

# Testing Heterogeneous Currency Exchange Rate Pass-through: Evidence from Firm-Level Cotton Yarn Export Data

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“Internationalization of firms in the industry life cycle”

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## 1-1. Introduction: “Pass-through 101”

- ❑ Currency exchange rate  $\Rightarrow$  export price measured in  $X$  (e.g., *yen*)

E.g.,  $\log(\text{yen export price}) = \alpha + \boxed{\beta} \log(\text{yen/USD}) + \varepsilon$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\beta} \doteq 0$ : Complete pass-through

$\Rightarrow \boxed{\beta} \doteq 1$ : No pass-through

- ❑ “Incomplete” pass-through:  $\boxed{\beta} \neq 0$

## 1-2. Introduction: Some backgrounds

- Well known “**incomplete**” pass-through phenomenon
  - ⇒ Exactly what?
- Potentially many firm-level “**heterogeneity**”
  - Price level, market share, product quality, import intensity & market share
    - ⇒ Selected factors **separately** examined?
- Less than “**ideal**” data for examining specific mechanisms
  - Aggregate data or unit value
    - ⇒ Still coarse & not interacted w/ firm-level heterogeneity?

## 2. This paper

### □ Ideal data

- Narrowly defined & differentiated product
- Cotton yarn in a specific count: “16-bante”
  - ⇒ Even better than Fitzgerald & Haller (2014): SIC 8 digit-level  
(E.g., 22810302: COTTON YARN, SPUN)

- High frequency (monthly) firm-level export price data
- Exogenous currency exchange rate dynamics

### □ Pinning down “financial cost” channel with controlling for a comprehensive list of other firm attributes

↔ Historical but unparalleled data (Braguinsky et al. AER 2015)

### 3. Key takeaways

- Low unconditional pass-through rate ( $\Leftrightarrow$ Fitzgerald & Haller 2014)
  - Pass-through depends on...
    - TFP, firm size, import intensity, labor skill ( $\Leftrightarrow$ Product quality), as in the extant studies
  - Pass-through also depends on “***financial cost***” factor ...
    - Proxied for by Inventory turnover
- ⇒ **First analysis** employing **ideal price data** to pin down **financial cost factor** affecting pass-through with controlling for a list of comprehensive firm attributes

## 4-1. Literature: “Mark-up” channel

- Larger  $\beta$  when...
  - Lower price ( $\leftrightarrow$  higher TFP: Melitz & Ottaviano *RES* 2008; Berman et al. *QJE* 2012)
  - Higher market share (Atkeson & Burstein *AER* 2008)
  - Higher product quality (Baldwin & Harrigan *AEJ-Micro* 2011)
- ← Lower demand elasticity
  - $\Leftrightarrow$  Higher **mark-up** elasticity  $\Leftrightarrow$  Lower pass-through

## 4-2. Literature: “Marginal cost” channel

- Larger  $\beta$  when...
  - Higher import intensity of intermediate goods (Amiti et al. *AER* 2014)
  - Central product (Chatterjee et al. *AEJ-Policy* 2013)
  - Higher local distribution cost share (Corsetti & Dedola *JIE* 2005)
  - Higher productivity (Berman et al. *QJE* 2012)

← Higher **marginal cost** elasticity

- $\Leftrightarrow$  Higher elasticity of home currency-measured price
- $\Leftrightarrow$  Lower pass-through

## 4-3. Literature: Some new angles...

- Employ some of them jointly...
  - Amiti, et al. (*AER* 2014): (i) Firms w/ larger market share and/or (ii) firms w/ higher import intensity shows larger mark-up dynamics ( $\Leftrightarrow$  lower pass-through)

- Attempting to claim something new...
  - Strasser (*JME* 2013): Financially constrained firms pass-through the change in exchange rate more

← Gopinath (*JME* 2013): “important to control for other firm level factors before attributing causation to financial friction”

