Diversification and Structural Transformation for Growth and Stability in Low-Income Countries

Ricardo Hausmann International Monetary Fund February 2013

# THEATLAS OF ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY MAPPING PATHS TO PROSPERITY

Hausmann, Hidalgo et al.

### www.cid.harvard.edu/atlas



## A tale of two countries: Ghana vs. Thailand





### ...more education than in Thailand



### Ghana: a success story?



### Ghana: a success story?



Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted	Aluminium and aluminium	alloys.	unwro	ought	Tropical Agriculture 68%	
					Raw Materials 16%	
					Forest Products 12%	
					Petroleum 3%	
					Labor Intensive 1%	
					Cereals, etc. 0.22%	
					Animal Products 0.07%	
					Capital Intensive 0.04%	
	Manganese ores and concentrates	Alum ores conc (inclu	ninium and centrat ud.alui	te n		
	Sawlogs and veneer logs,of non coniferous species	Wood non-co specie	of onifero es,saw	ous /n,planed		
		Pulpw (incluc chips and wood	ood S ling a	Sawlogs and		
Cocoa butter and cocoa paste	Fuel oils,n.e.s		Diam work. mour	onds,un not nted/s		
			Bran.	sha		

Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted		Aluminium and alum	Wood of	non-conifero	us		Tropical Agriculture 41%					
								sawn,pianeu,	longue		Raw Materials 19	%
											Forest Products 1	6%
											Animal Products	8%
											Labor Intensive 8	%
											Petroleum 5%	
											Cereals, etc. 2%	
											Machinery 1%	
							Wood sa lengthwis not prepa	wn se,sliced/pee ar.	led, consistin of sheet of wood	i ng s	Chemical 0.09%	
			Manganese ores and concentrates	d Alu and alu allo	minium I minium ys,worke	Aluminiun ores and Other non-ferrou			Wood of conifero	us Sout		
			Fish,prepared or preserved,n.e.s. incl caviar	luding	Diamor work.nd	nds,unwork ot mounted	.cut/other I/s	Fuel oils,n.e	e.s Kerose and other mediur oils	me		
Cocoa butter and cocoa paste	Fruit,fresh or dried, n.e.s.	Other fresh or chilled vegetables Vegetable products.rc	Crustaceans and F molluscs,fresh,chil ( etc fi	Fish,froze excludino illets)	Other fi	urniture an	d I	Palm oil	Aircraft exceed an unlade weight 15000	t ling of kg		



#### Value



### Thailand



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												Under		Jesson	a cemen		Animal Products	
									Other		Chai	rs	garmer	nts,				Tropical Agricultu
								furniture		othe	r i	cotton					Capital Intensive	
						Footwear		Other outer garments & clothing.knitt		seats	S Oth.preci & nonds semi-preci		ecic				Chemical 5%	
					Diam					rec			c			Cereals, etc. 4%		
										mou	nted/	Other	Other				Petroleum 1%	
Parts of and accessories suitable for		e for	Peripheral units, incl. control										sportin	3				Forest Products
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apparatus of division 76-			telephonic & telegraphic apparatus		a		<b>Fish</b> and a	0				Poly	Polystyrene and its copolymers	Alkyds and other polyeste Polyethy	Acv	olic		
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2000

e 17% ts 9% ulture 7% ive 6% % ts 1% 0.32%



Value

### **Thailand vs Ghana**



### DIVERSIFICATION AND STRUCTURAL TRANSFORMATION

- Rich countries are more stable and more diversified than poor countries
- Is there anything causal about this relationship? Does diversification cause growth?
- Is there a trade-off between growth and diversification for stability
  - Developing less productive activities for the sake of stability
  - Like in choosing a lower risk and return portfolio
- Are there market failures in diversification and structural transformation that require policy action?

### The shape of the world





PRODUCTS

Countries



Countries

PRODUCTS

# Happens within countries too: **Chile**



### Evidence of the Connection between the diversity of inputs and that of outputs



Hidalgo, Hausmann (2009) PNAS 106(26):10570-10575

### It also works within countries: Chile

300 OLLAGUE FOR CHILE 2008 COLCHANE GENERAL LAGOS 250 k<sub>1</sub> (Average Ubiquity) SLADE PASCUA 200 RIOVERDE 150 TO DO CONTI CONCERCIO PROVIDENCIA LASCONDES SANTIAGO 100<sup>L</sup> 100 200 300 400 500 600 k<sub>0</sub> (Diversification)

