

Rents and Intangible Capital: A Q+ Framework

Nicolas Crouzet¹ Janice Eberly²

¹Kellogg and Chicago Fed

²Kellogg and NBER

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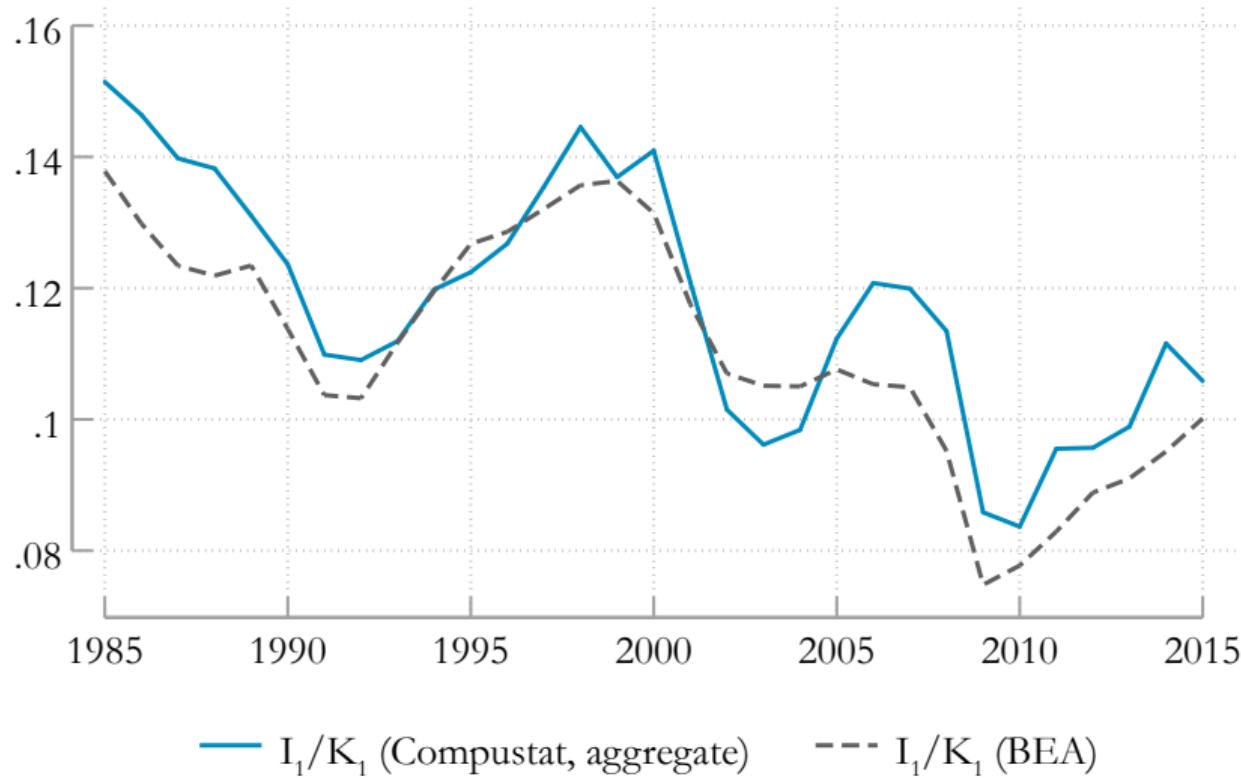
Question

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PPE investment is weak

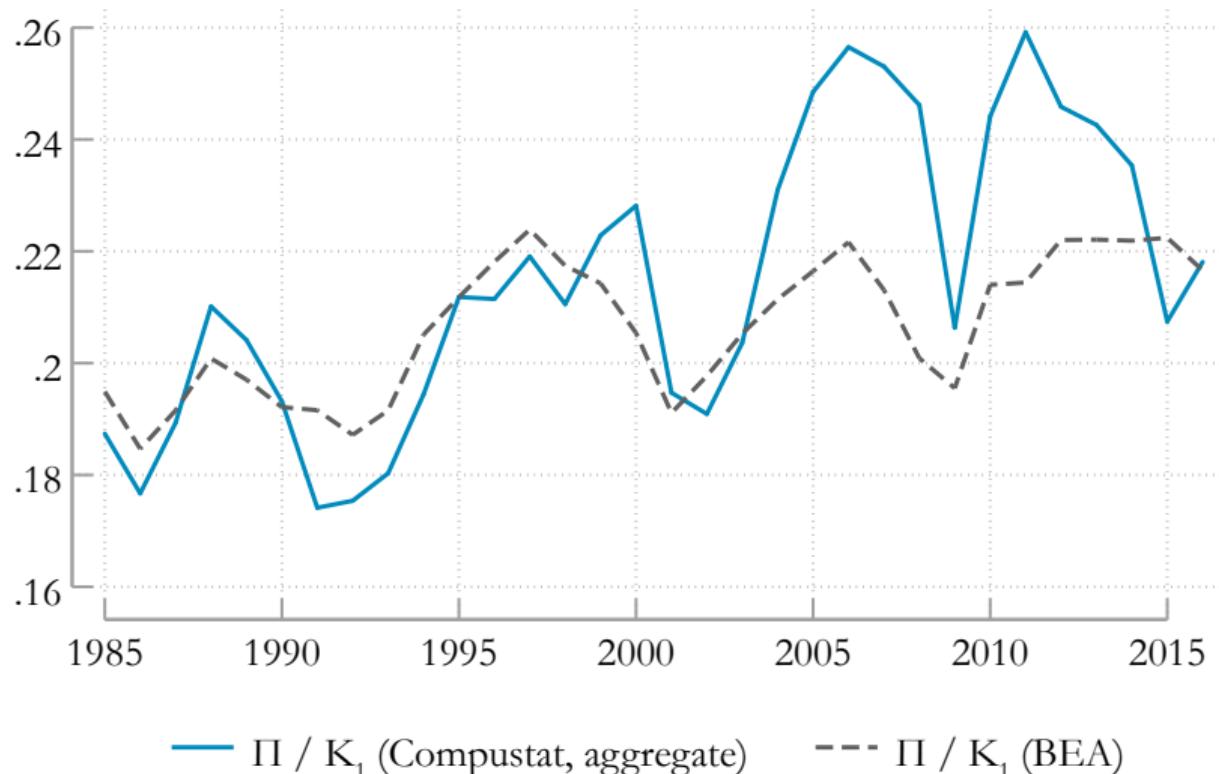


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- ... **despite** high returns ?

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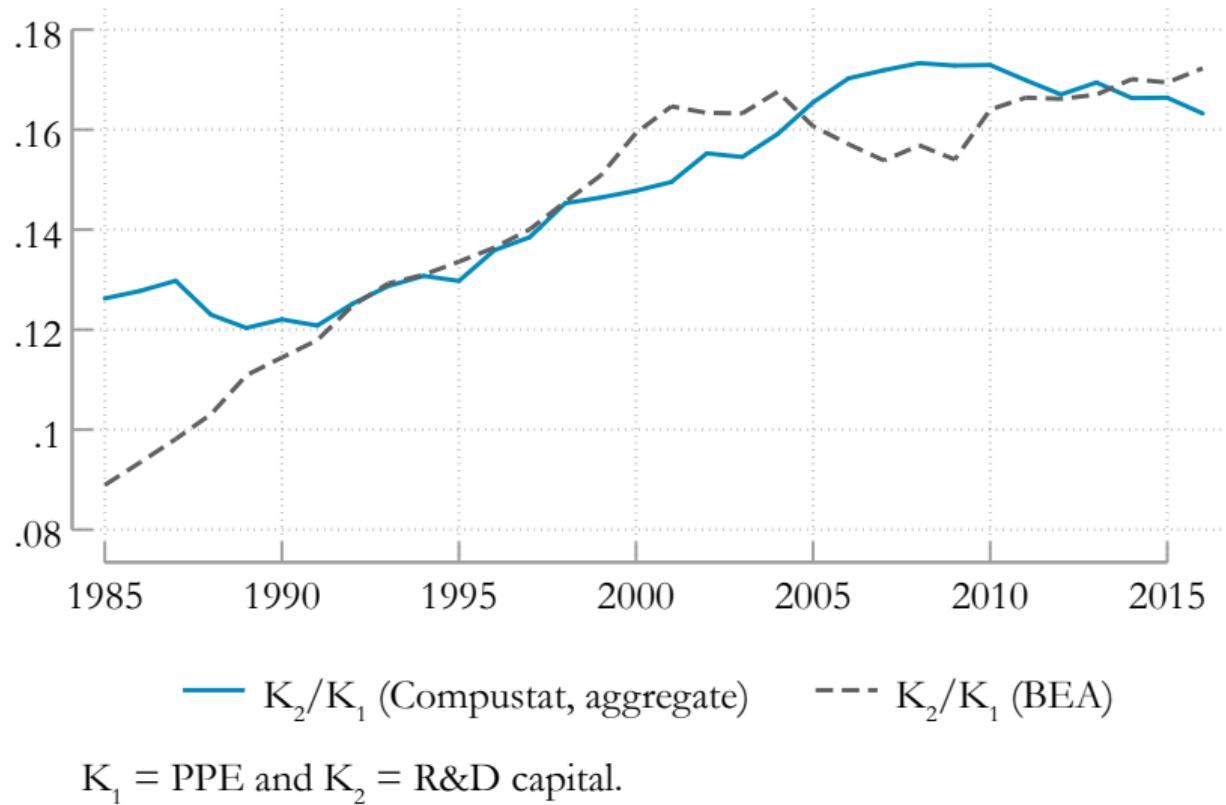
(Barkai, 2017; Gutierrez and Philippon, 2018)

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Explanation 2: **intangibles**

(Crouzet and Eberly, 2018, 2019)

The growing importance of intangible capital



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This paper

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- Neo-classical investment model with rents + intangibles
"Q+": Lindenbergs and Ross (1981) + Hayashi and Inoue (1991)
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 - + Omitted capital effect
 - + (Rents \rightarrow intangibles) \times (Omitted capital effect)

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 - + Omitted capital effect
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2. **Aggregate data:** intan = **1/3** to **2/3** of gap
3. **Sectoral data:** no common trends; intan > **2/3** of gap in high-growth sectors

1. Theory

A (fairly) general Q -theory model

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$$V_t^c(\mathbf{K}_t) = \max_{\mathbf{K}_{t+1}} \Pi_t(K_t) - \tilde{\Phi}_t(\mathbf{K}_t, \mathbf{K}_{t+1}) + \mathbb{E}_t \left[M_{t,t+1} V_{t+1}^c(\mathbf{K}_{t+1}) \right]$$

s.t. $\mathbf{K}_t = \left\{ K_{n,t} \right\}_{n=1}^2, \quad K_t = F_t(\mathbf{K}_t)$

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- Total investment costs $\tilde{\Phi}_t(\cdot, \cdot)$ satisfy:

$$\tilde{\Phi}_t(\mathbf{K}_t, \mathbf{K}_{t+1}) = \sum_{n=1}^2 \Phi_{n,t} \left(\frac{K_{n,t+1}}{K_{n,t}} \right) K_{n,t}, \quad \Phi_{n,t} \text{ increasing and convex.}$$

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The value of the firm

Lemma

$$V_t^e = q_{1,t}K_{1,t+1} + q_{2,t}K_{2,t+1} + \sum_{n=1}^2 \sum_{k \geq 1} \mathbb{E}_t [M_{t,t+k}(\mu - 1) \Pi_{n,t+k} K_{n,t+k}]$$

$$V_t^e = \mathbb{E}_t [M_{t,t+1} V_{t+1}^c], \quad q_{n,t} \equiv \frac{\partial V_t^e}{\partial K_{n,t+1}}, \quad \Pi_{n,t} \equiv \frac{\partial \Pi_t}{\partial K_t} \frac{\partial K_t}{\partial K_{n,t}}.$$

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- $\mu > 1$: $V_t^e = q_{1,t}K_{1,t+1} + q_{2,t}K_{2,t+1} + \text{rents}$ (Lindenberg and Ross, 1981)

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- $\mu > 1$: $V_t^e = q_{1,t}K_{1,t+1} + q_{2,t}K_{2,t+1} + \text{rents}$ (Lindenberg and Ross, 1981)

$$(\mu - 1)\Pi_{n,t} = \underbrace{\left(\frac{\Pi_t}{K_t} - \frac{\partial \Pi_t}{\partial K_t} \right)}_{\text{gap btw. average and marginal product}} \times \frac{\partial K_t}{\partial K_{n,t}} = \text{flow value of rents from } K_n$$

The investment gap

$$Q_{1,t} - q_{1,t}$$

The investment gap

$$Q_{1,t} - q_{1,t} = 0$$

No intan + no rents ($\mu = 1$): no investment gap, $Q_{1,t} = q_{1,t}$ (Hayashi, 1982)

The investment gap

$$Q_{1,t} - q_{1,t} = \sum_{k \geq 1} \mathbb{E}_t [M_{t,t+k}(\mu - 1) \Pi_{1,t+k}(1 + g_{1,t+k})]$$

No intan + rents ($\mu > 1$): $Q_{1,t} > q_{1,t}$ due to **rents** (Lindenberg and Ross, 1981)

The investment gap

$$Q_{1,t} - q_{1,t} =$$

$$q_{2,t} \times \frac{K_{2,t+1}}{K_{1,t+1}}$$

Intan + no rents ($\mu = 1$): $Q_{1,t} > q_{1,t}$ due to **ommitted intangibles** (Hayashi and Inoue, 1991)

The investment gap

$$\begin{aligned} Q_{1,t} - q_{1,t} &= \sum_{k \geq 1} \mathbb{E}_t [M_{t,t+k} (\mu - 1) \Pi_{1,t+k} (1 + g_{1,t+k})] \\ &+ q_{2,t} \times \frac{K_{2,t+1}}{K_{1,t+1}} \end{aligned}$$

Intan + rents ($\mu > 1$):

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Intan + rents ($\mu > 1$): additional term: omitted intangibles \times rents

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Balanced growth: productivity grows at rate g ; constant discount rate r

The investment gap

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 - q_1 &= \frac{(\mu - 1)R_1}{r - g} && (\text{rents} \rightarrow \text{physical capital}) \\ &+ q_2 \times \frac{K_{2,t+1}}{K_{1,t+1}} && (\text{intangibles}) \\ &+ q_2 \frac{(\mu - 1)R_2}{r - g} \times \frac{K_{2,t+1}}{K_{1,t+1}} && (\text{rents} \rightarrow \text{intangibles}) \end{aligned}$$

Balanced growth: $R_n \equiv r + \delta_n + \gamma_n gr, \quad n = 1, 2$

2. Measurement: aggregate data

Constructing the investment gap

$$Q_1 - q_1 = \frac{\mu - 1}{r - g} R_1 + q_2 S + \frac{\mu - 1}{r - g} R_2 S$$

Scope: non-financial corporate business (NFCB) sector, 1947-2017

What data moments do we need to construct this decomposition?

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What data moments do we need to construct this decomposition?

{ S ,

Ratio of intangible to physical capital

BEA — $K_{2,t+1}$ = only R&D capital

$$S = \frac{K_{2,t+1}}{K_{1,t+1}}$$

Constructing the investment gap

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What data moments do we need to construct this decomposition?

$\{S, ROA_1,$

Rents parameter μ

BEA — Π_t = operating surplus

$$\mu = \frac{ROA_1}{R_1 + SR_2}$$

$$ROA_1 = \frac{\Pi_t}{K_{1,t}}$$

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What data moments do we need to construct this decomposition?

$$\{S, ROA_1, i_1, i_2,$$

User costs R_1, R_2

BEA — i_n = gross investment rate

$$R_n = r + \delta_n$$

$$= r - g + g + \delta_n = r - g + i_n$$

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$$\{S, ROA_1, i_1, i_2, Q_1\}$$

Gordon growth term $r - g$:

Flow of Funds — $Q_1 = V_t / K_{1,t+1}$, V_t = m.v. of debt + equity

$$r - g = \frac{ROA_1 - (i_1 + Si_2)}{Q_1}$$

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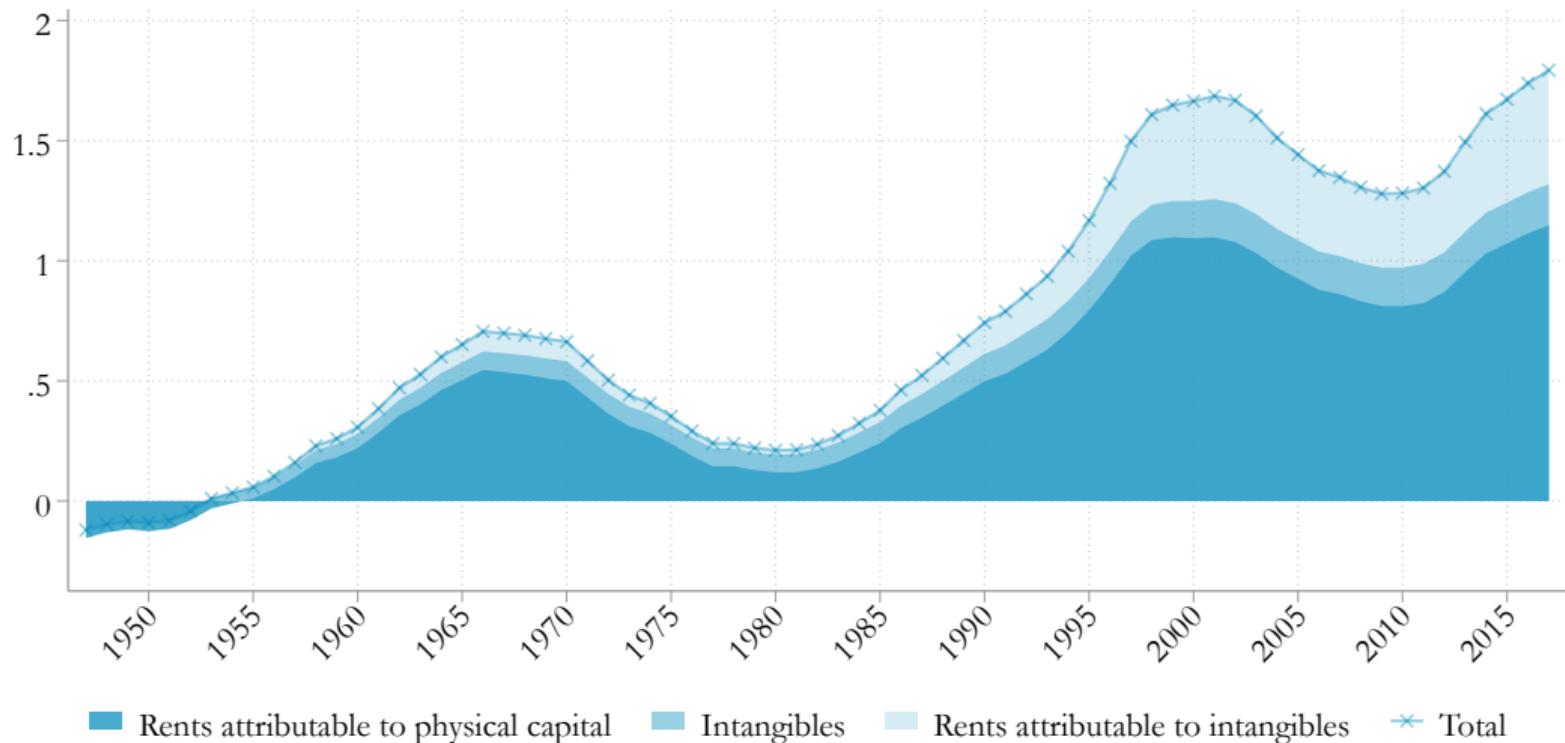
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$$r - g = \frac{ROA_1 - (i_1 + Si_2)}{Q_1}$$

No adjustment costs: $q_1 = q_2 = 1$; otherwise, $q_1 = 1 + \gamma_1 g$, $q_2 = 1 + \gamma_2 g$.

