

1 Introduction

The definition of the relevant market is a basic prerequisite for any political decisions about possible market interventions. It is a competition policy concept with the aim to identify the competitive environment within an industry (Argentesi and Ivaldi 2005). In case of a wrong understanding of the relevant market, regulatory interference might worsen the market situation, if for instance an antitrust authority imposes a socially inefficient regulation on an incumbent that in fact faces sufficient competition or blocks a welfare-enhancing merger. The objective of market definition is to search for the smallest set of products competing between them in order to guide the antitrust investigation. It therefore analyzes substitutional relationships between products or product groups to identify competitive constraints faced by a firm or a group of firms. If consumers can easily switch between two products, a firm will be constrained regarding the ability to raise prices (Filistrucchi, Geradin, E. v. Damme, et al. 2013).

The reasoning of demand substitution is implemented in the conceptual tool of the so-called SSNIP (Small but Significant Non-transitory Increase in Price) test. According to this test, the narrowest market is defined as a set of products for which a hypothetical monopolist could sustainably raise prices above the current level by a given amount (usually 5%-10%) without losing demand. Following the European Commission "[...] differences in product characteristics are not in themselves sufficient to exclude demand substitutability [...]" (European Commission 1997), which makes it necessary to define a market applying analytical tools like the SSNIP test. However, as we will explain below, in the context of two-sided markets¹ this test needs further adaptations.

Two-sided markets are characterized by intermediaries or platforms that sell two different products to two different groups of agents. These two groups are interconnected as they mutually influence each other's demand. The platforms recognize the interconnection and choose the price structure according to the relative size of the indirect network effects. In a more restrictive definition of two-sided markets, Rochet and Tirole 2003 determine those markets as two-sided, if the price structure is non-neutral, i.e., the volume of transactions and the participation levels vary as the price structure varies, holding the price level constant. This definition stresses the importance of the distinction between the price level, which is the sum of the prices charged by a platform on both sides, and price structure, which is the allocation of the price level among the two sides. Traditional antitrust instruments like the SSNIP test are designed for single-sided markets, using the price level to analyze a market. Drawing

¹Two-sided markets are a special case of multi-sided markets, or platform markets. For simplicity, we will refer to two-sided markets, even though most of our argumentation is true for multi-sided markets.

from the economic literature on market definition with interdependencies in demand, it can be shown that these instruments cannot be easily applied in case of two-sided platform competition (Noel and Evans 2005 Filistrucchi, Geradin, E. v. Damme, et al. 2013).

Although two-sided markets are not invented by the digital revolution, digital markets very often demonstrate a market structure with two or more consumer-groups that are related via indirect network effects and are connected by platforms. A very prominent example can be found within the search engine market, where Google connects at least two market-sides: the demand for search query and the demand for placing advertisement. It can easily be seen, that advertisers value a big group on the other market side, as their scope and therefore the effectiveness of advertisement grows. The value of the search query on the other market side might be influenced negatively or positively by the amount of advertisement. This indirect network effect pretty much depends on the quality of the advertisement and on the consumers demand on personalized advertisement.

Two-sided markets can also be found within more traditional markets like credit cards, newspaper or shopping mall. These markets play an important role when analyzing the nature of two-sided markets as they offer an explicit market structure and available data. Requirements that cannot easily be found within digital markets due to rapidly changing market dynamics. Nevertheless, the rapid growth of digital markets calls for an analytical tool that can be applied to define the relevant market.

Based on economic reasoning we will explain why the application of a SSNIP test - being the most important analytical tool for regulatory and antitrust cases in the EU - on a two-sided market leads to a mistakenly market definition. Furthermore we present an approach to analyze market structure by looking at the cross correlations of quantities of potential competitors. As a benchmark for the cross correlation coefficients we will simulate a Cournot duopol model.

The paper proceeds as follows: chapter 2 presents a review of the relevant literature on market definition and two-sided markets; chapter 3 analyses the consequences of applying a SSNIP test for market definition on two-sided markets; chapter 4 presents a Cournot duopol model of platform competition and the results of a Monte Carlo simulation for this model; chapter 5 explains how we use empirical data to test our approach of market definition using cross-correlation functions of quantities in media markets.

2 Literature Review

This paper is related to a relatively recent line of economic literature, investigating the implications of two-sided markets on competition policy and offering different approaches to deal with the feedback effects between demand on multiple market sides. While the first policy contributions mainly criticized the application of standard policy to those markets (Wright 2004; Leonello 2010; Chandra and Collard-Wexler 2009), more recent work has also intended to suggest alternative approaches (Argentesi and Filistrucchi 2007; Song 2015). We try to contribute to the latter by offering a new approach to define a two-sided market.

The literature of two-sided markets was pioneered by the theoretical work of Caillaud and Jullien 2003, Rochet and Tirole 2003, Evans 2003 and Armstrong 2006, whereby the definition given by Evans 2003 can be seen as a particular case of the more general definition proposed by Rochet and Tirole 2003 (Filistrucchi, Geradin, V. Damme, et al. 2012). Rochet and Tirole 2003 as well as Armstrong 2006 both provide a theoretical concept to analyze how platforms chose prices in a market with two consumer sides (networks) showing indirect network effects. However, there are a number of modeling differences between the two articles with regard to (a) the platform's cost structure, (b) the fee the consumers on both market sides have to pay and (c) the source of consumer heterogeneity. For most of their analysis Rochet and Tirole 2003 assume that the platform incurs in a per-transaction cost and charges a usage fee, whereas Armstrong 2006 considers membership fees and per-agent cost.¹ With respect to the source of consumer heterogeneity (c) in Rochet and Tirole 2003 consumers are heterogeneous in the benefit they get from the interaction with the respective other market side or, in other words, the indirect network effect varies between the consumers. In Armstrong 2006 the indirect network effect only differs between the market side and is homogenous among agents on the same side. Heterogeneity is given by differences in consumers' membership values.² For the monopoly case the equilibrium prices of a profit-maximizing platform on one market side is given by the cost of providing the service, adjusted downwards by the magnitude of the indirect network effect and adjusted upwards by the elasticity of demand on that side (Armstrong 2006). In the model of Rochet and Tirole 2003 the price level charged by a profit-maximizing platform will be given the classical Lerner formula, where elasticity is the sum of the two elasticities in each side.

In a more recent paper Rochet and Tirole 2006 provide an analysis of the monopoly case, where agents' are heterogeneous both regarding the indirect network effect and the membership value. However, Weyl 2010 generalizes the model in Rochet and Tirole

¹Rochet and Tirole 2003 as well as Armstrong 2006 both consider the case where there are fixed fees as well as per-transaction fees for model where consumers can only single-home.

