# Machines and Machinists: Incremental Technical Change and Wage Inequality

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## Motivation

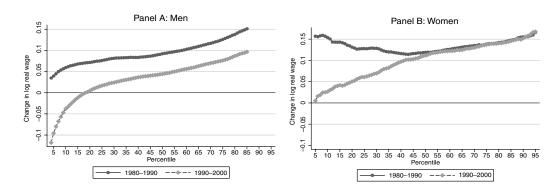
## Inequality and polarization in the U.S.

Figure 1.—Change in Log Real Weekly Wage by Percentile, Full-Time Workers, 1963–2005



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# Inequality and polarization in Germany



 $\label{eq:Figure III} \mbox{Wage Growth by Percentile: The 1980s versus the 1990s}$ 

Source. 2% IABS Sample for full-time workers between 21 and 60 years of age. The figures plot wage growth by percentile from 1980 to 1990 and from 1990 to 2000. Due to censoring, we plot wage growth for men up to the 85th percentile only.

## Wage inequality has increased in many countries

- U.S. (Katz, Loveman & Blanchflower 1995, Autor, Katz & Kearney 2008)
- U.K. and Japan (Katz et al. 1995)
- Germany (Dustmann, Ludsteck & Schönberg 2009), Poland (Rutkowski 1996, Rutkowski 1997)
- Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia (Rutkowski 1997)

## Is technology to blame?

#### Emergence of radically new technologies favors some groups over others

- steam engines (Katz & Margo 2014, Franck & Galor 2015)
- electrification (Goldin & Katz 2008, Chapter 3)
- mass production and its dissolution (Piore & Sabel 1984)
- automation (Autor, Levy & Murnane 2003, Autor 2015, Acemoglu & Restrepo 2017)
- industrial robots (Acemoglu & Restrepo 2019, Dixon, Hong & Wu 2019, Koch, Manuylov & Smolka 2019, Graetz & Michaels 2018, Findeisen, Dauth, Suedekum & Woessner 2018)

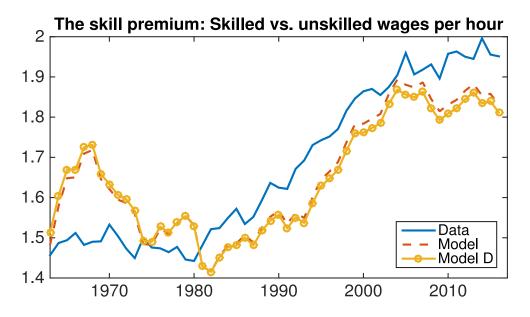
## Two challenges to this explanation

- Inequality increase in pervasive, even within well-defined skill and occupation groups.
- **2** Technical revolutions are rare (in time, across countries).

## Another explanation: capital-skill complementarity

Krusell et al (2000): lower relative price of capital goods can quantitatively explain the rise in the skill premium.

## Model fits well after 20 more years



## This paper

- A novel theoretical mechanism of capital-quality-skill complementarity: incremental improvement of machine quality differentially affect workers with similar skills.
- 2 Direct micro evidence for this mechanism from Hungarian industry 1988–2003.
- Access to better machines can explain about half of the increase in within-occupation wage inequality in this period.

## Weaver productivity across countries and over time

#### Clark, 1987

"In 1910 one New England cotton textile operative performed as much work as 1.5 British, 2.3 German, and nearly 6 Greek, Japanese, Indian, or Chinese workers."

#### Bessen, 2012

"A typical weaver in the United States in 1902 produced over 50 times as many yards of cloth in an hour of weaving as did a weaver a century earlier producing a comparable cloth. [...] The weaver in 1902, however, achieved that output using eighteen power-driven looms while the weaver of 1802 used a single handloom."

#### Sutton, 2001

"On technical performance, there was a small but significant quality gap in favour of the imported [rather than Indian] machine."

#### Outline

- 1 An engineering production function
- 2 Equilibrium assignment of machines and machinists
- 3 A case study of a weaving mill
- Imported machines and wages in Hungary, 1992-2003
- 5 Discussion and conclusion

An engineering production function

## Standard model

$$Y = AF(K, L)$$

What is the shape of F?

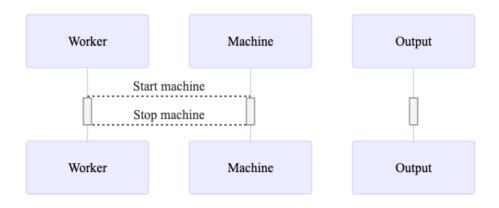
# How do machines and people work together?

Tool model A worker feeds material into a metal press (both worker and machine busy) to produce.

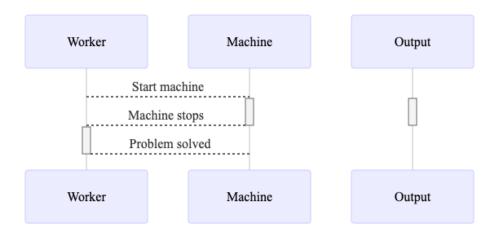
Operator model A power loom produces in an autonomous fashion (worker idle), until a problem arises. The operator fixes it (machine idle) to get it back to work as fast as possible.

This paper: while the tool model assumes Leontief production, the operator model leads to non-trivial patterns of complementarity.

## Tool model



# Operator model



#### Production function

A machine produces A units per time:

$$dY = \begin{cases} Adt & \text{if machine running, } s = 1 \\ 0 & \text{if not, } s = 0 \end{cases}$$

#### The need for human intervention

Machine breaks down with Poisson arrival  $1/\theta$ .

