

## Dialectical Methodology of Analysis of Economic Growth

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**Abstract:** In the article the author considers the methodological basis of formation of the concept of new quality of economic growth from the perspective of evolutionary theory, philosophy of growth, synergies and systems theory. The concept and essence of economic growth in the narrow and broad sense is defined, the basic contradictions of economic growth are considered. The author analyses economic growth from the perspective of dialectical materialism and investigates certainty and limits of economic growth: qualitative and quantitative, spatial and temporal.

**Key words:** Economic growth • Dialectical materialism • Philosophy of growth • Synergy • Systems theory

### INTRODUCTION

Currently, economic growth is the key problem of macroeconomic policies of all States. Developed countries, providing a high level of income, stable rate of growth of GDP, concerned about qualitative changes in the economic growth taking place under the influence of globalization and the social consequences of economic growth for their people.

Developing countries face different problem-how to make the achievement of sustainable long-term growth rate on a new basis of innovation the priority of the government's economic policy. Economic growth should be the foundation of improvement of quality of life of citizens, create the material basis for the sustainable development of society, as well as the guarantee of equal participation of these countries in global economic processes, along with the developed countries.

Russian economy faces another problem: the key task is to overcome the systemic crisis associated with the transformation of the socio-economic system. Economic growth in the country is unsustainable and is largely based on the situation on world commodity markets, which has been actively confirmed the crisis of 2008. Economic growth based on such factors does not lead to the well-being of the population, does not provide increased efficiency and competitiveness of the domestic economy. The question of sustainability of its growth in the long term remains in doubt.

It is obvious that Russia has not yet established a system of factors, which guarantees the dynamic pace of

growth, coupled with the structural transformation of the national economy. In the context of globalization, Russia needs not only economic growth in its quantitative expression but also change in its quality, which manifests itself in the innovative nature of the development, capable of ensuring the competitiveness of Russian producers in domestic and global markets.

**Methodological Basis for the Formation of the Concept of New Quality of Economic Growth:** The methodological basis for envisioning a new quality of economic growth (NQEG) is philosophy of growth, independent branch of the general philosophy of management and relies on the basic laws of dialectics, but the subject of research picking economic growth with all its contradictions, categories and laws. The philosophy of growth, using the classical categorical series (quality, quantity, bound measure) and tools (laws), explains the processes taking place in the modern economy, builds cause-effect relationship allows us to analyze the intrinsic motivation of economic processes.

The philosophy of growth is part of general theory of development and there is a direct connection with the theory of evolution and synergy. For a comprehensive analysis it is necessary to determine the point of their contact and interface.

The philosophy of growth as an independent branch of the general theory of philosophy is at the junction of philosophical, social and economic sciences and originally intended to use the appropriate number of categorical and tools (Fig. 1).

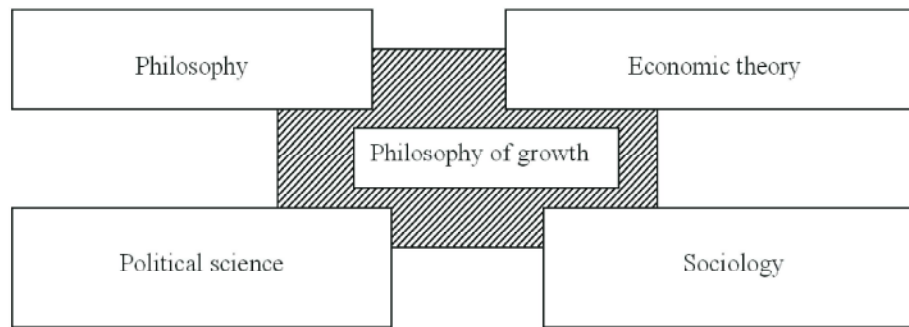


Fig. 1: Multi-disciplinary concept of philosophy of growth (madebytheauthor)

Table 1: Conjugation of theories of development (made by the author)

Parametres	Theories		
	Philosophy of growth	Evolutional theory	Synergetic
Object	Economic system	All the world	Structure-the attractors as possible ways of development of the material world
The main branch of science	Philosophy; the economics; sociology; political science	Theoretical science	
Key principle of systematization	Streamlining		Complication
Principles of peace building	Simple from a complex		Whole from parts, simple from complex
Key factor in the construction of a complex whole	Laws of social development	Natural selection	Chaos

Evolutionary theory, developed later than dialectic, is a branch of theoretical science, subject to its own laws and uses its own scientific method. But, having specific features, it takes the knowledge of the materialist dialectic. The alliance of philosophy and theoretical science is the necessary condition for successful solutions of various methodological problems. The information collected in different areas of natural science can contribute to the solution of various philosophical problems.

