The Quality-Complementarity Hypothesis: Theory and Evidence from Colombia

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Motivation

- Increasing availability of microdata on manufacturing plants has revealed extensive heterogeneity across plants, even within narrowly defined industries. Among the robust empirical patterns:
 - 1. Exporters are larger than non-exporters.
 - 2. Exporters have higher measured TFP than non-exporters.
 - 3. Exporters pay higher wages than non-exporters.
- Melitz (2003):
 - General-equilibrium model of heterogeneous firms under monopolistic competition.
 - Consistent with facts 1 and 2.
 - Hugely influential in trade.
 - Increasingly used in micro-founded macro models.

Motivation (cont.)

- Treatment of inputs in the Melitz model is highly stylized. The lone input, labor, is assumed to be homogeneous.
- As a consequence, the model has little to say about the input choices of firms/plants, and cannot account for fact 3 (above).
- In addition, although the model permits a "quality" interpretation, discussed below, the version of the model that has become standard assumes symmetric "outputs".
- Because plant-level datasets typically lack product-level information — in particular, information on prices and quantities — it has been difficult to investigate how far off are the assumptions of homogeneous inputs and symmetric outputs.

This paper

- ► Focuses explicitly on heterogeneity of inputs and outputs.
- Investigates the quality-complementarity hypothesis: input quality and plant productivity are complementary in generating output quality.
- Embeds complementarity in a general-equilibrium, heterogeneous-firm trade model, extending Melitz (2003).
- Uses uniquely rich data on the unit values of outputs and inputs of Colombian manufacturing plants to test the cross-sectional price implications of the model.

This paper (cont.)

- Empirical punchlines:
 - Positive within-industry correlation of output prices and plant size (or exports) on average.
 - Positive within-industry correlation of input prices and plant size or exports on average.
 - Correlations are more positive in sectors with more scope for quality differentiation, as proxied by advertising and R&D intensity, from U.S. FTC Line of Business data.

Similar predictions/patterns hold for prices vs. export status.

- Empirical patterns consistent with predictions of our model.
- Possible concern: plant-specific demand shocks may yield similar output price-plant size correlation.
 - ► We use inputs to distinguish quality story from market-power story, argue that market power cannot be full explanation.
- Results broadly supportive of quality-complementarity hypothesis.

Caveats

This is a reduced-form paper.

- Goal is to identify robust correlations in new data in as transparent a way as possible, use them to distinguish among "robust" theoretical predictions.
- Topics for future work:
 - Structural estimation of model (or a more flexible version thereof).
 - Estimation of productivity, given input/output heterogeneity.
- Quality not directly observable
 - ▶ We make inferences about product quality from prices and volumes, as Hummels and Klenow (2005), Hallak and Schott (2008) do in trade-flow data.
 - Value-added: plant-level data, information on input prices, identification of systematic variation across sectors.

Broader Implications

- 1. New channels through which trade liberalization may affect industrial evolution in developing countries:
 - exports ↑ ⇒ demand for high-quality final goods ↑ ⇒ demand for high-quality *inputs* ↑
 - \blacktriangleright tariffs on high-quality imported inputs $\downarrow \Rightarrow$ quality of final goods \uparrow

Both of these have implications for distributional effects of liberalization, and hence political support for liberalization.

- 2. Generalization of employer-size wage effect (Brown and Medoff, 1989) to material inputs. Suggests pattern is not entirely due to labor-market-specific institutions.
- Standard TFP estimates that use sector-level input and output price deflators likely to reflect input and output quality heterogeneity, in addition to technical efficiency and mark-ups (Katayama, Lu and Tybout, 2006).

Related literature

- Papers using U.S. Census of Manufactures: Roberts and Supina (1996, 2000), Syverson (2007), Foster, Haltiwanger and Syverson (2008).
 - Unit values only available for homogeneous industries.
 - Find *negative* correlation of output prices and plant size for homogeneous industries.
 - Do not report input price-plant size correlations.
- Hallak and Sivadasan (2008) independently document positive plant size-output price correlation in India; no data on material inputs.
- Verhoogen (2004, 2008): logit-based model with complementarity of labor quality, productivity.
 Partial-equilibrium, with wage-labor quality schedule exogenous. No information on prices.
- Eslava et al. (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007): have used Colombian product-level data, but focused on the effects of market reforms on productivity and factor adjustments, rather than on price-plant size correlations or quality differentiation.

Example: hollow brick (ladrillo hueco)



A. Output prices, hollow brick (ladrillo hueco)

Example: hollow brick (cont.)



Example: men's socks



A. Output prices, men's socks x=non-exporter, o=exporter; slope=0.075, se=0.039

Example: men's socks (cont.)



Example: men's socks (cont.)



Theory

- Two symmetric countries; we focus on one.
- Two sectors: final good sector and intermediate good sector.
- Zero trade costs.
- Representative consumer:

$$U = \left[\int_{\omega \in \Omega} \left(q(\omega) x(\omega) \right)^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} d\omega \right]^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}}$$

where $\sigma>$ 1, ω indexes final goods.

 Consumer optimization yields plant-specific demand for final goods:

$$x(\omega) = Xq(\omega)^{\sigma-1} \left(\frac{p_O(\omega)}{P}\right)^{-\sigma}$$
$$P \equiv \left[\int_{\omega \in \Omega} \left(\frac{p_O(\omega)}{q(\omega)}\right)^{1-\sigma} d\omega\right]^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}} \qquad X \equiv U$$

Production

Production in intermediate good sector:

- Perfect competition, constant returns to scale.
- ► Inelastic supply, *L*, of homogeneous workers.
- Wage normalized to 1.
- Production function:

$$F_I(\ell,c)=rac{\ell}{c}$$

- c = quality of intermediate good
- $\ell =$ number of labor-hours used
- ⇒ intermediate good of quality *c* entails cost *c*; in equilibrium will be price $p_l(c) = c$.