Diversity-Average Ubiquity Municipalities

# ...and Turkey



# How to account for these features of the world?

- To produce a particular good you need a varying number of nontradable intermediate inputs (call them capabilities)
  - Specific human skills
  - Non-tradable goods and services
  - Public goods or other types of public inputs
- They are highly complementary
- There is a fixed costs to developing new types of capabilities
- Products differ in the vector of capabilities they require
- Countries or regions differ in the vector of capabilities they have

# INTUITION

- Countries that have more capabilities will be able to make more products Countries would be more diversified
- Products that require more capabilities will be made by fewer countries Products will be less ubiquitous
- Countries that have more capabilities will be able to make products that require more capabilities
- I.e. products that are less ubiquitous
- Countries with more capabilities should thus be more diversified and able to make less ubiquitous products

### Evidence of the Connection between the diversity of inputs and that of outputs



Hidalgo, Hausmann (2009) PNAS 106(26):10570-10575

### Products differ in the set of capabilities they require













### Countries differ in the set of capabilities they have





## What we can observe

Countries

**Products** 


# The diversification that matters is at the level of capabilities.

It is expressed in the variety and complexity of the products that countries are able to put together

# How can we measure a country's capabilities?



# Calculating productive knowledge

$$Diversity = k_{c,0} = \sum_{p} M_{cp} \tag{1}$$

$$Ubiquity = k_{p,0} = \sum_{c} M_{cp}$$
(2)

$$k_{c,N} = \frac{1}{k_{c,0}} \sum_{p} M_{cp} \cdot k_{p,N-1}$$
(3)

$$k_{p,N} = \frac{1}{k_{p,0}} \sum_{c} M_{cp} \cdot k_{c,N-1}$$
(4)

$$k_{c,N} = \sum_{c'} \widetilde{M}_{cc'} k_{c',N-2}$$
(7)

#### where

$$\widetilde{M}_{cc'} = \sum_{p} \frac{M_{cp} M_{c'p}}{k_{c,0} k_{p,0}}$$
(8)

#### We calculate the second eigenvector We can do the same for products

## Another stab at the logic

$$M_{c,p} = C_{c,a} \, \ddot{\mathsf{A}} \, P_{p,a}$$

If you average across products you get a measure of the C<sub>ca</sub> matrix

## **Economic Complexity Index**



# ECI correlates with GDP per capita





Economic Complexity Index controlling for initial income and proportion of natural resource exports per capita in logs [2008]

Income per capita controlling for initial income and proportion of natural resource exports per capita in logs [2008]



Economic Complexity Index controlling for initial income and growth in natural resource export [1998]

# How are capabilities accumulated?

# The chicken and egg problem

- You cannot make watches without watchmakers
- You don't want to be watchmaker if nobody makes watches
- You cannot become a watchmaker because there are no watchmakers to learn from
- How does the world deal with this?
- By moving towards "nearby" products





# What does nearby mean?

• Lets go back to the basic equation:

• 
$$M_{c,p} = C_{c,a} \stackrel{{}_{\leftrightarrow}}{A} P_{p,a}$$

 If you look at the probability that product are co-exported across all countries, you get a measure of how similar they are in the P<sub>pa</sub> matrix

$$\emptyset_{pp'} = \frac{\sum_{c} M_{cp} M_{cp'}}{max(k_{p,0}, k_{p',0})}$$







## Products differ in how many capabilities they require and in how related they are to other products



# Measuring the position of a country in the product space

- A country is characterized not just by the capabilities it has
- ...but by how easy it is to accumulate more capabilities
- This is affected by the proximity between the products it is able to make and other products
- We can measure this

# Measuring the position in the product space

Distance between a country's capabilities and a product

$$d_{cp} = \frac{\sum_{p'} (1 - M_{cp'}) \emptyset_{pp'}}{\sum_{p'} \emptyset_{pp'}}$$

Distance between a country weighted by the complexity How c you a make you ayou ayou ayou ayou ayou ayou ayou byou byou byou byou byou byou byou cyou c

roducts currently not made,



# The position in the product space affects the growth of complexity

	Economic Complexity Index (1978-2008)				
	5-Year Periods	<b>IO-Year Periods</b>			
VARIABLES	(1)	(2)			
Initial Economic Complexity Index	0.915***	0.857***			
	(0,017)	(0,036)			
Initial Complexity Outlook Index	0.078***	0.136***			
	(0,017)	(0,034)			
Constant	-0,016	-0.064**			
	(0,035)	(0,030)			
Observations	637	313			
R <sup>2</sup>	0,926	0,892			
Year FE	Yes	Yes			
Speed of adjustment, ß	0,085	0,143			
Long run effect, Đ	0,918	0,951			

