

# **The Geography of Innovation in the United States**

Weiliang Tan

Cornell University

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# Motivation and Research Questions

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  - Rising spatial concentration in the United States is well-known
  - Yet, fundamental questions on the geography of innovation remain unanswered:
- 1 **What factors drive the rising spatial concentration of innovation?**
  - 2 **What are its consequences on spatial and aggregate growth?**



# Data: Measuring the Geography of Innovation

- Universe of patents from PatentsView from 1976-2018
  - Map patents to **Commuting Zones** (CZs) using inventor home addresses, which I geocode using the Google Maps API
  - Map technology classes to **fields and subfields**, building on the methodology used by the World Intellectual Property Organization

⇒ **Produce a new measure of local innovation:**  $\frac{\text{CZ Patent Share}}{\text{CZ Population Share}}$

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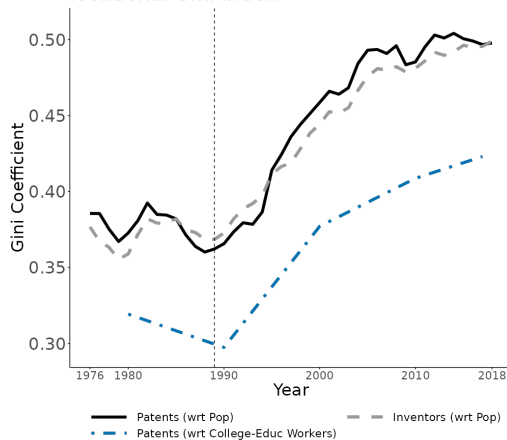
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- Universe of firms and plants in the US Census Longitudinal Business Database
  - Map patent assignees to **firms** using Kerr and Fu (2008) and Dreisigmeyer et al (2018)
- Firms and plants from Dun and Bradstreet's National Establishment Time Series Database (NETS)
  - Map patent assignees to firms following Hughes et al (2021)

# What drives the rising spatial concentration of innovation?

- When and where: innovation became more concentrated in **high-skill CZs** (not large or dense CZs) after **1990**
- Why: **ICT shock** around 1990
  - 1 **Increase in ICT research productivity** (four breakthrough ICT patents 1985-1987)
    - **Colocation** of ICT production and innovation  $\implies$   $\uparrow$  ICT patents in high-skill CZs
    - **Spillovers** from ICT to non-ICT innovation  $\implies$   $\uparrow$  non-ICT patents in high-skill CZs
  - 2 **Reduced communication costs**
    - **Asymmetric scale effect**: firms in high-skill CZs disproportionately expanded production to lower-cost locations  $\implies$   $\uparrow$  non-ICT patents in high-skill CZs

# Innovation became more spatially concentrated after 1990

Trends in the Spatial Concentration of Innovation across CZs using a locational Gini index



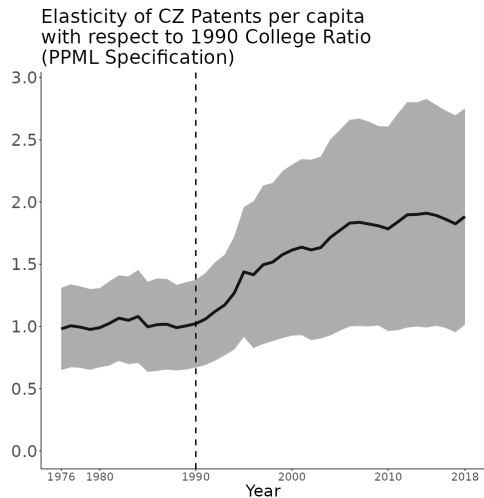
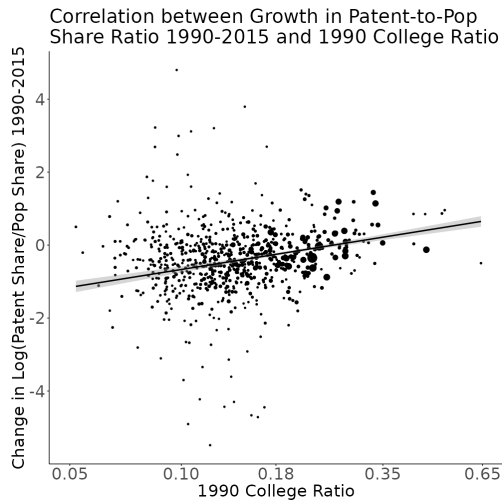
Trends in the Spatial Concentration of Innovation 1865-2015 from Andrews and Walley (2022)



► Drop Top Patenting CZs

► Alternative Measures

# Innovation became more concentrated in **high-skill CZs** after 1990



$$\text{Log Patents } pc_{r,t} = \alpha_t \cdot \text{Log 1990 College Ratio}_r \times \text{Year}_t + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{r,t}$$

► Log-Log Specification

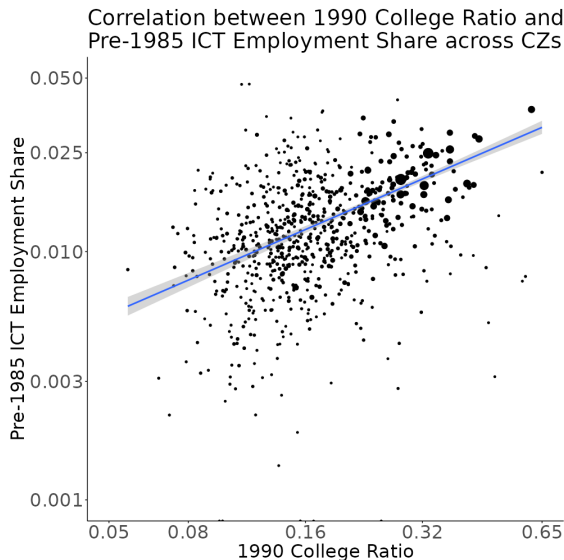
► Absence of Sorting by Pop or Density

► Map

► Evolution from 1980: Contrast against Worker Sorting

# Connecting the Rising Patent Concentration to ICT

High-skill CZs had a higher pre-1985 ICT employment share

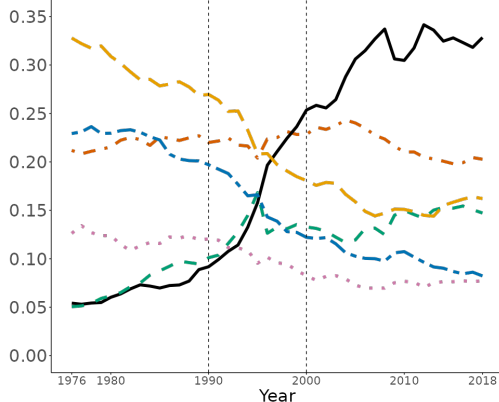


► Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share

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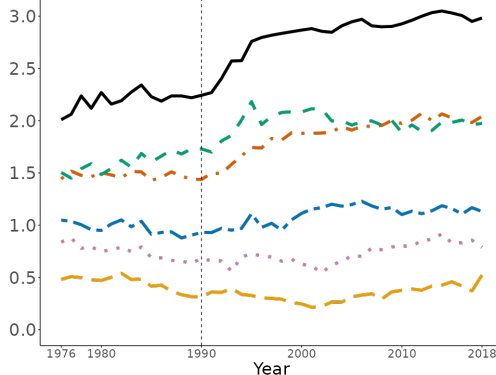
## Decomposition across Technology Fields

Share of Annual Patents by Field



- Physics, Electrical Engineering & Electronics
- Biology & Medicine
- Mechanical Engineering
- Information & Communication Technology
- Chemistry
- Civil Engineering & Consumer Goods

Elasticity of CZ Patents per capita with respect to 1990 College Ratio by Field



- Physics, Electrical Engineering & Electronics
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► Formal Decomposition

► ICT vs non-ICT

# What drives the rising spatial concentration of innovation?

- When and where: innovation became more concentrated in high-skill CZs (not large or dense CZs) after 1990

Why: **ICT shock** around 1990 (eight key patents in computer networks)

## 1 Increased ICT research productivity

- **Colocation** of ICT production and innovation  $\Rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  ICT patents in high-skill CZs
- **Spillovers** from ICT to non-ICT innovation  $\Rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  non-ICT patents in high-skill CZs

## 2 Reduced communication costs

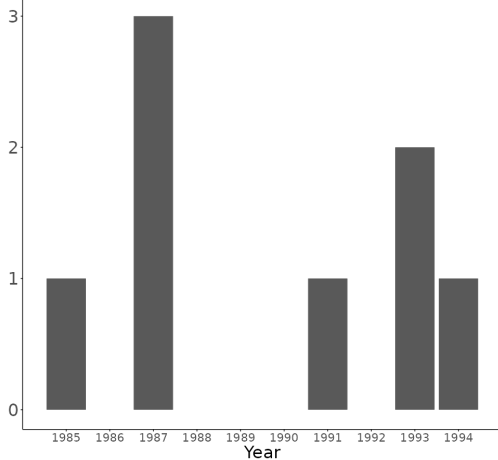
- **Asymmetric scale effect**: firms in high-skill CZs disproportionately expanded production to more CZs  $\Rightarrow$   $\uparrow$  non-ICT patents in high-skill CZs



