

# The Global Agglomeration of Multinational Firms

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# Introduction



Figure 1: Geographic distribution of MNC headquarters in transportation equipment (e.g., motor vehicles and equipment, motorcycles and parts, aircrafts and parts, and ship and boat building)

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Figure 2: Geographic distribution of MNC subsidiaries in transportation equipment (e.g., motor vehicles and equipment, motorcycles and parts, aircrafts and parts, and ship and boat building)

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- If they do, what motivates their agglomeration?

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- Natural advantage, institutional factors ...

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  - ③ *Knowledge spillovers*

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- How the **"first nature" fundamentals** in FDI and **"second nature" agglomeration forces** in urban economics jointly explain the worldwide geographic distribution of multinational firms?

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- How the **"first nature" fundamentals** in FDI and **"second nature" agglomeration forces** in urban economics jointly explain the worldwide geographic distribution of multinational firms?
- Do agglomeration forces affect multinational and non-multinational firms differently?

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- Many home countries also seek to keep multinationals at home and control the outflow of FDI;
- The location interdependence of multinationals can magnify the effect of economic fundamentals and policies on the outward and inward movements of MNCs.

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  - We construct the agglomeration index in a continuous metric space using the actual distance between each pair of plants;
  - **The index is independent of the level of geographic aggregation and controls for the overall distribution of firms.**

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## 4. The role of first-nature incentives and second-nature forces

- We assess the relative importance of first-nature location fundamentals and second-nature forces;
- We also examine how the importance of each factor varies between MNC subsidiaries and their headquarters and domestic counterparts.

1. The broader FDI literature on first-nature motives of FDI: e.g., Markusen (1984), Helpman (1984), Markusen and Venables (1998), Brainard (1997), Carr et al. (2001), Yeaple (2003), Head and Mayer (2004), Helpman, Melitz and Yeaple (2004), and Alfaro and Charlton (2009)

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  - Empirical: e.g., Head, Ries and Swenson (1995), Head and Mayer (2004), Crozet, Mayer and Mucchielli (2004), Blonigen, Ellis and Fausten (2005), Blonigen et al. (2007), Bobonis and Shatz (2007), Amiti and Javorcik (2008)

3. The urban economics literature on the determinants of urban agglomeration: e.g., Ellison and Glaeser (1997), Rosenthal and Strange (2001), Duranton and Puga (2004), Duranton and Overman (2005), Ellison, Kerr and Glaeser (2009), Overman and Puga (2010), Redding (2010)

# Presentation Outline

- 1 Constructing the agglomeration index
- 2 Constructing the determinants of agglomeration
- 3 Data
- 4 Patterns of multinational-firm agglomeration
- 5 Evaluating the role of first and second natures
  - MNC subsidiaries
  - MNC subsidiary employment
  - MNC headquarters
- 6 Additional analysis
  - MNC v.s. non-MNC plants
  - Entry patterns of multinational firms
  - Generalized measure of trade costs

## Issues in constructing the agglomeration indices

Most existing indices tend to equalize agglomeration with activities located in the same administrative or geographic region (measured by number of firms or size of production in the region). Several issues arise with these measures:

1. Dependence on the level and method of geographic disaggregation

# Constructing the Agglomeration Index

## Case 1: Underestimating the extent of co-agglomeration between industries A and B

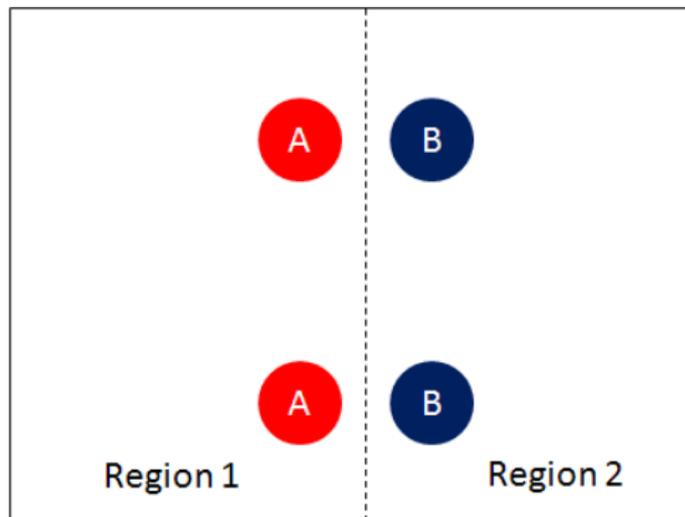
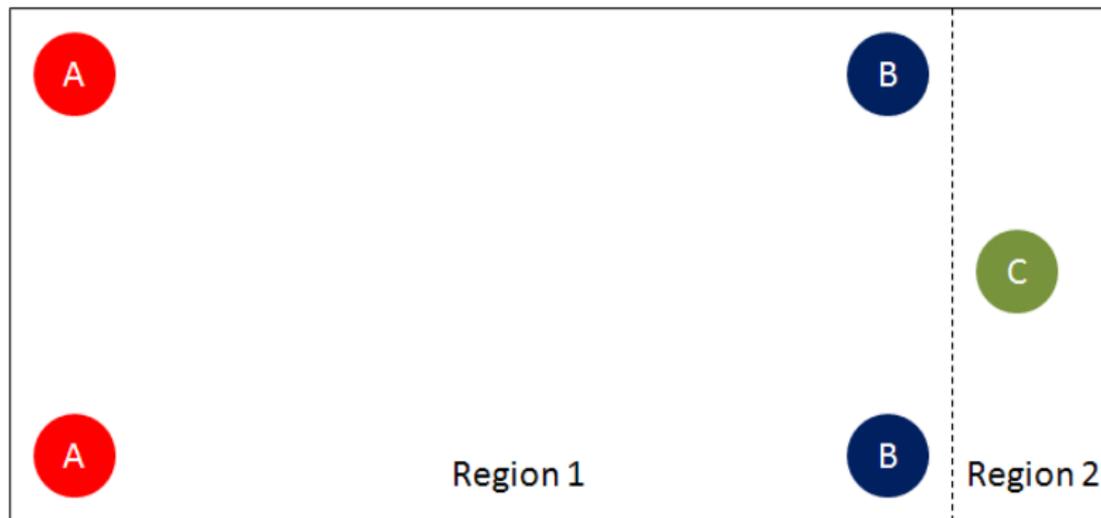


Figure 3: The geographic distribution of industries A and B (each circle represents an establishment; red and blue represent industries A and B, respectively)

# Constructing the Agglomeration Index

**Case 2: Overestimating the extent of co-agglomeration between industries A and B** (Underestimating the extent of co-agglomeration between industries B and C)



**Figure 4:** The geographic distribution of industries A, B and C (each circle represents an establishment; red, blue and green represent industries A, B and C, respectively)

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3. Cannot separate general geographic concentration due to location attractiveness from agglomeration

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- 1 Ellison and Glaeser (1997): a dartboard approach
- 2 Duranton and Overman (2005): a continuous-space concentration index

## Step 1: Actual geographic distributions

- First, we obtain the latitude and longitude of each plant based on physical location information and compute the great-circle distance for each pair of plants ( $N \times (N - 1)/2$  with  $N = 32,427$  for MNCs)

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- Then, we obtain the kernel estimator of bilateral distances at any point  $\tau$  (i.e.,  $f_{k\tilde{k}}(\tau)$ ) for each of the 7,875 ( $=126 \times 125/2$ ) pairwise industries:

$$f_{k\tilde{k}}(\tau) = \frac{1}{n_k n_{\tilde{k}} h} \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\tilde{k}}} K\left(\frac{\tau - \tau_{ij}}{h}\right). \quad (1)$$

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- Alternatively we can treat each worker as the unit of observation:

$$f_{k\tilde{k}}^w(\tau) = \frac{1}{h \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\tilde{k}}} (r_i r_j)} \sum_{i=1}^{n_k} \sum_{j=1}^{n_{\tilde{k}}} r_i r_j K\left(\frac{\tau - \tau_{ij}}{h}\right). \quad (2)$$

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- We compute the 95% global confidence band  $\bar{F}_{k\tilde{k}}(\tau)$  for various threshold distance (200, 400, 800 and 1600 kilometers).