²A more detailed discussion of these assumptions with regard to our approach is provided in 4

2006 as he allows agents to be heterogenous in the type of the indirect network effects: The membership externality, occurring when an additional membership has a positive effect on the other market side, and usage externality, when the benefit is originated by an additional transaction. To avoid the equilibrium multiplicity and to overcome the coordination problem that maybe faced by a platform in having both sides "on board",³ Weyl 2010 assumes, that the platform directly choses the participation level on both sides, rather than the price structure.⁴

To identify a market as being two-sided, the interconnection of the two market sides has to be detected. Most of the literature related to the quantification of the indirect network effects have based their analysis on electronic payments system industries (Akerberg and Gowrisankaran 2006; Rysman 2007) or magazine and newspaper industries (Kaiser and Wright 2006, Argentesi and Filistrucchi 2007). Rysman 2004 estimates a structural model of two-sided markets to measure indirect network effects in the market for Yellow Pages. In his setting the platform maximizes profits in choosing the price only on the advertiser side, as reader get the service for free. In Argentesi and Filistrucchi 2007, instead publishers' profits are the sum of advertising profits and profits from circulation. They use data on the Italian newspaper industry to offer an alternative approach to test for collusion using a structural econometric model characterized by only one indirect network effect from reader to advertiser. Argentesi and Ivaldi 2005 provide a generalized framework of Argentesi and Filistrucchi 2007 with indirect network effects on both market sides (See also Filistrucchi, Klein, and Michielsen 2010). Whereas no effect of advertising on the number of readers was found in the daily newspaper market in the US (Fan 2013) and in the Belgian daily newspaper market (Cayseele, G, and Vanormelingen 2009), Kaiser and Wright 2006 find that advertising increases readers demand for magazines in Germany. They use an adopted version of the model proposed in Armstrong 2006. However, Wilbur 2008 found a negative effect of advertising on viewers in the television market. His main conclusions are that viewers tend to be adverse to advertising, that advertiser preferences influence network choices more strongly than viewer preferences, and that advertisement avoidance tends to increase equilibrium advertising quantities and decrease network revenues.

As mentioned above, earlier policy contributions criticize the application of standard competition policy on markets that exhibit at least one indirect network effect. Evans 2003, Evans and Schmalensee 2007 Wright 2004 and Kaiser and Wright 2006 are prominent examples of papers that have focused on competition policy on two-sided markets. They have pointed out that in the presence of indirect network externalities the efficient price structure does not reflect the ratio of marginal cost, nor does increased competition necessarily leads to a more efficient market outcome or merger leads to increased prices.⁵ They show that relying on conventional methods to ana-

³This coordination problem is also known as chicken & egg problem (Caillaud and Jullien 2003)

⁴He refers to this as insulated tariffs (See also White and Weyl 2012)

⁵Malam 2011 uses an oligopoly model of competition with differentiated products (based on the approach of Salop 1979) where ad-sponsored media platforms charge a zero price to viewers when competing simultaneously for advertisers. He shows, that mergers among ad-sponsored platforms have a competition-intensifying effect, which offsets the incentive to increase prices on the advertiser side.

lyze mergers in two-sided markets will lead to significantly different results than using methods that explicitly incorporate the two-sided nature of this markets. Evans 2003 argues, that defining a relevant market for antitrust purposes looking at only one side can lead to a market definition which is too narrow. In a more recent study Evans and Noel 2008 analyze the Google and DoubleClick case, confirming, that the Lerner pricing formula does not hold for two-sided markets. While predatory pricing is a practice that harms competition in case of traditional industries⁶, selling a product below marginal cost⁷ can be a profit maximizing strategy rather than an attempt to predate in a two-sided market (Wright 2004). Wright 2004 also argues, that increased competition does not necessarily lead to more efficient prices from the social point of view. A analysis of the Canadian newspaper industry shows, that mergers in two-sided markets may not necessarily lead to higher prices for either side of the market. Even a merger to monopoly might raise welfare and do so even in the absence of efficiency gains (Leonello 2010). These papers emphasizes the need for alternative approaches to adopt competition policy that adequately hits the requirements of two-sided markets.

Filistrucchi 2008 discusses the application of a modified SSNIP test in order to determine the relevant two-sided market. He suggests a distinction of the two-sided markets regarding the observability of transaction costs.⁸ In the "payment card type" market the platform can observe the transaction cost between the two market sides, whereas in the "media type" market the transaction cost does not exist (or is not observable to the platform, e.g. reader reads an ad). In Filistrucchi, Geradin, E. v. Damme, et al. 2013 the authors point out, that in two-sided non transaction markets, two (interrelated) markets need to be defined, while in transaction markets, only one market side should be defined.⁹ Emch and Thompson 2006 and Alexandrov, Deltas, and Spulber 2011 show how a SSNIP test should be performed in a two-sided non transaction market. White and Weyl 2012 present a UPP formulae for two-sided markets assuming that firms charge insulating tariffs, meaning that platforms choose quantities and then support those quantities by the corresponding insulating tariffs and Noel and Evans 2005 suggests an extension of the Critical Loss Analysis as an alternative method to define two-sided markets.¹⁰ Beside market definition, merger simulations are of major interest with regard to policy implications of two-sided markets. Evans and Noel 2008 argue that standard merger tools are biased in two-sided markets and offer an extension applicable for two-sided markets. They illustrate their techniques with an application to an acquisition involving the multisided online advertising industry. Fan 2013; Filistrucchi, Klein, and Michielsen 2010; Filistrucchi, Klein, and Michielsen 2012 and Jeziorski 2010 propose different structural econometric models to perform merger simulation in different two-sided markets such as newspapers and radio. Filistrucchi, Klein, and Michielsen 2010 use a structural econometric framework to simulate the

⁶Industries with only one market side.

⁷Or even for free, as is the case for the search-engine market as well as many digital markets.

⁸Whereas Filistrucchi 2008 uses the terms "media type" and "payment card type", Filistrucchi, Geradin, E. v. Damme, et al. 2013 use the terms "non-transaction" and "transaction" marktes.

⁹We will discuss this suggestion as well as the application of a modified SSNIP test in the upcoming chapter 3.

¹⁰See Evans 2012 and Filistrucchi, Geradin, V. Damme, et al. 2012 for a discussion of market definition in two-sided markets.

effects of mergers among two-sided platforms selling differentiated products and competing á la Bertrand. They extend the supply model of Argentesi and Filistrucchi 2007 to the case of a two-sided market with two indirect network effects. Using a similar approach Filistrucchi, Klein, and Michielsen 2012 compare different methods to assess unilateral merger effects in a two-sided market by applying them to a hypothetical merger in dutch newspaper industry, where consumers on both sides pay a price to access the platform. This paper contributes to the body of research that provides practical suggestions to practitioners. We use data on quantity to analyze substitutional effects on two-sided markets. The advantage of using quantity data is clear: As price levels and price structure in two sided markets are closely linked to the scope of indirect network effects, they can hardly be analyzed in the conventional way of antitrust economics.

3 SSNIP and Two-Sided Markets

The actual handling of antitrust issues regarding two-sided markets often lack the identification of indirect network effects. Even if indirect network effects are detected, the definition of the relevant market still remains a challenging task. This is mainly attributable to the fact that available analytical tools of market definition are not applicable for markets with interconnected demands as they consider price levels instead of price structure. The analysis of substitutional relationships is a well-established practice to define the relevant market. The European Commission uses the hypothetical monopolist test (the SSNIP test) which identifies the smallest relevant market through demand-substitutability of a certain product. If a small but significant, non-transitory price increase (5% - 10%) is profitable for the hypothetical monopolist then there is a relevant market (Motta 2004).

Using this analytical tools to define markets for a product offered on one side of a two-sided market can result in significantly overstating or understating the breadth of the market (Evans and Noel 2008). Due to the fact that platforms need to balance the preferences of two (or more) different groups of consumers, they often behave in a way that would not be efficient for traditional firms (e.g. they set prices $<$ marginal cost) Chandra and Collard-Wexler 2009.

evans' market'2012 uses the following example to illustrate the problem of the SSNIP test in platform markets. Suppose a small but significant, non-transitory price increase is profitable on one side under the assumption that nothing changes on the other market side of the platform included in the hypothetical monopoly. Therefore one could conclude that the products considered constitute a relevant antitrust market. However, a price increase on one side results in a reduction of demand by customers for that side and, through positive feedback effects, a reduction in the demand for the other side; the decline in demand on the other side further reduces the demand on the first side. Consequently, one might conclude after considering the positive feedback effects that the price increase is unprofitable. In that case the market is defined too narrowly .