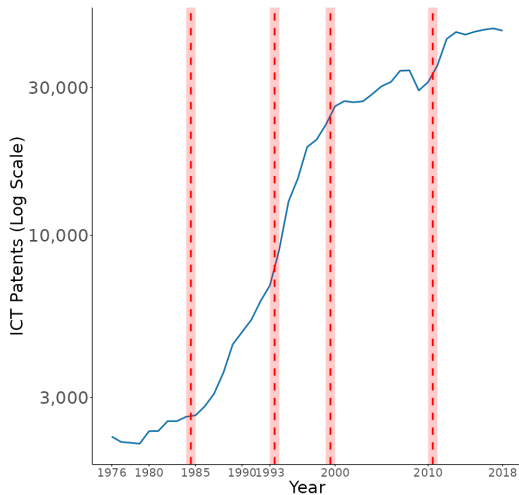
# Defining the ICT Shock

Eight key patents in computer networks identified by Kelly et al 2021

Number of Key Breakthrough Patents in Computer Networks



Bai-Perron Structural Breaks in ICT Patents



► Connecting Breakthroughs to ICT Patent Growth

► Alternative Definition of the ICT Shock

► Structural Breaks in Other Patent Trends

# Colocation of ICT Innovation and Production

CZs with higher pre-1985 ICT emp shares: greater post-shock  $\uparrow$  in ICT patents and employment

$$\text{Outcome}_{r,t} = \beta \cdot \text{Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share}_r \times \text{Growth of National ICT Patents}_t + \gamma_r + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Dependent Variables: Model:	ICT Patents (1)	ICT Patents per capita (2)	ICT Employment (3)	ICT Employment Share (4)
Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> ×	3,792.9***	0.6169***	43,396.9***	-0.0084
Growth of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	(1,107.4)	(0.2164)	(15,192.5)	(0.0086)
<i>Fixed-effects</i>				
CZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	24,548	24,548	24,548	24,544
R <sup>2</sup>	0.74282	0.73925	0.95520	0.80472
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.12092	0.03917	0.06345	0.00608

Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses

Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1

► Using Levels of National ICT Patents

► Regression After 1990

► Firm-Level Evidence

# Spillovers from ICT to Non-ICT Innovation after 1990

CZs with higher pre-1990 ICT employment shares: greater  $\uparrow$  in non-ICT patents

$$\text{Outcome}_{r,t} = \kappa \cdot \text{Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share}_r \times \text{Growth of National ICT Patents}_t + \gamma_r + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Dependent Variables: Model:	Non-ICT Patents (1)	Non-ICT Patents per capita (2)
Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> × Growth of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	632.5*** (238.5)	0.0814* (0.0444)
<i>Fixed-effects</i>		
CZ	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes
Observations	20,938	20,938
R <sup>2</sup>	0.94696	0.88179
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.10189	0.02474

Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses

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► Using Levels of National ICT Patents

► Using Pre-1985 ICT Emp Shares

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# The Key Computer Network Patents Reduced Communication Costs

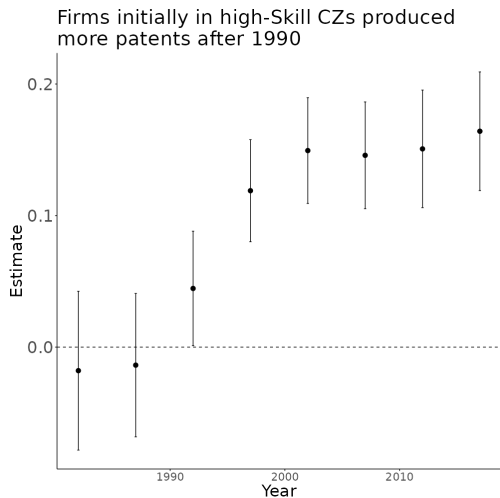
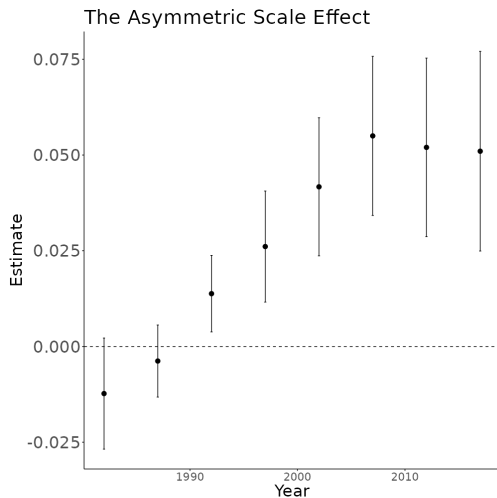
Selected patents from the eight identified by Kelly et al (2021)

Patent No.	Year	Title	Assignee	Inventors	Citations
4,800,488	1985	Method of Propagating Resource Information in a Computer Network	AT&T Bell Lab	Rakesh Agrawal, Ahmed K Ezzat	150
4,823,338	1987	Virtual Local Area Network	AT&T Info Systems; AT&T Company	Kenneth K Chan, Argyrios C Milonas, Terry G Lyons, Philip W Hartmann, P Lamons	151
4,887,204	1987	System and Method for Accessing Remote Files in a Distributed Networking Environment	IBM	Donavon W Johnson, Grover H Neuman, Charles H Sauer, Amal A Shaheen-Gouda, Todd A Smith	341
5,249,290	1991	Method of and apparatus for operating a client/server computer network	AT&T Bell Lab	Issac J Heizer	205
5,341,477	1993	Broker for Computer Network Server Selection	Digital Equipment Corporation (known as HP today)	Richard P Pitkin, John P Morency	792

# The **Asymmetric Scale Effect** and Rising Patent Concentration

Firms in high-skill CZs expanded into more CZs and produced more non-ICT patents after 1990

$$\text{Outcome}_{f,t} = \delta_t \cdot 1987 \text{ Employment Elasticity}_f \times \text{Year}_t + \zeta \cdot 1987 \text{ Firm Size}_f + \omega \cdot 1987 \text{ Firm Spatial Scope}_f + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{f,t}$$



DYNAMIC SPATIAL MODEL WITH  
***ENDOGENOUS AND DIRECTED  
INNOVATION***

# Goals of the Model

- 1 Formalize how the **ICT shock**  $\implies$  **geography of innovation**
  - Aspects of the shock: (1) Increased ICT research productivity;  
(2) Reduced communication costs
  - Mechanisms: (1) **Colocation**; (2) **Spillovers**; (3) **Asymmetric scale effect**
- 2 Examine how the **geography of innovation**  $\implies$  **aggregate growth and welfare**



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- Innovation, slow diffusion, production, costly trade
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$\implies$  Develop a theory of ***endogenous and directed innovation*** across space

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2 **Dynamic worker mobility** across regions and sectors and  
between production and research (extends Caliendo et al 2019)

⇒ Workers respond to changes in relative innovation profits across regions

# The Spatial Direction of Innovation

- **Proposition 1:** On the transition path, the ***spatial direction of innovation*** is governed by:

$$\frac{\omega_{r,t^*}^{k,R}}{\omega_{r',t^*}^{k,R}} = \underbrace{\frac{A_{r,t^*}}{A_{r',t^*}}}_{\text{fundamental research productivity (function of college ratio)}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{T_{r,t^*}^k}{T_{r',t^*}^k}}_{\text{relative technology levels}} \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{L_{r,t^*}^{k,G}}{L_{r',t^*}^{k,G}} \right)^\eta}_{\text{benefits of colocation of innovation and production}} \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{L_{r,t^*}^R}{L_{r',t^*}^R} \right)^\alpha}_{\text{agglomeration economies in innovation including spillovers from ICT to non-ICT}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\int_{t^*}^{\infty} e^{-\zeta(t-t^*)} \sum_{d=1}^N \frac{\phi_{rd,t^*t}}{\lambda_{r,t^*}} \frac{Y_{d,t}}{1+\theta} \frac{1}{P_{r,t}} dt}{\int_{t^*}^{\infty} e^{-\zeta(t-t^*)} \sum_{d=1}^N \frac{\phi_{r'd,t^*t}}{\lambda_{r',t^*}} \frac{Y_{d,t}}{1+\theta} \frac{1}{P_{r',t}} dt}}_{\text{expected market potential of an idea, with the idea market shares capturing the asymmetric scale effect}}$$

# Balanced Growth Path

Steady state **geography of innovation** → **aggregate growth**

- **Proposition 2:** On the balanced growth path, the growth rate  $g^k$  of technology in each sector is given by:

$$\dot{T}_o^k(t) = \sum_l \gamma_l^k T_l^k(t) \int_{-\infty}^t g^k e^{-g^k(t-t^*)} (1 - e^{-\delta_{l'o',t'}(t-t')})^{1-\rho} dt^*$$

prices are falling at rate:

$$g_p = -\frac{1}{\theta} \sum_k \iota^k g^k$$

and the **aggregate growth rate** of the expected value of workers is:

$$g_v = \frac{1+\zeta}{\zeta} \frac{1}{\theta} \sum_k \iota^k g^k$$

# Conclusion

- Answer the perennial question of what drives the rising spatial concentration of innovation in the US:
  - Innovation became more concentrated in **high-skill CZs** after **1990** primarily due to the **ICT shock** via the following mechanisms:
    - 1 **Colocation** of innovation and production in the ICT sector
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- Introduce ***endogenous and directed innovation*** into quantitative spatial models to:
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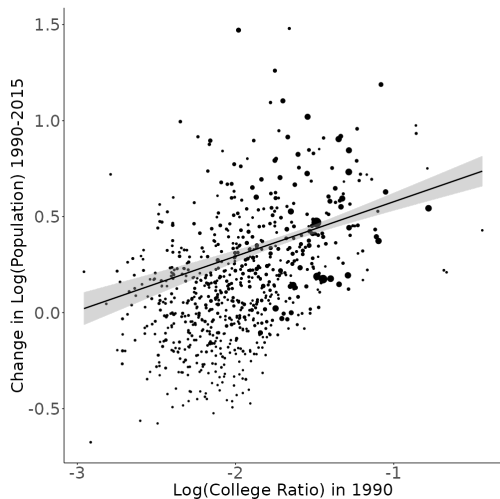
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- Mechanics: Put the microfoundations of the Eaton-Kortum structure (Eaton and Kortum, 2024) at the center of quantitative spatial models

