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"The Tyranny of Numbers"

QJE 1995

Newly Industrializing Countries (NICs)

→ Hong Kong → South Korea
→ Singapore → Taiwan

→ saw 6 to 7 percent growth $\frac{\text{GDP}}{N}$
between 1966 and 1990/1991

- was this high g ? (strong productivity growth)
- or was this high $\frac{k}{h} + \frac{h}{k}$?
(high physical + human capital accumulation)
- if the latter, then simply transitory growth on path to higher y_{ss}

- all four saw large increase
in share of working population
with at least secondary education J. 2
- Ratio of $\frac{I}{GDP}$ (rough ~~measure~~^{equivalent})
of the saving rate γ in Solow Model)
also grew over the period
- implies that the East Asian tigers
 $\uparrow s_k$ and $\uparrow \gamma$
- Young also states that $\downarrow n$

N

- Total Factor Productivity growth
- corresponds to g in Solow Model

~~Other factors~~

A

$$Y = K^\alpha (AL)^{1-\alpha}$$

P-3

$$\ln Y = \alpha \ln K + (1-\alpha) \ln L + (1-\alpha) \ln A$$

$$\frac{d \ln X}{dt} = \frac{d \ln X}{dX} \cdot \frac{dX}{dt}$$

$$= \frac{1}{x} \cdot \dot{x} = \frac{\dot{x}}{x}$$

$$\frac{\dot{Y}}{Y} = \alpha \frac{\dot{K}}{K} + (1-\alpha) \frac{\dot{L}}{L} + (1-\alpha) \frac{\dot{A}}{A}$$

The diagram illustrates the decomposition of the output growth rate ($\frac{\dot{Y}}{Y}$) into three components: capital growth rate ($\frac{\dot{K}}{K}$), labor's share ($\frac{\dot{L}}{L}$), and TFP growth rate ($\frac{\dot{A}}{A}$). The first two components are multiplied by their respective shares (α and $1-\alpha$). Red arrows point from each term to its corresponding label below the equation.

TFP growth

Hong Kong	1966-91	2,3%
Singapore	econ 1966-90	0,2%
	manuf 1970-90	-1,0%
S. Korea	non-ag econ 1966-90	1,7%
Taiwan	non-ag econ 1966-90	2,6% *

→ * only 2,1%
when you
~~adjust~~
adjust for
public sector
output

→ For comparison, Young presents a table of TFP growth in other developing economies + developed economies p. 4

Canada	0,5	Brasil	1,6
Fz	1,5	Chile	0,8
DE	1,6	Mexico	1,2
Italy	2,0	Brasil*	1,0
Jugen	2,0	Chile*	0,7
UK	1,3	Mexico*	1,3
US	0,4	Venezuela*	2,6

* Manufacturing alone

→ Those TFP growth rates make the TFP growth rates of the East Asian Tigers look average