Worker fixes it with Poisson arrival h.

Markov chain:

$$\begin{pmatrix} d\pi_1 \\ d\pi_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -1/\theta & h \\ 1/\theta & -h \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \pi_1 \\ \pi_0 \end{pmatrix} dt$$

## Two measures of quality

machine quality Expected autonomous uptime  $\theta$  worker skill Speed of fixing problems h

# Ergodic distribution of machine runtime

$$\frac{1}{T} \int_{t=0}^{T} \pi_1(t) dt \approx \pi_1^*.$$

The steady-state probability is the solution to  $-\frac{1}{\theta}\pi_1(t)+h[1-\pi_1(t)]=0$ ,

$$\pi_1^* = \frac{\theta h}{1 + \theta h}.$$

## Expected output

A worker type h on a machine type  $(A,\theta)$  produces, in expectation,

$$F(A,\theta,h) = A\pi_1 = A\frac{\theta h}{1+\theta h}. (1)$$

## Are worker skill and machine quality complementary?

For sufficiently autonomous machines, they are substitutes

$$\frac{\partial^2 F(A,\theta,h)}{\partial \theta \partial h} < 0$$

iff

$$\frac{\theta h}{1 + \theta h} > 0.5.$$

Intuition: why bother with a good operator on a machine that does not stop frequently?

## Are worker skill and machine quality complementary?

- But this takes a fixed number of machines per worker
- Pattern may be different if *k* can also adjust (Eeckhout and Kircher 2018).
- Recall that worker is idle  $\pi_1$  fraction of the time. She can operate  $1/(1-\pi_1)=1+\theta h$  machines.
- At optimal quantity of machines

$$(1 + \theta h)F(A, \theta, h) = A\theta h,$$

machine quality and worker skill are **complementary**. Intuition: 1. Good workers can operate more machines (quality-quantity substitution). 2. Good machines have a higher shadow cost of downtime.

Equilibrium assignment of machines and machinists

# Equilibrium assignment of machines and machinists

- There are two types of machines with  $A_1\theta_1 > A_0\theta_0$  (for now).
- Available in quantity  $K_1$  and  $K_0$ .
- Continuum of worker skills in inelastic supply,  $h \in \mathbb{R}^+$  with continuous distribution G(h).
- Frictionless capital and labor markets (for now).

## Equilibrium

Assignment function  $k_m(h):\{0,1\}\times H\to \mathbb{R}^+$  capturing machine m per worker h

Wage function  $w(h): H \to \mathbb{R}^+$ 

Rental rate of capital:  $R_1$  and  $R_0$  such that

1

$$w(h) + k_m(h)R_m \ge k_m(h)A_m\theta_m h$$

for m=0,1 and  $h\in H$  with equality if  $k_m(h)>0$  (non-positive profits)

2

$$\int_{h} k_m(h) dG(h) \le K_m$$

for m=0,1 with equality if  $R_m>0$  (machine markets clear)

3

$$\sum_{m=0}^{1} k_m(h) \frac{1}{1 + \theta_m h} \le 1$$

for all  $h \in H$  with equality if w(h) (labor markets clear)

#### Solution

#### Monge-Kantorovich duality

$$w(h) + (1 + \theta_m h)R_m \ge A_m \theta_m h$$

for all h and m, and = if  $k_m(h) > 0$ 

- **1** Each worker is only assigned to one type of machine:  $k_0(h) \cdot k_1(h) = 0$ .
- 2 Machine quantity uses all available worker time:  $k_m(h) = 1 + \theta_m h$  if m is assigned to h

## Assortative matching

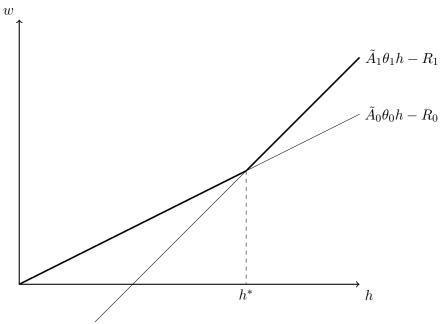
- All skills above some *h*\* work type-1 machines.
- Equilibrium wage rate:

$$w(h) = \begin{cases} (A_1 - R_1)\theta_1 h - R_1 & \text{if } h > h^* \\ (A_0 - R_0)\theta_0 h - R_0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Equilibrium rental rate such that

$$\int_0^{h^*} (1 + \theta_0 h) dG(h) = K_0$$
$$\int_{h^*}^{\infty} (1 + \theta_1 h) dG(h) = K_1$$

# Machine assignment and wage setting by worker skill



## A Pareto example

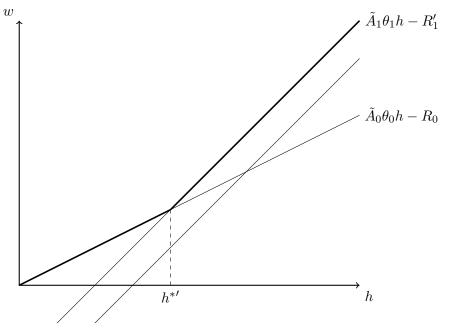
Suppose 
$$G(h) = L[1 - (h/h_0)^{-\alpha}].$$

Demand for good machines

$$L\left(\frac{h^*}{h_0}\right)^{-\alpha} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{\alpha - 1}\theta_1 h^*\right) = K_1$$

Comparative statics

# When more good machines become available, skilled workers benefit



#### **Predictions**

#### Cross sectional patterns

- Conditional on machine productivity, wages increase in worker skill,
- 2 higher skilled workers are (weakly) more likely to use a good machine,
- 3 workers using a good machine earn higher wages,
- 4 the returns to skill are higher on good machines.

