

Robots and Wage Polarization: The Effects of Robot Capital by Occupations*

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October 27, 2023

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Abstract

Industrial robots have been substituting or complementing workers in various occupations. I match unique data on imported robot prices with the occupational task information to measure the cost of using robots by occupation and show that a 10% reduction in the cost is associated with a 1.2% reduction in wages for US production and transportation occupations, suggesting strong substitutability in these occupations. I structurally estimate a higher elasticity of substitution between robots and workers than that of general capital goods in production occupations, which implies that industrial robot adoption significantly affects the US wage polarization.

Keywords: Industrial Robots, Robot Prices, Elasticity of Factor Substitution, Wage Polarization

JEL Codes: J23, F16

*I thank Costas Arkolakis, Lorenzo Caliendo, Ana Cecilia Fielers, Taiji Furusawa, Federico Huneus, Sam Kortum, Lei Li, Giovanni Maggi, Andreas Moxnes, Nitya Pandalai-Nayar, Peter Schott, Valerie Smeets, Yoichi Sugita, Frederic Warzynski, Ray Zhang, and participants at Aarhus, GRIPS, Hitotsubashi, Kobe, National University of Singapore, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society, Nottingham, Peking, University of Tokyo, Yale, and Waseda for valuable comments. I acknowledge the financial support from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (No. 23K12498). All errors are my own.

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1 Introduction

Adoption of industrial robots has been changing factory production rapidly.¹ In the last three decades, the size of the global robot market has grown by 12% per year (IFR, 2021). Robotization has heterogeneous effects on workers across occupations, raising concern about its distributional effects. Policymakers have proposed various countermeasures to the potential harms of robotization, such as introducing taxation on robot adoption.² Motivated by these observations, emerging literature has estimated the effects of robot penetration on employment (e.g., Acemoglu and Restrepo 2020) and the potential impact of robot taxes (e.g., Humlum 2019). However, the effects of robotization also depend on under-explored factors such as the substitutability of robots for workers in each occupation.

In this paper, I study the effect of increased availability of robots on the wage inequality between occupations and welfare in the US. Using a new dataset on the cost of adopting Japanese robots, I show that the robot cost reduction affects the US wage and employment adversely in a subset of routine occupations. This suggests substitutability between robots and workers within an occupation, unlike the previous research that reveals the substitutability between occupations. Building on this fact, I develop an equilibrium model in which robots substitute labor within each occupation. I then construct a model-implied optimal instrumental variable and estimate the elasticity of substitution (EoS) between robots and workers that can be heterogeneous across occupations. Finally, based on this estimated model, I perform counterfactual exercises to study the distributional effect of robotization in the US since 1990, as well as the welfare impact of robot

¹Throughout the paper, industrial robots (or robots) are defined as multiple-axes manipulators and are measured by the number of such manipulators, or robot arms, following a standard in the literature. A more formal definition given by ISO is provided in Appendix B.1. Such a definition implies that any automation equipment that does not have multiple axes is out of the scope of the paper, even though some of them are often called “robots” (e.g., Roomba, an autonomous home vacuum cleaner made by iRobot Corporation).

²The European Parliament proposed a robot tax on robot owners in 2015, although it eventually rejected the proposal (Delvaux et al. 2016). South Korea revised the corporate tax laws that downsize the “Tax Credit for Investment in Facilities for Productivity Enhancement” for enterprises investing in automation equipment (MOEF 2018).

taxes.

A unique feature of my dataset is the robot price measure for each 4-digit occupation in which robots replace labor. To obtain such a dataset, I use the information about the shipment of Japanese robots, which comprises about one-third of the world's robot supply, from the Japan Robot Association (JARA). JARA's key feature is that the data are disaggregated at the level of robot application or the specified task that robots perform. I combine JARA data with O*NET Code Connector's match score to get an occupation-level robot price measure. Finally, I extract a robot cost shock that controls for the demand factors using leave-one-out regression, which I call the Japan robot shock.

The dataset reveals two stylized facts. First, from 1992-2007, there was a sizable and heterogeneous reduction in the average cost of Japanese robots, ranging from -150% to 0% across occupations.³ Second, there is a negative relationship between the Japan robot shock and the US wage growth, or a 1.2% decline in occupational wage growth per year associated with a 10% decrease in the cost of using Japanese robots. This finding is robust to controlling for other occupational demand shocks, such as the China trade shock, and suggests that the relative demand for labor is responsive to the robot cost reduction due to the strong substitutability of robots for labor.

However, the Japan robot shock measure may be affected by the robot quality change instead of the change in the cost of robots, and thus the reduced-form relationship does not reveal the elasticity of substitution parameters. To address this concern, I employ an equilibrium model of robotics automation and quality changes. The production function is characterized by the CES between robots and labor within each occupation, and thus the EoS can vary across occupations. I show that this production function can be micro-founded by the task-based framework à la Acemoglu and Autor (2011). This formulation is useful for several reasons. Most importantly, it allows me to interpret the robot quality change in terms of the change in the robot expenditure share parameter, which I call as the automation shock. It also yield rich predictions about the role of robot capital

³I focus on this sample period and omit data after the Great Recession since the aggregate data about robots show a strikingly different trend than before, and capturing it is out of the scope of this paper.

accumulation in real wage changes.⁴

To estimate the robot-labor EoS, I confront the identification challenge that the Japan robot shock can be correlated with the unobserved automation shock, and these shocks affect the labor market outcomes simultaneously. To overcome this challenge, I use the model solution and obtain structural residuals of labor market outcomes, which controls for the effect of the automation shock. Here, the structural residuals are remaining variations after controlling for the effects of automation shock that are backed out from my CES production function. My identification assumption is that these structural residuals are uncorrelated with the Japan robot shock. This assumption implies a moment condition, which not only provides me with consistent parameter estimates but also an optimal instrumental variable to increase estimation precision.

Applying this estimation method, I find that the EoS between robots and workers is around 2 when estimated with a restricted constant across occupations. This estimate is higher than the typical values reported in the literature of the EoS between labor and general capital like structure and equipment, highlighting one of the main differences between robots and other capital goods. Moreover, the EoS estimates are heterogeneous when allowed to vary across occupations. Specifically, for routine occupations that perform production and material moving, the point estimates are as high as around 3, revealing the special susceptibility of workers to robots in these occupations. These estimates are identified from the strong relationship between a larger robot price drop and a lower occupational wage growth rate in these occupations. By contrast, the estimates in the other occupations are close to 1, indicating that robots and labor are neither substitutes nor complements in the other occupations. I validate the estimated model by checking that the predicted occupational US wage changes from 1990-2007 fit well with the observed ones.

The large EoS between robots and workers in production and material moving occu-

⁴Furthermore, I incorporate the trade of robots following Armington (1969) to capture Japan's sizable robot export in my dataset. This large-open economy assumption implies that a robot tax would affect the world price of robots, allowing a country to potentially improve the welfare by manipulating the terms-of-trade.

pations implies that the robotization in the sample period significantly decreased relative wage in these occupations. This finding indicates that the robotization shock slowed the wage growth of occupations in the middle deciles since these occupations tend to be in the middle of the occupational wage distribution in 1990. Quantitatively, it explains a 6.4% increase in the 90th-50th percentile wage ratio, a measure of wage inequality popularized by Goos and Manning (2007) and Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2008). Robotization also explains a 0.2 percentage point increase in the US real income, mostly accounted for by the rise in the producers' profit due to the accumulation of robots.

Finally, I examine the counterfactual effect of introducing a tax on robot purchases. In my model, a robot tax could potentially increase the aggregate income of a country through the change in world robot prices, or the terms of robot trade. By contrast, the robot tax also disincentivizes the accumulation of robots in the steady state, potentially reducing aggregate income. Quantitatively, the net positive effect by the terms-of-trade effect quickly disappears in 2-3 years as the effect of robot distortion starts to dominate the effect of robot price changes. As a result, the robot tax decreases the real income in the long run. Therefore, this finding provides a caution to policy measures proposed to slow down the adoption of industrial robots even when the country can strategically tap into the opportunity of terms-of-trade manipulation.

This paper contributes to the literature on the economic impacts of industrial robots by finding a sizable impact of robots on US wage polarization. The closest papers to mine are Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020) and Humlum (2019). Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020) establish that the US commuting zones that experienced a greater penetration of robots in 1992-2007 saw lower growth in wages and employment.⁵ Humlum's (2019) contribution is to estimate a model of robot importers in a small-open country and an EoS between occupations using firm-level data on robot adoption to find a positive real-wage

⁵Dauth et al. (2017) and Graetz and Michaels (2018) also use the industry-level aggregate data of robot adoption to analyze its impact on labor markets. Galle and Lorentzen (forthcoming) studies the interaction effects of trade and automation. Furthermore, Adachi, Kawaguchi, and Saito (forthcoming) also use the JARA data to study the Japanese labor market implications of robots. By contrast, this paper studies the US labor markets and explore robots' impact on the US wage polarization by estimating the elasticity of substitution between robots and workers.

effect on average with significant heterogeneity across occupations.⁶ I complement these studies by providing a method of estimating the within-occupation EoS between robots and labor using data on occupation-level robot costs. The estimation result reveals the heterogeneous substitutability of robots and workers in the US. I also consider large open countries' trade of robots, which introduces the terms-of-trade effect when considering robot taxes.

An increasing number of studies pay attention to occupations to learn about the potentially heterogeneous impacts of automation (Jäger, Moll, and Lerch 2016; Cheng 2018; Dinlersoz and Wolf 2018). Among others, Jaimovich et al. (2020) construct a general equilibrium model to study the effect of automation on the labor market of routine and non-routine workers in a steady state. To this literature, I provide a matching method of industrial robot applications and occupations, which produces the occupation-level data of robot costs.

This paper is also related to the vast literature on estimating the EoS between capital and labor, as robots are one type of capital goods (to name a few, Arrow et al. 1961; Chirinko 2008; Oberfield and Raval 2014). Although the literature yields a set of estimates with a wide range, the upper limit of the range appears to be around 1.5 (Karabarbounis and Neiman 2014; Hubmer 2023). Therefore, my EoS estimates around 3 in production and material-moving occupations are significantly higher than this upper limit. In this sense, they highlight one of the main differences between robots and other capital goods: the occupational workers' vulnerability to robots.

2 Data and Stylized Facts

To measure the cost of using robots, I use data from the Japan Robot Association, with which I combine data from the O*NET Code Connector for matching robot application

⁶There is also a growing body of studies that use the firm- and establishment-level microdata to study the impact on workers in Canada (Dixon, Hong, and Wu 2019), France (Acemoglu, Lelarge, and Restrepo 2020; Bonfiglioli et al. 2020), the Netherlands (Bessen et al. 2019), Spain (Koch, Manuylov, and Smolka 2019), and the US (Dinlersoz and Wolf 2018).

codes to labor occupation codes at the 4-digit level. I then show stylized facts about robots and workers at the occupation level that suggest strong substitutability between robots and labor to motivate the model and estimation. Throughout the paper, I set the sample period to 1992-2007 (or 1990-2007 for the labor data) and write $t_0 \equiv 1992$ and $t_1 \equiv 2007$.

2.1 Data Sources on Industrial Robots

The robot measures are taken from the Japan Robot Association (JARA), a general incorporated association composed of Japanese robot-producing companies. In its Export Statistics of Manipulators, Robots and Applied Systems by Country and Application, JARA annually surveys major robot producers about the units and monetary values of robots sold for each destination country and robot application. Robot application is defined as the specified task that robots perform, which is discussed in detail in Section 2.2. I use digitized JARA's annual publication of the summary cross tables starting from 1978.

Japan has a significant robot innovator, producer, and exporter. For example, as of 2017, the US had imported 5 billion dollars worth of Japanese robots, which comprises roughly one-third of the robots used in the US. Therefore, the cost reduction of Japanese robots significantly affects robot adoption in the US and the world.⁷

I also use the Occupational Information Network OnLine (O*NET) Code Connector to convert robot applications to labor occupations. The O*NET Code Connector is an online database of occupations sponsored by the US Department of Labor, Employment, and Training Administration, and provides an occupational search service. Using this service, one can search any words and get occupations that are close to the search words. Furthermore, the search algorithm provides a match score that shows the relevance of each occupation to the search term.⁸ I use this match score to match robot applications

⁷In this paper, I use the cost reduction of Japanese robots as one of the sources of robotization shocks, which will be clarified in the model section. Then I treat unobserved reductions of robot costs sourced from other countries as independent from the evolution of Japanese robot costs, and discuss the plausibility of this assumption in Appendix B.5 by comparing the JARA data and the data from the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), a widely-used data source of robots in the world. Furthermore, Appendix B.3 shows the international robot flows, including Japan, the US, and the rest of the world.

⁸The match score is the result of the *weighted search algorithm* used by the O*NET Code Connector, which

and labor occupations. The set of occupations consists of all of the 324 four-digit-level occupations that exist throughout my sample period and pre-period, which is discussed in detail in Appendix B.2.

2.2 Constructing the Dataset

I describe a novel measurement method of robot costs compared to the past literature that only focuses on the quantity of robots.⁹

Matching Robot Applications and Labor Occupations. Robot applications and labor occupations are close concepts, although there has not been formal concordance between application and occupation codes. On the one hand, a robot application is a task to which the robot is applied, and each task has different technological requirements for robotics automation. On the other hand, an occupation also requires multiple types of tasks. Therefore, a heterogeneous mix of tasks in each occupation generates a difference in the ease of automation across occupations, implying the heterogeneous adoption level of robots (Manyika et al. 2017). Appendix B.1 provides further descriptions of robot applications and labor occupations using examples.

Formally, let a denote robot application and o denote labor occupation. The JARA data measure the quantity of robots sold and total monetary transaction values for each application a . I write these as robot measures X_a^R , a generic notation that can mean both quantity and monetary values. Then, the goal is to convert an application-level robot measure X_a^R to an occupation-level measure X_o^R .

First, I search occupations in the O*NET Code Connector by the title of robot application a , and I web-scrape the match score m_{oa} between a and o . Next, I allocate X_a^R to each

is the internal search algorithm developed and employed by O*NET since September 2005. Since then, the O*NET has continually updated the algorithm and improved the quality of the search results. Morris (2019) reports that the updated weighted search algorithm scored 95.9% based on the position and score of a best 4-digit occupation for a given query.

⁹While Graetz and Michaels (2018) provide data about robot prices from IFR, the price data is aggregated but not distinguished by occupations. By contrast, I will use the variation at the occupation level to estimate the substitutability between robots and workers.

occupation o according to m_{oa} -weight by

$$X_o^R = \sum_a \omega_{oa} X_a^R \text{ where } \omega_{oa} \equiv \frac{m_{oa}}{\sum_{o'} m_{o'a}}. \quad (1)$$

Note that $\sum_o \omega_{oa} X_a^R = X_a^R$ since $\sum_o \omega_{oa} = 1$, which is a desired property of allocation that occupation-level robot values return to the application level when summed across occupations. Robot trends based on the constructed occupation-level measures are shown in Appendix A.1, and further details of matching are described in Appendix A.2.¹⁰

Remarks on recent literature that studies the task contents of recent technological development follow. Webb (2019) provides a natural-language-processing method to match technological advances (e.g., robots, software, and artificial intelligence) embodied in the patent title and abstract to occupations. Furthermore, Montobbio et al. (2020) extend this approach to analyzing full patent texts by applying the topic modeling method of machine learning. My matching method between robot application and occupation complements these studies by matching the data of robot quantities with lower data requirements, as I only observe the title of robot applications but not detailed descriptions as those in patent texts.

The Japan Robot Shock. The matching method described above provides the robot quantity $q_{i,o,t}^R$ and sales $(pq)_{i,o,t}^R$ in destination country i , occupation o , and year t . Using them, I construct the cost shocks to the users of robots in each occupation. Specifically, if the average price $p_{i,o,t}^R \equiv (pq)_{i,o,t}^R / q_{i,o,t}^R$ measure is affected by the demand shock in country i , it is not suitable as a cost shock.¹¹ To mitigate this concern, I exclude the US prices from the sample, following the ideas in the automation literature (Acemoglu and Re-

¹⁰Although it is transparent to match applications and occupations in a completely automatic way instead of using a researcher's judgment, a concern about this matching method is that one has potentially erroneous matching due to noise in the text description in the occupation dictionary. In order to mitigate such a concern, I explore a manual hard-cut matching between applications and occupations, which is described in greater detail in Appendix A.3. The regression table confirms that my qualitative results are maintained.

¹¹I have also computed the chain-weighted robot price index which is commonly used when measuring the capital good price. The results using this index are not qualitatively different from the main findings.

strepo 2020). Here, the underlying assumption is close to the one in Hausman, Leonard, and Zona (1994) and Nevo (2001), that the changes in demand shocks are uncorrelated across countries, but the price variations are primarily driven by the robot production costs in Japan.

To mitigate further potential issues of cross-country correlation in demand shocks, I employ the data's bilateral trade structure and control for the destination country-specific demand factor. Formally, I fit the fixed-effect regression

$$\ln \left(p_{i,o,t}^R \right) - \ln \left(p_{i,o,t_0}^R \right) = \psi_{i,t}^D + \psi_{o,t}^J + \epsilon_{i,o,t}, \quad i \neq USA \quad (2)$$

where t_0 is the initial year, $\psi_{i,t}^D$ is the destination-year fixed effect, $\psi_{o,t}^J$ is the occupation-year fixed effect, and $\epsilon_{i,o,t}$ is the residual. This regression controls for any country-year specific effect $\psi_{i,t}^D$, which includes country i 's demand shock or trade shock between Japan and i that are constant across occupations. I use the remaining variation across occupations $\psi_{o,t}^J$ as a cost shock of robot adoption, and specifically define $\psi_o^J \equiv \psi_{o,t_1}^J$ as the "Japan robot shock."

Another issue with the average price approach is that the average price includes the component of robot quality upgrades. Namely, a rapid innovation in robotics technology could entail both a quality upgrading that makes robots perform more tasks at a greater efficiency as well as the cost saving of producing robots that perform the same task as before. The inseparability of these two components makes it hard to compare prices over time, which poses an identification threat. To work around this issue, I will use the general equilibrium model to predict the labor market effects of quality upgrading in Section 3. Other possible approaches and their limitations are discussed in Appendix B.4.

2.3 Stylized Facts

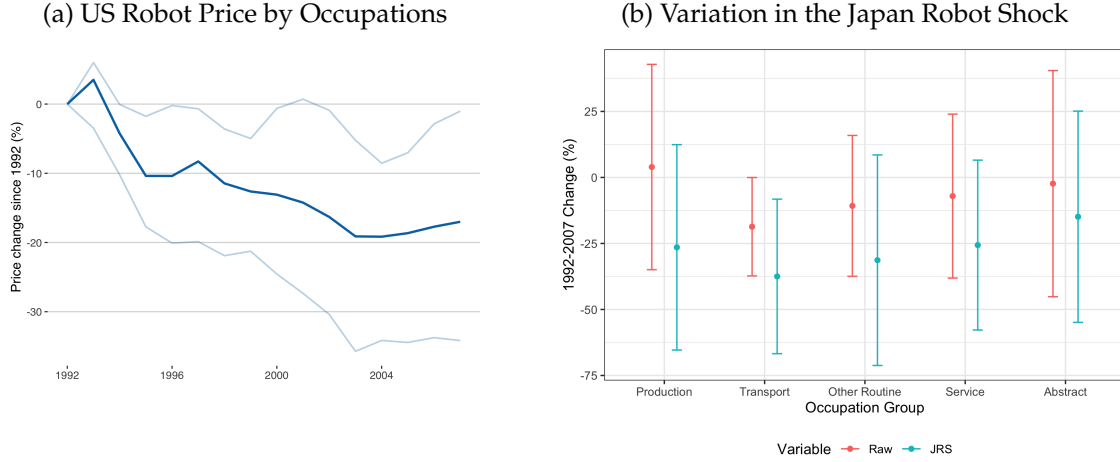
I convert the Japan robot shock data at the O*NET-SOC 4-digit occupation level to the ones at the OCC2010 occupation level to match the labor market measures from the US

Census, American Community Survey (ACS), retrieved from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) USA (Ruggles et al. 2018). These labor data are standard in the literature, and their description is relegated to Appendix B.2. With all these data combined, I show stylized facts about the Japan robot shock and its relation to the labor market outcome in the US.

Fact 1: Trends of the Japan Robot Shock. Figure 1a plots the distribution (10th, 50th, and 90th percentile) of the growth rates of the price of Japanese robots in the US each year relative to the initial year. The figure shows two patterns: (i) the robot prices follow an overall decreasing trend, with a median growth rate of -17% from 1992 to 2007, or -1.1% annually, and (ii) there is significant heterogeneity in the rate of price decline across occupations. Specifically, the 10th percentile occupation experienced -34% growth (-2.8% per annum), while in the 90th percentile occupation, the price changed little in the sample period. This price drop is consistent with the trend of decreasing prices of general investment goods since 1980; Karabarbounis and Neiman (2014) report a 10% decrease per decade.

