## International Joint Ventures and Internal vs. External Technology Transfer: Evidence from China

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香港大學 THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG January 4, 2019

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I'm a reporter for the Wall Street Journal who has long covered economic issues. I focus a lot of my time on U.S.-China economic and trade relations. I read with interest your paper on the impact of JVs on Chinese firms and the economy.

Does your research shed any light on the political controversy surrounding joint ventures? As you know, the US charges that US partners in the ventures are forced to transfer their technology. I note that your research says US-partner JVs are the most productive.

Given your research, what's your view on a) whether the tech transfer is forced, b) whether the JV helps the US partners and c) should the JVs be liberalized in some fashion?

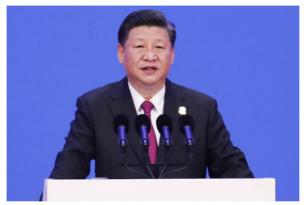
Thanks, Bob Davis Senior Editor, **Wall Street Journal** 





REAL TIME ECONOMICS | TRADE

#### Study Shows Big Benefits to Chinese Companies From Joint Ventures with U.S. Firms



China's President Xi Jinping in April. PHOTO: AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

*By Bob Davis* Apr 12, 2018 7:49 am ET





# Outline

- Introduction
- Contributions and Related Literature
- Data
- Empirical Analysis and Results
- Conclusion



- International joint ventures (IJVs): major vehicle for FDI
- Local firms: Why might IJVs be favored to wholly foreign-owned FDI?
  - Access to intellectual property and foreign capital
- Foreign firms: Benefit from IJVs because that avoids some of the complexities inherent in entering the local market
  - Regulatory as well as cultural barriers
- Host country: IJVs as part of development strategy
  - More political support for government if the country catches up and grows fast



### **FDI in China**

#### • China is a top FDI recipient country

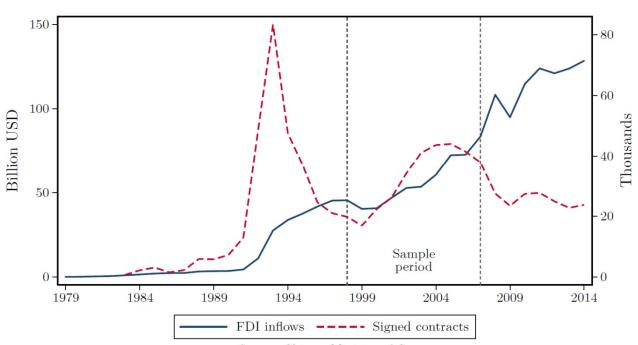


Figure 1: Chinese FDI inflows, 1979–2014

Source: Chinese Ministry of Commerce



## **FDI and IJVs in China**

- China's Catalogue of Industries for Foreign Direct Investment
  - Four types of industries "encouraged", "permitted", "restricted", "prohibited"
  - In "restricted" areas, foreign firms are legally required to partner with a domestic firm in a Sino-foreign JV.
- However, FDI environment has been liberalized over time
  - Partly through entry into WTO
  - Reducing the number of "restricted" economic activities, now **38**, but still a point of contention
  - Moving to "negative list"



 Modes/Types of FDI in China: Sino-foreign JVs and Wholly Foreignowned Enterprises

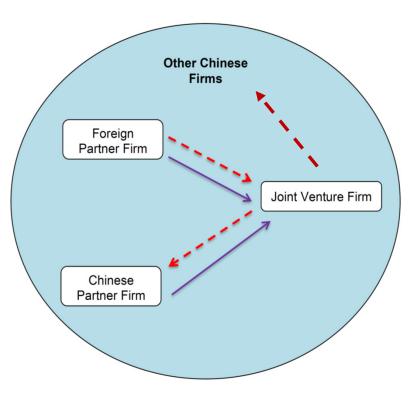
	1997	2002	2007	2012
Equity joint venture	19,495	14,992	15,596	21,706
% of total FDI flows	43.1	28.4	20.9	19.4
Contractual joint venture	8,929	5,058	1,416	2,308
% of total FDI flows	19.7	9.6	1.9	2.1
Wholly foreign-owned enterprise	16,187	31,725	57,264	86,132
% of total FDI flows	35.8	60.2	76.6	77.1
Share company with foreign investment	288	492	697	1,570
% of total FDI flows	0.6	0.9	0.9	1.4
Total FDI	19,495	14,992	15,596	21,706