## Step 3: Agglomeration index

Finally, we obtain, for each industry pair  $k$  and  $\tilde{k}$ :

$$agglomeration_{k\tilde{k}}(T) \equiv \sum_{\tau=0}^T \max(f_{k\tilde{k}}(\tau) - \bar{f}_{k\tilde{k}}(\tau), 0) \quad (3)$$

or employment-weighted

$$agglomeration_{k\tilde{k}}^w(T) \equiv \sum_{\tau=0}^T \max(f_{k\tilde{k}}^w(\tau) - \bar{f}_{k\tilde{k}}^w(\tau), 0). \quad (4)$$

The index measures the extent to which plants in industries  $k$  and  $\tilde{k}$  agglomerate within the threshold distance  $T$  and the statistical significance thereof.

## First nature: location fundamentals

To account for the effect of first-nature motives, we estimate an **expected** geographic agglomeration index based exclusively on market access and comparative advantage factors

## First nature: location fundamentals

We proceed in three stages:

- **Step 1:** We estimate an FDI equation following Yeaple (2003) and Alfaro and Charlton (2009):

$$y_{c\tilde{c}k} = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 \text{marketsize\_ave}_{c\tilde{c}} + \gamma_2 \text{distance}_{c\tilde{c}} + \gamma_3 \text{skill\_diff}_{c\tilde{c}} \\ + \gamma_4 \text{skill\_diff}_{c\tilde{c}} \times \text{skillintensity}_k + \gamma_5 \text{tariff}_{c\tilde{c}k} + \lambda_{ck} + \lambda_{\tilde{c}k} + \varepsilon_{c\tilde{c}k}.$$

## First nature: location fundamentals

- **Step 2:** We obtain fitted values of  $y_{c\tilde{c}k}$  predicted exclusively by the first-nature location fundamentals, and sum them up for each host region  $\tilde{c}$  and industry  $k$  to obtain  $\hat{y}_{\tilde{c}k}$ .

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- **Step 3:** We repeat step 1 of Duranton and Overman's procedure and obtain the geographic agglomeration index predicted by first-nature motives.

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- 4 Knowledge spillovers

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- 4 Knowledge spillovers
  - Industry-pair patent citation intensity (NBER Patent Database)

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  - Operational information including sales and employment

## The WorldBase database: advantages

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- A significant fraction of agglomeration activities occurs across borders

Table A.1: Distribution of Establishment Pairs by Distance and Different Countries

	All pairs		Pairs located in two different countries		
	Pairs (mil)	Ave. dist (km)	Pairs (mil)	Percentage	Ave. dist (km)
dist $\leq$ 200	28.3	91.6	5.6	0.2	131.4
dist $\leq$ 400	54.8	194.1	24.5	0.4	268.7
dist $\leq$ 800	124.2	423.0	85.6	0.7	510.9
dist $\leq$ 1600	257.1	806.6	198.7	0.8	885.8

Notes: Authors' calculations.

