

Growing by the Masses

Revisiting the Link Between Firm Size and Market Power

Hassan Afrouzi
Columbia University

Andres Drenik
Columbia University

Ryan Kim
Johns Hopkins University

Yale—October 20, 2020

Motivation

- Conventional macro models: [Atkeson and Burstein \(2008\)](#); [Edmond, Midrigan and Xu \(2018\)](#)
 - tight link between **firm size** and **market power**.

Motivation

- Conventional macro models: [Atkeson and Burstein \(2008\)](#); [Edmond, Midrigan and Xu \(2018\)](#)
 - tight link between **firm size** and **market power**.
- more concentration of sales \Rightarrow more distortions.

Motivation

- Conventional macro models: [Atkeson and Burstein \(2008\)](#); [Edmond, Midrigan and Xu \(2018\)](#)
 - tight link between **firm size** and **market power**.
- more concentration of sales \Rightarrow more distortions.
- However, sales can grow either because firms
 - sell more per customer (**intensive margin**)
 - sell to more customers (**extensive margin**)

Motivation

- Conventional macro models: [Atkeson and Burstein \(2008\)](#); [Edmond, Midrigan and Xu \(2018\)](#)
 - tight link between **firm size** and **market power**.
- more concentration of sales \Rightarrow more distortions.
- However, sales can grow either because firms
 - sell more per customer (**intensive margin**)
 - sell to more customers (**extensive margin**)
- **This paper.** merge micro-data about producers and consumers to document
 - firms grow mainly through the *extensive* margin
 - market power is mainly associated with the *intensive* margin

Motivation

- Conventional macro models: [Atkeson and Burstein \(2008\)](#); [Edmond, Midrigan and Xu \(2018\)](#)
 - tight link between **firm size** and **market power**.
- more concentration of sales \Rightarrow more distortions.
- However, sales can grow either because firms
 - sell more per customer (**intensive margin**)
 - sell to more customers (**extensive margin**)
- **This paper.** merge micro-data about producers and consumers to document
 - firms grow mainly through the *extensive* margin
 - market power is mainly associated with the *intensive* margin
- more concentration of sales \nRightarrow more distortions.

Preview of Model Results

- **Theory.** a firm dynamics model consistent with our facts:
 - provides new perspective on relationship between firm size and market power
 - associates *higher* concentration with *lower* aggregate markup
 - predicts substantive welfare gains due to *misallocation of demand*.
- **Quantitative.** relative to equilibrium, efficient allocation features:
 - 11% fewer firms and 39% higher concentration
 - 11% / 15% / 14% higher aggregate TFP / output / welfare

- Firm size and market power with intensive demand margin:
Rotemberg and Woodford (1992); Atkeson and Burstein (2008); Edmond, Midrigan and Xu (2018); Gopinath and Itskhoki (2010); Hottman, Redding and Weinstein (2016); Amiti, Itskhoki and Konings (2019)
- Endogenous customer acquisition through marketing/advertising:
Arkolakis (2010); Drozd and Nosal (2012); Sedlacek and Sterk (2017); Perla (2019); Fitzgerald, Haller and Yedid-Levi (2016); Fitzgerald and Priolo (2018); Kaplan and Zoch (2020)
- Misallocation:
Restucia and Rogerson (2008); Hsieh and Klenow (2009); Peters (2019); David, Hopenhayn and Venkateswaran (2016); Asker, Collard-Wexler and De Loecker (2014); Buera, Kaboski and Shin (2011); Midrigan and Xu (2014); Baqaee and Farhi (2019); Bigio and La'O (2020)

Empirical Findings

- Analyze components of sales and their contribution to:
 - firm growth
 - market power
- Two sources of sales growth:

$$\underbrace{\ln S_{it}}_{\text{Total sales firm } i} = \underbrace{\ln m_{it}}_{\text{Number of customers}} + \underbrace{\ln p_{it} D(p_{it})}_{\text{Sales per customer}}$$

- Combine two sources of data: ACNielsen Homescan Panel and Compustat

Markups are associated with the intensive margin

$$\ln \text{Markup}_{it} = \alpha_1 \ln pD(p)_{it} + \alpha_2 \ln m_{it} + \lambda_t + \lambda_s + \varepsilon_{it}$$

	ln Markup				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
$\ln pD(p)_{it}$	0.092*** (0.033)	0.091*** (0.033)	0.060*** (0.022)	0.059*** (0.022)	0.060** (0.024)
$\ln m_{it}$	-0.002 (0.006)	-0.002 (0.006)	0.002 (0.007)	0.002 (0.007)	0.003 (0.007)
Observations	2433	2433	2433	2433	2433
R^2	0.046	0.047	0.311	0.313	0.338
Year FE		✓		✓	
SIC FE			✓	✓	
SIC-year FE					✓

Markups are associated with sales per customer
but not with the number of customers

Firms mostly grow by expanding their customer base m

- Var. decomposition:

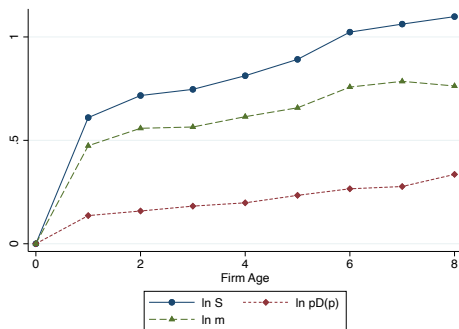
$$\frac{\text{var}_i(\ln m_{it})}{\text{var}_i(\ln S_{it})} \approx 80\%$$

Firms mostly grow by expanding their customer base m

- Var. decomposition:

$$\frac{\text{var}_i(\ln m_{it})}{\text{var}_i(\ln S_{it})} \approx 80\%$$

$$\ln S_{it} = \sum_{a=1}^8 \delta_a \mathbb{1}(\text{age}_{it} = a) + \lambda_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$



- At age 1, m explains $\approx 78\%$ of sales
- At age 8, m explains $\approx 70\%$ of sales

Customer acquisition associated with firms' non-production costs

$$\ln S_{igt} = \gamma_1 \ln SGA_{it} + X'_{it}\gamma_2 + \lambda_{ig} + \lambda_{st} + \lambda_{gt} + \varepsilon_{igt}$$

	Decomposition of $\ln S$			$\ln m$: New vs. Old	
	(1) $\ln S$	(2) $\ln pD(p)$	(3) $\ln m$	(4) $\ln m^{\text{New}}$	(5) $\ln m^{\text{Old}}$
$\ln SGA_{it}$	0.095*** (0.036)	0.005 (0.014)	0.090*** (0.028)	0.095*** (0.032)	0.016 (0.027)
Observations	13131	13131	13131	13131	13131
R^2	0.962	0.909	0.965	0.943	0.961
Firm-year Controls	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Group-year FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SIC-year FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Group-firm FE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Non-production costs (SGA) associated with entry of new customers,
not with retention of previous customers or sales per customer

Model

Objectives

- Facts to incorporate:
 - Intensive and extensive margins of demand
 - Endogenous markups associated (only) with the intensive margin
 - Endogenous customer acquisition through non-production costs
- Model-based questions:
 - What is the relationship between firms size and market power?
 - What is the efficient allocation of demand/customers?

Model

Households' Problem

- There exists a family of households with members $j \in [0, 1]$
- At time t , $m_{i,t}$ members are matched to variety $i \in [0, N_t]$ in a rep. industry

Model

Households' Problem

- There exists a family of households with members $j \in [0, 1]$
- At time t , $m_{i,t}$ members are matched to variety $i \in [0, N_t]$ in a rep. industry
- The family solves:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{C_t, L_t, c_{i,j,t}\}_{t \geq 0}} & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left[\frac{C_t^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \xi \frac{L_t^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi} \right] \\ \text{s.t.} & \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 p_{i,t} c_{i,j,t} dj di \leq W_t L_t + \Pi_t \\ & 1 = \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 \mathbf{1}_{\{j \in m_{i,t}\}} \Upsilon \left(\frac{c_{i,j,t}}{C_t} \right) dj di \quad (\text{Kimball aggregator}) \end{aligned}$$

- $\Upsilon(\cdot)$ is the Kimball aggregator from Klenow and Willis (2016)
 - Key property: **Marshall's Second Law of Demand**
(more elastic demand at higher relative prices)

Model

Households' Problem

- There exists a family of households with members $j \in [0, 1]$
- At time t , $m_{i,t}$ members are matched to variety $i \in [0, N_t]$ in a rep. industry
- The family solves:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{C_t, L_t, c_{i,j,t}\}_{t \geq 0}} & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left[\frac{C_t^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \xi \frac{L_t^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi} \right] \\ \text{s.t.} & \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 p_{i,t} c_{i,j,t} dj di \leq W_t L_t + \Pi_t \\ & 1 = \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 \mathbf{1}_{\{j \in m_{i,t}\}} \Upsilon \left(\frac{c_{i,j,t}}{C_t} \right) dj di \quad (\text{Kimball aggregator}) \end{aligned}$$

- $\Upsilon(\cdot)$ is the Kimball aggregator from Klenow and Willis (2016)
 - Key property: **Marshall's Second Law of Demand**
(more elastic demand at higher relative prices)

Model

Households' Problem

- There exists a family of households with members $j \in [0, 1]$
- At time t , $m_{i,t}$ members are matched to variety $i \in [0, N_t]$ in a rep. industry
- The family solves:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{C_t, L_t, c_{i,j,t}\}_{t \geq 0}} & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left[\frac{C_t^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \xi \frac{L_t^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi} \right] \\ \text{s.t.} & \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 p_{i,t} c_{i,j,t} dj di \leq W_t L_t + \Pi_t \\ & 1 = \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 \mathbf{1}_{\{j \in m_{i,t}\}} \Upsilon \left(\frac{c_{i,j,t}}{C_t} \right) dj di \quad (\text{Kimball aggregator}) \end{aligned}$$