Figure 1b shows the distribution of the long-run trend (1992-2007) for each occupation group. The occupation groups are routine, service (or manual), and abstract following Autor, Levy, and Murnane (2003). Routine is further divided into production, transportation, and others to reflect the rapid robot adoption in production and transportation occupations. The figure confirms a significant price variation across occupations, and that variation is observed even within occupation groups. Perhaps surprisingly, the average change of production robot prices is not as large as other robots but is slightly positive. This indicates that the robotics technology change in production occupations is not reflected by the price decline but by the quality improvement, so the unit value rises. Furthermore, the figure also shows the variation in Japan Robot Shock, or ψ_{i,t_1}^J , in equation (2). The large variation of the changes in prices by occupations persists even after controlling for the destination-year fixed effect $\psi_{i,t}^D$. It also confirms that after controlling for US demand shocks, the cost of Japanese robots is strongly decreasing, especially in the pro-

Figure 1: Distribution of the Cost of Robots



Note: The left panel shows the trend of prices of robots in the US by occupations, $p_{USA,\rho,t}^R$. The bold and dark line shows the median price in each year, and two thin and light lines are the 10th and 90th percentile. Three-year moving averages are taken to smooth out yearly noises. The right panel shows the mean and standard deviation of long-run (1992-2007) raw price decline (“Raw”) and Japan Robot Shock measured by the fixed effect ψ_{o,t_1}^C in equation (2) (“JRS”). The occupation group is routine, service (manual) and abstract, where routine is further divided into production, transportation, and other.

duction occupation. In the following, I will use this cost variation to study the impact on the labor market and estimate the elasticity of substitution between robots and workers.

Fact 2: Effects of the Japan robot shock on US occupations. Since the labor demand may be affected by trade liberalization, notably the China shock in my sample period, I control for the occupational China shock by the method developed by Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2013). Namely, I compute

$$IPW_{o,t} \equiv \sum_s l_{s,o,t_0} \Delta m_{s,t}^C \quad (3)$$

where l_{s,o,t_0} is sector- s share of employment for occupation o , and $\Delta m_{s,t}^C$ is the per-worker Chinese export growth to non-US developed countries.¹² Intuitively, an occupation receives a large trade shock if sectors that faced increased import competition from China intensively employ the corresponding occupation. With this trade shock measure, I run

¹²Specifically, following Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2013), I take eight countries: Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, and Switzerland. Appendix B.2 shows the distribution of occupational employment l_{s,o,t_0} for each sector.

the following regression

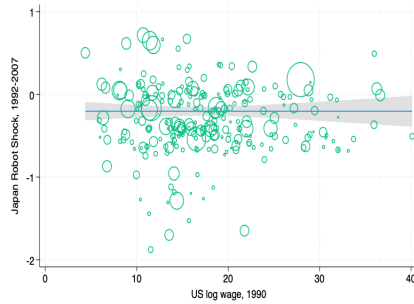
$$\Delta \ln(Y_o) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \times (-\psi_o^J) + \alpha_2 \times IPW_{o,t_1} + \mathbf{X}_o \cdot \boldsymbol{\alpha} + \varepsilon_o, \quad (4)$$

where Y_o is a labor market outcome by occupations such as hourly wage and employment, \mathbf{X}_o is the vector of baseline demographic control variables which are the female share, the college-graduate share, the age distribution, and the foreign-born share, and Δ is the long-run difference between 1990 and 2007.

I begin by checking the correlation between various robot measures and wage measures. In Figure 2a, the left panel shows the correlation between the Japan Robot Shock (JRS) and US baseline wages in 1990 at the occupation level. I find that there are no systematic relationships between these variables. This indicates that the JRS did not necessarily trigger wage inequality expansion during the 1990s and 2000s. Next, the middle panel shows the result of estimation equation (4) in a scatterplot. It reveals that 10% reduction of the Japanese robot prices decreases the US occupational wages by 1.2%. Therefore, the Japan robot shock did have an adverse effect on US occupations, which suggests the substitution of labor by robots. Finally, total expenditures on robots quantitatively affect the demand for labor in each occupation, conditional on robot prices. The right panel shows the relationship between the change in robot expenditures and wages, suggesting negative impacts on wages also operate through the expenditure margin. This result also indicates the substitutability of labor due to robot penetration at the occupation level.

Figure 2: The Japan Robot Shock and US Occupational Wages

(a) Japan Robot Shock and Baseline Wage



(b) Changes in Wage and Robot Prices



(c) Changes in Wage and Robot Expenditure



Note: The left panel shows the scatterplot, weighted fit line, and the 95 percent confidence interval of the baseline (1990) US log wage (horizontal axis) and the Japan Robot Shock in equation (2) (vertical axis) at the 4-digit occupation level. The middle panel shows the relationship between the Japan Robot Shock (horizontal axis) and changes in log wage (vertical axis). The right panel shows the relationship between the log total expenditure on Japanese robots in non-US countries (horizontal axis) and changes in log wage (vertical axis). In all panels, the sample is all occupations that existed throughout 1970 and 2007, bubble sizes reflect the employment in the baseline year, and the number of observation is 324. In the middle and right panel, variables are residualized by control variables (the occupational female share, college share, age distribution, foreign born share, and the China shock in equation (3)).

Table 1: The heterogeneous effects of the Japan robot shock on US occupations

VARIABLES	(1) dln_wage
$(-\psi^J) \times \text{Routine, production}$	-0.627*** (0.112)
$(-\psi^J) \times \text{Routine, transportation}$	-0.738*** (0.0624)
$(-\psi^J) \times \text{Routine, others}$	0.00770 (0.0536)
$(-\psi^J) \times \text{Service}$	-0.0639 (0.107)
$(-\psi^J) \times \text{Abstract}$	0.00693 (0.0789)
Observations	324
R-squared	0.462

Note: The table shows the coefficients in regression (4) with allowing the coefficient α_1 to vary across occupation groups. Observations are 4-digit level occupations, and the sample includes all occupations that existed throughout 1970 and 2007. ψ^J stands for the Japan robot shock from equation (2). Control variables of the female share, the college-graduate share, the age distribution (shares of age 16-34, 35-49, and 50-64 among workers aged 16-64), the foreign-born share as of 1990, and the China shock in equation (3), are included. Standard errors are clustered at the 2-digit occupation level. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$.

Next, Table 1 shows the result of regression (4) with allowing the coefficient α_1 to vary across occupation groups defined above. I find the negative effect in routine production and routine transportation occupations. Therefore, it demonstrates the heterogeneity in the effect across occupation groups. This finding motivates me to consider group-specific elasticity of substitution between robots and workers.

Again, these findings are unique in the use of the robot cost reduction at the occupation level. By contrast, in Appendix B.6, I show additional results that complement the findings in Figure 2 by taking similar approaches as in the literature, such as Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020), and confirm past findings. The Appendix also shows the pre-trend analysis revealing no systematic relation between the wage growth rates in 1970-1990 and the Japan robot shock in 1992-2007. Furthermore, to address a concern that the US is a large country that affects robot prices more directly, I also confirm that the pattern is qualitatively similar in a small-open economy as well in Appendix A.4.

Although these data patterns and regressions are informative about the substitutability of robots, they do not definitively give answers to the value of the substitution parameter or the distributional and aggregate effect of robotization. First, the observed Japan

robot shock may reflect the quality upgrading of robots, meaning the quality-adjusted robot cost reduction might be even more drastic. Second, changes in labor demand for one occupation following the shock can have bearing on wages and employment in other occupations by changing their marginal products. Third, coefficients in equation (4) reveals the relative effect of the Japan robot shock but not the real wage impact. I will develop and estimate a general equilibrium model in the following sections to overcome these issues.

3 Model

The basis of the model is a multi-country multi-factor Armington model. It has the following three features: (i) occupation-specific elasticities of substitution (EoS) of robots for workers, (ii) robot trade in a large open economy, and (iii) endogenous investment in robots with an adjustment cost. To emphasize these features, other standard points are relegated to Appendix C.1. The estimation and quantitative exercises are based on the full model described in Appendix C.1.

3.1 Setup

The Environment. Time is discrete and has infinite horizon $t = 0, 1, \dots$. There are N countries, O occupations, and two types of tradable goods g , non-robot goods $g = G$ and robots $g = R$. To clarify country subscripts, I use l, i , and j , where l is a robot-exporting country, i means a non-robot good-exporting and robot-importing country, and j indicates a non-robot good-importing country, whenever I can. There is a representative household and producer in each country. The non-robot goods are differentiated by origin countries and can be consumed by households, invested to produce robots, and used as an input for robot integration. Robots are differentiated by country of origin and occupation. There are bilateral and good-specific iceberg trade costs $\tau_{ij,t}^g$ for each $g = G, R$. I use notation Y for the total production, Q for the quantity arrived at the destination. There is no intra-

country trade cost, so $\tau_{ii,t}^g = 1$ for all i, g and t . Due to the iceberg cost, the bilateral price of good g that country j pays to i is $p_{ij,t}^g = p_{i,t}^g \tau_{ij,t}^g$. The non-robot goods (resp. robots) demand elasticity is ε (resp. ε^R), so that the price indices in country j are

$$P_{j,t}^G = \left[\sum_i \left(p_{ij,t}^G \right)^{1-\varepsilon} \right]^{1/(1-\varepsilon)} \quad \text{and} \quad P_{j,o,t}^R = \left[\sum_i \left(p_{ij,o,t}^R \right)^{1-\varepsilon^R} \right]^{1/(1-\varepsilon^R)},$$

respectively.

There are two factors of production of non-robot goods G : labor $L_{i,o,t}$ and robot capital $K_{i,o,t}^R$ in each occupation o .¹³ There is no international movement of factors. Producers own and accumulate robot capital. Households own the producers' share in each country. All good and factor markets are perfectly competitive. Workers are forward-looking, draw an idiosyncratic utility shock from a generalized extreme value (GEV) distribution, pay a switching cost for changing occupation, and choose the occupation o that achieves the highest expected value $V_{i,o,t}$ among O occupations (Caliendo, Dvorkin, and Parro 2019). The elasticity of occupation switch probability with respect to the expected value is ϕ . The detail of the worker's problem is discussed in Appendix C.1.

The government in each country exogenously sets the robot tax. Specifically, buyer i of robot o from country l in year t has to pay ad-valorem robot tax $u_{li,t}$ on top of the robot producer price $p_{li,o,t}^R$ to buy from l . The tax revenue is uniformly rebated to country i 's workers.

Production Functions. In country i and period t , the representative producer of non-robot good G inputs the occupation- o service $T_{i,o,t}^O$ and produces with the production function

$$Y_{i,t}^G = A_{i,t}^G \left[\sum_o (b_{i,o,t})^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \left(T_{i,o,t}^O \right)^{\frac{\beta-1}{\beta}} \right]^{\frac{\beta}{\beta-1}}, \quad (5)$$

¹³Appendix C.1 shows the model with intermediate goods and non-robot capital. The main analytical results are unchanged.

where $A_{i,t}^G$ is a Hicks-neutral productivity, $b_{i,o,t}$ is the cost share parameter of each occupation o , and β is the elasticity of substitution between each occupation from the production side. Parameters satisfy $b_{i,o,t} > 0$, $\sum_o b_{i,o,t} = 1$, and $\beta > 0$. Each occupation o is performed by labor $L_{i,o,t}$ and robot capital $K_{i,o,t}^R$ by the following occupation performance function:

$$T_{i,o,t}^O = \left[(1 - a_{o,t})^{\frac{1}{\theta_o}} (L_{i,o,t})^{\frac{\theta_o-1}{\theta_o}} + (a_{o,t})^{\frac{1}{\theta_o}} (K_{i,o,t}^R)^{\frac{\theta_o-1}{\theta_o}} \right]^{\frac{\theta_o}{\theta_o-1}}, \quad (6)$$

where $\theta_o > 0$ is the elasticity of substitution between robots and labor within occupation o that affects the changes in real wages due to adopting robots, and $a_{o,t}$ is the cost share of robot capital in tasks performed by occupation o . Equation (6) is key to understanding the automation and is discussed in detail in the next paragraph.

Robots R for occupation o are produced by investing non-robot goods $I_{i,o,t}^R$ with productivity $A_{i,o,t}^R$.¹⁴

$$Y_{i,o,t}^R = A_{i,o,t}^R I_{i,o,t}^R. \quad (7)$$

Note that the change in the productivity of robot production in Japan captures the Japan robot shock in my data since, combined with the perfect competition assumption, the robot price is inversely proportional to the productivity term in the competitive market.

Discussion–The Occupation Performance Function and Automation. It is worth mentioning the relationship between the occupation performance function (6) and how automation is treated in the literature. A standard approach in the literature, called the task-based framework, sets up a producer’s allocation problem of factors (e.g., robots, labor) to a set of tasks. It then solves the allocation problem using an assumption on the efficiency structure of performing tasks for each factor. This task-based approach implies the unit cost function identical to the one derived from the occupation production function

¹⁴The assumption simplifies the solution of the model because occupation services, intermediate goods, and non-robot capital are used only to produce non-robot goods, but not robots. To conduct the estimation and counterfactual exercises without this simplification, one would need to observe the cost shares of intermediate goods and non-robot capital for robot producers, which is hard to measure.

(6) using the Fréchet distribution assumption on the task-efficiency structure. Intuitively, one can regard the occupation service as the aggregate of robot capital and labor inputs after optimally allocating robots and workers to each task.

Since this task-based approach consists of the allocation of factors to tasks, the cost-share parameter $a_{o,t}$ of equation (6) has an additional interpretation of the share of the space of tasks performed by robot capital as opposed to labor. Following Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020), who defined automation as the expansion of the space of tasks that robots perform, I call the change in $a_{o,t}$ the *automation shock*.¹⁵ Real-world examples of the automation shock are discussed in Appendix B.1.

By contrast, the robot cost share $a_{o,t}$ also represents the quality of robots. Specifically, the quality of goods can be regarded as a non-pecuniary “attribute whose valuation is agreed upon by all consumers” (Khandelwal 2010). Since the increase in the cost-share parameter $a_{o,t}$ implies the rise in the value of the robot input among robots and labor, it can also be interpreted as quality upgrading of robots relative to labor when combined with a suitable adjustment in the TFP term. In particular, equation (6) implies that in the long run (hence dropping the time subscript), the demand for robot capital is

$$K_{i,o,t}^R = a_{o,t} \left(\frac{c_{i,o,t}^R}{P_{i,o,t}^O} \right)^{-\theta_o} T_{i,o,t}^O,$$

where $c_{i,o,t}^R$ is the user cost of robot capital formally defined in Appendix C.3, and $P_{i,o}^O$ is the unit cost of performing occupation o . In this equation, a_o is the quality term as defined above.

These considerations imply that the automation shock and the quality upgrading are not distinguished in my model but have the same implication for the equilibrium. This is the implication of the Fréchet distribution assumption. It is useful to maintain this assumption since I can keep complex technology improvement in a single exogenous

¹⁵More specifically, the productivity term $b_{i,o,t}$ in equation (5) has also to be adjusted so that the increase in $a_{o,t}$ does not reduce the labor productivity in equation (6). I will come back to this point in the estimation section.

variable $a_{o,t}$.¹⁶ One of the reasons for the need to impose this assumption is the lack of data on the set of tasks for each robot or the quality of robots. Relaxing this assumption using rich data on this dimension would be future work.

In this paper, I consider not only the automation shock but also the shock to the price of adopting robots. I call these two shocks as “robotization shocks” collectively. The robotization shocks are likely to be correlated at the occupation level since innovation in robot technology improves the applicability of robots and the cost efficiency of production at the same time. An example of such a correlation is provided in Appendix B.1.

To the best of my knowledge, equation (6) is the most flexible formulation of substitution between robots and labor in the literature. Specifically, I show that the industry-level unit cost function of Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020) can be obtained by $\theta_o \rightarrow 0$ for any o in Lemma C.1 in Appendix C.2. I also show that my model can imply the production structure of Humlum (2019) in Lemma C.2 in the same Appendix.

The Producer’s Problem. The producer’s problem is made of two tiers—static optimization about labor input in each occupation and dynamic optimization about robot investment. The static part is to choose the employment conditional on market prices and current stock of robot capital. Namely, for each i and t , conditional on the o -vector of the stock of robot capital $\{K_{i,o,t}^R\}_o$, producers solve

$$\pi_{i,t} \left(\{K_{i,o,t}^R\}_o \right) \equiv \max_{\{L_{i,o,t}\}_o} p_{i,t}^G Y_{i,t}^G - \sum_o w_{i,o,t} L_{i,o,t}, \quad (8)$$

where $Y_{i,t}^G$ is given by the production function (5).

The dynamic optimization is about choosing the quantity of new robots to purchase, or the size of the robot investment, given the current stock of robot capital. It is derived from the following three assumptions. First, for each i, o , and t , robot capital $K_{i,o,t}^R$ accumulates

¹⁶Note, however, that this restriction is not yet sufficient to solve the potential endogeneity problem of $a_{o,t}$, although it reduces the parameter dimensionality. This point will be discussed in detail in the estimation section.

according to

$$K_{i,o,t+1}^R = (1 - \delta) K_{i,o,t}^R + Q_{i,o,t}^R \quad (9)$$

where $Q_{i,o,t}^R$ is the amount of new robot investment and δ is the depreciation rate of robots. Second, I assume that the new investment is given by a CES aggregation of robot hardware from country l , $Q_{li,o,t}^R$, and the non-robot good input $I_{i,o,t}^{int}$ that represents the input of software and integration, or

$$Q_{i,o,t}^R = \left[\sum_l \left(Q_{li,o,t}^R \right)^{\frac{\epsilon^R - 1}{\epsilon^R}} \right]^{\frac{\epsilon^R}{\epsilon^R - 1} \alpha^R} \left(I_{i,o,t}^{int} \right)^{1 - \alpha^R} \quad (10)$$

where l denotes the origin of the newly purchased robots, and α^R is the expenditure share of robot arms in the cost of investment. Discussions about the functional form choice of equation (10) are relegated to Appendix B.1. Third, installing robots is costly and requires a per-unit convex adjustment cost $\gamma Q_{i,o,t}^R / K_{i,o,t}^R$ measured in units of robots, where γ governs the size of the adjustment cost (e.g., Holt 1960; Cooper and Haltiwanger 2006), which reflects the complexity and sluggishness of robot adoption, as reviewed in Autor, Mindell, and Reynolds (2020).

Given these assumptions, a producer of non-robot good G in country i solves the dynamic optimization problem

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{Q_{li,o,t}^R\}_l, \{I_{i,o,t}^{int}\}_o} & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+l} \right)^t \left[\pi_{i,t} \left(\{K_{i,o,t}^R\}_o \right) \right. \\ & \left. - \sum_o \left(\sum_l p_{li,o,t}^R (1 + u_{li,t}) Q_{li,o,t}^R + P_{i,t}^G I_{i,o,t}^{int} + \gamma P_{i,o,t}^R Q_{i,o,t}^R \frac{Q_{i,o,t}^R}{K_{i,o,t}^R} \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

subject to accumulation equations (9) and (10), and given $\{K_{i,o,0}^R\}_o$. A standard Lagrangian multiplier method yields Euler equations for investment, which I derive in Appendix C.3. Note that the Lagrange multiplier $\lambda_{i,o,t}^R$ represents the equilibrium marginal value of robot capital.

Equilibrium. To close the model, the employment level must satisfy an adding-up constraint

$$\sum_o L_{i,o,t} = \bar{L}_{i,t}, \quad (12)$$

and markets for robots and non-robot goods clear. There is one numeraire good to pin down the price system. I first define a temporary equilibrium in each period and then a sequential equilibrium, which leads to the definition of a steady state. To save space, detailed expressions are relegated in Appendix C.3.

I define the bold symbols as column vectors of robot capital $\mathbf{K}_t^R \equiv [K_{i,o,t}^R]_{i,o}$, marginal values of robot capital $\boldsymbol{\lambda}_t^R \equiv [\lambda_{i,o,t}^R]_{i,o}$, employment $\mathbf{L}_t \equiv [L_{i,o,t}]_{i,o}$, workers' value functions $\mathbf{V}_t \equiv [V_{i,o,t}]_{i,o}$, non-robot goods prices $\mathbf{p}_t^G \equiv [p_{i,t}^G]_i$, robot prices $\mathbf{p}_t^R \equiv [p_{i,o,t}^R]_{i,o}$, wages, $\mathbf{w}_t \equiv [w_{i,o,t}]_{i,o}$, bilateral non-robot goods trade levels $\mathbf{Q}_t^G \equiv [Q_{ij,t}^G]_{i,j}$, bilateral non-robot goods trade levels $\mathbf{Q}_t^R \equiv [Q_{ij,o,t}^R]_{i,j,o}$, and occupation transition shares $\boldsymbol{\mu}_t \equiv [\mu_{i,oo',t}]_{i,oo'}$, where \mathbf{V}_t and $\boldsymbol{\mu}_t$ are explained in detail in Appendix C.1. I write $\mathbf{S}_t \equiv [\mathbf{K}_t^{R'}, \boldsymbol{\lambda}_t^{R'}, \mathbf{L}_t', \mathbf{V}_t']'$ as state variables.

Definition 1. In each period t , given state variables \mathbf{S}_t , a *temporary equilibrium* (TE) \mathbf{x}_t is the set of prices $\mathbf{p}_t \equiv [\mathbf{p}_t^{G'}, \mathbf{p}_t^{R'}, \mathbf{w}_t']'$ and flow quantities $\mathbf{Q}_t \equiv [\mathbf{Q}_t^{G'}, \mathbf{Q}_t^{R'}, \boldsymbol{\mu}_t']'$ that satisfy: (i) given \mathbf{p}_t , workers choose occupation optimally by equation (C.3), (ii) given \mathbf{p}_t , producers maximize flow profit by equation (8) and demand robots by equation (C.21), and (iii) markets clear: Labor adds up as in equation (12), and goods markets clear with trade balances as in equations (C.29) and (C.31).

