

Automation, Globalization and Vanishing Jobs: A Labor Market Sorting View

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- Concerns about the effects of new technologies on labour demand:
 - ⇒ Robots ('automation'): Routine-Biased vs. Skill-Biased TC: Brynjolfsson and McAfee (2014), Goos et al (2014), Caselli and Manning (2018)
 - ⇒ Offshoring, this works like a 'new technology': Grossman and Rossi-Hansberg (2008), Costinot and Vogel (2010), Ottaviano et al (2014)
- We have seen this before but *this time is (perhaps) different*: Bowen (1966), Autor (2015)
- Growing work on labour market effects of:
 - ⇒ *Empirical* work for automation and off-shoring: Autor and Dorn (2013), Ottaviano et al (2014), Acemoglu and Restrepo (2017)
 - ⇒ *Theoretical* work on automation: Acemoglu and Autor (2011), Aghion et al. (2017), Acemoglu and Restrepo (2016, 2018)

Motivation (Continued)

- Overview of how ‘new technology’ can be expected to affect labor demand (Caselli and Manning, 2018):
 - CRS: The production function has constant returns to scale in every sector
 - RK: Financial assets paying an interest rate unaffected by changes in technology
 - PC: Output and input markets are perfectly competitive
 - HOM: Consumers’ preferences are homothetic
- ⇒ “It is harder than one might think to write down economic models in which workers as a group are harmed by new technology”

Motivation (Continued)

- **Neoclassical reasonings:**

- Labor only fixed factor, relative price of investment goods declines \Rightarrow workers gain from new technology
- Labor supply to different occupations perfectly elastic \Rightarrow then all workers gain
- Also with skill-bias or routine-bias technological change (*vertical specialization*): higher skill workers gain more

- **Core-task-biased technological change** \Rightarrow *horizontal specialization*:

- \Rightarrow Skill-task heterogeneity: gains materialize only under perfect match
- \Rightarrow Search frictions hinder perfect match: workers-firms hold acceptance regions
- \Rightarrow Trade-off between matching today with wrong partner (mis-match) as opposed to waiting longer
- \Rightarrow New technology (automation and off-shoring) increases cost of mis-match by increasing the relative gains of perfect matches:
- \Rightarrow workers-firms wait longer, employment falls

- **Growth model with positive assortative matching and search frictions**

(Shimer and Smith 2000, Gauthier and Teulings 2004, Hagedorn, Law and Manovski 2017, Eeckhout and Kircher 2011/2018)

⇒ Technological change has two effects:

- ① Raises match-productivity → raises labour demand
- ② Increases the gains from perfect match and reduces acceptance region → pairs wait longer
- ③ First effect prevails for low level of technology, second prevails under high levels of technology

- **Empirical analysis:**

Original dataset: tasks heterogeneity at sectoral level and skill heterogeneity at occupation level, Costinot and Vogel 2017 (EU-LFS)

- ⇒ 16 sectors (of 28 NACE Rev.2), 92 occupations (ISCO-88), 13 EU countries, years 1995 – 2010
- ⇒ Construct automation and off-shoring

⇒ Automation (interacted with off-shoring) reduces employment → cost of mis-match prevails

Automation and Off-shorability Complementarity

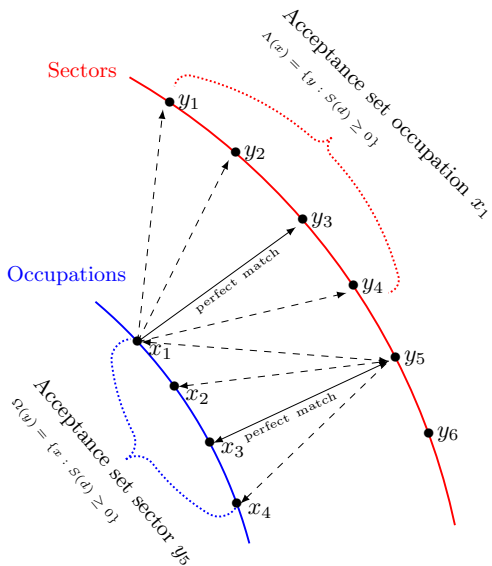
- Data show that:
 - ① Low off-shorability positive change in employment (though smaller for high automatability)
 - ② High off-shorability employment fall the more so for high automatable occupations
- **Extend the model: endogenous choice of off-shoring**
 - ① Each match is a bundle of tasks and some can be off-shored at some costs (Grossmann and Rossi-Hansberg 2008, Ottaviano et. al. 2013)
 - ② Choose optimal threshold to be off-shored by maximize value of filled vacancy
 - ③ Results confirm empirical ones