## 5-1. Data: Firm-month export price

- Hand-collected from industry report (*Geppo*: 大日本紡績連合会月報)
- Monthly frequency firm-level export price data
- 1897/5～1898/6, 1901/10, 1902/4～1903/12, 1911/6～1914/12
  - ⇒ Note: The gold standard was introduced in 1897
  - ⇒ Note: Periods associated with major events (e.g., The Boxer Rebellion, Japan-Russo war) are excluded
- Firm ID, count-level (e.g., 16, 20, etc.) export price
  - For each firm × count, we have max (highest reported prices in each month), min (lowest in each month), avr (average price in each month)
  - Mainly 16 and 20 count data are available (also 10, 12, and 14)
  - Price information from China and Indian producers are also available
- Domestic price (製糸十六番手一梱平均代価)
- Export quantity (16 and 20 count: converted to 梱数)
- Many missing data on export quantity (even when prices are reported)
- Mumbai price is also partially available

Note: 22, 23, 24, 30, 32, 40, 41, 42, 60, and 80 counts were actually produced

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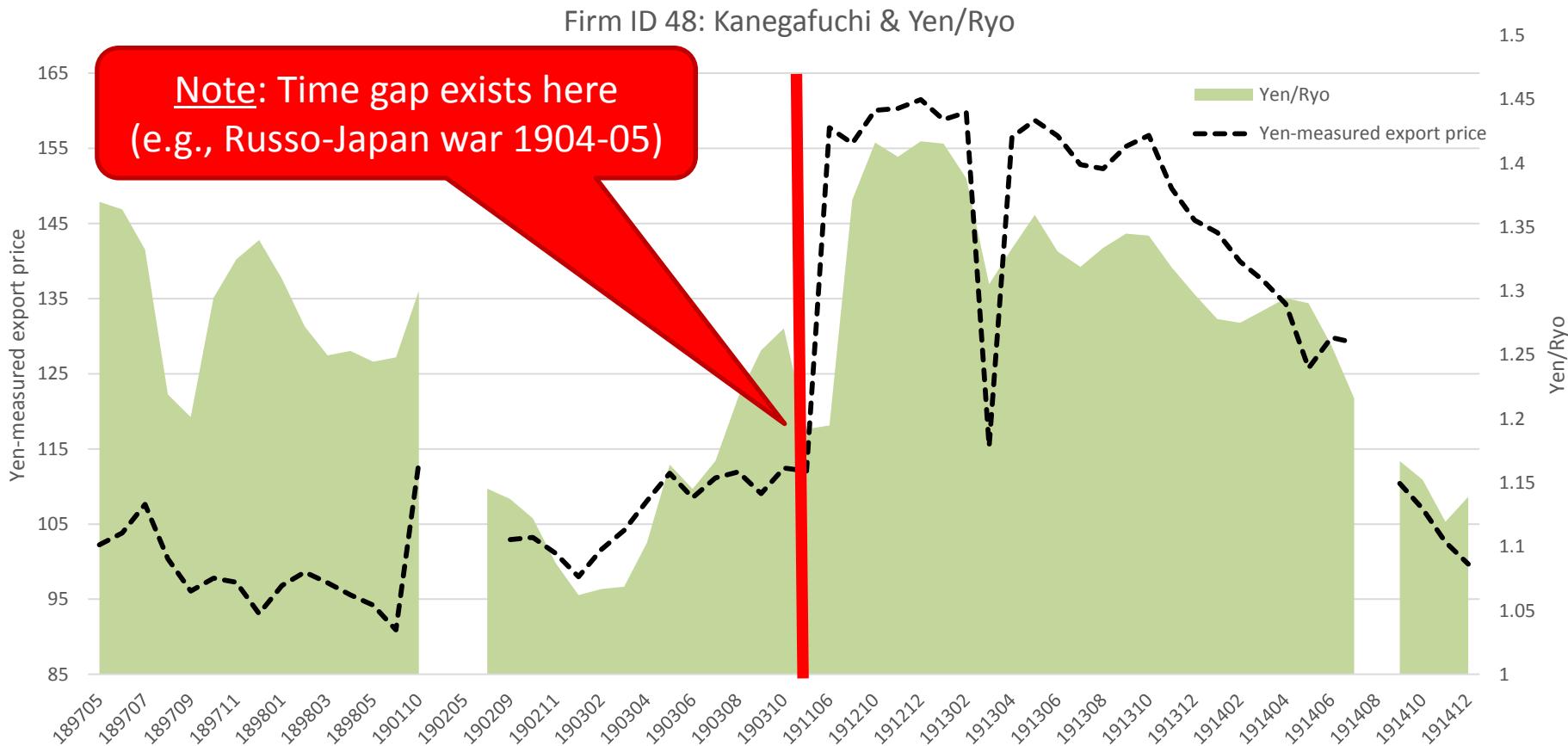
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## 5-2. Data: Currency exchange rate

