Econ 210C

Spring 2025

#### Instructor

Juan Herreño

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Office Hours: Time TBD with the class (Atkinson 6125).

#### Lectures

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30 - 1:50pm

Location: MANDE B-146

### **Teaching Assistant**

Paula Donaldson

m1donald@ucsd.edu

Office Hours and Discussion: TBD with the class

**Course Description:** I can describe this class in terms of methods or topics. Topics: We will cover the effect of economic policy on the economy in the short-run, as well as how financial factors affect the economy. In terms of methods, the course will combine a review of structural and reduced-form approaches that macroeconomists use to answer these, and other first-order questions.

**Pedagogic Approach:** Economists contrast their theories with data, so we will learn about the theory and the empirics of the question at hand. Economists learn by reading papers, so we will read papers for this class. Writing and critical thinking are essential crafts for the economist, so you will write a referee report of a paper related to the topics of the class. Economists use different models for different questions, so we will cover a plethora of models as opposed to work on extensions of one single model. This is an economics class, not a mathematics class. Emphasis will be put on economic ideas, and the methods are instruments to understand the ideas, not the reverse.

### Grading:

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By far the main objective of the examinations in this class is to provide you with learning opportunities. You can expect the homeworks, referee reports, and exams to be difficult, and the grading to be strict.

Missing an assignment or exam without a valid excuse will give you a grade of zero. The following sections will explain the definition of a valid excuse, and the procedure if you miss an assignment/exam with a valid excuse.

**Problem Sets** We will have between two and four problem sets. These problem sets will be graded by the TA on a check minus/check/check plus basis, and account for 10% of the grade.

Details on the problem sets:

- Only solutions that are perfect will earn a check plus mark.
- You are encouraged to collaborate with your classmates, but you should submit your own separate solution that reflects your work, not the work of others.
- An excused absence for a problem set is a personal or medical emergency that prevented you from working for more than 50% of the time between the moment in which I upload the prompt and the deadline of the problem set, or an emergency that prevented you to upload your assignment on time.
- If you have an excused absence for a problem set, then the weight will be transferred to other problem sets

**Referee Report**: One of the main activities of this class consists of writing a referee report of a working paper. I will send you a list of acceptable papers and you will choose one, and notify me of your choice. You should do that before the end of the second week of class. If more than three students request the same paper, only the first three to notify me will get to review that paper, and the rest will have to choose another paper.

I want you to take this assignment seriously, and I expect you to start working on it as soon as possible. The assignment is open-ended, and meant for you to be creative, and work on your critical thinking. Ideally, you will find a paper that you think is interesting, that uses tools, methods, data, or asks questions that are relevant for your future research.

The referee report includes **one short** paragraph of the summary of the paper, and **one short** paragraph detailing the contribution of the paper. After those initial two paragraphs, you should strive to question the assumptions made, techniques used, interpretation of the results, etc. A good report for this class (not typical of actual referee reports) will suggest solutions to your main points. I want you to push yourselves in taking your arguments as far as you can. A good report makes a small number of points, develops them and provides deep arguments, rather than offering a list of superficial half-baked comments.

The referee report should be at most five pages long. It can include appendices where you include figures, table, code, or any other thing you need to make your case. It should have 1-3 main points. If you feel compelled to add additional points, they should be marked as "minor comments", and be succinct. I will not devote much attention to minor comments, I will just check if some of your minor comments are actually important. Be generous in writing your referee report, the aim is to be just, not to be devastating.

The referee report is due on the Friday of the ninth week, counts for 40% of the grade, and will be graded by me.

Only exceptional referee reports will earn exceptional grades.

Some remarks that will guide my grading:

- Your summary paragraph must be only one normal-size paragraph.
- Your main comments must be clearly related to the main points of the paper. I do not want main comments about online appendix F4.
- You elaborate on your comments. For example "I did not like this assumption because it is not realistic." is a truly terrible comment.
- Your referee report will inquire about the effects of the comments you provided on the results of the paper.
- The substitutability of one good comment to N > 0 superficial comments is zero.
- A failure from following the guidelines of the report will severely affect your grade.