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- This enables us to obtain the latitude and longitude of each plant from a geocoding software (Yahoo! Geocoding API), compute between-plant distance, and examine agglomeration in a continuous metric space

# Patterns of Multinational-Firm Agglomeration

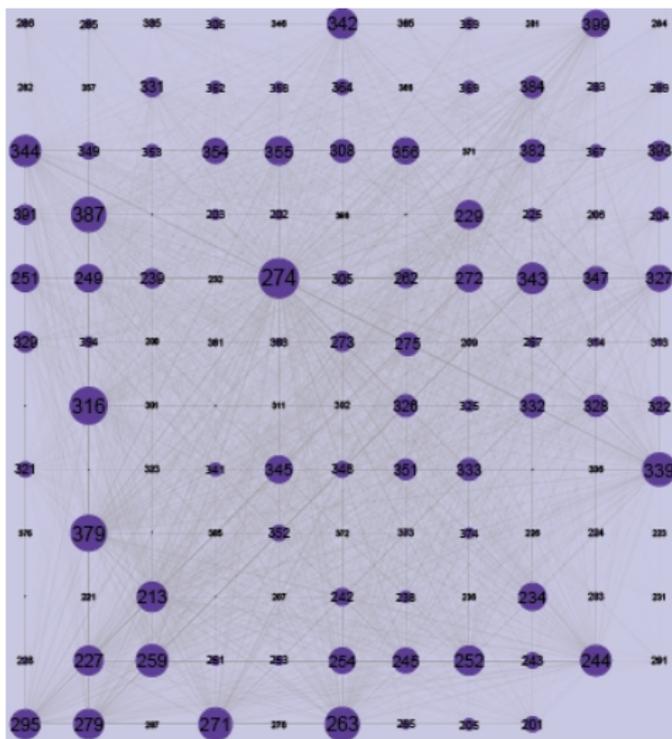
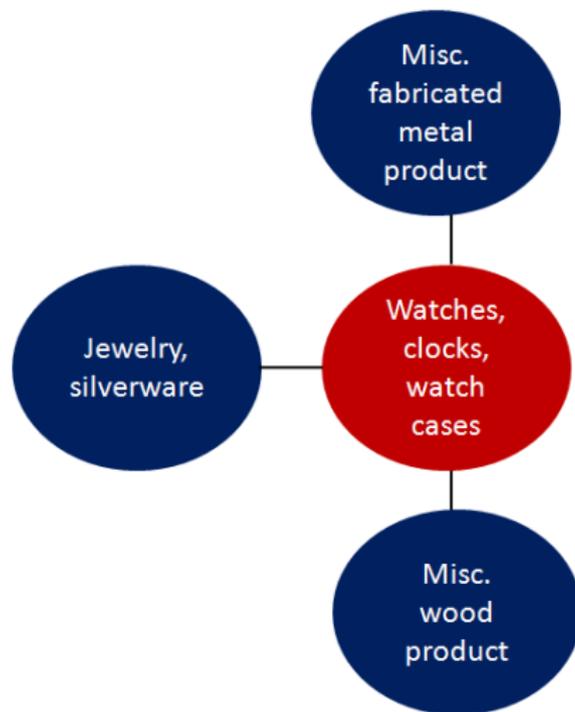
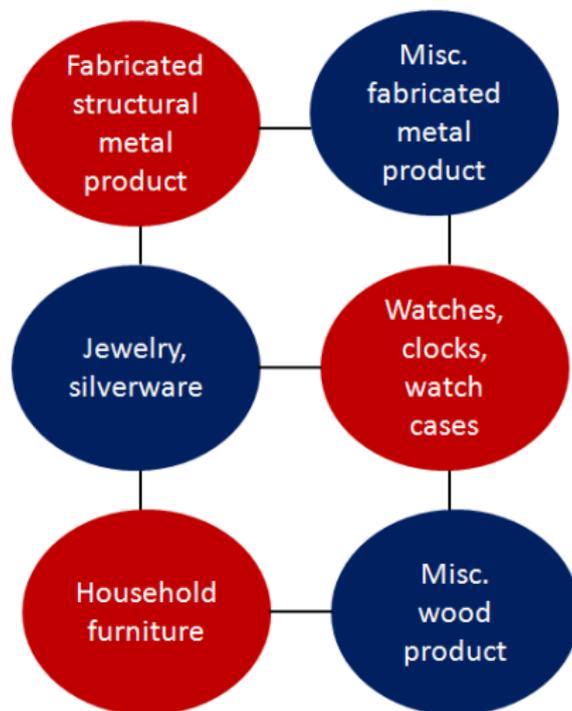


