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► **To cite this version:**

Philippe Michel, Bertrand Wigniolle. On Efficient Child Making. *Economic Theory*, 2007, 31 (2), pp.307-326. 10.1007/s00199-006-0099-1 . halshs-00185259

HAL Id: halshs-00185259

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-00185259>

Submitted on 5 Nov 2007

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On Efficient Child Making*

Philippe Michel[†] and Bertrand Wigniolle[‡]

February 23, 2006

Abstract

This paper is devoted to the study of the Pareto-efficiency of the competitive equilibrium for an overlapping generations economy with endogenous fertility. Pareto-efficiency needs a reformulation when fertility is endogenous. Then it is proved that a competitive equilibrium that converges in over-accumulation is non-Pareto-efficient. However, we provide an example in which a competitive equilibrium that converges in under-accumulation is non-Pareto-efficient. Finally, we give a general condition that ensures the Pareto-efficiency of the competitive equilibrium.

Keywords and Phrases: endogenous fertility, Pareto-efficiency.

JEL Classification Numbers: D9, J13 and D61.

*This paper was presented at the conference “Irregular Growth: Beyond Balanced Growth”, Paris, June 2003. The authors would like to thank Tapan Mitra for helpful comments. They also are grateful to Claire Loupias, who began to think with them on the subject and to an anonymous referee for useful suggestions and improvements.

[†]GREQAM, Université de la Méditerranée and EUREQua, Université de Paris I. The current version of this paper was completed after Philippe Michel’s sudden death. I want to express my deep sorrow for the loss of a close friend and an excellent economist, whom I learned a lot from over the years.

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1 Introduction

This paper is devoted to the study of the Pareto-efficiency of the competitive equilibrium for an overlapping generations economy with endogenous fertility.

The problem is well-known when fertility is exogenous. Considering the standard overlapping generations model (cf. Diamond [7]), three types of steady states may exist in a competitive economy: under-accumulation, the golden rule or over-accumulation. The two first steady states are Pareto-optimal when the third is not. Moreover, for an inter-temporal dynamic equilibrium converging towards a steady state, if this steady state is in under-accumulation, the equilibrium trajectory is Pareto-optimal; if the steady state is in over-accumulation, the equilibrium trajectory is not Pareto-optimal. These results are carefully presented in De la Croix and Michel [6].

What happens to these properties when fertility is endogenous?

Before answering this question, we must clarify some basic assumptions and concepts. On the one hand, we must choose a theoretical framework that endogenizes the fertility decisions. On the other hand, we need to reconsider the notion of Pareto-efficiency in a context where fertility is endogenous: Pareto-efficiency is a notion that is basically defined for a given set of agents.

In the literature, there have been many approaches that endogenize fertility decisions. The benchmark framework consists in assuming that children are a consumption good, which appear in the utility function of the parents. The basic references are the articles by Becker [1], Willis [14] and Eckstein and Wolpin [8]¹. Moreover, we focus on the case of identical agents in each generation: we consider one representative agent by generation.

The second point at issue is the definition of the Pareto-efficiency when fertility is endogenous. We introduce a concept called “Representative-Consumer” efficiency (or RC-efficiency), which refers to an allocation (which satisfies the resource constraint of the economy), for which no other allocation exists that would lead to a higher level of utility for all generations with a strict improvement for (at least) one generation. In the sense of this definition, the only criterion is the utility of each generation. Thus, an allocation that improves the utility level of one (or many) generation(s) to the detriment of the size of one (or many) generation(s) is considered preferable. For that reason, it is possible to think of another notion, which add to the preceding notion an additional constraint: an allocation can dominate another one only if it

¹Other approaches have been developed in the literature based on the additional assumption of descendant altruism, as in Becker and Barro [2]. Another way of endogenizing fertility (cf. Nishimura and Zhang [12]) is to introduce ascendant altruism and strategic behaviors of parents.

includes at least an equal number of children in each period. But, as a result of our study, we will see that this second notion does not lead to a different classification of competitive equilibria. Therefore we will concentrate our study on the basic notion

We reach the following results.

First, we present the model and give the precise conditions that ensure the existence and the uniqueness of the inter-temporal equilibrium. Second, we focus on the efficiency properties of the competitive equilibrium. Clearly a competitive equilibrium that converges in over-accumulation is not RC-efficient, as a consequence of the comparison with unchanged population. More surprisingly, a competitive equilibrium that converges in under-accumulation can be RC-dominated. This result is shown by a simple example: starting from the competitive equilibrium, we build an allocation that gives a higher fertility and leaves the consumption levels unchanged.

Finally, considering a competitive equilibrium which converges in under-accumulation, we give a sufficient condition to ensure that this trajectory is RC-efficient. This condition is that the limit value of the wage does not make it possible to finance a fertility level that is higher than the limit value of the interest factor.

Our results can be compared with existing literature.

In a framework close to ours, Eckstein and Wolpin [8] focus on the optimal stationary state. They do not, however, precisely state the sufficient conditions that ensure the concavity of the optimization problem².

As for the problem of the existence and uniqueness of the inter-temporal equilibrium with endogenous fertility, Raut and Srinivasan [13] and Chakrabarti [4] consider models that are close to ours. They particularly focus on the occurrence of multiple equilibria, indetermination and complex dynamics.

Two recent papers are concerned with the definition of Pareto-efficiency criteria in an endogenous fertility framework. Conde-Ruiz, Giménez and Perez-Nievas [5] present two definitions of Pareto efficiency that are close to ours. They apply these notions to a model in which the only productive factor is human capital, and they do not study the efficiency properties of the competitive equilibrium.

Golosov, Jones and Tertilt [9] are concerned with the definition of Pareto-efficiency notions in a general framework with heterogeneous agents. They propose two notions called P-efficiency and A-efficiency. One difference with our approach is that their notion of P-efficiency depends on the utility level assigned to “unborn” agents. On the contrary, our notions of efficiency are defined independently of any reference to the utility of “unborn” agents. In

²Even if they mention that they obtain such conditions for a Cobb-Douglas economy.

a framework with homogenous generations, their notion of A-efficiency corresponds to our notion of RC-efficiency. For a sufficiently low level of utility assigned to unborn agents, their notion of P-efficiency corresponds to our notion of CRC-efficiency. But the main difference with our approach is that they study a class of models with the particular notion of “P-equilibrium” which do not include our model. Indeed, for the class of models that they consider, they find that all P-equilibrium is P-efficient, when we consider a model where the equilibrium can be inefficient.

