

Markups, Labor Market Inequality and the Nature of Work*

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Abstract

We study how changes in markups affect the distribution of labor income. We distinguish between production and expansionary uses of labor and demonstrate that an increase in markups redistributes earnings away from production labor toward expansionary labor, with ambiguous effects on the overall labor share, depending on the balance of these activities in the economy. Using data on the co-movement of occupational income shares with markup-induced changes in the labor share, we estimate that approximately one-fifth of U.S. labor income compensates expansionary activities and that occupations with the largest expansionary content have also experienced the fastest wage and employment growth since 1980. Our framework can be applied more generally to study the distributional implications of shocks, policies and secular forces that affect the economy by changing markups.

JEL Codes: D2, D3, D4, E3, E5, J2, L1

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1 Introduction

What effect does a change in the wedge between the marginal cost paid to factor inputs and the price of final goods paid by consumers – the markup – have on the income distribution? We develop a framework for understanding and measuring which types of workers’ incomes rise or fall when markups change. Most existing work on this question has focused on the division of income between payments to labor versus economic profits and payments to other factors. Instead, we focus on the way that markups affect the division of labor income across different workers according to their role in the production process.

Our main innovation is to distinguish theoretically and empirically between two uses of labor in a modern economy. We refer to the traditional role of labor as an input to the production of existing goods for sale in existing markets as *production*, or *Y-type*, labor. We contrast this with an alternative use of labor that facilitates extensive-margin replication, which we refer to as *expansionary*, or *N-type*, labor. *N-type* labor encompasses a broad array of corporate activities that include overhead, product design, research and development, logistics, marketing and general management capabilities. We show that incorporating these expansionary uses of labor into an otherwise standard economic setting is essential for understanding how different workers are impacted by shocks and policies that propagate by altering markups. Abstracting from *N-type* labor would lead an analyst to conclude that an increase in markups always redistributes income away from workers. But taking *N-type* labor into account reveals that an increase in markups redistributes income *towards* some workers, depending on their role in the production process, and possibly towards labor income as a whole. We use our framework to estimate that roughly one-fifth of total US labor income compensates *N-* type activities, and that those occupations whose share of *N-type* activities is largest - and hence benefit the most from an increase in markups - are the same occupations that have experienced the fastest wage and employment growth over the last forty years.

A motivating firm problem We start with a simple single firm problem that demonstrates the difference between the way that markups impact the demand for *N-type* versus *Y-type* labor:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi = \max_{L_Y, L_N, p_i, y_i} & \int_0^N p_i y_i di - W_N L_N - W_Y L_Y \\ \text{subject to } Y = L_Y^{\gamma_Y}, Y = & \int_0^N y_i di, N = L_N^{\gamma_N}, y_i = p_i^{-\sigma} \end{aligned}$$

A firm hires *Y-type* labor, L_Y , to produce output Y according to a production function with elasticity γ_Y , which we refer to as the production elasticity. It can sell its output in different symmetric markets, indexed by i . In each market it faces a constant-elasticity demand curve with common elasticity σ and sets a price p_i . The firm can choose how many markets N it wishes to

operate in. The benefit of selling in more markets is that it faces a separate demand curve in each market. The cost of selling in more markets is that to do so it must hire more N -type labor, L_N . The measure of markets that can be serviced with a given amount of N -type labor is determined by a span-of-control function with elasticity γ_N , which we refer to as the expansion elasticity. The firm takes the prices of each type labor (W_Y, W_N) as given. Note that when $\gamma_N = 0$, the firm hires only Y -type labor and the choice of how many markets to operate in disappears. In this case the problem collapses to a text-book single firm decision problem.

Rearranging the first-order conditions from this problem yields expressions for the distribution of the firms' revenues between each type of labor and economic profits:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{LY} &= \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y \\ S_{LN} &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N \end{aligned} \quad S_{\Pi} = 1 - \gamma_N - (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \frac{1}{\mu}$$

The markup charged by the firm is given by $\mu := \frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}$ and the price charged and quantity sold is the same in each market, $p_i = p$. In this simple model, changes in the markup arise only due to changes in the demand elasticity, σ , although it will turn out that the forces at work are applicable much more broadly. The shares of revenue that go to Y -type labor, N -type labor and economic profits are denoted by $S_{LY} := W_Y L_Y / pY$, $S_{LN} := W_N L_N / pY$ and $S_{\Pi} := 1 - S_{LY} - S_{LN}$, respectively. The overall labor share is given by $S_L = S_{LY} + S_{LN} = \gamma_N + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \frac{1}{\mu}$.

These expressions reveal several insights about the relationship between the markup and the distribution of revenue. First, in the standard problem without N -type labor ($\gamma_N = 0$), the firm's revenues are divided between labor and profits in the familiar proportions $\left(\frac{\gamma_Y}{\mu}, 1 - \frac{\gamma_Y}{\mu}\right)$. In this case, an increase in the markup unambiguously leads to a redistribution of revenues away from workers and towards the owners of the firm. This is the source of the conventional wisdom that higher markups are beneficial to firm owners and costly to workers. Versions of this simple inverse relationship between the labor share, production elasticity and markup, $S_L = \frac{\gamma_Y}{\mu}$, underscore almost all existing strategies for measuring the level and dynamics of markups from production data, and are why those strategies are not valid in our more general environment where this relationship does not hold.

Second, when $\gamma_N > 0$, the firm employs workers for expansionary activities as well as for production activities. For workers performing N -type activities, this conventional wisdom is overturned. An increase in the markup redistributes income towards N -type labor, so that the share of the firm's revenues that compensates N -type activities rises, while the share that compensates Y -type activities falls. Thus a change in the markup leads to redistribution *within* labor, in addition to the conventional focus on redistribution *between* labor and profits. Thus to know whether the income share of a given worker is positively or negatively exposed to a change in markups requires knowledge of the extent to which that worker's earnings are compensating Y -type versus N -type activities.

Third, the introduction of N -type labor undoes the tight negative relationship between the markup and the overall labor share. Whether the share of the firm's revenues accruing to labor

rises or falls following an increase in the markup depends on whether the gains for N -type labor offset the losses for Y -type labor. These expressions reveal that this will be the case whenever $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$. In the conventional model with $\gamma_N = 0$, this is never the case. But when $\gamma_N > 0$, which is a necessary condition for the existence of N -type labor, the relationship between markups and the labor share is ambiguous. In Section 3 we will argue that the post-war US economy is best described as one in which not only is $\gamma_N > 0$, but $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$.

The point of presenting this single firm problem at the outset is to illustrate why acknowledging N -type labor is essential for understanding the relationship between markups and the income distribution. In the remainder of the paper we explore the ramifications and limitations of this very simple insight, and we embed this basic trade-off into a general equilibrium structure amenable for estimation with available data.

Outline The first part of the paper is theoretical. In Section 2, we consider a general equilibrium version of this firm decision problem in which labor supplied by different occupations are imperfect substitutes in both production and expansion. Because different occupations are used with different intensities in production versus expansion activities, the share of labor income received by each occupation responds differently to a change in markups.

Our theoretical results are summarized in three simple but powerful theorems that describe how a change in the markup redistributes national income. Theorem 1 shows that an increase in the markup unambiguously redistributes income away from Y -type labor and towards N -type labor. Thus when markups change, some workers' incomes rise and some workers' incomes fall, depending on the nature of the work that they perform. Theorem 2 then shows that whether the share of labor income received by a particular occupation rises or falls with markups depends only on the relative size of two occupation-specific parameters that reflect their importance in aggregate production and expansion activities, respectively. Thus learning about whether the earnings of a particular occupation are positively or negatively exposed to a change in markups boils down to measuring the size of these two parameters. Finally, Theorem 3 shows that whether an increase in the markup leads to an increase or a decrease in the overall labor share is theoretically ambiguous and depends on the relative size of the aggregate production and expansion elasticities. Together with the average markup, the relative size of these two elasticities also determines the share of overall labor income in the economy that compensates N -type activities. In existing models that abstract from the expansionary role of labor, the markup and the labor share move in opposite directions. But if a sufficiently large fraction of labor income compensates N -type activities – corresponding to a higher expansion elasticity than production elasticity – this co-movement is reversed.

The second part of the paper is empirical. We quantify how much of US labor income compensates N -type activities and which occupations are the most N -intensive. We estimate the structural parameters that govern these quantities in two steps.

In Section 3 we exploit the prediction of Theorem 3 that the sign and strength of the co-movement of the markup with the labor share is informative about the production and expansion elasticities, and therefore the fraction of labor income that compensates Y -type versus N -type labor. We explain how these aggregate structural parameters can be identified given de-trended time-series data on the labor share and a proxy for the aggregate markup. We explain why existing approaches for measuring average markups from production data cannot be applied in the context of our model, and hence why we must seek an alternative empirical approach. We show that in our model, movements in the ratio of price indexes at different stages of production contain the the required information about the movements in the average markup needed for estimation. We estimate the production and expansion elasticities using business-cycle frequency US data and show that they imply that between 5% and 35% of labor income compensates expansionary activities, depending on the assumption we make about the average markup over this period.

In Section 4 we exploit the prediction of Theorem 2 that, given the parameter estimates from the first step, the sign and strength of the co-movement of occupational labor income shares with markup-induced variation in the overall labor share reveals the relative intensity of each occupation in Y -type versus N -type activities. Occupations that are more intensive in expansionary activities are those whose share of aggregate labor income increases when the overall labor share increases due to a change in the markup. We estimate the model parameters using three different approaches to isolate markup-induced variation in the labor share: (i) using the de-trended labor share itself; (ii) using the de-trended markup as an instrument; and (iii) using external estimates of lagged monetary policy shocks as a set of instruments. We clarify the orthogonality conditions that are required for each approach.

Regardless of which of these sources of variation that we use, we find that the occupations that are the most N -intensive are those that are typically associated with white-collar jobs (high-tech, service, managerial and admin occupations), while those that are the most Y -intensive are those that are typically associated with blue-collar jobs (construction, extractive, farming, machine operators, production and repair occupations). This interpretation is reinforced by correlating our measures of N -intensity with a range of occupational characteristics from O*NET. We also correlate our measures of the N -intensity of occupations with the manual, routine and abstract content of occupations as measured by Autor et al. (2006). We find that N -intensity is weakly negatively correlated with the manual content of occupations and weakly positively correlated with the abstract content, but is not correlated with the routine content. We find both high-wage and low-wage occupations among the N -intensive occupations, so the correlation of wages with the expansionary content of occupations is weak. But we find a strong positive correlation between the expansionary content of occupations and both wage growth and hours growth over the last 40 years. This suggests that the demand for N -type labor is growing faster than is the demand for Y -type labor.

2 Theoretical Framework

2.1 Economic Environment

Occupations There are a fixed set of J occupations, indexed by $j = 1 \dots J$. We assume that each worker is attached to only one occupation and abstract from occupational choice.¹ We denote the total quantity of labor supplied by workers in occupation j as L_j , and the corresponding wage rate per unit of labor as W_j . Firms can hire workers in occupation j to perform either Y -type or N -type activities. We denote the quantity of labor demanded from occupation j to perform each activity as L_{jY} and L_{jN} respectively. Labor market clearing in each occupation implies that

$$L_j = L_{jY} + L_{jN} \quad \forall j.$$

Upstream sector A representative upstream firm hires labor from each occupation to perform Y -type activities. It produces a homogeneous intermediate good M that it sells to downstream firms in a competitive market at price P_U . The firm's production function combines the labor of different occupations using a Cobb-Douglas aggregator, and has an overall elasticity with respect to the combined labor input of $\gamma_Y \in [0, 1]$, which we label the production elasticity. The occupation weights satisfy $\eta_{jY} \in [0, 1]$, $\sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jY} = 1$ and capture the relative importance of each occupation in Y -type activities. The upstream firm thus chooses labor in each occupation L_{jY} and output M to maximize profits Π_U :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_U &:= \max_{M, \{L_{jY}\}_{j=1}^J} P_U M - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY} \\ &\text{subject to} \\ M &= Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y} \end{aligned}$$

Profits in the upstream sector may be non-zero if there are decreasing returns to scale in the combined labor input ($\gamma_Y < 1$).

Downstream sector The downstream sector consists of a unit measure continuum of identical firms, each of which performs expansion, product differentiation and pricing functions. Expansion departments hire labor from each occupation to manage a measure of product lines, $i \in [0, N]$. Each product line i generates gross profits Π_i , which the expansion department takes as given when deciding on the number of lines to operate. It thus chooses labor L_{jN} and the measure of product

¹We abstract from occupational choice to focus on labor demand rather than labor supply. None of our results would be affected if we were to assume that workers can choose between occupations.

lines N to maximize net profits Π_D :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_D := & \max_{N, \{L_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J} \int_0^N \Pi_i di - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN} \\ & \text{subject to} \\ & N = Z_D \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\gamma_N} \end{aligned}$$

As in the upstream sector, the labor of different occupations are combined with a Cobb-Douglas aggregator, where the occupation weights satisfy $\eta_{jN} \in [0, 1]$, $\sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jN} = 1$. We allow for an expansion elasticity $\gamma_N \in [0, 1]$ to capture the possibility of decreasing returns to scale in managing product lines from span-of-control or other similar considerations. Although we will use the language of “expansion” and “product lines” for the N margin, this language should not be interpreted literally. N -type activities represent any means by which downstream firms can replicate gross profits, including developing new products, operating in new geographic markets, marketing to different demographic segments or increasing advertising or sales effort for existing products in existing markets.

The product differentiation department for product line i purchases a quantity m_i of homogeneous intermediate goods from the upstream sector, which it costlessly differentiates and sells as final goods y_i to consumers.

The pricing department sets a price p_i in market i , which we describe in terms of a markup $\mu_i \geq 1$ over its marginal cost P_U .² Therefore

$$p_i = \mu_i P_U$$

and the gross profits in each product line are given by

$$\Pi_i := p_i y_i - P_U m_i$$

The quantity y_i of differentiated goods sold in market i is determined by the demand conditions in market i and the price p_i . Expenditure on output of the downstream sector is

$$PY = \int_0^N p_i y_i di.$$

We will focus only on symmetric equilibria in which $p_i = p \forall i$, $m_i = m \forall i$, $\mu_i = \mu \forall i$ and $y_i = y \forall j$, so that $PY = pNy$.

²The final goods production function in the downstream sector is therefore $y_i = m_i$, which is why we describe the labor used in the production of intermediate goods as Y -type labor, rather than M -type labor. In Section 3.3, we generalize the model to allow for additional labor to be used in the downstream sector when differentiating intermediate goods into final goods.

In what follows, we treat the markup μ as exogenous and remain agnostic about the source of variations in μ , because the theorems that follow about the effects of a change in the markup μ do not depend on a particular micro-foundation. Readers who prefer to have a concrete example in mind can think of a model of monopolistic competition with a Constant Elasticity of Substitution (CES) aggregator over product lines, analogous to the model of a single firm in Section 1. In that case the markup μ is equal to $\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}$, where σ is the elasticity of substitution across varieties σ , and variation in μ arises only from exogenous variation in σ . We refer readers to Supplementary Material H which contains a range of different market structures and preference formulations that are consistent with our model. For each of these we explain how markup variation can arise exogenously from variations in structural parameters or endogenously from variations due to other structural shocks, and that Theorems 1, 2 and 3 described below, hold in these more general environments.

2.2 Equilibrium Factor Shares

Market clearing for intermediate goods implies that $mN = M$ and nominal GDP in this economy is given by $PY = pM$. We denote the shares of total income accruing to Y -type labor and N -type labor by

$$S_{LN} := \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN}}{PY} \text{ and } S_{LY} := \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY}}{PY},$$

The overall labor share is then given by $S_L = S_{LN} + S_{LY}$. The profit share in the economy is the sum of profit shares in the upstream and downstream sectors, $S_{\Pi} = S_U + S_D$, where

$$S_U := \frac{\Pi_U}{PY} \text{ and } S_D := \frac{\Pi_D}{PY}.$$

The share of total income accruing to occupation j is denoted by

$$S_j := \frac{W_j L_j}{PY}.$$

Lemma 1. *In a symmetric equilibrium the factor shares satisfy*

$$\begin{aligned} S_L &= \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N & S_{LY} &= \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y & S_U &= \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \gamma_Y) \\ S_{\Pi} &= \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \gamma_Y) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) (1 - \gamma_N) & S_{LN} &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N & S_D &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) (1 - \gamma_N) \\ S_j &= \frac{1}{\mu} \eta_{jY} \gamma_Y + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \eta_{jN} \gamma_N \quad \forall j \end{aligned}$$

Proof. See Appendix A.1. □

Lemma 1 shows that the factor shares in this economy are determined by only three parameters: the level of the markup μ and the elasticities of production and expansion with respect to labor, (γ_Y, γ_N) . In particular, neither the demand structure that gives rise to the markup μ , nor the relative productivities in the two sectors (Z_Y, Z_N) matter for the income shares. This latter property is a feature of having assumed iso-elastic production functions, which we relax in Section 2.4. Note also that the factor shares in the aggregate economy are identical to the revenue shares for the simple firm problem in Section 1. When $\gamma_N = 0$, the economy collapses to a standard one-sector model with only Y -type labor.

2.3 Effect of the Markup on Labor Income Shares

We use the factor shares in Lemma 1 to answer three questions about the relationship between the markup and the income distribution.

Income redistribution between Y -type and N -type labor How does a change in the markup redistribute income between production and expansionary labor? Theorem 1 shows that whereas the share of income compensating labor used for production activities is negatively exposed to markups, the share of income compensating labor used for expansionary activities is positively exposed to markups. Thus an increase in the markup redistributes income from Y -type to N -type labor.

Theorem 1. *Assume $\gamma_Y, \gamma_N > 0$. An increase (decrease) in the markup μ leads to a decrease (increase) in the income share of Y -type labor and an increase (decrease) in the income share of N -type labor.*

$$\frac{\partial S_{LY}}{\partial \mu} < 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial S_{LN}}{\partial \mu} > 0$$

Proof. See Appendix A.2. □

The intuition behind Theorem 1 is that whether the demand for an input rises or falls with an increase in the markup depends on whether the real marginal value of that input to producers (in terms of final goods) is higher or lower when the markup is higher. For the downstream sector, the marginal value of N -type labor is higher when markups are higher (and hence gross profits are higher) because N -type workers allow downstream firms to replicate their existing activities. For the upstream sector, a higher markup translates into a lower value of the intermediate good in units of the final good, which lowers the marginal value of the Y -type labor that is used to produce intermediate goods.

Labor income redistribution between occupations How does a change in the markup redistribute labor income between different occupations? Theorem 2 shows that an increase in the markup redistributes labor income away from occupations that are used relatively more intensively in Y -type activities, and toward occupations that are used relatively more intensively in N -type activities. The relative intensities of an occupation are determined by its production parameters (η_{jY}, η_{jN}) . We denote the share of *labor income* accruing to occupation j by $s_j := \frac{S_j}{S_L}$ and refer to these as the occupational labor income shares. Rearranging the factor shares from Lemma 1 results in the following expression relating occupational labor income shares to the markup, from which Theorem 2 then follows

$$s_j = \eta_{jY} + (\eta_{jN} - \eta_{jY}) \left[1 + \frac{\gamma_Y}{\gamma_N} \frac{1}{\mu - 1} \right]^{-1}.$$

Theorem 2. *An increase (decrease) in the markup μ leads to a decrease (increase) in the relative labor income share of occupation j , $s_j := \frac{S_j}{S_L}$, if and only if $\eta_{jY} > \eta_{jN}$*

$$\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial \mu} \begin{matrix} \leq \\ > \end{matrix} 0 \text{ if and only if } \eta_{jY} \begin{matrix} \geq \\ < \end{matrix} \eta_{jN}$$

Proof. See Appendix A.3. □

Theorem 2 says that if different occupations have different input shares in Y -type versus N -type activities, then a change in the markup leads to redistribution of labor income across occupations. An increase in the markup redistributes labor income towards occupations that have $\eta_{jN} > \eta_{jY}$, which we refer to as N -intensive occupations. In contrast, we refer to occupations with $\eta_{jY} > \eta_{jN}$ as Y -intensive occupations. Knowledge about which occupations stand to benefit from higher markups requires knowledge of their N -intensity. A corollary of Theorem 2 is that, given knowledge of (γ_Y, γ_N) , the co-movement of relative occupational shares s_j and the markup μ is informative about $\eta_{jN} - \eta_{jY}$. In Section 4, we will pursue this strategy to learn about the N -intensity of occupations in the US labor market.

Income redistribution between labor and profits How does a change in the markup redistribute income between labor and profits? Theorem 3 shows that when some workers are engaged in N -type activities ($\gamma_N > 0$), a change in the markup has an ambiguous effect on the overall labor share. In particular, an increase in the markup leads to a fall in the labor share if and only if $\gamma_Y > \gamma_N$. In the special case when $\gamma_N = \gamma_Y$, a change in the markup has no effect on the labor share. And when $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$, which we will argue below is the empirically relevant case, an increase in the markup leads to an increase in the labor share.

Theorem 3. *An increase (decrease) in the markup μ leads to an increase (decrease) in the overall*

labor share if and only if the expansion elasticity is bigger than the production elasticity

$$\frac{\partial S_L}{\partial \mu} \gtrless 0 \text{ if and only if } \gamma_N \gtrless \gamma_Y.$$

Proof. See Appendix A.4. □

Theorem 3 follows directly from the expression for the overall labor share in Lemma 1, which can be written as $S_L = \gamma_N + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \frac{1}{\mu}$. A corollary is that co-movement of the markup with the labor share is informative about the relative sizes of γ_N versus γ_Y . In Section 3 we will pursue this strategy to learn about the share of total labor income in the US economy that compensates Y -type activities versus N -type activities.

Models that abstract from N -type labor are a special case of our model with an expansion elasticity of zero ($\gamma_N = 0$). In these economies, the labor share and profit share are given by $(S_L, S_\Pi) = \left(\frac{\gamma_Y}{\mu}, 1 - \frac{\gamma_Y}{\mu}\right)$ so that an increase in the markup μ unambiguously increases the profit share and lowers the labor share. This tight negative relationship between the markup and labor share is strongly ingrained in macroeconomic thinking. Empirical work on measuring movements in the markup often equates the markup with the inverse of the labor share (Bils and Klenow, 2004; Nekarda and Ramey, 2020), or estimates the markup as the ratio of the output elasticity of labor (or other variable input) to the labor share (or other variable input's share of costs in revenues) (De Loecker and Warzynski, 2012; De Loecker et al., 2020). Theorem 3 shows that when $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$, this tight relationship breaks down. In Section 3.2, we explain why this leads us to pursue an alternative strategy for inferring movements in the markup compared with most of the existing literature.

Taking stock Theorems 1, 2 and 3 describe a non-trivial relationship between the markup and the income distribution. The share of labor income paid to some occupations may rise when markups rise, while the income paid to others may fall. Even the share of total income paid to labor may rise or fall in response to an increase in the markup. However these theorems show that the elasticities (γ_Y, γ_N) and the production parameters $\{\eta_{jY}, \eta_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J$ fully characterize this pattern of redistribution. The theorems in this section suggest an empirical strategy for measuring these parameters and hence learning about the extent to which labor income compensates Y -type versus N -type activities, the N -intensity of different occupations and how each occupations' labor income is exposed to movements in the markup.

The role of N -type labor in our framework shares features with that of fixed or overhead costs (Rotemberg and Woodford, 1999; Christiano et al., 2005; Smets and Wouters, 2007), entry costs (Melitz, 2003; Bilbiie et al., 2007), and labor used for acquisition of customers (Gourio and Rudanko, 2014). It also relates to the role of idea-production, entry, or variety-expansion inputs in canonical endogenous growth models, in which R&D labor expands the variety of available products or pushes out the productivity frontier (Romer, 1990; Aghion and Howitt, 1992; Jones, 1995). In

those frameworks, labor allocated to R&D or innovation scales the extensive margin of products or technologies and is rewarded by the rents generated by imperfect competition; similarly, in our setting N -type labor expands the set of markets or activities over which firms earn markups, so that higher markups increase the return to such expansionary inputs.

Rather than taking a stand on a particular expression of N -type activities as in these examples, we instead construct a simple framework that captures their common element, and offers a transparent mapping between the model and the data that can be used for estimation. Our contribution is to explore the implications of these aspects of the revenue generating process for the distribution of income across occupations and the differential exposure of occupations' incomes to movements in markups.

2.4 Generalizations of Production Structure

Before turning to estimation we briefly consider how various extensions and generalization affect the redistributive effects of a change in the markup, as reflected in Theorems 1, 2, and 3.

Variety-specific DRS in production Our baseline model features a homogenous intermediate good that is then differentiated. This implies that DRS in the use of Y -type labor operates at the economy-wide level. In the absence of love-of-variety in preferences, the production of new product lines is a socially wasteful activity and a planner would choose to set $N \rightarrow 0$. In Appendix B.1 we describe an alternative version of the model, in which each variety is produced with a separate DRS production function in the upstream sector. With this alternative formulation, there is indeed a social benefit to introducing new product lines, and a planner would choose a value of $N > 0$ as in Bilbiie et al. (2016). The distributional effects of a change in the markup are identical to those in the baseline model the factor shares are identical to those in the baseline model: Lemma 1 and Theorems 1, 2, and 3 are the same.

Integrated upstream and downstream sectors as single firms The model described above differs from the one shown in the introduction in that it assumes that decisions about how much Y -type labor to hire are made independently of decisions about how much N -type labor to hire. When a downstream firm is deciding about whether to expand its number of product lines, it does not internalize the effect this will have on the marginal cost of production. In Appendix B.2, we analyze a general equilibrium version of the model in Section 1, in which a continuum of firms each decide jointly on production and expansion. In this model, the expressions for the factor shares in Lemma 1 and Theorems 1, 2 and 3 are the same as in the baseline model.

Capital and other factors of production So far we have considered a production structure in which labor is the only factor used in production and expansion. In Appendix B.3, we describe

a more general version of the model that incorporates other factors such as capital and materials. We show that if the production and expansion functions are weakly separable between labor and other factors of production and expansion, then implications for labor shares in Theorems 1, 2 and 3 are unaffected. Specifically, we assume the production and expansion functions take the form

$$M = Z_U L_Y^{\gamma_Y} f_Y(X_Y), \quad N = Z_D L_N^{\gamma_N} f_N(X_N),$$

where X_Y and X_N are vectors of inputs used for production and expansion respectively, and f_Y and f_N are arbitrary functions. In this case, the expressions for the labor share are the same as in Lemma 1. Profit shares, however, will depend on the functions f_Y and f_N .

Other Generalizations In Section 3.3, we describe and estimate an extension of the model that allows additional Y -type labor to be used in the differentiation of goods in the downstream sector. In Section 4.3, we describe and estimate an extension of the model that incorporates different industries and allows for industry heterogeneity in the importance of N -type versus Y -type labor. In that model, a version of Lemma 1 holds in which (γ_N, γ_Y) are determined by the industry-level expansion and production elasticities and the relative importance of each industry. In Appendix B, we describe the effects on Theorems 1, 2 and 3 of allowing for Constant Elasticity of Substitution production functions (B.4); entry in the upstream sector (B.5); N -type labor increasing productivity in the upstream sector (B.6), and markups in both the labor market and the market for upstream goods (B.7).

What modifications would cause Theorems 1, 2 or 3 to be violated? In Appendix B.2.1 we describe a version of the model in which a firm decides jointly on production and expansion, and each variety has its own decreasing returns to scale production function. In that model, Theorem 3 no longer holds. In that model, N -type labor captures a fraction γ_N of the profits from decreasing returns to scale in production. An increase in the markup lowers those profits, reducing the amount by which the income share of N -type labor increases by enough so that the overall labor share falls. In Appendix B.6 we describe a model in which N -type labor is used to increase firms' productivity in producing goods using Y -type labor.³ In that model, an increase in the markup reduces demand for both types of labor and Theorems 1, 2 and 3 do not hold. This helps clarify that in our baseline model a key distinction between the two uses of labor is their role in generating *revenue*, as opposed to *output*.

3 Estimation of Aggregate Parameters

We estimate the model parameters in two steps. First, in this section we estimate the production and expansion elasticities (γ_Y, γ_N) using time series data on the overall labor share S_L and a proxy for the markup μ that we will describe below. Knowledge of these parameters, together with an

³We thank a referee for drawing this formulation to our attention.

assumed value for the average markup, is then sufficient to infer the aggregate fraction of US labor income that compensates N -type activities. Then, in Section 4, we estimate the parameters that govern the N -type and Y -type content of each occupation, $\{\eta_{jY}, \eta_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J$, given estimates of (γ_Y, γ_N) and data on occupational labor income shares.