- $\Upsilon(\cdot)$ is the Kimball aggregator from Klenow and Willis (2016)
 - Key property: **Marshall's Second Law of Demand**
(more elastic demand at higher relative prices)

Model

Households' Problem

- There exists a family of households with members $j \in [0, 1]$
- At time t , $m_{i,t}$ members are matched to variety $i \in [0, N_t]$ in a rep. industry
- The family solves:

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{\{C_t, L_t, c_{i,j,t}\}_{t \geq 0}} & \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} \beta^t \left[\frac{C_t^{1-\gamma}}{1-\gamma} - \xi \frac{L_t^{1+\psi}}{1+\psi} \right] \\ \text{s.t.} & \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 p_{i,t} c_{i,j,t} dj di \leq W_t L_t + \Pi_t \\ & 1 = \int_0^{N_t} \int_0^1 \mathbf{1}_{\{j \in m_{i,t}\}} \Upsilon \left(\frac{c_{i,j,t}}{C_t} \right) dj di \quad (\text{Kimball aggregator}) \end{aligned}$$

- $\Upsilon(\cdot)$ is the Kimball aggregator from Klenow and Willis (2016)
 - Key property: **Marshall's Second Law of Demand**
(more elastic demand at higher relative prices)

Model

Demand for Varieties

$$c_{i,t} = m_{i,t} c_t \Upsilon'^{-1} \left(\frac{p_{i,t}}{D_t} \right)$$

- Elasticity of demand only a function of relative demand per customer:

$$q_{i,t} \equiv \frac{c_{i,j,t}}{c_t}, \quad \forall j \in m_{i,t} \quad \text{(relative demand per customer)}$$

$$e_{i,t} = \sigma q_{i,t}^{-\frac{\eta}{\sigma}} \quad \text{(Marshall's 2nd law of demand)}$$

Model

Entrant Firms

- At each $t \geq 0$, measure $\lambda > 0$ of potential entrants are born with no customers
- Each potential entrant draws a productivity z such that

$$\ln z_{i,t} \sim \mathcal{N}(\bar{z}_{ent}, \sigma_z^2)$$

- Given z , a potential entrant chooses from $\{enter, drop\ out\}$
- Conditional on entry, the firm's productivity evolves according to

$$\ln z_{i,t} = \rho \ln z_{i,t-1} + \varepsilon_{i,t}, \quad \varepsilon_{i,t} \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_z^2)$$

where $\varepsilon_{i,t}$ is i.i.d. across firms and time.

Model

Incumbent Firms

- At each $t \geq 0$, draw new productivity and exit exogenously with prob. $1 - \nu$
- Decide to stay and pay a fixed overhead cost of $\chi > 0$ or exit
- Use labor $l_{i,s,t}$ to produce new matches:

$$m_{i,t} \leq (1 - \delta)m_{i,t-1} + \frac{l_{i,s,t}^\phi}{P_{m,t}}$$
$$P_{m,t} \text{ such that } \int_{i \in N_t} m_{i,t} di = 1$$

where $P_{m,t}$ is the “cost” of a match

- Set price $p_{i,t}$ and use labor $l_{i,p,t}$ to produce goods with $y_{i,t} = z_{i,t} l_{i,p,t}^\alpha$.

$$v_t(m_{-1}, z) \equiv \max_{l_s, l_p, p} \left\{ \underbrace{py}_{\text{Sales}} - \underbrace{W_t l_p}_{\text{COGS}} - \underbrace{W_t(l_s + \chi)}_{\text{SGA}} + \beta \nu \frac{U_{c,t+1}}{U_{c,t}} \mathbb{E} [V_{t+1}(m, z') | z] \right\}$$

$$\text{s.t. } q = \Upsilon'^{-1} \left(\frac{p}{D_t} \right) \quad (\text{relative demand per customer})$$

$$y = mqC_t = z l_p^\alpha \quad (\text{demand} = \text{supply})$$

$$m \leq (1 - \delta)m_{-1} + \frac{l_s^\phi}{P_{m,t}} \quad (\text{law of motion for customer base})$$

And

$$V_t(m_{-1}, z) = \max\{v_t(m_{-1}, z), 0\} \quad (\text{entry/exit decision})$$

Characterization

Optimal markups

- Markups and labor share:

$$p_{i,t} = \underbrace{\frac{\varepsilon_{i,t}}{\varepsilon_{i,t} - 1}}_{\text{markup}} \times \underbrace{\alpha^{-1} \frac{W_t l_{i,p,t}}{y_{i,t}}}_{\text{marginal cost}} \Leftrightarrow \frac{\text{Sales}_{i,t}}{\text{COGS}_{i,t}} = \frac{\mu_{i,t}}{\alpha}$$

Lemma (Incomplete pass-through)

