

# AN EXTENDED INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT MODEL FOR MITIGATION & ADAPTATION POLICIES ON CLIMATE CHANGE\*

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## Abstract

We present an extended integrated assessment model (IAM) that explicitly solves for optimal climate financing policies. Public capital allocations are made to productivity-enhancing infrastructure, measures supporting adaptation to climate change, and to emissions mitigation. As with other IAMs, our approach ties economic activity with their externalities and feedback effects. The extension of our IAM framework includes public sector climate policies concerning the optimal decisions of both tax revenues and expenditures. We solve the model's nonlinear feedback effects by employing a new numerical solution technique, AMPL, which optimizes over a finite horizon. We find that the endogenous selections of tax rates and expenditure outperform fixed policy parameterizations, and that the degree of marginal returns to productive infrastructure as well as to mitigation and adaptation efforts are crucial variables in determining climate policy financing. In addition to the funding of climate policies through taxation, we also consider the extent to which climate policies can be funded by the issuing of climate bonds.

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# 1 Introduction

A fundamental issue for policymakers tackling climate change is determining how to allocate scarce resources into infrastructure to enhance productivity, mitigate further CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and adapt to its unavoidable present and future impacts. As to the latter two issues, three decades of national and international policies have focused almost exclusively on mitigation, but the long timeframe of the carbon cycle means temperatures would continue to rise for more than forty years even if global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ceased today. Public policy should therefore also support adaptive infrastructure in addition to climate change mitigation and ‘traditional’ productivity-enhancing investments.

We present an extended integrated assessment model (IAM) which, building on Bonen et al. (2016), explicitly solves for these canonical policy responses to climate change in an optimal decision framework. As with other IAMs, our approach ties economic activity with externalities and their climatological impacts and feedback effects. The proposed extension of our IAM framework includes public sector policies concerning optimal decisions of both funding through revenues as well as expenditures. We also include a renewable energy sector in the model. However, we avoid common simplifications<sup>1</sup> to IAM complexity (e.g. the ‘curse of dimensionality’) by employing

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<sup>1</sup>The most common approach is to solve for economic growth trajectories in isolation from the climate system and then use those output scenarios to generate emissions-temperature-impact estimations.

a new numerical solution technique, AMPL, in which the system’s nonlinearities are preserved – a facet we believe to be crucial in accurately modelling economic-environmental interrelations.

The specific public policy questions considered by our extended IAM are how to best allocate infrastructure expenditures to ‘traditional’ productivity-enhancing public works,<sup>2</sup> infrastructure designed to reduce carbon emissions,<sup>3</sup> and adaptive infrastructure.<sup>4</sup> The central finding is that when funding allocations are endogenously determined – rather than being fixed *ex ante* – aggregate social welfare significantly improves.<sup>5</sup> Secondly, we conduct homotopic analyses on uncertain parameters. This analysis demonstrates the model’s intuition in finding that the optimal allocation of spending is crucially impacted by (i) the efficiency of the mitigation expenditure; (ii) the discount rate; and (iii) the relative productivity of renewable and fossil fuel energy in production. An interesting but less obvious result is that the optimal share of funds allocated to mitigation (adaptation) falls (rises) with the degree of diminishing returns to mitigation, vanishing as mitigation efforts

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<sup>2</sup>E.g., roads, bridges, and public schools.

<sup>3</sup>E.g., carbon capture technologies and networks of electric charging stations. Note that renewable energy *per se* is not captured here and is instead built into the private capital investment  $K$ . See Section 3 for details.

<sup>4</sup>E.g., sea walls to prevent flooding and support for new and changing agricultural patterns

<sup>5</sup>We have also tested a specification in which these allocative decisions are continuously updated in each time period, instead of being selected based on the initial expected social utility. There is little improvement in moving to this approach. In addition to reducing computational costs, the slight reduction in utility from optimally selecting a single set of allocations suggests that any loss of flexibility in guaranteeing long-term mitigation and adaptation funding is likely outweighed by the benefits of policy stability. Due to space constraints we do not present these results here.

become linearly impactful on global mean temperature changes. After the capital allocated to the phasing in of renewable energy is accounted for, the model estimates that upwards of 90% of infrastructural investment should be allocated to productivity-enhancements. Note that this finding follows from the assumption that private capital  $K$  already includes renewable energy inputs; in production  $K$  is imperfectly substitutable with a non-renewable resource that is the ultimate source of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the policy background and related literature on climate change modeling. Section 3 presents the model and optimal control solution technique. Results are reported and discussed in Section 4. Section 5 concludes.

## 2 Background

Leading up to the COP21 Paris meeting in December 2015, the stark trends of anthropogenic climate change were laid out in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report. The *The Physical Science Basis* of climate change concludes with “virtual certainty” that: (i) the past three decades have been the hottest in 800 years; (ii) the Earth is in positive radiative imbalance; and, (iii) human activity is a significant cause of these historic anomalies (IPCC Working Group I, 2013, Technical Summary). Understandably, international negotiations from Kyoto onwards have focused on national efforts to reduce future emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other

GHGs.<sup>6</sup> Yet, even if all global emissions had been halted by 2014, the global mean temperature would still continue to increase over the next four decades (Oppenheimer, 2013). Indeed, the next 20 years will likely see average temperatures reach and surpass 1°C above the pre-industrial global average (IPCC Working Group I, 2013, Technical Summary, TFE.8).<sup>7</sup>

In addition to the multitude of social and economic damages that result directly from rising temperatures,<sup>8</sup> extreme weather events are also expected to become more frequent and intense (IPCC, 2012). The situation is even more complicated for policymakers in developing and emerging economies in which traditional economic development increases resilience (an aspect of adaptation), but would likely result in greater total and per capital CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Balancing the competing yet often complementary needs of mitigation, adaptation and development is a complex task (Bernard and Semmler, 2015; IMF, 2014, 2016).

Models focusing on adaptive policy responses, in contrast to mitigation, followed the policy discussions with a substantial lag (Tol and Fankhauser, 1998).<sup>9</sup> In an early paper focusing on adaptation, Mendelsohn (2000) notes

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<sup>6</sup>Other high-impact GHGs are methane CH<sub>4</sub>, nitrous oxide N<sub>2</sub>O, sulfur dioxide CO<sub>2</sub> and sulfur hexafluoride SF<sub>6</sub>.

<sup>7</sup>A 1°C warming is notable for being half way to the 2°C rise above pre-industrial temperatures that had served as a political benchmark for the maximum allowable temperature increase. The Paris Agreement lowered the targeted average increase to 1.5°C.

<sup>8</sup>These include rising sea levels / loss of land, reduced agricultural output, greater mortality due to hotter summers, and expanded transmission vectors for diseases such as malaria and the Zika virus.

