

# Macroprudential policy with earnings-based borrowing constraints

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## Abstract

A large literature has studied optimal regulatory policy in macroeconomic models with asset-based collateral constraints. A common conclusion is that agents ‘over-borrow’ and optimal policy reduces debt positions through taxes. The reason is that agents do not internalize the effects of their choices on *asset prices*. However, recent empirical evidence shows that firms primarily borrow against their earnings rather than their assets. This paper studies optimal macroprudential policy with earnings-based borrowing constraints, both in closed and open economies. We reach the opposite conclusion to the previous literature. Agents ‘over-save’ (and ‘under-borrow’) relative to the social optimum, as they do not internalize changes in *wages*, which in turn affect firms’ earnings. A numerical model exercise demonstrates that incorrectly rolling out a tax policy derived under the assumption of asset-based constraints in an economy where firms actually borrow based on earnings leads to a consumption equivalent welfare loss of up to 2.55%. Optimal macroprudential policy thus critically depends on the specific form of financial constraints.

*Keywords:* Financial frictions, Macroprudential policy, Collateral constraints, Earnings-based borrowing constraints, Pecuniary externalities

*JEL Classification:* D62, E32, E44, G28

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## 1. Introduction

Should financial markets be regulated? If so, why and how? A large literature studies how the presence of borrowing constraints affects optimal regulatory policy (e.g. Dávila and Korinek, 2018, Bianchi and Mendoza, 2018). Most of this literature focuses on asset-based collateral constraints, which tie credit access to the resale value of an asset, such as a building or machine. The price of the asset can be a source of a pecuniary externality. Households or firms do not realize that their choices move asset prices in equilibrium,

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8 which in turn affects borrowing limits in the economy. A common conclusion is that  
9 agents borrow more than a social planner would prescribe. Optimal macroprudential  
10 policy therefore aims to limit debt, for example by imposing taxes on borrowing.

11 Meanwhile, a growing branch of research studies macroeconomic models with earnings-  
12 based borrowing constraints (e.g. Drechsel, 2023). These constraints link firms' ability to  
13 obtain funds to their earnings, usually measured before interest, taxes, depreciation and  
14 amortization (EBITDA). Although earnings-based constraints are more prevalent for US  
15 corporations than asset-based constraints (Lian and Ma, 2020), there is still a limited  
16 understanding of how macroprudential policy should be conducted in their presence.<sup>1,2</sup>

17 The contribution of this paper is to advance our understanding of the normative  
18 consequences of earnings-based borrowing constraints in a theoretical framework. We  
19 provide analytical proofs under minimal assumptions, as well as a numerical analysis in  
20 a more general model. We contrast our insights with borrowing constraints that are  
21 commonly studied in the existing literature, for both closed and open economies.

22 Our findings are the following. First, in a simple closed economy setting we show how  
23 an earnings-based borrowing constraint leads to 'over-saving' and 'under-borrowing' from a  
24 welfare point of view. The intuition is that when saving increases (borrowing decreases) in  
25 the current period, saver (borrower) net worth will be higher next period. Under relevant  
26 economic conditions, which our analysis examines closely, such an increase in net worth  
27 leads real wages to rise next period. A higher real wage means higher costs and lower  
28 earnings for firms, which through the earnings-based borrowing constraint allows for less  
29 credit. However, when agents save or borrow today, they do not take into account this  
30 negative impact of their decisions today on the future borrowing limit through wages.  
31 Therefore agents save a larger (borrow a smaller) amount in the current period than what

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<sup>1</sup>There are a few exceptions, that is, normative analyses in which earnings do play some role in credit constraints, e.g. Bianchi (2016). We explain the differences to these formulations of financial constraints.

<sup>2</sup>We define macroprudential policy as regulatory policy that eliminates pecuniary externalities through *ex-ante* taxes. This includes policies that, if optimal, support borrowing through negative taxes (subsidies).

32 a social planner would implement as a constrained efficient allocation.

33 Second, this result is the opposite to what holds under asset-based borrowing con-  
34 straints, which we analyze in our setting for comparison. In essence, in an earnings-based  
35 credit constraint an *input price* (through the wage bill) enters with a negative sign, while  
36 in an asset-based constraint an *asset price* (through the value of capital) enters with a  
37 positive sign. When future wages and capital prices respond with the same sign to current  
38 saving and borrowing decisions, then the directions of the pecuniary externalities are the  
39 opposite for the two constraints.

40 Third, we compare earnings-based borrowing constraints to income-based borrowing  
41 constraints in a small open economy (SOE) setting with tradable and nontradable goods.  
42 With an income-based constraint, the external debt position of an economy is limited by  
43 its total income. As the wage bill is a payment from domestic producers to domestic  
44 employees, the wage does not affect total income and the relative price of nontradable  
45 goods is the only price that gives rise to a pecuniary externality. In contrast, an earnings-  
46 based constraint in the same economy determines borrowing capacity based on operating  
47 profits of producers, so both the price of nontradable goods and the wage give rise to  
48 pecuniary externalities. We show that prices of nontradable goods and wages respond  
49 with the same sign to current saving and borrowing decisions but enter with opposite  
50 signs in the earnings-based constraint. In consequence, there is an under-borrowing force  
51 through wages on top of a the over-borrowing force through nontradable goods prices that  
52 the literature has pointed out in this class of models.<sup>3</sup>

53 Finally, we study a numerical application in a general model with a wider array of  
54 economic channels. This includes additional externalities that work through redistribution,  
55 which are generally difficult to sign (Dávila and Korinek, 2018), but can be important in the

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<sup>3</sup>We also examine working capital constraints (Bianchi and Mendoza, 2010; Jermann and Quadrini, 2012; Bianchi, 2016; Bocola and Lorenzoni, 2023). We find that when firms need to pre-finance wages and also face earnings-based limits on credit, the pecuniary externality through wages is magnified.

56 context of collateral constraints (Lanteri and Rampini, 2021). In our main experiment, a  
57 planner calculates optimal taxes assuming that the economy features asset-based borrowing  
58 constraints. In an equally calibrated economy where firms actually borrow based on  
59 earnings, we impose these ‘incorrect’ taxes. We find that they lead to large welfare losses.  
60 For example, relative to imposing the optimal policy, the wrongly designed tax policy leads  
61 to a loss of up to 2.55% in aggregate consumption. In light of comparable magnitudes in the  
62 literature, this is very sizable effect. Our findings make clear that optimal macroprudential  
63 policy critically depends on the specific form of financial constraints.

64 Our work contributes to two strands of research. The first strand studies pecuniary  
65 externalities with financial constraints.<sup>4</sup> Our approach is similar to Dávila and Korinek  
66 (2018) but considers a labor market and examines additional types of constraints. The  
67 introduction of a labor market provides new challenges in signing externalities, and a  
68 contribution of this paper is to determine relevant model restrictions. Our insight that  
69 higher wages tighten financial constraints is complementary to the mechanism in Bianchi  
70 (2016), where firms face working capital and equity constraints, and do not internalize that  
71 when they hire workers, wages increase, which in turn tightens equity constraints.<sup>5</sup> A few  
72 other studies consider income-based rather than asset-based credit constraints in normative  
73 analysis, for example Bianchi (2011) where tradable and nontradable income restrict the  
74 economy’s external debt position. We contrast our results with the ones arising under  
75 those constraints. Benigno et al. (2013) and Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe (2020) also note the  
76 possibility of under-borrowing, but through channels different from ours. In Benigno et al.

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<sup>4</sup>Important contributions include Mendoza (2006, 2010), Lorenzoni (2008), Jeanne and Korinek (2010), Korinek (2011), Bianchi (2011), Benigno et al. (2013), Bianchi (2016), Bianchi and Mendoza (2018). A related line of research studies *aggregate demand externalities* (Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe, 2016; Farhi and Werning, 2016). These do not work through financial constraints, but through the combination of nominal rigidities and other constraints, such as a fixed exchange rate. Wolf (2020) studies pecuniary externalities that arise from wage rigidities independently of financial constraints and aggregate demand channels.

<sup>5</sup>The pecuniary externality in Bianchi (2016) works through higher *labor demand* having a negative effect on other firms’ dividend constraints. In our framework, the pecuniary externality arises from firms’ current borrowing exerting a positive effect on future credit limits through *labor supply*.

77 (2013), when the planner can use an ex-post stabilization tool, the constrained efficient  
78 allocation features more borrowing than the decentralized equilibrium. In Schmitt-Grohé  
79 and Uribe (2020) under-borrowing is a result of precautionary savings in the face of self-  
80 fulling crises. Fazio (2021) proposes a framework with earnings-based constraints to study  
81 a credit crunch at the zero lower bound (ZLB) on interest rates. What distinguishes  
82 our paper from all of the above is that we compare a variety of credit constraints and  
83 systematically study the different policy implications. Another aspect that differentiates  
84 our paper is that we examine pecuniary externalities in a general labor market structure,  
85 with an explicit analysis of both labor demand and labor supply effects. Bianchi and  
86 Mendoza (2010), Bianchi (2016), Fazio (2021) and Bocola and Lorenzoni (2023) all focus on  
87 preferences without wealth effects on labor supply, while our setting features a more general  
88 labor supply specification. Finally, a related paper is Ottonello, Perez and Varraso (2022)  
89 which focuses on the timing of collateral constraints and shows that policy conclusions  
90 can change depending on whether current or future prices of collateral affect credit access.  
91 Instead of timing, we focus on different variables entering borrowing constraints.

92 The second strand of research highlights the distinction between asset-based constraints  
93 and earnings-based constraints. Drechsel (2023) studies how earnings-based borrowing  
94 constraints affect the transmission of macroeconomic shocks. Lian and Ma (2020) show  
95 that 80% of U.S. corporate debt is earnings-based. Caglio, Darst and Kalemli-Özcan (2021)  
96 show that earnings-based constraints are also prevalent for private small and medium-sized  
97 companies.<sup>6</sup> None of these papers consider normative implications.

98 The paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides the intuition behind pecuniary  
99 externalities with earnings-based borrowing constraints in a simple setting. Section 3  
100 compares these insights with asset-based constraints and income-based constraints in  
101 SOEs. Section 4 presents the more general model. We provide more formal proofs for

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<sup>6</sup>di Giovanni et al. (2022) provide evidence for Spain and Camara and Sangiacomo (2022) for Argentina.

102 our earlier results, and carry out the numerical policy experiments. Section 5 concludes.

## 103 **2. Intuition for pecuniary externalities with earnings-based constraints**

104 This section presents a simple two-period model in which borrowers face an earnings-  
105 based borrowing constraint as formulated in Drechsel (2023). In this model, we derive our  
106 main theoretical intuition. We explain how pecuniary externalities will arise through the  
107 borrowing constraint from the way wages respond to agents' past financial decisions. We  
108 do so under different assumptions about preferences and the labor market structure.

### 109 *2.1. Model setup*

110 There are two time periods  $t = 1, 2$ . The economy is closed and populated by unit  
111 measures of borrowers and lenders, denoted by superscript  $i \in \{b, l\}$ . Agents have perfect  
112 foresight. Agent type  $i$  derives utility from consumption  $c_t^i$  in both periods and disutility  
113 from supplying labor  $\ell_s^i$  at wage  $w$  in  $t = 1$ . Both agents are risk-neutral in  $t = 2$ . We  
114 examine different cases for risk aversion in  $t = 1$ . The borrower has access to a Cobb-  
115 Douglas production technology that uses labor  $\ell_d$  and capital  $K$  as inputs in  $t = 1$ , and  
116 capital only in  $t = 2$ . The capital stock is fixed and owned by the borrower. The lender  
117 does not produce, but is endowed with resources  $e_t^l$ . Agent  $i$  can trade a risk-free bond  $x_2^i$   
118 between the two periods at price  $m$ , where positive values of  $x$  indicate saving, negative  
119 values borrowing. The borrower faces the following earnings-based borrowing constraint:

$$-x_2^b \leq \phi_\pi (K^\alpha \ell_d^{1-\alpha} - w\ell_d) \quad (1)$$

120 where  $\alpha$  is the capital share in production and  $\phi_\pi > 0$  is a parameter that governs the  
121 tightness of the constraint. The difference between sales  $K^\alpha \ell_d^{1-\alpha}$  and input costs  $w\ell_d$   
122 defines earnings (EBITDA) and restricts debt access (Drechsel, 2023). Agent  $i$  holds an  
123 initial asset position  $x_1^i$ . This position results from choices in period  $t = 0$  which we do not

124 model explicitly, but which as we will describe below will be relevant in driving pecuniary  
 125 externality. Taken together, the maximization problem of the borrower is

$$\max \left( \frac{(c_1^b)^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \frac{(\ell_s^b)^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi} + \beta c_2^b \right) \quad (2)$$

126 subject to (1) and

$$c_1^b + mx_2^b \leq K^\alpha \ell_d^{1-\alpha} - w\ell_d + x_1^b + w\ell_s^b \quad (3)$$

$$c_2^b \leq A_2K + x_2^b \quad (4)$$

127  $\gamma$  and  $\psi$  are the risk aversion and Frisch elasticity parameters. The lender's problem is

$$\max \left( \frac{(c_1^l)^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \frac{(\ell_s^l)^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi} + \beta c_2^l \right) \quad (5)$$

128 subject to

$$c_1^l + mx_2^l \leq e_1^l + w\ell_s^l + x_1^l \quad (6)$$

$$c_2^l \leq e_2^l + x_2^l \quad (7)$$

129 The setting nest the special cases in which agents are risk neutral ( $\gamma = 0$ ) and in which  
 130 only lenders supply labor ( $\ell_s^b = 0$ ). We analyze these cases below.

## 131 2.2. Decentralized equilibrium

132 We solve the maximization problems of borrowers and lenders. The aggregate states of  
 133 the model in  $t = 1$  are denoted  $X \equiv (X_1^b, X_1^l)$ , and we characterize a symmetric equilibrium  
 134 in which  $x_1^i = X_1^i$  and the borrowing constraint binds. Combining labor market clearing

135  $\ell_d = \ell_s^l + \ell_s^b$  with optimal choices gives

$$\left(\frac{1-\alpha}{w}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K = \left(\frac{\beta w}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{\psi}} + h(w, m, x_1^b) \quad (8)$$

136 where the labor supply function of the borrower  $h(w, m, x_1^b)$  depends positively on  $w$ ,  
 137 negatively on  $m$  and  $x_1^b$ .<sup>7</sup> Bond market clearing  $-x_2^b = x_2^l$  implies that

$$\alpha\phi_\pi \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{w}\right)^{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}} K = \frac{1}{m} \left( e_1^l + w \left(\frac{\beta w}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{\psi}} + x_1^l - \left(\frac{m}{\beta}\right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \right) \quad (9)$$

138 Condition (8) and (9) allow us to write the equilibrium wage and bond price as a  
 139 function of the aggregate states  $X_1^b$  and  $X_1^l$ :

$$w = L(m, X_1^b) \quad (10)$$

$$m = B(w, X_1^l) \quad (11)$$

140 where  $\partial L/\partial m > 0$ ,  $\partial L/\partial X_1^b > 0$ ,  $\partial B/\partial w > 0$  and  $\partial B/\partial X_1^l > 0$ . (10) and (11) characterize  
 141 the decentralized equilibrium in  $t = 1$  in two price schedules for  $(w, m)$ .

### 142 2.3. Sufficient statistics approach to pecuniary externalities

143 Agent  $i$ 's initial asset position  $x_1^i$  results from past saving and borrowing decisions that  
 144 are not explicitly modeled in this section. We study how wages change with the aggregate  
 145 initial asset positions  $X$ , by determining the sign of  $\partial w/\partial X$  in the equilibrium described by  
 146 (10) and (11). These wage changes in turn affect the earnings-based borrowing constraint  
 147 (1) because higher wages reduce earnings, all else equal. As wage changes in  $t = 1$  and  
 148 their effect on the constraint are not internalized by agents in  $t = 0$ , their past saving  
 149 and borrowing decisions are not generally optimal when the borrowing constraint binds.

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<sup>7</sup>The labor supply function  $h(w, m, x_1^b)$  is implicitly defined by the borrower's optimality conditions  $(l_s^b)^\psi = w(c_1^b)^{-\gamma}$  and  $c_1^b = \alpha(1 + m\phi_\pi)\left(\frac{1-\alpha}{w}\right)^{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}} K + wl_s^b + x_1^b$ .

150 Examining the sign of  $\partial w/\partial X$  therefore provides the intuition for the direction in which  
 151 pecuniary externalities in the earnings-based borrowing constraint result from saving and  
 152 borrowing decisions in  $t = 0$ . In the more general model in Section 4, the decisions in  
 153  $t = 0$  are explicitly modeled, a social planner problem is introduced, and the direction of  
 154 the pecuniary externalities are proven formally.

155 In examining the direction of price responses to aggregate states we follow the “sufficient  
 156 statistics” approach of Dávila and Korinek (2018) [henceforth ‘DK18’]. Similar to them,  
 157 we sign the pecuniary externalities that result from past saving and borrowing decisions  
 158 affecting the borrowing constraint in the current period. There are other externalities, in  
 159 particular those that result from investment rather than saving and borrowing decisions  
 160 and those that affect redistribution of resources across agents. It is challenging to sign  
 161 these externalities in general, a result that DK18 refer to as “anything goes.”

#### 162 *2.4. Equilibrium wage responses to past saving and borrowing decisions*

163 To determine the sign of  $\partial w/\partial X$ , we examine the following three cases of our setting:

164 (i) *lenders are risk neutral, borrowers are risk averse; only lenders supply labor*

165 (ii) *lenders and borrowers are risk averse; only lenders supply labor*

166 (iii) *lenders and borrowers are risk averse; all agents supply labor*

167 Distinguishing between risk neutrality and risk aversion has two implications. First, with  
 168 risk neutrality the interest rate in this economy is constant. Second, with  $\gamma = 0$  in  
 169 lenders’ preferences, there is no wealth effect on labor supply.<sup>8</sup> Distinguishing which agents  
 170 supply labor to begin with is relevant, because with earnings-based borrowing constraints  
 171 the borrower is typically thought of as a firm. Therefore restricting the borrower to  
 172 demanding labor and the lender to supplying it is a natural assumption. Making these  
 173 distinctions about the setting helps us clarify the economic conditions under which the  
 174 relevant pecuniary externalities will arise.