- Data book of Japanese economic statistic (日本経済統計総観)
- Monthly frequency *yen/ryo*(Chinese currency) exchange rate
  - Highest, lowest, average (used in our analysis) for each month



## 5-3. Data: Firm characteristics

### □ Firm characteristics

- *Geppo* & financial statement (考課状)
- Items included in the data
  - Output: Measured in physical units for two machinery (ring & mule)
  - Capital: Two-types of machinery, operating hours & days, power source
  - Labor: Male & female w/ wage information
  - Intermediate good: Cotton & coal
  - Cotton sources: Japan, China, India, US, HK, Vietnam, Egypt, others
  - Product composition: Share of 16 & 20 counts out of total production
  - Location: All the plants (with detailed information)
  - Almost all the P/L & B/S items (e.g., inventory, sales)
  - Firm age, board member, managers' attributes (e.g., education), plant-level attributes, entry/exit (firm & plant) ⇒ Planning to use...

Note: Production data are handled to compute TFPQ by following Braguinsky et al. (AER 2015)

⇒ At most, 32 firms × 57months (max #obs = 517 in the current analysis)

## 5-4. Data: Summary stat (a) - (c)

Variable	Definition	Obs	Mean	Std. Dev	Min	Max
Sample (a): Sample for Table 2						
P	Natural logarithm of Yen(i.e., home currency)-measured 16-bante cotton exported	436	4.67	0.16	4.05	5.08
ER	Exchange rate measured as units of yen per one ryo	436	0.21	0.08	0.06	0.35
TFP	Firm-level total factor productivity obtained from fixed-effect panel estimation	436	0.00	0.13	-0.36	0.45
Sample(b): Sample for Table 3						
P	Natural logarithm of Yen(i.e., home currency)-measured 16-bante cotton exported	353	4.67	0.16	4.46	5.08
ER	Exchange rate measured as units of yen per one ryo	353	0.22	0.07	0.06	0.35
TFP	Firm-level total factor productivity obtained from system GMM estimation	353	0.00	0.12	-0.33	0.34
Sample(c): Sample for Table 4						
P	Natural logarithm of Yen(i.e., home currency)-measured 16-bante cotton exported	353	4.67	0.16	4.46	5.08
ER	Exchange rate measured as units of yen per one ryo	353	0.22	0.07	0.06	0.35
TFP	Firm-level total factor productivity obtained from fixed-effect panel estimation	353	0.01	0.13	-0.33	0.45
WAGE	Natural logarithm of female worker wage	353	0.00	0.29	-0.49	0.58
SIZE	Natural logarithm of output	353	0.06	1.14	-2.48	2.68

Note: All the variables other than IMPORT is demeaned

# 5-5. Data: Summary stat (d)

Sample(d): Sample for Table 5

<i>P</i>	Natural logarithm of Yen(i.e., home currency)-measured 16-bante cotton exported	189	4.68	0.17	4.51	5.08
<i>ER</i>	Exchange rate measured as units of yen per one ryo	189	0.21	0.07	0.06	0.35
<i>TFP</i>	Firm-level total factor productivity obtained from fixed-effect panel estimation	189	0.02	0.13	-0.31	0.43
<i>WAGE</i>	Natural logarithm of female worker wage	189	0.06	0.28	-0.43	0.53
<i>SIZE</i>	Natural logarithm of output	189	0.26	1.23	-2.48	2.68
<i>IMPORT</i>	Import from Ryo export source countries / Import from all the souces (Note: this variable is time-invariant and measured as of the initial appearance in the data)	189	4.46	20.60	-39.67	39.23
<i>INVENTORY</i>	(Inventory + Account receivable) / Sales	189	-0.01	0.08	-0.09	0.26
<i>RATE</i>	BOJ's discount rate	189	-0.15	0.64	-1.05	1.14
<i>SHARE</i>	Output share of 16 count cotton yarn	189	0.02	0.24	-0.42	0.55
<i>CAPUTIL</i>	Capital utilization rate	189	-0.01	0.14	-0.41	0.51