# Baseline

#### Dependent variable: 10 year real GDP growth per capita (%)

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Initial GDP per capita, logs	-0.009	-0.667***	-0.489***	-0.738***
	(0.125)	(0.163)	(0.142)	(0.145)
Increase in real NNRR exports pc	4.034***	3.794***	4.062***	3.905***
	(0.830)	(0.919)	(0.967)	(0.979)
Initial Economic Complexity Index		1.393***		0.859***
		(0.228)		(0.197)
Initial Opportunity value Index			1.235***	0.832***
			(0.226)	(0.215)
Constant	1.326	6.267***	4.894***	6.776***
	(1.097)	(1.323)	(1.173)	(1.177)
Observations	204	204	204	204
Duservations Deguarad	294 0.260	294 0.200	294 0.200	294 0 421
	0.209	0.390	0.399	0.431
	res	res	res	res

Robust standard errors in parentheses

# Relation to standard stories

## Institutions matter

- Because they facilitate the aggregation of capabilities through organizations and markets
- Human capital matters
  - HK is an intensive measure. PK is an extensive measure
  - Common HK may facilitate later specialization
  - And re-aggregation by making cooperation easier
- Finance matters
  - Because it may facilitate the re-aggregation of capabilities

# Institutions

#### Dependent variable: 10 year real GDP growth per capita (%)

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Initial GDP per capita, logs	-1.249***	-1.142***	-1.115***	-1.367***	-1.139***	-1.128***	-1.226***	-1.041***
	(0.194)	(0.268)	(0.276)	(0.194)	(0.255)	(0.273)	(0.213)	(0.300)
Increase in real NNRR exports pc	3.338***	3.301***	3.288***	3.362***	3.296***	3.262***	3.317***	3.204***
	(0.827)	(0.822)	(0.812)	(0.825)	(0.823)	(0.783)	(0.826)	(0.769)
Initial Economic Complexity Index	1.459***	1.500***	1.506***	1.377***	1.502***	1.446***	1.471***	1.425***
	(0.274)	(0.285)	(0.283)	(0.297)	(0.285)	(0.273)	(0.287)	(0.312)
Initial Opportunity value Index	0.483**	0.467**	0.484**	0.509***	0.482**	0.502***	0.486**	0.561***
	(0.186)	(0.190)	(0.188)	(0.183)	(0.188)	(0.185)	(0.187)	(0.199)
Initial Control of Corruption		-0 213						0 209
		(0.316)						(0.875)
Initial Government Effectiveness		(0.010)	-0 290					-0.381
			(0.369)					(0.775)
Initial Political Stability			(0.000)	0.372				0.845**
,				(0.252)				(0.403)
Initial Rule of Law				()	-0.237			-0.795
					(0.341)			(0.841)
Initial Regulatory Quality					()	-0.251		-0.091
5 , , , ,						(0.433)		(0.608)
Initial Voice and Accountability						( <i>)</i>	-0.066	0.024
							(0.343)	(0.435)
Constant	12.514***	11.697***	11.508***	13.454***	11.667***	11.620***	12.342***	11.033***
	(1.563)	(2.109)	(2.147)	(1.564)	(2.002)	(2.093)	(1.675)	(2.308)
Observations	119	119	119	119	119	119	119	119
R-squared	0.461	0.463	0.464	0.468	0.463	0.464	0.461	0.485
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robust standard errors in								

noronthogog

# Who can account for growth? Complexity vs. Governance



# Human capital vs productive capabilities

- Human capital is measured at the level of individuals
  - Years of schooling
  - Controlling for PISA results
- Standard measures of HK look at how much of the same curriculum or of the same skills do people hold
- HK characterizes a society by the <u>average</u> of HK held by individuals
- Our measures are about the diversity of the capabilities countries have
- Intensity vs. spectrum of light