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<sup>8</sup>To see this, note that the case  $\left(c_1^l - \frac{(\ell_s^l)^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi}\right)$  represents Greenwood-Hercowitz-Huffman preferences.

175 *Case (i)*. Risk-neutrality of lenders implies that (11) becomes  $m = \beta$  and the bond price  
 176 does not depend on aggregate states. When borrowers do not supply labor, the second  
 177 term of the right hand side of (8) disappears, and (10) simplifies to  $w = L(m)$ , so the  
 178 wage also does not depend on aggregate states. Past saving and borrowing decisions do  
 179 not move prices, so that  $\partial w / \partial X = 0$  and no pecuniary externality operates through the  
 180 earnings-based constraint. Agents' financial decisions in  $t = 0$  will be constrained efficient.

181 *Case (ii)*. The bond price schedule (11) is now a function of  $X_1^l$ , while wages depend on  $X_1^l$   
 182 only through  $m$  in (8). Lenders' decisions in  $t = 0$  shift the bond price schedule, thereby  
 183 affect equilibrium wages, so that  $\partial w / \partial X \neq 0$ . As lenders do not internalize this effect  
 184 on the borrowing constraint, their  $t = 0$  saving decision is not constrained efficient. To  
 185 examine the direction of the pecuniary externality, note the following condition:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial X_1^l} \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial B^{-1}}{\partial m} > \frac{\partial L}{\partial m} \quad (12)$$

186 If the slope of  $B$  is steeper than the slope of  $L$ , higher lender net worth increases wages.  
 187 In consequence, more saving by lenders in  $t = 0$  tightens the earnings-based constraint by  
 188 raising wages in  $t = 1$ . Figure 1 examines the equilibrium under condition (12).

189 On what grounds may the failure of condition (12), where  $\frac{\partial B^{-1}}{\partial m} < \frac{\partial L}{\partial m}$ , be ruled  
 190 out? Figure 2 illustrates that in this case the equilibrium is unstable. The left panel  
 191 presents a phase diagram corresponding to Figure 1, while the right panel shows a phase  
 192 diagram when (12) does not hold. The equilibrium in the right panel is an unstable saddle  
 193 point while the equilibrium in the left panel is fully stable. Thus, based on stability  
 194 considerations, we argue that (12) is an appealing restriction. Further below, we show  
 195 that this argument has an analogy under asset-based collateral constraints.

196 It is possible to provide a sufficient condition on the model's parameters that ensures  
 197 that (12) is satisfied: if  $1 + \frac{\psi}{\alpha} > \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}$ , then  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial X_1^l} \geq 0$  holds. Conditional on the capital  
 198 share of production, there needs to be a sufficiently strong labor supply elasticity for more

199 lender net worth to raise wages. The Online Appendix provides the formal derivation of this  
 200 sufficient condition. This derivation also makes clear that condition (12) generally depends  
 201 on other model primitives, in particular the risk aversion  $\gamma$ . The condition  $1 + \frac{\psi}{\alpha} > \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}$   
 202 therefore is not necessary, but sufficient. In the more general model below, we explore the  
 203 calibration of the key parameters  $\alpha$  and  $\psi$ .

204 *Case (iii)*. When borrowers also supply labor, the wage schedule becomes a function  
 205 of  $X_1^b$ .<sup>9</sup> Now both lenders' and borrowers' decisions in  $t = 0$  affect the earnings-based  
 206 constraint in  $t = 1$  through equilibrium wages, and their decisions is thus not constrained  
 207 efficient. The relevant condition generalizes to two derivatives in a similar fashion:

$$\frac{\partial w}{\partial X_1^l}, \frac{\partial w}{\partial X_1^b} \geq 0 \Leftrightarrow \frac{\partial B^{-1}}{\partial m} > \frac{\partial L}{\partial m} \quad (13)$$

208 Figure 3 examines the equilibrium under condition (13) graphically.

209 Similar to Case (ii), condition (13) can be supported based on stability arguments. It  
 210 is not possible to derive a simple parametric sufficiency condition as in Case (ii), but it is  
 211 again evident that the strength of labor supply is important as  $X_1^b$  enters (8) through  $h(\cdot)$ .

212 *Labor demand vs. labor supply*. In our setting, inefficiencies in the decisions of lenders and  
 213 borrowers in  $t = 0$  arise from changes in labor supply in  $t = 1$ . To see this, note that  
 214 in Case (ii)  $X_1^l$  enters in (11) because of wealth effects on lenders' labor supply and in  
 215 Case (iii)  $X_1^b$  enters in (10) because of wealth effects on borrowers' labor supply. In both  
 216 cases, labor demand is pinned down from optimal behavior within the period based on the  
 217 predetermined capital stock, as the agents can always choose labor demand that maximizes  
 218 their unconstrained objective as well as their borrowing capacity. Labor demand choices  
 219 are thus not affected by changes in borrower net worth. Without labor supply reacting

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<sup>9</sup>This would not be true in the absence of wealth effect on borrowers' labor supply, in which case the borrowers' decisions would be constrained efficient. We omit this intermediate case, because the logic is similar to Case (i) for lenders' labor supply without wealth effects.

220 to changes in net worth, the allocation under an earnings-based borrowing limit would  
221 not exhibit constraint externalities through saving and borrowing choices. Providing this  
222 reasoning for signing pecuniary externalities with labor demand and labor supply is a  
223 central insight of our analysis, and makes our mechanism distinct from that in Bianchi  
224 (2016) and Bianchi and Mendoza (2010). Further below, we show that in interaction  
225 with working capital constraints, labor demand does give rise to additional pecuniary  
226 externalities with earnings-based borrowing constraints, similar to these papers.

### 227 *2.5. Over-saving and under-borrowing effects with earnings-based constraints*

228 The above analysis makes clear that when we consider stable equilibria in  $t = 1$  with  
229 risk aversion, agents' decisions might not be constrained efficient.<sup>10</sup> In Cases (ii) and (iii),  
230 lenders in  $t = 0$  will not internalize that saving more raises wages in  $t = 1$  which in turn  
231 tightens the earnings-based constraint. From the point of view of a social planner, they  
232 thus over-save relative to the optimal allocation. In Case (iii) borrower decisions are not  
233 constrained efficient. Borrowers in  $t = 0$  will not internalize that borrowing more lowers  
234 wages in  $t = 1$  which in turn relaxes the earnings-based constraint. From the point of view  
235 of a social planner, they thus under-borrow relative to the optimal allocation.

236 We make the  $t = 0$  choices as well as the planner problem explicit in a more general  
237 formulation of the model in Section 4. In that section, we formally prove the over-saving  
238 (under-borrowing) result by deriving the planner's optimal taxes/subsidies on borrowing.  
239 We show that the results on over-saving and under-borrowing hold in a more general  
240 setting as long as  $\partial w/\partial X > 0$ . Before generalizing the setting, we contrast the insights  
241 above with common formulations of financial constraints in the literature.

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<sup>10</sup>Our analysis of the SOE setting in Section 3 makes clear that also with a fixed interest rate (risk neutral lenders) pecuniary externalities can arise.

242 **3. Comparison with constraints commonly studied in the literature**

243 This section compares the implications of earnings-based borrowing constraints to  
 244 those from common formulations of borrowing constraints in the macroprudential policy  
 245 literature. We first focus on asset-based collateral constraints in the same setting as above.  
 246 We then consider a small open economy environment and study income constraints on the  
 247 economy's external debt position.

248 *3.1. Over-borrowing effects with asset-based constraints*

249 Suppose that capital is still in inelastic supply but can be traded at price  $q$ . The  
 250 borrower faces the following commonly studied asset-based collateral constraint:

$$-x_2^b \leq \phi_k q k \tag{14}$$

251 where  $k$  is the capital choice and  $0 < \phi_k < 1$  governs the tightness of the constraint. To  
 252 demonstrate that the typical over-borrowing result holds in our setting, it is enough focus  
 253 on the simplest setting with risk-neutral lenders and labor supply coming from lenders  
 254 only (Case (i)). The borrower's problem becomes

$$\max \left( \frac{(c_1^b)^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} + \beta c_2^b \right) \tag{15}$$

255 subject to (14) instead of (1) and subject to

$$c_1^b + m x_2^b + q k \leq (k^\alpha \ell_d^{1-\alpha} - w \ell_d) + x_1^b + q K \tag{16}$$

$$c_2^b \leq A_2 k + x_2^b \tag{17}$$

256 The lender problem remains the same as in Section 2. We can derive a capital demand  
 257 function in period  $t = 1$  that depends on  $X_1^b$ , and may be upward-sloping or downward

sloping.<sup>11</sup> Figure 4 shows both cases. When  $\frac{\partial q}{\partial X_1^b} < 0$  (right panel), the equilibrium is not stable. Therefore  $\frac{\partial q}{\partial X_1^b} \geq 0$  (left panel) is a sensible restriction. Indeed it typically features in the literature on asset-based constraints. Dávila and Korinek (2018) also show that failure of  $\frac{\partial q}{\partial X_1^b} \geq 0$  leads to multiplicity and unstable equilibria. Economically, an increase in resources, holding the amount of available capital in the economy fixed, will increase the capital demand and thus put upward pressure on its price. When  $\frac{\partial q}{\partial X_1^b} \geq 0$ , borrowers in  $t = 0$  will not internalize that saving more, and thus reducing net worth next period, will reduce capital prices in  $t = 1$  and therefore tighten borrowing constraints. In consequence, they over-borrow relative to what a social planner would prescribe.

The contrast between the earnings-based and the asset-based constraint makes clear that when  $w$  and  $q$  respond with the same sign to current asset positions, then the directions of the pecuniary externalities coming from past saving and borrowing decisions are the opposite, as  $w$  and  $q$  enter with opposite sign in each constraint. Agents over-save and under-borrow with earnings-based constraints, but over-borrow with asset-based constraints. We reach the opposite conclusion from much of the previous literature on macroprudential policy with financial constraints.<sup>12</sup>

### 3.2. Earnings-based vs. income-based constraints in small open economies

We now consider an SOE version of the two-period model in Section 2. A representative household consumes tradable goods, which are the numéraire, and nontradable goods according to a CES aggregator  $c = [\theta(c^T)^\rho + (1 - \theta)(c^N)^\rho]^{\frac{1}{\rho}}$ . The household receives an endowment of nontradable goods  $y^N$  and produces tradable goods with a Cobb-Douglas

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<sup>11</sup>Formally, solving for the  $t = 1$  capital choice  $k$  as a function of  $q$ ,  $X_1^b$  and predetermined capital supply gives the following relation:  $k = \frac{1}{q(1-\beta\theta_k)} \left[ \alpha \left( \frac{1-\alpha}{w} \right)^{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}} K + X_1^b + qK - \left( \frac{1}{1-\beta\theta_k} \left( \frac{1}{q} \beta A_2 - \beta \theta_k \right) \right)^{-\frac{1}{\gamma}} \right]$ .

<sup>12</sup>Our over-saving and under-borrowing results require wealth effects on labor supply. In the absence of those effects, the normative conclusions with an earnings-based constraint would still be different from the typical over-borrowing result with an asset-based constraint, as they would imply constrained efficiency.

279 production technology  $y^T = zK^\alpha \ell^{1-\alpha}$ .<sup>13</sup> The economy has access to a one-period bond on  
 280 international markets. It is denominated in units of tradables and its exogenously fixed  
 281 price is  $m$ . More details on the SOE setup are provided in the Online Appendix.

282 We now define income-based and earnings-based borrowing constraints and highlight  
 283 the prices that enter in each constraint. Income-based constraints limit the amount that  
 284 the economy can borrow externally by a fraction of *total* current income, the sum of profits,  
 285 endowments, and wages, as for example in Bianchi (2011) and Benigno et al. (2013):

$$-x_2 \leq \phi_I((y_1^T - w\ell^d) + p_1 y_1^N + w\ell^s) = \phi_I(y_1^T + p_1 y_1^N), \quad (18)$$

286 where  $p_1$  is the relative price of nontradable goods, and  $\ell^d$  and  $\ell^s$  are labor demand and  
 287 supply. The key price in the income-based constraint is  $p_1$ , so  $\partial p_1 / \partial X$  determines the  
 288 direction of the pecuniary externality. In Bianchi (2011),  $\partial p_1 / \partial X > 0$  and agents over-  
 289 borrow under income-based borrowing constraints as they do not internalize that their  
 290 debt positions shrink borrowing capacity through a lower  $p_1$ .

291 In contrast, earnings-based constraints are determined by a multiple of the EBITDA  
 292 of *firms* rather than the *total* income of the economy. In the SOE economy this gives

$$-x_2 \leq \phi_\pi(y_1^T - w\ell^d + p_1 y_1^N). \quad (19)$$

293 because tradable firm earnings are  $(y_1^T - w\ell^d)$  and nontradable firm earnings are  $p_1 y_1^N$   
 294 (nontradable sector firms produce an endowment with zero costs). The key prices for the  
 295 earnings-based constraints are the price of nontradable goods  $p_1$  and wage  $w$ , so  $\partial p_1 / \partial X$

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<sup>13</sup>In the Online Appendix, we also consider the case with tradable goods being an endowment and production of nontradable goods. We reach similar conclusions in that alternative setting.

296 and  $\partial w/\partial X$  are the relevant sufficient statistics.  $(p_1, w)$  are determined by

$$p_1 = \frac{1 - \theta}{\theta} \left( \frac{(1 + \alpha m \phi_\pi) y_1^T + X}{y_1^N} + m \phi_\pi p_1 \right)^{1-\rho} \quad (20)$$

$$\left( \frac{(1 - \alpha) z_1}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K = \ell^{s*}, \quad (21)$$

297 where  $\ell^{s*}$  is the optimal labor supply which depends on preferences. In theory,  $\partial p_1/\partial X$   
 298 can be either positive or negative depending on parameter values.<sup>14</sup> We focus our analysis  
 299 on the case  $\partial p_1/\partial X > 0$  as we want to contrast it with the standard over-borrowing result.

300 We consider two cases regarding labor supply: (i) labor supply is exogenously fixed;  
 301 (ii) labor supply is endogenously determined.

302 *Case (i).* As  $\ell^{s*}$  is fixed, the equilibrium wage does not change with aggregate net worth  
 303 i.e.  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial X} = 0$ . A pecuniary externality emerges only through the price of nontradable goods.

304 With  $\partial p_1/\partial X > 0$ , the standard over-borrowing results hold.

305 *Case (ii).* In the SOE setting with endogenous labor supply,  $\text{sign}(\partial p_1/\partial X) = \text{sign}(\partial w/\partial X)$ .

306 We show this formally in the Online Appendix. As we focus on  $\partial p_1/\partial X > 0$ , it is also  
 307 the case that  $\partial w/\partial X > 0$ . Based on the arguments in Section 2,  $\partial w/\partial X > 0$  leads to  
 308 an under-borrowing force with earnings-based constraints. Thus, there is both an over-  
 309 borrowing mechanism, which goes through the relative price of nontradable goods, and  
 310 under-borrowing mechanism, which operates through wages.<sup>15</sup>

311 We conclude that in SOEs with earnings-based borrowing constraints, there is an under-  
 312 borrowing force that features alongside the over-borrowing force present in income-based

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<sup>14</sup>Schmitt-Grohé and Uribe (2020) show that  $\partial p_1/\partial X$  can have either sign depending on parameter values, and that the equilibrium is unique with  $\partial p_1/\partial X > 0$  under the calibration of Bianchi (2011). In other cases, the model features multiple equilibria and  $\partial p_1/\partial X < 0$ .

<sup>15</sup>It could be interesting to study relative output price variation as a source of pecuniary externalities also in a closed economy setting with earnings-based constraints. Fazio (2021) explores this possibility in an environment with a manufacturing and a service sector, where manufacturing producers face a credit constraint that depends on their earnings.

313 constraints. Which force dominates the other is a quantitative and empirical question,  
 314 which we leave as an avenue for future research. Its answer depends on whether debt  
 315 positions of SOEs are taken by households, firms or governments, as these agents might  
 316 feature differential constraints. With income-based constraints the literature has taken  
 317 a natural starting point, as they link to the total income across all of these agents.  
 318 If, however, external borrowing is primarily done by firms subject to earnings-based  
 319 constraints, then the contribution of the under-borrowing force could be first-order.

320 *3.2.1. Discussion: working capital constraints*

321 Firms sometimes pre-finance production inputs before revenues are collected. If the  
 322 access to such *working capital*, in addition to other debt, is limited by an earnings-based  
 323 constraint, this enhances the strength of the externality that operates through wages. To  
 324 see this, suppose a firm takes the intertemporal position  $x_2^b$  as above, and in addition pre-  
 325 finances a fraction  $\psi$  of its wage bill with an intraperiod working capital loan  $x_{wc} = -\psi w \ell_d$ .  
 326 Such a setup is chosen, for example, by Bianchi and Mendoza (2010) and Bocola and  
 327 Lorenzoni (2023). When we add working capital to our framework, an earnings-based  
 328 constraint on *total borrowing* takes the form

$$-(x_2^b - \psi w \ell_d) \leq \phi_\pi (K^\alpha \ell_d^{1-\alpha} - w \ell_d) \quad (22)$$

329 which can be rearranged to

$$-x_2^b \leq \phi_\pi K^\alpha \ell_d^{1-\alpha} - (\phi_\pi + \psi) w \ell_d \quad (23)$$

330 which corresponds to (1), with the only difference that the parameter multiplying the wage  
 331 bill is  $(\phi_\pi + \psi) > \phi_\pi$ . The presence of working capital thus strengthens the externality in

332 the earnings-based constraint, leading to a more pronounced under-borrowing effect.<sup>16</sup>

333 Recall from above that in our framework without working capital there are no inefficien-  
 334 cies that operate through labor demand. This changes with a working capital constraint,  
 335 as lower labor demand eases the working capital constraint. In this case, higher borrower  
 336 net worth from past saving and borrowing decisions increases the equilibrium wage through  
 337 higher labor demand. Thus, the under-borrowing effects from earnings-based constraints  
 338 are magnified with working capital through both a higher parameter in front of the wage  
 339 bill and an additional labor demand channel. Interestingly, in models such as Bianchi  
 340 and Mendoza (2010) and Bocola and Lorenzoni (2023) agents have GHH preferences, so  
 341 constraint externalities operate exclusively through labor demand.

