# The (Mis)Allocation Channel of Climate Change Evidence from Global Firm-level Microdata

Tianzi Liu Zebang Xu

Cornell University

2024 ES North American Summer Meeting

- Estimated macroeconomic consequences of climate change are significant:
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Burke et al. (2015):  $\quad\approx$  23% of global GDP by 2100
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Bilal et al. (2024):  $\,\,$  > 50% of global GDP by 2100  $\,$
  - ightarrow Usually modeled/identified as aggregate TFP loss since Nordhaus (1992).

- Estimated macroeconomic consequences of climate change are significant:
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Burke et al. (2015):  $\quad$   $\approx$  23% of global GDP by 2100
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Bilal et al. (2024):  $\,\,$  > 50% of global GDP by 2100  $\,$
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Usually modeled/identified as aggregate TFP loss since Nordhaus (1992).

Question: What are the micro-level channels behind these aggregate estimates?

• In an efficient economy, marginal products are equalized across firms,

Aggregate TFP =

"Technology"

Aggregation of firm-level productivity

- Estimated macroeconomic consequences of climate change are significant:
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Burke et al. (2015):  $\quad$   $\approx$  23% of global GDP by 2100
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Bilal et al. (2024):  $\,\,$  > 50% of global GDP by 2100  $\,$
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Usually modeled/identified as aggregate TFP loss since Nordhaus (1992).

Question: What are the micro-level channels behind these aggregate estimates?

• In an efficient economy, marginal products are equalized across firms,

$$\label{eq:Aggregate} \mathsf{Aggregate} \ \mathsf{TFP} = \underbrace{\texttt{``Technology''}}_{\mathsf{Aggregation of firm-level productivity}}$$

Previous literature: climate change affects technology (~ physical productivity)

- Heat drags down labor productivity, disrupts transportation...
- Temperature  $\uparrow \rightarrow$  production possibility frontier contracts  $\rightarrow$  Lower TFP
  - $\rightarrow\,$  E.g. Machines are, on average, only 80% productive during heat shocks

- Estimated macroeconomic consequences of climate change are significant:
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Burke et al. (2015):  $\quad\approx$  23% of global GDP by 2100
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Bilal et al. (2024):  $\,\,$  > 50% of global GDP by 2100  $\,$
  - ightarrow Usually modeled/identified as aggregate TFP losses since Nordhaus (1992).

#### What are the micro-level channels behind these aggregates?

• In a distorted economy, there is dispersion in marginal products across firms:

$$\label{eq:addition} Aggregate \ \mathsf{TFP} = \underbrace{\mathsf{Technology}}_{\mathsf{Efficient Frontier}} - \underbrace{\mathsf{Misallocation \ Losses}}_{\mathsf{Inefficiencies}}$$

- Estimated macroeconomic consequences of climate change are significant:
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Burke et al. (2015):  $\quad$   $\approx$  23% of global GDP by 2100
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Bilal et al. (2024):  $\,\,$  > 50% of global GDP by 2100  $\,$
  - ightarrow Usually modeled/identified as aggregate TFP losses since Nordhaus (1992).

What are the micro-level channels behind these aggregates?

• In a distorted economy, there is dispersion in marginal products across firms:

$$Aggregate TFP = \underbrace{Technology}_{Efficient Frontier} - \underbrace{Misallocation Losses}_{Inefficiencies}$$

This paper: climate change affects across-firm misallocation.

- Heat leads to inefficiencies: less productive firms ends up with too much capital
  - $\rightarrow\,$  During heat shocks, the same machine will be more productive in a plant with ACs
- Temperature  $\uparrow \rightarrow$  "investment mistakes"  $\uparrow \rightarrow$  Lower TFP
- Climate change moves the economy further away from the efficient frontier

Main Idea:

• Climate-induced misallocation is an important driver of aggregate climate damage

#### Main Idea:

• Climate-induced misallocation is an important driver of aggregate climate damage

#### The Plan:

- 1. Causal evidence and reduced-form measurement of climate-induced misallocation
- 2. Projection of global welfare losses under future climate change scenarios
- 3. Quantitatively understand the mechanisms in a firm dynamics model

#### Measurement: Climate-TFP Accounting

- A lower bound approach:
  - $\rightarrow$  focusing on across-firm misallocation within each region-sector n = (s, r).
- Similar to Hsieh and Klenow (2009), but all micro fundamentals can be affected by  $\tilde{T}_{rt}$ .
- Total output is a CES aggregation of differentiated products,

$$Y_{nt} = \left(\int B_{ni}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)^{\frac{1}{\sigma_n}} Y_{nit}^{\frac{\sigma_n-1}{\sigma_n}} di\right)^{\frac{\sigma_n}{\sigma_n-1}},$$