In other words, the inputs of the temporary equilibrium are all state variables, while the outputs are all remaining endogenous variables that are determined in each period. Adding the conditions about state variable transitions, sequential equilibrium determines all state variables given initial conditions as follows.

Definition 2. Given initial robot capital stocks and employment $[\mathbf{K}_0^{R'}, \mathbf{L}_0']'$, a *sequential equilibrium* (SE) is a sequence of vectors $\mathbf{y}_t \equiv [\mathbf{x}_t', \mathbf{S}_t']'$ that satisfies the TE conditions and

employment law of motion (C.5), value function condition (C.4), capital accumulation equation (9), producer's dynamic optimization (C.25) and (C.24).

Finally, I define the steady state as a SE y that does not change over time.

3.2 The First-order Solution

Since the GE system is highly nonlinear and does not have a closed form solution due to flexible robot-labor substitution, I log-linearize the system around the initial steady state. I choose this strategy because it is well-known that the errors due to first-order approximation with respect to productivity shocks are considerably small (cf. Kleinman, Liu, and Redding 2020). Consider increases of the robot task space $a_{o,t}$ and of the productivity of the robot production $A_{i,o,t}^R$ in baseline period t_0 , and combine all these changes into a column vector Δ . Write state variables $S_t = [K_t^{R'}, \lambda_t^{R'}, L_t', V_t']'$, and use "hat" notation to denote changes from t_0 , or $\hat{z}_t \equiv \ln(z_t) - \ln(z_{t_0})$ for any variable z_t . I take the following three steps to solve the model.

Step 1. In given period t , I combine the vector of shocks Δ and (given) changes in state variables \hat{S}_t into a column vector $\hat{A}_t = [\Delta', \hat{S}_t']'$. Log-linearizing the TE conditions, I solve for matrices $\overline{D^x}$ and $\overline{D^A}$ such that the log-difference of the TE \hat{x}_t satisfies

$$\overline{D^x} \hat{x}_t = \overline{D^A} \hat{A}_t. \quad (13)$$

In this equation, $\overline{D^x}$ is a substitution matrix, and $\overline{D^A} \hat{A}_t$ is a vector of partial equilibrium shifts in period t (Adao, Arkolakis, and Esposito 2019).¹⁷

Step 2. Log-linearizing laws of motion and Euler equations around the initial steady state, I solve for matrices $\overline{D^{y,SS}}$ and $\overline{D^{\Delta,SS}}$ such that $\overline{D^{y,SS}} \hat{y} = \overline{D^{\Delta,SS}} \Delta$, where superscript

¹⁷Since the temporary equilibrium vector \hat{x}_t includes wages \hat{w}_t , equation (13) generalizes the general equilibrium comparative statics formulation in Adao, Arkolakis, and Esposito (2019), who consider the variant of equation (13) with $\hat{x}_t = \hat{w}_t$.

SS denotes the steady state. Note that there exists a block separation $\overline{D^A} = [\overline{D^{A,\Delta}} | \overline{D^{A,S}}]$ such that equation (13) can be written as

$$\overline{D^x} \widehat{x}_t - \overline{D^{A,S}} \widehat{S}_t = \overline{D^{A,\Delta}} \Delta. \quad (14)$$

Combined with this equation evaluated at the steady state, I have

$$\overline{E^y} \widehat{y} = \overline{E^\Delta} \Delta, \quad (15)$$

where

$$\overline{E^y} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \overline{D^x} & -\overline{D^{A,T}} \\ \overline{D^{y,SS}} & \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } \overline{E^\Delta} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} \overline{D^{A,\Delta}} \\ \overline{D^{\Delta,SS}} \end{bmatrix},$$

which implies $\widehat{y} = \overline{E} \Delta$, where matrix $\overline{E} = (\overline{E^y})^{-1} \overline{E^\Delta}$ represents the first-order steady-state impact of the shock Δ . This steady-state matrix \overline{E} will be a key object in estimating the model in Section 4.

Step 3. Log-linearizing laws of motion and Euler equations around the new steady state, I solve for matrices $\overline{D_{t+1}^{y,TD}}$ and $\overline{D_t^{y,TD}}$ such that $\overline{D_{t+1}^{y,TD}} \check{y}_{t+1} = \overline{D_t^{y,TD}} \check{y}_t$, where the superscript *TD* stands for transition dynamics, and $\check{z}_{t+1} \equiv \ln z_{t+1} - \ln z'$ and z' is the new steady state value for any variable z . Log-linearized sequential equilibrium satisfies the following first-order difference equation

$$\overline{F_{t+1}^y} \widehat{y}_{t+1} = \overline{F_t^y} \widehat{y}_t + \overline{F_{t+1}^\Delta} \Delta. \quad (16)$$

Following the insights in Blanchard and Kahn (1980), there is a converging matrix representing the first-order transitional dynamics $\overline{F_t}$ such that

$$\widehat{y}_t = \overline{F_t} \Delta \text{ and } \overline{F_t} \rightarrow \overline{E}. \quad (17)$$

The matrix \bar{F}_t characterizes the transition dynamics after robotization shocks and is used to study the effect of policy changes in the counterfactual section.

4 Estimation

Using the Japan robot shock described in Section 2 and the general equilibrium model in Section 3, I develop an estimation method using the model-implied optimal instrumental variable (MOIV) from Adao, Arkolakis, and Esposito (2019). First, Section 4.1 provides the implementation detail of the model. I then define the MOIV estimator in Section 4.2, which gives the estimation results shown in Section 4.3. Section 4.4 discusses the performance of my estimates.

4.1 Bringing the Model to the Data

Since I observe the prices of Japanese robots and study the US labor market, I set $N = 3$ and aggregate country groups to the US (USA, country index 1), Japan (JPN, index 2), and the Rest of the World (ROW, index 3). To allow the heterogeneity of the EoS between robots and labor across occupations and maintain the estimation power at the same time, I define the occupation groups as follows. First, occupations are separated into three broad occupation groups, Abstract, Service (Manual), and Routine following Acemoglu and Autor (2011).¹⁸ Given the trend that robots are introduced intensively in production and transportation (material-moving) occupations in the sample period, I further divide routine occupations into three sub-categories, Production (e.g., welders), Transportation (indicating transportation and material-moving, e.g., hand laborer), and Others (e.g., repairer). As a result, I obtain five occupation groups.¹⁹ Within each group,

¹⁸Routine occupations include occupations such as production, transportation and material moving, sales, clerical, and administrative support. Abstract occupations are professional, managerial, and technical occupations; service occupations are protective service, food preparation, cleaning, personal care, and personal services.

¹⁹In terms of OCC2010 codes in the US Census, Routine production occupations are in [7700,8965], Routine transportation occupations are in [9000,9750], Routine others are in [4700,6130], Service (manual) occupations are in [3700,4650], and Abstract occupations are in [10,3540].

I assume a constant EoS between robots and labor. Each occupation group is denoted by subscript g , and thus the robot-labor EoS for group g is written as θ_g .

I fix some parameters of the model at conventional values as follows. The annual discount rate is $\iota = 0.05$, and the robot depreciation rate is 10%, following Graetz and Michaels (2018).²⁰ I take the trade elasticity of $\varepsilon = 4$ from the large literature of trade elasticity estimation (e.g., Simonovska and Waugh 2014), and $\varepsilon^R = 1.2$ derived from applying the estimation method developed by Caliendo and Parro (2015) to the robot trade data, discussed in detail in Appendix D.1. Following Leigh and Kraft (2018), I assume $\alpha^R = 2/3$. By Cooper and Haltiwanger (2006), I set the parameter of adjustment cost at $\gamma = 0.295$. I use the estimates from Traiberman (2019) and set the dynamic occupation switching elasticity as $\phi = 1.4$. With these parametrization, structural parameters to be estimated are $\Theta \equiv \{\theta_g, \beta\}$.

Finally, since I use the first-order approximated solution, I need to measure the pre-shock steady state y_{t_0} , which is an input to the solution matrix \bar{E} in equation (15). I take these data from JARA, IFR, IPUMS USA and CPS, BACI, and World Input-Output Data (WIOD). The measurement of labor market outcomes is standard and relegated to Appendix B.7. I set robot tax in the initial period to be zero in all countries.

In the estimation, I use the changes in US occupational wages \widehat{w}_1 between 1992 and 2007 as the target variables. I use the steady-state changes from the model to match these 15-year changes in the data. Recall that the robot production function (7) implies that $\widehat{A}_{2,o}^R$ is equal to the negative cost shock to produce robots in Japan, so I measure the robot efficiency gain by

$$\widehat{A}_{2,o}^R = -\psi_o^J \quad (18)$$

where ψ_o^J is defined in equation (2) and observed using my dataset.

²⁰For example, see King and Rebelo (1999) for the source of the conventional value of ι which matches the discount rate to the average real return on capital.

4.2 Estimation Method

I begin by discussing the identification challenge of the Japan robot shock correlated with the unobserved automation shock. First, I impose

$$\hat{b}_{i,o}^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}} (1 - \hat{a}_o)^{\frac{1}{\theta_o-1}} = 0, \quad (19)$$

for any automation shock \hat{a}_o so that the automation shock represents a robot-augmenting technological shock that does not change the labor productivity. Next, I decompose the automation shock \hat{a}_o into the component \hat{a}_o^{imp} implied from the relative demand function and unobserved error component \hat{a}_o^{err} such that $\hat{a}_o = \hat{a}_o^{\text{imp}} + \hat{a}_o^{\text{err}}$ for all o . Implied component \hat{a}_o^{imp} is implicitly defined by the steady-state change of relative demand for robots and labor

$$\left(\frac{\widehat{c_{i,o}^R K_{i,o}^R}}{\widehat{w_{i,o} L_{i,o}}} \right) = \frac{\widehat{a}_o^{\text{imp}}}{1 - a_{o,t_0}} + (1 - \theta_g) x_{12}^R \psi_o^J + \epsilon_o, \quad (20)$$

where x_{12}^R is the import share of robots from Japan in the US, and ϵ_o is the error term that depends on the changes in wages and robot costs in the other countries. The identification challenge is that the Japan robot shock ψ_o^J does not work as an instrumental variable (IV) in equation (20) because of a potential correlation between ψ_o^J and an observed task-space expansion shock \hat{a}_o^{imp} as mentioned in Section 3.1.

To overcome this identification issue, I employ a method based on the model solution. A key observation is that conditional on \hat{a}_o^{imp} , and using the solution of the wage change, the error component \hat{a}_o^{err} can be inferred from the observed endogenous variables. Specifically, from the steady-state solution matrix \bar{E} , I obtain $O \times O$ sub-matrices $\bar{E}_{w_1, a}$, \bar{E}_{w_1, A_2^R} , and $O \times NO$ submatrix $\bar{E}_{w_1, b}$ such that²¹

$$\hat{w} = \bar{E}_{w_1, a} \hat{a} + \bar{E}_{w_1, A_2^R} \hat{A}_2^R + \bar{E}_{w_1, b} \hat{b}, \quad (21)$$

where \hat{b} is the vector of occupational productivity change satisfying equation (19). Using

²¹Appendix C.4 explains the technical reason for the choice of the steady-state matrix in equation (21).

$\widehat{\mathbf{a}} = \widehat{\mathbf{a}}^{\text{obs}} + \widehat{\mathbf{a}}^{\text{err}}$, I derive the structural residual $\mathbf{v}_w \equiv \bar{E}_{w_1, \mathbf{a}} \widehat{\mathbf{a}}^{\text{err}} \equiv [\nu_{w,o}]_o$, which is a vector of length O generated from the linear combination of the unobserved component of the automation shocks:

$$\mathbf{v}_w = \mathbf{v}_w(\Theta) = \widehat{\mathbf{w}} - \bar{E}_{w_1, \mathbf{a}} \widehat{\mathbf{a}}^{\text{obs}} - \bar{E}_{w_1, A_2^R} \widehat{A}_2^R - \bar{E}_{w_1, \mathbf{b}} \widehat{\mathbf{b}}.$$

I impose the following moment condition regarding this structural residual and the Japan robot shock $\boldsymbol{\psi}^J \equiv \left\{ \psi_o^J \right\}_o$.

Assumption 1. (*Moment Condition*)

$$\mathbb{E} \left[\nu_{w,o} | \boldsymbol{\psi}^J \right] = 0. \quad (22)$$

Given this moment condition, it is straightforward to construct the optimal instrument and implement it with the two-step estimator (Adao, Arkolakis, and Esposito 2019). Therefore, I relegate the detailed explanation to Appendix D.2 and instead discuss the interpretation of Assumption 1 and a case in which it may not hold. Assumption 1 restricts that the structural residual \mathbf{v} should not be predicted by the Japan robot shock. Note that it allows that the automation shock \widehat{a}_o may correlate with the change in the robot producer productivity $\widehat{A}_{2,o}^R$. The structural residual $\nu_{w,o}$ purges out the first-order effects of all shocks, $\widehat{\mathbf{a}}$ and \widehat{A}_2^R , on endogenous variables. I then place the assumption that the remaining variation should not be predicted by the Japan robot shock from the data. Furthermore, note that the correlation of the structural residuals with other shocks, such as trade shocks, is unlikely to break Assumption 1 as I have confirmed that controlling for such shocks does not qualitatively change the reduced-form findings in Section 2.3.

To further clarify the role of Assumption 1, consider the circumstances under which Assumption 1 breaks. One such threat is a directed technological change, in which the occupational labor demand drives the changes in the cost of robots (Acemoglu and Restrepo 2018). Specifically, suppose a positive labor demand shock in occupation o induces the research and development of robots in occupation o and drives costs down in the

Table 2: Parameter Estimates

Case 1: Homogeneous $\theta_g = \theta$		Case 2: Heterogeneous θ_g	
θ_g	2.05 (0.19)	Routine, Production	2.71 (0.32)
		Routine, Transportation	1.76 (0.15)
		Routine, Others	1.96 (0.17)
		Manual	1.01 (0.71)
		Abstract	1.01 (0.62)
β	0.83 (0.03)		0.73 (0.06)

Note: The estimates of the structural parameters based on the estimator described in Section B.1. Standard errors are in parentheses. Parameter θ is the within-occupation elasticity of substitution between robots and labor. Parameter β is the elasticity of substitution between occupations. The column “Case 1: $\theta_g = \theta$ ” shows the result with the restriction that θ_o is constant across occupation groups. The column “Case 2: Free θ_g ” shows the result with θ_g allowed to be heterogeneous across five occupation groups. Transportation indicates “Transportation and Material Moving” occupations in the Census 4-digit occupation codes (OCC2010 from 9000 to 9750). See the main text for other details.

long run instead of simply assuming my production function (7) with exogenous technological change. In this case, the structural residual ν_o does not control for this effect and is negatively correlated with Japan robot shock ψ_o^J . Another possibility that breaks Assumption 1 is the increasing returns for robot producers, which would also imply that the unobserved robot demand increase drives a reduction of robot costs. However, even if this is the case, the positive impact of Japan robot costs found in Section 2.3 shows the lower limit, and thus my qualitative results about strong substitutability are maintained.

4.3 Estimation Results

Table 2 gives the estimates of the structural parameters. The first column shows the estimation result when I restrict the EoS between robots and labor to be constant across occupation groups (Case 1). The estimate of the within-occupation EoS between robots and labor θ is around 2 and implies that robots and labor are substitutes within an occupation, and rejects the Cobb-Douglas case $\theta_g = 1$ at the conventional significance levels.

The high estimate of the EoS between labor and automation capital is also found in Eden and Gaggl (2018), while their estimate is about the elasticity with respect to ICT capital. The point estimate of the EoS between occupations, β , is 0.83, implying that occupation groups are complementary. The estimate is slightly higher than Humlum's (2019) central estimate of 0.49.

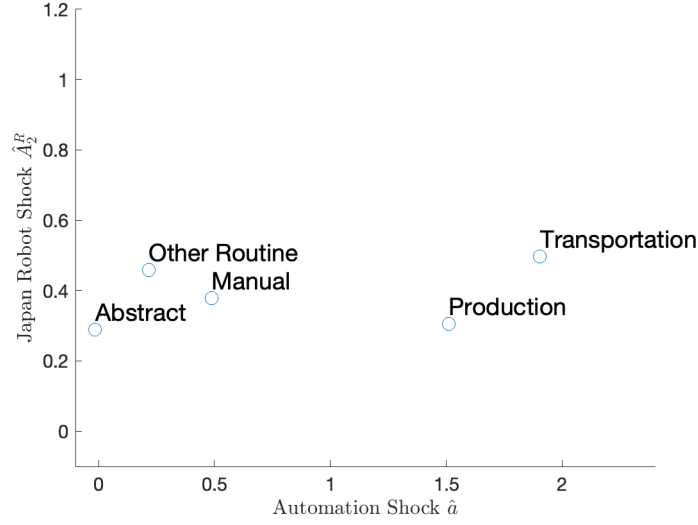
The second column shows the estimation result when I allow the heterogeneity across occupation groups (Case 2). I find that the EoS for routine production occupations is 2.7, while those for other routine occupations (transportation and other routine) are close to 2, and those for other occupation groups are not significantly different from 1. Therefore, the estimates for routine production occupations indicate the special susceptibility of workers in these occupations to robot capital. The estimate of the EoS between occupations β does not change qualitatively between Case 1 and Case 2.

As in the literature on estimating the capital-labor substitution elasticity, the source of identification of these large and heterogeneous EoS between robots and labor is the negative correlation between the Japan robot shock and the change in the labor market outcome. Intuitively, if θ_g is large, then the steady-state relative robot (resp. labor) demand responds strongly in the positive (resp. negative) direction conditional on a unit decrease in the cost of using robots. This intuition is consistent with the empirical finding in Table 1.

4.4 The Role of Automation Shocks and Model Fit

My model features two sources of shocks related to robot penetration: the Japan robot shock that reduces the robot price and the automation shock that shifts tasks from labor to robots. The estimated model allows me to back out the automation shock. Figure 3 summarizes these two shocks aggregated at the occupation group level. The figure reveals 0.2-0.6 log points of the Japan robot shock, reflecting the observed reduction in the price of robots from Japan. More importantly, estimated automation shocks are positive and reveal greater variation across occupation groups. The two highly automated occu-

Figure 3: Variation in the Automation Shock and the Japan Robot Shock



Note: The scatterplot shows the estimated automation shock in the horizontal axis and the Japan robot shock in the vertical axis. Occupations are aggregated at the occupation-group level with the initial robot expenditure weight.

pations, transportation and production, see 1.5-2 log points increase in the task shares of robots, while the other occupation groups have 0.5 log points at the maximum. Therefore, in the sample period, the greater increase in the robot penetration in production and transportation occupations is explained by automation shocks rather than the Japan robot shocks.

This point is important to evaluate the performance of the model since ignoring the automation shock could lead to significant bias in interpreting the correlation between wage changes and the Japan robot shock. To see this, I apply the simulated data to the linear regression model (4) with the following two simulations.²² First, I hit the Japan robot shock and the implied automation shock, and I call this counterfactual wage change “targeted.” In this case, the prediction of wage changes is consistent with the moment condition (22), and thus the linear regression coefficient α_1 of equation (4) is expected close to the one obtained from data. Second, I hit only the Japan robot shock but not the automation shock, and I call this counterfactual wage change “untargeted.” In this case,

²²Appendix D.3 gives a detailed discussion on the Japan robot shock and the backed-out implied automation shocks.

Table 3: Model Fit: Linear Regression with Observed and Simulated Data

VARIABLES	(1) \widehat{w}_{data}	(2) $\widehat{w}_{\psi^J \widehat{a}^{obs}}$	(3) \widehat{w}_{ψ^J}
$-\psi^J$	-0.118 (0.0569)	-0.107 (0.0711)	-0.536 (0.175)
Observations	324	324	324

Note: The author's calculation based on the dataset generated by JARA, O*NET, and the US Census. Column (1) is the coefficient of the Japan robot shock ψ^J in the reduced-form regression with IPW. Column (2) takes the US wage change predicted by GE with ψ^J as well as other shocks such as the implied automation shock \widehat{a}^{imp} . Column (3) takes the US wage change predicted by GE with shocks including the Japan robot shock, but counterfactually fixing the implied automation shock to be zero. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses.

the moment condition (22) is violated since the structural residual does not incorporate the unobserved automation shock, which causes a bias in the regression. The difference in estimates from the one using the targeted wage change reveals the size of this bias. Therefore, this exercise reveals how important it is to consider the automation shock in estimation. Details in the method to simulate data is standard and explained in Appendix D.4.

Table 3 shows the result of these exercises. The first column shows the estimates of equation (4) using the data, the second column is the estimate based on the targeted wage change, and the third column is the estimate based on the untargeted wage change. Comparing the first and second columns confirms that the targeted moments match well as expected. Furthermore, examining the third column compared to these two columns, one can see a stronger negative correlation between the simulated wage and the Japan robot shock. This is due to the positive correlation between the Japan robot shock $-\psi_o^J$ and the implied automation shock \widehat{a}_o^{imp} , which is consistent with the fact that robotic innovations that save costs (thus $\widehat{A}_{2,o}^R > 0$ or $-\widehat{\psi}_o^J > 0$) and that upgrade quality (thus $\widehat{a}_o^{imp} > 0$) are likely to happen at the same time.