Model: Two-Sided Heterogeneity

- Search model, worker heterogeneity by occupation and firm heterogeneity by sector: *horizontal differentiation*, workers/firms with different 'address' along unit circle ($r = 1/2\pi$):
 - a. Workers with heterogeneous occupation-specific 'core skills' indexed $x \in [0, 1]$ uniformly distributed $g_w(x)$
 - b. Firms with heterogeneous sector-specific 'core tasks' indexed $y \in [0, 1]$ uniformly distributed $g_f(y)$
- 'Mismatch' between occupation and sector addresses measured by distance

$$d(x, y) = \min(x - y + 1, y - x)$$

- CRS production at the match level (one-worker-one-job) and firm/sector output being sum of outputs of matches



- Cobb-Douglas production function at match level with distance d :

$$f(d) = AK(d)^\beta L(d)^{1-\beta}$$

with 'state of technology' and labour:

$$A = B (b_K)^\beta (b_L)^{1-\beta}; L(d) = \left(F - \frac{\gamma A^\eta}{2} d \right)$$

- With endogenous capital in elastic supply:

$$f(d) = \varphi A^{\frac{1}{1-\beta}} \left(F - \frac{\gamma A^\eta}{2} d \right)$$

where:

- $\varphi = (\beta/r)^{\frac{\beta}{1-\beta}}$ with return to capital r
- $\varphi A^{\frac{1}{1-\beta}} F$ is the value of the ideal match $d = 0$
- $d \in (0, 1/2)$ measures 'mismatch' as $f'(d) = -\gamma A^\eta / 2 < 0$
- $\eta = -1$ no 'mismatch effect' (Marimon and Zilibotti, 1999; Gautier and Teulings, 2004)

- $\gamma A^\eta \geq 0 \rightarrow$ '**mis-match cost**': how much output is lost when mismatch increases \rightarrow substitutability of skills (tasks) with core ones in performing (employing) any given task (occupation)
 - $\gamma \rightarrow 0$ no mismatch cost (all matches are equally productive \rightarrow perfect substitutability)
 - $\gamma \rightarrow \infty$ prohibitive mismatch cost (only the ideal match is productive \rightarrow no substitutability)
 - $\eta = 0$ mismatch cost does not depend on the state of technology
- New technology $A \nearrow$ (**automation/offshoring**) has two effects
 - Increases 'match productivity' through $A^{\frac{1}{1-\beta}}$ ('productivity effect')
 - Increases 'mismatch cost' through A^η by making skills/tasks less substitutable
 - Production is log-submodular in d and A : closer matches exploit technology better \rightarrow *Core-Biased Technological Change*

Search and Match

- Workers and firms: infinitely lived, risk neutral, maximize future discounted income (discount rate ρ)
 - ⇒ No information frictions: workers and firms know own type
- Firms are either producing (P) or vacant (V): c is cost of posting vacancy, zero outside option
- Workers are either employed (E) or unemployed (U): $E + U = L$
- Search is random with matching function

$$M(U, V) = \vartheta U^{\xi} V^{1-\xi}$$

- firms' meeting rate $q_v(\theta) = M(U, V)/V = \vartheta \theta^{-\xi}$;
 - workers' meeting rate $q_u(\theta) = M(U, V)/U = \vartheta \theta^{1-\xi}$
- Match surplus shared through Nash bargaining solution (worker bargaining $\alpha \in (0, 1)$)