<sup>9</sup>The Chris Hope's PAGE (Policy Analysis of the Greenhouse Effect) model is an early exception to this lag. PAGE explicitly incorporates a "tolerable" temperature level and rate of change. By allowing policy actions to augment these tolerable variables PAGE is

that the climate change impact literature tends to be sector-specific and assesses adaptation *ex post*. To generalize the approach, he presents a static model in which agents implement efficient adaptation strategies *ex ante* – i.e., before the full impact of climate change is felt.<sup>10</sup> Subsequently, a number of economic papers and IAMs turned toward finding the right balance between efficient adaptation and mitigation efforts (e.g., Ingham et al., 2005; Tol, 2007; Lecoq and Zmarak, 2007; Bosello, 2008; de Bruin et al., 2009; Bréchet et al., 2013; Zemel, 2015). The model we develop builds on these approaches in a novel way by determining carbon emissions from an optimal resource extraction model à la Hotelling and by simultaneously computing the nonlinear system’s state and co-state variables.<sup>11</sup>

First, the leading IAMs assume a deterministic relationship between output and the economy’s carbon intensity. Typically, a ‘back stop’ of green technology is operationalized as a falling rate of carbon intensity (Bonen et al., 2014). Our approach differs in that it links emissions to the rate of extraction of a non-renewable resource (e.g., fossils fuels), and shows how renewable energy can be phased in. This allows us to combine contempor-

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able to incorporate generalized adaptation.

<sup>10</sup>By adding an additional decision variable, agents are made to choose an adaptation strategy if it generates net positive value (Mendelsohn, 2000, p. 585). This extension overcomes earlier model deficiencies such as the “dumb farmer” problem (i.e., not even *ex post* adaptation occurs) and the use of *ad hoc* adaptation actions.

<sup>11</sup>The algorithmic approach employed is known as AMPL. Using AMPL enables us to avoid the common practice of determining economic growth independently of the climate system and then imposing the fixed economic trajectory into the climate dynamics part of the system. Conversely, William Nordhaus’s DICE model maintains tractability by limiting the dimensions of the dynamical system. AMPL also overcomes this restriction.

ary ‘social cost of carbon’ modelling approaches with the resource extraction models due to Hotelling (1931) and Pindyck (1978) as extended by Maurer and Semmler (2011). Since the vast majority of human-generated CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are the result of burning fossil fuels, incorporating the decision-making involved in recovering these finite resources is an important step forward (see Greiner et al., 2010; Maurer and Semmler, 2015). In addition to the renewable energy input, the non-renewable CO<sub>2</sub>-generating resource is a direct input producing the economy’s good. Private capital generates carbon emissions only to the extent the non-renewable resource is used in production, thereby embedding renewable energy technology into the production function.

To be sure recent modelling in advances have overcome many of the limitations found in first generation IAMs. Bosello (2008), for example, extends a Ramsey-Keynes growth optimization model<sup>12</sup> to show that mitigation, adaptation and “green” R&D act as strong complements. Subsequently, Bréchet et al. (2013) show that a country’s level of economic development and ability (financial, political, technical, etc.) to implement projects with long-run payoffs affects both the optimal mitigation/adaptation mix as well as the degree to which these policies are complementary or rivalrous. As our focus is on long-term funding decisions, we assume mitigation and adaptation compete for the same pool of *funds* even though the *impact* of particular projects may be complementary. Indeed, a core feature of our IAM is that it extends an

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<sup>12</sup>This is the framework used in the DICE/RICE model (see Nordhaus and Sztorc, 2013).

optimal fiscal policy framework in which the stock of public capital can be allocated to various economic endeavors (see Semmler et al., 2011). With an explicit policy emphasis on infrastructural expenditure, the model also tracks the accumulation of public debt and treats tax revenue as a dynamic control variable.

### 3 Integrated Assessment Model as Optimal Control Problem

The integrated assessment model (IAM) has 5 state variables

$$X = (K, g, b, R, M) \in \mathbf{R}^5, \quad (1)$$

where  $K$  is private capital,  $R$  is the stock of the non-renewable resource,  $M$  is the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>,  $b$  is the government's debt, and  $g$  is public capital. The dynamic system of the IAM is defined according to

$$\dot{K} = Y \cdot (\nu_1 g)^\beta - C - e_P - (\delta_K + n)K - u \psi R^{-\tau}, \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{R} = -u, \quad (3)$$

$$\dot{M} = \gamma u - \mu(M - \kappa \widetilde{M}) - \theta(\nu_3 \cdot g)^\phi, \quad (4)$$

$$\dot{b} = (\bar{r} - n)b - (1 - \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 - \alpha_3) \cdot e_P. \quad (5)$$

$$\dot{g} = \alpha_1 e_P + i_F - (\delta_g + n)g, \quad (6)$$

The control vector is given by

$$U = (C, e_P, u) \in \mathbf{R}^3, \quad (7)$$

where  $C$  denotes consumption,  $e_P$  is tax revenue, and  $u$  is the extraction rate of the resource  $R$ .

The first dynamic  $\dot{K}$  is the accumulation rate of private capital  $K$  that produces renewable energy and which drives output by the CES production function,<sup>13</sup>

$$Y(K, u) := A(A_K K + A_u u)^\alpha \quad (8)$$

where  $A$  is multifactor productivity,  $A_K$  and  $A_u$  are efficiency indices of private capital inputs  $K$  and (non-renewable) fossil fuel energy  $u$ , respectively. In (2), private-sector output  $Y$  is modified by the infrastructure share allocated to productivity enhancement  $\nu_1 g$ , for  $\nu_1 \in [0, 1]$ . This public-private interaction generates total output as  $Y(\nu_1 g)^\beta$  from which the economy consumes  $C$ , pays taxes  $e_P$ , and is subject to physical  $\delta_K$  and demographic  $n$  depreciation. The last term in (2) is the opportunity cost of extracting the non-renewable resource at the rate  $u$ .

Equation (3) indicates the stock of the non-renewable resource  $R$  depletes at the rate  $u$ . The non-renewable resource emits carbon dioxide and thus increases the atmospheric concentration of  $\text{CO}_2$  at the rate  $\gamma$  in equation

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<sup>13</sup>For such a simplification of a production function see Acemoglu et al. (2012) and Greiner et al. (2014).

(4). The stable level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is  $\kappa > 1$  of the pre-industrial level  $\widetilde{M}$ , which is naturally re-absorbed into the ecosystem (e.g., oceanic reservoirs) at the rate  $\mu$ . The last term in (4) is the reduction of  $\dot{M}$  due to the allocation of  $0 \leq \nu_3 \leq 1$  of infrastructure  $g$  to mitigation projects.

The last two dynamics are the accumulation of debt  $b$  and public capital  $g$ . In (5) public debt grows at the fixed interest rate  $\bar{r}$ , and is serviced with the share of tax revenue  $e_P$  not allocated respectively to capital accumulation  $\alpha_1$ , social transfers  $\alpha_2$  or administrative overhead  $\alpha_3 > 0$  – that is,  $\alpha_4 \equiv 1 - \alpha_1 - \alpha_2 - \alpha_3$ . Equation (6) says the stock of public capital, or total infrastructure, evolves according to the allocated tax revenue stream  $\alpha_1 e_P$  and funds paid in from abroad,  $i_F$ . For developed countries  $i_F = 0$ , but may be positive for many developing countries. As with private capital,  $g$  depreciates by  $\delta_g$ , and is adjusted for population growth  $n$ .

