

**MULTIPRODUCT FIRMS, EXPORT PRODUCT SCOPE,  
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*HKIMR Working Paper No.02/2014*

January 2014



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# Multiproduct Firms, Export Product Scope, and Trade Liberalization: The Role of Managerial Efficiency\*

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January 2014

## Abstract

This paper provides a theoretical and empirical analysis of the effects of one-sided tariff cuts on firms' export product scope. The theoretical model explicitly incorporates cost of management in addition to the commonly used production cost. Firms are heterogeneous in terms of managerial efficiency but homogenous in terms of production productivity. The analysis predicts that the home country's tariff cut reduces all home firms' export product scope, whereas in response to the foreign country's tariff cut, a home firm's export product scope expands (shrinks) if the firm's management cost is low (high). These predictions are supported by our empirical analysis based on data on Chinese firms from 2000 to 2006.

**Keywords:** Multiproduct Firm, Management Cost, Managerial Efficiency, Export Product Scope, Trade Liberalization, China

**JEL Classification:** F12, F13, F15

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\* Acknowledgements: We thank Sai Ding, Amber Li, Yi Lu, and Zhihong Yu for their very helpful comments and suggestions. We benefit from presentation at the 2013 Annual Conference of China Trade Research Group, the International Workshop on Trade and Productivity at the University of Glasgow, 2013 Asia Pacific Trade Seminars, Hong Kong Institute of Monetary Research, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Midwest International Economics Meeting (Fall 2013). Larry Qiu thanks Hong Kong Institute of Monetary Research for financial support and hosting his visit during the last stage of this project. We thank Mohan Zhou for his valuable research assistance. However, all errors in this manuscript are ours.

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# 1. Introduction

Multiproduct firms contribute a large percent to production and international trade in the global economy. These firms frequently adjust their product scope in response to changes in the economic environment and policies (Bernard et al., 2009). Product scope adjustments affect a firm's and an industry's average productivity (Bernard et al., 2010 and 2011). Recent literature on multiproduct firms has increased our understanding of firms' adjustment in response to trade liberalization (see the most recent discussion by Qiu and Zhou, 2013). However, our knowledge about this issue is far from complete. This paper addresses such issue by examining how firms that differ in managerial efficiency adjust their export product scope (the number of products *exported*), which is different from the total product scope (the number of products *produced*), in response to one-sided trade liberalization, namely, domestic tariff or foreign tariff cut.

Some discrepancies exist between theoretical and empirical literature on multiproduct firms and trade. First, almost all existing theoretical models analyze how multiproduct firms adjust their product scope in response to globalization, which is represented by bilateral (or two-sided) trade liberalization. In reality, although multilateral trade liberalization exists through multilateral trade negotiations under the framework of the GATT and bilateral trade liberalization exists under free trade agreements, one-sided trade liberalization, or asymmetric bilateral trade liberalization occurs. For example, since 1979 when China started to open its economy, China has unilaterally reduced its average tariffs from above 40 percent to approximately 15 percent prior to its accession to the WTO in 2001. This evidence indicates that our understanding would not be complete if we do not know how firms adjust their product scope in response to one-sided trade liberalization. Moreover, theoretical analysis on the effects of one-sided trade liberalization offers a better foundation for empirical investigation, which explores the sensitivity of exporters' extensive margins to each country's tariff changes. Bilateral trade liberalization is a combination of two one-sided liberalizations on both sides. On the one hand, domestic trade liberalization exerts a negative impact (the competition effect) on a firm's profit from each product. On the other hand, a foreign country's trade liberalization provides a positive opportunity (the market expansion effect) to a firm's profit from each product. Although existing theoretical studies focus on the effects of two-sided trade liberalization on firms' adjustment in product scope, they all appear to suggest that the qualitative effects of one-sided trade liberalization on all firms with high or low productivity are similar. However, empirical studies (e.g., Dhingra, 2013) show that firms respond differently. In this paper, we argue that firms differ not only in production productivity, but also in many other aspects, such as managerial efficiency. Firm heterogeneity in management cost could generate results different from firm heterogeneity in production cost.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Nocke and Yeaple (2014) introduced two dimensions of firm heterogeneity: organizational capital and organizational efficiency. These two types of capability result in a trade-off between producing more products with lower productivity and producing less products with higher productivity. Managerial efficiency is very different from organizational capability.

Our model, which focuses on firm heterogeneity in managerial efficiency, assumes that firms are homogeneous in terms of production productivity. Specifically, domestic firms are of two types, efficient ones with low management cost and inefficient ones with high management cost. All firms produce multiple products and employ the same production structure for their products. Every firm has a core competency and faces increasing marginal costs of production for its other products. In addition, introducing each new product at the firm level incurs a fixed cost. A product will be produced if the fixed cost of product introduction is lower than the sum of the profit derived from the domestic market and that derived from the foreign market. The home country's tariff cut increases competition in the domestic market and thus reduces a domestic firm's profit from all its products. Marginal products are no longer profitable to be produced, and consequently, each domestic firm reduces its total product scope. If the total product scope of a firm is reduced to a large extent, the products available for exports are also reduced. Therefore, our model predicts that a drastic domestic tariff cut reduces a firm's export product scope.

A firm decides its optimal export product scope such that its marginal product of export (defined as the least productive product exported) earns zero profit from the foreign market. This zero profit condition implies that all firms' marginal products of export have the same unit cost, which is the sum of production cost and management costs. Thus, an efficient firm's marginal product has a higher production cost than that of an inefficient. Foreign tariff cuts exert two effects on each product exported by a domestic firm. First, a reduction in the iceberg-type foreign tariff lowers the marginal costs of production of all the home country's export products by the same percentage. This phenomenon can be considered an individual shock (positive) because products with different marginal costs of production face different cost reductions in the absolute term. As a result, an efficient firm's marginal product receives a larger reduction (in the absolute term) than that of an inefficient firm. Second, all the home country's export products lower their prices because of cost reduction and thus makes the foreign market competition tougher. This can be considered as a common shock (negative) to all products. Our analysis shows that under certain conditions, the positive individual shock outweighs the negative common shock for the marginal products of efficient firms; however, the opposite is true for the marginal products of inefficient firms. Consequently, efficient firms expand their export product scope in response to foreign tariff cuts, whereas inefficient firms reduce theirs.

An empirical analysis based on Chinese firms' export product scope data from 2000 to 2006 was conducted in this study. The results confirm the theoretical prediction: in response to Chinese tariff cuts, Chinese firms reduce their export product scope; in response to foreign tariff cuts, Chinese firms with low management costs expand their export product scope, whereas those with high management costs reduce theirs.

The present study differs from existing ones in literature in many ways. As pointed out earlier, the present study focuses on the effect of one-sided trade liberalization as opposed to bilateral trade liberalization. More importantly, this study introduces managerial efficiency as a source of firm

heterogeneity and shows that this heterogeneity, rather than heterogeneity in production productivity, differentiates the responses of firms to foreign countries' trade liberalization. The importance of managerial efficiency and its difference from production productivity have been emphasized in management science literature. For example, Gort and Lee (2003) utilized American industrial data and found that managerial efficiency contributes substantially to the total factor productivity (TFP) in American manufacturing sectors. They identified three sources of managerial efficiency, namely, superior initial managerial endowments, the accumulation of managerial knowledge through learning, and the impact of an effective market for managerial resources internal to the firm. These sources of managerial efficiency are different from a firm's production productivity.

In the theoretical literature of multiproduct firms, all studies assume firm heterogeneity in production productivity and most, with the exception of Nocke and Yeaple (2014) and Qiu and Zhou (2013), predict that in response to bilateral trade liberalization, all firms (less productive and more productive) reduce their product scope (Arkolakis and Muendler, 2011; Baldwin and Gu, 2009; Bernard et al., 2011; Dhingra, 2013; Eckel and Neary, 2010; Feenstra and Ma, 2008). Qiu and Zhou (2013) showed that with an increasing fixed cost of product introduction, the marginal products of firms acquire different productivities; thus, firms may adjust their product scope in response to trade liberalization in the opposite directions.<sup>2</sup> The present study does not rely on the assumption of increasing fixed cost of product introduction to show that firms with different managerial efficiencies may still exhibit opposite responses to foreign tariff cuts even though they have the same production productivity.

Not all existing studies are about the effects of bilateral trade liberalization. The implications of one-sided trade liberalization can be obtained from the study of Mayer et al. (2013). The main result of Mayer et al.'s (2013) study indicates that in tough markets, the production distribution of firms is skewed towards their core competencies and firms reduce their product scope. A foreign tariff cut suggests that the foreign market has become less tough and thus more profitable to exporting firms. A direct implication of this result to our model is as follows: extremely tough competition in the domestic market (because of domestic tariff cuts) induces all domestic firms to reduce the set of produced products, and minimal competition in the export market (because of foreign tariff cuts) induces all exporters to expand the set of exported products. This implication is confirmed in our model *without* firm heterogeneity in managerial efficiency. However, a tariff cut in the foreign market has both cost (positive for exporters) and competition (negative) effects. These effects are different for firms with different managerial efficiencies; thus firms adjust their export product scope differently.

Existing empirical studies on multiproduct firms generally found that trade liberalization has significant effects on firms' product scope choice. Despite the fact that most theoretical studies focus on bilateral trade liberalization, many empirical studies highlight unilateral trade liberalization. Dhingra (2013)

<sup>2</sup> If a firm is very productive, its marginal product is also productive. In this case, the positive effect of market expansion dominates over the negative effect of increased competition; the firm then expands its product scope. By contrast, if a firm is not very productive, its marginal product is also not productive. The negative effect dominates, and the firm reduces its product scope.

showed that from 2003 to 2006 in Thailand, less export-oriented domestic firms increased their product lines in response to a unilateral tariff cut, whereas more export-oriented domestic firms reduced their product lines. Iacovone and Javorcik (2010) documented the phenomenon of product "churning" among Mexican firms as a result of improved access to foreign markets, that is, a substantial number of Mexican firms discontinued several existing products and simultaneously developed new products for export. Goldberg et al. (2010) showed that from 1989 to 2003 when intensive trade and other reforms took place in India, Indian firms added more product lines than what they discontinued; the discontinuance was unrelated to tariff reduction. Empirical studies on bilateral or multilateral trade liberalization include those of Baldwin and Gu (2009), Bernard et al. (2011), and Berthou and Fontagne (2011).<sup>3</sup> Previous empirical findings are far from complete or conclusive. The empirical findings of the present study contributes to literature. Chinese exporters' data were utilized to examine the effects of tariff cuts in China and foreign countries on export product scope. The results show that managerial efficiency is important in determining the extent to which firms adjust their export product scope.<sup>4</sup>

The present study is also related to a recent one by Caliendo and Rossi-Hansberg (2012) in that both emphasize the importance of the other aspects of firm heterogeneity, in addition to heterogeneous productivity. As Caliendo and Rossi-Hansberg (2012) pointed out, a firm is merely a technology to produce goods at a given marginal cost. In reality, a firm has many facets aside from its production technology. Caliendo and Rossi-Hansberg (2012) added organization structure to firms; we introduce management dimension to firms. Moreover, Caliendo and Rossi-Hansberg (2012) assumed that firms are heterogeneous with respect to demand for their products to show the importance of the other aspects of firms; we assume that firms are heterogeneous in terms of their managerial efficiency. These added features of firms enrich our understanding of firms' responses to globalization.<sup>5</sup>

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, Chinese data are utilized to conduct a preliminary empirical analysis on Chinese firms' response to trade liberalization without differentiating them by managerial efficiency. The theoretical model with firm heterogeneity in managerial efficiency is introduced in Section 3, and an equilibrium analysis is conducted to derive results related to the effects of trade liberalization on firms' export product scope. Chinese data are employed in Section 4 to test the main theoretical predictions. Section 5 provides the concluding remarks.

<sup>3</sup> Baldwin and Gu (2009) found that tariff cuts between 1973 and 1997 induced scope contraction in small or non-exporting Canadian firms, but had no effect on large or exporting firms. Bernard et al. (2011) demonstrated that U.S. firms exposed to numerous tariff reductions under the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement reduced the number of products they produced relative to firms exposed to only a few tariff reductions. Berthou and Fontagne (2011) found that after the eurozone was established in 1999, productive French firms increased their export product scope in the eurozone destinations, whereas slightly productive French firms reduced their export product scope.

<sup>4</sup> Manova and Zhang (2013) also employed Chinese data to explore the behavior of multiproduct firms. An important feature of their study is the linkage between multiple products and multiple quality level. Eckel et al.'s (2011) study on Mexican firms also has the same feature.

<sup>5</sup> Nocke and Yeaple (2014) also introduced firm another dimension of heterogeneity in addition to production productivity.

## 2. Preliminary Empirical Analysis

The first empirical analysis on Chinese firms' export product scope adjustment in response to the reduction in trade costs is conducted in this section.

### 2.1 Estimation Framework and Measures

A firm's *total product scope* is defined in this study as the total number of products that the firm produces and sells to the markets (either domestic or foreign). *Export product scope* is defined as the total number of products that the firm sells to the foreign market. A firm's export product scope is mainly determined by the profitability of a firm's products in the foreign market, which in turn is affected by many factors, including GDP, productivity, and trade costs. A firm's domestic market profitability affects its total product scope, which may or may not be related to total product scope.