Acceptance Ranges

- *Acceptance ranges* for y and x :

$$\Lambda(x) = \{y : S(x, y) \geq 0\}$$

$$\Omega(y) = \{x : S(x, y) \geq 0\},$$

- Matches are destroyed with exogenous probability δ or when 'Technology shock' shrinks the acceptance ranges, by increasing cost of mis-match
- *Symmetry and PAM in acceptance ranges* are $[y - d^*, y + d^*]$ and $[x - d^*, x + d^*]$:
 - Values of unemployment U and vacancies V are identical for all worker and firm types
 - Values of employment $v_e(d)$ and production $v_p(d)$ depend on d only
 - Nash wage bargain $w(d)$ depends on d only

Steady State Equilibrium

Given $r = \rho$, the equilibrium is characterized by the values of 13 unknowns ($E, U, V, M, q_v, q_u, w, v_e, v_p, v_u, v_v, d^*, f$) that solve 13 equations:

- Technological constraints and firms' and workers' FOCs:

$$\rho v_e(d) = w(d) - \delta (v_e(d) - v_u)$$

$$\rho v_p(d) = (f(d) - w(d) - c) - \delta (v_p(d) - v_v)$$

$$\rho v_u = 2q_u(\theta) \int_0^{d^*} (v_e(z) - v_u) dz$$

$$\rho v_v = -c + 2q_v(\theta) \int_0^{d^*} (v_p(z) - v_v) dz$$

- Nash Bargaining:

$$(1 - \alpha) (v_e(d) - v_u) = \alpha (v_p(d) - v_v)$$

- Flow condition: $M(U, V) = \delta E$. Firms' free entry: $v_v = 0$. Zero value of producing for marginal matches: $v_p(d^*) = 0$.

Final Equilibrium

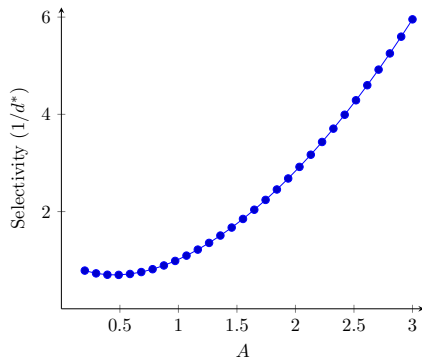
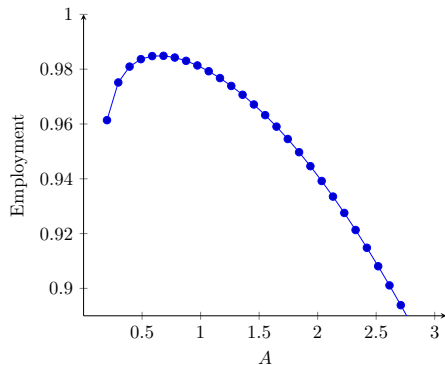
System of equations can be reduced to:

$$(1 - \alpha) \frac{2\vartheta^{\frac{1}{1-\xi}} (q_u)^{-\frac{\xi}{1-\xi}} A \left(F - \frac{\gamma}{4} A^\eta d^*\right) d^*}{\delta + \rho + 2(1 - \alpha) \vartheta^{\frac{1}{1-\xi}} (q_u)^{-\frac{\xi}{1-\xi}} + 2\alpha (q_u)} = c$$

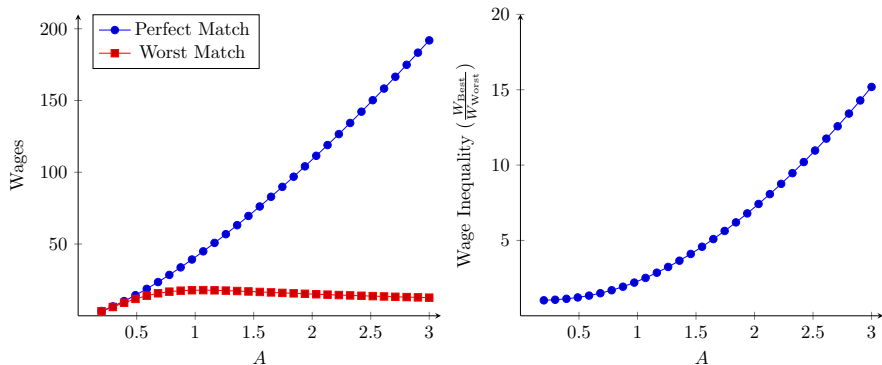
$$(1 - \alpha) \frac{\delta + \rho + 2\vartheta^{\frac{1}{1-\xi}} (q_u)^{-\frac{\xi}{1-\xi}} A \left(F - \frac{\gamma}{2} A^\eta d^*\right)}{\delta + \rho + 2(1 - \alpha) \vartheta^{\frac{1}{1-\xi}} (q_u)^{-\frac{\xi}{1-\xi}} + 2\alpha (q_u)} = c$$