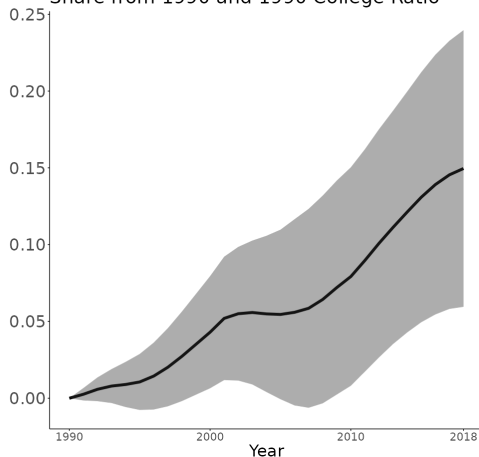
# APPENDIX

# EMPIRICAL APPENDIX

# Worker Migration to High-Skill Cities



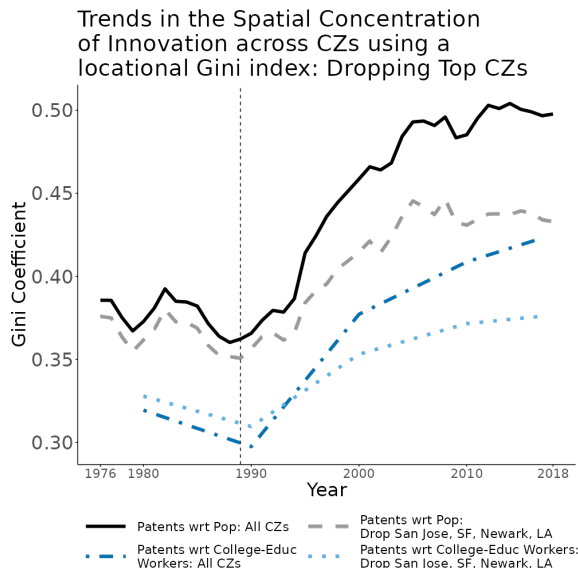
Correlation between Growth in CZ Population Share from 1990 and 1990 College Ratio



◀ Main Analysis

# Innovation became more spatially concentrated after 1990

Drop top patenting CZs

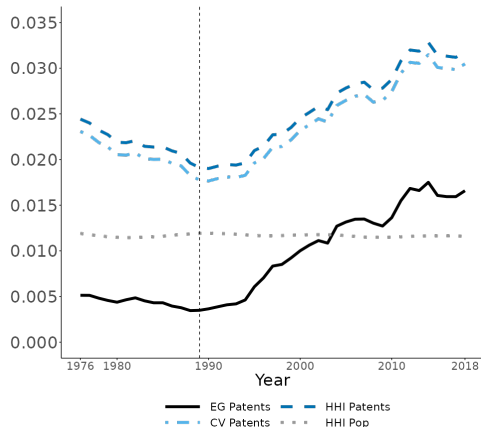


◀ Main Fact

# Innovation became more spatially concentrated after 1990

## Alternative measures of spatial concentration

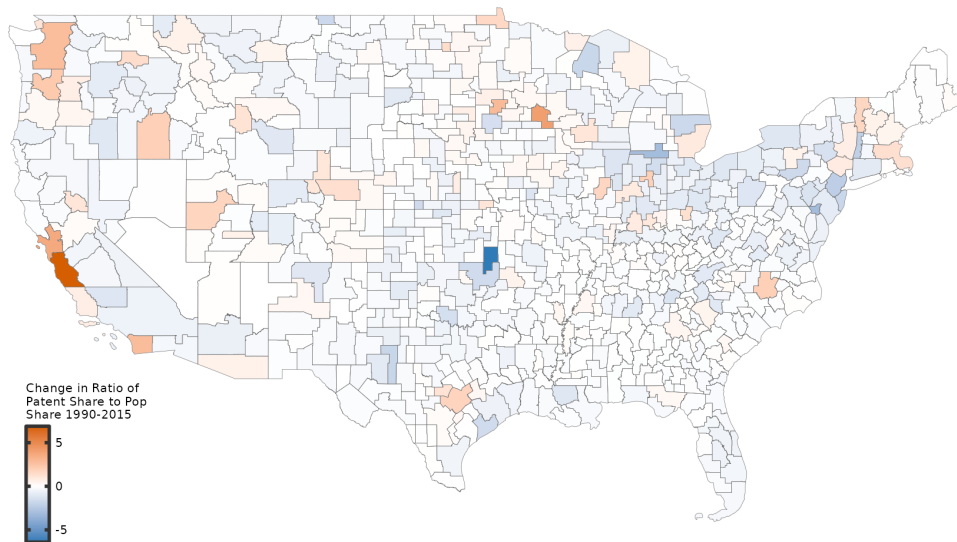
Trends in the Spatial Concentration of Innovation across CZs using alternative measures



Trend in the Share of US Patents Produced in the Top 10 CZs

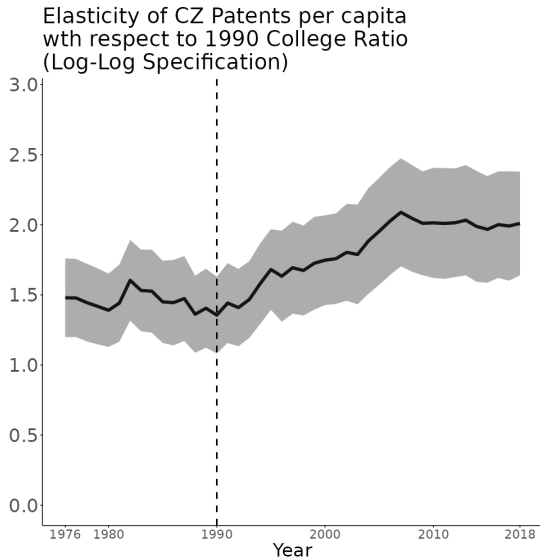


# Innovation became more concentrated in **high-skill CZs** after 1990



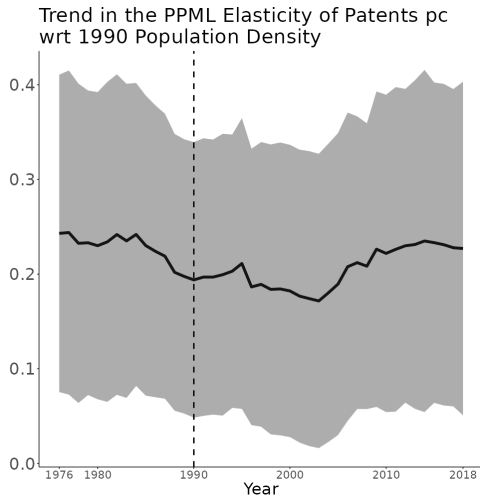
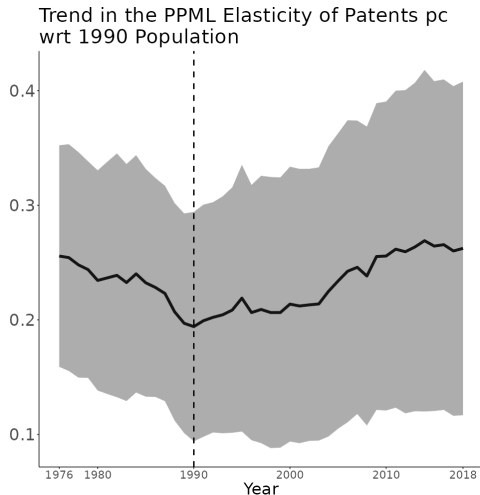


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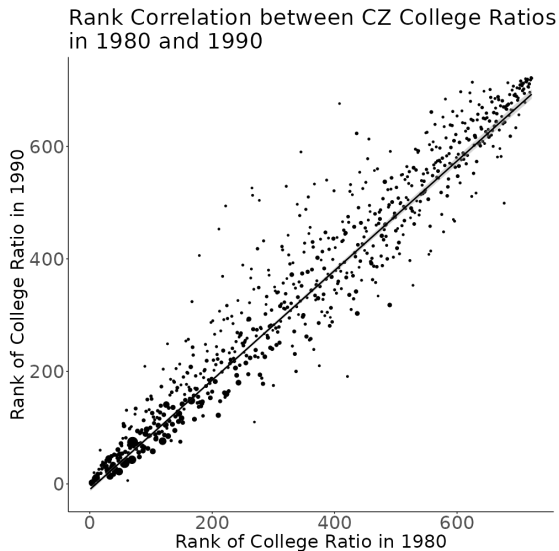
$$\text{Log Patents } pc_{r,t} = \alpha_t \cdot \text{Log 1990 College Ratio}_r \times \text{Year}_t + \gamma_t + \epsilon_{r,t}$$

# Absence of patent sorting by 1990 population or population density



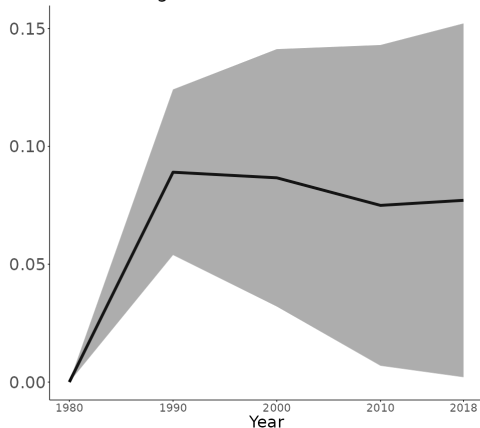
◀ Patent Sorting by 1990 College Ratio

# The rank order of CZs by college ratio was similar in 1980 and 1990

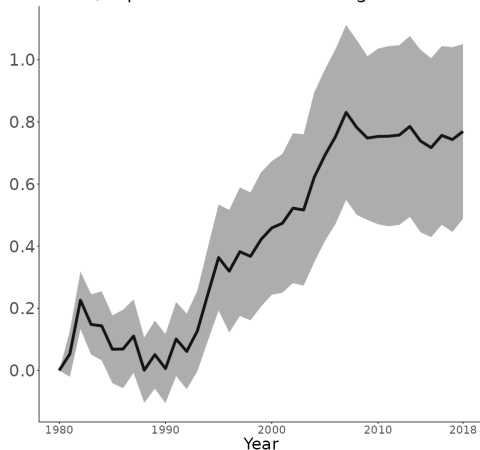


# Worker sorting primarily occurred from 1980 to 1990

Correlation between Percent Change in College Ratio from 1980 and 1980 College Ratio