Firms with higher marginal costs charge higher prices and lower markups.

$$d \ln \left(\frac{p_{i,t}}{D_t} \right) = \frac{1}{1 + \eta \sigma^{-1} \varepsilon_{i,t} (\mu_{i,t} - 1)} d \ln \left(\frac{mc_{i,t}}{D_t} \right)$$

$$\underbrace{p_{i,t}c_{i,t}/C_t}_{\text{total relative sales}} = \underbrace{m_{i,t}}_{\text{number of customers}} \times \underbrace{p_{i,t}\Upsilon'^{-1}(p_{i,t}/D_t)}_{\text{relative sales per customer}}$$

Proposition

1. *Firms with higher sales per customer charge higher markups.*
2. *Holding productivity and sales fixed, firms with more customers charge lower markups.*

It matters for market power if firms are big because of a large customer base or because of more sales per customer

Characterization

Returns to customer acquisition

- Sales grow mainly by m but markups are a function of q
- Key question for markups and concentration: how are m and q related?
- Markups are return to customer acquisition:

$$\underbrace{\phi^{-1} \frac{W_t l_{i,S,t}}{m_{i,t} - (1 - \delta)m_{i,t-1}}}_{\text{marginal cost of a match}} = \mathbb{E}_t \sum_{\tau=t}^{\infty} \underbrace{\left[(\nu(1 - \delta))^{\tau-t} \prod_{h=t}^{\tau} 1_{i,\tau} \right]}_{\text{prob. of match survival}} \underbrace{\beta^{\tau-t} \left(\frac{C_{\tau}}{C_t} \right)^{-\gamma} (p_{i,\tau} - mc_{i,\tau}) q_{i,\tau} C_{\tau}}_{\text{discounted (gross) marginal profit per match}}$$

- Answer: Positively, but its extent depends on ϕ

What is the efficient allocations of demand?

Lemma

For a given set of N_t , the efficient allocation of $m_{i,t}$ and $q_{i,t}$ maximizes TFP:

$$\begin{aligned} & \max_{(q_{i,t}, m_{i,t})_{i \in N_t}} \left[\int_{i \in N_t} \left(\frac{z_{i,t}}{m_{i,t} q_{i,t}} \right)^{-\alpha-1} \right]^{-\alpha} \\ \text{s.t. } & 1 = \int_{i \in N_t} m_{i,t} \Upsilon(q_{i,t}) di \\ & 1 = \int_{i \in N_t} m_{i,t} di \end{aligned}$$

Proposition

Under the efficient allocation:

1. Relative consumption per customer is equalized across all firms ($q_{i,t}^* = 1$).
2. More productive firms get more customers ($m_{i,t}^* \propto z_{i,t}^{\frac{1}{1-\alpha}}$).
(so that the marginal product of labor is equalized across all firms.)

What is the efficient allocations of demand?

- In conventional models, with exogenous $m_{i,t}$, planner chooses dist of $q_{i,t}$:
 - increases agg. TFP by shifting demand towards more productive firms (towards equalizing MPL)
 - but this is diminished by the dispersion of relative consumption
- In our model, planner chooses both distributions of $q_{i,t}$ and $m_{i,t}$:
 - equalizes relative consumption across all firms
 - increases agg. TFP by giving more customers to more productive firms (fully equalizes MPL)
- **Note:** the allocation under conventional models feasible but not optimal
⇒ new Pareto frontier.

Quantitative Analysis

How far are we from efficient allocation/conventional model?

► Fixed param.

► Calibrated param.

► Fit

► Firm dynamics

► Overident. tests

- **Efficient allocation:** spend enough on m that MP of l_p is equalized ($\phi = 1$)
- **Conventional model:** firms have no control over m ($\phi = 0$)
- **Key question:** How to identify ϕ ?

How far are we from efficient allocation/conventional model?

► Fixed param.

► Calibrated param.

► Fit

► Firm dynamics

► Overident. tests

- **Efficient allocation:** spend enough on m that MP of l_p is equalized ($\phi = 1$)
- **Conventional model:** firms have no control over m ($\phi = 0$)
- **Key question:** How to identify ϕ ?

Proposition (Relationship between SGA and SALES)

Suppose $\delta = 1$. Then, the total SGA expenses of a firm can be decomposed into:

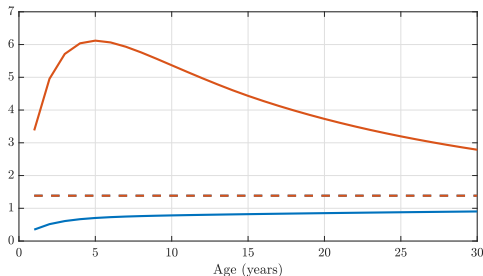
$$\begin{aligned} SGA_{i,t} &= SGAF_{i,t} + SGAV_{i,t} \\ &= W_t \chi + \underbrace{\phi}_{\approx 0.5} \times SALES_{i,t} - \frac{\phi}{\alpha} \times COGS_{i,t} \end{aligned}$$