The investment gap in the non-financial sector

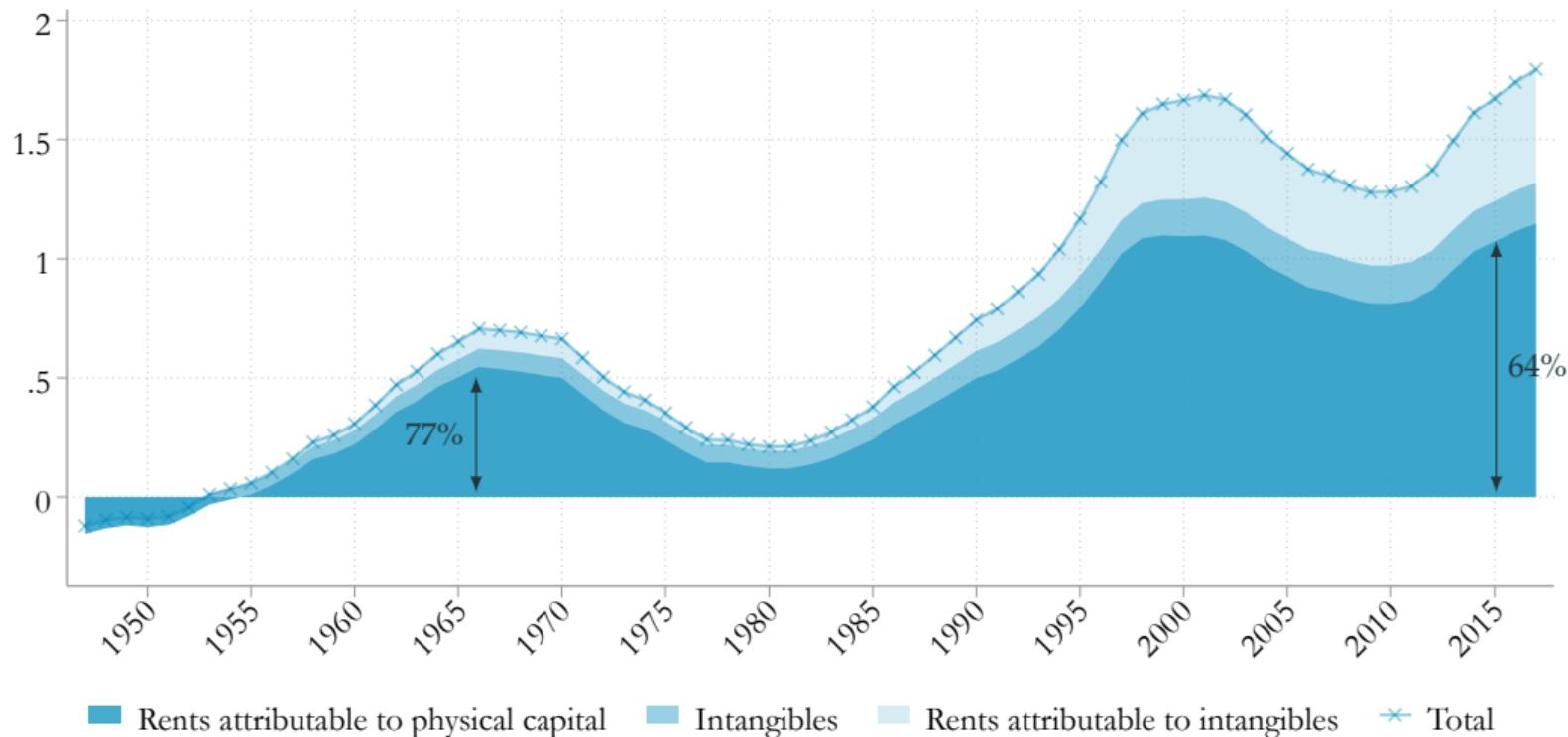
(adj. costs = 0)



Adjustment costs

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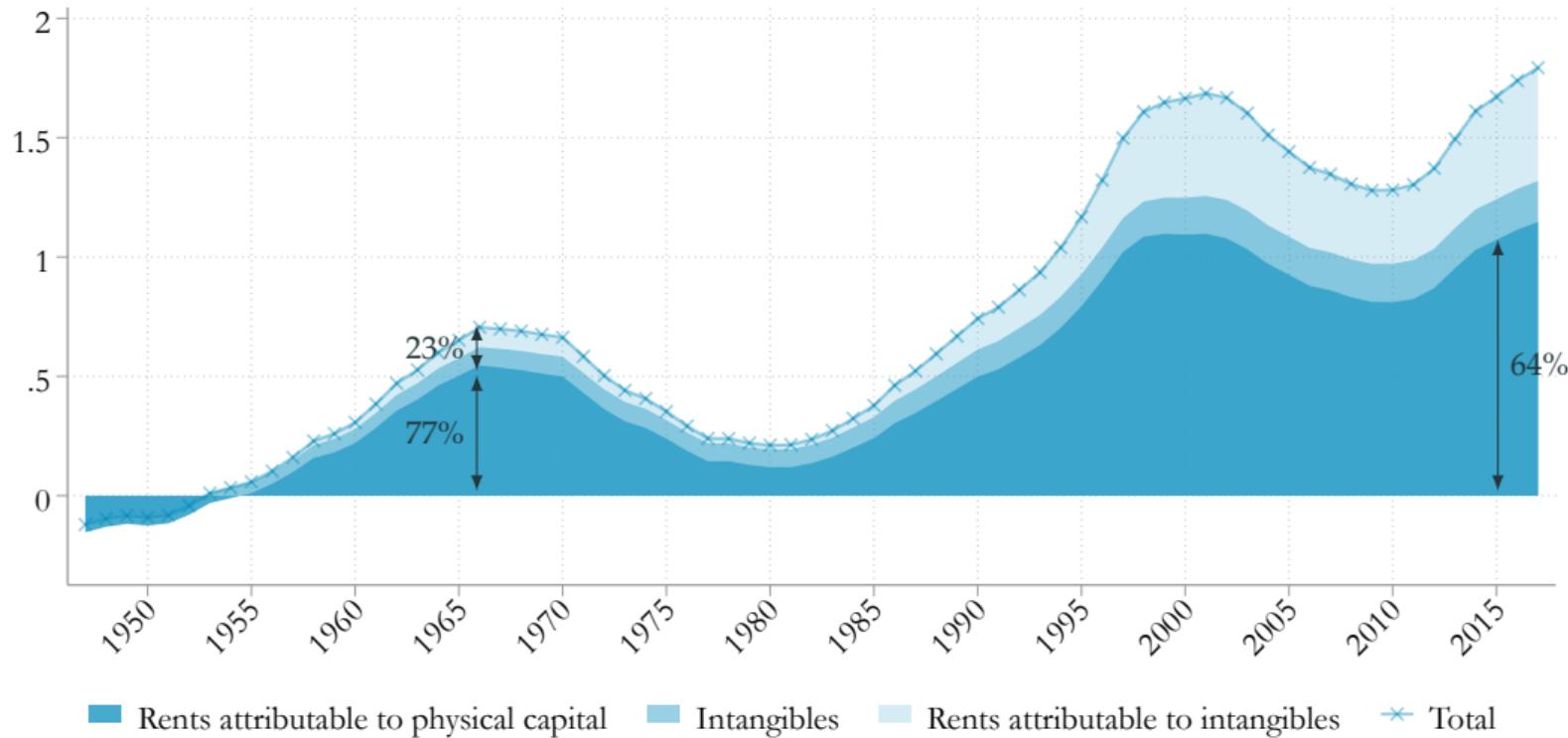
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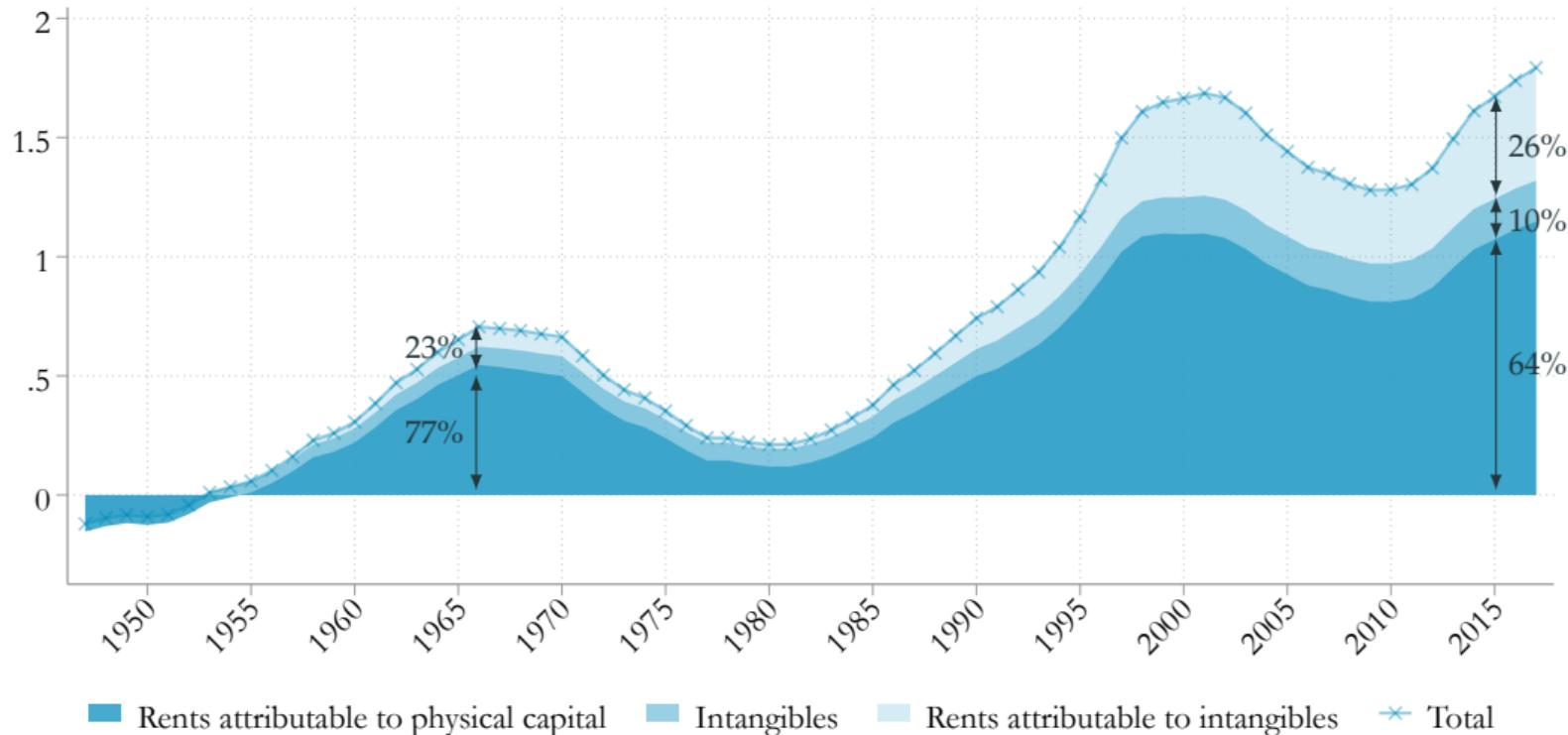
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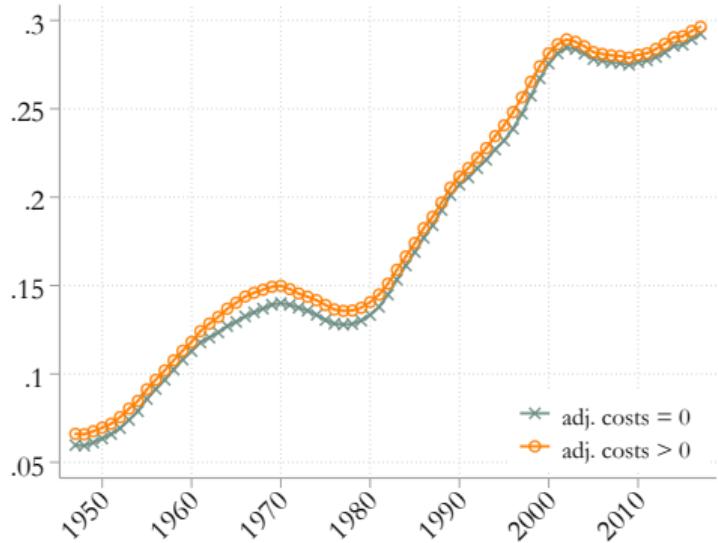
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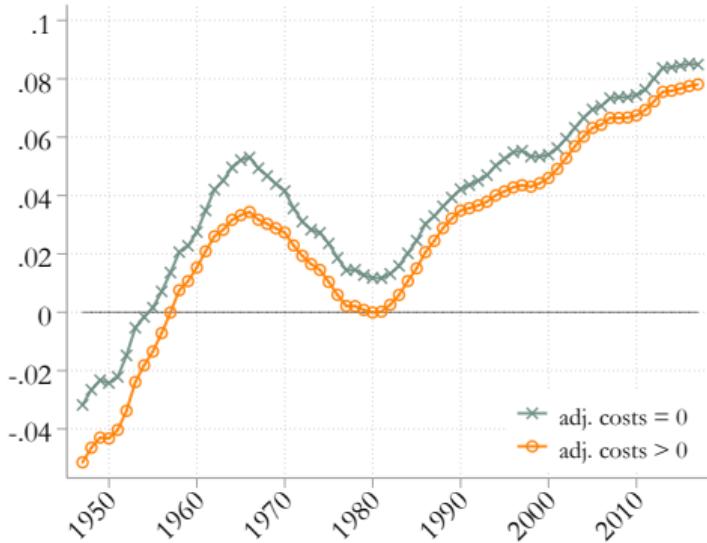


Underlying structural changes

Cobb-Douglas intan share $K_t = K_{1,t}^{1-\eta} K_{2,t}^{\eta}$

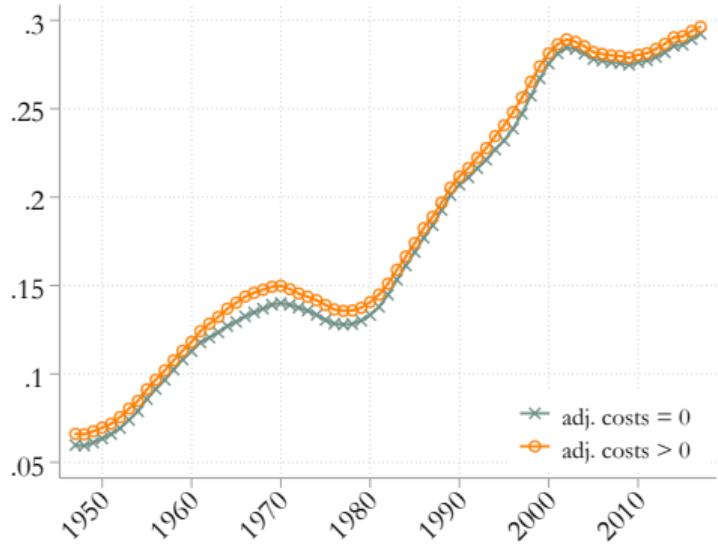


Rents/v.a. $s = (1 - WL/PY)(1 - \frac{1}{\mu})$

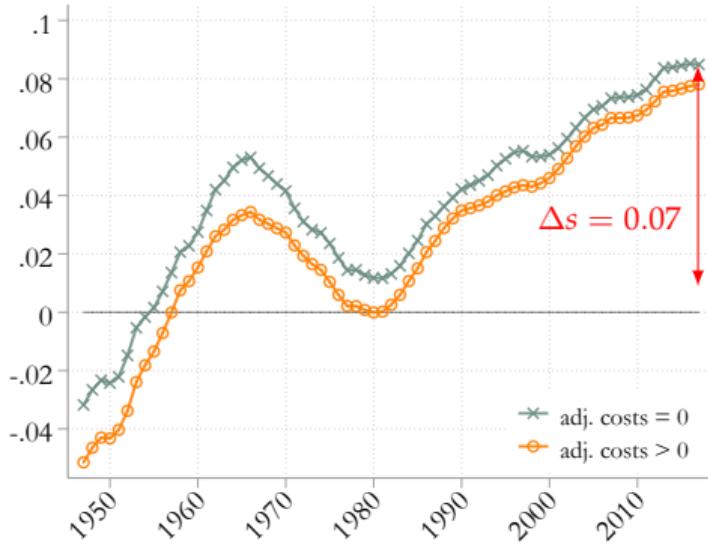


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Barkai (2019)

KN (2019)
case π

DLE (2017)

Hall (2018)

This paper
(intan=R&D)

Rents 1985 → 2015
(% v.a.)

