

# Endogenous Structure of Cities

## City without External Trade

Alexander V. Sidorov

International Symposium  
Endogenous Market Structure and Spatial Economics

# Terminology Agreement

- ***Monocentric City***: there exists unique Central Business District (CBD);
- ***Polycentric City***: along with CBD there exist additional Secondary Business District(s), connected to CBD;
- Extension: ***Hierarchic Polycentricity*** – Tertiary BDs, Quaternary BDs etc.

# Stylized Facts

- 1 Monocentric Cities and Polycentric Cities co-exist in economy space;
- 2 “Large” cities are Polycentric, while “small” ones are Monocentric;
- 3 City pattern may change with the lapse of time (i.e. pattern is not predefined);
- 4 Population growth is disproportionally larger in suburbia (i.e., in SBDs);
- 5 Moreover, sometimes Central city may “freezes”, while suburbia population still increases;

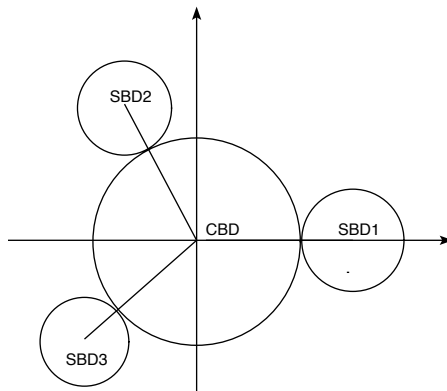
# What Should be Explained?

- Monocentric/pre-Polycentric paradigms can't explain *WHY and HOW City pattern forms and changes*;
- *ENDOGENOUS* nature as outcome of *interplay of FORCES* ;
- **Agglomeration force**: Economy of Scale, i.e. decreasing average production costs force firms to gather;
- **Dispersion force**: Urban costs (e.g., commuting) force to form additional (secondary) job centers;

## Similar Approaches

- Main insights are based on
  - J. Cavailhès, C. Gaigné, T. Tabuchi, J.-F. Thisse (2007), *Trade and the structure of cities*, Journal of Urban Economics
- **Differences:** drop down “long narrow city” with exactly TWO secondary centers, 2D pattern with arbitrary number of subcenters:  $I-SBD_1-I-CBD-I-SBD_2-I$
- Insight of job sub-centers' hierarchy (secondary, tertiary, etc) borrowed from
  - T. Tabuchi (2009), *Self-organizing marketplaces*, Journal of Urban Economics

# Polycentric City



CBD – Central Business District, (Axis origin placed here)  
SBD<sub>*i*</sub> – Secondary Business Districts  
 $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ ,  
 $m = 0$  – monocentric city

## Why Circles?

There is no reason to be something else

- Job centers (Central or Secondary) are dimensionless;
- Plane is initially featureless;
- Residents (workers) take a unite of area for residence and commuting costs depend on *Euclidean distance*;
- Each worker lives in residence zone around her job center;
- Thus Central Zone and Secondary Zones are circles and;
- All Secondary Zones are identical;

## Main Feature of CBD

- SBDs lack some non-tradable goods/services presented in CBD: specific local public goods and business-to-business services such as marketing, banking, insurance;

- It reflects in additional *communication* costs

$$\mathcal{H}(x^S) = K + k \cdot \|x^S\|, \quad K > 0, \quad k > 0$$



## Parameters: Exogenous vs Endogenous

- *Size of population  $L$*  – exogenous in separated city and endogenous in economy with migration;
- *Pattern (mono/polycentric)* –  $m > 0$  or  $m = 0$ , endogenous;
- *Number of SBDs  $m$*  – ambiguously, will be discussed later;
- *Distance  $\|x^S\|$*  of SBD  $x^S$  from CBD – endogenous;
- *Population shares of residence zones (Central  $\theta \in (0, 1]$  and Secondary  $(1 - \theta)/m$ )* – endogenous;

# Workers

Workers' welfare depends on the three goods:

- $q_0$  – numéraire good, homogenous and unproduced with initial endowment  $\bar{q}_0$ ;
- $q(i)$ ,  $i \in [0, n]$  a continuum  $n$  of varieties of a horizontally differentiated good under monopolistic competition and increasing returns, using labor as the only input. Traded costlessly for price  $p(i)$  within the city of origin;
- one lot of land area for residence, price (rent)  $R(x)$  depend on location. **Normalization**: one lot of the land =  $\pi \approx 3.14159\dots$

## Consumer's Problem

For CBD worker:

$$U(q_0; q(i), i \in [0, n]) \rightarrow \max$$

$$s.t. \int_0^n p(i)q(i)di + q_0 = w^C + \bar{q}_0 - R^C(x) - t\|x\|$$

$R^C(x)$  – land rent at location  $x$  (in fact, depends on distance  $\|x\|$  from the CBD only).

The budget constraint of SBD worker

$$\int_0^n p(i)q(i)di + q_0 = w^S + \bar{q}_0 - R^S(x) - t\|x - x^S\|.$$

## Firm's Problem

Producing of variety  $i$  requires a given number  $f$  of labor units (fixed costs) and costs  $c$  units of numeraire.

- $c = 0$  without loss of generality;
- For firm producing  $i$  in CBD:

$$\Pi^C(i) = I(i) - f \cdot w^C \rightarrow \max$$

$I(i)$  – firm's revenue ( $I(i) = p(i) \cdot Q(i)$  for local sales)

- For firm in SBDs:

$$\Pi^S(i) = I(i) - f \cdot w^S - \mathcal{K}(x^S) \rightarrow \max$$

## City Equilibrium

- None of workers want to change her choice of job/residence (CBD or one of SBD zone and distance from job center);
- None of firms want change her choice of location (CBD or one of SBD);
- Firm's Cut-Off: profits  $\Pi^C = \Pi^S = 0$ ;
- Mass of firms (=varieties of differentiated good)  $n = \frac{L}{f}$ ;
- Consumer's Cut-Off:  
 $w - C_u = w^C - (R^C(x) + t \cdot \|x\| - \bar{q}_0) \geq 0$ ;

## Endogenous Central Share $\theta$

- Costs  $K > 0$ ,  $k > 0$ ,  $f > 0$  and  $L \geq 0$ ,  $m > 0$  are given;
- If  $f \cdot t \leq k$  all firms stay in CBD, i.e.  $\theta \equiv 1$ ;
- Otherwise, let  $\delta = \frac{f \cdot t - k}{f \cdot t + k} \in (0, 1)$  – *relative difference of firm's commuting and communication costs*;
- $L^M = \left( \frac{K}{k} \cdot \frac{(1 - \delta)}{2\delta} \right)^2$

### Theorem

If  $L \leq L^M$ , then polycentric city could not exist. i.e.  $\theta \equiv 1$ .  
 Otherwise, for any  $m > 0$  unique equilibrium  $\theta^* \in \left( \frac{1}{1+m\delta^2}, 1 \right)$  exists.

# Comparative Statics

## Theorem

$$\frac{\partial \theta^*}{\partial L} < 0, \quad \frac{\partial \theta^*}{\partial m} < 0 \text{ for } L > L^M,$$

$$\lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \theta^* = \frac{1}{1 + m\delta^2}, \quad \lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \theta^* = \frac{1}{L} \left( \frac{K}{k} \cdot \frac{(1-\delta)}{2\delta} \right)^2 = \frac{L^M}{L}$$

## Corollary

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \theta^* \cdot L \equiv L^M$$

# Redistribution of Total Rent

Initial endowment

$$\bar{q}_0 = \frac{1}{L} \int_x R(x) dx$$

In this case Consumer's Cut-Off:

$$w - C_u = w - t\sqrt{\theta^*L} + \frac{t}{3} \cdot \sqrt{L} \left[ (\theta^*)^{3/2} + \frac{(1-\theta^*)^{3/2}}{\sqrt{m}} \right] \geq 0$$