## 6-1. Theoretical underpinning

- The standard expression of export price
  - Gopinath (JME 2013)

$$P_i = \{1 + \mu_i\}MC_i$$

where

$P_i$ : Firm-i's home currency (i.e., *yen*)-measured export price

$\mu_i(P_i/ER, w_i)$ : Mark-up of firm-i where  $w_i$  is firm-i's attributes

$MC_i(ER, z_i)$ : Home currency-measured marginal cost of firm-i  
where  $z_i$  is firm-i's attributes

## 6-1. Theoretical underpinning

- Sketch: General mechanism with local (=Ryo, e.g., distribution) cost

Suppose Yen depreciates

- ⇒ Share of final consumption price depending on export price falls
- ⇒ This reduces the elasticity of demand perceived by exporters to their export price
- ⇒ Induce exporters to increase mark-up on average

## 6-1. Theoretical underpinning

- With heterogeneous variable inventory/financial cost

For firms facing higher variable inventory cost ( $\Leftrightarrow$  higher inventory turnover), a larger share of their final consumption price depends on the export price

- ⇒ Perceived elasticity of demand to the export price increases with such higher inventory cost
- ⇒ Mark-up of firms with higher inventory cost can be increased by less than that of firms with lower inventory cost in response to depreciation
- ⇒ **Lager financial cost** leads to smaller domestic price dynamics  
(i.e., higher pass-through)

## 6-2. Bring it to estimation

(i) Fixed-effect panel estimation:

Focus on the observation  
with some price change  
( $\Leftrightarrow$  Nakamura &  
Steinsson 2012)

$$\ln P_{i,t} = \alpha + \beta_1 \ln ER_t + \beta_2 x_{i,t} + \beta_3 \ln ER_t \times x_{i,t} + FE_i + \varepsilon_t$$

(ii) Allison's hybrid random-effect estimation (Allison 2009)

$$\begin{aligned}\ln P_{i,t} = & \alpha + \beta \ln ER_t + \gamma_1 (x_{i,t} - \bar{x}_i) + \gamma_2 \bar{x}_i \\ & + \delta_1 \{\ln ER_t \times x_{i,t} - \overline{\ln ER \times x_i}\} + \delta_2 \overline{\ln ER \times x_i} + RE_i + \varepsilon_t\end{aligned}$$

(iii) Correlated coefficient random-effect estimation (Wooldridge 2010)

$$\begin{aligned}\ln P_{i,t} = & \alpha + \beta \ln ER_t + \gamma_1 x_{i,t} + \gamma_2 \bar{x}_i \\ & + \delta_1 \ln ER_t \times x_{i,t} + \delta_2 \overline{\ln ER \times x_i} + RE_i + \varepsilon_t\end{aligned}$$