with: $q_u = \frac{\delta E}{L-E}$. This can be solved numerically for employment E and acceptance range d^* . \Rightarrow Note employment and mis-match (specialization, $\frac{1}{d^*}$) are endogenous

Comparative Statics (Employment and Mis-match)



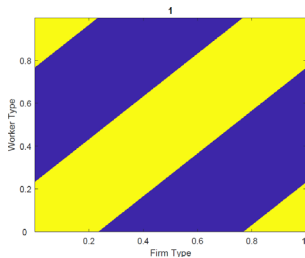
Comparative Statics (Wages and Inequality)



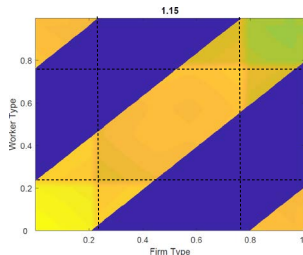
- ❶ E is a *concave* function of the state of technology A
 - ❷ $1/d^*$ is an increasing function of the state of technology A
 - ❸ Top wage is an increasing function of the state of technology A
 - ❹ Bottom wage is a *concave* function of the state of technology A
 - ❺ Inequality is an increasing function of the state of technology A
- Hence, if the initial A is high (low) enough, larger A ('new technology'):
 - ⇒ Decreases (increases) employment E
 - ⇒ Especially so for high (low) initial specialization i.e. small (large) initial d^*

Model Robustness — Asymmetric Matching Sets

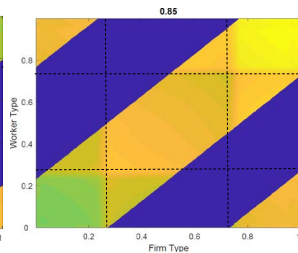
- In reality, however, such symmetry does not necessarily hold as skills and tasks are not only horizontally but also vertically differentiated.
 - Mechanism is still at work and is even reinforced in the presence of vertical differentiation.



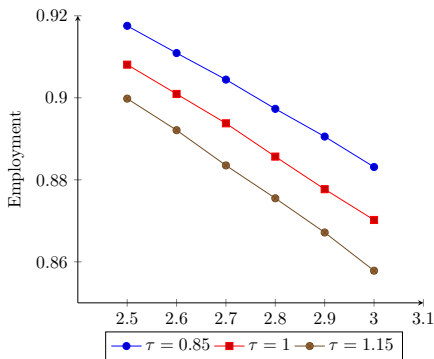
(a)



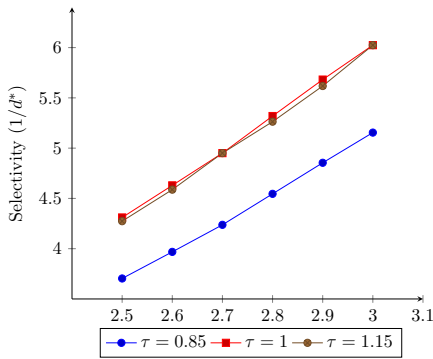
(b)



(c)



(a)



(b)

Figure: Effects on employment (left panel) and selectivity (right)

- Employment and mis-match from EULFS for *country* \times *industry* \times *occupation* \times *year*
- Sectors: 16 sectors (out of 21 sectors in the NACE Rev.2 classification; no public and agricultural)
- Occupations: 21 occupations (out of 28 occupations in the ISCO-88 classification; no public and agricultural)
- Years: 1995-2010 (in 2010 occupation classification changes from ISCO-88 to ISCO-08)
- Countries: 13 (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal; full coverage available)