We focus on two explanatory variables to determine how changes in trade costs affect a Chinese firm's export product scope. The first variable is the home country's import tariffs (referred to as *home tariff* and denoted by HT hereafter), and the second one is the foreign countries' import tariffs (referred to as *foreign tariff* and denoted by FT hereafter). Accordingly, the following empirical equation is established.

$$e_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 TFP_{it} + \beta_2 HT_{it} + \beta_3 FT_{it} + \theta \Psi_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad (1)$$

where  $e_{it}$  is firm  $i$ 's export product scope,  $TFP_{it}$  is firm  $i$ ' total factor productivity,  $HT_{it}$  is the home (Chinese) tariff level faced by firm  $i$ , and  $FT_{it}$  is the foreign tariff level faced by firm  $i$  (all in year  $t$ ).  $\Psi_{it}$  is a vector of control variables, including firm  $i$ 's export market size (foreign countries' GDP), ownership type (state-owned enterprise, multinational firm, or others), and trade mode (processing or ordinary trade).

Although a country has many tariff lines, tariffs that are not relevant to a particular firm may not have a strong impact on the firm's export product scope. Hence, we construct *firm-specific tariff* to better evaluate the effects of tariff changes on firms' export product scope. For home tariffs, suppose that firm  $i$  produces a set of products,  $S_i$ , for the domestic market. The firm's profit will be affected directly by all tariff lines in this product set. A tariff line will have a significant effect if the firm has a larger share of the corresponding product in its total domestic sales. This condition suggests that a firm-specific tariff should be the average of all relevant tariffs weighted by the share of each product's sales. However, data on product-level domestic sales are unavailable. Thus, we adopt a less satisfactory approach by using the share of a firm's export to substitute the share of its domestic sales, as in Yu (2013). Specifically, we introduce the following measure as firm  $i$ 's home tariff:



$$HT_{it} = \sum_{k \in E_{it}} \left( \frac{X_{it}^k}{\sum_{k \in E_{it}} X_{it}^k} \right) \tau_t^k, \quad (2)$$

where  $E_{it}$  is the set of firm  $i$ 's export products,  $X_{it}^k$  is the export sales of product  $k$  by firm  $i$ , and  $\tau_t^k$  is the home country's ad valorem tariff on product  $k$  (all in year  $t$ ). Such a measure faces some possible caveats which will be discussed later.

The construction of firm-specific foreign tariffs is more complicated than the construction of home tariffs because firms not only export multiple products, but also export them to multiple countries, with different subsets of products for different countries. The following measure of  $FT_{it}$  is proposed in this study to capture the relative importance of the different tariffs of foreign countries.

$$FT_{it} = \sum_{k \in E_{it}} \left[ \frac{X_{it}^k}{\sum_{k \in E_{it}} X_{it}^k} \sum_{c \in C_{it}} \left( \frac{X_{it}^{kc}}{X_{it}^k} \right) \tau_t^{kc} \right], \quad (3)$$

where  $\tau_t^{kc}$  is product  $k$ 's ad valorem tariff imposed by country  $c$ ,  $X_{it}^{kc}$  is the value of firm  $i$ 's export of product  $k$  to country  $c$ ,  $X_{it}^k = \sum_{c \in C} X_{ikt}^c$ , and  $C_{it}$  are the sets of countries where firm  $i$  has exports (all in year  $t$ ). The ratio  $X_{it}^{kc}/X_{it}^k$  represents the share of firm  $i$ 's product  $k$  exported to country  $c$ ; it captures the relative importance of  $\tau_t^{kc}$  in affecting firm  $i$ 's product  $k$  export. Thus,  $\sum_{c \in C_{it}} \left( \frac{X_{it}^{kc}}{X_{it}^k} \right) \tau_t^{kc}$  is the weighted average of foreign tariffs on product  $k$  for firm  $i$ .

We then address  $TFP_{it}$ . Although many methods can be employed to measure a firm's TFP, or productivity, we adopt the Olley-Pakes (1996) approach to estimate each Chinese firm's TFP (referred to as TFP1). We modify the standard Olley-Pakes approach to better reflect the reality in China. First, following Feenstra et al. (2013), we use deflated output and input prices at the firm-product level to measure TFP. Second, we use real capital depreciation to construct a firm's real investment (the perpetual inventory method).<sup>6</sup> Third, we consider the effect of China's WTO accession in 2001 and the processing behavior of firms in TFP realization. A detailed description of the augmented Olley-Pakes TFP measures is provided in Appendix C. We also employ other measures of TFP to verify the robustness of the results.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Firm-level data only provide the book value of each firm's capital stock. The original value of each firm's capital stock must be obtained for TFP estimation. To do so, we adopt the following expression:  $A_t = A_o \prod_{s=o}^t (1 + r_s)$ , where  $A_t$  is the book value of a firm's capital stock in year  $t$ ,  $A_o$  is the original value of the firm's capital stock when it is purchased in year  $o$ , and  $r_s$  is the estimated province-industry-level growth rate of nominal capital stock in year  $s$  obtained from Brandt et al. (2012). If  $A_t$  and  $r_s$  are known for each firm, the firm's original nominal book value can be determined accordingly. Approximately 40% of observations have missing investment data. However, this is not a problem because our estimation results do not change qualitatively when other measures of TFP are employed as shown later.

<sup>7</sup> The Levinsohn and Petrin (2003) approach is also a popular method to construct TFP. In this approach, which materials (i.e., intermediate inputs) are used as a proxy variable. Yu (2013) argued that this approach is appropriate for firms that do not utilize a large amount of imported intermediate inputs; the approach is inappropriate for China because Chinese firms rely substantially on imported intermediate inputs whose prices are significantly different from those of domestic intermediate inputs (Helpman et al., 2011). Our results do not change qualitatively when Levinsohn-Petrin (2003) TFP or

## 2.2 Data and Summary Statistics

Regression (1) and construction of HT, FT and TFP require extensive information. Thus, we employ three highly disaggregate panel datasets: product-level tariff data of every country, firm-level production data of Chinese firms, and firm and product-level trade data of Chinese firms. A brief description of these datasets is provided below, and detailed discussions are provided in Appendix A.

**Tariffs.** The WTO official webpage shows the tariffs of all WTO member countries/regions at HS six-digit level.<sup>8</sup> The dataset includes the following tariff data for each product category: number of ad valorem (AV) duties and non-AV duties; average, minimum, and maximum AV duties; and percentage of free duty and bound duty. For analysis purpose, average AV duty is considered the most suitable; hence, only this item is included in our dataset.

**Firm production data.** China's National Bureau of Statistics maintains a rich dataset based on annual surveys of large manufacturing enterprises in China. This dataset, called the Chinese Manufacturing Enterprises (CME) dataset, includes all state-owned enterprises (SOE), both small and large, and large non-SOEs whose annual sales are more than RMB five million (or, equivalently, \$770,000). Approximately 162,885 firms were included in 2000 and 301,961 in 2006.<sup>9</sup> The CME dataset contains information on more than 100 financial variables obtained from each firm's accounting statement. However, the dataset has obvious omissions and errors. Following Feenstra et al. (2013), we clean the dataset as follows. We eliminate the observations (i.e., firms) wherein some key financial variables (such as total assets, net value of fixed assets, sales, and gross value of industrial output) are missing, or the number of employees is less than eight.<sup>10</sup> According to the basic rules of the generally accepted accounting principles, we also omit the observations wherein (i) liquid assets are larger than total assets, (ii) total fixed assets are larger than total assets, (iii) the net value of fixed assets is larger than the total assets, (iv) the firm's identification number is missing, or (v) the firm's establishment time is invalid.

**Export data.** China's General Administration of Customs maintains a highly disaggregate trade database wherein each international trade transaction is recorded. The database contains a large variety of information about each trading firm, including each export product's price, quantity, value, and destination. Product information is available at the HS eight-digit level. We use this database to

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System-GMM TFP is employed. Estimates that employ such TFP measures are not be reported to save space but are available upon request.

<sup>8</sup> Data can be accessed at <http://tariffdata.wto.org/ReportersAndProducts.aspx>. TRAINS data generally have missing values, particularly data on the tariffs imposed by other countries on Chinese exports. The product-destination-year combinations that have missing tariffs are thus eliminated.

<sup>9</sup> The aggregate data for the manufacturing sector in the annual *China's Statistical Yearbook* are compiled from the CME dataset.

<sup>10</sup> The reason for selecting eight workers as the threshold is that firms with less than eight workers fall under a different legal regime, as mentioned in Brandt *et al.* (2012). We adopt this criterion because a very small company may not have a good accounting/reporting system. However, our results are not sensitive to this critical level.

calculate each Chinese firm's export product scope and construct the weights for *HT* and *FT* for each firm. Several firms export products that belong to more than one industry. Considering that our focus is on within-industry multiproduct analysis, we assign a firm to an industry at HS 2-digit level, in which the firm has the most number of export products.

Our study requires the merging of the Customs and CME datasets. Matching the two datasets is challenging because they use completely different firm-identification systems. As in Yu (2013), by using the firms' Chinese names, zip codes, and telephone numbers, we are able to match 76,946 firms, which account for more than 40% of the manufacturing firms reported in the CME dataset and approximately 53% of the export value reported in the Customs dataset.<sup>11</sup> This representation is comparable to that of Bernard et al. (2009) for US data and Wang and Yu (2012) for Chinese data.

The summary statistics are reported in Table 1. Tables 1A and 1B show that export product scope has a very large variation: The minimum of export product scope is 1 (i.e., a single product), whereas the maximum is 527, with the mean equal to 6.49. Approximately 79% of the Chinese firms (in our merged dataset) exported more than a single product from 2000 to 2006 and accounted for 91.4% of the total exports. Moreover, approximately two-thirds of the firms exported less than 5 products, 90% exported less than 15 products, and only 5% exported more than 25 products.

As shown in Table 1C, China's home tariffs (measured at both industry and firm levels) declined by approximately 50% from 2000 to 2006, whereas foreign tariffs (measured at the firm level) decreased by 17%.

## 2.3 Estimates

The estimation results from the same regression model (1) can differ both quantitatively and qualitatively depending on our assumption of the distribution of the dependent variable. We first assume a normal distribution. The OLS regression estimates are shown in Table 2. Both home and foreign tariffs are positively associated with firms' export product scope. This result suggests that firms reduce their export product scope in response to both home and foreign tariff cuts. Our data clearly show that most of the firms export a small number of products, and only a few of them export a very large number of products. This result suggests that the dependent variable does not follow a normal distribution. Thus, the OLS result reported in column (1) of Table 2 could be biased.

Our dependent variable, export product scope, is a non-negative count number. Thus, the use of count-data estimates would be more reliable (Cameron and Trivedi, 2005). Given that Poisson distribution is the most popular discrete distribution used to capture the characteristics of various count data, we also calculate the Poisson estimate (with a clustered robust standard error).

<sup>11</sup> Our merged dataset has higher mean of sales than the full-sample NBS dataset; this finding indicates that large firms are likely to be matched. The same matching procedure was performed in Yu and Tian (2012).

Specifically, the dependent variable is assumed to have a probability function  $f(e, \mu) = \frac{\exp(-\mu)\mu^e}{e!}$ , where  $\mu = \exp(\mathbf{X}'\boldsymbol{\beta})$  and  $\mathbf{X}$  denotes the vector of independent variables. The regression results are shown in column (2) of Table 2. The main results obtained from OLS remain valid qualitatively. Both home and foreign tariffs have positive and significant effects on export product scope.

Although Poisson distribution is the most popular approach for count data, it may not provide the best representation of our sample distribution. If our sample follows a Poisson distribution, then the mean and variance of a firm's export product scope should be identical and equal to  $\mu$ . However, our data reveals that the variance of the sample ( $\text{var}(e) = 96.9$ ) is approximately 15 times larger than its mean ( $\bar{e} = 6.5$ ) and thus indicate that Poisson distribution does not provide a good representation of our data. Moreover, our test of the goodness of fit for the Poisson model reports an extremely large  $\chi^2$  value (607,445), which again confirms the inappropriateness of Poisson distribution for our dependent variable.

We then resort to negative binomial distribution because it allows the sample to exhibit a pattern of over-dispersion.<sup>12</sup> In fact, when drawing a graph based on the proportion of firms with different export product scope (see Figure 1), we notice that the negative binomial distribution approximates the observed distribution much better than the Poisson distribution. Since around 80% of the exporters have export product scope less than 10, we assume 10 as the maximum value of the discrete level.<sup>13</sup> We report the negative binomial regression results in column (3) of Table 2. We find that the over-dispersion parameter  $\alpha$  generated by the likelihood ratio test is significantly different from zero (we obtain  $\alpha = .660$  from the regression), indicating that negative binomial distribution is a good probabilistic representative of our data.<sup>14</sup> The coefficients of both home and foreign tariffs are positive and statistically significant. We include year-specific fixed effects in the regressions because several other time-variant variables, such as exchange rate, may affect the firms' optimal export product scope. We also include firm-specific fixed effects to control the effects of firm-invariant variables, such as firm location.<sup>15</sup> The fixed-effect negative binomial estimates are presented in column (4) of Table 2. The coefficients of home and foreign tariffs are again positive and highly significant. When year fixed effect is introduced, another control variable, China's GDP, is dropped out automatically.

<sup>12</sup> The probability density function of negative binomial distribution has the following form:  $f(e, \mu) = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha^{-1}\mu + e)}{\Gamma(\alpha^{-1}\mu)\Gamma(e+1)} \left(\frac{\alpha^{-1}\mu}{\alpha^{-1}\mu + \mu}\right)^{\frac{1}{\alpha}} \left(\frac{\mu}{\alpha^{-1}\mu + \mu}\right)^e$ , where  $\mu = \exp(\mathbf{X}'\boldsymbol{\beta})$  and  $\Gamma(\cdot)$  is the Gamma function.

<sup>13</sup> Changing the maximum number does not change our estimation results.

<sup>14</sup> We also perform regression based on gamma distribution and obtain results very similar to those of negative binomial distribution. Such results are not presented in the table to save space but are available upon request.

