

MACROECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19: CAN NEGATIVE SUPPLY SHOCKS CAUSE DEMAND SHORTAGES?

Veronica Guerrieri Guido Lorenzoni Ludwig Straub Iván Werning

GOAL: STUDY MACRO EFFECTS OF COVID-19

➤ Our approach:

Covid-19 = asymmetric shock to gains from trade

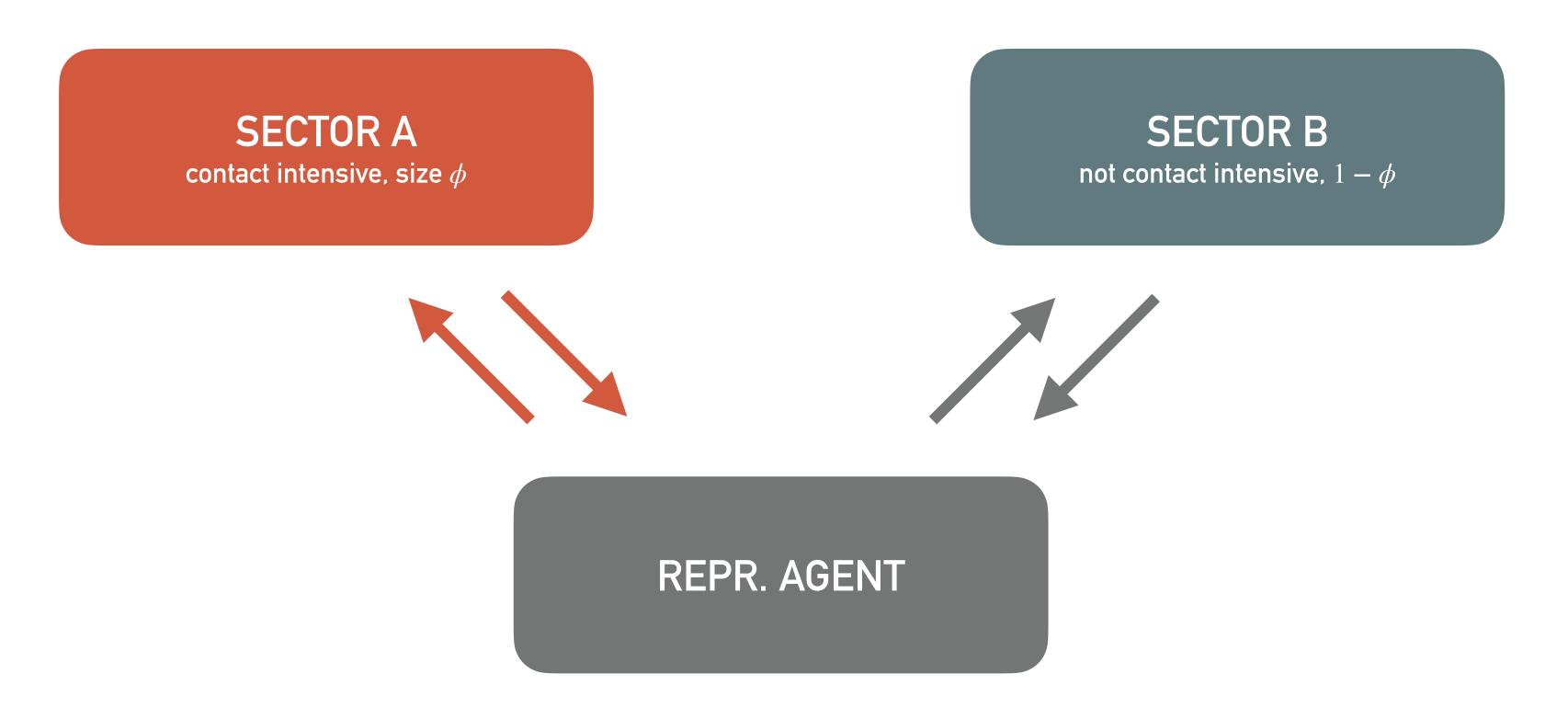
only contact-intensive sectors

health risk inhibits trading among buyers & sellers

- > Shock reduces efficient level of economic activity in affected sectors
 - ➤ for most part, call it "supply shock" (without loss for our analysis)
 - 1. Propagation?
- ➤ Today: 2. Policy implications?
 - 3. Role of business exits
 - 4. How to measure propagation?

PROPAGATION

- \triangleright 2-sector economy, intratemporal substitution: ϵ , intertemporal substitution: σ
- Assume shock shuts down sector A for 1 period. Q: How is B affected? Demand? Supply?
- ➤ Today, analysis with wage rigidity.