Alternative interpretations:

- Workers only used in intermediate goods sector; final goods sector only uses intermediate goods.
- Intermediate goods sector is education sector, c labor-hours required to produce worker of skill c.
- ▶ Key point: price of intermediate goods rises linearly in quality.

Production (cont.)

Production in final goods sector:

- ▶ Plants pay investment cost f_e to get "capability" draw, λ .
 - Pareto distribution: G(λ) = 1 (λ/λ)^k, with k sufficiently large to ensure finite variance of productivity, revenues.
 - Ex post, plants heterogeneous in capability.
- Capability matters in two ways:
 - Reduces unit input requirements
 - Increases quality conditional on inputs
 - N.B.: still just one dimension of heterogeneity.
- Output (physical units) production function:

$$F(n) = n\lambda^a$$

- n = physical units of input used.
- Unit input requirement = $\frac{1}{\lambda^a}$

Production (cont.)

- Production in final goods sector (cont.)
 - Quality production function:

$$q(\lambda) = \left[rac{1}{2}\left(\lambda^b
ight)^lpha + rac{1}{2} \left(c^2
ight)^lpha
ight]^rac{1}{lpha}$$

- Functional form used by Sattinger (1979), Grossman and Maggi (2000), Jones (2008) to model complementarities among inputs.
- Complementarity between λ and c increases as α becomes more negative. Assume $\alpha < 0$.
- b reflects difficulty of improving quality, analogous to Sutton (1991, 1998, 2007)'s "escalation parameter". Could reflect technology or preferences.
- Quadratic in c is convenient, but any power > 1 would do. (Also, any weight $\in (0, 1)$.)
- ► Fixed cost of production, f, for domestic market, f_x > f for export market.
- Exogenous death probability δ in each period

Equilibrium

▶ Plants choose output price (p_O), input quality (c) and whether to export (Z ∈ {0,1}):

$$\pi(p_O, c, Z, \lambda) = \left(p_O - \frac{p_I(c)}{\lambda^a}\right) x - f + Z\left[\left(p_O - \frac{p_I(c)}{\lambda^a}\right) x - f_x\right]$$

Plants' FOCs imply:

$$c^{*}(\lambda) = p_{I}^{*}(\lambda) = \lambda^{\frac{b}{2}}$$

$$q^{*}(\lambda) = \lambda^{b}$$

$$p_{O}^{*}(\lambda) = \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}\right) \underbrace{(\lambda)^{\frac{b}{2}-a}}_{\text{marginal cost}}$$

$$r^{*}(\lambda) = (1+Z) \left(\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}\right)^{\sigma-1} X P^{\sigma}(\lambda)^{\eta}$$

where $\eta = (\sigma - 1) \left(\frac{b}{2} + a\right) > 0$

Equilibrium (cont.)

λ, q not observable, but FOCs imply elasticities among observables:

$$\frac{d \ln p_I^*}{d \ln r^*} = \frac{b}{2\eta}$$
$$\frac{d \ln p_O^*}{d \ln r^*} = \frac{b - 2a}{2\eta}$$

- ► *b* < 2*a*: input-requirement-reduction effect dominates.
- ▶ b > 2a: quality-complementarity effect dominates.
- Input price-plant size slope and output price-plant size slope increasing in b:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial b} \left(\frac{d \ln p_I^*}{d \ln r^*} \right) > 0 \qquad \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \left(\frac{d \ln p_O^*}{d \ln r^*} \right) > 0$$

- Predictions may not hold in all historical contexts (Holmes and Mitchell, 2008), but appears to be relevant for semi-industrialized countries (e.g. Colombia, Mexico).
- Remainder of model works as in Melitz (2003).

Data

- Encuesta Anual Manufacturera (EAM) [Annual Manufacturing Survey].
- Census of manufacturing plants with 10+ workers.
- ▶ 4,500 5,000 plants per year.
- Product-level questions to construct producer price indices integrated into standard plant survey.
- ▶ We have access to 1982-2005. Exports, earnings by occupational category available 1982-1994.
- "Winsorized" real output and input prices within product categories.

Data (cont.)

 $ightarrow \sim$ 3,900 8-digit product categories:

35123067

ISIC rev 2 Colombia-specific

- For each output/input, we observe value (revenues or expenditures) and physical quantity.
- Units homogeneous within product categories:

product	unit of	product
description	measurement	code
corrugated cardboard boxes	kg	34121010
"	N	34121028
weed killers and herbicides	kg liters	35123067 35123075

Table 1: Summary statistics, plant-level data 1982-1004 panel 1982-2005 panel

	1902-1994 paner			1902-2005 panel
	non-exporters	exporters	all plants	all plants
Output	2.77	11.98	4.35	5.47
	(0.04)	(0.19)	(0.05)	(0.04)
Employment	56.65	193.16	79.98	70.40
	(0.40)	(2.06)	(0.53)	(0.34)
Avg. earnings	3.26	4.66	3.50	4.39
	(0.01)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)
White-collar earnings	4.36	6.62	4.75	
	(0.01)	(0.03)	(0.01)	
Blue-collar earnings	2.77	3.47	2.89	
	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.00)	
White-collar/blue-collar earnings rational second s	io 1.62	1.97	1.68	
	(0.00)	(0.01)	(0.00)	
White-collar employment share	0.29	0.33	0.30	
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	
Number of output categories	3.44	4.49	3.62	3.61
	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Number of input categories	10.29	17.10	11.46	11.69
	(0.03)	(0.15)	(0.04)	(0.03)
Export share of sales		0.17		
		(0.00)		
Import share of input expenditures	0.06	0.23	0.09	
	(0.00)	(0.00)	(0.00)	
N (plant-year obs.)	49546	10216	59762	114500
N (distinct plants)	9352	2308	10106	13582