Source: China Statistical Yearbook

## **Basic questions we ask**

- How do foreign firms choose JV partners?
  - Whom are more likely to be chosen?
  - Selection issue
- Will Chinese JV partners benefit from JVs?
  - Internal technology transfer (Intra-firm spillovers)
- Will other Chinese firms benefit from JVs?
  - External technology transfer (Inter-firm spillovers)







## **Basic findings**

#### **About selection**

- We find that the Chinese firms more likely to be chosen as partners in IJVs
  - are large (in terms of employment),
  - exhibit high productivity (in terms of total factor productivity),
  - have large sales and profits,
  - undertake a high level of innovation (in several dimensions),
  - export-oriented,
  - government-connected.



#### **About intra-firm spillovers**

- Firms which have entered into a JV tend to exhibit higher levels of
  - Innovation
  - Productivity
  - Sales, etc.

#### **About inter-firm spillovers**

- We find both spillover channels are present with IJVs in China
  - Positive innovation spillover in industries .....
  - Negative innovation spillover in industries .....



#### • Heterogeneous spillover effects

- JV vs WFOE
- JV vs other domestic firms
- R&D-intensive industries
- US vs other countries



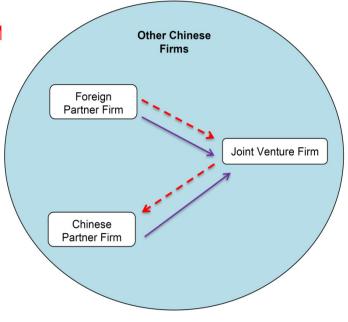
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## **Contributions and Literature Review**

The feature of this study:

 We use Chinese data, deal with IJV partner selection, and identify and quantify intra-firm spillovers (to JV partners) and inter-firm spillovers, on a spectrum of performance.







- First, one challenge in quantifying spillovers is that they are typically inferred from the extent of FDI or foreign presence in an industry rather than directly measured through a firm-to-firm link (Van Reenen and Yueh 2012)
  - We have the ownership link between two specific firms
  - Javorcik and Spatareanu (2009) on supply link between local firms (upstream) and foreign multinationals (downstream)



- Second, while there are hundreds of papers on the spillovers of FDI, quantitatively we still know quite little on the effects of IJVs.
  - A large literature on FDI (not IJV) spillovers
    - Empirical results are mixed: positive technology spillover and negative competition effect
  - IJV effects mainly qualitative analysis and discussion in the international business and management fields
  - Our paper uses large data set (rather than survey data) and conducts econometric analysis of IJV



- Third, we produce a number of important new results for the case of China
  - FDI spillover with Chinese data
    - Cheung and Lin (2004): spillover effects of FDI on innovation
    - Lin et al (2009): FDI horizontal and vertical spillover effects on domestic firms
    - Lu et al (2010): Distance matters
    - Xu and Sheng (2011): Domestic firm's ownership matters
    - Liu and Qiu (2013): Effects of foreign acquisitions on target firms
    - Lu, Tao and Zhu (2017): Identify negative effects using exogenous policy change
  - **Our paper**: IJV and intra-firm spillovers on innovation and other performances, firm level data, etc



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### **Data: Three sources**

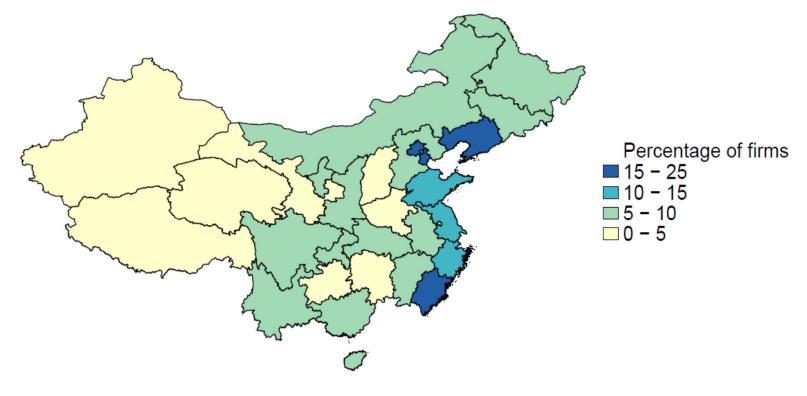
- Above-scale Industrial Firms Panel 1998-2007 (ASIFP)
  - It is representative
  - All SOEs and others with 5 (10) million RMB sales and above
  - The enterprises covered by the ASIFP account for more than 91% of the total sales of all industrial firms in China in 2004 (from census data)
  - Firm data