#### 342 4. General setting, formal proofs and numerical application

343 This section generalizes the model of Section 2 to feature three periods and capital  
 344 investment. All agents are risk averse, produce and supply labor. The model is close  
 345 to DK18, but with a labor market and different credit constraints. In this setting, we  
 346 formally prove the direction of the pecuniary externalities for which we developed the  
 347 intuition above. We also carry out numerical model experiments.

##### 348 4.1. Generalized model

349 There are three time periods  $t = 0, 1, 2$ . The state of nature is realized at date  $t = 1$   
 350 and is denoted by  $\theta \in \Theta$ . Agent type  $i \in \{b, l\}$  has a time separable utility function

$$U^i = \mathbb{E}_0 \left[ \sum_{t=0}^2 \beta^t u^i(c_t^i, \ell_{st}^i) \right] \quad (24)$$

---

<sup>16</sup>To see this formally, in the proof of Proposition 2 in Section 4 a larger parameter multiplying the wage increases  $\frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_1^\theta}$  and thus drives  $C_{N^i}^{b,\theta}$  more negative.

351 where  $u^i(\cdot, \cdot)$  is strictly increasing and weakly concave in consumption, strictly decreasing  
352 and weakly convex in labor, and  $u^i(c_0^i, \ell_{s_0}^i) = u^i(c_0^i)$ . There are consumption goods and  
353 capital goods.  $e_t^{i,\theta}$  is the endowment of consumption goods agent  $i$  receives at date  $t = 1, 2$   
354 given state  $\theta$ . Time-0 endowments are denoted by  $e_0^i$ . At date  $t = 0$ , agents can invest  
355  $h^i(k_1^i)$  units of consumption good to produce  $k_1^i$  units of date-1 capital goods.<sup>17</sup> The  
356 functions  $h^i(\cdot)$  are increasing and convex and satisfy  $h^i(0) = 0$ .  $k_1^i$  can be used for the  
357 production of consumption goods in period  $t = 1$  and be carried over for production in  
358 period  $t = 2$ .  $k_2^{i,\theta}$  denotes the amount of capital that agent  $i$  carries from date 1 to 2.  
359 Capital fully depreciates after date 2. To produce consumption goods in  $t \geq 1$ , agent  $i$   
360 employs both capital and labor to produce  $F^i(k_t^{i,\theta}, \ell_{dt}^{i,\theta})$  units of the consumption good.  
361  $\ell_{dt}^{i,\theta}$  is labor demanded by agent  $i$  at date  $t$ . The production functions  $F^i(\cdot, \cdot)$  are strictly  
362 increasing and weakly concave in each argument and satisfy  $F^i(0, 0) = 0$ .

363 At date  $t = 0$ , agents trade state-contingent assets that pay 1 unit of the consumption  
364 good in period  $t = 1$  and state  $\theta$ .  $x_1^{i,\theta}$  denotes the date-0 state- $\theta$  purchases by agent  $i$   
365 and  $m_1^\theta$  is the corresponding asset price, taken as given by the agent. Agent  $i$  spends  
366  $\int_{\theta \in \Theta} m_1^\theta x_1^{i,\theta} d\theta$  in total on these securities. Without further uncertainty between  $t = 1$  and  
367  $t = 2$ , agents trade non-contingent one-period bonds  $x_2^{i,\theta}$  at time  $t = 1$  at price  $m_2^\theta$ . There  
368 is a competitive labor market. Wages at date  $t \geq 1$  and state  $\theta$  are denoted by  $w_t^\theta$ . There  
369 is also a market to trade capital at a price  $q^\theta$  at date 1 after production has taken place.  
370 There is no trading of capital at date 2. The budget constraints of agent  $i \in \{b, l\}$  are

$$c_0^i + h^i(k_1^i) + \int_{\theta \in \Theta} m_1^\theta x_1^{i,\theta} d\theta = e_0^i \quad (25)$$

$$c_1^{i,\theta} + q^\theta \Delta k_2^{i,\theta} + m_2^\theta x_2^{i,\theta} = e_1^{i,\theta} + x_1^{i,\theta} + F^i(k_1^i, \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta}) - w_1^\theta \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta} + w_1^\theta \ell_{s1}^{i,\theta}, \quad \forall \theta \quad (26)$$

$$c_2^{i,\theta} = e_2^{i,\theta} + x_2^{i,\theta} + F^i(k_2^{i,\theta}, \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta}) - w_2^\theta \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta} + w_2^\theta \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta}, \quad \forall \theta \quad (27)$$

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<sup>17</sup>Note that  $k_1^{i,\theta} = k_1^i$  since it is chosen in  $t = 0$ , thus not conditional on the state of nature  $\theta$ .

371 where  $\Delta k_2^{i,\theta} \equiv k_2^{i,\theta} - k_1^i$ . Recall that the state  $\theta$  materializes in  $t = 1$  so choices in  $t \geq 1$  are  
372 made conditional on the realized state of nature. There are constraints on the holdings of  
373 securities between periods  $t = 0$  and  $t = 1$ , as well as between periods  $t = 1$  and  $t = 2$ . At  
374 date  $t = 0$ , borrowers' holdings of  $x_1^b = \{x_1^{b,\theta}\}_{\theta \in \Theta}$  are subject to a constraint

$$\Phi_1^b(x_1^b, k_1^b) \geq 0 \quad (28)$$

375 At date  $t = 1$ , borrowers' holdings of  $x_2^{b,\theta}$  are subject to a state-dependent constraint

$$\Phi_2^{b,\theta}(x_2^{b,\theta}, k_2^{b,\theta}, \{\ell_{dt}^{b,\theta}, \ell_{st}^{b,\theta}\}_{t=1}^2; q^\theta, w_1^\theta, w_2^\theta, m_2^\theta) \geq 0, \forall \theta \quad (29)$$

376 We assume  $\Phi_1^l(\cdot) = \Phi_2^{l,\theta}(\cdot) = 0$ , that is, lenders are financially unconstrained.

#### 377 4.1.1. Decentralized equilibrium

378 A decentralized equilibrium consists of asset allocations  $\{x_1^{i,\theta}, x_2^{i,\theta}\}_{i \in \{b,l\}, \theta \in \Theta}$ , real al-  
379 locations  $\{c_0^i, c_1^{i,\theta}, c_2^{i,\theta}, k_1^i, k_2^{i,\theta}, \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta}, \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta}, \ell_{s1}^{i,\theta}, \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta}\}_{i \in \{b,l\}, \theta \in \Theta}$  and prices  $\{q^\theta, w_1^\theta, w_2^\theta, m_1^\theta, m_2^\theta\}_{\theta \in \Theta}$ ,  
380 such that agents solve their optimization problems and markets clear. The market clearing  
381 conditions are shown formally in the Online Appendix. The solution for the decentralized  
382 equilibrium can be obtained via backward induction. Optimal choices at time  $t = 2$  are  
383 purely intratemporal decisions on consumption and labor supply and demand. In  $t = 1$ ,  
384 two sets of variables fully characterize the state of the economy. The first is the holdings  
385 of capital by both agents  $k_1^i$ . The second one is agents' net worth  $n_1^{i,\theta} \equiv e_1^{i,\theta} + x_1^{i,\theta}$ .<sup>18</sup>  
386 Agents take aggregate states as given so we distinguish individual states  $\{n_1^{b,\theta}, n_1^{l,\theta}, k_1^b, k_1^l\}$   
387 from aggregate states  $\{N_1^{b,\theta}, N_1^{l,\theta}, K_1^b, K_1^l\}$ . We further define  $N_1^\theta \equiv \{N_1^{b,\theta}, N_1^{l,\theta}\}$  and  
388  $K_1 \equiv \{K_1^b, K_1^l\}$ , and note that the equilibrium prices are functions of the aggregate

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<sup>18</sup>DK18 include production output as part of net worth. In our model, the quantity  $F^i(k_1^i, \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta})$  is not predetermined because labor is chosen during  $t = 1$ . We therefore do not include it as part of  $n_1^{i,\theta}$ . In the Online Appendix, we formally verify that this does not alter the original results of DK18.

389 state variables:  $q^\theta(N_1^\theta, K_1)$ ,  $m_2^\theta(N_1^\theta, K_1)$ ,  $w_1^\theta(N_1^\theta, K_1)$ , and  $w_2^\theta(N_2^\theta(N_1^\theta, K_1), K_2(N_1^\theta, K_1)) =$   
 390  $w_2^\theta(N_1^\theta, K_1)$ . The optimization problem of an individual agent  $i$  at time  $t = 1$  is

$$V^{i,\theta}(n_1^{i,\theta}, k_1^i; N_1^\theta, K_1) = \max_{\{c_1^{i,\theta}, c_2^{i,\theta}, k_2^{i,\theta}, x_2^{i,\theta}, \ell_{dt}^{i,\theta}, \ell_{st}^{i,\theta}\}} \left\{ u^i(c_1^{i,\theta}, \ell_{s1}^{i,\theta}) + \beta u^i(c_2^{i,\theta}, \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta}) \right\} \quad (30)$$

$$\text{s.t. } c_1^{i,\theta} + q^\theta \Delta k_2^{i,\theta} + m_2^\theta x_2^{i,\theta} = e_1^{i,\theta} + x_1^{i,\theta} + F^i(k_1^i, \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta}) - w_1^\theta \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta} + w_1^\theta \ell_{s1}^{i,\theta} \quad [\lambda_1^{i,\theta}] \quad (31)$$

$$c_2^{i,\theta} = e_2^{i,\theta} + x_2^{i,\theta} + F^i(k_2^{i,\theta}, \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta}) - w_2^\theta \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta} + w_2^\theta \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta} \quad [\lambda_2^{i,\theta}] \quad (32)$$

$$\Phi_2^{b,\theta}(x_2^{b,\theta}, k_2^{b,\theta}, \{\ell_{dt}^{b,\theta}, \ell_{st}^{b,\theta}\}_{t=1}^2; q^\theta, w_1^\theta, w_2^\theta, m_2^\theta) \geq 0 \quad [\kappa_2^{i,\theta}] \quad (33)$$

391 where  $\lambda_1^{i,\theta}$ ,  $\lambda_2^{i,\theta}$ , and  $\kappa_2^{i,\theta}$  are the Lagrange multipliers. The  $t = 0$  optimization problem is

$$\max_{\{c_0^i, k_1^i, x_1^{i,\theta}\}} u^i(c_0^i) + \beta \mathbb{E}_0[V^{i,\theta}(n_1^{i,\theta}, k_1^i; N_1^\theta, K_1)] \quad (34)$$

392 subject to (25) and (28). The Online Appendix presents the agents' first-order conditions.

#### 393 4.1.2. Distributive effects and constraint effects

394 DK18 show that changes in aggregate states have *distributive effects* and *collateral*  
 395 *effects*. We refer to the latter effects with a more general terminology as *constraint effects*.<sup>19</sup>

396 Our Online Appendix formally characterizes the distributive and constraint effects in a  
 397 symmetric equilibrium in which  $n^{i,\theta} = N^{i,\theta}$  and  $k_1^i = K_1^i$ , by differentiating the indirect  
 398 utility  $V^{i,\theta}$  with respect to  $N_1^{j,\theta}$  and  $K_1^{j,\theta}$ . The first of these derivatives is

$$V_{N_1^j}^{i,\theta} \equiv \frac{dV^{i,\theta}(\cdot)}{dN_1^{j,\theta}} = \lambda_1^{i,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1N^j}^{i,\theta} + \lambda_2^{i,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2N^j}^{i,\theta} + \kappa_2^{i,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{N^j}^{i,\theta} \quad (35)$$

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<sup>19</sup>This is because we study credit constraints that do not necessarily contain “collateral” in the sense of physical assets. Alternatively, one could re-label the earnings-based borrowing constraint as a “collateral constraint” in which earnings serve as collateral. We instead refer to collateral more narrowly as the presence of physical  $k$  in the borrowing constraint.

399 where  $C_{N^j}^{i,\theta}$  is a constraint effect. It collects any derivatives that multiply the shadow price  
 400 on the financial constraint  $\kappa_2^{i,\theta}$ , and depends on price changes as follows

$$C_{N^j}^{b,\theta} \equiv \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial q^\theta} \frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial m_2^\theta} \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_1^\theta} \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_2^\theta} \frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} \quad (36)$$

401 Instead,  $\mathcal{D}_{1N^j}^{i,\theta}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{2N^j}^{i,\theta}$  in (35) are distributive effects which net out across the agents.  
 402 Relative to DK18, both constraint and distributive effects feature additional economic  
 403 forces in our model. In particular, (36) makes clear that wages give rise to constraint  
 404 effects, which we will show leads to pecuniary externalities with earnings-based constraints.

#### 405 4.1.3. Social planner problem and constrained efficient allocation

406 The social planner chooses allocations in  $t = 0$  subject to the same period-0 constraints  
 407 as the private agents, and subject to optimal behavior of the agents in periods  $t = 1, 2$ .  
 408 This corresponds to a constrained Ramsey planner who can levy taxes in  $t = 0$ . Formally,

$$\max_{\{C_0^i \geq 0, K_1^i, X_1^{i,\theta}\}} \sum_i \alpha^i \{u^i(C_0^i) + \beta \mathbb{E}_0[V^{i,\theta}(N_1^{i,\theta}, K_1^i; N^\theta, K_1)]\} \quad (37)$$

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_i [C_0^i + h^i(K_1^i) - e_0^i] \leq 0 \quad (v_0) \quad (38)$$

$$\sum_i X_1^{i,\theta} = 0, \quad \forall \theta \quad (v_1^\theta) \quad (39)$$

$$\Phi_1^i(X_1^i, K_1^i) \geq 0, \quad \forall i \quad (\alpha_i \kappa_1^i) \quad (40)$$

409 Note that  $\alpha^b$  and  $\alpha^l$  are Pareto weights that the social planner applies to borrowers and  
 410 lenders, respectively. The variables in brackets denote Lagrange multipliers. The presence  
 411 of  $V^{i,\theta}(N_1^{i,\theta}, K_1^i; N^\theta, K_1)$  makes clear that the planner takes the private equilibrium of  
 412 periods  $t = 1, 2$  as given and internalizes the impact of changing  $N^\theta$  and  $K_1$  on prices.

413 The economy's constrained efficient allocation is described by quantities  $(C_0^i, K_1^i, X_1^{i,\theta})$ ,  
 414 Pareto weights  $\alpha^b/\alpha^l = \lambda_0^l/\lambda_0^b$  and shadow prices  $v_0, v_1^\theta$ , and  $\kappa_1^i$  satisfying the optimality

415 conditions and constraints of the social planner's problem. This allocation can be imple-  
416 mented with a set of tax rates on financial asset and capital purchases. We relegate the  
417 derivations to the Online Appendix. The tax rate on saving is

$$\tau_x^{i,\theta} = -\Delta MRS_{01}^{ij,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1N^i}^{i,\theta} - \Delta MRS_{02}^{ij,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2N^i}^{i,\theta} - \tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{N^i}^{b,\theta}, \quad \forall i, \theta \quad (41)$$

418  $\Delta MRS_{0t}^{ij,\theta} \equiv MRS_{0t}^{i,\theta} - MRS_{0t}^{j,\theta}$  denotes the difference between agents' marginal rate of  
419 substitution (MRS) across time,  $MRS_{01}^{j,\theta} \equiv \beta \lambda_1^{j,\theta} / \lambda_0^j$ ,  $MRS_{02}^{j,\theta} \equiv \beta \lambda_2^{j,\theta} / \lambda_0^j$ . We define  
420  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} \equiv \beta \kappa_2^{b,\theta} / \lambda_0^b$  as the relative shadow price. The  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  terms correspond to the  
421 distributive and constraint effects discussed above.

#### 422 4.1.4. Nature of externalities and sufficient statistics

423 The optimal tax (41) combined with the constraint effects  $\mathcal{C}$  in (36) allow us to  
424 characterize externalities through a compact list of sufficient statistics. Externalities are  
425 determined by the product of the relative shadow price of the financial constraint  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{i,\theta}$ , the  
426 sensitivity of the financial constraint to the price of capital, asset price and wages  $\partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial q^\theta$ ,  
427  $\partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial m_2^\theta$ ,  $\partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial w_1^\theta$ ,  $\partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial w_2^\theta$ , and the sensitivity of the equilibrium capital price, asset  
428 price and wages in periods 1 and 2 to changes in aggregate states  $\frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}$ ,  $\frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}$ ,  $\frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}$ ,  $\frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}$ .  
429 By analyzing and interpreting price changes, we can study how market outcomes deviate  
430 from the constrained efficient allocation and how such distortions are corrected by the  
431 planner. A positive  $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$  implies that agent  $i$  saves too much (borrows too little) in the  
432 market outcome, so the planner imposes a tax on savings (subsidy on borrowing).