Why do we not attempt to measure the N and Y content of occupations directly, as opposed to inferring them indirectly from the co-movement of occupational labor shares with markup induced variation in the overall labor share? We think that the scope of N -type labor encompasses too broad a range of activities, and the distinction between Y -type and N -type activities is too abstract, to be able to directly observe payments to each type of labor separately in available data. We experimented with classifying occupations based on workplace tasks from O*NET. However, we found these attempts to classify occupations using ex-ante priors to be extremely arbitrary and that there are not any specific skills, activities or task that neatly associate with Y or N type labor. Moreover, even if it were possible to associate specific O*NET tasks as Y or N type, there is no obvious way to aggregate these to form intensities at the occupation level that can be mapped to the structural parameters $\{\eta_{jY}, \eta_{jN}\}$. Instead, in Sections 4.4 and 5 we correlate our inferred measures of N -intensity of occupations with an array of variables to learn about the nature of the N -type labor. Our results show that while there are some tasks and activities that are more highly correlated with the N -intensity, the mapping is rough and it is clear that the patterns of exposure to markup fluctuations that our procedure reveals would be difficult to uncover based on ex-ante classifications.

3.1 Identification and Estimation of Overall Shares

Our estimation strategy is based on the model predictions underlying Theorems 1, 2 and 3. According to the model, N -type activities are those whose share of total labor compensation increases in response to a markup-induced increase in the overall labor share, whereas Y -type activities are those whose share of total labor compensation falls in response to a markup-induced increase in the overall labor share.

From Lemma 1, we can express the overall labor share as a function of the production and expansion elasticities, and the the markup,

$$S_L = \gamma_N + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \frac{1}{\mu}. \quad (1)$$

Equation (1) underscores our strategy for identifying (γ_Y, γ_N) . Given variation in the markup μ that arises from any source that does not involve a change in (γ_N, γ_Y) , these parameters are identified from the average levels of the markup and the labor share, and the co-movement of the labor share with the markup. Intuitively, Lemma 1 showed that the factor shares are determined by $(\gamma_N, \gamma_Y, \mu)$ and thus three moments are required. The levels of the labor share and the markup provide two of these. The third moment exploits the insight of Theorem 3 that the sign and

strength of co-movement between the labor share and the markup identifies the gap between γ_N and γ_Y .

Our estimating equation is the empirical counterpart to (1),

$$S_{L,t} = \gamma_N + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \frac{1}{\mu_t} + \epsilon_{L,t} \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{1}{\mu_t} = \frac{1}{\mu} + \epsilon_{\mu,t},$$

where $S_{L,t}$ and μ_t are de-trended series for the aggregate labor share and markup. The variation we exploit is aggregate time-series fluctuations at business cycle frequencies. We focus on variation at business cycle frequencies in part because the key variables used in estimation (aggregate labor share, average aggregate markup, occupational labor income shares) exhibit strong secular trends which have been the focus of extensive existing literatures, and our model abstracts from the necessary ingredients needed to explicitly model these trends. The required assumption that γ_Y, γ_N are constant is more likely to hold at business cycle frequencies than over longer horizons. However, in robustness exercises reported below, we show that we obtain similar estimates if we use either long differences, or averages of the de-trended or raw data at various horizons. We treat the model as a repeated static economy for the purpose of estimation.⁴

According to this equation, cyclical variation in the measured labor share could arise because of variation in the inverse markup (captured by $\epsilon_{\mu,t}$), or because of measurement error in the labor share or cyclical variation in other factors outside the model (captured by $\epsilon_{L,t}$). In the case of monopolistic competition with CES demand, variation in $\epsilon_{\mu,t}$ arises only from variation in the elasticity of substitution across goods, but in more general market structures $\epsilon_{\mu,t}$ can vary due to any of the forces described in Supplementary Material H.

The assumption required for identification of (γ_N, γ_Y) is that variation in the inverse markup $\epsilon_{\mu,t}$ is independent of these other sources of cyclical variation in the labor share $\epsilon_{L,t}$ that are outside the model

$$E[\epsilon_{L,t}] = 0 \quad \forall t \quad (3)$$

$$E[\epsilon_{L,\tau} | \epsilon_{\mu,t}] = 0 \quad \forall (t, \tau). \quad (4)$$

These moment conditions form the basis of our estimation strategy. Note that the implicit assumption underlying this strategy is that the production and expansion elasticities (γ_Y, γ_N) do not vary at business cycle frequencies. Assuming that technological parameters such as these are constant over the business cycle has a long tradition in economics - it is imposed, either explicitly or implicitly, in almost all existing empirical exercises that use Real Business Cycle and New Keynesian models. In richer environments, for example with firm heterogeneity, model analogues

⁴A natural question is how to formally incorporate trends into the model and derive a counterpart to (2) for de-trended data. In Appendix F we show that under the assumption that γ_Y and γ_N grow at a common deterministic trend, the model implies an equation for the de-trended markup and aggregate labor share as in equation (2)

to the aggregate elasticities γ_Y and γ_N will in general not be structural parameters, and will typically depend on the distribution of firms and their individual elasticities. In such models, stronger assumptions are required for identification. In Section 4.3, we provide estimates for one such extension with industry heterogeneity in production and expansion elasticities.

3.2 Labor Share and Markup Data

To implement this estimation strategy, we require de-trended data on the labor share and the markup.

Labor share data We construct our baseline measure of the labor share using quarterly data from the National Economic Statistics produced by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, following the procedures in Gomme and Rupert (2004) to adjust for ambiguous components of income. We use data for 1950:Q1 to 2018:Q4 and de-trend using the method in Hamilton (2018). All of our estimates are robust to using alternative measures of the labor share and alternative methods for de-trending. Appendix E.1 contains full details of the construction of the series and Appendix G reports estimates using alternative data series for the labor share.

The raw series for the labor share is displayed in Figure 1a (black solid line, left axis). The mean of this series over the sample is 65.1%. The series displays the well-documented downward trend in the labor share, from an average of 67.0% pre-1960 to 61.2% post-2010. The labor share is also counter-cyclical, which can be seen in Figure 1a, by noting that the NBER recessions (shaded grey areas) typically correspond to local maxima of the series. The correlation of the de-trended labor share series with de-trended log per-capita real output is -0.13 . This counter-cyclicity of the labor share is consistent with a large body of evidence (see for example, Rios-Rull and Santaaulalia-Llopis, 2010; Schwellnus et al., 2018).

Markup data We construct a series for the markup by leveraging the fact that in our model the markup is identically equal to the ratio of p_t (the price of differentiated final goods that are sold to consumers) to $P_{U,t}$ (the price of undifferentiated goods produced from raw inputs), which we denote by ϱ_t .

$$\varrho_t := \frac{p_t}{P_{U,t}} = \mu_t.$$

We construct an empirical counterpart to ϱ_t by comparing the prices of goods at different stages of the production process, similarly to Barro and Tenreyro (2006). We use indexes produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Producer Price Index (PPI) program that closely match the model definitions of p_t and $P_{U,t}$ and are available since 1947. For the numerator, we use the series for “Finished demand” (WPSFD49207), which measures the price changes of goods for (i) personal consumption and (ii) capital investment. For the denominator, we use the series for “Processed goods for intermediate demand” (WPSID61), which measures the price changes of (i) partially

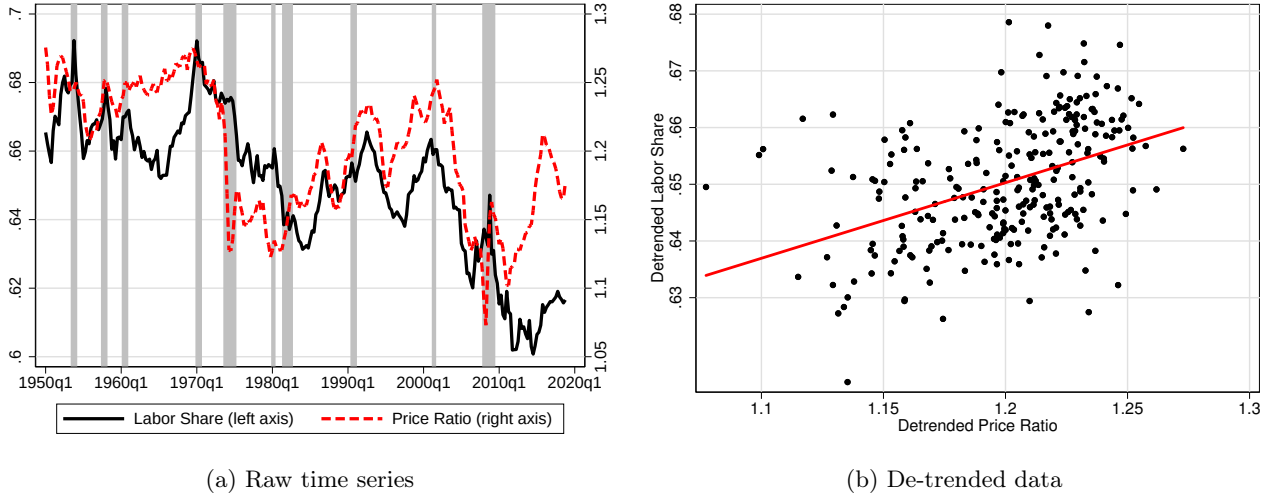


Figure 1: Panel (a): Raw time series for labor share and price ratio. Labor share (left axis) is computed from BEA data following [Gomme and Rupert \(2004\)](#). Price ratio (right axis) is the ratio of PPI series WPSFD49207 to series WPSID61. Shaded areas are NBER recessions. Panel (b): De-trended labor share and de-trended price ratio. Labor share and inverse price ratio are de-trended using the Hamilton filter, with the sample mean (for the labor share) and the assumed mean level (for the price ratio) added back.

processed goods that have to undergo further processing before they can be sold to the public and (ii) supplies consumed by businesses.

Because we measure the price ratio ϱ_t by comparing two indexes, it allows us to track changes over time in ϱ_t , and hence μ_t , but it does not provide a way to estimate the average *level* of the markup, which is also required for our estimation procedure. For our baseline estimates, we assume that the average markup over the post-war period is 1.2, and we show how our estimates are affected by assuming a value between 1.05 and 1.35. It turns out that the level of the markup has very little effect on the estimates of (γ_N, γ_Y) , since these are identified by the co-movement of the markup with the labor share, and the level of the labor share. It also has a negligible effect on our estimates of the occupation-level parameters in Section 4 that determine the relative N -intensity of different occupations, and hence the relative exposure of different occupations to markup movements, which is the main focus of our exercise. However, the level of the markup does matter for the implied estimate of the overall fraction of total labor payments that compensate N -type labor, $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$.

The raw measure of the price ratio is displayed in Figure 1a (red dashed line, right axis), re-scaled to have a mean of 1.2. The series displays a slight downward trend. The series is also counter-cyclical and co-moves positively with the labor share at business cycle frequencies. The correlation of the de-trended markup with de-trended log per-capita real output is -0.28 , and the correlation with the de-trended labor share is 0.28 . This positive co-movement between the price ratio and the labor share is the key feature of the data suggesting that $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$ and that the share

of N -type labor is positive.

Comparison with alternative approaches Why do we use cyclical movements in the price ratio q_t as our measure of movements in the aggregate markup μ_t rather than attempting to measure markups directly using one of the many empirical approaches that have been proposed in the existing literature? The reason is that none of these existing approaches are appropriate in the context of our model.

Estimating markups and their co-movement with aggregate economic activity has a long and controversial history in economics. We refer the reader to [Nekarda and Ramey \(2020\)](#) for an excellent discussion of the relevant literature and different approaches to estimating the dynamics of the markup at business cycle frequencies. [Nekarda and Ramey \(2020\)](#) classify four approaches that have been used to estimate a time-series for the markup: (i) using direct data on price and average variable costs; (ii) generalizations of the Solow residual as in [Hall \(1986\)](#); (iii) generalized production functions with quasi-fixed factors; (iv) using factor share equations, adjusted for fixed costs. These approaches require the researcher to specify which are the variable factors that are used in the production of goods, as opposed to factors that contribute to generating revenue for firms in ways other than variable production. But in a model with N -type inputs like ours, this requires distinguishing between payments to N -type versus Y -type labor as a pre-requisite to estimating the markup, which would mean assuming knowledge of exactly what it is we are trying to estimate. This is one reason the methods used in [De Loecker and Warzynski \(2012\)](#) and [De Loecker et al. \(2020\)](#) cannot be used in the context of our model, unless one could separately observe payments to N -type and Y -type labor. Rather than learning about the markup by assuming that Y -type labor is observed, we instead seek to learn about the split between N -type versus Y -type by leveraging the structure of the model and a model-consistent estimate of movements in the markup, the price ratio.⁵

Using an input other than labor as the variable factor of production leads to similar difficulties in the context of our model, unless the payments to those inputs that compensate production activities can be observed separately from those that compensate expansionary activities. This includes, for example, the use of intermediate inputs as in [Bils et al. \(2018\)](#). Even if data on Y -type and N -type intermediate inputs or materials were available, we would need to know production function elasticities with respects to these factors in order to estimate markups. However, as explained in [Bond et al. \(2021\)](#), in the presence of imperfect competition, these are not identified

⁵The counter-cyclicality of the price ratio, and hence the markup, is not at odds with the conclusions in [Nekarda and Ramey \(2020\)](#) that an estimate for the aggregate markup based on labor compensation is pro-cyclical, since that estimate is simply the inverse of the labor share which is also pro-cyclical in our data. Similarly, the fact that our measure of the markup does not display a strong increasing trend is not at odds with evidence in, e.g., [Autor et al. \(2020\)](#), since the object [Autor et al. \(2020\)](#) label as the markup and find to be increasing is effectively the inverse of the labor share. The difference is one of interpretation, not data. As explained in Section 2 our model implies a different mapping from the data (labor share) to the markup than most of the literature that implicitly assumes $\gamma_N = 0$. Through the lens of our model, the empirical object that these papers interpret as a measure of the aggregate markup is a combination of the markup and the two elasticities, (γ_Y, γ_N) .

without separate data on output prices and output quantities, which are not available except in a small number of narrowly defined industries.

Is the use of the price ratio ϱ_t a panacea to all these difficulties in estimating markups? No, for three reasons. First, as already mentioned it does not offer a way to estimate the mean markup, which is why we need to make an assumption about the mean level of the markup and conduct sensitivity analysis. Second, our approach does not allow for the estimation of firm-level heterogeneity in markups, which has been a focus of much of the recent literature on estimating markups. Third, the validity of the price ratio ϱ_t as a measure of the markup μ_t relies on the structure of our model. The most important assumption in this regard is that no additional value-added takes place between upstream and downstream the sectors. This is a strong assumption, so in Section 3.3 we extend the model to allow for additional processing using labor in the downstream sector, and show that a modified version of the price ratio is a valid measure of the markup. In general, the details of the relationship between ϱ_t and μ_t will depend on the details of the model.

3.3 Estimates of Production and Expansion Elasticities

Baseline estimates We estimate equation (2) by OLS.⁶ Our baseline estimates are shown in the first column of Table 1. We estimate a value for γ_N of 0.80 and a value for γ_Y of 0.62. Figure 1b displays a scatter plot corresponding to this regression, which illustrates the positive co-movement between the de-trended labor share and de-trended price ratio. The higher estimate for γ_N than γ_Y is a direct consequence of this positive co-movement. Given our assumptions of a mean markup of 1.2, these estimates imply that roughly one-fifth of labor income compensates expansion activities as opposed to production activities.

The second and third columns of Table 1 show that the estimate of the share of labor income compensating N -type activities is sensitive to the assumption about the mean markup. If one believes that the mean level of the markup is lower (higher) than 1.2, then one would obtain lower (higher) estimates of this share. However, the estimates of the elasticities γ_Y, γ_N are not sensitive to the assumed level of the markup, and it is these elasticities that are required as input into the second step occupation-level estimation in Section 4. In the fourth column we report estimates from a restricted sample starting in 1984, which corresponds to the time period for which we have occupation level data that will be used in the second step. The estimates from this more recent sub-period are very close to the baseline. We next report estimates using non-overlapping one-year, five-year and ten-year averages of the quarterly time series. The estimates are not sensitive to using data that is averaged over longer horizons. This helps to alleviate concerns that differential adjustment costs between labor used in production versus expansion might alter the interpretation of our results, because adjustments costs are arguably less relevant over these longer horizons.

⁶For the profit maximization problems to be well-defined we require that $\gamma_N, \gamma_Y \leq 1$. These constraints do not bind at our baseline estimates. However, we impose the constraints that $\gamma_N, \gamma_Y \in [0, 1]$ in Section 4.3, when we estimate production and expansion elasticity by industry and find that they bind for some industries. We also impose them in our estimates using five-year and ten-year averages with non-detrended data in Table 2.

Table 1: First step estimation results

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Baseline	Low Markup	High Markup	Short Sample (1984-2018)	Annual Averages	Five-Year Averages	Ten-Year Averages	Monetary Shock	DLE Markup
γ_Y	0.620 (0.009)	0.643 (0.003)	0.597 (0.015)	0.613 (0.010)	0.624 (0.009)	0.612 (0.010)	0.619 (0.011)	0.593 (0.010)	0.698 (0.012)
γ_N	0.804 (0.043)	0.804 (0.043)	0.804 (0.043)	0.832 (0.048)	0.783 (0.046)	0.842 (0.047)	0.806 (0.051)	0.945 (0.054)	0.503 (0.037)
Implied $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	21%	6%	32%	22%	20%	22%	21%	24%	13%
P-value $\gamma_Y = \gamma_N$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
First stage: R2								0.29	
First stage: F								5.67	
Mean markup μ	1.20	1.05	1.35	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20

This table shows the estimates for (γ_N, γ_Y) in Equation (2). In columns (2) to (3) we vary the assumed mean markup used in the construction of $\frac{1}{\mu_t}$. In column (4) we restrict the sample to 1984:Q1-2018:Q4. In columns (5) to (7) we use non-overlapping one-, five- and ten-year averages of variables $S_{L,t}$ and $\frac{1}{\mu_t}$. Column (8) shows the estimates from a 2SLS regression with monetary shocks as instruments. Column (9) uses the [De Loecker et al. \(2020\)](#) markup series with Hamilton detrending over 1950–2014. Reported standard errors are robust.

IV estimation with monetary policy shocks One potential concern is that even if our model is correctly specified, our empirical counterpart to the price-ratio ϱ_t from the PPI series is an imperfect measure of the markup: $\frac{1}{\varrho_t} = \frac{1}{\mu_t} + \epsilon_{\varrho,t}$, with $\epsilon_{\varrho,t}$ such that $E[\epsilon_{L,\tau} | \epsilon_{\varrho,t}] \neq 0 \forall (t, \tau)$. This might be either because of systematic measurement error in the price index series, or because the measured price indexes contain variation unrelated to markups. We use instrumental variables to allay some of these concerns.

Assume there is a variable Z_t is available, which is related to the inverse markup by

$$\frac{1}{\mu_t} = \frac{1}{\mu} + \zeta Z_t + \epsilon_{\mu,t}, \quad (5)$$

where $\zeta \neq 0$, so that there is a valid first-stage, and with $E[Z_t] = 0$. If

$$E[\epsilon_{L,\tau} | Z_t] = 0 \forall (t, \tau),$$

we can estimate (γ_Y, γ_N) by using Z_t as instrument for the price ratio in equation (2).

Two types of variables that are likely to satisfy these assumptions are monetary and fiscal policy shocks. In general equilibrium models with sticky prices, such as New Keynesian DSGE models, contractionary monetary and fiscal policy shocks (as well as other contractionary demand shocks) generate a rise in the markup (so $\zeta \neq 0$). Moreover, the typical assumption in these

models is that production elasticities are constant at business cycle frequencies so that the relevant exclusion restrictions holds.⁷ The last column of Table 1 shows estimates from a 2SLS regression with monetary shocks. We use two monetary shock series produced with two different strategies: (i) Romer and Romer (2004), extended by Coibion et al. (2017), and (ii) Gertler and Karadi (2015). For each series we also include lags at horizons of 1 to 4 quarters, for a total of 10 instruments. These estimates of (γ_Y, γ_N) are very close to the baseline.

Estimation with De Loecker et al. (2020) Markups Perhaps the most widely cited series for estimates of markups in the United States is the one in De Loecker et al. (2020). We explained above that because this series is constructed under the implicit assumption that $\gamma_N = 0$, it cannot be used for the purposes of estimating γ_Y and γ_N .⁸ Nonetheless, readers may wonder what estimates would result from using the annual markup series from De Loecker et al. (2020) in equation (2). For completeness, we present these estimates in column (9), de-trending in the same way as in our baseline estimates. We obtain an estimate for γ_N of 0.50 and for γ_Y of 0.70, which implies a share of expansionary labor in total labor of 13%.⁹ Because the De Loecker et al. (2020) markup for each firm is proportional to the ratio of sales to Cost of Goods Sold (COGS), and labor is a major component of COGS, this markup measure is positively correlated with the inverse labor share and hence this series produces estimates with $\gamma_N < \gamma_Y$.

Estimation with Low Frequency Variation A valid question is whether our framework for identifying the share of N -type labor is applicable outside of business cycle frequencies. To address this question, in Table 2 we report estimates using non-de-trended data at various frequencies. These range from quarterly data over the full sample period (column (1)) which reflects all the variation in the data, to ten-year averages (column (5)), which reflects only low frequency data. The estimates imply a larger role for expansionary labor than our baseline estimates based on variation at business cycle frequencies and in the specifications with five-year and ten-year averages, the constraint that $\gamma_N \leq 1$ binds.¹⁰ Column (6) shows the analogous non-de-trended estimates using the De Loecker et al. (2020) markup series.

A related concern is that the business cycle variation in the labor share movements that drives the production and expansion elasticity estimates reflects unmodeled general business cycle forces

⁷This holds in a broad class of New Keynesian models. See for example Christiano et al. (2005), Smets and Wouters (2007) and Galí et al. (2015).

⁸See Appendix D for details on how the assumption of $\gamma_N = 0$ affects the interpretation of markup estimates using the production function approach.

⁹The De Loecker et al. (2020) markup series covers 1950-2014. The implied share of 13% uses the same average markup as in our baseline, 1.20. The sample mean of De Loecker et al. (2020) markup series is 1.32, which implies the share of 19%. For comparison, our baseline estimates over the same period give $\gamma_N = 0.79$ and $\gamma_Y = 0.62$, which are similar to those from the full sample period.

¹⁰It is not unreasonable to expect that the elasticity of expansionary activities increases over longer horizons, as the process of expansion into new products, markets or customer bases has many elements that are more akin to fixed costs. Over longer horizons, the revenues that accrue to profits in the short run are pushed towards those inputs that facilitate expansion in the long run. This is one plausible explanation for the estimates of γ_N close to 1.

Table 2: First step estimation results: non-de-trended data

	(1) Quarterly	(2) Short Sample (1984-2018)	(3) Annual Averages	(4) Five-Year Averages	(5) Ten-Year Averages	(6) DLE Markup
γ_Y	0.590 (0.010)	0.580 (0.011)	0.589 (0.012)	0.580 (0.020)	0.580 (0.039)	0.702 (0.007)
γ_N	0.952 (0.043)	0.954 (0.059)	0.958 (0.053)	1.000 (0.079)	1.000 (0.164)	0.495 (0.021)
Implied $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	24%	25%	25%	26%	26%	18%
P-value $\gamma_Y = \gamma_N$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00
P-value $\gamma_N = 1$	0.26	0.44	0.42	0.53	0.67	0.00
Mean markup μ	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.32

This table shows the estimates for (γ_N, γ_Y) in Equation (2) using data that is not de-trended. Column (1) corresponds to the baseline regression, but with non-de-trended series. In column (2) we restrict the sample to 1984:Q1-2018:Q4. In columns (3) to (5) we use non-overlapping one-, five- and ten-year averages of non-de-trended variables $S_{L,t}$ and $\frac{1}{\mu_t}$. We normalize the variable $\frac{1}{\mu_t}$ so that the average markup equal to 1.20. In columns (4) and (5), we impose the parameter restriction $\gamma_N \leq 1$. The unrestricted estimates exceed one, so the constraint binds and we report $\hat{\gamma}_N = 1$. For these boundary estimates, the numbers in parentheses are the standard errors from the corresponding unrestricted regressions. The tests of $\gamma_N = 1$ are one-sided against $\gamma_N < 1$. Column (6) uses the markup series of De Loecker et al. (2020) with the sample mean of 1.32; see Appendix E.2 for details.

and not movements in the markup per se. To alleviate such concerns, Table 8 in Appendix G reports estimates of equation (2) controlling for GDP, lags of GDP, and interactions of GDP and lagged GDP with our markup series. The estimates are barely changed by the inclusion of these controls, suggesting that the variation in the price index ratio our estimates exploit is distinct from quarterly variation in GDP. Tables 9 and 10 in Appendix G show that none of our estimates are sensitive to using alternative series for the labor share or alternative assumptions about how we de-trend the data.

Downstream processing The validity of using the price ratio ϱ as a measure of the markup μ relies on the assumption that Y -type labor is used only in the production of intermediate goods in the upstream sector and is not required for the differentiation of intermediate goods into final goods. If Y -type labor were also used for further processing in the downstream sector, then the value added of this additional labor input would contribute to the price of downstream goods. In

this case, marginal costs in the downstream sector would include those labor costs alongside the cost of intermediate goods. The price ratio ϱ would then confound the markup with the wages paid to downstream production workers. To ensure that this is not driving our estimates of (γ_Y, γ_N) , we consider an extension of the model that allows for Y -type labor to be used also for product differentiation in the downstream sector.

We assume that the production function for final goods uses as inputs both intermediate goods and Y -type labor from each occupation as inputs, according to the Cobb-Douglas aggregator

$$y_i = m_i^{1-\gamma_D} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J \ell_{jiYD}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_D}.$$

The downstream production elasticity γ_D governs the importance of production labor in the downstream sector. The baseline model is a special case of this more general model with $\gamma_D = 0$. Full details of this more general model are contained in Appendix B.8. There we also show that when $\gamma_D > 0$, Theorems 1, 2, and 3 all continue to hold, but with the composite production elasticity $\gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D)\gamma_Y$ taking the place of γ_Y . Although the price ratio ϱ is no longer equal to the markup μ , the two are related according to the formula

$$\frac{1}{\mu} = \tilde{k} \left(\frac{1}{\varrho} \right)^{1-\gamma_D} \left(\frac{W_Y}{p} \right)^{\gamma_D} \quad (6)$$

where $W_Y := \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}}$ is the wage index for Y -type labor and $\tilde{k}$ is a constant that depends on γ_Y , γ_D , and $\{\eta_{jY}\}_{j=1}^J$. Therefore, to use variations in the price ratio, we require data on cyclical movements of the real wages of production labor in the downstream sector and a value for the production labor elasticity in the downstream sector γ_D .

Because our analysis has so far only pertained to labor income shares, and not wages and hours or employment separately, we have not needed to make assumptions about household labor supply. However, since we cannot directly observe the wage index of Y -type labor we need to make some additional assumptions to obtain a model-consistent measure of W_Y . One sufficient condition is to assume that there are no costs to switching occupation so that wages (but not labor income) will be equalized across occupations, $W_j = W_{j'}$ for all (j, j') . Under this assumption, the wage indexes for Y - and N -type labor are proportional, and any de-trended real wage series is a valid measure. We use as a baseline average hourly compensation in the non-farm business sector from the BLS deflated by the PPI series for “Finished demand” (WPSFD49207) as a proxy for the wage index W_Y .¹¹ As a robustness check we repeat our analysis using wages of only production and nonsupervisory employees from the BLS and find that the estimates are not sensitive to the choice

¹¹We use Average Hourly Compensation in the Non-Farm Business Sector, from the BLS (PRS85006103), provided as an index (equal to 100 in 2012), as our measure of nominal wages and WPSFD49207 as our measure of prices, as it corresponds to p in equation (6). We construct the measure of markup by first de-trending the logarithm of the right hand side of equation (6) and then by adding a constant to the logarithm of the remaining cyclical component to ensure that, on average, the markup is equal to a chosen value.

of alternative series for W_Y .¹²

Since we do not have a way to estimate the downstream production elasticity γ_D , we report results for various assumed values of γ_D , as well as for a specification where we estimate $(\gamma_Y, \gamma_N, \gamma_D)$ under the restriction that the production elasticities are the same in the upstream and downstream sectors ($\gamma_Y = \gamma_D$). Figure 9 in Appendix G shows the time series for the markup implied by the price ratio for each of these values. Table 3 contains estimation results for each value for γ_D . Raising γ_D above zero lowers the estimate of γ_Y from its baseline estimate of 0.62, and when γ_D is restricted to be equal to γ_Y , the two are equal to 0.38. However, for all values of γ_D , the composite elasticity $\gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D)\gamma_Y$ that determines the overall share of Y -type labor is barely affected and hence neither are our conclusions about the overall share of labor income compensating N -type labor.

In Appendix B.9 we consider an alternative model of downstream processing, in which the downstream sector uses commodities instead of labor. This modification does not affect our conclusions. Figure 10 in Appendix G shows the time series for the markup and Table 12 in Appendix G reports estimates of equation (2) using this measure.

Taking Stock What should we take away from these estimates? Conventional macroeconomic models implicitly assume that $\gamma_N = 0$ and therefore that all payments to labor compensate Y -type activities. But our estimates imply that γ_N is substantially larger than zero. Indeed, our estimates imply that the labor expansion elasticity is larger even than the labor production elasticity, γ_Y (or its relevant composite $\gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D)\gamma_Y$). These estimates follow directly from the positive co-movement between the overall labor share and the markup at business cycle frequencies. It follows that unless one believes that the aggregate markup is very small, one must conclude that a non-trivial fraction of payments to labor in the US are compensating N -type activities. This means that when the markup changes, whether due to cyclical shifts in aggregate demand, or from structural changes induced by changes in the competitiveness of product markets, some occupations stand to gain, while others stand to lose. In the next section, we estimate which are which.