This paper is organized in the following way. Section two presents the model. Section three defines and studies the inter-temporal equilibrium. Section four defines Pareto efficiency when fertility is endogenous, and gives sufficient conditions for non-efficiency. Section five gives a sufficient condition for ensuring that a competitive equilibrium converging in under-accumulation is efficient. Section six presents our conclusions. The most demanding proofs can be found in the Appendix.

2 The model

We make use of an overlapping generations model. Each individual lives for two periods. She or he inelastically supplies one unit of labor during her/his youth and retires in old age. During their first period of life, agents work, consume save and choose their number of children. Children entail a cost for their parents. In their second period of life, agents consume the proceeds of their savings.

2.1 Consumers

At each date t , the new generation is populated with a number N_t of identical agents. Each agent is endowed with an inter-temporal utility function:

$$U(c_t, d_{t+1}, m_t) \tag{1}$$

with $(c_t, d_{t+1}, m_t) \in \mathbb{R}_+^3$. c_t and d_{t+1} are respectively the consumptions of good during youth and old age, and m_t is the number of children³. The number of agents of the generation $t + 1$ is thus equal to:

$$N_{t+1} = m_t N_t \tag{2}$$

³As usual, we consider m_t as a continuous variable. This assumption is consistent with a model which assumes identical agents within each generation.

Assumption 1 : U is a function from \mathbb{R}_+^3 to $\mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty\}$, and U maps \mathbb{R}_{++}^3 to \mathbb{R} , with⁴:

$$U(\bar{c}, \bar{d}, \bar{m}) = \lim_{\substack{(c,d,m) \in \mathbb{R}_{++}^3 \\ (c,d,m) \rightarrow (\bar{c}, \bar{d}, \bar{m})}} U(c, d, m) \text{ for every } (\bar{c}, \bar{d}, \bar{m}) \in \mathbb{R}_+^3 / \mathbb{R}_{++}^3 \quad (3)$$

U is twice continuously differentiable on \mathbb{R}_{++}^3 , strictly concave, increasing in each argument and satisfies the Inada conditions:

$$\lim_{c \rightarrow 0} U'_c = \lim_{d \rightarrow 0} U'_d = \lim_{m \rightarrow 0} U'_m = +\infty$$

The budget constraints faced by a generation t agent are:

$$c_t + \phi m_t + s_t = w_t \quad (4)$$

$$d_{t+1} = R_{t+1} s_t \quad (5)$$

where w_t is the wage earned during period t , s_t the savings, and R_{t+1} the gross return in $t + 1$ on savings. Each child entails a constant educational cost ϕ .

From (4) and (5), the lifetime budget constraint can be stated as:

$$c_t + \frac{d_{t+1}}{R_{t+1}} + \phi m_t = w_t$$

With assumption 1, maximizing the utility function under the lifetime budget constraint leads to the following first-order conditions, which are necessary and sufficient:

$$U'_{c_t} = R_{t+1} U'_{d_{t+1}} = \frac{U'_{m_t}}{\phi}$$

This enables us to write the following demand functions:

$$c_t = c(w_t, R_{t+1}) \quad (6)$$

$$m_t = m(w_t, R_{t+1}) \quad (7)$$

$$s_t = s(w_t, R_{t+1}) \quad (8)$$

$$d_{t+1} = d(w_t, R_{t+1}) \quad (9)$$

Functions c , m , s and d are defined on \mathbb{R}_{++}^2 and are continuously differentiable.

⁴Equation (3) means that a unique limit exists, independent of the converging (c, d, m) sequence chosen.

2.2 Firms

At each period t one competitive firm exists, which produces Y_t quantity of good, according to a production function with two inputs (capital: K_t ; labor: L_t), and constant returns:

$$Y_t = F(K_t, L_t)$$

The capital fully depreciates within the production period. We can define f as: $f(k) \equiv F(k, 1)$.

Assumption 2: $f : \mathbb{R}_+ \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_+$, and for all $k > 0$, $f'(k) > 0$ and $f''(k) < 0$.

The profit maximization of the firm gives:

$$\begin{aligned} w_t &= F'_L(K_t, L_t) = f(K_t/L_t) - (K_t/L_t)f'(K_t/L_t) \equiv w(K_t/L_t) \\ R_t &= F'_K(K_t, L_t) = f'(K_t/L_t) \equiv R(K_t/L_t) \end{aligned}$$

3 The inter-temporal equilibrium

3.1 Equilibrium characterization

The initial conditions are the following. At period $t = 0$, N_{-1} old agents and N_0 young agents are living. The old agents hold equal shares of the capital stock K_0 . This stock comes from their past savings behavior: $K_0 = N_{-1}s_{-1}$. The consumption of the old agents can then be given by:

$$d_0 = R_0K_0/N_{-1}$$

Along an inter-temporal equilibrium, all markets are balanced.

The labor market is balanced at each period: $L_t = N_t$, with N_t following the relation : $N_{t+1} = m_tN_t$. Prices result from the firms' behavior at equilibrium:

$$R_t = R(k_t) \text{ and } w_t = w(k_t) \text{ with: } k_t = K_t/N_t$$

The commodity market is balanced, or:

$$F(K_t, N_t) = N_t c_t + N_{t-1} d_t + K_{t+1} + N_t \phi m_t$$

Taking consumer's budget constraints into account, this last relation is equivalent to:

$$K_{t+1} = N_t s_t$$

Finally, using optimal behaviors and equilibrium conditions, it is possible to give the definition of the inter-temporal equilibrium:

Definition 1 Starting from initial conditions N_{-1} , N_0 , K_0 and $d_0 = R_0 K_0 / N_{-1}$, an inter-temporal equilibrium is a sequence $(K_t, N_t, c_t, d_t, m_t)_{t \geq 0}$, which satisfies:

$$c_t + \frac{d_{t+1}}{R_{t+1}} + \phi m_t = w_t \quad (10)$$

$$U'_{c_t} = R_{t+1} U'_{d_{t+1}} = \frac{U'_{m_t}}{\phi} \quad (11)$$

$$N_{t+1} = m_t N_t \quad (12)$$

$$F(K_t, N_t) = N_t c_t + N_{t-1} d_t + K_{t+1} + N_t \phi m_t \quad (13)$$

$$\text{with } R_t = R(k_t) \text{ and } w_t = w(k_t) \text{ where: } k_t = K_t / N_t \quad (14)$$

All equilibrium variables can be expressed as functions of the variable k_t . This property leads to the following simple characterization:

Proposition 1 An inter-temporal equilibrium is characterized by a sequence $(k_t)_{t \geq 0}$ with $k_t > 0$, such that: $k_0 = K_0 / N_0$ is given, and $\forall t \geq 0$,

$$m[w(k_t), R(k_{t+1})] k_{t+1} - s[w(k_t), R(k_{t+1})] = 0 \quad (15)$$

The proof is straightforward. From the sequence $(k_t)_{t \geq 0}$, the sequence of prices can be defined by (14). Individual variables $(c_t, s_t, m_t, d_{t+1})_{t \geq 0}$ are given by (6), (7), (8) and (9). All equilibrium conditions are thus satisfied. ■

3.2 Sufficient conditions for the existence and uniqueness of the inter-temporal equilibrium

We define the function Δ as:

$$\Delta(w, k) = m(w, f'(k))k - s(w, f'(k))$$

Δ is defined on \mathbb{R}_{++}^2 and is continuously differentiable. The dynamic equation (15) can be written as:

$$\Delta(w(k_t), k_{t+1}) = 0$$

A sufficient condition for the existence of an inter-temporal equilibrium $(k_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is that for all $w > 0$, there exists $k > 0$, such that $\Delta(w, k) = 0$. Moreover, if $\forall w > 0$, the equation $\Delta(w, k) = 0$ has a unique solution k , and thus, the inter-temporal equilibrium starting from the initial stock $k_0 = K_0 / N_0 > 0$ is unique.

We introduce a new assumption on the utility function $U(c, d, m)$ in order to prove the existence and uniqueness of the inter-temporal equilibrium:

Assumption 3: c and m are gross substitutes to the good consumed during the second period of life d , that is $c'_R \leq 0$ and $m'_R \leq 0$.

A consequence of this assumption is that the savings function (8) increases with R . Indeed, as (6), (7) and (8) are such that (4) holds, we have:

$$s'_R = -c'_R - \phi m'_R \geq 0 \quad (16)$$

Example 1 : Let us assume that the utility function U is additively separable, following $U(c, d, m) = u_1(c) + u_2(d) + v(m)$, with $u'_1 > 0$, $u'_2 > 0$, $v' > 0$, $u''_1 < 0$, $u''_2 < 0$, $v'' < 0$. In that case, assumption 3 is satisfied iff the elasticity of $u'_2(d)$ is not smaller than -1 : $du''_2(d)/u'_2(d) \geq -1$.

The following proposition proves the existence and uniqueness of the intertemporal equilibrium.

Proposition 2 : Under assumptions 1, 2 and 3, $\forall k_0 > 0$, a unique intertemporal equilibrium $(k_t)_{t \geq 0}$ exists starting from a given initial condition $k_0 > 0$.

Proof: The proof establishes that for all $w > 0$, a unique value $k > 0$ exists, such that $\Delta(w, k) = 0$. Let us first note that Δ is a strictly increasing function of k . Indeed,

$$\Delta'_k(w, k) = m(w, f'(k)) + km'_R f''(k) - s'_R f''(k) \geq m(w, f'(k)) > 0$$

Thus, uniqueness is guaranteed.

The existence is proved by studying the limits of Δ for $k \rightarrow 0$ and $k \rightarrow \infty$. When k goes to 0, it can be bounded in such a way that: $k < 1 \Rightarrow f'(k) > f'(1)$. We then obtain the following inequalities:

$$m(w, f'(k)) \leq m(w, f'(1)), \quad s(w, f'(k)) \geq s(w, f'(1))$$

and thus:

$$\Delta(w, k) \leq km(w, f'(1)) - s(w, f'(1))$$

Finally we have:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \Delta(w, k) \leq -s(w, f'(1)) < 0$$

When k goes to $+\infty$, it can be bounded in such a way that: $k > 1 \Rightarrow f'(k) < f'(1)$. We then obtain the following inequality:

$$\Delta(w, k) \geq km(w, f'(1)) - s(w, f'(1))$$

Thus:

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow +\infty} \Delta(w, k) = +\infty$$

The continuity of Δ makes it possible to conclude that k exists, such that $\Delta(w, k) = 0$. ■

3.3 Converging inter-temporal equilibria

Definition 2 An inter-temporal equilibrium $(K_t, N_t, c_t, d_t, m_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is said to be converging if the sequence $k_t = K_t/N_t$ converges to a limit $\bar{k} > 0$ when t goes to infinity.

If k_t converges to a limit \bar{k} , it is straightforward to show that $R_t = R(k_t)$, $w_t = w(k_t)$, c_t , d_t and m_t are converging to constant values \bar{R} , \bar{w} , \bar{c} , \bar{d} , and \bar{m} .

Definition 3 A converging inter-temporal equilibrium $(K_t, N_t, c_t, d_t, m_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is said to converge in under-accumulation if $\bar{R} > \bar{m}$. It is said to converge in over-accumulation if $\bar{R} < \bar{m}$.

An example of converging inter-temporal equilibria can be obtained when homothetic utility functions are considered. In this case, equations (6), (7), (8) and (9) take the following forms:

$$c_t = w_t \gamma_1(R_{t+1}) \quad (17)$$

$$\phi m_t = w_t \gamma_3(R_{t+1}) \quad (18)$$

$$s_t = d_t/R_{t+1} = w_t \gamma_2(R_{t+1}) \quad (19)$$

where the functions $\gamma_i(R)$ are such that: $\gamma_1(R) + \gamma_2(R) + \gamma_3(R) = 1$. Assumption 3 is equivalent to $\gamma'_1(R) \leq 0$ and $\gamma'_3(R) \leq 0$, which implies $\gamma'_2(R) \geq 0$.

The equilibrium dynamics (15) become:

$$k_{t+1} = \frac{s_t}{m_t} = \frac{\phi \gamma_2(R_{t+1})}{\gamma_3(R_{t+1})} \quad (20)$$

Under assumption 3, this equation has a unique solution $k_{t+1} = \bar{k}$. The economy reaches in one period its stationary state \bar{k} defined by:

$$\bar{k} \gamma_3 [R(\bar{k})] = \phi \gamma_2 [R(\bar{k})] \quad (21)$$

This property comes from the homothetic utility function. As s_t and m_t are proportional to w_t , k_{t+1} no longer depends on w_t . The two adjustments in savings and fertility lead to a constant ratio K_{t+1}/N_{t+1} in one period.