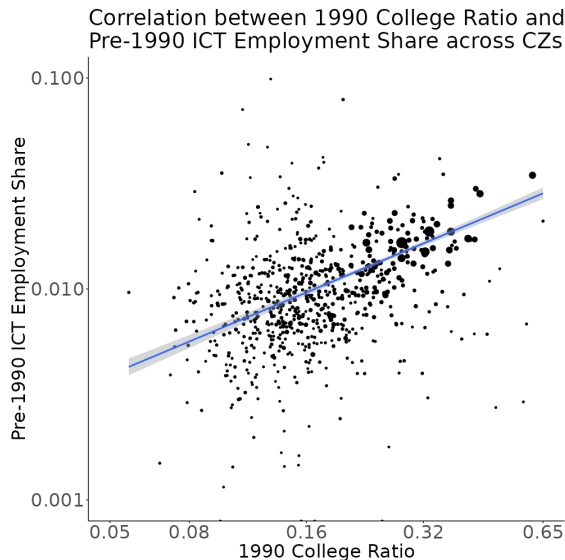


Trend in the Elasticity of Change in Patent Share/Pop Share wrt 1980 College Ratio

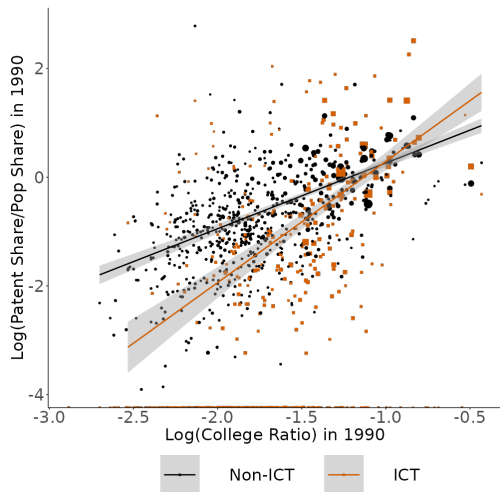


# Connecting the Rising Patent Concentration to ICT

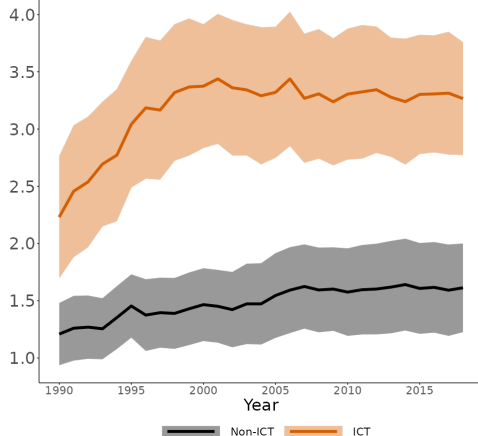
High-skill CZs had a higher pre-1990 ICT employment share



# Comparison between ICT and Non-ICT Patent Elasticity



Trends in the Elasticity of CZ Patent Share per Pop Share wrt 1990 College Ratio



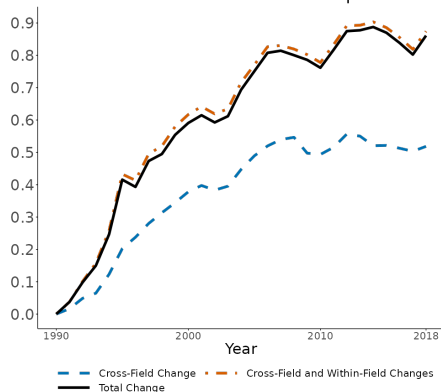
◀ Main Fact

# Field Decomposition of Patent Elasticity

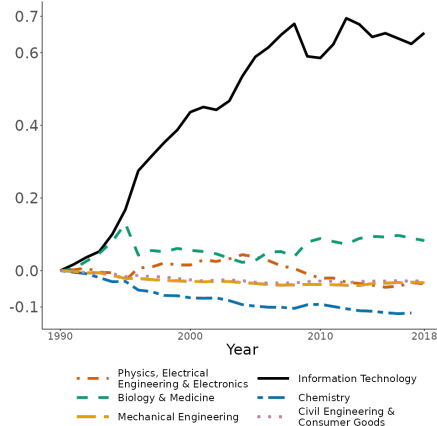
Shift to ICT accounts for 53% of the overall rising concentration in high-skill cities from 1990

$$\alpha_{t^*} - \alpha_{1990} = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \Delta \alpha_t = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{\alpha}_{f,t} \Delta s_{f,t}}_{\text{changes in field composition}} + \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{s}_{f,t} \Delta \alpha_{f,t}}_{\text{within-field changes}} + \underbrace{\Delta \left( \alpha_t - \sum_f s_{f,t} \alpha_{f,t} \right)}_{\text{residual: changes in the colocation of fields}} \right]$$

Elasticity of CZ Patents per capita with respect to 1990 College Ratio:  
Within-Field vs Cross-Field Decomposition



Cross-Field Component by Field

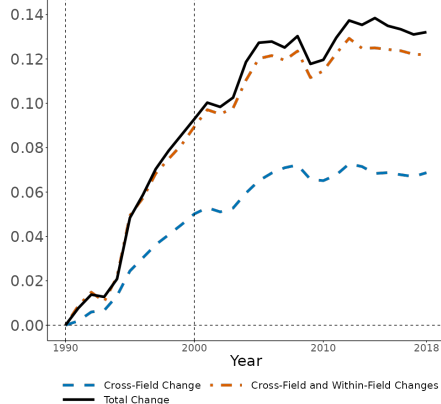


# Field Decomposition of Patent Gini

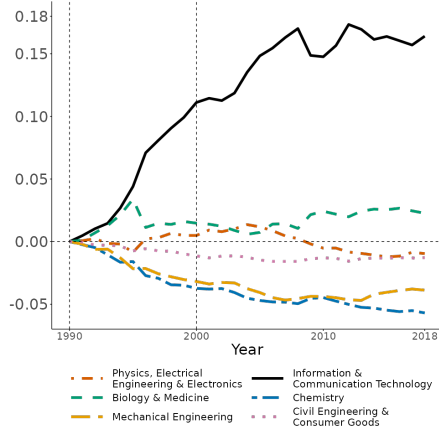
Shift to ICT accounts for 54% of the overall rising concentration from 1990

$$G_{t^*} - G_{1990} = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \Delta G_t = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{G}_{f,t} \Delta s_{f,t}}_{\text{changes in field composition}} + \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{s}_{f,t} \Delta G_{f,t}}_{\text{within-field changes}} + \underbrace{\Delta \left( G_t - \sum_f s_{f,t} G_{f,t} \right)}_{\text{residual: changes in the colocation of fields}} \right]$$

Gini of Patents per capita:  
Field Decomposition



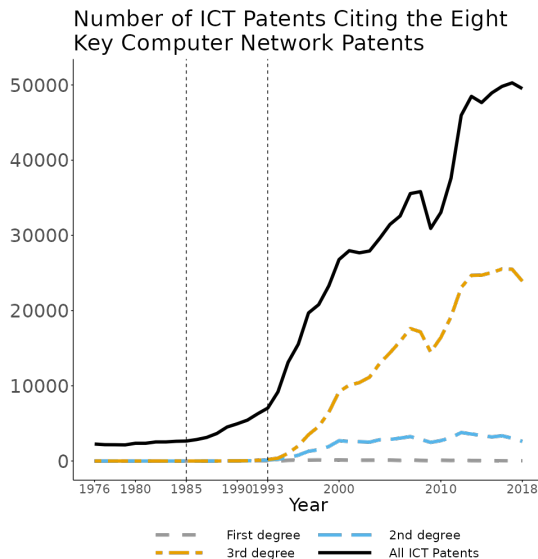
Cross-Field Component by Field





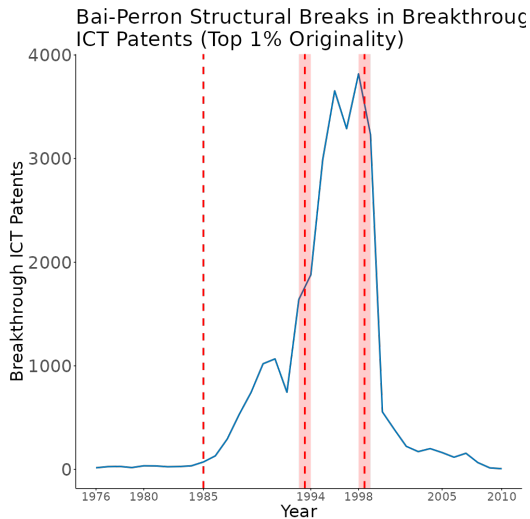
# Defining the ICT Shock

Connecting the eight key patents in computer networks with ICT patent growth



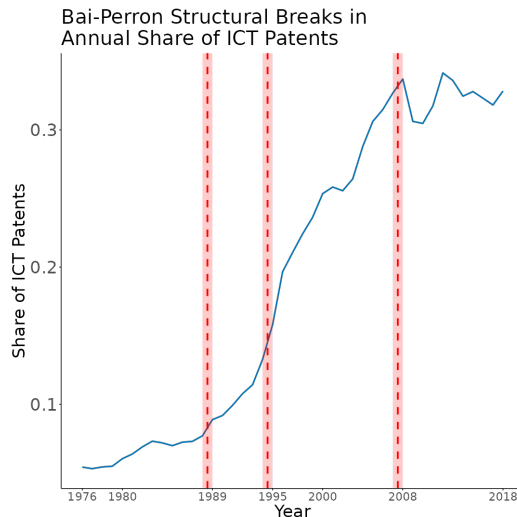
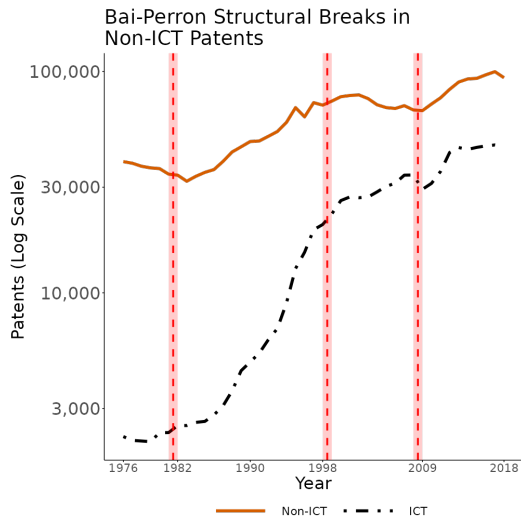
# Defining the ICT Shock

