A Model of Innovation Under Uncertainty, Technological Transfer, Population, and Economic Growth¹

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ABSTRACT

This paper improves upon Krugman's model (1979) by assuming horizontal innovation obeys a simple discrete-time Galton-Waston branching process. Vertical innovation is also treated simultaneously. We conclude that (1) There should be sufficient horizontal innovative intensity in order to avoid the necessary dooming result of complete variety expansion halt; but vertical innovation can boost the growth of the expected real GDP per capita more effectively than horizontal innovation;(2) Everyone's aggregate consumption amount of both new and old products and the trade volume are approximately fixed in both innovating and imitating countries, but innovation has different impact in different countries;(3) The long-run economic growth is determined in a larger degree by the difference of population growth rates between the innovating developed country and the imitating less developed country than by the innovation rate.

I. Introduction

In Krugman's model (1979), there exist two countries, innovating north and imitating south. Technological progress is only reflected as the horizontal innovation, that is, the expansion of the products' variety, and it is assumed to be a deterministic process. The technology is continuously imitated by the south and the production of the old products eventually transfers there, which results in the north-south trade: the

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north exports the new products while importing the old products from the south. Since only the north can produce the new products, it can abstract the quasi-rent of monopoly, therefore, the income distribution is in favor of the north. But in order to maintain the income premium, the north has to sustain a sufficient innovation rate.

Krugman's model gives us a very insightful and very clear picture of the global economic growth and later stimulates a vast amount of related literatures. But for the sake of analytical convenience, Krugman adopted several assumptions that are so restrictive that we might reasonably suspect the conclusions may be different when taking more realistic assumptions into account.

In our model, we assume the horizontal innovation is a stochastic process and vertical innovation (i.e. the upgrade of the products' quality) is also introduced into the framework of analysis. Besides, new products and old products enter the utility function asymmetrically. We have achieved several new conclusions, some of which are inconsistent with Krugman's model.

II. The Model

We also assume there exist two countries, the north and the south. The north innovates new products both horizontally and vertically, that is to say, not only is the brand variety of the products expanded, but also the quality of the new products is improved. The south cannot innovate but imitate from the north. At time t, the north innovates $Q_{N,t}$ kinds of new products, and we assume $\{Q_{N,t}\}$ is a simple discrete-time branching process, and the state space of the stochastic process is the whole set of nonnegative integers. It means that the number of innovated products at time t might be zero, in which case no new products will be innovated in the future. We call this phenomenon a complete innovation halt, and the technology progress stops forever. We might interpret the innovation at time t as a spontaneous byproduct in the process of producing the time t-1 newly-innovated products at time t-1; however, once no new products have been produced for one period, then the innovation stops automatically. In this sense, we might see the technological progress as an endogenous process similar to Arrow's "learning by doing" model to some

degree in nature, but now it's a stochastic process.

The south cannot innovate but imitate from the north, and the time lag is assumed to be always one period, and it is full imitation. So in the south the number of imitated products at time t is $Q_{S,t} = Q_{N,t-1}$. To capture the idea of Schumpeter's "creative destruction", we further assume every kind of products can only exist for two periods, so at time t, the total number of the variety of products that the south can produce is just $Q_{S,t}$. Therefore, at any time t, there are $Q_{S,t} + Q_{N,t}$ kinds of products that can be consumed.

Both the north and the south citizens have the same modified Dixit-Stiglitz CES utility function as follows:

$$\overset{Q_{N,t}}{\dot{a}} b[c^{a}_{N,t}(i) - 1] + \overset{Q_{S,t}}{\dot{a}} b^{-1}[c^{a}_{S,t}(i) - 1]$$

$$u(c_{N,t}, c_{S,t}) = \frac{i=1}{a} , \quad 0 \text{ £} a < 1 , \quad b > 1 \quad (1)$$

Where $c_{N,t}$ is the consumption vector of north products (i.e. the time t newly-innovated products), while $c_{S,t}$ is the consumption vector of south products.

 $\mathbf{b}^{\frac{1}{2}}$ is the measure of quality improvement, which implies the marginal utility of one unit of time t product is greater than that of one unit of time t-1 product, ceteris paribus. However, the consumption substitution elasticity among the same time products and among the different time products are the same $\mathbf{s} = \frac{1}{1-2}$..

For simplicity, we assume labor is the only input of production, and one unit of labor can only produce one unit of product. Supposing the commodity market is in perfect competition, and labor is perfectly mobile across different industries in the domestic labor market while migration is forbidden, therefore the equilibrium price of every kind of time t product is the same, which equals the unit cost of production, wage w_t . The wage is the only income of every consumer, so in the north the consumer problem is to maximize the utility function (1) subject to the following budget constraint:

$$\begin{array}{ll}
Q_{N,t} & Q_{S,t} \\
\dot{\mathbf{a}}[p_t c_{N,t}(i)] + \dot{\mathbf{a}}[p_{t-1} c_{S,t}(j)] \, \mathbf{\pounds} w_t \\
i = 1 & i = 1
\end{array} \tag{2}$$

Where p_t and p_{t-1} are the prices of the time t products and the time t -1 products.

Then we have
$$\frac{c_{N,t}(i)}{c_{S,t}(j)} = \left[\frac{w_t}{\mathbf{b}w_{t-1}}\right]^{-s}$$
 (3)

Now let us see the labor market, by assuming full employment to simplify this general equilibrium model, we can conclude immediately

$$\frac{L_N}{L_S} = \frac{Q_{N,t} c_{N,t}(i)}{Q_{S,t} c_{S,t}(j)} \tag{4}$$

From (3) and (4), we get the following recursive equation:

product obeys a deterministic time path.

$$Q_{N,t} w^{-s}_{t} = \mathbf{b}^{-s} \frac{L_{N}}{L_{s}} Q_{S,t} w^{-s}_{t-1}$$
(5)

Supposing the initial number of the north products' variety is $Q_{N,0} = \underline{Q}_N$, and we normalize the time 0 wage to 1. From equation (5), we conclude:

$$Q_{N,t} w^{-s}_{t} = A^{t} Q_{N} \tag{6}$$

Where $A \circ b^s \frac{L_N}{L_S}$. Note both $Q_{N,t}$ and w^{-s}_{t} are random variables, but their

After taking expectation on both sides of the equation (6), we have

$$E(Q_{N,t}w^{-s}_{t}) = E(Q_{N,t})E(w^{-s}_{t}) + cov(Q_{N,t},w^{-s}_{t}) = A^{t}Q_{N},$$
(7)

If in the branching process, for every kind of time t product, the expected number of the time t+1 product's variety is \mathbf{I}_N , which measures the horizontal innovation intensity, then according to Wald Equation, we have $E(Q_{N,t}) = \underline{Q}_N \mathbf{I}^t_N$.

Combined with the assumption that $cov(Q_{N,t}, w^{-s}_{t}) = 0^{2}$, we will have the

² One possible reason for this assumption is that the wage rate is determined one period ahead by the contract, so it is independent from the realized number of time t innovated products, but rational expectation assumption is implicitly used here, that is, at time t-1, the contract wage rate W_t is such that equation (6) exactly holds when $Q_{N,t}$ is realized at time t.

following important result:

$$E(w^{-s}_{t}) = (\frac{A}{I_{N}})^{t} \tag{8}$$

Specifically, when the substitution elasticity of consumption equals unity, we can directly derive from(6) that $E(w_t) = (\frac{A}{I_N})^{-t}$. In our model the wage rate can also be interpreted as the real GDP per capita, so the above formula tells us the basic trend of the future economic growth. There are three cases according to whether $\frac{A}{I_N}$ is larger than unity, so we get the following lemma:

Lemma. When $\frac{A}{\mathbf{I}_N} > 1$, the expected real GDP per capita will decrease at an exponential speed; when $\frac{A}{\mathbf{I}_N} = 1$, the expected real GDP per capita will remain the same; when $\frac{A}{\mathbf{I}_N} < 1$, then the expected real GDP per capita will increase.

We should note that even when the wage rate starts to fall, the north workers will still produce the new products at the next period because if not, no new products are produced, so the technology progress stops. And since every kind of products can only exist for two periods, there will be no products left next time, and both the north and the south people will die out. Having foreseen this, the north will produce the newly-innovated commodities even if the wage is expected to fall.

Theorem 1. Both more horizontal innovation intensity (measured by \mathbf{I}_N) and higher vertical innovation rate (measured by \mathbf{b}) can increase the expected real GDP per capita with an exponential speed. But higher vertical innovation rate can increase the income more effectively.

Proof. Note that $A \circ b^s \frac{L_N}{L_s}$, and $s = \frac{1}{1 - a} > 1$, by the lemma, we can

immediately have the above conclusion.

This theorem tells us about the desirability of innovation. In other words, we shall not believe that vertical innovation and horizontal innovation will boost the economic growth equivalently, instead, we have to differentiate the nature of the innovation, and properly encourage more vertical innovation.