Automatability of Occupations

- Automability:

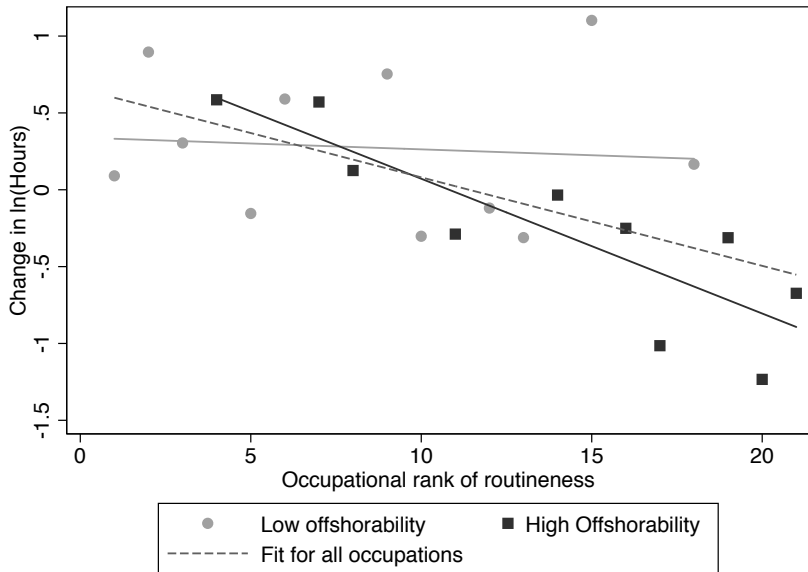
- ① Autor and Dorn (2013): Routine Task Intensity (RTI):
 - ⇒ Log of Routine tasks minus Sum Log of Abstract and Log of Manual tasks
- ② Frey and Osborne (2017): probability of computerization with Gaussian process classifier:
 - ⇒ Problems engineers need to solve for specific occupations to be automated

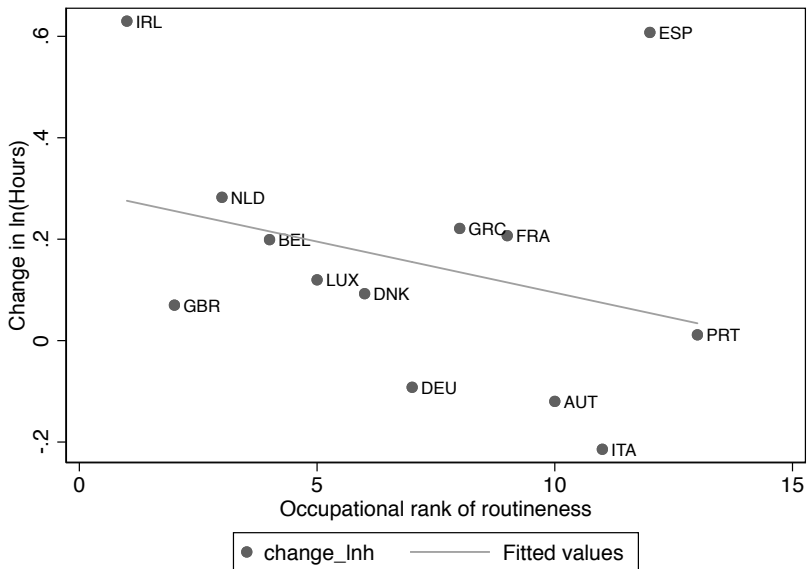
- Off-shoring:

- ① Blinder (2009) and Blinder and Krueger (2013): questionnaires and qualitative observations:
 - ⇒ Professional coders based on a worker's occupational classification (PDII: Princeton Data Improvement Initiative)
- ② Acemoglu and Autor (2011), on ONET indicators:
 - ⇒ Face to face discussions

Automatability and Off-shorability

- Conceptually different:
 - Off-shorability (BK): “the ability to perform one’s work duties in a foreign country, but supply good/service at home”
 - Automatability: linked to the routineness of a task, possibility to be solved algorithmically
- Global positive correlation, but occupations are:
 - Both automatable and off-shorable: Precision, handicraft, printing and related trades workers; Stationary-plant and related operators
 - Automatable but not off-shorable: Models, salespersons and demonstrators; Drivers and mobile-plant operators
 - Offshorable but not automatable: Physical, mathematical and engineering science professional
 - Neither automatable nor off-shorable: Life science and health associate professionals; Life science and health professionals; General managers





