiles. Because most routine jobs are found in the middle, it is hypothesized and then formally tested that routinization causes (horizontal) job polarization.

(a) Task-TFP Growth and Employment Shares

(b) Task-TFP Growth and RTI

**Fig. 18: Employment Shares, Task TFP Growth and Routinization Index**
Panel (a): $x$-axis is percent share of 1980 aggregate employment. For employment share changes, the left vertical axis is the percentage change per percentile. For task-TFP growth rates, the right vertical axis is percent per year. Panel (b): RTI indices (Acemoglu and Autor, 2011; Autor and Dorn, 2013); and task-TFP growth rates in percent per year.

which was constructed similarly but instead using O*NET, the successor to DOT.

While the task-TFP growth rates are positively correlated with both RTI indices across occupations, and more strongly with the latter, there is much left to be explained. Both the correlation and $R^2$'s are still quite low, as shown in Appendix Table 7.

What about variables related to college education? The skill-biased technological change (SBTC) literature proxies skill by a (four-year) college degree—see Acemoglu (2002) for a review. As is evident from Figure 19(a), neither the fraction of college graduates within each occupation in 1980, nor the change in this fraction from 1980 to 2010, has much of a relationship with the task-specific TFP growth rates. Although not shown here, the level in 1980 and the growth between 1980 and 2010 of within-occupation college wage premium are not correlated with the task-specific TFP growth either. Moreover, as shown in Appendix Table 7, the correlation between task-specific productivity growth and college-related variables is *negative* across occupations; that is, those occupations with more college graduates or those in which the college graduate share grew the fastest in fact became relatively less productive. We conclude that college-related variables do not explain the employment shifts across occupations and sectors between 1980 and 2010. This is in contrast to the preceding period: Katz and Murphy (1992) finds that college variables can account for the changes in occupational employment shares from the early 1960s to mid-1980s, which our own empirical analysis affirms (not reported here).

What we do find, however, is that the task-specific TFP growth rates correlate
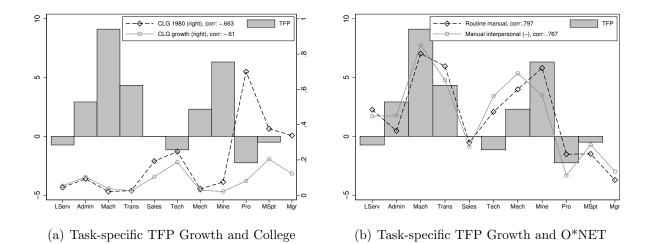
(a) Task-specific TFP Growth and College     (b) Task-specific TFP Growth and O*NET

**Fig. 19: Task TFP Growth, College Shares and O*NET-based Indices**
In both Panel (a) and (b), gray bars are the task-TFP growth rates in percent per year. Panel (a) has within-occupation fraction of college graduates in 1980 and changes in this fraction across occupations. Panel (b) shows occupation-level routine-manual and manual-interpersonal indices in O*NET.

strongly with sub-indices constructed by Acemoglu and Autor (2011) using O*NET, rather than the RTI index which aggregates over them. In particular, as shown in Figure 19(b), the correlation of the task-TFP growth rates with routine-manual and manual-interpersonal indices of occupations, the latter of which is not in RTI, is 0.80 and -0.77 respectively. Appendix Table 7 shows that the $R^2$ of the respective regressions is high at 0.64 and 0.59.

We conclude that the technological progress since 1980 has predominantly enhanced the productivity of those occupations that are heavy on routine-manual tasks but light on interpersonal skills, shrinking their employment shares and relative wages. Since routine physical activities are easy to automate but tasks requiring interpersonal skills are not, this finding points to automation as the channel of task-specific technological progress.[41] In this context, our findings are consistent with the routinization hypothesis. The unexplained part of task-specific TFP growth may also come from endogenous changes in the distribution of manager and worker skills, heterogeneous degrees of capital-labor substitutability across tasks,[42] and offshoring in an open economy setting, all of which we have abstracted from.[43]

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[41]As discussed at the beginning of Section 4, the effect of a change in factor-neutral task-TFP is qualitatively similar to that of a capital-augmenting change, which for example could have been modeled as the fall in the price of task-specific capital (Goos et al., 2014) and directly interpreted as automation.

[42]That is, the elasticity of substitution between capital and workers' human capital may vary across tasks. This would be related but distinct from typical models of capital-skill complementarity in which the elasticity varies directly by skill, e.g. low- vs. high-skill as in Krusell, Ohanian, Ríos-Rull, and Violante (2000).

[43]In an open economy setting, cheaper foreign labor would be qualitatively similar to higher productivity at the task level. We note that, although not shown here, the task-TFP growth rates are only weakly

# 7    Conclusion

We presented a multi-sector task-based model in which individuals with heterogeneous skills select into managers or workers, and workers further positively sort into differentiated tasks. It is a tractable yet powerful framework for studying the occupational, industrial and organizational structure of an economy. We fully characterize the equilibrium and prove that task-specific technological progress for middle-skill jobs leads to horizontal polarization, vertical polarization, and structural change. Quantitatively, we show that task-specific technological progress fully accounts for all of the above phenomena in the data, unaided by sector- or factor-specific technological changes. Consistent with the model, we document empirically that polarization is prevalent within all sectors, including services, which suggests that trade is not the main driver of polarization. Both in the model and in the data, horizontal and vertical polarization is faster in manufacturing than in services, causing structural change. We also show that task-specific technological changes since 1980 are fastest in occupations that intensively use routine-manual tasks but not interpersonal skills.

Our model admits many useful extensions that have not been pursued here. For instance, one could embed individual skill dynamics to separate task productivity growth from human capital accumulation, or include differentiated managerial tasks for a more in-depth study of the organization of production by sector. The latter will be especially useful for understanding assortative matching between managers and workers, as well as for studying between- and within-firm inequality. A quantitative analysis with more than two sectors would facilitate a sharper decomposition of occupation- and industry-specific changes, as would an empirical analysis at a higher frequency (e.g., annual rather than decadal). A multi-country extension is feasible, which will help analyze trade, offshoring, and foreign direct investment. We are actively exploring some of these exciting topics.

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correlated with occupations' offshorability index constructed by Firpo, Fortin, and Lemieux (2011).

# Appendices

## A  Census Employment/Wages/Occupations

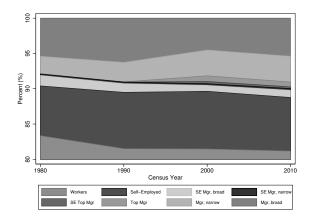| Occupation Group | | `occ1990dd` |
|---|---|---|
| Managers | self-employment+ | 4– 19 |
| Management Support | | 22– 37 |
| Professionals | | 43–199 |
| Technicians | | 203–235 |
| Sales | | 243–283 |
| Administrative Support | | 303–389 |
| Low Skill Services | | 405–472 |
| Mechanics and Construction | | 503–599 |
| Miners and Precision | | 614–699 |
| Machine Operators | | 703–799 |
| Transportation Workers | | 803–899 |

**Table 4: Census Occupation Groups**

322 non-farm occupations according `occ1990dd` (Dorn, 2009), itself harmonized from `occ1990` (Meyer and Osborne, 2005), are grouped into 11 occupation groups in order of their `occ1990dd` code. All self-employed workers are classified as managers. All other occupation groups correspond to their 1-digit census occupation group except for management support, technicians and sales. Groups are presented in their (contiguous), ascending order of their codes, excluding agricultural occupations 473–498 which are dropped. In the main text, occupation groups are presented in ascending order of skill (mean hourly wage).
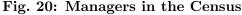
We use the 5% census samples from IPUMS USA. We drop military, unpaid family workers, and individuals who were in correctional or mental facilities. We also drop workers who work either in an agricultural occupation or industry.

For each individual, (annual) employment is defined as the product of weeks worked times usual weekly hours, weighted by census sampling weights. Missing usual weekly hours are imputed by hours worked last week when possible. Missing observations are imputed from workers in the same year-occupation-education cell with 322 occupations×6 hierarchical education categories: less than high school, some high school, high school, some college, college, and more than college.

