

Proposal: The Dynamics of Big Exporters

Prof. Samuel Kortum, email: samuel.kortum@yale.edu

Exporting is highly concentrated. For example, the top 10 French exporters account for about 25% of total French exports of manufactured goods. This concentration of activity, which has only recently come to light, raises new questions and motivates new models of international trade in which a few individual firms can alter aggregate outcomes.

The goal of this project is to use these models, in combination with firm-level data, to ask how these big exporters both cause and respond to macroeconomic and international shocks.

The World Bank has recently compiled data on top exporters from over 40 countries. Such data make it possible to address these questions and also to test and/or extend the models of how big exporters behave. A candidate for this research opportunity should have an interest (and preferably some experience) in working with data (using STATA) and in simulating models (using Matlab or Mathematica).