Credit Allocation and Macroeconomic Fluctuations

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MIT

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Motivation

Rapid credit expansions are often, *but not always*, followed by economic downturns (Schularick-Taylor, 2012; Mian et al. 2017; Greenwood et al., 2020)
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But how credit interacts with business cycles remains poorly understood

- Why do some credit expansions end badly, while others are linked to growth spurts?
- How can we tell apart “good” from “bad” booms (Gorton & Ordoñez, 2020)?
- Does it matter who gets the borrowed money during credit booms?
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Rapid credit expansions are often, *but not always*, followed by economic downturns (Schularick-Taylor, 2012; Mian et al. 2017; Greenwood et al., 2020)

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- How can we tell apart “good” from “bad” booms (Gorton & Ordoñez, 2020)?
- Does it matter who gets the borrowed money during credit booms?

This paper: role of sectoral allocation of credit for understanding linkages between credit booms, macroeconomic fluctuations, and financial crises
Why focus on the allocation of credit across sectors?

Motivated by models of credit cycles with sectoral heterogeneity (e.g. Schneider-Tornell, 2004)

• Main distinction: tradable (T) vs. non-tradable (NT) and household sectors
• Key frictions: (1) sensitivity to credit supply shocks; (2) sensitivity to household demand
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Channels linking NT and HH credit to economic downturns
• Fueling unsustainable demand booms (e.g. Schmitt-Grohé-Uribe, 2016; Mian-Sufi-Verner, 2020)
• Contributing to financial fragility (e.g. Schneider-Tornell, 2004; Kalantzis, 2015)
• Contributing to intersectoral misallocation (e.g. Reis, 2013; Benigno-Fornaro, 2014)
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Yet prominent theories of credit cycles do not emphasize borrower heterogeneity (e.g. Brunnermeier-Sannikov, 2014; Bordalo-Gennaioli-Shleifer, 2016)
- Whether the allocation of credit matters empirically is an open question
To test for a role of sectoral credit allocation, we construct a new cross-country panel database from more than 600 individual sources, many newly digitized.

### Comparison with Existing Data Sources on Private Credit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Start</th>
<th>Countries</th>
<th>Sectors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIS</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>43</td>
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<td>IMF GDD</td>
<td>1950</td>
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We use these data to study the link between sectoral credit, business cycles, and crises.
Main results

1. **Stark differences in macro outcomes across sectoral credit expansions**
   - Credit to non-tradable and household sectors predict slower medium-run growth
   - Credit to tradable sector predicts stable or even stronger growth
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   • Credit to non-tradable and household sectors predict slower medium-run growth
   • Credit to tradable sector predicts stable or even stronger growth

2. Mechanisms consistent with role of NT and HH credit in multi-sector credit cycle models
   • NT and HH credit predict demand booms and busts
   • NT and HH credit predict higher risk of financial crises
   • NT and HH credit predict lower productivity growth, could suggest intersectoral misallocation
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Takeaway: whether credit booms are “good” or “bad” depends on what credit is used for
   - Distinguishing varieties of firm credit expansions is important
A new database on sectoral credit

> 600 sources, $\frac{1}{3}$ newly digitized
Mainly: statistical yearbooks, central banks

Previously unpublished data
provided by central banks and regulators

Systematic coding of classification changes
help from 150 employees of national authorities

Extensive documentation
data appendix, spreadsheets, code routines

Sectoral credit database
116 countries
1940-2014
Sector classification: ISIC Rev. 4
Covers all domestic credit

Forthcoming
More countries
Update until 2021
Website to explore data
Data and code
**New facts about allocation of credit**

**(a) Booming household, stalling firm credit**

**Private credit in % of GDP**

- Household credit
- Financial sector credit
- Non-financial corporate credit

*Sample: 51 advanced and 46 emerging economies.*
New facts about allocation of credit

(a) Booming household, stalling firm credit

Private credit in % of GDP
- Household credit
- Financial sector credit
- Non-financial corporate credit

Sample: 51 advanced and 46 emerging economies.

(b) Structural change in corporate credit

Sector share % of corporate credit
- Other sectors
- Transport/Communication
- Trade, Accomm., Food
- Construction/RE
- Manufacturing/Mining
- Agriculture

Sample: 35 advanced economies.
The 1980s credit boom in Japan

Similar pattern across most credit booms and crises in advanced and emerging economies
Empirical framework

Credit variables

• Tradable sector: agriculture; mining; manufacturing
• Non-tradable sector: construction/real estate; retail and wholesale trade/accom./food; transport/comm.
• Households
Empirical framework

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What are key differences between T and NT sectors?