But we cannot go to the opposite diametrically and erroneously believe that all resources should be devoted to vertical innovation at the sacrifice of the horizontal innovation, because we have to guarantee that we shall not come to the complete innovation halt. More exactly, we can prove the following theorem:

Theorem 2. If the horizontal innovation intensity is no larger than unity, then the complete innovation halt will take place within finite future with probability 1; But even if $\mathbf{I}_N > 1$ there still exists a positive probability that the complete innovation halt will come, however, the larger the innovation intensity, the more probably we can avoid this dooming result.

Proof. This theorem is the direct result of the G-W branching process. Here I repeat the important steps

We define
$$\mathbf{r}_{i,0} = P_i(\mathbf{t}_{\{0\}}(\mathbf{v}) < +\mathbf{Y})$$
, where $\mathbf{t}_{\{0\}}(\mathbf{v}) = \inf\{t : Q_t = 0\}$.

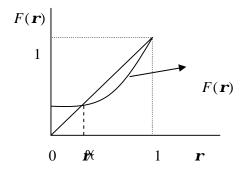
Let $\mathbf{r} = P_1(\mathbf{t}_{\{0\}}(\mathbf{v}) < +\mathbf{Y})$, then because of independence, we have $\mathbf{r}_{i,0} = \mathbf{r}^i$.

$$\mathbf{r} = P_{1}(\mathbf{t}_{\{0\}}(\mathbf{v}) < +\mathbf{Y}) = P_{1,0} + \mathbf{\dot{a}}_{k=1}^{\mathbf{Y}} P_{1}(Q_{1} = k) P_{k}(\mathbf{t}_{\{0\}}(\mathbf{v}) < +\mathbf{Y})$$

$$= P_{1,0} + \mathbf{\dot{a}}_{k=1}^{\mathbf{Y}} P_{1,k} \mathbf{r}_{k,0} = \mathbf{\dot{a}}_{k=1}^{\mathbf{Y}} P_{1,k} \mathbf{r}^{k} = F(\mathbf{r})$$

Where $F(\mathbf{r})$ is exactly the generating function .Hence, \mathbf{r} is the fixed point of the mapping $F(\mathbf{r})$. We can easily prove that $\mathbf{I}_N = F(\mathbf{r})$. When $F(\mathbf{r}) > 1$, according to the mean value theorem, $\mathbf{SP}(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r}$ (0,1), s.t $F(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r}$. Therefore, $0 < \mathbf{r} = \mathbf{r}$ (1). When $F(\mathbf{r}) = \mathbf{r}$ is the unique fixed point on the interval [0,1]. Q.E.D

These two cases can be clearly seen in the following figure:



This theorem suggests that we have to seek proper horizontal innovation intensity, it cannot be too small, but it can't be too large either if it takes too much resources from horizontal innovation activity. The optimal choice relies on the decision maker's valuation of the trade-off between the risk of complete innovation halt (which also means the north workers will have to compete with the south in the production of the old product, and next period when the only old products disappear, all the agents would die) and the expected economic growth rate before the innovation halt takes place.

So far we have not said much about the real consumption of the agents, which determines the welfare level of the agents most directly. Equation (3) decides the instantaneous consumption decision at time t, and because $Q_{N,t}$ and $Q_{S,t}$ have been realized at that time, so the consumption plan is a deterministic one given the wage rates, and it makes no sense to make the consumption decision ahead of time.

But suppose the actual realization of the process $\{Q_{N,t}\}$ up to time t can be approximately represented as $Q_{N,t} B \underline{Q}_N \mathbf{I}^t_N$, then we can derive the following proposition:

Proposition 1. Both the north agent and the south agent's aggregate consumption of the newly-innovated commodities is approximately a constant which is positively correlated with the population ratio $\mathbf{f}^{\mathbf{o}} \frac{L_N}{L_S}$, and the aggregate consumption of the old commodities is also approximately fixed but adversely correlated with the population ratio.

Proof.

By maximizing the utility function (1) subject to the budget constraint (2), we will have the north agent's consumption amount of every kind of the time t

newly-innovated commodity
$$c_{N,t}(i) = \frac{1}{Q_{N,t} + Q_{S,t} \left[\frac{\mathbf{b}w_{t-1}}{w_t}\right]^{-s} \frac{w_{t-1}}{w_t}}$$
,

combined with (3), (4) and $Q_{N,t} B Q_N I^t_N$, we derive

$$c_{N,t}(i)Q_{N,t} B \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{\mathbf{bf}^{\mathbf{a}} \mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}} \quad \text{and} \quad c_{S,t}(i)Q_{S,t} B \frac{1}{\mathbf{f} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{bf}^{\mathbf{a}-1} \mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}}.$$

Similarly, It can also be computed that the south agent's total consumption of new commodities is $c*_{N,t}(i)Q_{N,t}$ B $\frac{1}{\mathbf{h}f^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{l}_N^{-1-\mathbf{a}} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{f}}}$, and the total consumption of the

old commodities is
$$c *_{S,t} (i) Q_{S,t} B \frac{1}{1 + \boldsymbol{b} \boldsymbol{f}^{\mathbf{a}} \boldsymbol{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}$$
. Q.E.D

This proposition implies that every north agent's total consumption of commodities approximately remains constant, and the same conclusion holds for every south agent because the total output is always equal to $L_N + L_S$. Moreover, we should note the population ratio is also an index of every agent's consumption structure, which is defined as the consumption ratio of the new products and the old products available. Hence, it can be easily seen that even if the total quantity of old products is increased, the total consumption of the old products per capita may still decrease so long as the population ratio, or equivalently, the commodity structure remains stable.

The proof of Proposition 1 also indicates that the higher the vertical and horizontal innovations rate, the more the aggregate consumption quantity of both new products and old products in the north, the less the aggregate consumption quantity in the south.

Proposition 2. The world trade volume is approximately constant as the time passes,

however, the trade value changes approximately at the same exponential speed as the economic growth rate.

Proof. We can easily derive the north's total amount of export $\frac{L_S}{\mathbf{b}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{l}_N^{1-\mathbf{a}} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{f}}}$

and its import $\frac{L_N}{\mathbf{f} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{h}^{\mathbf{g}^{-1}} \mathbf{l}_N^{1-\mathbf{a}}}$, so the trade volume is the sum of these two constants.

We can also see that higher innovation rate decreases the amount of the north's export and increases the amount of it's import, although the net revenue from the trade is always zero.

The trade value is
$$\frac{L_{S}W_{t}}{\mathbf{H}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{f}}} + \frac{L_{N}W_{t-1}}{\mathbf{f} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{H}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}}$$

$$B W_{t-1} \left[\frac{L_{S}\mathbf{H}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}{\mathbf{H}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}} + \frac{L_{N}}{\mathbf{f} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{H}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}} \right]$$

$$B \left(\frac{\mathbf{I}_{N}}{\mathbf{b}^{\mathbf{s}}\mathbf{f}} \right)^{(1-\mathbf{a})(t-1)} \left[\frac{L_{S}\mathbf{H}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}{\mathbf{h}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{f}} + \frac{L_{N}}{\mathbf{f} + \frac{1}{\mathbf{H}^{\mathbf{a}-1}\mathbf{I}_{N}^{1-\mathbf{a}}}} \right] \quad \text{Q.E.D}$$

Next we will return to the analysis of economic growth. According to the Lemma above, we can also resort to other means such as population growth policy besides enhancing the innovation rate to stimulate the economic growth.

To deepen our analysis, from now on we assume the population ratio is no longer fixed, instead, that the populations of the north and the south are changing at an exponential speed with the growth rate \mathbf{m}_{N} and \mathbf{m}_{S} , and the initial population $L_{N,0}$ and $L_{S,0}$ respectively, then we will have the following result:

$$E(w^{-\mathbf{s}}_{t}) = \frac{\widetilde{\mathbf{O}}_{m=1}^{t} L_{N,0} e^{\mathbf{m}_{N}m}}{\widetilde{\mathbf{O}}_{m=1}^{t} L_{S,0} e^{\mathbf{m}_{S}m}} (\frac{\mathbf{b}^{-\mathbf{s}}}{\mathbf{I}_{N}})^{t}$$
(9)

The above equation shows that in the long run, the population growth rate

difference will dominate. We put it formally in the following proposition:

Theorem 3. If the south population growth rate is larger than that of the north, the economic growth rate will accelerate in the long run, even in the absence of vertical or horizontal innovation, and the initial population distribution is also irrelevant in the long run.³

This proposition tells us that the population policy may be a more effective way to enhance the long run economic growth. But the policy implications for the south and the north are just opposite. For the north, the population growth should be greatly discouraged in order to further the economic progress, while for the south the population growth rate should exceed the north provided the full employment can always be satisfied, otherwise no matter how hard the north is innovating, the long run expected real GDP per capita would be falling because the south has no ability to achieve innovation.