433 DK18 show that distributive externalities as well as constraint externalities from changes  
434 in aggregate capital cannot generally be signed. In our formal proofs below, we therefore  
435 focus on over-/under-borrowing instead of over-/under-investment effects, and on con-  
436 straint externalities rather than distributive externalities. In the numerical application,  
437 we allow for all possible forces, so the planner chooses a tax on capital purchases  $\tau_k^i$  in  
438 addition to  $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$ , and internalizes both  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{C}$  effects.

439 *4.2. Formal proofs for pecuniary externalities*

440 The following conditions specialize the economic setting enough to determine the sign  
441 of the constraint externalities for the financial constraints of interest.

$$\frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{i,\theta}} \geq 0, \forall i \quad (42)$$

$$\frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{i,\theta}} \geq 0, \forall i \quad (43)$$

442 We interpret these conditions in Sections 2 and 3.1. In our numerical application below,  
443 we verify the conditions under specific functional forms for preferences and technology. We  
444 can now formally derive efficiency properties of different forms of the financial constraint  
445 (33). Consider first the case of an asset-based collateral constraint. (33) becomes

$$\Phi_2^{b,\theta}(\cdot) = x_2^{b,\theta} + \phi_k q^\theta k_2^{b,\theta} \geq 0 \quad (44)$$

446 *Proposition 1. A collateral constraint as defined by (44), as long as it binds, gives rise to*  
447 *non-negative constraint externalities. This implies that there is an over-borrowing effect*  
448 *that operates through the constraint externalities.*

449 **Proof.** From (44),  $\phi_k > 0$  and  $k_2^{b,\theta} \geq 0$  it follows that  $\frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial q^\theta} \geq 0$ . According to condition  
450 (43),  $\frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{i,\theta}} \geq 0$ . Therefore  $C_{N^i}^{b,\theta} = \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial q^\theta} \frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{i,\theta}} \geq 0$ . If the constraint binds,  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta}$  is non-  
451 negative. It follows that the constraint externality resulting from the constraint is non-  
452 negative, that is,  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} C_{N^i}^{b,\theta} \geq 0$ . This implies that there is over-borrowing operating through  
453 the constraint externalities: as is visible in equation (41), the social planner imposes  
454 subsidies on savings  $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$  in order to induce less borrowing. ■

455 Next, consider an earnings-based borrowing constraint. (33) is specified as

$$\Phi_2^{b,\theta}(\cdot) = x_2^{b,\theta} + \phi_\pi (F^b(k_1^b, \ell_{d1}^{b,\theta}) - w_1^\theta \ell_{d1}^{b,\theta}) \geq 0 \quad (45)$$

456 *Proposition 2. An earnings-based borrowing constraint as defined by (45), as long as it*  
 457 *binds, gives rise to non-positive constraint externalities. This implies that there is an*  
 458 *over-saving (under-borrowing) effect that operates through the constraint externalities.*

459 **Proof.** From (45),  $\phi_\pi > 0$  and  $\ell_{d1}^{b,\theta} \geq 0$  it follows that  $\frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_1^\theta} \leq 0$ . According to (42),  
 460  $\frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{i,\theta}} \geq 0$ . Therefore,  $C_{N^i}^{b,\theta} = \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_1^\theta} \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{i,\theta}} \leq 0$ . If the constraint binds,  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta}$  is non-negative.  
 461 It follows that the constraint externality resulting from the constraint is non-positive,  
 462  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} C_{N^i}^{b,\theta} \leq 0$ . This implies that there is over-saving (under-borrowing) operating through  
 463 the constraint externalities: as is visible in equation (41) the planner imposes taxes on  
 464 savings (subsidies on borrowing)  $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$  in order to induce less saving (more borrowing). ■

465 Propositions 1 and 2 underscore the insights of our simple model in Sections 2 and 3.1  
 466 more formally. The Online Appendix provides a graphical illustration of our proofs.<sup>20</sup>

### 467 4.3. Numerical application

468 This section conducts policy experiments in a parameterized version of the model. We  
 469 quantify the welfare loss that arises from imposing an ‘incorrect’ macroprudential policy,  
 470 where the true model is an economy with earnings-based borrowing constraints, but we  
 471 impose tax rates that are computed as optimal under the assumption that agents face  
 472 asset-based constraints. In this experiment, both distributive and constraint externalities,  
 473 as well as both under- and over-borrowing and under- and over-investing, are at play.

#### 474 4.3.1. Model specification

475 There is no uncertainty and no period-0 financial constraint. We consider the case  
 476 where labor supply is inelastic and the case where it is optimally chosen. In the case  
 477 of inelastic labor supply, the period utility function follows the log-utility specification  
 478  $u^i(c_t^i, \ell_{st}^i) = \log(c_t^i)$ . In the case of endogenously determined labor supply, the period

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<sup>20</sup>In an earlier version of this paper (Drechsel and Kim, 2022), we also study interest coverage constraints, which restrict the ratio of interest payments to earnings. See also Greenwald (2019). An interest coverage constraint leads to either over-borrowing or under-borrowing, and can be interpreted as a mixture between an asset-based and earnings-based constraint from a welfare point of view.

479 utility function follows a standard separable utility specification with wealth effects on  
480 labor supply  $u^i(c_t^i, \ell_{st}^i) = \log(c_t^i) - \frac{1}{1+\psi}(\ell_{st}^i)^{1+\psi}$  for  $t \geq 1$ . We assume a constant to returns to  
481 scale (CRS) and a decreasing returns to scale (DRS) production function for the borrower  
482 and the lender, respectively. Formally,  $F^b(k_t^b, \ell_{dt}^b) = z_b(k_t^b)^\alpha (\ell_{dt}^b)^{1-\alpha}$  and  $F^l(k_t^l, \ell_{dt}^l) =$   
483  $z_l((k_t^l)^\alpha (\ell_{dt}^l)^{1-\alpha})^\nu$  where we assume  $z_b > z_l$  and  $\nu < 1$ . Following DK18,  $h^i(k) = \frac{\eta}{2}k^2$ .

#### 484 4.3.2. Parameterization

485 Table 1 summarizes our parameterization. We set  $\beta$  to 0.9752 following Drechsel (2023)  
486 who targets average US corporate loan rates. The Frisch elasticity  $\psi$  and returns to scale  
487  $\nu$  are set to 2 and 0.75 as in Jungherr and Schott (2021). We set the tightness parameter  
488 of the asset-based constraint  $\phi_k$  following Bianchi (2016), who uses the average leverage  
489 ratio of US non-financial corporations of 46% as a target. We then calibrate  $\phi_\pi$  to ensure  
490 that the debt-to-output ratio is the same across the economies in which we calculate the  
491 optimal tax rates and the one in which we impose them. We do this separately for the  
492 case with inelastic labor supply and the case with endogenous labor supply. We set the  
493 remaining parameters to ensure that the borrower has a superior production technology  
494 ( $z_b > z_l$ ), but lacks the endowments to make capital investment relative to the lender.

495 *Validity of model restrictions.* Based on the parameterization of the model, we verify  
496 numerically that the model restrictions required to derive our formal theoretical analysis  
497 above, indeed hold. That is, the calibration of the model implies  $\frac{\partial q}{\partial N_1^i} \geq 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w_1}{\partial N_1^i} \geq 0$ ,  $\forall i$ .

#### 498 4.3.3. Determining the tax schedule in asset-based economy

499 We first solve the planner problem in an economy with asset-based borrowing con-  
500 straints. We set  $(\alpha_b, \alpha_l)$  to achieve the same ratio of period-0 consumption as in the  
501 corresponding decentralized equilibrium. This leads to  $(\alpha_b, \alpha_l) = (0.05, 0.95)$  for the case  
502 with inelastic labor supply and  $(\alpha_b, \alpha_l) = (0.20, 0.80)$  for the case with endogenous labor  
503 supply. We then compute the optimal corrective taxes  $(\tau_x^b, \tau_x^l, \tau_k^b, \tau_k^l)$  at the constrained

504 efficient allocation.<sup>21</sup> To separate distributive and constraint externalities, we also compute  
 505 that component of optimal taxes on borrowing/saving that arises from the constraint  
 506 externalities at the constrained efficient allocation,  $\tau_x^{i,c.e.} = -\tilde{\kappa}_2^b \mathcal{C}_{Ni}^b \cdot \forall i$ .

#### 507 4.3.4. Imposing the ‘wrong’ tax schedule in earnings-based economy

508 Next we consider the ‘true’ economy with earnings-based borrowing constraints. First,  
 509 we compute the welfare gain from moving from the decentralized equilibrium to the  
 510 constrained efficient allocation in this economy. This is done with the same welfare weights  
 511 as in the asset-based economy. We call this the ‘right’ policy. Second, we compute the  
 512 welfare change from imposing the corrective taxes that we optimally derived in the economy  
 513 with asset-based constraints above. We call this the ‘wrong’ policy. Following Jones and  
 514 Klenow (2016), we compute how much of permanent consumption should be inflated or  
 515 deflated when we change from allocation  $B$  to allocation  $A$ , by finding  $\lambda$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} SW^{B,\lambda} &\equiv \alpha_b \sum_{t=0}^2 \beta^t u((1+\lambda)c_{bt}^B, \ell_{bt}^B) + \alpha_l \sum_{t=0}^2 \beta^t u((1+\lambda)c_{lt}^B, \ell_{lt}^B) \\ &= \alpha_b \sum_{t=0}^2 \beta^t u(c_{bt}^A, \ell_{bt}^A) + \alpha_l \sum_{t=0}^2 \beta^t u(c_{lt}^A, \ell_{lt}^A) \equiv SW^A. \end{aligned}$$

516 Under log-utility assumption,  $\lambda$  is derived as  $\lambda = \exp\left(\left(SW^A - SW^B\right) \frac{1-\beta}{1-\beta^3}\right) \times 100$  (%),  
 517 where  $SW^B \equiv \alpha_b \sum_{t=0}^2 \beta^t u(c_{bt}^B, \ell_{bt}^B) + \alpha_l \sum_{t=0}^2 \beta^t u(c_{lt}^B, \ell_{lt}^B)$ . Finally, similar to Lanteri  
 518 and Rampini (2021) we assume that agents are reimbursed a lump-sum amount that  
 519 corresponds to the amount they paid or received through distortionary taxes.

#### 520 4.3.5. Optimal corrective taxes in different economies

521 Table 2 shows the tax rates that implement constrained efficient allocation for each  
 522 economy. The subscripts  $x$  and  $k$  indicate taxes on saving in the financial asset and saving

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<sup>21</sup>Savings taxes  $\tau_x^i$  are determined by (41). The optimal tax on capital investment is derived in an analogous way in the Online Appendix.

523 in capital, respectively. The table shows these two tax rates separately for the lender and  
 524 the borrower, and additionally reports the component of the corrective taxes on saving  
 525 due to constraint externalities only,  $\tau_x^{b,c.e.}$  and  $\tau_x^{l,c.e.}$ . The negative sign of these tax rates  
 526 in the asset-based economy, and the positive sign in the earnings-based economy with  
 527 endogenous labor supply confirm our findings from above. There is over-borrowing with a  
 528 collateral constraint, so the social planner levies a negative tax on saving,  $\tau_x^{i,c.e.} < 0$ . There  
 529 is over-saving (under-borrowing) with the earnings-based constraint, so the social planner  
 530 taxes saving (subsidizes borrowing) through  $\tau_x^{i,c.e.} > 0$ . If labor is inelastic, however, the  
 531 allocation with the earnings-based constraint is already constrained efficient, so  $\tau_x^{i,c.e.} = 0$ .

532 Table 2 also shows that the fully optimal taxes ( $\tau_x^b, \tau_x^l, \tau_k^b, \tau_k^l$ ) are large compared to the  
 533 components that address the constraint externalities only. This indicates that distributive  
 534 externalities and over- and under-investment forces, which cannot be signed in general,  
 535 are quantitatively large. This is in line with the findings of Lanteri and Rampini (2021).

#### 536 *4.3.6. Results of numerical policy experiment*

537 We calculate how much macroprudential policy designed under imprecise assumptions  
 538 about financial constraints deteriorates social welfare. Table 3, Panel (a) shows the welfare  
 539 results when both distributive and constraint externalities are operational. With earnings-  
 540 based borrowing constraints, the constrained efficient allocation leads to a 0.60% higher  
 541 permanent consumption than the decentralized equilibrium. Importantly, when the wrong  
 542 policy is rolled out, consumption equivalent welfare decreases by 1.95% and 0.52% relative  
 543 to the decentralized equilibrium for the economy with inelastic and endogenous labor  
 544 supply. The table also reports the difference in consumption equivalents between imposing  
 545 the right and the wrong policy, which amounts to as much as 2.55% in the economy where  
 546 labor supply is inelastic. To put these magnitudes into context, in Bianchi (2011) the  
 547 welfare gains from correcting the externality are 0.135% of permanent consumption. In  
 548 Bianchi and Mendoza (2018) the welfare gain from implementing the optimal policy is 0.3%

549 in permanent consumption. The wrong policy thus worsens social welfare significantly,  
550 relative to the market allocation and even more so relative to the optimal policy.

551 Panel (b) separately breaks out results for the effects of constraint externalities only. As  
552 there is no inefficiency through constraint externalities in the earning-based economy with  
553 inelastic labor supply, social welfare is not altered through the right policy. With endoge-  
554 nous labor supply, the right policy increases permanent consumption only marginally, by  
555 0.06%. However, the wrong policy decreases permanent consumption by 0.01% and 0.47%  
556 for the economy with inelastic and endogenous labor supply. Compared to the optimal  
557 policy, a consumption loss of as much as 0.53% is incurred by the agents. These effects  
558 are still meaningful, and larger than some results in the literature. The Online Appendix  
559 provides robustness checks for the calibration underlying our numerical experiments.

## 560 **5. Conclusion**

561 This paper examines normative implications of earnings-based credit constraints. Our  
562 results have important implications for the design of an effective regulatory system. Macro-  
563 prudential policy guided solely by an asset-based collateral mechanism might be counter-  
564 productive in credit markets where earnings-based borrowing constraints are dominant.  
565 The evidence motivating our analysis focuses on nonfinancial companies, so the regulation  
566 of corporate credit is where our insights are most applicable. Collateral constraints are a  
567 more central force in household mortgage markets, where real estate serves as collateral,  
568 or in trade between financial institutions, where financial assets are pledged in repurchase  
569 agreements. This paper makes the case for studying carefully which pecuniary externalities  
570 are critical in which types of credit markets, and shows that the distinction between asset  
571 and input prices in credit constraint is of first-order importance for optimal policy.

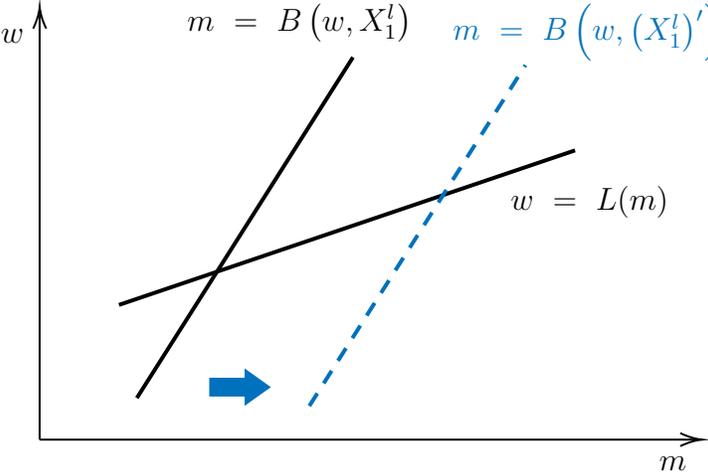
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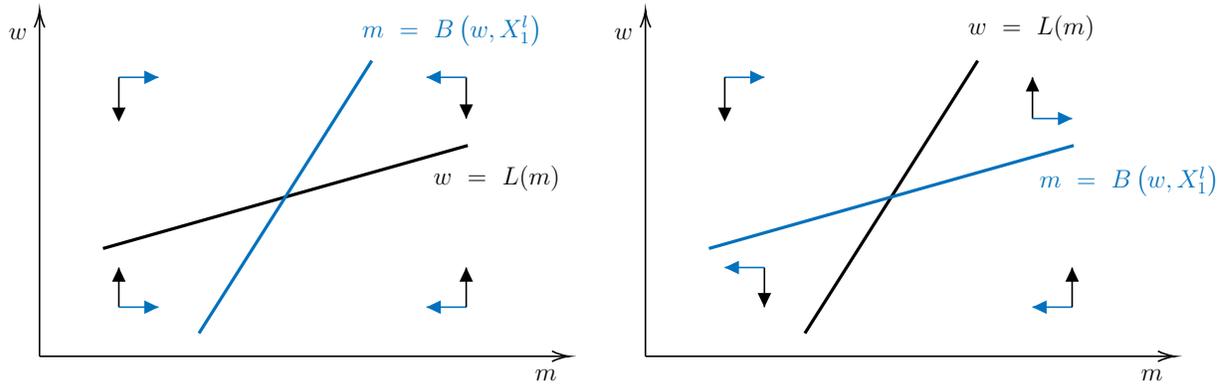
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Figure 1: Wage changes in response to past financial decisions – Case (ii)