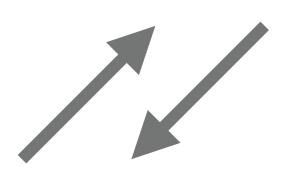
PROPAGATION 1: CROSS-SECTORAL SUBSTITUTION

- \triangleright 2-sector economy, intratemporal substitution: ϵ , intertemporal substitution: σ
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SECTOR B

not contact intensive, $1 - \phi$



How is sector B demand affected?

$$\frac{Y_B}{Y_B^*} = (1 - \phi)^{\frac{\sigma - 1}{\epsilon - 1}}$$

REPR. AGENT

Standard supply shock in 1-sector model $\epsilon \to \infty$

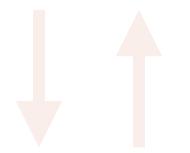
"Keynesian" supply shock if $\sigma > \epsilon$

PROPAGATION 2: INCOMPLETE MARKETS

- \triangleright 2-sector economy, intratemporal substitution: ϵ , intertemporal substitution: σ
- > Assume shock shuts down sector A for 1 period. Q: How is B affected? Demand? Supply?
- Today, analysis with wage rigidity.

SECTOR A

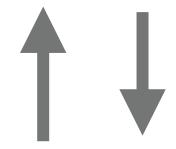
contact intensive, size ϕ





SECTOR B

not contact intensive, $1 - \phi$



How is sector B demand affected?

$$\frac{Y_B}{Y_B^*} = (1 - \phi)^{\frac{\sigma - \epsilon}{\epsilon - 1}} (1 - \mu \phi)$$