<sup>15</sup> Firm-specific fixed effects in the negative binomial model apply to the distribution of the dispersion parameter (Hardin and Hilbe, 2003).

All estimates in Table 2 show that more-productive firms have a larger export product scope. This finding supports the prediction of existing theoretical studies on multiproduct firms using Chinese data. Gravity models indicate that the GDP of two trading countries has positive effects on bilateral trade flows. We obtain some effects of gravity on export product scope. On the one hand, we find that the GDP of foreign countries increases the export product scope of Chinese firms. To better evaluate the effects of foreign countries' GDP, we construct and use firm-specific GDP in our analysis by using the share of a firm's export to each country as the weight of the corresponding importing country's GDP. On the other hand, the effect of China's GDP on the export product scope of Chinese firms is insignificant (with an erratic sign). This effect is not emphasized in our analysis because it will be automatically eliminated when firm-specific and year-specific fixed effects are controlled. We also obtain the following observations: (1) a firm's capital-labor ratio has a negative effect on its export product scope; (2) SOEs have larger export product scopes than non-SOE with other things equal; and (3) firms that engage in processing trade have smaller export product scopes than other firms, i.e., those that only engage in ordinary trade.<sup>16</sup>

Four important caveats relate to home tariffs. First, two groups of firms are special. Pure domestic firms do not have any exports; thus, their export product scope (zero) is insensitive to changes in home and foreign tariffs. By contrast, pure exporting firms have no domestic sales; thus, home tariffs do not have any effect on their export product scope. We omit these two groups of firms from the sample to obtain better results. The regression results are shown in column (5) of Table 2. All the coefficients are very close to their counterparts in column (4). This result implies that omitting them from the sample does not change our estimation results.

Second,  $HT_{it}$  disregards tariffs on intermediate goods. Consequently, changes in the intermediate goods' tariffs will affect the final goods' profits, which then affect the firm's decision on the total product and export product scopes of the final goods. Trade liberalization in final goods is often accompanied by trade liberalization in intermediate goods. Hence, the cost effects associated with tariff changes on intermediate goods must be controlled. Therefore, we include "home input tariffs" as an additional independent variable. Processing imports are duty-free in China; hence, even firms that import the same set of inputs may face different effective tariffs. This phenomenon makes it more difficult to construct firm-specific "home input tariffs." Given that a firm can engage in both processing and non-processing imports, we adopt the index of firm-specific input tariffs ( $FIT_{it}$ ) suggested by Yu (2013) as our "home input tariffs" for firm. The index is as follows:

$$FIT_{it} = \sum_{k \in O_i} \frac{m_{i,initial\_year}^k}{\sum_{k \in M_i} m_{i,initial\_year}^k} \tau_t^k, \quad (4)$$

<sup>16</sup> Some firms change their types of ownership and shipment mode (i.e., processing or ordinary exports). Hence, SOE, foreign, and processing indicators are not eliminated from the fixed-effects estimates. The transitional probability matrixes are not reported to save space but are available upon request.

where  $m_{i,initial\_year}^k$  is value of firm  $i$ 's imports of product  $k$  in the first year the firm appears in the sample,  $P_i$  is the set of firm  $i$ 's processing imports,  $O_i$  is the set of firm  $i$ 's non-processing imports, and  $O_i \cup P_i = M_i$  is the set of the firm's total imports. The set of processing imports does not appear in (4) because processing imports are duty-free. A firm's input tariff is constructed with time-invariant weights to avoid the well-known endogeneity of weighted tariffs; that is, imports are negatively associated with tariffs. Following Topalova and Khandelwal (2011), we measure the import weight of each product based on data on the firm's first year in the sample. Table 3 shows the negative binomial estimates when "home input tariffs" is included as a control variable. Trade liberalization in intermediate goods imports lowers export product scope. This result is counter-intuitive. However, the result is reversed for less-integrated firms. In any case, the inclusion of such a control variable does not alter the effects and significance of the two key variables, that is, home tariffs and foreign tariffs of the final goods.

The third caveat is that in constructing  $HT_{it}$ , we assume that the share of each product a firm sells in the domestic market is the same as that in the foreign market. This is definitely untrue, but we would not be able to solve the problem directly because of data limitations. We eliminate the pure domestic and pure exporting firms from the sample to address this problem in part because these two types of firms violate the aforementioned assumption to the largest degree. We also perform the following auxiliary regressions to verify the robustness of the main results. China holds an important position in global supply chains (GSCs), and different firms engage in GSCs at different degrees (Yu, 2013). As a result, the differences between their sales distribution in the domestic market and that in foreign markets are also different. We classify all two-digit Chinese industries into two groups, namely, less integrated and more integrated, according to their "production depth" of engaging in GSCs, which is measured by the ratio of value-added to gross industrial output (OECD, 2010). The division line is the mean of the production depth ratio across industries. We then run the regressions separately for these two groups and obtain the estimates in columns (2) and (3) of Table 3. These two groups have different degrees of approximation to the "equal share" assumption; however, we find that for both the less-integrated group and more-integrated group, home and foreign tariffs have the same qualitative results (sign and significance) as in the main model. Hence, our main findings are not sensitive to the "equal share" assumption.

The last caveat is that  $HT_{it}$  does not include tariffs on products that firm  $i$  does not produce. When there is a change in the tariffs on products that a firm does not produce but is competing with, the profits of the firm's existing products and those the firm may potentially produce will be affected. Consequently, the firm's decision on its total product and export product scopes. The reason is obvious. Suppose that a firm produces products  $x$  and  $y$  and product  $z$ 's tariff experiences a large reduction. Producing  $z$  then becomes profitable for the firm. However, if the firm produces  $z$ , its profit from existing products may decrease (e.g., drawing resources away from production of existing products). Thus, the total product scope may expand or shrink, depending on how affected the existing products' profits are. We adopt an industry-wide, as opposed to firm-specific, tariff to replace

$HT_{it}$  and capture this effect. The regression results are presented column (5) of Table 3. The coefficients of both home and foreign tariffs are positive and significant.

Lastly, tariff changes may induce a new entry. The export product scopes of new entrants may differ significantly from those of the incumbents. In this case, the estimate may not reflect the actual effects of tariff changes on existing firms' export product scope because it also includes the new entrants' export product scope. We run a balanced panel regression to separate these effects and report the results in column (4) of Table 3. The sign and significance of the home tariff effects do not change.

## 2.4 Role of Firm Heterogeneity in Productivity

The general conclusion from Table 3 is that Chinese firms would reduce their export scope in response to home and foreign tariff cuts. As Qiu and Zhou (2013) pointed out, existing theoretical studies and empirical findings show that heterogeneous firms with different productivities may or may not respond to trade liberalization in the same manner with regard to their product scope adjustment. This issue is investigated with Chinese data in the present study. We divide all firms into two groups: low-productivity and high-productivity firms *within* each industry. We then combine all low- (high-) productivity firms from all industries as the low (high) productivity category. Table 4 shows the negative binomial estimates for the low productivity category in columns (1) and (2) and the high productivity category in columns (3) and (4). Columns (1) and (3) contain estimates without fixed effects, and columns (2) and (4) contain estimates with two-way fixed effects. The key coefficients, namely, home and foreign tariffs, are positive and significant. That is, the low-productivity and high-productivity Chinese firms adjust their export product scope in the same direction in response to tariff cuts. Firm heterogeneity in productivity does not matter in this regard.

## 2.5 Possible Endogeneity and Reverse Causality

The regressions shown in Table 3 have two potential endogeneity issues. We examine whether our main results reported in Table 3 are robust after these issues are considered.

The first endogeneity issue originates from the possible measurement errors of the two key explanatory variables, namely,  $HT_{it}$  and  $FT_{it}$ , in which we use the contemporary year's trade value to calculate the weight of each product's tariff. This problem can be addressed in many ways, and we opt for a common approach in literature. Specifically, we avoid this possible endogeneity problem by using the following measure for our firm-specific home tariffs.

$$HT_{it}^{Alt} = \sum_k \left( \frac{v_{it-1}^k}{\sum_k v_{it-1}^k} \right) \tau_t^k,$$

where the weight of domestic sales is from the previous year's sales (one-period lag in weight). The idea is that current tariffs cannot affect the previous export weight. The fixed-effects estimates in column (1) of Table 5 indicate that home and foreign tariffs remain positive and significant.

Similarly, current foreign tariffs may be strongly correlated with their corresponding exports. We hence construct foreign tariff as

$$FT_{it}^{Alt} = \sum_{k \in E_{it}} \left[ \frac{X_{it-1}^k}{\sum_{k \in E_{it-1}} X_{it-1}^k} \sum_{c \in C_{it}} \left( \frac{X_{it-1}^{kc}}{X_{it-1}^k} \right) \tau_t^{kc} \right].$$

Column (2) of Table 5 uses  $HT_{it}^{Alt}$  and  $FT_{it}^{Alt}$  to address the possible endogeneity issued caused by the measurement errors that originate from the use of contemporary export weights in  $HT_{it}$  and  $FT_{it}$ . Both home and foreign tariffs remain positive and significant.

The second issue is that the estimates in Tables 2-4 may encounter the problem of reverse causality. When firms are forced to reduce their export scope because of the tough import competition induced by home tariff cuts, they lobby the government for imposing temporary trade restrictions (Grossman and Helpman, 1994; 1996; Bown and Crowley, 2013). Evidence for such a phenomenon exists in developing countries, such as Turkey (Gawande and Bandyopadhyay, 2000), and developed countries, such as the U.S. (Goldberg and Maggi, 1999). This phenomenon may not occur in China because of China's special policy regime and strong regulations on labor unions. Nevertheless, we check whether our main results are sensitive to this potential problem. We use the previous year's tariff levels rather than the current year's to measure firm-level home tariffs because this year's export product scope is unlikely to affect the previous year's tariff levels. Specifically, we replace  $\tau_t^k$  with  $\tau_{t-1}^k$  and  $v_{it-1}^k$  with  $v_{it-2}^k$  in  $HT_{it}^{Alt}$  (refer to  $HT_{it}^{Alt2}$ ) and re-run negative binomial regression in column (3). We find that the qualitative results remain unchanged. Column (4) uses  $HT_{it}^{Alt2}$  and  $FT_{it}^{Alt}$  to conduct negative binomial regressions and correct both the reverse causality of home tariffs and the possible measurement errors of contemporary home ( $HT_{it}$ ) and foreign tariffs ( $FT_{it}$ ).<sup>17</sup>

An alternative empirical identification strategy is to use an instrument variable to address possible reverse causality. The last column of Table 5 shows the results of this task. We run the IV Poisson estimate where all variables are in one-period difference.<sup>18</sup> Given that difference estimates wipe out all unobserved firm heterogeneity (Amiti and Konings, 2007), we only include year-specific fixed

<sup>17</sup> There is another issue with respect to our use of current year tariff levels in the main model. Firms may not have sufficient time to adjust their export product scope to the tariff changes in the same year. To provide firms sufficient time to respond to tariff changes, we can use the previous year's tariffs instead of the current year's tariffs. This is done in Table 5. Hence, Table 5 serves two purposes.

<sup>18</sup> The IV Poisson estimates implement a generalized method of moments (GMM) estimator of Poisson regression and allow endogenous variables to be instrumented by excluded instruments. Poisson regression assumes that  $E(e|x) = \exp(Xb)$  to obtain a consistent estimate of  $b$ ; thus, it is appropriate for a wide variety of models where the dependent variable is non-negative (see, e.g., Mullahy, 1997; Nichols, 2007). We thus eliminate observations with negative first-difference of export scope from the sample.



effects to control the time-variant factors. Inspired by the work of Trefler (2004), we employ two-period differences in firm-level home tariffs and those in foreign tariffs as the instruments of firm-level home tariffs and foreign tariffs, respectively. Both home tariffs ( $HT_{it}$ ) and foreign tariffs ( $FT_{it}$ ) are again positive and significant. Standard errors are corrected for the use of the estimated regressors by bootstrapping as required by the IV Poisson estimates. The Cragg-Donald  $\chi^2$  statistics is above the critical values suggested by Stock and Yogo (2005). This result indicates that our IV estimates are not weakly identified.

## 2.6 Summary and Issues

Two important results are obtained in this preliminary empirical analysis. These results deserve further investigation and understanding. First, we find that firms adjust their export product scope *similarly* in response to home and foreign tariff cuts. However, these two types of tariff reduction have opposite effects on the firms. As indicated in literature (e.g., Qiu and Zhou, 2013), bilateral trade liberalization poses both a threat and an opportunity to every firm. A home tariff cut intensifies domestic competition; this situation is not good home firms. By contrast, a foreign tariff cut makes the domestic firms' export more profitable. This conventional wisdom does not clarify our finding on Chinese firms' export product scope adjustment.

Second, we find that firms with different levels of productivity adjust their export product scope in the *same* direction in response to tariff cuts. However, recent literature on heterogeneous firms suggests that high-productivity firms normally behave differently from low-productivity firms.

We explore the two issues mentioned above by developing a theoretical model (in Section 3) and testing the predictions from the model (in Section 4).

## 3. Theoretical Model and Analysis

Our model consists of a world with two countries: China and Foreign. Each country has two industries, namely, the numeraire good industry and the differentiated products industry. Differentiated products are produced by a continuum of firms with measure 1, and numeraire good is produced by atomic firms.

### 3.1 Technologies

In China, every firm in the differentiated goods industry can produce multiple products. All firms employ the same production technology but have different managerial capabilities.<sup>19</sup> On the production side, we suppose that a firm produces a set of products with measure  $s$ . We index the

<sup>19</sup> We will examine the case of firm heterogeneity in production productivity in Subsection 3.4.

firm's core competency as product 0 and the others in descending productivity in  $[0, s]$ ; this indexing captures the situation wherein products further away from the core competency become less productive. We let the unit cost of producing the  $i$ th product be  $c_i = c + \theta i$ , where  $\theta > 0$  captures the decline of productivity. The unit cost of producing the core competency is  $c$ . Introducing a product is costly. If a firm introduces  $s$  products, a fixed cost equal to  $ks$  will exist, where  $k > 0$ .