The existence of positive feedback effects between demands of the two market sides calls for an optimal strategic behavior that varies widely from profit maximization on conventional one-sided markets. The SSNIP test might be applied in a modified way as shown by Filistrucchi, Geradin, E. v. Damme, et al. 2013 as well as Evans and Noel 2007, who include the profit change in consideration of demand elasticity and indirect network effects. Although these models are correct in theory, they show various problems when implemented in practice.

First of all, it must be clear if the market under consideration is a symmetric or an asymmetric market. The distinction between two-sided markets of the “media type” (or two-sided non-transaction markets) and two-sided markets of the “payment card

type” (or two-sided transaction markets) was first proposed in Filistrucchi 2008.¹ For transaction markets, the increase of the sum of prices on both market-sides can be analyzed. Within non-transaction markets on the other hand, the price increase must be evaluated individually. However, as transaction markets might exhibit asymmetric relationships in exceptional cases, this distinction cannot easily be applied.

One well-known problem of most of those analytical tools is the procurement of necessary information. Due to the complexity of the two-sided market, this task is particularly difficult, as the scope of the indirect network effects has to be known for this analysis. A SSNIP test requires both qualitative data on substitutional behavior of consumers and quantitative market data. The data collection always is challenging, costly and time expensive and this is all the more true in case of two-sided markets as data has to be collected for two market sides. Even though the data required is available, two-sided markets poses special analytical challenges not allowing reliable conclusions about the market size.

One reason is the possible non-observability of a monetary price on one market side. This is the case, if one market side benefits from a strong positive indirect network effect affecting the other market side, while the consumer group that receives the strong positive indirect network effect has to pay for the value gain. One market side therefore subsidizes the other depending on the relation of network effects. Another reason why one market side does not pay a monetary price may be, that they pay with their attention or with their data instead. The absence of monetary prices is not a rare phenomenon in digital markets. In the prominent example of the search engine market, the search market is subsidized by the advertiser market, because the extra value the advertiser side gets from an additional searcher is much higher, than the indirect network effect from the advertiser to the searcher². Without monetary prices it will be impossible to analyze a hypothetical percentage price increase. To assign a value to the hedonic price (Filistrucchi, Geradin, E. v. Damme, et al. 2013, a quality benchmark is needed which itself is a difficult task. Furthermore the consideration of prices does not capture the dynamic nature of a two-sided market, where firms rather use innovation and quality as strategic parameters (Evans and Schmalensee 2002; Gual 2003).

The presence of relatively high fix cost and low marginal cost is another reason why the evaluation of prices does not represent an adequate measure, especially for online markets. In case of declining average cost due to fixed cost degression, the conventional SSNIP-test would define the relevant market too narrowly Gual 2003. The same is true for endogenous sunk cost. In both cases the relevant strategic parameters are others than the prices.

Beside the problems that arise when the SSNIP test is applied for two-sided markets, there are several general difficulties with this tool. The so called Cellophane-Fallacy presents one well-known problem of the SSNIP-test (Schaerr 1985). If the observed market price already exceeds the competitive price level, substitutional relationships between products are overestimated and market definition will be too broad. This

¹Whereas Filistrucchi 2008 uses the terms “media type” and “payment card type”, Filistrucchi, Geradin, E. v. Damme, et al. 2013 use the terms “non-transaction” and “transaction”.

²Which also can be assumed to be negative.

problem is even more true for two-sided markets where a price on one market side seems to be “too low” (price is lower than monopoly price without feedback effects) while it is “too high” on the other market side (price is higher than monopoly price) (**dewenter'einfuehrung'2014**).

A modified SSNIP test has to take into account all of these particular challenges when defining a two-sided market. Additional to this demanding task, the dynamic development of digital platform markets requires a fast and effective tool. The problems described make it evident that the SSNIP test – even in a modified way – is not an adequate tool when it comes to the task to define a relevant market that shows indirect network effects between two market sides, especially in the case of digital markets. This also applies for other analytical tools that analyze cross-price-elasticities. The reason is that market prices in two-sided markets cannot be interpreted in the conventional way as they reflect the relation of indirect network effects between the market sides. However, quantity measures offer an alternative approach to analyze substitutability of relevant goods. In the following chapter we present the concept dynamic cross-correlations of quantities as a measure for substitutability of differentiated products.

4 Model

In this chapter we develop a differentiated Cournot duopoly where two platforms choose quantities simultaneously. Given utility functions of consumers, we derive demand of the two sides of the market. After that we obtain optimal quantities from the assumption that two platforms maximize their profit by choosing their quantity simultaneously, taking into account that the demand on both market sides are interdependent.

4.1 Utility and Demand

We consider an industry with a continuum of potential users on each side $k = a, b$ of the market, with mass normalized to 1, and two platforms, $i = 1, 2$, which enable the two groups to interact. We follow Motta 2004 and assume a quadratic utility function originally introduced by Shubik and Levitan 1980.¹ k refers to a generic side of the market and a and b refer to specific sides. Formally the utility of participating on side a and b respectively is

$$u_i^a = \nu^a q_i + \nu^a q_j - \frac{(1 - \theta)q_i^2 + (1 - \theta)q_j^2 + 2\theta q_i q_j}{2} - (p_i - ds_i)q_i \quad (4.1)$$

and

$$u_i^b = \nu^b s_i + \nu^b s_j - \frac{(1 - \mu)s_i^2 + (1 - \mu)s_j^2 + 2\mu s_i s_j}{2} - (r_i - gq_i)s_i \quad (4.2)$$

for $i = 1, 2, i \neq j$, we assume $\nu_k > 0$ to be a fixed benefit the agent obtains if she uses platform i on market side a or b respectively.²

q_i measures consumption of product on platform i on market side a , s_i measures consumption of product/platform i on market side b . Parameter θ and μ indicate to what degree goods 1 and 2 are substitutes from consumers' perspective. If $\theta(\mu) = 1$ the goods are perfect substitutes. If $\theta(\mu) = 0$ the two products do not form a common market as consuming them together does not affect consumer's utility. By normalizing the population size to one we can interpret q_i (s_i) as each individual's consumption of product i on market side a (b), or as the network size of the platform i on the respective market side.

We expand the standard quadratic utility function by the cost-term $(p_i - ds_i)q_i$ and $(r_i - gq_i)s_i$ respectively. Consumer utility depends on the prices p_i and r_i the platform charges for the respective market side a and b (e.g. per copy price or per advertising

¹See also Dixit 1979 and Kind, Nilssen, and Sorgard 2006

²Weyl 2010 refers to it as the membership benefit or cost.

page) (Kind, Nilssen, and Sørsgard 2009). Additionally the utility can be influenced by the network size s_i and q_i on the other market side of platform i . d and g describe the magnitude and the direction of this indirect network effect.