SECTOR A WORKERS

fraction μ s.t. borrowing constraint

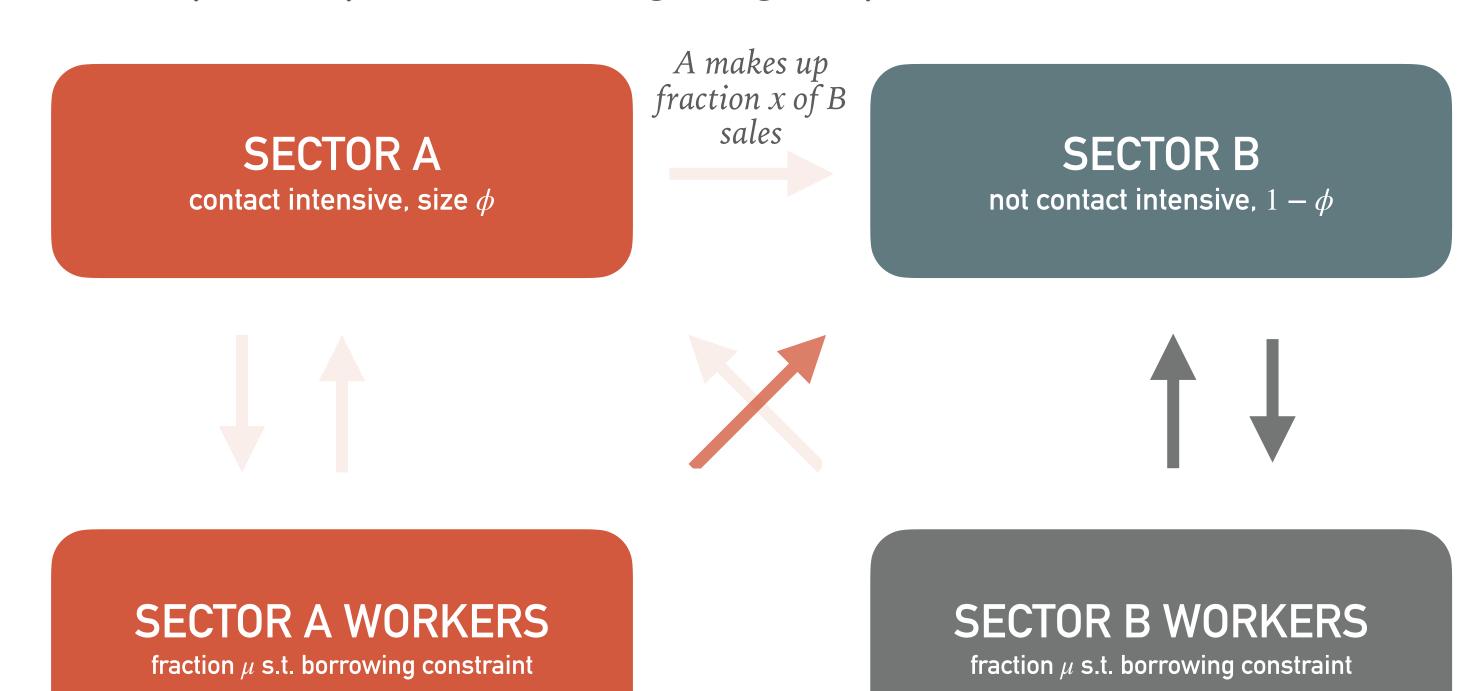
SECTOR B WORKERS

fraction μ s.t. borrowing constraint

Keynesian supply shock if $\sigma > (1 - \mu)\epsilon + \mu$ (s

PROPAGATION 3: SUPPLY CHAINS

- \triangleright 2-sector economy, intratemporal substitution: ϵ , intertemporal substitution: σ
- > Assume shock shuts down sector A for 1 period. Q: How is B affected? Demand? Supply?
- Today, analysis with wage rigidity.



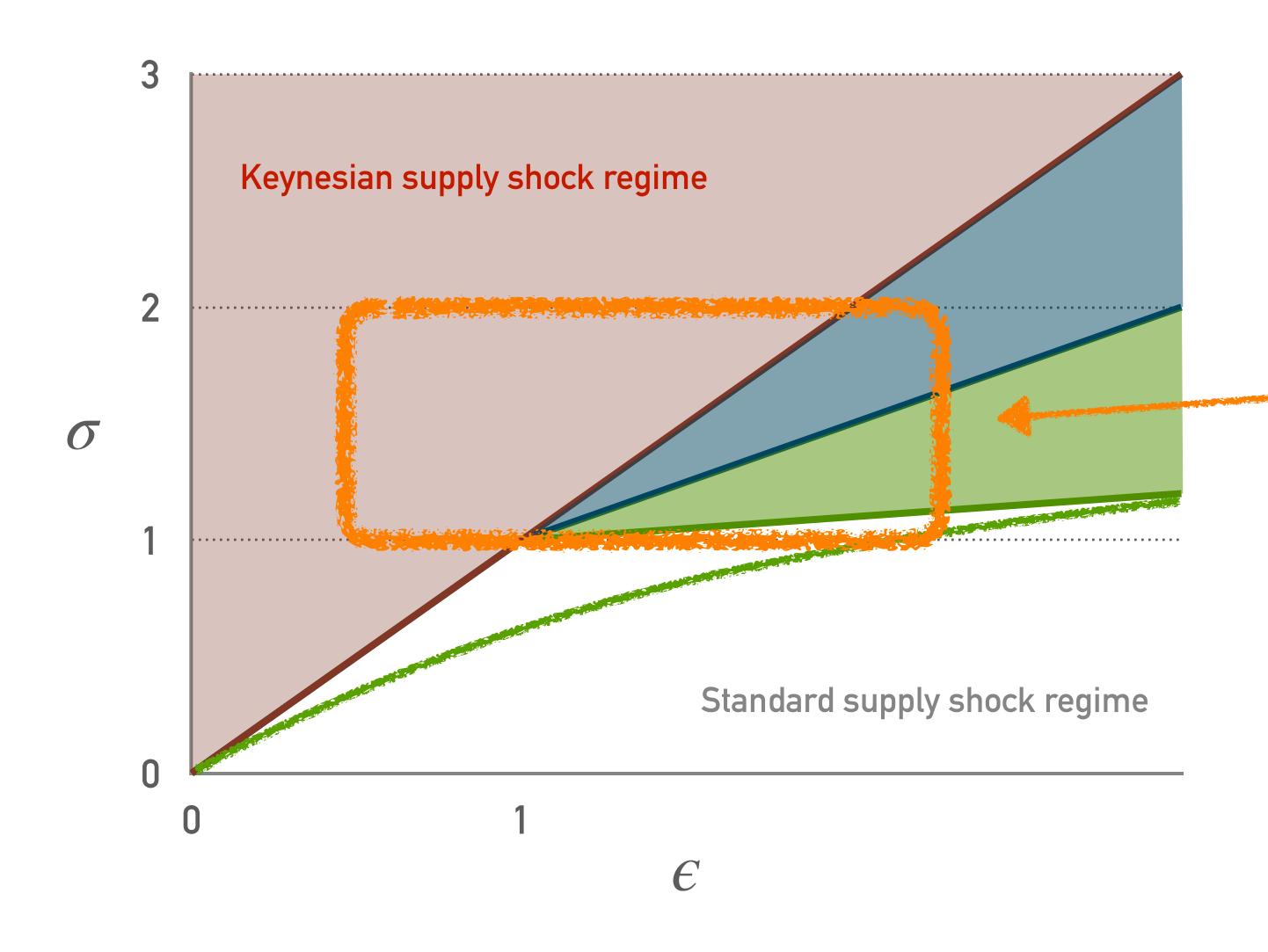
How is sector B demand affected?
$$\frac{Y_B}{Y_B^*} = (1 - \phi)^{\frac{\sigma - \epsilon}{\epsilon - 1}} (1 - \mu \phi - (1 - \mu)x)$$