• Subject to demand, firms face capital distortions in production:

$$\max_{P_{nit}, K_{nit}, L_{nit}} P_{nit} \underbrace{A_{ni}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot) K_{nit}^{\alpha_{Kn}} L_{nit}^{\alpha_{Ln}}}_{Y_{nit}} - \left(1 + \tau_{ni}^{K}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)\right) R_{nt} K_{nit} - W_{nt} L_{nit}$$
$$\mathsf{MRPK}_{nit} := R_{nt} (1 + \tau_{ni}^{K}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot))$$

• Heterogeneity in  $\tau_{ni}^{K}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot) \rightarrow \text{Dispersion in MRPK}$  across firms  $\rightarrow \text{Misallocation}$ 

#### Measurement: Climate-TFP Accounting

Under the standrd assumption of joint log-normality between A<sub>nit</sub>, B<sub>nit</sub> and (1 + τ<sup>K</sup><sub>nit</sub>) in any cross-section, aggregate TFP of a region-sector n = (s, r) can be decomposed as:

$$\log \mathsf{TFP}_n(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot) = \mathsf{Technology}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot) - \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_{\kappa n} + \alpha_{\kappa n}^2(\sigma_n - 1)}{2}}_{2} \mathsf{var}_{mrpk_{ni}}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)$$

MRPK Dispersion Across Firms

• Dispersion in MRPK lowers aggregate TFP.

## Measurement: Climate-TFP Accounting

Under the standrd assumption of joint log-normality between A<sub>nit</sub>, B<sub>nit</sub> and (1 + τ<sup>K</sup><sub>nit</sub>) in any cross-section, aggregate TFP of a region-sector n = (s, r) can be decomposed as:

$$\log \mathsf{TFP}_n(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot) = \mathsf{Technology}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot) - \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_{Kn} + \alpha_{Kn}^2(\sigma_n - 1)}{2} \mathsf{var}_{mrpk_{ni}}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)}_{2}$$

MRPK Dispersion Across Firms

- Dispersion in MRPK lowers aggregate TFP.
- Why do climate shocks matter here? To fix ideas, consider the following:

Weather Forecast: Mild

Realization: Mild

Weather Forecast: Mild

Realization: Heat wave

Year 1	Capital MRPK	
Ice Cream Parlor	5	2
Ski Resort	5	2

No Misallocation!

Year 2	Capital MRP	
Ice Cream Parlor	5	3
Ski Resort	5	1

Large Misallocation!

#### Measurement and Data

The misallocation channel: how temperature affects misallocation

$$\frac{\partial \log TFP_{n}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}} = \frac{\partial \operatorname{Technology}_{nt}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}} - \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_{Kn} + \alpha_{Kn}^{2}(\sigma_{n} - 1)}{2} \frac{\partial \operatorname{var}_{mrpk_{ni}}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}}}_{\text{The Misallocation Channel}}$$

• Parameters can be directly calibrated:  $\alpha_{Kn} = 0.35$ ,  $\sigma_n = 4$ .

### Measurement and Data

The misallocation channel: how temperature affects misallocation

$$\frac{\partial \log TFP_n(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}} = \frac{\partial \operatorname{Technology}_{nt}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}} - \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_{Kn} + \alpha_{Kn}^2(\sigma_n - 1)}{2} \frac{\partial \operatorname{var}_{mrpk_{ni}}(\tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}, \cdot)}{\partial \tilde{\mathbf{T}}_{rt}}}_{\text{The Misallocation Channel}}$$

- Parameters can be directly calibrated:  $\alpha_{Kn} = 0.35$ ,  $\sigma_n = 4$ .
- Firm-level microdata from 32 countries
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Orbis Historic: 1995-2018 for 30 European countries
    - Good coverage of total sales in most countries
  - $\rightarrow~{\rm China}~{\rm NBS}$  + India ASI
    - Census for "above-scale" manufacturing firms
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Under Cobb-Douglas, we measure misallocation using

$$\mathsf{var}_{mrpk_{nit}} = \mathsf{var}\left[\mathsf{log}(\frac{\mathsf{Revenue}_{nit}}{\mathsf{Capital Stock}_{nit}})\right]$$

for each region-sector-year.