On the management side, we assume that each firm incurs a cost of managing sales in both domestic and foreign markets. We further assume that firms are of two types: *efficient* firms that have unit management cost  $m_l$  and *inefficient* firms that have unit management cost  $m_h$ , with  $m_h > m_l$ . Let  $\sigma$  denote the fraction of efficient firms in the economy.

Given that our focus is on Chinese firms, we simplify the situation for foreign firms. We assume that a continuum of identical foreign firms produce the differentiated goods. All of them have the same marginal cost of production, which is assumed to be zero. Each firm produces a single product. Managing sales has no cost, and product introduction has no fixed cost. The measure of foreign firms is also assumed to be 1.

### 3.2 Product Markets

Following Melitz and Ottaviano (2008), we assume that  $Z$  identical consumers exist in China, with each having a quasi-linear preference for the numeraire good and all varieties from the differentiated goods industry.

$$U = Q_0 + \alpha \int_{i \in \Omega} q_i di - \frac{1}{2} \beta \left( \int_{i \in \Omega} q_i di \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \gamma \int_{i \in \Omega} q_i^2 di,$$

where  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  are all positive constants;  $Q_0$  is the consumption of the numeraire good;  $\Omega$  is the set of all varieties sold in the Chinese market; and  $q_i$  is the consumption of variety  $i$ . A consumer maximizes her utility subject to a budget constraint. As a result, the market demand for variety  $i$  by all  $Z$  consumers is  $p_i = \alpha - \frac{\beta}{Z} \int_{j \in \Omega} q_j dj - \frac{\gamma}{Z} q_i$ , from which we obtain the demand function for variety  $i$  as

$$p_i = A - bq_i, \quad \text{where } A = \frac{\alpha\gamma + \beta P}{\beta M + \gamma} \quad \text{and } b = \frac{\gamma}{Z}. \quad (5)$$

In the above demand function,  $p_i$  is the price of variety  $i$ ,  $M$  is the measure of  $\Omega$ , and  $P = \int_{i \in \Omega} p_i di$  is the aggregate price of all varieties. Slope  $b$  is exogenous, but the intercept  $A$  is endogenous, depending on the degree of product substitution ( $\beta$ ) and the degree of product market competition (captured by the endogenous  $P$  and  $M$ ).

The set of varieties,  $\Omega$ , is large; thus, the seller of variety  $i$  regards himself as a small monopolist of variety  $i$  whose decision has no direct effect on other products.<sup>20</sup> Competition in the market is captured completely by the vertical intercept of the demand function ( $A$ ).

The foreign country also has  $Z$  consumers and the same demand structure as China. In particular, the demand function for variety  $i$  is

$$p_i = A^* - bq_i, \quad \text{where } A^* = \frac{\alpha\gamma + \beta P^*}{\beta M^* + \gamma}. \quad (6)$$

In this demand function,  $M^*$  is the measure of the set of varieties sold in the foreign market, which is denoted by  $\Omega_F$ , and  $P^* = \int_{i \in \Omega_F} p_i di$  is the aggregate price of all varieties in the foreign market.

We assume that tariffs take the form of iceberg transport cost. We let  $t (> 1)$  and  $t^* (> 1)$  denote China's tariff and the foreign country's tariff. Then,  $t$  units of a product must be produced by a foreign firm to sell one unit in the Chinese market, and  $t^*$  units of a product must be produced by a Chinese firm to sell one unit in the foreign market. Free trade exists in the numeraire good industry.

### 3.3 Firms' Decision

We first analyze the Chinese firms' decisions. Each firm takes  $A$  and  $A^*$  as given when making its decisions. The first focus is on the decision of an efficient firm. Because all Chinese firms have the same production productivity, without loss of generality, we set  $c = 0$  to reduce notation. Suppose that the firm decides to introduce a range of products,  $[0, s_l]$ , which is called the firm's *total product scope*, and export a range of products  $[0, e_l]$ , which is called the firm's *export product scope*.<sup>21</sup> With consumer preference and market size ( $Z$ ) in the two markets being the same, Chinese firms have a disadvantage in the foreign market because they face trade protection in the foreign market. Hence, in equilibrium, a Chinese firm will not introduce a product that is exported to the foreign market but not sold to the domestic market, that is,  $e_l \leq s_l$ . If  $e_l < s_l$ , then some products ( $i \in (e_l, s_l]$ ) are sold in the domestic market but are not exported; the firm's export products are a subset of its total products. This is the case when the fixed cost of product introduction ( $k$ ) is not too large. Under this circumstance, the firm's decision in the home market is expressed as

$$\max_{s_l, q_i} \int_0^{s_l} [(A - bq_i)q_i - \theta i q_i] di - m_l Q - ks_l, \quad (7)$$

<sup>20</sup> Following most studies in the literature, we do not consider cannibalization, which is about strategic competition among varieties of the same firm.

<sup>21</sup> If a firm produces product  $i \in [0, s]$ , it will produce all products  $j < i$  because of the decreasing efficiency in  $[0, s]$ . If it exports product  $i \in [0, s]$ , it will export all products  $j < i$ .

where  $Q = \int_0^{s_l} q_i di$  is the total output of the firm from all its products sold in the domestic market.<sup>22</sup>

It is easy to derive the set of first order conditions, from which we obtain the optimal total product scope

$$s_l = \frac{A - m_l - 2\sqrt{bk}}{\theta}. \quad (8)$$

The total product scope is larger with stronger market demand ( $A$ ), lower management cost ( $m_l$ ), lower cost of product introduction ( $k$ ), and gradual decline of productivity ( $\theta$ ). The optimal quantity, price, and profit of each product are, respectively,

$$q_{li} = \frac{A - m_l - \theta i}{2b}, \quad p_{li} = \frac{A + m_l + \theta i}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_{li} = \frac{1}{4b}(A - m_l - \theta i)^2, \quad (9)$$

for all  $i \in [0, s_l]$ .

A stronger demand (i.e., a larger  $A$ ) leads to a larger output, a higher price and a larger profit. An increase in managerial efficiency (i.e., a smaller  $m_l$ ) increases output and profit, but reduces price.

Given  $e_l < s_l$ , the firm's optimal decision in the foreign market is provided by

$$\max_{e_l, q_i} \int_0^{e_l} [(A^* - bq_i)q_i - t^*\theta i q_i] di - m_l Q^*,$$

where  $Q^* = \int_0^{e_l} q_i di$  is the aggregate quantity of the firm's export from all its products.

It is easy to derive the set of first order conditions, from which we obtain the optimal export product scope

$$e_l = \frac{A^* - m_l}{\theta t^*}. \quad (10)$$

The optimal quantity, price and profit of each export product for  $i \in [0, e_l]$  are

$$q_{li}^* = \frac{A^* - m_l - \theta i t^*}{2b}, \quad p_{li}^* = \frac{A^* + m_l + \theta i t^*}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_{li}^* = \frac{1}{4b}(A^* - m_l - \theta i t^*)^2.$$

The export product scope is larger with stronger market demand ( $A^*$ ), lower management cost ( $m_l$ ), slower decline in productivity ( $\theta$ ), and lower foreign tariff ( $t^*$ ). An increase in managerial efficiency (i.e.,

<sup>22</sup> The main results also apply in a general setting of management cost, for example,  $m_l Q^2$  instead of  $m_l Q$ .

a smaller  $m_l$ ) or a decrease in foreign tariff increases output and profit, but reduces price. Tougher competition (smaller  $A^*$ ) reduces profit.

The optimization of an inefficient firm is the same as that of an efficient firm. We merely replace  $m_l$  with  $m_h$  in all the expressions above. In particular, the optimal total product scope is

$$s_h = \frac{A - m_h - 2\sqrt{bk}}{\theta}, \quad (11)$$

and the export product scope is

$$e_h = \frac{A^* - m_h}{\theta t^*}. \quad (12)$$

The output, price, and profit of product  $i$  in the domestic and foreign markets are, respectively,

$$q_{hi} = \frac{A - m_h - \theta i}{2b}, \quad p_{hi} = \frac{A + m_h + \theta i}{2}, \quad \text{and } \pi_{hi} = \frac{1}{4b}(A - m_h - \theta i)^2.$$

and

$$q_{hi}^* = \frac{A^* - m_h - \theta i t^*}{2b}, \quad p_{hi}^* = \frac{A^* + m_h + \theta i t^*}{2}, \quad \text{and } \pi_{hi}^* = \frac{1}{4b}(A^* - m_h - \theta i t^*)^2.$$

We now analyze the foreign firms. In the Chinese market, a foreign firm chooses its quantity to maximize its profit  $(A - bq_{fc})q_{fc} - tq_{fc}$ , where subscript  $fc$  stands for a foreign firm in the Chinese market. Thus, the optimal quantity, price, and profit of a foreign firm in the Chinese market are, respectively,

$$q_{fc} = \frac{A - t}{2b}, \quad p_{fc} = \frac{A + t}{2}, \quad \text{and } \pi_{fc} = \frac{1}{4b}(A - t)^2. \quad (13)$$

In the foreign market, the foreign firm chooses its output to maximize its profit  $(A^* - bq_{ff})q_{ff}$ , where subscript  $ff$  stands for a foreign firm in the foreign market. The optimal quantity, price, and profit of a foreign firm in the foreign market are, respectively,

$$q_{ff} = \frac{A^*}{2b}, \quad p_{ff} = \frac{A^*}{2}, \quad \text{and } \pi_{ff} = \frac{1}{4b}A^{*2}. \quad (14)$$

### 3.4 Market Equilibrium

Lastly, we determine equilibrium  $A$  and  $A^*$ .

Given that  $A = \frac{\alpha\gamma + \beta P}{\beta M + \gamma}$ , we first calculate  $M$  and  $P$ .  $M = s_l\sigma + s_h(1 - \sigma) + 1$ . From (9), we obtain the aggregate price of each efficient Chinese firm in the Chinese market as follows:

$$p_l = \int_0^{s_l} p_{li} di = \frac{1}{2}(A + m_l)s_l + \frac{1}{4}\theta s_l^2.$$

Similarly, each inefficient Chinese firm's aggregate price is  $p_h = \frac{1}{2}(A + m_h)s_h + \frac{1}{4}\theta s_h^2$ . Each foreign firm's price in the Chinese market is given in (13). Thus, the aggregate price in the Chinese market is

$$P = \frac{1}{4}[2(A + m_l)\sigma s_l + \theta\sigma s_l^2 + 2(A + m_h)(1 - \sigma)s_h + \theta(1 - \sigma)s_h^2 + 2(A + t)].$$

To simplify the notation, we let  $\delta = \frac{2\gamma}{\beta}$ ,  $\bar{m} = \sigma m_l + (1 - \sigma)m_h$ , and  $\hat{m} = \sigma m_l^2 + (1 - \sigma)m_h^2$ . Using the results in  $A = \frac{\alpha\gamma + \beta P}{\beta M + \gamma}$  yields the following condition that determines equilibrium  $A$ :

$$2[\sigma s_l + (1 - \sigma)s_h + 1 + \delta]A - 2\alpha\delta - 2[m_l\sigma s_l + m_h(1 - \sigma)s_h] - \theta[\sigma s_l^2 + (1 - \sigma)s_h^2] - 2t = 0. \quad (15)$$

By substituting in  $s_l$  from (8) and  $s_h$  from (11) in the equation above, we obtain

$$A^2 + 2[(1 + \delta)\theta - \bar{m}]A + \hat{m} - 4bk - 2(t - 2\alpha\delta)\theta = 0.$$

Eliminating the negative-value solution, we obtain the unique solution to  $A$  as

$$A = \sqrt{a_0} - (1 + \delta)\theta + \bar{m}, \quad (16)$$

where

$$a_0 = [(1 + \delta)\theta - \bar{m}]^2 - \hat{m} + 4bk + 2(t - 2\alpha\delta)\theta. \quad (17)$$

In the foreign market, the total number of products sold is  $M^* = \sigma e_l + (1 - \sigma)e_h + 1$ . The aggregate price of each efficient Chinese exporter and that of each inefficient Chinese exporter are, respectively,

$$p_l^* = \int_0^{e_l} p_{li}^* di = \frac{1}{2}(A^* + m_l)e_l + \frac{1}{4}t^*\theta e_l^2 \quad \text{and} \quad p_h^* = \int_0^{e_h} p_{hi}^* di = \frac{1}{2}(A^* + m_h)e_h + \frac{1}{4}t^*\theta e_h^2.$$

Each foreign firm's price is provided in (14). Thus, the aggregate price in the foreign market is

$$P^* = \frac{1}{4} [2(A^* + m_l)\sigma e_l + t^*\theta\sigma e_l^2 + 2(A^* + m_h)(1 - \sigma)e_h + t^*\theta(1 - \sigma)e_h^2 + 2A^*].$$

Using the results in  $A^* = \frac{\alpha\gamma + \beta P^*}{\beta M^* + \gamma}$  yields the following condition that determines the equilibrium  $A^*$ :

$$2[\sigma e_l + (1 - \sigma)e_h + 1 + \delta] A^* - 2\alpha\delta - 2[m_l\sigma e_l + m_h(1 - \sigma)e_h] - \theta t^*[\sigma e_l^2 + (1 - \sigma)e_h^2] = 0.$$

Substituting  $e_l$  from (10) and  $e_h$  from (12) in the equation above, we obtain the following equation that determines equilibrium  $A^*$ :

$$A^{*2} + 2[(1 + \delta)\theta t^* - \bar{m}]A^* + \hat{m} - 2\alpha\delta\theta t^* = 0.$$

This condition yields equilibrium  $A^*$  (excluding the negative-value solution) as follows:

$$A^* = \sqrt{a_0^*} - (1 + \delta)\theta t^* + \bar{m}, \quad (18)$$

where

$$a_0^* = [(1 + \delta)\theta t^* - \bar{m}]^2 - \hat{m} + 2\alpha\delta\theta t^*. \quad (19)$$

In summary, equilibrium  $A$  provided in (16), is a function of China's tariff  $t$ , and equilibrium  $A^*$ , given in (18), is a function of foreign tariff  $t^*$ . Substituting  $A$  in (8) and (11), we obtain optimal total product scopes  $s_l$  and  $s_h$ , respectively, as a function of  $t$ . Substituting  $A^*$  in (10) and (12), we obtain optimal export product scopes  $e_l$  and  $e_h$ , respectively, as a function of  $t^*$ .

