

1.11 – New Trade Theory

ECON 324 • International Trade • Spring 2023

Ryan Safner

Associate Professor of Economics

 safner@hood.edu

 [ryansafner/tradeS23](https://github.com/ryansafner/tradeS23)

 tradeS23.classes.ryansafner.com



Outline



Trade Puzzles

The Gravity Model of Trade

New Trade Theory

Internal Economies of Scale

External Economies of Scale



Trade Puzzles

Trade Puzzles



Ricardian comparative advantage

Trade Puzzles



Hecksher-Ohlin factor endowments

Upending the Classic Paradigm



Courtesy of Harley-Davidson

U.S. exports to Japan



Japan exports to U.S.

???

Intra-Industry Trade



- **Intra-industry trade:** share of international trade (exports + imports) that takes place *within* the same industry (across countries) rather than *across* industries



Courtesy of Harley-Davidson



Intra-Industry Trade



- **Intra-industry trade:** share of international trade (exports + imports) that takes place *within* the same industry (across countries) rather than *across* industries
- Measured by the **Grubel-Lloyd Index (GLI):**

$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|X_i - M_i|}{X_i + M_i}$$

where X is exports, M is imports, for industry i



Courtesy of Harley-Davidson



Grubel-Lloyd Index



$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|X_i - M_i|}{X_i + M_i}$$

Example: suppose a country exports good i but does not import good i :

$$GLI = 1 - 1 = 0$$

- No intra-industry trade; only inter-industry trade



Grubel-Lloyd Index



$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|X_i - M_i|}{X_i + M_i}$$

Example: same for a good a country imports but does not export:

$$GLI = 1 - 1 = 0$$

- No intra-industry trade; only inter-industry trade



Grubel-Lloyd Index



$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|X_i - M_i|}{X_i + M_i}$$

Example: what if a country's exports of $i \approx$ its imports of i ?

$$GLI = 1 - \frac{0}{X_i + M_i} = 1$$

- Only intra-industry trade, no inter-industry trade



Grubel-Lloyd Index



$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|X_i - M_i|}{X_i + M_i}$$

- GLI measures how closely exports & imports are *matched* within an industry



Grubel-Lloyd Index: Example I



$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|X_i - M_i|}{X_i + M_i}$$

Example: In 2010, the U.S. exported \$170 million and imported \$1.9 billion worth of raw sugar cane.

$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|0.170 - 1.900|}{0.170 + 1.900} = 0.16$$

- Little intra-industry trade



Grubel-Lloyd Index: Example II



$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|X_i - M_i|}{X_i + M_i}$$

Example: In 2010, the U.S. exported \$1 billion and imported \$1.2 billion worth of aircraft.

$$GLI = 1 - \frac{|1.000 - 1.200|}{1.000 + 1.200} = 0.90$$

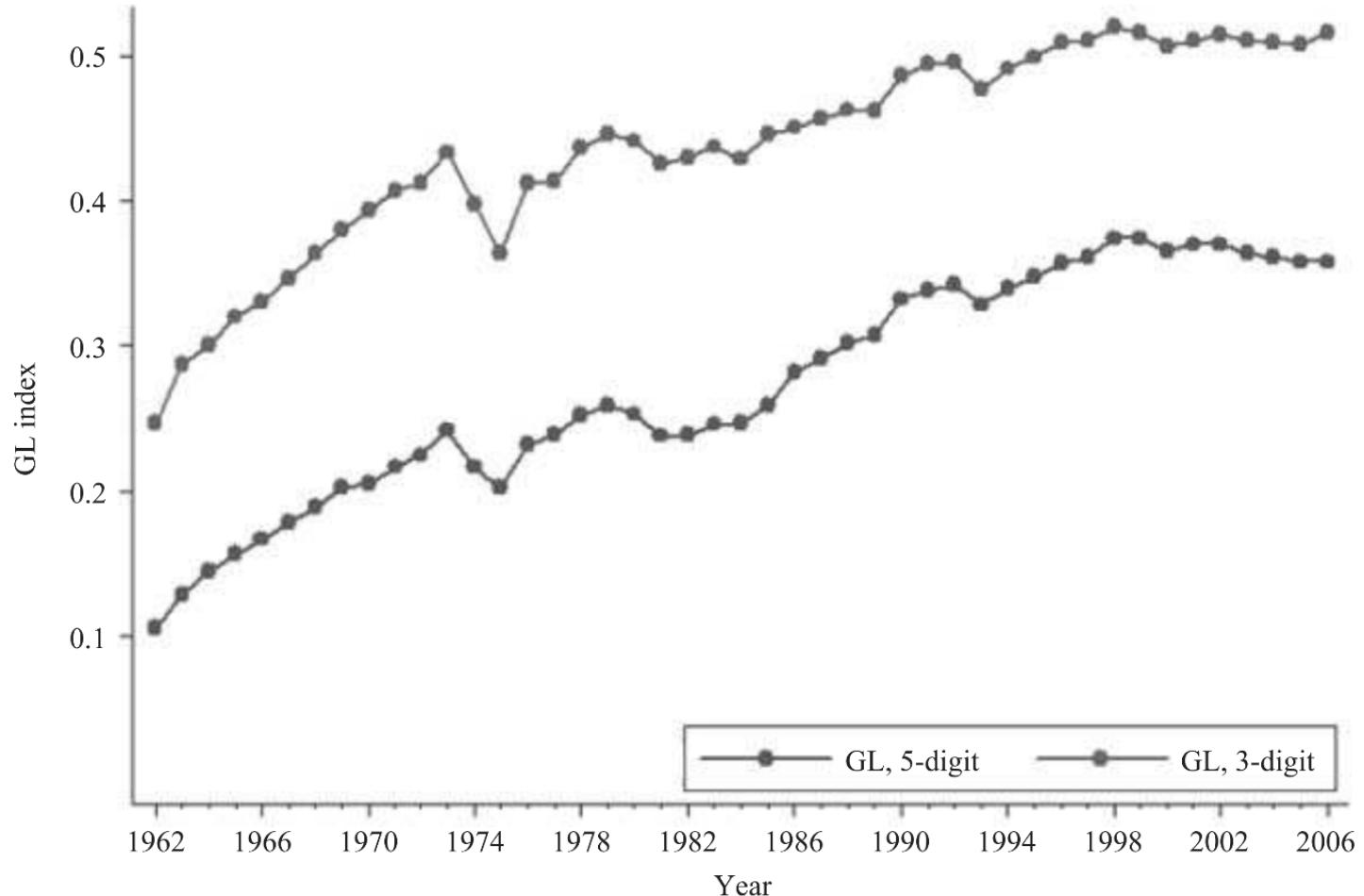
- Mostly intra-industry trade



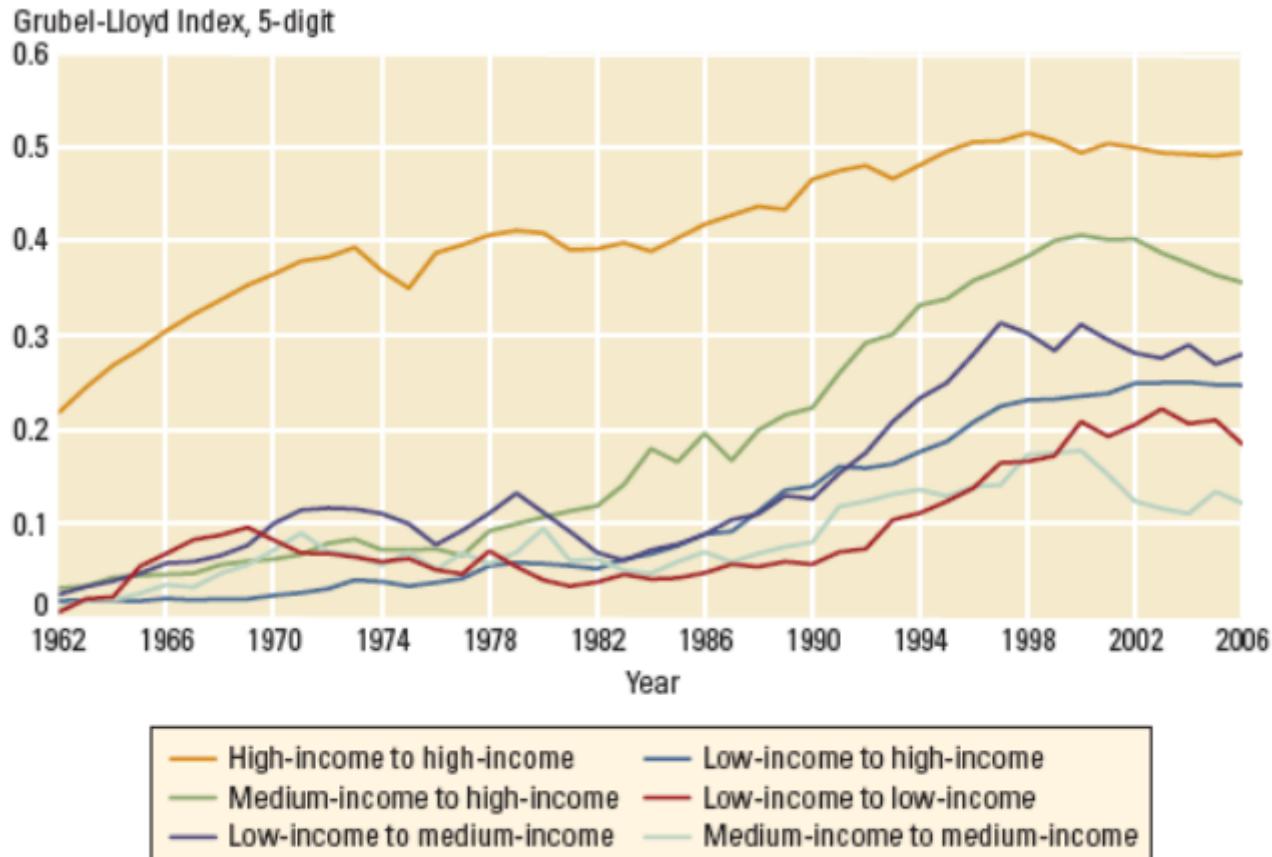
The Dilemma of Similar Trade



FIGURE 4
Evolution of Global IIT, 1962–2006 ('Long Coverage' Sample)



The Dilemma of Similar Trade



Source: Brülhart 2008 for this Report.

Note: The Grubel-Lloyd index is the fraction of total trade that is accounted for by intraindustry trade.

The Dilemma of Similar Trade



TABLE 8-2 Indexes of Intra-Industry Trade for U.S. Industries, 2009

Metalworking Machinery	0.97
Inorganic Chemicals	0.97
Power-Generating Machines	0.86
Medical and Pharmaceutical Products	0.85
Scientific Equipment	0.84
Organic Chemicals	0.79
Iron and Steel	0.76
Road Vehicles	0.70
Office Machines	0.58
Telecommunications Equipment	0.46
Furniture	0.30
Clothing and Apparel	0.11
Footwear	0.10

The Dilemma of Similar Trade



Intra-Industry Trade
Avg 1997-2008

Belgium	90.9
France	88.5
United Kingdom	84.3
Spain	84.2
Germany	77.9
Mexico	76.9
Canada	76
Sweden	76
United States	72.6
Poland	71.9
Italy	71.1
Korea	70.2
Switzerland	68.5
China	64
Brazil	55.3
Turkey	53.7
Japan	51.2
Indonesia	48.3
India	46.3
Australia	44.2
Russian Federation	39.1
Chile	28.6

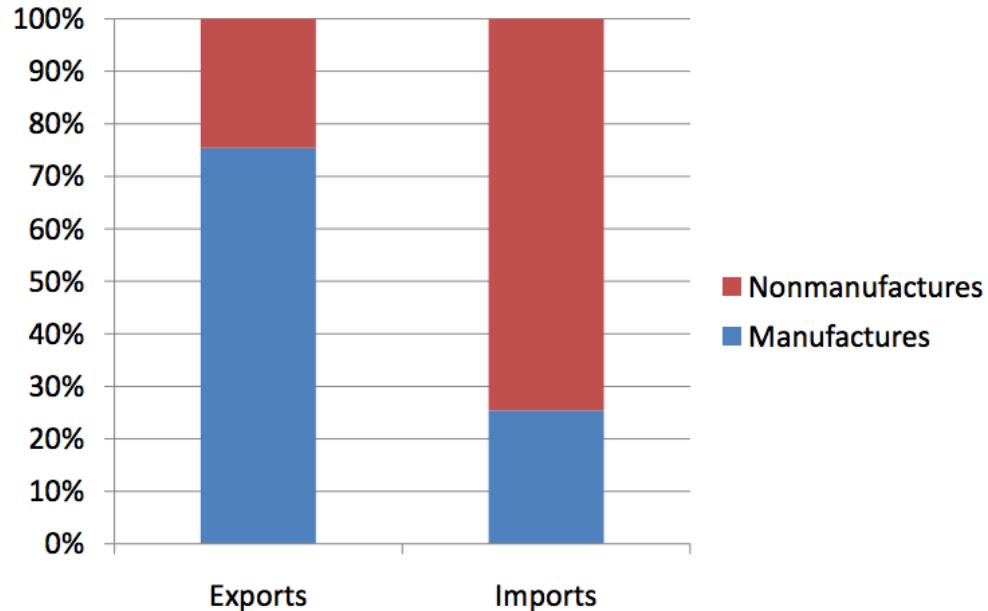
OECD, STAN Indicators Database, January 2010.

