

## Internalizing Global Value Chains: A Firm-Level Analysis

Laura Alfaro  
HBS

Pol Antràs  
Harvard

Davin Chor  
NUS

Paola Conconi  
ECARES

## Preamble

- ▶ Most production processes are **sequential**: raw materials are converted into basic components, which are then combined with other components to produce more complex inputs, before being assembled into final goods.
- ▶ Production processes are **increasingly complex**: sourcing and assembly of multiple inputs from multiple suppliers, often located in many countries.

## Preamble

- ▶ Most production processes are **sequential**: raw materials are converted into basic components, which are then combined with other components to produce more complex inputs, before being assembled into final goods.
- ▶ Production processes are **increasingly complex**: sourcing and assembly of multiple inputs from multiple suppliers, often located in many countries.
- ▶ Growing interest in how the sequential nature of production affects location and organizational decisions of firms.

(Harms, Lorz and Urban 2012; Baldwin and Venables 2013; Costinot, Vogel and Wang 2013; Antràs and Chor 2013; Kikuchi, Nishimura and Stachurski 2014; Fally and Hillberry 2014)

## Preamble

- ▶ Most production processes are **sequential**: raw materials are converted into basic components, which are then combined with other components to produce more complex inputs, before being assembled into final goods.
- ▶ Production processes are **increasingly complex**: sourcing and assembly of multiple inputs from multiple suppliers, often located in many countries.
- ▶ Growing interest in how the sequential nature of production affects location and organizational decisions of firms.

(Harms, Lorz and Urban 2012; Baldwin and Venables 2013; Costinot, Vogel and Wang 2013; Antràs and Chor 2013; Kikuchi, Nishimura and Stachurski 2014; Fally and Hillberry 2014)

- ▶ Firm-level tests of the implications of these theories are still sparse.

## Introduction and Overview: This Project

- ▶ A firm-level exploration of firm **boundary choices along value chains**.

## Introduction and Overview: This Project

- ▶ A firm-level exploration of firm **boundary choices along value chains**.
- ▶ Build on the model of Antràs and Chor (2013), by introducing asymmetries across production stages other than their position in the value chain.
- ▶ From Dun & Bradstreet WorldBase: Detailed information on ownership linkages and the SIC activities of parents/subsidiaries
  - ▶ Combine with U.S. Input-Output Tables to identify firms' **integrated** vs **non-integrated inputs**.
- ▶ Sequentiality: Compute a **measure of upstreamness** of each input  $i$  in the production of final good  $j$  (from U.S. Input-Output Tables)

## Introduction and Overview: This Project

- ▶ A firm-level exploration of firm **boundary choices along value chains**.
- ▶ Build on the model of Antràs and Chor (2013), by introducing asymmetries across production stages other than their position in the value chain.
- ▶ From Dun & Bradstreet WorldBase: Detailed information on ownership linkages and the SIC activities of parents/subsidiaries
  - ▶ Combine with U.S. Input-Output Tables to identify firms' **integrated** vs **non-integrated inputs**.
- ▶ Sequentiality: Compute a **measure of upstreamness** of each input  $i$  in the production of final good  $j$  (from U.S. Input-Output Tables)
- ▶ Find strong and robust evidence that firms' propensity to integrate upstream vs downstream inputs depends on the
  - ▶ **elasticity of demand** for the final good
  - ▶ profile of **contractibility** along the value chain

## Related Literature

- ▶ **Theoretical studies on integration vs outsourcing** decisions of firms  
Grossman and Hart 1986; Grossman and Helpman 2002, 2005; Antràs 2003; Antràs and Helpman 2004, 2008; Acemoglu, Antràs and Helpman 2007
- ▶ **Empirical studies** testing **property-rights theory** of firm boundaries  
Yeaple 2006; Nunn and Trefler 2008, 2013; Corcos *et al.* 2013; Defever and Toubal 2013, Díez 2014; Antràs 2015
- ▶ **Theoretical studies** on how the **sequential nature of production** affects location and organizational decisions of firms  
Harms, Lorz and Urban 2012; Baldwin and Venables 2013; Costinot, Vogel and Wang 2013; Antràs and Chor 2013; Fally and Hillberry 2014
- ▶ **Empirical studies on firm boundaries** based on D&B (and similar datasets)  
Fan and Lang 2000; Acemoglu, Johnson and Mitton 2009; Alfaro and Charlton 2009; Alfaro and Chen 2012; Alfaro, Conconi, Fadinger and Newman 2016; Fajgelbaum, Grossman and Helpman 2014; Del Prete and Rungi 2015



# Plan of Talk

## 1. Introduction and Motivation

## 2. Theory

- ▶ Baseline model
- ▶ The role of contractibility

## 3. Empirical Setting

- ▶ Data and measures
- ▶ Regression specifications

## 4. Findings

- ▶ From cross-firm variation
- ▶ From within-firm, cross-input variation

## 5. Conclusions

## Model Environment

- ▶ Develop a property rights model of firm boundaries in the tradition of Grossman-Hart-Moore.
- ▶ Production entails a continuum of **uniquely sequenced** inputs,  $i \in [0, 1]$ .
- ▶ Each  $i$  is sourced from a distinct supplier (facing a marginal cost  $c(i)$ ).

## Model Environment

- ▶ Develop a property rights model of firm boundaries in the tradition of Grossman-Hart-Moore.
- ▶ Production entails a continuum of **uniquely sequenced** inputs,  $i \in [0, 1]$ .
- ▶ Each  $i$  is sourced from a distinct supplier (facing a marginal cost  $c(i)$ ).
- ▶ Suppliers undertake **relationship-specific investments** to make their components compatible with those of other suppliers in the value chain.
- ▶ Division of surplus not (fully) disciplined by ex-ante contracts.
- ▶ Suppliers' investments affected by ex-post bargaining power, which is in turn shaped by integration decisions.

## The Model

- For a given firm, production in quality-adjusted units of output:

$$q = \left( \int_0^1 (\psi(i) x(i))^\alpha I(i) di \right)^{1/\alpha}, \quad (1)$$

$$I(i) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if input } i \text{ is produced after all inputs } i' < i, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where  $x(i)$  is the services of compatible stage- $i$  inputs.

- Analogous to Antràs and Chor (2013), but includes  $\psi(i)$ , reflecting **input asymmetries in marginal productivity**.
- Firm lives in a Dixit-Stiglitz industry and faces demand  $q = Ap^{-1/(1-\rho)}$ .

## The Model

- ▶ For a given firm, production in quality-adjusted units of output:

$$q = \left( \int_0^1 (\psi(i) x(i))^\alpha I(i) di \right)^{1/\alpha}, \quad (1)$$

$$I(i) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if input } i \text{ is produced after all inputs } i' < i, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

where  $x(i)$  is the services of compatible stage- $i$  inputs.

- ▶ Analogous to Antràs and Chor (2013), but includes  $\psi(i)$ , reflecting **input asymmetries in marginal productivity**.
- ▶ Firm lives in a Dixit-Stiglitz industry and faces demand  $q = Ap^{-1/(1-\rho)}$ .

Two key parameters:

- ▶  $\alpha \in (0, 1)$ : degree of substitutability between stage inputs
- ▶  $\rho \in (0, 1)$ : degree of concavity of revenue function ( $pq = A^{1-\rho} q^\rho$ )

## Incremental Revenue

- ▶ Revenue accrued up to stage  $m$ :

$$r(m) = A^{1-\rho} \left( \int_0^m (\psi(i) x(i))^\alpha I(i) di \right)^{\frac{\rho}{\alpha}}. \quad (2)$$

- ▶ *Incremental marginal revenue* generated at stage  $m$ :

$$r'(m) = \frac{\rho}{\alpha} \left( A^{1-\rho} \right)^{\frac{\alpha}{\rho}} r(m)^{\frac{\rho-\alpha}{\rho}} (\psi(m)x(m))^\alpha. \quad (3)$$

- ▶ How do upstream input services embodied in  $r(m)$  affect  $r'(m)$ ?

Two cases:

- ▶  $\rho > \alpha$ : Sequential **complements**
- ▶  $\rho < \alpha$ : Sequential **substitutes**

## Contracting Environment

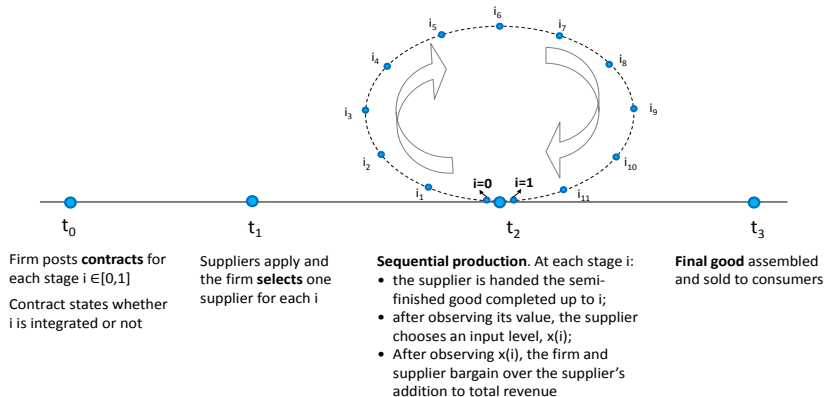
- ▶ Firm specifies integration or outsourcing for each stage before contracting with suppliers.
- ▶ Contracts are incomplete. Agents' payoffs are determined in ex-post (generalized) Nash Bargaining.
- ▶ Baseline: Bargain with stage- $i$  supplier over the *incremental marginal revenue* at that stage.

