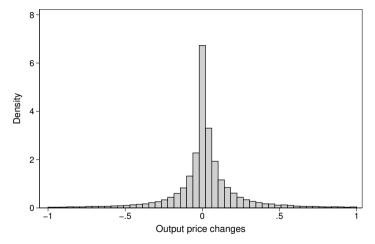
Price Updating with Production Networks

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ChaMP ESCB Research Network, Brussels October 25, 2023 Year-on-year producer price changes (Belgium, pooled 2002-2014)



- symmetric
- ▶ large variance: p10/p90: ± .20
- robust by year, within product, within firm, other datasets (micro PPI, ...)

Why do firms adjust their output prices?

With per-period cost minimization, firm j changes its output price as



Canonical models with complete pass-through

- no/constant markups: $d \ln \mu_{jt} = 0$
- ▶ e.g. perfect competition, monop. comp. with CES preferences (hom/het firms)

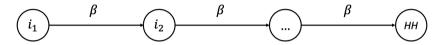
Inconsistent with repeated empirical evidence of incomplete pass-through

- variable markups: $d \ln \mu_{jt} \neq 0$
- macro: exchange rate disconnect; imports vs CPI variance
- micro: sector-specific (partial equilibrium) studies

CPI response depends critically on passthrough rate

Thought experiment: line network with *n* producers

• How much of initial shock to i_1 ends up with the final consumer (HH)?



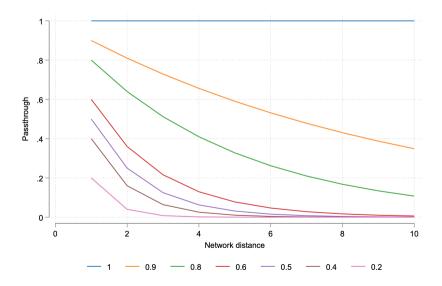
Passthrough models

- ▶ Complete: shock fully borne by HH, even as $n \to \infty$
- ▶ Incomplete: shock decays at rate β^n , and $\beta^n \to 0$ as $n \to \infty$
- ▶ For n = 4: $\beta = 1 \Rightarrow \beta^n = 1$ but $\beta = 0.5 \Rightarrow \beta^n = 1/16$

More generally, ultimate CPI response depends on

- Input-output structure of production network
- Location of the initial shock (Hulten, 1978; Gabaix, 2011; Acemoglu et al., 2012; Baqaee, 2018; Baqaee and Farhi, 2019a,b; 2020)

CPI response depends critically on passthrough rate



This paper

Questions

- How do firms change their prices in production networks?
- What is the impact of firm-level price changes on aggregate prices?

Why is it important?

- > Aggregation: identifying micro origins of aggregate price fluctuations
- ► Welfare: reallocation of surplus across producers and consumers

Network propagation literature assumes perfect pass-through

> All shocks ultimately end up with the final customer and thus CPI

Existing studies mostly rely on partial data and/or structural assumptions

- Marginal costs have to be estimated or backed out
- Missing link between imports and final consumption price volatility

What we do

1. Non-parametric framework of price updating

- Very light assumptions on market structure, technology, demand
- Assumptions: per-period cost minimization, CRS wrt. variable inputs
- 2. No need to estimate marginal costs
 - Generally: $d \ln c_{jt} = f(d \ln p_{1jt}, ..., d \ln p_{Njt}, d \ln z_{jt})$
 - We observe all $d \ln p_{ijt}$ in the data and estimate $d \ln z_{jt}$
- 3. Estimate elasticities: pass-through, productivity, strategic complementarities
 - ► Multiple instruments used: TFP shocks of suppliers, import prices, producer prices
- 4. Propagation and aggregation to CPI
 - ▶ Depends on nature of shock, IO structure, pass-through, strategic complementarities
- 5. Detailed product classification concordance
 - ▶ *m* : *n* correspondences in production (PC) and trade (CN)
 - No synthetic "family trees", consistent unitse of measurement

Related literature

Theory on variable markups, incomplete pass-through

Atkeson-Burstein (2008), Melitz-Ottaviano (2008), Weyl-Fabinger (2013), Atkin-Donaldson (2015), Edmond et al. (2015), Parenti et al. (2017), Arkolakis-Morlacco (2018), Amiti et al. (2019)

