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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison
M.S. Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.S.F.S. International Political Economy, Georgetown University

Expected May 2024
December 2020
May 2015

Fields: Industrial Organization, Econometrics, Applied Microeconomics.

Dissertation

“Enriching Models of Demand and Supply in Industrial Organization”

My dissertation explores various enrichments of demand and supply models in empirical industrial organization. The first chapter takes a flexible model of convex costs to reflect economies of scale and capacity constraints in the hotel sector. I show that larger chains reap both linear and nonlinear-in-occupancy cost reductions, which partially offset increased markups in the context of chain mergers and allow for an increase in total surplus despite falling consumer welfare. The second chapter demonstrates using consumer surveys to construct an embedding of the latent product space which can be utilized in both linear distance-based approaches and mixed logit models of demand. Using the laboratory setting of RTE cereals, we show that using the embedding in place of observed characteristics estimates higher diversion to the closest substitutes, and more intuitive diversion within categories of similar products. The third chapter adapts the embeddings approach to an application in the hotel sector. I use online recommendations for alternative products to construct an embedding of the latent utility space in the absence of observed characteristics. I show that even a small set of rankings is useful for identifying local substitution.

References

Alan Sorensen (Chair)
UW-Madison
(608) 263-3867
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Jean-Francois Houde
UW-Madison
(608) 262-7927
houde@wisc.edu

Lorenzo Magnolfi
UW-Madison
(608) 262-8789
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Research

Working Papers

“Markups and Costs under Capacity Constraints: the Welfare Effects of Hotel Mergers”, Job Market Paper.
“Triplet Embeddings for Demand Estimation” with Lorenzo Magnolfi and Alan Sorensen. *Revise and Resubmit at American Economic Journal: Microeconomics.*

Research in Progress

“Using Online Recommendation Data and Embeddings for Demand Estimation.”

“Demand and Competition in the Market for Mobile Apps” with Lorenzo Magnolfi and Alan Sorensen.



Other Publications

“*Workplace Bans On Sugar-Sweetened Beverages.*” Health Affairs, 40(3), p. 543. 2021.
“*Dragons, Giants, Elephants and Mice: Evolution of the MFN Free Rider Problem in the WTO Era*” with Rodney Ludema and Anna Maria Mayda. CEPR Discussion Papers 10961, C.E.P.R. Discussion Papers. 2015.

Employment

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Professors Alan Sorensen and Lorenzo Magnolfi Spring 2021 - Fall 2021

Teaching Experience

Econ 464: International Trade Spring 2020, 2023, Fall 2022
Econ 101 (Head TA): Principles of Microeconomics Spring 2022
Econ 761 (Grader): Graduate Industrial Organization Fall 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023
Econ 467: International Industrial Organization Fall 2020
Econ 101: Principles of Microeconomics Fall 2019 - Fall 2018

Other Employment

Compass Lexecon LLC, Washington, D.C.
Senior Analyst Apr. 2017 - May 2018
Analyst Sep. 2015 - Mar. 2017

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Juli Plant Grainger Outstanding Dissertator Fellowship Fall 2023
L&S Teaching Mentor Department Nominee Spring 2022
Robock Scholarship in Empirical or Experimental Economics Fall 2021
Juli Plant Grainger Summer Research Scholarship Summer 2021
Juli Plant Grainger Teaching Excellence Scholarship Fall 2020

Conferences and Seminars

UW-Madison IO Seminar (Fall 2023), NBER Summer IO Workshop (invited, presented by coauthor, Summer 2022), ACM Economics and Computation (invited, presented by coauthor, Summer 2022).

Service

Refereeing: Journal of Industrial Economics.
Georgetown Carroll Round Undergraduate Economics Conference: Alumni Judge 2017, 2018, 2023.

Programming Skills

MATLAB, Stata, L^AT_EX, MS Office.