We assume throughout that the infrastructural allocations satisfy

$$\nu_k \geq 0 \quad (k = 1, 2, 3), \quad \nu_1 + \nu_2 + \nu_3 = 1. \quad (9)$$

In later analyses, we either choose fixed values of  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$  or we consider the allocations as additional optimization variables. All other parameters in the dynamics (2)–(6) may be found in Table 1.

Using the state variable  $X \in \mathbf{R}^5$  and control variable  $U \in \mathbf{R}^3$ , we write

the dynamics (2)–(6) in compact form as

$$\dot{X}(t) = f(X(t), U(t)), \quad X(0) = X_0. \quad (10)$$

The initial state vector  $X_0$  will be specified later. To this system we add the terminal constraint

$$K(T) = K_T \geq 0, \quad (11)$$

the control constraint

$$0 \leq u(t) \leq u_{max}, \quad (12)$$

and the pure state constraint

$$M(t) \leq M_{max} \quad \forall t \in [0, T]. \quad (13)$$

The terminal constraint restricts the final level of the capital stock to a predetermined non-negative value, the control constraint prescribes an upper bound for the extraction rate, and finally the state constraint places a cap on the total level of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere in each period.

Let us now define the objective functional, the social welfare functional. We maximize (viz. minimize the negative) the following functional over a

given planning horizon  $[0, T]$ , where  $T > 0$  denotes the terminal time:

$$W(T, X, U) = \int_0^T e^{-(\rho-n)t} \frac{\left( C (\alpha_2 e_P)^\eta (M - \widetilde{M})^{-\epsilon} (\nu_2 g)^\omega \right)^{1-\sigma} - 1}{1 - \sigma} dt. \quad (14)$$

The felicity (utility) function in (14) is isoelastic with four input components all in per capita terms: (i) consumption  $C$ ; (ii) the share  $0 \leq \alpha_2 \leq 1$  of tax revenue  $e_P$  used for direct welfare enhancement (e.g., healthcare); (iii) atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>  $M$  above the pre-industrial level  $\widetilde{M}$ ; and (iv) the share  $0 \leq \nu_2 \leq 1$  of infrastructure  $g$  allocated to climate change adaptation. Restricting the exponents  $\eta, \epsilon, \omega > 0$  ensures social expenditures and adaptation are utility enhancing, and that carbon emissions directly reduce utility. This approach differs from other models that map emissions to temperature changes and then to reduced productivity-*cum*-output. We believe the direct disutility approach better captures the wide ranging impacts of climate change that may include health impacts, ecological loss and heightened uncertainty, in addition to reduced productivity. Finally, note that the discount factor adjusts for the population growth rate  $n$  from the pure discount rate  $\rho$  as all values are normalized by the population.

To summarize, the IAM gives rise to an optimal control problem  $OC(p)$ , where the social welfare (14) is maximized subject to the dynamic constraints (10) and the terminal, control and state constraints (11)–(13). In this problem  $OC(p)$ , the notation  $p$  denotes a suitable parameter in Table 1 for which

we shall conduct a sensitivity analysis in the next section.

A detailed discussion of the necessary optimality conditions of the Maximum Principle for optimal control problems with state constraints (*cf.* Hartl et al. (1995)) is beyond the scope of this paper and will be given elsewhere.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Discretization and Nonlinear Programming Methods

We choose the numerical approach “First Discretize then Optimize” to solve the optimal control problem  $OC(p)$  defined in (10)–(14). The discretization of the control problem on a fine grid leads to a large-scale nonlinear programming problem (NLP) that can be conveniently formulated with the help of the Applied Modeling Programming Language AMPL (Fourer et al., 1993). AMPL can be linked to several powerful optimization solvers. We use the Interior-Point optimization solver IPOPT developed by Wächter and Biegler (2006). Details of discretization methods may be found in Betts (2010), Büskens and Maurer (2000), and Göllman and Maurer (2014). The subsequent computations for the terminal time  $T = 25$  are performed with  $N = 1000$  to  $N = 5000$  grid points using the trapezoidal rule as integration method. Choosing the error tolerance  $tol = 10^{-8}$  in IPOPT, we can expect that the state variables are correct up to 6 or 7 decimal digits. The Lagrange

Table 1: Parameter values

Variable	Value	Definition
$\rho$	0.03	Pure discount rate
$n$	0.015	Population Growth Rate
$\eta$	0.1	Elasticity of transfers and public spending in utility
$\epsilon$	1.1	Elasticity of CO <sub>2</sub> -eq concentration in (dis)utility
$\omega$	0.05	Elasticity of public capital used for adaptation in utility
$\sigma$	1.1	Intertemporal elasticity of instantaneous utility
$A$	$\in [1, 10]$	Total factor productivity
$A_K$	1	Efficiency index of private capital
$A_u$	$\in [50, 500]$	Efficiency index of the non-renewable resource
$\alpha$	0.5	Output elasticity of privately-owned inputs, $A_k k + A_u u$
$\beta$	0.5	Output elasticity of public infrastructure, $\nu_1 g$
$\psi$	1	Scaling factor in marginal cost of resource extraction
$\tau$	2	Exponential factor in marginal cost of resource extraction
$\delta_K$	0.075	Depreciation rate of private capital
$\delta_g$	0.05	Depreciation rate of public capital
$i_F$	0.05	Official development assistance earmarked for public infrastructure
$\alpha_1$	0.1	Proportion of tax revenue allocated to new public capital
$\alpha_2$	0.7	Proportion of tax revenue allocated to transfers and public consumption
$\alpha_3$	0.1	Proportion of tax revenue allocated to administrative costs
$\bar{r}$	0.07	World interest rate (paid on public debt)
$\widetilde{M}$	1	Pre-industrial atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases
$\gamma$	0.9	Fraction of greenhouse gas emissions not absorbed by the ocean
$\mu$	0.01	Decay rate of greenhouse gases in atmosphere
$\kappa$	2	Atmospheric concentration stabilization ratio (relative to $\widetilde{M}$ )
$\theta$	0.01	Effectiveness of mitigation measures
$\phi$	$\in [0.2, 1]$	exponent in mitigation term $(\nu_3 g)^\phi$

multipliers and adjoint variables can be computed *a posteriori* in IPOPT thus enabling us to verify the necessary optimality conditions.

## 4.2 Parameter values and initial conditions

The parameter values in the dynamics (2)–(5) are reported in Table 1. We set the initial conditions to

$$K(0) = 1.5, \quad g(0) = 0.5, \quad b(0) = 0.8, \quad R(0) = 1.5, \quad M(0) = 1.5,$$

and choose the terminal time terminal constraint as

$$T = 25, \quad K(T) = K_T = 3.$$

Furthermore, we restrict the extraction rate to

$$0 \leq u(t) \leq 0.1, \quad \forall t \in [0, T].$$

We have considered the following two strategies for the allocations:

**Strategy 1** : Choose fixed values  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$  satisfying (9).

**Strategy 2** : Consider  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$  as optimization variables satisfying (9).

It would be also possible to treat  $\nu_k = \nu_k(t), k = 1, 2, 3$ , as time-varying control variables. However, our computations show that this strategy improves

only slightly on Strategy 2 and is computationally much more expensive. For that reason, we do not report those results here.

