

# The Causal Effects of Global Supply Chain Disruptions on Macroeconomic Outcomes: Evidence and Theory

ASSA Annual Meeting

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- Global supply chains have drawn renewed attention from COVID-19 disruptions to the Red Sea crisis and rising geopolitical fragmentation.
- What are the **causal effects** of supply chain disruptions?
- How can we measure the state of the global supply chain?
  - ▶ Shipping prices, NY Fed's GSCPI, etc.
- How do supply chain shocks differ from other shocks in theory?
  - ▶ Aggregate demand, productive capacity, etc.
- Can we quantify their contribution to inflation before, during, and after COVID-19?

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- **A novel and simple analytical framework** for studying supply chain disruptions, capturing the coexistence of upstream economic slack and downstream supply scarcity.
- **A causality assessment using SVARs and LPs** that integrates our congestion indices with theory-predicted sign restrictions and domain-knowledge-based zero restrictions on structural shocks.

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- **A causality assessment using SVARs and LPs** that integrates our congestion indices with theory-predicted sign restrictions and domain-knowledge-based zero restrictions on structural shocks.
- **A state-dependence analysis** examining the interaction between supply chain disruptions and the effectiveness of monetary policy in controlling inflation and output —*Not today.*

## Related Literature

- **Disruption in the goods market:** Barro and Grossman (1971); Michaillat and Saez (2015, 2022); Ghassibe and Zanetti (2022); Ghassibe (2024); Fernández-Villaverde *et al.* (2025).
- **Supply chain shocks for macroeconomic outcomes:** Cerdeiro and Komaromi (2020); Benigno *et al.* (2022); Cerrato and Gitti (2022); Finck and Tillmann (2022); Acharya *et al.* (2023); Benigno and Eggertsson (2023, 2024); Blanchard and Bernanke (2023); Comin *et al.* (2023); di Giovanni *et al.* (2023); Franzoni *et al.* (2023); Harding *et al.* (2023); Ascari *et al.* (2024); Finck *et al.* (2024).
- **Transportation sector and economic activity:** Allen and Arkolakis (2014); Brancaccio *et al.* (2020, 2024); Bai and Li (2022); Li *et al.* (2022); Smirnyagin and Tsyvinski (2022); Acharya *et al.* (2023); Alessandria *et al.* (2023); Brancaccio *et al.* (2023); Dunn and Leibovici (2023).
- **SVARs for causal inference:** Uhlig (2005); Mountford and Uhlig (2009); Rubio-Ramírez *et al.* (2010); Arias *et al.* (2018, 2025).

# Road Map

- ① Introduction
- ② Measuring the State of the Global Supply Chain
- ③ A Model of the Global Supply Chain
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## Why Containerized Trade?

- We measure the state of the global supply chain by estimating **congestion at container ports**.
  - ▶ Containerized trade  $\approx 46\%$  of world trade;
  - ▶ For the U.S., container shipping accounts for  $> 50\%$  of trade by weight and  $\approx 30\%$  by value;
  - ▶ Computer chips (by air) + motherboards/hard drives (by sea)  $\Rightarrow$  computers.

Sign Restrictions

Zero Restrictions

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- Containerized shipping features two short-run frictions that work in our favor:
  - ▶ **Economic:** service contracts fix invoiced freight rates for at least a one-month horizon, keeping the “reservation” transportation cost rigid when profitability is unchanged;
  - ▶ **Operational:** fixed rotations, berth windows, and alliance schedules make arrivals rigid, with adjustments only every 3–6 months.

Sign Restrictions

Zero Restrictions

## Anchorage vs. Berth

- In containerized trade, seaports serve as international hubs for freight collection and distribution.
- **Port congestion:** a container ship must first moor in an **anchorage** within the port (random areas to lower anchors) before docking at a **berth** (designated spots to load/unload cargo).



Figure: Anchorage.



Figure: Berth.

## Why Port Congestion?

- ① Before the pandemic, port waits lasted only a few hours, but COVID-19 disruptions extended them to **2–3 days** at major ports.
- ②  $\approx 80\%$  of world trade is shipped indirectly, and the average shipment stops at **5 additional ports** before reaching its destination.
- ③ The industry is surprisingly concentrated, with only **5,589** container ships worldwide, of which roughly **500** belong to the larger size classes.

MSC Loreto

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⇒ Even mild congestion has tremendous financial and logistical consequences.

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# Estimating Port Congestion

- We use movement data from container ships via the **Automatic Identification System (AIS)**.
  - ▶ A real-time satellite tracking system with virtually no measurement error, mandated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), ensuring compliance across the global shipping industry;
  - ▶ Each data entry includes the vessel's IMO number, timestamp, current draft, speed, heading, and geographical coordinates;
  - ▶ The AIS updates information as frequently as every two seconds.
- Machine learning allows us to process spatial-temporal data from container ships at the top 50 container ports worldwide from January 2016 to March 2025.

AIS Transceiver

## Sample AIS Data

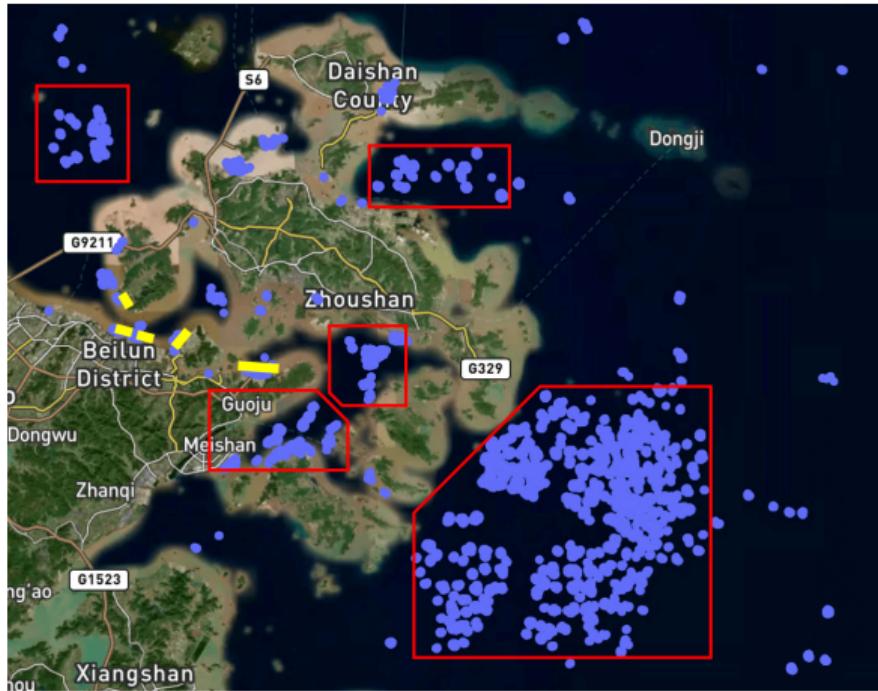


Figure: First 50,000 AIS Records in the Port of Ningbo-Zhoushan Since January 1, 2020.

# A Machine Learning Spatial Clustering Algorithm

## ① Data preprocessing and mooring area identification:

- ▶ Noise elimination;
- ▶ Frequency reduction.

## ② Anchorage and berth identification:

- ▶ Iterative approach for generalized and suitable parameter setting;
- ▶ Inclusion of multiple attributes: geographical coordinates, headings, and timestamps.

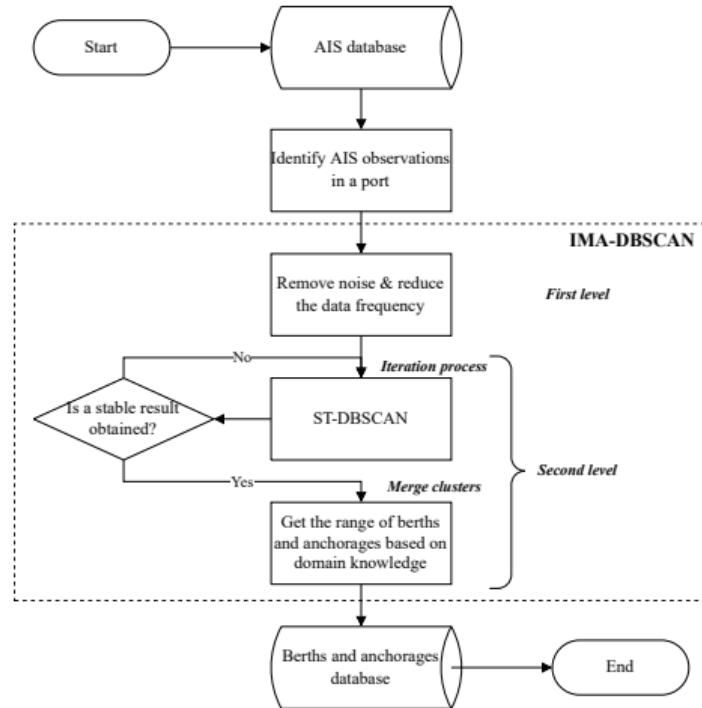


Figure: The IMA-DBSCAN Algorithm.

# Granular Information in the AIS Data



Figure: Headings at an Anchorage.



Figure: Headings at a Berth.

# Ningbo-Zhoushan



Figure: Anchorages.



Figure: Berths.

Los Angeles, Long Beach, Rotterdam, & Singapore

# From Identification to Aggregation

Identifying Anchorages & Berths

Counting Delayed Ships

Normalization

Aggregation

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- ③ Calculate the congestion rate for each port  $p$  by dividing the number of delayed ship visits by the total number of ship visits ( $\text{Delayed}_{p,t} + \text{Undelayed}_{p,t}$ ),

$$\text{Congestion}_{p,t} \equiv \frac{\text{Delayed}_{p,t}}{\text{Delayed}_{p,t} + \text{Undelayed}_{p,t}}, \quad \forall p \in \mathcal{P}.$$

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- ④ Calculate the Average Congestion Rate (ACR $_t$ ), weighted by the relative number of ship visits,

$$\text{ACR}_t = \sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} \left[ \frac{\text{Delayed}_{p,t} + \text{Undelayed}_{p,t}}{\sum_{p \in \mathcal{P}} (\text{Delayed}_{p,t} + \text{Undelayed}_{p,t})} \cdot \text{Congestion}_{p,t} \right].$$