Total share of IIT by country (out of 100%): sum over all industries, weighing each industry by its share of total

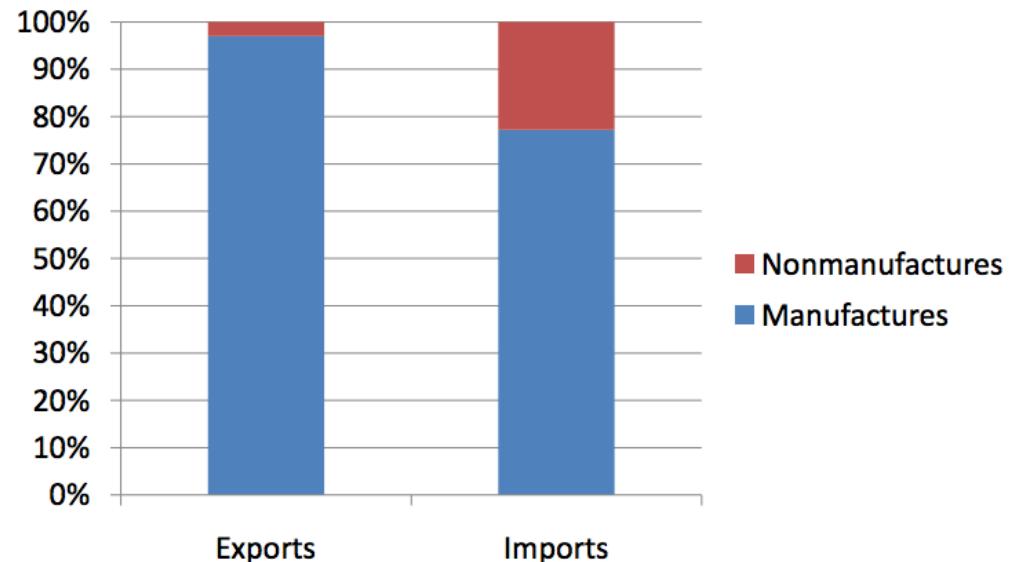
The Dilemma of Similar Trade



Composition of British trade circa 1910



Composition of British trade in the 1990s



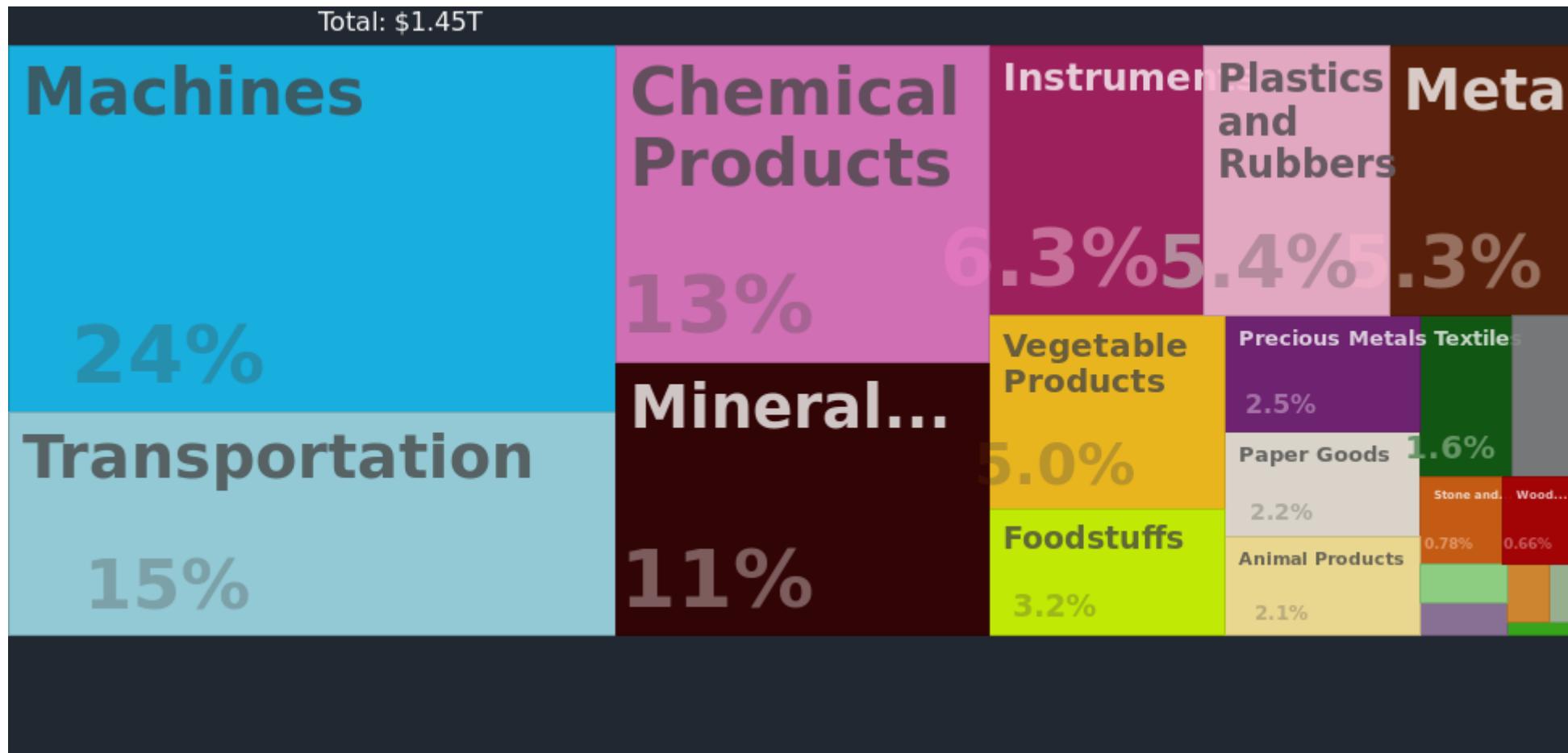
Krugman, Paul, 2008, "The Increasing Returns Revolution in Trade and Geography," *Nobel Prize Lecture*, p. 336-7

The Dilemma of Similar Trade

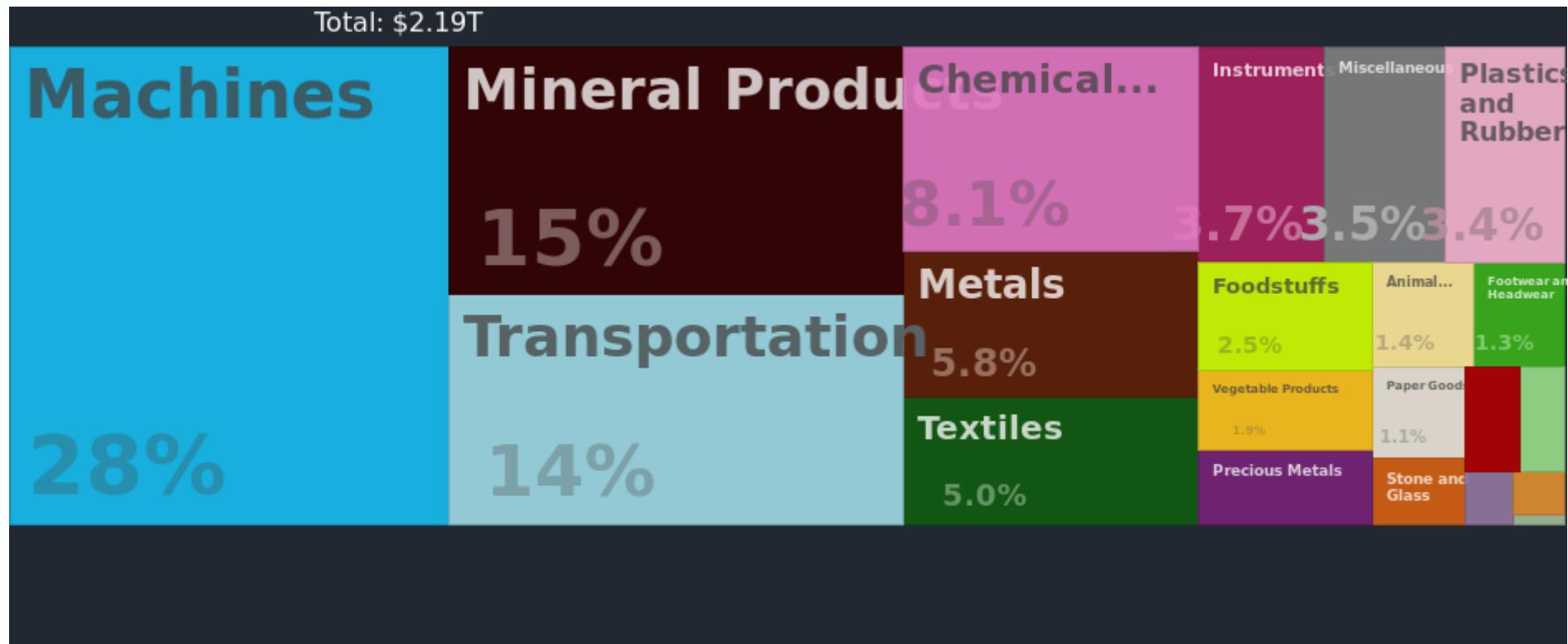


Krugman, Paul, 2008, "The Increasing Returns Revolution in Trade and Geography," *Nobel Prize Lecture*, p.337

What We Export



What We Import



U.S. Imports: [MIT Observatory of Economic Complexity](#)

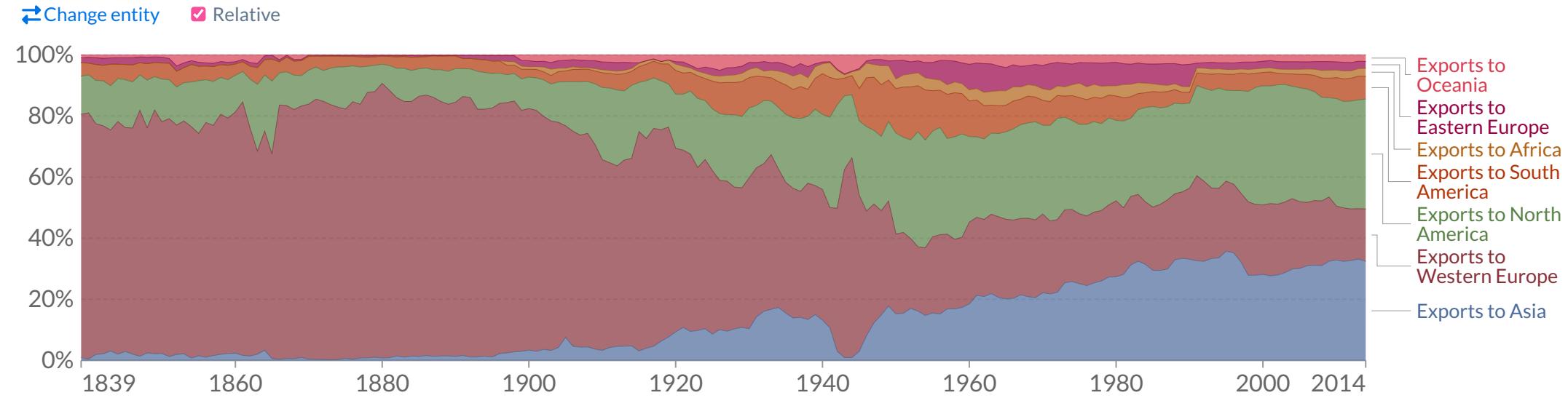
Who We Trade With (Exports) Has Changed



Merchandise exports by continent of destination, United States, 1839 to 2014

Our World
in Data

Figures correspond to the value of merchandise exports by continental destination as a share of GDP. All partner countries are classified into continent groupings according to OWID's classification.



Source: Fouquin and Hugot (CEPII 2016)

Note: Shown are merchandise trade estimates from dyadic transactions data. The series labeled "Western Europe - Western Europe" for example, corresponds to the sum of exports between all Western European countries, divided by the GDP of Western Europe.

CC BY

► 1839 ○ 2014

CHART

TABLE

SOURCES

DOWNLOAD





The Gravity Model of Trade

The Gravity Model of Trade



- One way to estimate the volume of trade flows is with a **gravity model of trade**
- Almost identically analogous to Newton's model of gravitational attraction

$$F_{1,2} = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$



The Gravity Model of Trade



$$Trade_{i,j} = A \frac{M_i M_j}{(D_{i,j})^n}$$

- Volume of trade estimated between country i and country j
- A : a universal constant
- M : size of a country's economy (often GDP)
- D : distance between country i and country j
 - Power of distance: distance becomes a hinderance to trade at an increasing rate
 - "Distance" need not be just length (e.g. miles, km), but relative to alternatives





Figure 2-2

**The Size of European Economies,
and the Value of Their Trade with
the United States**

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce,
European Commission.