But population policy has its own demerits, one of which is that if the north reduced its birth rate to keep the population growth rate smaller than that of the south, it would be possible that in the global point of view, the portion of the developed country's population would be shrinking to such an ignorable degree that ultimately there would be only the imitating south country existing in the world.

If the north doesn't want its population portion to be shrinking while seeking the most rapid economic growth at the same time, then the best it can do is to keep its population growth rate at the same level with the south country. However, the south always has the incentive to enlarge its population.

Obviously, we can also restate the first two theorems under the assumption of variable populations. We leave the task to the interested readers.

III Conclusion

In our simple general equilibrium model with uncertainty, we have achieved an important conclusion that the horizontal innovation intensity should be strong enough although vertical innovation can more effectively boost economic growth and upgrade the consumer's consumption structure. We also note that the innovation activity

³ Here if the population growth obeys a geometric speed instead of an exponential speed, the result remains.

should not be blindly encouraged by the government, instead, the vertical innovation should be given more weight when government subsidies are planned to be allocated to the research institutions.

We also explore the relationship between the innovation and trade. We find that the trade value expands with the economic growth although the trade quantity is relatively stable. Actually we have proved that the developed countries import more and export less in terms of absolute quantity when innovation rate is increased, because innovation advantage has tremendously rewarded them with higher income. This analysis has strong policy implications for a country's foreign trade policy, one of which is that what matters most is the quality instead of the quantity of the export.

This model also highlights the important role of the population policy in the long run economic growth. We claim that the population growth in the developed countries should be discouraged while the birth rate in the less developed countries should be encouraged in order to boost the economic growth. The immediate outcome would be that the relative size of the north population would come down. Although this policy can not be persistently implemented, it can at least provide an opportunity for the south to climb out of the poverty trap. And we expect that a wise south government may choose to keep the population growth rate within a certain level to guarantee the north will not retaliate by enlarge its population which may hampers economic growth of both countries.

Last but not the least, we should note that in our model setting, the less developed country can never surpass the developed economy except that there is a tiny possibility of catching up with the superior country. In other words, the future of the less developed country is entirely attached to the developed country. In order to escape this negative fate completely, the less developed country must innovate by itself eventually and must guarantee that its own innovation rate is larger than the developed country. But it is obvious that in the actual world, the existence of the great technology gap and the huge innovation cost might make the technologically inferior country rely more heavily on the technological imitation within a rather long period of time despite the existence of the protection of the intellectual property right. However,

further exploration is beyond this model and we have not follow this promising path of analysis in this paper.

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Review:

This paper is based on Krugman's model (1979), in which there are two countries, innovating north and imitating south. Technological progress is only

reflected as the horizontal innovation, that is, the expansion of the products' variety, and it is assumed to be a deterministic process. Wang improves it by assuming that horizontal innovation obeys a simple discrete-time Galton-Waston branching process, which is a stochastic process. Moreover vertical innovation incorporated in it.

In such a general equilibrium model with uncertainty, he achieves several new conclusions other than Krugman's model. The most important one is following: there should be sufficient horizontal innovative intensity in order to avoid the necessary dooming result of complete variety expansion halt; but vertical innovation can boost the growth of the expected real GDP per capita more effectively than horizontal innovation. It has an obvious policy implication---how the government can subsidy the R&D more effectively.

Also, Wang reveals the relationship between the trade volume and innovations, and that the long-run economic growth is related to the population of the country. As to the governments of south and north countries, they should implement different population policies.

Wang has dedicated us an instructive paper, in which you will find much insightful ideas if you read it.

试论关于企业性质的新解释

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摘要: 本文是在新经济条件下对于科斯理论的补充和修正。科斯在论述企业性质的时候,用交易成本和组织成本两个变量来确定企业的边界。但在目前情况下,这未必能有效地解释现实。本文引入了第三个变量——竞争的压力,说明企业的边界确定同时受到交易成本、组织成本和竞争压力三者的共同影响。本文得出结论: 竞争压力导致企业边界扩大,企业扩大边界的目的是为了减少竞争压力。**关键词:** 交易成本 组织成本 竞争压力

一 问题的提出

理论必须有其应用价值,包括说明现实.一定时期条件下的理论,能反映一定时期条件下的现实.时期与条件都发生了改变,理论的重新表述也在所难免.

我们所处的是知识经济时代,与以往各个时期不同的是,农业经济也罢、工业经济也罢,知识的更新速度从未象今天这样快过。因此现阶段的条件下,许多理论未必能有效地解释现实,需要扩展或补充。

关于企业的性质,最权威的莫过于新制度经济学的解释了。而新制度经济学的开山鼻祖是罗纳德·科斯,他首创的用交易成本的分析方法,影响了威廉姆斯、张五常等,他们的理论大多为科斯理论框架下的补充。

依照科斯的解释,企业是对于市场的一种替代,目的是节约交易成本。所谓交易成本,应该包括交易发生前后所含的一切费用,如寻找交易对象的成本、谈判的成本、事后的监督维护成本以及因机会主义败德行为而引起的成本与损失。但是企业不可能无限制地替代市场最后变成一个包含全社会的大企业,因为企业内部存在组织成本,包括调度各种资源统一行动的代价。随着企业规模的上升,组织成本也在上升,即所谓的"大企业病"。最后当企业活动的边际交易成本等

于边际组织成本时,企业的边界就得以确定了。当企业活动的边际交易成本大于 边际组织成本,企业的规模便上升;反之,则下降,最后都到达两者相等的均衡 点。

以后无论威廉姆斯的资产专用性理论还是张五常的要素市场代替中间品市 场理论,都不外乎专注于节约交易成本(包括事前和事后的)上而促成了企业的 产生,解释了企业规模的变化。

在知识经济或者说新经济迅猛发展的今天,由于技术的进步,大量便捷快速廉价的通讯设备联络手段的使用,我们很明显地发现,寻找费用、监督费用在快速地下降。前者在Internent 技术日益普及的情况下,完全不会构成对行为人的障碍;后者则由于信息技术的发展,行为人因一时机会主义行为而留下的信用记录会高度扩散,从而制约着行为人的下一次行为,起到了十分有效的监督作用。至于谈判,由于信息传递的便捷、沟通的快速,所须的成本也大大下降了。所以我们可以得出结论:交易费用下降了。

但另一方面,技术进步同样对组织成本产生了影响。由于内部信息传递的便捷,使得统一行为比以往方便多了。各种管理技术的广泛使用,如 MRP、ERP等,对于资源的协调使用也产生了巨大的推动作用。更重要的是,根据组织演进的观点,技术的进步促进了组织结构的变化。适应于新经济时代的组织结构,应该是更为扁平,更为开放,管理幅度扩大,互动性更强。这种结构下的信息传递不易失真,沟通也更为充分,有利于统一行为。因此我们认为:组织成本也下降了。

既然科斯借以确定企业边界的两个变量是交易成本和组织成本,现今二者都发生了变化,那么企业的边界是否也改变了呢?如果真得变化的话,就会出现三种情况:当交易成本下降得快时,企业规模变小;当组织成本下降得快时,企业规模变大:交易成本下降与组织成本同步时,企业规模不变。

现实的情况是,进入 90 年代之后,世界上大型企业间的合并屡见不鲜,如波音与麦道的合并,奔驰与克莱斯勒的合并,直至最近发生的惠普与康柏的合并,等等。在一些企业边界扩大的同时,我们看到一大批作坊式的 IT 企业呈现勃勃生机,众多的空心企业(业务外包)的存在以及虚拟企业的出现(企业的消失?)。两种企业边界变化趋势并存,是否说明前者是交易成本大于组织成本的产物,而后者是组织成本大于交易成本的产物呢?