Strategy 1 selects the fixed values for the allocation of infrastructural investments, such that the majority of infrastructure enhances productivity and the remainder is evenly split between mitigation and adaptation. Specifically, we consider  $\nu_1 = 0.6, \nu_2 = 0.2, \nu_3 = 0.2$ . In the second and third strategies we endogenize these allocative shares as choice variables maximizing (14).

### 4.3 Fixed versus Optimal Values of $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$

Comparing state variable trajectories under Strategies 1 and 2 demonstrates the latter considerably improves on the former. In the first comparison we assume the economic efficiency of the non-renewable resource is low ( $A_u = 50$ )<sup>14</sup> and that CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation efforts exhibit constant marginal returns,  $\phi = 1$ . The trajectories for the three control variables ( $C, e_P, u$ ) and five state variables ( $K, R, M, g, b$ ) are plotted in Figure 1. Under this parameterization, Strategy 2's optimal allocation is  $\nu_1 = 0.95, \nu_2 = 0.05, \nu_3 = 0$ . That is, no infrastructure expenditures are put toward mitigation and a mere 5% is allocated to adaptation.<sup>15</sup> The top four panels of Fig. 1 show this endogenous allocation, as compared to Strategy 1, results in higher per capita consump-

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<sup>14</sup>By construction the efficiency index  $A_u$  should be larger than  $A_K$  as the former calibrates a flow input and the former a stock value.

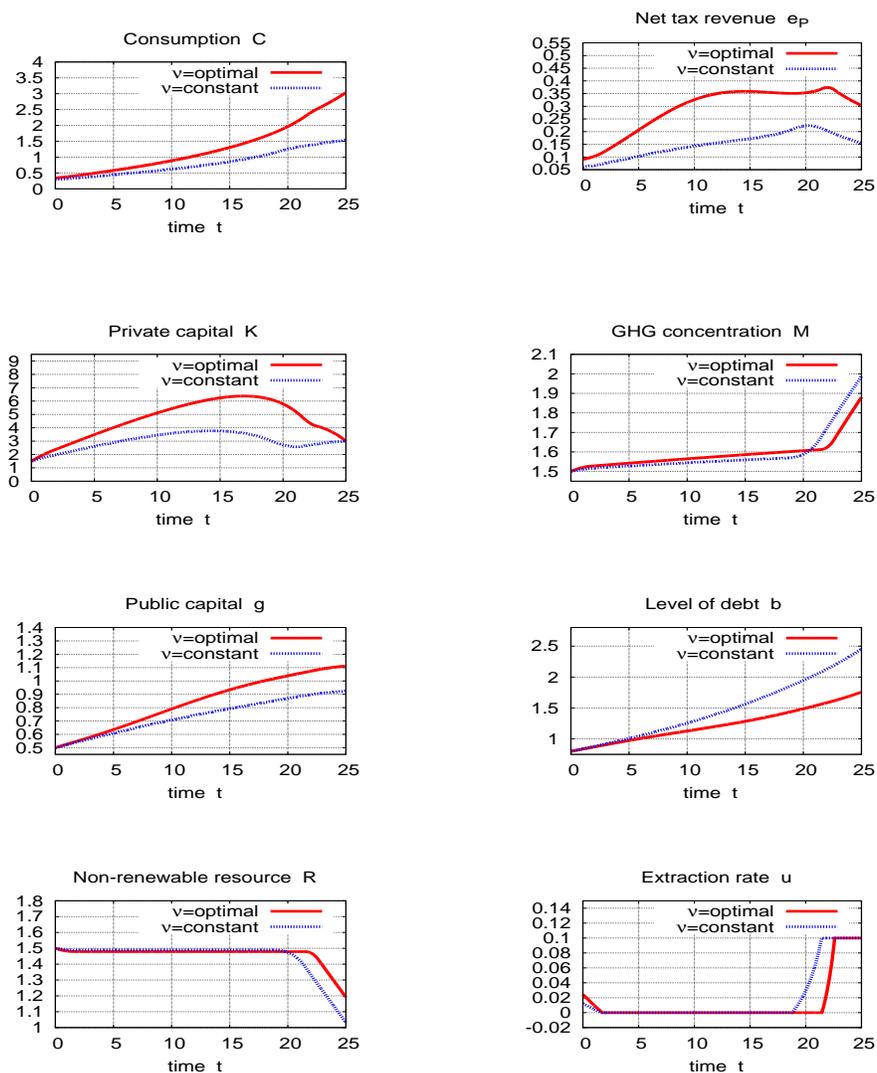
<sup>15</sup>It is important to note that funding for renewable energy production is already captured through the variable  $K$ .

tion, private capital accumulation and tax revenue in all periods, yet the final atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is also lower. Although  $M$  is slightly lower under Strategy 1 through the first twenty periods, this abruptly reverses in the final periods when  $M$  grows exponentially. This seemingly odd result is explained by the trajectories in bottom four panels.

Under both strategies the extraction rate of the non-renewable (and, here, inefficient) resource is quickly pushed to zero so as to minimize the negative utility impact of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. However, Strategy 1 over-allocates public infrastructure to mitigation efforts which generates suboptimal (climate-neutral) private capital accumulation. The low level of  $K$  in turn leads to less output and reduced tax revenue. Moreover, as the debt burden grows it begins to further dampen investment in  $K$ , which peaks in the fifteenth period. The falling per capita capital stock exhibits little impact until the terminal condition  $K(t) = K_T$  begins to bite. From the twenty-first period onwards, preceding capital investment shortfalls are made up by shifting production to the inefficient non-renewable resource. The extraction rate  $u$  begins to ramp up from zero, reducing the stock  $R$  and generating CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Under Strategy 2 the peak in private capital comes at a delay and the terminal condition is not problematic since  $K(t) > K_T$  for  $3 < t < T$ . Under this optimal allocation approach, overinvestment in mitigation infrastructure is avoided and the savings are put toward productivity enhancements. This generates a larger capital stock “buffer” allowing the economy to hold off the extraction of  $R$ . As in Strategy 1, maximum  $K$  is reached as the debt

Figure 1: Strategy 1 vs. 2, state and control variable trajectories



Strategy 1 (dashed blue) sets  $\nu_1 = 0.6, \nu_2 = \nu_3 = 0.2$  and generates a final welfare value of  $W(T) = -2.1006$ . Strategy 2 (solid red) optimally selects  $\nu_1 = 0.9534, \nu_2 = 0.04662, \nu_3 = 0$  and results in  $W(T) = 5.1086$ .

burden approaches 1.5, and tax revenue is redirected toward debt servicing. However, greater productivity and the lower stock of debt forestall this effect in Strategy 2. When extraction does begin in the twenty-second period, it merely reduces the *rate* at which  $K$ , the capital used for the production of green energy, falls toward  $K_T$ , rather than makes up for the previous investment shortfalls seen in Strategy 1. Again, the higher stock of private (green) capital has diminished the economy’s reliance on the carbon-emitting non-renewable resource.