## Contracting Environment

- ▶ Firm specifies integration or outsourcing for each stage before contracting with suppliers.
- ▶ Contracts are incomplete. Agents' payoffs are determined in ex-post (generalized) Nash Bargaining.
- ▶ Baseline: Bargain with stage- $i$  supplier over the *incremental marginal revenue* at that stage.
- ▶ Tradeoff: Outsourcing provides supplier with better incentives to invest in compatible inputs, but integration confers the firm a better bargaining position by virtue of her residual rights of control ( $\beta_v > \beta_o$ ).
- ▶ Sequentiality: Organizational decisions made upstream have *spillovers on downstream stages*.



## Timing of Events

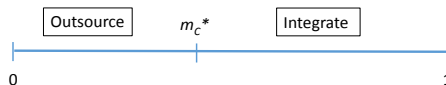


## Core Prediction

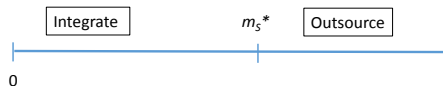
The core prediction of Antràs and Chor (2013) is preserved:

- ▶ Complements case ( $\rho > \alpha$ ): Greater propensity to integrate *downstream*.
- ▶ Substitutes case ( $\rho < \alpha$ ): Greater propensity to integrate *upstream*.
- ▶ (Robust to allowing for measurable subsets of exogenously outsourced stages.)

Sequential complements:  $\rho > \alpha$



Sequential substitutes:  $\rho < \alpha$



# Introducing Contractibility

Mapping  $\psi(i)$  to the degree of contractibility of inputs:

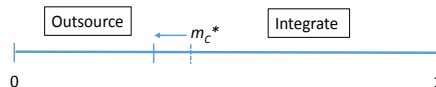
- ▶ Let  $x(i)$  refer to the non-contractible investments embodied in input  $i$  (chosen by supplier  $i$ ).
  - ▶ Let  $\psi(i)$  refer to contractible investments that can be specified in the initial contract (chosen by the firm at time  $t_0$ ).
  - ▶ Per unit contracting costs for specifying  $\psi(i)$  are exogenously given by  $\psi(i)^\phi / \mu(i)$ , where  $\phi > 1$
  - ▶ The level of  $\psi(i)$  specified in the initial contract is inversely related to  $1/\mu(i)$ , so long as  $\phi > \alpha/(1 - \alpha)$ .
- ⇒ Can interpret a **high value of  $\psi(i)$**  as reflecting **high contractibility of that stage input**.

## The Profile of Contractibility

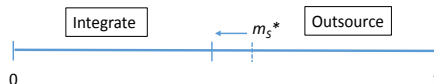
A higher level of “**upstream** contractibility”

- ▶ Complements case: **Greater** propensity to integrate upstream relative to downstream.
- ▶ Substitutes case: **Lower** propensity to integrate upstream relative to downstream.

Sequential complements:  $\rho > \alpha$



Sequential substitutes:  $\rho < \alpha$



## Empirical Predictions

- ▶ P.1 (Cross): A firm's propensity to integrate upstream versus downstream inputs should fall with  $\rho_j$ . (alternatively,  $\rho_j - \alpha_j$ ).
- ▶ P.2 (Cross): A greater degree of contractibility of upstream inputs should decrease a firm's propensity to integrate upstream relative to downstream inputs when the firm is in an industry with low  $\rho_j$ . Conversely, it should increase that propensity when the firm is in an industry with a high  $\rho_j$ .
- ▶ P.2 (Within): The upstreamness of an input should have a smaller effect on the propensity of a firm to integrate that input, the larger is  $\rho_j$ .
- ▶ P.2 (Within): A greater degree of contractibility of inputs upstream of a given input (relative to the inputs downstream of it) should decrease the propensity of a firm to integrate that input when the firm faces a low demand elasticity. Conversely, it should increase the propensity to integrate that input when the firm faces a high demand elasticity.

# Plan of Talk

1. Introduction and Motivation
2. Theory
  - ▶ Baseline model
  - ▶ The role of contractibility
3. **Empirical Setting**
  - ▶ Data and measures
  - ▶ Regression Specifications
4. Findings
  - ▶ From cross-firm variation
  - ▶ From within-firm, cross-input variation
5. Conclusions

## Key Objects to Measure

For each output industry  $j$ :

- ▶ Identify which are the relevant inputs  $i$  in production
- ▶ Discern which of inputs are integrated (by firms in  $j$ ) and which are not
- ▶ Determine the relative upstreamness of each input  $i$  in  $j$ 's value chain
- ▶ Estimate the elasticity of demand ( $\rho_j$ ) faced by final-good producers in  $j$
- ▶ (Harder) estimate the elasticity of substitution  $\alpha_j$  across inputs
- ▶ Proxy for the degree of contractibility  $\psi_i$  of each input  $i$

## Core Dataset: Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) WorldBase

- ▶ Comprehensive coverage of establishments in 120 countries (year: 2005)
- ▶ Compiled from different sources, including: registers, telephone directory records, websites, self-registration etc.
- ▶ Good information of a “business register” nature
  - ▶ Each observation has a unique identifier (DUNS number)
  - ▶ Name, Location, Global Parent (if any)
  - ▶ Up to six 4-digit SIC87 industry activities



Core Dataset: Dun & Bradstreet (D&B) WorldBase

- ▶ Comprehensive coverage of establishments in 120 countries (year: 2005)
- ▶ Compiled from different sources, including: registers, telephone directory records, websites, self-registration etc.
- ▶ Good information of a “business register” nature
  - ▶ Each observation has a unique identifier (DUNS number)
  - ▶ Name, Location, Global Parent (if any)
  - ▶ Up to six 4-digit SIC87 industry activities
- ▶ Extract 320,254 firms from 116 countries with a minimum total employment of 20 and primary SIC activity in manufacturing (*parents*)
- ▶ D&B enables us to link each of these to their subsidiaries, including information on country and SIC activities (70,008 *subsidiaries*)
- ▶ Average parent has 1.22 establishments; active in 1.05 countries and in 1.95 SIC activities. [▶ Details](#)
- ▶ 6,370 of these parents are multinationals, i.e.,  $\geq 1$  one foreign subsidiary

## Merging D&B with Input-Output Data

- ▶ Some notation:
  - ▶  $p$  to index parent
  - ▶  $j$  to index parent *output* industry (primary SIC)
  - ▶  $i$  to index SIC *input* industry
  - ▶  $S(j)$ : set of inputs used in the production of  $j$ , i.e., for which the total requirements coefficient,  $tr_{ij} > 0$  (from U.S. Input-Output Tables)

## Merging D&B with Input-Output Data

- ▶ Some notation:
  - ▶  $p$  to index parent
  - ▶  $j$  to index parent *output* industry (primary SIC)
  - ▶  $i$  to index SIC *input* industry
  - ▶  $S(j)$ : set of inputs used in the production of  $j$ , i.e., for which the total requirements coefficient,  $tr_{ij} > 0$  (from U.S. Input-Output Tables)
- ▶ **Key idea:** View SICs of parent  $p$  and all its subsidiaries as inputs that  $p$  could in principle obtain within firm boundaries.
  - ▶ Call the set of these integrated SICs:  $I(p)$ .
  - ▶ Call the set of non-integrated SICs:  $NI(p) = S(j) \setminus I(p)$ .

## Measuring Upstreamness

In an  $N$ -industry economy, accounting for the value of input  $i$  that goes into the production of \$1 of output  $j$ :

- ▶  $d_{ij}$ : Value used directly (1 stage), aka direct requirements coefficient.
- ▶  $\sum_{k=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kj}$ : Value used indirectly (2 stages).
- ▶  $\sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kl} d_{lj}$ : Value used indirectly (3 stages), etc. . .

## Measuring Upstreamness

In an  $N$ -industry economy, accounting for the value of input  $i$  that goes into the production of \$1 of output  $j$ :

- ▶  $d_{ij}$ : Value used directly (1 stage), aka direct requirements coefficient.
- ▶  $\sum_{k=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kj}$ : Value used indirectly (2 stages).
- ▶  $\sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kl} d_{lj}$ : Value used indirectly (3 stages), etc. . .