Hourly wages are computed as annual labor income divided by annual employment at the individual level. Hence while employment shares include the self-employed, hourly wages do not include self-employment income.[44]  We correct for top-coded

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[44]While we have only considered labor income in the paper, we have conducted robustness checks by including business income as well. Hourly business income is defined similarly as hourly wages. We also separately corrected for top-coding (the top-codes for labor and business income differ) and bottom-coded in a similar fashion.

**Fig. 20: Managers in the Census**
Source: U.S. Census (5%). Top managers are coded 4 in `occ1990dd` while broad managers include code 22
which are not-elsewhere-classified managers, or manager occupations that do not exist across all 4 censuses.

incomes by multiplying them by 1.5, and hourly wages are set to not exceed this
value divided by 50 weeks × 35 hours (full-time, full-year work). Low incomes are
bottom-coded to first percentile of each year's wage distribution.

For the line graphs in Figures 3–4, we ranked occupations by their hourly wages
defined as above, and smoothed across skill percentiles using a bandwidth of 0.75 for
employment and 0.4 for wages; these are the same values used in Autor and Dorn
(2013). For the bar graphs in Figures 3–4, 18–19 and 21, we grouped the 322 occu-
pations vaguely up to their 1-digit Census Occupation Codes, resulting with the 11
categories summarized in Table 4 and used for our quantitative analysis. In the figures
and in Tables 5–6, these groups are then ranked by the mean wage of the entire group.
In particular, in Figures 3–4, 18(a) and 21, the horizontal length of a bar is set to equal
the corresponding group's 1980 employment share, which does not necessarily coincide
with the 3-digit occupations used to generate the smooth graphs by percentile.

Throughout the paper, we subsume all self-employed workers into the manager
group. While the size of the group varies excluding them does not affect any of
our results qualitatively because while the employment share of non-managerial self-
employed workers was more or less constant throughout the observation period, as
shown in Figure 20. There, we decompose managers into 9 subgroups. Our benchmark
definition includes all 3 self-employed groups, top managers and narrow managers, but
excludes broad managers. Top managers are coded 4 according to `occ1990dd` and
includes CEO's, public administrators and legislators. Broad managers are coded 22
and are either not-elsewhere-classified or manager occupations that do not exist across
all 4 censuses.

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# B    Definition of Competitive Equilibrium

All markets are perfectly competitive. Individuals only care about which task they perform and are indifferent across sectors, and choose the task that yields the highest wage. Let $w_h(h)$ denote the wage of a worker with human capital $h$, and let $w_z$ denote the efficiency wage per unit of managerial skill $z$ for managers—the latter is possible since all managers perform the same task and we assume a constant returns to scale technology. Then an individual with skill $s = (h, z)$ becomes a manager if and only if

$$w_z z \geq w_h(h). \tag{33}$$

The final good is produced by a representative firm that takes sectoral prices as given, whose profits are given by

$$PY - p_m Y_m - p_s Y_s,$$

where $Y$ is given in (4), $P$ is the final good price and $p_i$ the price of the sector $i \in \{m, s\}$ good. Normalizing $P = 1$, profit maximization yields (24) in the main text.

A manager with skill $z$ in sector $i$ maximizes profits taking $R$, the rental rate of capital $R$, and $w_h(h)$, the wage of a worker with human capital $h$, as given. For expositional purposes, it will be easier to exploit our constant returns assumptions to aggregate over managers in (1) for all quantities.[45] As in the planner's problem, let $l_{iz}(s)$ denote the number of individuals with skill $s = (h, z)$ working as managers in sector $i$, then $Z_i \equiv \int z l_{iz}(s) ds$ is the total amount of manager skill in sector $i$. To this end, define

$$[l_{iz}(s), l_{ih}(s, j), K_{iz}, K_{ih}(j), Z_i, H_i(j), X_{iz}, X_{ih}, T_i(j)]$$

identically as in the main text, except now they are equilibrium allocations to solve for rather than the solution to the planner's problem. In what follows, we solve the problem of a representative sector $i$ firm who uses technology (7).

Let $c_z$ and $c_h(j)$ denote the unit cost of producing 1 unit of task $z$ and task $j$ output, respectively. Then the sector $i$ firm's problem is

$$\max \left\{ p_i Y_i - c_z X_{iz} - \int_j^J c_h(j) T_i(j) dj \right\}, \quad \text{where}$$

$$c_z = \min \left\{ R K_{iz} + \int w_z Z_i \right\} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad X_{iz} = 1,$$

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[45]While straightforward, solving for the aggregation yields several additional implicit prices at the individual manager level without adding any insights. Details are available upon request.

$$c_h(j) = \min \left\{ RK_{ih}(j) + \int w_h(h)l_{ih}(s,j)ds \right\} \quad \text{s.t.} \quad T_i(j) = 1.$$

In equilibrium, all firms maximize profits and capital and labor markets clear. Profit maximization implies

$$c_z = \left[ \frac{\eta_i p_i Y_i}{X_{iz}} \right]^{\frac{1}{\omega}}, \quad c_h(j) = \left[ \frac{(1-\eta_i)p_i Y_i}{X_{ih}} \right]^{\frac{1}{\omega}} \left[ \frac{\nu_i(j)X_{ih}}{T_i(j)} \right]^{\frac{1}{\sigma}} \tag{34a}$$

and cost minimization implies that the amount of capital chosen for each task, and total units of managerial skill chosen for the managerial task, satisfy

$$\alpha c_z X_{iz} = RK_{iz}, \quad \alpha c_h(j)T_i(j) = RK_{ih}(j), \quad (1-\alpha)c_z X_{iz} = w_z Z_i. \tag{35a}$$

Similarly, the optimal choice of labor satisfies

$$(1-\alpha)c_h(j)T_i(j) \cdot b(h,j) \leq w_h(h)H_i(j) \quad \text{with equality if } l_{ih}(s,j) > 0. \tag{35b}$$

We already imposed market clearing of the sectoral goods in (7) and (24), that is, we used $Y_i$ to denote both the supply and demand for sectoral goods. The equilibrium capital and labor market clearing conditions are identical to the resource constraints (5) and (6), respectively, where $K$ is the exogenously given supply of capital and $K_i$ are the sectoral supply and demand.

**Definition 1** *A competitive equilibrium is a set of capital allocations* $\{K_{iz}, K_{ih}(j)\}$, *labor allocations* $\{l_{iz}(s), l_{ih}(s,j)\}$, *and prices* $\{p_i, w_z, w_h(h)\}$ *s.t.* (5)-(6), (24) and (33)-(35) *hold for* $i \in \{m, s\}$.

Most equations from (9) can be replicated from (35), with the additional step of plugging in the values for $c_z$ and $c_h(j)$ at every step. Of course, the implicit cost of tasks can be of interest of themselves, but since we did not pursue this route in our main analysis, we focus on the planner's problem for ease of notation.

# C Proofs

## C.1 Proof of Lemma 1 and Corollary 1

The feasibility constraint (6) and existence of $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}(j)$ imply that the number of people with skill $s$ assigned to task $j$ is

$$l_h(s,j)ds = \delta(j - \hat{j}(h)) \cdot \mathcal{I}\left[z \leq \tilde{z}(h)\right]d\mu$$

where $\delta(\cdot)$ is the Dirac delta function and $\mathcal{I}$ the indicator function. Hence the allocation rule is completely determined by the assignment functions $\hat{h}(j)$ and $\hat{z}(j)$, and the productivity of all workers assigned to task $j = \hat{j}(h)$ is

$$H(j) = \int b(h, \hat{j}(h')) \cdot \delta(j - \hat{j}(h')) \cdot F(\tilde{z}(h')|h')dG(h').$$

With the change of variables $j' = \hat{j}(h')$, we can instead integrate over $j'$:

$$H(j) = \int b(\hat{h}(j'), j') \cdot \delta(j - j') \cdot F(\hat{z}(j')|\hat{h}(j'))g(\hat{h}(j')) \cdot \hat{h}'(j')dj'$$
$$= b(\hat{h}(j), j) \cdot F(\hat{z}(j)|\hat{h}(j))g(\hat{h}(j)) \cdot \hat{h}'(j),$$

which is (16).