# Congestion at Individual Ports

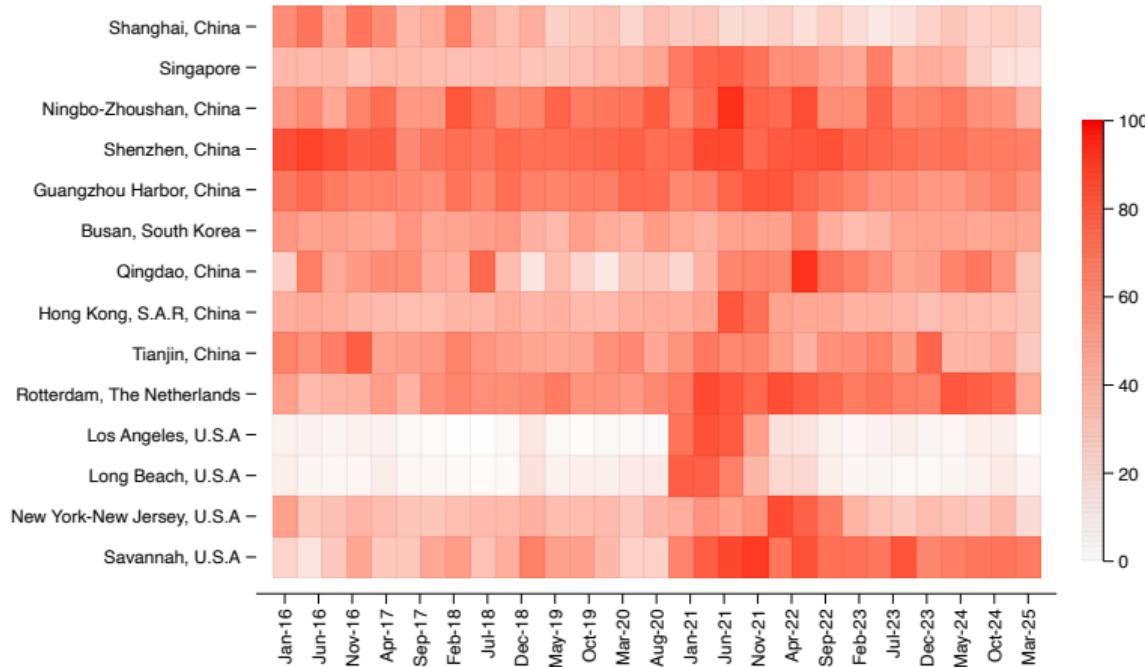


Figure: Congestion Rates at Major Global and U.S. Container Ports.

## Average Congestion Rate

- Declined before 2018 and bottomed near 25% by mid-2020 after global port upgrades.
- Surged to 37% in June 2021 amid COVID-19.
- Stayed high through 2022, then normalized around 30% by mid-2023.
- Rose again in 2024 due to Red Sea and Panama Canal disruptions, before dropping below 25% in early 2025.



Figure: ACR for January 2016 to March 2025.

## Why the ACR Index?

- Identification of supply chain shocks = SVARs or LPs with macro aggregates

[Operational Rigidity](#)

[ACR & MP Shock](#)

[ACR & Oil Price](#)

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- Short-run operational rigidities in container shipping  $\Rightarrow$  ACR will not immediately respond to demand or capacity shocks within the first month.

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- Identification of supply chain shocks = SVARs or LPs with macro aggregates
  - + ACR
  - + theory-predicted sign restrictions
  - + domain-knowledge-based zero restrictions.
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# A Model of the Global Supply Chain

- **Producers:**

- ▶ Exogenous unit mass;
- ▶ Produce goods with capacity determined by a fixed-factor endowment  $l$ ;
- ▶ Ship goods subject to idiosyncratic transportation costs  $z$ ;
- ▶ Supply goods to retailers at a wholesale price  $r$ , but matching frictions prevent full capacity utilization.

- **Retailers:**

- ▶ Endogenous measure;
- ▶ Purchase goods by visiting producers at a fixed cost  $\rho$ , but not all visits result in a match;
- ▶ Resell goods to the representative household at price  $p$ .

- **Representative household:**

- ▶ Consumes goods and holds money  $m$ ;
- ▶ Moves goods and owns firms.

## Matching Process

- The matching function determines the number of meetings  $m$  between producers and retailers:

$$m = (x_U^{-\xi} + i_U^{-\xi})^{-\frac{1}{\xi}},$$

where  $x_U$  and  $i_U$ : numbers of unmatched producers and retailers, respectively;  $\xi > 0$ : elasticity of substitution between them.

- Product market tightness  $\theta$  is defined as:

$$\theta \equiv \frac{i_U}{x_U}.$$

- Tightness  $\theta$  determines the matching probabilities for producers and retailers:

$$f(\theta) = \frac{m}{x_U} = (1 + \theta^{-\xi})^{-\frac{1}{\xi}}, \quad q(\theta) = \frac{m}{i_U} = (1 + \theta^{\xi})^{-\frac{1}{\xi}}.$$

## Transportation Cost

- Producers pay an idiosyncratic per-unit transportation cost to ship goods to retailers.
- Households receive these payments for transporting goods.
- Each period, producers draw a transportation cost  $z$  from a log-normal distribution  $G(z)$ :

$$G(z) \equiv \Phi\left(\frac{\ln z - \gamma}{\sigma}\right),$$

where  $\Phi(\cdot)$ : standard normal CDF.

- A reservation transportation cost  $\bar{z}$  exists, above which matches are unprofitable.
- Matches with  $z > \bar{z}$  are severed, while those with  $z \leq \bar{z}$  continue.

## Producers

- The value of a matched producer,  $X_M(z)$ , is given by:

$$X_M(z) = (r(z) - z) l + \beta \mathbb{E}_{z'} [\max (X_M(z'), X_U)] ,$$

where  $r(z)$ : endogenous wholesale price;  $z$ : transportation cost;  $\beta$ : discount factor;  $z'$ : next period's transportation-cost draw.

- The value of an unmatched producer,  $X_U$ , satisfies:

$$X_U = \beta f(\theta) \mathbb{E}_{z'} [\max (X_M(z'), X_U)] + \beta [1 - f(\theta)] X_U ,$$

where  $f(\theta)$ : probability that a producer meets a retailer.

## Retailers

- The value of a matched retailer,  $I_M(z)$ , is given by:

$$I_M(z) = (p - r(z)) l + \beta \mathbb{E}_{z'} [\max (I_M(z'), I_U)] ,$$

where  $p$ : endogenous retail price.

- The value of an unmatched retailer,  $I_U$ , satisfies:

$$I_U = -\rho l + \beta q(\theta) \mathbb{E}_{z'} [\max (I_M(z'), I_U)] + \beta [1 - q(\theta)] I_U ,$$

where  $\rho$ : per-unit fixed cost paid during each visit;  $q(\theta)$ : probability that a retailer meets a producer.

- Free entry drives the value of an unmatched retailer to zero in equilibrium:

$$I_U = 0.$$

## Nash Bargaining

- Nash bargaining divides the total surplus from a match between the producer and the retailer.
- The total surplus is:

$$S(z) = X_M(z) - X_U + I_M(z) - I_U.$$

- The producer receives a constant share  $\eta$  of the surplus, while the retailer receives the remaining share  $1 - \eta$ , implying:

$$\eta [I_M(z) - I_U] = (1 - \eta) [X_M(z) - X_U].$$

- The wholesale price that splits the surplus according to Nash bargaining is:

$$r(z) = \eta (p + \rho \theta) + (1 - \eta)z.$$

## Match Separation and Creation

- Because  $X_M(z) + I_M(z)$  is strictly decreasing in  $z \in (0, +\infty)$ , there exists a cutoff transportation cost  $\bar{z}$  such that matches with  $z > \bar{z}$  are severed and those with  $z \leq \bar{z}$  continue. At  $\bar{z}$ , total surplus satisfies:

$$S(\bar{z}) = 0.$$

- The match separation condition links price  $p$ , reservation cost  $\bar{z}$ , and market tightness  $\theta$ :

$$\mathbb{F}(p, \bar{z}, \theta) = (p - \bar{z})l + (1 - \eta f(\theta))\beta \mathbb{E}_{z'} [S(z')] = 0,$$

where  $\mathbb{E}_{z'} [S(z')] = \int_0^{\bar{z}} S(z') dG(z')$ .

- Using the free-entry condition  $I_U = 0$ , the match creation condition is:

$$\mathbb{H}(\bar{z}, \theta) = \frac{\rho l}{q(\theta)} - (1 - \eta)\beta \mathbb{E}_{z'} [S(z')] = 0.$$

## Aggregate Supply

- Aggregate supply equals the quantity of goods traded by producers and retailers that survive separation, given productive capacity  $l$ .
- The law of motion for matched producers:

$$x'_M = G(\bar{z})x_M + f(\theta)G(\bar{z})x_U.$$

- Using  $x_M + x_U = 1$ , this becomes:

$$x'_M = f(\theta)G(\bar{z}) + [G(\bar{z}) - f(\theta)G(\bar{z})] x_M.$$

- Aggregate supply is the output of matched producers for a given capacity:

$$c_s(\bar{z}, \theta) = x_M(\bar{z}, \theta) l.$$

# Representative Household

- The representative household derives utility from consuming goods and holding real money balances:

$$u\left(c, \frac{m}{p}\right) = \frac{\chi}{1+\chi} c^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}} + \frac{1}{1+\chi} \left(\frac{m}{p}\right)^{\frac{\varepsilon-1}{\varepsilon}},$$

where  $\chi > 0$ : taste for consumption over money;  $\varepsilon > 1$ : elasticity of substitution between  $c$  and  $m/p$ .

- Budget constraint:

$$pc + m \leq \underbrace{\mu}_{\text{Money Endowment}} + \underbrace{pc_s(\bar{z}, \theta) - \rho l i_U - \int_0^{\bar{z}} z' c_s(\bar{z}, \theta) dG(z')}_{\text{Profits of Producers \& Retailers}} + \underbrace{\int_0^{\bar{z}} z' c_s(\bar{z}, \theta) dG(z')}_{\text{Transportation Income}}.$$

- Optimality condition:

$$\frac{\chi}{1+\chi} c^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}} = \frac{1}{1+\chi} \left(\frac{m}{p}\right)^{-\frac{1}{\varepsilon}}.$$

## Aggregate Demand

- Aggregate demand is the level of consumption that maximizes utility at a given price when the money market clears.
- Substituting  $m = \mu$  in the household's optimality condition gives:

$$c_d(p) = \chi^\varepsilon \frac{\mu}{p},$$

which is strictly decreasing and convex in  $p$  for  $p > 0$ .

## General Equilibrium

- General equilibrium requires that both the upstream (producer–retailer) and downstream (retailer–household) markets clear simultaneously.

### Definition 1

*General equilibrium is characterized by a price  $p$ , a reservation transportation cost  $\bar{z}$ , and a product market tightness  $\theta$  such that the match separation and creation conditions hold simultaneously:*

$$\mathbb{F}(p, \bar{z}, \theta) = \mathbb{H}(\bar{z}, \theta) = 0,$$

*and the retailer–household market clears:*

$$c_s(\bar{z}, \theta) = c_d(p),$$

*where aggregate supply  $c_s(\bar{z}, \theta)$  evolves according to the law of motion for matched producers.*

## Steady State: Core Relationships

- We focus on the steady state where the number of matched producers is constant,  $x'_M = x_M$ .
- The steady-state share of matched producers:

$$x_M^{ss}(\bar{z}, \theta) = \frac{f(\theta)G(\bar{z})}{1 - G(\bar{z}) + f(\theta)G(\bar{z})}.$$

- Steady-state aggregate supply:

$$c_s^{ss}(\bar{z}, \theta) = x_M^{ss}(\bar{z}, \theta) l = \frac{f(\theta)G(\bar{z})}{1 - G(\bar{z}) + f(\theta)G(\bar{z})} l.$$

- Comparative statics of the steady state identify the effects of structural shocks in our empirical analysis.