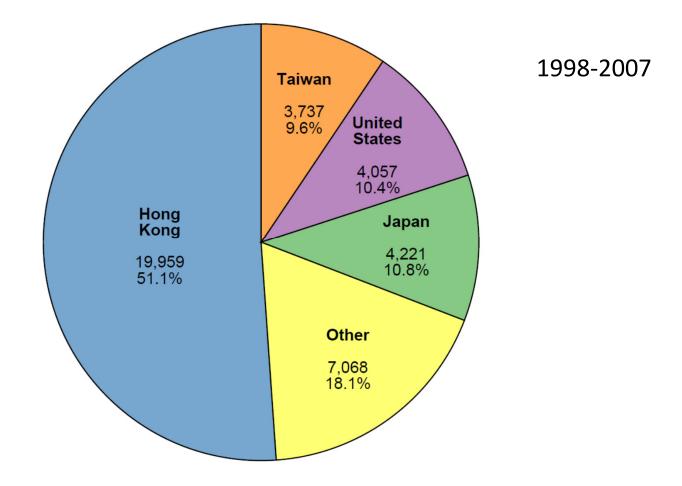


- Name List of Foreign and Domestic Joint Ventures in China
  - Identifying information on all Chinese IJVs in China
  - Key for intra-firm effect

- China's State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) Patent Database
  - Patent applications of firms

Figure 4: Share of Domestic Firms that are Joint Venture Partners by Province, 2002





Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.
Panel A: Full San	nple			Panel B: Joint Ve	enture Firm	s	
Age	$1,\!979,\!502$	9.25	7.67	Age	25,857	8.37	4.2
Employment	1,979,746	280.3	$1,\!371.54$	Employment	25,857	321.18	603.47
Foreign Share	$1,\!979,\!746$	0.02	0.1	Foreign Share	25,857	0.24	0.28
Govt. Share	$1,\!978,\!942$	0.14	0.33	Govt. Share	25,856	0.12	0.24
Export Ratio	1,723,524	0.12	0.3	Export Ratio	22,754	0.26	0.63
Net Profits	$1,\!979,\!746$	4,368.23	$193,\!694.92$	Net Profits	25,857	12,746.16	100,582.17
TFP $(OLS)$	1,863,425	0.01	1.2	TFP (OLS)	24,432	0.39	1.18
TFP $(OP)$	1,863,301	2.69	1.38	TFP $(OP)$	$24,\!432$	2.91	1.32
Patents	$1,\!979,\!746$	0.11	5.88	Patents	25,857	0.41	7.42
Invention Patents	$1,\!979,\!746$	0.03	5.01	Invention Patents	25,857	0.15	5.77
Sales	$1,\!979,\!746$	$73,\!834.92$	769,441.53	Sales	25,857	206, 236.67	$1,\!209,\!433.02$
Total Assets	1,979,746	84,269.81	$1,\!145,\!572.97$	Total Assets	25,857	$192,\!087.02$	806,783.77
Panel C: Joint Ve	enture Partn	er Firms	>	Panel D: Other C	Chinese Firn	ns	
Age	170,229	10.68	6.58	Age	1,783,416	9.13	7.79
Employment	170,240	594.95	2,859.34	$\operatorname{Employment}$	1,783,649	249.67	$1,\!136.62$
Foreign Share	170,240	0.12	0.22	Foreign Share	1,783,649	0.01	0.07
Govt. Share	170,215	0.12	> 0.28	Govt. Share	1,782,871	$\bigcirc 0.14$	> 0.34
Export Ratio	$151,\!350$	0.32	0.42	Export Ratio	1,549,420	0.1	0.27
Net Profits	170,240	9,913.43	136,299.36	Net Profits	1,783,649	3,717.51	199,294.58
TFP (OLS)	160,915	0.09	1.16	TFP (OLS)	$1,\!678,\!078$	0	1.2
TFP $(OP)$	160,907	2.77	1.36	TFP $(OP)$	$1,\!677,\!962$	2.68	1.38
Patents	170,240	0.37	15.64	Patents	1,783,649	0.08	3.76
Invention Patents	170,240	0.14	13.92	Invention Patents	1,783,649	0.02	2.98

 Table 2: Sample Summary Statistics

*Notes:* Panel A gives summary statistics for the entire sample. Panel B limits the sample to joint venture firms. Panel C limits the sample to domestic IJV partners that are partners in an IJV during the observation year. Panel D limits the sample to non-joint venture, non-partner firms.