For the optimal allocation, there can be no marginal gain from switching any worker's assignment. So for any $j' = j + dj$,

$$\frac{MPT_i(j) \cdot T_i(j)}{H_i(j)} \cdot b(\hat{h}(j), j) \geq \frac{MPT_i(j') \cdot T_i(j')}{H_i(j')} \cdot b(\hat{h}(j), j'),$$
$$\frac{MPT_i(j') \cdot T_i(j')}{H_i(j')} \cdot b(\hat{h}(j'), j') \geq \frac{MPT_i(j) \cdot T_i(j)}{H_i(j)} \cdot b(\hat{h}(j'), j),$$

with equality if $|dj| = 0$. Substituting for $H_i(j) = H(j)/q_{ih}(j)$ using (16), we obtain

$$\frac{b(\hat{h}(j'), j')}{b(\hat{h}(j), j')} \geq \frac{\pi_{ih}(j')}{\pi_{ih}(j)} \cdot \frac{q_{ih}(j)F(\hat{z}(j)|\hat{h}(j))g(\hat{h}(j))\hat{h}'(j)}{q_{ih}(j')F(\hat{z}(j')|\hat{h}(j'))g(\hat{h}(j'))\hat{h}'(j')} \geq \frac{b(\hat{h}(j'), j)}{b(\hat{h}(j), j)},$$

and as $|dj| \to 0$,

$$\left[\partial \log b(\hat{h}(j), j)/\partial h\right] \cdot \hat{h}'(j) = d \log \left\{ \pi_{ih}(j) \Big/ \left[q_{ih}(j)F(\hat{z}(j)|\hat{h}(j))g(\hat{h}(j))\hat{h}'(j)\right] \right\} \Big/ dj.$$

Now using the total derivative of $b(\hat{h}(j), j)$:

$$d \log b(\hat{h}(j), j)/dj = \left[\partial \log b(\hat{h}(j), j)/\partial h\right] \cdot \hat{h}'(j) + \partial \log b(\hat{h}(j), j)/\partial j, \qquad (36)$$

and applying $\pi_{ih}(0) = 1$, we obtain (17):

$$H_i(j)/\pi_{ih}(j)H_i(0) = \exp\left[\int_0^j \frac{\partial \log b(\hat{h}(j'), j')}{\partial j'}dj'\right] \equiv B_j(j; \hat{h}). \qquad (37)$$

Plugging (13) and (17) into (12) yields the first equality in (19) in the corollary, and note that (36) implies that $b(h, \hat{j}(h)) = B_h(h; \hat{j}) \cdot B_j(\hat{j}(h); \hat{h})$, which yields the second equality.

## C.2 Proof of Proposition 1 and Corollary 2

First, we re-express all capital input ratios only in terms of the thresholds $[\hat{h}(j), \hat{z}]$. Plugging (17) into (9), and applying the task production function (8) we obtain

$$\pi_{ih}(j) = v_{ih}(j) \Big/ \left[ \tilde{M}(j) B_j(j; \hat{h})^{1-\alpha} \right]^{1-\sigma}, \quad \text{where } v_{ih}(j) \equiv \frac{\nu_i(j)}{\nu_i(0)} \tag{38}$$

and $\tilde{M}(j) \equiv M(j)/M(0)$. Similarly, plugging (10) and (13) in (11) we obtain

$$\pi_{iz} = v_{iz} \cdot \left( \tilde{M}(z) \cdot \hat{z}^{1-\alpha} \right)^{\omega-1} \cdot \Pi_{ih}^{\frac{\sigma-\omega}{\sigma-1}}, \quad \text{where } v_{iz} \equiv \frac{\eta_i \nu_i(0)^{\frac{1-\omega}{\sigma-1}}}{1-\eta_i} \tag{39}$$

and $\tilde{M}(z) \equiv M(z)/M(0)$.

Now given a between-sector allocation rule $[q_{ih}(j), q_{iz}]$, the optimal within-sector allocation is described by $[\hat{h}(j)]_{j=0}^{J}$ that solves a fixed point defined by (16)-(17) in Lemma 1, and $\hat{z}$ that solves the fixed point defined by (13) and (39):

$$\hat{h}'(j) = \frac{H_i(0) \cdot v_{ih}(j)}{q_{ih}(j)} \Big/ \left\{ [\tilde{M}(j) B_j(j)^{1-\alpha}]^{1-\sigma} B_h(\hat{h}(j)) F(\hat{z}(j) | \hat{h}(j)) g(\hat{h}(j)) \right\} \tag{40a}$$

$$\hat{z}^{\alpha+\omega(1-\alpha)} = \frac{q_{iz}}{H_i(0) \cdot v_{iz}} \cdot \Pi_{ih}^{\frac{\sigma-\omega}{1-\sigma}} \cdot \tilde{M}(z)^{1-\omega} \cdot Z \tag{40b}$$

where the boundary conditions for the ODE in (40a) are $\hat{h}(0) = 0$ and $\hat{h}(J) = h_M$, which implies

$$H_i(0) \cdot \int v_{ih}(j) \left\{ q_{ih}(j) \cdot [\tilde{M}(j) B_j(j)^{1-\alpha}]^{1-\sigma} B_h(\hat{h}(j)) F(\hat{z}(j) | \hat{h}(j)) g(\hat{h}(j)) \right\}^{-1} dj$$
$$= h_M. \tag{40c}$$

The functions $[B_j(j), B_h(h), \hat{z}(j), \tilde{z}(h)]$, which represent relative wages in equilibrium, are defined in (15), (18) and (19); in particular, the first two are functions of $[\hat{h}(j), \hat{j}(h)]$ only. That is, system (40) is a fixed point only in terms of the thresholds, so their determination is independent of the total amount of physical capital and labor in either sector. All that matters is relative masses *across tasks*.

Existence of a fixed point is straightforward. For an arbitrary guess of $\hat{z}(j)$, Assumptions 1-2 imply existence of a solution to the differential equation (40a) by Picard-Lindelöf's existence theorem. Similarly, a solution to (40b) exists by Brouwer's fixed point theorem once we apply a minimum value for $\hat{z} \geq \underline{z} > 0$ such that the denominator does not converge to zero.

To show that the within-sector solution is unique, we need the following lemma:

**Lemma 5** *Suppose $[q_h(j), q_z]$ are fixed and that $[\hat{h}(j), \hat{z}]$ and $[\hat{h}^1(j), \hat{z}^1]$ are both an equilibrium for one sector. For any connected subset $\mathcal{J}^1 \subseteq \mathcal{J}$, $\hat{h}$ and $\hat{h}^1$ can never coincide more than once on $\mathcal{J}^1$.*

**Proof** *We proceed by contradiction as in Lemmas 3-6 in* Costinot and Vogel (2010). *Suppose* **(i)** $\hat{h}(j_a) = \hat{h}^1(j_a)$ *and* $\hat{h}(j_b) = \hat{h}^1(j_b)$ *such that both* $(j_a, j_b) \in \mathcal{J}^1$. *Without loss of generality, we assume that* $j_a < j_b$ *are two adjacent crossing points. Then, since* $[\hat{h}, \hat{h}^1]$ *are Lipschitz continuous and strictly monotone in* $j$, *it must be the case that*

1. **(ii)** $\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j_a) \geq \hat{h}'(j_a)$ *and* $\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j_b) \leq \hat{h}'(j_b)$; *and* **(iii)** $\hat{h}^1(j) > \hat{h}(j)$ *for all* $j \in (j_a, j_b)$; *or*

2. **(ii)** $\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j_a) \leq \hat{h}'(j_a)$ *and* $\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j_b) \geq \hat{h}'(j_b)$; *and* **(iii)** $\hat{h}^1(j) < \hat{h}(j)$ *for all* $j \in (j_a, j_b)$.