The philosophy of growth and the evolution theory differ in the objects of the study (Table 1). The object of the study of modern evolutionary theory is the laws of the world and the philosophy of growth-the laws of the economic system.

Synergetics is a new direction in science, largely unrelated to the search of the general laws of development as applicable to organic and inorganic systems. Synergetics is based on different principles. Synergy as a science was created by Haken and R. Graham in their scientific paper dedicated to the study of the laser radiation in 1968. Thus the understanding of synergistic, cooperative effects in the spontaneous formation of macroscopic structures, that is, self-organization arose [1].

The question of how efficiently is the use of synergy to the description of the behavior of complex economic systems is the subject of much debate. Prism of synergy relatively well highlights a collective mass processes in society, but subjective choice of each of the entity or corporation, their motives and behavior are indistinguishable and inexplicable.

The basis of synergy is non-equilibrium thermodynamics, exploring the birth of the complex and its genesis. Processes of randomization and simplification are studied by the synergy only as a function of a complex evolutionary stage and the ascent to the more complex [2].

The object of the synergetic is structure-attractors of development. Synergetic allows forecasting processes on the basis of their goals (structure-attractors), of the general trends in the deployment process in a holistic environment, of a desired and consistent with their own development trends in media.

Economic growth, as the object of study of philosophy of growth, acts as the unity of the phenomenon and the essence [3]. These categories are the most complex in terms of content, but they are the most objective in relation to the process under consideration.

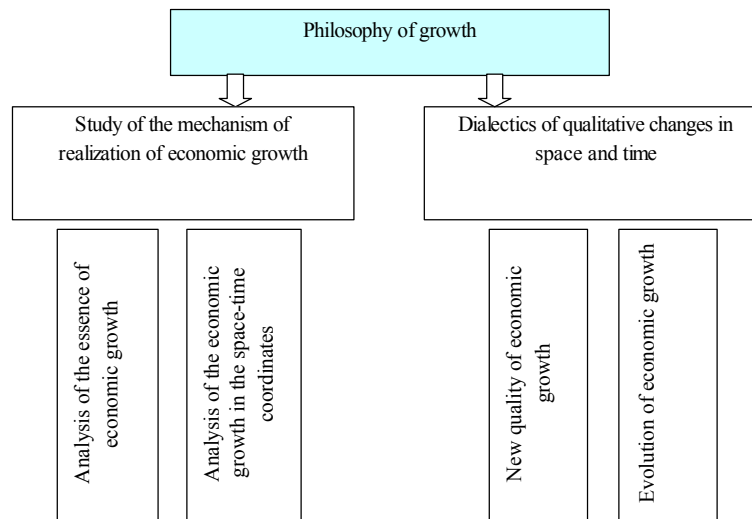


Fig. 2: Philosophy of growth (made by the author)

Philosophy of growth studies all the issues related to the development of economic growth as a phenomenon, as an entity, as a process. Key directions of research of philosophy of growth are shown in Fig. 2.

Phenomenon is easier concept for philosophical analysis. It can be expressed in various guises, including in the form of relation, process, structure. As any phenomenon, the economic growth has fundamental observability and clarity. Moreover, these two properties are associated with the possibility of localization of economic growth in space and time.

Its space-time entity indirectly identified with the same processes in space and time. In this case, the economic growth of a country is a manifestation of the individual and the similar. With a highly unique individual nature, it is identified with economic growth at all, which leads to a contradiction between the individual and repetitive.

Economic growth as a phenomenon has a base that is content, which distinguishes it from similar events that have the same mode of existence [4]. Reason-the unity of general and specific. The basis of economic growth is the work from which the many similar appears. For example, monetary relations, labor relations, growth of production. The dialectical nature of economic growth is reflected in the fact that it embodies a system of similar phenomena with a common base.

