

Are financial development and corruption control substitutes in promoting growth? ☆

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Received 9 December 2005; received in revised form 12 July 2007; accepted 26 July 2007

Abstract

While financial development and corruption control have been studied extensively, their interaction has not. We develop a simple model in which low corruption and financial development both facilitate the undertaking of productive projects, but act as substitutes in doing so. The substitutability arises because corruption raises the need for liquidity and thus makes financial improvements more potent; conversely, financial underdevelopment makes corruption more onerous and thus raises the gains from reducing it. We test this substitutability by predicting growth, of countries and industries, using measures of financial development, lack of corruption, and a key interaction term. Both approaches point to positive effects from improving either factor, as well as to a substitutability between them. The growth gain associated with moving from the 25th to the 75th percentile in one factor is 0.63–1.68 percentage points higher if the second factor is at the 25th percentile rather than the 75th. The results show robustness to different measures of corruption and financial development and do not appear to be driven by outliers, omitted variables, or other theories of growth and convergence.

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JEL classification: G21; O16; O17; O40; O43

Keywords: Financial development; Growth; Complementarity; Corruption

1. Introduction

The importance, or unimportance, of complementarities has been a recurrent theme in economic development. This issue has been debated in various forms for decades, including by critics and proponents of “Big

Push” theory.¹ Complementarities are important to understand from a positive and normative point of view. Their existence can lead to multiple equilibria and poverty traps, ideas which may be useful in understanding underdevelopment. They also tend to argue for policies characterized by multi-pronged, simultaneous investments rather than piecemeal efforts. For example, if health clinics and clean water are complementary in producing health, it may not be rational to invest in either unless both can be provided; conversely, if they are substitutes,

☆ We are grateful to Stijn Claessens and Luc Laeven for sharing their data and to three anonymous referees, Pinaki Bose, Hyeok Jeong, Joe Kaboski, Lant Pritchett (the editor), Moto Shintani, Kenichi Ueda, and seminar participants at University of Memphis, University of Southern California, Vanderbilt, and at 75 years of Development Conference 2004 for helpful comments.

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¹ Participants in this debate include Rosenstein-Rodan (1943), Nurkse (1953), Hirschman (1958), Murphy et al. (1989), Kremer (1993), and, more recently, Sachs (2005) and Easterly (2006).

investing in only one of them (at least initially) may well be justified.

The goal of this paper is to focus this interaction question on two key ingredients of development: corruption control and financial development. Recent research (cited below) suggests both factors are important determinants of economic growth. The question we ask is, do they serve as complements or substitutes in promoting growth?

The question of interaction has important implications in this context. Consider a proposal to condition aid on a low level of corruption. One justification could be that low corruption and other development ingredients are complementary — e.g., improving the financial system will affect growth only if corruption is under control. This is similar to the point that Johnson et al. (2002) make in the context of several transition economies. But, if corruption control and financial development are substitutes rather than complements, then financial system improvements of the *more* corrupt countries pay the highest growth dividends. Aid targeted toward financial systems could then best be spent on corrupt countries.² Optimal conditionality depends in part on the sign of the interaction between different instrumental dimensions of development.

Consider further the question of where and how to invest development funds. Under substitutability, it is in the countries at the lowest starting points that a given (moderate) improvement will pay the greatest growth dividend; under complementarity, by contrast, minimal growth dividends result from a given (moderate) improvement in the most backward countries (the thrust of the “Big Push” theory). This is because under substitutability, the greatest gains come from investments early on the development path, while under complementarity, the greatest gains come toward the end of the development path.

Substitutability would also tend to lead to more specialization, i.e. focused improvements along one dimension or another depending on relative costs, while complementarity would argue for comparatively balanced investments. Finally, complementarity would tend to rationalize an all-or-nothing approach — substantially fix both corruption and financial frictions, or do little, depending on relevant costs — while substitutability would tend to rationalize moderate levels of investment that do not vary as widely with costs of interventions. In short, as has long been argued, understanding interactions between

different ingredients of development is critical to rational investment in development.

We begin with simple theory to provide a basis for our empirical tests. An economy is endowed with a heterogeneous set of investment projects. Each project requires an upfront capital investment that must be borrowed within a potentially inefficient financial system. The inefficiency, i.e. financial underdevelopment, is parameterized as a resource cost of intermediation. Undertaking an investment project also requires a corrupt payment or bribe. Corruption is parameterized as the size of the bribe due, as a fraction of the investment. Thus the focus is on corruption that is *costly* to the firm, e.g. extortion or payment for services that should be provided for free, rather than on grand corruption or on corruption that is *beneficial* to the firm but costly to society, e.g. collusion with the official to circumvent rational regulation. While all kinds of corruption exist, ample evidence supports this focus.³

The model predicts that lower corruption and higher financial development raise investment. Thus the two factors have positive effects taken separately. Under a plausible condition, the two factors act as substitutes in facilitating investment. Substitutability arises because higher corruption raises the need for liquidity and thus makes financial improvements more productive. Conversely, a financially developed country is hurt less by a given increase in corruption, since funds can be borrowed more readily.

There is a bit of corroborative evidence for the mechanism highlighted here in Safavian (2001), who reports on survey data from small businesses in Russia. He finds that enterprises that report being more harried by corruption also apply more often for external finance and rank lack of finance as a greater obstacle to business —

² Of course, if low corruption is not only substitutable with financial development in producing growth, but also complementary to aid in producing financial development, it might still be optimal to condition aid on low corruption.

³ In the survey of 3600 entrepreneurs worldwide summarized by Brunetti et al. (1997), respondents ranked corruption as the second most significant impediment to doing business, ahead of lack of financing. Other similar surveys rank it as a significant obstacle, though not always ahead of financing (see e.g. Beck et al., 2005). Fisman and Svensson (2002), Johnson et al. (2002), Hellman et al. (2003), and Beck et al. (2005) all find evidence that corruption hinders firm growth and/or investment; quantitatively, Johnson et al. find that firms facing pervasive corruption (no corruption) are predicted to have a 33.5% reinvestment rate (55.1% reinvestment rate). On a cross-country level, Mauro (1995) finds that corruption hinders investment; quantitatively, a one standard deviation reduction in corruption would raise the investment rate by about five percentage points. Other evidence for corruption that acts as a hindrance, rather than “grease”, to entrepreneurs can be found in de Soto (1989), Frye and Shleifer (1997), Berkowitz and Li (2000), Safavian (2001), and Svensson (2003).

this is consistent with the idea that corruption raises the need for external finance.⁴

Our main tests, however, are not direct tests of the proposed theoretical mechanism. We use several standard empirical specifications and datasets that allow for predicting growth, of countries or industries within countries. Explanatory variables include both financial development and corruption indicators. The main measure of financial development is credit issued to private enterprises from commercial banks and other financial institutions, normalized by GDP. Corruption is measured by country-level measures, one compiled monthly as part of the International Country Risk Guide, the other a compilation of surveys by Transparency International.⁵ Our focus is on the term interacting corruption and financial development multiplicatively.

Results confirm the positive effects of financial development and low corruption, respectively, on growth. The interaction term coefficient is itself significant across a variety of specifications and suggests that financial development and low corruption are *substitutes* in promoting growth. That is, the growth impact of reducing corruption is higher when the financial system is less developed. Conversely, the growth impact of improving the financial system is higher when corruption is high. The estimated magnitude of this interactive effect is large. The growth gain associated with moving from the 25th to the 75th percentile in one factor is 0.63–1.68 percentage points higher if the second factor is at the 25th percentile rather than the 75th.

The specifications include country-level growth regressions, both cross-sectional and time-series. We also run industry-level growth regressions following the methodology of Rajan and Zingales (1998), which allows for the inclusion of country and industry fixed effects. Specifically, the country-specific financial development indicator is interacted with an industry-specific measure of dependence on external finance. We extend this approach to corruption. Based on the assumption that bribes charged are proportional to the size of investment undertaken, we interact the country-specific measure of corruption with an industry-specific measure of investment intensity.

⁴ A different interpretation is that firms in need of finance also report corruption more because corruption is more strongly concentrated in the financial sector. However, given Safavian's definition of corruption as primarily government-related, and given the minimal government presence in supplying finance in his context, this interpretation seems less likely.

⁵ Data compiled by Kaufmann et al. (2006) are considered by many to be of higher quality, but are only available since 1996; we use these in robustness tests.

This specification performs well, suggesting that corruption's effect on an industry is mediated by the size of investments required in that industry. The results also consistently confirm Mauro (1995) finding that corruption hinders growth, but for the first time (to our knowledge) in a setting where country fixed effects are controlled for.⁶ This adds to the case for a causal impact of corruption on growth.

For robustness we exclude outliers and use several other measures for financial development. This includes a measure of stock market activity as well as a less common measure, the spread between the borrowing and saving interest rate, which more closely parallels our model. Finally, we experiment with robustness to nonlinearities in the effects of financial development and corruption on growth (as in Rioja and Valev, 2004; Ahlin, 2005) and to the convergence effects of corruption and financial development (as in Keefer and Knack, 1997; Aghion et al., 2005). There is substantial robustness across these specifications, leading us to interpret the overall results as strongly suggestive that these two factors are substitutes: improving along one dimension is more valuable (for growth) the less progress has been made in the other dimension.