Alternative definition: ICT patents with top 1% originality scores from Kelly et al 2021



# Defining the ICT Shock

## Structural breaks in other patent trends



# Colocation of ICT Innovation and Production

CZs with higher pre-1985 ICT emp shares: greater post-shock  $\uparrow$  in ICT patents and employment

$$\text{Outcome}_{r,t} = \beta \cdot \text{Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share}_r \times \text{Level of National ICT Patents}_t + \gamma_r + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Dependent Variables: Model:	ICT Patents (1)	ICT Patents per capita (2)	ICT Employment (3)	ICT Emp Share (4)
Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> × Level of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	1.458*** (0.4258)	0.0002*** (8.32 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> )	16.69*** (5.841)	-3.25 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> (3.33 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> )
<i>Fixed-effects</i>				
CZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	24,548	24,548	24,548	24,544
R <sup>2</sup>	0.74282	0.73925	0.95520	0.80472
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.12092	0.03917	0.06345	0.00608

Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses

Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1

◀ Main Specification

# Colocation of ICT Innovation and Production

CZs with higher pre-1990 ICT emp shares: greater post-shock  $\uparrow$  in ICT patents and employment

$$\text{Outcome}_{r,t} = \beta \cdot \text{Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share}_r \times \text{Growth of National ICT Patents}_t + \gamma_r + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Dependent Variables: Model:	ICT Patents (1)	ICT Patents per capita (2)	ICT Employment (3)	ICT Employment Share (4)
Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> × Growth of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	8,334.9*** (2,735.3)	1.474*** (0.5416)	77,372.4*** (28,464.3)	-0.0247 (0.0204)
<i>Fixed-effects</i>				
CZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	20,938	20,938	20,938	20,934
R <sup>2</sup>	0.81282	0.81900	0.96195	0.83343
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.15934	0.06459	0.05407	0.01308

*Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses*

Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1

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Dependent Variables: Model:	ICT Patents (1)	ICT Patents per capita (2)	ICT Employment (3)	ICT Emp Share (4)
Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> × Level of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	1.872*** (0.6144)	0.0003*** (0.0001)	17.38*** (6.394)	$-5.54 \times 10^{-6}$ ( $4.58 \times 10^{-6}$ )
<i>Fixed-effects</i>				
CZ	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	20,938	20,938	20,938	20,934
R <sup>2</sup>	0.81282	0.81900	0.96195	0.83343
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.15934	0.06459	0.05407	0.01308

Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses

Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1

◀ Main Specification

# Colocation of ICT Innovation and Production

Within firms and firm-CZs, ICT patents are correlated with ICT employment share

Dependent Variables:	ICT Patents		Non-ICT Patents	
Model:	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Emp Share in ICT <sub>f,r,t</sub> × After 1990	<b>0.0474</b> (0.3855)	<b>0.1734*</b> (0.0910)	-0.5885* (0.3129)	0.0899 (0.1260)
Emp Share in R&D <sub>f,r,t</sub> × After 1990	<b>1.446***</b> (0.2556)	<b>0.1529**</b> (0.0600)	<b>1.696***</b> (0.2052)	<b>0.2350***</b> (0.0675)
Emp Share in ICT <sub>f,r,t</sub> × Emp Share in R&D <sub>f,r,t</sub> × After 1990	<b>6.976***</b> (0.8954)	<b>1.341**</b> (0.5218)	<b>6.284***</b> (1.478)	<b>0.2761</b> (0.7667)
Firm-Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CZ-Year		Yes		Yes
Firm-CZ		Yes		Yes
Observations	1,200,983	255,573	2,769,075	893,019

*Clustered (firm & CZ) standard-errors in parentheses*

*Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1*

◀ Region-Level Evidence

# Colocation of ICT Innovation and Production

Dependent Variables: Model:	ICT Patents		Non-ICT Patents	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Emp Share in ICT × Before 1990	-2.469*** (0.3483)	-0.3572 (0.3348)	-2.099*** (0.4789)	0.0417 (0.2579)
Emp Share in R&D × Before 1990	1.197*** (0.2404)	0.1538 (0.1623)	1.888*** (0.1659)	0.1090 (0.0987)
Emp Share in ICT × Emp Share in R&D × Before 1990	13.65*** (1.752)	-6.463*** (2.328)	11.58*** (1.969)	-1.720* (0.9918)
Emp Share in ICT × After 1990	0.0474 (0.3855)	0.1734* (0.0910)	-0.5885* (0.3129)	0.0899 (0.1260)
Emp Share in R&D × After 1990	1.446*** (0.2556)	0.1529** (0.0600)	1.696*** (0.2052)	0.2350*** (0.0675)
Emp Share in ICT × Emp Share in R&D × After 1990	6.976*** (0.8954)	1.341** (0.5218)	6.284*** (1.478)	0.2761 (0.7667)
Firm-Year	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CZ-Year		Yes		Yes
Firm-CZ		Yes		Yes
Observations	1,200,983	255,573	2,769,075	893,019

Clustered (firm & CZ) standard-errors in parentheses

Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1

◀ Region-Level Evidence



# Spillovers from ICT to Non-ICT Innovation

CZs with higher pre-1990 ICT employment shares: greater post-shock  $\uparrow$  in non-ICT patents

$$\text{Outcome}_{r,t} = \kappa \cdot \text{Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share}_r \times \text{Level of National ICT Patents}_t + \gamma_r + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Dependent Variables: Model:	Non-ICT Patents (1)	Non-ICT Patents per capita (2)
Pre-1990 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> × Level of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	0.2432*** (0.0917)	$3.13 \times 10^{-5}$ * ( $1.71 \times 10^{-5}$ )
<i>Fixed-effects</i>		
CZ	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes
Observations	20,938	20,938
R <sup>2</sup>	0.94696	0.88179
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.10189	0.02474

Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses

Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1

◀ Main Specification

# Spillovers from ICT to Non-ICT Innovation after 1990

CZs with higher pre-1985 ICT employment shares: greater post-shock  $\uparrow$  in non-ICT patents

$$\text{Outcome}_{r,t} = \kappa \cdot \text{Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share}_r \times \text{Growth of National ICT Patents}_t + \gamma_r + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Dependent Variables: Model:	Non-ICT Patents (1)	Non-ICT Patents per capita (2)
Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> × Growth of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	437.9** (178.7)	0.0405 (0.0330)
<i>Fixed-effects</i>		
CZ	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes
Observations	24,548	24,548
R <sup>2</sup>	0.92056	0.83664
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.05451	0.00722

*Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses*

*Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1*

◀ Main Specification

# Spillovers from ICT to Non-ICT Innovation

CZs with higher pre-1985 ICT employment shares: greater post-shock  $\uparrow$  in non-ICT patents

$$\text{Outcome}_{r,t} = \kappa \cdot \text{Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share}_r \times \text{Level of National ICT Patents}_t + \gamma_r + \gamma_t + \varepsilon_{r,t}$$

Dependent Variables: Model:	Non-ICT Patents (1)	Non-ICT Patents per capita (2)
Pre-1985 ICT Employment Share <sub>r</sub> × Level of National ICT Patents <sub>t</sub>	0.1683** (0.0687)	$1.56 \times 10^{-5}$ ( $1.27 \times 10^{-5}$ )
<i>Fixed-effects</i>		
CZ	Yes	Yes
Year	Yes	Yes
Observations	24,548	24,548
R <sup>2</sup>	0.92056	0.83664
Within R <sup>2</sup>	0.05451	0.00722

*Clustered (CZ) standard-errors in parentheses*

*Signif. Codes: \*\*\*: 0.01, \*\*: 0.05, \*: 0.1*

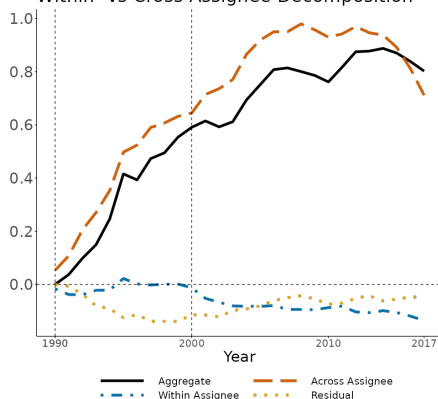
◀ Main Specification

# Firm Decomposition of Non-ICT Patent Elasticity

Rise in non-ICT patent concentration: fully accounted for by compositional changes across firms

$$\alpha_{t^*} - \alpha_{1990} = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \Delta \alpha_t = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{\alpha}_{f,t} \Delta s_{f,t}}_{\text{changes across firms}} + \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{s}_{f,t} \Delta \alpha_{f,t}}_{\text{within-firm changes}} + \underbrace{\Delta \left( \alpha_t - \sum_f s_{f,t} \alpha_{f,t} \right)}_{\text{residual: changes in the colocation of firms}} \right]$$

Elasticity of CZ Non-ICT Patents per capita:  
Within- vs Cross-Assignee Decomposition

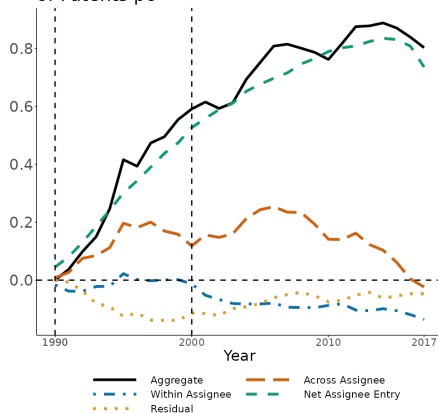


◀ Asymmetric Scale Effect

# Firm Decomposition of Patent Elasticity

$$\alpha_{t^*} - \alpha_{1990} = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \Delta \alpha_t = \sum_{t=1991}^{t=t^*} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{\alpha}_{f,t} \Delta s_{f,t}}_{\text{changes across firms}} + \underbrace{\sum_{f \in \mathcal{F}} s_{f,t} \alpha_{f,t}}_{\text{firm patent entry}} + \underbrace{\sum_f \bar{s}_{f,t} \Delta \alpha_{f,t}}_{\text{within-firm changes}} + \underbrace{\Delta \left( \alpha_t - \sum_f s_{f,t} \alpha_{f,t} \right)}_{\text{residual: changes in the colocation of firms}} \right]$$