我们认为如果仅仅在科斯的分析框架下,至少有三点是不能解释上述现象的:

其一,我们知道在知识经济条件下,技术是迅速扩散的,那么在同一时期的同一地区,我们可以认为该地区的技术变化是同步的。而前文论及的交易成本与组织成本的变化都是因技术变化引起的,既然技术变化在一定时期条件下一定区域里是同步的,那么交易成本与组织成本的变化也是同步的,也就是不应存在一家企业由于技术而占据成本方面的租金,至少是不能较长时间的占有。

这一论点可以这样证明:假定在同一社会中,两个企业面临着相同的市场(即除了自己以外的厂商与个人的集合体)。由于技术的进步,使寻找成本、监督成本、信用成本都下降,其下降幅度对于两个企业都是一致的(因为面临着相同市场,在相同技术进步条件下),所以交易成本变化一致。在考虑组织成本,由于一家企业的组织结构更适合于组织成本的下降,所以在开始时其中一家比另一家更节约组织成本。但我们已经假定在新经济条件下,技术与信息是高度扩散的,一家的组织成本下降必然导致另一家企业改变组织结构从而降低组织成本。所以从长期来看,因为技术因素而导致的交易成本与组织成本的变化在新经济条件下,在各个企业往往是趋同的,尤其是同一地区的相同产业。

所以就应该是大家都沾技术的光,都能沿着同一方向改变交易成本与组织成本。比如说 Internet 的使用,不会因为在 A 企业使用节约的寻找成本大于在 B 企业的使用,大致来讲是差不多的。可是事实却是,同样在硅谷,既有大型的跨国公司如微软,又有许多小得无名的 IT 企业,而且同样生机勃勃,如仅由几个学生创办的 Napster 网站。新经济条件下,大小并存的共赢局面已经是一条规律了。

其二,假设一些企业边界的缩小是由于交易成本下降得快于组织成本,那么如何解释众多作坊式的IT企业呢?又如何说明虚拟企业的存在呢?作坊式的IT企业,仅由几个人组成,相比大型公司而言,即使后者的信息技术如何发达,组织成本相信不会高于后者;而他们的交易成本,应该至少在抵抗机会主义败德行为方面要弱于后者,如果再考虑在谈判时的弱势地位,不会比大型公司少多少。如此看来反而是小型企业的交易成本高于组织成本了。再考虑虚拟企业,如果将其近似地看作企业的形体消失,那么组织成本就接近于0了,他们从事交易,那

么无论如何交易成本必定是高于组织成本的了。

其三,假设一些企业边界的扩大是由于组织成本下降得快于交易成本,那么恰恰与上一点形成鲜明对比。大型企业难以回避"大企业病",即内部组织管理的复杂性上升,同时又相对易于规避交易条件变化的风险,所以必须承认其组织成本是高于交易成本的。同样难以解释。

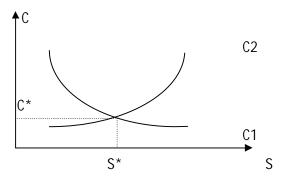
所以我认为单纯在科斯等人的分析框架下是不够的,必须引入新的变量。我 认为这一变量应该是竞争的压力。

二 问题的初步分析

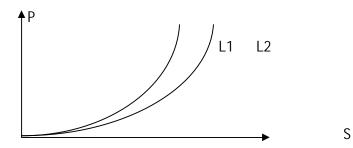
先想象完全市场而无企业的状况。假定社会中有 n 个从事相似行当的人,那 么相当于 n 个个体户,他们每个人都要完成从生产、交换到消费的过程(我们不 承认自产自消的现象在这里存在,因为这属于自然经济,不存在市场了),那么 任何一个人都要与 n-1 个人竞争。竞争的压力是十分巨大的。再想象现在以 1 0 人为一组成立企业,那么就有了 n/10 个单位,也就是从原来 n 个单位的竞争变成现在 n/10 个单位的竞争,竞争的压力减轻了。再进一步考虑如下两个极端情况:第一种是完全竞争的市场,市场上有众多单位在竞争,竞争压力是如此之大以至于每一个单位仅能获得弥补成本的收益;第二种则是完全垄断的市场,那么根本不存在竞争,而处于完全垄断地位的企业能获得巨额的垄断利润。在完全竞争条件下,企业的规模往往很小,而在完全垄断条件下,企业规模则往往很大。

所以用竞争压力来分析企业边界的确定,是可以成立的。也就是我们得出这样一个结论:在其他条件不变的情况下,竞争压力导致企业边界扩大,而企业边界扩大的目的是为了减少竞争压力。

如下图所示:图1反映的便是科斯所分析的,边际活动的交易成本与组织成本的一致点便是企业边界点,其中C1代表交易成本,C2代表组织成本。S代表企业规模:若更有利于节约交易成本,则企业边界扩大,若更有利于节约组织成本,则企业边界缩小。

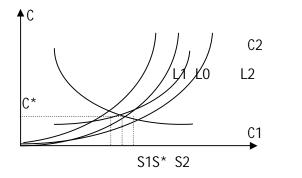


下图反映的是竞争压力(P)同企业规模(S)的关系:



L1 代表了静态条件下 P 与 S 的一般关系: 更大的 P 对应着更大的 S, 且 S 不能无限制,即受组织成本(C2)制约,故曲线上凹。但企业不可能在规模扩大的同时忍受竞争压力的上升,所以更动态的结果应该是曲线右移,即 L1→L2,表明规模上升,压力随之下降。即单独的 L1 或 L2 表达的含义是"在其他条件不变的情况下,竞争压力上升导致企业边界扩大,"而 L1→L2 的过程则表明"企业边界扩大的目的是为了减少竞争压力"。

将图1和图2合并可得:



仅考虑交易成本和组织成本两个条件,则均衡规模为 S*,此时的竞争压力 状况由 L0 曲线绘出。若此时的竞争压力偏小,则企业有缩小规模的趋势,即 L0

S

→L1。相应的结果便是导致规模由 S*变为 S1 或 S2。

下面我们就分情况来验证上述结论的正确性。

三 问题的进一步分析

第一,很多的兼并活动生成与传统产业领域,如波音与麦道的合并、奔驰与克莱斯勒的合并等。这是因为在新经济条件下,社会资源更多地涌向新兴产业,相较而言,留给传统产业的增长空间并不充裕。为了在有限的利益划分中更大程度地争取主动,传统产业中的竞争是更为激烈的。就飞机产业而言,由于受欧洲空中客车公司的竞争压力,波音急于通过扩大自己的规模来抵消竞争压力的上升。而汽车行业中的竞争则更为激烈,通用与福特的行业领袖地位对其他厂商的压力是巨大的,在这种条件下,寻求自身规模的迅速扩大是在所难免,兼并是最为便捷的途径。

第二,就新兴行业而言,有些产业已经属于新兴行业中的成熟行业了。比如PC 行业,已经到了竞争白热化的境地。在技术相对定型或成熟,利润空间狭小,竞争者众多且进入壁垒低的背景下,新经济行业中也会存在竞争压力逼迫规模上升的现象。如最近发生的惠普与康柏的合并,就是因为各自的主营业务 PC 机市场受 IBM 及 DELL 的挤压,竞争压力空前巨大,而不得不携起手来,各自扩大各自的规模。还有就是传媒业,无论传统传媒还是新技术传媒,在各自市场上面临的竞争也是巨大的。传统传媒不仅内部的竞争惨烈,而且面临新兴传媒技术的挑战。而新兴传媒由于进入壁垒低,对资本要求不高,竞争更是激烈。所以双方都寻求规模的扩大以缓解竞争压力。美国在线(AOL)与时代华纳的合并就说明了这一点。

第三,在一些传统产业中,由于拥有的核心竞争力阻碍了竞争压力的上升,所以没有规模扩大的紧迫感,相反会有企业边界缩小的趋势。所谓核心竞争力,就是不易为竞争对手所模仿且能带来巨大利润的能力,包括技术、商誉、品牌、人力资源、企业文化各种各样有形无形的资源或能力。由于企业掌握了核心竞争力,确立了自己在该行业的领导地位,有效地降低了竞争压力,即使总体产业利润空间受新兴产业挤压,仍能保证自己获得超额利润,如可口可乐,固然其作为

绝密资料的配方是其他厂商无法仿效的核心能力,但更重要的核心能力就是其所代表的美国文化,这是其他厂商无论如何也模仿不了的。还有耐克公司,其引以为豪的便是大量广告投入塑造的运动形象,这是其他竞争者望尘莫及的。所以上述企业所面临的竞争压力较小,能够从容地缩小企业边界。如可口可乐只负责营销与原液的配制,而将成品的生产和销售外包给全球的经销商。耐克也是仅是负责技术开发设计与广告营销,生产也是包给了其他发展中国家厂商。

第四,更多的属于新经济产业的企业,由于本身所代表的是一种新兴技术或理念,竞争压力不大,规模往往也是不大的。用产品的生命周期理论来分析,技术也是有其生命周期的。在技术的投入期,市场上竞争者少,缺乏竞争压力,也无须扩大规模。即使在技术的渐趋成熟阶段,如果能有效地阻碍竞争者进入,也是无扩大规模的压力。只是在新经济条件下,技术的壁垒很低,所以规模的上升也在所难免。对于技术如此,对于理念(idea)也如此。如首先利用网络提供免费Wimnap 音乐下载的 Napster 网站仅是几个学生创办。而 Yahoo 刚创立时,也只有几个人。

综上所述,竞争压力的存在与否、大小如何,确实对企业边界的确定产生了 影响,影响的结果正如我们在前文中所说的:竞争压力导致企业边界扩大,从而 抵消竞争压力的上升。

四 结论

那么竞争压力又是如何衡量的呢?我们认为决定竞争压力程度,主要来自两方面,其一是参与竞争的单位数,其二是可供分配的利益。试想一下,假设参与竞争的单位众多,那么每一个单位都会处于极度劳累的状态;相反,若参与竞争的单位有限甚至只有唯一,那么竞争者会感到很少甚至没有竞争压力。至于可供分配的利益,对于同样多的竞争者,假设有 n 个,所面临的竞争收益是 R,那么每个人平均可获 R/n。当 R→0 时,每个人都争取获得全部的 R,否则不足以弥补其竞争成本,竞争程度会十分激烈;当 R→∞时,那么每个人都可以随意地获得任意足够的利益,竞争会十分缓和。就如同分蛋糕,要让所有人都能吃到足够满意的蛋糕,只有将蛋糕做大,那样即使不公平的分法也可以忍受;若蛋糕很小,