-5 → 7.5

0 → 13

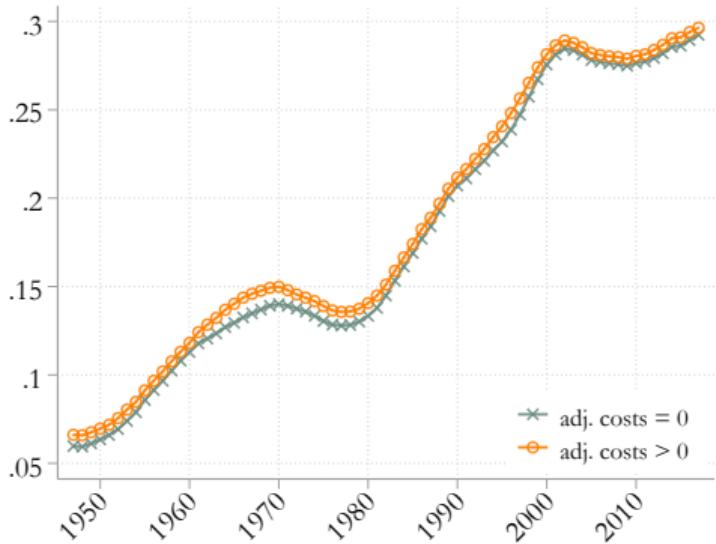
17 → 38

26 → 57

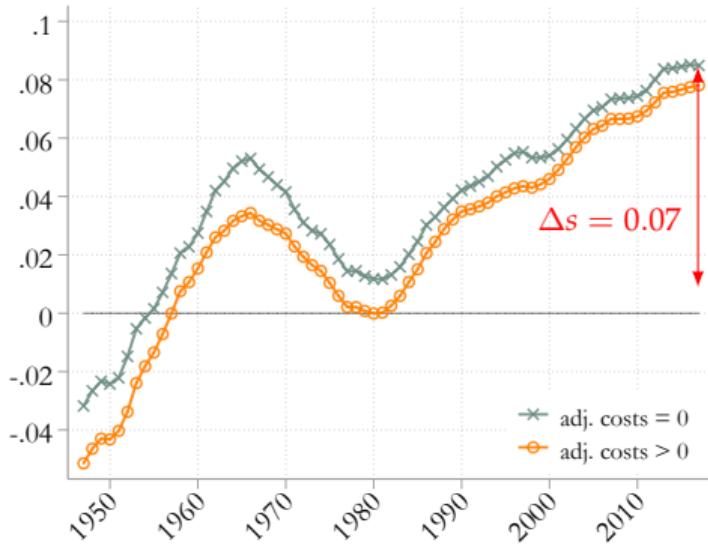
1 → 8

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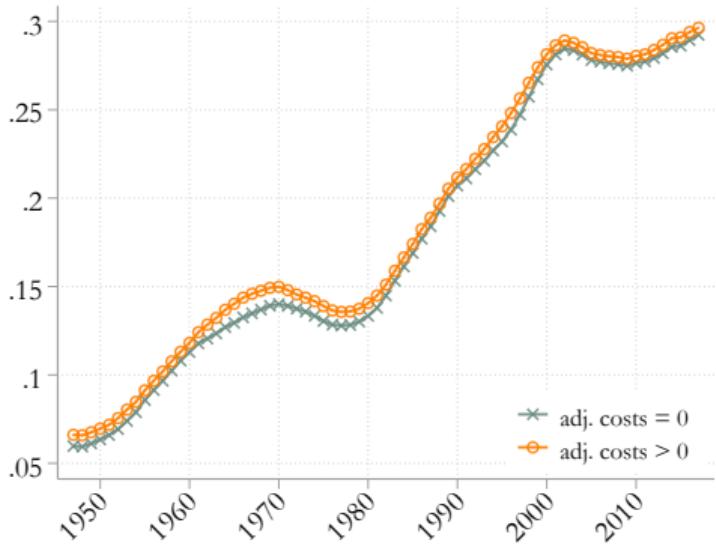


- Mild discount rate decline (7.9% → 5.6%), consistent with small rise in risk premia

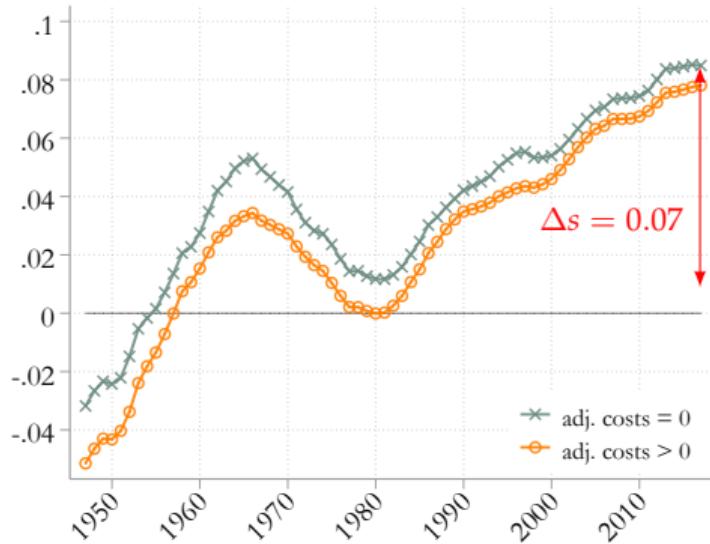
Caballero, Gourinchas and Farhi (2017), Farhi and Gourio (2018)

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User costs

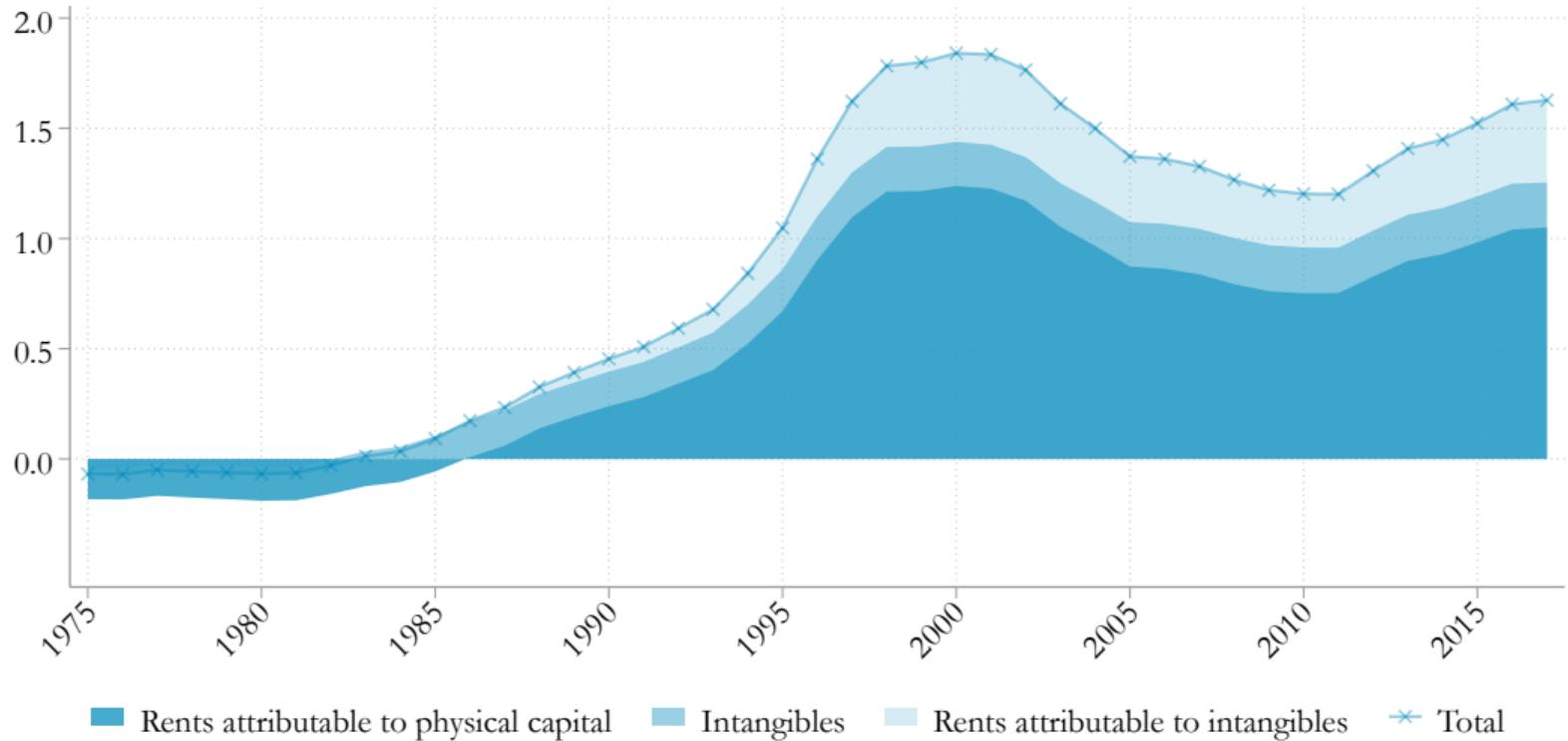
Counterfactuals

Robustness

3. Measurement: firm-level data

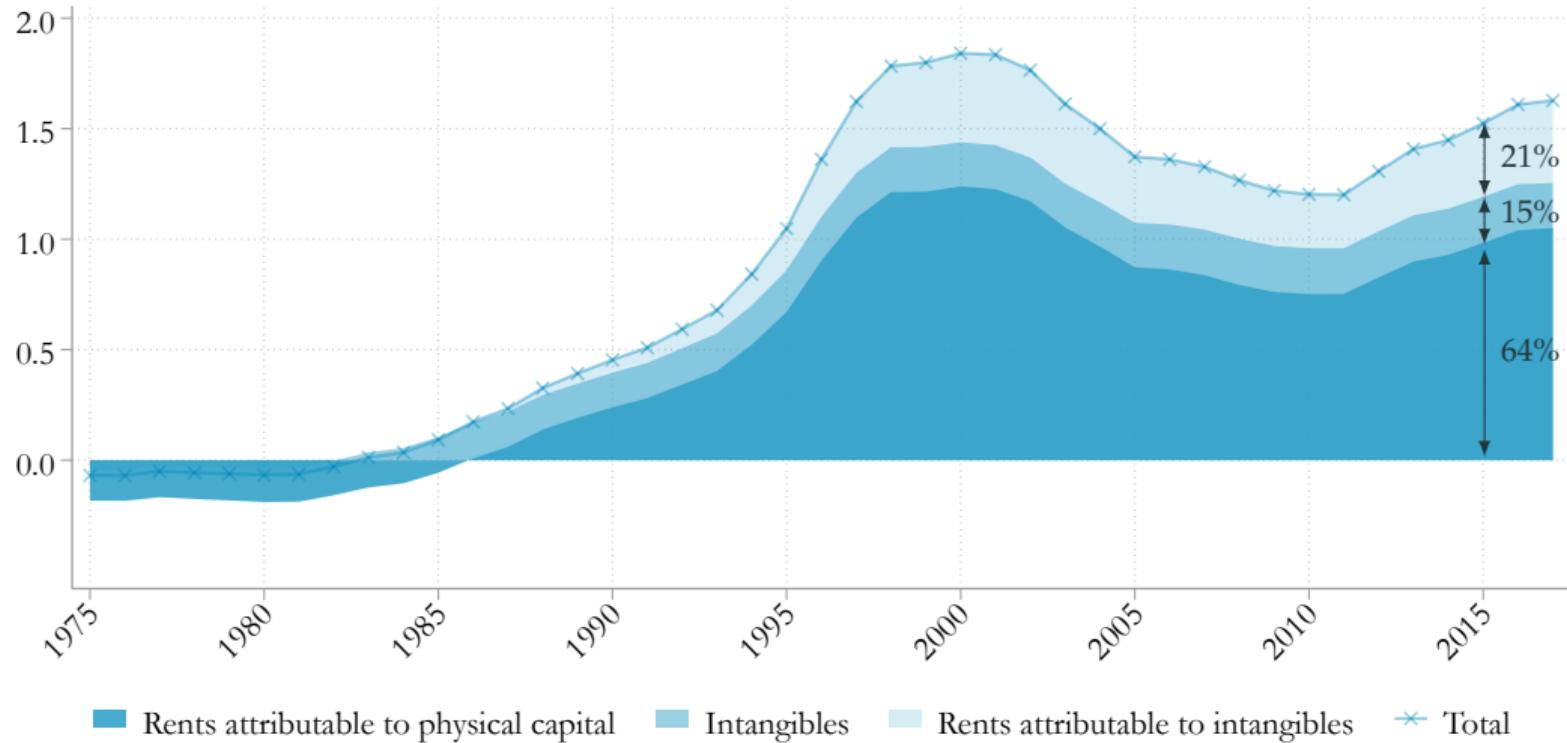
The investment gap: publicly traded firms

(intan = R&D)



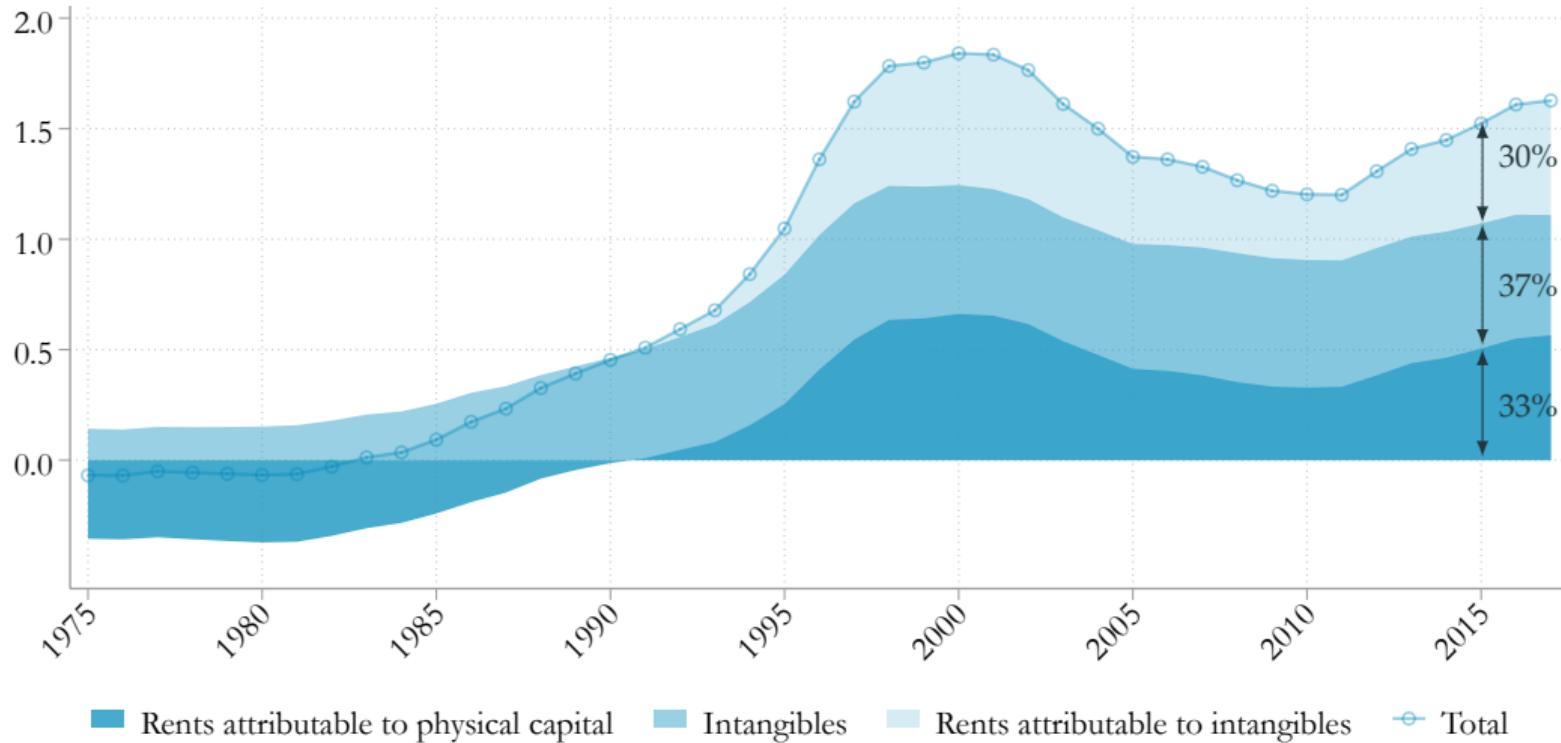
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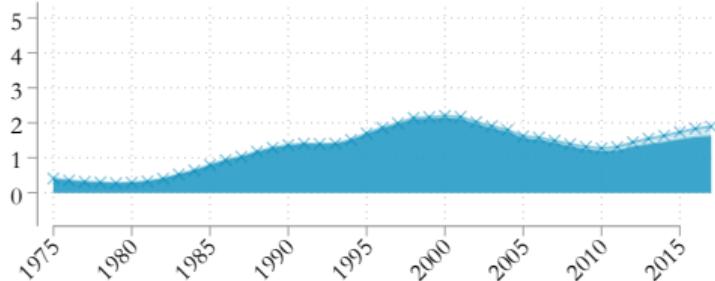
(intan = R&D + org. cap.)