Table 2: Summary statistics, product-level data

		product as output		product as input			
ISIC rev. 2 major group	# products (1)	avg. # selling plants per year (2)	within- product std. dev. log price (3)	within- prodyear std. dev. log price (4)	avg. # purchasing plants per year (5)	within- product std. dev. log price (6)	within- prodyear std. dev. log price (7)
Food	446	43.82	0.51	0.46	124.60	0.55	0.51
Beverages	32	34.15	0.50	0.44	73.64	0.57	0.49
Tobacco	5	3.16	0.35	0.29	2.31	0.77	0.60
Textiles	227	10.60	0.72	0.64	240.99	0.80	0.78
Apparel, exc. footwear	171	38.08	0.58	0.55	27.85	0.71	0.67
Leather prod., exc. footwear/apparel	71	13.35	0.86	0.70	124.41	0.83	0.61
Footwear, exc. rubber/plastic	28	43.89	0.49	0.46	39.39	0.94	0.90
Wood products, exc. furniture	77	21.54	1.07	0.95	121.04	0.87	0.81
Furniture, exc. metal	79	54.25	0.89	0.85	3.86	0.88	0.61
Paper products	138	22.36	0.98	0.84	363.01	0.91	0.89
Printing and publishing	83	79.90	1.22	1.15	505.76	1.10	1.08
Industrial chemicals	277	5.17	0.78	0.67	102.86	0.85	0.81
Other chemical products	220	15.05	0.83	0.78	198.99	0.86	0.82
Petroleum refineries	29	1.38	0.89	0.28	70.66	0.87	0.83
Misc. petroleum/coal products	16	8.12	0.80	0.71	154.99	0.68	0.66
Rubber products	82	7.35	0.74	0.64	105.06	0.94	0.91
Plastic products	232	19.03	1.00	0.87	331.10	0.95	0.91
Pottery, china, earthenware	26	3.03	0.75	0.52	10.07	1.25	1.06
Glass products	85	4.47	0.86	0.71	51.44	0.89	0.85
Other non-metallic mineral products	110	13.94	0.71	0.62	48.30	0.92	0.85
Iron and steel basic industries	61	12.66	0.93	0.81	143.57	0.77	0.75
Non-ferrous metal basic industries	97	4.51	0.78	0.61	44.56	0.75	0.70
Metal prod., exc. machinery/equip.	406	13.72	1.05	0.97	210.26	1.00	0.95
Machinery, exc. electrical	285	7.12	1.33	1.18	27.02	1.37	1.28
Electrical machinery	168	6.40	1.41	1.26	161.88	1.30	1.22
Transport equipment	180	5.87	0.98	0.79	5.18	1.20	0.96
Professional equipment, n.e.c.	79	3.36	1.23	0.92	11.51	1.29	1.12
Other manufactures	172	7.05	1.14	0.99	137.81	0.95	0.89
All sectors	3882	30.06	0.87	0.79	193.30	0.87	0.83

Econometric model

Basic model:

$$\ln p_{ijkt} = \alpha_t + \theta_{it} + X_{jt}\gamma + \delta_{rt} + \eta_k + \varepsilon_{ijkt}$$

► *i*, *j*, *k*, *t* index products, plants, industries, years.

- ▶ In *p_{ijt}* is log unit value (revenues/quantity).
- ► X_{jt} is log gross output, log employment, exporter dummy, or export share of sales.
- θ_{it} is product-year effect
- δ_{rt} , η_k are region-year, industry effects.
- Estimate separately for outputs and inputs.
- Coefficient of interest is γ. Compare to theoretical predictions.
- Product-year effects capture product composition. γ identified on basis of comparison of plants producing (or consuming) the same good.
- Run on unbalanced panel, cluster by plant.
- Measurement error severe, especially for gross output. Use log employment (alternative measure of plant size) as instrument.

Table 3A: Output prices vs. plant size, 1982-2005

	dependent variable: log real output unit value				
	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS		
	(1)	(2)	(3)		
log total output	0 001***		0 025***		
	(0.005)		(0.006)		
log employment		0.026***			
		(0.007)			
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y		
industry effects	Y	Y	Y		
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y		
R^2	0.90	0.90			
N (obs.)	413789	413789	413789		
N (plants)	13582	13582	13582		

Table 3B: Input prices vs. plant size, 1982-2005

	dependent variable: log real input unit value				
	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS		
	(1)	(2)	(3)		
log total output	0.015***		0.011***		
log employment	(0.002)	0.012*** (0.003)	(0.003)		
	Ň	, , ,	Ň		
product-year effects	Y	Ŷ	Y		
industry effects	Y	Y	Y		
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y		
R^2	0.78	0.78			
N (obs.)	1338921	1338921	1338921		
N (plants)	13582	13582	13582		

Table 4A: Output prices vs. exporting variables, 1982-1994

	dependent variable: log real output price				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
log employment	0.025*** (0.008)			0.009 (0.008)	0.020** (0.008)
exporter	. ,	0.114***		0.104***	. ,
		(0.022)		(0.023)	
export share			0.288**		0.251*
			(0.137)		(0.142)
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
R ²	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
N (obs.)	216155	216155	216155	216155	216155
N (plants)	10106	10106	10106	10106	10106