*Consider case* **1**. *Condition* **(ii)** *implies*

$$\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j_b)/\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j_a) \leq \hat{h}'(j_b)/\hat{h}'(j_a)$$

*so using* (36)-(37) *and* (40a), *and applying* $\hat{h}^1(j) = \hat{h}(j)$ *for* $j \in \{j_a, j_b\}$ *we obtain*

$$
\begin{aligned}
0 &< [\alpha + \sigma(1-\alpha)] \cdot \left[ \int_{j_a}^{j_b} \frac{\partial \log b(\hat{h}^1(j'), j')}{\partial j'} dj' - \int_{j_a}^{j_b} \frac{\partial \log b(\hat{h}(j'), j')}{\partial j'} dj' \right] \quad (41) \\
&\leq \log \left[ F(\hat{z}^1(j_b)|\hat{h}(j_b))/F(\hat{z}(j_b)|\hat{h}(j_b)) \right] - \log \left[ F(\hat{z}^1(j_a)|\hat{h}(j_a))/F(\hat{z}(j_a)|\hat{h}(j_a)) \right]
\end{aligned}
$$

*where the first inequality follows since* (2), *the log-supermodularity of* $b$, *implies*

$$\partial \log b(h^1, j)/\partial j > \partial \log b(h, j)/\partial j \qquad \forall h^1 > h, \tag{42}$$

*and applying* **(iii)**. *Next, since* (19) *and Assumption* 3.1 *implies that* $\hat{z}'(j) = \tilde{z}'(h)\hat{h}'(j) > 0$, *Assumption* 3.2 *implies that the strict inequality in* (41) *holds only if*

$$\hat{z}^1(j_b)/\hat{z}(j_b) > \hat{z}^1(j_a)/\hat{z}(j_a) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \log \left[ \tilde{z}^1(h_b)/\tilde{z}^1(h_a) \right] > \log \left[ \tilde{z}(h_b)/\tilde{z}(h_a) \right]$$

*where we have written* $h_x \equiv \hat{h}(j_x)$ *for* $x \in \{a, b\}$. *Plugging in for* $\tilde{z}(\cdot)$ *using* (19) *we obtain*

$$\int_{h_a}^{h_b} \frac{\partial \log b(h', \hat{j}^1(h'))}{\partial h'} dh' > \int_{h_a}^{h_b} \frac{\partial \log b(h', \hat{j}(h'))}{\partial h'} dh'$$

*and since* $\hat{j}(h)$ *is the inverse of* $\hat{h}(j)$, **(iii)** *implies that* $\hat{j}^1(h) < \hat{j}(h)$ *for all* $h \in (h_a, h_b)$. *But* (2), *the log-supermodularity of* $b$, *implies*

$$\partial \log b(h, j^1)/\partial h < \partial \log b(h, j)/\partial h, \qquad \forall j^1 < j. \tag{43}$$

*a contradiction. Case* **2** *is symmetric.* ∎

Lemma 5 implies, in particular, that any within-sector equilibria must have identical $\hat{h}(j)$, since $\hat{h}(0) = 0$ and $\hat{h}(J) = h_M$ in all equilibria. Moreover, the lemma also implies that $\hat{h}(j)$ is determined independently of $\hat{z}$, which is uniquely determined by $\hat{h}(j)$ given (40). Hence, the within-sector equilibrium is unique.

**Sectoral production function**  The corollary expresses sectoral output only in terms of sectoral capital and labor, and the optimal assignment rules. To derive this, first note that using (9)-(11), sectoral capital can be written as $K_i = K_i(0)\Pi_{K_i}$, which is the first equation in (21). Next, from (13), we know that $Z_i$ is linear in $H_i(0)$:

$$Z_i = q_{iz}L_z\bar{z} = L_{iz}\bar{z} = H_i(0) \cdot \hat{z}\pi_{iz}, \quad \text{where} \quad L_z \equiv \int_{z > \tilde{z}(h)} d\mu, \quad \bar{z} = Z/L_z,$$

and using Lemma 1 and (38), so is total worker productivity:

$$\int \left[ H_i(j) \Big/ b(\hat{h}(j), j) \right] dj = \int q_{ih}(\hat{j}(h)) F(\tilde{z}(h)|h) g(h) dh$$

$$= H_i(0) \cdot \int \left[ \pi_{ih}(j)/B_h(\hat{h}(j)) \right] dj \quad = L_i - L_{iz}.$$

So rearranging, we can represent sectoral labor input as $L_i = H_i(0)\Pi_{L_i}$, which is the second equation in 21. Finally, use (8)-(11) to rewrite (7) as

$$Y_i = \psi_i \cdot \Pi_{K_i}^{\frac{\omega}{\omega-1}} \Pi_{ih}^{\frac{\sigma-\omega}{(\sigma-1)(1-\omega)}} M(0) K_i(0)^\alpha H_i(0)^{1-\alpha},$$

and replacing $[K_i(0), H_i(0)]$ with the expressions in (21) yields (20).

## C.3   Proof of Theorem 1

Since Proposition 1 showed that the within-sector solution (and hence equilibrium) is unique, we only need to show that the sectoral allocation rules $\{[q_h(j)]_{j=0}^J, q_z\}$ are unique. In equilibrium, the allocation rules $[\hat{h}(j), \hat{z}]$ must be equal across sectors. Applying this to (40a) yields

$$q_h(j) = 1 \Big/ \left[ 1 + \frac{1 - q_h(0)}{q_h(0)} \cdot \frac{\nu_s(0)}{\nu_m(0)} \cdot \frac{\nu_m(j)}{\nu_s(j)} \right] \tag{44}$$

and $q_h(0)$ must solve (40c), so the dependence of the between-sector allocation rule on the within-sector rule comes only through $q_h(0)$. Likewise, the rule for splitting individuals between managers and workers, (40b), implies

$$q_z = 1 \Big/ \left[ 1 + \frac{1 - q_h(0)}{q_h(0)} \cdot \frac{\nu_s(0)}{\nu_m(0)} \cdot \frac{\eta_m(1 - \eta_s)}{(1 - \eta_m)\eta_s} \cdot \left( \frac{V_{sh}}{V_{mh}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma-\omega}{1-\sigma}} \right] \tag{45}$$

where $V_{ih}$ is defined in (29) and depends on the within-sector allocation rule through $B_j$. But note that given $q_h(0)$, the other $q_h(j)$ only depend on the task intensity parameters $\nu_i(j)$ and are uniquely fixed by (44). Then we know from Proposition 1 that all $\hat{h}(j)$ are uniquely determined, as well as $\hat{z}$. Hence, $q_z$ also only depends on the manager intensity parameters $\eta_i$, and are uniquely determined by (45) given $q_h(0)$.

So in equilibrium, $q_h(0)$ alone must solve the implied sectoral shares in (22) given (20):

$$\frac{q_h(0)}{1 - q_h(0)} \equiv Q(q_h(0)) \tag{46}$$

$$= \frac{\gamma_s}{\gamma_m} \cdot \left(\frac{\psi_s}{\psi_m}\right)^{\epsilon-1} \cdot \left(\frac{\Pi_{sh}}{\Pi_{mh}}\right)^{\frac{(\sigma-\omega)(1-\epsilon)}{(1-\sigma)(1-\omega)}} \cdot \left(\frac{\Pi_{K_s}}{\Pi_{K_m}}\right)^{\left(\alpha+\frac{\omega}{1-\omega}\right)(1-\epsilon)} \cdot \left(\frac{\Pi_{L_s}}{\Pi_{L_m}}\right)^{-[\alpha+\epsilon(1-\alpha)]}.$$

Existence of a solution is straightforward, since the LHS of (46) increases smoothly from 0 to $\infty$ as $q_h(0)$ varies from 0 to 1, while the RHS is always positive and strictly bounded regardless of the value of $q_h(0)$. To show uniqueness then, it suffices to show that the RHS cannot cross LHS more than once. We will consider the log derivatives of the RHS of (46) term by term.