## Steady State: Definition and Existence

### Definition 2

*The steady state of the economy consists of a price  $p$ , a reservation transportation cost  $\bar{z}$ , and a product market tightness  $\theta$  that jointly satisfy the match separation condition, the match creation condition, and the retailer–household market-clearing condition:*

$$\mathbb{F}(p, \bar{z}, \theta) = (p - \bar{z})l + (1 - \eta f(\theta))\beta \mathbb{E}_{z'} [S(z')] = 0,$$

$$\mathbb{H}(\bar{z}, \theta) = \frac{\rho l}{q(\theta)} - (1 - \eta)\beta \mathbb{E}_{z'} [S(z')] = 0,$$

$$c_s^{ss}(\bar{z}, \theta) = \frac{f(\theta)G(\bar{z})}{1 - G(\bar{z}) + f(\theta)G(\bar{z})} l = \chi^\varepsilon \frac{\mu}{p} = c_d(p).$$

# Graphical Representation of the Steady State

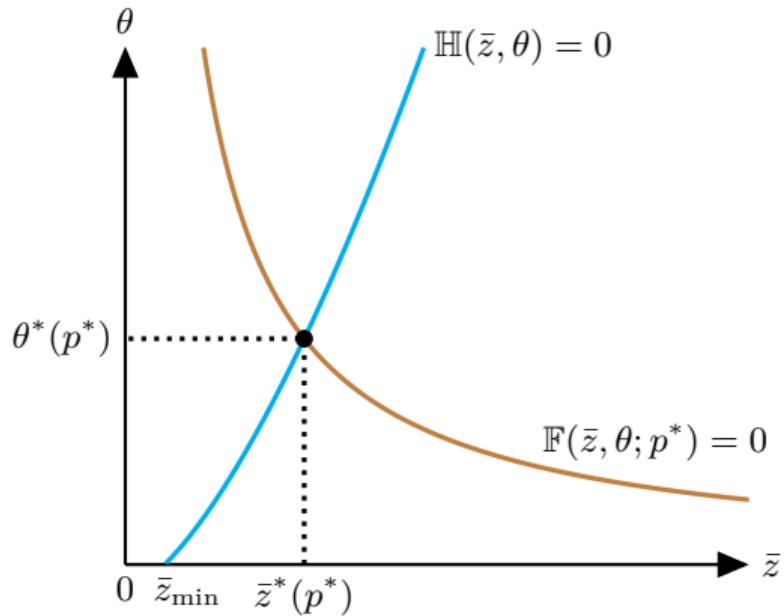
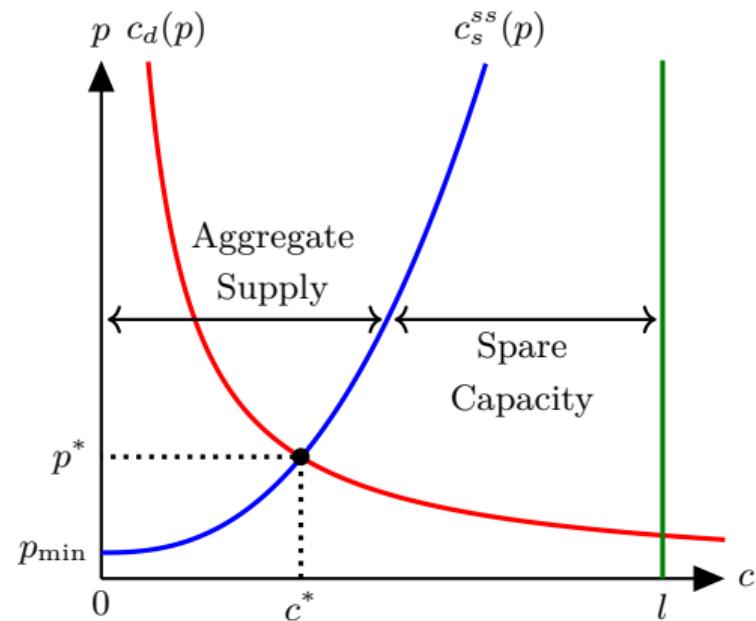


Figure: Aggregate Supply–Demand and Match Separation–Creation.

Analytical Properties of Aggregate Supply

# Comparative Statics

- We study how macro aggregates respond to (unanticipated) adverse shocks when the economy is initially at the steady state:
  - ▶ **Aggregate demand:** lower money supply ( $\mu$ ) or weaker consumption preference ( $\chi$ );
  - ▶ **Productive capacity:** smaller fixed-factor endowment ( $l$ );
  - ▶ **Supply chain:** higher transportation costs ( $\gamma$  in  $G(\cdot)$ ).
- Numerical exercises show that the transition dynamics are consistent with the identification restrictions:
  - ▶ Convergence to the new steady state occurs within a one-month horizon;
  - ▶ The adjustment is monotonic.

# Aggregate Demand Shock

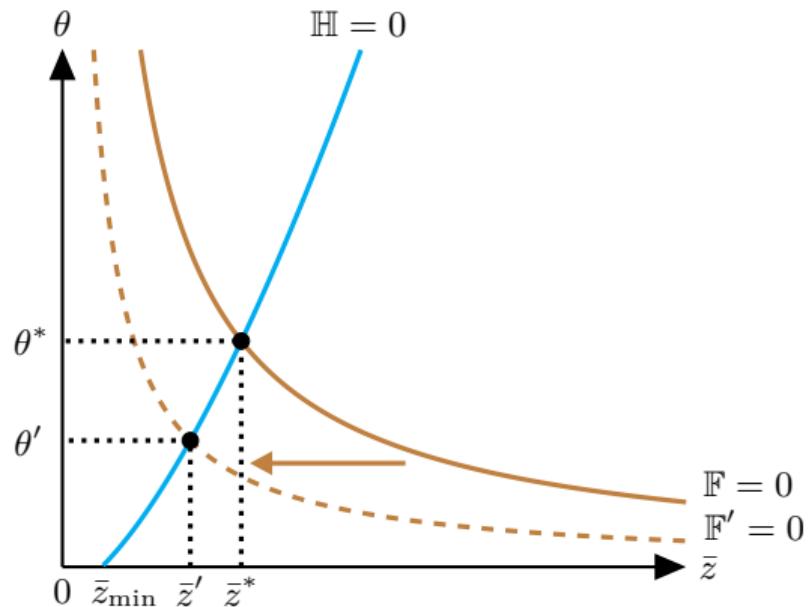
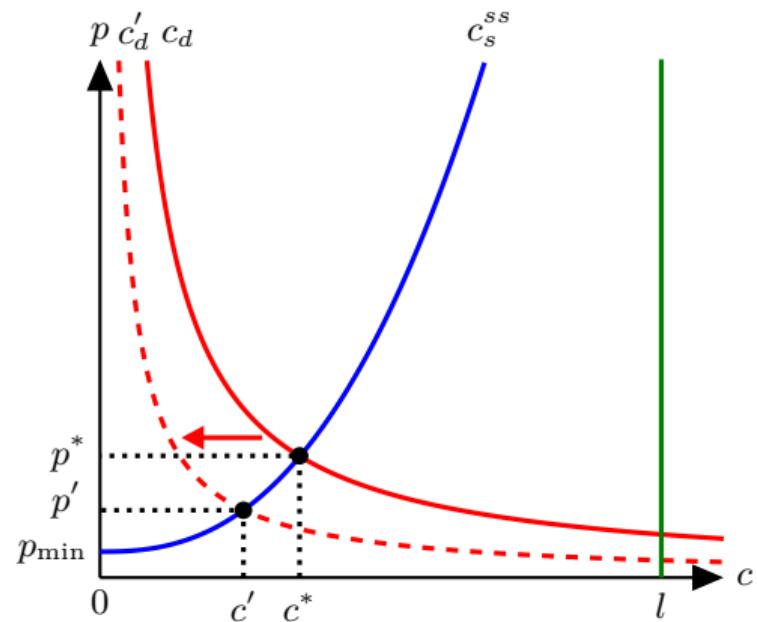


Figure: Money Supply  $\downarrow$  or Taste for Consumption  $\downarrow$ .

# Productive Capacity Shock

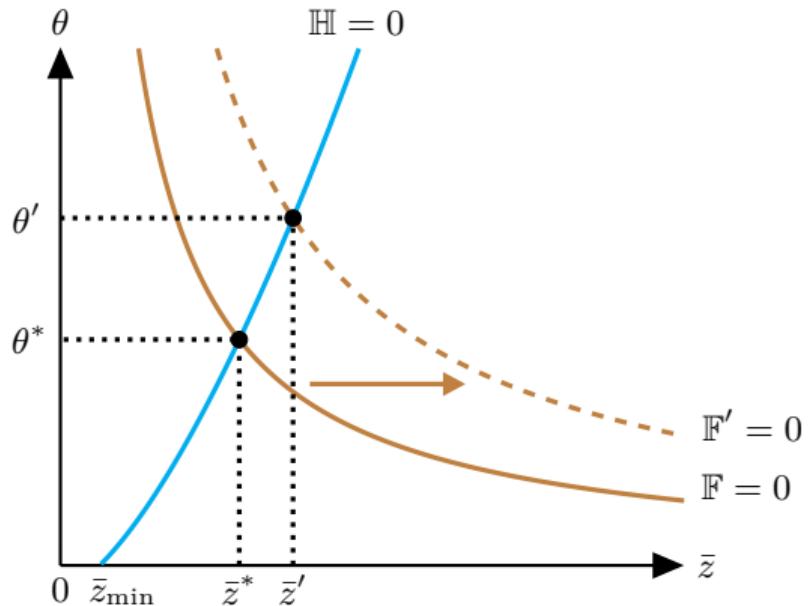
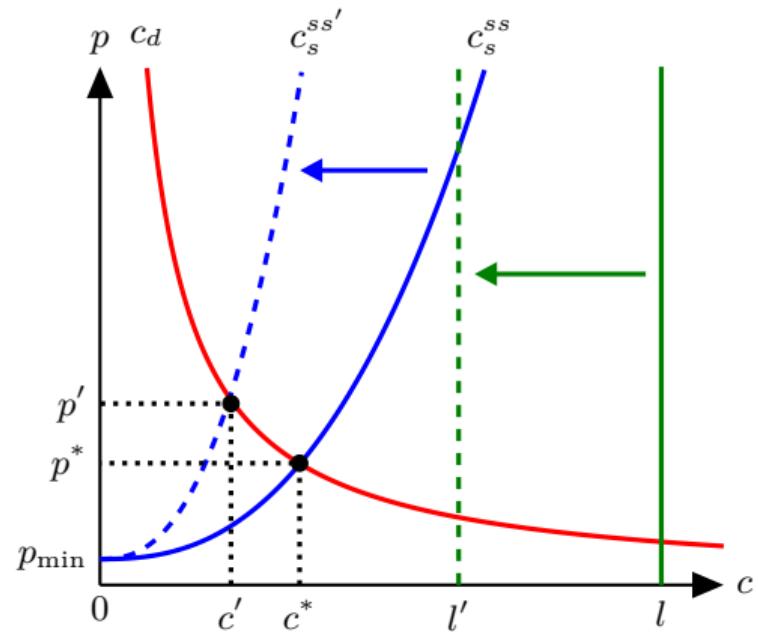


Figure: Productive Capacity ↓.