Figure 5: The agglomeration pattern of MNC subsidiaries

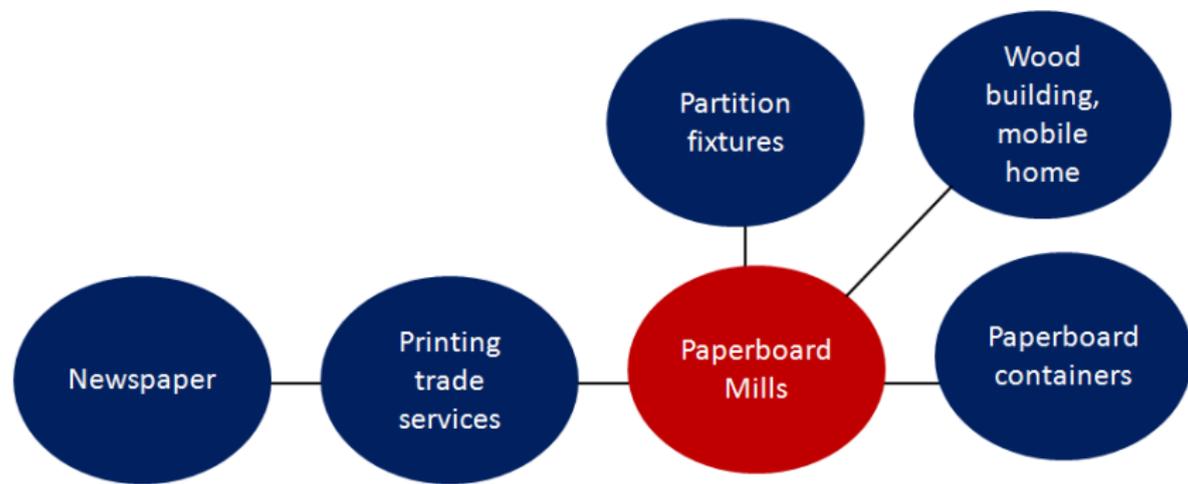
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