Decomposition of Aggregate PPML Elasticity of Patents pc

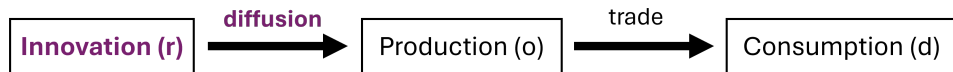


◀ Main Within vs Cross Firm Decomposition

# MODEL APPENDIX

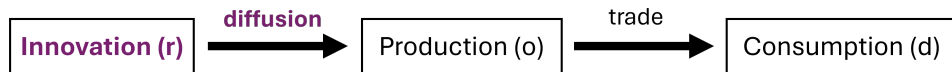
# Innovation and Technology Diffusion

- Two sectors (ICT and non-ICT);



# Innovation and Technology Diffusion

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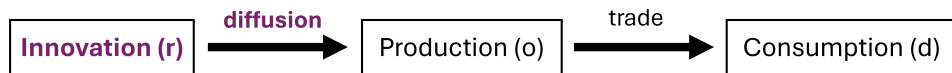
- In each region and sector, **innovation** is the arrival of ideas:

$$\lambda_{r,t^*}^k = \underbrace{A_{r,t^*}}_{\substack{\text{fundamental} \\ \text{research} \\ \text{productivity} \\ \text{in region } r \\ \text{(function of} \\ \text{college ratio)}}} \cdot \underbrace{A_{t^*}^k}_{\substack{\text{sector-specific} \\ \text{national research} \\ \text{productivity} \\ \text{(ICT Shock} \\ \text{Aspect I)}}} \cdot \underbrace{T_{r,t^*}^k}_{\substack{\text{sector-specific} \\ \text{technology level} \\ \text{in region } r}} \cdot \underbrace{(L_{r,t^*}^{k,G})^\eta}_{\substack{\text{number of} \\ \text{production} \\ \text{workers} \\ \text{(benefits of} \\ \text{colocation with} \\ \text{production)}}} \cdot \underbrace{(L_{r,t^*}^R)^\alpha}_{\substack{\text{agglomeration} \\ \text{economies} \\ \text{in innovation} \\ \text{including spillovers} \\ \text{from ICT} \\ \text{to non-ICT}}} \cdot \underbrace{L_{r,t^*}^{k,R}}_{\substack{\text{number} \\ \text{of inventors} \\ \text{(captures the} \\ \text{impact of} \\ \text{the asymmetric} \\ \text{scale effect)}}$$



# Innovation and Technology Diffusion

- Two sectors (ICT and non-ICT);



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$$\lambda_{r,t^*}^k = \underbrace{A_{r,t^*}}_{\substack{\text{fundamental} \\ \text{research} \\ \text{productivity} \\ \text{in region } r \\ \text{(function of} \\ \text{college ratio)}}} \cdot \underbrace{A_{t^*}^k}_{\substack{\text{sector-specific} \\ \text{national research} \\ \text{productivity} \\ \text{(ICT Shock} \\ \text{Aspect I)}}} \cdot \underbrace{T_{r,t^*}^k}_{\substack{\text{sector-specific} \\ \text{technology level} \\ \text{in region } r}} \cdot \underbrace{(L_{r,t^*}^{k,G})^\eta}_{\substack{\text{number of} \\ \text{production} \\ \text{workers} \\ \text{(benefits of} \\ \text{colocation with} \\ \text{production)}}} \cdot \underbrace{(L_{r,t^*}^R)^\alpha}_{\substack{\text{agglomeration} \\ \text{economies} \\ \text{in innovation} \\ \text{including spillovers} \\ \text{from ICT} \\ \text{to non-ICT}}} \cdot \underbrace{L_{r,t^*}^{k,R}}_{\substack{\text{number} \\ \text{of inventors} \\ \text{(captures the} \\ \text{impact of} \\ \text{the asymmetric} \\ \text{scale effect)}}$$

- Technology diffusion** is arrival of applications of each idea in different regions, depending on:  $\Omega_{ro,t^*}(t - t^*) \equiv 1 - e^{-\delta_{ro,t^*}(t - t^*)}$

- $\uparrow \delta_{t^*}$  captures reduced communication costs (**ICT Shock Aspect II**)

► Technical Details

► Worker Wages

# Production



# Production



- Each idea application produces a good with productivity  $z$ 
  - Idea  $i$ : good  $v \in [0, 1]$ ; random quality  $q$
  - Application  $j$  of the idea: random applicability  $a$

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$$y_{o,t}(v) = z_{o,t}(v) \cdot L_{o,t}(v)$$

# Production



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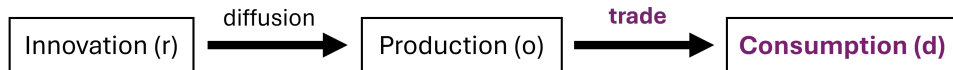
$$y_{o,t}(\nu) = z_{o,t}(\nu) \cdot L_{o,t}(\nu)$$

where  $z_{o,t}(\nu)$  is the most productive idea for good  $\nu$  available locally at time  $t$ :

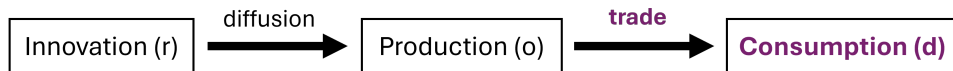
$$z_{o,t}(\nu) = \max_i \{q_i a_{i,o,t}\} = \max_i \left\{ q_i \max_{j \in \mathcal{J}_{i,o,t}} \{a_j\} \right\}$$

► Productivity Distribution

# Trade and Consumption



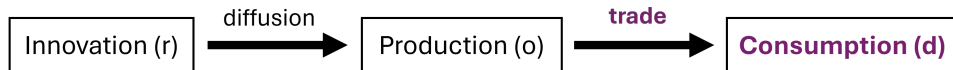
# Trade and Consumption



- In each destination  $d$ , a final goods producer produces an **aggregate good**:

$$Y_{d,t} = \exp \int_0^1 \ln Y_{d,t}(v) dv$$

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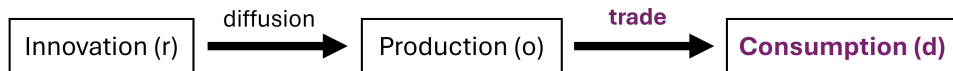
$$Y_{d,t} = \exp \int_0^1 \ln Y_{d,t}(v) dv$$

where each **individual good**  $v$  is purchased from the lowest cost location:

$$c_{d,t}(v) = \min_o \left\{ \frac{\tau_{od,t} w_{o,t}}{z_{o,t}(v)} \right\}$$



# Trade and Consumption



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- Trade shares  $\pi_{od,t}$  are the share of individual goods purchased by destination  $d$  that was produced in origin  $o$

# Equilibrium Trade and Technology Adoption Shares

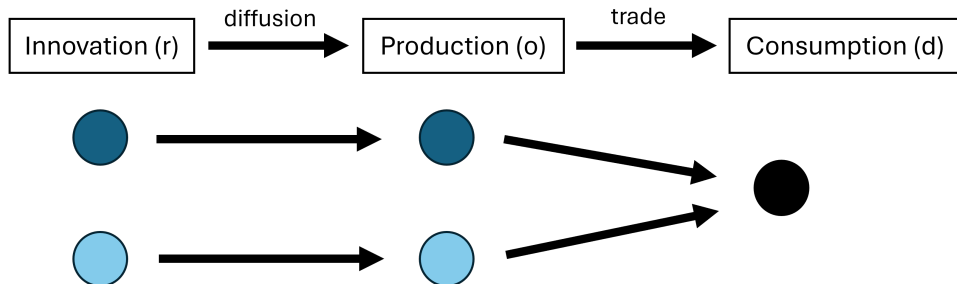
- Trade shares are given by:

$$\pi_{od,t} = \sum_{r=1}^N \pi_{rod,t} = \sum_{r=1}^N \int_{-\infty}^t \underbrace{\phi_{rd,t^*t}}_{\substack{\text{share of goods in } d \text{ at } t \\ \text{using ideas from } r \text{ at } t^* \\ \text{(idea market shares)}}} \cdot \underbrace{\varphi_{o|rd,t^*t}}_{\substack{\text{share of goods in } d \\ \text{produced in } o \text{ at } t \\ \text{given ideas from } r \text{ at } t^* \\ \text{(conditional idea} \\ \text{adoption shares)}}} dt^*$$

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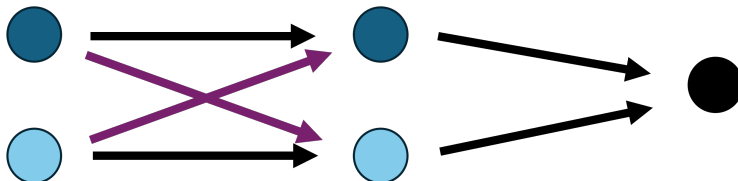
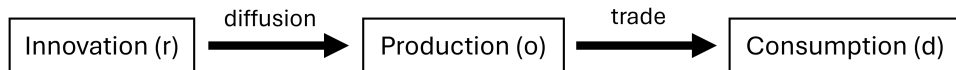
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$$= \sum_{r=1}^N \int_{-\infty}^t \frac{\Phi_{rd,t^*t}^{1-\rho} \lambda_{r,t^*}}{\sum_{r'} \int_{-\infty}^t \Phi_{r'd,t't}^{1-\rho} \lambda_{r',t'}} \cdot \frac{[1 - e^{-\delta_{ro,t^*}(t-t^*)}] (w_{o,t} \tau_{od,t})^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}}{\sum_{o'} [1 - e^{-\delta_{ro',t^*}(t-t^*)}] (w_{o',t} \tau_{o'd,t})^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}} dt^*$$

where  $\Phi_{rd,t^*t}$  is the ideas' market access:

$$\Phi_{rd,t^*t} = \sum_{o'} (1 - e^{-\delta_{ro',t^*}(t-t^*)}) (w_{o',t} \tau_{o'd,t})^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}$$