## Technology upgrading

#### When $R_1/R_0$ declines,

- 1 a larger fraction of operators within the firm uses a good machine,
- 2 workers switching to a good machine receive a wage increase,
- 3 the wage of all existing good machine users increases,
- 4 the returns to skill increase.

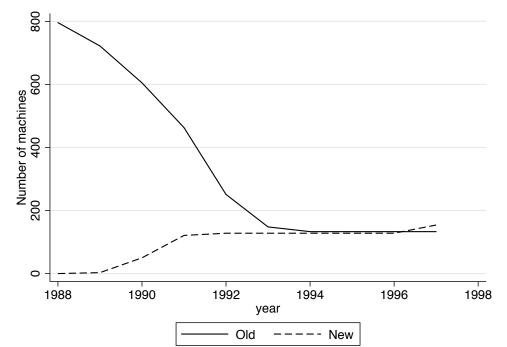
A case study of a weaving mill

#### Data

Hungarian cotton weaving mill. Soviet and Czechoslovakian (STB and UTAS) weaving machines, older Swiss-made (shuttle Rüti) looms in 1988. Starting in 1989, purchase modern looms from Switzerland (Rüti F and G) and Japan (Toyota).

Data: machines installed (type, properties, output, downtime). Workers on the floor (age, piece wage, machine assignment).

#### The number of old and new machines, 1988–1997

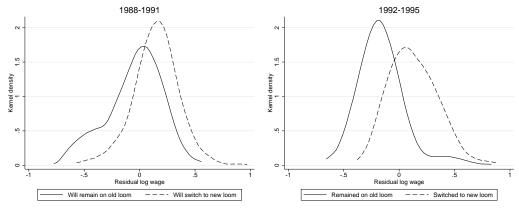


# Differences between new and old machines—Regression estimates, 1991–1997

| Dependent variable            | Mean difference | Mean dep. var. | St. dev. dep. var. |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Output (log)                  | 0.820***        | 5.49           | 0.475              |
| Potential output (log)        | $0.790^{***}$   | 5.94           | 0.449              |
| Potential output/worker (log) | 0.811***        | 3.52           | 0.845              |
| Output/potential output (log) | $0.031^*$       | 4.15           | 0.150              |
| Percent downtime due to       |                 |                |                    |
| —scheduled maintenance        | -3.20***        | 2.73           | 3.30               |
| —troubleshooting              | -1.68***        | 2.22           | 1.58               |
| —change of warp               | $1.54^{**}$     | 8.33           | 5.97               |
| —change of weft               | $0.940^{***}$   | 2.94           | 2.99               |
| —other reasons                | 1.08            | 4.02           | 6.90               |
| Total downtime                | -0.961          | 20.38          | 9.74               |
| Machine/worker                | -2.64***        | 11.32          | 2.29               |
| Interventions/hour            | -1.64           | 45.26          | 9.46               |

Notes: Number of observations: 341 machine-months observed between May 1991 and August 1997.

#### Wage distribution before and after the adoption of new looms



Estimated kernel density of residual log wages relative to year mean. Bandwidth = 0.1. Left panel includes workers between 1988 and 1991 who do not yet work on a new loom (406 worker-years). Right panel includes workers between 1992 and 1995 (403 worker-years). Sample is limited to workers who appear in both time periods at least once.

Wage gain from moving from an old to a new machine

|                        | (1)       | (2)       |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                        | OLS       | Worker FE |
|                        |           |           |
| New machine            | 0.167***  | 0.060***  |
| New Machine            | (0.021)   | (0.020)   |
| ۸                      | 0.075***  | 0.187***  |
| Age                    | (0.007)   | (0.021)   |
| Λd                     | -0.001*** | -0.001*** |
| Age squared            | (0.000)   | (0.000)   |
|                        |           |           |
| Number of observations | 1,595     | 1,595     |
| Number of workers      | 579       | 579       |
| $R^2$                  | 0.818     | 0.872     |

Notes: Dependent variable: log hourly wage. Sample: Person-years for continuing workers employed in the plant in 1989. Standard errors, clustered by worker, are reported in parantheses. Coefficients signifiantly different from zero at 1, 5 and 10 percent are marked by \*\*\*, \*\* and \*, respectively.

#### The effect of machine type and worker quality on log output per machine

|   | (1)                 |
|---|---------------------|
|   | Production function |
|   |                     |
| Log number of weavers   | 0.109***            |
| Log number of weavers   | (0.029)             |
| Al I  | -0.858**            |
| New machine   | (0.335)             |
|   | -9.91**             |
| Log residual wage (as of 1989) of workers at the machine type | (4.62)              |
|   | 38.53***            |
| New machine $	imes$ log residual wage                         | (7.55)              |
| Number of observations  | 261                 |
| $R^2$   | 0.733               |

Notes: Dependent variable: log output per machine. Sample: machine-months for five types of loom. Estimation: OLS.

Imported machines and wages in Hungary

#### Imported machines and wages in Hungary

#### Show that

- 1 Better workers are more likely to get an imported machine.
- Wages are higher on imported machines.
- 3 The returns to skill are higher on imported machines.