Economic growth is a holistic, organically bound system, in which all elements are equal, since some of them have derivative nature and some affect the other and have the opposite effect. Serial communication of these elements and their subordination is a structure of

economic growth, which can be identified only if the investigation of the essence of the whole system.

**Coreofeconomic Growth:** Analysis of core of economic growth is a prerequisite for its genetic interpretation and understanding of its nature. In philosophy “essence” is a set of relatively stable internal necessary parties, relationships and relationships of the material world, acting contradictory basis huge variety of phenomena. “Phenomenon” is a mobile, relatively easy changing set of diverse, external, directly reflects the feelings of the properties, relationships and object relations, which are a way of appearance, finding the essence of single, random deviations or as object detection, external forms of its existence. Economic growth is a dialectical unity of essence and phenomenon. The separation of phenomena from nature leads to its subjectivity, the loss of its objective nature.

Economic growth in economic science is understood as steadily increasing change in the results of functioning of the national economy and consumed (used) resources [5]. The ultimate purpose of economic growth is the increase in social welfare. Economic growth is the ongoing development of the economy and its progress. In fact, economic growth in the scale of social production is manifested in the form of an increase in output of goods and services for a certain period of time. As a criterion for the quantitative assessment of the economic growth variation of the gross domestic product (GDP) in absolute terms and per capita is commonly used, while it is assumed that all the produced GDP meets the needs of economic entities.

Exploring the content of economic growth as a phenomenon, it is advisable to take into account: The system of factors that affect the process of economic growth-the goals of economic growth-the type of economic growth-economic growth (its dynamics)-the contradictions of economic growth.

The most important characteristics of economic growth are its factors, which can be described as a condition of providing the process of economic growth. They can acquire a different character depending on with what quality of economic growth, we are dealing with.

Factors of economic growth are the basis of *the process of growth* because they largely determine the level and dynamics of change, affect the extent of increase in production, cause a type of economic growth, increase the efficiency of social reproduction.

The system of factors of economic growth periodically varies in space-time coordinates, creating the initial differences in the rates, levels and quality of economic growth. This situation is typical in times of change of key method of social reproduction, the process of transformation of economic system in a qualitatively new state. Thus, during the pre-industrial mode of social reproduction the natural and geographical factors dominated and determined the type of the natural transformation of economic growth [6].

During the industrial mode of production factors, one part of the old system loses, the other is undergoing a transformation appropriate; system is complemented by new factors that reflect the process of progress of the productive forces. In the post-industrial era qualitative changes of labor, high requirements for the training of a person to invest in human capital, a special role is given to competition and entrepreneurial abilities, etc. take place.

In other words, factor that directly or indirectly involved in the conversion of resources from the system is the backbone element of economic growth. Under the direct engagement is the direct impact factor on resources, also suggests an indirect effect mediated through the general conditions for the direct effects, such as legal environment, financial, information, etc. Factors, as mentioned above, are in a relationship with each other. Cross-factor relations are implemented in the material (material and energy) and information flows. The functions and structure of the factors of economic growth formed based on the established relationships between factors.

In analyzing the nature of economic growth it is important to note the contradictions of economic growth arising as a result of the confrontation of different interests and goals however, as the contradiction at all. Allocation of the basic contradictions inherent to a particular object of investigation let reveal the main content of the analyzed process. In addition, analysis of the contradictions promotes the development of specific practical measures to resolve and overcome the specific economic problems.

Contradiction that reflects the relationship of nature and society takes a special place in the system of economic contradictions of economic growth. During the increase of the rate and extent of economic growth in the face of STP non-renewable natural resources becomes increasingly limited and limiting economic growth. There is a contradiction between the unlimited growth of social and economic needs (interests and motives) and limited resources.

The current model at this stage of the economic growth is a global threat to the natural balance of the Earth. But the rejection of the progressive development of the economy is also fraught with adverse consequences. The resolution of this contradiction can achieve harmonious unity of economic and environmental policy.

One of the basic contradictions of economic growth is also a contradiction between consumption and accumulation. It occurs when the growth in the share of national income that goes to consumption, reduces the possibility of accumulation of providing future consumption. In turn, the excessive growth of the share of accumulation interferes with the current needs until the fall in living standards. To resolve this contradiction, it is necessary to identify and implement the most favorable ratio between them. In market economy, averaging of contradiction between accumulation and consumption is more complicated, as the private capitalist appropriation assumes the independence of market in choosing the direction of the use of proceeds. In this case, state regulation is widely used.