Sales

**Total Assets** 

1,783,649

1,783,649

61,476.38

67,902.30

666,911.12

1,060,165.53

1,409,458.67

1,832,475.15

183,208.70

239,380.61

170,240

170,240

Sales

Total Assets



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# **Empirical analysis and results**

**IJV partner selection** 

$$PT\_Select_{it} = f\left(\boldsymbol{X}_{it}^{\prime}\boldsymbol{\gamma},\lambda_{j},\lambda_{r},\lambda_{t},\varepsilon_{it}\right)$$

- PT\_Select<sub>it</sub>: 1 if Chinese firm *i* is selected as an IJV partner in year *t*, 0 otherwise. Omitted from the rest of the years once IJV is formed.
- X<sub>it</sub>: Firm-level productivity, innovativeness, size, financial characteristics
- Control for industry (j), province (r) and year (t) fixed effects
- **Control group**: for each "treatment" firm, we randomly select five firms from the same region and industry, which never enter into an JIV.

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
				0.000****					0.00000
Employment	0.691***	0.719***	0.837***	0.838***	0.823***	0.805***	0.790***	0.672***	0.692**
	(0.038)	(0.037)	(0.042)	(0.042)	(0.040)	(0.040)	(0.039)	(0.036)	(0.036)
Age		$-0.159^{***}$	$-0.144^{***}$	$-0.139^{***}$	$-0.112^{***}$	$-0.115^{***}$	$-0.114^{***}$	-0.077	-0.076
		(0.039)	(0.040)	(0.040)	(0.042)	(0.042)	(0.044)	(0.050)	(0.051)
Foreign Share					$2.886^{***}$	$2.878^{***}$	$2.703^{***}$	$2.398^{***}$	$2.328^{*}$
					(0.615)	(0.618)	(0.627)	(0.604)	(0.600)
Govt. Share					-0.123	-0.144	-0.114	0.073	0.111
					(0.115)	(0.117)	(0.119)	(0.120)	(0.119)
Subsidy						$0.381^{***}$	$0.399^{***}$	$0.337^{***}$	$0.348^{*}$
						(0.071)	(0.071)	(0.073)	(0.076)
Export Ratio						,	0.635***	$0.715^{***}$	0.722*
							(0.130)	(0.127)	(0.126)
Net Profit								$0.143^{***}$	$0.103^{*}$
								(0.016)	(0.020)
TFP (OLS)									0.192*
									(0.048)
Observations	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$	$11,\!692$
Pseudo $\mathbb{R}^2$	0.106	0.108	0.132	0.137	0.147	0.149	0.154	0.165	0.167
Industry FE	Ν	Ν	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Y	Υ
Province FE	Ν	Ν	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Y	Y	Υ
Year FE	Ν	Ν	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ
JV Age FE	Ν	Ν	Ν	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Table 3: Logit Regression of IJV Partner Selection on Firm Characteristics

Notes: Employment, Age, and Net Profit are expressed in natural logarithms. Robust standard errors clustered by 2-digit industry in parentheses. \*\*\* p < 0.01, \*\* p < 0.05, \* p < 0.1.