More specifically, with the real data, the regression specification (4) contains a positive bias due to this positive correlation. By contrast, the untargeted wage is free from this bias since its data-generating process does not contain the automation shock but only the Japan robot shock. Thus, the linear regression coefficient α_1 is higher than the one ob-

tained from the real data. In other words, if I had wrongfully assumed that the economy did not experience the automation shock and believed the coefficient obtained in Figure 2 is bias-free, I would have estimated higher EoS by ignoring the actual positive correlation between $-\psi_o^J$ and $\widehat{a_o^{\text{imp}}}$. This thought experiment reveals that it is critical to take into account the automation shock in estimating the EoS between robots and labor using the Japan robot shock, and that the large EoS in my structural estimates are robust even after taking this point into account.

5 Counterfactual Exercises

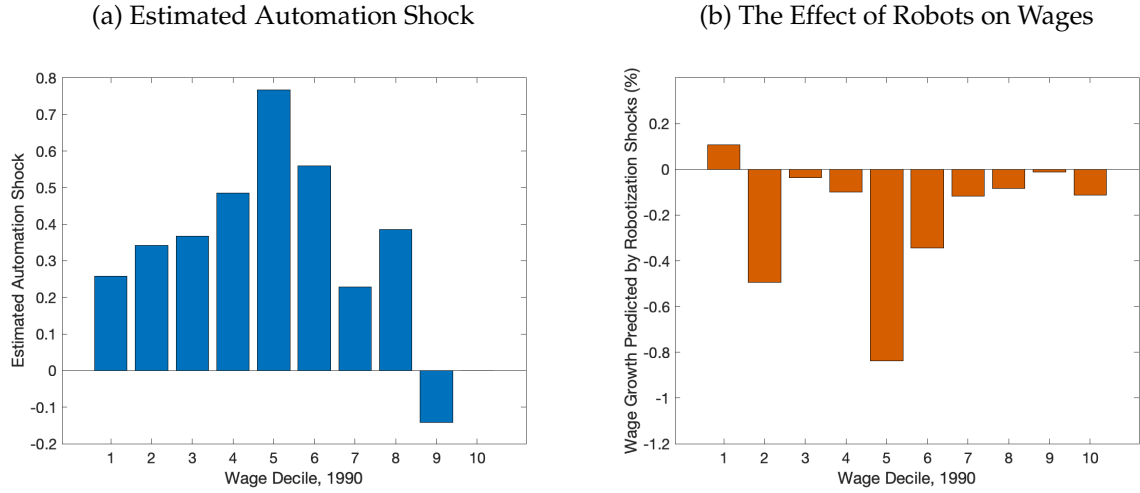
I examine a few policy-related questions using the estimated model and shocks in the previous section. The first one is the question about the distributional effects of robotization. For example, Autor, Katz, and Kearney (2008) argue that the wage inequality measured by the ratio of the wages between the 90th percentile and the 50th percentile (90-50 ratio) has steadily increased since 1980.²³ I study how much such an increase can be explained by the increased use of industrial robots from 1990. Next, I examine the implications of counterfactual policies regarding regulating robot adoption. Due to the fear of automation, policymakers have proposed regulating industrial robots using robot taxes. The estimated model provides an answer of the short-run and long-run effects of taxing robot purchases on real wages across occupations and aggregate welfare losses.

5.1 The Distributional Effects of Robot Adoption

To study the effect of robots to wage polarization, I show the pattern of robot accumulations over the occupational wage distribution. Figure 4a shows the distribution of estimated automation shocks across baseline wage deciles. The automation shocks are backed out by equation (20). The figure shows a strikingly polarizing pattern: the automation shock hits in the middle of the wage distribution most severely than in the bot-

²³Furthermore, as Heathcote, Perri, and Violante (2010) argue, wage inequality comprises a sizable part of the overall economic inequality in the US.

Figure 4: Robots, Wage Inequality, and Polarization



Note: The left panel shows the implied automation shocks defined in equation (20). The shocks are aggregated into 10 wage deciles in the baseline year, 1990, weighted by the initial employment level. The right panel shows the annualized occupational wage growth rates for each wage decile, predicted by the first-order steady-state solution of the estimated model given in equation (15).

tom and top of the distribution. Note that this contrasts well with the no correlation result in Figure 2a. These findings indicates that it was the automation shock but not the Japan Robot Shock that caused the wage distribution dynamics during the 1990 and 2000s.

By contrast, Panel 4b shows the steady-state predicted wage growths per annum due to the robotization shocks and the estimated model with the first-order solution given in equation (17). Consistent with the high growth rate of robot stocks in the middle of the wage distribution and the strong substitutability between robots and labor, I find that the counterfactual wage growth rate in the middle deciles of the initial wage distribution is more negative than that in the other part of the wage distribution. Quantitatively, the 90-50 ratio observed in 1990 and 2007 is, respectively, 1.588 and 1.668. On the other hand, the 90-50 ratio predicted by the initial 1990 data and the first-order solution (17) is 1.594. These numbers imply that a 6.4% increase in the 90-50 ratio can be explained by the robotization shock captured in this paper.

It is worth emphasizing that we consider two shocks in this main exercise, the automation shock \hat{a} and the Japan robot shock \hat{A}_2 . When these two shocks are distinguished in the quantitative exercise, the automation shock reduces the labor demand due to task re-

allocation from labor to robots, while the Japan robot shock increases the stock of robots and the marginal product of labor.

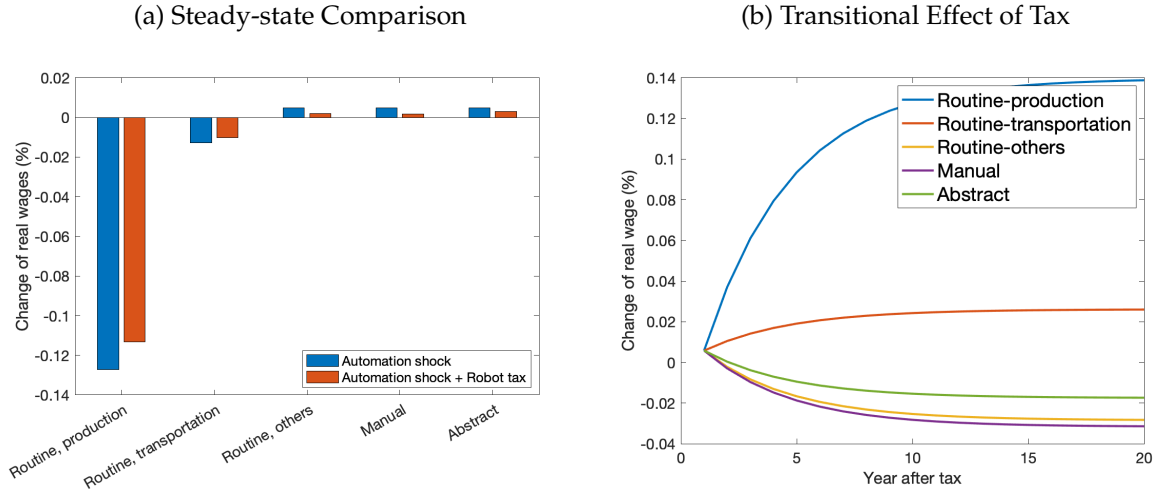
5.2 The Effect of Robot Tax on Occupations

To study the effect of counterfactually introducing a robot tax, consider an unexpected, unilateral, and permanent increase in the robot tax by 6% in the US, which I call the general tax scenario. I also consider the tax on only imported robots by 33.6%, and call it the import tax scenario, which implies the same amount of tax revenue as in the general tax scenario and makes the comparison straightforward between the two scenarios.²⁴ First, I examine the effect of the general robot tax on occupational inequality.

In Figure 5a, I show two scenarios of the steady-state changes in real occupational wages. In one scenario, I shock the economy only with the automation shocks. In the other scenario, I shock the economy with both the automation shocks and the robot tax. The result shows heterogeneous effects on real occupational wages of the robot tax. The tax mitigates the negative effect of automation on routine production workers and routine transportation workers, while the tax marginally decreases the small gains that workers in the other occupations would have enjoyed. Overall, the robot tax mitigates the large heterogeneous effects of the automation shocks, which could go in negative and positive directions depending on occupation groups, and compresses the effects towards zero. Figure 5b shows the dynamics of the effects of only the robot tax. Although the steady-state effects of robot tax were heterogeneous, as shown in Figure 5a, the effect is not immediate but materializes after around 10 years, due to the sluggish adjustment in the accumulation of the robot capital stock. Overall, I find that since the robot tax slows down the adoption of robots, it rolls back the real wage effect of automation—workers in occupations that experienced significant automation shocks (e.g., production and transportation in the routine occupation groups) benefit from the tax, while the others lose. Appendix D.5 discusses the effect of robot taxes on worker welfare in each occupation.

²⁴The 6% rate of the general tax is more modest than the 30% rate considered in Humlum (2019) for the Danish case.

Figure 5: Effects of the Robot Tax on Real Occupational Wages

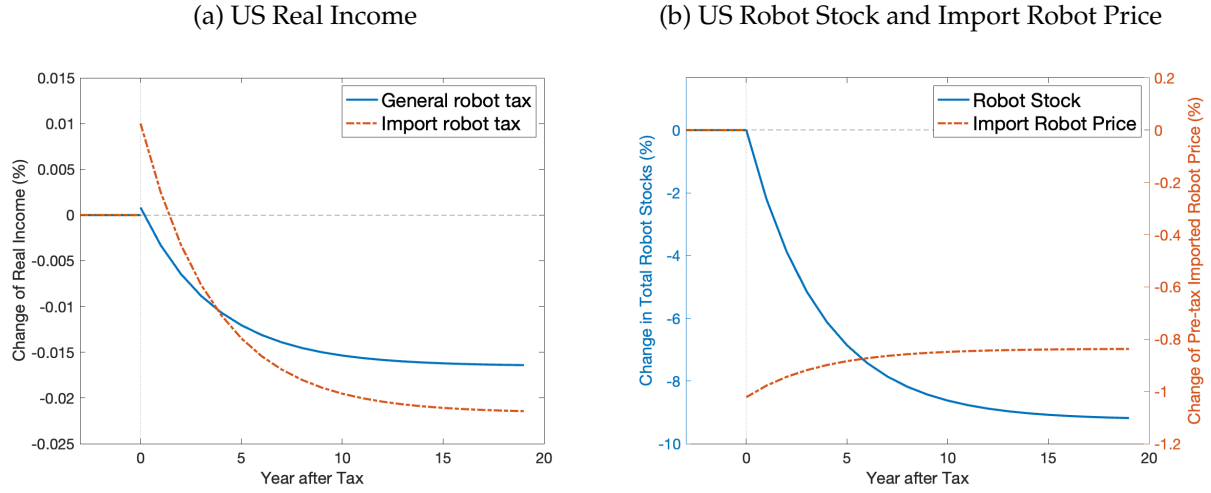


5.3 Robot Tax and Aggregate Income

Next, I study how the two robot tax schemes affect the US real income. In Figure 6a, the solid line tracks the real-income effect of the general robot tax over a 20-year time horizon after the tax introduction. First, the magnitude of the effect is small because the cost of buying robots compared to the aggregate production cost is small. Second, there is a positive effect in the short run, but this effect turns negative quickly and continues to be negative in the long run.

To understand why there is a short-run positive effect on real income, it is useful to distinguish the source of national income in the model. A country's total income comprises workers' wage income, non-robot goods producers' profit, and the tax revenue rebate. Since robots are traded, and the US is a large economy that can affect the robot price produced in other countries, there is a terms-of-trade effect of robot tax in the US. Namely, the robot tax reduces the demand for robots traded in the world market and lets the equilibrium robot price go down along the supply curve. This reduction in the robot price contributes to compressing the cost of robot investment thus to increasing the firm's profit, raising the real income. This positive effect is stronger in the import robot tax scenario because the higher tax rate induces a more substantial drop in the import

Figure 6: Effects of the Robot Tax



Note: The left panel shows the counterfactual effect on the US real income of the two robot tax scenarios described in the main text over a 20-year time horizon. The right panel shows that of the import robot tax on the US total robot stocks (solid line) and the pre-tax robot price from Japan (dash-dot line) over the same time horizon.

robot price. While this terms-of-trade manipulation is well-studied in the trade policy literature, my setting is novel since it implies the upward-sloping export supply curve from the GE.

The reason for the different effects on real income, in the long run, is as follows. The solid line in Figure 6b shows the dynamic impact of the import robot tax on the accumulation of robot stock. The robot tax significantly slows the accumulation of robot stocks and decreases the steady-state stock of robots by 9.7% compared to the no-tax case. The small robot stock reduces the firm profit, which contributes to low real income.²⁵ These results highlight the role that costly robot capital (de-)accumulation plays in the effect of the robot tax on aggregate income. Figure 6b also shows the dynamic effect on import robot prices in the dash-dot line. In the short run, the price decreases due to the decreased demand from the US, as explained above. As the sequential equilibrium reaches the new steady state where the US stock of robots decreases, the marginal value of the robots is higher. This increased marginal value partially offsets the reduced price of robots in the

²⁵For each occupation, the counterfactual evolution of robot stocks is similar to each other in percentage and, thus, similar to the aggregate trend in percentage. This is not surprising since the robot tax is ad-valorem and uniform across occupations.

short run.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, I study the distributional and aggregate effects of the increased use of industrial robots, with the emphasis that robots perform specified tasks and are internationally traded. I make three contributions. First, I construct a dataset that tracks shocks to the cost of buying robots from Japan (the Japan robot shock) across occupations in which robots are adopted. Second, I develop a general equilibrium model that features the trade of robots in a large open economy and endogenous robot accumulation with an adjustment cost. Third, when estimating the model, I construct a model-implied optimal instrumental variable from the Japan robot shock in my dataset and the approximated solution of the model to identify the occupation-specific EoS between robots and labor.

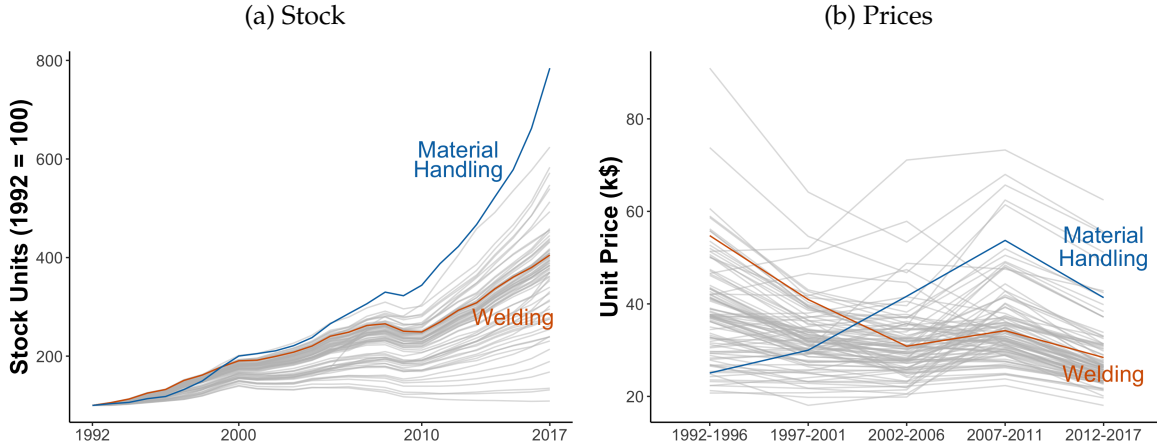
The estimates of within-occupation EoS between robots and labor is heterogeneous and as high as 3 in production and material-moving occupations. These estimates are significantly larger than estimates of the EoS of capital goods and workers, with a maximum of about 1.5, revealing the special susceptibility to robot adaptation of workers in these occupations. The estimated model also implies that robots contributed to the wage polarization across occupations in the US from 1990-2007. A commonly advertised robot tax could increase the US real income in the short run but leads to a decline in the income in the long run due to the decreased steady-state robot stock. These exercises inform discussions on the regulation policies of industrial robots.

A Additional Empirical Results

A.1 Trends of Robot Stocks and Prices

Figure A.1 shows the US robot trends at the occupation level. In the left panel, I show the trend of raw stock, which reveals the following two facts. Firstly, it shows that the overall

Figure A.1: Trends of Japanese Robot Use at the US Occupation Level



Note: The left panel shows the trend of stocks of robots in the US for each occupation, normalized at 100 in 1992. The right panel shows the trend of prices of robots in the US for each occupation. In both panels, I highlight two occupations. “Welding” corresponds to the occupation code in IPUMS USA, OCC2010 = 8140 “Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Workers.” “Material Handling” corresponds to the occupation code OCC2010 = 9620 “Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand.” Years are aggregated into five-year bins (with the last bin 2012-2017 being six-year one) to smooth out yearly noises.

robot stocks increased rapidly in the period, as found in the previous literature. Second, the panel also depicts that the increase occurred at different speeds across occupations. To highlight such a difference, I plot the normalized trend at 100 in the initial year in the right panel. There is significant heterogeneity in the growth rates, ranging from a factor of one to eight. Next, panel A.1b shows the trend of prices of robots in the US for each occupation. In addition to the overall decreasing trend, there is significant heterogeneity in the pattern of price falls across occupations. The price patterns are strongly correlated across countries, with the correlation coefficient of 0.968 between the US and non-US prices at the occupation-year level. Motivated by this finding, I use the non-US countries’ prices as the Japan robot shock to the US in the Data section.

To further emphasize the trend heterogeneity, the following two occupations are colored: “Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Workers” (or “Welding”) and “Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand” (or “Material Handling”) in these two figures. A spot welding robot is an example of a robot in routine-production occupations, while a material-handling robot is in transportation (material-moving) occupations. On

the one hand, the stock of welding robots grew throughout the period in the left panel, and their average price dropped during the 1990s. On the other hand, material handling robot stock grew rapidly, and its price increased over the sample period in the sample period. These findings indicate the difference in automation shock realization; Robots like welding robots followed a standard pattern of demand quantity expansion along the demand curve, while other robots like material handling robots expanded their adoption even though the average price increased, indicating the role of the automation shock in the model section.

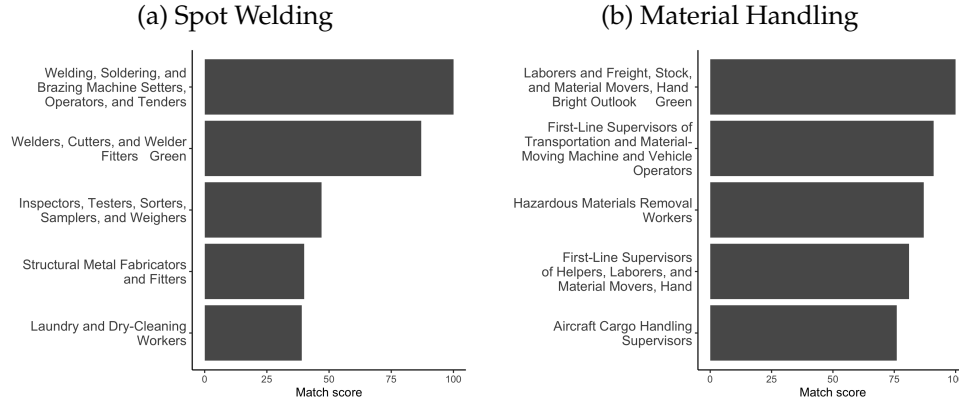
In Figure A.1b, one might find an anomaly increasing trend during 2007-2011. This pattern emerges because during the Great Recession period, the total units decreased more than the total sales. After the Great Recession, both the growth of sales and units of robots accelerated. These observations suggest a structural break of the robot industry during the Great Recession, which is out of the scope of the paper.

A.2 Details in Application-Occupation Matching

Details of the application-occupation matching are discussed. First, I access O*NET Code Connector (<https://www.onetcodeconnector.org/>) and web-scraped search results in the following way. For each robot application title listed in Section B.1, I search matches in the webpage, and record all occupation codes, names, and match scores. Then I append the result files across all applications, which is called the match score file. At this stage, since Mounting and Measurement/inspection/test robots have overall poor matching quality, I drop them from the data. Second, I merge the match score file and the JARA data at the application level, and take the weighted average of robot sales values and quantities with the weight of score, as in equation (1).

For example, consider spot welding and material handling robots. First, spot welding is a task of combining two or more metal sheets into one by applying heat and pressure to a small area called spot. O*NET-SOC Code 51-4121.06 has the title “Welders, Cutters, and Welder Fitters” (“Welders” below). These suggest that spot welding robots and welders

Figure A.2: Examples of Match Scores



Note: The author's calculation from the search result of O*NET Code Connector. The bars indicate match scores for the search query term "Spot Welding" in panel (a) and "Material Handling" in panel (b). Occupations codes are 2010 O*NET SOC codes. In each panel, occupations are sorted in a descending way with the relative relevance scores, and the top 5 occupations are shown. See the main text for the detail of the score.

perform the same welding task. Second, material handling is a short-distance movement of heavy materials, another major robot application. ONET-SOC Code 53-7062.00 has the title "Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand" ("Material Handler" below). Again, both material handling robots and material handlers perform the material handling task. Figure A.2 shows the top-5 match scores for spot welding and material handling, with these two occupations at the top of the match score ranking, respectively.