Keynesian supply shock

if
$$\sigma > (1 - \tilde{\mu})\epsilon + \tilde{\mu}$$
 ($\epsilon > 1$)

 $\tilde{\mu} > \mu$ and rising in x

KEYNESIAN SUPPLY SHOCKS IN ϵ , σ SPACE



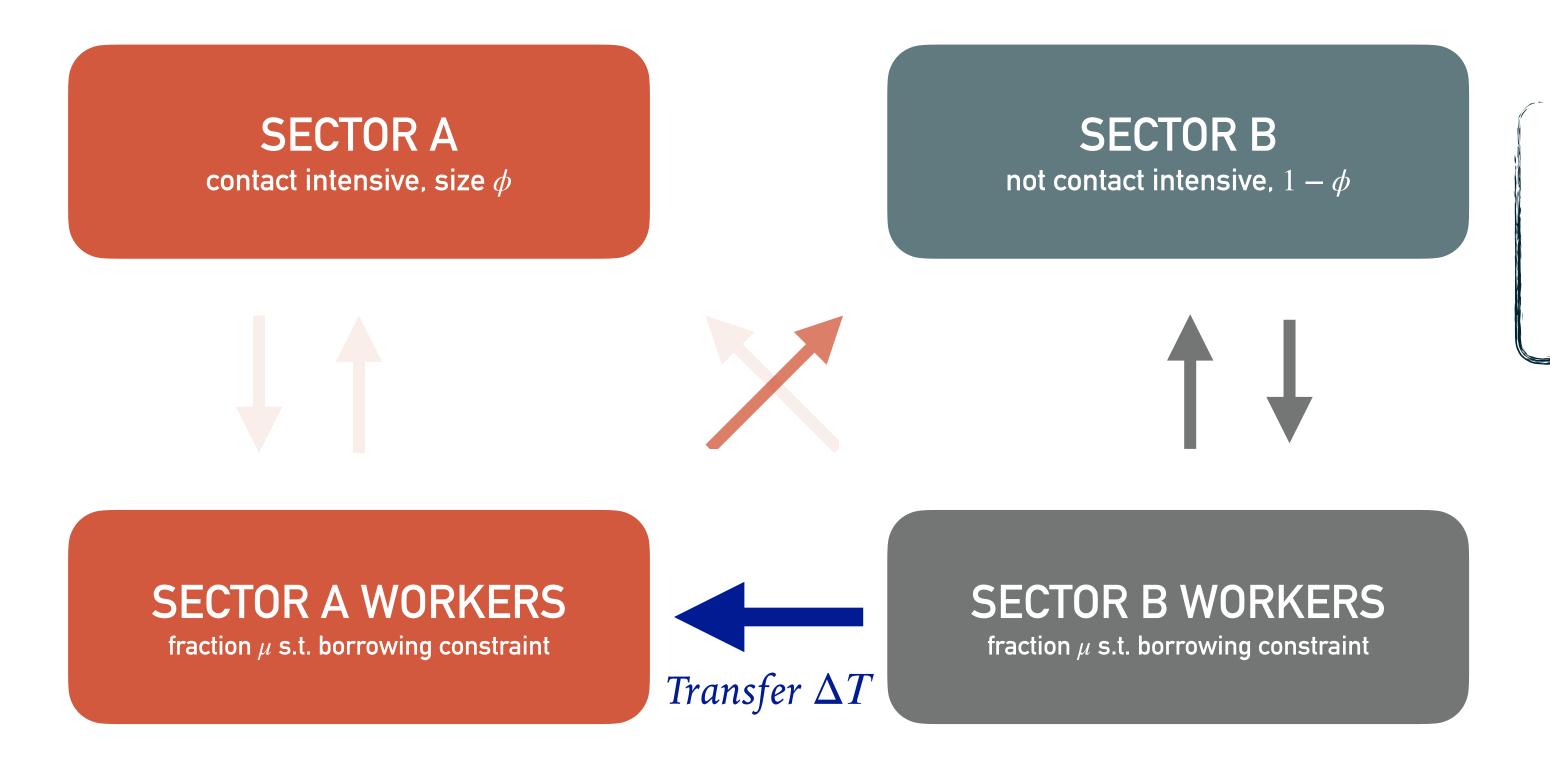
- Cross-sectoral substitution
- + incomplete markets
- + supply chains

Which area is plausible?