 \rightarrow Include production networks

Empirics on variable markups, incomplete pass-through

Burstein-Gopinath (2014), Goldberg-Verboven (2001), Campa-Goldberg (2006), Nakamura-Zerom (2010), Berman et al. (2012), Goldberg-Hellerstein (2013), Fabra-Reguant (2014), Garetto (2016), De loecker et al. (2016) \rightarrow **GE model with welfare implications (doing)**

Production networks, pricing and propagation

Acemoglu et al. (2012), Baqaee (2018), Baqaee & Farhi (2019a,b; 2020), Baqaee et al. (2022) \rightarrow Endogenous markups

Concordance methods

Pierce-Schott (2012a, 2012b), Bernard et al. (2018)

 \rightarrow Exact mapping, no synthetic aggregation

Today

General framework of price updating

Data and identification

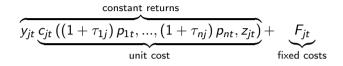
Empirical results on price updating

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Next steps

Production

Cost function for producer j at time t



- τ_{ij} : bilateral wedges (e.g. transport costs)
- ► *z_{jt}*: productivity
- F_{jt} : fixed costs

Notes

- Embeds network structure of production: inputs i and outputs j
- ► CRS wrt variable inputs. IRS from fixed costs, DRS: add firms that provide factors
- General technological change (Hicks-neutral in empirics)

Pricing and markups

General pricing equation under static cost minimization

 $\ln p_{jt} = \ln c_{jt} \left((1 + \tau_{1j}) p_{1t}, ..., (1 + \tau_{Nj}) p_{Nt}, z_{jt} \right) + \ln \mu_{jt} \left(p_{jt}, \mathcal{P}_{-jt}; \xi_{jt} \right)$

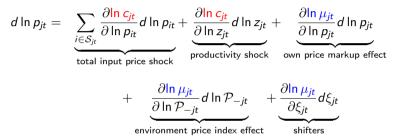
- \mathcal{P}_{-jt} : price index of j's environment (e.g. agg P-index, strat. comp.)
- ξ_{jt} : quantity shifter (e.g. price elasticity of demand)

Notes

- Profit maximization not necessary (e.g. cost-plus pricing, price capping)
- Nests no, constant and variable markups
- \$\mathcal{P}_{-jt}\$ depends on underlying model of price setting
 (e.g. oligopoly, monop. competition, or just responding to news)
- Single-product firms: multi-product firms possible with additional assumptions

Price updating

Totally differentiating the pricing equation



where cost elasticity is given by its input share (envelope theorem)

$$\frac{\partial \ln c_{jt}}{\partial \ln p_{it}} = \frac{p_{ijt} x_{ijt}}{\sum_{i \in S_{jt}} p_{ijt} x_{ijt}} \equiv \omega_{ijt}$$

Towards estimation equation

$$d \ln p_{jt} = \beta_{jt} \underbrace{\sum_{i \in S_{jt}} \omega_{ijt-1} d \ln p_{it}}_{\text{change in input price index}} + \gamma_{jt} d \ln z_{jt} + \delta_{jt} d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt} + \eta_{jt} d\xi_{jt}$$

Coefficients have a structural interpretation as elasticities, consistent with many pricing models

$$\begin{cases} \beta_{jt} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\partial \ln \mu_{jt}}{\partial \ln \rho_{jt}}} \\ \gamma_{jt} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\partial \ln \mu_{jt}}{\partial \ln \rho_{jt}}} \frac{\partial \ln y_{jt}}{\partial \ln z_{jt}} \\ \delta_{jt} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\partial \ln \mu_{jt}}{\partial \ln \rho_{jt}}} \frac{\partial \ln \mu_{jt}}{\partial \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}} \\ \eta_{jt} = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{\partial \ln \mu_{jt}}{\partial \ln \rho_{jt}}} \frac{\partial \ln \mu_{jt}}{\partial \xi_{jt}} \end{cases}$$

Hypothesis: H_0 : constant/no markups ($\beta_{jt} = 1$); H_a : variable markups ($\beta_{jt} \neq 1$)

Today

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Next steps

Variables

Datasets (2002-2014)

- ▶ Production: firm, product (PC8), year, value, quantity, unit
- ▶ Int'l trade: firm, product (CN8), country, year, value, quantity, unit
- Domestic production network: seller, buyer, year, value
- > Annual accounts: sales, inputs, employment, NACE codes

Estimate productivity shocks

Estimate TFPq (Hicks neutral)