Let $\Delta_x$ denote the log-derivative of $x$ w.r.t. $q_h(0)$. Since Assumption 5 implies that

$$\Delta_{B_j(j)} = \int_0^j \frac{\partial^2 \log b(\hat{h}(j'), j')}{\partial h \partial j'} \cdot \frac{d\hat{h}(j')}{dj'} \cdot dj' < \varepsilon \tag{47}$$

for all $\varepsilon > 0$, we obtain from (38) that

$$\Delta_{\pi_{ih}} = (1-\alpha)(\sigma-1) \cdot \Delta_{B_j(j)} \approx 0$$

so $\Delta_{\Pi_{ih}} \approx 0$. Likewise, Assumption 5 also implies that

$$\Delta_{B_h(h)} = \int_0^h \frac{\partial^2 \log b(h', \hat{j}(h'))}{\partial h' \partial j} \cdot \frac{d\hat{j}(h')}{dh'} \cdot dh' < \varepsilon \tag{48}$$

for all $\varepsilon > 0$. This implies that $\hat{h}(j)$ is not affected by the choice of $q_h(0)$, and it is independent of the determination of $\hat{z}$ by Lemma 5. Intuitively, Assumption 5 makes the model behave as if there were no log-supermodularity. Then since we assume a constant returns technology, all worker allocations approach constant multiples of $H_0$ and does not depend on its particular value. So $\Delta_{\Pi_{ih}} \approx 0$, and $\Delta_{\Pi_{K_i}}$ only depends on $\Delta_{\hat{z}}$ since from the definition of $\Pi_{K_i}$ in (21) and (39),

$$\Delta_{\pi_{iz}} = (1-\alpha)(\omega-1)\Delta_{\hat{z}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta_{\Pi_{K_i}}\Pi_{K_i} = \pi_{iz} \cdot (1-\alpha)(\omega-1)\Delta_{\hat{z}},$$

Similarly, $\Delta_{\Pi_{L_i}}$ only depends on $\Delta_{\hat{z}}$ as well, since from (19) and (48) we obtain

$$\Delta_{\tilde{z}(h)} = \Delta_{\hat{z}} + \Delta_{B_h(h)} \approx \Delta_{\hat{z}}. \tag{49}$$

so using Leibniz' rule,

$$\Delta_Z \cdot Z = -\Delta_{\hat{z}} \cdot \int \left[\tilde{z}(h)^2 \cdot f(\tilde{z}(h)|h)\right] g(h) dh, \tag{50}$$

$$\Delta_{L_z} \cdot L_z = -\Delta_{\hat{z}} \cdot \int \left[\tilde{z}(h) \cdot f(\tilde{z}(h)|h)\right] g(h) dh,$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad \Delta_{\bar{z}} = \Delta_Z - \Delta_{L_z} = \Delta_{\hat{z}} \cdot \underbrace{\int \left\{ \tilde{z}(h) \left[ 1/L_z - \tilde{z}(h)/Z \right] \cdot f(\tilde{z}(h)|h) \right\} g(h) dh}_{\equiv \Lambda \in (0,1)}$$

where the inequality follows from selection and Assumption 4.1, so using this and (48), from the definition of $\Pi_{L_i}$ in (21) we obtain

$$\Delta_{\Pi_{L_i}} \Pi_{L_i} = (\hat{z}/\bar{z}) \pi_{iz} \cdot [\alpha + \omega(1-\alpha) - \Lambda] \Delta_{\hat{z}}.$$

Now rearranging (40b), plugging in (50), and using (40a) at $j=0$ we obtain

$$\left\{ \alpha + \omega(1-\alpha) + \hat{z}f(\hat{z}|0)/F(\hat{z}|0) + \int \left[ \tilde{z}(h)^2 \cdot f(\tilde{z}(h)|h) \right] g(h) dh \right\} \Delta_{\hat{z}}$$
$$= \Delta_{q_z} - 1 \equiv \Gamma(X),$$

since $H_s(0) = q_h(0)H(0)$, $\Delta_{\hat{h}'(0)} = 0$ as it does not vary with $q_h(0)$, and $\Gamma(X)$ is defined from (45):

$$\Gamma(X) = q_h(0)(X-1)/\left[ q_h(0) + (1 - q_h(0))X \right],$$
$$\text{where} \quad X \equiv \frac{\nu_s(0)}{\nu_m(0)} \cdot \frac{\eta_m(1-\eta_s)}{(1-\eta_m)\eta_s} \cdot \left( \frac{V_{sh}}{V_{mh}} \right)^{\frac{\sigma-\omega}{1-\sigma}}.$$

So it follows that the log-slope of the RHS in (46) is

$$-\left\{ (1-\epsilon)(1-\alpha)[\alpha + \omega(1-\alpha)] \cdot \left[ \frac{\pi_{sz}}{\Pi_{K_s}} - \frac{\pi_{mz}}{\Pi_{K_m}} \right] \right.$$
$$\left. + (\hat{z}/\bar{z})[\alpha + \epsilon(1-\alpha)][\alpha + \omega(1-\alpha) - \Lambda] \cdot \left[ \frac{\pi_{sz}}{\Pi_{L_s}} - \frac{\pi_{mz}}{\Pi_{L_m}} \right] \right\}$$
$$\times \frac{\Gamma(X)}{\alpha + \omega(1-\alpha) + \hat{z}f(\hat{z}|0)/F(\hat{z}|0) + \int \left[ \tilde{z}(h)^2 \cdot f(\tilde{z}(h)|h) \right] g(h) dh}.$$

The log-slope of the LHS in (46) is $1/\left[ 1 - q_h(0) \right]$, which increases from 1 to $\infty$ as $q_h(0)$ increases from 0 to 1, and is larger than $\Gamma(X)$ for all $X > 0$. Hence it suffices to show that the absolute value of all terms multiplying $\Gamma(X)$ are less than 1, which is true in particular due to Assumption 4.2.

Intuitively, what the planner cares about is the marginal products of $Z$ and $H$ in total. So when the distribution of $z$ has a fat tail, the response of $\hat{z}$ to the choice of $q_h(0)$ is minimal as it changes $Z$ smoothly along its entire support.

## C.4 Proof of Proposition 2

**Part 1.** By Lemma 5, we know that no crossing can occur on $(0, \underline{j})$ or $(\overline{j}, J)$, since $\hat{h}$ and $\hat{h}^1$ already coincide at the boundaries 0 and $J$. Similarly, we also know from

Theorem 1 that it can never be the case that there is no crossing ($\hat{h}^1(j) > \hat{h}(j)$ or $\hat{h}^1(j) < \hat{h}(j)$ for all $j \in \mathcal{J} \setminus \{0, J\}$). Hence, there must be a single crossing in $\mathcal{J}^1$ since Lemma 5 also rules out multiple crossings.