### 3.5 Trade Liberalization

We analyze the respective effects of two types of trade liberalization on the export product scope of Chinese firms. The first type of liberalization is tariff reduction in China ( $t$ ), and the second type is tariff reduction in the foreign country ( $t^*$ ).

We first examine  $\frac{de_l}{dt}$  and  $\frac{de_h}{dt}$ . Based on the expression of  $e_l$  from (10),  $e_h$  from (12), and  $A^*$  from (18) and (19), we immediately know that  $t$  does not have any direct effect on  $e_l$  and  $e_h$ . However, the optimal export product scope given in (10) and (12) is obtained under the condition that  $e_l < s_l$  and  $e_h < s_h$ . The Chinese tariff cut may eventually result in the violation of this condition. From (8), (11), (16), and (17), we obtain

$$\frac{ds_l}{dt} = \frac{ds_h}{dt} = \frac{1}{\theta} \frac{dA}{dt} = \frac{1}{2\theta\sqrt{a_0}} \frac{da_0}{dt} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{a_0}} > 0.$$

Hence, when a tariff cut is implemented in China, Chinese firms reduce their total product scope ( $s_l$  and  $s_h$ ). When tariff cuts are implemented continuously, the total product scope is eventually reduced to the level of the export product scope ( $e_l$  and  $e_h$ ). Once  $e_l = s_l$ , the optimal export product scope of efficient Chinese firms is no longer given in (10), and once  $e_h = s_h$ , the optimal export product scope of inefficient Chinese firms is no longer given in (12). Despite this complication, we prove in Appendix B that  $\frac{ds_l}{dt} = \frac{de_l}{dt} > 0$  and  $\frac{ds_h}{dt} = \frac{de_h}{dt} > 0$ .

We then discuss the effect of foreign tariff cuts on Chinese firms' export product scope. We prove in Appendix B that under certain conditions,

$$\frac{de_l}{dt^*} < 0 < \frac{de_h}{dt^*}. \quad (20)$$

The above analysis allows us to establish the following proposition.

**Proposition 1.** (i) *In response to a drastic cut of import tariffs in China, all Chinese firms reduce their export product scope.*

(ii) *Suppose that the management cost of high-efficiency firms is very low (i.e.,  $m_l$  is very small) and the fraction of high-efficiency firms  $\sigma$  is large. Then, in response to a tariff cut by the foreign country, Chinese firms with high managerial efficiency expand their export product scope, whereas those with low managerial efficiency reduce their export product scope.*

As indicated in the proof, the condition imposed on the second result is a sufficient but not necessary.

The results of the proposition are surprising. On the one hand, one may ask why a domestic tariff cut affects export product scope. On the other hand, one may ask why some exporters are negatively affected by a foreign tariff cut such that they have to reduce their export product scope. The explanation is as follows. With regard to domestic tariff cut, each firm incurs a cost of introducing (or maintaining) every product it produces. By retaining a product, a firm obtains profit from the market; however, discontinuing a product results in saving from fixed cost ( $k$ ). When the domestic market is very profitable, the profit from the domestic market alone can cover the fixed cost. In that case,  $e_l < s_l$  and lowering the Chinese tariff reduces a Chinese firm's domestic market profit, which results in a reduction in total product scope but not in export product scope because the latter is only affected by foreign market profitability. However, when a drastic tariff cut is implemented, the firm reduces its product scope to a large extent that the set of products available for export is likewise reduced. This is how domestic trade liberalization affects exports.



A foreign tariff cut has a direct and an indirect effect on Chinese exporters. Every firm's marginal product earns zero profit from the foreign market. On the one hand, the foreign tariff cut lowers the cost of every exported product and thus increases profits. The latter induces all firms to expand their export product scope. This phenomenon is the cost effect, which is positive and direct. On the other hand, a low cost causes every firm to reduce the prices of all its products, which increases competition (lowering  $A^*$ ). This competition effect, which is negative and indirect, reduces the profits of all products (including the marginal products) and tends to reduce every firm's export product scope. The export product scope of a firm is reduced or expanded depending on the net effect on its marginal product. The competition effect is the same for all products as it shifts down the demand intercept ( $A^*$ ). However, the cost effect is different for the efficient firms and the inefficient firms. An efficient firm's marginal product has a higher marginal cost of production ( $e_l\theta$ ) than that of an inefficient firm ( $e_h\theta$ ) because the marginal products of all firms earn zero profit and the cost of a product is the sum of its management and production costs. A reduction in foreign tariff (in the form of iceberg transport cost) reduces all products' cost of production by the same percentage; thus, an efficient firm benefits more than an inefficient firm because the former enjoys a larger cost reduction in the absolute term. This is why under certain conditions, the net effect is positive for efficient firms (the cost effect is larger than the competition effect) but negative for inefficient firms (the competition effect is larger than the cost effect).

### 3.6 Firm Heterogeneity in Production Productivity

The most interesting message from Proposition 1 is that when a tariff cut is implemented in the foreign country, Chinese firms with different managerial efficiency levels respond in opposite directions. In this section, we examine whether the heterogeneous response to foreign tariff cuts by firms with different managerial efficiency levels can be reinterpreted as by firms with different production productivity levels, namely, the usual Melitz (2003) type of firm heterogeneity. We make a few modifications to the main model. First, we assume that Chinese firms are homogeneous in managerial efficiency to obtain a clean result; for simplicity, we let  $m_l = m_h = 0$ . Second, Chinese firms differ in production productivity. We assume that the cost of core competency  $c$  is uniformly distributed in  $[0,1]$ . Third, we merely focus on equilibrium analysis in the foreign market.

The derivation of optimal export product scope is similar to that in the main model except for one difference: all equilibrium variables are functions of  $c$ . Suppose that a firm has cost of core competence equal to  $c$ , called firm  $c$ . Then, firm  $c$ 's optimal export product scope is

$$e(c) = \frac{A^* - ct^*}{\theta t^*} = \frac{A^*}{\theta t^*} - \frac{c}{\theta}. \quad (21)$$

We assume that the foreign tariff is not too high or the foreign demand is sufficiently strong such that all Chinese firms export to further simplify the analysis. This condition requires  $A^* > t^*$  which we assume to hold below. The export quantity, price, and profit of firm  $c$ 's  $i$ th product are

$$q_i^*(c) = \frac{A^* - (c + \theta i)t^*}{2b}, \quad p_i^*(c) = \frac{A^* + (c + \theta i)t^*}{2}, \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_i^*(c) = \frac{1}{4b} [A^* - (c + \theta i)t^*]^2.$$

Thus, the aggregate price of firm  $c$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} p^*(c) &= \int_0^{e(c)} p_i^*(c) di = \frac{1}{2} (A^* + ct^*)e(c) + \frac{1}{4} t^* \theta e(c)^2 \\ &= \frac{(A^* - ct^*)}{4\theta t^*} (3A^* + ct^*). \end{aligned}$$

The aggregate price in the foreign market is given by

$$P^* = \int_0^1 p^*(c) dc + \frac{1}{2} A^* = \frac{9A^{*2} - 3A^*t^* + t^*}{12\theta t^*} + \frac{1}{2} A^*.$$

The number of products in the foreign market is given by

$$M^* = \int_0^1 \frac{A^* - ct^*}{\theta t^*} dc + 1 = \frac{2A^* - t^*}{2\theta t^{*2}} + 1$$

The above expressions of  $P^*$  and  $M^*$ , together with  $A^* = \frac{\alpha\gamma + \beta P^*}{\beta M^* + \gamma}$ , allow us to solve for the equilibrium  $A^*$  as a function of  $t^*$ , expressed as  $A^*(t^*)$ . Substituting equilibrium  $A^*$  into the expression of optimal product scope (21), we obtain

$$e(t^*, c) = \frac{A^*(t^*)}{\theta t^*} - \frac{c}{\theta}.$$

$\frac{de(t^*, c)}{dt^*}$  is independent of  $c$ . That is, all firms respond to the foreign tariff cut in the same direction. Our numerical example shows that  $\frac{de(t^*, c)}{dt^*} < 0$ . That is, in response to the foreign tariff cut, all Chinese firms expand their export product scope.

One may ask why the result is different from Proposition 1, which is derived from the model with firm heterogeneity in managerial efficiency. In the main model, the two types of firms have different production productivity levels for their marginal products; thus, foreign tariff reduction affects them differently. However, with homogeneity in managerial efficiency and heterogeneity in production

productivity, all firms have the same production productivity for their marginal products. This condition can be seen by substituting (21) into the cost of a firm's marginal product:  $c + \theta e(c) = \frac{A^*(t^*)}{t^*}$ , which is independent of  $c$ . Thus, all firms' marginal products will be affected similarly.

#### 4. Further Empirical Analysis: The Role of Managerial Efficiency

Guided by our theoretical analysis, we conduct an empirical investigation with emphasis on the responses of heterogenous firms to foreign tariff cuts.

We first identify a measure of managerial efficiency. We follow management science literature (e.g., Miller and Vollmann, 1985; Cooper and Kaplan, 1991; Fisher and Ittner, 1999) and use a firm's overhead expenses to proxy for management costs. Specifically, we construct two indicators of managerial efficiency for each firm: high overhead indicator (representing low managerial efficiency) and low overhead indicator (representing high managerial efficiency). We rank all firms in *each* industry according to their overhead expenses (in logarithm). When a firm's overhead expenses is higher than the top 25<sup>th</sup> quantile, the firm has low managerial efficiency; its high overhead indicator takes the value one, and its low overhead indicator takes the value zero. Similarly, when a firm's overhead expenses is lower than the bottom 25<sup>th</sup> quantile, the firm has high managerial efficiency; its high overhead indicator takes the value zero, and its low overhead indicator takes the value one. The low and high overhead indicators of firms with overhead expenses between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> quantile are zero. We then pool firms from all industries while maintaining the value of their indicators.

After introducing managerial efficiency and distinguishing it from production productivity, we realize a problem in the TFP measure. The conventional measure of TFP, including our TFP1, is a Solow residual that includes both managerial efficiency and production productivity. To clarify this, consider the following standard Cobb-Douglas gross production function

$$\ln Y_{it} = \alpha_k \ln K_{it} + \alpha_l \ln L_{it} + \alpha_m \ln M_{it} + x_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad (22)$$

where  $Y_{it}$ ,  $K_{it}$ ,  $L_{it}$ ,  $M_{it}$ , and  $x_{it}$  are firm  $i$ 's sales, capital, labor, intermediate inputs, and productivity in year  $t$ , respectively.<sup>23</sup> The conventional Olley-Pakes measure of productivity involves obtaining the difference between log output and log factor inputs times their estimated coefficients as follows:

$$TFP1_{it} \equiv x_{it} = \ln Y_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_k \ln K_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_l \ln L_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_m \ln M_{it}. \quad (23)$$

In this approach, firm productivity (TFP1) is clearly correlated with the *ex-post* productivity shock ( $\varepsilon_{it}$ ), such as managerial efficiency.

<sup>23</sup> Note that Feenstra et al. (2013) worked on a value-added production function instead.

We follow Feenstra et al. (2013) and construct an *ex-ante* productivity measure called TFP2 to exclude managerial efficiency from our TFP measure. Suppose that investment  $V_{it}$  in the Olley-Pakes approach depends on *anticipated* productivity  $TFP2_{it}$  of the firm according to the following functional relation:  $V_{it} = g_1(x_{it}, \ln K_{it}, EX_{it}, PE_{it}, WTO_t)$ , where  $EX_{it}$  ( $PE_{it}$ ) is the export (processing export) indicator that measures whether firm  $i$  exports (engages in processing exports) in year  $t$ , and  $WTO_t$  is an indicator that equals one for every year after 2001 and zero before 2001 as China became a WTO member in 2001. Inverting this relation, anticipated productivity can be obtained as

$$TFP2_{it} = g_1^{-1}(V_{it}, \ln K_{it}, EX_{it}, PE_{it}, WTO_t). \quad (24)$$

Appendix C provides a more detailed discussion on our TFP1 and TFP2 construction. Appendix Table A2 provides the industry-level estimates of the firms' TFP1 and TFP2 in each industry, together with the associated coefficients of labor, capital, and materials.

With the newly constructed TFP2, we consider the following specification to include firm heterogeneity in managerial efficiency.

$$e_{it} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 TFP2_{it} + \beta_2 HT_{it} + \beta_3 FT_{it} + \beta_4 FT_{it} \times HO_{it} + \beta_5 FT_{it} \times LO_{it} + \theta \Psi_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad (25)$$

where foreign tariffs appear three times in the equation: the foreign tariffs itself, its interaction with the high overhead indicator ( $HO_{it}$ ), and its interaction with the low overhead indicator ( $LO_{it}$ ). Our theory predicts that  $\hat{\beta}_3 + \hat{\beta}_4 > 0$  and  $\hat{\beta}_3 + \hat{\beta}_5 < 0$  because high (low) management cost firms reduces (increases) their scope in response to foreign tariff cuts. The regression results are shown in Table 6.