- Weather and Climate Data: Daily Temperature from ERA5  $0.1^{\circ}\!\times\,0.1^{\circ}$
- Medium-Range Weather Forecast Data (ECMWF)

## Average Effect of Temperature on MRPK Dispersion

We regress MRPK dispersion on the distribution of daily temperatures.

$$\mathsf{var}_{mrpk_{(s,r),t}} = \sum_{b \in B/(5 \sim 10^{\circ} C)} \lambda^{b}_{\sigma^{2}_{mrpk}} \times \mathsf{Tbin}^{b}_{r,t} + \delta_{\sigma^{2}_{mrpk}} \mathbf{X}_{s,r,t} + \theta_{c(r),s,t} + \eta_{s,r} + \varepsilon_{r,s,t}.$$

- r: region ("NUTS3"-level); s: sector (SIC industry group).
- $\mathbf{T}_{r,t} = { \text{Tbin}_{r,t}^{<-5^{\circ}C}, ..., \text{Tbin}_{r,t}^{>30^{\circ}C} }$  as days in temperature bins.
- $X_{s,r,t}$  is a vector of controls: number of firms, average sales and average MRPK.
- $\eta_{s,r}$ : region-sector FE to remove "spurious" long-run relationship between  $\mathbf{T}_{r,t}$  and development.
- $\theta_{c(r),s,t}$ : country-sector-year FE to remove business cycles.
- SE clustered at the region level.

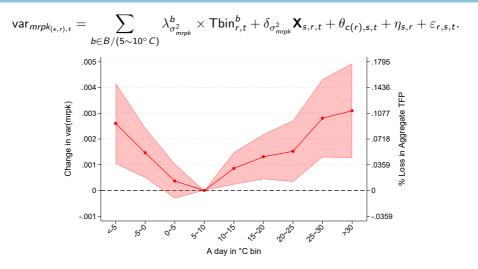
١

Within each region-sector, weather patterns are exogenous to capital distortions.

#### Average Effect of Temperature on MRPK Dispersion

$$\mathsf{var}_{mrpk_{(s,r),t}} = \sum_{b \in B/(5 \sim 10^{\circ} C)} \lambda_{\sigma_{mrpk}}^{b} \times \mathsf{Tbin}_{r,t}^{b} + \delta_{\sigma_{mrpk}^{2}} \mathbf{X}_{s,r,t} + \theta_{c(r),s,t} + \eta_{s,r} + \varepsilon_{r,s,t}.$$

## Average Effect of Temperature on MRPK Dispersion



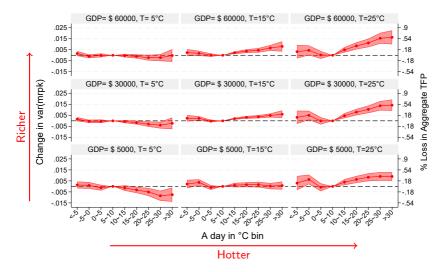
If we replace a 5-10°C (41°F to 50°F) day with a hotter-than-30°C (86°F) day in a year:

- The measured MRPK dispersion will increase by about 0.003;
- The measured yearly TFP will decrease by about 0.11% through capital misallocation.

 $\rightarrow \approx \frac{1}{3}$  of daily GDP

Regression Details

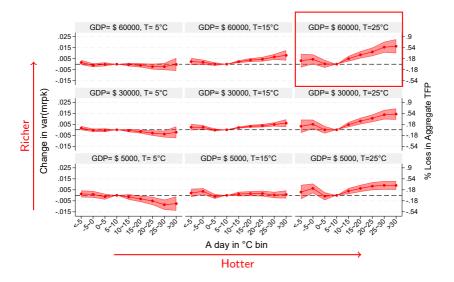
## Heterogeneous Effect across Regional Income and Long-run Climate



In terms of the misallocation channel:

- Hotter and more developed regions are more susceptible to heat shocks.
- Cooler regions could even benefit from heat shocks.
- Regression Details

# Heterogeneous Effect across Regional Income and Long-run Climate



In terms of the misallocation channel:

- Hotter and more developed regions are more susceptible to heat shocks.
- Cooler regions could even benefit from heat shocks.

Under the assumption that  $\frac{\partial \operatorname{var}_{mpk_{gl}}(\tilde{T}_{rt,\cdot})}{\partial \tilde{T}_{rt}} = f(\text{Long-run Climate, Income})$ , we project the effect of climate-induced misallocation on aggregate TFP loss by the end of the 21st century (2081-2100) for 4,881 regions in 172 countries around the world.

Under the assumption that  $\frac{\partial \operatorname{var}_{mpk_{gl}}(\tilde{\tau}_{rt},\cdot)}{\partial \tilde{\tau}_{rt}} = f(\operatorname{Long-run} \operatorname{Climate}, \operatorname{Income})$ , we project the effect of climate-induced misallocation on aggregate TFP loss by the end of the 21st century (2081-2100) for 4,881 regions in 172 countries around the world.