Table 4B: Input price vs. exporting variables, 1982-1994

	dependent variable: log real input price				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
log employment	0.013*** (0.004)			0.008** (0.004)	0.013*** (0.004)
exporter	(0.001)	0.037***		0.028***	(0.000)
		(0.009)		(0.009)	
export share		. ,	0.021	. ,	-0.002
			(0.027)		(0.027)
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
R ²	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80
N (obs.)	684746	684746	684746	684746	684746
N (plants)	10106	10106	10106	10106	10106

Measures of differentiation

- Measure of scope for quality differentiation: advertising and R&D expenditures from U.S. FTC Line of Business data.
 - Advantage: forced firms to report by line of business (i.e. sector)
 - Widely used: Cohen and Klepper (AER, 1992), Brainard (AER, 1997), Sutton (1998), Antras (QJE, 2003)
 - Revealed-profitability argument: if firms are spending on advertising and R&D, it must be possible to raise quality (as perceived by consumers).

▶ Measure of horizontal differentiation: Rauch (1999) measure.

- At SITC 4-digit level, classifies sectors according to whether they are:
 - traded on commodity exchange ("homogeneous")
 - have price reported in trade publication ("reference priced")
 - otherwise
- We use "liberal" classification, assign 0 to homogeneous or reference-priced goods, 1 to others, then convert to ISIC rev 2 4-digit level.

Figure A1: Output price-employment slopes vs. R&D and adv. intensity

Output price-employment slope vs. R&D and advertising intensity. 4-digit industries



R&D and advertising intensity, U.S. FTC data

Table 7A: Interactions with measures of differentiation

	dep. var.: log real output price				
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
log employment	0.030***	0.009	0.003	-0.025**	-0.029**
	(0.007)	(0.009)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.013))
log emp.*advertising ratio		1.042***		1.004***	
		(0.351)		(0.350)	
$\log emp.*(adv. + R\&D)$ ra	atio		0.920***		0.876***
			(0.307)		(0.308)
log emp.*Rauch measure				0.045***	0.043***
				(0.015)	(0.015)
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
R ²	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90
N (obs.)	320618	320618	320618	320618	320618
N (plants)	11971	11971	11971	11971	11971

Table 7B: Interactions with measures of differentiation

	dep. var.: log real input price				
	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
log employment	0.012***	0.003	0.002	0.006	0.005
	(0.003)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.008)	(0.008)
log emp.*advertising ratio		0.374**		0.380**	
		(0.165)		(0.164)	
$\log emp.*(adv. + R\&D) rate$	tio		0.271**		0.277**
			(0.136)		(0.136)
log emp.*Rauch measure				-0.004	-0.004
				(0.009)	(0.009)
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
R ²	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79
N (obs.)	1039673	1039673	1039673	1039673	1039673
N (plants)	10718	10718	10718	10718	10718

Alternative models: Idiosyncratic demand shocks

- ► Foster, Haltiwanger and Syverson (forthcoming) model:
 - Quadratic demand system (Melitz and Ottaviano, 2008)
 - Plant-specific demand shocks expand output and raise price
 May generate positive output price-plant size correlation
 - Offsetting effect: productivity also reduces costs, prices.
 - Plant-specific shocks to input costs unambiguously bad: increase costs and reduce output
- Possible extensions:
 - Purchasers of inputs have monopsony power, face upward-sloping supply curve for inputs
 - Suppliers of inputs have monopoly power, grab rents of final-good producers.
- Can explain positive input price-plant size correlation in input sectors with market power.
- Not so good at explaining:
 - Existence of correlation in competitive input sectors
 - More positive correlation in industries with higher R&D/advertising intensity, controlling for horizontal differentiation.

Table 8: Concentration in input markets

	dependent variable: log real input unit value				
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(8)
log employment	0.019***	0.010***	0.009***	0.017***	0.018***
	(0.004)	(0.003)	(0.003)	(0.004)	(0.004)
log emp.*Herf. suppliers inde	× -0.014**			-0.018***	-0.018***
	(0.006)			(0.006)	(0.006)
log emp.*Herf. purchasers in	dex	0.017		0.026**	-0.001
		(0.011)		(0.011)	(0.011)
purchaser share			0.230***		0.238***
			(0.037)		(0.037)
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
R ²	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76
N (obs.)	1067789	1067789	1067789	1067789	1067789
N (plants)	13294	13294	13294	13294	13294

Table 12A: Product-level output prices vs. physical quantities, 1982-2005

	dependent variable: log real output unit value				
	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS		
	(1)	(2)	(3)		
log physical quantity	-0.171***		0 0.32***		
iog physical quantity	(0.004)		(0.009)		
log employment		0.026***			
		(0.007)			
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y		
industry effects	Y	Y	Y		
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y		
R^2	0.91	0.90			
N (obs.)	413789	413789	413789		
N (plants)	13582	13582	13582		

Table 12B: Product-level input prices vs. physical quantities, 1982-2005

	dependen	dependent variable: log real input unit value				
	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS			
	(1)	(2)	(3)			
log physical quantity	-0.137***		0.016**			
	(0.001)		(0.005)			
log employment		0.012***				
		(0.003)				
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y			
industry effects	Y	Y	Y			
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y			
R ²	0.80	0.78				
N (obs.)	1338921	1338921	1338921			
N (plants)	13582	13582	13582			
Conclusion