**Figure 2:** Equilibria with phase diagram under different conditions



**Figure 3:** Wage changes in response to past financial decisions – Case (iii)

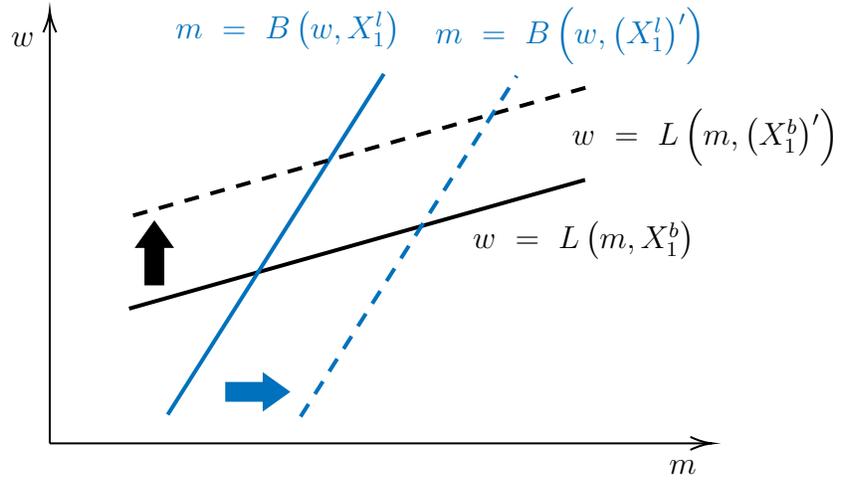
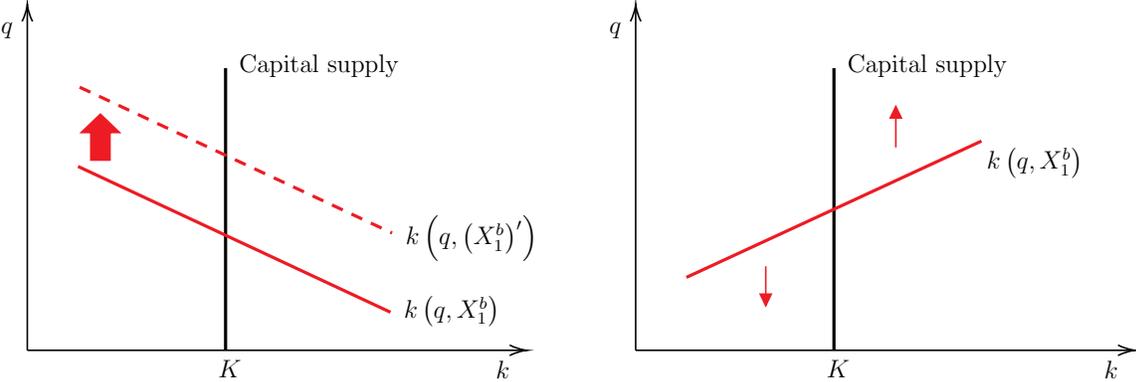


Figure 4: Capital price changes in response to past financial decisions



**Table 1:** Calibration of the model

Parameter	Description	Value	Source / Target
$\alpha$	Capital share	0.33	Standard for US case
$\beta$	Discount factor	0.9752	Drechsel (2023)
$\psi$	Labor supply elasticity	2	Jungherr and Schott (2021)
$\nu$	Returns to scale - lender	0.75	Jungherr and Schott (2021)
$\phi_k$	Borrowing limit - asset	0.46	Bianchi (2016)
$\phi_\pi$	Borrowing limit - earnings (inelastic labor)	0.534	Match debt-to-output, $\frac{-x_2^b}{y_1^b+y_1^l}$
	Borrowing limit - earnings (endogenous labor)	0.617	Match debt-to-output, $\frac{-x_2^b}{y_1^b+y_1^l}$
$\eta$	Investment technology	1	Normalization
$(z_b, z_l)$	Productivity	(2,1)	
$(e_0^b, e_1^b, e_2^b)$	Endowments - borrower	(0,0,0)	
$(e_0^l, e_1^l, e_2^l)$	Endowments - lender	(1,1,0)	

**Table 2:** Optimal corrective taxes in different economies (in %)

<b>Economy</b>	$\tau_x^b$	$\tau_x^l$	$\tau_k^b$	$\tau_k^l$	$\tau_x^{b,c.e.}$	$\tau_x^{l,c.e.}$
Collateral constraints, inelastic labor	-21.1	4.0	-29.1	-29.4	-0.3	-0.1
Earnings-based constraints, inelastic labor	-8.2	-1.3	-26.7	-12.4	0.0	0.0
Collateral constraints, endogenous labor	-1.6	-3.4	-1.0	0.6	-1.9	-3.2
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.3	0.4	-2.6	-7.1	0.9	0.3

**Table 3:** Consumption equivalent welfare change in different counterfactuals

<i>Panel (a): all types of externalities</i>			
<b>Economy</b>	<b>Right policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b>Wrong policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b><math>\Delta</math>(%)</b>
Earnings-based, inelastic labor	0.60	-1.95	-2.55
Earnings-based, endogenous labor	0.60	-0.52	-1.12

<i>Panel (b): constraint externalities only</i>			
<b>Economy</b>	<b>Right policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b>Wrong policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b><math>\Delta</math>(%)</b>
Earnings-based, inelastic labor	0.00	-0.01	-0.01
Earnings-based, endogenous labor	0.06	-0.47	-0.53

**Notes.** The table shows the welfare impact of policies carried out in the ‘true’ economy, which features earnings-based constraints. The right policy is the solution to the social planner’s problem in that economy. It moves the allocation in the decentralized equilibrium to the constrained efficient allocation. The wrong policy is calculated under the incorrect assumption that agents face asset-based borrowing constraints. It moves the allocation in the decentralized equilibrium to allocation that arises from the wrong policy.

632 ONLINE APPENDIX TO

633 **Macprudential policy with**  
 634 **earnings-based borrowing constraints**

635 by Thomas Drechsel and Seho Kim

636 **Appendix A. Derivation for the sufficient condition for case (ii)**

637 In case (ii) where the lender is the only supplier for labor,  $h(w, m, x_1^b) = 0$  in Equation  
 638 (8). By solving Equation (8) for  $m$  and plugging in Equation (9),

$$\alpha\phi_\pi \left( \frac{1-\alpha}{w} \right)^{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}} K = \frac{1}{m} \left( e_1^l + w \left( \frac{1-\alpha}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K + x_1^l - \left( \frac{w^{(1+\frac{\psi}{\alpha})}}{(1-\alpha)^{\frac{\psi}{\alpha}} K^\psi} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \right).$$

639 By differentiating this equation with respect to  $x_1^l$ ,

$$\left[ \frac{\alpha(1-\alpha)^{\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha} - \frac{\psi}{\alpha}} \beta \phi_\pi}{K^{\psi-1}} \left( \left(1 + \frac{\psi}{\alpha}\right) - \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}\right) \right) w^{\frac{\psi}{\alpha} - \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}} + (1-\alpha)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K \left(\frac{1}{\alpha} - 1\right) w^{-\frac{1}{\alpha}} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{\gamma} \left(1 + \frac{\psi}{\alpha}\right) \left( \frac{w^{(1+\frac{\psi}{\alpha})}}{(1-\alpha)^{\frac{\psi}{\alpha}} K^\psi} \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma}} \frac{1}{w} \right] \frac{\partial w}{\partial X_1^l} = 1.$$

640 As long as  $\left(1 + \frac{\psi}{\alpha}\right) - \left(\frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}\right) \geq 0$  holds,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial X_1^l} \geq 0$ .

641 This is a sufficient condition, not a necessary condition. To understand what necessity  
 642 and sufficiency mean in this context, it is helpful to invoke Figure 1. Condition (12) holds  
 643 if the function  $w = L(m)$  is steeper with respect to  $m$  than the function  $w = B^{-1}(m, X_1^l)$ .  
 644 The relative steepness of the two functions depends on many model primitives, including  
 645  $\gamma$ . However,  $w = L(m)$  alone does not depend  $\gamma$ . Under the condition  $1 + \frac{\psi}{\alpha} > \frac{1-\alpha}{\alpha}$  this  
 646 function is so “flat”, that the function  $w = B^{-1}(m, X_1^l)$  is steeper for any value of  $\gamma$ . In  
 647 this case, the appropriate relative size of  $\alpha$  and  $\psi$  alone suffices to fulfill condition (12).  
 648 But this is not necessary. Even when  $w = L(m)$  is less “flat” than it is under the sufficient  
 649 condition, then there are  $\gamma$  values that can make  $w = B^{-1}(m, X_1^l)$  steep enough to fulfil  
 650 condition (12).

651 **Appendix B. Additional details for the small open economy model**

652 *Appendix B.1. SOE model with tradable production and earnings-based constraints*

653 There are two time periods  $t = 1, 2$ . There is a representative household who consumes  
654 tradable goods  $c_t^T$  and nontradable goods  $c_t^N$  according to a standard CES aggregator.  
655 The representative agent starts period 1 with an initial net worth  $X$  (see Section 2.3 for  
656 a discussion of aggregate net worth). The supply of nontradable goods is exogenously  
657 determined by an endowment  $y_t^N$  while tradable goods  $y_t^T$  are produced using capital and  
658 labor in period 1 and using only capital in period 2. The agent supplies labor ( $\ell^s$ ) in  
659 period 1. Capital  $K$  is fixed. We assume risk-neutrality in period 2. International  
660 borrowing ( $-x_2$ ) is denominated by tradable goods units with a fixed bond price  $m$ . The  
661 representative agent is subject to earnings-based borrowing constraints that are discussed  
662 in the main text. The price of nontradable goods in period  $t$  and wage are denoted by  $p_t$   
663 and  $w$ , respectively.

664 The optimization problem of the representative household is

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{c_1^T, c_1^N, c_2^T, c_2^N, \ell^d, \ell^s, x_2} (u(c_1) - v(\ell^s)) + \beta c_2 \\ & \quad \text{s.t.} \\ & \quad c_1^T + p_1 c_1^N + m x_2 = (y_1^T - w \ell^d) + p_1 y_1^N + w \ell^s + X \\ & \quad c_2^T + p_2 c_2^N = y_2^T + p_2 y_2^N + x_2 \\ & \quad -x_2 \leq \phi_\pi((y_1^T - w \ell^d) + p_1 y_1^N) \\ & \quad \text{where} \\ & \quad c_t = [\theta(c_t^T)^\rho + (1 - \theta)(c_t^N)^\rho]^{\frac{1}{\rho}}, \quad t \in \{1, 2\}, \quad \rho \in (-\infty, 1] \\ & \quad y_1^T = z_1 K^\alpha (\ell^d)^{1-\alpha} \\ & \quad y_2^T = z_2 K. \end{aligned}$$

665 The market clearing conditions are:

$$\begin{aligned} c_1^T + m x_2 &= y_1^T + X, & c_1^N &= y_1^N \\ c_2^T &= y_2^T + x_2, & c_2^N &= y_2^N \\ & & \ell^d &= \ell^s. \end{aligned}$$

666 When the borrowing constraint binds,  $(p_1, w)$  are determined by the following two

667 equations:

$$p_1 = \frac{1 - \theta}{\theta} \left( \frac{(1 + \alpha m \phi_\pi) y_1^T + X}{y_1^N} + m \phi_\pi p_1 \right)^{1 - \rho} \quad (\text{B.1})$$

$$\left( \frac{(1 - \alpha) z_1}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K = \ell^{s^*}, \quad (\text{B.2})$$

668 where  $\ell^{s^*}$  is the optimal labor supply.

669 We now show why  $\text{sign}(\partial p_1 / \partial X) = \text{sign}(\partial w / \partial X)$  holds when labor supply is endoge-  
670 nously determined. For a general preference  $u(c_1) = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} c_1^{1 - \gamma}$ ,  $v(\ell^s) = \frac{1}{1 + \psi} (\ell^s)^{1 + \psi}$ , the  
671 optimal labor supply  $\ell^{s^*}$  is

$$\ell^{s^*} = \left( w \theta (\theta + (1 - \theta) \left( \frac{1 - \theta}{\theta p_1} \right)^{\frac{\rho}{1 - \rho}})^{\frac{1 - \rho}{\rho}} c_1^{-\gamma} \right)^{\frac{1}{\psi}}, \quad (\text{B.3})$$

672 where  $c_1 = y_1^N \left[ \theta \left( \frac{\theta p_1}{1 - \theta} \right)^{\frac{\rho}{1 - \rho}} + (1 - \theta) \right]^{\frac{1}{\rho}}$ .

673 By differentiating Equation (B.2) with respect to  $X$  after plugging in equation (B.3),  
674 the following relationship holds:

$$\frac{1}{w} [\psi + \alpha] \frac{\partial w}{\partial X} = \frac{1}{p_1} \left[ \alpha \epsilon + \frac{\alpha \gamma}{1 - \rho} (1 - \epsilon) \right] \frac{\partial p_1}{\partial X}, \quad (\text{B.4})$$

675 where  $\epsilon = \frac{(1 - \theta) \left( \frac{1 - \theta}{\theta p_1} \right)^{\frac{\rho}{1 - \rho}}}{\theta + (1 - \theta) \left( \frac{1 - \theta}{\theta p_1} \right)^{\frac{\rho}{1 - \rho}}} < 1$ . As  $\psi + \alpha > 0$  and  $\alpha \epsilon + \frac{\alpha \gamma}{1 - \rho} (1 - \epsilon) > 0$ ,  $\text{sign}(\partial p_1 / \partial X) =$   
676  $\text{sign}(\partial w / \partial X)$  holds. Note that this result holds even with GHH preferences (when  $\gamma = 0$ ).

### 677 Appendix B.2. SOE model with nontradable production and earnings-based constraints

678 We also consider the case where nontradable goods are produced and tradable goods  
679 are an endowment.  $(p_1, w)$  are still the key prices in this case, and we can characterize  
680 them with similar equilibrium conditions:

$$p_1 = \frac{1 - \theta}{\theta} \left( \frac{(1 + m \phi_\pi) y_1^T + X}{y_1^N} + \alpha m \phi_\pi p_1 \right)^{1 - \rho} \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$\left( \frac{(1 - \alpha) z_1 p_1}{w} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K = \ell^{s^*} \quad (\text{B.6})$$

681 For a general specification of preferences  $u(c_1) = \frac{1}{1 - \gamma} c_1^{1 - \gamma}$ ,  $v(\ell^s) = \frac{1}{1 + \psi} (\ell^s)^{1 + \psi}$ , we derive

682 a relationship between  $\partial p_1/\partial X$  and  $\partial w/\partial X$

$$\frac{1}{w} [\psi + \gamma(1 - \alpha) + \alpha] \frac{\partial w}{\partial X_1} = \frac{1}{p_1} \left[ \psi + \alpha\epsilon + \gamma(1 - \alpha) + \frac{\alpha\gamma}{1 - \rho}(1 - \epsilon) \right] \frac{\partial p_1}{\partial X_1}, \quad (\text{B.7})$$

683 where  $\epsilon = \frac{(1-\theta)(\frac{1-\theta}{\theta p_1})^{\frac{\rho}{1-\rho}}}{\theta + (1-\theta)(\frac{1-\theta}{\theta p_1})^{\frac{\rho}{1-\rho}}} < 1$ . As  $\psi + \gamma(1 - \alpha) + \alpha > 0$  and  $\psi + \alpha\epsilon + \gamma(1 - \alpha) + \frac{\alpha\gamma}{1 - \rho}(1 -$   
684  $\epsilon) > 0$ ,  $\text{sign}(\partial p_1/\partial X) = \text{sign}(\partial w/\partial X)$  also holds under this alternative SOE model with  
685 nontradable production. Note that  $\partial w/\partial X$  is not zero even with exogenously determined  
686 labor supply as labor demand changes with  $p_1$  which changes with  $X$ . Thus, it can be  
687 shown that  $\text{sign}(\partial p_1/\partial X) = \text{sign}(\partial w/\partial X)$  even in a setting with inelastic labor supply.

688 **Appendix C. Details about the general model**

689 *Appendix C.1. Market clearing conditions*

690 The model's market clearing conditions are the following:

$$\sum_i [c_0^i + h^i(k_1^i)] \leq \sum_i e_0^i \quad (\text{C.1})$$

$$\sum_i c_t^{i,\theta} \leq \sum_i [e_t^i + F^i(k_t^{i,\theta}, \ell_{dt}^{i,\theta})], \quad t = 1, 2, \forall \theta \quad (\text{C.2})$$

$$\sum_i k_2^{i,\theta} \leq \sum_i k_1^i, \quad \forall \theta \quad (\text{C.3})$$

$$\sum_i \ell_{dt}^{i,\theta} = \sum_i \ell_{st}^{i,\theta}, \quad t = 1, 2, \forall \theta \quad (\text{C.4})$$

$$\sum_i x_t^{i,\theta} = 0, \quad t = 1, 2, \forall \theta \quad (\text{C.5})$$

691 *Appendix C.2. First-order conditions*

692 The first-order conditions for the period-1 maximization problem with respect to  $x_2^{i,\theta}$   
693 and  $k_2^{i,\theta}$  are

$$m_2^\theta \lambda_1^{i,\theta} = \beta \lambda_2^{i,\theta} + \kappa_2^{i,\theta} \Phi_{2x^\theta}^{i,\theta}, \quad (\text{C.6})$$

$$q^\theta \lambda_1^{i,\theta} = \beta \lambda_2^{i,\theta} F_{2k}^{i,\theta}(k_2^{i,\theta}, \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta}) + \kappa_2^{i,\theta} \Phi_{2k}^{i,\theta}, \quad \forall i, \theta \quad (\text{C.7})$$

694 Equations (C.6) and (C.7) are the Euler equations for the financial asset and physical  
695 investment. Remember that  $\Phi_2^{b,\theta}$  is given by (29) and  $\Phi_2^{l,\theta} = 0$ .

696 Using the envelope conditions  $\frac{\partial V^{i,\theta}(\cdot, \cdot)}{\partial n_1^{i,\theta}} = \lambda_1^{i,\theta}$  and  $\frac{\partial V^{i,\theta}(\cdot, \cdot)}{\partial k_1^i} = \lambda_1^{i,\theta}(q^\theta + F_{1k}^{i,\theta}(k_1^i, l_{d1}^{i,\theta}))$ , the  
697 first-order conditions with respect to the asset holding and capital are derived as

$$m_1^\theta \lambda_0^i = \beta \lambda_1^{i,\theta} + \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1x^\theta}^i, \quad (\text{C.8})$$

$$h^{i'}(k_1^i) \lambda_0^i = \mathbb{E}_0[\beta \lambda_1^{i,\theta} (F_{1k}^{i,\theta}(k_1^i, \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta}) + q^\theta)] + \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1k}^i, \quad \forall i, \theta \quad (\text{C.9})$$

698 where  $\lambda_0^i$  is Lagrange multiplier for (25) and  $\kappa_1^i$  is Lagrange multiplier for (28).

