

Collateral and Credit

Hans Degryse^{1,2} Olivier De Jonghe^{3,4} Luc Laeven^{2,3} Tong Zhao^{1,4}

¹KU Leuven ²CEPR ³ECB ⁴NBB

IBEFA at ASSA 2026 - session on Bank Loans and Deposits

Disclaimer: The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the ECB, National Bank of Belgium or the Eurosystem.

Motivation

Does collateral play a role in corporate financing?

Motivation

Does collateral play a role in corporate financing?

Recent US evidence suggests that collateral becomes less relevant in corporate debt.

Motivation

Does collateral play a role in corporate financing?

Recent US evidence suggests that collateral becomes less relevant in corporate debt.

- Declining trend in secured debt (Benmelech et al., 2024).
- Firms' going-concern value determines debt capacity (Kermani and Ma, 2020).

Motivation

Does collateral play a role in corporate financing?

Recent US evidence suggests that collateral becomes less relevant in corporate debt.

- Declining trend in secured debt (Benmelech et al., 2024).
- Firms' going-concern value determines debt capacity (Kermani and Ma, 2020).

What about:

1. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and bank-based financial systems?

Motivation

Does collateral play a role in corporate financing?

Recent US evidence suggests that collateral becomes less relevant in corporate debt.

- Declining trend in secured debt (Benmelech et al., 2024).
- Firms' going-concern value determines debt capacity (Kermani and Ma, 2020).

What about:

1. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and bank-based financial systems?
2. Collateral types beyond real estate?

Motivation

Does collateral play a role in corporate financing?

Recent US evidence suggests that collateral becomes less relevant in corporate debt.

- Declining trend in secured debt (Benmelech et al., 2024).
- Firms' going-concern value determines debt capacity (Kermani and Ma, 2020).

What about:

1. Small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and bank-based financial systems?
2. Collateral types beyond real estate?
3. Measurement and magnitude of collateral channel and value?

What the ideal dataset should look like:



What the ideal dataset should look like:



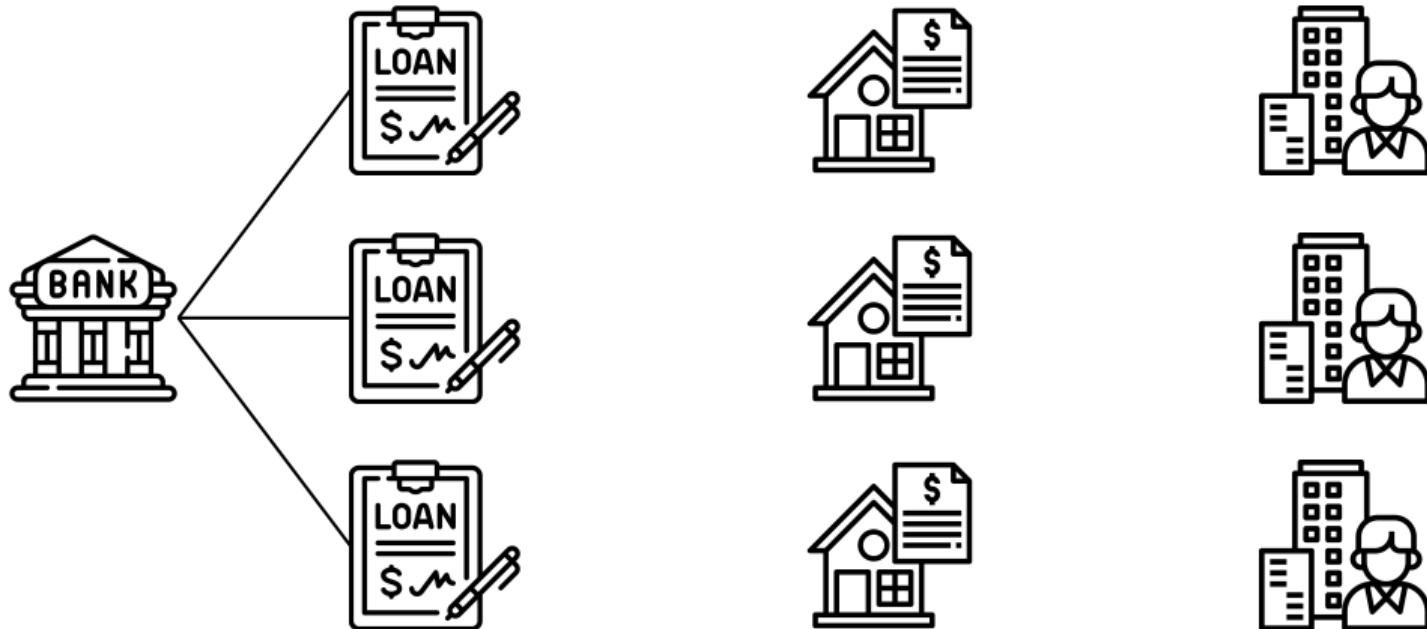
What the ideal dataset should look like:



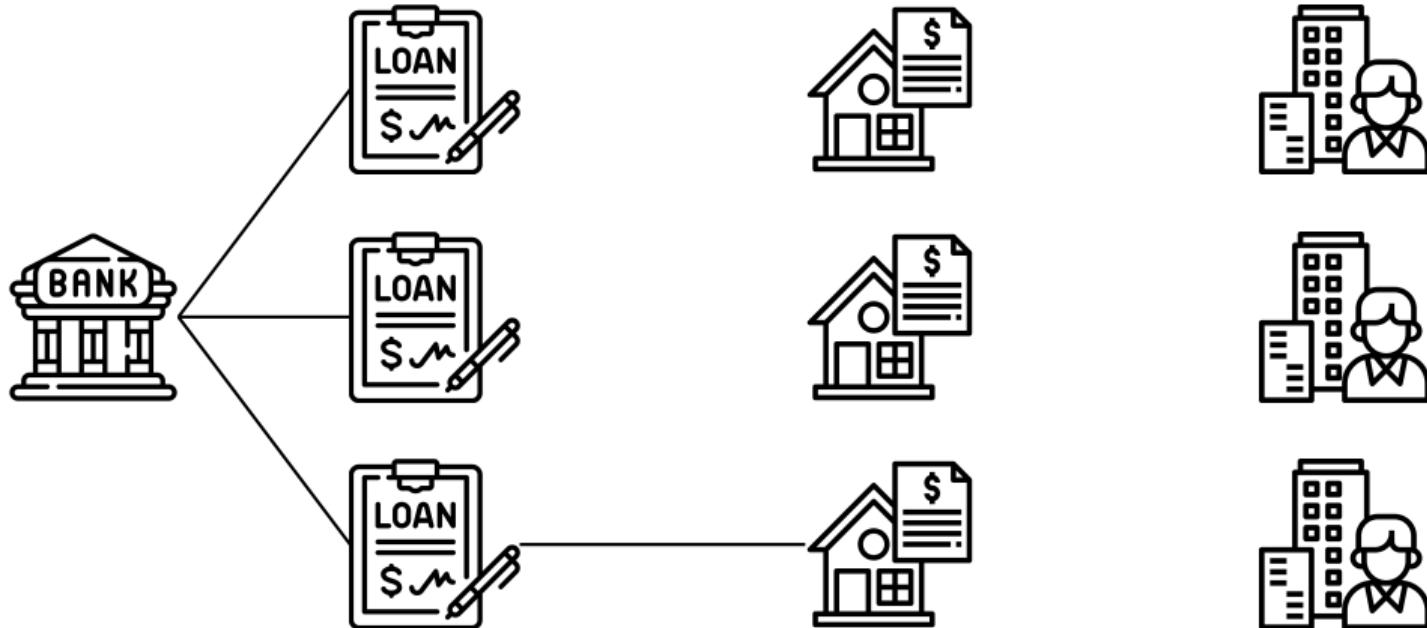
What the ideal dataset should look like:



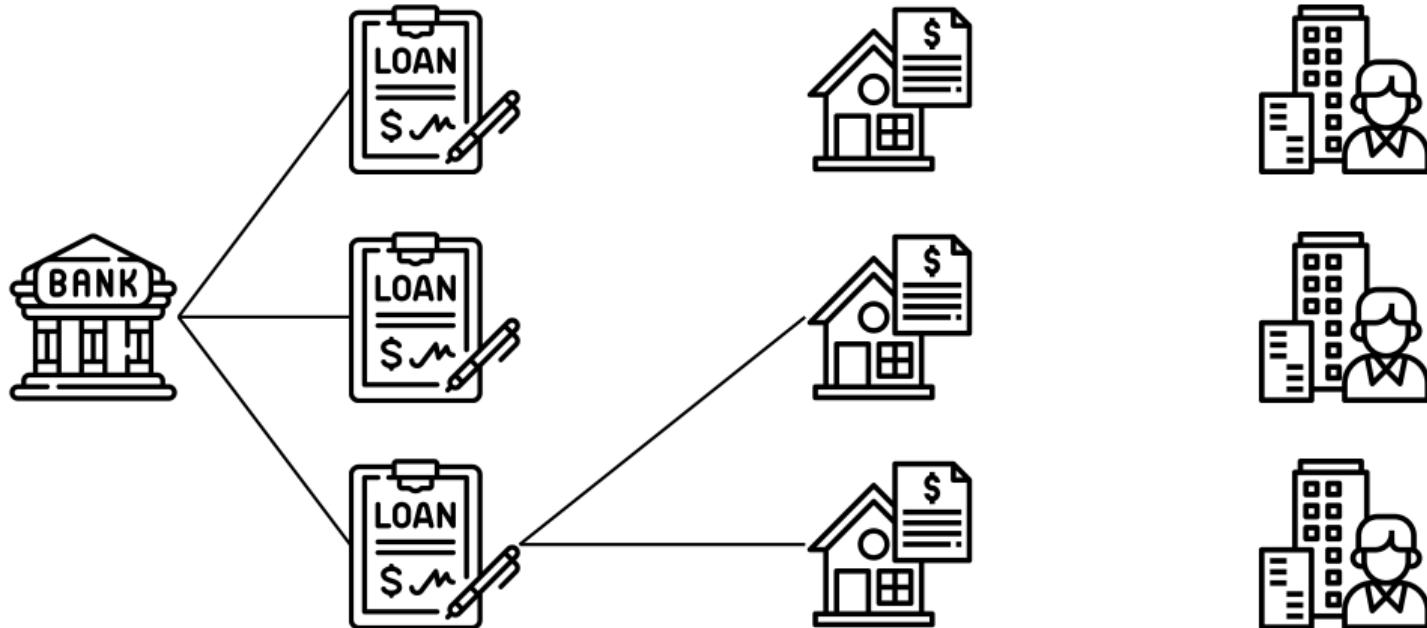
What the ideal dataset should look like:



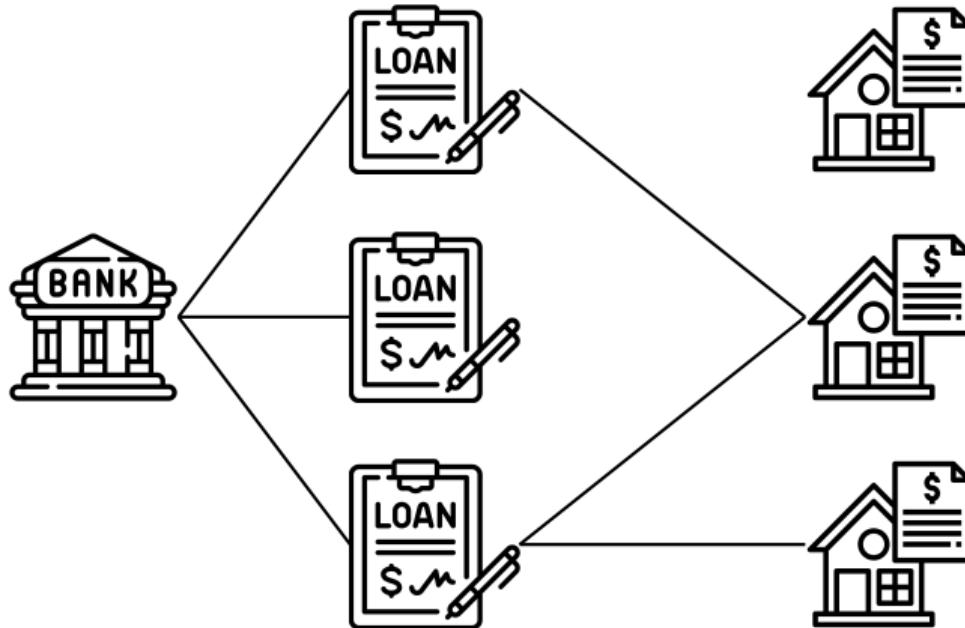
What the ideal dataset should look like:



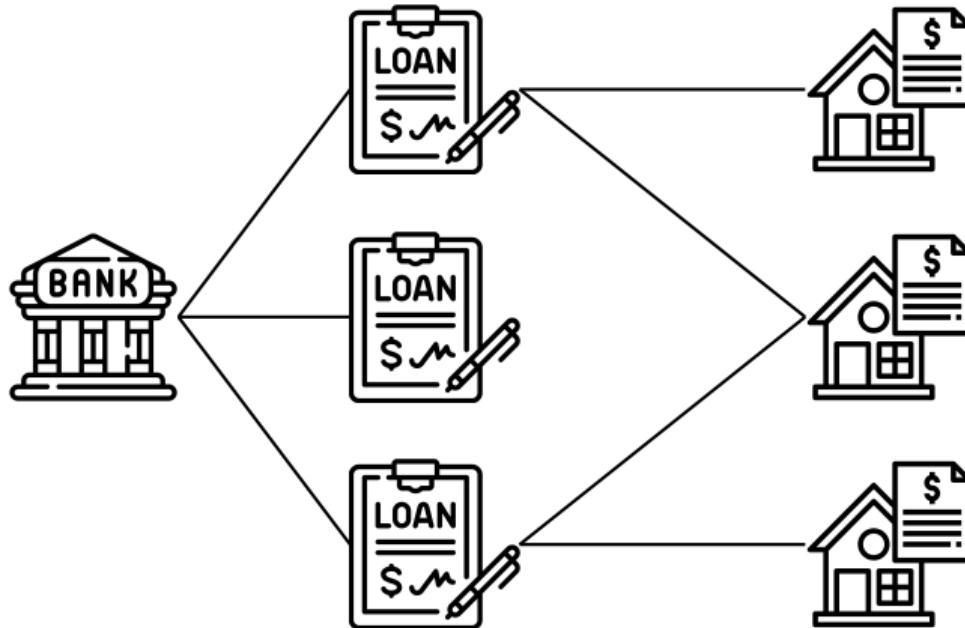
What the ideal dataset should look like:



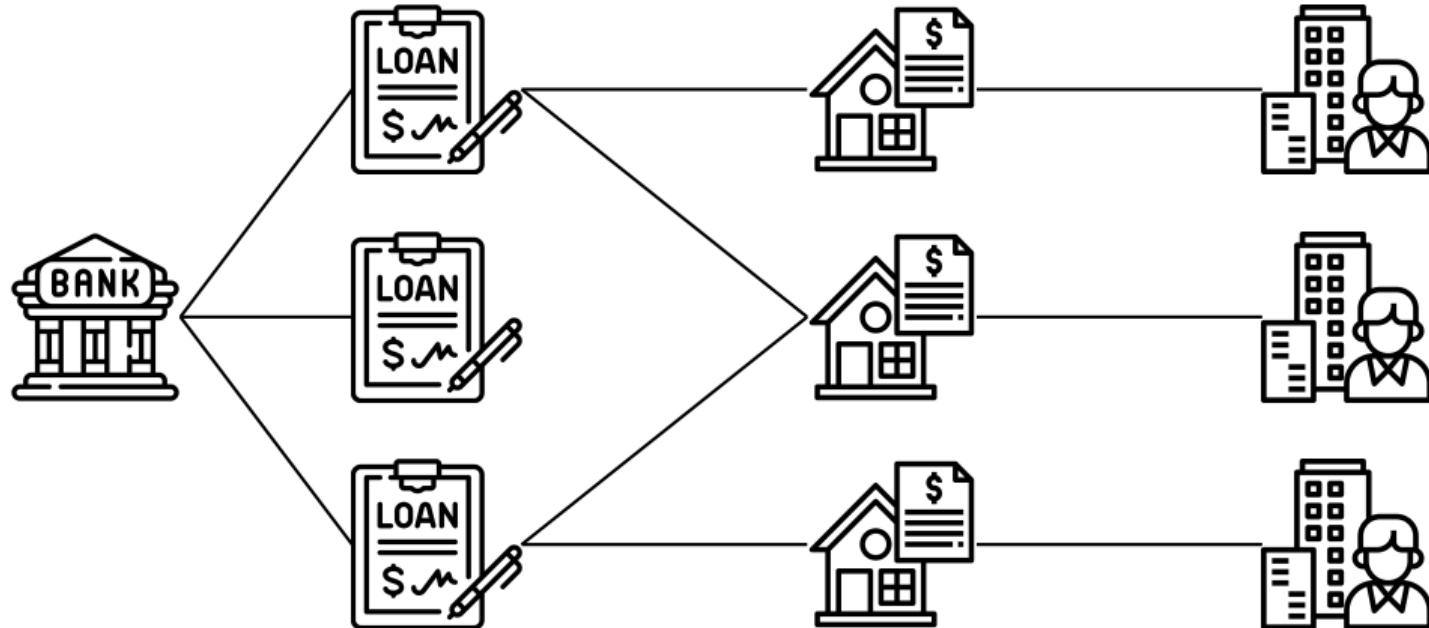
What the ideal dataset should look like:



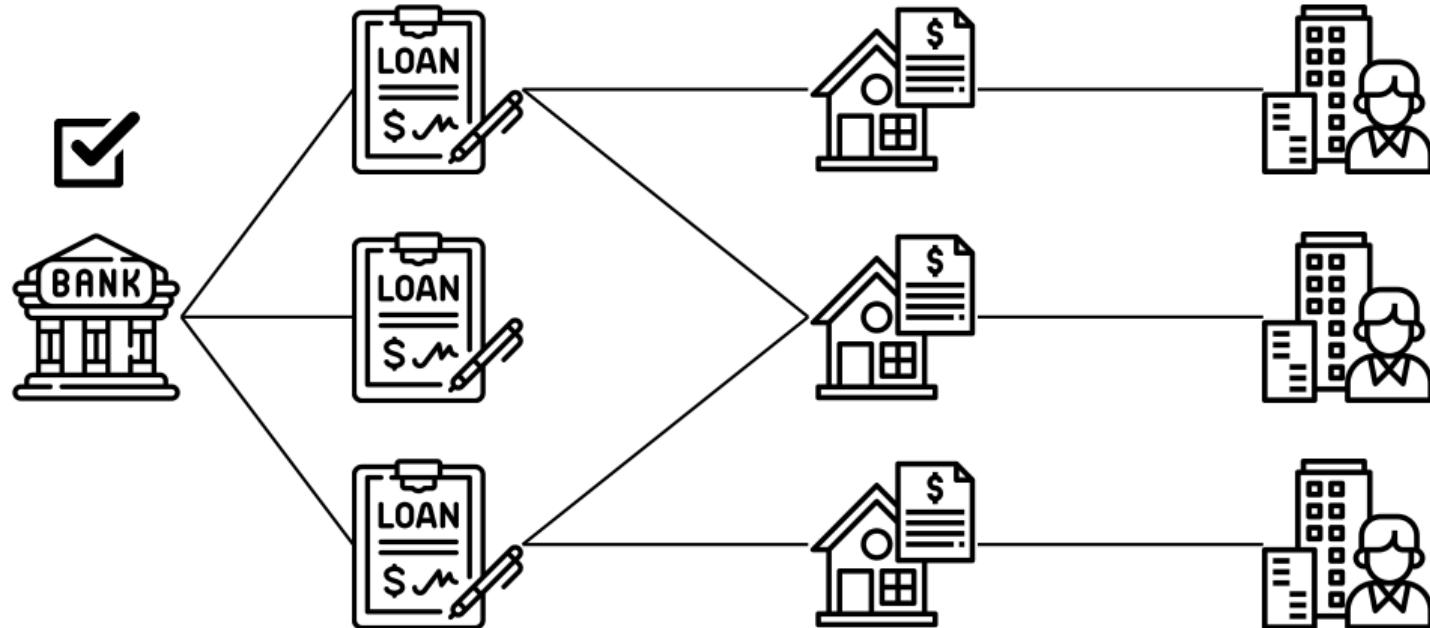
What the ideal dataset should look like:



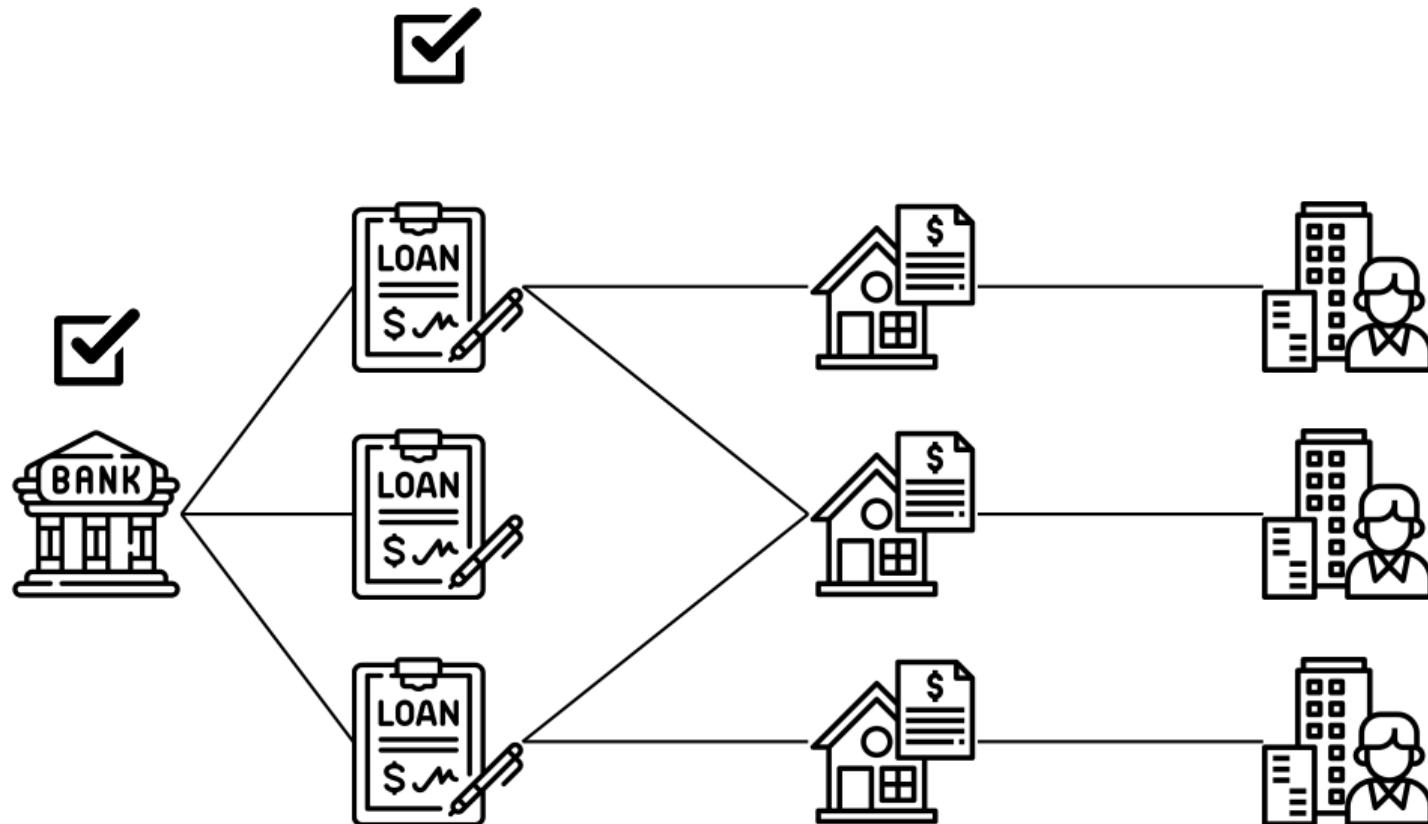
What the ideal dataset should look like:



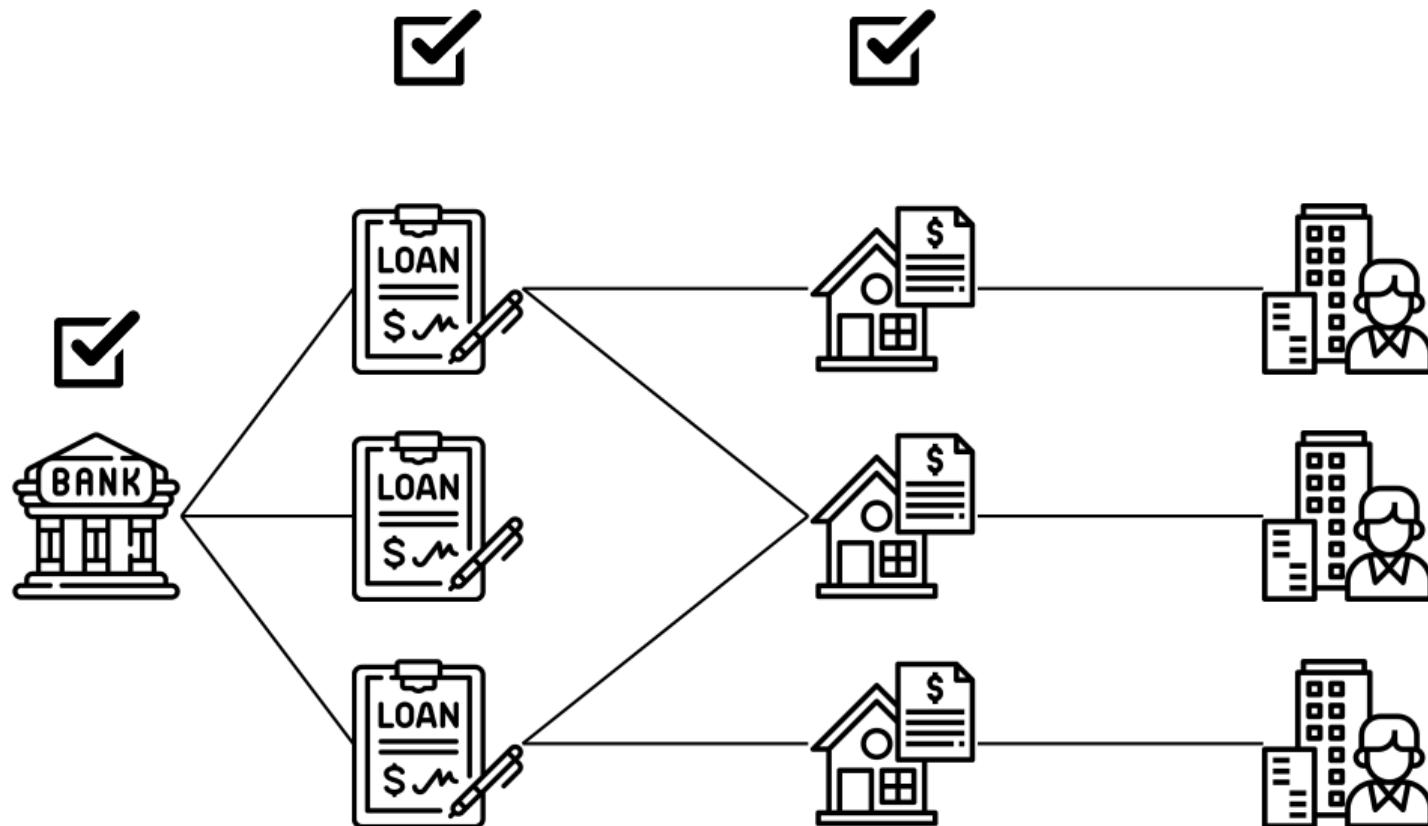
What the ideal dataset should look like:



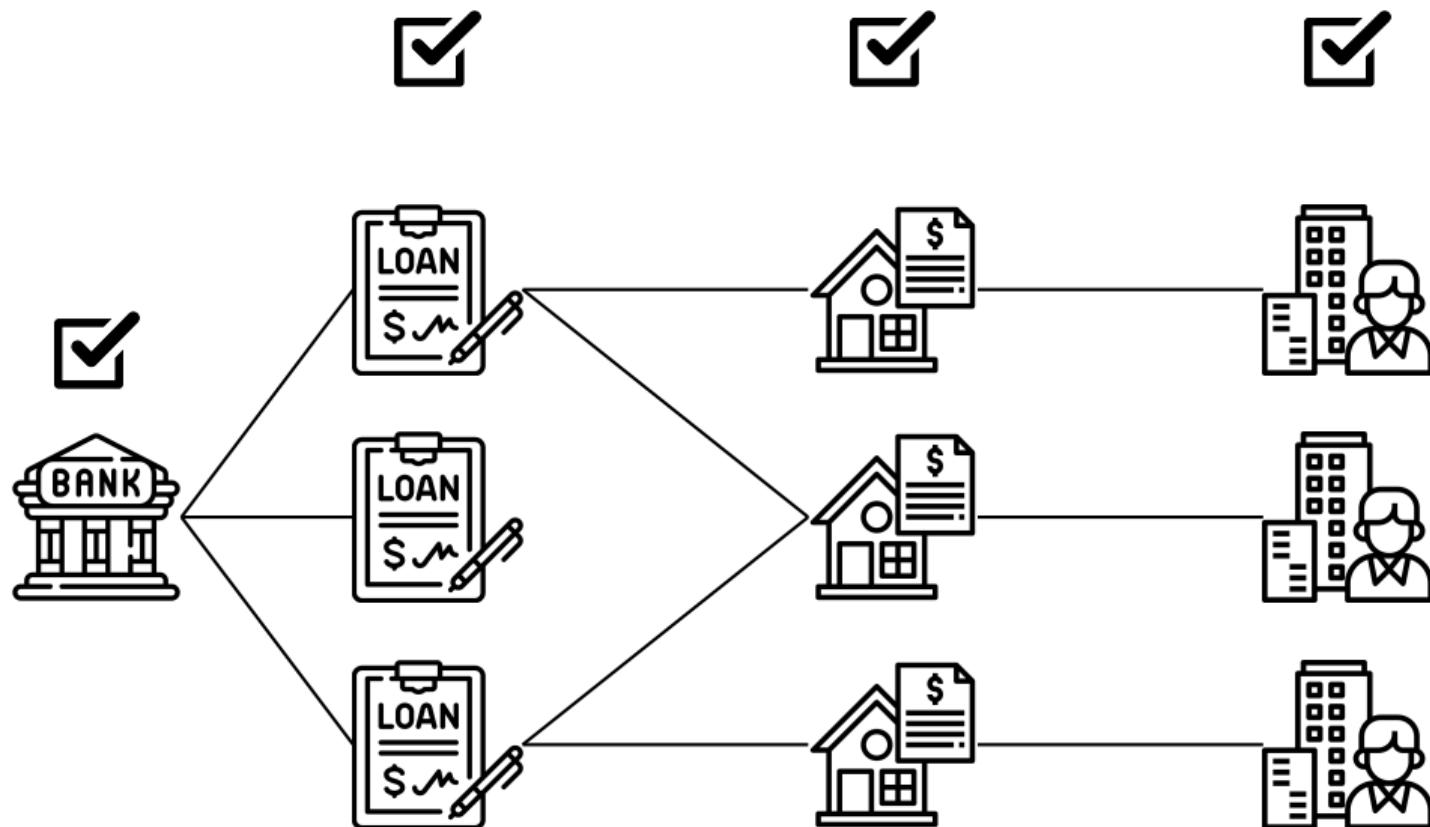
What the ideal dataset should look like:



What the ideal dataset should look like:



What the ideal dataset should look like:



Data and Sample

The [euro area corporate credit registry data](#) from AnaCredit

Data and Sample

The [euro area corporate credit registry data](#) from AnaCredit

- 95% firms are small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- reporting threshold: €25,000 per firm-bank relationship.
- detail information on loan and collateral characteristics.

Data and Sample

The [euro area corporate credit registry data](#) from AnaCredit

- 95% firms are small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- reporting threshold: €25,000 per firm-bank relationship.
- detail information on loan and collateral characteristics.

Sample: loans to nonfinancial firms (NFC) in 19 countries in December 2019



- 16 million loans, 12 million individual collateral, 3 million NFC, 2000+ banks.

Data and Sample

The [euro area corporate credit registry data](#) from AnaCredit

- 95% firms are small-and-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- reporting threshold: €25,000 per firm-bank relationship.
- detail information on loan and collateral characteristics.

Sample: loans to nonfinancial firms (NFC) in 19 countries in December 2019



- 16 million loans, 12 million individual collateral, 3 million NFC, 2000+ banks.
- use data for December 2021 and 2023 to investigate pattern stability over time.

This Paper

Studies the role of collateral in bank credit using euro area corporate credit registry

This Paper

Studies the role of collateral in bank credit using euro area corporate credit registry

1. Focus on three dimensions of collateral: **presence**, **types**, and **value**.

This Paper

Studies the role of collateral in bank credit using euro area corporate credit registry

1. Focus on three dimensions of collateral: **presence**, **types**, and **value**.
2. Stylized facts on the **importance** and **composition** of collateral.