At this point, the only possibility for $j^*$ not to exist is if instead, there exists a single crossing $j^{**}$ such that **(i)** $\hat{h}^1(j) < \hat{h}(j)$ for all $j \in (0, j^{**})$ and **(ii)** $\hat{h}^1(j) > \hat{h}(j)$ for all $j \in (j^{**}, J)$. If so, since $[\hat{h}, \hat{h}^1]$ are Lipschitz continuous and strictly monotone in $j$, it must be the case that $\hat{h}^{1\prime}(0) < \hat{h}'(0)$, $\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j^{**}) > \hat{h}'(j^{**})$ and $\hat{h}^{1\prime}(J) < \hat{h}'(J)$. This implies

$$\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j^{**})/\hat{h}^{1\prime}(0) \geq \hat{h}'(j^{**})/\hat{h}'(0), \qquad \hat{h}^{1\prime}(J)/\hat{h}^{1\prime}(j^{**}) \leq \hat{h}'(J)/\hat{h}'(j^{**}). \tag{51}$$

Let us focus on the first inequality. Using (37) and (40a) we obtain

$$0 > [\alpha + \sigma(1 - \alpha)] \cdot \left[ \int_0^{j^{**}} \frac{\partial \log b(\hat{h}^1(j), j)}{\partial j} dj - \int_0^{j^{**}} \frac{\partial \log b(\hat{h}(j), j)}{\partial j} dj \right] \tag{52}$$
$$\geq (1 - \sigma)m + \log\left[ F(\hat{z}^1(j^{**})|\hat{h}(j^{**}))/F(\hat{z}(j^{**})|\hat{h}(j^{**})) \right] - \log\left[ F(\hat{z}^1(0)|\hat{h}(0))/F(\hat{z}(0)|\hat{h}(0)) \right].$$

where the first inequality follows from (42), and applying **(i)**. Since $m > 0$, if $\sigma \in (0, 1)$, Assumption 3 implies that the strict inequality in (52) holds only if

$$\int_0^{h^{**}} \frac{\partial \log b(h', \hat{j}^1(h'))}{\partial h'} dh' < \int_0^{h^{**}} \frac{\partial \log b(h', \hat{j}(h'))}{\partial h'} dh'$$

where we have written $h^{**} \equiv \hat{h}(j^{**})$. And since $\hat{j}(h)$ is the inverse of $\hat{h}(j)$, **(i)** implies that $\hat{j}^1(h) > \hat{j}(h)$ for all $h \in (0, h^{**})$. But this violates (43), the log-supermodularity of $b$. The case for the second inequality in (51) is symmetric.

**Part 2.** Let $\Delta_x$ denote the log-derivative of $x$ w.r.t. $\tilde{m}$. Applying (38) into the definition of $\Pi_{ih}$ in (10), we obtain

$$\Delta_{\Pi_{ih}} \cdot \Pi_{ih} = (\sigma - 1) \int_{\underline{j}}^{\overline{j}} \pi_{ih}(j) dj + \int \left\{ \pi_{ih}(j) \cdot (1 - \alpha)(\sigma - 1) \cdot \Delta_{B_j(j)} \right\} dj$$
$$\approx (\sigma - 1) \int_{\underline{j}}^{\overline{j}} \pi_{ih}(j) dj \tag{53}$$

where the approximation follows from Assumption 5 and (47). Hence $\Delta_{\Pi_{ih}} < 0$ if $\sigma < 1$. Rearranging (40b) and using (40a) at $j = 0$ we obtain

$$0 > \frac{\sigma - \omega}{1 - \sigma} \cdot \Delta_{\Pi_{ih}} - \Delta_{\hat{h}'(0)} = \left[ \alpha + \omega(1 - \alpha) + \hat{z}f(\hat{z}|0)/F(\hat{z}|0) \right] \Delta_{\hat{z}} - \Delta_Z \tag{54}$$

where the inequality holds if $\omega < \sigma < 1$, and since we know from part 1 that $\Delta_{\hat{h}'(0)} \geq 0$. Now suppose $\Delta_{\hat{z}} \geq 0$. Then for (54) to hold it must be the case that $\Delta_Z > 0$, but from (50), $\Delta_Z \leq 0$ if $\Delta_{\hat{z}} \geq 0$, a contradiction. Hence, $\hat{z}^1 < \hat{z}$, and $\tilde{z}^1(h) < \tilde{z}(h)$ for all $h$ by (49).

## C.5  Proof of Lemmas 2 and 3

From (28), the $\Delta_{V_i(j)}$'s are sector-neutral and common across sectors, except for $\Delta_{V_i(z)}$. Under Assumption 5, (47)-(48) imply

$$\Delta_{V_i(j)} = \sigma - 1 < 0 \quad \forall j \in \mathcal{J}^1 \quad \text{and 0 otherwise.} \tag{55a}$$

So for workers, any difference in how the share of task $j$ employment evolves differentially across sectors depends only on $\Delta_{V_{L_i}}$, the sum of within-sector employment shifts, weighted by the employment shares of all tasks within a sector $V_i(j)/V_{L_i} = L_i(j)/L_i$. Since we know that intermediate jobs are the ones that are declining, from the definition of $\Pi_{L_i}$ in (21) a measure of the speed of polarization among workers is the total change in their employment:

$$\Delta_{V_{il}} V_{il} = \int_{\mathcal{J}} V_i(j) \cdot \Delta_{V_i(j)} dj = (\sigma - 1) \cdot \int_{\underline{j}}^{\overline{j}} V_i(j) dj$$

and we have used (55a). So we can compare the speeds of polarization across the two sectors from

$$\Delta_{V_{ml}} - \Delta_{V_{sl}} = (\sigma - 1) \cdot \int_{\underline{j}}^{\overline{j}} \left\{ \left[ \frac{\nu_m(j)}{V_{ml}} - \frac{\nu_s(j)}{V_{sl}} \right] \cdot \left[ M(j) B_j(j)^{1-\alpha} \right]^{\sigma-1} \Big/ B_h(\hat{h}(j)) \right\} dj. \tag{55b}$$

Manager employment has sector-differential effects through $V_{ih}$: Under Assumption 5 and using (53), we obtain

$$\Delta_{V_m(z)} - \Delta_{V_s(z)} = (\sigma - \omega) \cdot \int_{\underline{j}}^{\overline{j}} \left\{ \left[ \frac{\nu_m(j)}{V_{mh}} - \frac{\nu_s(j)}{V_{sh}} \right] \cdot \left[ M(j) B_j(j)^{1-\alpha} \right]^{\sigma-1} \right\} dj. \tag{55c}$$

Equations (55b) and (55c) imply that a sufficient condition for both horizontal and vertical polarization to be faster in manufacturing, as in the data, is $\omega < \sigma < 1$ and $\nu_{mh}(j) \gg \nu_{sh}(j)$ for all $j \in \mathcal{J}^1$, which is Lemma 2.

**Structural change**  From (23) and (46) we obtain

$$\Delta_{L_s} = L_m \cdot \left\{ \Delta_{V_{L_s}} - \Delta_{V_{L_m}} + \Delta_Q \right\}. \tag{56a}$$

The term $\Delta_{L_s} - \Delta_{L_m}$ is the first-order force of structural change that comes only from the change in selection rules. However, since this takes us off the between-sector equilibrium, $q_h(0)$ must shift to satisfy the equilibrium condition (46). The net amount of structural change will depend on whether the selection effect is overturned or reinforced by the change in $q_h(0)$.

Since $Q(q_h(0))$ in (46) changes monotonically from 0 to $\infty$ in $q_h(0)$, we only need to consider the direction of the change of the RHS off equilibrium. Using (55), the log-derivative of the RHS of (46) can be written as

$$(1 - \epsilon) \left\{ \frac{\sigma - \omega}{(1 - \sigma)(1 - \omega)} \cdot (\Delta_{V_{sh}} - \Delta_{V_{mh}}) + \left( \alpha + \frac{\omega}{1 - \omega} \right) \left( \Delta_{\Pi_{K_s}} - \Delta_{\Pi_{K_m}} \right) \right\}$$
$$- [\alpha + \epsilon(1 - \alpha)] \left( \Delta_{V_{L_s}} - \Delta_{V_{L_m}} \right). \tag{56b}$$

Under Lemma 2, the part with $\Delta_{V_{ih}}$'s is positive from (55b). The part with $\Delta_{\Pi_{K_i}}$ is determined by

$$\Delta_{\Pi_{K_i}} \Pi_{K_i} = \Pi_{ih} \Delta_{V_{ih}} + \pi_{iz} \Delta_{\pi_{iz}}, \tag{56c}$$

$$\Delta_{\pi_{sz}} - \Delta_{\pi_{mz}} = \frac{\sigma - \omega}{1 - \sigma} \left( \Delta_{V_{sh}} - \Delta_{V_{mh}} \right). \tag{56d}$$

Clearly, capital polarizes along with labor, both horizontally and vertically; and the speed is faster in manufacturing if the assumptions in Lemma 3 holds.