Calculate change in firm's environment prices \mathcal{P}_{-jt}

- Depends on your underlying competition model of choice
- Sufficient statistic for many oligopolistic models: market shares and competitors' prices (best response functions)

$$d\ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt} = \sum_{l \neq j \in PC8} \lambda_{ljt-1} d\ln p_{lt}$$

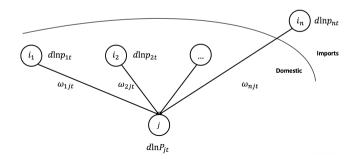
Input and output prices

Change in input price index $d \ln P_{jt} = \sum_{i \in S_{it}} \omega_{ijt-1} d \ln p_{it}$

- We observe all input shares (domestic and imports) $\omega_{ijt} = \frac{p_{ijt} \times_{ijt}}{\sum_{i \in S_{it}} p_{ijt} \times_{ijt}}$
- ► *d* ln *p_{it}* from Prodcom (domestic) and Comext (imports)

Change in output price $d \ln p_{jt}$

- Identify continuing products year-on-year (own concordances)
- Domestic prices, corrected for re-exports (Prodcom and Comext exports)



Identification

Goal: obtain consistent estimates for parameters $\theta = (\beta, \gamma, \delta)$

$$d \ln p_{jt} = \alpha + \beta d \ln P_{jt} + \gamma d \ln z_{jt} + \delta d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt} + \eta d\xi_{st} + \varepsilon_{jt}$$

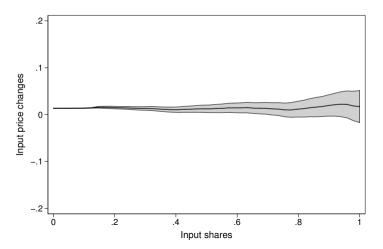
Problem: OLS estimates are biased and inconsistent

- simultaneity of prices (co-movement, best response)
- measurement error in regressors (since use unit values)
- ▶ selection bias if $Cov(\omega_{ijt-1}, d \ln p_{it}) \neq 0$ (intensive/extensive margins)

Selection bias: intensive margin

Selection bias if ω_{ijt-1} correlates with $d \ln p_{it}$

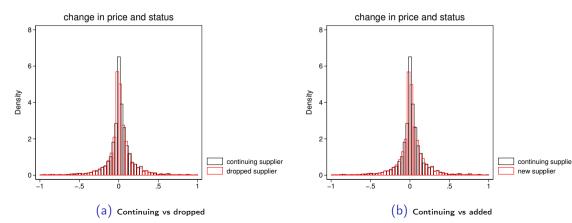
- ▶ E.g. price contracts for important inputs
- Surprising: we find no correlation!



Selection bias: extensive margin

Selection bias if firms add/drop suppliers in response to price shocks

- ▶ 90% of value of input bundle is continuing from any year to the next
- > Firms do not systematically add/drop suppliers in response to shocks
- Matching on levels (e.g. high productivity or low price) is fine



Simultaneity: Instruments

Instruments for input price index $d \ln P_{jt}$

$$d \ln P_{jt}^{IV} = \sum_{i \in S_j} \omega_{ijt-1} I_{it}$$

where $I_{it} = \left\{ d \ln z_{it}, d \ln \bar{p}_{-it}^{PC8-EU}, d \ln \bar{p}_{-it}^{CN8-EU} \right\}$
Exclusion restriction: $\mathbb{E}(\sum_{i \in S_j} \omega_{ijt-1} I_{it} \varepsilon_{jt}) = 0$, which collapses to $\mathbb{E}(\omega_{ijt-1}\varepsilon_{jt}) = 0, \forall i$, when $i, j \to \infty$ (GMM).

Instruments for environment price index $d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}$

$$d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}^{IV} = \sum_{l \neq j \in PC4} \lambda_{ljt-1} \left(\sum_{m \neq i \in S_{lt}} \omega_{mlt-1} I_{mt} \right)$$

where $I_{mt} = \left\{ d \ln z_{mt}, d \ln \bar{p}_{mt}^{PC8-EU}, d \ln \bar{p}_{mt}^{CN8-EU} \right\}$ and *m* are other suppliers to competitor *I* who are not also supplying *j* Exclusion restriction: $\mathbb{E}(\omega_{mlt-1}\varepsilon_{jt}) = 0, \forall m$.