那每个人都会斤斤计较了。

总而言之,用公式表示,就是P=N/R,P代表竞争压力,N代表竞争者数目,R代表可供分配的利益。

本文主要是对科斯关于企业性质的描述进行补充,除了科斯所运用的交易成本与组织成本两个变量之外,我们又引入了第三个变量——竞争压力,在三个变量的分析框架下,我们更能解释一些现实。当然,由于这三个变量间的关系是什么,在特定事例中孰轻孰重等问题有待于进一步分析,企业边界变化的规律仍然是错综复杂的。

那么上述分析就目前而言的前景又是什么呢?我们可以认为:一般来说,传统行业的企业规模是扩大的,而新经济行业的一些老牌企业如微软、IBM 也是扩大的(由于竞争压力逐步上升),而由于新技术带动而产生的企业的规模则是不大的。

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编者按:在科斯的新制度经济学理论的框架下,单纯从交易成本和组织成本来分析新经济条件下,企业边界的变化,不足以解释 90 年代之后两种企业边界变化趋势并存的现象。作者引入新的变量"竞争的压力"解决这个问题。将科斯所分析的,边际活动的交易成本与组织成本的一致点便是企业边界点的曲线图,和竞争压力同企业规模的关系图合并,结合对具体企业事例的分析,证明竞争压力的存在与否、大小如何,确实对企业边界的确定产生了影响。

文章系统回顾了科斯新制度经济学的企业理论,结合丰富的案例提出问题, 将"竞争的压力"作为第三个变量引入原有的分析框架,以图例清晰的说明了竞 争的压力对企业边界变化的影响,以期解释企业边界变化两种趋势并存的现实。

学风问题的经济学模型

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摘要: 本文从经济学的视角来分析学风问题。首先,作者认为学习积极性是学分的核心,并定义学习积极性=努力学习时的最大效用-搭便车时的效用,然后,以此为起点,运用包罗定理分析常见的教学管理手段对于学习积极性的影响,以及这些手段之间的相互关系。具体分析见于各个命题。

关键字: 学习积极性 学习效用 搭便车 分数回报

一 问题的提出

在当今中国大学校园中,"学风日下,人心不古",学习中搭便车现象相当盛行,尤以作业抄袭为甚。至于其中的原因则是仁者见仁,智者见智。有些人认为这是目前的教学管理体制造成的,也有人认为这是社会大环境造成的,还有人认为应该从学生自身找原因。那么到底有那些因素起作用,如何起作用的,它们的相互关系又是如何呢?下面笔者将试图运用经济学的方法来分析这个问题。

二 模型

(一) 假设:

- 1 本模型研究的是学习者在平时学习中对努力学习与搭便车之间以及学习积极性的理性选择,对于突发因素造成的偶尔的搭便车行为不予考虑。
- 2 由于不及格可能造成效用的突变(效用函数的间断),从而不利于模型的处理,故假定每门课程的总成绩没有不及格。鉴于各高校中大部分课程的不及格率都很低甚至为零的现实,此假设基本不影响模型的解释力。

 $U[(1-\mu)M_1(t)+\mu M_2(t)]+L(t)$ 努力学习,如自己完成作业等 3. V=U(M)+L(t) $L(0)+(1-\alpha)U\left\{[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0)+\mu\underline{M}_2(0)]\right\}$

 $+\alpha U$ {[(1- μ) \underline{M}_1 (0)+ μ (1-p) \underline{M}_2 (0)]} 搭便车,如抄袭作业等符号说明: V: 当事人总效用,假定 V'(.)>0,V"(.)<0;

U(M): 成绩效用, U'(.)>0, 成绩越高自然越开心, U''(.)<0;

 M_1 : 结业考试成绩, M_1 (.)'>0,功夫不负有心人,平时越努力,结业考试成绩自然越高,其中 t 为努力学习所花的时间, $t \ge 0$ 。 M_1 (t*)为努力学习者效用最大化时的最优结业考试成绩(简称努力学习者结业考试成绩,下同),其中 t*为努力学习者效用最大化时所选择的最佳学习时间, \underline{M}_1 (0)为搭便车者结业考试成绩(\underline{M}_1 (0)= M_1 (0)意思是搭便车者结业考试成绩等于努力学习者学习时间为零时的结业考试成绩);

 M_2 : 平时表现成绩, M_2 (.)'>0,平时越努力,平时表现成绩越高。假设 M_2 (t*)= M_2 (0)>0,即如果老师没有发现搭便车行为则给予努力学习者与搭便车者相同的平时表现成绩;

- α : 搭便车被发现的概率, $0 \le \alpha \le 1$;
- p: 对所发现的搭便车行为的处罚强度, $p \ge 0$,假定对所发现的搭便车行为的处罚手段仅限于降低平时表现成绩;
- M: 总成绩,M= $(1-\mu)M_1+\mu M_2$, μ 是平时表现成绩占总成绩的比重, $0 \le \mu \le 1$;
 - L: 学习效用,设 L(0)=0, L''(.)<0, L(0)=0 说明搭便车行为本身既无乐趣亦无痛苦, t>0 时,如果 L(t)>0,说明学习有乐趣。反之,L(t)<0,则说明学习是痛苦的。
- 4.定义: 学习积极性=努力学习时的最大效用-搭便车时的效用。笔者此处假定学生学习积极性的高低是一个学校学风好坏的根本内容。因此,通过分析学习积极性来分析学风问题。

(二) 模型的分析

1. 努力学习者的效用最大化: $\max U[(1-\mu)M_1(t)+\mu M_2(t)]+L(t)$

s.t..
$$t \ge 0$$

一阶条件: $U'[(1-\mu)M_1(t^*)+\mu M_2(t^*)][(1-\mu)M'_1(t^*)+\mu M'_2(t^*)]+L'(t^*)=0$ 由 V''<0 得, t^* 就是最优解。

整理得
$$\frac{U'[(1-m)M_{1}(t^{*})+mM_{2}(t^{*})]}{-L'(t^{*})} = \frac{1}{(1-m)M'_{1}(t^{*})+mM'_{2}(t^{*})}$$

因为 U'[(1- μ)M₁(t*)+ μ M₂(t*)]> 0,由 M'₁(t*)> 0,M'₂(t*)> 0及 0 $\leq \mu \leq 1$ 得 (1- μ)M'₁(t*)+ μ M'₂(t*)> 0,所以-L'(t*)> 0,即 L'(t*)< 0。

又因为 L''(.)<0, 所以 t*>argmax {L(t)}。

命题 1: 当一门课程要计算成绩时或者说应试教育条件下,努力学习者无法 实现学习乐趣的最大化或者学习痛苦的最小化。证明见上面分析。

这是一个有趣的结论,说明当学习者的目的不纯(即不止是为了获得学习本身的乐趣)时,就必然存在"过度学习"(学习时间超过了让学习乐趣最大化的值)的现象。

为了便于阅读,命题2至命题4.6.2的证明都在附录中。

命题 2: 学习者在某门课程的学习中选择努力学习的充分必要条件是,他有学习积极性。这就是说他认为学习有乐趣,或者虽然他认为学习该门课程没有乐趣甚至是痛苦的,但是努力学习此课程所带来的成绩效用相对于搭便车的成绩效用的效用剩余足以弥补学习此课程的痛苦。

该命题说明学习积极性与学习本身的乐趣并非一回事,学习者是否有学习积极性是综合考虑学习带来各种效应后的结果,而不仅取决于他对学习本身的态度。

命题 3: 学习者学习某门课程时选择搭便车的必要非充分条件是,他认为努力学习该课程是没有乐趣或是痛苦的。

在平时学习中搭便车者有时被指责为懒惰,这个命题给了他们一个平反的机会:如果我们承认人是理性的,那么我们就该相信,他们之所以选择搭便车是因为他们认为学习没乐趣或是痛苦的,而不是懒惰(当然,在理性人的假设下,大概就没有懒惰一说了)。

命题 4.0: 由模型中学习者的效用函数的假定可知,影响学习积极性的因素有: $L(t^*)$; U'(.); α ; p; $M_1(t^*)$; $M_2(0)$; $M_2(0)$ ($\mu M_2(0)$); μ 。

前两个因素是可以看作是社会大环境与学生自身共同作用的结果,而后五个 因素则是教学中常用的管理手段。可见,文章开头提到的三种观点都有其合理之 处。但遗憾的是前两个因素一般而言是难以控制的。所以,要想改善本校的学风, 教学管理者必须善用上述五个教学手段。另外,前两个因素也很难用以个简单的 经济学模型来分析,故下文主要分析这五个教学手段如何作用于学习积极性以及 它们之间的相互关系。