Solving for the FOCs of the consumer problem, given by $\frac{\delta u_i^a(q_i, q_j, s_i, p_i)}{\delta q_i} = 0$ and $\frac{\delta u_i^b(s_i, s_j, q_i, r_i)}{\delta s_i} = 0$ the utility can be expressed as

$$u_i^a = \nu^a - (1 - \theta)q_i - \theta q_j + ds_i - p_i \quad (4.3)$$

and

$$u_i^b = \nu^b - (1 - \mu)s_i - \mu s_j + gq_i - r_i \quad (4.4)$$

User heterogeneity on each side can be modeled in two dimensions: the value of membership and the value of the indirect network effect.³ Rochet and Tirole 2003 assume $v_k = 0$ and that users have heterogeneous interaction values - in other words the strength of the indirect network effect depends on agent and platform. Armstrong 2006 assumes that the indirect network effect d, g only depends on the market side and allows heterogeneous membership values.⁴ We follow Armstrong 2006 in assuming that the scope of the indirect network effect depends on the market side, not on the agent or the platform. Our formulation of utility also coincides with Armstrong 2006 in that we assume lump-sum fees rather than per-transaction fees.

Equations 4.3 and 4.4 can be converted to obtain the inverse demand functions

$$p_i = \nu^a - (1 - \theta)q_i - \theta q_j + ds_i \quad (4.5)$$

and

$$r_i = \nu^b - (1 - \mu)s_i - \mu s_j + gq_i \quad (4.6)$$

Formulations 4.1 and 4.2 imply, that consumers utility from the indirect network effect is higher the more she uses the platform (Kind, Nilssen, and Sørsgard 2009). Keeping everything else equal, demand on market side b has a positive impact on demand on market side a if the indirect network parameter has a positive sign ($d > 0$). Same is true for market side b and the parameter g . In many two-sided industries, such as media markets, the indirect network effect might be positive on one market side, but negative on the other. Demand for advertising will increase, if a magazine or a TV-Chanel has a large readership or audience. At the same time this audience might feel disturbed by the advertisement.

4.2 Profit Maximization and Supply

Following Armstrong 2006, we assume that platforms costs are market-side specific and that they are incurred when an agent joins the platform, so that platforms i total

³Weyl 2010, Rochet and Tirole 2003 and Armstrong 2006 refer to this as the interaction or the per-transaction value.

⁴Rochet and Tirole 2003 as well as Weyl 2010 allow agents to be heterogeneous along the two dimensions for the monopoly case.

cost is $c_i q_i + f_i s_i$ for some per-agent cost c_i for serving group a and per-agent cost f_i for serving group b (Armstrong 2006). Profits of platform i therefore are

$$\pi_i = (p_i - c_i)q_i + (r_i - f_i)s_i \quad (4.7)$$

Each platform sets q_i and s_i to maximize profits, given the choices of its rival. After observing the choice of the quantities, agents on both market sides decide which platform to use after making rational expectations about the respective other market side.

Substituting unique demands into 4.7 for $i = 1, 2$ and taking the FOCs results in complicated formulations of the equilibrium quantities.⁵ To get an idea of the impact of the different parameter, we will focus on the two extreme cases of perfect competition ($\theta(\mu) = 1$) and monopoly ($\theta(\mu) = 0$).

For the former case, where $\theta(\mu) = 1$ equilibrium quantities are

$$q_i = \frac{f_i(d+g) - v_b(d+g) + c_j - v_a}{(d+g)^2 - 1} \quad (4.8)$$

$$s_i = \frac{c_i(d+g) - v_a(d+g) + f_j - v_b}{(d+g)^2 - 1} \quad (4.9)$$

Equilibrium quantities for $\theta(\mu) = 0$ are

$$q_i = \frac{f_i(d+g) - v_b(d+g) + 2(c_i - v_a)}{(d+g)^2 - 4} \quad (4.10)$$

$$s_i = \frac{c_i(d+g) - v_a(d+g) + 2(f_i - v_b)}{(d+g)^2 - 4} \quad (4.11)$$

As one can see from 4.8 and 4.9 $d+g > 1$ is a sufficient equilibrium condition in case of perfect competition, whereas in the monopoly case (4.10 and 4.11) we need $d+g > 2$.

4.3 Monte Carlo Simulation

We are interested in the market behavior of platforms depending on a change in the parameters d, g and θ, μ . More precisely our aim is to analyze the correlation coefficient of quantities depending on the degree of substitution and the indirect network effects.

Marginal costs consists of two parts: (1) A market-specific term, which is common for both platforms and (2) an individual firm-specific cost-shock, assumed to occur in every period such that marginal costs follow a random walk (harrington detecting 2008 Paha 2011). Assumption (1) is rational if we assume homogenous input-factors are purchased from a perfectly competitive market. This assumption is relaxed by the platform-specific cost-shock which arises asymmetry between the platforms. This

⁵See Appendix

asymmetry might be due to individual negotiations between a platform and its service-provider. Asymmetry can be assumed to be larger, the smaller θ and μ : High degree of heterogeneity might cause more asymmetric input costs, while homogenous products should be produced with more symmetric input costs.

A cost function of platform i for N simulated markets with the corresponding characteristics is described as follows.

$$f_{i,n} = a_n^a + a_{i,n}^a \quad (4.12)$$

and

$$c_{i,n} = a_n^b + a_{i,n}^b \quad (4.13)$$

under the conditions $a_{k,t} \in [0.001; 0.0001]$ for the common cost shock and $a_{ki,t} \in [0.01; 0.001]$ for the platform-specific cost shock. So cost-asymmetry among firms is modeled by adding a firm-specific term $a_{ki,t}$ to the market-specific marginal cost.

We randomly generate a dataset of $n=1000$ two-sided markets, i.e. we randomly generate $n=1000$ values for f_i and c_i ⁶ and then calculate the equilibrium quantities for every market on both market sides. As we are interested in substitutional relationship between the equilibrium quantities to define the market, we then calculate the correlation coefficients of the quantities. According to a Cournot duopoly we expect q_i and q_j to correlate negatively if they are substitutes (and s_i and s_j respectively).

4.4 Impact of d, g, θ, μ on the Correlation Coefficient

Figure 4.1 shows the effect of the sum of the indirect network effects (INE) d and g and the substitution parameter μ ⁷ on the correlation of quantities q_i, q_j on market side a . A high degree of homogeneity causes negative correlation to increase, which is consistent with what we would observe in markets without INE. Homogenous products ($\mu = 1$) cause a high degree of competition which leads to high negative correlation of quantities. What is new is the effect of INE on the correlation: The higher the absolute amount of INE, the higher the negative correlation between the quantities.

In our approach we will look at the correlation coefficient of quantities between possible substitutes on both market sides respectively to give evidence about the competition parameters μ, θ . This means that we have to make assumptions about the magnitude of the INE. For some industries this can be a challenging task, but for the most cases straightforward conclusions can be made. In many cases the existence of a platform market with profit maximizing firms like Google or Booking.com is a first indicator for the presence of INE. There are also empirical methods to measure INE based on a specific model. Prominent empirical studies of INE can be found in Kaiser and Wright 2006 and Filistrucchi, Klein, and Michielsen 2012. Even though such an investigation on the INE gives empirical evidence, the drawback is twofold: First, many antitrust cases cannot meet the huge data requirements for an empirical

⁶more precisely we generate $n=1000$ values for a_n^a and $a_{i,n}^a$ and a_n^b $a_{i,n}^b$ respectively

⁷for simplicity we assume $\mu = \theta$

investigation. Second, theoretical assumption have to be made that might not reflect the industry characteristics adequately.