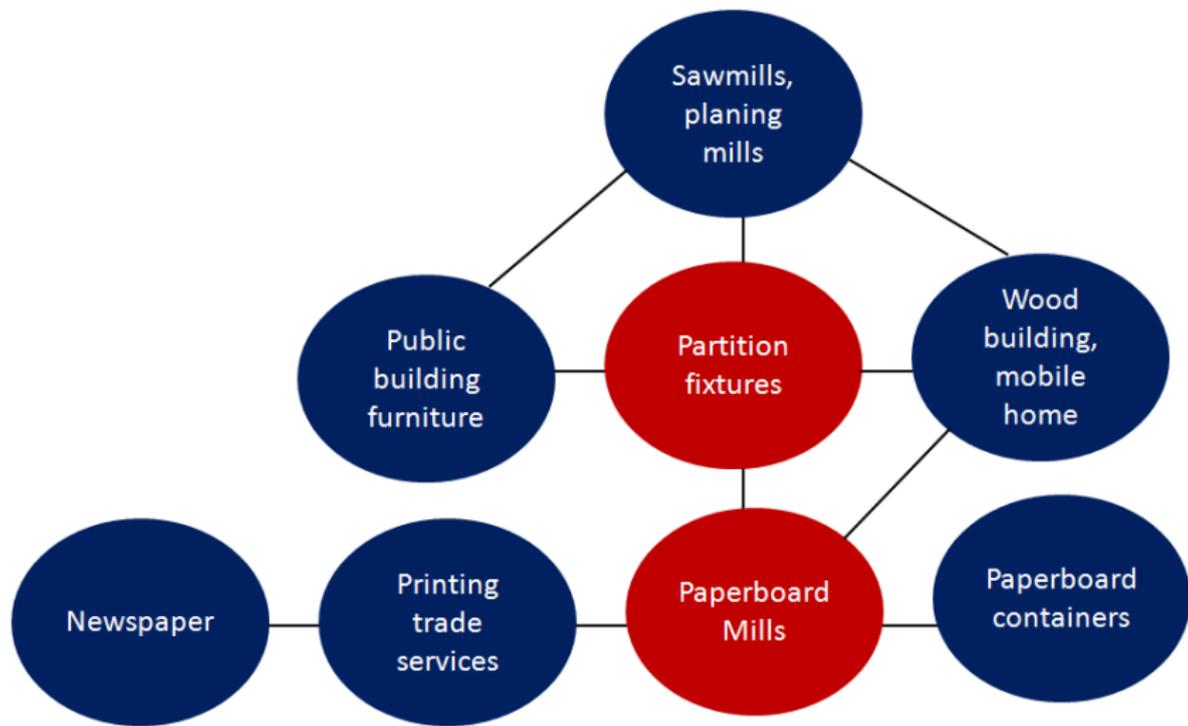
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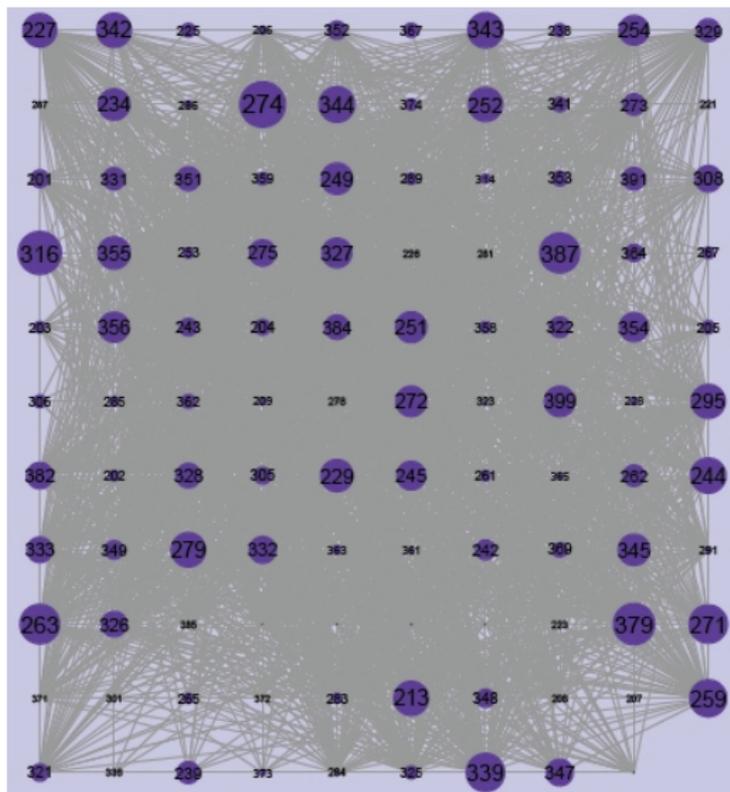