# Supply Chain Shock

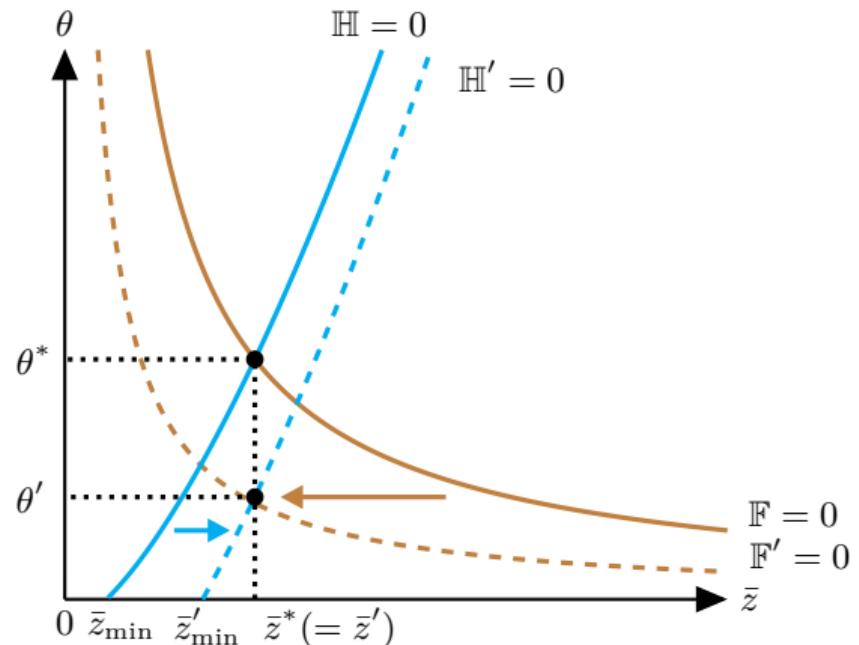
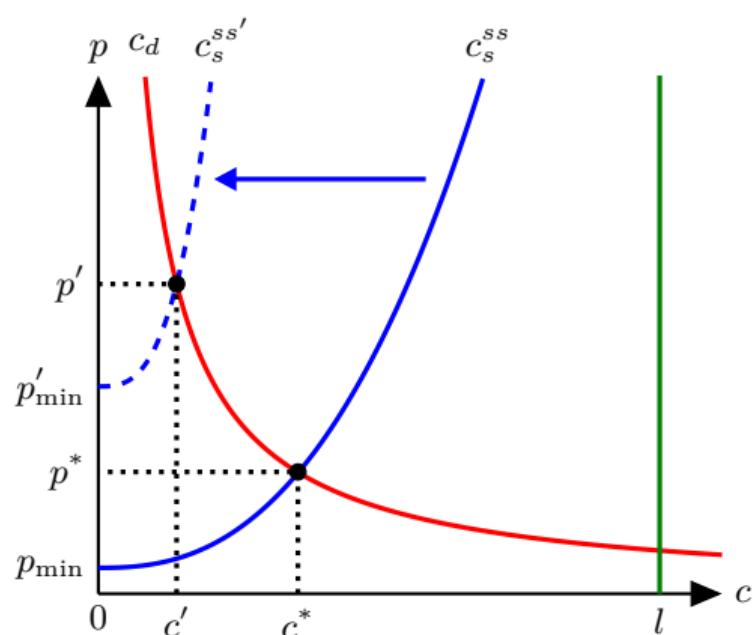


Figure: Transportation Costs  $\uparrow$ .

Bound on Upstream Slackening

# Theory-Predicted Sign Restrictions

Adverse Shock To:	Effects On:					
	Consumption (or Output)	Price	Reservation Transportation	Product Market	Wholesale Price	Spare Capacity
			Cost	Tightness		
	$c$	$p$	$\bar{z}$	$\theta$	$r$	$l - c$
Aggregate Demand ( $\mu \downarrow$ or $\chi \downarrow$ )	—	—	—	—	—	+
Productive Capacity ( $l \downarrow$ )	—	+	+	+	+	—
<i>Assuming sticky <math>\bar{z}</math> in short-run,</i>						
Supply Chain ( $\gamma \uparrow$ )	—	+	0	—	±	+

Economic Rigidity

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## A SVAR Model with Sign and Zero Restrictions

- We examine the causal effects of global supply chain disruptions using an SVAR framework following Rubio-Ramírez *et al.* (2010) and Arias *et al.* (2018):

$$\mathbf{y}'_t \mathbf{A}_0 = \mathbf{x}'_t \mathbf{A}_+ + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}'_t, \quad 1 \leq t \leq T.$$

- The model includes six endogenous variables:

- ① U.S. real PCE;
- ② U.S. PCE chain-type price index;
- ③ **Spare capacity;**
- ④ **Product market tightness;**
- ⑤ U.S. import price;
- ⑥ ACR.

- All series are seasonally adjusted. The sample spans January 2016 to March 2025.

Setting Up the SVAR

## Spare Capacity and Product Market Tightness

- We compute the average spare capacity rate of the top five exporters to the U.S., weighted by U.S. goods imports from each country in 2016:

$$\text{SpareCapacityRate}_t = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \left[ \frac{\text{Import}_{i,2016}}{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \text{Import}_{i,2016}} \cdot (1 - \text{CapacityUtilization}_{i,t}) \right],$$

where  $\mathcal{C} \equiv \{\text{Mexico, Canada, China, Germany, Japan}\}$ .

- We measure product market tightness as the ratio of total U.S. manufacturers' new orders to the import-weighted average spare capacity of the same trading partners:

$$\text{Tightness}_t = \frac{\text{ManufactureNewOrder}_t}{\text{SpareCapacityDollar}_t},$$

$$\text{SpareCapacityDollar}_t = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \left[ \frac{\text{Import}_{i,2016}}{\sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} \text{Import}_{i,2016}} \cdot \left( \frac{\text{IP}_{i,t}}{\text{CapacityUtilization}_{i,t}} - \text{IP}_{i,t} \right) \right].$$

## Identification Restrictions

- **An adverse aggregate demand shock** leads to a negative response of real PCE, the PCE price index, product market tightness, and the import price index, as well as a positive response of spare capacity at  $k = 1$ . *The ACR index does not respond at  $k = 1$ .*
- **An adverse productive capacity shock** leads to a negative response of real PCE and spare capacity, and a positive response of the PCE price index, product market tightness, and the import price index at  $k = 1$ . *The ACR index does not respond at  $k = 1$ .*
- **An adverse supply chain shock** leads to a negative response of real PCE and product market tightness, and a positive response of the PCE price index, spare capacity, and the ACR index at  $k = 1$ .

Theory-Predicted Sign Restrictions

Domain-Knowledge-Based Zero Restrictions

## Estimation Details

- We use two lags in the baseline specification; results are robust to longer lag lengths.
- Real PCE, the PCE price index, product market tightness, and the import price index enter the SVAR in log points, while spare capacity and the ACR index enter in percentages.
- Estimation is Bayesian, with a Normal–Generalized-Normal (NGN) prior distribution over  $\{\mathbf{A}_0, \mathbf{A}_+\}$ .
- We verify robustness along several dimensions, including the use of monthly inflation instead of price levels, checks for invertibility, variable substitutions, and estimation using the prior robust approach.

# Response to an Aggregate Demand Shock

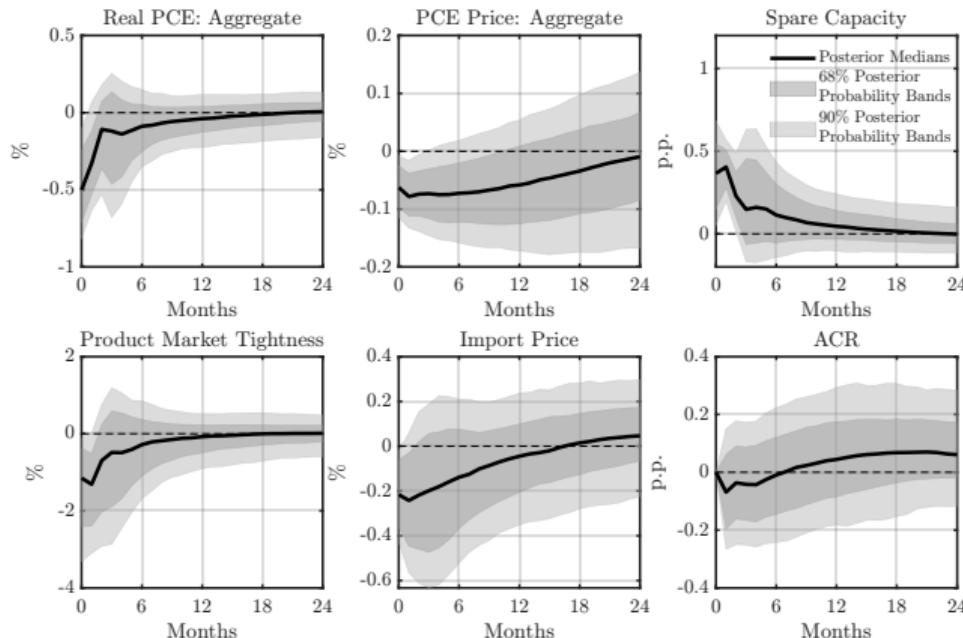


Figure: IRFs of U.S. Variables to a One-S.D. Adverse Demand Shock.

# Response to a Productive Capacity Shock

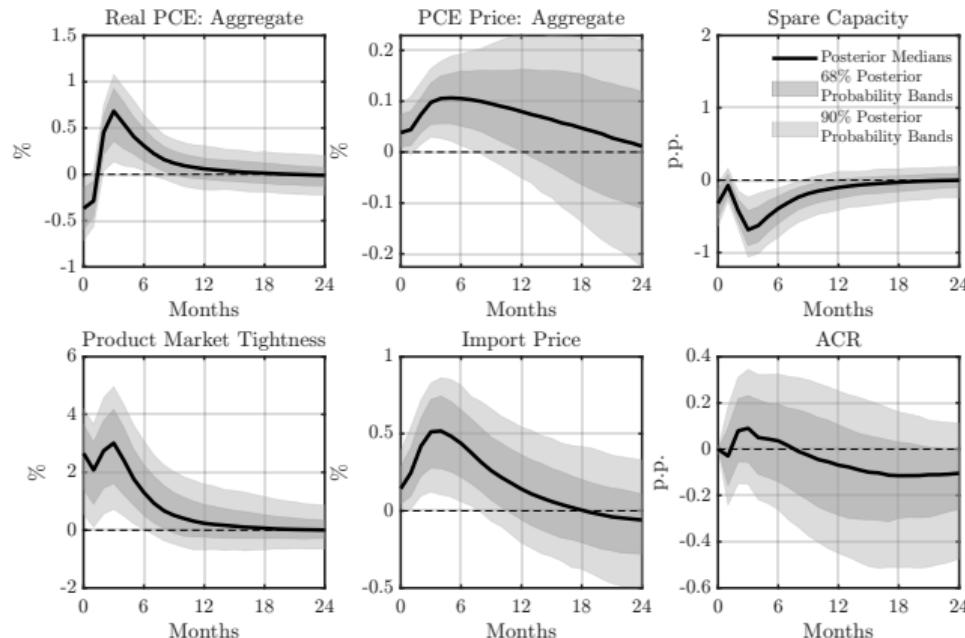


Figure: IRFs of U.S. Variables to a One-S.D. Adverse Capacity Shock.