- An excused absence for the referee report is a situation that prevented you from working for 50% of the time between the moment in which I confirm your paper assignment and the due date.
- If you have an excused absence for the referee report, I will give you one extra week to complete it.

**Exam**: There will be a take-home exam, that will evaluate your understanding of the concepts, models, and literature we covered in class. It counts for 40% of the grade. I may ask you to work with data and/or models on the computer and/or in pen and paper. Starred papers (see below) are fair game for the exam. The final exam will be handed to you at 10 am of the Saturday of the tenth week, and it is due at 2:00 pm. An excused absence for the exam is a personal or medical situation that prevented you from working during these hours. If you have a valid excuse for the exam, I will assign you a makeup exam before grades are due.

**Readings and Class Participation**: This class will use research papers and textbook chapters. The syllabus includes more papers than I expect the typical student to read. Readings marked with an (\*) are required readings. I expect you to come prepared to class to have an informed discussion about them. Your comments, questions, and answers to my questions related to these papers will determine the final 10% of your grade. Not attending class or not participating is detrimental to your participation grade.

Academic Integrity: I deeply value creating a fair and safe community among students in my classes. I am committed to uphold academic integrity as a fundamental principle behind our interactions. You, as student, are expected to do your own work. Cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, lying, bribery, threatening behavior and assistance to acts of academic dishonesty are examples of behaviors that violate academic integrity. All students of UC San Diego are responsible for knowing and adhering to the UCSD policy on Academic Integrity. Ordinarily, a student engaged in any act of academic dishonest will receive a failing grade for the course. In addition, all incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Depending on its findings, students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject

to non-academic sanctions, including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion. The Academic Integrity Office can be contacted by email at aio@ucsd.edu or

by telephone at 858-822-2163. Additional information regarding the University Academic

Integrity policy is available at https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/.

### **Grading Summary**

1. Problem sets: 10%

2. Referee report: 40%

3. Final exam: 40%

4. Class participation based on readings: 10%

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# 1 Overview of topics

Number	Lecture title
1	The Classical Dichotomy
2	Dixit Stiglitz economies
3	Evidence on monetary non-neutrality
4	The New Keynesian model (I)
5	The New Keynesian model (II)
6	Optimal Monetary Policy
7	Government multiplier in the RBC and NK Model
8	Estimation of the Phillips curve
9	Data on Price Ridigidity and Menu Cost Models
10	Real Rigidities
11	Sticky Information
12	Financial frictions in the long run
13	Bank runs
14	Financial frictions in the business cycle
15	Cross-sectional effects of credit supply shocks
16	Q theory of investment
17	Taxes in the Q theory
18	The Q theory in the data
19	Lumpy investment
20	Lumpy investment and the macroeconomy
	Optional lectures if there is time
TBD	Financial shocks and aggregate demand
TBD	Consumption sensitivity to income shocks
TBD	Sentiments and expectations

Table 1: Only topics that I cover in class are material for exams.

## 2 Readings

### 2.1 Lecture 1: The Classical Dychotomy

No required readings. First week.

### 2.2 Lecture 2: Dixit Stiglitz Economies

No required readings. First week.

### 2.3 Lecture 3: Evidence on monetary non-neutrality

### **Required Readings**

- (\*) Nakamura, Emi, and Jón Steinsson. "Identification in macroeconomics." Journal of Economic Perspectives 32, no. 3 (2018): 59-86.
- (\*) Romer, C. D., and Romer, D. H. (2004). A new measure of monetary shocks: Derivation and implications. American economic review, 94(4), 1055-1084.

### **Further Readings**

Gurkaynak, R. S., Sack, B., and Swanson, E. T. (2005). Do actions speak louder than words? The response of asset prices to monetary policy actions and statements.

Coibion, Olivier. "Are the effects of monetary policy shocks big or small?." American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics 4, no. 2 (2012): 1-32.

Mussa, M. (1986, September). Nominal exchange rate regimes and the behavior of real exchange rates: Evidence and implications. In Carnegie-Rochester Conference series on public policy (Vol. 25, pp. 117-214). North-Holland.