Figure 6: The agglomeration pattern of MNC headquarters

# Evaluating the Role of First and Second Natures

$$\begin{aligned} agglomeration_{k\tilde{k}}(T) = & \alpha_K + \beta_1 firstnature_{k\tilde{k}} + \beta_2 IOlinkage_{k\tilde{k}} \\ & + \beta_3 labor_{k\tilde{k}} + \beta_4 capital_{k\tilde{k}} + \beta_5 knowledge_{k\tilde{k}} + \varepsilon_{k\tilde{k}}, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

# Evaluating the Role of First and Second Natures

## MNC subsidiaries

Table 3: Agglomeration Economies and MNC Subsidiary Agglomeration

	T= 200 km	T= 400 km	T= 800 km	T= 1600 km
IO Linkages	0.265* (0.147)	0.573* (0.306)	1.331** (0.656)	2.596** (1.296)
Capital	0.038*** (0.014)	0.093*** (0.032)	0.241*** (0.066)	0.506*** (0.139)
Labor	-0.002 (0.016)	-0.015 (0.035)	-0.079 (0.068)	-0.231 (0.160)
Knowledge	0.609** (0.293)	1.178** (0.546)	2.521** (1.117)	4.395** (2.371)
First Nature	0.018 (0.025)	0.019 (0.019)	0.020 (0.022)	0.021* (0.012)
# Obs.	7875	7875	7875	7875
R <sup>2</sup>	0.571	0.600	0.627	0.631
	Beta Coefficients			
IO Linkages	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.013
Capital	0.035	0.039	0.043	0.046
Labor	-0.002	-0.007	-0.015	-0.023
Knowledge	0.031	0.027	0.025	0.022
First Nature	0.266	0.264	0.279	0.333

# Evaluating the Role of First and Second Natures

## MNC subsidiary employment

Table 5: Agglomeration Economies and MNC Subsidiary Employment Agglomeration

	T= 200 km	T= 400 km	T= 800 km	T= 1600 km
IO Linkages	-0.145 (0.209)	-0.256 (0.403)	-0.272 (0.683)	-0.750 (1.160)
Capital	0.041* (0.023)	0.109** (0.044)	0.315*** (0.089)	0.557*** (0.144)
Labor	0.048* (0.026)	0.088* (0.048)	0.120 (0.104)	0.128 (0.162)
Knowledge	2.262*** (0.516)	3.957*** (0.867)	6.243*** (1.613)	9.333*** (2.356)
First Nature	0.0004*** (0.0001)	0.0004*** (0.0001)	0.0004*** (0.0001)	0.0004** (0.0002)
# Obs.	7875	7875	7875	7875
R <sup>2</sup>	0.327	0.327	0.363	0.402
	Beta Coefficients			
IO Linkages	-0.007	-0.006	-0.003	-0.005
Capital	0.033	0.045	0.066	0.065
Labor	0.042	0.039	0.027	0.016
Knowledge	0.100	0.091	0.073	0.061
First Nature	0.315	0.349	0.390	0.435

Notes: Bootstrapped standard errors in parentheses. \*\*\* p < 0.01, \*\* p < 0.05, \* p < 0.1. All regressions

# Evaluating the Role of First and Second Natures

## MNC Headquarters

Table 6: Agglomeration Economies and MNC Headquarters Agglomeration

	T= 200 km	T= 400 km	T= 800 km	T= 1600 km
IO Linkages	0.090 (0.174)	0.156 (0.406)	0.127 (0.815)	0.457 (1.254)
Capital	0.026 (0.019)	0.084** (0.040)	0.261*** (0.088)	0.459*** (0.164)
Labor	0.043** (0.021)	0.064 (0.044)	0.019 (0.104)	-0.085 (0.180)
Knowledge	0.793*** (0.241)	1.727*** (0.477)	3.870*** (1.153)	6.935*** (1.735)
First Nature	0.022** (0.009)	0.023*** (0.009)	0.024* (0.013)	0.019 (0.018)
# Obs.	7875	7875	7875	7875
R <sup>2</sup>	0.639	0.65	0.664	0.667
	Beta Coefficients			
IO Linkages	0.003	0.003	0.001	0.002
Capital	0.017	0.024	0.032	0.033
Labor	0.030	0.020	0.003	-0.007
Knowledge	0.028	0.027	0.027	0.028
First Nature	0.212	0.212	0.208	0.213

- MNC v.s. non-MNC plants

# Additional Analysis

- MNC v.s. non-MNC plants
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# Conclusion

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- In comparison to domestic plants, knowledge spillovers and capital market externalities exert a stronger effect on the clustering of multinational firms while labor market pooling has a weaker impact
- These results suggest that more consideration should be given to the interdependence of multinational firms especially in policy making aimed at influencing the flow of FDI