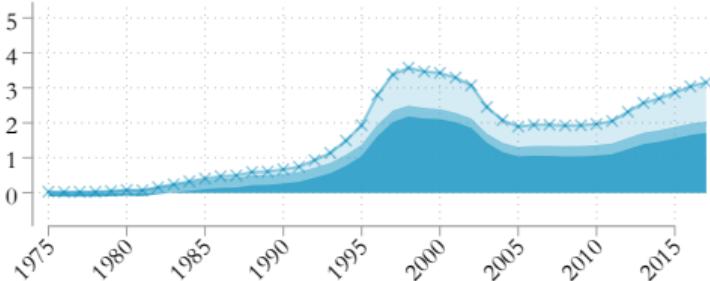
The investment gap across sectors

(intan = R&D)

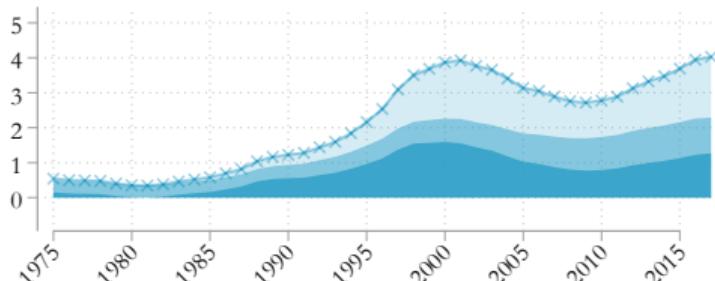
Consumer



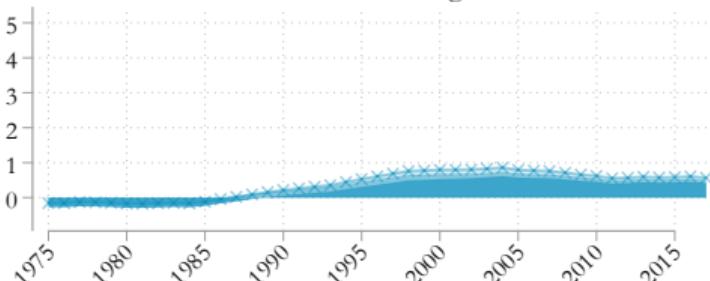
High-tech



Healthcare



Manufacturing



Rents attributable to physical capital

Intangibles

Rents attributable to intangibles

Total

Rents vs. intangibles by sector

Consumer sector

Key take-aways

Key take-aways

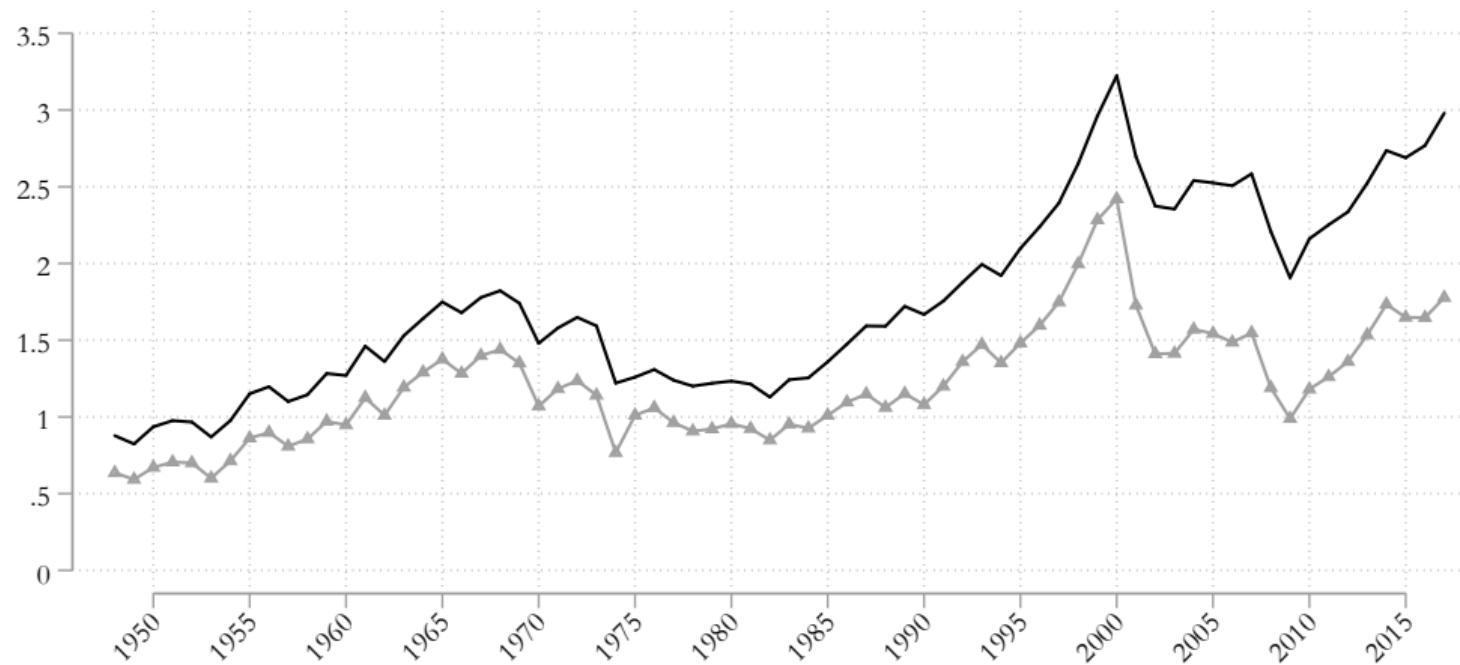
1. General decomposition of the investment gap:

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 - q_1 &= \text{Rents} \rightarrow \text{physical capital} \\ &+ \text{Omitted capital effect} \\ &+ (\text{Rents} \rightarrow \text{intangibles}) \times (\text{Omitted capital effect}) \end{aligned}$$

2. Aggregate: intan is $1/3$ to $2/3$ of the gap; $\Delta s = 0.07$ instead of 0.12
3. Sectoral: heterogeneous trends; intan is $> 2/3$ of the gap in Health, Tech

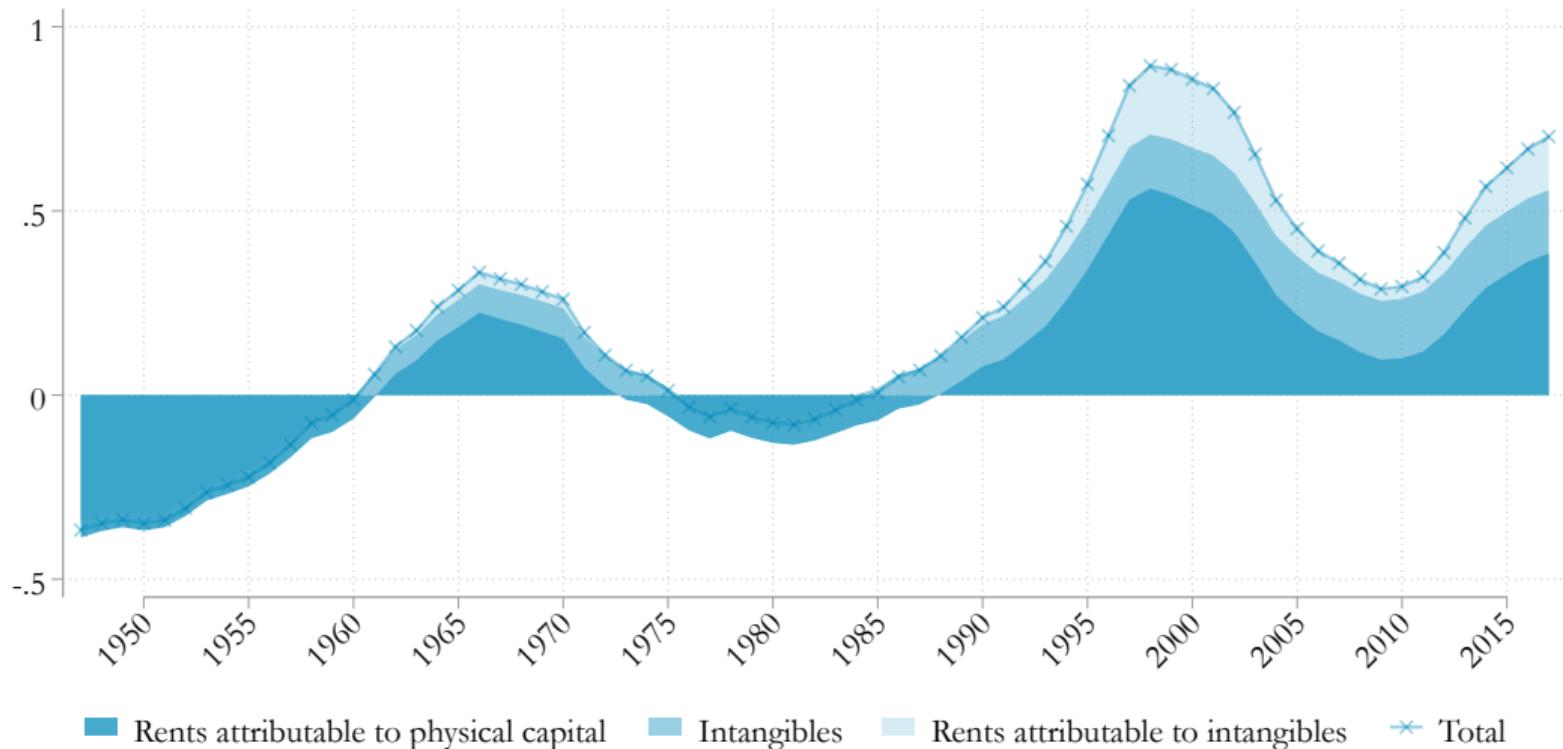
Additional slides

Alternative measures of Q



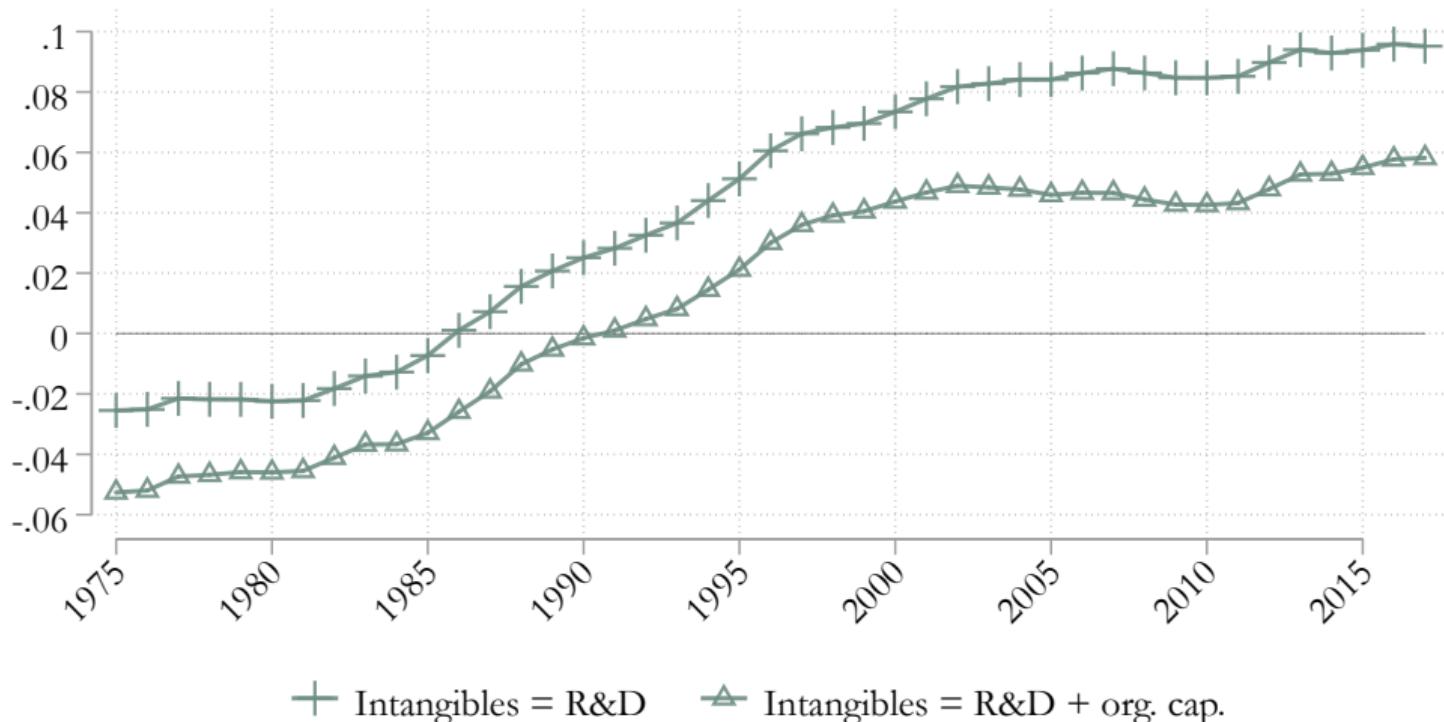
- Netting only financial assets identified as liquid in the Flow of Funds (baseline)
- Netting out all financial assets reported in the Flow of Funds (Hall, 2001)

The investment gap with the alternative Q measure (Hall, 2001)



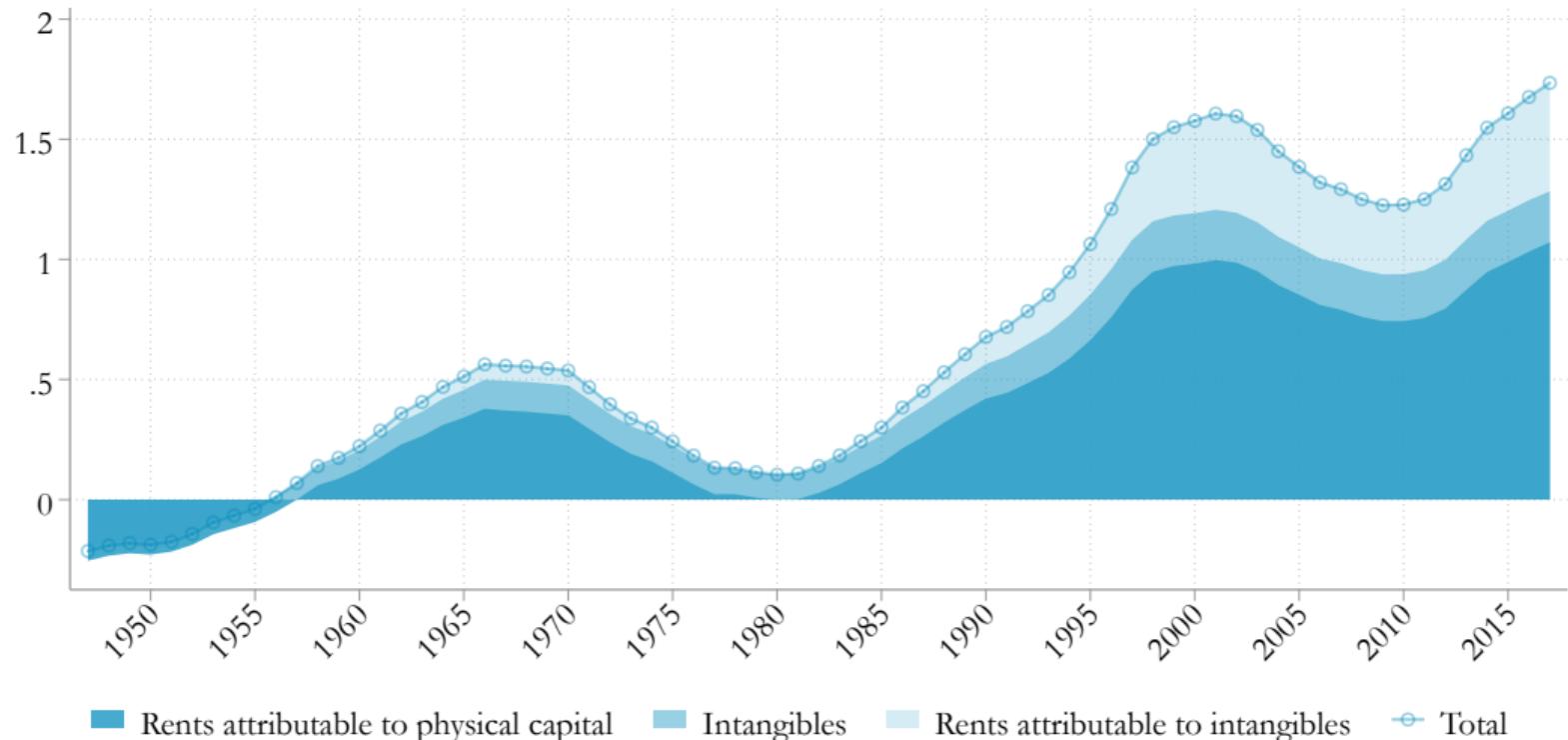
Robustness

Implied rents with expanded measures of intangibles



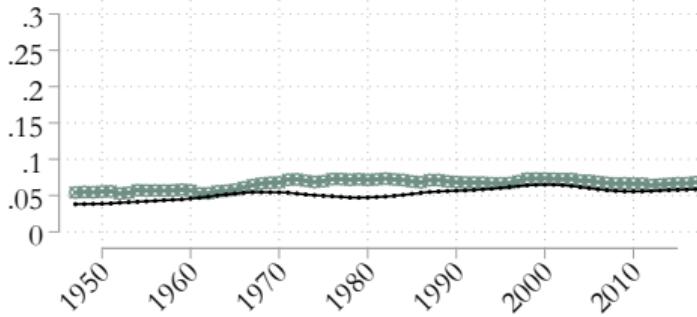
The investment gap in the non-financial sector

(adj. costs > 0)