4 Efficient allocations and endogenous fertility

In this section, we show that the concept of Pareto optimality needs a new definition in a framework of endogenous fertility. We first introduce the basic

notion of feasible allocations. This allows us to introduce different notions of efficiency. Finally, we give sufficient conditions for the non-efficiency of a competitive equilibrium.

4.1 Feasible allocations with representative consumers

First, we can define the notion of a feasible allocation with representative consumers as an inter-temporal allocation that satisfies the resource constraints of the economy.

Definition 4 (RC-allocation) *A feasible allocation with representative consumers (or RC-allocation) is a sequence $(K_t, N_t, c_t, d_t, m_t)_{t \geq 0}$ of positive variables that satisfy $\forall t \geq 0$:*

$$\begin{aligned} F(K_t, N_t) &= K_{t+1} + N_t c_t + N_{t-1} d_t + N_{t+1} \phi \\ N_{t+1} &= m_t N_t \end{aligned} \quad (22)$$

For a competitive equilibrium, the initial conditions N_{-1} , N_0 , K_0 and $d_0 = R_0 K_0 / N_{-1}$ are given. Following definition 4, an inter-temporal equilibrium is a feasible allocation, which satisfies equations (10), (11) and (14). From assumption 1, if K_0 , N_0 and N_{-1} are positive, all the variables $(K_t, N_t, c_t, d_t, m_t)_{t \geq 0}$ will be positive.

Remark 1 *To simplify the presentation, we will always consider the four initial quantities (N_{-1}, N_0, K_0, d_0) as given. Thus, it will be hereafter implicit that all feasible allocations or competitive equilibria considered will start from these same initial conditions, even if they are not mentioned.*

A new characterization of feasible RC-allocations will be useful in the sequel. In equation (22), c_t and m_t are chosen by generation t agents when d_t is determined by generation $t - 1$ agents. By a simple change in variables, we can introduce a new definition of feasible allocations, in which all variables are decided by the same generation.

Lemma 1 (Characterizations of feasible RC-allocations) *Any feasible RC-allocation can be characterized as a sequence $(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$ of positive variables starting from the initial condition $Y_0 = F(K_0, N_0) - D_0$, and satisfying $\forall t \geq 0$,*

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{t+1} &= F(Y_t - C_t - \phi Z_t, Z_t) - D_{t+1} \\ N_{t+1} &= Z_t \\ Y_t &> C_t + \phi Z_t \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

Proof: This result is immediately obtained by a simple change in variables: $C_t = N_t c_t$, $D_t = N_{t-1} d_t$ and $Y_t = K_{t+1} + C_t + \phi Z_t$. ■

Remark 2 Let $(\bar{K}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{c}_t, \bar{d}_t, \bar{m}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be an inter-temporal equilibrium. Along such a trajectory, the new variable \bar{Y}_t is equal to:

$$\bar{Y}_t = \bar{N}_t \bar{w}_t = \bar{N}_t F'_L(\bar{K}_t, \bar{N}_t)$$

We restrict our analysis to allocations that give the same levels of consumption and fertility for agents belonging to the same generation (RC-allocations). As agents are identical within a generation, we will henceforth use the terms “the utility of a generation” to mean the utility level obtained by each agent belonging to this generation. In no way, this expression refers to an evaluation of the well-being of a generation measured by some social criterion. It is only a short cut to designate the utility level of each agent within a given generation.

4.2 Efficiency of RC-allocations

Pareto-efficiency is usually defined for a given set of agents. The model with endogenous fertility introduces a new difficulty, because the set of agents is the result of individual behaviors. Moreover, we only consider the case of identical agents within each generation, and we need a definition allowing to compare RC-feasible allocation.

In a basic framework with exogenous fertility and heterogeneous agents, the standard definition of Pareto-dominance would be the following. A first feasible allocation Pareto-dominates a second one if each agent in the first allocation obtains at least as much utility as in the second one, with a strict improvement for at least one agent. If we restrict the analysis to RC-allocations (allocations with identical agents within each generation), a first feasible allocation Pareto-dominates a second one if each generation in the first one obtains at least as much utility as in the second one, with a strict improvement for at least one generation⁵. As all agents within a generation are identical, the first allocation must not only improve the utility of one agent in one generation, but of all the agents of this generation too.

Finally, we have to deal with endogenous fertility. We introduce a first concept that is only concerned with the utility of each generation.

⁵By the utility of a generation, we again refer to the utility of each agent belonging to this generation.

Definition 5 (RC-dominance) ⁶ Let $(K_t^i, N_t^i, c_t^i, d_t^i, m_t^i)_{t \geq 0}$ for $i = 1, 2$ be two feasible RC-allocations. Allocation 1 is said to RC-dominates allocation 2 if it leads to a higher level of utility for all generations, with a strict improvement for (at least) one generation. Formally,

$$\begin{aligned} \forall t \geq 0, & \quad U(c_t^1, d_{t+1}^1, m_t^1) \geq U(c_t^2, d_{t+1}^2, m_t^2) \\ \exists t_0 \geq 0, & \quad \text{such that: } U(c_{t_0}^1, d_{t_0+1}^1, m_{t_0}^1) > U(c_{t_0}^2, d_{t_0+1}^2, m_{t_0}^2) \end{aligned}$$

In the sense of this definition, the only criterion is the utility of each representative consumer within each generation. Thus, a feasible allocation that improves the utility level of one (or many) generation(s) to the detriment of the size of one (or many) generation(s) is considered preferable. This notion can be criticized, because it makes it possible to diminish the number of agents. For that reason, it is possible to think of a second notion, for which an allocation can dominate another only if it includes at least an equal number of children in each period. We call this alternative notion CRC-dominance⁷. Formally, we must add to the preceding definition the constraints:

$$\forall t \geq 0, \quad m_t^1 \geq m_t^2$$

It is straightforward that CRC-dominance implies RC-dominance, but the converse is a priori false.

From these notions of dominance, it follows two notions of efficiency:

Definition 6 An RC-allocation is said to be RC-efficient (respectively CRC-efficient), if there does not exist another RC-allocation that RC-dominates (respectively CRC-dominates) it.

It is straightforward that a RC-efficient allocation also is CRC-efficient, but the converse a priori is false. We will mainly concentrate on the first notion (RC-efficiency). Indeed, as a result of our study, it will appear that these two notions lead to the same classification of competitive equilibria. The reason behind this result is that non-RC-efficient equilibria are dominated by allocations that include a higher level of fertility.