# Response to a Supply Chain Shock

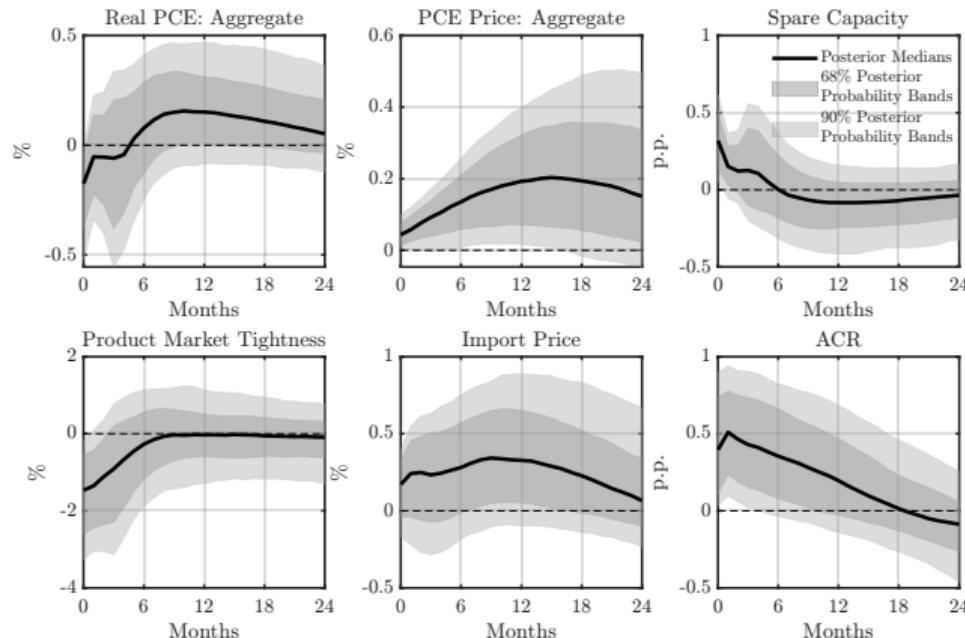


Figure: IRFs of U.S. Variables to a One-S.D. Adverse Supply Chain Shock.

# Which Shock Matters?

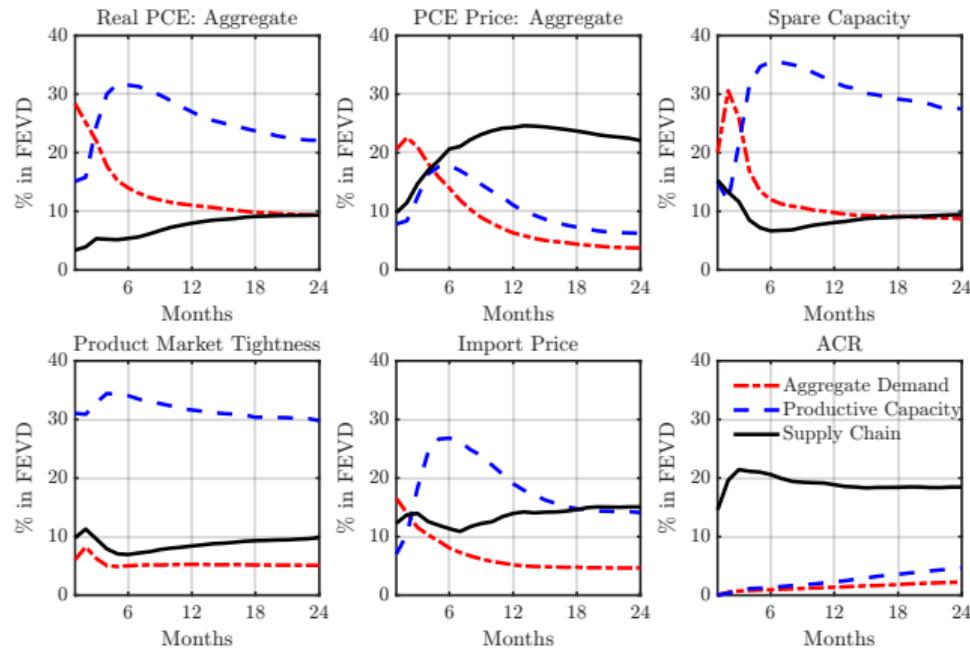


Figure: Forecast Error Variance Decompositions from the SVAR.

# What Drove U.S. Inflation?

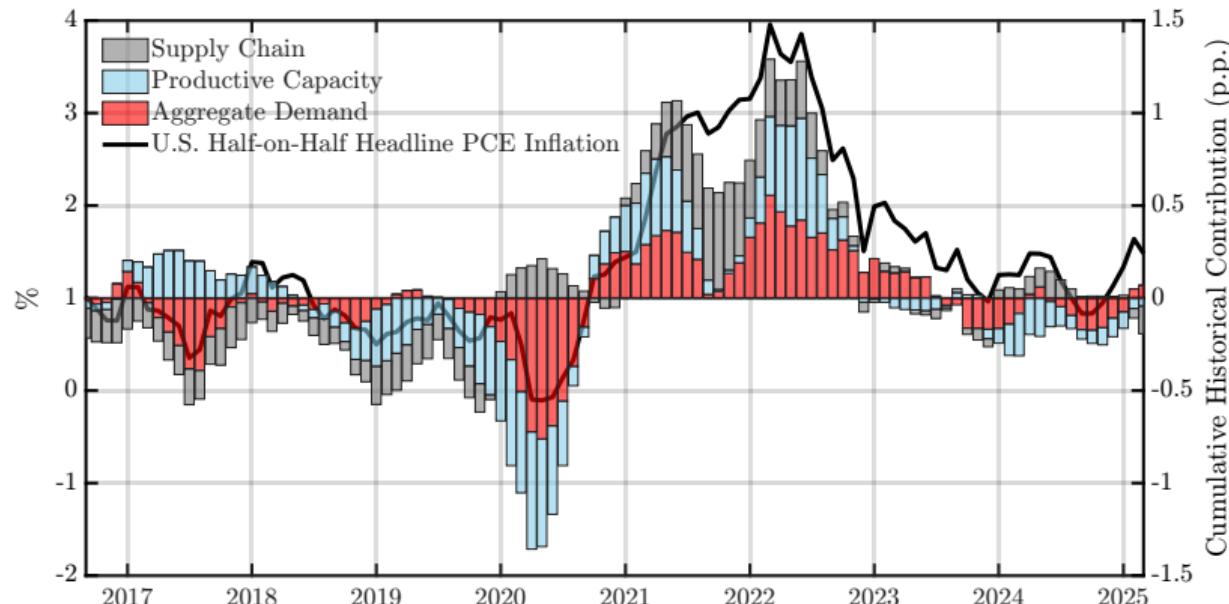


Figure: Historical Decomposition of U.S. Half-on-Half Headline PCE Inflation.

U.S. Goods vs. Services Inflation

EA Goods Inflation

# Comparing Price IRFs Across Proxies

- ACR-based SVAR  $\Rightarrow$  larger and sharper inflation responses.
- Zero restrictions ( $k = 1$ ) on ACR/ACT/Trans-Pacific ACR  $\Rightarrow$  even sharper identification.
- HARPEX, GSCPI, SDI  $\Rightarrow$  weaker and imprecise responses.

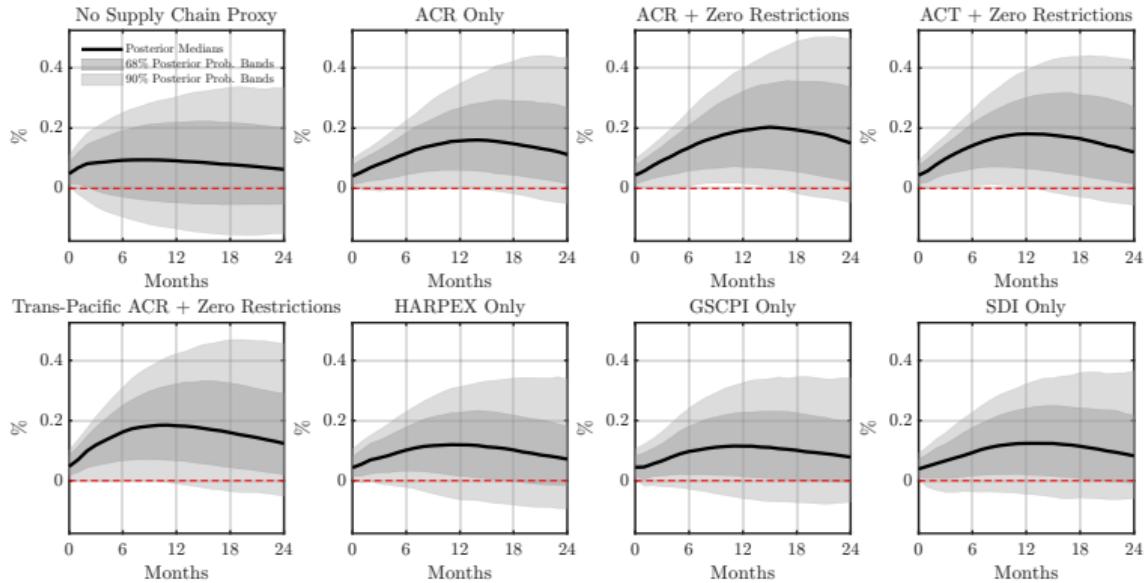


Figure: PCE Price Responses to a Supply Chain Shock.

PCE Goods Price

# Comparing Price FEVDs Across Proxies

- Congestion indices  $\Rightarrow$  larger price variance share from supply chain disturbances.
- Other proxies  $\Rightarrow$  variance dominated by demand shocks.