4 Estimation of Occupation-Specific Parameters

4.1 Identification and Estimation of Occupational Factor Shares

In Section 2.3 we derived an expression relating the occupational labor income shares s_j to the markup. Combining that expression with equation (1) that relates the overall labor share S_L to

¹²We use Average Hourly Earnings of Production and Nonsupervisory Employees, Total Private, from the BLS (CES0500000008) as a proxy for W_Y . Production and related employees include working supervisors and all non-supervisory employees while nonsupervisory employees include those individuals in private, service-providing industries that are not above the working-supervisor level. See Table 11 in Appendix G for the results and 9 for the implied markup series.

Table 3: First step estimation results, $\gamma_D > 0$

	(1) Baseline	(2) $\gamma_D = 0.10$	(3) $\gamma_D = 0.25$	(4) (GMM) $\gamma_D = \gamma_Y$
γ_Y	0.620 (0.000)	0.577 (0.010)	0.495 (0.016)	0.378 (0.012)
γ_N	0.804 (0.043)	0.807 (0.046)	0.797 (0.058)	0.833 (0.070)
Implied $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	21%	21%	20%	21%
Implied $(1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y + \gamma_D$	0.620	0.619	0.619	0.613
P-value $(1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y + \gamma_D = \gamma_N$	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Mean markup, μ	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20

This table shows the estimates for (γ_N, γ_Y) in Equation (2) for measures of the markup given by equation (6). In column (1) we show the estimates from the baseline specification with no downstream processing ($\gamma_D = 0$). In columns (2) - (4) we vary γ_D used in construction of the measure of the markup. In column (4) we show optimally-weighted GMM estimates for $(\gamma_N, \gamma_Y, \gamma_D)$ with restriction $\gamma_D = \gamma_Y$. Reported standard errors are robust.

the markup yields the following relationship between occupational labor income shares and the overall labor share,

$$s_j = \eta_{jY} + (\eta_{jN} - \eta_{jY}) \left(1 - \frac{\gamma_Y}{\gamma_N}\right)^{-1} \left(1 - \gamma_Y \frac{1}{S_L}\right) \quad \forall j. \quad (7)$$

Equation (7) underlies our approach to estimation of $\{\eta_{jY}, \eta_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J$. It shows that for given values of the production and expansion elasticities (γ_N, γ_Y) , we can recover (η_{jN}, η_{jY}) from the average occupational labor income shares and the co-movement of occupational labor income shares with any variation in the labor share S_L that is independent of variation in the occupational factor share parameters (η_{jN}, η_{jY}) . As in the first step in Section 3, we work with de-trended data. Cyclical variation in measured occupational labor income shares s_j could arise from measurement error in occupational income shares, shocks to (η_{jN}, η_{jY}) , or variation in the overall labor share S_L arising from any of the sources described in the previous section.

Our estimating equation is the empirical counterpart to equation (7))

$$\begin{aligned}
s_{j,t} &= \eta_{jY,t} + (\eta_{jN,t} - \eta_{jY,t}) \left(1 - \frac{\gamma_Y}{\gamma_N}\right)^{-1} \left(1 - \gamma_Y \frac{1}{S_{L,t}}\right) + \epsilon_{s_j,t} \quad \forall j \\
\eta_{jY,t} &= \eta_{jY} + \epsilon_{jY,t} \\
\eta_{jN,t} &= \eta_{jN} + \epsilon_{jN,t},
\end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

where $\epsilon_{Y,t} := (\epsilon_{1Y,t}, \dots, \eta_{JY,t})'$, $\epsilon_{N,t} := (\epsilon_{1N,t}, \dots, \eta_{JN,t})'$ and $\epsilon_{s,t} := (\epsilon_{s_1,t}, \dots, \eta_{s_J,t})'$ are mutually independent $J \times 1$ random vectors that are IID over time and each sum to zero. We define $\epsilon_{j,t} := (\epsilon_{jY,t}, \epsilon_{jN,t}, \epsilon_{s_j,t})'$ and assume that $E[\epsilon_{j,t}] = 0 \quad \forall t, \forall j$.¹³ We describe three different sets of moment conditions that can be used as the basis for estimation. Each differs in the type of variation in the labor share that it uses.

De-trended markup From equations (1) and (7), we see that movements in the markup affect occupational labor shares only through their effect on the overall labor share. Thus a valid source of variation in the labor share that can be used for identification is markup-induced variation. To exploit such variation we can use the ratio of price indices ϱ_t as an instrument for the de-trended labor share in equation (8). This identification strategy thus imposes the moment condition

$$E[\epsilon_{j,\tau} | \epsilon_{\mu,t}] = 0 \quad \forall (t, \tau), \quad \forall j. \tag{9}$$

We choose this specification as our baseline because it uses the same variation to estimate the occupational factor share parameters $\{\eta_{jY}, \eta_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J$ as we used to estimate the overall factor share parameters (γ_Y, γ_N) in Section 3.

De-trended labor share A simple alternative approach is to assume that the de-trended labor share $S_{L,t}$ is itself orthogonal to shocks to the occupational factor share parameters and measurement error in the occupational income shares $s_{j,t}$. This imposes the moment condition

$$E[\epsilon_{j,\tau} | S_{L,t}] = 0 \quad \forall (t, \tau), \quad \forall j \tag{10}$$

Because we work with de-trended data, equation (10) says that any $\epsilon_{j,t}$ correlated with movements in the overall labor share must be at lower frequencies than those retained by our de-trending procedure. Recall from equation (7) that low-frequency variation in the labor share can arise from trends in the production parameters or the markup. The assumption requires that business cycle variation in the labor share does not arise from sources that directly affect the occupational income shares, other than through the channel in equation (7). Through the lens of the model, this means that business cycle variation in the labor share must come from variation in the markup μ , rather

¹³An example that satisfies these assumptions is that $\epsilon_{Y,t}$, $\epsilon_{N,t}$ and $\epsilon_{s,t}$ are each drawn from translated Dirichlet distributions.

than from the elasticity parameters (γ_Y, γ_N) . As discussed above, assuming that technological parameters are fixed at business cycle frequencies is a common assumption.

We must also assume that the shocks to individual occupation shares $(\epsilon_{Y,t}, \epsilon_{N,t})$ are independent of the de-trended overall labor share $S_{L,t}$. This is a relatively weak assumption because the random vectors $(\epsilon_{Y,t}, \epsilon_{N,t})$ each sum to zero - so a failure of this assumption would require a re-shuffling of occupations at exactly the same time as a shock to the labor share, without any change in the markup. Finally, we need to assume that measurement error in the occupational labor income shares is independent of measurement error in the overall labor share. This assumption is likely to be satisfied because we use different data sources to measure $s_{j,t}$ and $S_{L,t}$, rather than constructing a measure of $S_{L,t}$ by summing over $S_{j,t}$.

Monetary policy shocks Given estimates of (γ_Y, γ_N) , it is also possible to estimate the occupational factor shares without data on the markup if there is an instrument Z_t related to the inverse markup according to Equation (5), with $\zeta \neq 0$, and with $E[Z_t] = 0$. Then if the moment condition

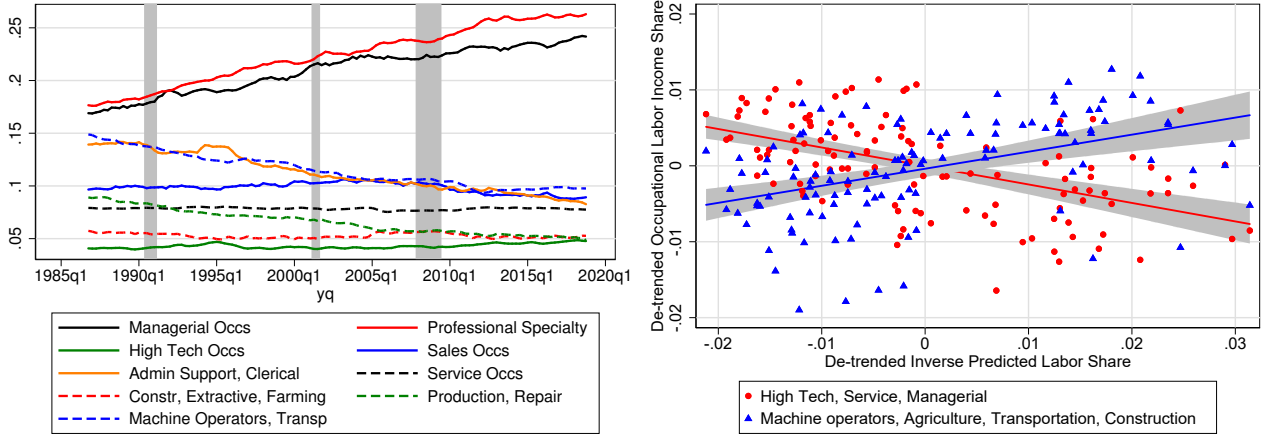
$$E[\epsilon_{j,\tau} | Z_t] = 0 \quad \forall (t, \tau), \quad \forall j \quad (11)$$

holds, we can estimate (η_{jN}, η_{jY}) by using Z_t as instrument for the labor share in equation (8). This assumption requires that the instrument Z_t only affects the occupational labor income shares through its effect on the overall labor share, which in our framework can only occur if the instrument causes a change in the markup.

As explained in Section 3, monetary shocks are likely to satisfy this assumption. [Cantore et al. \(2021\)](#) undertake a comprehensive empirical investigation of the dynamic effects of a monetary policy shock on the labor share. Using various strategies for identifying monetary policy shocks, they document robust evidence that a contractionary monetary shock leads to an increase in the labor share, with a peak response after 1-2 years. In a New Keynesian model with our production structure, and the parameters estimated in Section 3 (i.e. $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$), a contractionary monetary shock leads to rise in the labor share, so monetary policy shocks can be used as an instrument for the labor share. We use the same two monetary shock series as in the first estimation step in Section 3: (i) [Romer and Romer \(2004\)](#), extended by [Coibion et al. \(2017\)](#), and (ii) [Gertler and Karadi \(2015\)](#). We estimate the parameters using optimally-weighted GMM. The instrument set has a strong first stage and we fail to reject the test of over-identification restrictions.

4.2 Data on Occupational Income Shares

We use data from the monthly Outgoing Rotation Groups of the Current Population Survey (CPS-ORG) to construct quarterly series for occupational income shares s_j . We restrict attention to employed individuals aged 16 and over, and we measure labor income with the IPUMS variable ‘earnweek’, which records gross weekly earnings on the respondent’s main job. We compute labor



(a) Trend components of occupational share s_j .

(b) Cyclical components of occupational shares s_j .

Figure 2: Panel (a) Trend components of occupational labor income shares. Trends extracted using a Hamilton filter. Panel (b): Horizontal axis is predicted value of the inverse of the overall labor share from OLS regression of the inverse labor share on markup. Vertical axis is cyclical component of occupational labor income shares. Occupations grouped into two broad categories based on estimates of N -intensity in Table 4. Shaded areas are 95% confidence intervals (robust standard errors are used).

income for individuals in each of 9 broad occupation categories, which we construct from the 389 OCC1990 occupation codes. We then aggregate monthly earnings in each occupation to the quarterly level and compute the occupation shares s_j in each quarter from 1984 to 2019. We de-seasonalize the quarterly series and then de-trend using a Hamilton filter. The trend components for each of the 9 occupation groups are displayed in Figure 2a. Managerial and professional specialty occupations display the strongest growth in income shares in our sample, while machine operators, transportation, administrative and clerical occupations show the steepest decline.

Figure 2b shows a scatter plot of the cyclical components of the occupational income shares that illustrates our identification strategy. To construct this figure we split the occupations into two broad groupings, based on our baseline estimates of the occupational factor share parameters. For each of the two groups, we plot the de-trended labor income share of those occupations against the predicted value of the de-trended overall inverse labor share, from an OLS regression of the inverse labor share on the markup. Thus the fitted line reflects the IV estimate of equation (8) using the markup as an instrument, and the slope of the relationship reveals the sign of $\eta_{jY} - \eta_{jN}$.

The group represented by the red circles in Figure 2b consists of the most N -intensive occupations and comprises approximately 32% of total labor income (high-tech, services and managerial). The relatively large N -component for these occupations is revealed by the fact that a markup-induced increase in the overall labor share is associated with an increase in the share of labor income going to these occupations. In contrast, the group represented by the blue triangles consists of the least N -intensive occupations and comprises approximately 24% of the total labor

income (machine operators, agriculture, transportation, and construction). The relatively small N -component for these occupations is revealed by the fact that a markup-induced increase in the overall labor share is associated with a decrease in the share of labor income going to these occupations. Figure 11 in Appendix G shows very similar patterns for the reduced-form relationship between occupational income shares and the markup (adjusted for the negative relationship between the inverse labor share and the markup), and for the OLS relationship between occupational income shares and the de-trended inverse labor share (albeit with more noise since more variation in the labor share is being used).

4.3 Estimates of Occupational Factor Shares

Baseline estimates We estimate $\{\eta_{jY}, \eta_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J$ using a GMM estimator, based on the moment conditions using each of the three types of variation described in Section 4.1. The results are displayed in Table 4. We set $(\gamma_Y, \gamma_N, \mu) = (0.620, 0.804, 1.2)$ based on the estimates in Table 1. Appendix G contains estimates from alternative specifications for these first step parameters.

Our estimates using the de-trended markup as an instrument for the de-trended inverse labor share are shown in Panel A of Table 4. The occupations are ordered from the most N -intensive to the least N -intensive, as measured by the share of occupational labor income that compensates N -type activities, $\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j} = \frac{\eta_{jN} S_{LN}}{S_j}$. As anticipated by Figure 2b, there is heterogeneity across occupations, with N -content shares ranging from 27% for high-tech occupations to 11% for construction, extractive occupations and farming. It is striking that the ranking of occupations lines up with traditional notions of white-collar versus blue-collar occupations, yet these estimates were obtained entirely from the relative co-movement of occupational income shares with markups. No prior knowledge of the tasks that these occupations actually do was used in constructing this ranking.

The relatively small, but statistically significant, differences between η_{jN} and η_{jY} , manifest as large differences across occupations in their exposure to fluctuations in the overall labor share. This can be seen in the column labeled ε_{S_j, S_L} , which reports the elasticity of occupational income shares to the overall labor share, implied by the estimates of (η_{jY}, η_{jN}) . The share-weighted average of these elasticities sums to one. High N -content occupations have an elasticity above one, whereas low N -content occupations have an elasticity below one (and even negative for some occupations).

The remaining panels of Table 4 report estimates without an instrument (Panel B) and using monetary shocks as an instrument (Panel C). The occupations are reported in the same order as in Panel A. In both cases, the results are very similar. The main difference is that when all of the cyclical variation in the labor share is used (Panel B), the additional variation leads to less precise estimates and less heterogeneity across occupations.

Industry heterogeneity Our estimates of the N -intensity of different occupations use business cycle variation in their relative labor income shares. Occupations whose labor income share fluc-

Table 4: Second step estimates of occupational factor share parameters.

	η_Y	η_N	P-val $\eta_Y = \eta_N$	Elasticity ε_{S_j, S_L}	Share $\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j}$	P-val overid
Panel A: Instrument: De-trended Markup (IV)						
High Tech Occs	0.039	0.057	0.016	2.68	27%	
Service Occs	0.074	0.096	0.005	2.17	25%	
Managerial Occs	0.198	0.245	0.000	1.94	24%	
Admin Support, Clerical	0.111	0.128	0.108	1.63	23%	
Sales Occs	0.097	0.104	0.378	1.32	22%	
Professional Specialty	0.223	0.211	0.330	0.78	20%	
Production, Repair	0.071	0.053	0.002	-0.11	16%	
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.125	0.088	0.000	-0.28	16%	
Construction, Extractive, Farming	0.060	0.028	0.001	-1.49	11%	
First stage: R2	0.27					
First stage F	37.6					
Panel B: Instrument: De-trended Labor Share (OLS)						
High Tech Occs	0.042	0.045	0.459	1.22	21%	
Service Occs	0.078	0.081	0.343	1.19	21%	
Managerial Occs	0.204	0.219	0.015	1.29	22%	
Admin Support, Clerical	0.111	0.127	0.013	1.58	23%	
Sales Occs	0.097	0.104	0.055	1.33	22%	
Professional Specialty	0.223	0.213	0.142	0.81	20%	
Production, Repair	0.068	0.065	0.223	0.80	20%	
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.120	0.106	0.015	0.48	19%	
Construction, Extractive, Farming	0.054	0.048	0.198	0.53	19%	
Panel C: Instrument: Lagged Monetary Shocks (GMM)						
High Tech Occs	0.038	0.059	0.003	3.04	29%	0.436
Service Occs	0.075	0.088	0.020	1.67	23%	0.082
Managerial Occs	0.203	0.224	0.045	1.43	22%	0.151
Admin Support, Clerical	0.104	0.153	0.000	2.75	28%	0.134
Sales Occs	0.102	0.084	0.021	0.25	18%	0.780
Professional Specialty	0.219	0.226	0.445	1.13	21%	0.432
Production, Repair	0.072	0.052	0.000	-0.21	16%	0.522
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.126	0.083	0.000	-0.54	15%	0.673
Construction, Extractive, Farming	0.057	0.043	0.016	-0.05	16%	0.090
First stage: R2	0.36					
First stage F	8.69					

This table shows the estimates for (η_{jN}, η_{jY}) in Equation (8). Estimates in Panel A use de-trended markup as an instrument for de-trended inverse labor share. Estimates in Panel B use OLS. Estimates in Panel C use optimally-weighted GMM with contemporaneous and lagged monetary policy shocks at horizons of one to four quarters, from two series. See text for details of monetary policy shock series.

tuations are more strongly correlated with markup-induced fluctuations in the overall labor share are interpreted through the lens of the model as having high N -intensity. One concern with this interpretation is that our simple model does not allow for heterogeneity across occupations in their usage in different industries. If the labor shares of some industries co-move more closely with markups at business cycle frequencies than other industries, then it may be that we identify some occupations as N -intensive simply because they are used more intensively in those industries. To investigate the role of industry composition, we estimate an extension of the model that allows for this form of industry heterogeneity. Full details of the model are in Appendix C. Here we describe the key features and the resulting estimating equations.

We assume that there are G different industries, indexed by g , and that final goods are a Cobb-Douglas aggregator of the value-added of each industry,

$$Y = \prod_{g=1}^G Y_g^{\varsigma_g}$$

where $\varsigma_g \in [0, 1]$ are the value added-shares of each industry and satisfy $\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g = 1$. Each industry is comprised of its own upstream and downstream sectors with industry-specific production and expansion labor elasticities, γ_{Yg} and γ_{Ng} . Heterogeneity in $(\gamma_{Yg}, \gamma_{Ng})$ across industries gives rise to heterogeneity in the cyclical co-movement between industry-level labor shares and markups. Production and expansion in each industry use labor from each occupation, but with different occupation shares in each industry

$$M_g = Z_{Ug} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jg,Y}^{\eta_{jgY}} \right)^{\gamma_{Yg}} \quad N_g = Z_{Dg} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jg,N}^{\eta_{jgN}} \right)^{\gamma_{Ng}}$$

where the industry-specific occupation weights satisfy $\sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jgY} = \sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jgN} = 1 \ \forall g$. Thus, in this extended model, the occupational labor income shares of two different occupations j and j' may co-vary differently with markup-induced fluctuations in the overall labor share for two reasons. First, they may have different N -intensity within industries, i.e. $\eta_{jgY} - \eta_{jgN} \neq \eta_{j'gY} - \eta_{j'gN}$ for some industries g . Second, even if they have the same N -intensity within industries, i.e. $\eta_{jgY} = \eta_{jgN}$ and $\eta_{j'gY} = \eta_{j'gN}$ for all g , they may have different overall usage in industries that have different exposure to markups, i.e. $\eta_{jgN} \neq \eta_{j'gN}$ for some industries g, g' with $\gamma_{Yg} - \gamma_{Ng} \neq \gamma_{Yg'} - \gamma_{Ng'}$. By estimating the industry-level production and expansion elasticities, and the industry-specific occupation weights, we can separate these two forces.

The empirical specifications for the first step estimation are the industry-level analogues of

equation (2):

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{Lg,t} &= \gamma_{Ng} + (\gamma_{Yg} - \gamma_{Ng}) \frac{1}{\mu_{gt}} + \epsilon_{Lg,t} \\
\frac{1}{\mu_{g,t}} &= \frac{1}{\mu_t} + \epsilon_{g,t} \\
\frac{1}{\mu_t} &= \frac{1}{\mu} + \epsilon_{\mu,t}
\end{aligned} \tag{12}$$

We assume that industry-level markups $\mu_{g,t}$ are comprised of a common average markup plus a common time-varying component and an industry-specific time-varying component. The assumption required for identification of $(\gamma_{Yg}, \gamma_{Ng})$ is that at business cycle frequencies, variation in the common component of industry-level inverse markups $\epsilon_{\mu,t}$ is independent of both industry-specific inverse markup variation $\epsilon_{g,t}$ and other sources of cyclical variation in industry labor shares that are outside the model, as well as measurement error in industry labor shares (captured by $\epsilon_{Lg,t}$). The required moment conditions are

$$\begin{aligned}
E[\epsilon_{Lg,t}] &= 0 \quad \forall(t, g) \\
E[\epsilon_{Lg,t} | \epsilon_{\mu,t}, \epsilon_{g,t}] &= 0 \quad \forall(\tau, t, g).
\end{aligned}$$

We use annual data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis' Integrated Industry-Level Production Accounts (KLEMS) on de-trended industry-level labor shares for ten super-sectors (excluding government) for 1987-2019. We estimate equation (2) by GMM, subject to the constraints that $\gamma_Y, \gamma_N \leq 1$.¹⁴ As in our baseline specification, we use the de-trended price index ratio ϱ_t as a proxy for the markup and set the average markup over the period to 1.2. Our estimates are contained in Table 5. There are substantial differences across industries in both the overall labor share and the share of labor payments that compensate N -type activities. Finance, which is the largest industry by value added, has both the lowest overall labor share (26%) and the lowest share of N -type labor (16%). The industries with the largest share of N -type labor are Resources and Mining (35%), Manufacturing (24%), and Information (24%), which are all industries with relatively low overall labor shares.

The empirical specification for the second step is the industry-level analogue of equation (8),

$$s_{jg,t} = \eta_{jYg} + (\eta_{jgN} - \eta_{jgY}) \left(1 - \frac{\gamma_{Yg}}{\gamma_{Ng}}\right)^{-1} \left(1 - \gamma_{Yg} \frac{1}{S_{Lg,t}}\right) + \epsilon_{s_{jg,t}} \quad \forall j, g \tag{13}$$

where $s_{jg,t}$ are occupational labor income shares within industry g . We estimate this system of equations with GMM, using the de-trended price ratio as an instrument. We use annual data from KLEMS for 1987 to 2019. Our findings are reported in Table 6. For comparability with our baseline estimates that use quarterly data, Column (1) (labeled "No industries") contains estimates

¹⁴In Appendix G, we report results using data from the World KLEMS Database for 1950-2014, and estimates without the constraint that $\gamma_Y, \gamma_N \leq 1$.

Table 5: First step estimation results, industries.

	γ_{Yg}	γ_{Ng}	P-val test for $\gamma_{Yg} = \gamma_{Ng}$	Implied $\frac{S_{LNg}}{S_{Lg}}$	Mean S_{Lg}	Mean share of value added
Resources and Mining	0.365	1.000	0.000	35.4%	47.7%	3.1%
Construction	0.814	1.000	0.000	19.7%	84.5%	4.8%
Manufacturing	0.512	0.797	0.000	23.7%	55.9%	16.3%
Trade, Transp., Util.	0.534	0.729	0.000	21.4%	56.7%	19.9%
Information	0.373	0.588	0.137	24.0%	40.8%	5.6%
Finance	0.259	0.239	0.860	15.6%	25.5%	22.3%
Prof. and Business Serv.	0.795	0.960	0.080	19.4%	82.2%	12.3%
Educ. and Health Serv.	0.876	0.948	0.315	17.8%	88.8%	8.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	0.678	0.747	0.359	18.1%	69.0%	4.3%
Other Services	0.785	0.847	0.699	17.8%	79.5%	2.8%

This table shows the estimates for $(\gamma_{Ng}, \gamma_{Yg})$ in Equation (12), subject to the constraints $\gamma_{Yg}, \gamma_{Ng} \leq 1$. BEA KLEMS annual data 1987-2019. Assumed mean markup, $\mu = 1.2$. Estimates use optimally-weighted GMM.

from the model with a single industry, but using annual data. Column (2) (labeled “Industries”) contains estimates of equation (13). Column (3) (labeled “Industries restricted”) is our preferred industry specification. In this specification we re-parameterize (η_{jgY}, η_{jgN}) as

$$\chi_{jg} := \eta_{jgN} + \eta_{jgY}, \quad \alpha_{jg} := \frac{\eta_{jgY}}{\eta_{jgN} + \eta_{jgY}},$$

and assume that $\alpha_{jg} = \alpha_j$ for g . This has the effect of allowing different occupations to have different relative importance in each industry (χ_{jg}) while imposing that the relative N -intensity of an occupation does not depend on the industry in which it is being used. To calculate shares of the overall labor income in each occupation that compensates N -type activities, we use the average value-added weighted labor shares across industries.

Table 6 indicates that part of the heterogeneity in the co-movement of occupational labor shares with markup-induced moments in the overall labor share is indeed due to industry heterogeneity. However, taking industries into account, substantial heterogeneity remains. High-tech occupations continue to be the most N -intensive (27%), while Service occupations are now the least N -intensive (15%). Among the remaining occupations, the differences in N -intensity are smaller than in the version without industry heterogeneity.

4.4 Characteristics of N -intensive Occupation

Having estimated the extent to which workers in different occupations are engaged in production activities versus expansionary activities, in this section we explore the characteristics of these different occupations.

Table 6: Second step estimates of occupational factor share parameters with industry heterogeneity.

	(1) No industries	(2) Industries	(3) Industries restricted
	Share $\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j}$	Share $\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j}$	Share $\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j}$
High Tech Occs	26%	24%	27%
Service Occs	20%	18%	15%
Managerial Occs	23%	19%	19%
Admin Support, Clerical	24%	20%	27%
Sales Occs	22%	30%	19%
Professional Specialty	20%	19%	21%
Production, Repair	15%	18%	19%
Machine Operators, Transportation	14%	18%	19%
Construction, Extractive, Farming	14%	21%	21%

This table shows the implied S_{jN}/S_j ratios. In column (1) we use estimates from the model with a single industry. In column (2) we show results obtained by using estimates for (η_{jgN}, η_{jgY}) in Equation (13), estimated for each (j, g) separately. Results in column (3) use estimates for (η_{jgN}, η_{jgY}) obtained by imposing that the relative N -intensity of an occupation does not depend on the industry in which it is being used. See text for details.

We start by using the 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) to explore the demographic characteristics of workers employed in N -intensive occupations. Figure 3a shows no relationship between the N -content of occupations and the average age of workers. Figures 3b and 3c show that gender composition in N -intensive occupations is more balanced than in Y -intensive occupations, and that high N -content occupations have larger shares of workers with college or higher education. N -intensive occupations are also more racially diverse (Figure 3d), but the relationship is weak.

We next use the 1980 Census and 2015 ACS to measure hours and median hourly wages for each of the nine occupation groups. Figure 4a shows a scatter plot of median hourly wages in 2015 against the N -content share of each occupation group. There is only a weak relationship between the level of wages and N -content. Although the high-wage occupation groups are mostly high N -content occupations (managerial, high-tech), there are also low-wage occupations with high N -content (service, admin), and the low N -content occupations are in the middle of the distribution. (Viewed on its side, Figure 4a suggests a U-shaped relationship between N -content and wages).

Wage growth, on the other hand, has been strongly correlated with N -content. This can be seen in Figure 4b, which plots the cumulative nominal growth in median wages from 1980 to 2015 in each occupation against the N -share. Figure 4c also shows a positive correlation between N -content and the growth in the share of total hours from 1980 to 2015. The fact that growth has been strongest in both the quantity and price of occupations with high N -content, suggests that labor demand for expansionary activities has increased faster than labor demand for traditional production activities. Finally, Figure 4d shows a large variation in average hours worked among the high N -content occupation.