		IIIIO	vation and r	mancial Meas	ures			
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Employment	$0.659^{***}$ (0.036)	$0.683^{***}$ (0.037)	$0.681^{***}$ (0.036)	$0.651^{***}$ (0.035)	$0.675^{***}$ (0.036)	$0.573^{***}$ (0.041)	$0.651^{***}$ (0.035)	0.054 (0.055)
Age	-0.085	-0.078	-0.077	-0.085	-0.078	-0.091*	-0.085	-0.089
Foreign Share	(0.052) $2.306^{***}$	(0.052) $2.349^{***}$	(0.052) $2.345^{***}$	(0.052) $2.289^{***}$	(0.052) $2.330^{***}$	(0.053) $2.156^{***}$	(0.052) $2.289^{***}$	(0.054) $1.703^{***}$
Govt. Share	$(0.564) \\ 0.089$	$(0.577) \\ 0.098$	$(0.573) \\ 0.064$	$(0.556) \\ 0.058$	$(0.569) \\ 0.066$	$(0.504) \\ 0.005$	$(0.555) \\ 0.058$	$(0.435) \\ -0.202^{*}$
Subsidy	(0.124) $0.343^{***}$	(0.121) $0.352^{***}$ (0.075)	(0.121) $0.342^{***}$	(0.125) $0.334^{***}$	(0.121) $0.343^{***}$	(0.126) $0.269^{***}$	(0.126) $0.334^{***}$ (0.072)	(0.111) $0.194^{**}$
Export Ratio	(0.073) $0.755^{***}$ (0.120)	(0.075) $0.745^{***}$ (0.121)	(0.073) $0.747^{***}$ (0.121)	(0.073) $0.761^{***}$ (0.120)	(0.075) $0.750^{***}$ (0.121)	(0.078) $0.783^{***}$ (0.114)	(0.073) $0.761^{***}$ (0.120)	(0.081) $1.022^{***}$
Net Profit	(0.120) $0.099^{***}$	(0.121) $0.104^{***}$	(0.121) $0.104^{***}$	(0.120) $0.098^{***}$	(0.121) $0.103^{***}$	(0.114) $0.150^{***}$	(0.120) $0.098^{***}$	$(0.119) \\ 0.034^{*} \\ (0.018)$
TFP (OLS)	$(0.020) \\ 0.177^{***} \\ (0.040)$	(0.020) $0.183^{***}$	(0.021) $0.183^{***}$	$(0.020) \\ 0.173^{***} \\ (0.040)$	(0.021) $0.179^{***}$	(0.023) $0.216^{***}$	$(0.020) \\ 0.173^{***} \\ (0.010)$	$(0.018) \\ 0.056 \\ (0.046)$
Patents	(0.048) $0.640^{***}$	(0.048)	(0.048)	(0.048) $0.631^{***}$	(0.048)	(0.049) $0.625^{***}$	(0.048) $0.631^{***}$	(0.046) $0.540^{***}$
Invention	(0.135)	1.390***		(0.135)	1.347***	(0.134)	(0.135)	(0.124)
New Prod. Ratio		(0.383)	0.878***	0.855***	(0.359) $0.868^{***}$	0.813***	0.855***	0.628***
ROA			(0.239)	(0.239)	(0.238)	(0.239) $-2.895^{***}$	(0.239)	(0.229)
Leverage						(0.637)	0.004	
Total Assets							(0.069)	$0.683^{***}$ (0.057)
Observations Pseudo $R^2$ Industry FE	$11,692 \\ 0.172 \\ Y$	$11,692 \\ 0.168 \\ Y$	$11,692 \\ 0.169 \\ Y$	$11,\!692 \\ 0.174 \\ Y$	$11,692 \\ 0.171 \\ Y$	${11,691 \\ 0.181 \\ Y}$	$11,691 \\ 0.174 \\ Y$	$11,692 \\ 0.213 \\ Y$
Province FE Year FE JV Age FE	Y Y Y	Y Y Y						

 Table 4: Logit Regression of IJV Partner Selection on Firm Characteristics, Including

 Innovation and Financial Measures

*Notes:* Employment, Age, Patents, Invention, and Total Assets are expressed in natural logarithms. Robust standard errors clustered by 2-digit industry in parentheses. \*\*\* p < 0.01, \*\* p < 0.05, \* p < 0.1.

#### <u>Return</u>



### **IJV Partner Selection - Summary**

- Foreign investors seek out domestic partners that are
  - Larger
  - More established
  - More innovative, higher productivity
  - Have government connections
- Such partners are most able to contribute to the success of the IJV
- Results are plausible but rarely taken into account when assessing IJV performance and spillovers.