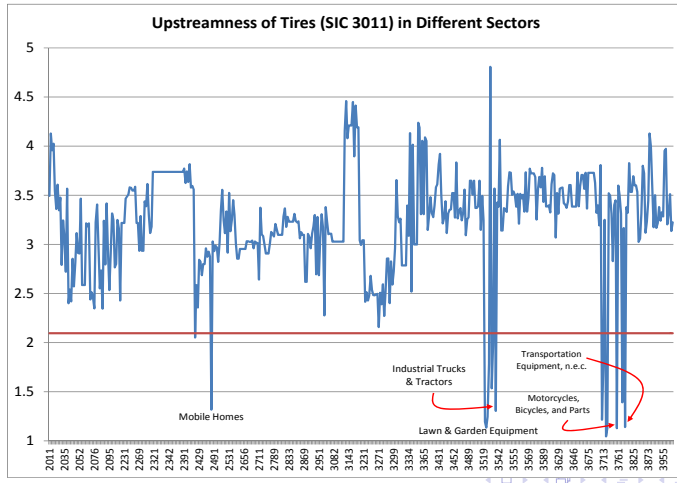
Define the following measure of  $i$ 's upstreamness in the production of  $j$ :

$$upst_{ij} = \frac{d_{ij} + 2 \sum_{k=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kj} + 3 \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kl} d_{lj} + \dots}{d_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kj} + \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kl} d_{lj} + \dots}$$

- ▶ Weighted-average of the number of production stages to get from  $i$  to  $j$ , with weights proportional to the value of input use that takes the said number of stages.
- ▶ Note: Denominator is  $tr_{ij}$ .

## Measuring Upstreamness: An Illustration

Comparing  $upst_{ij}$  (this paper) against the upstreamness of  $i$  wrt final demand (from Antràs et al. 2012)



## Other Variables

- ▶ Elasticity of demand  $\rho_j$  faced by final-good producers in  $j$ 
  - ▶ Baseline: import demand elasticities estimated by Broda and Weinstein (2006) for HS10 product categories
  - ▶ Also pursue refinements that restrict construction of demand elasticities to consumption and/or capital goods (UN BEC classification)
  
- ▶ Elasticity of substitution  $\alpha_j$  across inputs
  - ▶ Weighted average of demand elasticity of intermediate goods  $i$  used by industry  $j$ , with weights proportional to  $tr_{ij}$ .
  
- ▶ Input contractibility  $\psi_i$ 
  - ▶ Contractibility follows Nunn (2007): Extent to which production involves the use of HS products classified as homogenous (Rauch 1999)

## Regression Specifications: Dependent Variable

- ▶ **Cross-firm regressions:** dependent variable is “**ratio-upstreamness**”:

$$R_{jp} \equiv \frac{\sum_{i \in I(p)} \theta_{ijp}^I \text{upst}_{ij}}{\sum_{i \in NI(p)} \theta_{ijp}^{NI} \text{upst}_{ij}}$$

where  $\theta_{ijp}^I = \text{tr}_{ij} / \sum_{i \in I(p)} \text{tr}_{ij}$  and  $\theta_{ijp}^{NI} = \text{tr}_{ij} / \sum_{i \in NI(p)} \text{tr}_{ij}$ .

- ▶ Upstreamness of a parent's **integrated inputs** divided by upstreamness of its **non-integrated inputs**.
- ▶ By design,  $R_{jp}$  increases the greater is  $p$ 's propensity to integrate relatively upstream inputs, while outsourcing its more downstream inputs.
- ▶ Also consider several variants of  $R_{jp}$  (“ever-integrated” inputs; manuf. inputs only; drop parent SIC; ...)



## Regression Specifications: Dependent Variable

- ▶ **Cross-firm regressions:** dependent variable is “**ratio-upstreamness**”:

$$R_{jp} \equiv \frac{\sum_{i \in I(p)} \theta_{ijp}^I \text{upst}_{ij}}{\sum_{i \in NI(p)} \theta_{ijp}^{NI} \text{upst}_{ij}}$$

where  $\theta_{ijp}^I = \text{tr}_{ij} / \sum_{i \in I(p)} \text{tr}_{ij}$  and  $\theta_{ijp}^{NI} = \text{tr}_{ij} / \sum_{i \in NI(p)} \text{tr}_{ij}$ .

- ▶ Upstreamness of a parent’s **integrated inputs** divided by upstreamness of its **non-integrated inputs**.
- ▶ By design,  $R_{jp}$  increases the greater is  $p$ ’s propensity to integrate relatively upstream inputs, while outsourcing its more downstream inputs.
- ▶ Also consider several variants of  $R_{jp}$  (“ever-integrated” inputs; manuf. inputs only; drop parent SIC; ...)
- ▶ **Within-firm regressions:** dependent variable is a 0-1 **indicator** for whether  $i \in I(p)$ .

## Cross-Firm Analysis

$$\log R_{jpc} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med}) + \beta_X X_j + \beta_W W_p + D_c + \epsilon_{jpc}$$

- ▶ Baseline uses differences in demand elasticities to distinguish between complements and substitutes cases, following Antràs and Chor (2013)
- ▶ Start with a median cutoff:  $\beta_1 \mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med})$ .
  - ▶ Theory suggests:  $\beta_1 < 0$ .  
Propensity to integrate upstream inputs lower for high demand elasticity industries.
- ▶ Later use a set of quintile dummies:  $\sum_{n=2}^5 \beta_n \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in Quint_n(\rho))$
- ▶ Additional check: use proxy for  $\alpha_j$  to construct  $\rho_j - \alpha_j$  (again median cutoff or quintile dummies).

## Cross-Firm Analysis

$$\log R_{jpc} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med}) + \beta_X X_j + \beta_W W_p + D_c + \epsilon_{jpc}$$

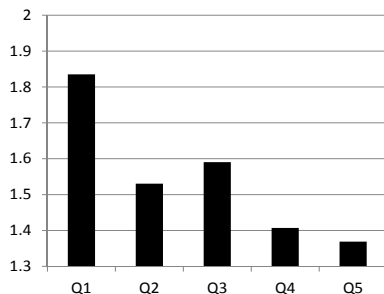
- ▶  $X_j$ : Vector of industry controls [▶ Details](#)
  - ▶ Log Nonproduction emp., Equipment capital, Plant capital, Materials (all in per worker terms) from NBER-CES
  - ▶ Log (0.001 + R&D expenditures/Sales) from Nunn and Trefler (2013)
- ▶  $W_p$ : Vector of firm controls
  - ▶ Log number of subsidiaries, Indicator for MNC status, Year started
  - ▶ Log total employment, Log sales in USD
- ▶  $D_c$ : Parent country fixed effects
- ▶ Cluster standard errors by output industry  $j$
- ▶ Later introduce interactions with “Upstream Contractibility”

# Plan of Talk

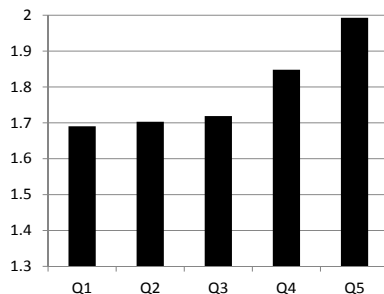
1. Introduction and Motivation
2. Theory
  - ▶ Baseline model
  - ▶ The role of contractibility
3. Empirical setting
  - ▶ Data and measures
  - ▶ Regression specifications
4. **Findings**
  - ▶ From cross-firm variation
  - ▶ From within-firm, cross-input variation
5. Conclusions

## Before the Econometric Results...

(a) Integrated Stages



(b) Non-Integrated Stages



- ▶ As the elasticity of demand faced by the parent company increases:
  - ▶ Upstreamness of integrated inputs declines
  - ▶ Upstreamness of non-integrated inputs increases
- ▶ Result holds in *cross-firm* and *within-firm* specifications.