Most of the existing related literature identifies links between economic outcomes and one or the other of these factors. For example, a large literature has shed light on theoretical and empirical linkages between growth and a well-functioning financial system.⁷ A parallel literature has established significant negative effects of corruption on growth and development, theoretically and empirically.⁸

There are two strands of the literature that examine finance and corruption together, as we do. First, a growing

⁶ Svensson (2005) runs a panel specification with country fixed effects and corruption measured by ICRG, and finds no significant relationship – perhaps due to insufficient time variation in the corruption measure. Claessens and Laeven (2003) run a specification similar to ours with country fixed effects and a composite measure of institutional quality from ICRG (including corruption, bureaucratic quality, rule of law, etc.) interacted with intangible property dependence, and find a positive effect.

⁷ See, for example, Greenwood and Jovanovic (1990), Bencivenga and Smith (1991), and Aghion et al. (2005) on theoretical links and King and Levine (1993), Rajan and Zingales (1998), Rousseau and Wachtel (1998), Levine et al. (2000), and Aghion et al. (2005) for empirical evidence. Levine (1997, 2005) provides extensive literature reviews.

⁸ Cross-country empirical examples include Mauro (1995) and Li et al. (2000), though robustness can be questioned (as in Svensson, 2005); firm-level empirical examples can be found in Fisman and Svensson (2002), Johnson et al. (2002), Hellman et al. (2003), and Beck et al. (2005). Theoretical contributions include Shleifer and Vishny (1993), Ehrlich and Lui (1999), and Ahlin (2005). Bardhan (1997) reviews the literature.

field initiated by La Porta et al. (1997, 1998) examines legal origin, and legal and corruption variables more generally, as *determinants* of financial development.⁹ The focus of this literature tends to be on financial development as the key driver of growth, and low corruption and a functioning legal environment as key ingredients of financial development. We differ from this literature in casting corruption and finance as two factors behind growth that, while related to some degree, may exert independent influence on a country's growth prospects. That is, we feature an effect of corruption on growth that goes above and beyond its effect on the financial system.¹⁰

The second strand of the literature is smaller and more closely related to our paper in that it examines finance and corruption side by side, allowing for each to affect growth independently. Claessens and Laeven (2003) predict industry growth based on financial development and property rights protection. They find that both matter, with property rights protection at least as important quantitatively. Johnson et al. (2002) use firm-level data from five East European transition economies and find that firms that face higher corruption re-invest profits at a significantly lower rate, while access to finance does not seem to affect re-investment. Beck et al. (2005) focus on the interaction between firm size and law, finance, and corruption in predicting firm growth. When law, finance, and corruption are entered into the same regression, corruption is insignificant while finance remains significant (though this is not explicitly interpreted as indicating the greater importance of finance).¹¹ No single consensus emerges as to the relative importance of finance and corruption for growth, though the results of Johnson et al. (2002) do suggest the answer is context-specific. To the extent that they examine corruption and finance simulta-

neously, however, these papers do so via “horseraces”; none directly examines the *interaction* between them, as we do here.

Our findings suggest there is no need for a coordinated effort (i.e. “Big Push”) to develop the financial system and lower corruption simultaneously. This is not to say it would not raise growth to improve along both dimensions. It also does not say that the two factors do not share key ingredients in common. The point is that the greatest growth gains appear to come from taking the first step, in either direction.

In Section 2 we outline the model, present the result, and discuss robustness. Sections 3 and 4 describe the data, empirical strategy, and results from, respectively, country-level and industry-level analysis. Section 5 discusses robustness checks. Section 6 concludes.

2. Theory

How do financial development and lack of corruption interact in promoting growth? Our aim here is to illustrate a simple interaction mechanism without the full complexity of a growth model. We derive the rate at which new, productive projects are undertaken in a static framework, and show how it varies with both corruption and financial development.

The investment in new productive projects that we model is not intended to implicate one source of growth over another. One alternative is to view the investment as promoting capital accumulation. In this case, the growth promoted by higher investment rates would be able to create temporary growth effects, but perhaps not permanent ones, as diminishing returns to capital set in. A second alternative is to view the projects as providing productivity (TFP) growth. For example, one can interpret the projects as explicit research and development endeavors. More generally, they can be seen as new business ventures that bring fresh ideas into operation and are critical to the Schumpeterian process of creative destruction.¹² In these cases, higher investment rates could lead to permanently higher growth rates. We view both alternatives as complementary and compatible with the model.

Consider a small open economy endowed with a set of investment projects indexed by i . Project i yields present

⁹ Beck and Levine (2004) provide a review of this literature. Among more recent contributions, Chinn and Ito (2005) find that corruption affects the emergence of equity markets; Qian and Strahan (2005) show how corruption and legal variables affect loan contract terms, including use of collateral and maturity; Beck et al. (2006) examine prevalence of corruption in bank lending and its determinants, including the country's overall corruption level; and Khwaja and Mian (2005) show that government banks in Pakistan make cheap, default-prone loans to politically connected firms. A common theme is that corruption can affect and impede efficient operation of the financial system; see also Akerlof and Romer (1993). Bordo and Rousseau (2006), however, show some limits of legal origin in explaining financial development.

¹⁰ See the end of Section 2 for a discussion of how the interrelatedness of corruption and finance affects our approach.

¹¹ This and other work have also compared the two factors based directly on entrepreneurs' ranking of various obstacles to doing business. Beck et al. (2005) and Pissarides et al. (2003) find financing constraints somewhat more prevalent than corruption ones, while Brunetti et al. (1997) find corruption ranked ahead of financial constraints.

¹² It is standard to view capital-accumulation growth as at least partially dependent on financing. Growth due to investment in new technology has also been seen as dependent on the financial sector. For example, two of the most financially dependent industries in the data of Rajan and Zingales (1998) are the computer and drug industries, both heavily engaged in R&D. Also, see the growth model of Aghion et al. (2005), in which financial development facilitates technological diffusion.

value payoff of Y_i at the end of the period. Project payoffs are distributed according to $F(Y_i)$ over support $[0, \bar{Y}]$. All projects require an up-front capital investment of J at the beginning of the period. Capital fully depreciates by the end of the period.

Assume that all projects must be externally financed.¹³ Thus the investment J must be borrowed at the beginning of the period and repaid at the end of the period. Entrepreneurs cannot borrow directly from abroad, but the financial sector can borrow and save at world (gross) interest rate R . It then incurs real costs in channeling these resources to local entrepreneurs. Specifically, for every unit of capital reaching the entrepreneur, $\phi \geq 0$ units of capital are used up in intermediation. The parameter ϕ is then a measure of financial sector (in)efficiency. In a competitive financial sector the local borrowing interest rate must be $(1 + \phi)R$. In this case ϕ equals the spread between the saving and borrowing interest rate, one measure of financial development we use in the empirical work.

Corruption also may exist in the economy. Bureaucrats who hold implicit veto power over businesses' investment projects demand a bribe. The power may be explicitly related to official approval required for investment projects. Even without this, bureaucrats may have some discretionary authority over other areas of the firm's activity, and use the observation of an investment project as a signal of the firm's ability to pay a bribe. We express the bribe as a fraction $\kappa \geq 0$ of J ;¹⁴ the parameter κ measures corruption.¹⁵

The bribe is due 'upfront', at the beginning of the period. This assumption critically implies that corruption raises financing needs. Other assumptions would have the same effect. If the bribe was due not at the beginning but sometime during the implementation phase of the investment project, this would also clearly raise financing needs. Even if bureaucrats came to collect the bribe after project completion, but at some uncertain date, it would raise the firm's need for liquidity. For example, the firm would be forced to hold more liquid assets to be ready to meet demand for bribes, and would thus need more

external finance to fund any future investment. Unlike taxes that can be planned for, corrupt demands with uncertain timing result in an ongoing, heightened need for liquidity in a firm; Safavian (2001) provides evidence that the timing of bribe demands is highly uncertain and that firms facing them report higher need for credit. In short, under a number of plausible assumptions, corruption raises financing needs.

2.1. Investment effects of corruption and finance

Project i requires J in funds, at end-of-period cost of $(1 + \phi)R \cdot J$. It also requires upfront payment of a bribe κJ , resulting in a loan coming due in the amount of $(1 + \phi)R \cdot \kappa J$. The net present value of project i works out to be $Y_i - (1 + \phi)(1 + \kappa)RJ$. Thus the financial intermediation resource cost ϕ is paid on the capital itself as well as the bribe.

Investment projects with net present value greater than zero satisfy

$$Y_i \geq Y^* \equiv (1 + \kappa)(1 + \phi)RJ. \quad (1)$$

In the absence of corruption and financial intermediation costs, this cutoff equals RJ , which is the end-of-period cost of the used-up capital J . Higher corruption and less efficient intermediation set the cutoff for profitable projects higher:

$$\frac{\partial Y^*}{\partial \phi} = (1 + \kappa)RJ > 0, \quad \frac{\partial Y^*}{\partial \kappa} = (1 + \phi)RJ > 0. \quad (2)$$

There is a nonzero interactive effect on the cutoff:

$$\frac{\partial^2 Y^*}{\partial \phi \partial \kappa} = RJ > 0. \quad (3)$$

Higher corruption raises the total financing needs $(J + \kappa J)$ and thus makes an increase in financial overhead more prohibitive. Conversely, a rise in corruption is more prohibitive in a less developed financial system, since corrupt fees raise borrowing needs.