## Consumer's Utility

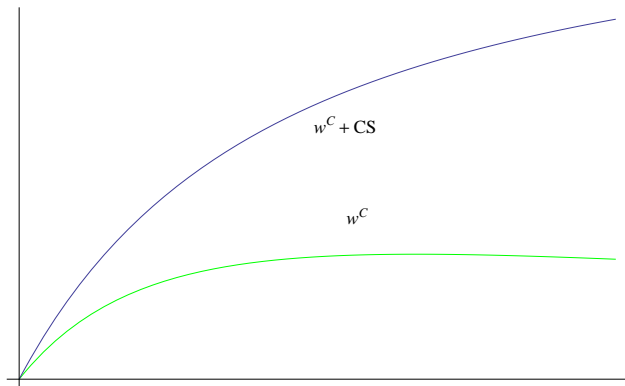
- Ottaviano's quasi-linear utility for  $\alpha > 0$ ,  $\beta > 0$ ,  $\gamma > 0$

$$U(q_0; q(i), i \in [0, n]) = q_0 + \alpha \int_0^n q(i) di - \frac{\beta}{2} \int_0^n [q(i)]^2 di - \frac{\gamma}{2} \left[ \int_0^n q(i) di \right]$$

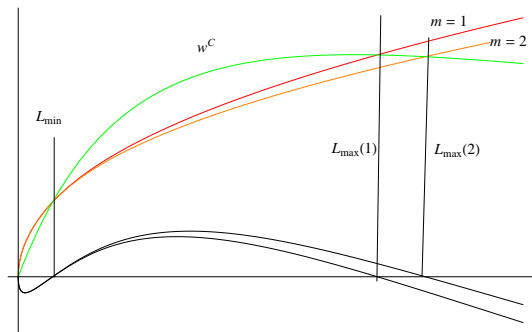
(studied for *linear cities* in J. Cavailhès et al. (2007))

- Generates *linear demand curve*

# Wage and Consumer's Surplus



# Cut-Off Interval

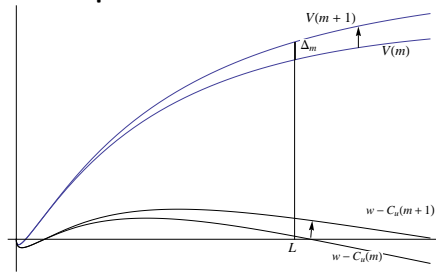


Cut-Off:  $L \in [L_{\min}, L_{\max}] \subset (0, +\infty)$ , non-emptiness condition:

$$t < \frac{3\alpha^2}{16\sqrt{2\beta\gamma f}}$$

# Endogenous SBD Number $m$ ?

**Assumption.** SBD's number  $m$  is determined by "City Developers".



Welfare (or Real Wage)  $V = w + CS - C_u$ .

$\Delta_m = V(m+1) - V(m) > 0$ , while  $\sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \Delta_m < \bar{V}$ , thus *marginal gains tent to zero with increasing  $m$ .*

Developing  $m \rightarrow m+1$  is cost-efficient if marginal developing costs

$$M \leq L \cdot \Delta_m$$

## Endogenous Population $L$ ?

What are incentives for “immigrants”:

- Disposable Income  $w - C_u$ ;
- or Welfare (Real Wage)  $w + CS - C_u$ ;
- Anyways, answer (endogenous  $L$ ) requires extension to multi-regional setting with inter-city trade;

## Correlation of $L$ and $m$

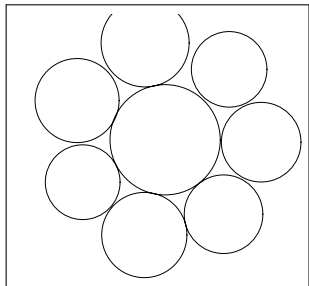
- Empiric evidences:  $L$  and  $m$  positively correlate (MacMillen and Smith (2003), *The number of subcenters in large urban areas*, JUE);
- Increasing in  $m$  strengthens incentives for immigrants, thus  $L$  will increase;
- Increasing in  $L$  requires to increase  $m$ , until marginal gains match marginal developing costs;