# Median Cutoff: Negative Coefficient on $\mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med})$

Table 1: Upstreamness of Integrated vs Non-Integrated Inputs: Median Elasticity Cutoff

Dependent variable:	Log Ratio-Upstreamness					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ind.(Elas <sub>j</sub> > Median)	-0.0354* [0.0204]	-0.0612*** [0.0188]	-0.0604*** [0.0185]	-0.0593*** [0.0215]	-0.1138*** [0.0261]	-0.1073*** [0.0275]
Log (Skilled Emp./Workers) <sub>j</sub>		0.0100 [0.0243]	0.0091 [0.0245]	0.0111 [0.0278]	-0.0219 [0.0360]	-0.0082 [0.0364]
Log (Equip. Capital/Workers) <sub>j</sub>		0.1139*** [0.0206]	0.1120*** [0.0202]	0.0808*** [0.0207]	0.0835*** [0.0254]	0.0960*** [0.0262]
Log (Plant Capital/Workers) <sub>j</sub>		-0.0405* [0.0229]	-0.0397* [0.0225]	-0.0174 [0.0274]	-0.0320 [0.0322]	-0.0417 [0.0317]
Log (Materials/Workers) <sub>j</sub>		-0.0279 [0.0222]	-0.0289 [0.0222]	-0.0393* [0.0229]	-0.0059 [0.0296]	-0.0129 [0.0294]
R&D intensity <sub>j</sub>		0.0049 [0.0058]	0.0039 [0.0058]	0.0103 [0.0074]	0.0058 [0.0085]	0.0024 [0.0091]
(Value-added/Shipments) <sub>j</sub>		-0.1050 [0.1278]	-0.1141 [0.1286]	-0.0705 [0.1294]	0.1683 [0.1587]	0.1600 [0.1573]
Log (No. of Establishments) <sub>p</sub>			0.0574*** [0.0032]	0.0614*** [0.0037]	0.0661*** [0.0049]	0.0652*** [0.0048]
Year Started <sub>p</sub>			0.0001 [0.0001]	0.0001 [0.0001]	0.0002* [0.0001]	0.0002** [0.0001]
Dummy: Multinational <sub>p</sub>			0.0102** [0.0050]	0.0147** [0.0065]	0.0259*** [0.0081]	0.0286*** [0.0083]
Log (Total Employment) <sub>p</sub>			-0.0010 [0.0016]	-0.0002 [0.0017]	-0.0007 [0.0019]	-0.0006 [0.0020]
Log (Total USD Sales) <sub>p</sub>			0.0006 [0.0008]	0.0000 [0.0010]	0.0001 [0.0013]	0.0005 [0.0013]
Elasticity based on:	All goods	All goods	All goods	BEC cons. & cap. goods	BEC cons. goods	BEC cons. & α proxy
Parent country dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	316,977	316,977	286,072	206,490	144,107	144,107
No. of industries	459	459	459	305	219	219
R <sup>2</sup>	0.0334	0.1372	0.1447	0.1511	0.2051	0.2027

# Quintile Cutoff: Stronger Effect in Higher Quintiles of $\rho_j$

Table 2: Upstreamness of Integrated vs Non-Integrated Inputs: Elasticity Quintiles

Dependent variable:	Log Ratio-Upstreamness					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ind.(Quintile 2 $\text{Elas}_j$ )	-0.0209 [0.0345]	-0.0290 [0.0319]	-0.0278 [0.0314]	-0.0590 [0.0447]	-0.0802* [0.0474]	0.0634 [0.0550]
Ind.(Quintile 3 $\text{Elas}_j$ )	-0.0742** [0.0336]	-0.0802** [0.0316]	-0.0782** [0.0309]	-0.0569 [0.0454]	-0.0982** [0.0429]	-0.0379* [0.0224]
Ind.(Quintile 4 $\text{Elas}_j$ )	-0.0480 [0.0365]	-0.0893*** [0.0337]	-0.0881*** [0.0331]	-0.1068** [0.0459]	-0.1685*** [0.0457]	-0.0942*** [0.0259]
Ind.(Quintile 5 $\text{Elas}_j$ )	-0.0588 [0.0377]	-0.0955*** [0.0325]	-0.0947*** [0.0318]	-0.1156*** [0.0420]	-0.1849*** [0.0459]	-0.1026*** [0.0317]
Log (Skilled Emp./Workers) $_j$		0.0080 [0.0238]	0.0069 [0.0239]	0.0073 [0.0290]	-0.0290 [0.0379]	-0.0215 [0.0386]
Log (Equip. Capital/Workers) $_j$		0.1127*** [0.0195]	0.1112*** [0.0192]	0.0731*** [0.0183]	0.0768*** [0.0205]	0.0949*** [0.0257]
Log (Plant Capital/Workers) $_j$		-0.0331 [0.0210]	-0.0325 [0.0207]	-0.0087 [0.0228]	-0.0240 [0.0276]	-0.0316 [0.0290]
Log (Materials/Workers) $_j$		-0.0311 [0.0222]	-0.0322 [0.0222]	-0.0397* [0.0237]	-0.0099 [0.0290]	-0.0190 [0.0317]
R&D intensity $_j$		0.0053 [0.0058]	0.0044 [0.0057]	0.0113 [0.0070]	0.0048 [0.0086]	0.0017 [0.0103]
(Value-added/Shipments) $_j$		-0.1270 [0.1295]	-0.1356 [0.1301]	-0.0840 [0.1323]	0.1725 [0.1699]	0.1453 [0.1665]
Log (No. of Establishments) $_p$			0.0570*** [0.0031]	0.0612*** [0.0037]	0.0661*** [0.0047]	0.0640*** [0.0052]
Year Started $_p$			0.0001 [0.0001]	0.0001* [0.0001]	0.0002** [0.0001]	0.0003*** [0.0001]
Dummy: Multinational $_p$			0.0105** [0.0048]	0.0125** [0.0060]	0.0192** [0.0079]	0.0304*** [0.0085]
Log (Total Employment) $_p$			-0.0003 [0.0016]	0.0004 [0.0017]	0.0005 [0.0019]	-0.0005 [0.0019]
Log (Total USD Sales) $_p$			0.0003 [0.0008]	-0.0004 [0.0009]	-0.0003 [0.0012]	-0.0001 [0.0012]

## Baseline with Quintile Cutoff (cont.)

### Remarks:

- ▶ Magnitude of effects larger as we refine the  $\rho$  proxy to include information only on final good demand elasticities (UN BEC)
- ▶ Coefficient of  $\mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in Quint_5(\rho))$ : Corresponds to a decrease in the propensity to integrate upstream vs downstream stages of about one standard deviation (Column 5), when moving from Q1 to Q5
- ▶ Robust to controlling further for:
  - ▶ VI index used in Acemoglu et al. (2009), Alfaro et al. (2016)
  - ▶ Share of  $tr_{ij}$  that can be obtained from integrated foreign suppliers
  - ▶ Country dummy variables for establishment presence
  - ▶ Double marginalization motive: Weighted-average demand elasticity of inputs used



## Effect of Upstream Contractibility: Empirical Specification

$$\begin{aligned}\log R_{jpc} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med}) + \beta_{U1} \mathbf{1}(\rho_j < \rho_{med}) \times \text{UpstCont}_j \\ &\quad + \beta_{U2} \mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med}) \times \text{UpstCont}_j + \beta_X X_j + \beta_W W_p + D_c + \epsilon_{jpc}, \text{ and} \\ \log R_{jpc} &= \beta_0 + \sum_{n=2}^5 \beta_n \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in \text{Quint}_n(\rho)) + \sum_{n=1}^5 \beta_{Un} \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in \text{Quint}_n(\rho)) \times \text{UpstCont}_j \\ &\quad + \beta_X X_j + \beta_W W_p + D_c + \epsilon_{jpc}.\end{aligned}$$

- ▶ Constructing *UpstCont<sub>j</sub>*:
  - ▶ Contractibility follows Nunn (2007): Extent to which production involves the use of HS products classified as homogenous (Rauch 1999).
  - ▶ Then take the total requirements weighted-covariance between the upstreamness and contractibility of manufacturing inputs:

$$\text{UpstCont}_j = \sum_{i \in S^m(j)} \theta_{ij}^m (\text{upst}_{ij} - \overline{\text{upst}_{ij}}) (\text{cont}_i - \overline{\text{cont}_i})$$

( $S^m(j)$ ) is the set of manufacturing inputs used by  $j$ , i.e.,  $tr_{ij} > 0$ .)

## Effect of Upstream Contractibility: Empirical Specification

$$\begin{aligned}\log R_{jpc} &= \beta_0 + \beta_1 \mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med}) + \beta_{U1} \mathbf{1}(\rho_j < \rho_{med}) \times \text{UpstCont}_j \\ &\quad + \beta_{U2} \mathbf{1}(\rho_j > \rho_{med}) \times \text{UpstCont}_j + \beta_X X_j + \beta_W W_p + D_c + \epsilon_{jpc}, \text{ and} \\ \log R_{jpc} &= \beta_0 + \sum_{n=2}^5 \beta_n \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in \text{Quint}_n(\rho)) + \sum_{n=1}^5 \beta_{Un} \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in \text{Quint}_n(\rho)) \times \text{UpstCont}_j \\ &\quad + \beta_X X_j + \beta_W W_p + D_c + \epsilon_{jpc}.\end{aligned}$$

► In median cutoff regressions, expect:

►  $\beta_{U1} < 0$  and  $\beta_{U2} > 0$ . Upstream contractibility:

Raises the propensity to integrate upstream in the complements case...