As shown in column (1) of Table 6, high-productivity firms have larger export product scopes. Again, we find that both home and foreign tariff variables have positive and statistically significant coefficients. More importantly, the interaction between foreign tariffs and the high managerial efficiency (i.e., low overhead) dummy is negative and significant, with a much larger economic magnitude than the own coefficient of foreign tariffs. This finding indicates that the effect of foreign tariffs on export scope is negative (i.e.,  $0.003 - 0.752 < 0$  in column (1)). Thus, a foreign tariff reduction increases the export product scope of high managerial efficiency firms. By contrast, the coefficient of the interaction between foreign tariffs and the low managerial efficiency (i.e., high overhead) indicator is positive and significant. Given that  $0.003 + 0.698 > 0$  as shown in column (1), a foreign tariff reduction reduces the export product scope for low managerial efficiency firms. Middle managerial efficiency firms also reduce their export product scope (as indicated by the coefficient value 0.003). By replacing firm-specific home tariffs with industry-level home tariffs, we find that all results remain robust, as shown in column (2) of Table 6.

We determine whether such key findings are sensitive to the measure of home input tariffs. Similar to the above section, we divide the entire sample into two groups, with one less integrated into the

GSCs and the other more integrated into the GSCs. As shown in columns (3) and (4), our key findings remain robust for the two groups: a foreign tariffs reduction increases (decreases) the export scope of high (low) managerial efficiency firms.

Generally speaking, larger firms also have higher overhead expenses, with other things equal (especially for equal managerial efficiency). This observation suggests that "total overhead expenses" may not be an appropriate measure of managerial efficiency. To avoid this size problem, we use overhead expenses per capita, which is defined as a firm's total overhead expenses divided by the number of employees. By replacing total overhead expenses with overhead expenses per capita, we obtain the regression results shown in columns (3) and (4) of Table 6.<sup>24</sup> The qualitative aspects of the results are similar. In particular, the net impact of a foreign tariff cut on export product scope is negative for firms with low overhead expenses (firms with high managerial efficiency) but positive for firms with high overall expenses (firms with low managerial efficiency).

Lastly, we find that the qualitative result is not sensitive to the definition of managerial efficiency. Suppose that we define high managerial-efficiency firms as those with overhead expenses lower than the bottom 10<sup>th</sup> quantile and low managerial-efficiency firms as those with overhead expenses higher than the 90<sup>th</sup> quantile. Then, re-running the regression yields the results reported in Table 7.

## 5. Concluding Remarks

In this study, we conduct theoretical and empirical analyses on the effects of one-sided tariff cuts on firms' export product scope. The preliminary empirical analysis based on Chinese data shows that Chinese firms reduce their export product scope in response to a domestic tariff cut and a foreign tariff cut. Low-productivity and high-productivity firms behave similarly. We build a theoretical model to fully understand this phenomenon. The novelty of our theoretical model is that it explicitly incorporates a new dimension of firm heterogeneity, namely, managerial efficiency. Our model predicts that the home country's tariff cut reduces all home firms' export product scope; however, in response to a foreign country's tariff cut, a home firm's export product scope expands (shrinks) when the firm's management cost is low (high). We then conduct another empirical analysis and obtain strong evidence to support our theoretical predictions.

Firm heterogeneity in managerial efficiency is the new element in our theoretical and empirical models. We verify the generality of our results based on our specifications of managerial efficiency. In our theoretical model, we model a firm's management cost as a linear function of its total sales. After checking, we find that the results also hold if a firm's management cost is assumed as a quadratic function of total sales. It will be more convincing if we obtain the same results using a more general function of managerial efficiency. Similarly, in our empirical analysis, we use a firm's total overhead

<sup>24</sup> We use log value for total overhead expenses, but actual value for overhead per capita to make the estimate values comparable in terms of size.

expenses and overhead expenses per capital as a proxy for a firm's management cost. Although this is a common measure of management cost in literature, it would be interesting to explore other measures to confirm the robustness of our results.

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**Table 1A. Distribution of Firms' Export Product Scope**

Export Product Scope	Number of Obs.		Export Value	
	Percent	Cumulative	Percent	Cumulative
1	21.06	21.06	8.64	8.64
2	15.66	36.72	8.65	17.29
3	11.54	48.25	7.80	25.10
4	8.91	57.16	7.60	32.70
5	6.90	64.07	5.85	38.54
6-15	25.82	89.89	31.35	69.89
16-25	6.01	95.90	10.99	80.88
26-527	4.10	100.0	19.12	100.0

**Table 1B. Summary Statistics (2000-2006)**

Variable	Mean	Std. Dev.
Export Product Scope	6.49	9.84
Firm Sales (RMB1,000)	150,053	1,061,312
Number of Employees	479	1,687
Home Tariffs (Firm Level)	8.34	7.69
Home Tariffs (Industry Level)	11.72	5.59
Foreign Tariffs (Firm Level)	7.38	19.22
Home Input Tariffs (Firm Level)	2.12	3.88
Log China's GDP	28.29	.265
Log Importers' Weighted GDP	28.70	2.43
Per-capita Overhead Expenses	277.1	668.1
Log of Overhead Expenses	6.83	2.18
SOE Indicator	.021	.141
Foreign Indicator	.589	.491
Processing Indicator	.286	.452

Notes: Value is in Chinese yuan. US\$1 was equivalent to approximately 8.20 yuan for most of the time in 2000-2006.

**Table 1C. Tariff Reductions**

Year	Ind. Home Tariffs		Firm Home Tariffs		Firm Foreign Tariffs		Firm Input Tariffs	
	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Mean	Std. Dev.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
2000	20.34	8.44	16.58	4.13	8.07	8.77	2.69	5.22
2006	10.11	4.15	8.61	1.60	6.68	8.35	1.70	3.47
Change (%)	50.31	--	48.07		17.22	--	36.80	--

Notes: Columns (1)-(2) report the mean and standard deviation of 3-digit industry-level home import tariffs whereas columns (3)-(4) report firm-level home import tariffs as described in Eq. (2). Columns (5)-(6) report the mean and standard deviation of firm-level foreign tariffs as described in Eq.(3). The last two columns report the mean and standard deviation of firm input tariffs as described in Eq. (4) in the text.

**Table 2. Baseline Estimates**

Econometric Methods:	OLS	Poisson	Negative Binomial		
Regressand: Export Product Scope	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Home Tariffs (Firm-Level)	0.170*** (42.39)	0.020*** (30.87)	0.021*** (56.97)	0.006*** (16.09)	0.017*** (28.91)
Foreign Tariffs	0.152*** (35.08)	0.020*** (37.09)	0.020*** (45.92)	0.006*** (22.50)	0.006*** (17.76)
Log Firm TFP (TFP1)	1.690*** (15.44)	0.187*** (13.53)	0.228*** (25.20)	0.099*** (15.09)	0.146*** (18.11)
Log China's GDP	-0.143 (-1.00)	-0.028 (-1.29)	-0.021* (-1.69)		
Log Weighted GDP of Importers	1.360*** (68.81)	0.233*** (47.20)	0.160*** (149.36)	0.128*** (93.94)	0.131*** (83.41)
Log Capital-Labor Ratio	-0.056** (-2.26)	-0.004 (-0.71)	-0.024*** (-11.59)	-0.019*** (-7.53)	-0.005 (-1.47)
Foreign Indicator	0.472*** (6.47)	0.019 (1.09)	0.092*** (15.07)	0.132*** (14.65)	0.097*** (9.42)
SOE Indicator	0.693*** (2.64)	0.108** (1.99)	0.065*** (3.06)	0.088*** (3.34)	0.066** (2.35)
Processing Indicator	-0.038 (-0.54)	-0.052*** (-4.74)	-0.008 (-1.19)	-0.023*** (-4.46)	-0.024*** (-4.22)
Firm-specific Fixed Effects	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Year-specific Fixed Effects	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Pure Domestic Firms Dropped	No	No	No	No	Yes
Pure Exporting Firms Dropped	No	No	No	No	Yes
Prob.> $\chi^2$	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Observations	107,242	107,242	107,242	107,242	76,130

Note: Robust t-values corrected for clustering at the firm level in parentheses. \*(\*\*) indicates significance at the 10% (5%) level.

**Table 3. Negative Binomial Estimates**

Regressand: Export Product Scope	All	GSCs Integrated		All Sample	
	Sample	Less	More		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Home Tariffs (Firm-Level)	0.019*** (26.13)	0.032*** (26.06)	0.011*** (11.51)	0.025*** (8.45)	
Home Tariffs (Industry-Level)					0.009*** (15.40)
Foreign Tariffs	0.004*** (10.38)	0.005*** (6.48)	0.005*** (10.08)	0.026*** (7.61)	0.003*** (12.44)
Home Input Tariffs	0.384*** (4.06)	-0.586*** (-2.99)	0.677*** (5.77)	-0.907 (-1.42)	0.313*** (4.70)
Log Firm TFP (TFP1)	0.097*** (9.86)	0.119*** (6.12)	0.112*** (8.75)	0.167*** (3.53)	0.054*** (8.56)
Log Weighted GDP of Importers	0.124*** (62.65)	0.127*** (33.41)	0.122*** (49.46)	0.155*** (13.37)	0.109*** (77.92)
Log Capital-Labor Ratio	-0.018*** (-4.67)	-0.046*** (-6.68)	0.017*** (3.24)	-0.029* (-1.69)	-0.022*** (-7.57)
Foreign Indicator	-0.039*** (-2.84)	0.023 (0.93)	-0.114*** (-6.63)	-0.246*** (-3.68)	-0.014 (-1.21)
SOE Indicator	0.059 (1.64)	0.063 (0.79)	0.090** (2.14)	0.085 (0.50)	0.032 (1.14)
Processing Indicator	-0.056*** (-9.44)	-0.059*** (-5.00)	-0.070*** (-9.21)	-0.121** (-2.12)	-0.052*** (-12.55)
Firm-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pure Domestic Firms Dropped	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Pure Exporting Firms Dropped	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Balanced Panel Considered	No	No	No	Yes	No
Prob.> $\chi^2$	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Observations	43,057	15,084	27,973	1,799	5,3613

Note: Robust t-values corrected for clustering at the firm level in parentheses. \*(\*\*) indicates significance at the 10% (5%) level.

**Table 4. Negative Binomial Estimates with Heterogeneous Productivity**

Productivity Category	Low Productive		High Productive	
Regressand: Exporter Scope	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Home Tariffs (Firm-level)	0.018*** (36.18)	0.011*** (17.69)	0.024*** (41.16)	0.012*** (21.16)
Foreign Tariffs	0.010*** (21.47)	0.005*** (19.13)	0.010*** (18.27)	0.001*** (6.31)
Log Firm's TFP	0.380*** (27.41)	0.328*** (18.38)	0.217*** (19.44)	0.070*** (7.97)
Log China's GDP	0.040** (2.48)		0.057*** (3.09)	
Log Weighted GDP of Importers	0.142*** (95.89)	0.129*** (60.29)	0.166*** (103.00)	0.168*** (80.35)
Log Capital-Labor Ratio	-0.030*** (-9.93)	-0.033*** (-8.00)	-0.014*** (-4.69)	-0.015*** (-4.70)
Foreign Indicator	0.106*** (12.93)	0.142*** (11.85)	0.053*** (5.59)	0.120*** (10.85)
SOE Indicator	0.098*** (3.53)	0.091** (2.34)	0.030 (0.88)	0.050 (1.37)
Processing Indicator	0.005 (0.55)	-0.015 (-1.53)	-0.044*** (-4.50)	-0.036*** (-4.69)
Firm-specific Fixed Effects	No	Yes	No	Yes
Year-specific Fixed Effects	No	Yes	No	Yes
Prob.> $\chi^2$	.000	.0,00	.000	.000
Number of Observations	56,669	56,669	46,272	46,272

Notes: Robust t-values corrected for clustering at the firm level in parentheses.\*(\*\*) indicates significance at the 10% (5%) level.

**Table 5. Estimates with Alternative Tariffs Measures**

Measure of Home Tariffs	One-Lag in Weights		Two-Lag in Weights & One-Lag in Tariffs		First-Difference IV Poisson
Regressand: Export Product Scope	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Home Tariffs (Firm-Level)	0.016*** (32.36)	0.016*** (27.33)	0.008*** (26.99)	0.007*** (19.69)	0.032*** (3.03)
Foreign Tariffs	0.007*** (22.12)		0.007*** (22.29)		0.004*** (3.11)
Foreign Tariffs (One-Lag in Weight)		0.002*** (5.48)		0.003*** (6.40)	
Log Firm TFP (TFP1)	0.110*** (14.58)	0.119*** (11.70)	0.110*** (14.58)	0.125*** (10.95)	0.008 (1.08)
Log Weighted GDP of Importers	0.136*** (90.91)	0.125*** (62.68)	0.136*** (91.21)	0.131*** (60.85)	0.158** (19.93)
Foreign Indicator	0.133*** (14.16)	0.117*** (9.19)	0.130*** (13.78)	0.106*** (8.19)	0.087 (0.56)
SOE Indicator	0.082*** (2.95)	0.028 (0.76)	0.083*** (2.98)	0.030 (0.74)	-0.034 (-0.72)
Processing Indicator	0.004 (0.62)	-0.002 (-0.31)	0.004 (0.64)	0.002 (0.18)	
Firm-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Year-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Prob.> $\chi^2$	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000
Observations	94,366	48,024	94,366	48,024	99,517

Note: Robust t-values corrected for clustering at the firm level in parentheses. \*, \*\*, \*\*\* indicates significance at the 10%, 5%, and 1% level, respectively. Pure processing firms are dropped in all columns. Pure domestic firms and pure exporting firms are dropped from all estimates. Columns (1)-(4) are negative binomial fixed-effects estimates whereas column (5) is the first-difference poisson IV estimate where the regressand and regressors are in first-difference level. The second-difference firm-level home tariffs and foreign tariffs are used as instruments for first-difference firm-level home tariffs and foreign tariffs.