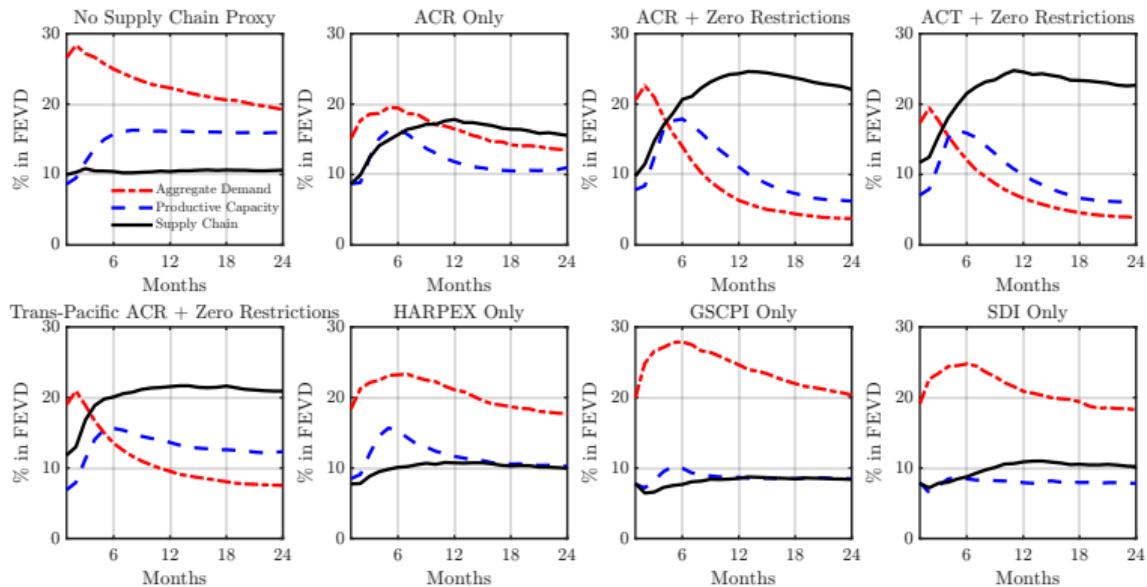


Figure: Posterior-Median FEVD Shares of PCE Price Variance.

PCE Goods Price

# Road Map

- ① Introduction
- ② Measuring the State of the Global Supply Chain
- ③ A Model of the Global Supply Chain
- ④ The Causal Effects of Global Supply Chain Disruptions
- ⑤ Conclusion

# Conclusion

- We estimate the causal effects of global supply chain disruptions —stagflationary, **generating upstream spare capacity while slackening the downstream market.**
- This is achieved by constructing a new index, developing a novel theory, and integrating them with state-of-the-art methods for assessing causality in time series.
- Far from being just a postmortem of what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic, our analysis distills important lessons for both the present and the future.

## Public Goods and Extensions

- We are happy to share the following datasets upon request:
  - ▶ Average Congestion Rate (ACR);
  - ▶ Average Congestion Time (ACT);
  - ▶ Individual port congestion indices.
- We are currently working on two extensions:
  - ▶ “Shipping to America”;
  - ▶ “Dynamic Prioritization Failures in Maritime Logistics: Evidence from the Panama Canal”.

# Bypassing the Suez Canal



Figure: 26/10/2023 – 26/12/2023.

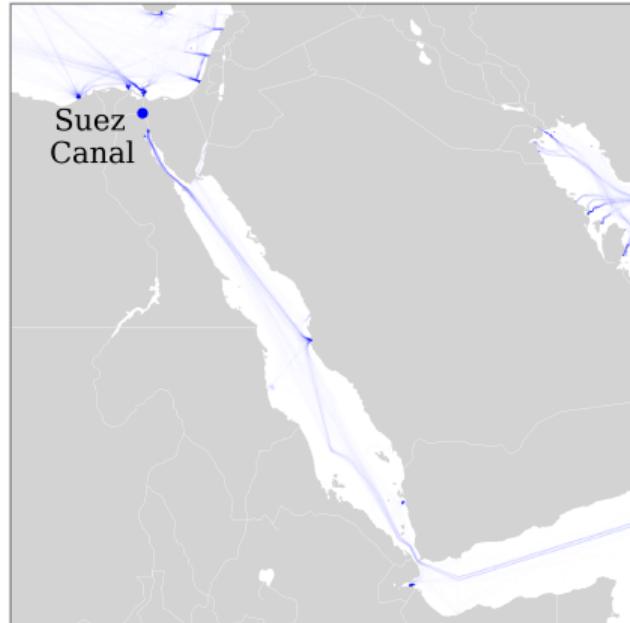


Figure: 27/12/2023 – 27/02/2024.

# Taking the Cape Route Instead

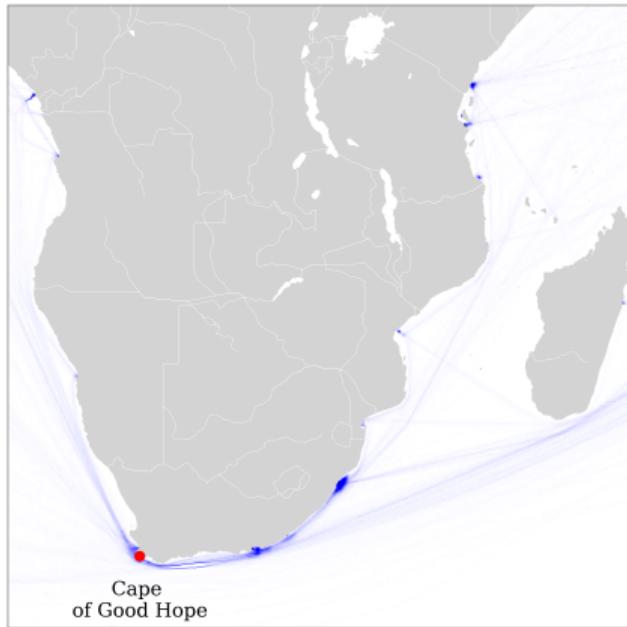


Figure: 26/10/2023 – 26/12/2023.

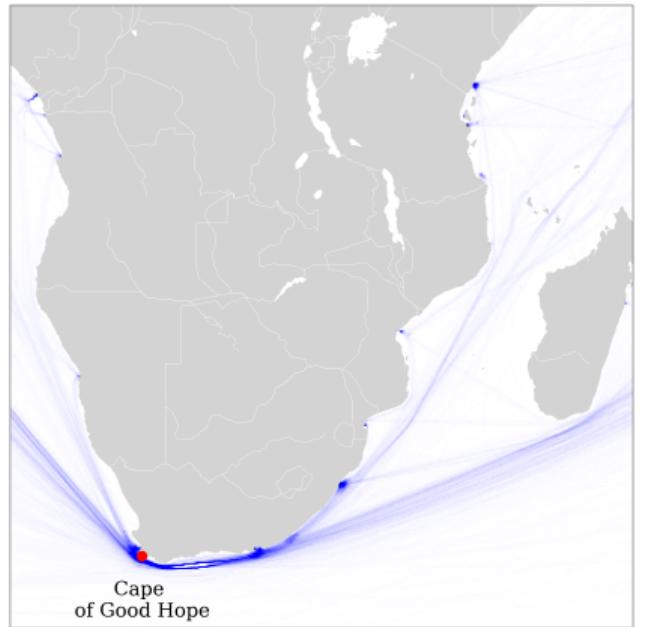


Figure: 27/12/2023 – 27/02/2024.

# Additional Slides

# The World's Largest Container Ship



Figure: MSC Loreto.

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# AIS Transceiver



## Raymarine AIS 4000 Class A AIS Transceiver

RAYMARINE AIS 4000 Class A AIS - Designed for commercial vessels, luxury yachts, and SOLAS high-seas shipping, the AIS4000 Automatic Identification System (AIS) transceiver delivers robust Class A AIS network capability and is engineered to withstand the harsh weather, shock, and vibration of any vessel class. Power supply: 12 to 24 VDC. Frequency: 156.025 MHz to 162.025 MHz. E70601 **Free US Shipping.**

Reference: [E70601](#)

In Stock: 1

**Reg Price: \$2,799.99**

**CPlus Price: \$2,701.99** ①

What is Citmariine Plus Membership?

Click [here](#) for details

Figure: Example of an AIS Transceiver.

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# Los Angeles and Long Beach



Figure: Sample AIS Data.

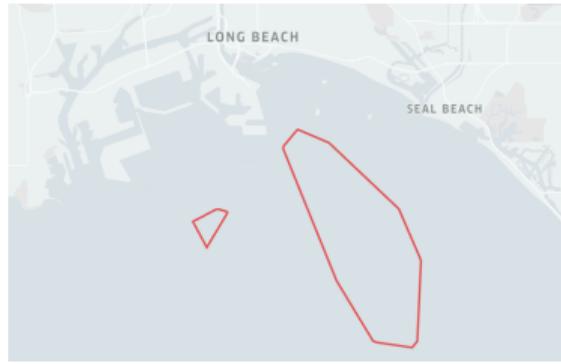


Figure: Anchorages.



Figure: Berths.

# Rotterdam



Figure: Sample AIS Data.

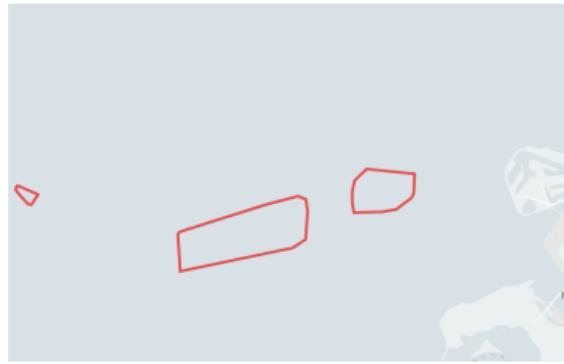


Figure: Anchorages.

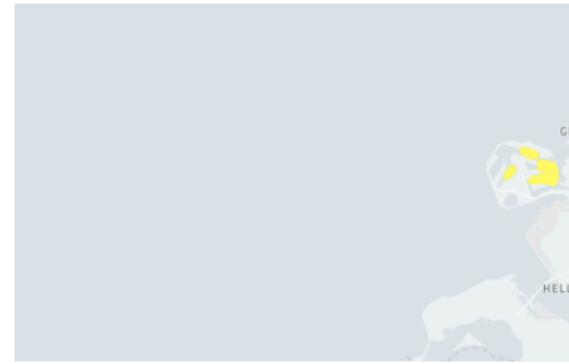


Figure: Berths.

# Singapore



Figure: Sample AIS Data.

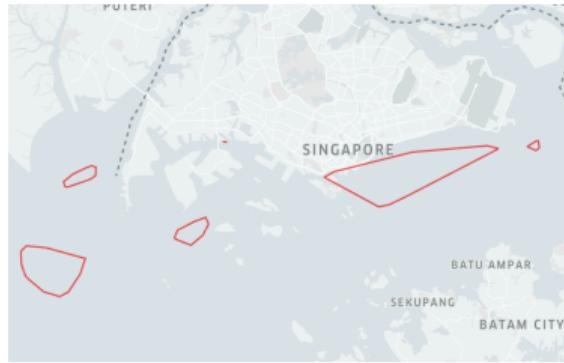


Figure: Anchorages.