#### Data

- Linked employer-employee data (Bértarifa)
  - limit to machine operator occupations in industry (narrow skills)
  - lacktriangle drop firms with <20 employees
  - repeated random sample of 6 percent (not a panel)
- 2 Hungarian Customs Statistics, 1992–2003
  - all direct exporter and importer
  - detailed by product (HS6): specific machines

## Sample

## Machine operator occupations

| FEOR code | Description  |
|-----------|--|
| 8131      | Petroleum refinery and processing machine operators                                    |
| 8133      | Basic chemicals and chemical products machine operators                                |
| 8149      | Building materials industry machine operators not elsewhere classified                 |
| 8199      | Processing machine operators, production line workers not elsewhere classified         |
| 8219      | Mining-plant operators not elsewhere classified  |
| 8221      | Power-production and transformation plant mechanics and operators                      |
| 8222      | Coal- or oil-fired power-generating plant operators                                    |
| 8223      | Nuclear-fuelled power-generating plant operators                                       |
| 8224      | Hydroelectric power-generating station mechanics and machine operators                 |
| 8229      | Power production and related plant operators not elsewhere classified                  |
| 8231      | Water works machine operators  |
| 8232      | Sewage plant operators   |
| 8240      | Packaging machine operators  |
| 8293      | Agricultural machine operators, mechanics  |
| 8299      | Other non manufacturing machine operators not elsewhere classified                     |
| 8311      | Agricultural engine drivers and operators  |
| 8319      | Agricultural and forestry mobile-plant drivers, operators not elsewhere classified 47/ |

#### Wage inequality over time

| Year | High-school premium | 90/10 inequality |
|------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1992 | 0.168               | 0.978            |
| 1993 | 0.161               | 1.02             |
| 1994 | 0.178               | 1.01             |
| 1995 | 0.167               | 1.01             |
| 1996 | 0.180               | 1.06             |
| 1997 | 0.184               | 1.15             |
| 1998 | 0.184               | 1.16             |
| 1999 | 0.206               | 1.15             |
| 2000 | 0.205               | 1.17             |

Notes: Table displays the wage gap between various groups of workers over time. The second column shows the wage difference (in log points) associated with a high-school degree (relative to primary school and vocational school), controlling worker gender, age and occupation. The third column shows the log point difference between the 90th and 10th percentile of the within-occupation wage distribution.

Imported machines became more prevalent

#### Imported machines became more prevalent

| Voor  | Year Workers Fir |       | Fraction importing | Import exposure |  |
|-------|------------------|-------|--------------------|-----------------|--|
| i Cai | VVOIKEIS         | Firms | (percent)          | (percent)       |  |
| 1992  | 10,853           | 1,823 | 35.27              | 16.57           |  |
| 1993  | 14,185           | 2,541 | 40.10              | 22.73           |  |
| 1994  | 14,695           | 2,773 | 39.07              | 27.26           |  |
| 1995  | 15,750           | 2,902 | 44.16              | 30.88           |  |
| 1996  | 15,419           | 2,775 | 48.74              | 34.35           |  |
| 1997  | 13,668           | 2,676 | 52.91              | 37.25           |  |
| 1998  | 15,239           | 2,754 | 55.22              | 40.04           |  |
| 1999  | 14,418           | 2,834 | 56.84              | 41.65           |  |
| 2000  | 14,805           | 2,966 | 55.89              | 43.44           |  |
| 2001  | 14,528           | 2,874 | 57.59              | 45.14           |  |
| 2002  | 15,907           | 2,345 | 53.40              | 45.99           |  |
| 2003  | 15,185           | 2,223 | 52.33              | 46.66           |  |
| 2004  | 15,261           | 2,281 | 49.86              | 46.66           |  |

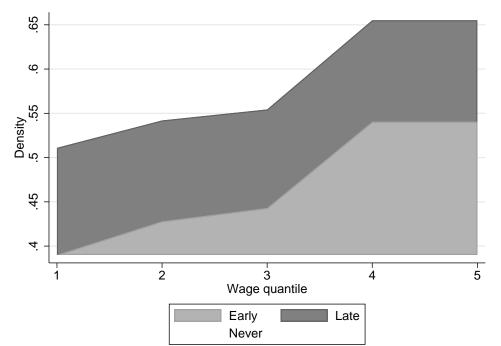
Notes: "Fraction importing" denotes the fraction of workers in the sample in importer occupations and importer firms ( $\chi_{jot}=1$ ). "Import exposure" is defined on a balanced sample of firm-occupations and denotes the same importer fraction in this balanced sample.

#### Average machinery tariffs

| Year | Tariff on EU imports | Column 2 tariff |
|------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1992 | 9.40                 | 9.70            |
| 1993 | 9.00                 | 9.61            |
| 1994 | 8.69                 | 9.61            |
| 1995 | 5.84                 | 9.23            |
| 1996 | 3.18                 | 9.02            |
| 1997 | 0.774                | 8.80            |
| 1998 | 0.572                | 8.56            |
| 1999 | 0.354                | 8.34            |
| 2000 | 0.176                | 8.33            |
| 2001 | 0.000                | 8.31            |
| 2002 | 0.000                | 8.33            |
| 2003 | 0.000                | 8.31            |

Notes: Table reports the unweighted average of tariffs on machinery imports from the European Economic Community (EU, second column), as well as the unweighted average of Column 2 tariffs on machinery (third column). Tariff rates are ad valorem percentages.