A.3 Hard-cut Matching of Applications and Occupations

Although matching between applications and occupations based on equation (1) is transparent in a completely automatic way instead of using researcher's judgment, one may concern that such a matching method may potentially contain erroneous matching due to noise in the text description in occupation dictionary. For example, Figure A.2 reveals a case in which spot welding robots are matched to "Laundry and Dry-cleaning Workers" with a high score. This is primarily because the textual description for these workers includes "Apply bleaching powders to spots and spray them with steam to remove stains from fabrics..." which has a high matching score with the term "spot."

In order to mitigate this concern, I examine a manual hard-cut matching between ap-

Figure A.3: Wage and Robot Prices with a Hard-cut Matching Method



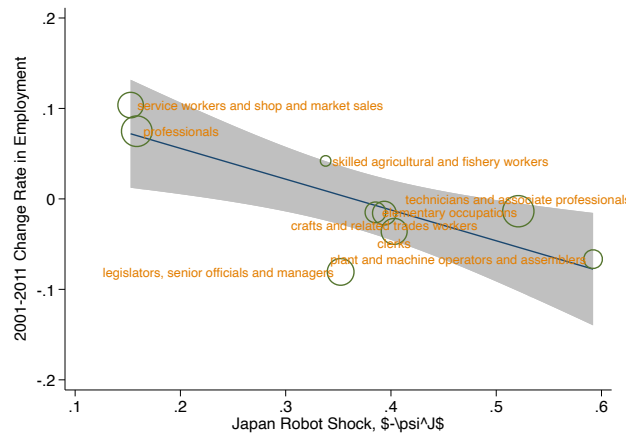
Note: The figure shows the relationship between the Japan Robot Shock based on the application-level robot measures matched to occupations using the hard-cut method described in the main text (horizontal axis) and changes in log wage (vertical axis). The sample includes all occupations that existed throughout 1970 and 2007, bubble sizes reflect the employment in the baseline year, and the number of observation is 324. All variables are partialled out by control variables (the occupational female share, college share, age distribution, foreign born share, and the China shock in equation (3)).

plications and occupations. To be more specific, I drop all application-occupation matching with the matching score of 75 or below to exclude problematic matches while including enough data variation. I then construct the matching score following equation (1) conditional on remaining pairs and compute robot quantity and price variables. Figure A.3 shows the result of regression specification (4) using these measures. The estimated coefficients are somewhat larger than the ones with the preferred data matching procedure primarily because, in the hard-cut matching, erroneous matches that potentially contain noises are removed. The statistical significance remains in all columns.

A.4 Validation Exercise in a Small Country

A concern of my main analysis is that the US is a large buyer of robots, and thus its demand may influence the price. To mitigate it, I conduct a robustness exercise using data from a small country that is unlikely to affect the world price of robots. Specifically, I use data from the Netherlands as a case since it is the largest exporting destination of Japanese robots in Europe, following Germany, the UK, Italy, and France, and yet a small-open economy at the same time. The data are taken from the IPUMS international and provide the ISCO 1-digit level occupation indicator in the years 2001 and 2011. I aggregate

Figure A.4: The Effect of Japan Robot Shock in the Netherlands



Note: The bubble plot and fitted line between the Netherlands occupational growth and the Japan robot shock are shown. The period is from 2001 to 2011. The size of the bubble reflects the initial period size of employment. The occupations are aggregated to the ISCO 1-digit level. The shade indicates the 95% confidence interval.

the occupational robot prices at the same level and examine the relationship between the Japan robot shock and occupational employment growth. Figure A.4 summarizes the results. Despite a significant difference in context and the level of data aggregation, I find a significant negative relationship between these two variables. Quantitatively, the regression coefficient is -0.33 with the standard error of 0.08, which is at least as strong as to the reduced-form coefficient found in the case of the US in Figure 2.

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Appendix For Online Publication

B Online Data Appendix

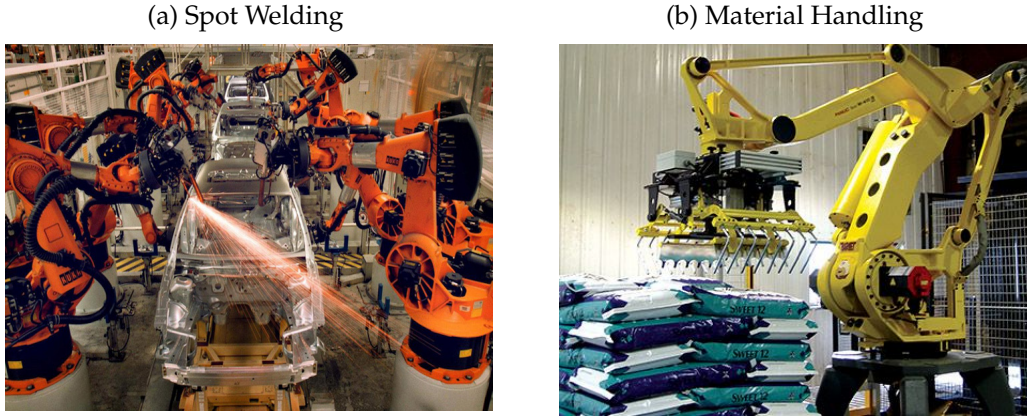
B.1 Detailed Information about Industrial Robots

Robot Definition and Examples. As defined in Footnote 1, industrial robots are defined as multiple-axes manipulators. More formally, following International Organization for Standardization (ISO), I define robots as “automatically controlled, reprogrammable, multipurpose manipulator, programmable in three or more axes, which can be either fixed in place or mobile for use in industrial automation applications” (ISO 8373:2012). This section gives a detailed discussion about such industrial robots. Figure B.1 shows the pictures of examples of industrial robots that are intensively used in the production process and considered in this paper. The left panel shows spot-welding robots, while the right panel shows the material-handling robots.

JARA Robot Applications. In addition to applications in Section B.1, the full list of robot applications available in JARA data is Die casting; Forging; Resin molding; Pressing; Arc welding; Spot welding; Laser welding; Painting; Load/unload; Mechanical cutting; Polishing and deburring; Gas cutting; Laser cutting; Water jet cutting; General assembly; Inserting; Mounting; Bonding; Soldering; Sealing and gluing; Screw tightening; Picking alignment and packaging; Palletizing; Measurement/inspection/test; and Material handling.

One might wonder if robots can be classified as one of these applications since robots are characterized by versatility as opposed to older specified industrial machinery (KHI 2018). Although it is true that a robot may be reprogrammed to perform more than one task, I claim that robots are well-classified to one of the applications listed above since the layer of dexterity is different. Robots might be able to adjust a model change of the products, but are not supposed to perform different tasks across the 4-digit occupation level. To support this point, recall that “SMEs are mostly high-mix/low-volume producers. Robots are still too inflexible to be switched at a reasonable cost from one task to another” (Autor, Mindell, and Reynolds 2020). Due to this technological bottleneck, it is still infeasible to have such a versatile robot that can replace a wide range of workers at the 4-digit occupation level for the sample period of my study.

Figure B.1: Examples of Industrial Robots



Sources: Autobot Systems and Automation (<https://www.autobotsystems.com>) and PaR Systems (<https://www.par.com>)

The Cost of Using Robots and Robot Aggregation Function. A modern industrial robot is typically not stand-alone hardware (e.g., robot joints and arms) but an ecosystem that includes the hardware and control units operated by software (e.g., computers and robot-programming language). Due to its complexity, installing robots in the production environment often requires hiring costly system integrators that offer engineering knowledge for integration. Therefore, the relevant cost of robots for adopters includes hardware, software, and integration costs.²⁶ The average price measure of robots used in this paper should be interpreted as reflecting part of overall robot costs. Even though this follows the literature's convention due to the data limitation about the robot software and integration, I address this point in the model section by separately defining the observable hardware cost using my data and the unobserved components of the cost. Namely, equation (9) explicitly includes the software and integration, reflecting a feature of modern industrial robots being typically not stand-alone hardware but an ecosystem that includes control units operated by software requiring significant amount of resources for integration.

Relatedly, equation (9) follows the formulation of the trade of capital goods in Anderson, Larch, and Yotov (2019) in the sense that the robots are traded because they are differentiated by origin country l . Note that equation (10) implies that the origin-differentiated investment good

²⁶As Leigh and Kraft (2018) pointed out, the current industry and occupation classifications do not allow separating system integrators, making it difficult to estimate the cost from these classifications. In addition, relevant costs associated with the robot still remain, e.g., maintenance fees, of which we also lack quantitative evidence. Although understanding these components of the costs is of first-order importance, this paper follows the literature convention and measures robots from the market transaction of hardware.

is aggregated at first and then added to the stock of capital following equation (9). This trick helps reduce the number of capital stock variables and is also used in Engel and Wang (2011).

Examples of Robotics Innovation. In the model, I call a change in the robot task space $a_{o,t}$ as the automation shock, and that in robot producer's TFP $A_{l,o,t}^R$ as the cost shock to produce robots. In this section, I show some examples of changes of robot technology and new patents to facilitate understandings of these interpretation. An example of task space expansion is adopting *Programmed Article Transfer* (PAT, Devol 1961). PAT was machine that moves objects by a method called "teaching and playback". Teaching and playback method needs one-time teaching of how to move, after which the machine playbacks the movement repeatedly and automatically. This feature frees workers of performing repetitive tasks. PAT was intensively introduced in spot welding tasks. KHI (2018) reports that among 4,000 spot welding points, 30% were done by human previously, which PAT took over. Therefore, I interpret the adoption of PAT as the example of the expansion of the robot task space, or increase in $a_{o,t}$, like AR.

An example of cost reduction is adopting *Programmable Universal Manipulator for Assembly* (PUMA). PUMA was designed to quickly and accurately transport, handle and assemble automobile accessories. A new computer language, *Variable Assembly Language* (VAL), made it possible because it made the teaching process less work and more sophisticated. In other words, PUMA made tasks previously done by other robots but at cheaper unit cost per unit of task.

It is also worth mentioning that introduction of a new robot brand typically contains both components of innovation (task space expansion and cost reduction). For example, PUMA also expanded task space of robots. Since VAL allowed the use of sensors and "expanded the range of applications to include assembly, inspection, palletizing, resin casting, arc welding, sealing and research" (KHI 2018).

B.2 Data Sources in Detail

In addition to the JARA and O*NET data, I use data from IFR, BACI, WIOD, IPUMS USA, and CPS. IFR is a standard data source of industrial robot adoption in several countries (e.g., Graetz and Michaels 2018; Acemoglu and Restrepo, 2020, AR hereafter), to which JARA provides the

robot data of Japan.²⁷ I use IFR data to show the total robot adoption in each destination country. BACI provides disaggregated data on trade flows for more than 5000 products and 200 countries (Gaulier and Zignago 2010), which is used to obtain the measure of international trade of industrial robots and baseline trade shares. To obtain the intermediate inputs shares, I take data from the World Input-Output Data (WIOD) in the closest year to the initial year, 1992. IPUMS USA collects and harmonizes US census microdata (Ruggles et al. 2018). I use Population Censuses (1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000) and American Community Surveys (ACS, 2006-2008 3-year sample and 2012-2016 5-year sample). I obtain occupational wages, employment, and labor cost shares from these data sources.

I focus on consistent occupations between the 1970 Census and the 2007 ACS that cover the sample period and pre-trend analysis period to obtain consistent data across periods. Therefore, this paper focuses on the intensive-margin substitution in occupations as opposed to the extensive-margin effect of automation that creates new labor-intensive tasks and occupations (Acemoglu and Restrepo 2018). My dataset shows that 88.7 percent of workers in 2007 worked in the occupations that existed in 1990. It is an open question how to attribute the creation of new occupations to different types of automation goods like occupational robots in my case, although Autor and Salomons (2019) explore how to measure the task contents of new occupations.

I follow Autor, Dorn, and Hanson (2013) for Census/ACS data cleaning procedure. Namely, I extract the 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 Censuses, the 2006-2008 3-year file of American Community Survey (ACS), and the 2012-2016 5-year file of ACS from Integrated Public Use Micro Samples. For each file, I select all workers with the OCC2010 occupation code whose age is between 16 and 64 and who is not institutionalized. I compute education share in each occupation by the share of workers with more than “any year in college,” and foreign-born share by the share of workers whose birthplace is neither in the US nor in US outlying areas/territories. I compute hours worked by multiplying usual weeks worked and hours worked per week. For 1970, I use the median values in each bin of the usual weeks worked variable and assume all workers worked for 40 hours a week since the hour variable does not exist. To compute hourly wage, I first impute each state-year’s top-coded values by multiplying 1.5 and divide by the hours worked. To remove outliers, I take wages below first percentile of the distribution in each year, and set the maximum

²⁷As of August 2020, the JARA association consists of 381 member companies, with the number of full members being 54, associate members being 205, and supporting members being 112.

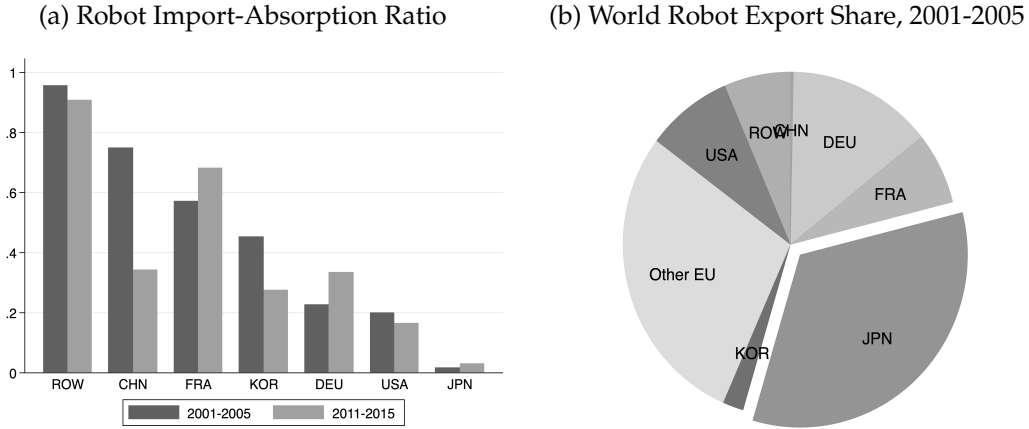
wage as the top-coded earning divided by 1,500. I compute the real wage in 2000 dollars by multiplying CPI99 variable prepared by IPUMS. I use the person weight variable for aggregating all of these variables to the occupation level.

To estimate the model with workers' dynamic discrete choice of occupation, I further use the bilateral occupation flow data following the idea of Caliendo, Dvorkin, and Parro (2019). Specifically, I obtain the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (ASEC) of the CPS since 1976. For each year, I select all workers with the 2010 occupation code for the current year (OCC2010) and the last year (OCC10LY) whose age is between 16 and 64 and who is not institutionalized. I then constructed variables using the same method as the one used for Census/ACS above. As pointed out by Artuç, Chaudhuri, and McLaren (2010), 4-digit occupations are too disaggregated for the small sample size of CPS-ASEC to precisely estimate the occupation switching probability. Therefore, I assume that the workers do not flow between 4-digit occupations within the 5 occupation groups defined in Section 2, but do between the 5 groups. I also assume that workers draw a destination 4-digit occupation occupation from the initial-year occupational employment distribution within the destination group when switching occupations. With these data and assumptions, I compute the occupation switching probability by year.

B.3 Trade of Industrial Robots

To compute the trade shares of industrial robots, I combine BACI and IFR data. In particular, I use the HS code 847950 ("Industrial Robots For Multiple Uses") to measure the robots, following Humlum (2019). I approximate the initial year value by year of 1998, when the this HS code of robots is first available. To calculate the total absorption value of robots in each country, I use the IFR data's robot units (quantities), combined with the price indices of robots occasionally released by IFR's annual reports for selected countries. These price indices do not give disaggregation by robot tasks or occupations, highlighting the value added of the JARA data. Figure B.2 the pattern of international trade of international robots. In the left panel, I compute the import-absorption ratio. To remove the noise due to yearly observations and focus on a long-run trend, I aggregate by five-year bins 2001-2005 and 2011-2015. The result indicates that many countries import robots as opposed to produce in their countries. Japan's low import ratio is outstanding, revealing that its comparative advantage in this area. It is noteworthy that China largely domesticated the pro-

Figure B.2: Trade of Industrial Robots



Note: The author's calculation from the IFR, and BACI data. The left panel show the fraction of import in the total absorption value. The import value is computed by aggregating trade values across origin country in the BACI data (HS-1996 code 847950), and the absorption value is computed by the price index and the quantity variable available for selected countries in the IFR data. The data are five-year aggregated in 2001-2005 and 2011-2015, and countries are sorted according to the import shares in 2001-2005 in the descending order. The right panel shows the export share for 2001-2005 aggregates obtained from the BACI data.

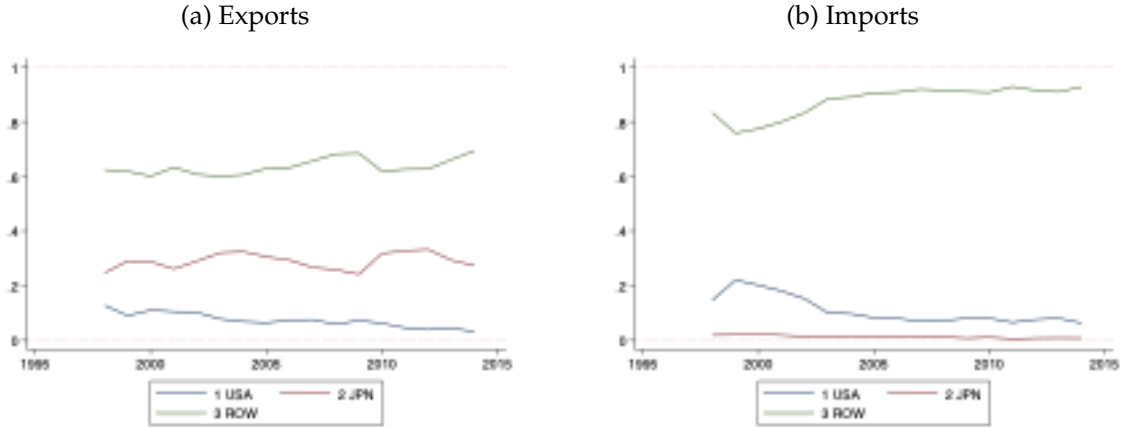
duction of robots over the sample period. Another way to show grasp the comparative advantage of the robot industry is to examine the share of exports as in the right panel of Figure B.2. Roughly speaking, the half of the world robot market was dominated by EU and one-third by Japan in 2001-2005. The rest 20% is shared by the rest of the world, mostly by the US and South Korea.

Figure B.3 shows the trend of export and import shares of robots among the world for the US, Japan, and the Rest Of the World. The trends are fairly stable for the three regions of the world, except that the import share of the US has declined relative to the ROW.

Robots from Japan in the US, Europe, and the Rest of the World To compare the pattern of robot adoption internationally, I generate the growth rates of stock of robots between 1992 and 2017 at the occupation level for each group of destination countries. The groups are the US, the non-US (all countries excluding the US and Japan), and five European countries (or "EU-5"), Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, and Sweden used in AR. The perpetual inventory method with depreciation rate of $\delta = 0.1$ is used to calculate the stock of robots, following Graetz and Michaels (2018).

Figure B.4 shows scatterplots of the growth rates at the occupation level. The left panel shows the growth rates in the US on the horizontal axis and the ones in non-US countries on the vertical

Figure B.3: Robot Trade Share Trends

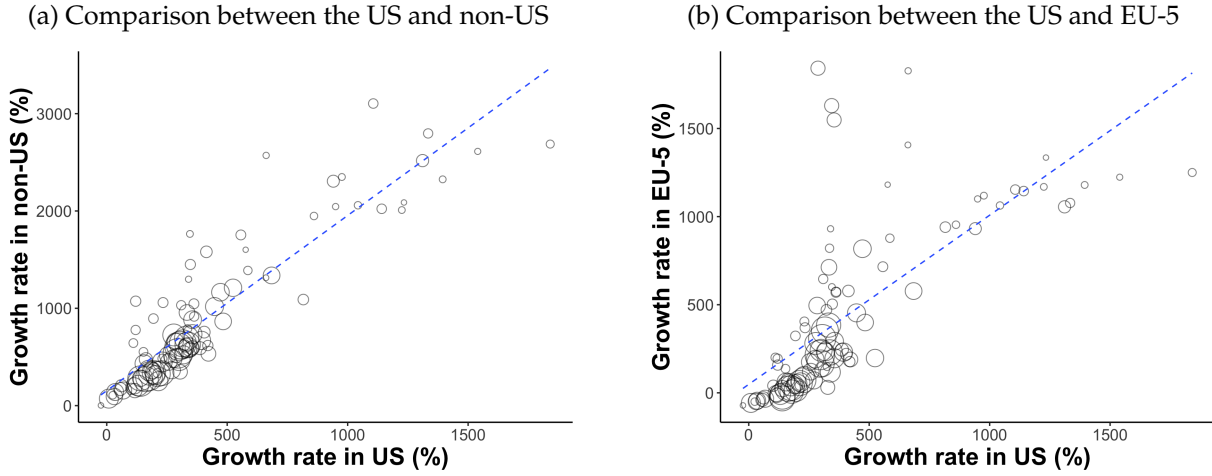


Note: The author's calculation of world trade shares based on the BACI data. Industrial robots are measured by HS code 847950 (Industrial robots for multiple uses).

axis. The right panel shows the same measures on the horizontal axis, but the growth rates in the set of EU-5 countries on the vertical axis. These panels show that the stocks of robots at the occupation level grow (1992-2017) between the US and non-US proportionately relative to those between the US and EU-5. This finding is in contrast to AR, who find that the US aggregate robot stocks grew at a roughly similar rate as those did in EU-5. It also indicates that non-US growth patterns reflect growths of robotics technology at the occupation level available in the US. I will use these patterns as the proxy for robotics technology available in the US. In Section 3 and on, I take a further step and solve for the robot adoption quantity and values in non-US countries in general equilibrium including the US and non-US countries.