699 *Appendix C.3. Derivation of distributive and constraint effects*

700 Lemma 1 characterizes relevant properties of the date 1 equilibrium.

701 **Lemma 1.** *The effects of changes in the aggregate state variables  $N_1^{j,\theta}$  and  $K_1^j$  on agent*  
 702  *$i$ 's indirect utility at date 1 are given by*

$$V_{N_1^j}^{i,\theta} \equiv \frac{dV^{i,\theta}(\cdot)}{dN_1^{j,\theta}} = \lambda_1^{i,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1N^j}^{i,\theta} + \lambda_2^{i,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2N^j}^{i,\theta} + \kappa_2^{i,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{N^j}^{i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.10})$$

$$V_{K_1^j}^{i,\theta} \equiv \frac{dV^{i,\theta}(\cdot)}{dK_1^j} = \lambda_1^{i,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1K^j}^{i,\theta} + \lambda_2^{i,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2K^j}^{i,\theta} + \kappa_2^{i,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{K^j}^{i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.11})$$

703 where  $\mathcal{D}_{1N^j}^{i,\theta}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{1K^j}^{i,\theta}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{2N^j}^{i,\theta}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{2K^j}^{i,\theta}$  are called the distributive effects

$$\mathcal{D}_{1N^j}^{i,\theta} \equiv -\frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} \Delta K_2^{i,\theta} - \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} X_2^{i,\theta} - \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} \ell_{s1}^{i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.12})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{1K^j}^{i,\theta} \equiv -\frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \Delta K_2^{i,\theta} - \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} X_2^{i,\theta} - \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \ell_{d1}^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \ell_{s1}^{i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.13})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{2N^j}^{i,\theta} \equiv -\frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.14})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{2K^j}^{i,\theta} \equiv -\frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.15})$$

704 and  $\mathcal{C}_{N^j}^{i,\theta}$  and  $\mathcal{C}_{K^j}^{i,\theta}$  are called the constraint effects

$$\mathcal{C}_{N^j}^{b,\theta} \equiv \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial q^\theta} \frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial m_2^\theta} \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_1^\theta} \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_2^\theta} \frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}} \quad (\text{C.16})$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{K^j}^{b,\theta} \equiv \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial q^\theta} \frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial m_2^\theta} \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_1^\theta} \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} + \frac{\partial \Phi_2^{b,\theta}}{\partial w_2^\theta} \frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \quad (\text{C.17})$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{N^j}^{l,\theta} = \mathcal{C}_{K^j}^{l,\theta} = 0 \quad (\text{C.18})$$

705 for  $i \in \{b, l\}$ ,  $j \in \{b, l\}$  and  $\theta \in \Theta$ .

706 **Proof.** The effects of changes in the aggregate state variables  $(N_1^\theta, K_1)$  on agents' indi-  
 707 rect utility are derived by taking partial derivatives of  $V^{i,\theta}$  as defined by equations (30)  
 708 to (33). We make use of the envelope theorem, according to which the derivatives of  
 709  $\left\{ u^i(c_1^{i,\theta}, \ell_{s1}^{i,\theta}) + \beta u^i(c_2^{i,\theta}, \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta}) \right\}$  with respect to the state variables are 0. We further impose  
 710 a symmetric equilibrium in which  $n^{i,\theta} = N^{i,\theta}$  and  $k_1^i = K_1^i$ . ■

711 *Remarks on Lemma 1.*  $\mathcal{D}_{1N^j}^{i,\theta}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{1K^j}^{i,\theta}$ ,  $\mathcal{D}_{2N^j}^{i,\theta}$  and  $\mathcal{D}_{2K^j}^{i,\theta}$  are called *distributive effects* because

$$\sum_i \mathcal{D}_{1N^j}^{i,\theta} = \sum_i \mathcal{D}_{2N^j}^{i,\theta} = \sum_i \mathcal{D}_{1K^j}^{i,\theta} = \sum_i \mathcal{D}_{2K^j}^{i,\theta} = 0 \quad (\text{C.19})$$

712 from the market clearing conditions, that is, they are “zero sum” effects across agents,  
713 state by state. Such a relation does not hold for the *constraint effects*  $C_{N^j}^{i,\theta}$  and  $C_{K^j}^{i,\theta}$ . These  
714 collect any derivatives that multiply the shadow price on the financial constraint  $\kappa_2^{i,\theta}$ .  
715 Comparing Lemma 1 to its analogue in DK18, both our inclusion of labor markets and  
716 our more general financial constraint change this characterization. In particular, wage  
717 changes generate both distributive effects and constraint effects. This observation will be  
718 important for the earnings-based constraint. Third, we also allow equation (29) to include  
719 the asset price  $m_2^\theta$  so the constraint effects include partial derivatives with respect to this  
720 variable.

721 *Appendix C.4. Constrained efficient allocation and implementation*

722 The economy’s constrained efficient allocation is described by quantities  $(C_0^i, K_1^i, X_1^{i,\theta})$ ,  
723 Pareto weights  $\alpha^b/\alpha^l = \lambda_0^l/\lambda_0^b$  and shadow prices  $v_0, v_1^\theta$ , and  $\kappa_1^i$  satisfying the optimal-  
724 ity conditions and constraints of the social planner’s problem. This allocation can be  
725 implemented with a set of tax rate on financial asset and capital purchases.

726 *Derivation of constrained efficient allocation.* These derivations correspond to Proposition  
727 1 (a) and the associated proof in DK18. The Lagrangian of the social planner’s problem  
728 can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \sum_i \alpha^i \{ u^i(C_0^i) + \beta \mathbb{E}_0[V^{i,\theta}(N_1^{i,\theta}, K_1^i; N^\theta, K_1)] + \kappa_1^i \Phi_1^i(X_1^i, K_1^i) \} \\ & + v_0 \sum_i [e_0^i - (C_0^i + h^i(K_1^i))] - \int_{\theta \in \Theta} v_1^\theta \sum_i X_1^{i,\theta} d\theta. \end{aligned}$$

729 The first-order conditions of the social planner are

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dC_0^i} = \alpha^i u'^i(C_0^i) - v_0 = 0, \quad \forall i \tag{C.20}$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dX_1^{i,\theta}} = -v_1^\theta + \alpha^i \beta V_n^{i,\theta} + \alpha^i \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1x}^i + \beta \sum_j \alpha_j V_{N^i}^{j,\theta}, \quad \forall i, \theta \tag{C.21}$$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}}{dK_1^i} = -v_0 h'^i(K_1^i) + \alpha^i \beta \mathbb{E}_0[V_k^{i,\theta}] + \alpha^i \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1k}^i + \beta \sum_j \alpha^j \mathbb{E}_0[V_{K^i}^{j,\theta}] = 0, \quad \forall i \tag{C.22}$$

730 Note that there are no expectation terms in the second first-order condition since  $X_1^{i,\theta}$  is  
731 chosen for each  $\theta$ .

732 The first first-order condition in the decentralized equilibrium implies  $v_0 = \alpha^i \lambda_0^i$ , so  
733  $\alpha^b/\alpha^l = \lambda_0^l/\lambda_0^b$ . We divide the second FOC by  $\alpha^i$ , and use  $\alpha^i = v_0/\lambda_0^i$  as well as the

734 envelope condition in the decentralized equilibrium  $V_n^{i,\theta} = \lambda_1^{i,\theta}$ . This gives us

$$\frac{v_1^\theta}{v_0} \lambda_0^i = \beta_i \lambda_1^{i,\theta} + \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1x^\theta}^i + \beta \sum_j \frac{\alpha^j}{\alpha^i} V_{N^i}^{j,\theta}, \quad \forall i, \theta \quad (\text{C.23})$$

735 We then use the third first-order condition and the envelope condition to get

$$h^{i'}(K_1^i) \lambda_0^i = \beta \mathbb{E}_0[\lambda_1^{i,\theta} (F_{1k}^{i,\theta}(K_1^i, l_{1d}^{i,\theta}) + q^\theta)] + \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1k}^i + \beta \sum_j \frac{\alpha^j}{\alpha^i} \mathbb{E}_0[V_{K^i}^{j,\theta}], \quad \forall i, \quad (\text{C.24})$$

736 Equations (C.23) and (C.24), together with the constraints of the social planner's problem  
 737 describe the constrained efficient allocation. Note that variables in  $t \geq 1$  are optimal  
 738 choices by the agents. Lemma 1 gives more detailed expressions being  $V_{N^i}^{j,\theta}$  and  $V_{K^i}^{j,\theta}$ .

739 *Implementation of constrained efficiency.* These derivations correspond to Proposition  
 740 1 (b) and the associated proof in DK18. The constrained efficient allocation can be  
 741 implemented by setting taxes on Arrow-Debreu security purchases and capital investment  
 742 that satisfy

$$\tau_x^{i,\theta} = - \sum_j MRS_{01}^{j,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1N^i}^{j,\theta} - \sum_j MRS_{02}^{j,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2N^i}^{j,\theta} - \sum_j \tilde{\kappa}_2^{j,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{N^i}^{j,\theta}, \quad \forall i, \theta \quad (\text{C.25})$$

$$\tau_k^i = - \sum_j \mathbb{E}_0[MRS_{01}^{j,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1K^i}^{j,\theta}] - \sum_j \mathbb{E}_0[MRS_{02}^{j,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2K^i}^{j,\theta}] - \sum_j \mathbb{E}_0[\tilde{\kappa}_2^{j,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{K^i}^{j,\theta}], \quad \forall i \quad (\text{C.26})$$

743 where  $MRS_{01}^{j,\theta} \equiv \beta \lambda_1^{j,\theta} / \lambda_0^j$ ,  $MRS_{02}^{j,\theta} \equiv \beta \lambda_2^{j,\theta} / \lambda_0^j$  and  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{j,\theta} \equiv \beta \kappa_2^{j,\theta} / \lambda_0^j$ . This can be shown  
 744 as follows. Re-write the period-0 first-order conditions (C.8) and (C.9) by including tax  
 745 wedges for security purchases ( $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$ ) and capital investment ( $\tau_k^i$ ). This gives

$$(m_1^\theta + \tau_x^{i,\theta}) \lambda_0^i = \beta \lambda_1^{i,\theta} + \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1x^\theta}^i \quad (\text{C.27})$$

$$(h^{i'}(k_1^i) + \tau_k^i) \lambda_0^i = \beta \mathbb{E}_0[\lambda_1^{i,\theta} (F_{1k}^{i,\theta}(k_1^i, l_{d1}^{i,\theta}) + q^\theta)] + \kappa_1^i \Phi_{1k}^i \quad \forall i \quad (\text{C.28})$$

746 Substituting the above tax rates into these optimality conditions replicates the planner's  
 747 optimality conditions (C.23) and (C.24). Note that  $m_1^\theta = \frac{v_1^\theta}{v_0}$  in the replicated allocations,  
 748 i.e., Arrow-Debreu price in the decentralized equilibrium should equal the value of state  
 749 contingent commodity in the social planner's problem measured by the shadow prices.  
 750 Importantly, note also that the expressions for the tax rates contain additional terms  
 751 relative to DK18 due to the presence of labor markets and the more general financial  
 752 constraint formulation.

753 Combining equations (C.25) and (C.26) with equation (C.18) and (C.19) gives a set of  
 754 tax rates

$$\tau_x^{i,\theta} = -\Delta MRS_{01}^{ij,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1N^i}^{i,\theta} - \Delta MRS_{02}^{ij,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2N^i}^{i,\theta} - \tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{N^i}^{b,\theta}, \quad \forall i, \theta \quad (\text{C.29})$$

$$\tau_k^i = -\mathbb{E}_0[\Delta MRS_{01}^{ij,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{1K^i}^{i,\theta}] - \mathbb{E}_0[\Delta MRS_{02}^{ij,\theta} \mathcal{D}_{2K^i}^{i,\theta}] - \mathbb{E}_0[\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} \mathcal{C}_{K^i}^{b,\theta}], \quad \forall i \quad (\text{C.30})$$

755  $\Delta MRS_{0t}^{ij,\theta} \equiv MRS_{0t}^{i,\theta} - MRS_{0t}^{j,\theta}$  for  $t = 1, 2$  denotes the difference between agents in the  
 756 marginal rate of substitution (MRS) across time,  $MRS_{01}^{j,\theta} \equiv \beta \lambda_1^{j,\theta} / \lambda_0^j$ ,  $MRS_{02}^{j,\theta} \equiv \beta \lambda_2^{j,\theta} / \lambda_0^j$ .  
 757 We define  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} \equiv \beta \kappa_2^{b,\theta} / \lambda_0^b$  as the relative shadow price. A positive  $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$  implies that agent  
 758  $i$  saves too much (borrows too little) in the market outcome. The planner thus wants  
 759 to impose a tax on savings (remember that  $x_1^i > 0$  implies saving,  $x_1^i < 0$  borrowing).  
 760 A positive  $\tau_k^i$  means that agent  $i$  invests too much in capital relative to the constrained  
 761 efficient allocation, so the planner imposes a tax on investment. In our formal welfare  
 762 analysis, we focus on over-/under-borrowing since over-/under-investment effects cannot  
 763 be signed in the DK18 framework. In the numerical application of the model, we do allow  
 764 for both forces.

765 *Nature of externalities and sufficient statistics.* The optimal tax wedges, in combination  
 766 with the distributive effects  $\mathcal{D}$  and the constraint effects  $\mathcal{C}$  derived in Lemma 1, allow us  
 767 to characterize the externalities in this economy. In essence, by analyzing and interpreting  
 768 the different terms in (C.29) and (C.30), we can understand how outcomes in the market  
 769 economy deviate from the constrained efficient allocation and how such distortions could  
 770 be corrected. Building on the earlier terminology we distinguish *distributive externalities*  
 771 and *constraint externalities*.

772

773 The sign and magnitude of *distributive externalities* are determined by the product of:

- 774 (i) The difference in MRS of agents in periods 1 and 2,  $\Delta MRS_{01}^{ij,\theta}$  and  $\Delta MRS_{02}^{ij,\theta}$
- 775 (ii) The net trading positions on capital  $\Delta K_2^{i,\theta}$ , financial assets  $X_2^{i,\theta}$ , labor supply in  
 776 periods 1 and 2  $\ell_{s1}^{i,\theta}, \ell_{s2}^{i,\theta}$ , and labor demand in periods 1 and 2  $\ell_{d1}^{i,\theta}, \ell_{d2}^{i,\theta}$
- 777 (iii) The sensitivity of equilibrium prices to changes in aggregate state variables  $\frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}$ ,
- 778  $\frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}, \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}, \frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial K_1^j}, \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j}, \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial K_1^j}$

779

780 The sign and magnitude of *constraint externalities* are determined by the product of:

- 781 (i) The relative shadow price of the financial constraint  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{i,\theta}$
- 782 (ii) The sensitivity of the financial constraint to the price of capital, asset price and  
 783 wages for period 1 and 2  $\partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial q^\theta, \partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial m_2^\theta, \partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial w_1^\theta, \partial \Phi_2^{i,\theta} / \partial w_2^\theta$

784 (iii) The sensitivity of the equilibrium capital price, asset price and wages in periods 1  
785 and 2 to changes in aggregate states  $\frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}, \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}, \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}, \frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial N_1^{j,\theta}}, \frac{\partial q^\theta}{\partial K_1^j}, \frac{\partial m_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j}, \frac{\partial w_1^\theta}{\partial K_1^j}, \frac{\partial w_2^\theta}{\partial K_1^j}$

786 *Remarks on the externalities.* The lists above reveal how distortions in the model can be  
787 parsed into a compact list of sufficient statistics. Distributive externalities, those driven by  
788 effects which are “zero sum,” depend on the difference in marginal rates of substitution in  
789 combination with the positions that agents take in quantities of capital, labor and financial  
790 assets in equilibrium. If these externalities were fully corrected, these quantities would  
791 be such that marginal rates of substitution equalize across agents. Logically, constraint  
792 externalities depend on the shadow price on the financial constraint, in combination with  
793 how the constraint moves with prices changes. Finally, both types of externalities depend  
794 on how prices react to changes in the aggregate states, making clear any externalities  
795 ultimately operate through price changes.

796 *Appendix C.5. Insensitivity to re-definition of net worth*

797 In our model, we do not include production output as part of the definition of net  
798 worth. This is because output is not predetermined at the beginning of the period due to  
799 labor markets clearing during the period. It therefore cannot be a state variable of the  
800 model. To ensure that this definitional change does not affect the results, we show in this  
801 Appendix that a re-definition of net worth along the same lines gives identical results in  
802 the original Dávila and Korinek (2018) (DK18) framework. This is also useful to interpret  
803 our Lemma 1 in relation to its analogue in DK18: in our model, we obtain extra terms  
804 that contain additional economically meaningful effects.