Calibration and Goodness of Fit

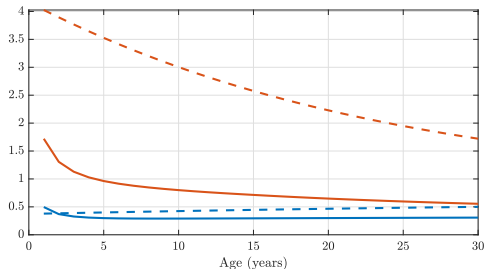
Moment	Data	Model	Parameter	Value
Slope SGA on sales	0.492	0.474	ϕ	0.533
Avg. COGS-to-OPEX ratio	0.660	0.669	χ	0.307
Avg. cost-weighted production markup	1.250	1.275	σ	6.490
Slope labor prod. on sales	0.036	0.033	η	4.956
Avg. exit rate	0.073	0.071	ν	0.964
SD. employment growth	0.416	0.447	σ_z	0.218

The Role of Endogenous Customer Acquisition: Source of Concentration

► Markups



(a) $m_{i,t}$



(b) $q_{i,t}$

Endog. customer acquisition: productive firms sell to more customers/less per customer

The Role of Endogenous Customer Acquisition: Aggregates

	Baseline Model	Restricted Model
TFP		-27.9
Output		-23.9
Number of firms		65.1
Employment		7.9
Production		6.3
Agg. markup	1.26	1.38
Top 5% sales share	0.50	0.17

With endog. customer acquisition:

- Higher concentration (in m)
⇒ BUT lower aggregate markup
- Concentration \uparrow TFP and output
and \downarrow entry and employment

Quantifying Departure from Efficient Allocation

- Welfare gains with planner's allocation (with $L_S^* = L_S$):

$$\underbrace{\frac{\Delta U_t}{U_{c,t} C_t}}_{\Delta \text{Welfare (C.E.)} = 13.6\%} \approx \underbrace{\Delta \ln(Z_t)}_{\text{TFP gains} = 10.8\%} + \underbrace{-\alpha \mathcal{M}_t^{-1} \chi \frac{N_t}{L_{p,t}} \Delta \ln(N_t)}_{\text{Gains from Entry/Exit} = 1.6\%} + \underbrace{+\alpha(1 - \mathcal{M}_t^{-1}) \Delta \ln(L_{p,t})}_{\text{Losses from Agg. Markup} = 0.78\%}$$

Quantifying Departure from Efficient Allocation

- Welfare gains with planner's allocation (with $L_S^* = L_S$):

$$\underbrace{\frac{\Delta U_t}{U_{c,t} C_t}}_{\Delta \text{Welfare (C.E.)} = 13.6\%} \approx \underbrace{\Delta \ln(Z_t)}_{\text{TFP gains} = 10.8\%} \underbrace{-\alpha \mathcal{M}_t^{-1} \chi \frac{N_t}{L_{p,t}} \Delta \ln(N_t)}_{\text{Gains from Entry/Exit} = 1.6\%} \underbrace{+\alpha(1 - \mathcal{M}_t^{-1}) \Delta \ln(L_{p,t})}_{\text{Losses from Agg. Markup} = 0.78\%}$$

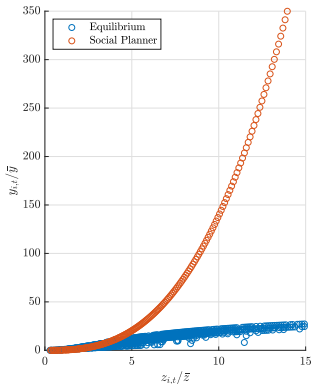
- TFP gains with planner's allocation:

$$\underbrace{\ln \left(\frac{Z(N_t^*, \mathcal{A}_t^*)}{Z(N_t, \mathcal{A}_t)} \right)}_{\Delta \text{ TFP} = 10.8\%} = \underbrace{\ln \left(\frac{Z(N_t, \mathcal{A}_t^*)}{Z(N_t, \mathcal{A}_t)} \right)}_{\Delta \text{ Allocative Efficiency} = 7.8\%} + \underbrace{\ln \left(\frac{Z(N_t^*, \mathcal{A}_t^*)}{Z(N_t, \mathcal{A}_t^*)} \right)}_{\Delta \text{ Entry/Exit Efficiency} = 3.0\%}$$

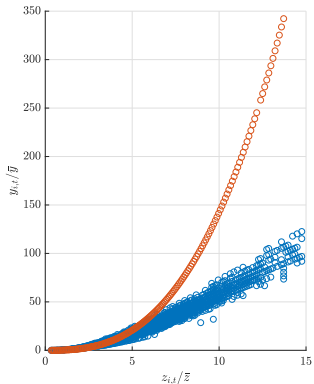
	Endogenous $m_{i,t}$		
	$\phi = 0.25$	Baseline	$\phi = 0.75$
TFP	24.1	10.8	3.2
Output	27.5	14.6	7.7
Number of firms	-41.9	-11.3	-2.6
Employment	-5.0	2.1	4.4
Production	5.3	6.0	7.0
Welfare	37.9	13.6	4.0
Agg. markup	-27.8	-22.8	-19.1
Top 5% sales share	88.8	39.2	15.5