This Paper

Studies the role of collateral in bank credit using euro area corporate credit registry

1. Focus on three dimensions of collateral: **presence, types, and value**.
2. Stylized facts on the **importance** and **composition** of collateral.
3. Collateral and Credit terms (loan **price** and **quantity**), as well as drivers of its heterogeneity.

Related Literature

The role of collateral in corporate financing (Bester, 1985; Besanko and Thakor, 1987; Boot and Thakor, 1994; Rajan and Winton, 1995; Benmelech and Bergman, 2009; Berger et al., 2016; Campello and Larrain, 2016; Cerqueiro et al., 2016; Benmelech et al., 2022; Ioannidou et al., 2022; Luck and Santos, 2023).

✚ The importance of collateral types and values

The role of collateral in macro-finance (Bernanke, 1983; Bernanke and Gertler, 1986; Kiyotaki and Moore, 1997; Chaney et al., 2012; Bleck and Liu, 2018; Donaldson et al., 2020, 2021; Caglio et al., 2021; Lian and Ma, 2021; Catherine et al., 2022; Kermani and Ma, 2023; Gupta et al., 2021).

✚ Quantify the collateral value elasticity using actual collateral value

Part 1: Collateral in the Euro Area

Presence: Collateral is Heavily Used

Share in total #loans: **53%**

Share in total ONA: **70%**

Table: Importance

Presence: Collateral is Heavily Used

Share in total #loans: **53%**

Share in total ONA: **70%**

Table: Importance

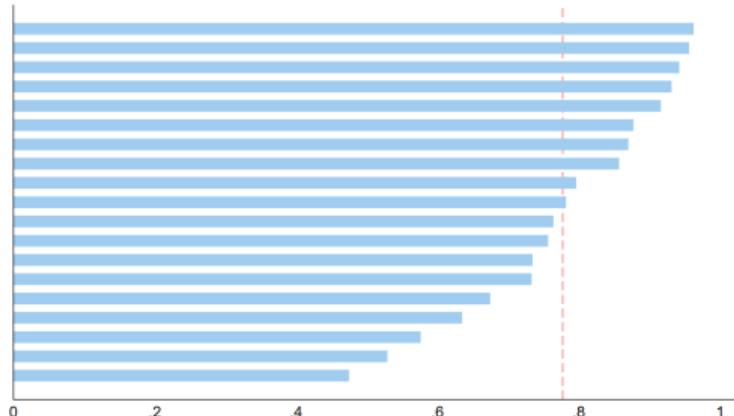


Figure: Cross country variation (ONA)

Type: Real Estate and Financial Assets are Mostly Used

#collateral

Real estate	26%
Physical movable assets	11%
Financial assets	47%
Other assets	16%

ONA

Real estate	53%
Physical movable assets	5%
Financial assets	35%
Other assets	7%

Table: Composition

Type: Real Estate and Financial Assets are Mostly Used

#collateral

Real estate	26%
Physical movable assets	11%
Financial assets	47%
Other assets	16%
<hr/>	
Real estate	53%
Physical movable assets	5%
Financial assets	35%
Other assets	7%

Table: Composition

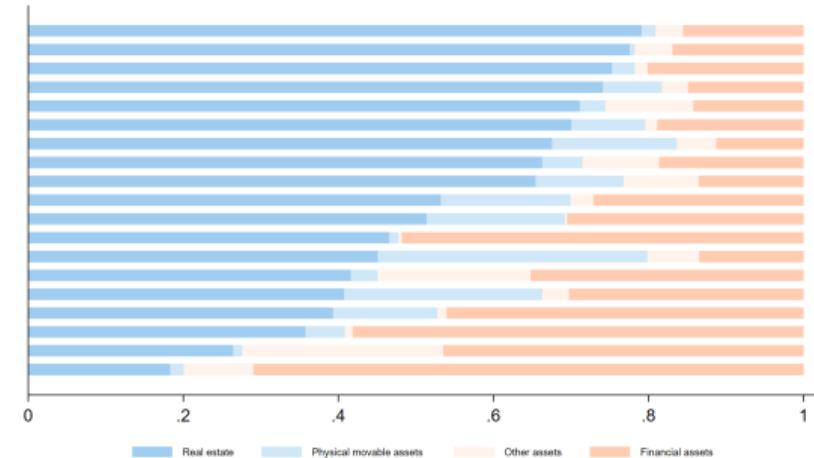


Figure: Cross country variation (ONA)

Value: Substantial Collateral Value in Banking Sector

Value (billion€)	1837
Secured loan ONA (billion€)	926
Real estate	49%
Physical movable assets	4%
Other assets	8%
Financial assets	39%

Table: Aggregate collateral value

Value: Substantial Collateral Value in Banking Sector

Value (billion€)	1837
Secured loan ONA (billion€)	926
Real estate	49%
Physical movable assets	4%
Other assets	8%
Financial assets	39%

Table: Aggregate collateral value

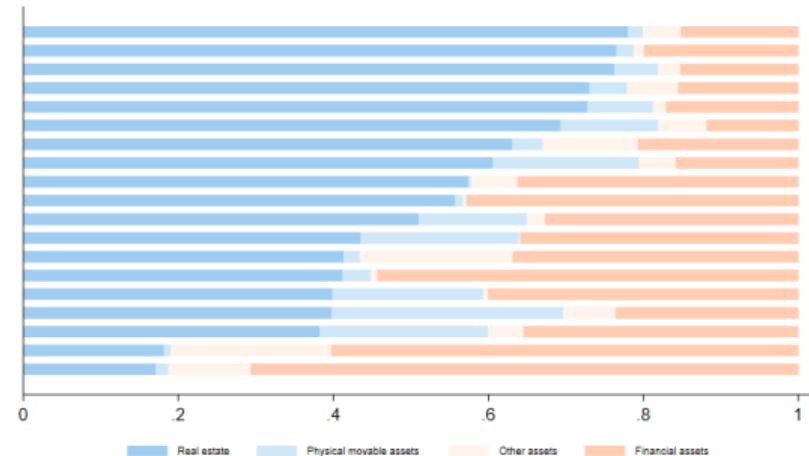


Figure: Cross-country variation (composition)

Part 2: The Role of Collateral in Bank Credit

The Role of Collateral

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta \text{Collateral}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

f firm, b bank, i loan, t time

The Role of Collateral

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta \text{Collateral}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

Credit	price	annualized loan rate
	quantity	natural logarithm of loan committed amounts
Collateral	Presence	1 if a loan is secured
	Type	1 if a loan is secured by THAT type of collateral
	Feature	1 if the collateral has certain feature
	Value	natural logarithm of sum of allocated collateral value of a loan
f firm, b bank, i loan, t time		