Nakamura, E., and Steinsson, J. (2018). High-frequency identification of monetary non-neutrality: the information effect. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 133(3), 1283-1330. Eichengreen, B., and Sachs, J. (1985). Exchange rates and economic recovery in the 1930s. The Journal of Economic History, 45(4), 925-946.

Stock, J. H., and Watson, M. W. (2001). Vector autoregressions. Journal of Economic perspectives, 15(4), 101-115.

### 2.4 The New Keynesian Model (I) and (II)

#### **Required Readings**

(\*) Galí, J. (2015). Monetary policy, inflation, and the business cycle: an introduction to the new Keynesian framework and its applications. Princeton University Press. Chapter 3.

### 2.5 Optimal Monetary Policy

#### **Required Readings**

(\*) Galí, J. (2015). Monetary policy, inflation, and the business cycle: an introduction to the new Keynesian framework and its applications. Princeton University Press. Chapter 4.

### 2.6 Government Expenditures Multiplier

### **Required Readings**

(\*) Woodford, Michael. "Simple analytics of the government expenditure multiplier." American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics 3, no. 1 (2011): 1-35.

### **Further Readings**

Ramey, V. A. (2011). Identifying government spending shocks: It's all in the timing. The quarterly journal of economics, 126(1), 1-50.

Blanchard, Olivier, and Roberto Perotti. "An empirical characterization of the dynamic effects of changes in government spending and taxes on output." the Quarterly Journal of economics 117, no. 4 (2002): 1329-1368.

Auerbach, Alan J., and Yuriy Gorodnichenko. "Measuring the output responses to fiscal policy." American Economic Journal: Economic Policy 4, no. 2 (2012): 1-27.

Nakamura, Emi, and Jón Steinsson. "Fiscal stimulus in a monetary union: Evidence from US regions." American Economic Review 104, no. 3 (2014): 753-792.

Chodorow-Reich, G. (2019). Geographic cross-sectional fiscal spending multipliers: What have we learned? American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 11(2), 1-34.

### 2.7 Estimation of the Phillips Curve

#### **Required Readings**

- (\*) Galı, J., and Gertler, M. (1999). Inflation dynamics: A structural econometric analysis. Journal of monetary Economics, 44(2), 195-222.
- (\*) Hazell, J., Herreno, J., Nakamura, E., and Steinsson, J. (2022). The slope of the Phillips Curve: evidence from US states. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 137(3), 1299-1344.

### **Further Readings**

Coibion, O., and Gorodnichenko, Y. (2015). Is the Phillips curve alive and well after all? Inflation expectations and the missing disinflation. American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, 7(1), 197-232.

Mavroeidis, S., Plagborg-Møller, M., and Stock, J. H. (2014). Empirical evidence on inflation expectations in the New Keynesian Phillips Curve. American Economic Journal: Journal of Economic Literature, 52(1), 124-188.

Sargent, T. J. (1980). The ends of four big inflations. Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.

### 2.8 Price Rigidity and Menu Costs Models

#### **Required Readings**

- (\*) Nakamura, E., and Steinsson, J. (2008). Five facts about prices: A reevaluation of menu cost models. The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 123(4), 1415-1464.
- (\*) Golosov, Mikhail, and Robert E. Lucas Jr. "Menu costs and Phillips curves." Journal of Political Economy 115, no. 2 (2007): 171-199.

#### **Further Readings**

Nakamura, Emi, Jón Steinsson, Patrick Sun, and Daniel Villar. "The elusive costs of inflation: Price dispersion during the US great inflation." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 133, no. 4 (2018): 1933-1980.

Midrigan, Virgiliu. "Menu costs, multiproduct firms, and aggregate fluctuations." Econometrica 79, no. 4 (2011): 1139-1180.

Caplin, Andrew S., and Daniel F. Spulber. "Menu costs and the neutrality of money." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 102, no. 4 (1987): 703-725.

### 2.9 Real Rigidities

#### **Required Readings**

(\*) Ball, Laurence, and David Romer. "Real rigidities and the non-neutrality of money." The Review of Economic Studies 57, no. 2 (1990): 183-203.