#### Joint Ventures and Firm Performance

#### Are joint ventures different from other Chinese firms?

Firm outcomes as a function of joint venture status:

$$y_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 J V_i + \mathbf{X}'_{it} \mathbf{\gamma} + \lambda_j + \lambda_r + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

- JV<sub>i</sub>: Firm *i* formed as joint venture between Chinese and foreign partner
- X<sub>it</sub>: Firm employment, age, government connections, foreign ownership
- β<sub>1</sub> gives difference b/n joint ventures and non-JV in the same industry-province-year

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	TFP	TFP		New Pr.		Export
	(OLS)	(OP)	Patents	Ratio	Sales	Ratio
JV	0.327 <sup>a</sup>	0.256 <sup>a</sup>	0.022 <sup>a</sup>	<b>0.011</b> <sup>a</sup>	0.491 <sup>a</sup>	0.025 <sup>a</sup>
	(0.025)	(0.021)	(0.007)	(0.002)	(0.029)	(0.009)
Employment	0.074 <sup>a</sup>	–0.059 <sup>a</sup>	0.037 <sup>a</sup>	0.010 <sup>a</sup>	0.866 <sup>a</sup>	0.030 <sup>a</sup>
	(0.010)	(0.019)	(0.006)	(0.002)	(0.026)	(0.004)
Age	-0.112 <sup>a</sup>	-0.042 <sup>b</sup>	-0.004 <sup>b</sup>	-0.002 <sup>a</sup>	-0.142 <sup>a</sup>	-0.008 <sup>a</sup>
	(0.011)	(0.019)	(0.002)	(0.001)	(0.012)	(0.003)
Foreign Share	0.500 <sup>a</sup>	0.344 <sup>a</sup>	0.009	0.010 <sup>a</sup>	0.792 <sup>a</sup>	0.293 <sup>a</sup>
	(0.064)	(0.053)	(0.008)	(0.003)	(0.107)	(0.029)
Govt. Share	-0.823 <sup>a</sup>	-0.900 <sup>a</sup>	-0.015 <sup>a</sup>	0.005 <sup>a</sup>	-0.811 <sup>a</sup>	–0.036 <sup>a</sup>
	(0.046)	(0.037)	(0.004)	(0.002)	(0.039)	(0.007)
Subsidy	0.091 <sup>a</sup>	0.048 <sup>b</sup>	0.036 <sup>a</sup>	0.015 <sup>a</sup>	0.193 <sup>a</sup>	0.011 <sup>a</sup>
	(0.017)	(0.018)	(0.006)	(0.002)	(0.018)	(0.004)
	070 012	070.061	051 005	000 070	1 015 100	000 070
Observations	970,913	970,861	851,995	899,072	1,015,192	899,072
Industry FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Ŷ
Province FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

#### Table: Joint Ventures and Firm Performance

a: p < 0.01, b: p < 0.05, c: p < 0.10

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## **IJVs and Performance - Summary**

- IJVs have a 30% productivity premium over comparable non-IJV firms
  - Consistent with technology transfer from the foreign partner to the IJV
- IJVs also have higher
  - Sales
  - Patenting
  - Export ratio
  - New-product ratio

#### Chinese Partner Status and Firm Performance

#### How does IJV affect performance of Chinese partner firm?

Firm outcomes as a function of being an IJV partner:

$$y_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 P T_{it} + \mathbf{X}'_{it} \mathbf{\gamma} + \lambda_j + \lambda_r + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

PT<sub>it</sub>: Firm is the Chinese partner of a foreign firm establishing a joint venture

Partner firm is observed before and after joint venture formation

► X<sub>it</sub>: Employment, age, government connections, foreign ownership



## Methodology

- Have shown that foreign firms tend to pick more productive, larger, more established firms
- Two strategies
  - Inverse probability weighting with regression adjustment (IPWRA)
  - Firm fixed effects

#### Inverse Probability Weighting with Regression Adjustment

#### **IPWRA**

1. Propensity  $(\hat{p}_i)$  of each firm **to be selected** as partner in IJV as a function of average firm characteristics  $(\bar{X}_i)$ :

$$\Pr\left(PT_{i}=1|\bar{\boldsymbol{X}}_{i}\right)=f\left(\bar{\boldsymbol{X}}_{i},\lambda_{j},\lambda_{r}\right),$$

