Competition Policy in Selection Markets

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joint work with Neale Mahoney, Chicago, and André Veiga, Oxford

Microsoft Research New England and University of Chicago

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Introduction Basic price theory mode Imperfect competition

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1970's: information challenges efficiency of competition

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- Combines Mahoney-Weyl (2014), Veiga-Weyl (2014)

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The Einav and Finkelstein model

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Basic, classic model is Akerlof's lemons: just quality

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 - Analyze, illustrate graphically

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Visualizing adverse and advantageous selection



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Adding imperfect competition

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Neale and I added imperfect competition to this

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 - 2 However, with advantageous, optimal θ^{\star}

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Did deregulation fuel inefficient subprime boom?

In 1999 financial reform aimed to increase competition

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 - \Rightarrow Pro-competitive reforms may have caused real harm

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Was there too much subprime competition? Competitive insurance product design

Why and how beneficial is market power?



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Product design in selection markets

With adverse selection (common in insurance) opposite result

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 - Can it restore positive insurance, or even good outcome?

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Surprising benefit of market power in insurance



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Merger policy More general lessons for competition policy

Concrete challenges for merger policy

Most canonical tool of competition policy merger analysis

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 - New standard is to measure this "upward pricing pressure"

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Most canonical tool of competition policy merger analysis

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 - First-order condition backs out incorrect cost for UPP

Introduction Findings Policy Implications

Merger policy More general lessons for competition policy

What types competition are really harmful?

Note that message is not harmful competition overall

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