

Referee Report on “The Sources of the Evolution of China’s Provincial Economic Gap: A Green Economic Growth Accounting Perspective”

The authors have done solid work to demonstrate that China’s inter-provincial labor productivity has a significant growth convergence between 1997 and 2016. They found it was significantly promoted by capital deepening while inhibited by technological progress and human capital accumulation. Especially they included energy and environmental factors into the analysis and none of the studies did it before.

However, there is a lack of explanation why the authors put energy and environmental factors into the analysis. What is the rationale?

Furthermore, the analysis by sub-periods might also shed some interesting results.

In addition, I suggest add a table of variable definitions in section 3 and it will be more convenient for reader.

There are problems in many sentences. Such as in section 2.2 “Labor productivity growth can be decomposed into TFP change TFPC (the product of the change in technological efficiency EC and technological progress TC)”; in section 5.2 “In recent years, Kernel”. The quality of English needs to be improved.