... but lowers it in the substitutes case! (Prediction P.2)

# Effect of Upstream Contractibility

Table 3: Effect of Upstream Contractibility: Median Elasticity Cutoff

Dependent variable:	Log Ratio-Upstreamness			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Ind.(Elas <sub>j</sub> > Median)	-0.0910*** [0.0210]	-0.1306*** [0.0256]	-0.1432*** [0.0263]	-0.1372*** [0.0249]
Upstream Contractibility <sub>j</sub>				
× Ind.(Elas <sub>j</sub> < Median)	-0.8943*** [0.2869]	-1.1148*** [0.3838]	-1.2395*** [0.4345]	-1.2195*** [0.4363]
× Ind.(Elas <sub>j</sub> > Median)	0.5044*** [0.1717]	1.0224*** [0.1571]	0.8871*** [0.1505]	0.9451*** [0.1415]
p-value: Q5 at median <i>UpstCont<sub>j</sub></i>	[0.0001]	[0.0004]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]
Elasticity based on:	All goods	BEC cons. & cap. goods	BEC cons. goods	BEC cons. & α proxy
Industry controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firm controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent country dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	286,072	206,490	144,107	144,107
No. of industries	459	305	219	219
R <sup>2</sup>	0.1882	0.2609	0.2910	0.2888

# Effect of Upstream Contractibility

Table 4: Effect of Upstream Contractibility: Elasticity Quintiles

Dependent variable:	Log Ratio-Upstreamness			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Ind.(Quintile 2 $E_{asj}$ )	-0.0350 [0.0300]	-0.0611 [0.0396]	-0.0490 [0.0429]	0.0763** [0.0323]
Ind.(Quintile 3 $E_{asj}$ )	-0.1104*** [0.0288]	-0.0566 [0.0405]	-0.0683** [0.0328]	-0.0476** [0.0223]
Ind.(Quintile 4 $E_{asj}$ )	-0.1207*** [0.0304]	-0.1605*** [0.0292]	-0.1611*** [0.0277]	-0.1185*** [0.0236]
Ind.(Quintile 5 $E_{asj}$ )	-0.1409*** [0.0297]	-0.1760*** [0.0306]	-0.1643*** [0.0292]	-0.1108*** [0.0260]
<b>Upstream Contractibility<sub>j</sub></b>				
× Ind.(Quintile 1 $E_{asj}$ )	-1.5540*** [0.4934]	-1.5492*** [0.4177]	-1.8562*** [0.4446]	-0.8114 [0.5369]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 $E_{asj}$ )	-0.9810*** [0.3165]	-0.5723 [0.5973]	-0.6886 [0.7621]	-2.0195*** [0.6896]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 $E_{asj}$ )	0.3271 [0.2408]	-0.3234 [0.3742]	-0.4171 [0.3855]	0.1796 [0.1727]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 $E_{asj}$ )	0.3849 [0.2867]	1.0662*** [0.2319]	0.6855*** [0.2106]	0.9811*** [0.2565]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 $E_{asj}$ )	0.7106*** [0.2148]	1.0530*** [0.2149]	1.1171*** [0.2273]	1.0419*** [0.2275]
p-value: Q5 at median $UpstCont_j$	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0005]
Elasticity based on:	All goods	BEC cons. & cap. goods	BEC cons. goods	BEC cons. & $\alpha$ proxy
Industry controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firm controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent country dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	286,072	206,490	144,107	144,107
No. of industries	459	305	219	219
R <sup>2</sup>	0.2204	0.2792	0.3064	0.3191

## Robustness:

### ► Different samples:

Single-establishment firms;  
Small firms (emp.  $\geq 10$ );  
MNCs [► Details](#)

### ► Alternative constructions of ratio-upstreamness [► Details](#)

### ► Additional firm and industry controls [► Details](#)

### ► Alternative contractibility measures [► Details](#)

### ► Multi-industry parents [► Details](#)

## Within-Firm Analysis: Empirical Specification

Start with:

$$D\_INT_{ijp} = \gamma_0 + \sum_{n=1}^5 \gamma_n \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in Quint_n(\rho)) \times upst_{ij} + \gamma_S \mathbf{1}(i = j) + D_i + D_p + \epsilon_{ijp}$$

- ▶ Expand the dataset to the parent firm by SIC input level
- ▶ LHS: Indicator variable,  $D\_INT_{ijp}$ , for whether parent firm  $p$  with output industry  $j$  has input  $i$  within firm boundaries
- ▶ Estimate as a linear probability model
- ▶ To make sure LHS variable not too sparse:
  - ▶ Focus on parents that have integrated at least one manufacturing input  $i \neq j$
  - ▶ For each  $p$ , include the top 100 manufacturing inputs  $i$  by  $tr$  value  
(Covers between 88-98% of the  $tr$  value of the output industry)

## Within-Firm Analysis: Empirical Specification

Start with:

$$D\_INT_{ijp} = \gamma_0 + \sum_{n=1}^5 \gamma_n \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in Quint_n(\rho)) \times upst_{ij} + \gamma_5 \mathbf{1}(i = j) + D_i + D_p + \epsilon_{ijp}$$

- ▶  $\mathbf{1}(i = j)$ : Self-SIC dummy
- ▶  $D_p$ : Parent firm fixed effects
- ▶  $D_i$ : SIC input fixed effects
- ▶ Cluster standard errors by  $i$ - $j$  pair
- ▶ Theory suggests:  $\gamma_1 > 0$  and  $\gamma_5 < 0$ .

Propensity to integrate should be decreasing with  $upst_{ij}$  most strongly in the complements case.

# Within-Firm Regression Results

Table 8: Integration Decisions within Firms (Top 100 Inputs): Elasticity Quintiles

Dependent variable:	(1)	Indicator variable: Input Integrated?			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Upstreamness <sub>ij</sub>					
× Ind.(Quintile 1 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0056*** [0.0009]	0.0005 [0.0014]	-0.0034** [0.0016]	0.0011 [0.0015]	0.0030*** [0.0011]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0085*** [0.0019]	-0.0001 [0.0035]	-0.0038 [0.0035]	0.0002 [0.0033]	-0.0010 [0.0027]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0100*** [0.0012]	-0.0001 [0.0027]	-0.0018 [0.0026]	0.0019 [0.0025]	-0.0008 [0.0046]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0098*** [0.0021]	0.0084*** [0.0024]	0.0024 [0.0016]	0.0064*** [0.0017]	0.0070*** [0.0019]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0113*** [0.0021]	0.0054* [0.0028]	0.0024 [0.0019]	0.0059*** [0.0020]	0.0060*** [0.0020]
Contractibility up to <i>i</i> (in prod. of <i>j</i> )					
× Ind.(Quintile 1 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0234*** [0.0052]	0.0217*** [0.0048]	0.0108** [0.0049]	0.0157*** [0.0049]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0339*** [0.0128]	0.0261*** [0.0093]	0.0117 [0.0100]	0.0047 [0.0073]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0365*** [0.0082]	0.0304*** [0.0080]	0.0146* [0.0082]	0.0132 [0.0141]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0669*** [0.0157]	0.0398*** [0.0086]	0.0239*** [0.0086]	0.0254*** [0.0088]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0685*** [0.0134]	0.0456*** [0.0095]	0.0304*** [0.0093]	0.0322*** [0.0090]
Dummy: Self-SIC	0.9794*** [0.0018]	0.9699*** [0.0028]	0.9340*** [0.0085]	0.9313*** [0.0085]	0.9313*** [0.0085]
Log (Total Requirements <sub>ij</sub> )				0.0055*** [0.0009]	0.0054*** [0.0008]
p-value: Contractibility up to <i>i</i> , Quintile 1 minus Quintile 5	—	[0.0015]	[0.0217]	[0.0559]	[0.1000]
Elasticity based on:	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons. & α proxy
Firm fixed effect	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Input industry <i>i</i> fixed effects	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Observations	4,707,722	4,707,722	4,707,722	4,707,722	4,707,722
No. of parent firms	46,992	46,992	46,992	46,992	46,992
No. of <i>i</i> - <i>j</i> pairs	21,836	21,836	21,836	21,836	21,836
R <sup>2</sup>	0.5342	0.5359	0.5594	0.5598	0.5599

► Effect of *upstij*:

Propensity to integrate upstream inputs falls for higher elasticity quintiles

## Within-Firm Analysis: Empirical Specification (cont.)

Specification with **Contractibility up to  $i$** :

$$D\_INT_{ijp} = \gamma_0 + \sum_{n=1}^5 \gamma_n \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in Quint_n(\rho)) \times upst_{ij} \\ + \sum_{n=1}^5 \delta_n \mathbf{1}(\rho_j \in Quint_n(\rho)) \times ContUpToi_{ij} + \gamma_5 \mathbf{1}(i = j) + D_i + D_p + \epsilon_{ijp}$$

- ▶ “Contractibility up to  $i$  in prod. of  $j$ ”

$$ContUpToi_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{k \in S_i^m(j)} tr_{kj} cont_k}{\sum_{k \in S^m(j)} tr_{kj} cont_k}$$

where  $S_i^m(j) = \{k : upst_{kj} \geq upst_{ij}\}$  is the set of manufacturing inputs used by  $j$  upstream of and including  $i$ .