- How to bring 'acceptance ranges' to data?
- Proxy skills and occupations to proxy tasks
 - ⇒ Selectivity as the concentration (HHI) of an occupations employment across sectors (computed at the occupation \times country level).
 - ⇒ Sectoral Specialization of the Occupation — **SSO**
 - ⇒ **High SSO**: few sectors account for a large share of the occupations employment.
 - ⇒ **low SSO**: implies that employees in an occupation are similarly spread across many sectors.

Main Econometric Specification

- **Step 1:** From Technology to Selectivity

$$\Delta \ln(SSO_{oi}) = \alpha + \beta_1 RTI_o^H + \beta_2 RTI_o^L + \beta_3 Offshor_o^{95} + Z'_{oi} \mathbf{C} + \mu_i + \epsilon_{oi} \quad (1)$$

- **Step2:** From Selectivity to Employment

$$\Delta \ln(Hours_{oi}) = \gamma + \underbrace{\delta_1 \Delta \ln(SSO_{oi})}_{\text{Enodogeneity/Rev. Causlity}} + K' \mathbf{C}_2 + \eta_i + v_{oi} \quad (2)$$

\Rightarrow **Double-Bartik Instrument**

The model has two main implications:

- ① $\beta_1 > 0$
 - Automation and offshoring foster selectivity from 1995 to 2010.
- ② $\delta_1 < 0$
 - Increased selectivity decreases employment.

From Technology to Selectivity I

	$\Delta \ln(SSO)$	$\Delta \ln(SSO)$	$\Delta \ln(SSO)$	$\Delta \ln(SSO)$
RTI_{95}^H	0.207** (0.100)	0.168* (0.0994)		0.301** (0.150)
RTI_{95}^L	-0.0151 (0.0792)	0.00885 (0.0781)		0.00952 (0.0972)
$Offshor_{.95}$	-0.0923** (0.0432)	-0.123** (0.0525)	-0.0691 (0.0427)	-0.0943** (0.0440)
$RTI \times Offshor.$		0.0667 (0.0470)		
RTI_{95}			0.0312 (0.0552)	
$Share_{95}$			0.0727 (2.117)	
$Share_{95} \times RTI_{95}$			4.874*** (1.596)	
Observations	1,063	1,063	1,063	1,063
R-squared	0.143	0.149	0.146	0.115
Fixed effects	Country	Country	Country	Country
Spillover Controls				Yes

From Technology to Selectivity II — Spillovers Concerns

- Reallocation following a potential shock may bias the selectivity measure in other occupations of the same country (assuming that spillover effects are restricted within country)
 - ⇒ In column (5) we control for potential spillover effects following Berg and Streit (2019).
 - Effectively a linear-in-means estimate where spillovers are assumed to vary linearly with group-average treatment effect
 - Convert continuous RTI into indicator variable at the median $\mathbb{1}_{RTI_o^{95} > q_{50}(RTI_o^{95})}$
 - Mean-linearity implies the omission of any fixed effects at the group-level.

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta \ln(SSO_{oi}) &= \beta_1 (RTI_o^{95} \times \mathbb{1}_{RTI_o^{95} > q_{50}(RTI_o^{95})}) + \beta_2 \left(RTI_o^{95} \times \left(1 - \mathbb{1}_{RTI_o^{95} > q_{50}(RTI_o^{95})} \right) \right) \\ &+ \beta_3 \left(\overline{RTI}_i \times \mathbb{1}_{RTI_o^{95} > q_{50}(RTI_o^{95})} \right) + \beta_4 \left(\overline{RTI}_i \times \left(1 - \mathbb{1}_{RTI_o^{95} > q_{50}(RTI_o^{95})} \right) \right) \\ &+ Z' \mathbf{C} + \epsilon_{oi}\end{aligned}\tag{3}$$