805 We proceed by re-defining net worth in DK18 by excluding production output and  
806 prove that the *distributive effects* and *collateral effects* in DK18’s version of Lemma  
807 1 are identical. We denote net worth as defined by DK18 as  $N_{DK}^{i,\theta} \equiv e_1^{i,\theta} + X_1^{i,\theta} +$   
808  $F_1^{i,\theta}(K_1^i)$ . The resulting equilibrium capital and debt price are denoted by  $q_{DK}^\theta(N_{DK}^\theta, K_1)$   
809 and  $m_{2,DK}^\theta(N_{DK}^\theta, K_1)$ . We define net worth without production output as  $N_{WP}^{i,\theta} \equiv e_1^{i,\theta} + X_1^{i,\theta}$   
810 and the resulting equilibrium capital and debt price are denoted by  $q_{WP}^\theta(N_{WP}^\theta, K_1)$  and  
811  $m_{2,WP}^\theta(N_{WP}^\theta, K_1)$ . A simple re-definition of the model’s state variables cannot change the  
812 prices in equilibrium, so that we can set

$$q_{WP}^\theta(N_{WP}^\theta, K_1) = q_{DK}^\theta(N_{DK}^\theta, K_1) \quad (\text{C.31})$$

$$m_{2,WP}^\theta(N_{WP}^\theta, K_1) = m_{2,DK}^\theta(N_{DK}^\theta, K_1) \quad (\text{C.32})$$

813 Noting that  $N_{DK}^{i,\theta} = N_{WP}^{i,\theta} + F_1^{i,\theta}(K_1^i)$ , we differentiate both sides of (C.31) and (C.32)

814 with respect to  $N_{\cdot}^{i,\theta}$  and  $K_1^i$ , in order to determine how the derivatives of prices with  
 815 respect to net worth and capital are related across models. This gives us

$$\frac{\partial q_{WP}^\theta}{\partial N_{WP}^{i,\theta}} = \frac{\partial q_{DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}} \quad (\text{C.33})$$

$$\frac{\partial m_{2,WP}^\theta}{\partial N_{WP}^{i,\theta}} = \frac{\partial m_{2,DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}} \quad (\text{C.34})$$

$$\frac{\partial q_{WP}^\theta}{\partial K_1^i} = \frac{\partial q_{DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}} \frac{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}}{\partial K_1^i} + \frac{\partial q_{DK}^\theta}{\partial K_1^i} = \frac{\partial q_{DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}} F'(K_1^i) + \frac{\partial q_{DK}^\theta}{\partial K_1^i} \quad (\text{C.35})$$

$$\frac{\partial m_{2,WP}^\theta}{\partial K_1^i} = \frac{\partial m_{2,DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}} \frac{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}}{\partial K_1^i} + \frac{\partial m_{2,DK}^\theta}{\partial K_1^i} = \frac{\partial m_{2,DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{i,\theta}} F'(K_1^i) + \frac{\partial m_{2,DK}^\theta}{\partial K_1^i} \quad (\text{C.36})$$

816 where we used the chain rule for the differentiation with respect to capital. (C.35) and  
 817 (C.36) make clear that the derivatives of prices with respect to capital after the re-definition  
 818 of net worth “contain” the partial derivatives of  $F(\cdot)$  that appear in DK18’s Lemma 1.  
 819 The *distributive effects* in DK18 are the following:

$$\mathcal{D}_{N_{DK}^{j,\theta}}^{DK,i,\theta} = - \left[ \frac{\partial q_{DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{j,\theta}} \Delta K_2^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial m_{2,DK}^\theta}{\partial N_{DK}^{j,\theta}} X_2^{i,\theta} \right] \quad (\text{C.37})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{K_1^j}^{DK,i,\theta} = F'(K_1^i) \mathcal{D}_{N_{DK}^{j,\theta}}^{DK,i,\theta} - \left[ \frac{\partial q_{DK}^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \Delta K_2^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial m_{2,DK}^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} X_2^{i,\theta} \right] \quad (\text{C.38})$$

820 The *distributive effects* with the re-definition of net-worth can be derived as

$$\mathcal{D}_{N_{WP}^{j,\theta}}^{WP,i,\theta} = - \left[ \frac{\partial q_{WP}^\theta}{\partial N_{WP}^{j,\theta}} \Delta K_2^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial m_{2,WP}^\theta}{\partial N_{WP}^{j,\theta}} X_2^{i,\theta} \right] \quad (\text{C.39})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{K_1^j}^{WP,i,\theta} = - \left[ \frac{\partial q_{WP}^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} \Delta K_2^{i,\theta} + \frac{\partial m_{2,WP}^\theta}{\partial K_1^j} X_2^{i,\theta} \right] \quad (\text{C.40})$$

821 Using (C.33) - (C.36), we obtain

$$\mathcal{D}_{N_{DK}^{j,\theta}}^{DK,i,\theta} = \mathcal{D}_{N_{WP}^{j,\theta}}^{WP,i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.41})$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{K_1^j}^{DK,i,\theta} = \mathcal{D}_{K_1^j}^{WP,i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.42})$$

822 Similarly, it can be shown that

$$\mathcal{C}_{N_{DK}^{j,\theta}}^{DK,i,\theta} = \mathcal{C}_{N_{WP}^{j,\theta}}^{WP,i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.43})$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{K_1^j}^{DK,i,\theta} = \mathcal{C}_{K_1^j}^{WP,i,\theta} \quad (\text{C.44})$$

823 This shows that a re-definition of net worth in the original DK18 model gives identical  
 824 results. Furthermore, these derivations show that Lemma 1 in our model would be identical  
 825 to Lemma 1 to its counterpart in DK18 if we did not include labor markets and did not  
 826 have a more general definition of the financial constraint.

## 827 Appendix D. More details on model results

### 828 Appendix D.1. Intuition for Proposition 1

829 Proposition 1 confirms one of the main insights of DK18 and the existing literature  
 830 more generally. The borrower’s decisions exert an externality through the market price of  
 831 capital. As borrowers increase their debt position in period  $t = 0$ , they reduce aggregate  
 832 net worth in the borrowing sector in period  $t = 1$ . Since the price of capital positively  
 833 depends on sector-wide net worth by condition (43), it falls in  $t = 1$ .<sup>1</sup> Through the  
 834 collateral constraint, the lower price of capital limits the ability to borrow between  $t = 1$   
 835 and  $t = 2$ . As borrowers in  $t = 0$  do not internalize this negative effect on future borrowing  
 836 capability, the amount of debt taken on in  $t = 0$  is suboptimally high, that is, there is over-  
 837 borrowing. The social planner internalizes this relation, and thus discourages borrowing  
 838 in  $t = 0$  through subsidies on saving (for any given level of distributive externalities).

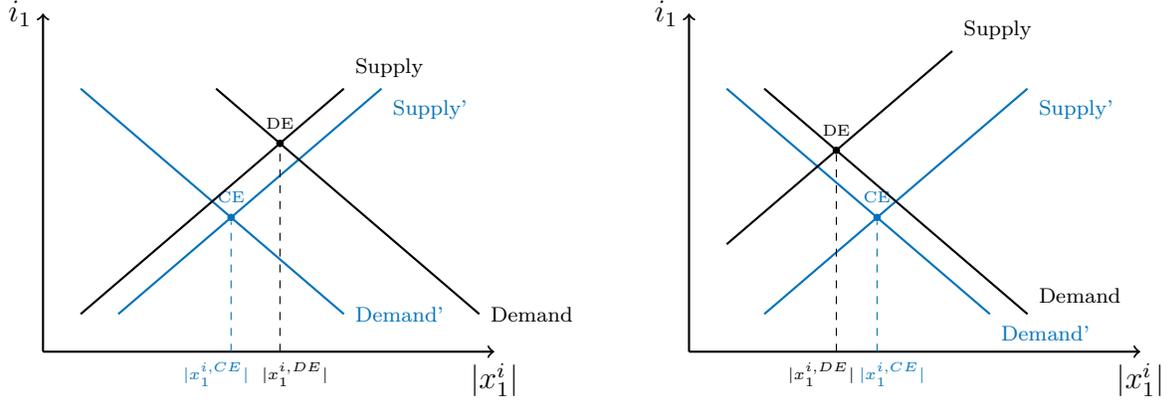
839 *Graphical representation.* Figure Appendix D.1 provides the intuition behind Proposition  
 840 1 graphically. This graphical analysis will be especially helpful as a benchmark for the  
 841 results with the earnings-based constraint below. It shows the period-0 credit market,  
 842 period-1 capital market, and period-1 credit market. In each panel, points  $CE$  and  $DE$   
 843 represent the constrained efficient allocation and the decentralized equilibrium, respec-  
 844 tively. The figure conveys how externalities emerge from borrowing decisions in  $t = 0$ ,  
 845 which through changes in the price of capital affect credit constraints in  $t = 1$ .

846 To explain Figure Appendix D.1, we focus first on the decentralized equilibrium, point  
 847  $DE$  across Panels (a)-(d). The difference between Panels (a) and (b) only becomes relevant

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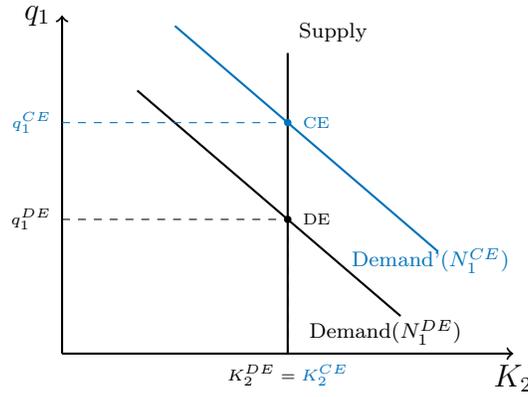
<sup>1</sup>While borrowing more reduces future aggregate net worth in the borrowing sector, it also increases future net worth in the lending sector. By condition (43), the latter effect actually puts upward pressure on the price of capital. However, the net effect of changes in borrower and lender net worth leads to a fall in the price of capital. We highlight this in the graphical illustration we provide further below.

**Figure Appendix D.1: MARKET VS. PLANNER ALLOCATIONS: COLLATERAL CONSTRAINT**

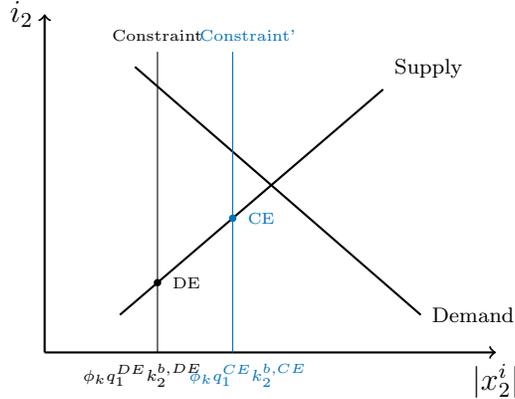


(a) Period-0 credit market (case 1:  $|\tau_x^b| > |\tau_x^l|$ )

(b) Period-0 credit market (case 2:  $|\tau_x^b| < |\tau_x^l|$ )



(c) Period-1 capital market (both cases)



(d) Period-1 credit market (both cases)

**Notes.** Decentralized equilibrium (DE) and constrained efficient equilibrium (CE) in the period-0 credit market, period-1 capital market and period-1 credit market of the model. State  $\theta$  is omitted from the notation in the labeling. The figure distinguishes case 1 ( $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} > \partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta} \Leftrightarrow |\tau_x^{b,\theta}| > |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$ ) and case 2 ( $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} < \partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta} \Leftrightarrow |\tau_x^{b,\theta}| < |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$ ) as described in the text. In both cases, the social planner internalizes that period-0 borrowing decisions reduce equilibrium prices in the market for physical capital in period 1, which tightens the collateral constraint. The constrained efficient allocation features higher capital prices and more credit in period 1, as more saving (less borrowing) is incentivized through taxes/subsidies in period 0.

848 for implementing constrained efficiency, so for now consider Panel (a) to understand the  
 849 period-0 credit market. The horizontal axis depicts the financial asset position of each  
 850 agent in absolute value, that is, borrowing or credit demand  $-x_1^{b,\theta}$ , and saving or credit  
 851 supply  $x_1^{l,\theta}$ . The vertical axis captures the interest rate between periods 0 and 1,  $i_1^\theta =$   
 852  $1/m_1^\theta - 1$ . Due to market clearing, saving and borrowing positions net out to 0, so  $x_1^{b,\theta,DE} +$   
 853  $x_1^{l,\theta,DE} = 0 \Rightarrow |x_1^{b,\theta,DE}| = |x_1^{l,\theta,DE}|$ . Decisions on the credit market in  $t = 0$  impact future  
 854 net worth and thereby affect investment decisions in period  $t = 1$ . This is visible in  
 855 Panel (c), which plots the capital supply curve (given by the vertical line indicating  $K_1$ )  
 856 and the capital demand curve (given by the downward sloping relation between  $K_2^\theta$  and  
 857  $q_1^\theta$ ). Capital supply is in general governed by an upward sloping relationship between  $K_1$   
 858 and  $q_1^\theta, \forall \theta$ . However, since the analysis in the figure traces out the effects of period-0  
 859 borrowing externalities, and how these result from changes in period-1 net worth, capital  
 860 supply is effectively predetermined at the beginning of period  $t = 1$ .<sup>2</sup> The location of  
 861 the demand curve does depend on the realization of aggregate net worth. Finally, the  
 862 capital market equilibrium is linked to the period-1 credit market through the collateral  
 863 constraint. Panel (d) shows credit supply and credit demand in period 1, by plotting  $-x_2^{b,\theta}$   
 864 and  $x_2^{l,\theta}$  in absolute value against the interest rate  $i_2^\theta$ . The collateral constraint (44) puts  
 865 a cap  $\phi_k q_1^{\theta,DE} k_2^{\theta,DE}$  on the amount of credit, represented by a vertical line. Importantly,  
 866 its location is determined by the market clearing price of capital  $q_1^{\theta,DE}$ . The decentralized  
 867 equilibrium in the period-1 credit market is given by the intersection of the constraint and  
 868 the credit supply curve.

869 By Proposition 1, the decentralized equilibrium is not efficient: the social planner  
 870 distorts borrowing decisions in period 0 to drive up capital prices and thereby relax  
 871 borrowing constraints in period 1. Under condition (43), sector-wide net worth of both  
 872 borrowers and lenders positively impacts the price of capital. For the graphical analysis  
 873 of the constrained efficient allocation, point  $CE$  across Panels (a)-(d), two finer cases  
 874 can be distinguished: in case 1 the impact of the borrower sector net worth on wages  
 875 is stronger than that of net worth in the lender sector ( $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} > \partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta}$ ) and in  
 876 case 2, the opposite is true ( $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} < \partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta}$ ). In both cases, the social planner  
 877 alters borrower and lender equilibrium net worth such that capital prices increase in  $t = 1$ .  
 878 However, depending on the relative impact of net worth in the different sectors on the  
 879 price of capital, the planner will tax borrowing (subsidize saving) more heavily for either  
 880 the borrower or the lender to achieve the desired increase in the price of capital: in case 1,

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<sup>2</sup>This would be different in a graphical analysis of pecuniary externalities that result from over- and under-investment between  $t = 0$  and  $t = 1$ .

881  $|\tau_x^{b,\theta}| > |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$ , while in case 2,  $|\tau_x^{b,\theta}| < |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$ . In other words, the planner reverts the over-  
882 borrowing of that agent more heavily whose decisions have a stronger impact on capital  
883 prices, making capital prices in period 1 rise in either case.<sup>3</sup> This is visible in Panels (a)  
884 and (b) which show the constrained efficient equilibrium for cases 1 and 2. In both cases,  
885 the planner incentivizes lenders to save more and borrowers to borrow less, to counteract  
886 the *over-borrowing* motive of both agents.<sup>4</sup> As a result, the credit supply curve is located  
887 to the right, and the credit demand curve to the left relative to their counterparts in the  
888 decentralized case. However, in Panel (a) (case 1),  $|\tau_x^{b,\theta}| > |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$ , so the decrease in demand  
889 from the borrower is larger than the increase in supply from the lender, and the equilibrium  
890 quantity of credit is below that of the decentralized equilibrium. With a smaller amount  
891 of equilibrium borrowing, borrower net worth in period 1 will be higher while lender net  
892 worth will be lower relative to the decentralized equilibrium. Since  $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} > \partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta}$ ,  
893 capital prices are higher. In Panel (b) (case 2),  $|\tau_x^{b,\theta}| < |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$  so there is a greater amount  
894 of equilibrium borrowing, and borrower net worth in period 1 will be lower while lender  
895 net worth will be higher. Since  $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} < \partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta}$ , capital prices are higher, as in case  
896 1. This makes clear that while the collateral constraint induces over-borrowing motives  
897 (borrowers want to borrow too much, savers want to save too little), a corrective policy  
898 may actually increase or decrease equilibrium credit.

899 In both cases 1 and 2, the corrective wedges introduced by the planner lead capital  
900 demand to shift upward, while changes the net worth induced by the planner do not move  
901 the capital supply curve, all else equal. These effects, shown in Panel (c), are the graphical  
902 counterpart to our discussion of condition (43) above.<sup>5</sup> As a result, capital prices in the  
903 constrained efficient equilibrium in period  $t = 1$  are higher relative to the decentralized  
904 equilibrium. As in the decentralized case, the period-1 credit market, shown in Panel (d),  
905 is connected to the capital market through the price of capital. An increase in the price of

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<sup>3</sup>This can be seen as follows. According to Proposition 1, the constraint externality from the collateral constraint is non-negative, meaning that through equation (C.29) the planner desires a negative  $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$  for  $i \in \{b, l\}$ . By equation (C.29), the size of the tax rate the planner chooses to implement the constrained efficient equilibrium is proportional to the size of the derivative of capital prices to sector wide net worth, that is,  $\tilde{\kappa}_2^{b,\theta} C_{N^i}^{b,\theta} \propto \partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{i,\theta}$ . As a result, when constraint externalities are corrected by the planner, the relative magnitude of  $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta}$  and  $\partial q_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta}$  determines the relative magnitude of  $\tau_x^{b,\theta}$  and  $\tau_x^{l,\theta}$ .

<sup>4</sup>This explanation highlights that in principle, in the case of the lender one could alternatively call the over-borrowing force an ‘under-saving’ effect.

<sup>5</sup>Recall that in the formal welfare analysis we focus on pecuniary externalities that operate through changes in net worth, and do not characterize over- or under-investment effects. In the graphical depiction, we therefore abstract from any difference in investment in  $t = 0$  that may occur between the decentralized equilibrium and the constrained efficient allocation that the planner implements. In the numerical application of the model in Section 4.3, we also allow for over- and under-investment.