- $> \sigma > 1 \dots ?$
- $\succ \epsilon$ around 1 ...?

FISCAL STIMULUS

➤ Focus on situation with Keynesian supply shock. How does fiscal policy help?



How is sector B output affected?

$$\Delta Y_B = \mu \Delta T$$

Multiplier only μ ...

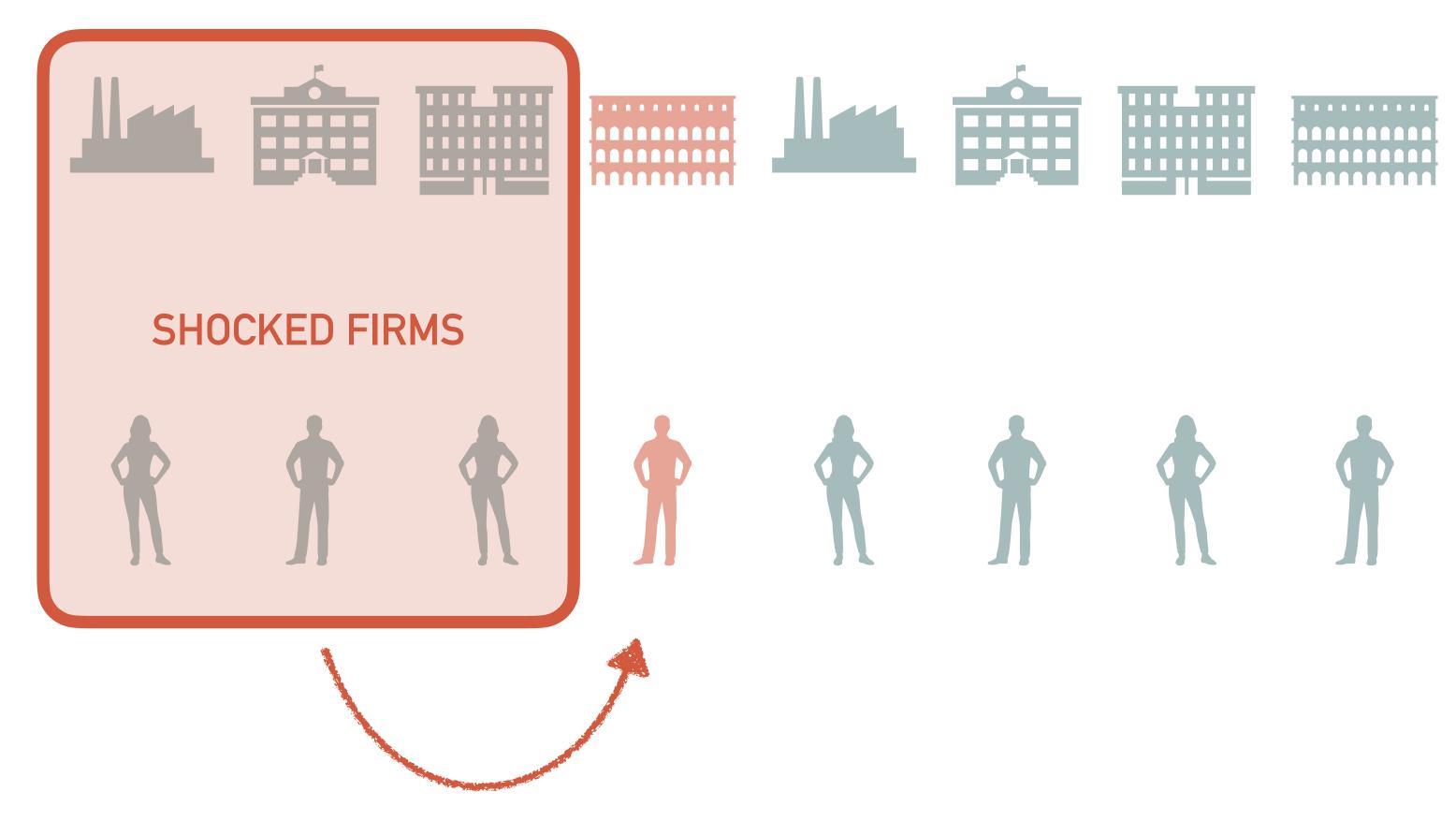
$$\dots \neq \frac{mpc}{1 - mpc}$$

Keynesian cross is "broken"

But: Insurance value of transfer is enormous due to asymmetry of the shock!