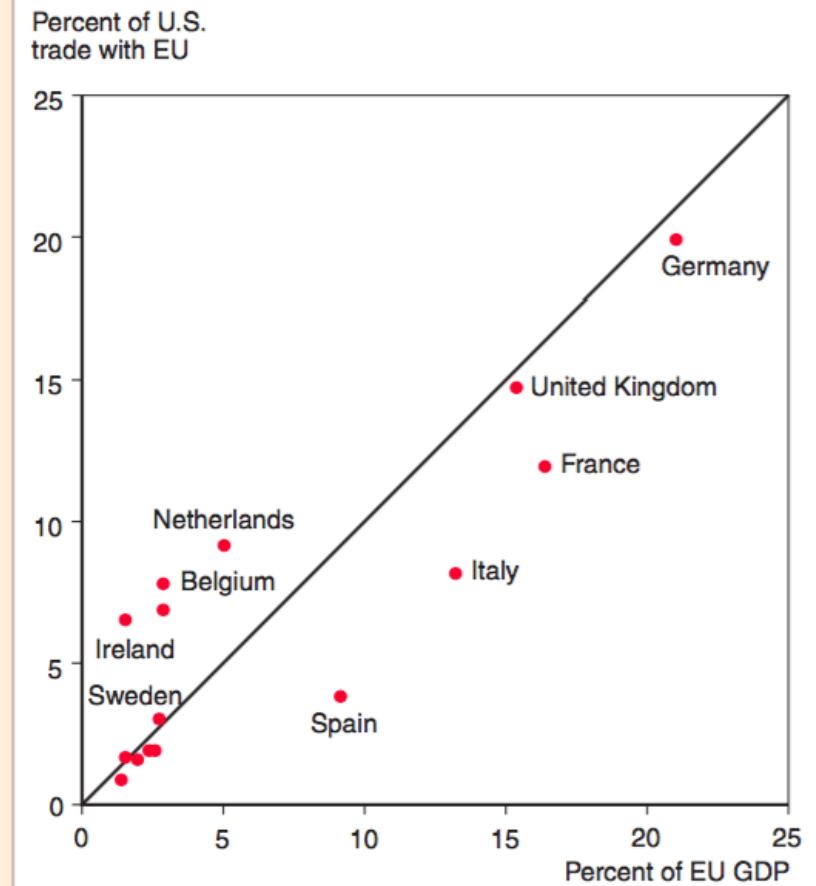


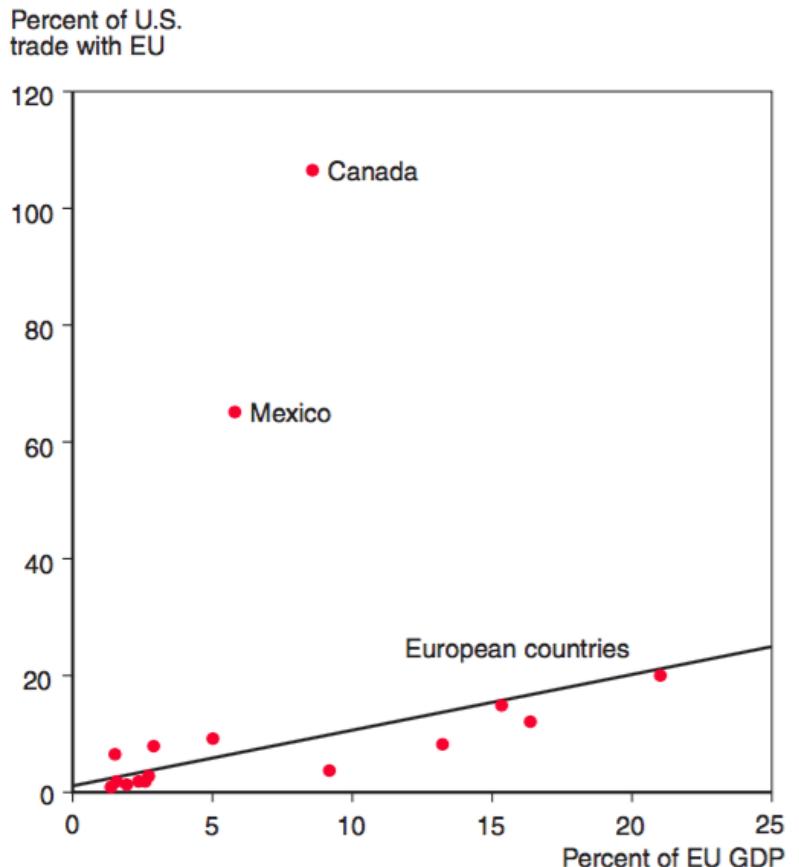


Figure 2-3

Economic Size and Trade with the United States

The United States does markedly more trade with its neighbors than it does with European economies of the same size.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, European Commission.



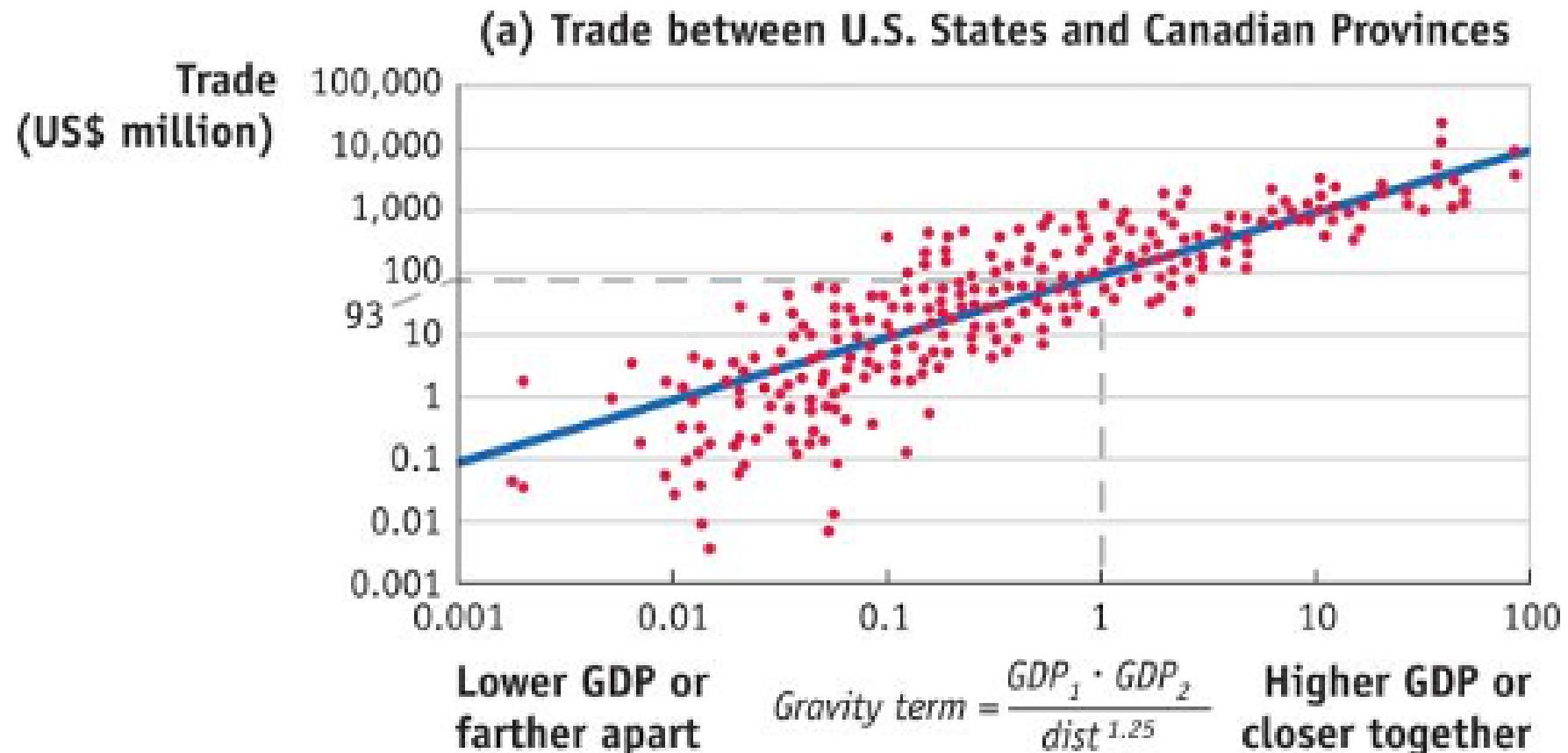
Gravity: Distance Matters



- Consider trade between **Australia & New Zealand** and between **Austria & Portugal**
- Both pairs have roughly same distance apart and roughly same GDPs
- Trade between Australia and New Zealand is **9x higher** than trade between Austria & Portugal!
- Fewer alternatives in isolated Pacific Ocean relative to European countries with many trading partners



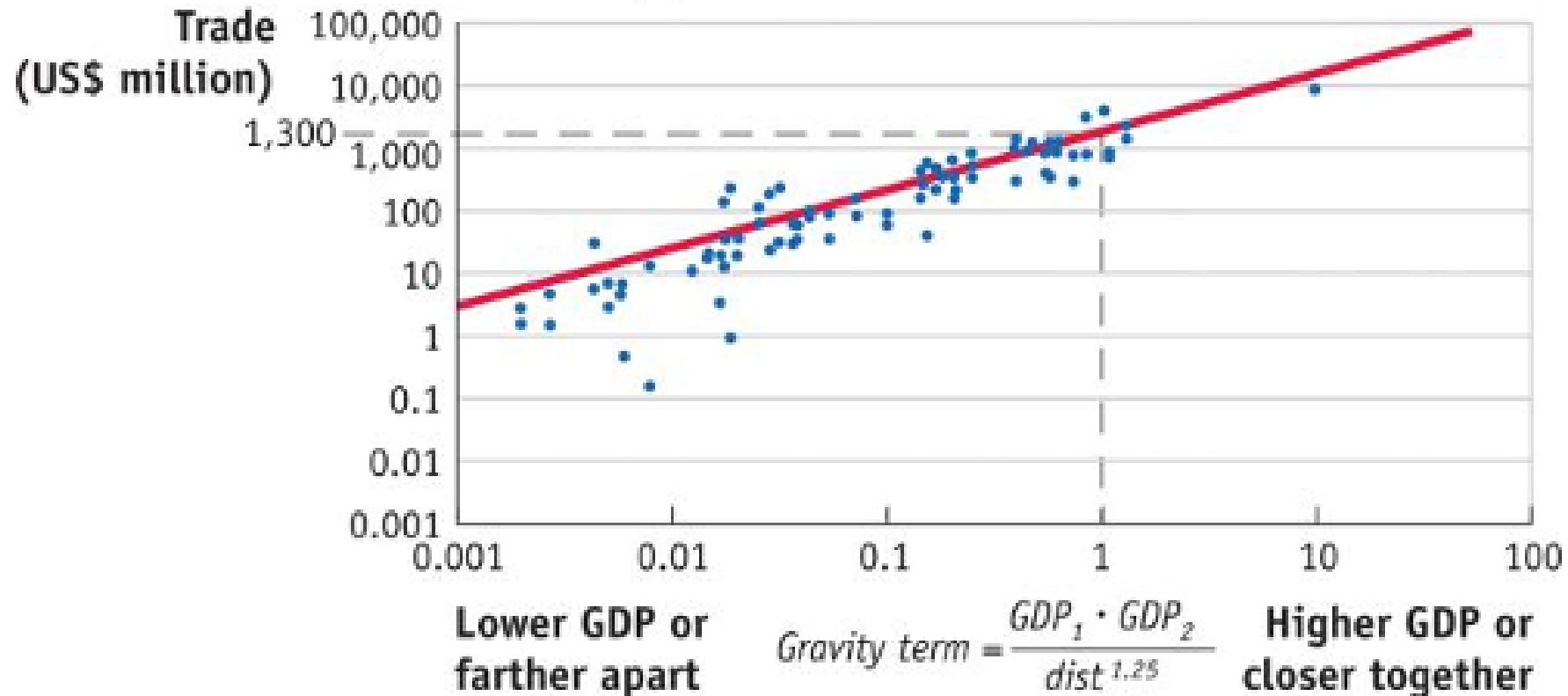
Gravity: Size & Distance Matters!



Gravity: Size & Distance Matters!



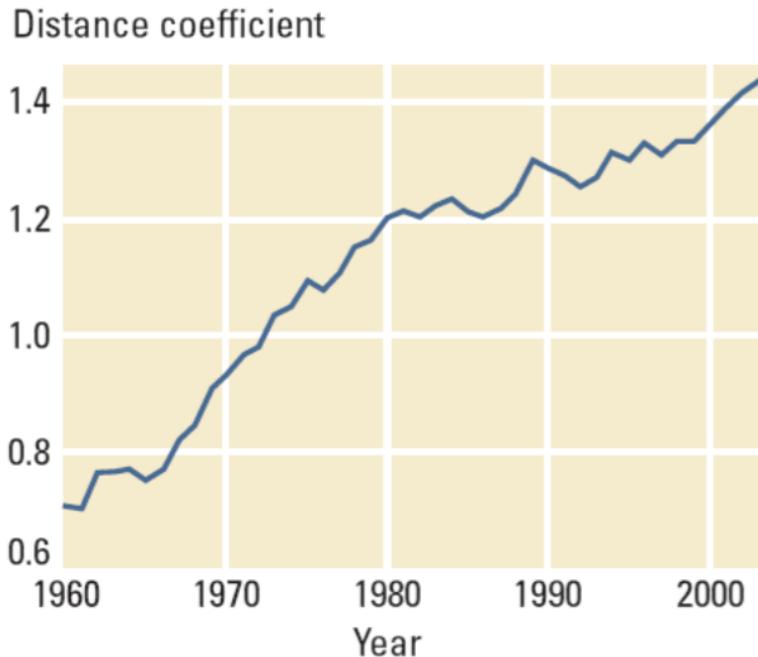
(b) Trade between Canadian Provinces



Gravity: Apparently Distance Matters *More Now!*

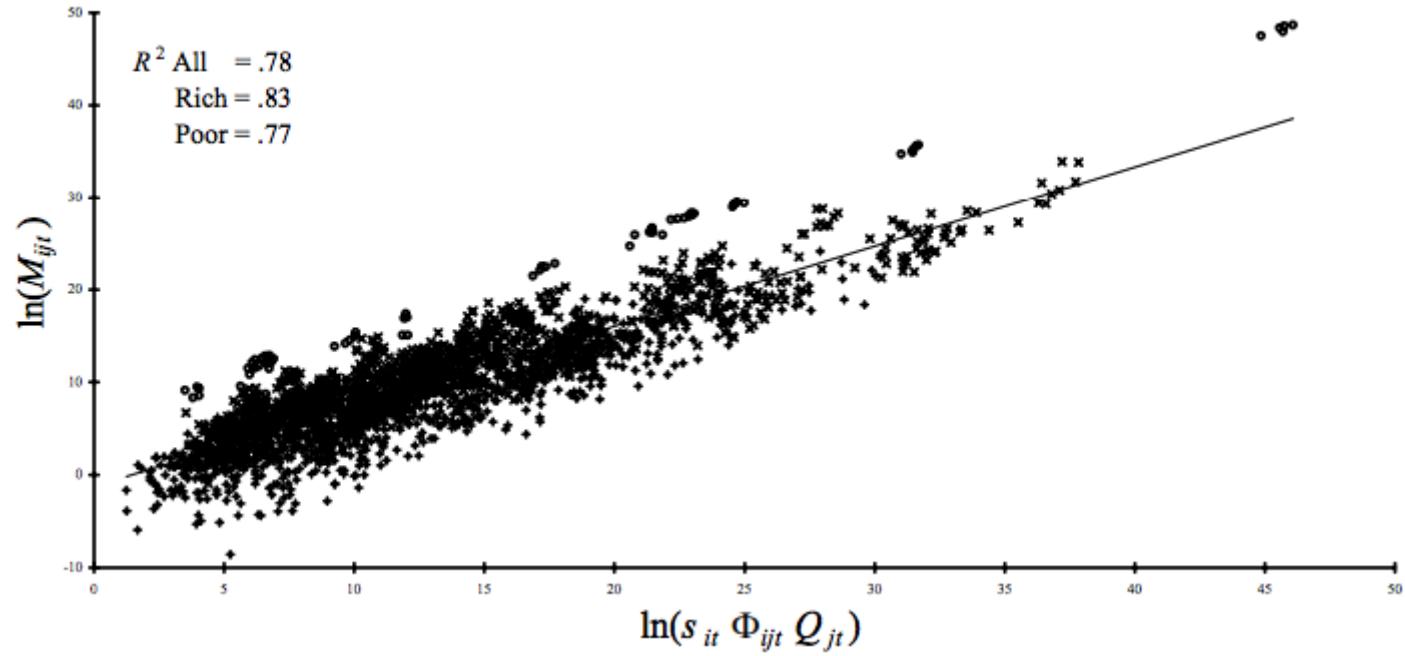


$$Trade_{i,j} = A \frac{M_i M_j}{(D_{i,j})^2}$$



Trade is becoming more sensitive to distance over time!