A potential reason for the difference between my finding and AR's is the difference in data sources. In contrast to the JARA data I use, AR use IFR data that include all robot seller countries. Since EU-5 is closer to major robot producer countries other than Japan, including Germany, the robot adoption pattern across occupations may be influenced by their presence. If these close producers have a comparative advantage in producing robots for a specific occupation, then EU-5 may adopt the robots for such occupations intensively from close producers. In contrast, countries out of EU-5, including the US, may not benefit the closeness to these producers. Thus they are more likely to purchase robots from far producers from EU-5, such as Japan.

Figure B.4: Growth Rates of Robots at the Occupation Level



Note: The author's calculation based on JARA, and O*NET. The left panel shows the correlation between occupation-level growth rates of robot stock quantities from Japan to the US and the growth rates of the quantities to the non-US countries. The right one shows the correlation between growth rates of the quantities to the US and EU-5 countries. Non-US are the aggregate of all countries excluding the US and Japan. EU-5 are the aggregate of Denmark, France, Finland, Italy, and Sweden used in Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020). Each bubble shows an occupation. The bubble size reflects the stock of robot in the US in the baseline year, 1992. See the main text for the detail of the method to create the variables.

B.4 Potential Methods for Adjusting the Robot Prices

In the paper, I use the general equilibrium model to control for the quality component of robot prices. However, there are other methods proposed in the literature of measuring the price of capital goods. In this subsection, I briefly describe these methods and their limitations.

Another approach to solving this issue is to control for the quality change by the hedonic approach as in Timmer, Van Ark, et al. (2007), and in the application to digital capital in Tambe et al. (2019). The hedonic approach requires detailed information about the detailed specification of each robot. Unfortunately, it is difficult to keep track of the detailed specifications of commonly used robots as the robotics industry is rapidly changing.

Another method is a more data-driven one. Specifically, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) provides the quality-controlled price index. However, the method is not clearly declared. In fact, it is claimed to be "cost-evaluation method," in which the BoJ asks producer firms to measure the component of quality upgrading for price changes between periods. Unfortunately, I do not know the survey firms and quality components. Therefore, it is hard for me to determine better measures, and so I stick to use my raw price measure based on the representativeness of my data.

B.5 The Effect of Robots from Japan and Other Countries

A potential concern for my empirical setting is a selection issue regarding the robot source country. Specifically, robots from Japan may differ from those from other countries, so the labor market implications may also differ between them. Unfortunately, it is hard to directly compare the effects of these two different groups of robots due to the data limitation, so I will focus on the best comparable measures of robotization between Japan-sourced robots and robots from all countries, which is the quantity of robot stock. Namely, I take the total stock of robot quantity in the US from the IFR data. The IFR data only has the total number and they do not specify the source country. I then convert the IFR application codes to the JARA application codes to use the allocation rule for matching the JARA application codes and the occupation codes. As a result, I obtain the robots used in the US that are sourced from any country at the occupation level. I then run the following regression using the obtained robot measures and my preferred measure from the JARA:

$$\Delta Y_o = \beta^Q \Delta K_o^{R,Q} + X_o \gamma^Q + \varepsilon_o^Q, \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where ΔY_o is the changes in wages at the occupation- o level, ΔK_o^Q is the measure of the number of robots taken either from JARA (i.e., robots from Japan) or IFR (i.e., robots from the world), and ε_o^Q is the error term. The coefficient of interest is β^Q , which gives us an insight into the correlation between the changes in labor market outcomes and the changes in robot quantity, depending on whether the robots are sourced from Japan. Specifically, if robots from Japan may substitute workers stronger than robots from the other countries, coefficient β^Q is expected to be larger when we use the JARA robot measure than IFR.

Table B.1 shows the regression result of equation (B.1). The result for the IFR data is in line with the previous findings by Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020). Table B.1 reveals that both the JARA- and IFR-based robot measures capture the substitution of workers with robots, although the coefficient is somewhat stronger for JARA robot measures than for IFR.

B.6 Robustness Check of Fact 2

Table B.2 shows the results of regression (4) using several alternative outcome periods and robot measures in the right-hand side. Panel A takes the wage change between 1990-2007, the main

Table B.1: Regression Result of Labor Market Outcome on JARA and IFR Robot Stocks

VARIABLES	(1) $\Delta \ln(w)$	(2) $\Delta \ln(w)$	(3) $\Delta \ln(w)$	(4) $\Delta \ln(w)$
$\Delta \ln(K_{JPN \rightarrow USA}^{R,Q})$	-0.372 (0.0466)		-0.271 (0.0304)	
$\Delta \ln(K_{USA}^{R,Q})$		-0.144 (0.0300)		-0.111 (0.0185)
Observations	324	324	324	324
R-squared	0.307	0.200	0.349	0.262
Controls			✓	✓

Note: Regression results of the changes in occupational wage are shown. Observations are 4-digit level occupations, and the regression is between 1990 and 2007 with the sample of all occupations that existed between 1970 and 2007. Columns 1 and 3 take robot measures from Japan from JARA data, while columns 2 and 4 take robot measures from the world from IFR data as explained in the main text. Columns 1 and 2 do not include the control variables of demographic variables (female share, age distribution, college-graduate share, and foreign-born share) and China trade shock in equation (3), while columns 3 and 4 do. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors are reported in the parenthesis.

period, while Panel B takes the change between 1970-1990, the pre-sample period. In each panel, columns differ by two dimensions: (i) the robot measure, out of the robot stock in the US and other countries (non-US) and the robot price in the US and other countries, and (ii) whether the regressions include control variables of demographic variables and the China trade shock.

Table B.2: Regression of Wages on Robot Measures

VARIABLES	(1) dln_wage	(2) dln_wage	(3) dln_wage	(4) dln_wage	(5) dln_wage	(6) dln_wage	(7) dln_wage	(8) dln_wage
A. 1990-2007								
Robot Measure	-0.169 (0.0395)	-0.196 (0.0398)	-0.180 (0.0460)	-0.171 (0.0463)	-0.0399 (0.0399)	-0.0798 (0.0346)	-0.210 (0.0601)	-0.206 (0.0458)
R-squared	0.066	0.283	0.055	0.245	0.005	0.214	0.093	0.284
B. 1970-1990								
Robot Measure	0.00691 (0.0262)	0.00772 (0.0233)	-0.00388 (0.0306)	0.00142 (0.0269)	0.00699 (0.0236)	-0.00480 (0.0244)	0.00866 (0.0286)	0.0189 (0.0240)
R-squared	0.000	0.079	0.000	0.079	0.000	0.079	0.000	0.081
Robot Measure	US Stock	US Stock	- US Price	- US Price	Non-US Stock	Non-US Stock	- Non-US Price	- Non-US Price
Controls	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Observations	324	324	324	324	324	324	324	324

Note: The author's calculation based on JARA, O*NET, and US Census/ACS. Observations are 4-digit level occupations, and the sample is all occupations that existed throughout 1970 and 2007. Panel A takes the wage change between 1990-2007, the main period, while Panel B takes the change between 1970-1990, the pre-sample period. The regressors are robot stock in the US (columns 1 and 2), robot stock in non-US countries (columns 3 and 4), robot price in the US (columns 5 and 6), or robot price in non-US countries (columns 7 and 8). Control variables are demographic variables (the female share, the college-graduate share, the share of age 16-34, 35-49, and 50-64 among workers aged 16-64, and the foreign-born share as of 1990), and the China trade shock defined in equation (3). Bootstrapped standard errors are reported in the parentheses.

Table B.3: List of Data Sources

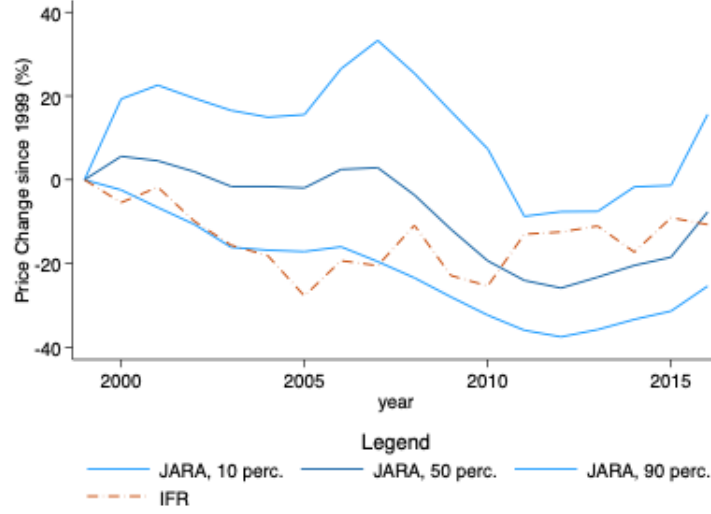
Variable	Description	Source
$\tilde{y}_{ij,t_0}^G, \tilde{x}_{ij,t_0}^G, \tilde{y}_{ij,t_0}^R, \tilde{x}_{ij,t_0}^R$	Trade shares of goods and robots	BACI, IFR
\tilde{x}_{i,o,t_0}^O	Occupation cost shares	IPUMS
l_{i,o,t_0}	Labor shares within occupation	JARA, IFR, IPUMS
$s_{i,t_0}^G, s_{i,t_0}^V, s_{i,t_0}^R$	Robot expenditure shares	BACI, IFR, WIOT
$\alpha_{i,M}$	Intermediate input share	WIOT

B.7 Data about Initial Shares

Since the log-linearized sequential equilibrium solution depends on several initial share data generated from the initial steady state, I discuss the data sources and methods for measuring these shares. I define $t_0 = 1992$ and the time frequency is annual. I consider the world that consists of three countries $\{USA, JPN, ROW\}$. Table B.3 summarizes overview of the variable notations, descriptions, and data sources. I take matrices of trade of goods and robots by BACI data. As in Humlum (2019), I measure robots by HS code 847950 (“Industrial Robots For Multiple Uses”) and approximate the initial year value by year of 1998, in which the robot HS code is first available.

To obtain the domestic robot absorption data, I take from IFR data the flow quantity variable and the aggregate price variable for a selected set of countries. I then multiply these to obtain USA and JPN robot adoption value. For robot prices in ROW, I take the simple average of the prices among the set of countries (France, Germany, Italy, South Korea, and the UK, as well as Japan and the US) for which the price is available in 1999, the earliest year in which the price data are available. Graetz and Michaels (2018) discuss prices of robots with the same data source. Figure B.5 shows the comparison of the US price index measure available between JARA and IFR. The JARA measures are disaggregated by 4-digit occupations. The figure shows the 10th, 50th (median), and 90th percentiles each year, as in Figure 1a. All measures are normalized at 1999, the year in which the first price measure is available in the IFR data. Overall, the JARA price trend variation tracks the overall price evolution measured by IFR reasonably well: The long-run trends from 1999 to the late 2010s are similar between the JARA median price and the IFR price index. During the 2000s, the IFR price index drops faster than the median price in the JARA data. It compares with the JARA 10th percentile price, which could be due to robotic technological changes in other countries than Japan in the corresponding period.

Figure B.5: Comparison of US Price Indices between JARA and IFR



Note: The author's calculation of US robot price measures in JARA and IFR. The JARA measures are disaggregated by 4-digit occupations, and the figure shows the 10th, 50th (median), and 90th percentiles each year. All measures are normalized at 1999, the year in which the first price measure is available in the IFR data.

I construct occupation cost shares \tilde{x}_{i,o,t_0}^O and labor shares within occupation l_{i,o,t_0} as follows. To measure \tilde{x}_{i,o,t_0}^O , I aggregate the total wage income of workers that primarily works in each occupation o in year 1990, the Census year closest to t_0 . I then take the share of this total compensation measure for each occupation. To measure l_{i,o,t_0} , I take the total compensation as the total labor cost and a measure of the user cost of robots for each occupation. The user cost of robots is calculated with the occupation-level robot price data available in IFR and the set of calibrated parameters in Section 4.1. Table B.4 summarizes these statistics for the aggregated 5 occupation groups in the US. The cost for production occupations and transportation occupations comprise 18% and 8% of the US economy, respectively, totaling more than one-fourth. Furthermore, the share of robot cost in all occupations is still quite low with the highest share of 0.19% in production occupations, revealing still small-scale adoption of robots from the overall US economy.

To calculate the effect on total income, I also need to compute the sales share of robots by occupations $y_{i,o,t_0}^R \equiv Y_{i,o,t_0}^R / \sum_o Y_{i,o,t_0}^R$ and the absorption share $x_{i,o,t_0}^R \equiv X_{i,o,t_0}^R / \sum_o X_{i,o,t_0}^R$. To obtain y_{i,o,t_0}^R , I compute the share of robots by occupations produced in Japan $y_{2,o,t_0}^R = Y_{2,o,t_0}^R / \sum_o Y_{2,o,t_0}^R$ and assume the same distribution for other countries due to the data limitation: $y_{i,o,t_0}^R = y_{2,o,t_0}^R$ for all i . To have x_{i,o,t_0}^R , I compute the occupational robot adoption in each country by $X_{i,o,t_0}^R = P_{i,t_0}^R Q_{i,o,t_0}^R$,

Table B.4: Baseline Shares by 5 Occupation Group

Occupation Group	\tilde{x}_{1,o,t_0}^O	l_{1,o,t_0}^O	y_{2,o,t_0}^R	x_{1,o,t_0}^R	x_{2,o,t_0}^R	x_{3,o,t_0}^R
Routine, Production	17.58%	99.81%	64.59%	67.49%	62.45%	67.06%
Routine, Transportation	7.82%	99.93%	12.23%	11.17%	13.09%	11.04%
Routine, Others	28.78%	99.99%	10.88%	9.52%	11.68%	10.40%
Service	39.50%	99.99%	8.87%	8.58%	9.17%	8.32%
Abstract	6.32%	99.97%	3.43%	3.24%	3.60%	3.18%

Note: The author's calculation of initial-year share variables based on the US Census, IFR, and JARA. As in the main text, country 1 indicates the US, country 2 Japan, and country 3 the rest of the world. See the main text for the construction of each variable.

where Q_{i,o,t_0}^R is the occupation-level robot quantity obtained by the O*NET concordance generated in Section 2.2 applied to the IFR application classification. As mentioned above, the robot price index P_{i,t_0}^R is available for a selected set of countries. To compute the rest-of-the-world price index P_{3,t_0}^R , I take the average of all available countries weighted by the occupational robot values each year. The summary table for these variables y_{i,o,t_0}^R and x_{i,o,t_0}^R at 5 occupation groups are shown in Table B.4. All values in Table B.4 are obtained by aggregating 4-digit-level occupations, and raw and disaggregated data are available upon request.

I take the intermediate input share $\alpha_{i,M}$, from World Input-Output Tables (WIOT Timmer, Dietzenbacher, et al. 2015). Finally, I combine the trade matrix generated above and WIOT to construct the good and robot expenditure shares s_{i,t_0}^G , s_{i,t_0}^V , and s_{i,t_0}^R . In particular, with the robot trade matrix, I take the total sales value by summing across importers for each exporter, and total absorption value by summing across exporters for each importers. I also obtain the total good absorption by WIOT. From these total values, I compute expenditure shares.

As initial year occupation switching probabilities μ_{i,oo',t_0} , I take 1990 flow Markov transition matrix from the cleaned CPS-ASEC data created in Section B.2. Table B.5 shows this initial-year conditional switching probability. The matrix for the other years are available upon request. As for other countries than the US, although Freeman, Ganguli, and Handel (2020) has begun to develop occupational wage measures consistent across country, world-consistent occupation employment data are hard to obtain. Therefore, I assign the same flow probabilities for other countries in my estimation.

C Online Theory Appendix

Table B.5: 1990 Occupation Group Switching Probability

		Production	Routine Transportation	Others	Service	Abstract
Routine	Production	0.961	0.011	0.010	0.006	0.012
	Transportation	0.020	0.926	0.020	0.008	0.025
	Others	0.005	0.006	0.955	0.020	0.014
Service		0.003	0.002	0.020	0.967	0.007
Abstract		0.014	0.014	0.036	0.015	0.922

Note: The author's calculation from the CPS-ASEC 1990 data. The conditional switching probability to column occupation group conditional on being in each row occupation.

C.1 The Full Model

The full model used for structural estimation extends the one in the model section with worker dynamics, intermediate goods and non-robot capital.

Workers' Problem I formalize the assumptions behind the derivation and show equations (C.3) and (C.4). Overall, workers are immobile across countries, but choose an occupation by solving a dynamic discrete choice problem to (Traiberman 2019; Humlum 2019).²⁸ Specifically, workers choose the occupations that maximize the lifetime utility based on switching costs and the draw of an idiosyncratic shock. The problem has a closed form solution when the shock follows an extreme value distribution, which is the property that the previous literature utilized (e.g., Caliendo, Dvorkin, and Parro 2019).

Fix country i and period t . There is a mass $\bar{L}_{i,t}$ of workers. In the beginning of each period, worker $\omega \in [0, \bar{L}_{i,t}]$ draws a multiplicative idiosyncratic preference shock $\{Z_{i,o,t}(\omega)\}_o$ that follows an independent Fréchet distribution with scale parameter $A_{i,o,t}^V$ and shape parameter $1/\phi$. Note that one can simply extend that the idiosyncratic preference follows a correlated Fréchet distribution to allow correlated preference across occupations, as in Lind and Ramondo (2018). To keep the expression simple, I focus on the case of independent distribution. A worker ω then works in the current occupation, earns income, consumes and derives logarithmic utility, and then chooses the next period's occupation with discount rate ι . When choosing the next period occupation o' , she pays an ad-valorem switching cost $\chi_{i,oo',t}$ in terms of consumption unit that depends on current occupation o . She consumes her income in each period. Thus, worker ω who currently works

²⁸By contrast, Yoshida 2019 considers effects of international immigration on adoption of automation.

in occupation o_t maximizes the following objective function over the future stream of utilities by choosing occupations $\{o_s\}_{s=t+1}^\infty$:

$$E_t \sum_{s=t}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+\iota} \right)^{s-t} [\ln(C_{i,o_s,s}) + \ln(1 - \chi_{i,o_s o_{s+1},s}) + \ln(Z_{i,o_{s+1},s}(\omega))] \quad (\text{C.1})$$

where $C_{i,o,s}$ is a consumption bundle when working in occupation o in period $s \geq t$, and E_t is the expectation conditional on the value of $Z_{i,o_t,t}(\omega)$. Each worker owns occupation-specific labor endowment $l_{i,o,t}$. I assume that her income is comprised of labor income $w_{i,o,t}$ and occupation-specific ad-valorem government transfer with rate $T_{i,o,t}$. Given the consumption price $P_{i,t}^G$, the budget constraint is

$$P_{i,t}^G C_{i,o,t} = w_{i,o,t} l_{i,o,t} (1 + T_{i,o,t}) \quad (\text{C.2})$$

for any worker, with $P_{i,t}^G$ being the price index of the non-robot good G .

Following the similar derivation as Caliendo, Dvorkin, and Parro (2019), equations (C.1) and (C.2) imply workers optimization conditions that can be characterized by, for each country i and period t , the transition probability $\mu_{i,oo',t}$ from occupation o in period t to occupation o' in period $t+1$, and the exponential expected value $V_{i,o,t}$ for occupation o that satisfy

$$\mu_{i,oo',t} = \frac{\left((1 - \chi_{i,oo',t}) (V_{i,o',t+1})^{\frac{1}{1+\iota}} \right)^\phi}{\sum_{o''} \left((1 - \chi_{i,oo'',t}) (V_{i,o'',t+1})^{\frac{1}{1+\iota}} \right)^\phi}, \quad (\text{C.3})$$

$$V_{i,o,t} = \tilde{\Gamma} C_{i,o,t} \left[\sum_{o'} \left((1 - \chi_{i,oo',t}) (V_{i,o',t+1})^{\frac{1}{1+\iota}} \right)^\phi \right]^{\frac{1}{\phi}}, \quad (\text{C.4})$$

respectively, where $C_{i,o,t+1}$ is the real consumption, $\chi_{i,oo',t}$ is an ad-valorem switching cost from occupation o to o' , ϕ is the occupation-switch elasticity, $\tilde{\Gamma} \equiv \Gamma(1 - 1/\phi)$ is a constant that depends on the Gamma function $\Gamma(\cdot)$. For each i and t , employment level satisfies the law of motion

$$L_{i,o,t+1} = \sum_{o'} \mu_{i,o'o,t} L_{i,o',t}. \quad (\text{C.5})$$

Producers' Full Problem The intermediate goods are the same goods as the non-robot goods, but are an input to the production function. The stock of non-robot capital is exogenously given in each period for each country, and producers rent non-robot capital from the rental market. The

non-robot good production function is given by

$$Y_{i,t}^G = A_{i,t}^G \left\{ \alpha_{i,L} \left(T_{i,t}^O \right)^{\frac{\vartheta-1}{\vartheta}} + \alpha_{i,M} \left(M_{i,t} \right)^{\frac{\vartheta-1}{\vartheta}} + \alpha_{i,K} \left(K_{i,t} \right)^{\frac{\vartheta-1}{\vartheta}} \right\}^{\frac{\vartheta}{\vartheta-1}},$$

where ϑ is the elasticity of substitution between occupation aggregates, intermediates goods, and non-robot capital, and $\alpha_{i,L}$, $\alpha_{i,M}$, and $\alpha_{i,K} \equiv 1 - \alpha_{i,L} - \alpha_{i,M}$ are cost share parameters for the occupation aggregates, intermediates, and non-robot capital, respectively. Parameters satisfy $\vartheta > 0$ and $\alpha_{i,L}, \alpha_{i,M}, \alpha_{i,K} > 0$, and in the structural estimation, I set $\vartheta = 1$ and compute each country's cost share parameters from the data. Intermediate goods are aggregated by

$$M_{i,t} = \left[\sum_l \left(M_{li,t} \right)^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} \right]^{\frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon-1}}, \quad (\text{C.6})$$

where $\varepsilon > 0$ is the elasticity of substitution. Since intermediate goods are traded across countries and aggregated by equation (C.6), the elasticity parameter ε plays the role of the trade elasticity. The static decision of the producers now includes the rental amount of non-robot capital and the purchase of intermediate goods from each source country.