# 7-1. Empirical analysis: Unconditional & TFP

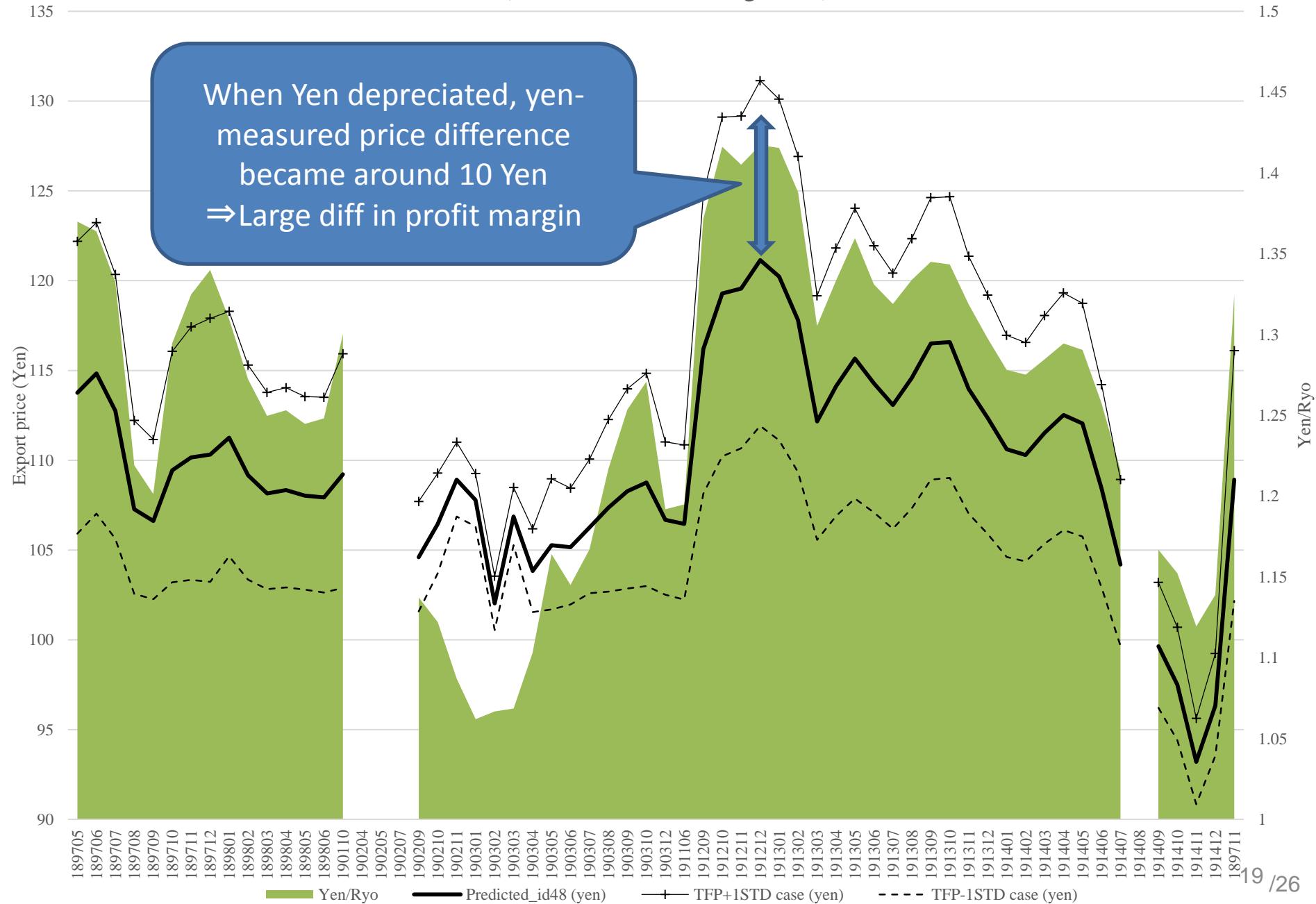
Dependent variable:  $P$

	Fixed-effect model		Fixed-effect model		Allison (2009) Hybrid random-effect model		Correlated random-effects model	
Independent Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.
ER	1.067	0.070 ***	1.024	0.068 ***			1.019	0.068 ***
TFP			-0.400	0.150 ***			-0.407	0.149 ***
ER×TFP			1.748	0.629 ***			1.786	0.628 ***
ER - ER_AVR					1.019	0.068 ***		
TFP - TFP_AVR					-0.407	0.149 ***		
ER×TFP - ER×TFP_AVR					1.786	0.628 ***		
ER_AVR					-0.118	0.346	-1.137	0.352 ***
TFP_AVR					-0.131	0.628	0.276	0.640
ER×TFP_AVR					0.486	2.788	-1.300	2.831
constant	4.462	0.016 ***	4.451	0.015 ***	4.643	0.072 ***	4.643	0.072 ***
No. of Obs.	517		436		436		436	
No. of Groups	32		30		30		30	
Observation per group								
min	1		1		1		1	
avr	16.2		14.5		14.5		14.5	
max	57		57		57		57	
F or Wald chi2	231.55		76.79		227.30		227.30	
Prob > F or chi2	0.0000		0.0000		0.0000		0.0000	
R-sq								
within	0.3236		0.3637		0.3637		0.3637	
between	0.0047		0.0044		0.0136		0.0136	
overall	0.2074		0.1767		0.1791		0.1791	
corr(u_i, xb)	-0.0870		-0.1267		0 (assumed)		0 (assumed)	
F test that all u_i=0								
F	12.93		18.61		n.a.		n.a.	
Prob>F	0.0000		0.0000		n.a.		n.a.	