- Planner achieves higher output/TFP by:
 - reducing number of firms
 - reallocating customers to most productive firms

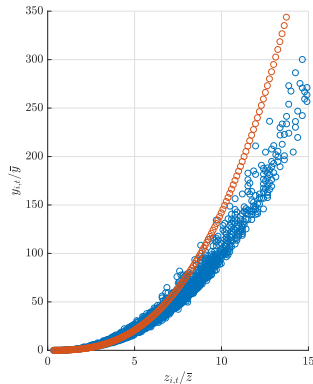
The Role of Endogenous Customer Acquisition: Role of ϕ

[▶ Back](#)

(a) Low ϕ



(b) Baseline



(c) High ϕ

When ϕ is larger equilibrium allocation of customers and sales approaches efficient allocation

Conclusion

- Revisit role of extensive and intensive margins of demand on firms' market share and market power
- Main empirical fact:
 - while firms' sales grow mainly through acquiring more customers
 - their market power is only correlated with their sales per customer
- Model provides new perspective on relationship between firm size and market power
 - higher concentration associated with *lower* aggregate markup
- Nonetheless, substantive welfare gains under efficient allocation due to *new* Pareto frontier

Appendix

1. ACNielsen Homescan Panel

- panel data on households' consumption patterns
- sample period: 2004-2016
- detailed information on barcode-level product sales from $\sim 55,000$ HHs per year
- merged with Compustat based on company name-matching algorithm

2. Compustat

- panel data on publicly traded firms
- sample period: 1955-2016
- detailed information on firms' balance sheets and **cost structure**

- Operational expenses (OPEX) are divided into two types of costs:

1. **Cost of Goods Sold (COGS)**

“all expenses that are directly related to the cost of merchandise purchased or the cost of goods manufactured that are withdrawn from finished goods inventory and sold to customers”

E.g.: cost of labor and intermediate inputs used in production

2. **Selling, General and Administrative Expenses (SGA)**

“all commercial expenses of operation (such as expenses not directly related to product production) incurred in the regular course of business...”

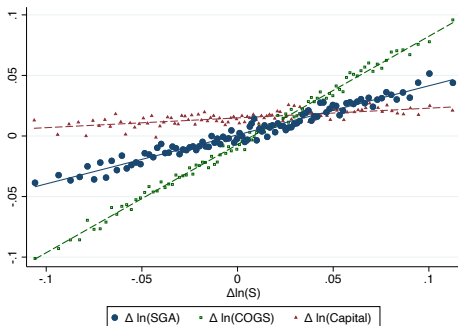
E.g.: advertising, marketing, logistics, research and development

Fact IIbis: Non-production costs have a semi-variable nature

► Regression

► Correlogram

$$\Delta \ln(\text{Cost}_{it}) = \beta \Delta \ln S_{it} + \lambda_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it},$$

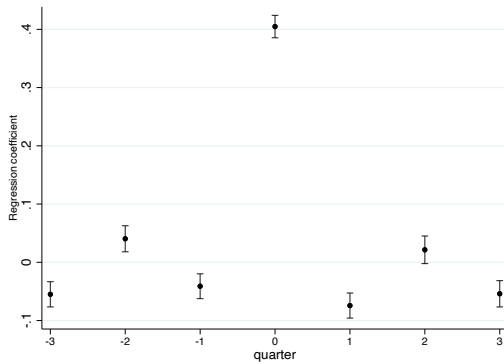


- At *quarterly* frequency:
 $\beta_{\Delta SGA} = 0.450$ (SE 0.010)
- Two natural benchmarks:
 - $\beta_{\Delta COGS} = 0.894$ (SE 0.008)
 - $\beta_{\Delta Capital} = 0.081$ (SE 0.008)

$$\Delta \ln(\text{Cost}_{it}) = \beta \Delta \ln S_{it} + \lambda_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it},$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
	$\Delta \ln(\text{COGS})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{COGS})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{SGA})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{SGA})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Capital})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{Capital})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{R\&D})$	$\Delta \ln(\text{R\&D})$
$\Delta \log(\text{Sales})$	0.920*** (0.008)	0.894*** (0.008)	0.473*** (0.009)	0.405*** (0.010)	0.133*** (0.008)	0.081*** (0.008)	0.278*** (0.028)	0.200*** (0.031)
R^2	0.055	0.162	0.011	0.103	0.002	0.155	0.002	0.083
Year FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Firm FE	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
N	293962	292739	292785	291547	134743	133745	69845	69363

$$\Delta \ln(\text{SGA}_{it}) = \beta \Delta \ln S_{i,t-j} + \lambda_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad \text{for } j \in \{-3, \dots, 3\}$$