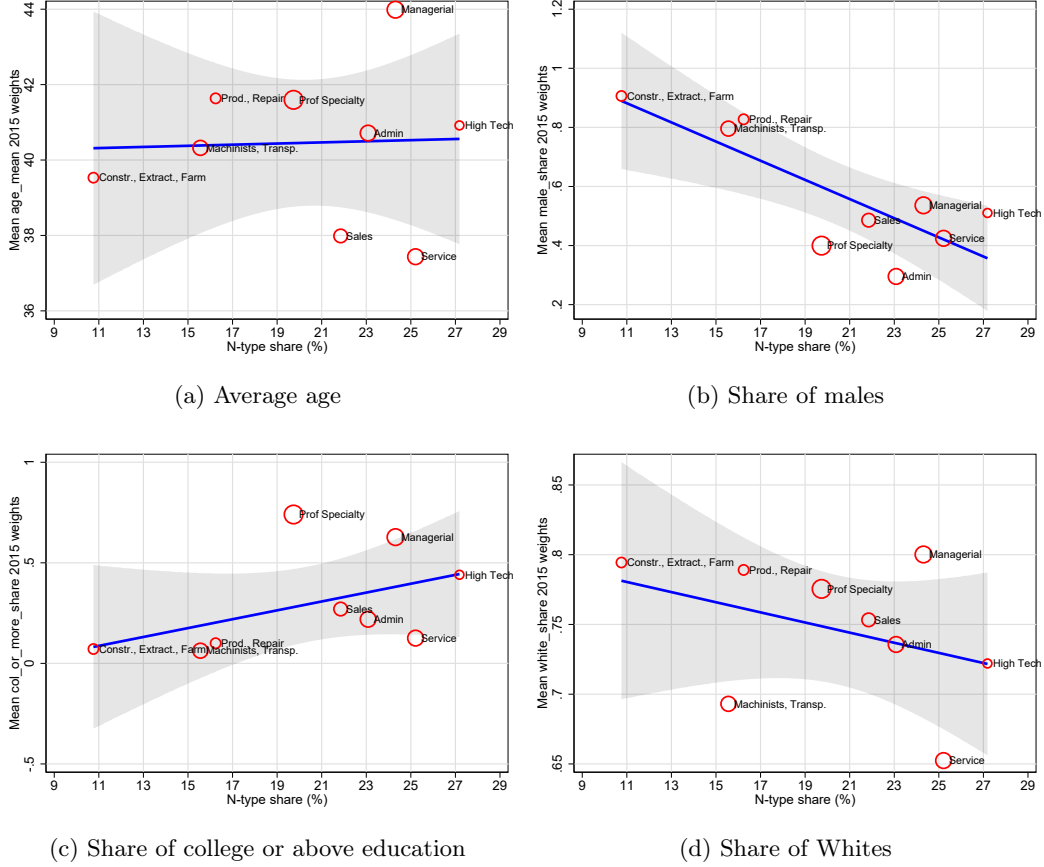


Figure 3: Correlation of N -content of occupations with demographic characteristics. Data from 2015 American Community Survey.

In Figure 5 we investigate the correlation between our estimates of N -intensity and various observable characteristics of occupations that have been emphasized in other work on occupational trends. The first three panels show how the estimated N -content of each occupation correlates with the three broad task measures constructed by Autor et al. (2006) from the US Labor Department’s Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT).¹⁵ These figures suggest that N -content is negatively correlated with the manual content of occupations (as reflected in the DOT measure “eye-hand-foot coordination”), weakly positively correlated with the abstract content of occupations (as reflected in the DOT measures ‘direction, control and planning’ and “GED math”), and weakly negatively correlated with the routine content of occupations (as reflected in the DOT measures “set limits, tolerances and standards”, and “finger dexterity”).

The final three panels of Figure 5 show scatter plots of the estimated N -intensity against the overhead labor share, change in Chinese import competition, and adjusted robot penetration.

¹⁵These measures are standardized to have a mean of 0 and standard deviation of 1. They are aggregated from detailed occupation groups using 2000 Census weights. In Figure 12 in Appendix G we present analogous figures using the six Work Context and Work Activity measures from O*NET as defined in Acemoglu and Autor (2011).

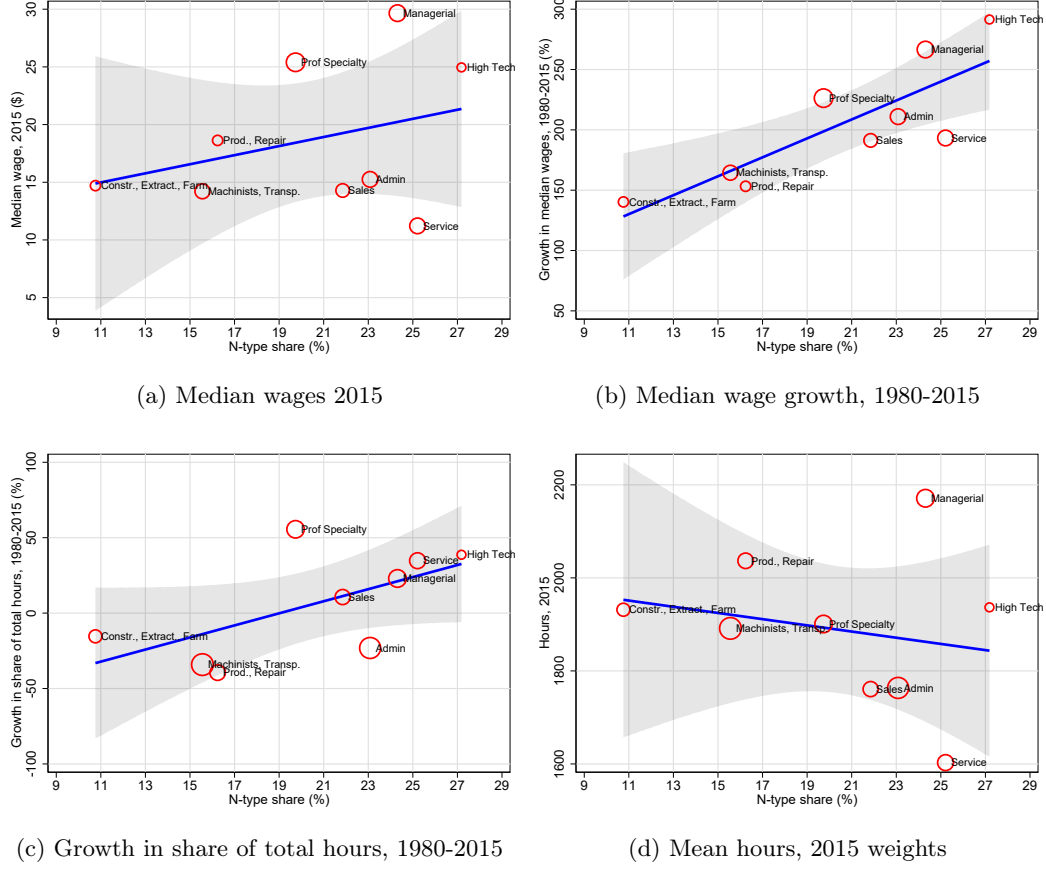
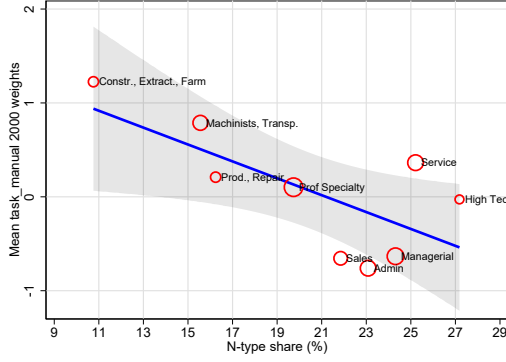


Figure 4: Correlation of N -content of occupations with other occupation characteristics. Wage and hours data from 1980 Census and 2015 American Community Survey.

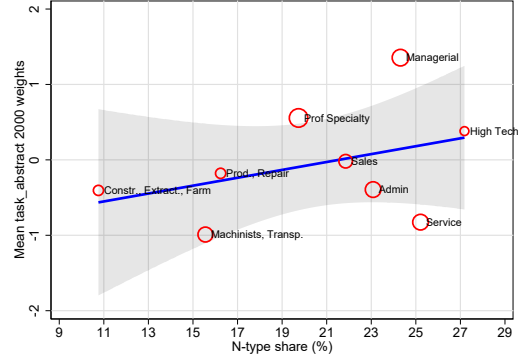
These three statistics are available at an industry level, mainly for a subset of manufacturing industries. For each broad occupation group, we calculate averages over industries, with shares of workers in the occupation group employed in each industry used as weights.¹⁶ N -intensity is positively related to the overhead labor share, suggesting some similarity between N -type labor and work performed by non-production workers in manufacturing. N -intensity is also positively correlated with exposure to Chinese imports, but negatively with adjusted robot penetration.

Activities and skills related to N -intensity In this section, we undertake a more detailed investigation of whether there are particular occupation-level skills or activities that are especially strongly associated with N -intensity. To do so, we project the N -intensity of each occupation onto

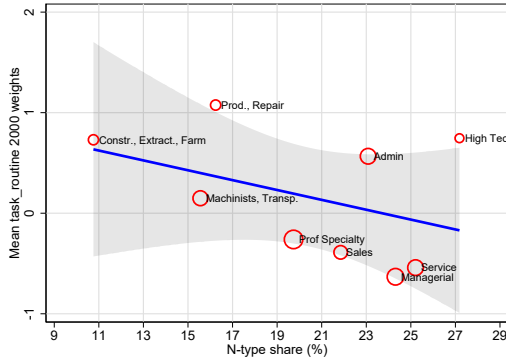
¹⁶We discard all individuals working in industries for which we do not have data on that measure.



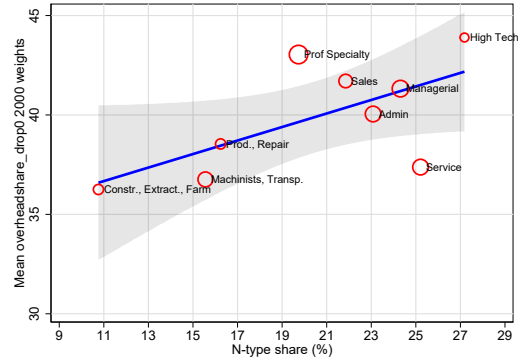
(a) Manual content, 2000 weights



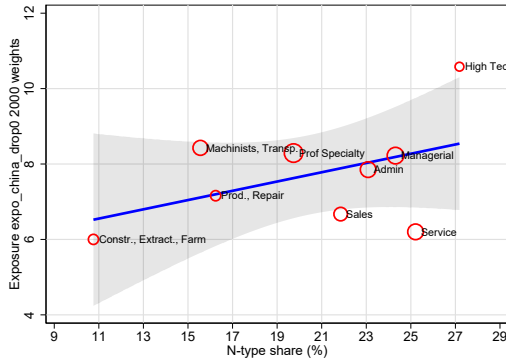
(b) Abstract content, 2000 weights



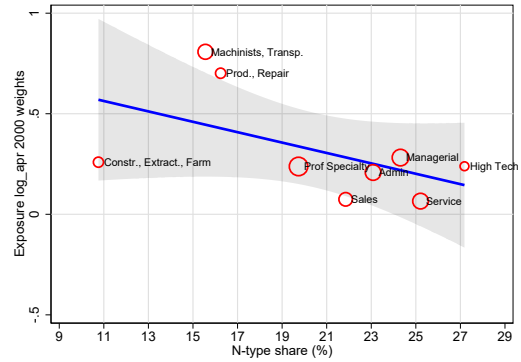
(c) Routine content, 2000 weights



(d) Overhead labor share, 2000 weights



(e) Exposure to China, 2000 weights



(f) Robot penetration, 2000 weights

Figure 5: Correlation of *N*-content of occupations with other occupation characteristics. Routine corresponds to the average of DOT measures: “set limits, tolerances and standards,” and “finger dexterity.” Manual corresponds to DOT measure “eye-hand-foot coordination”. Abstract is the average of DOT measures: “direction, control and planning” and “GED math.” See [Autor et al. \(2006\)](#) for details. Overhead labor share in total labor income is from NBER CES. The adjusted penetration of robots and change in Chinese import competition are from [Acemoglu and Restrepo \(2020\)](#).

a large set of characteristics from O*NET

$$\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j} = \beta_0 + \sum_{k=1}^K \beta_k x_{k,j} + e_j, \quad (14)$$

where $x_{k,j}$ is a value for characteristic k for occupation j . We assign to each of the 324 detailed occupations from Autor et al. (2013) the level of N -intensity for the corresponding broad occupational group as reported in Table 4. We use Lasso regularization to select the 10 characteristics that are most strongly associated with N -intensity.

In Table 7, we report the estimates of β_k for Work Activities, Skills, and Knowledge measures in O*NET.¹⁷ The results suggest that in general it is difficult to predict the Y or N -intensity based on these characteristics, although there are a handful of characteristics that have reasonably strong correlations. The Skill characteristic “Programming” is the most strongly associated with N -intensity - a 1 standard-deviation higher value is associated with a 1 percentage point higher N -intensity. The characteristics most strongly associated with Y -intensity are Work Activity "Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices and Equipment, Skill "Installation", and Knowledge "Mechanical". The last of these is the strongest - a 1 standard deviation higher value is associated with a 1.8 percentage point higher Y -intensity.

While it is reassuring that these correlations align broadly with informal perceptions of Y and N -type activities, it is clear that the associations are overall weak and illustrates why it would not have been possible to identify the Y and N content of occupations directly from O*NET, rather than leveraging the structure of the model for estimation.

5 Corroboration of N -intensity with Measures of Customer Capital

Our goal is to understand how a change in markups affects the labor income distribution. Our model provides insights into this question by highlighting that a change in markups shifts labor income away from Y -type activities towards N -type activities. It would therefore be useful to directly observe the N -intensity of different occupations, independently of their correlation with markups. While there are no perfect direct measures of N -intensity, a potentially valuable starting point is to compare our estimates of the N -content of occupations with proxies for *customer capital* from He et al. (2025).¹⁸

He et al. (2025) conduct a series of empirical analyses to argue that firms’ investments in customer capital constitute a large part of their total investments. They conceptualize investment in customer capital as spending incurred to build a customer base, which is valuable to firms because it allows them to capture the surplus associated with ongoing relationships with their

¹⁷Each measure is normalized to have a mean of 0 and standard deviation of 1. In Table 17 in Appendix G we present additional estimates using Abilities, Work Contexts and Work Styles measures from O*NET.

¹⁸We thank Amir Sufi for generously providing the data for this analysis.

Table 7: Correlates of N -intensity.

<u>Panel A: Work Activities</u>	
Operating Vehicles, Mechanized Devices, Equipment	-1.070
Controlling Machines and Processes	-0.786
Repairing and Maintaining Mechanical Equipment	-0.577
Training and Teaching Others	-0.373
Drafting, Laying Out, and Specifying Technical Devices	-0.370
Thinking Creatively	-0.148
Judging the Qualities of Things, Services, People	-0.013
Interacting With Computers	0.257
Performing for or Working Directly with the Public	0.313
Staffing Organizational Units	0.445
R-squared	0.52
<u>Panel B: Skills</u>	
Installation	-1.370
Equipment Maintenance	-0.910
Instructing	-0.370
Quality Control Analysis	-0.232
Operation Monitoring	-0.108
Repairing	-0.039
Reading Comprehension	0.000
Management of Financial Resources	0.081
Service Orientation	0.822
Programming	1.030
R-squared	0.52
<u>Panel C: Knowledge</u>	
Mechanical	-1.830
Building and Construction	-0.297
Fine Arts	-0.287
Transportation	-0.262
Education and Training	0.000
Communications and Media	0.011
Law and Government	0.160
Food Production	0.384
Computers and Electronics	0.517
Customer and Personal Service	0.755
R-squared	0.48

This table shows the estimates of β_k in Equation (14), where S_{jN}/S_j are expressed as percent (i.e. their values are from 0 to 100). The average S_{jN}/S_j in the sample is 20.9%.

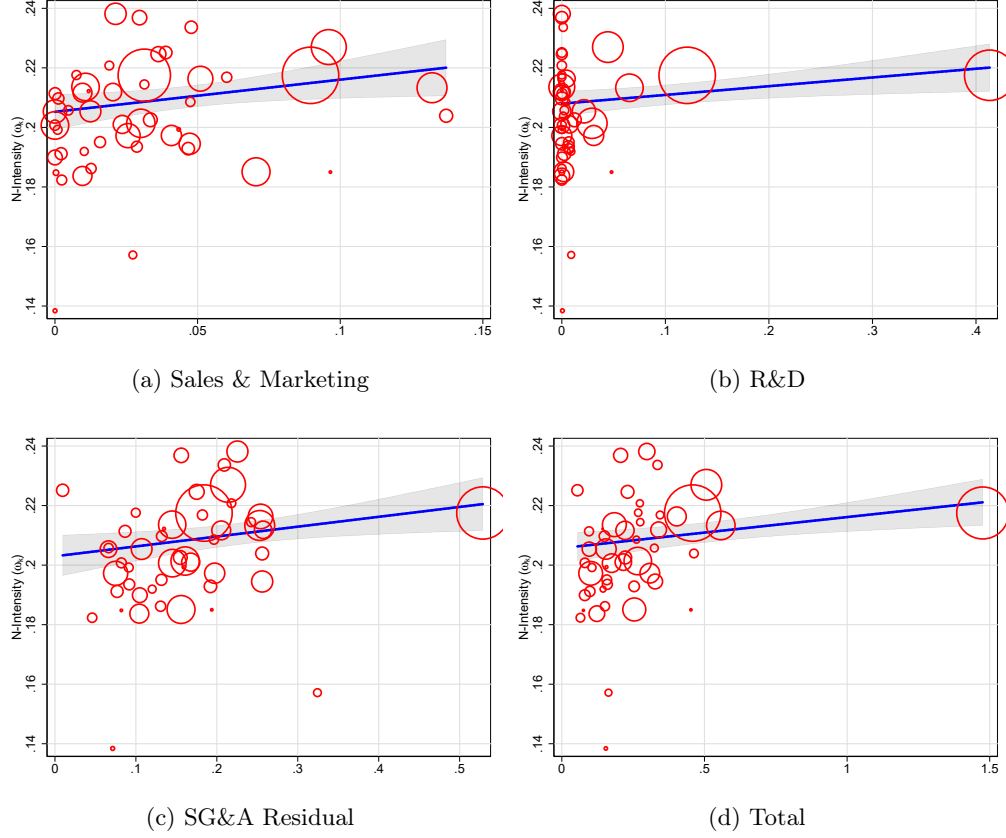


Figure 6: Aggregate estimation: N -Intensity vs. customer capital proxies from He et al. (2025) (median, BEA industry level). Bubble size proportional to number of firms. Blue line: weighted fit; gray band: 95% confidence interval.

customers. They describe the nature of this investment as encompassing “spending on a sales force, on customer service, on boosting brand value, on advertising, and on acquiring and using data on customers.” Intuitively, this strikes a similar tone to what we label N -type labor, and indeed the model that He et al. (2025) present in their Appendix is drawn directly from our earlier paper (Bond et al., 2021).

Their proxies are firm-year observations from Compustat on (i) sales and marketing expenditures, (ii) R&D expenditures; (iii) other SG&A expenditures, and (iv) the sum of (i)–(iii) which they label total customer capital investment. All are expressed as a fraction of firm-level revenues. To compare these measures with our estimates of N -intensity we compute the median of each of these shares at the BEA industry level. We then use our baseline estimates of occupation-level N -intensity from Table 4 to compute proxies for N -intensity at the BEA industry level by using CPS occupation income shares within each sector. Comparing at the industry level provides a way to compare our baseline estimates (which are at the occupation level) with He et al. (2025) (which is at the firm level). Full details are in Appendix E.3.

The four panels of Figure 6 display the industry-level correlation of our measures of N -intensity with He et al. (2025)'s proxies for investment in customer capital. The figures suggest a positive correlation, which is most pronounced for residual SG&A expenses and least pronounced for R&D expenditures (the latter is heavily concentrated in a handful of industries, which makes it less useful for this type of comparison than the other two proxies). Figure 7 shows an alternative way to compare our estimates with He et al. (2025). Here we aggregate the firm-level data to the 10 supersectors and compare with our industry-level estimates of N -intensity from Table 5 (which come from the first stage estimation and so do not use occupation-level variation). At this broad level of aggregation we do not find any correlation in these measures.

Interpreted as a validation exercise, the support for our model-based measures of N -intensity is therefore admittedly weak, particularly when focusing on the supersector comparison in Figure 7. However, the positive correlation between our inferred measures of N -intensity and sales and marketing expenses and SG&A at the level of disaggregated industries in 6 is reassuring. Fundamentally, the difficulty in measuring N -type labor from the type of accounting data that is routinely collected in public firms' financial statements is that these accounting principles were not developed with this distinction in mind. This begs the question of what type of data one could collect to provide more direct measures of the N -intensity of occupations. One possible approach would be to design hypothetical firm surveys based on the motivating partial equilibrium firm decision problem in the Introduction. That problem provides a well-defined distinction between N -type and Y -type labor. Consider a questions along the lines of: "Imagine you were able to charge a higher price for each unit of goods in each market that you operate because the elasticity of demand you face exogenously and permanently falls, for reasons orthogonal to your own operations or goods. Assume there is no change in the cost of labor services. Taking into account how this would change the number of markets, varieties and products you operate in, over the long-run how would the share of your revenue that you spend on different occupations change." Questions like these might be a useful avenue for directly measuring the N -intensity of occupations.

6 Conclusion

So what? We have demonstrated that the distinction between two uses of labor in modern economies — expansionary, or N -type, activities, versus production, or Y -type, activities — is critical for understanding the relationship between markups and the labor income distribution. Conventional wisdom dictates that higher markups shift income away from workers and toward firm profits. Our framework shows this conclusion depends critically on the role workers play in the production process: Y -type workers are negatively exposed to markup increases, while N -type workers are positively exposed, making the overall effect on the labor share theoretically ambiguous. We developed a framework that operationalizes this distinction at the occupational level. Our estimates from post-war US data at business cycle frequencies suggests that around one-fifth of total US labor income compensates N -type activities, with substantial heterogeneity across

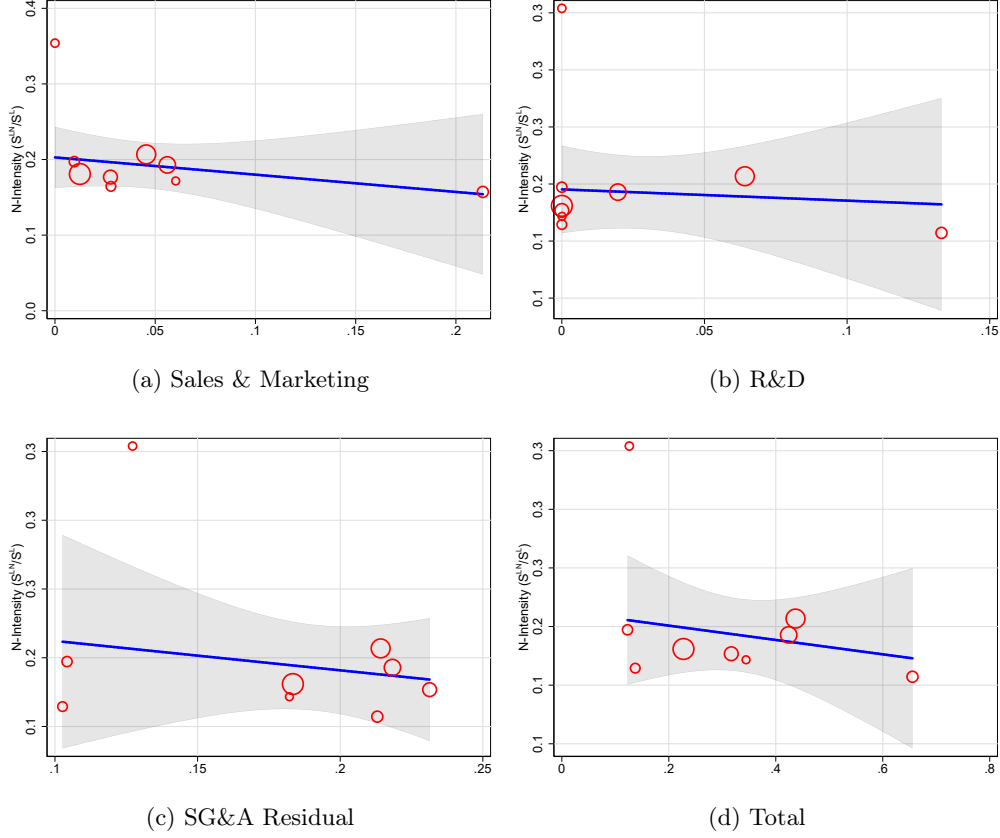


Figure 7: Supersector-level N-Intensity (S^{LN}/S^L) vs. customer capital proxies from He et al. (2025) (median, no adjustment). Bubble size proportional to sector value-added labor share. Blue line: weighted fit; gray band: 95% confidence interval.

occupations. Those with the largest expansionary content are typically white-collar occupations; those with the least are typically blue-collar. When markups rise, labor income shifts away from Y -intensive occupations and toward N -intensive ones.

Our empirical analysis provides a quantitative assessment of these forces and their broader implications for labor market structure. Occupations with the highest N -type content — concentrated in managerial, technical, and professional roles — have experienced the fastest growth in both wages and employment over recent decades, a pattern our framework helps account for. The exercises in Sections 4.4 and 5 further show that expansionary content is only imperfectly captured by task-based or accounting classifications, underscoring the value of our production-based approach; directly observed proxies such as these miss a meaningful share of the cross-occupational variation that our estimates recover. Taken together, these findings imply that increases in markups generate systematic redistribution within labor — not only between labor and capital — and that understanding who gains and who loses requires distinguishing how workers contribute to firm activity, not merely how much they earn.

Future directions Future research could extend our work in several fruitful directions. One limitation of our framework is that we have abstracted from firm-level heterogeneity in markups and production and expansion elasticities. Departing from a representative firm benchmark would allow studying the effect of markup changes resulting from reallocation of employment between firms with different markups and elasticities. This is particularly relevant in the context of empirical evidence that emphasizes an increasing role for "superstar" firms. Other potential applications of our framework include investigating secular changes in production and expansion elasticities and the relative importance of expansion versus production in generating revenue, and incorporating the distinction between Y -type and N -type labor into settings with heterogeneous households to study the distributional effects of changes in markups at the household level.

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A Online Appendix: Proofs and Derivations

A.1 Proof of Lemma 1

Proof. The upstream firm solves

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_U &:= \max_{M, \{L_{jY}\}_{j=1}^J} P_U M - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY} \\ \text{s.t. } M &= Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y}\end{aligned}$$

The first order condition with respect to L_{kY} is $W_k = P_U \gamma_Y \eta_{kY} Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y - 1} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}}}{L_{kY}}$. Use $M = Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y}$ and the fact that in a symmetric equilibrium $p = \mu P_U$ to rewrite it as

$$W_k = \frac{p}{\mu} \gamma_Y \eta_{kY} \frac{M}{L_{kY}}, \quad (15)$$

which can be rearranged as (using market clearing $M = Nm = Ny = Y$) $\frac{W_k L_{kY}}{PY} = \gamma_Y \eta_{kY} \frac{1}{\mu}$. This shows that

$$S_{LY} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY}}{PY} = \sum_{j=1}^J \gamma_Y \eta_{jY} \frac{1}{\mu} = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}.$$

The downstream firm solves

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_D &:= \max_{N, \{L_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J} \int_0^N \Pi_i di - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN} \\ \text{s.t. } N &= Z_D \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\gamma_N}\end{aligned}$$

which, in a symmetric equilibrium with $\Pi_i = \Pi$ for all i , can be written as

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_D &:= \max_{N, \{L_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J} N \Pi - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN} \\ \text{s.t. } N &= Z_D \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\gamma_N}\end{aligned}$$

and the first order condition with respect to L_{kN} is $W_k = \gamma_N \eta_{kN} \frac{N}{L_{kN}} \Pi$. In a symmetric equilibrium $\Pi = py \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right)$. Use this fact and market clearing $pM = pNm = pNy = PY$ to write

$$W_k = \gamma_N \eta_{kN} \frac{PY}{L_{kN}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) \quad (16)$$

which can be rearranged as $\frac{W_k L_{kN}}{PY} = \gamma_N \eta_{kN} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right)$. This shows that

$$S_{LN} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN}}{PY} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) \sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jN} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right).$$

Finally,

$$S_L = S_{LN} + S_{LY} = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu} + \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right).$$

To get the share of total income accruing to occupation j notice that $W_j L_j = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N \eta_{jN} PY + \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y \eta_{jY} PY$ so

$$S_j := \frac{W_j L_j}{PY} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N \eta_{jN} + \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y \eta_{jY}.$$

It can also be written as

$$S_j = \eta_{jY} S_{LY} + \eta_{jN} S_{LN}.$$

To obtain profit shares note that

$$\begin{aligned} S_D &:= \frac{\Pi_D}{pY} = \frac{pNy \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN}}{pY} \\ &= (1 - \gamma_N) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_U &:= \frac{\Pi_U}{PY} = \frac{P_U M - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY}}{PY} \\ &= (1 - \gamma_Y) \frac{1}{\mu} \end{aligned}$$

so

$$S_\Pi = S_U + S_D = (1 - \gamma_Y) \frac{1}{\mu} + (1 - \gamma_N) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)$$

□

A.2 Proof of Theorem 1

Proof. As shown in Lemma 1

$$S_{LY} = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}, \quad S_{LN} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)$$

so

$$\frac{\partial S_{LY}}{\partial \mu} = -\gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu^2} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial S_{LN}}{\partial \mu} = \gamma_N \frac{1}{\mu^2} > 0.$$

□

A.3 Proof of Theorem 2

Proof. As shown in Lemma 1

$$S_j = \eta_{jY} S_{LY} + \eta_{jN} S_{LN}$$

so

$$\begin{aligned} s_j &= \eta_{jY} \frac{\gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}}{\gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu} + \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)} + \eta_{jN} \frac{\gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)}{\gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu} + \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)} \\ &= \eta_{jY} + (\eta_{jN} - \eta_{jY}) \left[\frac{(\mu - 1) \gamma_N}{\gamma_Y + (\mu - 1) \gamma_N} \right] \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial \mu} = (\eta_{jN} - \eta_{jY}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[\frac{(\mu - 1) \gamma_N}{\gamma_Y + (\mu - 1) \gamma_N} \right].$$

Since $\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \left[\frac{(\mu - 1) \gamma_N}{\gamma_Y + (\mu - 1) \gamma_N} \right] \geq 0$ (> 0 if $\gamma_N > 0$), we have $\frac{\partial s_j}{\partial \mu} \geq 0$ if and only if $\gamma_N \geq \gamma_Y$.