Gravity Always Wins



- "The gravity equation is one of the best fitting and most established empirical relationships in all of Trade."

Gravity



- Implications of Gravity Models:

- 1) Larger countries trade more with larger countries
- 2) Closer countries trade more than distant countries



Gravity vs. H-O Theory



- Is gravity consistent with H-O theory?
 - If trade drops off with distance, would require very strongly differentiated products to get trade off the ground
- It used to be that most international trade was between countries very far apart for different things
 - e.g. Britain imported wheat from Argentina, mutton from New Zealand
- Now it seems to be that trade is dominated by very close countries trading very similar goods!
 - Britain now both exports and imports





New Trade Theory

A New Paradigm in International Trade



- In a **Neoclassical** world, only differences in **relative autarky prices** cause international trade via specialization by **comparative advantage**
 - **Ricardian** differences in labor productivity
 - **Hecksher-Ohlin** differences in factor endowments
- Suggests that:
 - "Different" countries should trade **more**
 - "Different" countries should specialize in "**different**" goods
 - Countries gain more from trading with **more-distant** countries



A New Paradigm in International Trade



- The **real world** (particularly last 50 years) shows:
- The bulk of international trade is between **similar** countries
- These countries tend to trade **similar** goods
- Countries are *more likely than ever before* to trade more with **less-distant** countries



Courtesy of Harley-Davidson



New Trade Theory



- Explanations for similar trade and a "new paradigm" of trade are collectively called **New Trade Theory (NTT)**
- Primarily rests upon the idea of **increasing returns to scale (IRS)** or **economies of scale (EOS)** as an alternative rationale for international trade
 - Countries can specialize in something, even if they have no *ex ante* comparative advantage
 - Large output creates a comparative advantage *ex post* due to lower costs than other countries



New Trade Theory



- Division of labor strikes back!
- Importance is still specialization, just not labor productivity, factor content, etc.



Economies of Scale



- Economies of scale come in two flavors:
- ***Internal economies***: firm-level features that improve a **firm's** productivity, often leading to market power for that firm
 - e.g. firm produces more and lowers its average costs
- ***External economies***: industry-wide features that spill over to the productivity **all** firms in the industry
 - e.g. more firms producing more lowers **all firms'** average costs



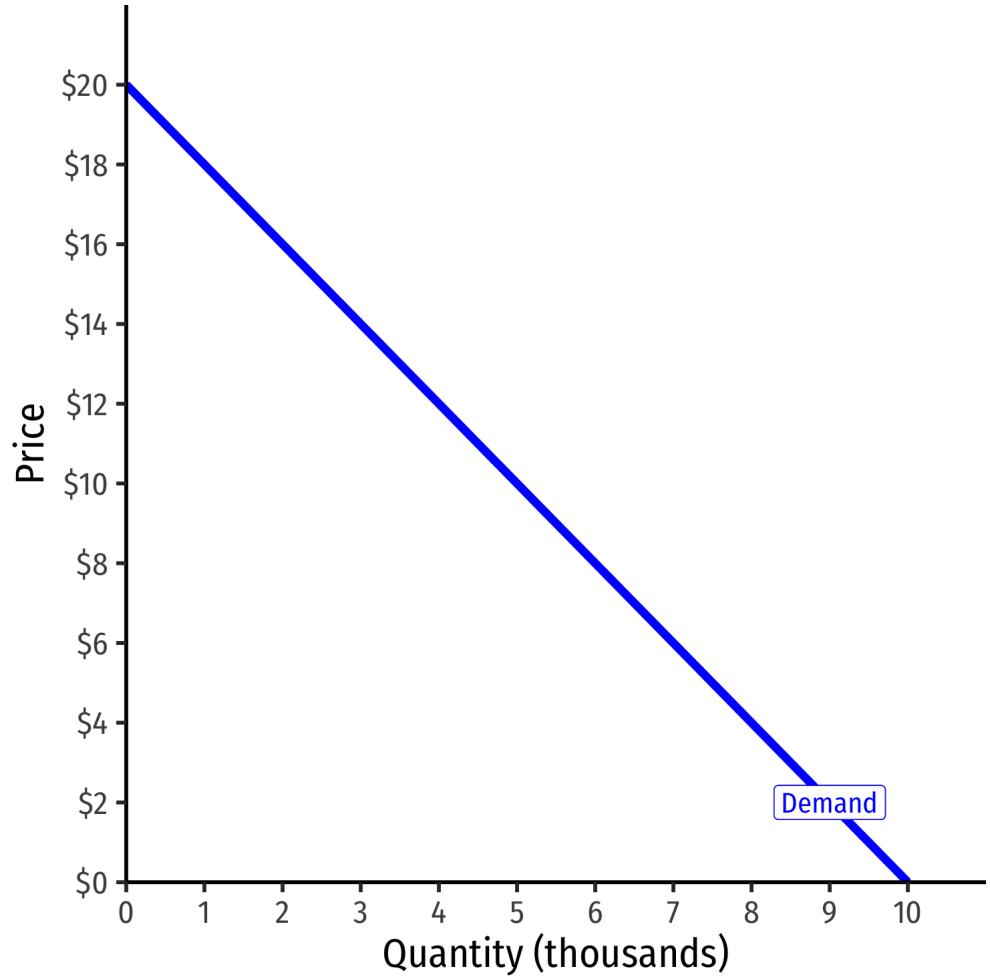


Internal Economies of Scale

Internal Economies of Scale I



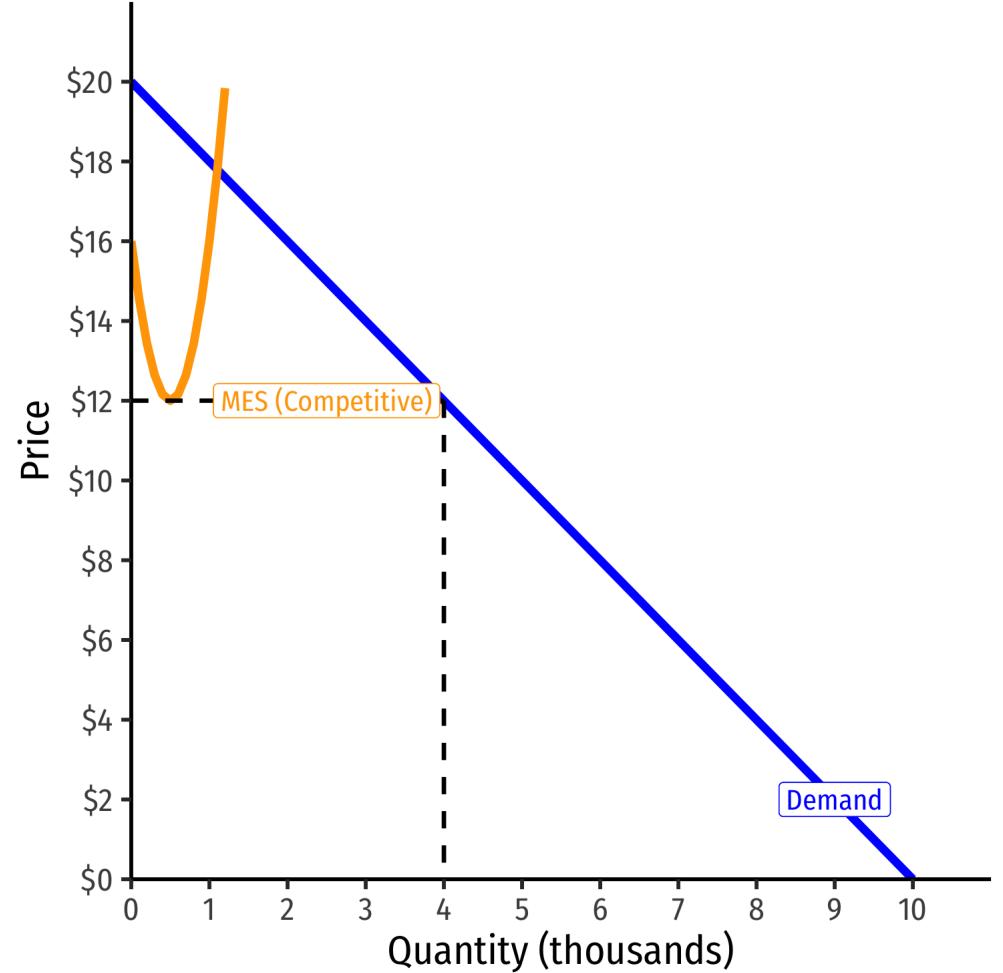
- Recall: **economies of scale**: as $\uparrow q$,
 $\downarrow AC(q)$
- **Minimum Efficient Scale (MES)**: q with the
lowest $AC(q)$



Internal Economies of Scale I



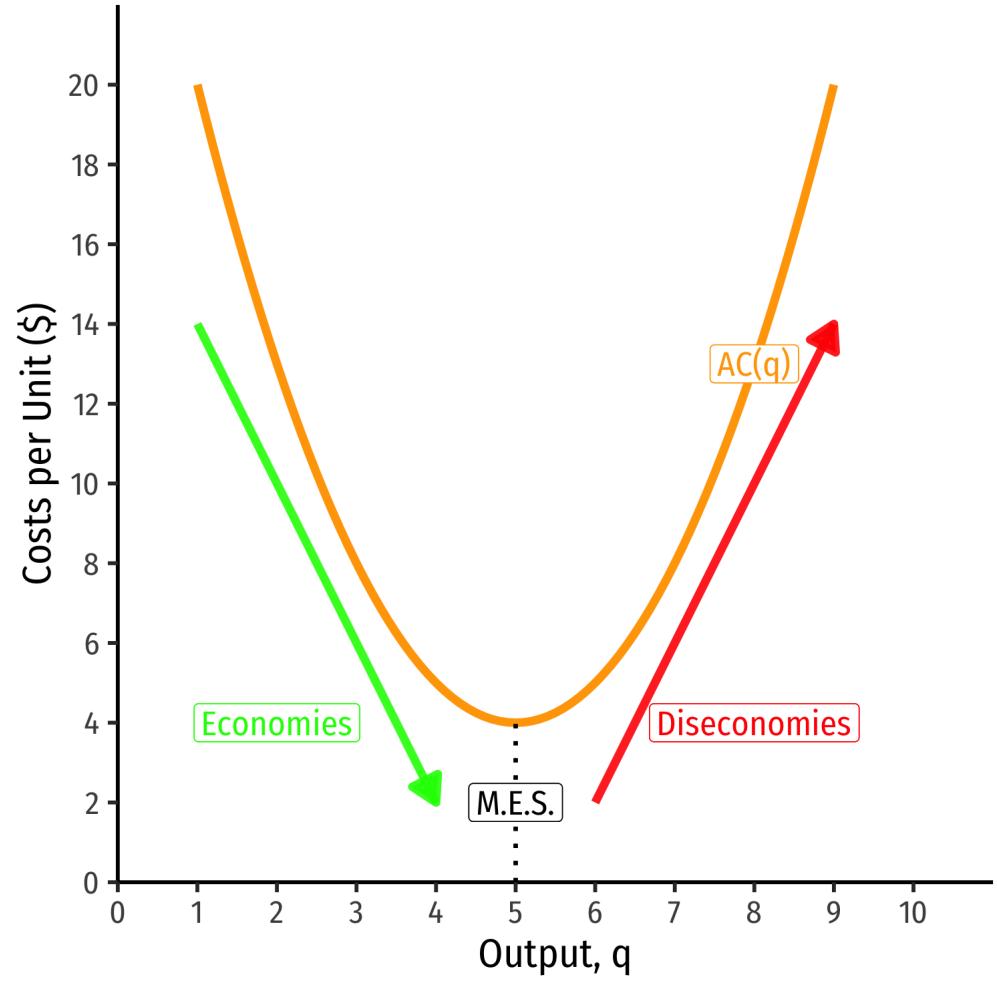
- Recall: **economies of scale**: as $\uparrow q$,
 $\downarrow AC(q)$
- **Minimum Efficient Scale (MES)**: q with the lowest $AC(q)$
- If MES is small relative to market demand...
 - AC hits Market demand during **diseconomies of scale**...