## Conclusions

- Existence Threshold:  $L_{\min} > 0$ , upper limit  $L_{\max} < \infty$
- Policentricity Threshold:  $L^M = \left( \frac{K}{k} \cdot \frac{(1-\delta)}{2\delta} \right)^2$
- Developing of Suburbia ( $m \uparrow$ ) improve Disposable Income and Welfare

# What If City Reach Its Maximum?

Does It Mean that Moscow Is NON-Rubber?

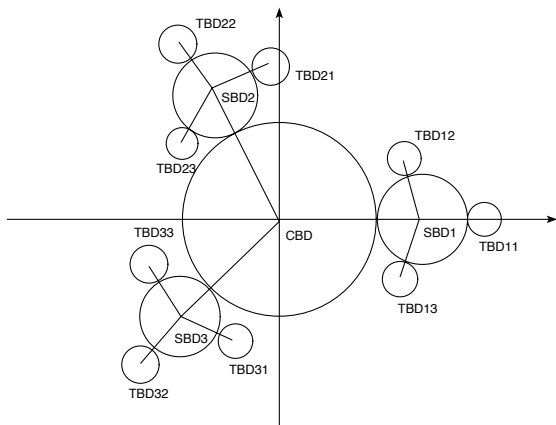


There exists theoretical maximum of SBDs.  
Asymptotically (for large  $L$ ):

$$M^* \approx \frac{\pi}{\arcsin\left(\frac{\delta}{1+\delta}\right)} \approx \frac{\pi \cdot (1 + \delta)}{\delta}$$



# Hierarchy of Business Districts



$m_0 \equiv 1$  CBD,  
 $m_1 \geq 1$  SBDs,  
 $m_2 \geq 1$  TBDs,  
 $\vdots$

## Do We Need to Extend the Model?

### Theorem

*If  $L > L^M$ , then for any given hierarchy  $(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n)$  there exists unique hierarchic equilibrium.*

*It is technically equivalent to two-tier city equilibrium with an "effective" number of SBDs*

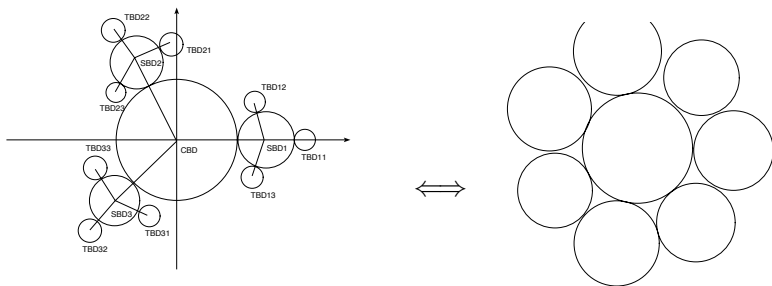
*$m_{\text{eff}} = m_1(m_2 \cdot \delta^2 + 1)(m_3 \cdot \delta^2 + 1) \dots (m_n \cdot \delta^2 + 1)$ , where*  

$$\delta = \frac{f \cdot t - k}{f \cdot t + k} \in (0, 1)$$
 *– relative difference between commuting and communication costs. Moreover,  $m_{\text{eff}} \geq (1 + \delta^2)^n \rightarrow \infty$  for  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .*

### Corollary

*We can do not care about theoretical maximum  $M^*$ !*

# “Equivalence”



Let  $m_1 = m_2 = 3$ ,  $k = 1$ ,  $f = 5$ ,  $t = 1$ , then  $\delta = 2/3$  and  
 $m_{eff} = 3 \cdot \left( 3 \cdot (2/3)^2 + 1 \right) = 7$ ,  
 while theoretic maximum:  $M^* \approx 7.85$ .

That's All, Folks!

Thank You for  
Attention!  
Any questions?