## Among high-wage workers, early importers are overrepresented

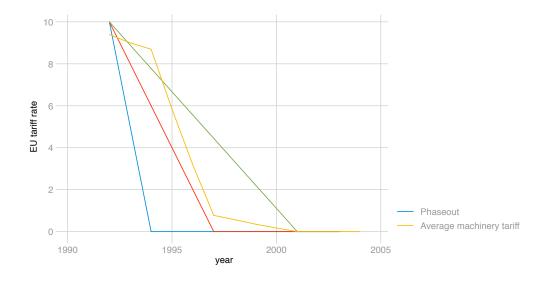


#### Estimation

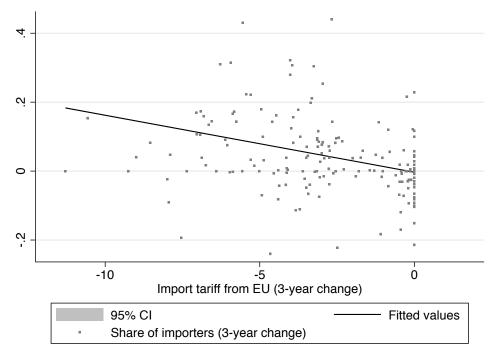
#### Estimable equation

$$\ln w_{ijot} = \alpha_{ot} + \nu_{jt} + \gamma_h h_i + \gamma_\chi \chi_{jot} + \gamma_{\chi h} \chi_{jot} h_i + u_{ijot}. \tag{2}$$

## Interim Agreement with EEA (1991) phased out tariffs



## Occupations with faster tariff cuts adopt imported machines faster



## Creating a Bartik instrument

$$\hat{K}_{jot} = \frac{n_{jot} + n_{jo,t+1}}{\sum_{l} (n_{ilt} + n_{il,t+1})} \times K_{jt}.$$
(3)

$$\hat{M}_{jot} = \frac{\hat{K}_{jot_0}}{\sum_{l} \hat{K}_{lot_0}} \times M_{ot}. \tag{4}$$

#### The effect of import exposure on wages

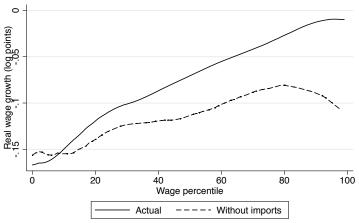
|                                    | (1)      | (2)      | (3)      | (4)         |
|------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
|                                    | OLS      | OLS      | IV       | IV          |
|                                    |          |          |          |             |
| Importer firm-occupation (dummy)   | 0.028*** | 0.024*** | 0.093**  | $0.080^{*}$ |
| importer initi-occupation (duminy) | (0.007)  | (0.007)  | (0.046)  | (0.045)     |
| High school diploma                | 0.089*** | 0.073*** | 0.089*** | 0.026**     |
| (dummy)                            | (0.007)  | (0.007)  | (0.007)  | (0.013)     |
| High school diploma at             | ` ,      | 0.027*** | , ,      | 0.105***    |
| importer firm-occupation (dummy)   |          | (0.009)  |          | (0.026)     |
| $R^2$                              | 0.771    | 0.771    | 0.007    | 0.005       |
|                                    | 0.771    | 0.771    | 0.087    | 0.085       |
| Number of observations             | 184,048  | 184,048  | 183,714  | 183,714     |
| F-test for 1st stage               |          |          |          |             |

Notes: The dependent variable is the log monthly earning of the worker in the given year. All specifications control for occupation-year and firm-year fixed effects. Worker controls include indicators for gender and schooling and a quadratic function of worker age. In columns 3 and 4, the importer dummy is instrumented by shift-share instruments, as explained in the main text. Standard errors, clustered by firm, are reported in parantheses. Coefficients significantly different from zero at 1.5 and 10 persons are marked by \*\*\* \*\* and \* respectively.

# Robustness to various firm controls

|                          | (1)              | (2)           | (3)       | (4)         |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
|                          | No firm controls | Capital stock | Vintage   | Full contro |
| Immortor competion       | 0 162***         | 0.004***      | 0 002***  | 0.040***    |
| Importer occupation      | 0.163***         | 0.084***      | 0.083***  | 0.049***    |
| at importer firm (dummy) | (0.015)          | (0.010)       | (0.010)   | (0.010)     |
| Importer firm            | 0.170***         | 0.027***      | 0.027***  | 0.012       |
| (dummy)                  | (0.012)          | (0.010)       | (0.010)   | (0.010)     |
| Book value of machinery  |                  | 0.074***      | 0.074***  | 0.069***    |
| (log)                    |                  | (0.003)       | (0.003)   | (0.005)     |
| Equipment bought 2–5     |                  |               | -0.054*** | -0.042***   |
| years ago (share)        |                  |               | (0.012)   | (0.012)     |
| Equipment bought 6 or    |                  |               | 0.082**   | 0.067*      |
| more years ago (share)   |                  |               | (0.032)   | (0.037)     |
| Firm is foreign owned    |                  |               | , ,       | 0.153***    |
| (dummy)                  |                  |               |           | (0.013)     |
| $R^2$                    | 0.381            | 0.459         | 0.460     | 0.479       |
| Number of observations   | 172,212          | 172,212       | 172,212   | 172,212     |

#### Actual and counterfactual wage change by wage percentile



Notes: Nonparametric estimates of log wage change between two periods by percentile of the wage distribution. Early period is 1992-1994 (15.205 worker-years), late period is 1998-2000 (17,475 worker-years). Firm-occupation cells that have already imported by 1994 are excluded. Counterfactua growth computed from firm-occupations cells that never import. Lowess curve with bandwidth of 0.33.

# Appendix

Complementarity and the quality-quantity trade-off

#### Complementarity and the quality-quantity trade-off

Eeckhout and Kircher (2018) study

$$F(\theta, h, K, L)$$
.