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<td><strong>3) Productivity:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Labor productivity</td>
<td>$56,263</td>
<td>$43,406</td>
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<td>Labor productivity growth</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
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Sources: WIOT, Eurostat, various central banks, Mano & Castillo (2015)
Empirical framework

Impulse responses from Jordà (2005) local projections:

$$
\Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{NT} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{T} \Delta d_{it-j}^{T} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{HH} \Delta d_{it-j}^{HH} \\
+ \sum_{j=0}^{J} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 10 \quad J = 5
$$
Empirical framework

Impulse responses from Jordà (2005) local projections:

\[ \Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha^h_{it} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta^{NT}_{h,j} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta^T_{h,j} \Delta d_{it-j}^T + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta^{HH}_{h,j} \Delta d_{it-j}^{HH} \]

\[ + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 10 \quad J = 5 \]

\( y = \text{Log(real GDP)} \)
Empirical framework

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Country fixed effects
Empirical framework

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$$+ \sum_{j=0}^{J} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 10 \quad J = 5$$

$$d^{NT} = \text{Credit to the non-tradable sector / GDP}$$
Empirical framework

Impulse responses from Jordà (2005) local projections:

\[
\Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{NT} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{T} \Delta d_{it-j}^{T} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{HH} \Delta d_{it-j}^{HH} \\
+ \sum_{j=0}^{J} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{i, t-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 10 \quad J = 5
\]

\( d^T \) = Credit to the tradable sector / GDP
Empirical framework

Impulse responses from Jordà (2005) local projections:

\[ \Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha^h_i + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{NT} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{T} \Delta d_{it-j}^{T} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{HH} \Delta d_{it-j}^{HH} \]

\[ + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 10 \quad J = 5 \]

\[ d^{HH} = \text{Credit to households / GDP} \]
Empirical framework

Impulse responses from Jordà (2005) local projections:

\[
\Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{NT} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{T} \Delta d_{it-j}^{T} + \sum_{j=0}^{J} \beta_{h,j}^{HH} \Delta d_{it-j}^{HH} \\
+ \sum_{j=0}^{J} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, ..., 10 \quad J = 5
\]

Prediction horizon: 10 years
Empirical framework

Impulse responses from Jordà (2005) local projections:

\[
\Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} \beta_{h,j}^{NT} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} \beta_{h,j}^{T} \Delta d_{it-j}^{T} + \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} \beta_{h,j}^{HH} \Delta d_{it-j}^{HH} \\
+ \sum_{j=0}^{J-1} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 10 \quad J = 5
\]

Lag length: 5 years
Empirical framework

Impulse responses from Jordà (2005) local projections:

\[
\Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \sum_{j=0}^J \beta_{h,j}^{NT} \Delta d_{iT-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^J \beta_{h,j}^{T} \Delta d_{iT-j}^T + \sum_{j=0}^J \beta_{h,j}^{HH} \Delta d_{iT-j}^{HH} \\
+ \sum_{j=0}^J \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 10 \quad J = 5
\]

Inference: Driscoll-Kraay or two-way clustered standard errors (country and year)

Note on interpretation: Impulse responses ≠ causal effects

• Conditional on seeing a credit expansion, what happens to GDP (on average)?
Real GDP and T vs. NT sector firm credit expansions

\[ \Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha^h_{i} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta^N_{h,j} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta^T_{h,j} \Delta d_{it-j}^{T} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h} \]

In the paper, we show these patterns are robust and hold when controlling for output shares.
Similar when controlling for household debt expansion

\[ \Delta_h y_{it+h} = \alpha^h_i + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta^{NT}_{h,j} \Delta d^{NT}_{it-j} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta^{T}_{h,j} \Delta d^{T}_{it-j} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta^{HH}_{h,j} \Delta d^{HH}_{it-j} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h} \]
Unemployment spikes following NT credit expansions

\[ \Delta_n y_{it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta_{h,j}^{NT} \Delta d_{it-j}^{NT} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta_{h,j}^{T} \Delta d_{it-j}^{T} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \beta_{h,j}^{HH} \Delta d_{it-j}^{HH} + \sum_{j=0}^{5} \gamma_{h,j} \Delta y_{it-j} + \epsilon_{it+h} \]
Splitting firm credit along sector characteristics

\[
\Delta_3 y_{it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \beta_h^{HIGH} \Delta_3 d_{it}^{HIGH} + \beta_h^{LOW} \Delta_3 d_{it}^{LOW} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 0, 1, \ldots, 5
\]

