

# Accepted Manuscript

Robots and Humans – Complements or Substitutes?

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PII: S0164-0704(16)30043-X  
DOI: [10.1016/j.jmacro.2016.08.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmacro.2016.08.003)  
Reference: JMACRO 2889

To appear in: *Journal of Macroeconomics*

Received date: 22 June 2016  
Revised date: 7 August 2016  
Accepted date: 10 August 2016

Please cite this article as: Stephen J. DeCanio , Robots and Humans – Complements or Substitutes?, *Journal of Macroeconomics* (2016), doi: [10.1016/j.jmacro.2016.08.003](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmacro.2016.08.003)



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## Highlights:

- In a purely neoclassical comparative statics framework, an increase in the input of robot labor may increase or decrease the human wage, depending on the parameters of the production function
- Houthakker's method for characterizing aggregate production relationships can be used to estimate the effects of a change in the input of robots on the human wage, without necessitating construction of a capital aggregate
- Data from industries in the United States can be used to estimate how large the elasticity of substitution between human and robot labor must be such that an increase in the employment of robots will reduce the human wage
- It is not implausible that proliferation of Artificial Intelligence embodied in robots may have negative consequences for human wages

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