There is positive assortative matching iff

$$F_{\theta h} \ge \frac{F_{\theta L} F_{hK}}{F_{KL}}.$$

Frictional labor markets

#### Frictional labor markets

Marginal product of labor:

$$\lambda(h) = (A_m - \mu_m)\theta_m h - \mu_m.$$

- Workers have upward-sloping labor supply curve at each employer (Card et al 2018).
   (Can be microfounded by a search model.)
- Wages are a weighted average of marginal product and outside option b,

$$w_{ijm} = \beta (A_m - \mu_m)\theta_m h_i - \beta \mu_m + (1 - \beta)b, \tag{5}$$

#### Robustness

#### Alternative ways of capturing import exposure

|                            | (1)         | (2)          | (3)       |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
|                            | No large    | No new hires | Intensive |
|                            | occupations |              | margin    |
| Worker exposed to          | 0.032***    | 0.031***     |           |
| imported machine (dummy)   | (0.006)     | (0.007)      |           |
| Specific import per worker | ,           | , ,          | 0.002     |
| (1st quartile)             |             |              | (0.015)   |
| Specific import per worker |             |              | 0.037***  |
| (2nd quartile)             |             |              | (0.009)   |
| Specific import per worker |             |              | 0.044***  |
| (3rd quartile)             |             |              | (0.009)   |
| Specific import per worker |             |              | 0.046***  |
| (4th quartile)             |             |              | (0.009)   |
| $R^2$                      | 0.770       | 0.772        | 0.771     |
| Number of observations     | 151,029     | 161,512      | 184,048   |

Patterns of capital imports

#### Data

- Hungarian Customs Statistics, 1992–2003
  - all direct exporter and importer
  - detailed by product (HS6): capital goods
  - and country of origin
- Balance Sheet and Earnings Statement
  - revenue, employment, material cost
  - capital: book value of equipment

#### Stocks and flows

- Imports are flows, equipment value is stock.
- Gross investment flow:

$$\hat{I}_{it} = K_{it} - (1 - \delta_{it}) K_{i,t-1}$$

with 
$$\hat{I}_{it} = \hat{I}_{it}^D + I_{it}^F$$

■ Imported equipment *stock*:

$$\hat{K}_{it}^{F} = (1 - \hat{\delta}_{it})\hat{K}_{i,t-1}^{F} + I_{it}^{F}$$

■ Complications: what if  $I_{it}^F > I_{it}$ ?

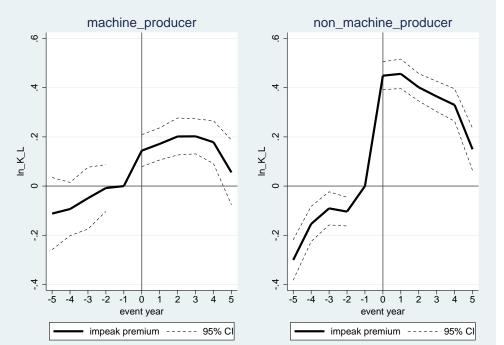
## Distribution of investment rates (following Khan and Thomas, 2008)

|                           | Manufacturing Non-machine manuf Non-machine |               | Non-machine manuf |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
|                           | 10+ employees                               | 10+ employees | all firm sizes    |
| Average IR                | 0.321                                       | 0.270         | -0.132            |
| Average IR (winsor. 0.01) | 0.378                                       | 0.335         | 0.338             |
| Median IR                 | 0.291                                       | 0.260         | 0.247             |
| Inaction (%)              | 5.9   | 6.4           | 13.3              |
| Positive investment (%)   | 85.9  | 85.0          | 77.0              |
| Negative investment (%)   | 8.1   | 8.6           | 9.8               |
| Positive spike (%)        | 59.9  | 56.9          | 54.1              |
| Negative spike (%)        | 3.7   | 3.8           | 5.1               |
| Observations              | 75,281                                      | 57,607        | 137,508           |

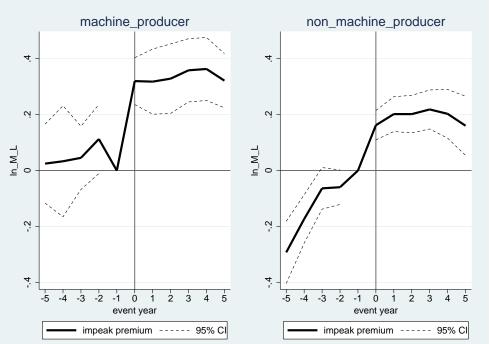
Notes: Inaction: abs(IR)<0.01, Positive spike: IR>0.2, Negative spike: IR<-0.2.

All samples exclude the first year of firms, where  $\emph{I}_t$  equals  $\emph{K}_t$  by construction.

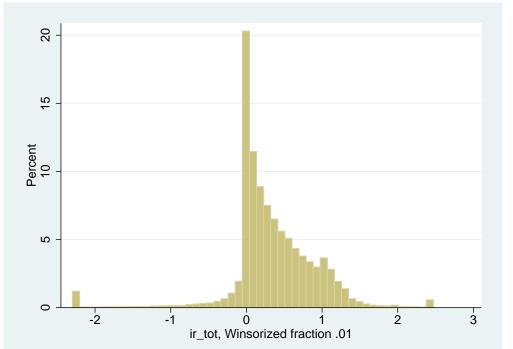
#### Capital intensity around import peaks



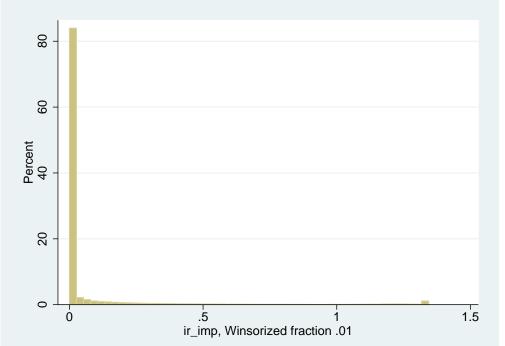
## Material intensity around import peaks