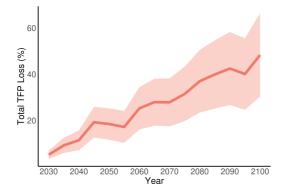
• The cost of climate-induced misallocation admits the following reduced-form decomposition:

Under the assumption that  $\frac{\partial \operatorname{var}_{mrpk_{ni}}(\tilde{T}_{rt},\cdot)}{\partial \tilde{T}_{rt}} = f(\text{Long-run Climate}, \text{Income})$ , we project the effect of climate-induced misallocation on aggregate TFP loss by the end of the 21st century (2081-2100) for 4,881 regions in 172 countries around the world.

• The cost of climate-induced misallocation admits the following reduced-form decomposition:

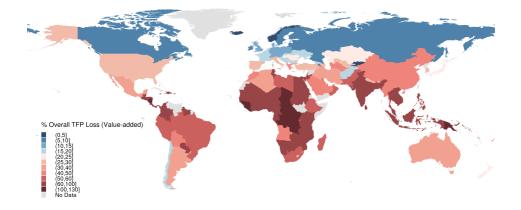


Figure: Global TFP Loss from the Misallocation Channel

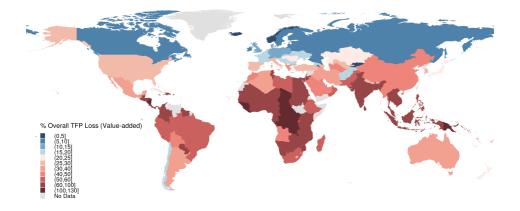


# Future TFP Loss under SSP3-7.0 Warming Scenario

# Future TFP Loss under SSP3-7.0 Warming Scenario



#### Future TFP Loss under SSP3-7.0 Warming Scenario

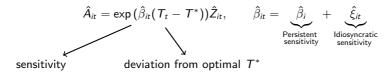


 $\rightarrow$  Large spatial heterogeneity in projected damages from the misallocation channel:

- Above 60 %: Guinea, Congo, Malaysia, and India.
- 25-30 %: United States, Turkey, and Spain.
- Below 15 % : Norway, Finland, Canada, and Germany.

# A Simple Model of Firm Dynamics

- We want to explain why both the levels and shocks of temperature matter for misallocation.
- A simple model with minimal ingredients: focusing on activities within (r, s).
- $\bullet\,$  Similar aggregation as the accounting framework: Iso-elastic demand + Cobb-Douglas Production
- Equilibrium revenue function:  $P_{it} Y_{it} = \hat{A}_{it} K_{it}^{\alpha_K} N_{it}^{\alpha_N}$ .
- A Firm's productivity is heterogeneously impacted by temperature:



- Two sources of heterogeneity in  $\hat{\beta}_{it}$  :
  - $\begin{array}{l} \rightarrow \ \hat{\beta}_i \sim \mathcal{N}\left(\overline{\hat{\beta}}_i, \sigma_{\hat{\beta}}^2\right) \text{ is known by the firm: e.g. products and adaptability.} \\ \rightarrow \ \hat{\xi}_{it} \sim \mathcal{N}\left(0, \sigma_{\hat{\xi}}^2\right) \text{ is i.i.d.: likelihood of extreme events scales with } (\mathcal{T}_t \mathcal{T}^*). \end{array}$

# MRPK and Temperature

• "Time-to-build" Capital  $\rightarrow$  Investment depends on expected productivity:

$$k_{it+1} \propto \mathbb{E}_t[a_{it+1}] \propto \hat{\beta}_i \mathbb{E}_t[(T_{t+1} - T^*)]$$

• After all shocks are realized, Relative MRPK is higher in the firms with higher unexpected changes in productivity:

$$mrpk_{it} - \overline{mrpk_{it}} = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_N} (\hat{a}_{nit} - \mathbb{E}_{t-1}[\hat{a}_{nit}]) \\ = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_N} \left\{ (\hat{\beta}_i - \overline{\hat{\beta}_i}) \underbrace{(T_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_t[T_{t+1}])}_{\text{T Forecast Error}} + \underbrace{\hat{\xi}_{it}(T_t - T^*)}_{\text{Damage Sensitivity}} + \hat{\varepsilon}_{it} \right\}$$

- Who gets lower *mrpk* with a heat shock in a warm place?  $(\eta_t > 0, T_t T^* > 0)$ :
  - $\rightarrow$  Heat-averse firms with  $\hat{\beta}_i < \overline{\hat{\beta}_i}$ : failed to expect the low productivity caused by the temperature shock  $\eta_t$ .
  - $\rightarrow$  Unlucky firms with  $\hat{\xi}_{it} > 0$ : failed to expect the low productivity caused by the damage sensitivity shock  $\hat{\xi}_{it}$ .