The main goal is to determine how the number of projects invested in, call it N_I , changes with corruption and financial development. Note that N_I equals $1 - F(Y^*)$. Not surprisingly, N_I is lower the higher is ϕ or κ .

$$\frac{\partial N_I}{\partial \phi} = -f(Y^*) \frac{\partial Y^*}{\partial \phi} = -f(Y^*)(1 + \kappa)RJ < 0, \quad (4)$$

where $f(\cdot)$ is the probability density function, and

$$\frac{\partial N_I}{\partial \kappa} = -f(Y^*) \frac{\partial Y^*}{\partial \kappa} = -f(Y^*)(1 + \phi)RJ < 0. \quad (5)$$

¹³ Section 2.2 discusses several relaxations of this assumption.

¹⁴ Safavian (2001) and Svensson (2003) find evidence that bureaucrats tailor bribes to firm's ability to pay. It seems reasonable to assume that Y_i is not observable while J is, so bribe demands are proportional to J .

¹⁵ One could endogenize κ to maximize bribe revenue from the investment projects. However, this assumes the bureaucrats act as a monopolist. A degree of competition between them could lower κ , in the limit to zero. Conversely, a degree of overlapping monopoly power, e.g. where investments require one permit from each of several agencies, could raise κ , in the limit to exclude nearly all projects as the 'commons' is trampled. Varying political organization, then, would produce variation in κ . For related analysis, see Shleifer and Vishny (1993) and Ahlin (2005).

Higher intermediation costs and higher corrupt fees keep otherwise profitable investments from being made. The interactive effect is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 N_I}{\partial \phi \partial \kappa} &= -f'(Y^*) \frac{\partial Y^*}{\partial \phi} \frac{\partial Y^*}{\partial \kappa} - f(Y^*) \frac{\partial^2 Y^*}{\partial \phi \partial \kappa} \\ &= -f(Y^*) R J \left[\frac{f'(Y^*) Y^*}{f(Y^*)} + 1 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where the second equality uses Eqs. (1)–(3). The effect is negative as long as the elasticity of the density function is greater than negative one at Y^* . In summary:

Proposition 1. *Lower corruption and higher financial development raise the amount of investment, N_I . If $\frac{f'(Y^*) Y^*}{f(Y^*)} > -1$, the two factors are substitutes in promoting investment.*

As can be seen in Eq. (6), there are two potentially opposing effects that make up the interaction between the two factors. The first one depends on the slope (elasticity) of the density function. If projects are distributed uniformly, for example, it is zero. If $f'(Y^*) < 0$, i.e. better projects are rarer among profitable ones, then this effect leads to complementarity: the better one factor is, the greater effect on investment improvements in the other factor have. The intuition is as follows. In a more financially developed country, the project cutoff is of lower value and thus there are more projects on the margin that will be drawn in if corruption is reduced. That is, Y^* is lower and thus $f(Y^*)$ is higher. Conversely, in a more corrupt country, fewer projects are on the margin, so improving financial intermediation has less of an impact.

The second effect works toward substitutability regardless of the distribution of project values. The intuition behind this effect is as follows. A reduction in corrupt fees has more of an effect in a financially underdeveloped economy, since they are more burdensome there. Conversely, a reduction in financial intermediation costs has a greater impact in a more corrupt economy, since liquidity needs are higher there.

The net effect then depends on the shape of the project distribution. In particular, substitutability holds as long as the elasticity of project density is not too negative.

2.2. Extensions and robustness

This model gives some basic intuition regarding the interaction between corruption and finance. Here we address its robustness.

The requirement that all projects be externally funded can be relaxed without changing the qualitative results.

Similarly, the assumption of uniform project size J can be relaxed. In particular, let there be M industries, indexed by m , with a potentially different investment size J_m per industry. Further, assume that a fraction ω_m of projects in industry m needs external financing, and that the need for external financing is independent of value Y_i . Changes in corruption κ affect all projects in this scenario, while changes in financial (under)development ϕ affect only ω_m of the projects. Carrying out the above analysis reveals that the interactive term is exactly the same as derived above (Eq. (6)), except multiplied by ω_m and with the requisite m subscripts:

$$\frac{\partial^2 N_{I,m}}{\partial \phi \partial \kappa} = -\omega_m f_m(Y_m^*) R J_m \left[\frac{f'_m(Y_m^*) Y_m^*}{f_m(Y_m^*)} + 1 \right]. \quad (7)$$

Proposition 1 holds with modification to allow for industry-level heterogeneity. In line with this, we control for industry heterogeneity in investment intensity (J_m) and dependence on external finance (ω_m) in our industry-level empirical specifications discussed below.

A related concern is that the model allows bank financing of bribes. In defense of this assumption, it may often be the case that lenders do not have full control over or knowledge of their clients' use of funds. Loans may be made based on expense estimates rather than actual figures, leaving some discretion to the borrower. Nonetheless, consider the case where firms have enough internal funds to cover bribe demands but not enough to fund the full investment J in addition. The substitutability result holds in this setting, even under the assumption that banks will not lend to fund bribery, as we show in Appendix A of Ahlin and Pang (2007). The intuition is essentially the same as in the baseline model: higher corrupt fees use up scarce internal funds and thus raise firms' external financing needs.

It might be argued that if bureaucrats tailor bribes to firms' ability to pay, then corruption's effect does not vary with financial development. This is indeed the case under perfect price discrimination, i.e. if bureaucrats extract all the surplus of every project and do not demand more. Then, corruption would not eliminate any socially desirable projects and would thus have no (efficiency) impact regardless of the level of financial barriers. However, if price discrimination is imperfect,¹⁶ as we model it, then differences in the level of corruption *due to factors other than financial development* are possible (see footnote 15). As corruption varies in this exogenous way, a

¹⁶ The literature cited above (see footnote 14) points toward some price discrimination, but does not establish perfect price discrimination.

Table 1
Description and summary statistics of focal variables

Variable	Mean	Median	Std. dev.	Minimum	Maximum	Obs.
<i>Country-level variables</i>						
Private_Credit	0.367	0.286	0.265	0.047	1.251	71
Log_Real_Spread	1.618	1.582	0.671	-0.749	3.488	66
Corruption_ICRG	3.537	3.255	1.329	1.083	6	71
Corruption_TI	3.080	2.703	1.503	0.585	5.520	58
<i>Industry-level variables</i>						
F	0.319	0.231	0.406	-0.451	1.492	36
I	0.298	0.278	0.095	0.161	0.560	36

Note: Private_Credit — credit to private enterprises as a fraction of GDP. Log_Real_Spread — log real spread between borrowing and saving interest rates. Corruption_ICRG — corruption, International Country Risk Guide measure. Corruption_TI — corruption, Transparency International measure. Corruption_TI is rescaled to range between 0 and 6. A higher number for either corruption measure implies less corruption. F — financial dependence = one minus (cash flow/capital expenditures) of median U.S. firm. I — investment intensity = capital expenditures/(property, plant, and equipment) of median U.S. firm.

marginal increase is more onerous in a financially underdeveloped system, as the previous section shows.

It may seem undesirable to examine corruption and financial development varying independently, as our partial derivative analysis does. Plausibly ϕ is a function of κ , as the resources wasted in intermediation depend on the level of corruption.¹⁷ It is also likely that κ is a function of ϕ , since the bureaucrats setting κ presumably take the prevailing interest rate $(1 + \phi)R$ into account. Alternatively, both ϕ and κ may be functions of the same underlying factor. If a one-to-one relationship between ϕ and κ result from these considerations, the partial derivatives are indeed irrelevant.

On the other hand, assume that ϕ and κ each depend on one or more factors on which the other does not. For example, assume we can write $\kappa(\phi, x, y)$ and $\phi(\kappa, x, z)$. Independent variation in ϕ and κ is then possible, and the partial derivative is meaningful: ϕ , say, can vary with κ held constant, even though κ is a function of ϕ , because other factors (y) can restore κ to its original value without affecting ϕ .

Put differently, we trace out the full investment surface as a function of ϕ and κ , over the domain \mathcal{R}_+^2 . Equilibrium or interdependence may restrict the domain to less than \mathcal{R}_+^2 , ruling out some combinations of ϕ and κ . As long as there are factors that independently affect both ϕ and κ , the permissible domain is a two-dimensional region of \mathcal{R}_+^2 . Over this region, partial derivatives are relevant.

Nevertheless, this perspective points to a limitation of our approach. We examine the interaction between low corruption and financial development in *promoting* growth. An equally important question that we do not

address deals with interactive effects in *producing* low corruption and financial development. The interaction might be different at this stage. For example, both may depend crucially on the legal environment. That said, it seems plausible that quite a few reforms would predominately affect one factor and not the other: general reform of civil service, promoting competition between bureaucrats, and limiting bureaucratic discretion would mostly affect corruption; rationalizing financial regulation and bank supervision, and providing infrastructure (roads) and basic services (electricity) would mostly affect cost of finance. Thus there seem to be clear ways of influencing each dimension independently.

The empirical analysis of the following sections sheds light on this issue. While corruption and financial development are highly correlated, there apparently remains meaningful independent variation in each dimension.

3. Cross-country results

Our basic empirical strategy is to predict growth, of countries or industries, using financial development indicators and corruption indicators. The focus in each case is on the coefficient of an interaction term between the finance and corruption variables. Summary statistics of the key variables, described in this and following sections, are presented in Table 1.

The first set of results uses countries as observations. The dependent variable is growth, specifically the average annual real GDP per capita growth figures from the World Development Indicators.

Our main measure of financial development is Private_Credit, total credit issued to private enterprises by deposit money banks and other financial institutions,

¹⁷ See references in the introduction, footnote 9, for evidence and causes of corruption in finance, and its effects.