Figure: Berths.

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## Testing Short-Run Rigidity in Container Shipping: Setup

- We formally test whether the ACR index responds immediately to monetary policy shocks.
- Estimation uses LPs:

$$\text{ACR}_{t+k} = \alpha_k + \beta_k \text{MP}_t + u_{k,t+k}, \quad 0 \leq k \leq K,$$

where  $\text{MP}_t$ : monthly orthogonalized Bauer–Swanson monetary policy surprise (FRB San Francisco).

- To smooth noisy estimates, we apply Smooth Local Projections (Barnichon and Brownlees, 2019) using B-spline basis functions.
- Standard errors are Newey–West adjusted to allow for serial correlation.

# Testing Short-Run Rigidity in Container Shipping: Results

- On-impact response of ACR is near zero  
⇒ short-run rigidity.
- Medium-run decline ⇒ monetary tightening gradually reduces port congestion.
- Confirms that policy effects on global shipping are **delayed, not immediate.**

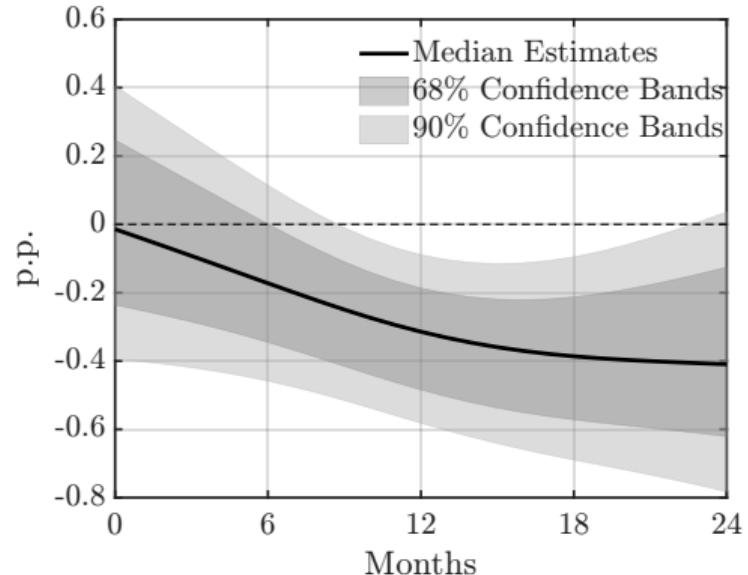


Figure: IRF of ACR to a Monetary Policy Shock.

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# Oil Price, Vessel Speed, and Port Congestion

- Fuel costs make up 50–60% of liner shipping expenses, and fuel use rises roughly with the cube of vessel speed.
  - ▶ A 1% rise in Brent price  $\Rightarrow$  vessel speed  $\downarrow$  by 0.022% ( $p = 0.004$ ).
- Yet, port congestion shows no significant link to oil prices ( $p = 0.313$ ,  $R^2 = 0.021$ ).
- Interpretation: oil prices drive cost-based speed adjustments, not congestion, which is shaped by **scheduling rigidities** and the “hurry up and wait” nature of port operations.

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# Steady-State Aggregate Supply Schedule

## Proposition 1

For any  $\bar{z} \geq \bar{z}_{\min}$  satisfying  $\int_0^{\bar{z}_{\min}} G(z') dz' = \rho / [(1 - \eta)\beta]$ , define

$$p(\bar{z}) = \bar{z} - (1 - \eta f(\bar{z})) \beta \int_0^{\bar{z}} G(z') dz', \quad f(\bar{z}) = (1 - q(\bar{z})^\xi)^{1/\xi}, \quad q(\bar{z}) = \rho / \left[ (1 - \eta) \beta \int_0^{\bar{z}} G(z') dz' \right].$$

Then the steady-state aggregate supply schedule  $p \mapsto c_s^{ss}(p)$ , represented by  $(p(\bar{z}), c_s^{ss}(\bar{z}))$ , satisfies:

- ①  $p(\bar{z})$  is continuously differentiable and strictly increasing, implying a unique, smooth  $c_s^{ss}(p)$ ;
- ②  $\lim_{p \rightarrow p_{\min}} c_s^{ss}(p) = 0$  and  $\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} c_s^{ss}(p) = l$ , where  $p_{\min} = \bar{z}_{\min} - \rho / (1 - \eta)$ ;
- ③  $c_s^{ss}(p)$  is strictly increasing and convergent as  $p \rightarrow \infty$ ;
- ④ Near  $p_{\min}$ : convex if  $\xi \in (0, 1)$ , linear if  $\xi \geq 1$ , concave for large  $p$ .

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## Bound on Upstream Slackening

- To ensure that the price increase does not overturn the immediate slackening in the upstream market caused by a supply chain disturbance, we impose a bound on the response of product market tightness  $\theta$  to the cost parameter  $\gamma$ :

$$\theta_\gamma \in \left[ -\frac{\mathbb{F}_\gamma}{\mathbb{F}_\theta}, 0 \right),$$

where  $\mathbb{F}_\gamma$  and  $\mathbb{F}_\theta$ : partial derivatives of  $\mathbb{F}(p, \bar{z}, \theta; \gamma) = 0$  with respect to  $\gamma$  and  $\theta$ .

- This restriction limits the extent of upstream slack so that the price-feedback effect on match separation does not dominate the direct effect of the shock.
- It guarantees the coexistence of a decline in upstream market tightness and a rise in the downstream retail price.

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## Setting Up the SVAR

- The SVAR model can be written compactly as:

$$\mathbf{y}'_t \mathbf{A}_0 = \mathbf{x}'_t \mathbf{A}_+ + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}'_t, \quad \forall t \in [1, T],$$

where  $\mathbf{y}_t$ : an  $n \times 1$  vector of endogenous variables;  $\mathbf{x}'_t = [\mathbf{y}'_{t-1} \cdots \mathbf{y}'_{t-L} \ 1 \ t]$ ;  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t$ : an  $n \times 1$  vector of structural shocks;  $\mathbf{A}_0$ : an  $n \times n$  invertible matrix of parameters;  $\mathbf{A}_+$ : an  $(nL + 2) \times n$  matrix of parameters;  $L$ : lag length;  $T$ : sample size.

- Conditional on past information and initial conditions  $\{\mathbf{y}_0, \dots, \mathbf{y}_{1-L}\}$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}_t \sim \mathcal{N}(\mathbf{0}, \mathbf{I}_n)$ .
- The matrices  $\{\mathbf{A}_0, \mathbf{A}_+\}$  constitute the structural parameters of the model.

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## Extended U.S. SVAR: Sectoral Substitution and Energy

- We estimate an augmented eleven-variable SVAR including:
  - ▶ Real PCE and PCE prices for goods and services;
  - ▶ Spare capacity, product market tightness, import price index, and ACR;
  - ▶ WTI spot price, effective federal funds rate, and average hourly earnings.
- The model identifies three shocks:
  - ▶ Sectoral substitution shock;
  - ▶ Adverse oil price shock;
  - ▶ Adverse supply chain shock.
- We keep the sample, lag length, deterministic terms, and priors the same as in the baseline specification.

## Identification Restrictions

- **A sectoral substitution shock** leads to a positive response of real PCE of goods, the PCE goods price index, product market tightness, and the import price index, and a negative response of real PCE of services, the PCE services price index, and spare capacity at  $k = 1$ . The WTI spot price and ACR do not respond at  $k = 1$ .
- **An adverse oil price shock** leads to a negative response of real PCE of goods and spare capacity, and a positive response of the PCE goods price index, product market tightness, the import price index, and the WTI spot price at  $k = 1$ . The ACR index does not respond at  $k = 1$ .
- **An adverse supply chain shock** leads to a negative response of real PCE of goods and product market tightness, and a positive response of the PCE goods price index, spare capacity, and the ACR index at  $k = 1$ . The WTI spot price does not respond at  $k = 1$ .

# What Drove U.S. Goods Inflation?

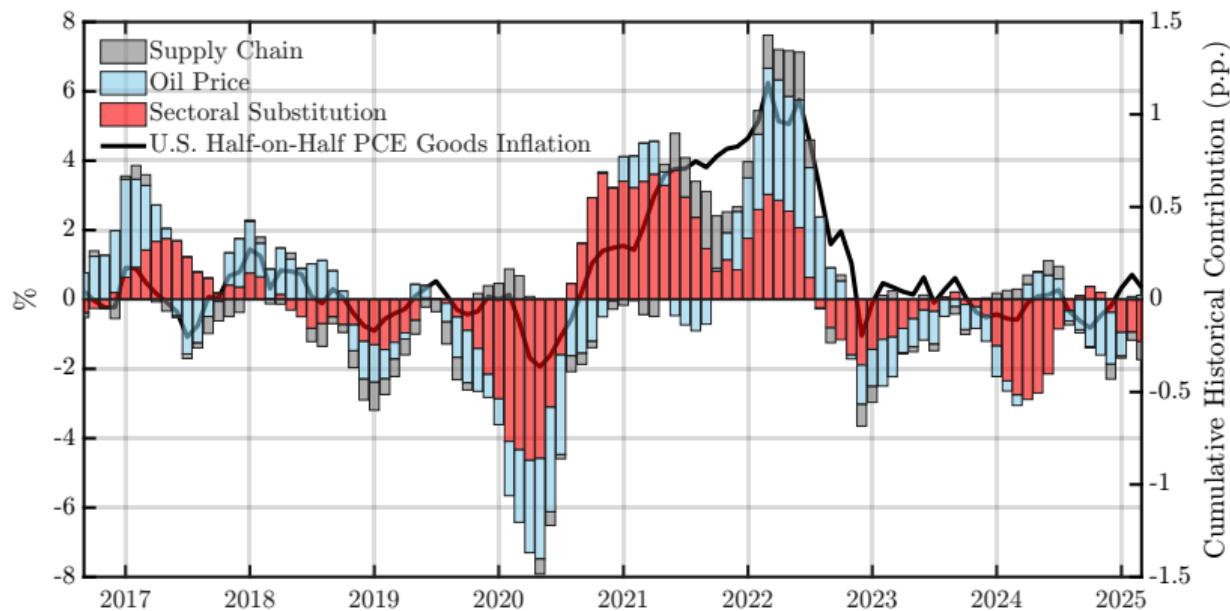


Figure: Historical Decomposition of U.S. Half-on-Half PCE Goods Inflation.