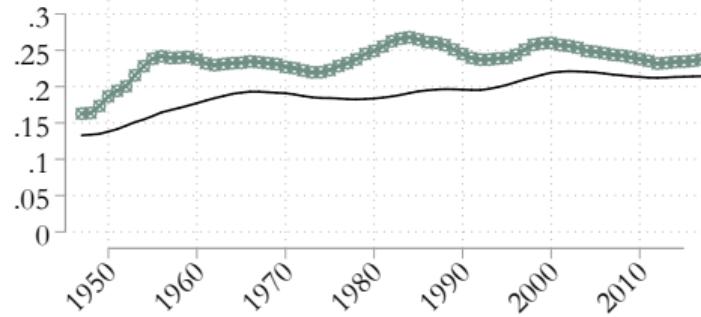


$$\gamma_1 = 3, \quad \gamma_2 = 12 \quad (\text{Belo et al., 2019})$$

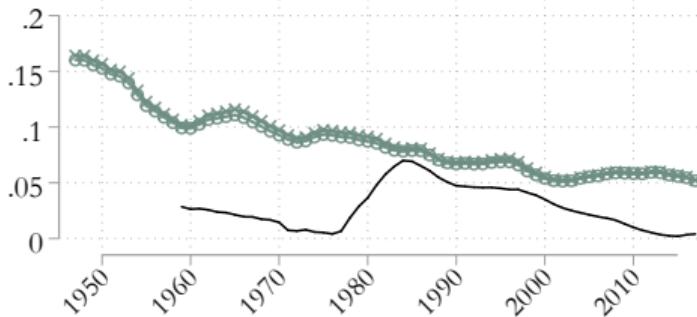
Implied depreciation rate, physical capital



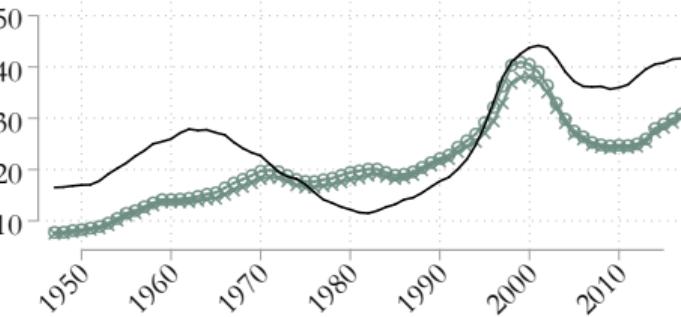
Implied depreciation rate, intangible capital



Implied discount rate



Implied PD ratio



★ zero adjustment costs

● positive adjustment costs

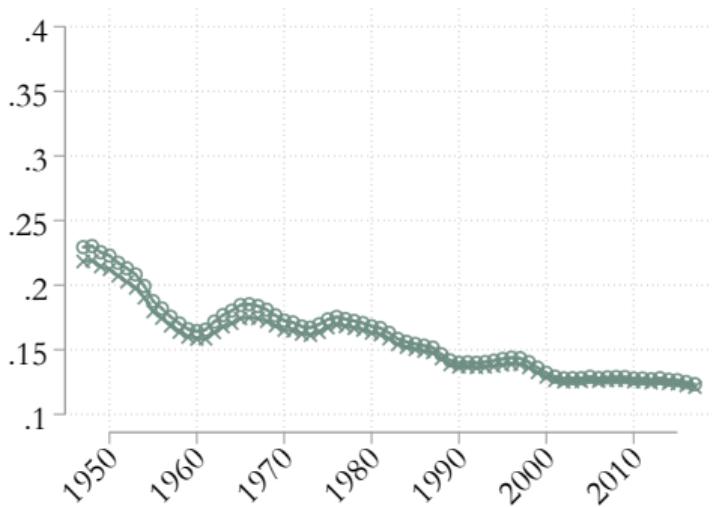
— data

User costs

User costs

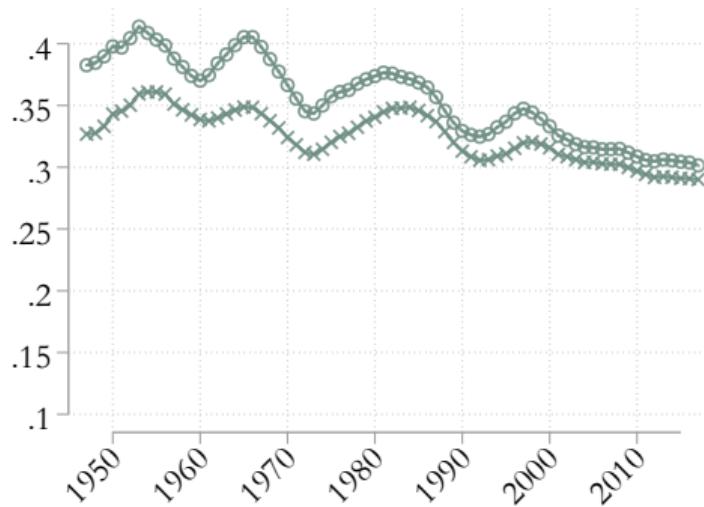
$$R_n = r + \delta_n + \gamma_n rg$$

Physical capital



- * zero adjustment costs
- positive adjustment costs

Intangible capital



- * zero adjustment costs
- positive adjustment costs

Related literature

1. Aggregate implications of rising rents:

- **Gutierrez and Philippon (2017, 2018), Farhi and Gourio (2018), Barkai (2019), Karabarbounis and Neiman (2019)**, Autor et al. (2019), Caballero, Farhi, and Gourinchas (2017), Caballero and Farhi (2018), Eggertsson, Robbins and Wold (2018), Hall (2018), De Loecker and Eeckhout (2019), Basu (2019)

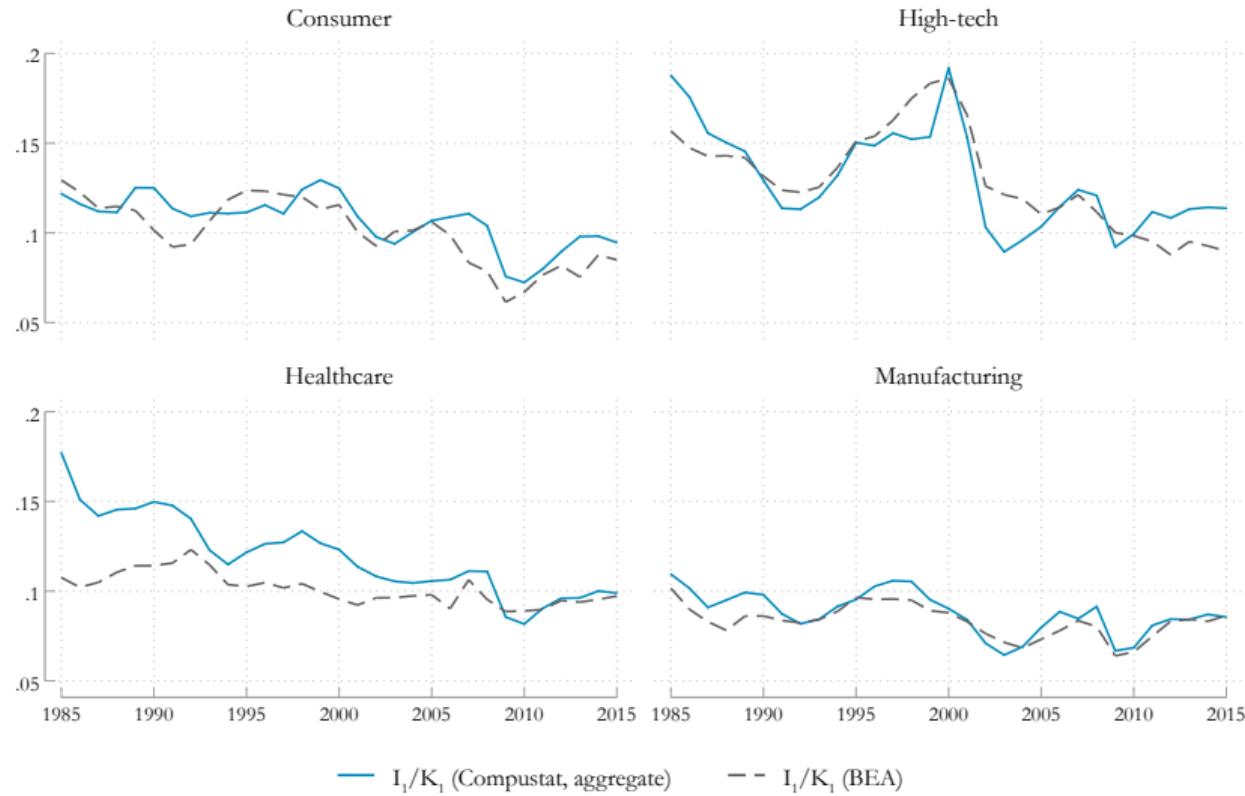
This paper : investment- Q ; new approach for estimating of rents; sectoral heterogeneity

2. Q theory and firm value:

- Lindenberg and Ross (1981), Hayashi and Inoue (1991), Chirinko (1993), Abel and Eberly (1994), Cooper and Ejarque (2003), Hansen, Heanton and Li (2005), Abel and Eberly (2011), Eisfeldt and Papanikolaou (2013), Ai, Croce and Li (2013), **Hall (2001), Prescott and McGrattan (2010), Peters and Taylor (2017), Andrei, Mann, Moyen (2019), Belo, Gala, Salomao, Vitorino (2019)**

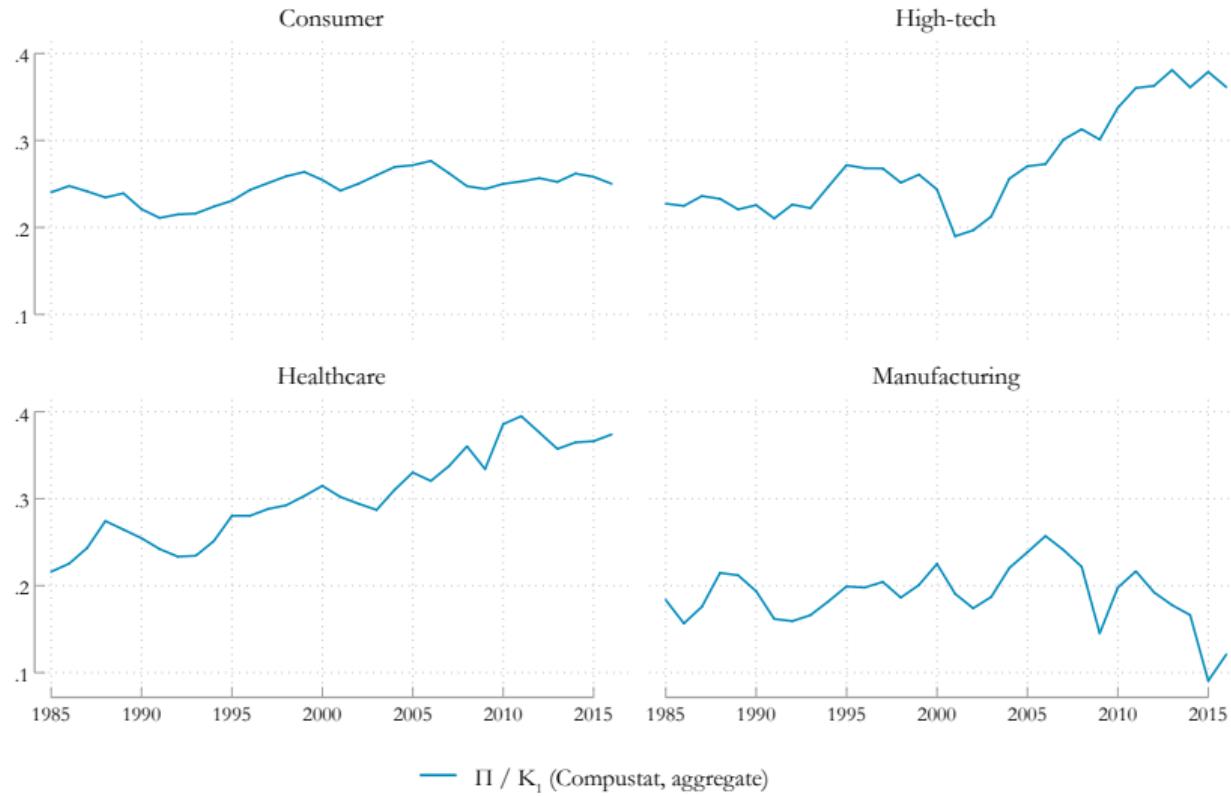
This paper : general decomposition of $Q - q$, including market power

PPE investment is weak: sectoral data



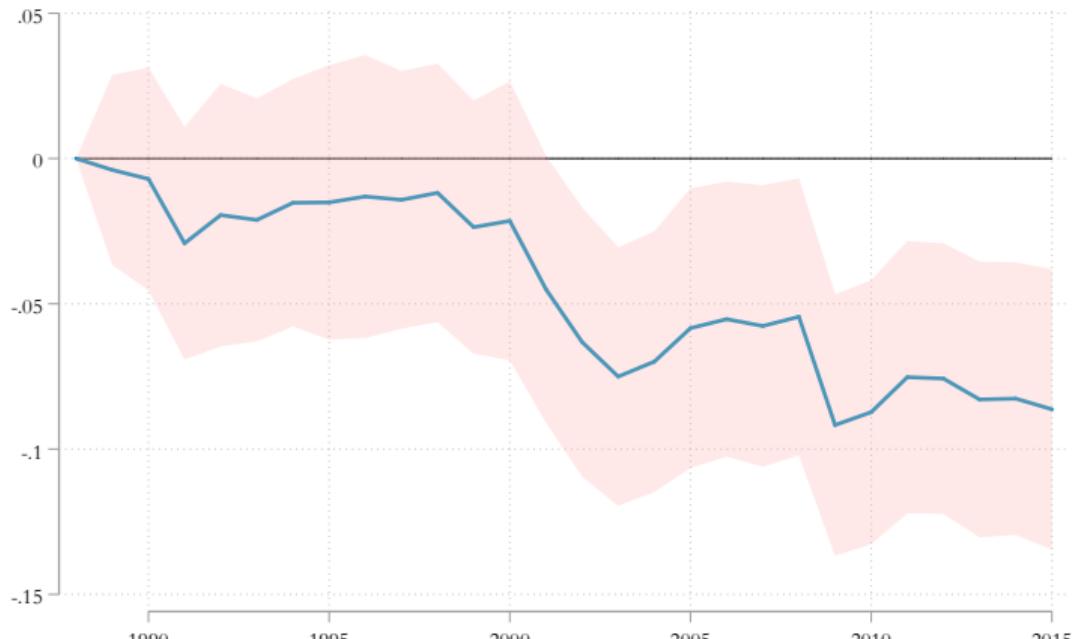
Aggregate data

PPE investment is weak despite high returns: sectoral data



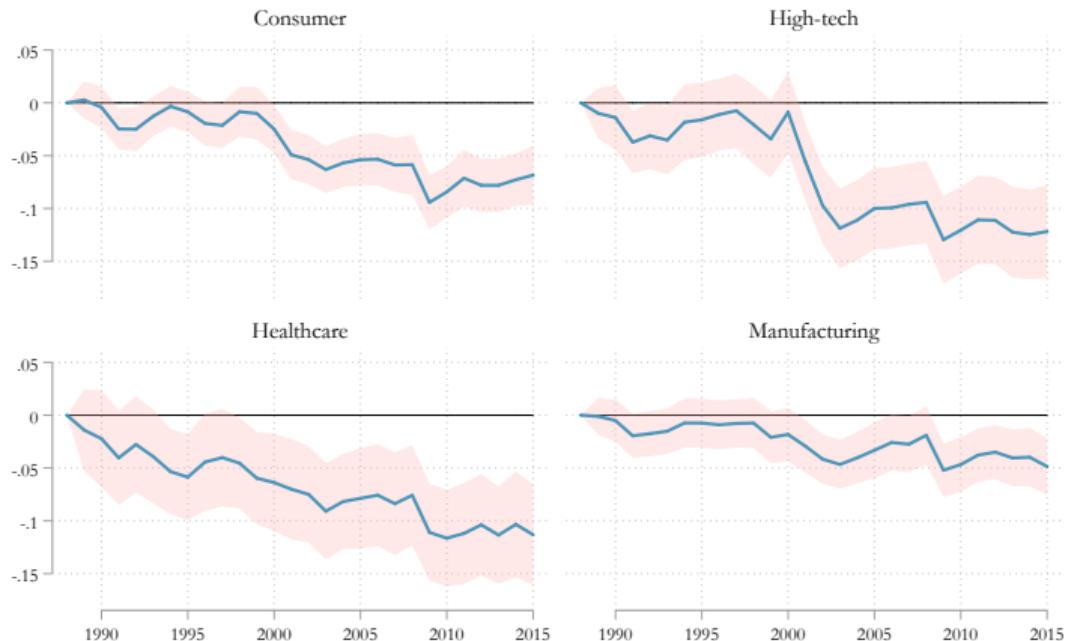
Aggregate data

Investment is weak relative to Q



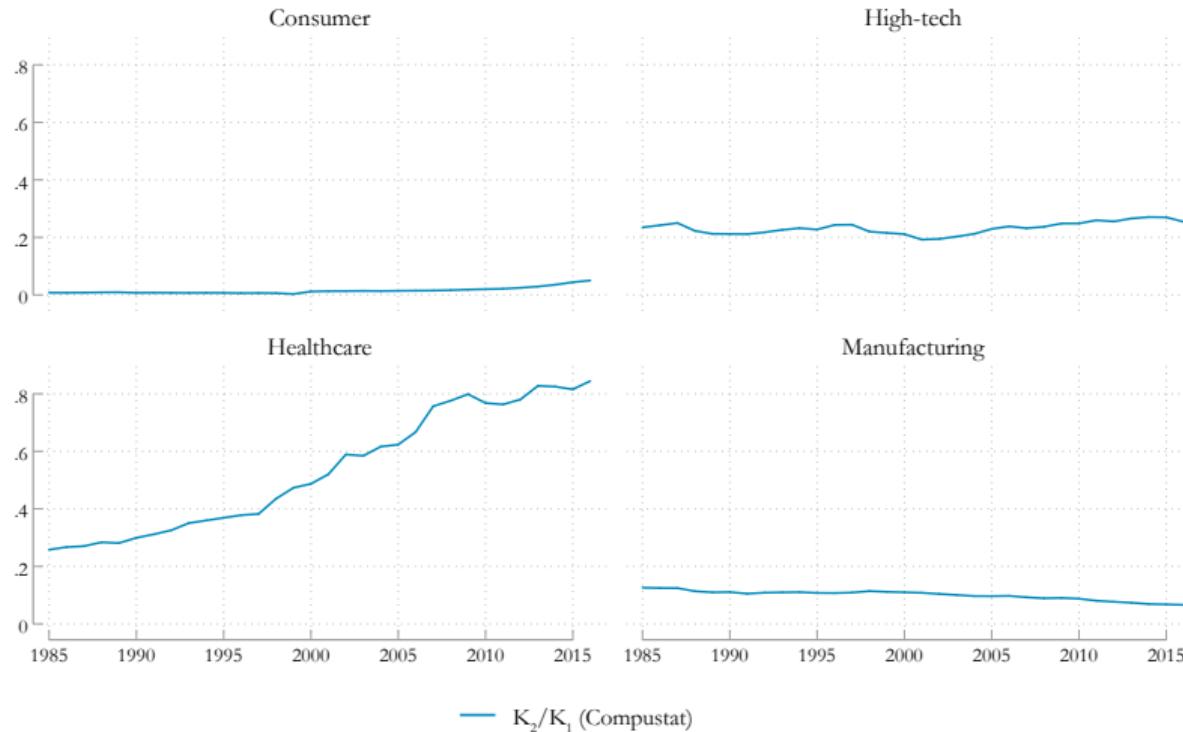
$$i_{j,t} = \alpha_j + \gamma_t + \delta Q_{j,t} + \beta CF_{j,t} + \epsilon_{j,t}$$

Investment is weak relative to Q: sectoral data



$$i_{j,t} = \alpha_j + \gamma_t + \delta Q_{j,t} + \beta CF_{j,t} + \epsilon_{j,t}$$

The growing importance of intangibles: sectoral data



K_1 = PPE and K_2 = R&D capital.