Firm-Level Evidence 1

**Proposition:** MRPK Dispersion The variance of *mrpk<sub>it</sub>* across all firms in a given period is:

$$\sigma_{mrpk,(r,s),t}^{2} = \left(\frac{1}{1-\alpha_{N}}\right)^{2} \operatorname{Var}(\hat{a}_{nit} - \mathbb{E}_{t-1}[\hat{a}_{nit}]) \\ = \left(\frac{1}{1-\alpha_{N}}\right)^{2} \left[\underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{r,t} - \mathcal{T}^{*})^{2} \sigma_{\xi,(r,s)}^{2}}_{\substack{\text{Damage Volatility}\\(\text{Level Effect})}} + \underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_{t}[\mathcal{T}_{t+1}])^{2} \sigma_{\beta,(r,s)}^{2}}_{\substack{\text{Forecast Error Effect}}} + \sigma_{\varepsilon,(r,s)}^{2}\right]$$

• MRPK dispersion  $\propto$  TFP volatility  $\leftarrow$  endogenously generated by climate conditions. How would climate change lead to larger misallocation?

- Larger deviation from optimal temperature:  $(T_{r,t} T^*)^2$
- Larger unexpected temperature shocks:  $(T_{t+1} \mathbb{E}_t[T_{t+1}])^2$

Firm-Level Evidence 2

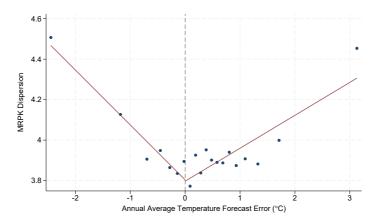
#### Forecast Error Effect: Climate Volatility

$$\sigma_{mrpk,(r,s)t}^{2} \propto \mathsf{Var}(\hat{a}_{nit} - \mathbb{E}_{t-1}[\hat{a}_{nit}]) \propto \left[\underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_{t}[\mathcal{T}_{t+1}])^{2}\sigma_{\beta}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Forecast Error Effect}} + \underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{r,t} - \mathcal{T}^{*})^{2}\sigma_{\xi}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Level Effect}}\right]$$

#### Forecast Error Effect: Climate Volatility

$$\sigma_{mrpk,(r,s)t}^{2} \propto \mathsf{Var}(\hat{a}_{nit} - \mathbb{E}_{t-1}[\hat{a}_{nit}]) \propto \left[\underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_{t}[\mathcal{T}_{t+1}])^{2}\sigma_{\beta}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Forecast Error Effect}} + \underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{r,t} - \mathcal{T}^{*})^{2}\sigma_{\xi}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Level Effect}}\right]$$

- Mid-range temperature forecast data (1-month ahead forecast) from ECMWF.
- Misallocation is worse if the temperature forecast is overly cold or overly hot



## Forecast Error Effect: Climate Volatility

$$\sigma_{mrpk,(s,r),t}^{2} = \sum_{q \in \{\text{summer, winter, annual}\}} \theta_{q} \cdot \mathsf{MSFE}_{q,r,t} + \gamma_{1}T_{rt} + \gamma_{2}T_{rt}^{2} + \eta_{s,r} + \delta_{c(r),t} + \varepsilon_{s,r,t},$$

• MSFE<sub>q,r,t</sub>: Mean Squared Forecast Error of monthly temperature.

MSFE <sub>annual,r,t</sub>	0.019114*** (0.006675)	0.016249** (0.006561)		
$MSFE_{summer,r,t}$			0.014908** (0.007115)	0.016592** (0.007084)
$MSFE_{winter,r,t}$			0.008536** (0.004017)	0.006096 (0.003882)
Quadratic Temperature Control	No	Yes	No	Yes
Region-Sector FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Country-Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations R <sup>2</sup>	124,065 0.876	124,065 0.876	124,065 0.876	124,065 0.876

• Forcast Errors are costly!

 $\rightarrow\,$  a 1°C error in temperature forecast for all months  $\rightarrow$  0.58 % annual aggregate TFP loss

#### Level Effect: Temperature as volatility shock

$$\sigma_{mrpk,(r,s)t}^{2} \propto \mathsf{Var}(\hat{a}_{nit} - \mathbb{E}_{t-1}[\hat{a}_{nit}]) \propto \left[\underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_{t}[\mathcal{T}_{t+1}])^{2}\sigma_{\beta}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Forecast Error Effect}} + \underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{r,t} - \mathcal{T}^{*})^{2}\sigma_{\xi}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Level Effect}}\right]$$

We proceed by testing whether firm-level TFP volatility varies non-linearly with the level of temperature in the sector-region panel:

$$\mathsf{Var}_{(s,r),t}(\hat{a}_{it} - \hat{a}_{it-1}) = \alpha + \beta f(T_{r,t}) + \eta_{s,r} + \delta_{c(r),t} + \varepsilon_{s,r,t},$$

by using the "first-differenced" TFPR shocks.