Next contradiction is also generated by NTP. This is a problem associated with full employment in a real improvement of the means of production. The use of more productive technology leads to the gradual release of human resources, which poses a threat to a policy of full employment. This problem can be solved, first of all, through the involvement of the workforce in the new production. Secondly, unemployment may prevent the state, attracting people to public enterprises, public works or in the service sector.

Socio-economic contradiction between production and consumption deserves special attention. Production and consumption are interconnected in the reproduction process, but they differ from each other as to their characteristics and by the conditions in which these processes. First, they differ in the degree of intelligibility and predictability. Second, there are also differences in terms of potential impacts on the two sides of the reproductive process. Thirdly, the production and consumption of different the time factor plays a role. Even if you take a very short period of time can be arbitrarily assume that the production is no change, consumption is not a fixed quantity. Fourth, even the time spent in the production and consumption can be different considered.

Economic growth as a difficult and complex phenomenon has many quantitative and qualitative indicators of not only economic but also social impact. Among them are primarily indicators such as the absolute increase in real GNP, GDP and ND for some period of time and, more importantly, the increase over a period of time in real GNP, GDP, ND per capita. Those and other indicators can be used. For example, if the focus is on the problems of economic and military-political potential, the first group of indicators seems more appropriate. But when comparing the standard of living of the population in some countries and regions the second group of indicators is clearly more preferred. Thus, India's GDP is by nearly 70% higher than the GDP of Switzerland, but the standard of living of the population in India is lagging behind in Switzerland more than 60 times.

But the simplicity of measurement of economic growth that is often mistaken for its essence, actually serves only as a tip of the iceberg. Economic growth does not carry any intrinsic valuation. To say simply about n-percent economic growth is to say nothing. Economic growth has its underwater part - base, which increasing or decreasing, determines the economic climate in the space-time plot.

Economic growth has a number of definitions: a qualitative and quantitative, spatial and temporal. Abstract characteristic of economic growth are its borders, which have economic growth, there are several qualitative, quantitative, spatial, temporal (Fig. 3).

The quantitative limit is expressed in the rates of economic growth created for two reasons: quantitative limit economic growth is associated with limited economic opportunities and institutional constraints such as the rate of economic (economic) behavior; limitations associated with the transition towards sustainable development with associated with the activities of non-governmental organizations with environmental orientation.

An example of institutional boundaries of economic growth is various institutions that do not allow economic growth to leave the boundaries formed quantitative indicators. For example, international financial institutions, pursuing international economic policy in the interests of the developed countries, can significantly constrain the process of sustainable growth in developing countries. Qualitative boundary differs from the other boundaries by the fact that exit of it means a jump to a new state, characterized by the new measure.

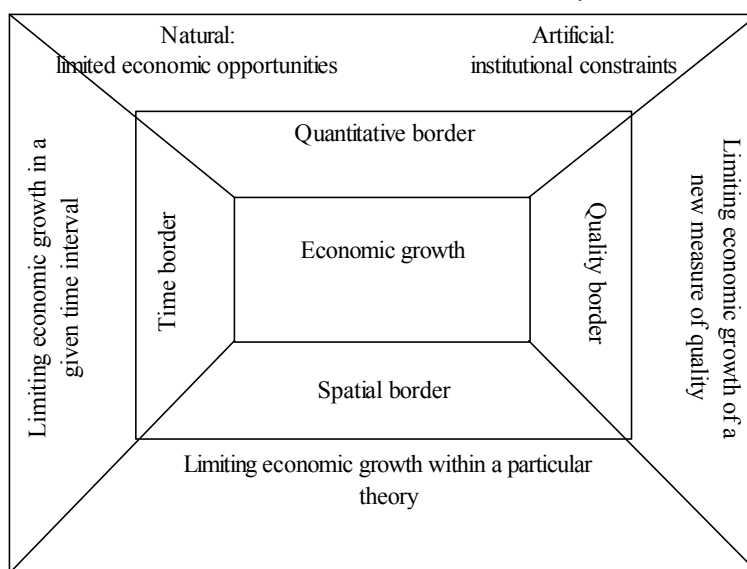


Fig. 3: Borders of economic growth (made by the author)

### **Economic Growth from the Point of View of Dialectical**

**Materialism:** Economic growth includes dialectical interaction of the internal content of the object (“thing in itself”) and the external manifestations (“thing for another”). As a “thing in itself” economic growth has a certain set of parties: factors, contradictions basis. As a “thing for another”, economic growth does not exist independently, but is in a relationship with other objects. In other words, economic growth is inseparable from social reproduction, as a result of it.