From Selectivity to Employment I

		$\Delta \ln(\text{Hours})$			
First Stage		1.780*** (0.127)	1.789*** (0.139)	1.925*** (0.204)	
$\Delta \ln(\text{SSO})$	-0.160*** (0.0417)	-0.161* (0.0852)	-0.169*** (0.0349)	-0.267*** (0.0658)	-0.446*** (0.0809)
$\Delta \ln(L^b)$	0.266*** (0.0640)	0.266*** (0.0647)	0.297*** (0.0629)	0.302*** (0.0650)	0.0697 (0.0883)
RTI_{95}			-0.226*** (0.0425)	-0.225*** (0.0427)	
$\text{Offshor}_{.95}$			0.0719 (0.0562)	0.0668 (0.0578)	
$\text{RTI} \times \text{Offshor.}$			-0.178*** (0.0447)	-0.181*** (0.0453)	
FE Instrument	Country No	Country Bartik	Country No	Country Bartik	Country Occup. Bartik
Observations	1,073	1,073	1,062	1,062	1,073
K-P F-Test 1st		196.6		165.1	88.71

Robust standard errors clustered at the occupation level in parentheses. Data is aggregated at the country \times occupation level. *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

From Selectivity to Employment II

- Construction of **Double-Bartik Instrument** (similar to Chodorow-Reich, Wieland 2019) :
 - 1 Compute the *Bartik-predicted* change (cell level employment growth exactly the same as in that occupation and industry in all other countries in our sample).

$$\widehat{L_{oik,2010}^b} = g_{o,-i,k,2010}^b \times s_{o,i,k,1995} \quad (4)$$

- 2 Compute the *Bartik-predicted* selectivity using the shares computed in the first step to derive the Herfindahl index

$$\widehat{SSO_{oi,2010}^b} = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} (\hat{s}_{oik,2010}^b)^2$$
$$\widehat{\Delta SSO_{oi}^b} = \ln \left(\frac{\widehat{SSO_{oi,2010}^b}}{SSO_{oi,1995}} \right)$$

From Selectivity to Employment III

$\Delta \ln(\text{Hours})$						
$\Delta \ln(SSO)$	-0.339*** (0.101)	-0.694*** (0.151)				
$\Delta \ln(SSO) \times RTI_{95}^H$			-0.343*** (0.119)	-0.507*** (0.159)	-0.357*** (0.126)	-0.714** (0.288)
$\Delta \ln(SSO) \times RTI_{95}^L$			0.105 (0.107)	0.0594 (0.112)	0.244** (0.0973)	0.241** (0.109)
$\Delta \ln(L^b)$	0.223*** (0.0845)	-0.145 (0.109)	0.326*** (0.0700)	0.248*** (0.0764)	0.113 (0.0846)	-0.0954 (0.116)
RTI_{95}	-0.194*** (0.0511)					
$Offshor._{95}$	0.0445 (0.0644)		0.00564 (0.0521)	0.0340 (0.0606)		
$RTI \times Offshor.$	-0.182*** (0.0507)		-0.205*** (0.0394)	-0.147*** (0.0485)		
FE		ISCO3			ISCO3	ISCO3
Instrument	Bartik	Bartik	Bartik	Bartik	Bartik	Bartik
$\Delta \ln(SSO) > 0$	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes
Observations	558	563	1,062	558	1,073	563
K-P F-Test 1st	90.11	63.88	24.31	17.93	9.593	11

Robust standard errors clustered at the occupation level in parentheses. Data is aggregated at the country \times occupation level; *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