4.3 Conditions that ensure the non-RC-efficiency of a competitive equilibrium

In this section, we prove two results. The first one shows that a competitive equilibrium that converges in over-accumulation is not RC-efficient (and not

⁶RC-dominance means dominance for Representative Consumers.

⁷CRC-dominance means dominance in Children for Representative Consumers.

CRC-efficient). It is a direct extension of the standard result for an economy with exogenous fertility.

The second result is more surprising. It shows that a competitive equilibrium that converges in under-accumulation can be RC-dominated (and CRC-dominated). This result is shown using a simple example.

4.3.1 The in-efficiency of an inter-temporal equilibrium that converges in over-accumulation ($\bar{m} > \bar{R}$)

We consider that $(\bar{K}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{c}_t, \bar{d}_t, \bar{m}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is an inter-temporal equilibrium that converges in over-accumulation: \bar{m}_t and $\bar{R}_t = F'_K(\bar{K}_t, \bar{N}_t)$ respectively converge into \bar{m} and \bar{R} , such that $\bar{m} > \bar{R}$. Thus, such an equilibrium is not RC-efficient. Indeed, we know that such a trajectory is not Pareto-optimal with an exogenous population, that is, when this allocation is compared to feasible allocations with the same population ($\forall t, m_t = \bar{m}_t$). Thus, this allocation cannot be RC-efficient with endogenous fertility.

This first result gives a necessary condition for a converging equilibrium to be RC-efficient: it must converge in under-accumulation or towards the “golden rule” ($\bar{m} = \bar{R}$). When fertility is exogenous, converging in under-accumulation is a sufficient condition for an equilibrium to be Pareto-optimal. When fertility is endogenous, the question is to know if this result still holds.

4.3.2 A competitive equilibrium that converges in under-accumulation can be non-RC-efficient

This property is shown in an example. We use a log-linear utility function and a CES production function:

$$U_t = \gamma_1 \ln c_t + \gamma_2 \ln d_{t+1} + \gamma_3 \ln m_t \quad (24)$$

$$F(K, L) = A \left(K^{\frac{\tau-1}{\tau}} + bL^{\frac{\tau-1}{\tau}} \right)^{\frac{\tau}{\tau-1}} \quad (25)$$

The economy reaches the stationary state $\bar{k} = \phi\gamma_2/\gamma_3$ in one period. The following result is proved:

Proposition 3 *For utility and production functions given by (24) and (25), if the following conditions hold,*

$$\gamma_3 < \phi/b < \gamma_2 \quad (26)$$

$$\phi/b - \gamma_3 < \frac{(\gamma_2 - \gamma_3)^2}{4\gamma_2} \quad (27)$$

and if the elasticity of production τ is large enough, the stationary equilibrium \bar{k} is in under-accumulation and a feasible allocation, which offers the same levels for consumption and a higher fertility level, exists. Thus, this allocation (C)RC-dominates the competitive equilibrium.

Proof: see appendix 1. ■

Conditions (26) and (27) can be understood as follows. The inequality $\gamma_3 < \phi/b$ ensures that the competitive equilibrium is associated with under-accumulation for τ when it is large enough. The inequality $\phi/b < \gamma_2$ makes it possible to define a feasible allocation that (C)RC-dominates the competitive equilibrium, such that the fertility level is higher than \bar{R} . Finally, (27) ensures that the competitive equilibrium \bar{R} is close to \bar{m} .

The interpretation of the result is easier at the limit for $\tau = +\infty$. At each period, along the dominating trajectory, the economy accumulates less capital, because more resources are devoted to child-rearing. Thus, capital accumulation diminishes when the quantity of labor increases. The more the production factors are substitutable in the technology, the smaller the loss in production. When $\tau = +\infty$, the gross return on capital is constant and equal to A . Along the dominating trajectory, the fertility level m is fixed at a value higher than $A = \bar{R}$.

5 Sufficient conditions for the RC-efficiency of an inter-temporal equilibrium

In this section, using general functions for utility and production, we give a sufficient condition that ensures that a converging equilibrium in under-accumulation is RC-efficient.

We consider feasible RC-allocations in the sense of the characterization in lemma 1. Thus, a feasible RC-allocation is defined as a sequence of aggregated variables $(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$.

The following lemma introduces a new function V and gives its properties.

Lemma 2 *The function $V(C, D, Z, N) \equiv NU\left(\frac{C}{N}, \frac{D}{N}, \frac{Z}{N}\right)$ defined on \mathbb{R}_{++}^4 is concave and twice continuously differentiable. Its partial derivatives are:*

$$V'_1 = U'_c, \quad V'_2 = U'_d, \quad V'_3 = U'_m \quad \text{and} \quad V'_4 = U - \frac{C}{N}U'_c - \frac{D}{N}U'_d - \frac{Z}{N}U'_m$$

with U and its partial derivatives taken at $\left(\frac{C}{N}, \frac{D}{N}, \frac{Z}{N}\right)$.

Proof: see appendix 2. ■

We introduce a new lemma below, which gives a sufficient condition that ensures the RC-efficiency of an allocation.

Lemma 3 Let $(\bar{Y}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a feasible RC-allocation. Let (β_t) be a sequence, such that $\forall t, \beta_t > 0$. For a feasible RC-allocation $(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$, we define the sequence of gains:

$$g_t(N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t) = \beta_t [V(C_t, D_{t+1}, Z_t, N_t) - N_t U(\bar{C}_t/\bar{N}_t, \bar{D}_{t+1}/\bar{N}_t, \bar{Z}_t/\bar{N}_t)] \quad (28)$$

If a sequence (β_t) exists such that for all feasible RC-allocations $(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_0^T [g_t(N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)] \leq 0 \quad (29)$$

$(\bar{Y}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is RC-efficient.