Aggregate data

How general is this model?

- No restrictions on exogenous shifters to Π_t , F_t , and $\Phi_{n,t}$

- Particular cases of this framework:

Lindenberg and Ross (1981), Hayashi (1982), Abel (1983), Abel and Blanchard (1986), Hayashi and Inoue (1991), Abel and Eberly (1994, case I), Abel and Eberly (2011), Peters and Taylor (2017), ...

- What about labor?

The model can accommodate any flexible input: $\mu = \frac{\tilde{\mu} - \alpha}{1 - \alpha}$

- Which cases does this model **not** fit?

- Non-homogeneous and/or non-smooth adjustment costs
- Endogenous markups
- Financial frictions

The investment gap in the general case

The first-order condition for investment is:

$$g_{n,t+1} = \Psi_{n,t} (q_{n,t} - 1)$$

where:

$$\Psi_{n,t}(y) = (\Phi'_{n,t})^{-1} (1 + y) - 1.$$

Since $\Phi_{n,t}$ is convex, $\Psi_{n,t}$ is strictly increasing. Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} g_{n,t+1} &= \Psi_{n,t} (q_{n,t} - 1) \\ &= \Psi_{n,t} (Q_{n,t} - 1 - G_{n,t}) \\ &< \Psi_{n,t} (Q_{n,t} - 1) \quad \text{iff} \quad G_{n,t} > 0 \end{aligned}$$

Total Q

Define the total investment rate as: $i_t^{(tot)} = \frac{\sum_{n=1}^N I_{n,t}}{\sum_{n=1}^N K_{n,t}} = \sum_{n=1}^N w_{n,t} i_{n,t}$.

In the quadratic adj. cost case:

$$i_t^{(tot)} = \tilde{\delta}_t + \sum_{n=1}^N \frac{w_{n,t}}{\gamma_n} (q_{n,t} - 1), \quad \tilde{\delta}_t = \sum_{n=1}^N w_{n,t} \delta_n.$$

Let $Q_t^{(tot)} \equiv \frac{V_t^e}{\sum_{n=1}^N K_{n,t+1}}$. Then:

$$i_t^{(tot)} = \tilde{\delta}_t + \frac{1}{\gamma} (Q_t^{(tot)} - 1)$$

if and only if $\mu = 1$, and:

- $\gamma_n = \gamma$ for all n ;
- or, $q_{n,t} = q_t$ for all n .

Stochastic growth

Suppose A_t follows the “regime-switching process”:

$$\frac{A_{t+1}}{A_t} = 1 + g_t = \begin{cases} 1 + g_{t-1} & \text{w.p. } (1 - \lambda) \\ 1 + \tilde{g} & \text{w.p. } \lambda \end{cases}, \quad \tilde{g} \sim F(.).$$

Then:

$$G_{1,t} = \frac{(\mu - 1)}{r - \nu(g_t)} R_1 \quad (\text{Rents} \rightarrow \text{physical capital})$$

$$+ S \quad (\text{Ommitted capital effect})$$

$$+ \frac{(\mu - 1)}{r - \nu(g_t)} R_2 S \quad (\text{Rents} \rightarrow \text{intangibles})$$

where: $\frac{1}{r - \nu(g_t)} = \frac{1}{r - \mathbb{E}(\tilde{g})} \left(1 + \frac{g_t - \mathbb{E}(\tilde{g})}{1+r} \right)$ if $\lambda = 1$.

Complete expression for $\nu(.)$

Analytical example

Stochastic growth

The expression for $\nu(\cdot)$ is:

$$\nu(g_t) = g_t + \lambda(1 + g_t) \frac{(r - g_t)\zeta^* - (1 + r)}{(1 + r) + \lambda(1 + g_t)\zeta^*}$$

where ζ^* is a constant that only depends on $F(\cdot)$, λ and r .

Analytical example

A microfoundation for Example 1 (1/2)

Representative household:

$$U_t = \max \frac{C_t^{1-\sigma}}{1-\sigma} + \beta U_{t+1}, \quad (1)$$

implying $M_{t,t+1} = \beta \left(\frac{C_{t+1}}{C_t} \right)^{-\sigma}$.

Final goods producer

$$Y_t = \left(\int_0^1 Y_{j,t}^{\frac{1}{\tilde{\mu}}} dj \right)^{\tilde{\mu}}, \quad \tilde{\mu} > 1. \quad (2)$$

Intermediate goods producer: $Y_{j,t} = Z_{j,t} K_{j,t}^\alpha L_{j,t}^{1-\alpha}$, implying the profit function:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{j,t} &= A_{j,t}^{\frac{1}{\mu}-1} K_{j,t}^{\frac{1}{\mu}} \\ \mu &= 1 + \frac{\tilde{\mu}-1}{\alpha}, \\ A_{j,t} &= (\alpha + \tilde{\mu} - 1)^{1+\frac{\alpha}{\tilde{\mu}-1}} \tilde{\mu}^{-\frac{\tilde{\mu}}{\tilde{\mu}-1}} (1-\alpha)^{\frac{1-\alpha}{\tilde{\mu}-1}} D_t W_t^{-\frac{1-\alpha}{\tilde{\mu}-1}} Z_{j,t}^{\frac{1}{\tilde{\mu}-1}}, \\ D_t &\equiv P_t^{\frac{\tilde{\mu}}{\tilde{\mu}-1}} Y_t. \end{aligned}$$

A microfoundation for Example 1 (2/2)

Rest of the solution to the problem is:

$$P_{j,t}$$

$$= \tilde{\mu} MC_{j,t}$$

$$L_{j,t} = \left(\frac{(1-\alpha)MC_{j,t}Z_j}{W_t} \right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} K_{j,t}$$

$$MC_{j,t} = (1-\alpha)^{-\frac{(1-\alpha)(\bar{\mu}-1)}{\bar{\mu}-1+\alpha}} \bar{\mu}^{-\frac{\alpha \bar{\mu}}{\bar{\mu}-1+\alpha}} D_t^{\frac{\alpha(\bar{\mu}-1)}{\alpha+\bar{\mu}-1}} W_t^{\frac{(1-\alpha)(\bar{\mu}-1)}{\bar{\mu}-1+\alpha}} Z_j^{-\frac{\bar{\mu}-1}{\bar{\mu}-1+\alpha}} K_{j,t}^{-\frac{(\bar{\mu}-1)\alpha}{\bar{\mu}-1+\alpha}}.$$

This implies:

$$LS_{j,t} \equiv \frac{W_t L_{j,t}}{P_{j,t} Y_t} = \frac{1-\alpha}{\tilde{\mu}}.$$

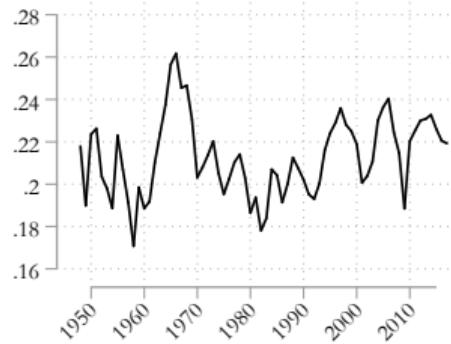
We have:

$$\tilde{\mu} = \alpha(\mu - 1) + 1 = (1 - \tilde{\mu} LS_{j,t})(\mu - 1) + 1,$$

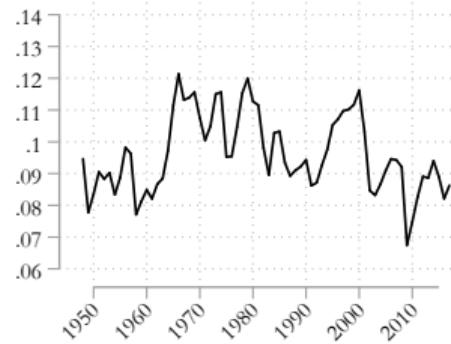
and so, solving for $\tilde{\mu}$:

$$\tilde{\mu} = \frac{\mu}{\mu LS_{j,t} + (1 - LS_{j,t})}.$$

Returns to physical capital, ROA₁



Physical investment rate, i₁



Intangible investment rate, i₂



Ratio of intangible to physical capital, S



Average Tobin's Q of physical capital, Q₁

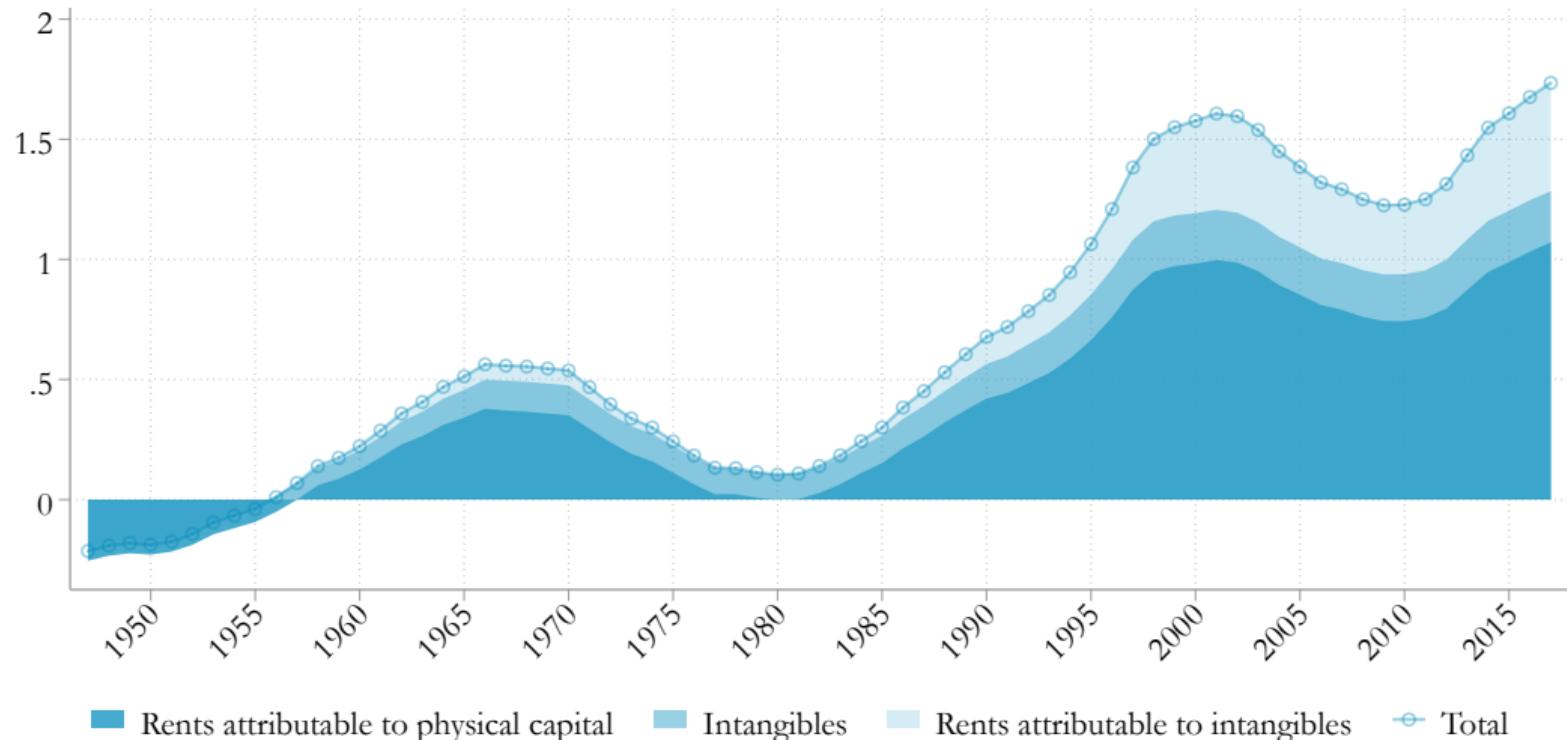


Growth rate of total capital stock, g



The investment gap in the non-financial sector

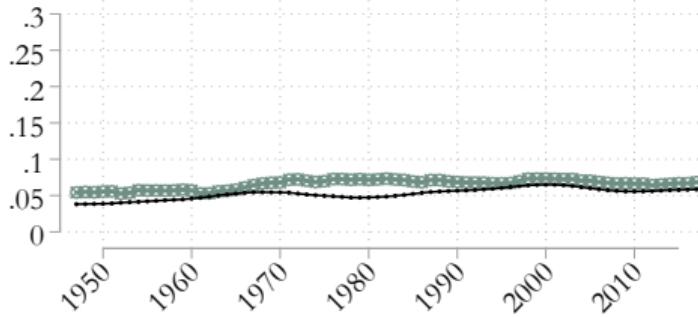
(adj. costs > 0)



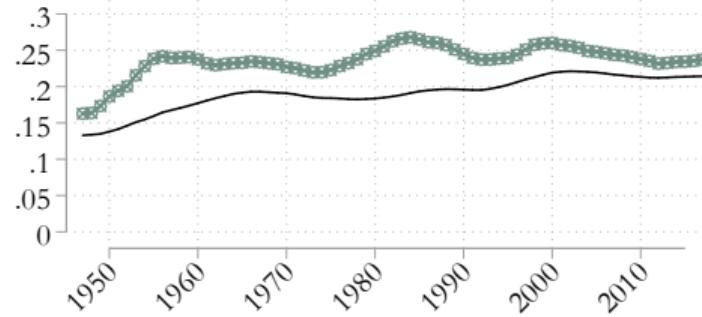
■ Rents attributable to physical capital ■ Intangibles ■ Rents attributable to intangibles ■ Total

$$\gamma_1 = 3, \quad \gamma_2 = 12 \quad (\text{Belo et al., 2019})$$

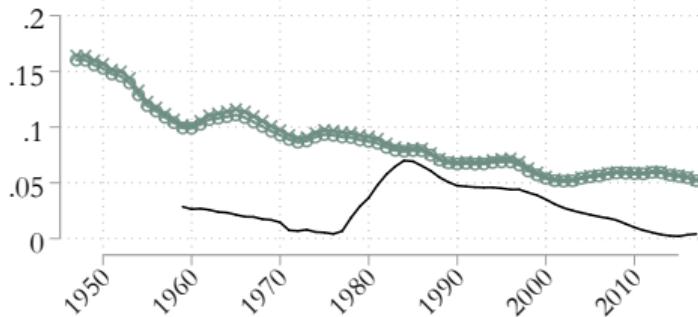
Implied depreciation rate, physical capital



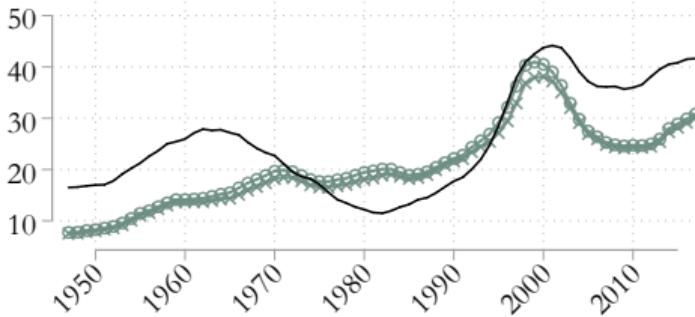
Implied depreciation rate, intangible capital