General framework of price updating

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Price updating

		OLS		IV			
Dep. var.	(i) d ln p _{jt}	(ii) <i>d</i> ln p _{jt}	(iii) d ln p _{jt}	(iv) <i>d</i> ln p _{jt}	(v) <i>d</i> ln <i>p_{jt}</i>	(vi) <i>d</i> ln p _{jt}	
d In P _{jt}	0.260*	0.259*	0.256*	0.521***	0.524***	0.531***	
-	(0.065)	(0.065)	(0.064)	(0.063)	(0.063)	(0.062)	
d ln z _{jt}	-0.106*	-0.109**	-0.109**	-0.107***	-0.110***	-0.109***	
-	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.005)	
$d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}$	0.362**	0.347**	0.345**	0.377***	0.368***	0.403***	
	(0.051)	(0.047)	(0.046)	(0.090)	(0.090)	(0.098)	
FE	year	year + sector	year×sector	year	year + sector	year×sector	
N	33,787	33,787	33,787	33,718	33,718	33,718	
J-test χ^2				3.70	3.21	4.72	
[p-value]				[.30]	[.36]	[.19]	

Note: Columns (i)-(iii) report OLS estimates, columns (iv)-(vi) reports the second stage of IV estimates employing GMM with 5 instruments. All regressions are pooled over the years 2004-2014. The IV specifications pass all validity tests. Hansen's over-identification J-test statistic cannot reject the null hypothesis that the over-identifying restrictions are valid at the 1% level. Robust standard errors, clustered at the aggregated sector level (5 clusters) in parentheses. Significance: * < 5%, ** < 1%, *** < 0.1%.

Discussion

Results

- Pass-through is incomplete ($\beta < 1$)
- Strategic complementarities exist ($\delta > 0$)
- Generalizes imports/sector studies to full production network

Identification/robustness

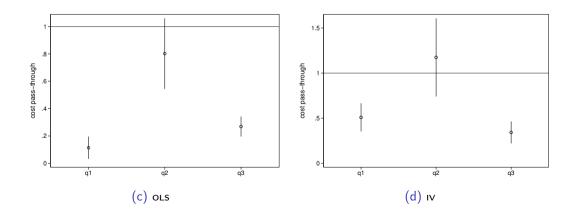
- ▶ IV (GMM) passes all over-identification tests
- Robust to alternative estimators (LIML, 2SLS)
- ▶ Robust to alternative instruments (Duranton & Turner, 2012)

Heterogeneity: pass-through by sector

				IV	
NACE	Rev.2 sectors	Ν	β	γ	δ
8-9	Mining and quarrying	398	.933*	050	.387
10-12	Food products and beverages	6,023	.340***	059***	.512***
13-15	Textiles and apparel	1,363	.229	122***	.232**
16	Wood[]	1,281	.077	100***	.192**
17-18	Paper products and media	1,121	.334**	119***	.239*
20	Chemicals and chemical products	1,479	.628***	061*	.274**
22	Rubber and plastic products	1,159	.344	112**	067
23	Other non-metallic minerals[]	2,179	.459**	103***	.218
24	Basic metals	468	.486**	042	.695***
25	Fabricated metal products[]	2,841	.391**	095***	.374***
26-27	Computer, electronic and[]	580	.583	162***	.035
28-29	Machinery, motor vehicles[]	254	-1.86	058	1.148
31-32	Furniture and other manufacturing	1,342	.541***	139***	016
33	Repair and installation of machinery/equipment	63	.381	007	1.187**

Heterogeneity: idiosyncratic vs common shocks

Setup: Demean input price index by sector-year average, group in terciles (q3: "large cost increase").



Today

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Propagation

Pricing equation in reduced form

d ln
$$p_{jt} = lpha + eta d$$
 ln $P_{jt} + \gamma d$ ln $z_{jt} + \delta d$ ln $\mathcal{P}_{-jt} + \eta d\xi_{st} + arepsilon_{jt}$

$$d\ln \mathbf{p} = \beta \Omega d\ln \mathbf{p} + \gamma d\ln \mathbf{z} + \delta \Lambda d\ln \mathbf{p} + \eta d\xi$$

$$\iff d \ln \mathbf{p} = \underbrace{[I - \beta \Omega - \delta \Lambda]^{-1}}_{\text{network structure}} \underbrace{(\gamma d \ln \mathbf{z} + \eta d\xi)}_{\text{exogenous shocks}}$$

Intuition

- > Price shocks accumulate through production network Ω
- ▶ Nests other models (e.g. $\beta = 1$ and $\delta = 0 = no/constant$ markups)
- Validity of chosen instruments (see proof appendix)

