Redistribution in the Age of Datalism

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Overview

- Capitalism
- Data
- Redistribution
Capitalism

- Use capital to increase capital
  - concentration of wealth
  - return on capital > growth of economy
- concentration of power
  - problem for democracy
Datalism

- Use data to increase data
- concentration of knowledge? (machine learning)
- concentration of power?
- problem for democracy?
Redistribution in the age of Capitalism

• Taxation

• money is

• fungible (essentially interchangeable, equal value between assets)

• rival (consumption by one consumer prevents simultaneous consumption by others)

• redistribution by taxation = subtract money (rival) and use (fungible) for benefits of others
Redistribution in the age of Datalism?

• Data, information, knowledge are **not fungible** (because not all data have the same value) and **not rival** (it is difficult to remove them and be confident)

• Power derives from asymmetry.

• Can we redistribute it? Hint: how (we believe) it has been resolved the problem of the redistribution of power arising from the asymmetry of knowledge?
Redistribution in the age of Datalism

- **Transparency (sharing)**

- Force to open (a certain amount of) data

  - data (information/knowledge) is not rival, but asymmetry is. If it is hard to subtract data and be sure, then subtract asymmetry

- redistribution by transparency = share data and use for benefits of others
New redistribution new problems

- Data is not fungible
  - what data should be made transparent? Possible avoidance by sharing low-value data
    - proposal: follow a temporal criteria? share $x\%$ of data collected or produced in the previous $n$ days

- Privacy (GDPR)

- Platforms interoperability?
Conclusions

• Data concentration is gaining ground in our economic system

• Urgent to address the problem (concentration of data, information and knowledge is concentration of power, a problem for democracy)

  • IoT and machine learning are going to blow up the data issue

• Transparency can be a solution

• Privacy and non fungibility make difficult the task of redistribution
Questions?