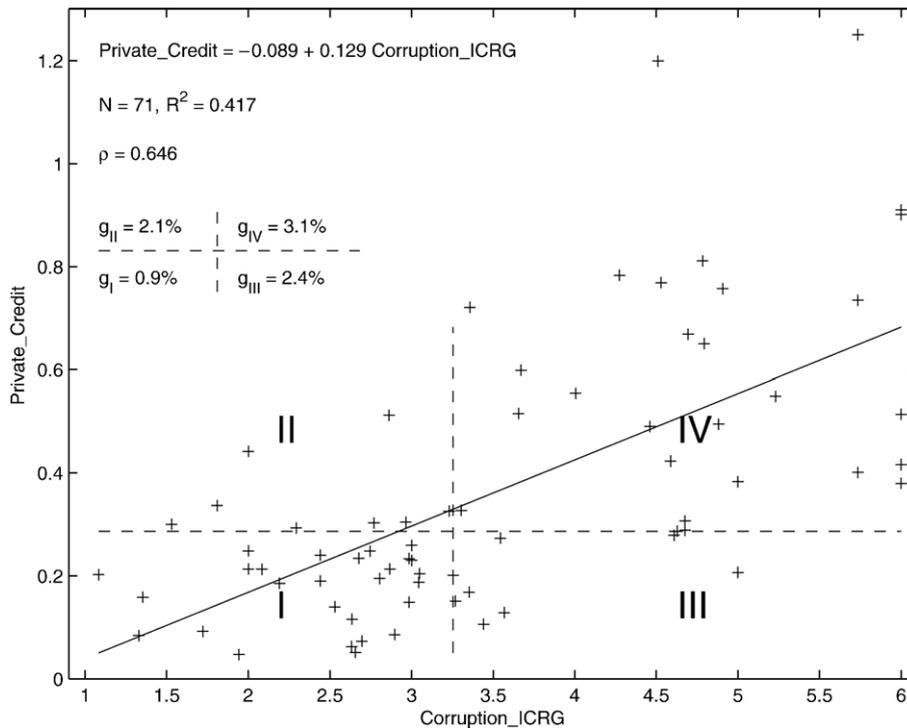


Fig. 1. Scatterplot of Private_Credit versus Corruption_ICRG, with regression line. Dashed lines divide the data by each variable's median. Average real GDP/capita growth rates for each quadrant are reported.

normalized by GDP. This is a standard measure from the related literature; see, for example, Levine et al. (2000) and Aghion et al. (2005). The numerator is calculated as the sum of lines 22d and 42d of the International Financial Statistics. Real GDP is taken from line 99b. We take this measure from the Beck et al. (2000) database, using annual numbers from 1960 to 2000.

We use two corruption measures. They are taken from International Country Risk Guide (ICRG) and Transparency International (TI), respectively. The ICRG data are constructed on the basis of a consistent pattern of evaluation using political information and financial and economic data from each country. They include monthly observations on many countries from as far back as 1984. The TI measures are occasional rather than regular (until recently). They reflect averages over other corruption surveys, aggregating the information of business people, academics, and risk analysts. We rescale the TI index so that both indices range 0 to 6, with a *higher* value meaning *lower* corruption. Thus for both financial development and corruption, positive coefficients indicate that improving along this dimension promotes growth.

A scatterplot of countries' respective financial measures (Private_Credit) against their corruption measures

(Corruption_ICRG) is pictured in Fig. 1.¹⁸ The correlation between the two key variables is 0.65 — high, but by no means ruling out independent variation.

We divide the data into four bins using each variable's median; this leaves approximately 8 countries in each off-diagonal bin. We report the average growth rates of each bin. This turns up *prima facie* evidence for substitutability. In all cases, growth is higher for countries above the median than countries below the median, in either dimension. Substitutability is suggested in that more than half the growth gains associated with moving from below-median to above-median in both dimensions are realized from improving in the first dimension; this first improvement is in one case more than twice as fruitful as the second. Put differently, the growth differential between countries that are below-median and above-median in one dimension is always higher if the countries are below-median in the other dimension.

We move to growth regressions for more formal evidence. Let i index countries and g be growth rate of GDP per capita, C and F be the corruption and financial

¹⁸ A similar picture emerges when coverage of the data is restricted to a common set of years, 1985–2000. See Ahlin and Pang (2007).

Table 2
Cross-country analysis, 1960–2000

	FIN = Private_Credit			FIN = Private_Credit		
	CORR = Corruption_ICRG			CORR = Corruption_TI		
	OLS	2SLS(1)	2SLS(2)	OLS	2SLS(1)	2SLS(2)
<i>Panel A: country-level regressions with baseline controls</i>						
LGDP60	-0.007*** (0.003)	-0.008*** (0.002)	-0.007** (0.003)	-0.008*** (0.003)	-0.008** (0.003)	-0.008** (0.003)
LSCHOOL60	0.006** (0.003)	0.007* (0.004)	0.005 (0.003)	0.002 (0.004)	0.003 (0.004)	0.002 (0.004)
FIN	0.132*** (0.022)	0.121*** (0.038)	0.153*** (0.036)	0.129*** (0.018)	0.089** (0.035)	0.144*** (0.022)
CORR	0.011*** (0.003)	0.012*** (0.003)	0.012*** (0.004)	0.014*** (0.003)	0.012*** (0.004)	0.016*** (0.003)
FIN·CORR	-0.022*** (0.004)	-0.021*** (0.007)	-0.027*** (0.007)	-0.025*** (0.004)	-0.017** (0.007)	-0.028*** (0.005)
<i>Panel B: country-level regressions with extended controls</i>						
LGDP60	-0.008*** (0.002)	-0.009*** (0.002)	-0.007*** (0.003)	-0.008*** (0.003)	-0.009*** (0.002)	-0.008** (0.003)
LSCHOOL60	0.005 (0.003)	0.006 (0.004)	0.003 (0.003)	0.002 (0.003)	0.006 (0.004)	0.001 (0.003)
FIN	0.122*** (0.021)	0.122*** (0.034)	0.164*** (0.027)	0.118*** (0.018)	0.075** (0.033)	0.135*** (0.019)
CORR	0.011*** (0.003)	0.011*** (0.003)	0.014*** (0.003)	0.013*** (0.003)	0.009** (0.003)	0.014*** (0.003)
FIN·CORR	-0.021*** (0.004)	-0.021*** (0.006)	-0.029*** (0.006)	-0.024*** (0.004)	-0.014** (0.007)	-0.027*** (0.004)
IV		FIN60	Legal Orig.		FIN60	Legal Orig.
Obs.	71	56	71	58	46	58

Note: Dependent variable is real GDP/capita growth over 1960–2000. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. Coefficients significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% levels are denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively. LGDP60 = log real GDP/capita in 1960. LSCHOOL60 = log average school attainment in 1960. Additional regressors included in Panel B regressions are population growth rate, inflation, trade openness, and government expenditure. Corruption_ICRG is averaged over 1984–2000. Corruption_TI is averaged over 1980–2000. Instruments for FIN are its 1960 level, FIN60, in columns 2 and 5 and legal origin in columns 3 and 6.

development indicators, respectively, and X be a set of other variables that influence growth. We first run a basic cross-country OLS specification, predicting growth from 1960–2000:

$$g_i = a + b_1 C_i + b_2 F_i + b_3 C_i F_i + b_4 X_i + \epsilon_i.$$

The baseline set of control variables X is standard and includes log initial average school attainment, taken from the Barro-Lee dataset, and log initial real GDP per capita. The extended set of control variables includes, in addition, inflation, government spending as a percent of GDP, the population growth rate, and a measure of trade equal to exports plus imports divided by GDP. The corruption, financial development, and control variables are the simple averages within this period (over all the years for which we have data).

Results from OLS and the two alternative measures of corruption, Corruption_ICRG and Corruption_TI, are contained in columns 1 and 4 of Table 2. Panel A (B)

results are from regressions that include the baseline (extended) set of controls. All specifications turn up positive and significant coefficients on the financial and corruption variables. Thus improving along either dimension is associated with higher growth. Interestingly, the interaction term coefficients are negative and significant. This is all the more remarkable due to the high correlation between low corruption and high financial development, which leaves less variation from which to estimate the relationship. Low corruption and financial development appear to be substitutes in promoting growth; that is, the marginal impact of improving along one dimension is higher when the other dimension is less advanced.

We also run 2SLS instrumenting Private_Credit with its initial value over this period.¹⁹ The idea is that growth may draw the financial sector along with it, but its initial

¹⁹ Countries missing Private_Credit values in 1960 are instrumented by their earliest available value up to 1970, and dropped if no early enough data exist.