命题 4.1: 努力学习者的最优学习效用 L(t*)越大,他的学习积极性就越高。 从学习中获得的乐趣越大,当然学习积极性就越高。

命题 4.2: 只要不发生下列两种情况,学习者对分数变动越在意,即边际分数效用越大,则如果他选择努力学习,他的学习积极性越高。情形一:结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重为零且对搭便车者没有处罚;情形二:努力学习者没有结业考试的分数回报(结业考试的分数回报=努力学习者结业考试成绩—搭便车者结业考试成绩= $M_1(t^*)$ - $M_1(0)$ = ∇M_1)且平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重为零或对搭便车者没有处罚。

由命题 4.2 我们可以发现,边际分数效用对学习积极性产生影响所需要的条件很弱,所以,如若我们能提高边际分数效用,则可以提高对学习积极性。

命题 4.3.1: 在处罚强度大于零且平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零时, 提高搭便车被发现的概率可提高努力学习者的学习积极性。

命题 4.3.2: 在搭便车被发现的概率大于零且平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零时,提高处罚强度可提高努力学习者的学习积极性。

命题 4.3.1 和命题 4.3.2 指出,作为教学管理手段的两对工具组合——搭便车被发现的概率与处罚强度、平时表现成绩与平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重——每个组合内部的两个工具必须配合使用,否则,如果只用一对工具中的一个,则另一个将形同虚设,无法起作用。虽然这个结论近乎于废话,但现实中却经常有只用其中一个的情形,比如有些老师声称对平时作业抄袭要处罚,却根本就不去查处平时作业是否存在抄袭。

另外,命题 4.3.1 和命题 4.3.2 都以平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零为前提还蕴含了这样的意思:不仅上述两对工具组合内部要相互配合使用,它们之间还必须相互配合,如果只使用一对工具,那另一对工具依然无效。

- **命题 4.4.1:** 在结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零时,提高努力学习者的结业考试成绩将提高努力学习者的学习积极性。
- **命题 4.4.2:** 在结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零时,提高搭便车者的结业考试成绩将打击努力学习者的学习积极性。
- **命题 4.4.3:** 在结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零时,提高努力学习者的结业考试的分数回报,即能提高努力学习者的学习积极性。
- 命题 4.4.1 至命题 4.4.3 中以结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零为前提的意思是显而易见的,否则结业考试成绩对学习者没有意义。此外,命题 4.4.1 至命题 4.4.3 还说明了分数回报对于学习积极性的重要性,如果多学习不能多得分,学习积极性必然受到打击。
- **命题 4.5.1**: 在平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零,努力学习者有结业 考试的分数回报的前提下,如果对搭便车者的处罚可忽略,则降低平时表现成绩 将提高努力学习者的学习积极性。

以平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零为前提是很显然的,否则平时表现成绩对学习者没有意义。

命题 4.5.2: 如果努力学习者没有结业考试的分数回报,且对搭便车者的处罚可忽略,则改变平时表现成绩不会影响努力学习者的学习积极性。

对搭便车者没有处罚,而且努力学习者也没有结业考试的分数回报,则学习积极性与考试成绩无关,因而调不调整平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重都一样。

- 命题 4.5.1 和命题 4.5.2 指出,在教学纪律很松懈的情况下(对搭便车的处罚可忽略),改变平时表现成绩对于学习积极性的效果与平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重和努力学习者结业考试的分数回报的大小正相关。
- **命题 4.6.1:** 如果对搭便车者的处罚不可忽略,则即使努力学习者的结业考试的分数回报为零,提高平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重依然能提高努力学习者的学习积极性。
- **命题 4.6.2:** 如果对搭便车者的处罚可忽略,但是努力学习者有结业考试的分数回报,则降低平时表现成绩在总评成绩中的比重,也就是说提高结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重,将提高努力学习者的学习积极性。

命题 4.6.1 和命题 4.6.2 说明,只要对搭便车者的处罚与努力学习者有结业考

试的分数回报这两个条件有一个起作用,平时表现成绩在总评成绩中的比重(或者说结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重)就会对学习积极性产生影响。

三.对模型的两点补充

- 1.从模型的分析来看,L(0)=0 的假设并非必要,因为即便L(0)=0,只要用L(t*)-L(0)替代上文分析中的L(t*),除了上文的分析中的学习乐趣变成努力学习相对于搭便车时的学习乐趣剩余,其余分析不会受任何影响。
- 2.上文分析中 M 代表的是分数,其实它可以代表具有类似分数的特点的各种外界评价或反应,比如各种津贴与奖金,分析的对象也未必只能是学生,比如公司经理等等。当然,如果将此模型于分析其它情况,必须再考虑其具体特点。

附录: 命题 2 至命题 4.6.3 的数学证明

1.命题 2 的证明:

充分性:

令▽V =学习积极性=效用剩余=努力学习时的最大效用-搭便车时的效用

$$\begin{split} & \nabla V = U[(1-\mu)M_1(t^*) + \mu M_2(t^*)] + L(t^*) - (1-\alpha)U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)] \\ & - \alpha U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu (1-p)\underline{M}_2(0)] - L(0) \\ & \nabla V = L(t^*) - L(0) + U[(1-\mu)M_1(t^*) + \mu M_2(t^*)] - U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)] \\ & + \alpha \quad \left\{ \quad U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)] \quad \right\} \quad - U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)] \end{split}$$

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)\underline{M}_{2}(0)$

因为 L(0)=0, 故以下分析中将省略 L(0)。

因为 $M(t^*) = M_2(0)$,故下文分析中将以 $M_2(0)$ 取代 $M(t^*)$

 $\eta_2 = (1-\mu) \underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0), \quad \text{If } U(\eta_2) = U[(1-\mu) \underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)]$

 $\eta_3 = (1-\mu) \underline{M}_1(0) + \mu(1-p)\underline{M}_2(0), \quad \text{If } U(\eta_3) = U[(1-\mu) \underline{M}_1(0) + \mu(1-p)\underline{M}_2(0)]$

因为 $M_1(.)$ '>0, 故 $M_1(t^*)\geq M_1(0)$,

所以 $(1-\mu)M_1(t^*)+\mu \underline{M}_2(0)>(1-\mu)M_1(0)+\mu \underline{M}_2(0)$,即 $\eta_1 \ge \eta_2$

又因为 U'(.)>0,所以 U(η_1) \geq U(η_2),即 U(η_1)-U(η_2) \geq 0

因为 $p \ge 0$,所以 $(1-\mu)$ $\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0) \ge (1-\mu)$ $\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu (1-p) \underline{M}_2(0)$,即 $\eta_2 \ge \eta_3$

又因为 U'(.)>0, 所以 U(η₂)≥U(η₃)

所以 $U(\eta_1)-U(\eta_2)+\alpha[U(\eta_2)-U(\eta_3)]\geq 0$

由以上证明知: ▽U>0

如果 $L(t^*)>0$,或者 $\nabla U \ge -L(t^*)$,则 $\nabla V \ge 0$,此时学习者选择努力学习必要性:

如果 $\nabla V \ge 0$,又由上面证明知: $\nabla U \ge 0$,而 $L(t^*) = \nabla V - \nabla U$

当 ∇ V> ∇ U,显然有L(t*)≥0

当 ∇ V \leq ∇ U,有-L(t*)= ∇ U- ∇ V \leq ∇ U

所以 ∇ V>0时,有L(t*)>0,或者-L(t*)< ∇ U

2.命题 3 的证明:

必要性

学习者学习某门课程时选择搭便车,则意味着▽V<0

而由上面证明知 ∇ U \geq 0,所以 L(t*)= ∇ V- ∇ U \leq 0

非充分性

由命题 2 的充分性证明知

即使 $L(t^*)<0$,只要 $\nabla U\ge -L(t^*)$,依然有 $\nabla V\ge 0$,即 $L(t^*)<0$ 不是 $\nabla V\le 0$ 的充分条件。

3.命题 4.1 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla V = L(t^*) + \nabla U$$
,所以 $\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P L(t^*)} = 1 > 0$

4.命题 4.2 的证明:

根据对 U(.)假定,由拉格朗日中值定理可知:

存在唯一 $\zeta_1 \in (\eta_1, \eta_2)$,使得 U'(ζ_1)($\eta_1 - \eta_2$)=U(η_1)-U(η_2)

同理: 存在唯一 $\zeta_2 \in (\eta_2, \eta_3)$, 使得 U'(ζ_2)($\eta_2 - \eta_3$)=U(η_2)-U(η_3)

所以 $\nabla V = L(t^*) + \nabla U = L(t^*) + U'(\zeta_1)(\eta_1 - \eta_2) + \alpha U'(\zeta_2)(\eta_2 - \eta_3)$

 $=L(t^*)+U'(\zeta_1)[(1-\mu)M_1(t^*)-(1-\mu)M_1(0)]+\alpha U'(\zeta_2)[\mu \underline{M_2}(0)-\mu(1-p)]$