Almost same magnitude  
reported in  
Fitzgerald & Haller (2014)  
i.e.,  $\beta=1.01$  (std. 0.090)\*\*\*

Fitzgerald & Haller (2014)  
“meets”  
Berman et al. (2012)  
i.e., depends on firm characteristics

Predicted Yen price w/ different TFP  
(basecase = id48: Kanegafuchi)



## 7-2. Empirical analysis: Another TFP measure

- Robust to alternative TFP computation

Dependent variable:  $P$

	Fixed-effect model		Allison (2009) Hybrid random-effect model		Correlated random-effects model	
Independent Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.
$ER$	1.016	0.076 ***			1.012	0.076 ***
$TFP$	-0.469	0.187 **			-0.480	0.187 ***
$ER \times TFP$	2.529	0.789 ***			2.573	0.791 ***
$ER - ER\_AVR$			1.012	0.076 ***		
$TFP - TFP\_AVR$			-0.480	0.187 ***		
$ER \times TFP - ER \times TFP\_AVR$			2.573	0.791 ***		
$ER\_AVR$			-0.321	0.495	-1.333	0.501 ***
$TFP\_AVR$			-0.280	1.103	0.200	1.116
$ER \times TFP\_AVR$			1.690	4.827	-0.883	4.881
$constant$	4.449	0.017 ***	4.686	0.106 ***	4.686	0.106 ***

## 7-3. Empirical analysis: Full model

① Female wage ( $\Leftrightarrow$ quality)

② Import intensity

③ **Inventory turnover ( $\Leftrightarrow$ "financial cost")**

④ BOJ discount rate (sign???)

Dependent variable:  $P$

Fixed-effect model

Independent Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.
<i>ER</i>	0.272	0.090 ***	0.691	0.065 ***	1.078	0.127 ***		
<i>TFP</i>	-0.166	0.142	-0.079	0.108	-0.035	0.122		
<i>ER</i> × <i>TFP</i>	0.200	0.686	-0.482	0.480	-0.144	0.585		
<i>WAGE</i>	-0.219	0.079 ***	-0.315	0.068 ***	-0.045	0.072		
<i>ER</i> × <i>WAGE</i>	1.511	0.384 ***	2.149	0.328 ***	1.067	0.339 ***		
<i>SIZE</i>	0.037	0.019 *	0.058	0.017 ***	0.071	0.017 ***		
<i>ER</i> × <i>SIZE</i>	0.174	0.081 **	0.108	0.073	0.033	0.071		
<i>ER</i> × <i>IMPORT</i>	0.018	0.003 ***	0.015	0.003 ***	0.010	0.003 ***		
<i>INVENTORY</i>	0.985	0.376 ***			0.728	0.322 **		
<i>ER</i> × <i>INVENTORY</i>	-7.053	1.682 ***			-4.604	1.467 ***		
<i>RATE</i>			-0.072	0.015 ***	-0.191	0.024 ***		
<i>ER</i> × <i>RATE</i>			0.324	0.073 ***	0.777	0.109 ***		
<i>constant</i>	4.575	0.018 ***	4.497	0.014 ***	4.392	0.028 ***		

# 7-4. Empirical analysis: Asymmetry of $\Delta ER$

Dependent variable:  $P$

Fixed-effect model

Independent Variables	All		ER ↑ (Yen depreciation)		p-value	ER ↓ (Yen appreciation)	
	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.		Coef.	Std. Err.
$ER$	1.078	0.127 ***	0.863	0.113 ***	0	-0.088	0.648
$TFP$	-0.035	0.122	-0.018	0.104	0.866	0.738	0.418 *
$ER \times TFP$	-0.144	0.585	0.153	0.529	0.774	-4.001	1.912 **
$WAGE$	-0.045	0.072	-0.108	0.063 *	0.092	-0.302	0.282
$ER \times WAGE$	1.067	0.339 ***	1.472	0.298 ***	0	1.944	1.338
$SIZE$	0.071	0.017 ***	0.075	0.015 ***	0	0.123	0.059 **
$ER \times SIZE$	0.033	0.071	0.024	0.058	0.683	-0.181	0.272
$ER \times IMPORT$	0.010	0.003 ***	0.008	0.003 ***	0.001	0.031	0.011 ***
$INVENTORY$	0.728	0.322 **	0.708	0.277 **	0.013	3.308	1.081 ***
$ER \times INVENTORY$	-4.604	1.467 ***	-4.300	1.213 ***	0.001	-17.42	5.303 ***
$RATE$	-0.191	0.024 ***	-0.125	0.025 ***	0	-0.055	0.089
$ER \times RATE$	0.777	0.109 ***	0.568	0.115 ***	0	0.170	0.385
$constant$	4.392	0.028 ***	4.468	0.026 ***	0	4.616	0.137 ***