- ▶ Expect  $\delta_1 < 0$  and  $\delta_5 > 0$ .  $ContUpToi_{ij}$  would raise the propensity to integrate any given stage in the complements case but would reduce it in the substitutes case



## Within-Firm Regression Results

Table 8: Integration Decisions within Firms (Top 100 Inputs): Elasticity Quintiles

Dependent variable:	Indicator variable: Input Integrated?				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Upstreamness <sub>ij</sub>					
× Ind.(Quintile 1 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0056*** [0.0009]	0.0005 [0.0014]	-0.0034** [0.0016]	0.0011 [0.0015]	0.0030*** [0.0011]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0085*** [0.0019]	-0.0001 [0.0035]	-0.0038 [0.0035]	0.0002 [0.0033]	-0.0010 [0.0027]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0100*** [0.0012]	-0.0001 [0.0027]	-0.0018 [0.0026]	0.0019 [0.0025]	-0.0008 [0.0046]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0098*** [0.0021]	0.0084*** [0.0024]	0.0024 [0.0016]	0.0064*** [0.0017]	0.0070*** [0.0019]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	-0.0113*** [0.0021]	0.0054* [0.0028]	0.0024 [0.0019]	0.0059*** [0.0020]	0.0060*** [0.0020]
Contractibility up to <i>i</i> (in prod. of <i>j</i> )					
× Ind.(Quintile 1 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0234*** [0.0052]	0.0217*** [0.0048]	0.0108** [0.0049]	0.0157*** [0.0049]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0339*** [0.0128]	0.0261*** [0.0093]	0.0117 [0.0100]	0.0047 [0.0073]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0365*** [0.0082]	0.0304*** [0.0080]	0.0146* [0.0082]	0.0132 [0.0141]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0669*** [0.0157]	0.0398*** [0.0086]	0.0239*** [0.0086]	0.0254*** [0.0088]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas <sub>j</sub> )		0.0685*** [0.0134]	0.0456*** [0.0095]	0.0304*** [0.0093]	0.0322*** [0.0090]
Dummy: Self-SIC	0.9794*** [0.0018]	0.9699*** [0.0028]	0.9340*** [0.0085]	0.9313*** [0.0085]	0.9313*** [0.0085]
Log (Total Requirements <sub>ij</sub> )				0.0055*** [0.0009]	0.0054*** [0.0008]
p-value: Contractibility up to <i>i</i> , Quintile 1 minus Quintile 5	—	[0.0015]	[0.0217]	[0.0559]	[0.1000]
Elasticity based on:	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons. & α proxy
Firm fixed effect	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Input industry <i>i</i> fixed effects	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Observations	4,707,722	4,707,722	4,707,722	4,707,722	4,707,722
No. of parent firms	46,992	46,992	46,992	46,992	46,992
No. of <i>i</i> - <i>j</i> pairs	21,836	21,836	21,836	21,836	21,836
R <sup>2</sup>	0.5342	0.5359	0.5594	0.5598	0.5599

► *ContUpToi* matters:

- (i) Raises propensity to integrate in the complements case
- (ii) Also does in the substitutes case, **but** more weakly so

► Robustness: [► Details](#)

Single establishment firms; Drop “self-SIC”; Firms with > 1 integrated input etc

# Plan of Talk

1. Introduction and Motivation
2. Theory
  - ▶ Baseline model
  - ▶ The role of contractibility
3. Empirical Setting
  - ▶ Data and measures
  - ▶ Regression specifications
4. Findings
  - ▶ From cross-firm variation
  - ▶ From within-firm, cross-input variation
5. **Conclusions**

## Conclusion

- ▶ Production line position matters for firm organizational decisions.
- ▶ Available data on the production activities of firms operating in many countries and industries can be combined with information from I-O tables to study the organization of firms along global value chains.
- ▶ Evidence from WorldBase confirms that firms are less inclined to integrate upstream production stages as their demand elasticity increases.
- ▶ Above patterns are moderated in industries that exhibit greater “upstream contractibility” .
  - ▶ Importantly: Entire profile of upstream inputs matters, not just the contractibility of the input itself.
  - ▶ Upstream contractibility reduces the need to rely on organizational mode to elicit desired effort levels from upstream suppliers to mediate downstream spillovers.

Thanks!

## Back-Up Slides

## Summary Statistics (Firm-level) [▶ Return](#)

Table A-1: Firm Characteristics

	10th	Median	90th	Mean	Std Dev
<b>A: Firm variables</b>					
Number of Establishments (incl. self)	1	1	1	1.22	3.44
Number of countries (incl. self)	1	1	1	1.05	0.62
Number of integrated SIC codes	1	2	3	1.95	2.21
Year started	1948	1984	1999	1976.84	24.68
Log (Total employment)	3.045	3.807	5.557	4.088	1.080
Log (Sales in USD) (288,627 obs.)	12.522	15.202	17.059	14.803	2.573
<b>MNCs only (6,370 obs.)</b>					
Number of Establishments (incl. self)	2	3	17	8.48	22.74
Number of countries (incl. self)	2	2	6	3.47	3.64
Number of integrated SIC codes	2	5	17	8.10	11.88
Year started	1917	1968	1995	1960.29	33.88
Log (Total employment)	3.912	5.737	8.522	6.031	1.788
Log (Sales in USD) (5,891 obs.)	15.895	17.997	20.934	18.208	1.978

## Relevance

First-pass evidence that the information in D&B is relevant in terms of input-output linkages:

- ▶ 98.0% of the observed  $(i, j)$  pairs in the D&B data have  $tr_{ij} > 0$ .
- ▶ 85.6% of these pairs exceed the median positive  $tr_{ij}$  value.
- ▶ Similar summary statistics if:
  - ▶ restrict to distinct  $(i, j)$  pairs within each parent firm.
  - ▶ restrict to manufacturing inputs.
  - ▶ drop pairs where  $i = j$ .

▶ Return

## Measuring Upstreamness

► Return

$$upst_{ij} = \frac{d_{ij} + 2 \sum_{k=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kj} + 3 \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kl} d_{lj} + \dots}{d_{ij} + \sum_{k=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kj} + \sum_{k=1}^N \sum_{l=1}^N d_{ik} d_{kl} d_{lj} + \dots}$$

Straightforward to show that:

- $upst_{ij} \geq 1$ ;
- Numerator of  $upst_{ij}$  is the  $(i, j)$ -th entry of  $[I - D]^{-2}D$ ; and
- Denominator of  $upst_{ij}$  is the  $(i, j)$ -th entry of  $[I - D]^{-1}D$ ;

where  $D$  is the matrix of  $d_{ij}$ 's, and  $I$  is the identity matrix.

Use the above properties to compute both  $upst_{ij}$  and  $tr_{ij}$  from the 1992 U.S. Benchmark Input-Output Tables.



## Measuring Upstreamness: Practical Implementation Issues ▶ Return

- ▶ Applying the open-economy and net-inventories correction to  $D$ ; see Antràs et al. 2012.)
- ▶ Original industry categories: IO1992
- ▶ Compute  $upst_{ij}$  and  $tr_{ij}$  first for IO1992 codes, and then map to SIC.
- ▶ For manufacturing: Each SIC is mapped into by a unique IO1992
- ▶ For non-manufacturing: Can have multiple IO1992's mapping to an SIC.
- ▶ We focus on global parents whose primary output  $j$  is in manufacturing, so the mapping issue matters for non-manufacturing inputs.

Different treatments considered: (pairwise correlation  $> 0.98$ )

- (i) Simple average of  $upst_{ij}$  over constituent IO1992 input categories
  - (ii) Simple median
  - (iii) Random pick
  - (iv)  $tr_{ij}$  weighted-average
- ▶ Separate issue: If an IO1992 input maps into multiple SICs, divide up the  $tr_{ij}$  coefficient using a simple average.

## Ratio-Upstreamness Measures: Summary statistics

### B: From Input-Output Tables

Total Requirements coefficient	0.000006	0.000163	0.002322	0.001311	0.008026
Baseline Upstreamness measure (mean)	1.838	3.094	4.285	3.097	0.955

### C: Ratio-Upstreamness measures

Baseline (mean)	0.494	0.561	0.691	0.590	0.141
Baseline (random pick)	0.495	0.561	0.692	0.590	0.141
Ever-integrated inputs only	0.583	0.656	0.803	0.692	0.179
Manufacturing inputs only	0.548	0.633	0.798	0.657	0.174
Exclude parent sic, manufacturing only	0.590	1.100	2.128	1.269	0.625

- ▶  $R_{jp}$  values tend to be  $< 1$ , but this appears to be driven by the parent SIC.
- ▶ Correlation between variants is high (typically  $> 0.8$ ).

Key exception: When excluding parent SIC, correlation with baseline measures drops to about 0.15.