Proof: Reductio ad absurdum. Let us assume that $(\bar{Y}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is not RC-efficient. In that case, it is RC-dominated by a feasible RC-allocation $(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$, such that:

$$\begin{aligned} \forall t \geq 0, U(C_t/N_t, D_{t+1}/N_t, Z_t/N_t) &\geq U(\bar{C}_t/\bar{N}_t, \bar{D}_{t+1}/\bar{N}_t, \bar{Z}_t/\bar{N}_t) \\ \exists t_0 \geq 0, \text{ such that } U(C_{t_0}/N_{t_0}, D_{t_0+1}/N_{t_0}, Z_{t_0}/N_{t_0}) &> U(\bar{C}_{t_0}/\bar{N}_{t_0}, \bar{D}_{t_0+1}/\bar{N}_{t_0}, \bar{Z}_{t_0}/\bar{N}_{t_0}) \end{aligned}$$

For this allocation, when $T \geq t_0$

$$\begin{aligned} &\sum_{t=0}^T \beta_t N_t [U(C_t/N_t, D_{t+1}/N_t, Z_t/N_t) - U(\bar{C}_t/\bar{N}_t, \bar{D}_{t+1}/\bar{N}_t, \bar{Z}_t/\bar{N}_t)] \\ &\geq \beta_{t_0} N_{t_0} [U(C_{t_0}/N_{t_0}, D_{t_0+1}/N_{t_0}, Z_{t_0}/N_{t_0}) - U(\bar{C}_{t_0}/\bar{N}_{t_0}, \bar{D}_{t_0+1}/\bar{N}_{t_0}, \bar{Z}_{t_0}/\bar{N}_{t_0})] > 0 \end{aligned}$$

and thus:

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_0^T [g_t(N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)] > 0$$

which contradicts the assumption (29). ■

Remark 3 The assumption of the preceding lemma simply means that $(\bar{Y}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is weakly maximal in the sense of Brock [3]. Indeed, as $g_t(\bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t) = 0$, (29) can also be written as:

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_0^T [g_t(N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t) - g_t(\bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)] \leq 0$$

No feasible allocation overtakes $(\bar{Y}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$.

The use of aggregate variables in the definition of feasible RC-allocations $(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$ is justified for the following reason. By lemma 2, we know that V is concave. Thus, the function of gain g_t is concave. With the condition (23), the set of feasible allocations is convex. Thus, the optimization problem defined by the gain function (28) in the set of feasible allocations is concave.

The following proposition gives sufficient conditions for a competitive equilibrium converging in under-accumulation to be RC-efficient.

Proposition 4 *Let $(\bar{K}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{c}_t, \bar{d}_t, \bar{m}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ be a competitive equilibrium that is converging towards a steady state in under-accumulation: $\bar{R} > \bar{m}$. If $\phi \bar{R} > \bar{w}$, this equilibrium is RC-efficient.*

Proof: see appendix 3. ■

The proof uses lemma 3 with an appropriate choice of the sequence (β_t) . First, we prove that the competitive equilibrium satisfies the first order conditions of the optimization program. The gain function has been defined by (28) in such a way that makes it possible. Second, we show that the transversality condition is satisfied if $\phi \bar{R} > \bar{w}$. This result is consistent with the intuition from Section 4.3.2: to RC-dominate a competitive equilibrium converging in under-accumulation, a feasible RC-allocation must lead to a fertility level that is higher than \bar{R} . The constraint $\phi \bar{R} > \bar{w}$ rules out this possibility. Indeed, this inequality implies that, even if all the revenue is spent on children, the resulting fertility level $m = \bar{w}/\phi$ will be smaller than \bar{R} .

Remark 4 *The condition $\phi \bar{R} > \bar{w}$ is the same as the assumption made in Becker and Barro [2]. In their framework, they need this condition to obtain an equilibrium with operative bequests.*

It is important to note that the condition $\phi \bar{R} > \bar{w}$ is stronger than under-accumulation. Indeed, at the steady state of the competitive economy, we have: $\phi \bar{m} \leq \bar{w} < \phi \bar{R} \Rightarrow \bar{m} < \bar{R}$.

Remark 5 *In an economy endowed with CES production and utility functions, Michel and Wigniolle [11] proves a stronger result. Let τ and ρ respectively be the elasticities of substitution for production and utility functions. Assume that $\tau + \rho \geq 1$ (the competitive equilibrium is determined), that $\tau \leq 1$ (production factors are complements in production) and that the competitive economy converges in under-accumulation ($\bar{R} > \bar{m}$). Then, if $\tau + \rho \leq 2$, the competitive equilibrium is RC-efficient. In this case, underaccumulation implies RC-efficiency.*

6 Conclusion

This paper has studied the efficiency of the competitive equilibrium for an overlapping generations economy with endogenous fertility. We have discussed the notion of efficiency that fit in with endogenous fertility: RC-efficiency or CRC-efficiency. We have proved that a competitive equilibrium that converges in over-accumulation is non-RC-efficient. Using an example, however, we have shown that under-accumulation is not a sufficient condition for ensuring RC-efficiency: a competitive equilibrium that converges in under-accumulation can be non-RC-efficient. Finally, we have proved a sufficient condition ensuring the RC-efficiency of the competitive equilibrium.

Appendix 1: proof of proposition 3.

With a log linear utility function given by (24), we can use equations (17), (18), (19) and (21) with constant values for γ_i , $i = 1, 2, 3$. We assume that the competitive equilibrium is in under-accumulation. This property is expressed by the condition:

$$\bar{R} > \bar{m} = \frac{\gamma_3 \bar{w}}{\phi} \Leftrightarrow \gamma_3 < \frac{\phi \bar{R}}{\bar{w}} \quad (30)$$

We can then build a feasible RC-allocation starting from the stationary state $k_0 = \bar{k}$ and $m_{-1} = \bar{m}$, such that: $\forall t \geq 1$, $c_t = \bar{c}$, $d_t = \bar{d}$, $m_t = m$, and k_t satisfies the resource constraint:

$$mk_{t+1} = f(k_t) - \bar{c} - \frac{\bar{d}}{m} - \phi m \quad (31)$$

In $t = 0$, as m_{-1} is given, the resource constraint is:

$$mk_1 = f(\bar{k}) - \bar{c} - \frac{\bar{d}}{\bar{m}} - \phi m \quad (32)$$

As $\bar{d} = \bar{R}\bar{s} = \bar{R}\bar{m}\bar{k}$, the term $f(\bar{k}) - \bar{d}/\bar{m}$ is equal to $f(\bar{k}) - \bar{R}\bar{k} = \bar{w}$. Thus, the precedent condition becomes:

$$mk_1 = \bar{w} - \gamma_1 \bar{w} - \phi m$$

We choose $m = \mu$, with μ defined as $\mu^2 \equiv \bar{d}/\phi = \gamma_2 \bar{R}\bar{w}/\phi$. $m = \mu$ is the value that minimizes the term $d/m + \phi m$ in equation (31). At each date t , the condition $k_t > 0$ must hold. As

$$f(k) > w(k) = Ab \left(k^{\frac{\tau-1}{\tau}} + b \right)^{\frac{1}{\tau-1}} > Ab^{\frac{\tau}{\tau-1}}$$

we obtain from (32) and (31) sufficient conditions that respectively ensure that $k_1 > 0$ and $k_{t+1} > 0 \forall t \geq 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} Ab^{\frac{\tau}{\tau-1}} - \gamma_1 \bar{w} - \phi\mu &> 0 \\ Ab^{\frac{\tau}{\tau-1}} - \gamma_1 \bar{w} - 2\phi\mu &> 0 \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

Thus, the only condition that must hold is the last one (33).