C.2 Relationship with Other Models of Automation

The model in Section 3 is general enough to nest models of automation in the previous literature. In particular, I show how the production functions (5) and (6) imply to specifications in AR and Humlum (2019). Throughout Section C.2, I fix country i and focus on steady states and thus drop subscripts i and t since the discussion is about individual producer's production function.

Relationship with the model in Acemoglu and Restrepo (2020, AR) Following AR that abstract from occupations, I drop occupations by setting $O = 1$ in this paragraph. Therefore, the EoS between occupations β plays no role, and $\theta_o = \theta$ is a unique value. AR show that the unit cost (hence the price given perfect competition) is written as

$$p^{AR} \equiv \frac{1}{\tilde{A}} \left[(1 - \tilde{a}) \frac{w}{A^L} + \tilde{a} \frac{c^R}{A^R} \right]^{\alpha_L} r^{1-\alpha_L},$$

for each sector and location (See AR, Appendix A1, equation A5). In this equation, c^R is the steady state marginal cost of robot capital defined in equation (C.33) and A^L and A^R represent per-unit efficiency of labor and robots, respectively. In Lemma C.1 below, I prove that my model implies a unit cost function that is strict generalization of p^{AR} with proper modification to the shock terms and parameter configuration. I begin with the modification that allows per-unit efficiency terms in my model.

Definition C.1. For labor and robot per-unit efficiency terms $A^L > 0$ and $A^R > 0$ respectively, modified robot task space \tilde{a} and TFP term \tilde{A} are

$$\tilde{a} \equiv \frac{a (A^L)^{\theta-1}}{a (A^L)^{\theta-1} + (1-a) (A^R)^{\theta-1}}, \quad (\text{C.7})$$

$$\tilde{A} \equiv \frac{A}{\left[(1-\tilde{a}) (A^L)^{\theta-1} + \tilde{a} (A^R)^{\theta-1} \right]}. \quad (\text{C.8})$$

Lemma C.1. Set the number of occupations $O = 1$. In the steady state,

$$p^G = \frac{1}{\tilde{A}} \left[(1-\tilde{a}) \left(\frac{w}{A^L} \right)^{1-\theta} + \tilde{a} \left(\frac{c^R}{A^R} \right)^{1-\theta} \right]^{\frac{\alpha_L}{1-\theta}} (p^G)^{\alpha_M} r^{1-\alpha_M-\alpha_L}. \quad (\text{C.9})$$

Proof. Note that modified robot task space (C.7) and modified TFP (C.8) can be inverted to have

$$a \equiv \frac{\tilde{a} (A^R)^{\theta-1}}{(1-\tilde{a}) (A^L)^{\theta-1} + \tilde{a} (A^R)^{\theta-1}}, \quad (\text{C.10})$$

$$A \equiv \left[(1-\tilde{a}) (A^L)^{\theta-1} + \tilde{a} (A^R)^{\theta-1} \right] \tilde{A}. \quad (\text{C.11})$$

Cost minimization problem with the production functions (5) and (6) and perfect competition imply

$$p^G = \frac{1}{A} (P^O)^{\alpha_L} p^{\alpha_M} r^{1-\alpha_L-\alpha_M},$$

and

$$P^O = \left[(1-a) w^{1-\theta} + a^{1-\theta} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}},$$

where P^O is the unit cost of tasks performed by labor and robots. Substituting equations (C.10)

and (C.11) and rearranging, I have

$$p^G = \frac{1}{\bar{A}} \left(\widetilde{p^O} \right)^{\alpha_L} \left(p^G \right)^{\alpha_M} r^{1-\alpha_L-\alpha_M},$$

where $\widetilde{p^O}$ is the cost of the tasks performed by labor and robots:

$$\widetilde{p^O} = \left[(1 - \tilde{a}) \left(\frac{w}{A^L} \right)^{1-\theta} + a \left(\frac{c^R}{A^R} \right)^{1-\theta} \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\theta}}.$$

□

Lemma C.1 immediately implies the following corollary that shows that the steady state modified unit cost (C.9) strictly nests the unit cost formulation of AR as a special case of Leontief occupation aggregation.

Corollary C.1. *Suppose $\alpha_M = 0$. Then as $\theta \rightarrow 0$, $p^G \rightarrow p^{AR}$.*

Relationship with the model in Humlum (2019) I show that production functions (5) and (6) nest the production function used by Humlum (2019). Since the setting of Humlum (2019) does not have non-robot capital, in this section, I simplify the notation for robot capital K^R by dropping the superscript and denote as K . For each firm in each period, Humlum (2019) specifies

$$Q^D = \exp \left[\varphi_H^D + \gamma_H^D K \right] \left[\sum_o \left(\exp \left[\varphi_o^D + \gamma_o^D K \right] \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} (L_o)^{\frac{\beta-1}{\beta}} \right]^{\frac{\beta}{\beta-1}}, \quad (\text{C.12})$$

where $K = \{0, 1\}$ is a binary choice, $\varphi_H^D, \gamma_H^D, \varphi_o^D$ and γ_o^D are parameters, and superscript D represents the discrete adoption problem of Humlum (2019). As normalization, suppose that

$$\sum_o \exp \left(\varphi_o^D + \gamma_o^D K \right) = 1.$$

I will start from production function (5) and (6), place restrictions, and arrive at equation (C.12). As a key observation, relative to the discrete choice of robot adoption in Humlum (2019), the continuous choice of robot *quantity* in production function (6) allows significant flexibility. In this paragraph, I assume away with intermediate inputs. This is because Humlum (2019) assumes

that intermediate inputs enter in an element of CES, while production function (5) implies that intermediate inputs enter as an element of the Cobb-Douglas function.

Now, given my production functions (5) and (6), suppose producers follow the binary decision rule defined below.

Definition C.2. A binary decision rule of a producer is that producers can choose between two choices: adopting robots $K = 1$ or not $K = 0$. If they choose $K = 1$, they adopt robots at the same unit as labor $K_o = L_o \geq 0$ for all occupation o . If they choose $K = 0$, $K_o = 0$ for all o .

Note that the binary decision rule is nested in the original choice problem from $K_o^R \geq 0$ for each o . Set

$$A_o^D(K^R) \equiv \begin{cases} A_o \left((1 - a_o)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} + (a_o)^{\frac{1}{\theta}} \right)^{\frac{\theta}{\theta-1}(\beta-1)} & \text{if } K^R = L_o \\ A_o (1 - a_o)^{\frac{1}{\theta-1}(\beta-1)} & \text{if } K^R = 0 \end{cases}.$$

Then I have

$$Q = \left[\sum_o \left(A_o^D(K_o) \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} (L_o)^{\frac{\beta-1}{\beta}} \right]^{\frac{\beta}{\beta-1}}.$$

To normalize, define

$$\widetilde{A}_o^D \equiv \left(\sum_o A_o^D(K_o) \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta-1}}$$

and

$$a_o^D(K_o^R) \equiv \frac{A_o^D(K_o)}{\sum_{o'} A_{o'}^D(K_{o'})}.$$

Then I have

$$Q = \widetilde{A}_o^D \left[\sum_o \left(a_o^D(K_o) \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} (L_o)^{\frac{\beta-1}{\beta}} \right]^{\frac{\beta}{\beta-1}}. \quad (\text{C.13})$$

Finally, let

$$A_{o,0} \equiv \left[\exp \left(\varphi_H^D + \varphi_o^D \right) \right]^{\frac{\theta_o-1}{\beta-1}}$$

and

$$A_{o,1} \equiv \left[\left(\exp \left(\varphi_H^D + \varphi_o^D + \gamma_H^D + \gamma_o^D \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta_o} \frac{\theta_o-1}{\beta-1}} - \left(\exp \left(\varphi_H^D + \varphi_o^D \right) \right)^{\frac{1}{\theta_o} \frac{\theta_o-1}{\beta-1}} \right]^{\theta_o}.$$

and also let A_o and a_o satisfy

$$A_o = (A_{o,0} + A_{o,1})^{\frac{\beta-1}{\theta_o-1}} \quad (\text{C.14})$$

and

$$a_o = \frac{A_{o,1}}{A_{o,0} + A_{o,1}}. \quad (\text{C.15})$$

Then one can substitute equations (C.14) and (C.15) to equation (C.13) and confirm that $Q = Q^D$. Summarizing the discussion above, I have the result that my model can be restricted to produce the production side of the model of Humlum (2019) as follows.

Lemma C.2. *Suppose that (i) producers follow the binary decision rule in Definition C.2 and that (ii) occupation productivity A_o and robot task space a_o satisfy equations (C.14) and (C.15) for each o . Then $Q = Q^D$.*

C.3 Equilibrium Characterization

To characterize the producer problem, I show the static optimization conditions and then the dynamic ones. For simplicity, I focus on the case with $\vartheta = 1$, or Cobb-Douglas in the mix of occupation aggregates, intermediates, and non-robot capital. To solve for the static problem of labor, intermediate goods, and non-robot capital, consider the FOCs of equation (8)

$$p_{i,t}^G \alpha_{i,L} \frac{Y_{i,t}^G}{T_{i,t}^O} \left(b_{i,o,t} \frac{T_{i,t}^O}{T_{i,o,t}^O} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \left((1 - a_{o,t}) \frac{T_{i,o,t}^O}{L_{i,o,t}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\vartheta_o}} = w_{i,o,t}, \quad (\text{C.16})$$

where $T_{i,t}^O$ is the aggregated occupations $T_{i,t}^O \equiv \left[\sum_o \left(T_{i,o,t}^O \right)^{(\beta-1)/\beta} \right]^{\beta/(\beta-1)}$,

$$p_{i,t}^G \alpha_{i,M} \frac{Y_{i,t}^G}{M_{i,t}} \left(\frac{M_{i,t}}{M_{li,t}} \right)^{\frac{1}{\varepsilon}} = p_{li,t}^G, \quad (\text{C.17})$$

and

$$p_{i,t}^G \alpha_{i,K} \frac{Y_{i,t}^G}{K_{i,t}} = r_{i,t}, \quad (\text{C.18})$$

where $\alpha_{i,K} \equiv 1 - \alpha_{i,L} - \alpha_{i,M}$. Note also that by the envelope theorem,

$$\frac{\partial \pi_{i,t} \left(\left\{ K_{i,o,t}^R \right\} \right)}{\partial K_{i,o,t}^R} = p_{i,t}^G \frac{\partial Y_{i,t}}{\partial K_{i,o,t}^R} = p_{i,t}^G \left(\alpha_L \frac{Y_{i,t}^G}{T_{i,t}^O} \left(b_{i,o,t} \frac{T_{i,t}^O}{T_{i,o,t}^O} \right)^{\frac{1}{\beta}} \left(a_{o,t} \frac{T_{i,o,t}^O}{K_{i,o,t}^R} \right)^{\frac{1}{\vartheta}} \right). \quad (\text{C.19})$$

Another static problem of producers is robot purchase. Define the “before-integration” robot

aggregate $Q_{i,o,t}^{R,BI} \equiv \left[\sum_l \left(Q_{li,o,t}^R \right)^{\frac{\epsilon^R - 1}{\epsilon^R}} \right]^{\frac{\epsilon^R}{\epsilon^R - 1}}$ and the corresponding price index $P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI}$. By the first order condition with respect to $Q_{li,o,t}^R$ for equation (10), I have $p_{li,o,t}^R Q_{li,o,t}^R = \left(\frac{p_{li,o,t}^R}{P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI}} \right)^{1-\epsilon^R} P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI} Q_{i,o,t}^{R,BI}$, and $P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI} Q_{i,o,t}^{R,BI} = \alpha P_{i,o,t}^R Q_{i,o,t}^R$. Thus $p_{li,o,t}^R Q_{li,o,t}^R = \alpha \left(\frac{p_{li,o,t}^R}{P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI}} \right)^{1-\epsilon^R} P_{i,o,t}^R Q_{i,o,t}^R$. Hence

$$Q_{li,o,t}^R = \alpha \left(p_{li,o,t}^R \right)^{-\epsilon^R} \left(P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI} \right)^{\epsilon^R - 1} P_{i,o,t}^R Q_{i,o,t}^R.$$

Writing $P_{i,o,t}^R = \left(P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI} \right)^{\alpha^R} (P_{i,t})^{1-\alpha^R}$, I have

$$Q_{li,o,t}^R = \alpha \left(\frac{p_{li,o,t}^R}{P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI}} \right)^{-\epsilon^R} \left(\frac{P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI}}{P_{i,t}} \right)^{-(1-\alpha^R)} Q_{i,o,t}^R.$$

Alternatively, one can define the robot price index by $\tilde{P}_{i,o,t}^R = \alpha^{\frac{1}{\epsilon^R}} \left(P_{i,o,t}^{R,BI} \right)^{\frac{\epsilon^R - (1-\alpha^R)}{\epsilon^R}} P_{i,t}^{\frac{1-\alpha^R}{\epsilon^R}}$ and show

$$Q_{li,o,t}^R = \left(\frac{p_{li,o,t}^R}{\tilde{P}_{i,o,t}^R} \right)^{-\epsilon^R} Q_{i,o,t}^R, \quad (\text{C.20})$$

which is a standard gravity representation of robot trade.

To solve the dynamic problem, set up the (current-value) Lagrangian function for non-robot goods producers

$$\mathcal{L}_{i,t} = \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \left\{ \left(\frac{1}{1+\iota} \right)^t \left[\pi_{i,t} \left(\{K_{i,o,t}^R\}_o \right) - \sum_{l,o} \left(p_{li,o,t}^R (1 + u_{li,t}) Q_{li,o,t}^R + P_{i,t}^G I_{i,o,t}^{int} + \gamma P_{i,o,t}^R Q_{i,o,t}^R \frac{Q_{i,o,t}^R}{K_{i,o,t}^R} \right) \right] \right\} - \lambda_{i,o,t}^R \left\{ K_{i,o,t+1}^R - (1 - \delta) K_{i,o,t}^R - Q_{i,o,t}^R \right\}$$

Taking the FOC with respect to the hardware from country l , $Q_{li,o,t}^R$, I have

$$p_{li,o,t}^R (1 + u_{li,t}) + 2\gamma P_{i,o,t}^R \left(\frac{Q_{i,o,t}^R}{K_{i,o,t}^R} \right) \frac{\partial Q_{i,o,t}^R}{\partial Q_{li,o,t}^R} = \lambda_{i,o,t}^R \frac{\partial Q_{i,o,t}^R}{\partial Q_{li,o,t}^R}. \quad (\text{C.21})$$

Taking the FOC with respect to the integration input $I_{i,o,t}^{int}$, I have

$$P_{i,t}^G + 2\gamma P_{i,o,t}^R \left(\frac{Q_{i,o,t}^R}{K_{i,o,t}^R} \right) \frac{\partial Q_{i,o,t}^R}{\partial I_{i,o,t}^{int}} = \lambda_{i,o,t}^R \frac{\partial Q_{i,o,t}^R}{\partial I_{i,o,t}^{int}}, \quad (\text{C.22})$$

Taking the FOC with respect to $K_{i,o,t+1}^R$, I have

$$\left(\frac{1}{1+\iota} \right)^{t+1} \left[\frac{\partial \pi_{i,t+1} \left(\left\{ K_{i,o,t+1}^R \right\}_o \right)}{\partial K_{i,o,t+1}^R} + \gamma P_{i,o,t+1}^R \left(\frac{Q_{i,o,t+1}^R}{K_{i,o,t+1}^R} \right)^2 + (1-\delta) \lambda_{i,o,t+1}^R \right] - \left(\frac{1}{1+\iota} \right)^t \lambda_{i,o,t}^R = 0, \quad (\text{C.23})$$

and the transversality condition: for any j and o ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} e^{-\iota t} \lambda_{j,o,t}^R K_{j,o,t+1}^R = 0. \quad (\text{C.24})$$

Rearranging equation (C.23), I obtain the following Euler equation.

$$\lambda_{i,o,t}^R = \frac{1}{1+\iota} \left[(1-\delta) \lambda_{i,o,t+1}^R + \frac{\partial}{\partial K_{i,o,t+1}^R} \pi_{i,t+1} \left(\left\{ K_{i,o,t+1}^R \right\} \right) + \gamma P_{i,o,t+1}^R \left(\frac{Q_{i,o,t+1}^R}{K_{i,o,t+1}^R} \right)^2 \right]. \quad (\text{C.25})$$

Turning to the demand for non-robot good, I will characterize bilateral intermediate good trade demand and total expenditure. Write $X_{j,t}^G$ the total purchase quantity (but not value) of good G in country j in period t . By equation (C.6), the bilateral trade demand is given by

$$p_{ij,t}^G Q_{ij,t}^G = \left(\frac{p_{ij,t}^G}{P_{j,t}^G} \right)^{1-\varepsilon} P_{j,t}^G X_{j,t}^G, \quad (\text{C.26})$$

for any i, j , and t . In this equation, $P_{j,t}^G X_{j,t}^G$ is the total expenditures on non-robot goods. The total expenditure is the sum of final consumption $I_{j,t}$, payment to intermediate goods $\alpha_M P_{j,t}^G Y_{j,t}^G$, input to robot productions $\sum_o P_{j,t}^G I_{j,o,t}^R = \sum_{o,k} p_{jk,o,t}^R Q_{jk,o,t}^R$, and payment to robot integration $\sum_o P_{j,t}^G I_{j,o,t}^{int} = (1-\alpha^R) \sum_o P_{j,o,t}^R Q_{j,o,t}^R$. Hence

$$P_{j,t}^G X_{j,t}^G = I_{j,t} + \alpha_M P_{j,t}^G Y_{j,t}^G + \sum_{o,k} p_{jk,o,t}^R Q_{jk,o,t}^R + (1-\alpha^R) \sum_o P_{j,o,t}^R Q_{j,o,t}^R.$$

For country j and period t , by substituting into income $I_{j,t}$ the period cash flow of non-robot good

producer that satisfies

$$\Pi_{j,t} \equiv \pi_{j,t} \left(\left\{ K_{j,o,t}^R \right\}_o \right) - \sum_{i,o} \left(p_{ij,o,t}^R (1 + u_{ij,t}) Q_{ij,o,t}^R + \sum_o P_{j,t}^G I_{j,o,t}^{int} + \gamma P_{j,o,t}^R Q_{j,o,t}^R \left(\frac{Q_{j,o,t}^R}{K_{j,o,t}^R} \right) \right)$$

and robot tax revenue $T_{j,t} = \sum_{i,o} u_{ij,t} p_{ij,o,t}^R Q_{ij,o,t}^R$, I have

$$I_{j,t} = (1 - \alpha_M) \sum_k p_{jk,t}^G Q_{jk,t}^G - \left(\sum_{i,o} p_{ij,o,t}^R Q_{ij,o,t}^R + (1 - \alpha^R) \sum_o P_{j,o,t}^R Q_{j,o,t}^R \right), \quad (\text{C.27})$$

or in terms of variables in the definition of equilibrium,

$$I_{j,t} = (1 - \alpha_M) \sum_k p_{jk,t}^G Q_{jk,t}^G - \frac{1}{\alpha^R} \sum_{i,o} p_{ij,o,t}^R Q_{ij,o,t}^R.$$

Hence, the total expenditure measured in terms of the production side as opposed to income side is

$$P_{j,t}^G X_{j,t}^G = \sum_k p_{jk,t}^G Q_{jk,t}^G - \sum_{i,o} p_{ij,o,t}^R Q_{ij,o,t}^R \left(1 + \gamma \frac{Q_{ij,o,t}^R}{K_{j,o,t}^R} \right). \quad (\text{C.28})$$

Note that this equation embeds the balanced-trade condition. By substituting equation (C.28) into equation (C.26), I have

$$p_{ij,t}^G Q_{ij,t}^G = \left(\frac{p_{ij,t}^G}{P_{j,t}^G} \right)^{1-\varepsilon^G} \left(\sum_k p_{jk,t}^G Q_{jk,t}^G + \sum_{k,o} p_{jk,o,t}^R Q_{jk,o,t}^R - \sum_{i,o} p_{ij,o,t}^R Q_{ij,o,t}^R \right). \quad (\text{C.29})$$

The good and robot- o market-clearing conditions are given by,

$$Y_{i,t}^R = \sum_j Q_{ij,t}^G \tau_{ij,t}^G, \quad (\text{C.30})$$

for all i and t , and

$$p_{i,o,t}^R = \frac{P_{i,t}^G}{A_{i,o,t}^R} \quad (\text{C.31})$$

for all i, o , and t , respectively.