- Three stylized facts:
 - 1. *Positive* correlation of output prices and plant size (or exports) on average.
 - 2. *Positive* correlation of input prices and plant size (or exports) on average.
 - Correlations more positive in industries with greater scope for quality differentiation, as proxied by advertising and R&D intensity in U.S. sectors.
- It does not appear that market power can provide complete explanation for price dispersion.
- Facts are consistent with predictions of our model, hard to reconcile with other models.
- Results support argument that:
 - both inputs and outputs heterogeneous in quality
 - input quality complementary to plant capability in generating output quality

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Alternative models: Perfect competition

- Key predictions can also be generated by a perfectcompetition model with increasing marginal costs and the assumption that lower-cost plants are better at producing quality.
 - Generally, there is often an isomorphism between monopolistic competition and perfect competition with increasing costs (e.g. Atkeson and Kehoe (2005)).
- But in the absence of quality differences, perfect-competition models predict zero output price- and input price-plant size correlations:
 - Increasing marginal costs without quality:
 - Price-taking plants expand until marginal cost equals price.
 ⇒ plants are of different size but have same price in equilibrium.
 - Industry categories too coarse:
 - plants in same "industry" producing different goods.
 ⇒ no reason to expect correlation of plant size and price.

Example: sweet chocolate (*chocolate en pasta dulce*)



Main input: cocoa beans (cacao en grano)



Photo: Criollo, Forastero and Trinitari cocoa beans.

Example: sweet chocolate



Example: sweet chocolate (cont.)



Input prices, cocoa bean, for producers of sweet chocolate, 1982-2005 data

log employment, deviated from year means

Table 5: Wage variables vs. plant size, export status

	log blue-collar earnings			log white-collar earnings			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
log employment	0.100***			0.198***			
	(0.003)			(0.004)			
exporter		0.181***			0.326***		
		(0.007)			(0.011)		
export share			0.212***			0.478***	
			(0.022)			(0.032)	
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
region-year effects	S Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
R^2	0.40	0.36	0.33	0.42	0.34	0.30	
N (obs.)	59762	59762	59762	59762	59762	59762	
N (plants)	10106	10106	10106	10106	10106	10106	

Table 6: Measures of differentiation and concentration

			R&D +		Herfindahl	Herfindahl
		advertising	advertising	Rauch (1999)	index	index
		intensity	intensity	index	(suppliers)	(purchasers)
IS	IC rev. 2 major group	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
311-31	2 Food	0.026	0.029	0.35	0.24	0.45
313	Beverages	0.045	0.046	0.68	0.20	0.70
314	Tobacco	0.076	0.082	0.25	0.62	0.74
321	Textiles	0.014	0.019	0.88	0.30	0.27
322	Apparel, exc. footwear	0.015	0.018	1.00	0.17	0.93
323	Leather prod., exc. footwear/apparel	0.000	0.002	0.67	0.36	0.24
324	Footwear, exc. rubber/plastic	0.015	0.017	1.00	0.22	0.24
331	Wood products, exc. furniture	0.002	0.005	0.58	0.29	0.50
332	Furniture, exc. metal	0.014	0.019	1.00	0.13	0.83
341	Paper products	0.002	0.006	0.30	0.33	0.13
342	Printing and publishing	0.028	0.041	0.86	0.18	0.50
351	Industrial chemicals	0.005	0.029	0.18	0.57	0.35
352	Other chemical products	0.083	0.107	0.95	0.36	0.46
353	Petroleum refineries	0.002	0.004	0.09	0.88	0.38
355	Rubber products	0.012	0.026	1.00	0.43	0.40
356	Plastic products	0.008	0.031	0.79	0.33	0.28
361	Pottery, china, earthenware	0.007	0.020	1.00	0.56	0.92
362	Glass products	0.008	0.046	1.00	0.51	0.38
369	Other non-metallic mineral products	0.006	0.017	0.68	0.32	0.54
371	Iron and steel basic industries	0.001	0.006	0.25	0.41	0.22
372	Non-ferrous metal basic industries	0.002	0.011	0.02	0.60	0.33
381	Metal prod., exc. machinery/equip.	0.011	0.018	0.79	0.46	0.34
382	Machinery, exc. electrical	0.007	0.028	1.00	0.49	0.55
383	Electrical machinery	0.009	0.031	0.98	0.49	0.57
384	Transport equipment	0.008	0.033	1.00	0.51	0.75
385	Professional equipment, n.e.c.	0.013	0.052	0.99	0.66	0.70
390	Other manufactures	0.040	0.052	0.90	0.45	0.89
All secto	ors	0.020	0.029	0.74	0.28	0.43

Robustness: Two-step model

1. First stage: construct plant-level average price

$$\ln p_{ijt} = \alpha_t + \theta_{it} + \mu_{jt} + u_{ijt}$$

- μ_{jt} is plant-year effect.
- Note on identification: need "connected" plants. Take largest connected subsample (>95% of plants)
- ▶ Define plant-average price as the OLS estimate of the plant-year effect, µ̂_{it}.
- Estimate separately for outputs and inputs.
- 2. Regress plant-average price on plant size or export status.

$$\widehat{\mu}_{jt} = X_{jt}\gamma + \delta_r + \eta_{kt} + v_{jt}$$

 If both u_{ijt} and v_{jt} uncorrelated with co-variates, two-step and one-step estimators should converge to same estimate (Baker and Fortin, 2001).