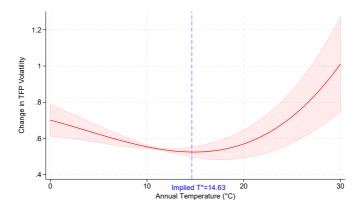
#### Level Effect: Temperature as volatility shock

$$\sigma_{mrpk,(r,s)t}^{2} \propto \mathsf{Var}(\hat{a}_{nit} - \mathbb{E}_{t-1}[\hat{a}_{nit}]) \propto \left[\underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_{t}[\mathcal{T}_{t+1}])^{2}\sigma_{\beta}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Forecast Error Effect}} + \underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{r,t} - \mathcal{T}^{*})^{2}\sigma_{\xi}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Level Effect}}\right]$$

We proceed by testing whether firm-level TFP volatility varies non-linearly with the level of temperature in the sector-region panel:

$$\mathsf{Var}_{(s,r),t}(\hat{a}_{it} - \hat{a}_{it-1}) = \alpha + \beta f(T_{r,t}) + \eta_{s,r} + \delta_{c(r),t} + \varepsilon_{s,r,t},$$

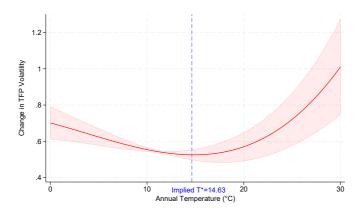
by using the "first-differenced" TFPR shocks.



#### Level Effect: Temperature as volatility shock

$$\sigma_{mrpk,(r,s)t}^{2} \propto \mathsf{Var}(\hat{a}_{nit} - \mathbb{E}_{t-1}[\hat{a}_{nit}]) \propto \left[\underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{t+1} - \mathbb{E}_{t}[\mathcal{T}_{t+1}])^{2}\sigma_{\beta}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Forecast Error Effect}} + \underbrace{(\mathcal{T}_{r,t} - \mathcal{T}^{*})^{2}\sigma_{\xi}^{2}}_{\mathsf{Level Effect}}\right]$$

- Firms' TFP volatility goes up in regions that are too hot or too cold.
- Optimal level of temperature is around 13 15°C Burke, Hsiang and Miguel 2015



#### Does climate matter? Yes!

Our model-implied regressions imply that:

• Climate-induced misallocation can explain 3.81% of TFP on average:

$$\Delta \log TFP_{(s,r),t} = -\underbrace{\frac{\tilde{\alpha}_{K} + \tilde{\alpha}_{K}^{2}(\sigma - 1)}{2}}_{0.359} \Delta \sigma_{mrpk,(s,r),t}^{2}$$

$$= -\underbrace{\frac{\tilde{\alpha}_{K} + \tilde{\alpha}_{K}^{2}(\sigma - 1)}{2} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\xi},(s,r)}^{2}}{(1 - \alpha_{N})^{2}} \overline{(T_{r,t} - T^{*})^{2}}}_{\substack{\text{Level Effect} \\ = 3.00\%}}$$

$$-\underbrace{\frac{\tilde{\alpha}_{K} + \tilde{\alpha}_{K}^{2}(\sigma - 1)}{2} \frac{\hat{\sigma}_{\hat{\beta},(s,r)}^{2}}{(1 - \alpha_{N})^{2}} \overline{FE_{r,t}^{72}}}_{Forecast Error Effect}}$$

$$= 3.81\%$$

• Volatility associated with temperature Levels account for 10% of the difference in aggregate TFP between India and EU.

- Established the first causal estimates and projections of the misallocation channel of climate change.
- Quantified the role of climate-induced volatility and weather forecasts in a firm dynamics model.
- Policies to manage climate-induced misallocation:
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Mitigating global warming:  $\approx$  15% TFP loss can be avoided under RCP 2.6 compared to RCP 7.
  - $\rightarrow$  Improving mid-range temperature forecast accuracy
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Reducing damage heterogeneity across units: "mind the laggards" !
    - More "equity" across firms  $\rightarrow$  higher aggregate efficiency

The (Mis)Allocation Channel of Climate Change Evidence from Global Firm-level Microdata

Preliminary Draft: zebangxu.com

tl567@cornell.edu zx88@cornell.edu

$$\mathsf{var}_{\mathit{mrpk}_{(s,r),t}} = \sum_{b \in B/(5 \sim 10^{\circ} C)} \lambda^{b}_{\sigma^{2}_{\mathit{mrpk}}} \times \mathsf{Tbin}^{b}_{\mathit{r},t} + \delta_{\sigma^{2}_{\mathit{mrpk}}} \mathbf{X}_{s,r,t} + \theta_{c(r),s,t} + \eta_{s,r} + \varepsilon_{r,s,t}.$$

- r: region ("NUTS3"-level); s: sector (SIC divisions).
- $\mathbf{T}_{r,t} = { \text{Tbin}_{r,t}^{<-5^{\circ}C}, ..., \text{Tbin}_{r,t}^{>30^{\circ}C} }$  as days in each temperature bins.
- **X**<sub>s,r,t</sub> is a vector of control: number of observed firms, average firm-level sales and average MRPK across firms.
- $\eta_{s,r}$ : region-sector FE;  $\theta_{c(r),s,t}$ : country-sector-Year FE; SE clustered at region level..