# Complexity vs. schooling



# Education

#### Dependent variable: 10 year real GDP growth per capita (%)

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Initial GDP per capita, logs	-0.762***	-0.954***	-0.884***	-0.776***	-0.921***
	(0.144)	(0.170)	(0.154)	(0.149)	(0.162)
Increase in real NNRR exports pc	6.604***	6.146***	6.218***	6.593***	6.001***
	(1.257)	(1.303)	(1.331)	(1.262)	(1.339)
Initial Economic Complexity Index	0.958***	0.766***	0.774***	0.947***	0.744***
	(0.184)	(0.174)	(0.187)	(0.184)	(0.181)
Initial Opportunity value Index	0.851***	0.805***	0.869***	0.850***	0.827***
	(0.218)	(0.219)	(0.210)	(0.220)	(0.212)
Initial average years of schooling		0.211***			0.209*
		(0.066)			(0.113)
Initial percentage of Secondary Complete			0.045***		0.027
			(0.015)		(0.021)
Initial percentage of Tertiary Complete				0.009	-0.069*
				(0.029)	(0.038)
Constant	6.996***	8.383***	8.452***	8.376***	8.136***
	(1.187)	(1.235)	(1.175)	(1.207)	(1.184)
Observations	261	261	261	261	261
R-squared	0.386	0.406	0.407	0.386	0.417
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Robust standard errors in parentheses					

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

# Who can account for income?



# Who can account for growth?



# Finance

#### Dependent variable: 10 year real GDP growth per capita (%)

VARIABLES	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Initial GDP per capita, logs	-0.756***	-0.712***	-0.720***	-0.781***
	(0.151)	(0.159)	(0.178)	(0.178)
Increase in real NNRR exports pc	3.927***	3.757***	3.889***	3.728***
	(1.008)	(0.966)	(1.007)	(0.948)
Initial Economic Complexity Index	0.939***	1.091***	0.985***	1.079***
	(0.213)	(0.243)	(0.227)	(0.240)
Initial Opportunity value Index	0.859***	0.831***	0.855***	0.821***
	(0.218)	(0.229)	(0.228)	(0.212)
Initial Domestic credit provided by banking sector (% of				
GDP)		-0.007**		-0.013**
		(0.003)		(0.005)
Initial Domestic credit to private sector (% of GDP)			-0.003	0.010
			(0.005)	(0.008)
Constant	6.040***	6.058***	5.900***	6.485***
	(1.162)	(1.177)	(1.272)	(1.288)
Observations	273	273	273	273
R-squared	0.474	0.482	0.475	0.485
Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Robust standard errors in parentheses

\*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

# Who can account for growth? Complexity vs. Financial Depth



### Competitiveness as the secret of growth



- States

#### The Global Competitiveness Report 2011–2012



# Who can account for growth? Complexity vs WEF-Competitiveness



# **Projections to 2020**

# Who will grow? Who will catch up?



# Who will grow faster? Growth in GDP per capita to 2020


#### Who will grow faster? Total GDP growth to 2020



# Why does Nigeria export mainly oil?

#### Not because it has a lot of it

Country	Non-hydrocarbon	Hydrocarbon			
	Goods exports per capita, USD				
Nigeria	15	433			
	Ratio to Nigeria's exports				
Mexico	138.8	0.7			
Iran	12.1	1.9			
Algeria	3.6	3.3			
Venezuela	11.7	4.0			
Angola	2.6	5.4			
Saudi Arabia	80.1	14.6			
Libya	22.6	15.6			
Norway	653.0	33.1			

### Other countries that have more oil have even more non-oil

Country	Non-hydrocarbon	Hydrocarbon			
	Goods exports per capita, USD				
Nigeria	15	433			
	Ratio to Nigeria's exports				
Mexico	138.8	0.7			
Iran	12.1	1.9			
Algeria	3.6	3.3			
Venezuela	11.7	4.0			
Angola	2.6	5.4			
Saudi Arabia	80.1	14.6			
Libya	22.6	15.6			
Norway	653.0	33.1			

## Why is Chile so specialized in copper?Exports per capita

	Chile	New Zealand	Australia	Canada	Norway
Mineral Exports	1.0	0.0	1.7	1.5	11.1
Primary exports	1.0	1.6	2.0	2.1	8.6

## Why is Chile so specialized in copper?Exports per capita

	Chile	New Zealand	Australia	Canada	Norway
Mineral Exports	1.0	0.0	1.7	1.5	11.1
Primary exports	1.0	1.6	2.0	2.1	8.6
Other goods exports	1.0	3.0	3.3	10.4	11.9
Service exports	1.0	6.6	6.7	6.6	19.9
GDP pc at PPP	1.0	2.0	2.6	2.7	4.2

#### A set of propositions for discussion

- Low income countries are undiversified
- ...because they have few productive capabilities
- ...and so they make few simple, low productivity products
- Diversification of capabilities and of industries is made difficult by coordination failures that are particularly severe in low income countries, given the dearth of existing capabilities that can be combined with new ones
- These coordination failures have first order costs and require a policy response
- So diversification is not just a correlate of growth
- More on the policy implications later...