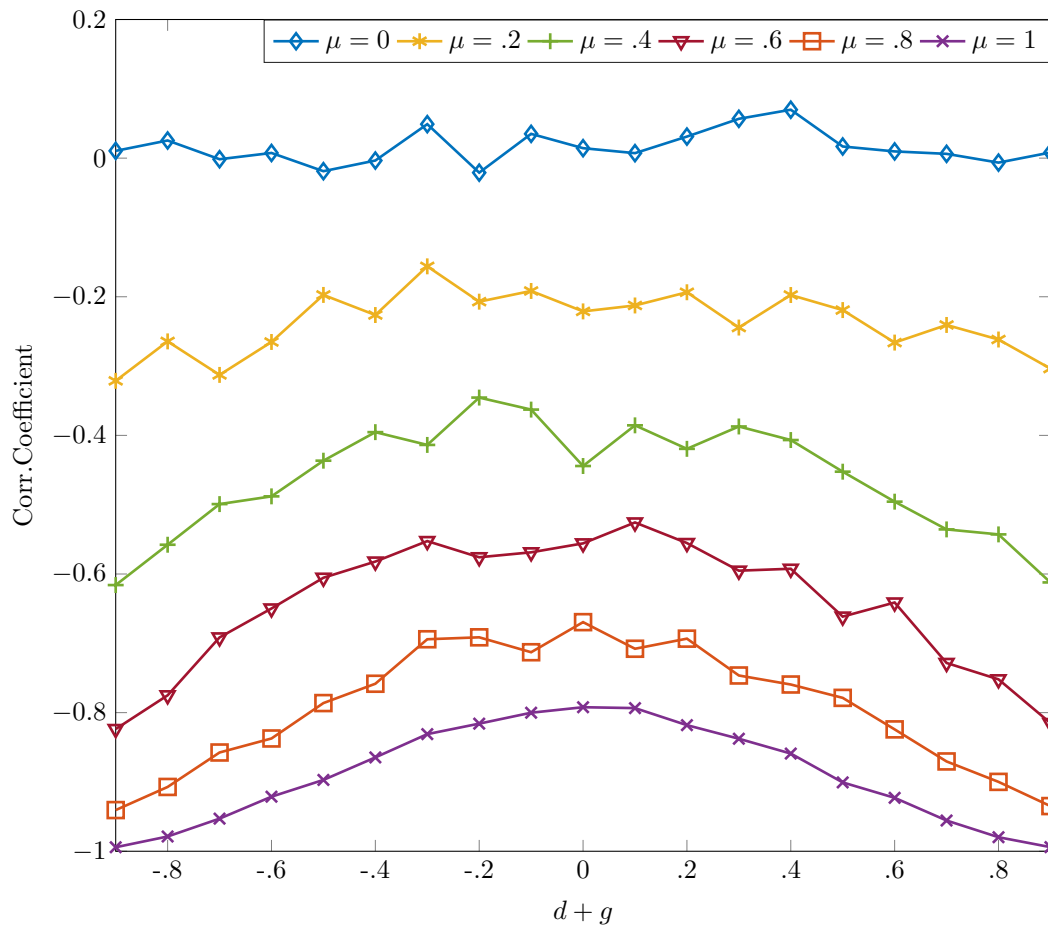


Figure 4.1: Correlations between q_i and q_j

5 Empirical Analysis

To detect the substitutional relationships, the cross-correlation function for several possible media markets is calculated. Based on the results of our benchmark simulation we then try to give evidence about common markets.

The procedure takes place as follows:

1. The first step in analyzing a potential market is to define the possible substitutes based on product characteristics (e.g. prices, content pages, editorial concept and frequency of publication should be considered in case of magazines). Similar shaped demand curves can serve as a first indication.
2. After identifying a possible market, we prewhiten the quantities of the respective substitutes for a certain time interval using the two different estimation methods a) and b). As test diagnostics we use the Ljung-Box statistic, also called modified Box-Pierce statistic. If the p-values are well above .05, indicating "non-significance" residuals are white noise.¹
 - a) **ARIMA model**, or Box-Jenkins method (George E. P. Box, Gwilym M. Jenkins, and Reinsel 2008) are models that may possibly include autoregressive terms, moving average terms, and differencing operations. We determine a (possibly approximate) ARIMA model for the variables by considering the ACF (autocorrelation function) and the PACF (partial autocorrelation function) together, as well as testing for stationarity. In case of non-stationary series we can usually estimate an ARIMA (1,1,0) ² if the first differences suggest the pattern of an AR(1). After specifying the autocorrelation order we estimate each time series, where the disturbances are allowed to follow a linear autoregressive moving-average (ARMA) specification. Additionally we include the remaining substitutes as independent variables to the regression.
 - b) **Ordinary Least Square without AR(p) term**. If we assume that the time series have a common constant trend, where the local mean is decreasing or increasing gradually over time, this trend might be filtered by just regressing all variables against each other without any AR(p) specification.³
3. After detecting the appropriate model for our purpose we calculate the cross-correlation function (ccf)⁴ of the estimated residuals and compare them with the

¹G. E. P. Box and Pierce 1970 and Ljung and G. E. P. Box 1978

²Or ARIMA(1,1,1) if we suspect a moving average process.

³Again, in case of non-stationary time series, we estimate first differenced variables.

⁴Section 5.1 briefly explains the concept of the ccf and how we use it for our analysis.

correlation coefficients of our benchmark model. The respective approximated two standard error bounds (Tiao and G. E. P. Box 1981)

$$SE^+ = \frac{2}{\sqrt{n}} \quad (5.1)$$

and

$$SE_- = \frac{-2}{\sqrt{n}} \quad (5.2)$$

are calculated to detect statistically significant values. Additionally we consider the magnitude of the coefficients as an indicator for the definition of relevant markets, similar to cross-elasticities. Stigler and Sherwin 1985, p. 562.

4. Even though a direct causality is not a necessary condition for detecting a substitutional relationship, Granger-causality test can be helpful to verify the results from the cross-correlation functions (Dewenter 2004). A variable x Granger-causes y if y can be better predicted using the lagged values of both x and y than using the lags of y alone (Granger 1969). To test if x Granger-causes y , y_t is regressed on lagged values of itself and x_t and an error term $\epsilon_t \sim (0, \sigma^2)$, e.g.:

$$y_t = \alpha_0 + \sum_{l=1}^L \alpha_l y_{t-l} + \sum_{l=1}^L \beta_l x_{t-l} + \epsilon_t \quad (5.3)$$

Next, a Wald statistic with the underlying null hypothesis ' x does *not* Granger-cause y ' can be calculated with

$$H_0 = \beta_1 = \beta_2 = \dots = \beta_L = 0 \quad (5.4)$$

Schwartz and Akaike information criteria will be used to determine the appropriate lag length for carrying out the Granger-causality test.

5.1 Cross-correlation Function

We are interested in the correlation between two time series, say x_t and y_t ⁵, of which one or both might have a delayed response to the other series, or perhaps a delayed response to a common stimulus that affects both series. This would cause a time shifted correlation between the time series, so that the simple correlation coefficient between the quantities at one point in time is inadequate to describe the true relationship. In order to take into account the possible lagged correlation between the quantities, we will calculate the cross-correlation function (ccf), that is the product-moment correlation as a function lag between two series.

The cross-correlation function of two stationary time series q_i and q_j with a common sample T can be described as the cross-covariance function (ccvf) scaled by the autocovariance of the two series.

⁵Within our model we are interested in the correlation of quantities within a market side, that is q_i and q_j for market side a and s_i and s_j for market side b .

The autocovariance $c_{cc}(l)$ and $c_{yy}(l)$ are determined as

$$c_{xx}(l) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=l+1}^T (x_t - \bar{x})(x_{t-l} - \bar{x}) \quad (5.5)$$

and

$$c_{yy}(l) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=l+1}^T (y_t - \bar{y})(y_{t-l} - \bar{y}) \quad (5.6)$$

where $c_{xx}(0)$ and $c_{yy}(0)$ are the sample variances of x_t and y_t .