#### ▶ Go Back

### Heterogeneous Regression Identification

- The same hot/cold day shock is likely to have heterogeneous across region-sectors.
   Het. effect across sectors
- Effect might be ambiguous:
  - $\rightarrow$  Heat-sensitive firms in hotter region might have greater incentives to adapt.
  - $\rightarrow\,$  But the marginal effect of hot temperatures in already hot locations might be worse.
  - $\rightarrow\,$  Firms in more developed regions find it easier to cope with weather damage
  - $\rightarrow\,$  But firm heterogeneity is larger in developed regions.
- Following the approach of Carleton et al. (2022), we interact the long-term annual average temperature of region *r* and average region-level annual GDP per capita with each temperature bin:

$$\sigma_{mrpk_{s,r,t}}^{2} = \sum_{b \in B_{/(5 \sim 10^{\circ}C)}} \lambda_{\sigma_{mrpk}}^{b} \times \mathsf{Tbin}_{r,t}^{b} + \sum_{b \in B_{/(5 \sim 10^{\circ}C)}} \lambda_{\sigma_{mrpk}}^{b,\overline{\tau}} \times \mathsf{Tbin}_{r,t}^{b} \times \overline{T}_{r} + \sum_{b \in B_{/(5 \sim 10^{\circ}C)}} \lambda_{\mathsf{GDP}_{\rho c}}^{b} \times \mathsf{Tbin}_{r,t}^{b} \times \ln \overline{\mathsf{GDP}_{\rho c,r}} + \delta_{\sigma_{mrpk}}^{2} \times \tilde{\mathbf{X}}_{s,r,t} + \alpha_{c,t} + \eta_{s,r} + \varepsilon_{s,r,t},$$
(1)

• Therefore, the first-order effect is region-specific:  $\frac{\partial \operatorname{var}_{mpk_{s,r}}(\overline{T}_{r,\cdot})}{\partial \operatorname{Tbin}_{r,t}^b} \approx \lambda_{\sigma^2_{mrpk}} + \overline{T}_r \cdot \lambda_{\sigma^2_{mrpk}}^{\overline{T}} + \ln \overline{\mathrm{GDP}}_{pc,r} \cdot \lambda_{\mathrm{GDP}_{pc}}^b$ 

🕨 Go Back

## End-of-the-century Projection of the Misallocation Channel

We project the effect of climate-induced misallocation on aggregate TFP loss by the end of the 21st century (2081-2100) for 4,881 regions in 172 countries around the world.

$$\underbrace{\Delta_{\text{Total Effect}_r}^{\text{Loss } \ln \text{TFP}_r}}_{\text{Total Effect}_r} = \underbrace{\frac{\alpha_{Kn} + \alpha_{Kn}^2(\sigma_n - 1)}{2} \left[ \underbrace{\sum_{b} \left( \lambda^b + \lambda_{\text{GDP}_{pc}}^b \ln \text{GDP}_{pc,r,2019} + \lambda_{\overline{T}}^b \overline{T}_{r,2019} \right) \times \Delta \text{Tbin}_r^b}_{\text{Weather Shock Effect}_r} \right. \\ \left. + \underbrace{\sum_{b} \lambda_{b,\overline{T}} \text{Tbin}_{r,\text{EOC}}^b \times \Delta T_r}_{\text{Climatic Effect}_r} \right. \\ \left. + \underbrace{\sum_{b} \lambda_{\text{GDP}_{pc}}^b \text{Tbin}_{r,\text{EOC}}^b \times \Delta \ln \text{GDP}_{pc,r}}_{\text{In come Effect}_r} \right],$$

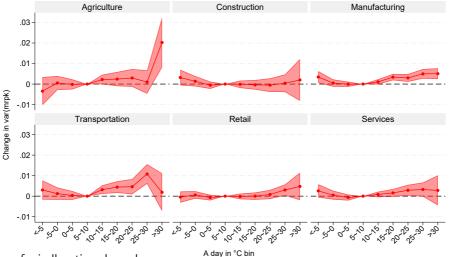
- $\Delta$  denotes changes between end-of-century (EOC) and 2019.
  - $\rightarrow$  Weather Shock effect: changes in daily temperature distributions
  - ightarrow Climatic effect: changes in elasticity due to shifts in long-run temperature
  - $\rightarrow$  Income effect: changes in elasticity due to economic development