#### 4.4 Homotopic Analysis of $A_u$

Many of the model parameters remain uncertain and/or unobservable. This limitation, common to all models, is particularly acute for IAMs due to the multifaceted feedback effects between economic decision-making and climatological impacts. To address the issue we apply homotopic parameter variation to  $\mathbf{OCP}(p)$  for several key parameters. In each case we use the optimal selection of infrastructure allocations  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$  as they continue to outperform arbitrarily fixed values.

First, we consider scenarios in which the non-renewable resource – fossil fuel energy – generates output more efficiently than the generation of renewable energy by allowing  $A_u$  to range from a high of 500 down to 50 (as used in §4.3). Figure 2 plots the terminal values of welfare  $W(T)$ , CO<sub>2</sub> concentration  $M(T)$ , unextracted nonrenewable resource  $R(T)$ , and terminal debt  $b(T)$ . Unsurprisingly, welfare rises monotonically as the efficiency of this

input is increased. Looked at the other way, welfare falls when fossil fuel energy becomes more costly to find and extract. The higher cost (viz. lower productive efficiency) of  $u$  decreases incentives to extract it, meaning the remaining stock of non-renewable resource rises from 0.2 for  $A_u = 500$  to 1.2 at  $A_u = 50$ . At very low costs, the extraction rate is very inelastic, as shown by the slow increase in  $R(T)$  between  $A_u = 500$  and  $A_u = 100$ . After this point, the shift away from extraction rises rapidly as  $A_u$  halves from 100 to 50. This pattern of extraction maps inversely to  $\text{CO}_2$  concentrations, which fall slowly as  $A_u \rightarrow 100^+$ , only to fall rapidly when extraction becomes sufficiently costly (which is calibrated here at  $A_u = 100$ ).

The lower-right panel in Fig. 2 suggests why  $R(T)$  rises in such a distinctly nonlinear fashion as  $A_u$  falls. At a low efficiency (high cost) of  $u$ , greater investment into  $K$  is supported through borrowed funds. For larger  $A_u$ , dependence on private capital  $K$  and productivity-enhancing infrastructure  $\nu_1$  is lower because the cheaper non-renewable energy substitutes for carbon-neutral  $K$ . Figure 3 confirms this interpretation: the optimal allocation proportion  $\nu_1$  is 92% at  $A_u = 500$  versus 95% for  $A_u = 50$ . In the former case, when extraction of the non-renewable resource is expensive, less infrastructure needs to be allocated toward adaptive projects:  $\nu_2$  falls from 8% to less than 5%. That said, the overall welfare outcome, is greater when  $A_u$  is large, in spite of the rise in  $M$ . Also implied by Fig. 3,  $\nu_3 = 0$  for all values of  $A_u$ . Overall, the above case of  $\nu_3 = 0$  is not likely to give realistic solutions since  $\nu_3$  enters the control problem linearly, which gives rise to the

so-called ‘bang-bang’ problem.

Figure 2: Terminal states for homotopy  $50 \leq A_u \leq 500$

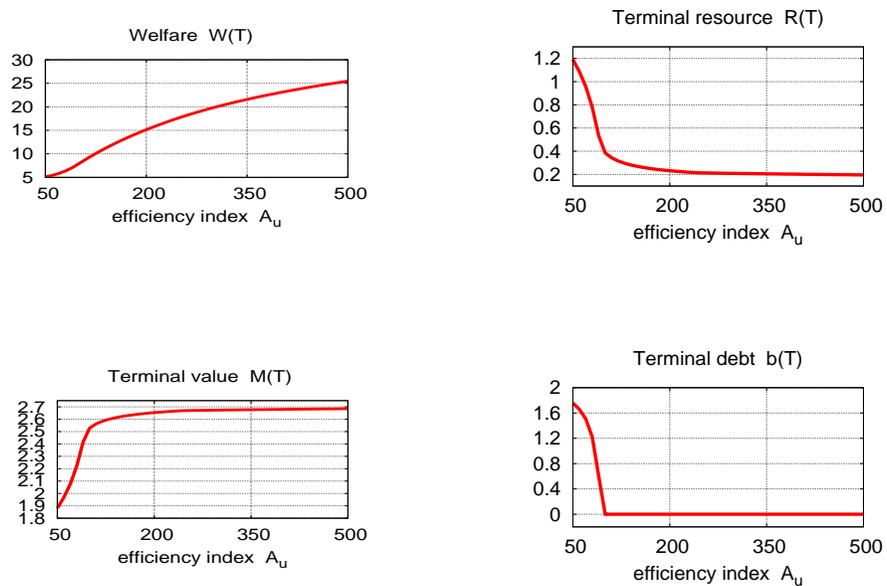
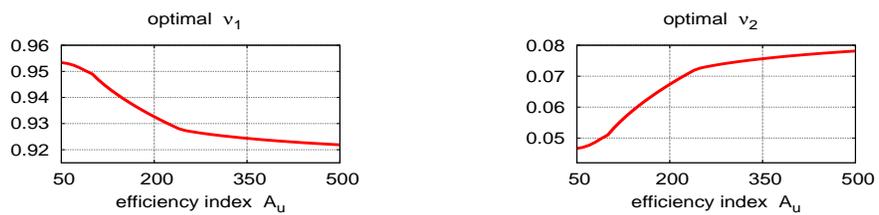


Figure 3: Infrastructure allocations for homotopy  $50 \leq A_u \leq 500$



## 4.5 Homotopic Analysis of $\phi$

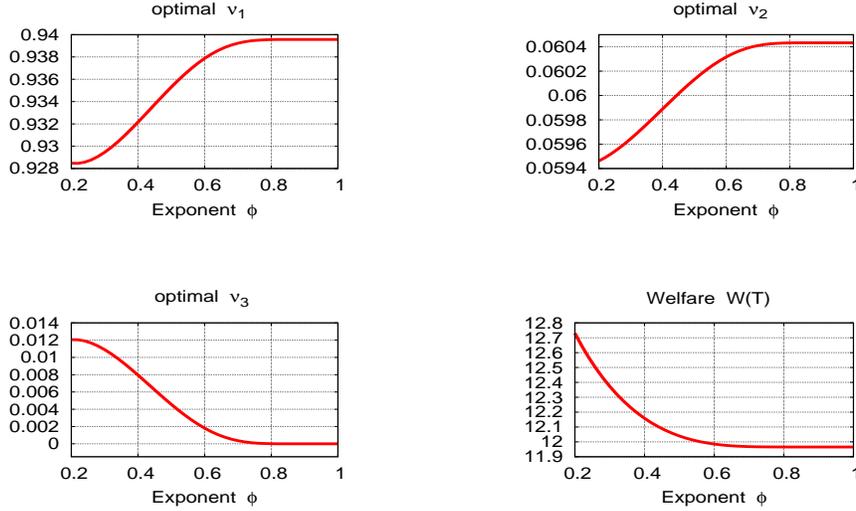
Since the result of no infrastructural investments put toward mitigation efforts is due to the linear relationship assumed by setting  $\phi = 1$ . Recall,

$$\dot{M} = \gamma u - \mu(M - \kappa\widetilde{M}) - \theta(\nu_3 \cdot g)^\phi \quad (4)$$

We now loosen this assumption of linearity to consider the mitigation exponent over the range  $0.2 \leq \phi \leq 1$ , which should be interpreted as the rate of diminishing returns to climate change mitigation efforts. Whereas  $\nu_3 = 0$  for  $\phi = 1$  (which is likely to be caused by the aforementioned ‘bang-bang’ problem), we obtain  $\nu_3 > 0$  for  $\phi \leq \phi_0 \approx 0.88$ .