BUSINESS EXITS

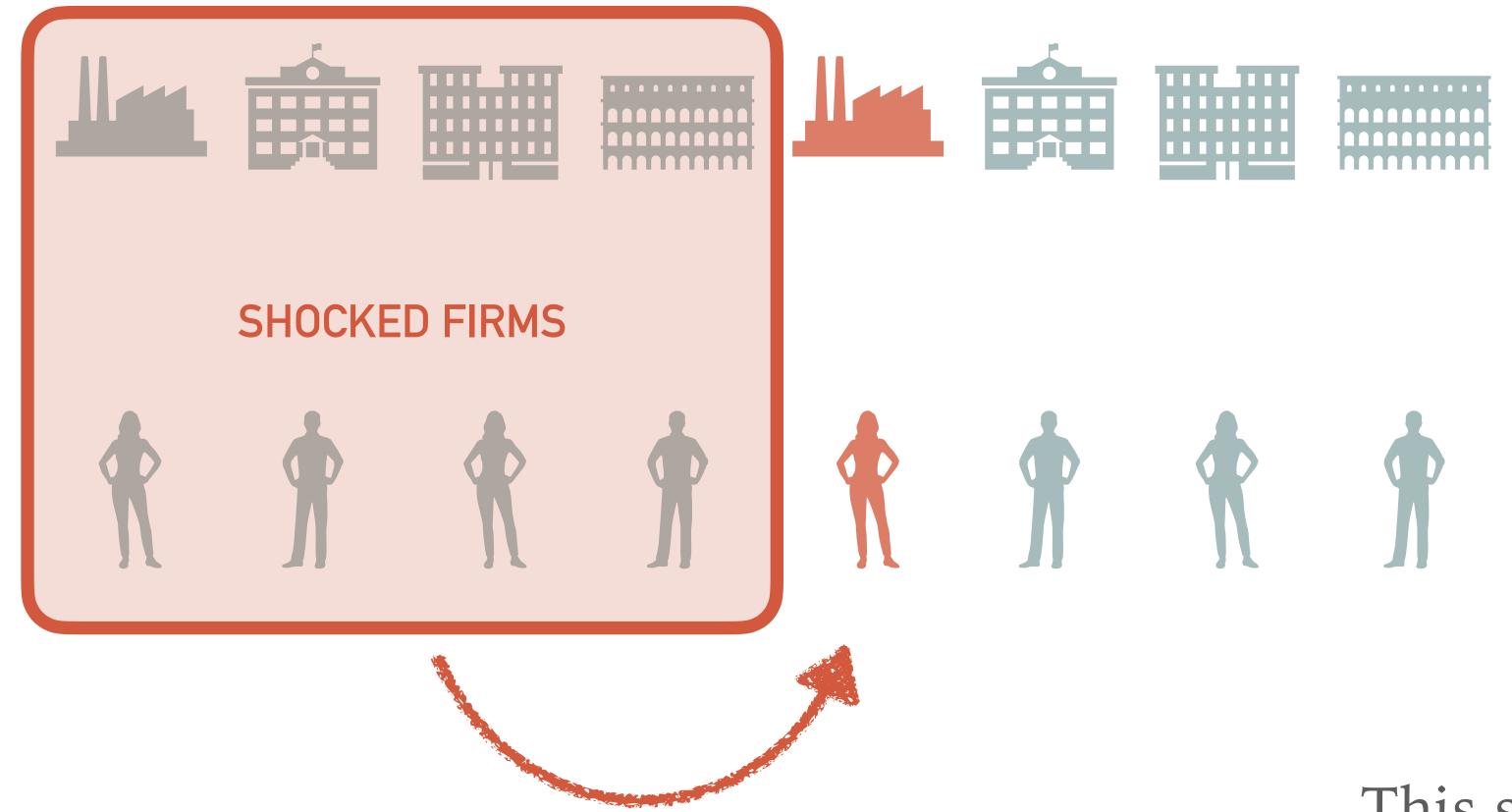
> Zoom into each sector: Monopolistically competitive firms facing random fixed costs



Keynesian supply shock leads to business exits ...