□

A.4 Proof of Theorem 3

As shown in Lemma 1

$$S_L = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu} + \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)$$

with

$$\frac{\partial S_L}{\partial \mu} = \frac{1}{\mu^2} (\gamma_N - \gamma_Y),$$

which is positive if and only if $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$. Similarly, since $S_\Pi = 1 - S_L$ we have

$$\frac{\partial S_\Pi}{\partial \mu} = -\frac{1}{\mu^2} (\gamma_N - \gamma_Y),$$

which is positive if and only if $\gamma_N < \gamma_Y$.

B Online Appendix: Details of Generalizations of Production Structure

For the sake of simplifying the notation in this Appendix we often abstract from occupations and work directly with

$$L_Y := \prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}}, \quad L_N := \prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}}$$

and wage indices

$$W_Y := \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}}, \quad W_N := \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j}{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\eta_{jN}}.$$

B.1 Variety-specific DRS in production

Upstream Sector Each variety $i \in [0, N]$ in this economy is produced by a variety-specific representative upstream firm. Upstream firm i hires labor l_{Yi} in a competitive labor market at wage W_Y , which it uses to produce an intermediate good M_i . M_i is then sold to the downstream sector at price P_{Ui} . The upstream firm thus chooses labor and output to maximize profits π_{Ui} :

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_{Ui} &:= \max_{L_{Yi}, M_i} P_{Ui} M_i - W_Y l_{Yi} \\ \text{s.t. } M_i &= Z_U L_{Yi}^{\gamma_Y} \end{aligned}$$

Downstream Sector A unit measure continuum of identical downstream firms each hire labor L_N in a competitive labor market at wage W_N , which they use to manage product lines. Each product line i generates gross profits Π_i , which the downstream firm's expansion department takes as given when deciding on the number of lines to operate. The firm thus chooses labor and product lines to maximize net profits Π_D :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_D &:= \max \int_0^N \Pi_i di - W_N L_N \\ \text{s.t. } N &= Z_N L_N^{\gamma_N} \end{aligned}$$

The firm's pricing department for the product line i purchases m_i units of good from the upstream firm i , and then sells to consumers at a markup $\mu \geq 1$ over marginal cost P_{Ui} . Hence the price charged in the product line i is

$$p_i = \mu P_{Ui} \tag{17}$$

Factor shares We focus on symmetric equilibria in which $p_i = p \forall i$, $P_{Ui} = P_U \forall i$, $M_i = M \forall i$, $m_i = m \forall i$ and $y_i = y \forall i$. Market clearing for intermediate goods then implies that

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi_i &= \Pi, & \pi_{Ui} &= \pi_U, & \Pi_U &= N\pi_U, \\ l_{Yi} &= l_Y, & M &= Nm, & L &= L_Y + L_N, \\ L_Y &= Nl_Y.\end{aligned}$$

The nominal GDP in this economy is $PY = pNy = pM$. The shares of total income accruing to Y -type and N -type labor are defined as $S_{LN} := \frac{W_N L_N}{PY}$ and $S_{LY} := \frac{W_Y L_Y}{PY}$. The overall labor share is defined as $S_L = S_{LN} + S_{LY}$. The overall profit share in the economy is given by the sum of profit shares in both sectors, $S_\Pi = S_U + S_D$, where $S_U := \frac{\Pi_U}{PY}$ and $S_D := \frac{\Pi_D}{PY}$. To obtain expressions for factor shares notice that first order conditions in the upstream and downstream sectors are

$$W_Y = P_U \gamma_Y \frac{M}{l_Y}, \quad W_N = \gamma_N \frac{N}{L_N} y (p - P_U)$$

which in equilibrium (using equation 17) can be rewritten as

$$\frac{W_Y L_Y}{pNy} = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}, \quad \frac{W_N L_N}{pNy} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right).$$

This shows that expressions for labor share remain unchanged. Lemma 1 still holds. Since the formulas for factor shares do not change, Theorems 1, 2, and 3 are unaffected.

B.2 Integrated upstreams and downstream sectors as single firms

In this section we study a version of the model in which the downstream sector firms have to produce goods themselves. Consider a single firm that chooses how much to produce, M , and how many markets to sell in, N , taking the inverse demand curve in each market as given,

$$\begin{aligned}\Pi &= \max_{L_Y, L_N, y_i, p_i, N, M} \int_0^N p_i y_i di - W_N L_N - W_Y L_Y \\ \text{s.t. } N &= L_N^{\gamma_N}, M = L_Y^{\gamma_Y}, M = \int_0^N y_i di \\ p_i &= p \left(y_i, \underbrace{Y, N, P}_{\text{taken as given}} \right)\end{aligned}$$

First order conditions are

$$\begin{aligned}N : p(y, \cdot) y_i &= \frac{1}{\gamma_N} W_N N^{\frac{1}{\gamma_N} - 1} + \frac{1}{\gamma_Y} W_Y y \left(\int_0^N y_i di \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma_Y} - 1} \\ y_i : p'(y_i, \cdot) y_i + p(y_i, \cdot) &= \frac{1}{\gamma_Y} W_Y \left(\int_0^N y_i di \right)^{\frac{1}{\gamma_Y} - 1}\end{aligned}$$

and in a symmetric equilibrium with $y_i = y$ and $p_i = p$ and $PY = pNy$ they can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}1 &= \frac{\frac{1}{\gamma_N} W_N N^{\frac{1}{\gamma_N}}}{pyN} + \frac{1}{\gamma_Y} W_Y \frac{(Ny)^{\frac{1}{\gamma_Y}}}{pNy} \\ 1 - \varepsilon_{p,y} &= \frac{1}{\gamma_Y} W_Y \frac{(Ny)^{\frac{1}{\gamma_Y} - 1}}{pN}\end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon_{p,y} := -\frac{p'(y,\cdot)y}{p}$. Moreover, since $pNy = PY$, we have

$$\frac{W_Y L_Y}{PY} = \gamma_Y (1 - \varepsilon_{p,y}), \quad \frac{W_N L_N}{PY} = \gamma_N \varepsilon_{p,y}$$

Define $\mu := \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon_{p,y}}$ to get

$$S_{LY} := \frac{W_Y L_Y}{PY} = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}, \quad S_{LN} := \frac{W_N L_N}{PY} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right).$$

The factor shares are therefore as in Section 2.2 and Theorems 1, 2 and 3 still hold.

B.2.1 Variety-specific production functions

The key assumption needed in the previous example for Theorems 1, 2 and 3 to remain unchanged, is that there is a single production function for M . Consider instead an economy in which there are variety-specific production functions (but with a common γ_Y), $m_i = \ell_{iY}^{\gamma_Y}$. The problem of a single firm that chooses how much of each variety to produce, $\{m_i\}$, and how many markets to sell in, N , taking the inverse demand curve in each market as given is

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi = & \max_{L_N, \{y_i, p_i, m_i, \ell_{iY}\}, N} \int_0^N [p_i y_i - W_Y \ell_{iY}] di - W_N L_N \\ \text{s.t. } & N = L_N^{\gamma_N}, \\ & m_i = \ell_{iY}^{\gamma_Y} \quad \forall_i \\ & y_i = m_i \quad \forall_i \\ & p_i = p \left(y_i, \underbrace{Y, N, P}_{\text{taken as given}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

It is useful to consider the cost minimization problem in each product line (or variety) :

$$TC_i := \min_{m_i \ell_{iY}} W_Y \ell_{iY} \quad \text{s.t. } m_i = \ell_{iY}^{\gamma_Y}$$

which results in the expression for marginal cost

$$MC_i = \frac{1}{\gamma_Y} W_Y m_i^{\frac{1}{\gamma_Y} - 1}.$$

First order conditions are

$$\begin{aligned} N : & \quad p(y, \cdot) y_i = \frac{1}{\gamma_N} W_N N^{\frac{1}{\gamma_N} - 1} + TC_i(y_i) \\ y_i : & \quad p'(y_i, \cdot) y_i + p(y_i, \cdot) = MC_i(y_i) \end{aligned}$$

and in a symmetric equilibrium with $y_i = y$ and $p_i = p$ they can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} 1 &= \frac{1}{\gamma_N} \frac{W_N N^{\frac{1}{\gamma_N}}}{pyN} + \frac{W_Y y^{\frac{1}{\gamma_Y}} N}{pyN} \\ 1 - \varepsilon_{p,y} &= \frac{1}{\gamma_Y} \frac{W_Y y^{\frac{1}{\gamma_Y}} N}{pyN} \end{aligned}$$

where $\varepsilon_{p,y} := -\frac{p'(y,\cdot)y}{p}$. Moreover, since $pNy = pY$, we have

$$\frac{W_Y L_Y}{PY} = \gamma_Y (1 - \varepsilon_{p,y}), \quad \frac{W_N L_N}{PY} = \gamma_N (1 - \gamma_Y (1 - \varepsilon_{p,y})).$$

Define $\mu := \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon_{p,y}}$ to get

$$S_{LY} := \frac{W_Y L_Y}{PY} = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}, \quad S_{LN} := \frac{W_N L_N}{PY} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}\right).$$

This shows that the expression for S_{LN} is different now. The reason is that a part of what we called upstream profits in Section 2.1 remunerates N-type labor. In consequence, Theorem 3 does not hold since $S_L = \gamma_Y (1 - \gamma_N) \frac{1}{\mu} + \gamma_N$

and an increase in the markup decreases the labor share unless $\gamma_N = 1$. Theorem 1 is still valid, but S_{LN} is less sensitive to changes in the markup - while its “downstream” component stemming from monopolistic rents, $\gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right)$, is positively related to increases in the markup, the component resulting from decreasing returns to scale in production, $\gamma_N \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \gamma_Y)$, is negatively related.

B.3 Capital and other factors of productions

In this section we allow for multiple factors of production. We show that adding capital and other factors of production has no impact on our results if production functions in the downstream and upstream are multiplicative in labor and some arbitrary aggregators of other factors of production. Let

$$M = Z_U L_Y^{\gamma_Y} f_Y(\{X_Y\}) \text{ and } N = Z_D L_N^{\gamma_N} f_N(\{X_N\})$$

where $\{X_Y\} = \{X_{1Y}, X_{2Y}, X_{3Y}, \dots\}$ and $\{X_N\} = \{X_{1N}, X_{2N}, X_{3N}, \dots\}$ are *factors of production* (i.e. they are not intermediate inputs) excluding labor. Assume $0 \leq \gamma_Y \leq 1$ and $0 \leq \gamma_N \leq 1$. Let f_Y, f_N be an arbitrary nondecreasing function. We need to assume $L_Y^{\gamma_Y} f_Y(\{X_Y\})$ is concave in $(L_Y, \{X_Y\})$ and $L_N^{\gamma_N} f_N(\{X_N\})$ is concave in $(L_N, \{X_N\})$. Moreover, let $L = L_N + L_Y$ so that there are no other uses of labor in this economy. Since

$$\frac{\partial M}{\partial L_Y} = \gamma_Y \frac{M}{L_Y}, \quad \frac{\partial N}{\partial L_N} = \gamma_N \frac{N}{L_N},$$

and $Y = Ny = M$ (because we assumed $\{X_Y\}$ and $\{X_N\}$ are not intermediate inputs) we still have

$$W_Y L_Y = \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y PY, \quad W_N L_N = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N PY,$$

so Theorems 1 and 2 still hold. The part of Theorem 3 concerning the behavior of the labor share is also unchanged.

B.4 CES Production Function

We explore the effects of extending the production functions in each sector to Constant Elasticity of Substitution functions:

$$M = Z_U [b_Y L_Y^{\rho_Y} + (1 - b_Y) X_Y^{\rho_Y}]^{\frac{1}{\rho_Y} \theta_Y} \text{ and } N = Z_D [b_N L_N^{\rho_N} + (1 - b_N) X_N^{\rho_N}]^{\frac{1}{\rho_N} \theta_N}$$

where (X_Y, X_N) are some other factors of productions (or aggregates of other factors of production). We assume $b_Y, b_N, \theta_Y, \theta_N \in (0, 1)$ and $\rho_Y, \rho_N \leq 1$. With an exception of different production functions, we keep problems faced by the upstream and the downstream firms unchanged. We show the conditions under which Theorems 1 and 3 hold.

Lemma 2. *In an economy with this production structure, the equilibrium factor shares are given by*

$$S_{LY} = \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y(t_Y), \quad S_{LN} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N(t_N), \quad S_L = \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y(t_Y) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N(t_N)$$

where

$$\gamma_Y(t) := \theta_Y \frac{b_Y t^{\rho_Y}}{b_Y t^{\rho_Y} + (1 - b_Y)}, \quad \gamma_N(t) := \theta_N \frac{b_N t^{\rho_N}}{b_N t^{\rho_N} + (1 - b_N)}, \quad t_Y := \frac{L_Y}{X_Y}, \quad t_N := \frac{L_N}{X_N}.$$

Proof. First order conditions with respect to Y- and N-types of labor are, in a symmetric equilibrium with $\Pi_i = \Pi$,

$$W_Y = P_U M \theta_Y \frac{b_Y L_Y^{\rho_Y - 1}}{b_Y L_Y^{\rho_Y} + (1 - b_Y) X_Y^{\rho_Y}}, \quad W_N = \Pi N \theta_N \frac{b_N L_N^{\rho_N - 1}}{b_N L_N^{\rho_N} + (1 - b_N) X_N^{\rho_N}}.$$

Now use the market clearing $M = Nm = Ny = Y$ together with $\Pi = (p - P_U)y$ and $p = \mu P_U$ to obtain

$$S_{LY} = \frac{1}{\mu} \theta_Y \underbrace{\frac{b_Y L_Y^{\rho_Y - 1}}{b_Y L_Y^{\rho_Y} + (1 - b_Y) X_Y^{\rho_Y}}}_{\equiv \gamma_Y \left(\frac{L_Y}{X_Y} \right)}, \quad S_{LN} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) \theta_N \underbrace{\frac{b_N L_N^{\rho_N - 1}}{b_N L_N^{\rho_N} + (1 - b_N) X_N^{\rho_N}}}_{\equiv \gamma_N \left(\frac{L_N}{X_N} \right)},$$

$$S_L = \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y \left(\frac{L_Y}{X_Y} \right) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) \gamma_N \left(\frac{L_N}{X_N} \right).$$

□

In this economy, it is not always the case that an increase in the markup increases the share of income going to N-type labor and reduces the share of income accruing to Y-type labor. This requires extra assumptions, because redistribution depends on the elasticities of substitution between labor and other factors of production and on the effect of changes in the markup on the ratio of labor to other inputs. Theorem 4 generalizes Theorem 1 to CES production functions.

Theorem 4. *Let*

$$\xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} := \frac{1}{t_Y} \frac{dt_Y}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} \frac{1}{\mu}, \quad \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} := \frac{1}{t_N} \frac{dt_N}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} \frac{1}{\mu}.$$

If $\rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} \geq 0$ and $\rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$ then an increase in the markup μ leads to a decrease in the income share of Y-type labor and an increase in the income share of N-type labor.

Proof. In this economy

$$\frac{dS_{LY}}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} = \gamma_Y \left[1 + \frac{(1 - b_Y)}{b_Y t_Y^{\rho_Y} + (1 - b_Y)} \rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} \right], \quad \frac{dS_{LN}}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} = -\gamma_N \left[1 - (\mu - 1) \frac{(1 - b_N)}{b_N t_N^{\rho_N} + (1 - b_N)} \rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \right].$$

and $\frac{(1 - b_Y)}{b_Y t_Y^{\rho_Y} + (1 - b_Y)} > 0$ and $(\mu - 1) \frac{(1 - b_N)}{b_N t_N^{\rho_N} + (1 - b_N)} > 0$. If $\rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} \geq 0$ then $\frac{dS_{LY}}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} > 0$. If $\rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$ then $\frac{dS_{LN}}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} < 0$. Therefore under those conditions we have $\frac{dS_{LY}}{d\mu} < 0$, $\frac{dS_{LN}}{d\mu} > 0$. □

For an increase in the markup to decrease S_{LY} it is sufficient that the ratio of Y-type labor to other factors of production goes down ($\xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} \geq 0$) when labor and other factors of production are substitutes ($\rho_Y \geq 0$) and increases ($\xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$) when they are complements ($\rho_Y \leq 0$). An increase in the markup will increase S_{LN} when the ratio of N-type labor to other inputs increases ($\xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$) when N-type labor and other inputs are complements ($\rho_N \leq 0$) and decreases ($\xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \geq 0$) if they are substitutes ($\rho_N \geq 0$). These conditions are sufficient so it could be the case that, for example, $\frac{dS_{LY}}{d\mu} \leq 0$ even if $\rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} < 0$. This happens as long as $1 + \rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} > -\frac{b_Y}{1 - b_Y} t_Y^{\rho_Y}$. The advantage of providing sufficient conditions in terms of $\rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}}$ and $\rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}}$ is that these depend only on the product of the elasticity of substitution and the direction of change in the L/X ratio in response to a change in the markup. As an example suppose that $\rho_Y = \rho_N = \rho > 0$ so that labor and other factors of production are substitutes in both sectors. An increase in the aggregate markup will redistribute income from Y- to N- type labor when it decreases the ratio L/X in the upstream sector and increases it in the downstream sector. Note that $\xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}}, \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}}, \gamma_Y(t_Y), \gamma_N(t_N)$ are equilibrium objects so in principle they could depend on the level of markup and other variables.

In contrast to the baseline model with Cobb-Douglas technology, S_{LN} and S_{LY} might both go up or down after an increase in the markup. Even if $\rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} \geq 0$, $\rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$ and $\gamma_N(t_N) > \gamma_Y(t_Y)$ it is still possible that $\frac{dS_L}{d\mu} < 0$. For example, S_{LY} can fall by so much that S_L drops despite an increase in S_{LN} . However, in a special case in which the upstream sector uses a Cobb-Douglas technology ($\rho_Y = 0$) and $\rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$, if $\gamma_N(t_N) > \gamma_Y(t_Y)$, an increase in the markup will increase the labor share S_L .

Theorem 5. *Let $\rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$ and $\rho_Y = 0$. If $\gamma_Y(t_Y) < \gamma_N(t_N)$ then an increase in the markup μ leads to a decrease in the income share of Y-type labor and an increase in the income share of N-type labor.*

Proof. We have

$$\frac{dS_L}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} = \gamma_Y \left[1 + \frac{(1-b_Y)}{b_Y t_Y^{\rho_Y} + (1-b_Y)} \rho_Y \xi_{t_Y, \frac{1}{\mu}} \right] - \gamma_N \left[1 - (\mu-1) \frac{(1-b_N)}{b_N t_N^{\rho_N} + (1-b_N)} \rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \right].$$

If $\gamma_Y(t_Y) < \gamma_N(t_N)$, $\rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \leq 0$ and $\rho_Y = 0$

$$\frac{dS_L}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} = \gamma_Y - \gamma_N \left[1 - (\mu-1) \frac{(1-b_N)}{b_N t_N^{\rho_N} + (1-b_N)} \rho_N \xi_{t_N, \frac{1}{\mu}} \right] \geq \gamma_Y - \gamma_N$$

□

B.5 Entry in the upstream sector

We generalize the model to allow entry in the upstream sector. The upstream firm operates E plants. For each plant the problem is

$$\Pi_U := \max_{L_Y, M} P_U M - W_Y L_Y \text{ s.t. } M = Z_U L_Y^{\gamma_Y}$$

and the first order condition with respect to L_Y is the same as in the baseline model (see equation 15). To operate plants the upstream firm needs to hire N-type labor. The problem is

$$\max_{L_{NU}, E} E \Pi_U - W_N L_{NU} \text{ s.t. } E = Z_E L_{NU},$$

with the first order condition $W_N = \frac{E}{L_{NU}} \Pi_U$. The problem of the downstream sector remains unchanged. Market clearing is $yN = EM$ and in a symmetric equilibrium factor shares are

$$S_{LY} := \frac{EW_Y L_Y}{pEM}, \quad S_{LN} := \frac{W_N (L_N + L_{NU})}{pEM},$$

i.e.

$$S_{LN} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N + \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \gamma_Y), \quad S_{LY} = \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y,$$

and the overall labor share is $S_L = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N + \frac{1}{\mu}$. Theorem 3 does not hold. In this case, an increase in the markup always leads to a fall in the labor share. Theorems 1 and 2 do not hold in their original form either. For S_{LN} to increase with the markup it has to be the case that $\gamma_N > 1 - \gamma_Y$. While the labor share of the Y-type labor always falls when the markup increases, the effect on S_{LN} is ambiguous because some N-type labor is used in the upstream sector. For the response of S_{LN} to have the same sign as in the baseline model, the incentive to hire N-type labor in the upstream sector must be weak. This happens when the profit share in each plant's revenue is low, i.e. when γ_Y is sufficiently large. However, an increase in the markup always increases the share of N-type labor income in the aggregate labor income, $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d \log \left(\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L} \right)}{d\frac{1}{\mu}} &= \frac{-\gamma_N + 1 - \gamma_Y}{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N + \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \gamma_Y)} - \frac{1 - \gamma_N}{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N + \frac{1}{\mu}} \\ &< 0 \iff \gamma_N > 0. \end{aligned}$$

B.6 N-type labor increasing productivity in the upstream sector

We generalize the model to allow N-type labor to increase productivity in the upstream sector. The representative upstream firm solves

$$\Pi_U := \max_{L_Y, L_{NU}, M} P_U M - W_Y L_Y - W_N L_{NU} \text{ s.t. } M = Z_U (L_{NU}) L_Y^{\gamma_Y}, \quad Z_U (L_{NU}) = \bar{Z}_U L_{NU}^{\gamma_{NU}}.$$

Here L_{NU} is N-type labor used in the upstream sector. The total amount of N-type labor in the economy is $L_{NU} + L_N$. The first order condition with respect to L_Y is the same as in the baseline model. The first order

condition with respect to N-type labor used in the upstream sector is $W_N = \gamma_{NU} P_U \frac{M}{L_{NU}}$. The problem of the downstream sector remains unchanged. Market clearing is $yN = M$ and in a symmetric equilibrium factor shares are

$$S_{LY} := \frac{W_Y L_Y}{pM}, \quad S_{LN} := \frac{W_N (L_N + L_{NU})}{pM}$$

i.e.

$$S_{LN} = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N + \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_{NU}, \quad S_{LY} = \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y$$

and the overall labor share is $S_L = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N + \frac{1}{\mu} (\gamma_{NU} + \gamma_Y)$. The increase in the markup now has an additional effect on demand for the N-type labor: when the markup increases, the marginal value of N-type labor in the upstream sector is lower. This force means that $dS_{LN}/d\mu > 0$ if and only if $\gamma_N > \gamma_{NU}$. Theorem 1 and Theorem 2 do not hold. Theorem 3 does not hold either: the overall labor share increases with the markup when $\gamma_N > \gamma_{NU} + \gamma_Y$.

B.7 Markups In Labor Market and Upstream Sector

We generalize the model to allow for markups in the upstream sector and labor markets. We assume that the upstream firm is a monopsonist in the labor market and a monopolist in the product market. First order condition of the firm is

$$\frac{\mu_U}{\mu_{LY}} W_Y = P_U \gamma_Y \frac{M}{L_Y}, \quad (18)$$

where $\mu_U \geq 1$ and $\mu_{LY} \leq 1$. Similarly, we assume some degree of monopsonistic power ($\mu_{LN} \leq 1$) in the downstream sector and so

$$\frac{1}{\mu_{LN}} \frac{W_N}{p} = \gamma_N \frac{N}{L_N} \Pi \quad (19)$$

and in symmetric equilibrium factor shares become

$$S_{LY} = \frac{\mu_{LY}}{\mu_U} \frac{1}{\mu_D} \gamma_Y, \quad S_{LN} = \mu_{LN} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_D}\right) \gamma_N$$

where μ_{LY} and μ_{LN} are markups in the labor markets for Y-type labor and N-type labor, and μ_D is the markup in the downstream sector (on which we focus in this paper).

We assume that markups are independent of each other and exogenous. The presence of markups in these other markets does not change Theorem 1: an increase in the markup still redistributes factor income away from Y-type labor and toward N-type labor. However, the condition for Theorem 3 is modified. Positive co-movement between the (downstream) markup and the labor share requires $\gamma_N > \frac{\mu_{LY}}{\mu_{LN} \mu_U} \gamma_Y$. When $\mu_{LN} = \mu_{LY}$, the presence of a markup in the upstream sector ($\mu_U > 1$) thus expands the set of (γ_N, γ_Y) which are consistent with co-movement observed in US data. We also have

$$\frac{\partial S_{LY}}{\partial \mu_U} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial S_{LN}}{\partial \mu_U} = 0, \quad \frac{\partial S_L}{\partial \mu_U} < 0$$

meaning that an increase in upstream markup reduces the Y-type share and the overall labor share. It has no effect on the N-type share. In addition

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial S_{LY}}{\partial \mu_{LY}} &> 0, & \frac{\partial S_{LN}}{\partial \mu_{LY}} &= 0, & \frac{\partial S_L}{\partial \mu_{LY}} &> 0 \\ \frac{\partial S_{LY}}{\partial \mu_{LN}} &= 0, & \frac{\partial S_{LN}}{\partial \mu_{LN}} &> 0, & \frac{\partial S_L}{\partial \mu_{LN}} &> 0 \end{aligned}$$

and so a *decrease* in the degree of monopsonistic power always increases the overall labor share in the economy and that happens through an increase in the share of one type of labor. Any type of markup or markdown that appears as a wedge between the real wage and the marginal rate of substitution of households (as it is often the case in New Keynesian models with wage rigidities) would not affect our results as long as μ_{LY} and μ_{LN} would not be affected by it.

So far we have simply assumed the presence of exogenous wedges $\mu_U, \mu_{LY}, \mu_{LN}$ in equations 18 and 19. Below we show an example in which these wedges are functions of structural parameters of the model. Suppose the

representative household solves

$$\begin{aligned} \max_{C, L_Y, L_N} \quad & \log C - \chi_Y \frac{L_Y^{1+\frac{1}{\varphi_Y}}}{1+\frac{1}{\varphi_Y}} - \chi_N \frac{L_N^{1+\frac{1}{\varphi_N}}}{1+\frac{1}{\varphi_N}} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & pC = W_Y L_Y + W_N L_N + \Pi_U + \Pi_D \end{aligned}$$

where $C = \mathcal{C}(\{c_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, \Omega)$ is a symmetric homothetic aggregator over distinct varieties c_ω and Ω is the measure of varieties. We assume this aggregator features no love of variety. First order conditions are

$$\chi_Y C L_Y^{\frac{1}{\varphi_Y}} = W_Y, \quad \chi_N C L_N^{\frac{1}{\varphi_N}} = W_N$$

Below we describe an example of micro-founded environment in which markup variation arises as a result of exogenous variation in a structural parameter. There is an upstream firm which takes the household's labor supply schedule as given and solves

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_U := \max_{L_Y, U} \quad & (1 - \tau) P_U M - W_Y L_Y \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & M = Z_U L_Y^{\gamma_Y}, \quad L_Y = \left(\frac{W_Y}{\chi_Y C} \right)^{\varphi_Y} \end{aligned}$$

where τ is a tax rate on the upstream firm's revenue.¹⁹ The first order condition is $\left(1 + \frac{1}{\varphi_Y}\right) W_Y = (1 - \tau) P_U \gamma_Y \frac{M}{L_Y}$.

The downstream firm also takes the household's labor supply schedule as given and solves

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_D := \max_{L_N, N} \quad & \int_0^N \Pi_i di - W_N L_N \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & N = Z_D L_N^{\gamma_N}, \quad L_N = \left(\frac{W_N}{\chi_N C} \right)^{\varphi_N} \end{aligned}$$

and first order condition with respect to L_N is (in a symmetric equilibrium with $\Pi_i = \Pi$ for all i) $\left(1 + \frac{1}{\varphi_N}\right) W_N = \gamma_N Z_D L_N^{\gamma_N - 1} \Pi$. Define $\mu_{L_Y} := \left(1 + \frac{1}{\varphi_Y}\right)^{-1}$, $\mu_U := (1 - \tau)^{-1}$, $\mu_{L_N} := \left(1 + \frac{1}{\varphi_N}\right)^{-1}$ to obtain equations 18 and 19. In this framework shifts in μ_{L_Y} and μ_{L_N} can be interpreted as changes in Frisch elasticities φ_Y, φ_N while shifts in μ_U result from changes in the tax rate τ .