Why structural change cannot be overturned, as explained in the text, is also formalized here: Even if there is a decline in $q_h(0)$ due to the negative effect coming from last term in (56b) dominating the positive effect from the first two terms, it can never overturn the direction of structural change in (56a) as long as $\epsilon < 1$. Equations (55)-(56) also make it clear that structural change depends differently on the productivities of capital and labor.

# D   Quantitative Model and Numerical Details

With discrete tasks, it must be that the marginal product of the threshold worker is equalized between tasks:

$$MPT_{i0} \cdot \frac{(1 - \alpha)T_{i0}}{L_{i0}} = MPT_{i1} \cdot \frac{(1 - \alpha)T_{i1}}{\bar{h}_1 L_{i1}} \cdot \hat{h}_1,$$

$$MPT_{ij} \cdot \frac{(1 - \alpha)T_{ij}}{(\bar{h}_j - \chi_j)L_{ij}} \cdot (\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_j) = MPT_{ij+1} \cdot \frac{(1 - \alpha)T_{i,j+1}}{(\bar{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1})L_{i,j+1}} \cdot (\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1})$$

using Assumption 2, and $L_{ij}$ is the measure of workers in sector $i$, task $j$ and $\bar{h}_j \equiv H_{ij}/L_{ij}$. Thus, we are assuming that the means of skills in task $j$ are equal across sectors $i \in \{m, s\}$, which is true when tasks are a continuum. Then

$$\hat{h}_1 = \frac{\bar{h}_1 L_{i1}}{\pi_{i1} L_{i0}}, \qquad \frac{\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1}}{\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_j} = \frac{\pi_{ij}(\bar{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1})L_{i2}}{\pi_{i,j+1}(\bar{h}_j - \chi_j)L_{i1}}, \tag{57}$$

where $\pi_{ij}$ is the discrete version of (9), and can be expressed using (57) as

$$\pi_{i1} = \frac{\nu_{i1}}{\nu_{i0}} \cdot \left( \frac{M_1}{M_0} \cdot \hat{h}_1^{1-\alpha} \right)^{\sigma - 1}, \qquad \frac{\pi_{i,j+1}}{\pi_{ij}} = \frac{\nu_{i2}}{\nu_{i1}} \cdot \left[ \frac{M_{j+1}}{M_j} \left( \frac{\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1}}{\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_j} \right)^{1-\alpha} \right]^{\sigma - 1}. \tag{58}$$

In equilibrium, indifference across tasks for threshold workers imply

$$w_0 = w_z \hat{z} = w_1 \hat{h}_1, \quad w_j(\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_j) = w_{j+1}(\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1})$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad w_z/w_0 = 1/\hat{z}, \quad w_1/w_0 = 1/\hat{h}_1, \quad w_{j+1}/w_j = \frac{\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_{j+1}}{\hat{h}_{j+1} - \chi_j}. \tag{59}$$

which is used to calibrate the distribution of skills in Section 5.3. The rest of the parameters are calibrated as follows:

1. Guess $(\sigma, \omega)$.

2. Given elasticities, first fit 1980 moments:

    (a) Guess $(M, A_m)$.

    (b) Plug in the threshold values $\mathbf{x}_{1980}$ implied by the skill distribution, along with the empirical values of $(L_{iz}, L_{i0}, \ldots, L_{i9})$, the employment shares of each occupation in sector $i \in \{m, s\}$ from Table 5, into (13) and (57). Then we recover all the $\nu_{ij}$'s from (57)-(58), and the $\eta_i$'s from (13) and (39) in closed form (since $M_j = M$ are assumed to be equal for all $j$). This ensures that the 1980 equilibrium exactly fits within-sector employment shares by occupation (20 parameters, 20 moments).

    (c) Repeat from (a) until we exactly fit the manufacturing employment share in 1980, and output per worker of $1.$[46] Since (20) and (22) are monotone in $(M, A_m)$, the solution is unique (2 parameters, 2 moments).

3. Given elasticities and all parameters, calibrate growth rates to 2010 moments:

    (a) Guess $m_0$.

    (b) Guess $\{m_j\}_{j=z,1}^{9}$. Plug in threshold values $\mathbf{x}_{2010}$ and new TFP's into (13) and (57), which yields equilibrium employment shares by occupation, within each sector. Then use (20)-(22) to solve for the 2010 equilibrium, which yields equilibrium employment shares between sectors.

    (c) Repeat from (a) until we exactly exactly fit aggregate GDP (or equivalently TFP) in 2010. (1 parameter, 1 moment).

4. Repeat from 1. to minimize the distance between the within-sector employment shares by occupation (but not necessarily by sector) implied by the 2010 model equilibrium and the data (13 parameters, 21 moments).

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[46]The latter must be matched since the value of $K_{1980}$ we plug in from the data was normalized by 1980's output.

For $(\sigma, \omega)$, we first search globally by setting a 100×100 grid that covers the box $[0, 2] \times [0, 2]$, then locally search from the best point using a Nelder-Meade simplex algorithm.

# E  Tables and Figures Not in Text

| Ranked by mean wage (except management) | COC Group | Employment Shares (%) | | | | Rel. Wages | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1980 | 2010 | Manufacturing | | 1980 | 2010 |
| **Low Skill Services** | 400 | **10.44** | **13.92** | **0.59** | **0.23** | **0.65** | **0.55** |
| **Middle Skill** | | **59.09** | **46.48** | **25.86** | **12.93** | **0.90** | **0.77** |
| Administrative Support | 300 | 16.57 | 14.13 | 3.47 | 1.53 | 0.78 | 0.68 |
| Machine Operators | 700 | 9.81 | 3.75 | 8.79 | 3.02 | 0.84 | 0.64 |
| Transportation | 800 | 8.73 | 6.64 | 3.80 | 2.28 | 0.89 | 0.63 |
| Sales | 240 | 7.87 | 9.37 | 0.79 | 0.62 | 0.94 | 0.90 |
| Technicians | 200 | 3.23 | 3.86 | 1.00 | 0.57 | 1.04 | 1.12 |
| Mechanics & Construction | 500 | 7.91 | 6.02 | 4.44 | 3.19 | 1.06 | 0.81 |
| Miners & Precision Workers | 600 | 4.97 | 2.71 | 3.58 | 1.73 | 1.09 | 0.77 |
| **High Skill** | | **19.22** | **26.16** | **3.87** | **3.64** | **1.26** | **1.30** |
| Professionals | 40 | 11.02 | 16.51 | 1.73 | 1.45 | 1.21 | 1.26 |
| Management Support | 20 | 8.20 | 9.65 | 2.14 | 2.20 | 1.32 | 1.37 |
| **Management** | 1 | **11.26** | **13.44** | **2.47** | **2.59** | **1.39** | **1.68** |

**Table 5: Occupation×Sector Employment and Relative Wages**

Source: US Census (5%), 1980 and 2010. All employment shares are in percent of aggregate employment. The first two columns show the employment share of each occupation for each year. The "Manufacturing" columns show manufacturing employment of each occupation for each year (so the sum across all occupations is the manufacturing employment share). Relative wages are normalized so that the mean wage across all occupations is 1.