**Table 6. Managerial Efficiency and Export Product Scope**

Measure of Home Tariffs	Log Overhead Expenses		Overhead Expenses Per Capita	
Regressand: Export Product Scope	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Home Tariffs (Firm-Level)	0.018*** (29.50)		0.017*** (28.83)	
Home Tariffs (Industry-Level)		0.012*** (17.08)		0.012*** (16.31)
Foreign Tariffs	0.003*** (5.46)	0.002*** (4.39)	0.006*** (14.70)	0.006*** (13.98)
Foreign Tariffs × High Overhead Indicator	0.698*** (12.42)	0.746*** (12.55)	0.135** (2.31)	0.127** (2.03)
Foreign Tariffs × Low Overhead Indicator	-0.752*** (-6.74)	-0.684*** (-5.56)	-0.218*** (-3.39)	-0.166*** (-2.44)
Log Firm TFP (TFP2)	0.036*** (3.02)	0.033*** (2.63)	0.029** (2.46)	0.024** (1.98)
Log Weighted GDP of Importers	0.132*** (80.30)	0.134*** (78.77)	0.132*** (82.10)	0.134*** (80.57)
Foreign Indicator	0.105*** (9.96)	0.101*** (9.22)	0.104*** (9.94)	0.101*** (9.28)
SOE Indicator	0.032 (1.12)	0.005 (0.18)	0.037 (1.33)	0.011 (0.39)
Processing Indicator	-0.029*** (-4.78)	-0.023*** (-3.59)	-0.027*** (-4.62)	-0.021*** (-3.50)
Firm-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	72,458	64,915	72,458	64,915

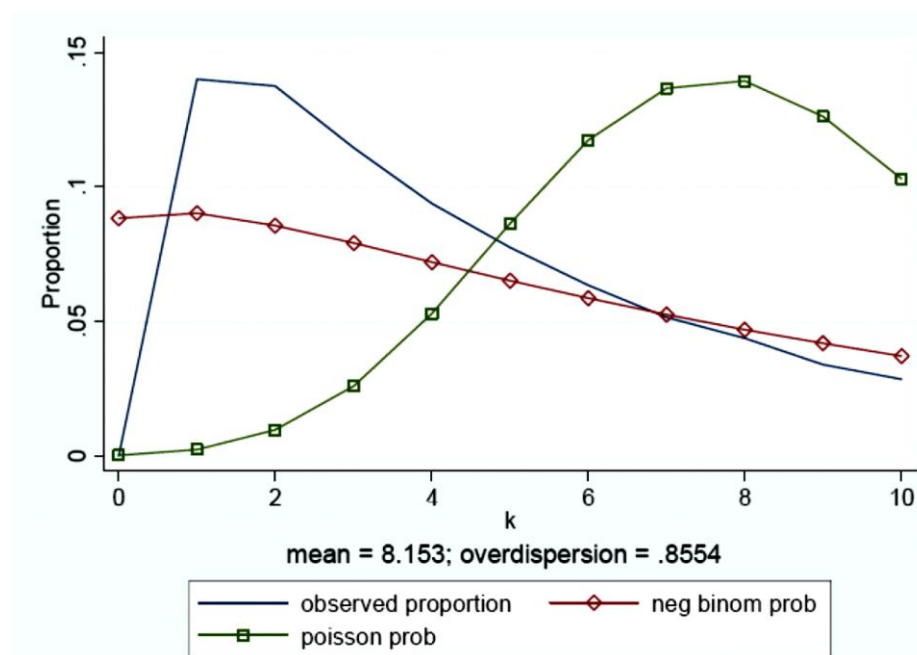
Note: T-values in parentheses. \* (\*\*) indicates significance at the 10% (5%) level.

**Table 7. Negative Binomial Estimates with Alternative Cutoffs of Managerial Efficiency**

Measure of Home Tariffs	Log Overhead Expenses		Overhead Expenses Per Capita	
Regressand: Export Product Scope	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Home Tariffs (Firm-Level)	0.017*** (29.32)	0.018*** (28.51)	0.017*** (28.64)	0.017*** (27.95)
Foreign Tariffs	0.004*** (10.66)	0.004*** (10.66)	0.006*** (16.19)	0.006*** (16.39)
Foreign Tariffs ×High Overhead Indicator	0.721*** (11.22)	0.711*** (10.45)	0.281*** (3.53)	0.245*** (2.92)
Foreign Tariffs ×Low Overhead Indicator	-0.681*** (-3.15)	-0.749*** (-3.28)	-0.167* (-1.77)	-0.342*** (-3.28)
Log Firm TFP (TFP2)	0.038*** (3.18)	0.041*** (3.23)	0.029** (2.46)	0.032*** (2.58)
Log Weighted GDP of Importers	0.132*** (80.80)	0.137*** (78.33)	0.132*** (82.25)	0.137*** (79.59)
Foreign Indicator	0.108*** (10.25)	0.114*** (10.49)	0.103*** (9.91)	0.110*** (10.16)
SOE Indicator	0.031 (1.07)	0.041 (1.38)	0.039 (1.37)	0.049* (1.68)
Processing Indicator	-0.028*** (-4.68)	-0.001 (-0.21)	-0.027*** (-4.70)	-0.001 (-0.09)
Firm-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Year-specific Fixed Effects	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pure Processing Firms Included	Yes	No	Yes	No
Observations	72,458	66,619	72,458	66,619

Note: T-values in parentheses. \* (\*\*) indicates significance at the 10% (5%) level.

Figure 1. Distribution of Chinese Firms' Export Product Scope



## Appendix A. Matching Transaction-Level Trade Data and Firm-Level Production Data

### A.1 Transaction-Level Trade Dataset

The extremely disaggregated transaction-level monthly trade data during 2000-2006 are obtained from China's General Administration of Custom. Each transaction is described at the HS 8-digit level. The number of monthly observations increases from around 78 thousand in January 2000 to more than 230 thousand in December 2006. As shown in Column (1) of Table A1, the annual number of observations is more than 10 million in 2000 and 16 million in 2006, with more than 118 million in total for seven years. Column (2) of Table A1 exhibits that there are 286,819 firms that ever engage in international trade during this period.

For each transaction, the dataset consists of three types of information: (1) 5 variables on basic trade information. They are value (in current US dollar), trade status (export or import), quantity, trade unit, value per unit (i.e., value divided by quantity). (2) 6 variables on trade mode and pattern. These include country of destination for exports, country of origin for imports, routing (i.e., whether the product is shipped through an intermediate country/regime), customs regime (e.g., processing trade or ordinary trade), trade mode (i.e., by sea, by truck, by air, or by post), customs port (i.e., where the product departs or arrives). (3) Firms' information associated with each transaction. In particular, it includes 7 variables such as firm's name, identification number set by the customs, city where the firm is located, telephone, zip code, name of the manager/CEO, ownership type of firm (e.g., foreign affiliate, private, or state-own-enterprises).

### A.2 Firm-Level Production Dataset

The firm-level panel dataset covers around an average 230,000 manufacturing firms per year in 2000-2006. The number of firms doubled from 162,885 in 2000 to 301,961 in 2006. The data are collected and maintained by China's National Bureau of Statistics in an annual survey of manufacturing enterprises. It contains all information of three accounting sheets (i.e., Balance Sheet, Loss & Benefit Sheet, and Cash Flow Sheet). On average, the total value of industrial production covered in such a dataset accounts for around 95% of China's total industrial production in each year. In fact, the aggregated data on the industrial sector in China's Statistical Yearbook published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) are compiled from this dataset. The dataset includes more than 100 financial variables listed in the main accounting sheets of all these firms. It covers two types of manufacturing firms: (1) all SOEs; (2) non-SOEs whose annual sales are more than five million RMB. The number of firms increased from more than 160 thousand in 2000 to 301 thousand in 2006. As shown in column (3) of Table A1, the total number of firms that ever appear in the dataset during 2000-2006 is 615,951.

The raw production dataset is still quite noisy given that many unqualified firms are included, largely because of mis-reporting by some firms. For example, information on some family-based firms, which usually have no formal accounting system in place, is based on a unit of one RMB, whereas the official requirement is a unit of 1000 RMB. We hence filter the raw production data as introduced in the text. Accordingly, the total number of firms covered in the dataset is reduced to 438,165, around 1/3 of firms are dropped from the sample after such a filter process. As shown in column (4) of Table A1, such a filter ratio is even higher in the initial years: around 1/2 of firms are dropped in 2000.

### A.3 Matching Method

Although these two datasets have rich information on production and trade, it is challenging to match them. Although both datasets contain a variable of each firm's identification number, their coding systems are completely different and share no common characteristics. For example, the lengths of the firm's ID variable in transaction-level dataset are 10 digits whereas those in firm-levels only have 9 digits. China's customs administration just constructs a complete coding system different from the one adopted by the National Bureau of Statistics.

To address this challenge, we take two approaches to match transaction-level trade data and firm-level production data. First, we match the two datasets by firm's name and year. That is, if a firm from one dataset has exactly the same Chinese name as a firm in another dataset in a particular year, they must be the same firm. The year variable is necessary to use for an auxiliary identification variable since some firms could change their name in different years and new comers could possibly take other firms' original names. As a result, the number of matched firms is 83,679 in total by using the raw production dataset, and reduced to 69,623 in total by using the more accurate filtered production dataset.

Second, we rely on two other common variables to further identify firms, namely, zip code and the last seven digits of a firm's phone number. The rationale is that firms should have different and unique phone numbers within a postal district. Although this method seems straightforward, subtle technical and practical difficulties still remain. For example, the phone numbers in the product-level trade data include both area phone codes and a hyphen, whereas those in the firm-level production data do not. We use the last seven digits of the phone number to serve a proxy for firm identification for two reasons. The first reason is that during 2000-2006, some large Chinese cities changed their phone number digits from seven to eight, which usually added one more digit at the beginning of the number. Therefore, sticking to the last seven digits of the number would not confuse the firm's identification. The second reason is that in the original dataset, phone number is defined as a string of characters with the phone zip code. However, it is inappropriate to de-string such characters to numerals since a hyphen bar is used to connect the zip code and phone number. Using the last seven-digit substring solves this problem neatly.

A firm could miss its name information in either trade or production dataset. Similarly, a firm could lose information on phone and/or zip code. To secure that our matched dataset can cover common firms as many as possible, we include the observations in the matched dataset if a firm appears in either one of the two approaches just described above. As a result, the number of matched firms increases to 90,558 when the raw production dataset is used, as shown in column (7) of Table A1. By way of comparison, such a matching performance is in the same magnitude to (or even better than) other similar studies (See Yu (2013) for detailed discussions).

## Appendix B. Proof of Proposition 1

(i). First, we show  $\frac{ds_l}{dt} = \frac{de_l}{dt} > 0$ . The proof of  $\frac{ds_h}{dt} = \frac{de_h}{dt} > 0$  is the same.

If  $e_l = s_l$ , an efficient firm's total profit function is

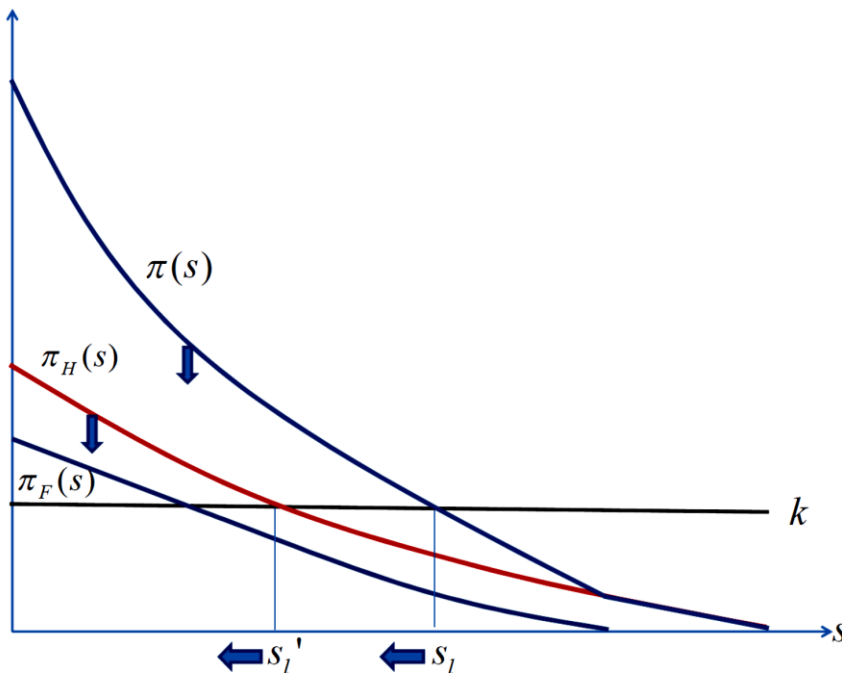
$$\pi(s) = \int_0^s \pi_{li} di + \int_0^s \pi_{li}^* di - ks.$$

The first order condition is

$$\pi'(s) = \frac{1}{4b}(A - m_l - \theta s)^2 + \frac{1}{4b}(A^* - m_l - \theta t^* s)^2 - k = 0.$$

We denote  $\pi_H(s) = \frac{1}{4b}(A - m_l - \theta s)^2$ ,  $\pi_F(s) = \frac{1}{4b}(A^* - m_l - \theta t^* s)^2$ ,  $\pi(s) = \pi_H(s) + \pi_F(s)$ , and draw all  $\pi(s)$ ,  $\pi_H(s)$  and  $\pi_F(s)$  along with  $k$  in Figure 1. The equilibrium  $s_l$  is determined by the intersection between  $\pi(s)$  and  $k$ . Should the optimal scope be determined by  $\pi_H(s) = k$ , it would be  $s_l'$ . We have shown in the text that  $\frac{ds_l'}{dt} > 0$ . That is,  $s_l'$  decreases, which implies that the curve  $\pi_H(s)$  shifts downwards when there is a cut in Chinese tariff. However, the domestic tariff cut does not affect the curve  $\pi_F(s)$ . Hence, the total profit curve  $\pi(s)$  shifts downwards as well. As a result,  $s_l$  decreases, that is,  $\frac{ds_l}{dt} > 0$ .