#### Dependent var.: GDP growth over...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( \Delta_3 d_{it}^k )</th>
<th>(1) ( (t-3,t) )</th>
<th>(2) ( (t-2,t+1) )</th>
<th>(3) ( (t-1,t+2) )</th>
<th>(4) ( (t,t+3) )</th>
<th>(5) ( (t+1,t+4) )</th>
<th>(6) ( (t+2,t+5) )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

##### Panel A: Sorting by proximity to household demand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High proximity to HH</th>
<th>( 0.23^* )</th>
<th>(-0.0097 )</th>
<th>(-0.23^* )</th>
<th>(-0.35^{**} )</th>
<th>(-0.39^{**} )</th>
<th>(-0.33^{**} )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(0.100)</td>
<td>(0.11)</td>
<td>(0.10)</td>
<td>(0.083)</td>
<td>(0.075)</td>
<td>(0.077)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low proximity to HH</th>
<th>( 0.39^{**} )</th>
<th>( 0.30^{**} )</th>
<th>( 0.20 )</th>
<th>( 0.19 )</th>
<th>( 0.22 )</th>
<th>( 0.26^* )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(0.094)</td>
<td>(0.11)</td>
<td>(0.13)</td>
<td>(0.14)</td>
<td>(0.15)</td>
<td>(0.12)</td>
<td></td>
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##### Panel B: Sorting by small firm share

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High small firm share</th>
<th>( 0.21^* )</th>
<th>(-0.048 )</th>
<th>(-0.27^* )</th>
<th>(-0.40^{**} )</th>
<th>(-0.43^{**} )</th>
<th>(-0.38^* )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(0.087)</td>
<td>(0.099)</td>
<td>(0.11)</td>
<td>(0.13)</td>
<td>(0.15)</td>
<td>(0.15)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low small firm share</th>
<th>( 0.38^{**} )</th>
<th>( 0.29^* )</th>
<th>( 0.17 )</th>
<th>( 0.16 )</th>
<th>( 0.15 )</th>
<th>( 0.17 )</th>
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Similar patterns when splitting along: export/VA, housing input share, or mortgage debt share
Mechanisms

Recap: potential channels linking NT and HH credit to lower medium-run growth

1. Credit-driven demand boom and bust (e.g. Schmitt-Grohé-Uribe, 2016)
   → NT/HH credit predict reallocation toward NT sector, real exchange rate appreciation

2. Differences in financial fragility across sectors (e.g. Schneider-Tornell, 2004)
   → NT/HH credit predict financial crises, sectoral losses

3. Lower productivity growth through misallocation across sectors (e.g. Reis, 2013)
   → NT/HH credit predict sluggish productivity growth
   → T credit predicts higher productivity growth
1. Sectoral credit and demand booms

\[ \Delta_3 y_{it} = \alpha_i^h + \beta_h^{NT} \Delta_3 d_{it}^{NT} + \beta_h^T \Delta_3 d_{it}^T + \beta_h^{HH} \Delta_3 d_{it}^{HH} + \epsilon_{it} \]

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<tr>
<th>\Delta_3 d_{it}^k</th>
<th>\Delta_3 \ln \left( \frac{E^{NT}}{ET} \right)</th>
<th>\Delta_3 \ln (RER)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tradables</td>
<td>-0.18(0.16)</td>
<td>-0.27(0.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tradables</td>
<td>0.44** (0.073)</td>
<td>0.43+ (0.22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>0.44** (0.048)</td>
<td>0.30* (0.12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>992</td>
<td>1,755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Countries</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R²</td>
<td>0.14</td>
<td>0.03</td>
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- NT and HH sector credit associated with reallocation of real activity towards NT, real appreciation, boom-bust in housing prices: consistent with credit boosting demand (Mian-Sufi-Verner, 2020)
2. Differences in financial fragility across sectors

Established finding: total credit/GDP expands before crises

Note: Crisis dates from BVX (2020) and LV (2018).
2. Differences in financial fragility across sectors

Household debt expands earlier than firm debt

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Firm credit expansions mainly driven by NT sector

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2. Differences in financial fragility across sectors

Firm credit expansions mainly driven by NT sector

![Graph showing change in credit/GDP over years since banking crisis. The graph indicates that firm credit expansions are driven by the non-tradable sector. The note states that crisis dates are from BVX (2020) and LV (2018).]
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Firm credit expansions mainly driven by NT sector

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NT sector expansions not only driven by housing