Data and Sample

Monthly new loans issued to 472k+ NFC by 475 banks from 2019 to 2023

Variable	Mean	p25	p50	p75	SD	N
Interest rate	2.985	1.239	2.273	4.32	2.231	6,088,099
PD	0.041	0.005	0.013	0.032	0.102	6,088,709
Secured	0.454	0	0	1	0.498	6,088,709
Commit amount (million €)	0.227	0.013	0.031	0.102	0.82	6,088,709
Original maturity (days)	518.426	91	355	1200	477.624	6,088,709
Collateral value (million €)	0.284	0.009	0.025	0.088	10.083	2,762,553

Collateral Presence Improves Loan Terms

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta \text{Collateral presence}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

Collateral Presence Improves Loan Terms

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta \text{Collateral presence}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annualized interest rate		ln(Committed amount)	
Collateral presence	-0.173** (0.073)	-0.099** (0.042)	0.481*** (0.076)	0.331** (0.138)
PD	0.251*** (0.075)	0.663*** (0.127)	-0.054 (0.036)	0.061 (0.058)
Maturity	-0.188*** (0.044)	-0.164*** (0.058)	0.302*** (0.053)	0.423*** (0.080)
Loan type dummies	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm-Time FE		✓		✓
Bank-Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank-Firm FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sector-Country-Time FE	✓		✓	
N	5,835,528	3,779,951	5,836,153	3,780,446
Adj R^2	0.85	0.93	0.77	0.77

Secured loans 10-17 bps ↓
 interest rates, 33%-48% ↑
 amounts

All Collateral Types Improve Loan Quantity

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta' \text{Collateral type}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

All Collateral Types Improve Loan Quantity

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta' \text{Collateral type}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annualized interest rate		ln(Committed amount)	
Real estate	0.062** (0.030)	0.086* (0.044)	0.460*** (0.111)	0.515*** (0.070)
Physical movable assets	-0.127*** (0.046)	-0.073 (0.053)	0.397*** (0.074)	0.344*** (0.107)
Other assets	-0.163** (0.067)	-0.150** (0.063)	0.322*** (0.069)	0.406*** (0.041)
Financial assets	-0.203* (0.107)	-0.129 (0.086)	0.385*** (0.097)	0.180 (0.270)
PD	0.252*** (0.076)	0.657*** (0.130)	-0.050 (0.037)	0.049 (0.059)
Maturity	-0.191*** (0.045)	-0.166*** (0.057)	0.308*** (0.053)	0.426*** (0.078)
Loan type dummies	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm-Time FE		✓		✓
Bank-Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank-Firm FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sector-Country-Time FE	✓		✓	
N	5,774,951	3,738,979	5,775,576	3,739,471
Adj R ²	0.85	0.93	0.76	0.77

Real estate ↑ quantity

Other assets ↓ price, ↑
quantity

Collateral Feature Matters for Loan Term

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \alpha \text{Collateral presence}_i + \beta' \text{Collateral feature}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

Collateral Feature Matters for Loan Term

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \alpha \text{Collateral presence}_i + \beta' \text{Collateral feature}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annualized interest rate		ln(Committed amount)	
Collateral presence	-0.221* (0.124)	-0.132 (0.095)	0.415*** (0.112)	0.156 (0.307)
Immovable	0.120*** (0.040)	0.117** (0.058)	0.224** (0.094)	0.315*** (0.091)
Liquid	-0.023 (0.043)	-0.032 (0.047)	-0.002 (0.049)	0.200*** (0.072)
Redeployable	0.058 (0.098)	0.037 (0.099)	0.074 (0.109)	0.223 (0.297)
PD	0.253*** (0.076)	0.659*** (0.129)	-0.054 (0.036)	0.046 (0.058)
Maturity	-0.189*** (0.045)	-0.165*** (0.058)	0.303*** (0.053)	0.425*** (0.079)
Loan type dummies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Firm×Time FE	-	Yes	-	Yes
Bank×Time FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bank×Firm FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sector×Country×Time FE	Yes	-	Yes	-
N	5,774,951	3,738,979	5,775,576	3,739,471
AdjR ²	0.85	0.93	0.77	0.77

Classify collateral based on inherent economic feature

Immovable 31% ↑ amounts relative to movable

High Collateral Value Increases Loan Quantity

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta \text{Collateral value}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

High Collateral Value Increases Loan Quantity

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \beta \text{Collateral value}_i + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annualized interest rate		ln(Committed amount)	
ln(Collateral value)	-0.043*** (0.015)	-0.024** (0.009)	0.757*** (0.041)	0.842*** (0.043)
PD	0.338*** (0.121)	0.997** (0.408)	-0.039* (0.023)	-0.168 (0.130)
Maturity	-0.145* (0.073)	-0.113** (0.056)	0.034** (0.016)	0.011 (0.025)
Loan type dummies	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm-Time FE		✓		✓
Bank-Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank-Firm FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sector-Country-Time FE	✓		✓	
N	2,096,755	1,388,813	2,096,837	1,388,863
Adj R^2	0.90	0.96	0.94	0.96

1% ↑ collateral value \Rightarrow 4 bps
 \downarrow interest rate

Collateral Value elasticity:

1% ↑ collateral value \Rightarrow
 0.7%-0.8% ↑ loan amounts

The Role of Collateral: Heterogeneity

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \alpha \text{Collateral value}_i + \beta \text{Collateral value}_i \times \text{Macro}_{c,(t)} + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

Macro	Facts in 2019	share of collateralized loan amount
		share of loan amount collateralized by real estate
		loan-to-value ratio
		loan-to-value of real estate ratio
Legal institutions		rule of law
		time to enforce contracts
		resolve insolvency

Collateral Channel Depends on How Other Uses Collateral

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \alpha \text{Collateral value}_i + \beta \text{Collateral value}_i \times \text{Facts}_{c,2019} + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annualized interest rate		ln(Committed amount)	
Panel A. Importance of collateral presence				
ln(Collateral value)	-0.045*** (0.014)	-0.026** (0.010)	0.755*** (0.038)	0.837*** (0.040)
ln(Collateral value) \times Presence ONA	-0.046 (0.030)	-0.020 (0.019)	-0.046** (0.022)	-0.043** (0.021)
Panel B. Importance of real estate collateral				
ln(Collateral value)	-0.045** (0.017)	-0.025** (0.012)	0.759*** (0.035)	0.848*** (0.033)
ln(Collateral value) \times RE ONA	0.034 (0.025)	0.009 (0.018)	-0.044* (0.026)	-0.054** (0.026)
Loan controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm \times Time FE		✓		✓
Bank \times Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank \times Firm FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sector \times Country \times Time FE	✓		✓	
N	2,096,755	1,388,813	2,096,837	1,388,863