Finally, we impose the inequality $\mu > \bar{R}$, which leads to:

$$\phi \bar{R} / \bar{w} < \gamma_2 \quad (34)$$

Conditions (30) and (34) imply: $\mu > \bar{R} > \bar{m}$ and then $U(\bar{c}, \bar{d}, \mu) > U(\bar{c}, \bar{d}, \bar{m})$. All utilities are higher along the feasible trajectory with $m_t = \mu$.

The three conditions (30), (33) and (34) remain to be studied at the limit when $\tau \rightarrow +\infty$. When $\tau \rightarrow +\infty$, $\lim \bar{R} = A$ and $\lim \bar{w} = Ab$.

We assume that: $\gamma_3 < \gamma_2$. Conditions (30) and (34) become:

$$\gamma_3 < \phi/b < \gamma_2$$

Condition (33) can be written as:

$$2\phi\mu < Ab(1 - \gamma_1) = Ab(\gamma_2 + \gamma_3)$$

Taking the square of the precedent inequality, we obtain:

$$4\phi^2\mu^2 = 4\phi\gamma_2 A^2 b < A^2 b^2 (\gamma_2 + \gamma_3)^2$$

In setting $\varepsilon = \phi/b - \gamma_3$ and replacing ϕ/b by $\varepsilon + \gamma_3$, we have:

$$\varepsilon < \frac{(\gamma_2 - \gamma_3)^2}{4\gamma_2}$$

Thus, when conditions (26) and (27) in the text are satisfied, conditions (30), (33) and (34) hold in the limit case when $\tau \rightarrow +\infty$. By continuity, they are satisfied when τ is large enough. ■

Appendix 2: proof of lemma 2

We can introduce the following notation: $X = (C, D, Z, N)$. For $\lambda \in (0, 1)$, we note $\bar{X} = \lambda X_1 + (1 - \lambda) X_2$, $\bar{C} = \lambda C_1 + (1 - \lambda) C_2$, etc... Thus, we can write:

$$\begin{aligned} V(\bar{X}) &= \bar{N}U\left(\frac{\bar{C}}{\bar{N}}, \frac{\bar{D}}{\bar{N}}, \frac{\bar{Z}}{\bar{N}}\right) = \\ &= \bar{N}U\left(\lambda \frac{N_1 C_1}{\bar{N}} + (1 - \lambda) \frac{N_2 C_2}{\bar{N}}, \lambda \frac{N_1 D_1}{\bar{N}} + (1 - \lambda) \frac{N_2 D_2}{\bar{N}}, \lambda \frac{N_1 Z_1}{\bar{N}} + (1 - \lambda) \frac{N_2 Z_2}{\bar{N}}\right) \end{aligned}$$

As $\lambda \frac{N_1}{N} + (1 - \lambda) \frac{N_2}{N} = 1$ and U concave, we have:

$$V(\bar{X}) \geq \bar{N} \lambda \frac{N_1}{\bar{N}} U\left(\frac{C_1}{N_1}, \frac{D_1}{N_1}, \frac{Z_1}{N_1}\right) + \bar{N} (1 - \lambda) \frac{N_2}{\bar{N}} U\left(\frac{C_2}{N_2}, \frac{D_2}{N_2}, \frac{Z_2}{N_2}\right)$$

or finally:

$$V(\bar{X}) \geq \lambda V(X_1) + (1 - \lambda) V(X_2)$$

Thus, V is concave.

V is twice continuously differentiable as U . The partial derivatives are straightforward. ■

Appendix 3: proof of proposition 4

We prove proposition 4 in three steps. First, we make explicit a class of optimization programs which solutions give RC-efficient allocations. Second, we prove that a competitive equilibrium satisfies the first order conditions of such an optimization program. Third we prove that under the assumption given in proposition 4, the transversality condition also holds along the competitive equilibrium trajectory.

The optimization program

The proof uses lemma 3 with an optimization program associated with the gain function:

$$g_t(N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t) = \beta_t [V(C_t, D_{t+1}, Z_t, N_t) - N_t U(\bar{C}_t/\bar{N}_t, \bar{D}_{t+1}/\bar{N}_t, \bar{Z}_t/\bar{N}_t)]$$

for an appropriate choice of the sequence (β_t) , and under the two dynamical constraints:

$$\begin{aligned} Y_{t+1} &= F(Y_t - C_t - \phi Z_t, Z_t) - D_{t+1} \\ N_{t+1} &= Z_t \end{aligned}$$

From Michel [10], the conditions for weak maximality of this problem are obtained in using the Lagrangian:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_t &= \beta_t [V(C_t, D_{t+1}, Z_t, N_t) - V(\bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_{t+1}, \bar{Z}_t, \bar{N}_t)] + \\ &\quad \lambda_{t+1} [F(Y_t - C_t - \phi Z_t, Z_t) - D_{t+1}] - \lambda_t Y_t + \mu_{t+1} Z_t - \mu_t N_t \end{aligned}$$

with λ_t and μ_t being the shadow prices associated with Y_t and N_t .

We will use the abbreviated notations in the sequel:

$$\begin{aligned} U_t &= U\left(\frac{C_t}{N_t}, \frac{D_{t+1}}{N_t}, \frac{N_{t+1}}{N_t}\right) = U(c_t, d_{t+1}, m_t) \\ \bar{U}_t &= U(\bar{c}_t, \bar{d}_{t+1}, \bar{m}_t) \\ U'_{\theta,t} &= U'_\theta\left(\frac{C_t}{N_t}, \frac{D_{t+1}}{N_t}, \frac{N_{t+1}}{N_t}\right) = U'_\theta(c_t, d_{t+1}, m_t) \text{ with } \theta = c, d \text{ or } m \\ F'_{K_{t+1}} &= F'_K(Y_t - C_t - \phi Z_t, Z_t) \\ F'_{L_{t+1}} &= F'_L(Y_t - C_t - \phi Z_t, Z_t) \end{aligned}$$