Important aspect of economic growth is the analysis of its relationship with the concept of “economic development”. In our view, it is necessary to clearly distinguish the concept of “economic growth” and “economic empowerment”. First, the development takes place when there is no growth, but preconditions laid down for him. Second, it can be expressed in structural changes, various innovations that directly do not lead to economic growth.

Schumpeter understood the economic development as “creation of a new (or the creation of new quality) good, the introduction of a new method of production, development of a new market, obtaining a new source of raw material conducting appropriate reorganization (e.g., provision of a monopoly position or undermining the monopoly of the other entity)” [7]. Third, the development may be on the downlink, when there is no quantitative growth and process of decreasing of properties of a product, service takes place.

Economic Growth “provides” economic development, but does not “replace” it. Therefore, from the point of view of the relationship of processes of development and growth of economy, development is category of higher order than economic growth. In other words, economic growth is a “manifestation” of development, one of its scripting options [8]. As economic growth becomes the goal of public policy, economists do not perceive development without economic growth.

Meanwhile, development is the change of the system in general, the transition from one qualitative state to another [9]. G. Myrdal points out that “we understand development as progress of the whole social system» [10]. By “progress” means no growth, lockable on changing macro-aggregates, but increase of degree of satisfaction of basic needs of all members of society, mainly due to well-being of the poor. However, it is obvious that the basic needs can be satisfied only during the process of growth.

The above-mentioned circumstances lead to the conclusion that: economic growth-in a narrow sense: is an interaction of exogenous and endogenous factors that are born at the stage of direct production gains sustained by the other stages of social reproduction, resulting in a quantitative and qualitative change in the productive forces, increase the social product for a certain period of time and growth of people's welfare.

**In a Broad Sense:** Economic growth is a reflection of the current economic and institutional conditions that determine, along with other indicators of the direction of motion of society, establishing the nature of social development as a whole (progressive, regressive or slow). As an object of study of the theory of development, economic growth is a qualitative and quantitative determination; its substance is revealed through analysis of qualitative unity-quantitative characteristics, it has the properties of continuity and discontinuity (the presence of a property is determined by the temporal and spatial certainty), with each new level of his passes “boundaries” of the old state and acquires a new quality, which is a natural process of internal transformation of the economic system, result of its acquisition of new forms, properties and traits based on the systematic accumulation of a specific quantitative reserve, measured both in economic and social components.

The quality of economic growth include the determination (outside) and systemic (internal side), which is the carrier of certainty. Economic growth is defined boundary, of course, properties and systematized through the elements and structure. The qualitative allocation of economic growth as a research object is the starting point for achieving the cognitive certainty on the matter. “First impressions flash, then something stands out-and then develop the concept of “quality” (the definition of a thing or phenomenon),” quantity” [11]. Quality involves the integrity, because it is not simply the sum of the properties, but interaction of the various parties of aggregate event (Fig. 4).

Analysis of “quality-quantity” is an integral part of the concept NQEG. Qualitative identification differs from quantitative by its scale, degree of manifestation of allocated feature. Quantity is amount of one-quality items. But quantity abstracted from the diversity of quality: integrity, sustainability, includes a set of objects or phenomena with this quality. When we talk about the quantitative notion of “economic growth”, we mean the quality processes in which it arose.