### **Further Readings**

Mankiw, N. Gregory. "Small menu costs and large business cycles: A macroeconomic model of monopoly." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 100, no. 2 (1985): 529-538. Yellen, Janet. Efficiency wage models of unemployment. Macmillan Education UK, 1995. Bils, Mark, Peter J. Klenow, and Benjamin A. Malin. "Reset price inflation and the impact of monetary policy shocks." American Economic Review 102, no. 6 (2012): 2798-2825. Nakamura, Emi, and Jon Steinsson. "Monetary non-neutrality in a multisector menu cost model." The Quarterly journal of economics 125, no. 3 (2010): 961-1013.

#### 2.10 Information Frictions

### **Required Readings**

(\*) Mankiw, N. Gregory, and Ricardo Reis. "Sticky information versus sticky prices: a proposal to replace the New Keynesian Phillips curve." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 117, no. 4 (2002): 1295-1328.

#### **Further Readings**

Reis, Ricardo. "Inattentive producers." The Review of Economic Studies 73, no. 3 (2006): 793-821.

Reis, Ricardo. "Inattentive consumers." Journal of monetary Economics 53, no. 8 (2006): 1761-1800.

Angeletos, George-Marios, and Jennifer La'o. "Sentiments." Econometrica 81, no. 2 (2013): 739-779.

Mackowiak, B., Matejka, F., and Wiederholt, M. (2023). Rational inattention: A review. Journal of Economic Literature, 61(1), 226-273.

Afrouzi, Hassan, and Choongryul Yang. "Dynamic rational inattention and the Phillips curve." (2021).

Coibion, Olivier, Yuriy Gorodnichenko, and Saten Kumar. "How do firms form their expectations? New survey evidence." American Economic Review 108, no. 9 (2018): 2671-2713.

### 2.11 Financial frictions in the long run

### **Required Readings**

(\*) Moll, B. (2014). Productivity losses from financial frictions: Can self-financing undo capital misallocation?. American Economic Review, 104(10), 3186-3221.

### **Further Readings**

Banerjee, A. V., and Newman, A. F. (1993). Occupational choice and the process of development. Journal of political economy, 101(2), 274-298.

Aghion, P., and Bolton, P. (1997). A theory of trickle-down growth and development. The Review of Economic Studies, 64(2), 151-172.

Rajan, R. and L. Zingales (1998). Financial Dependence and Growth. American Economic Review, 88(3) 559-586

Banerjee, Abhijit V., and Esther Duflo. "Growth theory through the lens of development economics." Handbook of economic growth 1 (2005): 473-552.

Chang-Tai Hsieh, Peter J. Klenow, Misallocation and Manufacturing TFP in China and India, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 124, Issue 4, November 2009, Pages 1403?1448,

Buera, Francisco J., Joseph P. Kaboski, and Yongseok Shin. 2011. "Finance and Development: A Tale of Two Sectors." American Economic Review, 101 (5): 1964-2002.

Itskhoki, O., and Moll, B. (2019). Optimal development policies with financial frictions. Econometrica, 87(1), 139-173.

Buera, F. J., Kaboski, J. P., and Townsend, R. M. (2021). From Micro to Macro Development.

Herreño, Juan and Sergio Ocampo (2023) "The Macroeconomic Consequences of Subsistence Self-Employment". Journal of Monetary Economics, 136, 91-106, May 2023.

### 2.12 Lectures 13, 14. Banks and the economy

#### **Required Readings:**

- (\*) Lecture 13. Diamond, Douglas W., and Philip H. Dybvig. "Bank runs, deposit insurance, and liquidity." Journal of political economy 91, no. 3 (1983): 401-419.
- (\*) Lecture 14. (\*) Bernanke, Ben, Mark Gertler, Agency Costs, Net Worth, and Business Fluctuations, The American Economic Review, Vol. 79, No. 1, Mar. 1989, pp 14-31.

### **Further Readings:**

David Romer, Advanced Macroeconomics, fourth edition, Sections 9.9–9.10, 436–451 Bernanke, Ben, Nonmonetary Effects of the Financial Crisis in the Propagation of the Great Depression. American Economic Review, Vol. 73, No. 3, June 1983. Pages 257-276. Bruce C. Greenwald, Joseph E. Stiglitz, Financial Market Imperfections and Business Cycles, The Quarterly Journal of Economics, Volume 108, Issue 1, February 1993, Pages 77–114

Holmstrom, B. and Tirole, J., 1997. Financial intermediation, loanable funds, and the real sector. the Quarterly Journal of economics, 112(3), pp.663-691.