Following Chatfield 2004, pp. 158 sq. the ccvf for x_t and y_t are given by

$$c_{xy}(l) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=l+1}^T (y_t - \bar{y})(x_{t-l} - \bar{x}) \quad (5.7)$$

The cross-correlation can then be expressed as

$$r_{xy}(l) = \frac{c_{xy}(l)}{\sqrt{c_{xx}(0)c_{yy}(0)}} \quad (5.8)$$

To interpret the results of the ccf we will have to assume - among others - that the time series of x_t and y_t are not autocorrelated.⁶ It can be shown that the variance of sample cross-correlations will be inflated in case of autocorrelation, leading to spurious "large" cross-correlation coefficients (Chatfield 2004, p. 158). As we will look at market quantities autocorrelation is highly probable, which will lead to mistakenly cross-correlation coefficients. In order to detect the true cross-correlation of two variables Gwilym M Jenkins and Watts 1968 and Brockwell 2002 suggest an "equal footing" approach, in which the time series are prewhitened by fitting them individually to time series models, and then examining the cross-correlation between the prewhitened series. The "system" approach is an alternative, in which the series are regarded as input to an output from a linear dynamic system. An input series, say x , is whitened before the estimation of the "impulse response function" of an output series, say y . As our data on market quantities does not show any specific mono-causality, we will use the "equal footing" approach as explained above.

To prewhiten the time series it is necessary to "catch" the influences of the AR-process as well as extern effects. Autoregressive models like the Box-Jenkins approach are one approach for this purpose. The time series will be regressed on their lagged values and other possible substitutes. Another approach is a simple OLS Regression including all possible substitutes to filter equal possible time-patterns like seasonal variations. We will apply the different approaches and test their statistic significance to detect the adequate model.

⁶Other assumptions are i) that the processes generating q_i and q_j are uncorrelated, ii) that populations are normally distributed and iii) that the sample size is large.

5.2 Data

To test our approach we will look at several online and offline media markets and calculate cross-correlation coefficients of demand. Media markets are platform markets as they connect two groups of consumers: Reader (or audience) and advertising⁷. For the offline markets we use data of german magazines. Reader demand is measured in total retail sales of the magazine and advertising demand is measured in total advertising (ad) pages per copy. Data was collected from the internet database "PZ-Online" (Public Magazines Online), provided by the German Organization of Magazine Publisher (Verband Deutscher Zeitschriftenverleger). Even though our dataset contains data from 2003 to 2016 we will look at two-year intervals at the beginning and at the end of this dataset. This has different reasons: (1) Data availability often plays a crucial role for any economic policy analysis, so we can show that our approach is suitable even cases with low data availability. (2) Antitrust concerns are often related to a certain period as markets develop constantly. This is applicable for the magazine market: Between the two time samples, e.g. between 2006 and 2014, the magazine market has been remarkably transformed as digitalization plays an important role for the industry.⁸

As one can assume from simply looking at demand curves, the unfiltered market data will show positive correlations as they follow the same market development. Within our model positively correlated demand indicates that the products of investigation do not constitute a common market. As we know from section 5.1 autocorrelated variables generate spurious cross-correlation coefficients, so we have to prewhiten them before we estimate the ccf.

5.2.1 News Magazines

The German market for news magazines counts with three major player: Der Spiegel, Focus and Stern. Our sample contains weekly data of the three named magazines for the two-year intervals (1) 2004 week 33 - 2006 week 33 and (2) 2014 week 33 - 2016 week 33.

First published in 1947 Der Spiegel had a monopoly on investigative journalism for a long time since Burda-Verlag entered the market in 1993 with a news magazine named Focus, claiming itself to be a close substitute to Der Spiegel. The latter opposes that Focus is an illustrative magazine similar to Stern, a magazine first published in 1946 by Gruner+Jahr **kaltenhaeuser'abstimmung'2005** In fact all three magazines differ regarding their editorial concept. Der Spiegel mainly focuses on complex political and social issues, whereas Focus also covers more trivial topics like health and fitness. Stern has been an simple illustrative magazine without any political appeal until the 60s. It then started to address current political topics (**vogel'populaere'1998**). Even though all three magazines have different editorial concepts, readership of Der Spiegel,

⁷There might be other possible market sides like content provider, but we will limit our investigation on the named market sides as they are assumed to be the biggest.

⁸For more information see Cabyova, Krajcovic, and Ptacin 2014 or Picard 2011

Focus and Stern does not differ significantly regarding their socio-demographic characteristics, but their political direction: Focus is more conservative, whereas readership of Der Spiegel is considered "left-wing". Stern can be found somewhere in between (**kaltenhaeuser'abstimmung'2005**). Having this in mind, we do not expect strong competition on the reader market between the magazines as a "left-wing" reader of Der Spiegel would not consider Focus as an adequate substitute. However we expect some kind of negative correlation as not all consumers on the reader market have a strong political orientation, so final purchasing decisions will be influenced by cover stories and content. This assumption is supported by the fact that subscription is just a minor part of total sales (about 2-3 %). We assume, if any, weak negative indirect network effects from the advertising market as the share of advertising pages per copy ranges between 2% and 8%.

Demand on the advertising market on the other side will be strongly affected by the size and the characteristics of the readership of a certain magazine. However, in contrast to the reader market, political orientation should not matter as much as socio-demographic characteristics do. So we expect competition on the advertising market to be stronger than competition on the reader market. The assumption that strong positive indirect network effects emanates from the reader market to the advertising market is supported by the fact that the copy price did not change during the years 2003 to 2016, whereas the price for advertising⁹ fluctuated and increased on average within the same interval. On a two-sided market the market side sending stronger positive INE will be subsidized by the market side receiving the stronger positive INE (**dewenter'einfuehrung'2014**).

Looking at the demand curves in 5.1 and 5.4 we can see that on the reader market the network size of Stern and Der Spiegel are similar in magnitude, whereas demand for Focus is relatively smaller, with an outlier in 2016w1. However, on the advertising market demand of all three magazines is similar but the shape of the curves has changed between the two samples, indicating that circumstances on the advertising market might have changed. Nevertheless seasonal fluctuations can be detected for both time samples. Figures 5.5 and 5.6 show that the seasonal fluctuations and other common trends have disappeared after ARIMA and OLS regressions.

Reader Market

Table 5.1 shows that cross-correlation functions on the reader market for the time period 2004 to 2006 provide only weak evidence for substitutability among the magazines and differ regarding the prewhitening method. Even if all contemporary values are negative, indicating that the magazines are rather substitutes, they are largely not statistically significant. Stern and Der Spiegel show just little negative correlation when using the ARIMA method, but nearly -0.5 when using simple OLS without AR(p) term. According to the Akaike information criterion (AIC) the ARIMA model is the preferred model suggesting that the substitutional relationship between Stern and Der Spiegel is rather weak. Same is true for Focus and Stern, showing significant

⁹Price for an advertisement DIN A4 page in color.

negative correlation just for lag 3. Only for Focus and Der Spiegel significant negative correlations can be found in contemporary values, indicating a weak substitutional relationship between the two magazines. The Granger-causality test for the adjusted time series shows similar results: The null hypothesis cannot be rejected at the usual level of confidence, except for the asymmetric influence of Focus on Der Spiegel and Stern.