The first-order conditions are:

$$\beta_t U'_{c,t} = \lambda_{t+1} F'_{K_{t+1}} \quad (35)$$

$$\beta_t U'_{d,t} = \lambda_{t+1} \quad (36)$$

$$\beta_t U'_{m,t} = \lambda_{t+1} (\phi F'_{K_{t+1}} - F'_{L_{t+1}}) - \mu_{t+1} \quad (37)$$

$$\mu_t = \beta_t \left[U_t - \bar{U}_t - \frac{C_t}{N_t} U'_{c,t} - \frac{D_{t+1}}{N_t} U'_{d,t} - \frac{N_{t+1}}{N_t} U'_{m,t} \right] \quad (38)$$

$$\lambda_t = \lambda_{t+1} F'_{K_{t+1}} \quad (39)$$

The transversality condition is (cf. Michel [10]):

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} (\lambda_t \tilde{Y}_t + \mu_t \tilde{N}_t - \lambda_t Y_t - \mu_t N_t) \geq 0 \quad (40)$$

for all feasible RC-allocations $(\tilde{Y}_t, \tilde{N}_t, \tilde{C}_t, \tilde{D}_t, \tilde{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$ leading to a non-infinite loss with respect to the trajectory $(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t)_{t \geq 0}$, that is that:

$$\liminf_{T \rightarrow +\infty} \sum_0^T \left[g_t(\tilde{Y}_t, \tilde{N}_t, \tilde{C}_t, \tilde{D}_t, \tilde{Z}_t) - g_t(Y_t, N_t, C_t, D_t, Z_t) \right] > -\infty$$

As the optimization program is concave, the first order conditions and the transversality condition are necessary and sufficient for weak maximality (in the sense of Brock [3]). For an appropriate choice of the sequence (β_t) , if these maximality conditions are satisfied by the equilibrium trajectory $(\bar{Y}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$, from lemma 3, this equilibrium is RC-efficient.

The equilibrium trajectory satisfies the first order conditions

We first prove that all the first order conditions are satisfied by the equilibrium trajectory $(\bar{Y}_t, \bar{N}_t, \bar{C}_t, \bar{D}_t, \bar{Z}_t)_{t \geq 0}$, when the sequence (β_t) is defined by:

$$\beta_0 = 1$$

$$\forall t \geq 1, \frac{\beta_t}{\beta_{t-1}} = \frac{U'_c(\bar{c}_{t-1}, \bar{d}_t, \bar{m}_{t-1})}{U'_c(\bar{c}_t, \bar{d}_{t+1}, \bar{m}_t) F'_K(\bar{K}_t, \bar{N}_t)}$$

and for shadow prices, such that:

$$\lambda_t = \beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \quad (41)$$

$$\mu_t = -\beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} F'_L(\bar{K}_t, \bar{N}_t) = -\beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \bar{w}_t \quad (42)$$

Equation (39) is satisfied from (41) and the definition of β_t . Using (39), (35) is satisfied from (41). (36) is satisfied, because along the competitive

equilibrium, the maximization condition (11) is true: $\bar{U}'_{c,t}/\bar{U}'_{d,t} = F'_K(\bar{K}_{t+1}, \bar{N}_{t+1})$. (38) is equivalent to (42), as, along the competitive equilibrium:

$$\frac{\bar{C}_t}{\bar{N}_t} \bar{U}'_{c,t} + \frac{\bar{D}_{t+1}}{\bar{N}_t} \bar{U}'_{d,t} + \frac{\bar{N}_{t+1}}{\bar{N}_t} \bar{U}'_{m,t} = \bar{U}'_{c,t} \left(\bar{c}_t + \frac{\bar{d}_{t+1}}{\bar{R}_{t+1}} + \phi \bar{m}_t \right) = \bar{U}'_{c,t} \bar{w}_t$$

Finally, (37) can be written:

$$\mu_{t+1} = \beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \left(-\frac{\bar{U}'_{m,t}}{\bar{U}'_{c,t}} + \phi - \frac{\bar{w}_{t+1}}{\bar{R}_{t+1}} \right) = -\beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \frac{\bar{w}_{t+1}}{\bar{R}_{t+1}}$$

as $\phi - \bar{U}'_{m,t}/\bar{U}'_{c,t} = 0$ along a competitive equilibrium. Using (42) in $t+1$, we finally find:

$$-\beta_{t+1} \bar{U}'_{c,t+1} \bar{w}_{t+1} = -\beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \frac{\bar{w}_{t+1}}{\bar{R}_{t+1}}$$

which is true from the definition of the sequence (β_t) .

Thus, along the equilibrium trajectory, all the first order conditions of the optimization problem are satisfied. The transversality condition is the only condition that remains to be proved.

As $\lambda_t \bar{Y}_t + \mu_t \bar{N}_t = \beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \bar{N}_t (\bar{w}_t - \bar{w}_t) = 0$, (40) can be written as:

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \left(\tilde{Y}_t - \bar{w}_t \tilde{N}_t \right) \geq 0$$

or:

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \tilde{N}_t \left(\tilde{m}_t \tilde{k}_{t+1} + \tilde{c}_t + \phi \tilde{m}_t - \bar{w}_t \right) \geq 0 \quad (43)$$

The equilibrium trajectory satisfies the transversality condition

Two cases may occur.

If $\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \tilde{m}_t \tilde{k}_{t+1} + \tilde{c}_t + \phi \tilde{m}_t - \bar{w}_t > 0$, as $\beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \tilde{N}_t > 0$, the transversality condition is satisfied.

If $\limsup_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \tilde{m}_t \tilde{k}_{t+1} + \tilde{c}_t + \phi \tilde{m}_t - \bar{w}_t \leq 0$, the transversality condition is not necessarily satisfied. However, if $\bar{w} < \phi \bar{R}$, $\varepsilon > 0$ exists, such that for t large enough, $\phi \tilde{m}_t < \bar{w}_t < \phi(\bar{R} - \varepsilon)$. Thus, t being large enough, $\tilde{m}_t < \bar{R} - \varepsilon$, and a constant B exists, such that $\tilde{N}_t < B(\bar{R} - \varepsilon)^t$. As

$$\frac{\beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t}}{\beta_{t-1} \bar{U}'_{c,t-1}} = \frac{1}{\bar{R}_t} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\bar{R}}$$

we finally have:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow +\infty} \beta_t \bar{U}'_{c,t} \tilde{N}_t = 0$$

Thus, the transversality condition is satisfied. We have proved that a competitive equilibrium that converges in under-accumulation towards a stationary state, such that $\bar{w} < \phi\bar{R}$ is RC-efficient.■

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