Implied discount rate



Implied PD ratio



★ zero adjustment costs

● positive adjustment costs

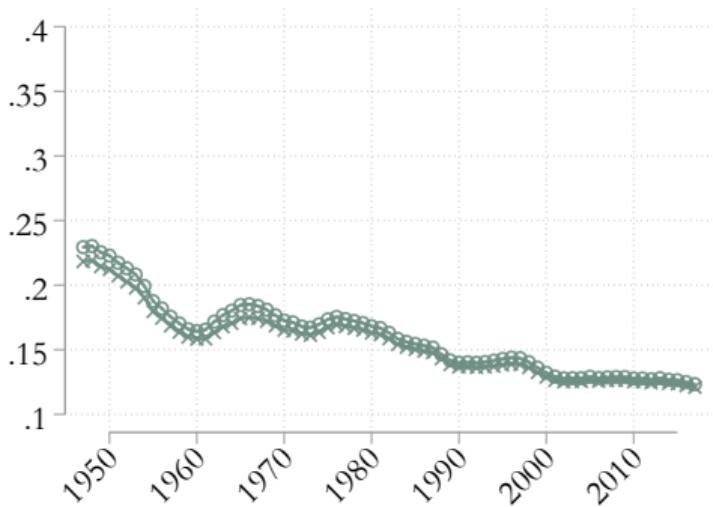
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User costs

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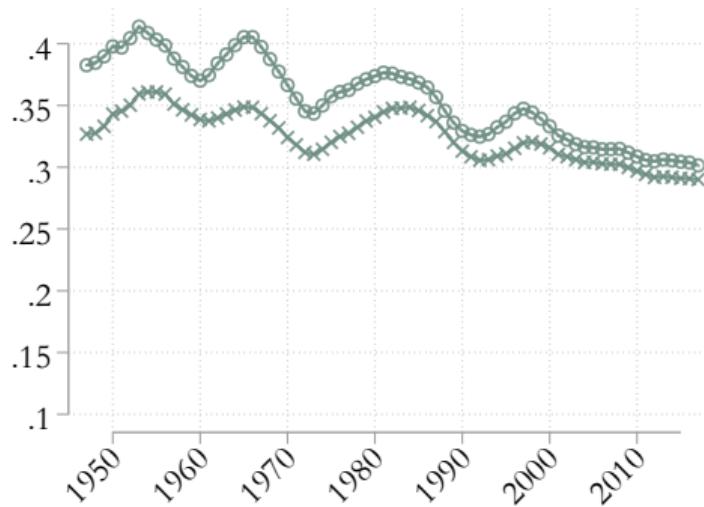
$$R_n = r + \delta_n + \gamma_n rg$$

Physical capital



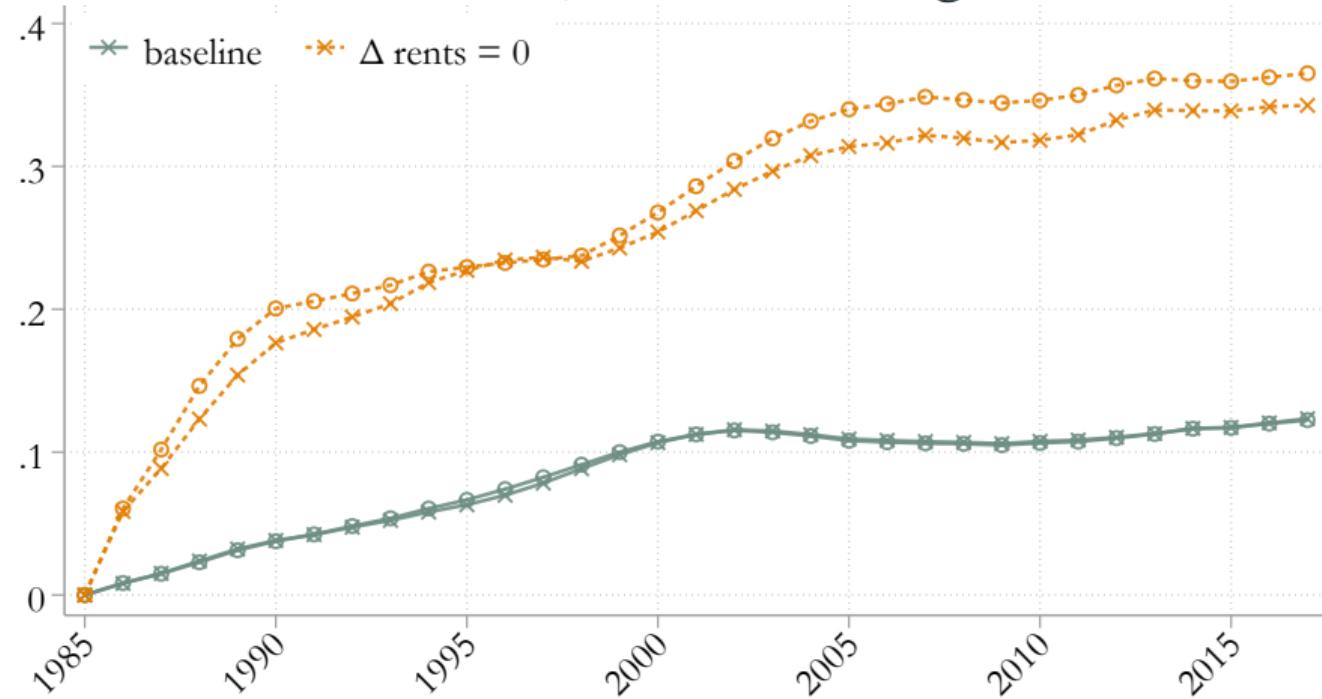
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Intangible capital



- * zero adjustment costs
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Counterfactual: intan share η with no change in rents



$S_t^{cf} = (K_{2,t}/K_{1,t})^{cf}$: 9% → 39%, vs. 9% → 17% in the R&D data

Robustness

Robustness

- Adjustment costs $\gamma_1 \in [0, 10]$ and $\gamma_2 \in [0, 20]$

Ajdustment costs

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$\gamma_1 = \gamma_2 = 0$: lowest contribution of intan to $Q_1 - q_1$; highest rents

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- Alternative measure of net claims on NFCB sector

Using net NFCB claims

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lower Q_1 ;

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lower Q_1 ; lower rents; same contribution of intan to $Q_1 - q_1$

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- Match PD ratio $= (r - g)^{-1}$ instead of Q_1

Matching PD ratio

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- Implications for the labor share

Labor share

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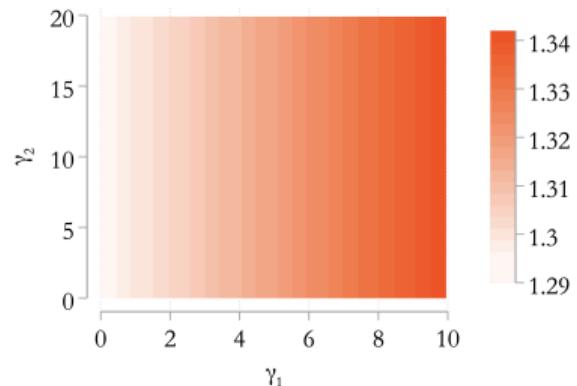
- Implications for the labor share

Labor share

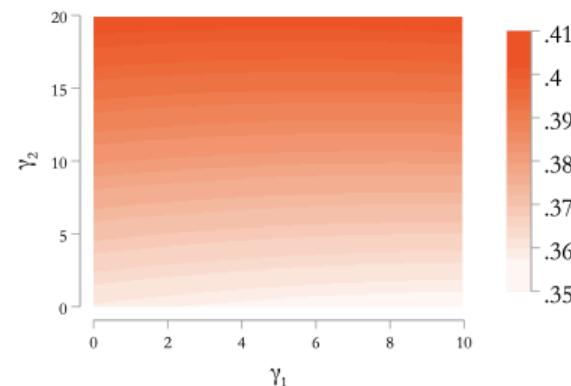
implied labor share $0.69 \rightarrow 0.64$, but earlier than in the data

Back

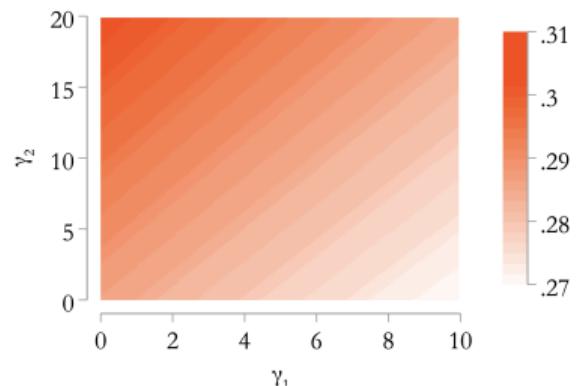
1985-2015 change in Q_1-q_1



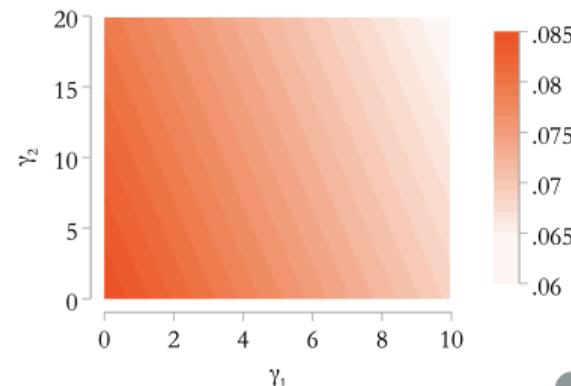
2015 contribution of intangibles to Q_1-q_1



2015 intangible share

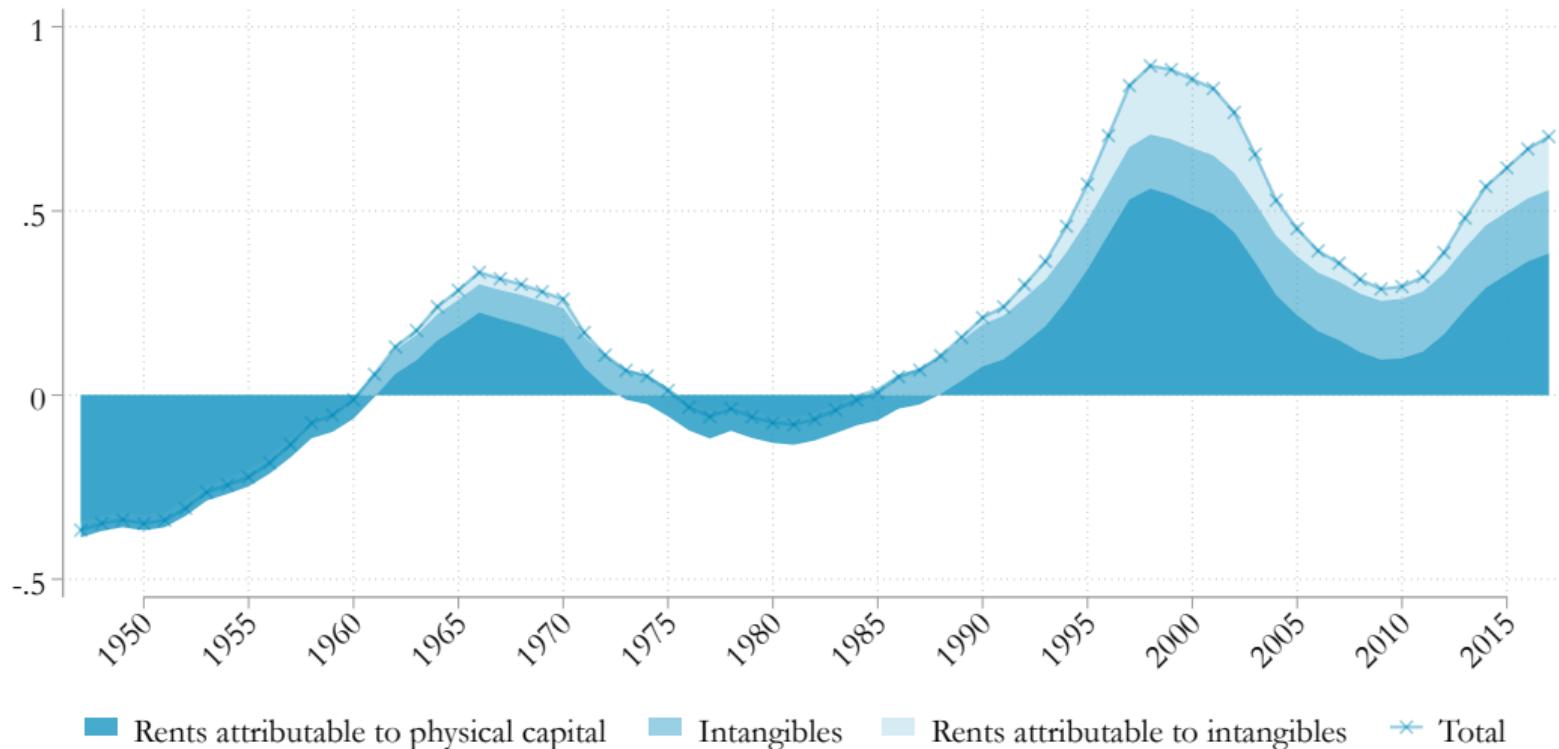


2015 rents as a fraction of value added



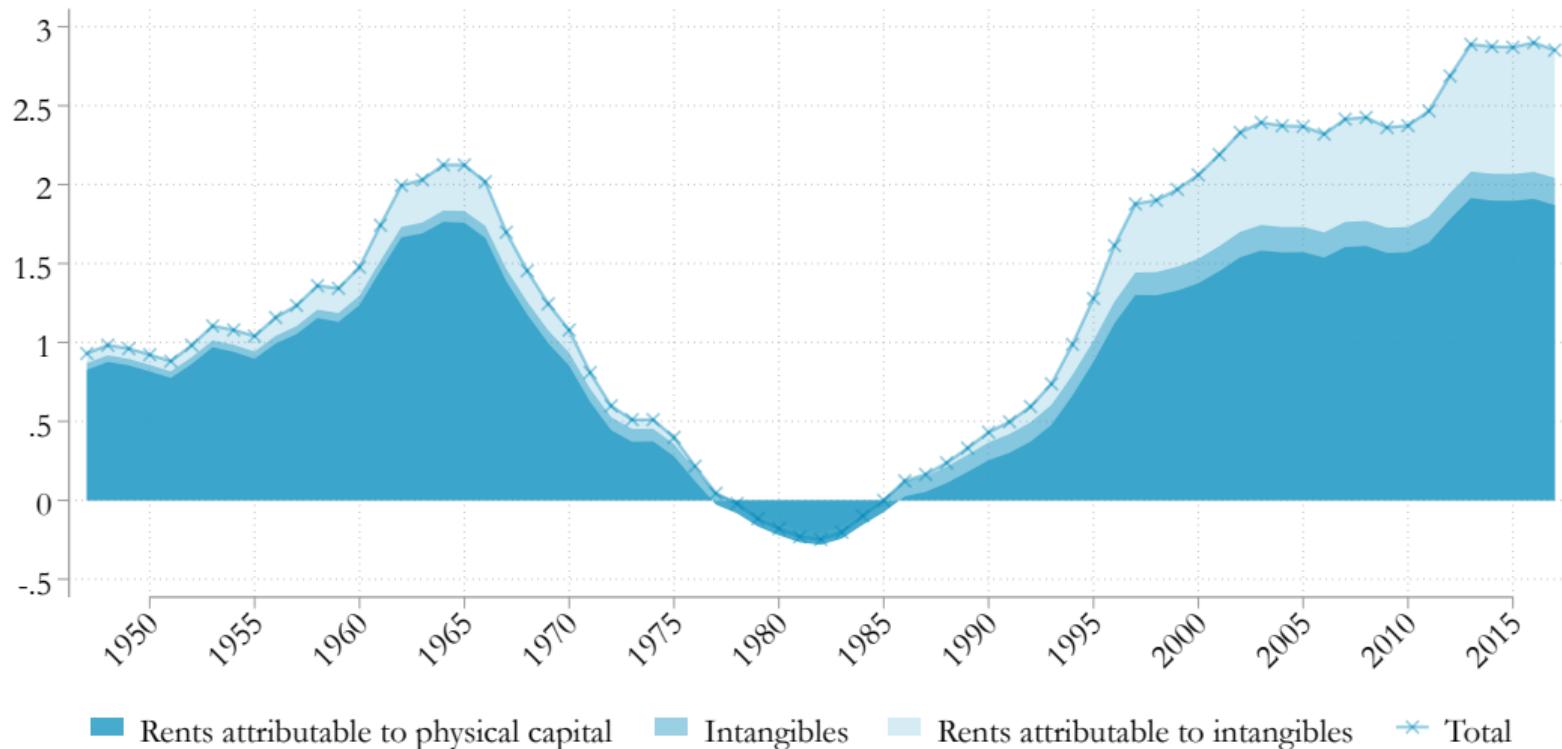
Robustness

Netting out all financial assets (Hall, 2001)