Stiglitz, Joseph E., and Andrew Weiss. 1981. "Credit Rationing in Markets with Imperfect Information." American Economic Review 71 (3): 393–410.

Stiglitz, Joseph E., and Andrew Weiss. 1981. "Credit Rationing in Markets with Imperfect Information." American Economic Review 71 (3): 393–410.

Bernanke, Ben S., Mark Gertler, and Simon Gilchrist. "The financial accelerator in a quantitative business cycle framework." Handbook of macroeconomics 1 (1999): 1341-1393.

Kiyotaki, Nobuhiro, and John Moore. "Credit cycles." Journal of political economy 105, no. 2 (1997): 211-248.

Curdia, Vasco, and Michael Woodford. "Credit spreads and monetary policy." Journal of Money, credit and Banking 42 (2010): 3-35.

Gertler, Mark, and Nobuhiro Kiyotaki. "Banking, liquidity, and bank runs in an infinite horizon economy." American Economic Review 105, no. 7 (2015): 2011-43.

### 2.13 Cross-sectional effects of credit supply shocks

#### **Required Readings:**

(\*) Chodorow-Reich, Gabriel. "The employment effects of credit market disruptions: Firm-level evidence from the 2008–9 financial crisis." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 129, no. 1 (2014): 1-59.

### **Further Readings:**

Khwaja, Asim Ijaz, and Atif Mian. "Tracing the impact of bank liquidity shocks: Evidence from an emerging market." American Economic Review 98, no. 4 (2008): 1413-42.

Huber, Kilian. "Disentangling the effects of a banking crisis: Evidence from German firms and counties." American Economic Review 108, no. 3 (2018): 868-98.

Xu, Chenzi: Reshaping global trade: the immediate and long-run effects of bank failures. (2022) Quarterly Journal of Economics, forthcoming

Mian, Atif, Amir Sufi, and Emil Verner. "Household debt and business cycles worldwide." The Quarterly Journal of Economics 132, no. 4 (2017): 1755-1817.

Paravisini, Daniel, Veronica Rappoport, Philipp Schnabl, and Daniel Wolfenzon. "Dissecting the effect of credit supply on trade: Evidence from matched credit-export data." The Review of Economic Studies 82, no. 1 (2015): 333-359.

Peek, J. and E.S. Rosengren (2000): "Collateral Damage: Effects of the Japanese Bank Crisis on Real Activity in the United States," American Economic Review, 90(1), 30-45.

Gertler, M. and S. Gilchrist (1994): "Monetary Policy, Business Cycles, and the Behavior of Small Manufacturing Firms," Quarterly Journal of Economics, 109(2), 309-340.

Benmelech, Efraim, Carola Frydman, and Dimitris Papanikolaou. "Financial frictions and employment during the great depression." Journal of Financial Economics 133, no. 3 (2019): 541-563.

### 2.14 The Q theory of investment

#### **Key Readings:**

(\*) Lecture 16. Hayashi, Fumio. "Tobin's marginal q and average q: A neoclassical interpretation." Econometrica: Journal of the Econometric Society (1982): 213-224.

- (\*) Lecture 17. House, Christopher L., and Matthew D. Shapiro. "Temporary investment tax incentives: Theory with evidence from bonus depreciation." American Economic Review 98, no. 3 (2008): 737-68.
- (\*) Lecture 18. Financing Constraints and Corporate Investment. Fazzari, S., and G. Hubbard and B.C. Petersen), Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 1988:1: 141-195.
- (\*) Lecture 18. Zwick, Eric, and James Mahon. "Tax policy and heterogeneous investment behavior." American Economic Review 107, no. 1 (2017): 217-48.

#### **Further Readings:**

Chaney, Thomas, David Sraer, David Thesmar. 2012. "The Collateral Channel: How Real Estate Shocks Affect Corporate Investment". American Economic Review. 102(6): 2381-2409.

Doms, Mark, and Timothy Dunne. "Capital adjustment patterns in manufacturing plants." Review of economic dynamics 1.2 (1998): 409-429.