Table 9A: Plant-average output price vs. plant size

	depend	dependent variable: plant-average output price						
	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS					
	(1)	(2)	(3)					
	0.01.0*		0.010**					
log total output	0.010^{*}		0.012**					
	(0.005)		(0.006)					
log employment		0.013**						
		(0.006)						
industry effects	Y	Y	Y					
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y					
R^2	0.44	0.44						
N (obs.)	114500	114500	114500					
N (plants)	13582	13582	13582					

Table 9B: Plant-average input price vs. plant size

	depende	dependent variable: plant-average input price						
	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS					
	(1)	(2)	(3)					
log total output	0.017*** (0.002)		0.012*** (0.003)					
log employment	. ,	0.013*** (0.003)						
industry effects	Y	Y	Y					
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y					
R ²	0.33	0.33						
N (obs.)	114500	114500	114500					
N (plants)	13582	13582	13582					

Definition of Gollop-Monahan Index

 Use "dissimilarity" component of full Gollop and Monahan (1991) index, as in Bernard and Jensen (2007):

$$GM_k = \left(\sum_{i,j,t} \frac{|s_{ijkt} - \overline{s}_{ik}|}{2}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

- ▶ *i*, *j*, *k*, *t* index products, plants, industries, years
- s_{ijkt} is plant expenditure share on input
- \overline{s}_{ik} is average expenditure in industry k

Table 10: Gollop-Monahan Index as measure of horizontal differentiation

	dep. va	r.: log real οι	utput price	dep. var.: log real input price			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
log employment	0.030***	-0.067***	-0.068***	0.012***	-0.020	-0.019	
	(0.007)	(0.022)	(0.022)	(0.003)	(0.014)	(0.014)	
log emp.*advertising ratio		0.742**			0.359**		
		(0.376)			(0.164)		
log emp.*(adv. + R&D) ra	tio		0.637*			0.254*	
			(0.329)			(0.135)	
log emp.*Gollop-Monahan i	index	0.147***	0.141***		0.042*	0.041*	
		(0.038)	(0.038)		(0.025)	(0.025)	
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
R ²	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.79	0.79	0.79	
N (obs.)	322044	322044	322044	1039673	1039673	1039673	
N (plants)	10718	10718	10718	10718	10718	10718	

Table 11A: Output prices vs. plant size, non-exporters only

	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS
	(1)	(2)	(3)
log total output	0.013*		0.020**
	(0.007)		(0.008)
log employment		0.023**	
0 1 7		(0.009)	
product-vear effects	Y	Y	Y
industry effects	Y	Y	Y
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y
R^2	0.91	0.91	
N (obs.)	170261	170261	170261
N (plants)	9352	9352	9352

Table 11B: Input prices vs. plant size, non-exporters only

	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS
	(1)	(2)	(3)
log total output	0.023***		0.017***
	(0.003)		(0.003)
log employment		0.020***	
		(0.004)	
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y
industry effects	Y	Y	Y
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y
R ²	0.81	0.81	
N (obs.)	510011	510011	510011
N (plants)	9352	9352	9352

Table A.1: Differences across *input* sectors

	dependent variable: log real input unit value						
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		
log employment	0.008**	-0.015**	-0.001	-0.002	-0.019***		
	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.005)	(0.005)	(0.006)		
$\log emp.*adv. + R\&D ratio$	0.138*			0.032			
	(0.079)			(0.083)			
log emp.*std. dev. log price		0.035***			0.028***		
		(0.009)			(0.010)		
log emp.*Rauch measure			0.030***	0.029***	0.022***		
			(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.009)		
product-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
R ²	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78		
N (obs.)	912665	912665	912665	912665	912665		
N (plants)	13105	13105	13105	13105	13105		

Table A0: Predictions for within-industry correlations

outp VS. D

vs. p

	Standard Quality Quality- Melitz Melitz differentiated model model inputs model		Plant-s demand moo	Plant-specific demand shocks models		Pricing- to-firm model			
	(1)	(2)	short quality ladder b << a (3)	long quality ladder b >> a (4)	competitive input markets (5)	producer monopsony power (6)	competitive input markets (7)	supplier monopoly power (8)	(9)
output prices vs. plant size	- -	+ or -	-	+	+ or –	+ or -	+	+	0
input prices vs. plant size	0	0	~ 0	+	-	+ or -	0	+	0

 Model carries similar predictions for relationships between prices and export status.

Equilibrium (cont.)

- Input quality increasing in λ if b > 0.
- Offsetting effects on marginal cost:
 - \blacktriangleright higher $\lambda \Rightarrow$ lower per-unit input requirements \Rightarrow lower marginal cost
 - higher $\lambda \Rightarrow$ higher input quality \Rightarrow higher marginal cost
- Output price is fixed mark-up over marginal cost.
- Plant size (measured by revenues) unambiguously increasing in λ.
- λ, q not observable, but FOCs imply elasticities among observables:

$$\frac{d \ln p_I^*}{d \ln r^*} = \frac{b}{2\eta}$$
$$\frac{d \ln p_O^*}{d \ln r^*} = \frac{b - 2a}{2\eta}$$

- b < 2a: input-requirement-reduction effect dominates.
- ► *b* > 2*a*: quality-complementarity effect dominates.

Equilibrium (cont.)

- If b = 0 (no scope for quality differentiation) then model reduces to Melitz model (with zero trade costs, Pareto productivity draws):
 - $p_I^*(\lambda) = 1$ for all λ .
 - $p_O^*(\lambda)$ declining in λ .
 - ► Can get "quality" Melitz model by redefining quality units.
 - Can generate positive correlation between observed output price and λ, plant size.
 - More productive plants use more units of homogeneous input per physical unit of output, produce higher quality output.
 - Still predicts no variation in input prices with plant size.

More on quality Melitz model

Input price-plant size slope and output price-plant size slope increasing in b:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial b} \left(\frac{d \ln p_I^*}{d \ln r^*} \right) > 0 \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial b} \left(\frac{d \ln p_O^*}{d \ln r^*} \right) > 0$$

Equilibrium (cont.)