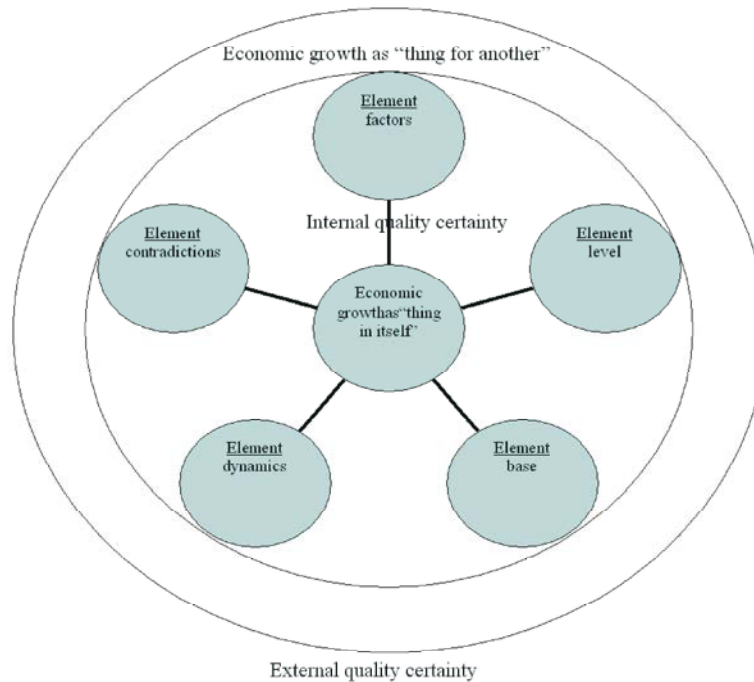


Fig. 4: Economic growth as “thing in itself” and “thing for another” (made bu author)

Category of “quantity” is closely related to the category “value”, which refers objective quantitative aspect of any object properties or relationships. Individual value is an element of a particular system and this element is determined by the structure of the system, a certain type of relationship. Measurement of homogeneous characteristics provides system of measurement of uniform quantities, for example, the system of measurement of economic growth includes a set of indicators that are interconnected and part of the system of national accounts (SNA).

The border between the quality and quantity is such a relative, that even a state of the economy as “economic growth at 2%”, can be seen from both the quantitative and qualitative aspects: a quantitative two-percent certainty has its value because it applies to the word “more”, “less”.

There is a contradiction between the quantity and quality, reflected in the fact that the amount can be compared (as qualitative manipulation) with another magnitude, number, but cannot exist outside of this comparison. Furthermore, the number, characterized by the absence of quality varieties bears qualitative component is set as one of objects of quality and uniformity of stacked own leads to a new first action and then a new quality.

Economic growth at ever time changes qualitatively, so there is a contradiction between the continuous quality conversion and single-qualitativeness inherent properties and characteristics. There is a differentiation of quality changes in levels of exposure. As a “thing in itself” economic growth can vary as much as the number of times, but as a “thing for another” does not change when you change the level, but changes when you change the measure.

In reality, quality displays are set by quantitative parameters and there is neither quantitative uncertainty nor quality displays of undetermined quantity. Each element of a quality can be measured quantitatively. And this number is differentiated by limits-measure. Determination of the measure for qualitative transformation of economic growth as a “thing for another” is due to internal contradictions of economic growth, its continuity and heterogeneity. Therefore, measurement of measured during the transition to a new quality will always be subjective, based on historical data.

An important trend in the study of economic growth is to examine it through the set-theoretic concepts, abstracted from the qualitative nature of the elements of the sets. Undoubtedly, there is a functional dependence of the properties of economic growth from the outside influence. But the complexity and contradictions of

Table 2: GDP per capita in Group A and B for the period 1000-1998 year (in U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in 1990)

States	Years					
	1000	1500	1600	1700	1820	1998
On average in the group A (Western Europe and surrounding states, Japan)	405	704	805	907	1 130	21 470
On average in the group B (Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia (excluding Japan, Africa)	440	535	548	551	573	3 102

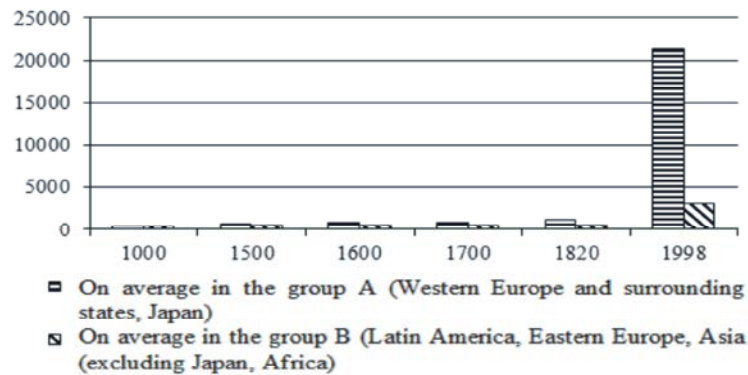


Fig. 5: Change of measure of quantitative performance of national economy

economic growth manifested in the fact that he is changing the level of material well-being of the society, changes itself and puts itself into a qualitatively new state. It happens automatically by changing a quantitative measure of the effectiveness of national economy.