BUSINESS EXITS

> Zoom into each sector: Monopolistically competitive firms facing random fixed costs

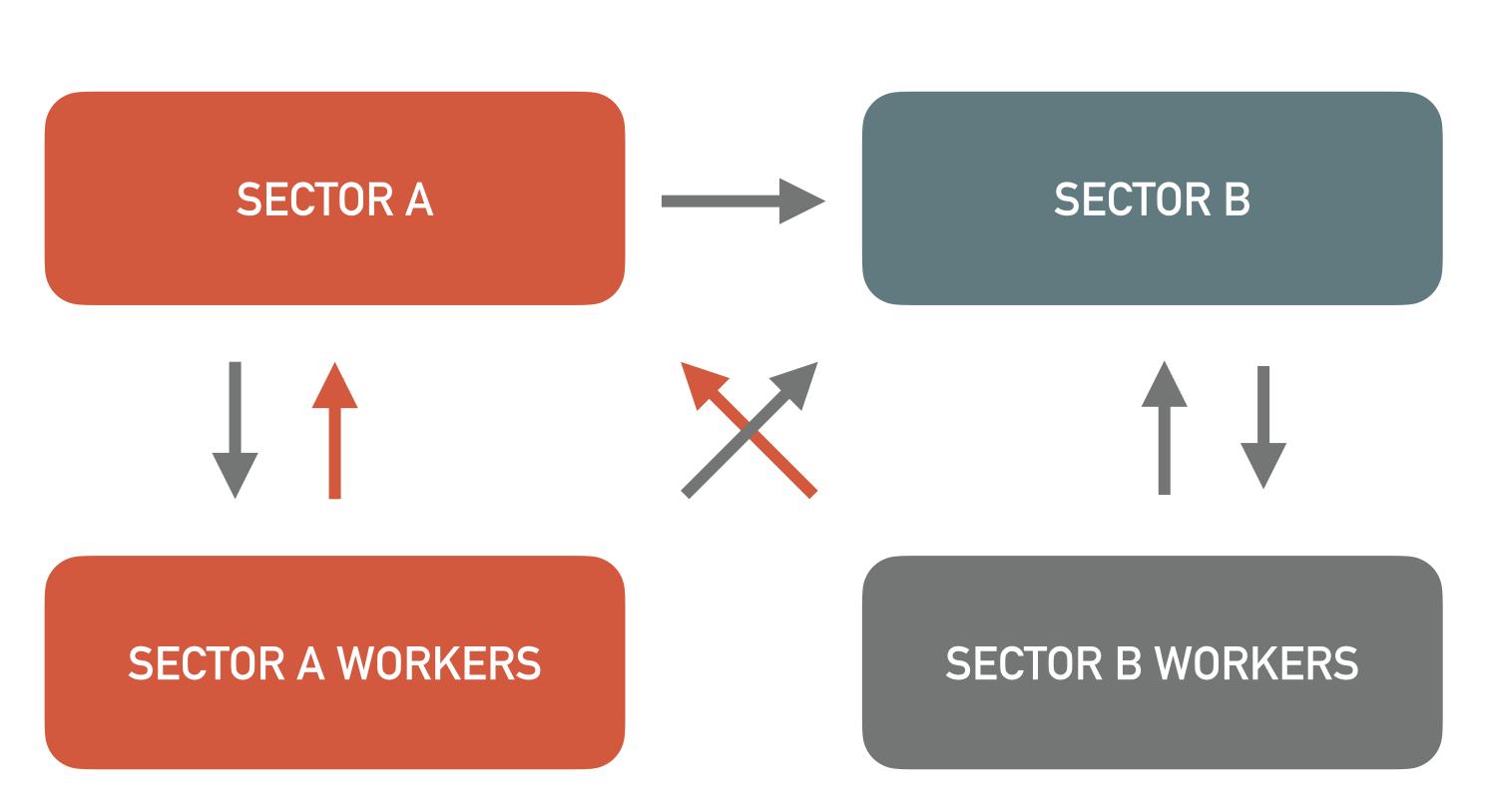


... snowballing into an even stronger Keynesian supply shock

This suggests role for business support

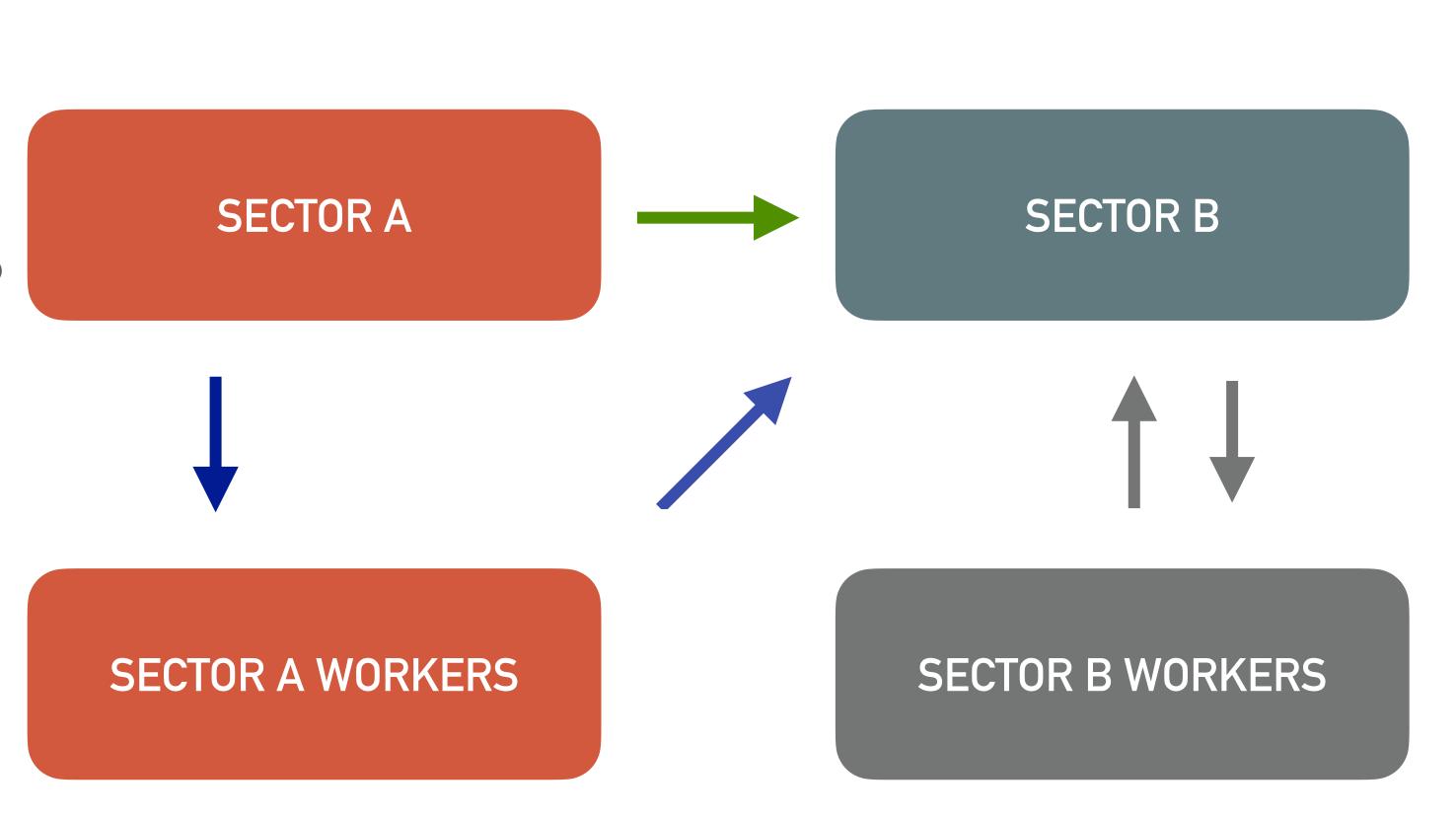
MEASURING DEMAND SPILLOVERS . . .

- Three channels of transmission: substitution, incomplete markets, supply chains
- > When do these channels produce Keynesian supply shocks, absent policy?
 - > ... what should we measure in the data?
- ➤ Our strategy: Follow the money!
- ➤ Step 1: Where does each \$ go that used to be **spent on A**?
- Some fraction $\Delta C_B/\Delta C_A$ is spent on sector B



MEASURING DEMAND SPILLOVERS . . .

- Three channels of transmission: substitution, incomplete markets, supply chains
- > When do these channels produce Keynesian supply shocks, absent policy?
 - > ... what should we measure in the data?
- ➤ Our strategy: Follow the money!
- ➤ Step 2: Where does each \$ no longer go that used to be spent by A?
- ➤ Fraction *z* used to go straight to B via supply chains
- ➤ Fraction $(1 z)\overline{MPC}^A$ used to be spent on B by sector A workers



MEASURING DEMAND SPILLOVERS . . .

➤ Putting all three channels together ...



intermediate input share in sector A



MPC of sector A workers during shock period

% of previous sector A spending that ends up in sector B

INFLATION

➤ What happens to prices with Keynesian supply shock:

SECTOR A contact intensive

Prices for **safely** provided goods: \



only this is measured if sector A shut down!

Overall: measured price inflation falls, ideal price inflation goes up

SUMMARY: ASYMMETRIC SHOCK TO GAINS FROM TRADE