## 7-5. Empirical analysis: Robustness

Dependent variable:  $P$

Independent Variables	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.	Coef.	Std. Err.			
$ER$	1.033	0.134	***	0.724	0.144	***	0.720	0.156	***
$TFP$	-0.078	0.131	-0.022	0.121	-0.068	0.128			
$ER \times TFP$	0.171	0.615	-0.412	0.575	-0.136	0.601			
$WAGE$	-0.010	0.079	-0.042	0.070	-0.025	0.078			
$ER \times WAGE$	0.818	0.372	**	1.061	0.340	***	0.883	0.378	**
$SIZE$	0.058	0.030	*	0.073	0.017	***	0.086	0.032	***
$ER \times SIZE$	0.061	0.078		0.071	0.072		0.070	0.079	
$ER \times IMPORT$	0.012	0.003	***	0.014	0.003	***	0.014	0.004	***
$INVENTORY$	0.669	0.328	**	0.882	0.322	***	0.891	0.336	***
$ER \times INVENTORY$	-4.350	1.502	***	-5.796	1.524	***	-5.397	1.593	***
$RATE$	-0.186	0.026	***	-0.186	0.024	***	-0.182	0.026	***
$ER \times RATE$	0.752	0.112	***	0.647	0.111	***	0.652	0.115	***
$ER_R$			0.211	0.616	0.078	0.648			
$ER_R \times IMPORT_R$			-0.025	0.030	-0.035	0.037			
$ER_D$			7.407	1.630	***	6.965	1.687	***	
$ER_D \times IMPORT_D$			0.131	0.071	*	0.150	0.081	*	
$ER_S$			-5.082	1.383	***	-5.043	1.432	***	
$ER_S \times IMPORT_S$			-0.705	0.694	-0.610	0.704			
<i>constant</i>	0.273	2.282	-3.808	1.991	*	-6.384	2.883	**	
<i>Prefecture control</i>		yes		no		yes			
<i>Other currency exchange rates</i>		no		yes		yes			

## 7-6. Empirical analysis: Further robustness

- Incorporate and consider additional factors:
  - Interaction b/w exchange rate & centrality of 16 count: (+/-) but insig
    - ⇒ Chatterjee et al. (2013): Pass-through rate for non-centered product is high (i.e., central product shows larger  $\beta$ )
    - ⇒ Also, related to “urgency” channel (i.e., products associated w/ less efficient/flexible production (e.g., non-central) ⇒ high pass-through
  - Interaction b/w exchange rate & 1(early entry to export market): (+) but insig
    - ⇒ Early entrant has some market power
  - Interaction b/w exchange rate & 1(headquartered in Tokyo): (+) but insig
    - ⇒ Distribution cost as in Berstein & Jaimovich (2012)?
  - Exclude the periods for WWI (July 1914~)
- ⇒ Results in “full model” are robust to the inclusion of these items

## 8. Things to be done

- “To do list” in the appendix
- Esp., further precise picture:
  - Financial friction proxied for by “**link to funding sources**” information and/or “**Leverage × BOJ rate**” etc.
  - Export quantity: Extensive margin (i.e., truncated data structure  $\Leftrightarrow$  selection), residual demand faced by individual firms
- Some additional robustness checks:
  - Use domestic price (exporter and non-exporter firms) as a benchmark
  - Dynamic (time-variant) aspect of incomplete pass-through

## 9. Conclusion

- Use the ideal data and confirm heterogeneous pass-through in a comprehensive way: Product quality, import, financial cost
- Hopefully, go deeper into financial/management aspects...
- Other projects using this data
  - Pre-export investment (i.e., tangibles & intangibles)
  - Pre-export & post-export productivity/profitability dynamics
  - Utilizing network information more intensively

Thank you and comments are welcome!

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