- Projection Data Source:
  - $\rightarrow~$  Changes in daily temperature distributions and long-run temperature:
    - Near-surface air temperature projection in SSP3-7.0 from CMIP-6 (ensemble average of 26 models).
  - $\rightarrow~$  Changes in Income:
    - OECD Env-Growth model (Dellink et al. 2017)
    - Aggregation Weight: grid-level projected SSP-3 GDP (Wang and Sun 2022)

▶ Go Back

## Heterogeneous Effect across Major Sectors



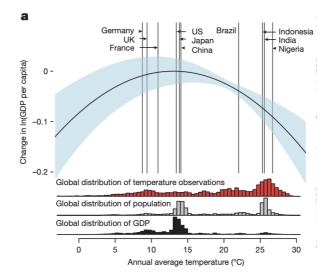
In terms of misallocation channel:

- The U-shaped pattern holds for all sectors.
- Agricultural and construction sector suffer the most. (a >30  $^\circ$ C day  $\approx$  0.23% TFP loss)



# Burke, Hsiang and Miguel 2015

Their finding: ountry-level economic production is smooth, non-linear, and concave in temperature with a maximum at  $13^{\circ}$ C.



# Firm-level Evidence: Heterogeneity of $\beta_i$ and MRPK Responses

$$mrpk_{it} - \overline{mrpk_{it}} = \frac{1}{1 - \alpha_N} \left\{ \underbrace{(\hat{\beta}_i - \overline{\hat{\beta}_i})\eta_t^T}_{\text{Temp}} + \underbrace{\hat{\xi}_{it}(T_t - T^*)}_{\text{Damage Sensitivity}} + \hat{\varepsilon}_{it} \right\}$$

We run the empirical counterpart:

$$\log(MRPK_{r,s,i,t}) = \sum_{b \in B/\{5-10^{\circ}C\}} \lambda_{b} \times \text{Tbin}_{r,t}^{b} + \sum_{b \in B/\{5-10^{\circ}C\}} \lambda_{b,\hat{\beta}\text{-proxy}} \times \text{Tbin}_{r,t} \times \hat{\beta}\text{-proxy}_{it}^{r,s} + \delta \mathbf{X}_{i,t}$$
(2)  
+  $\delta_{i} + \alpha_{s,c(r),t} + \varepsilon_{s,c(r),i,t}, \qquad \hat{\beta}\text{-proxy} \in \{\text{Relative Size, AC}\}.$ 

• Given it's hard to observe  $\hat{\beta}_i$ , we use two proxies:

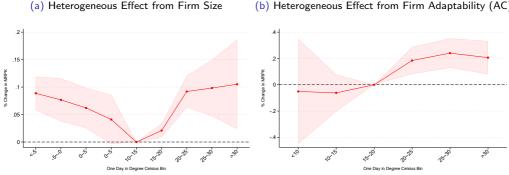
 $\rightarrow$  Relative Size $_{it}^{r,s} := \log K_{it}^{s,r} - \overline{\log K_{it}}^{s,r}$  (Larger firms are more heat tolerant)

 $\rightarrow$  AC<sup>r,s</sup><sub>it</sub> = 1 if ever reported an AC installation (a proxy for adaptability, only in India ASI)

 λ<sub>b,β-proxy</sub>, are identified by comparing firms within the same country-sector exposed to identical temperature shocks but show differential response in (log) MRPK.

 $\rightarrow~$  A  $\lambda_{b,\hat{\beta}\text{-proxy}}>0$  : relatively higher MRPK responses to shocks for heat-tolerant firms

# Firm-level Evidence: Heterogeneity of $\beta_i$ and MRPK Responses



(b) Heterogeneous Effect from Firm Adaptability (AC)

- An additional 30°C day relative to baseline:
  - $\rightarrow$  makes a 1-SD larger firm having 0.1% higher MRPK compared to the average firm.
  - $\rightarrow$  makes an AC-equipped firm having 0.2% higher MRPK compared to those without ACs.
- $\lambda_{b,\hat{\beta}-\text{proxy}} > 0$  for heat shocks

## Firm-level Evidence: Heterogeneity of $\beta_i$ and MRPK Responses

- This explains why richer regions suffer larger climate-induced misallocation  $\rightarrow$  larger heterogeneity in firm-level sensitivity!
- Across Firms within a region-sector:  $\sigma_{\hat{\beta}}^2 \propto \sigma_k^2 \propto {\sf GDP}_{\it pc}$