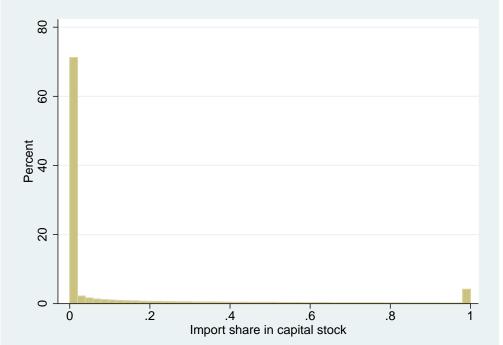
#### Investment rate distribution



## Imported investment rate distribution

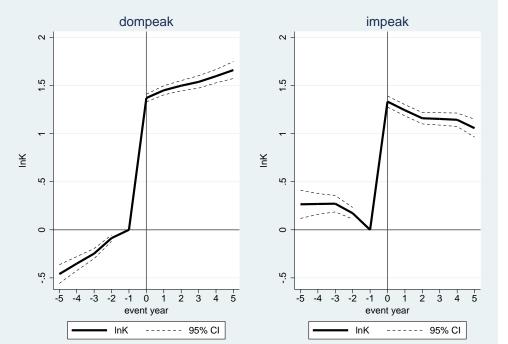


## Import share in capital sock

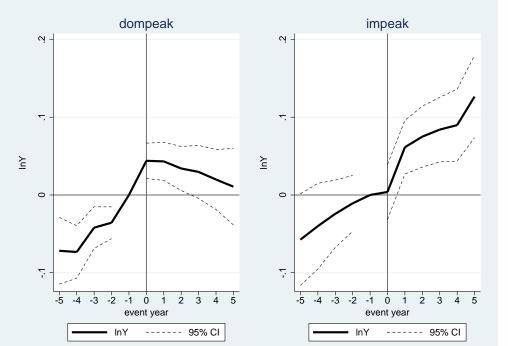


Event studies around large investments

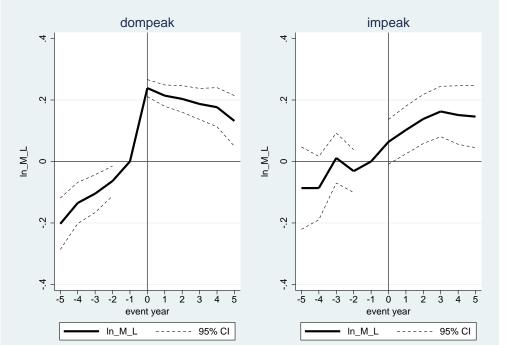
# Capital stock increases by same amount (by construction)



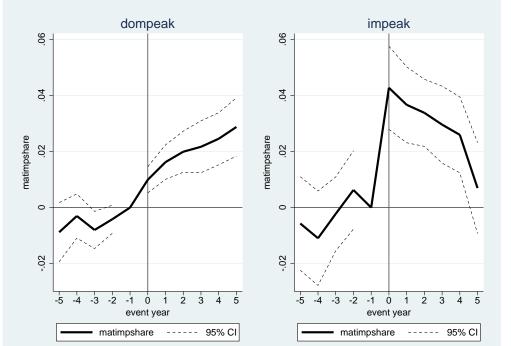
## TFP improves more for imported investment



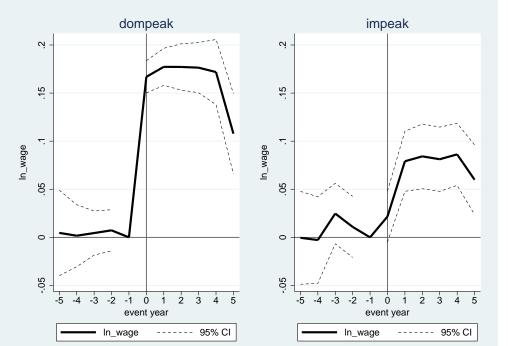
## Material intensity increases for both types of investment



## Material import intensity jumps more for imported investment



### Average wage reacts to domestic investment



Identification

### When do firms import?

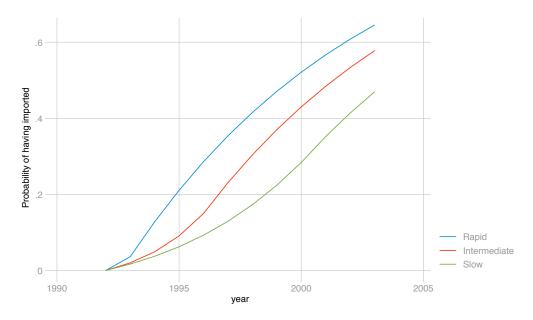
- Lumpy imported investment suggests fixed cost of importing (also see Halpern, Koren and Szeidl, 2015)
- Import if  $p_t^F/p_t^D < f(L_{it})$ .
- Hazard of starting to import (flow):

$$\Pr(K_{it}^F > 0 | K_{i,t-1}^F = 0) = \mu_{st} - \xi \Delta \tau_{st} L_{it}$$

Probability of having imported in the past (stock):

$$\Pr(K_{it}^F > 0) \approx \tilde{\mu}_{st} - \xi L_{it-\mathsf{age}_{it}} \sum_{a=0}^{\mathsf{age}_{it}} \Delta \tau_{st-a}$$