- Three conditions pin down entry cut-offs:
 - Marginal plant in domestic market makes zero profits.
 - Marginal exporter makes zero profits from exporting.
 - Expected profit of paying investment cost for capability draw is zero.
- Scale of economy pinned down by the facts that:
 - ► Total revenues of final-goods plants = total wage payments.
 - Mass of new plants equal to mass of plants that die in steady state.
- Cut-off for entry into export market to the right of cut-off for entry into domestic market: λ* < λ_x*. Hence correlations with export status are similar to correlations with plant size.
- Caveat: extreme high-quality end of many industries may be governed by different considerations. But model is consistent with patterns in semi-industrialized countries.



More on quality Melitz model

- If b = 0, then model reduces to Melitz model (with zero trade costs and Pareto productivity distribution).
- Let $\varphi \equiv \lambda^a$. Then:

$$p_{I}^{*}(\varphi) = q(\varphi) = 1$$

$$p_{O}^{*}(\varphi) = \left(\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}\right)\frac{1}{\varphi}$$

$$r^{*}(\varphi) = (1+Z)\left(\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}\right)^{\sigma-1}XP^{\sigma}\varphi^{\sigma-1}$$

Thought experiment: suppose that the above equations refer to goods measured in *quality* units ("utils") and that higher-φ plants produce goods with more utils per physical unit:

$$\widetilde{q}(arphi) = arphi^{\epsilon}$$



More on quality Melitz model

• Expression for price in *physical* units:

$$ilde{p}^*_{\mathcal{O}}(arphi) = extsf{p}^*_{\mathcal{O}}(arphi) \, ilde{q}(arphi) = \left(rac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}
ight) arphi^{\epsilon-1}$$

- Remarks:
 - If $\epsilon > 1$, output price increasing in φ .
 - If $\epsilon = 1$, price constant in φ (Melitz, 2003, p. 1699).
 - Model is isomorphic to Baldwin and Harrigan (2007, sec. 4), where a ≡ φ^{ε-1}, θ ≡ ¹/_{ε-1}.
 - Key difference from our model is treatment of inputs:
 - Quality Melitz: higher-φ plants use more units of homogeneous input per physical unit
 - Our model: higher-λ plants use same quantity of higher-quality inputs.
 - Additional difference: our framework endogenizes quality choice.



More on quality Melitz model (cont.)

• Key equation in Baldwin and Harrigan (2007):

$$q(j) = (a(j))^{1+ heta}$$

- They assume higher quality associated with higher a, a plant's marginal cost draw.
- They assume $\theta > 0$.
- Making the above substitutions:

$$\begin{array}{lll} q(j) &=& (a(j))^{1+\theta} \\ &=& \left(\varphi^{\epsilon-1}\right)^{1+\frac{1}{\epsilon-1}} \\ &=& \varphi^{\epsilon} \end{array}$$



Theory details

Zero-profit conditions:

$$\pi(\lambda^*) = \frac{r_d^*(\lambda^*)}{\sigma} - f = 0$$

$$\pi_x(\lambda_x^*) = \frac{r_x^*(\lambda_x^*)}{\sigma} - f_x = 0$$

Free-entry condition:

$$0 = [1 - G(\lambda^*)] \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} (1 - \delta)^t \left\{ \frac{E(r_d^*(\lambda))}{\sigma} - f \right\} + [1 - G(\lambda_x^*)] \sum_{t=0}^{\infty} (1 - \delta)^t \left\{ \frac{E(r_x^*(\lambda))}{\sigma} - f_x \right\} - f_e \quad (1)$$



Theory details (cont.)

These pin down entry cut-offs:

$$\lambda^{*} = \lambda_{m} \left\{ \frac{f\eta}{f_{e}\delta(k-\eta)} \left[1 + \left(\frac{f}{f_{x}}\right)^{\frac{k-\eta}{\eta}} \right] \right\}^{\frac{1}{k}}$$
$$\lambda_{x}^{*} = \lambda^{*} \left(\frac{f_{x}}{f}\right)^{\frac{1}{\eta}}$$

Labor market clearing condition

$$L = \underbrace{[ME(r(\lambda)) + M_x E_x(r(\lambda)) - \Pi]}_{\text{payments for inputs}} + \underbrace{M_e f_e}_{\text{investment}}$$
(2)

- M_e = mass of entrepreneurs who pay the investment cost f_e .
- M = mass of entrepreneurs in business

Theory details (cont.)

Mass of new plants equal to mass of dying plants:

$$M_e\left(1-G(\lambda^*)\right) = \delta M \tag{3}$$

• Combining (1) and (3):

$$\Pi = M\left\{ \left[\frac{E(r_d^*(\lambda))}{\sigma} - f \right] + \frac{1 - G(\lambda_x^*)}{1 - G(\lambda^*)} \left[\frac{E_x(r_x^*(\lambda))}{\sigma} - f_x \right] \right\}$$
$$= M_e f_e \tag{4}$$

Combining (2) and (4):

$$L = ME(r_d^*(\lambda)) + M_x E(r_x^*(\lambda))$$
(5)

Total income (and hence total expenditures) of workers is equal to total revenues of final-good producers.

Theory details (cont.)