Internal Economies of Scale



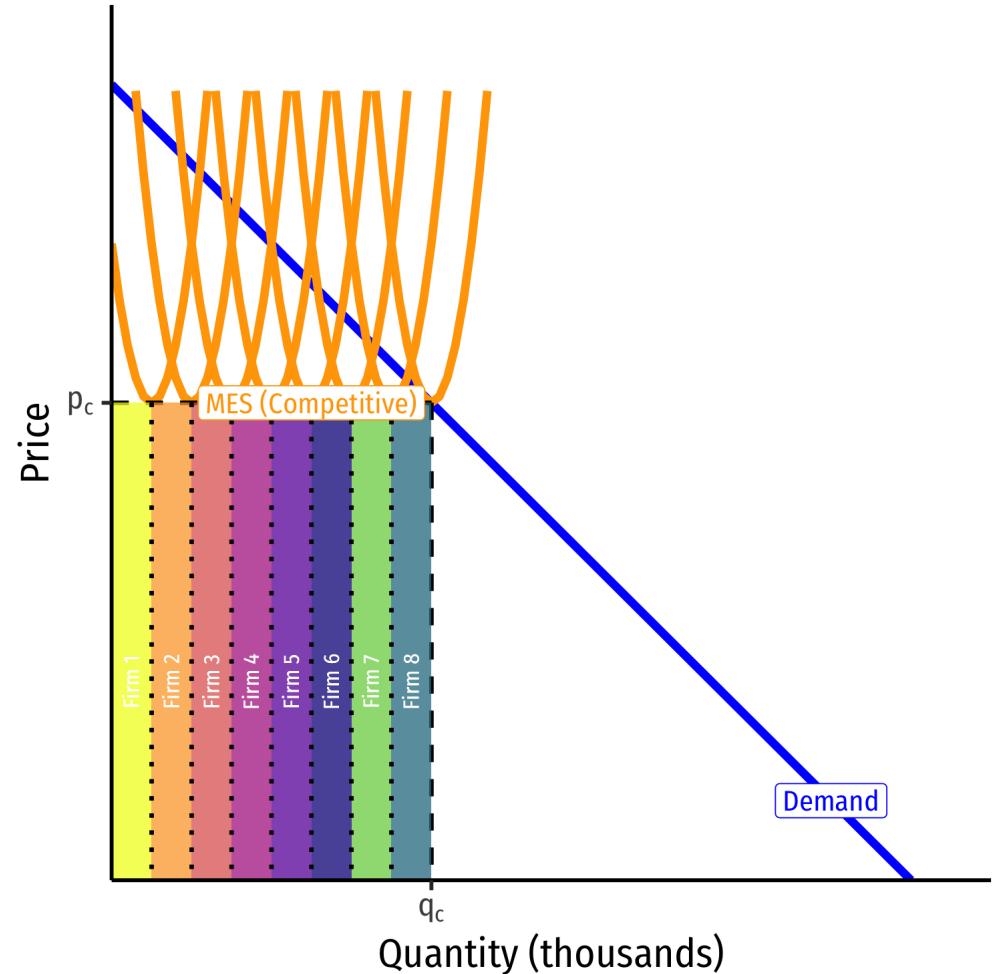
- **Minimum Efficient Scale:** q with the lowest $AC(q)$
- **Economies of Scale:** $\uparrow q, \downarrow AC(q)$
- **Diseconomies of Scale:** $\uparrow q, \uparrow AC(q)$



Internal Economies of Scale I



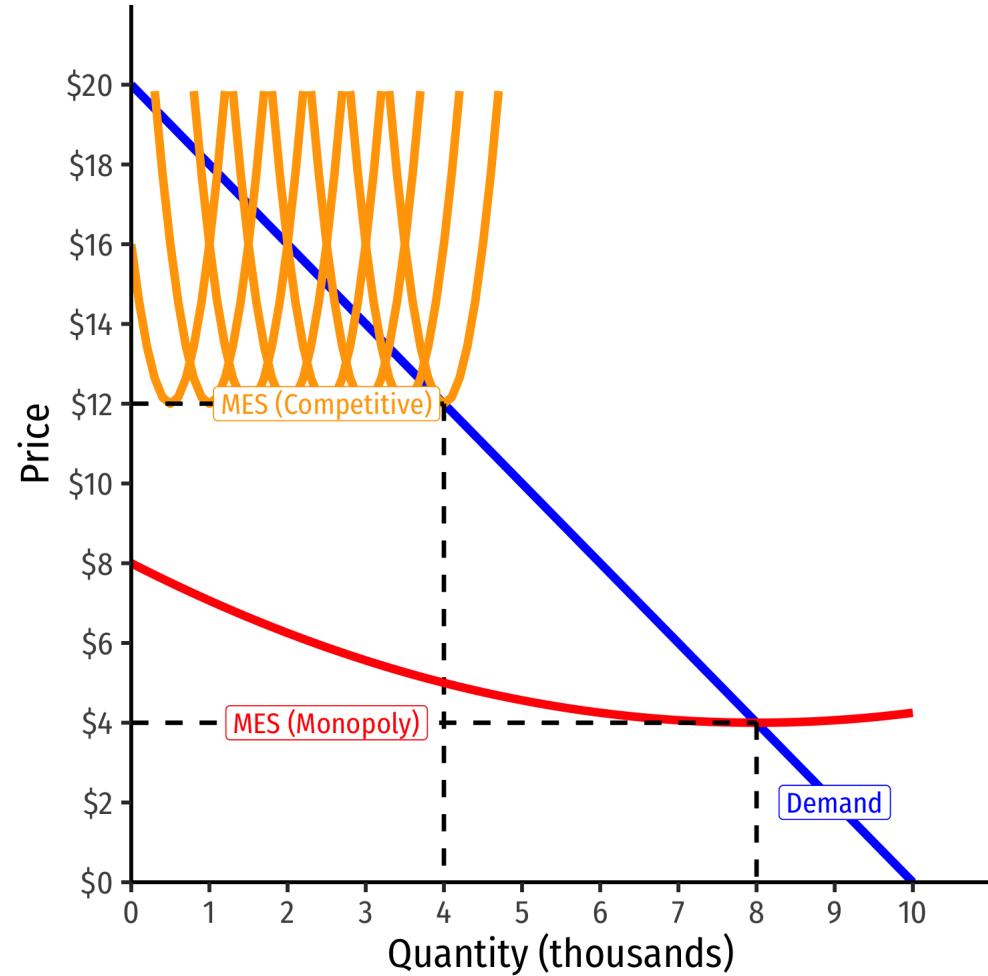
- If MES is small relative to market demand...
 - AC hits Market demand during **diseconomies of scale...**
 - ...can fit more identical firms into the industry!



Internal Economies of Scale I



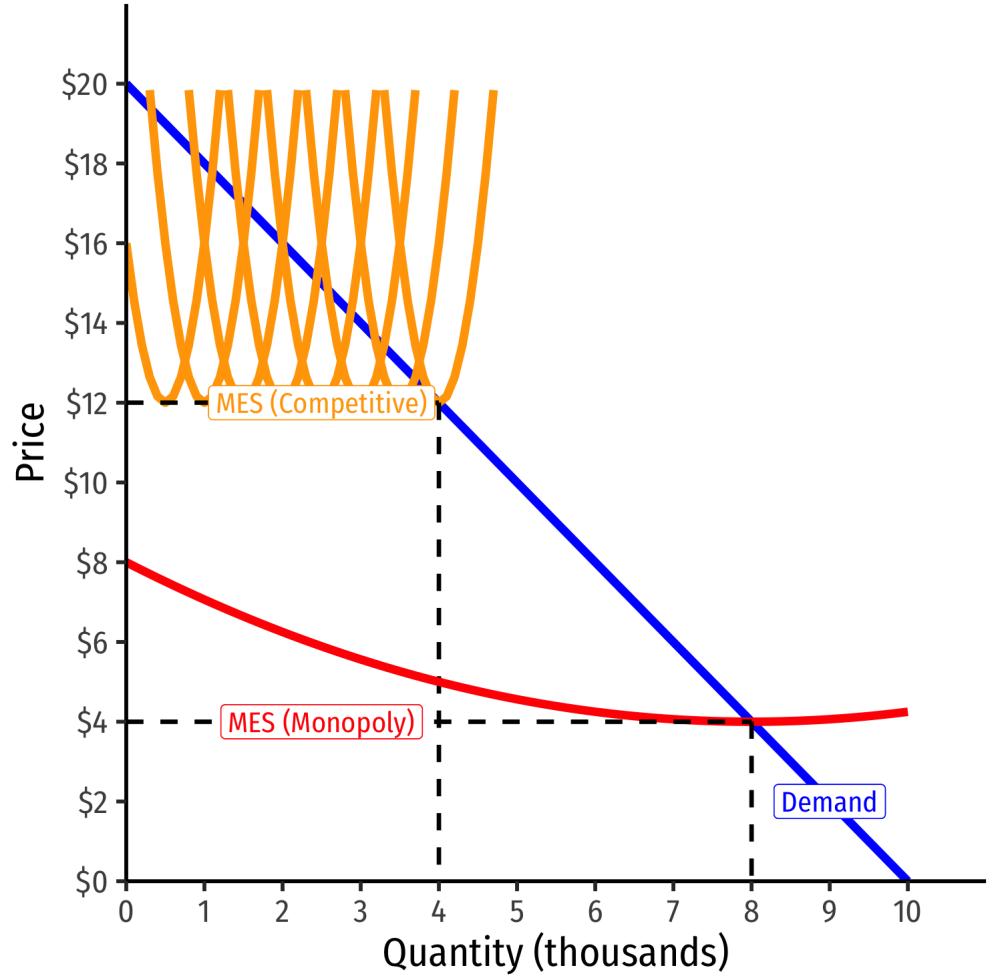
- If MES is *large* relative to market demand...
 - AC hits Market demand during **economies of scale**...
 - likely to be a single firm in the industry!



Internal Economies of Scale I



- If MES is *large* relative to market demand...
 - AC hits Market demand during **economies of scale...**
 - likely to be a single firm in the industry!
- A **natural monopoly** that can produce higher q^* and lower p^* than a competitive industry!



Internal Economies of Scale II



Example: Imagine a single isolated condo complex with 1,000 units far from any other buildings or telco infrastructure

- **Fixed costs:** laying cable to the complex is \$100,000
- **Marginal costs:** connecting each unit: \$0

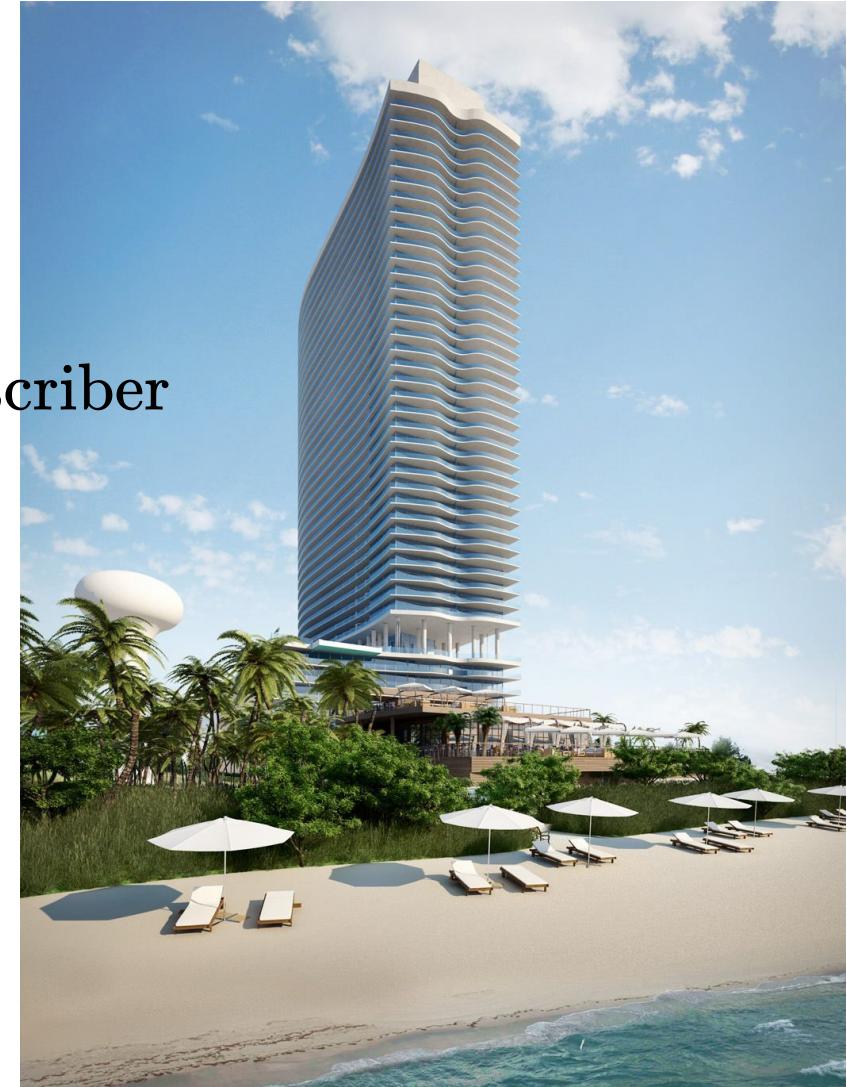


Internal Economies of Scale II



- Suppose **10 providers** split the complex, each laying down their own cables, and each serving 100 units:

$$\text{Average cost} = \frac{\$100,000}{100} = \$1,000/\text{subscriber}$$

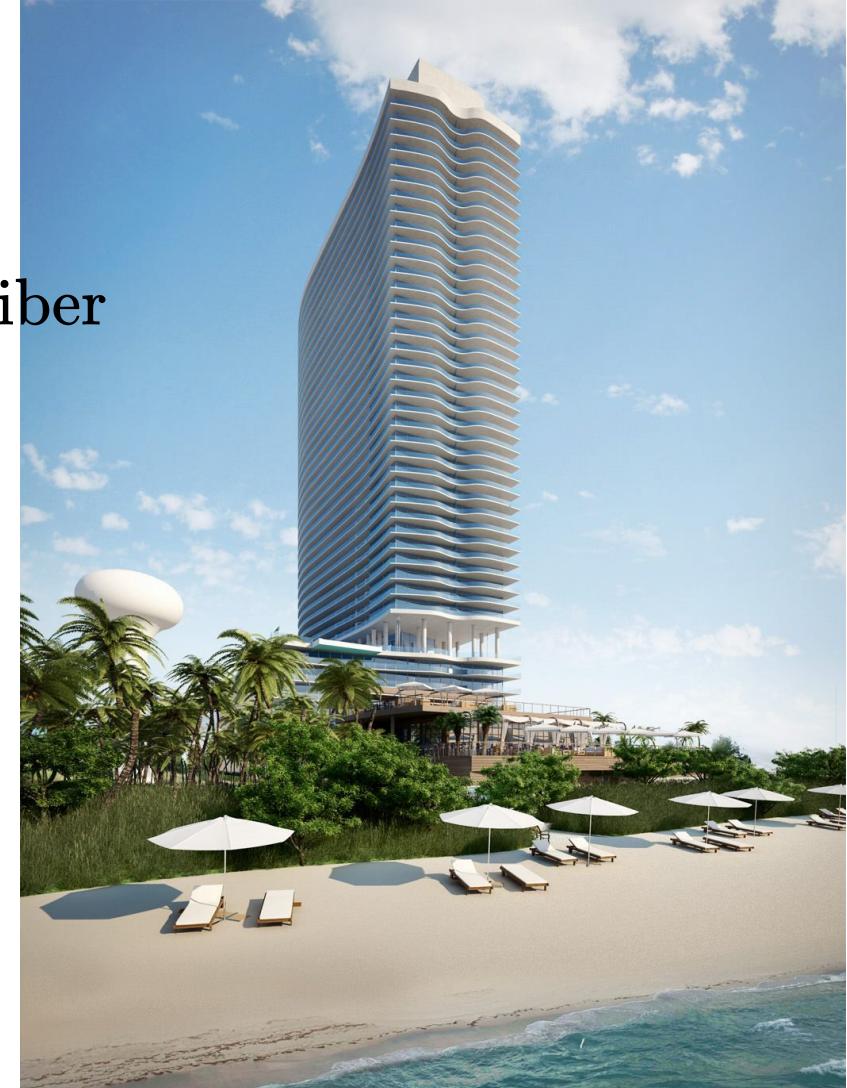


Internal Economies of Scale II



- Suppose **1 provider** serves the complex serving all 1,000 units:

$$\text{Average cost} = \frac{\$100,000}{1000} = \$100/\text{subscriber}$$



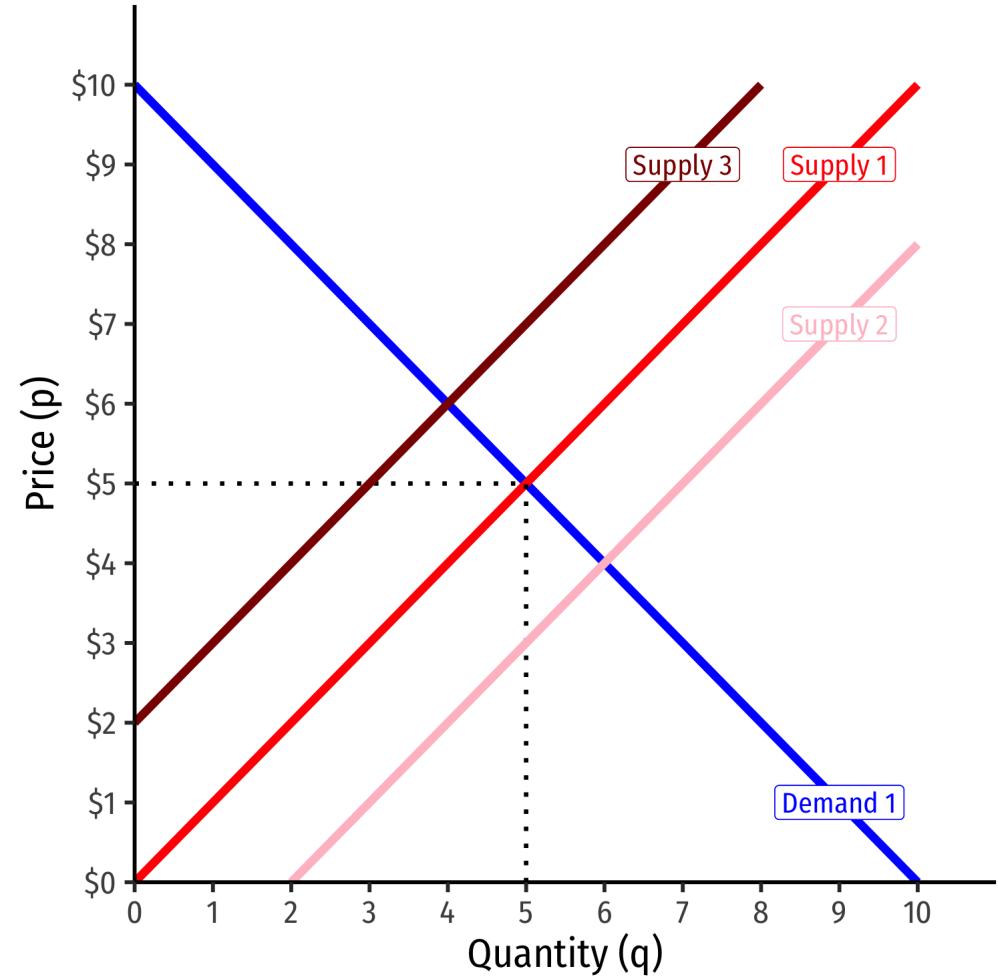


External Economies of Scale

Entry/Exit Effects on Market Price



- When **all firms produce more/less**; or **firms enter or exit** an industry, this **affects the equilibrium market price**
- Think about basic supply & demand graphs:
 - **Entry:** \uparrow industry supply $\implies \uparrow q, \downarrow p$
 - **Exit:** \downarrow industry supply $\implies \downarrow q, \uparrow p$
- If the size of the entire industry affects all individual firm's costs, then there are **external economies** effects
 - Cost externalities that spill over across all firms in an industry



External Economies I



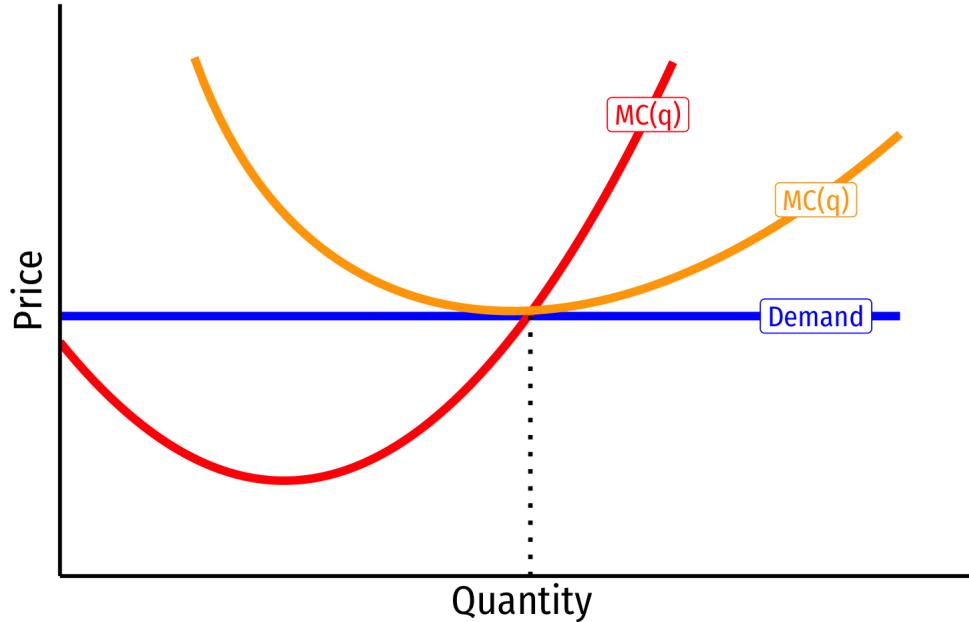
- Decreasing cost industry has *external economies*, costs fall for all firms in the industry as industry output increases (firms enter & incumbents produce more)
- A *downward sloping long-run industry supply curve!*
- Determinants:
 - High fixed costs, low marginal costs
 - Economies of scale
- Examples: geographic clusters, public utilities, infrastructure, entertainment
- **Tends towards "natural" monopoly**



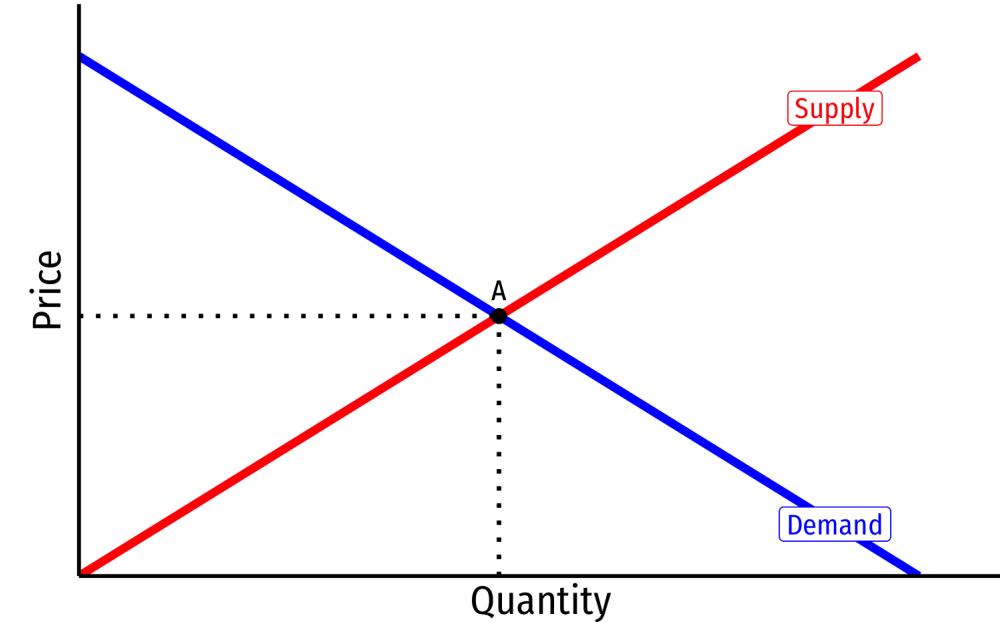
Decreasing Cost Industry (External Economies) II



Representative Firm



Industry

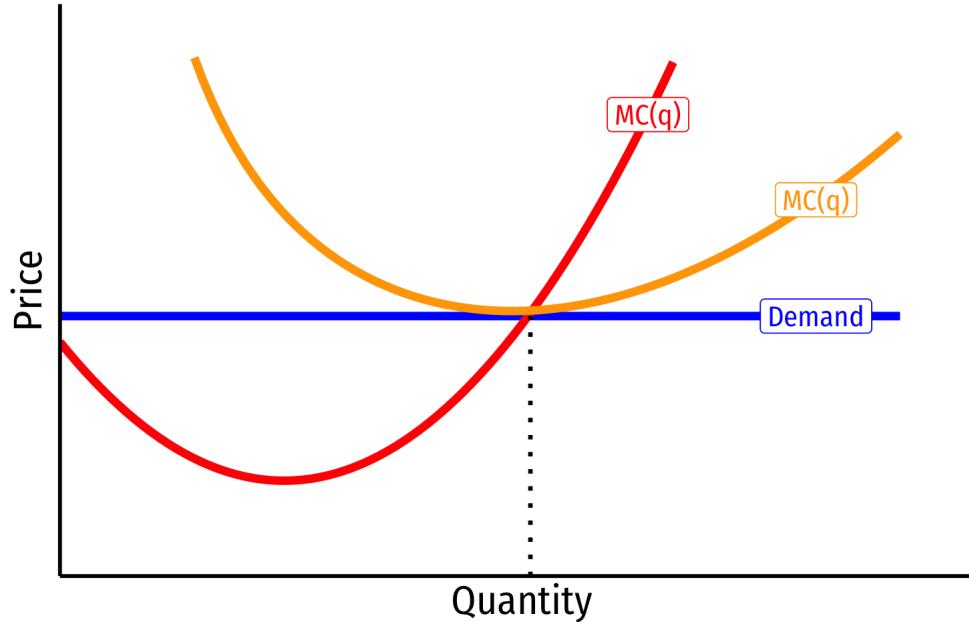


- Industry equilibrium: firms earning normal $\pi = 0, p = MC(q) = AC(q)$

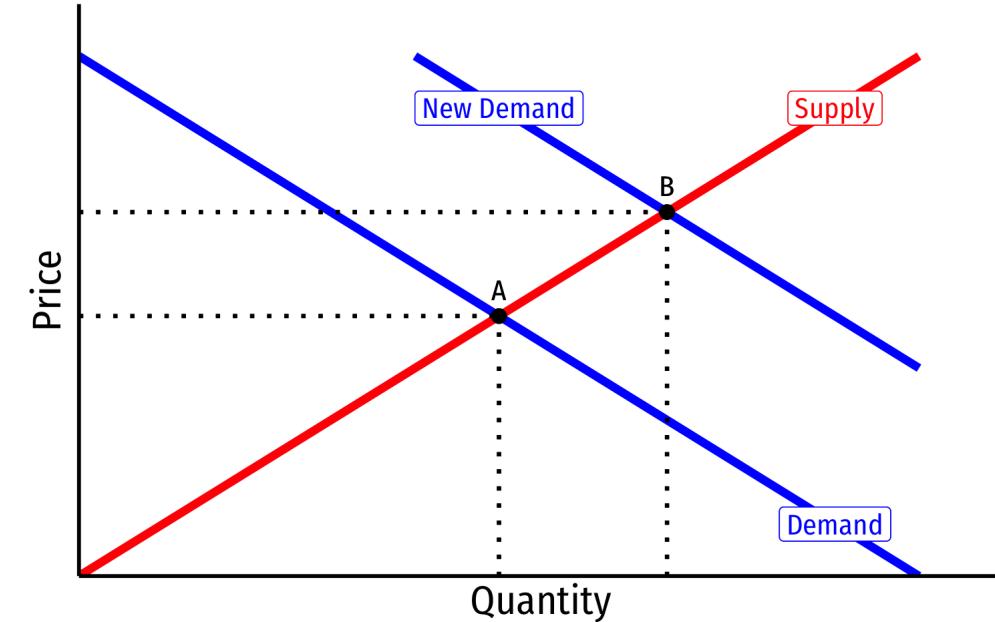
Decreasing Cost Industry (External Economies) III