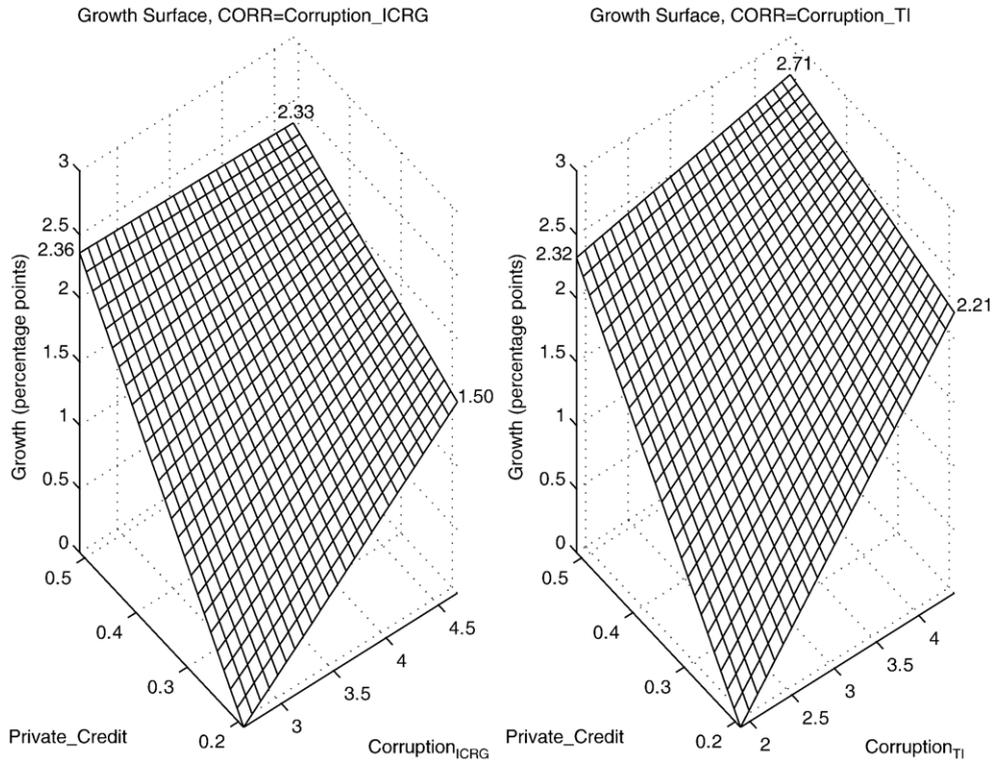


Fig. 2. Growth surfaces as corruption and finance vary from their 25th percentile values to their 75th percentile values. Growth when both institutions are at 25th percentile values is normalized to zero. Corruption is measured by Corruption_ICRG (left panel) and Corruption_TI (right panel). Substitutability is evident in that the growth gain associated with being in the 75th percentile rather than the 25th percentile of one dimension, corruption say, is higher if the second dimension, finance, is at the 25th percentile (0.19) rather than the 75th percentile (0.51).

size is plausibly exogenous to the following forty years of growth. An alternative specification is to instrument Private_Credit with a set of variables that indicate legal system origin: English, French, German, Scandinavian, and socialist. These data are taken from La Porta et al. (1999). Legal origin is a commonly used instrument for private credit since it has a strong effect on creditor and investor rights and can be argued to affect growth only through these channels; see Levine et al. (2000) and Aghion et al. (2005). It is particularly helpful in this study because it isolates variation in Private_Credit due to differences in legally-induced financial efficiency, thereby enabling us more accurately to approximate the efficiency-of-intermediation variable ϕ in the theory.

The 2SLS results are reported in columns 2, 3, 5, and 6 of Table 2. Results are quite similar to those of OLS: low corruption and high financial development promote growth, but act as substitutes in doing so.

This substitutability is quantitatively large. Using the Corruption_TI results, a country at the 75th percentile of our data in both corruption and financial development is predicted to have grown 2.71 percentage points faster than

a country at the 25th percentile of these measures.²⁰ These growth gains are concentrated in the first improvement. A country moving up from 25th to 75th percentile in corruption experiences 2.21 percentage points higher growth if financial development is at the 25th percentile versus 0.39 percentage points higher growth if financial development is at the 75th percentile. A country moving up from 25th to 75th percentile in financial development experiences 2.32 percentage points higher growth if (lack of) corruption is at the 25th percentile versus 0.50 percentage points if corruption is at the 75th percentile. Similar patterns emerge when Corruption_ICRG is used; see Fig. 2.²¹ Averaging both sets of results, the growth

²⁰ This uses the averages of coefficient estimates across Corruption_TI specifications from Table 2; the same averaging is used for Corruption_ICRG results mentioned below. The 25th percentile for Corruption_ICRG (Corruption_TI) is 2.64 (1.89) and the 75th percentile is 4.68 (4.42). For Private_Credit, the respective numbers are 0.19 and 0.51.

²¹ Oddly, for high values of finance or corruption, the marginal effect of improving the other factor can be negative. We conjecture this is because of nonlinearities, but a multi-dimensional nonparametric approach is not feasible given data limitations.

gain associated with moving from the 25th to the 75th percentile in one dimension is 1.68 percentage points higher if the second dimension is at the 25th percentile rather than the 75th.

We next turn to pooled cross section analysis to add within-country time variation to the cross-country variation. These regressions are essentially the same as the cross-country regressions except that all variables now correspond to a country-decade pair:

$$g_{it} = a + b_1 C_i + b_2 F_{it} + b_3 C_i F_{it} + b_4 X_{it} + v_t + \epsilon_{it}.$$

Thus the dependent variable is growth in a given decade and country. Decade dummies are included. Initial GDP of the decade is used, along with the initial schooling in the decade. The financial variable is a decade-average, with its instrument (when used) being the value at the

beginning of the decade. The one exception in these regressions is that for a given country, the corruption variable is set equal to the simple average across all years regardless of the decade, since the data do not extend back beyond the early 1980s.

Results are reported in Table 3, where again Panel A (B) results are from regressions that use the baseline (extended) set of controls. The results are qualitatively the same as in Table 2, if quantitatively muted.

Next we use data over 1980–2000 with five-year averages to estimate the following equations:

$$g_{it} = a + b_1 C_{it} + b_2 F_{it} + b_3 C_{it} F_{it} + b_4 X_{it} + v_t (+\eta_i) + \epsilon_{it}.$$

Given that the ICRG time series begins in 1984, this time-horizon allows us to capture corruption varying by

Table 3
Pooled cross-country analysis, 1960–2000

	FIN = Private_Credit		FIN = Private_Credit	
	CORR = Corruption_ICRG		CORR = Corruption_TI	
	OLS	2SLS(1)	OLS	2SLS(1)
<i>Panel A: pooled country-level regressions with baseline controls</i>				
ILGDP	-0.006*** (0.002)	-0.005** (0.002)	-0.003 (0.002)	-0.001 (0.002)
ILSCHOOL	0.008*** (0.002)	0.009*** (0.003)	-0.005 (0.005)	-0.004 (0.005)
FIN	0.090*** (0.019)	0.077*** (0.021)	0.079*** (0.015)	0.047** (0.021)
CORR	0.008*** (0.002)	0.008** (0.002)	0.010*** (0.002)	0.008*** (0.002)
FIN·CORR	-0.015*** (0.004)	-0.013*** (0.004)	-0.015*** (0.003)	-0.010** (0.004)
IV		IFIN		IFIN
Obs.	291	253	231	203
<i>Panel B: pooled country-level regressions with extended controls</i>				
ILGDP	-0.008*** (0.002)	-0.008*** (0.002)	-0.004* (0.002)	-0.004* (0.002)
ILSCHOOL	0.007*** (0.002)	0.010*** (0.002)	-0.003 (0.005)	0.000 (0.004)
FIN	0.082*** (0.017)	0.068*** (0.019)	0.072*** (0.015)	0.039*** (0.019)
CORR	0.009*** (0.002)	0.009*** (0.002)	0.010*** (0.003)	0.006** (0.002)
FIN·CORR	-0.014*** (0.003)	-0.013*** (0.003)	-0.015*** (0.003)	-0.008** (0.004)
IV		IFIN		IFIN
Obs.	281	245	223	197

Note: Dependent variable is real GDP/capita growth over a decade. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. Coefficients significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% levels are denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively. All independent variables correspond to decades; the exceptions are Corruption_ICRG, averaged over 1984–2000, and Corruption_TI, averaged over 1980–2000. Decade dummies are included. ILGDP = decade-initial log real GDP/capita. ILSCHOOL = decade-initial log average school attainment. Additional regressors included in Panel B regressions are population growth rate, inflation, trade openness, and government expenditure. FIN is instrumented by its decade-initial value, IFIN, in the 2SLS specifications.

time period — thus corruption will be measured only by Corruption_ICRG. It also allows us to use the initial value of corruption as its instrument in a pooled regression. In addition, it is well-known that the cross-country and pooled specifications may produce biased estimates due to the omission of country-specific effects. We can partially address this concern by including the country-specific effect η_i and using the panel aspect of the data.²² Disadvantages in these approaches may arise in that the growth rates are reflecting higher frequency macroeconomic fluctuations, or that independent variables (in particular, corruption) do not vary enough over this relatively short time span.

Specifically, we use the “system GMM” panel techniques proposed by Arellano and Bover (1995) and Blundell and Bond (1998), extending earlier work of Arellano and Bond (1991).²³ These consistently and efficiently estimate the above parameters under certain assumptions. Critically, realizations of the independent variables must not be correlated with future error terms ($\varepsilon_{it'}$ for $t' > t$). For example, this requires that financial development does not anticipate future innovations to the growth rate. Also, it must be that, while the independent variables are allowed to be correlated with the country fixed effect, *changes* in the independent variables are not.

Table 4 contains results using the pooled cross sections over 1980–2000 in panel A and results using system GMM estimation in panel B.²⁴ The first (last) two columns include the baseline (extended) set of controls.

The results of the pooled regressions are in line with the previous results, with positive and significant coefficients on corruption and finance, and negative and significant coefficients on their interaction. The GMM estimations also give evidence for positive effects from both factors and a substitutability between them. The one exception is that the corruption variable is insignificant in one of the specifications. There is perhaps not enough within-country variation over these decades to estimate a precise relationship. With this partial exception, though, the

²² In Section 4 we use industry-level data to address country-specific effects using techniques of Rajan and Zingales (1998).