- Period: 1 year
- Two sets of parameters: fixed, calibrated via SMM

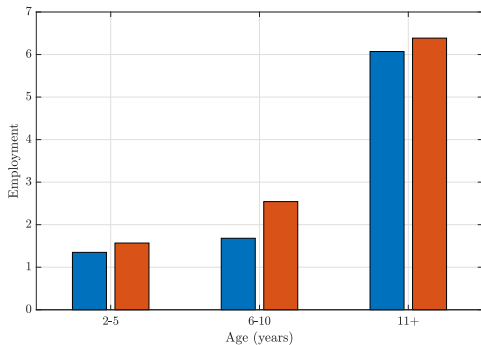
Fixed Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value
β	Annual discount factor	0.960
γ	Elast. of intertemporal substitution	2.000
ψ	Frisch elasticity	1.000
α	Decreasing returns to scale	0.640
δ	Prob. of losing customer	0.280

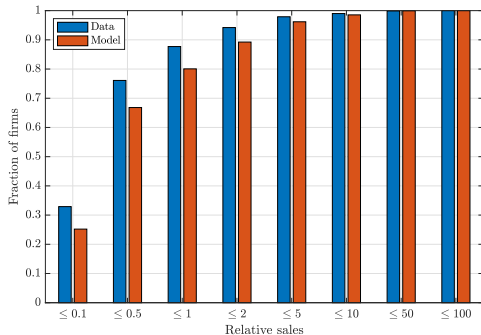
Calibrated Parameters

Parameter	Description	Value
ϕ	Elasticity matching function	0.533
χ	Overhead cost	0.307
σ	Avg. elasticity of substitution	6.490
η	Superelasticity	4.956
ν	Exog. survival probability	0.964
ρ_z	Persistence of productivity shock	0.973
σ_z	SD of productivity shock	0.218
\bar{z}_{ent}	Mean productivity of entrants	-1.453
λ	Mass of entrants	0.137
ξ	Disutility of labor supply	1.981

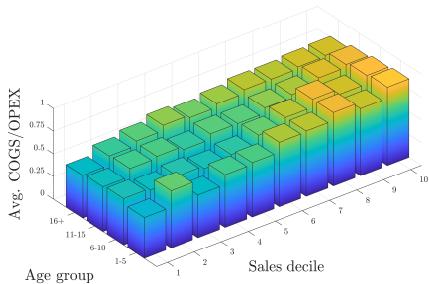
Moment	Data	Model
Slope SGA on sales	0.492	0.474
Avg. COGS-to-OPEX ratio	0.660	0.669
Avg. cost-weighted production markup	1.250	1.275
Slope labor prod. on sales	0.036	0.033
Avg. exit rate	0.073	0.071
SD. employment growth	0.416	0.447