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T sector credit growth muted before crises

![Graph showing change in credit/GDP over years since banking crisis.](image)

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Note: Crisis dates from BVX (2020) and LV (2018).
2. Differences in financial fragility across sectors

\[ \text{Crisis}_{it \to it+h} = \alpha_i^h + \beta_h^{NT} \Delta_3 d_{it}^{NT} + \beta_h^T \Delta_3 d_{it}^T + \beta_h^{HH} \Delta_3 d_{it}^{HH} + \epsilon_{it+h}, \quad h = 1, \ldots, 4 \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dependent variable: Crisis within...</th>
<th>1 year</th>
<th>2 years</th>
<th>3 years</th>
<th>4 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tradables</td>
<td>-0.006</td>
<td>-0.009</td>
<td>-0.008</td>
<td>-0.005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.004)</td>
<td>(0.005)</td>
<td>(0.005)</td>
<td>(0.005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tradables</td>
<td>0.013**</td>
<td>0.017**</td>
<td>0.017**</td>
<td>0.015**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.003)</td>
<td>(0.002)</td>
<td>(0.003)</td>
<td>(0.004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>0.006*</td>
<td>0.009**</td>
<td>0.011**</td>
<td>0.013**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.003)</td>
<td>(0.003)</td>
<td>(0.003)</td>
<td>(0.003)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>1,527</td>
<td>1,531</td>
<td>1,534</td>
<td>1,536</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Countries</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Crises</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUC</td>
<td>0.74</td>
<td>0.72</td>
<td>0.70</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE of AUC</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 1 SD higher non-tradable sector credit → crisis probability 0.063 pp higher (baseline: ≈0.03)
3. Lower productivity growth

\[ \Delta_3 \text{Labor Productivity}_{it+h} = \alpha_i + \beta^N \Delta_3 d^N_{it} + \beta^T \Delta_3 d^T_{it} + \beta^H \Delta_3 d^H_{it} + \epsilon_{it}, \quad h = 0, \ldots, 5 \]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[\Delta_3 d^k_{it}]</th>
<th>(1) [t-3,t]</th>
<th>(2) [t-2,t+1]</th>
<th>(3) [t-1,t+2]</th>
<th>(4) [t,t+3]</th>
<th>(5) [t+1,t+4]</th>
<th>(6) [t+2,t+5]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tradables</td>
<td>0.188*</td>
<td>0.177*</td>
<td>0.216*</td>
<td>0.219*</td>
<td>0.183</td>
<td>0.141</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.094)</td>
<td>(0.075)</td>
<td>(0.088)</td>
<td>(0.119)</td>
<td>(0.148)</td>
<td>(0.169)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-tradables</td>
<td>0.098</td>
<td>-0.049</td>
<td>-0.162*</td>
<td>-0.146*</td>
<td>-0.073</td>
<td>0.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.141)</td>
<td>(0.127)</td>
<td>(0.090)</td>
<td>(0.075)</td>
<td>(0.057)</td>
<td>(0.059)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>-0.137**</td>
<td>-0.158*</td>
<td>-0.191**</td>
<td>-0.229**</td>
<td>-0.291**</td>
<td>-0.302**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(0.064)</td>
<td>(0.066)</td>
<td>(0.055)</td>
<td>(0.061)</td>
<td>(0.074)</td>
<td>(0.067)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observations</td>
<td>1,423</td>
<td>1,423</td>
<td>1,423</td>
<td>1,423</td>
<td>1,423</td>
<td>1,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Countries</td>
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<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R^2</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 1 SD higher NT credit growth → 0.5% lower productivity growth, similar for estimated TFP growth
- Could reflect misallocation of resources across sectors (e.g. Reis, 2013; Benigno-Fornaro, 2014)
Conclusion

Sectoral allocation of credit matters for understanding macro-financial linkages

- Credit to non-tradable/household sector $\rightarrow$ lower growth
- Credit to tradable sectors $\rightarrow$ stable/higher growth
- Channels: (1) credit-driven demand boom and bust; (2) financial fragility; (3) lower productivity
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New perspective on “finance-growth” and “credit booms gone bust” views

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Implications

- Heterogeneity in firm credit matters for understanding credit cycles
- Housing and household debt important but not the entire story; other firm sectors also important
- Taken at face value suggests role for stronger sectoral regulations (caveats apply)
Credit Allocation and Macroeconomic Fluctuations

Karsten Müller
NUS Business School

Emil Verner
MIT

Cleveland Fed-OFR 2021 Financial Stability Conference
17 November 2021