• Using fact that $\frac{M_x}{M} = \frac{1-G(\lambda_x^*)}{1-G(\lambda^*)} = \left(\frac{f}{f_x}\right)^{\frac{k}{\eta}}$, we can solve for mass of final-good producers in steady state:

$$M = \frac{L(k-\eta)}{k\sigma f \left[1 + \left(\frac{f}{f_x}\right)^{\frac{k-\eta}{\eta}}\right]}$$



Table 2 of Brooks (2006)

Table 2 Colombia's top ten export destinations in 1985 and 1990

1985: trading partner	Circular distance (miles)	Percent share exports	1985 GDP (mil \$)	1990: trading partner	Circular distance (miles)	Percent share exports	1990 GDP (mil \$)
USA	3829	34.84	3946600	USA	3829	47.65	5392200
Germany	9000	15.45	624970	Germany	9000	9.04	1488210
Japan	14 326	4.30	1 327 900	Japan	14 326	3.93	2942890
Netherlands	8865	3.58	124970	Panama	774	3.33	4750
Venezuela	1027	3.52	49 600	Netherlands	8865	3.28	279150
UK	8509	3.43	454300	France	8639	2.94	1190780
Sweden	9697	2.73	100250	Venezuela	1027	2.56	48270
France	8639	2.64	510320	UK	8509	2.49	975150
Italy	9391	2.56	358670	Chile	4250	2.34	27790
Spain	8030	2.41	164250	Spain	8030	1.95	491240
Colombia			34900	Colombia			41120

Table A.5: Plant-average output price vs. plant size, exporting variables, 1982-1994

	dependent variable: plant-average output price					
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
log employment	0.013*			0.007	0.011	
	(0.007)			(0.008)	(0.007)	
exporter		0.046**		0.038*		
		(0.020)		(0.021)		
export share			0.097		0.079	
			(0.068)		(0.069)	
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
R ²	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	
N (obs.)	59762	59762	59762	59762	59762	
N (plants)	10106	10106	10106	10106	10106	

Table A.6: Plant-average input price vs. plant size, exporting variables, 1982-1994

	dependent variable: plant-average input price						
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)		
log employment	0.013*** (0.003)			0.008** (0.004)	0.012*** (0.003)		
exporter	. ,	0.041***		0.032***	. ,		
		(0.008)		(0.009)			
export share			0.050**		0.029		
			(0.025)		(0.025)		
industry effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		
R^2	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35		
N (obs.)	59762	59762	59762	59762	59762		
N (plants)	10106	10106	10106	10106	10106		

Alternative price indices: Törnqvist indices

 Define units of output, prices, and revenue (or expenditure) shares of "representative" average plant in industry

$$\overline{x}_{ikt} = \frac{\sum\limits_{j=1}^{J_{kt}} x_{ijkt}}{J_{kt}} \qquad \overline{p}_{ikt} = \frac{\sum\limits_{j=1}^{J_{kt}} p_{ijkt} x_{ijkt}}{\sum\limits_{j=1}^{J_{kt}} x_{ijkt}} \qquad \overline{s}_{ikt} = \frac{\overline{p}_{ikt} \overline{x}_{ikt}}{\sum\limits_{i=1}^{I_{kt}} \overline{p}_{ikt} \overline{x}_{ikt}}$$

- ▶ *i*, *j*, *k*, *t* index products, plants, industries, years
- J_{kt} = total number of plants in industry k in year t
- *I_{kt}* = total number of products produced in industry *k* in year *t* (and hence by "representative" plant)
- Define Törnqvist price and quantity indices relative to representative plant (rather than base year) as:

$$P_{jkt} = \prod_{i=1}^{l_{jkt}} \left(\frac{p_{ijkt}}{\overline{p}_{ikt}}\right)^{.5(\overline{s}_{ikt} + s_{ijkt})} \qquad Q_{jkt} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{l_{jkt}} p_{ijkt} \times_{ijkt}}{P_{jkt}}$$

Table A.1: Törnqvist output price index

	dependent variable: Tornqvist output price index			
	OLS	Reduced form	2SLS	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	
log total output	0.007***		0.009***	
	(0.002)		(0.003)	
log employment		0.010***		
		(0.003)		
industry-year effects	Y	Y	Y	
region effects	Y	Y	Y	
R2	0.17	0.17		
Ν	114952	114952	114952	

Table A.2: Törnqvist output price index vs. Törnqvist physical output index

	dependent variable: Tornqvist output price index			
	OLS (1)	Reduced form (2)	2SLS (3)	
Tornqvist physical output index	-0.070***		0.009***	
log employment	(0.003)	0.010*** (0.003)	(0.003)	
industry-year effects	Y	Y	Y	
region effects	Y	Y	Y	
R2	0.22	0.17		
Ν	114952	114952	114952	
Table A.4: "Within" estimates, controlling for plant effects, unbalanced panel

	plant-a	avg. outpi	ut price	plant-average input price			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
log employment	0.030*** (0.009)			0.011** (0.005)			
exporter	()	-0.027**		. ,	0.017***		
		(0.013)			(0.005)		
export share			-0.090** (0.042)			0.051*** (0.019)	
plant effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
region-year effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
R2	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.70	0.70	0.70	
N	59930	59930	59930	59930	59930	59930	

Table A.5: "Within" estimates, controlling for plant effects, balanced panel

	plant-avg. output price			plant-avg. input price			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
log employment	0.054***			0.016**			
0 1 9	(0.014)			(0.007)			
exporter	· · ·	-0.020		0.013*			
		(0.016)			(0.007)		
export share			-0.046			0.091***	
			(0.066)			(0.034)	
plant effects	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
year effects	Ý	Ý	Ŷ	Ŷ	Ý	Ý	
R2	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.69	0.69	0.69	
Ν	20514	20514	20514	20514	20514	20514	

Non-parametric regression, plant-avg. output price vs. employment (residuals)



Non-parametric regression, plant-avg. input price vs. employment (residuals)