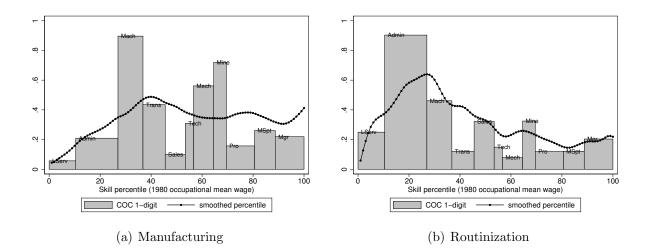| Ranked by mean wage (except management) | (1) $m$ (%) | (2) $m_j$ (%) | BM $m_j$ (%) | Data |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Low Skill Services** | **1.973** | **-2.726** | **-0.731** | |
| **Middle Skill** | | | | |
| Administrative Support | 1.973 | 1.252 | 2.930 | |
| Machine Operators | 1.973 | 10.018 | 9.122 | |
| Transportation | 1.973 | 3.326 | 4.348 | |
| Sales | 1.973 | -1.895 | 0.012 | |
| Technicians | 1.973 | -2.484 | -1.144 | |
| Mechanics & Construction | 1.973 | 1.742 | 2.315 | |
| Miners & Precision Workers | 1.973 | 6.367 | 6.328 | |
| **High Skill** | | | | |
| Professionals | 1.973 | -3.973 | -2.248 | |
| Management Support | 1.973 | -1.973 | -0.489 | |
| **Management** | **1.973** | **-1.438** | **-0.017** | |
| **Aggregate TFP growth (%)** | **1.030** | **1.030** | **1.030** | **1.030** |
| $a_m$ (Manu TFP growth, %) | 0.252 | 0.252 | 2.943 | 2.229 |
| $a_s$ (Serv TFP growth, %) | -1.205 | 2.021 | 0.308 | 0.743 |

**Table 6: Recalibrated TFP Growth Rates for Counterfactuals**

Column (1) stands for the counterfactual in which we set $m_j = m$ and calibrate $(a_m, a_s)$ to match sectoral TFP's, and (2) for when we let $(\{m_j\}_{j=z,0}^{9}, a_m, a_s)$ all vary simultaneously. "BM" stands for the benchmark calibration. For all scenarios, aggregate GDP growth (and consequently TFP growth) is matched exactly, shown in the first row of the bottom panel. For the "BM" and "Data" columns, the $a_m$ and $a_s$ rows show the empirical growth rates of the manufacturing and services sectors' TFP's, respectively.

|  |  | $\Delta L_j$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | TFP | - 9.584 *** |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $R^2$ | 0.939 |  |  |  |  |  |
| RTI (DOT) | 0.429 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | (0.268) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Routine manual |  | 0.797** |  | 0.618 |  |  |  |
|  |  | (0.206) |  | (0.527) |  |  |  |
| Manual interpersonal |  |  | -0.767** | -0.192 |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | (0.192) | (0.549) |  |  |  |
| College share 1980 |  |  |  |  | -11.142* |  | -7.994** |
|  |  |  |  |  | (3.599) |  | (2.269) |
| $\Delta$College share 1980-2010 |  |  |  |  |  | -33.673* | -20.295* |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | (17.410) | (13.547) |
| Constant | 1.061 | 0.377 | 3.281** | 1.065 | 4.035* | 4.818* | 5.204* |
|  | (0.941) | (0.738) | (0.970) | (2.339) | (1.401) | (1.674) | (1.759) |
| $R^2$ | 0.184 | 0.635 | 0.588 | 0.640 | 0.439 | 0.372 | 0.539 |

Standard errors in parentheses, $^\dagger p < 0.10$, $^* p < 0.05$, $^{**} p < 0.01$
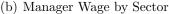
**Table 7: Task-Specific TFP Growth, Employment, and Empirical Measures**
The first panel shows the results from regressing employment share changes on the calibrated task-specific TFP growth rates, $m_j$. The second panel shows the results from regressing the TFP growth rates on various occupation-level empirical measures.



(a) Manufacturing

(b) Routinization

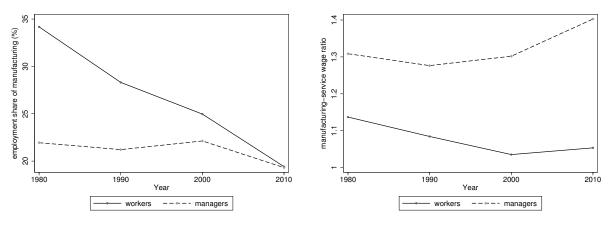**Fig. 21: Manufacturing Employment Shares and Routine Job Shares**
Source: U.S. Census (5%). Left: Manufacturing employment share by occupation-skill percentile in 1980. Right: Share of top employment-weighted third of occupations in terms of RTI by skill percentile, replicates Autor and Dorn (2013) who construct RTI from detailed task requirements by occupation in DOT. Occupations are ranked by their 1980 mean wage for 11 one-digit groups and smoothed across 322 three-digit groups, separately. The $x$-axis units are in percent share of employment. Further details in text and Appendix A.

(a) Aggregate Wage Levels and Ratio



(b) Manager Wage by Sector

**Fig. 22: Relative Manager Wages**

Source: U.S. Census (5%). Left: levels and ratio of mean wages or managers and all other workers in aggregate. Right: relative mean wage of managers over all other workers within manufacturing and services. "Manufacturing" combines manufacturing, mining and construction, and services subsumes service and government. See Appendix A for how we define management in the census and Figure 20 for a detailed breakdown of the manager group.
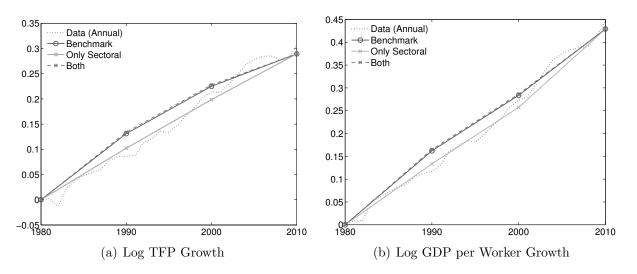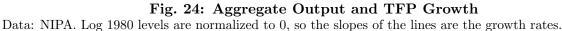


(a) Manufacturing Employment Share



(b) Manufacturing-Services Average Wage Ratio

**Fig. 23: Manufacturing vs. Services by Occuaption**

Source: U.S. Census (5%). Left: manufacturing employment share within the manager occupation group and all other workers. Right: mean wage of manufacturing employment relative to services employment within the manager occupation group and all other workers. "Manufacturing" combines manufacturing, mining and construction, and services subsumes service and government. See Appendix A for how we define management in the census and Figure 20 for a detailed breakdown of the manager group.
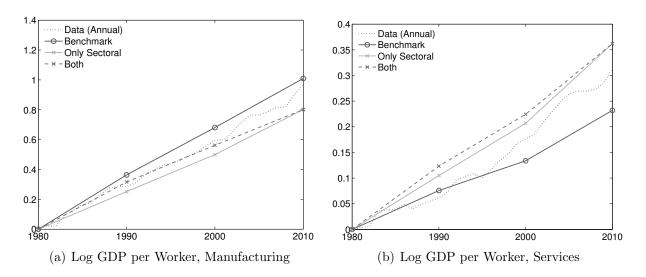
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(a) Log TFP Growth         (b) Log GDP per Worker Growth

**Fig. 24: Aggregate Output and TFP Growth**
Data: NIPA. Log 1980 levels are normalized to 0, so the slopes of the lines are the growth rates.



(a) Log GDP per Worker, Manufacturing      (b) Log GDP per Worker, Services

**Fig. 25: Benchmark vs. Counterfactuals, GDP per Worker**
Data: NIPA. "Manufacturing" combines manufacturing, mining and construction, and services subsumes service and government. Log 1980 levels are normalized to 0, so the slopes of the lines are the growth rates.
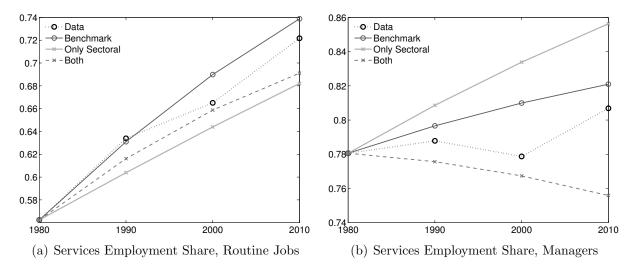
(a) Services Employment Share, Routine Jobs          (b) Services Employment Share, Managers

**Fig. 26: Benchmark vs. Counterfactuals, Structural Change**
Vertical axes are the fractions of routine jobs (left) and mangers (right) in services.

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