Any shock has an impact on all moments of $d \ln p_{jt}$

- Mean and variance: exchange rate disconnect
- > 3rd-4th moments: Symmetric shocks can have asymmetric effects and varying tails

Aggregation

Change in producer price index due to supply shock

$$d \ln \mathbb{P} = \sum_j
u_j d \ln p_j(\Omega, eta, \delta, \Lambda; d \ln \mathsf{z}, d\xi)$$

with ν_j some appropriate weight depending on chosen P-index

Provides structural interpretation and micro foundation of PPI

- Shocks can taper off before reaching final consumers
- Function of many dimensions of heterogeneity

With incomplete pass-through, aggregation measures fail

- ▶ Solow (1957), Hulten (1978) fail with inefficient economies
- Baqaee and Farhi (2020) fails with variable markups

Today

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Counterfactuals & applications

Monetary policy

- Does inflation targeting work as it is intended?
- ► Need incomplete adjustment to prices to get real short term effects
- Mostly model these as nominal rigidities (e.g. Calvo)
- ► Alternative explanation: flexible prices with incomplete pass-through

Exchange rate disconnect

- Macro puzzle: high import price volatility cannot be matched with low consumer price volatility
- Example introduction: ultimate impact on final prices is $\beta^4 \simeq 0.06$.

Productivity shocks and incomplete pass-through

- Network shock propagation models mostly assume perfect pass-through
- With incomplete pass-through, aggregate effects are smaller in terms of consumer surplus
- Redistribution between producer and consumer surplus

Conclusions

Takeaways

- Non-parametric model of price updating in production networks
- Cost pass-through is incomplete
- Impact on propagation and aggregation
- Applications in both micro and macro

Next steps

- Quantitative CPI analysis
- Welfare and surplus division
- Counterfactual exercises

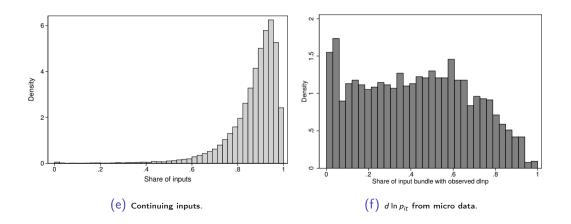
Thank you!

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Appendix

Coverage change in input price index

- Is $\sum_{i} \omega_{ijt-1} d \ln p_{it}$ a good proxy for $d \ln P_{jt}$?
 - Continuing inputs from t 1 to t account for 90% of input expenditures on average
 - Observed share of input bundle with $d \ln p_{it}$ from micro data: 55% on average



Identification (cont'd)

Estimating equation

$$d \ln p_{jt} = \alpha + \beta d \ln P_{jt} + \gamma d \ln z_{jt} + \delta d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt} + \eta d\xi_{st} + \varepsilon_{jt}$$

ith $\tilde{\varepsilon} \equiv [I_N - \beta \Omega - \delta \Theta]^{-1} \varepsilon$

Hence

w

- $d \ln \mathbf{z}$ and $d\xi$ are exogenous
- valid instruments for d ln p_{it} and d ln p_{lt} are exogenous variables of i and l (e.g. their d ln z). (Proof: Bramoulle et al. (2009)).
- Use reduced form for the setup of counterfactuals + IV.
- Notes
 - ▶ Suff. cond. for invertibility: If $||\beta + \delta|| < 1$, then $||\beta\Omega + \delta\Theta|| < 1$ (since $\sum_i \omega_{ij} = 1$ and $\sum_{l \neq j} \theta_{lj} = 1$), and so $[I_N \beta\Omega \delta\Theta]$ is non-singular.

Robustness – alternative estimators

- Underlying assumptions are different. Under constant effects, point estimates should be similar
- Also test for model mis-specification

		LIML		2SLS			
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	
Dep. var.	d In p _{jt}	d ln p _{jt}	d In p _{jt}	d In p _{jt}	d ln p _{jt}	d In p _{jt}	
d In P _{jt}	0.521***	0.524***	0.531***	0.521***	0.524***	0.531***	
	(0.080)	(0.079)	(0.077)	(0.092)	(0.092)	(0.062)	
d In z _{jt}	-0.107***	-0.110***	-0.109***	-0.107***	-0.110***	-0.109***	
	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.010)	(0.021)	(0.021)	(0.005)	
$d\ln {\cal P}_{-jt}$	0.373**	0.365***	0.401***	0.374***	0.365***	0.402***	
	(0.109)	(0.110)	(0.117)	(0.089)	(0.087)	(0.098)	
FE	year	year + sector	year×sector	year	year + sector	year×sect	