²³ For more detail on the required assumptions and instruments used, and a general introduction to application of these techniques, see Bond (2002). Beck et al. (2000) and Levine et al. (2000) also discuss and apply them in a similar setting.

²⁴ For the GMM estimation, we use the one-step robust estimator; two-step estimation gives similar results, which are not reported. The results are from the “xtabond2” command in Stata by Roodman (2005). We use lags of one and greater for initial GDP/capita and initial schooling, since they are predetermined, and lags of two or greater for the other independent variables.

Table 4
Pooled and panel cross-country analysis, 1980–2000

	FIN = Private_Credit		FIN = Private_Credit	
	CORR =		CORR =	
	Corruption_ICRG		Corruption_ICRG	
	Baseline controls included		Extended controls included	
<i>Panel A: pooled country-level regressions</i>				
	OLS	2SLS(1)	OLS	2SLS(1)
ILGDP	−0.002 (0.002)	−0.002 (0.002)	−0.003 (0.002)	−0.004* (0.002)
ILSCHOOL	0.008** (0.004)	0.008* (0.004)	0.005 (0.003)	0.005 (0.003)
FIN	0.049*** (0.019)	0.058*** (0.020)	0.044*** (0.019)	0.055** (0.022)
CORR	0.004* (0.002)	0.006*** (0.003)	0.005** (0.002)	0.007*** (0.003)
FIN-CORR	−0.008** (0.004)	−0.011*** (0.004)	−0.008** (0.004)	−0.011*** (0.004)
IV		IFIN, ICORR		IFIN, ICORR
Obs.	330	311	330	311
<i>Panel B: system GMM regressions</i>				
ILGDP	0.009 (0.007)		0.006 (0.005)	
ILSCHOOL	0.006 (0.011)		0.007 (0.011)	
FIN	0.099*** (0.029)		0.082** (0.034)	
CORR	0.004 (0.005)		0.008** (0.004)	
FIN-CORR	−0.022*** (0.007)		−0.018** (0.007)	
Hansen's <i>J</i> test	0.281		0.179	
AR(2) test	0.119		0.225	
Obs.	330		330	

Note: Dependent variable is real GDP/capita growth over a half-decade. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. Coefficients significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% levels are denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively. All independent variables correspond to half-decades; the exception is Corruption_ICRG for the first half-decade, for which it is averaged over 1984–1985. Half-decade dummies are included. ILGDP = half-decade initial log real GDP/capita. ILSCHOOL = half-decade initial log average school attainment. Additional regressors included in Panel B regressions are population growth rate, inflation, trade openness, and government expenditure. FIN and CORR are instrumented by their half-decade initial values, IFIN and ICORR, respectively, in the 2SLS specifications. The null hypothesis of Hansen's *J* test is that the instruments used are not correlated with the residuals. The null hypothesis of the AR(2) test is that the errors in the first-difference regression exhibit no second-order serial correlation (there is first-order serial correlation by construction). *P*-values of the two tests are reported.

country-level evidence supports the idea of positive effects of improving both factors, but substitutability between them.

4. Industry results

We next turn to industry-level growth tests. We use the same dataset as Claessens and Laeven (2003), who augment the original dataset of Rajan and Zingales (1998). There are 38 industries represented, from 45 countries.²⁵ The United States is dropped because it is used to construct the industry benchmarks (discussed below) for external finance dependence and investment intensity. The dependent variable is the average annual real growth rate of value added for each industry in each country over 1980–1989. As is standard, we use as controls the industry's share of total manufacturing in each country in 1980, and country and industry dummies.

To get an industry-level measure of financial development, we follow the approach of Rajan and Zingales (1998) and interact the country-level financial development indicator with an industry-level measure of financial dependence. The idea is that growth of industries that are most dependent on external financing should be affected most by financial sector development. The measure of financial dependence is intended to capture the degree of reliance on external financing in a given industry in the ideal case, that is, driven only by the technological parameters of an industry (project scale, gestation period, and so on). The financial dependence of a firm equals capital expenditures minus cash flow from operations, divided by capital expenditures; the financial dependence of an industry is that of the median firm in the U.S. industry.

Claessens and Laeven (2003) take the analysis further by including as an explanatory variable a country-level property rights protection indicator interacted with an industry-specific measure of dependence on intangible property. This addresses a somewhat related question to the one here. The major difference is that their focus is on protection of rights to intangible property, such as patents and trademarks. By contrast, we aim to study corruption that acts as a tax on investment in any kind of property, including tangible. Thus we continue to use our country-level corruption measure in these tests.

It would be desirable to find an industry-level variable to proxy dependence on an uncorrupt environment. A natural candidate from the theory is the size of required investment (see the J_m term in Eq. (7)). In general, larger investments make a firm's profitability harder to conceal and easier to exploit due to hold-up. Regulation of

investment projects, whether via construction permits or the licensing of new products, may also be precisely the door through which bureaucratic discretion enters to extract illegal payments from firms. Conversely, small investments are less likely to be regulated, tracked, and exploited. Following this line of reasoning, we interact the country-level corruption variable with the industry-level investment intensity. This variable is calculated using U.S. industries as benchmarks in the same way as the financial dependence variable. It captures the ratio of capital expenditures to property, plant, and equipment.²⁶ Summary statistics of investment intensity and financial dependence are presented in Table 1.

Let i index countries and j index industries, D_j be financial dependence, I_j be investment intensity, g_{ij} be the industry growth rate, SO_{ij} be industry j 's initial share in country i 's manufacturing, and other variables be as defined above. Our baseline specification is

$$g_{ij} = a + b_0 SO_{ij} + b_1 F_i D_j + b_2 C_i I_j + b_3 F_i D_j C_i I_j + v_j + \eta_i + \epsilon_{ij}.$$

The financial dependence variable ratchets up or down effects of financial development and investment intensity does the same for corruption. Industry and country fixed effects are included. In some specifications, we use the legal origins variables or the initial value of Private_Credit as instruments for Private_Credit, as in the country-level regressions.

One advantage of industry-level analysis is that it allows for testing the hypothesis across heterogeneous industries that should have different responses to financial development and corruption. A related key advantage is the ability to control for unobserved heterogeneity across countries, via inclusion of country fixed effects.

Table 5 reports results from the baseline industry-level regressions. All specifications turn up strong evidence in favor of the model. Both factors have positive effects separately. The interaction term's coefficient is negative, suggesting that the effect of one factor is greater the less advanced is the other factor.

The quantitative interactive effect is smaller than in the cross-country analysis, but still large. Consider an industry with mean financial dependence (0.32) and mean investment intensity (0.30). In a country moving up from the 25th to the 75th percentile in one factor, this industry enjoys 0.63 percentage points higher growth if

²⁵ See Claessens and Laeven (2003) for a list. We are left with 36 industries after missing data are dropped.

²⁶ There is high correlation between investment intensity and financial dependence of industries: 0.81.

Table 5
Industry analysis, 1980–1989

	FIN = Private_Credit			FIN = Private_Credit		
	CORR = Corruption_ICRG			CORR = Corruption_TI		
	OLS	2SLS(1)	2SLS(2)	OLS	2SLS(1)	2SLS(2)
SHARE80	-0.807*** (0.200)	-0.798*** (0.205)	-0.795*** (0.199)	-0.805*** (0.220)	-0.792*** (0.224)	-0.812*** (0.220)
FIN·D	0.214*** (0.080)	0.232*** (0.088)	0.186** (0.086)	0.194*** (0.075)	0.212** (0.084)	0.229** (0.092)
CORR·I	0.109*** (0.041)	0.120*** (0.043)	0.108** (0.046)	0.132*** (0.048)	0.140*** (0.049)	0.142*** (0.052)
FIN·D·CORR·I	-0.079** (0.034)	-0.087** (0.037)	-0.072* (0.037)	-0.089** (0.037)	-0.097** (0.041)	-0.106** (0.045)
IV		FIN80	Legal Orig.		FIN80	Legal Orig.
Obs.	1183	1111	1183	1099	1027	1099

Note: Dependent variable is growth rate of industry value added over 1980–1989. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. Coefficients significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% levels are denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively. SHARE80 = industry's share of country's industrial value added in 1980. D = industry-level financial dependence. I = industry-level investment intensity. Corruption_ICRG is averaged over 1984–1989. Corruption_TI is the average of the 1980–1985 measure and the 1988–1992 measure. Country and industry dummies are included. Instruments for FIN are its 1980 level, FIN80, in columns 2 and 5 and legal origin in columns 3 and 6.

the other factor is at the 25th percentile rather than the 75th.²⁷

Table 5 offers interesting evidence regarding the effect of corruption. First, it exhibits a strong negative effect on industry growth even when unobserved country heterogeneity is controlled for using country dummies. Previous empirical work on corruption and growth, for example Mauro (1995), has been cross-sectional in nature and thus subject to omitted variable bias. Panel techniques have some promise in solving this problem, but are hindered by lack of variation in corruption over the short time for which data are available. The technique used here confirms the negative effect while controlling for differences across countries. Second, the effect of corruption appears to be mediated by the size of investment needed in a given industry. Evidently, industries with larger required investments are more vulnerable to corruption and thus more dependent on less corrupt institutions.

For robustness purposes, we also interact corruption with the financial dependence variable instead of investment intensity. There are two such specifications, since the interaction term can plausibly be $F_i C_i D_j$ or $F_i C_i D_j^2$. The results (not reported) are similar. We also add the Claessens and Laeven (2003) term interacting intangible asset dependence with property rights protection to check whether our results continue to hold. Our key interaction term remains significant and negative in 5/6 of the

specifications of Table 5 (not reported), dropping just slightly out of range (p-value: 0.11) in the remaining 1/6.