Collateral Channel Depends on How Other Uses Collateral

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \alpha \text{Collateral value}_i + \beta \text{Collateral value}_i \times \text{Facts}_{c,2019} + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annualized interest rate		ln(Committed amount)	
Panel C. Importance of collateral value				
ln(Collateral value)	-0.046*** (0.016)	-0.026** (0.010)	0.747*** (0.033)	0.828*** (0.037)
ln(Collateral value) × Value LTV	0.016 (0.013)	0.008 (0.008)	0.073*** (0.027)	0.067** (0.027)
Panel D. Importance of real estate collateral value				
ln(Collateral value)	-0.045*** (0.016)	-0.026** (0.013)	0.758*** (0.040)	0.846*** (0.040)
ln(Collateral value) × Value RE	0.041 (0.030)	0.010 (0.020)	-0.009 (0.022)	-0.023 (0.026)
Loan controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm×Time FE		✓		✓
Bank×Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank×Firm FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sector×Country×Time FE	✓		✓	
N	2,096,755	1,388,813	2,096,837	1,388,863

Collateral Channel Depends on Legal Institutions

$$\text{Credit}_{f,b,i,t} = \alpha \text{Collateral value}_i + \beta \text{Collateral value}_i \times \text{Legal}_{c,t} + \gamma' \mathbf{X}_{f,b,i,t} + \text{FE} + \varepsilon_{f,b,i,t}$$

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	Annualized interest rate		ln(Committed amount)	
Panel A. Rule of law				
ln(Collateral value)	-0.045*** (0.016)	-0.026*** (0.009)	0.743*** (0.032)	0.825*** (0.036)
ln(Collateral value) \times Rule of law	-0.009 (0.009)	-0.007* (0.004)	-0.069*** (0.022)	-0.065*** (0.021)
Panel B. Years of enforce contracts				
ln(Collateral value)	-0.044*** (0.016)	-0.025** (0.009)	0.740*** (0.033)	0.821*** (0.039)
ln(Collateral value) \times Enforcement	0.002 (0.010)	0.003 (0.007)	0.068*** (0.023)	0.063** (0.024)
Panel C. Years of insolvency				
ln(Collateral value)	-0.050*** (0.017)	-0.029** (0.014)	0.761*** (0.038)	0.851*** (0.037)
ln(Collateral value) \times Insolvency	-0.056* (0.029)	-0.029 (0.026)	0.035 (0.027)	0.055 (0.037)
Loan controls	✓	✓	✓	✓
Firm \times Time FE		✓		✓
Bank \times Time FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bank \times Firm FE	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sector \times Country \times Time FE	✓		✓	
N	2,096,755	1,388,813	2,096,837	1,388,863

Conclusion

We study the role of collateral by using euro area corporate credit registry data.

Key facts about the importance, distribution, and composition of collateral.

Collateral is heavily used in corporate credit.

Collateral value elasticity: $1\% \uparrow \Rightarrow 0.7\% \uparrow$ loan committed amounts

Collateral remains crucial for understanding corporate financing and macro-finance.

Thank you for your attention!

✉ olivier.dejonghe@nbb.be

References

Efraim Benmelech and Nittai K Bergman. Collateral pricing. *Journal of Financial Economics*, 91(3):339–360, 2009.

Efraim Benmelech, Nitish Kumar, and Raghuram Rajan. The secured credit premium and the issuance of secured debt. *Journal of Financial Economics*, 146(1):143–171, 2022.

Efraim Benmelech, Nitish Kumar, and Raghuram Rajan. The decline of secured debt. *The Journal of Finance*, 79(1):35–93, 2024.

Allen N Berger, W Scott Frame, and Vasso Ioannidou. Reexamining the empirical relation between loan risk and collateral: The roles of collateral liquidity and types. *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, 26:28–46, 2016.

Ben S Bernanke. Non-monetary effects of the financial crisis in the propagation of the great depression. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 1983.

Ben S Bernanke and Mark Gertler. Agency costs, collateral, and business fluctuations, 1986.

David Besanko and Anjan V Thakor. Collateral and rationing: sorting equilibria in monopolistic and competitive credit markets. *International Economic Review*, pages 671–689, 1987.

Helmut Bester. Screening vs. rationing in credit markets with imperfect information. *American Economic Review*, 75(4):850–855, 1985.

Alexander Bleck and Xuewen Liu. Credit expansion and credit misallocation. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 94:27–40, 2018.

Arnoud WA Boot and Anjan V Thakor. Moral hazard and secured lending in an infinitely repeated credit market game. *International Economic Review*, 35(4):899–920, 1994.

Cecilia R Caglio, R Matthew Darst, and Sebnem Kalemli-Özcan. Collateral heterogeneity and monetary policy transmission: evidence from loans to smes and large firms. *National Bureau of Economic Research*, 2021.

Murillo Campello and Mauricio Larraín. Enlarging the contracting space: Collateral menus, access to credit, and economic activity. *The Review of Financial Studies*, 29(2):349–383, 2016.

Sylvain Catherine, Thomas Chaney, Zongbo Huang, David Sraer, and David Thesmar. Quantifying reduced-form evidence on collateral constraints. *The Journal of Finance*, 77(4):2143–2181, 2022.

Geraldo Cerqueiro, Steven Ongena, and Kasper Roszbach. Collateralization, bank loan rates, and monitoring. *The Journal of Finance*, 71(3):1295–1322, 2016.

Thomas Chaney, David Sraer, and David Thesmar. The collateral channel: How real estate shocks affect corporate investment. *American Economic Review*, 102(6):2381–2409, 2012.

Jason Roderick Donaldson, Denis Gromb, and Giorgia Piacentino. The paradox of pledgeability. *Journal of Financial Economics*, 137(3):591–605, 2020.

Jason Roderick Donaldson, Denis Gromb, and Giorgia Piacentino. Collateral reallocation. *Working paper*, 2021.

Arun Gupta, Horacio Sapirza, and Vladimir Yankov. The collateral channel and bank credit. *Available at SSRN 4023809*, 2021.

Vasso Ioannidou, Nicola Pavanini, and Yushi Peng. Collateral and asymmetric information in lending markets. *Journal of Financial Economics*, 144(1):93–121, 2022.

Amir Kermani and Yueran Ma. Two tales of debt. Technical report, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2020.

Amir Kermani and Yueran Ma. Asset specificity of nonfinancial firms. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(1):205–264, 2023.

Nobuhiro Kiyotaki and John Moore. Credit cycles. *Journal of Political Economy*, 105(2):211–248, 1997.

Chen Lian and Yueran Ma. Anatomy of corporate borrowing constraints. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 136(1):229–291, 2021.

Stephan Luck and Joao AC Santos. The valuation of collateral in bank lending. *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, pages 1–30, 2023.

Raghuram Rajan and Andrew Winton. Covenants and collateral as incentives to monitor. *The Journal of Finance*, 50(4):1113–1146, 1995.