B.8 Further processing in the downstream sector

In an economy with further processing in the downstream sector the problem of the upstream firm is as in Section 2.1:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_U := \max_{M, \{L_{jY}\}_{j=1}^J} \quad & P_U M - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & M = Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y}. \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, the problem of the downstream firm's expansion department is as in Section 2.1:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_D := \max_{N, \{L_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J} \quad & \int_0^N \Pi_i di - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN} \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & N = Z_D \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\gamma_N} \end{aligned}$$

¹⁹ Alternatively we could assume that there is a continuum of monopolistically competitive firms in the upstream sector and the downstream firm's pricing department has to purchase a CES bundle of them.

The difference is that now each product line $i \in [0, N]$ purchases the quantity m_i of the upstream good at price P_U and combines it with Y-type labor to produce y_i , where

$$y_i = m_i^{1-\gamma_D} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J \ell_{jiYD}^{\eta_{jYD}} \right)^{\gamma_D}$$

so the gross profits in each product line are given by $\Pi_i := p_i y_i - P_U m_i - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j \ell_{jiYD}$.

We focus on symmetric equilibria in which $p_i = p \forall i$, $m_i = m \forall i$ and $y_i = y \forall i$. Market clearing for intermediate goods then implies that $mN = M$ and for each occupation j we have $L_j = L_{jY} + L_{jN} + N \ell_{jYD}$. The nominal GDP is defined as PY . Here, however, $y \neq m$ so it is no longer the case that $PY = pM$. The shares of total income accruing to Y-type labor and N-type labor are defined as

$$S_{LN} := \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN}}{PY} \text{ and } S_{LY} := \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j (L_{jN} + N \ell_{jYD})}{PY},$$

and the overall labor share is defined as $S_L = S_{LN} + S_{LY}$. The overall profit share in the economy is given by the sum of profit shares in the upstream and downstream sectors, $S_\Pi = S_U + S_D$, where

$$S_U := \frac{\Pi_U}{PY} \text{ and } S_D := \frac{\Pi_D}{PY}.$$

The share of total income accruing to occupation j is defined as $S_j := \frac{W_j L_j}{PY}$.

Lemma 3. *In an economy with this production structure, the equilibrium factor shares are given by*

$$\begin{aligned} S_L &= \frac{1}{\mu} (\gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N & S_{LY} &= \frac{1}{\mu} (\gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y) \\ S_{LN} &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N & S_U &= \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \gamma_D) (1 - \gamma_Y) \\ S_D &= \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) (1 - \gamma_N) & S_j &= \frac{1}{\mu} \eta_{jY} (\gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y) + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \eta_{jN} \gamma_N \end{aligned}$$

and the inverse markup is related to the ratio of price indices $\varrho := \frac{P}{P_U}$ as

$$\frac{1}{\mu} = \left(\frac{1}{\varrho}\right)^{1-\gamma_D} \left(\frac{W_Y/p}{\gamma_D}\right)^{\gamma_D} \left(\frac{1}{1-\gamma_D}\right)^{1-\gamma_D}.$$

Proof. In this case, it is easier to begin with the downstream sector. The downstream firm solves

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_D &:= \max_{N, \{L_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J} \int_0^N \Pi_i di - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN} \\ \text{s.t. } N &= Z_D \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\gamma_N} \end{aligned}$$

which, in a symmetric equilibrium with $\Pi_i = \Pi$ for all i , can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_D &:= \max_{N, \{L_{jN}\}_{j=1}^J} N \Pi - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN} \\ \text{s.t. } N &= Z_D \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\gamma_N} \end{aligned}$$

and the first order condition with respect to L_{kN} is

$$W_j = \gamma_N \eta_{kN} \frac{N}{L_{kN}} \Pi. \quad (20)$$

The problem of each product line is

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_i &:= \max_{y_i, m_i, \{\ell_{jiYD}\}_{j=1}^J} p_i y_i - P_U m_i - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j \ell_{jiYD} \\ \text{s.t. } y_i &= m_i^{1-\gamma_D} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J \ell_{jiYD}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_D}. \end{aligned}$$

so the gross profits in each product line are given by $\Pi_i := p_i y_i - P_U m_i - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j \ell_{jiYD}$. The total cost of each product line is

$$TC_i(y_i) := y_i \left(\frac{P_U}{1-\gamma_D} \right)^{1-\gamma_D} \left[\frac{1}{\gamma_D} \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}} \right]^{\gamma_D},$$

so the gross profits are $\Pi_i := \left[p_i - \left(\frac{P_U}{1-\gamma_D} \right)^{1-\gamma_D} \left[\frac{1}{\gamma_D} \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}} \right]^{\gamma_D} \right] y_i$.

We also have a first order condition with respect to ℓ_{kiYD} : $W_k = p_i \gamma_D \eta_{jY} \frac{y_i}{\ell_{kiYD}}$. We assume price is set as $p_i = \mu MC_i(y_i)$ where $MC_i(y_i) := \frac{dTC_i(y_i)}{dy_i}$. Define $\varrho := \frac{p}{P_U}$. We then (in a symmetric equilibrium) obtain equation (6)

$$\frac{1}{\mu} = \left(\frac{1}{1-\gamma_D} \frac{1}{\varrho} \right)^{1-\gamma_D} \left[\frac{1}{\gamma_D} \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j/p}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}} \right]^{\gamma_D},$$

where $\frac{W_Y}{p} := \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j/p}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}}$. Notice also that

$$P_U m_i = (1-\gamma_D) TC_i(y_i), \quad (21)$$

$$\sum_{j=1}^J W_j \ell_{jiYD} = \gamma_D TC_i(y_i). \quad (22)$$

In a symmetric equilibrium it is still the case that $\Pi = py \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right)$ so equation (20) can be rewritten as $\frac{W_k L_{kN}}{PY} = \gamma_N \eta_{kN} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right)$. This shows that

$$S_{LN} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN}}{pY} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) \sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jN} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right),$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} S_D &= \frac{\Pi_D}{PY} = \frac{pNy \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right) - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jN}}{PY} \\ &= (1-\gamma_N) \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The upstream firm solves

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_U &:= \max_{M, \{L_{jY}\}_{j=1}^J} P_U M - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY} \\ \text{s.t. } M &= Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y} \end{aligned}$$

and the first order condition with respect to L_{kY} is $W_k = P_U \gamma_Y \eta_{kY} Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y-1} \frac{\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}}}{L_{kY}}$. Use $M = Z_U \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y}$ to write it as $W_k = P_U \gamma_Y \eta_{kY} \frac{M}{L_{kY}}$. In this case it is not true that $p = \mu P_U$. However, we can

use equation (21) to rewrite it as

$$W_k = \gamma_Y \eta_{kY} \frac{(1 - \gamma_D) y_i \left(\frac{P_U}{1 - \gamma_D} \right)^{1 - \gamma_D} \left[\frac{1}{\gamma_D} \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}} \right]^{\gamma_D}}{L_{kY}} \quad (23)$$

and use $p = \mu \left(\frac{P_U}{1 - \gamma_D} \right)^{1 - \gamma_D} \left[\frac{1}{\gamma_D} \prod_{j=1}^J \left(\frac{W_j}{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\eta_{jY}} \right]^{\gamma_D}$ to get $\frac{W_k L_{kY}}{p y_N} = \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y \eta_{kY} (1 - \gamma_D)$. Next, to get the share of Y-type labor

$$\begin{aligned} S_{LY} &= \frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j (L_{jY} + N \ell_{jYD})}{p y_N} = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y \eta_{jY} (1 - \gamma_D) + \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{1}{\mu} \eta_{jY} \gamma_D \\ &= \frac{1}{\mu} [\gamma_Y (1 - \gamma_D) + \gamma_D] \end{aligned}$$

Finally, the upstream profit share is

$$\begin{aligned} S_U &:= \frac{\Pi_U}{PY} = \frac{P_U M - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jY}}{PY} \\ &= (1 - \gamma_D) \frac{1}{\mu} (1 - \gamma_Y) \end{aligned}$$

which concludes the proof. $\square$

Given Lemma 3 it is straightforward to see that Theorems 1 and 2 still hold. Theorem 3 has to be modified slightly. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial S_L}{\partial \mu} &\geq 0 \text{ if and only if } \gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y \geq \gamma_N \\ \frac{\partial S_\Pi}{\partial \mu} &\geq 0 \text{ if and only if } \gamma_N \geq \gamma_D + (1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y. \end{aligned}$$

B.9 Commodities in the downstream sector

Similarly to Appendix B.8 the only difference is that each product line $i \in [0, N]$ purchases the quantity m_i of the upstream good at price P_U and combines it with imported commodities x_i at price P_x to produce y_i , where

$$y_i = m_i^{1 - \gamma_D} x_i^{\gamma_D}$$

so the gross profits in each product line are given by $\Pi_i := p_i y_i - P_U m_i - P_x x_i$.

We focus on symmetric equilibria in which $p_i = p \forall i$, $m_i = m \forall i$, $x_i = x \forall i$ and $y_i = y \forall i$. Market clearing for intermediate goods then implies that $mN = M$. Following the same logic as in Appendix B.8 we obtain that the markup is related to the price index through

$$\frac{1}{\mu} = \left(\frac{1}{1 - \gamma_D} \frac{1}{\varrho} \right)^{1 - \gamma_D} \left(\frac{1}{\gamma_D} \frac{P_x}{p} \right)^{\gamma_D} \quad (24)$$

and that the factor shares are

$$S_{LY} = \frac{W_Y L_Y}{PY} = \gamma_Y (1 - \gamma_D) \frac{1}{\mu}, \quad S_{LN} = \frac{W_N L_N}{PY} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right), \quad S_L = \gamma_Y (1 - \gamma_D) \frac{1}{\mu} + \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu} \right).$$

Theorems 1 and 2 still hold while Theorem 3 has to be modified as in Appendix B.8:

$$\frac{\partial S_L}{\partial \mu} \geq 0 \text{ if and only if } \gamma_Y (1 - \gamma_D) \geq \gamma_N$$

and

$$\frac{\partial S_\Pi}{\partial \mu} \geq 0 \text{ if and only if } (1 - \gamma_N) \geq (1 - \gamma_Y) (1 - \gamma_D).$$

C Online Appendix: Industry Heterogeneity

We assume that there are G different industries, indexed by g , and that final goods are a Cobb-Douglas aggregator of output of each industry, $Y = \prod_{g=1}^G Y_g^{\varsigma_g}$, where $\varsigma_g \in [0, 1]$ are the value added-shares of each industry and satisfy $\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g = 1$. The maximization problem of the representative final goods producer is

$$\max_{Y, \{Y_g\}_{g=1}^G} PY - \sum_{g=1}^G P_g Y_g$$

subject to the Cobb-Douglas aggregator. First order conditions of the final goods producer are $Y_g = \varsigma_g \frac{P}{P_g} Y$. Nominal GDP in this economy, PY , is equal to $\sum_{g=1}^G P_g Y_g$. Each industry g has its own representative upstream firm. It takes the price of upstream goods P_{Ug} and the nominal wage in each occupation W_j as given and maximizes profits

$$\max_{\{L_{jYg}\}_{j=1}^J} P_{Ug} M_g - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jg,Y}$$

where $M_g = Z_{Ug} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jg,Y}^{\eta_{jg,Y}} \right)^{\gamma_{Yg}}$. Labor elasticities γ_{Yg} are between 0 and 1 and the industry-specific occupation weights satisfy $\sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jg,Y} = \sum_{j=1}^J \eta_{jg,N} = 1 \forall g$. Profit maximization implies $P_{Ug} \gamma_{Yg} \frac{M_g}{L_{jg,Y}} \times \eta_{jg,Y} \frac{L_{jg,Y}}{L_{jg,Y}} = W_j$ where $L_{Yg} := \prod_{j=1}^J L_{jg,Y}^{\eta_{jg,Y}}$.

In each industry, there is a unit measure continuum of identical downstream firms. They hire N-type labor to manage product lines. Each product line $i_g \in [0, N_g]$ generates gross profits Π_{i_g} , which the downstream firm's expansion department takes as given when deciding on the number of lines to operate. Downstream firms thus choose labor and product lines to maximize net profits Π_{Dg} :

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{Dg} &:= \max \int_0^{N_g} \Pi_{i_g} di_g - \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jNg} \\ \text{s.t. } N &= Z_{Dg} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jg,N}^{\eta_{jg,N}} \right)^{\gamma_{Yg}} \end{aligned}$$

Profit maximization implies $\gamma_{Ng} \frac{N_g}{L_{Ng}} \Pi_g \times \eta_{jg,N} \frac{L_{Ng}}{L_{jg,N}} = W_j$ where $L_{Ng} := \prod_{j=1}^J L_{jg,N}^{\eta_{jg,N}}$ and where we used that in a symmetric equilibrium $\Pi_{i_g} = \Pi_g$.

The firm's pricing department for the product line i_g purchases m_{i_g} units of good from the upstream firm in industry g , costlessly differentiates it and then sells to consumers as a differentiated good y_{i_g} at a markup $\mu_g \geq 1$ over marginal cost P_{Ug} . Hence the price charged by product line i_g is

$$p_{i_g} = \mu_g P_{Ug}.$$

In a symmetric equilibrium: $p_{i_g} = p_g, y_{i_g} = y_g, m_{i_g} = m_g$ and $m_g N_g = M_g$. We also have $p_g M_g = P_g Y_g$. Factor shares in each industry are

$$S_{LYg} = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{W_j L_{jg,Y}}{P_g Y_g} = \gamma_{Yg} \frac{1}{\mu_g}, \quad S_{LN} = \sum_{j=1}^J \frac{W_j L_{jg,N}}{P_g Y_g} = \gamma_{Ng} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g} \right), \quad S_L = \gamma_{Yg} \frac{1}{\mu_g} + \gamma_{Ng} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g} \right).$$

Note – these are shares in the industry value added, not in the aggregate nominal GDP. The aggregate labor share is

$$\begin{aligned} S_L &:= \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G \sum_{j=1}^J W_j (L_{jg,Y} + L_{jg,N})}{PY} = \sum_{g=1}^G \frac{p_g Y_g}{PY} S_{Lg} \\ &= \sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g S_{Lg} \end{aligned}$$

The income share of an occupation j in industry g is

$$\begin{aligned} S_{jg} &:= \frac{W_j L_{jg}}{P_g Y_g} = \eta_{jgY} \times \gamma_{Yg} \frac{1}{\mu_g} + \eta_{jgN} \times \gamma_{Ng} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right) \\ &= \eta_{jgY} S_{LYg} + \eta_{jgN} S_{LNg} \end{aligned}$$

so we can write $s_{jg} := S_{jg}/S_{Lg}$ as

$$s_{jg} := \frac{W_j L_{jg}}{P_g Y_g} \times \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jg}}{P_g Y_g} \right)^{-1} = \eta_{jgY} + (\eta_{jgN} - \eta_{jgY}) \frac{\gamma_{Ng}}{\gamma_{Ng} - \gamma_{Yg}} \left(1 - \frac{\gamma_{Yg}}{S_{Lg}}\right)$$

The aggregate income share of an occupation j is

$$S_j := \frac{W_j L_j}{PY} = \sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g S_{jg}$$

and $s_j := S_j/S_L$ is $s_j := \frac{W_j L_j}{PY} \times \left(\frac{\sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_j}{PY} \right)^{-1} = \sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \frac{S_{jg}}{S_L}$ or, alternatively, $s_j = \sum_{g=1}^G s_{jg} \varsigma_g \frac{S_{Lg}}{S_L}$. The N -intensity of occupation j is defined as

$$\frac{S_{LNj}}{S_{Lj}} := \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G W_j L_{jg,N}}{\sum_{g=1}^G W_j (L_{jg,N} + L_{jg,Y})} = \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \left(\eta_{jgN} \gamma_{Ng} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right) \right)}{\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \left[\eta_{jgN} \gamma_{Ng} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right) + \eta_{jgY} \gamma_{Yg} \frac{1}{\mu_g} \right]}$$

What is the mapping between the model with industries and the baseline model shown in Section 2? In an equilibrium the aggregate output is

$$Y = \prod_{g=1}^G Y_g^{\varsigma_g} = \prod_{g=1}^G \left(Z_{Ug} \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jYg}^{\varsigma_g \eta_{jgY} \gamma_{Yg}} \right) \right)$$

We can define $\omega_{Yg} := \gamma_{Yg} \varsigma_g$, $\gamma_Y := \sum_{g=1}^G \omega_{Yg}$, $\eta_{jY} := \gamma_Y^{-1} \sum_{g=1}^G \omega_{Yg} \eta_{jgY}$ to rewrite the aggregate output as

$$Y = \left(\prod_{g=1}^G Z_{Yg}^{\varsigma_g} \right) \times \left(\prod_{j=1}^J \left(\prod_{g=1}^G L_{jYg}^{\eta_{jgY} \omega_{Yg}} \right) \right).$$

To understand how $L_{jg,Y}$ is related to $L_{jY} := \sum_{g=1}^G L_{jg,Y}$ use the upstream first order conditions for a pair of industries (g, s) . They imply

$$\frac{P_{Ug} \gamma_{Yg} M_{Ug}}{P_{Us} \gamma_{Ys} M_{Us}} \times \frac{\eta_{jgY}}{\eta_{jsY}} L_{js,Y} = L_{jg,Y}.$$

Use $p_g M_g = P_g Y_{Ug} = P_g \varsigma_g \left(\frac{P_g}{P} \right)^{-1} Y$ and $\frac{P_{Ug}}{p_g} = \frac{1}{\mu_g}$ to rearrange the above as

$$\frac{\frac{1}{\mu_g} \omega_{Yg} \eta_{jgY}}{\frac{1}{\mu_s} \omega_{Ys} \eta_{jsY}} L_{js,Y} = L_{jg,Y}$$

We can then write $L_{js,Y} = \mathcal{F}_{Ys} L_{jY}$ where $\mathcal{F}_{Ys} := \frac{\frac{1}{\mu_s} \omega_s \eta_{jsY}}{\sum_{g=1}^G \frac{1}{\mu_g} \omega_g \eta_{jgY}}$. This allows us to write

$$Y = Z_U \times \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jY}^{\eta_{jY}} \right)^{\gamma_Y}, \quad Z_U := \left(\prod_{g=1}^G Z_{Ug}^{\varsigma_g} \mathcal{F}_{Yg}^{\omega_{Yg}} \right)$$

which looks like the production function in our baseline model (but now Z_Y depends on the distribution of markups).

What is S_{LY} ? Recall that in a model with multiple industries $S_{LYg} = \gamma_{Yg} \frac{1}{\mu_g}$ and

$$S_{LY} := \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jg,Y}}{pY} = \sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \gamma_{Yg} \frac{1}{\mu_g}$$

Define the aggregate markup $\frac{1}{\mu} := \left(\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \frac{1}{\mu_g} \right)$. We can write

$$S_{LY} = \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu} + Cov \left[\gamma_{Yg}, \frac{1}{\mu_g} \right]$$

Define $N := \prod_{g=1}^G N_g^{\varsigma_g}$ and $\Pi := \prod_{g=1}^G \left(\frac{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \Pi_g}{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right) \varsigma_g} \right)^{\varsigma_g}$ where $\frac{1}{\mu} = \sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \frac{1}{\mu_g}$. This definition of Π gives us

$N\Pi = \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) pY$. Now define $\omega_{Ng} := \gamma_{Ng} \varsigma_g$, $\gamma_N := \sum_{g=1}^G \omega_{Ng}$, $\eta_{jN} := \gamma_N^{-1} \sum_{g=1}^G \omega_{Ng} \eta_{jgN}$. We can use the definition of N together with downstream first order conditions for a pair of industries (g, s) to derive

$$N = Z_D \left(\prod_{j=1}^J L_{jN}^{\eta_{jN}} \right)^{\gamma_N}$$

where

$$Z_D := \left(\prod_{g=1}^G Z_{Dg}^{\varsigma_g} \mathcal{F}_{Ng}^{\omega_{Ng}} \right), \quad \mathcal{F}_{Ns} := \frac{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_s}\right) \omega_{Ns} \eta_{jsN}}{\sum_{g=1}^G \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right) \omega_{Ng} \eta_{jgN}}$$

What is S_{LN} ? Recall we had $S_{LNg} = \gamma_{Ng} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right)$ and

$$S_{LN} := \frac{\sum_{g=1}^G \sum_{j=1}^J W_j L_{jg,N}}{pY} = \sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \gamma_{Ng} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right)$$

and we have

$$S_{LN} = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) + Cov \left[\gamma_{Ng}, \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right) \right].$$

We can thus see that if $Cov \left[\gamma_{Ng}, \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu_g}\right) \right] = Cov \left[\gamma_{Yg}, \frac{1}{\mu_g} \right] = 0$ we have

$$S_L = \gamma_N \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) + \gamma_Y \frac{1}{\mu}$$

where $\gamma_N = \sum_{g=1}^G \gamma_{Ng} \varsigma_g$, $\gamma_Y = \sum_{g=1}^G \gamma_{Yg}$, $\varsigma_g \frac{1}{\mu} = \sum_{g=1}^G \frac{1}{\mu_g} \varsigma_g$. The expressions for the occupational shares are

$$s_j = \sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g \frac{S_{Lg}}{S_L} s_{jg} = \sum_{g=1}^G \left(\eta_{jgY} \frac{\varsigma_g S_{Lg}}{\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g S_{Lg}} + \varsigma_g (\eta_{jgN} - \eta_{jgY}) \frac{\gamma_{Ng}}{\gamma_{Ng} - \gamma_{Yg}} \left(\frac{\varsigma_g S_{Lg}}{\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g S_{Lg}} - \frac{\gamma_{Yg}}{\sum_{g=1}^G \varsigma_g S_{Lg}} \right) \right).$$

In a special case with $\frac{1}{\mu_g} = \frac{1}{\mu}$ it can be rewritten as

$$s_j = \eta_{jY} \frac{\frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y}{\frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N} + \eta_{jN} \frac{\left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N}{\frac{1}{\mu} \gamma_Y + \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right) \gamma_N}$$

which is the same as in the baseline model.

D Production-Approach Markups and the N Margin

This appendix explains why production-approach markup measures of the type used by [De Loecker et al. \(2020\)](#) are not suitable for estimating the importance of expansionary activities in our framework. The key point is that the standard ratio estimator for markups is derived in a model in which the flexible input is used only to produce output. Viewed through our model, interpreting this estimator as the markup therefore amounts to imposing that the same input is not used at the N margin.

Let R denote revenue and define the COGS share as

$$S_{\text{COGS}} := \frac{\text{COGS}}{R}.$$

Production-approach markup estimates in [De Loecker et al. \(2020\)](#) combine this observed share with an estimated output elasticity, $\hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y}$,²⁰ to construct the ratio estimator

$$\hat{\mu} = \frac{\hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y}}{S_{\text{COGS}}}.$$

This formula follows from the standard cost-minimization problem

$$\min_V W_V V + \dots \quad \text{s.t.} \quad F(V, \cdot) \geq Q.$$

If λ is the multiplier on the production constraint, the first-order condition is $W_V = \lambda F_V$. Since λ is marginal cost and $\mu = P/\lambda$,

$$S_V \equiv \frac{W_V V}{PQ} = \frac{1}{\mu} \frac{F_V V}{Q} = \frac{\gamma_{V,Y}}{\mu},$$

where $\gamma_{V,Y} \equiv F_V V/Q$. Hence

$$\mu = \frac{\gamma_{V,Y}}{S_V},$$

which gives the ratio estimator when V is understood as flexible inputs recorded in COGS.

Crucially, the derivation above assumes that V enters only the production function F . In our model, the same input may also be used for expansionary activities, at the N margin. Let $\gamma_{\text{COGS},Y}$ denote its elasticity on the output margin and $\gamma_{\text{COGS},N}$ its elasticity on the N margin. The corresponding first-order conditions imply

$$S_{\text{COGS}} = \gamma_{\text{COGS},Y} \frac{1}{\mu} + \gamma_{\text{COGS},N} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right).$$

Applying the standard ratio formula then gives

$$\frac{1}{\hat{\mu}} = \frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{\gamma_{\text{COGS},N}}{\gamma_{\text{COGS},Y}} \left(1 - \frac{1}{\mu}\right).$$

Thus, the ratio estimator coincides with the true markup only when $\gamma_{\text{COGS},N} = 0$. Viewed through our model, the production-approach markup is therefore the markup one would infer after imposing that COGS-classified inputs do not contribute to expansionary activities.

This observation also explains why using this markup in our estimation procedure is problematic. Our empirical specification is

$$S_{L,t} = \gamma_N + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \frac{1}{\mu_t} + \epsilon_{L,t}.$$

If we use $\hat{\mu}_t$ as a proxy for μ_t , we effectively regress the labor share on a rescaled COGS share. The population slope is

$$\beta = \frac{\text{Cov}(S_{L,t}, S_{\text{COGS},t} / \hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y})}{\text{Var}(S_{\text{COGS},t} / \hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y})},$$

and is therefore positive whenever the labor share and the rescaled COGS share are positively correlated. Such a regression mechanically produces $\gamma_N > \gamma_Y$ and therefore cannot provide an independent measurement of the relative size of γ_Y and γ_N and thus on the importance of expansionary activities in an economy.

²⁰For the sake of exposition, we abstract from the difficulties associated with estimating output elasticities; see [Bond et al. \(2021\)](#).

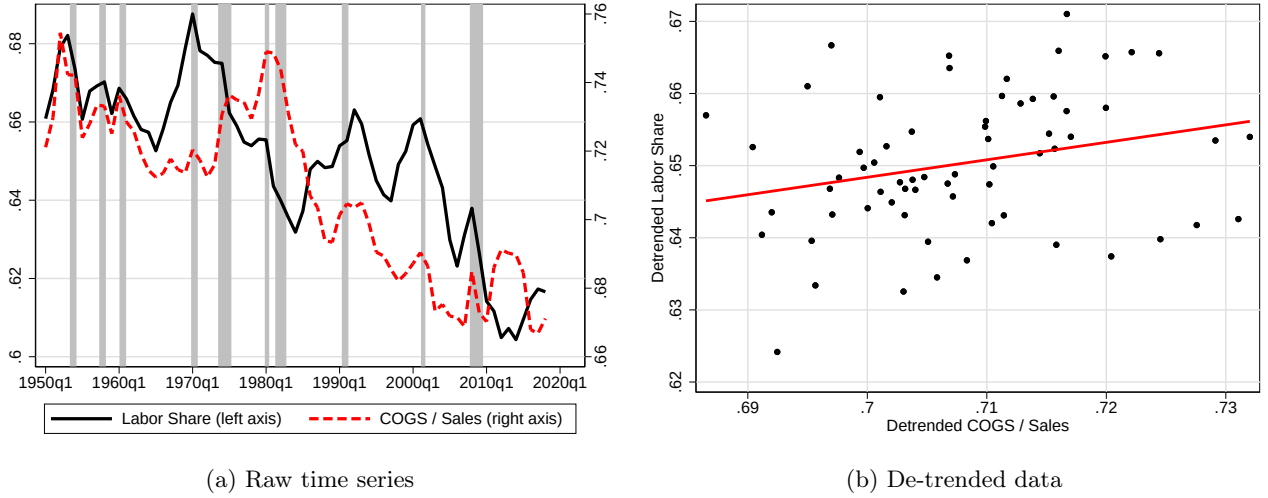


Figure 8: Panel (a): Raw time series for labor share and COGS-to-sales ratio. Labor share (left axis) is computed from BEA data following [Gomme and Rupert \(2004\)](#). COGS/sales is sales-weighted firm-level data from Compustat. Shaded areas are NBER recessions. Panel (b): De-trended labor share and de-trended COGS/sales. Labor share and COGS/sales are de-trended using the Hamilton filter, with the sample mean added back.

The issue is particularly transparent when $S_{\text{COGS},t} \approx S_{L,t}$. In the limiting case $S_{\text{COGS},t} = S_{L,t}$ and constant $\hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y}$,

$$S_{L,t} = \hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y} \frac{1}{\mu_t}.$$

The regression therefore delivers an intercept of zero and a slope of $\hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y}$. Interpreted through our empirical specification, this implies

$$\hat{\gamma}_N = 0, \quad \hat{\gamma}_Y = \hat{\gamma}_{\text{COGS},Y}.$$

Hence, as the COGS share approaches the labor share, the production-approach markup construction mechanically drives the estimated contribution of the N margin toward zero.

Figures [8a](#) and [8b](#) show our baseline labor share together with the COGS share from Compustat. Their correlation is 0.65 in levels and 0.26 after detrending. This is precisely the comovement that makes the production-approach markup unsuitable for identifying the relative importance of the Y - and N -type labor.