A different picture can be drawn from the cross-correlation functions of the later sample (2014 week 33 - 2016 week 33). The first striking point is that both models show similar results indicating a contemporary substitutional relationship for Stern and Der Spiegel with -0.36 (ARIMA) and -0.51 (OLS). Focus and Der Stern show weak evidence for negative inter-temporal correlation regarding the second lag and no significant correlations can be found for Focus and Stern. Again Granger-causality test supports the results from the cross-correlation analysis. The null hypothesis cannot be rejected, except for the asymmetric influence of Der Spiegel on both Focus and Stern. The change of substitutional relationships between Stern and Der Spiegel might be due to a change of the editorial concept of one or both magazines leading to similar contents and therefore to stronger competition.

Advertising Market

Table 5.2 supports assumptions that competition on the ad market is stronger. In contrast to the reader market side all contemporary correlations are statistically significant. According to the AIC for the advertising market the OLS model is preferred in the first sample and ARIMA is preferred in the later sample. However, both models show similar results. For the first sample we can find substitutional relationship among all three magazines, with a contemporary negative correlation of -0.65 (ARIMA) for Focus and Der Spiegel being the strongest. Focus and Stern show a rather weak substitutional relationship, whereas contemporary correlation of Stern and Der Spiegel suggests that both magazines are substitutes in the short-run. The values of the Granger-causality test of adjusted time series indicate that Der Spiegel and Stern are Granger-causal for each other, whereas Stern is asymmetrically Granger-causes Focus. Cross-correlation functions of the later time sample stated in 5.2 suggests a similar pattern: Substitutional relationship between Focus and Der Spiegel is the highest, even though a little bit lower than in the first sample.

Comparing these coefficients with the benchmark model assuming that total INE (from reader market to advertising market and reverse) exist and are positive we would conclude that the following market facts apply for the sample 2004 -2006: Focus and Der Spiegel most closely resemble each other on the reader market side, even though they can be seen as rather weak substitutes ($\mu \approx 0.2$). However, on the advertising market side competition is stronger as the degree of homogeneity can assumed to be $\mu \approx 0.5$. The relative strong correlation of Stern and Der Spiegel of -.42 suggests that for the advertiser demand both magazines are homogenous of degree $\mu \approx 0.4$, although on the reader market they do not seem to share a common market (correlation is just -.19). Lowest degree of homogeneity can be found among Focus and Stern

on both market sides: about $\mu \approx 0.2$ on the ad market and $\mu = 0$ on the reader market. For the sample 2014 -2016 Stern and Der Spiegel face more competition on the reader market $\mu \approx 0.2$, but a little less competition on the advertising market. Only intertemporal correlations regarding the second lag of the sales of Focus and Der Spiegel are statistically significant, but not the contemporary correlation. On the advertising market correlation decreased in absolute values but still is the strongest suggesting a degree of homogeneity of $\mu \approx 0.5$. The fact that competition on the advertising market seems to have diminished might be due to new, digital advertising possibilities presenting more substitutes for advertising demand.

Conclusions and implications

This chapter carried out an empirical analysis of the market of german news magazines using cross-correlation functions to suitable determine substitutional, complementary and indifferent relations between Focus, Stern and Der Spiegel. As a first striking result, substitutional relationships are stronger on the advertising market side for all combinations of the magazines. During the time period 2004 to 2006 only Focus and Der Spiegel show substitutional effects on both markets sides in the short-run. Overall, the three magazines seem to claim own sub-markets on the reader market within both time samples. However, on the advertising market stronger substitutional relationships can be detected indicating a common market. This is particular true for the early time sample. The later time sample shows less correlations due to new digital advertising possibilities.

Figure 5.1: News Magazines Sales

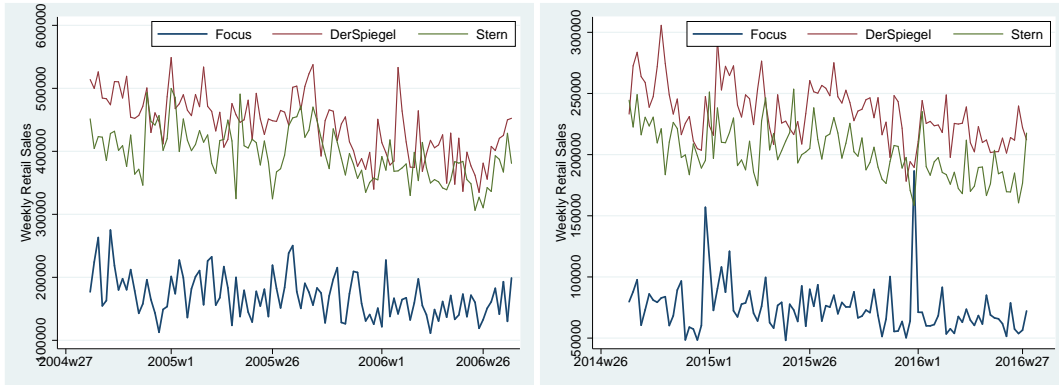


Figure 5.2: Adjusted Sales (ARIMA)

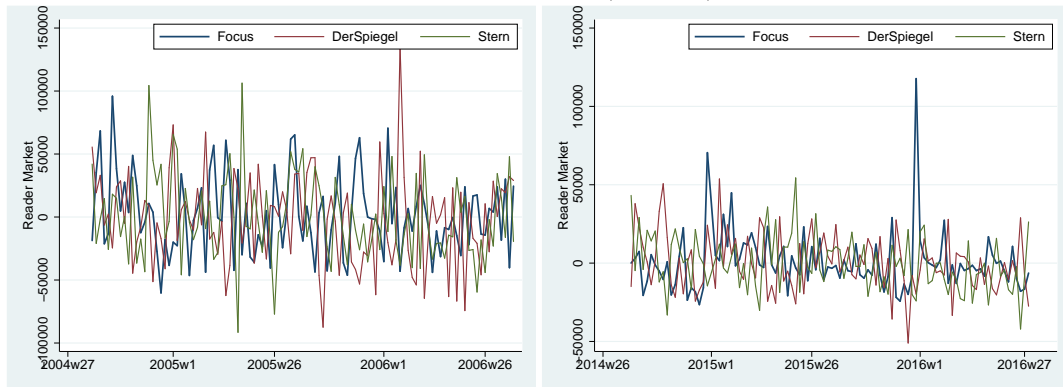


Figure 5.3: Adjusted Sales (OLS)

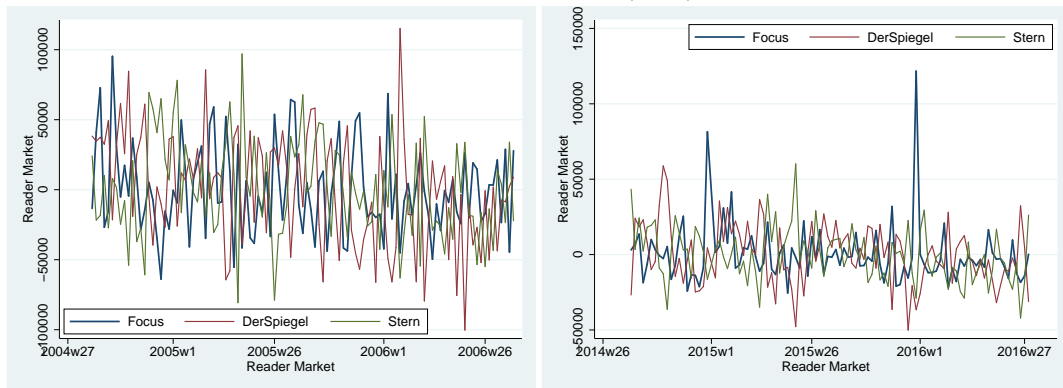


Table 5.1: Cross-correlation functions news magazines (reader market)