▶ Return

## Summary Statistics (Industry Controls) [Return](#)

Table A-3: Industry Characteristics

	10th	Median	90th	Mean	Std Dev
Import demand elasticity (all codes)	2.300	4.820	20.032	8.569	10.181
Import demand elasticity (BEC cons. & cap.)	1.983	4.500	20.289	8.819	11.722
Import demand elasticity (BEC cons. only)	2.000	4.639	15.992	8.366	11.881
BEC cons. import demand elasticity minus $\alpha$ proxy	-9.086	-4.266	7.783	-1.294	12.314
Log (Skilled Emp./Workers)	-1.750	-1.363	-0.778	-1.308	0.377
Log (Equip. Capital/Workers)	2.869	4.043	5.163	4.039	0.867
Log (Plant Capital/Workers)	2.517	3.302	4.524	3.426	0.755
Log (Materials/Workers)	3.898	4.596	5.681	4.702	0.726
R&D intensity: Log (0.001+ R&D/Sales)	-6.908	-6.097	-3.426	-5.506	1.463
Value-added/Shipment	0.357	0.518	0.660	0.514	0.119
Contractibility	0.091	0.362	0.816	0.410	0.265
Upstream Contractibility	-0.069	0.018	0.101	0.015	0.069

## Further Robustness Tests [▶ Return](#)

1. Alternative Samples (single establishment, Global ultimate, MNCs, empl. $\geq 10$ ). [▶ Details](#)
2. Alternative constructions of ratio-upstreamness [▶ Details](#)
3. Additional contractibility measures: [▶ Details](#)
  - ▶ Contractibility of  $j$
  - ▶ To confirm that it is variation in production line position matters:  $1(\rho_j \in Quint_n(\rho))$  interacted with a  $tr$ -weighted variance of the contractibility of inputs used.
4. Secondary manufacturing SIC codes: [▶ Details](#)
  - ▶ Restrict to parents with a single SIC output industry
  - ▶ Alternatively: Construct  $R_{jpc}$  for each output industry  $j$ .  
Run a regression with two-way clustering of standard errors by parent firm and by output industry  $j$  (Cameron, Gelbach and Miller 2011).

# Robustness: Alternative Samples [Return](#)

Table 5: Different Subsamples and Additional Controls

Dependent variable:	Log Ratio-Upstreamness					
	Single estab. (1)	MNC (2)	Robustness to additional controls			
			(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.0461 [0.0445]	-0.0870*** [0.0288]	-0.0429 [0.0414]	-0.0491 [0.0430]	-0.0492 [0.0403]	-0.0418 [0.0386]
Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	-0.0630* [0.0338]	-0.0787*** [0.0279]	-0.0549* [0.0305]	-0.0683** [0.0328]	-0.0532* [0.0308]	-0.0384 [0.0293]
Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1625*** [0.0284]	-0.1103*** [0.0268]	-0.1601*** [0.0253]	-0.1613*** [0.0277]	-0.1437*** [0.0230]	-0.1444*** [0.0213]
Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1638*** [0.0299]	-0.1206*** [0.0330]	-0.1546*** [0.0269]	-0.1642*** [0.0292]	-0.1666*** [0.0258]	-0.1565*** [0.0233]
Upstream Contractibility <sub>j</sub>						
× Ind.(Quintile 1 $Elas_j$ )	-1.8620*** [0.4612]	-1.5014*** [0.3691]	-1.6826*** [0.4083]	-1.8554*** [0.4451]	-1.6147*** [0.3643]	-1.4820*** [0.3275]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.7401 [0.8055]	0.2330 [0.3979]	-0.6775 [0.7338]	-0.6876 [0.7626]	-0.5599 [0.7994]	-0.6227 [0.7701]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	-0.4965 [0.3919]	0.2476 [0.2838]	-0.5875 [0.3681]	-0.4186 [0.3854]	-0.4597 [0.4041]	-0.6614* [0.3966]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	0.6749*** [0.2162]	0.5686** [0.2484]	0.5891*** [0.1714]	0.6850*** [0.2105]	0.6457*** [0.2157]	0.5434*** [0.1890]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	1.1025*** [0.2321]	0.9941*** [0.2949]	0.9582*** [0.2165]	1.1183*** [0.2272]	1.1302*** [0.2518]	0.9516*** [0.2393]
Vertical Integration Index <sub>p</sub>			-1.1296*** [0.2065]			-1.1144*** [0.2044]
Foreign integrated tr. share <sub>p</sub>				-1.0690*** [0.1330]		-0.2034* [0.1214]
Log (Input Elasticity) <sub>j</sub>					-0.2999*** [0.1099]	-0.2853*** [0.1024]
Wtd. Cov. of Input Elasticity <sub>j</sub> and upstreamness <sub>j</sub>					-0.4963*** [0.1718]	-0.4330*** [0.1555]
p-value: Q5 at median $UpstCont_j$	[0.0000]	[0.0030]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]
Elasticity based on:	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.
Industry controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firm controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent country dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Subsidiary country dummies	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Observations	117,956	2,490	144,107	144,107	144,107	144,107
No. of industries	219	199	219	219	219	219
R <sup>2</sup>	0.2990	0.2467	0.3526	0.3079	0.3204	0.3655

## Robustness: Alternative $R_{jpc}$ 's [▶ Return](#)

Table 6: Alternative Constructions of Ratio-Upstreamness

Dependent variable:	Random pick	"Ever-Integrated" inputs	Mfg. inputs only	Mfg. inputs only, drop parent SIC
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.0481 [0.0428]	-0.0240 [0.0413]	-0.0385 [0.0497]	-0.0262 [0.0926]
Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	-0.0687** [0.0329]	-0.0402 [0.0341]	-0.0786** [0.0394]	-0.0642 [0.0514]
Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1574*** [0.0277]	-0.1293*** [0.0307]	-0.1825*** [0.0320]	-0.1388** [0.0661]
Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1652*** [0.0303]	-0.1313*** [0.0261]	-0.1762*** [0.0396]	-0.2958*** [0.0934]
Upstream Contractibility $_j$				
× Ind.(Quintile 1 $Elas_j$ )	-1.8583*** [0.4454]	-0.8338*** [0.3137]	-2.1696*** [0.4819]	-1.1117* [0.5749]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.6960 [0.7602]	-0.8880 [0.7960]	-0.9343 [0.9046]	0.0021 [0.8379]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	-0.4193 [0.3873]	0.0377 [0.4977]	-0.2726 [0.4890]	-1.8093* [0.9849]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	0.6473*** [0.2126]	0.9039*** [0.3313]	0.8981*** [0.2504]	-2.5374*** [0.7379]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	1.1816*** [0.2803]	1.3664*** [0.2992]	1.1370*** [0.3822]	-0.0754 [1.1158]
p-value: Q5 at median $UpstCont_j$	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0013]
Elasticity based on:	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.
Industry controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firm controls	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent country dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	144,107	144,107	143,846	46,992
No. of industries	219	219	219	218
R <sup>2</sup>	0.3059	0.1950	0.3311	0.1216

# Robustness: Additional Firm and Industry Controls

► Return

Table 5: Different Subsamples and Additional Controls

Dependent variable:	Log Ratio-Upstreamness					
	Single estab. (1)	MNC (2)	Robustness to additional controls			
			(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.0461 [0.0445]	-0.0870*** [0.0288]	-0.0429 [0.0414]	-0.0491 [0.0430]	-0.0492 [0.0403]	-0.0418 [0.0386]
Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	-0.0630* [0.0338]	-0.0787*** [0.0279]	-0.0549* [0.0305]	-0.0683** [0.0328]	-0.0532* [0.0308]	-0.0384 [0.0293]
Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1625*** [0.0284]	-0.1103*** [0.0268]	-0.1601*** [0.0253]	-0.1613*** [0.0277]	-0.1437*** [0.0230]	-0.1444*** [0.0213]
Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1638*** [0.0299]	-0.1206*** [0.0330]	-0.1546*** [0.0269]	-0.1642*** [0.0292]	-0.1666*** [0.0258]	-0.1565*** [0.0233]
Upstream Contractibility, × Ind.(Quintile 1 $Elas_j$ )	-1.8620*** [0.4612]	-1.5014*** [0.3691]	-1.6826*** [0.4083]	-1.8554*** [0.4451]	-1.6147*** [0.3643]	-1.4820*** [0.3275]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.7401 [0.8055]	0.2330 [0.3979]	-0.6775 [0.7338]	-0.6876 [0.7626]	-0.5599 [0.7994]	-0.6227 [0.7701]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	-0.4965 [0.3919]	0.2476 [0.2838]	-0.5875 [0.3681]	-0.4186 [0.3854]	-0.4597 [0.4041]	-0.6614* [0.3966]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	0.6749*** [0.2162]	0.5686** [0.2484]	0.5891*** [0.1714]	0.6850*** [0.2105]	0.6457*** [0.2157]	0.5434*** [0.1890]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	1.1025*** [0.2321]	0.9941*** [0.2949]	0.9582*** [0.2165]	1.1183*** [0.2272]	1.1302*** [0.2518]	0.9516*** [0.2393]
Vertical Integration Index <sub>p</sub>			-1.1296*** [0.2065]			-1.1144*** [0.2044]
Foreign integrated tr. share <sub>p</sub>				-1.0690*** [0.1330]		-0.2034* [0.1214]
Log (Input Elasticity) <sub>j</sub>					-0.2999*** [0.1099]	-0.2853*** [0.1024]
Wtd. Cov. of Input Elasticity <sub>j</sub> and upstreamness <sub>ij</sub>					-0.4963*** [0.1718]	-0.4330*** [0.1555]
p-value: Q5 at median $UpstCont_j$	[0.0000]	[0.0030]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0000]
Elasticity based on:	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.
Industry controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firm controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent country dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Subsidiary country dummies	N	N	N	Y	N	Y
Observations	117,956	2,490	144,107	144,107	144,107	144,107
No. of industries	219	199	219	219	219	219
R <sup>2</sup>	0.2990	0.2467	0.3526	0.3079	0.3204	0.3655