# The Asymmetric Scale Effect

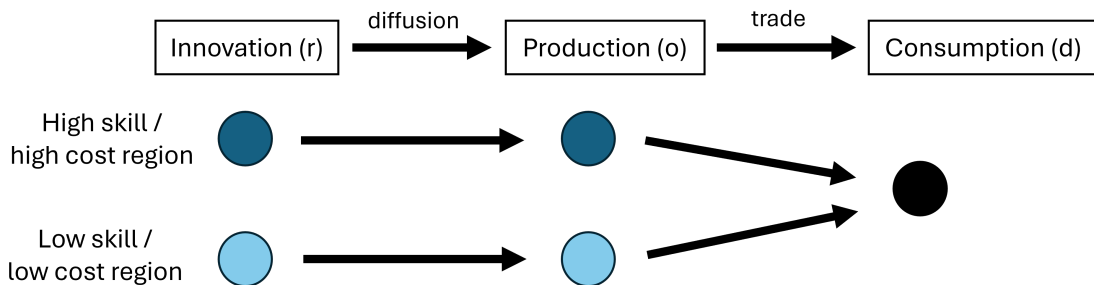
- Idea market access:

$$\Phi_{rd,t^*t} \equiv \sum_o \varphi_{o|rd,t^*t} = \sum_o \left(1 - e^{-\delta_{ro,t^*}(t-t^*)}\right) (w_{o,t} \tau_{od,t})^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}$$

# The **Asymmetric Scale Effect**

- Idea market access:

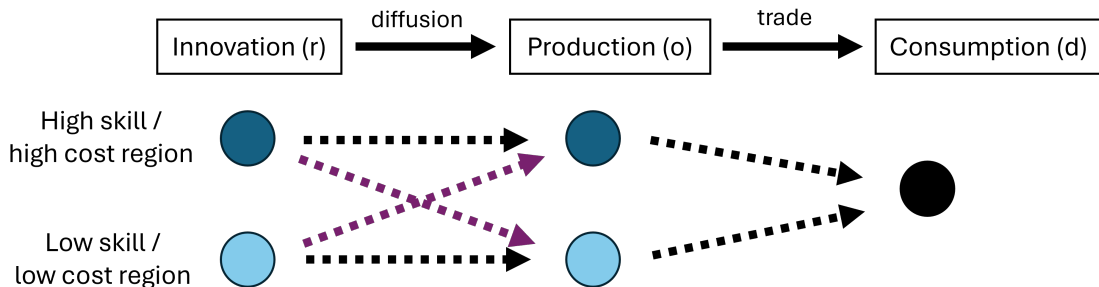
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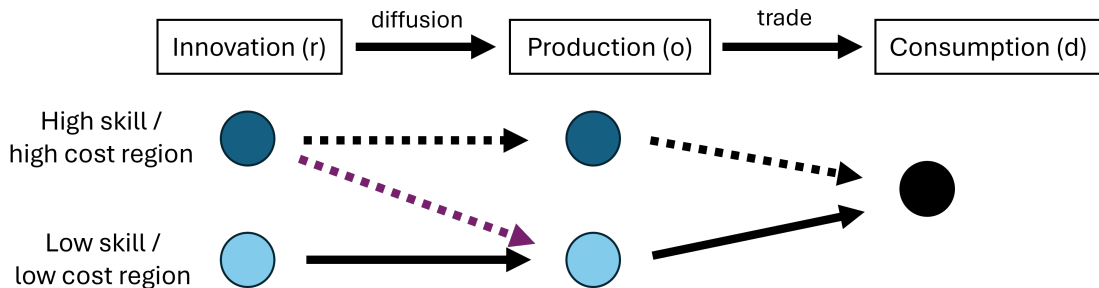




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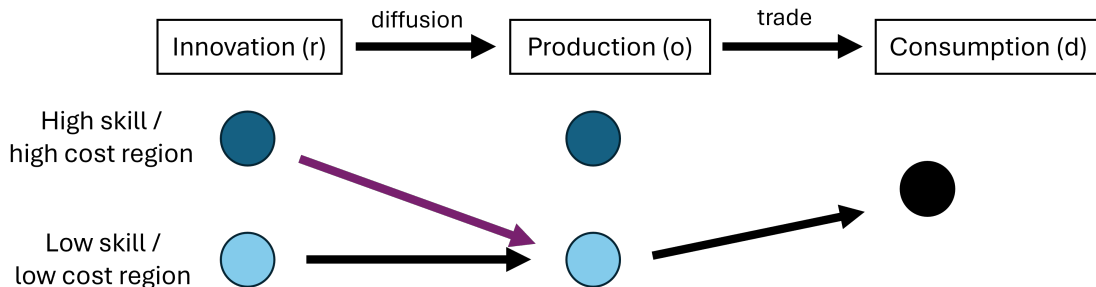
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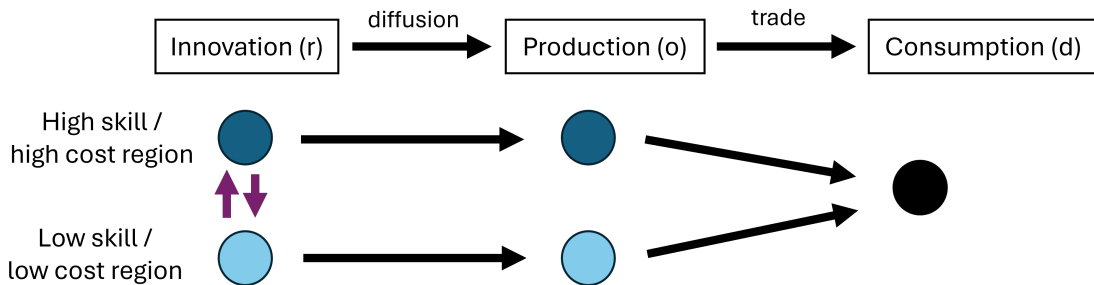


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- Cannot be obtained when diffusion:
  - Occurs at an aggregate level (Desmet et al 2018), or;
  - Is microfounded but independent from innovation (Buera and Oberfield 2020)

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► Colocation between Innovation and Production

# Innovation and Production Worker Wages

- In each region and sector, firms pay **innovation workers** their expected return from research and own their ideas: [► Details](#)

$$w_{r,t^*}^{k,R} = \frac{\lambda_{r,t^*}^k}{L_{r,t^*}^{k,R}} \check{V}_{r,t^*}^k$$

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[◄ Innovation Levels](#)

- Firms engage in Bertrand competition  $\implies$  profits from production [► Details](#)
- **Production worker wages** come from the market clearing condition [► Details](#)

# Innovation and Technology Diffusion

- In each region  $r$ , the number of ideas with quality greater than  $q$  discovered by time  $t$  is:

$$\lambda_{r,t}^Q(q) = q^{-\theta} \int_0^t \lambda_{r,t^*} dt^*, \quad (1)$$

where  $\lambda_{r,t^*}$  is the arrival rate of ideas with  $q > 1$  at time  $t^*$

- $\lambda_{r,t^*}$  depends on the **one-time increase in ICT research productivity nationwide**, the benefits of colocation, innovation spillovers, and number of innovation workers
- Once an idea is discovered in region  $r$  at time  $t^*$ , the number of applications of the idea in region  $o$  and time  $t$  above  $a$  is:

$$\lambda_{ro,t^*}^A(a) = a^{-\sigma} \cdot \Omega_{ro,t^*}(t - t^*) \cdot \Gamma \quad (2)$$

- Assumption 1:  $\Omega_{ro,t^*}(t - t^*) = 1 - e^{-\delta_{ro,t^*}(t-t^*)}$
- $\delta_{t^*}$  captures **reduced communication costs**



# Goods Productivity Distribution

- The **joint productivity distribution** across regions is multivariate Frechet:

$$\mathbb{P}[Z_{1,t} \leq z_1, \dots, Z_{N,t} \leq z_N] = \exp \left[ - \sum_{l=1}^N \int_{-\infty}^t \left[ \sum_{o=1}^N (1 - e^{-\delta_{lo}(t-t^*)}) z_o^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}} \right]^{1-\rho} \lambda_{l,t^*} dt^* \right]$$

with correlation parameter  $\rho = 1 - \frac{\theta}{\sigma}$ .