 $M_2(0)$

=
$$L(t^*)+U'(\zeta_1)(1-\mu)\nabla M_1+\mu\alpha p\underline{M}_2(0)U'(\zeta_2)$$

不发生命题中的两种情况时,即 $(1-\mu)$ ∇M_1 与 $\mu\alpha pM_2(0)$ 不同时为

零时,

因为 $0 \le \mu \le 1$, $\nabla M_1 \ge 0$, $\underline{M_2}(0) > 0$, $p \ge 0$, $0 \le \alpha \le 1$, $\underline{M}(1-\mu) \nabla M_1$ 与 $\mu \alpha p M_2(0)$ 中至少有一个大于零,

即
$$\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P U'(\mathbf{Z}_1)}$$
与 $\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P U'(\mathbf{Z}_2)}$ 均为正值,或者一个为零,一个为正,

此时学习积极性▽V 与边际成绩效用 U'(.)正相关;

在(1- μ) ∇ M₁与 μ αp \underline{M}_2 (0)同时为零时, ∇ V=L(t*)

显然,此时学习积极性▽V与边际成绩效用 U'(.)无关。

5.命题 4.3.1 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla V = L(t^*) + U[(1-\mu)M_1(t^*) + \mu M_2(0)] - U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)]$$

$$+\alpha \ \{ \ U[(1-\mu) \ \underline{M}_{1}(0) + \mu \underline{M}_{2}(0)] \ \} \ -U[(1-\mu) \ \underline{M}$$

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)\underline{M}_{2}(0)$

=
$$L(t^*)+U'(\zeta_1)(1-\mu)\nabla M_1+\mu\alpha p\underline{M_2}(0)U'(\zeta_2)$$

所以
$$\frac{\|\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V\|}{\|\mathbf{a}\|} = \mu p \underline{M}_2(0) \mathbf{U}'(\zeta_2)$$

处罚强度大于零,即 p>0,

平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零,即 μ>0,

由于
$$\underline{\mathbf{M}}_{2}(0)>0$$
, $\mathbf{U}'(.)>0$, 所以 $\mu p\underline{\mathbf{M}}_{2}(0)\mathbf{U}'(\zeta_{2})>0$, 即 $\frac{\P \mathbf{\tilde{N}} V}{\P \boldsymbol{a}}>0$,

这说明在本命题的条件下,提高搭便车者被发现的概率可提高努力学习者的学习积极性。

6.命题 4.3.2 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla V = L(t^*) + U[(1-\mu)M_1(t^*) + \mu M_2(0)] - U[(1-\mu)M_1(0) + \mu M_2(0)]$$

$$+\alpha \{ U[(1-\mu) \ M_{1}(0) + \mu M_{2}(0)] \} - U[(1-\mu) \ M$$

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)M_{2}(0)$

$$=L(t^*)+U'(\zeta_1)(1-\mu)\nabla M_1+\mu\alpha p\underline{M_2}(0)U'(\zeta_2)$$

所以
$$\frac{\|\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V\|}{\|\mathbf{a}\|} = \mu p \underline{M}_{\underline{2}}(0) \mathbf{U}'(\zeta_2)$$

搭便车被发现的概率大于零,即 $\alpha>0$,

平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零,即 μ>0,

由于
$$\underline{\mathbf{M}}_{\underline{2}}(0)>0$$
, $\mathbf{U}'(.)>0$, 所以 $\mu p\underline{\mathbf{M}}_{\underline{2}}(0)\mathbf{U}'(\zeta_2)>0$,即 $\frac{d\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V}{dp}>0$,

这说明在本命题的条件下,提高对搭便车者的处罚强度可提高努力学习者的学习积极性。

7.命题 4.4.1 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla$$
V=L(t*)+U[(1- μ)M₁(t*)+ μ M₂(0)]-U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)]

$$+\alpha \ \{ \ U[(1-\mu) \ \underline{M}_{1}(0) + \mu \underline{M}_{2}(0)] \ \} \ -U[(1-\mu) \ \underline{M}$$

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)\underline{M}_{2}(0)$

所以
$$\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_1(t^*)} = (1-\mu) \ \mathrm{U}'(\eta_1)$$

结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零,即 μ <1,所以 1- μ >0 又因为 U'(.)>0

所以(1-
$$\mu$$
)U'(η_1)>0,即 $\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_1(t^*)}$ >0

这说明在本命题的条件下,提高结业考试成绩将提高努力学习者的学习积极性。 8.命题 4.4.2 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla$$
 V=L(t*)+U[(1- μ)M₁(t*)+ μ M₂(0)]-U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M2(0)]

$$+\alpha \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{cc} U[(1-\mu) & \underline{M} & {}_{1}(0) + \mu \underline{M}_{2}(0)] \end{array} \right\} \quad -U[(1-\mu) & \underline{M} \\$$

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)\underline{M}_{2}(0)$

所以
$$\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_1(0)} = -(1-\mu) \mathbf{U}'(\eta_2) + \alpha [(1-\mu)\mathbf{U}'(\eta_2) - (1-\mu)\mathbf{U}'(\eta_3)]$$

$$= (1-\mu)U'(\eta_2)\{\alpha[1-\frac{U'({\bm h}_3)}{U'({\bm h}_2)}]-1\}$$

结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零,即 μ<1,所以 1-μ>0,

又因为 U'(.)>0,所以(1- μ)U'(ζ_1)>0

因为
$$\eta_1 \ge \eta_2 \ge \eta_3$$
,且U"<0,所以 $\frac{U'(\boldsymbol{h}_3)}{U'(\boldsymbol{h}_3)} \ge 1$,

又因为
$$0 \le \alpha \le 1$$
 ,所以 $\alpha[1-U'(\eta_3)/U'(\eta_2)] \le 0$, $\alpha[1-\frac{U'(\boldsymbol{h}_3)}{U'(\boldsymbol{h}_1)}] - 1 < 0$

所以(1-
$$\mu$$
)U'(η_2){ α [1- $\frac{U'(\boldsymbol{h}_3)}{U'(\boldsymbol{h}_3)}$]-1}<0,即 $\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_1(0)}$ <0

这说明在本命题的条件下,提高搭便车者的结业考试成绩将打击努力学习者的学习积极性。

9.命题 4.4.3 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla$$
V=L(t*)+U[(1- μ)M₁(t*)+ μ M₂(0)]-U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)] + α { U[(1- μ) M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)] } -U[(1- μ)

 $M_1(0) + \mu(1-p)M_2(0)$

$$=L(t^*)+U'(\zeta_1)(1-\mu)^{\textstyle \bigtriangledown} M_1+\mu\alpha p\underline{M}_2(0)U'(\zeta_2)$$

所以
$$\frac{\|\tilde{\mathbf{N}}V\|}{\|\tilde{\mathbf{N}}M_1\|} = (1-\mu) \mathbf{U}'(\zeta_1)$$

结业考试成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零,即 μ <1,所以 1- μ >0 又因为 U'(.)>0

所以(1-µ)U'(
$$\zeta_1$$
)>0,即 $\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_*(t^*)}$ >0

这说明在本命题的条件下,提高结业考试成绩将提高努力学习者的学习积极性。 10.命题 4.5.1 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla V = L(t^*) + U[(1-\mu)M_1(t^*) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)] - U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)]$$
 + $\alpha \{ U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)] \} - U[(1-\mu)\underline{M}_1(0) + \mu \underline{M}_2(0)] \}$

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)M_{2}(0)$

所以
$$\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_2(t^*)} = \mu \mathbf{U}(\eta_1) - \mu \mathbf{U}'(\eta_2) + \alpha [\mu \mathbf{U}'(\eta_2) - \mu (1-p) \mathbf{U}'(\eta_3)]$$

$$=\!\!\mu\{U'(\eta_1)\!\!-\!\!U'(\eta_2)\!\!+\!\!\alpha[U'(\eta_2)\!\!-\!\!(1\!\!-\!\!p)U'(\eta_3)]\}$$

对搭便车者的处罚可忽略,即 $\alpha p=0$ 或 α ,p 足够小

使得 U'(η_2)≤(1-p)U'(η_3), α [U'(η_2)-(1-p)U'(η_3)]=0

努力学习者有结业考试的分数回报,即 $M_1(t^*) > \underline{M}_1(0)$,所以 $\eta_1 > \eta_2$

因为 U" <0, 所以 U'(η1)-U'(η2) <0

平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重大于零,即 u>0,

所以 μ {U'(η₁)-U'(η₂)+α[U'(η₂)-(1-p)U'(η₃)]} <0, 即 ∇ V 与 M₂(0)负相关,且

$$\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_2(0)}$$
的绝对值大小与 μ 和 ∇M_1 正相关。

这说明在本命题的条件下,降低平时表现成绩将提高努力学习者的学习积极性。 11.命题 4.5.2 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla$$
V=L(t*)+U[(1- μ)M₁(t*)+ μ M₂(0)]-U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)] + α { U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)] } -U[(1- μ)M