Conditional on state variables $S_t = \{K_t^R, \lambda_t^R, L_t, V_t\}$, equations (C.3), (C.16), (C.21), (C.29), (C.30), and (C.31) characterize the temporary equilibrium $\{p_t^G, p_t^R, w_t, Q_t^G, Q_t^R, L_t\}$. In addition,

conditional on initial conditions $\{K_0^R, L_0\}$, equations (9), (C.25), and (C.24) characterize the sequential equilibrium.

Finally, the steady state conditions are given by imposing the time-invariance condition to equations (9) and (C.25):

$$Q_{i,o}^R = \delta K_{i,o}^R, \quad (\text{C.32})$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial K_{i,o}^R} \pi_i \left(\{K_{i,o}^R\} \right) = (\iota + \delta) \lambda_{i,o}^R - \sum_l \gamma p_{li,o}^R \left(\frac{Q_{li,o}^R}{K_{i,o}^R} \right)^2 \equiv c_{i,o}^R. \quad (\text{C.33})$$

Note that equation (C.33) can be interpreted as the flow marginal profit of capital must be equalized to the marginal cost term. Thus I define the steady state marginal cost of robot capital $c_{i,o}^R$ from the right-hand side of equation (C.33). Note that if there is no adjustment cost $\gamma = 0$, the steady state Euler equation (C.33) implies

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial K_{i,o}^R} \pi_i \left(\{K_{i,o}^R\} \right) = c_{i,o}^R = (\iota + \delta) \lambda_{i,o}^R,$$

which states that the marginal profit of capital is the user cost of robots in the steady state (Hall and Jorgenson 1967).

C.4 On the Choice of the Steady-State Matrix in Equation (21)

In equation (21), I use the steady-state matrix \bar{E} instead of the transitional dynamics matrix \bar{F}_t for a computational reason. Since I have annual observation for occupational robot costs, it is potentially possible to leverage this rich variation for the structural estimation, which may permit me to estimate the EoS θ_o at a narrower occupation group level. However, the bottleneck is the computational burden to compute the dynamic solution matrix \bar{F}_t . Specifically, dynamic substitution matrix \bar{F}_{t+1}^y in equation (16) is based on the conditions of Blanchard and Kahn (1980). This requires computing the eigenspace, which is computationally hard since the matrix \bar{F}_{t+1}^y is not sparse. In contrast, the estimation method in Appendix D.2 does not involve such computation, but only requires computing the steady-state solution matrix \bar{E} . Then I only need to invert steady-state substitution matrix \bar{E}^y , which is feasible given the sparse structure of \bar{E}^y .

D Online Appendix for Estimation and Simulation

D.1 Robot Trade Elasticity

To estimate robot trade elasticity ε^R , I apply and extend the trilateral method of Caliendo and Parro (2015). Namely, decompose the robot trade cost $\tau_{li,t}^R$ into $\ln \tau_{li,t}^R = \ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,T} + \ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,D}$, where $\tau_{li,t}^{R,T}$ is tariff on robots taken from the UNCTAD-TRAINS database and $\tau_{li,t}^{R,D}$ is asymmetric non-tariff trade cost. The latter term is assumed to be $\ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,D} = \ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,D,S} + \ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,D,O} + \ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,D,D} + \ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,D,E}$, where $\tau_{li,t}^{R,D,S}$ captures symmetric bilateral trade costs such as distance, common border, language, and FTA belonging status and satisfies $\tau_{li,t}^{R,D,S} = \tau_{il,t}^{R,D,S}$, $\tau_{li,t}^{R,D,O}$ and $\tau_{li,t}^{R,D,D}$ are the origin and destination fixed effects such as non-tariff barriers respectively, and $\tau_{li,t}^{R,D,E}$ is the random error that is orthogonal to tariffs. By equation (C.20), I have

$$\ln \left(\frac{X_{li,t}^R X_{ij,t}^R X_{jl,t}^R}{X_{lj,t}^R X_{ji,t}^R X_{il,t}^R} \right) = (1 - \varepsilon^R) \ln \left(\frac{\tau_{li,t}^{R,T} \tau_{ij,t}^{R,T} \tau_{jl,t}^{R,T}}{\tau_{lj,t}^{R,T} \tau_{ji,t}^{R,T} \tau_{il,t}^{R,T}} \right) + e_{lij,t}, \quad (\text{D.1})$$

where $X_{li,t}^R$ is the bilateral sales of robots from l to i in year t and $e_{lij,t} \equiv \ln \tau_{li,t}^{R,D,E} + \ln \tau_{ij,t}^{R,D,E} + \ln \tau_{jl,t}^{R,D,E} - \ln \tau_{lj,t}^{R,D,E} - \ln \tau_{ji,t}^{R,D,E} - \ln \tau_{il,t}^{R,D,E}$. The benefit of this approach is that it does not require symmetry for non-tariff trade cost $\tau_{li,t}^{R,D}$, but only requires the orthogonality for the asymmetric component of the trade cost. My method also extends Caliendo and Parro (2015) in using the time-series variation as well as trilateral country-level variation to complement the relatively small number of observations in robot trade data.

When implementing regression of equation (D.1), I further consider controlling for two separate sets of fixed effects. The first set is the unilateral fixed effect indicating if a country is included in the trilateral pair of countries, and the second set is the bilateral fixed effect for the twin of countries is included in the trilateral pair. These fixed effects are relevant in my setting as a few number of countries export robots, and controlling for these exporters' unobserved characteristics is critical.

Table D.1 shows the result of regression of equation (D.1). The first two columns show the result for the HS code 847950 (Industrial robots for multiple uses, the definition of robots used in Humlum 2019), and the last two columns HS code 8479 (Machines and mechanical appliances having individual functions, not specified or included elsewhere in this chapter). The first and

Table D.1: Coefficient of equation (D.1)

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	HS 847950	HS 847950	HS 8479	HS 8479
Tariff	-0.272 (0.0718)	-0.236 (0.0807)	-0.146 (0.0127)	-0.157 (0.0131)
Constant	-0.917 (0.0415)	-0.893 (0.0381)	-1.170 (0.00905)	-1.170 (0.00853)
FEs	h-i-j-t	ht-it-jt	h-i-j-t	ht-it-jt
N	4610	4521	88520	88441
r2	0.494	0.662	0.602	0.658

Note: The author’s calculation based on BACI data from 1996 to 2018 and equation (D.1). The first two columns show the result for the HS code 847950 (Industrial robots for multiple uses), while the last two columns HS code 8479 (Machines and mechanical appliances having individual functions, not specified or included elsewhere in this chapter). The first and third columns control the unilateral fixed effect, while the second and fourth the bilateral fixed effect. See the text for the detail.

third columns control for the unilateral fixed effect, and the second and fourth the bilateral fixed effect. The implied trade elasticity of robots ε^R is fairly tightly estimated and ranges between 1.13-1.34. Given these estimation results, I use $\varepsilon^R = 1.2$ in the estimation and counterfactuals.

To assess the estimation result, note that Caliendo and Parro (2015) show in Table 1 that the regression coefficient of equation (D.1) is 1.52, with the standard error of 1.81, for “Machinery n.e.c”, which roughly corresponds to HS 84. Therefore, my estimate for industrial robots falls in the one-standard-deviation range of their estimate for a broader category of goods.

Note that the average trade elasticity across sectors is estimated significantly higher than these values, such as 4 in Simonovska and Waugh (2014). The low trade elasticity for robots ε^R is intuitive given robots are highly heterogeneous and hardly substitutable. This low elasticity implies small gains from robot taxes, with the robot tax incidence almost on the US (robot buyer) side rather than the robot-selling country.

D.2 Estimator Detail

Using Assumption 1, I develop a consistent and asymptotically efficient two-step estimator. Specifically, I follow the method developed by Adao, Arkolakis, and Esposito (2019), who extend the estimator of Newey and McFadden (1994) to the general equilibrium environment and define the model-implied optimal instrumental variable (MOIV). The key idea is that the optimal GMM estimator is based on the instrumental variable that depends on unknown structural parameters.

Therefore, the two-step estimator solves this unknown-dependent problem and achieves desirable properties of consistency and asymptotic efficiency. As a result, I define IVs $Z_{o,n}$ where $n = 0, 1$ as follows:

$$Z_{o,n} \equiv H_{o,n}(\boldsymbol{\psi}^J) = \mathbb{E} \left[\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} v_o(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_n) | \boldsymbol{\psi}^J \right] \mathbb{E} \left[v_o(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_n) (v_o(\boldsymbol{\Theta}_n))^\top | \boldsymbol{\psi}^J \right]^{-1}. \quad (\text{D.2})$$

For the formal statement, I need the following additional assumption.

Assumption D.1. (i) A function of $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}$, $\mathbb{E} \left[H_o(\boldsymbol{\psi}_{t_1}^J) v_o(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}) \right] \neq 0$ for any $\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} \neq \boldsymbol{\Theta}$. (ii) $\underline{\theta} \leq \theta_o \leq \bar{\theta}$ for any o , $\underline{\beta} \leq \beta \leq \bar{\beta}$, $\underline{\gamma} \leq \gamma \leq \bar{\gamma}$, and $\underline{\phi} \leq \phi \leq \bar{\phi}$ for some positive values $\underline{\theta}, \underline{\beta}, \underline{\gamma}, \underline{\phi}, \bar{\theta}, \bar{\beta}, \bar{\gamma}, \bar{\phi}$. (iii) $\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} \| H_o(\boldsymbol{\psi}_{t_1}^J) v_o(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}) \| \right] < \infty$. (iv) $\mathbb{E} \left[\| H_o(\boldsymbol{\psi}_{t_1}^J) v_o(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}) \|^2 \right] < \infty$ (v) $\mathbb{E} \left[\sup_{\boldsymbol{\Theta}} \| H_o(\boldsymbol{\psi}_{t_1}^J) \nabla_{\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}} v_o(\tilde{\boldsymbol{\Theta}}) \| \right] < \infty$.

Under Assumptions 1 and D.1, Adao, Arkolakis, and Esposito (2019) shows that the estimator $\boldsymbol{\Theta}_2$ obtained in the following procedure is consistent, asymptotically normal, and optimal: Step 1: With a guess $\boldsymbol{\Theta}_0$, estimate $\boldsymbol{\Theta}_1 = \boldsymbol{\Theta}_{H_0}$ using $Z_{o,0}$ defined in equation (D.2). Step 2: With $\boldsymbol{\Theta}_1$, estimate $\boldsymbol{\Theta}_2$ by $\boldsymbol{\Theta}_2 = \boldsymbol{\Theta}_{H_1}$ using $Z_{o,1}$ defined in equation (D.2).

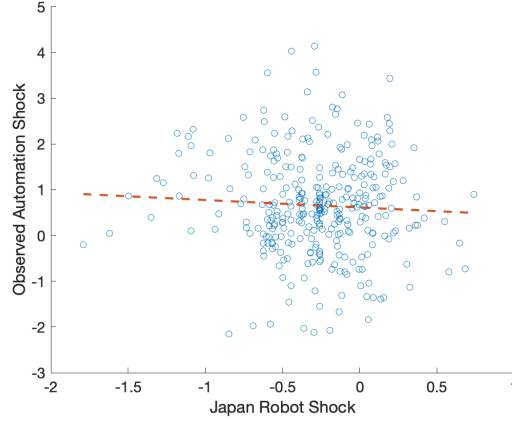
D.3 The Japan Robot Shock and The Implied Automation Shock

In turn, Figure D.1 shows a further detailed scatter plot between the two shocks, delivering a mild negative relationship. This negative correlation is consistent with the example of robotic innovations in Appendix B.1.

D.4 Details in Counterfactual Analysis

Simulation Method The simulation for the counterfactual analysis comprises three steps. First, I back out the observed shocks from the estimated model for each year between 1992 and 2007. Namely, I obtain the efficiency increase of Japanese robots $\widehat{A_{2,o,t}^R}$ using equation (18). With the point estimates in Table 2, the implied automation shock $\widehat{a_{o,t}^{\text{imp}}}$ using (20). To back out the efficiency shock of robots in the other countries, I assume that $\widehat{A_{i,o,t}^R} = \widehat{A_{i,t}^R}$ for $i = 1, 3$. Then by the robot trade prices $p_{ij,t}^R$ from BACI, I fit fixed effect regression $\Delta \ln(p_{ij,t}^R) = \tilde{\psi}_{j,t}^D + \tilde{\psi}_{i,t}^C + \tilde{e}_{ij,t}$, and use $\widehat{A_{i,t}^R} = -\tilde{\psi}_{i,t_1}^C$. The idea to back out the negative efficiency shock $\tilde{\psi}_{i,t_1}^C$ is similar to the fixed-effect regression in Section 2, but without the occupational variation that is not observed in BACI data.

Figure D.1: Correlation between Japan Robot Shock ψ_o^J and Automation Shock \widehat{a}_o^{obs}

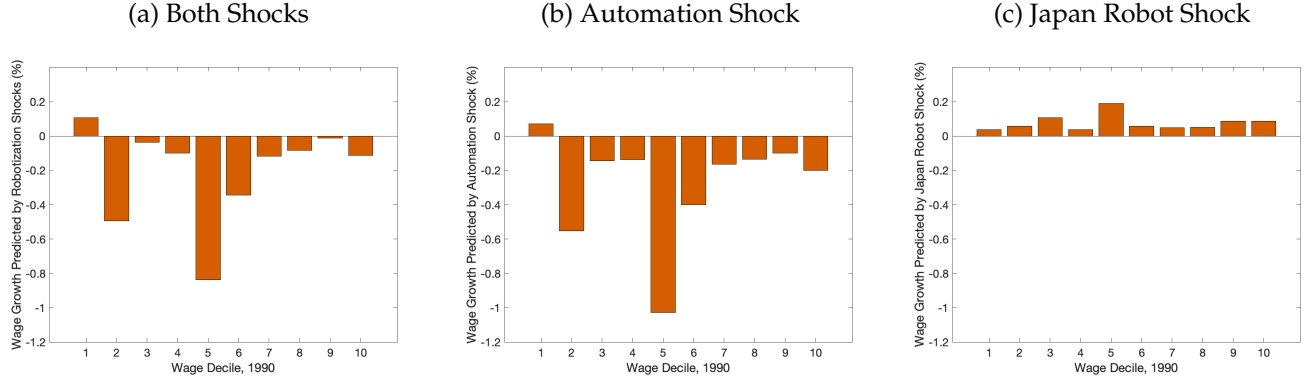


Note: The author's calculation based on JARA, O*NET, and US Census/ACS. The x -axis shows the Japan robot shock, and is taken from the regression of equation (2). The y -axis shows the implied automation shock, and is backed out from equation (20) with the estimated parameters in Table 2. Each circle is 4-digit occupation and dashed line is the fitted line.

Second, applying the backed-out shocks $\widehat{A}_{i,o,t}^R$ and $\widehat{a}_{o,t}^{obs}$ to the first-order solution of the GE in equation (17), I obtain the prediction of changes in endogenous variables to these shocks to the first-order. Finally, applying the predicted changes to the initial data in $t_0 = 1992$, I obtain the predicted level of endogenous variables.

The Effect of Robotization and the Sources of Shocks In Figure 4b, I show the effect of two robotization shocks: the automation shock \widehat{a} and the Japan robot shock \widehat{A}_2 . Although both are relevant shocks to the robotics technology during the sample period, the result is a mixture of these two effects, making it hard to assess the contribution of each shock. To address this concern, Figure D.2 shows the decomposition of the main exercise. The left panel shows the same result as Figure 4b, while the center panel shows the predicted wage changes with only the automation shock and the right only the Japan robot shock. Notably, it is the automation shock that reduces the labor demand and, thus, the wage across many occupations. By contrast, the Japan robot shock reduces the price of robots and increases the marginal product of labor, and thus the occupational wages are increased.

Figure D.2: The Effect on Occupational Wages by Sources of Shocks



Note: The left panel shows the annualized occupational wage growth rates for each wage decile, predicted by the first-order steady-state solution of the estimated model given in equation (15), for each of ten deciles of the occupational wage distribution in 1990, and is equivalent to Figure 4b. The center and right panels distinguish the effect of the automation shock (center) and the Japan robot shock (right).

D.5 Robot Tax and Workers' Welfare

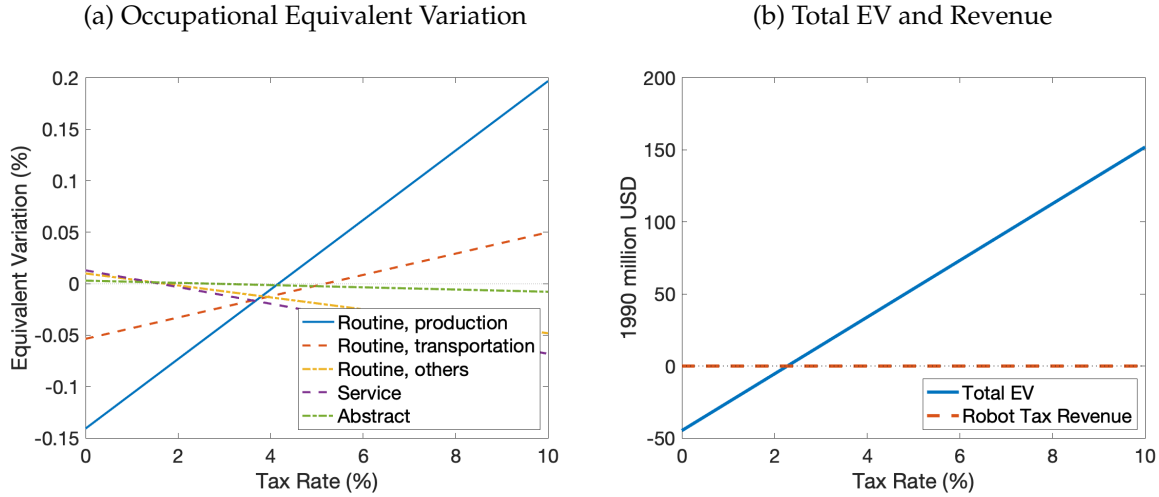
To examine how the robot tax affects workers in different occupations, I define the equivalent variation (EV) as follows. Consider the US unilateral (not inducing a reaction in other countries), unexpected, and permanent tax on robot purchases as in Section 5.3. Write $C'_{i,o,t}$ as the consumption stream under the robotized economy with tax and $C_{i,o,t}$ as that under the robotized but not taxed economy, where the robotization shock is backed out in Section 4.4. For each country i and occupation o , $EV_{i,o}$ is implicitly defined as

$$\sum_{t=t_0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+\iota} \right)^t \ln([C'_{i,o,t}]) = \sum_{t=t_0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1}{1+\iota} \right)^t \ln(C_{i,o,t} [1 + EV_{i,o}]). \quad (D.3)$$

Namely, the EV is the fraction of the occupation-specific subsidy that would make the present discounted value (PDV) of the utility in the robotized and taxed economy equal to the PDV of the utility if the occupation-specific subsidy were exogenously given every period in non-taxed economy. Workers in country i and occupation o prefer the economy with tax if and only if $EV_{i,o}$ is positive.

Figure D.3a shows this occupation-specific EV as a function of the tax rate. The far-left side of the figure is the case of zero robot tax, thus a case of only the robotization shock. Consistent with the occupational wage effects (cf. Figure 5a), workers in production and transportation occupations lose significantly due to robotization. In contrast, other workers are roughly indifferent

Figure D.3: Robot Tax and Workers' Welfare



Note: The left panel shows the US workers' equivalent variation defined in equation (D.3) as a function of the US robot tax rate. The right panel shows monetary values of equivalent variations aggregated across workers and robot tax revenue as a function of the robot tax rate, measured in 1990 million USD.

between the robotized world and the non-robotized initial steady state or slightly prefer the former world. Going right through the figure, the production and transportation workers' EV improves as the robot tax reduces adoption of robots that substitute their jobs. The EV of production workers turns positive when the tax rate is around 6%, and that of transportation workers is positive when the rate is about 7%. However, these tax rates are too high and would make EVs in other occupations negative. This is because, with such a high tax rate, robot accumulation in production and transportation occupations was significantly reduced, which adversely affect labor demand in other occupations.

To study if the reallocation policy by robot tax may work, I also compute the equivalent variation in terms of monetary value aggregated by occupation groups (total EV) and compare it with the robot tax revenue, both as a function of robot tax. Figure D.3b shows the result. One can confirm that the marginal robot tax revenue is far from enough to compensate for workers' loss that concentrates on production and transportation workers, at the initial steady state with zero robot tax rate. The robot tax revenue is negligible at this margin compared with the workers' loss due to robotization. It is true that as the robot tax rate increases, the total EV rises: When the rate is as large as 2-3%, the sum of the total EV and the robot tax revenue is positive.