Representative Firm

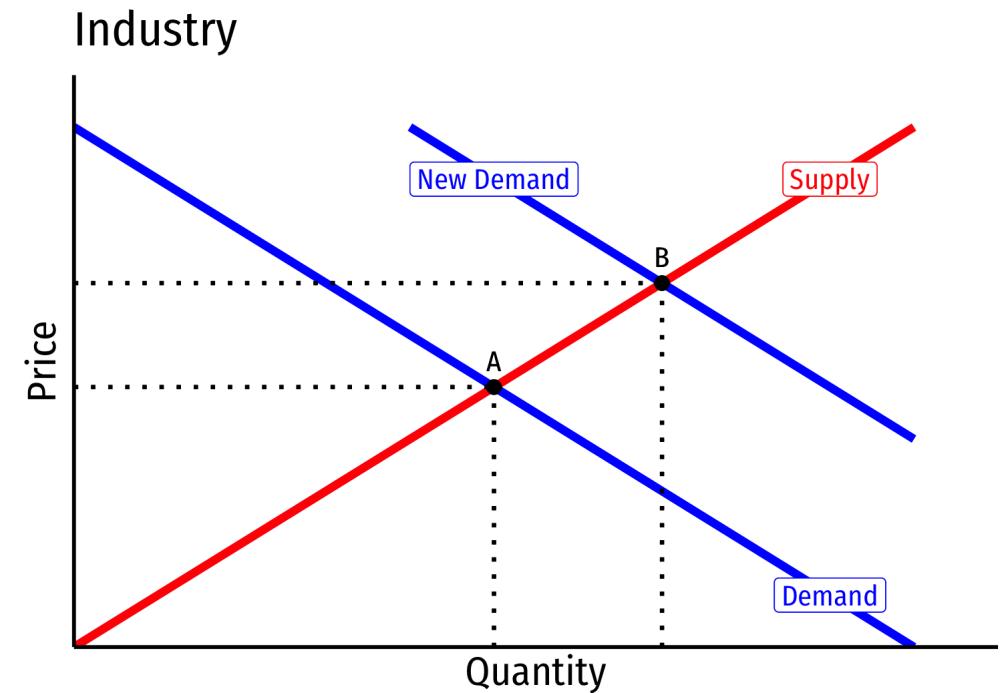
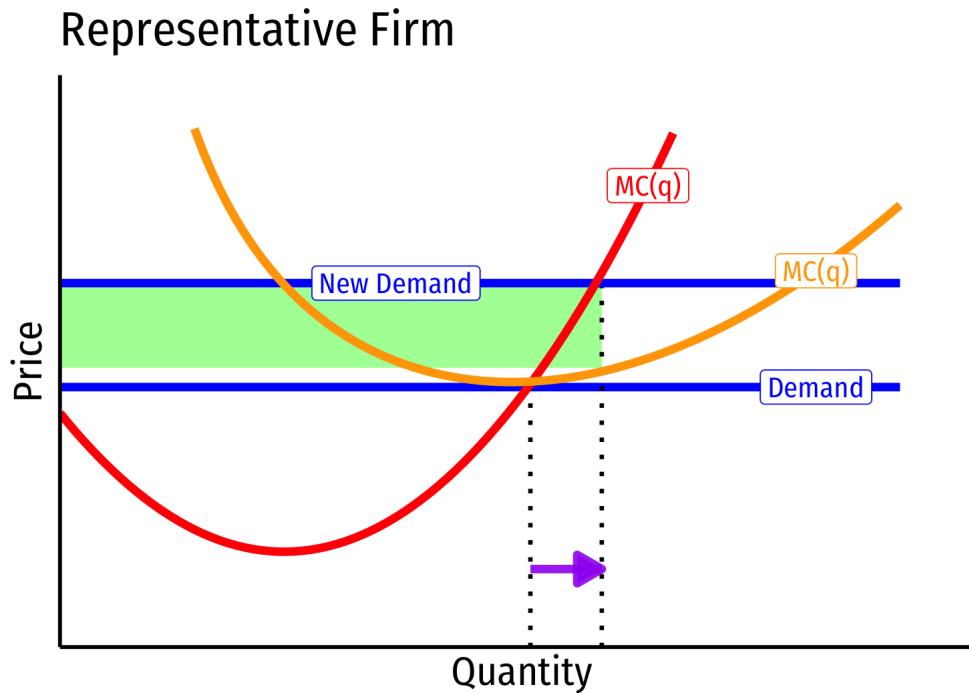


Industry



- Industry equilibrium: firms earning normal $\pi = 0, p = MC(q) = AC(q)$
- Exogenous increase in market demand

Decreasing Cost Industry (External Economies) IV

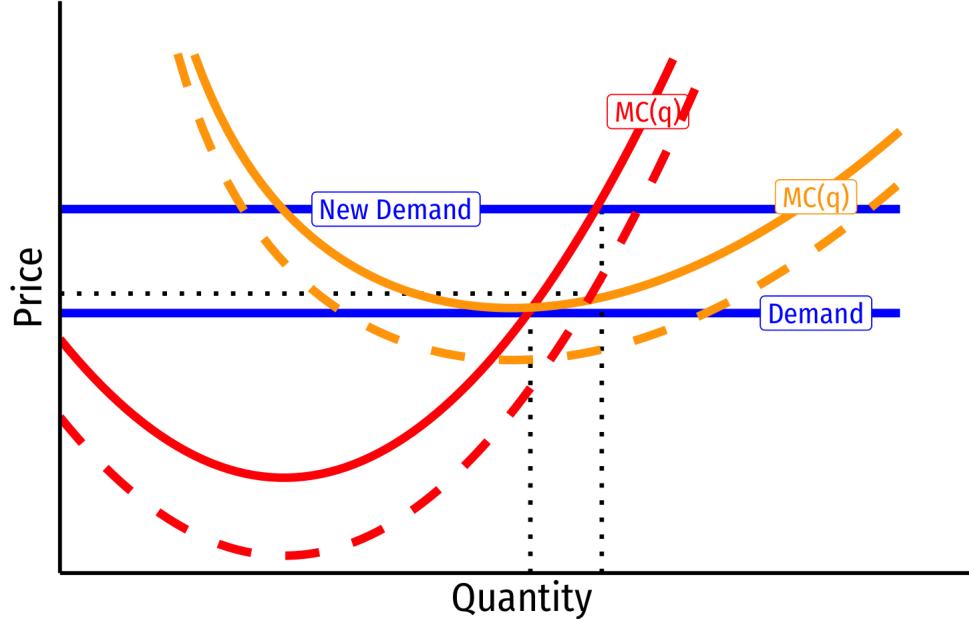


- **Short run ($A \rightarrow B$):** industry reaches new equilibrium
- Firms charge higher p^* , produce more q^* , earn π

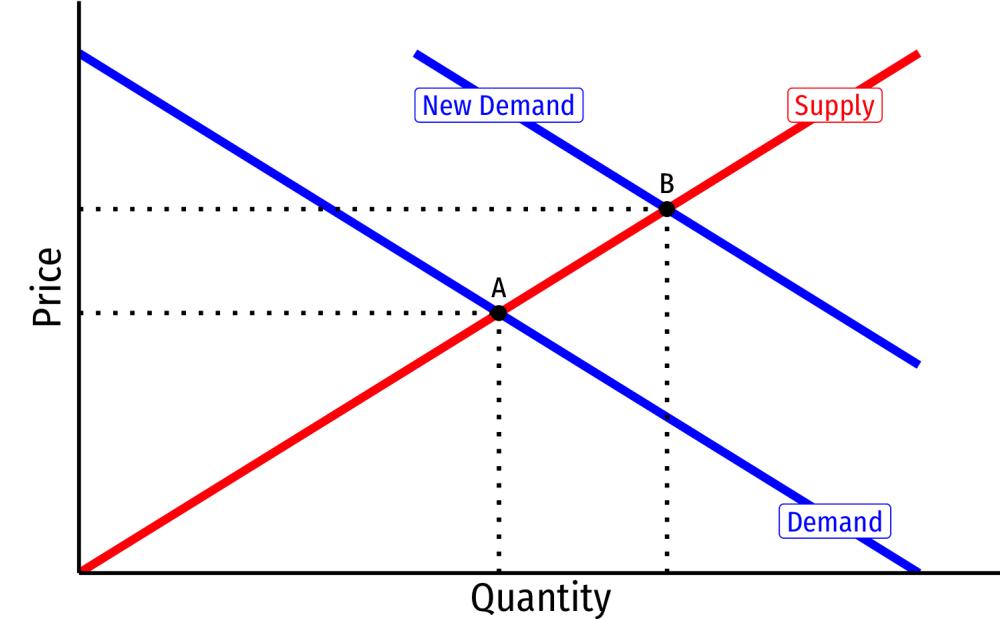
Decreasing Cost Industry (External Economies) V



Representative Firm



Industry

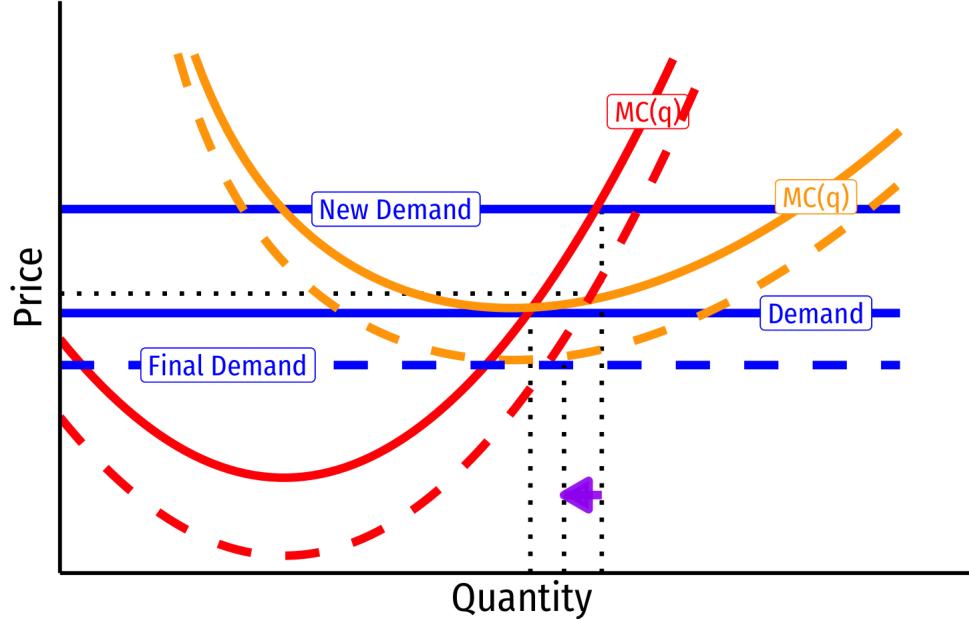


- **Long run:** profit attracts entry \implies industry supply will increase
- **But more production lowers costs (MC , AC) for all firms in industry**

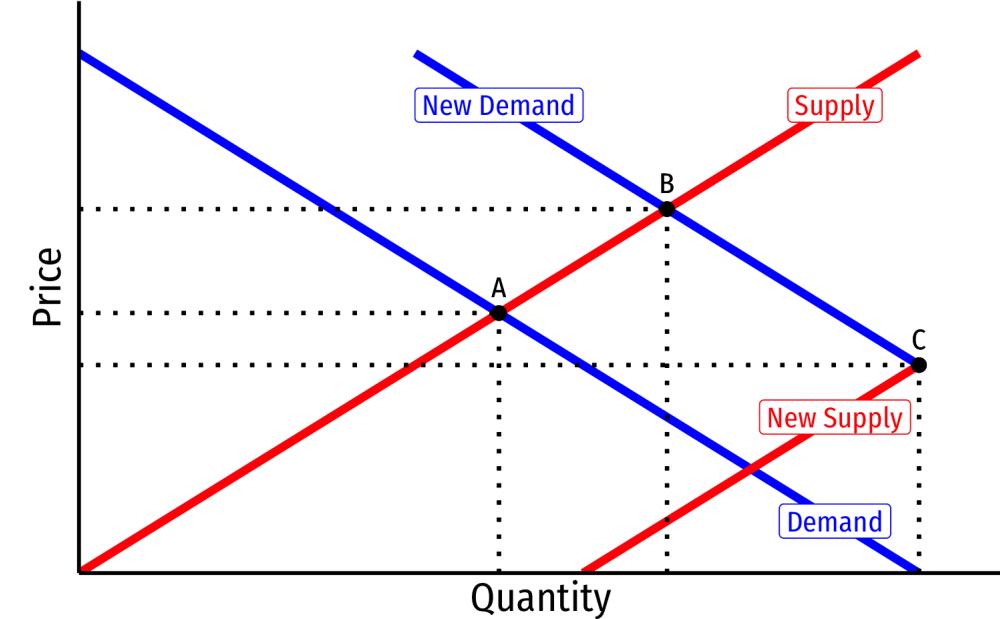
Decreasing Cost Industry (External Economies) VI



Representative Firm



Industry

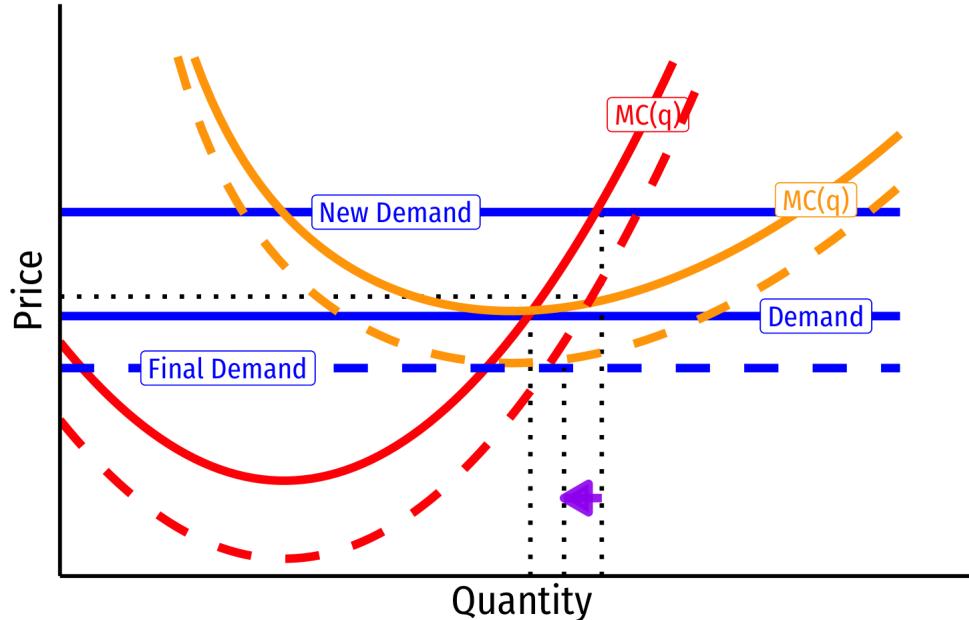


- **Long run ($B \rightarrow C$):** firms enter until $\pi = 0$ at $p = AC(q)$
- Firms charge higher p^* , produce lower q^* , earn $\pi = 0$