5. Robustness

In this section, we check robustness to outliers, different measures of financial development, nonlinearities, and convergence effects of financial development.

5.1. Outliers

We rerun the baseline specifications of Tables 2 and 5, dropping one country at a time. The maximum and minimum (in absolute value) coefficient estimates and t-statistics for the finance-corruption interaction term are reported in Table 6, along with the baseline estimates and t-statistics. The cross-country results show significant robustness, with only 3/12 of the specifications delivering minimum t-statistics that are below conventional significance levels. The industry results are less strong, with minimum t-statistics not within conventional significance levels. Part of the explanation is likely that there are fewer countries (but multiple industries per country) in the industry regressions.

Fig. 1 suggests that the most extreme outliers are countries with very high Private_Credit (Japan and Switzerland); in contrast, no country is very far in corruption level from several other countries. Thus we rerun the baseline cross-country and industry specifications of Tables 2 and 5, excluding countries with Private_Credit > 1. For brevity, we report here and elsewhere in Section 5 the legal origin IV results using the Corruption_TI

²⁷ This uses the averages of coefficient estimates across Corruption_ICRG and Corruption_TI specifications, respectively, from Table 5; it then averages across the Corruption_ICRG and Corruption_TI results.

Table 6
Cross-country and industry robustness analysis

	FIN = Private_Credit			FIN = Private_Credit		
	CORR = Corruption_ICRG			CORR = Corruption_TI		
	OLS	2SLS(1)	2SLS(2)	OLS	2SLS(1)	2SLS(2)
<i>Panel A: country-level regressions with baseline controls</i>						
Coefficient	-0.022	-0.021	-0.027	-0.025	-0.017	-0.028
T-stat	-4.88	-3.13	-3.71	-5.56	-2.41	-6.06
Coefficient_MIN	-0.019	-0.018	-0.016	-0.022	-0.012	-0.020
T-stat_MIN	-4.02	-2.34	-1.34	-4.00	-1.28	-2.57
Coefficient_MAX	-0.023	-0.024	-0.029	-0.027	-0.021	-0.032
T-stat_MAX	-5.50	-3.58	-4.65	-6.86	-4.37	-10.7
<i>Panel B: country-level regressions with extended controls</i>						
Coefficient	-0.021	-0.021	-0.029	-0.024	-0.014	-0.027
T-stat	-5.15	-3.46	-5.26	-5.79	-2.10	-6.92
Coefficient_MIN	-0.019	-0.018	-0.021	-0.022	-0.009	-0.023
T-stat_MIN	-4.37	-2.29	-2.07	-4.42	-1.20	-3.66
Coefficient_MAX	-0.023	-0.025	-0.031	-0.026	-0.019	-0.030
T-stat_MAX	-6.26	-4.08	-5.98	-6.60	-3.27	-11.1
<i>Panel C: industry-level regressions</i>						
Coefficient	-0.079	-0.087	-0.072	-0.089	-0.097	-0.106
T-stat	-2.34	-2.38	-1.95	-2.40	-2.38	-2.37
Coefficient_MIN	-0.032	-0.031	-0.021	-0.030	-0.026	-0.048
T-stat_MIN	-1.22	-1.16	-0.798	-1.13	-1.00	-1.46
Coefficient_MAX	-0.087	-0.099	-0.080	-0.102	-0.118	-0.115
T-stat_MAX	-2.49	-2.61	-2.13	-2.61	-2.68	-2.53

Note: This table contains coefficients and *t*-statistics for the CORR·FIN interaction term from a number of specifications. Panels A and B are from the same specifications as Panels A and B of Table 2; Panel C is from the same specification as Table 5. The coefficients and *t*-statistics from those Tables are reproduced here, along with the maximum and minimum coefficients and *t*-statistics (in absolute value) that result from dropping one country from each regression.

measure and, in the cross-country case, the extended set of controls; robustness checks using all specifications of Tables 2 and 5 are reported in Ahlin and Pang (2007). As evident from the first column of Table 7, the results do not appear to be driven by these financial outliers.²⁸

5.2. Different corruption and financial measures

Kaufmann et al. (2006) provide a corruption index that carefully aggregates corruption measures from numerous sources. These data are likely to be of higher quality than ICRG; however, they only extend back to 1996, which is after most of our growth data. As a robustness test, we use this measure averaged over 1996–2000, call it Corruption_KKM, in the baseline cross-country and industry tests. Results are reported in column 2 of Table 7. The picture is essentially unchanged, though in the industry

specification the coefficients on finance and the corruption-finance interaction turn just insignificant.

Our focal endogeneity concern is with financial development, but there may be valid endogeneity concerns with corruption as well, due partly to the measures' subjectivity. For example, it may be that consultants and respondents are more likely to rate a stagnant economy as corrupt. This concern is alleviated to some degree by the industry-level specifications, which identify corruption's effect off of differential responses of industries to corruption based on their typical investment intensity. An instrumental variable approach could also be helpful. One commonly used institutional instrument is the settler mortality variable of Acemoglu et al. (2001). A significant problem in using this here is that the intersection of settler mortality with our data cuts sample sizes in about half. Nonetheless, we run the baseline cross-country and industry specifications, also instrumenting corruption with settler mortality (not reported). The cross-country results turn up no significant coefficients at all; the industry results are similar but significant only when financial development is instrumented by its initial value. We conclude that due to lack of

²⁸ We also run quantile (median) regressions for the baseline OLS specifications of Tables 2 and 5 (not reported). The key variables are significant at the same or higher levels.

Table 7
Robustness to outlier exclusion and alternative measures

Except when otherwise noted, FIN = Private_Credit and CORR = Corruption_TI					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Panel A: Country-Level Regressions with Extended Controls</i>					
FIN	0.133*** (0.025)	0.078*** (0.008)	−0.044*** (0.010)	0.156*** (0.042)	0.066*** (0.015)
CORR	0.014*** (0.004)	0.023*** (0.004)	−0.011** (0.005)	0.003 (0.003)	0.007** (0.003)
FIN·CORR	−0.027*** (0.006)	−0.039*** (0.005)	0.010** (0.004)	−0.031*** (0.007)	−0.013*** (0.003)
IV	Legal Orig.				
Obs.	56	76	55	48	46
<i>Panel B: industry-level regressions</i>					
FIN·D	0.281*** (0.107)	0.076 (0.046)	−0.012 (0.032)	0.591** (0.234)	0.179** (0.072)
CORR·I	0.141** (0.057)	0.151** (0.067)	0.162* (0.088)	0.124*** (0.036)	0.149*** (0.053)
FIN·D·CORR·I	−0.116** (0.050)	−0.096 (0.059)	−0.021 (0.025)	−0.318** (0.125)	−0.088** (0.037)
IV	Legal Orig.				
Obs.	1050	1216	749	1105	1007

Regression (1) excludes outliers, i.e. countries with Private_Credit > 1.

Regression (2) involves CORR = Corruption_KKM.

Regression (3) involves FIN = Log_Real_Spread.

Regression (4) involves FIN = Stock_Traded.

Regression (5) involves FIN = Stock_Traded + Private_Credit.

Note: Dependent variables are real GDP/capita growth over 1960–2000 in Panel A and growth rate of industry value added over 1980–1989 in Panel B. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. Coefficients significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% levels are denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively. Regressors included in Panel A regressions are log real GDP per capita in 1960, log average school attainment in 1960, population growth rate, inflation, trade openness, and government expenditure. Regressors included in Panel B regressions are initial industry share and country and industry dummies. D = industry-level financial dependence. I = industry-level investment intensity. Corruption_TI is averaged over 1980–2000 for panel A regressions and is the average of the 1980–1985 measure and the 1988–1992 measure for panel B regressions. FIN is instrumented by legal origin in all regressions. See Section 5.2 for descriptions of the alternate corruption and finance measures.

data, this strategy gains little ground on the corruption endogeneity issue.

The measure of financial development used thus far, Private_Credit, reflects both quantity and quality of financial intermediation. The key variable in the theory, ϕ , is purely a measure of intermediation efficiency. We have addressed this problem to some extent by instrumenting Private_Credit with legal origins. Legal origins can be said mainly to affect the efficiency with which the financial system solves the problems inherent in intermediation. Here we supplement this approach by checking whether other measures of financial development exhibit the same substitutability with corruption.

Our main alternative measure comes from the theory, which suggests using the spread between the borrowing and saving interest rate: this is exactly equal to ϕ . We calculate this measure by geometrically averaging the real borrowing interest rate over the given time period, subtracting the similarly calculated saving interest rate, and taking logs. This we call Log_Real_Spread. The

borrowing and saving interest rates are taken from IFS lines 60P and 60L, respectively, and become widely available only gradually through the 1980s. Inflation is drawn from IFS line 64. Summary statistics are presented in Table 1. To our knowledge, this measure has not been used in the literature as a proxy for financial development in explaining growth.²⁹ We also use the ratios of liquid liabilities to GDP, denoted as LLY, and deposit money bank assets to GDP, denoted as DMBY, other measures that have been used in the literature. These are taken from Beck et al. (2000). For each of these measures except Log_Real_Spread, a higher number indicates greater financial development.