Pooled logit estimation based on our selection findings Table

 $\implies$  Yielding inverse probability regression weights for each firm:

$$IPW_i = \frac{PT_i}{\hat{p}_i} + \frac{1 - PT_i}{1 - \hat{p}_i}$$

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$$IPW_i = \frac{PT_i}{\hat{p}_i} + \frac{1 - PT_i}{1 - \hat{p}_i}$$

2. Use the constructed  $IPW_i$ 's **as weights** in the linear regression to relate outcomes to IJV status

- Treatment firms (PT<sub>it</sub> = 1) given a high weight when they most resemble control firms (p̂<sub>i</sub> is low)
- ► Control firms (PT<sub>it</sub> = 0) given a high weight when they most resemble treatment firms (1 p̂<sub>i</sub> is low)

#### Table: Chinese Partner Firm Performance and JVs w/ IPWRA

	(1) TFP	(2) TFP	(3)	(4) New Pr.	(5)	(6) Export
	(OLS)	(OP)	Patents	Ratio	Sales	Ratio
РТ	0.052 <sup>a</sup>	0.021	0.008 <sup>b</sup>	0.007 <sup>a</sup>	0.234 <sup>a</sup>	0.013 <sup>b</sup>
	(0.015)	(0.020)	(0.003)	(0.001)	(0.030)	(0.006)
Employment	0.077 <sup>a</sup>	-0.053 <sup>a</sup>	0.041 <sup>a</sup>	0.008 <sup>a</sup>	0.854 <sup>a</sup>	0.029 <sup>a</sup>
	(0.009)	(0.018)	(0.006)	(0.002)	(0.025)	(0.004)
Observations	944,177	944,125	810,902	854,986	966,072	854,986
Industry FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Province FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

a: p < 0.01, b: p < 0.05, c: p < 0.10; includes Age, Foreign & Govt. Share, Subsidy.

Table:		Spillover Effects to Chinese IJV Partners					
	(1) TFP	(2) TEP	(3)	(4) New Pr.	(5)	(6) Export	
	(OLS)	(OP)	Patents	Ratio	Sales	Ratio	
Industry-Pro	vince Fixe	d Effects					
РТ	0.052 <sup>a</sup>	0.021	0.008 <sup>b</sup>	<b>0.007</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>0.234</b> <sup>a</sup>	0.013 <sup>b</sup>	
Firm Fixed E	ffects 0.078	0.078	0.065 <sup>c</sup>	0.006	0.136 <sup>a</sup>	0.011 <sup>c</sup>	
Observations	944,177	944,125	810,902	854,986	966,072	854,986	
a: $p < 0.01$ , b Clustered s.e.					n & Govt. S	hare, Subsidy.	



# **Intra-firm spillovers - Summary**

- Both analyses show that IJV formation causes the following to the Chinese JV partners
  - Higher productivity
  - Larger sales
  - More patenting
  - Higher new product ratio
  - Higher export ratio
- Performance gains to the Chinese JV partner firms: intra-firm technology transfer

## Joint Ventures and Spillovers to Other Firms

Do JVs generate externalities to firms in the same industry?

$$SPILL_{jt}^{JV} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{jt}} JV_i \times Sales_{it}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{jt}} Sales_{it}} \qquad SPILL_{jt}^{PT} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{jt}} PT_{it} \times Sales_{it}}{\sum_{i=1}^{N_{jt}} Sales_{it}}$$

- SPILL: Share of industry j's sales in year t conducted by joint ventures or domestic IJV partners
  - Sales-weighted importance of joint ventures and Chinese partner firms in industry
    - ► Chance for externalities ↑ when joint ventures are relatively common
  - Negative externalities: Market share rivalry
  - Positive externalities: Technological learning

Estimate spillovers from (1) joint ventures and from (2) partner firms:

$$y_{it} = \alpha + \beta_2 SPILL_{jt}^{JV} + \mathbf{X}'_{it}\gamma + \lambda_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$
$$y_{it} = \alpha + \beta_1 PT_{it} + \beta_2 SPILL_{jt}^{PT} + \mathbf{X}'_{it}\gamma + \lambda_i + \lambda_t + \varepsilon_{it}$$

 β<sub>2</sub>: extent to which joint venture formation impacts performance of other firms

### Table: Industry Spillovers from Joint Ventures

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	TFP	TFP		New Pr.		Export
	(OLS)	(OP)	Patents	Ratio	Sales	Ratio
SPILL <sup>JV</sup>	1.003 <sup>b</sup> (0.419)	1.035 <sup>b</sup> (0.454)	-0.049 (0.104)	0.014 (0.015)	1.316 <sup>a</sup> (0.188)	0.007 (0.028)
Ν	970,800	970,748	851,950	898,995	1,015,117	898,995
Firm FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

a: p < 0.01, b: p < 0.05, c: p < 0.10; includes Employment, Age, Foreign Share, Govt. Share, Subsidy; robust s.e. clustered by industry.