Alternative Measures of Selectivity

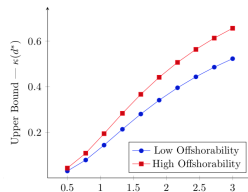
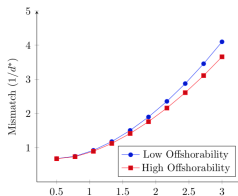
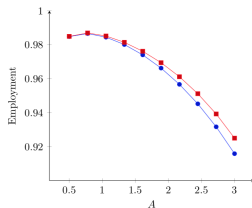
	(1) Δ Mismatch	(2) Δ Under-educ.	(3) Δ Over-educ.	(4) Δ Unemp. duration
<i>RTI</i> ₉₅	-0.0347 (0.0984)	-0.00340*** (0.000742)	0.00305*** (0.000778)	0.0409* (0.0243)
<i>Offshor.</i> ₉₅	0.0532 (0.114)	0.00220** (0.000858)	-0.00167** (0.000795)	-0.0183 (0.0319)
<i>RTI</i> ₉₅ \times <i>Offshor.</i> ₉₅	-0.290*** (0.111)	-0.00177** (0.000814)	-0.00113 (0.000805)	0.0454 (0.0328)
Observations	1,915	1,915	1,915	905
R-squared	0.236	0.143	0.235	0.183
Fixed effects	Country-Industry			

Robust standard errors clustered at the occupation \times country level in parentheses; *** $p < 0.01$, ** $p < 0.05$, * $p < 0.1$

- For educational mismatch, over-education and under-education,
 - Compare each workers education in terms of years to the educational level of his peers (as defined by occupation, sector or country) at the date of the observation.
 - A worker is over-educated (under- educated) if her educational level is above (below) the average in her occupation, industry, country and 10-year cohort by more than 2 standard deviations.
- To compute the unemployment duration in a cell, we assign an unemployed worker to the cell of his last job and aggregate the observations at the 2-digit ISCO level.

Model-Extension with Offshoring

- We embed the Grossman, Rossi-Hansberg (2016) into the circular sorting model:



Back-of-the-Envelope Calculation of Aggregate Effects

- Less structural approach than e.g. Salomons et. al. (2019).
- Instead we build on counterfactual outcomes:
- Estimate econometric model and create counterfactual predictions by shutting down the impact of initial automatability.

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta \ln(Hours_{oik}) &= \beta_1 RTI_{oik}^{95} + \beta_2 Off_{oik}^{95} + \beta_3 RTI_{oik}^{95} \times Off_{oik}^{95} \\ &+ \mu_{ik} + \mu_{oi} + \epsilon_{okc},\end{aligned}\tag{5}$$

- with $\ln(\widehat{H_{10}^k/H_{95}^k}) = \ln(\widehat{H_{10}^k}/H_{95}^k)$ we obtain predictions

$$\widehat{H_{10}^k} = H_{10}^k \exp \left(\ln \left(\frac{\widehat{H_{10}^k}}{H_{95}^k} \right) - \ln \left(\frac{H_{10}^k}{H_{95}^k} \right) \right)$$

and counterfactual predictions \tilde{H}_{10}^k with $\beta_1 = \beta_3 = 0$

Predicted impact of automation on aggregate employment

Country	Number of hours	
	Observed - Counterfactual	Predicted - Counterfactual
	$\Delta_1 = H_{10}^k - \tilde{H}_{10}^k$	$\Delta_2 = \widehat{H}_{10}^k - \tilde{H}_{10}^k$
AUT	5588166	-3400177
BEL	4682215	2741240
DEU	-7083773	-15680964
DNK	3544136	51327
ESP	-33149281	-39131725
FRA	13787699	-10408017
GBR	65426662	6381045
GRC	-3572807	-5935122
IRL	12653495	1409682
ITA	39957419	-20904866
LUX	436904	-69497
NLD	12442593	4042058
PRT	10267282	-10856301

- Small negative effects in some countries
- i.e. assuming 35 hours a week for 45 weeks a year, the negative effect in the first column for Germany corresponds to a loss of 4585 jobs in 2010

Conclusions

- Impact of 'new technology' (automation/offshoring) on employment in frictional labor markets with sorting
- Theoretical model: investigate the different channels
→ *Productivity vs Mismatch*
- Novel cross-country dataset with information on:
 - Automatability, off-shorability, sectoral specialization of occupations (SSO)
- We find that:
 - Automation increases selectivity and reduces employment, the more so for highly offshorable occupations.
 - This fall is *even larger* for occupations that in year 1995 also feature *higher off-shorability*
 - At the aggregate level, however, the impact of automation on employment is either positive or slightly negative for all countries despite large negative developments for specific occupations.
 - These results are in line with the model if the dominant effect of new technology is to increase mis-match cost