## Example of cumulated import hazards



### Results

### First stage

| Depvar: having imported (dummy) | Pooled    | Firm FE   |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| cdtariffeu X size 0-10          | -0.017*** | 0.009*    |
|                                 | (0.001)   | (0.005)   |
| cdtariffeu X size 10-50         | -0.026*** | -0.001    |
|                                 | (0.001)   | (0.005)   |
| cdtariffeu X size 50+           | -0.046*** | -0.019*** |
|                                 | (0.002)   | (0.005)   |
| InK                             | 0.048***  | 0.027***  |
|                                 | (0.002)   | (0.001)   |
| InM                             | 0.018***  | 0.007***  |
|                                 | (0.001)   | (0.001)   |
| InL                             | 0.008**   | 0.018***  |
|                                 | (0.003)   | (0.003)   |
| foreign (dummy)                 | 0.321***  | 0.149***  |
|                                 | (0.011)   | (0.022)   |
| size dummies                    | yes       | yes       |
| age dummies                     | yes       | yes       |
| industry x year effects         | yes       |           |
| year effects                    |           | yes       |
| Observations                    | 102,516   | 102,516   |
| R-squared                       | 0.296     | 0.211     |
| Number of id                    |           | 17,736    |
| F-test                          | 239.1     | 91.74     |

Notes: Robust standard errors (clustered by industry) are in parentheses. \*\*\* p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

### **Productivity**

| Depvar: InY             | Pooled   |          | Firm FE  |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| ·                       | OLS      | IV       | OLS      | IV       |
| having imported (dummy) | 0.199*** | 0.263*** | 0.086*** | 0.781*** |
|                         | (0.015)  | (0.075)  | (0.012)  | (0.112)  |
| InK                     | 0.132*** | 0.129*** | 0.092*** | 0.073*** |
|                         | (0.005)  | (0.006)  | (0.004)  | (0.005)  |
| InM                     | 0.413*** | 0.412*** | 0.297*** | 0.292*** |
|                         | (0.009)  | (0.010)  | (0.010)  | (0.010)  |
| InL                     | 0.299*** | 0.299*** | 0.364*** | 0.353*** |
|                         | (0.010)  | (0.010)  | (0.010)  | (0.010)  |
| foreign (dummy)         | 0.161*** | 0.140*** | 0.091**  | -0.033   |
|                         | (0.023)  | (0.034)  | (0.043)  | (0.047)  |
| size dummies            | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| age dummies             | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| industry x year effects | yes      | yes      |          |          |
| year effects            |          |          | yes      | yes      |
| Observations            | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  |
| R-squared               | 0.771    | 0.771    | 0.545    | 0.503    |
| Number of id            |          |          | 17,736   | 17,736   |

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

Complementarity

#### Complementarity

- Are imported machines complementary with other inputs?
- If so, can explain
  - large gaps
  - divergence
- Two ways to measure complementarity (Brynjolfsson and Milgrom, 2013):
  - **performance**:  $f_{xy} > 0$
  - behavior:  $\partial x/\partial y > 0$

### Imported machines are more material intensive

| Depvar: In M/L          | Pooled   |          | Firm FE  |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         | OLS      | IV       | OLS      | IV       |
| having imported (dummy) | 0.542*** | 0.706*** | 0.206*** | 1.218*** |
|                         | (0.021)  | (0.119)  | (0.020)  | (0.185)  |
| foreign (dummy)         | -0.032   | -0.091*  | 0.109    | -0.072   |
|                         | (0.037)  | (0.055)  | (0.073)  | (0.078)  |
| size dummies            | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| age dummies             | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| industry x year effects | yes      | yes      |          |          |
| year effects            |          |          | yes      | yes      |
| Observations            | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  |
| R-squared               | 0.161    | 0.159    | 0.056    | 0.007    |
| Number of id            |          |          | 17,736   | 17,736   |

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

### Imported machines are more imported material intensive

| Depvar: matimpshare     | Pooled   |          | Firm FE  |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         | OLS      | IV       | OLS      | IV       |
| having imported (dummy) | 0.127*** | 0.110*** | 0.042*** | 0.148*** |
|                         | (0.005)  | (0.026)  | (0.004)  | (0.034)  |
| foreign (dummy)         | 0.138*** | 0.144*** | 0.032**  | 0.014    |
|                         | (0.009)  | (0.013)  | (0.014)  | (0.015)  |
| size dummies            | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| age dummies             | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| industry x year effects | yes      | yes      |          |          |
| year effects            |          |          | yes      | yes      |
| Observations            | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  |
| R-squared               | 0.186    | 0.186    | 0.010    | -0.023   |
| Number of id            |          |          | 17,736   | 17,736   |

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1

### Imported machines use higher quality labor

| Depvar: In wage         | Pooled   |          | Firm FE  |          |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
|                         | OLS      | IV       | OLS      | IV       |
| having imported (dummy) | 0.151*** | 0.586*** | 0.089*** | 0.796*** |
|                         | (0.009)  | (0.049)  | (0.009)  | (0.090)  |
| foreign (dummy)         | 0.280*** | 0.125*** | 0.089**  | -0.037   |
|                         | (0.017)  | (0.024)  | (0.036)  | (0.041)  |
| size dummies            | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| age dummies             | yes      | yes      | yes      | yes      |
| industry x year effects | yes      | yes      |          |          |
| year effects            |          |          | yes      | yes      |
| Observations            | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  | 102,516  |
| R-squared               | 0.463    | 0.417    | 0.587    | 0.523    |
| Number of id            |          |          | 17,736   | 17,736   |

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> p<0.01, \*\* p<0.05, \* p<0.1