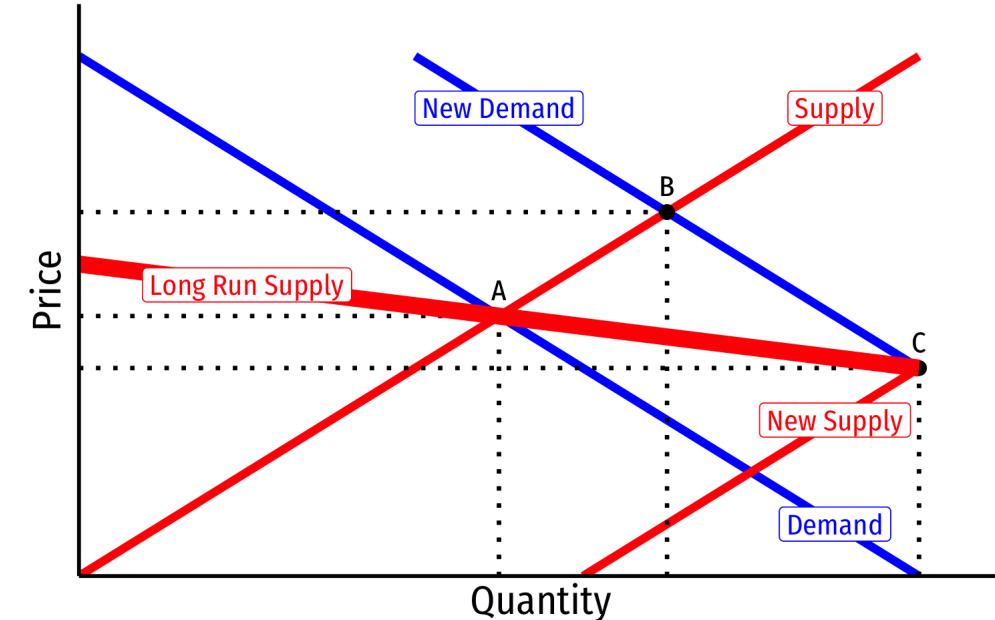
Decreasing Cost Industry (External Economies) VII



Representative Firm

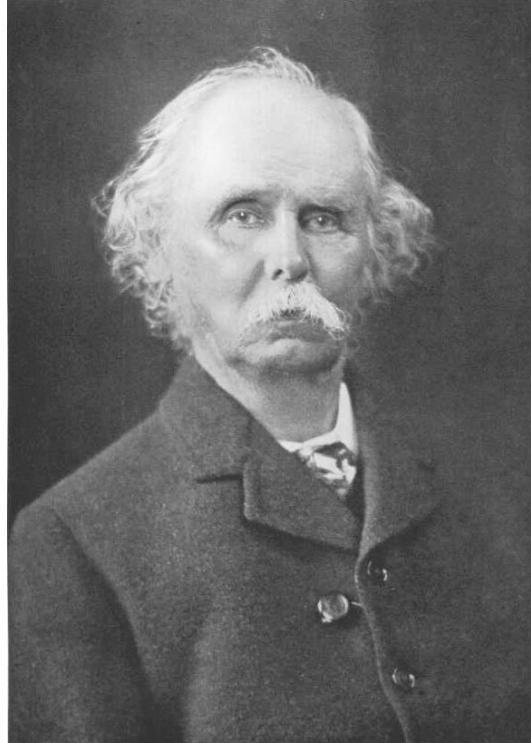


Industry



- Long run industry supply curve is downward sloping!

Internal vs. External Economies of Scale



Alfred Marshall

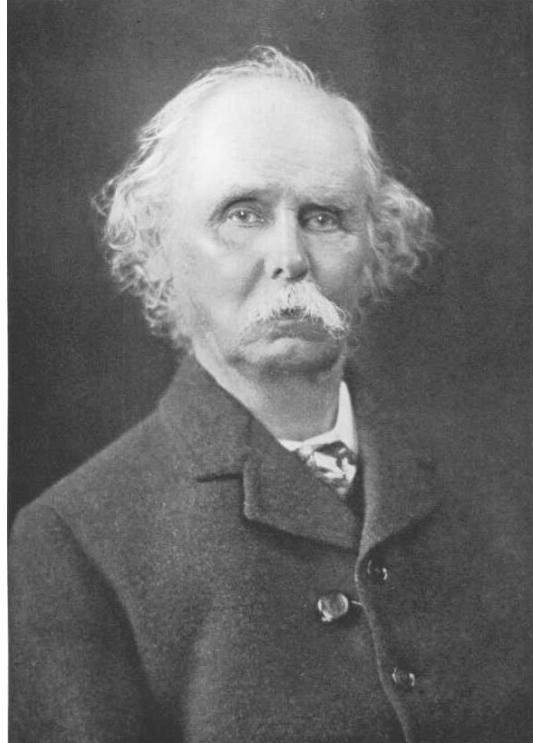
1842-1924

- Internal economies of scale:

“...are dependent on the resources of individual houses of business engaged in [the industry], on their organization and the efficiency of their management,” (p.220).
- External economies of scale:

“...are dependent on the general development of the industry [some of which] depend on the aggregate volume of production of the kind in the neighborhood while others again, especially those connected with the growth of knowledge and the progress of the arts, depend chiefly on the aggregate volume of production in the whole civilized world,” (p.220).

Internal vs. External Economies of Scale



Alfred Marshall

1842-1924

- What are some common sources of *external* economies?
 - knowledge spillovers between firms
 - subsidiary supplier industries
 - local pools of skilled labor

“The most important of these result from the growth of correlated branches of industry which mutually assist one another, perhaps being concentrated in the same localities, but anyhow availing themselves of the modern facilities for communication offered by steam transport, by the telegraph and by the printing press,” (p.264).

External Economies: Geographic Clustering



150 Firms in Dalton, Georgia (pop. 33,000) supply over 70% of entire world's carpet. Carpet has been made there since 1895.

External Economies: Geographic Clustering

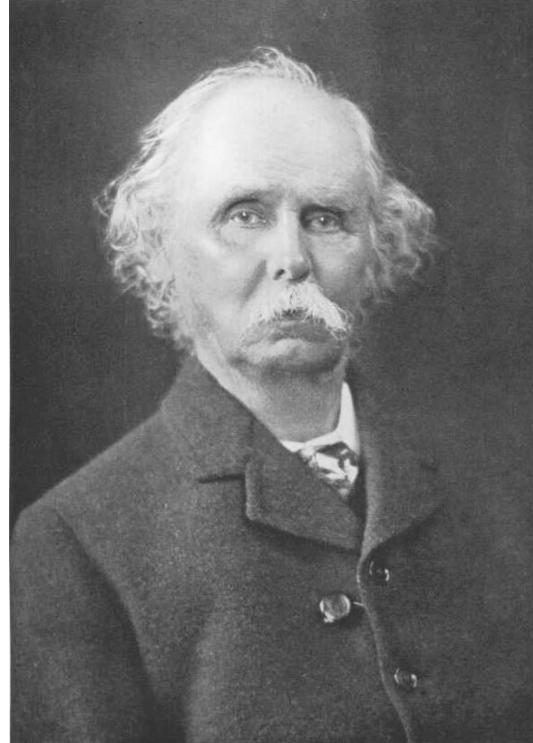


990 firms in Hangji China (pop. 36,000) produce 3 billion toothbrushes a year, 80% of Chinese toothbrush production. Toothbrushes have been made there since 1827.

External Economies: Geographic Clustering



External Economies



Alfred Marshall

1842-1924

“[G]reat are the advantages which people following the same trade get from near neighborhood...The mysteries of the trade become no mysteries; but are as it were in the air, and children learn many of them unconsciously. Good work is rightly appreciated, inventions and improvement in machinery, in process and the general organization of the business have their merits promptly discussed: if one man starts a new idea, it is taken up by others and combined with suggestions of their own; and thus it becomes the source of further new ideas.”

External Economies: Examples

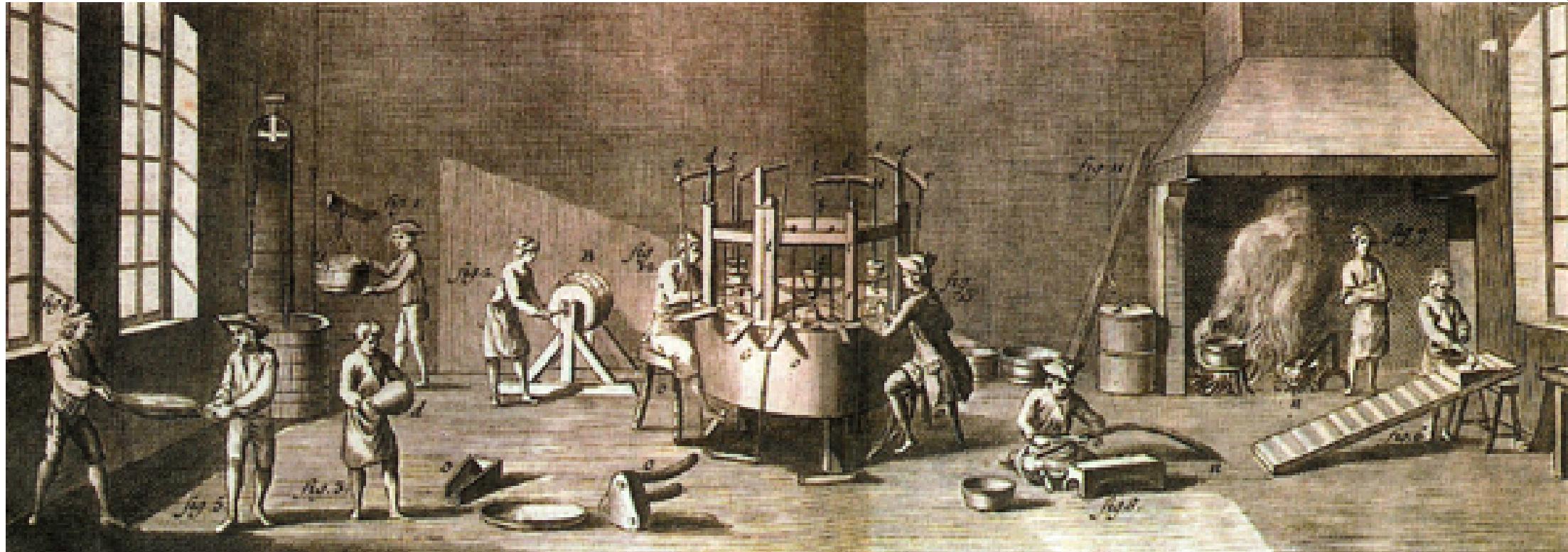


“[In Silicon Valley] engineers left established semiconductor companies to start firms that manufactured capital goods such as diffusion ovens, step-and-repeat cameras, and testers, and materials and components such as photomasks, testing jigs, and specialized chemicals. . . . This independent equipment sector promoted the continuing formation of semiconductor firms by freeing individual producers from the expense of developing capital equipment internally and by spreading the costs of development. It also reinforced the tendency toward industrial localization, as most of these specialized inputs were not available elsewhere in the country.”

“it wasn’t that big a catastrophe to quit your job on Friday and have another job on Monday. . . . You didn’t even necessarily have to tell your wife. You just drove off in another direction on Monday morning”

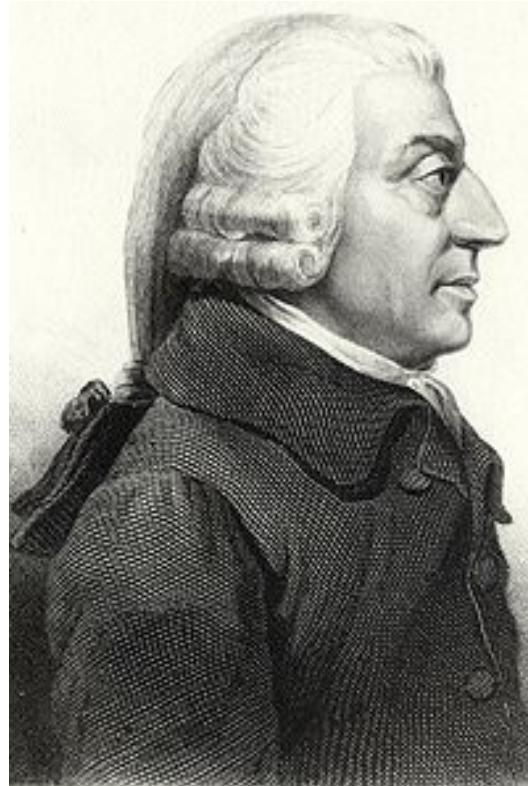
Saxenian, Annalee, 1994, *Regional Advantage*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, p.40

Division of Labor Strikes Back!



Adam Smith's pin factory illustration

Division of Labor Strikes Back!



Adam Smith

1723-1790

"As it is the power of exchanging that gives occasion to the division of labour, so **the extent of this division must always be limited by...the extent of the market.** When the market is very small, no person can have any encouragement to dedicate himself entirely to one employment, for want of the power to exchange all that surplus part of the produce of his own labour, which is over and above his own consumption, for such parts of the produce of other men's labour as he has occasion for" (Book I, Chapter 3).

Smith, Adam, 1776, [An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations](#)

From Perfect Competition to Monopolistic Competition



- Economies of scale are *inconsistent* with perfect competition!
- Requires us to drop an assumption of perfectly competitive markets
- Instead, new trade theory begins with a foundation of **monopolistic competition**
- We will begin next class with a review of this