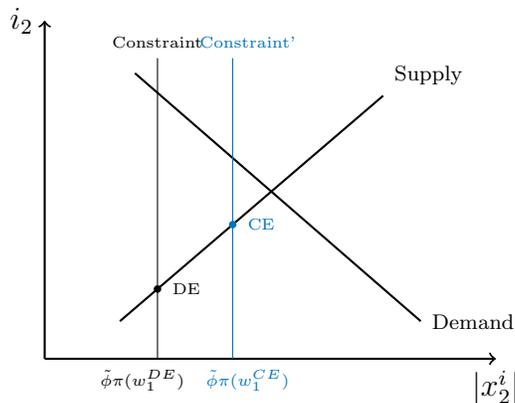
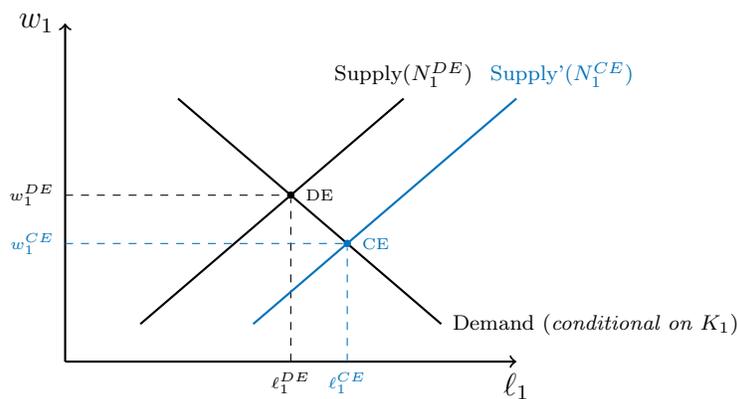
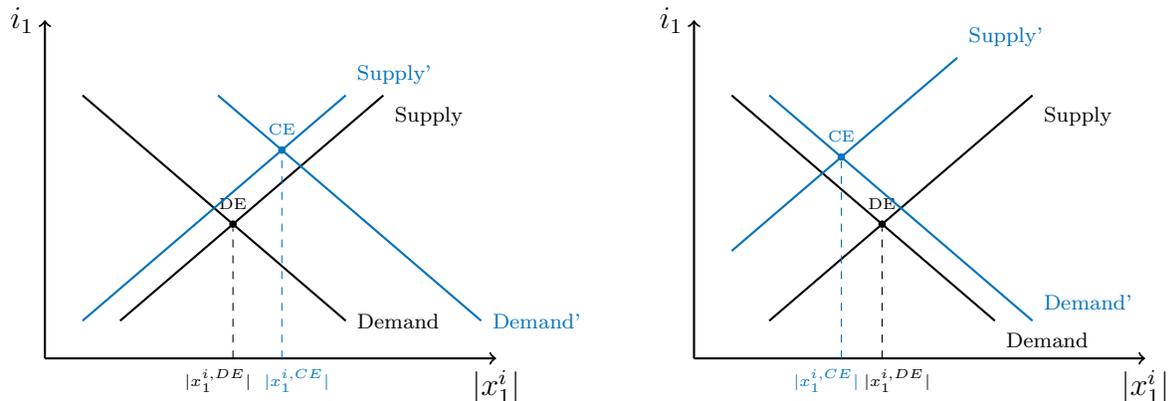
906 capital loosens the collateral constraint, moving the intersection of the vertical line with  
 907 the credit supply curve in Panel (d) to the right relative to the decentralized equilibrium.  
 908 The planner internalizes the effect of period-0 borrowing decisions on future prices, and  
 909 in turn on future borrowing space. The over-borrowing force in  $t = 0$  is corrected through  
 910 a tax wedge so that borrowers can obtain more credit between period 1 and 2 in the  
 911 constrained efficient economy.

912 *Appendix D.2. Intuition for Proposition 2*

913 Proposition 2 delivers one of our main theoretical insights. An earnings-based borrow-  
 914 ing constraint implies that the borrower takes a debt position that is too small relative  
 915 to the social optimum. The mechanics of the model are similar to our explanation of  
 916 Proposition 1, but operate through the real wage rate rather than the price of capital. A  
 917 larger debt position in  $t = 0$  reduces net worth in the borrowing sector in  $t = 1$ , which in  
 918 turn reduces wages due to condition (42) (recall the discussion around labor demand and  
 919 labor supply). Borrowers in  $t = 0$  do not internalize that lower wages increase earnings and  
 920 provide slack in the borrowing limit in  $t = 1$ . Therefore, in the market economy, agents  
 921 under-borrow. The social planner internalizes the positive effect of borrowing in  $t = 0$  on  
 922 debt capacity in  $t = 1$  through wages, and subsidizes (lowers the tax on) borrowing in  
 923 period  $t = 0$  (for a given level of distributive externalities).

924 *Graphical representation.* Figure Appendix D.2 presents a graphical analysis for the case  
 925 of the earnings-based borrowing constraint. As in Figure Appendix D.1, points  $CE$  and  
 926  $DE$  represent the constrained efficient allocation and the decentralized equilibrium. The  
 927 figure conveys how externalities emerge from borrowing decisions in  $t = 0$ , which through  
 928 wage determination in the labor market affect credit constraints in  $t = 1$ . Relative to the  
 929 case of the collateral constraint, Panel (c) now depicts the labor market in  $t = 1$  rather  
 930 than the market for physical capital. The earnings-based constraint (45) is represented  
 931 by a vertical line in Panel (d), putting a cap  $\phi_\pi \pi(w_1^\theta) = \phi_\pi (F^b(k_1^b, \ell_{d1}^{b,\theta}) - w_1^\theta \ell_{d1}^{b,\theta})$  on the  
 932 amount of credit. Its location is affected by the market clearing wage. Similar to the  
 933 collateral constraint and Figure Appendix D.1, there is a refinement of condition (42) on  
 934 the response of wages to changes in net worth. In both cases, according to Proposition 2,  
 935 the decentralized equilibrium features under-borrowing and the social planner subsidizes  
 936 borrowing (taxes saving) in  $t = 0$ . In period  $t = 0$  agents do not internalize that by  
 937 reducing net worth in period 1 wages are reduced and this relaxes future borrowing  
 938 constraints. To lower wages and thus create space for the constrained optimal amount of  
 939 period-1 credit, the planner induces more debt in period 0 through corrective tax wedges.

**Figure Appendix D.2:** MARKET VS. PLANNER ALLOCATIONS: EARNINGS-BASED BORROWING CONSTRAINT



**Notes.** Decentralized equilibrium (DE) and constrained efficient equilibrium (CE) in the period-0 credit market, period-1 labor market and period-1 credit market of the model. State  $\theta$  is omitted from the notation in the labeling. The figure distinguishes case 1 ( $\partial w_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} > \partial w_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta} \Leftrightarrow |\tau_x^{b,\theta}| > |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$ ) and case 2 ( $\partial w_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{b,\theta} < \partial w_1^\theta / \partial N_1^{l,\theta} \Leftrightarrow |\tau_x^{b,\theta}| < |\tau_x^{l,\theta}|$ ) as described in the text. In both cases, the social planner internalizes that period-0 borrowing decisions reduce equilibrium wages in period 1, which relaxes the earnings-based borrowing constraint. The constrained efficient allocation features lower wages and more credit in period 1, as less saving (more borrowing) is incentivized through taxes/subsidies in period 0.

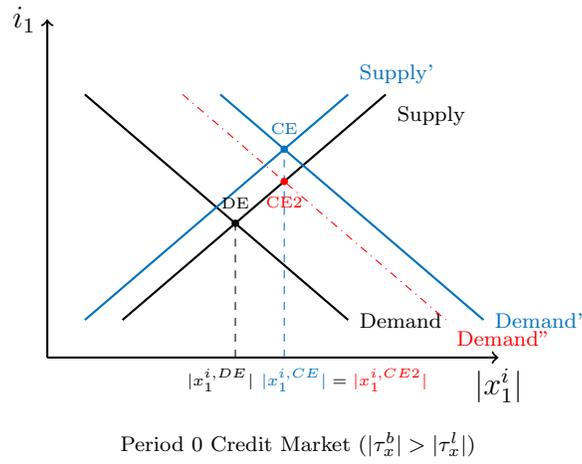
940 The graphical representation of the economy with earnings-based borrowing constraint  
941 highlights the new insights that come with signing pecuniary externalities in our model  
942 with labor markets. The condition that wages increase with sector wide net worth in  $t = 1$   
943 requires understanding the response of labor demand as well as labor supply. Given that  
944 the capital available for production ( $K_1$ ) is predetermined at the beginning of the period,  
945 labor demand is already pinned down, while labor supply responds to changes in sector-  
946 wide net worth (see Panel (c) of Figure Appendix D.2). This is different in the market of  
947 capital relevant for the collateral constraint case, where the supply of capital is fixed, but  
948 the demand for new capital ( $K_2$ ) increases with net worth (compare Panel (c) of Figure  
949 Appendix D.1). In the presence of earnings-based constraints the planner can therefore  
950 induce more borrowing in the initial period, and thereby reduce borrower net worth in  
951  $t = 1$  to increase labor supply. This leads wages to fall.

952 *Take-aways from graphical analysis of both constraints.* In conclusion to the graphical  
953 analysis, the differences between Figures Appendix D.1 and Appendix D.2 reveal the  
954 sharp contrast between the normative consequences of the earnings-based and the collateral  
955 constraint. In the earnings-based constraint an *input price* (through the wage bill) enters  
956 with the opposite sign to how an *asset price* (the value of capital) enters the collateral  
957 constraint. Since wages and the price of capital respond with the same sign to changes in  
958 borrower net worth, all else equal, the implications in terms of whether agents borrow to  
959 much or too little in period  $t = 0$  from a normative standpoint are the opposite for the  
960 two constraint types.

961 *Alternative implementations of constrained efficiency.* The set of tax rates  $\tau_x^i$ ,  $i \in \{b, l\}$   
962 that implements the constrained efficient equilibrium is not unique. There is an infinite  
963 number of combination of  $\tau_x^b$  and  $\tau_x^l$  that will alter  $N_1^{b,\theta}$  and  $N_1^{l,\theta}$  such that the same  
964 changes in period-1 prices and credit access are achieved. For the case of the earnings-  
965 based borrowing constraint we illustrate this in Figure Appendix D.3, which is constructed  
966 as Panel (a) of Figure Appendix D.2 but also plots an alternative implementation of the  
967 constrained efficient equilibrium (denoted *CE2*). This equilibrium represents the polar case  
968 in which only the borrower's financial asset position is taxed (borrowing is subsidized),  
969 while the lender is not taxed,  $\tau_x^l = 0$ . As the graph conveys, there is a choice for  $\tau_x^b$  that  
970 achieves the identical equilibrium credit amount as point *CE*. As a result, the labor and  
971 credit market outcomes in period 1 would be the same as in Figure Appendix D.2. A  
972 similar argument can be made for case 2 in Figure Appendix D.2 and for both cases of  
973 the collateral constraint analyzed in Figure Appendix D.1.

974

**Figure Appendix D.3: NON-UNIQUENESS OF IMPLEMENTATION**



**Notes.** This figure repeats Panel (a) of Figure Appendix D.2 but also plots an alternative implementation of the constrained efficient equilibrium (denoted  $CE2$ ). Constrained efficiency can be achieved with different sets of tax rates  $\tau_x^{i,\theta}$ ,  $i \in \{b, l\}$ , which give rise to the same change in aggregate net worth (and resulting wage reduction) in the constrained efficient relative to the decentralized equilibrium. In this case, only the borrowers' savings decisions are taxes (borrowing is subsidized), while  $\tau_x^{l,\theta} = 0$ . State  $\theta$  is omitted from the notation in the labeling of the graph.

975 **Appendix E. Robustness of numerical model experiments**

976 To explore robustness of our model parameterization, we construct variations of Tables  
 977 2 and 3 from the main text in which we change the values of key parameters and then  
 978 report the resulting optimal tax rates and welfare losses. We focus on the capital share  $\alpha$   
 979 and the labor supply elasticity  $\psi$ . These parameters are of particular interest, since the  
 980 sufficient condition we can derive for our main assumption to hold (see Section 2, case  
 981 (ii) of the main text) depends on these two parameters. For each parameter, we solve the  
 982 model for a 20% larger and a 20% smaller value relative to the baseline calibration, which  
 983 sets  $\alpha = 0.33$  and  $\psi = 2$ . In the case of  $\alpha$  we can do this for the model version with  
 984 inelastic labor supply as well as the one with endogenous labor supply. The variation of  
 985  $\psi$  only applies in the model version where labor supply is chosen by the agents.

986 Table Appendix E.1 reports the resulting optimal tax rates. The table is constructed  
 987 in the same way as Table 2 in the main text, but each panel corresponds to a different  
 988 parameter variation. The important take-away from this table is that our main assumption  
 989 holds also for variations in the parameter values. In particular, the signs of  $\tau_x^{b,c.e.}$   $\tau_x^{l,c.e.}$   
 990 are the same as in the analysis in the main text, indicating that our assumptions on the  
 991 derivatives of the price of capital and wage with respect to changes in net worth are also  
 992 satisfied for a higher and lower capital share and labor supply elasticity.

**Table Appendix E.1:** Optimal corrective taxes in different economies (in %)

<b>Economy</b> ( $\alpha = 0.33 \times 1.2$ )	$\tau_x^b$	$\tau_x^l$	$\tau_k^b$	$\tau_k^l$	$\tau_x^{b,c.e.}$	$\tau_x^{l,c.e.}$
Collateral constraints, inelastic labor	-21.6	4.0	-33.3	-30.6	-0.7	-0.3
Earnings-based constraints, inelastic labor	-9.7	-2.2	-31.9	-10.5	0.0	0.0
Collateral constraints, endogenous labor	-2.1	-3.5	-1.5	0.8	-2.3	-3.4
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.2	0.3	-3.2	-5.9	0.9	0.3
<b>Economy</b> ( $\alpha = 0.33 \times 0.8$ )						
Collateral constraints, inelastic labor	-17.6	3.5	-22.1	-23.6	-0.0	-0.0
Earnings-based constraints, inelastic labor	-5.7	-0.6	-20.1	-12.5	0.0	0.0
Collateral constraints, endogenous labor	-1.3	-3.2	-0.4	0.7	-1.5	-3.1
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.4	0.4	-1.5	-8.0	0.9	0.3
<b>Economy</b> ( $\psi = 2 \times 1.2$ )						
Collateral constraints, endogenous labor	-1.9	-3.4	-1.4	0.6	-2.1	-3.3
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.1	0.3	-2.9	-7.1	0.8	0.3
<b>Economy</b> ( $\psi = 2 \times 0.8$ )						
Collateral constraints, endogenous labor	-1.4	-3.3	-0.6	0.6	-1.7	-3.2
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.5	0.5	-2.1	-7.1	1.0	0.3

993 Table Appendix E.2 presents the results of our experiment of rolling out the wrong  
994 policy. It reveals that we find significant welfare losses across the parameter variations  
995 we introduce. A higher capital share makes the welfare even larger than in the main  
996 text, reaching up to over 3% in consumption equivalents for the model with inelastic  
997 labor supply. When the capital share is decreased, the welfare losses are smaller but still  
998 substantial with more than 1% welfare loss. For the labor supply elasticity, it is visible that  
999 a lower parameter value increases the strength of the negative welfare consequences. With  
1000 a higher labor supply elasticity, the effect is still strong, again around 1% in consumption  
1001 equivalents, so not very different for the effect in the main text when labor supply is  
1002 endogenous. Finally, As in the experiment in main text, the welfare losses coming from  
1003 the constraint externality by itself are smaller. This highlights again that distributive  
1004 externalities are important in the general model.

**Table Appendix E.2:** Consumption equivalent welfare change in different counterfactuals

<i>Panel (a): all types of externalities</i>			
<b>Economy</b> ( $\alpha = 0.33 \times 1.2$ )	<b>Right policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b>Wrong policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b><math>\Delta</math>(%)</b>
Earnings-based constraints, inelastic labor	0.89	-2.28	3.16
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.60	-0.54	1.14
<b>Economy</b> ( $\alpha = 0.33 \times 0.8$ )			
Earnings-based constraints, inelastic labor	0.39	-0.97	1.36
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.61	-0.51	1.12
<b>Economy</b> ( $\psi = 2 \times 1.2$ )			
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.49	-0.50	0.99
<b>Economy</b> ( $\psi = 2 \times 0.8$ )			
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.77	-0.55	1.32
<i>Panel (b): constraint externalities only</i>			
<b>Economy</b> ( $\alpha = 0.33 \times 1.2$ )	<b>Right policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b>Wrong policy, <math>\lambda</math>(%)</b>	<b><math>\Delta</math>(%)</b>
Earnings-based constraints, inelastic labor	0.00	-0.04	0.04
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.06	-0.50	0.56
<b>Economy</b> ( $\alpha = 0.33 \times 0.8$ )			
Earnings-based constraints, inelastic labor	0.00	-0.00	0.00
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.05	-0.45	0.51
<b>Economy</b> ( $\psi = 2 \times 1.2$ )			
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.04	-0.45	0.50
<b>Economy</b> ( $\psi = 2 \times 0.8$ )			
Earnings-based constraints, endogenous labor	0.08	-0.50	0.58

**Notes.** The table shows the welfare impact of policies carried out in the ‘true’ economy, which features earnings-based constraints. The right policy is the solution to the social planner’s problem in that economy. It moves the allocation in the decentralized equilibrium to the constrained efficient allocation. The wrong policy is calculated under the incorrect assumption that agents face asset-based borrowing constraints. It moves the allocation in the decentralized equilibrium to allocation that arises from the wrong policy.