E Online Appendix: Details of Data and Additional Estimation Results

E.1 Detailed Data Description

Labor share

- **Baseline Gomme and Rupert:** The measure excludes the household and government sectors and uses NIPA tables 1.12 and 1.7.5 and corresponds to the second alternative measure of the labor share proposed in [Gomme and Rupert \(2004\)](#). They define unambiguous labor income as compensation of employees, and unambiguous capital income (as corporate profits, rental income, net interest income, and depreciation. The remaining (ambiguous) components are then proprietors' income plus indirect taxes net of subsidies (NIPA Table 1.12). These are apportioned to capital and labor in the same proportion as the unambiguous

components. Here CE_t is compensation of employees (line 2 in NIPA table 1.12), RI_t rental income (line 12 in NIPA table 1.12), CP_t corporate profits before tax (line 13 in NIPA table 1.12), NI_t net interest income (line 18 in NIPA table 1.12) and δ_t depreciation (line 5 in table 1.7.5) .

$$LS_t = \frac{CE_t}{CE_t + RI_t + CP_t + NI_t + \delta_t}$$

- **BLS Nonfarm Business:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nonfarm Business Sector: Labor Share (FRED id: PRS85006173)
- **BLS Nonfinancial:** U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Nonfinancial Corporations Sector: Labor Share (FRED id: PRS88003173)
- **Cooley and Prescott:** Follows Cooley and Prescott (1995). The labor share of income is defined as one minus capital income divided by output. Cooley and Prescott assume that the proportion of ambiguous capital income ACI_t to ambiguous income AI_t is the same as the proportion of unambiguous capital income to unambiguous income. Ambiguous income, AI_t is the sum of proprietors income (line 9, NIPA table 1.12), taxes on production less subsidies (lines 19 and 20, NIPA Table 1.12), business current transfer payments (line 21, NIPA Table 1.12) . Unambiguous income UI_t consists of compensation of employees (line 2 in NIPA table 1.12) and unambiguous capital income UCI_t which in turn consists of rental income (line 12, NIPA Table 1.12), net interests (line 13, Table 1.12), corporate profits (line 18, NIPA Table 1.12) and current surplus of government enterprises (line 25, NIPA Table 1.12). Formally

$$\begin{aligned} CS_t^U &= \frac{UCI_t + \delta_t}{UI_t} \\ ACI_t &= CS_t^U AI_t \\ LS_t &= 1 - \frac{UCI_t + \delta_t + ACI_t}{GNP_t} \end{aligned}$$

where δ_t is depreciation (line 5 in table 1.7.5)

- **Fernald:** It is taken from [Fernald \(2014\)](#). It is utilization adjusted quarterly series.

Markup

- Data from 1950 Q1 to 2019 Q4 from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. We use the following series:
 - **WPSFD49207**, Producer Price Index by Commodity for Final Demand: Finished Goods, Seasonally Adjusted
 - **WPSID61**, Producer Price Index by Commodity: Intermediate Demand by Commodity Type: Processed Goods for Intermediate Demand, Seasonally Adjusted

Occupational income shares

- We use data from the monthly Outgoing Rotation Groups of the Current Population Survey (CPS-ORG) to construct quarterly series for occupational income shares s_j . We restrict attention to employed individuals aged 16 and over not living in group quarters, and measure labor income with the IPUMS variable ‘earnweek’. This variable reports the amount (in dollars) a given individual earned from their job each week before deductions.
- We compute quarterly labor income by summing weekly labor income for individuals in each of 9 broad occupation categories, which we construct from the 389 OCC1990 occupation codes in the following way:
 - Managerial occupations: OCC1990 codes 3 - 37
 - Professional specialty occupations: OCC1990 codes 43 - 200
 - High-tech occupations: OCC1990 codes 203 - 235
 - Sales occupations: OCC1990 codes 243 - 283
 - Administrative support and clerical occupations: OCC1990 codes 303 - 389

- Service occupations OCC1990 codes 405 - 469
- Farming, forestry, and fishing occupations, construction and extractive occupations: OCC1990 codes 473-498, 558 - 599 and 614 - 617
- Precision production occupations and repair: OCC1990 codes 503 - 549 and 628 - 699
- Machine operators, assemblers, inspectors, transportation and material moving occupations: OCC1990 codes 703 - 799 and 803 - 889
- We remove all observations with OCC1990 codes that do not belong to any of the above 9 broad categories, for example, observations with missing OCC1990 codes or military occupations. We then divide the sum of labor income of individuals in each broad category by the sum of labor income of all individuals in any given quarter to obtain s_j .
- Because there was a change in occupational codes used in CPS-ORG in 2002 we make the following adjustment: we interpolate a difference between s_j in 2002Q4 and s_j in 2003Q1 and then we recalculate s_j by adding a cumulative difference to the first value. This assumes that all changes in s_j between 2002 and 2003 were due to the change in occupational codes.
- We then use X-12-ARIMA to do seasonal adjustment of s_j and renormalize s_j so that their sum in each quarter is always equal to 1.

Occupational total hours and median hourly wages

- We use data from the 1980 Census and 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) to calculate occupational total hours and median hourly wages. We restrict attention to employed individuals aged 18 to 65 and not living in group quarters and measure labor income with the IPUMS variable 'incwage'. This variable reports the amount (in dollars) of each respondent's total pre-tax wage and salary income - that is, money received as an employee - for the previous 12 months. Sources of income in 'incwage' include wages, salaries, commissions, cash bonuses, tips, and other money income received from an employer. Payments-in-kind or reimbursements for business expenses are not included.
- We keep only individuals with positive and known wage income and hours and positive weights
- To calculate the number of hours per year that the respondent usually worked we use variables 'uhrwork' and 'wkwork2'. 'uhrwork' reports the number of hours per week that the respondent usually worked, if the person worked during the previous 12 months. 'wkwork2' reports the number of weeks that the respondent worked for profit, pay, or as an unpaid family worker during the previous 12 months. Because 'wkwork2' is reported in intervals (1-13 weeks, 14-26 weeks, and so on), instead of the precise number of weeks, we associate each value of 'wkwork2' with the midpoint of the corresponding interval (for example if 'wkwork2'=1 we treat it as 7 weeks). We multiply 'uhrwork' by our measure of weeks based on 'wkwork2'. Hourly wages are then computed by dividing 'incwage' by the number of hours per year.
- We calculate occupational total hours by summing yearly hours for individuals in each of the 9 broad occupation categories.

Downstream processing

- Average Hourly Compensation in the Non-Farm Business Sector, from the BLS (PRS85006103) is provided as an index (equal to 100 in 2012).
- Average Hourly Earnings of Production and Nonsupervisory Employees, Total Private, from the BLS (CES0500000008) is expressed in dollars per hour. Production and related employees include working supervisors and all non-supervisory employees. Nonsupervisory employees include those individuals in private, service-providing industries who are not above the working-supervisor level.
- Commodity Prices is the CRB BLS Spot Market Price is provided as a daily index. It measures prices of 22 basic commodities. We calculate quarterly averages of the index.

Model with industries

- We use BEA KLEMS data and WORLD KLEMS data. First, we map 63 sectors in BEA KLEMS data to 11 NAICS super-sectors. We sum up labor compensation and value-added of all sectors belonging to a super-sector. We exclude super-sector 11 (government) and calculate the total value added and total labor compensation in each year. We calculate the labor share of a super-sector by dividing its labor compensation by its value added. We calculate the value added share of a supersector by dividing its value added by the total value added in each year. We perform seasonal adjustment using X-12-ARIMA and de-trend data with the Hamilton filter. After that, we add sample means of labor shares and value-added shares to de-trended data. Finally, we re-normalize value-added shares to ensure that they sum up to one in every year.

E.2 Estimation with De Loecker et al. (2020) Markups

We use the aggregate markup series from the replication package of [De Loecker et al. \(2020\)](#), specifically the variable `MARKUP_AGG` which reports an annual aggregate markup for the US economy from 1950 to 2014. Each firm-level markup is estimated as $\mu_{it} = \theta_{it}^V \cdot (P_{it}Q_{it}) / (P_{it}^V V_{it})$, where θ_{it}^V is the output elasticity of the variable input estimated from a production function and $P_{it}^V V_{it} / (P_{it}Q_{it})$ is the variable input's share of revenue. The variable input is Cost of Goods Sold (COGS) from Compustat, which bundles all expenses directly attributable to production including materials, intermediate inputs, labor costs, and energy. The aggregate markup is a sales-weighted average of firm-level markups, $\mu_t = \sum_i s_{it} \mu_{it}$, where s_{it} is firm i 's share of total sales. Because labor is a major component of COGS and the estimation procedure implicitly treats all labor as production labor ($\gamma_N = 0$), the resulting aggregate markup is mechanically positively correlated with the inverse of the aggregate labor share. See the discussion in [Appendix D](#) and [Figures 8a](#) and [8b](#).

To use this series in our framework, we proceed as follows. The `MARKUP_AGG` series provides one observation per year. We collapse our quarterly labor share data to annual frequency (averaging across quarters within each year) and restrict the sample to 1950–2014 to match the DLE coverage. We apply the Hamilton filter to both the log inverse DLE markup and the labor share series at annual frequency. We then estimate equation (2) by OLS, constructing the right-hand side variable as $\exp(\widehat{cyc}(\log(1/\mu_t^{DLE})) + \log(1/\bar{\mu}^{DLE}))$, where $\bar{\mu}^{DLE} = 1.20$ and in the baseline. We also discuss $\bar{\mu}^{DLE} = 1.32$, the sample mean of the DLE markup series (computed as the inverse of the mean of the inverse markup).

Column (9) of [Table 1](#) reports the results. We obtain $\gamma_Y = 0.70$ and $\gamma_N = 0.50$, with $\gamma_N < \gamma_Y$ — the opposite ranking compared to our baseline estimates. This reversal is expected: since the DLE markup is positively correlated with the inverse labor share by construction, the regression attributes relatively more of the labor share variation to the production channel, inflating γ_Y relative to γ_N .

Column (6) of [Table 2](#) reports the analogous estimates using non-detrended data. Here we regress the level of the labor share on the level of the inverse DLE markup. The estimates are $\gamma_Y = 0.70$ and $\gamma_N = 0.50$.

E.3 Comparison with [He et al. \(2025\)](#)

The [He et al. \(2025\)](#) data consist of firm-year observations from Compustat with four customer capital investment ratios expressed as fractions of revenue: (i) sales and marketing, (ii) R&D, (iii) residual SG&A, and (iv) total (sum of i–iii). We drop Public Administration and Unclassified firms. To match with our estimates, we map both the HMS data (identified by 3-digit NAICS) and our CPS-based N -intensity estimates (identified by 1990 Census industry codes) to BEA industry categories. On the HMS side, we use a NAICS-4 to BEA crosswalk truncated to NAICS-3, assigning each code to the modal BEA category (88 of 90 codes map uniquely; two require disambiguation). On the CPS side, Census codes are finer-grained than BEA categories, so each maps to exactly one BEA category.

Figure 6 compares N -intensity with customer capital proxies at the BEA industry level (≈ 49 matched categories). On the horizontal axis, we collapse firm-level ratios to industry-year medians and then average across years. On the vertical axis, we construct industry-level N -intensity from occupation income shares w_{jk} (occupation j 's share of total CPS earnings in industry k) and the baseline Stage 2 estimates from [Table 4](#) (markup instrument, column 1):

$$\omega_k = \frac{\sum_j w_{jk} \hat{S}_{Nj}}{\sum_j w_{jk} \hat{S}_j},$$

where $\hat{S}_{Nj}$ and $\hat{S}_j$ are the aggregate occupation-level estimates, common across industries; all cross-industry variation in ω_k comes from the occupation mix. We aggregate Census industries to BEA level using earnings-weighted sum-and-divide. Bubble sizes are proportional to firm count; the fit line is weighted by firm count with a 95% confidence band.

Figure 7 repeats the comparison at the level of 10 BLS supersectors. Customer capital proxies are collapsed to supersector-level medians averaged across years. N -intensity is computed directly from the industry-specific first-step estimates ($\hat{\gamma}_{Nk}, \hat{\gamma}_{Yk}$) in Table 5, which imply S_k^{LN}/S_k^L per supersector without requiring occupation-level data. Bubble sizes are proportional to the supersector's value-added labor share; the fit line is weighted accordingly.

F Online Appendix: Trends

Let

$$S_{L,t} = \gamma_{N,t} + (\gamma_{Y,t} - \gamma_{N,t}) \frac{1}{\mu_t} + \epsilon_{L,t}$$

and assume deterministic trend

$$\frac{1}{\mu_t} = g_\mu(\beta_\mu, t) + \epsilon_{\mu,t}, \quad \gamma_{N,t} = g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t) + \gamma_N, \quad \gamma_{Y,t} = g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t) + \gamma_Y.$$

where $E[\epsilon_{\mu,t}] = 0$ and $E[\epsilon_{L,t}] = 0$. Note common trend in $\gamma_{N,t}$ and $\gamma_{Y,t}$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} S_{L,t} &= \gamma_N + g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t) + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) [g_\mu(\beta_\mu, t) + \epsilon_{\mu,t}] + \epsilon_{L,t} \\ &= \gamma_N + g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t) + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) g_\mu(\beta_\mu, t) + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \epsilon_{\mu,t} + \epsilon_{L,t} \end{aligned}$$

which can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} S_{L,t} &= g_{S_L}(\beta_{S_L}, t) + \hat{S}_{L,t} \\ g_{S_L}(\beta_{S_L}, t) &:= \gamma_N + g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t) + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) g_\mu(\beta_\mu, t) \\ \hat{S}_{L,t} &:= (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \epsilon_{\mu,t} + \epsilon_{L,t} \end{aligned}$$

Regression of $\hat{S}_{L,t}$ (de-trended $S_{L,t}$), on $\epsilon_{\mu,t}$ (de-trended $\frac{1}{\mu_t}$) allows us to recover $(\gamma_Y - \gamma_N)$ if $E[\epsilon_{L,t}] = 0 \forall t$ and $E[\epsilon_{L,\tau} | \epsilon_{\mu,t}] = 0 \forall (t, \tau)$.

Let $\bar{x}$ be the sample average of variable x_y . Let $\overline{g_\mu(\beta_\mu, t)} := \frac{1}{\mu}$. We then have

$$\bar{S}_L = \overline{g_{S_L}(\beta_{S_L}, t)} = \gamma_N + \overline{g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t)} + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \overline{g_\mu(\beta_\mu, t)}$$

and

$$\tilde{S}_{L,t} := \hat{S}_{L,t} + \bar{S}_L = \gamma_N + \overline{g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t)} + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \left(\frac{\tilde{1}}{\mu_t} \right) + \epsilon_{L,t}$$

We normalize $\overline{g_\gamma(\beta_\gamma, t)} = 0$ and obtain

$$\tilde{S}_{L,t} = \gamma_N + (\gamma_Y - \gamma_N) \left(\frac{\tilde{1}}{\mu_t} \right) + \epsilon_{L,t}$$

which corresponds to equation (2).

G Online Appendix: Additional Tables and Figures

Table 8: First step estimation results: controlling for GDP

	(1) Baseline	(2) GDP	(3) GDP + 4 lags	(4) GDP + 4 lags + interactions
γ_Y	0.620 (0.009)	0.620 (0.009)	0.619 (0.008)	0.618 (0.007)
γ_N	0.804 (0.043)	0.805 (0.043)	0.802 (0.032)	0.810 (0.035)
GDP_t		0.011 (0.031)	-0.188 (0.032)	1.351 (1.175)
GDP_{t-1}		.	0.084 (0.029)	-1.048 (1.519)
$GDP_t \times \frac{1}{\mu_t}$				-1.846 (1.402)
Implied value of $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	21%	20%	20%	20%
P-val for test $\gamma_N = \gamma_Y$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Assumed mean markup, μ	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

GDP is measured as a cyclical component of log real GDP per capita, detrended using the Hamilton filter. Seasonally adjusted real GDP per capita series are from BEA (A939RX). In column (2) we control for contemporaneous GDP, in column (3) for contemporaneous and 4 lags, in column (4) we have contemporaneous GDP and 4 lags and their interactions with the measure of markups.

Table 9: First step estimation results: alternative labor share series

	(1) Baseline Gomme- Rupert	(2) BLS Non-farm Business	(3) Cooley- Prescott	(4) Fernald	(5) BLS Non-financial
γ_Y	0.620 (0.009)	0.602 (0.010)	0.621 (0.010)	0.646 (0.013)	0.594 (0.015)
γ_N	0.804 (0.043)	0.699 (0.049)	0.788 (0.055)	0.780 (0.061)	0.778 (0.070)
Implied value of $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	21%	19%	20%	19%	21%
P-val for test $\gamma_N = \gamma_Y$	0.00	0.10	0.01	0.07	0.03
Assumed mean markup, μ	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Mean S_L	65%	62%	65%	67%	63%

Table 10: First step estimation results: alternative methods of de-trending

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
	Baseline Hamilton	Baxter- King	Christiano- Fitzgerald	Linear Trend	Quadratic Trend	Hodrick- Prescott
γ_Y	0.620 (0.009)	0.634 (0.009)	0.634 (0.008)	0.623 (0.009)	0.619 (0.007)	0.630 (0.008)
γ_N	0.804 (0.043)	0.734 (0.046)	0.733 (0.042)	0.785 (0.043)	0.810 (0.035)	0.750 (0.040)
Implied value of $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	21%	19%	19%	20%	21%	19%
P-val for test $\gamma_N = \gamma_Y$	0.00	0.07	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01
Assumed mean markup, μ	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

Table 11: First step estimation results, $\gamma_D > 0$; Production and Nonsupervisory Employees

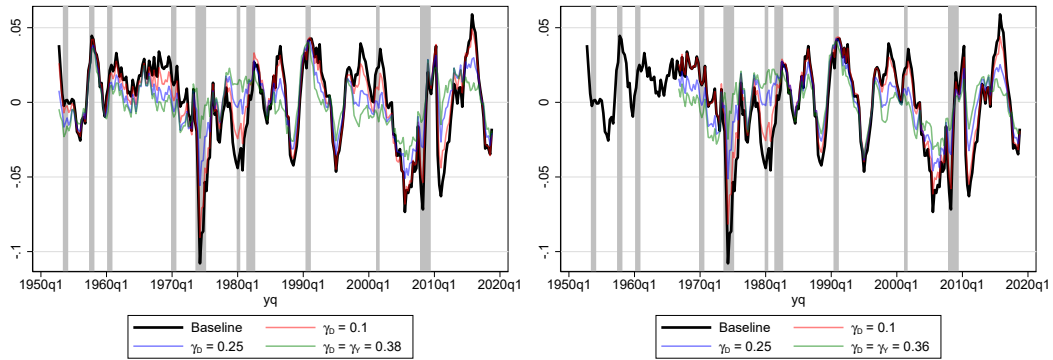
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) (GMM)
	Baseline	$\gamma_D = 0.10$	$\gamma_D = 0.25$	$\gamma_D = \gamma_Y$
γ_Y	0.620 (0.000)	0.570 (0.012)	0.477 (0.017)	0.363 (0.009)
γ_N	0.804 (0.043)	0.837 (0.053)	0.859 (0.063)	0.924 (0.059)
Implied $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	21%	21%	22%	24%
Implied $(1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y + \gamma_D$	0.620	0.613	0.608	0.594
P-value $(1 - \gamma_D) \gamma_Y + \gamma_D = \gamma_N$	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mean markup, μ	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20

This table shows the estimates for (γ_N, γ_Y) in Equation (2) for measures of the markup given by equation (6), with W_Y equal to Average Hourly Earnings of Production and Nonsupervisory Employees, Total Private, from the BLS (CES0500000008). In column (1) we show the estimates from the baseline specification with no downstream processing ($\gamma_D = 0$). In columns (2) - (4) we vary γ_D used in construction of the measure of the markup. In column (4) we show optimally-weighted GMM estimates for $(\gamma_N, \gamma_Y, \gamma_D)$ with restriction $\gamma_D = \gamma_Y$. Reported standard errors are robust.

Table 12: First step estimation results, $\gamma_D > 0$; Commodity Prices

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) (GMM)
	Baseline	$\gamma_D = 0.10$	$\gamma_D = 0.25$	$\gamma_D = \gamma_Y$
γ_Y	0.620 (0.005)	0.586 (0.009)	0.516 (0.007)	0.399 (0.004)
γ_N	0.804 (0.025)	0.766 (0.037)	0.715 (0.025)	0.707 (0.025)
Implied $\frac{S_{LN}}{S_L}$	21%	20%	18%	18%
Implied (1 - γ_D) γ_Y	0.620	0.627	0.637	0.638
P-value (1 - γ_D) $\gamma_Y = \gamma_N$	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.02
Mean markup, μ	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20

This table shows the estimates for (γ_N, γ_Y) in Equation (2) for measures of the markup given by equation (24), with CRB commodity spot price index as a measure of commodity prices. In column (1) we show the estimates from the baseline specification with no commodities in the downstream sector ($\gamma_D = 0$). In columns (2) - (4) we vary γ_D used in construction of the measure of the markup. In column (4) we show optimally-weighted GMM estimates for $(\gamma_N, \gamma_Y, \gamma_D)$ with restriction $\gamma_D = \gamma_Y$. Reported standard errors are robust.



(a) W_Y : Non-farm Business Sector: Compensation Per Hour (b) W_Y : Average Hourly Earnings of Production and Nonsupervisory Employees

Figure 9: Cyclical components of alternative markup series: downstream processing with labor

Table 13: Second step estimates of occupational factor share parameters.

	η_Y	η_N	P-val $\eta_Y = \eta_N$	Elasticity ε_{S_j, S_L}	Share $\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j}$
<u>Panel A: $\mu = 1.05$</u>					
High Tech Occs	0.042	0.057	0.016	2.68	25%
Service Occs	0.078	0.096	0.005	2.17	24%
Managerial Occs	0.205	0.245	0.000	1.94	23%
Admin Support, Clerical	0.114	0.128	0.108	1.63	22%
Sales Occs	0.098	0.104	0.378	1.32	21%
Professional Specialty	0.221	0.211	0.330	0.78	19%
Production, Repair	0.068	0.053	0.002	-0.11	16%
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.119	0.088	0.000	-0.28	16%
Construction, Extractive, Farming	0.055	0.028	0.001	-1.49	11%
First stage: R2	0.27				
First stage F	37.6				
<u>Panel B: $\mu = 1.35$</u>					
High Tech Occs	0.037	0.057	0.016	2.68	30%
Service Occs	0.070	0.096	0.005	2.17	27%
Managerial Occs	0.190	0.245	0.000	1.94	26%
Admin Support, Clerical	0.108	0.128	0.108	1.63	24%
Sales Occs	0.095	0.104	0.378	1.32	23%
Professional Specialty	0.225	0.211	0.330	0.78	20%
Production, Repair	0.074	0.053	0.002	-0.11	16%
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.131	0.088	0.000	-0.28	15%
Construction, Extractive, Farming	0.065	0.028	0.001	-1.49	10%
First stage: R2	0.27				
First stage F	37.6				

Estimates use de-trended markup as an instrument for de-trended inverse labor share.

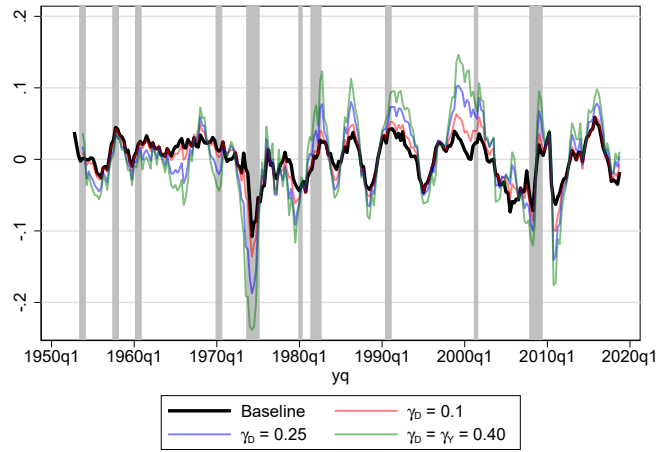


Figure 10: Cyclical components of alternative markup series: downstream processing with commodities

Table 14: Second step estimates of occupational factor share parameters with further downstream processing ($\gamma_D > 0$).

			P-val	Elasticity	Share
	η_Y	η_N	$\eta_Y = \eta_N$	ε_{S_j, S_L}	$\frac{S_{jN}}{S_j}$
Panel A: $\gamma_D = 0.10$					
High Tech Occs	0.037	0.065	0.007	3.29	32%
Service Occs	0.071	0.108	0.001	2.66	29%
Managerial Occs	0.194	0.256	0.000	2.07	27%
Admin Support, Clerical	0.109	0.134	0.077	1.76	25%
Sales Occs	0.098	0.098	1.000	1.00	21%
Professional Specialty	0.222	0.216	0.676	0.89	21%
Production, Repair	0.072	0.050	0.003	-0.17	16%
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.128	0.079	0.001	-0.47	14%
Construction, Extractive, Farming	0.064	0.014	0.000	-2.30	6%
First stage: R2	0.21				
First stage F	33.2				
Panel B: $\gamma_D = 0.25$					
High Tech Occs	0.034	0.075	0.009	4.55	37%
Service Occs	0.067	0.123	0.001	3.67	33%
Managerial Occs	0.190	0.271	0.002	2.45	28%
Admin Support, Clerical	0.109	0.134	0.153	1.81	25%
Sales Occs	0.101	0.087	0.366	0.46	19%
Professional Specialty	0.218	0.232	0.509	1.23	22%
Production, Repair	0.073	0.045	0.007	-0.57	14%
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.130	0.071	0.005	-0.88	13%
Construction, Extractive, Farming		0.000			0%
First stage: R2	0.10				
First stage F	19.2				
Panel C: $\gamma_D = \gamma_Y = 0.37$					
High Tech Occs	0.017	0.133	0.220	10.14	69%
Service Occs	0.040	0.213	0.174	8.41	60%
Managerial Occs	0.161	0.368	0.183	4.36	39%
Admin Support, Clerical	0.111	0.127	0.735	1.48	24%
Sales Occs	0.117	0.034	0.351	-1.84	7%
Professional Specialty	0.192	0.320	0.258	2.93	32%
Production, Repair	0.083	0.013	0.187	-2.49	4%
Machine Operators, Transportation	0.146	0.018	0.225	-2.68	3%
Construction, Extractive, Farming		0.000			0%
First stage: R2	0.005				
First stage F	1.84				

Estimates use de-trended markup (calculated using the average real wages and the ratio of price indices and nominal wage) as an instrument for de-trended inverse labor share.