- The **marginal productivity distribution** in each region is Frechet:

$$\mathbb{P}[Z_{o,t} \leq z_o] = \exp \left[ -T_{o,t} z_o^{-\theta} \right]$$

with shape parameter  $\theta > 0$  and scale parameter:

$$T_{o,t} = \sum_{l=1}^N T_{lo,t} = \sum_{l=1}^N \int_{-\infty}^t \underbrace{(1 - e^{-\delta_{lo}(t-t^*)})^{1-\rho}}_{\text{exponential diffusion}} \cdot \underbrace{\lambda_{l,t^*}}_{\text{innovation}} dt^*$$

# Trade and Technology Adoption

- The **idea market shares** are:

$$\phi_{rd,t^*t} = \frac{\Phi_{rd,t^*t}^{1-\rho} \lambda_{r,t^*}}{\sum_{r'} \int_{-\infty}^t \Phi_{r'd,t't}^{1-\rho} \lambda_{r',t'} dt'}, \quad \rho < 1 \quad (3)$$

where I define **idea market access** as:

$$\Phi_{rd,t^*t} \equiv \sum_o \left(1 - e^{-\delta_{ro,t^*}(t-t^*)}\right) (w_{o,t} \tau_{od,t})^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}} = \sum_o \varphi_{o|rd,t^*t} \quad (4)$$

- Corollary 2 (Asymmetric Scale Effect):**

When diffusion speeds are symmetric and trade costs identical across region-pairs,

$$\frac{\partial \Phi_{rd,t^*t}}{\partial \delta_{rr',t^*}} - \frac{\partial \Phi_{r'd,t^*t}}{\partial \delta_{rr',t^*}} = \delta_{rr',t^*} e^{-\delta_{rr',t^*}(t-t^*)} \left[ (w_{r',t} \tau_{r'd,t})^{-\theta} - (w_{r,t} \tau_{rd,t})^{-\theta} \right] > 0 \quad \text{if} \quad w_{r,t} > w_{r',t}.$$

# Colocation between Innovation and Production

- Conditional idea adoption shares:

$$\varphi_{o|rd,t^*t} = \frac{\left[1 - e^{-\delta_{ro,t^*}(t-t^*)}\right] (w_{o,t} \tau_{od,t})^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}}{\sum_{o'} \left[1 - e^{-\delta_{ro',t^*}(t-t^*)}\right] (w_{o',t} \tau_{o'd,t})^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}}$$

- Unconditional idea adoption shares:  $\varphi_{ro,t^*t} = \sum_d \varphi_{o|rd,t^*t}$
- Corollary 1:** The degree of **colocation between innovation and production** is:

$$\frac{\varphi_{rr,t^*t}}{\varphi_{ro,t^*t}} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{1 - e^{-\delta_{ro,t^*}(t-t^*)}}}_{\text{technology diffusion}} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\frac{w_{r,t}}{w_{o,t}}\right)^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}}_{\text{cost competitiveness}} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\frac{\sum_d \tau_{rd,t}}{\sum_d \tau_{od,t}}\right)^{-\frac{\theta}{1-\rho}}}_{\text{accessibility of destination markets}}$$

# Bertrand Competition and Profits from Sales

- In each region and sector, there is a unit continuum of firms. Firms hire inventors to produce research and own their ideas, so each firm is a collection of ideas.
- Firms engage in Bertrand competition: the lowest cost producer for each good charges the second lowest cost and claims its entire market
  - Lemma 4: The markup for each good is drawn from a time- and region-invariant Pareto distribution  $G^{(2)/(1)}(m)$
- On aggregate, profits earned in each destination is a constant share of local income

$$\Pi_{d,t} = X_{d,t} \int_0^1 1 - \frac{1}{m(\nu)} d\nu = X_{d,t} \int_1^\infty 1 - \frac{1}{m(\nu)} dG^{(2)/(1)}(m) = \frac{X_{d,t}}{1 + \theta} \quad (5)$$

# Allocation of Profits from Sales and Innovation Worker Wages

- Assumption 2(i): all profits from sales are allocated to innovation

⇒ The expected value of an idea:

$$\check{V}_{r,t^*} = \int_{t^*}^{\infty} e^{-\zeta(t-t^*)} \sum_{d=1}^N \underbrace{\frac{\phi_{rd,t^*} t}{\lambda_{r,t^*}}}_{\text{share of profits earned in region } d \text{ at time } t \text{ by an idea discovered in region } r \text{ at time } t^*} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{X_{d,t}}{1+\theta}}_{\text{profits earned in region } d \text{ at time } t \text{ by all ideas}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{P_{rt^*}}{P_{rt}}}_{\text{accounting for changes in purchasing power over time}} dt \quad (6)$$

- Assumption 2(ii): firms reinvest their profits in risk-free assets, pay innovation workers their expected return from research

⇒ wages from research:

$$w_{r,t^*}^{k,R} = \frac{\lambda_{r,t^*}^k}{L_{r,t^*}^{k,R}} \check{V}_{r,t^*}^k \quad (7)$$

# Consumption and Market Clearing

Pins down production worker wages

- Workers have Cobb-Douglas preferences over local final goods,  $\iota$  is the expenditure share on the final good in the ICT sector
- Market clearing at each time  $t$ :

$$\frac{1+\theta}{\theta} w_{o,t}^k L_{o,t}^k = \sum_d \pi_{od,t}^k \iota^k \left[ \sum_s \left( w_{d,t}^s L_{d,t}^s + \sum_r \varphi_{dr,t}^s \frac{1}{\theta} w_{r,t}^s L_{r,t}^s \right) \right] \quad (8)$$

- Sectoral price index:

$$P_{d,t}^k = \gamma \left[ \sum_{r'=1}^N \int_{-\infty}^t \Phi_{r'd,t^*}^k {}^{1-\rho} \lambda_{r',t^*}^k dt^* \right]^{-\frac{1}{\theta}} \quad (9)$$

# Dynamic Worker Mobility

- Assumption 3: A Poisson process with rate 1 governs when **all** workers can move
- Individual worker mobility problem at time  $t$ :

$$v_{d,t}^{k,h} = \max_{o,s,n} \mathbb{E}_t \left( \int_t^{t'} \frac{w_{d,\check{t}}^{k,h}}{P_{d,\check{t}}} d\check{t} \right) + \frac{1}{1+\zeta} \mathbb{E}_t \left( \mathbb{E}_\epsilon \left[ v_{o,t'}^{s,n} \right] \right) - \kappa_{do,t}^{ks,hn} + \epsilon_{o,t}^{s,n} \quad (10)$$

where  $\epsilon_{o,t}^{s,n}$  is an individual-specific idiosyncratic shock:

$$\check{F} \left( \left\{ \epsilon_{o,t}^{s,n} \right\}_{o=1,\dots,N}^{s=\{\text{ICT}, \text{non-ICT}\}, n=\{\text{G}, \text{R}\}} \right) = \exp \left\{ - \left[ \sum_o \sum_s \left( \sum_n \exp \left( -\epsilon_{o,t}^{s,n} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{\nu}} \right)^{\nu} \right] \right\}$$

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- Expected worker value:

$$v_{d,t}^{k,h} \equiv \mathbb{E}_\epsilon \left[ v_{d,t}^{k,h} \right] = \int_t^{t'} \frac{w_{d,\check{t}}^{k,h}}{P_{d,\check{t}}} d\check{t} + \frac{1}{\gamma} \log \left[ \sum_o \sum_s \left( \sum_n \exp \left( \frac{1}{1+\zeta} v_{o,t'}^{s,n} - \kappa_{do,t}^{ks,hn} \right)^{\frac{\gamma}{v}} \right)^v \right] \quad (11)$$



# Dynamic Worker Mobility

- Aggregate mobility shares:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mu_{do,t}^{ks,hn} &\equiv \mu_{do,t}^{ks,hn} | \mu_{do,t}^{ks} \cdot \mu_{do,t}^{ks} \\
 &= \underbrace{\frac{\exp\left(\frac{1}{1+\zeta} V_{o,t'}^{s,n} - \kappa_{do,t}^{ks,hn}\right)^{\frac{\gamma}{v}}}{\sum_{n'} \exp\left(\frac{1}{1+\zeta} V_{o,t'}^{s,n'} - \kappa_{do,t}^{ks,hn'}\right)^{\frac{\gamma}{v}}}}_{\text{switching between production and research}} \cdot \underbrace{\frac{\left[\sum_{n'} \exp\left(\frac{1}{1+\zeta} V_{o,t'}^{s,n'} - \kappa_{do,t}^{ks,hn'}\right)^{\frac{\gamma}{v}}\right]^u}{\sum_{o'} \sum_{s'} \left[\sum_{n'} \exp\left(\frac{1}{1+\zeta} V_{o',t'}^{s',n'} - \kappa_{do',t}^{ks',hn'}\right)^{\frac{\gamma}{v}}\right]^u}}_{\text{mobility across regions and sectors}} \quad (12)
 \end{aligned}$$

- Evolution of worker population

$$L_{o,t'}^{s,n} = \sum_h \sum_k \sum_d \mu_{do,t'}^{ks,hn} L_{d,t}^{k,h} \quad (13)$$

# **AGGREGATE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ICT SHOCK**

# Transition Path

Fundamentals → Evolution of the **geography of innovation** (Proposition 3)

- Assumption 4: The economy is on a balanced growth path from time  $-\infty$  to 0
- **Initial conditions:** technology levels  $T_0$ ; distribution of workers  $L_0$
- **Time-varying fundamentals:** research productivities  $A$ ; diffusion speeds  $\delta$ ; trade costs  $\tau$ ; migration costs  $\kappa$
- **Parameters:** elasticities, sector share and discount rate  $\{\theta, \sigma, \nu, \Upsilon, \alpha, \eta, \iota, \zeta\}$
- **Endogenous variables:**
  - Innovation levels and technology levels
  - Trade and technology adoption shares
  - Profits from sales, expected value of individual ideas, and innovation worker wages
  - Price indices, market clearing condition, and production worker wages
  - Worker mobility shares and distribution of workers

# Welfare Impacts of a Shock to Fundamentals

- Welfare as the compensating variation in consumption (Caliendo et al 2019):

$$V_{d,0}^{k,h'} = V_{d,0}^{k,h} + \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_0^\infty} \left( \frac{1}{1+\zeta} \right)^t \log \chi_d^{k,h}$$

- Proposition 4:** The **welfare** impact of a shock to fundamentals is:

$$\log(\chi_d^{k,h}) = \sum_{t \in \mathcal{T}_0^\infty} \left( \frac{1}{1+\zeta} \right)^t \log \left( \underbrace{\frac{\widehat{w}_{d,t}^{k,h}}{\widehat{p}_{d,t}}}_{\substack{\text{change in} \\ \text{future detrended} \\ \text{real wages}}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{\left( \widehat{\mu}_{dd,t}^{kk} \right)^{1/\gamma} \left( \widehat{\mu}_{dd,t}^{kk,hh} \widehat{\mu}_{dd,t}^{kk} \right)^{v/\gamma}}}_{\text{change in option value of migration}} \right) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{\theta} \sum_k \iota^k (g^{k'} - g^k)}_{\text{growth effects}}$$