**Figure 2. Export Product Scope Adjustment to Home Tariff Cuts**



(ii). We now turn to foreign tariff cuts.

Noting that at the equilibrium  $A^*$  is a function of  $t^*$ , i.e.,  $A^*(t^*)$ . Then, from (10) and (12), we have:

$$\frac{de_l}{dt^*} = \frac{t^* \frac{dA^*(t^*)}{dt^*} - A^*(t^*) + m_l}{\theta t^{*2}} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{de_h}{dt^*} = \frac{t^* \frac{dA^*(t^*)}{dt^*} - A^*(t^*) + m_h}{\theta t^{*2}}. \quad (26)$$

From the above two equation we observe

$$\frac{de_h}{dt^*} > \frac{de_l}{dt^*},$$

and so

$$\frac{de_h}{dt^*} > 0 > \frac{de_l}{dt^*} \quad \text{if and only if} \quad m_h > A^* - t^* \frac{dA^*}{dt^*} > m_l. \quad (27)$$

Let us first consider a limiting case in which  $m_l = 0$  (the managerial efficiency is very high for the efficient Chinese firms) and  $\sigma = 1$  (the measure of inefficient Chinese firms is zero). Then, the equilibrium  $A^*$  from (18) becomes  $A^* = \sqrt{[(1+\delta)\theta t^*]^2 + 2\delta\theta t^*} - (1+\delta)\theta t^*$ , from which we obtain

$$\frac{dA^*}{dt^*} = (1+\delta)\theta \left( \sqrt{\frac{[(1+\delta)\theta t^*]^2 + 2\alpha\delta\theta t^* + \left(\frac{\alpha\delta}{1+\delta}\right)^2}{[(1+\delta)\theta t^*]^2 + 2\alpha\delta\theta t^*}} - 1 \right) > 0$$

and

$$A^* - t^* \frac{dA^*}{dt^*} = \frac{\alpha\delta\theta t^*}{\sqrt{[(1+\delta)\theta t^*]^2 + 2\alpha\delta\theta t^*}} > 0.$$

This allows us to establish a non-empty interval  $V = (A^* - t^* \frac{dA^*}{dt^*}, A^*)$ . We now assign  $m_h$  any value such that  $m_h \in V$  so that the inefficient firms (with measure zero) still export some varieties. Hence, we have

$$m_h > A^* - t^* \frac{dA^*}{dt^*} > m_l = 0,$$

which satisfies the condition in (27) and so  $\frac{de_h}{dt^*} > 0 > \frac{de_l}{dt^*}$ .



By continuity, the inequalities hold as long as  $m_l$  is sufficiently small and the fraction of inefficient Chinese firms is sufficiently small. Q.E.D.

## Appendix C. Measuring Ex-ante TFP (TFP2)

This section discusses how we construct and measure TFP using two different approaches: *ex-post* TFP (TFP1) and *ex-ante* TFP (TFP2) inspired by Feenstra et al. (2013).

We extend the Olley-Pakes (1996) approach to fit with China's reality in the following ways. Firstly, given that the measure of TFP requires real terms of firm's inputs (labor and capital) and output, we adopt different price deflators for inputs and outputs from Brandt *et al.* (2012) in which the output deflators are constructed using "reference price" information from *China's Statistical Yearbooks* whereas input deflators are constructed based on output deflators and China's national input-output table (2002).

Secondly, we take China's WTO accession in 2001 into account since such a positive demand shock would push Chinese firms to expand their economic scales, which in turn can exaggerate the simultaneous bias of their measured TFP. Thirdly, it is essential to construct the real investment variable when using the Olley-Pakes (1996) approach. As usual, we adopt the perpetual inventory method to investigate the law of motion for real capital and real investment. Different from assigning an arbitrary number for the depreciation ratio, we use the exact firm's real depreciation provided by the Chinese firm-level data set.

Finally, we also consider firm's processing behavior in the TFP realization by constructing a processing export indicator (one denotes processing export and zero otherwise). The idea is that processing firms may use different technology than non-processing firms (Feenstra and Hanson, 2005).

Thus, a firm's investment function is  $V_{it} = g_1(x_{it}, \ln K_{it}, EX_{it}, PE_{it}, WTO_t)$  where  $EX_{it}$  ( $PE_{it}$ ) is the export (processing export) indicator to measure whether firm  $i$  exports (engages in processing exports) in year  $t$ , and  $WTO_t$  is an indicator that equals one if the WTO agreement has occurred after 2001 and zero before that. Therefore, inverting the investment function with respect to its first argument we obtain:<sup>25</sup>

$$x_{it} = g_1^{-1}(V_{it}, \ln K_{it}, EX_{it}, PE_{it}, WTO_t). \quad (28)$$

Given the gross production function

$$\ln Y_{it} = \alpha_k \ln K_{it} + \alpha_l \ln L_{it} + \alpha_m \ln M_{it} + x_{it} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (29)$$

<sup>25</sup> Olley and Pakes (1996) show that the investment demand function is monotonically increasing in the productivity shock  $x_{it}$ , by making some mild assumptions about the firm's production technology.

and defining the function  $g_2(\cdot)$  as  $\alpha_k \ln K_{jt} + g_1^{-1}(V_{it}, \ln K_{it}, EX_{it}, PE_{it}, WTO_t)$ , the estimation of the labor (materials) coefficients  $\alpha_l (\alpha_m)$  are obtained as:

$$\ln Y_{it} = \alpha_l \ln L_{it} + \alpha_m \ln M_{it} + g_2(V_{it}, \ln K_{it}, EX_{it}, PE_{it}, WTO_t) + \varepsilon_{it}. \quad (30)$$

The next step is to obtain an unbiased estimated coefficient of  $\alpha_k$ . Olley-Pakes (1996) use the following specification:

$$\ln Y_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_l \ln L_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_m \ln M_{it} = \alpha_k \ln K_{it} + E(x_{it} | x_{it-1}, pr_{it}) + [x_{it} - E(x_{it} | x_{it-1}, pr_{it})] + \varepsilon_{it}, \quad (31)$$

where the estimated values of the labor coefficient and materials coefficient are used on the left. The expectation of productivity appearing in (31) is modeled as a forth-order polynomial function of lagged productivity, which can be obtained as  $(g_{2i,t-1} - \alpha_k \ln K_{i,t-1})$ , and also the predicted probability of the firm's survival into the year  $t$ ,  $pr_{it}$ , based on year  $t-1$  information. The predicted probability is obtained from Probit estimation.<sup>26</sup> The term  $[x_{it} - E(x_{it} | x_{it-1}, pr_{it})]$  is the productivity shock for surviving firms, but does not affect the investment or exit choice so it is treated as an error.

Once the coefficient of capital  $\hat{\alpha}_k$  is estimated in Eq. (31), it is ready to obtain the standard ex-post TFP:

$$TFP1_{it} \equiv x_{it} = \ln Y_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_k \ln K_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_l \ln L_{it} - \hat{\alpha}_m \ln M_{it}.$$

In this way, TFP1 includes both true production productivity and managerial efficiency. By contrast, the *ex-ante* productivity (TFP2) which only capture true production productivity is given by

$$TFP2_{it} = g_1^{-1}(V_{it}, \ln K_{it}, EX_{it}, PE_{it}, WTO_t).$$

<sup>26</sup> Note that here the non-linear least squares approach is adopted to estimate (31) since it requires the estimated coefficients of the log-capital in the first and second term to be identical (Pavcnik, 2002).

**Table A1. Matched Statistics - Number of Firms**

Year # of	Trade Data		Production Data			Matched Data		
	Transactions	Firms	Raw Firms	Filtered Firms	w/ Raw Firms	w/ Filtered Firms	w/ Raw Firms	w/ Filtered Firms
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
2000	10,586,696	80,232	162,883	83,628	18,580	12,842	21,665	15,748
2001	12,667,685	87,404	169,031	100,100	21,583	15,645	25,282	19,091
2002	14,032,675	95,579	181,557	110,530	24,696	18,140	29,144	22,291
2003	18,069,404	113,147	196,222	129,508	28,898	21,837	34,386	26,930
2004	21,402,355	134,895	277,004	199,927	44,338	35,007	50,798	40,711
2005	24,889,639	136,604	271,835	198,302	44,387	34,958	50,426	40,387
2006	16,685,377	197,806	301,960	224,854	53,748	42,833	59,133	47,591
All Year	118,333,831	286,819	615,951	438,165	83,679	69,623	90,558	76,946

Notes: Column (1) reports the number of observations of HS eight-digit monthly transaction-level trade data from China's General Administration of Customs by year. Column (2) reports the number of firms covered in the transaction-level trade data by year. Column (3) reports the number of firms covered in the firm-level production dataset compiled by China's National Bureau of Statistics without any filter and cleaning. By contrast, Column (4) presents the number of firms covered in the firm-level production dataset with careful filter according to the requirement of GAAP. Accordingly, Column (5) reports the number of matched firms using exactly identical company's names in both trade dataset and raw production dataset. By contrast, Column (6) reports the number of matched firms using exactly identical company's names in both trade dataset and filtered production dataset. Finally, Column (7) reports number of matched firms using exactly identical company's names and exactly identical zip code and phone numbers in both trade dataset and raw production dataset. By contrast, Column (8) reports number of matched firms using exactly identical company's names and exactly identical zip code and phone numbers in both trade dataset and filtered production dataset.

**Table A2. Production Productivity and Overhead Expenses**

Industry	Labor	Capital	Materials	TFP1	TFP2	Log of Overhead	Per-Capita Overhead
13	0.077	0.060	0.814	1.191	1.231	7.018	14.438
14	0.055	0.071	0.857	0.799	0.838	7.436	19.590
15	0.094	0.113	0.799	0.817	0.830	8.134	30.579
16	0.020	0.270	0.783	0.287	0.185	9.929	43.345
17	0.066	0.044	0.868	0.802	0.857	7.458	10.841
18	0.110	0.039	0.798	1.344	1.403	7.154	8.169
19	0.084	0.041	0.857	0.872	0.902	7.195	6.926
20	0.099	0.071	0.841	0.686	0.717	6.793	11.501
21	0.103	0.055	0.814	1.113	1.124	7.179	10.679
22	0.063	0.053	0.867	0.781	0.792	8.159	19.448
23	0.065	0.068	0.815	1.199	1.290	7.735	16.937
24	0.091	0.039	0.823	1.181	1.219	7.262	9.620
25	0.014	0.069	0.865	0.663	0.642	9.101	64.588
26	0.063	0.058	0.820	1.187	1.218	8.091	32.780
27	0.062	0.064	0.790	1.555	1.643	8.440	29.979
28	0.040	0.060	0.889	0.517	0.584	8.239	21.635
29	0.087	0.081	0.769	1.404	1.469	7.702	14.506
30	0.069	0.046	0.836	1.094	1.155	7.381	17.030
31	0.046	0.059	0.844	1.054	1.129	7.439	16.162
32	0.061	0.029	0.891	0.682	0.766	8.727	26.798
33	0.080	0.079	0.850	0.451	0.497	8.198	22.466
34	0.062	0.037	0.841	1.150	1.147	7.402	15.528
35	0.061	0.055	0.837	1.086	1.176	7.768	20.034
36	0.053	0.049	0.841	1.152	1.191	8.082	28.659
37	0.063	0.045	0.835	1.290	1.394	8.274	25.632
39	0.077	0.066	0.836	0.900	0.913	7.865	18.267
40	0.109	0.075	0.806	1.175	1.243	8.136	21.575
41	0.049	0.054	0.806	1.639	1.703	8.041	26.566
42	0.091	0.039	0.857	0.834	0.839	7.044	9.979

Notes: The Chinese industries and associated codes are classified as follows: Processing of foods (13), Manufacture of foods (14), Beverages (15), Textile (17), Apparel (18), Leather (19), Timber (20), Furniture (21), Paper (22), Printing(23), Articles for cultures and sports (24), Petroleum (25), Raw Chemicals (26), Medicines (27), Chemical Fibers (28), Rubber (29), Plastics (30), Non-metallic Mineral (31), Smelting of ferrous metals (32), Smelting of non-ferrous metals (33), Metal (34), General machinery (35), Special machinery (36), Transport equipment (37), Electrical machinery (39), Communication equipment (40), Measuring instrument (41), and Manufacture of artwork (42). We do not report standard errors for each coefficient to save space though available upon request. The logarithm of firm productivity for Chinese firms (TFP1 and TFP2) is estimated by industry by the augmented Olley-Pakes approach introduced in the text. Coefficients of labor, capital, and materials are calculated at the sectoral average whereas TFP1 and TFP2 is measured at firm-level using firm-level output, capital, labor, and materials, respectively. The last two columns report log of firm's overhead expenses and per-capita overhead expenses.