Figure 4 compares the optimal allocation of infrastructure expenditures toward productivity-enhancement  $\nu_1$ , adaptation  $\nu_2$ , and mitigation  $\nu_3$ , as well as comparing the final social welfare  $W(T)$  at each value of  $\phi$ . The results show that, as the rate of return to mitigation efforts diminishes, the impetus to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions rises with  $\nu_3$  reaching 1.2% for  $\phi = 0.2$ . The rising mitigation share comes primarily at the (small) expense of traditional infrastructure, the allocation of  $g$  to which falls from 94% to just above 92.8%. The remaining difference ( $\approx 0.1\%$ ) comes from reduced adaptation efforts. Note that as mitigation efforts are increased above nil, total social welfare increases by approximately 6%. Figure 5 confirms that as  $\phi$  falls, the heightened mitigation effort helps reduce the final concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Moreover, and corresponding to the latter result, the

Figure 4: Allocations and Terminal Welfare for homotopy  $\phi \in [0.2, 1]$



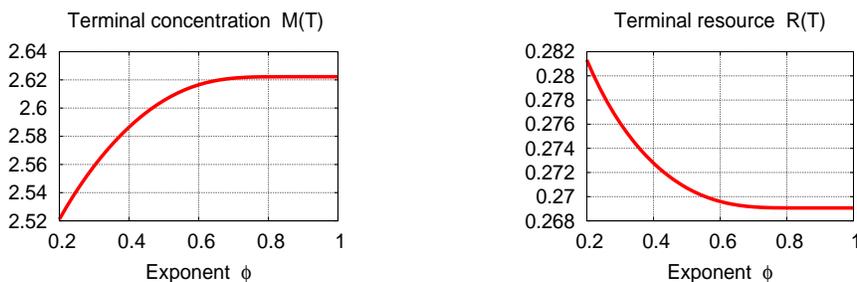
The non-renewable resource's efficiency index is set at  $A_u = 150$ .

total amount of non-renewable resources extracted is lower ( $R(T)$  higher) as  $\phi$  falls.

#### 4.6 Homotopic Analysis of $A_u$ for $\phi = 0.2$

The unambiguous improvement to welfare and  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration reduction for  $\phi = 0.2$  found above assumed  $A_u = 150$ . To test whether the results from §4.5 were contingent on that efficiency index, we again perform a homotopy on  $A_u$  this time specifying a concave mitigation term in (4) at  $\phi = 0.2$ . As before we find that terminal welfare  $W(T)$  increases when the efficiency of  $u$  falls (viz. the cost of extraction rises), infrastructural allocations to productivity  $\nu_1$  rise as adaptive efforts  $\nu_2$  fall (see Fig. 6). However, with  $\phi = 0.2$  mitigation efforts  $\nu_3$  are no longer nil, although they remain between

Figure 5: Terminal Resources and CO<sub>2</sub> for homotopy  $\phi \in [0.2, 1]$



The non-renewable resource's efficiency index is set at  $A_u = 150$ .

1.0% and 1.7% of  $g$ . Interestingly, allocations mitigation are not monotonic over  $A_u$ . Over the 'high cost' range found in §4.4,  $A_u \in [50, 100]$ ,  $\nu_3$  in Figure 6 becomes increasingly desirable as extraction costs rise ( $A_u$  falls). For lower costs,  $A_u > 100$ ,  $\nu_3$  falls as extraction costs increase ( $A_u$  falls) implying mitigation efforts must be ramped up when fossil fuel energy is cheap in order to counter the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

This interpretation of  $\nu_3$  is supported by the terminal states plotted in Figure 7. The terminal atmospheric carbon concentrations rise rapidly over  $A_u$  (i.e., as extraction costs fall) and then stabilize above  $A_u = 100$  – aided in part by the increase in  $\nu_3$ . Again, as the productive efficiency of  $u$  is increased, the extraction rate rises ( $R(T)$  falls) nonlinearly and public debt becomes less relied upon as production shifts away from private capital toward non-renewable resources. Total infrastructure  $g$  also rises rapidly over the initial low range of  $A_u$  and then stabilizes for at values above 100.

Figure 6: Allocations and Welfare for homotopy  $A_u \in [50, 500]$ ,  $\phi = 0.2$

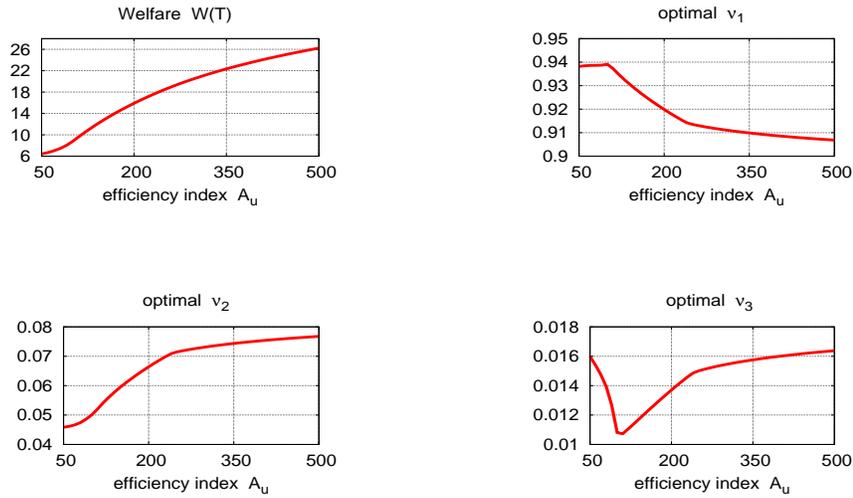


Figure 7: Terminal states for homotopy  $50 \leq A_u \leq 500$  for  $\phi = 0.2$