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)\underline{M}_{2}(0)$

所以
$$\frac{\P \tilde{N} V}{\P M_2(0)} = \mu U(\eta_1) - \mu U'(\eta_2) + \alpha [\mu U'(\eta_2) - \mu (1-p)U'(\eta_3)]$$

$$=\mu\{U'(\eta_1)-U'(\eta_2)+\alpha[U'(\eta_2)-(1-p)U'(\eta_3)]\}$$

努力学习者没有结业考试的分数回报,即 $M_1(t^*)=\underline{M}_1(0)$,所以 $\eta_1=\eta_2$ 所以 $U'(\eta_1)-U'(\eta_2)=0$

所以
$$\frac{\P \tilde{\mathbf{N}} V}{\P M_2(0)} = \mu \alpha [\mathbf{U}'(\eta_2) - (1-\mathbf{p})\mathbf{U}'(\eta_3)]$$

对搭便车者的处罚可忽略,即 $\alpha p = 0$ 或 $\alpha 与 p$ 均很小,

使得
$$\alpha[U'(\eta_2)-(1-p)U'(\eta_3)]=0$$
,即 $\frac{\P \tilde{N}V}{\P M_2(0)}=0$,

这说明在本命题的条件下,改变平时表现成绩不会影响努力学习者的学习积极 性。

12.命题 4.6.1 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla$$
V=L(t*)+U[(1- μ)M₁(t*)+ μ M₂(0)]-U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)] + α { U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)] } -U[(1- μ)M

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)\underline{M}_{2}(0)$

所以
$$\frac{d\mathbf{N}V}{d\mathbf{m}}$$
 = U'(η_1)[-M₁(t*)+M₂(0)]-U'(η_2)[-M₁(0)+M₂(0)]

$$+\alpha\{U'(\eta_2)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+\underline{M}_2(0)]\}-U'(\eta_3)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+(1-p)\underline{M}_2(0)]\}$$

因为努力学习者的结业考试成绩,搭便车者的结业考试成绩以及平时表现

成绩三者相等,即 $M_1(t^*)=M_1(0)$,所以 $\eta_1=\eta_2$

所以 $U'(\eta_1)[-M_1(t^*)+\underline{M}_2(0)]-U'(\eta_2)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+\underline{M}_2(0)]=0$,

所以
$$\frac{d\mathbf{N}V}{d\mathbf{m}} = \alpha \{ \mathbf{U}'(\eta_2) [-\underline{\mathbf{M}}_1(0) + \underline{\mathbf{M}}_2(0)] \} - \mathbf{U}'(\eta_3) [-\underline{\mathbf{M}}_1(0) + (1-p)\underline{\mathbf{M}}_2(0)] \}$$

若
$$\underline{\mathbf{M}}_{1}(0) > \underline{\mathbf{M}}_{2}(0)$$
,则 $\frac{d\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V}{d\mathbf{m}} > 0$

若 $\underline{M}_1(0) \leq \underline{M}_2(0)$, 因为对搭便车者的处罚不可忽略使得 $(1-p)\underline{M}_2(0) < \underline{M}_1(0)$,

则
$$\frac{d\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V}{d\mathbf{m}}>0$$

所以只要对搭便车者的处罚不可忽略,即 $\alpha>0$, $(1-p)M_2(0)< M_1(0)$,

则必有
$$\frac{d\tilde{\mathbf{N}}V}{d\mathbf{m}}>0$$
。

这说明在本命题的条件下,提高平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重能提高努力学习者的学习积极性。

13.命题 4.6.2 的证明:

因为
$$\nabla$$
V=L(t*)+U[(1- μ)M₁(t*)+ μ M₂(0)]-U[(1- μ)M₁(0)+ μ M₂(0)]

$$+\alpha \quad \left\{ \quad U[(1\text{-}\mu)\underline{M} \quad \ _{1}(0)+\mu\underline{M}_{\underline{2}}(0)] \quad \right\} \quad \ -U[(1\text{-}\mu)\underline{M}$$

 $_{1}(0)+\mu(1-p)\underline{M}_{2}(0)]$

所以
$$\frac{d\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V}{d\mathbf{m}}$$
=U'(η_1)[-M₁(t^*)+M₂(0)]-U'(η_2)[-M₁(0)+M₂(0)]

$$+\alpha\{U'(\eta_2)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+\underline{M}_{\underline{2}}(0)]\}-U'(\eta_3)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+(1-p)\underline{M}_{\underline{2}}(0)]\}$$

对搭便车者的处罚可忽略,即 αp=0 或 α 与 p 均很小,

所以 $\alpha\{U'(\eta_2)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+\underline{M}_2(0)]\}-U'(\eta_3)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+(1-p)\underline{M}_2(0)]\}=0$,

所以
$$\frac{d\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V}{d\mathbf{m}}$$
=U'(η_1)[-M₁(t^*)+M₂(0)]-U'(η_2)[-M₁(0)+M₂(0)]

努力学习者有结业考试的分数回报,即 $M_1(t^*)>M_1(0)$,

常见的有两种情况: (1) $M_1(t^*)>\underline{M}_2(0)>\underline{M}_1(0)$, (2) $\underline{M}_2(0)>M_1(t^*)>\underline{M}_1(0)$

(1) 当 $M_1(t^*)>\underline{M}_2(0)>\underline{M}_1(0)$ 时,

因为
$$M_1(t^*)>\underline{M}_2(0)>\underline{M}_1(0)$$

所以- $M_1(t^*)+M_2(0)<0$, - $M_1(0)+M_2(0)>0$,

而 U'(.)>0,所以 U'(η_1)[- M_1 (t^*)+ \underline{M}_2 (0)] <0,-U'(η_2)[- \underline{M}_1 (0)+ \underline{M}_2 (0)]

<0,

所以
$$\frac{d\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V}{d\mathbf{m}} = \mathbf{U}'(\eta_1)[-\mathbf{M}_1(\mathbf{t}^*) + \mathbf{\underline{M}}_2(0)] - \mathbf{U}'(\eta_2)[-\mathbf{\underline{M}}_1(0) + \mathbf{\underline{M}}_2(0)] < 0$$

(2) 当 $M_2(0)>M_1(t^*)>M_1(0)$ 时,

因为 $\underline{M}_2(0)>M_1(t^*)>\underline{M}_1(0)$, $\eta_1>\eta_2$

所以 $0 < -M_1(t^*) + \underline{M}_2(0) < -\underline{M}_1(0) + \underline{M}_2(0)$,

而 U'(.)>0, U"(.)<0, 所以 U'(η₁)<U'(η₂)

 $U'(\eta_1)[-M_1(t^*)+\underline{M}_2(0)]-U'(\eta_2)[-\underline{M}_1(0)+\underline{M}_2(0)]<0,$

所以
$$\frac{d\mathbf{\tilde{N}}V}{d\mathbf{m}} = \mathbf{U}'(\eta_1)[-\mathbf{M}_1(\mathbf{t}^*) + \mathbf{\underline{M}}_2(0)] - \mathbf{U}'(\eta_2)[-\mathbf{\underline{M}}_1(0) + \mathbf{\underline{M}}_2(0)] < 0$$

这说明在本命题的条件下,降低平时表现成绩在总成绩中的比重,将提高 努力学习者的学习积极性。

除命题 4.1 至命题 4.6.2 中讨论的情形之外,在对 α ,p, $M_1(t^*)$, $\underline{M}_1(0)$, $\underline{M}_2(0)$ 定义域内其他情形的一般性讨论中, ∇V 与各因素的相关性不明确而依赖于各个参数的具体取值或是具体的函数形式。

编者按:

每一个想要探索经济学的初学者都面临着同一个问题:怎么用经济学的原理去对现实进行抽象,然后用公理化的方法进行分析。本文就是作者对这个问题进行思考后进行的一次实践上的努力。虽然抽象过程中存在一些问题(如假设每门课程的总成绩没有不及格,而事实上不及格的可能性对学生的学习行为有着很大的影响),但这种尝试是有意义的。

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参考文献列于文章末尾,参考文献不论中、英文,均按音序排列。如果遇到同一作者同一年有一篇(部)以上的文献被引用,请用 a、b 等英文小写字母标识。下面给出几个参考文献的范例:

Blanchard, O. and L. Summers, 1987, "Hysteresis in Unemployment," *European Economic Review* 31: 288-295. Fudenberg, D. and J. Tirole, 1992, *Game Theory*, Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.

Sen, A., 1999, "The Possibility of Social Choice," *American Economic Review*, vol. 89, No. 3, pp. 349-378. 克鲁格曼,1999,《萧条经济学的回归》,朱文辉等译,北京:中国人民大学出版社。

张军,1994,《社会主义的政府与企业:从"退出"角度的分析》,《经济研究》第9期。

张维迎, 1999,《企业理论与中国企业改革》, 北京: 北京大学出版社。

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