Ramey, Valerie A., and Matthew D. Shapiro. "Displaced capital: A study of aerospace plant closings." Journal of political Economy 109.5 (2001): 958-992.

Erickson, Timothy, and Toni M. Whited. "Measurement error and the relationship between investment and q." Journal of political economy 108, no. 5 (2000): 1027-1057.

Stock, James H., and Mark W. Watson. "Business cycle fluctuations in US macroeconomic time series." Handbook of macroeconomics 1 (1999): 3-64.

Blinder, Alan S., and Louis J. Maccini. "Taking stock: a critical assessment of recent research on inventories." Journal of Economic perspectives 5.1 (1991): 73-96.

Gourio, Francois, and Anil K. Kashyap. "Investment spikes: New facts and a general equilibrium exploration." Journal of Monetary Economics 54 (2007): 1-22.

Benmelech, Efraim, and Nittai K. Bergman. 2008. "Liquidation Values and the Credibility of Financial Contract Renegotiation: Evidence from U.S. Airlines." Quarterly Journal of Economics 123(4): 1635–77.

Mian, Atif, Andres Sarto, Amir Sufi. 2022. Estimating Credit Multipliers. Mimeo.

Romer, David. Advanced Macroeconomics. Chapter 9: Investment. Sections 9.1 - 9.5.

Cummins, Jason G., Kevin A. Hassett, R. Glenn Hubbard, "A reconsideration of investment behavior using tax reforms as natural experiments." Brookings papers on economic

activity 1994, no. 2 (1994): 1-74.

Summers, Lawrence "Taxation and corporate investment: A q-theory approach." Brookings Papers on Economic Activity 1981, no. 1 (1981): 67-140.

### 2.15 Lumpy Investment

### **Key Readings:**

- (\*) Lecture 19. Caballero, Ricardo J., and Eduardo MRA Engel. "Explaining investment dynamics in US manufacturing: a generalized (S, s) approach." Econometrica 67, no. 4 (1999): 783-826.
- (\*) Lecture 20. Thomas, Julia K. "Is lumpy investment relevant for the business cycle?." Journal of political Economy 110, no. 3 (2002): 508-534.

### **Further Readings:**

Winberry, Thomas. "Lumpy investment, business cycles, and stimulus policy." American Economic Review 111, no. 1 (2021): 364-96.

. Cooper, Russell W., and John C. Haltiwanger. "On the nature of capital adjustment costs." The Review of Economic Studies 73, no. 3 (2006): 611-633.

Caballero, Ricardo J., and John V. Leahy. "Fixed costs: The demise of marginal q." NBER Working Papers, No. 5508 (1996).

Caballero, Ricardo J., Eduardo MRA Engel, John C. Haltiwanger, Michael Woodford, and Robert E. Hall. "Plant-level adjustment and aggregate investment dynamics." Brookings papers on economic activity (1995): 1-54.

Bertola, Guiseppe, and Ricardo J. Caballero. "Irreversibility and aggregate investment." The Review of Economic Studies 61, no. 2 (1994): 223-246.

Khan, Aubhik, and Julia K. Thomas. "Idiosyncratic shocks and the role of nonconvexities in plant and aggregate investment dynamics." Econometrica 76, no. 2 (2008): 395-436.

Bachmann, Rüdiger, Ricardo J. Caballero, and Eduardo MRA Engel. "Aggregate implications of lumpy investment: new evidence and a DSGE model." American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics 5, no. 4 (2013): 29-67.

House, Christopher L. "Fixed costs and long-lived investments." Journal of Monetary

Economics 68 (2014): 86-100.

Khan, Aubhik, and Julia K. Thomas. "Nonconvex factor adjustments in equilibrium business cycle models: do nonlinearities matter?." Journal of monetary economics 50, no. 2 (2003): 331-360.

Gourio, Francois, and Anil K. Kashyap. "Investment spikes: New facts and a general equilibrium exploration." Journal of Monetary Economics 54 (2007): 1-22.

Koby, Yann, and Christian Wolf. "Aggregation in heterogeneous-firm models: Theory and measurement." Manuscript, July (2020).