We run the baseline specifications of Tables 2 and 5 with financial development measured by Log_Real_Spread and a time span of 1985–2000 rather than 1960–2000, due to data availability. Legal-origin instrumented

²⁹ Laeven and Majnoni (2003) use the spread to measure the cost of capital and examine how it is affected by rule of law.

results are reported in column 3 of Table 7. The cross-country evidence is supportive, turning up a positive and significant sign on the interaction term and a negative and significant sign on Log_Real_Spread, as the theory predicts.³⁰ Industry-level results are weak, however. One partial explanation may be the reduced sample size relative to Table 5.

Overall, the evidence using Log_Real_Spread is only partially supportive. It also suggests that Log_Real_Spread may not be an ideal measure of the cost of liquidity, perhaps because it is volatile and involves the summarizing of the financial system into one borrowing and one saving interest rate.

The specifications of Table 2 are also run with financial development measures LLY and DMBY, respectively, replacing Private_Credit (not reported). Results for DMBY are somewhat supportive of the baseline results, while LLY offers only marginal support.³¹

Finally, we go beyond bank financing to include measures of stock market activity. Levine and Zervos (1998) find that stock market liquidity, measured as the ratio of the value of total shares traded on the stock market exchange to GDP, positively predicts growth. We follow them and use the same measure, taken from Beck et al. (2000) and denoted here Stock_Traded. Column 4 of Table 7 shows results from using Stock_Traded instead of Private_Credit, covering the years 1980–2000.³² The results are very similar to those obtained using measures of bank finance; in particular, the interaction term is negative and significant in all specifications. We also create a simple aggregate measure of finance, equal to the sum of Private_Credit and Stock_Traded. Results using this aggregate finance measure are reported in Column 5 of Table 7. The results are again strong: the interaction term is negative and significant in both cases.

Overall, the results show moderate robustness to other measures of corruption and financial development.

5.3. Nonlinear effects of financial development and corruption

One might wonder if the substitutability results are due to some kind of nonlinearity not accounted for. In

particular, recent studies suggest that the effect of financial development on growth exhibits diminishing returns (Rioja and Valev, 2004). If so, the negative coefficient on the interaction term may be in part driven by our linear specification.³³ Accordingly, we modify our specifications to allow for nonlinear effects, adding in turn a finance-squared term and a corruption-squared term. This alleviates concerns that the results are being driven by imposed linearity in the effects of corruption and financial development.

Results from baseline specifications of Tables 2 and 5, with the addition of a quadratic financial development term, are reported in column 1 of Table 8.³⁴ They do not support the conclusion that the negative interaction term is driven by nonlinear financial development effects. The interaction terms remains negative and significant in the industry specification. While it is not significant in the cross-country specification, neither is the finance-squared term; and the interaction term is significant and negative in 6/7 of the other (unreported) specifications of Table 2.

Ahlin (2005) shows a theoretical nonlinear relationship between corruption and output. Hence, we repeat the above procedure including a quadratic corruption term instead of a quadratic finance term.³⁵ The results are reported in column 2 of Table 8, and are equally strong; the interactive term coefficient remains negative and significant in both the cross-country and industry specifications.

Overall, the evidence suggests that the substitutability result is not being driven by nonlinear growth effects of corruption or financial development.

5.4. Convergence effects of corruption and financial development

Cross-country empirical work has given evidence that both corruption (Knack, 1996; Keefer and Knack, 1997) and financial development (Aghion et al., 2005) are determinants of income convergence. Consider the latter result; if corruption is strongly correlated with initial income, the interaction term coefficient we estimate may be in danger of reflecting this convergence result rather than the interaction between corruption and finance.

³⁰ Note that high Log_Real_Spread implies low financial development.

³¹ See Ahlin and Pang (2007) for details. Others, including Aghion et al. (2005), have found similar results using LLY.

³² Stock_Traded becomes more widely available in the 1980s and 1990s. We exclude countries with Stock_Traded observations for less than half of the years covered in each regression.

³³ More specifically, assume the data are generated according to $g = \alpha + \beta_1 F + \beta_2 C - \beta_3 F^2 + \epsilon$, where $\beta_i > 0$. Simple Monte Carlo simulations show that estimating the equation $g = a + b_1 F + b_2 C + b_3 FC + \epsilon$ typically produces negative estimates for b_3 if F and C are positively correlated, as they are in the data.

³⁴ Since the legal origins variables are indicator variables, they cannot be used to instrument both finance and finance-squared. We instead report the results using initial financial development and its square as instruments.

³⁵ We prefer adding one at a time due to the small sample size. However, when both squared terms are added simultaneously, the results are similar.

Table 8
Nonlinear and convergence effects

FIN = Private_Credit and CORR = Corruption_TI				
<i>Panel A: Country-level regressions with extended controls</i>				
FIN	0.097** (0.047)	0.144*** (0.020)	0.069 (0.080)	0.135*** (0.025)
CORR	0.006 (0.004)	0.009 (0.006)	0.019** (0.007)	0.015 (0.012)
FIN·CORR	-0.006 (0.010)	-0.029*** (0.004)	-0.042** (0.017)	-0.027*** (0.006)
FIN ²	-0.043 (0.039)			
CORR ²		0.001 (0.001)		
FIN·LGDP60			0.014 (0.016)	
CORR·LGDP60				-0.000 (0.001)
IV	FIN60, FIN60 ²	Legal Orig.	Legal Orig.	Legal Orig.
Obs.	46	58	58	58
<i>Panel B: industry-level regressions</i>				
FIN·D	0.406*** (0.135)	0.148* (0.083)		
CORR·I	0.112** (0.049)	0.422** (0.213)		
FIN·D·CORR·I	-0.081** (0.039)	-0.077** (0.038)		
FIN ² ·D	-0.162** (0.066)			
CORR ² ·I		-0.045 (0.029)		
IV	FIN80, FIN80 ²	Legal Orig.		
Obs.	1027	1099		

Note: Dependent variables are real GDP/capita growth over 1960–2000 in Panel A and growth rate of industry value added over 1980–1989 in Panel B. Heteroskedasticity-robust standard errors in parentheses. Coefficients significant at 1%, 5%, and 10% levels are denoted by ***, **, and *, respectively. Regressors included in Panel A regressions are log real GDP per capita in 1960, log average school attainment in 1960, population growth rate, inflation, trade openness, and government expenditure. Regressors included in Panel B regressions are initial industry share and country and industry dummies. D = industry-level financial dependence. I = industry-level investment intensity. Corruption_TI is averaged over 1980–2000 for panel A regressions and is the average of the 1980–1985 measure and the 1988–1992 measure for panel B regressions. FIN is instrumented by its initial value and its square in the first column regressions and by legal origin in all other regressions.

We rerun the legal-origin instrumented, extended control cross-country specification of Table 2, alternately adding in an interaction term between log initial income and financial development (column 3, Table 8) and an interaction term between log initial income and corruption (column 4, Table 8). The corruption–finance interaction

term remains negative and significant in both cases.³⁶ We conclude that the substitutability results of the baseline specifications do not appear to be driven by any convergence effects of corruption or financial development.

6. Conclusion

Both financial development and corruption control appear to have positive effects on growth, of industries or countries. Further, these two factors appear to operate as substitutes: when one is weaker, the marginal impact from improving the other is greater. This result holds true across a variety of specifications with substantial robustness.

Our proposed rationale for the existence of such an interaction is that corruption raises the need for liquidity and thus makes financial development more potent. Conversely, low financial development adds to the weight of increased corruption and thus increases the gain from reducing it.

The industry-level regressions provide new evidence on the effects of corruption. First, it appears that corruption's effect on a given industry is mediated by the typical size of investment required in that industry. This is evidenced by the strong performance of the industry specifications, in which the country-level corruption measure is interacted with the industry-level investment intensity measure. Second, this methodology allows us to gauge the effect of corruption in regressions with country-level fixed effects included. The evidence confirms earlier cross-country findings: corruption has a negative growth effect.

An interesting question is whether corruption control or financial development has a greater impact on growth. Since measurement error can affect estimates of coefficient magnitudes and since it may exist to different degrees in our measures of corruption and finance, a definitive stance on this question seems unwarranted. However, using the cross-country results of Table 2 and the averaging described in footnote 20, improving financial development first, i.e. from the 25th percentile to the 75th percentile with corruption control remaining at the 25th percentile, is associated with 2.34 percentage points more growth. Improving corruption control first is associated with 1.86 percentage points more growth. These point estimates suggest that the financial improvement would come with a 25% greater boost to growth. However, equality of the respective growth dividends

³⁶ This is not the case in all specifications of Tables 2 and 5 — see Ahlin and Pang (2007) for details. However, the corruption–finance interaction term is significant far more often than the initial GDP interaction term.

cannot be rejected at standard confidence levels in 9/12 of the Table 2 specifications; of the 3/12 where it can, all involve the Corruption_ICRG measure and only one can reject at the 5% level.³⁷ Of course, costs of such improvements are not taken into account either.

Overall, the results suggest that a “little push”, that is, a step in one direction or the other by a developing country (toward better finance or less corruption) can bring substantial rewards. Of course, there is overlap in the institutions and other ingredients behind financial development and corruption control. On the other hand, the fact that an interactive coefficient could often be estimated relatively accurately suggests there is independent variation in progress across these two dimensions. We conclude that these factors may well act as substitutes, which is good news for developing countries.

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³⁷ Results from the industry-level estimates of Table 5 favor corruption control as more effective, but the measurement error concern is compounded since the industry-level interaction variables differ across corruption and finance and may also be measured with error. When the same interaction variable is used for both corruption and finance, quantitative impacts are close to equality.

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