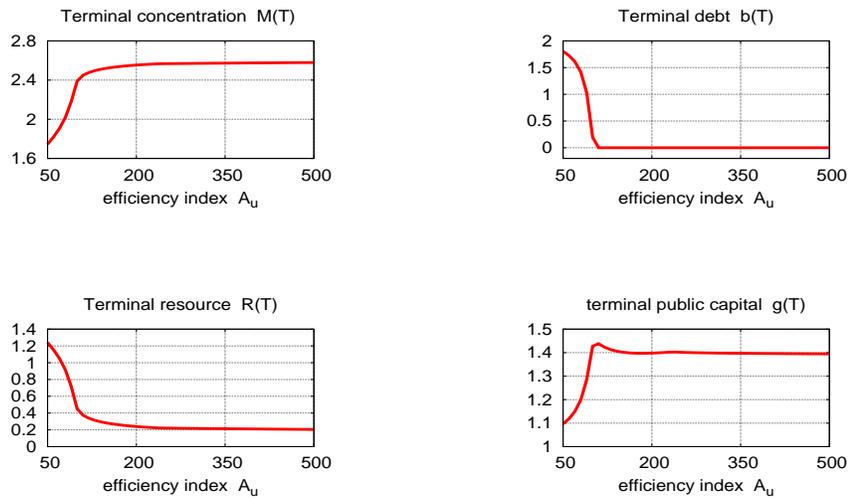
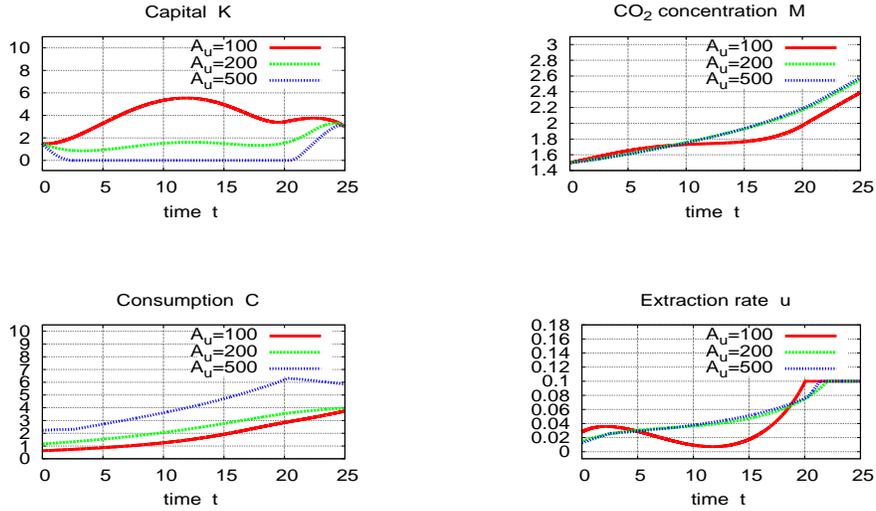


Figure 8 shows the full trajectories of private capital  $K$ , consumption  $C$ , carbon concentrations  $M$ , the extraction rate  $u$  for three representative values of  $A_u = 100, 200, 500$ . In the extreme case of  $A_u = 500$  private capital is driven to zero for the majority of periods between the initial and terminal points of  $K_0$  and  $K_T$ , meaning production is driven entirely by the non-renewable resource. This result does not seem economically reasonable. The motivation to discard this parameterization is even stronger since the trajectories of  $M$  and  $u$  for  $A_u = 500$  and  $A_u = 200$  are nearly indistinguishable.

For an efficiency index of 150,  $K$  falls slightly from its initial value and fluctuates slightly before converging to  $K_T$ . Conversely, for  $A_u = 100$ , capital stock rises rapidly, peaks and then falls unevenly to  $K_T$  as was the case in §4.3 for  $A_u = 50$ ,  $\phi = 1$ . As in §4.4, the extraction rate for  $A_u = 100, 200$  reaches the maximal level near the end of the projection, with the less efficient scenario reaching the peak earlier. However, with  $\phi = 0.2$  the lower efficiency index scenario now leads to a lower total and terminal  $\text{CO}_2$  level as mitigation efforts are no longer held at zero.

Further trajectories for  $\phi = 0.2$  are presented in Figure 9. The total stock of infrastructure  $g$  is little changed under three  $A_u$  scenarios. As suggested by the trajectory of  $u$  in Fig. 8, the remaining stock of the non-renewable resource  $R$  is greatest for  $A_u = 100$ , but only by a small margin over the  $A_u = 200$  scenario. Conversely, the tax revenue trajectory  $e_P$  fluctuates far more under  $A_u = 100$  than the other scenarios. In the former case,

Figure 8: Selected trajectories for  $\phi = 0.2$  with  $A_u = 100, 200$  and  $500$

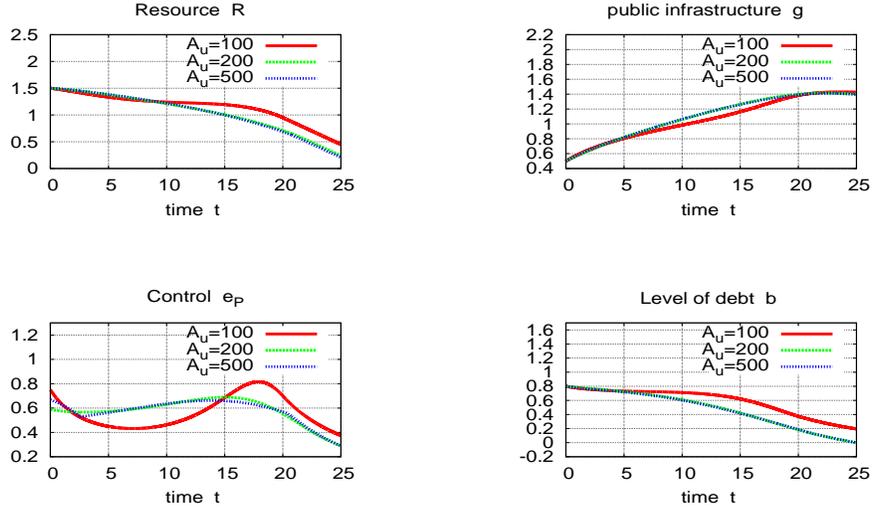


$e_P$  leads the fluctuations in  $u$ , falling before  $u$  rises and vice versa. This tendency supports the argument made above that greater reliance on the non-renewable resource reduces the need for fiscal deficits.

#### 4.7 Homotopic Analysis of $\rho$ for $\phi = 0.2$

Finally, we consider the homotopy of  $\rho$ , the pure discount rate. There has been much debate over the correct intertemporal discount rate that should be used in climate change economics (e.g., Stern, 2007). While we do not weigh in on that debate here, it is informative to investigate the IAM results under various discount rate assumptions. Figure 10 shows that terminal welfare  $W(T)$  falls smoothly as the discount on future outcomes rises. Although the falling allocation of infrastructure to mitigation  $\nu_3$  as  $\rho$  rises is expected,

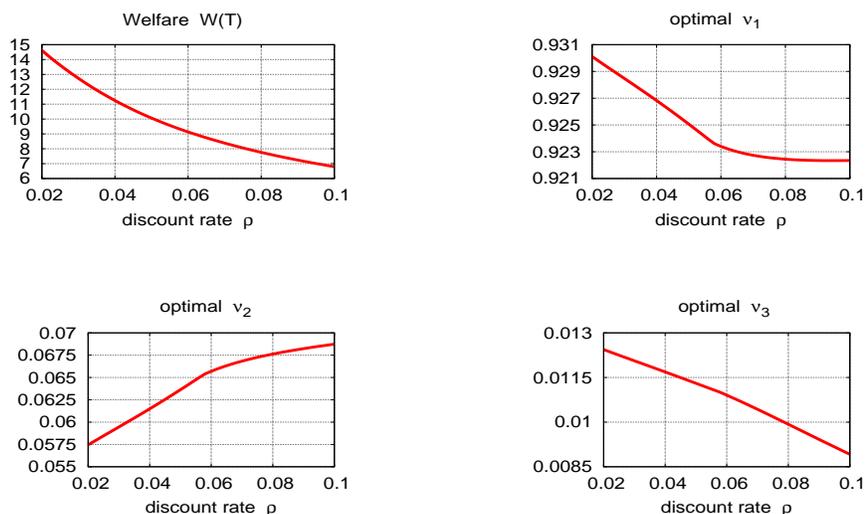
Figure 9: Further trajectories for  $\phi = 0.2$  with  $A_u = 100, 200$  and  $500$



it is interesting to note that the shares of  $\nu_1$  and  $\nu_2$  move in opposite directions. In other words, the savings from  $\nu_3$  are not shared between productive infrastructure and adaptation. Instead, for higher discount rates, mitigation efforts are increased while  $\nu_1$  falls by a greater amount than  $\nu_3$ .