Robustness – correlated shocks

 Different instruments exploit different sources of variation, hence potential sources of endogeneity are also different (e.g. Duranton and Turner (2012))

	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
Dep. var.	d In p _{jt}				
d In P _{jt}	0.357**	0.522***	0.408*	0.532***	0.529***
	(0.122)	(0.063)	(0.205)	(0.064)	(0.064)
d In z _{jt}	-0.106***	-0.108***	-0.107***	-0.107***	-0.107***
	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.004)
$d \ln {\cal P}_{-jt}$	0.778**	0.353***	0.452**	0.371***	0.362***
	(0.269)	(0.091)	(0.158)	(0.090)	(0.091)
$d \ln P_{jt}^{TFP}$	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
$d \ln P_{jt}^{PC}$	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
$d \ln P_{jt}^{CN}$	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
$d \ln \mathcal{P}^{PC}_{-jt}$	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
$d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}^{CN}$		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
N	33,718	33,718	33,718	33,718	33,718

First stages

	Year fixe	d effects	Year $+$ sector fixed effects		Year $ imes$ sector fixed effects	
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)
Dep. var.	d In P _{jt}	$d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}$	d In P _{jt}	$d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}$	d In P _{jt}	$d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-jt}$
d In z _{jt}	.010***	000	.010***	002**	.009***	002**
	(.001)	(.001)	(.001)	(.001)	(.001)	(.001)
$d \ln P_{jt}^{TFP}$	084***	.027**	087***	.018*	087***	.015
	(.020)	(.008)	(.020)	(.008)	(.020)	(.008)
$d \ln P_{jt}^{PC}$.673***	.220***	.671***	.207***	.653***	.165**
	(.068)	(.058)	(.068)	(.058)	(.068)	(.061)
$d \ln P_{jt}^{CN}$.831***	.179***	.832***	.181***	.824***	.159***
	(.019)	(.014)	(.019)	(.014)	(.019)	(.014)
$d \ln \mathcal{P}^{PC}_{-jt}$	1.123***	1.605***	1.123***	1.513***	.762***	.727***
	(.171)	(.144)	(.171)	(.144)	(.188)	(.166)
$d \ln \mathcal{P}_{-it}^{CN}$.131***	.798***	.133***	.801***	.121***	.768***

Extension – multi-product firms

Extension 1 – Model at firm-product level

 $\ln p_{jkt} = \ln c_{jkt} \left((1 + \tau_{1j}) p_{1t}, ..., (1 + \tau_{nj}) p_{nt}, z_{jt} \right) + \ln \mu_{jkt} \left(p_{jkt}, \mathcal{P}_{-jkt}; \xi_{jkt} \right)$

- Additional assumptions
- A1: No physical synergies across products within producers
- A2: Proportionality of inputs to outputs
- Extension 2 Model at firm level
 - Output price index of j

$$d\ln ilde{P}_{jt}\equiv \sum_k arphi_{jkt} d\ln p_{jkt}$$

where φ_{jkt} is revenue share of k for j

- ► A3: Markup shocks are the same across products within firms
- If assumptions do not hold, additional cross-elasticities bias structural estimates of price updating

Extension – multi-product firms (firm-level)

		OLS		IV			
	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	
Dep. var.	$d \ln ilde{P}_{jt}$						
d In P _{jt}	0.257*	0.256*	0.253*	0.493***	0.496***	0.502***	
	(0.063)	(0.063)	(0.062)	(0.059)	(0.059)	(0.059)	
d In z _{jt}	-0.103*	-0.105*	-0.105*	-0.104***	-0.106***	-0.106***	
	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.023)	(0.004)	(0.004)	(0.004)	
$d\ln {\cal P}_{-jt}$	0.336**	0.321**	0.318**	0.373***	0.363***	0.406***	
	(0.049)	(0.046)	(0.047)	(0.085)	(0.086)	(0.093)	
FE	year	year + sector	year×sector	year	year + sector	year×sector	
N	33,787	33,787	33,787	33,718	33,718	33,718	
J-test χ^2				3.99	3.67	4.84	
[p-value]				[.26]	[.30]	[.18]	