	Focus Der Spiegel	Focus Stern	Stern Der Spiegel	Focus Der Spiegel	Focus Stern	Stern Der Spiegel	SE_{-}^{+}
	2004 - 2006						$\pm .20$
t	ARIMA			OLS			
-6	0.211	0.057	0.057	0.144	0.096	0.128	
-5	0.042	-0.057	0.087	0.062	0.030	0.120	
-4	-0.015	-0.115	-0.084	0.008	-0.022	0.037	
-3	0.006	-0.212	-0.010	0.104	-0.155	0.099	
-2	0.169	-0.083	0.100	0.273	-0.155	0.145	
-1	0.049	0.060	0.272	0.154	-0.035	0.160	
0	-0.300	-0.041	-0.190	-0.265	-0.096	-0.493	
1	0.025	0.172	0.076	-0.001	0.135	0.121	
2	0.094	-0.145	0.127	0.195	-0.155	0.171	
3	0.094	-0.030	0.138	0.165	-0.127	0.184	
4	-0.074	0.124	0.155	-0.042	0.034	0.170	
5	0.087	0.123	-0.053	0.095	0.055	0.052	
6	0.118	-0.026	-0.084	0.227	-0.070	-0.003	
	2014 - 2016						$\pm .21$
	ARIMA			OLS			
-6	-0.103	-0.060	-0.090	-0.143	-0.010	-0.004	
-5	0.226	0.072	-0.115	0.096	0.071	-0.057	
-4	0.053	0.047	0.046	0.055	0.053	0.042	
-3	-0.010	0.008	0.017	-0.005	0.049	0.059	
-2	-0.293	0.086	0.032	-0.242	0.171	0.091	
-1	0.136	-0.048	0.077	0.019	-0.025	0.027	
0	-0.027	-0.098	-0.286	-0.110	-0.118	-0.479	
1	0.065	0.216	0.078	-0.030	0.209	0.021	
2	0.222	0.070	0.124	0.178	0.067	0.121	
3	0.195	-0.009	0.030	0.231	-0.020	0.090	
4	-0.023	-0.028	0.108	0.092	-0.012	0.153	
5	-0.002	-0.049	0.014	0.087	-0.022	0.102	
6	0.057	-0.048	0.151	0.078	-0.058	0.185	

Figure 5.4: News Magazines total ad pages



Figure 5.5: Adjusted ad pages (ARIMA)

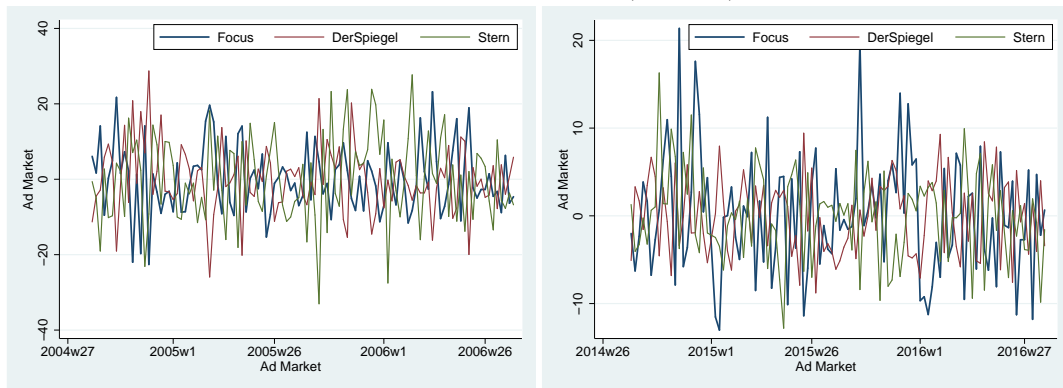
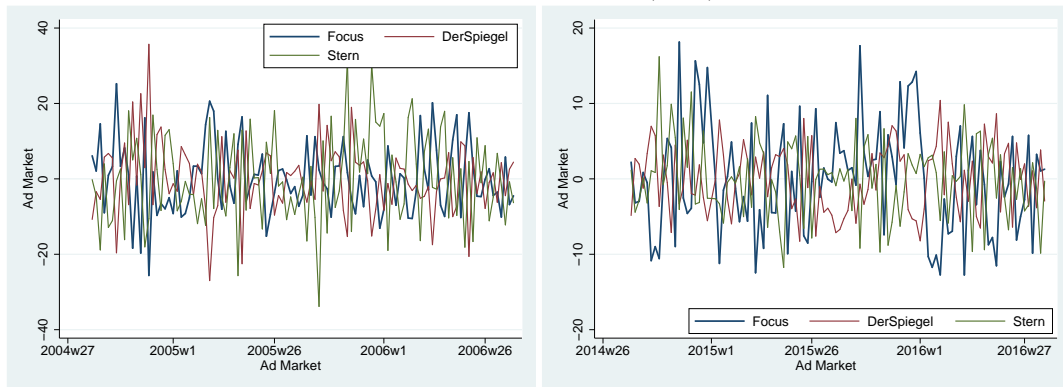


Figure 5.6: Adjusted ad pages (OLS)



Meine Bibliothek

Table 5.2: Cross-correlation functions news magazines (advertising market)

Lags	Focus Der Spiegel	Focus Stern	Stern Der Spiegel	Focus Der Spiegel	Focus Stern	Stern Der Spiegel	SE_{-}^{+}
	2004 - 2006			2004 - 2006			$\pm .20$
	ARIMA			OLS			
-6	-0.038	0.039	0.051	-0.051	0.048	-0.061	
-5	0.016	-0.021	0.053	-0.040	-0.099	0.179	
-4	-0.002	-0.147	0.116	-0.096	-0.164	-0.009	
-3	-0.015	-0.067	0.093	0.039	-0.012	0.114	
-2	-0.053	0.047	0.028	-0.088	0.026	-0.061	
-1	0.035	-0.026	0.143	-0.004	-0.073	0.184	
0	-0.604	-0.288	-0.415	-0.647	-0.310	-0.417	
1	-0.050	0.016	0.074	-0.015	0.030	0.177	
2	0.072	0.096	-0.014	-0.040	0.068	-0.153	
3	0.068	0.095	-0.039	0.051	0.052	0.042	
4	-0.006	0.037	0.079	-0.074	-0.026	-0.034	
5	-0.037	-0.051	0.050	0.029	0.024	0.134	
6	0.156	0.034	-0.139	0.141	0.032	-0.213	
t	2014 - 2016			2014 - 2016			$\pm .20$
	ARIMA			OLS			
-6	-0.110	0.098	0.087	-0.012	0.121	0.050	
-5	-0.015	0.134	-0.057	0.145	0.018	-0.086	
-4	0.100	-0.088	0.164	0.077	-0.109	0.138	
-3	0.142	-0.019	0.043	0.054	0.026	0.024	
-2	0.210	-0.038	-0.087	0.020	-0.023	-0.108	
-1	0.238	0.179	-0.052	-0.086	0.155	0.051	
0	-0.398	-0.246	-0.324	-0.545	-0.352	-0.398	
1	0.038	0.032	0.065	-0.157	0.161	0.033	
2	-0.063	0.190	0.157	-0.258	0.182	0.043	
3	0.011	0.241	-0.110	-0.013	0.012	-0.088	
4	-0.127	-0.041	0.164	-0.080	-0.070	0.178	
5	0.032	0.077	-0.074	0.065	0.039	-0.016	
6	0.078	-0.008	0.029	0.082	0.007	-0.018	