## Robustness: Additional Controls (Related to Contractibility)

► Return

Dependent variable:	Log Ratio-Upstreamness			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas_j)	-0.0407 [0.0443]	-0.0509 [0.0438]	-0.1187 [0.1322]	-0.0939 [0.1350]
Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas_j)	-0.0626** [0.0310]	-0.0695** [0.0327]	-0.4769*** [0.1176]	-0.4544*** [0.1156]
Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas_j)	-0.1576*** [0.0245]	-0.1612*** [0.0278]	-0.3214*** [0.1201]	-0.3214*** [0.1169]
Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas_j)	-0.1576*** [0.0268]	-0.1667*** [0.0290]	-0.4507*** [0.1235]	-0.4370*** [0.1221]
"Upstream Contractibility"				
X Ind.(Quintile 1 Elas_j)	-2.3570*** [0.5742]	-2.0402*** [0.5299]	-1.1739** [0.5681]	-1.6284** [0.7426]
X Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas_j)	-1.1561 [0.9567]	-0.8466 [0.7616]	-0.3054 [0.7066]	-0.6615 [0.8772]
X Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas_j)	-0.8615* [0.5148]	-0.5602 [0.4718]	-0.9148** [0.3602]	-1.2697*** [0.4821]
X Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas_j)	0.2387 [0.3747]	0.5423 [0.3434]	0.5971** [0.2828]	0.1825 [0.4461]
X Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas_j)	0.6403* [0.3713]	0.9620*** [0.3660]	0.7837*** [0.2736]	0.3838 [0.4025]
Output SIC contractibility, j	-0.1376 [0.0946]			-0.1243 [0.0932]
Wtd. Avg. input contractibility, j		-0.0973 [0.1706]		0.0291 [0.1722]
Var. Input contractibility, j	N	N	Y	Y
X Ind. (Quintile n Elas_j)				
p-value: Q5 at median Upst. Cont.	[0.0000]	[0.0000]	[0.0006]	[0.0006]
Elasticity based on:	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.	BEC cons.
Industry controls?	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firm controls?	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent country dummies?	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	144,107	144,107	144,107	144,107
No. of industries	219	219	219	219



# Multi-industry Parents [▶ Return](#)

Table A-4: Parent Firms with Multiple SIC Output Activities

Dependent variable:	Single mfg. output SIC		Log Ratio-Upstreamness		Firm by mfg. output SIC (two-way cluster)	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.0419 [0.0464]	0.0937*** [0.0325]	-0.0385 [0.0413]	0.0637* [0.0343]	-0.0476 [0.0428]	0.0687** [0.0331]
Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1021*** [0.0292]	-0.0279 [0.0235]	-0.0218 [0.0458]	-0.0604** [0.0242]	-0.0362 [0.0398]	-0.0629*** [0.0228]
Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1521*** [0.0305]	-0.1046*** [0.0237]	-0.1453*** [0.0292]	-0.1180*** [0.0261]	-0.1642*** [0.0256]	-0.1280*** [0.0247]
Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	-0.1521*** [0.0306]	-0.0902*** [0.0270]	-0.1479*** [0.0315]	-0.1120*** [0.0287]	-0.1680*** [0.0286]	-0.1230*** [0.0264]
Upstream Contractibility $_j$						
× Ind.(Quintile 1 $Elas_j$ )	-1.9121*** [0.4691]	-0.3997 [0.4808]	-1.5441*** [0.4565]	-1.2602* [0.6518]	-1.7766*** [0.4150]	-1.2353** [0.6099]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 $Elas_j$ )	-0.7892 [0.7723]	-2.1371*** [0.6992]	-0.4465 [0.6290]	-1.6280** [0.6543]	-0.5588 [0.7887]	-1.8332*** [0.7036]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 $Elas_j$ )	0.1059 [0.2068]	0.0528 [0.1843]	-0.8717 [0.6070]	0.3641** [0.1795]	-0.8416 [0.5438]	0.3168* [0.1813]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 $Elas_j$ )	0.6619*** [0.2346]	1.0140*** [0.2784]	0.6961*** [0.2113]	0.9758*** [0.2560]	0.6808*** [0.2039]	0.9299*** [0.2512]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 $Elas_j$ )	1.1166*** [0.2104]	1.0096*** [0.2307]	1.2292*** [0.2641]	1.1572*** [0.2593]	1.1637*** [0.2544]	1.1215*** [0.2371]
p-value: Q5 at median $UpstCont_j$	[0.0000]	[0.0067]	[0.0001]	[0.0017]	[0.0000]	[0.0001]
Elasticity based on:	BEC cons.	BEC cons. & $\alpha$ proxy	BEC cons.	BEC cons. & $\alpha$ proxy	BEC cons.	BEC cons. & $\alpha$ proxy
Industry controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Firm controls	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Parent country dummies	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Observations	97,174	97,174	146,844	146,844	211,232	211,232
No. of industries	219	219	219	219	—	—
R <sup>2</sup>	0.3308	0.3471	0.2647	0.2807	0.2881	0.3023

# Within-Firm Regressions (Robustness)

Return

Table 9: Integration Decisions within Firms (Top 100 Inputs): Robustness

Dependent variable:	Indicator variable: Input Integrated?				
	Single estab.	# non-self-SIC integ. inputs $\geq 1$	# integ. inputs $\geq 3$	Drop self-SIC	Contractibility at $i$
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Upstreamness <sub>ij</sub>					
× Ind.(Quintile 1 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0008 [0.0014]	0.0019 [0.0022]	0.0020 [0.0039]	0.0006 [0.0015]	0.0001 [0.0014]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0001 [0.0033]	0.0006 [0.0055]	-0.0038 [0.0098]	0.0001 [0.0035]	0.0001 [0.0033]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0027 [0.0021]	0.0041 [0.0035]	0.0047 [0.0059]	0.0009 [0.0026]	0.0017 [0.0025]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0063*** [0.0018]	0.0108*** [0.0026]	0.0115*** [0.0038]	0.0068*** [0.0017]	0.0055*** [0.0018]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0053*** [0.0018]	0.0102*** [0.0031]	0.0096** [0.0044]	0.0050** [0.0023]	0.0043** [0.0021]
Contractibility up to $i$ (in prod. of $j$ )					
× Ind.(Quintile 1 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0090* [0.0046]	0.0158** [0.0074]	0.0338*** [0.0128]	0.0071 [0.0049]	0.0094** [0.0046]
× Ind.(Quintile 2 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0114 [0.0098]	0.0228 [0.0166]	0.0271 [0.0292]	0.0094 [0.0105]	0.0163 [0.0108]
× Ind.(Quintile 3 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0151** [0.0076]	0.0236** [0.0114]	0.0426** [0.0189]	0.0082 [0.0085]	0.0176** [0.0084]
× Ind.(Quintile 4 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0231*** [0.0088]	0.0393*** [0.0127]	0.0527*** [0.0188]	0.0253*** [0.0086]	0.0221** [0.0093]
× Ind.(Quintile 5 Elas <sub>j</sub> )	0.0270*** [0.0087]	0.0501*** [0.0141]	0.0599*** [0.0200]	0.0256*** [0.0093]	0.0206** [0.0095]
Dummy: Self-SIC	0.9333*** [0.0092]	0.9031*** [0.0114]	0.8409*** [0.0165]		0.9312*** [0.0087]
Log (Total Requirements <sub>ij</sub> )	0.0051*** [0.0008]	0.0084*** [0.0013]	0.0136*** [0.0021]	0.0056*** [0.0008]	0.0046*** [0.0011]
p-value: Contractibility up to $i$ , Quintile 1 minus Quintile 5	[0.0581]	[0.0282]	[0.2540]	[0.0798]	[0.2860]