Change of measure of performance can be observed using the data given Angus Maddison in his book "The World Economy: a Millennial perspective" [12], where the author spent a great job at organizing the quantitative changes in the world economy since 1000 (Table 2, Fig. 5).

It is also useful to refer to the work of Neil Herndon "In Hong Kong, Looking Toward the Growing European Union", in which the author considers the features of economic growth in China [13]. If earlier the rate of economic growth was estimated in thousands of dollars, now it is estimated in millions of dollars. And this difference is significant, because the matter is not in the zeros, but in change of measuring, which includes a significant qualitative substance. For each increment of measurement lies increase of financial position of each member of society, growth of its opportunities and potential.

Methodologically norm is related category to measure. In contrast to the measure, the norm is a social-treated, the usual categories used in all areas of life. As a philosophical category the norm, of course, is movable, changeable, inconsistent, arbitrary and relative. Practical implementation of the norm is standard.

What is the normal economic growth? This question is not as simple as it might seem at first glance. It prepares some methodological trap. Relationship of normal and abnormal condition was studied by ancient science. With the development of philosophy there was not only gain of new knowledge, but also last postulates and axioms were questioned, including a predetermined harmony as a set of rules.

To set standards (practical expression of norm) of space of economic growth is a difficult task, especially relevant at this stage. Quantification limits of economic growth and is an attempt to invade the limits of normality. But these limits are also in the time-space framework and, therefore, conditional and relative.

Furthermore, these limits determine interests that may not coincide. And then the public, corporate and private interests in the process of dialectical interaction can be set to adjust the outer amorphous (e.g., scientific) within the normative environment.

The subject of the adoption of the limits of normativity can be an individual, a corporation and a state. But the standards are set by formal institutions. You can talk about measuring standards under the influence of changing of measure. Moreover, measure is not just as a way of representing of norm, but an institutional limit of its capabilities. Measure, representing harmony of quantitative and qualitative substances contributes to measurement of new qualitative state, thus dictating space-time interval its own conditions.



For example, in the era of globalization, the number of mergers and acquisitions was measured not by units, but by thousands and this measure “a thousand” informs us about the trans-nationalization and the establishment of a new order of globalization.

Each step of the history means moving to a new measure and a new complication of essential characteristics. Norms lie in ranges of measure and represents the optimum range of operation of the facility or system.

### CONCLUSION

The methodological basis for envisioning a new quality of economic growth is philosophy of growth that studies all the issues related to the development of economic growth as a phenomenon, as an entity, as a process.

Under the growth in economic science is understood as steadily increasing change in the results of functioning of the national economy and the consumption of resources. The ultimate purpose of economic growth is the increase in social welfare. Economic growth is the ongoing development of the economy and its progress.

Economic growth includes dialectical interaction of the internal content of the object (“thing in itself”) and the external manifestations (“thing for another”). Economic Growth “provides” economic development, but does not “replace” it. In other words, economic growth is a “manifestation” of development, one of its scripting options.

Dialectical methodology of analysis of economic growth involves the study of its quality and quantity. The quality of economic growth includes the determination of (outside) and systemic (internal side), which is the carrier of certainty. Quantitatively as a “thing in itself”, economic growth can vary as much as the number of times, but as a “thing for another” does not change when you change the level, but changes when you change the measure.

In reality, quality displays are set by quantitative parameters and there is neither quantitative uncertain quality nor quality displays of undetermined quantity. Each element of a quality can be measured quantitatively. And this number is differentiated by limits-measure.

Thus, from the point of view of dialectical materialism, economic growth is a holistic, organically bound system, in which all elements are equal, because

some of them have a derivative nature and some affect the other and have the opposite effect and includes a dialectical interaction of internal content the object and the external manifestations and determined by the boundaries of quality, quantity, time and space.

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