Robustness

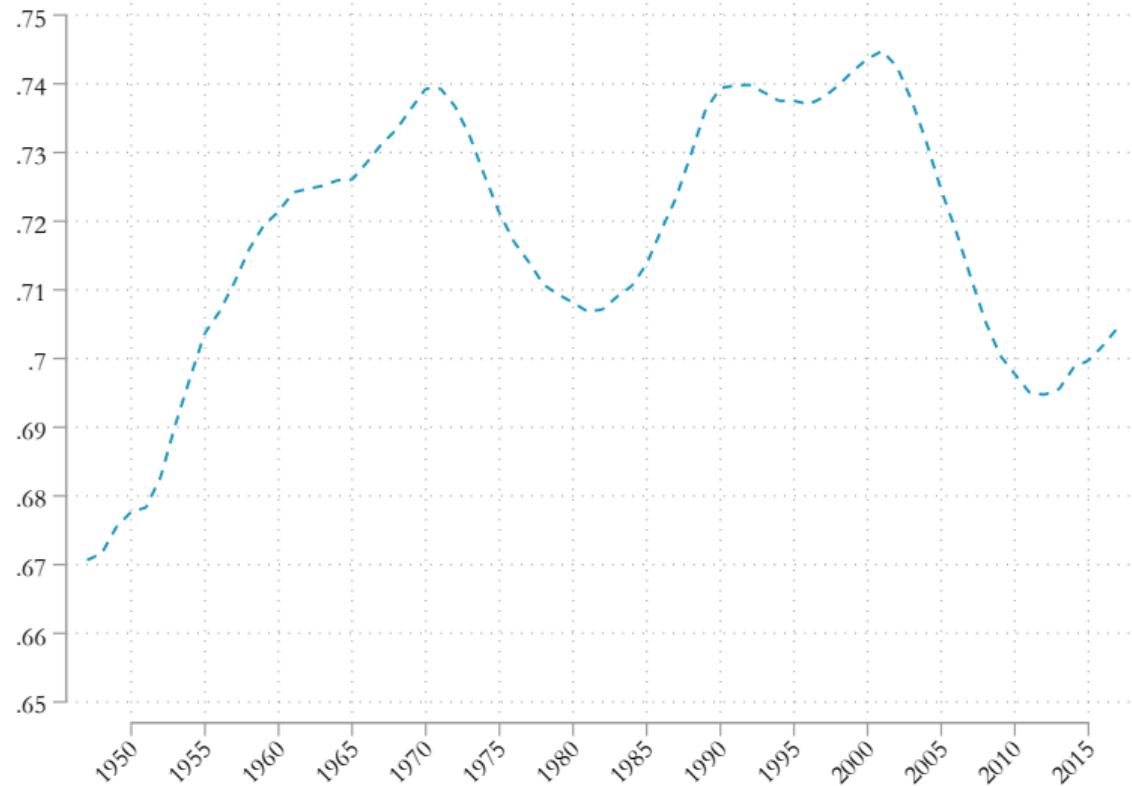
Matching the PD ratio



Robustness

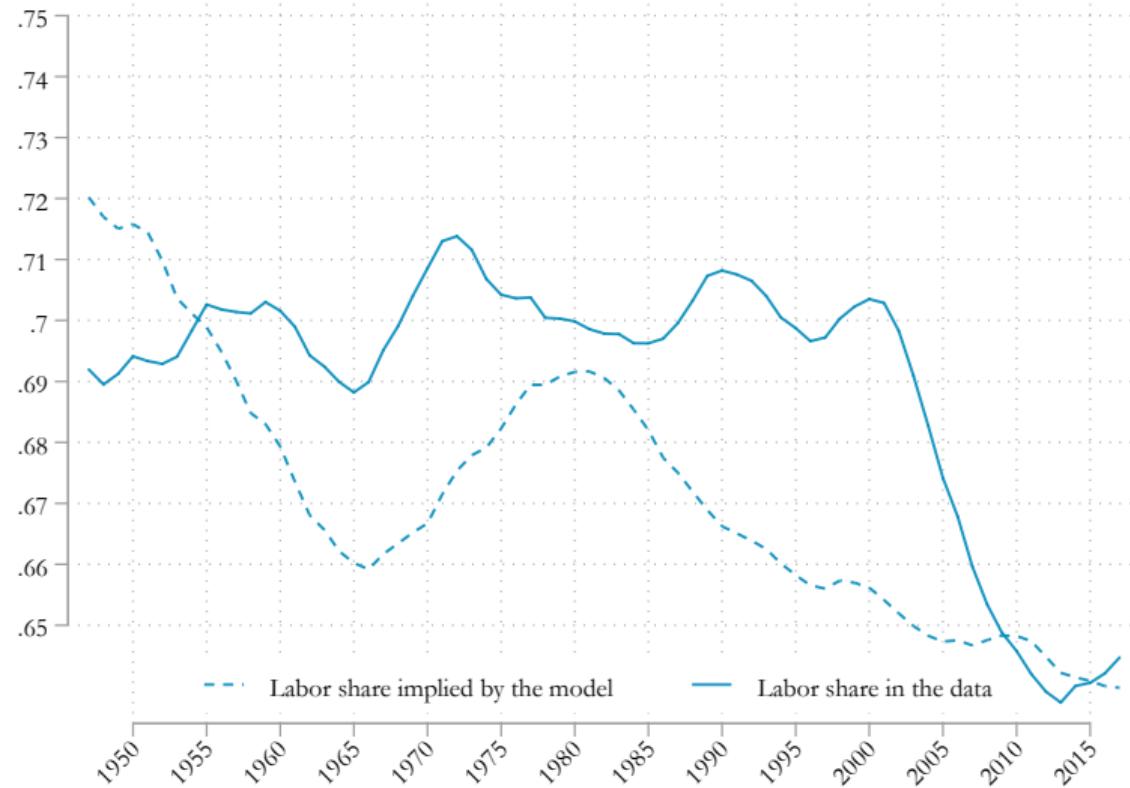
Implications for the labor share (1/2)

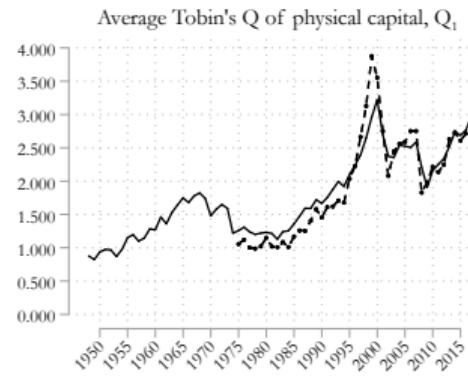
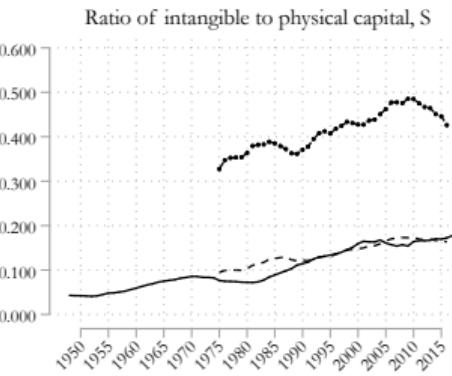
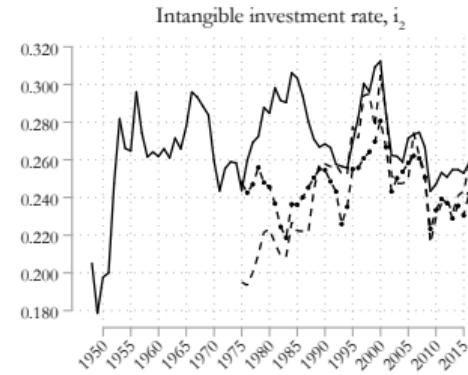
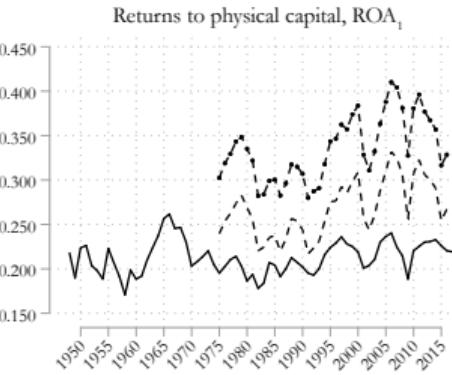
Value of $1-\alpha$ implied by the model when matching the labor share



Implications for the labor share (2/2)

Value of the labor share implied by the model when setting $1-\alpha = 0.7$





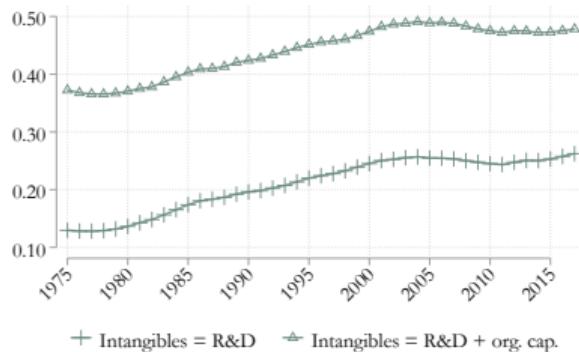
--- Compustat NF, intangibles = R&D

- ·- Compustat NF, intan = R&D + organization capital

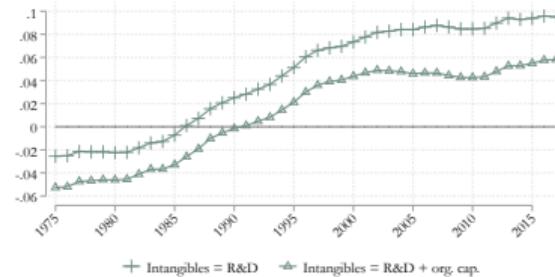
— NFCB

Data sources

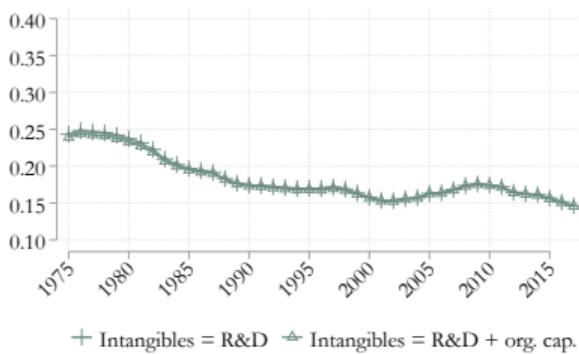
Intangible share



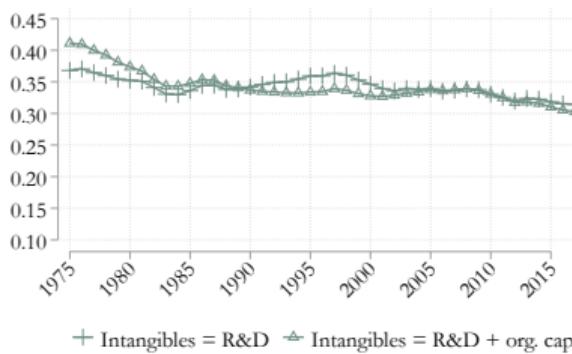
Rents as a fraction of value added



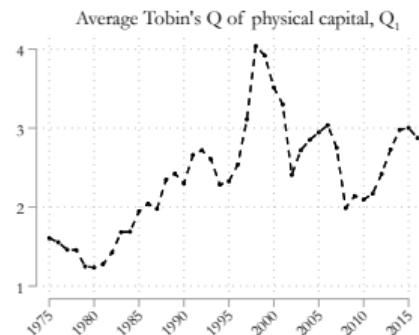
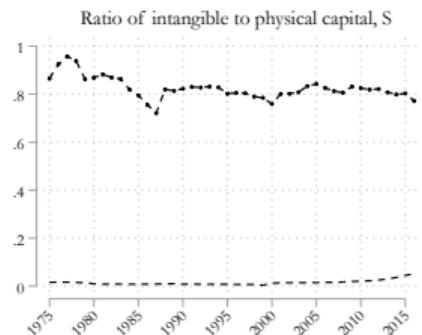
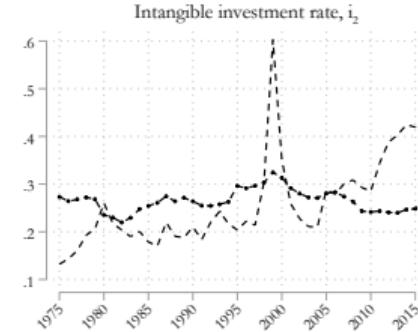
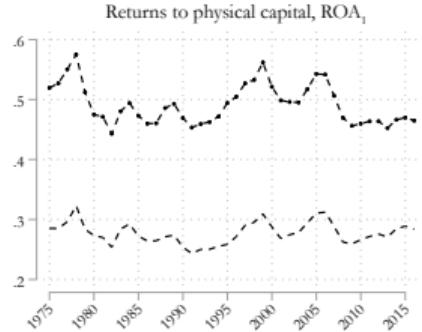
User cost of physical capital



User cost of intangible capital



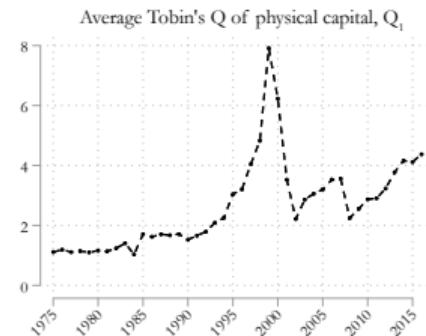
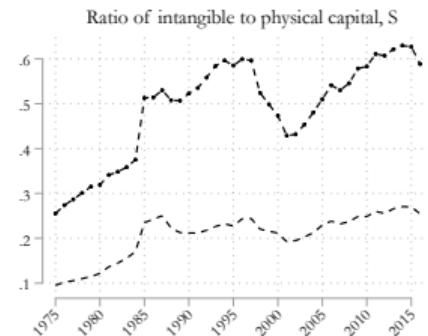
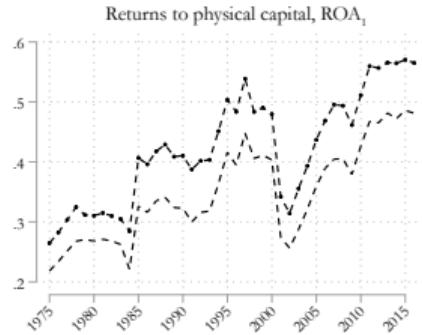
Consumer sector



--- Consumer sector, intangibles = R&D

Consumer sector, intangibles = R&D + organization capital

High-tech sector



••• High-tech sector, intangibles = R&D

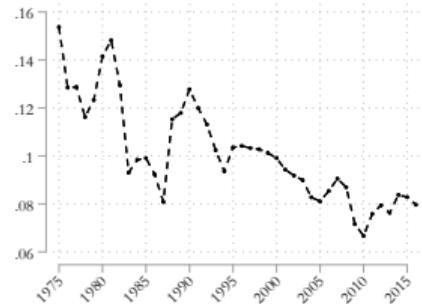
High-tech sector, intangibles = R&D + organization capital

Healthcare sector

Returns to physical capital, ROA_1



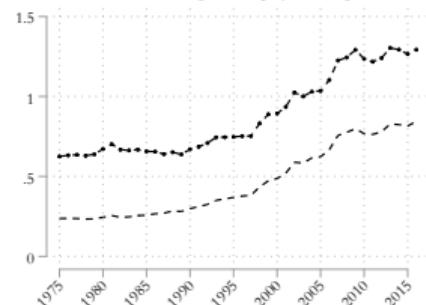
Physical investment rate, i_1



Intangible investment rate, i_2



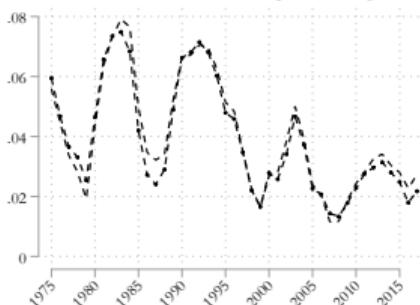
Ratio of intangible to physical capital, S



Average Tobin's Q of physical capital, Q_1



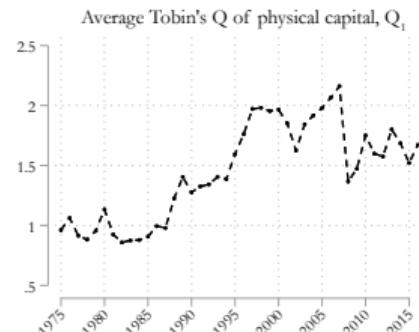
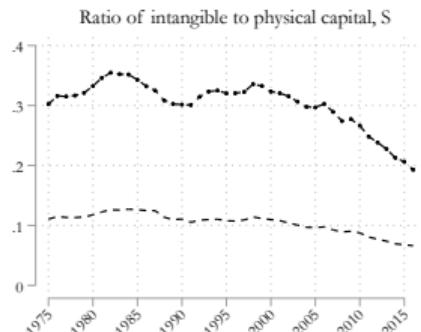
Growth rate of total capital stock, g



—●— Healthcare sector, intangibles = R&D

Healthcare sector, intangibles = R&D + organization capital

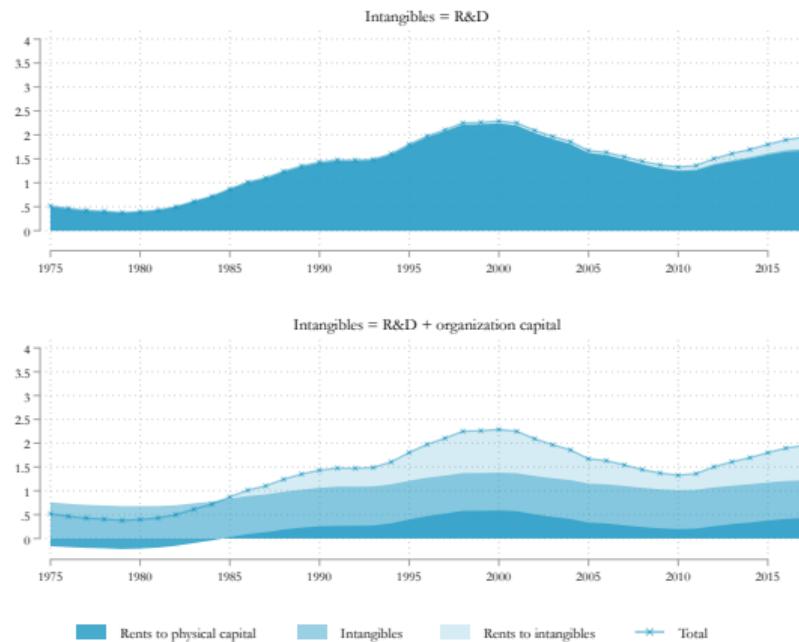
Manufacturing sector



--- Manufacturing sector, intangibles = R&D

Manufacturing sector, intangibles = R&D + organization capital

The consumer sector: intangibles or rents?



- organization capital: no discernible *trend*, but high *level*
- still, including organization capital \implies smaller markup trend after 1985

Rents vs. intangibles by sector

	Consumer	High-tech	Healthcare	Manufacturing
Intan share (η ; 2015)	0.11	0.39	0.57	0.12
Rents/v.a. (s ; 2015)	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.02

- Intangibles = R&D

Rents vs. intangibles by sector

	Consumer	High-tech	Healthcare	Manufacturing
Intan share (η ; 2015)	0.63	0.56	0.69	0.30
Rents/v.a. (s ; 2015)	0.03	0.09	0.07	0.02

- Intangibles = R&D + org. cap.