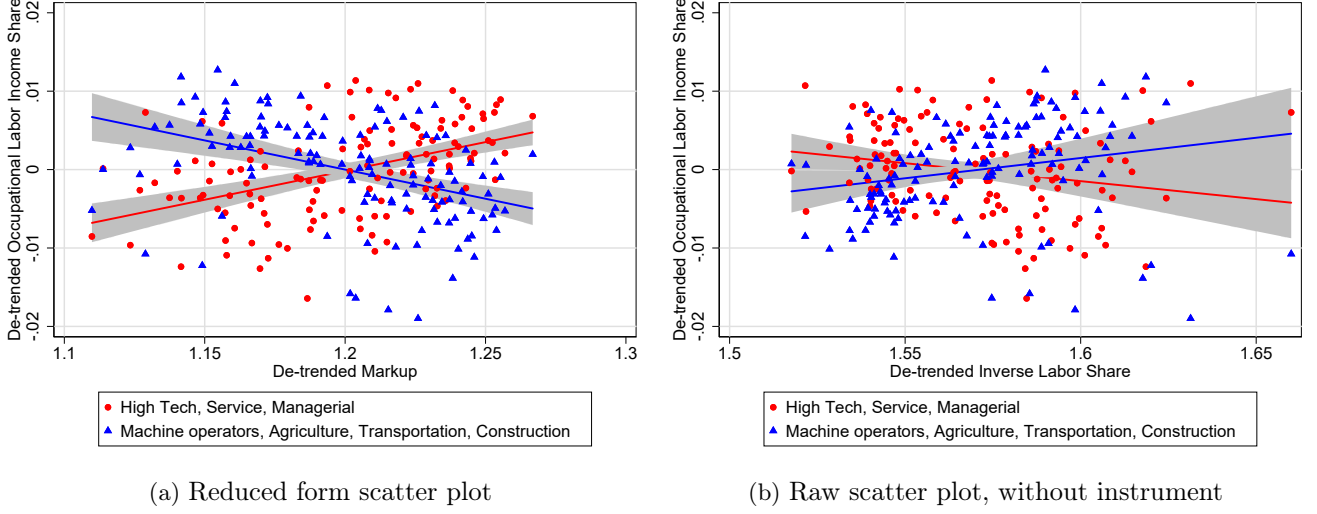
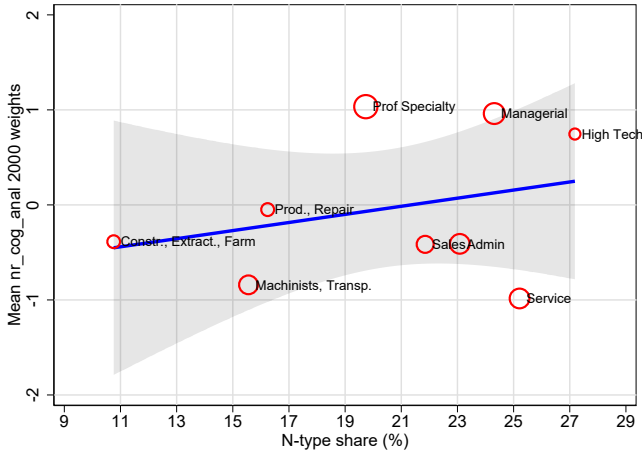


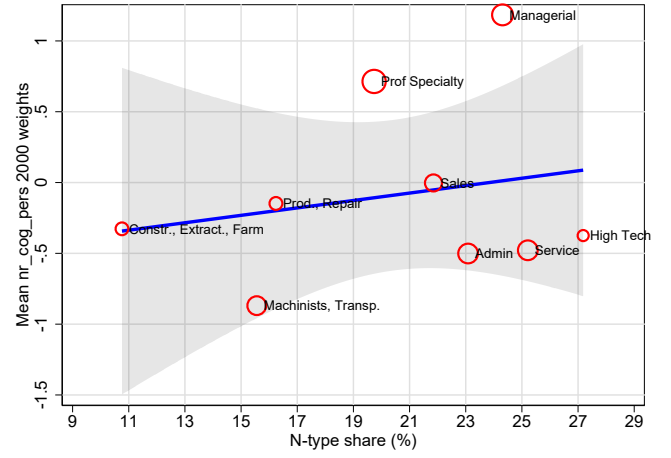
Figure 11: Cyclical components of occupational income shares

Table 15: First step estimation results, model with industries, no restrictions on $(\gamma_{Yg}, \gamma_{Ng})$ BEA KLEMS annual data 1987-2019. Assumed mean markup, $\mu=1.2$

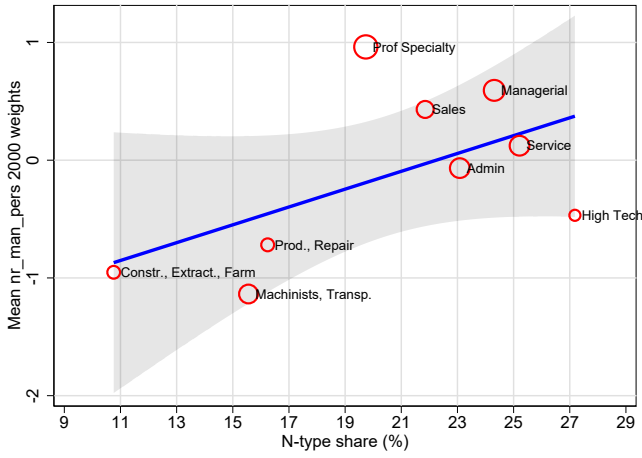
	γ_{Yg}	γ_{Ng}	P-val test for $\gamma_{Yg} = \gamma_{Ng}$	Implied $\frac{S_{LNg}}{S_{Lg}}$	Mean S_{Lg}	Mean share of value added
Resources and Mining	0.196	1.896	0.000	65.9%	47.7%	3.1%
Construction	0.803	1.054	0.000	20.8%	84.5%	4.8%
Manufacturing	0.512	0.796	0.000	23.7%	55.9%	16.3%
Trade, Transp., Util.	0.534	0.729	0.000	21.4%	56.7%	19.9%
Information	0.373	0.588	0.137	24.0%	40.8%	5.6%
Finance	0.259	0.239	0.860	15.6%	25.5%	22.3%
Prof. and Business Serv.	0.795	0.960	0.080	19.4%	82.2%	12.3%
Educ. and Health Serv.	0.876	0.948	0.315	17.8%	88.8%	8.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	0.678	0.747	0.359	18.1%	69.0%	4.3%
Other Services	0.785	0.847	0.699	17.8%	79.5%	2.8%



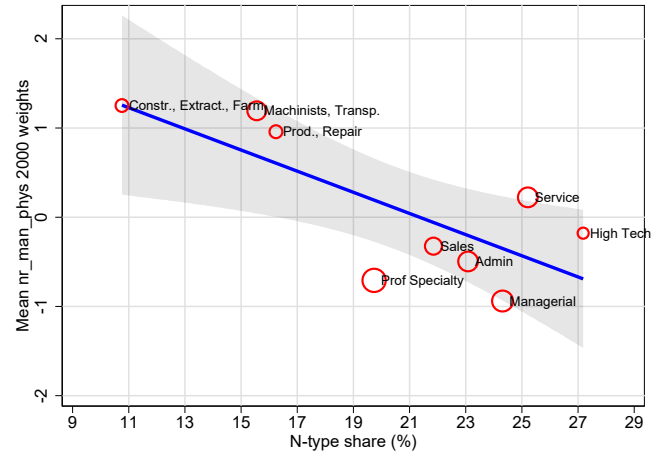
(a) Non-routine, cognitive, analytical



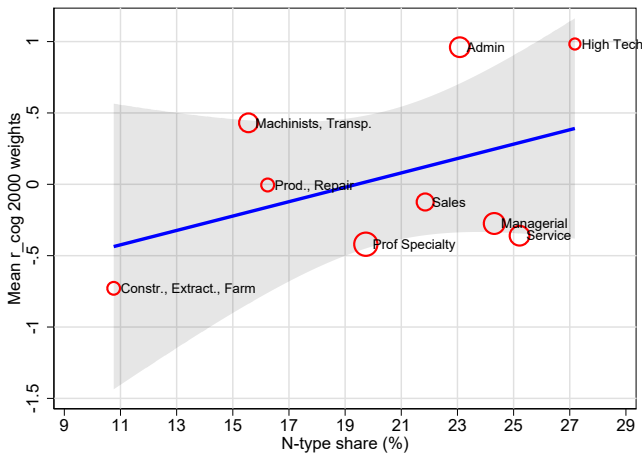
(b) Non-routine, cognitive, inter-personal



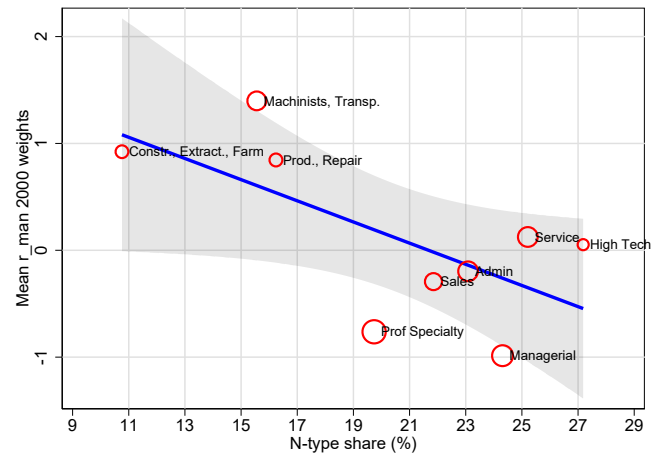
(c) Non-routine, inter-personal, manual



(d) Non-routine, physical, manual



(e) Routine, cognitive



(f) Routine, manual

Figure 12: Correlation of N -content of occupations with other occupation characteristics

Table 16: First step estimation results, with industries, $(\gamma_{Yg}, \gamma_{Ng})$ restricted to be between 0 and 1. WORLD KLEMS annual data 1950-2014. Assumed mean markup, $\mu=1.2$

	γ_{Yg}	γ_{Ng}	P-val test for $\gamma_{Yg} = \gamma_{Ng}$	Implied $\frac{S_{LNg}}{S_{Lg}}$	Mean S_{Lg}	Mean share of value added
Resources and Mining	0.312	1.000	0.000	39.1%	42.4%	5.5%
Construction	0.875	1.000	0.000	18.6%	89.6%	5.2%
Manufacturing	0.586	0.762	0.139	20.6%	61.5%	23.9%
Trade, Transp., Util.	0.649	0.819	0.124	20.1%	67.7%	20.5%
Information	0.421	0.727	0.021	25.7%	47.2%	4.8%
Finance	0.227	0.209	0.718	15.5%	22.4%	19.3%
Prof. and Business Serv.	0.585	0.671	0.409	18.6%	60.0%	8.4%
Educ. and Health Serv.	0.766	1.000	0.146	20.7%	80.5%	5.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	0.757	0.720	0.773	16.0%	75.1%	3.6%
Other Services	0.832	1.000	0.000	19.4%	85.9%	3.0%

Table 17: Additional correlates of N -intensity.

<u>Panel A: Abilities</u>	
Rate Control	-1.400
Visualization	-0.991
Gross Body Equilibrium	-0.506
Peripheral Vision	-0.421
Glare Sensitivity	-0.170
Perceptual Speed	0.006
Speech Recognition	0.025
Explosive Strength	0.053
Speed of Closure	0.073
Time Sharing	0.743
R2	0.49
<u>Panel B: Work Contexts</u>	
Exposed to Hazardous Equipment	-1.370
Pace Determined by Speed of Equipment	-0.910
Exposed to Whole Body Vibration	-0.370
Indoors, Not Environmentally Controlled	-0.232
Spend Time Climbing Ladders, Scaffolds, or Poles	-0.108
Sounds, Noise Levels Are Distracting or Uncomfortable	-0.039
Wear Specialized Protective or Safety Equipment	0.000
Importance of Repeating Same Tasks	0.081
Indoors, Environmentally Controlled	0.822
R2	0.50
<u>Panel C: Work Styles</u>	
Innovation	-0.880
Dependability	-0.736
Leadership	-0.426
Attention to Detail	-0.232
Concern for Others	-0.004
Achievement/Effort	0.139
Initiative	0.287
Stress Tolerance	0.721
Cooperation	1.210
Integrity	1.610
R2	0.31

This table shows the estimates of β_k in Equation (14), where S_{jN}/S_j are expressed as percent (i.e. their values are from 0 to 100). The average S_{jN}/S_j in the sample is 20.9%.

H Supplementary Material Not for Publication: Details of Alternative Preference and Market Structures

This Supplementary Material provides details of the preference and market structures referred to in Section 2.

H.1 Demand System Preliminaries

Definitions We define the following objects:

- Ω is the measure of unique varieties being produced in the economies. $\omega \in [0, \Omega]$ are individual varieties. p_ω is the price faced by consumers for variety ω .
- N the measure of establishments or retail sales units. Some varieties might be produced by more than one retail sales unit but each sales unit produces only one variety. $i \in [0, N]$ are individual retail sales units. p_i is the price charged by sales unit i . y_i is the quantity sold by sales unit i . μ_i is the markup over marginal charged by sales unit i .
- $\mathcal{M} := \frac{N}{\Omega}$ is the measures of sales units producing each variety. We assume that when a sales unit produces a new variety it is chosen randomly, so that the same measure of firms operate in each variety.

Households Households choose c_ω given prices p_ω . Households have utility defined over an aggregator of varieties $C(\{c_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, \Omega)$. The household solves the following problem:

$$\begin{aligned} V(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, I, \Omega) &= \max_{c_\omega} U(C(\{c_\omega\}_{\omega \in \Omega}, \Omega)) \\ &\text{subject to} \\ I &\geq \int_0^\Omega p_\omega c_\omega d\omega \end{aligned}$$

where $V(\bullet)$ is the indirect utility function and $U(\bullet)$ is the direct utility function which is assumed to be strictly increasing. The household has income I .

Definition of love-of-variety Consider a household with income I . Assume that $p_\omega = p \forall \omega$ and that a household purchases the same quantity $c_\omega = c$ of each good, meaning they allocate expenditure equally across the goods. Define the indirect utility associated with this pattern of expenditure as $V(p, I, \Omega)$. We say that the demand system features love-of-variety if $\frac{\partial V(p, I, \Omega)}{\partial \Omega} > 0$ and no love-of-variety if $\frac{\partial V(p, I, \Omega)}{\partial \Omega} = 0$. Note that this in this symmetric case

$$I = \Omega p c$$

and the indirect utility function is a monotonic function of $C(c, \Omega) = C\left(\frac{I}{\Omega p}, \Omega\right)$. So the condition for no-love-of-variety is equivalent to

$$\begin{aligned} -\frac{c}{\Omega} \frac{\partial C}{\partial c} + \frac{\partial C}{\partial \Omega} &= 0 \\ \varepsilon_{c, \Omega} &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

i.e. the elasticity of substitution between c and Ω is equal to 1. To a first-order this implies that

$$C = c\Omega$$

Definition of price index Recall that definition of an expenditure function

$$\begin{aligned} E(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, C, \Omega) &= \min_{c_\omega} \int_0^\Omega p_\omega c_\omega d\omega \\ &\text{subject to} \\ C(\{c_\omega\}_{\omega \in \Omega}, \Omega) &\geq C \end{aligned}$$

For homothetic preferences, meaning that the aggregator is homogenous of degree 1, the price index P is defined as the minimum cost of obtaining one unit of the bundle C :

$$P\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, \Omega\right) = E\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, 1, \Omega\right)$$

and the expenditure function takes the form

$$E\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, C, \Omega\right) = P\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, \Omega\right) C$$

If presences are not homothetic, then we can define a price index that depends on the level of the consumption bundle as

$$P\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, C, \Omega\right) = \frac{E\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, C, \Omega\right)}{C}$$

Market clearing The total measure of variety ω sold must equal the measure of variety ω consumed

$$\begin{aligned} c_\omega &= \frac{N}{\Omega} y_i = \mathcal{M} y_i \\ c\Omega &= Ny \\ C &= Ny \end{aligned}$$

where the last line follows from no love- of variety. In the more general case, we would have

$$C^{-1}(C, \Omega) \Omega = Ny$$

Typically this takes the form

$$Cf(\Omega) = c\Omega$$

So the market clearing condition gives

$$\begin{aligned} c_\omega &= \frac{N}{\Omega} y_i = \mathcal{M} y_i \\ c\Omega &= Ny \\ Cf(\Omega) &= Ny \end{aligned}$$

Symmetric equilibria We will focus on symmetric demand systems and symmetric equilibria. This means that the price index takes the form $P(p, C, \Omega)$ or $P(p, \Omega)$ in the case of homothetic preferences. In the case of homothetic preferences, we can express the love of variety condition in terms of the price index. With $p_\omega = p \forall \omega$ and $c_\omega = c$, the expenditure function and definition of the price index imply

$$\Omega pc = P(p, \Omega) C$$

the condition for no-love-of-variety is then

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega pc &= P(p, \Omega) c\Omega \\ p &= P(p, \Omega) \end{aligned}$$

which implies that the price index satisfies $P = p$ and does not depend on Ω .

Demand functions The demand functions solve

$$\begin{aligned} c_\omega \left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, I, \Omega \right) &= \max_{c_\omega} U \left(C \left(\{c_\omega\}_{\omega \in \Omega}, \Omega \right) \right) \\ &\text{subject to} \\ I &\geq \int_0^\Omega p_\omega c_\omega d\omega \end{aligned}$$

using the definition of the expenditure function, i.e that $I = P\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, C, \Omega\right) C$ we can write these as $c_\omega\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, C, \Omega\right)$, With homothetic preferences, these take the form $c_\omega = f\left(\{p_\omega\}_{\omega \in [0, \Omega]}, P, \Omega\right) C$. The elasticity of demand is denoted by

$$\varepsilon = -\frac{p_\omega}{c_\omega} \frac{\partial c_\omega}{\partial p_\omega}$$

H.2 Demand Systems

H.2.1 CES

The aggregator function is

$$C = \left[\Omega^{-\frac{\rho}{\sigma}} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega^{\frac{\sigma-1}{\sigma}} d\omega \right]^{\frac{\sigma}{\sigma-1}}$$

In a symmetric equilibrium this gives

$$C = \Omega^{\frac{\sigma-\rho}{\sigma-1}} c$$

so the preferences feature no love of variety if $\rho = 1$. The preferences are homothetic because the aggregator is homogenous of degree 1 in c .

The price index is

$$P = \left[\Omega^{-\rho} \int_0^\Omega p_\omega^{1-\sigma} d\omega \right]^{\frac{1}{1-\sigma}}$$

which gives in a symmetric equilibrium

$$P = \Omega^{\frac{1-\rho}{1-\sigma}} p$$

The demand functions are

$$c_\omega = \left(\frac{p_\omega}{P} \right)^{-\sigma} C \Omega^{-\rho}$$

so the elasticity of demand is

$$\varepsilon = \sigma$$

H.2.2 Translog

There is no closed form expression for the aggregator but the preferences are homothetic.

The price index is given by

$$\log P = \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} + \frac{1}{\Omega} \int_0^\Omega \log p_\omega d\omega + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^\Omega \int_0^\Omega \frac{\sigma}{\Omega} \log p_\omega (\log p_{\omega'} - \log p_\omega) d\omega d\omega'$$

In a symmetric equilibrium this gives

$$\begin{aligned} \log P &= \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} + \log p \\ \log \left(\frac{P}{p} \right) &= \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} \\ P &= p e^{\frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega}} \end{aligned}$$

so this features love of variety.

The demand function is

$$\begin{aligned}
c_\omega &= \left[\frac{1}{\Omega} - \sigma \left(\log p_\omega - \frac{1}{\Omega} \int_0^\Omega \log p_{\omega'} d\omega' \right) \right] \frac{I}{p_\omega} \\
&= \left[\frac{1}{\Omega} - \sigma (\log p_\omega - \log p) \right] \frac{I}{p_\omega} \\
&= \left[\frac{1}{\Omega} - \sigma \left(\log p_\omega - \log P + \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} \right) \right] \frac{PC}{p_\omega} \\
\log c_\omega &= \log \left[\frac{1}{\Omega} - \sigma \left(\log p_\omega - \log P + \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} \right) \right] + \log P + \log C - \log p_\omega
\end{aligned}$$

where the second line follows from symmetry and the third line follow from the fact that preferences are homothetic. In a symmetric equilibrium this implies

$$\begin{aligned}
\log c &= \log \frac{1}{\Omega} + \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} + \log C \\
C &= c\Omega e^{-\frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega}}
\end{aligned}$$

which does not give $C = c\Omega$ because of the love of variety.

The elasticity of demand is

$$\begin{aligned}
\varepsilon &= \frac{\sigma}{\frac{1}{\Omega} - \sigma \left(\log p_\omega - \log P + \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} \right)} + 1 \\
&= \frac{\sigma}{\frac{1}{\Omega} - \sigma \left(\log p - \log P + \frac{1}{2\sigma\Omega} \right)} + 1 \\
&= \frac{\sigma}{\frac{1}{\Omega}} + 1 \\
&= \sigma\Omega + 1
\end{aligned}$$

H.2.3 Linear Demand

The aggregator is

$$C = \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega - \frac{1}{2\sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega^2 d\omega + \frac{1}{\Omega 2\sigma} \left[\int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega \right]^2$$

which gives in a symmetric equilibrium

$$C = \Omega c$$

So in a symmetric equilibrium they do not feature love of variety.

Are preferences homothetic?

$$\int_0^\Omega t c_\omega d\omega - \frac{1}{2\sigma} \int_0^\Omega (t c_\omega)^2 d\omega + \frac{1}{\Omega^2 2\sigma} \left[\int_0^\Omega (t c_\omega) d\omega \right]^2 = t \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega - \frac{t^2}{2\sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega^2 d\omega + \frac{t^2}{\Omega 2\sigma} \left[t \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega \right]^2$$

which equals tC only in the symmetric case, so no, because homotheticity requires this to equal tC even in the non-symmetric case.

We can derive the price index as

$$\begin{aligned}
P &= \min_{c_\omega} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega p_\omega d\omega \\
&\text{subject to} \\
1 &\leq \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega - \frac{1}{2\sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega^2 d\omega + \frac{1}{2\sigma} \left[\int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega \right]^2
\end{aligned}$$

which gives

$$c_\omega = \sigma \left(\frac{p_\omega}{\lambda} + 1 \right) + \frac{1}{\Omega} \int_0^\Omega c_{\omega'} d\omega', \quad p_\omega = \lambda \left[-1 + \frac{1}{\sigma} c_\omega - \frac{1}{\Omega \sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_{\omega'} d\omega' \right]$$

In a symmetric equilibrium

$$c_\omega = \sigma \left(\frac{p}{\lambda} + 1 \right) + c$$

and substituting into the constraint at equality

$$1 = \int_0^\Omega \left[\sigma \left(\frac{p}{\lambda} + 1 \right) + c \right] d\omega$$

$$\frac{p}{\lambda} + 1 = \frac{1 - \Omega c}{\Omega \sigma}$$

so

$$c_\omega = \frac{1}{\Omega}, \quad P = \frac{1}{\Omega} \int_0^\Omega p_\omega d\omega$$

which gives

$$P = p$$

in a symmetric equilibrium

The demand function is given by

$$\max_{c_\omega} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega - \frac{1}{2\sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega^2 d\omega + \frac{1}{\Omega 2\sigma} \left[\int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega \right]^2$$

subject to

$$\int_0^\Omega p_\omega c_\omega d\omega = I$$

which gives

$$\lambda p_\omega = 1 - \frac{1}{\sigma} c_\omega + \frac{1}{\Omega \sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega$$

$$\lambda \int_0^\Omega p_\omega d\omega = \int_0^\Omega \left[1 - \frac{1}{\sigma} c_\omega + \frac{1}{\Omega \sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega \right] d\omega$$

$$\lambda \Omega p = \Omega - \frac{1}{\sigma} \Omega c + \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega$$

Dividing

$$\frac{p_\omega}{\Omega p} = \frac{1 - \frac{1}{\sigma} c_\omega + \frac{1}{\Omega \sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega}{\Omega - \frac{1}{\sigma} \Omega c + \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_0^\Omega c_\omega d\omega}$$

$$= \frac{1 - \frac{1}{\sigma} c_\omega + \frac{1}{\sigma} c}{\Omega}$$

$$c_\omega = \frac{C}{\Omega} + \sigma \left(1 - \frac{p_\omega}{P} \right)$$

The elasticity of demand is

$$\varepsilon = \frac{\sigma}{P} \frac{p_\omega}{c_\omega}$$

$$= \sigma \frac{\Omega}{C}$$

H.2.4 Kimball

The aggregator C is defined implicitly by

$$\frac{1}{\Omega} \int_0^\Omega \Upsilon \left(\frac{\Omega c_\omega}{C} \right) d\omega = 1$$

where Υ satisfies $\Upsilon(1) = 1$. In a symmetric equilibrium this implies $C = c\Omega$

The demand function is given by

$$c_\omega = \frac{C}{\Omega} \Upsilon'^{-1} \left(\frac{p_\omega}{P} D \right)$$

where P is a price index defined by $PC = \int_0^\Omega p_\omega c_\omega d\omega$ and D is a demand index defined by $D = \int_0^\Omega \frac{c_\omega}{C} \Upsilon' \left(\frac{\Omega c_\omega}{C} \right) d\omega$. In a symmetric equilibrium, the demand index is just

$$D = \frac{\Omega c}{C} \Upsilon' \left(\frac{\Omega c}{C} \right)$$

They propose the following functional for

$$\Upsilon'(x) = \frac{\sigma - 1}{\sigma} \exp \left\{ \frac{1 - x^{\frac{\eta}{\sigma}}}{\eta} \right\}$$

which elasticity of demand $\varepsilon = \sigma \left(\frac{\Omega c_\omega}{C} \right)^{-\frac{\eta}{\sigma}}$ which equals σ in a symmetric equilibrium.

H.3 Market Structures

Under each of the following market structures, the factor shares take the same form as in Lemma 1, where the (possibly endogenous) markup μ is given as follows.

H.3.1 Monopolistic Competition

Under monopolistic competition, each product line has a monopoly over a single unique variety ($\mathcal{M} = 1$, $N = \Omega$) so adding or subtracting product lines N induces one-for-one changes in the measure of goods Ω available for consumption. The markup is given by

$$\mu = \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - 1}.$$

Theorems 1, 2, and 3 apply to movements in the markup due to: (i) exogenous changes in parameters that enter the demand elasticity; or (ii) endogenous changes in variables that enter the demand elasticity (C, Ω, p).²¹

Example 1. With a Constant Elasticity of Substitution (CES) demand system as in Dixit and Stiglitz (1977) and Blanchard and Kiyotaki (1987), the elasticity takes the form $\varepsilon = \sigma$ where σ is the elasticity of substitution across varieties, so exogenous changes in σ are the only source of markup variation.²²

Example 2. With a Translog demand system as in Feenstra (2003), Bilbiie et al. (2012) and Maggi and Félix (2019), the elasticity takes the form $\varepsilon = \sigma\Omega + 1 = \sigma N + 1$. Any changes that lead to a decrease in the number of product lines in the economy other than changes to γ_Y or γ_N , such as a fall in Z_D , will induce a rise in markups and the distributional effects in Theorems 1, 2, and 3 will apply. Changes in γ_Y or γ_N also have direct effects on factor shares, but the indirect effects that arise through the resulting change in the markup also satisfy Theorems 1, 2, and 3.

Example 3. With a Linear Demand system as in Melitz and Ottaviano (2008), the elasticity takes the form $\varepsilon = \sigma \frac{\Omega}{C} = \sigma \frac{N}{C}$. Since preferences are not homothetic, the elasticity of demand depends on the level of consumption. Any shock that affects aggregate consumption without directly impacting factor shares (examples of such shocks include shocks to technology (Z_U, Z_D) or shocks to labor supply) leads to a change in the markup and the results of Theorems 1, 2, and 3 hold.

²¹Our theorems also apply in dynamic versions of the model in which the pricing department faces costs of adjusting prices as in Rotemberg (1982) or Calvo (1983) leading to endogenous movements in the markup, as long as the price of new product lines inherits the price of existing lines operated by the same firm.

²²In a symmetric equilibrium with homogenous goods, the Kimball (1995) demand as used in Klenow and Willis (2016) and Edmond et al. (2018) has a constant markup as in CES.

H.3.2 Cournot Competition

Under Cournot competition, each variety ω is produced by a large number of downstream product lines and so $\mathcal{M} = N/\Omega \gg 1$. If $\mathcal{M}$ is sufficiently large so that the pricing departments of each product line do not internalize the effects of changes in their own price on the aggregate price index, then the equilibrium markup is

$$\mu = \frac{\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - \frac{1}{\mathcal{M}}}.$$

Consider first the case in which $\mathcal{M}$, the measure of independent downstream product lines selling each variety, is a primitive technological or policy parameter capturing the extent of competition. In this case the creation of new product lines N by the downstream firm generates proportionately more varieties Ω . A change in the markup then arises as a result of exogenous shifts in $\mathcal{M}$, and the distributional and aggregate effects of such changes satisfy Theorems 1, 2, and 3.

Alternatively, one could consider the measure of unique varieties Ω as a primitive. In this case, the creation of new product lines by downstream firms generates a proportionate increase in $\mathcal{M}$, the measure of sales units competing in each market, and hence leads to a fall in the markup. Theorems 1, 2, and 3 apply to this change in the markup. An example of such a shock would be a shock to the relative productivities in the two sectors $\frac{Z_U}{Z_D}$.

H.3.3 Oligopoly

Oligopoly refers to the case in which each variety ω is produced by $\mathcal{M} > 1$ downstream product lines, but $\mathcal{M}$ is sufficiently small that the downstream sector takes strategic considerations into account when setting prices. As in the previous case we can treat either the number of independent downstream product lines selling each variety $\mathcal{M}$, or the total measure of unique varieties Ω , as the primitive. We focus on the nested CES case as in Atkeson and Burstein (2008), Jaimovich and Floetotto (2008) and Mongey (2019), in which the elasticity of substitution across the same variety sold by different firms is given by $\vartheta > \sigma$. The previously considered case in which the same varieties sold by different downstream firms are perfect substitutes corresponds to $\vartheta \rightarrow \infty$.

Example 4. Under Bertrand competition the markup is given by

$$\mu = \frac{\vartheta + \frac{\sigma - \vartheta}{\mathcal{M}}}{\vartheta - 1 + \frac{\sigma - \vartheta}{\mathcal{M}}}$$

which gives $\mu = 1$ when $\vartheta \rightarrow \infty$.

Example 5. Under Cournot competition the markup is given by

$$\mu = \frac{\sigma \vartheta}{\sigma (\vartheta - 1) + \frac{\sigma - \vartheta}{\mathcal{M}}}$$

which gives $\mu = \frac{\sigma}{\sigma - \frac{1}{\mathcal{M}}}$ when $\eta \rightarrow \infty$.

In either case a change in the markup arising from a change in either demand elasticity, or from a change in the degree of concentration M , induces the distributional effects implied by Theorems 1, 2, and 3

H.3.4 Limit pricing

As in Barro and Tenreyro (2006), we assume that there exists an alternative technology for downstream firms to operate a product line that does not require hiring any N -type labor. Instead the downstream firm incurs additional input costs so that its effective marginal cost of undifferentiated goods is κP_U , with $\kappa > 1$. This captures, for example, the costs of licensing an existing product from abroad to sell in a new market, or the costs of trying to compete in a product market without setting up the necessary sales infrastructure or overhead. If $\kappa < \mu$ in any of the aforementioned market structures, then the equilibrium markup is κ and any change in κ will generate the redistributive effects described in Theorems 1, 2, and 3.