## IJVs create productivity spillovers

#### Table: Industry Spillovers from JV Partner Firms

	(1)	(2) TED	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	TFP (OLS)	TFP (OP)	Patents	New Pr. Ratio	Sales	Export Ratio
SPILL <sup>PT</sup>	0.431 <sup>b</sup>	0.472 <sup>b</sup>	-0.066 <sup>b</sup>	-0.016 <sup>b</sup>	0.543ª	0.001
STILL	(0.196)	(0.454)	(0.104)	(0.015)	(0.188)	(0.028)
PT	0.047	0.050	0.058 <sup>b</sup>	0.005	0.069 <sup>b</sup>	0.008
	(0.041)	(0.041)	(0.028)	(0.005)	(0.031)	(0.005)
Observations	970,800	970,748	851,950	898,995	1,015,117	898,995
Firm FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Year FE	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

a: p < 0.01, b: p < 0.05, c: p < 0.10; includes Employment, Age, Foreign Share, Govt. Share, Subsidy; robust s.e. clustered by industry.

## Chinese JV partner firms also create productivity spillovers



# **Heterogeneity in JV Effects**

- Foreign country of investor
- Industry heterogeneity
- Before and after WTO entry
- Chinese FDI policy: the four categories



# **Heterogeneity by "Foreign Country" Investors**

- 1. Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan (HMT)
- 2. Japan
- 3. United States of America

## **Heterogeneous results**



Table: External Effects of Joint Ventures on Productivity:

(1) Baseline	(2) HMT	(3) Japan	(4) USA
1.035 <sup>b</sup> (0.454)	0.984 <sup>a</sup> (0.293)	1.605 <sup>a</sup> (0.541)	0.433 (0.518)
	0.194	( )	( )
		$-3.744^{\circ}$	
		(2.107)	<b>3.213</b> <sup>b</sup> (1.537)
970,748 Y Y	970,748 Y Y	970,748 Y Y	970,748 Y Y
	Baseline 1.035 <sup>b</sup> (0.454)	Baseline         HMT           1.035 <sup>b</sup> 0.984 <sup>a</sup> (0.454)         (0.293)           0.194         (1.532)	Baseline         HMT         Japan           1.035 <sup>b</sup> 0.984 <sup>a</sup> 1.605 <sup>a</sup> (0.454)         (0.293)         (0.541)           0.194         (1.532)         -3.744 <sup>c</sup> (2.167)         -3.744 <sup>c</sup>



- Strongest JV spillovers are coming from joint ventures formed with US companies
- Does this mean that US firms relinquish know-how to a greater extent than other firms?
- **Composition effects** are another possibility
  - US companies are relatively close to the world tech frontier: more know-how to transfer
    - US JVs productivity higher than Japan's JVs by 17%
    - Nature of US and Japanese FDI is different

Table: External Effects of Joint Ventures on Export Orientation	)
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.007 .028)	0.026 (0.042) -0.071 (0.123)	-0.048 (0.037)	0.033 (0.041)
.028)	-0.071		(0.041)
	(0.123)	0.364 <sup>c</sup>	
		(0.195)	-0.142 (1.537)
98,995 Y	898,995 Y Y	898,995 Y Y	898,995 Y Y
3	898,995 Y Y	898,995 898,995 Y Y Y Y	898,995 898,995 898,995 Y Y Y Y Y Y



# Outline

- Introduction
- Contributions and Related Literature
- Data
- Empirical Analysis and Results
- Conclusion



# **Concluding remarks**

- We find
  - IJV partner selection
  - Conditional on selection, intra-firm IJV effects (on Chinese parent firms)
  - Inter-firm (intra-industry) spillovers

# **Open Questions**

- Did China "force" US companies into JVs?
- Was there "theft" of American intellectual property?
- Did China benefit from its FDI policy requiring JVs?