# What Drove U.S. Services Inflation?

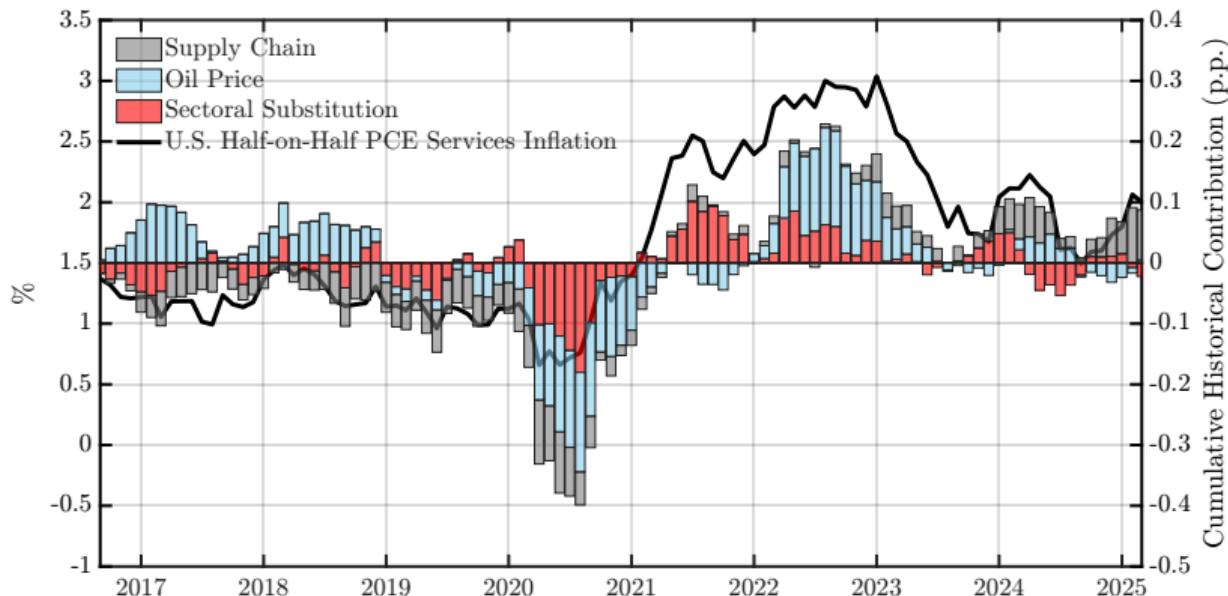


Figure: Historical Decomposition of U.S. Half-on-Half PCE Services Inflation.

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## Euro Area SVAR: Goods Demand and Energy

- Monthly sample: January 2016–June 2024.
- Variables:
  - ▶ Industrial production and HICP goods price index;
  - ▶ Import-weighted spare capacity of China and U.S. (top 2 EA trading partners), product market tightness, import price index, and ACR;
  - ▶ Brent crude oil price and ECB deposit facility rate.
- The model identifies three shocks:
  - ▶ Positive goods demand shock;
  - ▶ Adverse oil price shock;
  - ▶ Adverse supply chain shock.
- Identification uses the same lag length, deterministic terms, and priors as the U.S. model.

## Identification Restrictions

- **A positive goods demand shock** leads to a positive response of industrial production, the HICP goods price index, product market tightness, and the import price index, and to a negative response of spare capacity at  $k = 1$ . The Brent crude oil price and ACR do not respond at  $k = 1$ .
- **An adverse oil price shock** leads to a negative response of industrial production and spare capacity, and to a positive response of the HICP goods price index, product market tightness, the import price index, and the Brent crude oil price at  $k = 1$ . The ACR index does not respond at  $k = 1$ .
- **An adverse supply chain shock** leads to a negative response of industrial production and product market tightness, and to a positive response of the HICP goods price index, spare capacity, and the ACR index at  $k = 1$ . The Brent crude oil price does not respond at  $k = 1$ .

# What Drove EA Goods Inflation?

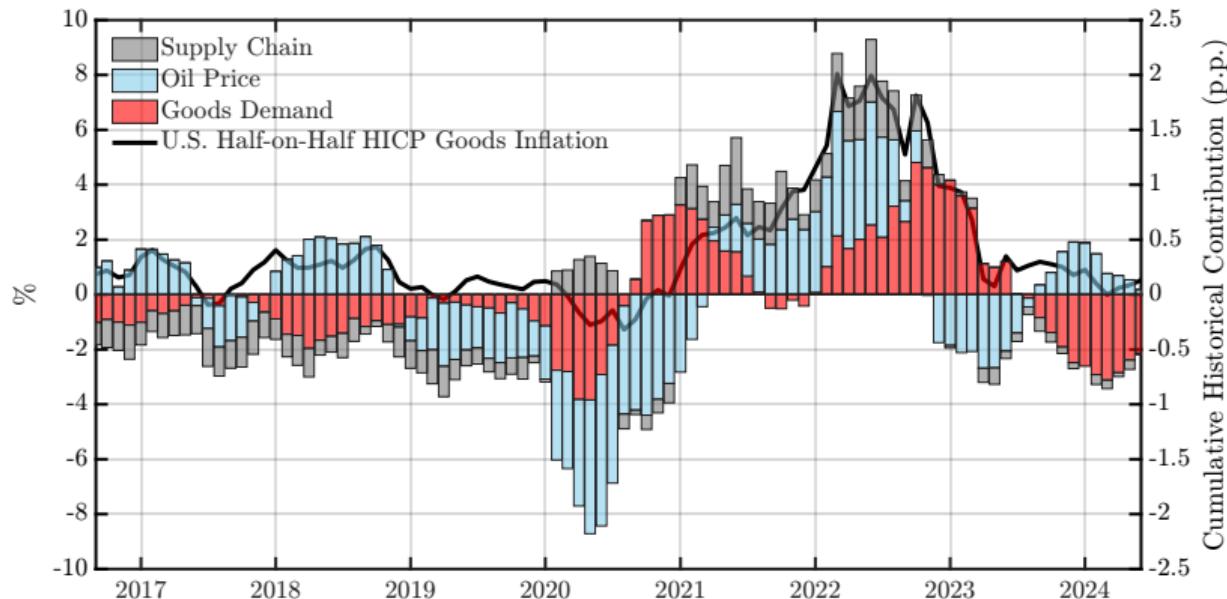


Figure: Historical Decomposition of EA Half-on-Half HICP Goods Inflation.

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# Comparing Goods Price IRFs Across Proxies

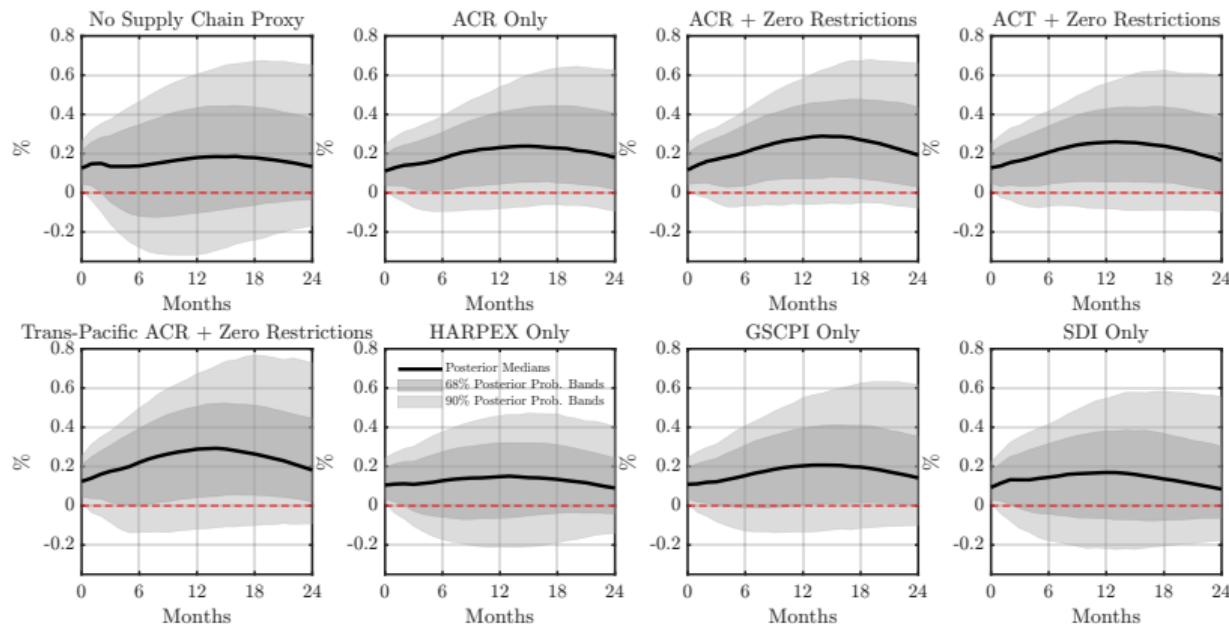


Figure: PCE Goods Price Responses to a Supply Chain Shock.

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# Comparing Goods Price FEVDs Across Proxies

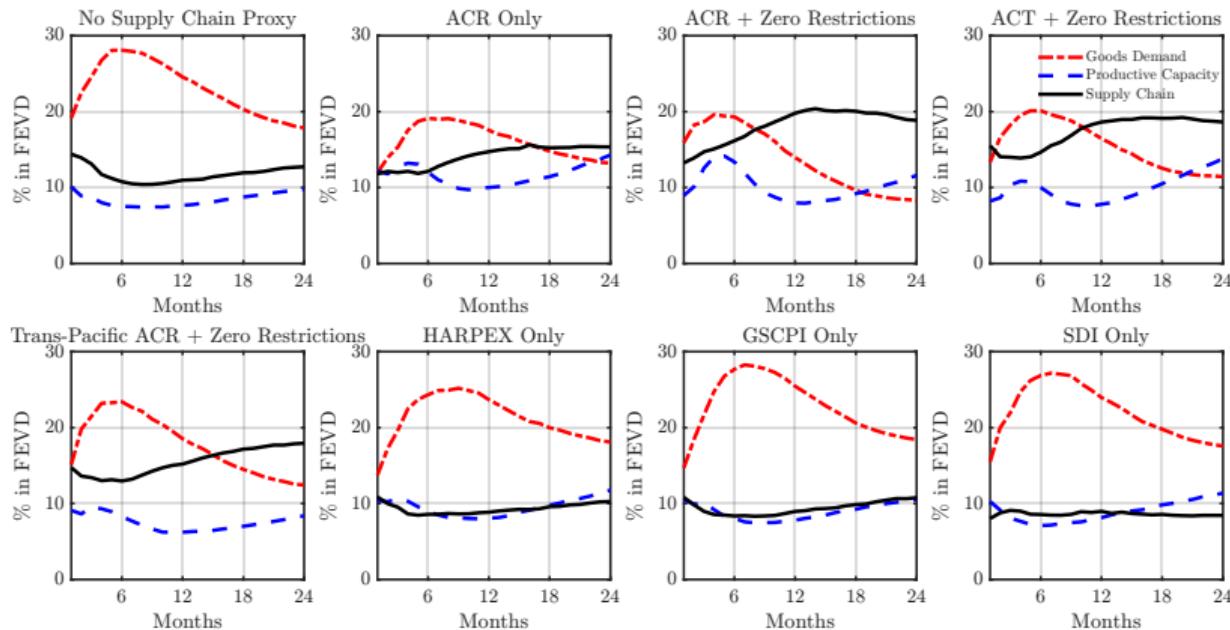


Figure: Posterior-Median FEVD Shares of PCE Goods Price Variance.