The reason for this behaviour is in Figure 11. As the economy discounts future outcomes at a higher rate, the present cost of non-renewable resource extraction falls and thus the rate of extraction rises. The bottom panel in Fig. 11 indicates that indeed the remaining stock of non-renewable resource is driven down as  $\rho$  is increased. And, as in all other cases, when  $u$  rises the final stock of  $\text{CO}_2$  concentration  $M(T)$  rises. It is also notable that a higher discount rate is associated with a lower level of public infrastructure available to be used for any purpose. These results indicate that, indeed,

Figure 10: Allocations and Welfare for homotopy  $\rho \in [0.02, 0.1]$ ,  $\phi = 0.2$

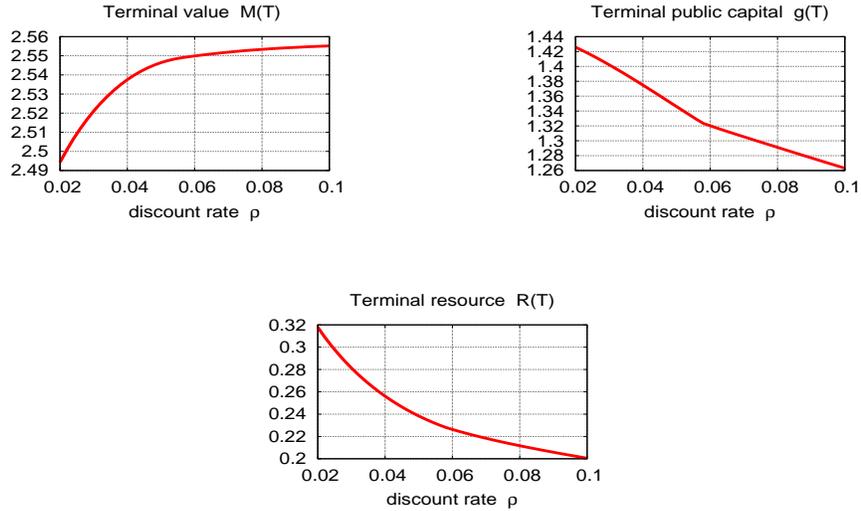


the discount rate we choose to inform climate change policy can have a great effect on the trajectory ultimately followed.

## 5 Conclusion

Following a review of recent policy developments and modelling approaches to climate change economics, the paper developed an extended integrated assessment model explicitly accounting for the extraction of non-renewable resources and the phasing in of renewable energy. Another extension of the IAM framework is to include public sector policies concerning optimal decisions of both revenue and tax expenditures. Although the focus was on climate policy financing through taxation, future research could elaborate on

Figure 11: Terminal states for homotopy  $\rho \in [0.02, 0.1]$  for  $\phi = 0.2$



the financing mechanisms through climate bonds.<sup>16</sup>

The IAM was solved using the AMPL algorithm which enabled us to maintain all of the system’s nonlinearities and dynamic interactions. A particularly useful feature of this methodology is the ability to optimally determine the allocative variables  $\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3$  in order to indicate the best policy mix for addressing the challenges of climate change. In section §4.3 we showed endogenously selected allocations consistently outperformed *ex ante* parameterizations. We then considered parameter homotopies under a strategy of optimally selecting the allocation shares to traditional, adaptive and climate change mitigating expenditures.

Given that green energy is already phased in through the accumulation

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<sup>16</sup>In this context, a recent discussion of proposals for central banks to accept climate bonds as collateralizable securities is available in Flaherty et al. (2016).

of private capital, the model consistently found that over 90% of infrastructural investment should be geared toward productivity-enhancing investments. The phasing in of green energy is also supported by the fact that private capital enhancements  $\nu_1 g$  are, by design, enhancements for carbon-neutral production. In other words, the model assumes that no public funds are used to directly support the extraction of CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting resources.

Sections §4.4-4.6 consider the homotopy of  $A_u$  and  $\phi$ , respectively the production efficiency index for the non-renewable resource and the exponent on mitigation efforts. The results demonstrated that greater efficiency of CO<sub>2</sub>-generating resources incentivizes their use, thereby increasing carbon emissions. Increasing the input level of  $u$  also led to a reduced reliance on debt to finance  $\nu_1$ . This result accords with the stylized fact that resource-dependent economies typically have large fiscal surpluses when primary products are in high demand. On the other hand as the efficiency of CO<sub>2</sub> generating energy declines, the results are reversed: more of this resource is left in the ground and cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are lower. The exponent  $\phi$  proved to be crucial. As the concavity of mitigation efforts rose (lower  $\phi$ ), the level of mitigation efforts increased monotonically. One interpretation of this finding is that if mitigation is seen to be relatively inexpensive (i.e., fixed linear impacts on  $\dot{M}$ ), then agents may continuously hold off on investing in mitigation.<sup>17</sup> We also considered the homotopy of  $\rho$ , the pure discount rate. As

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<sup>17</sup>Another issue is that when the control enters linearly, then the corresponding control variable (in this case mitigation effort) is driven to zero. This could be the result of a ‘bang-bang’ solution.

expected total social welfare was lower and CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations higher when, *ceteris paribus*, the discounting of future outcomes rose.

Overall, the IAM developed here is an advancement both in terms of the solution algorithm employed and in its use of novel dynamics. As mentioned, the modelling of non-renewable resource extraction and detailed public sector policies on climate change are new features in the IAM literature. In addition we have treated the damage function of climate change as impacting social welfare directly, as opposed to indirectly through reductions in the rate at which output is produced. While neither approach is perfect, we have employed the direct-utility impact version because we believe it is better able to capture the many physical, ecological and societal losses that may be induced by unabated climate change.

Finally, a necessary extension of the climate change policies studied here is consideration of the optimal financing sources, including policies for burden sharing. For example, standard IAMs place the cost and implementation burden of financing climate policies on the current generation. Indeed, the extended IAM developed here posits public sector financing of climate action through current tax revenues and expenditures. As an additional extension to the framework, we can consider the extent to which climate policies can be funded by both a carbon tax and the issuing of climate bonds – the latter being repaid by future generations. For more specific work on this type of burden sharing between current and future generations, see Sachs (2014), Flaherty et al. (2016) and Gevorkyan et al. (2016).

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