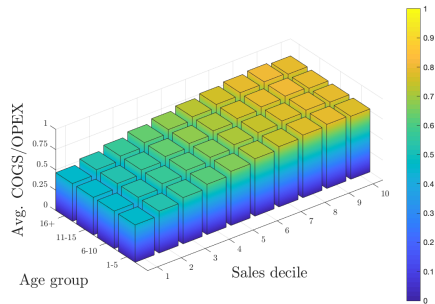
(a) Relative Employment by Age



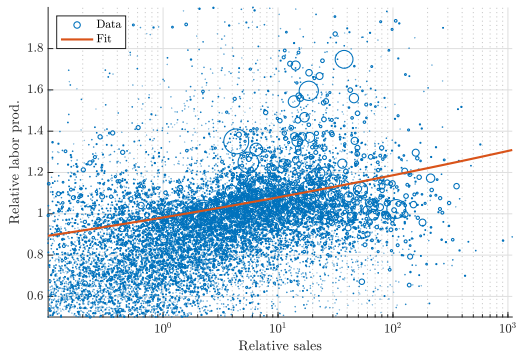
(b) Sales distribution



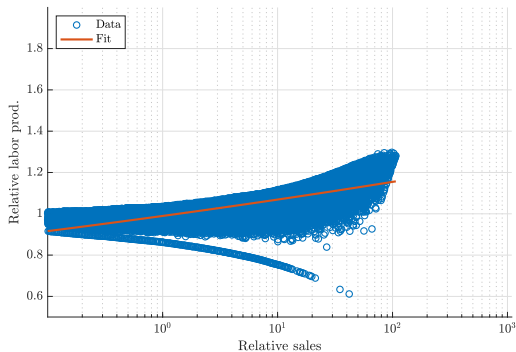
(a) Data



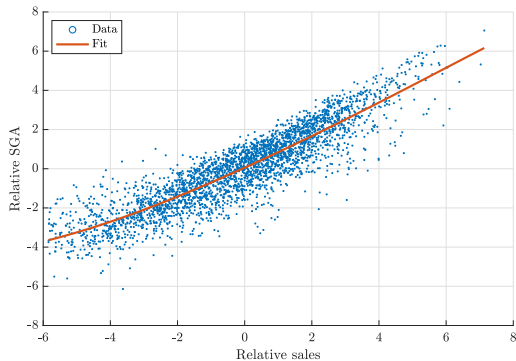
(b) Model



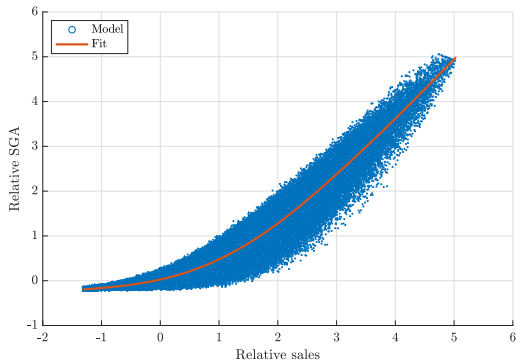
(a) Data



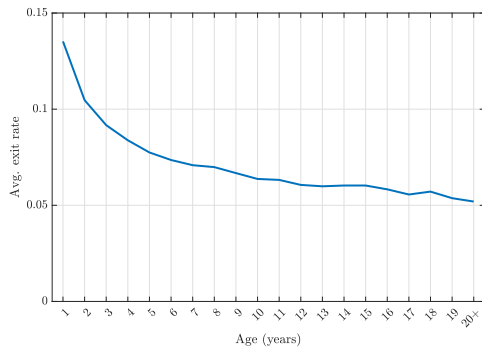
(b) Model



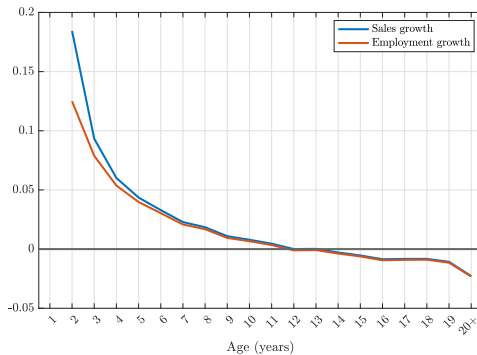
(a) Data



(b) Model



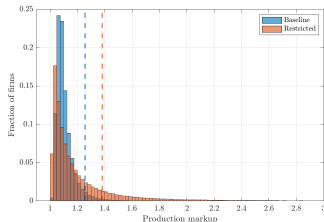
(a) Exit Rate by Age



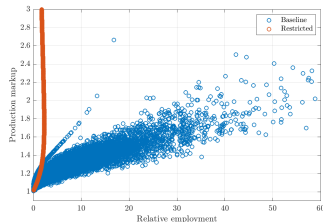
(b) Avg. Growth by Age

The Role of Endogenous Customer Acquisition: Source of Concentration

► Back



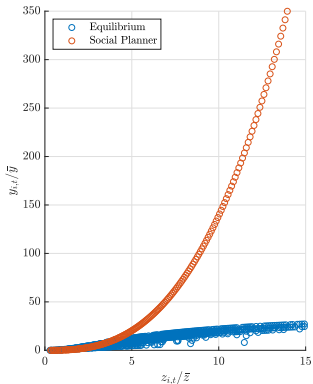
(a) Distribution of Markups



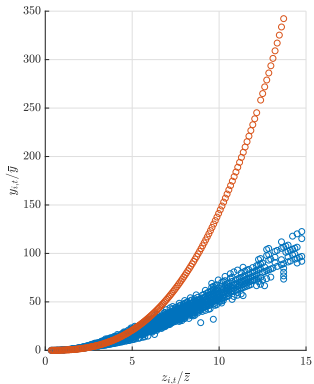
(b) Avg. Size by Age

$$\underbrace{\log(\mathcal{M}_t) - \log(\mathcal{M}_t^R)}_{-9.71\%} \approx \underbrace{\int_{i \in N_t^R} \omega_{i,t}^R (\log(\mu_{i,t}) - \log(\mu_{i,t}^R)) di}_{\Delta \text{ Market power: } -18.71\%} + \underbrace{\int_{i \in N_t} (\omega_{i,t} - \omega_{i,t}^R) \log(\mu_{i,t}) di}_{\Delta \text{ Distribution: } 9.00\%}$$

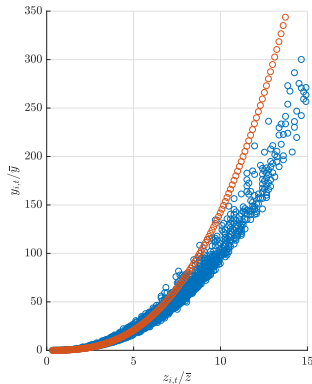
The Role of Endogenous Customer Acquisition: Role of ϕ

[▶ Back](#)

(a) Low ϕ



(b) Baseline



(c) High ϕ

When ϕ is larger equilibrium allocation of customers and sales approaches efficient allocation